

2010-2030

Comprehensive

parks and
recreation

Master Plan

City of Lenoir
North Carolina





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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Lenoir is the county seat for Caldwell County, North Carolina. Established in 1851, Lenoir was named for General William Lenoir, Revolutionary War soldier and early settler in the area.

The City covers 19.28 square miles of land in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Two major highways cross through the City: US Hwy 321 traveling north/south and US Hwy 64, traveling east/west. Beginning in the southeast section of Lenoir, the Brushy Mountains run northeastward. Hibrten Mountain, at just over 2200 feet is the highest point within the City Limits. Lower Creek and its tributaries, Zack's Fork and Spainhour Creeks are the major bodies of water in the City and drain into Lake Rhodiss in the South.

Lenoir has had a long history with furniture manufacturing and is the headquarters for the Broyhill Company. Beginning in the 1990s, many furniture companies began moving their manufacturing operations overseas, causing economic hardships for many of Lenoir's workers. Recent influxes of new service and technology based businesses such



Downtown Lenoir, North Carolina

as Google, are providing needed jobs and a boost to the economy.

A recipient of the 2008 All America City Award, Lenoir has been revitalizing





their downtown area, attracting new stores and businesses. A combination of gathering places, public art and events are keeping downtown Lenoir an active and attractive place to be. The Tucker's Art Gallery of outdoor sculptures, the Lenoir Cruise-In, renovations to the downtown quadrangle and the North Carolina Blackberry Festival all combine to provide recreational and leisure activities in the downtown area.

Because of the challenges facing Lenoir, the City leaders have recognized the need for a recreation plan that addresses both the current and future needs of the residents. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan will give them direction and purpose as they strive to meet the recreational needs of their community. The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2010 to 2030 addresses their vision by identifying specific goals and objectives.

The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2010-2030 (hereafter called Master Plan) provides the framework for guiding the City Commission and Staff in both its current evaluation of and long-range planning for the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Lenoir. The framework for this Master Plan is based upon conducting an inventory of the existing park system, recording the observations and recommending the addition and renovation of parks and recreational facilities. Not only does the Master Plan include recommendations, it also prioritizes specific projects, taking into consideration the identification of user populations and the development of recreation standards. The Master Plan is intended to be action-oriented and designed to provide the City of Lenoir with a practical guide for its enhancement of the parks and recreation system for the next 20 years.

In preparing the Master Plan, State and National Parks and Recreation Standards were used as a guide to support the recommendations made for the parks and recreational facilities for the City of Lenoir. Using these standard guidelines along with community input, McGill Associates, P.A., developed a plan, which applies specifically to the resident and non-resident users of the parks and recreation system.



1.2 PURPOSES AND GOALS

The City of Lenoir Board of Commissioners, the City Staff, the Recreation Advisory Board and the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department recognized the need to prepare a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan. McGill Associates, P.A., was selected by the City to evaluate its existing park and recreation facilities and to develop a master plan as a guideline for the implementation of recommendations designed to meet the needs of the population for a span of 20 years. In preparing the master plan, McGill Associates, P.A., worked closely with the City of Lenoir Staff, the Recreation Advisory Board, the Project Oversight Group and City residents. A key objective in the development of the Master Plan was the solicitation of community input, identifying additional needs for the town (renovation, construction, land purchase and development) both now and in the future.

After recognizing the present and future needs, the Master Plan serves as a guide for the prioritization of recommended park upgrades, expansion and land acquisition. In order to formulate the Master Plan, a community-wide assessment is required to determine these particular park and facility needs for the City of Lenoir. Community input and the comparison to North Carolina's state standards, are the initial steps in the master plan process.

The Master Plan emphasizes the potential for 'connectivity' of proposed projects with existing sites, such as parks, schools, greenways, downtown districts and other government-owned properties. It is not designed to be exclusive, but rather to enhance recreation opportunities in the town and surrounding communities.

Of utmost intent in the Master Plan purpose is the maintenance of the type of venue in the City of Lenoir that fosters community spirit, activism and bonding between local citizens. The study of the demographic profile of City residents, population ages, race, ethnicity, et cetera, is a key factor in making specific and accurate recommendations.

Not only does the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2010-2030 make recommendations for a 20 year period of





time (2010-2030), but it also suggests the means by which the identified objectives might be achieved. Opportunities for grants, partnerships and outside funding are recommended as aids in the establishment of a Capital Improvement Plan and an operating budget. Varieties of land acquisition are explained in detail.

The Master Plan focuses on providing the City of Lenoir with an accurate, usable guide for decision-making as the City begins to implement items such as the following:

- Park renovations, acquisitions and developments
- Facility renovations, acquisitions and developments
- Recreation programming strategies
- Implementation of improvements

The Master Plan is divided into six major component sections that are listed below:

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 2 – Population Trends and Projections

Section 3 – Existing Park Facilities

Section 4 – Recreation Needs Assessment

Section 5 – Goals and Recommendations

Section 6 – Implementation Plan



1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lenoir wishes to express its sincere appreciation for those entities and individuals, who, in any way, contributed to the creation of the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2010-2030, some of whom are identified below. Without the knowledge and expertise of these persons, in both individual and team settings, this document would not be possible.

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Section 2 Population Trends and Projections

2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information of the City of Lenoir has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community and to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning the age and gender of the population is an important factor in determining the needs for recreation in the community. The table (below) contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of the City of Lenoir as ascertained by the Federal Census of 2000.

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
SEX		
Male	8,005	47.7
Female	8,788	50.9
Total:	16,793	100.0
AGE		
15 or younger	3,255	19.4
16-24 years	1,939	11.5
25-44 years	4,612	27.5
45-64 years	3,910	23.3
65 years and over	3,077	18.3
RACE		
White	13,583	80.9
Black	2,470	14.7
American Indian/Alaskan	38	0.2
Asian	112	0.7
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	19	0.1
Some other race	382	2.3
Hispanic	714	4.3
Two or more races	189	1.1
Total:	16,793	100.0

Source: American FactFinder, Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights





The 2000 census population results revealed significant characteristics of Lenoir’s population. The largest age population division is the 25 to 44 year old group, followed closely by adults aged 45 to 64 years. Children 15 or younger are the third largest group. It is important to note that all of the members of the 45 to 64 year old group will be in the senior category by the end of this 20 year plan.

A large majority of the population is white, while about 15% are of African descent.

2.2 THE CITY OF LENOIR POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the North Carolina State Demographics office, the population of the City of Lenoir increased by 10.6% from 2000 to 2006. Most of this growth is attributed to the annexation of nearly three square miles of land to the City. The City’s Comprehensive Plan calls for the population to increase by approximately 6,000 people between the years 2008 and 2028. (Table 2.2-1 City of Lenoir Population Projections)

Table 2.2-1 City of Lenoir Population Projections

Year	City of Lenoir Population	Increase	% Growth
2000	16,793	NA	NA
2006	18,588	1,795	10.6
2008	19,115	530	2.8
2015	20,974	1,856	9.7
2020	22,300	1,326	6.3
2028	25,470	3,170	14.2

2.3 POPULATION TRENDS

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 1995-2000 (SCORP), children and senior citizens comprise two of the fastest growing groups in North Carolina who are in need of more recreation opportunities. The largest demographic group in Lenoir is that between the ages of 25 to 44. According to SCORP, this group is most interested in fitness activities, water activities and activities involving small children. The Unifour region of North Carolina, of which Lenoir is a part, is attracting a growing number of retirees to the area. This growth of senior citizens, most of whom will have extended leisure time, will have a great impact upon the programs and facilities of the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department.



Developing trends are impacting the need for additional recreation services for City residents. To attract and meet the needs of residents and visitors, the City will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities and offer an expanding selection of recreation opportunities.

-END OF SECTION-





SECTION 3

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

McGill Associates, P.A., recently performed an inventory of City of Lenoir parks. Site visits were made to each park facility with observations being recorded. A brief analysis of each recreation facility was performed, noting any visible improvements needed for that facility. This method of study serves as a guide for the City of Lenoir in its efforts to develop a plan for present and future recreation needs.

Residents and visitors of the City of Lenoir have some of their recreation needs met through a variety of amenities offered by the City, local organizations, private entities and the State of North Carolina. School recreation facilities owned and operated by Caldwell County also provide recreational opportunities that may be used by the public.

City of Lenoir Owned and Operated Facilities

- Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center
- T. Henry Wilson Athletic Park
- T.H. Broyhill Walking Park
- Mulberry Recreation Center
- The Lenoir Greenway
- The Lenoir Greenway Expansion (Planned)
- Martin Luther King Center
- J.E. Broyhill Park
- Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex
- Old Lenoir High School Gym, Soccer Field, and Batting Cages
- Old Lenoir High School Auditorium
- West End Park

Caldwell County Owned Facilities

- Wilson Creek Visitors Center
- Caldwell County Fairgrounds





Caldwell County Schools in Lenoir

Hibriten High School
William Lenoir Middle School
Whitnel Elementary School
West Lenoir Elementary School
Lower Creek Elementary School
Valmead Elementary School
Davenport Elementary

Other Owned Facilities

Lenoir Optimist Sports Complex	Lenoir Golf Course
Collettsville Ruritan Park	Lenoir Arts Council
Happy Valley Optimist Park	Green Mountain Park
Gamewell Town Park	

Federally Owned and Operated Facilities

Pisgah National Forest

- Boone Fork
- Wilson Creek

State Owned Facilities

Tuttle State Forest
Lake James State Park

3.2 FACILITY INVENTORY

City of Lenoir Owned and Operated Facilities

Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center



Located along Zacks Fork Creek, the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center offers a variety of health, fitness and leisure activities to the residents of Lenoir. The Center offers classes in swimming, coaching, pilates, yoga and aerobics. The Center's facilities are available for rental. The Lenoir Greenway connects the Center to the Rotary Soccer Complex and the T. Henry Wilson Athletic Center.



Outdoor Olympic-size swimming pool

Site Amenities

- 1 Indoor Junior Olympic-size Swimming Pool
- 1 Outdoor Olympic-size Swimming Pool
- 1 Wading pool
- 1 Whirlpool

- 2 Steam Rooms
- 3 Handball/Racquetball Courts
- 1 Exercise Room
- Hiking and Biking Trails
- Connection to the Lenoir Greenway
- Paved Parking Lot



Ball fields at T. Henry Wilson Athletic Park

T. Henry Wilson Athletic Park

This 19 acre sports park was created on land donated to the City by T. Henry Wilson, an avid supporter of Little League Baseball. The Lenoir Greenway and Zacks





Fork Creek run along the back side of the park. A drainage ditch that runs along the opposite side of the park is currently undergoing stream enhancement. A broad, flat plain between the two streams houses the athletic fields. There are no concession stands, bleachers or restroom facilities at the park. None of the fields are fenced.

Site Amenities

- 1 Soccer Field
- 3 Baseball/Softball Fields
- 1 Multi-purpose Practice Field
- Paved Parking Lot

T.H. Broyhill Walking Park

A paved walking trail makes this park a popular destination for walkers. The lake, Japanese-style structures and garden make the park a popular location for weddings. Needed repairs to the amenities are currently underway at this facility.



The Lake at T.H. Broyhill

Site Amenities

- .43 Mile Paved Walking Trail
- The Joe T. Ingram Nature Sanctuary for Waterfowl and Botanical Gardens
- Lake
- Paved Parking



Mulberry Recreation Center

The Mulberry Recreation Center is located just off of US18/64. The complex houses the City of Lenoir's Parks and Recreation Department offices, athletic facilities, meeting rooms and picnic areas. Classes and programs offered at this site include karate, aerobics, story-time, gymnastics, yoga and summer camp. Recent renovations include new fencing, a new press box and new restroom facilities at the baseball fields. New playground equipment has also been installed in the park. The gymnasium building is 35 years old and needs updating.



Lenoir Greenway

Site Amenities

- 6 Lighted Tennis Courts
- 3 Lighted Baseball/Softball Fields
- 2 T-ball Fields
- 1 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- Gymnasium with 1 Collegiate-sized Basketball Court
- 2 Picnic Shelters
- 1 Playground
- 1 Skateboard Park
- Game room w/ Kitchen

The Lenoir Greenway

The Lenoir Greenway has 7.2 miles of completed, paved pathway. It runs from the Caldwell County Library to the Rotary Soccer Complex. This

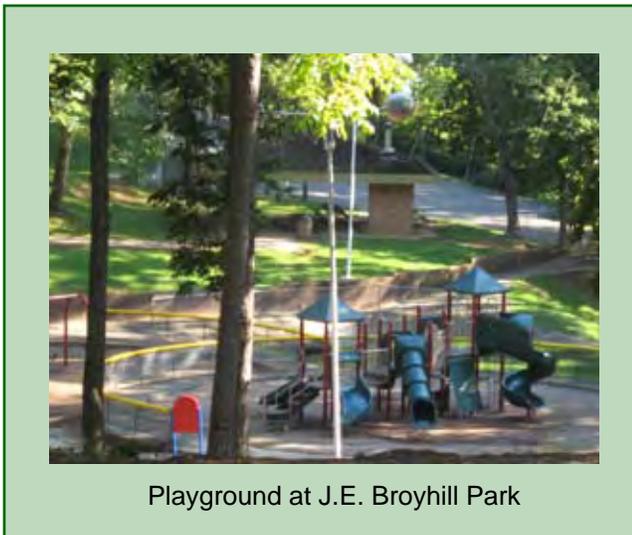




wide, asphalt surface accommodates walking, running/jogging, bicycling and skating. Phase II, which is ready for construction, will extend the Greenway east from the Library, across US 321 towards the downtown area.

Martin Luther King Center

This 10 acre park contains outdoor athletic facilities and a building that houses a gymnasium, basketball courts, a fitness center and a multi-purpose room. The Martin Luther King Center hosts the Harambee Arts Festival each year, and presents basketball clinics and camps.



Playground at J.E. Broyhill Park

Site Amenities

- Large Social Hall, Lounge, Kitchen and a Game/Club room
- 1 Gymnasium
- 2 Lighted Tennis Courts
- 4 Lighted Shuffleboard Courts
- 1 Lighted Baseball/Softball Field
- 1 Concession Stand
- 1 Multi-use Play Court
- Weight Room

J.E. Broyhill Park

This newly renovated park is centrally located, adjacent to the City's downtown. The park is 9.4 acres in size. The terrain is very hilly and the amenities are situated at different levels throughout the park. Two of the picnic shelters have been renovated and have outdoor fireplaces. The third shelter is scheduled to be renovated within the year. The existing structures in the park give J. E. Broyhill Park a distinctive character. Any changes made to this park should continue to fit within that character.

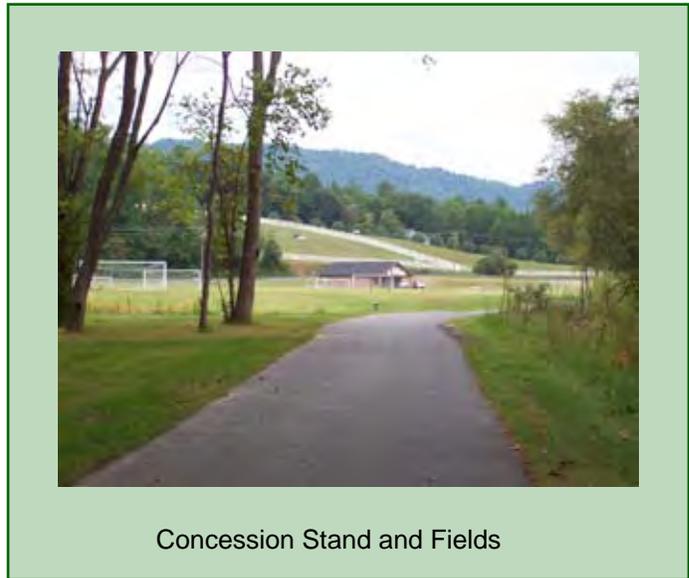
Site Amenities



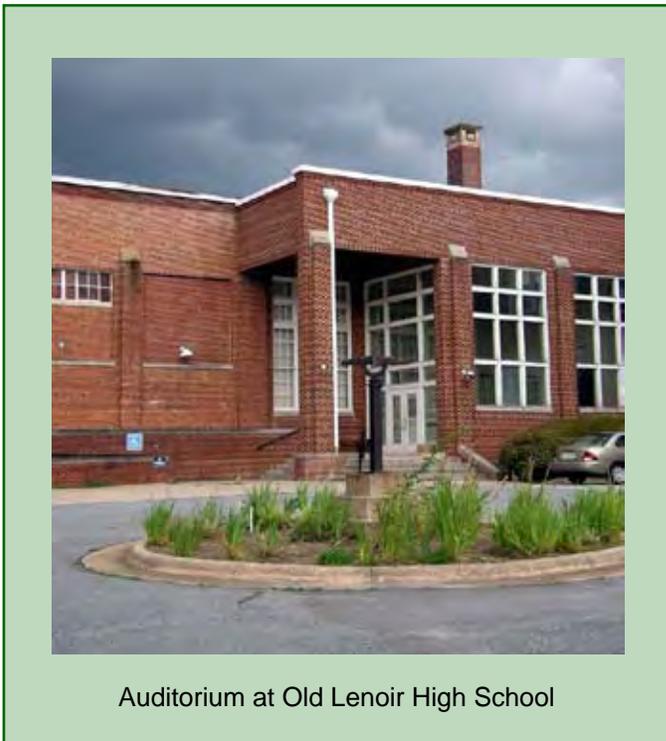
- 3 Picnic Shelters
- 1 Outdoor Basketball Court
- 1 Playgrounds
- 1 Office building with Meeting Room

Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex

This 13 acre soccer complex is located across Zacks Fork Creek from the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center. It is the major soccer facility for Lenoir. The Lenoir Greenway terminates at the park. There are a few picnic tables on the site.



Concession Stand and Fields



Auditorium at Old Lenoir High School

Site Amenities

- 9 Soccer Fields
- 1 Concession/Restroom Building
- 2 Paved Parking Lots

Old Lenoir High School

The Old Lenoir High School complex has become an integral part of the cultural and recreational scene in Lenoir. The auditorium is used for a variety of programs, while the gymnasium still sees use for basketball practices, gymnastics and exercise classes.





The old football field serves as a soccer facility. Part of the complex is rented out to local artists. Since the complex consists of older, historic buildings, it is important that the City of Lenoir perform routine inspections and maintenance of the facility.

Site Amenities

- 1 Gymnasium
- 1 Auditorium
- Batting cages
- 1 Soccer field

West End Park

This small, neighborhood park is in need of repair and updating. Many of the facilities have been vandalized over the years.

Site Amenities

- Outdoor Basketball Courts
- Picnic Shelters
- Defunct Tennis Court

Caldwell County Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Wilson Creek Visitor Center

Once Wilson Creek received its Wild and Scenic River designation, Caldwell County purchased 6.4 acres along Wilson Creek to build a visitor and education center. The purpose behind the Center is the promotion of the outstanding value of Wilson Creek.



Caldwell County Fairgrounds

Located just south of the City of Lenoir between US 321 and Alternate 321, this site is used for the annual County Fair and other special events.

Federally Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Pisgah National Forest

Roughly 49,000 acres or 30% of Caldwell County is within the Pisgah National Forest. The forest is available for camping, hiking, fishing and canoeing. Wilson Creek, which runs through the Pisgah National Forest in Caldwell County, is a designated Wild, Scenic River.

State of North Carolina Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Tuttle State Forest

This 290 acre managed forest boasts numerous nature trails with educational signage and displays. Tuttle State Forest is located between Lenoir and Morganton off highway 18 and serves as a part of the North Carolina Educational State Forest system of living outdoor classrooms. Ranger conducted classes are offered to small groups.

Lake James State Park

One of North Carolina's newest State Parks is located on the 6,510 acre Lake James. Lake James State Park offers year round recreation opportunities.

Site Amenities

2 Boat Ramps

20 Backpack/Walk-to Campsites each with Fire-ring, and Picnic Table

Bath Houses with Hot Showers





- Fishing
- 3 Hiking Trails (a. .5 mi., b. 1.5 mi., c. 2.2 mi.)
- 20 Picnic Sites with Grills, Trash Cans, Picnic Tables and Drinking Water Faucets
- 1 Swim Beach
- 1 Concession Stand (Summer Months)
- Educational Tours and Workshops of the Park's Ecology

Other Owned and Operated Facilities

Lenoir Optimist Complex

Site Amenities

Two Little League baseball fields

Happy Valley Optimist Park

Happy Valley Optimist Park (Hwy. 268, Lenoir)

Site Amenities

- 1 Little League Fields
- 1 Softball Field
- Walking Trails
- Playground
- Gamewell Park

Site Amenities

Walking Park



3.3 THE CITY OF LENOIR'S EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department offers a year-round slate of recreational programs. The chart below summarizes their offerings and the number of participants for the year 2007.

Activity	Number of Participants (yearly)
Youth Basketball	150
Adult Basketball	80
Youth Softball	48
Adult Fall Softball	180
Adult Spring Softball	252
Youth Baseball	180
Youth Fall Baseball	48
Flag Football	48
Youth Wrestling	38
Youth Spring Soccer	225
Youth Fall Soccer	210
Youth Indoor Soccer	72
Summer Camo	25
Basektball Camp	70
Swimming Lessons (contracted)	341
Cheerleading	37
Aerobics	2625
Aquatic/Fitness Memberships	506
Aquatic/Fitness Admissions	7,369
K-9 Training	20
Gymnastics	24
Karate	8
Senior Citizen Lunch/Games	20
Pottery	9
Skateboard Park Admissions	1,096



The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department features various special events each year including: the Fourth of July Celebration and Firecracker 5k, the “Friday After Five On The Square” weekly celebrations, the MLK recreation center “Senior Citizens Game Nights”, “Fabulous Family Films” on the Square, Lenoir Downtown Cruise-Ins, and The North Carolina Blackberry Festival.

