

# Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Yadkin County  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Adopted: January 3, 2012



# Acknowledgements

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## **Administration**

Aaron Church, County Manager

Jason Walker, Soil and Water Conservation Director

## **Park Planner**

Derek Williams, Site Solutions

704-521-9880

[www.sitesolutionspa.com](http://www.sitesolutionspa.com)



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# Executive Summary

## PLANNING PROCESS

Yadkin County's most valuable resources are its people and its natural resources. Located in North Carolina's foothills, the County's rolling terrain, abundant open space, rivers and creeks make it an ideal place to live. County officials recognize the value of this beautiful land and are taking steps to preserve open space and provide parks for its citizens. Likewise, they are seeking opportunities to leverage the land's natural beauty to promote agri-tourism and ecotourism and create an attractive county for business development.

The purpose of this master plan is to develop a road map to assist elected officials and County staff as they make decisions on park development and operation. The master plan began with an inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities within the county. The inventory was followed by several public workshops to identify citizen's desires for parks and recreational facilities. From this initial investigation, standards were developed for providing parks and recreational facilities. Utilizing these standards, a needs assessment was created. Finally, a Plan of Action that provides recommendations for improvements to the County's existing parks and identifies future park needs is provided. This Plan of Action will be the map that guides park development for the coming decade.



## **PUBLIC INPUT**

The most important aspect of the planning study was identifying the public's desire for park and recreation facilities. The public was invited to share their opinions and ideas on park and recreation needs at four public workshops. These public workshops were held in the following communities:

- Yadkinville
- East Bend
- Jonesville
- Hamptonville

Almost 200 people attended these four public workshops. Those in attendance provided a wealth of input on existing parks/programs and future park and recreational needs. Section Two: The People of Yadkin County and the Appendix provide detailed information on these meetings.

## **GROWTH AND POPULATION**

Based on US Census data, Yadkin County's population grew by approximately 6% in the past decade. The 2010 county population was ± 38,500 while the 2000 population was only 36,351. The County's recently adopted Land Use Plan projects that the county's population growth will be approximately 3% in the coming decade. With this understanding, the 2021 projected population for this planning study is 40,000.

Attractive parks and recreation facilities have been proven to improve the quality of life in communities. Communities perceived to offer higher quality of life conditions are more likely to attract new residents and new businesses. One of the goals of this planning study is to provide a plan to improve parks and in turn make Yadkin County a more desirable place to live.

## **PARK NEEDS**

As described in Section Three: Recreation Standards and Needs Assessment, a community park system is typically comprised of eight park types. These park types include:

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- District Parks/Sport Complexes
- Regional Parks
- Greenways
- School Parks
- Special Use Facilities

Each of these park types provides recreational opportunities that are needed by community residents. A variety of public and private agencies usually play a role in providing community park and recreational needs. Typically, county agencies focus on larger parks (community, district, and regional parks). Municipal agencies (where available) focus their efforts on smaller parks (mini and neighborhood parks). Section Four: Proposals and Recommendations outlines the County goals as it develops its park system in the coming decade. This section also offers direction on other public and private agencies roles in providing park and recreation facilities/programs.

As a primary provider of park and recreation facilities in the county (along with Yadkin County Schools), Yadkin County should focus its park development efforts on the following:

### **Regional Parks**

Regional parks are typically large passive recreation oriented parks that highlight and utilize a unique feature in the service area. The development of the County's new reservoir on South Deep Creek (5-D Reservoir) offers an opportunity to provide a water based recreation facility with a wide array of recreation opportunities. The 138 acre lake will create opportunities for fishing, boating (non-motorized), hunting and environmental education. The 495 acres surrounding the lake will offer opportunities for trails, picnicking, camping, and family-oriented activities like disc golf, volleyball, horseshoes, etc. The recreational opportunities afforded by this new reservoir will not only meet county residents' recreational needs but may also create opportunities for attracting tourists from other areas of the state.



*The development of the 5-D Reservoir will provide a wide range of recreation opportunities.*

The County is developing a site specific master plan for the reservoir site. This plan, developed with public input, will provide a vision for park development. The site specific master plan will allow the County to identify recreational activities appropriate for the site, estimate capital needs for developing the park, and establish a plan for park operation.

### **District Parks/Sports Complexes**

District parks are a versatile park type that provide a wide variety of recreational activities. Their large size (100-200 acres) allows them to offer both active and passive recreation opportunities. Section One: Inventory provides detailed information on this facility.

Yadkin County has one district park; Yadkin County Park. At 140 acres, this park has adequate size to serve the county well. The park's existing facilities are meeting many recreational needs, but the demand for active recreation by county residents exceeds the carrying capacity of these existing facilities. Yadkin County Park can provide significantly more recreational opportunities to community residents if existing facilities are improved and expanded.

A site specific master plan for proposed improvements will be developed for this park as part of a separate planning study. Recommendations from this site specific master plan should be used as a guide for making renovations and expansion to this park.

### **Community Parks**

The County has one park site that generally falls into the community park classification. Richmond Hill Law School, a 28-acre park on the home site of Judge Richmond Pearson provides a community park type facility in the northeast area of the county. The facilities offered at this park are limited by typical community park standards, but with 28 acres, the park has the potential to provide greater recreational opportunities to this area of the county.

Another option for developing a much needed community park in the northeastern section of the county is to acquire additional land specifically for a new community park, leaving the Richmond Hill Law School site as a historic interpretive site.

One site that has great potential for park development may be the Lime Rock property located on Lime Rock Road just above the Richmond Hill Law School. This site, which covers approximately 80 acres, would provide another valuable river access and is large enough for a variety of recreational activities.

In addition to the County's community park at the Richmond Hills Law School site, the Town of Jonesville has an excellent park that serves the northwest section of the county. Lila Swaim Memorial Park in Jonesville is a 23-acre park that offers a number of active recreation activities (baseball, softball, multi-purpose field, court games). This park serves the recreational needs of Jonesville and northwest Yadkin County.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Yadkin County's park system does not include any neighborhood parks. The development of neighborhood parks by County agencies is typically minimized. The relatively small size, and geographical spacing between neighborhood park sites make maintenance and operation of these parks prohibitively expensive. Municipal departments, with their higher densities, usually develop and operate neighborhood parks.

The long range vision of the Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department is to develop and maintain

larger park sites, not small neighborhood parks. With this understanding, it is the recommendation of this planning study that the Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department minimize its efforts on the development of neighborhood parks and focus its efforts on the development and operation of regional parks, district parks, and community parks.

### **Mini Parks**

The smallest of the park types, mini parks, play a valuable role in providing recreation activities in urban locations. Mini parks often provide very important open space in urban settings, where outdoor space is at a premium. Yadkin County's park system does not include any mini parks.

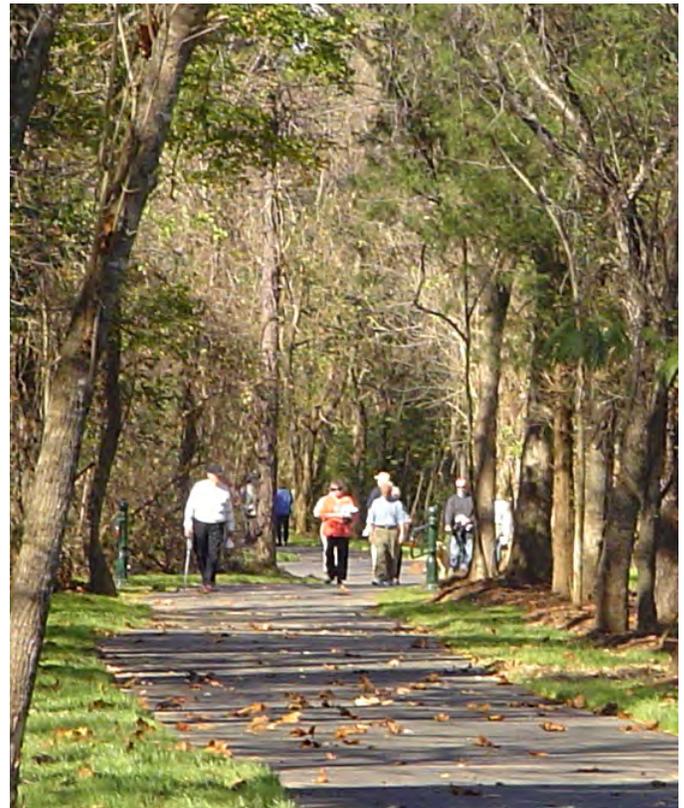
County agencies typically do not become involved in providing mini parks because of the geographical separation and lower population densities found in county systems. As with neighborhood parks, it is the recommendation of this planning report that Yadkin County not focus its development and operational efforts on mini parks.

### **Greenways**

The most popular outdoor recreation in the nation is walking. The popularity of this activity was reflected in the County's public meetings. Greenway trails are typical offroad trails that wind through neighborhoods and natural areas providing transportation corridors and recreation opportunities for walkers, joggers, and bikers. The trail surface can be either natural or paved and is normally eight to ten feet (8-10') in width.

In addition to their recreational value, greenways also offer a valuable alternative to automotive transportation. A greenway trail provides a valuable linkage between communities, schools, churches, businesses, and parks.

The County should consider the development of a countywide greenway master plan to identify future greenway corridors and establish a plan for greenway development.



### **School Parks**

The schools in Yadkin County contain numerous indoor and outdoor athletic/recreational facilities (see Section One: Inventory). Many of the County's athletic associations rely on school facilities for their programs. The County should seek ways to build upon its relationship with Yadkin County Schools through the joint-use of facilities. One logical step in the joint-use of facilities is the development of school parks where parks and schools are developed on a joint-use campus that provides both for the academic and recreation needs of the residents. Through these joint-use facilities, developmental and operational costs are minimized and taxpayer dollars are maximized. This option should be considered whenever new schools are planned.

## **FACILITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

As the County builds the new park at the 5D Reservoir, and makes improvements to Yadkin County Park, new facilities will be added to its inventory. Section Three of this planning document identifies the

following facility needs in the county. It should be noted that the facility needs listed here and in Section Three are a ten year needs assessment, many of these facilities will not be needed until population growth and public demand warrant their construction. In addition, some of the facility needs listed in this document may be met by utilizing school facilities.

### **Adult Baseball**

Over the past five to ten years, the popularity of adult baseball has waned. While most communities include adult baseball fields in their facilities, the sport does not carry the popularity it once held. Utilizing a standard of one field per 30,000 people, the County may have a need for one adult baseball field by 2021. This need may be met by working with Yadkin County Schools in a joint use agreement with one of their baseball fields. Utilization of school facilities will allow the county to focus resources in other areas.

### **Youth Baseball**

Youth baseball is a popular sport in the county. With this understanding, the standard for facility development of youth baseball fields has been set at one field/12,000 people. Utilizing this standard for development, there is currently a need for two additional youth baseball fields. This need may ultimately be met by using school facilities, or possibly adding facilities at Yadkin County Park.

### **Softball**

Men's adult softball has traditionally been a very popular sport in North Carolina, and NRPA and



NCDENR standards (one field/5,000 people) reflect that popularity. Recent trends have been away from adult softball. Based on a standard of one field/20,000, the County may need to add an adult softball field by 2021. The need for this field may ultimately be met by using school facilities or by adding facilities at Yadkin County Park.

It should also be noted that changes in demand have now placed additional emphasis on girl's softball. Some of the County's future softball fields should be designed to accommodate this new area of play.

### **Football**

Football's popularity has been influenced by the immergence of soccer and (most recently) lacrosse. Utilizing a conservative standard for field development (one field/40,000), could result in a need for an additional football field by 2021. The need for this field could potentially be met at a school facility.

### **Soccer**

One of the fastest growing sports in America; soccer has surpassed the demand for football in this country. The need for additional soccer fields was expressed by citizens at the public workshop. The County has two dedicated soccer fields at Yadkin County Park. In addition, soccer is played on the outfield of the baseball fields. These fields are marginally meeting current demand, but as the County's population grows, these fields will not be adequate and two additional fields will be needed by 2021.

As with other sports facilities, the County should consider lighting its soccer fields. Lighting fields doubles the effective use of the fields.

The demand for county soccer fields will only continue in the future, and will be made more intense by the new interest in lacrosse. Played on a field very similar to a soccer field (they are slightly larger than soccer fields), lacrosse will increase in popularity and should be planned for as the County looks at its soccer field needs. The new sport should be taken into consideration since play for both sports can be programmed on similar fields.

The County should make plans to expand the soccer fields in Yadkin County Park.

### **Basketball**

Basketball is still a relatively popular sport in the United States. Played by a variety of ages and increasingly by females, this sport can be played either indoors or out. The development of outdoor basketball courts cost considerably less than an indoor gymnasium. Currently there are no outdoor basketball courts located on county facilities. There are three courts at Lila Swain Memorial Park. In addition, there are courts at some school facilities. Using a standard of one court/20,000 (less than national and state standards of development of one basketball court per 5,000 people), the County may consider building several courts by 2021. As with other athletic facilities, this court need may be met by school facilities

### **Tennis**

Tennis has not experienced the growth and interest as some of the nation's newer sports (soccer, lacrosse, etc.), but as the baby boomers move to their 50s and retirement, the demand for sports that keep people active without physical contact will continue.

The County provides four courts at Yadkin County Park. Utilizing a standard of facility development of 1 court/10,000 (significantly lower than the national and state standards of one court/5,000 people), there is not a need for additional tennis courts. The existing courts at Yadkin County Park need to be resurfaced and improved.

### **Volleyball**

Currently there is one dedicated public volleyball court in Yadkin County. The national and state standard for development of volleyball courts is one court/5,000 people. Reducing this standard significantly (one court/10,000 people) would result in the need of three outdoor courts. Volleyball courts are relatively small and can easily be added to existing parks.

### **Shuffleboard/Horseshoes**

There are no public shuffleboard courts or horseshoe

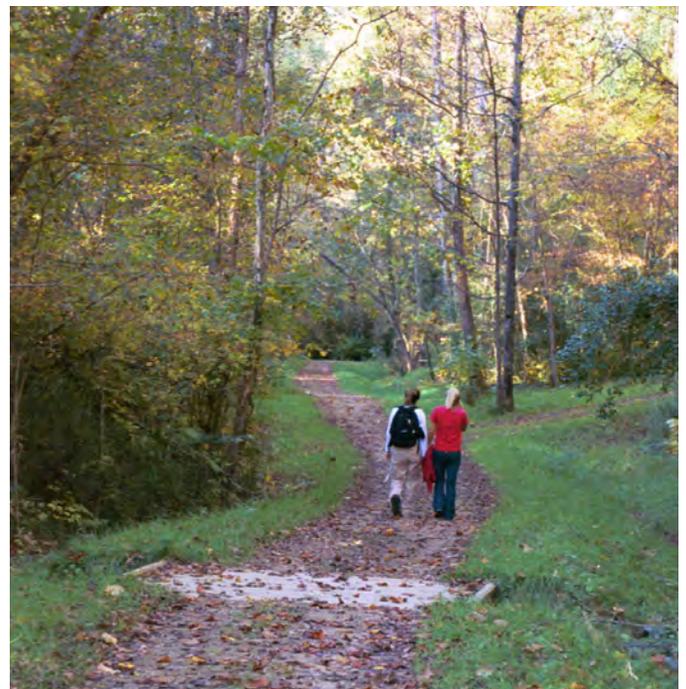
pits in Yadkin County. Both of these activities provide a recreational outlet and opportunities for social interaction; particularly in the elderly population. While the national and state standard of one court/5,000 people seems excessive, the development of some of these courts would provide an excellent activity for the County's older population. Reducing the national and state standards (one court/20,000 people) will result in a need for two of each of these court games. Like volleyball courts, shuffleboard courts and horseshoe pits are easily added to existing parks.

### **Picnic Shelters**

Picnicking is typically a very popular recreational activity for family recreation. The County currently has only six shelters in its park system (see inventory sheet in Section One). Based on state standards (there is no national standard for picnic shelters), this number of shelters is less the number that is needed. The County should add several picnic shelters to its parks (existing and future).

### **Playgrounds**

The County has two playgrounds in its parks. As the County develops additional facilities, it should look for locations for more playgrounds. Larger parks may warrant more than one playground.



### **Pedestrian Trails**

Walking is the number one outdoor recreational activity in the United States. Based on the positive response it received in the public survey (over one third of the respondents indicated they either are currently walking or would like to walk), it is an extremely popular activity in Yadkin County as well.

With this level of public demand for walking, the development of walking trails should be a priority for future park development. The County should place a priority on walking trail development in all of its existing and future parks. A paved walking trail is an important component of all park types, and should be provided in each of the County's parks. The 5D Recreation area will provide a wonderful opportunity for walking trails (natural and paved).

### **Stream/Lake Mileage/Access**

As noted previously, water is one of the County's assets. In order to maximize this valuable resource, greater access is needed. This includes improving existing access areas along the Yadkin River and providing lake access at the 5-D Reservoir. The development of blueways, designated water trails similar to the land-oriented greenways, should be a component of this water access.

### **Equestrian Trails**

Many of the County's residents enjoy horseback riding. This was heard in several of the public meetings. The development of the 5-D Reservoir site provides an opportunity to develop trails to accommodate horses.

### **Biking Trails**

Biking is a very popular outdoor recreational activity. As discussed earlier in this section, the County should expand opportunities for biking through the development of a countywide greenway trail system, including paths suitable for biking in existing and future parks, and through encouraging NCDOT to develop roads with bike lanes or wider shoulders to accommodate bikers. Land surrounding the 5D Reservoir offers many opportunities for bike trails.

### **Community Centers**

Residents of Yadkin County are currently having their indoor recreational needs served by the Yadkin FamilyYMCA located adjacent to Yadkin County Park and at several senior centers located throughout the county. These facilities are meeting the indoor recreational needs of County residents. The focus of the County's program and facilities should continue to be oriented on outdoor facilities.

### **Swimming Pools**

Swimming pools are extremely expensive to build and operate. The County currently offers a swimming pool at Yadkin County Park. This pool is currently meeting the aquatic needs of the community.

### **Hunting**

A desire to have a place to hunt was expressed in several public meetings. The new 5D reservoir will offer an opportunity to develop a facility for duck hunting.

### **Camping**

Camping offers an opportunity to enjoy nature and experience social interaction. Pilot Mountain State Park offers family camping and group camping. The County should also consider providing campsites at its future park on the 5-D Reservoir. These facilities could provide valuable opportunities to County residents and tourists.

### **Archery**

Archery is a skilled sport enjoyed by a strong following. Currently there are no dedicated public archery areas in the County, but based on the popularity of hunting an archery area would likely be popular. The Department should consider development of an archery area in one of its parks.

### **Other Recreational Facilities**

The list of recreational activities developed for this Master Plan is based on national and state standards that have been used in park planning for decades. As noted earlier in this section, these standards are used as a point of reference with the understanding that each community should develop standards that are unique to their specific needs.

One of the downsides of the national and state standards is they are not updated often and fail to incorporate newer trends and activities. In the past decade, several new activities have been growing in popularity that should be included in future park development. These activities include:

### **Disc Golf**

As noted in the section on public input, the popularity of disc golf was listed as a desired activity. The County has one disc golf course at Yadkin County Park and should consider constructing a second disc golf course at the 5-D Reservoir.

### **Skateboard Parks**

Skateboarding has been popular for several decades. In the past ten years, many communities have recognized the popularity of this sport and have tried to provide a safe and vandal resistant setting for this creative sport.

Skateboard parks can be as simple or elaborate as a community's budget will allow. The primary goal is to provide a safe, attractive setting for users. Recent legislation has reduced the liability of communities that provide these facilities. While not a current priority, a skate boarding facility might be something to consider in the future.

### **Off-leash Dog Areas**

One of the newest trends in park development, the dog park, is a response to the nation's love of pets, particularly the dog (man's best friend). Communities throughout North Carolina are now constructing dog parks.

Dog parks take many forms, but are primarily a place within a park where park users can bring their dog to run, walk, and recreate. They usually include a fenced open area where dogs, accompanied by their owner, are allowed to run free. Often the dog park is divided into an area for large and small dogs.

This may be an activity the County considers in the future.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Capital Improvement Plan for the renovation, and development of parks for the planning period was prepared with input from county staff. It reflects the needs expressed in the public meetings, and identified in the Needs Assessment. All of the proposed costs are shown in 2011 dollar values, but the value include an allowance for inflation/future cost. The capital improvement costs include funds for site preparation, site utilities, and facility development. The Capital Improvement Plan also includes estimated planning and design fees.

The Capital Improvement Plan can be summarized into the following components:

Renovation/Park Improvements	\$2,059,200
Park Development (New Parks)	<u>\$5,509,625</u>
Total Capital Improvement	\$7,568,825

Table 5-1 "Capital Improvements Budget" shows the costs associated with the Capital Improvement Program (10-year planning period). The table reflects the proposals and recommendations as outlined in Section 4 of this Master Plan. The majority of cost in this Capital Improvements Plan are for development of the 5D Reservoir Recreation Area and improvements to Yadkin County Park. The site specific Master plans for these two parks have Order of Magnitude Cost estimates for all proposed improvements. Costs shown in the Capital Improvements Plan are derived from these estimates. See the site specific master plans for more detailed information. It should also be noted that this ten year capital improvement plan does not include all of the improvements identified for the 5D Recreation Area and Yadkin County Park. It is anticipated that some of the improvements at the two sites may be constructed in years beyond this ten year planning period.

