

Beaufort, NC Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

April 2011

Prepared by:



Acknowledgements

The staff of the Eastern Carolina Council would like to acknowledge those individuals that have eagerly participated and generously given of their time and talents to assist in the data collection and development of this master plan.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update Committee assisted with identifying community needs. Committee members included:

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Town Manager Charlie Burgess and Town Planning Director Kyle Garner also attended provided input. This plan would not have been possible without the invaluable guidance of both staff and committee members.

The outcome desired for this project is a robust Parks and Recreation Program for the citizens of the Town of Beaufort that includes adequate facilities. Using this comprehensive plan as a guide will facilitate achieving that objective.

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Executive Summary

This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for the Town of Beaufort is intended to provide a road map for needed improvements in parks and recreation facilities and program to meet the current and future needs of the citizens of Beaufort.

In development of a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation in Beaufort, the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee members assisted the Eastern Carolina Council staff, which contracted with the Town to help produce this plan. The information reviewed included:

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

As a result of the review described above, the following were findings:

1. The total amount of park land available for recreation needs in Beaufort is limited to small waterside parks and one neighborhood park.
2. The Town's current park facilities have few amenities.
3. There is no master plan for the Town's parks, which have largely been developed incrementally without a clear plan concept.
4. There is no town staff assigned to Parks and Recreational activities/programs.
5. There is no town appointed Parks and Recreational Committee.
6. Public input regarding recreation needs in Beaufort indicated that there is significant interest in the community in major recreation facilities – such as a swimming pool, a multi-purpose recreation center/community building, bike and walking trails, dog-parks and water-related amenities – that would require major funding for construction and staffing.

While public demand for new, major facilities appears to be significant, the Town's first priority should be to move quickly to bring its Randolph Johnston up to a level of quality consistent with modern design, safety, and accessibility standards. It should also address the PARTF Authority's requirement to relocate

the tennis courts and basketball court. Beaufort should set a new, higher standard for the condition and appearance of its parks, consistent with the community's desire to be known as a preferred living location in the area. To accomplish this, the Town should, within 2-3 years:

- a. Replace outdated equipment, renovate or replace deteriorated facilities, and add essential park amenities, as identified in this plan;
- b. Adopt uniform parks and recreation regulations, in the form of town ordinances;
- c. Seek an additional location for a neighborhood park to serve the area of town that growing the fastest;
- d. Seek a location to develop a community center to serve all ages;
- e. Develop one or more dog park areas.

Additional recommendations are included in Section 12 of this report.

Section 1 General Information

In order to put this plan in context, it is necessary to have an overview of what the general public—residents and visitors alike--desires in the way of recreational activities. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan 2009-2013 (SCORP) shows that visitors desire the following:

According to the SCORP, the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities desired by state residents by percent participating and number of participants, by far the most popular activity is walking for pleasure, with 82 percent of state residents participating. Roughly three-quarters of the population have outdoor family gatherings at least once last year, and almost two-thirds garden or landscape for pleasure. Driving for pleasure is done by 58.2 percent of the population, while 57 percent view/photograph natural scenery. Almost 53 percent of state residents visit nature centers and go sightseeing. Half of the population goes on picnics, while less than half attend outdoor sports events. Rounding out the top ten, 44.2 percent of residents visit a beach at least once per year.

Visitor Activities in North Carolina -2007

Visiting relatives/Family Reunion	36.1%	Historic sites/churches	6.5%	Gardens	3.2%
Shopping	19.2%	Museums	5.0%	Nature travel/ ecotouring	2.7%
Visiting friends	19.2%	Wildlife viewing	5.0%	Art galleries	2.5%
Rural sightseeing	14.0%	Fishing (fresh or saltwater)	4.7%	Wine tasting/winery tour	2.5%
Beach	13.0%	Nightclub/dancing	4.7%	Casino/gaming	2.4%
Fine dining	13.0%	Old homes/mansions	3.9%	Golf	2.4%
State/National Park	8.7%	Special events/Festivals	3.9%	Camping	2.3%
Urban sightseeing	6.9%	Hiking/backpacking	3.5%	Youth/amateur/collegiate sporting events	2.3%

North Carolina'

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

Outdoor recreation is by far the most popular form of recreation in North Carolina. More residents indicated participation in walking for pleasure (82 percent) and outdoor

family gatherings (74.6 percent) than in any other overall activity. Other activities, such as gardening or landscaping (65.4 percent) or driving for pleasure (58.2 percent) are also favorites with North Carolina residents.

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

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

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

Trends impacting recreation

Obesity

"One trend that has a negative impact on outdoor recreation demand is increased obesity. In the United States, obesity has risen at an epidemic rate in the past 20 years. Research indicates that the situation is worsening...Addressing overweight and obesity has become a national health objective."

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp.html> Resources are being brought to bear on this issue and the Town would be well advised to capitalize on this issue as funding becomes available.

Longevity and aging of population

"People are living longer...the trend of increased life expectancy is projected to continue. Lifestyle choices, including participating in recreation and exercise, can affect an individual's life span." They are also likely to be healthier at all ages and healthier

people are more likely to participate in outdoor recreation creating additional demand for outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp.html>

"Between 2010 and 2020, the number of citizens 65 and older is projected to increase by 35%...Retired persons often have more free time than other adults, and, to a lesser extent, more financial resources...Increased demand can therefore be expected for activities that have a high participation by older Americans. These include walking, sightseeing, attending family gatherings, visiting a beach or waterside, picnicking, visiting a historic site or nature center, bird watching and attending sporting events. Older Americans also participate in a wide variety of other outdoor recreation activities including wildlife viewing, attending concerts, nature study, fishing, swimming, motor boating, biking and golf."

http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp/scorp_ch4.pdf

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

Outdoor Recreation Participation in North Carolina

A short-term trend that has implications for Beaufort is the use of personal watercraft (PWC). Nationally about 20.3 million people use PWCs. Also there are 300,000 registered boats in North Carolina according to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Families and retirees are attracted to areas like Beaufort where there is an opportunity for recreational boating.

North Carolina is concerned about survival of its natural diversity. Habitats are being destroyed as developers seize the opportunity to create new communities in Carteret County and Beaufort. A list of threatened and endangered species and their habitats can be found at: <http://nc-es.fws.gov/es/cntylist/Carteret.html> As the Town is able to identify areas where these habitats and species exist, it would behoove the Town, if feasible, to purchase these parcels (or partner with a conservation group) to protect this habitat for future generations to enjoy.

The Benefits of Local Recreation and Park Services

"In a 1992 nationwide study conducted at Pennsylvania State University, researchers compiled a listing of the benefits of local recreation and park services as perceived by the American public. Participants in the study could be divided into two groups: users of local recreation and park services and non-users. Surprisingly, 71% of non-users said they received some benefit from their communities' parks and recreational services."

Benefits identified by non-users were as follows:

- Availability
- Keeping kids off the streets
- Keeping kids occupied
- Community awareness
- Giving kids a place to go
- Feeling good because of being there
- Exercise, fitness & conditioning
- Good for kids
- Kids' enjoyment
- Having a place to go

Individual and family benefits identified by users of local parks and recreation services were numerous.

"The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space - How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line".

- Growing Smart
 - Development actually costs towns more than it gives because schools, streets, police officers, and other necessary municipal services drain more than they are required to pay in taxes.
 - Open space preservation helps communities grow smart, preventing the higher costs of unplanned development.
 - Open space reduces pressure to construct on valuable farmland and natural areas on the urban fringe.
 - A community must decide which lands to protect for recreation, community character, the conservation of natural resources, and open space. This in turn determines where compact development will occur.
- Attracting Investment
 - Parks and open space create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities.
 - Corporate CEOs say that employee quality of life is the third most important factor in locating a new business.
 - Small company owners say recreation, parks, and open space are the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business.
 - Arizona's "outdoor lifestyle and recreation opportunities" were cited as the reason for the location or expansion of 70 firms in that state.
 - In Salem, Oregon, land next to a greenbelt was found to be worth approximately \$1,200 per acre more than land just 1,000 feet away.

