“2017 – 2022 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN” FOR THE TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW, NC

TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW TOWN COUNCIL
JAMES H. HERSTINE, Ph.D.

Formally adopted by the Town of Lake Waccamaw Town Council on
TOWN OFFICIALS

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Jimmy Stanley—Mayor Pro Tem
Kevin Butler—Commissioner West Ward
Martha Lowe—Commissioner West Ward
Matt Wilson—Commissioner East Ward

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Kevin Powell—Code Enforcement
Sarah Coffman—Customer Service Representative
Robert Bailey—Utility Supervisor
Jerry Gore—Fire and Rescue Chief
Scott Hyatt—Chief of Police
Mike Prostinak—Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MASTER PLAN

PROCESS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process is a vital component of any local government operation. The purpose of the master plan is to assess, analyze and evaluate the current state of affairs regarding the provision of local community parks, recreation and open space services, stimulate an open public discussion of present and future needs for community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities, and, establish a plan of action for the future growth, development and implementation of community parks, recreation and open space services. The product of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process is a living document that provides the Town of Lake Waccamaw local government officials and residents in general and the Town Parks and Recreation Department in specific a viable blueprint and plan of action to guide the future orderly growth and development of the community’s comprehensive parks, recreation and open space system. This section of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan contains a brief synopsis of the community characteristics of the Town of Lake Waccamaw, a clear and concise description of the public input portion of the planning process, and a summary of the master plan recommendations.
Community Location/General Characteristics

The Town of Lake Waccamaw is in eastern Columbus County on the north shore of Lake Waccamaw. The Town was established in 1911 and has a total area of 3.5 square miles of which 0.0004 square miles or 0.16% is water. The population of the Town of Lake Waccamaw in 2010 was 1,480. This represents a 4.8% increase from the 2000 population of 1,411. The latest population figure of 6,137 represents the 2015 State Demographer Certified Estimates and a 21% increase from the 2000 population (Appendix—A).

The median age of the residents of Lake Waccamaw of 53.1 years is higher than both Columbus County and the State of North Carolina. The 2014 estimated median income of $61,346 and the 2016 estimated median income of $56,652 in Lake Waccamaw are higher than the median income in Columbus County, the State of North Carolina and the United States. Lake Waccamaw has a larger percentage of its population with a high school diploma or greater than does Columbus County, the State of North Carolina and the United States.

Public Input

A significant amount of time and effort was expended identifying the expressed desires, needs and interests of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities. To this end, the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw were provided the following opportunities to directly, tangibly and actively participate in the process:

- Meeting was held with the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion Steering Committee on April 6, 2016
- Four (4) public meetings were facilitated (Appendices F, G, H and I)—August 31, 2015, January 28, 2016, October 4, 2016, and October 18, 2016
- Four (4) individual interviews were conducted with key parks, recreation and open space stakeholders—Mr. Jimmy Stanley, Mr. Walter Palmer, Ms. Mikie Wall and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Little
Sixteen (16) key parks, recreation and open space stakeholders were identified and participated in a Focus Group discussion on September 19, 2016.

A 2016 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Community Needs Assessment Survey instrument was administered to town residents.

**Pertinent Public Input Information from 2016 Needs Assessment Survey**

183 citizens responded to the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2016 Needs Assessment Survey. 56% of the respondents were female and 22% were retirees. When asked to respond to the question “In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW recreational programs, services and activities the Town needs to provide”, the top responses were boating clinics and activities to include kayaking and standup paddling boarding; swimming classes and activities; swimming pool; wellness/senior/recreation center; aerobics and exercise classes and activities; biking, hiking and walking trails, paths and activities; activities for senior citizens; and, playgrounds and activities for children. 73% of the respondents stated “Yes” when asked “Would you support the funding of these new recreational programs, services and activities through private sources and/or grants?” 49% of the respondents stated “Yes” when asked “Would you support the funding of these new recreational programs, services and activities through a bond referendum?” When asked to agree, or disagreed with the statement “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is pedestrian friendly”, 57% of the respondents agreed with the statement. When asked to agree, or disagree with the statement “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is bike friendly”, 51% of the respondents agreed with the statement. When
asked to agree, or disagree with the statement “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is accessible to persons with disabilities”, 51% of the respondents agreed with the statement. When asked to agree, or disagree with the statement “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is a safe place to live”, 88% of the respondents agreed with the statement. When asked “Which of the following recreational amenities, facilities, areas and parks would you like to see provided specifically at the Elizabeth Brinkley Park as a part of the park expansion?”, the top responses were public restrooms, fitness stations, walking trails/paths, indoor swimming pool, Wellness Center, picnic shelters, picnic tables, amphitheater, Senior Center, multi-purpose Recreation Center/Gymnasium and playground equipment. When asked “Which of the following recreational amenities, facilities, areas and parks would you like to see the Town of Lake Waccamaw offer in locations other than the Elizabeth Brinkley Park?”, the top responses were hiking/walking trails/paths, bike lanes, public restrooms, indoor swimming pool, outdoor swimming pool, sidewalks/pedestrian lanes, Wellness Center, amphitheater, Senior Center, fitness stations/course, picnic shelters, doggie park, playground equipment and multi-purpose Recreation Center/Gymnasium. When asked the open-ended question “In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW recreational amenities, facilities, areas and parks the Town of Lake Waccamaw should be providing but is not?”, the top responses were multi-purpose Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center with a pool and gymnasium, playground equipment, walking/hiking/biking paths and trails, exercise stations/fitness stations and outdoor amphitheater. 77% of the respondents stated “Yes” when asked “Would you support the funding of these new recreational amenities, facilities, areas and parks through private sources and/or grants. 47% stated they would support the funding of these new recreational amenities, facilities, areas and parks through a bond referendum.
Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Parks, recreation and open space are valuable commodities for any community. A diversified, well-rounded and responsive parks and recreation department provides many benefits to the residents and visitors to a city. As presented in the 1995 National Recreation and Park Association publication—Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines—the four (4) categories of benefits are personal, economic, social and environmental. Each of these benefits is essential to the overall health, well-being and quality of life within a community.

- **Personal Benefits** of a comprehensive delivery system include: a full and meaningful life, good health, stress management, self-esteem, positive self-image, a balanced life, achieving full potential, gaining life satisfaction, human development, positive life-style choices, and improved quality of life.

- **Economic Benefits** include: preventive health care, a productive work force, big economic returns on small investments, business relocation and expansion, reduction in high-cost vandalism and criminal activity, tourism growth and environmental investments that pay for themselves.

- **Social Benefits** include: building strong communities, reducing alienation, loneliness, and anti-social behavior; promoting ethnic and cultural harmony; building strong families; increasing opportunity for community involvement, shared management and ownership of resources; and, providing a foundation for community pride.

- **Environmental Benefits** include: environmental health, environmental protection and rehabilitation, environmental education, environmental investment by increasing property values and insurance for a continuing healthy environmental future.
Summary of Recommendations

The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan outlines the existing and anticipated parks, recreation and open space needs for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The Master Plan primarily focuses on the issues and challenges of land acquisition; area and facility development; program and service development; policy and procedure considerations; and, personnel considerations.

Land Acquisition—2017 – 2022 and Beyond 2022

This document recommends four (4) specific land acquisition needs for the Town of Lake Waccamaw: 1) acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose non-motorized vehicular transportation system; 2) acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw; 3) acquire land for a future multi-purpose Community Center/Recreation Center/Fitness Center/Wellness Center/Senior Center; and, 4) acquire land for a future multi-purpose Athletic Sports Complex. These land acquisitions could be accomplished through outright purchase, but they could also include land donations, gifts, conservation easements, grants and other methods not involving tax dollars.

Area and Facility Development—2017 – 2022 and Beyond 2022

In terms of area and facility development, recommendations include, but are not limited to: improving, renovating and upgrading the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park; constructing recreational amenities, facilities and areas as a part of the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion; constructing and operating a comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Senior Center/Fitness Facility/Aquatic Center; implementing, improving and constructing a comprehensive, safe and functional non-vehicular sidewalk, pedestrian, walking and bicycle transportation network/system; providing areas and fields suitable for sports and athletic activities for youth and adults; and, providing public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw.
Program and Service Development—2017 – 2022 and Beyond 2022

Recommendations for the Town of Lake Waccamaw in terms of program and service development from 2017 – 2022 are restricted by the fact that the Town does not have any professional parks and recreation staff/employees. The needs assessment component of the master plan process revealed that the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw would like the Town to provide exercise, fitness and aerobics classes and activities; swimming classes and activities; biking, hiking and walking events and activities; boating, kayaking and standup paddle boarding classes and activities; and, senior citizen programs and activities. These programs and services cannot adequately be provided until the Town of Lake Waccamaw employs professional parks and recreation staff and develops the appropriate amenities, facilities, areas and parks to support these programs and services. Recommendations in this document will address these issues.

Policy and Procedure Considerations—2017 – 2022

The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan discusses several policy and procedure changes impacting the delivery of parks, recreation and open space programs and services to Town residents. Policy and procedure considerations presented in the Master Plan include but are not limited to: completion of proposed pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that connects Lake Waccamaw to Lake Waccamaw State Park; the continued establishment and expansion of formal partnerships and cooperative agreements with interested existing community groups, agencies and organizations; the creation of a Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; the creation of a Town of Lake Waccamaw Friends of...
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation; the development of a Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Gifts and Donations Catalogue; full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and universal accessibility for all town programs, services, areas and facilities; and, implementation of an overall park and playground safety program in conjunction with a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).

**Personnel Considerations—2017 – 2022**

The recommendations presented in this master plan document require a commitment by the Town of Lake Waccamaw to provide adequate and appropriate professional parks, recreation and open space staff/employees to carry out the current, latent and the future requirements, needs and proposed changes to the overall Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space system and operation. The *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* provides personnel considerations and recommendations for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year (Appendix—L) and beyond the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year (Appendix—M).

The personnel recommendations for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year are:

- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Specialist
- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Specialist
RECOMMENDATION HIGHLIGHTS

*Enhancements and improvements to the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park*

*Development of the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion*

*Creation of a Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department*

*Approval of parks, recreation and open space professional personnel/staff positions for the Town of Lake Waccamaw*

*Development of a non-vehicular pedestrian, biking, hiking, walking network/system that connects Town of Lake Waccamaw public, residential, commercial and service areas and Lake Waccamaw State Park*

*Acquisition of land for a multi-purpose, comprehensive Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Aquatics Center Facility*

*Creation of a “Friends of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation”*

The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is intended to be a working document that is not encumbered by hypothetical or academic scenarios that hold little practical application in the real world. This Master Plan gives the citizens, managers and administrators of the Town of Lake Waccamaw solid recommendations that are feasible, practical and realistic given the economic, political, cultural and social climates of the time and area. The recommendations presented in this document present a wide and variety array of exciting and meaningful opportunities and experiences for the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and the Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Department.

Standards developed and recommended by organizations such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environment Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Parks and Recreation were considered and evaluated in the preparation of this Master Plan. These general standards were judged only to be guidelines to be considered and not requirements to be met. A listing of these standards is presented in Chapter Six of this document as well as specific standards for the Town of Lake Waccamaw.
CHAPTER ONE:
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is: (1) to identify, analyze and define the parks, recreation and open space expressed desires, interests and needs of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw; and, (2) to provide a living document with an endorsed, practical, and comprehensive plan of action for meeting the immediate, short-term and long-range parks, recreation and open space needs, interests and expressed desires for services, programs, areas and facilities in the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

The Town of Lake Waccamaw does not currently have a traditional parks and recreation department but it does manage to provide its residents and visitors recreational and leisure opportunities and experiences as a part of the normal function of town government. These recreational and leisure opportunities and experiences are offered by the town staff through the efforts of individual community volunteers, various local civic and social organizations and in cooperation with Lake Waccamaw State Park and the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department.
The Town of Lake Waccamaw is governed by a Mayor and Town Board. The chief town administrator is a Town Manager appointed by the Town Board and serving as its pleasure. Lake Waccamaw provides fire, rescue, and police protection, as well as water, sewer, and sanitation services. Existing industry includes of Council Tool Company and Top Tobacco Company. There are also several eating establishments, a pharmacy and shopping stores along a strip mall in the central portion of town. Lake Waccamaw State Park is nearby and provides a picnic area with tables and grills, a pier, several hiking/walking trails, bathroom facilities and a visitor’s center. Housed in the former Atlantic Coast Line depot is the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum which provides nature and wildlife activities, local history events, art and storytelling programs and canoe outings. The museum collections include historic photographs, diaries, historical departments and natural history specimens of the Lake Waccamaw and surrounding environments. The Rube McCray Memorial Library is also located in the town and offers excellent facilities and learning resources as well.

**Purpose and Scope of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**

The purpose of the *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is to assess and evaluate the recreation and leisure needs, goals, objectives, and priorities of the citizens, elected officials, appointed officials and staff of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is intended to serve as a comprehensive, practical planning document and procedural guide for public policy decisions pertaining to the quantity, quality, location, and, scope of parks, recreation and open space services, programs, areas and facilities. The Master Plan also provides recommendations regarding the administration, acquisition, development and operation of these parks, recreation and open space services, programs, areas and facilities.
The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is organized into ten (10) sections:

- Executive Summary of the Master Plan Process & Recommendations
- Chapter One: Introduction
- Chapter Two: Master Plan Vision, Goals & Objectives
- Chapter Three: Town of Lake Waccamaw Characteristics & Demographics
- Chapter Four: Inventory of Existing Programs, Services, Areas & Facilities
- Chapter Five: Assessment of the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation & Open Space Needs and Summary of Public Input
- Chapter Six: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Standards
- Chapter Seven: Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations
- Chapter Eight: Implementation Plan
- Appendices

The scope of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was delimited to the existing jurisdiction of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. However, the analysis recognized the fact that residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw are also residents of Columbus County and that the Town of Whiteville, the City of Wilmington, Brunswick County and New Hanover County are in close proximity. Thus, the parks, recreation and open space needs and resources outside the immediate municipal limits of the Town of Lake Waccamaw are factored into the analysis process in recognition of the fact that individuals’ recreation and leisure involvement patterns and preferences are not normally restricted and limited by municipal and/or county lines, boundaries and jurisdictions.
**Town of Lake Waccamaw Mission Statement**

“To provide excellent services at reasonable cost that support stewardship of our beautiful Lake and sustain the casual Southern charm of our Community!”

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**Town of Lake Waccamaw Vision Statement**

“We will be known as the best and healthiest place to live, work and play in Southeastern North Carolina”
CHAPTER TWO:

MASTER PLAN VISION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Contained within this chapter of the *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* are the overall vision, goals and objectives of the planning process and the master plan itself. It is with this stated vision and these overall goals and objectives in mind that the planning process was conducted and the structure of the master plan itself designed and formulated.

A clear, concise and dynamic vision of the future and statements of concrete goals and objectives based upon that vision are important elements of a comprehensive and successful Master Plan. The vision statement provides the target to be achieved. Goals and objectives provide structure, guidance and direction in the formulation of a
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. In addition, clear and concise goals and objectives assist in the definition of overall public policy and aid in decision-making during the planning, development and implementation phases of the Master Plan process. However, a progressive and successful parks, recreation and open space delivery system for the Town of Lake Waccamaw will require long-term commitment, adequate public and private funding by the Town of Lake Waccamaw and coordinated action by all stakeholders in order to achieve these goals and objectives. This long-term commitment and coordinated action must be coupled with an effective program of overall citizen involvement in and support for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities.

A Vision Statement is the anchor point of any strategic plan such as a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. It is a road map indicating both what the organization wants to become and guiding transformational initiatives by setting a defined direction for the organization’s growth. A Vision Statement is an aspiration description of what an organization would like to achieve or accomplish in the future. The Vision Statement is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action.

**MASTER PLAN VISION STATEMENT**

To offer parks, recreation and open space experiences and opportunities that exceed the recreation and leisure needs, interests and expectations of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw by providing a comprehensive, responsive and functional parks, recreation and open space delivery system that is interconnected, accessible, supportive, comprehensive, build upon harmonious relationships and balances the needs, wants and desires of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw with the needs, wants and desires of visitors to the Town of Lake Waccamaw
Goals and objectives provide structure, guidance and direction in the formulation of a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. In addition, clear and concise goals and objectives assist in the definition of overall public policy and aid in decision-making during the planning and implementation phases of the Master Plan process. However, a progression and successful parks and recreation delivery system for the Town of Lake Waccamaw will require long-term commitment and coordinated action by all stakeholders to achieve these goals and objectives. This long-term commitment and coordinated action must be coupled with an effective program of overall citizen involvement in and support for parks, recreation and open space programs and services.

**MASTER PLAN GOALS**

- To provide a comprehensive and practical plan of action for meeting the parks, recreation and open space needs of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw for the years 2017 – 2022 and beyond the year 2022
- To enrich and enhance the overall quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw
- To protect and conserve the natural resources and environmental quality in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw
- To provide parks, greenways, trails, bike paths, recreation programs and services, and, leisure opportunities and experiences for every citizen of the Town of Lake Waccamaw
- To provide the citizens, elected officials, appointed officials, administrators and staff of the Town of Lake Waccamaw a pragmatic plan of action and implementation that identifies the recreation and leisure needs and interests of all stakeholders and provides a feasible and economically attainable schedule and timetable for administering, developing, managing, operating, and acquiring parks and recreation areas, facilities and resources
MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

To involve the citizens and public of the Town of Lake Waccamaw in planning and implementation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan:

☑ Using public meetings, interviews, a focus group and a needs assessment survey to gather information and comments

☑ Using general citizen comments and suggestions during the analysis and evaluation processes

☑ By making the Plan accessible and understandable to all concerned stakeholders

To accurately identify existing and projected recreation and leisure needs and interests for parks, recreation and open space areas, facilities, programs and services

To guarantee the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is consistent with and compliments other Town of Lake Waccamaw plans and ordinances and the areas, facilities, programs and services provided by other public, non-profit, private, and commercial leisure service delivery systems

To consider both the acquisition, development and the future operation of proposed recreation and leisure areas and facilities

To provide easily accessible, conveniently located and equitably distributed recreation and leisure areas, facilities, programs and services to serve the needs and interests of all citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw including, youth, teenagers, adults, seniors, persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged and anyone requiring special considerations

To identify funding sources for the acquisition, development, maintenance, operation and administration of the proposed areas, facilities and programs

To suggest pragmatic, reasonable and sensible strategies for meeting the parks, recreation and open space needs and interests of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw over the next 5-year period (2018 through 2023)
Location/Geography/Natural Resources

It is beyond the scope and purpose of this master plan to describe the particular physical and geographical characteristics of the Town of Lake Waccamaw in great detail. It is important, however, to set forth in brief form those characteristics that have significant implications for meeting parks, recreation and open space needs and interests in the Town of Lake Waccamaw and Columbus County.

The Town of Lake Waccamaw is in Columbus County in southeastern North Carolina on the north side of Lake Waccamaw. A 1733 traveler to the area upon seeing
Lake Waccamaw stated “This is pleasantest place I ever saw in my life.” There are 2 major attractions associated with the area: Lake Waccamaw itself and Lake Waccamaw State Park. Lake Waccamaw has 14 miles of shoreline and covers 9,000 acres. The only major road leading to and from the Town of Lake Waccamaw is U.S. Highway 74.

The largest employers in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw include Council Tool Company, Top Tobacco Company, the Columbus County School System, Columbus County Government, the Columbus Regional Healthcare System and the City of Whiteville.

**Demographics**

In general, the Town of Lake Waccamaw is similar to other smaller, southeastern communities as they are typically home to an older, retired population as well as families with young children. According to the 2010 US Census, the Town of Lake Waccamaw currently had a total population of 1,480 people *(Appendix—A)*. This represents a 4.8% increase in population since the 2000 Census. However, the official 2016 population estimate of 1,417 people resets the Town of Lake Waccamaw population at the 2000 Census mark. The town has approximately 968 total housing units and 558 occupied housing units. 419 of these 558 occupied housing units are owner-occupied housing units. There are approximately 2.23 people per household with an average family size of 2.74 persons. There are 369 family households and 128 households with children under the age of 18. There are 287 Husband-Wife family households. Husband-Wife households with own children under 18 years of age comprise 88 of the total households. There are 189 nonfamily households with 163 of those living alone. There are 145 households with individuals under 18 years old and 186 households with individuals 65 years and over. English is the most commonly spoken language with approximately 98% of the residents speaking English at home. The population is mostly white and born in the United States. Males comprise 48.4% (717) of the population and females 51.6% (763). The unemployment rate is 1% according to “TownCharts”, which is lower than the national rate of 5% and the state’s rate of 6%.
**Age of the Population**

Since many retirees and senior citizens live in the Lake Waccamaw community, the median resident age of 53.1 years for residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw is relatively old. This is older than the state’s median age of 45.5 years. According to the 2010 US Census, the majority of the population of the Town of Lake Waccamaw, 56.7%, is between the ages of 18 and 64 years of age. 19.8% is 0 – 17 years old. And, 23.5% of the population is 65 years and over (Appendix—B).