**TABLE 5-1**  
**YADKIN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

<b>Capital Improvement and Land Acquisition</b>	<b>Total Cost Projection</b>	<b>2012-2016</b>	<b>2017-2021</b>
<b>Renovation Program</b>			
Yadkin County Park	\$1,500,000		
Phase One		\$500,000	
Parking/Infrastructure Improvements			
Facility Improvements (Picnic, Playground, Etc.)			
Phase Two			\$1,000,000
Ballfield Improvements			
River Access Sites	\$300,000		
Donnaha Access		\$100,000	
Crutchfield Access			\$100,000
Huntsville Access			\$100,000
Planning & Design (10%)	\$180,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Construction Cost Escalation (2.5% / 5%)	\$79,200	\$13,200	\$66,000
<b>Renovation/Maintenance Program Total</b>	<b>\$2,059,200</b>	<b>\$673,200</b>	<b>\$1,386,000</b>
<b>Park Development Program</b>			
5-D Reservoir			
Phase One	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	
Entrance Road/Parking			
Boat Access			
Park Office			
Picnic Shelters			
Trails			
Phase Two	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	
Lake Trails			
Phase Three	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Campground			
Picnic Shelters			
Northeast Community Park	\$500,000		\$500,000
Planning and Design (10%)	485,000	335,000	150,000
Construction Cost Escalation (2.5% / 5%)	174,625	92,125	82,500
<b>Park Development Program Total</b>	<b>5,509,625</b>	<b>3,777,125</b>	<b>1,732,500</b>
<b>Total Capital Improvement Budget Cost</b>	<b>\$7,568,825</b>	<b>\$4,450,325</b>	<b>\$3,118,500</b>



*5-D Reservoir offers opportunities to expand the County's park system.*

# Section One Inventory

## INTRODUCTION

The first step in the master planning process is to inventory and assess the parks and facilities that are currently serving the citizens of Yadkin County. In this time of economic concerns and limited budgets, it is extremely important to utilize existing facilities to their fullest potential. This section identifies the County's existing parks, categories parks into classifications based on size/function, and inventories the existing facilities found in each of these parks. In Section Three this existing facility information will be used to establish an assessment for future park and recreation needs.

Yadkin County currently offers its residents parks and recreation facilities at several parks and river access sites on over 225 acres of land. Some of this property is owned by the County, but a portion of this land is leased from the State. The recent construction of the 5-D Reservoir will provide an opportunity for a significant expansion of the County's parks system. This new facility will add a 138 acre lake and 495 acres of adjacent property for recreational use.

In addition to the County's parks, County residents are having their recreational needs met through athletic facilities found at many of the schools. A listing of these facilities is also provided in this inventory. School facilities provide a valuable resource to the recreation needs of the community. Local agencies and the private sector also provide several recreation facilities. All of these facilities play a vital role in meeting County recreational needs.



# DISTRICT PARKS

## YADKIN COUNTY PARK

6600 Service Road, Yadkinville, NC 27055

Yadkin County Park is the County's largest and most used park. At 140 acres, it is an ideal size for a district park. The park offers a wide variety of active recreation opportunities (baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis and volleyball courts), and a number of passive recreation facilities (picnic shelter, walking trails, etc.). In addition to these more traditional recreation facilities, the park offers civic park facilities (war memorial, amphitheater).

While the park is located in the southern area of the county, its close proximity to Highway 421 provides access to all county residents. Over 25% of the park site is undeveloped, offering opportunities for future expansion. Although it should be noted that the topography and drainage features of the site will limit development on some areas of the park.

The park's existing facilities have served the County well, but many improvements are needed. Existing ball fields are over-used and are in need of improvements (irrigation, lighting, etc.). Parking is not adequate to serve existing park use and is located in areas not convenient to some fields. Park infrastructure (restrooms, bleachers, fencing) needs improvements, and all facilities need review with regards to ADA and safety requirements.

The County is currently working on a site specific master plan for this park. Yadkin County Park has served as the hub for the County's parks and recreation programs for several decades. With carefully thought out improvements, this park can meet even more of the County's park and recreational needs.

The park site is not owned by the County, but is controlled by a long term lease from the State of North Carolina. Ultimately, the County may consider purchasing the site if significant improvements are planned.



*Veteran's Memorial*

- 6-lane Junior Olympic Swimming Pool
- Pool Building
  - 2 Large Bathroom/Changing Rooms
  - Multi-purpose Room
  - 2 Offices
- Pool Concessions Building
- 4 Tennis Courts
- Large Picnic Shelter/Kitchen
- War Memorial
- 2 Playgrounds
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Walking Trails
- Biking/Hiking Trails
- Amphitheater
- 18-Hole Disc Golf
- Adult Baseball Field
- Youth Baseball Field (w/ overlaid 2 youth soccer fields)
- 2 Soccer Fields
- 1 Picnic Shelter
- Maintenance Shed
- 2 Concession Stands
- 2 Restroom Buildings



*Swimming Pool*

# COMMUNITY PARKS

## **RICHMOND HILL LAW SCHOOL**

**4641 Law School Road, East Bend, NC 27018**

This 28-acre historic site and park in northern Yadkin County provides a public open space with two picnic shelters and trails. The restored home of Judge Richmond Pearson serves as the focal point of the site.

While this park should never be developed as an active recreation site with ball fields and league sports, the expansion and improvement of facilities such as a playground, open play fields, disc golf, horseshoes, etc. could greatly expand the use of this park.

- Restored Home of Judge Richmond Pearson
- (2) Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Hiking Trails



*Image courtesy of N.C. Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.*

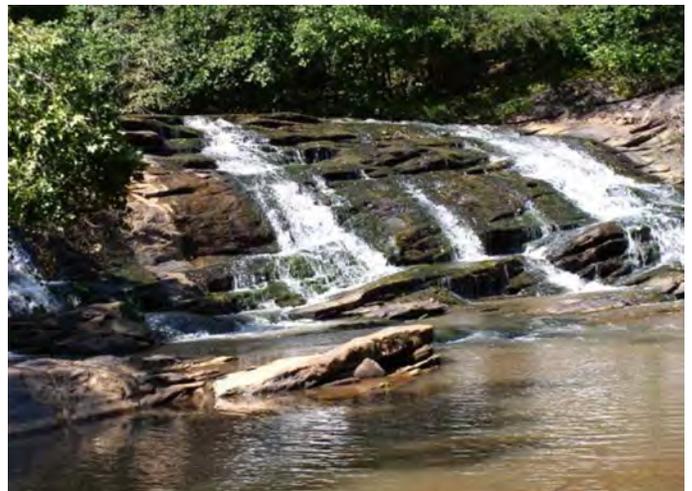
# RIVER ACCESS FACILITIES

Yadkin County is blessed with an abundance of wonderful rivers and creeks. Recognizing the value of these natural features, the County has provided three sites to allow access to the river. These water access sites include:

- Crutchfield River Access  
(Highway 601, Crutchfield, NC 27017)
- Donnaha River Access  
(River Wind Place, East Bend, NC 27018)
- Huntsville River Access  
(Intersection of Dinkins Bottoms Road and Courtney-Hundsville Road, Huntsville, NC 27055)

These access areas provide valuable opportunity for active and passive water based recreation and should be maintained for future generations. Improvements are needed at each of these river access sites. There are drainage, safety, and ADA issues associated with each.

These river access areas are located on property not owned by the County, but controlled by long term leases. Some of the sites are owned by NCDOT, while others are privately owned. Ultimately, the County should consider purchasing these properties to ensure public access.



*Waterfalls on Styers Mill Road.*

# **WATER ACCESS SITE**

## **Water Falls on Styers Mill Road**

**Styers Mill Road, Yadkinville, NC 27055**

In addition to the river access sites listed above, the County provides a scenic access to the waterfall just off Styers Mill Road. This access point provides a gravel parking area and trails to the falls site. As with the river access sites, this facility has safety, drainage, and ADA issues that should be addressed.

# REGIONAL PARKS

## 5-D RESERVOIR RECREATION AREA Old US 421 Highway West, Yadkinville, NC 27055

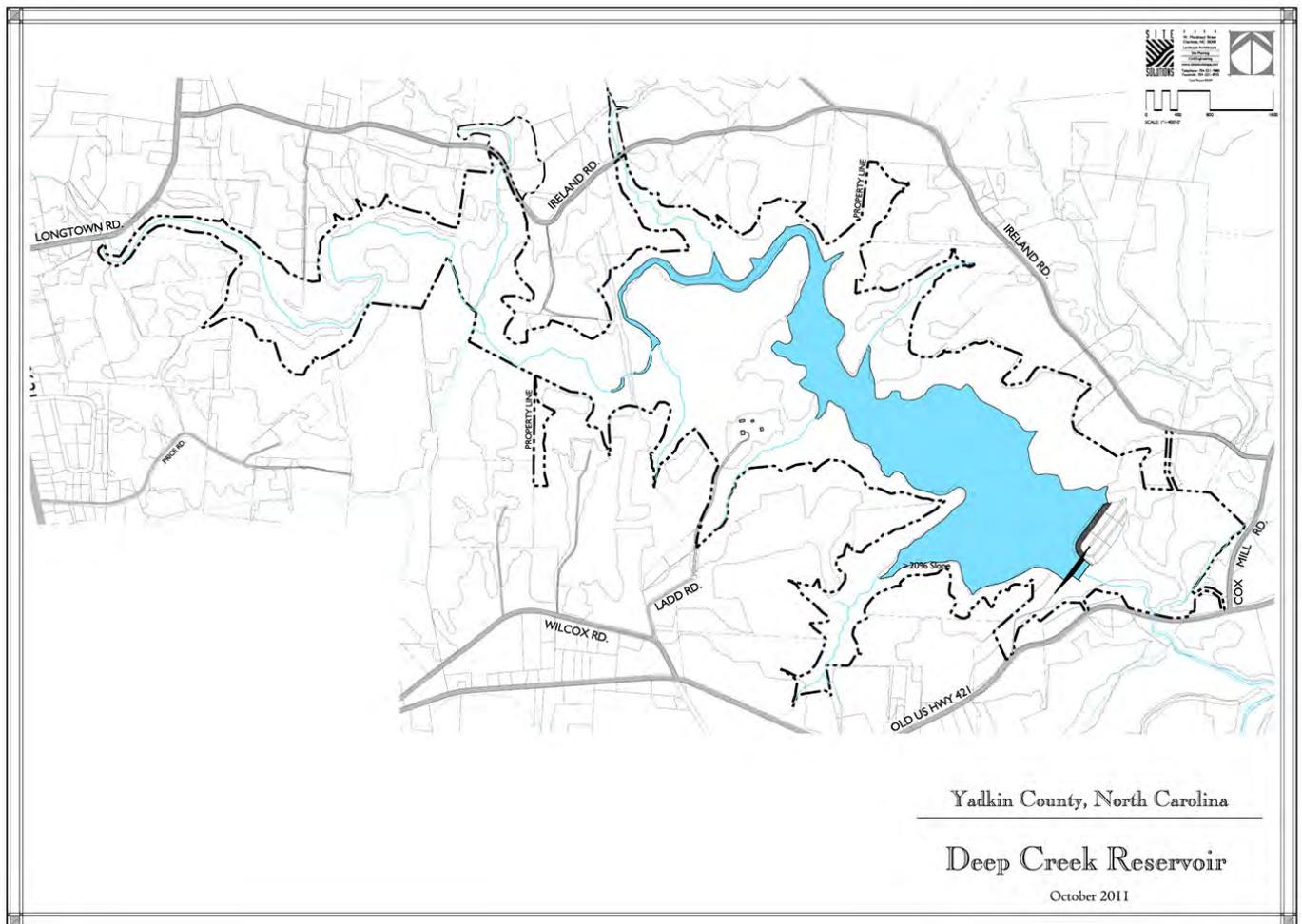
The construction of the 5-D Reservoir provides the County with a valuable water source and opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities. The water area of the reservoir covers 138 acres and is surrounded by 495 acres of County controlled land. County controlled land completely surrounds the reservoir and provides a vegetative buffer to protect water quality. Recreation development on the land surrounding the lake must be sensitive to impacts on water quality, but passive recreation and low impact activities are allowed on this land.



5D Reservoir

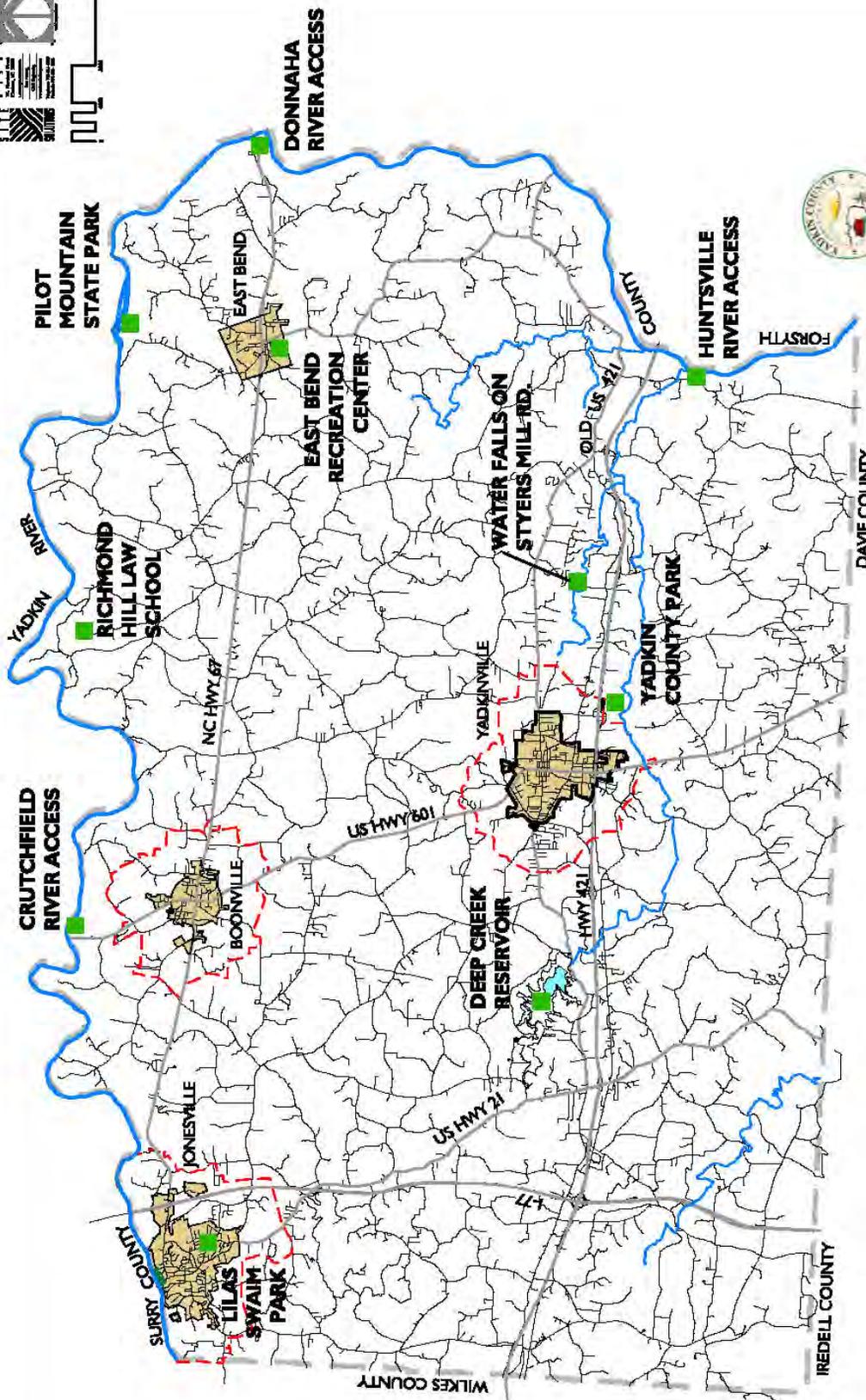
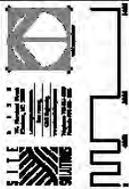
While some of the land surrounding the lake is a relatively narrow buffer (150-200 feet) between the lake edge and adjacent property, the County also controls several areas large enough to support recreational development (picnicking, water access, playgrounds, etc.).

The 5-D Reservoir Recreational Area is listed in this inventory because the value of this property is critical to the County's park system. It should be noted that while the undeveloped land is an asset, the true potential of this property will not be realized until facilities are developed.



## Yadkin County Existing Park Facilities

Park Name	Size	Adult Baseball Fields	Youth Baseball Fields	Adult Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Multi-purpose Fields	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Shuffleboard Courts	Horseshoe Pits	Boce Ball Courts	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelters	Trail/Greenway (Miles)	Water Access	Amphitheatre	Community Garden	Camp Sites	Swimming Pool/Splash Pad	Dog Park	Skate Park	Grass Area/Open Space	Big Swing Area	Small Swing Area	Restroom Building	Picnic Area	Gardens	Compost Demonstration Site	Disc Golf Course	In-line Hockey Court										
<b>Community Parks</b>																																										
Richmond Hill Law School	28														2	0.5																										
<b>Community Parks Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>								
<b>District Parks</b>																																										
Yadkin County Park	140	1	1	2				4	1	1				2	2	1.5		1			1														1							
<b>District Parks Totals</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Regional Parks</b>																																										
Deep Creek Reservoir	659																																									
<b>Regional Parks Totals</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Special Use Facilities</b>																																										
Crutchfield River Access	30																1																									
Donnaha River Access	9.5													1			1																									
Huntsville River Access	1																1																									
Waterfalls on Styers Mill Rd.	4.41														1	0.5																										
<b>Special Use Facilities Totals</b>	<b>44.91</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>871.91</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



# Existing Parks

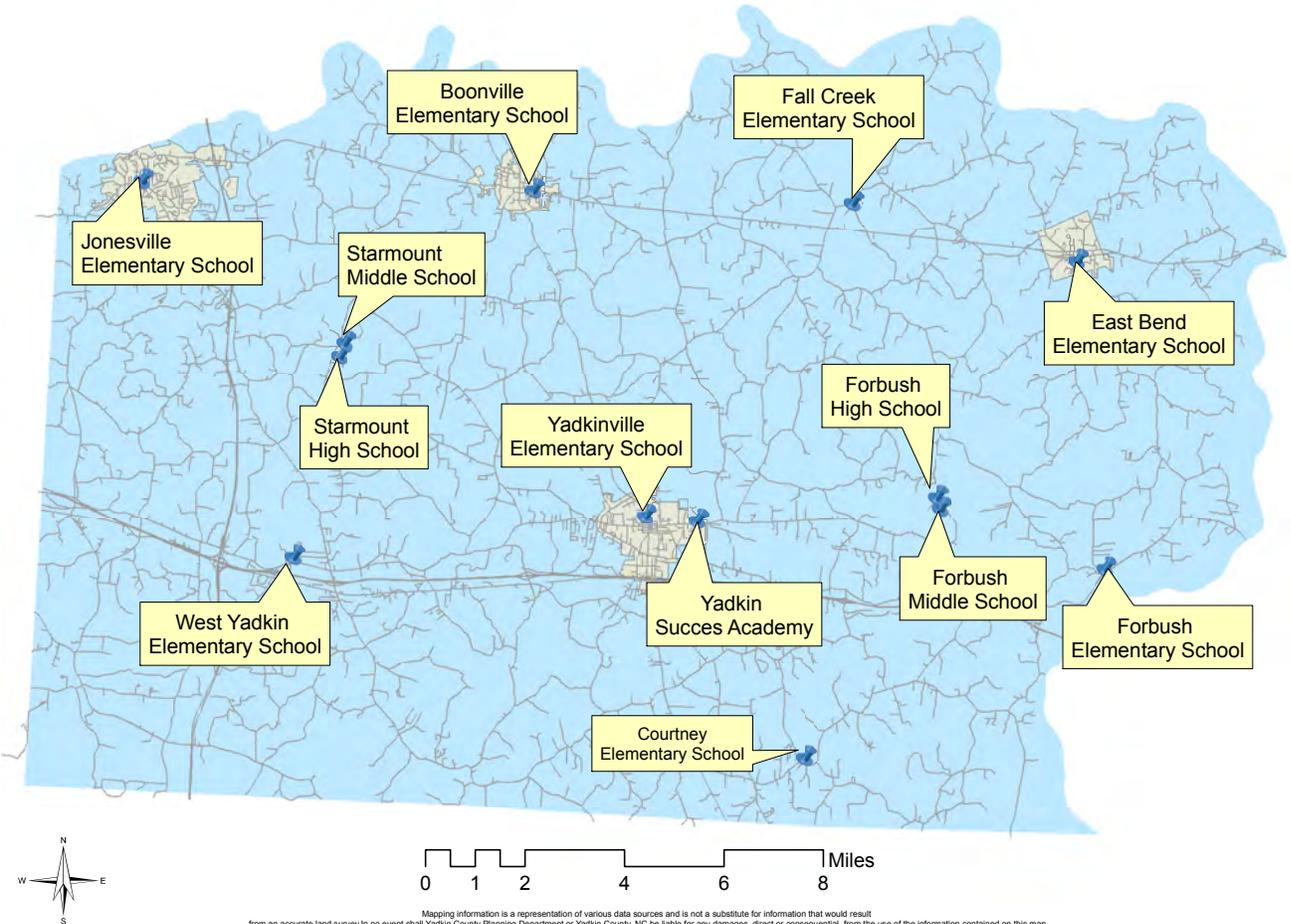
## Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan

October 2011

- Park Parcels/Recreation Sites
- Greenway
- Major Roads
- Rivers/Creeks
- Town Limits
- ETJ Limits
- County Limits

Name	Type	Baseball Fields	Youth Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Batting Cage	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Tennis Courts	Playgrounds	Shooting Range	Gym	Track
<b>School</b>												
Forbush	Elementary School	x		x	x				x		x	
West Yadkin	Elementary School	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	
Forbush	High School	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Boonville	Elementary School	x		x	x		x		x		x	
Fall Creek	Elementary School	x		x	x			x	x		x	
Starmount	High School	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x
Jonesville	Elementary School	x		x					x		x	
Yadkinville	Elementary School	x		x	x		x	x	x		x	
East Bend	Elementary School	x		x					x		x	
Courtney	Elementary School	x		x					x		x	
Yadkin Success Academy	Elementary School								x		x	
Forbush	Middle School								x		x	
Starmount	Middle School								x		x	
<b>School Facilities Totals</b>		10	0	10	6	3	5	5	11	1	13	2

## Yadkin County Schools



Mapping information is a representation of various data sources and is not a substitute for information that would result from an accurate land survey. In no event shall Yadkin County Planning Department or Yadkin County, NC be liable for any damages, direct or consequential, from the use of the information contained on this map.

