



RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mayor

Costi Kutteh

City Council

Amy Lawton

C.O. Johnson

David Jones

Doris Allison

Fredrick Foster

Joe Hudson

Steve Johnson

Kimberly Wasson

City Manager

Ron Smith

City Attorney

Leah Gaines Messick

Recreation and Parks Director

Richard Griggs

Recreation and Parks Staff

Daniel Lewis

Jennifer Owens

Kali Bailey

Lynn Miller

Robin Sprinkle

Route 2 recreation

CITY OF STATESVILLE

301 S Center St,
Statesville, NC 28677
<https://www.statesvillenc.net>

This document has been prepared by WithersRavenel on behalf of The City of Statesville. Reproduction or distribution of this document and its contents are prohibited without approval of the City of Statesville. All contents of this document are the property of the City of Statesville.



1 INTRODUCTION

- 9 Purpose of the Plan
- 9 Project Process

2 SYSTEM INVENTORY

- 15 Introduction
- 21 Demographics
- 23 Parks & Recreation Facility Inventory & Analysis
- 32 Parks & Recreation Facility Analysis Summary
- 35 Program Inventory & Analysis
- 40 Level of Service Analysis

3 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

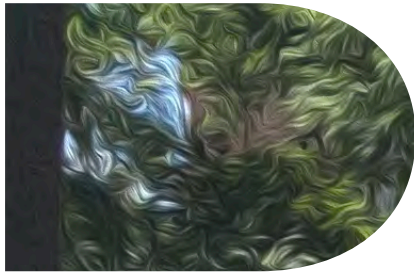
- 55 Introduction
- 56 Stakeholder Interviews
- 57 Community Meetings
- 58 Online Community Survey
- 73 Statistically Valid Survey
- 77 Community Needs Assessment Summary

4 VISION

- 81 Vision Development
- 82 Vision Workshop & Framework Development
- 84 Vision Subsystems

5 IMPLEMENTATION

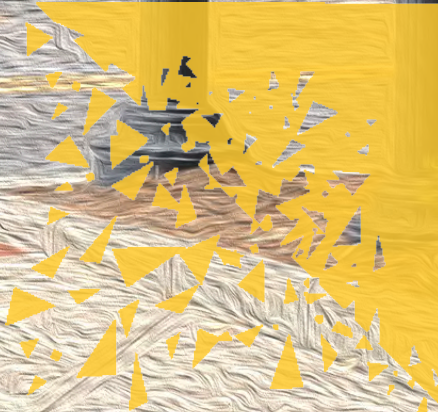
- 95 Introduction
- 96 Recommendations
- 97 Opinion of Probable Construction Cost
- 97 Capital Improvement Recommendations
- 110 Programming & Operations Recommendations
- 117 Role of Other Providers
- 118 Other Supportive Issues
- 120 Phasing & Financial Plan
- 121 Grant Stacking
- 121 Potential Funding
- 123 Phasing Recommendations





01

INTRODUCTION



BR



Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

The Route 2 Recreation Statesville Recreation and Parks Master Plan is a long-range planning document that is meant to help shape the direction, development, and delivery of the City's recreation and parks facilities over the course of the next 10 years. Based on a comprehensive planning approach, this plan considers previous planning documents, department goals, existing conditions, and an assessment of needs to provide a framework for the department vision, recommendations, and prioritization strategies.

Route 2 Recreation is an update to the 2003 Parks Master Plan and the 2016 Inventory Update. While this plan is intended to establish a strategic vision for recreation and parks in Statesville, the plan also considers other strategic planning efforts undertaken by the City, including the Land Development Plan (2004, adopted and updated 2022), Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan (2011), Connect Our Future Regional Plan (2014), and Mobility and Development Plan (2019).

Multiple elements of these plans relate to the City's desire to improve the quality of life for Statesville residents while also addressing the rapid growth that is expected during the coming decade. The development of Route 2 Recreation is based on the acknowledgment that providing excellent recreation and parks facilities and program opportunities for a diverse, growing population will be a critical component of accomplishing the City's overarching goals.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a fresh look at the mission and vision of the Recreation and Parks Department in an effort to maintain a high-quality parks system. The development of this vision was initiated by establishing a community-defined set of priorities to maximize the effectiveness of the department and its resources. This master plan provides a focused direction for development and delivery of the City's recreation and parks services for current and future residents, ensuring that Statesville continues to be a desirable community for people to live, work, and play.

Project Process

This document is intended to serve as a comprehensive guide for the planning, acquisition, development, and operations of parks, trails, park facilities, and recreation programs throughout the City. As such, this master plan will assist users in the formation of programming needs and priorities and long-range visioning for the provision of recreation and parks facilities and programs.

This document has been developed in a linear process, building upon previous work, beginning with an overview of the existing parks system, analysis of public needs and priorities, formation of a long-range vision, and lastly a strategic plan for implementation.

SYSTEM INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

VISION DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Purpose of the Plan

The Route 2 Recreation Statesville Recreation and Parks Master Plan is a long-range planning document that is meant to help shape the direction, development, and delivery of the City's recreation and parks facilities over the course of the next 10–15 years. Based on a comprehensive planning approach, this plan considers previous planning documents, department goals, existing conditions, and an assessment of needs to provide a framework for the department vision, recommendations, and prioritization strategies.

CHAPTER 2: SYSTEM INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Guiding Documents

2.2 Demographics

2.3 Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory and Analysis

2.4 Program Inventory & Analysis

2.5 Comparative Analysis

2.6 Level of Service Analysis

2.7 System Inventory & Analysis Summary

CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

3.1 Stakeholder Interviews

3.2 Online Survey

3.3 Community Needs Assessment Summary



CHAPTER 4: VISION DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Vision Workshop

4.2 Vision Sub-systems

4.3 Vision Summary

CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Implementation Workshop

5.2 Cost Estimates

5.3 Capital Improvement Recommendations

5.4 Programming, Policy & Operations Recommendations

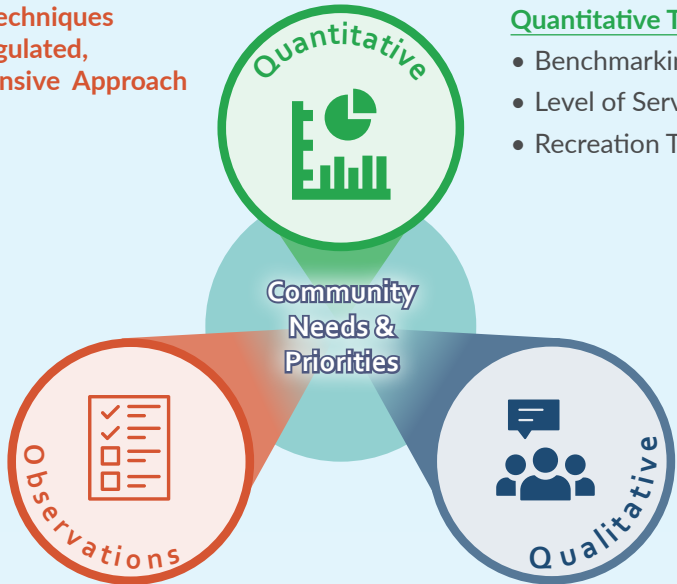
5.5 Phasing & Financial Plan

5.6 Priority Action Items

Data Analysis Process

To gain an accurate understanding of the City of Statesville’s Parks and Recreation system, the project team utilized a Triangulated Comprehensive Approach to data analysis. The following diagram identifies these techniques:

Multiple Techniques for a Triangulated, Comprehensive Approach



Quantitative Techniques:

- Benchmarking
- Level of Service Analysis
- Recreation Trend Analysis

Observational Techniques:

- Individual Park Evaluations
- Programming Analysis
- Population and Demographic Overview

Qualitative Techniques:

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Community Workshops
- Online Survey





02

SYSTEM INVENTORY
& ANALYSIS

ER



System & Inventory Analysis

Introduction

This chapter provides a broad understanding of the current conditions of the City of Statesville's parks, facilities, programs, services, department operations, planning context, and the demographics of the community being served. Currently, the City manages 19 named parks and 3 recreation centers. This chapter takes an in-depth look at the conditions, appearance, and functionality of the existing recreation and parks system as a snapshot for analysis.

Named Parks

- ◇ Abernathy Ball Field
- ◇ Albert B. McClure Park
- ◇ Alex Cooper Park
- ◇ Bristol Road Park
- ◇ Brookdale Park Lake
- ◇ Caldwell Park
- ◇ Cochran Street Ballfields
- ◇ Garfield Park
- ◇ Grace Park
- ◇ Harris Park
- ◇ Kimbrough Park
- ◇ Mac Anderson Park
- ◇ Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

- ◇ Newtonville Community Park
- ◇ Pecan Park
- ◇ Sculpture Garden
- ◇ Signal Hill Mountain Bike Trail
- ◇ South Statesville Park & Playground
- ◇ Statesville Park & Soccer Complex

Recreation Centers

- ◇ Bentley Community Center
- ◇ Bristol Road Center
- ◇ Statesville Fitness & Activity Center



Statesville Park and Soccer Complex

2.1 - Guiding Documents

In order to create a continuing narrative of planning, studying, and acting within Statesville, prime importance was placed upon review of previously adopted plans and studies. The incorporation of these previous local and regional documents ensures that diligent work completed in previous years influences the goals of this Master Plan. These documents may be classified into three broad categories:

- ◇ City and regional documents
- ◇ Area- or facility-specific studies and plans
- ◇ Previous recreation master plans

A listing, though not exhaustive, of significant influencing plans include:

- ◇ Statesville Parks Master Plan (2003)
- ◇ Land Development Plan (2004, updated 2022)
- ◇ Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan (2011)
- ◇ Connect Our Future Regional Plan (2014)
- ◇ Statesville Parks Inventory Update (2016)
- ◇ Mobility and Development Plan (2019)

Statesville Parks Master Plan – 2003

The *Statesville Parks Master Plan* builds off prior initiatives from 1978 and 1996 and was intended to serve as a guide for development and programming of parks facilities with a 10-year time horizon from 2003 to 2013. This planning initiative was guided by a Planning Committee that was very familiar with the existing parks system, by public outreach, and by the guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association and the NC Department of Natural Resources.

Development of the recommended facilities was estimated to cost approximately \$11.25 million. Recommended funding sources included annual operating budgets, general obligation parks bonds, private gifts, grants, and required land dedication during the development process. The plan also recommended coordination with the Iredell-Statesville Schools and Iredell County to meet some of these needs, as well as cooperation with the State of North Carolina for funding assistance for planning and design.



System & Inventory Analysis



Statesville Land Development Plan 2045 (Adopted 2022)

The *Statesville Land Development Plan* functions as the statutorily required comprehensive plan for the community and puts forth a vision and priorities for how Statesville will grow. The plan aims to protect the character and diversity of neighborhoods, historical resources, tree-lined streets, and recreational opportunities while also mitigating the impacts of new growth such as traffic congestion, loss of trees, and fiscal pressures.

The plan establishes the following vision for the City:

Statesville enters the future as a community committed to preserving the best of its past, while leading the region in economic growth and prosperity through partnerships with residents, businesses, and other service providers that enhance the educational, economic, recreational, and cultural opportunities, and make Statesville a community of quality.

To this end, the City will guide new growth to provide residents access to green spaces, greater mobility choices for all ages, quality employment opportunities, a vibrant downtown, and a range of healthy commercial centers serving neighborhood, community, and regional needs, and efficient public services and facilities.

As part of the analysis leading to land use recommendations, the plan notes that housing units could increase considerably over a 20-year time horizon. This residential growth will demand accompanying services, from schools to roads to parks and open space. To accommodate this growth, the plan considers three distinct, yet interconnected, elements: prioritize growth

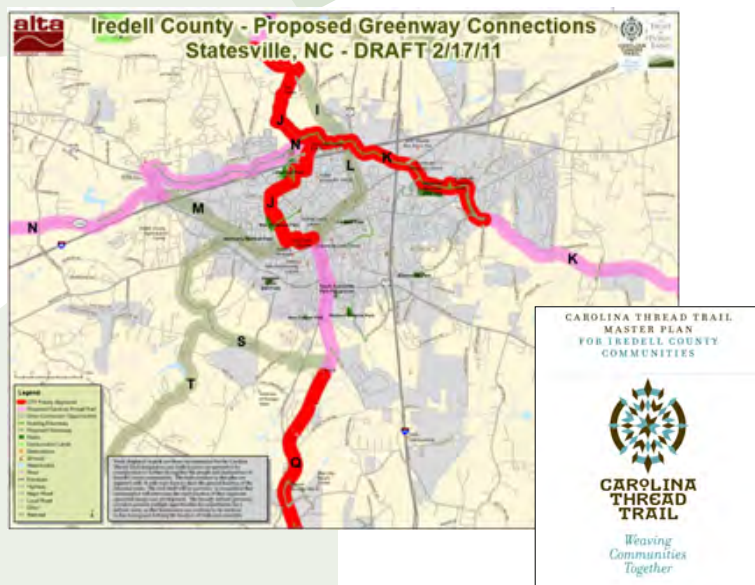
and reinvestment, support expansion of the local economy and enhance our quality of life.

The plan then identifies future land use categories that will be used to guide land use decisions, as well as a series of goals and policies related to the plan priorities. Of most important to recreation and parks are the following:

- ◇ Goal 4-C focuses on a superior system of parks and recreation facilities to serve neighborhood and community recreation needs.
- ◇ *Policy 4-13: Implement the “Route 2 Recreation” Parks and Trails Master Plan. Design parks and recreation facilities to meet standards established in the plan.*
- ◇ *Policy 4-14: Identify the changing recreational needs of the City’s residents over time through regular surveys and assessments.*
- ◇ *Policy 4-15: Require new developments of a certain size to include development of neighborhood and community park facilities and to identify a long-term maintenance program for maintaining these facilities.*
- ◇ *Policy 4-16: Ensure that neighborhood and community parks have safe and efficient linkages to surrounding neighborhoods for pedestrians and bicyclists.*
- ◇ *Policy 4-17: Explore opportunities for joint use of school sites for recreational, as well as educational purposes. Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan (in Iredell County) – 2011*

The Trail Master Plan was guided by a Steering Committee and, from Iredell County, a Technical Advisory Team, and involved extensive collaboration between the municipalities, the County, and clubs and organizations, as well as robust public input.

The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of greenways, trails, and conserved lands. The following guiding principles and core values inform trail planning:



- ◇ Collaboration
- ◇ Community Self-Determination
- ◇ Connectivity
- ◇ Inclusivity
- ◇ Leverage
- ◇ Respect for the Land and Respect for the Landowners

Within Iredell County, the thread route includes 115.9 miles of greenways and trails (though the exact routes are not yet determined) in an effort to allow location-specific flexibility and collaboration with landowners.

