

Beyond the Green

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Holly Springs, NC

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***A parks and recreation master plan
is a management “tool”
to be used daily.***

Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, Ontario, Canada

Beyond the Green A Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Holly Springs, NC

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Town of Holly Springs Department of Parks & Recreation

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote participation and develop public awareness of the benefits of Parks and Recreation and leisure services to enhance the quality of life for the individual, community and society.



Play structures at Parrish Womble Park

Town of Holly Springs Department of Parks & Recreation

VISION STATEMENT

The goal of the Parks & Recreation Department is to provide all residents with diverse opportunities to achieve a quality leisure experience. To accomplish this goal, the department has established a comprehensive plan for the future.

- Develop and preserve parks and open spaces.
- Develop a greenway system connecting parks and other points of interest. Link with other municipal and county systems.
- Develop and expand recreational, cultural, interpretive, athletic, and health related programs and activities for all age groups and abilities.
- Promote “participation not perfection”.
- Develop new and renovate existing outdoor and indoor recreational facilities.
- Develop a park system that addresses the needs of the residents while complimenting the natural and historical resources of the community.



Bass Lake Park

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The Town of Holly Springs, in keeping with its Parks & Recreation Department's vision statement and in anticipation of continuing dynamic change, initiated the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

A parks and recreation master plan is a written document that provides guidance as to the future direction of parks and recreation within a community.

Proactive Approach to Meet Community Recreation Needs

Population projections have forecast a dramatic increase in the population of Holly Springs over the next 20 years: from approximately 17,000 residents in 2006 to nearly 45,000 residents in 2025. This population growth will fuel development and the demand for recreational services. In creating the Plan the Town has taken a proactive approach at meeting the recreation needs of current and future residents and visitors.

Create a Comprehensive, Integrated Parks and Recreation System

This Plan is also an opportunity to develop a dynamic parks and recreation system, or "green infrastructure" that will attract both residents and new businesses to the Town. A comprehensive system will enhance overall quality of life, offer opportunities for residents of all ages, and serve as a model for future development in North Carolina.

Guide for a Continuing Process of Evolution and Adaptation

New parks, recreation, open space and greenway guidelines promulgated by the National Recreation and Parks Association acknowledge that the old standard of 5 acres of park per 1,000 residents is an outmoded concept and that parks and recreation facilities planning must be the result of an ongoing and dynamic process incorporating the public with the Town. The Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan is not the end product of a process but a guide for a continuing process of evolution and adaptation.

Precedence for Future Parks and Recreation Expenditures

The Plan defines "park" in the broadest sense of the word, incorporating a concept of civic beauty, access and connectedness through the Town's traditional parks and open spaces, corner parks and squares, and extends the meaning of park to embrace its streets, historic neighborhoods and historic Downtown. At the same time, the Plan provides a strategy for serving the active recreational needs of the Town's residents and the need for sports fields and team play areas. The Plan establishes precedence for future community expenditures for parks and recreation facilities.

Interactive Database Provides Guidance for Capital Expenditures

The inventory performed for the Plan is equally innovative in that, instead of providing a static, narrative list of parks facilities and programs, it offers an interactive database that can become the centerpiece of the Town's park management practice. If properly funded, the ability of Town Staff to continually update the inventory and the condition of each specific component of parks facilities will result in a more efficient and therefore more effective approach to maintaining parks facilities, including scheduling, purchasing and staffing. An updated inventory will also provide guidance for parks and recreation capital expenditures.

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for Holly Springs, NC**

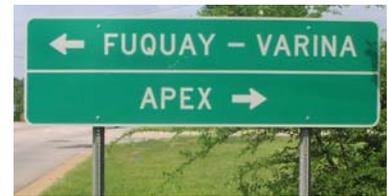
1.2 Unique Plan Development

This plan is exceptional in that it has been developed concurrently with the Town of Holly Springs’ Comprehensive Plan Update. Each plan has influenced the structure and content of the other plan. In this way, an all encompassing, unified strategy can be developed for the future direction of the community.

1.3 Plan Findings

After reviewing existing plans, considering the Town’s geographic location and current conditions, sampling public and staff input, and taking into account the expected population growth, an assessment of the physical improvements needed to provide residents the best possible parks and recreation facilities was developed. The following information was determined.

In relation to surrounding and regional communities, The Town of Holly Springs is, in general, above average as to its park acreage and employees with regard to residents. However, given the expected surge in the Town’s population to almost 50,000 by 2025, the Town will need to increase its park lands and park & recreation department staff to maintain a high quality of recreational activities for its residents.



Signage at NC 55 By Pass

Table 1-1 - Community Population / Parks / Employee Comparison

	Community					
	Holly Springs	Cary	Fuquay-Varina	Apex	Chapel Hill	Raleigh
Population (year)	18,214 (2006)	103,260 (2002)	12,200 (2005)	31,000 (2006)	48,715 (2000)	273,203 (2000)
Developed Park Land	194 acres	734 acres	124 acres	213 acres	199 acres	4,160 acres
Developed Park per 1000 Residents	10.7	7.1	10.2	6.9	4.1	15.2
Undeveloped Park Land	104 acres	386 acres	0	200 acres	143 acres	3,369 acres
Undeveloped Park per 1000 Residents	5.7	3.7	0.0	6.5	2.9	12.3
Total Park Land	298 acres	1,120 acres	124 acres	413 acres	342 acres	7,529 acres
Total Park Acreage per 1000 Residents	16.4	10.8	10.2	13.3	7.0	27.6
Number of Full Time Park & Rec. Employees	18	39	12	11	18	341
Employees per Dev. Park Acre	9.3	5.3	9.7	5.2	9.0	8.2
Employees per Undev. Park Acre	17.3	10.1	N/A	5.5	12.6	10.1
Employees per Total Park Acre	6.0	3.5	9.7	2.7	5.3	4.5

Source: design based planning, inc., Towns of Holly Springs, Cary, Apex, and Fuquay-Varina, and www.city-data.com

The standard of 14 acres per 1,000 residents was determined to be appropriate as a baseline for the Town, based upon another study, *Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards* for the state of Colorado, and the old National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards (table below).

Table 1-2 - National Parks and Recreation Standards for Communities

Park Type	Recommended Acreage per 1,000 Residents
Neighborhood Park (Including playfields and playgrounds)	2.0
Community Park (Mix of passive & active use parks and sports complexes)	8
Special Use Parks (Golf courses, museums, trails, interpretive sites)	4.5
Total	14.5

Source: National Parks and Recreation Association

The town of Holly Springs compares well, regarding parks and recreation facilities, with the towns of Cary, Apex, and Fuquay-Varina, except in the supply of basketball courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and tennis courts. However, it should be noted that the 298 local park acres for the Town includes the water area of Bass Lake (approximately 60 acres) and over 100 acres of yet to be developed park land. When this acreage is removed, the value falls to 7.4 acres per 1000 residents; about half the general park land dedication standard for a community like Holly Springs. With its expected large growth in population, the Town needs to act now acquiring additional park lands and begin developing more recreational facilities in order to not fall further behind.

Table 1-3 - Community Population / Parks / Facilities Comparison

Population / Parks / Facilities*	Community							
	Holly Springs		Cary		Apex		Fuquay-Varina	
	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.
Population	18,214 (2006)		103,260 (2002)		31,000 (2006)		12,200 (2005)	
Local Park Acres	298	16.4	1120	10.8	413	13.3	124	10.2
Baseball / Softball (multi-use)	5	0.3	21	0.2	5	0.2	5	0.4
Basketball Courts			22	0.2	7	0.2		
Picnic Shelters	1	0.1	13	0.1	9	0.3	4	0.3
Playgrounds	1	0.1	17	0.2	6	0.2	5	0.4
Soccer Fields			11	0.1	3	0.1	7	0.6
Football / Soccer Fields (multi-use)	1	0.1	4	0.0	1	0.0		
Tennis Courts			25	0.2	8	0.3	6	0.5
Volleyball Courts	2	0.1	10	0.1	3	0.1	1	0.1
Gymnasium	1	0.1	3	0.03	2	0.1	1	0.1
Community Center	2	0.1	5	0.05	2	0.1	1	0.1

* School Facilities are not included in the table information

Source: design based planning, inc., Towns of Holly Springs, Cary, Apex, and Fuquay-Varina

According to the analysis of the Town's outdoor recreation facilities, the current demand requires the following development priorities:

- Baseball Fields – 1
- Soccer Pitches – 1
- Softball Fields – 2
- Field Hockey – 1
- Lacrosse – 1
- Swimming Pool – 1
- Community Center – 1
- Trail System – 1

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The new community center should accommodate a minimum of one gymnasium (to address the demand for indoor basketball facilities) and one indoor swimming pool. An additional gymnasium within the community center may be required depending on the redevelopment of the Hunt Community Center. The development of two (2) additional multi-use fields is also recommended to attain the level of service indicated by the analysis. Some of the need described above could be accommodated within dual-use fields (such as baseball / softball) or multi-use fields (such as soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse). Again, given the anticipated, continued population growth, additional athletic facilities need to be developed.

The following table lists the additional facilities needed to attain the level of service, derived from the analysis, given the Town's expected future population.

Table 1-4 – Holly Springs Recreation Needs Based on Population Growth

Activity / Facility	Provision in 2006 18,214 population	Recommended Holly Springs Standard	Additional Needed When Population reaches					
			20,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	40,000	45,000
Baseball	6	1 per 3,000	1	3	4	6	8	9
Football	2	1 per 15,000	0	0	0	1	1	1
Soccer	Equivalent of 3 @ 200x350	1 per 5,000	1	2	3	4	5	6
Softball	2	1 per 5000	2	3	4	5	6	7
¼ Mile Running Track	2	1 per 20,000	0	0	0	0	0	1
Field Hockey	0	1 per 20,000	1	2	2	2	2	3
Lacrosse	0	1 per 20,000	1	2	2	2	2	3
Mixed Field Use	5	1 per 3,000	2	4	5	7	9	10
Basketball (Outdoor)	6	1 per 5,000	0	0	0	1	2	3
Tennis	6	1 per 4,000	0	1	2	3	4	6
Multiple Recreation Court	3	1 per 10,000	0	0	0	1	1	2
Golf Driving Range*	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golf*	0	1 per 25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	1 system per region	1	1	1	1	1	1
Skate Park	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	1	1	1
Swimming Pools	0	1 per 20,000	1	1	2	2	2	2
Ice Hockey	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	1	1	1
Community Center	1*	1 per 8,000	2*	3*	3*	4*	4*	5*

* This does not take into account the Cultural Center which opened December 2006

Source: design based planning, inc.

1.4 Recommendations

The following is a brief summary of recommendations to the parks & recreation system.

- **Create an Integrated and Accessible System of Parks and Greenways**
- **Reclassify Existing Parks Based on Character rather than Size; Follow Park Design Standards when Developing any new park**
- **Acquire Land to Accommodate Six (6) Community Central Parks**
 1. Downtown “Historic” Center
 2. Windy Hill Farm “Education” Center
 3. Sunset Lake “Environmental” Center
 4. Twelve Oaks / Future Business Park “Industry & Commerce” Center
 5. Buckhorn Creek / Cass Holt “Recreation” Center
 6. “Waterfront” Center
- **Acquire Land to Help Meet Medium Range Park & Athletic Field Needs**
 1. Expand Womble Park (to accommodate a minimum of three (3) baseball fields)
 2. Create Thomas Mill Pond Park (to accommodate a minimum of three (3) softball fields)
- **Acquire General Land to Enhance Quality of Life and help achieve a System of Parks & Recreational areas**

Table 1-5 - Potential Park Land Acquisitions

Number	Description	Classification	Priority	Approximate Acreage
1	Downtown “Historic” Center	Community	High	5-15
2	Downtown “Historic” Center	Community	High	10-20
3	Windy Hill Farm “Education” Center	Community	High	25-110
4	Sunset Lake “Environmental” Center	Community	Medium	20-70
5	12 Oaks “Industry & Commerce” Center	Community	Medium	20-50
6	Buckhorn/Cass Holt “Recreational” Center	Community	Medium	25-150
7	Lower Middle Creek Trail	Linkage	Medium	20-60
8	Womble Park Extension	Entertainment	Medium	40-80
9	Bass Creek Trail	Linkage	Medium	30-90
10	Thomas Mill Pond Park	Entertainment	Medium	60-200
11	Utley Creek Trail	Entertainment	Medium	5-10
12	“Waterfront” Center	Community	Medium	10-30
13	Land with re-use potential	Conservation	Low	15-115
14	Upper Middle Creek Trail	Linkage	Low	50-130
15	Rocky Branch Creek Trail	Linkage	Low	60-100
16	Land with historic value	Conservation	Low	50-650
17	Land with re-use potential	Conservation	Low	30-290
18	Land with historic value	Conservation	Low	15-80

Source: design based planning, inc.

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- **Make Improvements to Existing Parks**
 1. Completion of Existing Park Master Plans for Jones, Womble, and Veteran's Parks
 2. Develop Arbor Creek Land as a Trail Linkage Park and a gateway to the Greenway System
 3. Complete the loop trail at Bass Lake Park and other improvements
 4. Add gazebo and amenities to Cross Pointe Village Green
 5. Develop Holly Glen Park as a Neighborhood Greenway Park
 6. Determine future of Hunt Community Center
 7. Develop Springs of Holly Springs Nature Trail; incorporate it into the 'Downtown' Community Central Park
 8. Develop Sunset Oaks Park as a Town-Wide Entertainment Park incorporating soccer pitches

- **Develop Nine (9) Athletic Fields to Help Satisfy Medium Range Needs**
 1. Develop two (2) soccer pitches
 2. Develop three (3) baseball fields
 3. Develop three (3) softball fields
 4. Develop two (2) multi-use fields

- **Enhance Marketing of Programs and Facilities to Residents**

- **Improve Program Registration Procedure**

- **Provide Improved Coordination of Volunteers**

- **Increase Parks & Recreation Staff to Meet Upcoming Needs**

- **Cooperate with Others to Maximize Recreational Resources**
 1. Continue to work toward mutual use of all indoor and outdoor recreation facilities with the Wake County Public School System
 2. Undertake discussions with appropriate agencies to allow mutual use of utility corridors
 3. Work with the Town of Cary and Wake County to develop the Old Landfill Conversion into an Environmental Education Center of Regional significance

- **Incorporate a Dog Park into the Park System**

- **Assure all Residential Areas have convenient access to a Playground**

- **Develop and Institute a Standardized Wayfinding plan for the Greenway System**

- **Naturalize areas of Parks to Reduce Maintenance**

- **The Parks & Recreation Department should take a more Active Role in the Town's Historical Preservation and Interpretation**

- **Make Future Updates to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan at Five (5) Year Intervals**

1.5 Implementation

Within the next three (3) years, this study identifies the following key initiatives to meet the determined needs.

Table 1-6 - Short-Term Development & Planning Initiatives

Park Land Acquisitions	Description	Value
"Historic" Community Central Park	general land areas #1 & #2 on acquisitions plan	
"Educational" Community Central Park	general land area #3 on acquisitions plan	
Greenway Parks	land acquisition, housing development agreements	
Planning Studies		
"Historic" Community Central Park	master plan	\$100,000
Holly Glen Park	design and engineering	\$20,000
Hunt Community Center	re-development plan	\$50,000
Capital Improvements		
Jones Park	completion of planned improvements	\$300,000
Veterans' Park	completion of planned improvements	\$358,000
Womble Park	completion of planned improvements	\$200,000
Greenway Parks	continue development	\$100,000
	Total	\$1,128,000

Source: design based planning, inc.

Within the next four (4) to seven (7) years, this study identifies the following key initiatives to meet the determined needs.

Table 1-7 - Mid-Term Development & Planning Initiatives

Park Land Acquisitions	Description	Value
"Environmental" Community Central Park	general land area #4 on acquisitions plan	
"Industry & Commerce" Com. Central Park	general land area #5 on acquisitions plan	
"Recreation" Community Central Park	general land area #6 on acquisitions plan	
Trail Linkage Park	general land area #7 on acquisitions plan	
Town-Wide Entertainment Park	general land area #8 on acquisitions plan	
Trail Linkage Park	general land area #9 on acquisitions plan	
Town-Wide Entertainment Park	general land area #10 on acquisitions plan	
Planning Studies		
"Educational" Community Central Park	master plan	\$75,000
Capital Improvements		
"Heritage" Community Central Park	begin phased construction	\$3,300,000
Bass Lake Park	complete trail, entry enhancements, play structure	\$1,025,000
Hunt Community Center Property	implement re-development plan	\$200,000
Sunset Oaks Park	begin phased construction	\$1,000,000
Holly Glen Park	construction based on design & engineering	\$75,000
Cross Pointe Village Green	gazebo, seating, pathway	\$50,000
Greenway Parks	continue development	\$100,000
	Total	\$5,825,000

Source: design based planning, inc.

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Within the next eight (8) plus years, this study identifies the following key initiatives to meet the determined needs. (Note: The planning studies in the long-term will depend upon the Town’s current and expected population at that time and should be adjusted accordingly. No monetary values are assigned given the distant time frame.)

Table 1-8 - Long-Term Development & Planning Initiatives

Park Land Acquisitions	Description
“Waterfront” Community Central Park	general land area #12 on acquisitions plan
General Park Lands	general land areas #11 and 13 through #18 on acquisitions plan
Planning Studies	
“Environmental” Community Central Park	master plan
“Industry & Commerce” Com. Central Park	master plan
“Recreation” Community Central Park	master plan
“Waterfront” Community Central Park	master plan
Quarry	end use master plan
Capital Improvements	
“Heritage” Community Central Park	complete phased construction
Sunset Oaks Park	complete phased construction
“Environmental” Community Central Park	begin phased development
Greenway Parks	continue development

Source: design based planning, inc.

(Note: The capital costs identified are based on general estimated quantities applied to industry standard unit prices and are only intended to convey an order of magnitude. Refer to the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan later in this document for reference to general land areas.)

The Town of Holly Springs is bestowed with having an abundance of natural and cultural resources, a close proximity to urban and commercial centers, and an agricultural setting. Its burgeoning population, drawn to the Town’s high quality of life, threatens to devour much of the attributes that brought them here. The parks and recreation system contributes greatly to the Town’s appeal. By developing an integrated parks and recreation system, it will respond to and fulfill historic context, environmental needs, human demands and the essential qualities of place. Organization of public parks and open space provides the structure and support, around which, the Town of Holly Springs may grow and prosper.

Actions need to be taken, now, to assure current and future residents continue to enjoy the benefits that the Town of Holly Springs has to offer.



Historic Mim’s House

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Purpose

A parks and recreation master plan is a written document providing guidance to community decision makers regarding the future direction of parks and recreation in their community. It ascertains the recreation needs of the residents in the community. It evaluates the current facilities and programs and makes recommendations for improvement to meet anticipated future recreation needs of the community.

The innovative Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Holly Springs goes beyond the typical plan by being developed concurrently with their Comprehensive Plan. In this way, an all encompassing, unified strategy can be developed for the future direction of the community.

2.2 Products

This report contains the following components:

- **Conditions Analysis** – an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities and programs
- **Supply and Demand Analysis** – a description of the supply of existing parks and recreation resources in the Town and surrounding region; a determination of potential park and recreation users; an evaluation of how existing resources meet the estimated demand for parks and recreation resources
- **Public Outreach** – a survey of the resident’s recreation habits, activities, and preferences; a collection of public input as to their desires of their park and recreation system
- **Needs Assessment** – an identification of recreation trends; findings of required open space and park facilities
- **Tourism Potential Analysis** – an identification of potential tourism development based on enhancement of the parks and recreation system
- **Economic Impacts** – a description and prioritization of recommended improvements
- **Systems Plan & Design Standards** – a recommended park, recreation and open space system; guidelines for development of each type of park

2.3 Methodology

The Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan will guide the Town’s planning decisions. This section of the Plan outlines the various tasks involved in the completion of the planning process during the timeframe of May thru December of 2006.

Steering Committee Meetings

A series of meetings were held during the course of the project. The Steering Committee was comprised of a diverse group of Holly Springs residents to represent the Town’s various interests. Members were drawn from the Town Council, the Department of Parks and Recreation Staff, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Planning and Zoning Staff, and local residents. The Steering Committee met periodically with the consultant to discuss and direct the preparation of the plan; each component of the Plan was reviewed and

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approved by the Committee. The Committee reviewed documentation, provided contacts and helped determine representatives to participate in the round table discussions. A visioning session was held with the Committee to develop initial goals and objectives to help define the future of parks and recreational programs in the Town of Holly Springs.

Inventory

An extensive data collection process was completed for the Plan. The information contained in the plan was supplemented by information provided by numerous Town agencies, to help ensure the accuracy of the document. The Town provided base mapping for the project.

Additional information researched and collected included:

- Demographics and population trends;
- Trends in recreation;
- Inventory of parks, open space and recreational facilities;
- Summary of programs (provided by both the Town and others);
- Summary of overall delivery of services – administration, maintenance, etc.;
- Public preferences for recreational activities through the use of a survey and public meetings.

Focus Groups and Personal Interviews

Focus group sessions are directed, facilitated discussions held with selected representatives of stakeholder groups. Working with the Town of Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Department and the Steering Committee, five focus groups were organized. These focus groups had the following themes: youth recreation, adult recreation, senior recreation, volunteer coaches, and Town Staff.

In addition to the focus groups, a series of interviews were conducted to obtain additional information for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Several officials, including the Parks and Recreation Director, recreation program leaders and many others were contacted by telephone and e-mail.

Community Survey

One of the components of the Plan was to gather input from Town residents via a Community Survey to gauge future direction. A random survey was distributed to Town residents; 24% of survey recipients (126 of 600 total recipients) responded. The questionnaire was designed to determine the opinions of Town residents on a variety of parks and recreation issues, including the adequacy of facilities, participation rates, the need for new facilities and programs and the need for facilities in specific areas. The results have been tabulated and analyzed and are included in this report.

Public Meetings

Two public meetings were conducted in the Town of Holly Springs, where the public was invited to hear about the plan and provide comments. These sessions helped provide the consultant and Town officials with valuable feedback on the Plan and the future of parks and recreation in the Town. A final Public Meeting will be held upon approval of the Draft Plan for the public to respond to. These comments will be incorporated into the Final Document as requested by the Project Steering Committee.

3.0 Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

3.1 Introduction

The Goals and Objectives of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan incorporate input received from the project Steering Committee and Holly Springs' residents and stakeholders. They are also the result of a thorough examination of the current parks and recreation system, including its inventory. The Goals and Objectives form the basis for the recommendations and also for the policies and actions that follow.



Banner on Main Street

3.2 Guiding Principles

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Holly Springs were developed with the following guiding principles:

- To enable all residents to live within walking distance of a neighborhood commercial center and central civic space.
- To establish and enhance a Town-wide identity.
- To establish a community-wide green infrastructure.
- To physically unite the Town by connecting existing trails, sidewalks, and open spaces.
- To prioritize future Town land acquisitions and park developments to ensure the continuity of facilities and civic space.
- To preserve and protect, where appropriate, Town agricultural land, green space, woodland, and the natural environment.

3.3 Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are important to the plan because they are the standard against which the accomplishments of implementation of the Plan are measured. They are the rationale behind future decisions. The Goals are specific and must support the overall vision of the Plan. The Objectives serve the goals of the Plan and are milestones along the way to Plan implementation. Goals and Objectives must be realistic and reasonable. They are flexible enough to accommodate changes in the forces influencing Plan implementation and superimpose an attainable vision of the future upon the reality of today.

The Goals and Objectives for the Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan include:

Recreation Facilities

Goal: To establish a variety of physically and economically accessible recreation facilities that will provide for the additional needs of a dynamically changing and expanding population

Objectives

1. Locate and develop facilities in a manner to enable use by all income, age and population subgroups, with development focused in those areas exhibiting the highest level of usage that are most accessible.

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2. Develop and/or expand facilities that provide opportunities for year-round and multi-use activities; they should promote uses that have not been previously addressed or considered.

Parks and Open Spaces

Goal: To ensure a system of parks, trails and open spaces adequate for a wide variety of active and passive leisure pursuits, contributing to the quality of life within the Town.

Objectives

1. Open spaces should be inter-connected to facilitate activities including walking, bicycling and skating and create ease of access to and from additional recreation sites.
2. The Town should seek to establish connections to the sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, and other recreation thoroughfares of surrounding communities.
3. Develop future trails and sidewalks in a manner consistent with usage and expand trail systems with relation to increases in user levels.

Natural Environment (Wetlands, Habitat, Significant Environmental Areas)

Goal: To protect and enhance natural areas, including wetlands, for their value in preserving the environment and providing educational and leisure uses.

Objectives

1. Implement North Carolina's statewide environmental education policy by establishing a location, or several locations, for environmental centers in the Town.
2. Enhance natural areas in a manner that ensures the environmental integrity of existing foliage and wildlife.
3. Parks containing natural areas should be developed to protect the natural environment while providing play space, recreation and passive open space.
4. Be stewards of the environment at all of the Town's facilities.
5. Implement the best management practices for turf and landscape with an emphasis on recycling at park facilities.
6. Develop facilities and programs in a manner that assures the protection and preservation of the Town's recreational, natural and historic resources.

Programs (Youth and Adult Sports, Health & Wellness, Recreation, Remedial)

Goal: To continue to provide the opportunity and ensure equal access for all ages and incomes to participate in a wide variety of recreation, sports and fitness programs that satisfies their interests and needs.

Objectives

1. Prioritize community-based programs that are determined by identifiable needs or demand and trends in participation.
2. Provide for and encourage participation of underserved age groups such as teens.

3. Consider culture and the development of new cultural opportunities for the Town's rapidly expanding population as a significant component of the Plan.
4. Programs and facilities should be offered to users in a manner that ensures them a value commensurate with their cost of participation while also ensuring that facilities are performing efficiently to their maximum levels.

Administration and Management

Goal: To provide parks, facilities and services as safely and efficiently as possible including partnerships between community and government leaders.

Objectives

1. The Town should serve as a partner to community groups to determine the needs, priorities and services provided to the community, coordinating any necessary changes or alterations.
2. Develop defined roles for volunteers and actively recruit people to fill those roles.
3. Encourage programs that take advantage of off-peak use of facilities.
4. Maintain existing facilities to ensure a safe and pleasurable experience for the user. Adequate maintenance of existing facilities should always be a high priority and integrated with work associated with creating new facilities.
5. Supervise and appropriately staff existing facilities to ensure compliance with policies and procedures, particularly during times of high usage, in an attempt to decrease vandalism and destruction of facilities.

Public Awareness

Goal: To educate the public about Town parks, greenways, and recreation programs.

Objectives

1. Develop programs in a manner that promotes residents' (especially young people's) knowledge and understanding of the Town's natural and historic resources, and their benefits.
2. Utilize a variety of methods to make the parks, greenways, and program offerings readily known to all residents.
3. Develop promotional and educational materials to inform residents and non-residents of the parks and recreation system of Holly Springs.

Future Planning

Goal: To ensure that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a visionary document that accurately reflects a composite of what exists and what could exist in a well-planned future community

Objectives

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1. Continually measure actual growth versus predicted growth in the Town and ensure that planning for future facilities and open spaces is consistent with the characteristics of future growth.
2. Prepare a land acquisition plan for future facility development that resonates with current growth projections; the plan should be re-examined regularly as new demographic data becomes available.

Implementation

Goal: To provide funding and determine alternative funding sources, determine areas of potential cost-savings and to maximize accessibility and affordability of recreation activities to all residents.

Objectives

1. To craft the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a marketing tool that trumpets the high quality and diversity of life, which the Town of Holly Springs offers potential residents.
2. Private sponsorship and funding sources, including grants, should be considered in conjunction with creating new facilities and programs within the Town.
3. Explore options to facilitate the shared cost / use of existing and proposed facilities by various agencies.

3.4 Policies

Policies for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan provide the Department of Parks & Recreation the guidelines within which the parks system operates. The policies should influence decisions and actions. The policies for the Town of Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update include:

- The Town of Holly Springs Parks and Recreation system is inclusionary and fully accessible to the diverse members of the community.
- The Town's parks, recreation and open space system should be recognized as a community asset and source of pride for residents of Holly Springs, Wake County and the State of North Carolina.
- The parks, recreation and open space system is a key element in the Town's economic development strategy and its ability to market itself regionally and nationally.
- The heritage of the Town can be expressed through its parks and open space system and the structures therein. These elements should be preserved, enhanced, revitalized and interpreted where appropriate.
- The Town's parks, recreation and open space system is recognized as a valuable resource and should be managed and maintained appropriately.
- The parks and open space system is "green infrastructure" and is understood as fundamental to the quality of life in the Town.
- Access to the Town's waterways for active and passive recreation, development and maintenance of boat launches and waterway trails is a priority.

- Parks and recreation programming should focus on fostering lifelong healthy learning and living habits for all Holly Springs residents through high quality, enjoyable, educational and safe programs.
- Citizen input is an important factor in determining the level of service for activities and facilities. The public should be consulted on an on-going basis.
- Adequate levels of staffing and training are essential to the efficient delivery of parks and recreation programs, services and facilities.
- All Town departments are involved in and responsible for the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. This plan should influence and guide their decisions and actions.
- As it becomes available, the Town should acquire desirable land in anticipation of developing additional parks, recreational areas and open space.

3.5 Recommendations

The recommendations for the Town of Holly Springs fall into six (6) broad categories:

1. Parks System changes to reclassify, re-categorize and integrate the parks with the Town
2. Acquisitions and Future Parks
3. Improvements to Existing Parks
4. Management Recommendations
5. Maximization of Recreation Resources
6. General Recommendations

3.5.1 Parks System Recommendations

Creating an Integrated and Accessible Parks System

Municipal planning efforts should focus on creating an integrated system of park and recreation spaces connected by a network of paved, accessible greenway paths. This system should be developed as a key spatial organizing element of the Town. All future planning and development decisions should support the creation of this System. Once implemented, the System will provide easy access to park land and open space for all residents and will enhance quality of life and the attractiveness of the Town as a place to live and work. Integrating forested areas, wetlands, floodplains, wildlife corridors and other natural features into the System will preserve the environmental quality and integrity of the Town and support its sustainability.

Reclassify Parks

The Town of Holly Springs parks should be reclassified into an arrangement that acknowledges their use and the role that each plays in the life of the community. The new classification system should focus on the character of parks, responding to their setting, landscape, function and relationship within the overall Parks System.

The Town of Holly Springs parks have been classified into the following categories (with a complete description of the System components provided later in the Park Classification section, page 29 of this document):

- Town-Wide Entertainment Park
- Community Central Park
- Neighborhood Greenway Park
- Neighborhood Subdivision Park

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- Road Linkage Park
- Trail Linkage Park
- Conservation Education Park

This approach recognizes that parks should provide more than passive/active recreation opportunities. This approach supports the creation of a diverse system of park spaces with appeal to all residents and visitors to Holly Springs. It gives parks a role in the overall life of the town, and provides the framework for acquisition, development and management of parks within the Town's strategic planning process.

3.5.2 Acquisition Recommendations

To accommodate the expected population growth of the Town and proactively secure future park land and open space to service the future residents, it is recommended additional land be considered for inclusion into the park system. These acquisitions should be phased over time and adjusted to accommodate the appropriate levels of Town growth.

The following describes the recommended future park land and open space acquisitions:

Acquisitions Regarding Community Central Parks

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan envisions six (6) "Community Central Parks" as an integral part of the future of Holly Springs. These "pillars" of the park system are geographically distributed across the Town and function as the centerpiece of the community in which they are located. It is necessary to acquire land for the development of each center. These land areas are conceptually identified on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan.

All the Centers could, based on need, provide basic amenities including an indoor gymnasium and multi-purpose meeting rooms. Outdoor facilities could, again based on need, include playgrounds, dog parks, multi-use courts and multi-purpose play fields. Beyond its role as a community recreational facility and meeting place, each Center has an extended and important municipal function (as shown on the Greenway Systems Plan). These additional functions are described below for each Center.

"Historic" Community Central Park (Downtown Center)

The highest priority lands for the Town to acquire are adjacent to and in the vicinity of the existing Town Hall, Police Station and new Library/Cultural Center. Identified as #1 and #2 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan (following the acquisition recommendations), these general land areas are necessary for the development of the first planned Community Central Park – "Downtown" - as shown on the Systems Plan. It should accommodate all existing programs and facilities now being provided at the Hunt Community Center as well as additional ones. (Refer to the Town of Holly Springs Community Center Needs Assessment, May 5, 2004; by Heery).

The Downtown "Historic" Center could be located adjacent to the south side Town Hall on Main Street. It could maintain a heritage façade and could include retail shops on the first floor fronting the street. In this way, a large building could relate in mass, scale, and architecture to the desired fabric of Downtown Holly Springs. The primary indoor facilities should include an indoor swimming pool, indoor walking/jogging track, fitness facility, and at least one gymnasium. A day care facility for children and programmable activities for seniors could also be provided. It is recommended this center, being

central to the community, support the most programs and facilities of all the six envisioned centers.

This park should be integrated with the historic Mim's House, the relocated George Utley House, the Springs of Holly Springs Nature Trail, and other historic structures and properties located in the downtown. Implementation of the Downtown Center supports the continued development of "Downtown" Holly Springs and the creation of a recognizable town center and focus of civic activity.

"Education" Community Central Park (Windy Hill Farm Center)

The "Educational Center" is located along Cass Holt Road between Honeycutt and Rouse roads. Windy Hill Farm (indicated as #3 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan) or portions there of should be acquired to develop the Center. There is potential to develop the Center as a continuation of the existing working operations of the Windy Hill Farm. This could provide a recognizable center for the agricultural community. There is also potential to develop the Center in partnership with Wake County Public School System to create a facility that is focused on a concentrated educational curriculum, such as a "school for the arts" (fine arts, living arts, performing arts), or a center dedicated to sciences and technology education or agrarian education. The Center could also offer related continuing education courses to all residents.

"Environmental" Community Central Park (Sunset Lake Center)

The general land area identified as #4 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan, fronting Sunset Lake and Optimist Farm Roads between Holly Springs and Optimist Farm Roads would enable the development of the "Environmental" Community Central Park. The Sunset Lake Center could focus on enhancing public awareness and appreciation of the environment through interactive opportunities, facilities and programs. Community gardens, composting and recycling/reuse activities could be established.

"Industry & Commerce" Community Central Park (12 Oaks / Future Business Park Center)

The "Industry and Commerce Center" is proposed to be located along Woods Creek Road. The general land area indicated as #5 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan is recommended to develop the facility. The 12 Oaks / Future Business Park is envisioned to be a community facility focused on developing business opportunities and supporting the business community in Holly Springs. Functioning as a "scaled-down" conference center, the facility could house the offices of the Chamber of Commerce, or other local business groups and associations as they develop.

"Recreation" Community Central Park (Buckhorn Creek / Cass Holt Center)

A "Recreational Center" is proposed on the general land area identified as #6 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan in the southeast area of the Town near the intersection of Buckhorn Duncan and Burt Roads. The Buckhorn Creek / Cass Holt Center is intended to become the main sports complex in the municipality and a facility of regional significance. Primary sports fields and facilities could be developed to competition standards to accommodate organized league, tournament and championship play. The potential exists to further develop the complex as an athletic "center of excellence" with the inclusion of indoor training facilities, a field house, and an ice pad(s). A complex of this significance creates economic development opportunities in companion/support attractions and services and enhances the Town's position to attract new business.

