

2013

City of New Bern Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan for a Healthy Community



Microsoft

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of the Eastern Carolina Council would like to acknowledge those individuals that have eagerly participated and generously given of their time and talents to assist in the data collection and development of this comprehensive system-wide plan. The staff of the New Bern Parks and Recreation Department and its insightful Director Thurman Hardison was invaluable throughout this process. GIS Coordinator Alice Wilson was instrumental in producing the needed maps.

The Steering Committee members included:

Martin Blaney	New Bern Housing Authority
Kim Grissom	Craven County Senior Center
Capt. Denise Harris-Powell	New Bern Police Department
Reginald Jones	Citizen
Melissa Lewis	Recreational Therapist
Amber Nead	NC Cooperative Extension
Reginald Pender	Citizen
J. Kevin Robinson	Planner, City of New Bern
John Teple	Citizen
Jennifer Wagner	Craven County School System
Jamara Wallace	Duffyfield Community
Alice Wilson	GIS Coordinator, City of New Bern

Without their assistance, this master plan could not have been completed.

We would also thank the members of the community who took the time to respond to the surveys, answer our questions, and attend the meetings.

The outcome desired for this project is a healthier community for the citizens of the City of New Bern. Using this master plan as a guide will facilitate achieving that objective.

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Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department of the City of New Bern has worked consistently since the 2006 Master Plan to improve and expand its services and facilities. A number of the recommendations from the 2006 study have been implemented, and some of them have not.

The previous recommendations that have not been implemented were examined for relevancy and were incorporated, if applicable. The intent is that this document will provide guidance for the next ten years for the Parks and Recreation Department.

This update began with an examination of existing facilities, conditions, programs and staffing. A survey was conducted to determine what current area residents' desire. The survey was widely distributed in an effort to ensure diversity. The responses helped determine these recommendations.

Based on the survey responses, the following were the most desired events/programs:

1. Outdoor concerts
2. Festivals
3. Fitness/health programs
4. Special events
5. Sports/athletics programs

Based on the survey responses, the following were the most desired nature/family oriented activities/facilities:

1. Walking trail
2. Nature preserve
3. Amphitheater
4. Picnic shelters for families
5. Open green space

Based on the survey responses, the following were the most desired indoor activities/facilities:

1. Fitness
2. Recreation center
3. Exercise equipment room
4. Swimming pool
5. Community building

Based on the survey responses, the following were the most desired outdoor activities/facilities:

1. Hiking trails
2. Bike trails
3. Grills at picnic shelters
4. Playground
5. Multi-purpose stadium

Based on the survey responses, the following were the most desired water related activities/facilities:

1. Fishing dock or pier
2. Fishing area
3. Boat/canoe/kayak rentals
4. Canoe/kayak put in area
5. Boat ramps

The five top ranking for all categories were:

1. Walking trail
2. Outdoor concerts
3. Hiking trails
4. Bike trails
5. Festivals

It is suggested that the following be considered when budgeting for the department:

- The current budget allows the department to minimally maintain existing facilities and staff the programs but does not provide enough funding to address older facilities and equipment that are in need of renovations or replacement. Additional funding of the Parks and Recreation Department would help to address these issues and the improve appearance and safety of facilities and equipment.
- There is no real programming or facilities for the disabled. Hiring a certified recreational therapist to develop the programs would immensely improve recreational and fitness opportunities for the disabled in our community. This individual could also assist in ensuring that the department meets the ADA accessibility guidelines.
- Due to the large amount of acreage and the number of facilities and equipment being maintained, it is recommended that the position of Park Superintendent be filled.

The following new facilities are desired. It is recommended that a Capital Improvement Plan be established to put aside funding to develop these new sites. While this is the desired order, if an opportunity presents itself then the project should be moved up in the rankings.

1. Create a new park around the lake in the Pembroke Community. Desired features might include: multi-use trail (walk, hike, and bike) around the lake, family picnic shelters, nature preserve, and wildlife viewing area.
2. Renovate the 30+ year old West New Bern Recreation Center and making additional improvements/renovations to Parrot Park.
3. Building a boundless playground and miracle field for the disabled.
4. Create a golf academy at the Martin-Marietta quarry. This would be a public/private partnership that would include a youth golf academy and public driving range.
5. Create a new small park adjacent to the Pembroke Community Building.
6. Establish a multi-purpose trail that begins at the Craven 30 property and ends at the West New Bern Recreation Center.
7. Create a new park across the street from H.J. MacDonald Middle School (Race Track Road and Elizabeth Avenue). Features to include: picnic shelter, grills, restrooms, basketball, tennis courts, and volleyball.
8. Build a new recreation center or community building near Carolina Colours to serve this growth area.
9. Build a new recreation center or community center near the Craeburne Forest subdivision to serve this growth area.
10. Create a connectivity/greenway plan to address the need identified by the citizens for more walking, hiking, and biking trails.
11. Utilize the Simmons Street Constructed Wetland area for a walking trail and nature area.
12. Capitalize on opportunities to secure additional land to accommodate future growth.

13. Complete the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies self-evaluation and apply for certification.

Parks, recreation, health, and fitness are all part of the fabric of economic development for the City of New Bern. Companies want to locate and grow where their employees will be happy. Retirees want to locate in a community with active recreational opportunities and a stimulating cultural scene. Residents stay in places with which they have an affinity. Parks and recreation is an integral part of that equation. The continued support for Parks and Recreation by the New Bern Board of Aldermen is crucial to this balance.

Section 1 General Information

In order to put this plan in context, it is necessary to have an overview of what the general public—residents and visitors alike—desires in the way of recreational activities. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan 2009-2013 (SCORP) shows that the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities desired by state residents by percent participating and number of participants, by far the most popular activity is walking for pleasure, with 82 percent of state residents participating. Roughly three-quarters of the population have outdoor family gatherings at least once last year, and almost two-thirds garden or landscape for pleasure. Driving for pleasure is done by 58.2 percent of the population, while 57 percent view/photograph natural scenery. Almost 53 percent of state residents visit nature centers and go sightseeing. Half of the population goes on picnics (50 percent), while less than half attend outdoor sports events (48.6 percent). Rounding out the top ten, 44.2 percent of residents visit a beach at least once per year.

“Visiting wilderness areas is the most popular nature-based land activity (29.8 percent) in the state of North Carolina. Hiking is also a popular activity (29.7 percent), with almost a third of state residents indicating participation within the last year. Visiting a farm or agricultural setting continues to be a popular activity with just under a third of residents doing this within the last year. Just over 20 percent of state residents also indicate an interest in driving off-road and developed camping. The somewhat specialized, technical outdoor pursuits usually requiring special gear like rock climbing and mountain climbing are among the least popular nature-based land activities with 5 percent or less participating.

“Outdoor recreation is by far the most popular form of recreation in North Carolina. More residents indicated participation in walking for pleasure (82 percent) and outdoor family gatherings (74.6 percent) than in any other overall activity. Other activities, such as gardening or landscaping (65.4percent) or driving for pleasure (58.2 percent) are also favorites with North Carolina residents.

“The most popular water based activity in North Carolina is visiting a beach. Roughly 45 percent of state residents report visiting a beach at least once per year. Almost equal numbers of residents participate in swimming in an outdoor pool (39.9 percent) and swimming in lakes, streams, etc. (39.7percent), making these the second and third most popular activities. Boating of any type is another popular activity with 31 percent of state residents participating. Other types of boating include motor boating (22.5 percent), rafting (9.3 percent), canoeing (6.7 percent), sailing (3.7 percent), kayaking (3.1 percent), and rowing (2.5 percent). Fishing is a popular water-based activity and is broken into several categories. State residents participate in freshwater fishing (30.9 percent), followed by warm water fishing (25.9 percent), saltwater fishing (17 percent), and cold water fishing (11.5 percent).

“The most popular team related outdoor sport for North Carolina residents is attending an outdoor sports event, with almost 50 percent of residents participating. Soccer, volleyball, and softball played outdoors are reported played by nine percent of state residents. Just fewer than nine percent of residents play basketball outdoors. The two least popular outdoor sports are football (4.2 percent) and baseball (3.5 percent).

"Less than one-third of North Carolina residents reported running or jogging once within the last year, making it the most popular individual outdoor sport. Outdoors tennis participants constitute 14.8 percent of the population, while almost 14 percent of residents have golfed within the last year. Less than 10 percent participated in inline skating, and only 3.1 percent played handball or racquetball outdoors, making it the least popular sport."
http://www.recpro.org/assets/Library/SCORPs/nc_scorp_2009.pdf

Trends impacting recreation

Obesity

"One trend that has a negative impact on outdoor recreation demand is increased obesity. In the United States, obesity has risen at an epidemic rate in the past 20 years. Research indicates that the situation is worsening...Addressing overweight and obesity has become a national health objective." http://www.recpro.org/assets/Library/SCORPs/nc_scorp_2009.pdf Resources are being brought to bear on this issue and the City would be well advised to capitalize on this issue as funding becomes available.

Longevity and aging of population

"People are living longer...the trend of increased life expectancy is projected to continue. Lifestyle choices, including participating in recreation and exercise, can affect an individual's life span." They are also likely to be healthier at all ages and healthier people are more likely to participate in outdoor recreation creating additional demand for outdoor recreation areas and facilities. <http://www.ncparks.gov/About/plans/scorp/main.php>

"Between 2010 and 2020, the number of citizens 65 and older is projected to increase by 35%...Retired persons often have more free time than other adults, and, to a lesser extent, more financial resources...Increased demand can therefore be expected for activities that have a high participation by older Americans. These include walking, sightseeing, attending family gatherings, visiting a beach or waterside, picnicking, visiting a historic site or nature center, 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."
<http://www.ncparks.gov/About/plans/scorp/docs/ch4.pdf>

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

Protecting habitats

North Carolina is concerned about survival of its natural diversity. Habitats are being destroyed as developers seize the opportunity to create new communities in Craven County and New Bern. A list of threatened and endangered species and their habitats can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/raleigh/species/cntylist/craven.html> As the City is able to identify areas where these habitats and species exist, it would behoove the City, if feasible, to purchase these parcels (or partner with a conservation group) to protect this habitat for future generations to enjoy. The City's property around the lake in the Pembroke community would be an excellent opportunity for an eco-friendly recreational setting.

Benchmarking and Performance Measures

The following information was taken from the Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Studies conducted by North Carolina State University's Recreation Resources Services. Because New Bern has a population of between 49,999 and 25,000 it is designated a Class C municipality.

The following is a table of parks and recreation 2008-2009 audited operating and capital expenditures by department type for municipalities in Class C:

Department Type	Salaries	All other direct spending	Construction	Land, equipment and existing structures
Mean	\$1,264,767	\$1,163,142	\$1,941,378	\$388,163
Median	\$1,390,111	\$824,422	\$1,603,203	\$174,583
New Bern	\$1,759,983	\$522,118	\$0	\$3,368,979

According to the 2010-2011 audited per capita expenditures by geographic region showed that the southeast (where New Bern is located) spent an average of \$70.20 with the mode being \$42.48. New Bern reported total per capita expenses of \$212.36

New Bern reported a budget for FY10/11 of \$2,883,000. They had 30 full time employees and 8 part-time employees.

In this report New Bern lists 290 acres of developed P&R land and 15 acres of undeveloped P&R land.

Of all reporting entities, about 16% of their parks are mini-parks, 27% are neighborhood parks, and 7% are regional parks.

[Fiscal Year 2011-12 Executive Report - Focus on Salaries](#)

[Fiscal Year 2010-11 Executive Report - Focus on Fees and Charges](#)

[Fiscal Year 2009-10 Executive Report - Focus on Facilities Inventory](#)

Health and Wellness

In year 2009-2010 the Recreation and Resources Services conducted a survey which included a health and wellness component. The six question survey measured five years' worth of effort by parks and recreation departments in the area of health and wellness programming and partnerships. When asked if the department planned and implemented programs or events to specifically promote health, wellness, or physical activity within the community, 83% responded yes. Regarding the question, "Has your department partnered with an outside organization (e.g., health department, nonprofit agency, health care organization) to specifically promote health, wellness or physical activity within your community" 86% answered yes. The top three ranked categories of health and wellness program initiatives included: 1) physical activity promotion; 2) general wellness; and 3) stress reduction. The top three strategies listed to increase physical activity included: 1) programs that include physical activity; 2) creation of park features/environments (e.g., trails); and 3) special events/health fairs. When asked to

mark the degree to which the department's health and wellness programs resulted in leveraging additional resources, 53.3% were neutral; 62.5% felt that there was increased visibility; 69.6% said that the image was improved; 57.3% indicated that the programs were meeting the mission statement; 49.3% felt they were linking to funding opportunities; 77.6% were neutral regarding changes in policy and 45.2% said that they led to improvements to physical features within the community (e.g., additional park lighting, pedestrian/biking routes, fitness trails).

"The results indicate that recreation departments, within the last five years, have specifically planned for healthy activities and partnered with outside organizations. The major factor that caused agencies not to program for health and wellness is the lack of facilities to start partnerships with health and wellness organizations. Lastly, the majority of the departments feel that offering health, wellness, and physically active programs has positive effect on their image and visibility in the community." (p. 58) [Fiscal Year 2009-10 Executive Report - Focus on Facilities Inventory](#)

Section 2 Population & Demographic Data

New Bern is an area of 27 square miles of that, 1.2 square miles is water. The population density is approximately 1,093 per square mile (using 2010 census population data).

According to the Census 2012 Population Estimates there are 30,316 people living in New Bern, but the American Community Survey Estimates (2007 to 2011) records a population of 28,740. Of those 17,330 are white (60.3%) and 9,470 are black (33%). There are 7,221 youth under the age of 20. There are 16,866 adults between the ages of 18 and 64. There are 5,255 people age 65 and older. The median age is 40.1.

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

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

As retirees begin to flock to the area, the number of households will increase while the number of persons per household may continue to shrink. The only bearing this information may have on recreation is that land is quickly being purchased by developers making it more difficult in the future for the City to purchase land at reasonable prices.

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

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

As the population ages, it is a known fact that women tend to outlive men, therefore when considering senior activities, it may be advantageous to focus more on those activities that women would participate in. In New Bern of the population ages 65 and older, 62.8% are female.

The median income for a household in the City was \$35,334. The per capita income for New Bern was \$24,220. About 23.5% of the population live below the poverty line.

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

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

American Community Survey Estimates (2009 to 2011) for New Bern show that for ages 18-64 there are 2,599 individuals with one or more disabilities. There are 438 youth ages 5 to 17 with disabilities. There are 5,316 individuals ages 65 and older and 2,416 of those have disabilities. This coupled with the fact that the population as a whole is aging presents a case for ensuring that new recreational facilities should incorporate activities that have proper access (ADA).

When planning for recreation, the needs and interests of the disabled need to be considered. As the population ages and as the City begins to attract more retirees, ADA compliant facilities will need to be the norm. Consideration also should be given to the needs of the mentally impaired as well as the physically challenged.

"It is clear that despite reporting more time for leisure and not feeling rushed, persons with a disability are more likely than their non-disabled peers to be constrained from participation in local parks and recreation services due to limited access, unemployment, limited income and poorer health. Whether related to these constraints or other factors, persons with disabilities see less benefit in parks and recreation services. These findings are consistent with data from Statistic Canada (1991) which suggests that almost 50% of Canadians with disabilities are unemployed. It also supports Bender, Brannon, and Verhoven's (1987) notion of forced leisure for people with disabilities. Forced leisure occurs when persons with disabilities have free time due to unemployment that they do not consider as leisure time because it is not by choice. In addition, this cohort tends to access public recreation less, and cite fewer benefits, than their non-disabled peers do. Taken together, these results suggest that people with disabilities do not feel that they are being adequately served by public recreation. This is a disturbing result, given the decade's old movement to encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities in all facets of the community, including public recreation (Hutchison & Lord, 1979)."

"Interestingly, practitioners and experts in the field of public parks and recreation often view their services as meeting the needs of all members of the community, or fulfilling a larger social mandate. However, this analysis seems to suggest that persons with disabilities are not able to share equally in the services and benefits. Many authors, such as Bullock and Mahon (1997) and Hutchison and McGill (1992) have provided strategies for enhancing the inclusion of people with disabilities in public recreation. This study would suggest that applied models of inclusion, advocacy and legislation have yet to achieve the desired results.

"The results of this study indicated that disability is not strongly correlated with age. As our society continues to age the absolute numbers of the elderly suggest that the number of persons with disabilities will increase. Thus, it may be important to broaden the appeal of recreation and parks services or at least to publicize the availability and benefits of these

services to the fastest growing segment..., the elderly. It is equally important to find the means to assist disabled persons to overcome the constraints that prevent them from obtaining greater access to local government recreation and parks services. ...Public recreation service providers should be challenged to create means to facilitate the benefits of public recreation presently enjoyed by the general population to people with disabilities. Our data would suggest that issues such as poverty may play a significant role in constraining people with disabilities from enjoying their rightful access to services and the resulting benefits.”
http://lin.ca/Uploads/cclr9/CCLR9_32.pdf

Population Projections

Births, deaths, and net migration are among the natural processes affecting population growth. Local, State, and Federal initiatives may also affect New Bern’s population growth. Economic and industrial development in and around New Bern has been growing steadily although in small increments due to the overall economy.

For a variety of reasons, the NC State Demographer does not provide population projections for municipalities. The 2030 projections for Craven County show that there will be 108,704 residents. New Bern is an estimated 29% of the county’s population. Using that percentage, one might predict that the 2030 population of New Bern would be 31,524, however, this number may be low as New Bern’s population may be growing at a faster rate than the remainder of the county.

Implications

New Bern’s population is getting older and will probably continue to follow this national trend. In the future, the baby boom generation and the desirability of New Bern as a retirement location will impact the type of recreation being sought by this population. The influx of retirees to New Bern not only increases the population; it also brings cultural diversity and a valuable volunteer base.

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

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

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

Section 3: Public Input Process

Steering Committee

As there was no established Recreational Advisory Board, a Steering Committee was appointed to guide the planning process. The following individuals participated on this committee:

Thurman Hardison	Director of the Parks and Recreation Department
Martin Blaney	New Bern Housing Authority
Kim Grissom	Craven County Senior Center
Capt. Denise Harris-Powell	New Bern Police Department
Reginald Jones	Citizen
Melissa Lewis	Recreational Therapist
Amber Nead	NC Cooperative Extension
Reginald Pender	Citizen
J. Kevin Robinson	Planner, City of New Bern
John Teple	Citizen
Jennifer Wagner	Craven County School System
Jamara Wallace	Duffyfield Community
Alice Wilson	GIS Coordinator, City of New Bern

The steering committee meetings were open to the public. These meetings were publicized in the same fashion as Board of Aldermen meetings. This committee met on the following dates:

July 29, 2013
August 12, 2013
September 9, 2013
September 23, 2013
October 7, 2013
October 21, 2013
November 4, 2013

A meeting was held with the George Street Senior Center attendees to obtain their ideas for the George Street Park on August 27, 2013

On August 27, 2013 at a regular meeting of the New Bern Board of Aldermen, Thurman Hardison presented the schedule for the update of the New Bern Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan and introduced the Steering Committee members. The consultant gave a brief overview of the process. This was a televised meeting and the public was invited to give input into the plan.

The Craven County Sports Committee met on October 10, 2013. This committee is responsible for increasing sporting events for the county. The New Bern Area Soccer Association was represented they discussed their needs for more and better soccer facilities in the New Bern area. The consultant for this plan attended this meeting and has had subsequent conversations with the President of this association regarding the needs of soccer players. Those present were also requested to help spread the word about the P&R survey.

