

## **New Bern Parks and Recreation Trends Analysis**

A recreation trend analysis is prepared as part of the New Bern Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, which was adopted in 2014. The existing trend analysis includes data on national trends as well as information specific to the New Bern community. It becomes part of the research that shapes the plan recommendations and objectives for the department, resulting in a mix of one-time and on-going goals for New Bern Parks and Recreation over the next decade.

Trends that were identified in 2014 include: Obesity, Longevity and Aging, Protecting habitats, and Health and wellness. Six years later, these trends are still meaningful to the community we serve.

Additional trends that have been identified include: 1). Technology and the importance of interaction through social media in parks and programs; 2). Social Distancing has changed the way facilities are operated and programs are offered due to COVID-19. Moving forward, we must find ways to continue to provide meaningful service; 3). The importance of Open Space for citizens to explore, and enjoy nature. 4). E-Sports is one of the fastest trends hitting the country. When the new Stanley White Recreation Center is built, we plan to implement this popular activity.

We will continue to monitor national trends and make adjustments to our goals and objectives, as needed, in order to provide the most unique and creative opportunities for our citizens.

Reviewed and Updated – June 1, 2020



Foster Hughes, CPRE  
Director of Parks and Recreation