- In Oakland, California, a three mile greenbelt around a lake at the Town's center added \$41 million to the surrounding area's property values.
- Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, California, increases the value of nearby property from \$500 million to \$1 billion while generating \$5-\$10 million in annual property taxes.
- Across the U.S., access to parks and open spaces has become a measure of community wealth - a tool for attracting businesses and residents by guaranteeing quality of life and economic health.
- Revitalizing Cities
 - Urban parks, gardens, and recreational open space stimulate commercial growth and promote inner-Town revitalization.
- Boosting Tourism
 - Open space boosts local economies by attracting tourists and supporting outdoor recreation.
 - Across the U.S., parks, rivers, scenic lands, wildlife areas, and open space help to support the \$502 billion tourism industry.
 - According to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, outdoor recreation generated at least \$40 billion in 1996, creating 768,000 full-time jobs and \$13 billion in annual wages.
 - Because tourists cite natural beauty and quality of view to be the most important criteria in selecting a destination, many communities are now striving to protect scenic views and vistas by moving utility wires underground and protecting trees and historic buildings.
 - In 1993, the National Park Service estimated that national park visitors contributed more than \$10 billion in direct and indirect benefits to local economies.
 - According to the National Park Service, the tourism/leisure industry will soon become the leading U.S. industry of any kind at its present rate of growth.
 - Wildlife enthusiasts visiting our nation's parks also contribute significantly to the economy. Sport fishing generated \$108.4 billion in 1996, supporting 1.2 million jobs. Sport fishing produced \$2.4 billion in state taxes (nearly 1% of all state tax receipts) and \$3.1 billion in federal income taxes. People interested in birds and wildlife photography contributed another \$85.4 billion to the U.S. economy.
- Safeguarding the Environment
 - Open space conservation is often the cheapest way to safeguard drinking water, clean the air, and achieve other environmental goals.
 - One acre of wetland is estimated to generate \$150,000 to \$200,000 in economic benefits.

- o Forested lands control erosion, help clean the air of pollutants, absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful greenhouse gasses, help shelter our houses from heat and wind.
- o Wetlands serve as wildlife habitat, absorb storm and flood water, and reduce pollutant and sediment loads in watershed runoff. Without wetlands, society would have to pay for these services. With wetlands, they are free."

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/About_Us/benefits.php#Benefits%20of%20Local%20Parks%20&%20Rec

Benchmarking and Performance Measures

The following information was taken from the Executive Summary of the Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2006/2007 conducted by North Carolina State University's Recreation Resources Services.

"The source of funds by percentage for the 05/06 budget for all reporting Parks and Recreation Towns was 71% from the general fund, 11% from grants, 10 % from fees & charges and 8% from other."

The average per capita expenditure based on all reporting agencies was \$77.23 in 2006/2007.

Mean per capita expenditure for agencies in southeast NC was \$53.23 in 2006/2007.

Municipalities with small populations (less than 4,999), employed an average of three full-time staff and 11 part-time staff just for recreational programming. That does not include maintenance personnel.

This is a table of small municipal (pop. <4,999) averages for spending:

Personnel	Contracted personnel	Contracted operations	Travel/ training	Supplies/ Material	Maint./ Repair	Other	Total
\$156,685	\$19,529	\$17,131	\$1,809	\$28,309	\$19,746	\$63,464	\$280,842

Facilities: http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS_mcprss07_facilities.pdf

Salaries: http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS_mcprss06_Salary.pdf

Fees & charges: http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS_mcprss05_Fees.pdf

Parks and Recreation Public Input

A Parks & Recreation Board is a valuable asset for assistance in helping the Town of Beaufort to develop and execute its plan for parks and recreational facilities and

programs for the citizens. At present Beaufort does not have a citizen committee focused on Parks & Recreation.

Section 2 Population & Demographic Data

According to the American Community Survey 2002-2009 5-year estimates there were a total of 4,199 people, 2,520 housing units and 1,986 owner-occupied housing units. The average household size was 2.03 and the average family size was 2.70. The racial makeup of the town was 77.7% [White](#) and 21.6% African American. There was less than 1% of the population that made up all other races combined.

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

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

According to Wikipedia, there were 1,780 households out of which 21.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 40.3% were [married couples](#) living together, 15.3% had a female householder with no husband present, and 41.1% were non-families. 35.5% of all households were made up of individuals and 15.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older.

As retirees begin to flock to the area, the number of households will increase while the number of persons per household may continue to shrink. The only bearing this information may have on recreation is that land is quickly being purchased by developers making it more difficult in the future for the Town to purchase land at reasonable prices. Water access property will be especially difficult, if not impossible, to purchase in the future.

While seasonal and recreational populations are an important part in the overall picture of Carteret County, it does not have a significant impact on the total population of Beaufort. There are limited overnight accommodations in Beaufort. There is little impact on public facilities and services, including recreation except for visitors to the historic downtown area.

In the town the population was spread out with 18.3% under the age of 18, 7.3% from 18 to 24, 27.9% from 25 to 44, 26.7% from 45 to 64, and 19.8% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 43 years. For every 100 females there were 87.1 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 83.5 males.

According to a 2005 Recreation Study in South Carolina, "Men and women demonstrate different patterns of recreational participation, with men exhibiting higher overall participation levels than women. Men were particularly more likely than women to participate in activities such as hunting, other shooting sports, hunting dog field trials, fresh water and salt water fishing, shell fishing or shrimping, camping, motor boating, waterskiing, jet skiing, and lake or river swimming. The activities for which women were more likely to participate than men tended to be more passive recreational activities, and included picnicking, visiting a museum, visiting a zoo, walking for pleasure or exercise, bird watching, visiting historical sites, and walking on a guided nature trail." <http://www.scprrt.com/files/RPE/2005%20Rec%20Study%20Summary.pdf>

As the population ages, it is a known fact that women tend to outlive men, therefore when considering senior activities, it may be advantageous to focus more on those activities that women would participate in.

The median income for a household in the town was \$28,763, and the median income for a family was \$39,429. Males had a median income of \$30,859 versus \$22,955 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the town was \$19,356. About 13.3% of families and 16.6% of the population were below the [poverty line](#), including 35.0% of those under age 18 and 10.4% of those age 65 or over.

The South Carolina Recreation Study done in 2005 shows that family income has a significant effect on participation in a number of recreational activities, with the general tendency being for those from higher income families to show higher participation rates than those with lower incomes. Activities for which differences were particularly large across income groups included going to the beach to swim or sunbathe, visiting historical sites, and golf. Those activities for which the highest income group had the lowest participation rate or for which the differences across income groups were not statistically significant tended to be either team sports in which participation is relatively inexpensive (such as basketball, volleyball, football, baseball, softball, or soccer) or fairly standard, almost day-to-day activities (such as walking for pleasure or exercise, jogging or running, bird watching, or driving a motorcycle for pleasure). <http://www.scprrt.com/files/RPE/2005%20Rec%20Study%20Summary.pdf>

Census 2000 statistics for Beaufort show that for ages 16-64 there are 1,051 individuals with one or more disabilities and 271 of those list a physical disability. This coupled with the fact that the population as a whole is aging presents a case for ensuring that new recreational facilities should incorporate activities that have proper access (ADA).

When planning for recreation, the needs and interests of the disabled need to be considered. As the population ages and as the Town begins to attract more retirees, ADA compliant facilities will need to be the norm.

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

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

"The results of this study indicated that disability is not strongly correlated with age. As our society continues to age the absolute numbers of the elderly suggest that the number of persons with disabilities will increase. Thus, it may be important to broaden the appeal of recreation and parks services or at least to publicize the availability and benefits of these services to the fastest growing segment..., the elderly. It is equally important to find the means to assist disabled persons to overcome the constraints that prevent them from obtaining greater access to local government recreation and parks services. ...Public recreation service providers should be challenged to create means to facilitate the benefits of public recreation presently enjoyed by the general population to people with disabilities. Our data would suggest that issues such as poverty may play a significant role in constraining people with disabilities from enjoying their rightful access to services and the resulting benefits." http://lin.ca/Uploads/cclr9/CCLR9_32.pdf

9. Military

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is located approximately 24 miles from Beaufort. According to statistics provided by Marine Corps Installations East, there are 118 military and 172 military dependents living in the Beaufort area zip code of 28516. Granted, that zip code covers more than just Beaufort town limits, but these are probably area residents that would be served by Beaufort P&R facilities. These military families are young and their children would participate in recreational activities. The American Community Survey lists 449 civilians age 18 and over who are military veterans.