Surveys

On Saturday October 12, 2013 9,600 surveys were distributed to individuals and businesses in New Bern via insert into the New Bern Sun Journal newspaper. In that same edition, the newspaper ran an article about the survey on the front page. A notice about the availability of the survey was printed on the 26,000 New Bern utility bills and during the month of October. Citizens could either mail the form back or drop it off at either the utility collections Department or at one of the two recreation centers.

During October 685 copies of the survey were distributed directly to each unit of the New Bern Housing Authority. The residents were given the option of returning the completed survey to the management office. The George Street Senior Center distributed the surveys to their participants.

A link to the electronic version of the survey was placed on the Parks and Recreation Department's website. Email data bases were used to send the link to the online survey. Groups to which the link was distributed included (but was not limited to):

- City employees
- Chamber
- Moen
- New Bern Civic Theatre
- Local attorneys
- Partners in Education,
- Craven County School System
- Tourism & Development Authority
- Tryon Palace
- B/S/H
- MERCI Clinic
- Craven Community College
- Craven County departments
- MCAS Cherry Point
- Carolina East Health System
- Weyerhaeuser
- Craven Arts Council
- Coastal Carolina Regional Airport
- Downtown Council of the NB Area Chamber
- New Bern Sporting Goods
- Craven County Committee of 100
- Bate Foundation
- Neuse River Foundation
- Religious Community Services
- Small business owners & realtors
- Coastal Photo Club

These groups were asked to help by completing the survey and by forwarding the link on to their employees/contacts.

Surveys were also available at each of the recreation centers.

Summary

A concerted effort was made to ensure that a representative sample of the community was given the opportunity to respond to the survey. There are 12,832 households in the City of New Bern (ACS estimates 2007 to 2011). There were 563 completed surveys for an estimated return of 4%. While the return percentage is less than was desired, the completed surveys are a representative sample of the residents.

Section 4 Survey Results

Here is a synopsis of the responses:

- 68.4% lived in zip code 28562
- 72.3% lived in the New Bern city limits
- 26.8% lived in Ward 1
- 62.8% were female
- 80.9% were Caucasian
- 62.5% lived in New Bern for 10 or more years
- 35.8% were ages 55 to 70 years old
- 35.5% had estimated household incomes of \$75,000 or more

Events/Programs

Answer Options	Rating Average	Response Count
concerts--outdoor	2.55	497
festivals	2.48	490
fitness/health programs	2.42	490
special events	2.37	452
sports/athletic programs	2.21	328
hobby/specialty classes	2.19	307
summer activity programs	2.18	341
athletic events/races	2.17	423
movies in the park	2.16	425
senior programs	2.11	468
youth sports camps	2.07	394
teen programs	2.05	392
youth art camps	2.01	389
field trips	1.97	419
special populations programs	1.86	368
after school care programs	1.79	383

Nature/Family Oriented

Answer Options	Rating Average	Response Count
walking trail	2.6	492
nature preserve	2.4	439
amphitheater	2.38	430
picnic shelters for families	2.37	450
open green space	2.36	432
wildlife viewing area	2.35	402
greenways	2.26	429
botanical gardens	2.24	430
large group picnic area	2.22	430
community garden	2.1	426
gazebo	2.05	408
dog park	2.04	407
bird watching areas	1.93	392
camping area--hook ups	1.92	378
camping area--primitive	1.79	349
sunbathing area	1.71	338

Indoor Facilities

Answer Options	Rating Average	Response Count
fitness	2.38	462
recreation center	2.3	424
exercise equipment room	2.23	441
swimming pool	2.22	420
community building	2.13	435
arts and crafts room	2.08	441
cooking class kitchen area	2.07	414
teen center	2.04	390
bowling alley	2.01	388
multi-purpose rooms	2	396
meeting rooms--groups	1.96	399
rock climbing wall	1.96	353
banquet room with kitchen	1.95	394
volleyball courts	1.94	369
conference room	1.92	392
basketball courts	1.9	376
electronic equipment--use	1.89	397
reading/relaxing room	1.86	391
woodworking shop	1.86	375

weightlifting	1.85	359
board and card game room	1.83	387
pool/billiards area	1.81	377
gymnastics	1.8	366
racquetball courts	1.8	357
ping pong playing area	1.78	364
video exercise arcade	1.77	349
carousel	1.75	358
hobby shop (models)	1.67	357
fencing	1.53	336

Outdoor Facilities

Answer Options	Rating Average	Response Count
hiking trails	2.5	444
bike trails	2.49	448
grills at picnic shelters	2.28	429
playground	2.26	410
stadium—multi-purpose	2.24	417
outdoor swimming pool	2.19	403
putt-putt golf course	2.14	399
water splash park	2.14	393
running track	2.06	388
tennis courts	2.05	391
baseball fields—youth	2.04	397
open playing field	2	374
basketball courts--outdoors	1.99	386
horseback riding	1.99	362
softball fields—youth	1.96	379
soccer fields	1.94	371
softball fields—adults	1.94	383
batting cage	1.93	363
go cart driving track	1.93	356
volleyball courts	1.93	367
golf course & driving range	1.9	376
horseshoes	1.86	373
kiddies pool	1.86	368
skateboard park	1.86	363
football fields	1.84	356
disc golf course	1.82	349
Frisbee golf course	1.82	346

archery range	1.81	341
bocce ball courts	1.76	340
BMX bike racing track	1.74	340
radio-controlled boat pond	1.72	344
shuffleboard courts	1.72	364
radio-controlled airplane field	1.69	345
vending park	1.68	332
paintball field	1.66	320
extreme sports	1.57	309

Water-related Facilities

Answer Options	Rating Average	Response Count
fishing dock or pier	2.47	437
fishing areas	2.43	434
boat/canoe/kayak rentals	2.42	427
canoe/kayak put in area	2.39	426
boat ramps	2.29	411

95.8% have visited Union Point Park

83.2% have visited Bear Plaza

74.4% have visited Lawson Creek Park

49.5% have visited Glenburnie Park

49.6% don't know if a boundless playground is needed
41.5% responded yes

68.2% would support increasing P&R Department budget
54.4% would support earmarking certain P&R revenue

Section 4: Comparison of 2006 Plan to Present

School Properties and their utilization

The New Bern Parks and Recreation Department has some cooperative agreements in place for the use of certain facilities. A meeting was held with the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in October of 2013 to discuss the possible lease of land for park facilities and the possible use of school facilities for after school programs. This subject is going to be further investigated and a meeting will be sought in early 2014 with the School Board to discuss how the city and the Craven County School System can work together better.

Policy Guidelines

In 2006, policy guidelines were proposed in the report. These are the recommendations from that report. They are unchanged:

1. Recreation areas and facilities shall be equitably distributed and conveniently located throughout the City to provide opportunities for all. Because transportation is more limited for lower income families, the report recommended that facilities serving residents in low income areas be located in or near these areas.

2. The Department should provide diverse facilities and programs to meet the basic needs of children, teenagers, and adults and the special needs of the elderly, the deprived, and the handicapped. The City of New Bern has an American Disabilities Act Plan which included improvements to several facilities to make them ADA compliant. As new facilities are brought on line and as older facilities are renovated, the Department is ensuring that they are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.

3. A variety of land and water areas adequate in size and strategic location for both active and passive leisure pursuits and for visual enhancement and conservation should be provided. This continues to be a guiding principle for the Department.

4. Programs, services and facilities which complement and supplement those provided by other public and private agencies should be offered. The Department shall actively work to coordinate all local recreational services in order to avoid duplication. While on the surface this seems reasonable, private enterprise will need to charge fees for a facility or service that would effectively preclude lower income families from being able to take advantage of that amenity. Middle and upper class families have more options available to them. There is need for some duplication. The City needs to weigh its options for each new activity or program it wishes to add at the time when the funding is available.

5. The NC Recreation Resources Services cautions that standards for number of recreational facilities may or may not have a basis in reality. Additionally, the demographics are shifting and there are new leisure opportunities that come into and go out of vogue. What is important is to have large-scale new development participate in a meaningful way in providing recreation and open space area for those additional residents. The Department should remain flexible and seek input from the public on current and desired facilities and programs. They should also be ready to capitalize on funding and other unique opportunities which present

themselves to provide additional recreational amenities and programs.

6. The Department should strive to establish levels of local funding sufficient to match other source of funds as the opportunity arises and sustain a program of land acquisition, facility construction and program administration in the absence of outside funding. The Department has done an outstanding job on its limited budget with renovating parks and has been successful in obtaining several grants. The Department has also taken on additional responsibilities that include the maintenance of the five cemeteries.

7. The quality of the recreation experience and its contribution to the growth and development of the individual is a paramount concern, and is reflected both in the type of program offered and in the physical setting in which it takes place. In viewing the various parks, it is obvious that the Department does an outstanding job of keeping the parks clean and free of debris. The landscaping appears well cared for. The restroom facilities that were open were clean. The Department paints and refurbishes the equipment and facilities as it can. The material under the playground equipment meets current playground standards. The Stanley White Recreation Center underwent a renovation in 2008, thanks to a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant. The West New Bern Recreation Center although well cared for, is in need of a renovation due to its age. The general public is not attracted to older looking facilities.

8. Facilities and programs should take full advantage of all available existing resources, both natural and man-made. One implication of this standard would be that facilities on which public funds have been spent (schools, fire stations, etc.) should be utilized as fully as possible. Since the City is located at the confluence of the Trent and Neuse Rivers, the City should take advantage of that natural asset.

9. Priorities for development will be assigned on the basis of providing the greatest benefits for the greatest number of people. Certainly anyone who reads this statement would concur. However, if unique opportunities present themselves, the Department should capitalize on them.

10. The Department should strive to ensure safety and appearance of the equipment and facilities until such time as they need to be replaced or removed from service due to obsolesce or condition.

Based on current usage, there is need for additional square footage at the centers or an additional center located in an area where the population is growing.

In June 2008, the City opened its first public swimming pool. The aquatics center is a family-oriented facility that is a combination of outdoor swim and play, featuring zero entry pool depths, interactive water features, slides, swim lanes and a large deck. Also included are: family locker rooms, concessions, office space, and conference room/ rest area. Full-time certified pool operator, lifeguard and attendants make up the facility staff. The aquatics center is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is a charge for use with residents paying less than non-residents. It is also possible to reserve the center.

The City has one operational spray park which is located at the George Street Park. The park is open during the summer months of June through August and features an 80' x 80' play pad

with several water play components. The GT H2O by Rain Drop Equipment features shower tunnels, foam geysers, pop jets, and mini popcorn jets. Features are changeable to keep the fun going year after year. The park also includes a full-service restroom facility, a shade area, and picnic tables. There is a charge for use with residents paying less than non-residents. It is also possible to reserve the spray park for special events.

A land use analysis was completed in 1996 and it has not changed appreciably since then. The need for additional land was projected at 30 acres by 2000 and an additional 20 acres by 2005. These acres have not been added, however, there are several tracks of land currently owned by the City that are being considered for park locations. These include land around a lake in the Pembroke area and land adjacent to the City's Water Treatment Plant in the Pleasant Hill area. Additionally the City recently completed a constructed wetland in the area of Simmons Street and Oaks Road when is being consider for a passive park. The quarry on Glenburnie Road is being considered for a golf academy site—a public/private venture.

Funding for recreation will be more difficult to obtain in the future

The 1996 report for this element continues to be relevant. The Department needs to balance the basic level of free services to those for which fees are appropriate. Sustainability of programs and facilities is an important factor for the future of the Department.

Formation of a Foundation

The report mentioned establishing a foundation to encourage donations. This has not been done at this time and it is still a valid recommendation. Some nonprofit entities are eligible for funding when governments are not. Public-private partnerships also need further exploration.

League Associations

The Department has yearly agreements with various leagues. The city maintains and stocks the restrooms, but the leagues are responsible for securing them after use. The leagues are responsible for monitoring use during play and reporting any incidences or damages.

Physical Issues

Some park facilities need rehabilitation

There are still some parks that need new and/or additional equipment, but overall the maintenance and upkeep of the parks is good. Older buildings are showing their age and are in need of either major renovation or replacement.

Indoor program space is inadequate

Currently indoor space is still limited. The Department acknowledges that two additional recreation or community centers will be needed in the future, probably in the area of the Carolina Colours subdivision, east on Hwy, 70 and another in the area of New Bern High School or Pleasant Hill. These are areas where new subdivisions are being located.

Section 6: Facilities and Standards

General

A field trip to each facility listed in this section took place in late 2013. The parks were found to be very clean and free of debris. The trees and planting areas were neat. The restrooms that were visited were clean although some of them were in need of a makeover. The recreation centers are likewise clean and neat. West New Bern Recreation Center appears dated as it is over 30 years old.

The Parks and Recreation Department administrative offices are located at 1620 National Avenue. There is a maintenance facility adjacent to Glenburnie Park. A planting field is located there as well.

Playgrounds

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

The City is continuously replacing and updating playground equipment. Soft material is placed under the equipment per safety standards.

It is easy for one to view the condition of these various parks and assume that excellent maintenance makes up for the need for replacement, however, this is deceiving. The Parks and Recreation staff does an excellent job with upkeep of the facilities, but everything has a “useful life expectancy” and some of the facilities have reached or are close to reaching theirs. For example, the West New Bern Recreation Center looks well maintained, but it is over thirty years old. To the general public the facility looks dated both inside and outside. The public is attracted to newer looking facilities.

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

Standards for Public Facilities

In the past standards have been set on a per population basis for recreational facilities, but it is now generally acknowledged that each community is different and that interest in certain sports come and go over time. The following is a table that was presented in the 2006 plan. This table has been updated with 2013 statistics:

Public Facilities Needs

Facility	2013 Standards	Existing Facilities	Current Demand 30,000 ¹	2030 Demand 35,000 ²	Projected Additional Need
Fields					
Baseball	1/5000	4	6	7	3
Youth Fields	1/3000	4	10	11	6
Softball	1/6000	2	5	6	4
Football	1/6000	0	5	6	6
Soccer	1/6000	3	5	6	3
Courts					
Basketball	1/5000	4	6	7	3
Tennis	1/2000	6 ³ (4)	15	17	11 ⁴ (4)
Volleyball	1/5000	1	6	7	6
Indoor Facilities	1/10000	2	3	3	1
Outdoor Facilities					
Picnic Shelters	1/3000	12	10	11	0
Recreation Acres	14ac/1000	191 ac	420 ac	490 ac	299 ac
Swimming Pool	1/20000	1	1	1	0

Multi-purpose fields are used for either football or soccer, therefore, the above standard shows them separated when they are actually combined by the City.

Soccer is very popular and therefore the need for soccer fields is greater than this standard shows. Lacrosse is a growing sport in New Bern and it utilizes the same open fields as soccer.

Interest in tennis comes and goes over the years, depending on whether or not leagues are formed and lessons given on a regular basis. Older tennis players favor clay courts of which the City has none.

The recreation centers have the capability of being used for indoor basketball and indoor volleyball. Only the designated outdoor facilities are listed in this table.

New Bern's indoor facilities are used for more than just active sports; they are also true community centers in that they provide space for various clubs and groups to meet. Therefore, these centers are more heavily utilized than is reflected in the listed standards.

Picnic shelters are not defined by this standard. Only the large group shelters were counted here.

A higher level of acres per 1000 population for recreation areas was chosen as New Bern to enhance the quality of life and to make New Bern an attractive tourist destination.

For the purpose of this table, the active and passive recreation areas were combined as the larger parks contain elements of both.

¹ The Census 2012 Population Estimates show there are 30,316 people living in New Bern. It was rounded to 30,000 for the purpose of this table.

² There are no municipal population projections; however, there are projections for the County. The committee knows the developments that are currently underway and those that are in the planning stages. It was felt that 35,000 was a reasonable 2030 population figure for planning purposes.

³ The number of tennis courts that exist is accurate, however two of the courts are not usable and the Department is planning to demolish them as part of a redesign of the George Street Park. There are only four playable tennis courts in the system.

⁴ Four additional courts located together would be adequate to meet future needs.

There is only one outdoor volleyball court, but the two recreation centers each have the capability of indoor volleyball, making the real total three. The outdoor volleyball court at the West New Bern Recreation Center is being converted to a sand volleyball facility at the time this report was being drafted.

The facilities recorded as existing were only those that are owned by the Department and did not take into account facilities owned/operated by the school system, community college or private parties.

Twelve additional smaller family picnic shelters are needed. These can be spread among the parks according to the usage of the park for picnics.

The Parks

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

Experts caution against the use of standards without consideration for local factors such as existing land use, housing densities, demographic characteristics, economic feasibility, topography, and perceived needs. Other factors for consideration included proximity to other communities with park and recreation facilities, proximity to county park and recreation facilities, adequacy of public school facilities, and availability of church, private and other

institutional facilities. While church and private facilities were factored into the mix, they are essentially unavailable to the inner City's economically disadvantaged population.

Riparian, wetland, sensitive habitats, unusual topography and other natural constraints limit the usable land within certain parks. While these are certainly desirable resources, it limits what can be done on the parcel. Craven County falls under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) and the Neuse River Buffer Rules. These two sets of rules serve to further constrain what can be done on certain parcels. As minimum guidelines, the standards are intended to be used as a flexible planning tool. In practice, some standards will most likely not be met while others may be abundantly met due to need.

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

Mini Parks (less than 4 acres)

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

Neighborhood Parks (4 to 12 acres)

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

Community Parks (13 to 50 acres)

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

District Parks (over 50 acres)

Open space areas characterized by significant natural resources which provide passive recreation opportunities for both the local population and the surrounding metropolitan area;

small portions of a district park might be allocated to fulfill neighborhood park requirements. District Parks have a City-wide service radius.

Special Facility

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

Table for Park Types

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

Projected need

Park Type	Standards Ac/1000	2013 Existing Facilities	Current Demand 30,000	2030 Demand 35,000	Projected Additional Need
Mini	.5/1000	13 acres	15 acres	17 acres	4 acres
Neighborhood	1.0/1000	26 acres	30 acres	35 acres	9 acres
Community	4/1000	54 acres	120 acres	140 acres	86 acres
District	10/1000	191 acres	300 acres	350 acres	159 acres
Special Recreation Ctr.	N/A	2	2	3	1

Parks 2013

Name	Type	Acres
Bear Plaza	Mini	.24
Council Bluff Green	Mini	.18
Donald Miller	Mini	.12
George Street	Mini	2.7
James Reed Lane	Mini	.08
Kafer Park	Mini	2.3
Lourenco Park	Mini	.2
Mary White	Mini	.3
Monk Mallard	Mini	1.13
Pierce	Mini	3.7
Speight	Mini	.75
Tryon Village	Mini	1
Total	Mini	12.7
Fort Totten	Neighborhood	5.4
Leander Morgan	Neighborhood	7
Pleasant Hill	Neighborhood	7.43
Union Point	Neighborhood	6.45
Total	Neighborhood	26.28

Name	Type	Acres
D.E. Henderson	Community	30
Seth West Parrott	Community	24.33
Total	Community	54.33
Glenburnie	District	51
Lawson Creek	District	140 (60 in use)
Total	District	191

Total	System-wide	284.11
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The following is a description of each park, a review of its condition and a list of desired changes. In general the following are noted at several parks:

- Picnic table tops and seats are warped and need to be painted/replaced
- The slats on the benches need to be painted
- Every picnic shelter should have water and electric run to it
- Restrooms, while clean, are in need of makeovers—some have evidence of rotting wood
- Bike racks are desired at each park, and several racks are desired at larger parks
- The 55 gallon drums for trash would look nicer if painted with a design or scene like those at Lourenco Park
- More consideration be given to stormwater BMPs in parking areas, especially those nearest the water
- Bulletin boards at parks should be maintained on the exterior and interior. They are excellent vehicles for dissemination of information and public education.
- Park signage is worn and needs to be refurbished. In some places it is obscured by foliage.