Sources:
Census Viewer: [http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake-Waccamaw](http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake-Waccamaw)

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**Ethnicity/Racial Composition**

The ethnic and racial composition of the residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw consists of American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asians, Black or African-Americans, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Natives, Hispanics or Latinos, and persons of Other Races (Appendix—C). While it is a mostly populated with Whites (80.9%), the Town of Lake Waccamaw is also populated with 13.4% Blacks or African-Americans, 1.2% Latinos or Hispanics, 0.14% Asians, 3.9% American Indians and Alaska Natives and 0.46% Other Races.

Source:
Census Viewer: [http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake-Waccamaw](http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake-Waccamaw)
**Income Characteristics**

The median household income for the Town of Lake Waccamaw in 2013 was $67,353 compared to $53,482 for the United States and $45,906 for the State of North Carolina (Appendix—D). The per capita income for the Town of Lake Waccamaw during this same period was $31,815 compared to $28,555 for the United States and $25,608 for the State of North Carolina. According to TownCharts, the Town of Lake Waccamaw has 18.6% of its population below the poverty line compared to 13.5% for the United States and 16.4% for the State of North Carolina.

Source:
City-Data: http://www.city-data.com/city/Lake-Waccamaw-North-Carolina.html
TownCharts: www.towncharts.com/North-Carolina/Economy/Lake-Waccamaw-town-NC-Economy-data.html

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**Education Attainment**

According to the United States Census QuickFacts, 89.1% of the residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 25 years old and older are high school graduates or higher. This compares to 73.3% of the residents of Whiteville, NC, 81.1% of the citizens of North Carolina and 82.4% nationally. 36.7% of the Town of Lake Waccamaw residents 25 years old and older have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher. This compares to 18.9% of the residents of Whiteville, NC, 27.8% of the citizens of the state of North Carolina and 29.3% of the citizens of the United States.

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 2010 – 2014 data, about 3% (43 persons) of the Town of Lake Waccamaw population were enrolled
in preschool, kindergarten, or other nursery programs; 8% (119 persons) in elementary school (grades 1-8); 6.6% (98 persons) were attending high school; 3.4% (51 persons) were attending college; and, approximately 0.02% (3 persons) were attending graduate school. 89.1% of the residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw are high school graduates which is higher than the state’s rate of approximately 81.1%. (Appendix—E)

Source:
Lake Waccamaw, NC Historical School Enrollment Data:

**Population Estimates/Projections**

The 2015 Census Estimates project that the total population for the Town of Lake Waccamaw to have been 1,465 in 2015 (Appendix—A). This represents a 1% decrease in total population from 2010 – 2015 for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The 2016 Census Estimates further projects the total population of the Town of Lake Waccamaw to be 1,417 in 2016 (Appendix—A). This represents a 3% decrease in total population from 2010 – 2016 (Appendix—A). These figures indicate the population growth for the Town of Lake Waccamaw is slowing down significantly.

Source:
2010 Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/3710500,00
Summary of Existing Population Characteristics

The Town of Lake Waccamaw total population is decreasing and has been since approximately 2010. Per the 2010 US Census, the population for the Town of Lake Waccamaw was 1,480. In 2015, it was estimated to be 1,465 residents. In 2016, it was 1,417 residents. This represents a population decrease of approximately 4% since the 2010 US Census. These figures strongly suggest that the population for the Town of Lake Waccamaw will continue to decrease but hopefully at a slower pace into the foreseeable future.

The Town of Lake Waccamaw is a small rural community and situated in one of the poorest and least healthy counties in North Carolina. The major resource and attraction for the Town is Lake Waccamaw itself and Lake Waccamaw State Park.

Only approximately 58% of the total housing units in the Town of Lake Waccamaw are occupied and there are 2.74 persons per household. The unemployment rate of 1% is very low and the median household income of $67,353 is relatively high.

Individuals in the 20 – 64 age range make up the substantial portion of the Lake Waccamaw population (approximately 55.3%), while the median age for the community is approximately 53.1 years old. The median age of Lake Waccamaw is generally higher than comparable communities and the percentage of individuals in the 20 – 64-year-old age group is generally larger than those communities. 48% of the population is between the ages of 50 and over. The median and mean household income in Lake Waccamaw is typically higher than that of the region and comparable sized communities.

Sources:

US Census Bureau American FactFinder: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#

City Data: http://www.city-data.com/city/Carolina_Beach-North-Carolina.html
CHAPTER FOUR:

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AREAS & FACILITIES

This chapter provides an inventory of existing parks, recreation programs, recreation services, recreation areas, recreation facilities and open space sites in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw area. Some of the programs, services, areas and facilities identified and described are Town of Lake Waccamaw owned and operated and are primarily provided for recreation purposes for the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. Significant additional sites and facilities owned and operated by other public, private, commercial and non-profit organizations and agencies are also included in this document. Only those programs, services, areas and facilities provided by non-Lake Waccamaw entities that could impact the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2018 – 2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan are included in this inventory.
The Town of Lake Waccamaw provides a variety of facilities and services that contribute significantly toward the community’s overall quality of life. Programs and activities provided by the Town of Lake Waccamaw include, but are not limited to: baseball, softball, tennis, Take the Lake, 10K Race, Charity Race, playground areas and walking/hiking trails.

The Town of Lake Waccamaw has one (1) community park: Elizabeth Brinkley Park which provides a wide range of amenities to include tennis courts, playground equipment, lighted baseball and softball fields, picnic shelters, a walking trail, concession building, parking, outdoor volleyball and much more. The Town of Lake Waccamaw also has access to Council Field.

**Town of Lake Waccamaw “Parks”**

*Elizabeth Brinkley Park—18 acres*

Elizabeth Brinkley Park is located at 100 Columbia Avenue and serves as the flagship parks, recreation and open space area and facility of the Town of Lake Waccamaw park system. This park features 2 tennis courts, a multi-purpose athletic field, 2 baseball/softball fields, a playground area, a lake with a 0.5 mile long walking trial around it, a picnic area and an outdoor volleyball court area.

- Location—100 Columbia Avenue
- Present Amenities
  - Lighted Tennis Courts (2)
  - Lighted Ball Fields (2)
  - Outdoor Batting Cages (2)
  - Parking Area
  - Multi-Purpose Field
  - Picnic Shelter/Restroom Facility
  - Press Box/Concession Facility
  - Press Box/Concession/Restroom Facility
  - Playground Area
  - Sand Volleyball Court
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Lake/Retention Pond
  - 0.5 miles walking trail (TRACK Trail)
Undeveloped Land Owned by the Town of Lake Waccamaw and Potentially Suitable for Parks, Recreation and Open Space Purposes

♦ Land adjacent and contiguous to existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park—23 acres

Town of Lake Waccamaw “Programs, Special Events and Special Collaborations”

♦ Take the Lake
♦ Running Events
♦ Dog Walk
♦ TRACK Trail

♦ Fishing Events
♦ Tennis
♦ Walking
♦ Baseball
♦ Softball

Other Relevant Public Parks, Recreation and Open Space Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities

♦ Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) Campus
  • The Joe and Barbara Schwartz Center
    ➢ Two-Court Practice Facility
    ➢ Team/Training Room
    ➢ Storage
    ➢ Men’s and Women’s Locker Rooms
    ➢ Public Restrooms
    ➢ Concession Stand
    ➢ Public Promenade
♦ \textit{City of Whiteville Parks and Recreation Department}

- Programs and Services
  - Zumba
  - T-Ball
  - Summer Youth Basketball
  - Autumn Youth Football
  - Autumn Men’s Church Basketball
  - Winter Youth Basketball

- Areas and Facilities
  - 130 Parcel—Corner of Highway 130 and Highway 701
    - 0.5 Acres
    - Natural Area
  - Doc Currie Park—Corner of Lennon Street and Warrior Trail
    - 0.5 Acres
    - Basketball Court
    - Picnic Shelter
  - Felix Smith Park—201 North Franklin Street
    - 0.5 Acres
    - Basketball Court
    - Playground Equipment
    - Picnic Shelter
  - Jaycee’s Park—210 Mill Street
    - 0.25 Acres
    - Basketball Court
    - Playground Equipment
  - Leder Park—513 North Lee Street
    - 2 Acres
    - Picnic Shelter
    - Natural Area
  - Oliver Square—Corner of Frink Street and Powell Boulevard
    - 0.5 Acres
    - Natural Area
  - Mollies Branch Greenway—Washington Street to Virgil Street
    - 1 mile unpaved trail
  - Nolan Park—801 Nolan Avenue
    - 13 Acres
    - Picnic Shelters (2) with Barbeque Grills
    - Playground Equipment
    - Restrooms
    - Concession Stand
    - Tennis Courts (4)
    - Baseball/Softball Fields (2)
    - Basketball Courts (4)
Parking Areas (2)

Susan Smith Greenway
- ¾ mile unpaved loop trail

West City Park—435 West Columbia Street
- 0.3 Acres
- Playground Equipment
- Restrooms
- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Parking Area

Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department

Programs and Services
- Candle Light Event
- Youth Basketball
- Easter Program
- Farmers Market Fun Run and Walk
- Annual Picnic for Special Populations
- Clinics
  - Baseball
  - Softball
  - Tennis
  - Soccer
  - Art
  - Volleyball
- Soccer
- Safe Nite for Kids

Areas and Facilities
- Bogue Community Park—780 Red Bug Road, Hallsboro, NC
  - 7 Acres
  - Baseball/Softball Field
  - Playground Area
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Basketball Courts (2)
Bolton Park—175 Old 211 Street, Bolton, NC
- 3 Acres
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground Area
- Multi-Purpose Open Space

Buckhead Community Park—7275 Old Lake Road, Bolton, NC
- 7 Acres in size
- Lighted Baseball/Softball Field
- Press Box with Concession
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground Area

Carver Community Park—213 Carver Circle, Fair Bluff, NC
- 5 Acres
- Basketball Court
- Baseball/Softball Field

Cerro Gordo Athletic Fields—404 Railroad Street E, Cerro Gordo, NC
- 5 Acres
- Lighted Baseball Fields (2)
- Concession Stands (2)
- Outdoor Batting Cage

Civitan Park—100 Orange Street, Tabor City, NC
- 1 Acre
- Playground Area
- Picnic Shelter

Chadbourn Depot Museum—201 W. 1st Street E, Chadbourn, NC

Council Field—154 Pecan Lane, Lake Waccamaw, NC
- 3 Acres
- Baseball/Softball Field

Edgewood Park—317 E. Calhoun Street, Whiteville, NC
- 4 Acres
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Outdoor Volleyball
- Multi-Purpose Open Space for Division I Soccer
  - Fields (3)
- Playground Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Elizabeth Brinkley Park—100 Columbia Avenue, Lake Waccamaw, NC
  - 18 Acres
  - Lighted Ball Fields (2)
  - Press Box with Concession Stands (2)
  - Tennis Courts (2)
  - Playground Area
  - Batting Cages
  - Outdoor Volleyball
  - Soccer Field
  - Picnic Shelters (2)
  - Bathroom Facility
  - Walking Trail

- Elra Gertrude Spaulding Community Park—819 Farmers Union Road, Clarkton, NC
  - 5 Acres
  - Baseball/Softball Field
  - Basketball Court
  - Playground Area
  - Picnic Shelter

- Fair Bluff Riverwalk Park—146 Riverside Drive, Fair Bluff, NC
  - Playground
  - Mile Long “River Walk”

- Fitness Park—132 Government Complex Road, Whiteville, NC
  - 10 Acres
  - ½ Mile Long ADA Composite Walking Trail

- Kramer Field—203 South Lee Street, Whiteville, NC
  - 3 Acres
  - Multi-Purpose Open Space for Division II Soccer
    - Fields (4)

- Lake Tabor Recreational Park—102 Lynnwood Norris Street, Tabor City, NC
  - 5 Acres
  - Lighted Baseball/Softball Field
  - Press Box with Concession Stand
  - Basketball Courts (2)
  - Paved Walking Trail
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Restroom Facility
  - Batting Cages
  - Playground
Old Dock Community Park—12844 New Britton Hwy E., Whiteville, NC
- 5 Acres
- Lighted Baseball/Softball Field
- Playground Area
- Basketball Court
- Press Box with Concession Stand
- Batting Cage
- Community Center
  - 1,500 Square Feet
  - Large Open Room
  - Kitchen Area
  - Bathroom Facility

Progressive Women’s Park—135 Rogers Street, Fair Bluff, NC
- 1 Acre
- Picnic Shelter
- Youth Basketball Court
- Playground

Ransom Community Park—2694 General Howe Hwy, Riegelwood, NC
- 15 Acres
- Baseball/Softball Fields (2)
- Basketball Courts (2)
- Walking Trail
- Concession Area
- Bathroom Facility
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground

Riegelwood Community Park—305 Hwy 87, Riegelwood, NC
- 18 Acres
- Lighted Baseball/Softball Fields (4)
- Playground
- Picnic Shelters (2)
- Outdoor Volleyball
- Basketball Court
- Press Boxes with Concessions (2)
- Press Box without Concessions
- Batting Cages (2)
- Multi-Purpose Field
Bathroom Facilities
Community Center
- 3,200 Square Feet
- Large Open Room
- Kitchen Facility
- Bathroom Facilities (3)
- Tables and Chairs for 80 People

- Sandyfield Park—1811 Woodyard Road, Riegelwood, NC
  - 4 Acres
  - Basketball Court
  - Playground
  - Picnic Shelter

- St. James Community Park—1000 Carver Moore Road, Lake Waccamaw
  - 9.25 Acres
  - Baseball/Softball Field
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Outdoor Volleyball
  - Playground

- Tabor City Recreational Complex—229 Complex Street, Tabor City, NC
  - 26 Acres
  - Lighted Baseball/Softball Fields (5)
  - Lighted Football Field/Multi-Purpose Field
  - Tennis Courts (2)
  - Press Boxes (3)
  - Concession Stands (2)
  - “Wall Ball” Wall
  - Batting Cages (2)
  - Picnic Shelters (3)
  - Bathroom Facilities
  - Playground
Columbus County School Sites and Facilities

• East Columbus High School—1 Gator Lane, Lake Waccamaw, NC
  ➢ Lighted Baseball Field
  ➢ Lighted Football Stadium with 8 Lane Track
  ➢ Multi-Purpose Soccer Field
  ➢ Lighted Softball Field
  ➢ Football Practice Field
  ➢ Concession/Restroom Building
  ➢ Indoor Gymnasium

• Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School—1337 Giles Byrd Road, Hallsboro, NC
  ➢ Playground Equipment
  ➢ Swing Sets (5)
  ➢ Outdoor Basketball Court
  ➢ Picnic Shelter
  ➢ Open Space Play Area

• Hallsboro Middle School—89 School Road, Hallsboro, NC
  ➢ Lighted Football Stadium
  ➢ Outdoor Volleyball Court
  ➢ Lighted Ballfields (2)
  ➢ Outdoor Batting Cage
  ➢ Soccer Field
  ➢ Indoor Gymnasium
  ➢ Open Space

♦ Green Swamp Preserve
  • 15,722 Acres
♦ Lake Waccamaw State Park—1866 State Park Drive, Lake Waccamaw, NC

- This state park was formed in May of 1976 and is located on the northwest side of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and provides approximately 2,176 acres

- Visitor Center with Environmental Education Exhibits
  - Interpretative Programs and Events
  - Educational Programs and Events
  - Hiking Programs and Events

- Camping
  - Primitive Group Camping Areas (4)

- Picnicking

- Hiking Trails
  - Boardwalk Trail
    - 700-Foot Boardwalk which ends at a 375-Foot Pier
    - 0.10 Miles in Length One-Way
  - Boardwalk Trail 2
    - Sun Shelters (2)

- Lakeshore Trail
  - 4 Miles in Length

- Loblolly Trail
  - .65 Miles in Length Round Trip
- New Boardwalk
  - 3 Miles in Length

- Fishing
- Boating
  - Boat Ramps/Launch Areas (2)

- Southeastern Community College
  - Baseball Field
  - Softball Field
  - Firing Range

- University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW)
  - Trask Coliseum
  - Hanover Gymnasium
  - Hanover Hall Natatorium
  - Greene Track and Field
  - The Boseman Softball Stadium
  - Brooks Baseball Field
  - Soccer Stadium
  - Campus Recreation Intramural Fields
• Student Recreation Center
• Recreational Softball Field
• Tennis Courts
• Outdoor Basketball Courts
• Challenge Course
• High Ropes Course
• Bluethenthal Wildflower Preserve

♦ Wildlife Resources Commission Wannanish Game Land
• 3,521 Acres

♦ Wilmington Family YMCA

♦ YWCA Lower Cape Fear

Public Water Access Locations
♦ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Access Sites
  • Lake Tabor Boating Access Area
    ➢ Intersection of Route 701 Business and 701 Bypass
  • Lake Waccamaw Boating Access Area
    ➢ Lake Shore Drive at end of Wooded Acres Road
  • Lake Waccamaw Boating Access Area
    ➢ Lake Shore Drive off Flemington Drive
  • Lake Waccamaw Boating Access Area—Lake Waccamaw State Park
    ➢ Bella Coola Road off Jefferson Road
  • Riegelwood Golf Course Boating Access Area
    ➢ S.R. 1816 off N.C. Hwy. 87
Relevant Private, Commercial, Non-Profit, and Church Recreational Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities

♦ Ambassador Camp

AMBASSADOR CAMP
Christ Centered Camping At Lake Waccamaw

♦ Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina
  • Exhibition Center/Equine Center
  • Pond with Fishing Deck
  • Multi-Purpose Field
  • Lighted Tennis Court
  • Outdoor Basketball Court with 4 Goals
  • Outdoor Basketball Court with 1 Goal
  • Open Space Play Area
  • Large Picnic Shelter
  • Ballfield
  • Founders’ Trail

♦ Lake Waccamaw Campground
♦ Lake Waccamaw United Methodist Church
  • Outdoor Basketball Goal
♦ The Anchorage Christian Camp
♦ Waccamaw Sailing Club

Waccamaw Sailing Club
A Needs Assessment is defined as a systematic exploration of the “way things are” and the “way they should be.” A typical Needs Assessment is a four-step process:

1. Perform a “Gap” Analysis to determine the “Need”—identify the “current state of affairs” and the “desired state of affairs.” The difference is the “gap” or “need”
2. Identify priorities and importance
3. Identify causes of problems, threats and/or opportunities
4. Identify solutions and make recommendations
Chapter Four (Inventory of Existing Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities) of the master plan document gives us a very clear and understandable picture of the “way things are” and the “current state of affairs.” Chapter Five, this chapter, provides the information collected from all sources pertinent and important to the delivery of parks, recreation and open space programs and services in the Town of Lake Waccamaw area in relation to the “way things should be” and the “desired state of affairs” and identifies priorities and importance. Chapter Six (Parks, Recreation and Open Space Standards) identifies the “gap” or “need”. Chapter Seven (Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations) completes the Needs Assessment process by stating the solutions and recommendations.

**Inspection, Analysis and Evaluation of Existing Parks, Recreation and Open Space “Parks”**

Each of the Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities was inspected, analyzed and evaluated to assess and determine its current disposition and status. The results were then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

**Elizabeth Brinkley Park**

*Elizabeth Brinkley Park Evaluation*—Elizabeth Brinkley Park is an 18-acre park located off Bald Cypress Land at 100 Columbia Avenue. This park is the Town of Lake Waccamaw’s one and only public recreational area and it provides opportunities for a variety of leisure opportunities and experiences to include softball, baseball, tennis, walking, jogging, picnicking, soccer and free play. However, there is plenty of available space to provide additional opportunities and experiences at the park. This assessment of the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park anticipates at least a 2-phase process of providing improvements and enhances. Phase 1 of the process is recommended to be complete along with the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion and includes: the addition of at least one (1) tennis backboard at the existing tennis courts; the
enlargement of the existing playground equipment and area by adding a second playground structure and shaded sandboxes; the construction on at least one (1) picnic shelter in the vicinity of the tennis courts and existing playground equipment and area; mark the existing tennis courts for pickleball; the placement of several benches in the vicinity of the tennis courts and existing playground equipment and area; the installation of additional bleachers at both of the existing ballfields; the completion of the walking/jogging path so that it forms a loop and ties in with the proposed walking/jogging path at the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion; the construction of a picnic shelter with tables and grills in the vicinity of the existing sand volleyball court; and, the construction of a horseshoe pit in the vicinity of the existing sand volleyball court.