The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department also works with several athletic associations in the County to provide facilities, assistance, scheduling and promotion for team sports and events. Some of these associations are:

- Swim Lenoir
- Lenoir Greenway Running Club
- Lenoir Youth Soccer Association
- Little League Baseball USA
- Lenoir basketball Athletic Training Concept

- END OF SECTION -



SECTION 4 RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The City of Lenoir is the primary provider of parks and organized recreation in Caldwell County. The degree of need for parks/open space is most directly influenced by the expectations of the residents of the City of Lenoir, related strictly to the 'quality of life' to which they aspire. This Master Plan addresses as its first priority, the parks and recreation facility needs that are envisioned as appropriate for the residents of Lenoir.

Although this Master Plan is developed primarily for the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department, park facilities that are not owned or operated by the City are also evaluated to determine the needs assessment for residents of the City. Section 3 of this Master Plan inventories The City of Lenoir's existing park facilities, the recreation facilities within the Caldwell County School System, local municipalities, Federal and State forests and private recreation facilities within the City. This detailed inventory includes the facilities which are available within each park in order to create a better understanding of the existing recreation opportunities for residents of Lenoir. The demographic and population trends (found in Section 2 of the Master Plan) provide information needed to understand the growth of the City of Lenoir for the next 20 years. This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be used as a department specific guide for improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Community input and recreation standards were used as the primary method in determining the adequate types and number of park facilities needed for The City of Lenoir. This Master Plan compares standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), an independent, non-profit professional organization for park/recreation departments nationwide. In 1996, NRPA published a manual entitled, *Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*, which is a widely accepted reference standard for communities.

Standards are guidelines, not requirements, for use by communities in estimating the demand for recreation in their given geographic areas. The NRPA's 1996 guidelines shifted emphasis from rigid park facility standards to more flexible standards that better accommodate unique circumstances and situations that exist in every community. To assure that the City of Lenoir's Master Plan contains distinctiveness, yet versatility, public input was sought from its integral components: the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department, the City Commissioners, various City Staff and citizen representatives.





4.2 PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The methodology used in establishing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan should always include citizen input. In order to ensure a successful study, it is vital that the public users of recreational facilities be able to share their issues, needs, and desires.

Community Meetings

To facilitate community input, two public workshops were conducted during the initial phase of the Master Plan process. These workshops were held at the Mulberry Recreation Center. The workshops were held on two separate nights in order to offer multiple opportunities for residents to voice their opinions on the topic of recreation. A total of 27 people attended the meetings.

Participants were given a questionnaire to fill out each night. The questionnaires solicited their opinions on needed improvements and additions to existing park facilities and programs in The City of Lenoir. Questions were also asked about funding and the types of parks they envisioned for their City's future.



Participants in the Public Workshop

A short presentation was given by McGill Associates about the Master Plan project and questions were entertained. The participants were then divided into groups and given a map of the City of Lenoir, showing the location and size of each existing and proposed park. Participants were given markers and asked to place them on the map, marking a location for their top priority activities or facilities. Each participant was to mark two



priorities. Members of the groups were encouraged to discuss their choices with each other. Group members were also asked to write down a list of activities and facilities that they would like to see provided in The City of Lenoir. When the groups were finished discussing and marking their maps, they were asked to present their choices to the rest of the participants. Notes were taken of any comments.

Results of First Meeting, Thursday, September 18, 2008.

Twelve people attended this first meeting, including several staff members of the Parks and Recreation Department. There was a general concern among those in attendance about the condition of existing park facilities. West End Park and Mulberry Recreation Center were both singled out as being in need of refurbishment or replacement.

Results of the Second Meeting, Monday, September 22, 2008.

Fourteen people attended this second meeting, exclusive of Parks and Recreation Department employees. There was much interest expressed in making improvements to the Aquatic Center and in building more soccer fields.

Group Exercise Results

The following is a compilation of priorities as listed on the maps during the group exercise.

Comment	Listed as First Priority	Listed as Second Priority
Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center		
Build a water park	1	
Build a fitness center	2	
Fitness classes with qualified instructor	1	
Update/improve Aquatic Center	2	1
Provide for pre-school accessibility		1
Provide pool therapy for special needs children		1
Develop facilities on existing acreage		1
Picnic Area at old tennis court		1
BMX and Mountain Biking		1
Frisbee Golf Course		1





Comment	Listed as First Priority	Listed as Second Priority
Lenoir Greenway		
Family Activity area on Greenway Loop	3	
Expand Greenway	4	3
Install restrooms along Greenway	2	
Install Pet Waste Stations along Greenway		1
Pedestrian connections from neighborhoods to Greenway	1	
Mulberry Recreation Center		
Combine with Optimist Park	1	1
Place Optimist representative on Park Advisory Board		1
Replace or update recreation center buildings	2	
Create Sports Complex		1
West End Park		
Replace missing playground equipment and tennis court	1	
Upgrade park	1	
Build history/science/art museum at park		1
Build new park/facility in neighborhood		1
Old Lenoir High School Complex		
Repair auditorium building		1
T. Henry Wilson Athletic Park		
Improvements to baseball/softball fields	1	
Add restroom facilities to park		1
Miscellaneous		
Create new park in northern ETJ	2	1
Ice skating/hockey rink in northern ETJ	1	
Campground in northern ETJ		1
Bicycle lanes along roads		
Indoor multi-use facility at site of old indoor flea market	1	1
City owned motel on North 321		1
Lighted soccer fields at site of old indoor flea market	1	
Lighted soccer complex near County fairgrounds	1	1
Multi-use field for football/soccer in southeast City		1
Field-house for wrestling program	1	



Miscellaneous Comments

Turn old Singer Plant into a park.
Extend the Greenway to the northwest.
Extend the Greenway beyond the Soccer Complex to the northeast
Buy old Wal-Mart building and convert to new MLK center.
Connect Greenway to Morganton Greenway
Redo or decommission West End Park

Conclusions

Expansion of the Greenway was the most mentioned improvement/addition thought to be necessary for the Lenoir park and recreation system. There is interest in seeing it expand into all areas of the City. There is also interest in seeing it connect to other jurisdictional greenways.

Many of the participants want to see improvements to the Aquatic Center and to Mulberry Recreation Center. The building at the Recreation Center is aging and there is interest in refurbishing this building to keep it viable.

There is an overall concern with the maintenance of the facilities at the parks in Lenoir. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Department needs its own maintenance department in order to keep up with daily, weekly, monthly and annual repair/maintenance and facility evaluation.

Community Meetings Questionnaire

Participants in the Community Meetings were also asked to fill out a one-page questionnaire. The questions and results are as follows:

Question #1: What improvements do you think are most needed at existing park and recreation facilities?

Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center:

- Maintenance needs to be improved
 - Locker rooms
 - Floors
 - Bathrooms
- Increase the hours the pool is available
- Heat and enclose the pool for winter use
- More parking is needed near the building





West End Park:

- Everything needs to be improved
- Safety is a big issue
- Pre-school safe, play equipment
- Maintain park once fixed

All Parks and Facilities:

- Pre-school safe, play equipment
- Landscaping
- Upgraded and larger playgrounds

Question #2: What, if any, new recreation programs are needed?

- Cultural programs and festivals
- Programs for pre-school children and special needs children
- Piggyback scheduling of activities at Aquatic Center
- More and different types of events starting at Aquatic Center
- Money generating programs
- More pool activities to increase Aquatic Center income

Question #3: What, if any, new park and recreation facilities are needed?

- Teen Centers
- Work with the Optimist Club to produce new facilities
- A Furniture Museum
- Instead, refurbish existing facilities
- More parking near pool facility
- Enlarge Aquatic Center for aerobics room and cardio room. Add a classroom.
- Install bathrooms along the Greenway
- A new facility in the northern sector of Lenoir

Question #4: If new facilities are provided, should they be included in fewer but larger City-wide parks or in more, but smaller community parks?

There was not enough response to this question to formulate a valid response.

Question # 5: What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities and create programs?

- Raise taxes
- Rental fees for facilities and equipment





Community Survey

The active participation of residents in The City of Lenoir was crucial in developing a Master Plan that reflects the true needs for the City. With this in mind, community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. To gather further public input, a survey was conducted, which was advertised in the local newspaper and on the City's website. Survey forms were mailed to Lenoir residents with their utility bills. The survey form was also available on the City's website and at the County Library in Lenoir.

A total of 151 surveys were filled out and returned. The surveys represent 388 people (household members) in the City of Lenoir and adequately reflect a representative cross section of the City of Lenoir in terms of age and household size. Citizens were able to return the surveys in a variety of ways: drop off, mail in, web page or email.

The survey asked a series of questions about satisfaction with existing programs and facilities. Respondents were asked to rank their priorities for future programs and facilities; room was included for them to write in any choices that were not listed. Several questions pertained to participant use of existing facilities

The City of Lenoir Parks Master Plan Survey

151 Completed Surveys- Representing approximately 388 Persons

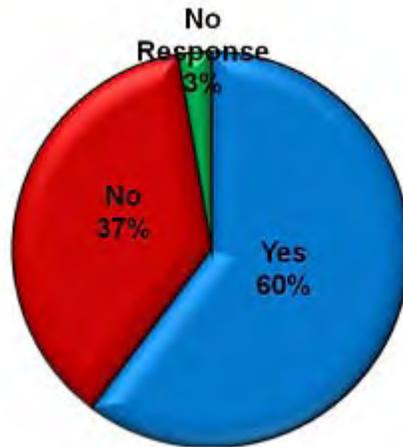
Demographics

Gender:



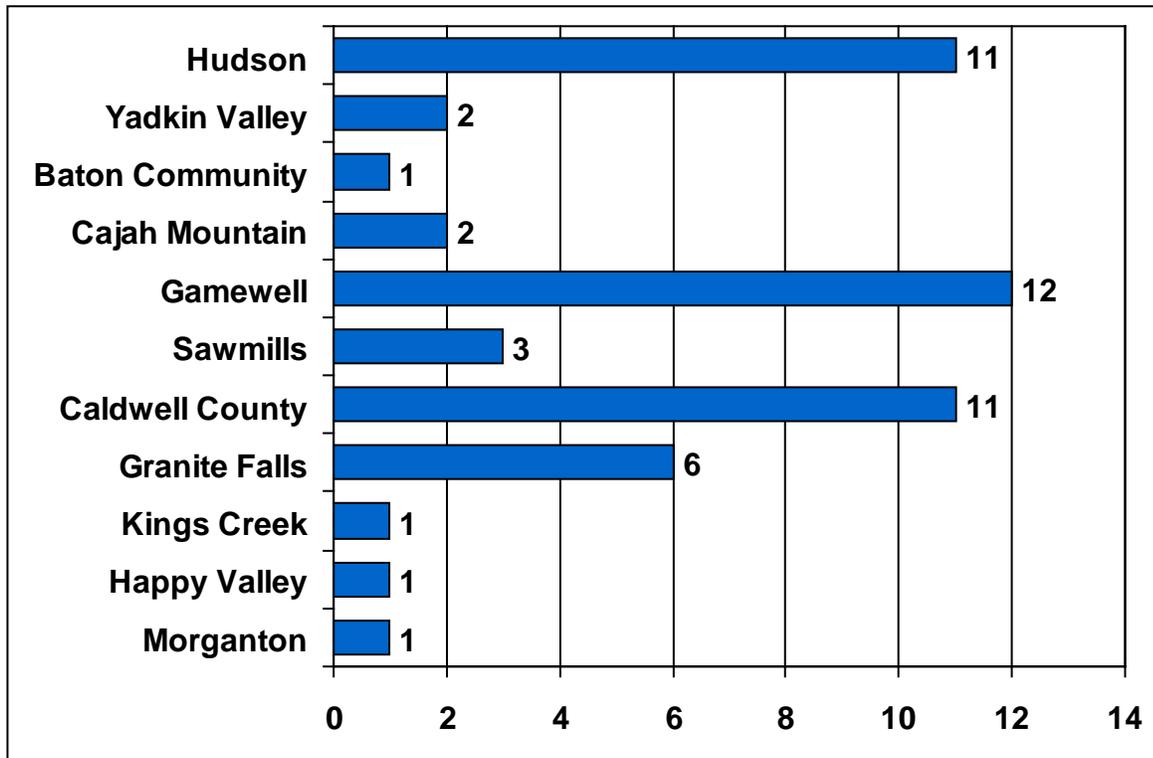


Are you a resident of The City of Lenoir?



There is a fairly high percentage of people who do not live in the City who responded to this survey. The City of Lenoir is a major provider of recreation for residents of and visitors to, Caldwell County.

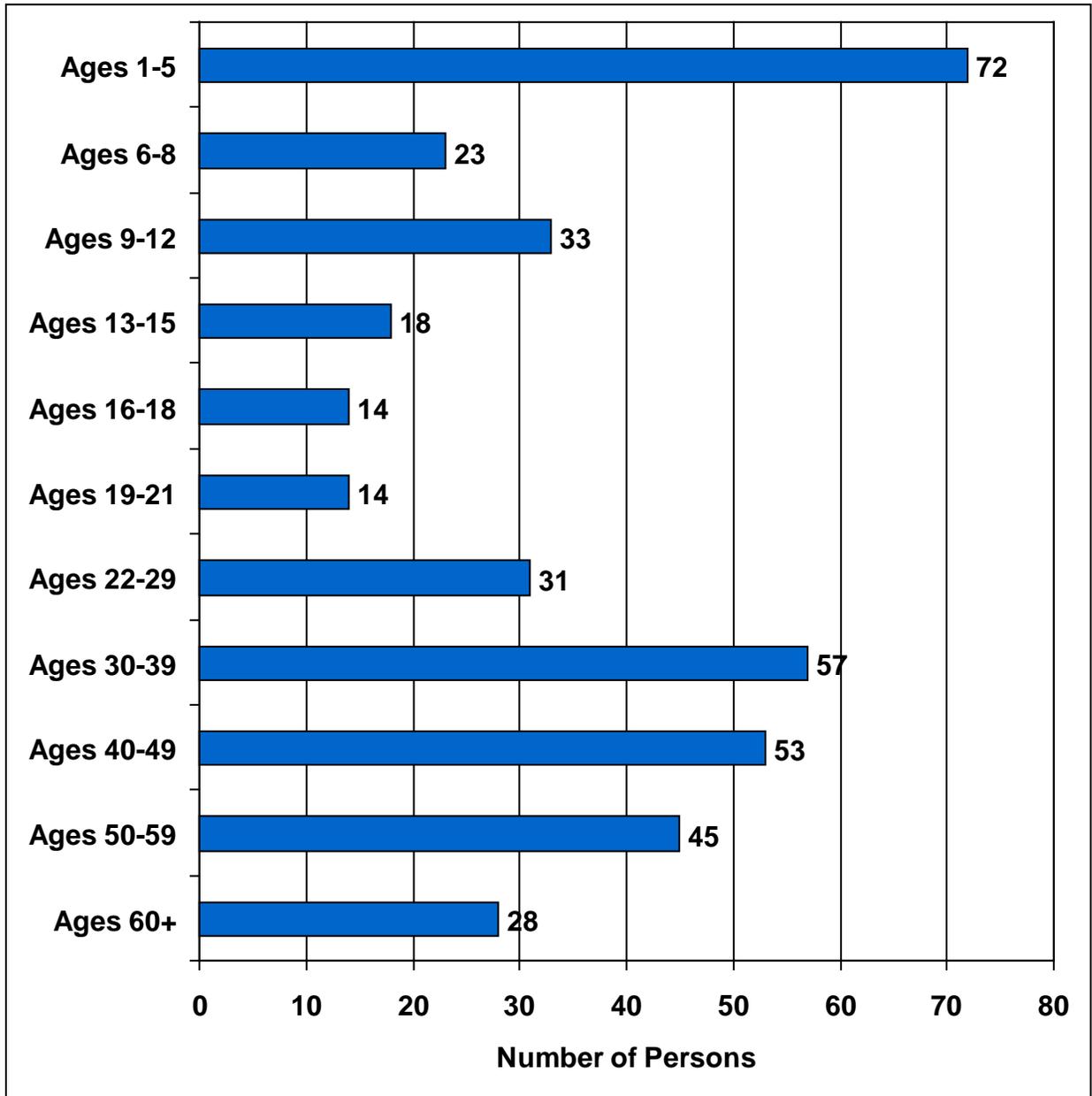
If you are not a resident of Lenoir, where do you live?





Most of the non-resident respondents were from neighboring towns and settlements in Caldwell County. Many of these communities do not have park and recreation programs and have limited facilities.

Age of Respondents (and members of their households.)



The largest population group is children ages 1-5 years, followed by adults aged 30-39. Other major groups included adults aged 40-49 followed by those aged 50-59. These

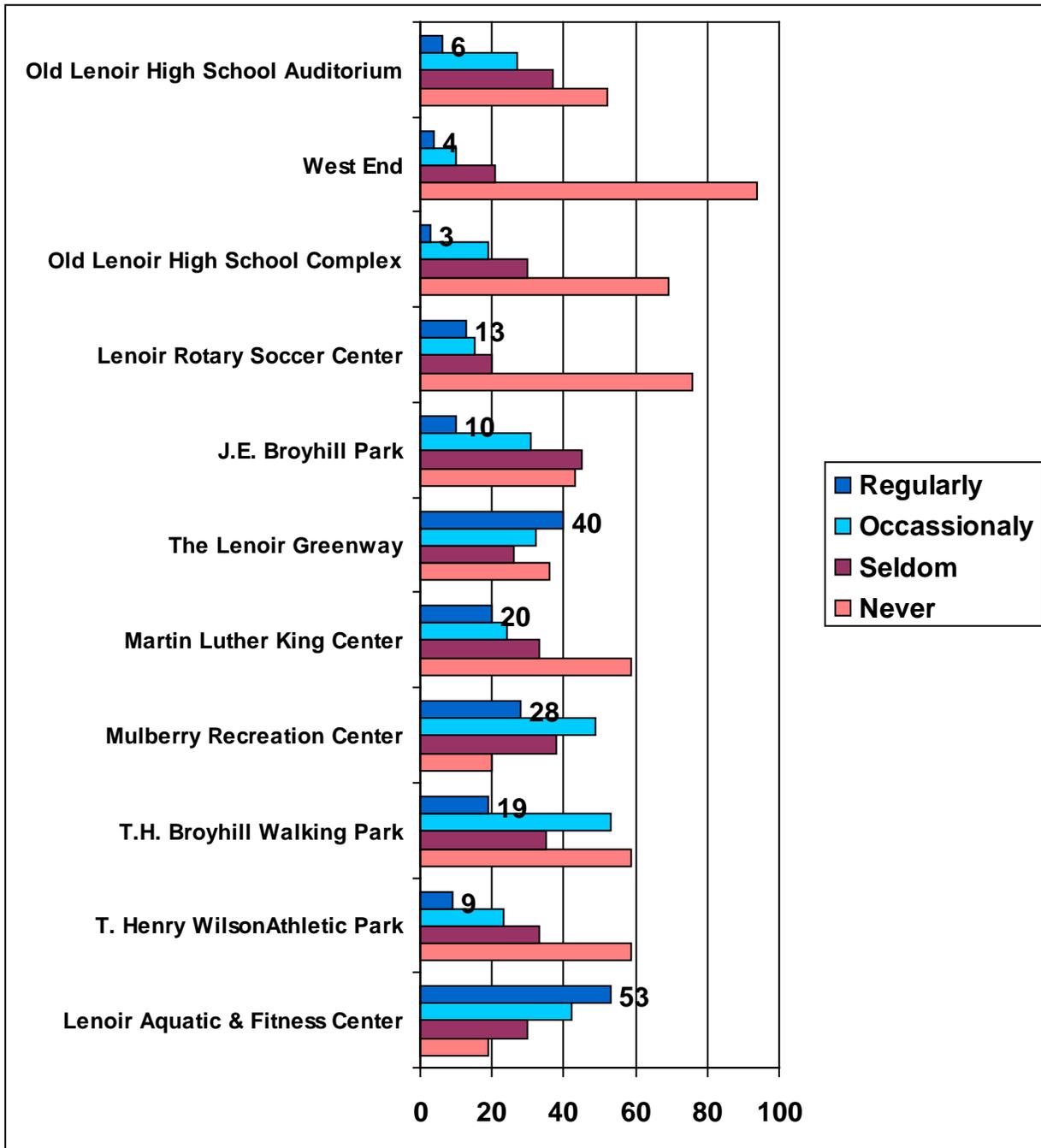




numbers suggest that facilities will need to provide service for users from a wide range of age groups. Children and their parents will undoubtedly be a major user group.

Existing Facilities

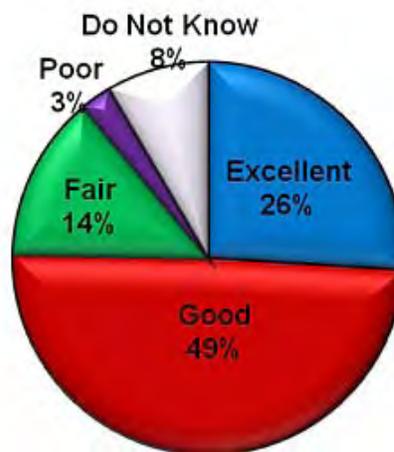
How frequently have you visited each of the following facilities in the past year?





The two most used facilities by the respondents are the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center and the Lenoir Greenway. The least used facilities by the respondents are the West End Park, the Old Lenoir High School Complex and the Rotary Soccer Center. Various reasons are possible for this lack of use including needed repairs (West End Park and the Old Lenoir High School Complex) and specialized usage (Lenoir Rotary Soccer Center and the Old Lenoir High School Complex.)

How would you rate the existing parks and recreational facilities in the City of Lenoir?

