

**Buncombe County Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Services
Master Plan
Accepted 4.15.2008**



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Executive Summary

In response to the request from the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners regarding the compilation of a comprehensive plan, Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services has drafted a master plan concerning department programs and facilities. This report is intended to provide an overview of Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services as well as an outline of both current and future department needs. The report includes a documentation of current facility inventory, statistics of past program attendance statistics for fiscal year 2006-2007, community survey information, focus group recommendations, and agency partnership recommendations for future development within the department.

Introduction to Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services

Mission Statement

To maintain and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors through recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities while continually seeking revenue enhancing approaches through which to develop a more efficient and effective operation.

Guiding Principles

To promote recreation, education and relaxation opportunities through department facilities and programming.

Tag Line

“Please come out and play”

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Buncombe County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (BCPR) is to provide a framework for future planning and development through a needs assessment and community input process paired with a comprehensive evaluation of all BCPR facilities and services. This plan is intended to be action oriented and has been written in such a way as to provide the county with a framework for implementing suggested changes through the year 2017.

Goal of Comprehensive Plan

To assess, renovate, upgrade and develop new programs and facilities in order to provide Buncombe County citizens with necessary and accessible family oriented recreational opportunities.

Conceptual Basis for Comprehensive Plan

This is a listing of guiding principles used in developing the comprehensive plan:

1. Utilize better publicity and advertising

2. Increase the level of access to information for county citizens
3. Develop a comprehensive parks map that is easy to interpret
4. Link to other recreation opportunities within the county on the BCPR website
5. Maintain a family oriented atmosphere at all BCPR events and facilities
6. Facilities and activities must be open to all individuals, regardless of sex, race, color, age, religion, handicap, disability or national origin

Strategies and Actions Employed

1. Meet with community groups, and other citizen groups to determine their needs and desires for recreation in Buncombe County.
2. Survey Buncombe County citizens regarding their needs and ideas for future Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.
3. Collect and analyze data top determine recreation trends and needs in the county.
4. Develop a plan to provide needed programs and facilities in all geographic areas of the county in order to make the programs offered through the department easily accessible to the majority of Buncombe County Citizens

History of the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department

The Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department has a long standing history in Buncombe County Government. The department was established in 1972 after a group of local county residents gave a presentation to the County Commissioners explaining the need for a recreation department in the county. In 1972, the County Commissioners were Curtis Ratcliff, Cary Owen, and Roy Trantham. In the beginning years, the program started as a summer program offering summer day camps in local school buildings (Thomas, 1978). Soon after its conception, BCPR began to maintain a program schedule which covered a full calendar year, offering county wide events, exercise classes, athletic programs, disability recreation programs plus 20 day camps per summer season.

Water Agreement History

When the City of Asheville took control of the water authority in May of 2004, four prominent Parks and Recreation Services facilities, previously housed under the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services Department, were transferred to the City of Asheville. These facilities included McCormick Field, The Municipal Golf Course, Recreation Park, and the Nature Center.

Facility Operation

Currently BCPR operates six river parks throughout the county. There are five outdoor pool facilities as well as one indoor pool. BCPR also operates the Buncombe County Sports Complex, the Karpen Soccer Field, the Sklyand Soccer Fields, the Charles D. Owen District Park, and Lake Julian.

Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services Advisory Board

The Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board consists of nine members appointed by the County Commissioners. Six of the members represent one of the six school districts within the County. The other three members are “At Large” members and represent the entire County as a whole. All Advisory Board Members are listed below:

Sam Banks Reynolds
David Begley Owen
Winikay Caffrey North Buncombe
Greg Jones Erwin
Rodney Mangum Roberson
Larry Wilson Enka
Adam Pittman At Large
Dave Torbett At Large
Chuck Milner At Large

The purpose of the advisory board is to make recommendations to the County Commissioners on matters affecting recreation programs, personnel, finances, and acquisition of lands and properties related to the County’s recreation programming.

Information taken from the Director of Boards & Commissions Serving Buncombe County

Demographic Breakdown

In order to better assess the needs of Buncombe County residents, demographic statistics have been reviewed to gain a better understanding of the characteristics and needs of the community. By analyzing population trends it then becomes possible to both analyze trends and make recommendations regarding facility improvement and program development through the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Buncombe County Population Projections 2000-2021

Year	Population
2000	206,780
2001	208,306
2002	210,034
2003	212,224
2004	214,976
2005	216,272
2006	221,320
2007	226,175
2008	229,486
2009	232,639
2010	235,401
2011	238,214
2012	241,027
2013	243,841
2014	246,654
2015	249,468
2016	252,283
2017	255,098
2018	257,912
2019	260,727
2020	263,526
2021	266,278

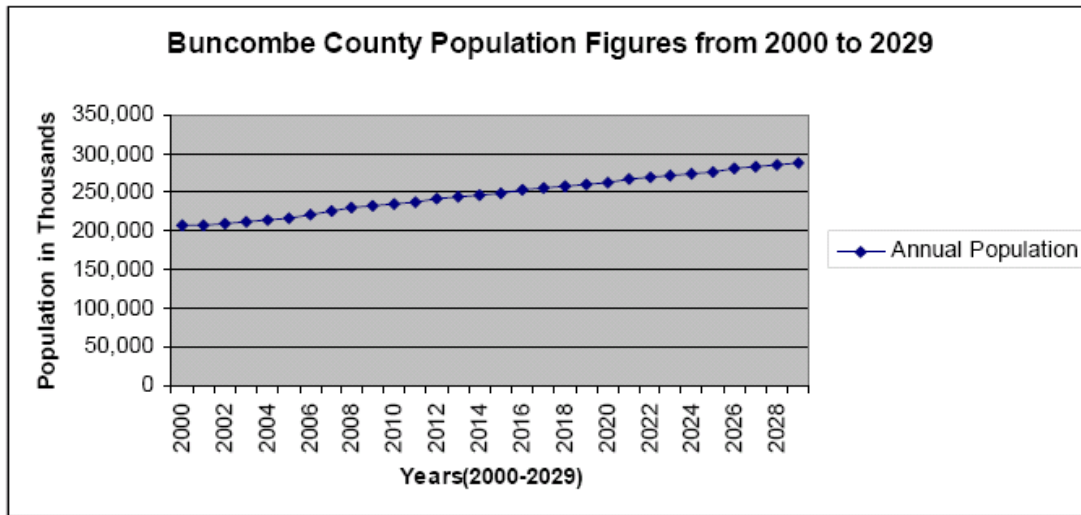
Source: U.S. Census, 1990 & 2000; Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties in North Carolina (U.S. Census Bureau)

Please Refer to Appendix 1, Figure 1.1 for a display of the county population projections

Population Projections

Buncombe County is one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina. In 2006, the Census Bureau estimated the county population to be 222,174 compared with the 2000 Census estimate of 206,330. According to population projections, over the next ten years the population in the county will continue to steadily increase. Buncombe County population projections estimate that the county will acquire approximately 25,000 new residents each year. According to the regression model, population should be expected to steadily increase over the next ten years. A depiction of future population growth can be seen in figure 1.1 pictured bellow.

Figure 1.1: Buncombe County Population from 2000-2029



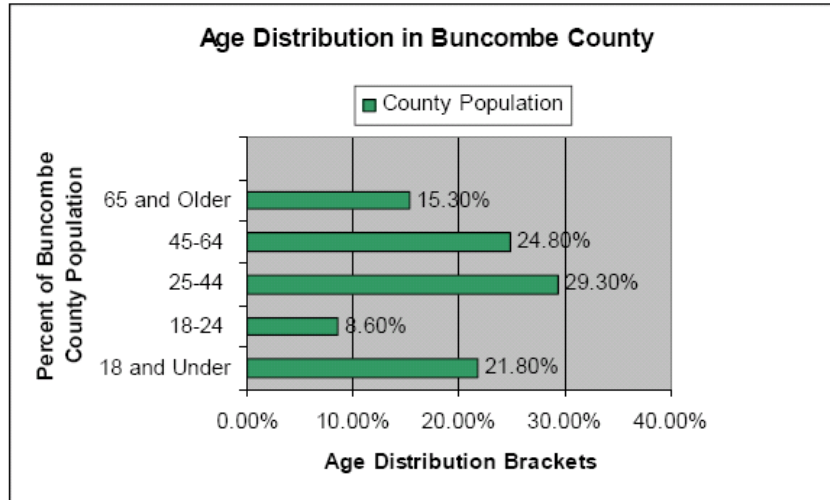
Age Distribution and Income

In 2005, residents under age eighteen composed 21.8% of the total county population while residents in the 65 and older age bracket composed 15.3% of the total county population. The 18-24 age brackets only composed 8.6% of the population. The age bracket of 25-44 composed the majority of the population at 29.3% with the age bracket of 45-64 following close behind at 24.8% of the total county population.

According to the 2000 Census, the population density in Buncombe County was 314 persons per a square mile. Within the county there were 85,776 households of which 27.5% had children under the age of 18. In 2004 the median household income was

\$37, 738 with people below the poverty line at 13.8% of the population. The depiction of estimated population growth can be seen in figure 1.2 pictured bellow.

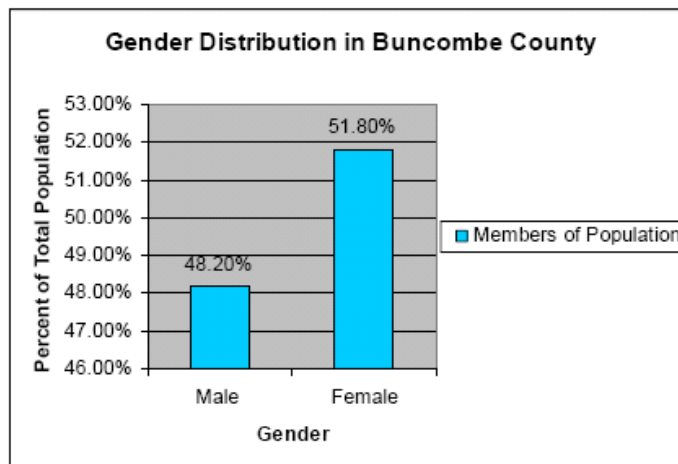
Figure 1.2: Age Distribution in Buncombe County



Gender and Racial Diversity

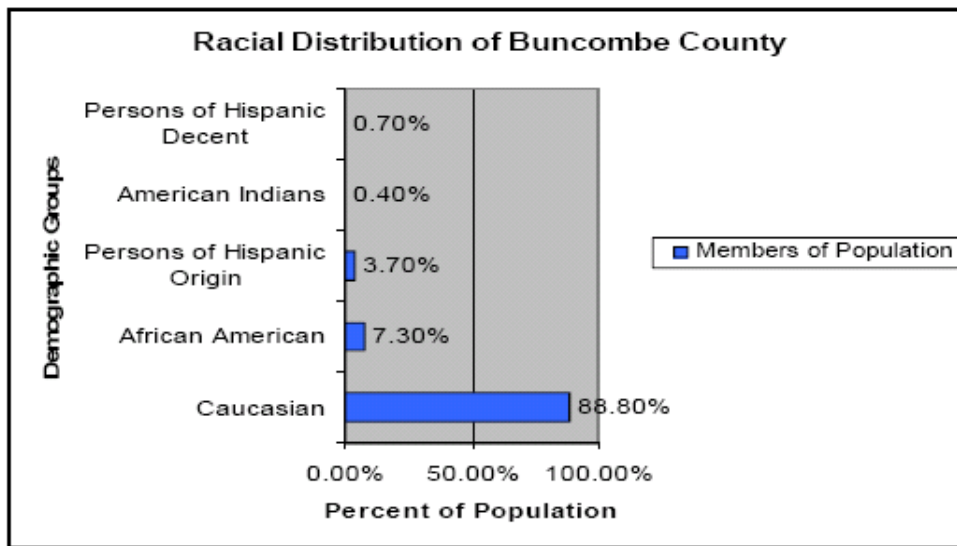
In 2005 the Census Bureau estimated that females composed 51.8% of the Buncombe County population making female residents the majority within the county as compared to a 48.2% male population. Gender distribution can be seen in figure 1.3 pictured below.

Figure 1.3: Gender Distribution in Buncombe County



In 2005, persons of Caucasian origin composed 88.8% of the population. African American composed 7.3% of the population while Persons of Hispanic origin composed 3.7% of the total population. American Indians and Persons of Asian decent composed .4% and .7% respectively. A depiction of the racial distribution in Buncombe County can be seen in figure 2.3 pictured below.

Figure 2.3: Racial Distribution in Buncombe County



Source: The U.S. Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts

Note on County Demographic Statistics

It is important to note that County demographic statistics (taken from the U.S. Census Bureau) include the demographic statistics of all County residents including residents within the city limits of Asheville.

Park Classifications within Buncombe County’s Open Space

On the following pages an inventory is listed of all Buncombe County Parks and Recreation facilities. Please refer to Appendix B for images of the Geographic Information Services (hence referred to as GIS), maps designed for the Parks and Recreation Department by the Buncombe County GIS department.

River Parks

Buncombe County offers six River Parks along the French Broad River. These parks serve the entire population of Buncombe County and are preserved green spaces with equipment for picnicking and grilling. Each of these parks provides river access for boating and fishing. These river parks are as follows:

Inventory Evaluation Key

- Bent Creek River Park
- Corcoran Paige River Park
- Glen Bridge River Park
- Hominy Creek River Park
- Ledges Whitewater River Park
- Walnut Island River Park

Inventory Evaluation Key

Condition	Explanation of Assessment
Poor	Item requires immediate attention
Moderate	Item needs replacement in future FY
Good	Item remains in decent condition
Excellent	Item requires no immediate attention

Ledges Whitewater River Park

Directions

From Asheville take 19/23 north & immediately take the Hill Street Exit - go left & travel .1 mile - turn right on to Riverside Drive & travel 8.1 miles - see park on left.

History

Ledges Whitewater River Park was built by Buncombe County in a community effort involving River link, the local kayakers association and funding from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources in response to the need to create a competition quality whitewater facility for the Asheville-Buncombe metro area. The property was acquired in July of 1998 and the park was completed in 2000.

Amenities

Ledges offers picnic tables, grills and river access.

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
River Access	1	Good
Grills	5	Poor (replace)
Picnic Tables	8	Moderate

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Good
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Moderate
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Good

Equipment Replacement

The grills at this park are old and need to be replaced. Some trash cans in the park have been vandalized with spray paint. Likewise a few tables have been vandalized with spray paint. The River Safety sign has been vandalized and is no longer readable. It is a priority that this sign be replaced.



