



Town of
Huntersville
NORTH CAROLINA

2020 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Adopted by Town Board on November 7, 2011

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of those who contributed to the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This document is a product of the vision and dedication of the Master Plan Steering Committee, Town Board, and Town Staff. We also extend our thanks to the many residents and community groups in Huntersville who provided the valuable insights and opinions, whose feedback has made the Plan a document that embodies the core values and beliefs of the local community.

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Stewards of the Game
North Meck Soccer Club
Strikers Soccer Club
Nothing But Net Basketball

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Planning Process

This section summarizes the major findings and recommendations of the 2020 Huntersville Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The main purpose of this document is to provide the Town of Huntersville with an accurate, usable plan to guide its actions and decisions concerning the overall parks and recreation system. The first Huntersville Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 1998 and had been updated in 2004. This revised plan incorporates some of the data from 2004 as well as the major additions and changes that have taken place since then.

The most up-to-date demographic information relating to the Town of Huntersville has been reviewed to gain an understanding of the unique characteristics of the community and to identify factors that may influence future recreation and park planning.

The inventory of existing public and private facilities in Huntersville was conducted by Parks and Recreation Staff and Parks and Recreation Commission members. The inventory focused on determining the number and types of facilities provided at each site to determine the areas and segments of our community lacking access to recreation facilities and opportunities. The inventory of existing park facilities within the Town of Huntersville indicates that there are approximately seventy-six (76) separate recreational sites now used by the public within the Town. Seventeen sites (17) are offered by the Town of Huntersville and three (3) sites by Mecklenburg County and more than fifty-six (56) sites are available through subdivisions and churches.

The one major change to this master plan was to the standards that were used for park development needs. In the past, generic standards were used from the National Recreation and Parks Association. This plan used more town specific recommendations that were related to the current level of service and the current use of existing facilities which determined in what areas those levels of service are adequate and which levels of services needed to be adjusted.

Growth & Population

This plan looked at population growth as well as recreation program growth. The estimated population from the 2004 plan for the year 2010 was between 44,000 and 60,000. The actual 2010 population was just over 48,000. While it is important to look at overall population growth it is even more important to look at the growth of the recreation programs as well. The growth of programs has increased more than two times that of the total population growth. Huntersville population was just over 36,000 in 2004. Population estimates from 2010 is over 48,000 (33% increase) and for the year 2020 is estimated to be over 60,000.

Public Input

The public was given many opportunities to give feedback on this plan. The town received over 500 responses to its survey. Those options were:

- Mailing of a statistically valid survey
- Online survey
- Three public input meetings
- Interviews with stakeholders

Survey Summary

The citizen survey was dispersed using a random sample mail back survey (which was also supplemented with an online version). Overall, there were 504 responses received. The margin of error is approximately +/- 5 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence rate.

Survey Highlights Include:

- Trails and Greenways were ranked highest as most important amenities to the community.
- Amphitheater/Bandstand, Dog Park and Splash Pad round out the top five highest ranked amenities requested by the community.
- More than 82% of respondents felt that it was important at different levels for the town to have a downtown community park that would provide amenities such as a bandstand, splash pad, trails, etc.
- Over 86% of respondents felt it was important for the town to continue to develop large parks with multiple amenities in one location.
- More than 81% of respondents have used a Huntersville park/facility.
- Respondents gave a rating of 3.25 (on a 4 point scale with 4 being excellent) in regard to how the Town of Huntersville is maintaining its parks and facilities.
- Only 36% of respondents felt that they could reasonably walk or bike to a town park or facility.
- More than 65% of respondents felt the Town had adequate parks and recreation facilities.
- Programs and activities with the highest need are concerts/festivals in the parks, fitness/wellness programs, special events, adult athletics and youth athletics.
- Respondents gave a rating of 3.14 (on a 4 point scale with 4 being excellent) in regard to the quality of programs offered by the Town.
- Forty-Nine percent of respondents have participated in recreation programs offered by the Town.

Park and Facility Recommendations

Based on the public input, level of service model, population/program growth and existing park conditions, the town should look at adding the following improvements to its park system by 2020.

Park Land

This master plan has recommended that a district park be within a 1 ½ mile radius of over 90% of the Huntersville population. After conducting a service area gap analysis it was recommended that the town should identify and purchase active park land in the southwestern quadrant of the town. It is recommended that the town acquire at least 100+ acres for this future park.

- **Southwest Active Park Land:** The Town is lacking active parkland for future park development in the southwest portion of town. The town should look at partnering with Mecklenburg County to purchase at least 100+ acres somewhere south of Gilead Road and west of I-77.

- **Downtown Park Land:** The Town should look at acquiring land in the downtown area around Holbrook Park. This additional land would allow the town to add park amenities such as a bandstand, splash pad, gardens, and trails that would draw people to the downtown area for community events, festivals and activities.

New Parks and Facilities

- **Cook and Pennington Park Land:** These properties are on Ervin Cook Road just south of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Water Treatment Plant and west of the Wynfield subdivision. These properties makeup 191 acres of park land. This park is in a great location with easy access from some of the town's largest subdivisions. A future county greenway also runs along the east side of the property. The Town should master plan and develop this park land.

- **Ranson and Rosedale Park Land:** These two properties were donated to the town by the developer of Rosedale for a future park. These two properties combined are over 18 acres. Both are bisected by the future Torrence Creek Greenway. Due to the topography and the location of this site, it would be ideal for more passive uses. Due to its location within walking distance to hundreds of apartment homes, townhomes and single family homes, it would be a great site for a dog park. The Town should master plan and develop this park land.

- **Gymnasiums:** The Town has had many successful partnerships for gym space with local schools. It is recommended that the Town partner with CMS to build a double sized gym at the next elementary school that is built in Huntersville. This would reduce the operational cost by half and provides a site that can accommodate more groups in one location.
- **Griffin Park Land:** This 41 acre site is located on Holbrooks Road about one mile east of Waymer Park. This parkland is adjacent to the North Mecklenburg Landfill and was donated to the Town by the landfill for a future park. This land is heavily wooded and has many variations in elevation throughout. The Town should master plan this park to determine the recreation needs of the park.

Expansion of Existing Parks

- **Bradford Park:** It is recommended that the town complete the softball complex by building the concession stand. It is also recommended that the town build the third phase of development which includes: tennis courts, basketball courts, lacrosse field and shelters.
- **North Mecklenburg Park:** Develop additional hiking trails that are identified on the park specific master plan.
- **Huntersville Athletic Park:** Develop additional hiking trails that are identified on the park specific master plan and add synthetic turf to the two remaining infields.
- **Barry Park:** Construction of the restroom/shelter at the entrance of the park.

Maintenance and Repairs to Existing Facilities

- **Huntersville Athletic Park:** replace the two existing playgrounds and resurface the walking trail.
- **Holbrook Park:** resurface the tennis courts and replace the existing playground.
- **Greenway Park:** replace the existing playground
- **Waymer Park:** replace the softball field lighting.
- **Waymer Recreation Center:** renovation and improvements to the center include: restrooms, roofing, insulation, bleachers, plumbing, electrical and hardware.

- **North Mecklenburg Park:** resurface basketball courts, walking trail, repair and widen park entrance and add parallel parking along the driveway.
- **Synthetic Turf Fields-** the Town should continue to investigate the feasibility to replace some natural grass fields with synthetic turf. Due to the high use of many fields the quality will continue to suffer.
- **Huntersville Arts and Cultural Center** -renovate restrooms and building exterior.

Greenways

The Town of Huntersville commissioned a greenway study in 2008 that recommended the development of miles of greenway. The development of greenways should be a priority over the next ten years based on the feedback from the master plan surveys. The Town should work closely with Mecklenburg County and new developers to expand the greenway system.

Mecklenburg County Park Bond Projects approved:

- **Bradford Park:** \$3.2 million- Construction of three synthetic turf fields and associated infrastructure.
- **Eastfield Road Park:** \$3.6 million- master planning and development of this regional park. Typical amenities may include athletic fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, dog park and walking trails.
- **Huntersville Family Fitness and Aquatic Center:** \$1.5 million- Expansion and upgrades to the aquatic center
- **Northern Towns Recreation Center:** \$27 million: Construction of a new 100,000+ sq ft regional recreation center. The center will be designed to complement the existing recreation centers in the northern towns. Potential amenities could include: multiple sports courts, fitness areas, indoor walking track, performing arts/multi-use classrooms, meeting rooms, staff offices and concession areas.
- **Lower McDowell Creek Greenway:** \$1.75 million- Baylis Drive to Beatties Ford Road.
- **McDowell Creek Greenway:** \$2.5 million-Taybrook Drive to Baylis Drive.

Recreation Amenity Needs

In addition to establishing park needs for the Town, this master plan also studied the actual amenity needs within the different parks based on a level of service model. This list of amenities should help drive what is located in new parks that are master planned in the future. The Town should continue to work closely with Mecklenburg County as they master plan new parks such as Eastfield Road Park to make sure that those amenities identified in that new park are taken into consideration with the amenities listed below. Below are the recommended amenities for the town through 2020.

- 9 lighted and 4 non-lighted baseball/softball fields
- 10 lighted and 2 non-lighted rectangular fields
- 3 lighted basketball courts
- 11 lighted tennis courts
- 4 full court indoor gyms
- 5 playgrounds
- 6 picnic shelters
- 2 dog parks
- 1 amphitheater/band stand
- 3 spraygrounds
- 3 mountain bike trails
- 2 sand volleyball courts
- 1 disc golf course
- 13 miles trails
- 1 skate park
- 1 BMX track

I. Introduction and Overview

A. The Town of Huntersville History

Huntersville is located on the eastern shores of Lake Norman and just north of Charlotte. The Town was renamed from Craighead to Huntersville in honor of landowner and cotton farmer Robert Boston Hunter. The town incorporated in 1873, and fertile land and a rail line promoted quick growth. Cotton mill Virgin Manufacturing Company and a brickyard that supplied bricks for many homes in older sections of town were thriving businesses.

Even before Huntersville was established as a municipality and named for one of its founding fathers, steam engines carried passengers on rails that still run parallel to N.C. 115. Farmers grew cotton on their large plantations and prominent schools attracted families from near and far. In later years, textile mills brought more jobs and residents to the area.