“Waterfront” Community Central Park

A “Waterfront Center” is proposed on Harris Lake. The Center is envisioned to greatly enhance public access to the Lake and to provide a waterfront focus for the community. Marina facilities could be provided to enhance boating and sport fishing opportunities. The general land area #12, with frontages on Bartley Holleman and Rex Roads, has been identified on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan for the Center.

Acquisitions Regarding Needs Assessment Recommendations for Park & Athletic Field Development

Holly Springs is currently at a slight deficit for some athletic fields (refer to the Need Analysis section of this document). Furthermore, with expected growth, the Town will require more fields to service future recreation demands. To satisfy these needs, a medium range target of adding nine athletic fields in the following breakdown is recommended:

- Two (2) soccer fields (may accommodate both at Sunset Oaks Park; referred to later in this section)
- Three (3) baseball fields (Extension of Parrish Womble Park)
- Three (3) softball fields (General land area #10 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan)
- Two (2) multi-use fields (may accommodate one at the “Historic” Community Center development)

To accommodate these needs in the medium term, it is recommended that the Town proceed with the following park development projects:

Expansion of Parrish Womble Park

A proposed Town-Wide Entertainment Park, (an extension to Womble Park), could be created with the acquisition of the general land area indicated as #8 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan. This land area could accommodate three (3) required baseball diamonds and potentially one (1) required multi-use field. By aggregating similar facilities, ease of maintenance would help to contain costs. A greenway connection to Bass Lake Park could be created through portions of the Suggs farmland and other land along the Basal Creek corridor (#9 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan).

Open Space Preservation and Town-Wide Entertainment Park

The general land area indicated as #10 (Thomas Mill Pond and surrounding farmland areas) was indicated in the 2002 Open Space Master Plan as significant in terms of overall open space preservation. Part or all of this land could be acquired to develop a Town-Wide Entertainment Park and provide three (3) required softball diamonds. There is also a potential to provide one (1) required multi-use field (if not accommodated elsewhere). There would be potential to add additional athletic fields as needed. This Town-Wide Entertainment Park should be developed along a conservation theme, preserving the open space around the Thomas Mill Pond and Utley Creek corridor. All sports fields should be integrated into the natural setting, minimizing environmental impacts. Access to the park would most likely be via the existing industrial park. Given the proximity to state highway bypass 55, there is potential for developing a regional sports complex. The feasibility and economic development potential of such a facility should be studied. The new park would be situated along the potential extension of the

Utle Creek Greenway to Harris Lake, traversing the land area identified as #11 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan, and the Town's water treatment property.

General Property Acquisitions

As shown on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan, a number of land areas across the municipality could be acquired to enhance the quality of life for residents and the function of the Town's parks and recreation system. The need to expand protection of natural resources was ranked third in the North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's 2003 – 2008 (SCORP) parks and recreation survey priority ranking of issues. Acquiring some of the listed lands (or portions there of) will begin to address this issue.

Furthermore, many of the land areas shown on the Acquisitions Plan are those that have been identified in the Town of Holly Springs Open Space Master Plan as having the greatest value to the community with regard to:

- Endangered plants and animals
- Significant forest communities
- Streams, watersheds and floodplains
- Natural, greenway and utility corridors
- Historic architectural and cultural properties
- Farm and agricultural resources
- Connectivity
- Water quality



Forest Trail at Holly Brook

Thompson & Associates developed the Town of Holly Springs Open Space Master Plan in 2002. The document made recommendations for potential space to be preserved based on a developed ranking system for lands within the study area. The lands that were ranked with the highest ranking for preferred park/open space locations were:

- Thomas Mill Pond and surrounding farmland areas
- The Springs adjacent to the Leslie-Alford-Mims House at Center Street & Avent Ferry Road
- Portions of the Suggs Farmlands located adjacent and upstream of Bass Lake Park & watershed areas along the Basal Creek drainage corridor upstream of Bass Lake

The second highest rated lands included:

- Windy Hill Farm on Cass-Holt Road
- Ashley Stephens house and property at Highway 55 and Ralph Stephens Road
- C.B. Sorrell House and property at Olive Road, south of Holly Springs Road
- Laseur Stables Property across from the intersection of Avent Ferry Road and Piney Grove-Wibon Road
- Burt Land at Buckhorn Duncan Road and Burt Road
- The Nash-Weathers-Stephens House and Property – Buckhorn Duncan Road and the Harnett County line
- Properties downstream of Sunset Lake containing endangered plant species
- Properties within the Middle Creek drainage basin (located upstream of Sunset Lake)
- Properties within the Rocky Branch Creek drainage basin containing Piedmont/Mountain, Semi-permanent Impoundment and Piedmont/Low Mountain Alluvial Forest

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Acquisition of these land areas is a longer-term initiative in the implementation strategy. It is important to recognize that many factors will influence the acquisitions including market value and availability for sale. The budgeting process should be reviewed and targets adjusted as required to ensure land can be secured. In addition to these important land areas, it may be necessary for the Town to secure access rights over privately owned lands to ensure important linkages and connections are made as new park lands are developed. The remaining land areas recommended for general acquisition are conceptually listed on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan as #'s 7, 9, 11, and 13 through 18.

Table 3-1 - Potential Park Land Acquisitions

Number	Description	Classification	Priority	Approximate Acreage
1	Downtown "Historic" Center	Community	High	5-15
2	Downtown "Historic" Center	Community	High	10-20
3	Windy Hill Farm "Education" Center	Community	High	25-110
4	Sunset Lake "Environmental" Center	Community	Medium	20-70
5	12 Oaks "Industry & Commerce" Center	Community	Medium	20-50
6	Buckhorn/Cass Holt "Recreational" Center	Community	Medium	25-150
7	Lower Middle Creek Trail	Linkage	Medium	20-60
8	Womble Park Extension	Entertainment	Medium	40-80
9	Bass Creek Trail	Linkage	Medium	30-90
10	Thomas Mill Pond Park	Entertainment	Medium	60-200
11	Utley Creek Trail	Entertainment	Medium	5-10
12	"Waterfront" Center	Community	Medium	10-30
13	Land with re-use potential	Conservation	Low	15-115
14	Upper Middle Creek Trail	Linkage	Low	50-130
15	Rocky Branch Creek Trail	Linkage	Low	60-100
16	Land with historic value	Conservation	Low	50-650
17	Land with re-use potential	Conservation	Low	30-290
18	Land with historic value	Conservation	Low	15-80

Source: design based planning, inc.

The Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan, Figure 3-1 on the following page, shows possible land areas to consider for inclusion into the future parks system. Note: the plan only illustrates conceptual land areas and is not intended to suggest definitive boundaries.

Figure 3-1 – Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan

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3.5.3 Recommendations to Improve Existing Parks

The following briefly describes suggested needed improvements to some of the existing parks in the Town of Holly Springs. For a more detailed explanation, refer to the individual park sheets listed in section 7.0 Park System Capital Improvements of this document.

Completion of Existing Park Master Plans

The outstanding elements of the Master Plans for Jones, Parrish Womble and Veteran's Parks should be constructed. (Copies of these graphic plans are in the appendix of this document)

Arbor Creek Land

Develop this park as a trailhead and gateway into the Town's greenway system.

Bass Lake Park & Retreat Center

Completion of the "loop trail" around Bass Lake, one of the jewels of the Town's park system, is strongly recommended. Additional improvements include entry enhancements and construction of a natural playground. Creation of greenway corridors connecting the park to Womble Park and Sunset Lake should also be considered.

Cross Pointe Village Green

Installation of a gazebo and associated amenities is recommended for this park.

Holly Glen Park

Holly Glen Park was in the process of being acquired during the time of this study. It is recommended this park be developed consistent with the Neighborhood Greenway Park Design Guideline.

Hunt Community Center

Undertake a study to determine the site's redevelopment. It has the potential to be an extension to Womble Park.

Springs of Holly Springs Nature Trail

Develop this trail as part of the "Historic Center" development described previously.

Sunset Oaks Park

Sunset Oaks Park was in the process of being acquired during the time of this study. This park land should be converted into a Town-Wide Entertainment Park, providing an initial minimum of two (2) soccer fields. The master plan of the park should incorporate additional soccer pitches (to be constructed in a future phase of the park development) to meet the expected future needs of the Town. The park should be developed along a conservation theme with recreation use as a secondary objective, blending and integrating features with the natural qualities of the site (what the North Carolina SCORP refers to as a Dispersed Use area). Environmentally sensitive areas should be preserved and protected and tree removal should be minimized. An educational program to better the public's awareness of their local natural environment could be integrated into the park. In coordination with this park's development, a trail system that connects to Sunset Lake and Bass Lake could also be developed with the acquisition of the general lands indicated by #7 on the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan.

3.5.4 Recommendations Regarding Management

Program Offerings

There is a wealth of programs provided by the Town. Residents do not always take advantage of the offerings, in part, due to lack of knowledge of what is available. The Town of Holly Springs is recommended to better market its programs (and facilities) to its residents. Consider adding a dedicated staff individual for the purpose of community outreach. The position responsibilities could also include coordinating programs with the Wake County Public School System (discussed below) and educating school children as to the park facilities available to them through the Town.

Program Registration

The Town of Holly Springs should undertake measures to improve registering for programs offered by the Department. At the present time, parents and children often wait in long line-ups attempting to enroll in a variety of programs. It is recommended the Town make registering more easy and convenient by expanding on-line registration and increasing the time and locations where registration can occur. This could include installing kiosks with computer terminals or printed information/forms at Town/public buildings, or establishing sign-up desks at special events or gatherings throughout the Town.

Volunteers

Many of the Town's programs make use of volunteers. During the public outreach, it was made clear there is a need for better coordinating the recruitment, treatment, and utilization of volunteers. Consideration should be given to hiring staff dedicated to managing parks and recreation department volunteers.

Staff Needs

Currently, the Town compares well with adjacent and local municipalities regarding parks and recreation full-time staff per park acreage. Given the expected growth in population and corresponding growth in parks and recreation facilities and programs, there will be a need for more staff. Consideration should be given to developing staff expertise in areas such as urban forestry, environmental resources, marketing and community outreach, playground maintenance, and sports lighting to address the future park and recreation demands.

3.5.5 Cooperation to Maximize Recreational Resources

There are many reasons why the Parks & Recreation Department should pursue joint development and use agreements regarding recreational facilities. The state SCORP encourages more cooperation between all providers of parks and recreation leisure services across North Carolina. All parties involved in agreements should benefit from a savings in costs. It is a more efficient use of resources and usually provides better service. Most importantly, stronger community bonds will be formed helping to maintain that small town atmosphere of Holly Springs.

It is recommended the Town of Holly Springs investigate the following avenues of cooperation:

Wake County Public School System

The Town enjoys a positive relationship with the Wake County Public School System at this time. The current Joint Use Agreements, between the Town and Holly Springs Elementary School, Holly Ridge Middle School, and Holly Springs High School, are for 25 years each and state the Town has the use of only designated facilities at each school during non-school hours. However, not all facilities are part of the agreement.

The Town should work toward a mutual use / sharing of all sports facilities, indoor and outdoor, to more efficiently provide recreational services to its residents. The Town should address problem areas, such as the use of football fields, to determine if there is a need to develop additional multi-use fields. The Town should discuss possibility of lighting existing school athletic fields in exchange for use rights (e.g. soccer pitch and track & field at Holly Ridge Elementary and Middle Schools). There also exists an opportunity for teachers and park staff to work together offering educational programs /field trips on topics of biology, earth science and the environment. The proposed Educational or Environmental Community Centers or the potential Environmental Education Center at Old Landfill Conversion (refer below for more information) may developed to make use of this type of cooperation.



*Basketball Courts at
Holly Springs Elementary School*

The Town should consider joint ventures with the County School System in future recreation developments. Any future recreation services to be offered by the Town should not duplicate services already provided by schools.

Utilities - Access Agreements

At present, the Town of Holly Springs does not have permission to utilize many of its utility easements. The Town of Holly Springs should, again, initiate discussions with the appropriate agencies, such as Carolina Power & Light (Progress Energy), that own lands identified as future linkage parks, but that are not under control of the Town. The purpose of the discussions is to define the process, requirements and conditions for securing access over these lands to implement the Greenway System. There are several possible approaches to this end.

- Enter into a lease agreement, part of which may require the maintenance of a comprehensive liability insurance policy with a stated minimum coverage and the addition of the utility company as an additional insured
- Draw up a license of occupation
- The Town is responsible for and waives all liability regarding construction, use, and maintenance; assure that the utility company will not be responsible for any injuries or damages, whatsoever, which



Cooling Tower at Harris Nuclear Plant

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may arise as a result of the access permission granted; indemnify and save the utility company harmless against any claims or actions brought by any persons or corporations as a result of the use of lands managed by the utility company

- Include the utility company on the Town's Insurance policy
- Accommodate all of the utility company's needs and uses when developing the greenway for public access

The Town's Legal Department needs to determine the best way to accommodate the public use of the proposed greenways.

Town of Cary - Wake County - Old Landfill Conversion

It is recommended to work with the Town of Cary (who owns the property) and Wake County to develop the former landfill property, located on Holly Springs Road west of its intersection with Sunset Lake Road, into an Environmental Education Center of regional significance. The opportunity exists to transform the site, which is situated along an environmentally significant stream corridor, into an accessible park space geared towards environmental education and interpretation. Interactive displays, information panels, programmed events, demonstration areas and themed display areas could be developed to educate people about these species and forest communities, and environment, preservation, landscape rehabilitation and natural processes in general.

The Middle creek corridor contains the endangered eastern tiger salamander, possibly the last viable population within the North Carolina Piedmont region. The endangered dwarf wedgemussel was identified in the corridor as well. The corridor also contains significant forest communities.

The state of North Carolina, as described in its 2003 - 2008 SCORP, has prioritized the development of environmental education centers. State funding to aid in developing the site may be available. The Town of Holly Springs and Wake County should approach the Town of Cary regarding developing a master planning study to identify opportunities, constraints and the related feasibility for a coordinated effort in developing the Center. The County and Town of Holly Springs has the opportunity to show how this, and any future landfill site, may be transformed into treasured public open space.



Old Landfill Conversion adjacent to Holly Springs Road

3.5.6 General Recommendations

Dog Parks

Both the parks and recreation master plan steering committee, during the initial visioning session, and the public, during focus group meetings and comments with the survey, expressed the need for a dog park in the Town of Holly Springs. It is recommended a dog park be incorporated into the programming of the Historic (downtown community) Center to accommodate this need. Failing this, it could be part of the Hunt Community Center Property renovation or re-programming, or located within the proposed extension to Womble Park. As the need arises, additional dog parks could be located at any future community center park.

Play Structures

It is recommended to provide some form of play structures in future parks in residential areas that are not serviced by existing playgrounds. Refer to section 5.7.3 Play Structures in this document for more details. Also, there is a public interest in more swings for older kids: especially at Womble Park where the only tire swing is heavily used.

Greenway System Way Finding

As part of its greenway system, the Town of Holly Springs should develop/implement a way of identifying its trails and aiding its users in maneuvering through the system. Signage and mapping is needed to readily allow users to understand where they are within the system and how to get where they want to go. A standardized design should be used that is unique to the Town of Holly Springs. Possible examples are colored signposts, colored pattern on paved walks, trail identification signs on posts or embedded in sidewalks, or any combination of these.



Examples of Wayfinding for use with a Greenway System



Reducing Maintenance

Given that this plan suggest a comprehensive parks and greenway system, and that parks and recreation departments are continually being asked to do more with less, consideration should be given to naturalization. The design of future parks and trails should incorporate naturalized areas to reduce the need for grass cutting and pesticide use. This is currently being done with greenway trails in developed residential areas. An asphalt trail is constructed through a naturalized area with landscaping only at trailheads and trail / roadway intersections.

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Heritage Resources

The role of the parks and recreation department should include historical preservation and interpretation. This could include diverse initiatives such as incorporating the Mim's House into a downtown park / trail system or highlighting and celebrating historical agrarian locations and practices. During the survey, residents expressed that:

- Places that make Holly Springs unique (Mim's House, original springs, Masonic Lodge, Historic Homes such as the Raleigh/Grigsby House, Brewa House, and Sears Roebuck House) should be protected by a proactive municipal planning process
- 63.8% agreed the Town should better promote its historic nature to stimulate economic development and attract visitors



*Masonic Lodge on
Raleigh Street*

Indoor Gymnasium

There was an expressed need for indoor basketball courts during the public and Town staff input sessions for this study. It is suggested a minimum of one (1) gymnasium, that will accommodate two (2) basketball courts, be provided as part of the recommended downtown "Historic" Center.

Updating the Parks & Recreation Master Plan

The Plan should be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that Town growth levels are commensurate with the Needs Analysis documented in the Plan. The Needs Analysis estimates Town recreation facility requirements through the year 2025, or until the population reaches approximately 50,000 residents; whichever happens first. Typically, a Park and Open Space Master Plan should be re-examined every five years. However, the Town's dynamic growth may dictate a more intensive re-examination schedule.



Fishing Dock at Harris Lake County Park

4.0 Greenway and Park Systems

4.1 Greenway System

Holly Springs has the unique ability to establish a “green” infrastructure that will enable the Town to maintain its character as its population continues to rapidly expand. Greenways, trails, and recreational “nodes” of development strategically located throughout the Town will help a future community of 50,000 (or more) retain a Village-like atmosphere.

The following Greenway System recognizes the great importance of public space in the form and function of a Town. Cities like Boston, Washington, Buffalo and Minneapolis are a few examples of cities whose very form is defined by the deliberate creation of an integrated open space system. Urban designers like Olmsted, L' Enfant and Ellicott all recognized the livability of a Town depends on the relationships between the built environment and the landscape. Their urban design plans emphasized the integration of the two by strengthening connections (visual, physical, symbolic and spiritual) between them. Systems of connected public space (parks, plazas, cultural destinations, river corridors, etc.) were developed to provide organization and structure to the Town.

The Greenway System emphasizes this need for organization and structure. The plan is conceptual and is intended to illustrate the integration of park land, open space and “recreational nodes” into the fabric of Holly Springs. The plan shows how these important features can link together to create an integrated network of Town spaces. By uniting the Town through a greenway system, Holly Springs becomes better integrated, more comprehensible and more cohesive.

As the Town builds its cohesiveness, it will prosper and contribute to it's efforts to compete with other cities and influence economic development decisions including company location and investment choices. Parks systems can enhance the perceived quality of life for workers and company owners, and enhance the Town's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. Furthermore, residents, through a community survey conducted for this study, overwhelmingly expressed their interest in the Town developing a network of multi-use recreational and or connective trails, with 71.1% in agreement, 1.2% disagreeing, and 27.7% having no opinion or not answering.

The Greenway System consists of the following elements:

- A system of “**Community Central Parks**” – The Community Central Parks, or Centers, are located throughout the study area. Each Center can be programmed uniquely according to community need and around a general development theme. For planning purposes, thematic titles such as “Historic”, “Educational”, et al are incorporated into the name of the Center. These titles represent potential programming formats for each node based upon North Carolina State funding priorities outlined in the SCORP 2003-2008 and comments received during public for this study. Each Center has residential and commercial uses developed around a Community Central Park (refer to section 5.2.1).
- A primary **Parkway** system – This system connects each proposed outlying Center with the Downtown “Historic” Center and the downtown. This system would be patterned after the Road Linkage Park design guidelines discussed in section 5.2.1 of this document.

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- A **Primary Greenway Trail** system - This system could be developed thematically to create different experiences for each. For planning purposes, these proposed trails have been designated the Central Loop, Western and Southern Trails. These are intended to be the major organizing corridors of the system that unifies each area in the Town.

The *Central “Loop” Greenway Trail* runs through the old downtown of Holly Springs and services the existing area of densest residential development. Parrish Womble Park, Bass Lake Park, Sunset Lake, portions of the Middle Creek Corridor, and the Old Landfill Conversion are all features along this trail.

The *Western Greenway Trail* will accommodate the proposed future residential developments on the west side of the Town and provide access to the potential future waterfront of Harris Lake. It will connect with the “Loop” (the main greenway trail, circling the core of the downtown), helping to integrate the existing and future residents into one unified community.

The final primary corridor, the *Southern Greenway Trail*, will act as a link to the existing Harris Lake waterfront and service the remaining southern portion of the study area, again, joining this area with the “community” of Holly Springs.

- A **Secondary Greenway Trail** system – This system completes minor Town connections. Both the primary and secondary greenway trails are composed of trail and/or road linkage parks (refer to the archetypical park designs in section 5.2.1 of this document). When not located beside a road, where feasible, the trails follow stream and utility corridors to connect existing and proposed parks and open space.



Housing Subdivision Greenway Trail

- Connections with the proposed **Bike Lanes and Trails of surrounding municipalities** – Contiguous recreation opportunities will be establish between communities.

The Greenway System is graphically depicted in Figure 4-1 on the following page. Note: the locations of the Greenway Trails are schematic and are not intended to indicate precise routes or all the possible trails and connections. Refer to the Holly Springs Pedestrian Transportation Plan, January 2007 for more detailed information regarding greenway trail locations.

Figure 4-1 – Greenway System Concept

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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4.2 Park System

The benefits of establishing an integrated open space system to service the needs of the expected future growth of the Town of Holly Springs are not limited to additional recreation space. There are intrinsic environmental benefits such as storm water runoff control, conservation of wildlife and habitats, and maintaining high water quality. There are also economic benefits such as an increase in value to nearby properties, growth of businesses catering to users of the open space system, and a reduction of costs related to flooding.



Middle Creek at Arbor Creek Land



Mims Towne Square



Central Common Green Space in Cross Pointe Village

The following Park System illustrates locations of proposed parks and open space. Parks are situated to establish the system of Community Central Parks as described by the Greenway System Plan. Parks are also located to protect and preserve natural resources. Greenways follow utility and stream corridors, where possible, and road corridors, where necessary to create a system wide network.

The area of the proposed additional parks and greenways, when added to the existing parks, recreation and open space in the study area (including water bodies) brings the total open space in line with Wake County's target of obtaining 30% of an area as open space.

The Park System, graphically depicted in Figure 4-2, follows.

A town is an organism.

Roads comprise the circulatory system.

Commerce and industry are the organs.

Government acts as a brain.

People are the lifeblood of the community.

***Parks and open space create the skeleton
that supports it all.***

Figure 4-2 – Park System Concept

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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5.0 Park Classification

5.1 Existing Classification System

The existing park types are as delineated in the Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Ten-Year Comprehensive Growth Plan of 2005. This is a typical classification system used by many municipalities that is based on the size of the park in acreage and its projected service area.

The existing park classification system consists of the following park types:

1. Active Regional Park
2. Passive Regional Park
3. Community Park
4. Neighborhood Park
5. Greenway Park
6. Greenways
7. Community Center

5.1.1 Descriptions of Existing Park Types

1. Active Regional Park – An active regional park occupies more than 20 acres and includes a variety of program areas including baseball/softball, tennis, soccer, volleyball, track, swimming and other traditional active programs.

2. Passive Regional Park – a passive regional park also occupies more than 20 acres but does not contain organized sports facilities. Instead, the park may include areas for passive activities such as hiking, interpretive ecological or historic programs, picnic areas, an amphitheater, outdoor classrooms, scenic overlooks, fishing and canoeing.

3. Community Park – community parks contain between five and 20 acres and may include multipurpose athletic fields, playgrounds and picnic shelters, and perhaps a gymnasium and a pool. If unique characteristics exist, the park may include environmental or historic programs and an amphitheater.

4. Neighborhood Park – a neighborhood park occupies less than five acres and typically includes a playground, picnic shelters and open space. These parks are contained within residential areas. Organized sports fields are not practical for neighborhood parks.

5. Greenway Park – greenway parks occupy less than five acres and typically are adjacent to greenway trails and may include fitness trails, overlooks, and interpretive signage or interactive audio equipment. These areas have limited vehicular access and are often topographically challenging due to steep slopes and floodplain areas.

6. Greenways – a greenway system offers natural, preserved pedestrian corridors that are strategically positioned to connect to parks and other areas of interest. The trails are normally designated along streams. Not all greenways are expected to have trails maintained for foot traffic; some should remain in their natural state.

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7. Community / Civic Center – a community center is associated with a community park and is program intensive. The center is designed with multiple users in mind and may accommodate meetings, shows, concerts and theater events as well as other cultural and fitness programs.

The current/planned parks are classified as follows:

Table 5-1 – Existing Park Classifications

Park/Planned Park	Classification
Arbor Creek Land	Greenway Park
Bass Lake Park & Retreat Center	Passive Regional Park
Cultural Center	Community Center
Holly Glen Park	Neighborhood Park
Holly Ridge Middle School Park	Active Community Park
HS High School Park	Active Community Park
Hunt Community Center	Community Center
Jones Park/HS Elementary School Park	Community Park
Springs Park	Neighborhood Park
Sunset Oaks Park	Passive Regional Park
Veteran’s Park	Community Park
Womble Park	Active Regional Park

Source: Town of Holly Springs Open Space Master Plan 2002

5.2 A New Parks Classification System for Holly Springs

A new system for classifying parks in Holly Springs has been developed. This system is character-based and promotes parks as integral components of Town form and structure. This system emphasizes user experience, visual quality and connectivity. It is intended to enhance the purpose and function of parks as the Town evolves over time. This approach recognizes that parks should provide more than passive/active recreation opportunities. Parks are a means to improve the social, cultural and environmental well being of the Town. This approach supports the creation of an integrated and diverse system of park spaces with appeal to all residents and visitors to the Town. This approach gives parks a role in the overall life of the Town, and so allows for the acquisition, development and management of parks within the Town’s strategic planning process.

The park classification system developed for Holly Springs is based on the factors that define the character of a park. They are:

- Setting – urban, rural, natural, etc.
- Landscape quality – landform, vegetation, meadow, etc.
- Function – recreation, education, celebration, etc.

The new parks classification system was developed based upon the need to understand the parks and their roles in the community in a more clear fashion. It is an innovation based on significant consideration of public input and upon a design approach that incorporates flexibility given the expected population growth.

5.2.1 Proposed Classification System

The proposed New Parks Classification system consists the following types of parks:

1. Community Central Park
2. Town-Wide Entertainment Park
3. Conservation Education Park
4. Neighborhood Greenway Park
5. Neighborhood Subdivision Park
6. Road Linkage Park
7. Trail Linkage Park

Each of the seven parks represents an archetypical park design offering standards for the basic structure and elements for that type of park. To a great extent, the size of the park and its level of development are based upon the need of the surrounding community. Features are included or omitted as space allows and needs dictate. However, the basic character of each park remains constant to the new park classification's guidelines for each park type. For each park standard, an illustration is used to only convey an understanding of its organization, inter-relationships and features and is not site specific to the Town Holly Springs. Descriptions of the parks follow:

1. Community Central Park

The primary purpose of these facilities is to meet population-specific, community based health, recreation, education and social needs. These parks are located to allow ease of access, both driving and walking, by the community it is intended to serve. The building is designed with the potential to host meetings and local community events. The park may incorporate primary indoor/outdoor athletic facilities as space allows and the need demands; i.e. swimming pool / splash pad, gymnasium, ball fields, tennis courts, etc. There is a comprehensive pedestrian circulation system to facilitate movement between facilities, for exercise, and to link surrounding residential and open space areas.

During the vision session with the parks and recreation steering committee, the following statements made were indicative of the input received regarding needed new facilities:

- "New community center with multiple gymnasiums"
- "Environmental center"
- "Recreation center"

During the Kids Recreation focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

"Teen center within walking distance of schools"

During the Senior Recreation focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- "Community centers near / in high density areas"

During the Parks & Recreation Staff focus group session, the following statements made were indicative of the input received:

- "Community centers closer / proximity to neighborhoods"
- "Community center for children's programs"

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Community Central Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Community center housing programs and facilities to meet the local community needs. Facilities may support medical, food, and political services, and athletic, educational and cultural programs.
- Building and plaza adjacent to and incorporated into the streetscape
- Parking located near street
- Integrated into the greenway system
- Loop walkways for exercise
- Pedestrian linkages with trail and road corridors
- Programmable athletic fields/courts as space allows
- Non-programmed, multi-use field
- Dog Park facility (a dedicated, fenced dog recreation area with a minimum suggested size of one acre, double gated entry and staging area, and amenities for dogs and their owners)
- Outdoor community gathering area/amphitheater
- Moderate landscaping centered around community building
- Preservation of natural areas with opportunities for environmental education

Figure 5-1 - Community Central Park Design Guideline



2. Town-Wide Entertainment Park

These are large-scale facilities, the primary function of which is to provide active recreation opportunities and facilities. These parks are town-wide destinations and are more intensely developed to allow for programmed / organized events and activities. Entertainment parks are multi-functional facilities and allow for a variety of events / activities to occur simultaneously. Facilities are designed to a high standard for intense and extended use. Entertainment parks are capable of providing first-rate facilities for regional/state-wide events, like sports tournaments, festivals and cultural events. The landscape quality of these parks may vary significantly from minimally maintained conservation areas to highly maintained ornamental planting beds.

During the vision session with the parks and recreation steering committee, the following statement made was indicative of the input received regarding needed new facilities:

- “Central sports facility”

During the Parks & Recreation Staff focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- “Regional recreation centers with indoor and outdoor pools”

During the Coaches / Sports parks & recreation focus group session, the following statements made were indicative of the input received:

- “Improve physical program space”
- “Facilities lacking at this time and for future”
- “Need more good baseball fields, soccer pitches, and a pool (public)”

Figure 5-2 - Town-Wide Entertainment Park Design Guideline



Town-Wide Entertainment Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Direct accessibility from major roadways
- Primary vehicular entrances from major roadways
- Connected with the greenway system by way of pedestrian linkages
- On-site parking located proximate to facilities
- Internal pedestrian circulation system linking parking lots, entrances, site features and facilities
- Visitor services including washrooms, concessions, picnic areas, etc.
- Primary athletic facilities, sports fields, multi-use facilities with synthetic (allowing for more year-round use) or natural turf, entertainment complexes, amphitheaters
- Buffer zones to impacted adjacent uses
- Developed with a primary feature/focus around which the park is organized (e.g. recreation center)

3. Conservation Education Park

Conservation parks are predominantly natural in character and exhibit landscape characteristics common to Holly Springs and the surrounding region. The focus of these parks is the preservation and enhancement of Holly Springs' bio-physical resources. Conservation parks provide a nature-based experience and environmentally compatible passive recreation opportunities. Conservation parks provide residents with more immediate access to natural environments and related recreational activities. In addition, Conservation parks provide opportunities for environmental education and interpretation so that the need for them is understood, thus helping to ensure that parks and open spaces are sustained.

The North Carolina SCORP argues the state's constitution dictates the proper function of government is the conservation and protection of natural resources and the acquisition of such resources. The amendment reads in part as follows:

It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivision to acquire and preserve park, recreation, and scenic areas...to preserve...its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open land, and places of beauty.

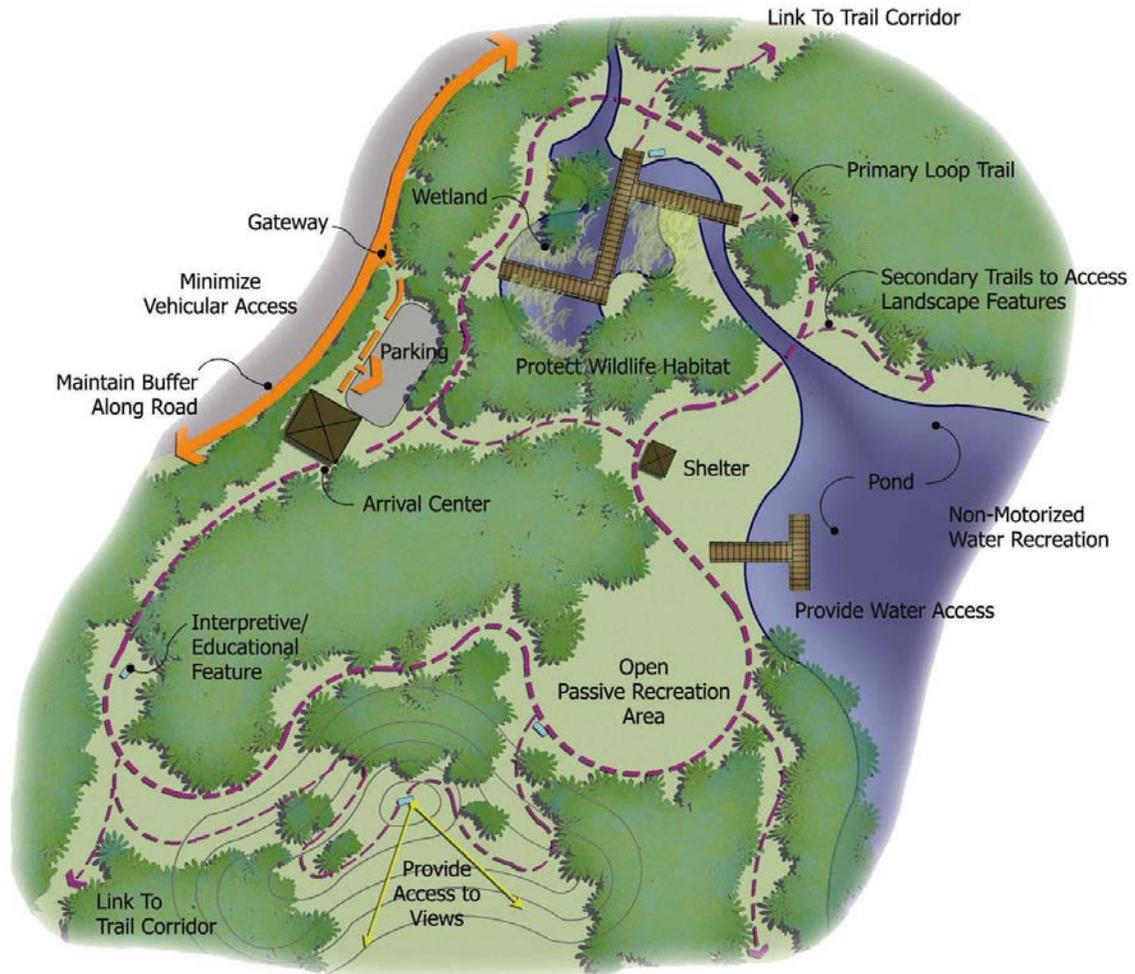
Governor Hunt issued a challenge to North Carolina regarding the need for a green infrastructure of protected open space and farmland to complement the states unprecedented growth and development and to maintain our high quality of life. Conservation Parks can contribute to The Million Acre Plan challenge of adding one million acres to the state's current assemblage of permanently conserved open space and farmland by the end of the year 2009.

Conservation Education Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Preservation of natural landscape features and environmental qualities of sites
- Habitat enhancement
- Trails offering varied natural experience
- Design attractions to access natural features of park – boardwalks, overlooks, fishing platforms, canoe launches, etc.
- Passive recreation facilities to provide for picnicking, swimming, bird watching, nature appreciation, etc.