# PRIVATE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The citizens of Yadkin County have a number of private recreation opportunities available to them. These facilities include:

Organization	Basketball	Pool	Walking Track	Golf Course	Racket Ball	Softball/Baseball	Tennis	Motor Cross	Horseback Riding	Playground	Weight Lifting	Shooting Range	Outdoor Shelter
Cedar Lake Golf Course (N)				X									
Courtney Baptist Church (U)	X									X			
Deep Creek Community Development Association (N)						X							
East Bend Community Recreation (M)						X							
East Bend Motor Cross (L)								X					
East Bend Recreation Park (N)		X											
Enon Baptist Church (L)	X-I												
Enon Recreation (M)		X											
Friendship Sporting Clays (N)												X	
J D Sports (L)								X					
Jonesville Country Club (M)		X											
Lone Hickory Arena (L)									X-I				
Lone Hickory Recreation Department (N)	X					X							
Peace Haven Baptist Church (L)	X-I					X				X			
Silo Run Golf Course (N)				X									
The Sportsman's Lodge (I)												X	
Thunder Valley Motor Cross (L)								X					
Unifi (N)						X							
Windsor Cross Road Development			X							X			X
Yadkin Country Club (M for pool, N for golf)		X		X			X						
Yadkin YMCA (M)	X-I	X-I	X-I		X-I						X-I		

I=indoor

M=Membership Required

L=Limited Hours of Operation

U=Unknown Operation Hours

N=No Membership Required



## Section Two

# The People of Yadkin County

### INTRODUCTION

The first step in understanding the park and recreational needs of Yadkin County is to develop an understanding of the people that make up the community. This section includes a review of the county's population and demographics and a review of the changes that are occurring within the county. Yadkin County is blessed with an outstanding natural resource; its rural landscape. The abundance of undeveloped land and the relatively close proximity to Charlotte and Winston Salem provide opportunities for both future growth and economic development by attracting tourist and potential business development. Park and recreation improvements can play a role in making the county more attractive to outside interest.

It is not enough to simply understand the population growth and demographic shifts of the community. To ensure this plan reflects the County's specific needs, this planning effort has incorporated several initiatives to assist the planning team in determining citizens' park and recreational preferences. These initiatives included:

- Conducting a written survey that included almost 200 county residents
- Facilitating four public meetings to hear citizens' comments on park needs
- Meetings with community stakeholders to gain insight into existing and future park needs
- Conducting a public workshop to discuss plans for two future park projects

Through these efforts, the public's desires for park and recreation programs and facilities have been heard and are incorporated into the recommendations of this plan.

## COUNTY HISTORY

The area currently known as Yadkin County attracted scouting expeditions from Virginia as early as 1673. Englishmen James Needham and Gabriel Arthur followed a trading path across the Blue Ridge Mountains and crossed the Shallow Ford. This route later became the Great Wagon Road.

It was on this expedition that Arthur reported he had reached the Yattken Town at Yattken River. This was the first known mention of Yadkin. The meaning of the word Yadkin, derived from the Siouan Indian word Yattken, is unknown but may have meant "Big Tree" or "Place of Big Trees".

The area was originally the home of Indians who, for the most part, were farmers. In addition to farming, the Indians were excellent hunters and fisherman. Remnants of fish-falls constructed by the Indians can still be found along the Yadkin River.

The first white settlers in what is now Yadkin County arrived in the mid 1700's. One of the area's first settlers, Morgan Bryan made his home on the south bank of Deep Creek, several miles above Shallow Ford. Approximately 100 years later (1850) Yadkin County was formed from parts of Surry County.

Historically a farming community, flue cured tobacco was the major cash crop found in the county. With



*Yadkin County is one of the largest soybean producing counties in North Carolina.*

the decline of tobacco use, other crops have risen in importance. Today, wineries are one of the county's unique agricultural industries. The county is the home of 14 producing wineries, making it the wine capital of North Carolina.

Excellent highways (I-77 and US 421) have "paved the way" for industrial development. Significant corporate partners include Unifi, Inc., Phillip-Van Heusen Apparel Group, Lydall Thermal/Acoustical, and Chipita America. Community developments, including new schools, the Yadkin Cultural Arts Center, and the Deep Creek Reservoir all have added quality of life improvements to the County.

## LANDFORM

Yadkin County is located in the Piedmont region of central North Carolina. The Piedmont consists of rolling farmlands frequently broken by hills or valleys formed by streams. The extreme western section of the county contains the Brushy Mountains, a deeply eroded spur of the much higher Blue Ridge Mountains to the west. Just under 1000 feet of elevation change exist between the county's highest point (Star Peak near Jonesville), at 1,590 feet above sea level down to 680 feet at the lowest point.

## **YADKIN COUNTY LAND USE PLAN 2011**

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners recently adopted a county land use plan designed to guide county development for the next two decades. As a County service and amenity, Parks and Recreation was included in the recommendations of the plan. The area around the 5D Reservoir is identified as a special planning area. The importance of this area's natural resources and the concern for protecting water quality is identified as a priority. This area is also identified as an area for development of new recreational, residential, and limited commercial uses. Specific recommendations for the 5D Reservoir planning area include:

- Development of low impact recreational use activities (fishing, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, camping)
- Encouragement of tourist related development
- Maintaining the rural character of the 5D area
- Seeking property acquisitions to enhance recreational potential in area
- Promote community planning in the area
- Consider development impacts on reservoir water quality in making development decisions

The careful development of the land surrounding the reservoir will facilitate many of these recommendations.

## **THE PEOPLE OF YADKIN COUNTY**

### **Demographics**

Based on the 2010 US Census, Yadkin County's population was 38,406. This population figure represents a 5.7% increase from the county's 2000 population of 36,351. The 5.7% growth rate was significantly less than the state's growth rate (18.5%) for the same period.

The county's population is spread across 335.55 square miles, giving the county a density of 114.5 persons per square mile. This is significantly less dense than the state density of 195.8 persons per square mile.



The county's male/female ratio is relatively evenly split. Females make up a slight majority of the population (50.8%). Young children (under five years old) comprise 6.5% of the county's population, and seniors (65 years and older) make up 15.8% of the population. These populations reflect a slightly older population than the remainder of the state, where young children make up 7.1% of the population and seniors only make up 12.7% of the population.

Almost 90% (88.5%) of county's population is white. This is significantly higher than the state's white population, which comprises 68.5% of the population. The county's black population (3.1%) is significantly lower than the state's black population (21.9%). Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin make up almost 10% of the county's population. This is slightly higher than the state's 8.4% of Latino/Hispanic population.

The county's percentage of high school graduates (76%) is slightly less than the state's percentage of high school graduates (83%). Likewise the county's percentage of persons with bachelor's degrees (10.6%) is slightly lower than the state's (25.8%).

The lack in educational/diploma attainment of the county is reflected in personal income. The county's median household income was \$40,939, slightly less than the state's median household income of \$43,754.

On a positive note, the County's 13.4% of persons living below the poverty level is less than the state's (16.2%).

The county's demographics indicate a slightly older population that would be well served with park facilities that will promote healthy life styles. Low impact activities such as walking trails, disc golf, picnicking, etc. should be considered. Likewise, the County should consider development of parks that will provide quality of life activities. Water based recreation (fishing, canoeing, etc.) are perceived as unique activities that enhance a community's livability.

## PUBLIC INPUT

As part of the planning process, County staff and the planning consultant developed a methodology for obtaining public input through a series of public meetings and a citizen's survey handed out in the public meetings and at other county events.

### Public Meetings

Yadkin County staff along with community planners from the North Carolina Department of Commerce hosted a series of four back-to-back public workshops throughout the County to both provide

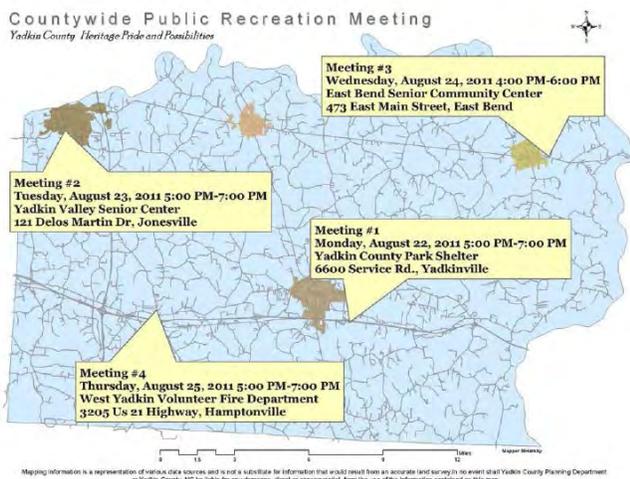
recreation information and gather information from the public regarding their opinions, experiences, and recreation needs. The workshops were held in four geographically diverse areas throughout the County (Yadkinville, East Bend, Jonesville, Hamptonville) spanning August 22-25, 2011. The workshops were held in facilities that were contiguous to recreation sites.<sup>1</sup>

The meetings were publicized through both television (WXII; News 14 Carolina) and newspaper (Winston-Salem Journal; Yadkin Ripple) media coverage as well as e-mail blasts to local officials throughout Yadkin County and regional tourism and heritage representatives (Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor). Finally, the workshops were promoted and announced during the "community calendar" portion of Yadkin County Board of Commissioner meetings<sup>2</sup>.

The four public workshops were designed and structured to be identical in nature so that the public attending a meeting in one end of the county would be presented with the same environment, information and opportunities as the public in the other end of the county on the previous night. The facilitators posed the same questions<sup>3</sup> and the same surveys were available at each meeting. In doing this, a controlled environment was created which diminished the potential for varying responses due to the facilitation of the meetings.

Each meeting was scheduled for approximately two hours; however, people could arrive and leave the meetings at varying times as their schedules would allow, while still getting the opportunity to participate to the fullest extent. This was accomplished because the workshops were set up as "floating meetings" in which the public could move individually through "information stations" at their own pace.

The first station was a sign-in station in which the public checked in and gave their name, address, and



<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the August 25, Hamptonville meeting which was held at the West Yadkin Volunteer Fire Department.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes from August 15, 2011 Yadkin County Board of Commissioners meeting included in the Appendix.

<sup>3</sup> With the exception of an adjustment that was made by the facilitators after the first meeting in which the question was changed from "What is the County doing right/wrong in terms of recreation?" and "What recreational programs/activities should the County offer?" to "What should Yadkin County be doing in terms of parks and recreation?"

other contact information which was entered into an electronic spreadsheet. At the second station, the public was given an overview of the workshop structure and was also given information about recreation planning and the planning process. At the third station, the public was shown pictures of every recreation site operated by the County and their locations on large maps. At the fourth station, the public was given information on different types of recreation and the differences between passive and active recreation.

Photos and descriptions of recreation types were illustrated on large maps for the public to see<sup>2</sup>. After the information stations, the public would then move to another side of the room where they would engage in discussion with two facilitators who recorded the public comments on large flipcharts which were secured to the wall and available for public review. The discussions focused on what the public thinks Yadkin County is doing wrong and right, and what the County should be doing in terms of recreation. Finally, the public was given a two-sided recreation survey to fill out and drop in the survey collection box before exiting the meetings. The following report collects and analyzes the information gathered from the public meetings.

See the Appendix for detailed information gathered from the public meetings.

### **Survey Summary of Findings**

Based on responses from those participating in the public meetings; the citizens of Yadkin County use their parks on a regular basis. Ten percent of the people attending the public meetings said they use the county parks on a daily basis. Forty-two percent stated they use county parks weekly, and 76% stated they use county parks monthly.

By far the most used park in the county is Yadkin County Park. The next most heavily used park is the Richmond Hill Law School site. Styers Mill and Donnaha Park were the next most used county facilities.

The majority (54%) of respondents said they are interested in both active and passive recreation. A fourth (25%) of the respondents said they preferred active recreation, while a fifth (20%) said they preferred passive recreation.

Overall, the citizens of Yadkin County believe the county's parks are in poor condition. The majority of respondents ( $\pm$  58%) said they felt the county's existing parks were below average. Approximately one third (35%) felt the county's parks were average. Only 8% of the respondents felt the county's parks were above average. No one indicated they felt the existing parks were in excellent condition.

Those citizens providing input believe the County should be more active in providing parks and programs. Ninety-five percent of the respondents said the County should take a more active role. Only five percent said the county should maintain the same level, and no one suggested the County should not providing parks and recreation programs.

When asked to identify their favorite recreational activity provided at a county recreational site, the most popular activity listed was walking trails. Approximately one third of the participants listed this activity. Soccer was the second most popular activity, with 16% of respondents listing this as their favorite activity. The third most popular activity, fishing and boating were submitted as a write in activity. Almost 10% of those responding identified this activity as their favorite. Several activities (baseball/softball, swimming, horseback riding, and disc golf) received 6-8% of the responses. Camping, hunting, picnicking and playgrounds received 1 or 2% of the votes.

From the public meetings, County staff learned the following:

- **There is a demand for better parks.**
- **There is a demand for both active and passive recreation facilities.**
- **Walking and trails appear to be the most popular outdoor recreation activity.**
- **Soccer appears to be the most popular active**

**recreation/team sport activity.**

- **There is demand for water based/nature based recreation activities (camping, boating, fishing, hunting).**

For more detailed results from the public meetings and survey, see the Appendix.

### **2011 Yadkin County Land Use Plan**

As part of developing the Land Use Plan, the County conducted public workshops and small group discussions. Recreation and open space was

identified as a county need in most all forms of public involvement.

- 46.4% of the participants at the visioning forum at Starmount Middle School indicated they wanted more recreation and open space development.
- 21.4% of the participants expressed a desire to see much more recreational development
- 35.5% of those at Forbush Middle School indicated they wanted more recreational development.



*Public input indicates that soccer is a popular sport in Yadkin County.*

## **Section Three**

# **Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This section contains the documentation on which the Master Plan is based. It begins with a description of the park types that typically make up a park system. Using these park types as a backdrop, national, state, and other North Carolina agency standards are reviewed and used as a basis for establishing standards for park development in Yadkin County. Standards quoted in this study are based on standards proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), and those used by similar communities throughout North Carolina. It should be noted that the NRPA, in its 1995 report “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines”, determined there are no “national standards” for park development. Instead, the latest NRPA study recommends that each community is unique, and that standards reflecting the local “uniqueness” should be established. With

this understanding, this Master Plan establishes local standards to evaluate the County's existing park system and to establish goals to meet future growth.

This study looks at two types of park standards. The first analysis looks at total acreage of parkland within the system and how this acreage is broken into park types. From this study it is possible to see how Yadkin County's existing facilities compare with other communities, both in overall park acreage and the park types within this overall acreage.

The second analysis looks at recreation activities and the facilities required to program these activities. By establishing a population-based standard for various recreation activities, this study establishes the type and quantity of facilities the Department should develop in the future.

The design standards used in this study were derived from input from the County staff and citizen input. The development of these standards is perhaps the most important step in this planning process.

It should be noted that the purpose of this plan is to be a guideline for future development of the County's

parks and recreation facilities. As a guideline, it should be general enough to allow flexibility as individual facilities are developed. All facilities listed in the needs assessment will be constructed in the next ten years.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS FOR PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAYS**

A comprehensive park system is made up of a variety of park types. These park types range from very large regional parks (often encompassing hundreds of acres) to the very small mini parks (sometimes less than one acre). The descriptions on the following pages define the parks that should make up a comprehensive park system. A variety of agencies (federal, state, county, and municipal) play a role in providing a comprehensive park system. To understand the role of the various recreation agencies providing services to its citizens, one needs to understand the context that makes up a total park and recreation system.

The following pages describe the various park types:

## Regional Parks/Nature Preserves

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

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

Specific standards/criteria for developing regional parks are as follows:

Service Area:	Countywide
Acreage/Population Ratio:	5-10 acres per 1,000 persons
Minimum Size:	150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in community parks)

### Typical Facilities:

Environmental Center	Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
Restrooms/Vending	Primitive Camping
Beach	Group Camping
Recreational Vehicles	Camping
Boating	Swimming
Nature Trails	Fishing Piers/Boat Docks
Observation Deck	Parking
Picnic Shelters with Grills	Caretaker's House
Equestrian Center	

**The acquisition and development of regional parks are typically undertaken by Federal, State, or County Agencies.**



# Typical Regional Park

1,000 Acres

## District Parks/Sports Complex

District parks provide a full range of facilities to support tournament competition for athletic and league sports. These parks also present opportunities for nontraditional types of recreation. Activities that generate large crowds, such as special events and tournament competitions, are well suited for district parks, where adequate space and parking are provided. Fifty percent of the district park site should be developed for only passive recreation; these relatively undisturbed areas may serve as buffers around the park and/or act as buffers between active facilities.

District park sites should have varying topography and vegetative communities. Forested areas should have a variety of tree species. Cleared areas should be present for siting active recreational facilities. One or more natural water feature(s), such as a lake, river, or creek should be included in district parks. Parkland should also be contiguous and strategically located in order to be accessible to all users within the area they serve.

Development of these parks should be based upon the following standards:

Service Area:	5 mile radius (typically serves population base of + 40,000)
Acreage/Population Ratio:	5 acres per 1,000 persons
Desirable Range:	100-150 acres
Desirable Size:	250 acres (larger, if the park contains a golf course)

### Typical Facilities:

Recreation Center Playgrounds	Picnic Shelters
Full Size Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters with Grills
½ Basketball Courts	Picnic Tables with Grills
Tennis Court (lighted)	Benches or Bench Swings
Tournament Tennis Courts	Nature Trails
Tournament Baseball/ Softball Fields (lighted)	Parking
Multi-purpose Fields	Restroom/Concessions
Soccer Fields (lighted)	Caretaker's House
Volleyball Courts	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped

### Alternate Facilities:

Golf Course	Swimming
Environmental Center	Beaches
Amphitheater	Boating
Equestrian Center	Fishing Piers/Boat Docks
Observation Decks	Marina Operation
Paddle Boat/Canoe Harbor	

Specialty facilities may be added to (or substituted for) other facilities, depending on district need or special site characteristics.

**Development of district parks typically falls within the responsibility of the county agency.**



Typical District Park/Sports Complex 100 - 150 Acres

## Community Park

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

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

Listed below are standards for developing community parks:

Service Area:	1-2½ mile radius
Acreage/Population Ratio:	1.5 acres per 1,000 persons
Desirable Range:	30-50 acres

### Typical Facilities:

Playgrounds	Baseball/Softball Fields	Restrooms/Concessions
Picnic Shelter with Grill	Multi-purpose Fields	
Full Size Basketball Courts	Parking	
Picnic Tables with Grills	Soccer Practice Field with Moveable Goals	
½ Basketball Courts	Service Yard	
Nature Trail	Volleyball Courts	
Tennis Courts (lighted)	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped	
Benches or Bench Swings		

### Alternate Facilities:

Recreation Center	Boating
Tennis Center	Amphitheater
Soccer/Football Fields	Observation Decks
Running Trail	Fishing Piers/Boat Docks

**Development of community parks typically falls within the responsibility of the county and municipal agency.**



Typical Community Park

30-50 Acres

## Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient source of recreation. These parks are usually located within walking distance of the area serviced, and they provide a variety of activities to interest all age groups. While their small size requires intense development, fifty percent of each site should remain undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent land users.