Phase 2 of the process is recommended to be completed after fiscal year 2021 – 2022 and includes: the installation of additional playground equipment and area in the vicinity of the existing sand volleyball court; the construction of a half-court outdoor basketball court with one (1) goal in the vicinity of the existing sand volleyball court; the construction of at least two (2) fishing piers/decks into the waters of the existing pond; the installation of shaded benches/swings along the length of the walking/jogging path around the pond; the installation of exercise stations/fitness stations along the length of the walking/jogging path around the pond; replacement of the existing fence around the two (2) existing tennis courts with a fence that is at least ten (10) feet high and covered with wind screens; construction of roofs over the existing batting cages; the construction of a covered bocce ball court in the open area next to the two (2) additional tennis courts; the construction of a covered shuffleboard court in the area next to the covered bocce ball court; and, the construction of a 1,500 square foot environmental education center at one end of the existing pond.
Phase 1—2017 – 2022
- Tennis Backboard (1)
- Expansion of existing Playground Equipment and Area
- Picnic Shelter near existing Tennis Courts
- Benches near existing Tennis Courts
- Mark Tennis Courts for Pickleball
- Bleachers for Ballfields
- Completion of existing Paved Walking/Jogging Path
- Picnic Shelter near existing Volleyball Court
- Horseshoe Pit near existing Volleyball Court

Phase 2—Beyond 2022
- Additional Playground Equipment and Area near existing Volleyball Court
- Half-Court Outdoor Basketball Court with 1 Goal near existing Volleyball Court
- Fishing Piers/Decks into Pond (2)
- Shaded Benches/Swings along length of Paved Walking/Jogging Path
- Exercise Stations/Fitness Stations along length of Paved Walking/Jogging Path
- Batting Cage Roofs
- Dog Park
- Replacement of existing fencing at the Tennis Courts
- Covered Bocce Ball Court
- Covered Shuffleboard Court
- 1,500 Square Foot Environmental Education Center
Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Meeting With Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP) Expansion Steering Committee

A formal information gathering session was held with eight (8) members of the Town of Lake Waccamaw Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion Steering Committee on April 6, 2016 to receive input from the Committee members regarding the parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities for the Town of Lake Waccamaw in general and the Elizabeth Brinkley Park in specific. This input from the Town of Lake Waccamaw Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion Steering Committee was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

A summary of the information most commonly generated, discussed and collected at the Committee meeting is anonymously summarized in a non-priority listing below:

RECORDERD COMMENTS

- LAND ACQUISITION
  - No comments regarding additional land acquisition were presented at this meeting. Comments were meant to address the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP) property and the proposed development of the undeveloped property contiguous to the existing EBP property

- PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
  - Need to offer fitness classes

- AREAS AND FACILITIES
  - Need baseball and softball fields
  - Need a senior citizen center
  - Need an indoor multi-purpose facility with gymnasium
  - Need a facility with kitchen and banquet amenities
  - Need pickleball courts
  - Need exercise and fitness equipment
♦ Need nature and walking trails
♦ Need amenities that are multi-use and multi-generational
♦ Need an indoor swimming pool
♦ Need indoor courts of all types
♦ Dog Park
♦ Need benches

➢ POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

♦ The Town of Lake Waccamaw needs to consider the impact of any development and subsequent noise on residents and citizens who will be immediately impacted by such development at EBP
♦ Need to administer a survey to the residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw to assess their wants, needs, desires and ideas regarding any development at EBP

➢ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

♦ No direct, specific comments regarding personnel considerations were received

➢ GENERAL COMMENTS

♦ The concern was expressed that the Town of Lake Waccamaw must be able to afford the operation and maintenance of any development at EBP
♦ Need for a multi-use, multi-generational grounds and facilities
♦ The concern for senior citizens was expressed
  • Wellness center
    ✓ Indoor pool
    ✓ Large, multi-room

Key comments and recommendations from the EBP Expansion Steering Committee meeting on April 6, 2016 in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) Additional softball and baseball fields
2) A senior center/wellness center/multi-purpose gymnasium/recreation center
3) Multi-use and multi-generational amenities
4) A nature/walking trail
5) Fitness/exercise classes and activities
Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Public Meetings (4)

Direct community and citizen input was generated and received at four (4) public meetings conducted on August 31, 2015, January 28, 2016, October 4, 2016 and October 18, 2016. All four (4) of the meetings started at 6 pm and were held in the Town of Lake Waccamaw Council Chamber. The August 31, 2015 meeting had forty-six (46) participants in attendance (Appendix—F). The January 28, 2016 meeting had thirty-five (35) participants in attendance (Appendix—G). The October 4, 2016 meeting had ten (10) participants in attendance (Appendix—H). And, the October 18, 2016 meeting had seven (7) participants in attendance (Appendix—I). The information received at these four (4) meetings was utilized to provide an initial understanding and assessment of the specific expressed parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities of the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. This input from the Town of Lake Waccamaw citizens and residents was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Dr. Jim Herstine, Ph.D. from the University North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), the consultant hired by the Town of Lake Waccamaw to facilitate and lead the comprehensive master plan process opened the meetings by welcoming the attendees and giving a brief synopsis regarding the Town’s interest in developing an updated comprehensive parks, recreation and open space master plan for 2017 - 2022. Dr. Herstine stressed to those in attendance the importance of public participation in the overall comprehensive master plan process and asked the participants to follow 2 general guidelines. First, think big and think “outside the box”. Second, keep the discussion positive—present ideas regarding what is wanted and needed rather than complaining about something that did or did not happen. Dr. Herstine led each of the public meetings by asking the following questions:

1) What areas and facilities are you currently using for parks, recreation and open space program, services and activities?
2) What parks, recreation and open space programs, services and activities do you currently participate in?

3) What parks, recreation and open space program, services and activities would you like to participate in that are not currently provided?

4) What general and specific issues and areas of interest should the Town of Lake Waccamaw Master Plan address?

5) Do you have any additional questions or comments?

A summary of the information most commonly generated, discussed and collected at the Public Meetings is anonymously summarized in a non-priority listing below:

AUGUST 31, 2015 MEETING (46 Participants):

**RECORDED COMMENTS**

- **LAND ACQUISITION**
  - No comments regarding additional land acquisition were presented at this meeting. Comments were meant to address the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP) property and the proposed development of the undeveloped property contiguous to the existing EBP property

- **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**
  - Need to provide sedentary activities

- **AREAS AND FACILITIES**
  - Provide shaded sandboxes
  - Need Pickleball courts
  - Provide a Dog Park
  - Provide a disc golf course
  - Need a skateboarding area
  - Need a suitable location to operate remote control airplanes
Provide rubber pallet surfacing in the playground areas
Provide two (2) additional ballfields
Provide natural material slides and swings
Need a children’s park
Provide walking trails
Provide a challenge course
Provide practice softball and baseball fields
Provide a beach volleyball court
Upgrade the existing restroom facility

POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS
- No comments were received

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS
- No comments were received

GENERAL COMMENTS
- Need a long-range plan regarding tree protection and maintenance
- Need a memorial fund for trees

Key comments and recommendations from this public meeting in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) a “Dog Park”
2) shaded sandboxes, natural material slides and swings and park areas for children
3) walking trails
4) additional athletic fields
5) pickleball courts, a disc golf facility and beach volleyball courts

JANUARY 28, 2016 MEETING (35 Participants):

RECORDED COMMENTS

LAND ACQUISITION
- No comments regarding additional land acquisition were presented at this meeting. Comments were meant to address the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP) property and the proposed development of the undeveloped property contiguous to the existing EBP property

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- No comments received
AREAS AND FACILITIES

♦ Need for softball and baseball fields
♦ Provide pickleball facilities
♦ Need green and open space
♦ Provide an outdoor pavilion and stage area with a grassy open area—a gathering spot for residents and visitors to attend performances of various types
♦ Provide exercise and fitness stations
♦ Need horseshoe pits
♦ Need bocce ball courts
♦ Need outdoor basketball courts
♦ Need an athletic sports complex with multi softball, baseball, soccer and multi-purpose fields
♦ Need a “gymnatorium”—combination gymnasium and natatorium
♦ Need an outdoor education facility
♦ Provide beach volleyball courts

POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

♦ Need to connect the EBP with the Lake Waccamaw State Park
♦ Need a marketing and advertising campaign to “sell” Lake Waccamaw to potential visitors

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

♦ No comments received

GENERAL COMMENTS

♦ Need amenities at EBP that will attract campers and individuals who are camping and/or visiting Lake Waccamaw State Park
♦ Need to partner with other public, private and non-profit entities to fund and develop EBP such as Columbus County, the hospital, the Columbus County Youth and Family Association and the Columbus County School System
♦ Need to provide funding for the actual operation and maintenance of any amenities constructed at EBP
♦ Provide a bus or shuttle service to bring kids from Whiteville to EBP for events and activities
♦ Need to remember to incorporate storm water plans when conceptualizing and constructing the EBP
♦ Need to administer a needs assessment survey to the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw
Make the EBP a destination for all Columbus County residents
Use the existing tennis courts for multi-uses such as pickleball
Provide leasable event space to generate income for the Town
Any improvements to EBP must be sustainable

Key comments and recommendations from this public meeting in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) Softball and baseball fields
2) An outdoor pavilion with stage and performance area
3) Exercise and fitness stations along walking paths/trails
4) Beach volleyball courts, bocce ball courts, pickleball courts and horseshoe pits
5) Connectivity between EBP and Lake Waccamaw State Park facilities
6) A partnership with other public, private and non-profit entities
7) Concern for the operation and maintenance costs associated with any development at EBP—sustainability
8) Administration of a community needs assessment survey
9) Making EBP a destination for all Columbus County residents
10) A “Gymnatorium”

OCTOBER 4, 2016 MEETING (10 Participants):

RECORDED COMMENTS

LAND ACQUISITION

No comments regarding additional land acquisition were presented at this meeting. Comments were meant to address the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP) property and the proposed development of the undeveloped property contiguous to the existing EBP property

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Like to go for walks and bike rides
Like to participate in exercise classes
Like playing ball with children
Like swimming activities
Like playing tennis
Want exercise classes
Want water aerobics classes
AREAS AND FACILITIES

- Need a multi-purpose community center with exercise equipment and classes, bathrooms and a kitchen
- Need a facility that can host concerts and family reunions
- Provide safer walking and biking trails with exercise equipment along the length of the trail
- Need an indoor swimming pool
- Need softball and baseball fields
- Provide picnic shelters and tables
- Provide children sandboxes and playground areas
- Need a tennis backboard
- Provide water fountains

POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

- No comments received

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- No comments received

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Options for funding any improvements at EBP include:
  - Grant money
  - Raising property taxes
  - Fundraising
  - Donations
  - Funding from the Columbus County Commissioners

Key comments and recommendations from this public meeting in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) A multi-purpose community/wellness center with an indoor swimming pool
2) Water aerobics classes
3) An outdoor amphitheater
4) Children shaded sandboxes and playground areas
5) A tennis backboard
6) Additional softball and baseball fields
7) Exercise classes
8) Water fountains
OCTOBER 18, 2016 MEETING (7 Participants):

**RECORDED COMMENTS**

- **LAND ACQUISITION**
  - No comments regarding additional land acquisition were presented at this meeting. Comments were meant to address the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP) property and the proposed development of the undeveloped property contiguous to the existing EBP property.

- **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**
  - Provide volleyball programs and services.

- **AREAS AND FACILITIES**
  - Provide open space for exercise at the EBP.
  - Extend and expand the existing walking and bike path at the EBP.
  - Provide outdoor basketball courts at EBP.
  - Expand the number of tennis courts at EBP.
  - Provide a “Dog Park” at EBP.
  - Construct public restrooms at EBP.
  - Provide additional vehicular parking at EBP.
  - Provide play areas at EBP.
  - Provide combined basketball courts/pickleball courts at EBP.
  - Provide combined tennis courts/pickleball courts at EBP.
  - Construct a community building at EBP with appropriate infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity).
  - Provided a covered exercise area at EBP.
  - Construct and operate multi-purpose athletic fields.
  - Provide play areas with themes—incorporate forms into the landscape for climbing, sliding and play at EBP.
  - Construct an amphitheater, bandstand and stage at EBP.
  - Provide a “Community Recognition Area” at EBP.
  - Provide shaded play areas at EBP.
  - Install picnic shelters at EBP.
  - Provide areas for family cooking and community cooking events at EBP.
  - Complete the pedestrian/bike loop around Lake Waccamaw to include the bridge over the dam and paving the pedestrian/bike trail from the dam to the parking lot in the Lake Waccamaw State Park.
  - Provide additional parking at EBP.
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

♦ Construct a comprehensive non-motorized trail and path system throughout the Town of Lake Waccamaw
♦ Construct a comprehensive sports complex
♦ Construct a senior center/wellness center at EBP

➤ POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

♦ EBP should be universally accessible for everyone
♦ Install light pollution preventers (full cutoff devices) for all lighting systems at EBP
♦ Partnerships should be formed for programming, funding and development of recreational programs, services, areas and facilities with other public, private and non-profit organizations such as Columbus County, the Cape Fear Council of Governments, the NC Division of Parks, the NC Department of Transportation, Southeastern Community College, UNC Wilmington and the Girls and Boys Home of NC
♦ Establish a “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Non-Profit Foundation”
♦ Prepare a “Gifts Catalogue”
♦ Establish a “Friends of Brinkley Park Non-Profit Foundation”

➤ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

♦ Town of Lake Waccamaw needs town staff dedicated to parks, recreation and open
  • Need management staff dedicated to parks, recreation and open
  • Need maintenance staff dedicated to parks, recreation and open space
  • Need a dedicated Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department as a part of town government

➤ GENERAL COMMENTS

♦ Programs, services, areas and facilities provided should be for multiple use and multi-generational
♦ Attempt to connect the EBP to Lake Waccamaw State Park as much as possible
♦ Connect any new storm-water runoff ponds at the EBP to the existing system and incorporate water-based activities
♦ Use native and natural landscaping materials at all times
♦ Community open spaces should be provided at EBP
♦ Volunteers should be organized to maximize their effectiveness and efficiency
♦ Land owners and residents adjacent to EBP need to be respected and protected
♦ Emergency call boxes should be provided in strategic locations throughout the Town of Lake Waccamaw
♦ The road signage and pavement markings for biking should be shared and improved
♦ Play areas and activities at EBP should be age appropriate

Key comments and recommendations from this public meeting in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) Multi-use and multi-generational programs, services, areas and facilities
2) Connect EBP to Lake Waccamaw State Park
3) A senior center/wellness center/community building
4) Expansion and enhancement of the walking/biking trail system
5) A “Dog Park”
6) Construction of athletic courts and fields for multi-use, softball, baseball, pickleball, tennis and basketball
7) Construction of an outdoor amphitheater with a stage and bandstand
8) Partnerships with other public, private, commercial and non-profit organizations
9) Creation of a non-profit “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation” and a non-profit “Friends of Elizabeth Brinkley Park”
10) Town employees in a formal Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Department

Summary of key comments and recommendations from the four (4) public meetings in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) Multi-use and multi-generational programs, services, areas and facilities
2) Connect EBP to Lake Waccamaw State Park amenities and facilities
3) Make EBP a destination for all Columbus County residents
4) Concern for the operation and maintenance costs associated with any development at EBP—sustainability
5) A senior center/wellness center/community building
6) Shaded playground areas, sandboxes, natural material slides and swings and park areas for children
7) Expansion and enhancement of the walking/biking trail system
8) A tennis backboard
9) Water fountains
10) A “Dog Park”
11) A “Gymnatorium”—a multi-purpose community/fitness/wellness center with an indoor swimming pool
12) Construction of athletic courts, fields and areas for multi-use, softball, baseball, pickleball, tennis, beach volleyball, bocce ball, horseshoes, disc golf and basketball
13) Construction of an outdoor amphitheater with a stage, bandstand and performance area
14) Exercise and fitness stations along walking paths/trails
15) Partnerships with other public, private, commercial and non-profit organizations
16) Creation of a non-profit “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation” and a non-profit “Friends of Elizabeth Brinkley Park”
17) Town employees in a formal Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Department

Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Interviews with Key Stakeholders (5)

A purposive, deliberate sample of Town of Lake Waccamaw stakeholders was selected and each individual was interviewed regarding his/her opinions concerning parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities. Those interviewed were: Mr. Jimmy Stanley, Mr. Walter Palmer, Ms. Mikie Wall and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Little

The interviewees were individually asked to address the following questions:

1. How is the Town of Lake Waccamaw doing now? Address programs, services, structure, accessibility, even maintenance—good and bad points.

2. What should the Town of Lake Waccamaw be focusing on in the future? Address programs, services, structure, accessibility even maintenance—good and bad points. What is your vision for the department for the next 5 years? Where do we need more parks, facilities, and open spaces? What types of programs, services, areas and facilities should the department offer?

3. If you were the crown monarchy for a day, had absolute authority to accomplish anything you wanted and had all the money available that you
needed, what would be the five (5) things you would like to see the Town doing in terms of parks, recreation and open space that it is either not doing now or could be doing better in terms of programs, services, areas and facilities?

4. Is there anything else you would like to add?

The input from the Interviews was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

A summary of the information most commonly generated, discussed and collected during the Interview sessions is anonymously summarized in a non-priory listing below:

**RECORDED COMMENTS**

- **LAND ACQUISITION**
  - Town officials need to identify and acquire land for construction of an athletic sports complex in the future at a location other than the EBP
  - Town officials need to identify and acquire land for construction of a community Wellness Center in the future at a location other than the EBP

- **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**
  - Offer corn hole tournaments
  - Offer swimming classes in the waters of Lake Waccamaw
  - Town officials should promote fishing, boating, sailing, kayaking, canoeing and other water activities in Lake Waccamaw
  - Provide programs and services that increase the awareness of and educate the public of the negative impacts of hydrilla and other invasive plant species
  - Offer water aerobics classes
AREAS AND FACILITIES

- Construct a wellness center/senior center
- Construct a year-round swimming pool
- Construct a community center with exercise areas, meeting space, a kitchen, recreational activities such as pickleball and table tennis and an indoor swimming pool
- Provide a multi-generational, multi-use community gathering space at EBP
- Provide an outdoor amphitheater/concert area
- Construct an open air pavilion with adequate adjacent open space as a part of the EBP expansion with an elevated and covered floor area and open lawn viewing area for blankets and movable chairs; the pavilion could be used as a bandstand, for musical performances, movies, children’s activities, art, and readings; should provide an exercise platform for wellness activities such as yoga, chair yoga, tai chi, Pilates, Zumba; and, serve as a community group gathering area for company picnics, Take the Lake, after school activities, summer camps, day care groups, family reunions, birthday parties, scout activities, civic events and seasonal special events; a concession facility, accessible restrooms, electrical power and water service and a catering area should also be provided near this open air pavilion
- Provide a picnic area with shelters, tables, grills and a camp fire circle near the open air pavilion
- Provide playgrounds for early childhood, school age and intensity features for youth
- Provide a paved playground area for tricycles, hopscotch and other youth games and activities requiring paved surfaces
- Provide open and green space
- Expand the children’s play area at EBP
- Construct outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts and a dog park at appropriate locations
- Provide public parking for all amenities
- Provide a maintenance facility at EBP to store maintenance tools and equipment
- Construct additional athletic fields for softball, baseball and soccer
- Provide picnic areas
- Provide additional public access to the waters and shoreline of Lake Waccamaw
♦ Public restroom facilities need to be provided at strategic locations around town
♦ Complete the walking trail at EBP
♦ Provide landscaping to beautify the town
♦ Provide a community garden
♦ Provide exercise and fitness stations along all walking trails
♦ Provide walking and biking trails that connect the town with Lake Waccamaw State Park
♦ Complete the walking trail in EBP and connect it to Sam Potts Highway
♦ Provide pedestrian trails along and around Lake Waccamaw
♦ Construction a walkable bridge over the Lake Waccamaw dam
♦ Provide public parking at strategic locations around Lake Waccamaw
♦ Provide a well and/or water pump as an aesthetic feature at EBP expansion
♦ Construct an accessible bridge and path for walkers, runners and bicyclists around the entire circumference of Lake Waccamaw
♦ Make the EBP a community gathering place with a focus on health, fitness and fun for all ages and a beautiful location to enjoy and highlight the natural beauty of Lake Waccamaw
♦ The EBP expansion should provide an overall walking and biking trail system that connects the park amenities to one another and connects the park to the Town itself
♦ Provide safe and accessible sidewalks for pedestrians

POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS
♦ “User and Rental Policies” need to be developed for all Lake Waccamaw areas, facilities and parks
♦ All town areas, facilities and parks should confirm to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and incorporate the principles of universal design
♦ Incorporate “Low Impact Development” design techniques during the EBP expansion such as the use of rain barrels and rain gardens
♦ Establish a non-profit “Friends of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation”
♦ Establish a non-profit “Friends of Elizabeth Brinkley Park Foundation”
♦ Establish a non-profit “Friends of Lake Waccamaw Foundation”
PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- The Town of Lake Waccamaw needs to create and staff a professional Town Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Protective fencing should be installed at the Elizabeth Brinkley Park to protect users
- Elizabeth Brinkley Park should be properly buffered from the surrounding neighborhoods
- Hardwood trees in the Elizabeth Brinkley Park should be protected and not cut down
- Town needs to provide amenities that will attract people to Lake Waccamaw
- Town officials need to aggressively pursue gifts and donations from town residents
- Town officials need to provide additional public access to the waters of Lake Waccamaw
- Town officials need to solicit and expand the support of community residents as volunteers
- Provide safe and accessible public access to the waters of Lake Waccamaw for swimming
- Town officials should do all in its power to support the development of accommodations for tourism
- Town officials should incorporate nature, natural beauty and town history themes in the design of the EBP expansion
- Town official need to build on and expand the existing connections with Lake Waccamaw State Park, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and area schools
- The EBP expansion should encourage crime prevention through proper environmental design
- The EBP expansion should include positive, readable signage
- The EBP expansion should provide an adequate proportion of shaded areas and sunny areas
- The EBP expansion should provide adequate and acceptable noise and light buffering of the park from adjacent and adjoining properties
- The grading and storm water plans for the EBP expansion should be designed for the overall site so park amenities can be built in phases as they are funded
- Make EBP the “hub” for Take the Lake activities
Key comments and recommendations from the interviews in a non-priority order are the need for:

1) Creation and professional staffing of a Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department
2) Provision of multi-generational and multi-use community gathering space at EBP
3) Construction of a comprehensive outdoor amphitheater/open air pavilion at EBP
4) Completion and expansion the existing walking trail at EBP and connection of EBP to other town amenities including Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park through a comprehensive walking and biking trail system with exercise and fitness stations
5) Incorporation of ADA and universal design principles in the construction and operation of all town area, facilities and parks
6) Incorporation of sound environmental design and Low Impact Development principles in the construction and operation of all town areas, facilities and parks
7) Establishment of a non-profit foundation(s) to support parks, recreation and open space in general and Elizabeth Brinkley Park and Lake Waccamaw in specific
8) Provision of public access to Lake Waccamaw and its waters
9) Acquisition of land for the development of a future athletic sports complex
10) Development of a future athletic sports complex
11) Acquisition of land for the development of a future Wellness Center
12) Development of a future Wellness Center
Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs
and Priorities—Focus Group

The Focus Group was formed from a purposive, deliberate sample of sixteen (16) Town of Lake Waccamaw stakeholders (Appendix—J). The Focus Group members met on September 19, 2016 and were led by Dr. Jim Herstine, Ph.D. The Focus Group members were collectively asked to address the following questions:

1) What do you think are the best/most successful programs, services, areas and facilities currently offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw?
2) What new programs, services, areas and facilities would you like to see the Town of Lake Waccamaw offer in the future (think in terms of the next 5 years)?
3) What do you think are the major obstacles confronting the Town of Lake Waccamaw in the future?
4) How should the Town of Lake Waccamaw pay for these new programs, services, areas and facilities?
5) What do you think are the 10 most important issues in terms of programs, services, areas and facilities the Town of Lake Waccamaw must address in the future?

The input from the Focus Group was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017–2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

A summary of the information most commonly generated, discussed and collected at the Focus Group session is anonymously summarized in a non-priory listing below:
RECORDED COMMENTS

BEST/MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Elizabeth Brinkley Park amenities (ball fields, playground areas, walking trail and tennis courts)
- Railroad Depot Museum
- “Take the Lake” event
- “Halloween Safe Night” event
- Boys and Girls Home amenities
- Farm Day
- Christmas Pageant
- Holiday Flag Displays
- Basketball at the Ambassador Camp

NEW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Softball and baseball tournaments
- Water aerobics classes
- Swimming lessons/classes
- Swim Team
- Boat service from Elizabeth Brinkley Park to Lake Waccamaw State Park
- Free outdoor concerts

NEW AREAS AND FACILITIES

- Additional softball and baseball fields for youth and adults
- Batting cages
- Professionally Staffed Fitness Center with exercise equipment
- Senior Center that includes a fitness center
- Indoor/outdoor swimming pool facility
- Hot tub
- Community building that can be rented for family reunions, dinners, etc.
- Additional play areas for younger children
- Expanded walking trails
- Expanded biking trails
- Outdoor stage/theater/amphitheater
- Additional public parking
- Multi-purpose courts for tennis, basketball, pickleball, etc.
- Exercise equipment along the trails that are age specific
- Frisbee golf facility
- Bocce ball, shuffle ball courts and horseshoe pits
- Restroom facilities
- Covered and shaded shelters and gazebos
- Batting cages
- Public access to Lake Waccamaw—swimming access and beach access
- Golf driving range and putting green
- Dog Park
- “Miracle Field” with universal accessibility

➤ **NEW POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS**
- Membership fees for certain activities and events
- Construct all facilities for multi-use
- Better marketing, advertising and signage for programs, services, areas and facilities
- Utilize social media such as Facebook and a parks and recreation website to enhance town image and increase awareness of town programs, services, areas and facilities
- Partnerships and cooperation with the Boys and Girls Home and the Columbus County Chamber of Commerce
- Universal accessibility for all areas and facilities
- Establish Elizabeth Brinkley Park as a focal point for all of Columbus County
- Hiring professional town staff for parks and recreation
- Establish a non-profit “Friends of Lake Waccamaw”
- Establish a town parks, recreation and open space department

➤ **OBSTACLES TO ACCOMPLISHMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Availability of funding to pay for these programs, services, areas and facilities
- Attitudes of town residents against such recommendations
- Availability of land suitable for such recommendations
- No staffing current available to manage the recommendations
- Liability issues
- Lack of maintenance resources, equipment and personnel
- Increase average age of the town population
- Sustainability
- Convincing town residents the programs, services, areas and facilities are worth the cost
- Lack of easily accessible areas
- Inability to motivate the town population to support the recommendations and convince them the changes are worth it
- Inability to bring new residents to the community
POTENTIAL METHODS FOR FUNDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Grants
- Donations of money and/or land
- Town general operating fund
- Gifts from developers
- Fund-raising endeavors
- Taxes
- Donations of “left over” and/or “unwanted” materials
- Partnerships
- Sponsorships
- Use of volunteers
- Fees and charges for programs and services
- General Obligation Bond Referendum

TEN (10) MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

1) Multi-purpose Recreation Center/Pool
2) Ballfields—softball, baseball, soccer, multi-purpose and batting cages
3) Play equipment and areas
4) Walking/Biking paths
5) Outdoor Amphitheater/Concert areas
6) Parks and Recreation Department
7) Multi-purpose hard purpose courts
8) Picnic areas with shelters
9) Concession stand with restrooms
10) Cooperative agreements, partnerships, sponsorships, non-profit foundation, etc.
Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—2016 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

A survey instrument (Appendix—K) entitled “Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessment Survey 2016” was developed and administered as an Online instrument posted to “Survey Monkey” and in hard copy form distributed through various methods and made available to all residents of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The survey instrument opened with the following: “The Town of Lake Waccamaw Town Council and staff are committed to sustaining and enhancing the overall quality of life for the citizens of Lake Waccamaw. The provision and operation of public parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities are important components of the Town’s immediate and long-range planning efforts. With this in mind, we need your input and assistance by completing this needs assessment survey! Information gathered here will be used to create the Town’s 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping us sustain and improve our services!!!!!!.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY BY SEPTEMBER 9, 2016!!!!!!

A total of 183 completed surveys were collected representing a response rate of approximately 13% of the official 2014 census population estimate for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. This response rate gives the survey results an acceptable degree of statistical accuracy. The survey results were intended to provide a confirmation of the community’s desires/wants/needs for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities as expressed in the public meetings, interviews and focus group.

Sixty-nine (69) percent of the respondents stated they “Resided within the Town of Lake Waccamaw town limits.” Fifty-three (53) percent of the respondents stated they were a “Full-Time/Permanent Resident; own my home/place of residence.” When asked “How long have you resided in Lake Waccamaw?”, 6% responded “less than 2 years”; 7% responded “2 – 4 years”; 16% responded “5 – 10 years”; 8% responded “11 – 12 years”; 17% responded “13 – 24 years”; and, 46% responded “25 years or longer”; and, 58 did not respond to this question. Forty-four (44) percent of the respondents were
“Male” and fifty-six (56) percent were “Female.” When asked “Which of the following best describes your household?” 33% responded “Couple with children at home”; 27% responded “Couple with no children at home”; 22% responded “Retired”; 5% responded “Single with children at home”; 9% responded “Single with no children at home”; and, 4% responded “Other.” The data from the survey was analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

The information discussed and collected from the survey data is summarized below:

**INPUT IDENTIFICATION—PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES**

- When asked “Which of the following Recreational Programs/Services/Activities offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw have you or any members of your household participated in during the last 12 months? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY),” a tally of the survey responses reveals the top five (5) responses are:
  1) Walking trail—99 responses (54%)
  2) Take the Lake—88 responses (48%)
  3) Picnicking—45 responses (25%)
  4) Dog Walk—44 responses (25%)
  5) Tennis—41 responses (22%)

- When asked “What Recreational Programs/Services/Activities would you like to see offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw in the future that are currently not provided by the Town of Lake Waccamaw? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY),” a tally of the survey responses reveals the top ten (10) responses are:
  1) Exercise classes—100 responses (55%)
  2) Swimming lessons/classes—77 responses (42%)
  3) Walking opportunities—77 responses (42%)
  4) Hiking opportunities—59 responses (33%)
  5) Kayaking/Canoeing—55 responses (30%)
  6) Aerobics classes—54 responses (30%)
  7) Fishing clinics—48 responses (27%)
  8) Cooking classes—44 responses (24%)
  9) Art classes—42 responses (23%)
  10) Standup paddle boarding—41 responses (23%)
### Program/Service/Activity vs. Percentage of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Service/Activity</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Classes</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Lessons/Classes</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Opportunities</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Opportunities</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking/Canoeing</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics Classes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Clinics</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooking Classes</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Classes</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standup Paddle Boarding</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- When asked the open ended question “In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW Recreational Programs/Services/Activities the Town of Lake Waccamaw should be providing but is not”, a tally of the survey responses reveals the top five (5) responses are:
  1) Exercise, fitness and aerobics classes and activities
  2) Swimming classes and activities
  3) Biking, hiking and walking trails, paths and activities
  4) Boating, kayaking and standup paddleboarding classes and activities
  5) Senior citizen programs and activities

#### INPUT IDENTIFICATION—FUNDING PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

- When asked “Would you support the funding of these NEW recreational programs/services/activities through private sources and/or grants; through a property tax increase; through a bond referendum, and through user fees and charges”, the specific responses are:
  - 73% responded “Yes” and 26% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through private sources and/or grants
  - 26% responded “Yes” and 44% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through a property tax increase
  - 49% responded “Yes” and 42% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through a bond referendum
  - 54% responded “Yes” and 37% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through user fees and charges
**INPUT IDENTIFICATION—AMENITIES/FACILITIES/AREAS/PARKS**

- When asked “Which of the following Recreational Amenities, Facilities, Areas, Parks would you like to see provided specifically at the Elizabeth Brinkley Park as a part of the park expansion? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)”, a tally of the survey responses reveals the top responses are:
  1. Public Restrooms—92 responses
  2. Fitness Stations—87 responses
  3. Walking Trails/Paths—81 responses
  4. Indoor Swimming Pool—80 responses
  5. Wellness Center—80 responses
  6. Picnic Shelters—74 responses
  7. Picnic Tables—70 responses
  8. Amphitheater—64 responses
  9. Senior Center—63 responses
  10. Multi-Purpose Recreation Center/Gymnasium—61 responses
  11. Playground Equipment—61 responses
  12. Outdoor Swimming Pool—60 responses

**Funding Source**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Percentage of “Yes” Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Sources and/or Grants</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Fees and Charges</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Referendum</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax Increase</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When asked “Which of the following Recreational Amenities, Facilities, Areas, Parks would you like to see the Town of Lake Waccamaw offer in locations other than the Elizabeth Brinkley Park? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)“, a tally of the survey responses reveals the top responses are:

1) Hiking/Walking Trails/Paths—51 responses
2) Bike Lanes—51 responses
3) Public Restrooms—48 responses
4) Indoor Swimming Pool—43 responses
5) Outdoor Swimming Pool—42 responses
6) Sidewalks/Pedestrian Lanes—37 responses
7) Wellness Center—36 responses
8) Amphitheater—35 responses
9) Senior Center—33 responses
10) Fitness Stations/Course—33 responses
11) Picnic Shelter—32 responses
12) Doggie Park—30 responses
13) Playground Equipment—29 responses
14) Multi-Purpose Recreation Center/Gymnasium—25 responses

When asked the open ended question “In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW Recreational Amenities, Facilities, Areas, Parks the Town of Lake Waccamaw should be providing but is not”, a tally of the survey responses reveals the top five (5) responses are:

1) Multi-Purpose Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center with a pool and a gymnasium
2) Playground Equipment/Areas
3) Walking/Hiking/Biking Paths and Trails
4) Exercise Stations/Fitness Stations
5) Outdoor Amphitheater

INPUT IDENTIFICATION—FUNDING AMENITIES/FACILITIES/AREAS/PARKS

When asked “Would you support the funding of these NEW recreational amenities/facilities/areas/parks through private sources and/or grants; through a property tax increase; and, through a bond referendum”, the specific responses are:

♦ 77% responded “Yes” and 22% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through private sources and/or grants
♦ 27% responded “Yes” and 39% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through a property tax increase
♦ 47% responded “Yes” and 43% responded “Maybe” they would support the funding through a bond referendum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Percentage of “Yes” Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Sources and/or Grants</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Referendum</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax Increase</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INPUT IDENTIFICATION—GENERAL QUESTIONS**

- For the next four (4) survey questions, the respondents were asked to use the following scale to rate certain attributes—“1” indicates “Totally Disagree” and “8” indicates “Totally Agree”:

1) When asked “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is pedestrian friendly”, 57% of the respondents agreed with the statement (Selected 5, 6, 7 or 8); the specific responses are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 “Totally Disagree”</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 “Totally Agree”</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) When asked “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is bike friendly”, 51% of the respondents agreed with the statement (Selected 5, 6, 7 or 8); the specific responses to are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Totally Disagree”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Totally Agree”</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3) When asked “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is accessible to persons with disabilities”, 38% of the respondents agreed with the statement (Selected 5, 6, 7 or 8); the specific responses to are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Totally Disagree”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Totally Agree”</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4) When asked “The Town of Lake Waccamaw is a safe place to live”, 88% of the respondents agreed with the statement (selected 5, 6, 7 or 8); the specific responses are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Totally Disagree”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Totally Agree”</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

The public input revealed consistent results leading to the establishment of consistent themes throughout the various stages of the process (meetings with the Steering Committee; meetings with the Town staff; formal public meetings; interviews, the focus group session; and, the survey). While each stage of the process was not identical to the others and some input stages identified stronger desires, wants and needs for specific programs, services, areas and facilities than others, the overall direction for future improvements and expansion of the Town of Lake Waccamaw was relatively parallel among all phases of the process. The priorities identified through public input were also in-line with the deficiencies and needs noted during the consultant’s analysis, evaluation and assessment of the Town’s current parks, recreation and open space system. The most consistent themes arising from the entire needs assessment process are in non-priority order the:

- Need to provide complete the walking/jogging trail at the Elizabeth Brinkley Park (EBP)
- Need to provide additional playground equipment and areas at the EBP and the proposed EBP Expansion
- Need to construct an outdoor amphitheater at the proposed EBP Expansion
- Need to construct community gathering space at the proposed EBP Expansion
- Need to provide a walking/jogging trail at the proposed EBP Expansion
- Need to provide exercise stations/fitness stations along the walking/jogging trails at the EBP and the proposed EBP Expansion
- Need to provide connectivity via walking/jogging/biking trails between the EBP, the proposed EBP Expansion, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park
- Need to provide a multi-purpose Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center with a Gymnasium and Swimming Pool
Need to provide additional athletic fields for softball, baseball, soccer and multi-purpose programs.

Need to provide multi-generational and multi-functional programs, services, areas and facilities.

Need for the Town of Lake Waccamaw to establish a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department as a functioning component of the Town Administration.

Need for the Town of Lake Waccamaw to establish a non-profit “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation” to support and further the advancement of parks, recreation and open space opportunities and experiences for the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

It is also clear from the public input process that the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw support an expanded and enhanced parks, recreation and open space system and are willing to pay for the expansion and enhancement through private funds and grants and/or a bond referendum.
CHAPTER SIX: PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

Parks, recreation and open space standards are more likely to serve the needs and interests of a community if those standards meet certain specific criteria. In truth, the real measure of a good and practical standard is the level of citizen satisfaction with the standards. In developing parks, recreation and open space standards for the Town of Lake Waccamaw, the following criteria were considered:

- **Relevance**—the standards should reflect the needs, interests and lifestyles of the community’s residents.
- **People Orientation**—the standards should reflect the unique needs and preferences of specific people in the area being served.
Performance Standards—the standards should provide a basis for measuring achievement of community objectives. They should measure the quality of parks, recreation and open space services rather than simply the quantity.

Feasibility—the standards should be attainable within a reasonable timeframe and with available funding sources.

Practicality—the standards should be simple to understand and apply. They should be based on sound planning principles, information and a credible development process. They should also be flexible enough to handle unanticipated situations and rapidly changing needs.

The United States has experienced rapid and in some locals extreme socioeconomic and demographic shifts over the last decade. Accompanying these shifts has been the realization that every community has its own unique blend of social and economic characteristics that define it. Therefore, each community must be considered on an individual basis in order to tailor the most appropriate range, quantity and quality of parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities within fiscal limits.

The national and state parks and recreation standards presented in this section of the Master Plan were utilized strictly as guidelines and benchmarks for comparison in the preparation of the *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. These national and state standards were not judged to be requirements. They were considered to be subjective recommendations that necessitated modification in order to meet the specific and particular demands and requirements of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The standards served only as tenets for what national and state professional agencies and organizations in the field of parks and recreation consider adequate and acceptable types and numbers of parks and recreation programs, services, areas and facilities. They were compiled by and proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Parks and Recreation.
These national and state standards provided a starting point for establishing unique and specific local standards for parks, recreation and open space development for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. It is appropriate to state that the NRPA, in a 1995 report entitled “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines”, reached the conclusion that there are no “national standards” for parks, recreation and open space development. In fact, the report reaffirms that notion that each local community is unique, and that standards reflecting the local community's “uniqueness” should be established. This is the approach that was utilized and implemented in constructing standards for the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan analysis considered and evaluated two types of parks and recreation standards: 1) the total acreage of parkland and open space recommended for inclusion within a park, recreation and open space system; and, 2) the programs, services, and facilities necessary to adequately meet the parks, recreation and open space needs of the citizens of Wrightsville Beach. The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan incorporates these park standards in its recommendations for evaluating the current parks, recreation and open space system and for establishing a plan of action to meet future growth patterns.

Parks, Open Space and Greenways Classifications

A comprehensive parks, recreation and open space system is made up of a variety of park types. These park types range from very large Nature Preserves or Regional Parks, often encompassing hundreds of acres, to the very small neighborhood and mini-parks, sometimes less than one acre. Some of these park types are the responsibility of governmental entities other than municipalities, such as federal, state or county government. To fully appreciate and understand the Town of Lake Waccamaw's role in the provision of parks and recreation services to its citizens, one needs to comprehend the context that makes up a total parks, recreation and open space system.
Nature Preserves—the acquisition and development of Nature Preserves are typically undertaken by federal and state governments

Nature Preserves are typically very large sites, encompassing unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found in the region, the diverse land formations, and the variety of vegetation and wildlife. Examples of the types of facilities provided in a Nature Preserve are environmental centers, camping, nature trials, observation decks, and picnic areas. Open fields for non-structured activities, such as Frisbee throwing or kite flying, are also generally found.