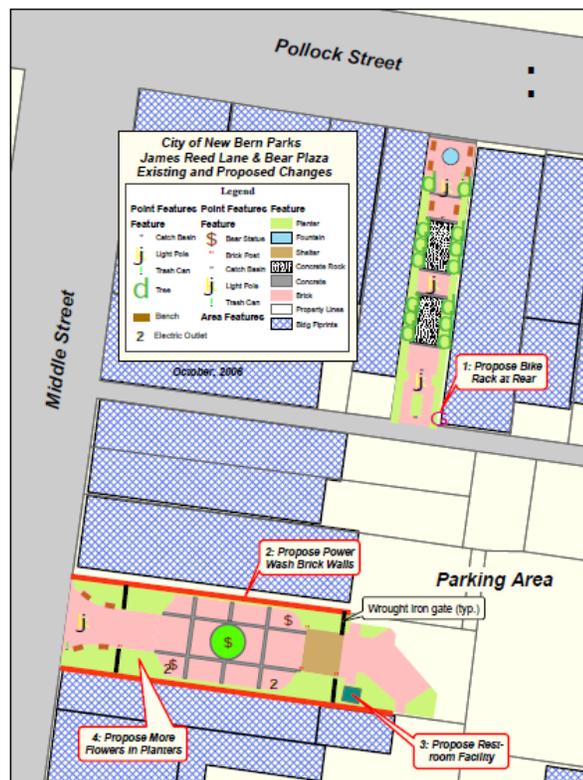
Parks that are heavily used, that are lighted for evening use, or that are in close proximity to problem areas should have security cameras. Signs to that effect should be posted.

Some parks with unique features have use-specific signage. That is certainly needed, but it is important that all parks have the same basic signage for things that are not allowed in any park. It is also good to provide phone numbers and specific instructions as to how problems or issues can be reported.

Mini Parks (less than 4 acres)

A facility designed to provide recreational opportunities for a small area within a neighborhood. Generally, a mini-park is designed for young children, however in some cases it may be designed for aesthetic purposes. 1/2 acre is the recommended minimum size to provide adequate buffer space and diversity of uses; however, in some cases smaller sites may be developed. One or more mini-parks should be provided in each neighborhood. Mini parks have a service radius of 0.25 to .5 miles.

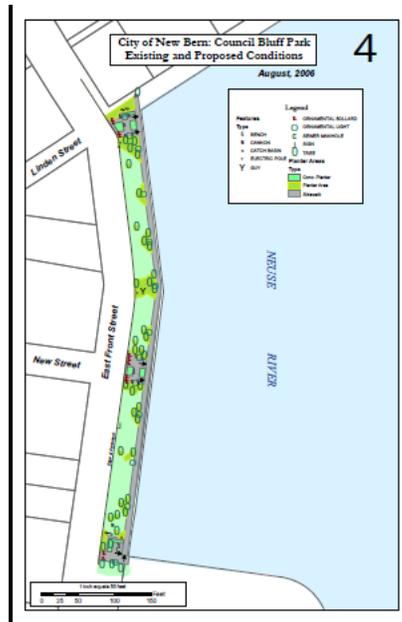
Bear Plaza is located downtown on Middle Street and contains carvings of bears, bear statues from the 2010 tri-centennial celebration, several benches and flower gardens. These gardens have been adopted by the New Bern Garden Club. This scenic spot is a favorite place for visitors to get their photograph taken with the bear statues. At Christmas, this is the location for Santa's workshop and seasonal decorations. Bear Plaza is .24 acres. On the survey 83.2% of the respondents stated that they had visited Bear Plaza.





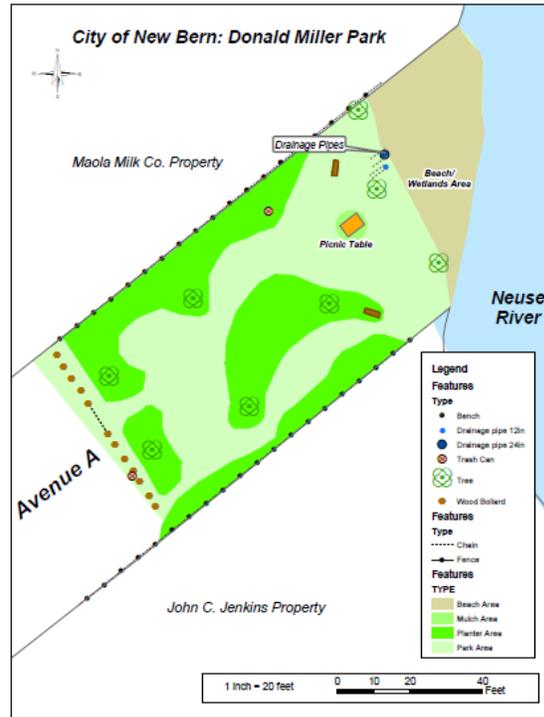
- New Bern desperately needs more public restrooms in the downtown areas. A public restroom in the vicinity of Bear Plaza would be a good addition.
- Power-washing the side walls would make the park more attractive or perhaps local artists could paint murals on the walls if building owners would permit.
- More flowers in all of the downtown area including Bear Plaza would help to soften and brighten up the streetscape.

Council Bluff Green is located downtown on Front Street on the Neuse River. This is an open space, linear park which contains several benches, flower beds and a beautiful view of the Neuse River. Council Bluff Green is .18 acres. On the survey, 11.7% of the respondents stated that they had visited Council Bluff Green.



- Attractive bike racks placed near the benches would be nice additions.
- The bulkhead is crumbling in some places and needs to be repaired.

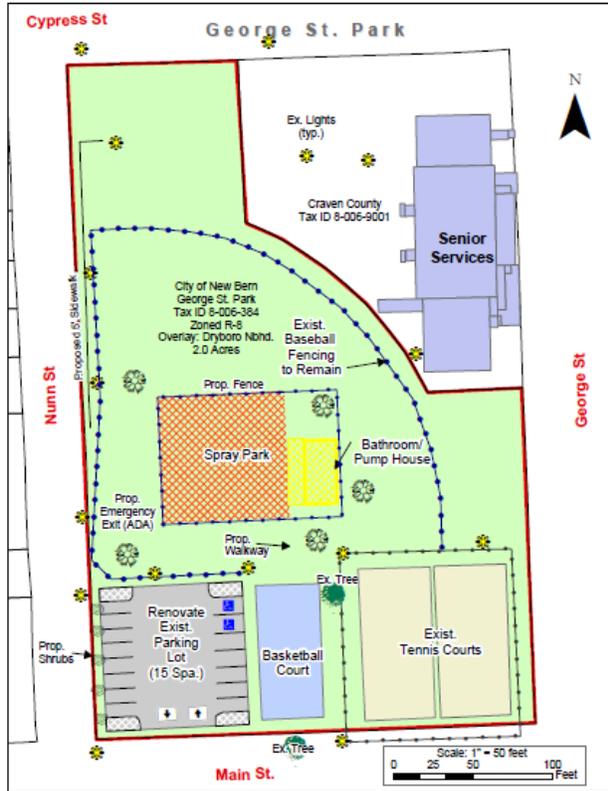
Donald Miller Park is a one half acre recreation area which is situated on the Neuse River at Avenue A. It was named for a New Bern detective who was killed. Donald Miller Park serves the needs of the surrounding neighborhood and contains one picnic table and park benches. It is a quiet place for reflection. Donald Miller Park is .12 acres. On the survey some respondents noted that the park is not properly maintained and there were concerns about the activity there. Of those who responded to the question only 6.1% had visited Donald Miller Park.



- A deck with benches extending out over the water would enhance this small park.
- A fishing pier would be a nice addition.
- There are pilings still in the water. Removing them would improve the vista and would create an ideal canoe/kayak launch area.
- Canoers and kayakers would like a sandy beach to launch from.
- A bike rack might encourage biking to the park.

George Street Park is a 2.7 acre site located on George Street. This area has two dilapidated tennis courts, a spray park with restrooms and a basketball court. Craven County leases the building on this property and it houses the Senior Center. The County also leases a small amount of land adjacent to the building which is being used for a gardening area by the seniors. Of those who responded to the question, 26.6% said they had visited the George Street Park.



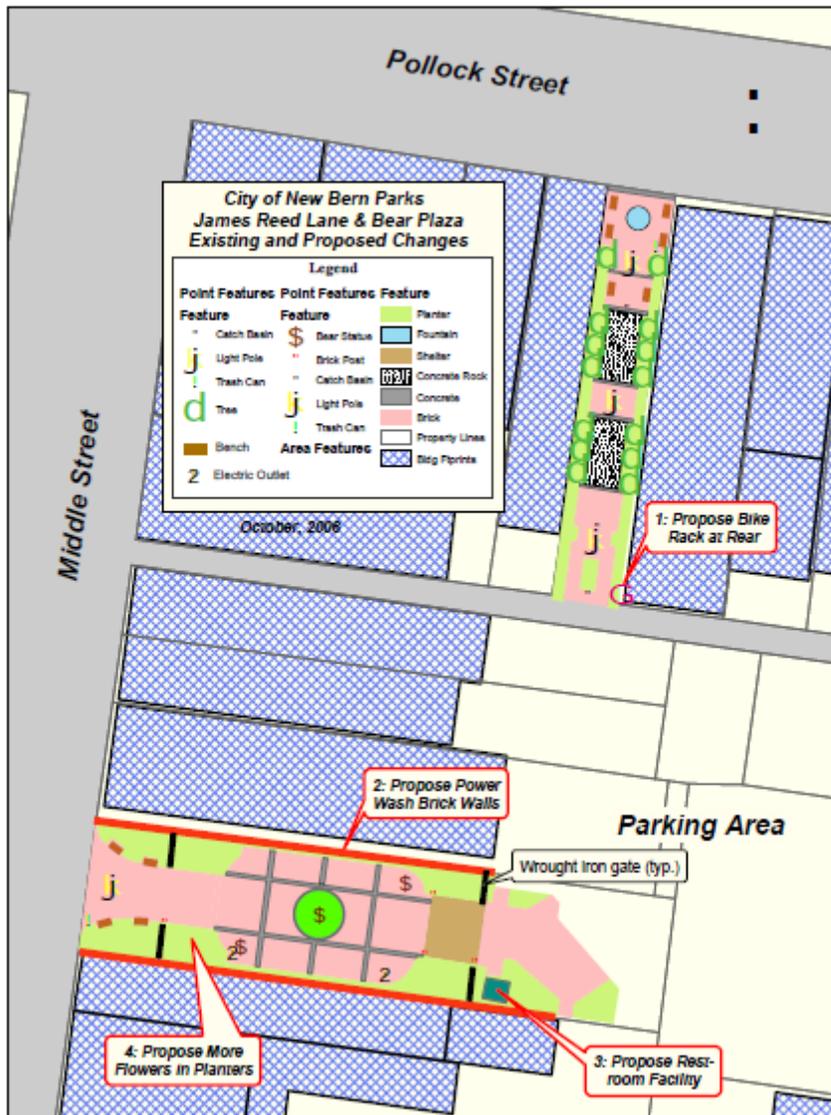


A number of ideas have been floated for the George Street Park which surrounds the Center. The ideas include:

- Use the existing tennis courts to create a skateboard park. Take down two sides of the fencing—the side facing the Senior Center and the side facing the basketball court.
- Resurface the basketball courts and put up new goals.
- Light the basketball court and the skateboard park.
- Put benches for users of the basketball court and skateboard park.
- Reconfigure the restrooms at the spray park so they can be accessed and used by others in the park—not just those using the spray park.
- Around the perimeter of the property construct a very wide, level walking trail with benches placed at frequent intervals.
- Mature trees for shade and to attract wildlife and birds would be nice.
- Planting areas that attract butterflies, birds, and wildlife.
- Drinking water fountains in convenient locations.
- Large sheltered gathering area with picnic tables and game tables would be nice.
- Swings for the seniors. (like porch swings on a metal stand)
- Game tables with checkered board inlay like those at Union Point.
- Games: shuffleboard, horseshoes, bocce ball, croquet for seniors.
- Waterfall and fish pond would be visually appealing.
- Run electric and water to shelters, garden and other areas where they are needed.
- Attractive lighting for evening events would be helpful.

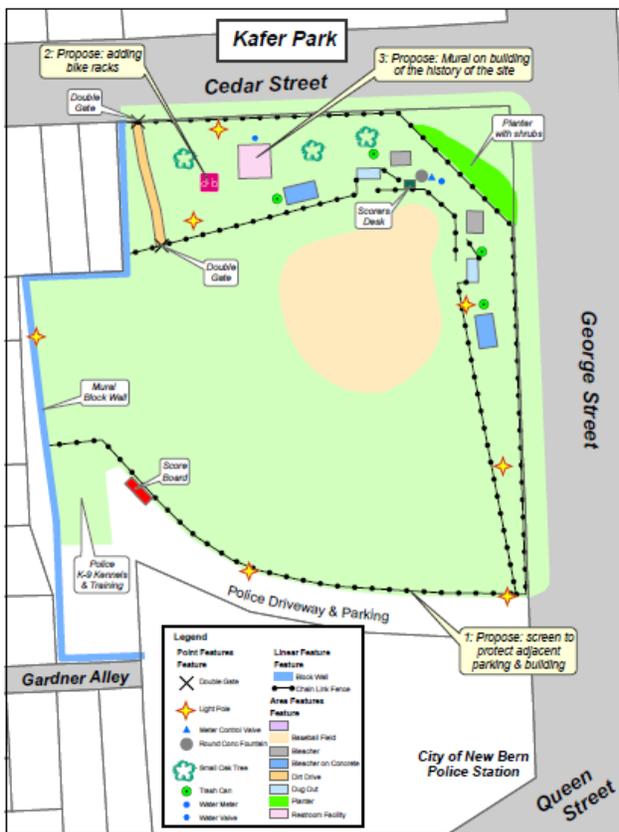
- Additional shade is desired for the spray park.

James Reed Lane is a small .08 acre park located downtown on Pollock Street between Middle and Craven Streets. This area contains a water fountain and several benches for people to rest and relax. Of those who responded to this question, 22.1% had visited James Reed Lane.



- An attractive bike rack near the rear of this park (parking area) would encourage people to bike to the center of the City and walk in the downtown area.

Kafer Park is located on George Street behind the Police Department. It has a lighted softball field, restrooms and a concession stand. At one time this was a stadium for the Negro League. There is a large mural behind the ball field that depicts the Negro League. Kafer Park is 2.3 acres. Of those who responded this question, 18% had visited Kafer Park.



- The addition of a bike rack might encourage children to bike to the ball field.
- The restroom and concession building is stark. The addition of a mural might help its appearance.
- There is an interesting mural already on the cement wall which separates the park from the neighborhood. This mural should be maintained for its historical significance.
- Might be interesting to play off the history of the site.

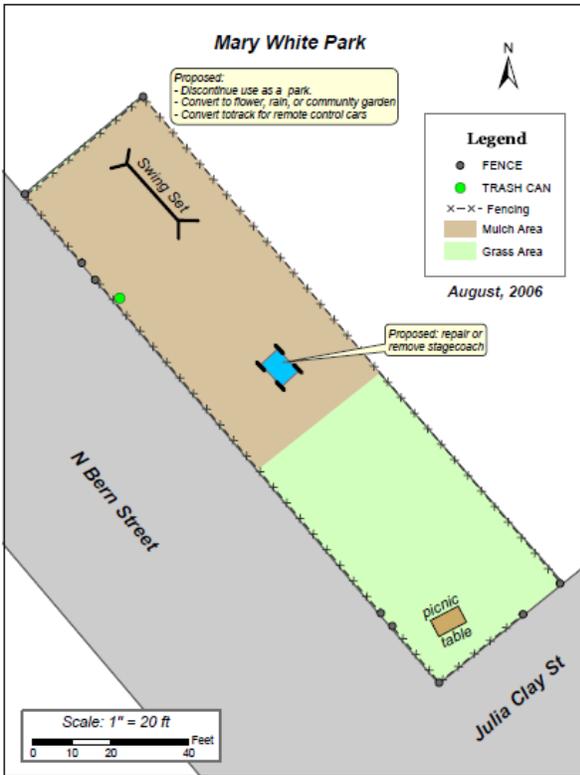
Lourenco Park

Lourenco Park is about .2 acres of active and passive park space. Nestled at the foot of Lawson Creek Park with access from Walt Bellamy Drive and First Avenue, the park offers the opportunity to kayak, canoe, fish or park your bike and rest on one of the park benches will reflecting on the beauty of the natural surroundings. The park is named for two members of a family who died nearby in a boating accident in 2003.



There are some local kayakers that are critical of the design of this launch area stating that cannot be easily used. They prefer a sandy beach to launch from. The park is nicely maintained.

Mary White Park is three tenths of an acre located on the corner of Julia Clay Court and N. Bern Street and was named after Mary White who started the park for the neighborhood. Since the 2006 version of this plan, the old rusted play equipment has been removed and new playground equipment has been installed. Only 2% of the respondents had visited this park.



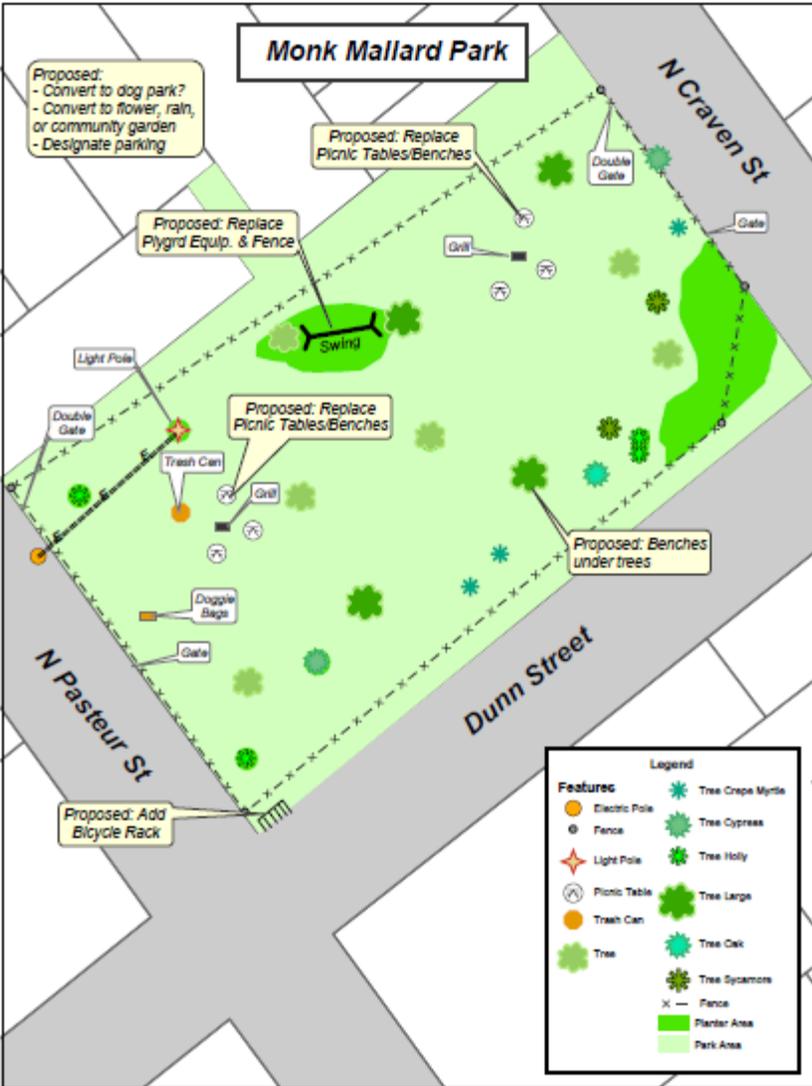
- The fence along the road has been taken down since the 2006 version of this plan. The parcel is very, very near an active railroad track (note train in photo below). Recommend that a fence be placed around the swings to protect the children.