The standards for neighborhood park development are as follows:

Service Area:  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding populations.

Acres/Population Ratio: 2 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Size: 10-15 acres

Typical Facilities:

Playground

$\frac{1}{2}$  Basketball Courts

Softball or Baseball Field

Multi-purpose Field

Picnic Shelters with Grill

Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)

Benches or Bench Swings

50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped

Alternate Facilities:

Tennis Courts

Nature Trail

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

**Where municipal jurisdiction is available, neighborhood parks are typically developed by municipalities.**



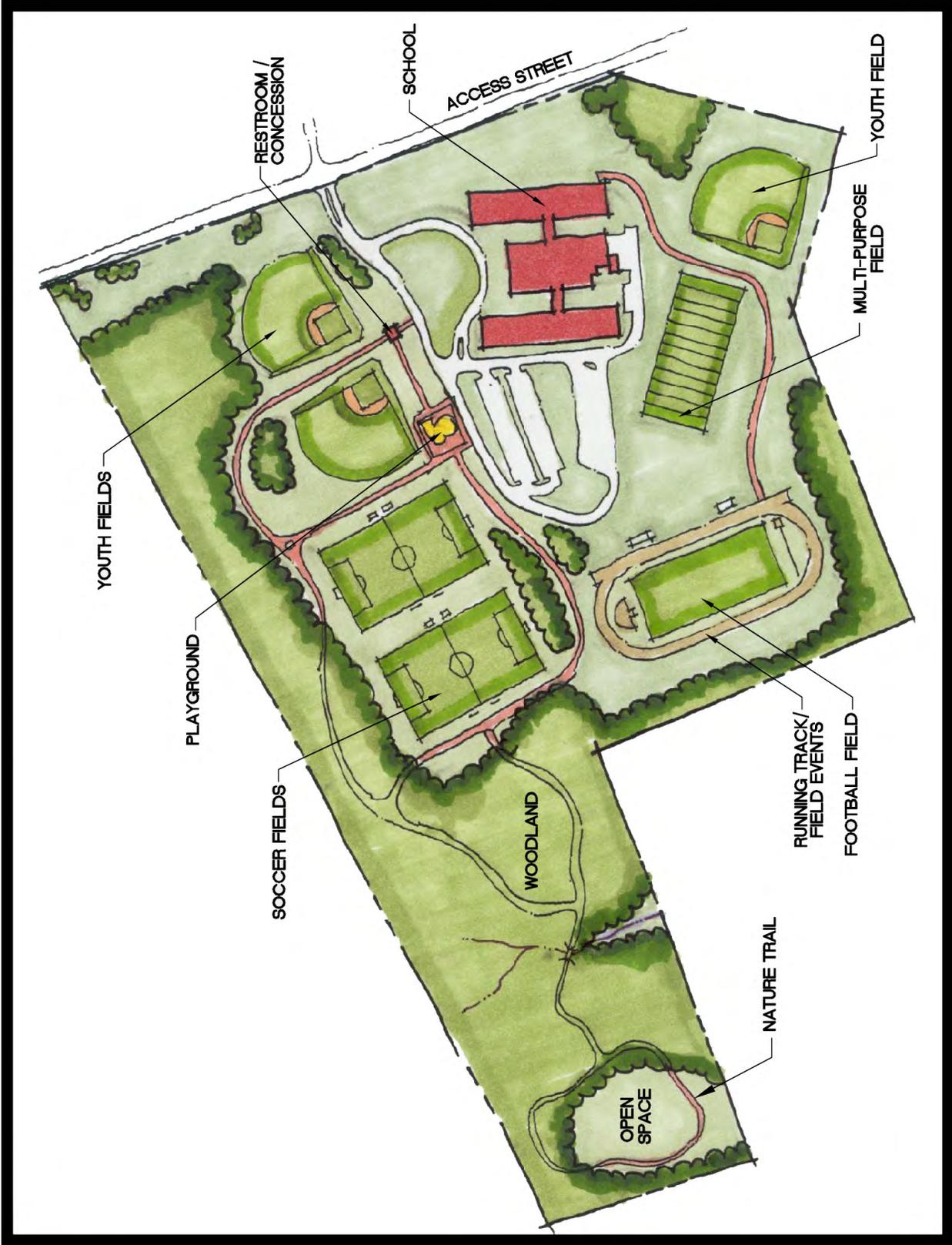
Typical Neighborhood Park 10 - 15 Acres

### **School Park**

The trend within public agencies is toward the joint use of facilities. Through joint use both schools and parks benefit from shared use of facilities and valuable land resources. The school park concept maximizes the joint use objective and provides a planned facility that maximizes public funds. The school park concept typically varies depending on the school. The elementary/middle school provides the ideal setting for a neighborhood park. While the middle/high school follows the function of a community park or youth sports complex.

Service Area:           Varies depending on school type and park type  
Desirable Size:        Varies depending on school type and park type  
Typical Facilities:     Varies depending on school type and park type

**Development of school parks may fall within the responsibility of the municipality or the county agency.**



± 50 Acres

# Typical School Park

### **Mini Park**

Mini parks are the smallest component of the overall park system. Typically these parks are one acre or less and serves a very immediate area. Parking is not typically provided because they are “walk-to” parks.

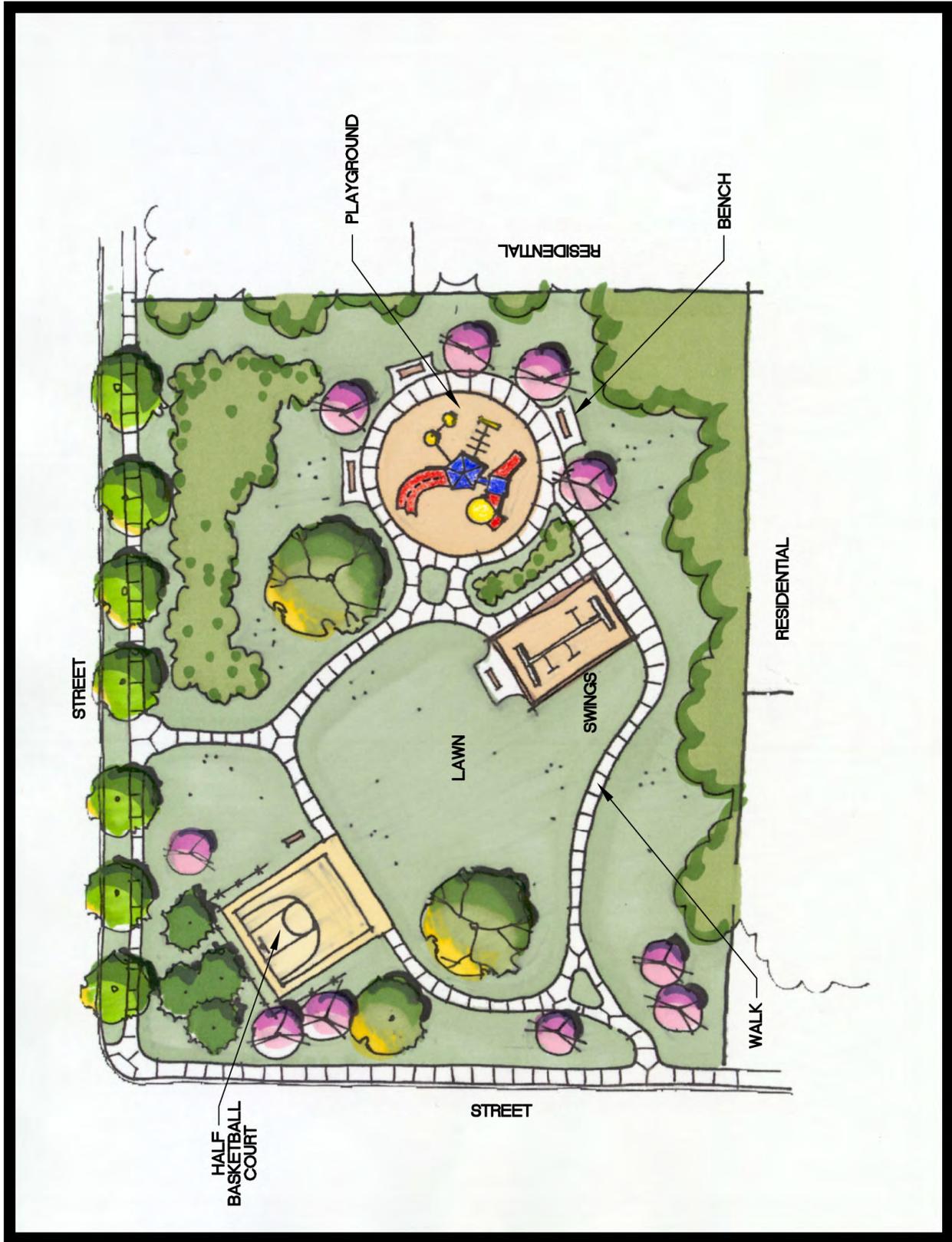
The standards for a mini park development are as follows:

Service Area:	½ mile
Acreage/Population Ratio:	½ acre per 1,000 persons
Desirable Range:	1-2 acres
Desirable Size:	1 acre

#### Typical Facilities:

- Playground
- ½ Basketball Courts
- Tennis Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Walking Trail

**Where municipal jurisdiction is available, mini parks are typically developed by the municipality.**



Typical Mini Park

1-2 Acres

## Greenways

Greenways provide an important component of the overall park system. They:

- Provide links between park components.
- Emphasize harmony with the natural environment.
- Provide safe pedestrian movement.
- Resource based outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Enhance adjacent property values.

Greenways are very similar to natural resource sites; the primary difference is the emphasis on pedestrian trails found in the greenway system.

Desirable Size: Greenways form corridors that vary considerably in length. Widths of these corridors vary as well, although a 50' width is generally considered a minimum.



## TRENDS IN FACILITY STANDARDS

Surveys designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation have been conducted on the Federal level by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, the State of North Carolina, and various other organizations and associations.

### President's Commission

The President's Commission Report indicated the following significant facts:

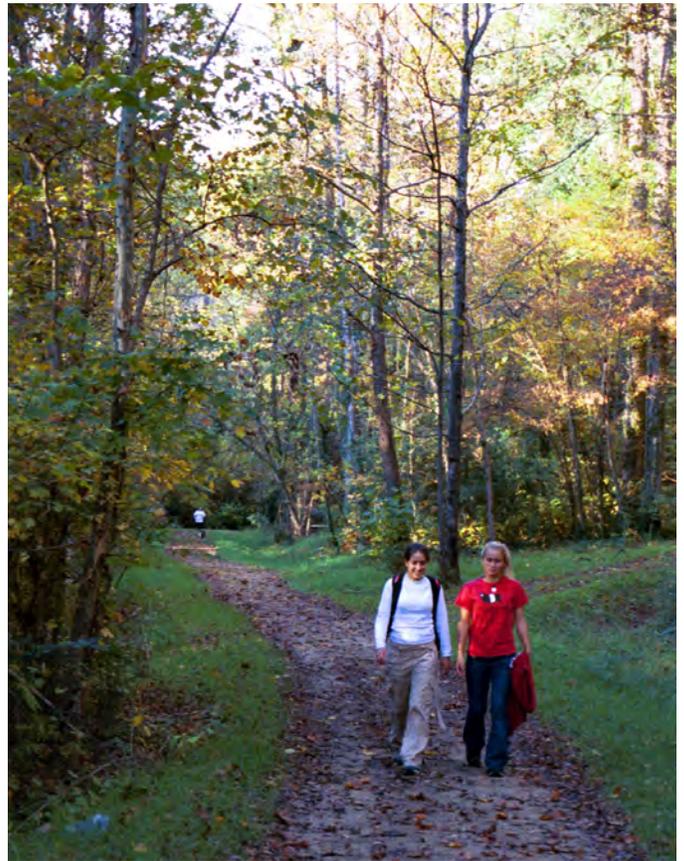
The top ten outdoor recreation activities nationwide are as follows:

- Picnicking
- Playing sports
- Driving for pleasure
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Attending sporting events
- Sightseeing
- Boating
- Bicycling
- Walking for pleasure

Activities rapidly growing in popularity include:

- Canoeing
- Sailing
- Bicycling
- Hiking/backpacking
- Attending outdoor sports
- Walking for pleasure
- Camping, all types
- Water skiing

The local levels (cities and counties) of the nation are providing 39% of the public recreation opportunities.



*Walking for pleasure is one of the top ten outdoor recreation activities nationwide.*

### National Sporting Goods Association Survey

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts an annual study of sports participation. The survey lists the following top thirty activities per million participants. A participant is defined as someone seven years of age or older who participates in a sport more than once within a year for all sports except aerobic exercising, bicycle riding, exercise walking, exercising with equipment, running/jogging, step aerobics, weight lifting, and swimming. For these seven fitness sports, participation is defined as six times or more during the year. The following information reviews the findings for the past ten years.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2000</b>
Aerobic Exercising	38.5	36.2	na	29.5	29.0	26.7
Archery (target)	6.5	na	na	5.3	4.2	4.5
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	11.1	13.0	13.3	17.3	14.8	15.4
Baseball	12.5	15.2	14.6	15.9	15.6	15.6
Basketball	26.9	29.7	26.7	27.8	28.9	27.1
Bicycle Riding	39.8	44.7	35.6	40.3	39.7	43.1
Billiards/Pool	24.0	31.7	31.8	34.2	33.1	32.5
Boating, Motor/Power	20.0	27.8	29.3	22.8	26.6	24.2
Bowling	39	49.5	44.8	43.8	42.4	43.1
Camping (vacation/overnite)	44.7	49.4	48.6	55.3	55.4	49.9
Canoeing	na	10.3	7.1	7.5	7.6	6.2
Cheerleading	na	2.9	3.8	3.8	na	na
Exercise Walking	95.8	96.6	87.5	84.7	82.2	81.3
Exercising with Equipment	55.3	63.0	52.4	52.2	46.8	44.8
Fishing	33.8	42.2	40.6	41.2	44.2	47.2
Football (tackle)	9.3	10.5	10.1	8.2	7.8	8.0
Golf	21.9	25.6	24.4	24.5	27.1	26.4
Hiking	37.7	38.0	31.0	28.3	27.2	24.3
Hunting with Firearms	16.3	18.8	19.9	17.7	19.5	19.1
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.8	4.6	4.7
In-line Roller Skating	7.5	9.3	10.5	11.7	18.8	21.8
Kayaking/Rafting	5.6	na	na	na	na	3.1
Mountain Biking (off road)	7.2	10.2	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.1
Paintball Games	6.1	6.7	8.0	9.4	6.9	5.3
Running/Jogging	35.5	35.9	28.8	24.7	24.7	22.8
Skateboarding	7.7	9.8	9.7	10.3	9.7	9.1
Skiing (alpine)	7.4	6.5	6.4	5.9	7.4	7.4
Skiing (cross country)	2.0	1.6	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.3
Snowboarding	6.1	5.9	5.2	6.6	5.6	4.3
Soccer	13.5	15.5	14.0	13.3	13.7	12.9
Softball	10.8	12.8	12.4	12.5	13.6	14.0
Swimming	51.9	63.5	56.5	53.4	53.1	58.8
Yoga	20.2	16.0	na	na	na	na
Target Shooting	19.8	20.3	19.1	19.2	18.9	16.9
Tennis	12.3	12.6	10.4	9.6	11.0	10.0
Volleyball	10.6	12.2	11.1	10.8	11.5	12.3
Water Skiing	5.2	5.6	6.3	4.7	6.9	5.9
Weight Lifting	31.5	37.5	32.9	26.2	25.1	22.8
Workout at Club	36.3	39.3	34.9	31.8	28.9	24.1

SOURCE: National Sporting Goods Association, Mt. Prospect IL 60056

### North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey

In 2008, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation commissioned the *North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan: 2009-2013*. This plan addresses the problems, needs, and opportunities of outdoor recreation in North Carolina. As part of this plan, 3,000 responses to a survey on outdoor recreation were analyzed. The following are the survey findings for the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities for North Carolina residents:

1. Walking for pleasure
2. Family gathering
3. Gardening or landscaping for pleasure
4. Driving for pleasure
5. View/photograph natural scenery
6. Visit nature centers, etc.
7. Sightseeing
8. Picnicking
9. Attending outdoor sports events
10. Visiting a beach

### Yadkin County Park Needs

The standards for acreage by park classification for the Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department service area is shown on Table 3-1. The standard acreage for each of the park types has been established from an analysis of national and state standards, review of previous planning efforts, and input from the public (public meetings, survey, etc.). Table 3-1 also shows the standards for acreage currently used by other North Carolina counties.

Table 3-2 uses the standards identified in Table 3-1 to establish a park acreage needs assessment for the County. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park. The current service population for the county (see Section Two) is approximately 38,500. The ten year projected population based on the County's Land Use Plan is 40,000. This relatively small increase in service population is based on the assumption that over the next ten years, the County's growth will be similar to the previous decade ( $\pm 3\%$ ).



*The County should improve its existing river access sites.*

With the development of the 5-D Reservoir project, the County owns/controls almost 900 acres of parkland in three park facilities and four river/water access sites. During the next ten years, the County should focus its efforts on developing park facilities and making the following improvements:

- Build recreational facilities on property adjacent to the 5-D Reservoir
- Expand and improve existing facilities at Yadkin County Park
- Expand facilities at Richmond Hill Law School or identify another site in the northeastern section of the county for development of a community park
- Improve existing and add new river access sites
- Consider acquisition of the Lime Rock property to meet both the need for a new community park and a new river access

As noted in the descriptions of park types earlier in this section, county agencies do not typically construct or provide the smaller park types (mini and neighborhood parks). Instead, county agencies usually focus their park development efforts on larger park types (sports complexes and district parks). Section Four defines the County's need for new park facilities in greater detail.

## Yadkin County Facility Needs

Minimum standards for recreational facilities (i.e., ballfields, courts, picnic shelters, etc.) proposed for the department were developed in accordance with the industry guidelines established by the NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) and NCDENR and from input gained during the public meetings and survey. These standards, identified in Table 3-3 “Standards for Public Facilities”, and discussed in greater detail in Section Four, are the minimum recreation facility standards that should be used in establishing a needs assessment for the county. Table 3-3 includes the standards for recreation facility development currently utilized by other county agencies.

### Evaluation of Facility Needs

The number of public facilities needed in the Yadkin County park system through the ten year planning period (2011 to 2021), are identified in Table 3-4, “Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment”.

Based on this assessment, there are areas of deficiencies in most all of the recreation facility categories. Utilizing the standards that have been established specifically for Yadkin County, there will be a need for a number of additional recreational facilities by 2021. These facility needs include:

- 1 Adult Baseball Fields
- 2 Youth Baseball Fields
- 1 Softball Field
- 1 Football Field
- 2 Soccer Fields
- 2 Basketball Courts
- 3 Volleyball Courts
- 2 Shuffleboard Courts
- 2 Horseshoe Pits
- 2 Picnic Shelters
- 6 Playground Activities
- 9 Miles of Walking Trails
- 8 Miles of Equestrian Trails
- 40 Miles of Bicycling Routes
- 8 Camp Sites
- 1 Archery Area

Most of these facilities could be constructed on existing county park land. As noted previously, the recommendations/needs listed in this plan are to serve as a general guide for park development over the next ten years. Some of the facilities listed above have higher priority than others, and not all facilities listed will be constructed in the next ten years.

Many of the County’s existing facilities are marginally adequate for the recreational use they are receiving. Improvements to many of these facilities are needed, or new facilities (on existing park sites) should be constructed.

**Table 3-1  
Standards for Acreage by Park Classification  
Comparison of Park Land Standards**

Park Types	Iredell County	Robeson County	Surry County	Yadkin County
Mini Parks	1-2 acres .25 - .5 acres/1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neighborhood Parks	10-15 acres 1-2 acres/1,000	N/A	7-15 acres 1 acre/1,000	N/A
Community Parks	30-50 acres 5-8 acres/1,000	30-50 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	50-100 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	30-50 acres 1.5 acres/1,000
District Parks/ Sports Complexes	100-200 acres 5-10 acres/1,000	50-80 acres 1.5 acres/1,000	10-150 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	100-150 acres 2.5 acres/1,000
Regional Parks	N/A	150-1,000 acres 1 acre/1,000	200-400 acres 5 acres/1,000	150-1,000 acres 5 acres/1,000

**Table 3-2  
Park Sites and Acreage Needs Assessment  
Based on Standards for Acreage**

Park Types	Yadkin Standards	Existing Parks	2011 Demand 39,000 Population	2011 Need	2021 Demand 40,000 Population	2021 Need
Mini Parks	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neighborhood Parks	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Parks	30-50 acres 1.5 acres/1,000	1 park 28 acres	2 parks 58.5 acres	1 park 30.5 acres	2 parks 60 acres	1 park 32 acres
District Parks/ Sports Complexes	100-150 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	1 park 140 acres	1 park 97.5 acres	Needs Met	1 park 100 acres	Needs Met
Regional Parks	150-1,000 acres 5 acres/1,000	1 park 650 acres	1 park 195 acres	Needs Met*	1 park 200 acres	Needs Met*

\*The need for the County's regional parks will be met with the development of the 5-D Reservoir Recreation Area.