Land chosen for future preserves, or the expansion of existing sites, should contain the previously mentioned characteristics accompanied with natural water features such as lakes, rivers, and creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage utilized for active recreation.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Nature Preserves are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area:</th>
<th>County/Region Wide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acreage/Population Ratio:</td>
<td>2.5 acres per 1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desirable Range:</td>
<td>150 – 1,000 acres with adequate area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical Facilities:</td>
<td>Environmental Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equestrian Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vending</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beach</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nature Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boat Docks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RV Camping</td>
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</table>

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on regional/community needs or special site characteristics.
Regional Parks—the acquisition and development of Regional Parks typically fall within the responsibility of county government

Regional Parks are typically large sites that provide a wide and varied range of both active and passive recreational opportunities. These parks are intended to serve a substantial number of people who are willing to spend travel time to visit the sites. Examples of the types of areas and facilities provided in a Regional Park are sports complexes, swimming pools, nature trails, fitness trails, restrooms, parking, concessions, picnic shelters, playgrounds, amphitheaters, recreation centers, picnic areas, boating facilities and open play areas.

Land selected for Regional Parks should be located on major transportation corridors and easily accessible by a large number of citizens. The majority of the site should be reserved and utilized for active recreation with adequate provision for passive recreation.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Regional Parks are as follows:

- **Service Area:** 8-mile radius—typically serves a population base of approximately 60,000
- **Acreage/Population Ratio:** 2.5 acres per 1,000
- **Desirable Range:** 125 – 500 acres
- **Desirable Size:** +250 acres
- **Minimum Size:** 125 acres
- **Typical Features:** Picnic Shelters/Grills, Picnic Tables/Grills, Nature Trails, Tennis Complex, Tournament Baseball Fields, Playground, Tournament Softball Fields, Fitness Trails
- **Specialty Features:** Swimming Pool, Recreation Center

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on regional/community needs or special site characteristics.
Community Parks—the acquisition and development of Community Parks typically fall within the responsibility of county and municipal governments

Community Parks provide a full range of facilities to support tournament competition for athletic and league sports. These parks also present opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation. Activities that generate large crowds, such as special events and tournament competitions, are well suited for Community Parks, where adequate space and parking are provided. Approximately fifty percent (50%) of a Community Park should be developed for only passive recreation. These relatively undisturbed areas may serve as buffers around the park or act as buffers between active areas and facilities.

Community Parks should have varying topography and vegetative communities. Forested areas should have a variety of tree species. Cleared areas should be present for placing active recreation areas and facilities. One or more natural water features, such as a lake, river, or creek should be included in a Community Park. Parkland should also be contiguous and strategically located in order to be accessible to all users within the service area.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Community Parks are as follows:

- **Service Area:** 0.5 – 3 mile radius—typically serves several neighborhoods
- **Acreage/Population Ratio:** 5 – 8 acres per 1,000 persons
- **Desirable Range:** 15 – 100 acres
- **Desirable Size:** +25 acres
- **Special Facilities:** Golf Course, Swimming, Beaches, Environmental Center, Boating, Equestrian Center, Amphitheater, Fishing Pier, Boat Docks, Observation Decks, Marina Operations, Swimming Pool, Fitness Course, Paddle Boats
Sports Complex—the acquisition and development of a Sports Complex typically falls within the responsibility of county or municipal governments

A Sports Complex functions as the major source of active recreation in the local community. Programs, services and activities found at a Sports Complex are similar to those in a Community Park, but are developed to support tournament competition. Passive recreation experiences and opportunities are generally limited, but may be found in undisturbed areas, preferably within the surrounding buffers.

Sites for Sports Complexes should be relatively flat to alleviate excessive grading and land preparation for active areas and facilities. Sites without significant vegetation or natural features are preferable since most of the land will be developed for active recreation such as athletic fields. Sites should be easily accessible from major thoroughfares. Direct access to residential areas should be limited and buffers provided adjacent to residential areas.

Specific standards and criteria for developing a Sports Complex are as follows:

Service Area: 3 – 5 mile radius
Acreage/Population Ratio: 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons
Desirable Range: 80 – 100 acres
Desirable Size: +100 acres
Typical Features: Playgrounds  Picnic Shelter/Grills
Basketball Courts  Nature Trail
Tennis Courts  Baseball Fields
Softball Fields  Benches
Parking  Multi-Purpose Fields
Service Yard  Volleyball Courts
Restrooms/Concessions
Tournament Level Soccer Fields
Tournament Level Baseball/Softball Fields
Tournament Level Tennis Complex
Alternate Facilities: Recreation Center  Running Track
Amphitheater  Observation Decks

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.
District Parks—the acquisition and development of District Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

District Parks function as the major source of active recreation in the neighborhoods they serve. Activities are similar to those found in Community Parks, but are not developed to support tournament competition. Their smaller size often requires District Parks to be more intensely developed than the Community Parks. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers.

Sites for District Parks should be relatively flat to alleviate excessive grading of active areas and facilities. Where possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily with passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should also be a consideration when choosing a site for a District Park.

Specific standards and criteria for developing a District Park are as follows:

- **Service Area:** 1 – 2 ½ mile radius
- **Acreage/Population Ratio:** 5 acres per 1,000 persons
- **Desirable Range:** 20 – 100 acres
- **Desirable Size:** +50 acres
- **Typical Features:** Playgrounds, Picnic Shelter/Grills, Basketball Courts, Nature Trail, Tennis Courts, Baseball Fields, Softball Fields, Benches, Parking, Multi-Purpose Fields, Service Yard, Volleyball, Soccer Fields, 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
- **Alternate Facilities:** Recreation Center, Tennis Center, Football Fields, Running Trail, Boating, Amphitheater, Observation Decks, Fishing Piers, Swimming Pool, Fitness Course

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.
Neighborhood Parks—the acquisition and development of Neighborhood Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

Neighborhood Parks offer the local citizens a convenient source of accessible recreation and serve as the basic unit of the parks and recreation system. These parks are located in residential areas and usually within walking distance of the areas served and provide a variety of activities to interest all age groups. While their small size requires intense development, fifty percent (50%) of each site should remain undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent land owners and users.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Neighborhood Parks are as follows:

| Service Area: | ¼ - ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding neighborhood population |
| Acceage/Population Ratio: | 1 acre per 1,000 persons |
| Desirable Range: | 5 – 25 acres |
| Desirable Size: | + 15 acres |
| Typical Facilities: | Playground Basketball Courts |
| | Softball Field Baseball Field |
| | Multi-Purpose Field Picnic Shelters/Grills |
| | Picnic Tables/Grills Benches |
| | 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped |
| Alternate Facilities: | Tennis Courts Nature Trail |
| | Fitness Course |

These areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.
Mini-Parks—the acquisition and development of Mini-Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

Mini-Park is the smallest park classification. Mini-Parks are often very small in size and are only easily accessible by the citizens immediately surrounding the park. These small parks are usually located within walking distance of the area serviced and provide a limited variety of activities to targeted interest groups.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Mini-Parks are as follows:

- **Service Area:** ¼ - ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding population
- **Acreage/Population Ratio:** .25 acres per 1,000 persons
- **Desirable Size:** +½ acre
- **Typical Facilities:** Benches, Picnic Tables/Grills, Playground
- **Specialty Features:** Water Fountain, ½ Basketball Courts, Open Play Area, Landscaped Public Use Areas

These areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

School-Parks—the acquisition and development of School-Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

The joint use of public areas and facilities is a national growing trend. Through joint use both local government and the school system benefit from shared use of areas and facilities and valuable land resources. The School-Park concept takes full advantage of the joint use objective and provides a planned area and/or facility that also maximizes public funding. Historically, elementary and small middle schools provide the ideal setting for a neighborhood park while large middle schools and high schools are suitable for a community park or a sports complex.

Specific standards and criteria for developing School-Parks are as follows:

- **Service Area:** Varies depending upon the type of school and park
- **Desirable Size:** Varies depending upon the type of school and park
- **Typical Facilities:** Varies depending upon the type of school and park
Greenways—the acquisition and development of Greenways typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

Greenways provide an important component of most municipal and county park systems. A greenway is a corridor of protected open space managed for conservation, recreation and non-motorized transportation. Greenways often follow natural geographic features such as ridge lines, wetlands, streams and rivers, but may also be built along canals, utility corridors, or abandoned rail lines. Widths may vary from thirty (30) to a thousand (1,000) feet. Most greenways include a trail or bike path, but others may be designed strictly for environmental or scenic protection.

Greenways, as vegetated linear parks, provide tree cover, wildlife habitat, and riparian buffers to protect streams. The environmental benefits include reduced storm-water runoff, flood reduction, water quality protection, and preservation of biological diversity. The trails within the greenways provide access between neighborhoods and destination points, opportunity to travel without an automobile, outdoor education classrooms, and close-to-home paths for walking, jogging, bicycling, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. Tree cover and use of bicycles instead of cars provide for better air quality, fewer hard surfaced parking lots, and reduced energy costs.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Greenways are as follows:

Desirable Size: Varies considerably—A thirty (30) feet width is generally considered a minimum

Typical Facilities: Paved and non-paved paths, benches and lighting
Boat Access Sites—the acquisition and development of Boat Access Sites typically fall within the responsibility of municipal, county and state governments

Most public boat access sites in North Carolina are designed, constructed and maintained by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. However, there are standard construction and design guidelines for boat ramps.

Specific standards and criteria for developing boat access sites are as follows:

Standard Dimensions for Concrete Launch Ramp:

- Length—varies by site characteristics. Ensure that the bottom of the ramp at Mean Low Water (MLW) will be in at least 3’ of water. The top of the ramp should be at least 1’ above Mean High Water (MHW)
- Width—single launch ramp should be at least 14’ wide
- Thickness—concrete should be at least 6”.

Launch Ramp Slope:

- Approximately 14%, but can vary from 15% to 12.5%

Construction and Materials:

- Sub-Grade Preparation—the concrete ramp should be placed on compacted aggregate which is placed on geo-textile fabric to prevent washout.
- Push Slab—use a push slab for the launch ramp below the MLW level. The steel reinforced concrete slab should be cast on upland and allowed to cure for a minimum of 21 days before it is pushed into place. Typically, a 32’L x 14’W x 6”T push slab can be properly placed when the water level is at MLW
- Cast in Place Section—one the push slab is cast in place, there should be at least 2 – 3 feet of ramp left above the water line. The remaining ramp should be cast in place
North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive
Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2009 – 2013

Park and Recreation Area Class Names and Descriptions

**Neighborhood Park**—Area for intensive recreation such as field and court games, playground equipment, picnicking and wading pools. 6 – 8 acres is a typical size. Examples include mini-parks serving residential areas, playgrounds, sports field complexes and combination playgrounds/sports fields/passive natural areas.

**Community Park**—Area providing a wide array of active recreational opportunities including a recreation center building, fields, hard surface courts, and picnicking. Natural or landscaped areas are provided for passive recreation. May include a swimming pool or be in conjunction with a school. 10 – 20 acres is a typical size. Examples include large parks/school complexes; recreation center/pool/sports field and court complexes; and community center/park complexes.

**District/Metro Area Park**—Area serving one or more suburban or rural communities. Similar to the Community Park, these areas offer intensive recreation activities and natural environment areas. Typical size is 20 – 100 acres. Examples include intensively developed county parks, developed public recreation sites at large reservoirs, and state recreation areas.

**Local Parks**—Combines Neighborhood, Community and District/Metro Area parks classes described above.

**Regional/State Parks**—Area of natural quality for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% developed for recreation. Typical size is 3,000 – 5,000 acres. Examples include state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, educational state forests and large natural resource-based county parks. Activities include nature study, picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, swimming and various trail uses.
**Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area**—Area for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Certain multiple use management approaches produce natural resource outputs such as timber, agricultural produce and minerals. Examples include state game-lands, multiple use areas of national and state forests, reservoir shoreline buffer lands, and Blue Ridge Parkway acreage. Typical size should be sufficient to protect and manage the primary resource while providing secondary recreational use.

**Wilderness Area**—Area characterized by unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Low interaction between users and evidence of others is minimal. Motorized use is not permitted. Typical size is 5,000 – 15,000 acres. Examples are congressionally designated National Wildlife Areas.

**Historic/Cultural Area**—Area that preserves, maintains, and interprets buildings and places of archaeological, historical, or cultural significance. Should be of sufficient size to protect and interpret the resource while providing optimum use. Examples include local, state, and national historic sites.
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE PER 1,000 POPULATION STANDARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL PARKLAND</th>
<th>10 ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PARKS</td>
<td>8 ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2-Mile Service Radius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</td>
<td>2 ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.5-Mile Service Radius</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NRPA AND NCDENR STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES
The National Recreation and Park Association published the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 2012 to provide national guidelines which could serve as an expression of reasonableness and adequacy with respect to quality leisure service delivery. These guidelines are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>NRPA Standard</th>
<th>NCDEQ Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fields</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball</td>
<td>1/10,000 persons</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Softball</td>
<td>1/3,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball</td>
<td>1/6,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Softball</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1/10,000 persons</td>
<td>1/20,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1/4,000 persons</td>
<td>1/10,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Courts/Pits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Outdoor</td>
<td>1/2,000 persons</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Indoor</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/2,000 persons</td>
<td>1/2,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/3,000 persons</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe</td>
<td>1/2,000 persons</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use</td>
<td>1/3,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor Areas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>1/2,000 persons</td>
<td>1/3,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>1/2,000 persons</td>
<td>1/1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2.5 sites/1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery/Skeet Shooting Area</td>
<td>1/50,000 persons</td>
<td>1/50,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>1/20,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialized Areas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>1/50,000 persons</td>
<td>1/20,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool—25m</td>
<td>1/10,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool—50m</td>
<td>1/20,000 persons</td>
<td>1/20,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading Pool</td>
<td>1/5,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>1/25,000 persons</td>
<td>1/25,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails—Bicycle</td>
<td>1 mile/2,000 persons</td>
<td>1 mile/1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails—Exercise</td>
<td>1 mile/7,500 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails—Hiking</td>
<td>1 mile/4,000 persons</td>
<td>.4 mile/1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails—Jogging</td>
<td>1 mile/2,000 persons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails—Nature</td>
<td>1 mile/2,500 persons</td>
<td>.2 mile/1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing—Stream Mileage</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>.2 mile/1,000 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Town of Lake Waccamaw
TRENDS IN PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE


The 2002 – 2007 and 2010 – 2011 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is the eighth and most recently published in a series of national surveys started in 1960 by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) and now coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The survey was accomplished by interviewing approximately 90,000 Americans aged 16 and over in random-digit-dialing telephone samplings. In 2007, the US Forest Service prepared an analysis of responses to the NSRE for residents of North Carolina. Trend information from the survey shows that the number of participants in the following groups of recreational activities has increased by nearly 50 percent in the past decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Percent Participating 1995</th>
<th>Millions of Participants 1995</th>
<th>Percent Participating 2006</th>
<th>Millions of Participants 2006</th>
<th>% Change in Number Participants 1995 – 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trail/Street/Road Activities</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>3.713</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>5.812</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Sports</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>1.137</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>1.913</td>
<td>68.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Sports</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>1.490</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>1.468</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectator Activities</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>23.152</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>4.232</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing/Learning Activities</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>3.865</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>5.543</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>0.662</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>1.212</td>
<td>83.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow/Ice Activities</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>1.226</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>1.949</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>0.528</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>0.670</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>1.500</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>2.493</td>
<td>66.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>1.612</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>2.105</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>2.856</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>3.605</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Adventure Activities</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>1.853</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>2.475</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>3.811</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>5.986</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent of United States Residents of Age 16 or Older Participating in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities, 2007 and 2010 – 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking for Pleasure</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Gatherings Outdoors</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming, Diving, etc.</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightseeing</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing/Photographing Other Wildlife</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing/Photographing Wild Birds</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow/Ice Activities</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Camping</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primitive Camping</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2015 – 2020 North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (NC SCORP)


Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities for North Carolina Residents By Percent Participation

- Visit a Beach or Lake                       69%
- Walk for Pleasure or Exercise               61%
- Visiting Parks or Historic Sites            60%
- Participate in Hiking Trails                59%
- Freshwater Fishing—Bank or Pier             58%
- Viewing Scenery                             52%
- Fishing Freshwater—Boat                     50%
- Nature Viewing                              50%
- Swimming—All Types                          50%
- Gardening                                   49%
- Canoeing/Kayaking                           45%
**Why North Carolinians Recreate**

- Be Outdoors: 93%
- Have Fun: 87%
- Relaxation: 78%
- To Be Closer to Nature: 64%
- To Be with Family and Friends: 63%
- It is Free and/or Affordable: 60%
- Exercise or Physical Fitness: 59%
- Visit/See New Places and Things: 57%
- Solitude—To Spend Time by Myself: 49%
- Escape Urban Setting: 43%
- To Learn: 39%
- For the Challenge: 28%

---

**Percentage of North Carolina Residents Participating in Developed-Setting Activities**

- Walk for Pleasure: 82%
- Family Gathering: 74.6%
- Gardening or Landscaping: 65.4%
- Driving for Pleasure: 58.2%
- Picnicking: 50%
- Yard Games (e.g. horseshoes): 38.5%
- Bicycling: 31%
- Attend Outdoor Concerts, Plays, etc.: 30.6%
- Horseback Riding: 7.8%
Percentage of North Carolina Residents Participating In Nature-Based Land Activities

- Visit a Primitive Area: 29.8%
- Day Hiking: 29.7%
- Visit a Farm: 28.2%
- Drive Off-Road (Any Type): 20.7%
- Developed Camping: 20.5%
- Mountain Biking: 15.7%
- Primitive Camping: 14.6%
- Hunting (Any Type): 9.9%
- Backpacking: 8.4%
- Horseback Riding on Trails: 7.3%

Percentage of North Carolina Residents Participating In Water-Based Activities

- Visit a Beach: 45%
- Swimming in an Outdoor Pool: 39.9%
- Swimming in Lakes, Streams, etc.: 39.7%
- Boating (Any Type): 31%
  - Motor-boating: 22.5%
  - Rafting: 9.3%
  - Canoeing: 6.7%
  - Sailing: 3.7%
  - Kayaking: 3.1%
  - Rowing: 2.5%
- Freshwater Fishing: 30.9%
- Warm-water Fishing: 25.9%
- Visit Other Waterside (Besides Beach): 25%
- Saltwater Fishing: 17%
- Coldwater Fishing: 11.5%
- Use Personal Watercraft: 8%
Percentage of North Carolina Residents Participating in Individual Sports

- Running or Jogging: 28.3%
- Tennis Outdoors: 14.8%
- Golf: 13.9%
- In-Line Skating: 9.5%
- Handball or Racquetball: 3.1%

Barriers to Participation in Outdoor Recreation

- Lack of Time: 59%
- Lack of Available Facilities: 23%
- Cost: 21%
- Physical or Health Limitation: 15%
- Quality or Condition of Facilities: 13%
- Prefer Indoor Activities: 8%
- Safety Concerns: 7%
Public Managers’ Perception of Difficulty of Meeting Public Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growing Population</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Programming</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible Facilities</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped Park Land</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Programming</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverse Cultures</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking and Biking Paths</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Fields</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Facilities</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming, Boating, Fishing</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Types of Recreation Areas Ranked as Urgently Needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Areas</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linear Parks</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Parks</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Linkages</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Parks</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Parks</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping Areas</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Complexes</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Park</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Park</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Park</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfront Park</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian Park</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Types of Recreation Facilities Ranked as Urgently Needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Facilities</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unpaved Trails for Walking and Hiking</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Observation Sites</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paved Trails for Walking, Hiking, Skating or Biking</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Fields</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/Kayak Launches</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Bike Trails</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Centers</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Percentage of North Carolina Residents Participating In Outdoor Recreation Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Visit a Beach or Lake</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Spectator Activities</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Walking for Pleasure or Exercise</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Visiting Parks or Historical Sites</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Frisbee/Disc Golf/Kite Flying</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hiking—Trails</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Quad/All-Terrain Vehicle Driving</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fishing—Freshwater, Bank/Pier</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Collecting—Flowers/Insects/Rocks</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Viewing Scenery</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Water Skiing/Jet Skiing</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fishing—Freshwater, Boat</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Basketball—Outdoor</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nature Viewing</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>SCUBA/Snorkeling</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Swimming—All Types</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Skiing—Down Hill</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hunting—Gun</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Horseback Riding—Trails</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Shooting—Target Firing Range</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Horseback Riding—General</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Boating—Power, Freshwater</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Canoeing/Kayaking</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Utility Terrain Vehicle—Mod. Golf Cart</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Splash Pool</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fishing—Saltwater, On- Shore/Pier</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Volleyball/Badminton</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Camping—Developed Site</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>Football—Playing</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Fishing—Saltwater, Boat</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Rappelling/Rock Climbing</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Outdoor Fairs/Festivals</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Driving for Pleasure</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Surfing—All Types</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Camping—Primitive</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Motorized Trail Biking/Dirt Biking</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Backpacking</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Visiting Zoos</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Sailing—Saltwater</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nature Photography</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Sailing—Freshwater</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Shooting—Skeet</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Radio—Remote Control Models</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Bird Watching</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>CrossFit Training</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Boating—Power, Saltwater</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Skiing—Cross Country/Snow Shoeing</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Open Space Park—Relaxing</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Spelunking (Cave)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bicycling—On-Road</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Roller-skating</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Jogging—Running for Exercise</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Other—Please Specify</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Hunting—Bow</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Rollerblading/Inline Skating</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Golf—18-Hole, 9-Hole, Driving Range</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Swimming—Competitive</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Bicycling—BMX/Off Road</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Ice Skating—Outside</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Playground Activities</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Triathlon</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Tubing</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Shuffleboard</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>4WD—Other High Clearance Vehicle</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Windsurfing/Kitesurfing</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Water Parks</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Golf/Miniature</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Longer, Healthier Lives

The North Carolina population is aging as “Baby Boomers” retire, birth rates have slowed and average life expectancy increases. The median age in the state rose from 26.5 years old in 1970 to 36.2 years old in 2000. The 2010 median age for North Carolina was 37.4 and this number is projected to continue to increase in the years ahead. People are living longer. Improved living conditions, medical discoveries, advances in healthcare and knowledge about the effects of lifestyle have all contributed to the longer lives. Questions about how long life spans can be extended through discoveries of biological research are being debated, but the trend of increased life expectancy is projected to continue. Lifestyle choices, including participating in recreation and exercise, can affect an individual’s life span.