Ledges Whitewater River Park
Image courtesy of Buncombe County Parks and Recreation

Walnut Island River Park

Directions

From Asheville take 19/23 north & immediately take the Hill Street Exit - go left and travel .1 mile - turn right on to Riverside Drive & travel 13.3 miles - see park on left

History

Walnut Island River Park was sold to Buncombe County by Glenn J. Roberts and Margaret C. Roberts on May, 24th, 1990 for the sum of ten dollars.



Walnut Island River Park

Amenities

Grills, picnic tables and river access available

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
River Access	1	Good
Grills	4	Poor (replace)
Picnic Tables	7	Good
Trash Cans	9	Poor & Moderate (replace 4)

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Good
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Moderate
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Good

Equipment Replacement

Walnut Island River Park has a moderate level of vandalism. Often times, trash cans are tipped over and trash litters the ground. The “No Littering” sign in the parking lot has been damaged to such an extent that it is not readable. Likewise, the River Safety sign needs to be replaced due to vandalism and age.

Bent Creek River Park

Directions

From Asheville take 26 east & take Exit 2 - go left at light on to Brevard Road & travel 2.4 mile - see the park on the left

History

The property that Bent Creek Park sits on was acquired on April 5, 1973 from Dominion Construction Company and the Bent Creek lodge.



Bent Creek River Park

Amenities

Picnic tables, grills and river access available.

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
River Access	1	Good
Grills	2	Good
Picnic Tables	3	Good

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Good
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Minimal
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Good

Equipment Replacement

A grill needs to be installed at the one picnic table that does not have a grill.

Corcoran Paige River Park

Directions

From Asheville take 26 East & take Exit #6 - turn left on to Long Shoals Road & travel 1.8 miles - turn right on to Hendersonville Road & travel 1.4 miles - turn right on to Glen Bridge Road & travel 1.9 mile - turn left on to Pinner Road - see park on right.

History

The land which houses Corcoran Paige River Park was deeded to Buncombe County by Edwin E. Corcoran on August 21, 1974.



Corcoran Paige River Park

Amenities

Facility offers grills, picnic tables and river access.

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
River Access	1	Cannot find river access
Grills	1	Fair
Picnic Tables	3	Fair

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Poor
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Moderate
Level of Use	Low
Overall Condition	Poor

Equipment Replacement

This park needs an additional grill to accompany the three picnic tables. Landscaping needs to be completed in order to make the park visually appealing. The Ordinance sign has been vandalized and needs to be replaced. This park also does not have a river safety sign. Parking lot needs road bond added.

Glen Bridge River Park

Directions

From Asheville take 26 East & take Exit #6 - turn left on to Long Shoals Road & travel 1.8 miles - turn right on to Hendersonville Road & travel 1.4 miles - turn right on to Glen Bridge Road & travel 1.9 mile - turn left on to Pinner Road & travel .5 mile - see park on right.

History

The property which houses Glen Bridge Park was deeded to Buncombe County on October 31, 1978 by Jerome and Florence Emerson.



Glen Bridge River Park

Amenities

Grills, picnic tables and river access

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
River Access	1	Excellent
Grills	7	Good
Picnic Tables	7	Good

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Excellent
Parking	Excellent
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Excellent

Equipment Replacement

The condition of this park is excellent. Moderate weeding needs to be done around the trail that leads to the picnic tables. This trail would be a logical place for a greenway link from Glen Bridge to Corcoran Paige River Park.

Hominy Creek River Park

Directions

From Asheville take I-240 West. Take exit #1B. At the end of the ramp, turn right. After about .1 mile, turn left onto Shelburne then left onto Hominy Creek Road & travel .7 mile - see park on left.

History

Hominy Valley River Park was created in September of 1980. The park was created by the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority and Land of Sky Regional Council as part of the French Broad River Improvement Program. The TVA gave funds to Land of Sky in order to facilitate a grant to Buncombe County for the creation of the park.



Hominy Valley River Park

Amenities

Grills, picnic tables, and river access available

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
River Access	1	Good
Grills	3	Good
Picnic Tables	4	Good

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Good
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	Moderate
Overall Condition	Good

Equipment Replacement

River Link has a conservation easement over this property. BCPR cannot go ahead with development on this land without a partnership with River Link. Important additions to this park require careful attention as it is located on top of the old landfill.

Community Parks

Charles Owen Park

Directions

From Asheville take I-40 East and take Exit #55 - at end of ramp turn left and travel to 70 East - turn right on to 70 East and travel 1.7 miles - turn left on to Warren Wilson College Road and travel 2.5 miles - see sign to park on right.

History

The property that Charles Owen District Park sits on was deeded to Buncombe County on March 20, 1975 by Charles D. Owen. The baseball complex on the field is leased to the Swannanoa Youth League and requires the league to follow the rules and mandates stipulated by county government in regards to the operation of Parks and Recreation facilities.

Amenities

This facility offers two large pavilions with fireplaces (available to rent), a playground, 2 basketball courts, three lighted baseball fields, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, 2 lakes, and a walking trail surrounding the lakes.

Amenity	Number	Condition
Pavilion	2	Good
Lighted Baseball Field	1	Good
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	Poor
Restroom	1	Moderate
Playground	1	Good
Concession Stand	1	Good
Picnic Tables	14	Good
Grills	5	Good
Walking Trail	1	Moderate
Parking Lot	1	Moderate

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Good
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Good



Pavilion w/ Fireplace

Basketball Courts

Equipment Replacement

The basketball courts need to be resurfaced and bathrooms must be repainted. No Swimming/wading signs must also be added on either side of the pond.

Proposed Improvements for Owen Park

In January of 2008 Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services began the process of applying for a grant through the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in order to perform improvements to Owen Park. The department would like to refurbish the walking trail along the two lakes at Owen Park, resurface the basketball court, replace aged lighting structures, and perform general improvements. Public Comment for the department master plan specifically stipulated that the community in the Owen District would like to see improvements made to this park, as well as the availability of funds for general maintenance issues within the park. Moreover, members of the Owen

Community cite this park as a resource that is thoroughly used within the community, as well as throughout the county. Refurbishing the walking trail is essential the quality of the park, as the park is connected to trails which lead to Warren Wilson College and attract resident hikers, from the entire community.

Buncombe County Sports Park

Directions

From Asheville take I-40 West. Exit at the Enka-Candler Exit. At the end of ramp take a right. Go through next light just before McDonald's. Turn right onto Acton Circle. Go to 4-way stop and take a left on to Sand-Hill School Road. Turn between Sand-Hill Venable School and the Buncombe Community West School

History

Plans for the development of the Buncombe County Sports Park began in early 1998. In 1999, Buncombe County entered into sponsorship agreements with Ingles Supermarkets Inc, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company Inc (Asheville), and The Ramada Plaza and Super Eight Motel.

Annual Patronage: 105,000 visitors

Amenities

Offers 8 soccer fields, sand volleyball, picnic shelters, grills, playground, 2 bocce ball courts, and ample parking facilities.



Practice Soccer Field



Playground



Picnic tables and grill in front of soccer field

Amenity	Number	Condition
Soccer Fields	8	Excellent
Playground	1	Excellent
Concession Stand	1	Excellent
Pavilion	1	Excellent
Picnic Tables	19	Excellent
Grills	2	Excellent
Volleyball Court	1	Excellent
Walking Trail	1	Excellent
Bridge	1	Excellent
Parking Lot	1	Excellent

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Excellent
Parking	Excellent
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Excellent

Equipment Replacement and Equipment Additions

Sun shades need to be added to the two sets of picnic tables and grills that are outside of the pavilion area. A possible softball field could be added to the park. Parks and Recreation should inquire about adding this adjacent property to the complex for the purpose of a softball park. In September 2007, two Bocce Ball courts were added in the area adjacent to the sand volleyball court. Staff would like an indoor and/or outdoor basketball with an electric score board, an electric score board for soccer field #8, sport panel fencing for field #8, a department utility cart, an events sign as you enter the park and two grills under the current pavilion.

Karpen Soccer Field



Directions

Take 19/23 North - take the New Stock Road Exit - at end of ramp turn right - at traffic light turn left on to Weaverville Highway and travel .8 mile - turn right at light on to Reems Creek Road and travel 1.5 miles - see fields on right.

History

The Karpen Soccer Fields were donated by Morris and Leah Karpen in December of 1997. The lease states that the property must be used “substantially and primarily as a field for the playing of soccer” meaning that the primary emphasis at the park must be soccer but this does not limit the county from erecting other structures such as bathrooms, a walking trail, grills and a playground around the soccer fields.

Amenities

The facility contains one soccer field and two sets of bleachers. A plan to redesign the soccer fields in order to prevent future flooding was developed by McGill and Associates in 2007. The plan also includes the additions of a playground and grills and picnic table facilities and a permanent restroom facility as well as expanded parking with the availability of handicapped parking. A copy of the design is listed in Appendix C.

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Condition
2 soccer fields	Poor
Parking	Poor

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Fair
Parking	Fair
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	High
Overall Condition	Fair

Equipment Replacement and Equipment Additions

In Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Parks and Recreation request funds to amend the Karpen Fields to a U-12 soccer Size.

Skyland Soccer Field

Directions

From Asheville take 26 East and take exit #6 - turn left on to Long Shoals Road and travel 1.1 mile - turn left on to Overlook Road and travel .4 mile - turn right onto Springside Road and travel .4 mile - see park on the right. Located directly behind the Zeugner Center

Facility History

The Skyland Soccer Fields were acquired with the purchase of the Zeugner Center. For more information please refer to the history section listed beneath the Zeugner Center heading.



Skyland Soccer Fields

Amenities

2 soccer fields

These Soccer fields are used by ABYSA as practice fields during the regular season.

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Condition
2 soccer fields	Poor
Parking	Poor

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Fair
Parking	Fair
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	Moderate
Overall Condition	Fair

Equipment Replacement and Equipment Addition

These soccer fields are in poor condition.

Lake Julian

Directions

From Asheville take 26 East and take Exit #37 - turn left on to Long Shoals Road and travel 1.1 mile - turn right on to Overlook Road and travel .1 mile - see park entrance on the left.

Lake Julian History

The Lake Julian property was leased to the county on March 5, 1973 by Carolina Power and Light which is presently Progress Energy. Lake Julian is an ideal family recreational facility and an excellent spot for the fishing enthusiast. Located near Skyland, the park offers opportunities for picnicking, canoeing, sailing and outdoor games. The park is open year round, seven days a week, for all county residents and visitors to enjoy.

Many local residents are amazed to find some of this area's best fishing in their own backyard. Lake Julian has an abundance of bass, catfish, brim and crappie, as well as imported fish called "Tilapia". Because Lake Julian is a "thermal" lake (the lake is used as a cooling agent for Progress Energy), some of the best fishing occurs from October through March.

Anglers may fish from the shore or from paddle boats that are available on a rental basis. Patrons must provide their own electric boat motor because gasoline motors are not allowed. N.C. fishing laws are enforced and a local lake permit is required.

Information courtesy of Buncombe County Parks and Recreation



Dock



Paddle Boats & Second Dock:



Sailboat at Dock



Fishing

Inventory Assessment

Amenity	Number	Condition
Fishing Boats	10	Good
Paddle Boats	18	Poor
Restrooms	2	Good
Picnic Shelters	5	Fair
Grills	30	Fair
Picnic Tables	55	Good-Fair

Overall Assessment of Facility Condition

Item Assessed	Condition
Visual Quality	Excellent
Parking	Good
Vandalism	Low
Level of Use	Very High
Overall Condition	Good

Fees Collected

Boat Rental Fees	Launch Fees for Private Boats
Four Hour (Minimum) \$7.50	Fishing Boats \$4.00
All Day \$15.00	Canoes and Sailboats \$4.00
Paddle Boats (Per Hour) \$5.00	Annual Launch Permit \$40.00

Fishing Permit Fees
Daily \$3.00
Annual \$19.00

Annual Sailboat Storage Fee
\$300 plus \$20 donation

Picnic Shelter Rental Fees
Large Shelter \$50.00
Small Shelter \$35.00

Equipment Replacement and Equipment Addition

The paddle boats at Lake Julian need to be replaced. Once a set of new paddle boats is purchased the boats will be put on a five year rotating schedule for replacement so as to avoid equipment deterioration. The docks at Lake Julian also need to be replaced and are scheduled for replacement in Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The picnic shelters need to be replaced.

***Replacement Update** Paddle boats at Lake Julian were replaced in fiscal year 2007-2008 corresponding with the completion of the Buncombe County Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Services Comprehensive Plan.*

Outdoor Pools

Buncombe County offers five outdoor pools and one indoor pool. Admission to the pools is \$3 a person. Passes can be purchased in sets of 10 and 20 for \$20 and \$40 respectively

- Cane Creek Pool
- Erwin Community Pool
- Hominy Valley Pool
- Owen Community Pool
- North Buncombe Pool

Erwin Community Pool

Erwin Community Pool was first built over 23 years ago. In 2002, the pool was renovated and rededicated. The Architecture firm responsible for the design was the Cort Group and the construction was completed by the Thorpe Group.

County Commissioners: Nathan Ramsey, Davis Gantt, Patsy Keever, David Young and Bill Stanley

County Manager: Wanda Greene

County Planner: Jon Creighton

Director, Parks and Recreation: Annette Wise

Required Renovations

When Erwin Community Pool was remodeled in 2002 the bathrooms at the facility were not renovated. Consequently these bathrooms are over 23 years old and in need of renovation. Renovation is scheduled for 2008. Erwin Pool is highly used during the spring and summer months by both the public and physical education classes at county operated schools.

Hominy Valley Pool

Hominy Valley Pool was dedicated in 1998. The Architecture firm responsible for the design was the Cort Architectural Group. Parties involved in the construction process included The Bolton Corporation, Buncombe Construction and Haynes Electric.

County Commissioners: Tom Sobol, Patsy Keever, David Gantt, Bill Stanley, and David Young

County Manager: Wanda Greene

County Planner: Jon Creighton

Director, Parks and Recreation: Annette Wise

North Buncombe Park Pool

North Buncombe Pool was dedicated in 1996. The architecture firm responsible for the design was The Cort Architectural Group. Parties involved in the construction process included Abbott Construction as the general contractor and Paddock Pool Construction.