- Interpretive and educational features/displays
- Environmentally-based design solutions and development/construction techniques
- Enhanced management of bio-physical resources - hydrology, vegetation, etc.
- Limited vehicular access into site
- Accommodates group visits, site tours
- Encourages community participation (i.e. tree planting, habitat enhancement)
- Supports “distant” education programming

Figure 5-3 - Conservation Education Park Design Guidelines



4. Neighborhood Greenway Park

The primary purpose of these parks is to provide opportunities for community members to engage in spontaneous or unstructured passive and non-programmed active recreation. These parks are smaller scaled spaces than entertainment and central parks. They are geared to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Play parks are integrated into greenways with access from local residential streets. Access is primarily by walking or cycling. Play parks are well vegetated providing a sense of refuge from the street.

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During the Senior Recreation focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- “Need more parks in different areas”

During the vision session with the parks and recreation steering committee, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- “Pocket parks throughout the community”

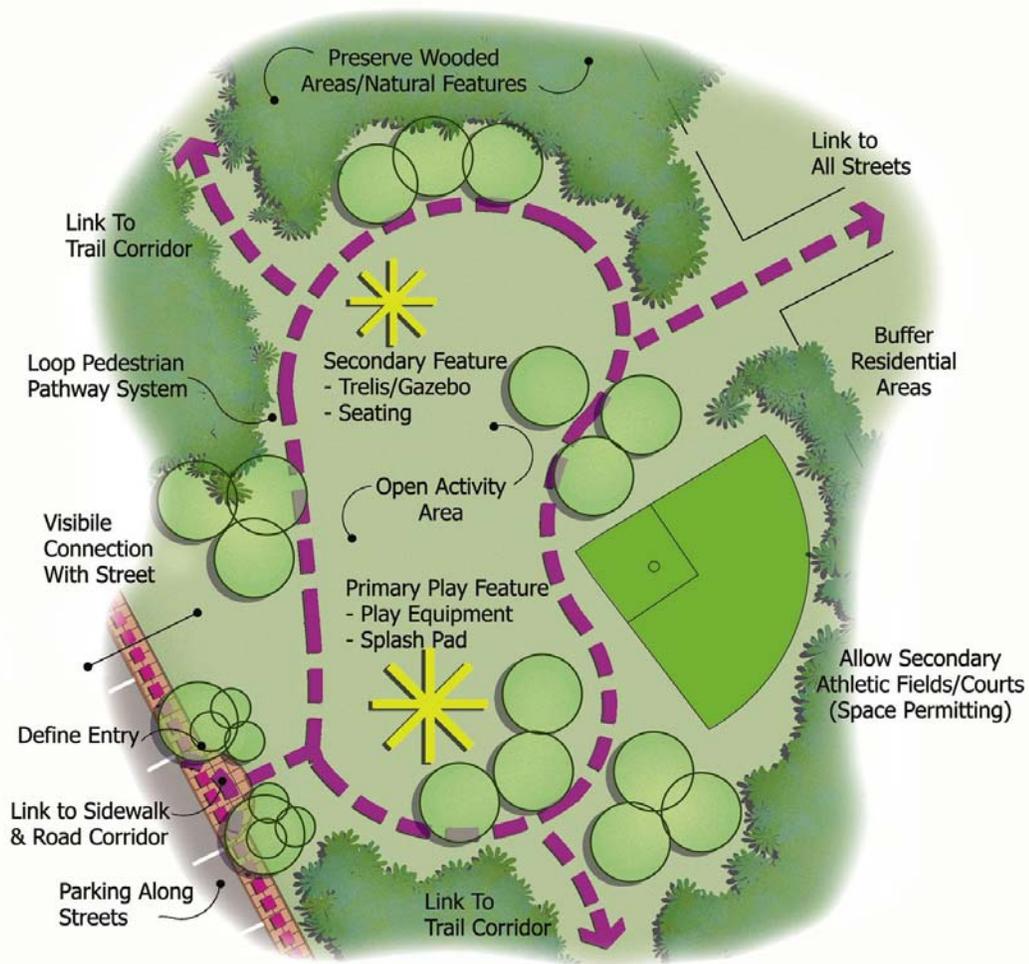
During the Coaches / Sports Recreation focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- “Need more playgrounds and picnic shelters”

During the Kids Parks and Recreation focus group session, the following statements made were indicative of the input received:

- “Need more soccer fields”
- “Need more non-programmed fields”
- “Need more parks”

Figure 5-4 - Neighborhood Greenway Park Design Guideline



The community survey conducted for this study determined that 49.3% of respondents would be willing to walk 20 minutes or less to access a park or recreational trail (about 30% wouldn't walk and 20% had no response). This walking time equates to desiring a park within one (1) mile from resident's home. Half the respondents stated that walking less than ten (10) minutes from their house to the nearest park best (about one half (1/2) mile) defines their idea of "sufficient" park and open space areas

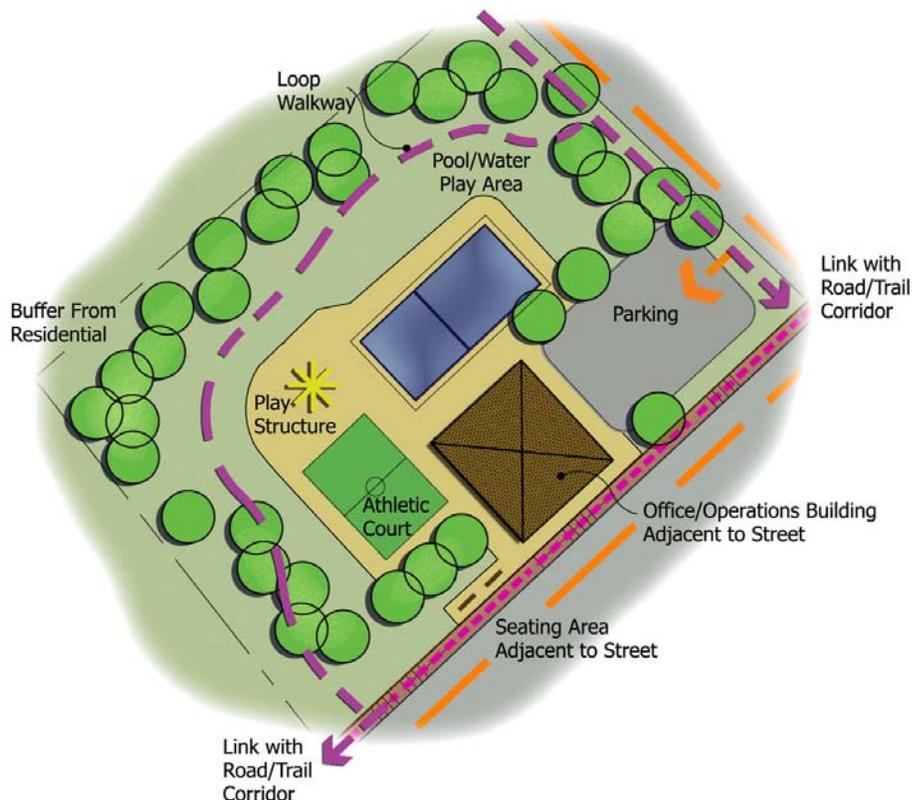
Neighborhood Greenway Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Integrated into the greenway system
- Accessible from local streets
- Pedestrian entrances from all street frontages
- Internal pedestrian circulation system
- Off-site parking (parking on adjacent streets)
- Passive recreation facilities provide for children's play, informal athletic activities, exercise, seating/small gathering
- Parks may include one secondary multi-use sports field/court if space is available for unstructured local use
- Predominant "green" quality and appearance
- Open sightlines into park from street

5. Neighborhood Subdivision Park

These are private facilities that primarily serve the residents of the subdivision. They typically offer some form of water recreation/play, athletic courts (tennis, volleyball, etc.) and a play structure.

Figure 5-5 - Neighborhood Subdivision Park Guideline



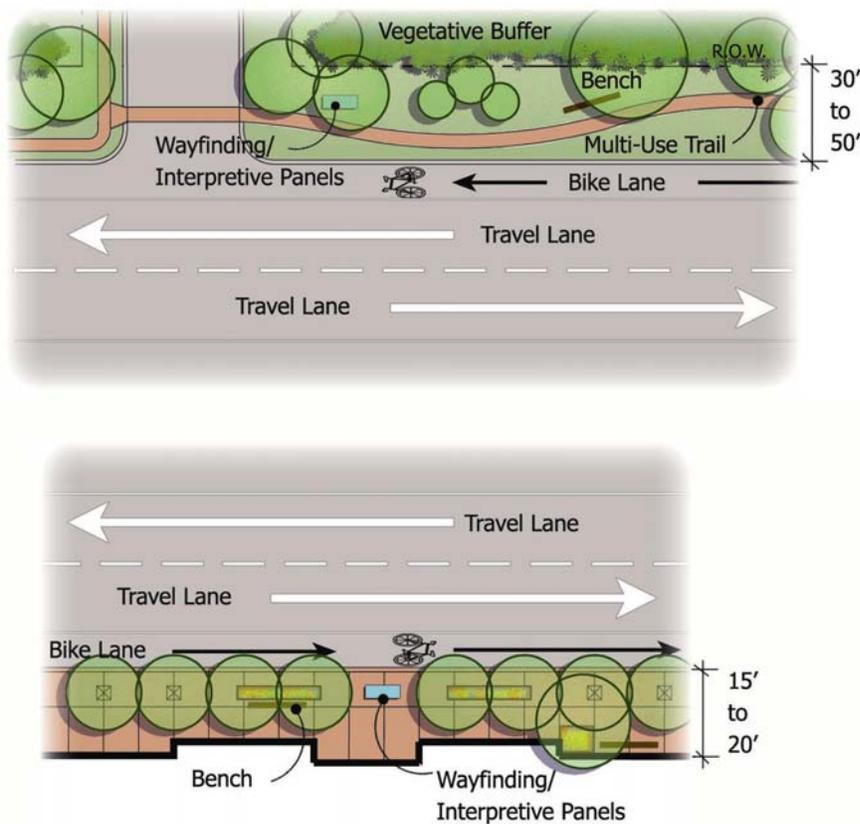
Neighborhood Subdivision Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Located at edge of development along public thoroughfare
- Pedestrian entrances from all street frontages
- Internal public pedestrian circulation system
- Seating along public walkway beside public street
- Vehicular entrance only from development thoroughfare
- Building incorporated into public thoroughfare streetscape
- Well landscaped with buffering of residential properties

6. Road Linkage Park

Linkage parks are linear public spaces that connect individual parks and primary city attractions. They create and provide access to an integrated system of public space. Streetscapes, promenades, and trail corridors beside roadways are all examples of Road Linkage Parks.

Figure 5-6 - Road Linkage Park Design Guideline



During the Town of Holly Springs Staff focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- “Create a network of pedestrian trails / sidewalks; everyone should be able to walk to a grocery store or restaurant”

During the vision session with the parks and recreation steering committee, the following statements made were indicative of the input received:

- There is a “need for greenway connections”
- There are “sidewalks that aren’t connected”
- Plan to link facilities for ease of access / use by residents”

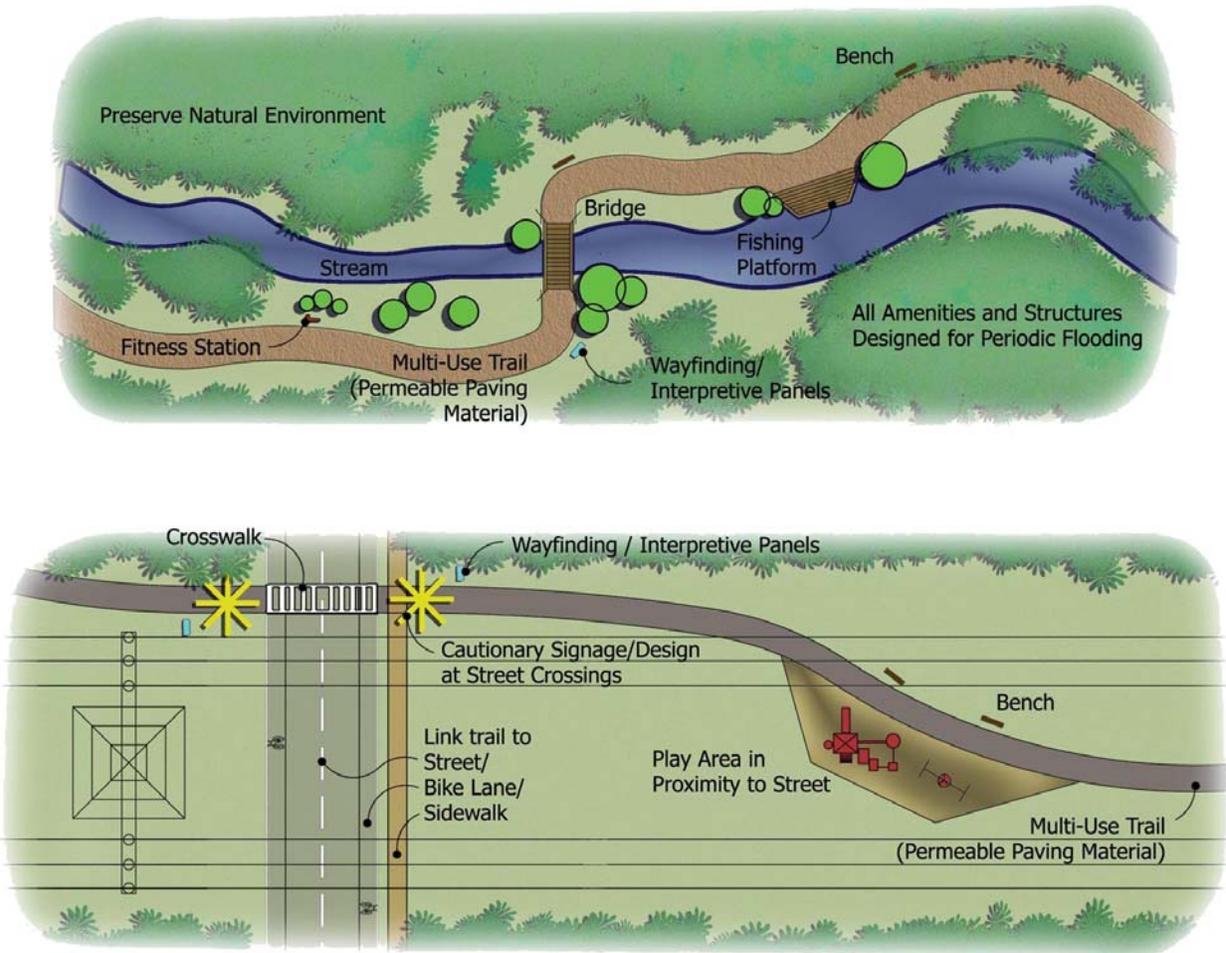
Road Linkage Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Identifiable design style/theme
- Wayfinding signage/features and historic markers/ signage
- Separation from vehicular traffic
- Comfortable pedestrian environment – travel width, rest areas, shade trees, etc.

7. Trail Linkage Park

Trail linkage parks also create and provide access to an integrated system of public space. However, they are not associated with a roadway, but are allied with a stream/river, utility or greenway corridor.

Figure 5-7 - Trail Linkage Park Design Guideline



During the Senior Recreation focus group session, the following statement made was indicative of the input received:

- “Need to add playscapes / playgrounds and physical training into parks”

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The community survey conducted for this study determined that:

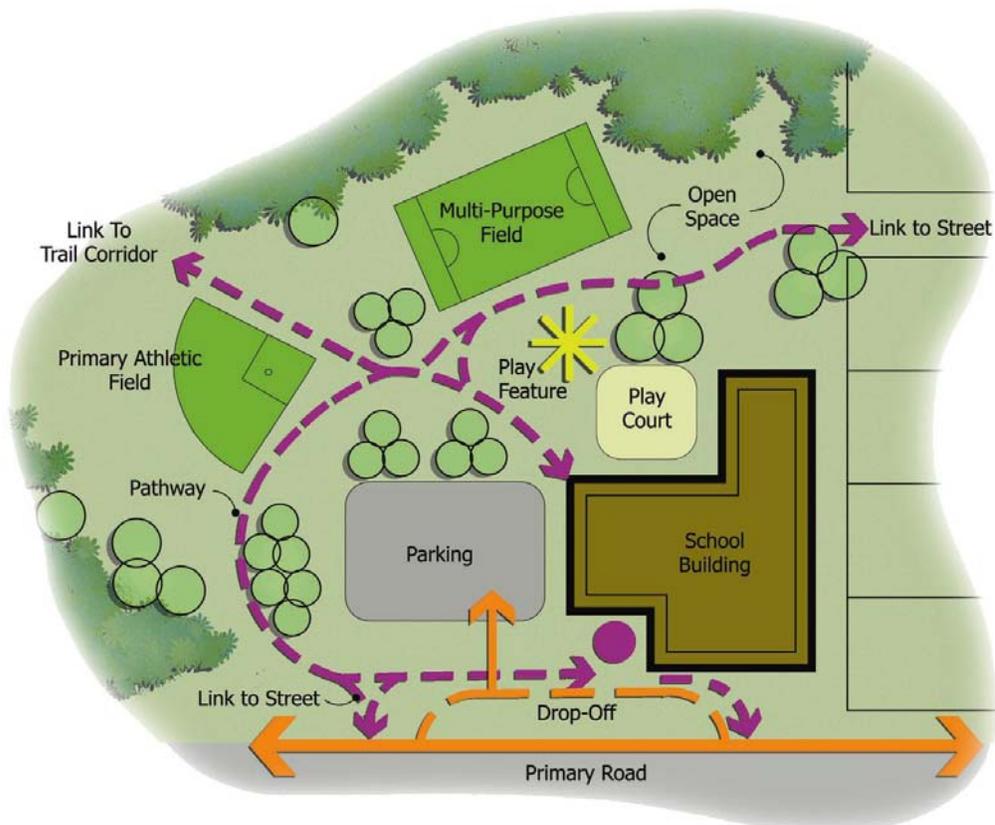
- 81% surveyed agreed the Town should expand on its network of bicycle and pedestrian trails

Trail Linkage Park Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Minimal disturbance to the natural environment
- Natural landscaping in keeping with surroundings; i.e. no trees planted in utility corridors, native, indigenous species planted in greenway corridors.
- Wayfinding and environmental interpretive signage/features
- Multi-use trails with permeable pavement and open sight lines; accommodate utility maintenance needs and withstand environmental events such as periodic flooding
- Incorporates overlook/viewing areas where possible

8. **School Grounds** – School grounds should be developed to enhance the park system and provide passive and active recreation opportunities for all Town residents. To this end, the Town of Holly Springs has negotiated Joint Use Agreements with the Wake County Public School System to allow school grounds to be as accessible to the public as municipal parks. These agreements permit school grounds to combine the features of both Neighborhood Greenway Parks and Town-Wide Entertainment Parks to meet the needs of students and the local neighborhood.

Figure 5-8 - School Grounds Design Guideline



School Grounds Key Design Standards / Attributes:

- Accessibility from local streets
- Pedestrian entrances from all street frontages
- Internal pedestrian circulation system linking primary site features
- Open sightlines into the grounds from the street
- Passive recreation facilities should provide for a variety of children’s play activities, seating/small gatherings (outdoor classes)
- Active recreation facilities should be multi-purpose and provide for both organized and informal play/events; should be located to minimize impact on adjacent uses
- Street frontages should open and not fenced
- Tree plantings should be clustered to delineate open spaces/activity areas

A matrix of the proposed park classification for the existing facilities is as follows:

Table 5-2 – Proposed New Classification of the Existing Parks

Park Name	Previous Classification	Community Central Park	Town-Wide Entertainment Park	Conservation Education Park	Neighborhood Greenway Park	Neighborhood Subdivision Park	Road Linkage Park	Trail Linkage Park
Arbor Creekland	Greenway Park							
Bass Lake Park	Passive Regional Park							
Cross Pointe Village Green	Neighborhood Park							
Cultural Center / Library	Community Center							
Holly Glen Park	Neighborhood Park							
Hunt Community Center *	Community Center							
Jones Park	Community Park							
Parrish Womble Park	Active Regional Park							
Springs of HS Nature Trail	Neighborhood Park							
Veterans' Park	Community Park							

* proposed classification should acknowledge adjacent Womble Park use, but will depend upon results from re-development study

Source: design based planning, inc.

5.3 Integrated Park System Plan

The relationship between the Greenway System Concept and the Parks Classification System is shown on the following plan. The plan illustrates how newly classified existing parks, and proposed future parks are integrated into the overall concept to create the Greenway System.

As shown on the plan, Community Central Parks, Town-Wide Entertainment Parks, Conservation Education Parks, Neighborhood Greenway Parks, and Neighborhood Subdivision Parks, are destinations within the system and are primarily located along greenways or at their intersection. The location shown for future park types is schematic and supports acquisition recommendations made further in this document.

The plan further illustrates the location of Road Linkage Parks and Trail Linkage Parks. It should be noted that the Historic, Cultural, Environmental and Secondary Greenway Trails shown on the Greenway System Concept could be a combination of both types of Linkage Parks as determined by their respective location and existing conditions.

“Communities should be planned with an eye to the effect on the human spirit of being continually surrounded by a maximum of beauty.”

Thomas Jefferson

Figure 5-1 – Existing /Proposed Parks with Proposed Classification

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
for Holly Springs, NC**

6.0 Trend and Need Analysis

6.1 Overview

Holly Springs can make better and more informed recreation-planning decisions with an understanding of current regional and national recreation trends. This chapter will illustrate these trends and determine which deficiencies will be exposed in Holly Springs as explosive population growth continues throughout the next decade.

The sources for national trends include *Outdoor Recreation in the 21st Century A Report to the Nation: The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)*, the seventh such survey of the recreation habits of Americans. The first was executed in 1960.

The North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or SCORP was used to examine statewide, regional and more local trends. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requires states to have a SCORP on file with the National Park Service in order to receive funding from the LWCF. In North Carolina, the SCORP also fulfills a State statutory requirement for an outdoor recreation planning program.

These sources are augmented by various other sources including the Statistical Abstract of the United States and studies and reports available from sporting equipment manufacturers.

The NSRE is a telephone survey of randomly chosen residents of the United States aged 16 or older. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA), a membership organization of sporting goods equipment sellers, does another survey that includes responses from children aged 7 or older. Both surveys are stratified to ensure all demographic cohorts are represented.

Both surveys deliver similar outcomes in terms of most popular activities and each has its advantages and disadvantages. The NSRE is able to deliver a level of geographic detail the NSGA does not attempt to deliver. The NSGA reports on field and team sports and indoor activities to greater depth than the NSRE.

6.1.1 Active and Passive Activities

Outdoor recreational activities fall into two categories: Active and Passive. While these labels refer to two different kinds of activities, they are not mutually exclusive in terms of their location. A golf course can include multi-use trails, for example, as long as they don't conflict with one another. All types of recreation can share parking areas.

Passive recreational activities can be more compatible with natural resource protection as they tend to involve less developed venues such as trails. Active recreation activities require a more-developed venue such as a field or a court and therefore tend to be less compatible with natural resource protection.



*Turtle Preparing to Lay Eggs
at Harris Lake County Park*

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Holly Springs, NC

Examples of passive and active activities are shown in Table 5-1 below.

Table 6-1 – Passive and Active Activities

Passive	Active
Walking	Baseball
Camping	Football
Picnicking	Soccer
Running	Golf
Horseback riding	Tennis
Swimming	Hockey
Cross-Country Skiing	Downhill Skiing

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century

6.2 National Trends

Two major factors influence outdoor recreation today: technology and lifestyle. For example, the explosion in bicycling – it's one of the fastest growing recreation activities over the past 40 odd years – has as much to do with the "invention" of the mountain bike (where such a thing simply did not exist before) as it does the increasing affluence of bike riders, increasing affordability of the bikes, and the ability of the cyclist to travel longer distances to participate in the sport.

In its 2001 survey, the NSRE found that walking for pleasure was the most-participated in outdoor recreational activity. This result mirrors the US Bureau of the Census Statistical Abstract of the United States, which found that in 2002, exercise walking was the most-participated-in activity. The fastest growing outdoor recreational activity in the nation between 1982 and 2001 was bird watching and photographing, which grew by 231%. However, its rate of participation, 73 million people in 2001, is less than half the 191 million participating in walking, which grew 91% over the same period.



Trail at Bass Lake

Beyond the Green

Table 5-2, below, shows the most popular outdoor recreation activities and the participation trends in each over the period from 1982-83 to 2000-01.

Table 6-2 – National Participation Trends in Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Activity	Percent Participating 1982-83	Percent Participating 2000-2001	2000-2001 Participants (Millions)
Walking for Pleasure	53	83	191
Visiting Nature Centers or Museums	50	57	131
Picnicking	48	54	124
Sightseeing	46	51	118
Driving for Pleasure	48	51	117
Attending Sports Events	40	51	116
Swimming in Natural Water	32	43	98
Outdoor Pool Swimming	43	43	98
Attending Outdoor Concerts	25	41	93
Bicycling	32	41	93
Running or Jogging	26	37	86
Fishing	34	35	80
Day Hiking	14	33	76
Bird watching/photographing	12	32	73
Developed Camping	17	27	62
Motorboating	19	25	57
Outdoor Team Sports	24	25	56
Driving Off-Road	11	18	42
Golfing	13	17	40
Primitive Camping	10	17	38
Sledding	10	16	36
Tennis Outdoors	17	13	29
Canoeing or Kayaking	8	12	28
Hunting	12	12	27
Backpacking	5	11	25
Horseback Riding	9	10	23
Downhill Skiing	6	9	21
Waterskiing	9	9	20
Ice Skating	6	8	18
Snowmobiling	3	6	14
Sailing	6	5	12
Cross-Country Skiing	3	4	9

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century

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Table 5-3, below, shows the rate of change for selected outdoor recreation activities over the period 1982-82 and 2000-01.

Table 6-3 – Change in National Recreation Participation

Outdoor Recreation Activity	Rate of change (81-82 to 00-01)
Bird watching/photographing	231%
Day Hiking	194%
Backpacking	182%
Snowmobiling	125%
Primitive Camping	111%
Driving Off-Road	110%
Sledding	101%
Attending Outdoor Concerts	95%
Walking for Pleasure	91%
Developed Camping	86%
Canoeing or Kayaking	85%
Running or Jogging	75%
Downhill Skiing	73%
Swimming in Natural Water	66%
Golfing	65%
Motorboating	62%
Attending Sports Events	55%
Bicycling	53%
Cross-Country Skiing	50%
Ice Skating	47%
Visiting Nature Centers or Museums	38%
Picnicking	37%
Horseback Riding	37%
Sightseeing	37%
Driving for Pleasure	30%
Outdoor Team Sports	25%
Fishing	24%
Outdoor Pool Swimming	22%
Hunting	21%
Waterskiing	19%
Sailing	10%
Tennis Outdoors	-9%

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century

As the table above illustrates, some of the fastest growing activities are more passive and involve the need for trails and less developed facilities. Kayaking is the fastest growing activity in the short term, over the period 1994-95 to 2000-01. The NSRE found that golf is popular and continues to grow particularly among retirees. Attending college, professional and amateur sporting events is growing faster than the rate of population growth.

Among the slower growing sports, hunting is actually rebounding in the NSRE. Tennis is the only included sport that is declining. According to Cordell, et al tennis tends to be cyclical.

According to the National Sporting Goods Association survey, working out at a club, working out with equipment and aerobic exercise continue to be very popular with Americans, with 32 million, 52 million and 30 million participants respectively. Table 5-4, below, shows participation trends for selected activities from the NSGA survey that are not included in the NSRE.

Table 6-4 – Selected Trends in National Participation 1994-2004

Sport	2004	1994	Change
Aerobic Exercising	29.5	23.2	27%
Baseball	15.9	15.1	5%
Basketball	27.8	28.2	-1%
Exercising with Equipment	52.2	43.8	19%
Football (tackle)*	8.2	9	-9%
Football (touch)*	9.6	11	-13%
Hockey (ice)	2.4	1.9	26%
Soccer	13.3	12.5	6%
Softball	12.5	18.1	-31%
Volleyball	10.8	17.4	-38%
Weight Lifting**	26.2	22.8	15%
Workout at Club	31.8	20.4	56%

* 1996 Comparison Year

** 1998 Comparison Year

Source: National Sporting Goods Association



Multi-use Field at Parrish Womble Park set-up for Soccer Games

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Tables 5-3 and 5-4 show the participation trends for persons who participated in the activity at least one time. It is interesting, then, to follow up to attempt to determine which activities have the most participants and in which participants engage in most frequently. The table below shows how frequently Americans participated in selected outdoor recreational activities.

Table 6-5 – Frequency of National Recreation Participation

Outdoor Recreation Activity	1-2 days	3-10 days	11-25 days	25+ days
Land Activities				
Horseback Riding	45%	30%	9%	16%
Backpacking	32%	49%	13%	6%
Primitive Camping	31%	50%	13%	6%
Developed Camping	28%	54%	13%	6%
Driving Off-Road	24%	38%	18%	20%
Viewing/Photographing Birds	21%	32%	12%	35%
Day Hiking	19%	39%	17%	25%
Hunting	15%	40%	26%	20%
Mountain Biking	15%	36%	20%	30%
Water Activities				
Motorboating	28%	43%	17%	13%
Fishing	20%	40%	20%	19%
Sailing	47%	38%	9%	6%
Swimming in Natural Waters	46%	41%	9%	5%
Outdoor Pool Swimming	18%	48%	20%	14%
Canoeing or Kayaking	13%	41%	20%	26%
Ice and Snow Activities				
Snowmobiling	40%	38%	11%	11%
Cross-Country Skiing	39%	46%	10%	5%
Downhill Skiing	34%	47%	15%	5%

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century

Most of the activities attract participants for 1-10 days per year. Bird watchers, day hikers, hunters, mountain bikers, canoers and kayakers tend to participate in their recreational activities more often. Horseback riders, backpackers, sailors, people who participate in natural waters swimming, snowmobiling and skiing participate less often.



Hog Run Mountain Bike Trail at Harris Lake

6.2.1 Youth Participation

An important indicator of the future of outdoor recreational activities is youth participation. Following a 10-year trend, the National Sporting Goods Association found that golf is static between 1994 and 2004 for the population as a whole, youth golf is growing among 7- to-11-year-olds and among 12-to-17-year-olds, although somewhat less quickly. Once-popular sports that are beginning to have lower participation by children include basketball, bike riding, and fishing. All segments of the population appear to be abandoning alpine skiing in favor of snowboarding. Similarly, in-line skaters are hanging up their Rollerblades in favor of skateboards. Ice hockey is growing among the population as a whole, and among 12-17-year-olds. However, younger children are participating in hockey at lower rates. Table 5-6, below, illustrates the trends in youth sports participation compared with that of the general population between 1994 and 2004.

Table 6-6 – National Recreation Participation: Total General and Youth Population (000s)

Sport	Year	Total	Change versus 1994	Total 7-11	Change versus 1994	Total 12-17	Change versus 1994
Total General	1994	232,986		18,773		21,579	
Total General.	2004	258,533	11.00%	19,650	4.70%	24,988	15.80%

Youth							
Baseball	1994	232,986		18,773		21,579	
Baseball	2004	258,533	11.00%	19,650	4.70%	24,988	15.80%
Basketball	1994	28,191		5,554		7,951	
Basketball	2004	27,847	-1.20%	5,867	5.60%	7,175	-9.80%
Bicycle Riding	1994	49,818		11,403		9,363	
Bicycle Riding	2004	40,317	-19.10%	9,196	-19.40%	7,770	-17.00%
Fishing	1994	40,477		4,883		4,632	
Fishing	2004	36,265	-10.40%	3,583	-26.60%	4,103	-11.40%
Golf	1994	24,551		670		1,885	
Golf	2004	24,479	-0.30%	1,027	53.30%	2,487	31.90%
Ice Hockey	1994	1,914		388		408	
Ice Hockey	2004	2,423	26.60%	292	-24.70%	544	33.30%
In-line Skating	1994	19,468		6,998		5,273	
In-line Skating	2004	11,677	-40.00%	3,313	-52.70%	3,913	-25.80%
Skateboarding	1994	4,924		1,885		2,012	
Skateboarding	2004	10,388	111.00%	3,439	82.40%	4,262	111.80%
Skiing (alpine)	1994	10,620		646		1,966	
Skiing (alpine)	2004	5,903	-44.40%	659	2.00%	979	-50.20%
Snowboarding	1994	2,061		210		853	
Snowboarding	2004	6,572	218.90%	971	362.40%	2,356	176.20%
Soccer	1994	12,508		5,494		3,536	
Soccer	2004	13,287	6.20%	5,411	-1.50%	3,578	1.20%

Source: National Sporting Goods Association

6.3 Regional Trends – South Atlantic States

The South Atlantic States include West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Similar to the rest of the country, kayaking and jetskiing have all increased in popularity over 100% in these states. Overall participation rates for most activities, however, are slightly lower than the United States as a whole. For example, walking for pleasure is the most popular South Atlantic region activity and United States activity. Yet, only 81% of the South Atlantic population claims to participate as opposed to 83% in the rest of the United States. Only outdoor pool swimming and warm water fishing are participated in more widely in the South Atlantic states than in the country as a whole. Explanations for reduced participation rate could be related to seasonal extreme temperatures and humidity, and cultural mores. However, no official explanation is available. Table 5-7, below, shows the comparison between the US and the South Atlantic region participation rates.

Table 6-7 – Percentages of Persons 16+ Participating, 2001

Outdoor Recreation Activity	Percent of Total US Population	Percent of South Atlantic United States
Land Activities		
Walking for pleasure	83.1	81.4
Visiting nature centers or museums	57.1	53.4
Picnicking	54.5	50.1
Sightseeing	51.8	51.0
Driving for Pleasure	49.9	50.3
Attending Outdoor Sports	49.9	48.4
Attending Outdoor Concerts	39.8	36.0
Bicycling	39.5	34.6
Running or jogging	34.5	34.7
Day Hiking	33.3	26.8
Viewing/Photographing Birds	32.4	30.5
Developed Camping	26.4	21.7
Driving Off-Road	17.5	17.2
Golfing	16.9	14.0
Primitive Camping	16.0	13.1
Tennis Outdoors	11.5	10.4
Backpacking	10.7	7.4
Horseback Riding	9.7	9.8
Water Activities		
Swimming in Natural Waters	41.7	39.6
Outdoor Pool Swimming	41.0	42.2
Fishing (Warm Water)	22.6	27.2
Fishing (Cold Water)	13.6	10.4
Motorboating	24.4	24.2
Canoeing or Kayaking	9.7	8.0
Waterskiing	8.1	7.9
Sailing	5.1	4.3

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century

6.4 North Carolina Trends

In general, North Carolina residents enjoy activities similar to the residents of the South Atlantic states; North Carolina participation rates are consistent, yet slightly lower in number, than their regional counterparts. Activities including walking, fishing (both warm water and cold water) and primitive camping actually have slightly higher participation rates in North Carolina than the South Atlantic region as a whole.

Table 5-8, below, shows these participation rates.