As the town grew larger, so too did its business community. The Virgin Manufacturing Company, a cotton mill, encouraged the development of Huntersville's "mill town" on the east side of the railroad tracks.

It is the sense of Huntersville's past that has brought so many new residents to this town. The allure of the remaining farmland, the simple commute into the city of Charlotte and the proximity to the relatively new Lake Norman are just some of Huntersville's enticements.

In 1990, 3,014 people called Huntersville home. Proximity between the Queen City and the lake, lower home prices, less traffic and quiet communities catapulted Huntersville's population in 2000 to 24,960, an amazing 728 percent. Today, approximately 48,000 people call Huntersville home.

This tremendous population growth has fueled a booming real estate and Home-building industry. Newcomers can choose from a broad range of home styles and prices, family-friendly neighborhoods with sidewalks and bike trails, waterfront condominium communities with boat slips, or spacious luxury apartments.

Huntersville operates a Parks and Recreation Department that offers numerous parks/recreation facilities, organizes classes, special events and athletics for all ages. Huntersville also has a family fitness and aquatic center and outdoor water fun park where kids can slide through tubes, spray water cannons and climb sprinkler-filled jungle gyms inside a pool.

Although much of the retail and residential areas in Huntersville are new, the town also has 18 historic sites within a five-mile drive of Beatties Ford Road. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, for instance, dates to the 1740s and features 200 year-old stone walls around its cemetery. The Hugh Torrance House and Store, started in the 1770s, is the oldest surviving store in Mecklenburg County. Latta Plantation Nature Preserve is the county's largest green space with hiking trails, a nature center, an equestrian center, boating and fishing on Mountain Island Lake, and a unique raptor center that rehabilitates

and releases injured birds of prey.

The Town also boasts world-class retail stores. Birkdale Village on Sam Furr Road includes apartments and offices above boutiques, restaurants and national retailers such as Williams Sonoma, Gap and Ann Taylor Loft. Live bands play on warm-weather weekend evenings, and parents from around the lake bring children to splash and play in the village square fountain.

Aside from great neighborhoods, countless amenities and its friendly small town atmosphere, Huntersville also provides access to the haven of Lake Norman. This breathtaking 32,500-acre man-made lake with 520 miles of shoreline provides scenic vistas, recreation and wildlife for all to enjoy.

Huntersville is also just 10 minutes from Charlotte and only hours from mountain and beach resorts.

B. Huntersville Parks and Recreation Mission

MISSION

It is the mission of the Huntersville Parks & Recreation Department to provide a localized system of parks and recreation resources and services to enhance the quality of life of Huntersville residents. The department strives to develop and maintain safe and attractive parks and recreation areas; to partner and cooperate with other town departments, area agencies, sponsors and organizations to address the leisure needs of residents in the most cost-effective manner; and to support the physical, mental, moral and economic health of our community through the provision and promotion of special events as well as traditional recreational programs and opportunities.

C. Purpose and Vision of this Plan

The Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan is intended to help meet the parks and recreation needs of current and future residents by positioning Huntersville to build upon the community's unique parks and recreation assets and identify new opportunities. The citizen-driven plan establishes a clear direction to guide Town staff, advisory committees and elected officials in their efforts to enhance the community's parks and recreation programs, services and facilities. The Huntersville Parks and Recreation System should be a nationally known park system that is on the cutting edge of current trends and utilize all partnerships possible to offer a high quality system in the most efficient way. This system should provide residents many different parks and recreation opportunities that will enhance the physical, economical, environmental, mental and social health of the community.

D. Review of Background Information and Accomplishments from 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Goals of the 2004 Master Plan

- The Town should identify and investigate partnerships with public and private organizations that can help meet the parks and recreation needs of the community.
- The Town should develop a Fees and Charges Policy that would address the percentage of cost recovery the Town should expect through fees and charges.
- Grant opportunities should be pursued.
- The Town should continue to pursue the Canipe property on Beatties Ford Road to develop its first active park west of I-77
- The Town should work closely with Mecklenburg Park and Recreation in the development of Robert C. Bradford Park.
- The Town should continue to pursue acquisition of the former Prison/NCDOT property on Mt. Holly/Huntersville Road to provide active/passive park on the westside of town.
- The Town should encourage prioritization of the development of the Eastfield Park property in the County's Capital Needs Assessment.
- It is recommended that the Griffin Property be considered for a bike/BMX facility and a disc golf course.
- It is recommended that lights be added to the soccer fields at Huntersville Athletic Park.
- It is recommended to build a tennis court, restroom/shelter, basketball courts, new playground and walking trails at Waymer Park.
- It is recommended to replace the playground and renovate the basketball court at Abernathy and to add a restroom facility.
- It is recommended that passive recreation amenities (landscaping, benches) be considered for the Harvest Pointe property. It was also recommended that a connecting trail be established between the Harvest Pointe neighborhood and North Mecklenburg Park.
- It is recommended that the Ranson and Rosedale properties be master planned as a passive park.
- The town should continue to investigate partnerships with CMS to provide much needed field and gym space.
- It is recommended that by the year 2013 Huntersville make provisions for the construction and operations of the following facilities.
 - 1 Community Park (300-400 acres)
 - 3-4 District Parks (40-100 acres)
 - 8-9 Neighborhood Park (7-15 acres)
 - 3-4 Community Centers
 - 15 Miles of Greenways
 - 60 Miles of Bike Trails
 - 24 Miles of Walking Trails

Grants since 2004

- The Town has received almost \$2.4 million in grants for facility development since 2004.
 - \$763,000 PARTF Grants for the development of Barry Park
 - \$125,000 PARTF Grant for the redevelopment of Waymer Park
 - \$25,000 Lowes Home Improvement Grant for Bradford Park Playground
 - \$40,000 USTA Grant for the development of the Tennis Complex at North Mecklenburg Park
 - \$100,000 donation from American Tire Distributors for the development of the town's first Boundless Playground
 - \$175,100 grant from the ARRA for the replacement of old athletic field lighting at North Mecklenburg Park
 - \$1,000,000 Sportsplex Grant from Mecklenburg County for the development of Bradford Park
 - \$160,000 donation from North Meck Soccer Club for the development of Barry Park
 -

Awards since 2004

- The department received national recognition for receiving the Excellence in Youth Sports Award from the National Alliance for Youth Sports.
- The department has also received national recognition for Bradford Park and North Mecklenburg Park from the National Softball Association as both have received the National Outstanding Park Award twice.

New facilities acquired and developed since 2004

- Richard Barry Park (1st town park west of I-77)
- Robert Bradford Park (jointly developed with Mecklenburg County and jointly operated with the town of Davidson)
- Acquired the Dellwood Center

New Partnerships since 2004

- Barnette Elementary School Gymnasium (Joint-use agreement with CMS)
- Lake Norman Charter Middle School Gymnasium and Multipurpose Room (Joint-use agreement with Lake Norman Charter School)
- Lake Norman Charter High School Gymnasium (Joint-use agreement with Lake Norman Charter School)
- Bradley Middle School Athletic Field Agreement (Joint-use agreement with CMS)

Facility additions and improvements since 2004

- New tennis complex at North Meck Park
- New softball lighting at North Meck Park fields 1 & 2
- Added lighting to three of the four basketball courts at North Meck Park
- Added a shelter/restroom building to Waymer Park
- Added HVAC and replaced old gym floor at the Waymer Center

- Replaced old playground at Waymer Park
- Added one tennis court, one tee-ball field, two outdoor basketball courts and a walking trail to Waymer Park
- Added HVAC system and replaced the old floor at the Waymer Center Gym
- Added a new restroom/shelter building to Abernathy Park
- Replaced old playground and renovated the basketball court at Abernathy Park
- Added lights to the soccer field and multipurpose field at Huntersville Athletic Park

New Athletic Programs and Leagues since 2004

- Fall and Spring Girls Volleyball
- Fall and Spring Youth Lacrosse
- Fall and Spring Senior Softball
- Winter Senior Basketball
- Fall, Summer and Spring Adult Kickball
- Preschool Start Smart Programs
- Fall NFL Flag Football Program
- Fall and Spring Youth Basketball

E. History of Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department

The Town of Huntersville began providing parks and recreation services in 1995. The town took over the operation of the David B. Waymer Center and Park from Mecklenburg County in 1995. The Town built its first park (Huntersville Athletic Park) shortly after in 1997. In 1999, the Town took over the operation of North Mecklenburg Park from Mecklenburg County. The Town also added a second phase to North Mecklenburg Park in 2001. This same year the Town opened the Huntersville Family Fitness & Aquatic Center.

The Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department developed its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 1998. This plan was updated in 2004.

During the earlier 2000s the town continued to see dramatic growth in its population and recreation programs. The first of many partnerships with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools was begun in 2000, with the joint development of the Huntersville Elementary School Gym. Ten years later, the Town now has seven joint use agreements with local schools.

In November of 2003, the citizens of Huntersville approved a \$6 million Park Bond. The Town allocated \$3 million of those bonds in 2004. These funds were used to build Richard Barry Park, Robert Bradford Park, additions to Waymer Park and improvements to North Mecklenburg Park. In 2008, the town allocated another \$2.5 million of those bonds. These bonds went towards the construction of the Barnette Elementary School Gym, Lake Norman Charter High School Gym, North Mecklenburg Park Tennis Complex, Abernathy Park Shelter/Restroom Building, Huntersville Athletic Park

synthetic infields and the tie-in of the restroom facilities at North Mecklenburg Park into the county sewer system.

F. Parks and Recreation Department Overview

Department Description

Huntersville Parks and Recreation is a department within the Town of Huntersville that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all Huntersville citizens by providing diverse parks and recreation services. The department maintains 17 parks and facilities, numerous programs for all ages and many facilities that provide resources for a wide range of activities.

G. Related Planning Efforts and Integration

The Town of Huntersville has undertaken several planning efforts in recent years that have helped inform the planning process for this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

These plans and studies include:

- a. Huntersville Parks and Recreation Master Plan (1998, updated 2004)
- b. Huntersville Downtown Master Plan (2005)
- c. Huntersville Greenway and Bikeway Master Plan (2008)
- d. Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2008)
- e. Huntersville Community Plan (updated 2011)

H. Methodology of this Planning Process

This project has been guided by a project team, made up of Town staff, focus groups and the Parks and Recreation Commission. These teams provided input throughout the planning process.