This master plan establishes priority implementation projects within the County, and it also encourages the formation of a “Friends of” group to continue advocating and coordinating trail implementation. The plan also identifies possible funding sources and strategies for both right-of-way acquisition, trail construction, and ongoing maintenance and programming.

Connect our Future Regional Plan – 2014

The Connect Our Future Regional Plan is a 14-county planning initiative to create a regional growth framework that was undertaken from 2012 to 2014. As part of the extensive public outreach to inform this initiative, the planning team created “regional scan documents” for each county that describe the population, economy, land development patterns, and public facilities and services.

As part of this initiative, the community was engaged in a series of Community Growth Workshops where participants considered growth in their county over the next 40 years. These groups collaborated on a growth chip exercise to place preferred growth types within the county while also identifying areas for open space and conservation.

Over two hundred residents from Iredell County participated in the outreach events with the following results related to parks and open space:

System & Inventory Analysis

- ◇ 7.06% of participants noted that recreational opportunities were the biggest challenge for the community.
- ◇ Similarly, recreational opportunities (including entertainment) ranked second in community importance.
- ◇ When asked to name a place that illustrates the best of the community, respondents identified Downtown, Natural Assets, Parks and Neighborhoods. These assets were the top priorities when asked to identify what is most important for the future in the community and region.
- ◇ When asked about transportation, one-third of respondents noted that sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and bike paths were one of the top three most important transportation needs.

Statesville Parks Inventory Update – 2016

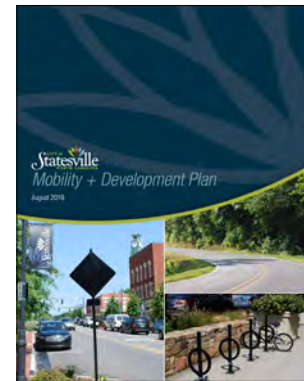
In 2016, Statesville staff updated the 2003 Parks Master Plan. This initiative inventoried the existing parks system, including any updates resulting from the 2003 plan.

It was concluded that the existing parks system delivered equitable services to existing residents. Additional neighborhood and mini parks were needed at the time to serve anticipated residential growth. The inventory analyzed the existing system based on a recreation standards and community needs assessment that used standards from the National Recreation and Park Association and North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The inventory also evaluated existing programming and the need for facility improvements and made recommendations that included additional youth baseball/softball fields, development of a tournament-quality athletic complex, additional volleyball and tennis courts, incorporation of playground equipment into existing and new parks facilities, future consideration for a recreation center and swimming pool, and the addition of a skate park facility.

Statesville Mobility and Development Plan – 2019

The Mobility and Development Plan sets forth a “blueprint for growth and development and a guide for future transportation

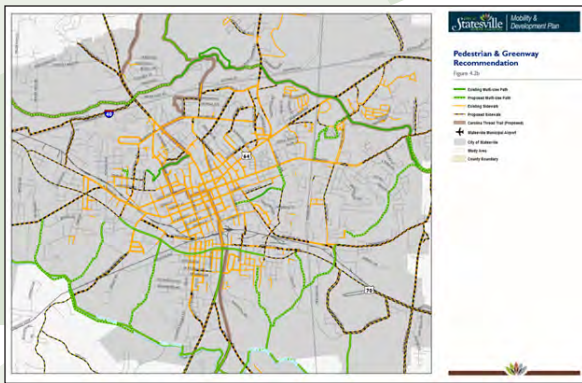


decisions” for Statesville and the surrounding unincorporated areas. Transportation plans are required by the NCDOT for communities larger than 50,000 people, to coordinate transportation planning and funding at a regional scale via the Charlotte Metropolitan Planning Organization. This plan is unique in that it goes beyond the required transportation needs forecasting to examine the interrelationship of transportation and land use, and how

they inform congestion management, active transportation, and economic sustainability.

The project's vision is stated thus:

The vision of the Statesville Mobility + Development Plan is to provide an integrated community-based transportation plan that improves traffic flow, provides travel choices, enhances safety, promotes economic growth, and considers the future ambitions of the City and its people.



By utilizing an executive committee, steering committee, and data-driven public engagement, the plan identifies short-term, medium-term, long-term, and ongoing projects. Part of this planning effort entailed

analysis of population growth, poverty, and mobility choices.

Key plan recommendations that are of impact to the parks and greenway system include the following:

- ◇ Extensive new bicycle/pedestrian crossings concentrated along Front St., Broad St., and Center St.
- ◇ New street sections with sidewalks and bicycle lanes
- ◇ Additional investments in bicycle facilities to create a well-connected bicycle network

- ◇ Additional sidewalk and greenway connections to destinations such as schools, parks, public facilities, and commercial nodes

If all of the plan's recommendations are implemented, the Statesville area will have an extensive bicycle and pedestrian network, including:

- ◇ 228 miles of sidewalks,
- ◇ 98 miles of multi-use paths, and
- ◇ 49 miles of on-street bicycle facilities

Notably, the plan also recommends an additional 67 miles of multi-use trails to enhance greenway connectivity and enhance the Carolina Thread Trail network. Priority multi-use path projects are:

- ◇ Shelton Avenue Multi-Use Path (STIP EB-5788): A multi-use path that connects Garner Bagnal Boulevard to Amity Hill Road through a path alongside Shelton Avenue
- ◇ Fourth Creek/Gregory Creek Greenway Connection: This connection is underway with funding from the Surface Transportation Block Grant program.
- ◇ Denso Greenway: Upgrade of short section of greenway link to Oakwood Middle School and expansion to the surrounding neighborhood.
- ◇ Connection across Fourth Creek under E. Broad Street: Links the existing Statesville Greenway and the neighborhoods south of Broad Street.

System & Inventory Analysis



2.2 – Demographics

Introduction

To better focus on the needs this master plan should address, we must first gain a better understanding of the demographic and population trends of the City. The first step in analyzing the community's demographics and population is to identify trends in historic data as well as future projections. Although this data is static in nature, analysis will allow the City to make more informed decisions based on trends that may impact the delivery of services over the next 10 years. The following population estimates are based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Data, as well as projections for approved and planned housing developments in Statesville.

Three decades ago, the City of Statesville had an approximate population of 21,224 citizens. Since then, the City has experienced a significant growth in population, with the 2019 population being 27,528 citizens. Due to this growth, needs for recreation and parks have changed, and will continue to evolve as the population grows and diversifies. Three main categories have been analyzed: population growth, population characteristics, and housing characteristics. The following sections highlight significant findings.



Population Growth

Between 1990 and 2019, the City of Statesville witnessed an approximate 30% increase in population. Population changes from 1990 to 2000 represented an approximate 12% increase,

then slowed to only 3% from 2000 to 2010 and boomed once more to just over 12% from 2010 to 2019.

Regionally, Iredell County has experienced a large amount of growth since 1990 as well. Since 1990, the County has grown approximately 95% to a population of 181,806 in 2019. Growth in Iredell County has been rapid in the years between 1990 and 2010 with a growth of more than 30%. Since 2010, growth has slowed to a more moderate 14% to 2019.

What this represents is a historical trend of population growth within the County, which has presumably influenced the growth of Statesville. The City experienced less growth sometime in the early 2000s, which may reflect the economic recessions around 2001 and 2008. Despite the setback, the City has continued to grow and has even begun growing at a rate comparable to Iredell County. Furthermore, the City has the potential to experience an increase in population growth that outpaces the County between now and 2030. This growth not only has direct implications for recreation and parks services within the City, but much broader regional impacts that will affect all aspects of life.

As population is projected to increase steadily, it will be of the utmost importance to strategically plan for infill development in Statesville. Recreation and parks facilities near large infill sites may need to be re-envisioned to meet the needs of a new or changing population nearby. If no existing parks are within reach of infill sites, new locations may need to be identified but will typically enjoy the existing street network and utilities. The City's transportation network will be strained with the growth, and the inclusion of multi-modal transportation will be absolutely necessary in order to maintain specific levels of service throughout the City.



Population Characteristics

While total population and growth can help to determine park and greenway trail level of service goals, population characteristics can help to define what type of facilities will serve the community best. The following population characteristics are based on American Community Survey datasets and present a snapshot of population trends. The data is pulled from 2010 and 2019, demonstrating a temporal and geographic context. This research, among other factors, will help determine needs for parks and facilities.



Race/Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity were assessed between 2010 and 2019. The City of Statesville was historically a fairly diverse municipality. The White population accounted for 54.7% of the total population in 2010. This is down 5.6% to a population of 49.1% in 2018, but the cohort remains the prominent racial majority. African Americans make up the second largest race representing 36.6% of the population, slightly increasing by 2.1% from 34.5% in 2010.



Age

Age was pulled from 2010 and 2019 datasets in order to identify trends in age cohorts. The median age in Statesville was 39.2 in 2019. This demonstrates an upward age shift of over 3 years between 2010 and 2019, with the median population in

2010 being 36.4 years old. Furthermore, the median age in Iredell County is 39.1 years old in 2019, representing an increase in median age of just under 2 years.

Citizens under the age of 18 in Statesville are 24.5% of the population. This represents a 10.1% decrease from 34.6% in 2010 and depicts a slower growth of young families with children.

When ages 65 years and older are assessed, we see that Statesville experienced a 0.6% increase in this age group from 2010 to 2019, with 16.5% of the population being 65+ in 2019.

Within Statesville, the total population of children aged 5 and below decreased 1.3% between 2010 and 2019. Iredell County experienced a 1.1% decrease in this same age group.

Overall, these trends demonstrate a very slightly aging population.



Gender

Typically, populations do not witness extreme changes in gender distribution unless a major event occurs, such as the closing of a military base. In 2019, the American Community Survey indicated that 52.6% of Statesville residents were women, which was essentially the same level as 2010 (52.7%).

System & Inventory Analysis



Income

Statesville residents experienced a moderate increase in median income between 2010 and 2018. Median income in 2019 was \$45,041, illustrating a \$12,436 rise in income from \$32,605 in 2010 and representing a 38% overall increase in median income. The County experienced a significant 57% increase in income with a \$29,721 increase to \$81,610 in 2019.

In the frame of income brackets, \$30,000 to \$40,000 saw the highest increase of 5.4% from 2010 to 2019 in Statesville. Fortunately, the Under \$10,000 and \$10,000–\$20,000 brackets saw the highest decreases in membership at 5.8% each, which is important to note in contrast to the increasing median income. County numbers changed more dramatically, with significant increases in the top four brackets. Taken as a whole, this data indicates the City and region at large have more disposable income. Decreasing numbers in lower income brackets may hint at a closing wage gap between the City's populations.



Education

Educational attainment levels shifted upward within Statesville between 2010 and 2019, with 83.4% of the population graduating high school (a 5% increase from 2010), and 22.9% earning a Graduate degree or higher (a 5.5% decrease).

2.3 – Parks & Recreation Facility Inventory & Analysis

System Overview

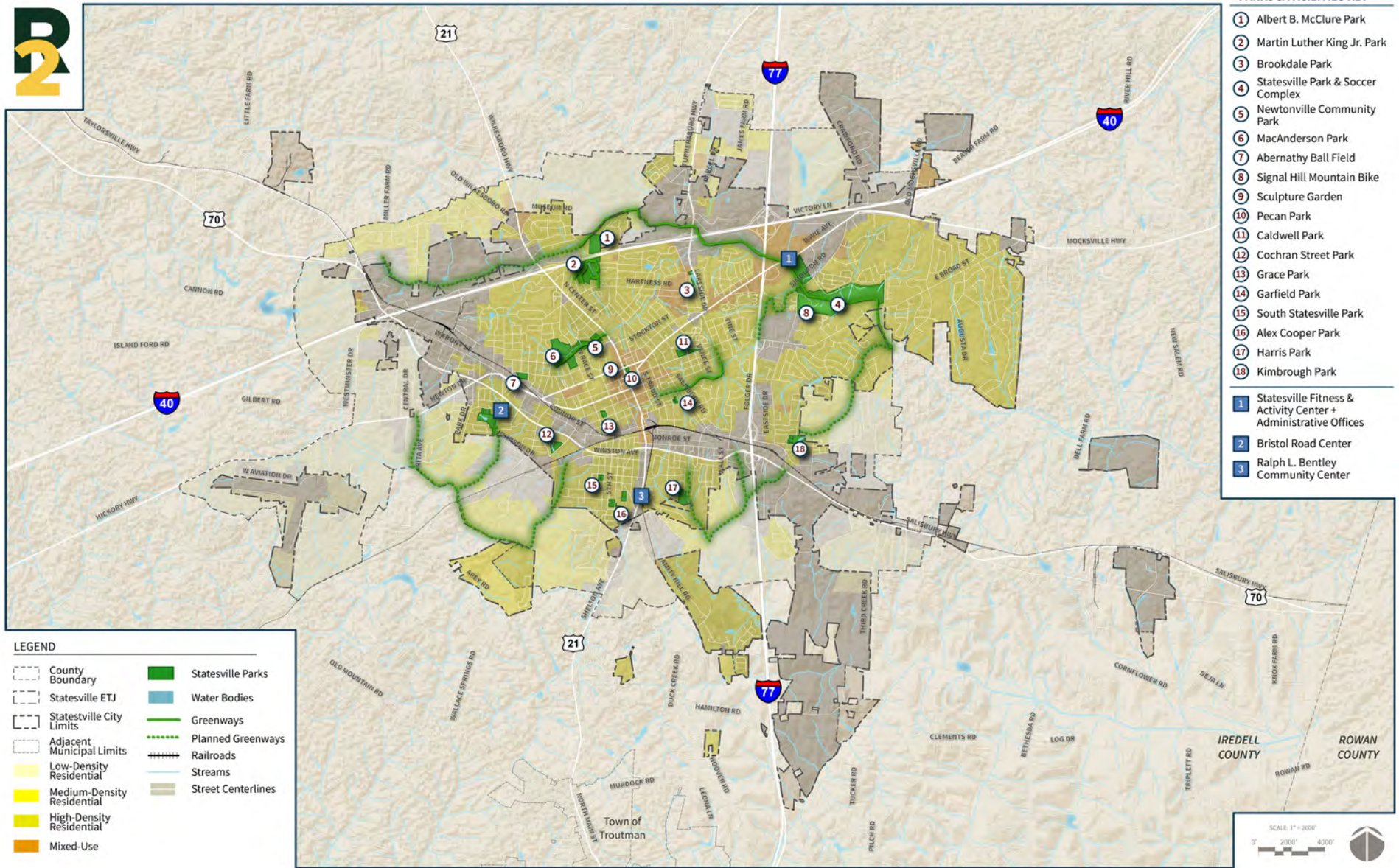
The Statesville Recreation and Parks Department oversees a diverse and robust park system and a variety of recreation programs that have grown in size and scope during the last decade. The department now manages a robust system that includes:

- ◇ More than 400 acres of maintained park land
- ◇ 19 city parks
- ◇ 24 horseshoe courts
- ◇ 17 picnic shelters
- ◇ 14 playgrounds
- ◇ 9 basketball courts
- ◇ 15 athletic fields (7 soccer, 5 baseball/softball, 1 multi-purpose)
- ◇ 8 tennis courts
- ◇ 7 restroom facilities
- ◇ 6 pickleball courts
- ◇ 3 community centers
- ◇ 1 eighteen-hole disc golf course
- ◇ 2 fishing ponds
- ◇ 1 volleyball court
- ◇ 1 amphitheater

The parks in the Statesville system, as well as other key facilities and planned greenways, are shown in Map 2-3, and an inventory of each facility is shown in this graphic.

