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Executive Summary
Purpose of This Plan
The purpose of this plan is to update the Master Plans for each of the County’s parks: The American Tobacco Trail, Blue Jay Point County Park, North Wake Landfill District Park, Lake Crabtree County Park, Historic Oak View County Park, Historic Yates Mill County Park, Crowder District Park, and Harris Lake County Park. Each Master Plan Update will provide analysis and recommendations that will elevate the park’s ability to serve citizens and visitors who travel to the area to enjoy the natural and cultural resources of Wake County. To achieve this, the consultants, staff, steering committee, stakeholders, and public examined the layers of information identified in the discovery process to provide guidance for implementation.

Study Area
Each of the eight County Parks is comprised of unique features, programs, facilities, challenges, and opportunities. Existing conditions profile sheets for each park are located in Chapter Two: Existing Conditions. Profile sheets illustrate the size of the park, facilities within the park, and activities offered. While each park is the subject of the study, the overall county was analyzed to understand demographic composition, demand, adjacent facilities, connectivity, and community characteristics.

Continuing the Vision
The Parks and Recreation Division’s vision from the 2008 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan continues today. Each activity, improvement, facility, and park is developed with this vision as a guiding principle:

Wake County will be a great place to live, work, learn and play. It will be a place where people are self-sufficient, enrich their lives, respect the environment, appreciate their heritage, participate in government, and plan for a better tomorrow.

Seven goals were identified to target the efforts needed by the Parks and Recreation Division to achieve this vision. The following goals acted as the pillars of the 2008 plan and guide this process to update each Master Plan.

Goal #1 – To position the Division of Parks, Recreation and Open Space (the Division) as a valued partner in the vision of Wake County.
Goal #2 – To maintain and enhance the core services of Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.
Goal #3 – To be proactive with initiatives that result in long-term sustainability of the Division and the environment.
Goal #4 – To market the benefits and services of the Division of Parks, Recreation and Open Space.
Goal #5 – To continue to serve the citizens of Wake County in our three core service areas and develop performance measures to track and report our success.
Goal #6 – To create a regional park land acquisition and development plan.
Goal #7 – To participate in the planning and collaboration of municipal and regional trail and greenway plans.

Planning Process
The planning process began with a period of Discovery and Data Collection. During this stage, data collection, review of past planning efforts, GIS analysis, a review of leases and memorandum of understanding, on-site evaluation, and inventory set the stage for analysis. Previous citizen surveys, park satisfaction surveys, focus groups, and site visits fueled the Needs Assessment and Analysis Stage where community needs and site improvements begin to surface. All of these items were overlapped to provided the inspiration for recommendations, which were vetted by the public through a series of workshops. The final recommendations and action steps for each park site will provide the staff of Wake County with actions items to achieve the goals and implementation strategies of the final plans.
Executive Summary

Existing Conditions

County-wide data was evaluated to determine if current facilities were appropriately serving the diverse and growing populations in the county. An Equity Analysis evaluated concentrations of traditionally underserved populations to suggest specific program or equipment needs. In addition to demographic profiles, the Live, Work, Play Analysis used geospatial representation to show where there are high demand for park facilities and programs throughout the county by assessing factors such as where people live, work, play, learn, and ride transit.

The consultant team conducted a thorough field inventory and evaluation of each county park site. The profile helped frame the existing facilities, accessibility, and user information identified, summarized in a Park Profile for each of the existing sites.

Public Input

To complement the analyses and field work, a public input process was used to quantify the wants and needs of residents in Wake County. For the 2016 Update to the County Park Master Plans, several avenues of public input were merged to assess the needs for the system as a whole and each individual park. Community needs and desires were extracted from the 2008 PROS Comprehensive Master Plan, the 2014 Community Interest and Opinion Survey, Individual Park Customer Satisfaction Surveys, North Carolina’s Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan, national trends in parks and recreation, focus groups, steering committee input, and staff interviews. After a solid foundation of needs, opportunities, and current challenges were established, recommendations were vetted via an online public survey, booths at public events, the steering committee, and park staff. During a final Steering Committee Meeting, members representing the public’s interest and future vision of the parks determined which recommendations would be presented in the final Master Plans Updates.

Recommendations

The recommendations of this plan have been vetted through several perspectives via a robust process of engagement and cross-checking. Each touchpoint of discovering need and determining appropriate action was considered through the lenses of staff, management, citizens, visitors, users, and non-users of all ages and abilities. The purpose of these recommendations is to guide management and staff toward a new vision for each park that complements the context, advances trends in recreation, and focuses on conservation, health and wellness, and social equity.

The recommended improvements are presented at the master planning level, with representative photos, narrative, action steps, funding targets, and conceptual renderings. The division mission and goal is to ensure parks, programs, and resources are accessible all users. Recommendations for the department establish a baseline for each park to provide consistency of information across all communication platforms and a comprehensive wayfinding package to and around each park. Clarity will be critical to encourage new use and provide confidence while navigating each of the parks. Access emerged as the pinnacle to success for the department and each park. This can be defined as access via public transit, access in a sense of approachability, access for users with special needs, and access in the realm of connectivity throughout each programmed space. Together, the overall recommendations and each individual park improvement will result in increased awareness, user experience, environmental health, and social unity for users now and into the next decade.

Note: The following pages contain images of 24” x 36” summary boards of each park’s recommendations which are available at full size upon request.
CHALLENGE HIKING: use the existing steep site boundary to support the public during a top challenge for the more adventurous types, Blue Jay has opportunities to provide opportunities to participate in rope courses and other activities.

NEW ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH: provide an accessible route from the park center near the blueway trail stopping points along a blueway trail and other opportunities. Group use and individual use can be granted at entry for environmental education, adventure, and education spaces. Accessible areas and activities can be accessed in order to be more enjoyable for everyone, with additional amenities to be established on the Blue Jay trail.

Overnight recommendations include the development of the Overnight Lodge as a place for large groups (200+) and/or covered overnight stays for environmental education courses. Adventure activities for Environmental Education, trails, shoreline, educational gardens, and water activities can be expanded to provide additional opportunities to explore the natural environment. The map illustrates the current features and new additions to the park.

NEW: Ongoing work to enhance the park's natural surroundings and be integrated into the natural surroundings, expanding the area by providing additional space for large groups (200+) and/or covered overnight stays for environmental education courses. Adventure activities for Environmental Education, trails, shoreline, educational gardens, and water activities can be expanded to provide additional opportunities to explore the natural environment.
Harris Lake County Park Recommendations

MAIN VISION: Harris Lake is the "Destination for the Day," a place to reconnect with nature through recreational and educational opportunities. There is something here for each family member to enjoy - from fishing and health-related activities to just relaxing and spending time together.

GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY: Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.

TREE TOP TRAIL: Create an elevated trail that allows visitors to experience the park's nature and observe wildlife from a unique perspective.

LOOPE ROAD AND GREENWAY: Consider extending the loop road and greenway to allow for better circulation throughout the park.

CAMPING: Consider developing a designated camping area supported by the public during the planning process.

HIKING TRAILS: Create a network of hiking trails to enhance the visitor experience.

PLAYGROUNDS AND WATER ACCESS: Expand the existing playground area and water access options.

NEW PARK CENTER: Design a new visitorcenter that is welcoming and enhances the visitor experience.

MAINTENANCE AREA: Create an area to store equipment and maintain the park.

NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL: Add a mountain bike trail to the park.

NEW DISC GOLF COURSE: Consider adding a disc golf course to the park.

MAIN ENTRANCE: Improve the main entrance to the park to enhance the visitor experience.

NEW NAME RANCH: Create new natural areas to enhance the park's natural beauty.

NEW CENTRAL LAKE: Consider creating a new central lake to enhance the park's natural beauty.

NEW SUBWAY: Create a new subway to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL: Consider extending the existing mountain bike trail.

EXISTING PAVILION: Consider improving the existing pavilion to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING MAINTENANCE AREA: Consider improving the existing maintenance area to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING PAVILION: Consider improving the existing pavilion to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING SUBWAY: Consider improving the existing subway to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING LAKE: Consider improving the existing lake to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING DISC GOLF COURSE: Consider improving the existing disc golf course to enhance the visitor experience.

EXISTING MAINTENANCE AREA: Consider improving the existing maintenance area to enhance the visitor experience.
1. Introduction
Overview
Wake County is located in northeast North Carolina featuring 548,480 acres of rolling hills, sloped towards the state’s flat coastal plain. Founded in 1771, it is home to the state capital Raleigh and named for Margaret Wake, wife of the Governor of the Province of North Carolina. Though originally inhabited by the Sissipahaw and Occaneechi Tribe, it was quickly colonized and became primarily an agriculture-based county until the Civil War changed the economy. With the development of the railroad came new people and businesses. It was at the end of the Second World War that the county changed into an urban and industrial center that shaped the areas present outlook. Today, Wake County is the fifth fastest growing county over 500,000 people in the United States. It houses the North Carolina State Fair and is home to such higher education institutions as North Carolina State University, Meredith, Peace, St. Augustine’s, and Shaw University.

The Wake County Parks and Recreation and Open Space Division currently operates eight county parks focused on the core service areas of open space, recreation and leisure, and environmental and cultural education. The Division’s mission is:

To provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities while promoting environmental and cultural stewardship through a managed system of parks and open spaces.

In 2014, these facilities had a combined visitation of 1,187,986 people—experiencing exhilarating mountain biking, sailing across Lake Crabtree, picnicking with family, and horseback riding along the American Tobacco Trail. The Division has recently received numerous environmental preservation awards at both the local and national level.
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Goal 5 – To continue to serve the citizens of Wake County in our three core service areas and develop performance measures to track and report our success.

Goal 6 – To create a regional park land acquisition and development plan.

Goal 7 – To participate in the planning and collaboration of municipal and regional trail and greenway plans.

These goals will guide this planning process to update the eight master plans.

National Standards and Trends
All parks and recreation divisions (or departments) observe the standards and guiding principles of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). This group provides countless resources for divisions to plan, implement, and document progress. Understanding history, learning from other communities, and identifying future focus areas are critical to serving diverse populations.

Originally preserved for their aesthetic beauty, parks have evolved into critical public spaces that enable communities to become healthier, more prosperous, and socially connected. Careful management and planned activities have positioned local parks and recreation departments as essential components of modern life by helping mitigate the growing trend of obesity, improving the economy, and providing environmental benefits through conservation. By following the NRPA’s three pillars of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity, Wake County can continue to provide resources and services that create quality of life improvements for its residents.

Conservation
Parks and public lands serve an essential role in the preservation of natural resources and wildlife habitat, the protection of clean water and air, and the provision of green spaces for current and future generations to enjoy. The ability to preserve these essential connections is critical to the quality of life for Americans, and as such, the mission of parks and recreation departments at all levels should support the conservation of our natural resources. Clean, green, and accessible parks and open spaces benefit everyone in the community.

Parks and recreation professionals are the champions in protecting and managing open space for the common good. The preservation of our national resources not only improves the quality of life in our communities, but also provides substantial economic benefits such as reducing healthcare costs, cleansing air and water pollution, and improving social equity. Park and recreation facilities and programs also enhance the value of conservation by educating the public about their values, connecting young people to nature and the outdoors, and coordinating environmental stewardship with other public and nonprofit entities. Through careful planning, stewardship, and public engagement, Wake County can continue to be a leader in conservation and build upon the benefits of its parks and open spaces. These benefits include:

• Providing carbon-reducing sustainable landscapes that cleanse air and water, replenish aquifers, reduce stormwater runoff, and protect wildlife habitat;

• Offering the public access to safe, affordable, and healthy ways to experience and appreciate nature; and

• Contributing significantly to the economic wellbeing of communities through energy and resource conservation and providing many economic benefits to communities derived from outdoor recreation.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Due in large part to a growing trend of poor nutrition, sedentary lifestyles, and overall unhealthy habits, America is in the midst of a serious health crisis that is affecting adults and children. Parks and recreation agencies have become leaders in fighting many of these challenges by enhancing the physical environments in which we live and improving the overall health and wellness of our communities. More and more evidence has shown that parks and recreation actively contribute to healthier communities and are critical to our nation’s health epidemic. Through facilities, natural amenities, and programs, they encourage and promote healthy habits for people of all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and ethnicities. Wake County can work toward improving the health and wellness of its community by offering collaborative programs and policies that:

- Help reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease by providing opportunities to increase rigorous physical activity in a variety of forms
- Provide a connection to nature which studies demonstrate relieves stress levels, tightens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health
- Aid in reducing hunger in America and increasing access to nutritious food options
- Foster overall wellness and healthy habits, such as becoming tobacco-free and engaging in enrichment opportunities that add balance to life

SOCIAL EQUITY
The philosophy of social equity and access is a core pillar of every park and recreation department. Having access to programs, facilities, places, and spaces—regardless of skin color, age, income level or ability—is a right, not a privilege, for people nationwide. Social equity is a critical responsibility of every public park and recreation agency and the professionals who operate them. The inclusive nature of parks and recreation cultivates community ties through programs and services that connect people more deeply to the community. This sense of community connection improves quality of life and makes our communities more livable and desirable for residents and businesses.

Social equality is expressed through more than the physical environment. While ADA access is critical, other equitable attributes should be addressed in public parks. Access via public transportation and greenway trails enables youth, seniors who no longer drive, and those without personal vehicles to partake in programs and park activities. Cost to participate in programs or gain access to certain amenities is also essential to equitable offerings. In addition, language barriers sometimes deter non-English speaking residents and visitors from enjoying facilities and events at programs in their communities.

Physical, sensory, economic, and cultural considerations should be analyzed to provide services and facilities that pair well with the demographic composition of residents and visitors to each park.

Upholding social equity is one of the core means of assuring the value of parks and recreation for future generations. By continuing to improve upon the social equity and universal access to its parks and recreation opportunities, Wake County will enjoy many benefits, including:

- Public enjoyment and engagement. Where parks and open space are plentiful and recreation services strong, residents enjoy the closest attachment and engagement within their communities; and studies indicate higher levels of local gross domestic product and economic well being;
- Quality recreation time with family and friends. Parks and recreation services provide a space and a reason to partake in enjoying quality time, relaxation, and fun among family members and friends, thus strengthening the social and familial bonds that provide balance and satisfaction in life;
- Improvement of mental and physical health. Parks and recreation can reduce the impacts of chronic diseases, especially in such vulnerable populations as children, seniors, and the underserved; and
- Measurable decreases in rates of crime and other detrimental activities. Communities are safer as a result of a wholesome atmosphere created by well managed parks and recreation services in communities through healthy activities and programming for all people.

Planning Process
The planning process began with a period of Discovery and Data Collection. During this stage, data collection, review of past planning efforts, GIS analysis, a review of leases and memoranda of understanding, on-site evaluation, and inventory set the stage for analysis. Previous citizen surveys, park satisfaction surveys, focus groups, and site visits fueled the Needs Assessment and Analysis Stage where community needs and site improvements begin to surface. All of these items were overlapped to provide the inspiration for recommendations, which were vetted by the public through a series of workshops. The final recommendations and action steps for each park site will provide the staff of Wake County with actions items to achieve the goals and implementation strategies of the final plans.
2. Existing Conditions
Overview

Parks, greenways, and open space play a key role in the quality of life in an area. They can provide residents and visitors the opportunity to be physically active, can improve nearby property value, and can offer locations for relaxation and social interactions. As Wake County continues to experience tremendous population growth, it is necessary to assess existing conditions and demographic trends to forecast park needs.

The following chapter establishes an existing conditions profile for Wake County through the culmination of demographic analyses and fieldwork evaluation. Due to the large service area of county parks, a comprehensive understanding of county-wide trends is critical to understanding the current and future needs of the community. The data outlined in the composition section helps show whether current facilities are appropriately serving the diverse and growing populations in the county, and the Equity Analysis displays concentrations of traditionally underserved populations to suggest specific program or equipment needs. In addition to demographic profiles, the Live, Work, Play Analysis uses geospatial representation to show where there are high demand for park facilities and programs throughout the county by assessing factors such as where people live, work, play, learn, and ride transit. To complement this analysis, public input from a recent planning endeavor was used to quantify the wants and needs of residents in Wake County.

The resulting existing conditions profile of Wake County was used to guide the consultant team as they conducted a thorough field inventory and evaluation of each county park site. The profile helped frame the existing facilities, accessibility, and user information identified in each of the Park Profiles.

Composition of the Community

General Statistics

The Parks and Recreation facilities of Wake County are often used regionally and service a diverse assortment of individuals. The following demographic, composition, and equity data and analyses were completed to better understand municipality and county constituents.

Age

Wake County has a relatively uneven distribution of its population, with the 18 to 64 age bracket having the largest percentage of the population at 65 percent while the 65 and over age bracket has the second lowest percentage at 9.7 percent followed by persons under 5 years at 6.7 percent.

Population Density

According to Wake County Planning Board’s Demographic Trends 2014, Wake County’s density is constantly growing, with a county wide average population density of 1,140 persons per square mile. The least dense areas in Wake County exist mostly on the outer edges of the county, with the 3 least densely populated areas being Wendell, Zebulon, and Rolesville.

More densely populated areas, with densities from 2,500 to 2,939 persons per square, are located in the central and western areas of the county. The three most densely populated areas in Wake County consist of Raleigh, Cary, and Apex.

Health Characteristics

In keeping with the pillar of Health and Wellness, it was imperative to understand any overarching themes in health risk behaviors. According to the Wake County Community Health Needs Assessment, two in three adults in Wake County, or 59.9%, are classified as either overweight or obese. Additionally, only 29.18% of the population was reported to use any of the parks for exercise. The high obesity and overweight percentage and low physical inactivity rates have become common themes in the U.S., and parks and programs will be a significant component to improving these unhealthy trends.
Equity Analysis

Process

An Equity Analysis was conducted to assess traditionally underserved populations and special groups in Wake County. The eight equity factors are shown individually and then aggregated into a composite equity map to display the overall equity score across the county. The Equity Analysis and the resulting spatial location of the equity factors can be used to help identify potential facility and program recommendations.

This section summarizes the method and results of the Equity Analysis for Wake County. The analyses were tied to the project study area using the available data from the Wake County GIS website and from the American Community Survey (ACS).

Methodology

The analysis uses census tract data to display the relative percentage of the equity factor as it relates to the county-wide data. Each census tract is displayed using a score of 1-5, or lightest to darkest blue. The composite equity map was created using an average score threshold for each equity factor. Such that if a census tract had a greater value than the mean for any specific indicator, it was given a factor of one.

Data Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of population that classify as having a hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of residents that identify themselves as “non-white”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of residents that speak a language other than English at home and classify their English speaking ability as “not well” or “not at all”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Population</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of residents that are under 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Age</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of residents that are 65 and older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of residents that are classified as 200% below the national poverty level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of residents 16 and older that classify as unemployed (determined by work status, layoff, job search, and availability for work factors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Access</td>
<td>2013 ACS; 5-Year</td>
<td>Percentage of households that do not have access to a private motor vehicle</td>
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Equity Analysis Results

Special Needs

This map shows the percentage of Wake County residents that classify as having a hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living disability. The analysis reveals that the average composition of special needs residents per census tract is 7.6 percent, with large portions of Wake County having a 12 percent or greater composition. The highest concentrations of residents (12 to 22 percent) are located in the southeast portion of Raleigh near Historic Oakview Park, throughout the majority of Garner, and in the northeast quadrant of the county. The lowest percentages of special needs residents are located in the western portion of the county near Lake Crabtree Park and portions of the American Tobacco Trail.
Diversity
The following map shows the percentage of Wake County residents who identified themselves as “non-white” in the 2013 American Community Survey. The map indicates that the highest percentages of non-white residents (57 to 88 percent) are located in the southeast portion of Raleigh near Historic Oakview Park. Moderate to moderate-high percentages of non-white residents (25 to 36 and 36 to 57 percent) are located near Yates Mill Park, Lake Crabtree County Park. The highest percentages of “white” residents (0 to 14 percent non-white) are located near Blue Jay Point and the Crowder District Park.

Language
The analysis shows the percentage of Wake County residents that speak a language other than English at home and classify their English speaking ability as “not well” or “not at all.” The analysis reveals that, on average, 74 percent of Wake County residents primarily speak English at home and can speak English “well” or better. The highest concentrations of non-English speakers are located in portions of Cary and Morrisville near Lake Crabtree County Park.
Age Distribution:
The following age distribution maps show the percentage of Wake County residents that are younger than 18 and those who are 65 and older. These two groups constitute the “youth” and the “retirement age” population demographics in the county and are an important consideration due to their specialized park and recreation needs.

Youth Population
The highest percentages of under 18 residents (29 to 37 percent) are located throughout the county, with high concentrations in Apex, Holly Springs, and Cary. North Wake Landfill District Park, Yates Mill Park, Harris Lake County Park, Historic Oakview, Crowder District Park, Blue Jay Point, and the American Tobacco Trail are all located within close proximity to high concentrations of the youth population.

Retirement Age Population
The over 65 analysis revealed that Wake County has very few areas with high concentrations of retirement residents. The highest percentages (20 to 30 percent) are located in northern Raleigh, with no nearby county parks or greenways. The closest Wake County facility is the North Wake Landfill District Park.
Poverty
This map indicates the percentage of Wake County residents that are classified in the 2013 American Community Survey as being at or below 200 percent of the nation poverty level (the national poverty level for one person in family/household was $11,490). The analysis reveals that there are a small number of census tracts that are classified as having a high poverty level. The highest concentrations of poverty (47 to 70 percent) are located to the west and southwest of downtown Raleigh. All Wake County park and greenway facilities, besides Lake Crabtree County Park (31 to 47 percent), are located in low and moderate poverty locations (0 to 31 percent).

Unemployment
This map indicates the percentage of Wake County residents that classify as being unemployed per the 2013 American Community Survey. The dataset is composed of Wake County residents that are 16 and older and are considered unemployed due to work status, layoff, job search, and availability for work factors determined by the U.S. Census. The analysis reveals that the concentration of unemployment is relatively distributed throughout the county. The highest concentration of unemployment status (20 to 28 percent) is located directly southeast of downtown Raleigh. All Wake County parks and greenway facilities are located in low to moderate locations of unemployment (0 to 13 percent).
Vehicular Access
The following map shows the percentage of households without access to a private motor vehicle. On average, 5.2 percent of Wake County households do not have access to a car. The highest concentrations of these households (31 to 47 percent) are located to the south and west of downtown Raleigh, with zero vehicle access dissipating as you move away from downtown Raleigh. All Wake County parks and greenway facilities are located in areas with low to low-moderate concentrations (0 to 3 and 3 to 9 percent) of households that do not have access to a private vehicle.

Composite Equity Analysis
The Composite Equity Analysis map shows the aggregate equity score based on the Special Needs, Diversity, Language, Age Distribution, Poverty, Unemployment, and Vehicular Access factors. The analysis effectively shows the “least equitable” locations of Wake County determined by the previous eight analyses. As it relates to Wake County parks and greenways, only Yates Mill Park and Historic Oakview are located in areas with moderately-high and high composite equity scores (4 and 5). North Wake Landfill Park, Blue Jay Point, Harris Lake County Park, Lake Crabtree County Park, Crowder District Park, and the American Tobacco Trail are located in areas with a composite equity score of moderate or lower (1, 2, and 3). This is due to a majority of the census tracts with a high composite equity score being located in Raleigh and in the east portion of Wake County where there are few County facilities.
Demand for Parks and Recreation

**Live, Work, Play Process**
The consultant team conducted a Live, Work, Play Analysis for the Wake County, NC Park Facilities Master Plan. The Live, Work, Play model identifies expected demand for parks, greenways, and programs by overlaying the locations where people live, work, play, go to school, and ride transit into a composite sketch of regional demand. The results can be used to help identify areas in need of improvement and where there is high demand for parks and recreation facilities.

This section summarizes the method and results of the Live, Work, Play Analysis for the project study area. The models were tailored to Wake County using the available data from the Wake County GIS website and from the U.S. Census.

**Data Sources**
The following data inputs were incorporated into the Live, Work, Play model. Table 1 displays each variable, its source, and notes on limitations of the available data and assumptions that were made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Input</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>2010 U.S. Census</td>
<td>Summarized by census block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Employment</td>
<td>2010 U.S. Census</td>
<td>Summarized by census block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Location</td>
<td>Wake County</td>
<td>Includes elementary, middle, and high schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Greenway Locations</td>
<td>Wake County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Destinations</td>
<td>2010 U.S. Census</td>
<td>Commercial destinations are approximated by service sector jobs (Retail trade; arts, entertainment, recreation; accommodation and food services; other services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit Routes</td>
<td>Triangle Transit System, Capital Area Transit, C-Tran, and Wolfline Transit System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Methodology**
The Live, Work, Play Analysis is an objective, data-driven process to identify the demand for parks, greenways, and programs. The demand potential was measured based on the proximity and density of trip generators (such as homes and workplaces) and trip attractors (such as shopping centers, parks, and greenways) to establish potential for walking and bicycling trips. The resulting models represent “heat maps” that displays hot spots as a variable of hierarchy based on the Live, Work, Play Learn, and Transit factors and then as a heat map showing a composite of all the factors.

**Approach**
The demand model identifies expected pedestrian and bicycle activity by overlaying the locations where people live, work, play, go to school, and use transit into a composite sketch of regional demand.

**Scale of Analysis**
The demand model relies on spatial consistency in order to generate logical distance and density patterns. It is for this reason that all scores are aggregated to a central location at the census block level and then the census block corner. Census blocks closely represent the street network and therefore Census block corners closely represent street corners, where foot and bicycle traffic is prevalent. This method is based on the Low-Stress Bicycling and Network Connectivity report (Mineta Transportation Institute, May 2012). The report discusses the benefits of using a smaller geographic setting for pedestrian and bicycle demand analyses rather than using more traditional traffic model features such as census block groups, census tracts, or traffic analysis zones. Due to the low speed of pedestrian movement, a much smaller geographic unit of analysis is needed.

**Scoring Method**
The demand model’s scoring method is a function of density and proximity. Scores are a result of two complementing forces: distance decay – the effect of distance on spatial interactions yields lower scores for features farther away from other features; and spatial density – the effect of closely clustered features yields higher scores. Scores will increase in high feature density areas and if those features are close together. Scores will decrease in low feature density areas and if features are further apart.
**Live, Work, Play Analysis Results**

**Demand Model**
The results of the demand analysis are presented in the following map series. As for all maps, the areas shaded more deeply in blue represent higher demand areas relative to other colors on the map.

**Where People Live**
This category includes 2010 census block level population density. These locations represent potential trip origin locations. More trips can be made in areas with higher population density if conditions are right. A majority of the population density is located within municipality boundaries, with the highest density located in Raleigh and Cary. North Wake Landfill District Park, Lake Crabtree County Park, and Historic Oakview are located within close proximity to a high density of Wake County residents.

**Where People Work**
This category represents trip ends for people working throughout Wake County, regardless of residency. Its basis is 2010 total employment by census block. Depending on the type of job, employment can act as a trip attractor (i.e., retail stores or cafes) or trip generator (i.e., office parks and office buildings) or both. Specific employment types, such as retail, are therefore also used in the where people play category.

The analysis reveals high employment density in downtown Raleigh and a relative even distribution of employment throughout the rest of Wake County. Due to the relatively even distribution, most of the Wake County parks are located near a moderate amount of work locations.
Where People Play
This category is a combination of varied land use types and destinations. Retail destinations, parks, and greenways were selected because they are land use types where people most often "play." In addition to where residents often "play," this layer is also a good predictor of where tourists will be attracted.

The combination of retail with parks and greenways reveals that North Wake Landfill District Park, Yates Mill Park, Historic Oakview, Lake Crabtree County Park, and Crowder District Park are located in areas that are complemented by retail attractors and thus have a stronger Play density. Conversely, Harris Lake County Park, Blue Jay Point, and sections of the American Tobacco Trail are more isolated from retail. It can be suggested that people will be attracted to these locations strictly for park and greenway use.

Where People Learn
This category shows the density of educational facilities, including elementary, middle, and high schools. As with most K-12 schools, they are scattered throughout the county and generally reflect population density. A majority of the schools are located within municipality boundaries, and with the exception of North Wake Landfill District Park, are all isolated from county parks and greenways.
Where People Ride Transit
The Transit category displays the route density of Go Raleigh, C-Tran, Wolfline Transit, and Go Triangle that offer service in Wake County. The analysis reveals that North Wake Landfill District Park, Historic Oakview, and Lake Crabtree County Park are the only county parks that have direct or nearby transit routes. Yates Mill Park, Blue Jay Point, Harris Lake County Park, Crowder District Park, and the American Tobacco Trail have zero access to public transportation. A preliminary recommendation may be to extend transit service to the county parks and greenways that also have a high population density nearby.