Needs Assessment and Public Involvement

- Review of previous planning efforts.
- Consideration of the profile of the community and demographics, including anticipated population growth.
- Extensive community involvement efforts including focus groups, meetings, surveys, community-wide public meetings and town board meetings.
- Research of trends and statistics related to different programming needs.

Level of Service Analysis

- Analysis of current levels of service within the programming division
- Analysis of current levels of service for parks and facilities

Inventory

- Inventory of parks, trails and facilities. Onsite visits to verify amenities and assess the condition of the facilities.
- Inventory of neighborhood recreation amenities in town.

Assessment and Analysis

- Developed an amenities and level of service tool.
- Identified funding tools to continue the current level of service for park facilities.

Recommendations

- Identification of parks and facility recommendations are based on the park service area analysis, level of service tool, future growth and public input.
- Planning of future programs and events will be based on the public input and future growth and trends.

II. What We Want- Our Community and Identified Needs

Identification of current park resources, as well as recreation trends, community demographics, and needs help us better understand future recreation opportunities and identify the unique niche of the Town of Huntersville.

A. Community Profile and Demographics

Huntersville is dedicated to providing its residents a high quality of life. The Town's success in this pursuit is supported by the ranking of Huntersville as one of the Country's "Best Places to Live in America" by Money Magazine as well as being identified as one of America's Top-Rated Smaller Cities by Grey House Publishing.

To enhance the quality of life for residents, communities often devote their efforts towards strengthening parks, recreation and cultural amenities, a crucial piece of the puzzle for a healthy community. To better understand citizen needs for this public good, it is important to assess this demographic makeup of the population.

**Table: Info provided by the US Census
Huntersville Population Profile and Demographics**

Summary of Census Findings:

Age of the Population

The overall age of Huntersville increased by 2.2 years to 35.2 years old since 2000. The largest age group in 2000 was 25-34 compared to 35-44 in 2010. The age group that had the highest percentage increase from 2000 was ages 60-64 with a 50% increase. The age that had the highest percentage decrease was the 25-34 age group with a 25% decrease.

Subject	Number	% of pop.	% change from 2000
Median age (years)	35.2 years	(X)	+2.2 years +7%
Under 5 years	3,913	8.4	-1.4 -14%
5 to 9 years	4,200	9.0	+7 +8%
10 to 14 years	3,577	7.6	+8 +12%
15 to 19 years	2,629	5.6	+5 +10%
20 to 24 years	1,915	4.1	-.4 -9%
25 to 34 years	7,012	15.0	-5.0 -25%
35 to 44 years	8,967	19.1	-1.6 -8%
45 to 54 years	7,044	15.0	+2.2 +17%
55 to 59 years	2,406	5.1	+1.6 +46%
60 to 64 years	1,923	4.1	+1.7 +50%
65 to 74 years	1,994	4.2	+1.1 +35%
75 to 84 years	866	1.8	+.2 +13%
85 years and over	327	.7	+.4 +133%

Household Type and Size

The average household size remained at 2.67 people per household. The average family size increased from 3.09 to 3.16. The number of householders living alone increased from 19.2% to 21.6%. The number of households that have a husband and wife decreased from 64.6% to 60.2%.

HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE	Number	% of pop.	% change from 2000
Total households	17,423	100.0	
Family households (families)	12,546	72.0	
With own children under 18 years	7,057	40.5	-1.4 -3%
Husband-wife family	10,486	60.2	-4.4 -7%
With own children under 18 years	5,788	33.2	-2.0 -6%
Female householder, no husband present	1,500	8.6	+1.1 +15%
With own children under 18 years	966	5.5	+3 +6%
Nonfamily households [7]	4,877	28.0	
Householder living alone	3,771	21.6	+2.4 +13%
Average household size	2.67	(X)	Same
Average family size [7]	3.16	(X)	+0.07 +2% 3.09
HOUSING TENURE			
Occupied housing units	17,423	100.0	
Owner-occupied housing units	13,149	75.5	+1
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.80	(X)	-.3 2.83
Renter-occupied housing units	4,274	24.5	-.1
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.26	(X)	+0.07 2.19

Race

The Hispanic/Latino population grew the most since 2000. This population grew by 90%. The Asian population grew by 50% followed by the African American population which grew by 25%.

RACE	Number	% of pop.	% change from 2000
White	38,730	82.8	-5.6 -6%
Black or African American	4,404	9.4	+1.9 +25%
American Indian and Alaska Native	163	0.3	+1.1 +50%
Asian	1,250	2.7	+1.5 +125%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3,441	7.4	+3.5 +90%

Population Growth and Forecast

In figure 3, you will see the dramatic growth that the town has seen for the past decade. Although we can never predict the future with certainty, it is helpful to make assumptions about it for planning purposes. Below is a detailed population projection for Huntersville estimated by the Huntersville Planning Department.

Estimates were based on the following:

- a. Average Annual Growth Rates
 - 2010-2015 2.60%
 - 2015-2020 3.80%
 - 2020-2025 3.20%
 - 2025-2030 2.10%
- b. Totals reflect assumed annexation of ETJ by Jan 1, 2016

Figure 3: Huntersville Population Growth 2000 – 2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Town Limits	24,960	26,509	28,645	31,429	33,686	35,824	38,282	40,825	43,213	44,457	45,098
ETJ	2,863	2,883	2,903	2,923	2,943	2,963	2,983	2,983	2,983	2,983	2,994
TOTALS:	27,823	29,392	31,548	34,352	36,629	38,787	41,265	43,808	46,196	47,440	48,092

B. Current Parks and Recreation Trends

In order to plan and manage effectively, it has become essential to stay on top of the current trends impacting the field of parks and recreation management. Some of the national trends that are most pertinent to the Town of Huntersville are:

General Population Trends

- Aging community
- Active older adults
- Increase in retirees
- Increase in migration from other parts of the country to our area
- Rapid growth in the Hispanic population
- Foreign businesses bring foreign residents to our area

Programming Trends

Programming trends over the last five years include a large number of new successful program offerings for pre-school aged and retirement age participants. We have also seen the birth of new athletic leagues, programs and the addition of new seasons for other leagues as well.

Trails and Specialty Parks

- Trails, parks, and playgrounds are among the five most important community amenities considered when selecting a home, according to a 2002 survey of recent homebuyers by the National Association of Home Builders and National Association of Realtors. (Pack & Schunuel).
- Two of the emerging specialty parks include dog parks, skate parks and spray parks.

Facilities

According to Recreation Management's 2007 State of the Industry Report, the current national trend is toward a "one-stop" park to serve all ages and activities—larger parks that include a variety of recreation amenities. These types of facilities provide a central location for families to go to and enjoy a variety of offerings without having to drop off family members at numerous different park sites across town. Having these types of facilities also increase revenue production and cost recovery. Examples of these amenities all at one location:

- indoor fitness and aquatic facilities
- tennis courts
- basketball courts
- soccer fields
- baseball fields
- softball fields
- volleyball courts
- skate parks
- dog parks

- spray pads
- walking trails
- mountain bike trails
- amphitheaters
- outdoor shelters
- large playgrounds
- disc golf course

C. Community Needs Assessment

A thorough needs assessment is a critical step that should be completed prior to the establishment of goals and objectives for future recreation plans. The assessment can also be used to support the decisions related to the allocation of resources for development of programs and facilities and provide information needed to develop strategies for implementing allocation decision. Community needs for recreation programs and park facilities were determined by using four assessment techniques that included the following:

1. Community input from public input forums
2. Focus group interviews with various groups, organizations and individuals representing a varied cross section of the community.
3. Statistically Valid Community Surveys
4. Online surveys

Public Input Meetings

The Town conducted two public input meetings to give residents the opportunity to provide their views on what they see as the recreation needs of the town. These meetings were conducted on Wednesday, May 19 at the Huntersville Town Hall and Wednesday, September 15 at Torrence Creek Elementary School. Input was gathered in two categories: Parks/Facilities and Recreation Programs. Each person that attended had the opportunity to write down their ideas for both categories. After everyone had an opportunity to give their suggestions, those suggestions were put up on a wall. Each person was given dots to place by the suggestions that they thought were the best. Below you will see the top ten items for park/facilities and programming.

Parks and Facilities

- | | |
|----|--|
| 13 | Bike trails/greenways—on & off road |
| 9 | Improve Farmer's Market |
| 8 | Community Garden |
| 8 | Dog Park |
| 8 | Improvements to Waymer Center |
| 8 | Public Driving Range and Par 3 Golf Course |
| 5 | Add lighting to existing fields |
| 5 | Add Synthetic turf fields |
| 4 | More soccer/lacrosse fields |
| 3 | Sprayground/Splashpad |

Programming

- 12 More community events/concerts & festivals
- 6 Badminton League
- 6 Community Garden Programs
- 5 Adult Volleyball leagues
- 5 Visual/Performing Arts Programs
- 5 Open House Day @ HFFA with Olympiad
- 4 July 4th Fireworks display
- 4 Adult Senior Basketball League
- 4 More senior games programs
- 4 First tee golf program

Statistically Valid Community Survey Findings

The Town of Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department conducted a randomly selected household survey within the town limits to 1,300 households in January 2011. The Town had 374 surveys returned by the residents—which was a 29% return rate. The primary focus of this survey was to gain statistically valid survey results from the community as it relates to the current delivery and the future delivery of parks and recreation services. The survey results have a 95% confidence rate with a +/-5% accuracy. The Town also allowed residents to complete the survey online in which 130 residents completed the survey to give us a total of 504 survey responses.

Summary of key findings:

Current Parks and Recreation Facilities and Amenities

One of the most consistent themes that the Town heard from the community was the need to be able to access parks via sidewalks, greenways, bike lanes or trails. The Town received more than 400 comments from survey respondents. More than 64% of the respondents could not safely walk or bike to a Town park. Some of the most active parks are within a mile of large communities but have no sidewalks or trails to connect those communities to the park. The survey also confirmed what we knew from traffic counts and usage that we currently track. More than 81% of respondents use a town park or facility. We also heard that certain amenities within parks are over-used and the general public has a hard time gaining access to some of those amenities.

Future Parks and Recreation Facilities and Amenities

AMENITIES WITHIN A PARK

What type of amenities would you like to see developed in town parks? (top 10).