**Table 3-3  
Recreation Facilities Standards  
Comparison of Standards**

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Iredell County</b>	<b>Robeson County</b>	<b>Surry County</b>	<b>Yadkin County</b>
<b>Fields</b>				
Adult Baseball	1/20,000	N/A	1/10,000	1/30,000
Youth Baseball	1/6,000	1/8,000	1/25,000	1/12,000
Softball	1/5,000	1/8,000	1/5,000	1/20,000
Football	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/6,000	1/40,000
Soccer	1/8,000	1/10,000	1/ 4,500	1/10,000
<b>Courts</b>				
Basketball	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/3,000	1/20,000
Tennis	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/ 2,000	1/10,000
Volleyball	1/20,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/10,000
Shuffleboard	1/20,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/20,000
Horseshoe	1/20,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/20,000
<b>Outdoor Areas</b>				
Picnic Shelter	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/ 4,000	1/5,000
Playground Activities*	1/5,000*	1/1,000	1/1,000	1/5,000*
<b>Trails</b>				
Hiking		.4 mile/1,000	.4 mile/1,000	.3 mile/1,000
Equestrian		.4 mile/1,000	.4 mile/1,000	.2 mile/1,000
<b>Specialized</b>				
Community Center (+20,000 SF)		1/20,000	1/20,000	1/40,000
Swimming Pool	N/A	1/50,000	1/20,000	1/30,000
Bicycling/Urban	1 mile/2,000	1 mile/1,000	1 mile/1,000	1 mile/1,000
Camping	1 sites / 20,000	N/A	2.5 sites/1,000	1 site/5,000
Archery Area	1/100,000	1/50,000	1/50,000	
Stream/Lake Mileage	.2 mile/1,000	.2 mile/1,000	.2 mile/1,000	.2 miles/1,000
Stream/Lake Access	1/10 miles	1/10 miles	1/10 miles	1/5 miles

\* Standards for playgrounds are expressed in playground activities. Each playground typically contains 3-5 activities.

**Table 3-4  
Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment**

Facilities	Existing County Facilities	2011 Standards	2011 Demand Population 38,500	2011 Need	2021 Demand Population 40,000	2021 Need
<b>Fields</b>						
Adult Baseball	0	1/30,000	1	1	1	1
Youth Baseball	1	1/12,000	3	2	3	2
Softball	1	1/20,000	2	1	2	1
Football	0	1/40,000	1	1	1	1
Soccer	2	1/10,000	4	2	4	2
<b>Courts</b>						
Basketball	0	1/20,000	2	2	2	2
Tennis	4	1/10,000	4	0	4	0
Volleyball	1	1/10,000	4	3	4	3
Shuffleboard	0	1/20,000	2	2	2	2
Horseshoe	0	1/20,000	2	2	2	2
<b>Outdoor Areas</b>						
Picnic Shelter	6	1/5,000	8	2	8	2
Playground Activities*	2	1/5,000	8	6	8	6
<b>Trails</b>						
Hiking	± 3 miles	.3 miles/1,000	11.5 miles	8.5 miles	12 miles	9 miles
Equestrian	0	.2 miles/1,000	7.7 miles	7.7 miles	8 miles	8 miles
<b>Specialized</b>						
Community Center (+20,000 SF)	1**	1/40,000	1	0	1	0
Swimming Pool	1	1/30,000	1	0	1	0
Bicycling/Urban***	0	1 mile/1,000	39	39	40	40
Camping	0	1 site/5,000	8	8	8	8
Archery Area	0	1/40,000	1	1	1	1
Stream/Lake Mileage	50 miles	.2 miles/1,000	7.8 miles	0	8 miles	0
Stream/Lake Access	3	1/5 miles	2	0	2	0

\*Standards for playgrounds are expressed in play activities. Each playground contains 3-5 activities.

\*\* YMCA

\*\*\* Bicycling routes can be a combination of greenways, park trails, and highway bike routes.



*Yadkin County Park Playground*

## Section Four

# Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations

### INTRODUCTION

Yadkin County currently has the mission of providing park facilities to county residents. Since none of the incorporated towns in Yadkin County have Parks and Recreation Departments, the County is the recreation provider for all county residents. In the past decade, the focus of the Department has been on the development of Yadkin County Park and a number of river access sites. As with most county agencies, the County has not focused resources on the development of smaller parks (neighborhood or mini parks).

The addition of the 5-D Reservoir Recreation Area will greatly expand the County's park lands. The development of this new recreation area, along with improvements to Yadkin County Park, will meet many of the park and recreation needs of the County. The only other area of the County that will need additional park development is in the northeast quadrant either through adding facilities at the law school site, or finding additional land for a community park. The challenge will be finding funds to develop, operate, and maintain the parkland it currently controls.

The inventory of existing park facilities in the county indicates that there has not been a strong commitment by the County to provide parks and recreation facilities. As noted in Section One, the County has constructed only one major park since the Department's founding. If the County is to meet the growing park needs of its residents, there will be a need for significant park development in the coming decade. Development of park property adjacent to the 5-D Reservoir will provide much needed water-based recreation opportunities as well as passive recreation opportunities. In addition, the County should begin work on improvements and expansion of facilities at Yadkin County Park and look for ways to provide additional park facilities in the northeastern section of the county. All of these facilities will require development capital.

The County is not alone in its mission to provide park and recreation facilities to its residents. In addition to classrooms, Yadkin County Schools provides many indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. Currently, limited recreational programming occurs on school grounds. Wherever possible, the county schools and the Parks and Recreation Department should seek opportunities for joint use of facilities.

While none of the towns within the County have established park and recreation departments and programs, Jonesville has an excellent park, Lila Swaim Memorial Park. This community park provides valuable recreation facilities to the citizens of Jonesville and residents in the northwest area



*Pilot Mountain State Park. Image Courtesy of M. Windsor, NC State Park System.*

of the county. The County should work with local municipalities and communities to encourage the development of small neighborhood or civic parks in communities where local authorities can lead in the development and maintenance of these facilities. This local investment/involvement will be most likely to occur if there is open communication between County representatives and local stakeholders.

The State of North Carolina owns/manages hundreds of acres of land in the county and manages an outstanding state park in the northeast area of the county and Surry County (Pilot Mountain State Park). Policies, procedures, and long range plans for these facilities have significant implications on the recreational opportunities found in the county. Yadkin County should coordinate its park planning efforts with the State.



*Yadkin Family YMCA*

Finally, the private sector plays an important role in providing recreational opportunities throughout Yadkin County. These facilities include public golf courses, numerous swim and tennis clubs, health clubs, and the YMCA. While these facilities are not free to the general public, they are meeting the recreational demand for many residents, and reducing the demand for some public facilities. In addition, the private sector may play a role in providing recreation facilities to residents through potential public/private ventures. Public agencies are linking with private vendors to provide recreation opportunities in many



*Picnicking is an example of a passive recreation activity.*

communities throughout North Carolina. Examples of public/private joint ventures may include health/fitness facilities, swim clubs, and RV camping facilities.

This plan addresses the need for providing parks with both passive and active recreational opportunities. The term “passive recreation” is one that refers to recreation opportunities such as walking, hiking, and picnicking, that typically accommodate the need to preserve green space and allow people to observe nature. Passive facilities typically serve the entire county and are provided at regional or district parks. “Active recreation” includes activities such as softball, baseball, soccer, and other outdoor activities. These types of recreational activities have facilities that are usually provided by counties at sports complexes, district parks, recreation/community centers, and school sites.

To determine specific park and recreation recommendations for Yadkin County, it is essential to clearly define how the County will interface with the other recreational providers in the community. Hopefully, this will eliminate duplication of facilities and services, and begin to establish a cooperative effort from all of the providers. Therefore, the proposals and recommendations of this Master Plan are organized based on what each recreational provider should offer through the ten year planning period (2011-2021).

## **ROLES OF RECREATIONAL PROVIDERS**

### **State of North Carolina**

It is anticipated that the State of North Carolina will continue to maintain and operate Pilot Mountain State Park. The County, along with other nearby governments, should provide a unified message to the State on their interest to see this park enhanced to its utmost potential. This may include expansion of facilities and recreational opportunities. The State of North Carolina should continue to offer a variety of recreational facilities and programs on a regional basis. The State should be the provider of regional state parks that include opportunities for camping, fishing, biking, and hiking.

### **Role of Yadkin County Schools**

The County’s schools are being used for youth athletic programs through athletic associations. The joint use of school facilities for these programs is important and should be continued. As noted in the following paragraphs, expanding joint-use of facilities is an economical way of meeting recreational needs, but reliance on school facilities can only be justified when well written joint-use agreements are in place.

### **Joint-Use Agreements – Parks, Recreation and Schools**

The basic justification for the creation of joint-use agreements is based on the premise that the majority of costs for developing and operating schools and recreation facilities come from the same source: local taxpayers, and that the development of duplicate facilities by those entities would constitute a waste of public funds. Combining resources allows for greater potential in the development of school and recreation facilities that neither entity is likely to afford if pursued independently. Other potential advantages of joint development and management of park/schools include:

- The development of centralized public services usually requires less land than would be required if the schools and the Parks and Recreation Department were to develop separate facilities.

- Centralized locations for county services, including schools and parks, allows for the convenience of all citizens, but particularly parents, in facilitating the participation of their children in various education and recreation pursuits.
- Centralized park/school developments eliminate the duplication of maintenance functions and result in overall cost savings.
- Many of the outdoor areas and facilities needed for schools are also necessary for park and recreation services. Partnering in the development and management of areas and facilities minimizes the duplication of land acquisition and development needs and represents an efficient use of public resources
- Joint developments are eligible for grants from the North Carolina Park and Recreation Trust Fund.
- School/Park partnerships encourage the development of positive after-school and weekend enrichment activities focused on the development of the “whole child.”
- Park systems usually have the resources for developing and maintaining higher quality sports fields than can be found in most school systems.

- Center
- Brooks’ Crossroads
- Courtney
- Enon
- Flint Hill
- Footville
- Forbush
- Hamptonville
- Huntsville
- Lone Hickory
- Longtown
- Marler
- Richmond Hill
- Swan Creek
- Union Hill
- Windsor’s Crossroads
- Wyo

Joint-use agreements between local park and recreation agencies and school systems are very prevalent across North Carolina and the country. Examples of school/park and recreation joint-use agreements in North Carolina can be found in Pitt, Scotland, Watauga, Wake, and New Hanover counties.

### **Role of Cities and Towns**

Yadkin County is made up of four incorporated cities/towns:

- Town of Boonville
- Town of East Bend
- Town of Jonesville
- Town of Yadkinville

In addition to the incorporated areas, there are numerous unincorporated communities. These include:

- Barney Hill
- Branon
- Buck Shoals

Several of these municipalities have parks. Jonesville has one of the County’s largest parks. In addition, there are community recreation facilities such as swim clubs in several communities.

These individual recreational facilities play an important role in meeting recreational needs of County residents and should be encouraged. Local and county agencies should work to keep community recreation facilities open and seek avenues for partnership.

### **Role of Yadkin County**

Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department currently offers its citizens a limited variety of recreation opportunities at Yadkin County Park located in the southern part of the county, the Richmond Hill Law School, located in the northeast quadrant of the County, and several river access sites located throughout the County. These parks provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation. As with most county agencies, the offerings of the Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department will be focused on large parks. The County’s existing parks facilities need improvements, and its newest parkland at 5-D Reservoir must be constructed.

In order for the County Parks and Recreation Department to provide the park facilities that will

be required by county residents, it must work in conjunction with other agencies in the community. This collaborative effort should include working with Yadkin County Schools to minimize duplication of facility development by establishing and maintaining joint use agreements for school facilities. This collaborative effort should also be extended to other community entities such as the YMCA, Yadkin Valley Community Hospital, etc.

## **PARK PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Through the planning and public involvement process, the County adopted standards for development of both parks and facilities. These standards are defined in Section Three: Standards and Needs Assessment. With these standards as a backdrop, the following recommendations are made for future park development:

### **Regional Parks**

Regional parks are typically larger passive recreation oriented parks that highlight and utilize a unique feature in the service area. The development of the County's new reservoir on Deep Creek offers an opportunity to provide a water based recreation facility with a wide array of recreation opportunities. The 138 acre lake will create opportunities for fishing, boating (non-motorized), and nature study. The 495 acres surrounding the lake will offer opportunities for trails, picnicking, camping, and family-oriented activities like disc golf, volleyball, horseshoes, etc. The recreational opportunities afforded by this new reservoir will not only meet county residents' recreational needs but may also create opportunities for attracting tourist from other areas of the state.

The County is currently working on a site specific master plan for the 5-D Reservoir site. This plan, developed with public input, will provide a vision for park development. The site specific master plan will allow the County to identify recreational activities appropriate for the site, estimate capital needs for developing the park, and establish a plan for park operation.



*Yadkin County Park*

### **District Parks/Sports Complexes**

District parks are a versatile park type that provides a wide variety of recreational activities. Their large size (100-150 acres) allows district parks to offer both active and passive recreation opportunities. Yadkin County has one district park; Yadkin County Park. At 140 acres this park has adequate size to serve the county well. Currently, the County controls use of this property through a long term lease with the State of North Carolina. In the future, the County may consider purchasing the property from the State.

The existing facilities at this park are meeting many recreational needs, but the demand for active recreation by county residents exceeds the carrying capacity of these existing facilities. See Section One: Inventory for more information on this facility. Yadkin County Park can provide significantly more recreational opportunities to community residents if existing facilities are improved and expanded.

A site specific master plan for proposed improvements will be developed as part of a separate planning study. Recommendations from this site specific master plan should be used as a guide for making renovations and facility expansions to this park.

### **Community Parks**

The County has one park site that generally falls into the community park classification. Richmond Hill Law School, a 28-acre park on the home site of Judge

Richmond Pearson provides a community park type facility in the northeast area of the county. The facilities offered at this park are limited by typical community park standards, but with 28 acres, the park has the potential to provide greater recreational opportunities to this area of the county.

Another option for developing a much needed community park in the northeastern section of the county is to acquire additional land specifically for a new community park, leaving the Richmond Hill Law School site as a historic interpretive site.

One site that has great potential for park development may be the Lime Rock property located on Lime Rock Road just above the Richmond Hill Law School. This site, which covers approximately 80 acres, would provide another valuable river access and is large enough for a variety of recreational activities.

In addition to the County's community park at the Richmond Hills Law School site, the Town of Jonesville has an excellent park that serves the northwest section of the county. Lila Swain Memorial Park in Jonesville is a 23-acre park that offers a number of active recreation activities (baseball, softball, multi-purpose field, court games). This park serves the recreational needs of Jonesville and northwest Yadkin County.

## Neighborhood Parks

The development of neighborhood parks by county



*Greenways have been shown to produce economic development.*

agencies is typically minimized. The relatively small size and geographical spacing between sites make neighborhood park maintenance and operation prohibitively expensive. Municipal departments, with their higher densities, usually develop and operate neighborhood parks.

The long range vision of the Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department is to develop and maintain larger park sites, not small neighborhood parks. With this understanding, it is the recommendation of this planning study that the Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department minimize its efforts on the development of neighborhood parks and focus its efforts on the development and operation of regional parks; district parks/sports complexes, community parks, and greenways/open space.

Local communities should be encouraged to develop neighborhood parks to meet the recreational needs typically provided by this park type.

## Mini Parks

The smallest of the park types, mini parks, play a valuable role in providing recreation activities in urban locations. Mini parks often provide very important open space in urban settings, where outdoor space is at a premium.

County agencies typically do not become involved in providing mini parks because of the geographical separation and lower population densities found in county systems. As with neighborhood parks, it is the recommendation of this planning report that Yadkin County not focus its development and operational efforts on mini parks.

Local communities should be encouraged to develop mini parks.

## Greenways

The most popular outdoor recreation in the nation is walking. The popularity of this activity was reflected in the County's public meetings. Greenway trails are typical off road trails that wind through neighborhoods and natural areas providing transportation corridors and recreation opportunities for walkers, joggers,

and bikers. The trail surface can be either natural or paved and is normally eight to ten feet (8-10') in width.

Greenways also offer a valuable alternative to automotive transportation. A greenway trail provides a valuable linkage between communities, schools, churches, businesses, and parks.

In addition to providing environmental protection and recreation opportunities, greenways can produce economic development. The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation conducted a study on a bicycle trail constructed along the northern Outer Banks region. This study determined that a \$6.7 million investment in off-road bike paths and shoulder improvements produced an estimated \$60 million annually in economic benefit. In addition, the study found that:

- Bicycle facilities in the area are an important factor to many tourists visiting the region.
- Investments in the bicycle facilities improved the safety of the area's transportation system.
- Bicycle activities include the benefits of health, fitness, quality of life, and the environment.

Community-wide greenways, particularly in areas with high tourist opportunities, have been shown to produce similar economic impact. The findings from this and similar studies are directly applicable to any greenway development in Yadkin County.

A greenway trail has already been developed in Jonesville. Many people expressed a desire to see the greenway trail extended beyond the city limits, possibly connecting to Pilot Mountain State Park. Likewise, several people mentioned a potential connection to the Mountains to Sea Trail. The County should be open to potential greenway development in the future.

The development of a greenway plan was beyond the scope of this planning effort but the County should develop plans for a greenway system in the future.

## **Bikeways**

In addition to providing a valuable and very popular outdoor recreation activity, biking reduces our reliance on the automobile and provides an environmentally sensitive alternative to driving. The County should encourage the State to include bike lanes whenever roadway improvements are made or new roads constructed. This plan should also become part of the County's subdivision process, where developers are required to accommodate bicycle (and pedestrian) traffic in the roadway improvements they construct as part of the development process.

The county should consider tapping into the federal government's SAFETEA-LU program which funds non-vehicular transportation projects that encourage alternative means of transportation. These funds have been used to construct bike lanes and greenway trails in communities throughout North Carolina.

The development of a countywide greenway, along with a countywide bike plan would provide an important amenity that would benefit county residents and could be used to increase tourism. As documented in the NCDOT study on bicycle facilities along the northern Outer Banks, the development of a bicycle/pedestrian trail system can significantly increase tourism and the associated economic impact.

## **Program Assessment/ Recommendations**

The County's Parks and Recreation Department programs are offered primarily at Yadkin County Park. Programs include:

- Adult Softball
- Youth Soccer
- Basketball Leagues
- Youth Self-defense Classes
- Pool Activities
- Swimming Lessons
- Swim Team/Competitive Swim
- Free Swim
- Private Partners
- Baseball Tournaments

- Baseball Camps
- Tennis Camps
- Disc Golf
- Free Play
- Tournaments
- Summer Concerts/Special Events @ Ampitheatre
- Picnic Shelter Rentals
- Fishing Permits/Licenses
- Fishing Equipment/Bait Sales
- Boat Rentals
- Duck Blind Rentals
- Boating/Fishing/Hunting Lessons

Disc Golf is a very popular sport in the region. In addition to the course at Yadkin County Park, there are three private courses in the area (Ramcat Ridge, Cranberry Disco, and Borrowed Time). Tournaments are held almost weekly with some weekends hosting multiple tournaments. Each event draws 10-30 people and attracts people from throughout the region.

The majority of youth athletics in the county are organized and programmed by athletic associations like Yadkin County Baseball, East Yadkin Girls Softball Association, Upland Basketball and Cheerleading. Most of the practice and game play for these leagues occurs at school facilities.

The primary focus of Yadkin County’s athletics is soccer, with the majority of the league play occurring on the fields at Yadkin County Park. Yadkin Soccer Association (YSA) organizes and runs leagues for all ages/skills as well as travel teams. YSA soccer programs engage 550 to 600 participants, and the state tournaments in the Challenge and Classic Leagues draw participants from all over North Carolina.

With the development of the 5-D Reservoir site, the Department will be able to provide a much wider selection of programs and opportunities. The reservoir will allow water activities such as fishing and canoeing/kayaking, and hunting. The Department will have opportunities for providing lessons in canoeing, water safety, fishing, and hunting.

The walking trails and woodland areas will include activities such as walking, jogging, biking, and horseback riding. These areas also hold educational opportunities in plant identification, bird watching, nature studies, horseback riding, etc.

Some of the facilities developed at the 5-D site have revenue generation potential. These include:

## Facility Proposals and Recommendations

Based on the previous recommendations on park development, Yadkin County should construct a new regional park at the 5-D Reservoir, develop a community park in the northeast quadrant, improve water access areas, and renovate Yadkin County Park by the year 2021. The improvements that will be made as part of these renovations/expansions will add many new facilities to the parks inventory. As these expansions/renovations are being planned, the County should consider the list of facility needs established in Section Three.