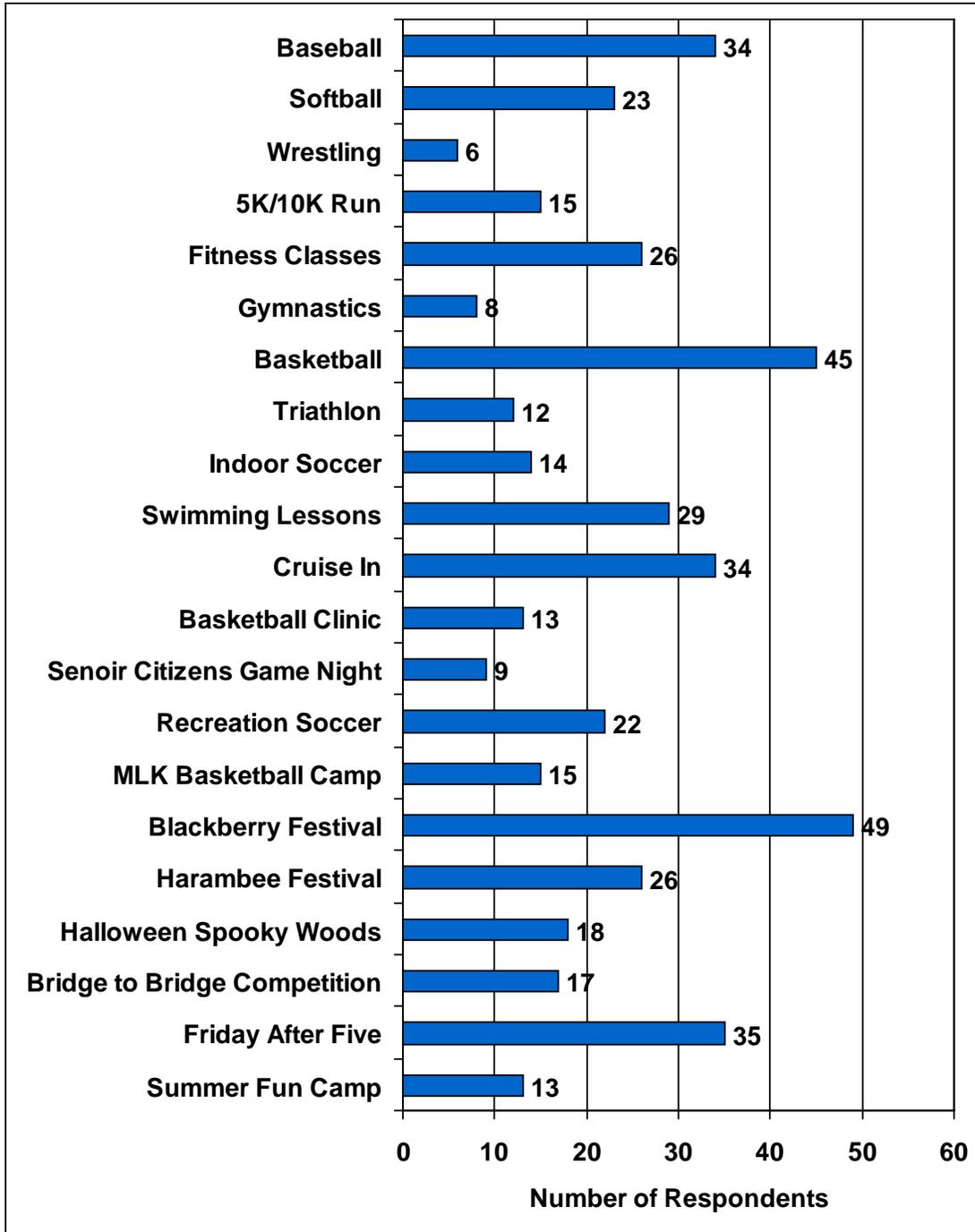


Respondents supplied data rating existing Lenoir recreational facilities. This data shows a very positive rating for facilities. However, there were responses that suggested that improvement could be made to existing facilities.





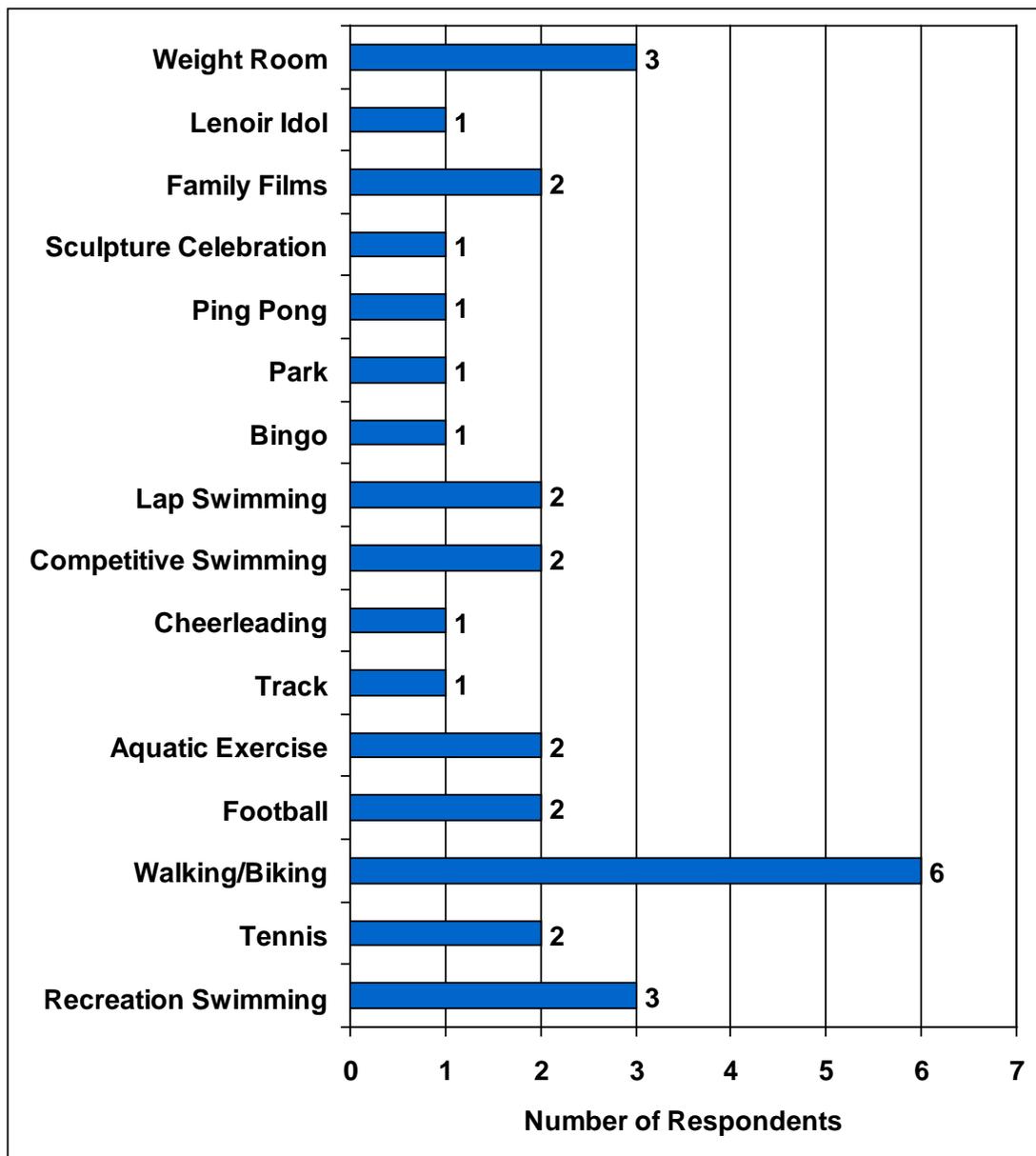
Which of the following recreation programs, activities and special events offered by the City of Lenoir, do you or other household members participate in on a regular basis?





The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide variety of sports activities, festivals, family activities and classes. Among the most popular sports programs used by survey participants are baseball and basketball. The most popular family activities amongst the participants were the Blackberry Festival, Friday After Five and the Cruise In.

What other programs do you participate in? (These activities were written in by the survey participants.)



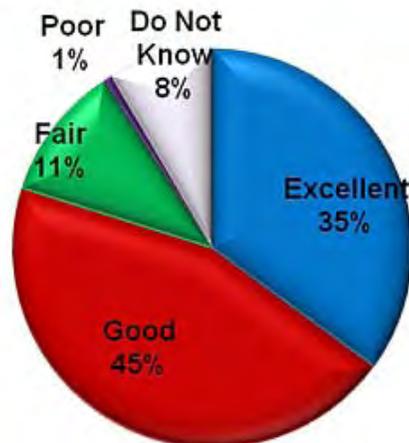


How would you rate the programs and events offered by the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department?



The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department received very good marks for their programs by most of the survey participants. However, some respondents replied with fair and poor ratings suggesting that improvements to some programs may be necessary.

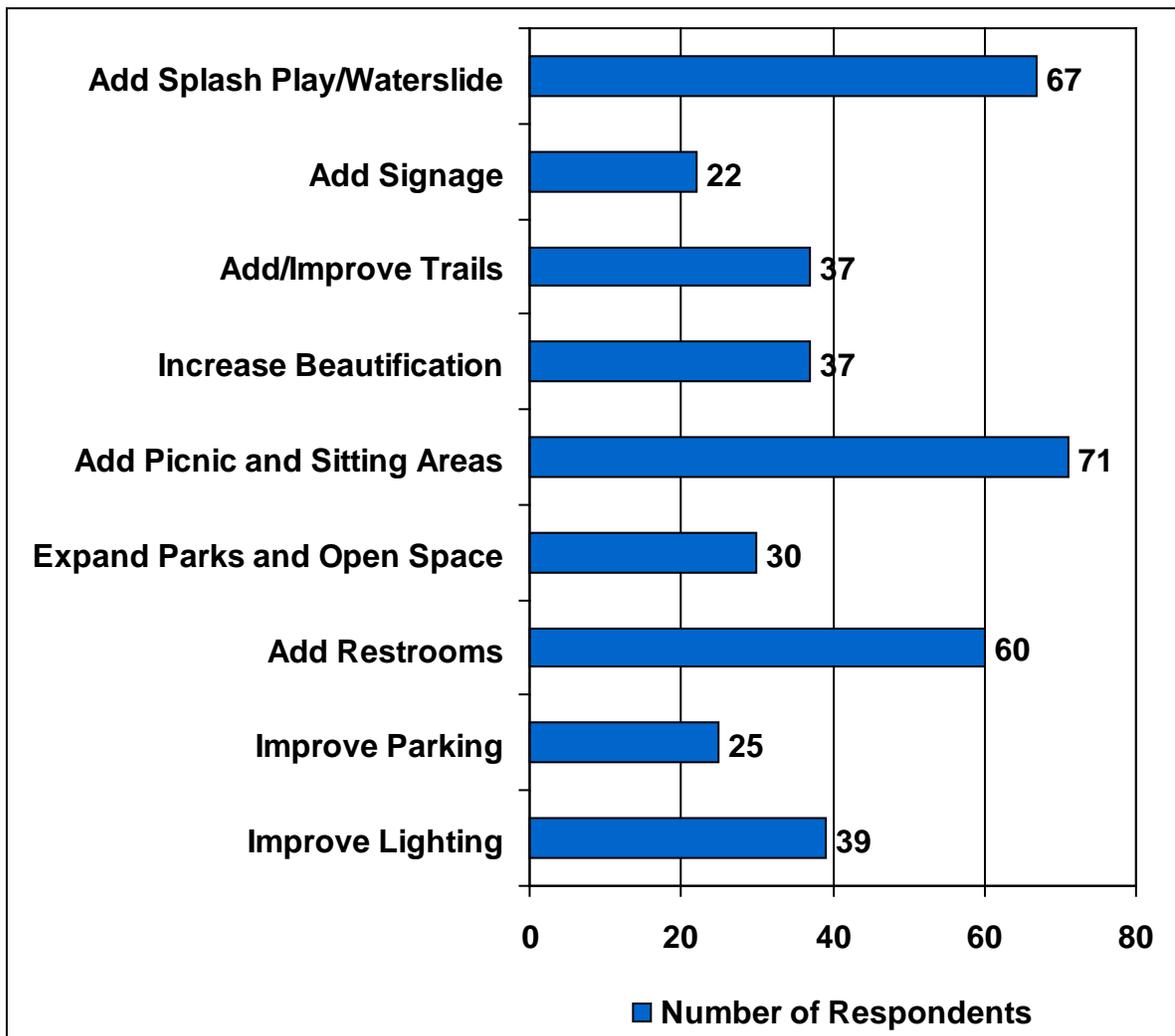
How would you rate staff?



Respondents were asked to rate Lenoir Parks and Recreation staff. Most responded positively towards the performance of Parks and Recreation Staff. However, some respondents replied with fair and poor ratings suggesting that facility staffing may need further examination or improvement.



What improvements should be made to existing parks in The City of Lenoir?





List any other improvements you would like to see:

Reduce noise in weightroom	1
Add grills in parks	1
Open a pond for fishing	1
Build an outdoor amphitheater	1
Improve staff	3
Improve tennis courts at Mulberry Recreation Center	1
Have safety officers patrol Greenway & trails regularly	1
Swimming	1
Keep indoor pool water temperature at 82-83 degrees all the time	1
Provide a BMX course	1
Provide a new facility	1
Add playground equipment	2
Improve ping pong tables at Mulberry Recreation Center	1
Improve Women's bathroom at MLK	2
Improve parking at MLK	1
New pool cues at MLK	1
Update facilities and equipment	1
Add drinking fountains on Greenway	1
Add bleachers to softball fields	1
Outdoor recreational activities for seniors	1
Improve Management	2
Open existing restrooms on weekends	1

The most requested improvement to existing parks is the addition of picnic facilities and sitting areas. Other highly desired facilities are a splash play water amenity and the addition of restrooms to existing facilities.



Do you use any school, private facilities or other public facilities for recreation or leisure activities?



Most of the respondents do not use public facilities besides the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation for their recreation and leisure activities. In part, this can be explained by the scarcity of public facilities in the area other than those provided by Lenoir.

If so, which facilities?

Baton School	1	Lenoir PD	1
Baton Walking Park	1	MLK	1
Collettesville Park	1	MRC	1
Dudley Shoals School	1	Quest 4 Life	6
Gamewell Middle School Walking Track	2	Senior Center	1
Granite Falls Recreation Center	1	Tuttle State Park	1
Greenway	2	Valmead School	1
Happy Valley Optimist	1	Watauga County Parks and Recreation	3
Hibriten Tennis Courts	1	West Lenoir School of Technology	1
Hickory YMCA	4	Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center	2
HUB	1	Hudson Recreation	6

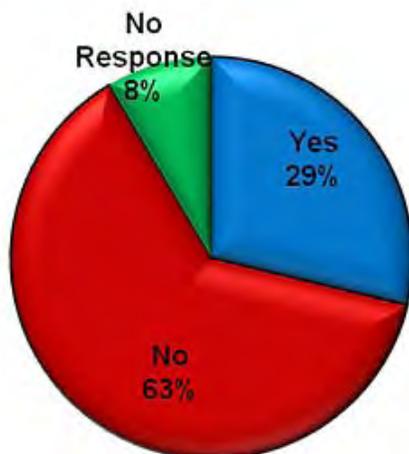
The inclusion of the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center on this list could reflect the high





number of non-residents who took the survey. Some of these non-residents may not be aware of which facilities are owned and operated by the City of Lenoir.

Do you travel out of the City of Lenoir to use a recreation facility or program?



Where:

Morganton	1
Morganton Greenway	3
Marthas Park	1
Gymnastics	1
Hickory	1
Hickory Dickory Dock	1
YMCA Hickory	2
Valley Hills Mall Indoor Play Area	1
Chuck E Cheese	1
Hickory Dam	1
Hudson	1
Redwood Park	7
Boone	
Boone Park	2
Boone Greenway	1
Gamewell Walking Park	2
Softball Fields	1
Carowinds	1



Granite Falls Recreation Center	2
Blowing Rock Park	1
Watauga County Complex	1
Designated public Mountain Trout Waters	1
ASU URC	1
Mountain Trails	1
Golf	1
Duke Power State Park	1
Campgrounds	1
Wilkesboro Dam	1
Collettesville Park	1
W Kerr Scott Dam Bike Trails in Wilkesboro	1
Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center	2
Mulberry Center	1
Lenoir Greenway	1

Those that do travel outside of Lenoir to use recreation/entertainment facilities are often doing so to use facilities that are not available in the City. The last three facilities (City of Lenoir) could be the result of the large number of non-resident respondents to the survey.

Would you support additional greenways/trails?

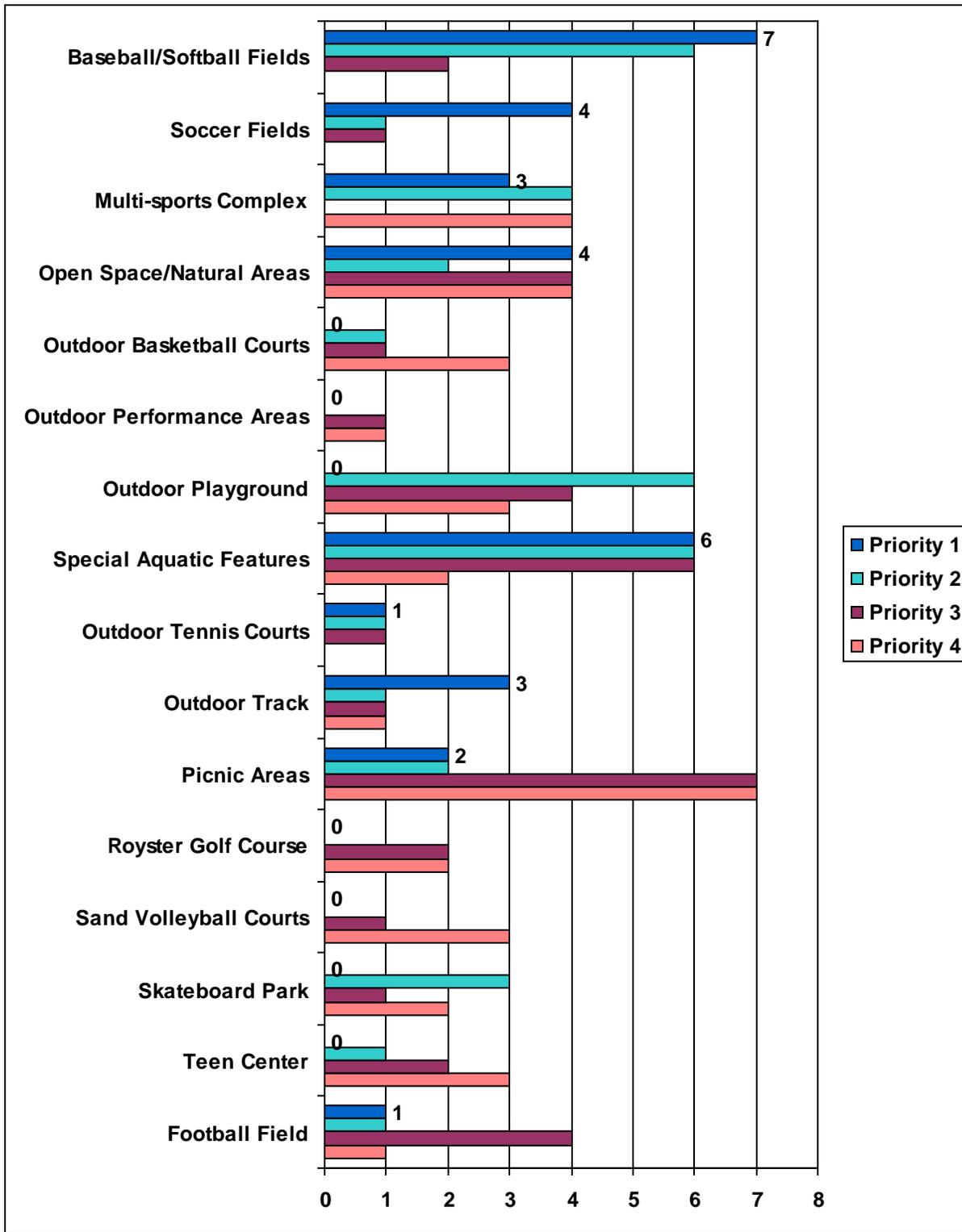


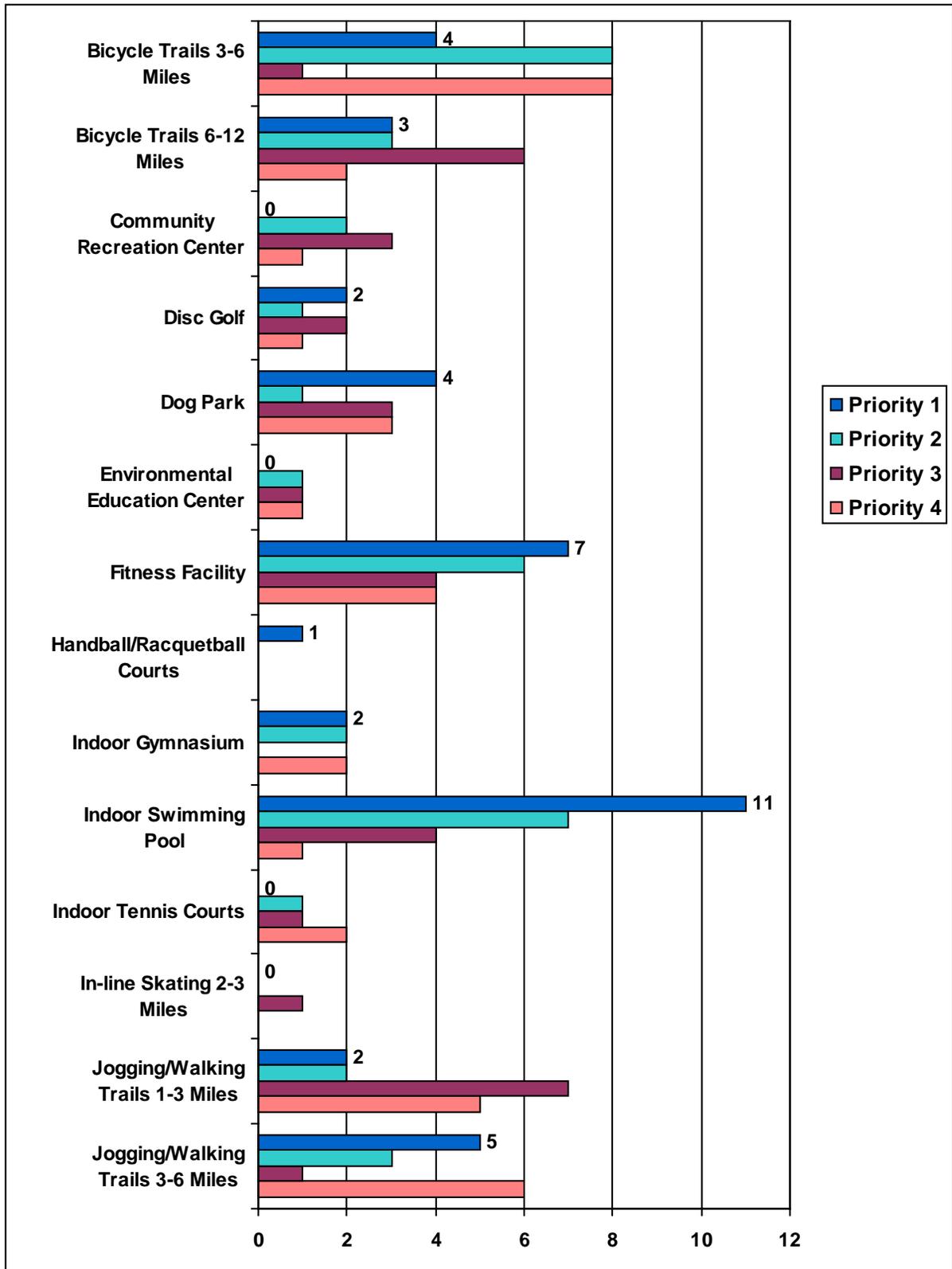
Respondents were very supportive of the idea of additional greenways and trails in Lenoir.