Composite Demand
The map below displays the composite demand for the Live, Work, Play, Learn, and Transit factors, revealing the composite demand for parks, greenways, and programs in Wake County. Overall, the Composite Map displays demand throughout the urbanized areas of the county with high demand in large portions of Raleigh, Cary, Apex, and Wake Forest.
2014 Citizen Survey

Public involvement is imperative in parks and recreation planning as it directly asks users for their desires, opinions, and ideas. To include this key element to the plan, the results of the citizen survey from the recent Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division Community Interest and Opinion Survey were reviewed. A citizen survey was conducted for this study to assess thoughts on current facilities and what improvements could be made. In total, the survey collected responses from 852 residents through telephone and online mediums. Demographically, the cross-section of those surveyed is mostly consistent with the composition of the county. Trails and greenways ranked high in the interest of the residents in terms of things they would like to see more of or added. This was not only within the county parks themselves but also greenways and trails as a way to get to the parks.

Modeling And Survey Synthesis

After analyzing the Equity Model, Demand Model, and Citizen Survey, it was found that some parks within the Wake County system have different target audiences based on the facility, programming, or adjacent populations, which are listed below.

- **Blue Jay Point County Park**: Youth
- **North Wake Landfill County Park**: Youth; Over 65
- **Lake Crabtree County Park**: Groups of racial or ethnic diversity; Groups that do not speak English as a first language
- **Historic Oak View County Park**: Special Needs Populations (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self care, or independent living disabilities); Groups of racial or ethnic diversity; Youth
- **Historic Yates Mill County Park**: Groups of racial or ethnic diversity; Youth
- **Crowder District Park**: Youth
- **American Tobacco Trail**: Trail, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Advocacy Groups; Equestrian Groups/Users; Youth
- **Harris Lake County Park**: Youth

Municipal Park Director Interviews

The Parks and Recreation Directors from Apex, Holly Springs, Raleigh, and Cary were contacted for an interview or involved on the Steering Committee for the Wake County Park Facilities Master Plan Update. Interviews were intended to elicit insights from the department heads regarding their ideas and suggestions on how Wake County can better serve their communities. Conversation topics ranged from funding opportunities to balancing open space and athletic facility needs. Feedback about particular parks are included in the park profile sheets.

Park Profiles

**Overview**

In order to understand the existing conditions present at each park facility, a thorough site inventory and field evaluation was conducted. In addition to assessing park and greenway facilities, existing marketing and educational literature was also reviewed to determine what information is publicly available to park users via printed brochures, personal visits (kiosks, signage, etc.), interactive opportunities, or online media. Assessing what information is available and how the public perceives and experiences each park facility is as important as the existing facilities and services present at each site. Overall, the inventory further confirmed that each site is unique and serves the County mission in specialized ways. However, several common trends were discovered throughout:

- A streamlined trail wayfinding system that addresses routes by color and skill level would improve navigation and overall experience.
- Some of the parks are difficult to locate due to a lack of signage or entrance visibility. A better use of system wide park entrance signage with more attention grabbing details would improve the visibility and branding of park entrances.
- Visitors have limited access to staff and park offices due to the locations of these buildings in relation to high use areas.
- Updated information on park facilities and maps are needed at several park sites. There also needs to be a greater level of continuity between brochures, website, and maps.
- Many parks are “drive to” only due to their lack of public transit and trail accessibility options. Car-only accessibility limits the amount of facilities offered to those that either don’t have access or prefer not to use a vehicle.
- Lack of connectivity to other county and local parks.
- Programs, facilities, and events would benefit from a dedicated marketing plan.
- Many features and facilities lack ADA accessibility. An internal ADA accessibility audit and the goal of more universal design would improve accessibility.
Conveying information about a trail in print and online can be a challenge. Online interactive maps are increasing in popularity and help users with trip planning and gaining an understanding of amenities before they embark on their journey. Regulations and proper etiquette are strongly conveyed in terms of bicyclists, walkers, runners, and equestrians. However, the web, brochure, and trail could improve the historic and cultural importance of the trail. While the website gives a brief story of the American Tobacco Trail, there is a deeper lesson that could be expressed about the trail, its connection to Wake County, and its role as a component of the East Coast Greenway.

Website
- Great information about trail use, etiquette, and safety.
- Clearly demonstrates need for water.
- Not many wayfinding icons.
- No map directly pictured on the site to help identify access points, parking etc.
- Good extent of equestrian information.

Brochure
- Rules and regulations clearly stated.
- Equestrian information is not as extensive as website.
- Better job of describing passing etiquette and trail user ethics.
- Maps could provide better contextual information and access points.
- Lack of educational program description and awareness.

The American Tobacco Trail is not accessible by public transit. Arriving by vehicle to a trailhead and connecting with the trail via a spur or roadway on foot or bicycle are the means by which most users access the trail. There are currently three separate public access points with available parking lots at the New Hill Trailhead, Wimberly Trailhead, and the White Oak Trailhead. Horse trailer parking is available as well at the New Hill-Olive Chapel Rd and White Oak Church Rd parking areas. Links and signed routes to public transit should be explored.

Currently there are lease agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Town of Cary. Subleases exist with the State of North Carolina and Wake County for the trailheads within Jordan Lake gamelands (New Hill and Wimberly). There are several opportunities for the trail to connect to nearby neighborhoods, other trails, local parks, and services. Trail spurs, on-road facilities, and routing through neighborhoods can provide connections to other recreation facilities, food, water, and resting places. Exploring these connections is critical as there is no drinking water available along the trail. Further, a wayfinding system within the trail system and outside the trail system will improve orientation, awareness, and safety.

Wayfinding at road crossings can help trail users understand if they are near water sources and other services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Facility</th>
<th>Web</th>
<th>Brochure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.5 Miles Built Trail</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Exhibits</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Gardens</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Story telling, access points, and nearby facilities can be conveyed on the existing kiosks.
Opportunity to educate users about the importance of watersheds

Users are not protected from golf balls entering the trail from the adjacent driving range

Opportunity to implement wayfinding and routes to restrooms and cooling areas

Trail is getting washed out in this area

Opportunity to implement wayfinding and routes to restrooms and cooling areas

Improve intersections with maximum trail user safety facilities

Celebrate the East Coast Greenway and communicate how many miles to Florida and Maine - Opportunity to tell the story of the American Tobacco Trail - Pet waste stations to improve trail cleanliness

Improve wayfinding and orientation - Overall need for benches, safe pull offs, lighting, and access to trail user resources
The American Tobacco Trail has a number of strengths and provides a variety of benefits for Wake County. Core strengths include:

- The ATT serves as a regional connector and multi-use path which is almost entirely separated from vehicular traffic.
- The Trail has the opportunity to connect many communities within and outside of Wake County.
- There is potential for the Trail to serve as an opportunity to teach about the local environment, cultural, transportation, and scale.
- Ample shade along the trail helps keep users cool and rested.

While there are great benefits to the American Tobacco Trail, there are also some challenges. With these challenges comes the opportunity to improve and transform them into strengths to further benefit the County. Currently several challenges include:

- No water, food, or support facilities for users along the trail.
- Limited pull offs for users to rest or repair outside of the travelway.

After analysis of the trail and region there are many opportunities that were discovered that could enhance user experience and expand the benefits of the trail, including:

- Private nearby business "partners" could serve the trail by providing food, water, resting places, and repairs.
- Food and water could be brought to the trail through vendors, Saturday Farmers Markets, and carts.
- Create more pull offs and connections to local trails to make it more user friendly for varying skill levels.
- The Rail line that serves the American Tobacco Trail ends at the Shearon Harris Reactor. Continuing the Trail alignment to reach Harris Park should be explored.

Simple, clear etiquette signage is well placed and essential for educating users. These signs should be placed along the entire alignment.

The adjacent driving range can be a hazard for trail users.

Areas without steep drop-off are candidates for pull off areas and other trail amenities.

Transitions from the trail to trailhead areas are wide with adequate visibility for all users.
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

Provide more information stations such as this one located at the White Oak Comfort Station.

Wayfinding signage with destinations and mileage will help trail users orient themselves within the community and find key resources.

The story of the trail should be expanded beyond the existing signage.

Incorporate more history and art along the trail.

Expand upon the signage for the ECG and celebrate the connection to Maine and Florida.

Murals, art, and graphics can enhance the character of this space and provide an opportunity to tell the story of history and transportation.

Additional locations for comfort stations should be explored. The New Hill trailhead creates a precedent for developing other trailheads along the corridor.

Wonderful shade along the trail, however, limited areas for users to pull off for water breaks and rest.

Update and streamline signage for users to have continuity in message.

Additional locations for comfort stations should be explored. The New Hill trailhead creates a precedent for developing other trailheads along the corridor.

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Wonderful shade along the trail, however, limited areas for users to pull off for water breaks and rest.

Update and streamline signage for users to have continuity in message.
### Access
Currently there is no access to Blue Jay Point County Park by public transit. This park is only reachable by vehicle or hiking along the Mountains-To-Sea Trail (MST). There is one point of access for cars into the park on Six Forks Road. Those hiking the Mountains-To-Sea Trail can access the park, however signage should be improved to indicate there is a park, and which amenities are available.

### Opportunities to Connect
The Lake Trail contains a section of the Mountains to Sea Trail - which connects across the State of North Carolina. This segment needs to be highlighted to bring more awareness to its purpose as a statewide trail. Blue Jay Point County Park has an expansive shoreline to Falls Lake. This could be an opportunity for blueway connectivity and waterfront park entrances. The termination of the existing lake trails could provide launch points, camping locations, and points of interest for canoeists, paddle boarders, and kayakers. Blueway access could also connect visitors to Falls Lake Boat Ramp and two nearby Fish and Wildlife Boat Ramp access locations along Six Forks Road.

### Deed Restrictions
There is currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the NC Division of Parks and Recreation, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the Friends of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail. As part of this agreement it is understood the Lake Trail shall be promoted and identified as the MST along the Falls Lake shoreline. In addition, this agreement prohibits motorized, bike, and equestrian Traffic.

- The primary land lease agreement exists between the USACE and the State of NC for Blue Jay Point to serve as a recreational resource.
- A sub-lease exists between the State of North Carolina and Wake County to operate Blue Jay Point as a park; this lease runs until 2026 and outlines plans for active recreation park development.

### Outreach and Awareness
This park website is a valuable resource to its visitors and provides information about many programs and facilities. In order to ensure visitors can plan their visit and fully utilize the park, informational resources need to clearly convey what is offered. For example, there is currently no reference to the Mountains-To-Sea Trail on any public information.

#### Website
- Generally outlines what is available in the narrative but does not discuss the outdoor classroom or t-ball field.
- Outlines natural history, park rules, regulations, and facility activities.
- Communicates more clearly than the brochure about additional information such as scouting opportunities and a calendar of events.

#### Brochure
- Outlines accessible facilities better than the information found on the website.
- Successfully discusses health and wellness and segments trails by distance, this is not done on the website description.
- Trail distances are found on the map, but walking times are not indicated.

### Existing Facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Web</th>
<th>Brochure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Classroom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Paved Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Area</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Play Area</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Play Area</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Center</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Ball</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Address
3200 Pleasant Union Church Road, Raleigh NC, 27614

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unique Features:</th>
<th>Size: 236 Acres</th>
<th>Hours: 8am-Sunset Exhibit Center 8am-5pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Recreation/Retreat Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Great opportunities and space for a Blueway trailhead.**
Blue Jay Point County Park

**STRENGTHS OF THE PARK**
Blue Jay Point County Park has a number of strengths and provides a variety of benefits for Wake County. Core strengths include:

- With leased land (Go Ape) this park has a great public and private partnership established. Three to eight percent of all private proceeds are returned back to Blue Jay Point Park Programs pending the success of Go Ape.
- The advertising from Go Ape draws people to the park who may not normally be users. It builds awareness of the park, healthy activities, and provides a multi generational experience.
- The playground is accessible with appropriate materials and entries to play areas.
- The park has multiple locations where visitors can access the water, but no formal overlook or fishing access for users to enjoy.
- The education center has a map on the building that clearly articulates what is there and offered to visitors. This information should be matched in the printed maps.
- The park has a great mix of shade, sun, and active and passive areas for users.
- There are great opportunities for hiking.
- There is nature-based education for all ages including beginner, intermediate, and more skilled visitors.
- The park successfully showcases several educational features such as the map overlay in the parking lot, bird boxes, and labeled plant species; these feature should be expanded.
- Pedestrian wayfinding is needed to indicate how to circulate throughout the park on foot.
- Currently, there is no connection from the MST across the bridge immediately north of the park entrance. By connecting this MST section, users can enjoy longer hiking opportunities and be connected to support facilities at the Falls Lake Boat Ramp.
- To a new visitor, the park site is difficult to find due to limited wayfinding and entry signage from the primary roadway system. The Park entrance sign is set far into the access road and should be examined for placement and letter height.
- Some of the slopes and terrain on hiking trails may be too difficult for a beginner user. Signage should include distance, skill level, and approximate trip timing.
- There is currently no formal location or support facilities for kayak or canoe access to Falls Lake.

**CHALLENGES OF THE PARK**
While there are great benefits to Blue Jay Point County Park, there are also some challenges. With these challenges comes the opportunity to improve and build new strengths. Currently several challenges include:

- There is an opportunity to create a paved beginner loop by linking the already built elements; this would not only improve access but also create a “hub” for the unpaved trail network.
- Potential new facilities include a dog park. These facilities types should include drinking water, shade, and areas for small and large dogs.
- Potential new facilities include a dog park. These facilities types should include drinking water, shade, and areas for small and large dogs.

**POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES**
After analysis of the park and region many opportunities were revealed that have the potential to increase usership and improve overall experience:

- The garden could serve as an accessible outdoor classroom since it is already shaded, is connected by an accessible path, and contains a large lawn area.
- There could be an opportunity to provide water access through public/private partnerships for kayak, canoe, and paddle board rentals. This resource would also complement the activities at the retreat.
- The west side of the park (near the maintenance area) is not in high use. Additional activities and other uses for this space could be implemented.
- Although fishing is allowed along the shoreline there are no piers or docks.
- Wayfinding and kiosk maps can expand access and awareness of the hiking trail system throughout the park.
Marketing and outreach for GO APE will help promote Blue Jay, and therefore Blue Jay can serve as a gateway for other parks.

Begin to identify areas marked as "Amphitheaters" as outdoor classrooms.

Natural Play is a growing trend and the facility at Blue Jay should be widely marketed.

Opportunity to provide more formal shoreline access for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing to minimize shoreline erosion.

Bicycle parking and signage should be updated to the latest standards established by the League of American Bicyclists.

Expand on layers of interpretation that already exist within the park. Let users know the opportunity for discovery during their visit.

The park map is one of the best resources available that displays which activities are available and how users circulate throughout the park.

There is an opportunity to use the garden lawn as an accessible outdoor space.

Opportunity to provide more formal shoreline access for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing to minimize shoreline erosion.

Expand on layers of interpretation that already exist within the park. Let users know the opportunity for discovery during their visit.
Existing Conditions

**Access**
There is not currently access to Crowder District Park by public transit. This park is a traditional “drive to” park and is accessed from Ten Ten Road, which serves as the primary entrance for the park. The vehicular circulation reaches to several areas in the park that provide parking close to points of interest such as the shelters, play fields, and pond. There are several opportunities to connect the park via sidewalk, trail, or neighborhood path which would increase pedestrian and overall user access. Additionally, there may be opportunity to improve nearby controlled intersections with pedestrian improvements. Plenty of space is available in the park near current parking areas to add bus stops, etc. to make Crowder District Park more public transit friendly.

**Opportunities to Connect**
The Park could connect to several nearby neighborhoods, trails, and the nearby YMCA, via sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Points where existing sidewalks could connect include most corners of the park. These would help connect Crowder District Park to Dutchman’s Branch and the future Cary Park.

**Deed Restrictions**
This is a Wake County owned facility.

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**Crowder District Park**

- Hours: 8am - sunset 7 days a week
- Size: 33 Acres
- Address: 4709 Ten Ten Road Apex NC, 27539

**Unique Features:**
- Gardens/Environmental Programs

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**Outreach and Awareness**
Public knowledge of Crowder District Park on both the website and brochure generally consistent. While the physical information and awareness is prominent, graphic information (such as the maps) could be made more detailed and useful.

**Website**
- Clearly outlines features and opportunities within the park.
- Great information regarding public event programming.
- Would benefit from a map.

**Brochure**
- Excellent narrative detailing park features.
- The map lacks accurate trail details and could be made more useful to visitors.

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**Existing Facility Web Brochure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Brochure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pond</td>
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<tr>
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**Existing Facility Brochure**

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<tr>
<td>Environmental Education</td>
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"One of the most beloved parks in the system, Crowder feels like “everyone’s back yard.”"

Playground material and equipment needs to be upgraded.
Crowder District Park

**Strengths of the Park**

Adjacency to residential areas, daily use facilities, and ample public event programing space are a just a few key features and benefits of Crowder District Park. Core strengths include:

- Crowder District Park is completely County owned.
- Special Events such as Frog Fest in spring and the Canine event in fall bring new people and a variety of users to the park.
- Environmental education and camps offered increases use and visitation.
- The Park gives adjacent residential developments open green space to experience nature, and learn about the environment.
- This is an example of a site that addresses the national (NRPA) pillars of conservation, social equity, and health and wellness.

**Challenges of the Park**

While there are great benefits to Crowder District Park, there are also some challenges. Currently challenges include:

- The site is already fairly developed and heavily used. Additional features should be carefully placed to avoid habitat and environmental impacts. (Is expansion a possibility?)
- Due to heavy use, the park, trails, and equipment are beginning to show signs of wear and tear.
- There is a high amount of impervious coverage which increase stormwater runoff and sediment build up.
- You cannot easily walk or bike to the site even though it is surrounded by residential development.

**Potential Opportunities**

Due to its high use and great location there are many opportunities for this park to continue to be stimulating and inviting for the community. These opportunities include:

- More shelters and indoor spaces could be added to accommodate the growth of camps and programs.
- Opportunities to acquire adjacent land would allow for future park expansion.
- Visitors have stated a need for upgraded play equipment.
- Opportunities should be evaluated to connect to adjacent community greenway systems.
- A connection could be made from this park to the YMCA by constructing sidewalks along Ten Ten Road and connection through neighborhoods.

**Mile markers could be improved to be more visible to trail users.**

**Small gardens throughout the park provide an intimate, personal experience.**

**The Little Free Library supports social equity and education in the park.**

**There is good outdoor classroom space - but more indoor space is needed.**
This is a heavily used park, is there nearby adjacent land to expand?

Great example of shoreline access for environmental education.

Several areas are present throughout the site for camps and outdoor classrooms, but no indoor space is available.

Great balance of shade, open space, and programmed and unprogrammed space in this park.

Look for community trail connections to make this a walk to and bike to park site, wear paths already exist.

Personalized park features create a neighborhood feel.

Expand on interpretive elements.

Several accessible shelters exist.

Great example of shoreline access for environmental education.

Expand on interpretive elements.

Expand on interpretive elements.
**Access**

There is not currently access to Harris Lake County Park by public transit. This park is only reachable by personal vehicles and serves primarily as a "drive to" park. The park is currently accessed from New Hill Holleman Road. The only other accessible points from outside the park are from the water off Harris Lake. There is potential to expand the trails and multiuse connections to the park to make it more user friendly. Added docks for boats can also create improved access.

The vehicular access point currently provides several parking areas throughout the site to reach the many park features available. There is space available to provide public transit and bus stops.

**Opportunities to Connect**

This site could greatly benefit from regional trail and greenway connectivity. There may opportunities for this to occur at the north end of Harris Lake County Park.

**Deed Restrictions**

The park land was leased from C&P (now Duke Energy) to Wake County for use as a park beginning in 1986 for a period of 25 years and has subsequently been amended to 40 years (2026). Restriction include any septic and/or drain fields must be set above Elevation 243. Duke Energy may possibly expand their facilities in the future which would raise the elevation of the water level in Harris Lake and impact about 50 percent of the park site. Careful consideration should be give to the development below the anticipated flood line.

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**Outreach and Awareness**

The information accessible to the public for Harris Lake County Park is extensive and easy to get. The brochure clearly displays the offerings of the park. However, the map does not accurately portray trail alignments and can be confusing if using this as a tool to navigate in the park. Both the website and the brochure communicate the variety of trails available.

**Website**

- The website provides a good general description.
- If perception of Duke Energy is a challenge, this is a great place to learn about power (why it is necessary, types of energy, consumption patterns).

**Brochure**

- Use of color to indicate beginner, intermediate, and advanced trails are not consistent with other park maps.
- Map reflects facilities that are present, but may not be accurately placed on the map.

---

**Existing Facility | Web | Brochure**

| Picnic Areas | ✓ | ✓ |
| Playground | ✓ | ✓ |
| Amphitheater | ✓ | ✓ |
| Picnic Shelters | ✓ | ✓ |
| Restrooms | ✓ | ✓ |
| Educational Garden | ✓ | ✓ |
| Hiking Trails (Natural Surface) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mountain Bike Trails | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mountain Bike Skills Area | ✓ | ✓ |
| Open Play Field | ✓ | ✓ |
| Boat Launch (Car Top) | ✓ | ✓ |

---

**Unique Features:**

- Hiking

**Size:** 680 Acres

**Hours:** 8am - sunset 7 days a week

**Address:**

2112 County Park Drive, New Hill NC, 27562

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**Family events are an excellent method for attracting new users to the park and becoming repeat visitors.**

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Thoughtfully designed railings allow users to sit on benches or in wheelchairs and enjoy the views.
Harris Lake County Park

**Existing Conditions**

**2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates**

- **Harris Lake County Park**
- **site analysis**

**Two foot contours**

**Longleaf Pine Management Area**

**Potential Water Rise**
Will significantly change the size of the park and cut off existing facilities.

- **Buckhorn Disc Golf Course**
- **Opportunity to tell the story of energy along the trail**
- **Mountain Bike Skills Area**
- **Park Office**
- **Fishing Pier**
- **Boat Landing**
- **Playground/Garden**
- **Unused Area**
- **Expand Trails, Create Multi-use Connections**
- **Create a Blueway Entrance to the Park**
- **Expand the opportunity to interact with and learn about the lake**

**VIEWS**

**NEW HILL HOLLEMAN ROAD**

**AVENT FERRY ROAD**

**HARRIS LAKE**

**0 800 1600 FEET**

**Natural Heritage Area**
**Strengths of the Park**

Harris Lake County Park has many strengths - one being that it provides a resource to spend the entire day outside and learn about and experience nature. It serves as a host to area special events which bring people to the park who may not otherwise visit. Core strengths include:

- This park offers a cell phone tour, which can offer educational access to people who enjoy technology. This can reduce staff needs - but can also be seen as counterproductive to some users goals of being “disconnected” in the wilderness.

- Partnerships with outside organizations strengthen the quality of specialized facilities (ex. Triangle Off Road Cyclists and the Raleigh Area Disc League).

- Water access and view are abundant.

- Partnerships for events bring in people to the park that might not otherwise visit: triathlons, cross-country meets, mountain bike races, adventure races, Longleaf Festival, Haunting at Harris, 5k and 6k races, swim events, Raven Rock Road Bike Ride, and others.

**Challenges of the Park**

While there are great benefits to Harris Lake County Park, there are also some challenges. Currently several challenges include:

- The park map does not accurately reflect trail alignments. An example is the Peninsula Trail. The Womble House, primitive camping, etc. do not appear on site where they were indicated on the map. This can confuse trail users and cause anxiety - especially for visitors who are not well acclimated with navigating through woods. An updated trail map with improved way finding would improve site access and encourage repeat use.

- While the cell phone tour may be great for some users, not everyone wants to be “connected” while outdoors and some educational and interpretive signage would aid in expanding the experience of day users who do not wish to hike with a cell phone.

- There are many small ponds along the trails that should be named and properly located on maps to aid in navigation.

- The trail system needs to have improved identification, wayfinding, and naming for use and safety. There are a few kiosks that identify routes and safety, but they are not situated at all access points nor are they represented on the brochure.

- This site is such a valuable resource, but awareness has been identified as a challenge. Marketing to nearby neighborhoods and communities could increase park use.

- There are misconceptions about Duke Energy, this needs to be acknowledged and addressed; there is an opportunity to celebrate energy and educated the community about power and consumption.

- The park has been in use since 1999 and some of the facilities need to be upgraded.

- There is frequent off leash dog use on trails; there is an opportunity to address this by providing a facility or place where dogs are permitted to be off leash.

- A maintenance schedule should be created to monitor wear on trails from mountain bike use.

- The park office is removed from the main use areas of the park and is not currently serving as a visitor resource. This could be corrected with wayfinding signage and an arrival sequence for new visitors.

**Potential Opportunities**

- The Park office could be expanded to serve as a Nature center/Visitor/Environmental Education Center with classrooms; the park office does not experience much visitor interaction.

- The site is very large and could serve as a place for family camping/individual camping/special event camping.

- Because it is situated on Harris Lake, there is an opportunity to provide boat rentals and additional dock space.

- Larger shelters would be an appropriate addition to the park to accommodate some of the larger events.

- Providing Disc rental for the Disc Golf Course would encourage beginner users. This could be a function of the improved Visitor Center.

Kiosks should include information about trail safety including how long it takes to traverse the entire Peninsula Trail, the importance of trail navigation, and a suggestion to bring water.

Banners are a great method for advertising events to park users.
The park is a perfect opportunity to make a connection between energy sources, transmission, and consumption.

Several ponds are located throughout the site. They do not seem accessible to users. Ponds should also be used as wayfinding tools.

Celebrate and market natural play areas through outward awareness and by drawing visitors from the traditional playground to the natural play area.

Audio tours provide great self-guided activities, however, field interpretation should also be present for those who want to be ‘disconnected.’

A series of boardwalks provide access across low, wet areas.

The park office is disconnected from the rest of the park and does not create a sense of being welcomed or helped.

Audio tours provide great self-guided activities, however, field interpretation should also be present for those who want to be ‘disconnected.’

Provide more education and interaction about energy and power through fun and interactive activities. Use the challenges of the site as positive education tools.

Improve wayfinding and trail user safety at all trail access locations. Signs should depict level of difficulty and time needed to complete a trail loop.

Several ponds are located throughout the site. They do not seem accessible to users. Ponds should also be used as wayfinding tools.

Identify features with naming signage for non phone users. Provide more education and interaction about energy and power through fun and interactive activities. Use the challenges of the site as positive education tools.

Harris Lake County Park
**Access**

The number 18 CAT bus provides public transit access to the park via a stop at Poole Road and Cary Drive. Pedestrian actuated signals exist to aid in crossing Poole Road; high visibility crosswalks would increase visibility of the presence of pedestrian across this wide road. While Cary Drive has a sidewalk connecting to the bus stop, the connectivity is fragmented throughout Wake County Office Park. Additional pedestrian wayfinding could indicate how to access the park through the entrance by the Library as well as the main entrance.

**Opportunities to Connect**

The Park sits within a County complex of offices and municipal buildings where employees could use the park site for daily walks and walking office meetings if sidewalk connections were completed. Additionally, this site could connect to nearby greenways and Walnut Creek Park. For regional connectivity, less than two miles to the east is Anderson Point Park and Poole Road Park which serve as trailheads to the Neuse River Trail. Pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements along Poole Road and linking proximate park sites will join Historic Oak View Park to a series of local and regional recreation and transportation facilities.

**Deed Restrictions**

This is a Wake County owned facility.

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**Outreach and Awareness**

Historic Oak View County Park provides a number of exhibits, livestock encounters, and opportunities for cultural education. With all of these activities, it can be difficult to convey all the park offers on one web page and in a brochure. The website contains less information on park features than the brochure while the website is more informative about the history of the Park.

**Website**
- Clearly informs public about the history of the park.
- Needs to include more of the featured exhibits.
- Information on goats is present but is hard to find.

**Brochure**
- Several items clearly identified on the map that are not highlighted on the website.
- Map is clear and conveys all the park has to offer.
- Needs to more deeply inform users of the site’s historical background.

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### Existing Facility Web Brochure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Web</th>
<th>Brochure</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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**Unique Features:**

- Historic Farm

**Address:**

4028 Carya Drive, Raleigh NC, 27610

**Size:**

27 Acres

**Hours:**

8am - sunset 7 days a week

**Address:**

4028 Carya Drive, Raleigh NC, 27610

**Unique Features:**

- Historic Farm

**Address:**

4028 Carya Drive, Raleigh NC, 27610

**Unique Features:**

- Historic Farm
Historic Oak View County Park

Site analysis

Existing Conditions

2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

Historic Oak View County Park site analysis

- Two foot contours

To Olivia Raney Local History Library

- Opportunity To Provide Pedestrian Circulation

Paved Path

- Vehicular Circulation

Unpaved Trail

- Buildings
  1. History Center
  2. Livestock Barn
  3. Cotton Gin House
  4. Kitchen and Garden
  5. Water Tower
  6. Carriage House
  7. Main Farmhouse
  8. Gazebo
  9. Tenant House

Garden And Paths Not ADA Accessible

Potential For Additional Crops

Unused Forest Area/Unmarked Trails

Unused Area

- Cemetery

- Bluebird Shelter

- Carya Shelter

- Lack of Visibility And Awareness Of Entrance To Park

Connect To Birch Ridge Road and Walnut Creek Greenway

- Worn Path Along Shoreline

- Sidewalk Ends

- Pecan Grove

- Cotton Field

- Fruit Orchard

- Outdoor Classroom

- Unclear Arrival Sequence

- Unused Area

- Cemetery

- Garden

- Soil

- Accessible

- Not ADA Accessible

- Unclear Entry

- No Pedestrian Access
**Strengthen the Park**

This park is a cultural gem for North Carolina, Wake County, and nearby cities and towns. The stories, potential for hands-on activities, and ability for this park to educate future generations about the importance of agricultural practices is an asset to the community. Other strengths include:

- This site is situated in a great location within the City and County. There are several neighborhoods along Poole Road that could access the site via sidewalks.
- The site serves many organized group programs and visitors each year which brings people to the site who might not otherwise visit.
- The park is used to host several special events: Antique Car Show, a Goat Birthday Party, a Storytelling Festival, Heritage Day, and an evening Christmas program which aid in creating awareness of the park.
- There is a self-guided cell phone tour for those who are not participants in an organized group.
- The facility is well maintained and the design fits the programming intent.
- The park draws high visitation numbers from school groups. These age groups are critical to reach as future generations become further removed from historic agricultural practices and need to develop an appreciation for where food originates.