**Life Expectancy at Birth, 1900-2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td>78.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>76.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Vital Statistics System

Not only are lives getting longer, but they are likely to be healthier at all ages. Continued improved medical care, drug discoveries, biotechnology advances and technological innovations are expected. Even with millions more people reaching retirement age, the number of people in nursing homes declined nationwide during the 1990s, according to surveys by the Duke Center for Demographic Studies. The center also found that Medicare recipients are much less likely to be disabled than 20 years ago. Healthy people are more likely to participate in outdoor recreation. With longer and healthier lives, people are remaining active in their chosen activities longer in life, creating additional demand for outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

While the elderly participate in outdoor recreation less frequently than younger persons, they participate more frequently than in past years. An increasing interest in physical fitness and improved health has led to more participation. When higher participation rates are coupled with large increases in the over-65 age group, the elderly
will demand services to a much greater degree than they do now. Increased demand can therefore be expected for activities that have high participation by older Americans. These include walking, sightseeing, attending family gatherings, visiting a beach or waterside, picnicking, visiting a historic site or nature center, bird-watching and attending sporting events. Older Americans also participate in a wide variety of other outdoor recreation activities including wildlife viewing, attending concerts, nature study, fishing, swimming, motor boating, biking and golf. Participation in team sports and other physically demanding activities are, as one might expect, considerably higher for the young and middle-aged than for the elderly. (National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, 2000)

Surveys designed to determine the demand for parks, recreation and open space have been conducted by the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA), the State of North Carolina and by various other associations and organizations.

**2011 National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) Survey**

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts an annual survey of sports participation. “Sports Participation in 2011: Series I” repeats the highly successful participation study done by NSGA over the past 25 years, measuring data on the annual number of participants in each sport, the frequency of participation (number of days of participation in 2011), total days of participation, and the mean (average) and median (mid-point) number of days of participation. This study is based on an online survey of more than 55,000 U.S. households, and was conducted for NSGA by Irwin Broh Research using the TNS panel.
## 2011 Sports Participation
### Ranked by Total Population
Participated more than once (in millions)
Seven (7) years of age and older
Percent change is from 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Walking</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>-15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercising with Equipment</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>-11.4%</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>-5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>Saltwater Fishing</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerobic Exercising</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>Dart Throwing</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Riding</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>Tackle Football</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running/Jogging</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>Alpine Skiing</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>-10.6%</td>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>-14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work-Out at Club</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
<td>In-Line Roller Skating</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>-18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Fishing</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>-6.4%</td>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>-17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
<td>Paintball Games</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>-13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>Target Shooting</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>Hunting with Bow &amp; Arrow</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billiards/Pool</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>-16.9%</td>
<td>Snowboarding</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>-16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Shooting</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>Water Skiing</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>-17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting with Firearms</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>Muzzleloading</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>-9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>Cross Country Skiing</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Sporting Goods Association, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW: FACILITY AND AREA STANDARDS

Minimum standards for public recreational areas and facilities (i.e., Recreation Centers/multi-purpose facilities, ball fields, pools, courts, trails, playground areas, etc.) proposed for the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Department were developed in accordance with industry guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ); an identification and understanding of the unique and specific socioeconomic and demographic information related specifically to the Town of Lake Waccamaw; and, input from staff and community citizens generated during the needs assessment component of the master plan process. These standards, identified in Table 6.1 “Standards for Public Recreational Facilities and Areas”, are the minimum recreation facility and area standards that should be used in establishing the public recreation facility and area needs for the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

Table 6.1 “Standards for Public Recreational Facilities and Areas***”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>NRPA</th>
<th>NC DEQ</th>
<th>Town of Lake Waccamaw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COURTS/PITS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Indoor</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Outdoor</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>1/400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce Ball</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>1/400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>1/1,000</td>
<td>1/400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Purpose Trail</td>
<td>1 mile/3,000</td>
<td>.4 mile/1,000</td>
<td>1 mile/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIALIZED AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Center</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education Center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>1/100,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc Golf Course</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Amphitheater</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pad</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Access/Boat Launch</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*National, state and local standards for public recreational facility and area development were used as a guide in developing standards for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The actual standards developed and established for the Town of Lake Waccamaw are based on input generated during the public input process and reflect both staff and citizen comments. These standards were also developed with the understanding that the 2016 estimated population of the Town of Lake Waccamaw was approximately 1,417.
TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW: EXISTING FACILITIES AND AREAS

Table 6.2 “Town of Lake Waccamaw Existing Inventory of Public Recreational Facilities and Areas” depicts the number of existing public recreational facilities (i.e., Recreation Centers/multi-purpose facilities, ball fields, pools, courts, trails, playground areas, etc.) currently maintained and/or operated by the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Department.

Table 6.2 “Town of Lake Waccamaw Existing Inventory of Public Recreational Facilities and Areas”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Town Standard</th>
<th>Town of Lake Waccamaw 1,417 Residents in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose</td>
<td>1/1,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COURTS/PITS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Indoor</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Outdoor</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball</td>
<td>1/750</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce Ball</td>
<td>1/750</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Purpose Trail</td>
<td>1 mile/100</td>
<td>0.5 Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIALIZED AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Amphitheater</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Access/Boat Launch</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Parkland/Open Space Acreage</td>
<td>70 Acres/1,500</td>
<td>18 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Park Acreage</td>
<td>3 Acres/750</td>
<td>0.0 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Park Acreage</td>
<td>65 Acres/1,500</td>
<td>18 Acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW: CURRENT FACILITY AND AREA DEMAND

Table 6.3 “Town of Lake Waccamaw Current Demand for Public Recreational Facilities and Areas” depicts the current demand in 2015 for public recreational facilities (i.e., ball fields, pools, courts, playground areas, trails, etc.) that should be maintained and/or operated by the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Department based upon town standards.

#### Table 6.3 “Town of Lake Waccamaw Current Demand for Public Recreational Facilities and Areas Based on Standards”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Town Standard</th>
<th>Town of Lake Waccamaw 1,417 Residents in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose</td>
<td>1/1,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COURTS/PITS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Indoor</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Outdoor</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball</td>
<td>1/750</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce Ball</td>
<td>1/750</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Purpose Trail</td>
<td>1 mile/500</td>
<td>15 Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIALIZED AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Amphitheater</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Access/Boat Launch</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Park/Open Space Acreage</td>
<td>70 Acres/1,500</td>
<td>70 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Park Acreage</td>
<td>3 Acres/750</td>
<td>6 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Park Acreage</td>
<td>65 Acres/1,500</td>
<td>65 Acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW: CURRENT FACILITY AND AREA NEED

Table 6.4 “Town of Lake Waccamaw Current Need for Public Recreational Facilities and Areas” depicts the current need in 2015 for public recreational facilities and areas (i.e., ball fields, pools, courts, playground areas, etc.) that should be maintained and/or operated by the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks and Recreation Division based upon town standards identifying current demand and the existing public recreation facilities and areas.

Table 6.4 “Town of Lake Waccamaw Current Need for Public Recreational Facilities and Areas”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Town Standard</th>
<th>Town of Lake Waccamaw 1,417 Residents in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CURRENT NEED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose</td>
<td>1/1,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COURTS/PITS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Indoor</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball—Outdoor</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball</td>
<td>1/750</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce Ball</td>
<td>1/750</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Purpose Trail</td>
<td>1 mile/100</td>
<td>14.5 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIALIZED AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education Center</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Amphitheater</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden</td>
<td>1/Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Access/Boat Launch</td>
<td>1/400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Park Acreage</strong></td>
<td>70 Acres/1,500</td>
<td>52 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neighborhood Park Acreage</strong></td>
<td>3 Acres/750</td>
<td>6 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Park Acreage</strong></td>
<td>65 Acres/1,500</td>
<td>47 Acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EVALUATION OF TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW

CURRENT FACILITY AND AREA NEEDS IN 2017

The assessment of public recreational facility and area standards against existing public recreational facilities and areas maintained and/or operated by the Town of Lake Waccamaw reveals several current areas of deficiencies in many of the established public recreational facility categories. Utilizing the public recreational facility and area standards that were established specifically for the Town of Lake Waccamaw, there is a need for the following additional public recreational facilities and areas:

- 2 Lighted Youth Baseball/Softball Field
- 1 Lighted Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose Fields
- 1 Indoor Basketball Court/Gymnasium
- 1 Outdoor Basketball Court
- 2 Lighted Tennis Courts
- 2 Pickleball Courts
- 2 Bocce Ball Courts
- 2 Picnic Shelters
- 3 Playgrounds
- 14.5 Miles of Multi-Purpose Paths/Trails (Walking, Biking and Hiking)
- 1 Multi-Purpose Recreation/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Teen Center/Senior Center with Pool and Gymnasium
- 1 Environmental Education Center
- 1 Outdoor Amphitheater
- 1 Dog Park
- 1 Community Garden
- 2 Water Access/Boat Launch Sites
- 52 Acres of Total Park Acreage
- 6 Acres of Neighborhood Park Acreage—0.5 – 3 mile service radius
- 47 Acres of Community Park Acreage—3 – 7 mile service radius

**TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW**

**PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE PER 1,000 POPULATION STANDARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>70 ACRES PER 1,500 PERSONS</th>
<th>65 ACRES PER 1,500 PERSONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PARKLAND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PARKS</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 – 7 Mile Service Radius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 ACRES PER 750 PERSONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5 – 3 Mile Service Radius</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Town of Lake Waccamaw
CHAPTER SEVEN: MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Even without a formal Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and employees, the Town of Lake Waccamaw has traditionally, historically and accurately seen its role as one of providing basic public parks, recreation and open space opportunities and experiences for the citizens of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. This accepted role is certainly one that the Department should continue, expand and enhance over the next five (5) years. However, community input and a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the Department’s current areas, facilities, services and programs reveal several deficiencies or “needs” in the Town of Lake Waccamaw’s existing parks and recreation delivery system and resources. These deficiencies or “needs” can be satisfied through the long-range strategic planning process and the
careful allocation and management of the Town of Lake Waccamaw’s resources over the next five (5) years.

The overall **Needs Assessment and Public Input** portion of the master plan process revealed several consistent and interesting pieces of information concerning the parks, recreation and open space needs and issues facing the Town of Lake Waccamaw over the next five (5) years.

For example, the need in varying degrees for each of the following programs, services, areas, facilities, policy and personnel considerations was mentioned during all components of the Needs Assessment and Public Input process:

- A comprehensive, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park
- A swimming pool facility that is part of a comprehensive, multi-purpose Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness-Exercise Center/Senior Center facility
- An outdoor amphitheater/community gathering space area
- Athletic fields, particularly softball and baseball, for youth
- A multi-generational and multi-functional approach to the provision of parks, recreation and open space opportunities and experiences
- A formal Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department with professional staff
- A non-profit “Friends of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation”
To a lesser degree, the need for each of the following programs, services, areas, facilities and policy considerations was mentioned during three (3) or more but not all components of the Needs Assessment and Public Input process:

- Need for a greater variety and quantity of direct programs and services, particularly for senior citizens and youth
- The need for exercise, fitness and wellness programs and services for individuals of all ages
- Increased, enhanced and improved programs and services related to environmental education, outdoor recreation, nature and outdoor adventure
- Recommending a bond referendum to finance any additional parks and recreation areas, parks and facilities for the Town of Lake Waccamaw
- Placement of fitness and exercise stations in the Town parks to encourage health and wellness living standards
- Enhanced and increased access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw
- Improved and increased cooperation between the Town of Lake Waccamaw and other public, non-profit, commercial and private entities, particularly the Columbus County School Board, Lake Waccamaw State Park, Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department, Southeastern Community College, UNC Wilmington and the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina

Although there were over one hundred (100) specific diverse comments and suggestions regarding parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas, facilities and policy considerations in the Town of Lake Waccamaw generated during the public input and needs assessment process, it is impractical to suppose or believe that all of these suggestions and recommendations can or should be targeted for acceptance and completion in this current 5-year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. It is, however, wise, feasible and practical to identify the most significant of those suggestions and recommendations and to develop a plan of action for their incorporation and completion.
RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to facilitate and simplify this process, the needs and their recommendations have been categorized into five distinct (5) areas: Land Acquisition; Area and Facility Development; Program and Service Development; Policy and Procedure Considerations; and, Personnel Considerations. In addition, the recommendations are further defined as either 2017 – 2022 recommendations or Beyond 2022 recommendations. The recommendations for the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan are:

Land Acquisition—2017 – 2022

This document makes two (2) specific and priority recommendations for 2017 – 2022 regarding the acquisition of specific land parcels for parks, recreation and open space purposes:

1) Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park

2) Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw

A general and non-priority recommendation is that the Town of Lake Waccamaw acquires other properties that become available, are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space. Such specific advantages would include, but are not limited to:

1) land suitable for greenways, bikeways, pedestrian and non-motorized vehicular paths

2) land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks and recreation areas, parks and facilities, such as the Elizabeth Brinkley Park
3) land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw

4) land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities

This land acquisition program could be implemented either through direct purchase of land or through an aggressive agenda of land donation, eminent domain acquisition and the development of conservation easements. It might also be possible to enter into cooperative agreements with existing public land owners such as Lake Waccamaw State Park and the paper companies in the area with large land holdings.

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**Land Acquisition—Beyond 2022**

The Town of Lake Waccamaw should acquire land, approximately 15 – 20 acres, for a multi-generational and multi-functional Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center with a gymnasium and swimming pool.

This land acquisition program could be implemented and financed either through direct purchase of land with funds generated by a Bond Referendum (General Obligation Bonds), existing General Funds, State Grants, or Transfers of Land from Land Trusts and State Agencies or through an aggressive agenda of private ownership Land Donations and the development of Conservation and other types of Protective Easements.
The Town of Lake Waccamaw should acquire land, approximately 15 – 25 acres, for a multi-purpose sports and athletics complex.

This land acquisition program could be implemented and financed either through direct purchase of land with funds generated by a Bond Referendum (General Obligation Bonds), existing General Funds, State Grants, or Transfers of Land from Land Trusts and State Agencies or through an aggressive agenda of private ownership Land Donations and the development of Conservation and other types of Protective Easements.

**Area and Facility Development—2017 – 2022**

Area and facility development, primarily in the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park and for the proposed Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion, should be the primary and significant focus of the Town of Lake Waccamaw for the next 5 years. There is a need to enhance and expand the amenities at the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park and a fantastic opportunity to increase parks, recreation and open space amenities through the proposed Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion.

The following area and facility development needs and recommendations are specifically identified in this 5-year Master Plan for 2017 – 2022 that are deemed to be the most urgent and the most practical to implement during the period of this document.

**Elizabeth Brinkley Park—Existing**

1) Complete the “loop” for the existing paved walking/jogging path
2) Install a tennis backboard at one (1) of the existing tennis courts
3) Mark the existing tennis courts for pickleball
4) Expand the existing playground equipment and area by installing a second piece of playground equipment as well as small shaded areas for sandboxes
5) Construct a covered picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills in the vicinity of the existing playground equipment and area
6) Install several shaded benches in the vicinity of the existing playground equipment and area and the tennis courts
7) Install additional bleachers along the foul lines at each of the existing ballfields
8) Construct a covered picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills in the vicinity of the existing volleyball court
9) Construct a horseshoe pit in the vicinity of the existing volleyball court

ELIZABETH BRINKLEY PARK EXPANSION

1) Construct a wooden covered outdoor amphitheater with a large stage, lighting, musical amplification and ceiling fans
2) Provide community gathering open space around the outdoor amphitheater with shade, public restrooms, picnic shelters, picnic tables, picnic grills, benches, bench swings, playground equipment for ages 2 – 5 and 5 - 12 and an ornamental well/water pump
3) Construct/Install a paved walking/jogging path complete with exercise stations/fitness stations and benches strategically placed along the length of the path
4) Provide an active area with space for lawn games such as corn-hole, shuffleboard, bocce ball, horseshoes, etc.
5) Provide a “Dog Park” area
6) Provide adequate and acceptable parking
NON-VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM/NETWORK

The need and recommendation for the continued planning, implementation, development and completion of a safe, practical and comprehensive network/system of non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation between and connecting public areas and facilities, residential areas, commercial areas and service areas within the Town of Lake Waccamaw planning jurisdiction to include Lake Waccamaw itself and Lake Waccamaw State Park. This system/network would include marked pedestrian crossings, pedestrian crosswalks, user education and enlightenment, sidewalks, biking paths, walking trails, hiking trails, greenways and other pedestrian and non-vehicular corridors. This need was identified repeatedly during the needs assessment process.

Area and Facility Development—Beyond 2022

ELIZABETH BRINKLEY PARK—EXISTING

1) Install another piece of playground equipment in the vicinity of the existing volleyball court
2) Construct a half-court outdoor basketball court with one (1) goal in the vicinity of the existing volleyball court
3) Construct two (2) fishing piers/decks into the existing pond
4) Install shaded benches and swings along the length of the paved walking/jogging path
5) Install exercise stations/fitness stations along the length of the paved walking/jogging path
6) Construct roofs over the existing batting cages
7) Replace the existing fence surrounding the tennis courts with a fence that is at least 10 feet tall and screened
8) Construct a covered bocce ball court in the vicinity of the existing volleyball court
9) Construct a covered shuffleboard court in the vicinity of the existing volleyball court
10) Construct a 1,500 square foot Environmental Education Center next to the pond

**NON-VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM/NETWORK**

The need and recommendation for the continued planning, implementation, development and completion of a safe, practical and comprehensive network/system of non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation between and connecting public areas and facilities, residential areas, commercial areas and service areas within the Town of Lake Waccamaw planning jurisdiction to include Lake Waccamaw itself and Lake Waccamaw State Park. This system/network would include marked pedestrian crossings, pedestrian crosswalks, user education and enlightenment, sidewalks, biking paths, walking trails, hiking trails, greenways and other pedestrian and non-vehicular corridors. This need was identified repeatedly during the needs assessment process.

**COMMUNITY/RECREATION/WELLNESS/FITNESS/SENIOR CENTER**

The need and recommendation to construct a multi-purpose, comprehensive facility complete with a swimming pool and gymnasium. The facility should include at the minimum an indoor swimming pool, a basketball/volleyball/multi-purpose court, an indoor track, office space, general meeting space, classroom space, exercise rooms, fitness rooms, storage rooms, a weight room, space for teens to meet and space for seniors to meet.
ATHLETIC SPORTS COMPLEX

The need and recommendation to construct and provide areas and fields suitable for sports and athletic activities and events. This athletic sports complex is recommended to include at a minimum:

1) Lighted multi-purpose soccer/football/lacrosse field
2) Two (2) lighted youth baseball/softball fields
3) Outdoor basketball court with six (6) goals
4) Two (2) lighted tennis courts with tennis backboards
5) Two (2) pickleball courts
6) Bocce ball court
7) Picnic shelter
8) Playground area
9) One (1) mile loop paved walking/jogging path

WATER AND SHORELINE ACCESS/BOAT LAUNCH SITES

The need and recommendation to construct and provide at least two (2) public water and shoreline access and boat (kayaks, canoes, standup paddle boards, and small motorized boats) launch sites to Lake Waccamaw.