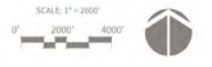
	<p>Abernathy Ball Field</p> <p>Acreage: 7 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Baseball/softball field, basketball court, batting cages, group shelter, picnic tables, open space, parking</p>	<p>Albert B McClure Park</p> <p>Acreage: 14 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Baseball/softball fields (3), multi-purpose field, batting cage, group shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, parking</p>	<p>Alex Cooper Park</p> <p>Acreage: 3 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Open space, playground, basketball court, benches</p>	<p>Bristol Road Park</p> <p>Acreage: 20 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Community center, playgrounds, basketball courts (2), group shelter, picnic tables, fishing pond, parking</p>
<p>Brookdale Park Lake</p> <p>Acreage: 4 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Open space, pond</p>	<p>Caldwell Park</p> <p>Acreage: 5 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Tennis courts (8), pickleball courts (6), playground, group shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, dog park, open space,</p>	<p>Cochran Street Field</p> <p>Acreage: 4 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Cricket ground, restrooms</p>	<p>Garfield Park</p> <p>Acreage: 2 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playground, basketball courts (2), group shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, parking, open space</p>	<p>Grace Park</p> <p>Acreage: 3 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playground, gaga ball, open space</p>
<p>Harris Park</p> <p>Acreage: 7 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playground, basketball courts (2), group shelter, picnic tables, restroom, parking, open space, multi-purpose field</p>	<p>Kimbrough Park</p> <p>Acreage: 11 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playground, basketball courts (2), group shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, walking trails, fishing pond, parking, open space , multi-purpose field</p>	<p>Mac Anderson Park</p> <p>Acreage: 35 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Walking trails, fitness stations, restrooms, parking, open space</p>	<p>M. L. King, Jr. Park</p> <p>Acreage: 25 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playgrounds (2), group shelters (3), walking trails, gazebo, fishing pond, amphitheater, horseshoe courts (24), bocce courts (2), restrooms, parking</p>	<p>Newtonville Community Park</p> <p>Acreage: 7 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playground, group shelter, picnic tables, walking trail</p>
<p>Pecan Park</p> <p>Acreage: 1 acre</p> <p>Amenities: Picnic tables, open space</p>	<p>Signal Hill Mountain Bike</p> <p>Acreage: 28 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Mountain bike trails, disc golf</p>	<p>Sculpture Garden</p> <p>Acreage: 0.1 acre</p> <p>Amenities: Outdoor sculpture, covered seating</p>	<p>South Statesville Park & Playground</p> <p>Acreage: 2 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Playground, basketball court, picnic shelter and table, open space</p>	<p>Statesville Park & Soccer Complex</p> <p>Acreage: 70 acres</p> <p>Amenities: Soccer fields (7), playgrounds (2), group shelters (3), picnic tables, restrooms, walking trails, volleyball court, disc golf,</p>

System & Inventory Analysis



- PARKS & FACILITIES KEY**
- ① Albert B. McClure Park
 - ② Martin Luther King Jr. Park
 - ③ Brookdale Park
 - ④ Statesville Park & Soccer Complex
 - ⑤ Newtonville Community Park
 - ⑥ MacAnderson Park
 - ⑦ Abernathy Ball Field
 - ⑧ Signal Hill Mountain Bike
 - ⑨ Sculpture Garden
 - ⑩ Pecan Park
 - ⑪ Caldwell Park
 - ⑫ Cochran Street Park
 - ⑬ Grace Park
 - ⑭ Garfield Park
 - ⑮ South Statesville Park
 - ⑯ Alex Cooper Park
 - ⑰ Harris Park
 - ⑱ Kimbrough Park
- 1 Statesville Fitness & Activity Center + Administrative Offices
 - 2 Bristol Road Center
 - 3 Ralph L. Bentley Community Center

- LEGEND**
- County Boundary
 - Statesville ETJ
 - Statesville City Limits
 - Adjacent Municipal Limits
 - Low-Density Residential
 - Medium-Density Residential
 - High-Density Residential
 - Mixed-Use
 - Statesville Parks
 - Water Bodies
 - Greenways
 - Planned Greenways
 - Railroads
 - Streams
 - Street Centerlines



Park Ratings Methodology

To observe system wide successes and opportunities, representatives of the project team visited each of the parks and facilities operated by the City and completed an observational form for each site. The following criteria were used and are based in part on guidelines developed by Project for Public Spaces (PPS), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities.

Design and Construction:

- ◇ Are the design and construction of this site appropriate for the needs of users served?
- ◇ Is the site readily accessible to the users being served? (walking, biking, all users)
- ◇ Have changes in context made the site ineffective to users?
- ◇ Does the site include appropriate recreation amenities for the intended users?
- ◇ Has the site been improved?
- ◇ Is there a clear indication that the site uses design standards for branding, materials, etc.)

Effectiveness:

- ◇ Does the site have features/amenities that can be used by people of different ages?
- ◇ How many different types of activities are available?

- ◇ Are there choices in intensity of activities to do?
- ◇ Is there a balance of active recreation and passive or at-will opportunities?
- ◇ Does the site encourage good health and fitness?

Comfort and Image:

- ◇ Does the site make a good first impression?
- ◇ How would you rate the site's maintenance (grass cutting, litter)?
- ◇ Are there enough conveniently located places to sit?
- ◇ Is the site clean and free of litter?
- ◇ Does the site feel safe?
- ◇ Do vehicles dominate the site through access roads, parking and/or maintenance?
- ◇ Does the site need improvements? (1=Very Much; 5=No/None)

Access and Linkages:

- ◇ Are there clear and open view lines into open spaces?
- ◇ Is there clear and useful wayfinding/signage within the site?
- ◇ Can people walk easily to the site from surrounding areas?

System & Inventory Analysis



- ◇ Does the site function for people with special needs?
- ◇ Do paths and/or roads connect people to primary amenities?

Sustainability:

Social

- ◇ Does the site provide places for people to gather?
- ◇ Does the site promote a healthy lifestyle and/or reduce daily stress?
- ◇ Is the site well connected with clear and safe access point(s)?

Environmental

- ◇ Does the site use energy, water, and material resources efficiently?
- ◇ Does the site improve water quality?
- ◇ Does the site enhance, preserve, promote, or contribute to biological diversity?
- ◇ Is the site a node within a larger ecological corridor or habitat?
- ◇ Does the site enhance environmental awareness or knowledge?

Economic

- ◇ Does the site create public and/or private revenue-generating opportunities?
- ◇ Does the site help sustain or increase property values?
- ◇ Does the site contribute to nearby property development or redevelopment?
- ◇ Does the site provide permanent jobs?

Each park observed was assigned a score for each categorical question based on a qualitative assessment of how the park met the aforementioned criteria at the time of observation. Once all scores were assigned, a matrix was created (see Table 2-x) that allowed trends to become visible across the entire system.

It is important to note that there is no one-size-fits-all set of criteria that can accurately evaluate every type of park. However, seeing each individual park's score and system-wide scores allows for the identification of unique trends and a general comparison of parks within the system.

Exceeding Expectations

These are generally defined as parks with new or recently enhanced facilities or features, readily accessible through multiple modes of transportation, exhibit multiple features that enhance the comfort and experience of park users, and exhibit a maintenance quality that meets or exceeds the standards of the City. Example characteristics of parks that exceed expectations include the following:

- ◇ The park is functioning as intended and is also exceptionally well maintained, aesthetically pleasing, safe, and often demonstrates sustainable techniques.
- ◇ The park accommodates a wide variety of uses and maintains a consistently high level of activity while remaining flexible.
- ◇ The park shows clear evidence of good design standards and embraces heritage resources (if applicable).
- ◇ There are many ways for users to access the park, including via walking and biking.
- ◇ Multi-purpose fields or lawn surfaces are well-maintained and could be considered tournament/competition grade.
- ◇ Sports fields may contain premium amenities such as score boards, enclosed dugouts, bleachers, and lighting.

This type of park scores in the 75–100 range.

Meeting Expectations

These are generally defined as parks with serviceable facilities or features providing functional recreational access for the public, accessed primarily by vehicle with some connections to adjacent neighborhoods, exhibit a few features that enhance the comfort and experience of park users beyond a minimal recreational access capacity, and exhibit a maintenance level sufficient for the uses in the park but would benefit from additional maintenance. Example characteristics of parks that meet expectations include the following:

- ◇ From a programmatic level, the park functions as intended.
- ◇ This type of park is generally well-maintained and may be aesthetically pleasing.
- ◇ The park can accommodate several different activities and has a moderate level of activity.
- ◇ This park may or may not have a transit stop nearby and has reasonable sidewalk connectivity.
- ◇ This park is generally compatible with the surrounding land uses and provides the user with a feeling of safety.
- ◇ Field surfaces are well maintained and playable, but typically do not include the premium features that may be present in a park that “exceed expectations.”

This type of park scores in the 50–74 range.

Not Meeting Expectations

These are generally defined as parks with facilities or features that have exceeded their functional life span and/or need enhancement or replacement to provide functional recreational access for the public, accessed primarily by vehicle and are disconnected from adjacent neighborhoods, exhibit few, if any, features that enhance the comfort and experience of park users, and exhibit a maintenance level insufficient to continue to provide the desired uses and recreational access. Example characteristics of parks that do not meet expectations include the following:

System & Inventory Analysis

- ◇ The park is not currently performing as intended.
- ◇ Although the park can still be well maintained and/or aesthetically pleasing, it typically is not.
- ◇ This type of park may have a consistently low level of activity, few accommodated uses, and may not be compatible with the surrounding land uses.
- ◇ The park may not be perceived as safe by its users.
- ◇ It is common for this type of park to be difficult to access either by public transit, bicycle, or on foot.
- ◇ Field surfaces are not typically well maintained, or the fields are so over-programmed that adequate maintenance is impossible.

This type of park scores in the 0–49 range.

All parks and facilities were evaluated by the project team over a one-week period in early January 2020. The following pages list the parks and facilities, with identifying scores for each category, weighted overall scores, and category scores.

Each park's observation provides a summary of all five criteria subjects along with site-specific observational notes. It should be noted that these are based on the team's observations during a limited period and do not necessarily reflect the recommendations produced during the Needs and Priorities Assessment portion of this report, which included public engagement.



Caldwell Park

- Exceeding Expectations (75-100)
- Meeting Expectations (50-74)
- Not Meeting Expectations (0-49)

Park Name	Design & Construction (Max: 30)										Effectiveness (Max: 35)										Comfort and Image (Max: 25)					Access and Linkages (Max: 30)					Sustainability (Max: 60)	
	Is the design and construction of this site meeting the needs of users served?	Is the site readily accessible to the users being served? (walking, biking, vehicle, etc.)	Have changes in context made site ineffective to users?	Does the site include appropriate recreation amenities for intended users? (fields and courts for athletics, docks for boats, etc.)	Has the site been improved?	Is there evidence that the site utilizes design standards for branding, materials, etc.		Effectiveness (Max: 35)	How many different types of activities are available?	How many different types of activities are available?	Are there choices in intensity of activities to do?	Is there a balance of active recreation and passive or at-will opportunities?	Does the site encourage good health and fitness?		Comfort and Image (Max: 25)	Does the site make a good first impression	How would you rate the site's maintenance? (grass cutting, litter)	Are there enough places to sit and conveniently located?	Is the site clean and free of litter?	Does the site feel safe?	Do vehicles dominate the site through access roads, parking and/or maintenance?	Does the site need improvements? (1=Very Much; 5=No/none)		Access and Linkages (Max: 30)	Are there clear and open view lines into open spaces?	Is there clear and useful wayfinding/signage within the site?	Can people walk easily to the site from surrounding areas?	Does the site function for people with special needs?	Do paths and/or roads connect people to primary amenities		Sustainability (Max: 60)	Sociability Sustainability
Abernathy Ball Field	29	5	5	4	5	5	5	15	2	3	3	3	4	33	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	19	5	4	4	4	2	35	11			
Albert B. McClure Park	28	5	4	5	5	4	5	18	4	3	3	3	5	29	4	4	4	5	5	3	4	21	5	4	5	3	4	39	11			
Alex Cooper Park	28	5	5	4	5	4	5	25	5	5	5	5	5	30	5	5	3	5	5	3	4	19	5	4	5	2	3	37	11			
Caldwell Park	28	5	5	5	5	4	4	25	5	5	5	5	5	29	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	18	3	4	3	3	5	47	13			
Cochran Street Ball Field	22	4	3	5	4	4	2	13	3	3	2	2	3	29	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	16	5	2	4	2	3	41	11			
Garfield Park	27	4	4	5	4	5	5	19	4	3	4	4	4	31	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	19	4	4	5	3	3	42	13			
Grace Park	28	5	5	4	5	4	5	22	5	3	5	5	4	28	5	5	3	5	5	1	4	19	4	4	5	3	3	42	13			
Harris Park	27	5	5	4	5	4	4	22	4	5	5	5	3	28	5	4	2	4	5	4	4	16	5	3	3	2	3	41	12			
Kimbrough Park	22	4	3	4	4	4	3	23	4	5	5	5	4	26	4	5	2	4	4	4	3	14	4	2	3	2	3	44	11			
Mac Anderson Park	26	4	5	5	4	4	4	22	5	4	4	4	5	31	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	22	4	4	5	4	5	52	14			
MLK	30	5	5	5	5	5	5	25	5	5	5	5	5	34	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	21	4	4	4	4	5	56	15			
Newtonville Community Park	24	3	5	5	3	4	4	18	4	3	4	3	4	29	4	4	3	5	5	5	3	19	5	3	5	3	3	49	13			
Pecan Park	30	5	5	5	5	5	5	11	5	2	n/a	n/a	4	32	5	5	5	5	5	3	4	24	5	4	5	5	5	49	14			
Statesville Fitness & Activity Center	29	5	4	5	5	5	5	25	5	5	5	5	5	35	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	24	5	5	4	5	5	58	15			
Bentley Community Center	26	4	4	5	4	4	5	24	5	5	5	4	5	28	3	5	4	4	5	4	3	22	5	4	4	4	5	51	15			
Bristol Road Park	22	4	4	4	3	3	4	21	4	4	4	5	4	27	4	4	3	4	4	5	3	16	3	3	3	3	4	52	15			
Brookdale Park Lake	24	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	1	1	n/a	1	2	30	5	5	2	5	5	3	5	22	5	5	5	4	3	46	10			
Signal Hill Mountain Bike Trail	26	5	4	5	5	4	3	19	3	3	5	3	5	27	3	5	2	4	5	4	4	15	3	3	3	2	4	49	12			
South Statesville Park	23	3	4	5	4	3	4	16	3	3	4	3	3	26	4	4	3	4	5	2	3	18	5	3	5	2	3	44	14			
Totals	89	90	88	94	90	85	86	78	72	72	82	79	84	84	88	91	72	92	98	75	73	79	90	74	85	70	77	77	86			