County Commissioners: Gene Rainey, Patsy Keever, Tom Sobol, David Young and Bill Stanley

County Manager: William McElrath Jr.

County Planner: Jon Creighton

Director, Parks and Recreation: Patricia Crisco

Owen Pool

Owen Pool was dedicated in 2000. The Cort Architectural Group was responsible for the design and construction was completed by H&M Construction, The Bolton Company and Pyatt Heating and Company.

County Commissioners: Tom Sobol, Patsy Keever, David Gantt, Bill Stanley and David Young

County Manager: Wanda Greene

County Planner: Jon Creighton

Director, Parks and Recreation: Annette Wise

Cane Creek Pool

Cane Creek Pool was dedicated in 1991. The design was completed by the Cort Architectural Group and construction was provided by H&M Construction.

County Commissioners: Tom Sobol, Patsy Keever, David Gantt, Bill Stanley and David Young

County Manager: Wanda Greene

County Planner: Jon Creighton

Director, Parks and Recreation: Annette Wise



The five outdoor pools are open during the summer months from Memorial Day weekend through early August. The pools employ a large part-time summer staff to manage each pool and lifeguard.

Pool Maintenance

Currently the department has started the process of resurfacing all of the outdoor pools. A pool surface must be resurfaced every five to eight years.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Revenue from Pools
Rentals: \$8,613
Open Swim: 31, 993
People on Passes: 18,801
Passes Sold: 1,409
Swim Lessons: \$13,356
Total Deposit: \$147,539

Zeugner Center

Directions

Take 26 East and take Exit #37 - turn left on to Long Shoals Road and travel 1.1 miles - turn left on to Overlook Road and travel .4 of a mile - turn right on to Springside Road and travel .3 of a mile - turn right between the tennis courts.

History

The Skyland Recreation Center was purchased from the Oak Forest Association approximately 30 years ago. The Oak Forest Association is a homeowners association in the housing development of Oak Forest adjacent to the Zeugner Center. Two years ago the Buncombe County Commissioners voted to change the name of Skyland Recreation Center to the Zeugner Center in honor of Mr. H.H. Zeugner. Mr. Zeugner previously served as the Community Schools coordinator for Buncombe County Schools and was instrumental in arranging for Buncombe County to purchase this facility from the Oak Forest Home Owners Association. Mr. Zeugner felt the facility would be great for the community as well as for physical education classes run by the schools.

Amenities

Indoor pool and multipurpose room with kitchen. Multipurpose room available for rental

Zeugner Center Facility Usage Fees
Lap Swim \$3.50 per visit; \$25.00 per month
Open Swim \$3.00 per visit, 20 passes for \$10.00; 40 passes for \$20.00
Main Room Rental \$35.00 per hour
Snack Room Rental \$15.00 per hour
Pool Rental \$50.00 per hour for up to 25 people. After 25 there is an additional charge of \$7.50 per hour

Facility Images:



Outside of Building (backside)



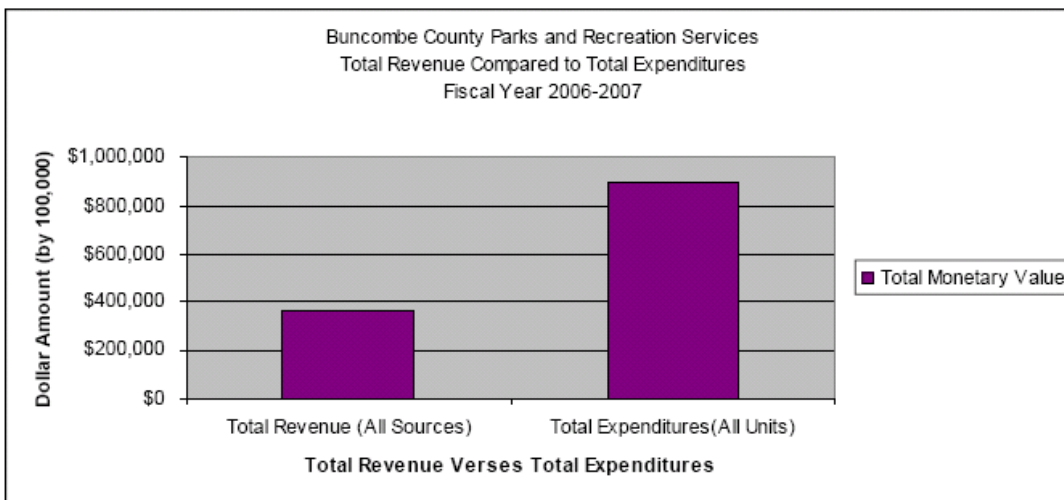
Pool

AWAITING AGREEMENT WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM TO SOLIDIFY FUTURE OPERATION OF THE ZEUGNER CENTER AND TRANSFER OF OPERATION SERVICES.

Annual Revenue and Expenditures for Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services

In fiscal year 2006-2007, total revenue for Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services was \$365,700. Total expenditures for the department, compiled from all units, was \$893,150. A depiction of revenue vs. expenditures for fiscal year 2006-2007 can be seen in figure 2.1 listed below.

Figure 2.1: Total Revenue Compared to Total Expenditures

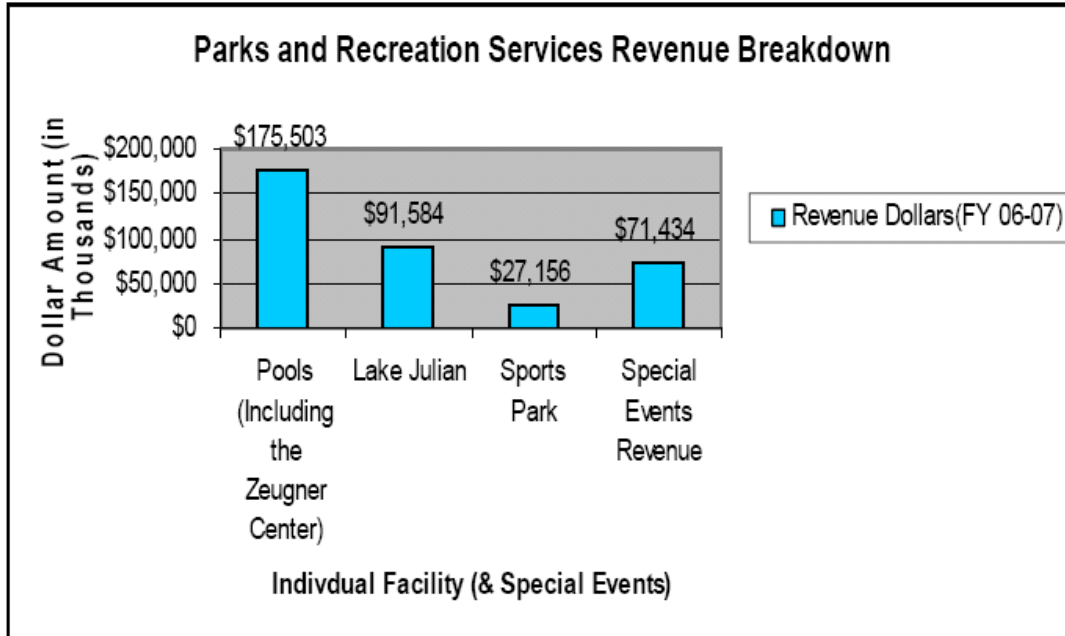


In order to greater understand the financial viability of facilities within Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services, annual financial revenue needs to be broken down by individual facility. Revenue by Facility, for fiscal year 2006-2007, is listed below:

- Lake Julian:\$91,584**
- Buncombe County Sports Park:\$ 27,156**
- Pools (including Zeugner Center):\$175,503**
- Special Events Programming: \$71,434**

A graph depicting total revenue by department can be seen on the following page in figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2: Parks and Recreation Services Revenue Breakdown
Fiscal Year 2006-2007



Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services Programming

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Program Statistics

Senior Program Statistics

Senior Trips

Number of Trips Scheduled: 20(June 2006-June 2007)

Number of Trips Taken: 15

Average per Trip: 8.5 seniors

Attendance Statistics

Total Senior Travelers: 136 (June 2006-June 2007)

15 seniors attended 5 or more trips

7 Seniors attended 4 trips

114 Seniors attended 1-3 trips

Van Usage for Trips

2 Vans: 8 trips

1 Van: 7 trips

Senior Workshops

Number of Scheduled Workshops: 11 (June 2006-June 2007)

Number of Workshops held: 5

Average per Workshop: 11

Total Number of Seniors on Mailing List: 180

Program Brochure: Mailed out monthly

Newsletter: Mailed out every three months

Total Revenue Earned (June 2006-June 2007): \$500.00

List of 2007 Programs

Adult League Kickball

Season: April 7th-May 26th

Time: Saturdays 12-6pm

Location: BC Sports Park

Registration:\$200/team, \$25/person

143 adults registered

Date: August 4th- September 8th

Time: Saturdays 12-6pm

Location: BuncombeCounty Sports Park

Registration: \$25.00 per person

16 adults registered

Beach Volleyball

Date: 6/23/2007

Time: 12-6pm

Location: BC Sports Park

Registration: \$10

10 adults registered

Model Air Show

Date: June 9, 2007

Time: 10 1.m.-2 p.m.

Location: BC Sports Park

Registration Fee: free

35 people attended

First/ Second Session Swim Lessons

Fee: \$25 for 8 lessons

Master Plan (4.15.2008)

Fireworks/Summer Mini Golf Tournament
Date: June 16th
Time: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Location: Tropical Gardens Mini Golf
9 children and 9 adults registered

Summer Solstice
Date: June 22, 2007
Time: 10-4
Location: Hominy Creek River Park
Registration Fee: free event
Attendance: 300+

Fishing Derby
Date: September 2007
Time: 8-12 p.m.
Location: Lake Julian
Registration Fee: \$5.00 per child
Attendance: 100 children participated

Scarecrow Festival
Date: October 6, 2007
Time: 10-4 p.m.
Location: Lake Julian
Registration Fee: \$35 for vendors, free to public
Attendance: 400+

Festival of Lights
Date: December 2007
Time: evening
Location: Lake Julian
Registration Fee: \$5 per car
Attendance: 6,800 Visitors

Fourth of July Fireworks
Date: July 4, 2007
Time: all day (fireworks @9:30)
Location: Lake Julian
Registration Fee: Free event

Trails and Tails 5K Run
July 14, 2007
Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Location: BC Sports Park
Registration: \$10/person
Donation: 2 cans of dog food
Attendance: 9 people, 6 dogs

NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick
Date: September 24th, 2007
Time: 1 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Location: Enka Middle School
Registration: Free
Attendance: 14 children participated

Horseshoe Tournament
Date: December 1st
Location: Lake Julian
Registration: \$5/person
Attendance: 11 adults

Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Program Plan FY 09

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
July 4th Fireworks	Rocking-River Raft Race	Kids Fishing Tournament	Scarecrow Festival	Adult Flag Football	Festival of Lights
Tails-n-Trails 5K Run	Outdoor Pools close mid August	NFL Punt-Pass- and Kick	Haunted Lagoon		Santa Letters
Horse Shoe Tournament		Zeugner reopens for lap swim, water exercise, swim team practice & birthday parties	High School swim team begins season		
MLB Pitch and Run					
Outdoor Pools Open					
Swim Lessons					
<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
	High School swim teams ends mid-month	Adult Flag Football	Kids fishing tournament	Adult Flag Football	Model Airplane Show
			Adult/child miniature golf tournament	Adult Kickball	Beach Tennis
			Adult Kickball	Kids Safety	Summer Solstice
			Adult Flag Football	Outdoor pools open	Swim lessons begin at outdoor pools
			Easter Event	Memorial Day weekend dance recitals	
			Aquatics School: Lifeguard trng., water safety instruction (@ Zeugner)	Zeugner closes for summer	
				Senior Games	

On Going Programs

- Senior Trips and Workshops; Zeugner Center lap swim; water exercise; open swim; birthday parties.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONGOING JULY – JUNE

- golf; bocce; soccer; cycling; alpine skiing; basketball; cheerleading; aquatics, track & field; softball; volleyball; bowling; equestrian. Program training and competition varies according to season.

ONGOING CONTRACTED SERVICES

- Dance programs in 5-6 public schools plus Zeugner Center Sept – May
- High School swim team season Oct - Feb.

Public Comment

In conducting a comprehensive plan, the solicitation of public comment is essential in providing recommendations for change. Since Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services is a public agency, it follows logically that the services provided by the agency are intended to serve the interests and needs of the general public. Therefore, in making recommendations about future facility development and program changes, community input must be given the utmost priority in formulating future development trends. For the purpose of this plan, public comment is divided into three categories. These categories are as follows:

- BCPR Relationships with other agencies
- Community Focus Groups & Community Meetings
- Citizen Survey

BCPR Relationships with Other Agencies

In years past, BCPR used to utilize other agencies extensively in cosponsoring events throughout the county. For the purpose of this comprehensive plan, BCPR has met with several partnership agencies within the county with which past relationships have been developed. These partnership organizations are as follows:

- LeeAnne Tucker, Land of Sky Regional Council, *Director of Volunteer Services*
- Shelly Moore, Asheville Humane Society, *Executive Director*
- Linda Giltz, Land of Sky Regional Council, *Land Use Planner*
- Wendy Marsh, Buncombe County Council on Aging, *Executive Director*
- Susan Roderick, Quality Forward, *Executive Director*
- Karen Cragolin, River Link, *Executive Director*
- Roderick Simmons, City of Asheville Parks and Recreation Services, *Director*

BCPR hopes to build upon these relationships in current years in order to further the development of cosponsored community programs and strengthen the departments professional relationship with each of the partner agencies mentioned. BCPR welcomes the addition of new partner agencies as part of the department's mission is to maintain the quality of life for all citizens by including activities which provide recreation, cultural and educational opportunities. Through partnering with other area agencies, BCPR will be able to provide stronger programs in these areas and consequently boost attendance numbers at cosponsored programs as we bring together diverse members of the county population together.

Community Focus Groups

In gathering community input for the comprehensive plan, BCPR met with several community groups in order to gather suggestions and feedback regarding parks and recreation facilities within the county.