Program and Service Development—2017 – 2022

The Town of Lake Waccamaw is doing a good job of providing recreational programs and services for residents considering no formal Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department exists. However there is always room for improvement and this improve will come with the creation of a formal Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, the hiring of professional parks, recreation and open space staff, the full development of the Elizabeth Brinkley Park, the completion of the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion, the construction and operation of the Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center, the Athletic Sports Complex and the construction and operation of the Environmental Education Center.

When asked in the survey what programs, services and activities would they like to see offered in the future by the Town of Lake Waccamaw that are not currently
provided, the responses are exercise classes (100 responses—55%), swimming lessons/classes (77 responses—42%), walking opportunities (77 responses—42%), hiking opportunities (59 responses—33%), kayaking/canoeing (55 responses—30%), aerobics classes (54 responses—30%), fishing clinics (48 responses—27%), cooking classes (44 responses—24%), art classes (23 responses—23%) and standup paddle boarding (41 responses—23%). These percentages indicate a relatively low level of “need” for these programs and services but they do indicate Town of Lake Waccamaw residents are most interested in new programs, service and activities that are fitness enhancing, water-based, outdoor related and involve improving personal skills and abilities.

Based upon the information obtained during the needs assessment process and after a comprehensive evaluation of the capabilities of the Town of Lake Waccamaw to provide various new programs and services, the following new programs and services are recommended to be addressed over the next 5 years after the formation of the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and the hiring of professional staff to operate the department:

1) Additional special community events and tournaments should be provided such as bike races, kayak races, standup paddle board races, fishing tournaments, sailing classes and races and other water related activities and family events

2) Additional programs and services should be provided for older adults and senior citizens such as nutrition classes, jogging, walking events, weight training, exercise and fitness classes, art classes, cooking classes and dance lessons
Program and Service Development—Beyond 2022

There are three (3) identified program and service needs and recommendations “Beyond 2022” and those are:

1) Once the multi-purpose, comprehensive community, recreation, wellness, fitness, senior facility/center is developed and open for operation, the Town will need to program the facility appropriately

2) Once the “Athletic Sports Complex” is developed and open for operation, the Town will need to program the facility appropriately

3) Once the Environmental Education Center is developed and open for operation, the Town will need to program the facility appropriately
Policy and Procedure Considerations—2017 – 2022

There are several areas of policy and procedure that need to be examined and evaluated in light of the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Some of these policies and procedures are currently strategic parts of the standard operating procedures of the Town of Lake Waccamaw. However, several of the policy and procedure recommendations delve into areas not presently an active part of the Town’s operating procedures. Highlights of these policy and procedure considerations are summarized as follows:

♦ **Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should create an administrative department within the Town to oversee, plan, operate and maintain all parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities.

♦ **Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission**—A citizen’s commission of 5 to 7 members should be formed to promote parks, recreation and open space for the citizens of Lake Waccamaw. The Commission would serve as the parks, recreation and open space policy advisory body for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The Commission would consult with and advise the Town Council on matters affecting the overall parks, recreation and open space policies and procedures of the Town, the acquisition and use of lands and properties related to total community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities, and its long-range projected programs and services for parks, recreation and open space.
**Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should create a “**Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation**” to assist the Town of Lake Waccamaw and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department in generating support and raising funds for land acquisition, area and facility development and program services. Citizens are typically more willing and apt to provide financial support when non-profit organizations are involved in the fund raising effort rather than governmental entities. A non-profit Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation could become a valuable tool for increasing community volunteer support for parks and recreation programs and services while at the same time significantly increasing the availability of operating and capital funding for the Department.

**Partnerships**—The number and type of cooperative partnerships should be expanded and enhanced. Although the Town of Lake Waccamaw is already involved in several significant partnership commitments that have provided valuable services to the citizens of Lake Waccamaw, there are still numerous groups, agencies and organizations within the Town’s planning area and jurisdiction available and willing to enter into additional and/or expanded partnerships with the Town of Lake Waccamaw in the provision and administration of parks, recreation and open space programs, services areas, and facilities. These
partnerships would significantly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of town resources and expand the scope of available parks, recreation and open space programs and services. Available partners include, but are not limited to, the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department, the Columbus County School System and Board of Education, Southeastern Community College, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, and other public, non-profit, private, commercial, service and civic organizations in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

♦ **Pedestrian, Bicycle and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Network/System**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw needs to renew and expand its commitment to a comprehensive and safe pedestrian, bicycle, sidewalk and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system and continue to work to develop and implement this transportation network/system in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

♦ **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance**—A major issue confronting all parks, recreation and open space providers is the ability to enhance access for disabled patrons and persons with special needs. Town’s and public Parks and Recreation
Departments are not exempt from this requirement and legislation dictates that parks, recreation and open space amenities be barrier-free. The 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it imperative that the Town of Lake Waccamaw make a strong and comprehensive commitment to providing ADA accessibility to all citizens of Leland. The Town should continue to make ADA compliance and recreational inclusion a top administrative priority in the development and implementation of all programs, services, areas and facilities. The ADA requirements and regulations governing design standards leave some room for interpretation for some parks, recreation and open space facilities; however, they are very specific regarding the design of restrooms, pathways and other amenities. Before renovating old areas and facilities, or constructing new ones, the Town of Lake Waccamaw should consult with the Town’s legal department or ADA compliance staff to review and interpret the ADA legislation and develop a standard by which they begin to develop a system sensitive to the needs of all visitors and users. If this assistance is not available, the Town staff should contract with a professional certified and trained in ADA requirements and regulations to conduct an ADA Accessibility Study of all current town parks, recreation and open space areas, facilities, programs and services.

♦ Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards—The Town of Lake Waccamaw must be aware of possible non-compliance of playground equipment and park areas to safety standards adopted by organizations such as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the American Society for Testing and
Materials (ASTM) and the International Play Equipment Manufacturers’ Association (IPEMA). With this in mind, the Town of Lake Waccamaw should contract with an outside Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) or a town staff member certified as a CPSI on a regular basis to inspect all parks and playground equipment and areas under the maintenance and operation of the Town. This action will ensure that the town’s parks and playground equipment are in compliance with existing park and playground standards and serve as an additional protection against loss, damage, injury and negligence lawsuits.

♦ **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Gifts and Donations Catalogue**—Current economic conditions demand creative and effective methods to deal with shrinking budgets for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities. With this in mind and as a means of supplementing and complimenting the efforts of the “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation” the Town of Lake Waccamaw should compile and distribute a “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Gifts and Donations Catalogue” which identifies Town needs that can be “given” to the department by private citizens, local businesses and interested organizations. The catalogue would identify what is needed and how the interested party can assist in meeting the need.
Personnel Considerations—2017 – 2022

The Needs Assessment component of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process makes it clear the Town of Lake Waccamaw citizens want, need and expect to be served by Town parks, recreation and open space professional staff/employees. The identified current, latent and projected demand and need for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities emphasizes this point and intensifies the importance of resolving this issue immediately. To this end the following immediate personnel recommendations are made for the 2017 – 2018 budget year and graphically depicted in Appendix—P.

- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Specialist—this individual would be responsible for all programs and services offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department.

- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Specialist—this individual would be responsible for general operation and maintenance of the existing areas and facilities currently operated by the Town of Lake Waccamaw but maintained by the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department and allow for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department to eventually create its own multi-employee Parks Division within the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department thereby eliminating the need to rely upon the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department in the future.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department would still need to supplement and complement these positions with the necessary part-time/seasonal/contract employees, volunteers, student interns and continued support from various public and non-profit organizations and agencies.
**Personnel Considerations—Beyond 2022**

Recommended changes and additions to the parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities provided by the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department due primarily to area and facility development, program development and increased maintenance responsibilities beyond the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year will require, at a minimum, the following additional personnel and personnel changes in order to afford the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department the ability and capability to accomplish the parks, recreation and open space mission, goals and objectives beyond the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year:

- **Upon Completion of Improvements and Enhancements to Elizabeth Brinkley Park and Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion**
  - Create and hire a new full-time position of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Supervisor

- **Upon Completion of Comprehensive, Multi-Purpose Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center**
  - Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Director
  - Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Recreation Specialist
  - Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Aquatics Director
  - Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Secretary/Receptionist
  - Create and hire a new full-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Supervisor
Upon Completion of Athletic Sports Complex

- Create and hire a new part-time position of Athletics Specialist
- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Building Maintenance Specialist

Upon Completion of Environmental Education Center

- Create and hire a new part-time position of Environmental Education Specialist
- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Specialist

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department would still need to supplement and complement these positions with the necessary part-time/seasonal/contract employees, volunteers, student interns and continued support from various public and non-profit organizations and agencies.
CHAPTER EIGHT:
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is grounded in an analysis and synthesis of current parks, recreation and open space background information for the Town of Lake Waccamaw, an inventory and evaluation of the existing parks, recreation and open space delivery system, an understanding of appropriate and applicable parks, recreation and open space standards and guidelines, and, the identification of citizen and participant needs, wants, desires and interests.
The recommendations and proposals of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan are designed to be planned and implemented over the next 5 year period and beyond utilizing revenues and funds from current appropriations, the annual Town operating budget, grants, private sources, tax revenues, gifts, donations, a municipal General Obligation/Bond Referendum, and/or, user fees and charges. The implementation of the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is also contingent upon the Town’s ability to enter into joint cooperative ventures with various complimentary public, private, commercial and quasi-public agencies and organizations currently operating in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw and Columbus County.

LAND ACQUISITION IMPLEMENTATION
2017 – 2022 AND BEYOND 2022

The land acquisition recommendations identified within the Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan require immediate implementation in order to accomplish many of the overall goals and objectives of the master plan. The Town of Lake Waccamaw should consider the merits of a General Obligation/Bond Referendum as the means for funding the land acquisition recommendations. Approximately 47% of the respondents to the needs assessment survey supported the idea of using the funds from a General Obligation/Bond Referendum to pay for new parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities. This document anticipates the Town of Lake Waccamaw will place a General Obligation/Bond Referendum on the ballot during the November 2019 general election. Any land acquisition could also be partially funded through the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), Clean Water Trust Fund grants and other available grant funding through the state of North Carolina, private foundations/sources and the federal government. In addition, it is suggested that the Town of Lake Waccamaw begin immediately budgeting $25,000 - $50,000 per year in a 5-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget for these land acquisition purposes. The
accumulated funds in the CIP budget would then be available for land acquisition purposes as the need arises in the future.

**Land Acquisition Implementation 2017 – 2022**

### 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year

- Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park
- Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw
- Acquire any and all properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space such as greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw and, land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities.
- Prepare for the *General Obligation/Bond Referendum* to be placed on the November 2019 general election ballot
- Budget $25,000 – $50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition
2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year

- Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park

- Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw

- Acquire any and all properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space such as greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw and, land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities.

- Prepare for the General Obligation/Bond Referendum to be placed on the November 2019 general election ballot

- Budget $25,000 – $50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition
2019 – 2020 Fiscal Year

- Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park

- Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw

- Acquire any and all properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space such as greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw and, land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities.

- Budget $25,000 – $50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition
2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year

- Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park

- Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw

- Acquire any and all properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space such as greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw and, land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities.

- Budget $25,000 – $50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition
2021 – 2022 Fiscal Year

- Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park.

- Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw.

- Acquire any and all properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space such as greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw and, land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities.

- Budget $25,000 – $50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition.
Land Acquisition Implementation Beyond 2022

Beyond 2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year

- Acquire a 15 – 20 acre tract of land suitable for a multi-generational and multi-functional Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center with a gymnasium and swimming pool—$225,000 – $300,000 (Assumes $15,000/Acre)*

- Acquire an 15 – 25 acre tract of land suitable for a multi-purpose sports and athletic complex—$225,000 – $375,000 (Assumes $15,000/Acre)*

- Acquire land for the construction of a comprehensive, multi-purpose, safe, functional and usable sidewalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw and connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the town with each other, Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park
- Acquire land for public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Waccamaw

- Acquire any and all properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space such as greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, land offering the possibility of public access and amenities to the rivers, sounds and waters in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw and, land in areas of the Town of Lake Waccamaw presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities.

- Budget $25,000 – $50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget each fiscal year for future land acquisition

*These land acquisition budget figures should only be considered as “rough estimates” of the actual land acquisition costs. The actual land acquisition costs should be calculated in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget to be developed each year in concert with the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department operating budget.
AREA AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

2017—2022 AND BEYOND 2022

The specific details for the area and facility development recommendations should be worked out in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The Town should consider a General Obligation/Bond Referendum to pay for the development of the new Multi-Purpose, Comprehensive Recreation Center and other significant area and facility development expenditures. However, the Town can and should also apply for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant funding for the recommendations regarding the Multi-Purpose, Comprehensive Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center; the renovations and improvements to the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park; development of the proposed Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion; the development of the Sports/Athletics Park/Complex; the development of the Non-Vehicular Transportation System/Network; and, the development of the Water and Shoreline Access/Boat Launch Sites at Lake Waccamaw. The Town of Lake Waccamaw can and should also apply for Public Fishing Access Areas Grants from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. These funds could be utilized to develop water and shoreline access facilities at Lake Waccamaw and to the other creeks, rivers and water bodies in and surrounding the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation network between and connecting public areas and facilities within the Town of Lake Waccamaw planning jurisdiction could be funded through bicycle transportation grants through the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the federal government.
Area and Facility Development Implementation 2017 – 2022

Total project development cost estimates for each of the Area and Facility Development needs identified for 2017 – 2022 Fiscal Years are:

Elizabeth Brinkley Park Improvements $75,000 – $90,000
- Begin 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year
- Complete by end of 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year

Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion Improvements $150,000 – $175,000
- Begin 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year
- Complete by end of 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year

Non-Vehicular Transportation Network/System $100,000 – $150,000
- Begin 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year
  ✓ 2017 – 2018 Begin Planning Phase
  ✓ 2018 – 2019 Complete Planning Phase
  ✓ 2019 – 2020 Begin Construction Phase
- On-Going Project Until Completed

Total Project Development Cost Estimates for 2017 – 2022 Fiscal Years

Area and Facility Development Implementation—$325,000 – $415,000

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELIZABETH BRINKLEY PARK</td>
<td>2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year</td>
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<td>ELIZABETH BRINKLEY PARK EXPANSION</td>
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<td>NON-VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK/SYSTEM</td>
<td>2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year</td>
<td>On-Going Project Until Completed</td>
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Area and Facility Development Implementation—Beyond 2022

Total project development cost estimates for each of the Area and Facility Development needs identified Beyond the 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Year are:

- **Elizabeth Brinkley Park Improvements** $200,000 – $250,000
  - Begin 2022 – 2023 Fiscal Year
  - Complete by end of 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year

- **Water and Shoreline Access/Boat Launch Sites** $15,000 – $25,000
  - Begin 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year
  - Complete by end of 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year

- **Community/Recreation/Wellness/Fitness/Senior Center** $1,800,000 – $2,175,000
  - Begin 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year
  - Complete by end of 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year

- **Athletic Sports Complex** $350,000 – $425,000
  - Begin 2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year
  - Complete by end of 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year

**Total Project Development Cost Estimates Beyond 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Year**

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<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELIZABETH BRINKLEY PARK</td>
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<td>2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year</td>
<td>$1,800,000 – $2,175,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC SPORTS COMPLEX</td>
<td>2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year</td>
<td>2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year</td>
<td>$350,000 – $425,000</td>
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Additional programs and services should be offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw only as a part of the normal operating budget and as staff, areas and facilities and financial resources allow. The creation and staffing of a formal Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department as a formal and functional administrative body within the Town of Lake Waccamaw is critical and essential if adequate and acceptable parks and recreation programs and services are to be provided. Once the Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department has been created and staffed, the following programs and services can and should be provided even without new improvements to the existing Elizabeth Brinkley Park and the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Expansion:

**Special Community Events and Tournaments**—the special community event and tournament programs and services identified and outlined in Chapter Seven—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program and Service Development 2017 – 2022 should and need to be implemented (bike races, kayak races, standup paddle board races, fishing tournaments, sailing classes and races and other water related activities and family events). These programs and services should be budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department’s normal fiscal year operating budget beginning with the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year operating budget.
Older Adults and Senior Citizen Programs and Services—the older adult and senior citizens programs and services identified and outlined in Chapter Seven—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program and Service Development 2017 – 2022 should and need to be implemented (nutrition classes, jogging, walking events, weight training, exercise and fitness classes, art classes, cooking classes and dance lessons). These programs and services should be budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department’s normal fiscal year operating budget beginning with the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year operating budget.

PROGRAM AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION BEYOND 2022

The provision of additional programs and services beyond those identified above is contingent upon the construction and operation of the multi-purpose, comprehensive community, recreation, wellness, fitness, senior facility/center; the athletic sports complex; and, the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Environmental Education Center.
POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION—2017 – 2022

**Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should create an administrative department within the Town to oversee, plan, operate and maintain all parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities. The Department should be formed and included in the 2017 – 2018 Town operating budget. If need be, the Town can contract with the University of North Carolina Wilmington Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management Program to facilitate the successful creation the new Department.

**Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw, in conjunction with the creation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, should create a citizen’s commission of 5 to 7 members to promote parks, recreation and open space for the citizens of Lake Waccamaw. The Commission would serve as the parks, recreation and open space policy advisory body for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The Commission would consult with and advise the Town Council on matters affecting the overall parks, recreation and open space policies and procedures of the Town, the acquisition and use of lands and properties related to total community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities, and its long-range projected programs and services for parks, recreation and open space. The Commission should be created during the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year and begin meeting at the start of the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year. If need be, the Town can contract with the University of North Carolina Wilmington Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management Program to facilitate the successful creation the new Commission to include by-law creation and training of the new Commission members.
**Town of Lake Waccamaw Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation**—A non-profit Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation should be formed and operating by December 2018 to assist the Town of Lake Waccamaw and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department in generating support and raising funds for land acquisition, area and facility development and program services. Citizens are typically more willing and apt to provide financial support when non-profit organizations are involved in the fund raising effort rather than governmental entities. A non-profit Parks, Recreation and Open Space Foundation could become a valuable tool for increasing community volunteer support for parks and recreation programs and services while at the same time significantly increasing the availability of operating and capital funding for the Department. The Chair of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission working in concert with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Specialist, the Town Manager and the Town Attorney should determine the best method for accomplishing this task. If need be, the Town can contract with the University of North Carolina Wilmington Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management Program to facilitate the successful creation the new Foundation to include by-law creation and training of the new Foundation members.

**Partnerships**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should continue existing partnerships and begin to create and enhance appropriate new formal partnerships with interested agencies and organizations such as the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department, the Columbus County School System and Board of Education, Southeastern Community College, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, and other public, non-profit, private, commercial, service and civic organizations in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw. At the current time, the Town of Lake Waccamaw Town Manager should take the lead regarding this endeavor. However, once the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission are formed, the Town Manager, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Program Specialist and the Chair of the Commission should work jointly to form new partnerships and expand existing partnerships.

*Pedestrian, Bicycle and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Network/System*—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should act immediately to implement the recommendations of the *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* regarding the concept of a pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system in and around the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The need for an expanded and improved pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized vehicular transportation network/system was voiced loudly, often and clearly by the citizens of Lake Waccamaw during all phases of the public input needs assessment process. The Town Manager should identify and hire a consultant to complete a Town of Lake Waccamaw Pedestrian, Bike and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Plan for the Town of Lake Waccamaw. The funds to hire the consultant should be included in the 2018 – 2019 Town operating budget and the consultant hired by no later than September 2018. The Plan should be adopted by the Town Council by no later than January 2020.

*Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Accessibility Compliance*—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should hire/contract with a competent certified professional to conduct a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of all existing Town of Lake Waccamaw programs, services, areas and facilities in order to determine current ADA and inclusion compliance. This inventory and evaluation should be completed during the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year. All future Town programs, services, areas and facilities should be designed, constructed and implemented according to
recommended and acceptable ADA and recreational inclusion guidelines and standards.

**Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards**—The Town of Lake Waccamaw should contract with a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to perform complete and detailed assessments of all parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities, particularly the playground equipment on a regular basis. A Town employee could even obtain the certification and complete the process. CPSI assessments should be scheduled for every 2 years beginning with the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year. This recommendation should not eliminate the need for Town staff to conduct daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and assessments of its own at Town of Lake Waccamaw parks, playgrounds, areas and facilities.