### Adult Baseball

Over the past five to ten years, the popularity of adult baseball has waned. While most communities include adult baseball fields in their facilities, the sport does not carry the popularity it once held. Utilizing a standard of one field per 30,000 people, the County may have a need for one adult baseball field by 2021. Utilization of school facilities will allow the county to focus resources in other areas.

### Youth Baseball

Youth baseball is a popular sport in Yadkin County. With this understanding, the standard for facility development of youth baseball fields has been set at

one field/12,000 people. Utilizing this standard for development, there may be a need for two additional youth baseball fields. These fields could be developed as part of the improvements planned for Yadkin County Park.

### **Softball**

Men's adult softball has traditionally been a very popular sport in North Carolina, and NRPA and NCDENR standards (one field/5,000 people) reflect that popularity. Recent trends have been away from adult softball. Based on a standard of one field/20,000, the County may need to add an adult softball field by 2021.

It should also be noted that changes in demand have now placed additional emphasis on girl's softball. The County should consider development of a field to accommodate this new area of play.

### **Football**

Football's popularity has been influenced by the immergence of soccer and (most recently) lacrosse. Utilizing a conservative standard for field development (one field/40,000), results in a need for an additional football field by 2021. This field could be developed as multi-purpose field to facilitate soccer and lacrosse.



### **Soccer**

One of the fastest growing sports in America; soccer has surpassed the demand for football in this country. The County has two dedicated soccer fields at Yadkin County Park. In addition, soccer is played on the outfield of the baseball fields. These fields are marginally meeting current demand, but as the

County's population grows, these fields will not be adequate and two or three additional fields will be needed by 2021.

As with other sports facilities, the County should consider lighting its soccer fields. Lighting fields doubles the effective use of the fields.

The demand for county soccer fields will only continue in the future, and will be made more intense by the new interest in lacrosse. Played on a field very similar to a soccer field (they are slightly larger than soccer fields), lacrosse will increase in popularity and should be planned for as the County looks at its soccer field needs. The new sport should be taken into consideration since play for both sports can be programmed on similar fields.

The County should make plans to expand the soccer fields in Yadkin County Park.



### **Basketball**

Basketball is still a relatively popular sport in the United States. Played by a variety of ages and increasingly by females, this sport can be played either indoors or out. The development of outdoor basketball courts cost considerably less than an indoor gymnasium. Currently there are three outdoor courts in Jonesville at Lila Swaim Memorial Park and one indoor facility at the YMCA. Using a standard of one court/20,000 (less than national and state standards of development of one basketball court per 5,000 people), the County may need two additional courts by 2021. As with many athletic facilities, this court need could be met on school sites.

Outdoor courts are relatively inexpensive to construct and do not require significant space in a park. They do require careful placement because activity around the court is often aggressive and male dominated and does not mix well with other youth activities.

### Volleyball

Currently there is one dedicated public volleyball court in Yadkin County. The national and state standard for development of volleyball courts is one court/5,000 people. Reducing this standard significantly (one court/10,000 people) would result in the need of three outdoor courts. Volleyball courts are relatively small and can easily be added to existing parks.



### Tennis

Tennis has not experienced the growth and interest as some of the nation's newer sports (soccer, lacrosse, etc.), but as the baby boomers move to their 50s and retirement, the demand for sports that keep people active without physical contact will continue.

Utilizing a standard of facility development significantly less than the national and state standards (one court/10,000 people), there is not a need for any additional tennis courts.



### Shuffleboard/Horseshoes

There are no public shuffleboard courts or horseshoe pits in Yadkin County. Both of these activities provide a recreational outlet and opportunities for social interaction; particularly in the elderly population. While the national and state standard of one court/5,000 people seems excessive, the development of some of these courts would provide an excellent activity for the County's older population. Reducing the national and state standards (one court/20,000 people) will result in a need for two of each of these court games. Like volleyball courts, shuffleboard courts and horseshoe pits are easily added to existing parks.



### Picnic Shelters

Picnicking is typically a very popular recreational activity for family recreation. The County currently has only six shelters in its park system. Based on state standards (there is no national standard for picnic shelters), this number of shelters is less than the number needed. The County should add picnic shelters to its parks (existing and future).



### **Playgrounds**

The County has only two playgrounds in its parks. As the County develops additional facilities, it should look for locations for more playgrounds. Larger parks may warrant more than one playground.



### **Pedestrian Trails**

Walking is the number one outdoor recreational activity in the United States. Based on the positive response it received in the public survey (over one third of the respondents indicated they either are currently walking or would like to walk), it is an extremely popular activity in Yadkin County as well.

With this level of public demand for walking, the development of walking trails should be a priority for future park development. The County should place a priority on walking trail development in all of its existing and future parks. A paved walking trail is an

important component of all park types, and should be provided in each of the County's parks.

### **Stream/Lake Mileage/Access**

As noted previously, water is one of the County's assets. In order to maximize this valuable resource, greater access is needed. This includes improving existing access areas to the county's streams and rivers and providing lake access at the 5-D Reservoir site. Likewise, the development of blueways, designated water trails similar to the land-oriented greenways, should be a component of this water access.



### **Biking Trails**

Biking is a very popular outdoor recreational activity. As discussed earlier in this section, the County should expand opportunities for biking through the development of a countywide greenway trail system, including paths suitable for biking in existing and future parks, and through encouraging NCDOT to develop roads with bike lanes or wider shoulders to accommodate bikers. In addition, the County should construct a mountain bike trail as part of the park at the 5-D Reservoir.

### **Equestrian Trails**

Many of the County's residents enjoy horseback riding. This was heard in several of the public meetings. The development of the 5-D Reservoir site provides an opportunity to develop trails to accommodate horses.

## Community Centers

Residents of Yadkin County are currently having their indoor recreational needs served by the YMCA located adjacent to Yadkin County Park and several senior centers. These facilities are meeting the indoor recreational needs of the County's residents. The focus of the County's program and facilities will continue to be oriented on outdoor facilities.

## Swimming Pools

Swimming pools are extremely expensive to build and operate. The County currently offers a swimming pool at Yadkin County Park. This pool is currently meeting the aquatic needs of the community.

## Archery

Archery is a skilled sport enjoyed by a strong following. Currently there are no dedicated public archery areas in the County, but based on the popularity of hunting an archery area would likely be popular. The Department should consider development of an archery area in one of its parks.

## Hunting

A desire to have a place to hunt was expressed in several public meetings. The new 5D reservoir will offer an opportunity to develop a facility for duck hunting.



## Camping

Camping offers an opportunity to enjoy nature and experience social interaction. Pilot Mountain State Park offers family camping and group camping. The County should also consider providing a campsite at its future park on the 5-D Reservoir. These facilities could provide valuable opportunities to residents and tourists.

## Other Recreational Facilities

The list of recreational activities developed for this Master Plan is based on national and state standards that have been used in park planning for decades. As noted earlier in this section, these standards are used as a point of reference with the understanding that each community should develop standards that are unique to their specific needs.

One of the downsides of the national and state standards is they are not updated often and fail to incorporate newer trends and activities. In the past decade, several new activities have been growing in popularity that should be included in future park development. These activities include:

### Skateboard Parks

Skateboarding has been popular for several decades. In the past decade, many communities have recognized the popularity of this sport and have tried to provide a safe and vandal resistant setting for this creative sport.

Skateboard parks can be as simple or elaborate as a community's budget will allow. The primary goal is to provide a safe, attractive setting for users. Recent legislation has reduced the liability of communities that provide these facilities.



### Disc Golf

As noted in the section on public input, the popularity of disc golf was listed as a desired activity. The County has one disc golf course at Yadkin County

Park and should consider constructing a second disc golf course at the 5-D Reservoir.



### **Off-leash Dog Areas**

One of the newest trends in park development, the dog park, is a response to the nation's love of pets, particularly the dog (man's best friend). Communities throughout North Carolina are now constructing dog parks.

Dog parks take many forms, but are primarily a place within a park where park users can bring their dog to run, walk, and recreate. They usually include a fenced open area where dogs, accompanied by their owner, are allowed to run free. Often the dog park is divided into an area for large and small dogs.

This may be an activity the County considers in the future.



*The 5D Reservoir will provide valuable recreation opportunities.*

## Section Five

# Action Plan Implementation

### INTRODUCTION

The recommendations found in this Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan are based upon a review of community attributes, an analysis of the existing park system, the identification of user needs, the development of recreation standards, and an adherence to stated proposals and recommendations. The plan is intended to be “action-oriented”; designed to provide a framework from which the County can enhance its parks and recreation system.

Implementation of the Master Plan is dependent upon the identification of adequate funding for the recommended park improvements. It is understood that balancing county budgets throughout the state has become increasingly difficult. The North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified inadequate funding for park facilities and recreation programs as a key issue needing to be addressed in the next five years if the government is to maintain basic minimum services. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, per capita funding for parks and recreation services throughout the State of North Carolina is 33% below the national average. Even though funding is currently low statewide, it does not appear to reflect the high value citizens place on parks and recreation.



Implementing the recommendations of this Master Plan will result in meeting the future needs for parks and recreation services, as well as preserving open space in the area. Yadkin County will need to increase its annual budgets on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, and operations and maintenance costs for parks and recreation facilities if park and recreation needs of county residents are to be met. This Action Plan is designed to give the County's staff and elected officials a realistic approach to financing the proposals and recommendations of this Master Plan.

## **DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS**

The Yadkin County Parks and Recreation Department has recently been reorganized. Through this reorganization, the County's Soil and Water Conservation Director, along with the County Manager, will direct both maintenance and operation. The initial focus of the new Department will be construction/resource management of the new facility at the 5-D Reservoir site and improvements to other park facilities. The expertise and equipment of the Soil and Water Conservation Department provides a valuable asset to help in the improvement/development of the County's parks. As the Department evolves and new facilities are brought online, the parks and recreation component will be developed in the guidance of the County Manager under the Services and Development section of County government.

## **STAFF NEEDS**

As noted above, the delivery of parks and recreation services and facilities is changing in Yadkin County. The County's Soil and Conservation Director, along with the County Manager, lead a small department of County staff that are primarily focused on improving park facilities and providing limited recreation programming for activities at Yadkin County Park.

With the expansion of park facilities over the next decade, there will be the need for additional staff to program, operate, and maintain these facilities. Staff expansion will predominately be in the area of maintenance workers, grounds maintenance crew, and

landscape workers. In addition, there will be a need for more recreation and athletic program staff. No supervisory level positions are anticipated as part of this expansion. In the next ten years, the Department will need to add the following:

- (1) Recreation Program Staff
- (1) Athletic Program Staff
- (2) Maintenance Workers
- (4) Grounds Keepers

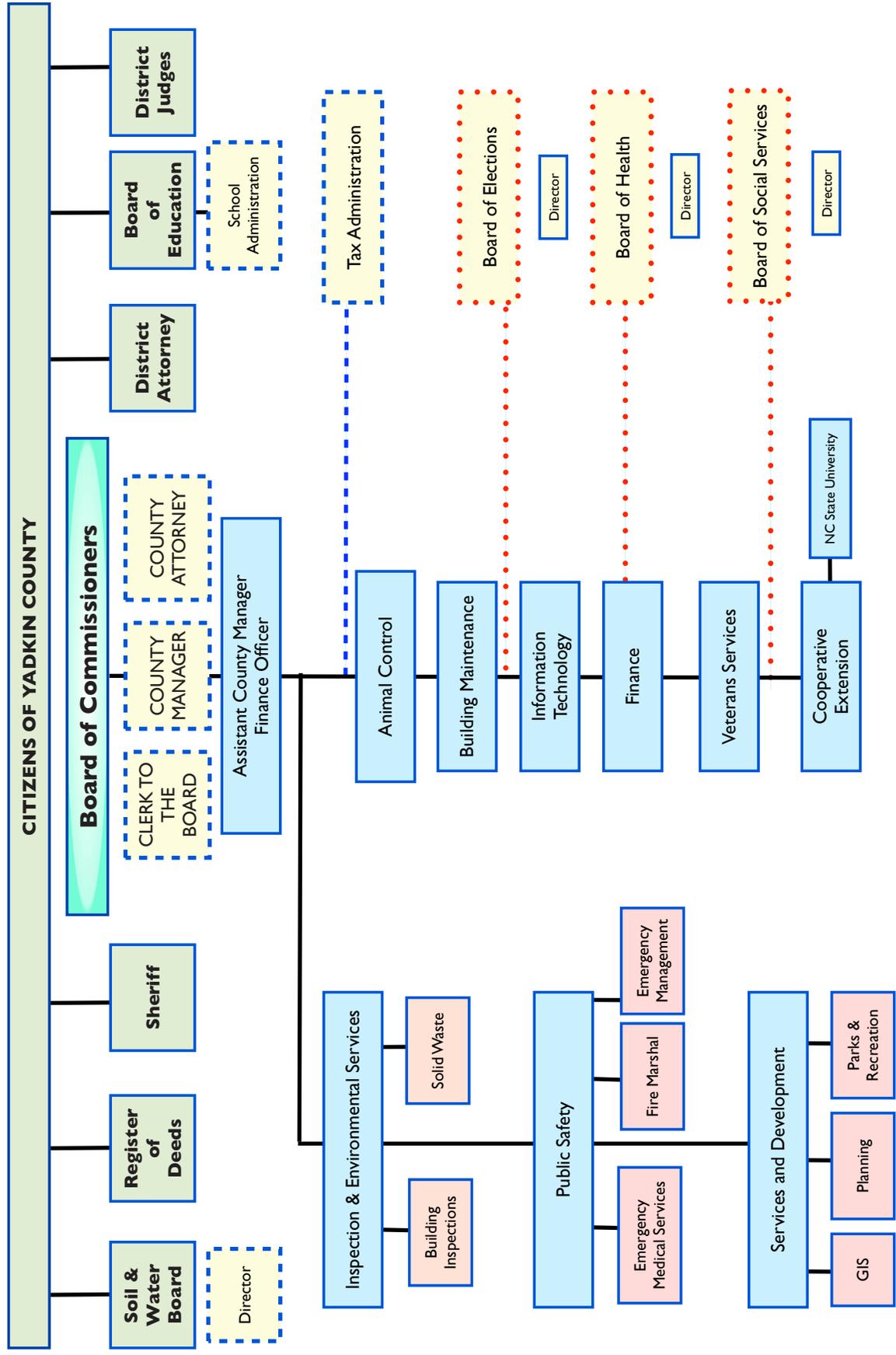
## **OPERATIONAL COSTS**

As noted above, the development of new recreation facilities will require additional staff for the Department. These new staff positions will add to the annual operational budget in both staff and equipment costs. The expansion of park facilities will also add to the energy and utility cost of park and recreation facilities. The recommended facility improvements included in this Master Plan will double the Department's current facilities. Expansion of this magnitude will have significant implications to the operational budget. The Department's management staff and elected officials must carefully consider the financial impact of each major capital improvement project as projects are considered. No capital improvement project should be undertaken without the commitment of support for adequate ongoing operational funding. Likewise, consideration should be given to the positive economic impacts that some facilities may have on the County's economy, and if applicable, their potential for revenue generation.

## **GREENER OPERATION**

As the world's population expands and environmental concerns over global warming, conservation of resources, and preservation of our fragile natural systems become more apparent, greater environmental responsibility by public and private agencies has become critical. As a government agency, particularly one that is involved with the management of public open space and the improvement of the public's health, the County should make a sincere and concerted effort to minimize its environmental impact.

Yadkin County Organizational Structure



Adopted April 18, 2011

With this understanding, the Department should evaluate its maintenance and operational procedures with intent to minimize waste and environmental impact. Where economically feasible, the Department should look to implement operational procedures that emphasize conservation, recycling, and sustainability. Likewise, as the Department looks to build new facilities, it should consider constructing facilities that minimize environmental impacts, conserve energy, and reuse building materials where possible.

As a starting point for this conversion to a “greener” operation, the Department should establish a committee of operation, maintenance, and construction stakeholders to study the options available and develop a plan for becoming “greener”.

### **STRATEGIC ACQUISITION**

Much of Yadkin County’s park system is located on property that is not owned by the County, but is held in long term leases. The State of North Carolina owns the land associated at Yadkin County Park. The County’s three river access sites are on property owned by NCDOT and two private land owners.

While these leases provide a means of controlling important park property at minimal cost, the County should consider purchasing some of the properties where plans call for significant investments in park development.

Another potential strategic acquisition to be considered is the future purchase of property in the northeast section of the county for a future community park. As identified in Section Four, there is a need for additional park facilities in this area of the county. One site that seems to be a potential for community park development is the State of North Carolina’s property off Lime Rock Road and Old Lime Rock Quarry Drive. The County should explore acquisition or long term lease options with the State. County officials should be open to opportunities for expanding facilities in this area either through acquisition of a site for a community park, or expansion of facilities at Richmond Hill Law School.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Capital Improvement Program for the acquisition, renovation, and development of parks for the planning period was prepared with input from County staff and public involvement. All of the proposed costs are shown in 2011 dollar values, but an allowance is included to cover anticipated inflation. The capital improvement costs include funds for site preparation, site utilities, and facility development. The Capital Improvement Program also includes estimated planning and design fees.

The Capital Improvement Plan can be summarized into the following components:

Renovation/Park Improvements	\$2,059,200
Park Development (New Parks)	<u>\$5,509,625</u>
Total Capital Improvement	\$7,568,825

Table 5-1 “Capital Improvements Program” shows the costs associated with the Capital Improvement Program (ten year planning period). The table reflects the proposals and recommendations as outlined in Section Four of this Master Plan.

The majority of these capital improvement costs are in proposed renovations to Yadkin County Park and the development of the recreation area at 5D Reservoir. More detailed cost estimates for each of these facilities can be found in the site specific master plans recently developed for each facility.

### **KEY FUNDING/REVENUE SOURCES**

The County has good public support for parks, programs, and services, but historically parks and recreation services and facility development has been underfunded. The proposed additional facilities and expanded operations will only add to the need for funding dollars from a variety of sources. Yadkin County will need to create a combination of revenue sources to meet the future needs of local residents. The following funding sources are provided to help the County evaluate funding options.

## **Revenue Plan**

Upon adoption of the Master Plan, the Department, with input from county leaders, should consider the establishment of a revenue plan. A revenue plan incorporates all available funding resources in a community, prioritizes them, and puts each option into a funding strategy. In a revenue plan the following funding alternatives are evaluated for their appropriate use in funding capital improvements and programs:

### **General Tax Revenues**

General tax revenues traditionally provide the principle source of funds for general operations and maintenance of a municipal or county recreation and parks system. Recreation, as a public service, is scheduled along with health, public safety, schools, etc. in regular budgets established by the governing authority. Assessed valuation of real and personal property provides the framework for this major portion of the tax base. If the County wishes to offer a park and recreation system that truly provides a quality of life for the community, this level of funding must be increased.

### **User Fees**

Recreation facilities such as game fields, courts, and boat/water areas are typically covered by a combination of general tax revenues and user fees. All park and recreation systems have different values in place for how they fund various portions of a recreation experience. Tax subsidies vary by activity and the County will need to determine the level of commitment expected under these values or principles.

User fees are currently being used to offset maintenance costs and provide limited capital improvements.

The Department will also need to update its current revenue and pricing policy as part of an overall revenue plan based on the values and guiding funding principals of the area.

### **General Obligation Bonds**

General tax revenue for parks and recreation are usually devoted to current operation and maintenance

of existing facilities. In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, the borrowing of funds to acquire new lands and develop facilities may be necessary. The State of North Carolina gives municipal and county governments the authority to accomplish this borrowing of funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds not to exceed the total cost of improvements (including land acquisition). For the purpose of paying the debt on these bonds the local government is empowered to levy a special tax. Total bonding capacities is limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

The real value of a governing agency's bonding authority and capacity is not necessarily the funds made available for capital improvement program alone (in terms of local monies). Bonding enables government agencies to utilize funds to match federal grant-in-aid monies or state funds. General obligation bonds are still the greatest source utilized to fund park projects in North Carolina. Yadkin County may need to create a series of bond referendums to achieve the capital improvements identified in the plan.

This may be the avenue to provide funding for much of the proposed park improvements. Through a well thought out and publicly presented bond campaign, voters would be given the authority to choose to support park improvements through the sale of bonds.

### **Revenue Bonds**

Revenue bonds have become a popular funding method for financing high use specialty facilities like golf courses, aquatic centers, ice rinks, tennis centers, and complexes for softball and soccer. The user and other revenue sources on-site pay revenue bonds. This revenue source would only be of use to the county if they choose to change their tax subsidy policy for using this type of funding. Based on current pricing practices, the county most likely would not seek out this option.

### **Limited Option or Special Use Tax**

Limited option or special use taxes can be established in various ways. A municipality or county can establish

the tax by determining the source such as property valuation; real estate transfer taxes, or sales tax. This proposal will require legislative approval. Typically, special use taxes are structured on sales tax or transfer taxes and earmarked for a project need. A governing body can approve a tax that is identified or earmarked on property valuation however other sources may require state approval. The idea behind a special option or limited option tax is that the tax is identified or limited for a special purpose or projects and the duration can also be limited to the accomplishment of the purpose or projects.