- Add a bench for a parent to sit and observe the children swinging.
- Possible community uses might include: a flower garden, a rain garden, a demonstration area for Cooperative Extension Service, and/or a community garden.
- A track for remote control trucks/cars might fit here.
(<http://rcsource.hobbypeople.net/link/track001.htm>)

Monk Mallard Park is a 1.13 acre park located on N. Craven Street and Dunn Street and includes six picnic tables and three grills. There is also one swing set. Only 5.1% of the survey respondents had visited this park.

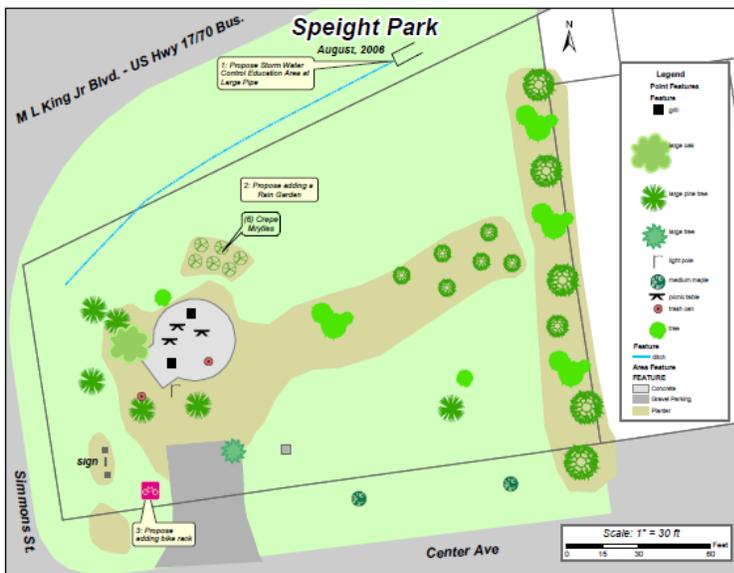




- This nondescript park could use a facelift.
- The playground equipment needs an upgrade. If a new playground is created—fence the area around the playground. Create a train themed playground as the park is adjacent to the rail road track.
- The picnic benches are warped and need to be replaced.
- A rain garden demonstration area would be a plus.
- A bike rack is needed.
- Turning half this park into a dog agility park might be a better use of this park.
- A compact fitness area like the one at D. E. Henderson Park might be considered.
- There is no designated parking. Suggest moving the fence back and create parking along the railroad tracks.
- The park is next to an active railroad track. The park is fenced but the gate on N. Pasteur St. has been removed. This may have been done in the past to keep people from turning their dogs loose in the park, but it is a hazard because a small child could wander from the park onto the tracks.

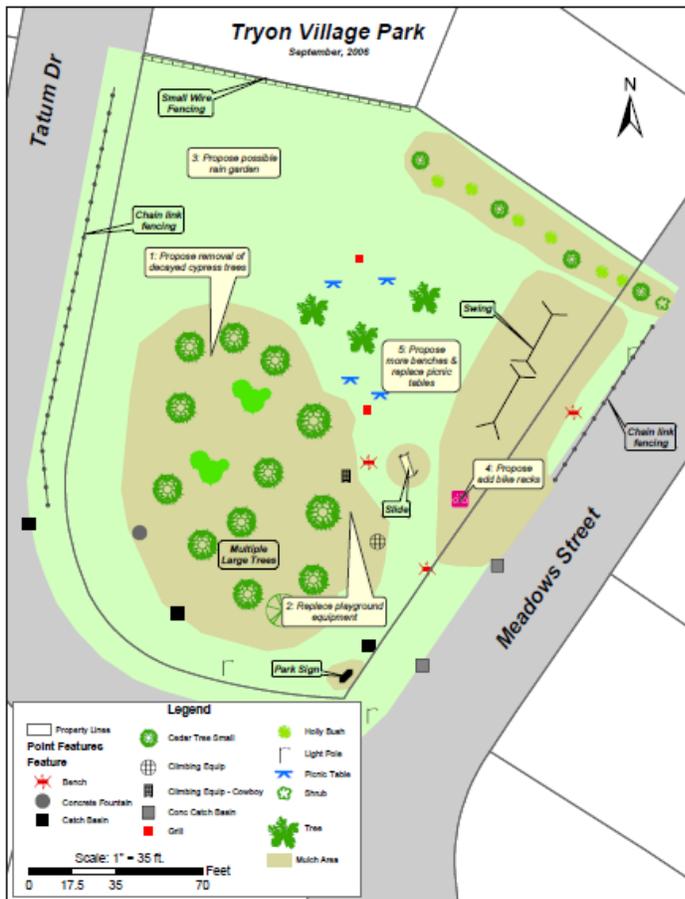
Pierce Park and Field is a 3.7 acre site which contains two lighted little league fields with bleachers, playground equipment, restroom facilities and a small concession stand. The fields are used for baseball and tee ball games and practices. The park and field are located next to the National Cemetery on Oaks Road. The city has purchased the lot that lies between the playground and the National Cemetery and it is used for overflow parking when games are being held. Only 4.3% of the survey respondents stated that they had visited this park.





- A bike rack is needed.
- A rain garden would enhance the park.
- A stormwater control education area would fit here as there is a large drain pipe that empties stormwater into a ditch between the park and MLK Blvd.

Tryon Village Park is a one acre residential park located on Meadows Street and Tatum Drive which has picnic tables, grills, swings, benches, and some playground equipment. Due to its limited size it should continue to serve primarily as a playground for the surrounding residents. Of those responding, 17% had visited Tryon Village Park.



- The playground equipment is dated and in need of replacement.

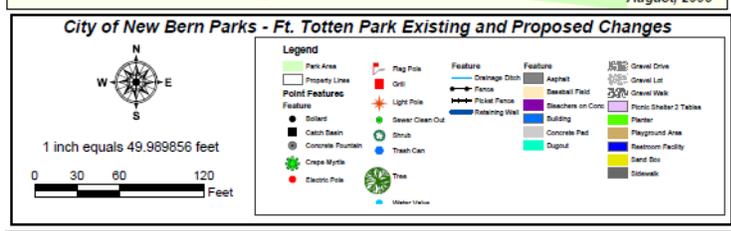
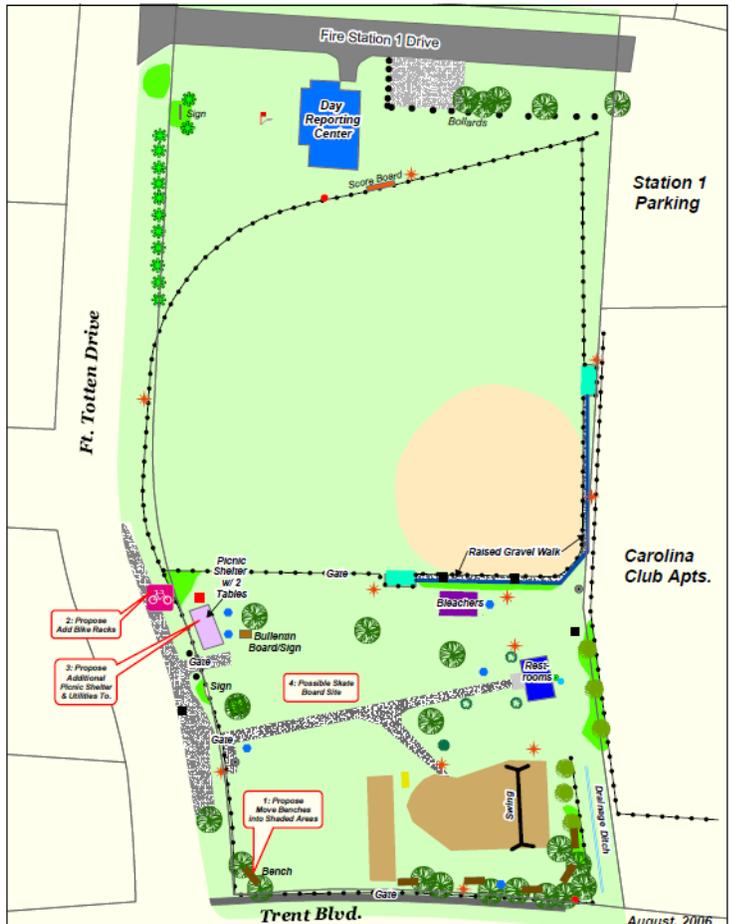
- This would be a possible site for a rain garden demonstration area.
- A bike rack is needed.

Neighborhood Parks (4 to 12 acres)

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

Fort Totten Park and Field is a 5.4 acre site located between Neuse Boulevard and Trent Road on Fort Totten Drive. At present, features of this facility include a lighted softball field, modular playground and tot lot, picnic shelter with grills and picnic tables (capacity 16), restroom facilities, storage building and street side parking. On the survey, 38% of those responding said that they had visited this park.

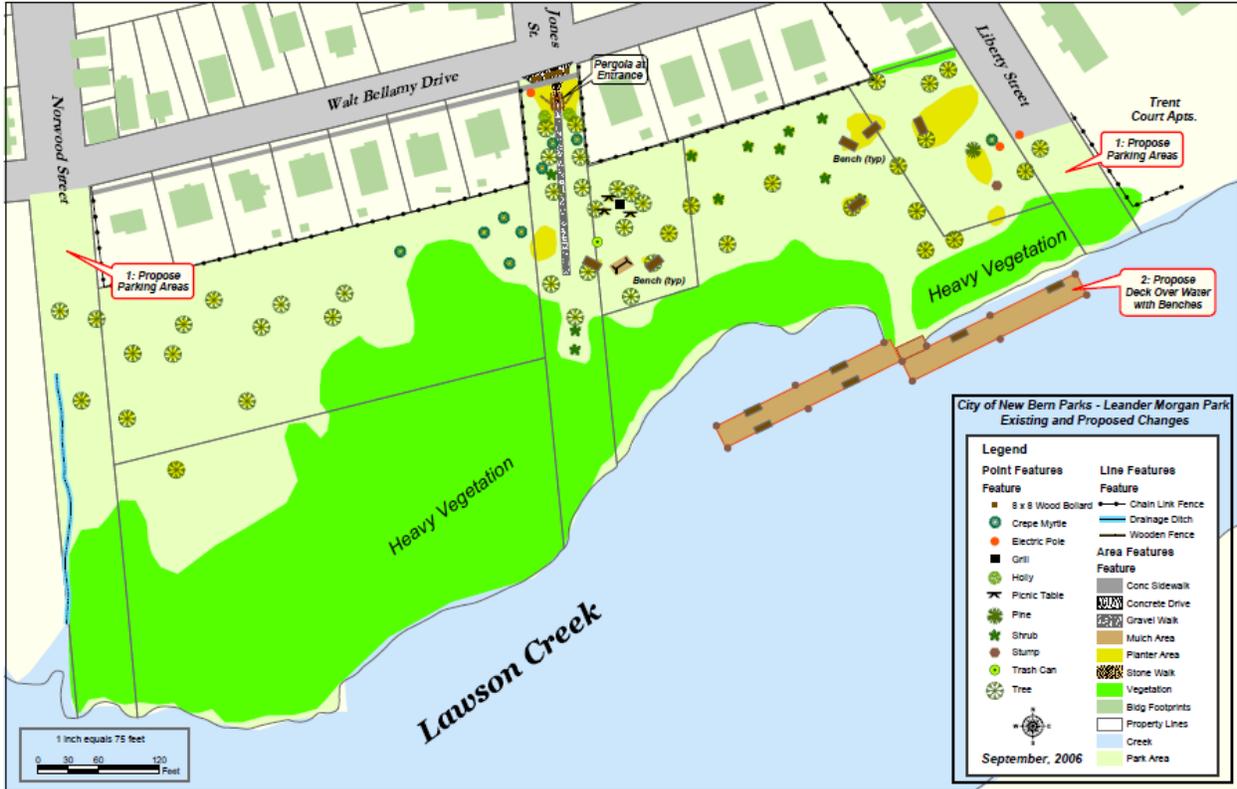




- More benches in the shaded areas would enhance the enjoyment of the park for some.
- Bike racks should be added.
- Additional picnic shelters and utilities (water/electricity) to those shelters would be desirable.
- The park is large enough that a walking trail around it would be a nice addition.

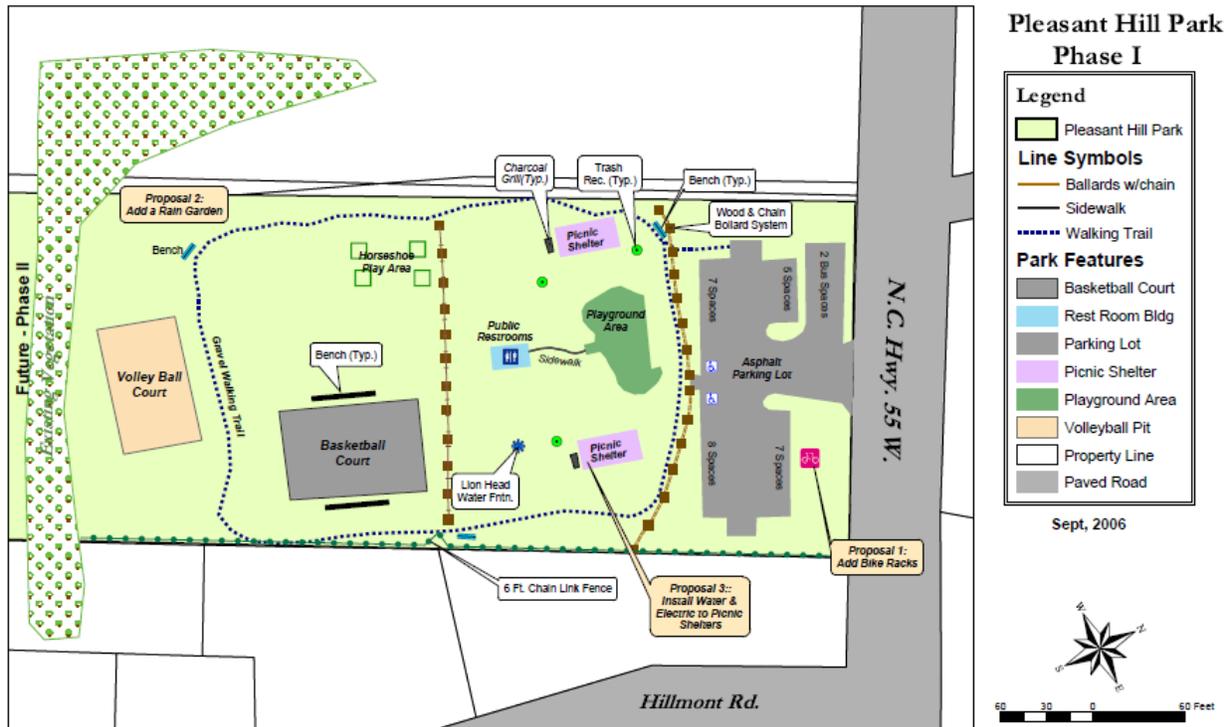
Leander Morgan Park is a 7 acre park located on Walt Bellamy Drive. This is a three acre open space, linear park and contains several picnic tables and docks over the water. A grant in the amount of \$74,660 has been awarded by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management for improving the park which will include boardwalks along the creek. The City will provide \$56,380 in matching funds. The money will be used to construct two piers, a water access walkway, pedestrian lighting, benches, parking spaces, shoreline stabilization and trees.





Pleasant Hill Park is a 7.43 acre open space park located on Highway 55 West. The park has two picnic shelters, bathroom facilities, a playground, a volleyball court, a basketball court, two horseshoe pits and a walking trail. On the survey, 7.7% of those responding indicated that they had visited this park.



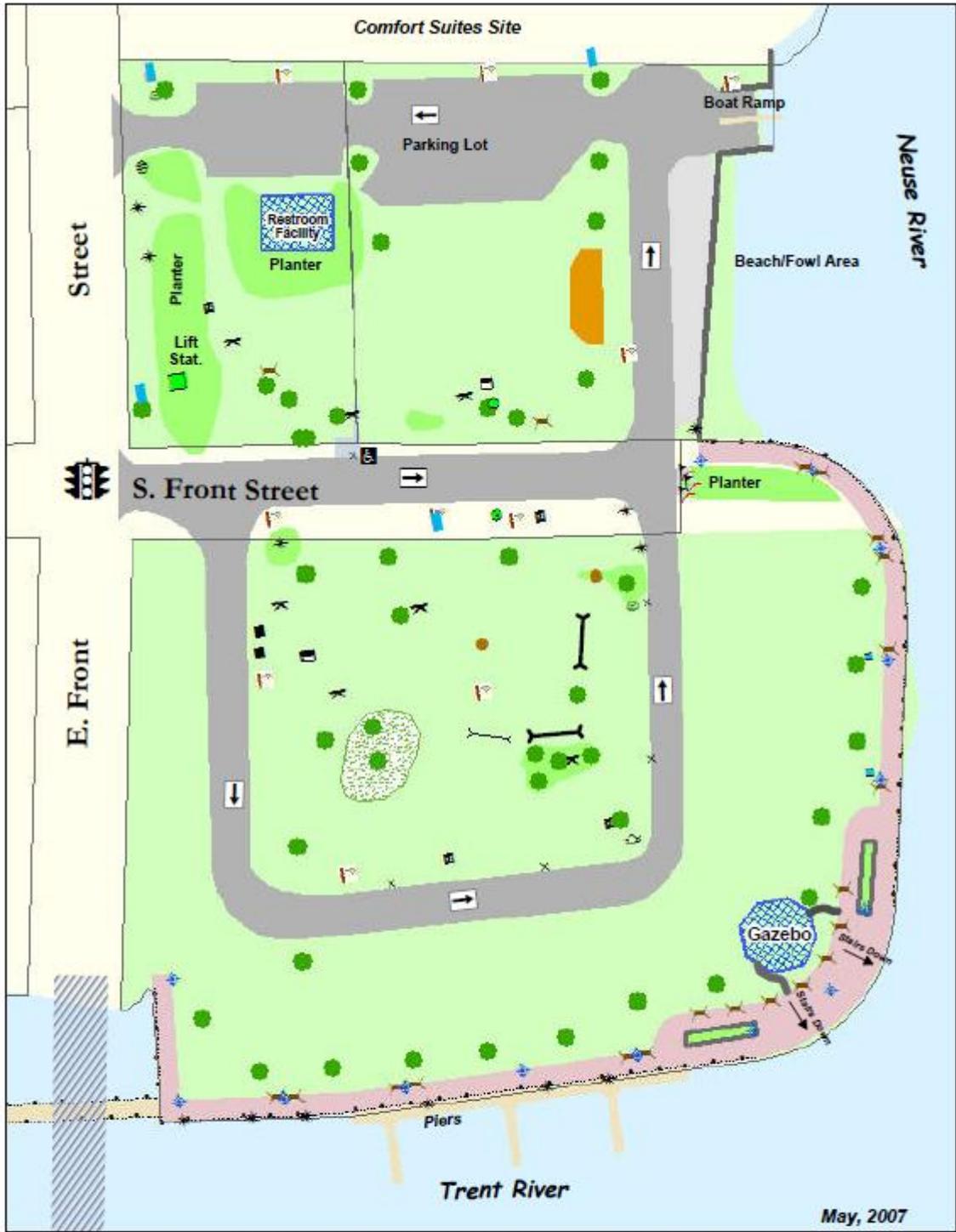


- A bike rack is needed.
- Need water and electric to each picnic pavilion?
- Suggest adding a community building in the rear of the property.