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Hiking/Fitness trails (51%) | Splash Pad/spraygrounds (23%) |
| Greenways (46%) | Botanical Garden areas (23%) |
| Paved trails within a park (32%) | Water Features (ponds, lakes, etc.) (21%) |
| Amphitheater/bandstand (26%) | Miniature Golf (22%) |
| Dog Parks (26%) | Par 3 Golf Course (19%) |

TYPES PARKS

The survey had two questions in regards to type of parks. One related to the size and offerings of a park and the other related to a downtown community park.

How would you rate the importance of a downtown/community park that could include such amenities as: an amphitheater/band stand, trails, splash pad, playgrounds, gardens, etc.? Overall there was strong support for a downtown park with over 82% of respondents supporting this idea.

Very Important (32%)	Somewhat Important (21%)
Important (29%)	Not Important (18%)

How would you rate the importance of the Town developing large parks that have multiple amenities within one location? The majority of residents agree that the Town should continue to build larger parks that can accommodate many different amenities and activities in one location. Over 86% of respondents thought it was important to build these types of parks.

Very Important (26%)	Somewhat Important (30%)
Important (30%)	Not Important (14%)

Programs, Activities and Special Events

Program findings from the survey shows the desire to have more community events such as concerts and festivals within the Town's parks. This interest ranged from young families with children to older adults as well as young single adults. The top five program types were the following

Concerts/Festivals in the Park (63%)	Fitness/Wellness Programs (49%)
Holiday themed Special Events (32%)	Adult Athletics (31%)
Youth Sports (26%)	

Complete survey results on the next page.

**TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE 2020 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN-
RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS- TOTAL 95% confidence rate with a +-5% error**

Surveys Returned	Total residents represented	Person per household
503	1,520	3.02

In what area of Huntersville do you reside?

Area	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Northeast	171	35%
Northwest	158	33%
Southwest	90	19%
Southeast	64	13%
East of I-77	248	49%
West of I-77	235	51%

Do you have children in your household?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	245	51%
No	231	49%

FACILITIES:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Have used a Huntersville Park/Facility	381	81%
Have not used a Huntersville Park/Facility or a County Greenway	72	15%
Have used only a County Greenway	18	4%

Which of these parks and recreation facilities do you use/visit most frequently?

Park Name	# of people who use this park/facility	% of respondents who use this park/facility
North Mecklenburg Park	236	47%
Huntersville Family Fitness and Aquatics	122	24%
County Greenways	106	21%
Huntersville Athletic Park	100	20%
Bradford Park	82	16%
The Huntersville Market	81	16%
Holbrook Park	71	14%
Waymer Park	37	7%
Barry Park	33	7%
Waymer Center	31	6%
Huntersville Elementary Fields	27	5%
LNCS Middle School Gym	26	5%
Huntersville Elementary Gym	24	5%
Greenway Park	24	5%
LNCS High School Gym	21	4%
Barnette Elementary Gym	20	4%
Torrence Creek Multipurpose Rm.	18	4%

Park Name	# of people who use this park/facility	% of respondents who use this park/facility
Arts and Cultural Center	14	3%
Blythe Soccer Fields	11	2%
Abernathy Park	8	2%
Dellwood Center	1	1%

How would you rate the conditions of the parks and recreational facilities that you have visited in Huntersville?

Rating	# of people	% of respondents
Excellent	135	33%
Good	242	59%
Fair	26	6%
Poor	4	1%

Can you reasonably walk or bike to a town park from your home?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	163	36%
No	293	64%

Do you feel that Huntersville has adequate parks and recreation facilities? _____ If no, please comment.

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	254	65%
No	138	35%

How would you rate the importance of a downtown/community park in Huntersville that could include such amenities as: an amphitheater, trails, splash pad, playgrounds, gardens, etc?

Importance	# of people	% of respondents
Very Important	146	32%
Important	129	29%
Somewhat Important	96	21%
Not Important	82	18%

How would you rate the importance of the town developing large parks that have multiple amenities within one location?

Importance	# of people	% of respondents
Very Important	117	26%
Important	136	30%
Somewhat Important	132	30%
Not Important	61	14%

What additional recreational facilities would you like to have in Huntersville's parks?

Amenity Type	# of people who selected this type of amenity	% of respondents who selected this type of amenity
Hiking/Fitness Trails	246	51%
Greenways- trails connecting to parks	215	46%
Paved trails within a park	161	32%
Amphitheater/Band Stand	132	26%
Dog Parks	129	26%
Splash Pad/Sprayground	111	23%
Flower/Botanical Garden Areas	106	23%
Water Features (small lakes, ponds, etc.)	104	22%
Miniature/ Putt Putt Golf	101	21%
Par 3 Golf Course	94	19%
Additional Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	72	16%
Community Garden	66	15%
Disc Golf Course	69	13%
Open Areas for General Play	65	13%
Additional Tennis Courts	58	13%
Additional Playgrounds	57	11%
Racquetball Courts (indoors)	54	11%
Skate Park	45	9%
Sand Volleyball Courts	43	8%
Racquetball Courts (indoors)	33	6%
Additional Soccer Fields	30	6%
Additional Gymnasiums	30	6%
Additional Baseball Fields	29	6%
Synthetic Turf Fields	29	6%
Additional Basketball Courts (outdoors)	26	5%
Bocce Courts	26	5%
Football Fields	23	4%
BMX Track	18	3%

Others:
 Bike Trails
 Ice Rink
 Swimming Pools
 Multi-use fields- combination softball/soccer fields
 Roller Hockey Rink
 Enclosed pavilions
 Multipurpose Rooms
 Skeet fields

PROGRAMS:

Have you or any family member participated in any parks and recreation programs? _____; if so, which program(s):

Response	# of respondents	% of respondents
Yes	198	49%
No	208	51%

How would you rate the recreation programs offered by the town?

Rated	# of people	% of respondents
Excellent	66	29%
Good	135	58%
Fair	28	12%
Poor	3	1%

What type of programs would you or other household members like the town to offer?

Program Type	# of people who selected this type of program	% of respondents who selected this type of program
Concerts/Festivals in the Parks	282	61%
Fitness/Wellness Programs	212	46%
Special Events (Holiday Themed)	147	32%
Adult Athletic Programs	140	30%
Youth Sports	123	27%
Visual/ Performing Arts Programs	121	26%
Youth Summer Camps	111	24%
Senior Programs	93	20%
Environmental Classes	92	20%
Teen Programs	72	16%
After-school programs	64	14%
Preschool Programs	59	13%
Parent and Child Programs	53	12%
Senior Athletic Programs	49	11%

Others: TR- 2 Women's Athletic Leagues- 1 Gardening – 1 Field Hockey- 1 Flag Football- 1

Focus Group Meetings

Parks and Facility Needs

Many facilities are over-used and it has impacted the quality of the facilities.

The need for synthetic turf fields

The need for additional lighted facilities.

There is a lot more school use of facilities than ever before due to schools not building their own facilities—which has negatively impacted the quality of the fields.

Potential Partners

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Charter Schools, Private Schools, Historic Landmarks Commission, CPCC, Churches, developers, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, sports associations, private groups and other government agencies.

III. What We Have Now- An Analysis of Programs

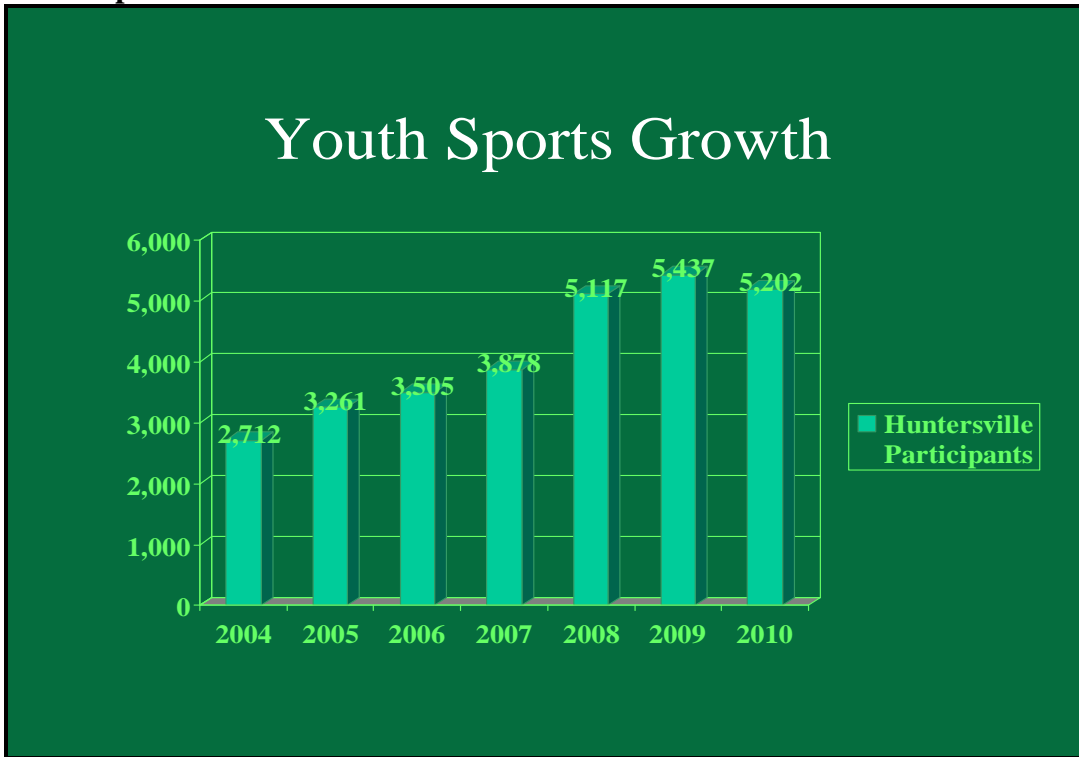
A. Recreation Programming

Town of Huntersville Recreation Programs

The Town of Huntersville has an array of recreation programs that seeks to meet the needs of its community. Programs are offered to all ages in sports, general programming and special events. In 2010, the department offered one hundred and ninety-four (194) successful programs to over 10,000 participants. Participants spent over 356,000 hours in these programs. Below is a sample of those programs. We continue to see tremendous growth in the girls volleyball, senior and adult softball leagues.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lacrosse | Flag Football | Girls Volleyball |
| Men’s Softball | Co-ed Softball | Senior Softball |
| Men’s Basketball | Badminton | Summer Camps |
| Afterschool Programs | Special Needs programs | Children’s Theater |
| Yoga | Pilates | Homeschool PE |
| Lunchtime Basketball | Tennis Programs | Adult Kickball |
| Senior Trips | Farmers Market | Painting Class |
| Archery | Science Programs | Trail Races |
| Teen Adventure Camp | Kids Out Fun Day Programs | |
| Preschool Start Smart Programs (golf, soccer, basketball and baseball) | | |