**Challenges of the Park**

While the park is a treasure for Wake County, the site is hidden within an office park. It is highly unlikely to draw vehicular, pedestrian, or bicycle passing traffic from Poole Road. Other challenges include:

- There are gaps in connectivity to nearby regional greenways, parks, and public sidewalks.
- Internal trails terminate without an opportunity to loop around the park, or loop around the office park via a sidewalk network.
- While interactive elements exist, many inside buildings and within the outside environment are "no touch"; teaching through interactive stations could heighten learning and improve access for young families and student groups.

**Potential Opportunities**

The opportunities are bountiful to enhance Oak View. Many will increase daily use and some will heighten the participation of educational components. Opportunities include:

- Large title signage branded with the Wake County Park personality will help draw new users to the site and aid in navigation.
- A worn path along Poole Road is evidence that a sidewalk is needed. Contextual connectivity would improve access to Walnut Creek Park, Walnut Creek Greenway, Poole Road Park, the Neuse River Greenway, and Anderson Point Park.
- Adding activities offered to the general public within the park would enhance the understanding of how people lived and worked in the period of time portrayed in the park outside of school groups. These activities should be multigenerational with opportunities for interaction at various skill levels - including mobility challenged.
- With the growth of breweries and wineries, and new trends in agriculture, this site could connect people to current day agricultural practices in addition to the historic culture.
- This site could increase participation from the adjacent business park by providing an outlet for lunch walks and walking meetings.
- A loop trail would enhance the experience and likely attract more people to the site.
- Sidewalks and an entry monument will welcome visitors and indicate the park is a public place.
- Public/private partnerships with the adjacent business park could be beneficial for special events, parking, and day use.
- Interactive and play space to engage young visitors would open the site to a wider variety of users. A playground has been identified as a need by users and is currently being designed.
Provide ADA connectivity to the picnic pad.

Clarify the function of the space by renaming it "Outdoor Classroom".

Ample space is available to provide pedestrian access into the park.

Paths through the garden are not ADA accessible.

Extend the trail surface for pedestrian activity.

Circulation path around pecan grove can provide use for adjacent employees.
**Access**
There is currently no access to Historic Yates Mill County Park by public transit. Access via walking and biking is also difficult as the park is located in a rural environment with no connecting greenways, sidewalks, or on-road facilities. Currently, this park is a “drive to park.” However, the location near North Carolina State University’s research property primes the park for future connectivity via campus or City transit.

**Opportunities to Connect**
The site is situated within and adjacent to several NC State University agricultural buildings. Yates Mill County Park could partner with these facilities to support and/or fund trails and public transit to enhance local and regional access. There also may be an opportunity to connect to the Cary and Raleigh greenway system through the north west side of the park.

**Deed Restrictions**
- A Lease exists between the State of NC and Wake County for the property referred to as the “Ground Lease” which outlines what is permitted on the general property.
- An agreement exists between Wake County and Yates Mill Associates (with approval from the State) for the management, maintenance, upkeep, and operations of the historic Mill building.

**Outreach and Awareness**
Historic Yates Mill County Park offers unique features that make it a valuable addition to Wake County’s Park System. Both the website and brochure clearly demonstrate why the park is unique and what the site offers. The Park is known for its public programs and the website effectively communicates these events. The brochure more clearly details trail uses and skill levels.

**Website**
- Clearly outlines the history, but not public access features.
- Provides updated information about upcoming public programs.
- Does not clarify trail uses and skill levels.

**Brochure**
- Illustrates a balance of education and features. The trail rating system could be used County wide on other park trails.
- Needs to highlight photography rules, Mill Tour information, and pet restrictions.
- Fishing locations should be clearly marked.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Existing Facility</th>
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<tr>
<td>Park Center for Education and Research</td>
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<td>20 AC Pond with Boardwalk and fixed Dock</td>
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**Address:**
4620 Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh NC, 27603

**Size:**
174 Acres

**Hours:**
8am - sunset 7 days a week

The Finley Center provides restrooms, meeting rooms, and educational opportunities for visitors.
Historic Yates Mill County Park

- **Site Analysis**
- **2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates**
- **Vehicular Circulation**
- **Creekside Trail**
- **Wetlands Boardwalk**
- **Pond Boardwalk**
- **Path is Not ADA Accessible**
- **Opportunity to Use as Additional Trailhead and Park**
- **Opportunity to Better Connect with Water**
- **Opportunity to Connect with Cary Greenway System**
- **Difficult Trail for Beginners**
- **Trail Should Engage with and Educate Users about Modern Agriculture**
- **Sidepath on Mid Pines Could Create Additional Loop Mileage**
- **Unused Area** (Not Indicated as Part of the Park on Brochure Maps)
- **Connecting to this Area Would Link Historic Agricultural Practices with Current Practices**
- **Outdoor Classroom**
- **Picnic Area**
- **Path Is Not ADA Accessible To Mill**

**Hours:**
- 8am - sunset 7 days a week
Strengthening of the Park
Historic Yates Mill County Park is surrounded by NC State research facilities. The rural character of the context and adjacent research farms preserve the original landscape surrounding the mill. This departure from the urban environment is an asset to residents living in Raleigh and is a short ten-minute drive from downtown. The facilities are modern and new while successfully blending into the natural landscape. Additional strengths include:

- The trails elevate the Park from only a historic educational facilities to a daily use Park.
- Historic Yates Mill County Park’s signature event, the Annual Harvest Celebration (September) and the Mill As Muse Art and Photography event bring people to the site who may not otherwise visit.
- While much of the site focuses on agricultural history, it also serves as a wonderful setting for environmental education.
- Picnic areas are located away from the main building.
- The easy and moderate trail lengths are manageable for multigenerational hikers.
- Fishing and canoeing provide activities that attract all ages and generate repeat use of the park.

Challenges of the Park
While the site offers daily use and special uses, the accessibility of the site can be a challenge. Specific challenges include:

- As a unique County resource, accessibility is critical to key features. Access to the Mill is not ADA accessible and can be disappointing and embarrassing for physically challenging visitors, especially those in groups.
- Self-designated as a wildlife preserve, the park does not allow pets (such as dogs) except service animals. This is a difficult rule to enforce because many people assume dogs are permitted in parks. Historic Yates Mill County Park is the only park in the system that does not allow dogs. Additional commentary on the purpose of this rule will help visitors understand the importance of respecting this limitation.
- Mill tours are limited to specific days and times. This can be frustrating for visitors and staff.
- The park lacks traditional park facilities such as playgrounds and picnic shelters that some visitors identify with a park facility.
- Park photography is very popular, specifically professional session photography. The park recently instituted a permitting process for session photography to monitor professional activity. This rule (posted on signs throughout the park) should be clarified to not dissuade visitors from taking non-professional photos.
- The investment in time to hike a trail should be posted for users - particularly those who may not be able to double back on the Creekside Trail.
- There is a need for more interactive elements within the park to offset the "No" signs posted throughout the park - specifically near the Mill.

Potential Opportunities
Already, Historic Yates Mill County Park provides an unmatched amenity in the community. Some opportunities for improvement include:

- Adjacency with NC State University Agricultural Field Laboratories provide partnerships for trails and transit connections.
- Marketing the educational and recreation opportunities to schools will increase weekday use and expose the park to more families in Wake County.
- The restriction of shoreline fishing, additional opportunities may need to be explored to meet fishing demands.
- The park could expand interpretation through the preservation of the Phares Yates House located off park property (¼ mile from the park).
- The park could expand by acquiring the property adjacent to the park and just downstream on Steep Hill Creek. This land would connect to the Phares Yates House.
- Plans are progressing to link the park with some of the University Field Laboratories including constructing a greenway trail from the Dairy Museum to the park. The plans exist conceptually and are not currently funded.
Many restrictions are posted near the Mill. This park has amazing features, yet must take care with human access. Several views throughout the park are not ADA accessible. Improving access would enhance the experience for special populations. Examples of appropriate reuse and interpretive of features. Trails from the Finley Center to the Mill should be accessible. Warning signs should be relocated to preserve views. Opportunities should be explored to link the park with adjacent agricultural fields. This park has amazing features, yet must take care with human access. Many restrictions are posted near the Mill. Wayfinding and color coding can serve as a model for other County Parks. Look for ways to make shoreline trail and features along it accessible.
**Access**
Lake Crabtree does not currently have direct access to public transit. The closest bus stop is located at the intersection of Weston Parkway and Norwell Boulevard. Connectivity could be provided through Black Creek Greenway and supported by wayfinding signage.

**Opportunities to Connect**
The park is situated in a highly populated area of Wake County in proximity to several key destinations such as the Raleigh Durham International Airport, William B. Umstead State Park, and the Research Triangle Park. The Black Creek Greenway provides bicycle and pedestrian access into the park, connecting the park with the Town of Cary’s greenway system. Interstate 40 provides easy vehicular access for residents across the County.

The opportunity to connect to Umstead State Park exists with improvements to Old Reedy Creek Road which would also connect the park to the City of Raleigh’s extensive greenway trail network. Improvements to Aviation Parkway could also provide better multi-modal access.

**Deed Restrictions**
- Lake Crabtree County Park leases the land from the Raleigh Durham Airport Authority. Wake County owns the Flood Control Structure on the property.
- The lease stipulates that mountain bike trails and other special recreation areas be provided within the park and maintained by TORC.
- RDU recently hired a firm to evaluate all of their property leases, including Lake Crabtree County Park, with a focus on land use policy and revenue.

**Outreach and Awareness**
The website and brochure are both valuable marketing tools and provide users with a clear understanding of the amenities the park has to offer. The brochure map makes it easy for visitors to differentiate between types of trails and the skill levels needed.

**Website**
- Instead of linking to the brochure, language could be added to the “Park information” to showcase the amenities of the park and attract new users.
- The historic homesite is highlighted on the website, but not in the brochure.

**Brochure**
- Providing a legend of park amenities would clearly inform users of key park features.
- Successfully showcases the different types of trails and skill levels needed in an easy to understand map.
- Canoeing classes and boating activities are not indicated.

**Existing Facility Web Brochure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Web</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Address:**
1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville NC, 27560

**Unique Features:**
Mountain Biking/Water Access

**Size:** 215 Acres

**Hours:** 8am-Sunset 7 days a week
Park office 8am-1pm

**Education and recreation are expertly woven together in this park.**
Lake Crabtree County Park

Site Analysis

Connection Needed

Noise From Highway Can Be Heard Within Park

Paved Trail

Lake Trail

Old Beach Nature Trail

Emphasize Connection To Umstead, Transit, North Cary Park, and Godbold Park

Most Paths Are Not ADA Accessible - Improve Circulation

Crosswalks, Ped Signals, And Sidewalks Will Improve Access

Area Not Accessible When Underwater (Opportunity For Education)

Potential For Youth/Beginner Mountain Bike Course

Wetland

Natural Heritage Area

Create Trailhead With Area Map

To Umstead

0 600 1200

FEET

Existing Conditions | 2-38
Lake Crabtree County Park

**Strengths of the Park**
Lake Crabtree County Park’s greatest strength lies in its location. With easy access off of I-40, the park is very popular with County residents, especially as an event venue. The lake itself provides multiple recreation opportunities and the trail system offers some of the best beginner mountain biking. Additional strengths include:

- The existing mountain biking trails are well marked and provide opportunities for cyclists of all skill levels.
- The park offers residents of a highly dense area a chance to enjoy the outdoors and the serenity of the lake.
- The park offers a diverse menu of activities ensuring that there is “something for everyone.”
- Some of the most popular activities are a result of the park’s water access: kayaking, canoeing, row boating, fishing, and paddling.
- The rental business allows residents who do not have access to water sport equipment to enjoy Lake Crabtree.

**Challenges of the Park**
While there are many benefits of Lake Crabtree County Park, there are also some challenges including:

- ADA improvements are need to ensure that users of all abilities can enjoy the various programming and recreational opportunities in the park.
- Public perception of the lake contamination may be preventing use of the park. Displays and kiosks educating users may reduce these concerns.
- The park has the potential to be the most well-linked County Park, and yet several of the streets bordering the park lack multimodal accommodations.
- Pedestrian wayfinding signs are needed to connect users to all of the features of the park - not just the trail system.
- Mountain biking trails and skills areas draw area residents and visitors throughout the region.

- While I-40 provides regional access, sound impacts of the interstate affect user experience along the Lake Trail.
- Due to flooding issues, the trail system can have several closures during wet periods, therefore limiting access to one of the most popular facilities in the park.
- Parking can be a challenge for large events as there is not a designated overflow parking area.
- There are many visitors that allow their dogs off leash even though it is prohibited.
- Due to the designed use of the trails, user conflicts exist. The trails are heavily used by cyclists, therefore there seems to be an unspoken expectation for pedestrians to yield to cyclists.

**Potential Opportunities**
Lake Crabtree County Park truly has the opportunity to become a park for everyone. Some improvements include:

- The rental season could be expanded to meet the current user demand for water activities.
- The park currently serves many specialty groups, such as the Triangle Model Yacht Club and can continue to attract these niche groups by developing a formal process for using the property.
- With the addition of an educational classroom, users would have the opportunity to participate in expanded programming focusing on water quality, environmental protection, and wetland conservation.
- User feedback highlights the demand for a disc golf course in the area.
- Installing boardwalks along the Old Beech Trail would make it accessible to all users and also limit the number of trail closures due to flooding.
Accessibility is a huge challenge for this park that otherwise seems like the perfect opportunity to serve all users.

- Expand waterfront offerings from rental units to access into the park from across the Lake.
- Complete an internal hard surface trail system to create a more ADA accessible park experience.
- Overlooks and viewing areas should be added along the shoreline.
- Celebrate and promote unique features like the waterwise Garden.
- Identifying all park features on maps will aid in navigation.
- Explore the potential to add a boardwalk and/or make trail improvements so this section is accessible when wet.
- Formalize and improve trail connections to Umstead and the Cary Trail system.
**North Wake Landfill County Park**

No current mission statement for this park.

| Address: 9300 Deponie Drive Raleigh NC, 27614 |
| Size: N/A |
| Hours: 8am- Sunset 7 days a week |

**Unique Features:**
- Recreational opportunities
- Access to the Abbotts Creek Trail
- Picnic areas

**Access**
The park is served by the City of Raleigh’s transit system, with a bus stop located near the park entrance on Durrant Road. Sidewalk connectivity on Deponie Drive coupled with wayfinding would improve the safety and experience of arriving at the park. Adding more stops along Durant Road will provide better access to the park from surrounding neighborhoods.

**Opportunities to Connect**
The Abbotts Creek Trail connects the park to surrounding neighborhoods. Providing safe crossings of Durant Road would increase the bicycle and pedestrian access to the park. The addition of an elementary school and community center provides the opportunity for increased park usage.

**Deed Restrictions**
This is a Wake County owned facility.

**Outreach and Awareness**
The North Wake Landfill County Park is unique in the fact that it was once a landfill. The story behind this conversion is made clear in the brochure, but is missing on the website and within the park itself. The mountain bike skills trails is a great asset to the park and should be highlighted on the website and brochure.

**Website**
- Relaying the story behind “the Big Hill” would provide context to the users unsure of what the park has to offer.
- Including maps of the trail system and park features on the website would easily display the various park amenities.
- The mountain bike skills course should be emphasized to attract more users.

**Brochure**
- Educational components of the history of the park are well explained and identified.
- Clearly outlines what facilities are available.
- The trail distances that are described in the pictures should also be conveyed on the map.

**Restroom facilities serve users of Abbots Creek Trail and prepares the park for hosting events and expanding facilities that will lengthen visit times.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Facility</th>
<th>Web</th>
<th>Brochure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paved Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiking Trails</td>
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<td>Picnic Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restroom</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connectivity to Abbots Creek Trail is a huge asset of this park.
North Wake Landfill County Park

Site Analysis

Existing Conditions

2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

North Wake Landfill County Park

Site Analysis

Two foot contours

Hike/Mountain Bike

Nance Spring Loop Trail

Top Of The Hill Trail

Exposed

VEHicular Circulation

Opportunity To Create Bicycle Track

"Prospect Hill"

Planned Trails, Viewing Shelter, Public Art, Wetland, and Greenway Connection

Planned:

Braided Pathway

School

Larger Signage Needed

Odor

Need For Vehicular/Pedestrian Separation

Playground

Provide Shade

Celebrate Use Of Solar

Opportunity For Story Telling

"Prospect Hill"

Planned Trails, Viewing Shelter, Public Art, Wetland, and Greenway Connection

DURANT ROAD

Larger Signage Needed

Odor

Need For Vehicular/Pedestrian Separation

Playground

Provide Shade

Celebrate Use Of Solar

Opportunity For Story Telling

ABBOTS CREEK RAIL 0 400 800 FEET

Existing Conditions | 2-42
**STRENGTHS OF THE PARK**

This park has the unique opportunity to educate and challenge citizens and visitors to contemplate their consumptive behavior and personal effects on the environment. The mission and educational opportunities can be linked to those of Harris Lake providing a deeper understanding of how our lifestyles impact the earth and reveal some of the more difficult visual reminders of how our society defines livability.

- Biking opportunities throughout the site are abundant, including the main road, mountain biking, and connections to neighborhoods.
- The location and access to the site avails the educational features to impact a large audience.
- The park site is new and has updated site furnishings and equipment.
- This park features one of the most incredible views in the County.

**CHALLENGES OF THE PARK**

Many challenges of the park are associated with perception and the lack of connection between what the site was before and how it has transformed into the park it is today.

- Many residents still consider the site a landfill and do not recognize the transformation as a county park.
- The presence of methane gases in the gas collection area can be intimidating to users and cause safety concerns.
- There is limited shading in the park, especially around the park loop road and the playground area.
- There is no signage leading pedestrians from the parking lot to the top of the hill trail. There is also no separation for cars and pedestrians along the road leading to the top of the hill trail.
- There are no interpretive signs or public art to link the transition from a dangerous, waste-filled site to a well-functioning park with opportunities to educate young generations about our behavioral impacts on the environment.

**POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

This park is replete with opportunities to transform the way people think about their lifestyles. Some opportunities that can improve user experience and elevate the educational opportunities include:

- The view of the Raleigh skyline is an unique asset to the park and an accessible trail from the playground to the top of the hill would help to highlight this feature.
- Installing interpretive signage and educational kiosks throughout the park would highlight the history of the park and educate users on solid waste management and recycling.
- Adding shade trees to the Peak Trail would improve the user’s experience.
- The interior road network provide opportunities to host events such as a criterion, looped running races and distance markers.
- The proximity of the recycling center provides educational opportunities within the park and can promote Wake County’s 86ers campaign.
- Currently, the name of the park is creating a barrier to use. By modifying the name, it may remove the negative connotation of being a landfill and promote the site as a park - not a brownfield.

Views from the top of the hill are a reward for climbing the slope. A map depicting neighborhoods and downtown Raleigh will impress upon users how massive the trash pile is to create such a vast view.

In addition to the skills area, mountain bike trails weave throughout the northern section of the site.
The hill provides a great view for spectator sports and races: runs, criterion, etc. Highlight the benefits of recycling versus mindlessly adding to the mound of trash. Shade should be artfully incorporated at the top of the hill without blocking views.

Tell the story of how far visitors can see with maps. Add interpretive signage and information detailing how far the trash came from to form this hill.

Create awareness about site furnishings selections: recycled, LED, solar, and ways to reduce consumption.

Shade should be artfully incorporated at the top of the hill without blocking views.

Highlight the benefits of recycling versus mindlessly adding to the mound of trash.

The recycling center should not be buffered from sight. This should be used as an opportunity for education.

There is an opportunity to create shade and tell a story about waste as users ascend the hill and pass by the recycling center.

The mountain bike skills area can be marketed to help spread awareness of this park.

Tell the story of how far visitors can see with maps. Add interpretive signage and information detailing how far the trash came from to form this hill.

North Wake Landfill County Park
3. Public Input
Public involvement is imperative in parks and recreation planning. In addition to analyzing demographics and comparing trends, there is no better gauge for identifying needs than asking users for their desires, opinions, and ideas. For the 2016 Update to the County Park Master Plans, several avenues of public input were merged to assess the needs for the system as a whole and each individual park. Community needs and desires were extracted from the 2008 PROS Comprehensive Master Plan, the 2014 Community Interest and Opinion Survey, Individual Park Customer Satisfaction Surveys, North Carolina’s Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan, national trends in parks and recreation, focus groups, steering committee input, and staff interviews. After a solid foundation of needs, opportunities, and current challenges were established, recommendations were vetted via an online public survey, booths at public events, the steering committee, and park staff. During a final Steering Committee Meeting, members representing the public’s interest and future vision of the parks determined which recommendations would be presented in the final Master Plans Updates.

The following text describes each method of public input with a brief summary of key discoveries. Detailed outcomes are provided in an Appendix C of this Plan and within other documents as referenced below.

**Overview and Planning Process**

Public involvement is imperative in parks and recreation planning. In addition to analyzing demographics and comparing trends, there is no better gauge for identifying needs than asking users for their desires, opinions, and ideas. For the 2016 Update to the County Park Master Plans, several avenues of public input were merged to assess the needs for the system as a whole and each individual park. Community needs and desires were extracted from the 2008 PROS Comprehensive Master Plan, the 2014 Community Interest and Opinion Survey, Individual Park Customer Satisfaction Surveys, North Carolina’s Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan, national trends in parks and recreation, focus groups, steering committee input, and staff interviews. After a solid foundation of needs, opportunities, and current challenges were established, recommendations were vetted via an online public survey, booths at public events, the steering committee, and park staff. During a final Steering Committee Meeting, members representing the public’s interest and future vision of the parks determined which recommendations would be presented in the final Master Plans Updates.

The following text describes each method of public input with a brief summary of key discoveries. Detailed outcomes are provided in an Appendix C of this Plan and within other documents as referenced below.

**Previous Tactics and Data Analysis**

2008 Comprehensive Plan

Key survey findings from the 2008 Comprehensive Plan include:

- Lake Crabtree County Park is the most heavily used park.
- The physical condition of the park system is rated high, with 66 percent of respondents rating it as excellent or good.
- Marketing efforts need to be improved. For example, 25 percent of respondents do not know the locations of the County parks, in excess of a national benchmark of 13 percent.
- Support for the acquisition of open space is very high with 90 percent of respondents in favor of it.
- Walking and hiking trails are the highest rated new facilities that citizens want.
- Citizens want the County to expend its resources on large regional parks and longer trails, in fact, 76 percent expressed their support for this choice for resource allocation.
- Citizens want the County to partner with municipalities to acquire open space for environmental purposes; 84 percent are supportive of this endeavor. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents are supportive of the County’s effort to partner with the school district, cities and towns to co-locate parks and facilities adjacent to schools.
- Seventy-eight percent of the respondents are supportive of the County’s effort to protect 30 percent of its land area for environmental stewardship, water quality, large parks and trails.
- Personal benefits of the County providing parks, recreation and open space services include health and wellness.
- Citizens expressed a priority for improvements and maintenance to existing County Parks followed by the acquisition of new parkland and open space.
- The 2008 Comprehensive Plan identified seven goals for the Division of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, which are listed in the Introduction section of this plan.

**Community Interest and Opinion Survey 2014**

This outreach method collected responses from 852 county residents through telephone and online surveys. Demographically, the cross-section of those surveyed is mostly consistent with the composition of the county. More women than men participated, which is typical and consistent with the slightly higher percentage of residents who are women (61.3 percent). While 71.7 percent of telephone respondents and 91.6 percent of online participants were white, that is similar to the 61.3 percent composition based on the 2013 US Census.

The methodology and sample appear to meet the definition of what is required from Recreation Resource Services for assessing recreational needs of residents. This can be done prior to master planning and not necessarily be park specific.

**Highlights from the survey include:**

**Most Used Parks in Last 12 Months**

- Lake Crabtree (70.6 percent)
- Harris Lake (66.5 percent)
- American Tobacco Trail (55.1 percent)
- Historic Yates Mill (53.2 percent)
- Crowder (40.4 percent)
- Blue Jay (35.9 percent)
- Historic Oak View (32.5 percent)
- N. Wake Landfill (24.2 percent)

**Why Are They Not Using Parks**

- Prefer to use City or State Parks
- Too Far/don’t have transportation
- Not convenient
- Hours not convenient
- Time Constraints/Personal issues
- Didn’t know

**How Are They Using**

- Walking/hiking/dog walking
- Cycling/mountain biking
- Viewing nature/wildlife
- Use of Playground
- Attending a program

**Sources of Information**

- E-mail Newsletter
- Website
- Brochure/Fliers
- Friends
- Conversations with Staff

**Most Important Service**

- Acquiring Open Space
- Expanding Greenway System
- Developing Large Regional Parks Nature
- Maintaining Improving Services
- Providing environmental Cultural Historic education
Public Input | 3-4

The park surveys were collected in 2014-2015. Results were analyzed in April 2015 to provide insight for the recommendation of this Plan. Key discoveries per park are as follows.

**American Tobacco Trail**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Jogging/Running (47 percent)
- Bicycling (47 percent)
- Hiking/Walking/Trail Use (23 percent)

Respondents requested the addition of water fountains and noted a need for dog waste receptacles. Requests for 1/4 mile intervals for mile markers. Most visitors found out about the park via word of mouth (62 percent).

**Blue Jay Point County Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Educational Program (54 percent)
- Hiking/Walking/Trail Use (49 percent)
- Nature Observation (36 percent)
- Playground (26 percent)

Survey respondents also had many positive comments about the staff. There was a request for another picnic shelter. Most visitors found out about the park via a field trip (32 percent).

**Crowder District Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Hiking/Walking/Fitness (65 percent)
- Nature Observation (39 percent)
- Playground (10 percent)

There was a request for sidewalks along Ten-Ten Road. One person noted the playground equipment can be hot and requested shade. Most visitors found out about the park from driving by (47 percent).

**Harris Lake County Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Picnicking/Shelter Use (39 percent)
- Playground (36 percent)
- Other/Self Guided Activity (35 percent)
- Trail Use - Hiking/Running/Walking (26 percent)

Respondents requested camping, safe crossings of trails and vehicular paths, and additional trail connections. Most visitors found out about the park via word of mouth (53 percent).

**Historic Oakview County Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Exhibits/Displays (41 percent)
- Educational Program (40 percent)
- Visiting Goats (35 percent)
- Farmer’s Corner (25 percent)
- Other (25 percent) which included field trips, pecan picking, boy scouts, and family outings

Most visitors found out about the park via word of mouth (37 percent) followed by field trips (22 percent).

**Historic Yates Mill County Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Hiking/Walking/Trail Use (69 percent)
- Nature Observation (49 percent)
- Exhibits/Displays (39 percent)
- Visiting with Family/Friends (31 percent)

There were many comments about the friendliness of the staff and the beauty of the park.

Most visitors found out about the park via word of mouth (30 percent), followed by driving by (29 percent), and other (27 percent), which included knowing the park was there due to living close by or being in the area for years.

**Lake Crabtree County Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Hiking/Walking/Trail Use (37 percent)
- Boating (36 percent)
- Bicycling/Biking (25 percent)
- Other/Self Guided Activities (22 percent) with some of the most popular activities listed as photography, sailing, kayaking, and paddleboarding

Most visitors found out about the park from other sources (35 percent) which ranged from living in the area and just knowing about the park to word of mouth and other groups. This was followed by word of mouth (27 percent) and driving by (24 percent).

**North Wake Landfill County Park**
Top activities identified by respondents included:
- Playground Use (95 percent)
- Picnicking/Shelter Use (26 percent)
- Bicycling/Biking (21 percent)
- Hiking/Walking/Trail Use (16 percent)

Several requests were made for shade. A request was made for swings for older kids, and a request was made for a dog park or dog run area. Most visitors found out about the park via word of mouth (68 percent).
North Carolina’s Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan

North Carolina State Parks Division of Parks and Recreation revises The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years and submits findings to the National Park Service to remain eligible for LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) assistance. It is important to review and understand these findings to determine how Wake County Parks and Open Space is serving residents to help meet demand identified for Outdoor Recreation within the state.

In many cases, the desired activities are similar to activities identified by Wake County Residents in the 2013 survey findings. Below are the most popular outdoor recreation activities identified by residents in the 2015 plan.