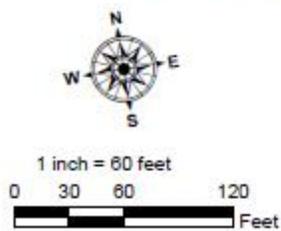
Union Point Park Complex is a very scenic 6.45 acre site located at the point of the Neuse and Trent Rivers at the intersection of East Front Street and South Front Street downtown. This park is located on an old landfill site which was renovated in the early 1970's. The last renovation to this park was in 1998. The walkway installed under the Trent River Bridge joins Union Point Park and Bicentennial Park. It contains two boat launching ramps, stage area, restroom facilities, picnic tables, fishing pier with transient slips, grills, a swing set, a gazebo and limited parking. This park is

well-used and is a favorite with local residents and visitors alike. Weddings, events, races, movies, and concerts all take place here. On the survey 95.8% of those responding said they had visited this park.





City of New Bern Parks - Union Point Park - 6.45 Acres



Park Features		Legend	
	BENCH		RETAINING WALL
	BOLLARD		SWING SET
	CATCH BASIN		Building
	CONC PAD		Conc. Planter
	CURB CUT		Concrete
	ELEC BOX UG		Gravel
	ELECTRIC OUTLET		Plar
	FLAG		Playground Area
	GRILL		Stage
	LIFT STATION		Asphalt
	LIGHT POLE		Brick Sidewalk
	MANHOLE		Concrete
	ORNAMENTAL POLE		Concrete
	PICNIC TABLE		Concrete
	SIGN		Concrete
	STUMP		Concrete
	STUMP CHAIR		Concrete
	TRANSFORMER		Concrete
	TRASH CAN		Concrete
	TREE		Concrete
	WATER METER		Concrete
	FENCING		Concrete
	SHRUB		Concrete
	Planter Area		Concrete
	Playground Area		Concrete
	Stage		Concrete
	Asphalt		Concrete
	Brick Sidewalk		Concrete
	Concrete		Concrete
	Gravel		Concrete
	Plar		Concrete
	Union Point Park		Concrete

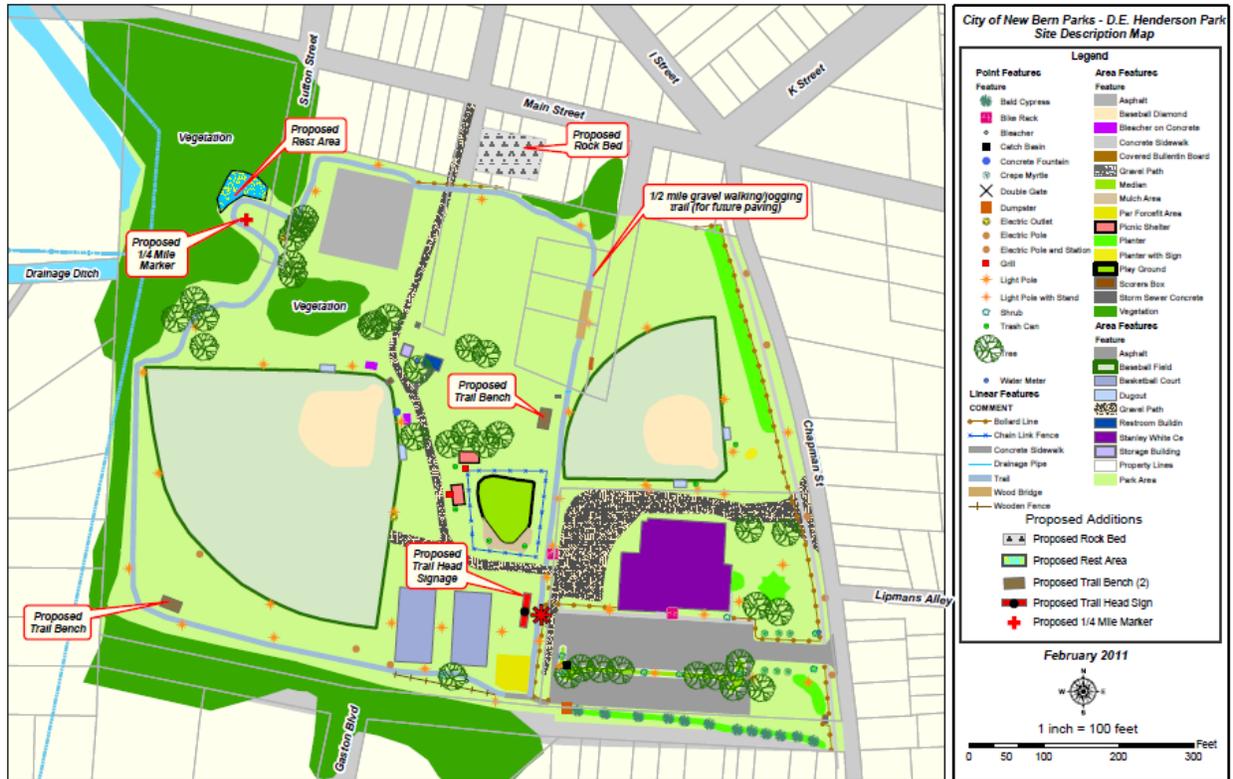
- At this time the green coating on the fencing around the water is much worn and needs a new layer of powder coating.
- Only small, shallow draft boats can be launched at the ramp. The pier is not long enough and there are no cleats to tie the boat's line.
- Given the amount of vehicle traffic in the park due to its popularity, it is particularly difficult to maneuver a boat trailer around the ramp. Suggest considering making this a canoe/kayak launch area only.
- Attractive bicycle racks might encourage people to bike to the park, lessening the vehicle traffic.
- Unique seating designed by local artists would be a welcome addition.
- While more picnic tables would encourage eating in the park, it was felt by some that the grills should be removed—they are presently not near any tables.
- Some picnic tables should be moved to the shaded area.
- The community wants more concerts and events at this park.
- The stage area is not as attractive as it might be—the wood appears to be deteriorating. There are plans to remove this permanent fixture and purchase a portable stage which could be used in many locations when needed.
- Need water and electric to more areas of the park. There needs to be more amps in the electric system to handle the electric needed for events.
- The light poles are unattractive—plain wood poles with nondescript lights. This park is the centerpiece of New Bern and should be the most attractive in the system. Architectural lighting would give the park a nicer look.
- This would be an excellent venue for interactive art exhibits.

Community Parks (13-50 acres)

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

D. E. Henderson Park is 30 acres and adjoins Stanley White Recreation Center located at 901 Chapman Street. This park consists of two shelters with grills and four picnic tables with a seating capacity of 16 each. The surrounding grounds have two lighted regulation size basketball courts, two lighted baseball fields, a soccer field, modular playground, outdoor restroom facilities, walking trail, 15 station Parcourse Joint-Use Fitcenter and ample parking. It has one bike rack. The city has just leased 1.5 acres of this park for 64 months. The space will be used for a Veteran's Memorial Garden to assist disabled veterans through the use of horticulture therapy and to assist disadvantaged or homeless veterans with transitional employment. This garden will be ADA compliant. It will have raised garden beds, seating areas, and art. On the survey, 7.1% of those responding said they had visited this park.



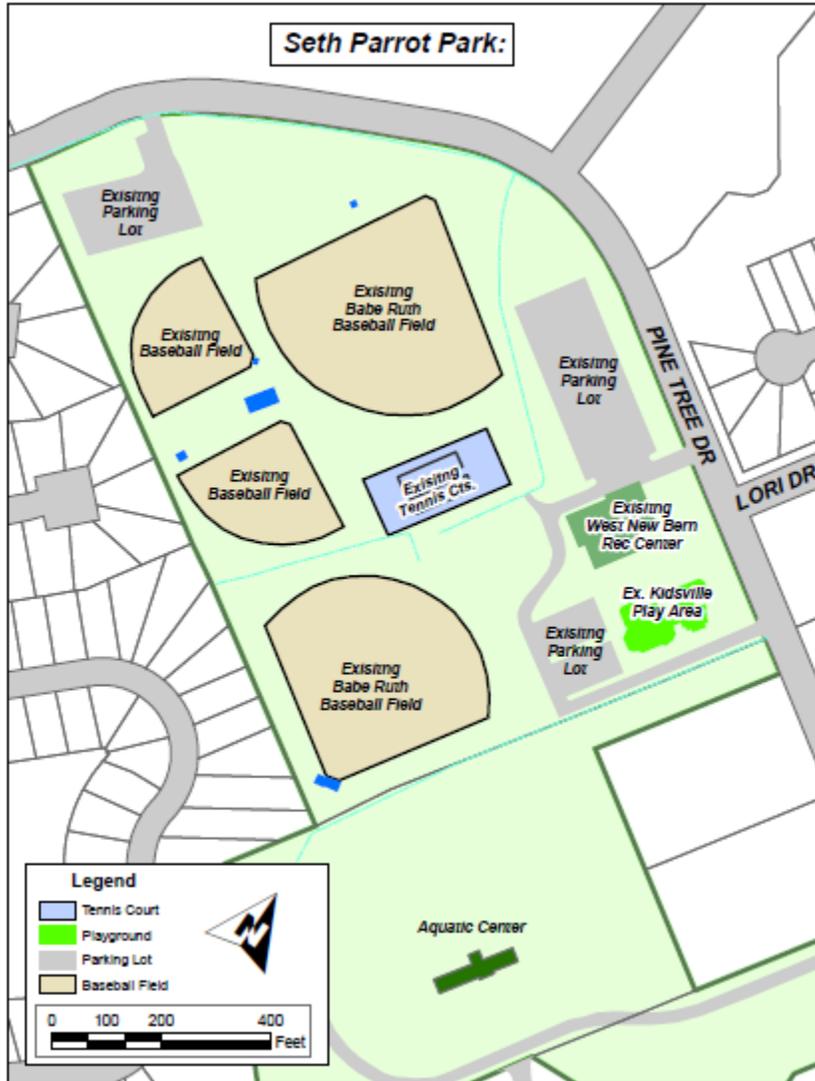


- The outdoor restrooms need to be replaced.
- Paving the walking trail would make the trail easier to use for those who are less mobile—presently it is loose gravel.
- Need water and electric to each picnic pavilion.
- Need to add drinking fountains.
- Basketball court needs to be resurfaced.
- Possibly move the basketball court nearer to the Stanley White Recreation Center and put in two tennis courts where the basketball court is presently situated.

Seth West Parrott Park is 24.33 acres and adjoins West New Bern Recreation Center located at 1225 Pine Tree Drive. The surrounding grounds have two lighted and two unlighted tennis courts, two lighted baseball fields, two lighted little league fields, three field houses with restrooms, one outside restroom building, one outdoor lighted basketball court, ample parking, a large playground area (Kidsville), and a picnic shelter (2 picnic tables—seats 16). There is a horseshoe court and a sand volleyball court is under construction.

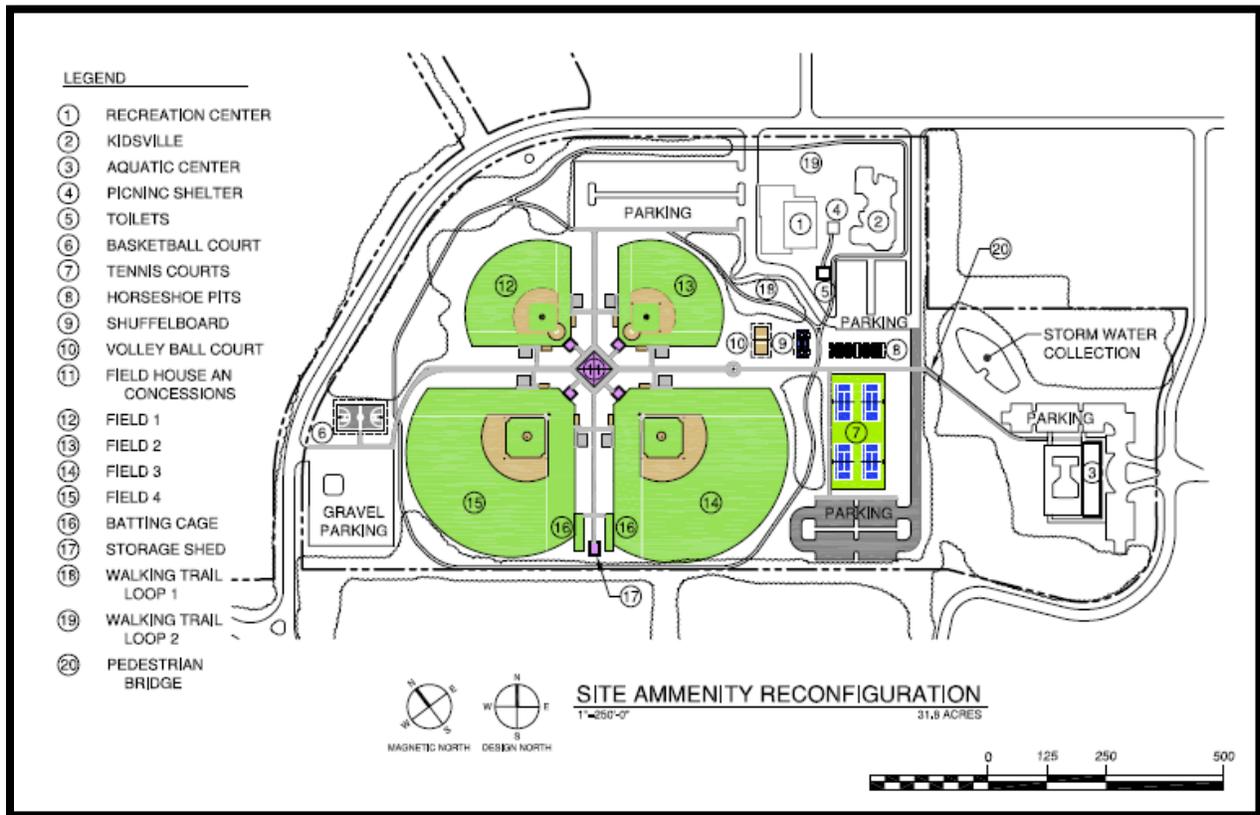
The Aquatics Center is located on a corner of the property. The Community College uses Heath Field for games. The League operates the concession stands and restrooms at the fields. On the survey 3.7% of those responding said that they had visited this park.





- Outdoor games for seniors such as shuffleboard, bocce ball, and croquet are desired.
- More bike racks interspersed throughout the park are needed.
- A rain garden or rain barrel demonstration area would be attractive.
- Better lighting for the fields is desired. The fields get 200+ games per year on them.
- The basketball court needs to be resurfaced and needs to be enlarged.
- The tennis courts have cracks and weeds are growing out of some. Consider converting two of the tennis courts to clay surface courts.
- A walking/running trail around the parcel would be a nice addition.
- Need water and electric to each picnic pavilion.
- Pave gravel parking areas as some of them have deep ruts from stormwater runoff.
- Reorienting the ball fields so that their home plates come together near a centralized concession stand/restroom/scoring box would be desirable. This would reduce the number of concession stands and restrooms that would need to be maintained and would make a better situation for tournaments.
- Make Heath and Cutler fields both youth fields.

This is a proposed site plan for the renovations to this park.

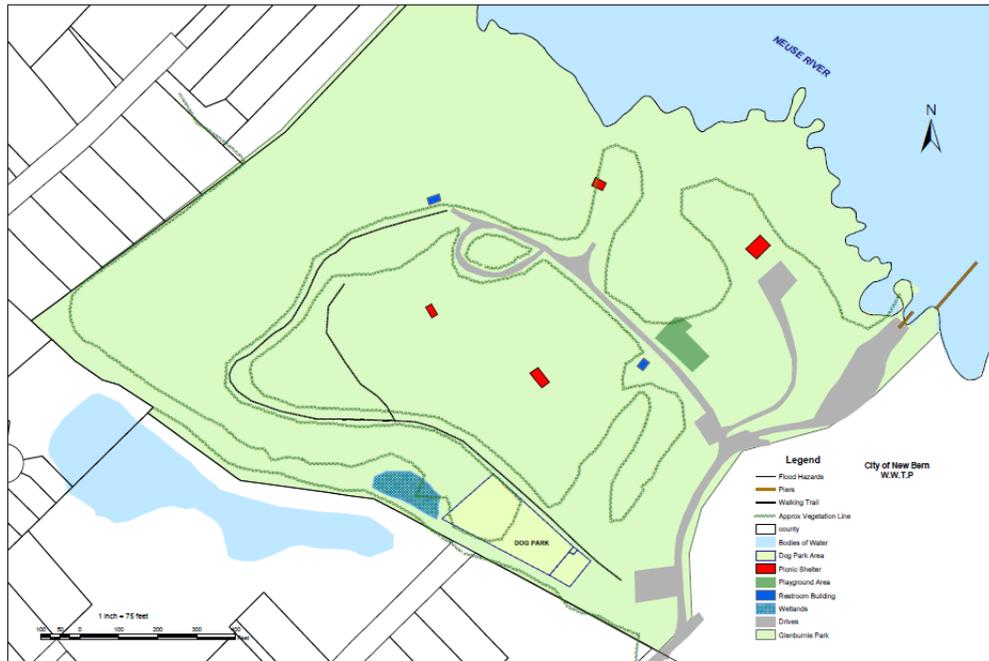


District Area Parks (over 50 Acres)

Open space areas characterized by significant natural resources which provide passive recreation opportunities for both the local population and the surrounding metropolitan area; small portions of a regional park might be allocated to fulfill neighborhood park requirements. District Parks have a City-wide service radius.

Glenburnie Park is a 51 acre park located on the Neuse River north of the City. Although this park is not completely developed, it has considerable recreation value in its natural features: Neuse River, hills, ravines and old woodlands. Undoubtedly, Glenburnie Park is the most scenic site in the New Bern area. Features include a two-slip public boat ramp with paved parking, one short and one long pier, four picnic shelters with parking nearby, restroom facilities, Frisbee disc golf course and a playground. A walking trail is under construction. A fenced dog park is also on the site. Picnic tables are located at each shelter and on the surrounding grounds for use by the public. The Elks Shelter has 4 picnic tables with a seating capacity of 32. The Jaycee Shelter has 14 tables—32 can sit under roof. The Rotary Shelter has 4 tables and a capacity of 32. The Lions Shelter has 6 picnic tables and can seat 48. On the survey 49.5% of those responding said they had visited this park.