This option will likely not be used by the County to raise funds for park development.

### **Park Foundation (Partners for Parks)**

A park foundation can be instrumental in assisting the county in acquiring land, developing facilities, sponsoring programs, and buying equipment for the department. Park foundations typically create five funding strategies for accessing money to build up their coffers. These include a foundation membership, individual gifts, grants from other recognized and national foundations, long term endowments, and a land trust for future acquisitions.

### **General Foundations**

Another source of revenue is the direct contribution of money from General Foundations within the state or nation. Foundation funds should be sought for both development and construction of facilities as well as providing programs. They should include general-purpose foundations that have relatively few restrictions, special program foundations for specific activities, and corporate foundations with few limitations and typically from local sources.

The Trust for Public Land and NC Rails-Trail have been instrumental in providing financial and technical assistance for open space conservation and development of greenways in North Carolina. Another source of local assistance may be large corporations with foundations established to provide grants for public projects. Companies such as Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Duke Energy, may have available funding through existing grant programs,

or they may be interested in creating a program or partnership for specific projects. The County should actively pursue grants from foundation and trust sources on a regional and national level. Information on trusts and foundations can be found through the Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003-3076 (<http://foundationcenter.org/>) and the Non-Profit Gateway to Federal Government agencies (<http://www.usa.gov/index.shtml>).

### **Federal and State Assistance**

Federal funding sources necessary to help finance Master Plan recommendations have historically been available from the U.S. Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Potential funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is also available given certain conditions. Other potential sources for recreational funding are available through the National Foundation of Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Unfortunately, federal funding for most of these programs has been very limited in the past several years.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed a bill in 1995 creating a consistent source of funds for parks and recreation in the state. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides money for capital improvements, repairs, renovations, and land acquisition in state and local parks. Revenues from the State's portion of the real estate deed transfer tax support the Fund. Of the funds allocated, 65% go to the state parks system, 30% provide matching grants to local governments, and the remaining 5% go to the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program. The maximum matching grant is limited to \$500,000 for a single project. The PARTF system allows an agency to apply for a 50/50 cost-sharing grant to develop or acquire parkland and facilities. Funding from PARTF has been considerably less in the past few years due to the decrease in real estate transfers.

While funding for PARTF is currently reduced, this funding source may be one option for the County to help finance park improvements.

Additionally, the State can fund projects such as bikeways and pedestrian walks through the federally funded SAFTEA-LU [formerly known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)]. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) administers the funds and the local government agency can use these funds for developing portions of any proposed greenway system. Local communities can also apply for assistance with pedestrian, bikeway, and greenway projects by applying for “NCDOT Enhancement Funds.” The State also makes funds available for development of facilities and programs through the CDBG administered by the Division of Community Assistance. Eligible communities can use these federal funds for development of projects such as recreation facilities, land acquisition, and neighborhood centers. Non-profit neighborhood groups can receive assistance from this program and the Department can assist these groups by identifying possible projects.

Another source of state administered funding is through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). These funds are set aside for the acquisition of riparian properties, financing of innovative wastewater management initiatives, stormwater mitigation and stream bank restoration projects, support for greenways, and some planning programs. The acquired or purchased property can be used for recreation while protecting valuable water resources from the affects of urban encroachment. The General Assembly initially set aside \$88 million for the CWMTF to allocate grants to restore and/or protect water quality in the state’s rivers, lakes, and estuaries. Like most state and federal programs, funding for CWMTF has been significantly reduced in the past few years. Money from this grant is particularly applicable to the preservation of open space, greenway development, and water access.

### **Earned Income Opportunities**

Yadkin County could generate funds to offset operational and capital cost through developing earned income opportunities. There are a number of methods that could be explored to generate income for the department. Some opportunities include:

- Sponsorships from private businesses operating in

the area. Sponsorships typically come in the form of product sponsors, event sponsors, program sponsors, cause-related sponsors, and in-kind sponsors.

- Based on the needs of the Department, grants from local foundations, state and federal agencies, or individuals are typically created by staff. Most grants take time to prepare and require coordination effort with other agencies or departments from within the community to create a quality submittal. Grants also require extensive tracking of expenditures and outcomes for attaining future funding.
- Partnerships are the new area of earned income that many communities are seeking to share cost in providing services to the community. Many times the partners are two or more government agencies. This earned income requires both agencies to have a common vision, values, and goals for the partnership to be successful. Typically, partnerships follow some of these general trends:
  - Church partnership in providing neighborhood parks or recreation services.
  - Youth sports associations where volunteers help the Department in providing the service to the community for the sports that they represent.
  - Trail sponsors that adopt sections of trails for maintenance and cleanup.
  - Adopt-a-park partners that help maintain parklands. These sponsors are typically in the form of neighborhood associations and businesses that are next to parks.
  - School partnerships where both partners invest in the development of facilities and programs based on shared use of facilities and staff.
  - Special Event partners that assist with the development of community-wide events.
  - Program partners who assist each other in providing services to the community. The YMCA or schools working with the Parks and Recreation Department to cosponsor programs is an example of this partnership. Yadkin County has worked in a collaborative effort with the YMCA.

- Park foundation development is another earned income opportunity that park systems have embraced to achieve added dollars to their budget. Park foundations help seek out individuals who wish to invest in the system by providing donations of land, cash, or in-kind related services. These donations can add value to the county.
- Advertising and licensing in programs, facilities, and events the Department provides. This earned income allows the County to leverage highly exposed advertising space where businesses will pay a premium for the right to advertise.
- Volunteer development programs are a highly valued earned income opportunity the Department can create through effective recruitment. Volunteers can create advocacy and bring down the cost of programs and services. Volunteers will be more important as the Department grows and offers more activities and facilities.
- Privatizing the development of facilities or services is an earned income opportunity that is used by communities when they are unable to control the cost of labor and are unable to find the needed capital to develop a recreational facility or a concession operation. This gives the government agency a management tool to create an asset or improve a service without tapping into their own resources. Facilities that are typically privatized include golf courses, marinas, camping/RV facilities, boat rentals, bike rentals, equipment rentals, and other forms of concessions.
- Marketing strategies are an important component in developing earned income opportunities. These promotional activities improve awareness of the activities provided by the Department and assist in bringing more revenue to the system by filling programs and facilities.

## **OTHER METHODS FOR ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT**

In order to meet the future park needs of the county, administration and staff must be creative in acquisition and development of new facilities. Through this creativity, the County should explore a wide range of

options for acquiring and developing parks. Other methods available for acquiring and developing parks as recommended in the Master Plan include the following:

### **Fee Simple Purchase**

The outright purchase is perhaps the most widely used method of obtaining parkland. However, this method is the most difficult to reconcile with limited public resources. Fee simple purchase has the advantage of being relatively simple to administer and to explain to the general public in terms of justifying a particular public expenditure.

### **Fee Simple with Lease-Back or Resale**

This technique of land acquisition enables the Department to purchase land to either lease or sell to a prospective user with deed restrictions that would protect the land from abuse or development. This method is used by governments who impose development restrictions severe enough that the owner considers himself to have lost the major portion of the property's value and it is more economical for him to sell with a lease-back option.

### **Long-Term Option**

A long-term option is frequently used when a particular piece of land is seen as having potential future value though it is not desired or affordable to the Department at the time. Under the terms of a long-term option, the Department agrees with the landowner on a selling price for the property and a time period over which the Department has the right to exercise its option. The first benefit of this protective method is that the land use of the property is stabilized because its future is in doubt and an expenditure of money for the property would be lost in the previously agreed upon selling price. Secondly, the Department/County does not have to expend large sums of money until the land is purchased. Thirdly, the purchase price of the land is settled upon. The disadvantage of this method is that a price must be paid for every right given by the property owner. In this case, the cost of land use stabilization and a price commitment comes in the form of the cost of securing the option.

### **First Right of Purchase**

This approach to acquiring parkland eliminates the need for fixing the selling price of a parcel of land yet alerts the Department of any impending purchase, which might disrupt the parkland acquisition goals. The Department would be notified that a purchase is pending and would have the right to purchase the property before it is sold to the party requesting the purchase.

### **Land Trust**

The role and responsibility of a Land Trust is to acquire parkland and open space while maintaining a well-balanced system of park resources representing outstanding ecological, scenic, recreational, and historical features. A Land Trust is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation made up of key knowledgeable leaders in the area who represent a cross section of interest and experience in recreation, historic, conservation, preservation, land development, and environment. Their goals and responsibilities are to work with landowners to acquire parkland for current and future generations. The individuals appointed to the Land Trust must have a good knowledge of land acquisition methods and tools to entice land owners to sell, donate, and provide easements, life estates, irrevocable trusts, or a combination of all. This includes seeking out a good land acquisition attorney who is trained in these areas to provide the most efficient and effective processes to achieve the balance of types of land to meet the goals of the Comprehensive Master Plan.

### **Local Gifts**

A significant, and yet often untapped source of funding acquisition and development of local park projects is through a well-organized local gifts program. Donations of land, money, or labor can have a meaningful impact on the development of the County's park system.

The most frequently used type of gift involves the giving of land (through a full gift of agreed upon below market value sale) to be used for a park. The timing of such a donation can correspond with a PARTF grant application, thereby providing all or a significant

portion of the local matching requirement associated with this fund. This avenue may be applicable as the County looks for land in the northeast section of the county for the development of a future community park. A familiar use of gifts involves donated labor or materials, which become part of an improvement project and help to reduce project costs. The value of the services or materials can also be used to match non-local grant funds.

Some agencies have developed a gift catalog as a tool for promoting a gifts program. Such a publication should explain the role and importance of the gifts program, describe its advantages, define the tax advantages that may occur to the donor, and identify various gifts (land, labor, play equipment, materials, trees, etc.) that are needed to meet local program needs. The gifts catalog should be prepared in a format that can be distributed effectively and inexpensively and should provide a clear statement of needs; typical costs associated with various gifts, and be made readily available to the public.

To aid this type of gift program, a strategy for contacting potential donors (individuals, businesses, foundations, service clubs, etc.) should be developed. An important part of this strategy should include contacting the local Bar Association, trust departments of lending institutions, and the Probate Court. Communicating with these groups regularly will make them aware of the potential for individuals to include a gift to the County as part of their tax and estate planning.

### **Life Estate**

A life estate is a deferred gift. Under this plan, a donor retains use of his land during his lifetime and relinquishes title to such land upon his death. In return for this gift, the owner is usually relieved of the property tax burden on the donated land.

### **Easement**

The most common type of less-than-fee interest in land is an easement. Property ownership may be viewed as a combination of rights. With this understanding, it is possible to purchase any one or several of these rights. An easement seeks either to

compensate the landholder for the right to use his land in some manner or to compensate him for the loss of one of his privileges to use the land. One advantage of this less-than-fee interest in the land is the private citizen continues to use the land while the land remains on the tax records continuing as a source of revenue for the county. Perhaps the greatest benefit lies in the fact that the community purchases only those rights that it specifically needs to execute its parkland objectives. By purchasing only rights that are needed, the Department is making more selective and efficient use of its limited financial resources. An excellent example of easement use is in the purchase of an easement to construct a greenway trail through someone's property.

### **Zoning/Subdivision Regulations/Mandatory Dedication**

Zoning ordinances, subdivision regulation, and mandatory dedications may be utilized to create new parkland at no cost to the community. This must be approved through special state legislation in Raleigh. Regulations can require that land is dedicated and/or compensation made to the county for the development of parkland.

The County's Land Use Code should contain requirements for mandatory open space dedication (common and public) and the code should make provisions for the land to be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Department prior to acceptance. The regulations should stipulate a formula for making payment to the County in lieu of dedicating property.

A variation of the mandatory land dedication is payment of a fee in lieu of land dedication. The impact fee payment for dwelling unit construction goes directly into a special fund earmarked for park acquisition and development. The benefits of this method for park development in newly evolving neighborhoods are many.

- The local government is financially able to purchase parks in accordance with a predetermined set of plans.
- The money is available when needed.

- The residents involved directly feel the benefit of the park fee.
- Impact fee in addition to requiring dedication of subdivision land.

Payment in lieu only works when the cost of unit development is significant enough to generate monies for park development.

## **MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

Over the ten year planning period (2011-2021), the County will not be able to support the growth in operational cost and the proposed capital improvement with the current level of capital appropriations. The Department will need to use a combination of revenue sources to accomplish the recommendations of the Master Plan. There are numerous combinations of funding strategies that can be explored and implemented. Upon careful analysis of past budget documents, current practices, available resources, national trends and standards, a funding strategy is presented for consideration. The Master Plan proposes a viable funding strategy that emphasizes realism.

### **General Funds**

Allocations from the General Fund will need to increase to pay for operation of future facilities. By increasing funding for park and recreation operations 20 to 25%, Yadkin County will raise this level of funding significantly. This additional per capita funding, along with the increase in population, will fund the majority of future operational costs, but will not provide the funding required for capital improvements.

In addition to this increased operational spending, the County should begin budgeting capital improvements projects on an annual basis. The County has already begun including capital funds for park improvements in its annual budget. Budgeting \$250,000 annually over the course of this planning period would provide \$2.5 million in capital development funds.

### **Revenues & User Charges**

A crucial strategy to accomplish the goals of this plan

is to price services based on the value and benefits received by the participants beyond those of all taxpayers. Increasing participants in using the facilities and programs will increase revenue opportunities. A good time to price services to their value and benefits is after new facilities are constructed or when facilities have been renovated to enhance a participant's recreational experience. A proposed user charge revenue strategy is not a quantum leap to market value pricing, but a slightly enhanced program of increasing fees based on new and renovated facilities. This will create more revenue and capacity opportunities for the growing population of the county.

Currently, revenues and user charges account for a relatively small percentage of the operating budget. This level will need to increase throughout the planning period and represents the largest challenge for the department if new facilities are built. Likewise, the County should develop a fee structure that will allow greater net revenue to be realized. Assuming the level of funding can increase, it will generate approximately \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually that can be used for operating new facilities developed as recommended in this Master Plan. To accommodate this goal, revenue from user charges must increase throughout the planning period. This goal is achievable by bringing new facilities on-line and making modest changes to the current fee structure for activities and programs. The development of facilities at the 5D Reservoir Recreation Area have the potential for increasing revenues. Camp sites and picnic shelter rentals, as well as fishing and boating permits, are activities that have revenue generation potential.

**Partnerships and Gifts**

The County should explore ways to raise sponsorships and partnerships should be encouraged and expanded. One avenue for expanding this effort will be

establishing a Partners For Parks program. This non-profit organization should be established independent of the Department and operate as a stand alone charitable organization. This non-profit organization allows private citizens and corporations to donate money, land, and in-kind services for use by the parks department. Once established, Partners For Parks should be able to raise \$100,000 to \$125,000 in funds annually. Over the next ten years, that would generate \$1,000,000 to \$1,250,000 for capital improvements.

**Grants**

The County's staff should seek to find and procure funds from state and local grants and should continue to explore grants. LWCF, PARTF, SAFTEA-LU, clean water grants, etc. are all potential grant sources. Active pursuit of this funding could provide \$3-4 million in funds for capital improvements over the next ten years.

**STRATEGY FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING**

Utilizing these alternatives for funding capital improvements for park development, there are infinite strategies for capital funding. With the magnitude of park improvements recommended by this master plan, it is assumed that bonds for park land acquisition and park development will play a role in financing. One potential strategy for capital improvements funding is:

Annual Capital Improvements Budget	\$2,500,000
Revenues and User Charges	\$500,000
Partnerships and Grants	\$1,500,000
Grants	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
	\$7,500,000

**TABLE 5-1**  
**YADKIN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

<b>Capital Improvement and Land Acquisition</b>	<b>Total<sup>1</sup> Cost Projection</b>	<b>2012-2016</b>	<b>2017-2021</b>
<b>Renovation Program</b>			
Yadkin County Park	\$1,500,000		
Phase One		\$500,000	
Parking and Infrastructure Improvements			
Facility Improvements (Picnic, Playground, Etc.)			
Phase Two			\$1,000,000
Ballfield Improvements			
River Access Sites	\$300,000		
Donnaha Access		\$100,000	
Crutchfield Access			\$100,000
Huntsville Access			\$100,000
Planning & Design (10%)	\$180,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Construction Cost Escalation (2.5% / 5%)	\$79,200	\$13,200	\$66,000
<b>Renovation/Maintenance Program Total</b>	<b>\$2,059,200</b>	<b>\$673,200</b>	<b>\$1,386,000</b>
<b>Park Development Program</b>			
5-D Reservoir			
Phase One	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	
Entrance Road/Parking			
Boat Access			
Park Office			
Picnic Shelters			
Trails			
Phase Two	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	
Lake Trails			
Phase Three	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Campground			
Picnic Shelters			
Northeast Community Park	\$500,000		\$500,000
Planning and Design (10%)	485,000	335,000	150,000
Construction Cost Escalation (2.5% / 5%)	174,625	92,125	82,500
<b>Park Development Program Total</b>	<b>5,509,625</b>	<b>3,777,125</b>	<b>1,732,500</b>
<b>Total Capital Improvement Budget Cost</b>	<b>\$7,568,825</b>	<b>\$4,450,325</b>	<b>\$3,118,500</b>

# Appendix

## ATTENDANCE/TURNOUT

Public turnout was very encouraging with a total of **191 citizens** attending the meetings. The breakout for each meeting is indicated as follows:

Date	Location	Time	Attendance
Monday, August 22	Yadkin County Park Shelter-6600 Service Road, Yadkinville, NC	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	89
Tuesday, August 23	Yadkin Valley Senior Center-121 Delos Martin Drive, Jonesville, NC	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	43
Wednesday, August 24	East Bend Senior Community Center-473 East Main Street, East Bend, NC	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	31
Thursday, August 25	West Yadkin Volunteer Fire Department-3205 US Highway 21, Hamptonville, NC	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	28

## FACILITATION RESULTS

Below are the responses to the questions that were asked at the four separate community meetings last week. The responses are intentionally *not* consolidated so that one can utilize the value in analyzing not only the responses that were given, but also *where* responses were made and also due to changing the question(s) after the first meeting (see footnote).

### Yadkin County Public Recreation Meeting - August 22, 2011 Yadkin County Park

#### Question: What is the County doing right/wrong in terms of recreation?

(\* indicates that answer was heard more than once)

1. All recreation sites/ programs run by volunteers-no County staff.
2. Only recreation location for children is Yadkin County Park.
3. Facilities are old and outdated, not safe.
4. No access for handicap people-safety issues.\*
5. Only have baseball and soccer fields-need more variety in sports offered.
6. Would like to see facilities for archery and firearm shooting.
7. Need a facility with campsites.\*
8. Would like to see Kayaks/Canoes furnished and rentable.
9. Would like to see fishing offered (in managed pond, within watershed).\*
10. Like the frisbee golf course.

11. Soccer fields need repair and maintenance-would like County funding for this.\*
12. More variety in picnic facilities.\*
13. Would like a fishing pond for children.
14. No security or maintenance at Shore-Styers Mills Park.
15. Would like more soccer fields.
16. Would like to have fishing and boating at the proposed 5-D Park. \*
17. Not enough funding to implement any of these ideas.
18. Would like to see facilities at river access points (picnic tables, etc.).
19. Terrace lawn around amphitheater in Yadkin County Park.
20. Would like to see a County golf course serving high schools and bringing in revenue.
21. Maintenance needed on baseball fields.
22. No tennis courts or pool on north side of County.
23. Would like paving of walking trail in Yadkin County Park.
24. Signage needed at soccer fields (giving field #, etc.).
25. Nature trail in Yadkin County Park is nice but must ensure it's maintained.
26. General maintenance needed at Yadkin County Park-restrooms, erosion problems, etc.
27. Restrooms at Yadkin County Park need to be kept clean.\*
28. Exposed roots in Nature Trail at Yadkin County Park-not safe for pedestrians.
29. Make people aware of the trails in Yadkin County Park-currently underutilized by public.
30. Would like to see more nature trails in County parks.
31. Soap needs to be kept in stock at Yadkin County Park.
32. Like the playground, walking trail, soccer fields at Yadkin County Park.
33. Need lights at soccer fields (could get grant funding).\*
34. Access problems to soccer fields-hard to get downhill, especially elderly and handicapped, RR ties placed downhill are rotted out and unsafe to step on.\*
35. Important to maintain what we have-would like to see line item in budget for this.
36. Would like to see facilities for shooting sports.\*
37. Need more soccer goals-currently kept chained so no access for kids wanting to practice.
38. Mowing is sporadic on soccer fields.
39. Need better access in and out of parks, along with handicap access.
40. Trails currently offered are good.
41. Need mountain biking trails.
42. Need better signage at river access points.
43. Need irrigation on soccer fields.
44. County has sites made available through donation that they are not utilizing.
45. County could ask local businesses and citizens for help in maintaining sites-need to open communication and build partnerships.
46. River access points should be maintained and additional access points opened.\*
47. Look into acquisition of the 'Lime Rock' property-could have canoe/kayak, camping, mountain climbing, rappelling.
48. Need policing of river access points.
49. Need security at Donnaha Park.\*
50. Outdated facilities at Yadkin County Park-need to be able to host sports tournaments that could bring in revenue and cannot do this due to current condition of facilities.
51. County pool needs renovation, especially facilities (restrooms, changing rooms).\*
52. Need more activities for kids at the pool.
53. Would like to see concerts at amphitheater in Yadkin County Park-have local vineyards as vendors.