Wherever there are military facilities there are those who are based there that retire from the service to live in the area. These military retirees tend to be younger.

Population Projections

Births, deaths, and net migration are among the natural processes affecting population growth. Military, local, State, and Federal initiatives may also affect Beaufort's population growth. Economic and industrial development in and around Beaufort have been negligible with the exception of the military. Tourism and a growing retirement community will also impact the size and composition of the population.

Due to a variety of reasons, the NC State Demographer does not provide population projections for municipalities. The 2030 projections for Carteret County show that there will be 78,504 residents. Of those 35,710 (45%) will be age 55 or older. Of those 24,636 (31%) will be age 65 or older. Beaufort is an estimated 6% of the county's population. Using that percentage, one might predict that the 2030 population of Beaufort would be 4,710. Of those roughly one-third would possibly be age 65 or older. Beaufort must be prepared to meet the parks and recreational needs of this growing population segment.

Implications

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

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

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

to be met.

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

Section 3 Public Input Survey

As part of the plan's preparation, a survey of recreation needs and ideas was distributed to Beaufort residents and nearby residents through inserts into the town's water bills during the month of October 2010. Approximately 3050 surveys were mailed with the water bills. Of that 285 responded (9%). Of those 43 were completed online. The balance was returned via mail and data-entered by ECC staff.

The following are some statistics on those who responded:

- 91.9% were residents of the town
- 48.6% have lived here for ten or more years
- 23.9% have lived here five to nine years
- 64.3% were female
- 95.6% were Caucasian
- 41.1% were 55 to 70 years old
- 20.2% were over the age of 70
- 18.1% were 41 to 54 years old
- 17.4% were 26 to 40 years old
- 55.5% have household incomes of greater than \$50,000

Events and Program top vote getters to have or have more of were:

- 66.8% outdoor concerts
- 37.1% senior programs
- 37.1% festivals
- 35.4% fitness/health programs
- 31.0% teen programs
- 30.1% movies in the park

Nature and Family Oriented categories desired included:

- 65.0% walking trails
- 41.1% dog park
- 40.7% wildlife viewing area
- 31.7% picnic shelters for families
- 30.5% nature preserve
- 30.1% botanical gardens

Desired indoor facilities included:

36.7%	swimming pool
35.8%	community building
35.3%	recreation center
33.9%	bowling alley
29.4%	fitness
28.4%	exercise equipment room
28.0%	teen center

Desired outdoor facilities included:

55.8%	bike trails
45.4%	hiking trails
33.3%	outdoor swimming pool
31.7%	playground
31.3%	tennis courts

Water related facilities desired included:

56.6%	boat ramps
56.0%	fishing pier
55.3%	canoe/kayak put in area
55.3%	fishing areas
42.1%	boat/canoe/kayak rentals

Fifty-seven respondents took the time to write additional comments. There was no pattern detected in the responses—they ran the gamut. The complete list is available in the appendix along with the complete survey results.

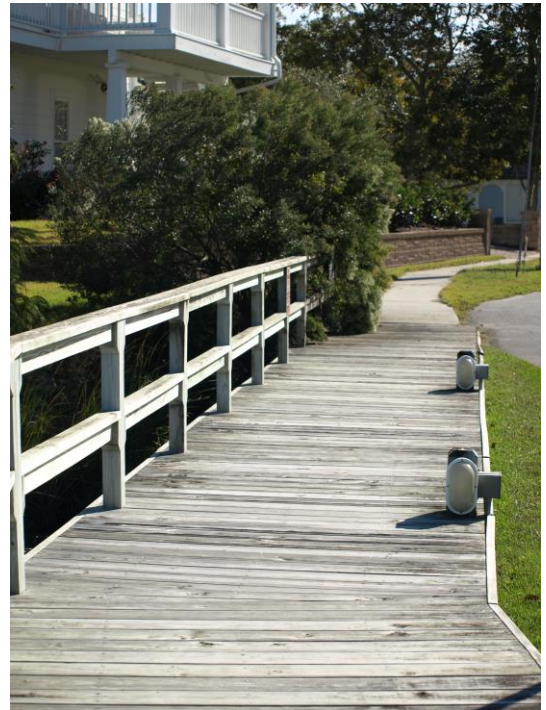
Section 4 Existing Facilities

On October 29, 2010 Beaufort Planning Director Kyle Garner and ECC consultant, Judy Hills toured the parks and recreation facilities in the Beaufort area. These are the findings:

1. Derwood's Landing

Derwood's Landing is located on the water at the end of Broad Street near the Grayden Paul Bridge. In addition to a deck (with a rail), it has a small floating dock (day dock limited to boats under 14-feet). There is no seating. No fishing is allowed from dock or the walkway. There is no bike rack. It attaches to a private boardwalk. There are no signs restricting access to the board walk to the owners of the nearby condominiums. There is no dedicated parking—vehicles must park on

the road. There is a small parking area nearby, but it is restricted to owners of the condominiums.



2. Topsail Marine Park

Topsail Marine Park is located on Taylor Creek. It is on Front Street at the end of Moore Street. It is a small passive park with benches, a handicapped accessible

water fountain, a bike rack, and a floating dock for fishing and to tie up boats. There is one sign which says "public pier, no overnight docking."



3. Town Docks

The Town of Beaufort owns the docks on Taylor's Creek, but leases the operation to _____. The lease expires on _____. A bath house is available for transient boater who pay dockage, but not for the boats which anchor out on Taylor's Creek. There is no ship's store within walking distance of the docks.

4. Boardwalk along waterfront

Along the docks there is a long wooden boardwalk and public parking areas. There is fencing to prevent someone from falling into Taylor's Creek. Flower pots dot the fence creating a visually pleasing environment in which to watch the boats and the water. The boardwalk has benches for sitting in some areas. The area is lighted at night. There are no bike racks, but bikes can be seen chained to trees and light poles. In one area there is a small treed park with a monument and a clock. Some areas of the boardwalk have flowers and shrubs. Public restrooms are provided adjacent to the bath house on the west end of the boardwalk across from the Maritime Museum. Restaurant and shops are located on the boardwalk.



5. Boardwalk and sidewalk

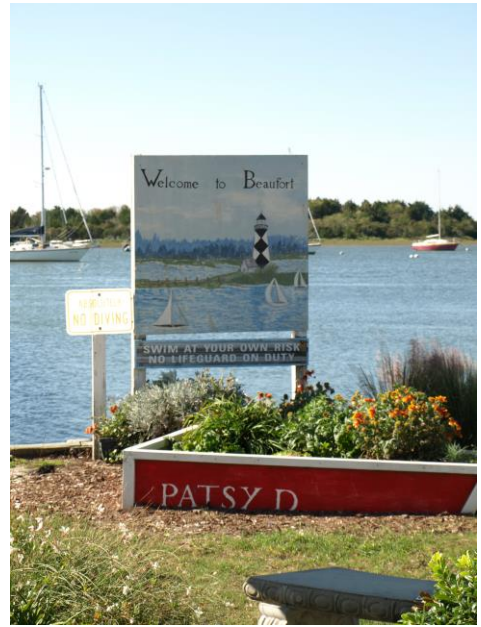
The boardwalk and sidewalk continues along the waterfront from the public restrooms to just past Fisherman's park.



5. Grayden Paul Park

Grayden Paul Park is located on Front Street at the end of Pollock Street. It is a passive park on the water with a bulkhead, dock, floating dinghy dock and a gazebo. There is a bike rack. "Swim at your own risk," "Absolutely no diving" and signs are posted near the water. There is a pier regulation sign.





6. Fisherman's Park

Fisherman's Park is located on Front Street at the end of Gordon Street. There are a dock, a bench and two picnic tables. A sandy, open beach area is available to use to launch canoes and kayaks. There is a rack which holds 20 canoes/kayaks. A lottery is held each year for the lease of a slot on the rack.