Rank in order of importance, the top 10 facilities that could be developed or improved in the City of Lenoir. Number your choices 1-10 in order of priority.

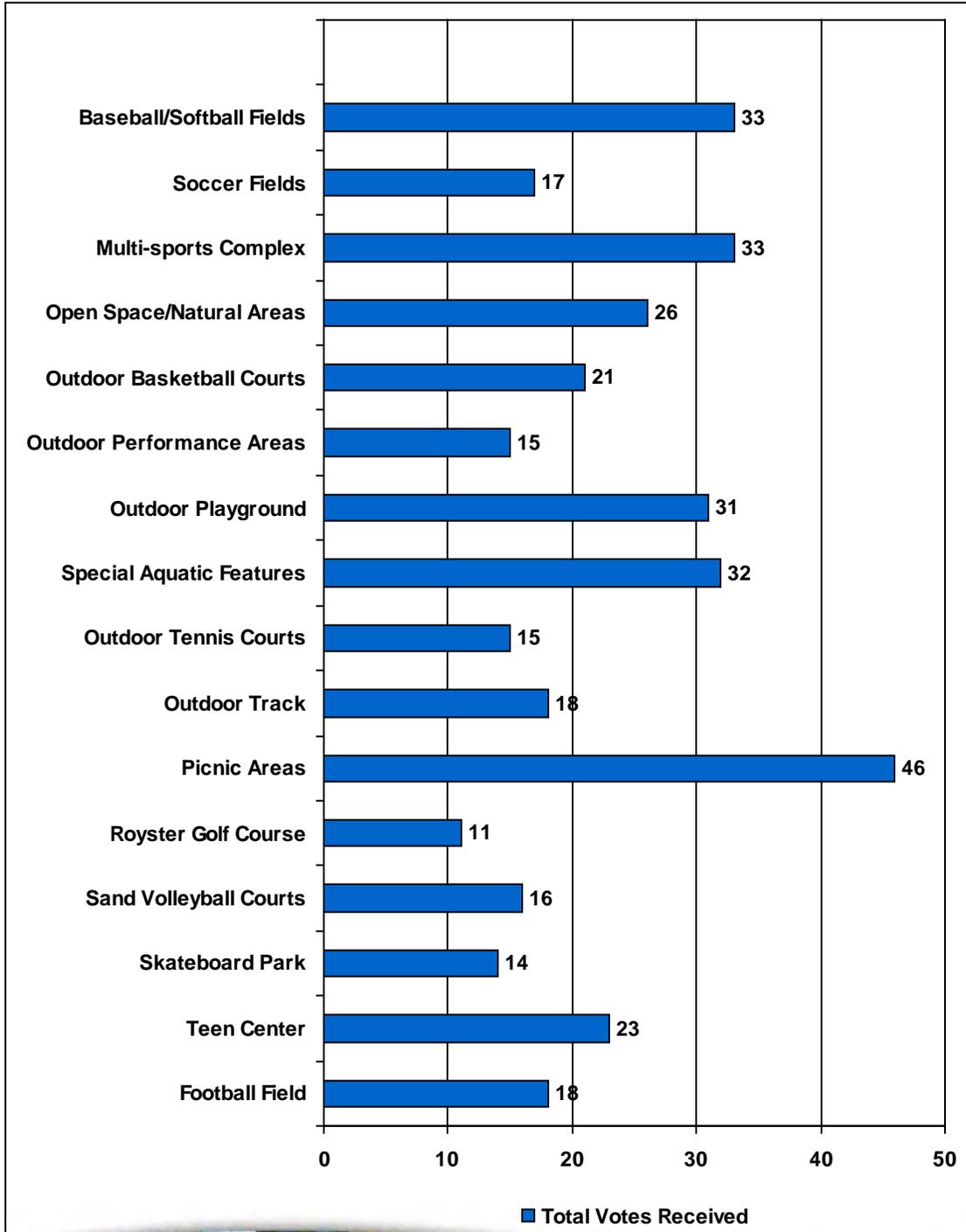






The most popular number one priority amongst the participants was an indoor swimming pool. Tying for second were a fitness facility and more baseball/softball fields followed closely by a splash play facility.

Total number of priority votes received:





By looking at the total vote count for each amenity, the priority picture changes somewhat. While picnic areas did not receive very many first priority votes, they did receive the highest number of total priority votes. In the total vote count, 3-6 mile long bicycle trails, a fitness facility, ball fields, an indoor swimming pool, and walking/jogging trails all received strong support from the respondents.

Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to participate in event?



Most respondents would be willing to pay a nominal fee to participate in events.

Would you use facilities if they were closer to your home?

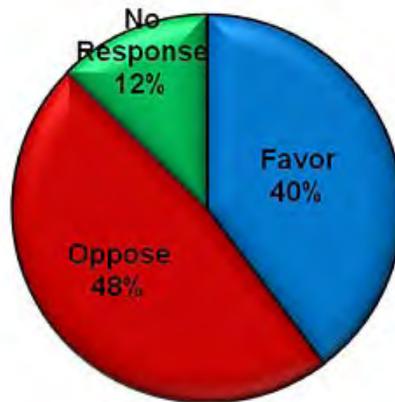


A majority of respondents would be more likely to use a facility if it were close to their home.





Would you favor or oppose increasing taxes to expand recreation opportunities in the City?



Response to this question was split fairly evenly with a slight (8%) majority being opposed to increasing taxes to expand recreation opportunities.

Conclusions

Overall, the survey identified the participants' satisfaction with most of the existing Lenoir Parks and Recreation facilities, programs and staff. However, this survey also points to a desire to improve most of these facilities and the programs offered. Respondents also seem to be willing to accept nominal fees to use improved facilities. With the growing popularity of Lenoir Parks and Recreation facilities and programs it would seem necessary to consider improving the areas suggested by the survey data. Some of these areas included improvements to the programs and amenities at the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center. Interest was expressed in providing more trails, picnicking and sitting areas, parking and improvements to restrooms and lighting for all Lenoir parks. Also, data showed that making the parks more beautiful with better signage and more open space as well as expanding parks was of interest to the participants.

4.3 STATE AND NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Surveys that were designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation and facilities, have been conducted on both the federal and state levels by the President's Commission on Americas Outdoor and the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey. Significant facts have evolved from these surveys.



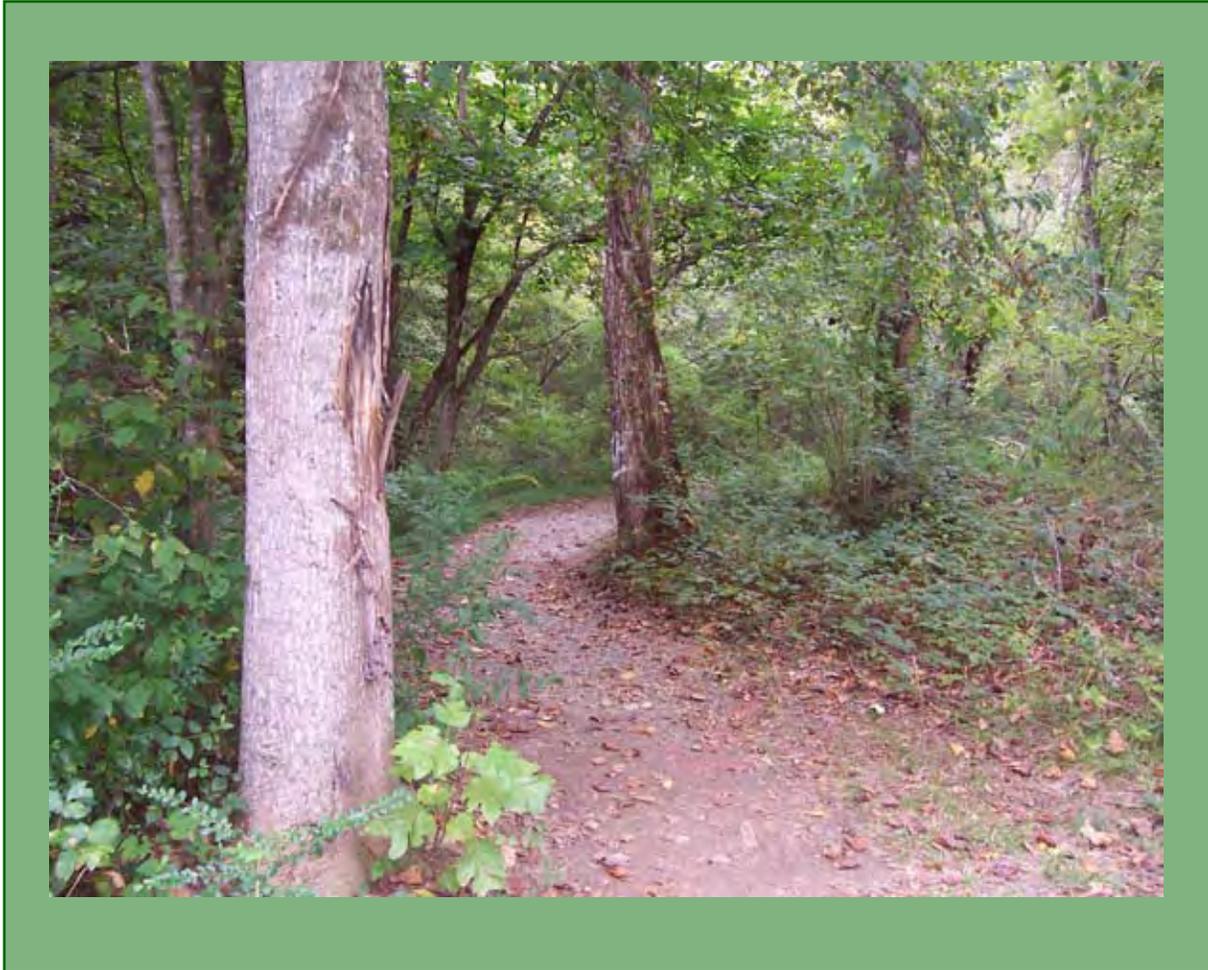
- The top ten most popular outdoor recreational activities (nationwide) are:
 1. Picnicking
 2. Driving for pleasure
 3. Swimming
 4. Sightseeing
 5. Walking for pleasure
 6. Playing sports
 7. Fishing
 8. Attending sports events
 9. Boating
 10. Bicycling

- The most rapidly growing outdoor activities (nationwide) are:
 1. Canoeing
 2. Bicycling
 3. Attending sports events
 4. Camping (all types)
 5. Sailing
 6. Hiking/Backpacking
 7. Walking for pleasure
 8. Water skiing

- The top ten most popular outdoor activities (North Carolina) are:
 1. Walking for pleasure
 2. Driving for pleasure
 3. Viewing scenery
 4. Beach Activities
 5. Visiting Historical Sites
 6. Swimming (in Lakes, Rivers, and Oceans)
 7. Visiting Natural Areas
 8. Picnicking
 9. Attending Sports Events
 10. Visiting Zoos

- Local governments (cities and counties) provide 39% of the public recreational opportunities in the United States.







4.4 TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A comprehensive park system is made up of a variety of park types ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to larger parks with athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers and open space. They reflect the differing recreational preferences of diverse users. Park models are used as guidelines for fulfilling the future recreational needs of communities. Not all of these types of parks are the responsibility of the City government; several agencies (federal, state, cities, and/or towns,) play roles in providing recreational opportunities as well. To further understand the City's role in providing recreation services to its citizens, it is necessary to understand the elements of a comprehensive park system. These types of parks and recreation facilities may/may not be included in comprehensive park systems and are delineated in the following pages of this section:

- Regional Parks
- District Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Linear Parks/Greenways
- Special Use Facilities
- Open Space





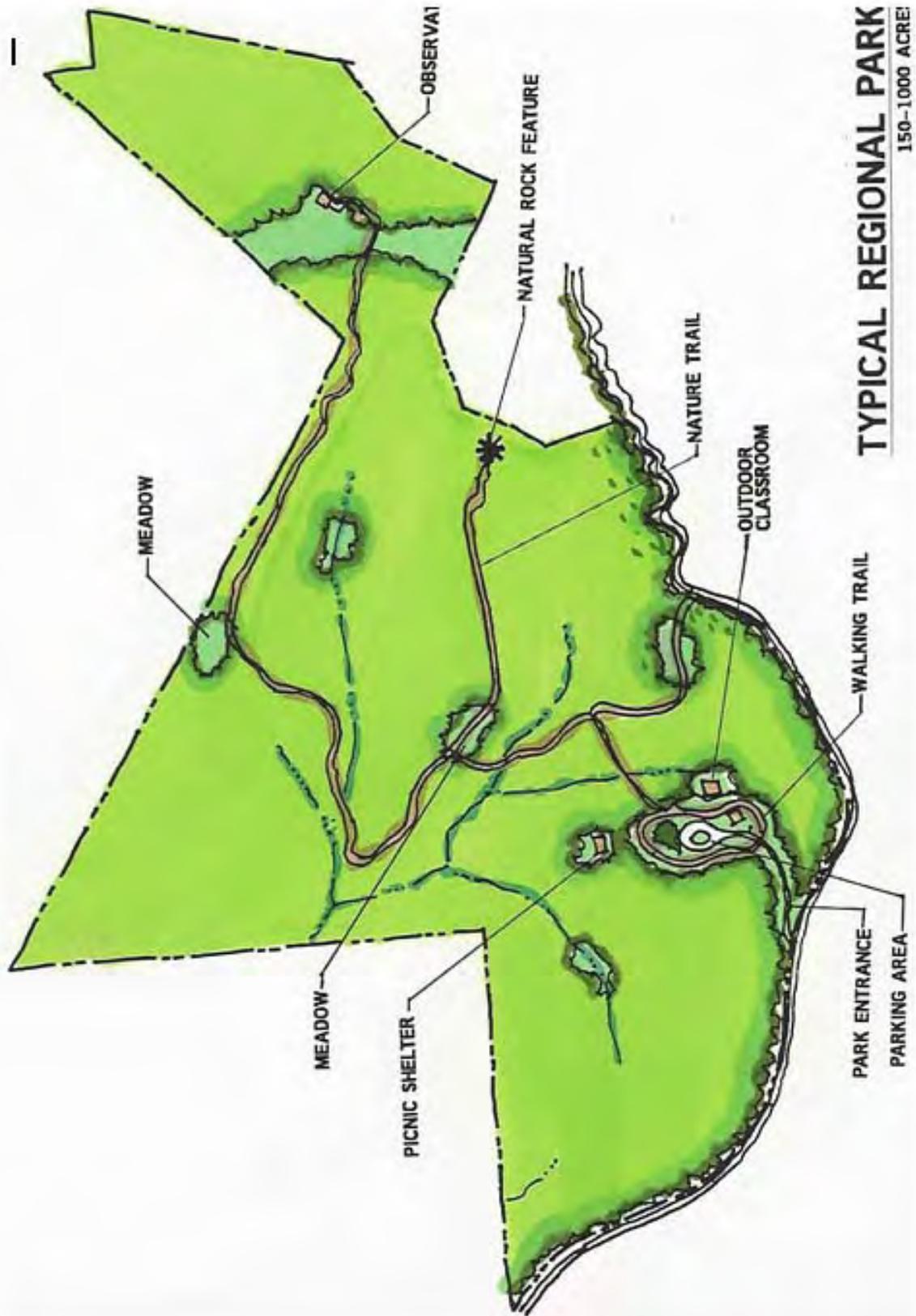
Regional Parks

Regional parks are typically very large sites. On these sites, the unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found there (such as diverse land formation, vegetation, and wildlife) are preserved. Parks containing environmental centers, campsites, nature trails, observation decks and picnic areas are examples of the types of facilities that are usually provided in regional parks. In addition, open fields for non-structured activities such as Frisbee-throwing or kite-flying, are also generally found there.

When land is acquired for the development of regional parks (or the expansion of existing sites), it should be comprised of the previously-mentioned characteristics and if possible, accompanied by natural water features such as lakes, rivers or creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage used for active recreation. The acquisition and development of regional parks are typically undertaken by a federal or state agency.

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

<u>Service area:</u>	Region-wide
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	10 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Minimum Size:</u>	150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in Community Parks.)
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	
Equestrian Center	Environmental Center
Group Camping	Primitive Camping
Nature Trails	Recreational Vehicle Camping
Picnic Shelters and Grills	Observation Deck
Boating	Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
Parking	Restrooms/Vending Swimming
Fishing Piers/Boat Docks	Caretaker's House





District Parks

A district park functions as the major source of active recreation for several neighborhoods within a community. District parks are intensely developed, offering a multitude of facilities in order to serve their intended geographic user area. Activities are balanced between active and passive recreation. District Parks are typically developed to accommodate athletic league sporting events and tournament competition. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers. District parks present great opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation.

Sites for district parks should be relatively level to alleviate excessive grading for the active facilities. Where possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily as passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should be an important consideration when choosing sites. The development of district parks is typically the responsibility of City or municipal agencies.

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

<u>Service area:</u>	1 to 2 ½ mile radius
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	5 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Desirable Range:</u>	75-200 acres
<u>Desirable Size:</u>	+100 acres
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	Tennis Courts (lighted) Playgrounds Full or Half Size Basketball Courts Volleyball Courts Baseball/Softball/Multi-Purpose Field Soccer/Football Field Soccer Practice Field (movable goals) Nature Trail Picnic Tables with Grill (with/without shelter) Restrooms/Concessions Benches or Bench Swings Parking/Service Yard 50% of Site Remains Undeveloped
<u>*Alternate Facilities:</u>	Recreation Center Tennis Center Amphitheater Observation Decks Fishing Piers/Boating/Boat Dock

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.





Community Parks

Community parks focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Compared to district parks, community parks have a smaller range of recreation facilities. They may host athletic league sports events and provide passive recreation. Fifty percent of the community park property should be developed for only passive recreation, with these relatively undisturbed areas serving as buffers around the park and/or acting as buffers between active facilities.

Community park sites should have varying topography and vegetation. A number of different tree species should also be present in forested areas. Community parks should contain cleared areas for the purpose of locating active recreational facilities. At least one natural water feature (lake, river or creek) is desirable in community parks. The land acquired for use as a community park should be contiguous in nature and strategically located in order to serve all users within the designated community. The development of community parks typically falls within the realm of municipal responsibilities.

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

Service area: 1 to 2 mile radius

Acreage/Population Ratio: 2-5 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Range: 15-50 acres

Desirable Size: 25 acres

Typical Facilities:

Playgrounds	Full Size or Half Size Basketball Courts
Swimming Pool	Tennis/Volleyball Courts
Nature Trails	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
Restrooms/Concessions	Soccer/Multi-Purpose Fields
Parking	Picnic Tables/Shelter with/without Grills
Benches or Bench Swings	

Alternate Facilities:

Recreation Center	Natural Water Features
Disc Golf	Amphitheater
Observation Decks	



TYPICAL COMMUNITY PARK
15-50 Acres





Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient source of recreation while serving as the social foci of neighborhoods. Usually located within walking distance of the area serviced, neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that are of interest to all age groups. The smaller size of neighborhood parks, as compared to those previously mentioned, requires intense development with fifty percent of each site remaining undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent property owners.

Specific standards/criteria for neighborhood parks are as follows:

<u>Service area:</u>	¾ to 1 mile radius to serve walk-in
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	2 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Desirable Size:</u>	7-15 acres
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	Playground Softball or Baseball Field 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped Multi-Purpose Field Half Basketball Courts Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter) Picnic Shelter with Grill Benches or Bench Swings
<u>*Alternate Facilities:</u>	Tennis Courts Nature Trails

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



TYPICAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
7-15 Acres





Mini Parks

The function of a mini park is to provide very limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Mini parks are the smallest classification of parks that exist. They are often served by school and church playgrounds. These parks are located within walking distance of the area served and they provide limited recreational activities. Their very small size requires intense development and there is little or no buffer between mini parks and adjacent property owners.