Table 6-8 – Geographic Comparison, State and Region

Outdoor Recreation Activity	North Carolina	South Atlantic Region
Walking for pleasure	83.4	83.2
Visiting a Beach	42.1	49.6
Natural Water Swimming	40.8	44.2
Swimming in Outdoor Pool	39.3	44.5
Bicycling	30.3	37.9
Running or Jogging	28.3	35.4
Warmwater Fishing	27.7	24.0
Motorboating	24.1	24.2
Day Hiking	23.1	26.2
Developed camping	18.1	19.7
Golfing	15.7	16.1
Mountain Biking	14.1	19.3
Inline Skating or Rollerblading	13.7	20.0
Tennis Outdoors	13.4	12.6
Coldwater Fishing	12.7	10.9
Primitive Camping	12.2	11.9
Basketball Outdoors	9.7	15.6
Softball	8.2	9.4
Waterskiing	7.5	7.4
Canoeing	6.5	8.9
Football	6.1	8.2
Volleyball Outdoors	5.4	9.6
Baseball	4.4	6.4
Sailing	3.3	5.3
Soccer Outdoors	1.8	7.1
Handball or Racquetball	1.5	7.5
Kayaking	1.3	3.1
Windsurfing	.4	.6

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century

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Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, and visiting farms or other agricultural settings are passive recreational activities enjoyed by North Carolina residents at a slightly higher rate than the South Atlantic region as a whole. With regard to the rest of the passive recreational sports listed below, the South Atlantic participation numbers are slightly higher:

Table 6-9 – Geographic Comparison, State and Region

Outdoor Recreation Activity	North Carolina	South Atlantic Region
Viewing/Photographing		
Natural Scenery	55%	58%
Other Wildlife	42%	44%
Wildflowers and Trees	39%	43%
Birds	36%	32%
Fish	25%	26%
Heritage Activities		
Visiting Nature Centers	52%	56%
Visiting Historic Sites	44%	50%
Visiting a Wilderness or Primitive Area	26%	29%
Visiting a Farm or Other Agricultural Setting	27%	26%
Visiting Prehistoric or Archaeological Sites	26%	29%
Events Attendance		
Attending Outdoor Sports Events	42%	50%
Attending Outdoors Concerts, Plays	39%	43%
Home/Family Activities		
Gardening/Landscaping for Pleasure	68.7%	77.5%
Family Gathering	72.9%	73.3%
Picnicking	47.6%	51.9%
Driving for Pleasure	51.9%	50.2%
Sightseeing	53.7%	51.9%
Yard Games	38.4%	40.1%

Source: Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century



Drivers view the Scenic Beauty along a portion of Holly Springs Road

6.4.1 North Carolina Age-Related Trends

Activity preferences vary among different age groups in North Carolina. Team sports, or sports that require high levels of endurance, are more typically popular among younger age groups. Households with a respondent in the 25-44 year old age group are more likely to participate in fitness activities, activities involving small children, and water-oriented activities.

The following tables illustrate participation rates in various sports divided by age group:

Table 6-10 – Participation in Activities by Age Group

Activity	Under 24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Above 65
Bicycling for Pleasure	17.8%	33.2%	35.3%	23.3%	19.4%	14.1%
Jogging or Running	36.2%	41.6%	56.8%	69.9%	33.4%	25.7%
Use of Play Equipment	14.8%	25.3%	19.1%	11.3%	11.2%	9.7%
Use of Open Areas	24.7%	20.3%	16.7%	11.4%	12.9%	14.7%
Beach Activities	14.8%	17.1%	15.5%	13.8%	14.5%	12.3%
Swimming	12.7%	15.2%	15.2%	14.5%	14.3%	7.1%
Attending Sporting Events	13.4%	18.4%	17.8%	15.9%	10.5%	11.1%
Skateboarding	3.3%	7.4%	19.7%	2.4%	1.9%	4.9%

Source: North Carolina SCORP

6.4.2 North Carolina State Future Demand and Funding Priorities

Future Demand

The State of North Carolina is involved in routinely anticipating what types of recreational activities their residents will want. As the population of the state grows dramatically, it is important to target the limited funding available for recreation to those activities that will service the greatest demand.

The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey asked residents to identify and rank their future public outdoor recreational needs. The future demand for each activity was rated as high, moderate or low based on the average score it received. High future demand was assigned to activities that were ranked at least fifth by at least one half of respondents. An activity with moderate future demand was assigned to activities that were ranked at least fifth by one quarter of the respondents. All other activities were assigned low future demand.

Based on the results of the survey, eight activities were rated as having high future demand: walking for pleasure, freshwater fishing, beach activities, tent or vehicle camping, bicycling for pleasure, picnicking, swimming in pools, and attending outdoor cultural events.

The following table illustrates the anticipated future demand for recreational activities in North Carolina:

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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Table 6-11 – Future Demand for Outdoor Recreational Activities

Activity	Future Demand
Walking for Pleasure	High
Freshwater Fishing	High
Beach Activities	High
Camping, Tent or Vehicle	High
Picnicking	High
Swimming (in Pools)	High
Attend Outdoor Cultural Events	High
Hunting	Moderate
Visiting Natural Areas	Moderate
Fishing	Moderate
Driving for Pleasure	Moderate
Visiting Historical Sites	Moderate
Viewing Scenery	Moderate
Trail Hiking	Moderate
Swimming (Lakes, Rivers, Ocean)	Moderate
Use of Play Equipment	Moderate
Horseback Riding	Moderate
Golf	Moderate
Visiting Zoos	Moderate
Attending Sporting Events	Moderate
Power Boating	Low
Jogging/Running	Low
Softball and Baseball	Low
Camping, Primitive	Low
Tennis	Low
Nature Study	Low
Water Skiing	Low
Volleyball	Low
Soccer	Low
Football	Low
Skateboarding	Low

Source: North Carolina State Outdoor Recreation Survey 2005

Future Public Funding

Public priorities for funding future outdoor recreational facilities and programs were formulated by the North Carolina State Outdoor Recreation Survey in much the same way as future demand. Respondents were asked to review the same list of activities and identify up to 10 that the state and local government should do the most to provide and improve. The support for public funding of each activity was rated as high, moderate, or low based on the average score it received. High, moderate and low were assigned using the same method as with the demand calculations. Ten activities were rated as having high support for public funding: walking for pleasure, tent and vehicle camping, picnicking, visiting historical sites, freshwater fishing, visiting natural areas, beach activities, visiting zoos, using play equipment, and attending outdoor cultural events.

The following table illustrates potential priorities for North Carolina State funding:

Table 6-12 – Future Funding Priorities for Recreation Activities

Activity	Future Demand
Walking for Pleasure	High
Camping, Tent or Vehicle	High
Picnicking	High
Visiting Historical Sites	High
Freshwater Fishing	High
Visiting Natural Areas	High
Beach Activities	High
Visiting Zoos	High
Using Play Equipment	High
Attend Outdoor Cultural Events	High
Bicycling	Moderate
Swimming (Lakes, Rivers, Oceans)	Moderate
Swimming in Pools	Moderate
Hunting	Moderate
Trail Hiking	Moderate
Use of Open Areas	Moderate
Viewing Scenery	Moderate
Saltwater Fishing	Moderate
Primitive Camping	Moderate
Driving for Pleasure	Low
Golf	Low
Attending Sporting Events	Low
Horseback Riding	Low
Softball and Baseball	Low
Jogging or Running	Low
Power Boating	Low
Basketball	Low
Tennis	Low
Canoeing and Kayaking	Low
Soccer	Low
Water Skiing	Low
Volleyball	Low
Sailboating	Low
Football	Low
Skateboarding	Low

Source: North Carolina State Outdoor Recreation Survey

6.5 Local Trends – Holly Springs

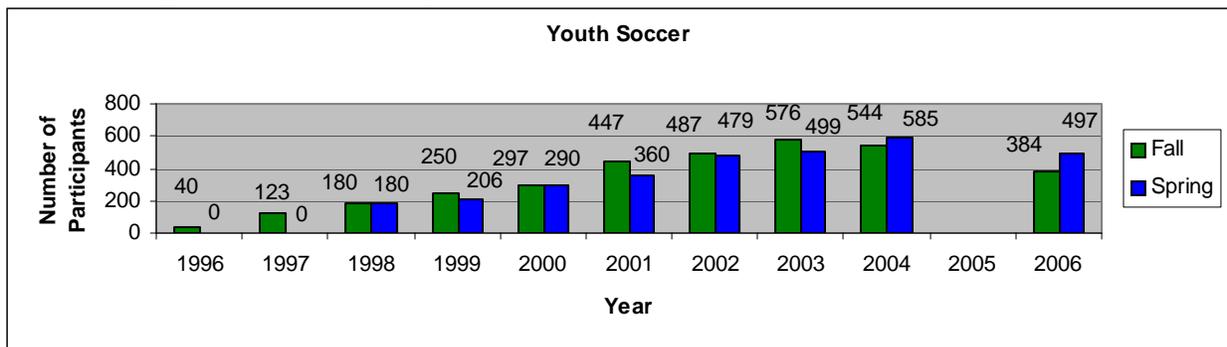
While examining national, State and regional trends is vital, it is just as vital to examine existing local trends and the opinions of local residents. During the course of this project, a thorough inventory of the 2005 Town recreation programs was completed and participation rates noted. In addition, several focus groups were held with Town recreation staff, area youth, adults and senior citizens with an interest in recreation. Further, public meetings were held to gather input and information. Based on this input, a clear portrait of local trends in recreation began to emerge.

Local trends with the potential to impact parks and recreation facilities include:

- The Town of Holly Springs’s population is expanding rapidly and this growth pattern is expected to continue for the next 20 years
- Demographics of the Town’s population, (large proportion of young families with school aged kids, culturally diverse population, senior citizens)
- There is no indoor swimming facility locally available for year-round public use
- The Town’s growth as mainly residential in composition and its desire to stimulate and attract economic development, broaden tax base, and create a self sustaining community where its residents can “live, work, and play”
- The increasing percentage of named, self-contained housing developments is fracturing the Town’s sense of community, cohesiveness and connectivity
- The high rate of development has the potential to erase historical, ecological, and cultural resources of the Town
- The only community center, Hunt Community Center (a former school building), was not intended for its current use and does not sufficiently meet the current recreation demands or community needs
- Sports are expanding through seasons so that traditional fall sports, such as soccer, are now played during the spring and summer in addition to fall, increasing competition for multi-use fields
- Strong support of the parks & recreation system from the public & Town Council Staff
- Participation rates for the majority of the sports programs have been increasing

6.5.1 Inventory of Town Sports Programs and Participation

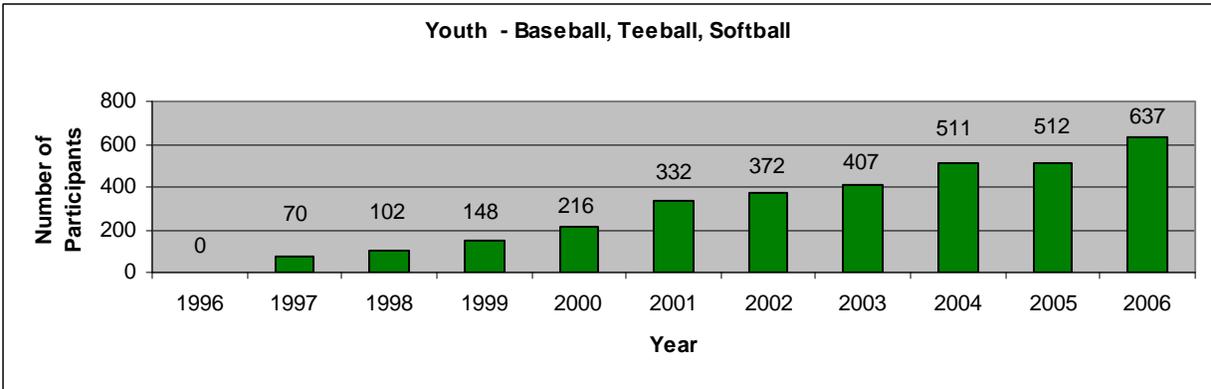
Based on current participation rates, the youth of Holly Springs have made Soccer the most popular Town-sponsored sport. Recently, on average nearly 500 children between the ages of 4 and 12 participate in both Spring and Fall Town-sponsored soccer. Focus groups and other data collected indicate that demand for soccer is strong in Holly Springs and continues to grow as population rises.



Source: Town of Holly Springs

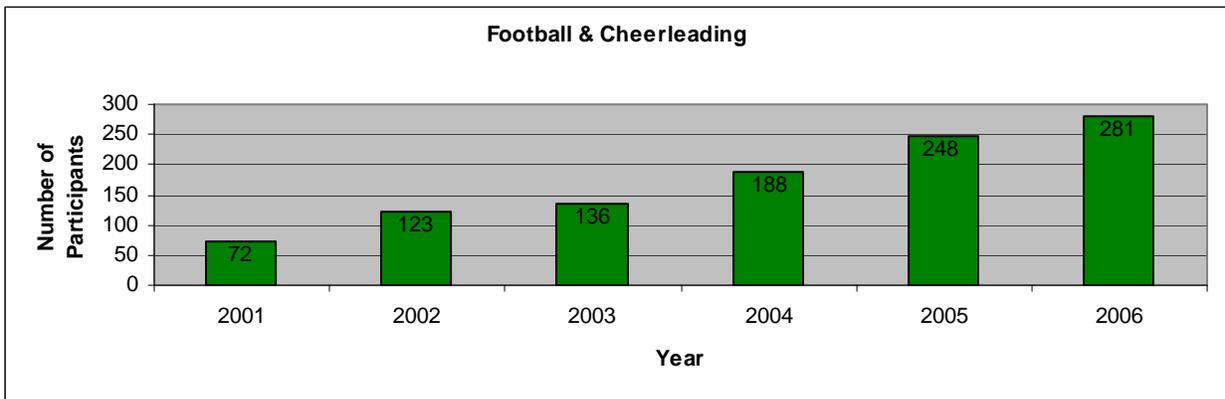
Beyond the Green

Youth Baseball and Softball are the second most popular sports with approximately 500 participants during the Spring and Fall 2005 season. Demand for baseball is reportedly strong and continues to grow with population.

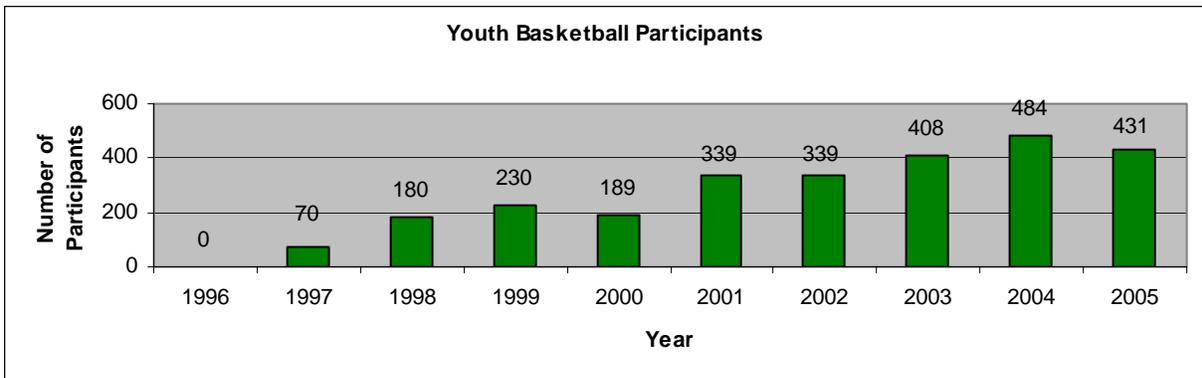


Source: Town of Holly Springs

Youth Football, Basketball and Cheerleading programs are also sponsored by the Town and report strong participation rates and demand. Town officials indicate that demand for all of these activities is strong and should continue as Town population grows.



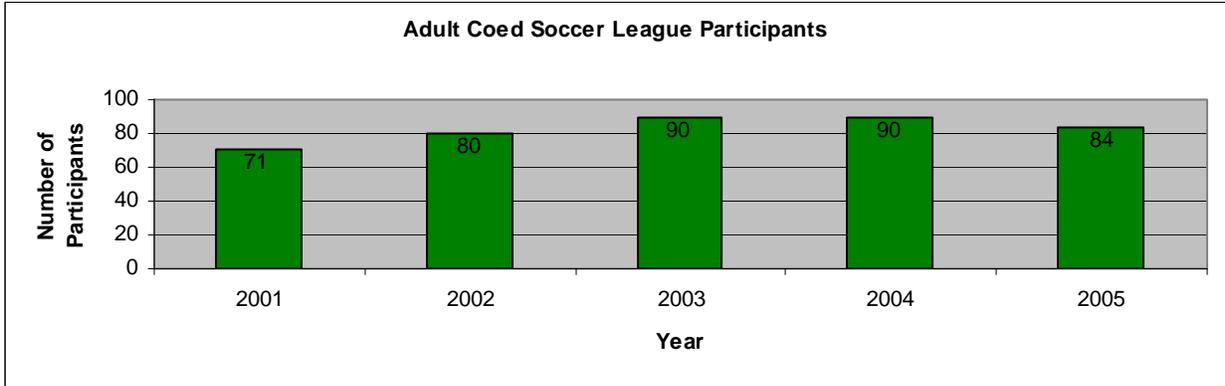
Source: Town of Holly Springs



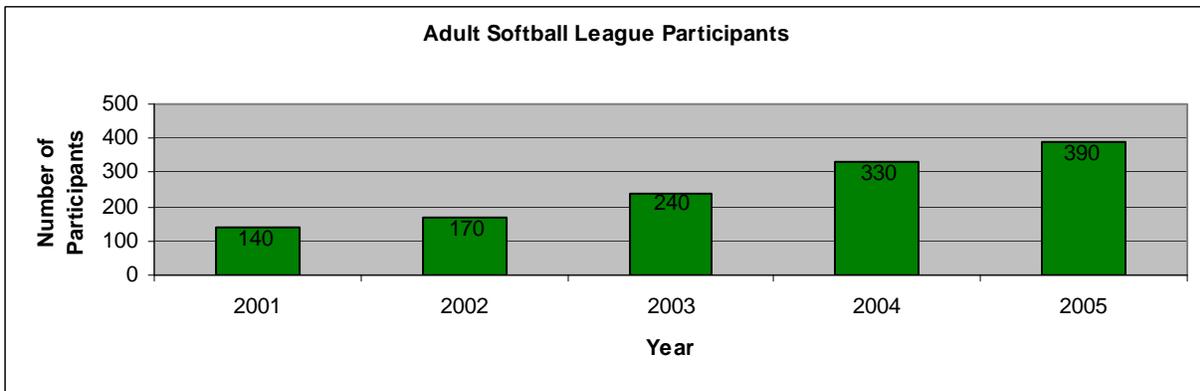
Source: Town of Holly Springs

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For the 18 years & over population, the Town offers Coed Soccer and a Soccer Intro-program, Softball, Summer Basketball, and Sand Volleyball. Participation rates have been stable for coed soccer and increasing for softball. No apparent trends for the other sports are apparent.



Source: Town of Holly Springs



Source: Town of Holly Springs

The following chart illustrates the Town's most current sports offerings, the 2005 participation rates (unless noted otherwise) associated with each, and its corresponding proportion of the population:

Table 6-10 – Town Sponsored Athletics Participation 2005

Athletics	Season	Ages	Participation 2005 (unless noted)	Estimated Portion of 2005 Population by Ages (unless noted)*	Estimated Portion of 2005 Total Population (unless noted)*
Baseball					
Youth Baseball - T-Ball	Sp, S	5 to 6	169	27.5%	1.1%
Youth Baseball - Machine Pitch	Sp, S	7 to 8	168	28.9%	1.1%
Youth Baseball	Sp, S	9 to 10	131	21.8%	0.8%

Beyond the Green

Athletics	Season	Ages	Participation 2005 (unless noted)	Estimated Portion of 2005 Population by Ages (unless noted)*	Estimated Portion of 2005 Total Population (unless noted)*
Youth Baseball	Sp, S	11 to 12	73	15.5%	0.5%
Youth Baseball	Sp, S	13 to 14	27	6.0%	0.2%
Select Baseball	Sp, S	9 to 14 boys	66	4.3%	0.4%
Youth Fall Baseball	F	6 to 7	50	8.5%	0.3%
Youth Fall Baseball - Machine Pitch	F	8 to 13	32	2.0%	0.2%
Basketball					
Youth Basketball	W		431	8.7%	0.2%
Coed Adult Summer Basketball	S	18 & up	59	0.6%	0.4%
Cheerleading					
Cheerleading	F	6 to 12	80	4.1%	0.5%
Football					
Intro to Football	F	5 to 7	42	4.6%	0.3%
Youth Football	F	6 to 12	159	8.2%	1.0%
Soccer					
Intro to Soccer - spring	Sp	4 (boys & girls)	120	33.7%	0.8%
Spring Soccer	W, Sp	5 to 14 (boys & girls)	497	18.3%	3.2%
Adult Spring Soccer (year 2002)	Sp, S	Adult	90	1.1%	0.6%
Intro to Soccer - Fall	F	4	91	25.6%	0.6%
Youth Fall Soccer	F	5 to 11	384	18.6%	2.5%
Softball					
Youth Softball - Machine Pitch	Sp, S	6 to 8	24	2.8%	0.2%
Youth Softball - Fast Pitch	Sp, S	9 to 10	45	7.5%	0.3%
Youth Softball - Fast Pitch	Sp, S	13 to 17	0	0%	0%
Adult Fall Softball (year 2002)	S, F	18 & up	240	3.0%	1.5%
Track & Field					
Youth Track & Field	Sp, S	9 to 14	31	2.0%	0.2%
Volleyball					
Adult Sand Volleyball	Sp, S	Adult	0	0%	0%

*Estimation based on proportioning 2005 (2002) population same amount as 2000 census data

Source: design based planning, inc. & Town of Holly Springs

According to the Town sponsored athletics participation for 2005, Soccer and Youth Baseball are the sports with the largest children's participation as a percentage of the population by age. For adults, the sport with the largest participation was Softball. This information corresponds to the desire expressed by public input and the results of the Needs Analysis (found later in this section) that the facilities in most demand are Soccer Pitches, Baseball Fields, and Softball Fields.

6.5.2 Focus Group Trend Notes

Focus groups held with Town staff, area youth, seniors and adults also indicate some local trends of note. Some of the comments made during these input sessions include:

- Significant demand for a public swimming pool/aquatic center and/or water park
- Demand for a trail system to accommodate all users, especially seniors
- Demand for more space to accommodate senior programming
- A lack of space for general community programs
- Demand for a rental facility that would accommodate Town activities
- Demand for a renovated and/or new Community Center that can better accommodate local residents
- Demand for additional Community Centers within closer proximity to neighborhoods
- More offerings to provide youth, especially 12 years and older, with healthy and safe recreation alternatives
- More offerings for girls athletic programs
- More offerings for adult sports leagues
- Demand for a connective system of passive and active recreation facilities throughout the Holly Springs community
- Significant demand for soccer pitches, especially larger or “regulation” soccer pitches to better accommodate older players
- Demand for a dog park
- Demand for additional playgrounds and picnic shelters
- Demand for a hockey arena
- Overuse of existing facilities to their detriment
- Preserve open space
- Create more parks



Picnic Shelter at Parrish Womble Park

6.5.3 Community Survey Responses

A random community survey was distributed to 601 residents within the study area in August/September of 2006. The survey was answered by approximately 20% of recipients, which enabled the compilation of a scientifically accurate analysis (a 15% return is required for a scientific analysis).

Survey Responses - Recreation Participation

The majority of people responding to the survey (60%) felt they, and other members of their household, are able to participate in physically active recreational activities as often as they would like. The remaining respondents that felt otherwise circled reasons that prevented them from participating in active recreational activities more often – the top three being:

1. Lack of personal time (50%)
2. Lack of information / unaware of opportunities (40.9%)
3. Lack of facilities (28.8%)

This suggests there is a need to better inform Town residents of the programs and facilities that are available for their use.

Survey Responses - Activity Participation

Respondents were questioned as to which recreational activities they regularly participated in, whether they completed this activity within the Town of Holly Springs, and whether they were satisfied with the local program and/or facility.

The most popular activities reported by local residents were Walking (65), Recreational Swimming (56), Weights/Fitness (43), Fishing (42), Boating (34), Running/Jogging (33) and Using Play Equipment (31).



*Boat Launch on Harris Lake off of Bartley Holleman Road
(Holleman, North Carolina Resources Commission, and CP&L)*

Note: Since many respondents answered only part of the total question, it was difficult to calculate meaningful trends with regard to resident satisfaction with local programs or facilities. With this in mind, the following inferences are drawn.

Out of the most popular activities, many respondents did not participate in these activities in the Town of Holly Springs. The three lowest were Boating (26.5%), Recreational Swimming (26.8%), and Weights/Fitness (34.9%). This suggests the Town of Holly Springs could improve upon providing or improving facilities for these recreational activities.

Those activities with the largest number participating – Walking and Recreational Swimming – were granted a less than 50% satisfaction rate with local offerings. This suggests a need for providing more venues for walking.

The highest reported satisfaction rating with local programs that also had a high percentage participating within the Town of Holly Springs were with Softball, Dancing, and Baseball. This suggests the Town of Holly Springs is doing well to address the current need for these programs.

The highest reported satisfaction rating with local facilities that also had a high percentage participating within the Town of Holly Springs were with Softball, the availability of Play Equipment, and Baseball. This suggests the Town of Holly Springs is doing well to address the current need for these facilities.

The table on the following page indicates a tabulation of all responses gathered in the survey:

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Table 6-11 - Survey: Activity Participation

Sport	Number Reported Participating	Portion of Survey Responses	Participate in Holly Springs	From Those Reported Participating, Satisfied with Local Program	From Those Reported Participating, Satisfied with Local Facility
Recreational Swimming	56	48.3%	26.8%	12.5%	19.6%
Instructional Swimming	12	10.3%	25.0%	33.3%	41.7%
Diving	2	1.7%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Fishing	42	36.2%	61.9%	42.9%	54.8%
Boating	34	29.3%	26.5%	26.5%	32.4%
Softball	11	9.5%	72.7%	63.6%	81.8%
Baseball	16	13.8%	68.8%	56.3%	62.5%
Soccer	25	21.6%	76.0%	52.0%	60.0%
Football	4	3.4%	75.0%	25.0%	50.0%
Basketball	16	13.8%	43.8%	37.5%	37.5%
Lacross	3	2.6%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%
Volleyball	6	5.2%	0.0%	33.3%	16.7%
Tennis	16	13.8%	25.0%	12.5%	12.5%
Badminton	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Racketball	3	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Golf	28	24.1%	42.9%	32.1%	28.6%
Run/Jogging	33	28.4%	45.5%	36.4%	30.3%
Ice Hockey	1	0.9%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Weights/Fitness	43	37.1%	34.9%	27.9%	23.3%
Gymnastics	9	7.8%	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%
Martial Arts	5	4.3%	80.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Biking	32	27.6%	78.1%	25.0%	21.9%
Skate/Rollerblading	8	6.9%	37.5%	12.5%	0.0%
Walking	65	56.0%	70.8%	36.9%	41.5%
Nature	24	20.7%	66.7%	37.5%	50.0%
Play Equipment	31	26.7%	87.1%	48.4%	67.7%
Horseback	8	6.9%	12.5%	12.5%	25.0%
Camping	11	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dancing	20	17.2%	65.0%	60.0%	55.0%
Archery	2	1.7%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Shooting	4	3.4%	25.0%	50.0%	50.0%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Survey – Parks and Recreation Facilities

Residents were asked a variety of questions pertaining to their level of satisfaction with various Town-owned parks and facilities. The results are illustrated below:

Table 6-12 – Survey: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
There are sufficient parks and open space areas in my neighborhood	15.8%	38.6%	7%	22.8%	15.8%
Town Parks are well maintained	18.3%	64.3%	9.6%	7%	.9%
Town facilities are well maintained	17.9%	59.8%	17%	5.4%	0%
The Town should expand upon it's network of bicycle and pedestrian trails	55.3%	26.3%	10.5%	5.3%	2.6%
I am concerned about how population growth will impact my ability to access Town parks and recreation facilities	29.2%	37.2%	13.3%	17.7%	2.7%
The Town should build a public swimming pool	34.5%	14.2%	20.4%	15%	15.9%
My neighborhood is in need of a new Community Center	22.1%	19.5%	22.1%	24.8%	11.5%
The Hunt Community Center is in need of renovation	38.7%	22.5%	28.8%	3.6%	6.3%
The Hunt Community Center should be replaced	32.7%	7.3%	39.1%	13.6%	7.3%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Residents felt most strongly that Town parks and facilities are very well maintained (less than 8% disagreed).

Residents believed that the Town should expand upon its existing network of bicycle and pedestrian trails (81%).

Residents expressed concern about how population growth will impact their ability to access Town facilities (66%).

Of those residents that expressed an opinion, 61% were in favor of building a public swimming pool.

There was a solid response suggesting the Hunt Center is not meeting current needs and should be replaced. Of those residents that expressed an opinion, 53% were in favor of building a new Community Center, 86% think the Hunt Community Center is in need of renovation, and 66% believe the Hunt Community Center should be replaced with a new Community Center.



Noncontiguous Sidewalks

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Survey – Quality of Programs/Facilities by Age

In an attempt to further clarify resident’s opinions about the quality of programs and facilities, the survey posed the question separated by age category. The quality of both children’s facilities and programs were ranked the highest, followed by adult facilities/programs, teen facilities/programs, and senior facilities/programs.

The following tables provide a clear illustration of community responses:

Table 6-13 – Survey: Quality of Facilities

Facility	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Children’s Facilities	14.9%	27.7%	13.9%	7.9%	35.6%
Teen Facilities	6.2%	10.3%	14.4%	20.6%	48.5%
Adult Facilities	3.9%	24.5%	18.6%	21.6%	31.4%
Senior Facilities	3%	15%	7%	9%	63%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 6-14 – Quality of Programs

Program	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Children’s Programs	16%	32%	12%	3%	37%
Teen Programs	7.3%	15.6%	13.5%	12.5%	51%
Adult Programs	5.9%	28.7%	18.8%	13.9%	32.7%
Senior Programs	6%	15%	7%	9%	63%

Source: design based planning, inc.

6.5.4 Distribution of Recreational Land / Facilities and Open Space

North Carolina is made up of three geographic areas: the mountains in the west, the piedmont in the center, and the coastal plain in the east. The distribution of recreational lands and open space across North Carolina tends to be greatest in the mountains and coastal regions of the state. The mountains region has portions of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park (America’s most popular national park) and the Blue Ridge Parkway (America’s most popular scenic parkway). The coastal plain region has the Atlantic shoreline and the North Carolina Outer Banks. This accounts for the higher Dispersed Use acreage per 1000 residents.

The piedmont region contains the densest population of the state. Five of the six densest counties with regard to population are contained in this region. Wake County, located on the eastern edge of North Carolina’s Piedmont region, is among those five counties. Wake County also has one of the state’s greatest amounts of municipal managed conservation lands. The Town of Holly Springs, in contrast is listed as not having any areas for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.

Park Land Dedication Standard

The Trust for Public Land and the Center for City Park Excellence maintains a database of park facts for various sized cities across the nation. Their *City Park Facts* study is a useful tool to compare the Town of Holly Springs with other low population density level municipalities; such as Virginia Beach, Kansas City, MO, Oklahoma City, and Charlotte / Mecklenburg. The study found that these municipalities had an average of 7.1% park acres to land area. The Town of Holly Springs has about half this at 3.3% park acres to study land area (excluding Harris Lake and Progress Energy lands). Considering total park land per 1,000 residents, the average for all cities is 18.2 acres. Holly Springs is comparable, at its current population, with 16.4 acres.

Another study, *Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards* for the state of Colorado, relates more closely to the needs of Holly Springs as it attempts to keep a “small town atmosphere”. It considered small communities to be roughly 10,000 in population. It recognized “small communities require analysis and standards fundamentally different than those typically used for urbanized and metropolitan areas”. It came to the conclusion of 14 acres per 1,000 residents as a general park land and planning standard for small communities (below). This value relates well to the old NPRA standards. The standard of 14 ac/1,000 will be utilized as a baseline for the Town.

Table 6-15 - National Parks and Recreation Standards for Communities

Park Type	Recommended Acreage per 1,000 Residents
Neighborhood Park (Including playfields and playgrounds)	2.0
Community Park (Mix of passive & active use parks and sports complexes)	8
Special Use Parks (Golf courses, museums, trails, interpretive sites)	4.5
Total	14.5

Source: National Parks and Recreation Association

In comparing low-density municipalities, the Town of Holly Springs lags behind in terms of park / open space as a portion of municipality area, is about average in terms of park-related expenditure per resident, and far surpasses others in regarding park/open space acreage per 1,000 residents. Yet, if there is no additional acquisition of park/open space acreage, the Town will far way behind regarding park/open space acreage per 1,000 residents given the estimated population by 2025.



View of Harris Lake

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Table 6-16 - Parks Comparison: Low Density Municipalities

Municipality	2004 Population	Area of Municipality in acres*	Total Park/Open Space in Acres	Park/Open Space as Portion of Municipality Area	Total Park-Related Expenditure (2004)	Park-Related Expenditure per Resident	Park/Open Space Acreage per 1,000 Residents (2005)	Density: Persons per Square Mile
Kansis City, MO	444,387	200,664	17,188	8.6%	\$54,605,149	\$123	38.7	1,418
Virginia Beach	440,098	158,903	15,040	9.5%	\$59,858,150	\$136	34.2	1,772
Oklahoma City	528,042	388,463	14,684	3.8%	\$24,958,150	\$47	27.8	870
Charlotte / Mecklenburg	771,617	337,280	17,042	5.1%	\$771,617	\$44	22.1	1,464
Town of Holly Springs	13,895	23,941	787.2	3.3%	1,359,771	\$98	50.2	487
Town of Holly Springs (2025 Est.)	44,181	23,941	787.2	3.3%			17.8	1,181

* Study area, less Harris Lake and Progress Energy Lands, used for the Town of Holly Springs

Source: City Park Facts, The Town of Holly Springs, design based planning, inc.

In examining the communities surrounding the Town of Holly Springs, Wake County, and state, comparisons can be made with regard to population and parks / recreational facilities. From these comparisons, an understanding of the level of service the Town of Holly Springs provides to its residents may be had.

Wake County Distribution

Wake County's population was ranked 2nd in the state out of North Carolina's 100 counties. The amount of park acres the County offers its residents relates closely to this ranking, however, in all other facility offerings, Wake County does not keep pace (refer to the table that follows). The rankings suggest those facilities that are most needed are Baseball / Softball (multi-use) fields, Basketball Courts, Football Fields, and Swimming Pools, as they have the largest difference from the 2nd state ranking.