- Land of Sky Volunteer Services
- West Buncombe Elementary PTA
- North Buncombe Youth League
- Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Asheville- Buncombe Youth Soccer Association (ABYSA)
- Hominy Valley Youth League Board of Directors

Summary of Suggestions

Land of Sky Volunteer Services

- for overnight trips create a 6 month pay plan for seniors that cannot pay for the trip all at once
- partner with AARP for hotel discounts on senior trips
- have seniors assist with fundraising- craft sale, bake sale
- rent space at the chamber of commerce for recreation brochure
 - try Black Mountain chamber as well- they may give space for free
- create a life long learning center
 - contact AB Tech- office space was given to them- they may have space that we can use and develop programs with the faculty and active seniors
- utilize the RSVP program (retired seniors volunteer program)
 - Have an R.S.V.P. volunteer act as a volunteer service coordinator and gather volunteers for the department
- partner with community based organizations
- Create one location where seniors can access all recreation activities provided in the county- utilize Land of Sky's "Active Options for Aging Americans."
- develop a community center- utilize community centers throughout the county as "satellite" centers

Top Priority Suggestions from Group

1. access to the information about county activities offered through parks and recreation
2. more places for people to gather- to be able to build a sense of community
3. better transportation systems
4. offer programming for working seniors since the baby boomers are seniors who will be working
5. utilize senior volunteers(grant writing, etc)
6. put information at health fairs
7. the community centers are more tied into the community needs
8. more community centers- locations that mountain mobility can reach
9. offer lifelong learning activities- maybe through parks and rec. and the libraries
10. Social engagement should be part of parks and recreation. Our activities should be accessible to all people throughout the county.

West Buncombe Elementary PTA

The PTA felt that there are not adequate parks and recreation facilities in the Leicester/Erwin area. They would like to see additional facilities. The suggestions that they offered are as follows:

- Bike park- a path for children to ride their bikes on that is flat. The board suggested that a facility like Carrier Park would be nice in this area of the county. Not necessarily a “raceway” but a track that children can ride bikes around with a playground, skating rink, basketball courts, etc.
- An indoor pool facility- like Waynesville Recreation Center
- Build/revamp the playground at the Leicester Community Center
- Put up larger sheds/awnings at Erwin Community Pool
- Put a playground at Erwin Community Pool

Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Advisory Board initially offered the following suggestions during a focus group held

at the regularly scheduled meeting for the month of August, 2007.

1. Develop a multi purpose community center
2. Find out who is responsible for current community centers
 - o Can we provide a “service” to these outside community centers?
3. Develop “pocket” parks- look for available county land
4. Create a map of facilities that is easy to access and understand
 - o Make trails and rivers stand out on map (mark districts, rivers & trails)
5. Develop softball fields
6. Build an aquatics center (with multipurpose community center)
7. Build a disc golf course at Hominy Creek River Park (what can we build there?)
8. Build a skate park
9. List bike trail on website
10. Compile demographic information and information about other Parks and Recreation Departments (across U.S.) got next Advisory Board Meeting

Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association (ABYSA)

ABYSA recognized the need for additional, as well as competition quality, fields throughout the county to serve their growing population base.

1. Lightening detection equipment at all fields
2. Additional soccer fields in the North Buncombe area
3. Additional soccer fields throughout the County
4. Better drainage for fields
5. “All Weather” fields to reduce the days that the Sports Park has to close due to inclement weather
6. Lighted fields for night games

Hominy Valley Youth League

Hominy Valley Youth League prioritized a list of needs and wishes for their park at the

Hominy Valley Park . These items are listed as follows:

1. Buy any land adjacent to our park that becomes available. With more people moving into our community everyday, we really need more room for the future and land only comes available every so often, so when it does we need to be able to buy it quickly.
2. Build an indoor athletic facility that would include 2 gyms for basketball, an indoor baseball/softball training area, meeting/ party rooms etc...
3. Our fields need an extensive French drain system. When it rains our fields stay too wet for too long which causes us to postpone games and loose playing time?
4. We would love to have all of our parking areas and driveways paved.
5. Water hook ups at each field to be able to water down the fields in dry or windy conditions.
6. Underground sprinkler system for our outfields to keep the grass in better condition, not only for looks but for safety too.
7. A separate practice field for football. Now they practice on the Babe Ruth Baseball field. This make up keep on this extremely hard and additional care and reseeding every year.
8. Fencing- The majority of our fencing is old and in poor shape. Therefore is unsafe and needs replacing.
9. A bigger storage area for sports equipment and ground maintenance equipment.
10. Replace aging lights on each field.
11. Most of the dugouts and press boxes are dilapidated and are in poor condition, while others need updates or repairs.
12. A league between other programs like Erwin, North Buncombe's,etc...that would be available to the children who want to play at a higher level of completion but are not able to play Travel Ball for whatever reason.
13. A ticket booth at each entrance.
14. Air Conditioning for the Board Room.
15. A sign of general park rules at each entrance (No alcohol, no drugs, no foul language, no sex offenders, no weapons, good sportsmanship, etc..)

16. New window for the Board room.
17. A grass infield for the Babe Ruth field .
18. A security system at each building and field. We have been plagued with break ins this past year.
19. A new PA and speaker system at each field.
20. More communication/brainstorming between all of Buncombe's County programs.
21. A pay raises for all the volunteers! Ha!

North Buncombe Youth League

The North Buncombe Youth League lacks adequate space for youth league sports as all scheduling for fields and gyms must be done through the school district and consequently it is often hard for scheduling of the fields/gyms to be adequately done.

Short Term Goal:

1. 2 Baseball Fields and 1 Softball Field
2. Another dumpster at the park
3. Fencing
4. Better storage building at the pool-side field (bigger)

Long Term Goals:

1. Purchase of property in NB District
2. Multi-Purpose Building: which would hold our office, conference room, banquet space, storage, etc.
3. Practice field for football program
4. Large building for basketball program (could be made to have 4 separate courts inside)

Community Forums

In order to solicit more public comment, Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services administered two community meetings in the Owen and Roberson districts.

Owen Meeting

Thursday Jan. 10th, 2008

Summary of Feedback:

1. Look at available county land along the Swannanoa River to construct a greenway.
 - a. Consider (FEMA property, schools, Asheville Christian School & Warren Wilson College)
2. There is interest from property owners along the river to both donate and sell easements for the construction of a greenway. Moreover, members of the Swannanoa community are in contact with businesses adjacent to the proposed greenway location.
3. Use the Grove Stone property to connect to Owen Middle and Owen High School.
 - a. This would provide the following benefits:
 - i. Fishing (additional recreational aspect)
 - ii. Possibility of flood water detention
 - iii. Army Corps of Engineers working on flood water detention study for the area.
4. ultimate goal- to connect a greenways system from Black Mountain to Azalea Park The following parties have already been involved:
 - a. River Link
 - b. Land of Sky- Linda Giltz
 - c. Trust for Public Land
 - d. DENR
 - I. Would like to get the County very interested in this project*
 - II. Would like for this to be a completely “Green” project:*
 - a. LEED certified restrooms*
 - b. Interpretive trail signs*
 - c. Public art*
5. 18 hole disc golf course needed in the district
6. Outdoor amphitheater
7. Water cooling park
8. Dog Parks
9. Spray park for graffiti art
10. Ice Skating Rink- there is no ice skating rink in WNC
11. Replace “commercial” vegetation with local, indigenous NC plants.
12. Make improvements to the Owen District Park. This park is frequently used by residents of the Owen district. Respondents note that maintenance needs to be kept up with better, the walking trail is in need of restoration, and the basketball courts require resurfacing.

Survey Results

During the public comment period of the comprehensive plan we conducted a survey of the general public. This survey was conducted both on-line, via the Buncombe County website, and in person. The survey was distributed to 200 citizens during the months of July and August at all of the Buncombe County outdoor pools. A summary of the comment gathered through the paper distribution of the survey is listed below.

After analyzing the public comment gathered at all five outdoor pool facilities, public interest regarding Parks and Recreation facilities the following general trends emerged:

- ❖ There is a need for green space and greenways in the County
- ❖ Facilities and programs must be equally distributed throughout the entire County
- ❖ The public recognized a need for an aquatics center with an indoor gym, cardio equipment and weight training equipment.
- ❖ There is a need for a dog park (or parks) within the County
- ❖ There is a need for a disc golf course
- ❖ There is a need for increased hiking trails within the County
- ❖ There is a need for meeting space(for aerobics classes, day camps, educational activities, etc.)

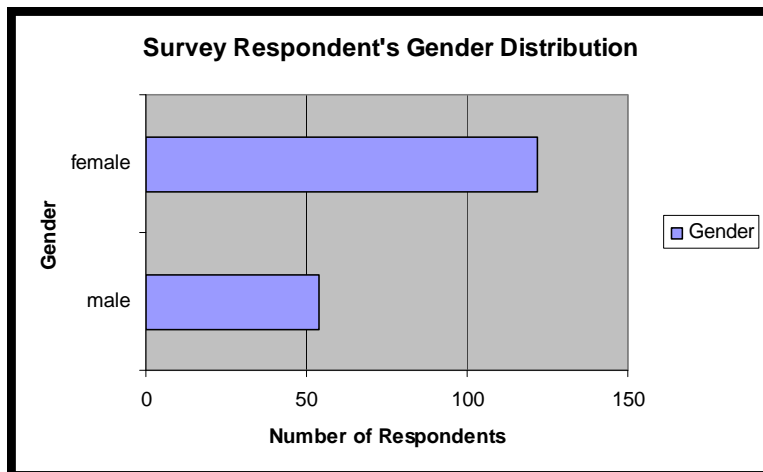
The Survey was conducted via paper and through the internet using the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Website. The survey results are as follows. An original template for the survey is listed in Appendix B.

Analysis of On-Line Survey Data

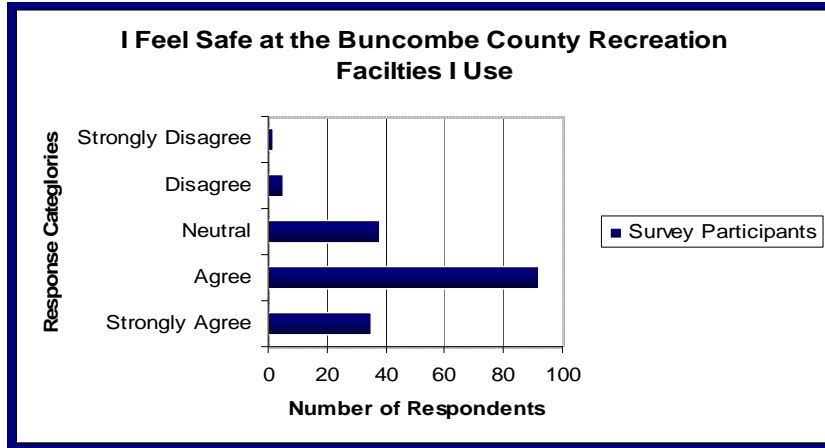
Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services Survey Data

Participant Zip Code Distribution	
28701	2
28704	16
28709	1
28711	4
28715	17
28730	6
28728	3
28732	1
28776	1
28778	3
28787	25
28801	14
28803	18
28804	15
28805	17
28806	23

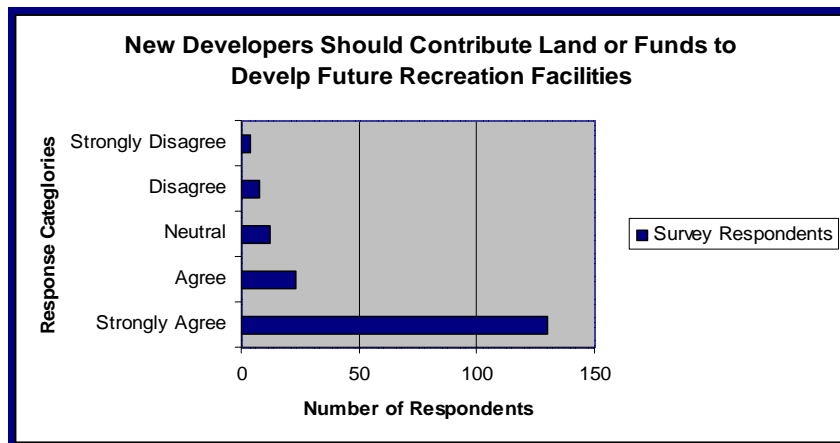
Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	54	30.7%
Female	122	69.3%



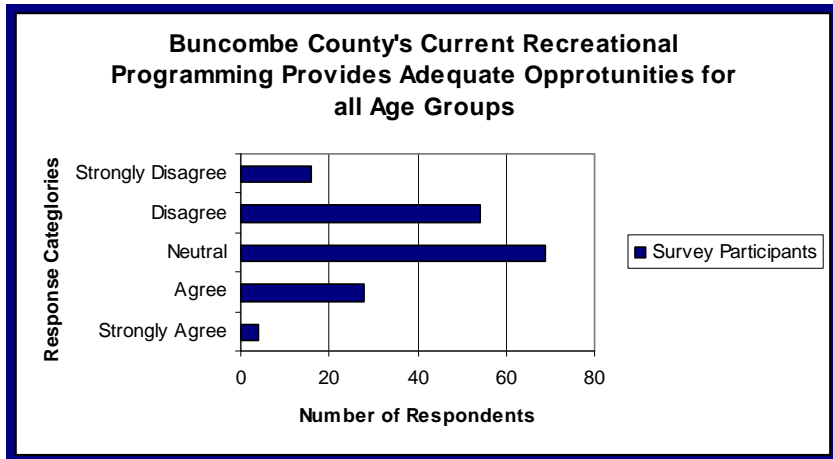
I feel safe at the Buncombe County recreation facilities I use						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	20.3% (35)	53.5% (92)	22.1% (38)	2.9% (5)	1.2% (2)	172
					Answered Question	172
					Skipped Question	5



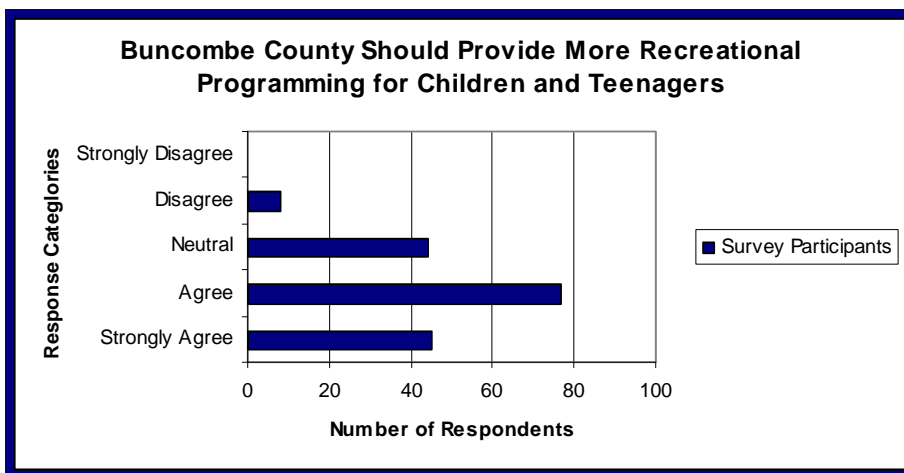
New developers should contribute land or funds to develop future recreation facilities						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	73.4% (130)	13.0% (23)	6.8% (12)	4.5% (8)	2.3% (4)	177
					Answered Question	177
					Skipped Question	0