Specific standards/criteria for mini parks are as follows:

Service area: ¼ to ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding populations

Acreage/Population Ratio: 0.5 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Size: ±1 acre

Typical Facilities:
Playground
Half Basketball Courts
Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
Benches or Bench Swings
Open Play Area

***Alternate Facilities:**
Tennis Courts
Nature Trails

*Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



TYPICAL MINI PARK



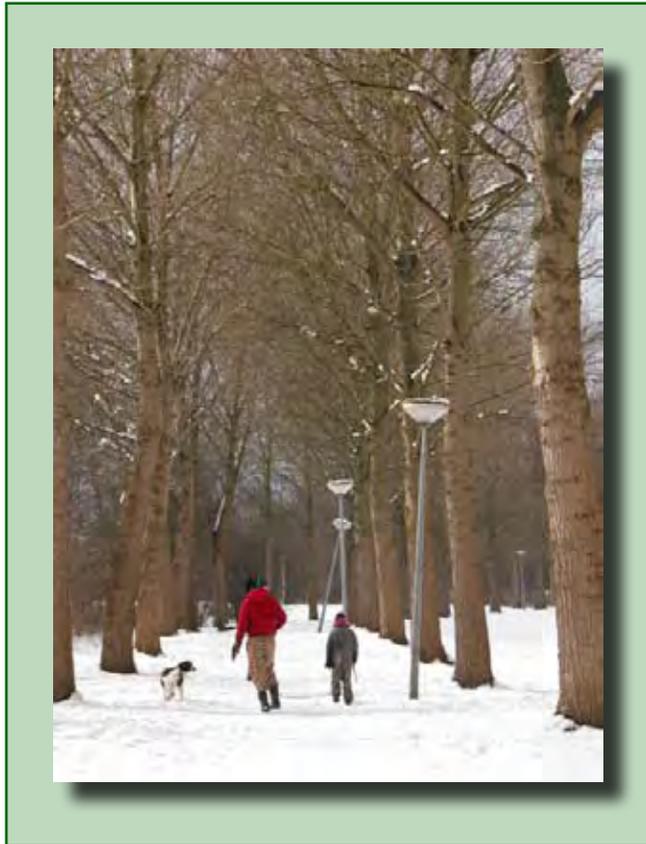


Linear Parks/Greenways

A linear park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking biking, et cetera. Linear parks are developed for several reasons:

- 1) to connect existing recreational facilities
- 2) to facilitate public right-of-ways
- 3) to connect destination points
- 4) to meet public demand.

As such, the length and size of linear parks vary considerably, depending on the terrain of the park land and the distance between entities to be connected, such as parks, schools, homes, businesses and cultural/historical resources. In some cases, a linear park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with recreation opportunities being a secondary objective.



Unique or Special Use Facilities

The unique or special use facilities are park types that exist for the sole purpose of enhancing or utilizing a special man-made or natural feature. They can include beaches, parkways, historical sites, sites of archeological significance, swimming pools, conservation easements, flood plains, et cetera. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category of park. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource while providing optimum use, is considered desirable.



Open Space

While it is realistic and appropriate to adopt population-based standards for park land and facilities, it is not realistic to establish open space standards. The more reasonable method of establishing appropriate standards for open space is to determine the criteria necessary for the protection of significant natural areas contained therein.



Public open space is defined as any land acquired for the purpose of keeping it in a primarily undeveloped state. The functions of open space include:

- 1) preservation of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
- 2) protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)
- 3) protection of communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
- 4) protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
- 5) protection of approach and take-off areas near airports (clear zones)
- 6) protection of undevelopable land (landfills)
- 7) protection of areas aesthetically pleasing for a corridor (viewshed)

While these areas are some of the more common open spaces, many others exist. The City of Lenoir's open space is primarily limited to parks and the greenway.

4.5 EVALUATION OF PARK LAND NEEDS

When comparing a park system to national standards, one method is to examine the total acreage of the park system. The NRPA Park land guidelines (in acres) for the total service population of The City of Lenoir are provided in the table below. Population figures in this analysis, estimated at 19,115, include the effective population comprised of residents in the City of Lenoir. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per population of 1,000) pre-established for each classification of parks.





Chart 4.5-1

The City of Lenoir
PARK ACREAGE BY CLASSIFICATION
 (Based on NRPA Guidelines)

TYPE OF PARK	Existing* City of Lenoir Acreage	Recommended for 2010 Population 19,115	Recommended for 2020 Population 21,770
REGIONAL PARK (NPS&NC) 1,000 acres or 10 acres/1,000	NA	NA	NA
DISTRICT PARK 200 acres or 5 acres/1,000	NA	NA	NA
COMMUNITY PARK 20-30 acres or 2.5 acres/1,000	79 acres	48 acres	55 acres
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK 7-15 acres or 2 acres/1,000	29.4 acres	38 acres	44 acres
MINI PARK 1-2 acres or 0.5 acres/1,000	.57 acres	9.5 acres	11 acres

*See Chart 4.5-2 for individual park acreage

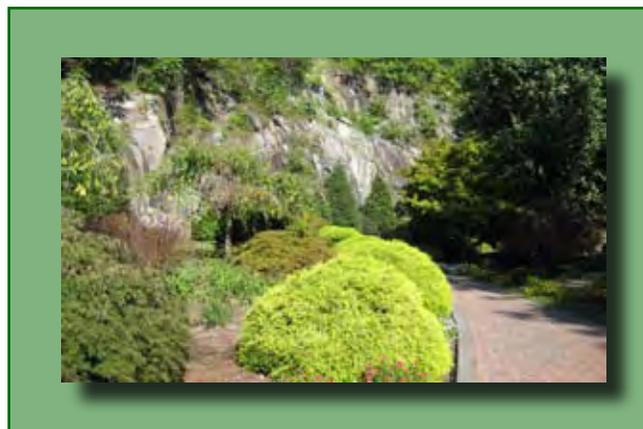
The City of Lenoir is the major provider of parks and recreation in Caldwell County. The City's three community parks provide facilities for soccer, baseball and basketball. These facilities are all well used as can be seen by the numbers of participants at the end of Section 3. The two neighborhood parks provide needed playground facilities and at the Martin Luther King Center, needed athletic facilities for their surrounding neighborhoods. Lenoir is 8.6 acres short of the recommended acreage for neighborhood parks. The only mini park in the Lenoir inventory is West End Park which is in need of rehabilitation. Lenoir needs almost 9 acres of mini park to meet national standards.

There are two special use facilities in the Lenoir Park inventory: the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center and the Old Lenoir High School Complex. While the Aquatic Center has over 100 acres of land, most of it is steeply sloped and usable only for passive recreation or as conservation land.



Chart 4.5-2 The City of Lenoir Parks

THE CITY OF LENOIR EXISTING PARK ACREAGE		
Mulberry Recreation Center	Community Park	27 acres
Martin Luther King Center	Neighborhood Park	10 acres
Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center	Special Use Facility	104 acres
T. Henry Wilson Athletic Park	Community Park	19 acres
J. E. Broyhill Park	Neighborhood Park	9.4 acres
Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex	Community Park	13 acres
West End Park	Mini Park	.57 acres
T. H. Broyhill Walking Park	Community Park	20 acres
Lenoir Greenway	Linear Park	7.2 miles
Old Lenoir High School Complex	Special Use Facility	4.5 acres
TOTAL THE CITY OF LENOIR PARK ACREAGE		218.67 acres



4.6 EVALUATION OF FACILITY NEEDS

The results of local standards established by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA), the North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, and (foremost) The City of Lenoir have been compiled (Table 4.6-1) in order to assess the current and future facility needs (Table 4.6-2), as follows:





Table 4.6-1: LOCAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

Facility	NRPA Standards	NCDENR Standards	City of Lenoir Standards (Recommended)*
Fields			
Adult Baseball	1/12,000	1/5,000	1/12,000
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Softball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Football	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Soccer	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Courts			
Basketball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Tennis	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/2,000
Volleyball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Shuffleboard	N/A	N/A	1/5,000
Horseshoe	1/2,000	N/A	1/2,000
Outdoor Areas			
Picnic Shelter	N/A	1/3,000	1/3,000
Playground Activities	N/A	1/1,000	1/2,500
Amphitheater	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Trails			
Walking/Hiking	1/region	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000
Equestrian	N/A	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000
Camping	N/A	2.5 sites/1,000	2.5 sites/1,000
Archery Area	1/50,000	1/50,000	1/50,000
Specialized			
Community Center	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Golf Course	1/25,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Bicycling (Urban)	N/A	1/25,000	1/25,000
Auditorium	1/20,000	N/A	1/20,000
Canoeing/Boating			
Streams/Lakes	N/A	0.2 mile/1,000	0.2 mile/1,000
Stream/Lake Access	N/A	1/10 miles	1/10 miles

*Where the City of Lenoir standards deviate from the state and national standards, current demands on Park and Recreation programs have been taken into account.



Table 4.6-2: EXISTING AND RECOMMENDED PUBLIC FACILITIES

Facility	Local Standard (Recommended)	Existing Facilities	2009 Demand per Population 19,115	2019 Demand per Population 21,770
Fields				
Adult Baseball	1/12,000	7	2	2
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	9	4	4
Softball	1/5,000	7	4	4
Football	1/10,000	0	2	2
Soccer	1/5,000	10	4	4
Courts				
Basketball	1/5,000	3	4	4
Tennis	1/2,000	8	10	11
Volleyball	1/5,000	0	4	4
Shuffleboard	1/5,000	4	4	4
Horseshoe	1/2,000	0	10	11
Outdoor Areas				
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	5	7	7
Playground Activities	1/2,500	3	8	9
Amphitheater	1/20,000	0	1	1
Trails				
Walking/Hiking	0.4 mile/1,000	7.6	7.6 miles	8.8 miles
Equestrian	0.4 mile/1,000	0	7.6 miles	8.8 miles
Camping	2.5 sites/1,000	0	48	54
Archery Area	1/50,000	0	0	0
Specialized				
Community Center	1/20,000	1	1	1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	2	1	1
Golf Course	1/25,000	0	0	1
Bicycling (Urban)	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A
Auditorium	1/20,000	1	1	1
Canoeing/Boating				
Streams/Lakes	0.2 mile/1,000	0 miles	3.8 miles	4.4 miles
Stream/Lake Access	1/10 miles	0	0	0

The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department already meets or exceeds the recreation standards for many sports facilities. For team sports, only football and





basketball standards are not met. The City needs more passive recreation facilities such as playgrounds, picnic facilities, horseshoe pitches, tennis and volleyball courts to meet the state and national standards for the 2009 population.

As the population of Lenoir is projected to increase by about 2,500 people over the next 10 years, there will not be a great need to increase facilities, once the 2009 standards are met. Some of the smaller activities such as playgrounds, tennis and horseshoes will need additional facilities by 2019.

To summarize, the chart below is the result of the recreational facility needs assessment, both current and future, based on NRPA and NCDENR standards; the chart does not consider community input, which is the primary guide for the development of the Master Plan.





The City of Lenoir Facility Needs

Facility	Existing Number of Facilities	Needed to Meet 2009 Standards	Needed to Meet 2019 Standards*
Adult Baseball	7	0	0
Youth Baseball	9	0	0
Softball	7	0	0
Football	0	2	0
Soccer	10	0	0
Basketball Court	3	1	0
Tennis Court	8	2	1
Volleyball Court	0	4	0
Shuffleboard Court	4	0	0
Horseshoe Pitch	0	10	1
Picnic Shelter	5	2	0
Playground Activities	3	5	1
Amphitheater	0	1	0
Walking/Hiking Trails	7.6	0 miles	1.2 miles
Equestrian Trails	0	7.6 miles	1.2 miles
Camping	0	48	6
Archery	0	0	0
Community Center	1	0	0
Swimming Pool	2	0	0
Golf Course	0	0	1
Auditorium	1	0	0
Streams/Lakes	0	3.8 miles	.6 miles
Stream/Lake Access	0	0	0

*If 2009 standards are met.

- END OF SECTION -





SECTION 5 GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

As identified in Section 3: Existing Park Facilities, the parks and recreation facilities in the City of Lenoir offer many opportunities for passive and active recreation to residents and visitors. The City has seen the need to create a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the direction for the Parks and Recreation Department for the future. The goals and recommendations are influenced by the need for these two primary components of the recreation system:

- Recreation Facilities and Programming
- Greenway and Trail System

This Comprehensive Master Plan serves as a map for future recreation facilities for the City of Lenoir. The plan incorporates recommendations to accomplish the objectives set forth in the Master Plan. These recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Roles of The City of Lenoir
- Roles of Other Recreation Providers
- Facility Proposals and Recommendations
- Park Proposals and Recommendations
- Priorities for Development

5.2 ROLES OF THE CITY OF LENOIR

Currently, the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department has facilities for active, passive and special-facility recreation. However, there is a major need for improvements to the existing facilities as well as future park and greenway expansion. In the immediate future, the City needs to focus on facility maintenance improvements as well as developing new amenities at existing recreation facilities. In addition, connectivity through greenway





facilities will be an important goal. As the City's population continues to grow, the City will need to continuously re-evaluate its facility and program needs.

Meeting the recreational needs of all users will require a joint effort between various agencies, the private sector and the City. One organization cannot, from a practical standpoint, provide all the proposed improvements or facilities for the future. Creative partnerships should be actively pursued between the City of Lenoir, Caldwell County and surrounding communities as well as with the private sector in order to achieve objectives for the future. Communication between these entities is extremely important and will improve planning activities and help prevent the City of Lenoir from taking on the entire financial burden of providing recreation amenities and programs for the entire area. In addition to partnering with the County and surrounding communities, the City of Lenoir should continue to search for additional organizations that have common interests in recreation programs and facilities.

The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department will continue to play a major role in recreation programming for residents of Lenoir and neighboring communities. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to be the major coordinator for recreation programming in the City as well as neighboring communities. By providing programming and coordinating programming with other organizations, the Parks and Recreation Department can assure that recreation opportunities are available to all residents in the City.

5.3 ROLES OF OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Government Entities

The Caldwell County School System

The Caldwell County School System and City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation





Department currently have a positive working relationship. Both entities host area athletic association events and recreational programming. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Caldwell County School System should continue to work together to provide mutually beneficial athletic and recreational opportunities for the citizens of the area. By coordinating these efforts of shared use of facilities, it will reduce the need to add such facilities in the future. With population growth within Caldwell County and the City of Lenoir, the Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department will inevitably need further cooperation with Caldwell County School athletic programs to ensure that the recreation needs for area citizens are met.

A formal, written agreement between The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation and the Caldwell County School System should be established. The agreement would spell out the responsibilities and benefits to each partner concerning the use of City facilities for County School programs. Points to be considered should be:

- A system-wide fee structure
- An assignment of maintenance responsibilities
- A fair and effective method of scheduling use of the facilities

Private Sector

The private sector includes businesses, residential developers and non-profit organizations. These provide a wide scope of recreational opportunities including facilities, open spaces and programming. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to develop partnerships and actively generate more opportunities to share recreational activities. City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation facilities are frequently used by private schools and church groups. This relationship is valuable to both the organizations as well as the City of Lenoir. In order for this relationship to continue to grow the responsibilities and benefits to each partner should be clarified and maintained. Issues of scheduling priorities and fees should be agreed upon and revisited periodically to insure the existing relationships between the Parks and Recreation Department and these user groups remain strong. Potential partnership





opportunities could be developed in the future with the local medical and health providers, the YMCA and other private organizations.

Private Developers

The private sector is an important component in the provision of resources and opportunities for parks in the City of Lenoir. Developers can assist by the dedication, construction and/or reservation of future park sites, open space or greenway corridors during the overall development process. The City of Lenoir Subdivision Ordinance states that:

Sec. 19-8. Public facilities.(Ord. of 10-25-1993, § 3.13)

“In the event that a proposed park, recreation area, school, or other public or community service facility is located in whole or part within a proposed subdivision, the City Council or the Caldwell County Board of Education may require the subdivider to reserve for acquisition such land for public use. If the City or Board of Education wishes to obtain such land, they shall have 18 months beginning on the date of final plat approval of the subdivision within which to acquire such land by purchase or by initiating condemnation proceedings. If the Board of Education or the city has not purchased or begun proceedings to condemn the site within 18 months, the subdivider may treat the land as freed of the reservation.”

Private developers can further assist in the creation of greenways, inter-connective pedestrian routes and open space preservation. City of Lenoir Ordinances should consider adding language to the Subdivision Ordinance to foster synergy between the private developers’ aims and the recreation and open space goals set forth by the City. Open space, pedestrian connections and public recreation amenities or fees-in-lieu-of could be made mandatory by the City of Lenoir ordinance to encourage private developers to consider the importance of future park sites, open space and greenway corridors in the overall development process.



Partnership Opportunities

A good partnership results in greater productivity, better services and reaches a much larger audience than would benefit without the partnership. Partnerships also foster efficiency while reducing redundancy in services. The result is more quality services available and reduced costs. One good example of a successful partnership is that between the City and the Caldwell County Pathways organization.

The City of Lenoir has a tremendous opportunity to engage in mutually beneficial partnerships with a number of other civic and public organizations that share a similar mission. The City should continue to develop existing partnerships and actively generate more opportunities to share recreational activities. Potential partnership opportunities could be developed in the future with local nonprofits and other private organizations such as the Caldwell County Heritage Council, outdoor clubs, garden clubs and environmental preservation groups.

Sports Associations

The City of Lenoir is fortunate to have numerous successful sports associations existing within the city. Many of these associations use Park and Recreation facilities for practice and competition. Some of these groups have tournament hosting events that benefit the City both economically and socially. One such example is the Little League games at Optimist Park. The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department should partner with these sports associations as well as developing new opportunities to ensure that they can continue to attract tournaments to Lenoir and host them successfully. These partnerships are necessary to set scheduling priorities for facility use and determine fees and maintenance responsibilities for all parties involved.





Private Enterprise Partnerships

The City of Lenoir should consider creating partnerships with private, for profit businesses to enable the City to expand their programs and amenities. Examples of this would include:

1. Using private funds to build a recreation facility or park on City land, then leasing the facility back to the developer for operation. At the end of the lease period, the facility would revert to City ownership, thence it could be operated by the City, or leased out once more. This strategy could be used for concessions, special facilities such as studio space (dance, aerobics, et cetera), a skateboard park or a splash play park.
2. Providing concession facilities that can be operated by private firms, civic groups or individuals. The operator(s) would be responsible for all operating costs and receive a portion of all receipts taken in.

5.4 PARK PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been determined that in order to create a complete and balanced recreation system that serves the needs of all its citizens, the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation System should consist of three parts: (1) active recreation facilities, (2) a greenway and trail system and (3) recreation programming. The following recommendations address these three parts.

General Recommendations

General recommendations are designed to provide guidance for the operations, goals, administration and growth of the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department. Many of these recommendations depend upon successful collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department and other City staff, such as the Planning, and Public Works Department.



Recommendation #1: Facility and Program Accessibility

Every park and recreation facility the City of Lenoir operates should respect and provide for the needs of all persons regardless of age or ability. Accessibility to all persons should be designed into every City owned or operated facility. To meet this recommendation all new facilities should be designed to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Currently, the City of Lenoir appears to meet these regulations at existing facilities. However, some facility amenities such as ball courts, restrooms, etc. appear in need of review and improvement per ADA requirements. As new facilities are acquired or developed, priority should be given to the necessary upgrading of any existing facilities that are non-compliant.

Recommendation #2: Design and Daily Maintenance

The facilities owned and operated by the City of Lenoir should be inviting places for residents of the City and visitors to the area. Priority should be given to improving the design of facilities so that they are architecturally and functionally progressive. Master planning should always be completed for park improvements or new facilities prior to final budgeting and design, making the phasing/development more transitional and of higher quality.

A maintenance schedule should be implemented to improve the cleanliness and longevity of all facilities. This can be accomplished by a dedicated Parks and Recreation maintenance crew. A dedicated maintenance crew performing park maintenance work regularly would vastly improve the aesthetics and functionality of the City of Lenoir's Park and Recreation properties and project a positive image to park patrons and citizens of Lenoir as a whole.

Recommendation #3: Walkable Communities

Promote land uses and site designs that make walking and bicycling convenient and enjoyable. Encourage the inclusion of public greenways or trails in private developments and establish connectivity to public schools, parks, the Lenoir Greenway and other public destinations.





Recommendation #4: Greenways

Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities. The community surveys and workshops also indicated the local demand for these facilities, with a majority of the respondents favoring the extension of and further development of the greenways in Lenoir. Greenways need to be an integral part of the parks/recreation system for the City, serving not only as recreation entities, but also as connectors between parks, recreation facilities and other destination points within the City. The City should work in conjunction with other nearby municipalities, non-profit organizations and other governments to interconnect a system of greenways. It is recommended that the City continue to expand upon their existing greenway and establish pedestrian connections to the greenway from nearby neighborhoods and facilities.

Recommendation #5: Greenway Corridor

Expand the existing greenway system to take it into the downtown area. Major future corridors should be addressed such as from downtown to Highway 18. Connect other potential pedestrian pathways to the greenway corridor. Connect popular Lenoir destinations such as Caldwell Memorial Hospital, retail shopping, parks and playgrounds, et cetera to the Lenoir Greenway to improve the walkability of Lenoir.

Recommendation #6: Greenway Land Donation

Link the park system with greenways and tie them into the major floodplain/open space system and other destinations where applicable through fee simple donation or conservation easements where possible. The City should consider requiring lands to be granted by developers for both residential and non-residential development as recommended in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recommendation #7: Greenway Land Donation

Link the park system with greenways and tie them into the major floodplain/





open space system and other destinations where applicable through fee simple donation or conservation easements where possible. The City should consider requiring lands to be granted by developers for both residential and non-residential development as recommended in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recommendation #8: Greenway Funding

Emphasize the importance of greenways as an amenity when working with developers and encourage them to contribute to the development of trails within their project. Consider using the subdivision fee-in-lieu-of and grants to fund greenway construction where the need for pedestrian connections cannot rely on the timing of private property development.

Recommendation #9: Connectivity

Strongly encourage or require developers to provide connectivity between public facilities such as parks, schools and other pedestrian/bicycle facilities, whether existing or in the planning phase.

Recommendation #10: Bike Lanes

Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concern and the need to increase the health and fitness of the population, the existing network of bike trails, bike lanes and shared roadways should be expanded to support alternative transportation to recreation facilities and travel within The City of Lenoir. Future roadway construction within the City should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing and future park facilities and greenways. In addition, bike racks should be installed at all publicly owned facilities such as schools and other potential high-use areas, throughout the City.