7. Curtis Perry Park

Curtis Perry Park is located on Lennoxville Road at the terminus of Front Street. The property is owned by the town, but is leased to NC Wildlife Resources Commission until 2018. Presently in addition to a pier, two boat ramps, a parking area and a restroom building, there are two tennis courts and one basketball court on the site. The tennis courts and basketball courts are in disrepair and are used for parking. PARTF funds were used to construct these courts and the town must now relocate these facilities to satisfy their PARTF contract. There is a water fountain and a water tap at the restroom, but no fish cleaning station. There is no seating on the large fishing dock nor is there a monofilament line disposal container. The vehicle and trailer parking area is being renovated by NC Wildlife. There is a controversy over the proposed removal of some oak trees that are slated to be removed as part of the renovation. While from a conservation standpoint it would be best to save the oaks, they are in a direct line with the ramps and would be hazardous to those launching and loading boats. There is a good example of a stormwater BMP that conveys the rainfall from the site to a creek that is lined with stones to retain the stormwater.

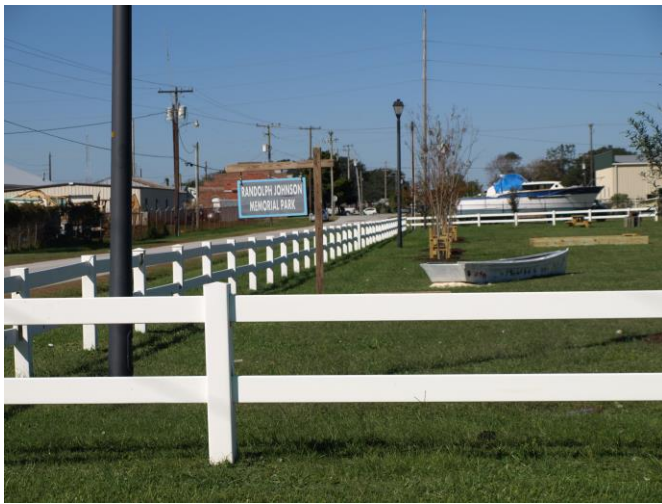






9. Randolph Johnson Park

Randolph Johnson Park is located at the intersection of Pine and Carteret Streets. It is primarily a tot lot. It has one area with equipment to climb and to slide. There are two swing sets and two "sand" boxes that contain what looks like crushed oyster shells. A real wooden boat sits on land for the children to play on. There are several benches and a small picnic shelter. There are no shade trees, but the site does have some shrubs. There is no designated parking area, but visitors can park off the street on a grassy area near the picnic shelter. It is surrounded by a white round pole type fencing.





10. Vacant land owned by town
 - a. Three parcels in the area of the Public Works Department and town-owned cemetery (Broad Street, Youpon Street, Ann Street).
 - b. These could be used for some recreational purpose if no other use is planned.
11. Boardwalk
 - a. Runs along Turner Street at edge of basin where Town Creek Marina is located.
 - b. Public can walk and fish.
 - c. County owns parking area, but the town owns the boardwalk.
 - d. The Boardwalk is going to be removed by NC DOT when the new bridge over Gallants Channel is put in. NC DOT will compensate the town by putting in sidewalks and bike lanes.

The Parks

Parks 2011

Name	Type	comments
Derwood's Landing	Mini	
Topsail Marine Park	Mini	
Grayden Paul Park	Mini	
Fisherman's Park	Mini	
Total	Mini	
Randolph Johnson Park	Neighborhood	
Total	Neighborhood	
Freedom Park	District/County	County owned
Total	Community	
Town Docks	Special use	Boat slips
Taylor Creek Boardwalk	Special use	Walking trail
Turner Street Boardwalk	Special use	Walking trail
Curtis Perry Park	Special use	Boat launch

Section 5 Standards & Recommendations

The National Recreation and Park Association no longer recommends a set number of facilities for a given population, but now recommends that the desires of the public drive the type and number of facilities to be built or improved.

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

Experts caution against the use of standards without consideration for local factors such as existing land use, housing densities, demographic characteristics, economic feasibility, topography, and perceived needs. Other factors for consideration included proximity to other communities with park and recreation facilities, proximity to county park and recreation facilities, adequacy of public school facilities, and availability of church, private and other institutional facilities. Private facilities were not factored into the mix as they are essentially unavailable to the Town's economically disadvantaged or fixed income population. Church facilities were likewise not factored as most restrict their use.

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

Playgrounds

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

<http://www.safetypolicy.org/pm/playgrnd.htm>

It is recommended that at least one person on staff be a certified playground safety inspector. This training is available from Recreation Resources Services.

http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/educational_opportunities.html An alternative would be to request assistance from Carteret County Parks & Recreation Department to conduct these inspections.

Types of parks

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

Mini Parks (less than 4 acres)

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

Neighborhood Parks (4 to 12 acres)

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

Community Parks (13 to 50 acres)

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

District Parks (over 50 acres)

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

Special Facility

A facility such as a community center with recreation building, gymnasium, teen center, aquatic center, public access to public trust waters or other cultural or athletic facility that serves a specific need for a portion of the area population. These facilities may be constructed as part of a Community Park. Special Facilities have a Town-wide service radius. Beaufort has two boardwalks, a boat docking facility, and a boat launch area that are considered special use facilities.

Table for Park Types

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

Evaluation and Recommendations for Beaufort Parks

Mini Parks (less than four acres)

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

Beaufort currently has four what could be considered “mini-parks.” These mini-parks have water access which is certainly needed. There are no mini-parks in neighborhoods that are owned by the municipality. The town should consider placement of additional mini-parks in neighborhoods, especially as new subdivisions are developed.

Neighborhood Parks (4 to 12 acres)

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

Beaufort has one park that could be considered a neighborhood park. The range of play equipment for children is limited. The use of what appears to be crushed shells in what looks like a “sand box” may not be desirable for young children. The cushioning material under the play equipment does not appear to be of adequate depth. It is recommended that the features of this park be reconsidered and that at least one person on staff should be a certified playground inspector. Hosting an event at the park would be one way to get the neighborhood residents to the park where their input could be sought on what they would like to have as facilities in the park. This should not be done unless there is the intent to follow through on at least some of their desires.

Community Parks (13-50 acres)

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

The Town of Beaufort is fortunate to have a county park near its boundaries. Town

residents can take advantage of this facility. This park has many features and is an asset to the town.

Special facilities

Downtown Front Street and Historic District

While not specifically a park, when one considers recreation and leisure for a community, a historic downtown area can be considered an asset. All ages of people can stroll through the downtown area and enjoy the sites, restaurants, and retail establishments. Beaufort has an interesting historical waterfront downtown.

When the public speaks of needing more walking trails, the historic district is not mentioned as a place to walk, yet is a very pleasant, secure place to stroll or walk. In order to encourage citizens and visitors to take advantage of this wonderful “walking trail” through the historic district, pamphlets (trail maps) should be developed showing routes and distances. This information could also be posted on colorful kiosks.

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

Additional recommendations for consideration:

- Add bike racks in several areas and encourage businesses to do the same. Could sell advertising on them to finance the cost.
- Need to add containers for cigarette butts throughout the downtown area.
- For areas where fishing is allowed, install fishing line recycling stations. <http://www.capelookoutstudies.org/NCMRRP/ncmrrp.shtml>
- Consider adding fish cleaning stations.
- Add more pet waste stations through the town.
- If Beaufort does not have one, develop an ordinance for the use of town parks and post use rules at all park areas.
- For parks that front the water—install life-ring stations. Here is an example of one that is available commercially: http://www.mdnautical.com/life_ring_cabinets.htm Here is an example of a life ring station built by scouts: <http://thedailyrecord.com/2010/08/09/sea-scouts-building-a-better-life-ring-station/>
- Add attractive, decorative directional signs and maps.
- The town must resolve the placement of the tennis courts and basketball court displaced by the changes at Curtis Perry Park to satisfy the PARTF Authority.

Indoor recreational facility

A facility such as a community center with a recreation building, gymnasium, teen center, aquatic center, or other cultural or athletic facility that serves a specific need for

a portion of the area population would be a welcome addition. At this time the town does not have any plans for indoor or aquatic recreational facilities.

Canoes/kayaks

Canoeing and kayaking are becoming more and more popular, especially in sheltered waters such as Taylor's Creek. The town has one put-in location, but parking is limited. The paddlers say their preferred put-in is a sandy beach or some smooth sloped area which allows them to board their craft easily. Adding a designated put-in area with adequate parking would be a boon to paddlers.