- Glenburnie Park is the second largest park in the system and is the most wooded. It is suggested that this park be repositioned as a Nature Park. It would be an ideal location for nature classes for children.
- Upstream from the boat ramp would be an ideal spot for a long T-shaped pier with gazebos on either end of the T. The placement of duck boxes would encourage waterfowl to nest in the area. A turtle feeding area would be enjoyable for all.
- An interpretive nature trail would make visitors more cognizant of the natural beauty of the park as would a nature boardwalk over the wetlands.
- Establish a canoe/kayak rental concession.
- Bike racks should be interspersed throughout the park.
- Need water and electric to each picnic pavilion.
- More paved parking is also needed.
- The terrain might lend itself to a mountain bike trail.
- There are two boat launch areas at the ramp. The one on the left needs to have the concrete redone so it extends further into the water. The one of the right is useless as a boat launching ramp as the water is shallow all the way from the edge to the end of the docking pier. It needs to be renovated so that it can once again be used as a boat launch. The pier between the two ramps is missing boards and poses a danger to those using it. At the time this report was being written, renovation of the launch area was underway.
- Needs directional signs on Glenburnie Road and Oaks Road pointing to park. Unless you knew where this park was, you would have a difficult time locating it. NC DOT has provided a boat launching graphic sign on Oaks Road pointing toward the park.

Lawson Creek Park/Jack's Island is a 140 acre park located just west of the Tryon Palace on the Trent River. Of the 140 acres, 60 acres in use and 80 acres are wetlands. It is the largest in the system and was built on the site of an old landfill. Lawson Creek Park has two boat launching areas with floating docks, restroom facilities, two soccer fields, two fishing piers, a handicap walkway, one handicap fishing pier and a fitness and exercise trail. The picnic area has a walkway with two picnic

shelters, picnic tables, grills and ample parking. The sandy beach at Jack’s Island is a favorite launch area for canoers and kayakers. There is also a short boardwalk and a gazebo over the wetland. The park has an F-11 jet on a pedestal at the entrance. There are plans to locate some gears from the old Neuse River Bridge onto the area near launch area #1. There is one piece of outdoor art near the picnic shelters. On the survey 74.4% of those responding said that they had visited this park.



- More benches and picnic tables interspersed throughout the park would be desirable
- Add an additional picnic pavilion.
- A horseshoe pit and sand volley ball area near the picnic shelter would be enjoyed by groups who use the shelter.
- Modifying part of the trail into a heart trail should be considered.
- The local Hispanic community is a heavy user of the soccer fields on weekends.
- Need water to the picnic pavilion.
- More paved parking is also needed along with better delineation of parking areas.
- Recommend paving the parking lots and install stormwater BMPs to catch the runoff from the vehicles and boats.
- Boaters complain that launch area #1 is too steep causing vehicles and trailers to scrape the concrete. Plans are underway to have these concrete areas shaved.
- Boaters complain that the concrete pads do not extend long enough into the water so that boats can be launched when there is low water. Even though the end of the ramp is marked on the pier, the trailers go over the end of the concrete and are hard to retrieve.

Special Facilities

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

Community Resource Center is located at 908 Bloomfield Street. The center formerly operated as Weed and Seed, and became a Parks and Recreation facility in October of 2003. The facility houses a computer room, 3 multipurpose rooms, 2 police offices, and a small kitchen.

A small playground has been established in the rear of the building. Playground equipment has been recently purchased for this site and will be installed in late summer or early fall of 2006.

There are actually three floors to this old house. The first floor is handicapped accessible.

Stanley White Recreation Center is located in Henderson Park, at 901 Chapman Street. Facilities include a 15,000 square foot recreation center that houses a game room, meeting room with kitchen facilities, air-conditioned gym, a weight/fitness room and offices. The building has a camera security system which is monitored by staff in the center and can be viewed remotely via a computer.

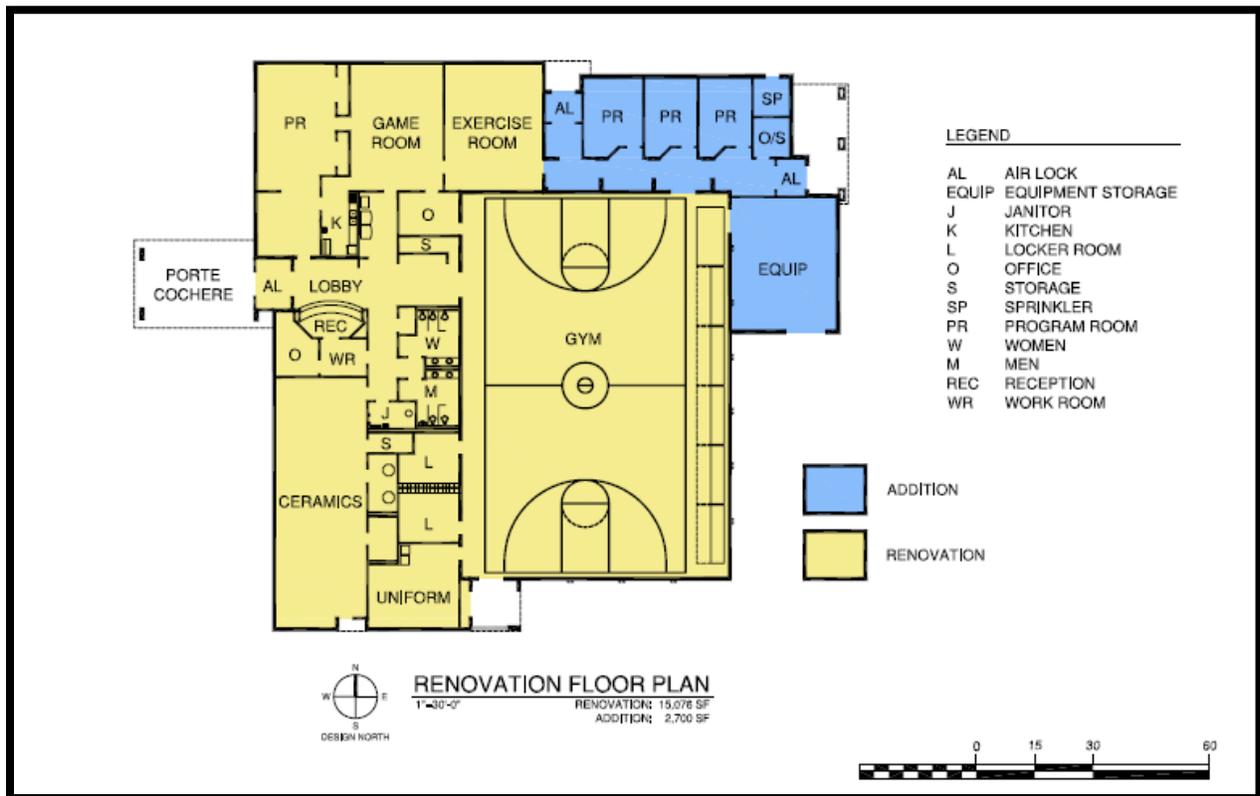
- This center was renovated in 2009 with a new entrance and expanded locker room space.
- Bike racks are needed near entrance.
- A rain barrel or rain garden near the building would add interest. Flower pots at the entrance would help soften and brighten the facility.
- Suggest building closets with doors to confine the equipment, chairs and tables when not in use. This will help to decrease the clutter in the rooms.
- This facility is located in the middle of a historically African American community near the local housing project. Security concerns may be keeping some from using the facilities, especially at night. Suggest putting up signage to let the public know that the grounds are monitored by security cameras.

West New Bern Recreation Center is located in Seth West Parrott Park, 1225 Pine Tree Drive. Facilities include a 15,000 square foot recreation center that houses a game room, meeting room with kitchen facilities, air-conditioned gym, ceramic room, and offices. This is also the home of Kidsville Playground, a unique multi-level wooden playground with mazes, walkways, balance beams, trampoline bridges, a firepole, slides, a train, a ship, and much more. The building has a camera security system which is monitored in the center and can be monitored remotely via a computer. This center was a mirror image of the Stanley White Center before the Stanley White Center was renovated.



- The building appears dated. The interior of the building looks very institutional and is not inviting. The cement block interior walls are unattractive. The building needs an interior and exterior make-over.
- Bike racks are needed near entrance.
- A rain barrel or rain garden near the building would add interest. Flower pots at the entrance would help soften and brighten the facility.
- Suggest building closets with doors to confine the equipment, chairs and tables when not in use. This will help to decrease the clutter in the rooms.
- Suggest putting up signage to let the public know that the grounds are monitored by security cameras.

Proposed renovations to the center:



Special Use

The City of New Bern does not have a designated conservation area within its borders. The nearest large wilderness area is the Croatan National Forest which is located east of New Bern between New Bern and Havelock on Highway 70.

The City has a lovely historic district which is nicely shaded, landscaped and has sidewalks on both sides of the streets. When the public speaks of needing more walking trails, the historic district is not mentioned as a place to walk, yet is a very pleasant, secure place to stroll or walk. The walking trails in the parks are mostly in the open with little shade. In order to encourage citizens and visitors to take advantage of this wonderful "walking trail" through the historic district, pamphlets (trail maps) should be developed showing routes and distances.

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

Canoes/kayaks

Canoeing and kayaking are becoming more and more popular, especially in sheltered waters such as the Trent and Neuse Rivers. The Twin Rivers Paddle Club is sponsored by Craven County and has a large number of members. The club has a document posted on their website which identifies a

number of paddle trails and put-in areas. (<http://www.twinriverspaddleclub.org/>) The paddlers say their preferred put-in is a sandy beach or some smooth sloped area which allows them to board their craft easily. Traditional boat ramps are not very usable for this purpose as the cement damages the bottom of the boat. The areas within the City identified on their website for put-ins include: Lourenco Park, Glenburnie Park, Lawson Creek Park, Jack's Island (Lawson Creek Park), and Union Point Park.



Boats

According to the NC Wildlife Resources in 2013 there are 4,209 vessels registered in (and taxed by) Craven County. Many if not most of those vessels will be used in or near New Bern. Approximately 385 of those vessels are 25 feet or longer. These larger boats are kept in the water at a dock or mooring.

New Bern has three private marinas within the City: the Hilton, the Galley Store and the Bridgepoint (which just re-opened in 2013). There are no public marinas. All three marinas have holding tank pump-out stations and the Galley Store has a gas dock.

Presently there are a number of boats that anchor off Lawson Creek Park. A few have been there a long time. In the past there have been individuals living onboard vessels moored in this area. This would be an ideal place for the Parks and Recreation Department to place a mooring field for the use of transient boaters. A dinghy dock could be placed at one of the Lawson Creek Park launching areas. As part of the mooring fee, a floating pump-out vessel could empty the holding tanks of these vessels weekly. This would ensure that effluent was not dumped into the river. The City could lease out this concession and get revenue from this venture.

Taking it one step further, docking slips could be constructed and a ship's store, restroom and laundry area created within Lawson Creek Park. This, too, could be leased. Another concession for this park could be small sailing dinghies, row boats, kayak and canoe rentals.

There is serious concern about the loss of marina slips and related marine industry jobs. New Bern should be proactive in helping to ensure the continued viability of this tourist attraction to our local area. Local residents will need places to dock and moor their larger vessels. Those with vessels need a place to have them serviced.

According to the NC Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), "Where possible, federal, state, and local government agencies should emphasize the acquisition and development of water-based and beach access sites for the public's use and enjoyment." If there are other opportunities to secure waterfront property on navigable waterways, the City should do so if possible. The price of waterfront property in this area is only going to continue to increase and fewer and fewer waterfront parcels will be available.



Beech Street/Harbor Drive

This .47-acre property was acquired in a FEMA buy-out. It is located on Neuse River in a residential neighborhood. This would be a good location for a canoe/kayak put-in. Someone with a residence at the end of the street has put a large “no trespassing” sign on the road that looks like it applies to the city property, perhaps dissuading citizens from accessing the property.





Simmons Street & Oaks Road Constructed Wetland

The city owns a 52-acre parcel on Simmons Street between the railroad tracks and Oaks Road. It is a constructed wetland that is designed to remove water during storm events from areas prone to flooding. The wetland has what appears to be a path which weaves around depressions where the water accumulates. It also has two areas where vehicles might park. This would be an ideal spot for a nature viewing area and walking trail. There is also an opportunity to education the public about stormwater.



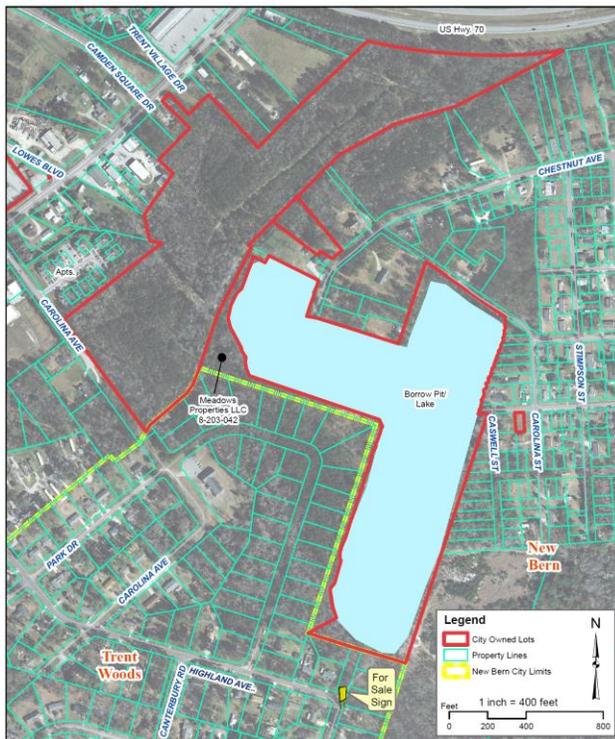
Martin Marietta Quarry

The 654 acre Martin-Marietta Quarry off Glenburnie Road is owned by the City. Of that there is one lake that is 450 acres and another that is 60 acres. There are 120 acres of wetlands and

approximately 24 acres of dry land. The City pumps treated effluent into the quarry. The land around the quarry would make an interesting nature preserve and passive park due to Martin Marietta's reclamation and wildlife enhancement of the quarry. This site is also under consideration for the location of a golf academy that will be a public-private partnership. The facility will be for training youth to play golf and to create a public golf driving range.

Pembroke area

The city owns a 31.91 acre tract of wooded land that is adjacent to a 31.49 acre barrow pit lake. This site is being considered for a bike/hike/walk trail with a picnic shelter.



Brices Creek Natural Area

In May 1996, Miss Marjorie Williams donated a conservation easement on 52.06 acres of property on Brices Creek to the North Carolina Land Trust. On February 17, 1998, the property was transferred to the City of New Bern's Parks and Recreation Department to become part of the Brices Creek Canoe Trail. This property includes approximately two miles of undeveloped frontage along Brices Creek and the Trent River. This donation will forever protect the scenic values of the forested uplands and tidal marshes that are found within the property.

Maintenance Facility and Plant Nursery Area

In addition to maintaining the parks and recreational facilities in the system, the New Bern Parks and Recreation Department is charged with the maintenance of the majority of the landscape on property owned by the City. They maintain the streetscapes in the Downtown Historic District.

The Parks and Recreation Department has a maintenance facility and planting field adjacent to Glenburnie Park.



This facility is located within 100 feet of the Neuse River. Mowers and other lawn care equipment are serviced at this building. The rear of the lot is used to store various things as pictured above. A system collects stormwater runoff from the roof and stores it in a cistern for later use. Stormwater runs off the paved areas, washes past the storage area, hits the fence, erodes the soil at the fence line and continues on toward the Neuse River. Pollutants are carried along with the flow. Anything that can be done to contain the stormwater on site should be done.

Cemeteries

The City's five public cemeteries are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. This includes 75 acres of grave sites. Cedar Grove Cemetery was established in the 18th century and has many historic graves. Greenwood Cemetery established in the 19th century was created for African-Americans and serves as the final resting place of those who participated in historic struggles. Cedar Grove Extension, Evergreen, and New Bern Memorial Cemeteries are active cemeteries with available grave sites.

Not only do the grounds need to be maintained, but in the case of the oldest cemeteries, the historic character needs to be maintained as well. Vandalism has occurred at these historic cemeteries and historically accurate repairs can be costly. There are very specific requirements for cemetery maintenance. (http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByChapter/Chapter_65.pdf)

The Earl of Craven Questers is one group that assists in the preservation of the historic Cedar Grove Cemetery. They have raised and invested more than \$40,000 for the preservation of this site.



PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO SYSTEM

The following are suggested additions to the system. The standard shows the need for an additional 4 acres of mini parks; 9 acres of neighborhood parks (4-12 acres), 86 acres of community parks (13-50 acres) and 159 acres of district parks (over 50 acres) for a total of 259 acres.

Park Type	Size in Acres	Acres needed	Potential location general vicinity	Proposed Size in acres
Neighborhood	4-12	9	H.J. McDonald Middle School	5
			Craeburne Forest area	6
Community	13-50	86	Pembroke Community	30
			Carolina Colours	26
			Highway 43 Connector	30
District	>50		Martin-Marietta Quarry	654
			Simmons St. & Oaks Rd wetland	52

The department is currently in discussion for a public/private venture that will create a youth golf training facility that will include a golf driving range. The facility is to be located at the Martin-Marietta Quarry.

A recreation center or community building is needed in the area of Carolina Colours (east of New Bern off Highway 70) and in the area of Pleasant Hill.

Another idea being pursued is a trail that would connect the Craven 30 property (location of a new large, mixed use development near Highway 70 and Highway 43) to the West New Bern Recreation Center.

A boundless playground and miracle field is desired to serve the disabled residents (children, youth, and adults).

Section 7: Program, Events and Staffing

New Bern has a Park Watch program. This is similar to the Neighborhood Watch program. Park users and those who live near the parks are asked to report violations of the park rules and regulations as well as any suspicious activity, vandalism or graffiti.

The New Bern Appearance Commission falls under the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Department. The New Bern Appearance Commission is an eight-member advisory board that is appointed by the Board of Aldermen, with each of the six wards represented, plus two at-large members. This commission serves as the City of New Bern's tree advisory board and plays an important part in securing our yearly Tree City USA Growth Award. The Appearance Commission gives information and recommendations in relation to public tree plantings and other beautification efforts.

The Adopt-A-Park program is a way for residents to show their community spirit by picking up litter from a section of the park. Parks can be assigned to local schools, church groups, youth groups or anyone interested.

The Parks and Recreation Department uses inmate labor and uses those required to complete community service to help clean up the parks or clean up during or after events. Volunteers also offer their services for special projects. For example, the Earl of Questors of New Bern are volunteers at Cedar Grove Cemetery. They do tours of famous grave sites and partner with the city to help preserve this historic site.

There is an opportunity to purchase memorials such as a tree (Honor Tree Program), bench (Memory Bench Program) or other items to commemorate a loved one.

The Department has a number of programs at the recreation centers. Some of these are on-going like ceramics, some are seasonal like baseball, others are periodic classes like cheerleading. Groups and clubs also meet at the two recreation centers. Special events and trips are also planned by the center staff. A copy of the full schedule is available on the Department's website.

The classes come and go according to current trends. Some classes and activities have fees and some do not. The staff appears to be adequately attempting to address the needs and desires of citizens of all ages and capabilities.

A sampling of current youth and adult programs include: aeromodelers, Asian Taekwondo, dances, ceramics classes, cheerleading, saddle club, computer applications, creative writing classes, needlepoint, embroidering, fencing, miniature club, mommy & me, moving to good health, card playing, painting, table tennis, doll club, and basketball.

A sampling of current programs for seniors include: AARP Board, senior exercise, senior games, shuffleboard, golden age club, and senior travel club.

Examples of special events include: Arbor Day celebration, billiards tournament, Christmas flotilla, festival of fun, July 4th celebration, MS bike tour, music in the park, movies in the park, Senior Games, toys for tots, and VIP trips. Additionally the Department staffs booths and provide support at a number of other local events.

Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of four divisions:

- **Administration**
Manages and supports the activities of the Department. Promotes the mission of the City; is governed by local, state, and federal rules; directs, plans, organizes, and promotes (directly and through the use of subordinate supervisors) athletic, recreational, and special activities for all age groups; develops and implements short and long term plans regarding facilities, programs, funding, etc.; prepares a master plan and outlines work to be performed by staff; manages facility improvements and additions; prepares and executes grant documents, and provides oversight for awarded grant projects; prepares, implements, and administers department's budget; approves capital purchases and new programs; responsible for the recruitment and selection of department staff; establishes and implements departmental goals, policies, and procedures.
- **Athletics and Aquatics Programs**
Coordinates, schedules, monitors and evaluates the use of recreational facilities by the various recreational associations. Manages the Aquatic Center and programs related to it. Executes a variety of programs and activities, recruits volunteers to supplement program needs, enforces standards of discipline and conduct by program.
- **Parks, Grounds & Cemeteries**
Maintains facilities and equipment, effects minor repairs, supervises outside contractors, maintains landscape throughout the City, maintains trees throughout the City, maintains cemeteries, and provides support for special events.
- **Centers, Community Programs, & Community Services**
Coordinates, schedules, monitors and evaluates the use of recreational facilities by citizens and groups. Executes a variety of programs and activities, recruits volunteers to supplement program needs, enforces standards of discipline and conduct by program. Provides support for special events.

Presently there are 37 budgeted full-time, year round part-time and seasonal positions including:

- 1 Director of Parks & Recreation
- 2 Facility Managers (Recreation Centers)
- 1 Supervisor of Parks (Maintenance and Landscaping)
- 1 Athletic Supervisor
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Supervisor of Special Activities
- 6 Recreational Programmers

2 Custodians

Additionally there are a number of seasonal support staff (day camp coordinators, sports officials, after-school program coordinators, etc.).

Committees/Commissions

The department has one committee that falls under its purview. The New Bern Appearance Commission is an eight-member advisory board that is appointed by the Board of Aldermen, with each of the six wards represented, plus two at-large members. This commission serves as the City of New Bern's tree advisory board and plays an important part in securing our yearly Tree City USA Growth Award. The Appearance Commission gives information and recommendations in relation to public tree plantings and other beautification efforts. The Appearance Commission also administers the annual Golden Bear Awards for excellence in landscaping, appearance and beautification for both residential and non-residential categories. The judging of the properties concludes in late June with the winning property owners formally recognized by the Board of Aldermen in July with the awards presented by the Mayor.

When updating the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan, the department convenes a Steering Committee. The members of this committee assist in identifying needs and make recommendations.

The City has a newly formed Public Art Policy Task force (August 2013). It is recommended that this committee report through the Parks and Recreation Department as most of the projects will concern this department.

Section 8: Other Local Recreational Opportunities

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public Schools

There are several public schools within the City limits and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of New Bern. These include:

- New Bern High School—Football field, multi-purpose fields, baseball field, softball field, state-of-the-art running track, gym, and 30+ acres of undeveloped land.
- H.J. MacDonald Middle School—gym, football field, baseball fields, multi-purpose field.
- Grover C. Fields Middle School—former high school, gym, football field, tennis courts, track and a baseball field.
- Ben D. Quinn Elementary School—three playgrounds, two outdoor basketball courts, small walking trail and multi-purpose field.
- J. T. Barber Elementary School—former middle school, gym, small track, and multi-purpose field.
- Oaks Road Elementary School—playground, multi-purpose field.
- Trent Park Elementary School—playground, multi-purpose field.
- Bangert Elementary School
- Creekside Elementary School

Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens

Tryon Palace, built in 1770 by Colonial Governor William Tryon, was known at the time as one of the most beautiful buildings in America. The elegant, Georgian-style mansion is mostly a reconstruction of the original building that stood at the same site. After its use both as a colonial and state capitol, the palace fell into disrepair. When reconstruction was undertaken in the 1950s, only one wing – the stables – remained standing. Today the Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens house an outstanding collection of antiques and art, and the grounds are devoted to extensive landscaping, ranging from English formal gardens, a kitchen garden, and wilderness garden areas.

Included as part of the main palace complex are the John Wright Stanly House (1783) on George Street and the Dixon-Stevenson House (1828) on Pollock Street. The Robert Hay House (1810) on Eden Street across from the palace is a new addition to the historical complex. The New Bern Academy Museum at New and Hancock Streets is also part of the palace's historic sites.

Annual events include Christmas Celebration tours in December, the Decorative Arts Symposium in March, Gardener's Weekend during New Bern's Historic Homes and Gardens Tour in April, King George III's Birthday and Festival of Colonial Life in June, the July 4th Independence Day Celebration, and MumFest, in October. The monthly Garden Lecture series is offered year-round. Cooking, blacksmithing, and weaving are among regular craft demonstrations.

In 2010 the NC History Center was opened adjacent to Tryon Palace. "The opening of the North Carolina History Center has revolutionized the visitor encounter at the state's premier historic site and sets a new standard for the museum experience. The North Carolina History Center is anything but a stuffy museum. History performances will bring our past to life. Multimedia displays invite participation. Even the design of the building itself invites visitors to experience history with all of the senses. The Duffy Exhibit Gallery will continually bring new exhibits to the History Center, while the

Pepsi Family Center will immerse your entire family in an amazing venture back in time to an 1835 virtual village.” (http://www.tryonpalace.org/history_center.php)

Library Services

The New Bern-Craven County Public Library is located at 400 Johnson Street in New Bern. The Library is a part of the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library System which allows interlibrary loans.

The New Bern-Craven County Public Library is open Monday through Sunday (except during June and July). The library offers a reference Department, children’s services, circulation Department, and the Kellenberger Room (local history and genealogy).

The library facility encompasses an auditorium with seating for 170 and a fully equipped conference room with seating for 18. The auditorium serves as a meeting place for monthly lectures, for the book Discussion Group and occasionally for community action meetings.

New Bern Riverfront Convention Center

The New Bern Riverfront Convention Center is located in the heart of the downtown historic district with an excellent view of the Neuse and Trent Rivers. The 45,000 square foot facility features a 12,000 square foot ballroom, breakout meeting rooms, 8,000 square feet of bright veranda overlooking the Trent River. Other features include second level executive meeting rooms, an elegant executive Board Room, an in-house kitchen facility for on-site catering, portable concession stands, complete electrical service, voice and data jacks, variable light settings, and extensive audio visual and production capabilities.

The Convention Center accommodates groups of up to 1,350 and serves banquets for more than 1,000. There are over 500 guest rooms within walking distance of the Center and an additional 1,400 within a reasonable driving distance.

Additional services offered by the Craven County Convention & Visitors Bureau Group Services include visitor’s guides and other area information, assistance in planning activities such as tours, providing sample itineraries and entertainment referrals, and preparation of a “welcome” table and “welcome packages”.

Fireman’s Museum

The New Bern Fire Company is one of the oldest in the Country, operating under its original 1845 charter as the Atlantic Hook and Ladder Company. The museum is located at 408 Hancock Street, just behind the Fire Department’s former Broad Street headquarters. The museum houses steam pumpers and an extensive collection of other early fire-fighting equipment as well as an exhibit of rare photos and Civil War relics. Retired New Bern firemen regularly volunteer at the Museum.

The Museum is open daily, year-round, except for a week around the Fourth of July and a week around Christmas.

Other

Hiking trails in the near-by Croatan National Forest include the Island Creek Forest Walk and the Neusiok Trail.

Craven County has a 109-acre park, Creekside, just outside the New Bern City limits. According to remarks on the survey, some citizens think this park belongs to the City of New Bern.

PRIVATE FACILITIES

In addition to the facilities and sites owned by the City and other public entities, there are numerous private recreational facilities in and around New Bern.

Area public golf courses include Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club, Emerald Golf Club, Fairfield Harbour, and River Bend Golf and Country Club. Private golf courses include the New Bern Country Club and Taberna Country Club.

Boating and fishing remain prime recreational pastimes for many people in New Bern. A number of marinas and boat launch ramps are found in and near the City. Boat (motor and sail), kayaks and stand-up paddle boards are available to rent. Hiking trails in the Croatan National Forest include the Island Creek Forest Walk and the Neusiok Trail. New Bern benefits greatly from its location along the Trent and Neuse Rivers.

The Twin Rivers YMCA is located on the south side of Park Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets. The Twin Rivers YMCA is a 45,000-square-foot athletic facility that houses a 25-yard, six-lane heated indoor swimming pool, a regulation-size gymnasium with an upstairs track, a gym, a youth activity center, racquetball courts, a free-weight room, and a wellness center with step machines, a treadmill and bicycles. The YMCA has an Aquatics Center which has an eight lane, 25-yard pool with zero access entry, slides, and a spray or rain drop aquatic play area for children. This is a year round facility with a cover being placed over the facility in late September.

The YMCA offers programs in aerobics, fitness for people older than 40, racquetball, volleyball, and weights. Competitions are conducted in a variety of activities. Youth programs are offered in gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, softball and T-ball. Transportation is provided from several schools for after-school programs. The YMCA sponsors day camps during Easter and Christmas vacations. Babysitting services are available, and the YMCA will host children's birthday parties.

New Bern is a vibrant community and there are a number private establishments that offer a variety of recreation activities including bodybuilding, racquetball, swimming and aqua aerobics, karate, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, dance, yoga/fitness, performing arts, art, and the like. Those who can afford it, have a variety of options.

The City is also a venue for festivals, charity walk/run events, National Night Out, bike tours, and shows to name a few.

Section 8 Special Issues

RESTROOMS

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

In speaking with boaters at the launch areas, they reported that they need restrooms in close proximity to the ramps as they generally need to use the facility immediately upon returning to the launch area.

As new park areas are developed, consideration should be given to increasing the number of restrooms available at the parks or to the placement of port-a-johns at those parks where restrooms are not feasible.

Another consideration with regard to restrooms is their accessibility. All permanent public restrooms should be ADA compliant. The restrooms should be open during times when the public is apt to use the park. Restrooms should be kept clean and in good repair. Installing eco-friendly facilities such as waterless urinals will help keep costs down. (<http://www.americanrestroom.org/pr/policy/OUTDOOR%20TOILET%20FACILITIES%20AVAILABILITY%20GUIDELINES.pdf>)

WATER

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

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

To help prevent wasting water, the water taps should be of a kind that must be held in the on position for water to run or else ones that only remain on for a short length of time before they automatically shut off.

COOPERATIVE VENTURES

What is often overlooked is the opportunity to partner with other agencies, surrounding towns and the county. It is not necessary that a facility be only for one purpose. For example, the City has need of stormwater control projects. The City has created a constructed wetland in the area of Simmons

Street and Oak Road. This would be an ideal place for passive activities such as bird watching or a nature park. Perhaps a walking trail could be constructed on the berms.

Partnering with the NC Cooperative Extension Service to create an educational component of a park would also be desirable. For example, the existing park might be good locations for rain gardens. Gardening is becoming more popular now. Some existing City properties might work for small container gardens or community gardens.

OPEN SPACE & GREENWAYS

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

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

GRAFFITI & VANDALISM

Graffiti is a continuing problem with public areas as is vandalism. Keeping areas well lit and keeping screening shrubbery under control is one way to ensure that the areas can be viewed by area residents and those driving by. Surveillance cameras with appropriate signage can also help to identify and prosecute vandals. For other ideas on how to control graffiti and vandalism go to: <http://www.graffitihurts.org/prevention/tipsprevention.jsp>.

SENIORS

The number of senior citizens will continue to climb as the baby-boomers enter retirement age and as people discover the attractiveness of New Bern as a place to retire. While many younger seniors are in good health and are very active, some are not. Facilities and activities need to be planned for both groups.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The New Bern website has a section devoted to the Parks and Recreation Department. The website is in need up updating. Forms cannot be completed online nor are they PDF fillable. The department is working to allow payments and reservations online but the website is not currently set up to accept them. A new program guide has just been completed in September 2013 and is posted online. It provides information on programs and is current.

ELECTRONIC SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS

Facebook, Twitter and other electronic social media tools can be beneficial to the City's ability to communicate special events, festivals and opportunities for recreation to the residents. The City has a Facebook page, but the department does not have its own Facebook page or Twitter account. The department should clearly understand the ramification of the use of these tools and should be cautious in their use. For an example of how one municipality uses social media applications (apps)

to seek public input and to promote recreational opportunities, go to:
<http://civiccommons.org/2011/07/city-of-columbus-app-coming-to-your-phone/>.

ADA COMPLIANCE

The Americans with Disabilities Act provide guidelines that ensure that newly constructed and altered recreation facilities meet the requirements of the ADA and are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The Department is actively retrofitting areas that are currently noncompliant. Having a Certified Recreational Therapist on staff would assist in ensuring compliance with ADA requirements.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION OF THE DEPARTMENT

“The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Charged with providing high quality services and experiences, park and recreation agencies across the United States turn to CAPRA Accreditation as a credible and efficient means of achieving these goals, while providing assurance to the public that the agency meets national standards of best practice.” In the spring of 2013 the Department began the two-year process of seeking accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), a program of the National Recreation and Parks Association. If they achieve this goal, it will be awarded in the spring of 2015.

Section 9: Maintenance and Security

The City's Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance staff maintains the grounds, the buildings and the equipment at the parks. This includes lawn and shrub maintenance, building maintenance, keeping the restrooms clean, picking up the litter, and related duties.

The Department has responsibility for most of the landscaping on city-owned property. They also maintain the five city-owned cemeteries (75 acres).

Currently the Department has a Parks Superintendent position that was deleted from the FY 12/13 budget. Due to the large amount of acreage and the number of facilities and equipment being maintained, it is recommended that the position of Park Superintendent be filled.

It is recommended that at least one staff member be a certified playground inspector and that the playgrounds be inspected several times a week during peak use season. Mulch should be placed under all playground equipment in the appropriate depth and replenished as needed. The cushioning should be kept free of debris, growth, and animal feces.

Involving the residents in creating and maintaining interesting planting areas helps to create civic pride in the appearance of the City. The City has an Appearance Committee which makes periodic awards to the best landscaped homes and businesses in the City.

The maintenance staff could involve youth projects to increase the youths' ownership of projects. This helps to decrease vandalism. The Department works with the courts to have youth who need community service hours assigned to the Department.

Placing pet waste stations at convenient locations around City (and in the park) encourages responsible pet owners to pick up after their animals. New Bern has these stations conveniently placed.

The first Saturday in October is Operation Big Sweep—a statewide cleanup day. This is an excellent opportunity to get residents to assist in picking up areas where litter has accumulated. <http://www.ncbigssweep.org/>

At the time of the visits to the parks in late 2013, there was no evidence of large scale graffiti or deliberate vandalism. There are some items that are in a state of disrepair, but one could not determine if they were deliberate or not.

It is rare to hear or read about assaults or robbery connected with the New Bern parks, although there was one case in 2013 in Union Point Park. Installing security cameras (with signs noting their use) in park and facility areas that are heavily used, are lighted for evening use, or that are near questionable areas may help reduce such incidences.

The Parks and Recreation Department staff works closely with law enforcement to ensure the safety and security of attendees to the many festival and events held particularly in the downtown area. They also do an outstanding job of clean up afterwards.

Section 11: Recommendations

APPROACH

In development of a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation in New Bern, the Parks and Recreation Department contracted with the Eastern Carolina Council to help produce this plan. The consultant was assisted by the Steering Committee to examine the parks and programs and to make recommendations. The information reviewed included:

- Trends impacting recreation in the nation and in the New Bern area;
- Demographic information on New Bern and the surrounding area, as well as national trends;
- Information from public surveys of parks and recreation interests and needs;
- National and state standards for recreation facilities, based on community sizes;
- The availability and conditions of existing municipal parks facilities in the community, as well as other, non-municipal recreation facilities and potential recreation facilities;
- Existing staff and volunteer resources, plus recreation-related community events operated by volunteers or other community organizations;
- Special issues that affect facilities access and usability, as well as facilities maintenance and security;
- Existing comprehensive planning documents, which include provisions related to community recreation;
- Existing public recreation facilities and opportunities; and
- Other facilities available within the community for cultural uses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In general the following are noted at several parks:

- Picnic table tops and seats are warped and need to be painted/replaced
- The slats on the benches need to be painted
- Every picnic shelter should have water and electric run to it
- Restrooms, while clean, some are in need of makeovers—some have evidence of rotting wood
- Bike racks are desired at each park, and several racks are desired at larger parks
- Designs or art work on the trash receptacles would enhance the attractiveness of the parks.
- More consideration be given to stormwater BMPs in parking areas, especially those nearest the water
- Continue to upgrade the park signage.
- Parks that are heavily used, that are lighted for evening use, or that are in close proximity to problem areas should have security cameras. Signs to that effect should be posted.
- Some parks with unique features have use-specific signage. That is certainly needed, but it is important that all parks have the same basic signage for things that are not allowed in any park. It is also good to provide phone numbers and specific instructions as to how problems or issues can be reported.
- Based on the survey responses, the five top ranking desires for all categories were: walking trail, outdoor concerts, hiking trails, bike trails and festivals.

- The department is currently in discussion for a public/private venture that will create a youth golf training facility that will include a golf driving range. The facility is to be located at the Martin-Marietta Quarry.
- Specific recommendations for each park are noted in that section of the report.

Acquisitions

It was noted that the following additional acreage is needed: 4 acres (mini-park sites), 9 acres (neighborhood parks), 86 acres (community parks), and 159 acres (district parks). While it would appear that the city owns adequate acreage to be able to fulfill these future need, this acreage may or may not be in growth areas. It is recommended that the city capitalize on opportunities to secure additional land to accommodate future growth.

A recreation center or community building is needed in the area of Carolina Colours (east of New Bern off Highway 70) and in the area of Pleasant Hill/New Bern High School. The city would need to acquire property to build this facility.

Another idea being pursued is a trail that would connect the Craven 30 property (location of a new large, mixed use development near Highway 70 and Highway 43) to the West New Bern Recreation Center. The city would need to acquire property to build this facility.

A boundless playground and miracle field is desired to serve the disabled residents (children, youth, and adults), preferably located in close proximity to an elementary school.

Additional acreage is needed for an off-leash dog facility that includes agility equipment.

Parks and Recreation Staffing

Having a certified recreational therapist on staff would provide the expertise needed to develop programs for the disabled and ensure that the department was ADA compliant.

An individual specializing in working with teens is needed to meet the needs of this difficult group.

Parks and Recreation Programming

Programs was one of the topics discussed by the Steering Committee. The members reviewed the Director of Facilities and Services for 2013-2014. They noted that:

- While there was some programming for the visually challenged youth, there was little for those with other special needs. More facilities and programming are needed for those of all ages that have special needs.
- There are a good number of programs for seniors. As the population continues to age, more will be needed.
- While there were a lot of programs, disadvantaged youth may have a problem accessing some of them due to the location. The idea was discussed of a mobile van that brings recreation to the neighborhoods.
- The pricing of the various activities can be high for someone of low means or someone who has several children. Consider the possibility of special pricing or cards at a reduced rate.
- The toughest group to serve is the teens. Consider hiring a coordinator of teen programs. Give teens a place to just hang out—a teen lounge.
- Provide a place for youth to produce plays and productions.

- Utilize bulletin boards, community events, the website, Facebook and other social media communication opportunities to keep New Bern citizens well-informed regarding plans for parks and recreation needs and improvement projects.