Recommendation #11: Recreation Easements

Encourage the coordination and planning for future utility easements with





greenway facilities. The easements should be established to allow for the inclusion of recreation facilities.

Recommendation #11: Land Dedication of Public Access

Consider having developers provide right-of-ways or easements for proposed and future greenway facilities or preservation of riparian buffers. A City-wide pedestrian master plan would assist in this effort by identifying potential pedestrian and greenway corridors.

Recommendation #12: Way Finding

Develop a uniform system of directional signage for park paths and greenways within the City. The signs will direct users to historically significant areas, restrooms, public institutions, other parks and to facilities within the parks. A uniform system of signs will allow users to immediately recognize City Park signs from among the plethora of signs on the roadways.

Recommendation #13: Interpretative Signage

Consider placing signage to identify historic and natural landmarks along greenway corridors. This will both enliven the pedestrian experience and provide valuable educational and cultural information to users.

Recommendation #14: Partnership Agreements

The City of Lenoir should continue to seek out and foster partnerships with various organizations within and without The City of Lenoir. This process includes approaching potential partners to establish an understanding of each entity's needs. Periodic progress meetings will facilitate the development and realization of the partnerships goals and objectives.

Recommendation #15: Intergovernmental Cooperation

Continue to coordinate planning efforts between the City, local municipalities,



Caldwell County and adjacent communities to provide greenway and park facilities to the public. Representatives of the City and of these agencies should meet periodically to discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the City. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space and recreation master plan updates for the City of Lenoir, local municipalities and adjacent communities. This will also insure that redundancy in services is prevented and that all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being used.

Recommendation #16: Educational Programming

Develop a consistent environmental education program and interpretative facilities for parks and along greenway corridors as opportunities arise.

Recommendation #17: Caldwell County Heritage Council

Develop programs with the Caldwell County Heritage Council aimed at encouraging residents of Lenoir to become more involved with their heritage and also to generate a broader interest in Lenoir Parks and Recreation activities. Such activities could include history walks along the Greenway, period festivals or educational seminars at City parks.

Recommendation #18: Stewardship Programs

Develop stewardship programs and a community volunteer program for the City of Lenoir. One example is involving members of Boy Scouts of America in small projects that offer community programs that enhance the Parks and Recreation system.

Recommendation #19: Green Building

It is recommended that the City implement green building elements into all future park facilities and existing park improvements. These efforts will improve environmental stewardship for park facilities within their jurisdictions.





Green building techniques consist of building materials and construction practices that reduce environmental impacts such as green house gases, water pollution, air pollution and inefficient energy use.

Recommendation #20: Contiguous Property Acquisition

When property that is contiguous to existing parks becomes available, all reasonable efforts should be made to acquire the property. Large acreage parcels are more beneficial to park development as well as wildlife and preservation efforts. Contiguous property enlarges existing habitats and provides additional bufferage from development. Efforts need to be made to immediately seek first option on all contiguous properties. At the time these options are sought, other possibilities should be presented to the property owners as well; conservation easements and tax advantages may appeal to some owners who wish to retain their property. A conservation easement will allow the City the opportunity to use the land for recreation while reaping the immediate benefits of preservation. Numerous grant sources can be used for land acquisition. Care should be taken to choose the correct process and timing for acquisition to meet the full potential of some grants.

Recommendation #21: Land Dedication for Recreation

It is recommended that the City of Lenoir re-evaluate its policies regarding subdivision land dedication for recreational purposes. The City should obtain the right to decide whether to accept the donation of land in a development for recreation use, or to require a fee-in-lieu-of land instead. This will allow the City to acquire land for parks in areas where the parks are needed and to use the fees collected to develop the appropriately located parcels into parks/greenways. Placing this decision (land donation or fee) in the hands of the City, will allow for a logical, systematic development of future parks and facilities.

Recommendation #22: Land Dedication for Open Space Conservation

It is recommended that the City of Lenoir work with local and regional



government agencies and private groups to identify and acquire conservation lands or easements to preserve open space within the City . The lands can have natural heritage, historical or cultural significance. The lands may or may not be used for passive recreation purposes such as walking and bicycling.

Recommendation #23: Acceptance of Fee Simple Land Donation

If land is offered to the City of Lenoir as donation by fee simple title with no restrictions, the property should be surveyed for natural heritage significance and relationship to existing plans and parks. If the land contains no environmental hazards, restrictive covenants or restrictive easements it can be useful and beneficial for the City to assume ownership. Not all donated land has to be developed into a park in order to be useful. Any land donation to the City serves a great public need even if it is banked for the future, because the development and public needs of the distant future (over 50 years) is unknown. If donated property were properly managed, the revenue and future significance of the property would far exceed its current contribution to the tax base. If the City chooses not to accept land donation of a particular property, efforts should be made to assist the property owner with contacting an agency that accepts land donations or conservation easements.

Recommendation #24: Recreation Exaction Fee

It is recommended that the City of Lenoir re-evaluate the recreation exaction fee amount that is currently assessed upon new home/lot sales. The amount of the fee needs to be updated to be in line with impact fees for surrounding counties and municipalities.

Activity Specific Recommendations

In Section 4, “Recreation Needs Assessment: Evaluation of Facility Needs”, specific activity, facility needs were identified for the City of Lenoir by both the recreation guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Parks





Association and the community input process. This section summarizes the City's needs for their existing/future facilities and makes recommendations for activities to be considered in the future development of their park system.

Recommendation #25: Baseball/Softball

The City of Lenoir currently meets its need for baseball and softball fields till 2018. However, with expected growth in the north section of town a multipurpose recreation facility is recommended to include at least two baseball/softball fields.

Recommendation #26: Soccer

The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department currently meets its needs for soccer fields till 2018. Since the popularity of soccer is projected to continue growing and according to community input interest exists for the development of an additional lighted soccer complex. Such a project should be constructed within ten years. In addition, the City should evaluate the feasibility of developing a high school regulation field within the complex. The field would not only accommodate larger age groups but would also provide multiple fields for smaller age groups. Improvements and maintenance should continue at existing soccer facilities.

Recommendation #27: Tennis

According to the recreation standards, the City of Lenoir is in need of two tennis courts to meet the current standards and one additional tennis court by 2018. However, community input was low regarding interest in additional tennis facilities. Therefore it is not recommended that the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department build any new tennis courts at this time.

Recommendation #28: Volleyball

In order to meet current state/national standards for volleyball facilities, the City needs to provide four volleyball courts. But, as volleyball is not a high priority with most City residents, it is recommended that the City only build





two or three volleyball facilities at an existing City park.

Recommendation #29: Picnic Facilities

The community survey showed solid support for picnic facilities at City of Lenoir park locations. At least two additional picnic facilities should be provided to meet the current demand. However, it is recommended that several more picnic shelters be built in the next ten years. The shelters can be built at existing and new parks. It is also recommended that the City work with private and public agencies to develop picnic sites along the Lenoir Greenway.

Recommendation #30: Horseshoe Pitches

According to the recreation standards, the City of Lenoir is in need of 13 horseshoe pitches by the year 2018. Since horseshoe pitches were a very low priority according to the community survey, it is recommended that efforts in this area be restricted to providing a few horseshoe pitches near picnic shelters.

Recommendation #31: Shuffleboard

Shuffleboard is a very low priority with City residents according to the community survey. Therefore, it is recommended that no shuffleboard courts be constructed at this time.

Recommendation #32: Camping

According to the City of Lenoir recreation needs, the City should provide 65 camping sites by the year 2018. From community meetings, interest in camping on the north side of Lenoir was expressed. It is recommended that camping amenities be provided on the north side of the city.

Recommendation #33: Football

According to the City of Lenoir recreation needs, three football fields should





be provided by 2018. However, football was a low priority with City residents according to the community survey. It is recommended that at least one additional football field be constructed within five years.

Recommendation #34: Basketball Courts/Gymnasium

One additional basketball court is required to meet the City of Lenoir's recreation standards for 2018. Survey responses indicate a desire from the community for Parks and Recreation amenities on the northern side of Lenoir, such amenities may include a multi-use/gymnasium facility. Existing basketball courts at Mulberry, Martin Luther King, J.E. Broyhill and the Old Lenoir High School Gym are currently in good condition but continued maintenance is recommended. Expansion of Martin Luther King should include the construction of one outdoor basketball court. It is also recommended that the existing tennis courts at West End Park be reconditioned as outdoor basketball courts.

Recommendation #35: Playgrounds

Playgrounds received a high priority rating among respondents to the community survey. In addition, several people reported traveling out of the City in order to use playground facilities. According to the NPRA Standards, the City of Lenoir requires six more playgrounds in order to meet the current needs.

It is recommended that the City provide these playgrounds through a variety of methods. First, playground facilities should be provided at all current and future City of Lenoir parks. Second, developers should be encouraged to provide ADA compliant playground equipment in mini parks within their developments.

Recommendation #36: Stream/Lake Access

No need for stream or lake access is required at this time according to the Lenoir Parks and Recreation Standards for now till 2018. Therefore, we do not recommend the construction of such amenities at this time.





Recommendation #37: Amphitheater

The NPRA Standards show a current need for one additional amphitheater in the City of Lenoir. It is recommended that at least one amphitheater be constructed in conjunction with other facilities at a City park site as opportunities arise.

Recommendation #38: Swimming Facility

The City of Lenoir is fortunate to have excellent swimming amenities. No additional swimming facilities are required to meet the Lenoir Parks and Recreation Standards from now until 2018. However, the survey and community input indicate the need for improvements to the existing Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center. Public input has indicated the desire for additional amenities at the facility such as a splash play leisure pool and expanded aerobic fitness component.

Other improvements recommended is additional parking and general improvements to the building (i.e., restroom, locker room, etc.) An increase in the programs offered at the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center as well as an increase in the number of knowledgeable staff is also recommended.

Recommendation #39: Trails/Greenway System

It is recommended that The City of Lenoir develop a City-wide, comprehensive system of multi-use trails and paths or greenways that connect city destinations like parks, recreation sites and other destinations together. In order to do so, the City will have to partner with the various communities and interested organizations within Lenoir.

Recommendation #40: Lighting

Community input noted the need for improved lighting at existing City of Lenoir park facilities. As lighting is both a safety concern and a convenience factor, it is recommended that the lighting situation be evaluated at each





of the existing parks within the City of Lenoir and needed improvements be made. Improvements to lighting should include an evaluation of safety factors and energy conservation. All new lighting plans should include a strategy for dealing with light pollution and adverse affects (light spill over) to nearby property owners.

Improvements to Existing Facilities

Recommendation #41: Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center (LAFC)

Improvements to the existing facility include many items of maintenance regarding updating the restrooms and flooring as well as providing improved lockers for facility patrons. In addition, public input has indicated the desire for additional amenities at the facility however site conditions may influence opportunities for expansion.

Renovations and alterations to the existing facility can accommodate existing programs while also provide new amenities. One of the primary considerations is the implementation of an aquatic splash play and larger aerobic fitness component.

The City is fortunate to have an Olympic size pool that has opportunity to accommodate multiple functions. The pool is operated in the summer and primarily used in the for swim teams with the indoor pool closed during this period. Improvements to the outdoor pool should include the addition of a splash play element and leisure pool while retaining a portion of the existing pool for traditional lap swimming. Such amenity would provide activities for all age groups in the areas of swimming, recreation, and family entertainment. The City should consider conducting a feasibility study prior to implementing any improvements to better understand construction costs, long term maintenance, as well as revenue forecasts for this renovation.

Improvements to the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center include:

Feasibility study examining the operation of the indoor and outdoor pools





- Additions of a splash play area at outdoor pool
- Large space for fitness classes
- Large meeting space
- Swimming Pool Heaters
- Additional space for workout equipment and more workout equipment
- Better developed trails on LAFC property
- Improved lighting at pool
- Provide a water slide at pools
- Longer operating hours at pool
- Additional staff for LAFC programs
- Offer a child care service to patrons of L.A.F.C.
- Develop a new Aquatic Center Trail with a minimal grade
- Pool Decking at Outdoor Pool
- Disc Golf
- Workout Equipment
- Picnic Shelter
- Shade Structures at Outdoor Pool
- Site Furnishings
- Diving Blocks
- ADA Pool Lift
- Botchie Ball Court
- Observation Deck

Recommendation #42: T. H. Broyhill Walking Park

T. H. Broyhill Walking Park is an excellent destination attracting many people from out of town. This ability means that the park is responsible for providing a sense of pride for the residents of Lenoir and a lasting impression in the minds of others about the City. This opportunity should not be underestimated or ignored. Improvements in maintenance and more frequent maintenance should occur. The sense of pride for local residents, City reputation, and attractiveness of Lenoir to potential new residents may be positively impacted by ensuring that T.H. Broyhill Walking Park is always in pristine condition.





Recent improvements to the structures are evident however, additional improvements may include:

- Updating restrooms
- Fresh paint for all structures
- Continued replacement of roof tiles
- Maintenance on pond fountains
- Stain/weather proofing of wood decking
- Asphalt repair on walking path where erosion has occurred
- Interpretive history and botanical education signage installation
- Additional trash receptacles and more frequent trash removal
- More educational signage (i.e., plant identification labels of specimen plants)

Recommendation #43: Mulberry Recreation Center

Improvements to Mulberry Recreation Park include:

- Tennis court resurfacing where required
- Cleaner restrooms
- Renovating the gymnasium building
 - Replace bleachers
 - Replace backboard system
 - Renovate front lobby i.e., flooring, paint, etc.
 - Splash play pad installation
 - Extend Recreation Center's hours

Incorporate the Optimist Club ball fields as a component of Mulberry Park. The City should reevaluate the field layout in order to achieve additional fields. Additional baseball fields would not only relieve the future demands for City residents but also provide a facility to accommodate regional tournaments.





Recommendation #44: Lenoir Greenway

The Lenoir Greenway has been a great success for Lenoir and its residents. This recreational amenity is growing in popularity and should continue to see a growth in interest as walking and biking become popular for exercise and as alternative transportation. Expansion of the Greenway should link the trail to area destinations and other trails and paths. The expansion to other areas of the City provide a network of connectivity and encourage additional residents and visitors to utilize the greenway system.

There are several routes to expand the existing greenway system. Possible use of unused railroad easements or “rail banking” may be an option for greenway expansion. Other considerations for potential expansion include the following:

- Connection to Downtown via Pennton Avenue and Mulberry Street
- Connection to Mulberry Recreation Center
- Expansion of Greenway to Zack’s Fork Creek and Lower Creek

Other improvements to be considered to the existing greenway system includes the following:

- Additional restrooms
- Trash receptacles
- Improved signage for way finding
- Powell Drive Trailhead - Re-route greenway path to avoid vehicular entrance/exit
- Additional parking at trailheads
- Improved lighting for security
- More connections
- Picnic areas along the route





Recommendation #45: Martin Luther King Center

The Martin Luther King Center has strong support from the community. Continued interest can be supported by an increase in the number of programs available at this facility. Community input suggests that improvements are required at this time. These improvements include:

- Update restrooms
- Fix main sign
- Provide additional game equipment
- Construction of picnic shelter near existing playground
- Recondition softball field
- Improve concession structure at softball field
- Improve drainage areas
- Replace playground equipment
- Recreation Center Improvements
- Splash Play Pad Installation
- Walking Track

Recommendation #46: West End Park

Many improvements will be required to make West End Park as useful to the community as the rest of the Lenoir Parks and Recreation facilities. The most critical recommendation for West End Park would be involvement from the surrounding neighborhood in the improvement process. The Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department needs to meet with the community and form a stake holder group that can speak to their neighbors and enact changes set forth by the City. Such changes may include a neighborhood watch group to look out for the park or involve leaders of the neighborhood rallying support for use of park amenities. Improvements to the park include:

- Landscaping to improve the sense of pride and “ownership”
- Updated restrooms, parking and lighting



- Working with City police to increase patrols at the park
- Build a new safe playground behind main park structure
- Install benches and trash receptacles
- Continue improvements to main park structure
- Construction of a children's safety education play area where the existing tennis courts now are.
- Install playground equipment

Recommendation #47: J.E. Broyhill Park

Recently, renovations have been made to the picnic shelters at J.E. Broyhill Park. Additional improvements include:

- Ensuring ADA accessibility is met (i.e., ramps, handrails, etc.)
- Providing additional parking where possible
- Providing improved lighting
- Maintenance/renovation of restrooms
- Improved grounds maintenance and landscaping
- Repair roofs on all shelters

Recommendation #48: Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex Improvements:

- Increase accessibility for all persons
- Provide additional parking where possible
- Provide lighting on all fields
- Possible reconfiguration of soccer fields to support a larger field
- Add Fencing at perimeter of fields

Recommendations for Future Parks

Recommendation #49: Community Linkages/Greenways

It is recommended that the City of Lenoir develop a City-wide system of trails and sidewalks that link the neighborhoods and community areas to Lenoir parks and other destination points. The trails should be developed so that they can tie into a region-wide system of trails, linking the City of Lenoir to





nearby towns and destinations. The City -wide system of trails/greenways should be linked to the regional trails that may be developed or planned. It is also recommended that the City develop procedures for identifying and accepting land donations or easements for the preservation of open space in the City.

Recommendation #50: Multi-use Complex/Community Center

As growth continues in Lenoir and surrounding areas, the need for an additional multi-use complex or community center will arise. It is recommended that the City consider adaptive reuse for an abandoned factory, retail facility or construct a new facility within proximity to a large planned residential development or other densely populated area of the City. The facility should offer a variety of indoor recreation programming for City residents.

Recommendation #51: Community Park (Southern Portion of the City)

It is recommended that the City of Lenoir acquire 25-50 acres of land for a Community Park in the southern portion of the City. There are currently no City park lands in this area. Consideration should be given to land that can accommodate athletic fields as well as provide open space.

As a community park, it is recommended that the park be developed with a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities in mind. Facilities would include athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic facilities, trails and support facilities.

Recommendation #52: Walker Stadium Renovation

Walker Stadium has been a baseball landmark in Caldwell County for decades. Over the years the facility has minor improvements however, to utilize stadium to its full potential, significant upgrades will need to be made in order to attract larger events. The site has limitations with regard to expansion and will require proper planning in order to locate future improvements in an efficient manner.





Facility upgrades and improvements consist of the following:

- Ensuring ADA accessibility is met (i.e., ramps, handrails, etc.)
- Providing additional parking where possible
- Providing improved sports field lighting
- New Restroom/Concession Facility
- Renovation of existing bleachers

Recommendation #53: Zacks Fork Creek Property

The Zacks Fork Creek Property is located along a portion of the greenway and behind the existing County Library. The undeveloped property is approximately 14 acres and would serve as a neighborhood park for the City. The distinctive location of the park would require primary access by means of the greenway. Potential amenities and facilities could include the following:

- Disc Golf Course
- Dog Park
- Picnic Shelters
- Playground
- Restrooms

Recommendation #53: Greenway Mini Parks

With the popularity of the greenway it is recommended the City consider developing Mini Parks at planned locations along the greenway. These facilities should be located near trailheads when possible to accommodate parking and include amenities such as playgrounds, picnic shelters.





5.5 PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Priority Methodology

The park system for the City of Lenoir is a growing network of facilities that will be implemented incrementally. This section describes how the recommended facilities for the City are prioritized.

The following factors guided the prioritization of individual segments of the Master Plan and were derived from input and desires specified by the residents of the City of Lenoir:

- Needed improvements to existing City of Lenoir facilities
- Connectivity of open space and parks not only within the City but also from a regional context
- Development of planned facilities to meet the current and future needs of recreation for City residents
- Acquisition of land for future parks and greenways

Priorities for Development

The park facility prioritization is an essential tool that provides the City of Lenoir with a breakdown of the priority for each capital improvement. Given the magnitude of the budgets for improvements to existing parks and for new park facilities, prioritization of these needs is clearly important. The following is a list of priorities, not necessarily in order, based upon the needs assessment process.



Top Priority Projects

Park Facilities and Programming

- Improvements to Mulberry Community Center
- Improvements to Martin Luther King Park
- Improvements to the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center
- Improvements to T.H. Broyhill Walking Park
- Improvements to West End Park
- Improvements to J.E. Broyhill Park

Greenway and Trail System

- Expand the Lenoir Greenway

Meeting the current recreation needs of the community should be the highest priority for the City of Lenoir. The City needs to improve existing parks and plan to expand the connectivity of Lenoir parks to the Lenoir Greenway. As the current recreation needs are fulfilled, the City can then address future recreation amenities of lower priority.

- END OF SECTION -





Section 6

Action Implementation Plan

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes how the City of Lenoir can implement a safe, convenient and usable park and recreation system through the execution of the established goals in the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan. The strategy for achieving goals involves the recommended park, recreation and greenway facilities/programs discussed in Section 5: Goals and Recommendations. Section 6: Action Implementation Plan, deals with strategies and opportunities, key implementation steps (implementation policies), necessary staffing and methods for developing facilities. Together, these sections fit together to form the implementation program.

The results of the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2008-2018 are based on the following discovery methods:

- 1) a review of the study area, which is within the City limits
- 2) an analysis of the existing parks and facilities
- 3) community input
- 4) recreation standards which have been generically developed for municipalities and City governments.

The Master Plan is designed to be an action-oriented tool for the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the City of Lenoir.

6.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Bicycle and Pedestrian-Based Tourism

Studies have shown that economies are impacted very positively where bicycle and pedestrian tourism is fostered and promoted and where investments are made in bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The number of people who feel comfortable walking or riding bicycles is a measure of the quality of life in that area.





Trails and Greenways

Trails and greenways are extremely popular amenities for vacationing bicyclists and pedestrians. Tourists and visitors to the area often return to communities that provide places (which are safely removed from busy roads) for walking and bicycling. Trails offer scenic recreation which is suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities. Many times, lodging is in close proximity to popular trails, thereby increasing occupancy for the owner. For residents in these locales, investments in trails and greenways can increase property values and improve the overall livability of a community, as well as attracting, retaining and expanding tourism and the associated revenues.