Another important finding in this state-wide study that may have influence on outdoor recreation in Wake County are the barriers for participation in outdoor recreation. The number one barrier to participation in the state is lack of time, or perceived lack of time. This may indicate a need to not only communicate offerings in a different way, but also provide recreation opportunities that allow for shorter amounts of participation time or scheduled at a variety of times.

National Trends in Parks and Recreation


- Trend 1. Parks and recreation programs are key to great park attendance.
- Trend 2. The perceived value of distributed services results in agency functions assigned to various departments.
- Trend 3. Agencies are pioneering new funding methods
- Trend 4. The infrastructure deficit means parks will have to fight harder for public dollars.
- Trend 5. Walkable cities draw millennials, fueling a suburban exodus.

The 2015 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report provided by the Outdoor Foundation is a national look at the activity trends in recreation participation. While there are numerous reports by Fish and Wildlife, National Park Services, and NRPA, the Outdoor Foundation is the most recent look at activity trends and changes in outdoor recreation.

http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/research.participation.2015.topline.html

The survey outlines top activities and activity trends for youth and adult participants, with many of these trends aligning with findings within the Wake County 2014 citizen survey. Access to water, water-based activities, hiking and walking, and access to adventure sports ranked high among national recreation trends. One significant change since the study began in 2006, 2014 participation in outdoor recreation had a slight decrease for the first time.

Figure showing most popular outdoor recreation activities reproduced from the 2015-2020 North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan

In addition, there is a need to provide access to water and to facilities such as greenways and trails. It is noted that by providing greenways and trails within park facilities and linking local, state, and federal trails the state can meet 8 of the top 35 identified outdoor recreation activities.

The above statewide findings are consistent with findings from the Wake County 2013 survey and the individual park surveys conducted with this study.
While participation in activities such as running/jogging, bicycling (road/paved surface), fishing, hiking, camping and wildlife viewing ranked the highest from survey participants, several more non-traditional activities had significant participation increase of 20-30 percent over a three year period. Non-traditional activities such as adventure racing, triathlons (traditional and nontraditional/off-road), stand-up paddle boarding, and kayak fishing saw the greatest increase in participation numbers.

Top Outdoor Activities for Growth

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>3-Year Change</th>
<th>1-Year Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Racing</td>
<td>+9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-traditional Off-Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
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<td>Stand-Up Paddling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional Climbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMX Bicycling</td>
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<td>White Water Kayaking</td>
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<td>Boardsailing/Windsurfing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea/Tour Kayaking</td>
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Public Input Phase One—Needs Assessment

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

During the kick-off meeting, held on March 4, 2015, members of the Steering Committee shared why they think this planning process is important and why they are interested in being involved. Common themes throughout the group include conservation and protection of the county’s resources as well as a desire to understand how people are currently using the parks and how the County can match trends in recreation while maintaining the components of Wake County’s parks that residents love. Critical outcomes of the plan were discussed with ADA accessibility, access via greenways and transit, and balancing offerings with local municipal parks surfacing as top priorities. Methods for reaching the public and what the Committee wanted to learn from the public fueled the beginnings of the public outreach plan later crafted by the project team.

It was agreed that the County Parks Recreation and Open Space mission and goals should drive the planning process, but that the mission statements for each of the parks should be vetted to determine if that statement was fitting for the current use and future vision for each park. The Committee also reviewed a draft site analysis matrix to provide direction for which items to explore during field visits. Demand for parks was illustrated by a series of maps depicting where citizens, live, work, play, learn, and access transit throughout the county. Equity was also mapped to learn which types of special populations may live close to certain parks. These populations include youth, over 65, English as a second language, no access to personal vehicles, and groups of racial or ethnic diversity as recorded in the US Census and ACS Community Survey.

The meeting closed with the group’s first exposure to reviewing past planning efforts, previous master plans, and existing conditions in each park. Groups of four were asked to review materials and suggest opportunities and challenges for each park. These group discussions and feedback provided a foundation for the project team to formulate public input questions, understand important items to explore in the field, and begin to understand the future vision for each park.

The Steering Committee works in small groups during the project kick-off meeting.
Public Input | 3-6

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

PARK-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUPS AND STAFF INTERVIEWS

The County Project Management Staff and Steering Committee developed a list of key stakeholders, users, and partners associated with each park. Invitations were distributed to each list to request participation in a focus group to determine existing challenges and future opportunities. Participants were provided with the County Parks Recreation and Open Space mission and core values, as well as the mission of the park (if the park had a separate mission).

The focus groups attendees were asked their opinions of the role of the county parks, each park’s mission statement, and their experience of the parks. Results of the focus groups were evaluated by the Steering Committee and project team to contribute to recommendations and key action steps.

Staff at each park were interviewed to gain their insight on the current usage and operations at their site. The discussion gave the consultant team an understanding of current operational challenges, typical usage at the park, and potential improvements. Detailed notes from these meetings can be found in Appendix A. Key discoveries revealed per park were:

**American Tobacco Trail**
- More site furnishings, such as garbage cans, hitching posts, and access to water is desired.
- Parking access along the trail can be difficult, especially for horse trailers.

**Blue Jay Point County Park**
- Additional buildings to support events and operations were requested, especially a large picnic shelter and classroom space.
- Users wanted ways to use the site better with less impact on the environment. Suggestions to improve this included additional fishing piers, natural play areas, and maintenance of the short-leaf pine stand.

**Crowder District Park**
- Most concerns were about an already dense site; expansion was desired.
- Users want to maintain a mix of biking and walking trails and increase accessibility of trails.

**Harris Lake County Park**
- Active programming, such as a trail accommodations for hikers and bicyclists, horseback riding, boat rental, and camping, was desired.
- Additional facilities, such as an expansion of the maintenance yard and education center, were also requested.
- Parking was identified as a problem on weekends.

**Historic Oakview County Park**
- Adding more opportunities for interaction with animals by adding chickens, mules, and more goats was discussed.
- Users requested more farm exhibits, including finishing the permanent exhibits and adding more out buildings to the farm.
- Better wayfinding to and within the park was requested.

**Historic Yates Mill County Park**
- Accessibility on the site was difficult.
- A more dynamic trail system at the site, including better connection to the Park Center, was requested.
- Adding additional shelters to supplement the Mill was desired.

**Lake Crabtree County Park**
- Improving ways to access the water was requested. A planned accessible dock, in addition to dredging to improve rowing and maintaining a no motorboat policy, were identified.
- Users wanted trails of varying challenge.

**North Wake Landfill County Park**
- Users commented on the lack of entrance signage.
- Public art was identified as a way to improve the space and delineate secured areas.
- Additional connectivity to the neighborhood, including schools and existing trails, was desired.

The Lake Crabtree County Park focus group discusses existing conditions at the park and desired features.
Public Input Phase Two—Recommendations Review

Steering Committee Review

After developing recommendations based on the needs assessment and existing conditions phase, the consultant team met with County Project Management Staff and Steering Committee on January 14, 2016, to workshop the detailed recommendations for each park.

As during the kick-off meeting, the Steering Committee worked in small groups to evaluate the recommendations, identify any missing elements, and determine to what degree the recommendations were supported by the public. The consultant team then refined the recommendations for each park using this input.

Public Survey Events and Digital Survey

The County Project Management Staff and consultant team presented the proposed recommendations, refined with the Steering Committee and to the public through an online survey and through on-site surveys at the parks.

On-site meetings at the park were held on the following dates:

- September 19, 2015 – Historic Yates Mill, Harvest Celebration
- September 26, 2015 – Historic Oak View, Storytelling Festival
- October 17, 2015 – Harris Lake, Haunting at Harris
- October 17, 2015 - American Tobacco Trail
- October 24, 2015 – Lake Crabtree, Creepy Crabtree

The boards from the on-site meetings can be found in Appendix B. Key discoveries revealed per park were:

American Tobacco Trail

- Ninety-four percent of survey respondents support the idea of having water stations for people and animals along the trail and specifically at the trailheads.
- Seventy-nine percent of survey respondents stated that user orientation, signage, and wayfinding improvements and consistency were needed.
- Respondents (86 percent) support the idea of additional lighting at the trailheads.
- Survey respondents stated several times that it would be beneficial for early morning exercise and commuting to open the trail access locations earlier.

Blue Jay Point County Park

- Ninety-seven percent of survey respondents agreed with the addition of a large shelter and also stated the need for several additional shelters throughout the park.
- Eighty-one percent of respondents support the idea of introducing primitive camping. It was highlighted for through hikers and for people kayaking and using the blueway system.
- Respondents positively reacted to adding/expanding trails throughout the park with interpretive signage, adding an adventure hiking course, as well as connecting trails and park features to a primary loop trail system with improved wayfinding.

Crowder District Park

- Eighty percent of survey respondents supported the idea of expanding the parks garden themes and offerings.
- Survey participants would like to see additional trail and sidewalk connections to and from the park (87 percent).
- Ninety-five percent of respondents supported the idea of adding a nature-based play area in the park.
- Sixty-three percent supported the idea of expanding dog features and support facilities within the park.

Harris Lake County Park

- Ninety-five percent of respondents supported rentals of kayaks, canoes, and stand up paddleboards to provide an opportunity for visitors who do not own boats to be able to interact with the water.
- The improved boat launch providing an ADA accessible dock for personal water crafts and rental vessels was supported by 84 percent of respondents.
- Eighty-two percent supported the creation of an elevated treetop trail, while 80 percent liked a central loop trail that would be accessible and provide for family walking and biking.
Historic Oakview County Park
• Ninety-six percent of survey respondents would like to see a primary loop trail that is ADA accessible and links to each of the site features.
• Ninety percent of survey respondents would like to see an additional play space near the education building and user activities that simulate life on a farm. Ninety percent also supported the idea of adding additional livestock to the site.
• Survey respondents (89 percent) support the idea of expanding this park to the unused area to include walking, fishing, hiking, and outdoor education.

Historic Yates Mill County Park
• Adding additional trails throughout the park with interpretive signage and creating connections to regional greenways was supported by 91 percent of respondents.
• Eighty-three percent liked improved access to water with stepping stones, vegetation, and an ADA accessible trail.
• Seventy-six percent supported adding buildings in the same architectural style as the mill to provide spaces for historic activities (or to house concessions or a gift shop).

Lake Crabtree County Park
• Eighty-six percent support providing a trailhead near the multi-use trails that has a shelter, bike “fix it” station, restrooms, first aid station, and changing area.
• Creation of a new Park Center with an iconic building that provides an educational setting, a place for rest and relaxation, observation of the waterfront, and park support facilities was liked by 71 percent of respondents.
• Improved connectivity with crosswalks, links to existing greenways, coordination with area transit for stop locations and wayfinding, and extension of trails across Aviation Parkway to increase total trail length was supported by 82 percent of respondents.

North Wake Landfill County Park
• Ninety-three percent supported renaming the park.
• Seventy-six percent responded favorably to a new ADA accessible trail that will wrap around the large hill from the existing playground with up-cycled art and bands of colored vegetation marking the mound’s growth.
• Respondents liked greenway connections, with 81 percent supporting connection to Abbotts Creek.
• Seventy-six percent supported a ribbon of skate skill areas.
• Large art placed on the northern mound was supported by 69 percent of respondents.

Outcomes of the Public Process
In addition to the Steering Committee and general public, the management staff and park staff were heavily involved in the process of analyzing and vetting recommendations. As they lead programs, help people navigate the parks, and express the brand of Wake County Parks and Recreation, the staff see how people use the parks and understand how modifications will enhance user experience.

This multi-faceted input process drove the recommendations in an implementable direction. Input from all groups was balanced to craft recommendations that would be visionary, yet realistic, for the future populations of Wake County. The evolution of the recommendations, including feedback from each element of the engagement process, is included in the matrix in Appendix C.
4. Recommendations
Overview

Wake County is a prime model for livability in North Carolina. Job opportunities, medical centers, education facilities, and inspiring outdoor experiences are among just a small sample of reasons why people choose to live in and visit the area. As growth continues, quality of life for all citizens—regardless of age, race, gender, or ability—is integral to maintaining healthy, well-balanced communities in rural, suburban, and urban environments. County Parks and Recreation facilities and programs are key contributors to the County’s mission to improve economic, social well-being, and physical quality of the community. This plan sets a course for how each facility can be enhanced to respond to the evolving needs of the community and provide quality experiences for generations to come.

The recommendations of this plan have been vetted through several perspectives via a robust process of gathering and cross-checking. Each touchpoint of discovering need and determining appropriate action was considered through the lenses of staff, management, citizens, visitors, users, and non-users of all ages and abilities. The purpose of these recommendations is to guide management and staff toward a new vision for each park that complements the context, advances trends in recreation, and focuses on conservation, health and wellness, and social equity.

The following pages illustrate improvements at the master planning level, with representative photos, narrative, action steps, funding targets, and conceptual renderings. The division mission and goal is to ensure parks, programs, and resources are accessible all users. Recommendations for the department establish a baseline for each park to provide consistency of information across all communication platforms and a comprehensive wayfinding package to and around each park. Clarity will be critical to encourage new use and provide confidence while navigating each of the parks. Access emerged as the pinnacle to success for the department and each park. This confidence while navigating each of the parks. Access emerged as a key topic throughout all input stages, with a strong emphasis on physical, emotional, and social definitions of access from ADA standards to language barriers and public transportation. These recommendations should dovetail with those of the Wake County Greenway System Plan, as well as other countywide transportation and comprehensive planning efforts.

Systemwide Recommendations

Throughout the planning process, several recommendations emerged that either were suitable for all parks or were not specific to any one place but would benefit the entire system. These recommendations are outlined below and segmented into the categories of Access + Equity, Facilities, Programs, and Management. Access + Equity emerged as a key topic throughout all input stages, with a strong emphasis on physical, emotional, and social definitions of access from ADA standards to language barriers and public transportation. These recommendations should dovetail with those of the Wake County Greenway System Plan, as well as other countywide transportation and comprehensive planning efforts.

Access + Equity

Vehicular
- Improve title signage for visibility and to distinguish from other County facilities. Consider creating a park logo or color palette that distinguishes the parks from other County facilities.
- Improve welcome sequence. What signage do people see? Where are they directed? How can they access information that will inform a safe and enjoyable visit? Who are they greeted by?

Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Improve access to transit from each park and provide better awareness of each park at nearby transit stops.
- Connect to Countywide greenway system.
- Provide sidewalks, crosswalks, countdown signals and/or HAWK signals at major and (if applicable) minor park entrances.
- Improve welcome sequence. What signage do people see? Where are they directed? How can they access information that will inform a safe and enjoyable visit? Who are they greeted by?
- Create a trail rating system to help users understand skill level needed to use a trail. This includes indicating which trails are ADA accessible.
- Add bicycle parking that meets the requirements of the League of American Bicyclists’ standards for placement, spacing, and style (replace non-compliant parking).

Wayfinding
- Develop a master wayfinding sign family for the park system. Sign types shall include: title signage (vehicle), title signage (greenway), kiosks (pull up car and pedestrian), directionals (vehicle and bike/ped), loop maps, building/special feature signage, pavement markings, mile markers, and trail blazes. Create an acceptable color palette and suite of symbols to improve access. Symbols should include a scale for trail difficulty, as well as symbols for park use areas and restrictions.
- Vehicular signage should indicate where to park, where a welcome center or “starting point” can be found and major nodes or attractors in the park.
- Pedestrian and bicycle signs should be placed to capture those arriving via transit and greenway/sidewalk, as well as provide information for those approaching from parking areas.
- Pedestrian and bicycle signage should, where applicable, indicate distance and time for travel as well as level of difficulty.
- All trailheads should have kiosks with accurate maps of the trail system, level of difficulty, time investment, and safety information including shade, carrying water, and potential hazards.
- All loop trails should include mile markers for fitness tracking and safety.
Transit Access, Connections, and Messaging
- Create awareness for transit to park and park to transit options within maps, brochures, and on the County website.

ADA
- Create primary path that links park features.
- Coordinate to make sure any programs offered are available for those with physical and mental limitations.

Language
- Provide symbology that is universal in lieu of single language narrative (maps, signs, wayfinding, brochures).

User Ability
- Indicate which facilities are available to persons of various physical and mental skill levels and what the time invested will be per activity.

Outreach and Awareness
- Coordinate website, kiosk, and brochures with same information. Reconcile what is actually offered in each park with outreach materials.
- Change “amphitheater” to outdoor classroom on outreach materials, maps, and signage.
- Create a chart of all activities offered at all facilities and categorize by those offered at each park. Include mileage of trails (multituse and mountain bike) for user comparison.
- Facebook and social media are easy and inexpensive avenues for reaching families across the County. Increase the County’s presence by having a dedicated Wake County Parks and Recreation Page and consider a page for each park (some parks have a dedicated page). In addition to posting events and activities on the County pages, assign a staff member to monitor other groups, events, and municipal sites for cross promotion, promotion, and support.
- Trail closures should be posted on Facebook, the County website and other social media to provide real-time trip planning. Consider a real-time trail update on the County website (much like how a ski resort indicates when trails are open).

Facilities
- Explore passive solar orientation for all new buildings.
- Research opportunities to add solar and wind power to all parks.
- Use LEED guidelines when designing new buildings.

Structures
- Indicate which facilities are available to persons of various physical and mental limitations.

Site Furnishings
- Consider user ability in selecting site furnishings (drinking fountains, signage, seating areas) - ADA accessible, seat level, backs, etc.
- Include recycling receptacles alongside trash receptacles in each park.

Specialty Facilities
- Consider implementing sustainable landscape programs such as SITES guidelines when making site improvements.
- Practice low-impact development and consider opportunities to add rain gardens, green roofs, and stormwater collection.

Programs
- Mission and Education
  - Health Cards
    - To coincide with the development of Park Rx Program, Wake County Parks should identify activities that can be accomplished by individuals in 10, 20, 30, 40, and 60 minute increments. These cards should be available in each park display, with information about time and health. The cards should be crafted of sturdy material to enable return and reuse. A marketing campaign should accompany this program and all cards should be visible for trip planning on the County website.
    - In addition to the Health Cards, Wake County should enact a “Health and Energy” program. This program would have several components. Private partnerships should be explored with Duke Energy to fund personal health tracking devices in parks. These devices could be borrowed (or purchased) at each park to track activity while in the park. These would overcome barriers to health tracking devices for economically challenged individuals. Every person would have the ability to enter a personal number or pin to activate the device and continue to build their personal profile of activity. The County would provide personal login credentials through a health portal on the website where each individual could monitor their steps, calories burned, miles walk/biked/hiked, etc. The park system can become a part of a Countywide media campaign “eye on health” where the county, in real time, tracks human power, calories burned, etc. as a way to monitor the need to increase physical activity and combat the obesity epidemic, cardiovascular health issues, and inactivity.
    - Provide trip planning messages on brochures and include a trip planner on the website to help people understand how they can get to each park via car, walking, biking, or transit.
Park-Specific Recommendations

The following pages list and illustrate project recommendations for each individual park. Recommendations were reviewed based on six criteria as developed by staff, and ordered on how well they aligned with the criteria. As funding becomes available and other projects are initiated by the department, County, and adjacent municipalities, Wake County may choose to change the order of implementing the items recommended in this plan.

Criteria

Enhances equity / access. The master plan project helps us reach an underserved population and/or makes our park facilities easier for people to use or physically access.

Connects to mission and goals of the individual park and the Division as a whole. The master plan project aligns with the primary purpose and activities of the park without causing undue harm to natural or cultural resources.

Attracts new visitors. The master plan project expands the Division’s reach in the community and appeals to additional users.

Enhances visitor experience. The master plan project improves the experience of existing users and provides new attractions to increase duration and frequency of visits.

Provides good cost / benefit ratio. The master plan project fills an important need, or perhaps multiple needs/functions/activities, at a reasonable cost.

Leverages existing amenities. The master plan project expands or enhances an existing amenity or facility.
**MAIN VISION**

The American Tobacco Trail is not just a local trail but a component of an evolving regional system. The trail is a fitness venue for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. It connects urban and rural communities along with corporate and local businesses. Mindful future connections will enhance the natural essence of the trail while expanding educational opportunities about conservation, locomotion, history, and health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Addresses:</th>
<th>1309 New Hill-Olive Chapel Rd</th>
<th>1305 White Oak Church Rd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wimberly Parking Area: 1017 Wimberly Rd, Apex, NC 27502</td>
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<td><strong>Unique Feature:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 6.5 Miles</td>
<td><strong>Hours:</strong> 8 am to 1 hour before sunset</td>
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<td>Regional Connectivity</td>
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**TRAILHEAD RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING**
Provide accessible parking spaces and route to the primary trail from existing trailheads.

**LIGHTING**
Provide additional lighting (consider Solar/LED fixtures) at trailheads for improved visibility at dawn and dusk as facilities are opening and closing.

**PARKING SPACES**
Expand parking areas to accommodate additional car and horse trailer parking. Provide bicycle parking and horse hitches near restrooms and trail entrances.

**BICYCLE REPAIR**
Provide bicycle repair stations at each trailhead.

**STRETCHING STATIONS**
Add stretching stations and outdoor fitness equipment at each trailhead.

**ART AND INTERPRETATION**
Add artifacts and art for historic and environmental interpretation along the trail.

**ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER**
Allow mobile food vendors at trailheads and food truck or farmer stands for special events. Provide picnic tables and shelters to facilitate event programming and family picnicking. Provide signage to comfort station and water access and add water bottle, ADA, and pet-friendly water-filling stations.

**MAIN VISION**

The American Tobacco Trail is not just a local trail but a component of an evolving regional system. The trail is a fitness venue for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. It connects urban and rural communities along with corporate and local businesses. Mindful future connections will enhance the natural essence of the trail while expanding educational opportunities about conservation, locomotion, history, and health.
HORSE WASTE
Explore opportunities to add composting stations at trailheads.

BICYCLE AND HORSE RENTAL
Research potential mobile vendors to provide bicycles and horses for rent.

SMALL SHELTERS WITH STORAGE AND CABOOSE KIOSK
Add shelters with storage areas at each trailhead. Select a key location to add a caboose that will serve as a shelter and information kiosk.

TRAILWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

TRAIL INTERSECTIONS AND SPURS
Provide standards and guidelines to municipalities and neighborhoods to indicate how to properly tie into the trail with signage, trail width, and wayfinding.

BOLLARDS AND FENCES
Ensure fence and bollard spacing allows for wheelchair, stroller, and bike carriage accessibility.

WAYFINDING
Develop a cohesive wayfinding package using the brand of the ATT. Provide kiosks at each trailhead and at key intersections that illustrate the length of the trail, key destinations, trailheads, restrooms, access to water, and the distances and timing via walking and bicycling to arrive at select places along the trail. Coordinate with municipalities for opportunities to co-brand. Use symbols in lieu of language when possible.

PULL-OFFS AND RESTING PLACES
Explore opportunities to create pull-offs for resting and bicycle repair. Install benches every half to quarter mile.

NEW FEATURES

1. GAP CLOSURE AND NOVELTY ATTRACTION
Work with New Hope Valley rail line to provide a stop at the east end of their passenger line that could close a critical gap in the ATT and become a major bike to train destination.

ART ALONG THE TRAIL
Identify key locations along the trail (like the Hwy 64 underpass) to include murals, public art, and relics that tell the story of the American Tobacco Trail, history of the area, importance of watersheds, connectivity of the East Coast Greenway, and future of transportation.

FUTURE CONNECTIONS
As connections to points east are completed, indicate on wayfinding signage the time and distance to the Neuse River Greenway, Downtown Cary, Downtown Apex, and Downtown Raleigh.

FUTURE CONNECTIONS
Extend greenway from passenger rail line to Harris Lake County Park.
In order to enhance the American Tobacco Trail, we recommend the County seek funding of $4,225,000. In addition to the new and enhanced features outlined, costs required to fulfill the trail’s vision include additional trail infrastructure and connections, general site and landscaping improvements, rest areas, wayfinding signage, and site furnishings along the trail and at trailheads.

Future Projects

- Trail overlooks and pull-offs
- Lighting
- New trailhead at Hope Valley RR
- Small shelters at trailheads
- Caboose kiosk at trailhead
- Signage and site furnishings

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<th>ITEM COST</th>
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<td><strong>TOP TIER</strong></td>
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<td>Water Utility Connections / Fountains</td>
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<td>Existing Parking Expansion/Improvements</td>
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<td>Comfort Station / Restroom</td>
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<td>Subtotal Top Tier Items</td>
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<td><strong>SECOND TIER</strong></td>
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<td>ATT Extension to Hope Valley Railroad</td>
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<td>Subtotal Second Tier Items</td>
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</table>
**MAIN VISION**

Blue Jay Point offers its visitors the best of outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities. Groups and individuals alike can spend an entire day learning, playing and exploring amongst the park’s Center for Environmental Education, trails, shoreline, educational garden and open play fields. Whether you're looking for a quiet, meditative space, a beautiful shoreline to explore, or even a treetop challenge for the more adventurous types, Blue Jay has something to offer every outdoor enthusiast.

**NEW FEATURES**

**CAMPING**
Provision of an area for on-site camping was supported by the public during the planning process. Further exploration is recommended to determine where to site the camping, which type of camping will be permitted, and how this addition will affect rules, regulations, and staffing.

**ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH**
Provide kayak launch for users of all abilities.

**OVERLOOK**
Provide opportunities along the trail to view the natural habitat.

**CHALLENGE HIKING**
Use the existing steep topography to create hiking trails for more advanced users. Provide additional signage where these trails cross the MST.

**ADA LOOP TRAIL**
Provide opportunities to interact with the habitat to visitors of all abilities.

**SMALL SHELTER**
New shelters should be integrated into the natural surroundings and may take on a more current style.
6 PAVILION
Provide a shelter with restrooms, fireplace, and storage that can serve as a gathering space for large groups (200+) and/or covered gathering space for day camps and classes.

7 KAYAK BEACH AND OVERLOOK
Provide an accessible route from the park center near the active play area to an overlook and kayak access location. In this same location, create an entrance to the park from the water and blueway trail.

8 BLUEWAY
Add markers and stopping points along a blueway trail that skirts the shoreline of the park.

9 PARKING
This lot will accommodate shelter users and visitors using the kayak launch.

10 EDUCATION CENTER
Expand to provide additional education and display space.

11 NATURE PLAY
Expand and enhance the current nature play area.

12 EXISTING RETREAT CENTER
Expand opportunity for a variety of organizations to make use of the center.
# Blue Jay Point County Park

## Project Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Enhances Equity/Access</th>
<th>Connects to Mission/Goals</th>
<th>Attracts New Visitors</th>
<th>Enhances Visitor Experience</th>
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<td>Landscape, Signage &amp; Site Furnishings</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAIN VISION
Crowder District Park provides a sense of community in a suburban area. The park is a destination for daily health and physical activities and serves as a place for family/group gatherings and education programming. Utilizing the natural and built elements, themed gardens and plantings, the park hopes to improve the connection between visitors and the environment. Connectivity to existing/future greenways and parks and the acquisition of surrounding property will allow Crowder District Park to expand its programs, facilities, services, and overall community presence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW FEATURES</th>
<th>HEALING GARDEN</th>
<th>BACK PORCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. BOG GARDEN</td>
<td>Provide a quiet respite for self-reflection, yoga, stretching, and connecting with self and nature.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a garden with opportunities for play and water quality education.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NATURE PLAY</td>
<td>Add classroom space in the form of a large screened-in back porch similar to the classroom space at Prairie Ridge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A new nature play area will support daily use and can be designed to support park programming.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. HEALING GARDEN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. BACK PORCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**BOARDSWALK**
Add boardwalk to link new “back porch” with existing boardwalk. Include kayak and water education access for staff during programs and creative platforms for water interaction.

**HEALTH & WELLNESS GARDEN**
Replace existing playground equipment and add multi-generational exercise equipment at this location and along the primary greenway trail.

**DOG AMENITIES**
Add dog water fountains and additional waste stations along the trail to serve the large population of dogs in the park.

**CONNECTIVITY AND VISIBILITY**
Support installation of a sidewalk along Ten-Ten Road for pedestrian access and the exploration of a Complete Streets study to provide equity in transportation. Clear vegetation to improve visibility of existing entrance sign. Add a park sign at each property corner to indicate park entrance ahead. Work with NCDOT on adding sidewalks and fully controlled pedestrian crosswalks at Ten-Ten Road and Holly Springs Road to connect nearby neighborhoods and improve pedestrian access to the park.

**PARK ENTRANCE**
Explore realigning the entrance with Cortland Dr. during Ten-Ten Road Improvement Project.

**PARK CENTER**
Improve maintenance area, expand welcome center, add parking, and create a welcome plaza, focused on pedestrian arrivals and large enough for gatherings or check-in tents for special events.

**BIRD GARDEN**
Provide opportunities for learning more about the connection between plants and birds and add a “nest” outdoor classroom.
Crowder District Park

12 **PRAIRIE GARDEN**
Expand the garden by adding vegetation, interpretive signs, and seating areas.

13 **GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY**
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.

14 **RAIN GARDEN**
Enhance the garden by adding interpretive signage and improving the conveyance and storage functions.

15 **BUTTERFLY GARDEN**
Expand the garden and add interpretive signage.