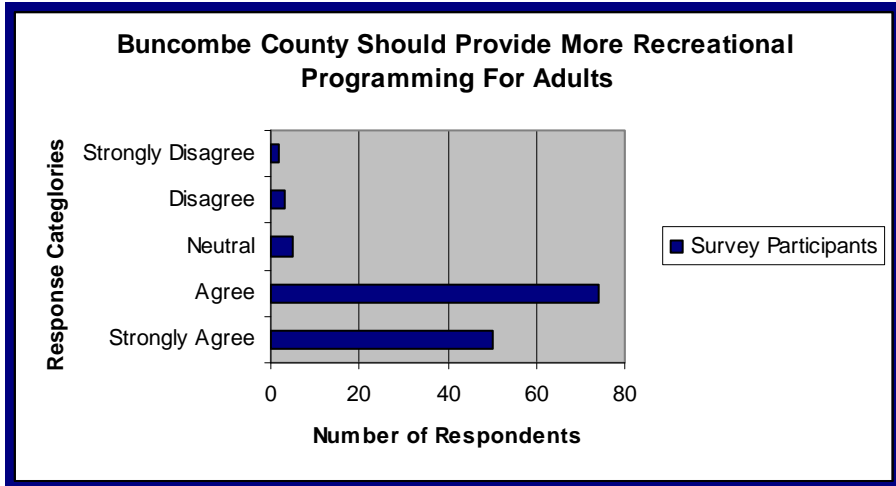
Buncombe County's current recreational programming provides adequate opportunities for all age groups						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	2.3% (4)	16.4% (28)	40.4% (69)	31.6% (54)	9.4% (16)	171
					Answered Question	171
					Skipped Question	6



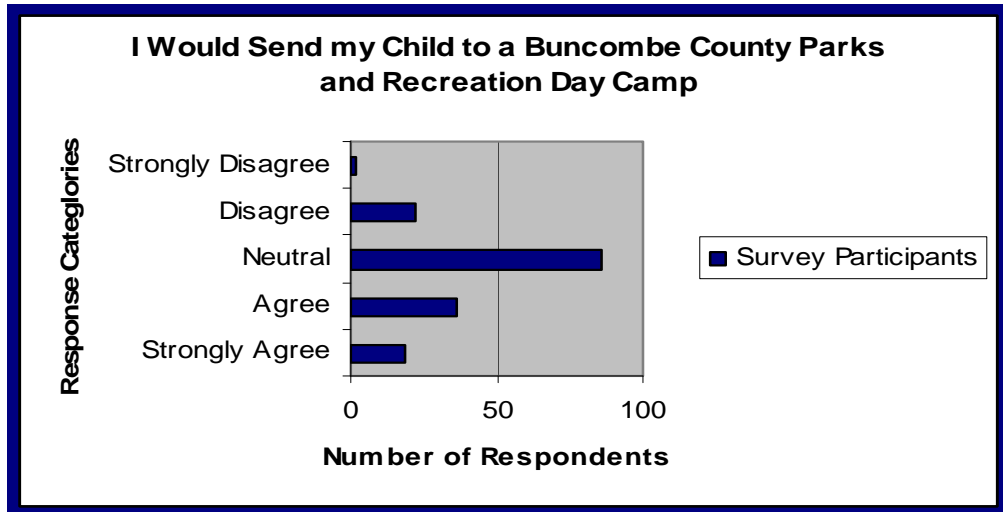
Buncombe County should provide more recreational programming for children and teenagers						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	25.9% (45)	44.3% (77)	25.3% (44)	4.6% (8)	0.0% (0)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



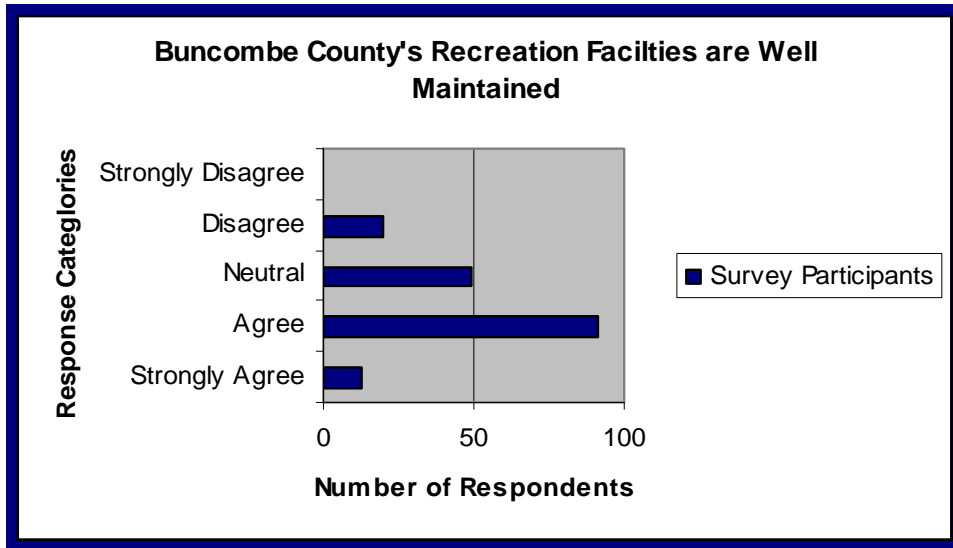
Buncombe County should provide more recreational programming for adults						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	28.7% (50)	42.5% (74)	25.9% (45)	1.7% (3)	1.1% (2)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



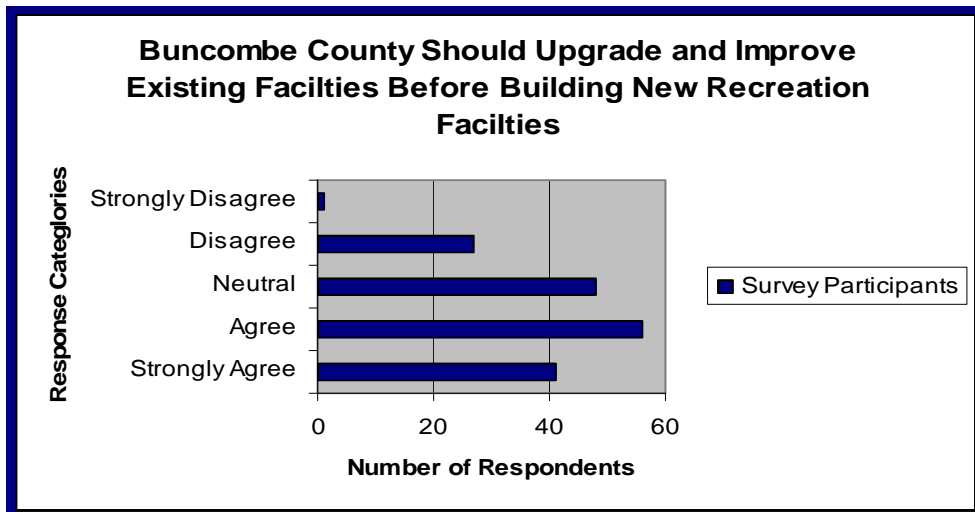
I would send my child to a Buncombe County Parks and Recreation day camp						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	11.5% (19)	21.8% (36)	52.1% (86)	13.3% (22)	1.2% (2)	165
					Answered Question	165
					Skipped Question	12



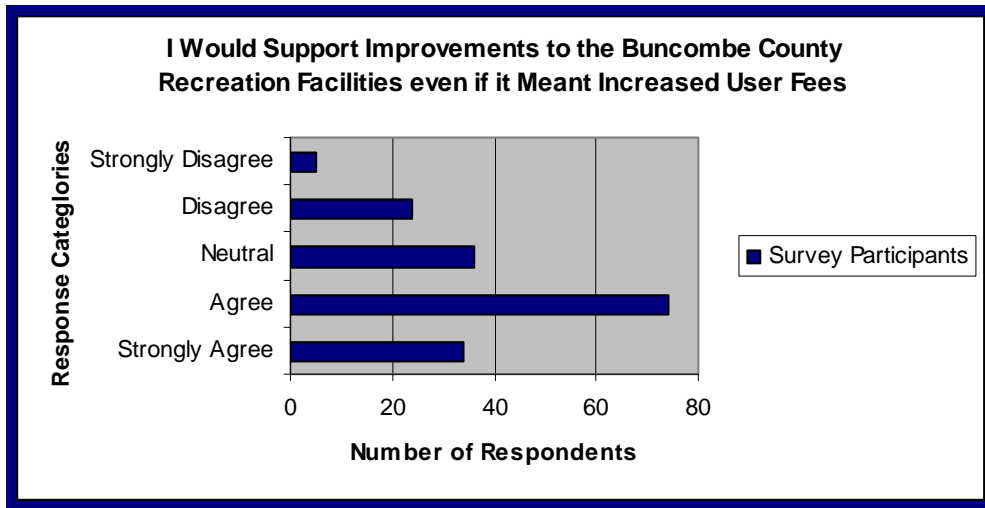
Buncombe County's recreational facilities are well maintained						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	7.5% (13)	52.6% (91)	28.3% (49)	11.6% (20)	0.0% (0)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



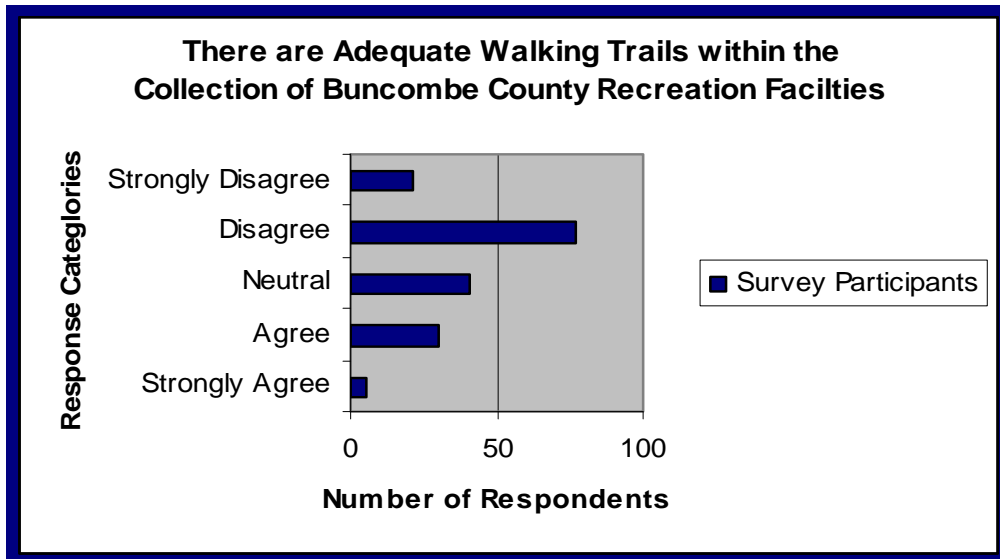
Buncombe County should upgrade and improve existing facilities before building new recreation facilities						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	23.7% (41)	32.4% (56)	27.7% (48)	15.6% (27)	0.6% (1)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



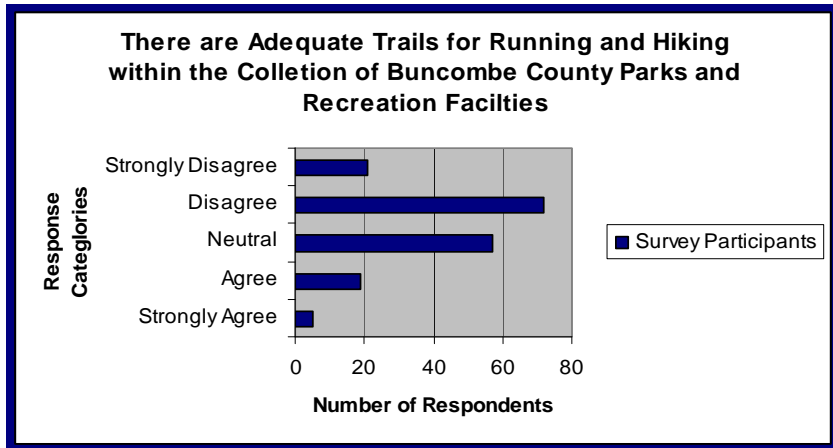
I would support improvements in the Buncombe County recreation facilities even if it meant increased user fees						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	19.7% (34)	42.8% (74)	20.8% (36)	13.9% (24)	2.9% (5)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



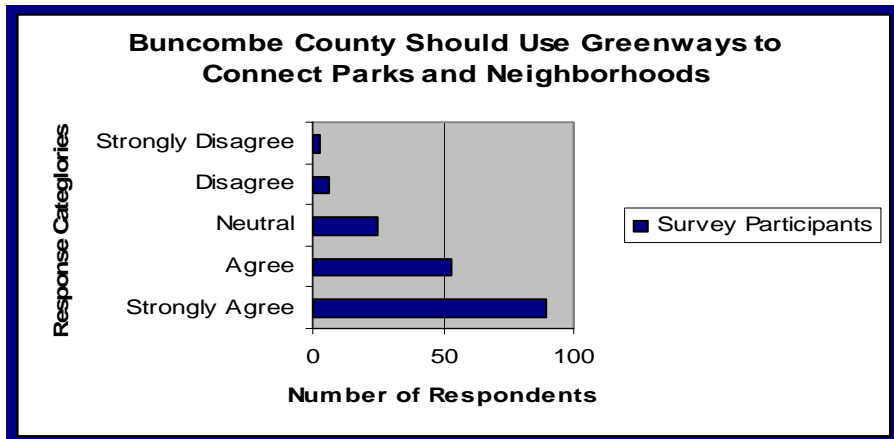
I There are adequate walking trails within the collection of Buncombe County Parks and Recreation facilities						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	2.9% (5)	17.2% (30)	23.6% (41)	44.3% (77)	12.1% (21)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