Table 6-17 - Wake County Population / Parks / Facilities (2000)

Population / Parks / Facilities	Wake County	
	Total Number	State Rank
Population (2000)	223,925	2
Local Park Acres	8209	4
Baseball Fields	104	24
Softball Fields	61	28
Baseball / Softball (multi-use)	15	93
Basketball Courts	67	50
Picnic Shelters	123	27
Playgrounds	138	18
Football Fields	7	50
Soccer Fields	71	31
Football / Soccer Fields (multi-use)	34	22
Swimming Pools	10	48
Tennis Courts	171	34
Trails Miles (all types)	167.1	35
Volleyball Courts	36	18

Source: North Carolina State Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003 - 2008

Local Distribution

The North Carolina SCORP provides statistics regarding county and state residents per unit (type of park acreage or outdoor recreational facility). When compared with the 2006 inventory and population for the Town, the numbers suggest the following (refer to the table that follows):

- The Town could secure some of its environmentally significant lands for protection and management, developing appropriate recreational activities on these lands to satisfy its recreational needs
- For the present population, the Town has a sufficient park acreage to meet its recreational needs (however, all of the listed acres are not currently developed for public use)
- For the present population, the Town has a higher number of residents per unit than the County and State for many of the facilities analyzed
- When facilities on school grounds are removed from the table (all 6 Basketball Courts, four (4) of the five (5) Playgrounds, three (3) Soccer Fields, six (6) Tennis Courts), the Town compares poorly with the County and State (this is a consideration due to the conflicts that may occur between the Wake County School District and the Town wanting to use the sports facilities at the same time)

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Table 6-18 - Comparison of Town Park Facilities with County and State
Holly Springs, Wake County and North Carolina

Unit (Type of Park Acreage or Outdoor Recreational Facility)	Town Facilities (including school grounds)	Town Residents per Unit in 2006	Town Residents per Unit in 2025 (forecast)	County Facilities (2000)	County Residents per Unit in 2000	State Median (2000)
Dispersed Use Acres*	0	0	0	0	0	25
State / Regional Park Acres**	786.5	23	56	10,034	63	2,886
Local Park Acres***	298	61	148	8,209	77	262
Baseball Fields	1	18,214	14,727	104	6,089	9,752
Softball Fields	1	18,214	44,181	61	10,382	15,234
Baseball / Softball Fields (multi-use)	7	3,036	11,045	15	42,219	8,604
Basketball Courts	6	3,036	14,727	67	9,452	9,385
Picnic Shelters	2	9,107	22,091	123	5,149	7,828
Playgrounds	5	3,643	22,091	138	4,589	7,828
Football Fields	0	0	0	7	90,470	90,065
Soccer Fields	3	6,071	0	71	8,920	14,113
Football / Soccer Fields (multi-use)	6	3,643	8,836	34	18,626	227,435
Swimming Pools	-	-	-	10	63,329	68,024
Tennis Courts	6	3,036	7,364	171	3,703	4,483
Trails Miles (all types)	3.45	5,279	12,806	167.1	3,790	7,098
Volleyball Courts	2	9,107	22,091	36	17,591	55,858
*The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2003 – 2008 defines a Dispersed Use as an area for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.						
** The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2003 – 2008 defines a State / Regional Park as an area of natural quality for natural resource-based outdoor recreation typically 3,000 to 5,000 acres in size (Harris Lake County Park is included in Town Park Facilities calculations).						
*** The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2003 – 2008 defines a local park as a neighborhood, community or district/metro area park.						

Source: North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003 – 2008, State Parks – Division of Parks and Recreation; the Town of Holly Springs; US Census Bureau; and design based planning, inc.

In relation to surrounding and regional communities, The Town of Holly Springs is, in general, above average as to its park acreage and employees with regard to residents. However, given the expected surge in the Town's population to almost 50,000 by 2025, the Town will need to increase its park lands and park & recreation department staff to maintain a high quality of recreational activities for its residents.

Table 6-19 - Community Population / Parks / Employee Comparison

	Community					
	Holly Springs	Cary	Fuquay-Varina	Apex	Chapel Hill	Raleigh
Population (year)	18,214 (2006)	103,260 (2002)	12,200 (2005)	31,000 (2006)	48,715 (2000)	273,203 (2000)
Developed Park Land (acres)	194	734	124	213	199	4,160
Developed Park per 1000 Residents	10.7	7.1	10.2	6.9	4.1	15.2
Undeveloped Park Land (acres)	104	386	0	200	143	3,369
Undeveloped Park per 1000 Residents	5.7	3.7	0.0	6.5	2.9	12.3

Beyond the Green

	Community					
	Holly Springs	Cary	Fuquay-Varina	Apex	Chapel Hill	Raleigh
Total Acreage	298	1,120	124	413	342	7,529
Total Park Acreage per 1000 Residents	16.4	10.8	10.2	13.3	7.0	27.6
Number of Full Time Parks & Recreation Employees	18	39	12	11	18	341
Employees per Dev. Park Acre	9.3%	5.3%	9.7%	5.2%	9.0%	8.2%
Employees per Undev. Park Acre	17.3%	10.1%	N/A	5.5%	12.6%	10.1%
Employees per Total Park Acre	6.0%	3.5%	9.7%	2.7%	5.3%	4.5%

Source: design based planning, inc., Towns of Holly Springs, Cary, Apex, and Fuquay-Varina, and www.city-data.com

The town of Holly Springs compares well with the towns of Cary, Apex, and Fuquay-Varina, except in the supply of basketball courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and tennis courts. However, it should be noted that the 298 local park acres for the Town includes the water area of Bass Lake (approximately 60 acres) and over 100 acres of yet to be developed park land. When this acreage is removed, the value falls to 7.4 acres per 1000 residents; about half the general park land dedication standard for a community like Holly Springs. With its expected large growth in population, the Town needs to act now acquiring additional park lands and begin developing more recreational facilities in order to not fall further behind.

Table 6-20 - Community Population / Parks / Facilities Comparison

Population / Parks / Facilities*	Community							
	Holly Springs		Cary		Apex		Fuquay-Varina	
	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.	Total Number	Number per 1000 Res.
Population	18,214 (2006)		103,260 (2002)		31,000 (2006)		12,200 (2005)	
Local Park Acres	298	16.4	1120	10.8	413	13.3	124	10.2
Baseball / Softball (multi-use)	5	0.3	21	0.2	5	0.2	5	0.4
Basketball Courts			22	0.2	7	0.2		
Picnic Shelters	1	0.1	13	0.1	9	0.3	4	0.3
Playgrounds	1	0.1	17	0.2	6	0.2	5	0.4
Soccer Fields			11	0.1	3	0.1	7	0.6
Football / Soccer Fields (multi-use)	1	0.1	4	0.0	1	0.0		
Tennis Courts			25	0.2	8	0.3	6	0.5
Volleyball Courts	2	0.1	10	0.1	3	0.1	1	0.1
Gymnasium	1	0.1	3	0.03	2	0.1	1	0.1
Community Center	2	0.1	5	0.05	2	0.1	1	0.1

* School Facilities are not included in the table information

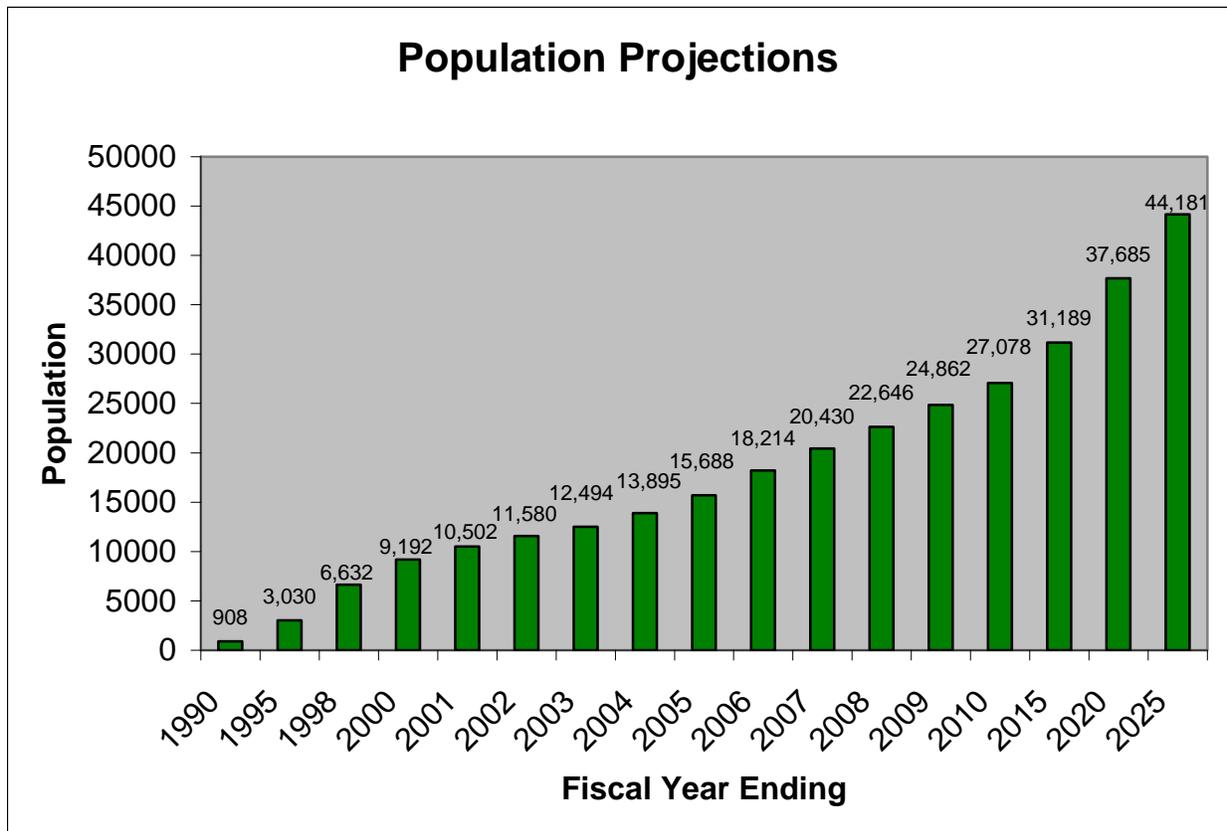
Source: design based planning, inc., Towns of Holly Springs, Cary, Apex, and Fuquay-Varina

6.6 Demographic Trends

An analysis of the demographic characteristics of residents when combined with knowledge of typical activity patterns of people of various age groups and incomes can provide valuable insight into the recreation and parks system ability to meet the current and future needs of its constituents. This section examines several socio-economic variables that are believed to influence leisure participation.

6.6.1 Population

The Town of Holly Springs has experienced tremendous growth over the past decade. This population explosion has not been limited to this community but represents a trend that is occurring across the County and the State as a whole. Holly Springs is listed as the 19th fastest growing community in the State.



Source: Town of Holly Springs

Between 1990 and 2000, the Town of Holly Springs experienced rapid growth. Holly Springs grew from a community of less than a thousand residents to one of over nine thousand residents. During that period, the Town grew by almost 900% the County grew by 48% and the State by 21%. While Holly Spring had the largest percentage increase in population between 1990 and 2000 it did not have the largest numerical increase in population (8,255 residents). Among the various towns that were examined, the Town of Apex had the largest numerical increase in population between 1990 and 2000 (15,104 residents).

Table 6-21 - Population Change 1990-2000

Town of Holly Springs and Comparison Communities

Community	2000	1990	Change 1990-2000
Town of Holly Springs	9,175	920	897.3%
Town of Apex	20,072	4,968	304.0%
Town of Fuquay-Varina	7,884	4,562	72.8%
Town of Wake Forest	12,550	5,769	117.5%
City of Raleigh	276,579	207,951	33.0%
Wake County	627,846	423,380	48.3%
North Carolina	8,049,313	6,628,637	21.4%

Source: US Bureau of Census and design based planning, inc.

Between 2000 and 2005, the population of Holly Springs grew by approximately 71% to reach an estimated 15,688 residents. The Town of Holly Springs had a 2006 population of 18,214. For 2006, the County has a projected population of 774,326. As indicated in the table below, continued population growth is expected for the Town of Holly Springs, the County and the State. By 2025, Holly Spring is projected to have a population of 44,181. Between 2005 and 2025 the Town of Holly Springs is projected to grow by about 182%, the County by 65% and the State by 31%.

Table 6-22 - Population Estimates and Projections

Town of Holly Springs and North Carolina

Area	2000	2005 Estimates	2025 Forecast	Change 2005-2025
Town of Holly Springs	9,175	15,688	44,181	181.6%
Wake County	627,846	748,815	1,236,514	65.1%
North Carolina	8,049,313	8,683,242	11,372,933	30.9%

Source: US Bureau of Census, Town of Holly Springs, North Carolina State Demographics Unit, and design based planning, inc

6.6.2 Race and Age

Between 1990 and 2000 there were significant changes in the composition of the Town of Holly Springs as well as its size. In 1990, the Town was 88% black and 22% white. In 2000, the Town of Holly Springs was primarily white (76%, not including individual of Hispanic origin) and other racial groups were present. Among comparison areas the City of Raleigh had the most racial/ethnic diversity and the Town of Apex had the least diverse population, in 2000.

In 2000, among comparison areas, the Town of Holly Springs had the highest percentage of residents under 18 years and the lowest percentage of residents 65 years or older. The median age of residents in Holly Springs was 30.7 compared to 35.3 within the State as a whole. Holly Springs' higher percentage of residents under the age of 18 indicates that it may have greater demands for public education services than comparison areas.

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The Town of Holly Springs had a better-educated population in 2000 than in 1990. In 1990, eight percent of the Town's residents, 25 years or older, had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000, that figure had increased to 51%. Among comparison areas, only the Town of Apex (59%) had a higher percentage with a bachelor's degree or higher than the Town of Holly Springs, in 2000.

The table on the following page illustrates these race and age characteristics:

Table 6-23 - Population Characteristics – 2000

Population Characteristic	Town of Holly Springs	Town of Apex	Town of Fuquay-Varina	Town of Wake Forest	City of Raleigh	Wake County	North Carolina
Male	49.9%	49.0%	46.8%	47.3%	49.4%	49.5%	49.0%
Female	50.1%	51.0%	53.2%	52.7%	50.6%	50.5%	51.0%
White*	75.6%	84.5%	67.7%	78.2%	60.3%	69.9%	70.2%
Black*	17.4%	7.8%	22.3%	15.6%	27.2%	19.4%	21.4%
Hispanic or Latin	3.8%	2.2%	7.9%	2.5%	7.1%	5.4%	4.6%
Native American*	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	1.2%
Asian*	1.3%	3.8%	0.7%	1.9%	3.2%	3.3%	1.4%
Other*	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%	1.9%	1.6%	1.2%
Under 18 years	31.7%	30.6%	27.5%	29.1%	20.8%	25.0%	24.4%
18 to 34 years	30.0%	28.2%	27.3%	27.4%	36.6%	28.7%	25.0%
35 to 49 years	26.0%	28.5%	21.6%	25.3%	22.6%	26.1%	23.4%
50 to 64 years	9.7%	8.5%	10.2%	9.9%	11.7%	12.9%	15.3%
65 years and over	2.5%	4.2%	13.3%	8.2%	8.3%	7.3%	12.0%
Median Age	30.7	31.2	32.6	31.5	30.9	32.9	35.3
Associate degree	9.5%	8.3%	7.6%	8.7%	6.9%	7.6%	6.8%
Bachelor's degree	38.5%	41.8%	19.7%	32.3%	30.4%	29.6%	15.3%
Post Graduate Degree	12.2%	17.0%	7.4%	10.7%	14.4%	14.3%	7.2%

Source: 2000 US Census

6.6.3 Income

Two income measures, per capita income and median household income, are used to assess wealth within the community. Per capita income better reflects the total wealth within the community, while median household income better describes the distribution of income within the community. Per capita income is the total personal income in the community, divided by the number of people in the community. Median household income is the income level at which the number of households with higher incomes is equal to that of those with lower incomes.

In 2000, Holly Springs had a per capita income of \$28,580 and a median household income of \$69,550. Holly Springs had a significantly higher per capita and median

household income than the State as a whole (\$20,307 and \$39,184 respectively). Among comparison communities only the Town of Apex had a higher per capita (\$28,727) and median household (\$71,052) income than Holly Springs. Holly Springs had a higher percentage of residents with incomes of \$150,000 or greater than all comparison communities.

Table 6-24 – Income Characteristics – 1999

Income	Town of Holly Springs	Town of Apex	Town of Fuquay-Varina	Town of Wake Forest	City of Raleigh	Wake County	North Carolina
Less than \$25,000	9.6%	8.5%	27.2%	20.8%	23.1%	18.3%	30.7%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	19.4%	21.9%	31.6%	25.8%	30.1%	26.6%	31.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	27.9%	23.2%	22.0%	24.5%	20.4%	21.5%	19.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	17.7%	20.4%	11.8%	15.6%	11.8%	14.0%	8.9%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	10.7%	12.3%	4.0%	6.9%	6.5%	8.4%	4.1%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	5.8%	7.3%	1.8%	2.6%	3.1%	4.5%	1.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5.3%	4.3%	0.7%	2.2%	2.7%	3.7%	1.6%
\$200,000 or more	3.7%	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%	2.3%	3.0%	1.8%
Median household income (1999)	\$69,550	\$71,052	\$42,903	\$52,307	\$46,612	\$54,988	\$39,184
Per capita income (1999)	\$28,580	\$28,727	\$20,268	\$22,746	\$25,113	\$27,004	\$20,307
Percent below poverty level	4.8%	1.9%	11.1%	8.8%	11.5%	7.8%	12.3%

Source: US Bureau of the Census

6.7 Need Analysis

The following section presents future needs for parks facilities in the Town of Holly Springs. The analysis is based in part upon national, regional, statewide, and local trends. The analysis also considers local demographic trends, and North Carolina State funding priorities based on the North Carolina SCORP. To balance the needs analysis, National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards were also considered as a baseline. These standards apply generally to the United States as a whole and do not take into account regional differences in culture or climate, nor do they reflect the changing demographics and recreation priorities that in specific regions or areas. By combining NRPA standards with trend and demographic analysis, a clear understanding of potential surplus and deficit areas in parks, open space and facilities has been determined.

The following chart applies to the Town of Holly Springs as it plans for the future provision of parks, recreation and open space:

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Table 6-25 – Holly Springs 20 Year Recreation Needs

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Holly Springs Provision in 2006	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Holly Springs Standard	Holly Springs Need in 2006	Holly Springs Need in 2026	Deficit/ Surplus in 2006	Deficit/ Surplus in 2026
FIELDS PROGRAMMED PRIMARY USES										
Baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball) Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.	6	2	1 per 3,000	5	15	1	(9)
Football	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.	2	2	1 per 15,000	1	3	1	(1)
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.	Equivalent of 3 @ 200x350	7	1 per 5,000	4	10	(1)	(7)
Softball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.	2	2	1 per 5000	4	9	(2)	(7)
¼ Mile Running Track	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.	2	0	1 per 20,000	1	3	1	(1)
FIELDS PROGRAMMED SECONDARY USES										
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	0	7	1 per 20,000	1	3	0	0
Lacrosse	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	0	7	1 per 20,000	1	3	0	0

Beyond the Green

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Holly Springs Provision in 2006	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Holly Springs Standard	Holly Springs Need in 2006	Holly Springs Need in 2026	Deficit/ Surplus in 2006	Deficit/ Surplus in 2026
FIELDS MULTI-USE NOT PROGRAMMED										
Mixed Field Use including soccer, lacrosse, baseball, football, field hockey	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	1 per 3,000	6	15	(1)	(10)
OUTDOOR COURT SPORTS										
Basketball	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	6	0	1 per 5,000	4	9	2	(3)
Tennis	1 per 2,000	¼-½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school	6	0	1 per 4,000	4	11	2	(7)
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles		3	N/A	1 per 10,000	2	5	1	(2)
GOLF										
Golf-driving Range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned	0	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	0
Golf	1 per 50,000 (18 hole standard)	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center	0 public courses		2 per 50,000	0	0	0	0

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ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Holly Springs Provision in 2006	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Holly Springs Standard	Holly Springs Need in 2006	Holly Springs Need in 2026	Deficit/ Surplus in 2006	Deficit/ Surplus in 2026
OTHER										
Trails	1 system per region	N/A		0	N/A	1 system per region	1	1	(1)	(1)
Skate Park	1 per 50,000 population	2 - 3 mile service radius	In community or regional parks	0	N/A	1 per 50,000	0	1	(1)	(1)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site	0 public pools	N/A	1 per 20,000	1	2	(1)	(2)
Ice Hockey	Indoor – 1 per 100,000	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility	0	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	(1)
Community Center	1 per 8,000 – 10,000 residents	½ mile radius	Centers can serve as community focal points and be programmed according to need, trends, and demand for programs and recreational amenities	1	0	1 per 8,000	2	5	(1)	(4)

Source: design based planning, inc., the National Recreation & Parks Association, and the Town of Holly Springs

6.7.1 Diversion from the NRPA Guidelines

The Town of Holly Springs standard applied in the analysis of facilities needs diverges from the NRPA Guidelines in several areas. They are discussed below:

Soccer – NRPA Guidelines establish a provision standard of one (1) per 10,000 of population. A standard of one (1) per 5,000 was used given the growing popularity of the sport and the needs expressed during the public input sessions.

Football – NRPA Guidelines establish a provision standard of one (1) per 20,000 of population. A standard of one (1) per 15,000 was used due to the interests expressed during the public input sessions and the existing conflicts using the Wake County Public School System facilities.

Community Center – NRPA Guidelines establish a provision standard of one (1) per 20,000 of population. A standard of one (1) per 8,000 – 10,000 was used given needs expressed during the public input and focus group sessions to allow Holly Springs to grow, yet maintain a village-like character.

6.7.2 Conclusions and Implications

As a growing “young” community, the Town of Holly Springs needs to provide its children and active adults with sufficient athletic recreational facilities to protect against overuse and damage to its parks and recreation system. Additional demands to the park system may result from the Wake County Public School transition to four (4) tracks of elementary students, with three (3) tracks in school at any one time.

According to the analysis of the Town’s outdoor recreation facilities, the current demand requires the following development priorities:

- Baseball Fields – 1
- Soccer Pitches – 1
- Softball Fields – 2
- Field Hockey – 1
- Lacrosse – 1
- Swimming Pool – 1
- Community Center – 1
- Trail System – 1

The new community center should accommodate a minimum of one gymnasium (to address the demand for indoor basketball facilities) and one indoor swimming pool. An additional gymnasium within the community center may be required depending on the redevelopment of the Hunt Community Center. The development of two (2) additional multi-use fields is also recommended to attain the level of service indicated by the analysis. Some of the need described above could be accommodated within dual-use fields (such as baseball / softball) or multi-use fields (such as soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse). Again, given the anticipated, continued population growth, additional athletic facilities need to be developed.

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The Parks & Recreation Department Long and Short Term Goals, May 11, 2004, described the 1998 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan facilities goals for when the Town population reached 25,000. The following table lists these, along with the Towns current status towards attaining them.

Table 6-26 - 1998 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Goals (Pop. 25,000)

Qty.	Facility	Current Status		Shortfall
		Qty.	Location	
5	12 & under Baseball/Softball Fields, 200', lighted	1	Jones Park	4
3	15 & under Baseball/Softball Fields, 300', lighted	4	Parrish Womble Park	(-1)
2	18 & under Regulation Baseball Fields, 350', lighted	1	HS High School	1
2	Adult Softball Fields, 300', lighted	0		2
6	9 & under Soccer Pitches	6	Parrish Womble Park	0
4	Regulation Soccer Pitches, lighted	2	HS High School	2
3	Football Fields, lighted (could double as open space multi-purpose)	1	HS High School	2
8	Tennis Courts, lighted	6	HS High School	
4	Sand Volleyball Courts	2	Parrish Womble Park	2
2	Gyms for Basketball/Volleyball	1	Hunt Community Center	1
1	Indoor/outdoor Pool Facility	0		0
2	Community Centers	2	Hunt Community / Cultural Center	0
2	100 plus seat Picnic Shelters	1	Parrish Womble Park	1
4	50 seat Picnic Shelters	0		4
3	Multi-age Playgrounds	1	Parrish Womble Park	2
1	Outdoor Stage	1	Parrish Womble Park	0
	Ample space for other outside games for Seniors			

Source: Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Department, design based planning, inc.



Ball Field Complex at Parrish Womble Park

Beyond the Green

The following table lists the additional facilities needed to attain the level of service, derived from the analysis, given the Town's expected future population.

Table 6-27 – Holly Springs Recreation Needs Based on Population Growth

Activity / Facility	Provision in 2006 18,214 population	Recommended Holly Springs Standard	Additional Needed When Population reaches					
			20,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	40,000	45,000
Baseball	6	1 per 3,000	1	3	4	6	8	9
Football	2	1 per 15,000	0	0	0	1	1	1
Soccer	Equivalent of 3 @ 200x350	1 per 5,000	1	2	3	4	5	6
Softball	2	1 per 5000	2	3	4	5	6	7
¼ Mile Running Track (Outdoor)	2	1 per 20,000	0	0	0	0	0	1
Field Hockey	0	1 per 20,000	1	2	2	2	2	3
Lacrosse	0	1 per 20,000	1	2	2	2	2	3
Mixed Field Use	5	1 per 3,000	2	4	5	7	9	10
Basketball (Outdoor)	6	1 per 5,000	0	0	0	1	2	3
Tennis	6	1 per 4,000	0	1	2	3	4	6
Multiple Recreation Court	3	1 per 10,000	0	0	0	1	1	2
Golf Driving Range*	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golf*	0	1 per 25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	1 system per region	1	1	1	1	1	1
Skate Park	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	1	1	1
Swimming Pools (Public)	0	1 per 20,000	1	1	2	2	2	2
Ice Hockey	0	1 per 50,000	0	0	0	1	1	1
Community Center	1*	1 per 8,000	2*	3	3	4	4	5

* This does not take into account the Cultural Center currently under construction

Source: design based planning, inc.

6.7.3 Play Structures

Play structures are important recreational facilities that enhance the use of parks. They provide opportunities for community interaction. Their associated unstructured play possibilities are an important tool in the development of children's physical and social skills. Play structures should be located in easily accessible areas to help kids get at least 60 minutes of activity most days of the week that Health authorities recommend.



Play Structure at Parrish Womble Park

The accepted standard utilized for provision of play structures is based on travel time and distance. All residents living in developed areas, ideally, should be within an approximately 15 minute walk from a park with a play structure. This time equates to a distance of approximately ½ mile. Based on this standard, the attached map displays the location of existing play structures in the Town (in Town parks, private subdivisions and schools). The locations are noted with a ½ mile radius circle centered over the play structure. Existing public playgrounds are illustrated in purple. Private playgrounds are illustrated in pink.

As a reference, *City Park Facts* reports an average of 2.0 playgrounds per 10,000 residents (not including school playgrounds). The Town of Holly Springs is at 6.0 playgrounds per 10,000 when considering all public and private, non-school playgrounds (there are approximately 11). There are two school playgrounds available for use in the Town of Holly Springs. They are located on school grounds of Holly Springs Elementary and Holly Ridge Middle/Elementary Schools. There are only two, non-school, public playgrounds. Only one is located in proximity to the densest residential population, in Parrish Womble Park. The remaining playground is located in Shearon Harris County Park.

The map calls attention to all residential areas that do not fall within this standard for play structures. Residential areas in the northeast, southeast, and southern part of the study area are currently not being serviced by public or private play structures.

The map also indicates potential future play structures based on the new park system concept. Yellow circles represent potential new play structures based upon potential new park locations. It is recommended to incorporate play structures into the programming of any new parks located in these areas. Play Structures may also be placed in trail linkage parks located near connections with roads.

The approximate Play Structure Distribution is graphically depicted in Figure 6-1 on the following page.

Figure 6-1 – Play Structure Distribution

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6.7.4 Swimming Pools

The Town of Holly Springs has many swimming pools located in subdivision developments that are for the specific use of the subdivision residents and their guests (refer to the swimming pool distribution map that follows). The Southwest Wake YMCA offers the closest swimming pool accessible to the general public for a fee. It is located northeast of Holly Springs at 8951 Holly Springs Road in Apex. However, the Town of Holly Springs does not have a swimming pool accessible to the general public within its boundaries.



*Some of the Private
Subdivision Pools in the
Study Area*



Why does Holly Springs need a pool? Because residents have “parks” in their backyards does not mean that there is no need for town parks. The same reasoning holds true for swimming pools. An aquatic center is an investment in the community. Besides providing lifesaving skills such as swim lessons and water safety, it may provide jobs, promote community interaction, engage youth in positive activities and will add to the quality of life in Holly Springs making it an even better place to live, work, raise a family, and retire. The need for a public swimming pool was mentioned on several occasions during public input sessions. Pool facilities are one of the best ways to keep kids safe and teach them to swim. Pool therapy with its low impact type of exercise can extend ones life and enhance its quality.

For the most benefit to the community, it is recommended that the swimming facility be indoors for year round use. It should provide for multiple user needs – zero depth pool for young children, water park type activities for teens and young adults, competition pool for active recreation needs. It should be paired with other recreational services and facilities to optimize its use. It is suggested the pool facility be located within the Downtown “Historic” Community Central Park.

The following Figure 6-2 graphically depicts an approximate representation of the Swimming Pool Distribution.

The community meeting conducted for this study determined that:

Approximately 70% of survey participants would make use of an indoor swimming pool at their “ideal” community center.

This was second behind a fitness facility and tied with an indoor gymnasium and indoor walking / jogging track.

When survey participants prioritized recreation facilities based on the Needs Analysis results, a public swimming pool ranked 2nd.

A regional trail system was ranked first.

Figure 6-2 – Swimming Pool Distribution

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7.0 Park System Capital Improvements

7.1 Introduction

The following identifies the proposed capital improvements/master planning studies recommended for parks and school grounds for the existing parks in Town of Holly Springs. The purpose of this section is to provide the Town with a comprehensive strategy to guide future development, establish priorities and set realistic budgets.

Where capital improvements are identified, they are general in nature and intended to address the basic enhancements necessary to achieve the following fundamental objectives:

- Enhance park use, function and organization
- Enhance visual quality
- Enhance user safety
- Support the proposed classification system
- Enhance the quality of life for the Town of Holly Springs residents

Prioritizing park improvements has been determined from our inventory/analysis of existing park conditions (and related impact on use), projected needs based on our demand analysis, and input received during the course of the study. The capital costs identified are based on general estimated quantities applied to industry standard unit prices and are intended to convey order of magnitude only. The details and extent of specific improvements required for each park are subject to further design study.

Where the need to undertake a park master planning study is required, the estimated cost of undertaking the study has been based on the anticipated magnitude and scope of work. When applicable, the estimated cost for completing improvements proposed by existing park master plans has been formulated with reference to the Capital Improvements Plan Worksheets – Fiscal Year 2006 – 2010 compiled by the Town.

7.2 Parks

Each of the following sheets depicts the inventory for the specific parks. A table provides basic information including size, the 2006 inventory and the proposed capital improvements, their priority (high, medium or low) and a budgetary cost to complete those improvements. The inventory is broken into ten categories. The category Amenities are separated into features (i.e. flag poles, fountains, etc.) and site furnishings and other things that make the user's experience comfortable (i.e. benches, garbage cans, drinking fountains, etc.). The Athletic Field type and quantity is listed. Multi-use fields are fields that are used for more than one use (such as baseball and soccer). Circulation is separated into pedestrian (walkways, stairs, ski trails, etc.) and vehicular (roadways) and listed in linear feet. Fences, walls and hedges are listed in linear feet. The number of lights, parking spaces signs and structures are listed. Playground equipment is listed as the number of individual or massed structures.

Arbor Creek Land

<i>Address: South side of Sunset Lake Rd, East of Firefly Rd at Middle Creek Crossing</i>				
Current Classification: GREENWAY		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 3 acre		Context: Suburban commercial/residential		
Description: undeveloped flood plain along creek adjoining housing association parkland				
		Capital Improvements		
	2006 Inventory	Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	595	Develop as part of Greenway Master Plan	LOW	Not Applicable
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The Town has contracted services with Greenways Incorporated to develop a Greenway Master Plan. The results of this study will provide direction as to the future enhancement plans of the Arbor Creek Land. This park is located at the edge of the Town's jurisdiction limits and should be connected with the proposed pedestrian trailway of Apex. As such, it is a gateway into the Town's greenway system from Apex and should be developed accordingly. Most likely additional lands along the Middle Creek corridor will be required to complete the linkage to Holly Springs Road and Main Street.



ARBOR CREEK LAND



Bass Lake Park & Retreat Center

Address: 900 Bass Lake Road		Phone: (919) 557-2496		
Current Classification: PASSIVE REGIONAL		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 98 acre		Context: Suburban commercial/residential		
Description: man-made lake, non-motorized boating rentals, fishing, trail and facility rental				
		Capital Improvements		
	2006 Inventory	Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	47	Entry Enhancements		\$15,000.00
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)		Light Parking Lot (6 Fixtures)		\$30,000.00
Pedestrian	7,135		MED	
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	460	Play Area		\$50,000.00
Lighting	8			
Parking (spaces)	58	Complete Loop Trail		\$930,000.00
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	15			
Structures	4			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Bass Lake Park's visibility from Bass Lake Road needs improvement. The park should extend to the other side of Bass Lake Road with signage and landscaping to provide ample recognition and brake time for drivers due to the road configuration. There is a need for lighting the parking area as the building operates past dusk. The lighting should match the style of the existing fixtures around the building and dock. There is need for a play area at the park. The play equipment should be consistent with the park's environmental conservation theme and constructed out of natural



materials in a natural setting. Completion of the remaining sections of the lake loop trail should take place. Portions are required to be composed of boardwalk, built over water, where land conflicts occur. Consideration should be given to the use of permeable, accessible paving materials such as Stabilizer or Envirobond in place of the mulch currently used for the trail. In the long term, the loop trail should have connections to the greenway system, ideally to Sunset Lake and Womble Park.



BASS LAKE PARK

Cross Pointe Village Green

<i>Address: Bordered by Douglas Street, Cross Pointe Lane, and Park Place Way</i>				
Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		
Size: 0.3 acre		Context: Community Service/residential		
Description: central community greenspace				
	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	-	Gazebo		
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-	Seating	MED	\$50,000.00
Lighting	-	Pathway		
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	1			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Develop a neighborhood gathering, celebration place with the installation of a gazebo and associated pathway, tables and benches. Garner neighborhood input for style and location of improvements.

CROSS POINTE VILLAGE GREEN



Cultural Center / Library

Address: 300 West Ballentine Street		Phone: (919) 567-4000		
Current Classification: COMMUNITY CENTER		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 7 acre		Context: Residential/community service		
Description: cultural center and county library				
Note-under construction / inventory not complete	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features				
Site Furnishing				
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,198			
Vehicular	1,709	None	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)				
Lighting				
Parking (spaces)	140			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs				
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

This facility is currently under construction. There are no proposed capital improvements. (Refer to the appendices for a plan of the site layout by Little Diversified Architectural Consulting)



Graphic by:
Little Diversified Architectural Consulting



CULTURAL CENTER / LIBRARY

Holly Glen Park

<i>Address: Nouth side of Holly Meadow Dr, between Evergreen View & Rivendell Drives</i>				
Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		
Size: 2 acre		Context: Residential		
Description: hilly community greenspace				
	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities	-			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1	Design & Engineering		\$20,000.00
Circulation (LF)		-		
Pedestrian	419	Playground	MED	\$175,000.00
Vehicular	-	Walkways		
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-	Tables / Seating		
Lighting	-	Picnic Shelter		
Parking (spaces)	-	Landscaping		
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The Town has recently acquired this site. Park development would include a small picnic shelter with tables, play structures and swings, seating and associated walkways. Landscaping should consist of shade trees around play area, shelter and property edges.