Boats

It is predicted that more and more vessels will be mooring off-shore as they are displaced from docks that have been turned into dockminiums or whose slips are now occupied by condo owners' boats. Taylor's Creek might be an ideal place for the Town to place a mooring field for the use of transient. Additional dinghy docks might be needed if the National Park Service displaces one for its new Visitor Center. As part of the mooring fee, a floating pump-out vessel could empty the holding tanks of these vessels weekly. This would ensure that effluent was not dumped into the water. The Town could lease out this concession and get revenue from this venture.

The town owns the Beaufort docks on Front Street (Taylor's Creek) but leases the concession. Another concession for this area could be renting small sailing dinghies, canoes, kayaks and row boats.

There is serious concern about the loss of marina slips and related marine industry jobs. Private marinas are being sold off at alarming rates and condominiums are springing up in their place. Beaufort should be proactive in helping to ensure the continued availability of marinas and slips for the boating public. Local residents will need places to dock and moor their larger vessels. Those with vessels need a place to have them serviced. In keeping with its maritime heritage, the town should consider ways to enhance its water access and fulfill the needs of the boating public.

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

In SCORP documents developed prior to 1995, standards were used to describe adequate quantity of public recreational acreage and facilities based on population. Since 1995, the SCORP no longer recommends using standards based on population (e.g., one tennis court per 2,000 people) to express recreation needs in North Carolina,

a position supported by the National Recreation and Park Association. These standards take a cookie-cutter approach that recommends the same services for all counties when in fact each county and community has unique characteristics and preferences. Some of these differences include population density and diversity, roads and transportation, geography, natural resources, state and federal land ownership, and amounts of tourism. No single standard can be accurately applied to all of North Carolina because the state includes areas as diverse as the Charlotte metropolitan area, remote areas of the Appalachian Mountains, large rural areas in the Coastal Plain, and wide beaches of the North Carolina coast. Recreation needs should be determined by the preferences of the people in the market area, the existing recreation resources, levels of tourism, and the characteristics that make the area unique.

Instead of prescribing an appropriate level of recreation services for each county by applying a standard, the SCORP provides information that allows North Carolina counties to be compared to each other according to current recreation resources and county population. The need for recreational facilities and acreage is based on population and thus, counties with the larger populations also need more park acreage and recreational facilities. But on a per capita basis, all counties can be compared.

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

While the elderly participate in outdoor recreation less frequently than younger persons, they participate more frequently than in past years. An increasing interest in physical fitness and improved health has led to more participation. When higher participation rates are coupled with large increases in the over-65 age group, the elderly will demand services to a much greater degree than they do now.

Increased demand can therefore be expected for activities that have high participation by older Americans. These include walking, sightseeing, attending family gatherings, visiting a beach or waterside, picnicking, visiting a historic site or nature center, bird watching and attending sporting events. Older Americans also participate in a wide variety of other outdoor recreation activities including wildlife viewing, attending concerts, nature study, fishing, swimming, motor boating, biking and golf. Participation in team sports and other physically demanding activities are, as one might expect, considerably higher for the young and middle-aged than for the elderly. (National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, 2000)

Section 6 Staffing, P&R Board, Programs and Events

Staffing

The Town currently utilizes the Public Works Department to maintain existing parks. The town has no recreational programming staff – regular or seasonal. The town also does not have a designed Parks and Recreation Board. There is no organized recreational programming sponsored by the Town.

Parks & Recreation Board

The Town Council could appoint interested citizens to the Parks & Recreation Board. This Board assists in drafting policies, plans, and budgets for Parks & Recreation for the town. The Board prioritizes projects and helps to facilitate events. The Board acts in an advisory capacity only and has no authority to act unless it is explicitly given that authority by the Town Council.

Programs

The town does not run any organized recreational programs. The town relies on organized groups within the community to do that. This limits the number of recreational options available to the community. Assigning one town staff person to work with a Parks & Recreation Board and the community would be a start. Later consideration should be given to increasing the hours of that position to the point where it eventually becomes a full-time position. Every project or program needs one person committed to seeing it through. Without this Beaufort will continue to lack recreational opportunities for its citizens.

Events

There are a number of events held annually in Beaufort. These events are well attended and are sponsored by numerous organizations. These events present recreational opportunities to the citizens and visitors alike.

Events are good opportunities for the town to set up a booth to get continued input and support from the public for parks and recreational activities.

Health and Wellness

Due to the increased obesity of the population, there is quite a bit of funding available for programs to increase the activity levels. Health and wellness should be a component of a well-rounded recreation & leisure program.

Recommendations

- Eventually hire a full-time Parks & Recreation Director to help the Parks & Recreation Board carry out the planned improvements and to design and

implement programs. Staff can also work on seeking funds for facilities, improvements and programs, as well as helping to plan, promote and execute events. This decision will require the Town Council to make a commitment to recreation. This plan is a good roadmap and provides numerous ideas and resources. In the meantime, assign a staff person to coordinate programs and fund-raisers. Create a Parks and Recreation Committee to help with this process and to do fundraising.

- Incorporate health & wellness into recreation & leisure opportunities.

Section 7: Other Local Recreational/Leisure Facilities

Library

Beaufort has a library located at 1702 Live Oak Street Ste. 100. It is a branch of the Carteret County library system. The library is not open on Sunday. The library has computers for use by the public.

Small park at inlet end of Front Street

At the west end of Front Street is a cul-de-sac turn-around. On this site is a small pocket park. This is private property, however, the public does use it.

Vacant Beaufort Elementary School

The facility is owned by Carteret County (not school board). The Town had put in a bid to purchase, but it was rejected. Some in town would like to see this become a community center with an art focus.

Freedom Park—a Carteret County facility

This regional county park has lighted adult ball fields, youth ball fields, a playground, picnic areas and restrooms. Beaufort is fortunate to have this regional park adjacent to its boundaries.

Public Waterway Access

There are several public waterway access areas nearby on the causeway coming into Beaufort. These include: 1) Radio Island boat access and public recreation site and 2) Fishing pier across from the Port.

Carrot Island—Rachael Carson Estuarine Reserve

Carrot Island is located across Taylor Creek from the Beaufort waterfront. It is part of the Rachael Carson Estuarine Reserve and is host to a herd of wild ponies. Residents and visitors alike enjoy viewing these ponies and visiting the Reserve. There are guided tours available.



Bicycling

Bicycling in Beaufort is a state designated six-mile signed bike route that connects the waterfront, historic district, neighborhoods and schools.

<http://www.ncdot.gov/travel/mappubs/bikemaps/default.html>

Ferry departure site—proposed

The U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service is seeking to establish a Cape Lookout National Seashore Passenger Ferry Departure site that will create an official gateway to the park. Alternative B (preferred alternative) would have the ferry departing from the area across from the old Post Office (corner of Front Street and Pollock Street). This action would increase the number of visitors to Beaufort.



Section 8 Special Issues

The Town has no uniform rules and regulations for park facilities, internal signage in parks is limited and inconsistent, and directional signage to parks is non-existent.

Signage

Signage is also an important aspect of park design. Signage provides park users with information they need to use the facility. To avoid having an overabundance of signs and clutter, it is important to maximize the amount of information on each sign. Each sign should be clear, concise, and legible. Pictographs have become the most popular method of communicating information on signs. Unfortunately, pictograph signs are not useful to visually impaired park users. Of equal importance is the location of signage. Locating signs where they will be useful and where the maximum number of park users will see them is paramount to an effective use of signage. Signage should consist of six categories: informational, directional, regulatory, warning, festival, and educational.

- *Informational* signs provide an overview of the park and its facilities and orient users to their position in the park. Mileposts are also a common form of informational sign on a trail.
- *Directional* signs tend to be in the form of graphic symbols and brief descriptions of location. These signs are used to point the park users in the right direction.
- *Regulatory* signs are used to describe laws and regulations that apply within the park. These signs typically include hours of accessibility, permitted uses, speed limits, and other prohibitory regulations.
- *Warning* signs are used to alert park users of hazards. These signs can warn users of wildlife, curves in the trail, steep grades, and blind intersections.
- *Festival* signs are used to publicize and commemorate special events and holidays. These signs can also be used as decoration.
- *Educational* or interpretive signs are used to describe the significance of natural, historical, or cultural features that are located in or near the park.