There are adequate trails for running and hiking within the collection of Buncombe County Parks and Recreation facilities						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	2.9% (5)	10.9% (19)	32.8% (57)	41.4% (72)	12.1% (21)	174
					Answered Question	174
					Skipped Question	3



Buncombe County should use greenways to connect parks and neighborhoods						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Please select the option to the right that applies	50.6% (89)	30.1%(53)	14.2%(25)	3.4%(6)	1.7%(3)	176
					Answered Question	176
					Skipped Question	1



Open Response

The survey asked three open ended questions related to parks and recreation in Buncombe County. Total responses for all three questions are listed below:

Question One

What type of facilities would you like to see added to the buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department?
indoor gym (4)
bike Park, BMX track , Free ride course, Pump track
baseball/softball
senior centers in outlying parts of the county
Indoor pools Softball Complex
Boat Ramps for boats with trailers.
Greenways, water features, outdoor theatres, facilities in the northern end of the county that aren't along a river. Better/interactive playgrounds like the one in Weaverville.
Trails that extend Asheville's greenways and connect parks, schools, libraries and communities
Let the city and county parks & rec departments unite to build an outdoor amphitheater for both book shows and local usage
Off-leash dog parks!
More activities geared for women's interest
a gym and a football field and baseball fields for the youth leagues
Baseball Fields on North End of County. Basketball Facilities North End Of County. Football Practice Fields North End. Soccer Fields North End
I would like to see more facilities geared to single seniors
I would like to see more open green space for multi-use. For example more space like Beaver Lake within the city limits. Also, much better maintained bathroom facilities at all parks and rec locations.
indoor water park & pool(year round)in Asheville
bike lanes(on roadways)
Interconnected bike/walking paths
Major upgrade to indoor pool facility. Weight room Dance studio
Soccer facility in another part of the county either North or South. A facility that could be used for practice and games not just limited to games like the Sports Park
Greenways that interconnect with parks, neighborhoods and the Asheville system
training areas adjacent to soccer fields
multi-use facilities, turf soccer fields, racquet ball courts, covered basketball street courts and small indoor soccer fields
soccer fields that don't flood indoor soccer
Disk Golf
lighted, paved walking paths
Indoor swimming pool and fitness center. Preferably in the western portion of the county as we have very limited access to any facilities
More green space. We really need a greenway
Greenways providing additional recreation opportunities for biking, walking, skating, etc.
indoor walking track, racquet ball courts
ping pong (table tennis) ice skating/hockey table hockey (rod hockey)
More programs for children mostly girls. We need more ways to get girls excited about sports and make it easy for them to have many ways. I have 2 sons and 3 daughters, my sons have plenty of boy things! Girls need to have a chance to show they are athletes too
Indoor climbing wall (2)
Summer Day Camp, Picnic Shelter at the Hominy Valley Pool. Playground at the Hominy Valley baseball fields
BETTER GROUNDS CLEANING

Master Plan (4.15.2008)

community centers, more playgrounds like the ones at Jones Park and Carrier Park
MORE THINGS FOR CHILDREN/ PROGRAMS LIKE EXERCISE OR CONTESTS TO GET KIDS EXCITED ABOUT EXERCISING
Sports/athletic complexes and outdoor facilities for softball/base and tennis

Question Two:

What type of programs would you like the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department to offer?
adult basketball leagues year around
Tournament baseball and softball
Senior centers and programs for stay at home moms and dads
Dance classes for adults
Rock climbing, community service, horseshoe tournaments
More senior adult programming such as yoga and day trips
More for "senior" citizens
Educational programming- birding, tree/plant identification
Yoga and tai chi
Baseball, football and basketball camps
Year round swim lessons for children, dance classes for children & adults
Something for our youth. Since the close of the skate rink in Woodfin, the kids on the north end have little to do on the weekend
Focus on increased facilities and not programming
Continued development of soccer program to achieve a skill level on par w/ the eastern part of the state
Offer family oriented programming
Another indoor pool on the west side of the county
Outdoor education programs for teens
County should support area nonprofits that provide programming. Develop partnerships
Additional sports leagues (Soccer, baseball, basketball)
More programs to encourage teens and kids to lead a healthier lifestyle
Board games and card games for adults and seniors
Offer 4-square, handball, volleyball, racquetball & tetherball
Offer dance classes & dog training classes
Health and wellness programming needed
Develop a youth track and field program
Organized softball teams
Offer day trips to interesting sites
More senior programming/ trips and better publicity for those programs already offered
Adult recreational ping pong and recreational ice hockey
yoga classes pilates classes weight management exercise classes
More programming for seniors- more trips, volunteer opportunities, college like classes
Dance classes and opportunities for seniors
More programs for children- like a kids aerobic class
Tennis lessons for the pre-teen age group and teen exercise classes
Girls programming
Develop a Geo-Caching club
Dance and craft lessons. Classes and senior activities. Offer space for exercise classes
Cardio classes, weight training classes, hiking
Summer camps focused on nature, crafts and the arts
Martial arts, nature programming, day camps geared towards sports
Skateboarding and weightless day camps for children on snow days, vacations, and summer break
Craft classes- cake decorating, knitting
Utilize county departments to offer programming to the public. Ex- EMS teach a basic first Aid, Sheriff dept. teach defense

Master Plan (4.15.2008)

More low cost summer day camps
Outdoor programming for disadvantaged youth
Smallmouth Bass stocking program
Non competitive sports activities for adults
More programming for young children
Intramural volleyball
After school programming
Water aerobics & more tracks for horseback riding
Hiking groups and pet related programming
Dance and beginning sports lessons for people who have never played sports
Senior programming, senior centers
Increased senior activities

Question Three

Please feel free to list any comments or suggestions regarding the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department. We appreciate your feedback.
As a new resident of buncombe county, I really appreciate the system tat is in place. my kids and I use many of the available space
Too many senior programs. Not enough programming for adults. Would like to see a weekend Ski trip take place
Gyms and Ball fields are needed in the north end of the county
I will gladly pay more taxes for cleaner and safer facilities
Underbrush should be removed at Owen Park so that the river can be seen
Greenways are extremely important to the well-being of a community
County needs heated pools for physical therapy
Open the pools earlier than noon in the summer. It is warm enough for the pools to open by 10 a.m.
Strengthen relationship with ABYSA
BCSP fields need to be fixed so that they can provide more consistent programming
BCPR needs to utilize professional consultants with experience in fundraising and long term planning
Need to let citizens know what is available in the county
I really like the idea that developers provide to the county, land for park development. It is better if the land is owned by the county so that they can control proper maintenance of the space as some developers would let the quality drop after the houses have been sold
The trips arranged by Grace Young are great. It provides a way to learn and see WNC and the social interaction with others is very helpful to those who cannot drive anymore for entertainment.
There needs to be more open spaces and trails and greenways
More adequate bike commuting lanes and/trails outside of downtown
I think there needs to be more cycling trails away from roads to provide a safer recreational bicycling environment.
DISC GOLF AND ROCKCLIMBING! RUNNING TRAILS
Walking trail along Lake Julian
I feel there is more than sufficient green space in the county and BCPR need not supply any further. There is always maintenance to be done and no more facilities should be built/purchased until the ones we have are in good condition.
North Buncombe does not receive the same amount/quality of facilities as the other areas of the county
Softball and baseball complex in the Erwin area. Youth league team coaches have to arrive hours early to "hold" or "save" the field before practice. Tournaments can not be held in order to raise money because there are no fields or a complex. Players are not given the opportunity to improve on game skills because of lack of training equipment. ex. batting cages
Buncombe County has the capability to lead this entire region in every aspect. The number people and the amount of money could support almost anything.
If the current facilities will not be improved or updated, they should be done away with and new ones built. Zeugner Center needs a serious makeover or it should come down
I would like to see better advertising because I feel that there are a lot of things that are being offered that I don't know about.

Historically BCPR has done a lot with very little money
I am from the North West suburbs of Chicago, in Illinois, and our Park Districts all offered tons of classes for adults and children, learning field trips, recreation centers, etc
IN GENERAL, BC HAS A GOOD SYSTEM. LAKES, SUCH AS OWEN NEED TO BE BETTER MAINTAINED
We need more things in north buncombe it seems everything new being added is going to south buncombe I know that isn't all county some it has nothing to do with county but more in north would be nice. also there seems to be more for smaller children 7 and under that say age 12 and up when they need to stay occupied
Keep up the good work and keep expanding services
Girls field hockey programs! Please add and expand the sports programming!
Thanks for the nice parks available. I wasn't aware of some of the ones listed above in #6 and will be checking those out.
Develop a map of all county parks. Develop a brochure of programs and services

Open Response Summary of Findings

Summary and totals of comments made on on-line Surveys

(note: order of listing is random and not prioritized. If there were multiple comments on an item then the number is noted after item))

Lake Julian –

Fishing and Boating:

- Improve beaches
- More Fish, Fewer Ducks
- More canoes and cheaper rental fees
- More docks
- Offer Fishing lessons
- Add beaches near docks
- Teach boating safety and sailing
- Rent bigger and better boats

Facilities:

- Put locks on bathroom stall doors
- Add a changing table in bathroom
- Renovate existing shelters
- Add more shelters
- Enlarge playground and add seesaw and more swings
- Add more grills
- Add more picnic tables
- Add a walking trail around the lake (2)

Activities/Programs/Sports/Special Events added:

- Frisbee Golf
- Basketball court
- Flag Football Haunted House or haunted Trail
- International Food Festival
- More Teen activities

- More Child activities
- More Senior activities
- Camping skills class for youth
- Wilderness survival class
- Ecological programs

Comment: Improve Handicapped accessibility

Classes and Programming

Indoor Sports:

- Rock Climbing
- Ping Pong (2)
- Swimming
- Ice Skating (2)

Outdoor Sports:

- Tennis lessons and a League
- Tetherball
- Handball
- Volleyball
- Racquetball
- Beginners Soccer League

Youth Programs:

- Track and Field
- Softball League for Teens
- Skateboard Club
- Geocaching
- Girl's Sports
- Girl's Field Hockey
- Fitness and Wellness Program
- Hiking Club

Summer Camp (2):

- Crafts, Nature, Arts (2)
- Sports Focus
- Martial Arts
- Weight Loss

Senior Activities:

- Card and Board Games (2)
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Trips (3)

Crafts
Classes

Fitness Programs

Running Club
Hiking (2)

Classes and Lessons:

Exercise (2)
Water Aerobics
Pilates
Dog Training
Swimming
Self Defense
CPR/1st Aid
Dance Lessons (7)
Aerobics (4)
Yoga
Crafts (5)
Weight Training

Sports Park

Improve Field Drainage (2)
Light Fields
More “Rain Tolerant Fields
Turf (4)

Other Facilities needed

Dog Park (29) 3 noted with H2O
Youth Bike Park
Ice Rink
Additional Playgrounds
Stage/Performance Area
Racquetball Court (8)
Disk Golf (12)
Shuffleboard
Volleyball (2)
Tennis Courts (17) 2 noted with lights
Basketball (9)
Softball Complex (16)
Skate Park (2)
More Soccer Fields (14) 2 noted with lights, 1 noted practice field next to competition field
Indoor Soccer Field (3)
“Miracle” Field
Indoor Meeting Space (10)
Senior Center (13)

County Employee Fitness Center
Weight Room (17)
Cardio Equipment (23)
Aquatics Center (28) 2 more noted in West, 5 noted features like
fountains
Water Park (2)
Indoor Jogging/Walking Track (5)
Outdoor Jogging/Walking Track (2)
Indoor Gym (30)
Rock Climbing Wall (4)
Paintball facility

Greenways/Trails/Green Space

Biking/Jogging/Hiking Trails (18)
Horseback Riding Trails (3)
Greenspaces (79)

River Parks

More River Parks (2)
Clean Up the French Broad
Better Access to the French Broad (3)

Specific Sites

Add Boat Ramp to Hominy Creek Park
Add Community Center with Gym at Hominy Park
Add Shelter at Hominy Park
Add Playground at Hominy Park
Maintain Owen Park lake

Proposed Additional Personnel Positions

BCPR sees the need for the addition of three professional positions in order to reformulate the programs and services offered throughout the department. These proposed positions are as follows:

- greenways facilitator/planner
- grant writer and fundraiser
- health and wellness coordinator
- part time programmer
- security

Greenway Planner

Option One

Parks/Greenway Planner

Entry Level Position

Salary: \$35,000-\$40,000

Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services is seeking an individual to develop and administer park development as a component of the comprehensive greenway plan for the county. Applicant will conduct facility assessments and prepare designs and specifications for greenway development projects. Applicant must possess a certification as a Landscape Architect and have successfully completed the NC Landscape Architecture Certification Exam within two years of employment.

Applicant must possess a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, planning, or a related field; or any equivalent combination of education and experience that provides the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills, and ability to adequately perform the duties of the job as described.

Option Two

Parks and Recreation Planning

Salary: \$22.27/hr or \$43,000

Applicant will work with Parks and Recreation Services to implement the greenway plan.

Principal Job requirements include:

1. develop a program of land acquisition for greenways in accordance to the greenways plan
2. work with other departments within the county, as well as outside community organizations, to periodically update the greenways plan
3. Construct greenways in the county using county funds, grants, and developer resources
4. pursue grants for greenway development
5. Act as a liaison between the county and the public regarding greenway construction
6. Responsible for making presentations to county boards regarding project status, project budgets, etc.
7. Develop project budgets

A Bachelor's degree in urban planning, landscape architecture, or parks and recreation is required. A minimum of 3-5 years of experience in land use planning is required.

Applicant must have experience in grant applications and administration. Applicant must have excellent oral and written skills and proficiency in public speaking as he/she will be the face of the greenways project for the county.

Grant Writer

Salary: \$35,000-\$40,000

Buncombe County Parks and Recreation requires a grant writing consultant to work with staff and the County Commissioners in order to identify funding priorities and

opportunities for the Parks and Recreation department. It will be the responsibility of the grant writer to identify and pursue recreation grants on behalf of the Parks and Recreation department as well as to work with appropriate budget staff in identifying matching funds for allocated grants. The grant writing consultant will develop and maintain relationships with grantors and develop and submit final proposals for all grant projects. Applicant must have at least one year of experience with governmental processes, preferably in a local government setting and be proficient in Microsoft Office. In addition, the applicant must have excellent oral and written skills and possess proficiency in public speaking. All Applicant must possess a Bachelor's degree in Public Affairs, Human Resource Management, Political Science, or a related field.