---

**Project Recommendations**

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Center</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Porch Classroom</td>
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<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
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<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Porch Overlook / Teaching Platform</td>
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<td>Boardwalk to Back Porch</td>
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<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
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<td>✓ ✓</td>
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<td>Sidewalk along Ten-Ten Road</td>
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<td>Staff Kayak/Canoe Access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Expand</td>
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<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape, Signage &amp; Site Furnishings</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crowder District Park Recommendations

1. Recommendation for Crowder District Park
2. Recommendations

Two foot contours

120 240
**MAIN VISION**

Harris Lake is the “Destination for the Day,” a place to reconnect with nature through recreational and educational opportunities. There is something here for each family member to enjoy—be it fitness and health-related activities or just back to the simple things in life like fishing and family picnicking. It is nature that connects play, education, and overall human development together.

**NEW FEATURES**

**CAMPING**
Provision of an area for on-site camping was supported by the public during the planning process. Further exploration is recommended to determine where to site the camping, which type of camping will be permitted, and how this addition will affect rules, regulations, and staffing.

**NAME EACH POND**
Mark each pond with a naming sign and add names of the ponds to the trail maps to aid in navigation.

**LOOP ROAD AND GREENWAY**
Use the service road to expand vehicular circulation toward the point and bring users to additional places within the park. Create a minimum 10 foot wide ADA greenway loop to enhance access and serve users who prefer this surface type to soft surface trails.

**GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY**
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.

**PARKING AND COMFORT STATION**
To accommodate disc golf and tree top trail users.

**TREE TOP TRAIL**
Create an elevated trail in the tree canopy that is ADA accessible with several overlooks, hammocks, and spaces that can serve as an outdoor classroom.

---

**Harris Lake County Park**

**Address:**
2112 County Park Drive, New Hill NC, 27562

**Unique Features:**
Hiking

**Size:** 680 Acres

**Hours:**
8 am-sunset, 7 days a week

**Main Vision**
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PARK CENTER
Design a new solar-powered, energy efficient park center to become the official arrival point for visitors. Include offices, indoor classrooms, display areas, restrooms, and storage. Add sufficient parking to accommodate events and groups using the new center.

BLUEWAY
Create a blueway trail along the shoreline using floating mile markers and interpretive signage.

ENHANCED FEATURES

HIKING TRAILS
Add wayfinding, mile markers, and interpretive signage to help navigate and celebrate the mission of the park.

TRAIL SYSTEM
Add connector trails to shorten loops and enhance access for users.

DISC GOLF
Create courses that are ADA accessible and youth friendly.

MAINTENANCE AREA
Expand the maintenance area to better suit the needs of the grounds, programming, and staff.

MOUNTAIN BIKING NETWORK
Create sustainable trails and improve rider experience to accommodate a wider variety of skill levels. Enhance the existing trails with signage.

PLAYGROUNDS AND WATER ACCESS
Expand the natural play area and upgrade the existing playground. Enhance water access by creating a kayak/paddleboard/canoe launch with ADA accessibility. Explore the potential of adding a vendor to rent human powered watercraft.
## Project Recommendations

### Harris Lake County Park

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<th>Leverages Existing Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kayak access and launch</td>
<td>New</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc Golf / Youth Disc Golf</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Station / Restroom (Disc Golf)</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Loop Greenway Trail</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Top Trail</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Connector Trails</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overlook Decks</td>
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<tr>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Playground</td>
<td>Expand</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Loop Road</td>
<td>New</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Expand</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Enhance</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW FEATURES

**FARM TO TABLE**
Look for opportunities that teach about farm-to-table methods using local farmers and food grown at Oak View.

**PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS**
Create a primary loop trail around the park and additional ADA accessible pathways to connect each park feature.

**ACCESSIBLE GARDEN**
Allow all users to experience the garden plots by widening the walking aisles and raising the garden beds to easier access.

**PARK EXPANSION AREA**
Offer additional park features including a playground, walking and hiking paths, and fishing platform.

MAIN VISION

Historic Oak View County Park interprets North Carolina’s diverse agrarian past and invites families to explore and connect with daily farm life. Expanding the park’s educational and recreational opportunities will enhance the visitor experience and broaden its role in the community.

- **Historic Farm**
- **Size:** 27 Acres
- **Address:**
  4028 Carya Drive, Raleigh NC, 27610
- **Hours:**
  8 am-sunset, 7 days a week
- **Unique Features:**
  Historic Farm

In the tradition of a great state which celebrates its past, cherishes its heritage, and nurtures its resources for future generations, Historic Oak View County Park interprets and preserves the agricultural heritage and rural farm life of North Carolina through educational programs, special events, and exhibits, and provides cultural enrichment and passive recreation opportunities for visitors.
**INTERPRETIVE PLAY**
Create and enhance interpretive play spaces throughout the park that allow for interactive learning and user activities that simulate life on the farm.

**FISHING PLATFORM**
Provide access to pond.

**PLAYGROUND**
Create new farm-themed playground.

**SIDEWALK AND TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY**
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to proposed sidewalk facilities, public transit systems, and other recreational amenities, such as the Neuse River Trail.

**INTERPRETIVE PLAY**
Create and enhance interpretive play spaces throughout the park that allow for interactive learning and user activities that simulate life on the farm.

**FISHING PLATFORM**
Provide access to pond.

**PLAYGROUND**
Create new farm-themed playground.

**SIDEWALK AND TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY**
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to proposed sidewalk facilities, public transit systems, and other recreational amenities, such as the Neuse River Trail.

**MAIN FARMHOUSE**
Complete updates and enhancements of permanent exhibits.

**FORMAL ENTRY**
Provide designated entry into historic building.

**CROPS**
Expand opportunities to cultivate food on the farm and use for educational purposes.

**CONNECTIVITY**
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to Wake County office park and facilities and nearby Neuse River Trail.

**PARKING AREA**
Add additional parking spaces.

**FISHING ACCESS**
Improve access near the existing ponds for viewing and fishing while maintaining the natural “farm feel” of the edge of the lake.

**REAL ANIMALS**
Add more live animals to the farm to allow for enhanced interaction with farm life, an opportunity to learn about historic and present day practices, improved user experience, and expansion of the attractions on the farm.

**SOUND WALL**
Sound wall on west side of property between I-440 and main farm buildings.
# Project Recommendations

## Historic Oak View County Park

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground (Themed)</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Pecan Grove Loop Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardens / Crop Areas</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pond Overlooks / Platforms</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>Sidewalk to Office Park from Poole Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>Sound barrier along I-40</td>
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<td>Maintenance Yard / Facility</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Historic Oak View County Park

Two-foot contours

Recommendations | 4-24
MAIN VISION

Historic Yates Mill County Park celebrates its past, cherishes its heritage, and nurtures its cultural and natural resources for future generations. NC State University’s agriculture research farm provides the backdrop and offers glimpses into North Carolina agricultural heritage while protecting significant wildlife habitat in the heart of Raleigh. Expanded trails will elevate the park as a favorite day-use facility for health and wellness while new historical elements will provide users with a reason to linger longer. The relationship between Wake County, Yates Mill Associates, and NC State University, the physical connection with modern agricultural practices, and university based research in natural resource management, will draw groups and individuals looking for an experience in local North Carolina history, an escape into our natural world and quality environmental education.

NEW FEATURES

1. BOARDWALK
   Add a boardwalk through the wetlands to create a loop for trail users.

2. CLASSROOM AND PICNIC AREA
   Provide new covered shelter to serve as outdoor classroom.

3. ART IN THE FIELD
   Add art and artifacts that attract visitors and highlight the park entrance. Incorporate art and artifacts near the classroom space that tell the story of the park and create a flexible play space.

4. VILLAGE AND HISTORIC ACTIVITIES
   Add village buildings to create historic activity spaces for a blacksmith and a house creamery, as well as appropriate buildings for a gift shop and concessions.

5. ADA TRAIL TO MILL
   Add accessible trail to allow people of all abilities to visit the mill.

6. WATERFRONT ACCESS AREA
   Provide access and water interaction opportunities that encourage picnicking and water activities, such as canoeing and kayaking.
**OVERLOOK**
Provide areas along trail to view mill and pond habitat.

**GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY**
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.

**MAINTENANCE AREA**
Move some maintenance functions away from the waterfront and expand maintenance area. Screen views into maintenance area with vegetative border.

**OVERFLOW PARKING AND FLEX-SPACE ENTRANCE**
Provide new entry signage and clear vegetation to improve visibility and create a more legible park entrance.

**GREENWAY AND TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY**
Create key connections to NCSU facilities, nearby sidewalk/paths, and the State Farmers Market. These connections not only create physical opportunities to increase visitation and cross promotion but also tell the agricultural story and mission of the park. Ensure that a road crossing to the NC State greenway is safe by using crosswalks and other devices such as HAWK signals to alert drivers of pedestrian crossings. Collaborate with NC State to explore the potential of connecting people to this park via the Wolfline. Coordinate with NCDOT to explore a greenway connection as part of the bridge replacement project at Lake Wheeler Road.

**MILL EXPERIENCE**
Create an ADA accessible entrance to the Mill that protects the integrity of the historic structure. Expand the historic experience by relocating the Phares Yates House to this property and providing access and interpretive signage.

**PARKING**
Explore opportunity to share parking with the recycling center for event overflow parking.
### Project Recommendations

#### Historic Yates Mill County Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<th>Attracts New Visitors</th>
<th>Enhances Visitor Experience</th>
<th>Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio</th>
<th>Leverages Existing Amenities</th>
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Historic Yates Mill County Park recommendations

2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

- Two foot contours

0 400 800 FEET
Lake Crabtree County Park

To serve the growing needs of Wake County residents by having passive leisure and recreational opportunities available in a natural setting.

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING
Provide accessible parking spaces to all use areas and the primary loop trail.

ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAIL LOOP
Enhance the existing loop trail to provide equality in mobility and access for all park users.

PARK CONNECTIVITY ACCESSIBILITY
Renovate park trails and sidewalks to create ADA accessible paths connecting each use area in the park.

NEW FEATURES

1. BOARDWALK
   Constructed in conjunction with future roadway improvements.

2. TRAIL EXPANSION AREA
   Expand trails across Aviation Parkway.

3. CONNECTIVITY
   Improve connectivity with crosswalks, links to existing greenways, sidewalk connections to RDU, and coordination with area transit for stop locations and wayfinding. Extend trails across Aviation Parkway to increase total trail length.

MAIN VISION

This park is truly “everyone’s park.” From the ADA accessible trails to the new accessible kayak launches, and connections with trails and transit—equity in recreation, leisure, and wellness is the focus. Multi-generational spaces create opportunities for the whole family to enjoy an hour or a whole day at the park. Water activities, peaceful trails, picnic shelters, and multi-use trails provide opportunities for enjoyment for daily activities and special events for all ages and abilities.

ADDRESS:
1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville NC, 27560

UNIQUE FEATURES:
Mountain Biking/Water Access

SIZE: 215 Acres

HOURS: 8 am-sunset, 7 days a week
Park office, 8 am-1 pm

SIDEWALK
Complete the pedestrian connection from the entrance and tie into the new park loop.

TRAILHEAD
Provide a trailhead near the mountain biking trails that has a shelter, bike “fix it” station, restrooms, first aid station, and changing area.

PARK CENTER
Create a new Park Center with an iconic building that provides an educational setting, a place for rest and relaxation, observation of the waterfront, and park support facilities. The iconic tower will be re-imagined to preserve the overlook while enhancing safety and accessibility.
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

BLUEWAY
Add mile markers and resting places along a blueway trail that skirts the shoreline.

GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY
Collaborate with municipalities and the office parks to complete a loop around the lake.

PARKING
Expand existing parking areas.

LOOP TRAIL
Enhance the existing loop trail to become an ADA accessible Lake Loop. The route would improve connectivity throughout the park and provide new connections to the Cary and Morrisville greenway systems.

GATHERING SPACE
Provide a new picnic shelter and restrooms for large groups (over 100 people), new playground, and multi-generational park activities suitable for varied ages and abilities.

Lake Crabtree County Park
## Project Recommendations

### Lake Crabtree County Park

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</tbody>
</table>
MAIN VISION
This park brings waste, conservation, recycling, and re-use to the forefront of visitor experience. Opportunities will be created throughout the park to reflect on the importance of conscious use of materials, human effects on the earth, and how re-thinking materials—which some consider trash—can become beautiful art and vehicles for creativity and recreation.

NEW FEATURES

CHANGE THE NAME
Create a committee or hold a contest to create a new name better aligned with the main vision.

1 TRANSIT CONNECTION
Work with CAT to create a stop near the park entrance.

2 PARKING
To serve top of the hill trail.

3 DUMPSTER PLANTERS
Up-cycle dumpsters as planters to provide shade without penetrating the mound. Enlist artists to design each dumpster to tell a story of energy, consumption, and human impacts on the earth.

4 ART ON THE HILL
Provide a setting for student/community developed art to be placed on the mound. At the east, visitors will view the art from the trail and surrounding area.

5 PARKING
To serve mountain biking trails.

6 INTERPRETIVE VEGETATION
Plant bands of native vegetation in colored patterns around the hill to illustrate the height the landfill grew over a period of time. Pair the plantings with interpretive signage around the park.
ART LOOP TRAIL + STORY FENCE
Create a loop trail around the northern mound to link with Abbotts Creek Trail. To prevent access to the mound, install a story fence to educate visitors about waste, recycling, and re-use.

RECYCLE PLAY
A different take on nature play using recycled materials instead of natural elements to coincide with the theme of the park.

LOOP TRAIL
Create a greenway trail that loops the perimeter of the road and connects uses throughout the park with dog support facilities including fountains and waste stations.

PARKING
This lot will accommodate visitors to the skate trails and art loop.

SKATE TRAIL
Create a trail system with below-ground level and above-ground ramps. Plazas, railings, and jumps will be created specifically for tricks and challenges for multiple levels. The loop trail will continue on the outside of the skate trail to provide connectivity and observation.

TRAIL
To connect with Abbotts Creek Trail.

ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAIL
A new trail leading to the top of the main hill will be manageable for those with limited physical abilities with gradual slopes, landings, benches, and shade.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
Expand the trail network as planned in the previous master plan.

TOP OF THE HILL
To provide shade while preserving views.

PLAYGROUND
To provide shade for youth and adults.
### North Wake Landfill District Park

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North Wake Landfill County Park

Two foot contours

Recommendations

Recommendations | 4-36
Appendix A: Steering Committee and Focus Group Meeting Notes
Steering Committee Meetings

Wake County Park Kick off Meeting
Meeting Notes
March 4, 2015
Blue Jay Point

Introductions – Chris Snow Eric Staehle

- Why are we here: To update each of the park master plans; A primary recommendation of the Comprehensive Park master plan was to update each of the Master plans.
- Went through extensive RFQ process & review
- Established Project team and Steering Committee
- 6 month timeline
- Introduction of consultant team

(4 committee present- See attached attendance sheet)

Committee Introductions:

Phillip Woodward Access- Department of health and human services travel guide on accessible places in NC- goal of involvement is to include people of all abilities.

Kelli Braunbach- Facility management of all county facilities- look at right balance of growth (staff, space, etc.) that provide something that is manageable, implement it wisely and incrementally.

Tracy Howe YMCA- COO greater triangle- health and wellness and collaboration with parks important part of that process, childhood obesity- positive facilitated process, open and honest and STRATEGICALLY presented plan to move forward

Terri Luke- Library System- County wide facility partnerships; how can they do a better job for customers and also help libraries- what can we do to make parks a better place for customers?

Eric S. - Project PM, Wake County Facilities, excited to be working on parks- critical element is to be able to listen so he can reach out County wide as a part of this process. Wants to ensure a well facilitated process that can be executed, phased, and understood.

Matt Roylance, Deputy PROS Director, excited about what we can do with existing parks to make them more attractive. We want to get input from outside of staff perspective, vision for what parks should be and that the community gets excited about.

Sara Williamson Baker- Communications office- what does County look like through growth and make sure we get great public engagement in this process, having something that we can do and the public will be happy with.

Kenneth Withrow, CAMPO- how can we improve travel in County/Bike Ped. important, extensive system in this area, success would be to continue this trail growth in the County. Compared to Atlanta as far as loop system.

Dianne Sauer- City of Raleigh Parks & Rec. Director, happy to be here because of common threads and that all parks work together. County Commissioner approval, public engagement is key to success and making sure users have a voice and is implementable. Not just pretty pictures but has goals and steps to be used.

Chris Snow- Director of PROS County- Critical element is to recognize how much the County has changed, the transition of land use, and who is using it. Need to position County for what is coming next, ensure recommendations are implementable, and in partnership with those committee members.

Robert Hinson- Historical perspective of parks, getting diversity of ideas and input from a good cross section within the County. Successful product that will stir interest in the community to improve existing facilities, and maybe identify need for new parks. Spark interest. Allow natural resources present help dictate uses on land.

Tim Malony – Planning development and inspections. Long History with parks, 1 million people in August, 4th largest County in US. Need to meet the demand of the residents and demographics present. Reach out to stakeholders and complement our municipal services. Realistic solutions that the County move forward with.

Greg Johnson- Zebulon- Lifelong user of parks, manage parks in Zebulon. Make the parks even more welcoming to all families, seniors, adults, etc.

Jason Horton- Community Services- parks libraries, etc. undergrad in Parks and Rec and then public administration. Parks mean something different to many different people, what are the elements that are more suitable to County Parks?

Jenn Beedle- RRS- Serves as Wake County liaison to the State for PARTF and also provide technical assistance for outreach. Partnership and communication through all organizations. User satisfaction would be a great measure of success.

Loren Gold -Greater Raleigh CVB- Visitation is key; how do we drive more of our visitors in great outdoors all municipalities are important in this process. Open Space and Parks are part of the rebranding. Youth and Athletics huge but feel strong about live work play piece. Inventory of where growth is going. Helping craft the plan is very important so it can help visitors and the plan is realistic.

Chris Snow- Background-

- Mission statement on website is most up to date – 33 staff [Look and handout -confirm mission statement with County it’s different than website]
- 1 of 14 parks and recreation providers in the County – position themselves to provide recreational needs.
- Parks and recreation agency since 1976 without parks and they were a grant and aid department and transitioned to school parks improving school campuses above what was required.
- It then transitioned into County Parks
- Picked up Open Space Program, ATT, Existing Parks
- Core Services Review
- School User Groups
- The 2008 Plan was the first plan to be completed by an outside consultant
• Review of the Goals- Resource based parks, (no gyms, active fields, etc.) want to allow users access to natural resources. Do not want to compete with the municipalities in services.
• Buildings, cleaning products, etc. environmentally sensitive
• Aging Seniors, obesity youth population, allow people to know what is provided
• What are we counting and why, how can we measure services and well are we doing. Visitor survey. Latest Survey was from November 2013- result in Feb. 2014
• Been a long time since Wake County has built a new facilities.
• 30% of land protected as open space (about 1/3 has been achieved)
• Connectivity County wide for recreation, transportation.

What core goals do you think we need to follow for this project?
• Condition assessments are done each year- can we get that format and reviews
• Connectivity to each park in some form OTHER than the automobile
• (Q) why resource based – (A) do not duplicate or compete
• Are we identifying gaps in active recreation in municipalities?
• Marketing of Park System
• What parks are provided nearby and how are those parks being used?
• What kind of parks do we want to be? What are the non-negotiables?
  o A lot of the current parks are partnerships that are governed by other partners and agencies.
• Resource oriented parks- If the resource allows active recreation then it may be considered, however, if the resource it harmed, the use would not be allowed.
• Partnership for programs

Melissa presented the Live, Work, play draft, what it is comprised of and why we use it as part of the analysis.
• Overview of Boards/maps/LWP and equity
• We will look at context

Planning process Review
• Data Collection
• Mapping data collection
• Reading of past plans
• Understanding who people are- one site interviews with staff, what is important to ask
• Focus groups, intercept surveys
• Input, ideas, sketches, refine, input, etc.

Melissa discussed Communication overview (doodle Google)

Additional review items
• Park Condition Assessments
• Access North Carolina
• User satisfaction survey by NCSU

Public input- what do we want to know and who do want to talk to?
• User satisfaction
• How far are people willing to travel to the park (service depended)
• What do people want?
• HOW did they get to the park
• Where do people live or work that are using parks (geocode)
• Do they come to park with group, individual, etc?
• What challenges users faces when using facilities
• If you are not coming why are you not coming
• Bus access, how can people get to the park
• Marketing, how are people gaining information on parks currently
• Parking wayfinding, lighting, etc. support items
• Safety?
• USACE (stakeholder interviews- park specific)
• On-line survey (mind mixer)
• On-line presence (best option with Raleigh plan)
• On-line mapping plan (question with point and line data)

Break- then meet to review park maps as an overview
• Broke into groups with 2 parks at each table to conduct a preliminary review process. Each park table had the existing conditions draft map, previous master plans if completed, and an evaluation sheet. Groups completed preliminary review and presented discussion topics.
  o Time limited, will need follow up

Next Steps:
• Committee review of the park evaluation matrix
• Input from Committee on Public preference images
• Follow up to facility reviews and committee perspectives of each of the sites
• Consultant team to conduct staff interviews and conduct facilities inventory
• Refine exiting conditions of park trails and community trails nearby and leading to and from
• Obtain user satisfaction surveys for each of the Parks from the County
• Consultant team obtain condition assessments for each of the parks that are done each year.
Wake County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
April 20, 2015 Committee Meeting Minutes
Historic Yates Mill Pond Park

Committee Members in Attendance:
- Sarah Williamson
- Eric Staehle
- Matt Roylanre
- Chris Snow
- Philip Woodward
- Greg Johnson
- Kenneth Withrow
- Loren Gold
- Jenn Beedle
- Kelli Braunbach

Project Update:
- Field work in progress
- Greenway trails will be defined as those with human access only
- Organized trails by existing and proposed
- Started meeting with park directors and municipalities to understand if there is something a county park can provide in a local setting
- Reviewed community survey (see executive summary and survey highlights) and distilled the pertinent information from the customer satisfaction survey
- Staff interviews will be conducted after field review is complete

Group Activity
- Committee members broke into teams and reviewed each park separately to review survey data, field maps, and park information. Committee members reviewed all of the data and went through an exercise to provide comments per site.
- Each team developed the top three opportunities and challenges for each park:
  - Blue Jay Point County Park
    - Opportunities:
      - Gateway signage/clear entryway
      - Boat ramp/docking for lake access to park
      - Highlight the rope course; huge attraction with private marketing; leverage their marketing efforts to promote entire county system
      - Enhance and promote natural area playground
      - Mountain to Sea trail should be promoted
      - Programming offered to people with disabilities
    - Challenges:
      - Driving to the park can be difficult
      - Mountain biking policy?
      - Marketing efforts
  - North Wake Landfill District Park
    - Opportunities:
      - Best view in Wake County, great marketing opportunity
School will provide a lot of programming opportunity and park exposure—recycling, environmental, waste management, community project example

- Re-using the landfill for recreation

**Opportunities:**
- Well-loved park by the community! Appeals to a huge spectrum of ages and abilities
- Outreach and awareness of programs—education programs seem low on the spectrum of user survey; Online registration program!
- Connect to Umstead Park and the Black Creek Greenway in Cary; soon to be connected to Morrisville
- Paddle board rental new addition!
- Awareness to water quality
- Uniformity in marketing—brochures should have a color coded message that applies system wide

**Challenges:**
- Staff has trouble understanding cross cultural recreation needs
- RDU authority relationship
- PCB issues and liability—prohibits swimming

**Lake Crabtree County Park**
- Opportunities:
  - Structured Play, highlight historic element; how people played in the periods could be represented; Things kids can touch
  - Cross promotion between two historic parks? If you like Oak View, check out Yates Mill
  - Branding/PR/Uniformity in signage and brochures (survey doesn’t show heavy website usage for marketing) Social Media!

**Challenges:**
- Is it appealing to non-school users? How to attract other daily users; least visited according to user survey, but annual visitors were really high
- ADA access could be improved
- Surrounding land property; a lot of County owned property but not connected to the park

**Historic Oak View County Park**
- Opportunities:
  - Recreation; fishing and canoeing
  - Cross promoting with farm animal education with NCSU
  - Deaf programming, services for people with disabilities; When you leave the education center it’s accessible but turns to grass limiting access

- Rental venue (internal policy focuses on the mission of the park—staff isn’t set up for true corporate retreats)

**Challenges:**
- Public transportation
- Parking, overflow field on the right can be used

**Crowder District Park**
- Opportunities:
  - Individual marketing, survey shows driving by
  - Located in dense area of County; well-loved park, high usage
  - YMCA of Triangle close by, potential program partnership
  - Potential for additional land acquisition (would double acreage) for green space/natural area

**Challenges:**
- Ten-Ten Road, high traffic volume and high speed; could provide bike/ped access if improved

**American Tobacco Trail**
- Opportunities:
  - White Oak Creek connection will create connection from Downtown Durham to Raleigh via Walnut Creek and then access to Neuse River Trail (Huge regional connectivity to be embraced!)
  - Major destination for cyclists across the state, country

**Challenges:**
- Rest area accommodations, water breaks
- Lighting along the trail for commuting (Dawn to dusk policy)
- Define destinations with wayfinding signage to Cary, Apex, Holly Springs, Raleigh
- Safety from user conflict (bad reputation for crime)
- Bike/ped connectivity with trail spurs to developments to convert vehicular trips to the trail to bike/ped

**Harris Lake County Park**
- Opportunities:
  - West side of the property could be activated
  - Corporate retreat center?
  - Strong greenway connections from the park

**Challenges:**
- What does the future hold with Duke Energy expansion? If expand, lake level will rise 20ft vertically and cut park property in half
  - Develop a risk line based on expansion and contour lines

**General Notes/Comments:**
- What is the mission of each park? When was the last time they were updated? Do they align with community expectation for each park?
  - Next meeting the mission statements should be reviewed; Review with park director during interviews
- No vision statement for each park. Staff attempted in 2014, but nothing created
- System wide PR and outreach needs to be streamlined and updated
  - Brochures should have the same look, feel and content
Photography policy asks that people check in and acknowledge the rules for each park; free registration for yearly badge; targets professional photographers {City of Raleigh charges, but Wake county hasn’t tried that route

Wake County accessibility audit is in progress; detailed for lake crabtree park, prior to 88; next park is Blue Jay Point; A few years ago there was a facility review but not into details

As conducting field work, provide feedback on accessibility

**Alta/Sage To-do list:**
- Send links to specific documents committee members need to review
- Resend link to running comment sheet to continue conversation
- Review mission statement for each park
- Update GIS data on ATT map
- Ask CAMPO for funded LAPP bike/ped projects in Wake County

**Wake County Staff comments and To-do List:**
- Send mission statement for each park
- Send schematic drawing of Lake Crabtree, boat launch accessibility review report in progress
- Mountain bike trail master plan for Harris Lake, to be complete in next few weeks
- Working on conceptual schematic plan; Playground at Oakview, historic farm theme; preliminary review; expand parking; towards the amphitheater but closer to the park
- ATT Wimberly Rd parking lot expansion plus water facilities in partnership with Cary and Apex; no timeframe, will be at least two years out
- Send a copy of the CLH water study for ATT, Wimberly ranked the highest
- Define the three acre lease area for Blue Jay—Chis to send
- Blue Jay has major paving job this summer, maintenance improvements
- ATT crossing project to widen the crossing—changing the gate system; getting ready to bid for construction
- Amberly direct access to ATT from subdivision
- Church in Cary to add three access points; Church was to be an ATT trailhead; Erick to send plans and copperleaf development
- System map in all parks; market in both county and local parks
- Rgreenway app for county?
- Marketing focus group and invite communication staff from Cary, Raleigh, Apex, and County
- ATT close to beating Crabtree as the single most visited park in Wake County
- Staff interviews are a little more detailed and in the weeds since they know the park the best; give them enough of a heads-up as possible; send questions first and then have a follow-up interview; Every park has a wish list, x or y;
- TTA stop at Crabtree?
- CAT stop at N. Wake Landfill
Focus Groups

American Tobacco Trail Focus Group
June 29th, 2015

Welcome
Thank you for participating in this focus group. Your input is key to the success of the future of the County Parks and Recreation System. Please be open, honest, and respectful of your fellow participants. This focus group will last approximately one hour.

Agenda
10 minutes Welcome and Introductions
   Please share your name, organization, and why you are interested in participating.
   - Leslie Kennedy- equestrian representative for trail, lives right next to trail; instrumental in working with the County and NCDOT to extend ATT past May 64, has seen evolution of trail & its use, email address: jkenn75@gmail.com

15 minutes Park Overview
   What do you feel the role of county parks is for residents? For the group you represent?
   - Maintaining/managing trail
   - 3 counties should work together to make it as cohesive as possible, same rules & regs as move along trail
   - Don't need to distinguish which county is managing which section if all coordinated effort
   - Getting word out to residents of the county is important so they know of parks & use them more.
   - ATT: word of mouth gets plenty of people on trail,
     o People look it up online when moving to area or looking for a trail.
     o Most know about the Wake county section b/c it's so unique.
     o Marketing & news articles should include horseriding; often doesn't mention, which is disappointing.
     o Opportunity to celebrate & market ATT more as an equestrian trail- very limited facility type in the Triangle.