Parks and Recreation Funding

The following measures are recommended to adequately fund parks and recreation needs in New Bern:

- Recognize the importance of parks and recreation in the City's annual budget appropriations, including the importance of parks and recreation to the citizens of the community, to the community's attractiveness for new residents and businesses, and to the development of tourism in New Bern.
- Currently the department budget is at a basic maintenance level. Additional funding is needed to renovate and replace smaller aging facilities (i.e., restrooms) and equipment. More funding is needed if the department is to grow both in scope and size in order to be able to meeting the needs of a growing population.
- Establish a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan line item for parks and recreation facilities improvements, land acquisition, future facilities, and grant matching funds.
- Aggressively seek grants – such as Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grants and similar funding – to help meet recreation needs in New Bern.
- Create a nonprofit organization to help seek funding and to help supplement the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Seek civic and business sponsors for specific facility improvement initiatives. Initiate public/private ventures.

Joint use agreements

It is recommended that whenever possible, the Parks and Recreation Department should develop joint use agreement for the recreational use of facilities especially with Craven County Schools. Currently discussions are underway regarding the use of public school sites for the afterschool programs run by the Parks and Recreation Department which are being run in a central location. The participants are picked up by a Parks and Recreation Department bus or van and transported to the afterschool program site. Having decentralized sites would reduce the transportation liability. Another benefit would be that transportation time could become program time.

Section 12: Capital Improvements Plan

A number of recommendations have been made in this report. It is up to the New Bern Board of Aldermen to determine a course of action and to prioritize the list of recommendations. The department is advised to:

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

This document is only a planning tool. It needs to be flexible because prices, circumstances, plans, material, shipping costs and standards change. It is difficult to predict in any given year what the City will be able to replace, repair, construct or purchase. It is suggested that the City keep a running list of needs and address them as they are able. It is recommended that the City develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks & Recreation. The plan should extend over a five year period and should be reassessed yearly.

Section 13: Funding

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

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

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

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

The RTCA is a program to further the mission of the NPS by working with community groups and local, State, and federal government agencies to preserve open space, conserve rivers, and develop trails and greenways. RTCA staff can facilitate and bring expertise to the implementation of project(s) recommended in a watershed plan that coincide with the RTCA and NPS mission of outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America. Application are due August 1st. More information can be found at: http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/contactus/cu_apply.html.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

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

Wetlands Reserve Program

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

STATE FUNDS

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)

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

(http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php)

NC Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

Grants are awarded on an annual basis through the USDA Forest Service (<http://www.fs.fed.us/>) and are administered by the NC Division of Forest Resources, Urban & Community Forestry Program. The program awards matching funds to encourage citizen involvement in creating and sustaining urban and community forestry programs. Grant funds may be awarded to any unit of local or state government, public educational institutions, approved non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and other tax-exempt organizations. First-time municipal applicant and municipalities seeking Tree City USA (<http://www2.arboday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm?>) status are given priority for funding. (http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_overview.htm)

NC Division of Forest Resources

Tree seedling and nursery project:

<http://ncforestservice.gov/nursery/NurseryandTreeImprovement.htm>

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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

(http://www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_grants.php)

North Carolina DOT Bike/Pedestrian

Through NCDOT there are a variety of funding programs comprised of Federal-Aid and/or State dollars. There are also other funding opportunities for projects and programs related to bicycle and pedestrian transportation which are not administered by NCDOT. Some communities look toward non-profit organizations, foundations, businesses, or other creative public/private partnerships to provide capital or resources as a way to move a project or activity from a concept to reality. Here is a link to the NC DOT Bike/Ped Division website: <http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/>. Here is a link to funding opportunities (in 2013 Bike & Pedestrian projects now have to compete for funding with other transportation project (e.g., roads, ferries, etc.):

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrant/Pages/default.aspx>.

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program that enables and encourages children to walk and bicycle to school; makes walking and bicycling to school a safe and more appealing transportation option, and facilitates the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of school.

(<http://www.ncdot.gov/download/programs/srts/SRTS.pdf>)

Governor's Crime Commission Grants

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

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

The Governor's Crime Commission staff announces the availability of grant funds statewide every fall on its web site with applications due in late January. Applicants have up to six weeks to complete the application. The appropriate committee, the Commission, and the secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety make decisions on the grant recipients and the awards are made in the spring. This site also lists other funding:

<http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/index2.cfm?a=000003,000011,001462>.

State Clean Water Management Trust Funds

Funds established to protect or improve water quality could apply if the proposed greenway has a strong link to potentially improving the quality of nearby/adjacent watercourses/water bodies.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Funding through local budget

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

Funding through Local Capital Improvement Plans

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

Bond Referendums for Projects

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

Establishment of a Nonprofit

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

PRIVATE SOURCES OF FUNDING

BC/BS NC mini-grants

The Foundation funds programs and services that promote physical activity among North Carolinians. A key strategy in addressing North Carolina's overweight and obesity epidemic is to increase physical activity levels. The Foundation funds innovative programs that will help North Carolinians increase their physical activity levels while simultaneously increasing their overall health. (<http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/grants/>)

Bikes Belong Foundation

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

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation provides grants to 501(c)3 tax-exempt charities in the United States. An application is available on the Lowes.com website. This foundation provides 1.5 million dollars in grants annually. Additionally, the Lowe's Heroes program provides volunteers for community service activities. (http://www.lowes.com/cd_The+Lowe's+Charitable+and+Educational+Foundation_474741445_)

The Home Depot Foundation

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

Tony Hawk Foundation—funds skateboard parks

The Advisory Commission favors projects that demonstrate the greatest need, significant involvement of skaters at every step of the skate park process, and a commitment to hiring experienced skate park specialists to ensure a quality park. (<http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/>)

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

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

LOCAL FOUNDATIONS

North Carolina Community Foundation

The North Carolina Community Foundation offers grants from its unrestricted endowment fund. Proposals are sought that will assist in initiating projects and programs designed to address a community need, affect a broad segment of our community and will attract additional funding from local groups, government or other foundations. There is a Duplin Community Foundation. (<http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/section/grants1>, <http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/section/duplin>)

Harold H. Bate Foundation

The mission of the Harold H. Bate Foundation is to offer financial support to the communities of Craven, Pamlico and Jones counties and East Carolina University. It will be the responsibility of the Foundation to ensure and carry out to the best of the Board's ability the vision of Harold H. Bate and to administer the charitable gifts wisely to enhance education, youth and recreation and the quality of life for all in these three counties. (<http://www.batefoundation.org/>)

Carolina East Foundation

The mission of CarolinaEast Foundation is to identify unmet healthcare needs in Craven, Jones, Pamlico, Carteret, and Onslow Counties and provide financial resources to help meet those needs. (<http://www.carolinaeastfoundation.com/>)

OTHER FUNDING & LABOR SOURCES

Local Private Sector Funding

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

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

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

Gift Catalog

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

and procedures for donations. Click on Gifts & Memorials Catalog to download the document. (<https://www.oakharbor.org/page.cfm?pagelid=211>)

“Buy-A-Foot” Programs

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

Sponsorship & naming right

In tight budget times, sponsorships can be a much-needed source of revenue for local governments. But if potential sponsors are turned away, there are legal ramifications. Learn how to craft a wise sponsorship policy and avoid legal pitfalls. The link below from NC SOG provides a sample policy, which you can modify and adapt to your jurisdiction. ([Sample Sponsorship Policy for Local Governments](#))

Small fundraisers

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

<http://cheerstunter.com/wordpress/?p=447>

Miscellaneous

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

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

Adopt-A-Trail Programs

These are typically small grant programs that fund new construction, repair/renovation, maps, trail brochures and facilities (bike racks, picnic areas, etc.). Trails can also be adopted by local businesses. (http://www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_AAT.php)

Adopt-A-Park

Here is an example of a municipal Adopt-A-Park program:

www.lee-county.com/gov/bocc/Administrative%20Codes/AC-14-6.pdf. If staff does not have the time to pursue these ideas, then perhaps a volunteer could be recruited to do so.

Volunteer Work

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

North Carolina Division of Community Corrections

Low security prison labor can be used to construct and maintain greenways and parks. Amenities such as picnic tables, signs and benches can be constructed using prison labor. Governmental agencies requesting work under the Community Work Program will contact the superintendent of a minimum security prison in their area or contact the Division of Prisons Program Services Section in Raleigh. (<http://www.doc.state.nc.us/work/>)

Section 14: Reference List

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

GENERAL

Sport and Activity dimension index: http://www.prm.nau.edu/prm423/sport_activity_index.htm

Fundraiser help: <http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/>

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

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

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

North Carolina Birdwatching: <http://www.birding.com/wheretobird/northcarolina.asp>

NC Birding Trail: <http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org/>

North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):
<http://www.ncparks.gov/About/plans/scorp/main.php>

North Carolina Division of Environment and Natural Resources: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest>

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

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

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

Promoting Physical Activity through School Ground Greening:
<http://her.oxfordjournals.org/content/23/6/952.full>

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

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

Recreation, Parks and Open Space Standards and Guidelines:
http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation_standards.htm

Retirees Participation in Outdoor Activities:
http://www.recpro.org/assets/Library/Recreation_Research/retirees_participation_outdoor_activities.pdf

The Latest on Trends in Nature-Based Outdoor Recreation:
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_cordell021.pdf

The Fundraising Authority: <http://www.thefundraisingauthority.com/>

How to guide to trail development: http://www.wmich.edu/glcms/watertrails/tasks_outline.htm#

Learning Structures (<http://www.learningstructures.com/index.asp>) is one company that can help you design and construct a playground that uses local materials and volunteer labor. New Bern has a very large community built playground called Kidsville.

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

Sample City recreation page:

http://www.standish.org/Public_Documents/StandishME_Recreation/index

Seven fundraising ideas to quickly raise \$1000: <http://www.prlog.org/10307712-heres-7-fundraising-ideas-to-quickly-raise-1000.html>

Intergovernmental cooperation—P&R: <http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/governance/IG-Cooperation.aspx>

Project for Public Spaces, Inc: <http://www.pps.org/> (Features information on parks, plazas and public squares, transportation, public markets, public buildings and public art.)

Washington Recreation and Park Association: <http://www.wrpatoday.org/>

Virginia Beach ADA Fact sheet: <http://www.vbgov.com/Site-Info/Pages/ada.aspx>

Boundless Playgrounds: In Jacksonville, NC (Camp Lejeune) they are building a Boundless Playground and Warrior Workout Trail. (<http://www.boundlessplaygrounds.org/>) They are selling bricks to fund it. Here is the web site http://giftbricks.com/brick_fundraising.html. New Bern sold bricks to help fund improvements to Union Point Park.

Intro to Social Media for Festivals and Events (excellent slide show on the how-to's):

<http://www.slideshare.net/carlapen/intro-to-social-media-for-festivals-and-events>

NC Department of Cultural Resources: Best Practices for Local Government Social Media Usage:

http://www.records.ncdcr.gov/guides/bestpractices_socialmedia_local_2010412.pdf

Disabled and trails. Trailhead signs resemble nutrition menu:

http://www.jconline.com/article/20131005/NEWS/310050026/Blazing-new-trail-outdoor-technology?nclick_check=1

Use of vacant lots: http://grist.org/cities/pretty-vacants-urban-communities-fill-empty-lots-with-gardens-skate-parks-and-creative-possibility/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Weekly%2520Oct%252022&utm_campaign=weekly

RULES/REGULATIONS/SECURITY/SIGNAGE/VANDALISM PREVENTION:

Parks & Recreation ordinances: <http://www.gastongov.com/departments/parks-recreation/ordinance>

Fort Lauderdale, FL—park rules: <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/life/>

Comprehensive Park rules & regulations: <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/parkrl.aspx>

Lighting for security—several articles: <http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/researchAreas/securityResources.asp>

Parks security manger job description:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=14181>

Public/private solution to management of skateboard park:
<http://bikesbelong.oli.us/BMX/PublicPrivatePartnership.pdf>

Offenses related to P&R facilities: http://northglenn.org/municode/ch9/content_9-10.html

Aquatic and Recreational signage style guide manual:
http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/5850/Signage-Manual-Ed3.1.pdf

Recreation international signage:
<http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wy/signs/docs.Par.61916.File.dat/guidebook.pdf>

Images—international signage:
https://www.google.com/search?q=Recreation+international+signage&rlz=1T4ADRA_enUS445US445&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=mKcbUrDLAoWY2gWPooCgDg&ved=0CDYQsAQ&biw=1920&bih=875

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

Outdoor signage PPT:
http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1324/files/materials%20and%20processes%20of%20outdoor%20signs-white%20background_test.pdf

Facilities Use & Permits—Brevard County, FL: <http://www.brevardcounty.us/ParksRecreation>

City of San Francisco Park Code: http://archive.org/stream/gov.ca.sf.park/ca_sf_park_djvu.txt

Wayfinding provides a methodology for people to find their way (hence “wayfinding”) to and around a destination. Here is an article on wayfinding by the Disney group:
<http://www.mouseplanet.com/articles.php?art=ma071206jk>

Constructing wetland boardwalks and trails:
http://aswm.org/pdf_lib/2_boardwalk_6_26_06.pdf

Building crusher fines trails:
<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/BuildCrushFinesOne.html>

How to build a wooden kiosk: <http://www.parkpride.org/get-involved/services-resources/park-improvement-projects/content/kiosk.pdf>

Vandalism in general: http://troopers.ny.gov/crime_prevention/Juvenile_Crime/Vandalism/

Vandalism prevention brochure:

http://troopers.ny.gov/Publications/Crime_Prevention/vandalism.pdf

Prevention of crime in parks:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/safety/designcrime.html>

http://www.popcenter.org/Responses/pdfs/urban_parks.pdf

<http://www.ncpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety/strategies/strategy-park-watch>

Graffiti Primer: http://www.pps.org/parks_plazas_squares/info/management/m&o/graffitiprimer

A guide to better public toilet design and maintenance:

<http://app2.nea.gov.sg/docs/default-source/public-health/guide-to-better-public-toilet.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Public toilet strategy and design guidelines:

<http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/255/45.pdf>

Healing America's Cities: Why we must invest in urban parks:

<http://www.lib.niu.edu/1995/ip950121.html>

Beyond Recreation: A Broader View of Urban Parks—Partners in Youth Development:

http://www.urban.org/uploadedPDF/311010_urban_parks.pdf

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

NC rules on guns in the park: <http://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/?p=2913> and

<http://canons.sog.unc.edu/?p=7346>

PROGRAMMING/SCHEDULING/RENTAL/RESERVATIONS:

Active Network (one example of reservation software—not an endorsement):

<http://www.activenetwork.com/technology/overview.htm>

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

Fees & Charges—High Point NC: www.highpointnc.gov/pr/CLPFees.pdf and

www.highpointnc.gov/pr/docs/FeesandCharges.pdf

Rentals—High Point NC: www.highpointnc.gov/pr/docs/RentalOpportunities.pdf

Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma: <http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/>

Portland Parks and Recreation Department: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/35300>

Seattle Parks and Recreation Department: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/default.htm>

Spokane Parks and Recreation Department: <http://www.spokaneparks.org/>

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

Respecting religious traditions in recreational programming:
<http://www.questia.com/library/1G1-123580267/respecting-religious-traditions-in-recreational-programming>

Benefits based programming in P&R--PPT:
<http://webpages.shepherd.edu/SKENDIG/RECR316/RECPROGRAMMINGChptr4.ppt>

Austin, TX Programs for seniors: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/seniors>

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

Gaston County NC--P&R for Seniors: <http://www.facebook.com/GastonCountySeniorCenter>

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

Skateboard Park:
<http://www.skatepark.org/>
<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Skatepark/index.php>
<http://www.customskateboarding.com/>

Skateboard park operational plan:
http://www.arlingtontx.gov/parks/PDF/planning/skatepark_masterplan_section4.pdf

Volunteers--fundraising and public relations--skateboard parks: <http://www.sc-sc.org/index.php/about-sc2/about-sc2>

Dogs in Parks: <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/dog-park-behavior-know-risks-rewards>

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

How to build a dog park in your community:
<http://www.peninsulahumanesociety.org/resource/build.html>

New Bern, NC dog park rules: http://www.newbern-nc.org/RP/ps_dog_park.php (note that members pay to join--to help with upkeep)

One off-leash dog park with an idea for memorial stones to help fund it:
<http://www.yakimagreenway.org/dogpark.htm>

Policies on geocaching in parks: <http://www.crpr.org/agency/GeoGames/geocache-policy.html>

Geocaching: http://www.cityofmartin.net/parksrec_sports_geocaching.htm

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

BIKES

Guide to bicycle parking: <http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/engineering/parking.cfm>

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

BEAUTIFICATION/ART

Outer Banks Winged Horses: <http://www.outerbankspress.com/whe/winged-horses.html>

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

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

Art in public places Austin, TX: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/art-in-public-places>

P&R landscape management—VA: <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/landscape-management/pages/default.aspx>

Plants available to purchase from NC inmate horticulture program: The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has partnered with Piedmont Community College and the N.C. Department of Correction to provide a course in horticulture for inmates. The WISE (Wildlife Inmate Service) program teaches courses in horticulture to the inmates. The plants are available for purchase by municipalities, public universities, public k-12 schools, or any state/federal agency. (<http://www.ncwildlife.org/WISe.aspx>)

Community gardens:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_gardening

<http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/parks/comgarden.aspx>

<http://communitygarden.org/connect/links.php>

<http://communitygarden.org/learn/index.php>

<http://www.nplanonline.org/nplan/products/CommunityGardenToolkit>

<http://nccommunitygarden.ncsu.edu/>

Bloom to Grow: www.mrsc.org/artdocmisc/M58Bjornson.pdf

How to create a whimsical garden: <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Whimsical-Garden> and http://www.gardeningtipsnideas.com/2009/07/creating_a_whimsical_garden.html

Keep San Jose beautiful: http://www.artsopolis.com/org/detail/1244/Keep_San_Jose_Beautiful

MAINTENANCE/SAFETY

Playground Rating System by Joe Frost:

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

Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool:

http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/tools/docs/documents_recfacility.pdf

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

MOBILE RECREATION UNITS

New York City has seven vans that offer different experiences: Rollerblading, arts & crafts, sports equipment, and a dance van (large flat screen TVs with Dance Revolution video and Nintendo Wii Fit) (<http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20110717/murray-hill-gramercy/parks-department-recreation-vans-bring-skating-games-you>)

Fun on the Run used a retired SWAT van refurbished by prison inmates in an automotive program to take games and education to low income neighborhoods. The van doubles as an outreach program. Trained staff and volunteers offer: physical exercise and team sports, Healthy food and nutrition programs, Science and nature programs, and Creative art activities. (<http://www.ffcsfoundation.org/fun-on-the-run/>)

In Boise, the van is loaded with sporting goods and art supplies. It provides kids at low-income schools, apartment complexes and neighborhood parks with healthy activities and adult supervision during lunch break and out-of-school hours. (<http://parks.cityofboise.org/news/2009/02/mobile-recreation-van-visits-4-more-schools/>)

Additional ideas include: mobile performers (Stagecoach players: <http://www.madstage.com/companies/Stagecoach.html>), the Art Cart, summer meals on wheels. The possibilities are endless.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

ADA accessibility Guidelines for Recreational Facilities: <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/ada-accessibility-guidelines-for-recreation-facilities>

Disabled: People with Disabilities—National Survey of Recreation and the Environment: <http://www.indiana.edu/~nca/rec-leisure/nsre.shtml>

Inclusion support request for minors: <http://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/pdfs/InclusionSupportRequestForm.pdf>

Request for accommodation: <http://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/pdfs/RequestforAccommodationForm.pdf>

APPENDIX

- A. Articles, advertisements
- B. Survey Data Collection Tools
- C. Survey Monkey Report
- D. 2013 Recommendations Matrix
- E. Matrix of existing facilities
- F. Capital Improvements Plan 2014-2019
- G. Maps