HOLLY GLEN PARK



Hunt Community Center

Address: 301 Stinson Avenue		Phone: (919) 557-9600		
Current Classification: COMMUNITY CENTER		Proposed Classification: COMMUNITY		
Size: 11 acre		Context: Residential / open space		
Description: hilly community center and greenspace				
		Capital Improvements		
	2006 Inventory	Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	25			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	644	Site Redevelopment Master Plan	HIGH	\$50,000.00
Vehicular	1,434			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	662			
Lighting	4			
Parking (spaces)	24			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	4			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements



The existing structure is in need of repair and does not adequately fulfill all the functions the Town requires of it, as concluded in a 2004 study by Heery International. A site redevelopment study should be undertaken to address the fundamental use and future development of the site. Considerations should be given to raze the building and redevelop the site as an extension of Womble Park.



HUNT COMMUNITY CENTER

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Jones Park

<i>Address: 400 School Days Lane</i>				
Current Classification: COMMUNITY		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 24 acre		Context: Residential/community service		
Description: sports, environmental education and nature park				
	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	5			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball/Softball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	100	Implement remainder of Master Plan	HIGH	\$300,000.00
Vehicular	90			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,097			
Lighting	4			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	4			
Structures	2			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The proposed capital improvement is the completion of the park master plan as laid out by Thompson & Associates (refer to the appendices). The ball field, rest room facility and part of the vehicular parking and access have been developed. Still to be constructed are the pedestrian circulation system, the remainder of the parking and the playground and feature areas.



JONES PARK



Parrish Womble Park

Address: 1201 Grigsby Avenue				
Current Classification: ACTIVE REGIONAL		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 44 acre		Context: Residential		
Description: sports and entertainment park				
		Capital Improvements		
	2006 Inventory	Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	49			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball/Softball	4			
Batting Cages	2			
Pitching Areas	4			
Soccer	3			
Volleyball	2			
Horseshoe	4			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	4,945			
Vehicular	2,292			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	6,180			
Lighting	28			
Parking (spaces)	187			
Playground Equipment	8			
Signs	44			
Structures	12			
		Implement remainder of Master Plan	HIGH	\$350,000.00
		- Swings		\$7,500.00

Proposed Capital Improvements

Many of the planned developments, according to the master plan as prepared by Thompson & Associates (refer to the appendices), have been implemented. The remaining items include completing the vehicular and pedestrian circulation, installing tennis courts and a multi-use athletic field. There is also a need for additional 'big kid' swings (tire and/or other) at the play area as expressed through the public input process.



PARRISH WOMBLE PARK

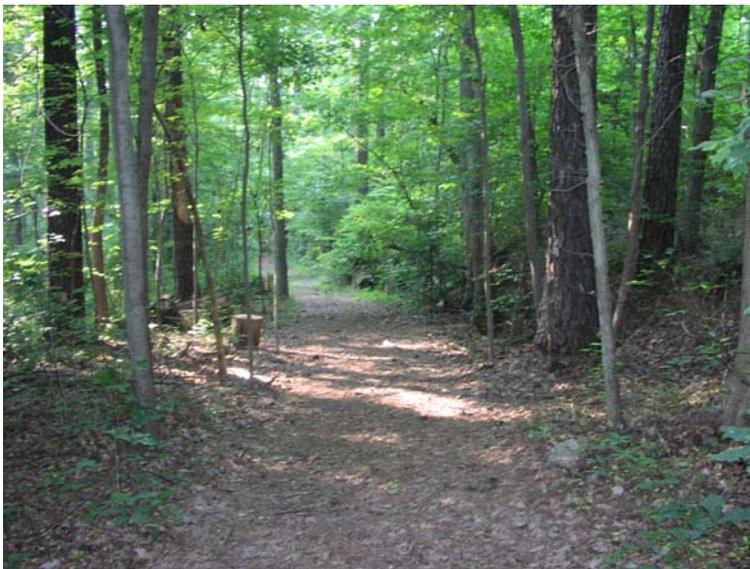
The Springs of Holly Springs Nature Trail

<i>Address: Behind Holly Springs United Methodist Church, 108 Avent Ferry Road</i>				
Current Classification: NONE		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: part of a 12 acre parcel		Context: Residential/open space		
Description: 0.25 mile trail through wood and gravesite				
Note - actual park area not defined	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,069	Develop as part of Greenway Master Plan	LOW	Not Applicable
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	18			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	1			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Greenways Incorporated is currently undertaking a Greenway Master Plan for the Town of Holly Springs. The plan should address the springs, the boundaries and development of the land and how it fits into the greenway system. This trail should be incorporated into the potential "Historic Center" downtown development.

SPRINGS OF HOLLY SPRINGS



Veterans' Park

Address: Off of Birkram Drive, adjacent to Folsom Drive				
Current Classification: NONE		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 10 acre		Context: Residential		
Description: pond, woods and small residential building				
Note-under construction / inventory not complete	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	5			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	569	Implement remainder of Master Plan	HIGH	\$200,000.00
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	1			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Veterans' Park is currently being developed as outlined in the Master Plan by Thompson & Associates (refer to the appendices). The remainder of the plan's elements should be implemented.



VETERANS' PARK

7.3 School Grounds

Each of the following sheets depicts the inventory for school grounds, similar to format used for parks.

Holly Ridge Elementary & Middle Schools

Address: 950/900 Holly Springs Rd, HS NC 27540		Phone: (919) 577-1300 / 1335		
Size: 36 acres		Context: Residential		
Description: elementary and middle schools				
	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	27			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1			
Softball	1			
Track	1			
Soccer	1			
Multi-use	2			
Gymnasium	2			
		None	-	-
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	7,143			
Vehicular	3,286			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	6,137			
Lighting	45			
Parking (spaces)	246			
Playground Equipment	5			
Signs	11			
Structures	2			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no proposed recreation capital improvements at this time. (Refer to the appendices for layout plan).



HOLLY RIDGE SCHOOLS

Holly Springs Elementary School

Address: 401 Holly Springs Rd,		Phone: (603) 624-6417		
Size: 19 acres		Context: Residential/open space		
Description: elementary school				
	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	10			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	3			
Volleyball	1			
Multi-use	2			
Gymnasium	1			
Circulation (LF)		Refer to Jones Park	-	-
Pedestrian	2,122			
Vehicular	3,427			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,138			
Lighting	20			
Parking (spaces)	166			
Playground Equipment	15			
Signs	3			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Holly Springs Elementary School is located south of Jones Park. Please refer to Jones Park for any associated proposed recreation capital improvements.



HOLLY SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Holly Springs High & Elementary Schools

Address: Cass Holt & Avent Ferry Roads		Phone: (603) 624-6417		
Size: 92 acres		Context: Residential/agricultural		
Description: high school & elementary school				
Note-under construction / inventory not complete	2006 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features				
Site Furnishing				
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	1			
Softball	1			
Basketball	2			
Track	1			
Soccer	2			
Tennis	6			
Multi-use	1	None	-	-
Gymnasium	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian				
Vehicular	4,905			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)				
Lighting				
Parking (spaces)	871			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

These facilities are currently under construction. There are no proposed recreation capital improvements. (Refer to appendices for layout plan by Cherry Huffman Architects)

HS HIGH / ELEMENTARY



7.4 Economic Impacts

The following section summarizes the overall implementation strategy to develop the Town of Holly Spring’s park system over the next 20 years. The capital costs identified are based on general estimated quantities applied to industry standard unit prices and are only intended to convey an order of magnitude. The summary has been organized into the following time frames and identifies the key initiatives for each:

- Short-term (1 to 3 years)
- Mid-term (4 to 7 years)
- Long-term (8 plus years)

Refer to the Potential Park Land Acquisitions Plan on the previous page for reference to general land areas.

7.4.1 Short Term Implementation

The Town’s current capital improvements plan for cultural and recreation project is incorporated into the short-term implementation strategy. Improvements are located in the more densely populated areas to give the maximum benefit to the most people. This phase begins to complete the planned improvements to existing parks.

Table 7-1 - Short-Term Development & Planning Initiatives

Park Land Acquisitions	Description	Value
“Historic” Community Central Park	general land areas #1 & #2 on acquisitions plan	
“Educational” Community Central Park	general land area #3 on acquisitions plan	
Greenway Parks	land acquisition, housing development agreements	
Planning Studies		
“Historic” Community Central Park	master plan	\$100,000
Holly Glen Park	design and engineering	\$20,000
Hunt Community Center	re-development plan	\$50,000
Capital Improvements		
Jones Park	completion of planned improvements	\$300,000
Veterans' Park	completion of planned improvements	\$358,000
Womble Park	completion of planned improvements	\$200,000
Greenway Parks	continue development	\$100,000
	Total	\$1,128,000

Source: design based planning, inc.

7.4.2 Mid-Term Implementation

This phase acquires the lands for the Environmental, Industry and Commerce, and Recreation Community Central Parks and for meeting near term shortfalls in recreation needs. Development of planned parks will begin. Development to existing parks will be completed. Please note the capital improvement cost for Bass Lake Park includes installation of boardwalk over water to complete the loop trail due to land restrictions.

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Table 7-2 - Mid-Term Development & Planning Initiatives

Park Land Acquisitions	Description	Value
"Environmental" Community Central Park	general land area #4 on acquisitions plan	
"Industry & Commerce" Com. Central Park	general land area #5 on acquisitions plan	
"Recreation" Community Central Park	general land area #6 on acquisitions plan	
Trail Linkage Park	general land area #7 on acquisitions plan	
Town-Wide Entertainment Park	general land area #8 on acquisitions plan	
Trail Linkage Park	general land area #9 on acquisitions plan	
Town-Wide Entertainment Park	general land area #10 on acquisitions plan	
Planning Studies		
"Educational" Community Central Park	master plan	\$75,000
Capital Improvements		
"Heritage" Community Central Park	begin phased construction	\$3,300,000
Bass Lake Park	complete trail, entry enhancements, play structure	\$1,025,000
Hunt Community Center Property	implement re-development plan	\$200,000
Sunset Oaks Park	begin phased construction	\$1,000,000
Holly Glen Park	construction based on design & engineering	\$75,000
Cross Pointe Village Green	gazebo, seating, pathway	\$50,000
Greenway Parks	continue development	\$100,000
	Total	\$5,825,000

Source: design based planning, inc.

7.4.3 Long-Term Implementation

The planning studies in the long-term will depend upon the Town's current and expected population at that time and should be adjusted accordingly. No monetary values are assigned given the distant time frame.

Table 7-3 - Long-Term Development & Planning Initiatives

Park Land Acquisitions	Description
"Waterfront" Community Central Park	general land area #12 on acquisitions plan
General Park Lands	general land areas #11 and 13 through #18 on acquisitions plan
Planning Studies	
"Environmental" Community Central Park	master plan
"Industry & Commerce" Com. Central Park	master plan
"Recreation" Community Central Park	master plan
"Waterfront" Community Central Park	master plan
Quarry	end use master plan
Capital Improvements	
"Heritage" Community Central Park	complete phased construction
Sunset Oaks Park	complete phased construction
"Environmental" Community Central Park	begin phased development
Greenway Parks	continue development

Source: design based planning, inc.

7.4.4 Estimating Costs

Each project of developing new parks and facilities has its unique attributes and challenges. For this reason, there is no standard cost estimating formula that will work for all projects of the same type. There are, however, some basic guidelines that offer an order of magnitude for a base line park or facility. (Note: Design, surveying, mobilization, and other similar fees are not included in estimated facility costs. Maintenance costs are for basic day-to-day maintenance on a per year basis.)

Table 7-4 - Typical Estimated Unit Costs

Park / Facility	Estimated Cost
Low End Park Development	\$50,000 / acre
Typical Park Development	\$90 – \$125,000 / acre
Park Maintenance	\$7,000 / acre
Swim Center (25M lap pool)	\$3 Million
Aquatic Center (pool and splash)	\$5 Million
Adult Baseball/Softball Field (lighted)	\$185,000
Baseball/Softball Field	\$140,000
Little League Baseball Field	\$65 - \$100,000
Soccer Pitch (lighted)	\$220,000
Soccer Pitch	\$140,000
Multi-use (football/soccer) field	\$60 – \$195,000
Playground	\$50 – \$125,000
Picnic Shelter	\$50 - \$150,000
Re-stripping for Bike Lanes	\$7,300 / mile
Concrete Sidewalk (6' wide, both sides)	\$100,000 / mile
Boardwalk (10' wide)	1,500,000 / mile
Asphalt trail (10' wide)	185,000 / mile
Structural Soil Trail	110,000 / mile
Trail Maintenance	\$7,000 / mile

Source: design based planning, inc.

7.5 Park Funding

7.5.1 Past Funding History

The Town of Holly Springs has had continued park development since the establishment of the Parks and Recreation Department in 1996. The Town has transformed from a community with one park and minimal recreation programs to a community with eight (8) parks, two (2) community centers and a wealth of recreation program opportunities. Intensive parks and recreation facility development in the Town began with a \$2 million Parks and Recreation Bond. The bond was used to purchase the land to develop Womble Park, Jones Park, W.E. Hunt Community Center, and Bass Lake Park. The bond was also used to continue parks and recreation facility development by applying for matching grants. The following lists funds used to create parks and recreation facilities in the Town:

- \$1,040,000 Clean Water Management Trust Fund (Bass Lake)
- \$250,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (Womble Park)

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- \$73,000 Wake County Grant Program
- \$30,000 NC Trails Program (Bass Lake)
- \$50,000 Division of Water Resources (Bass Lake)
- \$250,000 Wake County
- \$350,000 Town of Holly Springs (Holly Springs High School)
- \$250,000 Wake County (Holly Springs High School)

In addition, since 1998 the Town has had a Parks and Recreation Open Space Policy in place that requires residential developers to contribute land, greenways, and/or fees for the development of parks and greenway trails. Since then over 150 acres of land have been contributed, three miles of greenway have been constructed and over \$800,000 in fees have been collected.

7.5.2 Potential Future Funding Opportunities

The North Carolina SCORP public workshop results depicted the most pressing issue regarding funding was a stable, consistent source. As a first step towards this goal, the workshop recommended making the public and political leaders aware of benefits derived from outdoor recreation and the requirements to provide it.

The state SCORP listed that the most significant single source of park acquisition and development funds for over 35 years has been the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). In the recent past, there was a decline in LWCF appropriations. Presently, there is a trend of increasing appropriations and it is hoped it will again be funded at a level to provide adequate assistance for the state and local governments. This agency sets priorities for funding based on how projects address issues and needs identified in the SCORP.

The North Carolina SCORP 2003-2008 lists three sources that may be available for funding parks and recreation park land acquisitions:

1. Parks & Recreation Trust Fund
2. Natural Heritage Trust Fund
3. Clean Water Management Trust Fund

The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, established by the state in 1994, has become the leading funding source for outdoor recreation areas and facilities in North Carolina. It is administered through the Parks and Recreation Authority by an eleven member appointed board. The fund derives its monies from real estate deed transfer taxes. Allocations may be used for improvements to the state's park system and increasing public access to state's beaches. Funds are also given to local government in the form of dollar-for dollar matching grants.

The Natural Heritage Trust Fund was established in 1987. The fund derives its monies from fees for personalized license plates and real estate deed transfer taxes. State agencies may use the funding for the acquisition and protection of natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state.

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund, established in 1996, allocates grants to state agencies, local governments, and conservation non-profits. The funds are to be used for

enhancing or restoring polluted waters, protecting unpolluted waters, and/or contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.

Other potential parks and recreation funding sources follow.

The Recreation Resources Services (RRS) provides information and grants to recreation providers in North Carolina. Its services, operated for the School of Forest Resources at N.C. State University, are free to municipalities. Its grants have been awarded for various activities including greenways & open space and economic impacts of parks and recreation.

Land, donated by owners, and conservation easement agreements are other possible ways of acquiring parks and recreation lands. The N.C. Conservation Income Tax Credit Program, administered by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, offers tax incentives for landowners to donate land for conservation purposes.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Bicycle Program may be able to assist with developing state bikeway systems such as signs, maps, and road improvements.

Wake County may be able to assist with purchasing agricultural conservation easements. Willing landowners of valuable farmland have made easement agreements with Wake County's Open Space Program and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program funds, with the County's Open Space monies have secured these easements.

The Safe Routes to School initiative encourages children to walk or bicycle to school. N.C. State DOT administers the funds. Funding will go to projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, on any public road or trail within two (2) miles of a primary or middle school.

Funding is available from the Sports Fishing Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund for fishing and boating access facilities such as trails, piers, and boat ramps.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), funded by the Federal Highway Trust Fund, provides monies to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities. Contact the N.C. State RTP Administrator for project eligibility requirements.

The State Wildlife Grants Program (SWG) allocates yearly appropriations to state fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation, related recreation and education. It provides federal funds for the development and implementation of programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats.

7.6 Future Tourism Potentials for the Town of Holly Springs

7.6.1 A State Tourism Overview

North Carolina's tourism industry grossed more than \$14 billion in total expenditures in 2005. Wake County (Holly Springs home County) and Mecklenburg County (Charlotte and environs) had the highest level of overall tourism expenditure in the State. 70% of these domestic visitors to North Carolina traveled for pleasure purposes, while thirty

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percent of visitors came to conduct business, attend meetings, or conventions. Summer is the most popular season to travel to North Carolina – 29% of all 2005 visitors chose summer to visit the State.

The Raleigh/Durham/Fayetteville region is the most popular region for overnight travelers to North Carolina. In 2005, approximately 64.5 million domestic overnight and day visitors traveled to or within North Carolina; 11.5% of these visitors came to the Raleigh/Durham region. The next popular destinations are Charlotte (10.2%), Greensboro/High Point/Winston-Salem (7.2%), and the Greenville/New Bern/Washington region (4.9%)¹.

The table below highlights the level of overall tourism growth in Wake County between 1995 and 1999.

Table 7-5 - Wake County Tourism Expenditures

Expenditures in Millions					Rate of Growth	North Carolina Rank
2000	2001	2002	2002	2003	2000-2004	
849	923	945	1,021	1,087	28.25%	1

Source: North Carolina Department of Commerce

7.6.2 Typical North Carolina Visitor Profile

The typical overnight visitor party to North Carolina includes two married college graduates with a household income of greater than \$50,000. The visitors spend approximately two (2) nights in a hotel or motel in the region. Only 20% of documented travel parties to North Carolina in 2005 included children. The traveling party usually arrives by car, van truck or RV/camper (89% of visitors). Overnight visitors spend, on average, \$405 during the course of their trip. Far and away the most popular activities visitors report reported by visitors during their stay include dining (28%), shopping (20%) sightseeing/touring (19%).

Table 7-6 - Reported Visitor Activities in North Carolina, 2005

Activity	Portion of Visitors	Activity	Portion of Visitors
Dining	28%	Museum/Art Exhibit	4%
Shopping	20%	Concert/Play/Dance	4%
Touring/Sightseeing	19%	Watch Sports Event	4%
Entertainment	18%	Gamble	4%
Beach/Waterfront Activities	12%	Nature/Culture	3%
Nightlife	9%	Group Tour	3%
Historic Site	8%	Theme Park	3%
National/State Park	6%	Golf	3%
Festival/Craft Fair	5%	Hunt/Fish	3%

Source: Travel and Tourism Industry Study: North Carolina 2001

¹ Debellis, Jeffrey. Travel and Tourism Industry Study: North Carolina. June, 2001.

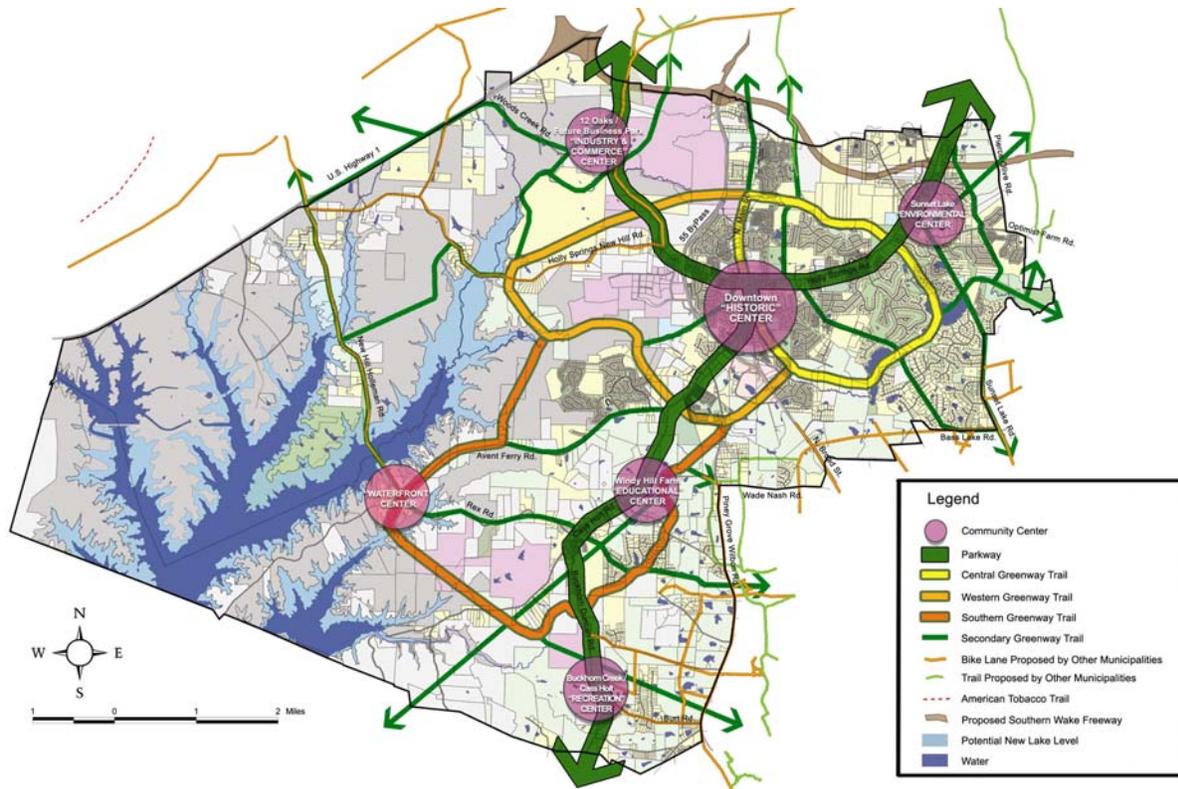
7.6.3 What Can Tourism Mean to Holly Springs?

As Holly Springs evolves over the next twenty years, the Recreation Master Plan can help the Town establish an identity as a great place to live, work and visit. Attracting visitors can help to provide needed moneys to balance the overall tax base of the community.

The Plan can help to establish a visitor base in Holly Springs by implementing its proposed series of primary and secondary Greenways. This Greenway System can be traveled by automobile, bicycle or on foot. The system knits the elements of the community together and connects each proposed Town neighborhood or “Community Growth Area” (CGA). Each of the six CGA’s is intended to be programmed with a theme of interest such as the environment, education, and local history. A monumental Civic Space, such as a pond or park, will also highlight each CGA. This combination of Greenway System and themed CGA can establish a genuine attraction for visitors to the Wake County region.

The graphic below illustrates the proposed Greenway Systems Concept for the Town:

Figure 7-1 - Proposed Greenways System Plan for Holly Springs



Source: design based planning, inc.

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Holly Springs, NC

Once the proposed Greenway system is in place, the Town can consider nominating the entire system for Scenic Byway status. A Scenic Byway is a nationally or statewide recognized route that highlights scenic values of a roadway and its adjacent visual resources. Scenic byways, trails, and corridors simplify travel routes for visitors and can help a community to direct visitors to important attractions and areas. They can benefit communities by increasing the real property value of the lands adjacent to them, by multiplying visitor expenditures, and by providing a mechanism for educating both visitors and residents about the natural, historic, and cultural resources and attractions found along them.²

The Scenic Byway could help to attract typical North Carolina visitor who travels by auto (89%) and reports touring and/or sightseeing when visiting North Carolina (19%). Some of the potential economic benefits that can be derived from establishing a Scenic Byway include³:

- Job Creation: between 19 and 33 jobs per \$1 million of visitor spending
- Business Sales: an increase of up to \$1.4 million in “total” business sales
- Increased State and Local tax receipts
- Extra Visitor Spending: \$65,000 in extra visitor spending with a 1% increase in visitor miles traveled
- Increased Group Spending: \$104 visitor group spending per trip

The economic impacts of tourism can be drawn upon to contribute to creating a balanced tax base in Holly Springs. Wake County, as evidenced, is already the primary draw in a State with a dramatically rising growth in overall tourism.

7.6.4 Economic Impacts of Sporting Tournaments

The demographics of Holly Springs are evolving to include more families with children. These changes are creating a demand for new athletic facilities. As more sporting activity takes place in the Town, it would be a natural progression for the community to begin hosting larger scale sporting tournaments for its most popular activities like baseball and soccer. Most people assume these larger scale events will generate significant economic impact and encourage the development of new facilities that can be subsidized with funding from out of town visitors.

Research does indicate that sporting tournaments can have an economic impact on a given community. Funds generated would include sales tax revenues, bed tax revenues from hotels, and County tax revenues. Additionally, the money visitors spend in a tournament host community, whether it be for dining, gas, lodging or shopping, also has a “multiplier” effect. The “multiplier” is equivalent to the number of times the money “turns over” within a community to enhance the economics of its population.

The International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus uses a standard multiplier of 3.5 when considering the economic impact of sporting tournaments on a host community. In other words, if \$100,000 in direct spending occurs, there is ultimately a benefit \$350,000 to the host community as that money works its way

² <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/imp/modtd/33520714.html>. Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.

³ National Scenic Byway Resource Center. Quantifying the Economic Impacts of Scenic Byway Designation, 2004.

through the local economy. More recently, the Stanford Institute of Policy Research⁴, who studies the impacts of sports teams and tournaments in communities, has claimed that this multiplier is far too large. Economist David Swenson, an Economic Impact Analyst from the University of Iowa, agrees.⁵ Both entities believe that a more realistic multiplier is no higher than 1.8. There is still a good economic benefit, but not as strong as the benefits previously implied.

Should Holly Springs focus on attracting sporting tournaments as a means to spur economic development in the Town, they should also consider the length of time the visitor will spend in the host community. A significant monetary impact only occurs if the visitors spend at least one overnight. Typical youth sporting leagues schedule tournaments that last only one day. During this day, three or more games might be played. Parents and children involved in the activity typically drive to the host community fully prepared with picnic coolers of sandwiches, drinks and snacks to consume for the day. The tight scheduling of games typically restricts the activities in which athletes, parents, and coaches have time to participate. Some coaches do not permit athletes do to anything but rest between games. After the games are over, visitors typically drive straight home. The economic impact to the community is indeed very little. Any moneys spent are typically spent directly at the facility for vending and sundries, and in small amounts.

This one-day experience can be contrasted with an overnight visit and two-day tournament. In these cases, athletes, coaches and parents are likely to participate in dinner, casual evening activities, a hotel stay, and morning breakfast. Obviously, the economic impact in these cases will be far more significant.⁶

Clearly, the development of high quality athletic facilities in Holly Springs, in conjunction with favorable demographics, could encourage more sporting tournaments with hosting opportunities. It would be risky, however, for the Town to rationalize that these tournaments would have an immediate and significant economic impact within Town limits. Currently, there is no hotel in Holly Springs and the supply of restaurants is limited. The Town is in a “chicken and egg” situation where the tournaments would need to be in place before the market for lodging and hotels might be strong enough to attract developers. The addition of sporting tournaments could be an important piece of a varied economic development program that would include new business, tourism, and cultural opportunity within Town limits.

⁴ http://siepr.stanford.edu/papers/discussion_papers_index.html

⁵ Swenson, David. Confessions of an Economic Impact Analyst. March 2004

⁶ Carabott, Paul. Member, Oakville, Ontario Girls Softball Association, 2003-2007.

***“A healthy ecology is the basis for a
healthy economy”***

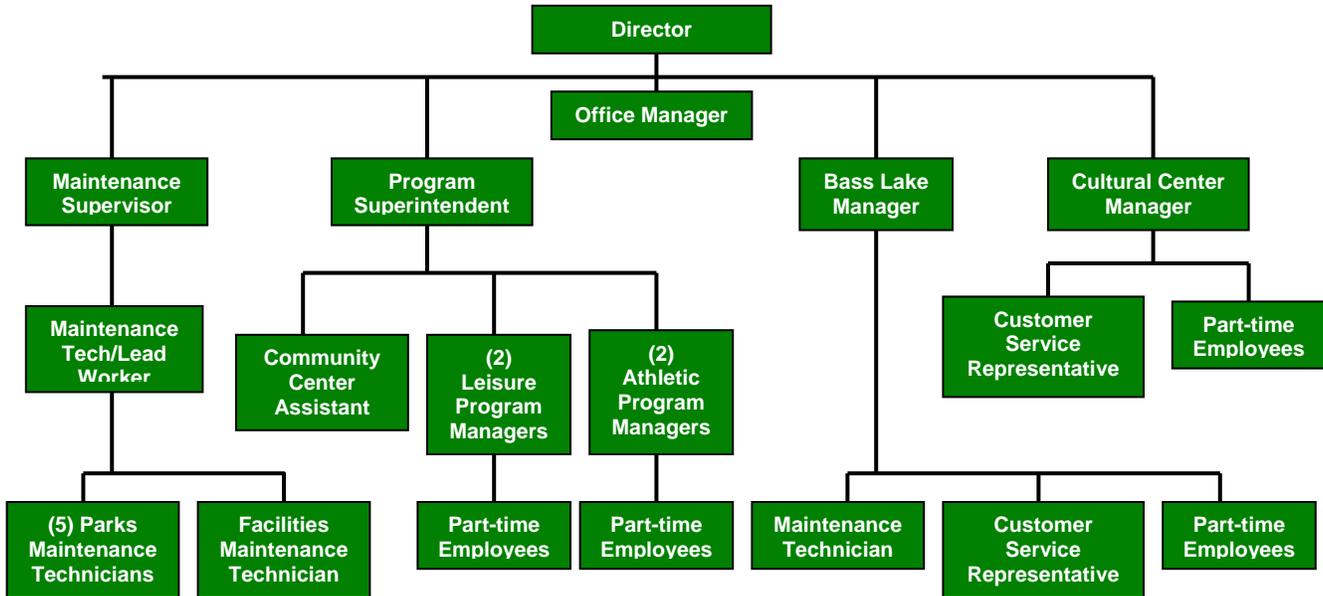
Former US Representative Claudine Schneider

8.0 Parks & Recreation Inventory

8.1 Parks & Recreation Department

The Town of Holly Springs Department of Parks and Recreation is operated under the authority of the director of the department. There are 18 full time employees in the department at this time. Many volunteers aid in providing programs and services.

Figure 8-1 - Current Parks & Recreation Department Organization



8.2 Park & Recreation Facilities

The Town offers eight municipal parks, two community centers, three public school parks, one historic trail and a growing greenway system. In addition, a County Park is located just outside the Town limits but within the study area. The following briefly describes these park facilities.

8.2.1 Town Parks

Arbor Creek Land

Arbor Creek Land is undeveloped floodplain adjoining housing association park land on the south side of Sunset Lake Rd., East of Firefly Rd. at Middle Creek Crossing. The Town has contracted services with Greenways Incorporated to develop a Greenway Master Plan, the results of which may give direction as to the future enhancement plans of the Arbor Creek Land.

Bass Lake Park & Retreat Center

Bass Lake Park provides water-based leisure facilities for the Town. Located on Bass Lake Road, the park is a lake and restored dam that was purchased by the Town in 1999. Bass Lake serves as a public fishing facility through an agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission through the Community Fishing Program. Canoe and johnboat rentals are available at the Park. Also located at Bass Lake Park is a Retreat Center that

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includes meeting facilities and classrooms available either for rental or for Town programs. The Bass Lake Park & Retreat Center is accessible by the Basal Creek greenway system.

Cross Pointe Village Green

This 0.3-acre area is a central community green space located adjacent to Douglas Street, Cross Pointe Lane, and Park Place Way.

Holly Glen Park

The Town has acquired this 2-acre site, located on the north side of Holly Meadow Dr., between Evergreen View & Rivendell Drives, for use as community greenspace.

Jones Park

Jones Park is planned to be an environmental and educational park. Located adjacent to Holly Springs Elementary School, the park is a 24-acre site on School Days Lane. Master planned by Thompson & Associates, developed park facilities include ball field, rest room facility and part of the vehicular parking and access. Jones Park will also include a pedestrian circulation system, a playground and park feature areas.

Parrish Womble Park

Womble Park serves as an athletic and cultural complex providing Town outdoor recreational facilities. Located on Grigsby Avenue, adjoining the Hunt Community Center, the park is a 46-acre site that was purchased by the Town in 1997. The park is home to the Town's annual HollyFest. Park facilities include four lighted softball/baseball fields, two volleyball courts, four horseshoe pits, one multipurpose field, one multi-age playground, an asphalt walking trail, a picnic shelter and an outdoor stage.

Sunset Oaks Park

The Town will be acquiring this 95.8-acre area in the eastern portion of Holly Springs for use as a park facility.

Veterans Park

The Veterans Park has been master planned by Thompson Associates as a space for recreation and commemoration. Located on Bickram Drive in the Windcrest Subdivision the Park, the master plan includes a pond (4.3 acres) with amenities, an existing building with restrooms, a walking greenway trail with veterans and historical war information placards as well as picnic and playgrounds.

8.2.2 Town Community Centers

Cultural Center

The Holly Springs Library and Cultural Center is located at 300 W. Ballentine Street. It was opened in December of 2006. The complex is a 20,000 square foot building with a glass façade lobby connecting the library branch on one wing of the building and a cultural center on the other wing. The Cultural Center provides space for uses such as theatrical productions, art classes and exhibitions, lectures, receptions and senior programming. Facilities at the Cultural Center include four classrooms and a multi-purpose room that seats 200.

W. E. Hunt Community Center and Gym

The Hunt Community Center hosts a variety of Town programs and other services. The building, located on Stinson Avenue adjoining Womble Park, was formerly an abandoned

school building until the Town purchased it in 1996. The Community Center provides a Children's Library, classrooms, a fitness room, a multipurpose room, a gymnasium, an art room and a ball field.

8.2.3 Non-Town Parks

Harris Lake County Park

This 680-acre County Park is located on a peninsula that juts out onto Harris Lake, just southwest of Holly Springs. The largest Wake County Park, Harris Lake has a multitude of park facilities including primitive group camping grounds, several ponds for fishing, car top boat launch for boats such as canoes and kayaks, children's playground, picnic shelters, restrooms, an amphitheater and several shelters. The park also has several trails including the Hog Run Trails for mountain bike use and the Peninsula Trail for walkers and joggers. The Peninsula Trail is equipped with the Red Fox Run Interpretive Trail Guide near the Peninsula Trailhead. In addition to these facilities, Harris Lake County Park offers disc golf opportunities with the Buckhorn Disc Golf Course that was established through a partnership with the Raleigh Area Disc League in 2001. User fees for the park facilities include a \$30/night fee for use of the camping grounds and \$60 - \$80/day fee for the use of the shelters.