Investing dollars in greenways yields substantial community-wide returns. These returns are in the form of increased property values, attraction of new businesses, recreation revenue and reduced water treatment and flooding costs. Not only are tourists attracted to these areas, but business leaders are selecting sites for the relocation and expansion of industries and corporations where the quality of life is high and recreation opportunities are abundant. Increasingly, corporations are recognizing the benefits of convenient fitness and recreation for their employees and are seeking these greenway amenities for potential locations.

Greenways, as vegetated buffers located adjacent to waterways, act as filters to clean the water, trapping nonpoint source pollutants. These pollutants, which include sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gas and other chemicals, are transported into streams, rivers and lakes by stormwater when rain or snow events occur. Greenways can reduce the need for expensive pre-treatment of the water supply by cleaning it before it reaches municipal water sources.



On-Road Bicycling

Bicycle tourism often occurs with little or no investment in facilities or the infrastructure which is normally required to sustain motor vehicle-based tourism. In areas where networks of lightly traveled back roads and accommodations are prevalent, on-road bicycle routes can provide both visitors and residents an ecologically sound alternative to vehicular travel for sightseeing and recreational travel. When bicycle tourists are attracted to such regions, they become potential customers for bed & breakfasts, restaurants and other service providers in the community.

Trail Development

The ongoing construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is proving to be a very wise economic investment for the communities through which they pass. Trails and pathways have a positive effect on nearby property values with homebuyers and business owners realizing the effect that such facilities bring to a community. According to research by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, there are vast amounts of people, who are using 'rail' trails. It is easy to understand how communities can profit economically by meeting the needs of trail users; restaurants, convenience stores, bicycle and other merchandise shops, campgrounds and alternative lodgings are all potential businesses that cater to trail users. All of these types of entrepreneurs attribute the location of a nearby trail to at least a portion of their success. Realtors and homebuyers alike are recognizing the benefits of properties located near trails. Both locally and nationally, the construction of trails has proven to be a cost effective use of public funds. In particular, multi-use trails allow more visitors and residents to replace automobile trips with non-motorized trips, thereby moving the citizenry closer to achieving public health objectives, including increased opportunities for physical exercise.



Parks

Research has substantiated the direct proportion between economic growth and the existence of parks and open space in communities and municipalities around the country. This growth includes increased property values in residential, urban and industrial communities, and increased revenue from tourists.

Increased Property Value

The real estate market consistently demonstrates that residents throughout the country are willing to invest larger amounts of money in properties that are located close to parks and open space areas than they would for homes that do not offer these types of amenities. The higher values of these homes produce higher property taxes in the affected area. In some instances, additional property taxes are sufficient to recoup the annual debt charges on bonds that were originally used to finance park acquisition and development.

Studies have also concluded that the positive relationship between park proximity and property value also holds true in low-income urban areas. In dense, urban neighborhoods, the value effect of nearby green space can be stronger than the resident's lot value, increasing the lot value and yielding higher property taxes that could help to fund the cost of the park.

As farmland and forests are consumed at the edges of fast-growing municipalities, developers have come to realize that preserving open or natural space within new communities can increase the value of home lots. Thus developers advocate designing around and preserving natural and rustic features such as meadows, orchards, fields, pastures, stream valley habitat and woodlands.

The values of commercial properties also increase when parks or outdoor facilities (outdoor festivals, movies, restaurants, etc.) are in the immediate locale. Studies indicate that "commercial asking rents" near park property exceed rents in surrounding submarkets.



Revitalization of Businesses and Residents

In recent years, there has been a trend to revitalize inner-city and urban areas to improve their quality of life. The success of this revitalization has included the addition of parks and recreational activity in downtown areas. Generally speaking, people do not want to live or work in an environment where they have no refuge from downtown city buildings, without having any place to go out for a stroll, walk the dog, or just enjoy some sunshine. In studies of downtown revitalizations, the top recommendations include “the dramatic expansion of parks and open spaces”.

Tourism

A park often becomes the signature attraction for a community or municipality. It is often used as a marketing tool to attract residents, tourists, conventions and businesses. Parks often shape the identity of the area and give residents a sense of pride. For example, Virginia’s Creeper Trail, a 34 mile rail trail, was named for the train that climbed Iron Mountain, with a native plant (bearing the same name) growing alongside the route; likewise, the Outer Banks of North Carolina lures cyclists from all areas, due to its reputation for expansive bicycle trails as well as wide, paved shoulders along its roads.

Organized events held in public parks, arts festivals, athletic events, food festivals, concerts, plays, et cetera, often bring substantial positive economic impacts to their communities by filling hotel rooms and restaurants, and bringing customers to other local business enterprises.

6.3 FUNDING COMPARISON

Identification of sufficient funding is a crucial element that is required to implement the Master Plan especially considering the City’s budget constraints. The North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a guide by which inadequate funding for park and recreation facilities may be identified. Insufficient funding will be a key issue that will need to be





addressed in the upcoming years if governments continue to provide basic minimum services. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, North Carolina and its local governments are 33% below the national average in the funding of parks and recreation services.

To meet the existing and future needs of the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department, the goals and objectives that are identified in the Master Plan, must be seriously considered for implementation. The City will need to continue to establish annual budgets for the Parks and Recreation Department based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, operations and maintenance costs.

Park and Recreation Capital Expenditures

The population estimates used in this report were certified City and municipal estimates in July, 2007. The estimates were calculated by the State Demographer, Office of State Budget and Management and North Carolina Office of the Governor. There were provided online at <http://demog.state.nc.us>. The per capita expenditure figures are from the North Carolina Municipal and City Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

The following agencies represent North Carolina cities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000 people. City of Lenoir was at the upper range of that group in 2007.



Table 6.1

	Departments Serving Populations of 10,000 to 20,000 People	Population Estimate 2007	Per Capita Expenditure 2007
1	Morganton Recreation and Parks	17,097	\$183.73
2	Pinehurst Parks and Recreation	11,632	\$181.54
3	Holly Springs Parks and Recreation	19,474	\$143.05
4	Fuquay-Varina Recreation and Parks	14,959	\$140.84
5	Morrisville Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources	14,308	\$134.66
6	Tarboro Parks and Recreation	10,430	\$114.65
7	Clayton Parks and Recreation	12,908	\$104.84
8	Newton Parks and Recreation	13,554	\$92.67
9	Smithfield Parks and Recreation	12,821	\$89.69
10	Southern Pines Recreation and Parks	12,210	\$89.13
11	Reidsville Recreation	14,643	\$87.54
12	Albermarle Parks and Recreation	16,026	\$76.55
13	Eden Parks and Recreation	15,666	\$75.31
14	Lenoir Parks and Recreation	18,952	\$73.75
15	Roanoke Rapids Parks and Recreation	16,569	\$65.45

As seen in Table 6.1, expenditures for park and recreation departments with populations of 10,000 to 20,000 residents range from \$65.45 to \$181.54 per resident. In 2007, City of Lenoir parks and recreation per capita expenditure were in bottom end of this group.

To meet the existing and future needs of the City of Lenoir, the goals and objectives, which are identified in the Master Plan, are obtainable with minimal increases to per capita expenditure. However, the City will need to continue to establish annual budgets for recreation based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs and operations/maintenance costs. The following Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plans are for the 10-year period, 2008-2018, and are broken into each fiscal year for implementation of specific projects.





It is recommended that the per capita budget for Parks and Recreation should be increased by \$10 - \$20. This increase will improve the ability for the Parks and Recreation Department to meet the growing recreational needs of the residents of Lenoir.

6.4 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The proposed operating budget includes cost for staff, operation and general maintenance requirements for a parks and recreation system.

Additional Staffing Needs

There are many benefits to a clean, safe, and functional recreation environment. In order for the City to best provide this environment the City should consider hiring a small dedicated maintenance staff to work directly for the Parks and Recreation Department. The City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department would benefit greatly from a dedicated maintenance staff. The addition of such staffing would ensure that facility maintenance was regular and timely. The best and most efficient maintenance comes from a dedicated crew with special knowledge of Lenoir's facilities and recreational amenities. Timely maintenance on the City's recreation facilities would mean more attractive, accessible and less hazardous places for residents to visit.

The positions suggested are as follows:

Maintenance Supervisor

- Plan, schedule, assign and supervise the maintenance of the City's recreation facilities
- Inspect recreation facilities on regular basis for needed maintenance
- Inspect and approve work done by assigned personnel
- Investigate and resolve public complaints about condition of facilities
- Review, develop and administer operational safety program for assigned personnel



- Supervise, train and evaluate maintenance staff
- Assist with budget preparation for maintenance needs
- Request purchases for equipment and supplies
- Provide written estimates for projects including costs, materials and completion time

Full-time Maintenance Worker

- Build, install, maintain and repair facility amenities as directed by Maintenance Supervisor
- Responsible for routine cleaning and maintenance of grounds and facilities
- Operate, maintain and repair (minor) grounds maintenance equipment
- Inspect facility structures and equipment for safety and risk factors
- Greet the public and provide basic information regarding facility rules and resources

Part-time Maintenance Worker

- Build, install, maintain and repair facility amenities as directed by Maintenance Supervisor
- Responsible for routine cleaning and maintenance of grounds and facilities
- Operate, maintain and repair (minor) grounds maintenance equipment
- Inspect facility structures and equipment for safety and risk factors
- Greet the public and provide basic information regarding facility rules and resources

Operating Budget

The General Fund for the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2008 is \$1,457,439.00 It is recommended



that the Operating Budget be increased to \$1,486,588.00 for the fiscal year 2009/10. There is a proposed 2% increase annually, for growth, inflation, contingency, and additional park operation and facilities. This translates to approximately \$1,776,610.00 for year 10 – fiscal year 2018/19 (See Table 6.2.1 – 10 Year Operating Budget) In addition to the general operation funding for parks, it is recommended that the City allocate a budget per year for capital improvements of parks. This funding will provide ongoing improvements to existing facilities, land acquisition, and will allow development for new facilities.

6.5 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Capital Improvement Program for the development of park facilities is designed to encompass the first ten year period of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan. All of the proposed costs are based on 2008 material/labor costs, with no economic changes factored into the yearly increments. Capital improvement costs include general expenditures such as site preparation, access, site utilities and parking, along with specific recreation improvements. The capital improvement plan does not include estimates for planning or design fees.

This Total Capital Improvement Cost represents the proposed, cumulative figure to be spent for parks facility development, improvements and renovations by the year 2020 and reflects the goals and recommendations as outlined in Section 5: Goals and Recommendations of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan.

The proposed Capital Improvement Program for the Parks and Recreation Department has been projected for the planning period as shown on the following table:

New Restroom Concession Building	\$250,000											\$ 250,000.00
New Lighting	\$100,000											\$ 100,000.00
Site Improvements	\$80,000											\$ 80,000.00
Sub-total	\$540,000											
Grand Total	\$4,408,500	\$174,500	\$629,000	\$440,000	\$281,000	\$720,000	\$298,000	\$138,000	\$178,333	\$147,333	\$7,333	\$1,395,000



6.6 OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES

The goals and objectives called for in this Master Plan under the current funding levels cannot be realized. In order to meet the proposed recommendations from Section 5, substantial increases in operating and capital funding will be required. Over the 10-year and beyond period (2010-2030), the City will not be able to support the proposed capital improvements and operations solely through the current level of funding from City appropriations. The City of Lenoir will need to use a combination of revenue sources from various means to accomplish the recommendations of the Master Plan. Fortunately, there are numerous funding strategies and opportunities that will need to be explored and implemented by the City.

Capital Improvement Budget

In addition to the general operation funding for parks, it is recommended that the City allocate a budget for capital improvements of parks. This funding will provide ongoing improvements to existing facilities and land acquisition, and will allow development for new facilities. To generate the funding necessary to develop the recommended improvements (an estimated \$4,396,500 as depicted on the Capital Improvements Plan), the City will need to pursue an aggressive funding program utilizing a variety of revenue sources. If the City is successful in obtaining other funding sources such as grants, the financial impact on the City's general fund could be substantially reduced. An annual allocation of capital improvement funding by the City, supplemented with grants and other funding sources, will allow renovation of existing facilities, land acquisition and construction of new facilities on a more consistent basis.



6.7 FUNDING/ACQUISITION SOURCES

Implementing the recommendations of this Comprehensive Parks Master Plan will require a combination of funding sources that include local, state, federal and private monies. This Section provides a listing of the most commonly used funds for park and greenway facility projects in North Carolina. Fortunately, the benefits of protected greenways and parks are many and varied. This allows programs in City of Lenoir to access money earmarked for a variety of purposes including water quality, hazard mitigation, recreation, air quality, alternative transportation, wildlife protection, community health and economic development. Competition is almost always stiff for state and federal funds. It becomes imperative that local governments work together to create multi-jurisdictional partnerships and to develop their own local sources of funding. These sources can then be used to leverage outside assistance. The long term success of this plan will almost certainly depend on the dedication of local revenue stream for park and greenway projects.

It is important that City of Lenoir fully evaluate its available options and develop a funding strategy that can meet community needs, maximize local resources, improve quality of life and leverage outside funding. Financing will be needed to administer the continued planning and implementation process, acquire parcels or easements and manage and maintain facilities. Further research into these programs is recommended to determine requirements for specific grants.

McGill Associates advises the City of Lenoir to pursue a variety of funding options. Below is a list of park and greenway funding opportunities that have typically been pursued by other communities. Creative planning and consistent monitoring of funding options will likely turn up new opportunities not listed here.



Grants

State and federal agencies offer numerous grants to assist municipalities in the financing of their parks and recreation projects. This source of funding should definitely be investigated and pursued by the City of Lenoir for present and future park/recreation improvements.

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF):

PARTF was established for local governments and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation in 1994 as a funding source for the development and/or improvement of parks and recreation facilities, as well as for the purpose of land acquisition. A state-funded program, PARTF matches monies spent by municipalities on parks and recreation, with each sharing 50% of the cost. In 2004, the fund request was elevated from a maximum of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The Recreational Resources Service should be contact for additional information at (919) 515-7118.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

A federally-funded program, LWCF was established for local and state governments in 1965 as a funding source for outdoor recreational development and land acquisition. LWCF monies are derived from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily offshore oil/gas leases and surplus federal land sales. Acquisition and development grants may be used for a wide variety of outdoor projects such as town parks, tennis courts, bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, and support facilities (roads, water supply, et cetera.) Facility design must be basic rather than elaborate and must remain accessible to the general public. No more than 50% of the project cost may be federally funded by LWCF, although all or part of the project sponsor's matching share may be obtained from certain other federal assistance programs.



North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. Eligible agencies include the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission, the Dept. of Cultural Resources and the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Although City of Lenoir cannot be the applicant, there are state agencies, which could acquire properties, institute programs, et cetera in the City for preservation and/or education purposes. Grants are awarded for the following:

- The purchase of lands that represent the state's ecological diversity to ensure their preservation and conversation for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.
- The purchase of additions to state parks, state trails, aesthetic forests, wild and/or scenic rivers and fish/wildlife management areas.
- The development of a balanced state program of historic properties.
- The inventory and conservation planning of natural areas by the Natural Heritage program.

Federal Aid Construction Funds

These funds are included in the National Highway System (NHS) Surface Transportation Program (STP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAW). The funds provide for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities. The primary source of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is STP Enhancement Funding.

Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

The Safe Routes to Schools Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The



Program was created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU). The SRTS Program is funded at \$612 million over five Federal fiscal years (FY 2005-2009) and is to be administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOT's).

The Program provides funds to the States to substantially improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely. The purposes of the program are:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school.
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.
- To facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity (approximately 2 miles) of primary and middle schools (Grades K-8).

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program

The N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) combines a wetlands-restoration initiative by the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources with ongoing environmental efforts by the Dept. of Transportation to restore, enhance, and protect its wetlands and waterways. EEP provides:

- High-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection.
- Compensation for unavoidable environmental impacts associated with transportation, infrastructure and economic development.
- Detailed watershed-planning and project-implementation efforts within North Carolina's threatened or degraded watersheds.



The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA)

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA), approved by the federal government in 2004, is a primary source for financing bicycle, pedestrian and greenway projects throughout the country, at both the local and state levels. Providing as much as 80% for development and construction costs, this grant is earmarked for facilities such as sidewalks, rail-trails, bike-lanes and greenways. The Enhancement Program (a section of SAFETEA) is used primarily by municipalities since this section focuses on bicycle and pedestrian corridors, environmental mitigation, historic preservation and scenic byways. 20% matching funds are required by the applying entity and applicants must meet several other criteria as well. Prior to applying for this grant, a thorough engineering assessment should be performed to determine construction costs.

Recreation Trails Program

The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). RTP makes recreation funds available for state allocation to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation trail users. RTP funds are distributed to states by a legislative formula: half of the funds are distributed equally among all states and half are distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of non-highway recreational fuel used in each state. (Non-highway recreational fuel is the type which is typically used by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and off-road light trucks.)

Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

Created in 1996 by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grants monies to local governments, state agencies and not-for-profit conservation groups. The money is to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution issues. CWMTF will fund projects that contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and





greenways for environmental, educational and recreational benefits. There is no match required by local municipalities, however, the 'suggestion' of a match is highly recommended.

Watershed Protection and Flood Protection

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) assists state and local governments in their operation and maintenance of watersheds whose areas are less than 250,000 square acres. The NRCS provides both financial and technical assistance to eligible projects for the improvement of watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50% local match for public recreation and fish/wildlife projects.

State Construction Funds

These funds (not including the Highway Trust Fund for Urban Loops and Interchanges) may be used for the construction of sidewalks and bicycle accommodations that are a part of roadway improvement projects.

The North Carolina Conservation Tax Credit

This program provides an incentive (in the form of an income tax credit) for landowners that donate interests in real property for conservation purposes. Property donations can be fee simple or in the form of conservation easements or bargain sale. The goal of this program is to manage stormwater, protect water supply watersheds, preserve working farms and forests and set-aside greenways for ecological communities, public trails and wildlife corridors. (Go to <http://ncctc.enr.state.nc.us/> for additional information,)

Farmland Protection Trust Fund

Ranging from only a couple hundred thousand dollars to millions of dollars over the last several years, this program is funded through an allocation by the NC General Assembly to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It is a voluntary program designed to protect farmland from



development by either acquiring property outright or acquiring conservation easements on the property. The program is administered by the Conservation Trust Fund for North Carolina (CTNC). Questions about available funding should be directed to CTNC.

Contributions

The solicitation of contributions is an acceptable method of fund-raising for recreation departments. These donations, typically in the form of land, cash, labor and materials, can be solicited to assist the City of Lenoir with its enhancement program. Corporations, civic organizations, individuals and other groups generally donate to a specific park project; donations may also be solicited for multiple project improvements or additions. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends the use of private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt foundations as a means of accepting and administering private gifts to a public park system.

Park Foundations

Foundations are another source of financing whereby direct contributions are made from within communities, states or the nation. These types of funds are usually described as special program foundations, general-purpose foundations, or corporate foundations. Foundations generally have very few restrictions or limitations and are typically received from local entities. A listing of appropriate foundations may be found on the internet or at the local library.

Partnerships

To implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive master plan, the City of Lenoir will most certainly have to expand their partnership agreements with other public agencies and private-sector organizations. There are many different types of partnerships that can be formed to achieve the goals established by the City. In fact, many local governments throughout the nation are utilizing partnerships with public and private-sector interests to accomplish community goals.





Listed below are the various types of partnerships that the City should consider in its efforts for the improvement and addition of parks and recreational facilities:

- Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are City owned.
- Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities.
- Development partnerships to purchase land and/or build facilities.
- Management partnerships to maintain properties and facilities.

The City of Lenoir is currently participating with partnerships in other related endeavors and should evaluate forming additional partnerships which address the needs of a comprehensive park system. Direct requests should be made to potential partners, asking them to meet and to evaluate the possible benefits of partnering. This step should be made to generate interest and agreement prior to solidifying any responsibilities for each participating party.

Private-sector partnerships can be beneficial to local governments. Developers can use private funds to develop facilities on government property and lease it to the City over a long term. Over a period of time, the developer returns a portion of the revenue to the City and at the end of the lease the facility is turned over to public ownership. This type of arrangement would typically be a large capital investment for a special use facility.

Land Acquisition and Development

There are many different types of land acquisition available to the City of Lenoir for park system expansion and/or future development. Due to



the land costs, as well as land availability, it is recommended that the City prioritize the property to be acquired for park facilities. Listed below are several methods for acquiring and developing parks:

Life Estate

A life estate is a gift, whereby a donor retains the land during his/her lifetime and relinquishes title of the property after his/her death. In return, the owner (or family) is relieved of property tax for the given land.

Local Gifts

Donations of land, money, labor and construction can have significant impact on the acquisition and development of park property. The solicitation of local gifts is highly recommended and should be organized thoroughly, with the utilization of very specific strategic methods. This often untapped source of obtaining funds requires the contacting of potential donors such as individuals, institutions, foundations, service clubs, et cetera.

Easement

An easement is the most common type of 'less-than-fee' interest in land. An easement seeks to compensate the property owner for the right to use his/her land in some way or to compensate for the loss of his/her privileges to use the land. Generally, the land owner may still use the land and therefore continue to generate property tax revenue for the City.

Fee Simple Purchase

Fee simple purchase is the most common method used to acquire property for park facilities. Although it has the advantage of simplifying justification to the general public, fee simple purchase is the most difficult method to pursue due to limited monetary resources.





Fee Simple with Lease-Back or Resale

This method allows local governments to acquire land by fee simple purchase; yet allows them to either sell or lease the property to prospective users with restrictions that will preserve the land from future development. The fee simple with lease-back or resale method of development commonly results from situations in which land owners who have lost considerable monetary amounts in property value, determine that it is more economical to sell the land to the City (with a lease-back option) than to keep it.

Long-Term Option

Long-term options allow governments to purchase property over a long period of time. This method is particularly useful because it enables the City to consider a particular piece of land that may have future value, though it is not currently desired or affordable at the time. There are advantages to this method of property acquisition. The City can protect the future of the land without purchasing it upfront. Meanwhile, the purchase price of the land will not increase and the City will have the right to exercise its option. The disadvantage to the City is that all privileges relinquished by the land owner require compensation in the form of securing the option.