Does the site provide places for people to gather	Does the site promote healthy lifestyle and/or reduce daily stress	Is the site well connected with clear and safe access point(s)?	Environmental Sustainability	Does the site use energy, water and material resources efficiently?	Does the site improve water quality?	Does the site enhance, preserve, promote or contribute to biological diversity?	Is the site a node within a larger ecological corridor or habitat?	Does the site enhance environmental awareness or knowledge?	Economic Sustainability	Does the site create public and/or private revenue-generating opportunities?	Does the site help sustain or increase property values?	Does the site contribute to nearby property development or redevelopment?	Does the site provide permanent jobs?	Total
4	4	3	10	4	4	2	n/a	n/a	14	5	4	4	1	79
4	4	3	14	3	4	2	3	2	14	5	4	4	1	77
4	4	3	14	3	4	2	3	2	12	3	4	4	1	79
5	5	3	19	4	4	4	4	3	15	4	4	4	3	84
4	4	3	16	3	3	3	4	3	14	5	4	3	2	69
5	4	4	19	4	4	4	4	3	10	4	4	n/a	2	81
5	4	4	19	4	4	4	4	3	10	4	4	n/a	2	82
5	4	3	16	3	4	3	4	2	13	4	4	3	2	77
4	5	2	22	5	5	5	4	3	11	2	4	3	2	74
4	5	5	24	5	5	5	5	4	14	3	4	4	3	87
5	5	5	23	4	5	5	5	4	18	4	5	5	4	95
3	5	5	24	5	5	5	5	4	12	2	4	4	2	79
4	5	5	18	4	4	5	n/a	5	17	5	5	4	3	91
5	5	5	23	4	5	5	5	4	20	5	5	5	5	98
5	5	5	19	4	5	3	4	3	17	3	5	4	5	86
5	5	5	23	4	5	5	5	4	14	3	5	4	2	79
2	4	4	24	5	5	5	5	4	12	1	5	4	2	75
2	5	5	24	5	5	5	5	4	13	3	4	4	2	78
4	5	5	17	4	4	3	3	3	13	2	5	4	2	73
84	92	83	81	80	89	81	86	69	64	73	70	60	53	82

Site Observations

2	165	1 baseball field, two batting cages, basketball court
0	175	3 baseball fields, batting cage
0	175	playground, basketball court, swings
0	175	8 tennis courts, 6 pickleball courts
0	175	cricket ground
1	170	2 basketball courts, playground
1	170	1 playground, and open field
0	175	1 Playground, 2 basketball courts, restroom building, picnic shelter
0	175	2 basketball courts, 1 baseball field(backstop and area, not bases or infield), playground, swings, picnic shelter
0	175	walking trails
0	175	playground
0	175	playground
3	160	shaded seating, in middle of parking lot
0	175	disc golf course, 7 soccer fields, 4 playgrounds, swings, 2 picnic shelters
3	160	small sculpture garden in town
0	175	community center with pool
0	175	empty property with 1 old swing set

Park and Recreation Facility Ratings Summary

Successes

The following are examples of successes of the parks documented during site visits. These are derived from a combination of high individual park ratings and the specific categories where the overall park system is either meeting or exceeding expectations.

Effectiveness, Comfort, and Image

Many of the parks evaluated felt safe and comfortable, while appearing to be effective for the users served. A large majority of the parks' areas are clean and free of litter, and most offer a good first impression of both the overall site and the facilities and amenities in the park. Most of the parks were also found to be in good condition and appeared to reflect a good amount of satisfaction and pride from both users and Recreation and Parks staff. Maintenance was found to be above average in the parks and is indicated by the clean appearance of most gathering areas and walkways, as well as the presence of well-maintained lawns and planting areas.

Design and Construction

The parks appeared to offer an appropriate number of amenities and supported substantial use by a variety of users. Many of the parks were meeting the needs of the people using them, and there were a reasonable number of activities for users to choose from. Some of the parks include identity, wayfinding, and directional signage. A large majority of the parks and facilities provided opportunities for a diverse set of age groups.

Social and Economic Sustainability

Most of the parks visited received favorable scores in the Social Sustainability categories. Many parks appeared to be frequently used by the community and function as important features of neighborhoods and communities they serve. There was a strong indication that these parks were places for people to meet family and friends, and the sites provided relief from the daily stresses of life. In addition to the social factors, many parks are assets to the surrounding community and have a positive impact on nearby properties, especially in the core neighborhoods of Statesville.

Opportunities

Like the successes, the opportunities identified are based on a combination of individual park ratings and the performance of the overall parks in the specific categories. These are areas where individual parks and the system are not exceeding expectations, and thus present opportunities for improvement.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability metrics assess facilities, features, or other measures that exist to utilize energy, water, biological diversity, and other resources in a sustainable fashion. As noted in Table 2-x, average conditions within the assessed parks indicate a lack of opportunities for environmental education, as well as opportunities to improve water quality. While some of the parks function as important stormwater collection areas for the surrounding streets and also function as part of larger ecological corridors, educational signage highlighting these successes is a significant opportunity.

System & Inventory Analysis



General Improvements to ACCESS, Amenities and Conditions

Generally, the moderate to lower scores in some of the parks indicate a need for improvement to the condition and amenities that may be aging. While the ratings indicate an overall positive level for the condition of the parks and amenities, there remains an ongoing need to improve and update as their effective lifespan is maximized and surrounding community demographics evolve. Accessibility and linkage can also be improved by upgrading the existing infrastructure that provides access to parks, such as replacing aged sidewalks, repainting directional markers on walkways and bikeways, and upgrading signage to be more visible to users.



System & Inventory Analysis



2.4 Program Inventory & Analysis

Recreation Programs Assessment

The following section provides an assessment of the City of Statesville Recreation and Parks Department's current recreation programs, events, and services. Information in this section was gathered through a series of staff interviews, facility and park tours, and a review of information and documents supplied by the Department.

Summary

- ◇ Statesville currently offers a full range of recreation programs, events, and services for its residents.
- ◇ Statesville offers programming for all age groups.
- ◇ Statesville conducts several special events and organizes the Holiday Pops concert with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.
- ◇ Programming supports not only the residents of Statesville but also the areas surrounding the community.
- ◇ Recreation programs and services are generally planned and delivered through the community centers, as well as the park areas and athletic field complexes.

- ◇ While City staff plan and manage most facilities and recreation programs, the implementation of some programs and services relies on contracts with outside instructors.
- ◇ The Department has reasonably strong metrics regarding recreation programs and services.
- ◇ There are existing policies and procedures that guide cost recovery and fee setting for recreation programs and services. There are also specific procedures in place for how a new program will be planned and set up.
- ◇ In 2018 and 2019 there were nearly 30,000 (VERIFY) participants in recreation programs and events. The cancellation rate for programs was very low during this time frame.

Program Area Definitions:

These are general definitions of the program areas that are not specific to Statesville Recreation and Parks but do represent the types of programs that could be included in these areas.

- ◇ Sports – Team and individual sports, including camps, clinics, and tournaments, as well as adventure/non-traditional sports.
- ◇ Fitness – Group fitness classes, personal training, health education, and nutrition.
- ◇ Cultural Arts – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production, and arts events.

- ◇ Aquatics – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming, SCUBA, and other programs (synchro, water polo, etc.).
- ◇ Youth Programs – Youth-based programming for before- and after-school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool.
- ◇ Education – Language programs, tutoring, STEM classes, computer literacy, and financial planning.
- ◇ General Interest – Personal development classes.
- ◇ Special Needs – Programs for those with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities.
- ◇ Special Events – Special events that focus on the local market.
- ◇ Outdoor Recreation – Environmental education, hiking, camping, paddle sports, and other activities.
- ◇ Seniors – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors, which can include all of the activity areas noted above plus social service functions and overnight trips.
- ◇ Teens – Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens, which can include all of the activity areas noted above (except Seniors).
- ◇ Self-Directed – Opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own, which can include activities such as open gym, use of weight/cardio space, lap/recreational swimming,

golf, and tennis; although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose in City facilities.

- ◇ Social Services – Nutrition and feeding programs, job training, and life skills training.

Programming Classifications:

The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Statesville Recreation and Parks Department recreation programs and services by general categories commonly found in recreation and parks agencies nationally. Program lists are based on a review of program offerings for 2019–2020, that were provided by the Department. Programs are general listings only.



Statesville Leisure Pool

System & Inventory Analysis



Recreation Programs and Service Limitations: Recreation programs and services are limited in Statesville due in part to the following:

- ◆ **Limited Staff** – The Statesville Recreation and Parks Department has a small full-time staff for the number of facilities that are operated and the level of programming that is offered.
- ◆ **Youth Focus** – The Department has a strong focus on youth sports and recreation. This limits the time available at key programming locations (community centers, athletic fields, and other spaces) for programs that could focus on adults and seniors.
- ◆ **Limited Facilities** – There is one large recreation facility, so there are limited opportunities for indoor sports and classroom activities. While there are three (3) indoor basketball courts, there is limited gym space, so there is little time particularly during the season for adult sports such as basketball or the expansion of youth sports into new program areas. Performing arts are difficult to offer with the lack of a theater, auditorium, or even a multi-purpose room that has a stage. The City also needs classroom and meeting space. There is no public swimming pool or skate park.
- ◆ **Undersized or Poorly Optimized Facilities** – The outdoor tennis courts at Caldwell need to be renovated. Dog parks are not very effective. The greenway system needs to be expanded.
- ◆ **Lack of Illumination** – Many of the athletic fields do not have lights so their use is limited, especially in the late fall or early spring. Baseball fields are illuminated, but only two soccer fields at the soccer complex soccer fields are lighted.

Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth	Tennis, Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Wrestling
	Adult	Volleyball (Co-Ed), Softball (Men's Women's Co-Ed), Kickball (Co-Ed), Tennis, Clinics
Fitness/Wellness	Youth	Youth Fit, Community Health Fair
	Adult	
Cultural Arts	Youth	Art Classes (Youth and Adult)
	Adult	
Aquatics	Youth	Open Swim, Dive-in Movies
	Adult	
Youth		After School Camp, Spring/Winter Break Camps, Summer Camp, Mobile Recreation Unit
Education	Youth	
	Adult	
General Interest	Youth	Table Tennis, Pickleball
	Adult	Coffee & Canvas, Day Trips, Bingo Night, Table Tennis
Special Needs		PEP Club Game Night, PEP Dance Club, Special Olympics, Networking Iredell
Special Events		Polar Plunge, Goosebump Jump, Over the Rainbow 5K, Spring Egg Hunts, Arbor Day, Art in the Park, Fireworks Celebration, End of Summer Bash, Dog Day at the Pool, Full Bloom Film Festival, Ghoulish Gallop Halloween 5K, Fall Festival, Turkey Bingo, Santa Land, Holiday Pops with Greensboro Symphony Orchestra
Outdoor Recreation	Youth	
	Adult	
Seniors		Golden Age Club, Happy Seniors, Garfield Seniors Club, Morningside Seniors Club, Iredell Senior Games
Teens		
Self-Directed	Youth	
	Adult	
Social Services	Youth	
	Adult	

Program Assessment

The following is an overall assessment of the current level of recreation programming that is offered by the Statesville Recreation and Parks Department.

Programs by Area

Youth Sports – The City is a major provider of youth sports programs with a focus on more traditional team sports. There are a few individual sports programs such as tennis that are also offered. However, there are very few adventure or non-traditional sport options. Beyond the City, there are a very limited number of youth sports organizations that provide youth team sports programs.

Adult Sports – The City provides adult softball, volleyball, and kickball team programs and a tennis program.

Fitness/Wellness – The City operates a large-scale fitness facility and offers classes for adult group fitness. However, there are opportunities to expand not only the fitness offerings but also wellness programming. There is a Youth Fit program.

Cultural Arts – This is a program area that has recently received increased emphasis by Recreation and Parks and there are strong program offerings for both youth and adults.

Aquatics – Since the City does not operate a public pool other than a leisure pool at the water play complex at the Statesville Fitness & Activity Center, there is no offering of swim lessons.

Youth – The City has extensive youth programs that centers on a wide variety of camp,s including after-school, spring/winter breaks, and summer camp.

Education – The Recreation and Parks Department has very little focus on science and nature educational programming for either adults or youth. Most specialized programming in this area is provided by local school districts, education-based non-profits, or private providers.

General Interest – This is generally a small program area for most Recreation and Parks agencies and the fact that there are very few programs in this area is not a major concern.

Special Needs – The City offers a once-a-month game night (first Wednesdays) and a club dance (third Saturdays) at the Fitness & Activity Center. The City also facilitates the County's Special Olympics program.

Special Events – The Recreation and Parks Department conducts a considerable number of special events on a community-wide basis. The City is very good at partnering with other community organizations and businesses to bring these events to the community. The Department has also been conducting neighborhood specific “pop-up” events as well.

Outdoor Recreation – There currently is limited emphasis given to this program area by the Department.

Seniors – The Recreation and Parks Department has large number of programs and services that are focused on seniors. This includes a daily walking and trip program.

System & Inventory Analysis



However, most of these services are focused on more traditional senior services and the older, more sedentary senior. The City's facilities host five seniors clubs.

Teens – There are very few teen focused programs offered by the Department. It has often been difficult for Recreation and Parks agencies to sustain an effective teen program and often agencies leave this to other organizations in the community.

Self-Directed – Even though these types of activities are not formal programs they do require the Department to provide space and time in facilities for this to occur. With a community center, tennis courts, athletic fields, and other facilities, self-directed activities remain as a program area.

Social Services – The Department does not currently provide any direct social service programs.

Focus by Demographic Group

Youth – The Department has a significant commitment to youth programs and activities ranging from youth sports to camps and arts. However, there are limited programs for the middle school age. Youth recreation is a primary area of focus for most Recreation and Parks agencies.