Health and Wellness Coordinator

Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services seeks qualified candidates for the position of Health and Wellness Coordinator. This individual will be responsible for coordinating, planning, budgeting, and developing a health and wellness program for the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department. The applicant must be able to readily meet the following criteria:

1. work and act as a team player in interactions with other County employees while providing a high level of customer service
2. select, train, evaluate and motivate staff for participation in health and wellness programming.
3. plan, review, and supervise health and wellness programming
4. develop program goals and objectives and identify criteria for meeting those goals
5. maintain records on all health and wellness programming
6. be able to teach all levels of nutrition, cardiovascular and strength

Applicant must possess a Bachelor's degree in recreation, health, physical education, personal training and group exercise or a related field. Moreover, applicant must have 1-2 years experience in the health and wellness field.

Community Arts and Special Events Programmer

As Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services seeks to expand the type and quality of programs offered throughout the department, it will be essential for the department to obtain a community arts and special events programmer. Current programming staff is each assigned a specific area within the department. Creating a position specifically tailored for community arts and special events programming will allow for the department to host larger events which appeal to the community and expand to all areas of the department.

Additional Programmers

As Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services looks to expand available programming throughout the department, additional programmers will be needed in order to create a more structured and efficient program base. Additional program staff will be essential in tailoring all programs offered to specific areas of interest as well as expanding the base of programs offered. Moreover with additional programmers, it will become increasingly easier for the department to utilize partnerships with other agencies and begin to offer programs which transcend beyond the department itself.

Security

If lighting is added to the Youth League Parks and the Buncombe County Sports Park, security will be needed in order to ensure the safety of patrons to these facilities.

Community Arts Initiative Proposal

Buncombe County currently does not administer, through Parks and Recreation, or otherwise, a community arts initiative as a component of their citizen service provision. Community input reveals an interest in, desire for and need for such access. In addition, it has been well-documented in communities of all sizes how provision of such programming enhances overall quality of life for a community. Not only does it benefit the general community, positive impacts are realized within senior, special needs and at risk-youth populations, specifically.

Various Buncombe County Community Development Club officers were interviewed to determine if interest existed for such programming. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with regard to such programs including interest in community art projects in public spaces. Focus groups at the community centers should be held to further identify how specific programming should be tailored to the needs and interests of the centers and those who would participate in such programming. Interviews also consistently revealed the need for more community cohesion. Interviewees discussed that more community activity and collaboration existed in the past but has died down over the years due to lack of organization and inspiration. Also noted was conflict between residents of new developments and the native or long-time residents. Lack of assimilation opportunities for newcomers as well as the absence of clear local community leadership with regard to such programs and projects is detrimental to creation and maintenance of a healthy community. Community arts projects in shared public spaces would be one of many ways to reinvigorate the community and encourage cohesion within all members of the community. One community center interviewee seemed to speak to the willingness of all residents to overcome this challenge by saying, "Sometimes it takes an outsider to come in and help everyone discover their similarities."

The goal of creating and executing a pilot program to evaluate the benefit and viability of such programming is to offer increased access to community arts programming in a variety of ways (visual arts, theater arts, arts exploration, community building through arts, etc.) that currently do not exist or exists in a prohibitive manner to many who could

otherwise benefit from such programming. Aside from enhancing the cultural offerings available to general and targeted demographics, there exist marked possibilities to contribute to local economy through utilization of local artists and business for instructional and supply provision for such programming. To harness, utilize and encourage the wealth of local perspectives and talent to enhance public spaces and community programming for community benefit would only serve to strengthen the fabric of our community through locally-guided and executed enhancement of public spaces, cultural programming and creative opportunities. The changing faces of Western North Carolina economy and demographics have created unique challenges to the Buncombe County community. One of the greatest challenges is how to adapt and grow while honoring local identity and sense of place. Addressing the needs of residents in the face of many competing interests can often result in conflicts of varying degrees across many sectors, but especially the economic and social aspects of our community.

Community Arts Initiative Objectives:

Compete with and Contribute to National Best Practices

A community arts initiative is an essential component to the offerings of Parks & Recreation in order to offer the most comprehensive and inclusive approaches to park use and recreation opportunities. “Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress, and enhance a sense of wellness....Recreational programs provide organized, structured, enjoyable activities for all ages....Community recreation services provide a refuge of safety for at risk youth....Therapeutic recreation is an outlet that individuals with disabilities have to be physically active, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated.”

(The National Recreation and Park Association, 2007.)

Address and Improve Quality of Life

As with sports programs, arts related activities can provide a variety of benefits that meet national standards for community well-being and enhanced quality of life. Opportunities for interaction between participants increase opportunities for expansion of perspectives and experience that are necessary to developing a blended yet diverse community.

Address Social Issues

In addition to providing recreation opportunities for disabled citizens, the arts can provide non-physically challenging but productive opportunities for elders to not only

maintain and improve motor and cognitive skills, but offer opportunities for social interaction. Arts programs for at-risk-youth have been proven to result in amelioration of social issues. Low-income and immigrant families can also benefit from community arts programming as a way to tie into the community in a noncompetitive, expressive format that creates and fosters a more cohesive community identity that builds on the multitude of perspectives and experiences that coexist. Theater has been used by recreation organizations, such as the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, to provide an educational forum for teaching conflict resolution. Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program has had positive outcomes with regard to bringing community together in an enormously successful city-wide project to mitigate urban blight and vandalism while fostering community pride and cultural identity.

Reap Economic Benefits

"In addition to providing experiences for people, arts and cultural programs are good for the economy....arts attract educated workers, and companies that seek to hire them with the result being positive economic benefits," ("Assessing Arts and Cultural Programming in Oregon's Recreation Organizations," June 2004, Institute for Community Arts Studies at the University of Oregon). Additionally, arts programs which pay local arts professionals benefit the growth of the local arts economy and its resources, arguably a key component of Buncombe County's economic strength. Just as muscles developed through youth sports tend to grow a fit adult, cultural experiences in youth stay with a person through adult life, and build skills and interests that benefit the individual and the community for a lifetime.

Enhance Educational Opportunities

"The Oregon Alliance for Arts Education noted that the arts increase cooperation, tolerance and understanding of cultures past and present; improve self-esteem and increase self-awareness; enhance student creativity and increase creative thinking and problem solving abilities; are key to connecting what students learn in one subject with what they discover in another; and prepare students for jobs, and enhance the quality of life in schools and in the community at large," ("Awaken Your Agency with Art: Arts and Cultural Programming Need to Have a Place in Recreation", 2006, The National Recreation and Parks Association).

Fostering Cross-Sector Partnerships

A community arts initiative offers an opportunity for development of important partnerships throughout the Buncombe County service area. Partnerships would ideally be fostered with organizations such as the Council on Aging, Arts2People, Children First of Buncombe County, Mountain Housing Opportunities, AB Tech, UNCA, Warren Wilson, local schools, development agencies, existing county extension services, neighborhoods and key individuals from a broad cross-section of community.

Community Arts Initiative Programming And Projects Recommendations

A community arts initiative can consist of a vast array of offerings including public art, art education, park programming, public space enhancement, community entertainment events, cultural heritage programs, and more. Given the current lack of a community arts program for Buncombe County through the Parks and Recreation Department, it is advisable to foster and develop a comprehensive offering through a low-cost pilot program that can meet some of the community's most pressing and timely needs.

Starting with a program of this scope by bringing in artists and arts administrators from the community enables the slow growth of a program while enabling stakeholders to track growth and build relationships and curriculums.

After School and Summer Camp Pilot Program

An after school arts program offered at a low cost to parents provides a much needed service to parents while offering a program for students whose participation in current programs may be weak.

FOR EXAMPLE

A feasible program could consist of bringing art teachers to the County facilities and/or to schools during after schools hours. A single weekly after school program with one instructor could provide an opportunity for up to 30 from 3:30 to 5:30 at a cost of \$10 per student. 4 classes per week M-TH (N, S, E, W sectors of the county) 52 weeks per year. Volunteers and/or interns would enhance value of instructional time by increased one-on-one time as well as cut programming financial requirements.

30 students per class \$10/ student- \$300/ Total revenue per class- 52 weeks per year= \$62,500 budget for classes/ \$65,000.00 total funding recommended.

Examples of youth-oriented community arts programs

(Courtesy of artists' submissions to Arts 2 People's educational program)

- Make a Family Portrait Quilt: A workshop for kids and their unique families
- Scrap Quilting with Kids
- Fabric Postcards and Artists Trading Cards
- Dyeing with Dirt and Printing from Nature
- Journals in Fabric: Learning to see; learning to know yourself
- NC History through Quilts
- Kids' batik
- Mixed Media Mural focusing on textural explorations to create a group masterpiece
- representation of a famous artwork.
- Wire mobiles and paper sculptures.
- Weaving fibers three dimensionally into forms
- Edible Paints & Sculptures. Pudding paints.
 1. Fruit people sculptures, Food Tower
- Toothpick competition!
- Making a temporary Web Installation with yarn and string
- Nature Inspired Creations. Building utilitarian sculptures from found nature objects.
- Stretching and painting on our own canvas.

Community Arts Events and Projects:

The community arts programming initiative would partner with local community development professionals to execute public projects, assisted by county funding allocation for open space beautification. Sites for consideration would be those that need accelerated and improved community cultural programming access; projects would include but not be limited to enhancement of public spaces through community driven landscape improvements, small-scale construction, and pedestrian connectors to greenways. There exist numerous ways a community arts initiative could interface with Buncombe County greenway system development. One possibility would be to use local artists to help create a "Greenway Gallery" that would feature locally designed and executed outdoor art throughout the greenway system (sculpture, functional seating areas that incorporate local artist execution of community driven design and themes, etc.). Examples of other potential events would include those similar to Asheville's River Sculpture, or the Buncombe County Stone Soup Community Gathering, which was a successful event inspiring several hundred people, was accomplished with a total out-of-pocket cost of \$500.00 (\$200.00 from a Parks and Recreation board member and \$300.00 from Buncombe County Parks and Recreation). Virtually no waste was generated due to

use of re-usable cups, mugs, bowls, and silverware. Buncombe County provided the park, a shuttle bus for parking support and 1 county staff (Grace Young) as point person.

Vegetables were donated from grocery stores and local farmers, all interactive activities were provided and facilitated by local businesses and non-profit organizations. Tents, PA system, microphone, stage etc. were supplied by City of Asheville Parks and Recreation. Free interactive classes offered were yoga, dance, Nia, plant walks and herb education, murals, mosaics, natural building. Free activities included art, crafts, face painting, disc golf, river rafting down the French Broad and a variety of music. Stone soup was made from community offerings and shared by all at the culmination of the event in a very moving exhibition of community members coming together and cooperating in a way that resulted in a very positive community building and enriching event that was inclusive of a diverse cross-section of the community. The event was hosted by: Buncombe County Parks and Recreation, the City of Asheville Parks and Recreation, and numerous local non-profits, businesses, and community members contributing time, energy and expertise to showcase what is possible when public/private/non-profit and community member collaboration and participation is an organized community event.

Community Arts Logistics Recommendations

Administrative

Though the scope of such programming is far-reaching, it is realistic to expect that there would be no requirements for personnel additions, especially if public-private partnerships are pursued, or administration is outsourced. A staff liaison could serve as a conduit for information and trouble-shooting, and a subcommittee of the parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be created consisting of an advisory board member, the staff liaison, and a limited number of stakeholders, including a representative of the administrative mechanism.

Budgetary

Total recommended funding for community arts initiative is \$75,000. The programming funding recommendation is \$65,000, as proposed in the programming and projects recommendations section of this proposal. A recommendation of \$10,000 is proposed to cover marketing of programs, conducting focus groups and community input sessions, creation and dissemination of literature and information via brochures,

advertisements, website, as well as providing program and project execution and facilitation support. Continuance of the community arts initiative and funding would be dependent on initiative effectiveness as determined by a performance evaluation at the end of a one-year pilot period. Given the reduced number of facilities, it is important to use what is readily available at the lowest possible cost. Focus groups, community organizing activities and classes could easily be held in any or all of the 15 community club recreation centers in different parts of the county. Outsourcing program creation and administration would significantly reduce funding requirements by avoiding additional county staff creation and the requisite salary and benefits involved.

Evaluation

Collect and analyze data on the project's impact (i.e., number of citizens affected, parts of county affected, demographics, etc.).

Information Dissemination

Disseminate information to and seek feedback on content of programming and projects from stakeholders via web page, e-newsletter, community evaluation opportunities (input sessions, program contact, etc.) Consider the value that an outside evaluator/facilitator may add to community arts programming initiative as an objective liaison and information conduit.

In closing, Buncombe County Parks and Recreation, and county government in general, are in a unique position to help guide the community through this transitional period by way of innovative, outside-the-box approaches and programming. Such initiatives could benefit all members of the community, but especially those who most often have less access and opportunity within the community, such as senior populations, those with disabilities, at-risk and disadvantaged youth and communities that have been fractured by conflicts of land-use and development. Offering community arts programming and project opportunities would broaden perspectives and allow for collaboration not only across all social strata, but also allow for potential job-creation and collaborative opportunities that utilize our wealth of local creative resources. Buncombe County could facilitate a whole new sense of invigorated

and cohesive community identity. Such a community programming initiative could also result in county revenue generation through events stemming from such programming. This proposal is not an experiment, rather a continuation of what is already being done by citizens on their own; it would be an exceptional comment of government support and consideration for the needs of the community if Buncombe County took the lead in such a community-oriented and inclusive approach to programming.

Other Department Infrastructure needs

Vehicles

Currently, the department has three 1999 vehicles which are indeed of replacement. Also, a bus, much like the type of bus used by Mountain Mobility, would be essential in making expanding the senior programs offered by the department as well as the program base currently offered by the department. This vehicle replacement cycle is currently underway (as of 1/15/08).

Permanent Office Home

The Parks and Recreation department needs a permanent office home so that all office staff can be housed in the same facility. Frequent moves disrupt the productivity and continuity of service offered by the department as it takes an extended period of time to adjust to each new office environment.