Youth Sports Growth Chart



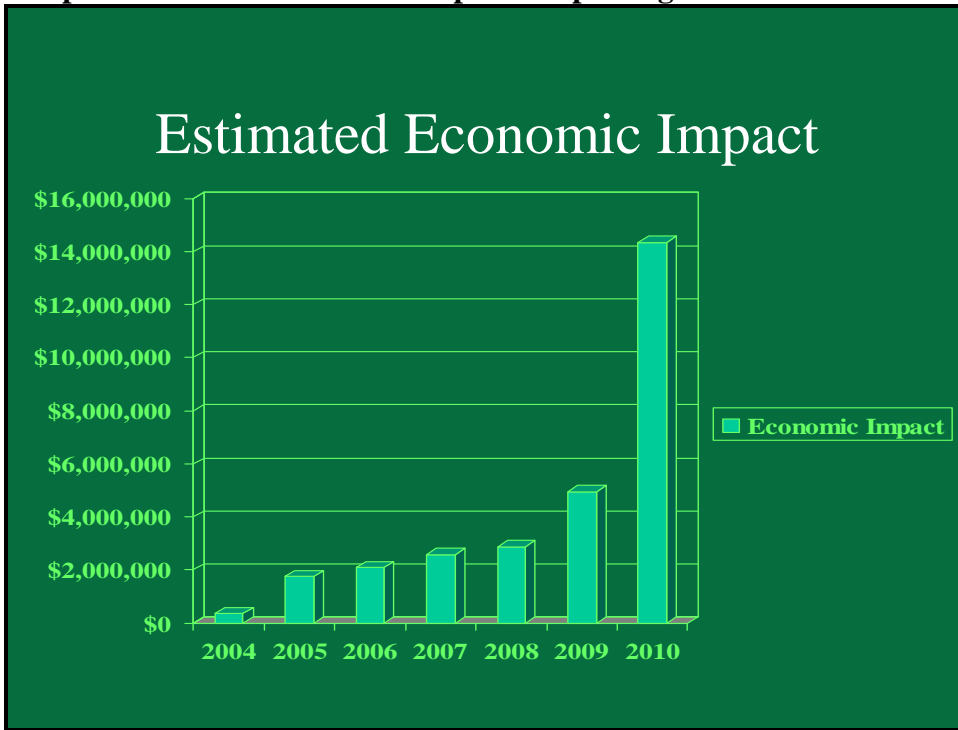
B. Special Events

The Town hosted many special events. Over the last couple of years the Town has moved towards partnering with retail developments to jointly host special events. As the downtown area redevelops, there will be more potential to host more special events in the downtown area. In 2010, the Town offered six (6) Special Events that over 6,400 people attended.

C. Sports Tournaments

Back in 2005, the Town Board wanted to make Huntersville an amateur sports destination. Over the last three years, the Town has been able to make that goal a reality. This was only possible by building the type of complexes that can host these large events. The number of events and the estimated economic impact of these events have grown tremendously over the last three years. In 2010 the Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department hosted 41 baseball, softball, soccer and basketball tournaments that accounted for almost \$14.5 million in direct economic impact. These 41 tournaments brought in 998 different teams from all over the United States and Canada. 2010 has shown a record breaking number of tournaments hosted by the department. The NSA Class A World Series that was hosted at North Mecklenburg Park and Bradford Park, is the biggest economic impact tournament hosted by the Parks Department ever. Along with this tournament some of the major tournaments hosted in 2010 were the North Carolina State Games (Soccer and Baseball), Nation’s Baseball National Championships, VisitLakeNorman.org Soccer Kickoff, FCCA Carolina Soccer Shootout, and the Lake Norman Soccer Club Fall Classic.

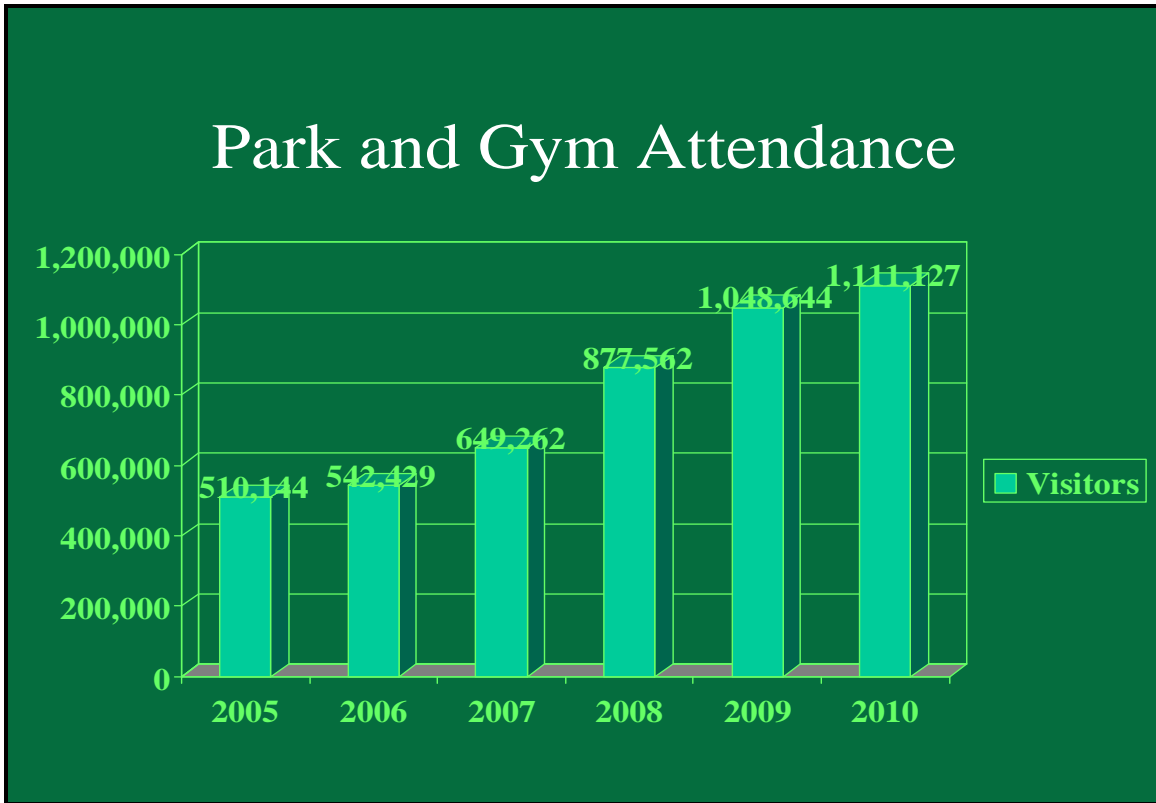
Graph: Estimated Economic Impact of Sporting Events



IV. What We Have Now- An Analysis of Parks and Facilities

A. The number of park and gym visitors continues to increase at a dramatic rate. The number of visitors that use the Town’s parks and facilities has more than doubled since 2005. The chart below shows the estimated attendance at the four major parks (Huntersville Athletic Park, North Meck Park, Barry Park and Bradford Park) and the gyms (Huntersville Elementary, Barnette Elementary, Waymer Center, Lake Norman Charter High School and Middle School. The four major parks have traffic counters at their entrances.

PARK AND GYM ATTENANCE CHART



B. Level of Service Analysis

The following section will layout and determine what current levels of service are being provided and what levels of service the Town feels like they should be providing. To begin this process an inventory was completed and demographic information provided. Table 3.1 on the following page provides the current level of services and population as well as estimated future populations and the needs to keep the existing levels of service or to increase those levels of service. Also taken into consideration is the access to parks and facilities.

2020 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

TABLE 3.1 - LOS

	Acres	Lit Ball fields	Non-lit ball fields	Lit Multipurpose Fields	Non-lit Multipurpose fields	Indoor Gym Space	Multipurpose indoor space	Playgrounds	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Trails within a park(miles)	Picnic Shelters	Amphitheaters	Spraygrounds	Mountain Bike trails (sites)	Disc Golf	Skate Park	BMX Track	Dog Park
Inventory	686	15	5	10	8	5	9,000	10	7	13	1.8	9	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
2004 Master Plan	830	35		22		9	N/A	48	9	10	19	16	1	N/A	2	1.5	2.5	2	1
Current Population - Year 2010	48,092																		
Current LOS people per component	70	3,206	9,618	4,809	6,012	9,618	5.34	4,809	6,870	3,699	26,718	5,344	0	0	24,046	48,092	0	0	0
2004 Master Plan Recommendation	58	1,374		2,186		5,344	N/A	1,000	5,344	2,000	2,526	3,000	30,000	N/A	25,000	30,000	20,000	25,000	30,000
2011 Master Plan Recommendation	70	2,500	7,000	3,000	6,000	6,500	4	4,000	6,000	2,500	4,000	4,000	50,000	20,000	12,500	25,000	50,000	50,000	25,000
Projected Population - Year 2015	53,936																		
# needed for current LOS for 2015 population	83	2	1	1	1	1	1,094	1	1	2	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# needed to achieve 2004 master plan for 2015 population		20		4		5	N/A	44	3	-3	17	7	1	N/A	0	1	2	2	1
# needed to achieve 2011 master plan for 2015 population	85	7	3	8	1	3	4,484	3	2	9	12	4	1	3	2	1	1	1	2

2020 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

	Acres	Lit Ball fields	Non-lit ball fields	Lit Multipurpose Fields	Non-lit Multipurpose fields	Indoor Gym Space	Multipurpose indoor space	Playgrounds	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Hiking/Fitness/Walking Trails within a park(miles)	Picnic Shelters	Amphitheaters	Spraygrounds	Mountain Bike trails (sites)	Disc Golf	Skate Park	BMX Track	Dog Park
Projected Population - Year 2020	60,418																		
# needed for current LOS for 2020 population	176	4	1	3	2	1	2,307	3	2	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
# needed to achieve 2004 master plan for 2020 population		24		10		7	N/A	50	5	1	22	11	1	N/A	0	1	3	2	1
# needed to achieve 2011 master plan for 2020 population	177	9	4	10	2	4	6,105	5	3	11	13	6	1	3	3	1	1	1	2
What has been added since 2004 Actual Population Growth from 2004-2010: 11,463 Projected Population Growth from 2010-2020: 12,326	234	5	3*	6	3	3	6,000	5	3	7	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

C. Existing Parks and Amenities

A complete inventory of the Town of Huntersville facilities was conducted in the fall of 2010. This inventory includes leased and joint use facilities. Mecklenburg County owns the majority of the land on which town parks are located. The majority of the town's indoor recreation space is within local schools. This practice has allowed the Town to add much needed indoor recreation space quickly due to the shared cost to build and operate these facilities. On the following pages are detailed descriptions of existing facilities.