Springs of Holly Springs Nature Trail

This linear park is a quarter mile unpaved trail leading to the springs in downtown Holly Springs. The trail begins at the Civil War monument at the Leslie-Alford-Mims House near Town Hall and continues into the woods past a family cemetery to the springs. The Town plans to restore and preserve the Springs as an historic attraction in Holly Springs.

8.2.4 Greenways

Greenways are continually being developed as part of the open space assets as new subdivisions are developed in the Town. The proposed Greenway Systems Plan illustrates the conceptual future arrangement of primary and secondary greenways throughout the study area, connecting the Town to other municipalities' greenway and bike systems. According to the Town of Holly Springs Open Space Master Plan, there were 3.2 miles of greenways constructed as of 2002. The Town has developed a Pedestrian Transportation Plan that recommends a detailed pedestrian network and provides guidance for implementing it (contact the Town of Holly Springs Engineering Department for more information).

8.2.5 Public Schools

Holly Ridge Elementary and Middle Schools

The Town has a joint use agreement with the Wake County Board of Education for the softball field with scoreboard, multipurpose field and outdoor basketball courts at Holly Ridge Middle School and for the parking areas and access at Holly Ridge Middle School and Holly Ridge Elementary School. The Town also uses the gym at the Middle School, but pays a rental fee.

Holly Springs Elementary School

The Town has a joint use agreement with the Wake County Board of Education for the use of the multipurpose athletic field, multipurpose concrete pad, playground, outdoor basketball courts, park entrance plaza, walking track, designated parking areas and drive accesses of Holly Springs Elementary School. These facilities neighbor Jones Park.

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Holly Springs High and Elementary Schools

The Town has a joint use agreement with the Wake County Board of Education for use of the baseball field, softball field, multipurpose fields, lighted tennis courts, scoreboards, a concession/restroom/press-box building, parking area and drive access at the High School. The Elementary School is currently under construction.

8.2.6 Inventory of Facilities

The Town of Holly Spring's Parks System was thoroughly inventoried for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Evaluation forms were completed for each resource inventoried. The forms completed during the inventory were input into an ArcView GIS mapping database. In addition to the completed inventory forms, an extensive photographic inventory of the Parks & Recreation system was also completed. The software applications have been set up to relate to a map of the Town of Holly Springs with a "point and click" feature to display photos and inventory data for each resource.

The inventory was evaluated in order to:

- Develop a system of classification and master plan for the parks;
- Identify patterns within the parks that should be enhanced;
- Identify areas that can be improved upon and locations for support facilities; and
- Identify opportunities for themes, clustering and enhancing the Parks and Recreation System.

The tables below show each park or open space and amenities each offer.

Table 8-1 - Inventory of Town's Park / Open Space Facilities in Study Area

Town of Holly Springs Park / Open Space	Park Type	Acres (approximate)	Baseball/Softball Fields	Batting Cage	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Field	Horseshoe Pitches	Volleyball Courts	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelters	Rest Rooms	Concessions	Trails	Fishing/Boating	Parking (spaces)
1 Arbor Creekland**	Linkage	3													
2 Bass Lake Park*	Conservation	98							X	X	X	X	X	X	58
3 Cross Pointe Village Green	Neighborhood	0													
4 Cultural Center / Library	Community	7									X	X			140
5 Holly Glen Park**	Neighborhood	2													
6 Hunt Community Center	Community	11			2										24
7 Jones Park*	Conservation	24	1												
8 Open Space Parcel by Bass Lake	Linkage	3													
9 Parrish Womble Park*	Entertainment	44	4	2	3		4	2	1	1	X	X	X		187
10 Sewer Treatment Plant	Linkage	0.3													
11 Sunset Oaks Park**	Entertainment	96													
12 Veteran's Park*	Conservation	10													
*Development as per master plan not completed															
** Not developed at this time															

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 8-2 - Inventory of School Grounds within Study Area

School Grounds	Acres (approximate)	Baseball	Softball	Baseball/Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Field	Basketball Courts*	Tennis Courts*	Volleyball Courts	Multi-Use Courts*	Track	Playgrounds	Parking (spaces)
Holy Ridge Elementary & Middle Schools	36			1	1	2	1			1	1	2	246
Holly Springs Elementary School	19					2	3		1	1		2	166
Holly Springs High School & Elementary School**	92	1	1		2	1	2	6			1		871
* Outdoor Courts													
** Elementary School under construction													

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 8-3 - Inventory of Other Park and Open Space Facilities within Study Area

Other Park / Open Space within Study Area	Owner	Acres (approximate)	18 Hole Disc Golf	Multi-Use Field	Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelters	Rest Rooms	Concessions	Camping	Mt. Bike Trails	Trails	Fishing/Boating	Parking (spaces)
1 North Main Street Open Space	Wake County	8													
2 Old Landfill Conversion	Town of Cary	47													
3 Rex Road Open Space	CP&L	72													
4 Shearon Harris County Park	Wake County	592	1	1	1	1	1	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	120
5 Shearon Harris Game Lands	Carolina Power & Light	138													
6 Springs of Holly Springs Nature	Privately Owned	12											X		18

Source: design based planning, inc.

The inventory offered the following results (for each category, the total number of items is listed along with the type of items that were encountered):

Town of Holly Springs Parks

Amenities – 140 items

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Bench | Drinking Fountain | Plant Bed |
| Bike Rack | Dumpster | Raised Planting Bed |
| Burial | Family Cemetery | Sand Box |
| Cigarette Disposal | Football blocking sled | Spigot |
| Composter | Garbage Can | Storage Box |
| Dog bag dispenser & can | Mass Seats | Table |
| | Monitoring Well | View Scope |

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Athletic Fields & Courts - 26

Baseball	Multi-use Ct. (indoor)	Softball
Batting Cage	Multi-use Field	Volleyball
Horseshoes	Pitching Are	
Multi-use Court	Soccer	

Structures - 19

Band Shell	Dam	Shelter
Bathroom	Dugout	Storage
Concession	Multi-Use	Utility

Pedestrian Circulation – 3.2 miles (greenways not included)

Asphalt	Granular	Plastic
Concrete	Metal	Plastic Wood
Dirt	Mulch	Wood

Vehicular Circulation – 2.2 miles (parking lots not included)

Asphalt	Dirt	Granular
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Fence / Walls – 8,822 linear feet

Chain – 167 linear feet	Metal – 287 linear feet
Chain Link – 6,232 linear feet	Plastic – 983 linear feet
Concrete – 382 linear feet	Wood – 772 linear feet

Lighting – 45 fixtures

Athletic	Flood	Overhang
----------	-------	----------

Parking – 430 spaces (21 of these handicap) in 14 lots

Asphalt	Granular
Dirt	Grass

Playground Equipment – 8 items

Ball Toss	Spring Toy
Playset	Swing

Signs - 71

Metal	Plastic	Wood
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Wake County School Grounds

Amenities – 37 items

Bench	Flag Pole
Bike Rack	Garbage Can

Athletic Fields & Courts - 24

Baseball	Multi-use Court	Tennis
Basketball	Multi-use Field	Track & Field
Basketball	Softball	Volleyball

Beyond the Green

Structures – 2

Bathroom (portable) Storage

Pedestrian Circulation – 1.8 miles

Asphalt Concrete Granular

Vehicular Circulation – 2.2 miles (parking lots not included)

Asphalt Dirt Granular

Fence / Walls – 8,275 linear feet

Cain Link Concrete Block Metal

Lighting – 65 fixtures (excludes HS High School – not applicable at time of inventory)

Overhang

Parking – 1283 spaces (37 of these handicap) in 17 lots

Asphalt Granular

Playground Equipment – 20 items

Balance Beam	Digger	Tetherball
Ball Toss	Playset	Tunnel
Climber	Slide	
Climber	Spring Toy	

Signs - 14

Concrete Metal

The quality of each inventory item was rated on a scale of one to five, with one indicating low quality and five indicating high quality. An inventory item for which the rating is lower on the scale indicates opportunity for rehabilitation, replacement or enhancement. The following is offered as a guide:

- A rating of 5 suggests the item appears new and is very good condition
- A rating of 3 indicates the item functions properly/safely but may have poor aesthetics or requires minor maintenance
- A rating of 1 demands an item have immediate attention due to safety and structural failure issues

Items that received a rating of 1 are as follows:

- At Base Lake Park, two benches (laying on ground)
- One athletic field (large rock in grass play area of volleyball court at HS Elementary School)
- The tetherball was missing from the support at HS Elementary School
- Nine circulation routes
- Three parking lots
- One metal identification sign at Holly Ridge Elementary/Middle Schools
- The existing building (to be redeveloped) at Veterans' Park

More information and data correlations can be obtained from the GIS database, at the Parks & Recreation Department, developed as a result of this inventory.

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8.3 Program Inventory

This section provides an inventory of recreational programs available to the residents of the Town of Holly Springs. Along with each program, the inventory lists the season it is offered, age group serviced, applicable user fees, and participation rates (when available). All athletic programs are offered through the Town or private organizations; Wake County does not offer any athletic programs. However, the County does host athletic events like triathlons and mountain bike races.

8.3.1 Town Programs

Holly Springs provides a variety of cultural recreational programs for children, teens, adults and seniors. Programs include leisure activities, athletic programs, trips, summer camps and special events.

Information regarding the Town's programs can be found in the Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Department's quarterly newsletter called "Hurrahs". Some programs are free, but most have a user fee. Non-residents pay a slightly higher fee than Town residents. The programs are conducted at the Hunt Center, Bass Lake, Town parks and public schools with which the Town has agreements. In addition, the Town rents football facilities from Middle Creek High School for the Town's football program home games.

The Town of Holly Springs keeps a database regarding the number of participants in each of the programs. Generally the numbers for all the athletic programs, the camps and the after school program have been growing in the past few years. The participant numbers for the leisure programs vary more as programs tend to change each year to provide an interesting variety of activities. The following table summarizes the programs provided by the Town.

Table 8-4 - Town Programs

Athletic Programs	Season	Age Group	Cost	Location	2006/ 2005	2003/ 2002
Baseball						
Youth Baseball - T-Ball	Sp, S	5 to 6	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	169	-
Youth Baseball - Machine Pitch	Sp, S	7 to 8	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	168	-
Youth Baseball	Sp, S	9 to 10	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	131	-
Youth Baseball	Sp, S	11 to 12	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	73	-
Youth Baseball	Sp, S	13 to 14	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	27	-
Select Baseball	Sp, S	9 to 14 boys	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	66	-
Youth Fall Baseball	F	6 to 7	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	50	-
Youth Fall Baseball - Machine Pitch	F	8 to 13	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	32	-
Basketball						
Youth Basketball	W		\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	431	399
Coed Adult Summer Basketball	S	18 & up	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	59	-
Cheerleading						
Cheerleading	F	6 to 12	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	80	49
Football						
Intro to Football	F	5 to 7	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	42	0
Youth Football	F	6 to 12	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	159	88

Beyond the Green

Soccer						
Spring Soccer	W, Sp	4 to 14 (boys & girls)	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	617	500
Adult Soccer	Sp, S	Adult	\$350, additional \$7 NR	*		90
Fall Soccer	F	4 to 11	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	475	576
Softball						
Youth Softball - Machine Pitch	Sp, S	6 to 8	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	24	-
Youth Softball - Fast Pitch	Sp, S	9 to 10	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	45	-
Youth Softball - Fast Pitch	Sp, S	13 to 17	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	0	-
Adult Softball	S, F	18 & up	\$450/team additional \$9/NR	*		240
Track & Field						
Youth Track & Field	Sp, S	9 to 14	\$50 R/\$60 NR	*	31	-
Volleyball						
Adult Sand Volleyball	Sp, S	Adult	\$40 (3 person team) \$50 (4 person team), addition \$7 NR	*	0	-
Camp Programs	Season	Age Group	Cost	Location	2006/ 2005	2003/ 2002
Nature Explorers Camp	S	8 to 13	\$100 R, \$120 NR	Bass Lake Park	6	-
Big Time Football Camp	S	7 to 14	\$100 R, \$120 NR	Womble Park	37	36
Cheer Camp	S	9 to 12	\$60 R, \$72 NR	Womble Park / Hunt Center	4	-
Hunt Center Summer Day Camp	S	5 to 13	\$60 R, \$72 NR (Specialty Camp Weeks \$100 R \$120 NR)	Hunt Center	1,087	513
Kidzart Camp	W, Sp	6 to 11	\$100 R, \$120 NR for 4 day camp	Bass Lake Retreat Center	0	-
Preschool Sports Adventure Camp	S, F	3 to 5	\$15 R, \$18 NR / Class	Hunt Center	98	35
Soccer Fundamentals Camp	S	5 to 13	\$72 R, \$84 NR	Womble Park	52	29
Soccer Goalie & Forward Camp	S	7 to 13	\$72 R, \$82 NR	Womble Park	19	-
Speed and Agility Camp and Clinics	S	9 to 18	\$100 R, \$120 NR camp, \$25/clinic	Womble Park	14	-
Sports Camps for Toddlers	S	18 to 36 months	\$12 R, \$14 NR	Hunt Center	50	-
Leisure Programs	Season	Age Group	Cost	Location	2006/ 2005	2003/ 2002
Adult & Family Programs						
Andrea's Art Class & Open Studio	Sp, S, F	9 & Up	\$30 R, \$36 NR	Hunt Center	20	-
Choosing Colors for Your Home	S	15 & up	\$13 R, \$15 NR	Hunt Center	2	-
Community Pea Patch	W, Sp, S, F	All	NC, bring your own gardening supplies	Hunt Center	12	10
Duck, Duck, Goose	W	10 & up	\$2 R, \$3 NR	Bass Lake Park	0	-

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Family Bike Ride	Sp	All		Hunt Center	4	-
Friday Night Paddle	Sp, F	10 & up	\$2 R, \$3 NR	Bass Lake Park	0	-
History of Holly Springs Van Tour	W, Sp, S, F	Family/ Adult	\$5 R, \$6 NR	Around Town	6	-
Intro to Knitting Workshop	W, Sp	Children & Adults	\$25 R, \$30 NR for 2 part session	Hunt Center	6	-
Introduction to Southern Style BBQ	F	12 & up	\$40 R, \$48 NR	Bass Lake Park	0	-
Owl Prowl	S, F	All	\$2 R, \$3 NR	Bass Lake Park	0	-
Self Defense for Females	Sp	14 & up	\$40 R, \$48 NR	Bass Lake Park	1	-
Social Dance Classes (Shag Dance Lessons, Line Dance for Women)	W, Sp	Adult	\$40 R \$48 NR 4 week session	Hunt Center	80	-
VIP Saturday Habit Enhancement	F	All	NC	Bass Lake Park	2	-
Wildlife Habitats Stewards	W	All	\$25 R, \$30 NR	Bass Lake Park	13	-
Leisure Programs (continued)	Season	Age Group	Cost	Location	2006/2005	2003/2002
Senior Programs						
Bass Lake Bingo	W, Sp, S, F	45 & up	\$1/card	Bass Lake Park	99	-
Beginner & Intermediate Bridge	W, Sp, S, F	Seniors	NC	Hunt Center	10	10
Belly Dance Senior Shimmy N Shake	W	55 & up	\$15 R, \$18 NR 5 week session	-	0	-
Freedom Fridays Trips & Outings	W, Sp, S, F	Seniors	Cost of Food & Admission	Varies	242	57
Senior Explorers Group at Bass Lake	W, Sp	Seniors	NC	Bass Lake Park	17	-
Teen Activities						
Basics of Fly Fishing	Sp	12 & up	\$150 R, \$180 NR	Bass Lake Park	12	-
Cotillion	W, Sp	Middle School Students	\$125 R, \$150 NR	Bass Lake Park	12	-
Drawing on Nature & Lunch	W, F	16 & up	\$15 R, \$18 NR \$5 material fee	Bass Lake Park	3	-
Teen Council	F	12 & up	NC	Town Hall	1	-
Teen Exercise	W, Sp, F	12 to 16	\$12/month	Hunt Center	7	-
Teen Open Gymnasium	W, Sp	Teens	NC	Hunt Center Gym	13	-
Teen Yoga	W, Sp	Teens	\$5/month	Hunt Center	9	-
Youth Programs						
Backyard Birds	W	5 & up	\$2 R, \$3 NR	Bass Lake Park	5	-
Buddy Sports Club	W, Sp	K to 12th	\$20 R, \$24 NR / 6 week session	Hunt Center	54	-
Crafts 4 Kids	S	2 to 5	\$8 R, \$9 NR	Hunt Center	25	-
Crafty Kids	W, Sp	2 to 5	\$20 R, \$24 NR		15	-
Explore a Story Kids	W, Sp, F	3 to 5	NC	Bass Lake Park	20	-
Kid's Day Off	W, Sp, F	School Aged Children	\$15 R, \$18 NR		104	-

Beyond the Green

Kid's Fishing Tournament/Bassmasters	S, F	8 to 17	\$5 R, \$6 NR	Bass Lake Park	51	-
Kids Make and Take Decorations	W	6 to 8	\$5 R, \$6 NR	Bass Lake Park	12	-
KidzArt	W, Sp, F	5 to 9	\$37 R, \$44 NR for 5 to 6; \$50 R, \$60 NR 7 to 9	Hunt Center	11	-
Kinderdance & Kindertots	W, Sp, F	2 to 5	NC	Hunt Center	68	-
Mad Science for Preschoolers	Sp, F	4 to 5	\$8 R, \$10 NR / class	Hunt Center	62	-
Mad Science Super Saturday	Sp, F	5 to 12	\$10 R, \$12 NR / class	Hunt Center	55	-
Pajama Party	W, S	3 to 8	\$6 R, \$7 NR	Hunt Center	88	-
Saturday Creative Crafts	W, Sp	3 to 8	\$6 R, \$9 NR	Hunt Center	13	-
Spanish Advantage	Sp, S	18 mo. - 2 yrs.	\$32 R, \$38 NR	Hunt Center	10	-
Painting for Preschoolers	F	2 to 4	\$16 R, \$19 NR	Hunt Center	30	-
Preschool Fun Time	F	3 to 5	\$30 R, \$36 NR	Hunt Center	3	-
Special Events	Season	Age Group	Cost	Location	2006/2005	2003/2002
Bass Lake Wildlife Concert Series	Sp, S	All	NC	Bass Lake Park	N/A	N/A
Boogie Night	F	All	NC	Womble Park	N/A	N/A
Concert & a Movie	S	All	NC	Womble Park	N/A	N/A
Dog Days in the Park (Featuring Best Paw Forward Dog Education & The Rottwielers Rescue "Rott-n-Roll")	Sp	All	NC	Womble Park	N/A	N/A
Haunted School	F	Early Showing: Young Kids, Late Showing ages 15 & up	\$4 for ages 1-14 (1 free adult w/child) \$6 for ages 15 and up	Hunt Center	N/A	N/A
Holly Fest	F	All	NC	Womble Park	N/A	N/A
Holly Springs Art Festival and Dance in the Gym	W	All	NC for Art Festival, \$5 for Dance in the Gym	Hunt Center	N/A	N/A
Movie Night	Sp, S	All	NC	Womble Park	N/A	N/A
Spring Fling Community Wide Yard Sale	Sp	All	NC for Yard Sale, \$5 for Dance in the Gym	Hunt Center/Womble Park	66	-

Source: Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Department and design based planning, inc.

In addition to the programs listed in the chart, the Town of Holly Springs runs several other programs and services including the after school program, a fitness room, Art for Everyone and facility rentals.

After School Program

The Town of Holly Springs runs an after school program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade that has approximately 88 students each school term. The Town also has an after school program for Middle School students that has approximately 9 students each school term.

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Fitness Room

The Hunt Center has a fitness center that has stationary bikes, treadmills and elliptical trainers. Monthly (\$12) and yearly (\$96) passes to the fitness center can be purchased. The Center is open Monday – Saturday. Teens age 15 – 17 are permitted to join as long as they are under supervision of a parent or guardian. In 2003 the fitness center had 517 members, this is an increase from the 192 members in 2002.

Art for Everyone

Art for Everyone is a series of art and cultural workshops for individuals and groups. Individuals and groups schedule workshops with the Leisure Programs Supervisor. Prices range from \$4 to \$25 per person and range from 45 minutes to 4 hours or longer in duration.

Facility Rentals

The public may reserve Town Parks & Recreation facilities based on hourly or daily fees.

8.3.2 Wake County Park Programs

In general, Wake County offers programs that would be considered passive recreation. Most programs are geared towards environmental education. The programs provide services for all ages, from young kids to adults. In 2006, the County offered a total of 1,948 programs and special events (i.e. day long events, night hikes, etc.). In all, there were 89,500 participants.

Harris Lake

County programs available within the study area include educational programs at the Harris Lake County Park. Programs are generally nature-based, similar to the type of programming offered at Bass Lake. Most of the programs are about an hour long and are geared toward families. There are also several evening programs where the park stays open late. In addition, the County provides two youth day camps that are either three day or week sessions.

Table 8-5 - Harris Lake Programs

Wake County

Programs	Season	Age Group	Cost
Adult Workshop			
Project Learning Tree Workshop	S	Adults	\$5
Camps			
Nature Detectives Mini-Camp	Sp, S	7 to 10	N/A
Harris ECO-Camp	Sp, S	8 to 12	N/A
Day Programs			
Aquatic Adventures	S	5 and up w/adult	\$3/person or \$7/family
Aquatic Insects	S	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Beaver Basics	Sp	Families w/children 5 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Bug or Beetle?	Sp	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Crow Craze	S	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Daredevil Dragonfly	S	Families	\$2/person or \$5/family

Beyond the Green

Programs	Season	Age Group	Cost
Fishing 101	Sp	6 and up w/adult	\$3/person
Fox Facts	Sp	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Garden Walk	Sp		\$2/person or \$5/family
Geology Hike	S	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Insect Investigation	Sp		\$2/person or \$5/family
Leaves of our Trees	F	Families w/children 5 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Peninsula Trail Trekkers	F	15 and up	NC
Plentiful Pond	Sp	Families w/children 5 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Racing Red-tail	S	Families w/children 5 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Reptile Roundup	Sp, S	Families	\$2/person or \$5/family
Sights and Sounds of Summer	S	Families	\$2/person or \$5/family
Trees and Their Leaves	Sp	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Turtle Time	S	Families	\$2/person or \$5/family
Watch for Woodpeckers	F	Families w/children 7 and up	\$2/person or \$5/family
Park After Dark			
Astronomy in the Park	Sp, S, F	Adults and families	NC
Evening Fishing	Sp, S, F		NC, bring your own equipment and bait
Evening Canoe Float	Sp		\$10/ canoe
Evening Exploration	S		\$2/person or \$5/family
Moth Mania	F	Families	\$2/person or \$5/family

Source: Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department

The following table lists the 2006 participant numbers for each type of program.

Table 8-6 - Harris Lake Program Participation

Type of Program	Number of Programs Offered	Number of Participants
General Public Programs (programs offered in newsletter)	101	1,686
Group Programs (organized groups that request an environmental education program)	24	614
Special Events (e.g. Harris Lake Earth Day)	11	2,165

Source: Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department



Playground Area at Harris Lake County Park

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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8.3.3 Private Programs

In addition to the Town programs, several private programs are available in Holly Springs. The following table summarizes these programs.

Table 8-7 - Private Programs in the Town Programs

Town of Holly Springs

Provider	Program	Season	Age Group	Cost	Participation Estimates
Best Paw Forward Dog Education	Dog Training Classes	W, Sp, S, F	Adults and families	\$110, 6 class session	5 to 8 dogs/families
Curves for Women	Cardio / Strength / Stretch / Toning / Firming Circuit Workout	W, Sp, S, F	Adults and girls with adults	\$149/year, 29/month for a year or 30/month each month, discounts available	379 total participants
Ducks Unlimited	Fishing Day	N/A	Birth to 17	\$10/ participant	N/A
Holly Springs Futbol Club	Competitive Soccer Teams	Sp, F	9 - 13	N/A	N/A
Holly Springs Playgroup	Playgroup	W, Sp, S, F	N/A	Free	~30
Holly Springs School of Dance	Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Pointe, Modern, Hip Hop, Creative Movement, Yoga, Pilates and classes introducing children to acting and creative play	W, Sp, S, F	3 & up	\$38/hour	500 students enrolled, ~14/class
K.S. Lee's World Tae Kwon Do	Tae Kwon Do	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Music Academy of Holly Springs	Preschool Music Time, Improvisational Band & Summer Camps	W, Sp, S, F	Preschool	\$135/3 week Preschool Music Time session, \$80 Improve Class, \$140 Summer Camp	Up to 8 Preschool Music Time, 4 Improve Class (1 st year running), 12 spots in the Summer Camp
Music Academy of Wake County	Kindermusic and Music for Little Mozart's	W, Sp, S, F	Birth to 6	n/a	~250 enrolled (including private lesson classes)
Red Cross	Babysitting and CPR/First Aid Class	W, Sp, S, F	11 to 15 (Babysitting), All ages for CPR/First Aid Class	\$45/class (Babysitting), \$56/class (CPR/First Aid Class)	Min. 8, max. 15
World Tae Kwan Do Center	Tae Kwan Do	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sonshine Gymnastics	Gymnastics, Tumbling & Cheerleading	N/A	15 months to 18 years	\$56 (15 months – 3 yrs.), \$65 (3 – 18 yrs.)	N/A
Vision Martial Arts	Martial Arts	W, Sp	3 & up	\$70 residents, \$84 non-resident / 6 week session	21
Young Olympians	Self Defense	W, Sp, S, F	4 to 14	\$6/week	~40 during school year, ~20 during summer

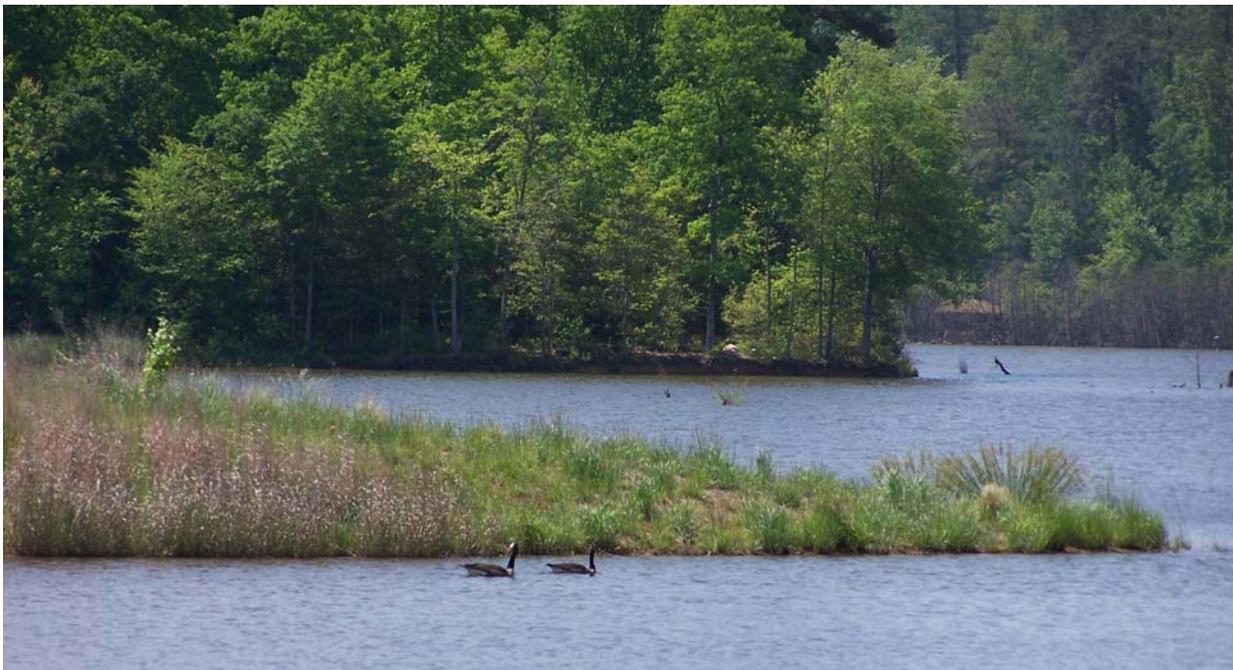
Source: design based planning, inc.

In addition to the listed private programs, several subdivision resident and membership organizations are located in the Town. The following lists these recreation facilities:

- Arbor Creek Pool
- Braxton Village Pool
- Bridgewater Pool (open summer 2006)
- Devil's Ridge Golf Club & Course

Beyond the Green

- Holly Glen Pool
- Morgan Park Pool (planned)
- OakHall Pool
- Oaks of Aventura Pool
- Scot's Laurel Pool (open summer 2006)
- Somerset Farms Pool
- Sunset Lake Clubhouse & Boathouse
- Sunset Ridge Racquet & Swim Club and Water Park
- Sunset Oaks Pool, Water Slide & Lazy River
- Trellis Point Apts. Pool & Weight Room
- Twelve Oaks Golf Course (open Spring 2007) & Pool (planned)
- Valleyfield Pool
- Wescott Pool
- Woodcreek Pool (planned)
- Windcrest Pool
- Windward Point Pool



Bass Lake

***The qualitative aspects
of recreation planning
are just as important as
the quantitative ones.***

Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, Ontario, Canada

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Public Information Gathering Session Summary

Two meetings were held, on July 12 and October 10, 2006, to inform the public and solicit comments regarding the Parks & Recreation Master Plan for Holly Springs. Over 100 people attended the first meeting and over 30 people attended the second meeting. The following includes a tabulation of worksheet answers, issue identification mapping notes, and consolidated map information and mapping generated at the meetings.



Public Meeting at the Hunt Community Center on July 12th

9.1.1 Community Identity & Design Issues – July 12th

Table 9-1 - Community Identity & Design

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank
Holly Springs has a distinct identity that makes the Town unique to Wake County.	30.1%	37.3%	4.8%	7.2%	4.8%	15.7%
Without proactive planning, Holly Springs is in danger of losing its “small town character” .	56.6%	22.9%	0.0%	7.2%	0.0%	13.3%
Stricter land use regulations (zoning, sign, landscaping, etc.) should be developed & enforced to preserve and/or enhance our Town as it grows.	53.0%	22.9%	3.6%	4.8%	1.2%	14.5%
There is a need to develop design standards or guidelines to preserve and/or enhance the overall look and quality of residential and commercial buildings in the Town.	54.2%	22.9%	4.8%	2.4%	0.0%	15.7%

Source: design based planning, inc.

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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Physical elements that make Holly Springs a unique place:

- Rural Community / Environment
- Mim's House and original springs
- Masonic Lodge
- Historic homes (Raleigh/Grigsby House on Main St. – oldest house in Town, Dr. House – Chris & Tommy Pope, Brewa House – 201 Grigsby – 1917 Sears Roebuck House
- Monument
- Open Spaces – farms

Areas that should be protected by a proactive municipal planning process:

- All unique places stated above
- Main Street preservation
- Landfill
- Walmart (not allow the construction of it)
- Preserve downtown character and make pedestrian friendly
- Open spaces
- Farms

Areas where existing land use conflicts are present:

- All major entry points to the Town and Village District
- Highway 55 By-Pass and South Main Street
- The southern, central portion of the study area (along/below Avent Ferry Road)
- County and Power Utility owned lands
- More formalized barriers between residential and commercial areas (similar to Apex)

Areas where design standards would be beneficial

- Everything
- All over Town
- All major entry points to the Town and Village District
- Highway 55 By-Pass and South Main Street
- Holly Springs Road west of Main Street
- Downtown – keep old-time / small town looking – needs more cohesiveness
- New Walmart, etc. – needs to be village looking
- Sidewalks throughout

Results from the Community Survey regarding the Statement

“Protecting open space from future development should be a priority for Holly Springs.”

72.0% strongly agree / agree

10.8% strongly disagree / disagree

17.2% no opinion

Figure 9-1 – Community Identity & Design

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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9.1.2 Economic Issues – July 12th

Table 9-2 - Economic

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank
To maintain a “small town” character as population increases, the Town should consider developing new commercial nodes - or small commercial “centers” - enhanced with new mixed-use opportunities and community facilities.	38.6%	32.5%	1.2%	8.4%	0.0%	19.3%
I am concerned that potential new “big box” retail stores could affect the quality of life in Holly Springs.	27.7%	26.5%	8.4%	10.8%	6.0%	20.5%
The Town should better promote its historic nature to stimulate economic development and attract visitors.	34.9%	28.9%	9.6%	7.2%	0.0%	19.3%
The Town should actively promote the addition of new cultural opportunities (theater, music, arts).	41.0%	30.1%	6.0%	2.4%	1.2%	19.3%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Areas where commercial nodes should be considered as the Town grows:

- Place in new growth areas
- Holly Springs Road development

Locations most appropriate for potential new “big box” retail stores:

- No appropriate location in study area

Physical areas and/or historic elements that could promote the Town history

- Old house on Bartley Holleman Road
- Springs
- Old churches
- Revolutionary War gravesite
- All unique places listed previously

Potential locations for new cultural opportunities / facilities:

- Confederate Camp
- More theaters
- High-end family-style restaurants
- Gift shop / specialty stores
- Amphitheater

Results from the Community Survey regarding the Statements

“Holly Springs should adopt measures that allow rural landowners to preserve their land in its natural state.”

74.2% strongly agree / agree

3.1% strongly disagree / disagree

22.6% no opinion

“Agricultural land should be protected where possible”

79.1% strongly agree / agree

3.1% strongly disagree / disagree

17.8% no opinion

“When planning future development, identifying and protecting Holly Springs’s environmentally sensitive lands should be a priority.”

82.3% strongly agree / agree

2.4% strongly disagree / disagree

15.2% no opinion

“Development should be planned to preserve woodlots, forests and trees.”