   Review of existing brochure, existing map, context of the park, user survey responses, site analysis, equity analysis.

15 minutes Evaluation of Use
   What is working well? What is not working well? What could we do to enhance visitor experience at the park? What could we do to provide better access to the park? How can we increase awareness of this park? What makes, or would make you come to the park (more) frequently?
   - Parking fills up quickly and sometimes blocks trailer access
   - Bikes zipping by scare the horses
   - The signs to let horses exit tunnel help cut down on user conflict
   - The trail surface is great in Wake Co!
     o Seems like there is always pressure to pave trail for bikes [Christina: just received a call about paving it]
     o Plenty of paved trails in area; its nice to have a unpaved/natural trail
     o Equestrians don't want to see the trail paved—it would eliminate equestrian use. The natural trail next to pavement is too narrow for horses, bikes fly by & scare horses, room for single-file only
   - Amenities wish list:
     o Water!
     o Hitching posts near bathrooms
     o Lighting: no strong preference, as long as lights aren't disruptive to neighboring homeowners
     o Parking/trailer access could be better
       - Designated trailer parking with signs?
       - Equestrians know weekends, summer are busy; tend to come during weekdays & winter
       - Overflow parking lot doesn't get used much; rest of areas will be full & overflow empty, in spite of signs, but once a car parks there, more will join
       - Expanding parking lot on Wimberly Rd- and possibly adding water at same spot!
     o More garbage cans, more than just at the parking lots- people toss trash, dog waste bags, water bottles, etc. on and along trail

10 minutes Key Outcomes and Closing
   Discuss key outcomes of the focus group. What are the top three takeaways?
   - Staff providing grocery bags for distribution in place of pet waste bags; no budget for buying bags
   - Horse waste: volunteer goes once per week to clean up horse waste (was twice weekly before and prior to events, but not necessary) – toss in woods. Not many complaints- not much waste on trails. Volunteers do Wake Co only (up to New Hope)
   - Great to have additional (neighborhood) connections to trail
Blue Jay Point County Park Focus Group
June 30th, 2015

Welcome
Thank you for participating in this focus group. Your input is key to the success of the future of the County Parks and Recreation System. Please be open, honest, and respectful of your fellow participants. This focus group will last approximately one hour.

Agenda
10 minutes Welcome and Introductions
   Please share your name, organization, and why you are interested in participating.
   - Chip – Go Ape, great relationship between Go Ape & park
   - Bailey – loves trails (child)
   - Austin Branch – finance YMCA- loves running camp Blazin’ trails, unique opportunity
   - Jeff Braver- neighbor, leading effort to maintain MST in area
   - Matt– leads LaCrosse group (elem kids) - loves staff
   - Cheryl Stevens - 3rd grade teacher at Franciscan School- loves bringing kids in art classes to do things they’ve never done
   - Deborah Filer- open space mgr, former mgr of BJP- favorite is hiking upper boston creek trail b/c one of most challenging and most peaceful
   - Ben – park mgr at BJP, loves being able to offer a bit of everything to users- educational experiences, solitude, passive recreation
   - D’Nise Heffner – asst programs director - loves that this is perfectly typical piedmont habitat environment, so teaching people about what’s here shows them what’s in their backyard
   - Stephanie - former employee, now a frequent visitor, loves most that it’s here, garden & ponds

15 minutes Park Overview
   What do you feel the role of county parks is for residents? For the group you represent?
   - Lack of education on the differences between county parks vs municipal or state parks
   - Cover bigger areas- outside city limits at start so more easily able to be a natural area with some recreation vs city parks that are oriented toward active recreations
   - BJP marketing:
     - Enewsletters, fb, calendar, spend huge amount of time letting people know park is here
     - Passive recreation park- more outdoorsy/rustic than traditional mun park
     - If want to draw more people, would need to open up more recreational opportunities (e.g., turning some trails into mountain bike trails)

   o Park signs on Six Forks Rd/Highway 98 not overly visible & are easy to pass before realizing it’s there
   o Can leverage Go Ape marketing to drive foot traffic with less impact/work for County staff
   o Appreciate fact that there aren’t mtn bike trails. Focus kids on each other & being outside. Like that the lodge is separated from fields and active recreation areas

Review of existing brochure, existing map, context of the park, user survey responses, site analysis, equity analysis.

10 minutes Mission
   Is the park representative of the mission statement? Should the mission statement change? Should the park be modified to fulfill the mission?
   - Doesn’t mention recreation & a component of the park is recreation based.
   - Important to keep nature in mission statement b/c this isn’t a manicured field.
   - Seems park is living up to mission statement. Easy to see environmental education in natural setting.
   - If recreation isn’t the purpose of BJP, do we want to go that way with it?
   - Turning blind eye to part of what park is all about- playground, lacrosse fields, Go Ape, etc- half of park being used in a different way than mission statement indicates.
   - If add recreation to mission statement, then changes should ensue (e.g., updating lacrosse field)- must add objectives and goals to live up to it.
   - Dissenting opinion: adding rec to mission statement isn’t a guarantee of providing a certain LOS.

15 minutes Evaluation of Use
   What is working well? What is not working well? What could we do to enhance visitor experience at the park? What could we do to provide better access to the park? How can we increase awareness of this park? What makes, or would make you come to the park (more) frequently?
   - Like having recreation & natural education/amenities separate b/c solitude & peace not possible right next to recreation.
   - Dissenting opinion that it’s not necessary to have park split up between recreation & natural space
   - Unlimited budget/wish list:
     - Paved parking lot to give users a more professional appeal when coming to Go Ape
     - Better water access – an easy way to get a kayak into the water (not motorized/boat ramp, but not hauling a kayak a mile)
     - Fishing pier
     - Parking lot can be unsafe loading groups of kids; carpool loop would be helpful
Historic Oak View County Park Focus Group – 6/9/15

Welcome and Introduction
Everyone introduced themselves and stated what they loved most about the park:
- Janet – great staff, cotton gin history
- Mike – new trails
- Debbie – new trails
- Marty – goats
- Betsy – house and cemetery
- Josh – education department, impact on students who come
- Matt – working at the park
- Matt – tenant house
- Emily – continuously enjoyable and opportunities to make an impact

Park Overview
- The role of county parks vs. local parks
  - Historically different purpose, local parks tend to be smaller, county parks tend to be larger with large scale recreational opportunities
  - County parks serve areas that don’t have local parks
  - Users don’t care about the difference
  - People come for something to do together as a family
- Marketing:
  - Brochures are guides, not marketing pieces
  - Website, social media for engagement
    - Website is static, not that informative, maybe move info from brochure onto website to make more dynamic
    - Spend more energy on the website – spruce up framework to have a larger conversation
    - Park has a very active facebook page, used to engage public and share programming and event info
  - Brochures are marketing for people who are already aware of the park
  - Name of park is not descriptive – add farm center, historic property, more descriptive title to draw people in
  - Historic Oak View Farm County Park
  - Usage – “I didn’t know this park was here” “had a hard time finding this”
    - No front entrance sign, doesn’t say park name, needs better wayfinding
    - Once people find park, they come back – young families
    - Users tend to be the people who work in the area over people who live here
    - Don’t have trouble filling programs but instead need to grow daily visitation
  - Access – everyone is driving, no biking or walking because it’s not accessible
Appendix A | 10

2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

Historic Yates Mill County Park Focus Group – 6/17/15

Welcome and Introduction
- Jill Adams, YMA
- Gary Hunter, YMA
- Herb Euting, YMA
- Carolyn Solomon, YMA
- Rebecca Cope, Wake County

Park Overview
- There’s a need for a county wide policies manual – evacuations, photographers, hours, dogs, events, etc.
  - Accessible to staff - emergency action plan?
- The existing master plan should be available on-line for public review
- The role of county parks vs. local, city or state
  - Need to change the thought that just because people pay taxes, there should be no park free
  - Each partner should support the others—financially, volunteers/staff (YMA, Wake County, NCSU)
  - Different rules for different parks, Yates Mill is only park that doesn’t allow dogs
  - Need better directed marketing
    - People don’t know it’s here
    - People see ads on public tv, pictures in paper—that will bring people to the park
    - Make website more interactive, tourism sites, chamber of commerce
      - Add content so that people don’t have to click on the brochure for the information about each park
    - This is a historic park – specify how each park is different, where you can go with dogs and where you can’t
      - Need a visitor center sign
      - Potential for a walking entrance from sidewalk on Poole road for direct park access

Mission
- Wordy, not catchy, lots of commas, get rid of first part and start at Historic Oak
  - Very broad, geographically incorrect
- Good key words – agricultural heritage, recreational opportunities, exhibits, events, education, piedmont NC,
  - Not sure about “passive recreation”, what does that really mean?

Evaluation of Use
- What’s working well?
  - New trails: 2 new loops totaling a mile
  - Goats – want to add more animals, living working farm
    - Mules, chickens, more goats, feasible chicken run
  - What can be improved on?
    - Amphitheatre not used, doesn’t fit into program, takes you away from main part of park
    - Parking for events is a challenge, better than other parks (shuttles, free), not enough parking within park
      - No clear parking signs for day users, not always intuitive, can’t see visitors center from entrance way
      - Need a visitor center sign
  - Access – sidewalk across street, link trails to City of Raleigh greenways, crabtree or neuse river;
  - Add trail connectors into office park
    - Potential for a walking entrance from sidewalk on Poole road for direct park access

Key Outcomes and Closing
- If there was an unlimited budget, what would you add?
  - Playground with a farm theme; creates an all day experience
  - More out buildings - chicken coup, well house, smoke house, farm related buildings, working cotton gin house
  - More animals and staff: Park Technician for Operations
  - Playground, animals, staff - increasing visitation
  - Become a working farm – add mule and chickens
    - Already have the barn, stalls in paddock,
    - Find a mule that’s good with goats and children
    - Means more responsibility for part time staff on weekends
  - Finish permanent exhibits in buildings and each house.  Redo exhibits in visitor building
    - Already have concepts and plans for new exhibits, just need funding

Programming
- Strong part of the park, no big picture changes or requests from patrons
- Offering more on recreational programs – new ishing programs going well
- Park Board started as steering committee and became board, began early 1980’s

Mission
- Longer version mentions stewardship and partnerships (unique feature of this park)
- Mission statement should be added to the webpage

Evaluation of Use
Access to mill is important, and it is currently straightforward and easy to access
You have to know about the trails to find them
People should come to the park center before going to the mill; Would require changes to the trail system to funnel through the center
  ∗ Photographers will register, learn about the park and its programs
  ∗ Monitor who goes to mill, keep an eye on groups,
Register on historic properties?
Need directional signs on Lake Wheeler Road (brown street signs)
  ∗ Signs on fence are not visible
Add a playground?
  ∗ Parking issue, what’s the point for this park? doesn’t add value to this park
  ∗ May attract more day users
  ∗ Will change the current atmosphere of the park, add noise
Repeat bird watchers, fishers, painters, photographers
  ∗ Benefits to being a calm park in drawing people back
The mill typically is a one time use, don’t see a lot of repeat tour groups
Currently the play area for kids, library, provide other ways to attract kids without having a playground
Day users come mainly to use walking trails
  ∗ They could use improvement, rough terrain, needs better signage
  ∗ Paving would make it handicap accessible but no longer be “hiking” trails
Close relationship with Crowder Park?
  ∗ For shelter, playground, dogs—is there a need to recreate that at Yates Mill?

Key Outcomes and Closing
If you had an unlimited budget and the political will, what would you change to the physical layout of the park?
  ∗ Add more land
    ∗ Preservation, refuge, do more for the trail system
    ∗ Add a store, shelter, parking
  ∗ A way to add shelters for reunions and meetings, brings different types of visitors to the park
    ∗ Will need to address parking issues
  ∗ Need more volunteers for the mill, all programs should include a tour (for school groups)
    ∗ Better marketing to get the word out
Mill Tour Hours: people need to know the hours, are often turned away
  ∗ Can’t have an open door policy—it’s a protected, historic property
Mill handicap ramp to provide access for visitors of all abilities
  ∗ Is there a way to do this without impacting the historical integrity?
Make professional photographers register and pay a fee

Lake Crabtree County Park Focus Group - 6/9/15

Welcome and Introductions
  ∗ What people love most about park:
    ∗ Trail system
    ∗ Overall relaxed atmosphere
    ∗ Diversity of what is available
    ∗ Accessibility to so many people in area
    ∗ Staff and sunsets
    ∗ Diversity and accessibility, picnic
    ∗ Amenities, training opportunities
    ∗ Adapted accessibility, the team/staff make people feel welcome
    ∗ No motors on water policy

Park Overview
  ∗ County parks should provide?
    ∗ Opportunities for healthy recreation and reflection
    ∗ County is more inclusive, everyone in the county treated equally
    ∗ Preservation of natural space in middle of developing area, place to enjoy trails and nature the way it used to be
    ∗ Enjoy a natural setting, provide diversity
  ∗ Park Marketing:
    ∗ Online doesn’t mean much, it’s more important to hear a recommendation from friends or people you know – don’t put a lot of weight on printed material
    ∗ Website is important for people to learn about the park, rules, facilities – forums on the website, trail reports
    ∗ Web over brochures; important to include clubs and privately run activities and volunteer opportunities – link new comers to local clubs
    ∗ Brochures not a tool to bring people to park, just to introduce once they are here and provide great maps
    ∗ Raleigh CAC structure – develop park group that gets to together and discuss events and opportunities at park
    ∗ Brochure pictures could show more user diversity: wheelchair fisherman, blind walker on trail, etc.
  ∗ Trail Signage: closed or open trail announcements, signs needed at trail intersections, more maps on trail, paths aren’t one direction
  ∗ Need site line pruning along trails.
  ∗ Park Usage:
    ∗ Maintaining interest in park does not necessarily meant that levels of visitors increase but attracting different types of users.
    ∗ Park is not yet at capacity, although sometimes the trails feel overcrowded
    ∗ Bigger user numbers mean bigger influence, money, resources, opportunities
  ∗ Bathrooms
    ∗ Not yet accessible - rental bathrooms first, then day use, then boat ramp
Mission
- Mission statement is missing an educational component
- Draft: To serve the growing needs of all Wake County residents by having leisure, recreational, and education programs available in a natural setting

Evaluation of Use
- What is missing or needs improvement?
  - Greenway connectivity around the area, especially to Umstead State Park
  - Ability to access park via bike
  - Signs saying user skills required for different trails
  - Accessible dock improvements coming July 1
  - Shelter area, no winds so good place to start
    - Bad logistics – no bathroom, floodplain
  - What’s working well:
    - Parking for different uses of the park is spread out
  - Not working well
    - Need a parking lot in the back (towards Cary)

Key Outcomes and Closing
- If budget was no issues, what would you add to the park?
  - Assuming we have an accessible dock – add an accessible tree house to make it truly A family friendly park
  - Wind, something to do to make other areas of the lake easier to sail model boats – current location makes it difficult
  - Protect the park and surrounding areas, make area bigger and easier to use freely
  - Trails: add more terrain and a beginners area,
    - If too much catering towards beginners, lose community involvement of higher level
    - Would be great to add at least a short beginner loop, within larger intermediate park – better signage to make people aware of where to go for which experience
  - Dredging (bird island) to provide better access for long stretches of rowing
  - Expand area closer to parkway entrance, share docks
  - Love that there are no motorboats on lake – please don’t change that!

North Wake Landfill District Park Focus Group
June 30th, 2015

Welcome
Thank you for participating in this focus group. Your input is key to the success of the future of the County Parks and Recreation System. Please be open, honest, and respectful of your fellow participants. This focus group will last approximately one hour.

Agenda
10 minutes Welcome and Introductions
Please share your name, organization, and why you are interested in participating.
- Johnny — Solid Waste, worked for landfill/park for 30 years
- Ben — Park manager at Blue Jay & N Wake; most interested in potential use for N Wake, love current amenities but think it offers a unique space for the county & adjoining neighborhoods, nice place to host events, untapped resource
- John — Solid Waste; want to make good use of something generally considered not useful; good example of what can be done
- Deborah — Open Space Manager (previous park manager), favorite is view from top of hill; like lots of good connections; thinks most people aren’t aware of connections & parking available;
- Mary — Park aid at N Wake; favorite thing = repurposed landfill; like top of hill; likes to see birds using hill; likes view; lots of people in area don’t know about park but those that know about it enjoy.
- D’Nise — Assistant park manager of programs for Blue Jay & N Wake; has visited site many years as resident off waste; has toured facility as part of solid waste tours when was active landfill; exciting that in a fairly short time later it looks completely different. Looking forward to possible trees in the future.

15 minutes Park Overview
What do you feel the role of county parks is for residents? For the group you represent?
- Fit well between city/local & state parks
- Resources for events (e.g., triathlons), whereas state parks don’t have staff and local parks don’t have resources
- Bottom line: people don’t care who is providing resource/support for park (city/county/state)
- Marketing
  - Many people who live near park don’t know it’s here b/c you have to look for it to find it.
  - Signs aren’t visible, people driving by don’t see it or notice it.
Incredible School Users teach landfill was Street Feels o o o o o o People o o o o Unappealing o o o o Looks o o o o o o Connection Not o o o o o o o o Big always vital to transit—being a driveway off the park entrance.

- Park entrance is a driveway off the entrance to a maintenance shed instead of the maintenance shed being a driveway off the park entrance.
  - Creates confusion
  - Looks very industrial & uninviting
  - People not sure who has right of way
  - Feels “like pulling into a prison”
  - Street name “Dupont” may need to be renamed in sections because it turns several times with the same name

- Name is officially “North Wake Landfill District Park”
  - Confusing (is it a landfill or a park?)
  - Unappealing
  - While it’s important to reference the history & make visitors aware of the unique & special nature of the park being built on recycled trash—the word “landfill” shouldn’t be in the park name

- Will always be a landfill—nature of what’s there, permits, etc. Will always operate as a closed landfill: can’t build/plant on hills, must monitor

- Incredible opportunity for parks and solid waste division to promote what has been built and teach about the functions that go on out there—predominantly recycling and reduction functions

- School nearby will be themed for environmental education

- Waste Mgt had active partnership with Falls River HOA for many years—not active anymore but was vital to building park

15 minutes Evaluation of Use

What is working well? What is not working well? What could we do to enhance visitor experience at the park? What could we do to provide better access to the park? How can we increase awareness of this park? What makes, or would you come to the park (more) frequently?

- Users
  - Playground is busiest part of park
  - Big shelter: huge birthday parties (a lot) — need more trash cans/recycling
  - Mornings: exercise groups (8-15 people meeting at park & having aerobics class on top of hill)
  - Not many arriving by transit, even though this park has better than average transit access: comment that it’s not advertised/knew that park can be accessed by transit

- Walk-ins coming off trails from neighborhoods
  - Very few mountain bikers use skills course — would increase # of users by expanding trails; little kids on skills course more than adult mountain bikers
  - Gas to energy plant will remain, but as of Dec, operation may change that allows for more options. DTE will remain involved but county may take over operations, may open up connection through area
  - 3 sediment ponds no longer needed—can be closed or incorporated into trails; will probably need to repair risers (not failing, but not in great shape)
  - “Prospect Hill” will be difficult to grant public access: it’s an unplanned landfill, area is completely gated & fenced (trail is on outside)

- Potential for trail around pond between Gas Energy Facility & Prospect Hill unplanned landfill

- Wish List:
  - Shade at the playground! Much needed—shade structures, trees (need water!)
  - Public art at necessary fenced structures—visually appealing & exciting without affecting function, soften industrial feel, possible education opportunities, interpretive art, possible project with school next door or School of Design at NCSU
  - Modify entrance & make it look like a park
  - Park staff & a permanent space/offices/reception area for greeting public on site—currently in trailer that’s inaccessible from 7pm – 9pm (last 2 hours of park’s open day) when waste services has to close their gate

- Need water/eavestroughs access (trigger annexation by City of Raleigh?)

- Eliminate skills course due to lack of use & repurpose the space? Not a lot of space, and not sure what else could go there besides trail; maybe people would use fitness equipment/fitness trail there (ask public)

- Being able to host 5Ks/events! Potential to develop a joint use agreement with WPS for parking access. Picnic shelter perfect gathering point. Many requests for events. Need parking that doesn’t use trails/event space as ingress/egress. Would need additional staff.

- Trail access/system between school/community center could draw in parents & such waiting for kids practicing on fields at school—need something that draws them in & explains what park is—interpretive trail?

- Education & interpretive info (& benches!) along trail going uphill to views

- Signage that leads people up the hill from the parking area

- Access up back side of hill close to playground: issues with drainage berms built into hill but would be great since people go up that side anyway; could be limited to foot traffic only that isn’t paved—would need to avoid well placements (John to send CAD files)

- ADA access is needed so all people of all abilities can enjoy view

- Shade at top of hill would help—people use picnic tables; soil is 6’ deep before hitting landfill liner, but small shelters for individual tables could work
Toilet seats would make restrooms more user friendly

Mission of North Wake Landfill District Park
No existing mission statement. Use the space below to draft a mission statement or list key words you think should be included in the mission statement.

- Buzz Words to be added:
  - Provide recreational opportunities
  - Educational opportunities
  - Partnerships
  - Stewardship
  - Environment
  - Greenway connections/access from neighborhoods & schools
Appendix B: Public Input Boards
Overview

The County Project Management Staff and consultant team presented the proposed recommendations, refined with the Steering Committee, to the public through an online survey and through on-site surveys at the parks.

On-site meetings at the park were held on the following dates:
- September 19, 2015 – Historic Yates Mill, Harvest Celebration
- September 26, 2015 – Historic Oak View, Storytelling Festival
- October 17, 2015 – Harris Lake, Haunting at Harris
- October 17, 2015 – American Tobacco Trail
- October 24, 2015 – Lake Crabtree, Creepy Crabtree

The public was asked to review maps of each park, review descriptions, and provide feedback on the recommendations provided. The recommendations boards from these meetings follows in these pages.
APPENDIX B

MAIN VISION:
This park, fitting with the area's coastal, creative, and historic traditions, serves as a key place for gathering and relaxing. It is a place for people of all ages and abilities to come together, play, and create memories. The park celebrates the history of the area while also providing opportunities for play and learning. The park design is based on the natural features of the site and the needs of the community.

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES
- A dedicated ADA-accessible trail
- Signage in both English and Spanish
- Restrooms and water fountains
- Picnic tables
-ベンチ
- Trash receptacles
- Bicycle racks
- Pet waste stations

NEW FEATURES
- A new playground
- A community garden
- A farmers' market
- A pet-friendly park
- A dog park

EXPANSION AREA
- A planned expansion to the north
- A potential for additional parking

CONCLUSIONS
- The park will be a valuable asset to the community.
- It will provide opportunities for socializing, learning, and recreation.
- The design is mindful of the natural features of the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Regular maintenance to ensure the park remains accessible and enjoyable.
- Involvement of the community in decision-making processes.
- Collaboration with local organizations and businesses.

Appendix B

Appendix B
Blue Jay Point County Park

Crowder District Park

draft recommendations for public review

general comments

Map and interpret trails

Better water fountains

Vegetation management

Yoga class

Better water filters

Poetry reading

Steam circles

Park Signs

Awesome

### Map Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Map Notes</th>
<th>Other Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Area</td>
<td>Create a new &quot;Picnic&quot; area in the park, including benches, tables, and grills.</td>
<td>![Picnic Table Image]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Path</td>
<td>Expand the existing nature path and add benches along the way.</td>
<td>![Nature Path Image]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardens</td>
<td>Enhance the urban garden by adding more native plants and flowers.</td>
<td>![Garden Image]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Environmental Stewardship</td>
<td>Create a public health and environmental stewardship park, including educational signage and programming.</td>
<td>![Environmental Signage Image]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Comments:**
- The Picnic Area would be great in the southern part of the park.
### Harris Lake County Park

**Map Details**

**Step 1: Review Map**

- **Existing Feature**
- **Modified Feature**
- **Proposed Feature**

**Step 2: Review Descriptions**

Read the numbered items below and place a check mark in the appropriate box.

### General Comments

**Harris Lake County Park** draft recommendations for public review.

---

### Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

*Appendix B | 2016*
### Step 1: Review Map

**Map Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Greenspace</td>
<td>Create a space for outdoor activities and relaxation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Water Access</td>
<td>Improve access to the water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Wildlife Habitat</td>
<td>Create a habitat for local wildlife.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Step 2: Review Descriptions

#### Map Details

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<th>Description</th>
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</tr>
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<td>3. Wildlife Habitat</td>
<td>Create a habitat for local wildlife.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### General Comments

- **Historic Yates Mill County Park**
- For public review.
- Draft recommendations for public review.

---

**Historic Yates Mill County Park**

Draft recommendations for public review.

---

**Historic Yates Mill County Park**

Draft recommendations for public review.
### Historic Yates Mill County Park

#### Draft Recommendations for Public Review

**Review Map**
- **Step 1**: Review Map
  - Existing Feature
  - Proposed Feature
- **Step 2**: Review Descriptions
  - Read the numbered items below and place a tick mark in the appropriate box.

**Map Details**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Add additional trails throughout the park with ease of access to various areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enhance access to the south end of the park with benches, trash cans, and restrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Create a large, multi-use event area with large shade trees, benches, and restrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Add additional sidewalks throughout the park with ease of access to various areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Comments**

- **Historic Yates Mill**: Enhance visitor center and interpretive displays.
- **Diversity**: Increase diversity of plant species and native wildlife habitats.

**Historic Yates Mill County Park**

- **Draft Recommendations for Public Review**

---

**Appendix B | 12**

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016**
### Lake Crabtree County Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Image 1</th>
<th>Image 2</th>
<th>Image 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased accessibility for individuals with varying abilities</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image 2" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image 3" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced green space</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image 2" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image 3" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved amenities</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image 2" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image 3" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### North Wake Landfill District Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
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<th>Image 2</th>
<th>Image 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased green space</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image 2" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image 3" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved amenities</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image 2" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image 3" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced accessibility</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image 2" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image 3" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C: Recommendations Evolution
Overview

The recommendations of this plan were developed through the evaluation of existing conditions by Wake County staff and the consultant team and input through public engagement by the Steering Committee, focus groups, park staff, and the general public. Each recommended addition or modification was considered through the lenses of staff, management, citizens, visitors, users, and non-users of all ages and abilities. This multi-faceted recommendation development process was documented in the spreadsheets that follow.

For each topic evaluated, these spreadsheets document:

• Existing data in the form of existing memoranda of understanding, existing plans, and past community surveys
• Demand and site analysis performed by the consultant team
• Public input from Steering Committee meetings, focus groups, staff, and the general public
• Recommendations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>NDCs and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Polls Community Survey</th>
<th>LWP</th>
<th>Steering Committee Ideas</th>
<th>Focus Group</th>
<th>Site Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Categorical</td>
<td>Currently there are lease agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Town of Cary. Sub-leases exist with the State of North Carolina and Wake County for the trails within Jordan Lake greenlands (New Hill and William).</td>
<td>Most important service: 1. Acquiring Open Space 2. Expanding Greenways System 3. Developing Large Regional Parks Future 4. Maintaining Improving Services 5. Providing environmental Cultural Historic education</td>
<td>Most important service: 1. Acquiring Open Space 2. Expanding Greenways System 3. Developing Large Regional Parks Future 4. Maintaining Improving Services 5. Providing environmental Cultural Historic education. What does this mean? The citizens show support for acquiring open space. The County should remain vigilant about opportunities to acquire lands to meet their conservation goals as well as to preserve and educate the community about the importance of open space. The greenway system is critical for livability in the county (the greenway plan is already being executed).</td>
<td>This is Part of the East Coast Greenway and it is hardly acknowledged or explored.</td>
<td>Expansions across weekends, summer are busy, lead to come during weekdays &amp; water</td>
<td>No current policy on horse waste; learn from trail and discards in woods. Should consider “bag your horse” policy, so that waste material does not become a water quality concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission and Education</td>
<td>Needs to have a message of transportation, orientation, and education on how you are in the triangle.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections to Other Facilities</td>
<td>A Wake Oak Creek connection and create connection from downtown Durham to Raleigh via Walnut Creek and then access to Neuse River Trail (single regional connectivity to be embraced)</td>
<td>A Wake Oak Trail connectivity with trail spas to developments to convert vehicular trips to the marina to bike/ped.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Repair Stations</td>
<td>Water stations needed for people and animals</td>
<td>Water stations needed!</td>
<td>Provide bike repair stations at the trailheads.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Accessibility</td>
<td>Most-used points in last 12 months: 1. Lake Crabtree (35.4) 2. Harris Lake (40.5) 3. American Tobacco Trail (31.1) 4. Historic Vance Mill (29.2) 5. Crabtree (50.4) 6. Blue Jay (35.9) 7. Historic Oak View (22.0) 8. N. Wake Landfill (24.0)</td>
<td>What does this mean: Crabtree, Harris Lake, ATT, and Yates are a priority for addressing challenges like ADA accessibility or maintenance issues. Waxhaw, Oak View, and Landfill trail outreach campaigns to increase use. Blue Jay is a bit of an outlier. Oak View now is special use – this can be changed with the recommendations. Landfill could use a PR campaign and additional comfort/uses to activate.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Drinking Water and Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Need area accommodations and aid stations for water breaks are needed. Water is needed!!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections to Transit</td>
<td>Why are they not using parks: 1. Prefer to use City or State Parks 2. Too Far/Don’t have transportation 3. Not convenient 4. Hours not convenient 5. Time Constraints/Personal Issues 6. Don’t know</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Steering Committee and Staff Workshop</td>
<td>Public Input</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Preserves</td>
<td>Remove</td>
<td>Modify</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Categorical</td>
<td>There were approximately 224 survey respondents through community events and online surveys. Responses varied from question to question. Percentages highlighted below are specific to that topic.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission and Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections to Other Facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Repair Stations</td>
<td>Provide bike repair stations at the trailheads.</td>
<td>69% of respondents support adding bike repair stations to trailheads.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Accessibility</td>
<td>More benches are needed along the trail at a greater frequency.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Drinking Water and Food</td>
<td>69% of survey respondents support the idea of having water stations for people and animals along the trail and specifically at the trailheads. 4% of people support the idea of food vending ALONG the trail. However, it was noted that 2% were &quot;unsure&quot; because they supported the idea of having food vending at trailheads but not the idea of vendors along the trail.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecti0ns To Transit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There were approximately 215 survey respondents through community events and online surveys. Response varied from question to question. Percentages highlighted below are specific to that topic.