Teens – There are a very limited number of programs offered for this age group.

Young Adults – The Recreation and Parks Department does not have much programming focused on this age group. This is generally left for other providers.

Adults – While the Department provides a number of programs in many of the interest areas, adults are generally not the primary

focus. This is often the case with most Recreation and Parks agencies, where the demand for youth programming has priority over adult programming.

Seniors – The Recreation and Parks Division has several programs that are focused on seniors.

Program Strengths

- ◇ Youth and adult sports team.
- ◇ Youth specialty camps, including after-school.
- ◇ Community-based special events.
- ◇ Traditional senior activities.

Programs Competencies

- ◇ Fitness programming for adults and youth.
- ◇ Outdoor recreation programs.

Program Weaknesses

- ◇ There is a limited number of non-traditional and adventure sports programming.
- ◇ Teen-based programming is small and there are few middle school activities.
- ◇ There are hardly any aquatics programs since there is no public pool.
- ◇ Limited programming focused on the younger and more active senior.
- ◇ There are no adult- or senior-based fitness programs.
- ◇ Wellness programming is not present.
- ◇ Very few special needs programs or services are being offered.
- ◇ There are no real education programs offered, although some of this material is available through camp programs.

2.5 Level of Service Analysis

Methodology

The purpose of an Existing Level of Service (LOS) analysis is to quantify how well the existing parks system is meeting the needs of residents. The National Recreation and Park Association’s definition of LOS is “an allocation mechanism for the delivery of park land and basic recreation facilities throughout a community. By adoption of such a standard, a community recognizes and is committed to providing citizens with an equal opportunity to share in the basic menu of services implicit in the standard and accompanying spatial distribution and allocation of policies.”

For Statesville, the LOS analysis was based on three basic principles that will be continually refined based on public input in subsequent phases of this planning process:

- ◇ Acreage (amount of park land)
- ◇ Facilities (number of facilities)
- ◇ Access (distance or travel time)

Acreage LOS

The most common way to measure LOS for existing acreage is the number of public park acres per 1,000 residents in a community. Currently, there are approximately 300 acres (not including greenways) of public park lands directly managed by the Statesville Recreation and Parks Department for public use. The 2021 population of Statesville is estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau to be 27,945 residents, which translates into a total Acreage LOS of 8.2 acres per 1,000 residents. Using estimates based on approved and planned housing development in Statesville, the 2031 medium population estimate is approximately 31,085. If no additional park land is acquired, the acreage LOS will drop to 7.4 acres per 1,000 residents in 2030. For communities of comparable size to Statesville, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends 9.6 acres per 1,000 residents. At the current supply of park lands, the City has a deficit of 2.2 acres per 1,000 residents in 2021 and will have a 2.9-acre deficit in 2031.

Park Land (acres / 1,000 residents)			
Year	NRPA Benchmark (Acres)	Statesville (Acres)	+ / -
2021	9.6	10.7	+1.1 acres / 1,000 +30.7 acres total
2031	9.6	9.7	+0.1 acres / 1000 +3.1 acres total

System & Inventory Analysis



The table on page 40 shows the LOS analysis for park land and calculates the projected LOS for 2031, as well the acreage needed to maintain current acreage LOS figures as the population grows.

While Acreage LOS helps ensure a commitment to park land as the City develops, it has shortcomings. Comparison to other municipalities may be difficult as some cities operate golf courses, conservation areas, and other non-recreational facilities that are high in acreage but low in available capacity.

Acreage LOS also does not consider amenities that are accessible to residents but owned and operated by entities other than the City or consolidated City/County park systems. Examples include county or adjacent municipal parks located near the town border and privately operated programs such as YMCAs, church after-school programs, community meeting facilities, and non-profit senior programs. This analysis also does not take into consideration the public access to joint-use facilities or other facilities utilized by the department, which may have limited or no access at certain times.

For these reasons, this master plan explores additional techniques such as Existing Facility LOS and Access LOS to better determine the extent to which parks and recreation facilities and programs are able to meet the needs of Statesville residents. This methodology assumes the following principles:

- ◇ Facilities (number of facilities) – Every resident should have similar opportunities to use recreation facilities.
- ◇ Access (distance or travel time) – Every resident should be able to access specific park facilities within similar walking, bicycling, public transit and/or driving distances.

Facility LOS

Another way to measure existing parks and recreation LOS is by the number of facilities per population. Like acreage, there are no strict standards for the number of facilities that a community needs; however the NRPA does provide recommendations for select facilities. This section documents the evaluation and comparison of the number of facilities per population to these NRPA recommendations.

Table 1 (page 42) shows the current Facility LOS for Statesville compared with the NRPA recommendations, as well as facility deficits or surpluses for the current population, and the populations estimates for 2030. Facilities that are not quantified in the LOS calculations by NRPA are evaluated based on growth, with units needed to maintain current LOS figures provided. Facilities experiencing a surplus are shown in green, while facilities experiencing a deficit are shown in red. It should be noted that these are only metrics and may not reflect the needs and priorities of the community.

Facilities	National Averages	2020 (est pop 27,904)			2030 (est pop 31,085)		
		NRPA	Statesville	+/-	NRPA	Statesville	+/-
Playgrounds	1 / 3,157	9	14	+5	10	14	+4
Basketball Courts	1 / 7,067	4	10	+6	4	10	+6
Tennis Courts	1 / 4,347	6	8	+2	7	8	+1
Baseball – Youth	1 / 5,132	5	1	-4	6	1	-4
Softball – Adult	1 / 10,849	3	2	-1	3	2	-1
Multi-Purpose Fields	1 / 7,297	4	1	-3	4	1	-3
Dog Park	1 / 28,132	1	1	0	1	1	0
Swim Pool / Splash Pad	1 / 25,107	1	2	+1	1	2	+1
Skate Park	1 / 29,491	1	0	-1	1	0	-1
Community Center	1 / 26,280	1	3	+2	1	3	+2
Amphitheater	1 / 30,577	1	1	0	1	1	-1
Teen Center	1 / 28,400	1	0	-1	1	0	-1
Senior Center	1 / 32,639	1	0	-1	1	0	-1
Lacrosse Field	1 / 14,605	2	0	-2	2	0	-2
Volleyball Court	1 / 20,040	1	0	-1	2	0	-1
Community Garden	1 / 22,562	1	0	-1	1	0	-1

Table 1: Facilities Level of Service

System & Inventory Analysis



Facility LOS Findings

When compared to the NRPA-recommended figures, the City is deficient in several types of facilities. This indicates the City is currently not meeting the facility needs of the population it serves.

As the population grows towards 2030, the City's deficits remain much the same as they are currently. Basketball courts, tennis courts, and playgrounds will maintain a surplus through the 2030 growth scenario; however, access to and the quality of these facilities will need to be evaluated.

Though a Facility LOS analysis provides a snapshot condition of the outdoor recreation facility capacity, it does not address the facilities provided by other recreation providers such as private providers, or State and County parks. The Facility LOS also does not capture whether facilities are accessible for all residents, and it may conflict with input from public participation on municipal, community, and neighborhood levels. For this analysis, the master plan team conducted an Access LOS analysis to identify gaps in accessibility to facilities.

Access LOS

A third approach to determine existing LOS is analyzing the level of access that residents have to park facilities. This is typically measured as a distance, either in miles or travel time. For the City of Statesville's parks, this analysis will include parameters of 1/2 mile, a comfortable walking distance; 1 mile, a long walk or short bike ride; and 2 miles, a bike ride or short drive.

In addition to the parks themselves, access LOS will also be evaluated for select facilities, consistent with the park classification or park type each facility is typically found in. Facilities types analyzed are also consistent with facilities identified in the Facility LOS section of the chapter.

Park Synthesis LOS Analysis:

- ◇ All Parks with Open Space – 1/2 mile, 1 mile, 2 mile
- ◇ Neighborhood Serving Facilities
- ◇ Basketball Courts – 1/2 mile, 1 mile
- ◇ Playgrounds – 1/2 mile, 1 mile
- ◇ Park Shelters – 1/2 mile, 1 mile
- ◇ Trail Access – 1/2 mile, 1 mile
- ◇ Community-Serving Facilities:
 - ◇ Soccer Fields – 1 mile, 2 mile
 - ◇ Baseball/softball Fields – 1 mile, 2 mile
 - ◇ Tennis Courts – 1 mile, 2 mile