There is no consistency of rules and signage from park to park in Beaufort. Unless there is a strong reason to deviate, it is recommended that all Beaufort parks have the exact same rules and signage.

Restrooms

Removing obstacles to fitness and exercise is one way to encourage the public to be physically active. There is evidence that some people hesitate to participate in fitness activities that put them out of range of toilet facilities. Some people, especially the elderly, are on medications or have medical conditions that cause them to have to

urinate frequently. The availability of restrooms is of particular concern to women— young and old. As one young mother said, “Walking home to go to the bathroom is not an option for a 4-year old that has to go now”. The article went on to discuss the restroom needs of pregnant mothers and women with incontinence problems. <http://www.americanrestroom.org/>

Not all parks have restrooms. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of restrooms available at the parks or to the placement of port-a-johns at those parks where restrooms are not feasible.

Another consideration with regard to restrooms is their accessibility. All permanent public restrooms should be ADA compliant. The restrooms should be open during times when the public is apt to use the park. Restrooms should be kept clean and in good repair. Installing eco-friendly facilities such as waterless urinals will help keep costs down.

Water

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

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

Cooperative Ventures

What is often overlooked is the opportunity to partner with other agencies, surrounding towns and the county. It is not necessary that a facility be only for one purpose. For example, the Town Public Works Department has need of stormwater control projects. If the Town were to create a constructed wetland, this would also be an ideal place for passive activities such as bird watching or a nature park. Partnering with the NC Cooperative Extension Service to create an educational component of a park would also be desirable. For example, several existing parks would be good locations for rain gardens. Gardening is becoming more popular now. Some existing town properties might work for small container gardens.

Open Space & Greenways

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

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

projects. As the opportunity to purchase such parcels presents itself, it should be explored.

Whenever possible, wetlands should be preserved and used as passive wildlife viewing areas.

Graffiti & Vandalism

Graffiti is a continuing problem with all public areas as is vandalism. Keeping areas well lit and keeping screening shrubbery under control is one way to ensure that the areas can be viewed by area residents and those driving by. For other ideas on how to control graffiti and vandalism go to:

http://www.graffitihurts.org/community_resources/prevention.cfm

Seniors

The number of senior citizens will continue to climb as the baby-boomers enter retirement age and as people discover the attractiveness of Beaufort as a place to retire. At present there is no place for seniors to gather to enjoy passive activities.

Public information on Parks & Recreation

As of April 2011 there was nothing on Beaufort's website related to parks & recreation. The public has no idea what is available or where it is located.

Section 9: Maintenance and Security

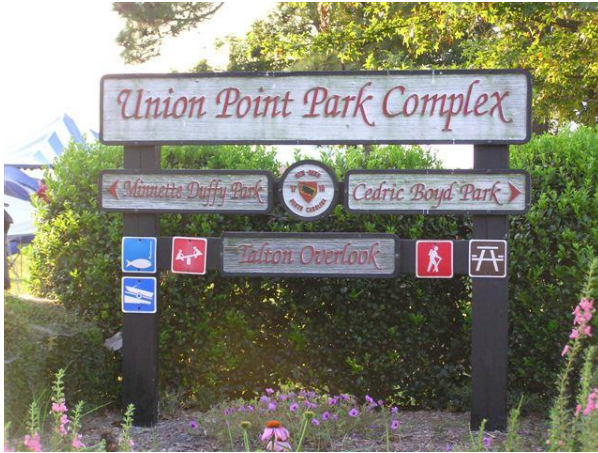
The Town's maintenance staff maintains the grounds, the buildings and the equipment at the parks. This includes lawn and shrub maintenance, building maintenance, keeping the restrooms clean, picking up the litter, and related duties.

It is recommended that at least one staff member be a certified playground inspector and that the playgrounds be inspected several times a week. Mulch should be placed under all playground equipment in the appropriate depth and replenished as needed.

Involving the residents in creating and maintaining interesting planting areas would help to create civic pride in the appearance of their Town. The town should consider establishing an appearance committee to partner with neighborhood associations. This Appearance Committee could make periodic awards to the best landscaped homes and businesses in the town.

The maintenance staff could involve youth projects to increase the youths' ownership of projects. This helps to decrease vandalism.

Section 10: Examples from other communities



Example of use of universal signage to indicate the park amenities.



Example of an attractive trash can for use in areas like downtown.



Example of an informational kiosk to contain notices.



Pet waste station.



Examples of a pet waste station: suggest allowing dogs in the parks, but create a leash law and a law regarding picking up pet waste. Place pet waste stations strategically around parks and the downtown area.



Example of creating a constructed wetland for stormwater retention and using that same parcel as a passive park.



Attractive benches with plantings in a historic waterfront area.



Example of a covered game table area: in good weather people can be seen eating, reading, playing cards and playing board games in this area.



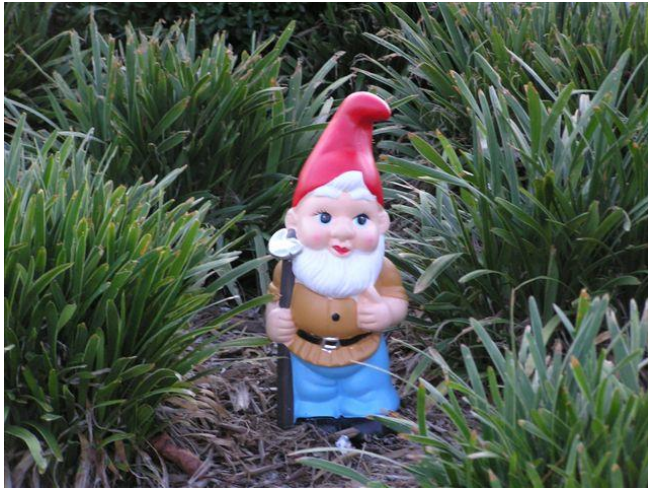
A fishing line recycling container.



Example of proper surfacing for a playground area.



Examples of interesting art work in a downtown area.



Some inexpensive examples of whimsy.



Example of an attractive downtown historic area walkway.



Example of an attractive passive waterfront viewing area.

Section 11: Existing Plans and Ordinances

Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Plan

Page 72 Section 3.4.8 of the CAMA Plan lists nine facilities operated by the Town of Beaufort for recreational and tourism purposes. It also lists five public water access sites:

- Downtown Beaufort waterfront park at Front Street
- Curtis Perry Park
- Topsail Park
- Grayden Paul Park
- Carteret County's Town Creek water access area off West Beaufort Road.

Town of Beaufort Strategic Approach for Growth Spring 1999

On page 8 of this report it lists five parks operated by the Town of Beaufort but it makes no recommendations.

Subdivision Regulations

Page 37 of the town's Subdivision Ordinance states that "All subdivisions adjoining a creek, river or similar water area shall provide for public access to the water. Such access shall include boat docks or boat launching ramps every one-quarter mile along the shoreline adjacent to the subdivision. The purpose of these facilities is to serve properties within the subdivision."

Section 17 of this ordinance addresses landscape plans which includes tree density standards.

Page 40 Section 2 addresses recreational areas. "Every person or corporation who subdivides land for residential purposes shall be required to dedicate or reserve a portion of such land...for the purpose of providing open spaces, recreation areas, or parks to serve the future residents of the neighborhood within which the subdivision is located...As an alternative to the dedication...the subdivider may make provisions for an equitable amount of land in another location or pay to the Town of Beaufort a fee in lieu of dedication." Section 2.03 provides a formula for the amount of land to be dedicated and Section 2.04 sets the criteria for determining suitability of proposed recreation, park and open space areas.