Provide more interpretation on the history and evolution of transportation in relationship to the past and current use of the rail line.

More educational opportunities, history and environmental.

Create a standard for connections from Spine Trails and neighborhoods so there is consistency.

Staff supports this and would love to see them at trailheads at a minimum.

Provide parking and bollard spacing that allow for wheelchair, stroller, and bike carriage accessibility.

Provide water stations along the trail. Provide vending through carts and markets at the parking areas and trailheads.

Staff supports access to drinking water and considers it the highest priority. Considers access to food vending at trailheads a great idea. (Vending trucks, etc. but NOT along the trail)

Work with nearby businesses to connect to key trail locations to assist distance commuters with transportation connections.
### Outreach and Awareness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Email Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Brochures/Fliers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Conversations with Staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What does this mean: Keep up the good work on the newsletter and consider increasing frequency. Make sure the newsletter is archived on the website. Nationally, Facebook is the number one source for learning about parks and recreation programs so the County should increase the Facebook and social media presence.

### Health and Wellness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Goal/Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Major destination for cyclists across the state; county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safety from user conflict (bad reputation for crime)</td>
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</table>

### Wayfinding and User Orientation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Goal/Requirement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Define destination with wayfinding signage to Cary, Apex, Holly Springs, Raleigh</td>
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### Programs

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### Priorities

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### Parking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>MOUs and Existing Plans Past Community Survey LWP Steering Committee Ideas Focus Group Site Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Parking/trailer access could be better&lt;br&gt;- Is there an opportunity for designated trailer parking with signs?&lt;br&gt;- Overflow parking lot doesn’t get used much—rest of areas will be full &amp; overflow empty; in spite of signs, but since a car parks there, more will join.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trailhead Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>MOUs and Existing Plans Past Community Survey LWP Steering Committee Ideas Focus Group Site Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trailhead</td>
<td>- Lighting along the trail for commuting (Dawn to dusk policy)&lt;br&gt;- Hitching posts near bathrooms are needed for horse riders&lt;br&gt;- Lighting: no strong preference, as long as lights aren’t disruptive to neighboring homeowners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trailhead Facilities

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### Priorities

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### Outreach and Awareness

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### Health and Wellness

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### Trailhead Facilities

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<td>- Major destination for cyclists across the state, country&lt;br&gt;- Safety from user conflict (bad reputation for crime)</td>
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<td>Priorities</td>
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</table>
## Blue Jay Point County Park

### History and Education

- **Red River Bends**
  - Jacksonville College (JJC)
  - Harris Lake (70.6)
  - Riverwalk (70.6)
  - Browns Ferry (88.3)
  - Old Mill (70.6)
  - Hallarock State Park (88.3)
  - N. W. Woodard #8 (4.2)

- **N. W. Woodard #9 (4.2)**
  - Blue Jay Point
  - Crabtree (4.2)
  - Yates Mill (53.2)

- **Park**
  - Crabtree (4.2)
  - Yates Mill (53.2)
  - Blue Jay Point
  - Crabtree (4.2)
  - Yates Mill (53.2)

### Access and Safety

- **Wildlands of NC to Blue Jay Point to serve as a recreational area between Harris Lake and Wake County to operate Blue Jay Point as a park: the lower runs until 2016 and author plans for active recreational park development;**

- **Historic Lake Waterfall: Fluctuating shorelines.**

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<th>Learning Committee and Staff Workgroup</th>
<th>Public Input</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
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<th>Modify</th>
<th>Staff Support</th>
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<td>Non-Categorical</td>
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<td>Connections to Transit</td>
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<td>• Highlight the rope course, upscale it and provide marketing; leverage their marketing efforts to generate notice county-wide.</td>
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<td>• Mountain to Sea trail should be promoted</td>
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<td>• The parking area is difficult to access</td>
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<td>• Programming opportunities along the trail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ADA access to lake shore / ADA fishing access / ADA platforms</td>
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<td>• Office expansion (staff is reviewing programming needs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• STAFF SUPPORTS – Cool idea, BUT no parking or access through the maintenance shop area; refer to facility only a concern is location – don't think it needs its own parking or signage. There are existing access points (10 minutes paddle time to _______)</td>
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<td>• Shade/canopy benches at playground</td>
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<td>• Individual canopy picnic tables? (similar to some rest stops)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Accessibility to natural play area</td>
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<td>• Don't pave Go Ape parking area</td>
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<td>• Blueway trail – primary purpose would be time reference points</td>
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<td>• Interpretive opportunities along the trail.</td>
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<td>• Add more interpretation in a variety of ways (reading, touch, site, etc.) so they become accessible to varied ages and abilities.</td>
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<td>• Expand hiking opportunities throughout; add a challenge hiking course next to the existing maintenance area; offer primitive/organized group camping exit 1981 through trail camping sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>• STAFF SUPPORTS – Cool idea, BUT no parking or access through the maintenance shop area; refer to facility only. Concern is location – don't think it needs its own parking or signage. There are existing access points, but no vertical drop to _______</td>
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<td>• Programming offered to people with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Create a paved on/off ramp accessible loop around the primary park features linking the center, ponds, nature based play, lake, playground, gardens, and historically based trails that are served from that center. This would include interactive programs, interpretive features, and spaces that serve a variety of abilities.</td>
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<td>• There are no nearby transit stations that serve this park (area).</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
<td>MOUs and Existing Plans</td>
<td>Past Community Survey</td>
<td>LWP</td>
<td>Meeting/Committee/Task</td>
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<td>Parking</td>
<td>Get a clear sign that entry of starting point clearly articulate arrival to the park.</td>
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<td>Get a good drop-off area for drop-offs. Consider a large drop-off area if possible.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provide parking lot to give users a more professional appeal when coming to the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access via Walking and Hiking</td>
<td>Recommend the bike trail should be prioritized.</td>
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<td>More comprehensive fact that there are not environmentally friendly.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Planning to link the trail with some of the University Field Laboratories including constructing a greenway trail from the Dairy Museum to the park.</td>
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<td>The plans exist conceptually and are not currently funded.</td>
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<td>Walking and Hiking</td>
<td>The lease does not allow for paved trails along the Mountains to Sea Trail (November Trail). This trail should remain unpaved.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What does this mean: First – this identifies the demand for these activities in all of the parks. Second, it illustrates what is currently successful. And third, it may indicate that people are unaware of the other types of activities in the park system.</td>
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<td>Need to rate trails based upon difficulty. There should be a hierarchy of trails so that walking and hiking are accessible to all abilities of users.</td>
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<td>The lease states the Mountains to Sea Trail shall be advertised.</td>
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<td>What does this mean: 1. Keep up the good work on the newsletter and website. 2. Make sure the newsletter is on the website. Nationally, Facebook is the number one source for learning about parks and recreation programs so the County should increase the Facebook and social media presence.</td>
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<td>Make the website more interactive. Better marketing to get the word out.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What they are doing: 1. Blue Jay Point Park provides an incredible setting for experiencing nature, learning about your surroundings, and evoking a fantastic setting for improved health and wellness for residence by being active outside. This site is difficult to find, and not easy to navigate once in the park.</td>
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<td><strong>Recommendation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff Comment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Parking</strong></td>
<td>Parent near main park, even if it’s not a park</td>
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<td>Support #3</td>
<td>Make sure the signage within the park to better promote the foot trail, new primary parking location should be located in an area that is accessible to all of the trails but of all the trails and features off of foot primary trail. Have the primary loop open and fully accessible.</td>
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<td><strong>Connections via Walking and Biking</strong></td>
<td>Parent near regional trail</td>
<td>Parent near regional trail</td>
<td>Support #3</td>
<td>Add/Expand trails throughout kiosks and hiking trails. Connect to the main trail network and make it easier to navigate. Add billboard support.</td>
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<td><strong>Walking and Biking</strong></td>
<td>Add steep hill on week; bike path; Remove trail connections to swaps in trail center</td>
<td>Add/Expand: Bike trail throughout the park with Interpretation signage; Modify current bike path connections to trails (60%) support this idea.</td>
<td>Staff supports.</td>
<td>Add trail system; Add exit sign at the kiosk that is easy, moderate, or difficult. If this system is used again, make sure its consistent. Countywide add a challenging tennis/hiking course near the main entrance area where steep trails for advanced users.</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Access to parking sign and a place to start where you are not in the park</td>
<td>The Park visitor map leads throughout the park trail at the center.</td>
<td>Staff supports.</td>
<td>Input: More dead-end signs; Get people off the trails.</td>
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**Recommendations:**
- Add billboard support.
- Add new trail connections to swaps in trail center.
- Add/Expand: Bike trail throughout the park with Interpretation signage; Modify current bike path connections to trails (60%).
- Add new trail; new trail connections to swaps in trail center.
- Add new trail; new trail connections to swaps in trail center.
- Add new trail; new trail connections to swaps in trail center.
- Access to parking sign and a place to start where you are not in the park.
- The Park visitor map leads throughout the park trail at the center.
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<th>PST Community Survey</th>
<th>LRP</th>
<th>Meeting (Consultants)</th>
<th>Focus Group</th>
<th>Site Analysis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wayfinding</td>
<td>This site has an agreement to advertise like locations in tracing; this needs to be done throughout website, brochures, and so on.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Water Access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Attractions</td>
<td>Cross promote in a manner that provides educational opportunities and values the youth population.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Topic | Meeting Summary and Staff Workshop | Public Input | Recommendations | Park \n
Youth Wayfinding | Staff Comment |
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Wayfinding</td>
<td>Youth Wayfinding</td>
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<td>Youth Wayfinding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boat Ramp/Docking**

- First and foremost, staff should work with municipal and state parks and recreation departments to ensure clear signage and accessible parking at all parks.

**Nature Leverage Based Area Play**

- This topic includes developing natural areas to enhance the park experience and promote health and wellness.

**Staff Input**

- Staff should prioritize the development of natural areas with clear signage and accessible parking.

**Wayfinding**

- **Gateway signage/bike entry way**

- Participants would like a better way to find the park. There is a map trail near the trail, map of trails is very general and hard to find your way around the park.

- Signage for each of the parks should be established. Currently, the parks have multiple entrances, and after a brief tour of the entire area, visitors may be confused. This is especially true at the county’s largest parks, which can be challenging.

- Staff should consider adding additional signage, which could be used to identify park facilities and special areas, such as the annual water ski event. The annual water ski event should be encouraged for additional water-skiing opportunities.

- The County should consider adding additional signage and maps to help visitors find their way around the park.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage and maps to help visitors find their way around the park.

**Fishing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Water Access**

- **Multifunctional bike path**

- Visitors like the recreational metal, improved hiking areas, and close to parking.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

- Signage for additional information should be clearly visible. Platforms for education, such as fish stocking, should be clearly visible.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

**Hiking Trails**

- **Onsite nature-based Play Area**

- Staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

- The staff should consider adding additional signage from parking areas to water access, conversion opportunities.

<p>| Appendix C | 12 | 2016 | Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>MOUs and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Past Community Survey</th>
<th>LMR</th>
<th>Meeting Corporate Tables</th>
<th>Focus Groups</th>
<th>SWOT Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental Space for Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The current internal policy is to rent the space only to those focused on the mission of the park. While the staff isn't set up for corporate retreats, consider expanding the rental policy to include a diverse array of groups in order to use the funding to support park development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large (200-300 person) picnic shelter: good for corporate trainings/retreats, YMCA &amp; Blazing Trails, weekends for regular park visitors, good for school groups to use as base of operations/within or bad weather. Indoor can use for core work, would be good for WP trails beyond where the Ape building will be (comes with restrooms, grounded, possibly fireplace, storage, work space). YMCA Cary has facility that could be used as example.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Another/more sectioned off outdoor learning space.</td>
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<td>Natural play area expanded to include water features, larger area, forested in and professionally done.</td>
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<td>Photography Programs (Park, Play, Art)</td>
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<td>Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Potential Opportunities and Staff Workshop</td>
<td>Public Input</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>Mostly</td>
<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Space for Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Shelter</td>
<td>50% of survey respondents agreed with the addition of a larger shelter and also stated the need for several additional shelters throughout the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frequent Camping</td>
<td>80% of respondents support the idea of introducing primitive camping. It was highlighted for Blue Bluffs and for people looking utilizing the Blueway system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Add a variety of views/lookouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs (Music, Play, etc.)</td>
<td>Enhance and provide natural area programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Highlight the new resource, large attention and private parking. Leverage their marketing efforts to promote entire park system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Features</td>
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Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>SW/P and Planning Team</th>
<th>Past Community Survey</th>
<th>CMT</th>
<th>Survey/Community taken</th>
<th>Focus Groups</th>
<th>Site Survey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Existing Conditions and Opportunities</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Encouragement to Use</td>
<td>Potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Trail</td>
<td>Located at edge of County; trail has high volume of usage; County maintains trail</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase bike/ped trails to connect areas of County; improve parking facilities</td>
<td>Parking and Education</td>
<td>Continue system. Connect parking and trails. Provide maps, with accessible, safe, and easily accessible trails.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>Provide additional link to transit; existing trail network connects County and City</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Improve connections to transit; expand trail network to connect areas of County</td>
<td>Park Improvement</td>
<td>Continue to connect County and City; expand trail network to connect areas of County.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA</td>
<td>Many sections of trail are accessible to people with disabilities</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase accessibility of trail; provide additional bike/ped routes</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Increase accessibility of trail; provide additional bike/ped routes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Safe and environmentally friendly area with education/water features</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Provide educational resources on-site; promote environmental awareness</td>
<td>Education and Programming</td>
<td>Provide educational resources on-site; promote environmental awareness.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Limited parking facilities</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase parking facilities; provide accessible parking</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase parking facilities; provide accessible parking.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Limited safety features on-site</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase safety features on-site; provide additional safety features</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Increase safety features on-site; provide additional safety features.</td>
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<tr>
<td>To Transiit</td>
<td>Limited access to transit; existing trail network connects County and City</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase access to transit; expand trail network to connect areas of County</td>
<td>To Transiit</td>
<td>Increase access to transit; expand trail network to connect areas of County.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>Limited visitors on-site</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Increase visitors on-site; provide additional visitor amenities</td>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>Increase visitors on-site; provide additional visitor amenities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>MOUs and Existing Plans</td>
<td>Past Community Survey</td>
<td>LWP</td>
<td>Existing Community</td>
<td>Focus Group</td>
<td>Site Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach and Awareness</td>
<td>- Contact Information - Email Newsletter - Website - Brochures/Fliers - Personal Conversations with Staff</td>
<td>- What items do you enjoy most about the current park? - What items do you enjoy least about the current park?</td>
<td>- Why did you choose this park? - What improvements do you see in the park?</td>
<td>- Keep up the good work on the newsletter and consider increasing frequency. Make sure the newsletter is archived on the website.</td>
<td>- Blue Jay Point Park provides an incredible setting for experiencing nature, learning about your surroundings, and serving as a fantastic setting for improved health and wellness. The site is difficult to find, and not easy to navigate once in the park.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayfinding</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Blue Jay Point Park provides an incredible setting for experiencing nature, learning about your surroundings, and serving as a fantastic setting for improved health and wellness. The site is difficult to find, and not easy to navigate once in the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
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<td>- Blue Jay Point Park provides an incredible setting for experiencing nature, learning about your surroundings, and serving as a fantastic setting for improved health and wellness. The site is difficult to find, and not easy to navigate once in the park.</td>
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<td>Youth Attractions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Blue Jay Point Park provides an incredible setting for experiencing nature, learning about your surroundings, and serving as a fantastic setting for improved health and wellness. The site is difficult to find, and not easy to navigate once in the park.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Office</td>
<td>Modify the Park office to have a “front/side porch” or entry plaza so that it is more visible to park users and serves as a point of entry and gathering place for park visitors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Meaning/Conceptual and High-Level Issues</td>
<td>Policy/Receommendations</td>
<td>Old/New</td>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>Note</td>
<td>Staff Comment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
<td>No studies/considerations supporting the idea of expanding health and wellness options, activities, trails, and equipment within the park</td>
<td>Provide additional exercise and conditioning equipment near the parking area to promote health and wellness of adult and senior users. Remove fitness stations/Chains along existing park loop trail.</td>
<td>No/No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play/Fun</td>
<td>Fit stations added to existing workout equipment near the parking area</td>
<td>Provide a Future-themed and Slab-on-basement Play area in new shelter on the north side of the park.</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park/Museum</td>
<td>The park's current office is not conducive for public use and/or gathering</td>
<td>Provide a 4″x4″ shelter in existing shelter.</td>
<td>No/No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>The bike path links to a great addition to this park.</td>
<td>Provide a 4″x4″ shelter in existing shelter.</td>
<td>No/No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>The park's current office is not conducive for public use and/or gathering</td>
<td>Provide a 4″x4″ shelter in existing shelter.</td>
<td>No/No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>The park's current office is not conducive for public use and/or gathering</td>
<td>Provide a 4″x4″ shelter in existing shelter.</td>
<td>No/No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>The park's current office is not conducive for public use and/or gathering</td>
<td>Provide a 4″x4″ shelter in existing shelter.</td>
<td>No/No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C

Categorical The Connections Expansion Concern ADA

This park offers a soft place to play, which can offer educational access to people who may rely upon technology. This can reduce staff needs, but can also be seen as overproduction to some parks, fall “degenerated” in the absence of ADA. While the soft place does may be great for some users, not everyone wants to be “commoditized” after solutions and some educational and recreational signage would not be in the experience of day care who do not work in the child’s position. There are possibilities about State (less) this needs to be acknowledged and addressed. There is an opportunity to celebrate energy and educates the community about power and energy.

Mission

This could greatly benefit from regional trail and greenways connectivity. This is one of the primary sites at the north end of Harris Lake County Park.

1. Harris Lake Airport
2. Expanding Trail System
3. Expanding Large Regional Parks/Nature
4. Maintaining improving Services
5. Promoting environmental Cultural trailer education

What does this mean? The citizens view support for expanding green space. The County should monitor growth areas and infrastructure plan as well as promote and educate the community about the impacts of open space. The greenways systems is vital to the identity in the county (the greenway plan is already being executed).

Vision and Education

The future which would see the division of the water level in Harris Lake and impact about 50 percent of the base soil. Careful consideration should be given to the development below the anticipated flood line.

Accessibility

The park is currently accessible from the North Carolina Trail. Harris Lake Park offers an opportunity for a trail to a water level for handicapped access. There is a potential to expand the trail system to a wider range of the community. This could be expanded to the trail system changing trails could help generate a new mission of energy in seven resources. Expecting to be a valuable approach.

Harm and Education

This park offers a soft place to play, which can offer educational access to people who may rely upon technology. This can reduce staff needs, but can also be seen as overproduction to some parks, fall “degenerated” in the absence of ADA. While the soft place does may be great for some users, not everyone wants to be “commoditized” after solutions and some educational and recreational signage would not be in the experience of day care who do not work in the child’s position. There are possibilities about State (less) this needs to be acknowledged and addressed. There is an opportunity to celebrate energy and educates the community about power and energy.

Open Space

There is potential to expand the trail system. Harris Lake Park offers an opportunity for a trail to a water level for handicapped access. There is a potential to expand the trail system to a wider range of the community. This could be expanded to the trail system changing trails could help generate a new mission of energy in seven resources. Expecting to be a valuable approach.

Harm and Education

This park offers a soft place to play, which can offer educational access to people who may rely upon technology. This can reduce staff needs, but can also be seen as overproduction to some parks, fall “degenerated” in the absence of ADA. While the soft place does may be great for some users, not everyone wants to be “commoditized” after solutions and some educational and recreational signage would not be in the experience of day care who do not work in the child’s position. There are possibilities about State (less) this needs to be acknowledged and addressed. There is an opportunity to celebrate energy and educates the community about power and energy.
### Connections

| Topic | Parking and Education via Biking
| --- | --- |
| **ADA Expansion** | - Improved accessibility for wheelchair users
- New wheelchair-accessible restrooms
- New accessible parking areas

| **Mission** | - Enhance the park experience for all users
- Increase the visibility of the park
- Improve the accessibility of the park

| **Non-Categorical Topic** | - Enhance the park experience for all users
- Increase the visibility of the park
- Improve the accessibility of the park

### Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates** | - Enhance the park experience for all users
- Increase the visibility of the park
- Improve the accessibility of the park

| **ADA Priority** | - New wheelchair-accessible restrooms
- New accessible parking areas

| **Focus** | - Enhance the park experience for all users
- Increase the visibility of the park
- Improve the accessibility of the park

| **New Staff** | - Enhance the park experience for all users
- Increase the visibility of the park
- Improve the accessibility of the park

### Appendix C | 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Surveys and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Past Community Survey</th>
<th>LTP</th>
<th>Meeting &amp; Conversation Notes</th>
<th>Park Budget / Staff Assistance</th>
<th>Site Visits</th>
<th>Meetings &amp; Coordination and Staff Training</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic MOUs and Existing Plans</td>
<td>Past Community Survey</td>
<td>LTP</td>
<td>Meeting &amp; Conversation Notes</td>
<td>Park Budget / Staff Assistance</td>
<td>Site Visits</td>
<td>Meetings &amp; Coordination and Staff Training</td>
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<td>MOUs are being used:</td>
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<td>- Bike trails</td>
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<td>- Hiking trails</td>
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<td>- Existing condition</td>
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<td>- Funding required</td>
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<td>- Use of Mapping</td>
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<td>- Hosting a program</td>
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<td>What does this mean?</td>
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<td>First – this identifies the demand for these activities in all of the parks. Second, it discloses what is currently successful. And third, it may indicate that people are unaware of the other types of activities in the park system.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Walking and Hiking</td>
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<td>Why are they using:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Walking/hiking/dog walking</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Cycling/mountain biking</td>
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<td>3. Viewing nature/wildlife</td>
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<td>4. Use of Playground</td>
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<td>5. Attending a program</td>
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<td>What does this mean:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First – this identifies the demand for these activities in all of the parks. Second, it illustrates what is currently successful. And third, it may indicate that people are unaware of the other types of activities in the park system.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>It would be nice to offer more easy access hiking trails that are adjacent and available throughout the park. Some of these may be trails not currently open to the public.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>One idea is to have off-leash dog use on trails. There is an opportunity to establish this by providing a facility or place where dogs are permitted to be off-leash.</td>
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<td>There is frequent off-leash dog use on trails; there is an opportunity to address this by providing a facility or place where dogs are permitted to be off-leash.</td>
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<td>It would be nice to offer more easy access hiking trails that are official and marked throughout the park.</td>
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<td>I feel like these 1-2 mile trails would be something users would appreciate – or make the bike trails hiker-friendly instead of just for bikers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
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<td>Maintenance schedule if needed for routes to remain open year round.</td>
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<td>Outreach and Awareness</td>
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<td>1. Email Newsletter</td>
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<td>2. Website</td>
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<td>3. Brochure/Fliers</td>
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<td>4. Friends</td>
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<td>5. Conversations with staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keep the good work on the newsletter and consider increasing frequency. Make sure the newsletter is archived on the website. Nationally, Facebook is the number one source for learning about parks and recreation programs so the County should increase the Facebook and social media presence.</td>
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<td>An Information accessible to the public for Wake County Parks is extensive and easy to get. The brochure easily explains the offerings of the park. However, the map does not necessarily provide trail alignments and can be confusing. Fixing this is a goal to manage in the park. Both the website and the brochure are important for the county of trails available.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Both the website and the brochure are important for the county of trails available.</td>
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<td>Partnerships for events bring in people to the park that might not otherwise visit: triathlons, cross-country meets, mountain bike races, adventure races, Longleaf Festival, Haunting at Harris, 5k and 6k races, swim events, Raven Rock Race, Blue Mile, and others.</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fitbits, fitness tracking, and activity can be tracked for a goal way to promote health and help people understand what to do in the park.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Walking and Hiking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>Encourage the trail through the park and provide some active recreation. Examples include: bike trails, benches, exercise stations and an educational trail. This trail will be used to provide active ways to walk and talk/walking. Providing a safe and natural trail in the park will promote well-being and protect the environment. Create walking trails that are accessible and safe for the area. These trails should be used to encourage people to walk and talk. The trail should be well-marked and accessible to the public. The trail should be accessible to people with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>Create walking trails that are accessible and safe for the area. These trails should be used to encourage people to walk and talk. The trail should be well-marked and accessible to the public. The trail should be accessible to people with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016

Appendix C | 22
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>SWOT and Overall Plans</th>
<th>Paid Community Survey</th>
<th>SWOT</th>
<th>Meeting &amp; Convention Sites</th>
<th>Prior Top 3</th>
<th>Staff Survey</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>Windfall</td>
<td>Improve the flow of the park to enhance usability.</td>
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<td>Additional</td>
<td>Fishing and Canoeing</td>
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<td>Both provide an opportunity to interact with the water (fishing and canoeing)</td>
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<td>Birding</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
<td>Public Need</td>
<td>Recommendations/Proposals</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessing</td>
<td>Vertical</td>
<td>Improving accessibility to parks is important. Vertical access to parks is important for those arriving in vehicles or buses. Accessible watercraft may be provided at the low level, separate and remote (close to the commercial area).</td>
<td>Consider providing additional parking.</td>
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<td>Lighting</td>
<td>Vertical</td>
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<td>Wayfinding</td>
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<td>Improve legibility to alert visitors to park access and availability.</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Environmental Protection</td>
<td>Vertical</td>
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<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Vertical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Comments</td>
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**Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOUs and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Park Community Survey</th>
<th>CFP</th>
<th>Meeting Observation</th>
<th>Focus Group / Staff Interviews</th>
<th>Site Walk-Through</th>
<th>Meeting Observation and Staff Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As Office and Access to Staff</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Education Center with indoor program space and outdoor focused program could be partitioned in center and bad weather</td>
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<td>Park office relocated from the main area of the park and is not currently serving as a main resource. This could be combined with wayfinding signage and an arrival sequence for new visitors. The park office could be expanded to serve as a visitor center. Environmental Education Center with classroom, the park office does not experience much visitor interaction.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Park office could be expanded to serve as a Nature Center/Visitor/Environmental Education Center with classrooms, the park office does not experience much visitor interaction.</td>
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<td>Disc Golf rental for golf course, problem with returning discs. Users often ask but don’t currently provide. Providing Disc rental for the Disc Golf Course would encourage beginner users. This could be a function of the improved Visitor Center.</td>
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<td>Add disc golf for kids. Add comfort station near disc golf.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Office and Access to Staff</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Priorities</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>Disc Golf</td>
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<td>Preserve/Remove/Modify</td>
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<td>New Staff</td>
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</table>

- **Disc Golf**
  - Recommendations: Create a children’s disc golf course and ADA accessible disc golf course. Provide a kiosk for disc rental.
  - Priorities: Provide a maintenance area to accommodate the new uses proposed for the park.

- **Office and Access to Staff**
  - Recommendations: Create a new building to serve as the visitor center.
    - Location: Option to be considered in addition to one on plan (near entrance to park). Location options need to be considered in addition to one on plan (near entrance to park).
    - Staffing: More staff needed in addition to one on plan.
    - Office Support: Location options need to be considered in addition to one on plan (near entrance to park). Staffing: More staff needed in addition to one on plan.
    - Staffing: Staffing needs to be considered in addition to one on plan (near entrance to park).