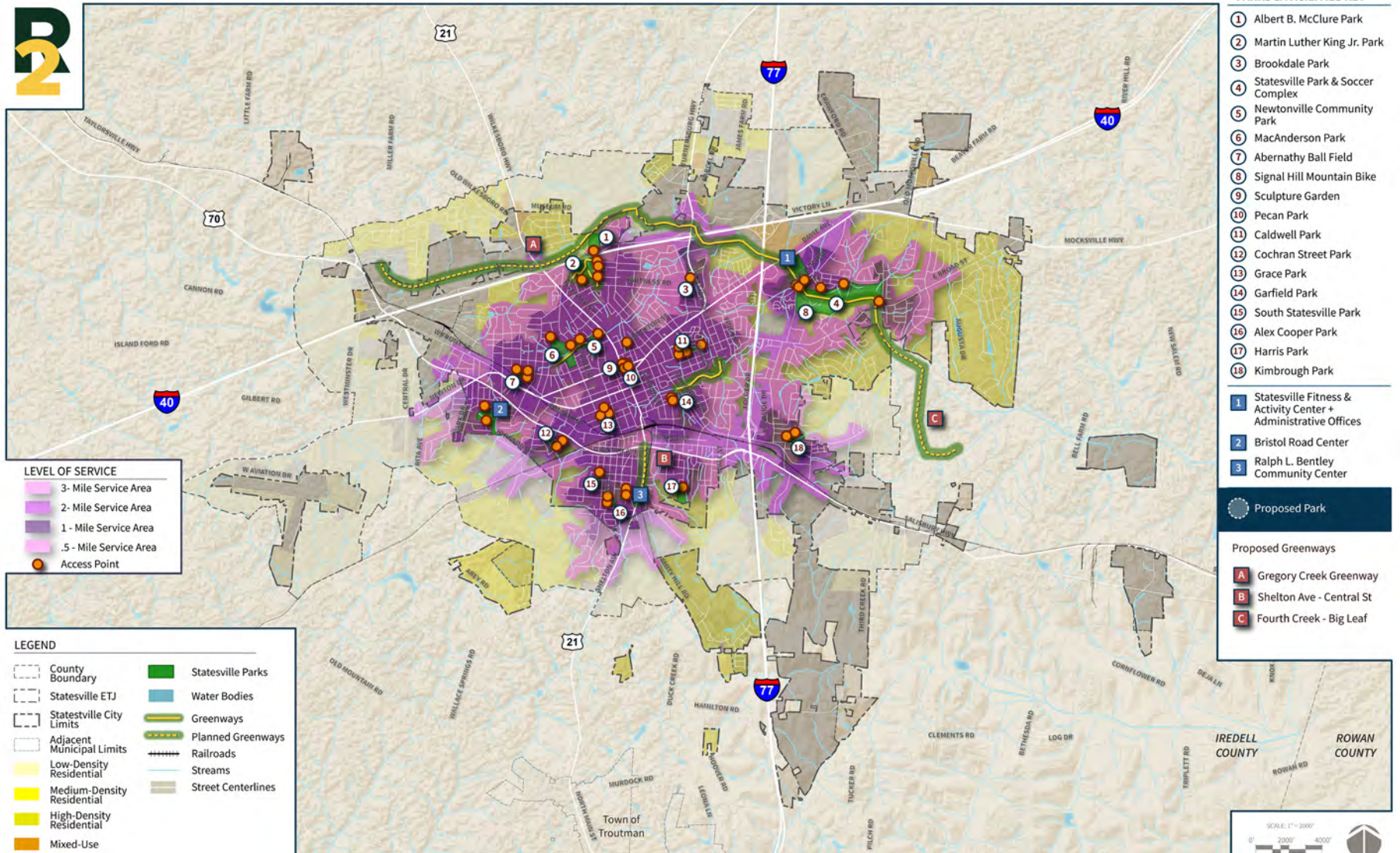


Figure 2.1 – Level of Service – All Parks

System & Inventory Analysis

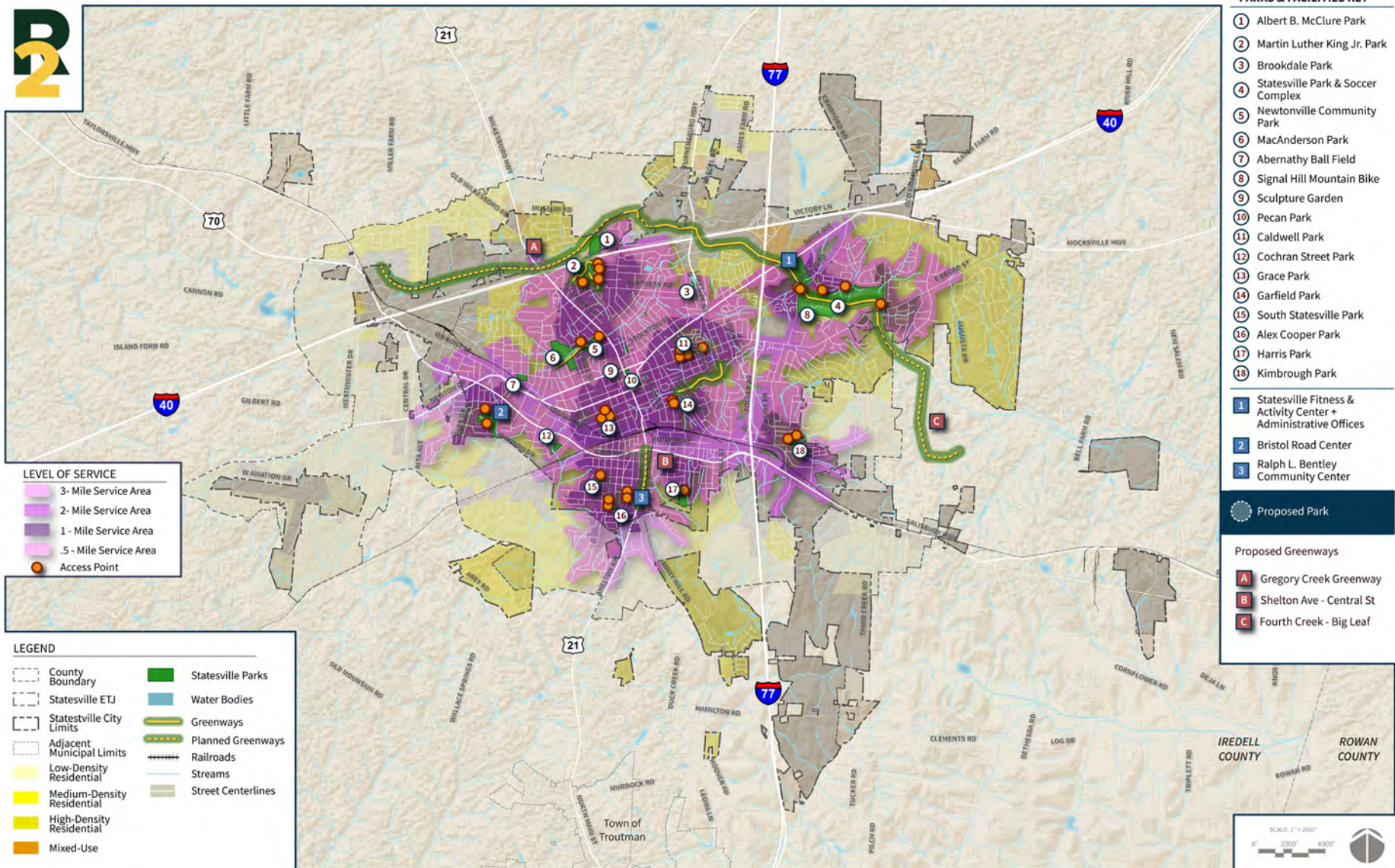


Figure 2.2 – Level of Services – Parks with Playgrounds

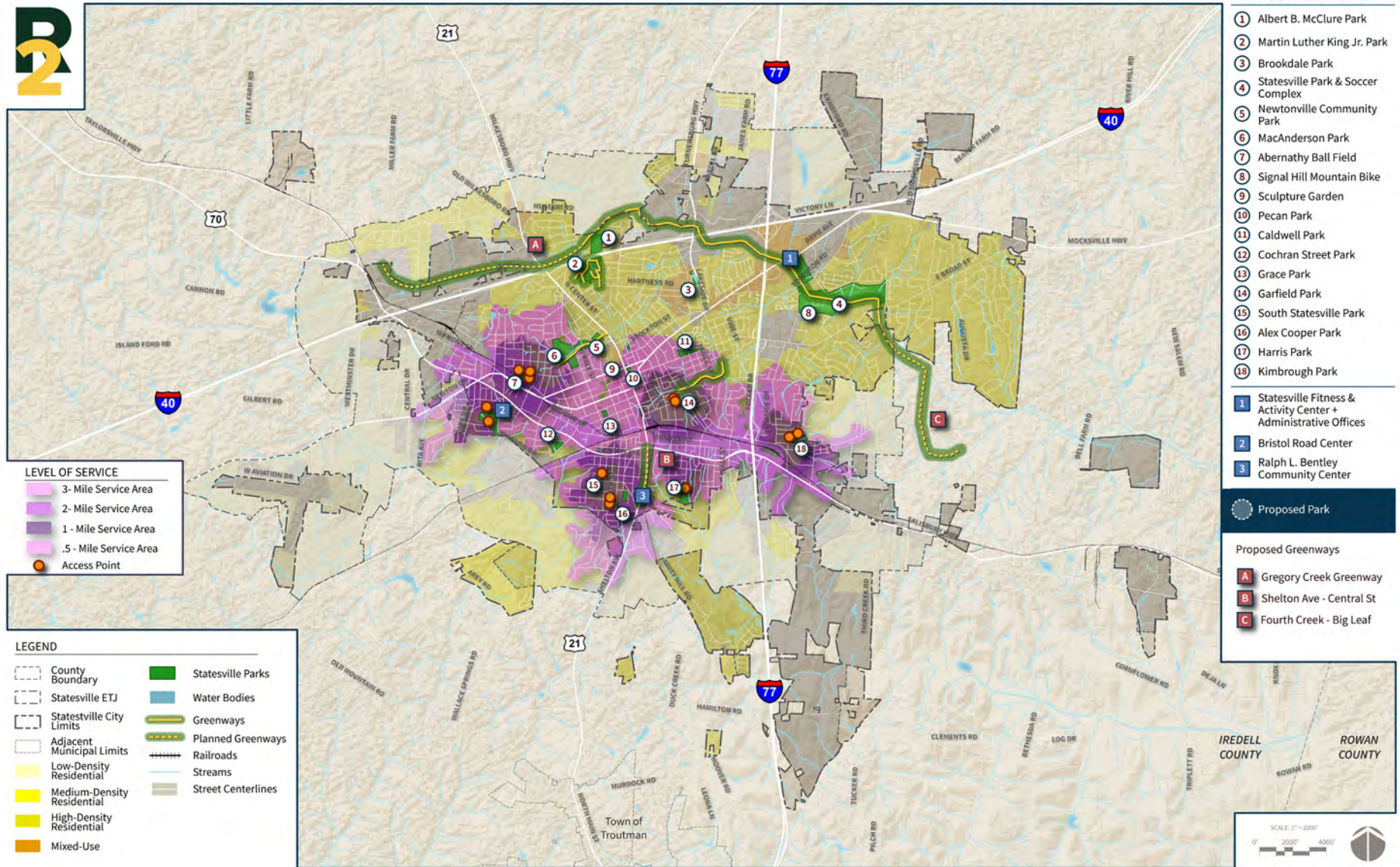


Figure 2.3: Level of Service – Basketball Courts

System & Inventory Analysis

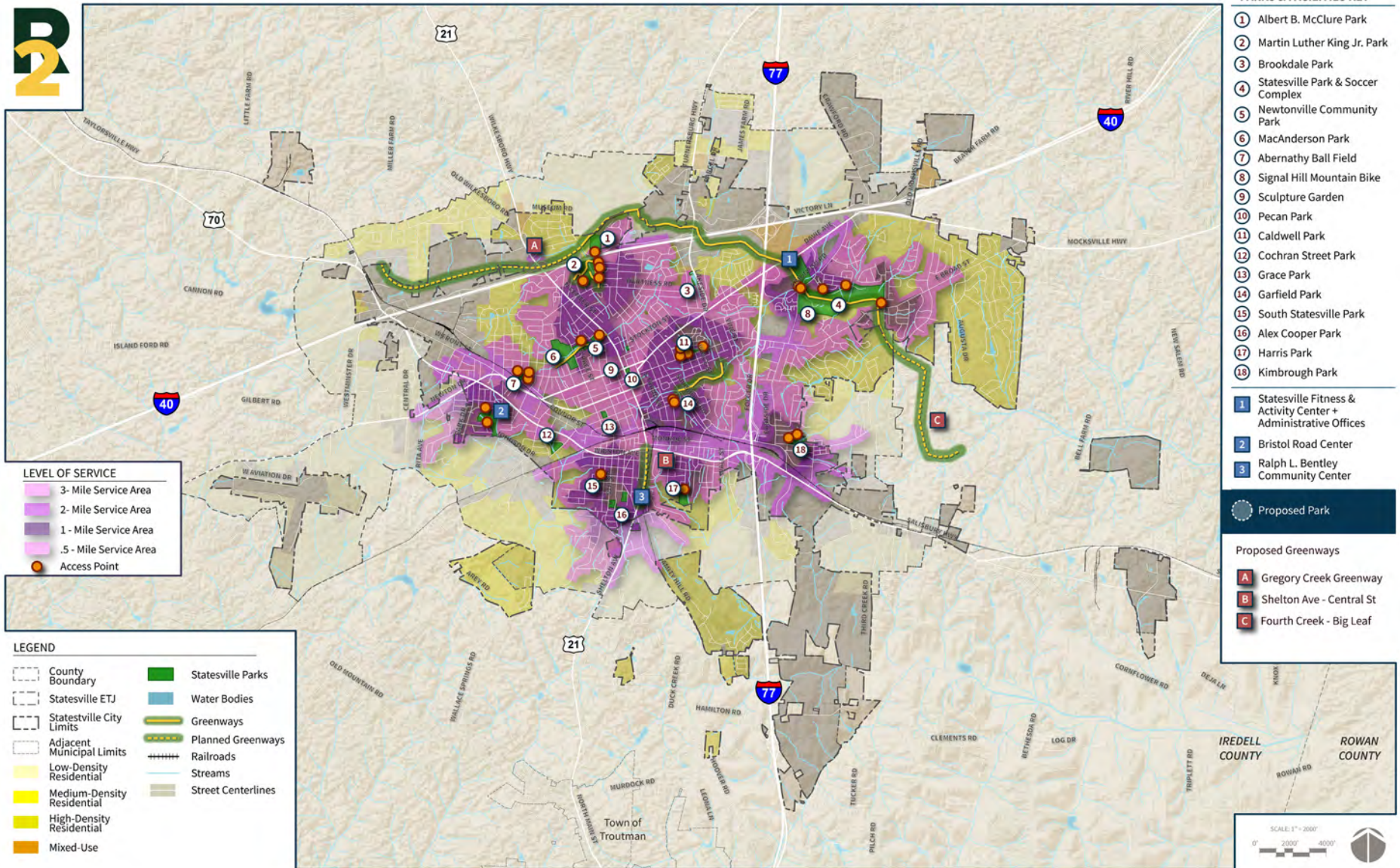


Figure 2.4: Level of Service – Park Shelters

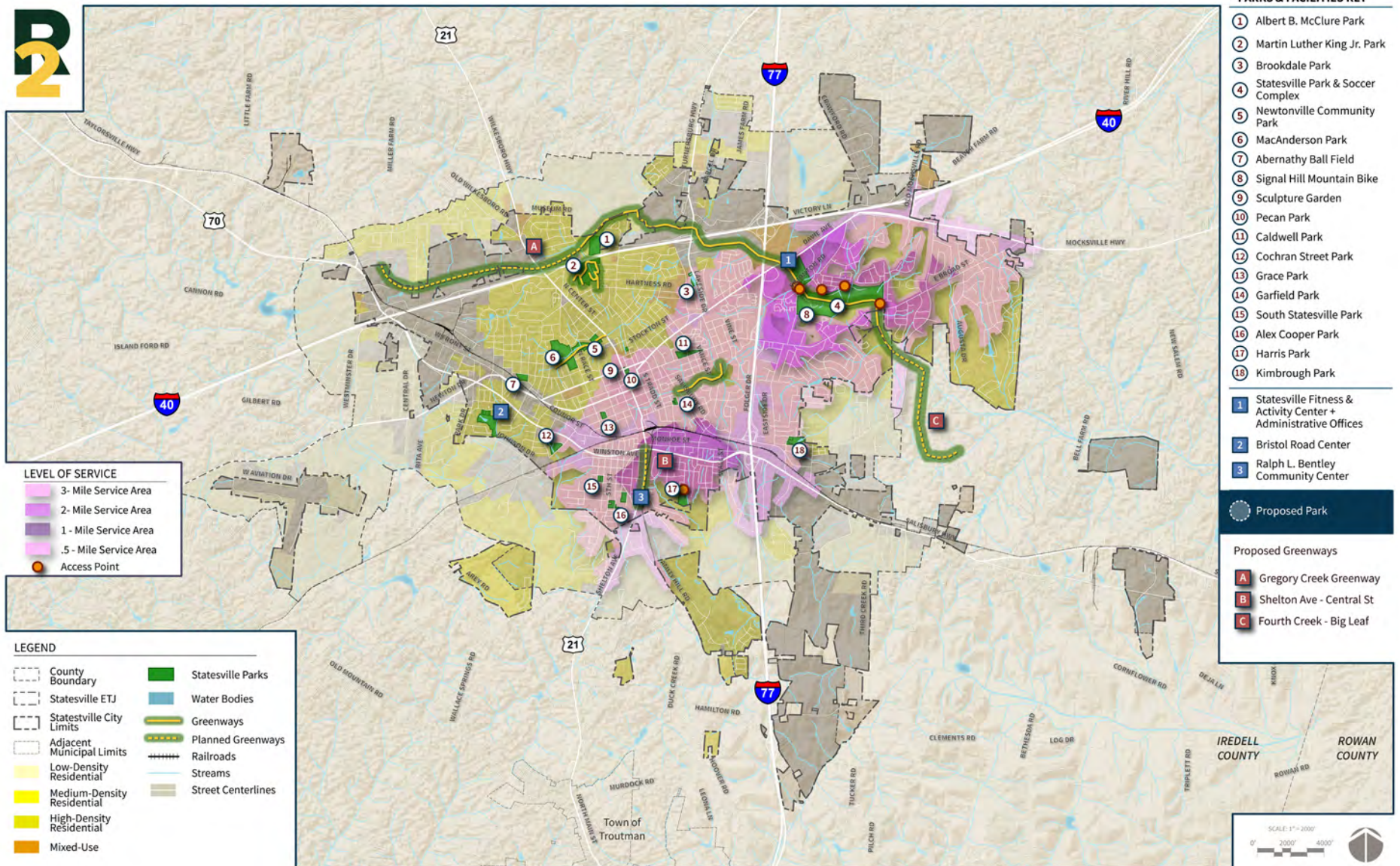


Figure 2.5: Level of Service – Soccer

System & Inventory Analysis

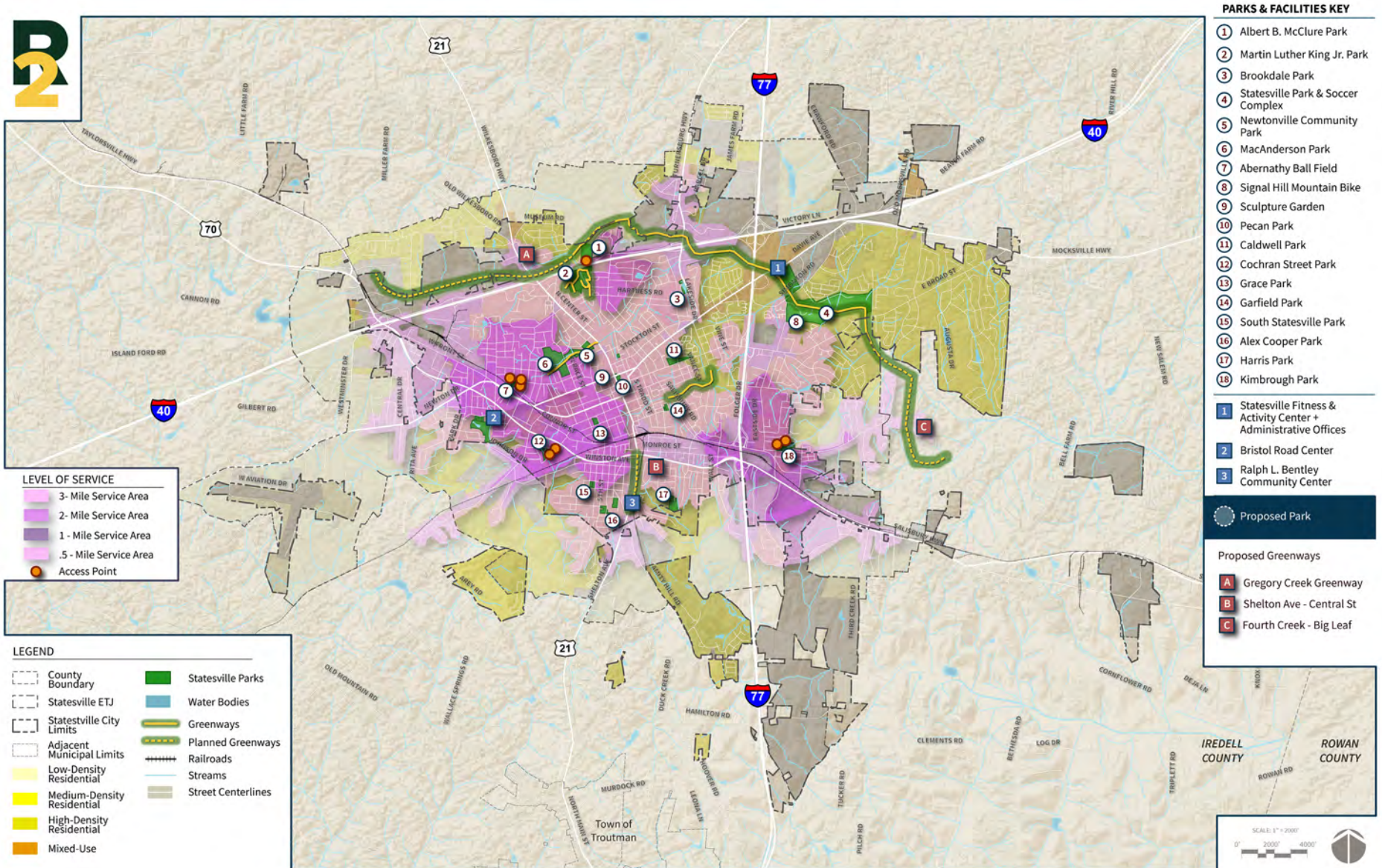


Figure 2.6: Level of Service – Baseball / Softball

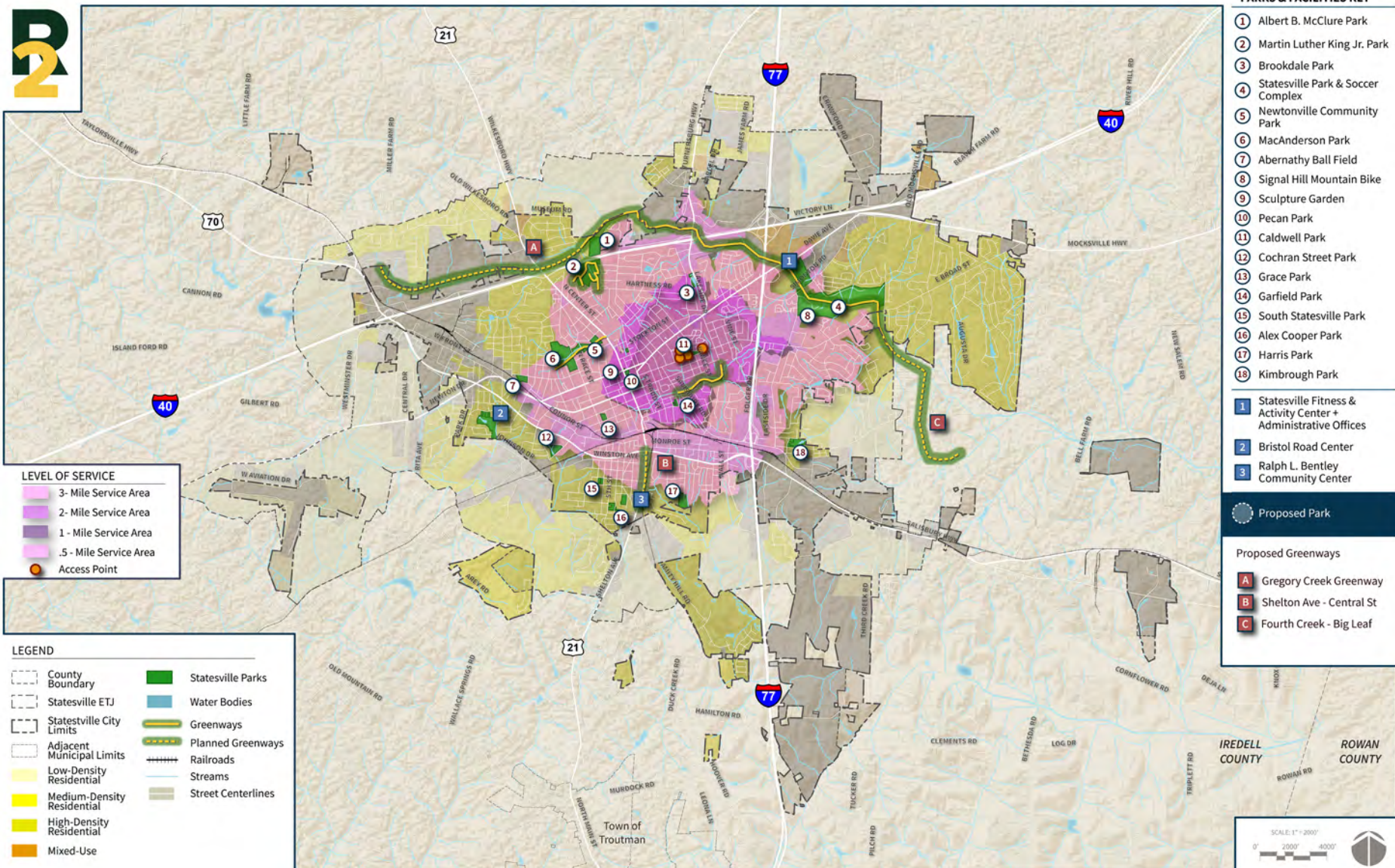


Figure 2.7: Level of Service – Tennis Courts

System & Inventory Analysis



Access LOS Findings

Overall, the Access LOS analysis indicates that park distribution in Statesville is relatively centralized within the City core, while perimeter areas, particularly the eastern and western parts of the City and the areas north of Interstate 40, are experiencing gaps in park access.

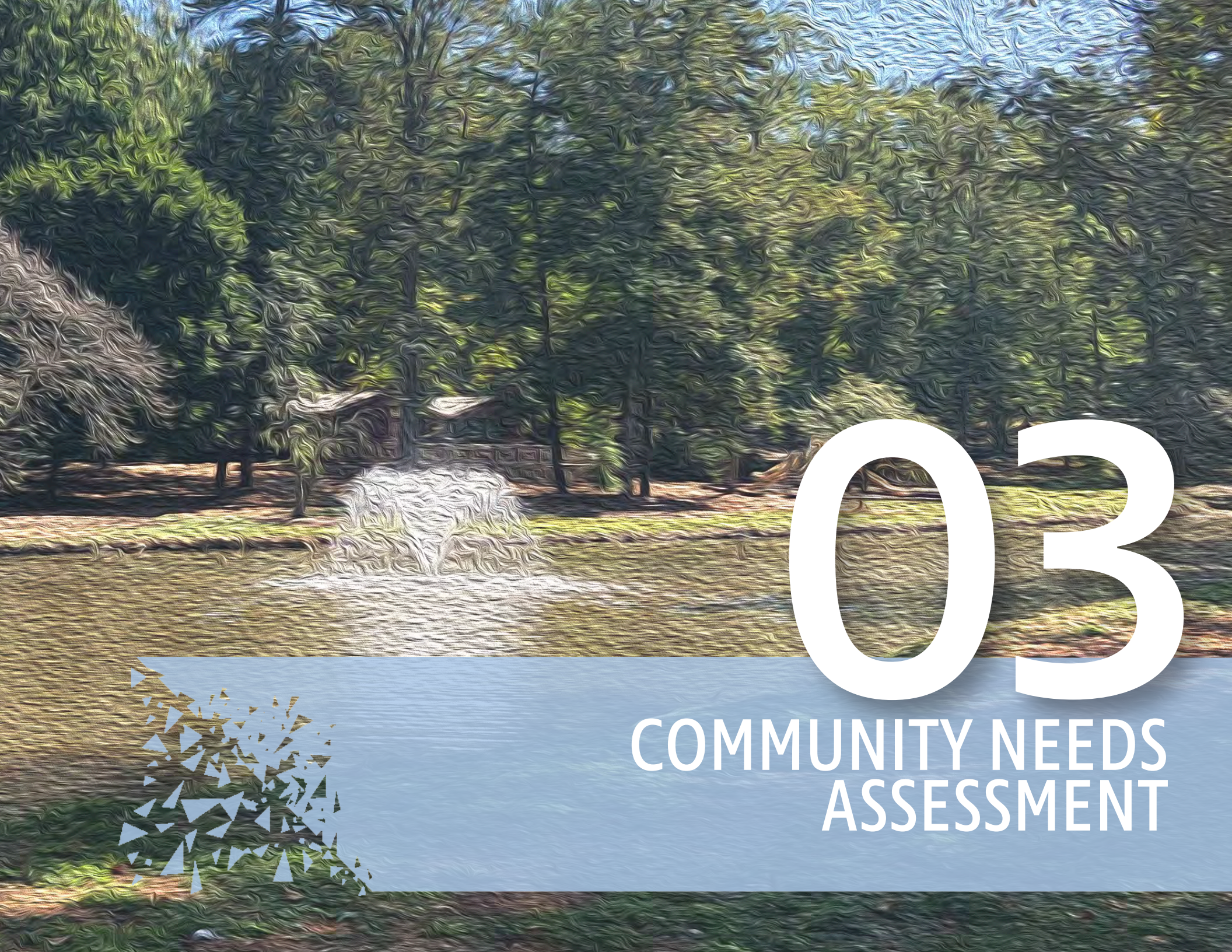
Park Synthesis Analysis

By analyzing all the parks and facilities at a 1/2-mile service area, using points where users are most likely to access the parks, provides a better understanding of the walking and biking Access LOS for the entire park system. In terms of walkability, the central areas of the City and the parks and facilities in proximity to those neighborhoods provide limited walkable access, especially when considering gaps in sidewalks and barriers such as Interstate 40 and Interstate 77. As the City continues to expand and develop, providing walkable access to neighborhoods should be a priority, strategically targeting future park development in the areas with the greatest need, as well as improving infrastructure in areas with gaps and barriers to access.

Neighborhood-serving, walk-to facilities such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and picnic shelters were analyzed at a 1/2-mile radius and a 1-mile radius. Generally, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and basketball courts have adequate coverage in the central parts of the City; however, the perimeter is largely underserved. Large sections of the City are underserved for basketball courts.

For community-serving facilities such as baseball/softball and soccer fields, the service area is expanded to 2 miles, as these are typically facilities that people are more willing to drive to. Baseball/softball fields have good coverage throughout most of the city, except for the eastern areas of the City. Soccer fields provide service to the eastern half of Statesville with the Park and Soccer Complex, but there is a significant gap in service for the western half of the City and areas north of Interstate 40.





03

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



20



Community Needs Assessment

Introduction

Assessing the recreational needs of the community from their perspective is critical to understanding both needs and aspirations. Public involvement is the cornerstone of any successful planning process. Researching, understanding and accurately reflecting community needs is how successful master plans are built.

Methodology