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Abernathy Park

Location: 205 Glendale Drive

Approximate Size: 2 acres

Amenities:

(21) paved parking spaces

(1) Playground

(1) Basketball Court

(1) Shelter/Restroom Building

(1) Lighted Softball Field



Description: This two acre park is located in the old Anchor Mill community just east of the railroad tracks and south of Ramah Church Road. This park is completely built out. Parking is still an issue for games and football practices. No additional development is recommended for this park.

Recent Improvements: In 2010, the town built the new restroom/shelter building. The driveway into the park and 14 new paved parking spaces were completed in 2008. A new playground and expansion of the basketball court was completed in 2004. The old chain link fence was replaced with split rail fence in 2009.

Recommended Improvements: Repairs will need to be made to the current backstop.

Park Master Plan Status: Built out.

Barnette Elementary School Gymnasium

Location: 13659 Beatties Ford Road

Approximate Size: 8,411 sq. ft.

Amenities:

Full-size gym

Seating for 300 spectators

(4) side basketball goals

(1) stage

(1) volleyball court with inserts

(340) Paved Parking Spaces



Description: This gymnasium was built as part of a 20 year joint use agreement between the town and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in September of 2008. This gym is adjacent to Richard Barry Memorial Park. The park and the gym share an entrance as well as parking.

Recent Improvements: NONE

Recommended Improvements: NONE

Park Master Plan Status: N/A

Bradley Middle School Fields

Location: 13345 Beatties Ford Road

Approximate Size: 6 acres

Amenities:

Baseball Field

Softball Field

Football Field

Track

(180) paved parking spaces



Description: The Town has a joint use agreement with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools for the use of the school's outdoor facilities. Because none of the fields are lit, use is limited in the fall as well as during game nights in early spring.

Recent Improvements: Helped install an irrigation system that someone donated to the school for their football field in 2007.

Recommended Improvements: General Maintenance

Park Master Plan Status: N/A

David B. Waymer Center

Location: 14200 Holbrook Road

Approximate Size: 10,000 sq. ft.

Amenities:

Full-size gym

Seating for 300 spectators

(4) side basketball goals

(1) stage

(1) volleyball court

(2) badminton courts

(57) paved parking spaces

(50) gravel parking spaces

(17) on-street parking spaces

Afterschool Room

Game Room



Description: This center is leased from Mecklenburg County. This is the only recreation center in Huntersville that the Town has access to at anytime. This facility was built in 1955. It was once the gym for the old Torrance Lytle School.

This center is the most used center that the department operates. It houses afterschool programs, summer camps, badminton, basketball, volleyball, etc.

Recent Improvements: HVAC system installed in 2006. Old gym carpet was replaced with Taraflex Sports Flooring in 2004. Painted game room, afterschool room and lobby in 2010. Additional lighting was installed in the gym in 2009.

Recommended Improvements: Renovate restroom facilities in the gym area. Repair roofing and ceiling throughout the facility. Replace insulation in the gym. Upgrade electrical and plumbing systems throughout the facility.

David B. Waymer Park

Location: 14200 Holbrooks Road

Approximate Size: 13 acres

Amenities:

(1) adult sized softball field with lights

(2) tee-ball sized softball fields

(1) multipurpose field

(1) covered shelter/restroom building

(1) playground

(2) basketball courts

(2) bocce courts

(2) horseshoe pits

(1) gravel walking trail

(57) paved parking spaces

(50) gravel parking spaces



Description: This park is on county-owned land. This 13 acre park sits next door to the David B. Waymer Center.

Recent Improvements: Add one tee-ball field in 2005. The Town added two outdoor basketball courts, playground and shelter/restroom building 2004. The two bocce courts were added in 2006. Irrigation and sprigging was completed on the adult softball field and multipurpose field in 2006. The walking trail was installed in 2006. The Town added the plaza area and the tennis court in 2010.

Recommended Improvements: Install dugout covers on the softball field dugouts and replace old softball field lights.

Park Master Plan Status: This park is built out.

Dellwood Center

Location: 508 Dellwood Drive

Approximate Size: 3,400sq.ft facility on 3acres

Amenities:

(30) grassed parking spaces

Large open multipurpose room

Full kitchen



Description: This facility used to be an old school house back in the 1920's. This one room school house has an open area that can be used for many activities.

Recent Improvements: Repaired flooring and subfloor supports in 2009. Replaced furnace in 2009.

Recommended Improvements: Gravel or pave the parking area. Renovate exterior siding and trim.

Park Master Plan Status: N/A

Huntersville Arts and Cultural Center

Location: 109 S. Old Statesville Road

Approximate Size: 2,200 sq. ft.

Amenities:

(23) paved parking spaces

Restroom facilities

Description: The facility is located in the heart of downtown Huntersville. This building was once the former county library. This 2,200 sq ft. building is a single room facility with restrooms. This facility was built in 1956.

Recent Improvements: Shingles were replaced in 2005. HVAC unit was replaced in 2005. Gravel parking lot was paved in 2004. Old carpet was replaced with VCT tile in 2004. A new awning was installed in 2006.

Recommended Improvements: Repairs needed to interior and exterior doors, woodwork, and windows. Upgrades needed to restroom fixtures and flooring.

Park Master Plan Status: N/A



Huntersville Family Fitness and Aquatics

Location: 11725 Verhoeff Drive

Approximate Size: 88,000 sq. ft.

Amenities:

Full-size Gymnasium

Large Civic Room with dividers

Fitness Center

Concession Stand

Offices and Conference Room

Aerobics Room

25 yard warm water pool

50 meter pool with diving well and moveable bulkhead

1m, 3m, 7m and 10m diving platforms

Outdoor zero depth entry sprayground with slide

(295) paved parking spaces

(2) sand volleyball courts

(1) playground

(1) learning cottage



Description: This facility is on county-owned land. The operation of this facility is contracted out to Health and Sports Works, with the Town maintaining ownership. This facility was opened in 2001.

Recent Improvements: A learning cottage was added behind the center in 2009. An additional 104 paved parking spaces were added in 2006.

Recommended Improvements: Included in the 2008 Mecklenburg County Park Bonds was \$1.5 million for expansion of the center. This would include the expansion of the fitness center, education/childcare center and pool addition.

Park Master Plan Status: N/A

Greenway Park

Location: This park is located on the corner of

Dallas and Greenway Streets

Approximate size: 1 acre

Amenities:

(1) playground

(2) graveled on-street parking spaces

Description: This pocket park is located in an older community that does not have neighborhood park amenities like many newer communities in Huntersville.

Recent Improvements: Retrofitting of the decaying playground has been ongoing.

Recommended Improvements: Replace playground structure.

Park Master Plan Status: N/A



Hambright Soccer Fields

Location: This park is located on Hambright Road behind Blythe Elementary School.

Approximate Size: 10 acres

Amenities:

(3) soccer fields
Porta Johns



Description: This park land is leased from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. It houses open space field areas. The department provides minimal maintenance on these fields. These fields are used primarily for practices.

Recent Improvements: NONE

Recommended Improvements: NONE. Without a long term lease it is not recommended to make any major improvements at this time.

Park Master Plan Status: N/A

Holbrook Park

Location: 100 Sherwood Drive

Approximate Size: 7 acres

Amenities:

(6) lighted tennis courts
(1) playground
(1) covered shelter
(1) gazebo
(1) restroom facility
Nature trail
(16) paved parking spaces



Description: This park is located in the heart of downtown Huntersville across the street from Huntersville Elementary School.

Recent Improvements: Tennis Courts were resurfaced in 2006. Repairs are ongoing on the decaying playground.

Recommended Improvements: Provide park pedestrian access from Hwy 115 into the park via the nature trail. In the next five years serious consideration will need to be discussed in replacing the playground. The Town should consider expanding this park by buying additional land surrounding the park and make this the Town's downtown signature park. By adding acreage to this park it would be able to provide a large enough space to host festivals, concerts and other community events in the downtown area.

Park Master Plan Status: The plan shows a small amphitheater and more nature trails. It is recommended that the location of the amphitheater be revisited.

Huntersville Athletic Park

Location: 11720 Verhoeff Drive

Approximate Size: 52 acres

Amenities:

- (4) lighted baseball fields
- (2) lighted soccer fields
- (2) playgrounds
- (1) covered shelter
- (2) restroom facilities
- (1) concession stand
- (2) batting cages
- (202) paved parking spaces
- .3 mile paved walking trail
- Mountain bike trail



Description: This park is on county-owned land. This park is located across the street from the Huntersville Family Fitness and Aquatic Center. The baseball fields in this park are unique because they have grass infields. These are the only public baseball fields in the area that have grass infields.

Recent Improvements: Added lights to the two soccer fields in 2005. Resodded the grass infields in 2005.

Recommended Improvements: Replace grass infields with synthetic infields. Add a shelter near the upper soccer field and add some trails.

Park Master Plan Status: Trails.

Huntersville Elementary School Gym

Location: 200 Gilead Road

Approximate Size: 8,658 sq. ft.

Amenities:

- Full-size gym
- Seating for 100 spectators
- (4) side basketball goals
- (1) stage
- (1) volleyball court with inserts
- (146) paved parking spaces



Description: This gymnasium was built as part of the Town’s first ever joint use development with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. This gym was opened in May of 2000. The ten year lease was just recently renewed for another ten years.