- **Maintenance**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Topic</strong></th>
<th><strong>MOUs</strong></th>
<th><strong>HABs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Facts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site Evaluation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Making Connections and Key Opportunities</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-education</strong></td>
<td>Walking Area:</td>
<td><em>Surrounding land property is a lot of County owned property but not connected to the park.</em></td>
<td><em>Proposed road, trail, maintenance, and other.</em></td>
<td><em>First permanent and existing building and much house.</em></td>
<td><em>Finds exhibits in visitor building.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic Oak View County Park</td>
<td><em>Sensitivities (sensitivity, wildlife, transit, park).</em></td>
<td><em>Income tax exemptions for park (will be tax的优点).</em></td>
<td><em>Finds exhibits in visitor building.</em></td>
<td><em>Very few building concepts and plans for new facilities, past road building.</em></td>
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**History and Education**

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<tr>
<th><strong>HABs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Facts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site Evaluation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Making Connections and Key Opportunities</strong></th>
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<td><em>Proposed road, trail, maintenance, and other.</em></td>
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**Public Access**

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<tr>
<th><strong>HABs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Facts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site Evaluation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Making Connections and Key Opportunities</strong></th>
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<td><em>Proposed road, trail, maintenance, and other.</em></td>
<td><em>First permanent and existing building and much house.</em></td>
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<td><em>Sensitivities (sensitivity, wildlife, transit, park).</em></td>
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<td><em>Very few building concepts and plans for new facilities, past road building.</em></td>
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**Infrastructure**

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<th><strong>Facts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site Evaluation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Making Connections and Key Opportunities</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Surrounding land property is a lot of County owned property but not connected to the park.</em></td>
<td><em>Proposed road, trail, maintenance, and other.</em></td>
<td><em>First permanent and existing building and much house.</em></td>
<td><em>Finds exhibits in visitor building.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sensitivities (sensitivity, wildlife, transit, park).</em></td>
<td><em>Income tax exemptions for park (will be tax的优点).</em></td>
<td><em>Finds exhibits in visitor building.</em></td>
<td><em>Very few building concepts and plans for new facilities, past road building.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pedestrian Pathways**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>HABs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Facts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site Evaluation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Making Connections and Key Opportunities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Surrounding land property is a lot of County owned property but not connected to the park.</em></td>
<td><em>Proposed road, trail, maintenance, and other.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Feature Request</td>
<td>Recommendation Status</td>
<td>Survey Data</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Pathways

- **Non-Emphasis**
  - **Topic**: Pathways
  - **Pedestrian**: ADA Connections
  - **Neighborhood**
  - **Survey**: Public Access to Washington Avenue
  - **Visibility**: 89%
  - **Primary**: Loop respondents for each question and percentages shown affect responses for each question.

**Recommendations**

- **Provide benches for picnic areas**
- **Add new levee out to the Office Park**
- **Provide public access to the Office Park**
- **Provide benches for picnic areas**

**Accessibility and Education**

- **54% of survey respondents support the idea of expanding this park to the unused area to include walking, fishing, and sitting**
- **Provide benches for the additional acreage available on the property**

**Use/Function**

- **Provide wayfinding from the stop**
- **Provide wayfinding from the stop**

**Streets**

- **Expand trail connections with other nearby Office Park property**
- **Provide additional wayfinding and trail connections**

**Pedestrian Pathways**

- **64% of survey respondents would like to see a paved trail on Blackbird Park to connect to the park**
- **Expand trail connections with other nearby Office Park property**
- **Provide wayfinding from the stop**

**SFPA CORPORATIONS, LLC**

- **Provide benches for picnic areas**
- **Provide public access to the Office Park**
- **Provide wayfinding from the stop**
- **Provide additional wayfinding and trail connections**
- **Provide benches for picnic areas**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>VOS and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Past Community Survey</th>
<th>TAP</th>
<th>Nearing Communication Issues</th>
<th>Takeaways</th>
<th>Site Evaluation</th>
<th>Nearing Transparency and Staff Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Awareness</td>
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<td>• Email Newsletter</td>
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<td>• Website</td>
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<td>• Brochure/Fliers</td>
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<td>• Conversations with Staff</td>
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<td>• Social Media</td>
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<td>• Cross promotion between two historic parks?</td>
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<td>• Branding/PR/Uniformity in signage and brochures (survey shows high website usage for marketing; social media)?</td>
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<td>• Is it appealing to non-school users?</td>
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<td>• How to attract other daily users; least visited according to user survey, but annual visitors were really high</td>
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<td>• Website is static, not that informative, maybe move info from brochure onto website to make more dynamic</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wayfinding</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Front entrance sign, doesn't say park name, needs better wayfinding</td>
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<td>• Fishing Access</td>
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<td>• Provide an opportunity to interact with the water (fishing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Farm to Table</td>
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<td>• Structured play, highlight historic elements, fun for people of all ages (periods)</td>
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<td>• Things kids can touch</td>
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<td>• Playground with a farm theme, creates an all-day experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Public Need</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Potential Resource</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>Self Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Encourage and Foster</td>
<td>Development of school curriculum and learning opportunities for students and teachers; and from J-169 Fitch Rd and Church Rd (Park).</td>
<td>Previous development school curriculum and learning opportunities for students and teachers; and from J-169 Fitch Rd and Church Rd (Park).</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Farm and Foliage</td>
<td>Expanding food and fiber production to create a new farmers market and online sales; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development farmers market and online sales; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Living Arts</td>
<td>Provide parking from site (see Park)</td>
<td>Previous development parking from site (see Park)</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Art and Nature</td>
<td>Enhancing the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development of the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Parking Arts</td>
<td>Enhance parking access to the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development parking access to the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Arts and Parks</td>
<td>Provide opportunities to experiences the arts and culture; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development of opportunities to experiences the arts and culture; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>Art for All</td>
<td>Enhance the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development of the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>Arts and Parks</td>
<td>Enhance the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development of the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>Farm and Foliage</td>
<td>Expand the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Previous development of the visual experience of the property; and from East End Park.</td>
<td>Limited to multi-year strategic initiatives, at multi-year planning sessions.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Historic Yates Mill County Park

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>NRA and Feasibility Plans</th>
<th>Mill Community Survey</th>
<th>LRP</th>
<th>Standing Committee Notes</th>
<th>FY Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-Construction</td>
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</table>

#### Historical and Educational

- **Historic Yates Mill County Park**
  - **Mission**: Establishing a living history museum, education, and interpretive centers.
  - **Parking Challenge**: Accessibility, most walking via Historic Yates Mill County Park
  - **Expansion**:
    - **Connecting Access**: Expanding greenways, sidewalks, and bike paths.
    - **Existing Mill**: Acquiring more land to meet the needs of the community.
  - **Accessibility**:
    - **Ground Access**: Creating accessible entrances and exits.
    - **Doorway Access**: Providing wheelchair ramps.
  - **Visibility**:
    - **Signage**: Installing signs to promote the park.
  - **Support**: Financial support from private donors.

#### Appendix

- **Historic Mill**: Important historical site.
- **Walking via** Historic Yates Mill County Park
- **Lease** exists on the property referred to as the "Historic Mill".
- **Accessibility**:
  - **Ground Access**: Creating accessible entrances and exits.
  - **Doorway Access**: Providing wheelchair ramps.
  - **Visibility**:
    - **Signage**: Installing signs to promote the park.
  - **Support**: Financial support from private donors.

#### Outliers

- **Jay Blue***
- **Harris Lake** (66.5)
- **Crabtree** (24.2)
- **Far/don't***
- **too***
- **Transit***
- **Greenway***
- **Community***
- **Additional***
- **Parking***

#### Conclusion

- The park could expand by acquiring the property adjacent to the park and just downstream on Yates Mill Creek. This land would contain the Phares family house.
### Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Item</strong></th>
<th><strong>Primary Contact and Staff/Engagement</strong></th>
<th><strong>Public Input</strong></th>
<th><strong>Recommendations</strong></th>
<th><strong>Implementation</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Catawba River</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Make pedestrian and bike connections to the river</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Add ADA accessible restrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Update walking trails with bike paths adjacent to the river</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Provide interpretive signage and educational components</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission and Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Expand and incorporate story line art, botany, and agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Add wind power or solar power</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Make a connection from the mill to farmers market</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Explore the potential of adding wind and solar power at Yates Mill. Programs are available to learn solar power. This would be an opportunity to incorporate additional educational components. New winders will include green energy components to tie in the awareness of clean energy education. Future plans can be added near the mill to water missing educational areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike Availability</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Add bike-friendly infrastructure around the river with ADA access</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Work with the Yates Mill Association to design temporary ADA access to the mill building, that would preserve the site's historical integrity while providing accessibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Add ADA accessible parking per outside of the view of the mill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility to Trees</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Addition to nearby research center &quot;explore&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Establish a connection with the NCSU and support a greenway/hike and bike system with NCSU data and Wolfline access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Add a connection with the NCSU and support a greenway/hike and bike system with NCSU data and Wolfline access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Acknowledge the needs for overflow parking and mark off a area on the west side of the park for overflow parking that will not be impacted and build until the park is expanded</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Expand the parking system within the park to connect to the regional greenways. Where a regional connection is made, consider modifying the surface of the trail to be permeable and ADA accessible.</td>
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</table>

**Comments:**

- Expand energy efficiency / solar panels on the Mill.
- Add additional seat – circa on Lake Eddie Road.
- Better access, around the mill – Coordinate with NCSU/FUTS, allow Lake Whitney bridge when new bridge is installed.

- Accessible view of mill from the lake.
- Play spaces vs. playground, consider adding sky elements along the lake and other areas rather than a formal playground area.
- Provide accessible play opportunities.
- Provide interpretive and fishing areas. Water and wildlife.
- Add bike connections from wolf line.

- More park signs/programs – traffic safety, cultural history.
- A forum for framing/parking, indicate use plans.
- Enhance / improve existing facilities.
- Provide connection to the wolf line.

- Mill stop / NCSU route running.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.

- Mill loop accessible by bike.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>North Carolina’s Pathways and Trail Communities Survey</th>
<th>LRP</th>
<th>Survey Findings</th>
<th>Facilitator Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking and Walking</td>
<td>Why are they using? 1. Walking/Hiking/dog walking 2. Cycling/fitness 3. Hiking/long distance 4. Use of Playground 5. Attractive to vacation. What does this mean? First, this identifies the demand for these activities in all of the parks. Second, it illustrates what is currently successful. And third, it may indicate that people are primarily doing the other types of activities in the park system.</td>
<td>Need to provide ADA access to trail. People should never be at the park center before going to the trail. The social aspect of change to the trail system is buried people through the center first and not seem like the passage is the only the first step when visiting the park. No more for the trail system.</td>
<td>Not designated as a walk in presence, the parks do not allow pets (such as dogs) except service animals. This is a difficult rule to enforce because many people assume dogs are permitted in parks. History Yates Mill County Park is the only park in the system that does not allow dogs. The scheduling of this rule will help visitors understand the importance of respecting this limitation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing and Awareness</td>
<td>Sources of information 1. Email Newsletter 2. Website 3. Brochure/Fliers 4. Community 5. Marketing and Awareness</td>
<td>What does the email newsletter do? This identifies the demand for these activities in all of the parks. Second, it illustrates what is currently successful. And third, it may indicate that people are primarily doing the other types of activities in the park system.</td>
<td>What does the website mean? Functionality is not the website. Functionality is to do the website. Functionally, the website is viewed on the website. Functionally, the website is the main site for learning about parks and recreation programs. The County should increase the website and social media presence.</td>
<td>Make the website more interactive. Better marketing is to get the word out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
<td>Sources of information 1. Email Newsletter 2. Website 3. Brochure/Fliers 4. Community 5. Marketing and Awareness</td>
<td>What does the email newsletter do? This identifies the demand for these activities in all of the parks. Second, it illustrates what is currently successful. And third, it may indicate that people are primarily doing the other types of activities in the park system.</td>
<td>What does the website mean? Functionality is not the website. Functionally, the website is viewed on the website. Functionally, the website is the main site for learning about parks and recreation programs. The County should increase the website and social media presence.</td>
<td>Make the website more interactive. Better marketing is to get the word out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveying</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why Hiking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Trail and Hiking

- Add steep, full-crown hiking trail
- Remove trail connection to houses/visitor center
- Add two-pack primary loop
- Add additional tack throughout the park with connectivity signage and regional greenway
- Include biking to trail
- Remove trail

- Loop for additional signage throughout the park with connectivity signage and regional greenway
- Include biking to trail
- Remove trail

- Add signage to help visitors understand where they are outside the park.
- Tell story of the visitor center and interpretation signage.
- Educate the staff on how to direct visitors to nearby facilities when they can walk their dogs and other outdoor activities where dogs are welcome.
- Manage trails according to the needs of the public.
- Ensure the trails are accessible for the parking lots directly to the NCSU facilities.
- Use vegetation to pinch the access point and add signage to the trail entrance and direct visitors in the visitor center while preserving access for day uses.

### Workshop Public Create / Ensure sure connections

- Recommendations

### Pedestrian and Bicyclist

- Need to tailor design season of photography / policy of, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### Health and Wellbeing

- Increase the visibility of individual stories through credentials
- Use the Park for Program.
- Engage in the Park for Program.

### Parking and Circulation

- The County recommends that all parks and facilities close at sunset and discourage entry to parks until dawn.
- The County should require visitors to leave the park prior to sunset and discourage entry to the park until dawn.
- The County should provide interpretive signage to promote the County's healthy living program.
- The County should require visitors to leave the park prior to sunset and discourage entry to the park until dawn.
- The County should require visitors to leave the park prior to sunset and discourage entry to the park until dawn.

### Parking

- Change any of the signs on the perimeter and discourage entry to the park.
- Provide interpretive signage to promote the County’s healthy living program.
- The County should require visitors to leave the park prior to sunset and discourage entry to the park until dawn.
- The County should provide interpretive signage to promote the County’s healthy living program.
- The County should require visitors to leave the park prior to sunset and discourage entry to the park until dawn.
Fishing and Canoeing

Need to provide an opportunity to interact with the water (fishing and canoeing)

There is a restriction on shoreline fishing. Additional opportunities may need to be explored to meet fishing demands.

NC State Foundation and North Carolina:

Cross promote in a manner that provides educational opportunities geared toward the youth population.

Cross promote with farm animal education and work at NCSU facilities.

The park lacks traditional park facilities such as playgrounds and picnic shelters that some visitors identify with a park facility.

Adjacency with NC State University Agricultural Field Laboratories provide partnerships for trails and transit connections.

On-Site Store

Add a store. 

The park could expand interpretation through the preservation of the Phares Yates House located on park property.

Additional Meetings

Add more education for the mill, all programs should include a tour of the mill complex.

Mill Tour Hours: people need to know the hours, are often turned away.

All tours are limited to specific days and times. This can be frustrating for visitors and staff.

Mill Access and Tours

Add more educational programs and events.

Provide ways to attract kids without adding a playground.

The park lacks traditional park facilities such as a playground and picnic shelters that some visitors identify with a park facility.

Adjacency with NC State University Agricultural Field Laboratories provide partnerships for trails and transit connections.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Release</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Tools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking and Accessing</td>
<td>Open up the waterfront, add new docks, add an accessible fishing pier</td>
<td>Improve access to waterfront with clustering slopes, vegetation, and ADA access.</td>
<td>Remove</td>
<td>Modify waterfront to reveal access for users.</td>
<td>����</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-NCSU Additional Site Groups For Waterfront and Shelter and Attractors</td>
<td>Create boat docking facilities or actually allow for more access to the waterfront.</td>
<td>Make the waterfront more accessible for users.</td>
<td>Modify</td>
<td>Improve accessible waterfront areas.</td>
<td>����</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Recreation and Health Education</td>
<td>REU coordination via trail add nature play</td>
<td>Create a space with large art installations, open play area, and spaces for and ecosystems.</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Create a trail along the lake that will show the NCSU facilities and the story of agriculture in North Carolina symbolized by a mill.</td>
<td>����</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail Park and Public Spaces</td>
<td>Add additional buildings to the waterfront and existing dock to accommodate the facility.</td>
<td>Add additional buildings to the waterfront and existing dock to accommodate the facility.</td>
<td>Add</td>
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<td>��ива</td>
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<td>2016 Staff Park Groups</td>
<td>Create a space with large art installations, open play area, and spaces for and ecosystems.</td>
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<td>Add</td>
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<td>���</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Store</td>
<td>Add a store - add the conservatory</td>
<td>Add an additional building to the waterfront and existing dock to accommodate the facility.</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Add a structure that ties into the village style of the waterfront area to serve as an outdoor store with concessions, refreshments, and access to the waterfront.</td>
<td>���</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Stewardship</td>
<td>Become eligible for national park status.</td>
<td>Become eligible for national park status.</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Add additional buildings to the waterfront and existing dock to accommodate the facility.</td>
<td>���</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3:1. Kiosks and Kiosks</td>
<td>Add more kiosk structures</td>
<td>Add more kiosk structures</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Add more kiosk structures</td>
<td>���</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPENDIX C | 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates**

- **2016 Staff Park Groups**
  - Add additional buildings to the waterfront and existing dock to accommodate the facility.
  - Add an additional building to the waterfront and existing dock to accommodate the facility. Add a store - add the conservatory.
  - Add a structure that ties into the village style of the waterfront area to serve as an outdoor store with concessions, refreshments, and access to the waterfront.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>MOUs and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Wild Community Survey</th>
<th>LWP</th>
<th>Sharing Consultation Logs</th>
<th>Park Survey</th>
<th>SW Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs (touch, play, do)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Feedback</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Photography* is very popular, specifically professional event photography. The park recently instituted a permitting process for event photography to monitor professional activity. You can printed signs throughout the park should be clarified to not dissuade visitors from taking non-professional photos.

*Programs (touch, play, do)*

There is a need for more interactive activities within the park to offset the "no" signs posted throughout the park specifically near the Mill.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Steering Committee and Staff Workshop</th>
<th>Public Input</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Removal</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td><em>Add a variety of view/overlooks.</em></td>
<td><em>Tell the story of the park.</em></td>
<td><em>Add a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.</em></td>
<td><em>Continue to have a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.</em></td>
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<td><em>Tell the story of the park.</em></td>
<td><em>Add additional outlooks using materials that complement the mill.</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Support</td>
<td><em>Add a variety of view/overlooks.</em></td>
<td><em>Tell the story of the park.</em></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Add a variety of view/overlooks.**
  - **Tell the story of the park.**
  - **Continue to have a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.**

**Recommendations**
- Add additional outlooks using materials that complement the mill.
- Tell the story of the park.
- Add a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.

**Steering Committee and Staff Workshop**
- Add a variety of view/overlooks.
- Tell the story of the park.
- Add a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.

**Public Input**
- Add a variety of view/overlooks.
- Tell the story of the park.
- Add a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.

**Staff**
- Add a variety of view/overlooks.
- Tell the story of the park.
- Add a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.

**Comments**
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- Tell the story of the park.
- Add a program where professional photographers are required to register and seek permission to use the site. Remove the existing signage and install signs that more clearly state the restrictions for professional photographers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>MOUs and Expansion</th>
<th>Parking Community Survey</th>
<th>RFP</th>
<th>Planning and Design</th>
<th>Final Budget</th>
<th>Staff Analysis</th>
<th>Financing Oversight and Staff Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- ADA Connections</td>
<td>- Provide accessibility for a wide range of ages and abilities.</td>
<td>- Provide accessible parking for a wide range of ages and abilities.</td>
<td>- Economic viability and feasibility of expanding the park.</td>
<td>- Establish a budget and timeline for the expansion.</td>
<td>- Develop a budget and timeline for the expansion.</td>
<td>- Identify potential funding sources.</td>
<td>- Secure funding and oversight staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Expansion</td>
<td>- Increase usage by making park more accessible for a wide range of ages and abilities.</td>
<td>- Increase usage by making park more accessible for a wide range of ages and abilities.</td>
<td>- Economic viability and feasibility of expanding the park.</td>
<td>- Establish a budget and timeline for the expansion.</td>
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<td>- Secure funding and oversight staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Parking</td>
<td>- Provide accessible parking for a wide range of ages and abilities.</td>
<td>- Provide accessible parking for a wide range of ages and abilities.</td>
<td>- Economic viability and feasibility of expanding the park.</td>
<td>- Establish a budget and timeline for the expansion.</td>
<td>- Develop a budget and timeline for the expansion.</td>
<td>- Identify potential funding sources.</td>
<td>- Secure funding and oversight staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Crabtree County Park

- The mission of Lake Crabtree County Park is to provide a natural and scenic environment for recreation and education.
- The park's primary goals are to enhance the quality of life for the community and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- The park is located in the Crabtree Valley area, near the intersection of Wake Forest Road and Crabtree Valley Road.
- The park features include hiking trails, picnic areas, and a lake for boating and swimming.
- The park is managed by Wake County Parks and Recreation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Public Input</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission and Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Remove Group gathering spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Preserve Restrooms currently being updated to incorporate ADA accessibility</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Preserve Parking</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use water quality as more than a warning in the park. Provide signage and information that places ownership on visitors of the park to change behavior to improve the environment. Make sure warnings are in English and Spanish.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expand the greenway system to connect with Cary/Morrisville greenways and provide signage to and from transit stops.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expand mountain (multiuse trail) trail head within the park.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Expand parking near the picnic area and boat launches to accommodate large events.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use the expansion area for soft surface hiking trails.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use ADA study and required improvements TBD to ensure equitable in parks. Each activity, node, and building should provide access for all. Activities of special events areas for those with special needs. Water access via an accessible boat launch should be implemented for visitors and used to support water programs for special needs populations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The table contains recommendations and status updates for various topics related to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates for 2016. The recommendations include actions like improving ADA accessibility, enhancing signage, and expanding greenways and parking areas. The status reflects the progress or implementation of these recommendations.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sponsor and Staff Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
<td>Outreach and Lobbying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The park is located in a highly populated area of Wake County, offering an easy way to determine whether the community supports the bicycle/pedestrian improvements. The park should be accessible by bicycle and pedestrian. Improvements that can accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists. The park has the potential to be the most used. Wake County has done several of its along the parks to help with the development of the parks land use. The park can be used to accommodate both pedestrian and cyclists.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing and Lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a brochure that allows more off road areas even if it is prohibited.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also a newspaper that allows more off road areas even if it is prohibited.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outreach and Awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Media</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Email Newsletter</td>
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<td>Website</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Facebook</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Twitter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Instagram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conferences with Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approach this issue with a clear and consistent message that appeals to all users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The website and brochure can both contain marketing tools and consider user with a clear understanding of the amenities the park has to offer. The brochure map makes it easy for users to differentiate between types of trails and if it is still being improved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing and Lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wake County GreenWay to Cary/Brookline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41 Appendix C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Biking and Walking Awareness**

**Biking Parkway trails**
- Improve the connectivity and accessibility of bike trails, especially along major roads and near public transportation stops. Consider adding bike lanes and dedicated bike paths where feasible.
- Enhance the safety of bikers at intersections by installing bike boxes and signals.
- Promote bike-sharing programs and encourage the use of electric bikes in areas where they are practical.
- Create bike-friendly greenways and transportation corridors that connect residential areas with commercial and recreational districts.

**Transit Trail area**
- Implement a multi-modal transit system that connects bike, pedestrian, and bus routes. Consider the use of bike-friendly bus stops and shelters.
- Develop a bike-share program that integrates with the transit system.
- Ensure that bike routes are well-lit and clearly marked, especially at night.

**Morrisville trailhead**
- Create a station, shelter, and restrooms near the trailhead.
- Consider adding bike repair stations and storage areas near the trailhead.
- Promote the trailhead as a destination for events and gatherings.

**Recommendations**
- **New Staff**
  - Improve and expand trail maintenance staff to enhance the quality of the trail system.
  - Establish a project management team to oversee the implementation of new projects.
  - Develop a comprehensive marketing plan to promote the trail system to the public.

- **Outreach and Promotion**
  - Increase the visibility of the trail system through social media and other marketing channels.
  - Develop a website that provides information on trail conditions, events, and other relevant topics.
  - Partner with local businesses and organizations to promote the trail system.

- **亲近的自然**
  - Create bike-friendly greenways and transportation corridors that connect residential areas with commercial and recreational districts.
  - Develop a bike-share program that integrates with the transit system.
  - Ensure that bike routes are well-lit and clearly marked, especially at night.

- **Japanese**
  - Create a station, shelter, and restrooms near the trailhead.
  - Consider adding bike repair stations and storage areas near the trailhead.
  - Promote the trailhead as a destination for events and gatherings.

**Public Input**

- **STAFF SUPPORT**
  - Support feefedback from public meetings to inform planning decisions.
  - Review and update the trail system plan on a regular basis.

- **Residents**
  - Provide feedback on the trail system and suggest improvements.
  - Participate in trail maintenance and restoration activities.

- **Transportation**
  - Improve the connectivity and accessibility of bike trails, especially along major roads and near public transportation stops. Consider adding bike lanes and dedicated bike paths where feasible.
  - Enhance the safety of bikers at intersections by installing bike boxes and signals.
  - Promote bike-sharing programs and encourage the use of electric bikes in areas where they are practical.
  - Create bike-friendly greenways and transportation corridors that connect residential areas with commercial and recreational districts.

- **Biking Parkway trails**
  - Improve the connectivity and accessibility of bike trails, especially along major roads and near public transportation stops. Consider adding bike lanes and dedicated bike paths where feasible.
  - Enhance the safety of bikers at intersections by installing bike boxes and signals.
  - Promote bike-sharing programs and encourage the use of electric bikes in areas where they are practical.
  - Create bike-friendly greenways and transportation corridors that connect residential areas with commercial and recreational districts.

- **Transit Trail area**
  - Implement a multi-modal transit system that connects bike, pedestrian, and bus routes. Consider the use of bike-friendly bus stops and shelters.
  - Develop a bike-share program that integrates with the transit system.
  - Ensure that bike routes are well-lit and clearly marked, especially at night.

- **Morrisville trailhead**
  - Create a station, shelter, and restrooms near the trailhead.
  - Consider adding bike repair stations and storage areas near the trailhead.
  - Promote the trailhead as a destination for events and gatherings.

**Recommendations**

- **New Staff**
  - Improve and expand trail maintenance staff to enhance the quality of the trail system.
  - Establish a project management team to oversee the implementation of new projects.
  - Develop a comprehensive marketing plan to promote the trail system to the public.

- **Outreach and Promotion**
  - Increase the visibility of the trail system through social media and other marketing channels.
  - Develop a website that provides information on trail conditions, events, and other relevant topics.
  - Partner with local businesses and organizations to promote the trail system.

- **亲近的自然**
  - Create bike-friendly greenways and transportation corridors that connect residential areas with commercial and recreational districts.
  - Develop a bike-share program that integrates with the transit system.
  - Ensure that bike routes are well-lit and clearly marked, especially at night.

- **Japanese**
  - Create a station, shelter, and restrooms near the trailhead.
  - Consider adding bike repair stations and storage areas near the trailhead.
  - Promote the trailhead as a destination for events and gatherings.

**Public Input**

- **STAFF SUPPORT**
  - Support feefedback from public meetings to inform planning decisions.
  - Review and update the trail system plan on a regular basis.

- **Residents**
  - Provide feedback on the trail system and suggest improvements.
  - Participate in trail maintenance and restoration activities.

- **Transportation**
  - Improve the connectivity and accessibility of bike trails, especially along major roads and near public transportation stops. Consider adding bike lanes and dedicated bike paths where feasible.
  - Enhance the safety of bikers at intersections by installing bike boxes and signals.
  - Promote bike-sharing programs and encourage the use of electric bikes in areas where they are practical.
  - Create bike-friendly greenways and transportation corridors that connect residential areas with commercial and recreational districts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>SWOT and Existing Plans</th>
<th>Past Community Survey</th>
<th>LWP</th>
<th>Meeting Observation/Notes</th>
<th>Focus Group</th>
<th>Site Analysis</th>
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<td>Add emergency locations to trails.</td>
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<td>Add more wayfinding signs to connect all of the features of the park.</td>
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<td>Need to provide an opportunity to interact with the water (fishing and rowing); Paddle board rental new addition!</td>
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<td>Self-launch boat ramp, existing location makes it difficult for long stretches of rowing.</td>
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<td>Love that there are no motorboats on lake, please don't change that!</td>
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<td>The County should work with local artists and local parks and wildlife departments to create a design for and location for the three-way finding signs. To coincide with the development of the bike lanes, Wake County Parks should identify locations that can be augmented by individuals, as 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 25 percent increases. These signs should be available in each of the parks to display the time and health. The signs should be located by visible markers that are in visible. A pedestrian sign should be post on each of the parks for the next coming on the County.</td>
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- Disc Golf User feedback highlights the demand for a disc golf course in the area.
- Sound Attenuation While I-40 provides regional access, sound impacts of the interstate affect user experience along the Lake Trail.
- Flooding Due to flooding issues, the trail system has several closures during wet periods. Consider adding access in some of the well-protected facilities in the park.
- User Conflict Due to the designed use of the trails, user conflicts exist. The trails are heavily used by cyclists, therefore there is an unspoken expectation for pedestrians to yield to cyclists.
- User Groups / Partnerships
  - Staff feels the need to address cross cultural recreation needs.

- Indoor Classrooms and Visitor Information Center
  - Don’t take the tower away. Add a café.
  - Need more space for group meetings and outdoor use.

- Additional
  - Need staff related
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**Appendix C | 46**
Appendix C | 48

Connections

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**Parks and Recreation Master Plan Updates | 2016**

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### Topic MOUs and Existing Plans

Past Community Survey | LWP Steering Committee | Focus Group | Site Analysis | Meeting | Community and Staff Workshops
---|---|---|---|---|---
Restricted Areas Use | public art as fence structures that are visually appealing and exciting. This may be a potential project with the adjacent school or NCSU School of Design. | | | | |
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