For the City of Statesville Route 2 Recreation Master Plan, a multifaceted approach to community engagement was conducted to obtain as much input from the public as possible in a limited time frame. The primary goals of the engagement process were to understand the community's perspective; obtain input from residents on programs, facilities, and concepts; raise awareness of the project; and build support and a sense of ownership within the community. At various points throughout the process the City's Recreation and Parks staff and City Council were updated with progress reports and results from community engagement activities and asked for their feedback.

This master plan effort had a robust public engagement plan that used a cross-section of techniques, including one-on-one stakeholder interviews, community meetings, virtual engagement online surveys, and a community-wide mail survey. While the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic presented unforeseen challenges, the variety and flexibility of the public input techniques ensured the community remained engaged throughout the process.



Public Meeting - March 2020

3.1 Stakeholder Interviews

A series of one-on-one telephone interviews were conducted with identified stakeholders and elected officials to further define recreation needs and opportunities for the Statesville park system. Stakeholders included City of Statesville elected officials and staff, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and members of Downtown Statesville Development.

In summary, the following perspectives were heard through these interviews:

- ◇ The City needs to focus on the implementation of the planned greenways to allow connectivity to different neighborhoods. A comprehensive greenway system would have numerous access points to provide residents and visitors greater opportunities for use.
 - ◇ South Statesville needs upgraded facilities and new facilities for a more equitable distribution of opportunities. A large community center there would be desirable. Parks could help with revitalization.
 - ◇ The existing community center is too small for existing programs and does not meet current needs.
 - ◇ There is a community-voiced need for a swimming pool, aside from the YMCA facility, and maybe an additional splash pad.
 - ◇ The City needs to do a better job maintaining its existing parks and greenways. Existing facilities need to be kept up-to-date to ensure the facilities are first-class. Tennis courts and playgrounds need to be updated.
- ◇ There is a general feeling that the amenities and programs offered need to be diverse to meet the needs of new and existing residents with divergent interests. Specifically, the need for the following amenities and parks were mentioned several times:
 - Improve the tennis courts at Caldwell Park
 - Dog park at Caldwell Park is not effective
 - Expand recreation and athletic programs for older children
 - Greenways are important to overall quality of life; expand the system with additional walking and biking trails and greenways
 - Recreation and activity center in South Statesville
 - Provide a swimming pool
 - Need additional soccer fields to host larger tournaments
 - ◇ Develop more awareness of existing parks – promote to gain interest from residents.
 - ◇ The City needs to identify a clear vision to promote the need for new facilities and programming.
 - ◇ Similar to the need for diversity in parks, there is also a drive for diversity in funding the park improvements through grants and partnerships; there is not much support for the discussion of a bond.