54. Would like biking/hiking trails.\*
55. No recycling bins in Yadkin County Park.
56. Yadkin County Park not being maintained-walking trail in bad shape.
57. Would like to see picnic areas along river.
58. Would like horse and hiking trails at 5-D reservoir.\*
59. Would like to see names of Vietnam vets put on the memorial.
60. Need better restroom facilities.
61. Asking for citizen input is appreciated.\*
62. Battlefield needs to be preserved.
63. Would like more conservation of natural areas.
64. Shore-Styers Mill Park has been neglected and vandalized-County should seek citizen help and provide trash facilities to clean it up (Adopt-a-Park program).\*
65. Roads and river access points need to be fixed at Donnaha Park.
66. Need to paint over the graffiti on bridge at Donnaha Park.
67. Signs at Donnaha Park need to be fixed/replaced.
68. All river access points are in bad shape and leases have expired on some of them.\*
69. All facilities need regular maintenance and security.\*
70. Park caretakers are needed.
71. Fix the entrance at Shore-Styers Mill Park so people don't drive into it.
72. Need to have signs at Shore-Styers Mill Park stating hours of operation.
73. Would like biking trails at Yadkin County Park.
74. Impressed with the variety of recreational sites in County.
75. County has nice parks but they need improvements.\*
76. Building at County pool needs to be replaced (restrooms, changing rooms).
77. Need County Park rangers to ensure trash is picked up.\*
78. There aren't enough facilities on the east side of the County.
79. Restroom facilities have improved.
80. Would like a central soccer facility.
81. Would like a dog park.
82. Need information about who to contact with recreational issues-needs to be more obvious and accessible to Hispanic population.
83. Need recreation staff-all volunteers with no oversight or funding from County.\*
84. County should work closely with volunteers and sporting associations.
85. Appreciate County leadership and chance to give feedback.

**Yadkin County Public Recreation Meeting - August 22, 2011**  
**Yadkin County Park**

**What recreational programs/activities should the County offer?**

*(\* Indicates answer given more than once)*

Need professional staff/better maintenance staff \*\*\*  
Need a budget (not based on registration fees)  
More diverse programs  
Skate board parks \*\*  
Kayaking \*\*\*  
Canoeing \*\*\*  
Campgrounds \*\*\*  
Better maintenance of picnic areas  
Fishing tournaments  
Activities planning  
Safe park and picnic areas\*\*\*  
River access  
Horse and hiking trails at 5-D reservoir \*\*\*\*  
Maintain trails at County Park  
Horse trails at County Park (ponies)  
Hiking/nature walks  
Better advertising/information on County Parks and city Parks \*  
Advertise Richmond Hill  
Mountain to Sea Trail in Yadkin County (local group could adopt for maintenance)  
Yadkin River Access (Highway 601, Donnaha, Huntsville)  
Fishing and hiking at Donnaha  
Music/concerts/gathering places  
Soccer fields for tournaments \*\*\*\*  
Lights for night games (soccer) \*\*\*\*  
Outdoor basketball blacktop  
Fix big soccer field  
Better access to soccer fields  
Multi-use track with single track trails also around 5-D  
Campground beach area at 5-D  
Greenways  
Trails to IMBA standards  
Music venue at County Park (like Yadkinville Park)  
Lights in lower parking lot of County Park  
County Park Pond needs to be managed for larger fish  
Shooting range \*  
Fishing at watershed pond \*  
Soccer fields need to be better maintained a Styers Mill Park  
Need more soccer fields \*\*\*\*  
Boat ramps at 5-D \*  
Hiking/biking trails on Yadkin like New River trail  
Promote disc golf with wine tours

Volunteer maintenance organization for parks  
Baseball and softball facilities capable of hosting tournaments \*\*  
Bike trails  
Hunting trails  
Handicapped access to fishing rest rooms  
Swimming pool  
Amphitheater for music – dancing and beach music like Mount Airy  
Hunting opportunities  
Duck hunting (like Reidsville) Handicap Accessible  
Maintain and improve existing facilities instead of building new  
Indoor soccer practice facilities  
Camping areas along Yadkin River public access points  
Cooperation between groups working on trails (hiking, biking, canoeing/river)  
Improve signage for parks  
Update shelters \*  
Clean/maintain bike trail (nature trail) safer  
Park rangers for County Park  
Better facilities for concerts  
Horseback riding/not biking on the same trail at 5-D  
Dog park at County park \*  
Better access to soccer fields \*\*  
Vineyards involved in sponsoring music at parks  
Make Styers Ferry safer for families  
Bike trails/hiking/walking  
Fence in 5-D reservoir for the safety of neighboring properties  
Add water fountains at County Park  
More separation between activities at County parks  
Lights in safe secure location cannot be burglarized  
Pamphlets for Yadkin County recreation

**Yadkin County Public Recreation Meeting – August 23, 2011**  
**Yadkin Valley Senior Center**

**Question: What should Yadkin County be doing in terms of parks and recreation?**

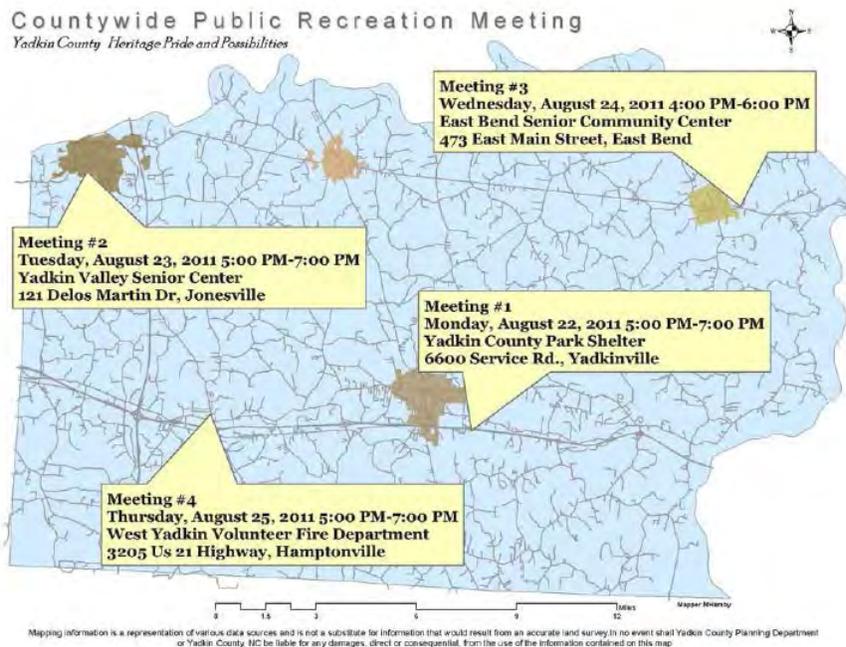
(\* indicates the number of multiple responses)

1. Programming for organized sports at Lila Swaim Park. \*
2. Expand Jonesville Greenway outside town limits. \*\*\*\*\*
3. Develop inventory/big picture of current parks (state and local).
4. Study demographics of potential users.
5. Develop river access near Jonesville Welcome Center. \*\*
6. More work on Jonesville Greenway. \*
7. Provide more information about parks and recreation facilities.
8. Develop horse riding trails around 5-D reservoir. \*\*
9. Develop multi-use trails (hitching posts, shelters, restrooms, bike racks, river trails). \*\*\*
10. Put more money put into Lila Swaim Park. \*\*\*\*
11. Extend Jonesville Greenway to Pilot Mountain State Park. \*\*\*
12. Fix tennis courts. \*\*
13. Provide place to ride bikes. \*
14. Campgrounds/horse campgrounds (with facilities). \*\*
15. Purchase private pool in East Bend for public use.
16. Add horse trail at County park. \*
17. Hire recreation director for Jonesville.
18. Provide transportation so more residents of County can utilize county facilities.
19. Build dog park.
20. Build more baseball/softball fields.
21. Complete smaller projects in near term.
22. Make small/quick improvements to parks .
23. Develop regulation track at County park.
24. Provide place to fish.

**Yadkin County Recreation Community Meeting - August 24, 2011**  
**East Bend Senior Community Center**

**Question: What should Yadkin County be doing in terms of parks and recreation?**  
 (\* Indicates number of multiple responses)

1. Support and maintain what the County already has. \*\*\*\*\*
2. Like to see improvements to Donnaha Park. \*\*\*\*\*
3. Improve facilities in East Bend. \*\*\*\*\*
4. Like to see walkway and trails around 5-D Reservoir. \*
5. Add trails and picnic shelter to Donnaha Park. \*\*\*\*\*
6. Dedicated mountain biking trail at 5-D Reservoir similar to Fisher River Park in Surry County. \*
7. Better development of Crutchfield Park (Yadkin Shore).
8. Develop Boonville Park.
9. Develop walking trails in or close to East Bend. \*\*\*
10. Improve policing of Donnaha Park. \*\*\*\*\*
11. Further develop East Bend Ball Park (additional 50+ acres) with picnic shelter, horseshoes, BBQ grills, trails, playground equipment). \*\*\*
12. Improve bathroom facilities at Yadkin Park.
13. Develop facilities at 5-D Reservoir for canoeing/kayaking and add bathrooms. \*\*
14. Build ziplines at Donnaha Park. \*\*
15. Better support for Richmond Hill Park. \*
16. Provide a Port-A-John at Donnaha Park and adequately maintain it. \*\*
17. Build toilet/bathroom facility at Donnaha Park. \*
18. Develop mountain biking trails at Yadkin Park.
19. Add facilities around County before adding facilities to Yadkin Park.
20. Develop duck hunting facility at 5-D Reservoir. \*\*



**Yadkin County Public Recreation Meeting – August 25, 2011**  
**West Yadkin Volunteer Fire Department**

Question: What should Yadkin County be doing in terms of parks and recreation?  
(\* indicates the number of multiple responses)

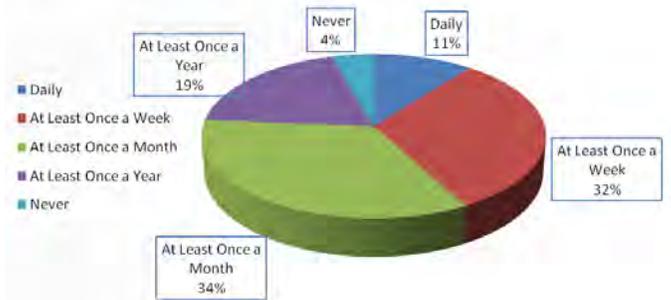
1. Fishing at 5-D (as well as other parks). \*
2. Boat ramps/boat rentals at 5-D.
3. Swimming at 5-D. \*
4. Picnic shelters/stage at 5-D.
5. Camping at 5-D (up and down creek as well). \*\*
6. More parking at soccer field at county park.
7. Hiking trails (that loop around) at 5-D. \*\*\*
8. Horse riding trails (that loop around) at 5-D. \*\*\*\*
9. Economic impact study for county recreation facilities.
10. How much additional tax revenue brought in for every dollar spent on recreation? – study of charges at new 5-D park.
11. Survey and potential new industries/businesses about what they would want in county to locate there.
12. Greenway \*
13. New soccer facility to enable county to host tournaments – need to add fields at county parks.
14. Kayaking on 5-D reservoir. \*\*
15. “Share the Road” signs for bicyclist’s safety – along Center Road.
16. Biking trails.
17. Availability of Boy Scout groups/civic groups to do improvement projects at facilities – replacement of railings at Styers Mill.
18. Hold 5K/paddle events to bring in revenue.
19. More sporting activities year round.
20. More soccer fields. \*
21. Trail head for horse trailers at 5-D.
22. Horse trails. \*
23. Maintenance of parks (including volunteers).
24. Greater access to Yadkin River (shorter distance between access points).
25. More soccer practice facilities in communities.
26. Hunting (duck) at 5-D have a restrictive permit system – (ducks unlimited would help construct blinds).
27. Hold community events (concerts on weekends).
28. Maintain a web presence for recreation events.
29. Safety at Styers Mill Park and other facilities.
30. Trails for 4-wheelers. \*
31. Animal show facility for 4-H/kids.
32. Bike events.

**Data Collected from Written Surveys 5**  
**{Jonesville; Yadkinville; East Bend; Hamptonville public meetings}**

**1. How many times a year do you visit a Yadkin County recreation site?**

Daily (19)  
 At least once a week (57)  
 At least once a month (62)  
 At least once a year (35)  
 Never (8)  
 TOTAL RESPONSES = 181

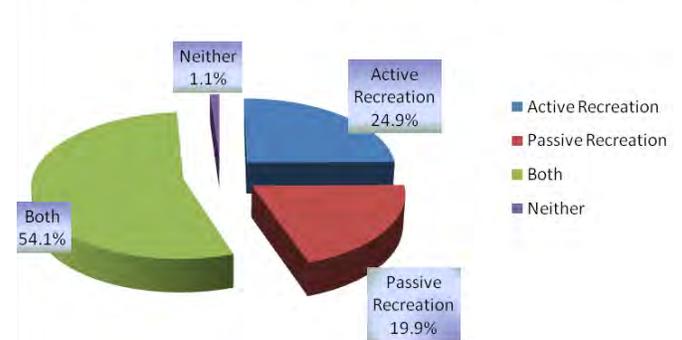
How many times per year do you visit a Yadkin County Recreation Site?



**2. I am interested in?**

Active recreation (45)  
 Passive recreation (36)  
 Both (98)  
 Neither (2)  
 TOTAL RESPONSES = 181

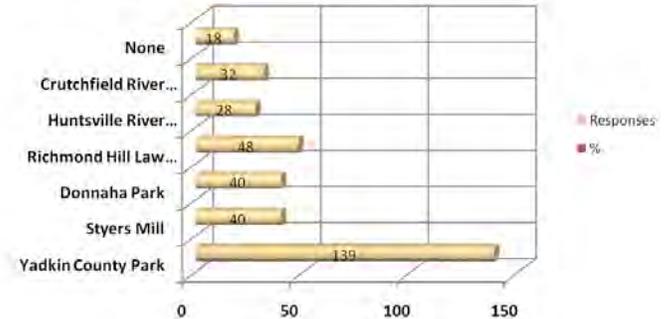
What type of recreation are you most interested in?



**3. Please check if you have visited in the last year:**

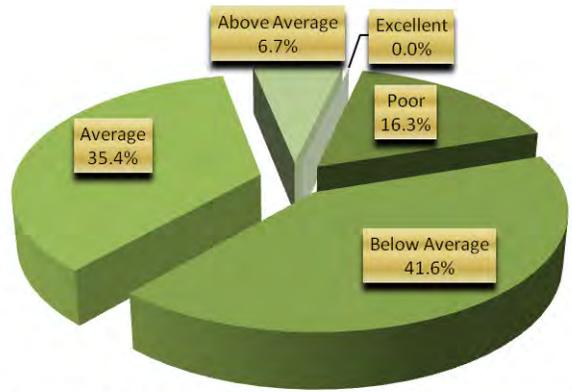
Yadkin County Park (139)  
 Styers Mill (40)  
 Donnaha Park (40)  
 Richmond Hill Law School (48)  
 Huntsville River Access (28)  
 Crutchfield River Access (32)  
 None (18)

Which Recreation Sites Did You Visit In the Last Year?



**4. What is your Impression of the Current Recreation Facilities Throughout the County?**

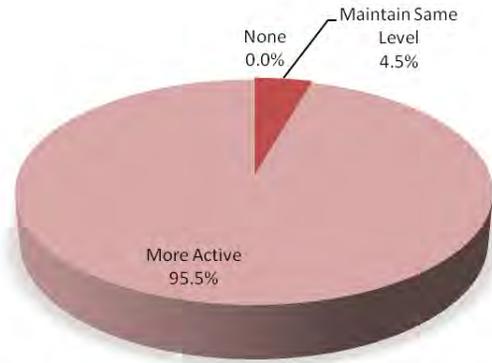
- Poor (29)
- Below Average (74)
- Average (63)
- Above Average (12)
- Excellent (0)
- Total Responses (178)



**IMPRESSION OF CURRENT COUNTY RECREATION FACILITIES**

**5. What Role Should the County Take in Providing Parks and Programs in the Future?**

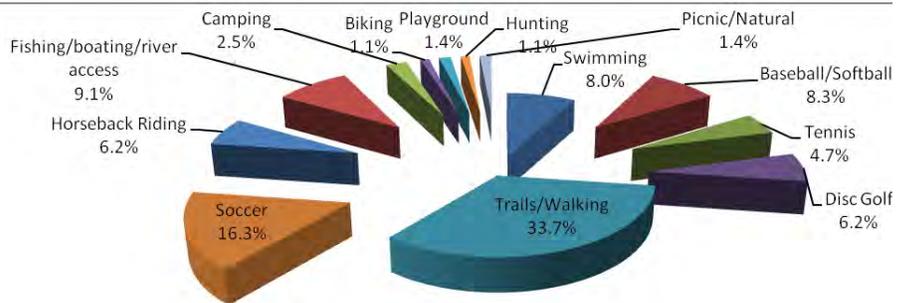
- None (0)
- Maintain same level (8)
- More active (171)
- Total Responses (179)



**What Role Should the County Take in Providing Parks and Recreation Programs in the Future?**

**6. What is Your Favorite Activity at any County Recreation Site?**

- Swimming (22)
- Baseball/Softball (23)
- Tennis (13)
- Disc Golf (17)
- Trails/Walking (93)
- Soccer (45)
- Horseback Riding (write-in) (17)
- Fishing/Boating (write-in) (25)
- Camping (write-in) (7)
- Biking (write-in) (3)
- Playground (write-in) (4)
- Hunting (write-in) (3)
- Picnic/natural areas (write-in) (4)



**FAVORITE RECREATION ACTIVITY AT COUNTY SITES**



## YADKIN COUNTY RECREATION SURVEY PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

1. How many times per year do you visit a Yadkin County recreation site? (Check best answer)

\_\_\_\_ Daily; \_\_\_\_ At least once a week; \_\_\_\_ At least once a Month;  
\_\_\_\_ At least once a year; \_\_\_\_ Never

2. I am interested in (please check box that applies)

\_\_\_\_ Active recreation; \_\_\_\_ passive recreation; \_\_\_\_ both; \_\_\_\_ neither

2. Please check if you have visited in the last year. (Check as many boxes as applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Yadkin County Park; \_\_\_\_ Styers Mill; \_\_\_\_ Donnaha Park; \_\_\_\_ Richmond Hill Law School;  
\_\_\_\_ Huntsville River Access; \_\_\_\_ Crutchfield River Access;

3. What is your impression of the current recreation facilities throughout the County? (Select One)

\_\_\_\_ Poor; \_\_\_\_ below average; \_\_\_\_ average; \_\_\_\_ above average; \_\_\_\_ excellent

3. What role should the County take in providing parks and programs in the future? (select one)

\_\_\_\_ None; \_\_\_\_ Same level; \_\_\_\_ More Active

4. What is your favorite activity at any County recreation site? (Select One)

\_\_\_\_ Swimming; \_\_\_\_ Baseball/softball; \_\_\_\_ Tennis; \_\_\_\_ Frisbee Golf; \_\_\_\_; Trails/walking \_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_ Soccer; \_\_\_\_ Other (please list)

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**PLEASE COMPLETE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS SURVEY**

OPEN QUESTIONS: PLEASE WRITE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS YOU WOULD LIKE

5. Please list recreation activities that you would like to see offered

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6. What is Yadkin County doing right in terms of recreation?

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7. What is Yadkin County doing wrong in terms of recreation?

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8. What should Parks and Recreation be providing for the citizens of the County?

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9. Other comments you would like to make?

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**Thank you for filling out this survey. Please place in the drop box before you leave.**

**Thank You.**

# Passive Recreation vs. Active Recreation



# Passive Recreation vs. Active Recreation

**What is Passive Recreation???** Passive Recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources; as a result, they can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection.

- Examples of Passive Recreational Activities**
- Hunting • Camping • Hiking • Wildlife viewing
  - Picnicking • Walking • Bird watching • Fishing
  - Historic and archaeological exploration
  - Swimming • Cross-country skiing • Bicycling
  - Running/jogging • Climbing • Horseback riding

Active recreation refers to a structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment.

**Examples of Active Recreational Activities?**

- Baseball • Football
- Soccer • Golf • Tennis • Skiing • Skateboarding



Source: [www.yadkin.org/active-recreation](http://www.yadkin.org/active-recreation)  
Microsoft Office 2007