Section 12: Recommendations

A. Approach

In development of a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation in Beaufort, the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee members assisted the Eastern Carolina Council staff, which contracted with the Town to help produce this plan. The information reviewed included:

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

The committee working on the update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan in March 2011 offered the following ideas:

- Maps can be created to identify safe, measured walking routes around town. These could be displayed at kiosks staged in appropriate places.
- Opportunities to secure water access should be seized whenever possible as this is a diminishing commodity that will cost more as time passes.
- Continue to work with NC DOT regarding concessions and compensation for losses incurred due to the new bridge and realignment of Highway 70. Specifically the town should seek title to the land around the approach to the Paul Grayden bridge. This will be available when the new bridge opens.
- Promote birding as a low-impact eco-tourism activity. Develop a brochure for birders showing the species which can be viewed in the Beaufort area. An additional brochure could be created for shore birds which can be seen from boats.
- Promote diving as this area is the number two destination in the county for divers.
- The town needs to be more involved in attracting tourists and retirees to the area. Either work through the existing Carteret County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) or create an entity in Beaufort to do this (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, TDA).
- Ensure an adequate number of dinghy docks to accommodate transient boaters especially on Taylor's Creek.
- Continue to lobby for placement of the new National Park Service Visitors Center (for the Outer Banks) to be based in Beaufort.
- Suggest a bond issue be considered to funding desired P&R facilities.

B. Findings

As a result of the review described above, the following were findings:

7. The total amount of park land available for recreation needs in Beaufort is limited to small waterside parks and one neighborhood park.
8. The Town's current park facilities have few amenities.
9. There is no master plan for the Town's parks, which have largely been developed incrementally without a clear plan concept.
10. There is no town staff assigned to Parks and Recreational activities/programs.
11. There is no town appointed Parks and Recreational Committee.
12. Public input regarding recreation needs in Beaufort indicated that there is significant interest in the community in major recreation facilities – such as a swimming pool, a multi-purpose recreation center/community building, bike and walking trails, dog-parks and water-related amenities – that would require major funding for construction and staffing.

C. Recommendations

2. Existing Park Facilities

While public demand for new, major facilities appears to be significant, the Town's first priority should be to move quickly to bring its Randolph Johnston up to a level of quality consistent with modern design, safety, and accessibility standards. It should also address the PARTF Authority's requirement to relocate the tennis courts and basketball court. Beaufort should set a new, higher standard for the condition and appearance of its parks, consistent with the community's desire to be known as a preferred living location in the area. To accomplish this, the Town should, within 2-3 years:

- a. Replace outdated equipment, renovate or replace deteriorated facilities, and add essential park amenities, as identified in this plan;
- b. Adopt uniform parks and recreation regulations, in the form of town ordinances;
- c. Seek an additional location for a neighborhood park to serve the area of town that growing the fastest;
- d. Seek a location to develop a community center to serve all ages;
- e. Develop one or more dog park areas.

3. Park Land and Facilities Acquisition

Since most of the desires expressed by the public for new facilities would require appropriate sites, the Town should take following steps to meet this need:

- a. Begin immediately setting aside funds for the purchase and development of park land;
- b. Develop, as an addition to this plan, a study of future park service zones to guide the location of future parks;
- c. Begin aggressively identifying potential, appropriate sites for park land acquisition;
- d. Begin investigating park facilities grants to help meet future needs;
- e. Provide a location where recreation programming for all ages may occur.

4. Parks and Recreation Staffing

While the community would benefit from the availability of a parks and recreation director and other seasonal recreation staff, the following approach is recommended in parks and recreation personnel resources:

- a. Begin funding part-time, seasonal, or contract positions to begin offering more recreation programming for all ages.
- b. Attempt to fund, by 2014, a parks and recreation director position.

5. Parks and Recreation Funding

Because of the current very low funding of parks and recreation opportunities in the community, the following measures are recommended to more adequately fund parks and recreation needs in Beaufort:

- a. More adequately recognize the importance of parks and recreation in the Town's annual budget appropriations, including the importance of parks and recreation to the citizens of the community, to the community's attractiveness for new residents and businesses, and to the development of tourism in Beaufort.
- b. Establish a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan line item for parks and recreation facilities improvements, land acquisition, future facilities, and grant matching funds.
- c. Consider levying a dedicated ad valorem tax for parks and recreation capital needs.
- d. Aggressively seek grants – such as Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grants and similar funding – to help meet recreation needs in Beaufort.
- e. Create a specific means and opportunity for public donations to park needs (many ideas are provide in the reference section of this plan).
- f. Seek civic and business sponsors for specific facility improvement initiatives.
- g. Utilize community events and other communication opportunities to keep Beaufort citizens well-informed regarding plans for parks and recreation needs and improvement projects.

Section 13: Capital Improvements Plan

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

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

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

Section 14: Funding

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

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

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

Federal Government

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

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding to state and local agencies or nonprofit organizations authorized to carry out, maintain and operate watershed improvements involving less than 250,000 acres. The NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible projects to improve watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements, and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50 percent local match for public recreation. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

This Federal funding source was established to provide "close to home" park and recreation opportunities. Specifically, the purpose of this grant is to provide funding to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources including but not limited to parks, trails, wildlife lands, and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. This funding is not consistently available from year-to-year. In North Carolina, this funding is handled

through the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (Recreation Resources Services).
<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/>

Wetlands Reserve Program

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

Environmental Protection Agency

The Grants Program sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress. Annual funding for the program ranges between \$2 and \$3 million. More than 75 percent of the grants awarded by this program receive less than \$15,000.
<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

State Funds

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)

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

NC Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

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

NC Division of Forest Resources

Tree seedling and nursery project:

<http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/nursery/NurseryandTreelImprovement.htm>

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The Division of Parks and Recreation has a grant program that funds up to 80% of a Recreational Trails Program, with a maximum grant of \$50,000. The 20% match from

a municipality may be in in-kind monies or property purchases for the use of recreational trails. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Division also have Adopt-A-Trail grants available. These grants are highly sought after by North Carolina municipalities, and fund up to \$5,000 per project.

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

North Carolina DOT Bike/Pedestrian

Through NCDOT there are a variety of funding programs comprised of Federal-Aid and/or State dollars. There are also other funding opportunities for projects and programs related to bicycle and pedestrian transportation which are not administered by NCDOT. Some communities look toward non-profit organizations, foundations, businesses, or other creative public/private partnerships to provide capital or resources as a way to move a project or activity from a concept to reality. Here are a few resources for bike/ped projects: <http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/funding/>

Governor's Crime Commission Grants

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

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

The Governor's Crime Commission staff announces the availability of grant funds statewide every fall on its web site. Applicants have up to six weeks to complete the application. The appropriate committee, the Commission, and the secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety make decisions on the grant recipients and the awards are made in the spring. <http://www.ncgccd.org/planning/grantinfo/grants.cfm>

State Clean Water Management Trust Funds

Funds established to protect or improve water quality could apply if the proposed greenway has a strong link to potentially improving the quality of nearby/adjacent watercourses/water bodies. The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund has funded a greenway study in Jackson County, North Carolina in the past.

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

Local government

Funding through local budget

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

Funding through Local Capital Improvement Plans

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

Bond Referendums for Projects

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

Establishment of a Nonprofit

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

Private Sources of Funding

Kodak American Greenways Awards Program

Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. This provides grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to local greenways projects. Grants can be used for almost any activity that serves as a catalyst for local greenway planning, design, or development. http://www.conservationfund.org/kodak_awards

BC/BS NC mini-grants

The Foundation funds programs and services that promote physical activity among North Carolinians. A key strategy in addressing North Carolina's overweight and obesity epidemic is to increase physical activity levels. The Foundation funds innovative programs that will help North Carolinians increase their physical activity levels while simultaneously increasing their overall health. The also fund P&R planning.

<http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/grants/>

Bikes Belong Foundation

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

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation

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

http://www.lowes.com/cd_The+Lowe's+Charitable+and+Educational+Foundation_474741445

The Home Depot Foundation

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

Tony Hawk Foundation—funds skateboard parks

The Advisory Commission favors projects that demonstrate the greatest need, significant involvement of skaters at every step of the skatepark process, and a commitment to hiring experienced skatepark specialists to ensure a quality park.

<http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/>

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

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

Local Foundations

North Carolina Community Foundation

The North Carolina Community Foundation offers grants from its unrestricted endowment fund. Proposals are sought that will assist in initiating projects and programs designed to address a community need, affect a broad segment of our community and will attract additional funding from local groups, government or other foundations. There is a Carteret Community Foundation.