Recent Improvements: NONE

Recommended Improvements: Increase light levels.

Park Master Plan Status: Built out.

Huntersville Elementary School Softball Fields

Location: 200 Gilead Road

Approximate Size: 4 acres

Amenities:

(2) softball fields

(146) paved parking spaces

Description: These two softball fields are part of a joint use agreement with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. These fields are located behind the school. There were originally three softball fields, but one was lost due to mobile units being brought in. Participants who use these fields use the restrooms facilities at Holbrook Park which is located across the street.

Recent Improvements: NONE

Recommended Improvements: NONE

Park Master Plan Status: Built out.

Lake Norman Charter Middle School Gym and Civic Room

Location: 12435 Old Statesville Road

Approximate Size: 10,464 sq. ft.

Amenities:

Full-size gym

Seating for 500 spectators

(4) side basketball goals

(1) civic room

(1) volleyball court with inserts

(151) paved parking spaces



Description: This gymnasium and civic room was built as part of a 20 year joint use agreement between the Town and the Lake Norman Charter School in December of 2007.

Recent Improvements: NONE

Recommended Improvements: NONE

Lake Norman Charter High School Gym

Location: 12701 Old Statesville Road

Approximate Size: 18,000 sq. ft.

Amenities:

Full-size gym

Seating for 1,000 spectators

(4) side basketball goals

(1) volleyball court with inserts

(275) paved parking spaces



Description: This gymnasium was built as part of a 10 year joint-use agreement between the Town and the Lake Norman Charter School in November of 2009. **Recent Improvements:** NONE

Recommended Improvements: NONE

North Mecklenburg Park

Location: 16131 Old Statesville Road

Approximate Size: 96 acres

Amenities:

- (2) lighted soccer fields
- (2) lighted youth softball fields
- (2) lighted adult softball fields
- (2) playgrounds
- (6) lighted tennis courts
- (4) lighted basketball courts
- (2) covered shelters
- (1) concession stand
- .4 mile paved walking trail
- 4 mile mountain bike trail
- (3) restroom facilities
- (1) pump track
- (202) paved parking spaces



Description: This park is on county-owned land. This park is one of the most used parks in town with 270,000 visits per year. The softball complex has hosted numerous national level softball tournaments. The softball complex has received the NSA National Park Award in 2002, 2009 and 2010.

Recent Improvements: Old sports lighting on the two adult softball fields was replaced in 2010. New tennis courts were completed in 2010. This park has been connected to the CMUD sewer system in 2010. Lights were added to the basketball courts in 2006. The two upper parking lots were resurfaced in 2006. A playground was added in 2007 near the soccer fields. Basketball Courts were resurfaced in 2006.

Recommended Improvements: Resurface basketball courts. Resurface walking trail. Add nature trails throughout. Add parallel parking along the park road between the softball field and the soccer field parking lots. Widen the park entrance.

Park Master Plan Status: Indoor Camp facility, volleyball courts, additional jogging trails and an amphitheater. The location of the day camp facility and the amphitheater should be revisited.

Richard Barry Memorial Park

Location: 13707 Beatties Ford Road

Approximate Size: 42 acres

Amenities:

- (418) paved parking spaces
- (6) lighted soccer fields
- (2) playgrounds
- (1) covered shelter
- (1) restroom facility
- .5 mile paved walking trail



Description: This park is on county-owned land. This park is the Town’s largest soccer complex. As part of a joint use agreement the Town and CMS share the entrance, parking lot and fields with Barnette Elementary School. This park was built and opened to the public in February of 2008. The Town entered into a ten year usage agreement in 2008 with the North Mecklenburg Soccer Club which allows them first right of field usage for their \$160,000 donation towards the construction of the sports lighting.

Recent Improvements: A new Boundless Playground was installed in 2010 with a \$100,000 donation from American Tire Distributors, Inc. Two large kicking nets were installed between the middle pad and lower pad to prevent balls from going down the hill between the fields.

Recommended Improvements: Expand the restroom building. This building was built with knockout walls for future expansion. With the many large soccer tournaments that are hosted here, on many occasions we have to bring in porta-johns. Install netting or fencing on the top of the two hills between the fields. Build a shelter/restroom building at the entrance of the park as is shown on the park master plan.

Park Master Plan Status: This park is built out with the exception of the additional shelter/restroom building and expansion of the existing restroom facility.

Robert Bradford Park

Location: 17005 Davidson-Concord Road

Approximate Size: 213 acres

Amenities:

- (235) paved parking spaces
- (5) lighted adult softball fields
- (3) soccer fields
- (2) playgrounds
- (2) batting cages
- (2) restroom facilities
- (2) covered shelters



Description: This park is on county-owned land. This park is Huntersville’s largest park. This park was jointly developed by the Town and Mecklenburg County. The Town of Huntersville and the Town of Davidson have a management and usage agreement that splits the usage and

operational expense between the two towns based on the population percentages. This park was opened in April of 2009.

Recent Improvements: The two playgrounds and Disc Golf Course were installed 2010. Dugout covers were installed in 2009. Two batting cages were installed in 2010. Trees were installed in 2010 around the softball fields.

Recommended Improvements: In the 2008 Mecklenburg County Park Bond package it included \$2.95 million for the construction of three synthetic soccer fields and associated amenities. Continue to add trees along the spectator areas near the softball fields. Install irrigation in common areas around the softball pavilion. Transportation planners also recommend that the county and town should make every effort to make the connection to Ramah Church Road from the park to serve as the park's main entrance.

Park Master Plan Status: This park has many future phases. Three additional soccer fields that are identified in the 2008 County Park Bond, six tennis courts and associated facilities, two baseball fields and football field with associated facilities, skate park, two basketball courts, multiple playgrounds, covered shelters and walking trails, a 5,000 sq ft. indoor shelter and a 20,000sq ft. recreation center and a zero depth pool.

Torrence Creek Elementary School Multipurpose Room

Location: 14550 Ranson Road

Approximate Size: 4,000 sq. ft.

Amenities:

Half-sized gym with two permanent main basketball goals

(1) stage

(212) paved parking spaces



Description: This multipurpose room is part of a joint use agreement with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools that began in August of 2005. This multipurpose room has two permanent basketball goals. A divider separates the multipurpose room from the cafeteria.

Recent Improvements: NONE

Recommended Improvements: NONE

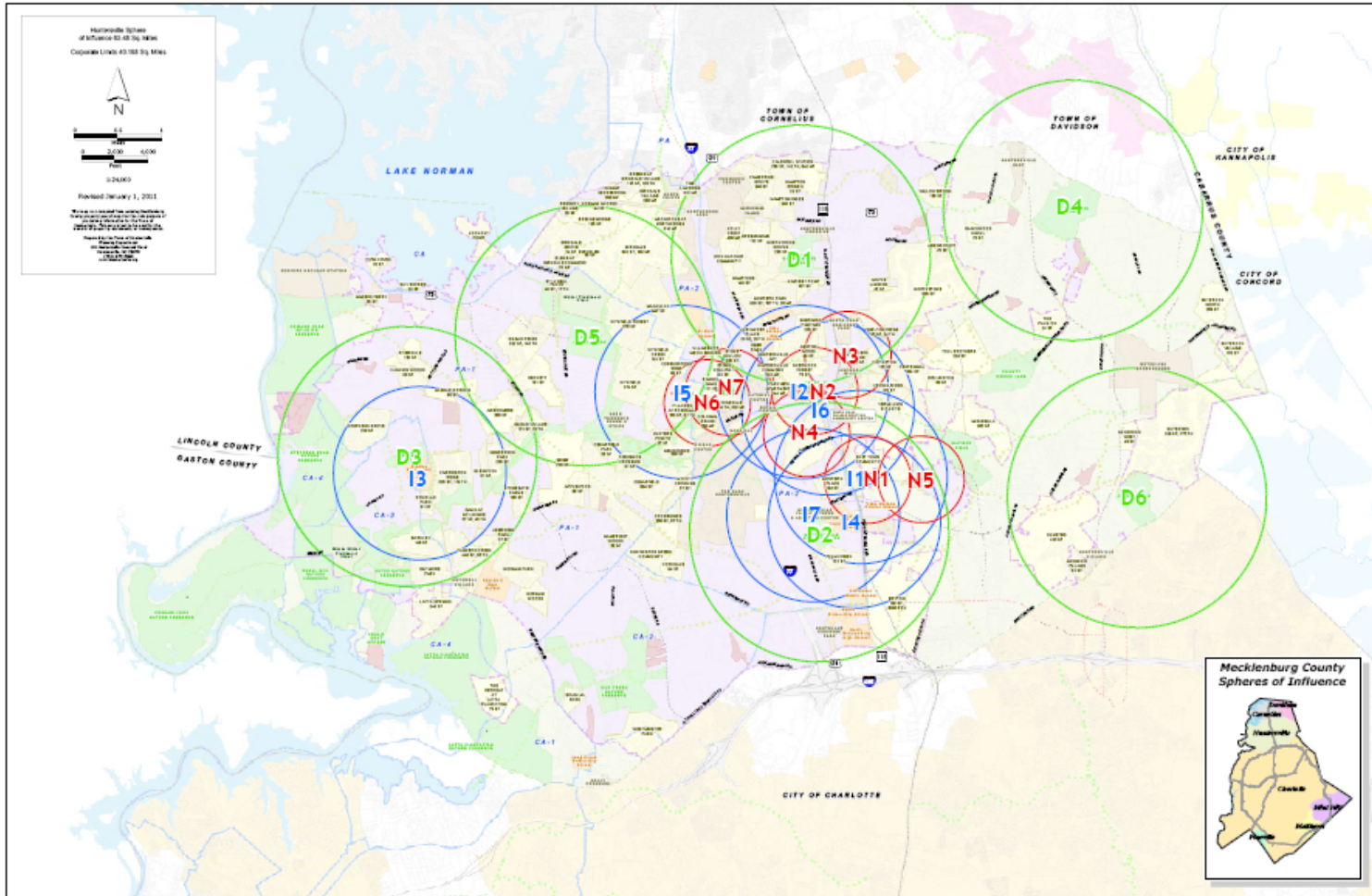
D. Park and Facility Service Area Gap Analysis

A service area gap analysis was completed during this process. The process mapped out all developed and undeveloped parks and facilities across the town to determine what areas are lacking park land for future development. During this process it was identified that active park land is needed in the southwestern part of town south of Gilead Road and west of I-77. The goal of this plan is to have a district park within a 1 ½ mile radius of 90% of the town's residents. On the following page you will see the current park land and their service radius. There are three categories for these parks and facilities.