88.4% strongly agree / agree

4.3% strongly disagree / disagree

7.3% no opinion

Figure 9-2 – Economic

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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9.1.3 Parks & Recreation Issues – July 12th

Table 9-3 - Parks & Recreation

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank
Certain areas of the Town are underserved with recreational opportunities. I believe there is a need for additional and/or enhanced recreation facilities in the Town.	43.4%	24.1%	7.2%	3.6%	1.2%	20.5%
There is a need for a new Community Center in Holly Springs.	49.4%	20.5%	7.2%	2.4%	0.0%	20.5%
We should consider developing a network of multi-use recreational and or connective trails in the Town of Holly Springs.	41.0%	30.1%	8.4%	1.2%	0.0%	19.3%
North Carolina currently supports and funds the development of a statewide network of environmental education centers. I believe Holly Springs should be considered as a location for the development of an environmental center.	19.3%	32.5%	25.3%	0.0%	2.4%	20.5%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Location and facility that should be considered and/or enhanced

- Enhance Bass Lake Retreat Center
- Enhance Hunt Community Center
- Enlarge Jones Park
- Enlarge Veteran’s Park
- Swimming pools, tennis courts
- Replace Hunt Community Center
- Bubble pool at Parrish Womble Park

Potential locations for a new community center:

- Replace Hunt Community Center

Areas that should be considered for developing multi-use recreational and/or connective trails:

- Bike trails to Harris Lake
- Circuit at Holly Springs springs

Comments from the Community Survey regarding Parks & Recreation

- **“Strong Need For Greenways Connecting The Areas Of Holly Springs. The Town Is Not Very Large And Should Be Accessible By Bike To Foster A Greater Sense Of Community. More Neighborhood Pools That Are Available To The Public And Accessible By Bike.”**
- **“It Would Be Nice To Have More Walking Trails In The Area.”**
- **“Introduce Mountain Bike Trails. Enlarge Bass Lake For Small Sailboats. Dog Park”**
- **“Off The Lease Dog Park That Is Free To Use.”**
- **“Overall - Well Planned. Sidewalks, Greenways, Fishing Holes With Boat Rentals Are Needed.”**
- **“Greenway From Bass Lake Park To Womble Park. Please Finish Up Connections Of Sidewalks So The Entire Street Has Them. Put A Sidewalk All The Way Down Bass Lake Rd To The Park.”**
- **“I Don't Believe We Need More Parks, Just Beautification & Maintenance Of The Ones We Have To Draw People To Them, i.e. Create Greenways Connecting Residential Areas To Parks, Offering Diverse Options For Programs & Holding Community Events In Parks.”**
- **“Would Like To See A New Parks And Recreation Center In Lieu Of The Hunt Center”**
- **“We Definitely Need More Trails & A Mini-Greenway Tract.”**
- **“We Need To Make Holly Springs More Attractive To The Active/Healthy By Creating More Greenways And Sidewalks Connecting Parks/Neighborhoods To Each Other. That Will Enhance The Small Town Feeling.”**

Figure 9-3 – Parks & Recreation

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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9.1.4 Circulation Issues – July 12th

Table 9-4 - Circulation

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank
I am concerned with the volume of traffic in the Town.	48.2%	25.3%	3.6%	2.4%	0.0%	20.5%
Traffic conflicts and safety is an issue in the Town.	43.4%	26.5%	6.0%	2.4%	0.0%	21.7%
The Town should develop a series of bike lanes .	38.6%	26.5%	12.0%	0.0%	2.4%	20.5%
There is a need for more sidewalks in the Town.	53.0%	14.5%	9.6%	0.0%	2.4%	20.5%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Areas that are a concern with high traffic volumes:

- 55 Business to 55 Main
- No light at Smithville
- Historic area (Raleigh Street)
- Holly Springs Road
- At all schools
- Bass Lake Road (curvy, 2-lane)

Areas that are of concern with safety

- Linksland Road
- All along Raleigh Street
- Grigsby Avenue
- Riding Trails
- At all schools

Appropriate locations for new bike lanes:

- Bike lanes along sidewalks and greenways

Locations where new sidewalks should be considered:

- Sidewalks throughout
- Downtown to Senior Center
- Downtown Main Street

Results from the Community Survey regarding the Statements

*To mitigate some traffic issues, Holly Springs should increase
funding toward...*

...Sidewalks to connect neighborhoods and/or retail.

78.8 strongly agree / agree

10.7 strongly disagree / disagree

10.6% no opinion

...Greenways (pedestrian/bike/walking trails).

78.3% strongly agree / agree

10.2% strongly disagree / disagree

11.5% no opinion

Figure 9-4 – Circulation

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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9.1.5 Top Issues – July 12th

- Transportation Issues (bike & walkway trails, better traffic flow)
- Economic Issues (more job opportunities)
- Lack of low income housing in general and for seniors
- Replace current Hunt Center with new facility -swimming pools, tennis courts
- Proper development of Downtown (in keeping with small town feel)
- Traffic issues – traffic volume / conflicts (Highway 55, 55 business to South Main Street, Holly Springs Road, Avent Ferry Road (widen/speed), Bass Lake Road, Raleigh Street, at schools, no light at Smithville)
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- More parks / green space / playing fields / community center / boys-girls clubs
- Stopping New Landfill location
- Riding Trails in area of Bass Lake Retreat Center
- Amphitheater near Harris Lake
- Preserve rural / agricultural character
- Community senior center with senior transportation
- Lower density
- Recreational Services
- Trails and sidewalks where applicable (especially in downtown)

9.1.6 Community Character Issues – July 12th

Table 9-5 - Community Character

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank
I would like to be able to walk from my home to patronize stores and services within Holly Springs.	34.9%	19.3%	12.0%	9.6%	4.8%	19.3%
I would like to live within walking distance of a park and/or recreational trail.	50.6%	15.7%	9.6%	2.4%	3.6%	18.1%
	5 minutes	10 minutes	20 minutes	I wouldn't walk	Blank	
How far would you be willing to walk from your home to access a retail store?	7.2%	24.1%	25.3%	24.1%	19.3%	
How far would you be willing to walk from your home to access a park or recreational trail?	10.8%	9.6%	28.9%	31.3%	19.3%	

Source: design based planning, inc.

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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9.1.7 Recreation Participation – October 10th

Table 9-6 - Recreation Participation; Question 1-3

Questions #1, 2 & 3	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank
Some survey respondents (60%) felt that they and/or other members of the household were not able to participate in physically active recreational activities as often as they would like. What is your opinion.	16.7%	33.3%	16.7%	22.2%	8.3%	2.8%
If you agree with this question, please circle the letter of ANY of the following reasons that prevent you from participating in recreational activities more often						
Survey respondents overwhelmingly responded (85%) that the primary intention of sports programs sponsored by the Town should be for “ fun and exercise ” rather than “ competition ”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Please circle the letter of the choice that corresponds with your opinion.	25.0%	50.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	8.3%

Source: design based planning, inc.

9.1.8 Town Parks & Facilities – October 10th

Table 9-7 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 4

Question #4	<i>I can ___ from house to nearest park</i>				
	walk < 5 minutes	walk < 10 minutes	drive < 5 minutes	drive < 10 minutes	blank
Survey respondents were divided on whether their neighborhood contained sufficient parks and open space areas. Please circle the letter of the choice that best defines your idea of “sufficient” park and open space areas:	25.0%	25.0%	22.2%	22.2%	5.6%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 9-8 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 5

Question #5	<i>Use a local trail system for ___</i>				
	recreational walking	bicycle riding	both	nothing	blank
Survey respondents overwhelmingly responded that the Town should expand on its network of pedestrian and bicycle trails (81%). Please circle the letter of ANY of the following statements that correspond with your opinions about trail development:	38.9%	0.0%	55.6%	2.8%	2.8%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 9-9 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 6

Question #6	More difficulty accessing					
	Town-sponsored sport	Town-sponsored program	parks too crowded	restrictive costs	no issues at this time	blank workbook
Survey respondents expressed significant concern (65%) that population growth will impact their ability to access Town park and recreation facilities. The Town is committed to prepare and implement a Parks and Recreation to ensure concerns can be addressed. Please circle the letter of ANY statement that corresponds with any concerns you may have regarding population growth in Holly Springs:	27.8%	25.0%	50.0%	11.1%	83.3%	2.8%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 9-10 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 7

Rating: high = 3 pts, medium = 2 pts, low = 1 pt - Average Rating - Percentage						
Question #7	Indoor Swimming Pool	Outdoor Water/Splash Pad	Outdoor Play Equipment	Multi-Purpose Rooms for Children	Multi-Purpose Rooms for Teens	Multi-Purpose Rooms for Seniors
Survey participants felt strongly (61%) that the Hunt Community Center is in need of renovation; some (42%) respondents believe it should be replaced. Please rank each element "High", "Medium" or "Low" as it corresponds to how your family would make use of an "ideal" Community Center.	2.1	1.2	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.0
	69.4%	40.7%	63.9%	59.3%	57.4%	65.7%
	Fitness Facility	Indoor Gymnasium	Indoor Walking/Jogging Track	Outdoor Athletic Fields	"Mini-Town Hall"	Satellite Town Services
	2.4	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.0
	78.7%	69.4%	68.5%	64.8%	50.0%	34.3%

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 9-11 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 8

Question #8	How far willing to walk to Community Center?						
	5 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes	25 minutes	30 minutes	blank
How far would you personally be willing to walk to access a Community Center? Please circle the choice that most closely corresponds to your opinion	11.1%	33.3%	36.1%	8.3%	0.0%	2.8%	8.3%

Source: design based planning, inc.

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Table 9-12 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 9

Question #9	<i>Prioritize the Order: 1(high), 2, 3, 4 or 5 (low) - Average Rating - Percentage</i>					
	2 New Softball Pitches	1 New Regulation Soccer Pitch	1 New Multi-Use Field	1 Regional Trail System	1 Public Swimming Pool	all blank
The Needs Analysis indicates that the Town of Holly Springs is currently deficient in very few areas. There is a designated need in 2006 for the following:	4.2	3.6	2.8	1.8	2.6	11.1%
	15.9%	29.0%	43.4%	64.5%	48.1%	

Source: design based planning, inc.

Table 9-13 - Town Parks & Facilities; Question 10

Question #10	<i>Three activities that should receive the highest priority for enhanced development</i>									
	Walking	Camping	Picnicking	Visit Historical Sites	Freshwater Fishing	Visit Natural Areas	Beach Activities	Visit Zoo	Using Play Equipment	Attending Outdoor Cultural Events
The State of North Carolina has placed on "High Priority" on funding initiatives and the development of facilities related to the following activities:	72.2%	13.9%	22.2%	8.3%	22.2%	33.3%	11.1%	0.0%	22.2%	52.8%

Source: design based planning, inc.

9.2 Reference Materials

The following is a partial list of reference and support materials used during the planning process:

- Bureau of Transportation Statistics National Transportation Library, *Assessing Recreation Demand*, 2004
- Cordell, H. Ken, Principal Author, *Outdoor Recreation for 21st Century America*, 2002.
- *Fuquay-Varina Greenway System Master Plan*, 2002
- LINC – Log Into North Carolina Website, <http://linc.state.nc.us/>
- National Sporting Goods Association, Research and Statistics, <http://www.nsga.org>, 2006
- North Carolina *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, 2003-2008
- Russell, Ruth, *Public Park and Recreation Trends*, 1988. <http://hubcap.clemson.edu/~trourke/prtrends.html>
- *Town of Holly Springs Approved Budget*, Fiscal Year 2005-2006
- *Town of Holly Springs Draft Pedestrian Transportation Plan*, 2006
- *Town of Holly Springs Open Space Master Plan*, 2004
- *Town of Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Department Policy Manual*
- *Town of Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Department Long and Short Term Goals*, May 11, 2004
- Town of Holly Springs, “*Hurrah’s Quarterly Newsletter*”, 2006
- *Town of Holly Springs 10 Year Growth Plan*, 2005.
- *Town of Holly Springs Community Center Needs Assessment*, May 5, 2004
- *Town of Holly Springs Community & Recreation Center Needs Assessment Update*, April 6, 2004
- U.S. Forest Service Region 8 *Recreation and Tourism Statistics Update*, 2002, 2006.
- *Wake County Consolidated Open Space Plan*, 2005.
- Wake County GIS <http://impas.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/mainpage.htm>
- *Wake County Level 4 Joint Use Agreement...Holly Springs Elementary School, High School*.
- *Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Business Plan*, 2005-2007
- *Wake County Watershed Study* www.projects.ch2m.com/wakeco./Docs
- Wake County Parks and Opens Space Website <http://www.wakegov.com/parks>
- The Trust for Public Land Center for City Park Excellence, *City Park Facts*, http://www.tpl.org/tier2_pa.cfm?folder_id=3208
- North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, *An Inventory of Significant Natural Areas in Wake County, North Carolina, Executive Summary*, 2003, <http://www.ncnhp.org/Pages/partners.html>
- Town of Cary, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources, Parks, <http://townofcary.org/depts/prdept/parks.htm>
- *Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Facilities Master Plan*, 2002.
- Fuquay-Varina Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Dept., Park Information, <http://www.fuquay-varina.org/parks/park-information-178.asp>
- Town of Apex, *Park Facilities Features Comparison Chart*, <http://www.apexnc.org>

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- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Data, Statistics, Reports and Maps, Million Acre Plan for North Carolina, <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/html/data.html>
- *State of Colorado Small Community Park & Recreation Planning Standards, 2003*
- *Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Master Plan, January 2002*
- City Data, Research and Statistics, <http://www.city-data.com>
- North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, <http://www.ncnhf.org/pages/aboutnhf.htm>
- North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, <http://www.parf.net/>
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, <http://www.cwmtf.net/>

9.3 Existing Plans and Drawings

The following Plans / Drawings are included for reference:

1. Town of Holly Springs Cultural Center / Library Site Plan
2. Jones Park Master Plan
3. Parrish Womble Park Master Plan
4. Veterans' Park Master Plan
5. Holly Springs Elementary & Middle Schools
6. Holly Springs High School Site Plan

Figure 9-5 – Town of Holly Springs Cultural Center / Library Site Plan

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Figure 9-6 - Jones Park Master Plan

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
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Figure 9-7 - Parrish Womble Park Master Plan

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Figure 9-8 - Veterans' Park Master Plan

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
for Holly Springs, NC**

Figure 9-9 - Holly Springs Elementary & Middle Schools

**A Parks and Recreation Master Plan
for Holly Springs, NC**

Figure 9-10 - Holly Springs High School Site Plan

Figure 3-1 – Potential Parkland Acquisitions Plan

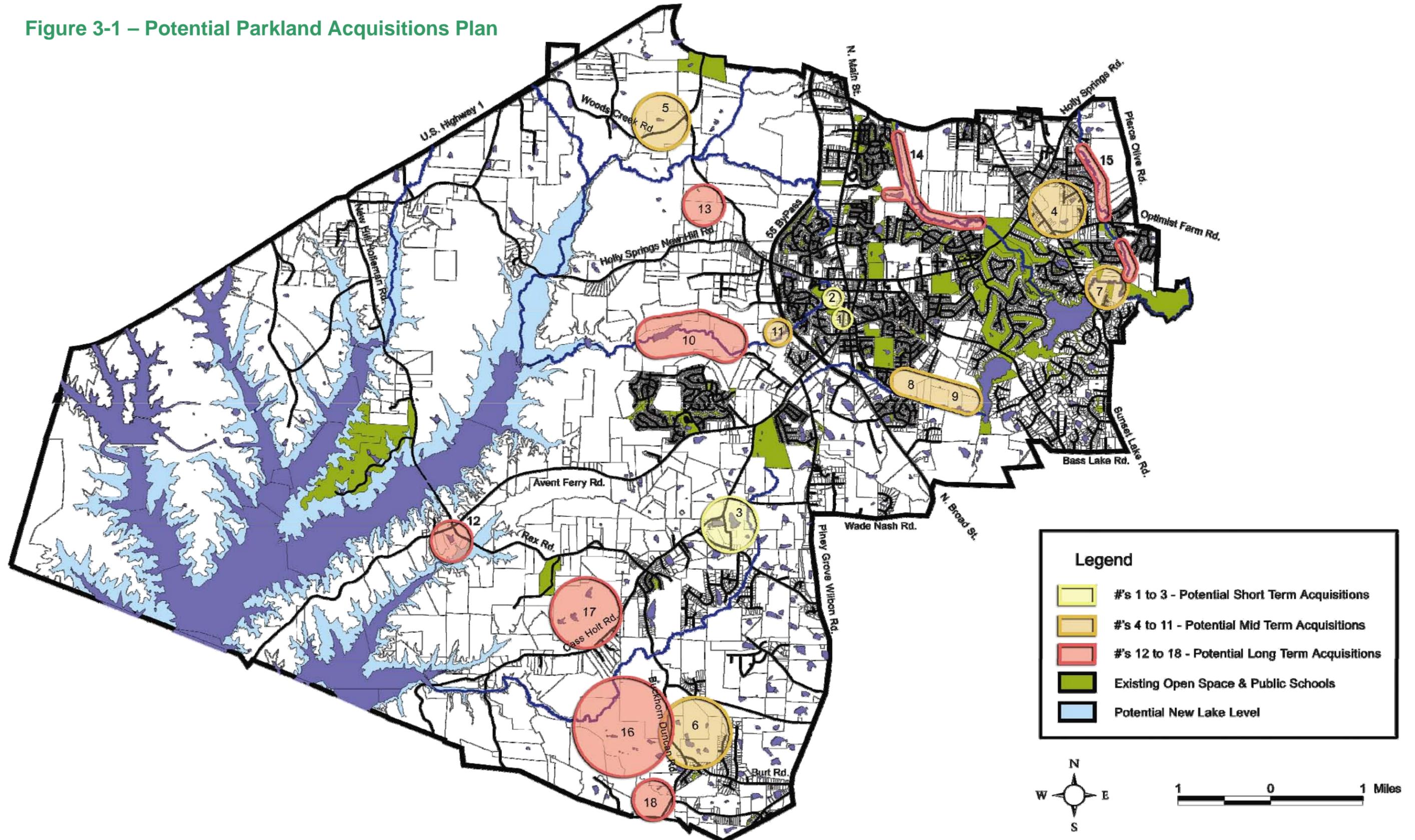


Figure 4-1 – Greenway System Concept

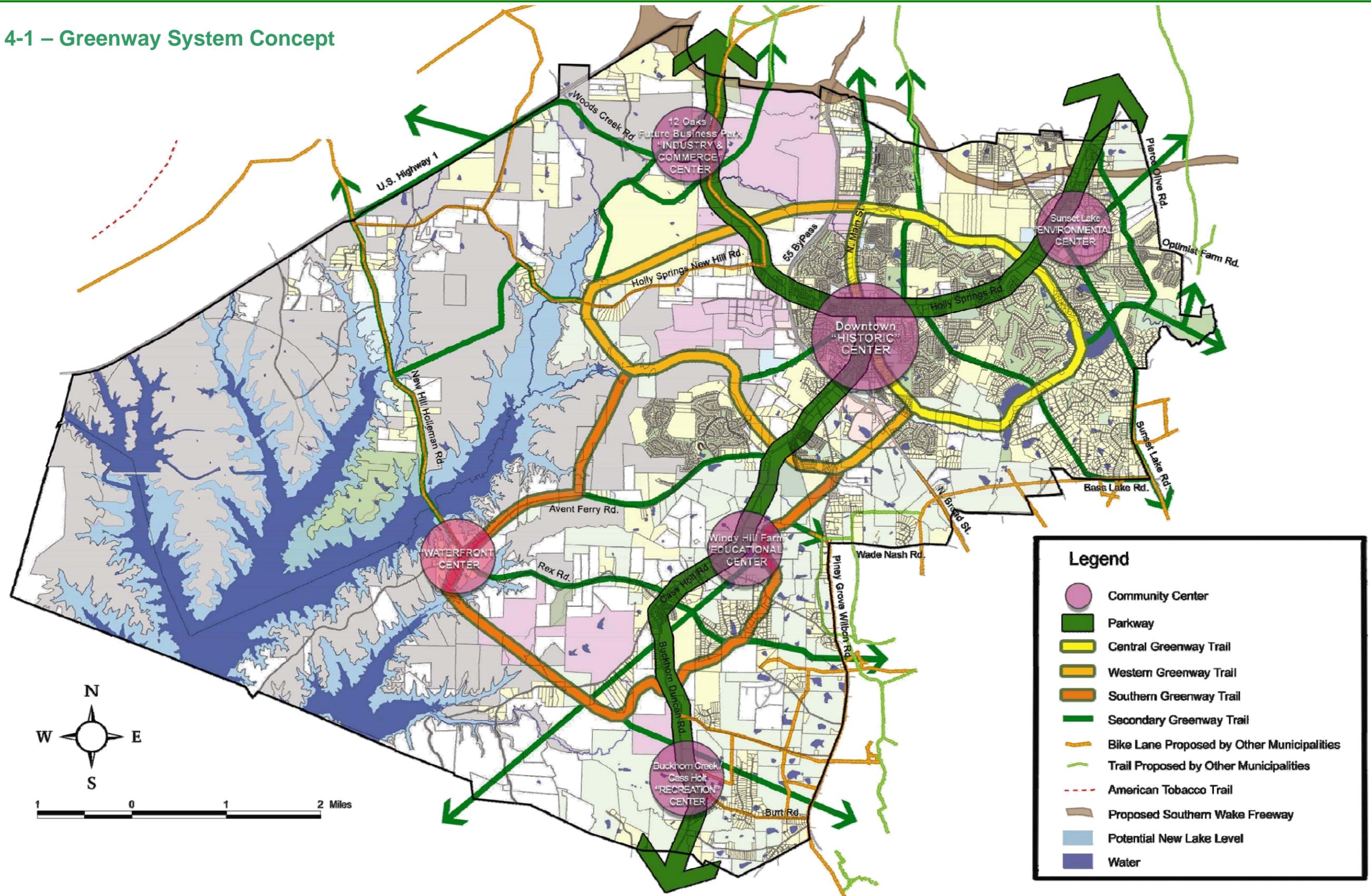


Figure 4-2 – Park System Concept

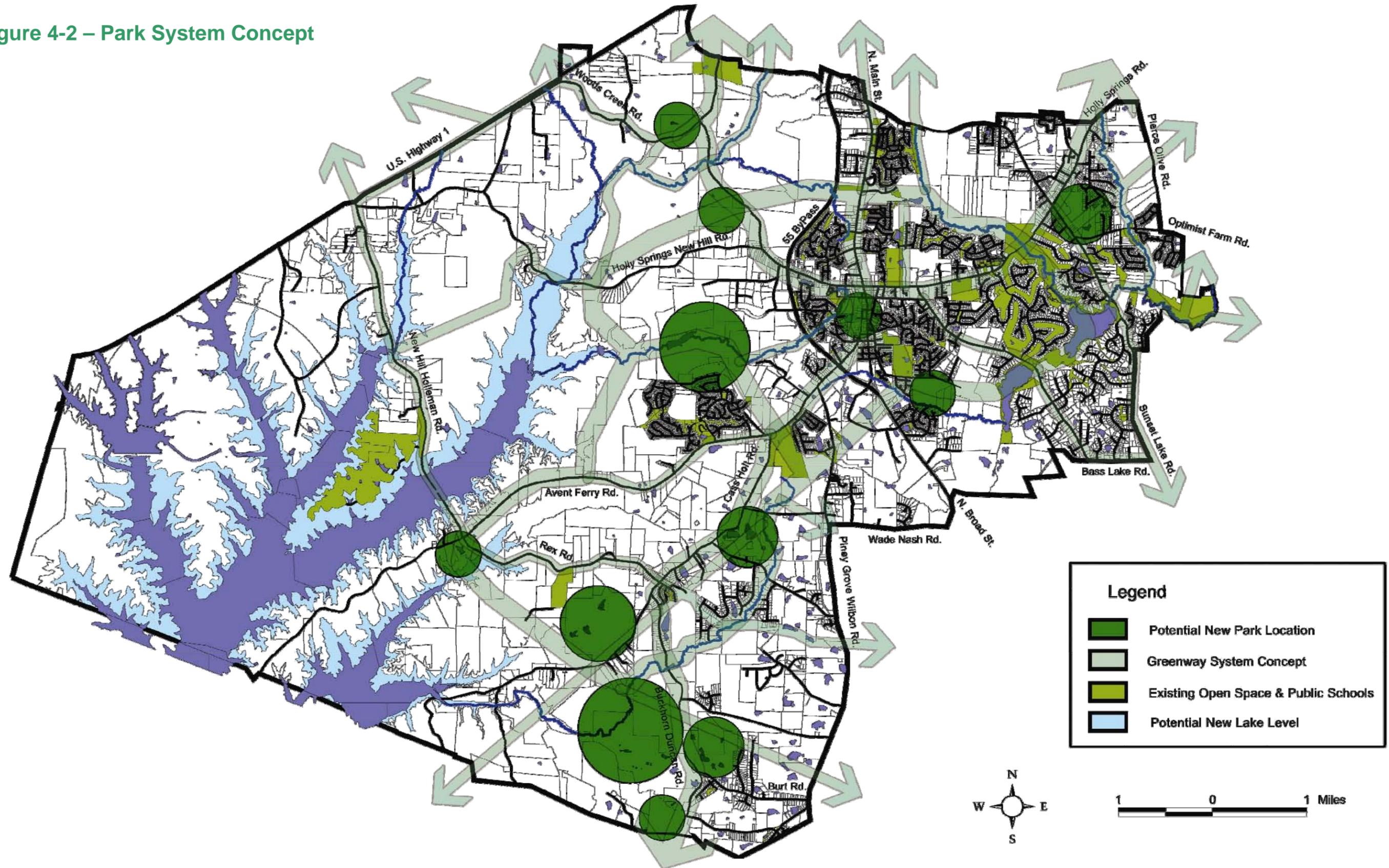


Figure 5-1 – Existing / Proposed Parks with Proposed Classification

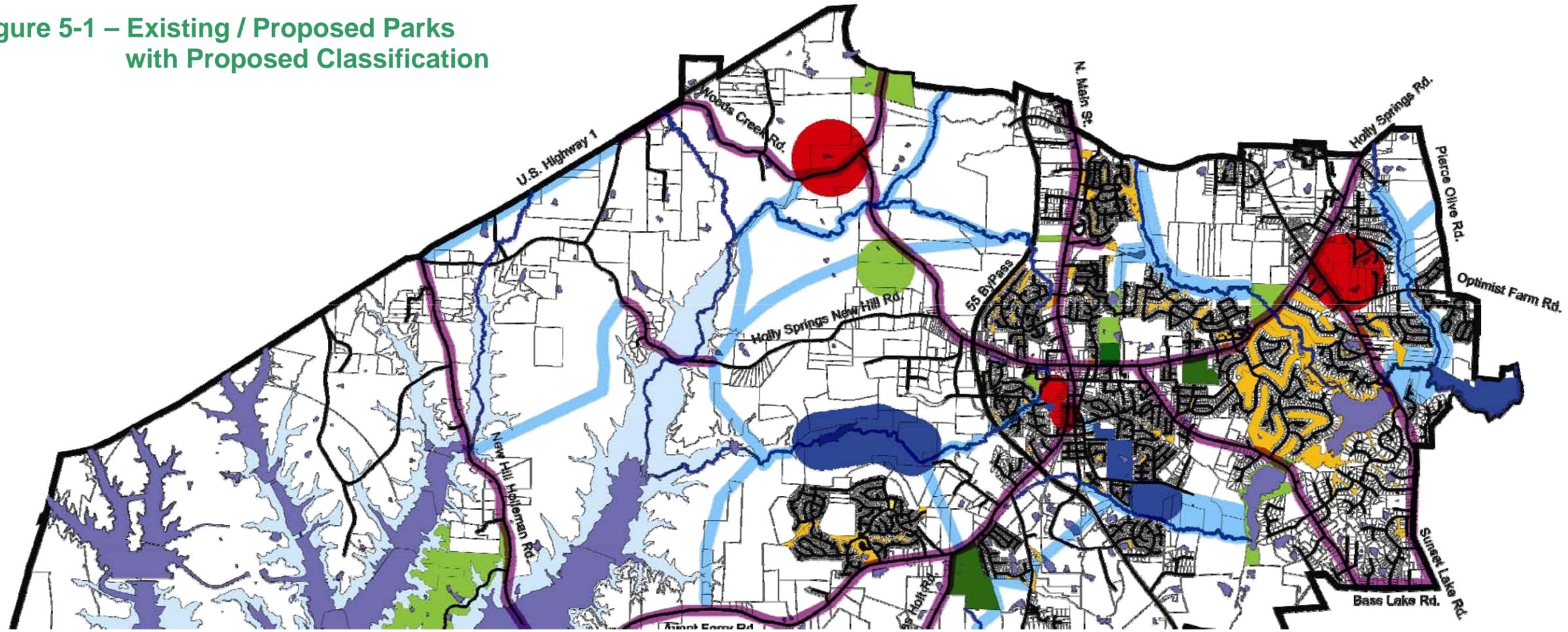


Figure 9-5 Town of Holly Springs Cultural Center / Library Site Plan (by Little Diversified Architectural Consulting)

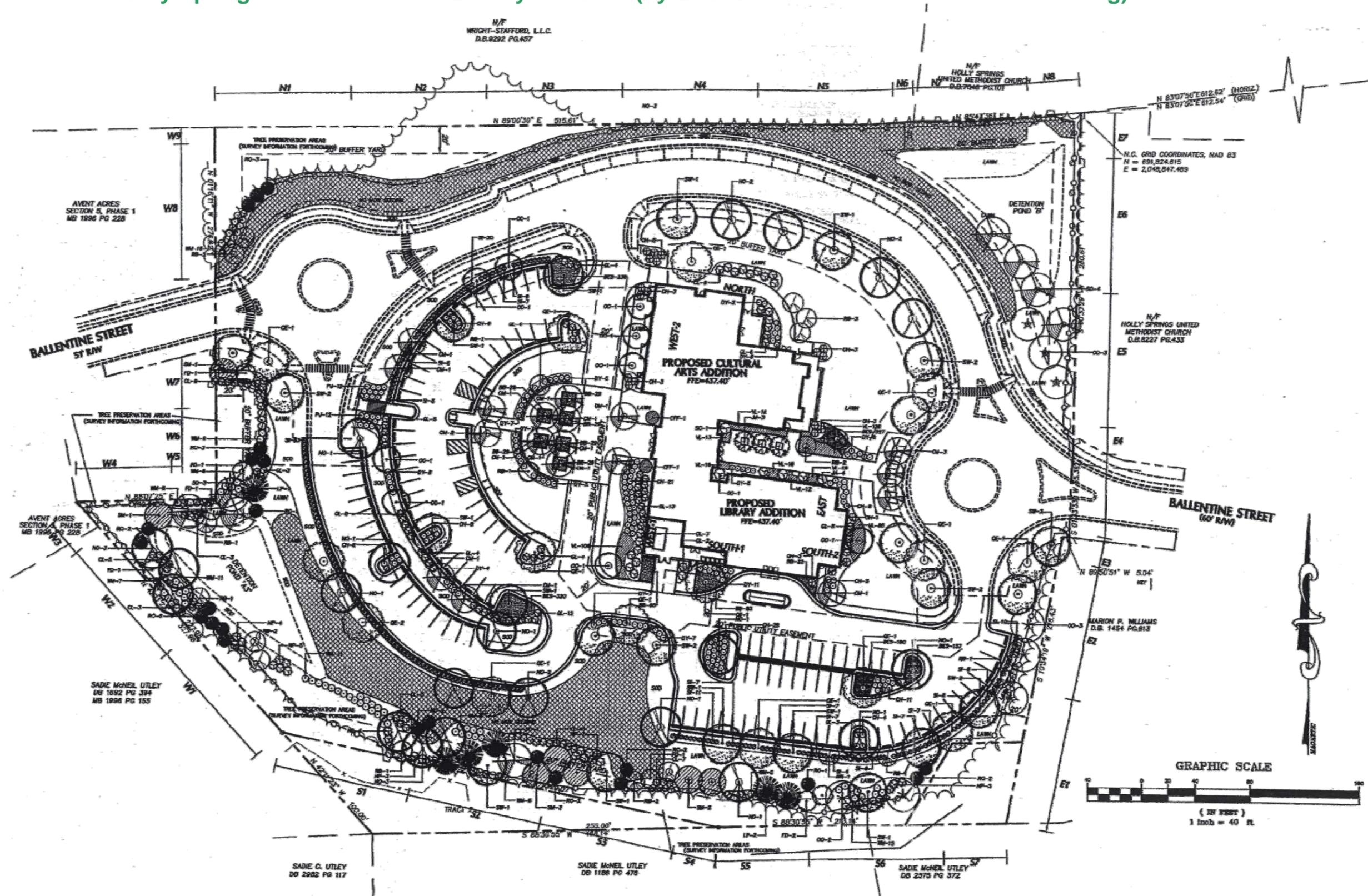


Figure 9-7 Parrish Womble Master Plan (by Thompson & Associates)

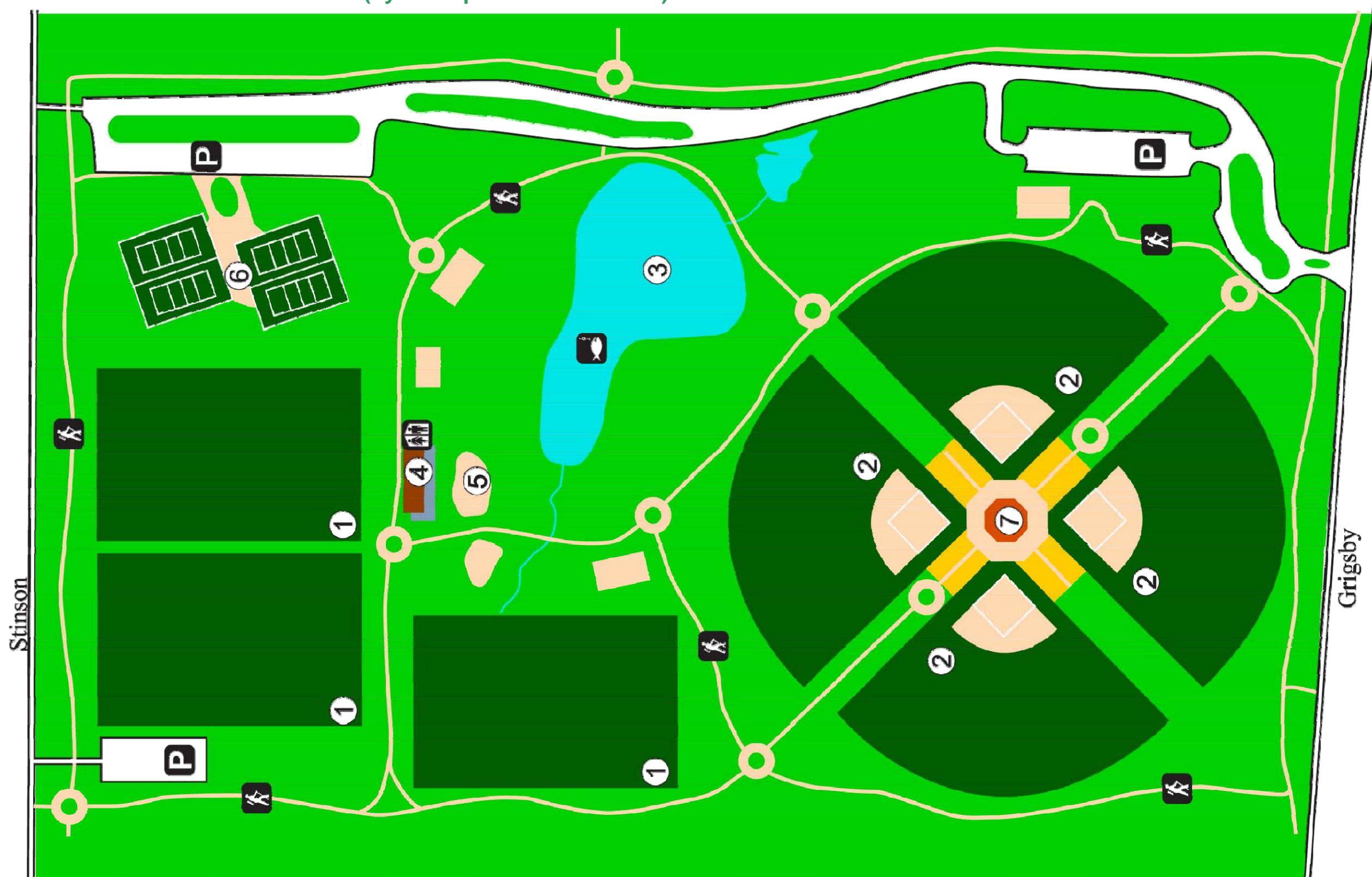


Figure 9-8 Veterans' Park Master Plan (by Thompson & Associates)