<http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/section/grants1>

Other sources of revenue

Gift Catalog

It is suggested that the gift catalog list, and preferably illustrate, each desired improvement along with its cost. A system of recognizing donors or honorees should be created. This suggestion is still relevant and should be created and posted on the Town's web site. Further, the "cost" of the gift should include installation (if needed) plus a small percentage for handling. These items should have donor appeal. Some examples previously given include: park benches, special purpose room, memorial trees, walks, landscaped areas and picnic shelters. Campaigns to solicit gifts should be

held around holidays like Christmas, Father's Day, Mother's Day, etc. Gift catalogs and memorials: <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/financepg.aspx#Donations> This next catalog includes policies and procedures for donations. Click on Gifts & Memorials Catalog to download the document. <https://www.oakharbor.org/page.cfm?pageId=211>

Adopt-A-Trail Programs

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

Adopt-A-Park

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

www.lee-county.com/gov/bocc/Administrative%20Codes/AC-14-6.pdf

If staff does not have the time to pursue these ideas, then perhaps a volunteer could be recruited to do so.

North Carolina Division of Community Corrections

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

<http://www.doc.state.nc.us/work/>

Local Private Sector Funding

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

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

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

"Buy-A-Foot" Programs

These programs have been successful in many local fundraising endeavors throughout North Carolina. This method encourages citizens to purchase one linear foot of the greenway by donating the cost of construction for that foot. In exchange, the

purchaser often receives a certificate and a T-shirt. This is very similar to the Buy-A-Brick program that some communities' parks and recreation Towns have used to renovate older parks. This concept could also be used for improvements such as benches, trees, fountains, etc.

Volunteer Work

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

[http://www.law.duke.edu/shell/cite.pl?62+Law+&+Contemp.+Probs.+219+\(Autumn+1999\)](http://www.law.duke.edu/shell/cite.pl?62+Law+&+Contemp.+Probs.+219+(Autumn+1999))

Sponsorship & naming right

In tight budget times, sponsorships can be a much-needed source of revenue for local governments. But if potential sponsors are turned away, there are legal ramifications. Learn how to craft a wise sponsorship policy and avoid legal pitfalls. The link below provides a sample policy, which you can modify and adapt to your jurisdiction.

[Sample Sponsorship Policy for Local Governments](#)

Miscellaneous

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

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

Section 15: Reference List

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

General

Disabled: People with Disabilities—National Survey of Recreation and the Environment
<http://ncaonline.org/index.php?q=node/1295>

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2005-06 http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/services_study.html

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

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

Promoting Physical Activity through School Ground Greening
<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/pdf/PHACreport.pdf>

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

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

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

Retirees Participation in Outdoor Activities

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/recstatupdate10.pdf>

A Snapshot of Recreational Boating in America

www.uscgboating.org/assets/1/workflow_staging/News/416.DOC

The Latest on Trends in Nature-Based Outdoor Recreation

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_cordell021.pdf

How to guide to trail development:

http://www.wmich.edu/glcms/watertrails/tasks_outline.htm#

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

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

Sample CIP <http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/examples.html>

Sample town recreation page:

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

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

[Project for Public Spaces, Inc.](#) - Features information on parks, plazas and public squares, transportation, public markets, public buildings and public art.

[Washington Recreation and Park Association](#)

Virginia Beach P&R Fact sheet

http://www.vbgov.com/file_source/dept/parks/Document/ADM_Facts.pdf

Boundless Playgrounds

In Jacksonville, NC (Camp Lejeune) they are building a Boundless Playground and Warrior Workout Trail. <http://www.boundlessplaygrounds.org/> They are selling bricks to fund it. Here is the web site for that project:

http://www.giftbricks.net/engraved_brick_fundraising.htm?gclid=CMzyqsSK6qYCFZ065QodtjFd3A

[Rules/Regulations/Security/Signage/Vandalism prevention:](#)

Parks & Recreation ordinances

<http://www.co.gaston.nc.us/parksandrec/ordinance.htm>

Fort Lauderdale, FL—park rules <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/life/rules.htm>

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

Lighting for security:
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_n11_v29/ai_17883946/pg_2

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

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

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

Aquatic and Recreational signage style guide manual
www.vcc.vic.gov.au/publications/SignageManual3.pdf

Recreation international signage
<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/mapstandards/downloads/inter.pdf>

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

Facilities Use & Permits—Brevard County, FL
<http://www.brevardparks.com/visittheparks/facility/index.php>

Code regarding signage—drug free parks
<http://www.peoriaaz.com/CityCode/PDF/Ch18/sec18-31.pdf>

Wayfinding provides a methodology for people to find their way (hence “wayfinding”) to and around a destination. By gaining an understanding of a place, who its users are, and what they need to find, wayfinding planners develop a signage master plan that guides people through a facility. This process includes defining functions of various signs, and the specific message and location of each sign. These are typically compiled into sign message schedules and locator maps. Regardless of the type of facility for which the wayfinding planning is being done, certain basic principles such as legibility, prioritization of messages and amount of information that can be comprehended apply. Here is an article on wayfinding by the Disney group:
<http://www.mouseplanet.com/articles.php?art=ma071206jk>

Vandalism in general
http://www.troopers.state.ny.us/Crime_Prevention/Juvenile_Crime/Vandalism/

Park vandalism

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Beauty+interrupted:+vandalism+can+paint+an+ugly+picture+of+an...-a0152259431>

Hooked on Fishing, not on drugs

<http://www.futurefisherman.org/programs/hofnod/index.html>

Prevention of crime in parks

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_7_35/ai_63973906

Graffiti Primer

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

Design standards for public toilets (includes section on vandalism prevention)

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/12557/ds18_publictoilets.pdf

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

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

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

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

Vandalism Control: Management for Park Districts

<http://www.lib.niu.edu/1984/ip840120.html>

Programming/Scheduling/rental/reservations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Longview-Kelso Parks & Recreation Department](#)

[Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma](#)

[Portland Parks and Recreation Department](#)

[Seattle Parks and Recreation Department](#)

Spokane Parks and Recreation Department

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

City of Spokane--swimming - <http://www.spokaneparks.org/swimming/aquamain.htm>

Respecting religious traditions in recreational programming:
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-123580267.html>

Benefits based programming in P&R:
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_n5_v33/ai_20640533

Austin, TX Programs for seniors <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/seniors.htm>

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

Gaston County NC—P&R for Seniors
<http://www.co.gaston.nc.us/ParksAndRec/SeniorPrograms.HTM>

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

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

Skateboard park operational plan
<http://www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/council/parks/2005-03-23/03%2023%2005%20Skatepark%20Operational%20Plan-9e.pdf>

Volunteers—fundraising and public relations—skateboard parks
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_6_38/ai_105045981

Dogs in Park <http://www.brevardparks.com/dogs/index.php>

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

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

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

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

Policies on geocaching in parks:

<http://www.crpr.org/agency/GeoGames/geocache-policy.html>

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

<http://www.google.com/Top/Recreation/Outdoors/Geocaching/>

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

Bikes

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

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

<http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants>

Beautification/Art

Outer Banks Winged Horses:

<http://www.outerbankspress.com/whe/winged-horses.html>

New Bern Bear Town Project <http://www.beartownbears.org/>

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

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

Art in public places Austin, TX <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp/>

Art in public place—variety of links <http://www.artslynx.org/heal/public.htm>

P&R landscape management—VA

<http://www.vbgov.com/vgn.aspx?vgnextchannel=a59ac67a3e83b010VgnVCM100000870b640aRCRD&vgnnextparchannel=dfec54cf18ad9010VgnVCM100000870b640aRCRD>

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

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

Keep San Jose beautiful <http://www.sjbeautiful.org/index.html>

Maintenance/Safety

Playground Rating System by Joe Frost

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

Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool

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

Water safety plan

http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=3&sqi=2&ved=0CDMQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.safecom.sa.gov.au%2Fwater_safety%2Fdocuments%2Fwater%2520safety%2520plan%25202008_2011.pdf&rct=j&q=Water%20safety%20plan%20government%20au&ei=HKtJTevGDZLegQem9okr&usq=AFQjCNHygc77wc9dPd2-243cgPrt4IMoIg

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

APPENDIX A

Parks and Recreation Survey Instrument

APPENDIX B

Parks and Recreation Survey Results