Recognized Needs for Success

Listed below is a list of things that the Parks and Recreation department knows is need in order to make the comprehensive plan a success. These needs are as follows:

1. Support from the Commissioner's for the department and the plan
2. Partnerships with many community agencies and organizations
3. Feedback from citizens about programs and facilities
4. Match the number of recreation programs we offer with the number of staff
5. Develop volunteer service and fundraising programs
6. Update plan regularly and update Commissioners

All of these need to be done on an ongoing or routine manner

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Facilities and Programming Recommendations:

- \$300,000/yr recurring budget for replacement and addition of equipment in current facilities
- \$90,000/yr budgeted annually for Community Recreation Grants for the 6 county districts to include recreation programs, community clubs and youth leagues for program and facility expenses. The grants will be administered by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Create a Buncombe County Greenways Commission in the Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Designate the Sandhill - Buncombe West School property for recreation use.
- Upgrade web page with an improved facilities map and links to other recreation facilities and programs in the community.

Personnel

Five positions are needed:

- Parks and Greenways Planner (to seek and identify land for green spaces and help implement plan that the County contracted with Land of Sky to develop)
 - Full time Director for Parks and Recreation Department
 - Recreation and Wellness Coordinator (to coordinate with community and oversee departmental and activities, programs and events for teens and families)
 - Grant Writer/Fundraiser (seek out and secure funding for parks, greenways, recreation and wellness activities and to develop Friends Group)
 - Community Arts and Events Coordinator
- As Parks and Recreation increases program offerings and adds new facilities administrative, support and program staffing needs will need to be reviewed. For example, if lighting is added at the Sports Park the current part-time staffing levels will need to be reevaluated. And as programs are added then additional staff will be needed to coordinate programs and events.

Program

Increase number of: family recreation and fitness programs, youth sports and activities, community arts programs, exercise classes, senior programs and day camps.

Prioritized List of Capital Projects and Improvements:

1. Ball field lighting upgrades at North Buncombe and Hominy Valley Parks. The current light poles are old and outdated and need to be replaced. (Cost: \$350K)
- 2 - Karpen Field (located on Reems Creek Road in north Buncombe) The plan is to install soccer field drainage on practice field; ¼ mile walking path; fenced playground; and restrooms and to extend the parking lot to add more parking spaces. A design was done by McGill Associates in 2007. (\$400K)
- 3 - Land acquisition and design development for:
 - Aquatics Facility – centrally located multipurpose facility with indoor pool (50 meter x 25 yards) for high school and collegiate competitive swimming, fitness, recreational and instructional swim use; exercise room; gym; meeting room for programming and community events and offices for Parks and Recreation staff (Cost: estimate \$20 – \$25M for facility)
 - 8 field softball complex for men’s and women’s tournaments and recreational league play, locker rooms, a concession stand, bleacher seating, parking and an artificial turf sports field designed to allow all populations an opportunity to play baseball (Miracle Field).
- 4 - Outdoor pool in TC Roberson district – (\$3M)

- Irrigation, drainage and reseeding of all 8 fields and install all-weather turf on two fields with lighting and bleachers to allow scheduling of evening and
- Championship events (\$2M)

6 – Additional Soccer/Recreation Fields – North, East and Erwin areas

7 – Dog Parks – west, south, east and north

Note – Greenways and open spaces are not included in this list. The Advisory Board acknowledges the importance and benefits of greenways, open spaces and trails and recommendations will be incorporated into the Master Plan and brought to Commissioners when Land of Sky report is completed. Some of the above recommendations may be revised based on the addition of Greenway information and priorities.

Renovations and repairs to existing facilities by facility:

Sports Park:

Repair Parking Lot (lot 1 and 2)

Restrooms added Field 8

River Parks:

Disc Golf course (Hominy Creek?)

Canoe Access – Corcoran Paige and Hominy Creek River Parks

Lake Julian:

Replace shelters (5)

Playground added

Pools:

Covers for outdoor pools

Zeugner Pool renovated '08 property exchange with schools

Resurfacing:

Hominy Valley in (built in 1998) in 2009

Owen Pool (built in 2000) in 2010

Erwin Pool (built in 2002) in 2011

(Note: North Buncombe was resurfaced in 2007 and Cane Creek is scheduled for 2008)

Parks:

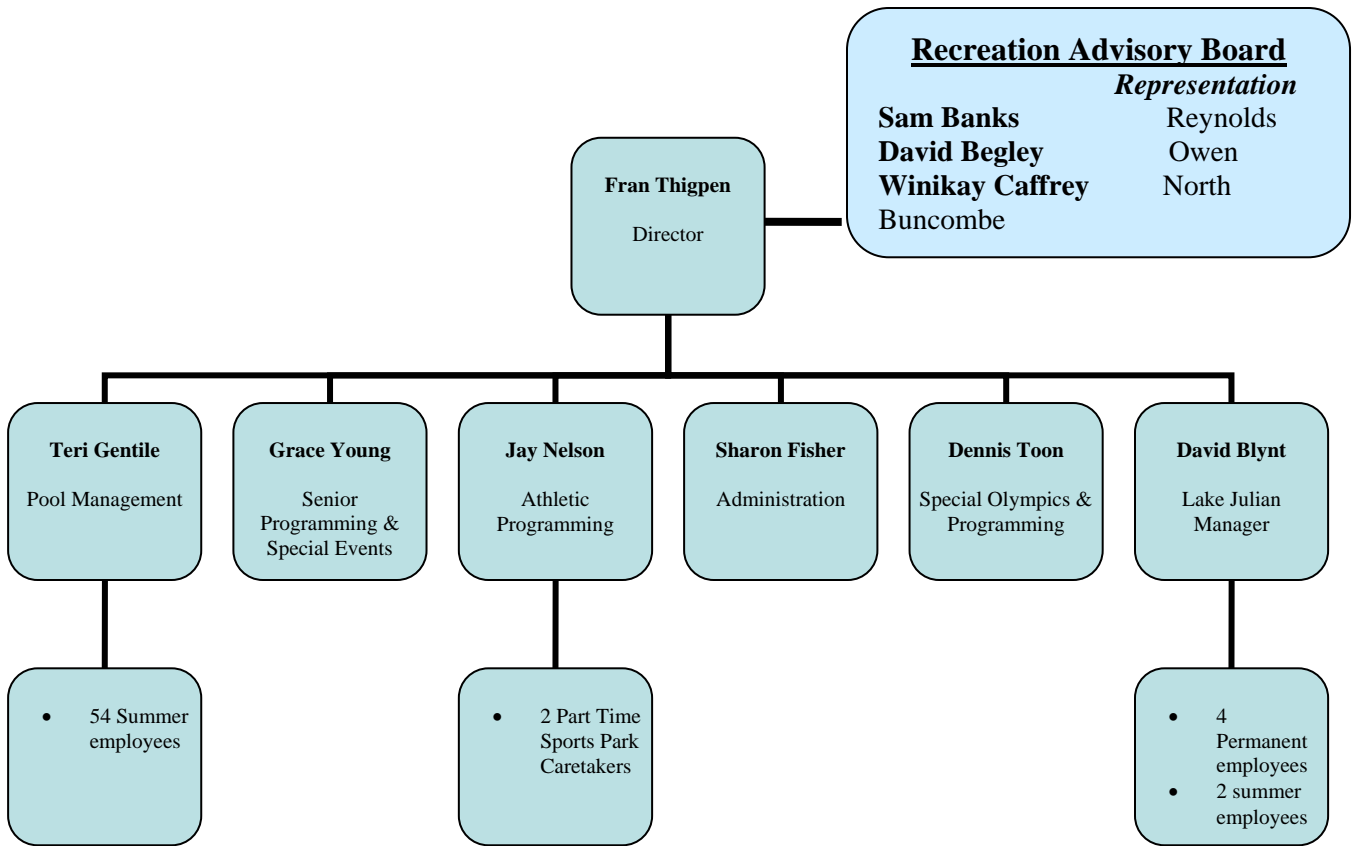
Add picnic shelter at Hominy Valley Park

APPENDIX A
Organizational Chart of Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Services



PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES

Buncombe County



APPENDIX B

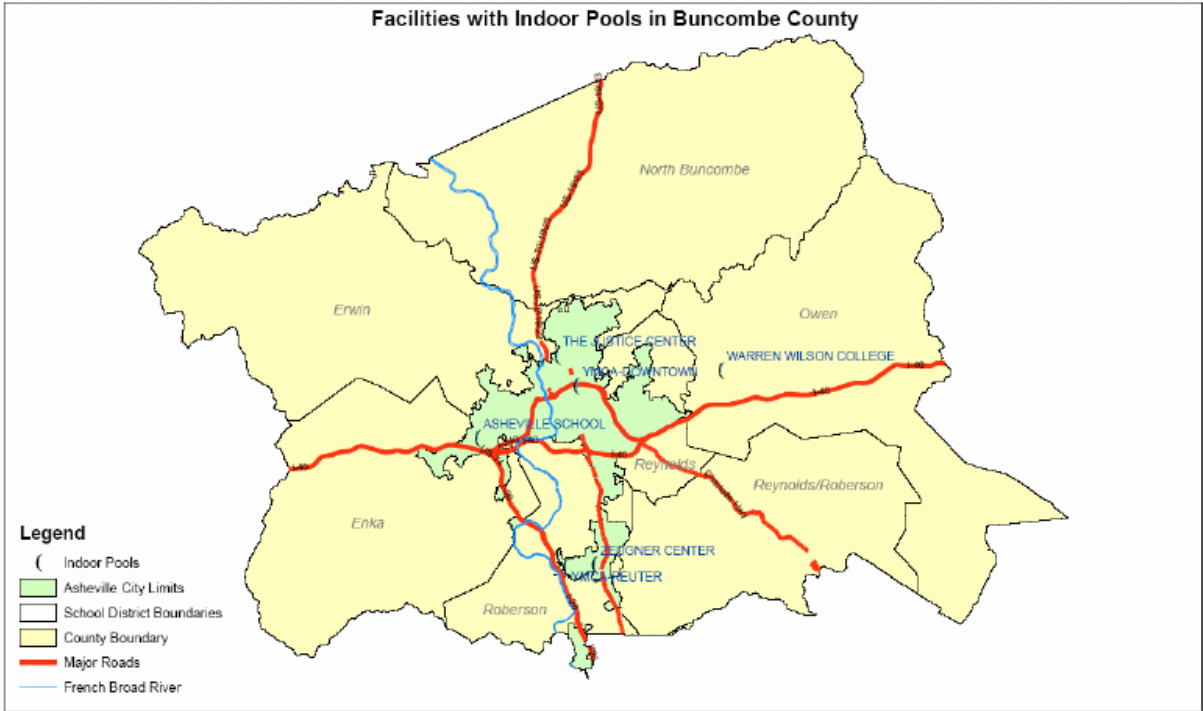
Buncombe County GIS Parks and Recreation Maps

Map 1: Indoor Pools within Buncombe County Limits

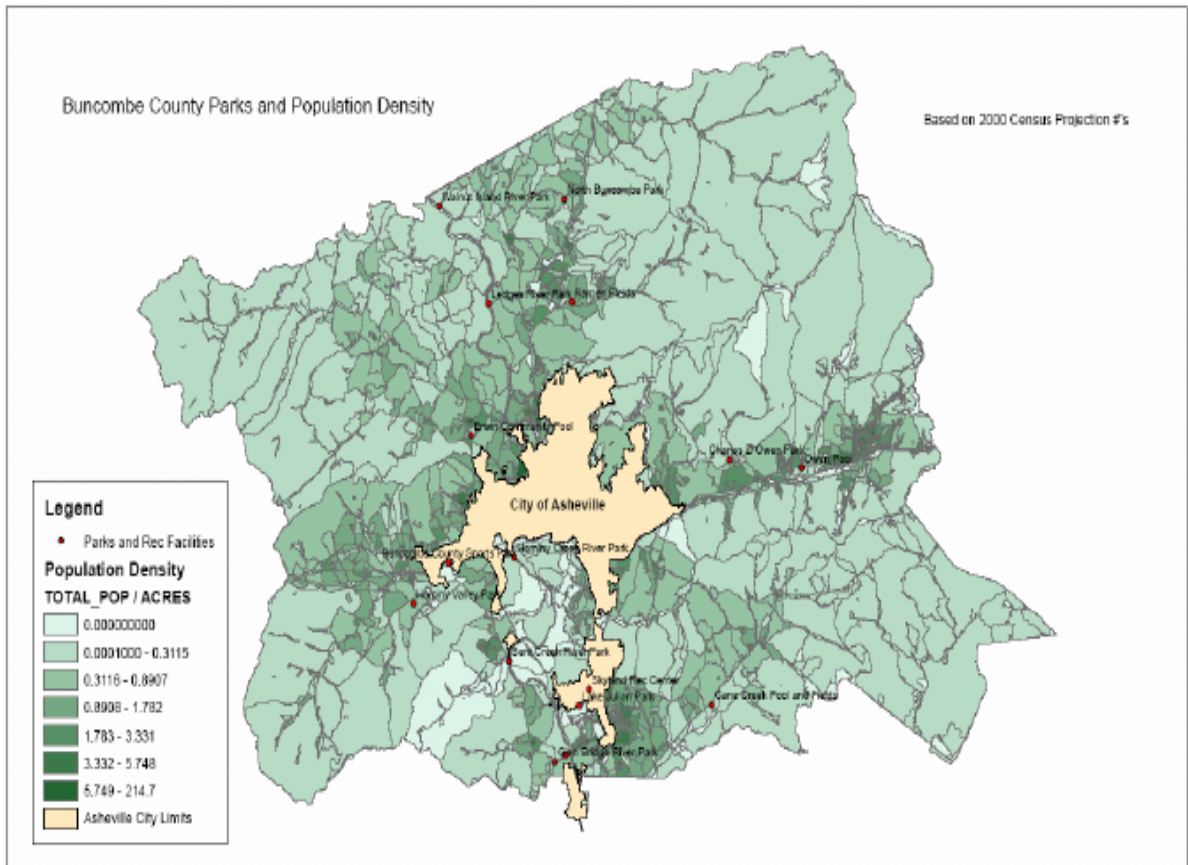
Map 2: Parks and Recreation Services Facilities and School District Boundaries

Map 3: Parks and Recreation and Population Density (based on 2000 Census projection #'s)

GIS Map of Indoor Pools in Buncombe County



GIS Map of Parks and Recreation and Population Density (based on 2000 Census projection #'s)



Appendix C
Karpen Drawing (by McGill & Associates)

Master Plan (4.15.2008)