**Parks, Recreation and Open Space Gifts and Donations Catalogue**—
Upon creation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and the formation of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission, the Town of Lake Waccamaw Town Manager, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Specialist and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission Chair, working in cooperation with local interested citizens, local businesses and students from Cape Fear Community College, the University of North Carolina Wilmington or another appropriate college or university should create the catalogue. This would be an excellent class project for students any college or university.
PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS IMPLEMENTATION—2017 – 2022

AND BEYOND 2022

Personnel Considerations Implementation—2017 – 2022

♦ **2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year**
  
  o Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Specialist
  
  o Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Specialist

♦ **2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year**

  o Create and hire a new full-time position of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Supervisor

  The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department would still need to supplement and complement these positions with the necessary part-time/seasonal/contract employees, volunteers, student interns and continued support from various public and non-profit organizations and agencies.

Personnel Considerations Implementation—Beyond 2022

♦ **2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year—after construction and opening of the Elizabeth Brinkley Park Environmental Education Center**

  o Create and hire a new part-time position of Environmental Education Specialist
  
  o Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Specialist
♦ 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year—after construction and opening of the Community Center/Recreation Center/Wellness Center/Fitness Center/Senior Center

- Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Director
- Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Recreation Specialist
- Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Aquatics Director
- Create and hire a new full-time position of Center Secretary/Receptionist
- Create and hire a new full-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Supervisor

♦ 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year—after construction and opening of the Athletic Sports Complex

- Create and hire a new part-time position of Athletics Specialist
- Create and hire a new part-time position of Parks and Buildings Maintenance Specialist

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department would still need to supplement and complement these positions with the necessary part-time/seasonal/contract employees, volunteers, student interns and continued support from various public and non-profit organizations and agencies.
Funding Sources and Opportunities

Most, if not all, capital investments such as land acquisition and area and facility development involve the expenditure of substantial amounts of money. Local governments, like the Town of Lake Waccamaw, have several options available to them when making these large capital investments. These options include but are not limited to:

- Current Revenues—capital improvement costs from current revenues such as general taxation, fees, services charges and special assessments
- Reserve Funds—financing capital improvement costs through the accumulation of funds
- General Obligation/Bond Referendum
- Eminent Domain
- Lease/Purchase Agreements
- Subdivision Dedication
- Donations/Gifts
- State and Federal Government Assistance
External Grant Funding Sources and Opportunities

It is a well-accepted fact of doing business that public parks and recreation agencies and organizations cannot survive under the current economic conditions without external grant funding. These grants may come from the state or federal government, quasi-governmental agencies, non-profit entities or from private foundations and organizations. The competition for these grants is enormous and formidable. Regardless of the source of the grant funding, the ability of a local government agency or organization to successfully secure these monies is vital and hangs on the local government’s capability to present its case for securing the funding in the best light.

Grant-writing is both an art and a science. It requires creative ability to present the local government’s needs and requests in the most advantageous manner and knowledge of specific grant writing requirements, policies and procedures. For this reason, successful grant-writing skills and abilities have become a requirement and a necessity for all local government operations. With this in mind, it is recommended the Town of Lake Waccamaw address this need. The recommendation is that the town designates an employee to be the grant-writing authority for all town requests for external grant funding and train that individual for this purpose. Or, the town hires an outside consultant already trained in grant-writing to work with the town when preparing a grant request for external funding.

In response to shrinking federal assistance during the 1980s and 1990s, North Carolina established dedicated funding sources for recreation from sources such as bonds, real-estate transfer taxes, user fees, state sales taxes, income tax write-offs, and mineral severance taxes. North Carolina has taken major steps to provide on-going sources of park and conservation funds with the establishment of the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. In addition, grant money is also available through the federally funded Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA) [formerly known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)]. The North Carolina Department of Transportation administers the funds and
the local government agency can use these funds for developing portions of any proposed greenway system. Local governments can also apply for assistance with pedestrian, bikeway and greenway projects by applying for North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds.

**North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)**—The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides state parks and local governments with a reliable funding source for projects. The North Carolina General Assembly established the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in July 1994 to fund improvements in the state’s park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public’s access to the state’s beaches and coastal waters. The PARTF program provides dollar-for-dollar grants to local governments. Recipients use the grants to acquire land and/or to develop parks and recreational projects that serve the general public. A portion of the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is the primary funding source for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access (PBCWA) Program. The PBCWA Program, administered by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grants to local governments throughout North Carolina’s 20 coastal counties. The fund is fueled by money from property sold in North Carolina and is allocated in 3 ways: 65% to the state parks through the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation; 30% as dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for park and recreation purposes; and, 5% for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Access Program. More information can be found at: [http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php](http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php)

**Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF)**—The Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) was established in North Carolina in 1987. The fund provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important
natural areas, to preserve the state’s ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state.

North Carolina Division of Coastal Management Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Grants—The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management awards more than $1 million a year in matching grants to local governments for projects to improve pedestrian access to the state’s beaches and waterways. Local governments may use access grants to construct low-cost public access facilities, including parking areas, restrooms, picnic shelters, dune crossovers and piers. Projects range in size from small, local access areas to regional access sites with amenities such as large parking lots, bathrooms and picnic shelters. Towns and counties may also use the grants to replace aging access facilities. In addition, local governments can use the funds to help acquire land for access sites or to revitalize urban waterfronts. More information can be found at:

http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/Access/grants.htm

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program—The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides grants to States and Territories to construct, renovate, or maintain tie-up facilities for recreational boats 26 feet or more in length. More information can be found at:

http://portal.nc.denr.org/web/mf/what-big-program

Water Resources Development Project Grant—The Water Resources Development Project Grant Program is designed to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments throughout the State. Applications for grants are accepted for seven (7) purposes: General Navigation,
Recreational Navigation, Water Management, Stream Restoration, Beach Protection, Land Acquisition, and Facility Development for Water-Based Recreation, and Aquatic Weed Control. More information can be found at: 
http://www.ncwater.org/Financial/Assistance

**North Carolina Department of Transportation State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Grants**—STIP contains funding for various transportation divisions of NCDOT including: highways, aviation, enhancements, public transportation, rail, bicycle, and pedestrians and the Governor’s Highway Safety Program


**North Carolina Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants**—The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch created an annual matching grant program—the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative—to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. This program was initiated in January 2004 and is administered through the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

**North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Program—Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund**—The Federal Transportation Enhancement funding is administered by the Enhancement Unit and serves to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation’s intermodal transportation system. Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities, awarded through the North Carolina Call for Projects process, must benefit the travelling public and help communities increase transportation choices and access, enhance the built or natural environment and create a sense of place. Transportation Enhancement projects must have a relationship to surface transportation and encompass one of the following qualifying activities: bicycle
and pedestrian facilities; bicycle and pedestrian safety; acquisition of scenic easements, scenic or historic sites; scenic or historic highway programs; landscaping and other scenic beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; preservation of abandoned rail corridors; control or outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; environmental mitigation; or transportation museums.

**Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)—**The 1996 North Carolina General Assembly created the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) “to clean up pollution in the state’s surface waters and to protect and conserve those waters that are not yet polluted.” State agencies, local governments or other political subdivisions of the state, and non-profit conservation organizations may apply for grants. Projects must “…specifically address water pollution problems and focus on upgrading surface waters, eliminating pollution and protecting and conserving unpolluted surface waters, including urban drinking water supplies.” The funds from the CWMTF can be used for acquisition of riparian properties, financing of innovative wastewater management initiatives, storm water mitigation and stream bank restoration projects, support for greenways, and some planning programs. The acquired or purchased property can be used for recreation while protecting valuable water resources from the affects of urban encroachment.

**Recreational Trails Program (RTP)—**The Recreational Trails Program is a $1.3 million grant program funded by Congress with money from the federal gas taxes paid on fuel used by off-highway vehicles. This program’s intent is to meet the trail and trail-related recreational needs
identified by the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Grant applicants must be able to contribute 20% of the project cost with cash or in-kind contributions. The program is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to river trails and off-highway vehicle trails.

State trails program

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Funds: Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program—The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Program provides 50/50 matching grants to the States, and through the states to any unit of local government, educational institutions, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organizations and other tax-exempt organizations to provide technical assistance and services to individuals, groups, communities, governmental agencies and organizations with respect to the protection, improvement, management, establishment and utilization of trees and shrubs in urban areas, communities, and open spaces, for the improvement of the beauty and livability of the urban environment.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the U.S. Department of Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. More information can be found at:

http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/lwcf_main.php
**Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA): A Legacy for Users**—This program provides funding for transportation related bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There is a Surface Transportation Program (STP) category, which allows cities and counties the option of using bridge and road funds for providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Enhancements can include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, rail corridor preservation, scenic and environmental transportation opportunities and improvements to historical transportation sites. Funds from this program could be used to establish corridor linkages between neighborhoods and park and recreational areas.

**Private Sector Potential Funding Sources**

- **Land for Tomorrow Campaign**
- **The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
  - [www.rwfj.org/applications/](http://www.rwfj.org/applications/)
- **North Carolina Community Foundation**
- **Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation**
- **American Greenways Eastman Kodak Awards**
- **National Trails Fund**
- **The Trust for Public Land**
- **BlueCross/BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation (BCBS)**
APPENDIX—A

POPULATION FIGURES AND ESTIMATES
TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW
2000 – 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW</th>
<th>COLUMBUS COUNTY</th>
<th>PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,411</td>
<td>54,749</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,480 (4.8% Increase)</td>
<td>58,098</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Estimate</td>
<td>1,465 (1% Decrease)</td>
<td>56,694</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Estimate</td>
<td>1,417 (3% Decrease)</td>
<td>58,803</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Estimate</td>
<td>1,389 (2% Decrease)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
United States Census American FactFinder:
https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF
https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#
Census Viewer: http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Carolina+Beach
2010 Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/3710500.00
NC Home Town Locator: http://northcarolina.hometownlocator.com/nc/columbus/
Town Charts: www.towncharts.com/North-Carolina/Demographics/Lake-Waccamaw-town-NC-Demographics-data.html
### APPENDIX—B

**PERSONS BY AGE (NC Census 2010)**

**TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENT TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 9 years</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 14 years</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 19 years</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 24 years</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 29 years</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 34 years</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 39 years</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 – 44 years</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 49 years</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 – 54 years</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 – 59 years</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 64 years</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69 years</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 74 years</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 – 79 years</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 84 years</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years and over</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2010 Census Data for Town of Lake Waccamaw, NC  
[http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake%20Waccamaw](http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake%20Waccamaw)  
APPENDIX—C

RACIAL COMPOSITION (NC Census 2010)

TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Lake Waccamaw 2010</th>
<th>Percent Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,197</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2010 Census Data for Town of Lake Waccamaw, NC
http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake-Waccamaw
http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Lake%20Waccamaw

APPENDIX—D

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME COMPARISONS 2014 ESTIMATE and 2016 ESTIMATE

TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Waccamaw</td>
<td>$61,346</td>
<td>$56,652</td>
<td>$80,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County</td>
<td>$34,597</td>
<td>$35,061</td>
<td>$48,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteville</td>
<td>$24,430</td>
<td>$28,682</td>
<td>$44,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>$46,693</td>
<td>$47,019</td>
<td>$66,480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: http://northcarolina.hometownlocator.com/nc/columbus/lake-waccamaw.cfm
https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#
## APPENDIX—E

### EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ATTAINMENT

**TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Completed</th>
<th>Lake Waccamaw</th>
<th>Whiteville</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed 8th Grade</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed High School</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Some College</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Associate Degree</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Master Degree</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Professional Degree</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Doctorate</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
[http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/37371050000](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/37371050000)
APPENDIX—F

AUGUST 31, 2015 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE
APPENDIX—H

OCTOBER 4, 2016 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE
APPENDIX—I

OCTOBER 18, 2016 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE
APPENDIX—K

2016 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Town of Lake Waccamaw Town Council and staff are committed to sustaining and enhancing the overall quality of life for the citizens of Lake Waccamaw. The provision and operation of public parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities are important components of the Town’s immediate and long-range planning efforts. With this in mind, we need your input and assistance by completing this needs assessment survey! Information gathered through this survey will be used to create the Town’s 2017 – 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping us sustain and improve our services!!!!!!

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY BY SEPTEMBER 9, 2016!!!!!

1 Do you reside within the Lake Waccamaw town limits? 
1a Yes 1b No→ if this is your response, please also mark the appropriate response 2e or 2f below and then proceed to Question 4. Thank you!

DEMOGRAPHICS

2 Resident Status:
2a Full-Time/Permanent Resident; own my home/place of residence
2b Full-Time/Permanent Resident; rent my home/place of residence
2c Part-Time Resident; own my home/place of residence
2d Part-Time Resident; rent my home/place of residence
2e Non-Resident; but do live in Columbus County → go to Question 4
2f Non-Resident; and do not live in Columbus County → go to Question 4

3 How long have you resided in the Town of Lake Waccamaw:
3a < 2 years
3b 2 – 4 years
3c 5 – 10 years
3d 11 – 12 years
3e 13 – 24 years
3f 25 years+

4 What is the zip code of your current permanent residence? 

5 In what year were you born?
5a Year

6 What is your gender?
6a Male 6b Female

7 Including yourself, how many individuals live in your household? 
7a Individuals

8 Which of the following best describes your household?
8a Single with children at home
8b Single with no children at home
8c Couple with children at home
8d Couple with no children at home
8e Retired
8f Other (Please Specify)

9 Including yourself, how many individuals in your household are 18 years of age or older?
9a Individuals
10 Including yourself, please give the number of individuals in each of the following age groups who live in your household:

10a____ < 5 years old  
10b____ 5 – 9 years old  
10c____ 10 – 17 years old  
10d____ 18 – 29 years old  
10e____ 30 – 39 years old  
10f____ 40 – 49 years old  
10g____ 50 – 59 years old  
10h____ 60 – 69 years old  
10i____ 70 – 79 years old  
10j____ 80+ years old

PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

11 Which of the following **Recreational Programs/Services/Activities offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw** have you or any members of your household participated in during the last 12 months? *(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)*

**Event**  
11a_____Tennis  
11b_____Walking Trail  
11c_____Softball  
11d_____Running

11e_____10 K Race  
11f_____Charity Race/Run  
11g_____Soccer  
11h_____Dog Walk

11i_____Baseball  
11j_____Bike Rally  
11k_____Picnicking  
11l_____Golf

11m_____Fishing in Retention Pond  
11n_____Take the Lake  
11o_____TRACK

11p_____Other (Please Specify)  
11q_____Other (Please Specify)

12 What **Recreational Programs/Services/Activities in general would you like to see offered by the Town of Lake Waccamaw** in the future that are currently not provided by the Town of Lake Waccamaw? *(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)*

**Lessons**  
12a_____Swimming Lessons/Classes  
12b_____Exercise Classes  
12c_____Hiking Opportunities

12d_____Walking Opportunities  
12e_____Tennis League  
12f_____Out of Town Trips

12g_____Youth Lacrosse  
12h_____Volleyball  
12i_____Kayaking/Canoeing

12j_____Standup Paddleboarding  
12k_____Fishing Clinics  
12l_____Skateboarding

12m_____Youth Football  
12n_____Pickleball  
12o_____Sailing Lessons

12p_____Scuba Diving  
12q_____Cooking Classes  
12r_____Art Classes

12s_____Cheerleading  
12t_____Disc Golf  
12u_____Boot Camp Exercise

12v_____Aerobics Classes  
12w_____Senior Trips

12x_____Other (Please Specify)  
12y_____Other (Please Specify)  
12z_____Other (Please Specify)
13 In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important *NEW Recreational Programs/Services/Activities* the Town of Lake Waccamaw should be currently providing but is not?

13a

13b

13c

13d

13e

13f It is my opinion the Town of Lake Waccamaw does not need to provide any new recreational programs, services and activities

14 Would you support the funding of these *NEW recreational programs/services/activities* through private sources and/or grants?

14a Yes  14b No  14c Maybe

15 Would you support the funding of these *NEW recreational programs/services/activities* through a property tax increase?

15a Yes  15b No  15c Maybe

16 Would you support the funding of these *NEW recreational programs/services/activities* through a bond referendum?

16a Yes  16b No  16c Maybe

17 Would you support the funding of these *NEW recreational programs/services/activities* through user fees and charges?

17a Yes  17b No  17c Maybe

### RECREATIONAL AMENITIES/FACILITIES/AREAS/PARKS

18 Which of the following *Recreational Amenities/Facilities/Areas/Parks* would you like to see provided specifically at the Elizabeth Brinkley Park as a part of the park expansion? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

18a Indoor Swimming Pool  18b Outdoor Swimming Pool  18c Picnic Shelter
18d Teen Center  18e Fitness Stations  18f Wellness Center
18g Tennis Courts  18h Walking Trails/Paths  18i Doggie Park
18j Public Restrooms  18k Pickleball Courts  18l Soccer Fields
18m Baseball Fields  18n Outdoor Basketball Courts  18o Lacrosse Fields
18p Playground Equipment  18q Outdoor Volleyball Courts  18r Splash Pad
18r Softball Fields  18t Amphitheater  18u Senior Center
18v Open Space/Area  18w Shaded Sandboxes  18x Disc Golf
18y Picnic Tables  18z Bocce Courts  18aa Skateboarding Area
### Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

18bb. Multi-Purpose Recreation Center/Gymnasium

18cc. Other (Please Specify)

18dd. Other (Please Specify)

18ee. Other (Please Specify)

18ff. Other (Please Specify)

18gg. Other (Please Specify)

18hh. Other (Please Specify)

18ii. Other (Please Specify)

19. Which of the following Recreational Amenities/Facilities/Areas/Parks would you like to see the Town of Lake Waccamaw offer in locations other than the Elizabeth Brinkley Park? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 19a. Indoor Swimming Pool
- 19b. Outdoor Swimming Pool
- 19c. Sidewalks/Pedestrian Lanes
- 19d. Teen Center
- 19e. Bike Lanes
- 19f. Pedestrian Crosswalks
- 19g. Tennis Courts
- 19h. Hiking/Walking Trails/Paths
- 19i. Doggie Park
- 19j. Public Restrooms
- 19k. Pickleball Courts
- 19l. Soccer Fields
- 19m. Baseball Fields
- 19n. Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 19o. Lacrosse Fields
- 19p. Playground Equipment
- 19q. Water Access Sites/Facilities
- 19r. Splash Pad
- 19s. Picnic Shelter
- 19t. Fitness Stations/Course
- 19u. Wellness Center
- 19v. Outdoor Volleyball Courts
- 19w. Amphitheater
- 19x. Senior Center
- 19y. Open Space/Area
- 19z. Shaded Sandboxes
- 19aa. Disc Golf
- 19bb. Bocce Courts
- 19cc. Skateboarding Area
- 19dd. Multi-Purpose Recreation Center/Gymnasium
- 19ee. Other (Please Specify)
- 19ff. Other (Please Specify)
- 19gg. Other (Please Specify)
- 19hh. Other (Please Specify)
- 19ii. Other (Please Specify)
20 Please indicate how often you anticipate you and/or the members of your household would visit/use the
Recreational Amenities/Facilities/Areas/Parks you marked in Question 19 above during a typical 12 month period of
time: (CHECK ONE)

20a____ Daily
20b____ A few times a week
20c____ Once a week
20d____ A few times a month
20e____ Once a month
20f____ A few times a year
20g____ Once a year
20h____ Never

21 In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW Recreational Amenities/Facilities/Areas/Parks the
Town should be currently providing but is not?

21a________________________
21b________________________
21c________________________
21d________________________
21e________________________
21f____ It is my opinion the Town of Waccamaw does not need to provide any new recreational amenities,
facilities, areas and parks

22 Would you support the funding of these NEW recreational amenities/facilities/areas/parks through private
sources and/or grants?

22a____ Yes  22b____ No  22c____ Maybe

23 Would you support the funding of these NEW recreational amenities/facilities/areas/parks through a property
tax increase?

23a____ Yes  23b____ No  23c____ Maybe

24 Would you support the funding of these NEW recreational amenities/facilities/areas/parks through a bond
referendum?

24a____ Yes  24b____ No  24c____ Maybe
GENERAL QUESTIONS

25 Using the following scale with “N/A” indicating “Not Applicable”, “1” indicating “Totally Disagree” and “8” indicating “Totally Agree” please rate the following:

25a The Town of Lake Waccamaw is pedestrian friendly

N/A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
“Totally Disagree” “Totally Agree”

25b The Town of Lake Waccamaw is bike friendly

N/A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
“Totally Disagree” “Totally Agree”

25c The Town of Lake Waccamaw is accessible to persons with disabilities

N/A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
“Totally Disagree” “Totally Agree”

25d The Town of Lake Waccamaw is a safe place to live

N/A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
“Totally Disagree” “Totally Agree”

26 Please provide any additional comments:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following individuals, agencies and organizations deserve special thanks and recognition for their time and efforts in completing the *Town of Lake Waccamaw 2017–2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*:

1) [Name]