Dedicated Source of Local Funding

In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the programs listed above, City of Lenoir should enhance its existing Parks Trust Fund to include the following:

- Property/sales tax
- Bonds
- Fee in-lieu of contributions
- User fees/registration fees



Property/Sales Tax Revenues

General tax revenues traditionally provide sources for general operations and maintenance of park systems for local governments. The parks department is scheduled along with health, public safety, utilities, et cetera in regular budgets established by the City. Assessed valuation of real and personal property tax and sales tax provides the framework for the major portion of the tax base for the City.

Traditionally, ad valorem tax revenue has been the primary source of funding for the park and recreation enhancement of properties/facilities owned by local governments. 'Recreational opportunities' are considered a public service and often are a standard line item on general fund budgets. Creative financial opportunities are possible; however ad valorem taxes will continue to be the major revenue source to support the system. As such, communities often vote to raise their local tax rate temporarily in support of their park and recreation systems.

General Obligation Bonds

Many communities issue bonds, which are typically approved by the shareholders, to finance site development and land acquisition costs. The State of North Carolina grants local governments the authority to borrow funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds. The amount of the bond is not to exceed the cost of acquisition or the cost for the improvement of park and recreation facilities. Total bond capacities for local governments are limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation. Since the issuance of bonds relies on the support of the voting population, the implementation of awareness programs is absolutely essential prior to a referendum vote.

General Obligation bonds are the preferred financing approach by the North Carolina Local Government Commission and the general securities market, because these instruments are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer. That simply means that the bonds represent an encumbrance against the property tax base of the issuing jurisdiction and therefore offer the best



available security to the bond holder. The State of North Carolina gives the issuance of bonds that are not to exceed the total cost of improvements, including land acquisition. In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, the borrowing of funds to develop new facilities may be necessary. Total bonding capacities for local governments is limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

The following are key factors to consider when evaluating the use of this financing instrument:

- In North Carolina, the issuance of General Obligation bonds requires a referendum of the voters within the issuing jurisdiction.
- The term of the debt may be extended to 20-30 years.
- The debt is publicly sold. Therefore, there are costs associated with the sale that generally total 3% to 5% of the total bond principal. The issuance costs offset the lower interest rate so this instrument becomes more attractive as the size of the issuance increases and the issuance costs are spread over the larger debt. It has been found that this financing option becomes financially superior as the debt principal exceeds \$10-\$12 million.
- Prepayment of the debt can generally not be accomplished until reaching a call date, which is generally around 75% of debt retirement.

Failure of the General Obligation Bond to be ratified by referendum could mean that the City could not go forward with an alternative approach to financing without substantially changing the scope of the project.

Fee in-lieu of contributions

Under the zoning ordinances, developers have an option to pay a 'fee in lieu of' rather than dedicate open space within conventional subdivisions. To date, this program has proven to be successful as a dedicated source of



revenue that can be earmarked for park development. The City may choose to revisit this source of revenue to study the feasibility of enhancing the fee in-lieu formula.

User fees/registration fees

Communities throughout the nation employ a wide variety of user fees for public use of recreational programs and services within their recreation departments. The amount of the fee is usually determined by a portion of the recreation costs needed for improvements or operation. These user fees are typically levied for such special facilities as water parks and golf courses; however, they can also be charged for the use of trails and ball fields. The City of Lenoir should consider generating revenue by charging user fees for the use of facilities such as picnic shelters and athletic fields in order to cover operation and administrative costs. As the park system continues to develop, the City should examine their fee structure to identify opportunities for additional revenue. The current user fees appear to be fair and reasonable for a majority of the City residents. Elected officials should determine the fees and charges; the fees should not be so high that persons of modest income would ultimately be denied the use of park facilities.

6.8 PLAN ADOPTION

The first step in implementation of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is adoption of the plan by the City of Lenoir. By adopting the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan, the community is able to shape larger regional decisions so that they fit within the goals of the plan. The City also gives itself greater authority in shaping local land use decisions so that they achieve the goals and vision of this plan. In addition, the adoption of this Master Plan is essential in order to maximize available grant opportunities.

Among the opportunities available to promote the recommendations contained in the Master Plan is the ability to build upon an already committed and active base of residents, visitors and enthusiasts in the area. Through their





organizations, institutions, publications and networks, the City of Lenoir can promote the improved or new parks and greenway facilities and programs.

Second among the opportunities is the availability of the existing park facilities (amenities, programs, existing trails, et cetera.) Though some changes are being suggested in the short-term and an expanded network is suggested for the long-term, the presence of an existing network provides a strong foundation from which to build. Many City residents are already accustomed to using the existing recreation programs and should become used to seeing new park amenities, programs, signage and other improvements. Building on their existing awareness is much easier than building on no awareness.

Action Steps

Upon adoption of this plan, implementation of specific recommendations can begin. Many of these will occur simultaneously and include policy and facility improvement changes. The key steps are:

- Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program and address the goals of the Master Plan.
- Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of this plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities that are proposed; for example, the City may designate or hire an employee to oversee this task.
- Create a City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund through the NC Community Foundation.
- Develop and implement educational and awareness programs such as public events and promotion of parks awareness by civic/environmental advocacy groups. These can be used to announce new park facilities and some of the upcoming projects.



- Begin working on the proposed facilities that are listed in the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program. From these opportunities comes the framework for an initial implementation strategy:
 - 1) Acquiring land for future park expansion and greenway corridors should be a high priority. It will be essential to acquire land as opportunities become available.
 - 2) Use the base of recreation users to expand the awareness of the benefits and operating hours of the City of Lenoir parks and recreation system.
 - 3) Expand and modify the existing park system into a comprehensive, multi-use system, distributed so that it better meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities to all and enhances the current park system.
 - 4) Begin making the critical greenway connections between destination points that will allow for preservation of open space and offer an alternative mode of transportation.

These four steps represent the core of the implementation strategy. As the individual policy recommendations and physical recommendations are addressed, they should each fit with one of these four primary strategies.

- Ensure that park and greenway planning is integrated with other regional planning efforts at the state and local levels, and with long-range and current land use, economic development, parks, environmental and community planning. The following are mechanisms to achieve this action step:
 - 1) Expand local capital improvements program for yearly appropriation for greenway and park development.



- 2) Set aside money for land acquisition, construction and maintenance of parks and greenway facilities in the annual operating budget.
- 3) Pursue and request pedestrian/bicycle projects to be added to NCDOT TIP.
- 4) Pursue developing and expanding existing and new partnerships.
- 5) Apply for PARTF Grants and other related recreation grants for park projects and improvements.
- 6) Seek other sources of revenue funding for parks and greenway improvements such as including local assessment districts, developer exactions, et cetera.
- 7) Pursue funding from other sources listed in this section.
- 8) Evaluate the enhancement of the existing 'fee in lieu' funding formula in City of Lenoir Subdivision Regulations.

6.9 CONCLUSION

This Comprehensive Parks Master Plan has laid out a set of strategies for expanding/developing a safe, convenient and usable park system as reflected in the following:

- Full-time park system;
- Expansion and enhancement of existing facilities; and
- Creation of new facilities in areas of demand.

The plan has assessed the study area, analyzed the existing facilities, received community input, reviewed recreation standards, developed



recommendations and provided strategies for implementing the plan. The Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is a comprehensive guide to be used in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Department.

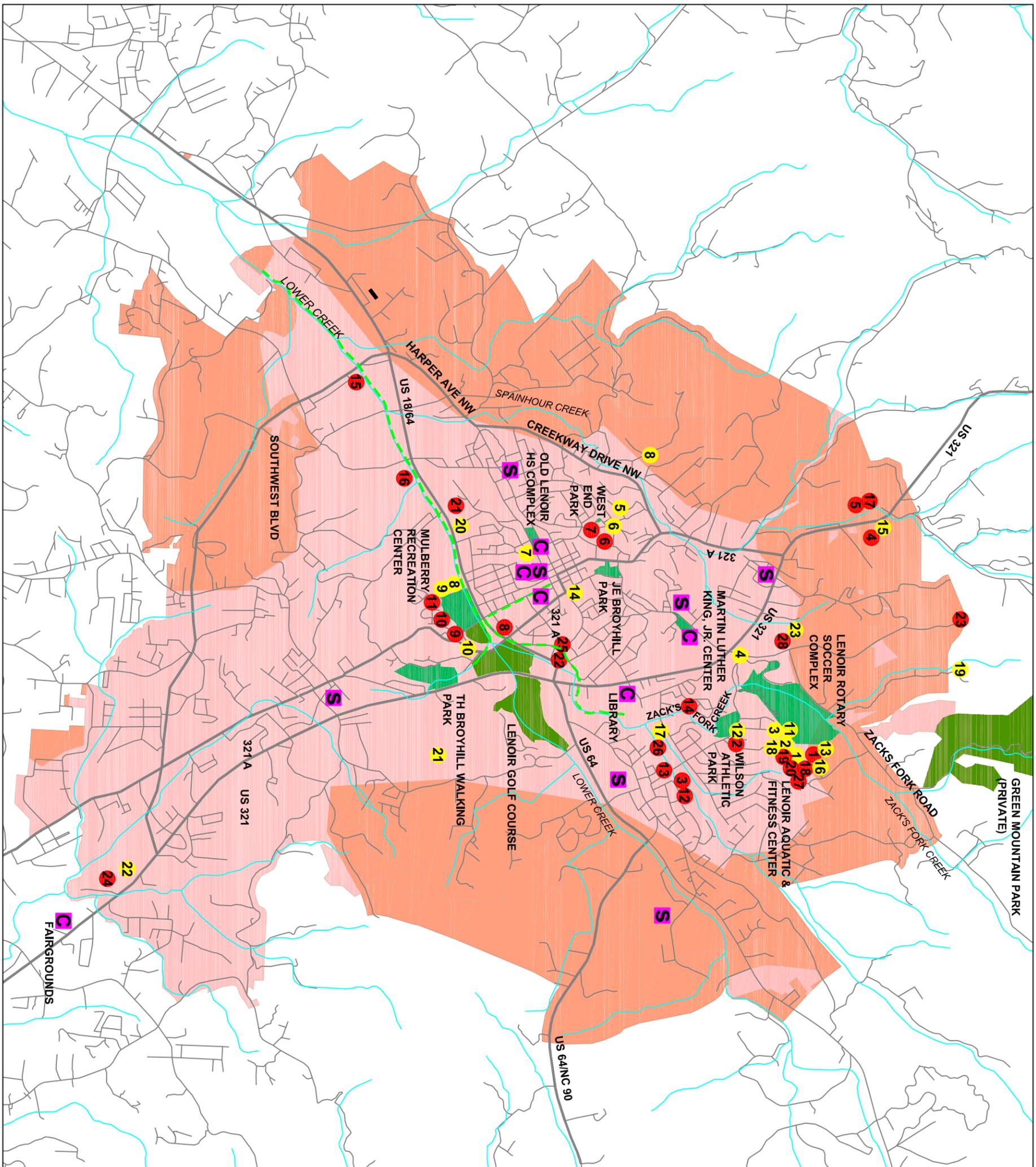
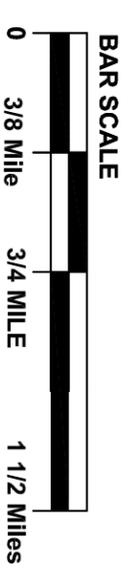
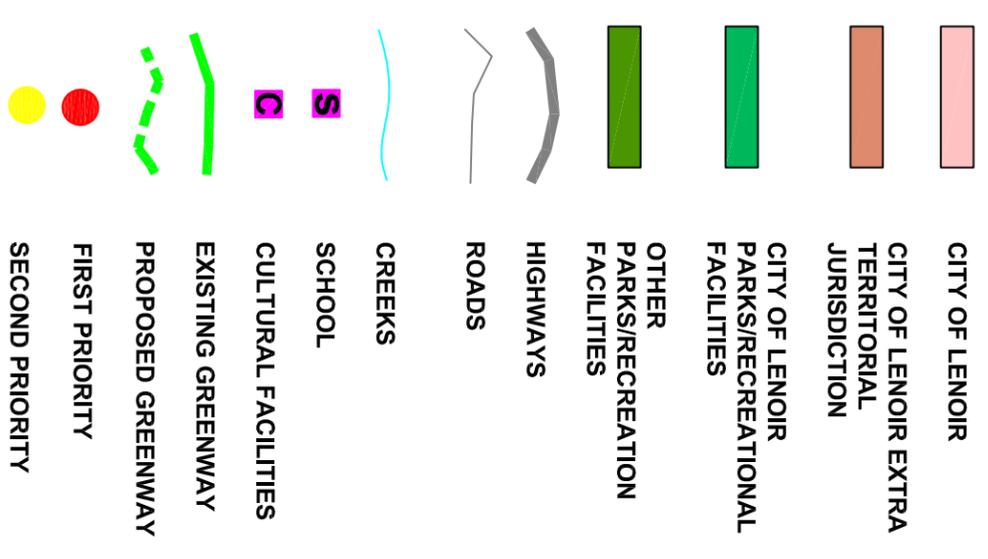
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City of Lenoir North Carolina

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009-2029

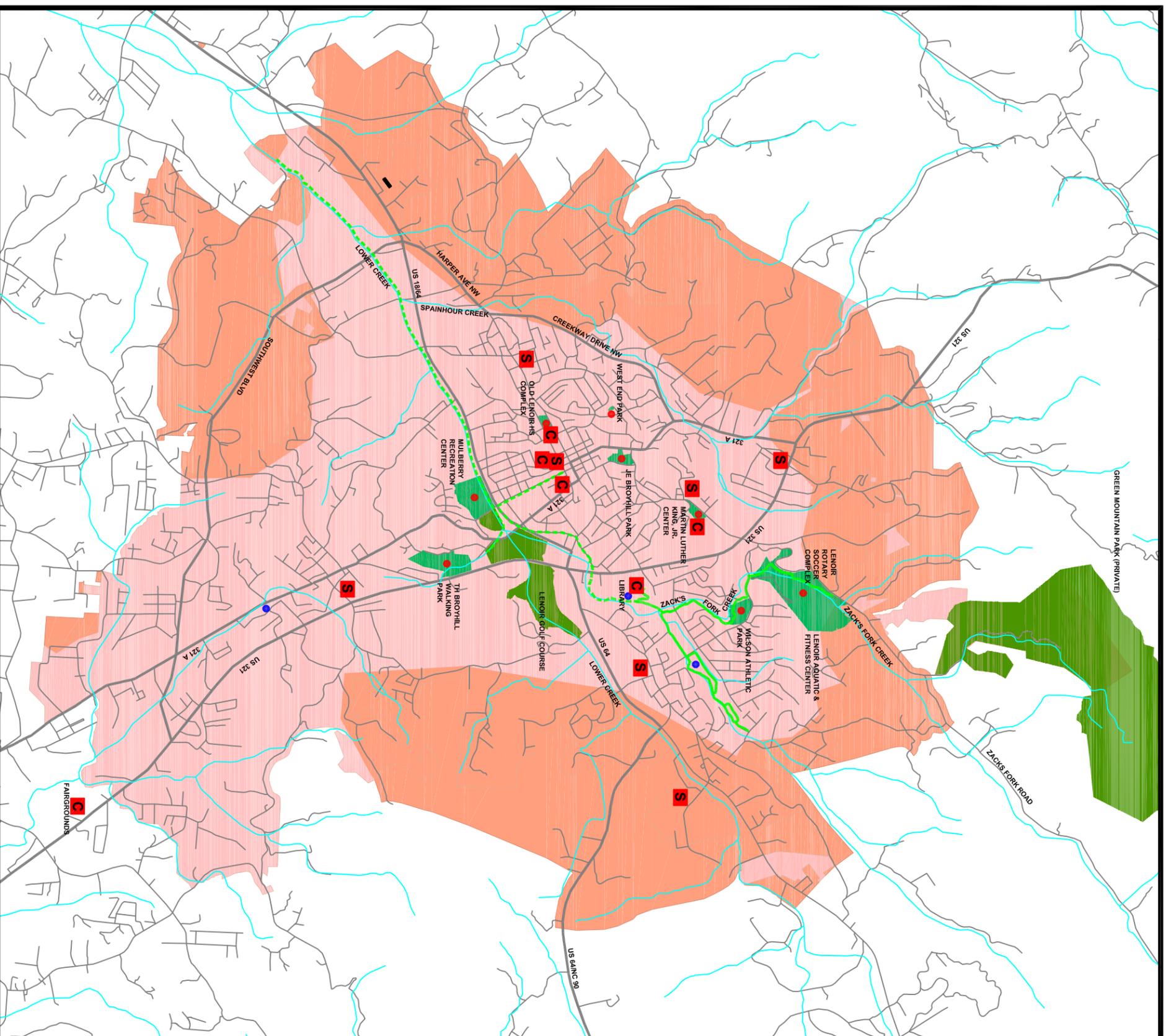
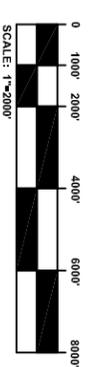
Community Needs Assessment Results



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN CITY OF LENOIR

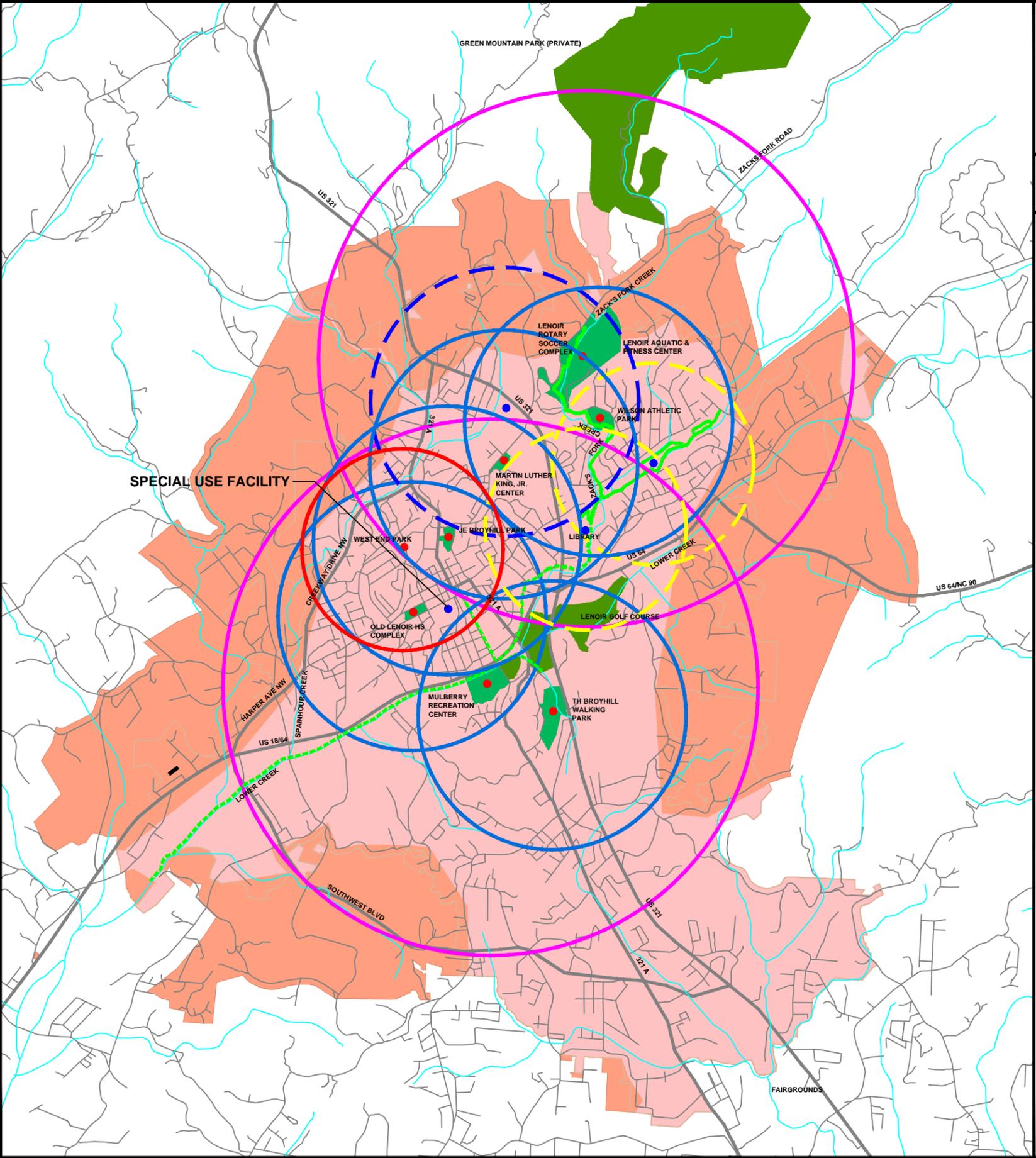
EXISTING FACILITIES

-  CITY OF LENOIR
-  CITY OF LENOIR EXTRA TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION
-  CITY OF LENOIR PARKS/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
-  OTHER PARKS/RECREATION FACILITIES
-  HIGHWAYS
-  ROADS
-  EXISTING GREENWAY TRAIL
-  PROPOSED GREENWAY TRAIL
-  CREEKS
-  SCHOOL
-  CULTURAL FACILITIES



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN CITY OF LENOIR

PARK SERVICE AREAS



- CITY OF LENOIR
- CITY OF LENOIR EXTRA TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION
- CITY OF LENOIR PARKS/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- OTHER PARKS/RECREATION FACILITIES
- HIGHWAYS
- ROADS
- EXISTING GREENWAY TRAIL
- PROPOSED GREENWAY TRAIL
- CREEKS
- EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREA (1-2 MILES)
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREA (.75-1 MILE)
- EXISTING MINI PARK SERVICE AREA (LESS THAN .75 MILE RADIUS)
- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREA
- PROPOSED MINI PARK SERVICE AREA