District Park: District Parks are typically larger parks of more than 100 acres that have multiple amenities within one location to serve many recreation opportunities for a large part of a community. These parks can also serve as tournament sites due to having a large number of facilities in one location. The service radius for District Parks is 1 ½ miles.

Neighborhood Park: Neighborhood Parks are typically under 20 acres and serve a smaller area of the community than district parks. Typically these parks have pedestrian access from surrounding neighborhoods. The service radius of neighborhood parks are ½ mile.

Indoor Facilities: Indoor facilities can range in size as well as the amenities that are offered. The majority of the town's indoor facilities are housed within local schools and the Town has joint use agreements to utilize gyms, etc for recreation programs during off-school hours. The service radius for indoor facilities is 1 mile.



District Park

- 1.5 Mile Radius
- D1 North Mecklenburg Park
- D2 Huntersville Athletic Park
- D3 Barry Park
- D4 Bradford Park
- D5 Cook/Persington Land (Future)
- D6 Eschfeldt Park Land (Future)

Neighborhood Park

- .5 Mile Radius
- N1 Weymer Park
- N2 Hobbrook Park
- N3 Abernathy Park
- N4 Greeneray Park
- N5 Griffin Land (Future)
- N6 Stinson Park Land (Future)
- N7 Rosedale Park Land (Future)

Indoor Facilities

- 1 Mile Radius
- I1 Weymer Center Gym
- I2 Huntersville ES Gym
- I3 Barwells ES Gym
- I4 Lake Norman Charter School Gym(2)
- I5 Tomance Creek ES Multipurpose Space
- I6 Arts & Cultural Center
- I7 HFFA



UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND

Griffin Property

Location: Holbrooks Road (about 1 mile east of Waymer Park)

Approximate Size: 41 acres

Description: This parkland is adjacent to the North Mecklenburg Landfill and was donated to the Town. This land is quite wooded and has many variations in elevation throughout.

Recent Improvements: Mountain Bike Trail

Recommended Improvements: Develop a park master plan to determine the recreation needs for this land. Potential site for a Par 3 Disc Golf Course

Cook and Pennington Properties

Location: On Ervin Cook Road just south of Charlotte Mecklenburg Water Treatment Plant and west of the Wynfield subdivision.

Approximate Size: 191 acres

Description: Three properties make up the 191 acres of park land. The Cook family has rights to continue farming two of the properties that Mecklenburg County purchased through 2015. The two Cook farm properties add up to 147 acres. The northwest parcel of land is the Pennington property that is 44 acres. This land was also purchased by Mecklenburg County

Park Master Plan Status: A park master plan should be developed within the next year for these parcels of land.

Ranson and Rosedale Properties

Location: These two properties are located to the north of the Rosedale mixed use development on Gilead Road. The Ranson property is 13 acres and is located to the north of the Bi-Lo Grocery store and to the east of the Villages of Rosedale subdivision. The Rosedale property is 5 acres and is located to the north of the Rosedale apartments and to the south of Stone Hollow.

Approximate Size: 18 acres

Description: These two properties were donated to the Town by the developer of Rosedale. Mecklenburg County's Torrence Creek Greenway extension will run through these two properties. The County has an additional 50 plus acres adjacent to these properties for the future greenway which will offer the potential for a 68 acre linear park surrounded by highly developed mixed use properties.

Park Master Plan Status: A park master plan should be developed within the next year for these parcels of land.

Eastfield Park Property

Location: This 115 acre property is located in the southeastern corner of the town's ETJ on the north side of Eastfield Road and its northern limits backs up to the Skybrook West subdivision.

Approximate Size: 115 acres

Description: The County purchased this property back in 2000. This property's master plan and its first phase development were identified in the County's 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There is \$3.6 million identified in the County park bond for the development of this regional park.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Torrence Lytle School

Approximate Size: 10,000 sq. ft.

Location: This old abandoned school is located directly next to the Waymer Center, on the corner of Holbrooks Road and Central Ave.

Description: The school has been designated as a Historic Landmark. The Historic Landmark Commission is looking to renovate the school for potential new tenants. The Town has had some discussion with the Historic Landmark Commission about the use of one of the school buildings, particularly the two-story building on the corner of Holbrooks Road and Central Ave. There has been discussion of possible funding/lease options that the Landmark Commission has discussed with the town.

Long Creek Elementary School (Old) Gym and Fields

Approximate Size: Over 12,000 sq. ft. of indoor space and 2 acres of outdoor space.

Location: 9213 Beatties Ford Road

Description: This is the old school multipurpose room and cafeteria buildings and the old gym as well as the two softball fields. The new school was built on the same campus. A lease would help the Town with indoor and outdoor recreation space in the southwest part of town.

E. Inventory of Neighborhood Recreation Amenities

In the fall of 2010 staff conducted an inventory of recreation amenities within neighborhoods in Huntersville. Even though these amenities are not generally open to the general public outside of the residents in that neighborhood, they do serve a recreation need in the town and this information should be used to help determine what and where future recreation facilities should be located.

More than 85 subdivisions were identified that have more than 15,000 single and multi-family homes. Below is a list of amenities that these subdivisions provide to their residents.

POOLS

28 neighborhoods or 33% have pools

TENNIS COURTS

11 neighborhoods or 13% have tennis courts

PLAYGROUNDS

34 neighborhoods or 40% have playgrounds

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

7 neighborhoods or 8% have volleyball courts

BASKETBALL COURTS

12 neighborhoods or 14% have basketball courts

GOLF COURSES

3 neighborhoods or 3% have golf courses

ACTIVE PLAY/OPEN AREAS

10 neighborhoods or 12% have active play areas

TRAILS

15 neighborhoods or 18% have various types and distances of trails

Town of Huntersville Subdivisions 2010--SUMMARY												
AREA	HOMES	#	AREA	Amenities								
Quadrant	SF/MF	Subdivisions	Quad	Pools	Tennis Courts	Play grounds	Volleyball courts	Common Areas	Golf Courses	Basketball Courts	Trails or Green ways	Active areas
Northeast	4074	21	NE	11	9	10	3	12	1	2.5	2	2
Southeast	2047	11	SE	6	6	5	1	7	1	1	5	2
Southwest	4311	27	SW	7	2	10	1	16	-	3	3	2
Northwest	4820	26	NW	9	11	12	2	13	1	5	5	5
Subtotal	15,252	85		33	28	37	7	48	3	11.5	15	11

V. Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations

A. Park Land

This master plan has recommended that a district park be within a 1 ½ mile radius of over 90% of the Huntersville population. After conducting a service area gap analysis, it was recommended that the Town should identify and purchase active park land in the southwestern quadrant of the town. It is recommended that the Town acquire at least 100+ acres for this future park.

- **Southwest Active Park Land:** The Town is lacking active parkland for future park development in the southwest portion of town. The Town should look at partnering with Mecklenburg County to purchase at least 100+ acres somewhere south of Gilead Road and west of I-77.
- **Downtown Park Land:** The Town should look at acquiring land in the downtown area around Holbrook Park. This additional land would allow the Town to add park amenities such as a bandstand, splash pad, gardens, and trails that would draw people to the downtown area for community events, festivals and activities.

B. New Parks and Facilities

- **Cook and Pennington Park Land:** These properties are on Ervin Cook Road just south of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Water Treatment Plant and west of the Wynfield subdivision. These properties makeup 191 acres of park land. This park is in a great location with easy access from some of the town's largest subdivisions. A future county greenway also runs along the east side of the property. The Town should master plan and develop this park land.
- **Ranson and Rosedale Park Land:** These two properties were donated to the Town by the developer of Rosedale for a future park. These two properties combined are over 18 acres. Both are bisected by the future Torrence Creek Greenway. Due to the topography and the location of this site, it would be ideal for more passive uses. Due to its location within walking distances to hundreds of apartment homes, townhomes and single family homes, it would be a great site for a dog park. The Town should master plan and develop this park land.

- **Gymnasiums:** The Town has had many successful partnerships for gym space with local schools. It is recommended that the Town partner with CMS to build a double sized gym at the next elementary school that is built in Huntersville. This would reduce the operational cost by half and provide a site that can accommodate more groups in one location.
- **Griffin Park Land:** This 41 acre site is located on Holbrooks Road about one mile east of Waymer Park. This parkland is adjacent to the North Mecklenburg Landfill and was donated to the Town by the landfill for a future park. This land is heavily wooded and has many variations in elevation throughout. The Town should master plan this park to determine the recreation needs of the park.

C. Expansion of Existing Parks

- **Bradford Park:** It is recommended that the Town complete the softball complex by building the concession stand. It is also recommended that the Town build the third phase of development which includes: tennis courts, basketball courts, lacrosse field and shelters.
- **North Mecklenburg Park:** Develop additional hiking trails that are identified on the park specific master plan.
- **Huntersville Athletic Park:** Develop additional hiking trails that are identified on the park specific master plan and add synthetic turf to the two remaining infields.
- **Barry Park:** Construction of the restroom/shelter at the entrance of the park.

D. Maintenance and Repairs to Existing Facilities

- **Huntersville Athletic Park:** replace the two existing playgrounds and resurface the walking trail.
- **Holbrook Park:** resurface the tennis courts and replace the existing playground.
- **Greenway Park:** replace the existing playground
- **Waymer Park:** replace the softball field lighting.

- **Waymer Recreation Center:** renovation and improvements to the center include: restrooms, roofing, insulation, bleachers, plumbing, electrical and hardware.
- **North Mecklenburg Park:** resurface basketball courts, walking trail, repair and widen park entrance and add parallel parking along the driveway.
- **Synthetic Turf Fields-** the Town should continue to investigate the feasibility to replace some natural grass fields with synthetic turf. Due to the high use of many fields, the quality will continue to suffer.
- **Huntersville Arts and Cultural Center** -renovate restrooms and building exterior.