Community Needs Assessment

3.2 Community Meetings

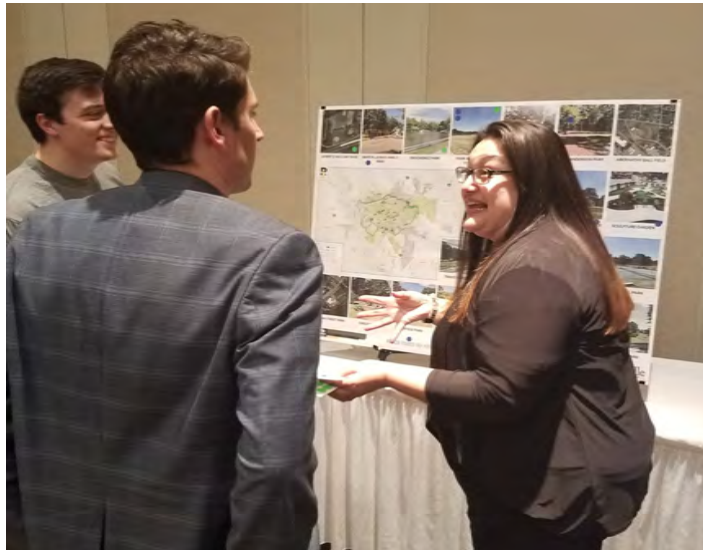
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic limiting the opportunity for in-person community meetings, two community meetings were held. The first community meeting was held in conjunction with the Shelton Avenue Linear Park meeting and the second was conducted on March 3, 2020 at the Statesville Civic Center. Both meetings were formatted as open house input sessions that were open to the public. The open house information included an overview of the project process, a map of the parks system, photos of existing parks, and information for additional participation opportunities. Together, the two meetings were attended by over 50 participants.

During these meetings, participants were asked about the parks they visited, their recreation preferences, and ideas they had for specific parks. The top 12 recreation element needs identified at the meetings were:

- ◇ Trails/ Greenways
- ◇ Downtown Parks
- ◇ Natural Areas
- ◇ Community Gardens
- ◇ Sports Complexes
- ◇ Adventure Programs

- ◇ Additional Teen Programs
- ◇ Outdoor Fitness Stations
- ◇ Splash Pad
- ◇ Nature Programs
- ◇ Additional Special Events
- ◇ Dog Parks

The Park and Soccer complex, Mac Anderson Park, M.L. King, Jr. Park, Fitness and Activity Center and Caldwell Park were identified as the most visited parks. However, Pecan Park and M.L. King, Jr. Park were identified as needing the most improvement.



Public Meeting - March 2020



Public Meeting - March 2020

3.3 Online Community Survey

To gather specific information about different elements of the City's parks and greenways system, the online community survey comprised 36 questions. Respondents were able to participate in one specific survey or both.

There were a total of 542 responses to the online survey. With a population of approximately 27,000 residents, 542 responses represent about 2% of City residents, which is a bit below average for a voluntary online survey.

While most respondents indicated they were satisfied with the opportunities provided by the City, several items stood out from the results. These included the following:

- ◇ Respondents felt access to parks was good. Access to greenways was not.
- ◇ Many respondents were not aware of amenities at Newtonville Community Park, Alex Cooper Park Harris Park, Kimbrough Park and Grace Park. Parks most visited include M. L. King Jr. Park, Statesville Fitness and Activity Center and Statesville Park and Soccer Complex.
- ◇ 62% of respondents indicated that they travel outside of Statesville to participate in various recreational activities due to lack of facilities or better quality.
- ◇ Most respondents were very satisfied with level of customer service provided by parks staff.
- ◇ Respondents felt like facilities and programs were not meeting the needs of the community. Those that came close to meeting the needs included tennis / pickleball,

athletic programs, athletic fields, basketball and parks / open space.

- ◇ Residents expressed that they would participate in numerous youth, adult and senior programs but do not due to lack of leagues, activities and facilities.
- ◇ Events provided by the City that residents have participated in fully include Spring Egg Hunts, Arbor Day Celebrations, Fireworks, End of Summer Bash and the Health Fair.
- ◇ Additional amenities and programs are needed to meet community interest. Top priority needs included greenway trails, additional park land, additional preschool, teen and senior programs, outdoor fitness and community gardens.
- ◇ What prevents residents from participating in recreation programs and facilities are lack of awareness, lack of time lack of amenities and condition of parks. Improvements in communications by the town could be made.
- ◇ Majority of residents would prefer that grants fund improvements to facilities and programs.
- ◇ Residents indicated they would support additional funding for parks and recreation.

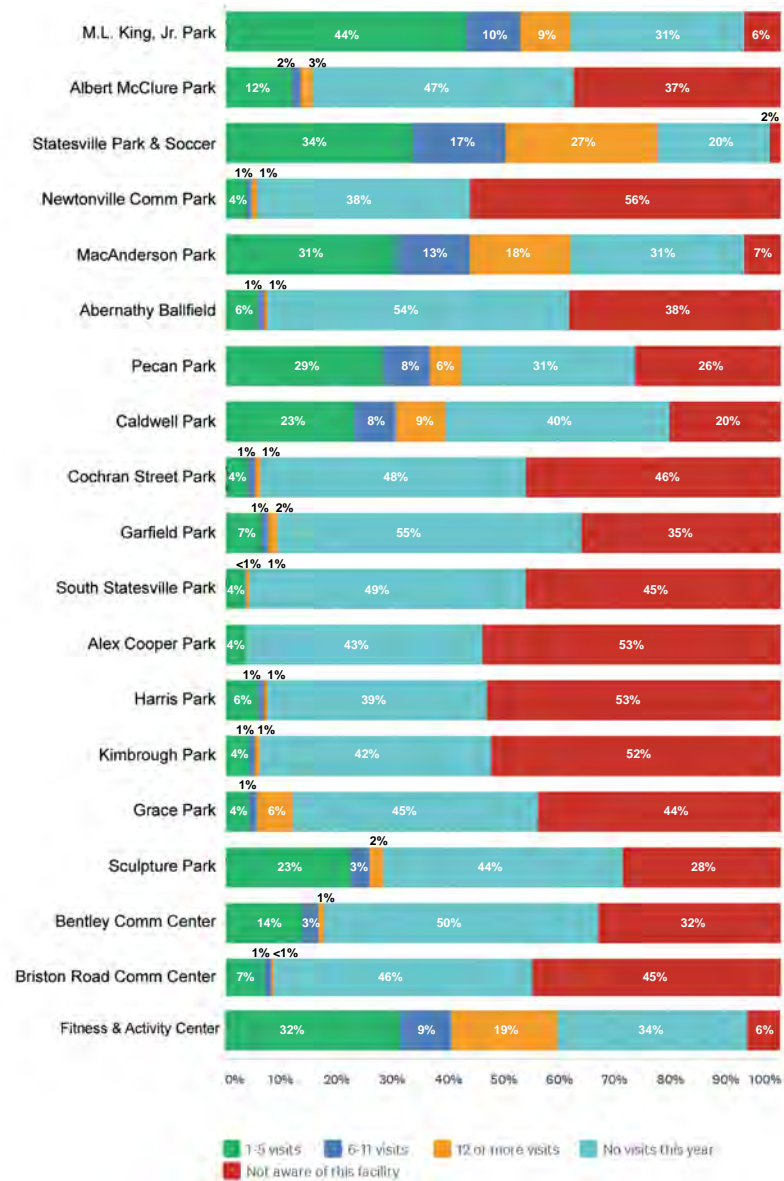
The following are select questions and corresponding results from the online survey that give an indication of the general comments and common themes. Questions from the General survey are represented with a **G** before the question number; questions from the Parks, Facilities and Trails survey are presented with a **P** before the question number.

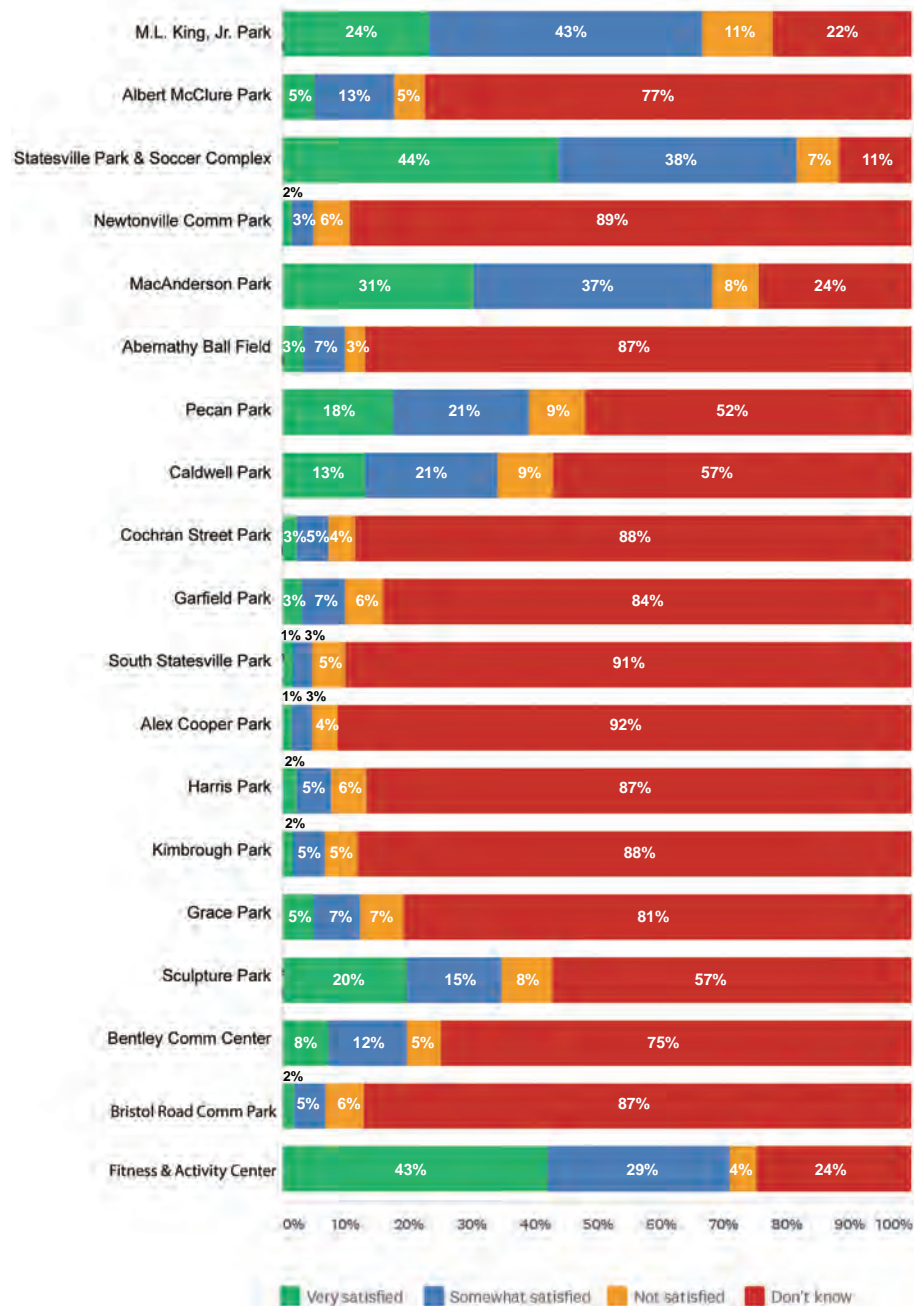
Community Needs Assessment



Q2. For each of the Parks and Facilities listed below, please indicate how often you and/or you family have visited in the last year.

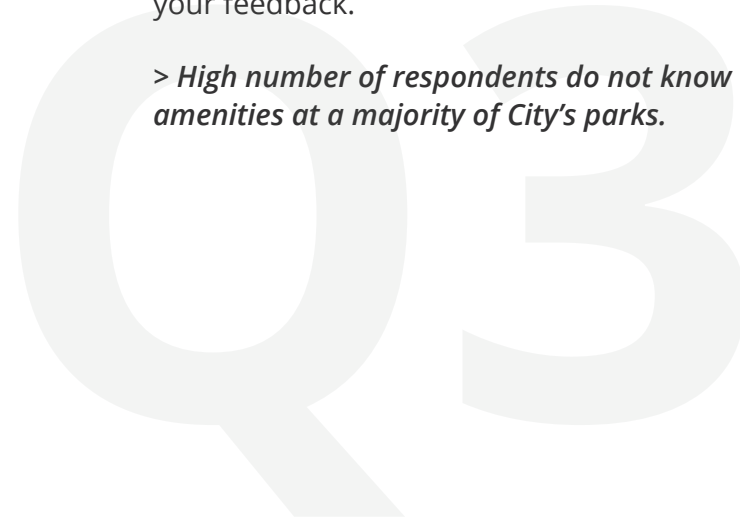
The top 3 most visit parks overall are M.L. King, Jr., Statesville Park & Soccer Complex and MacAnderson Parks. A lot of respondents did not know of different parks.





Q3. For each of the Parks and Facilities listed below, please indicate your level of satisfaction with the amenities. Provide additional comments to supplement your feedback.

> High number of respondents do not know of the amenities at a majority of City's parks.



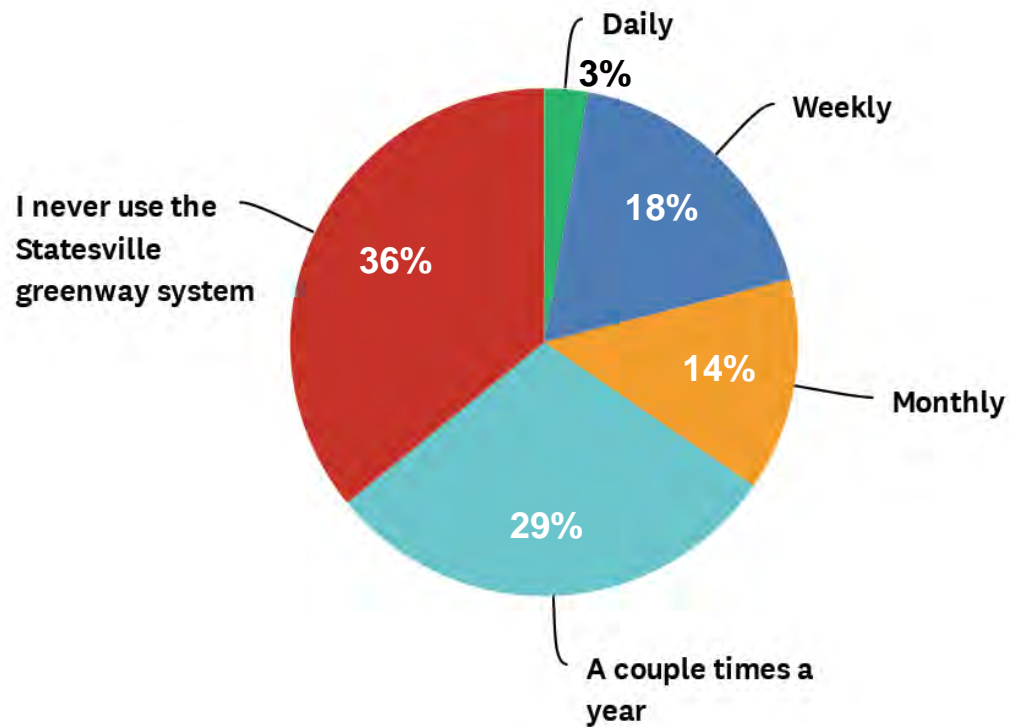
Community Needs Assessment



Q4

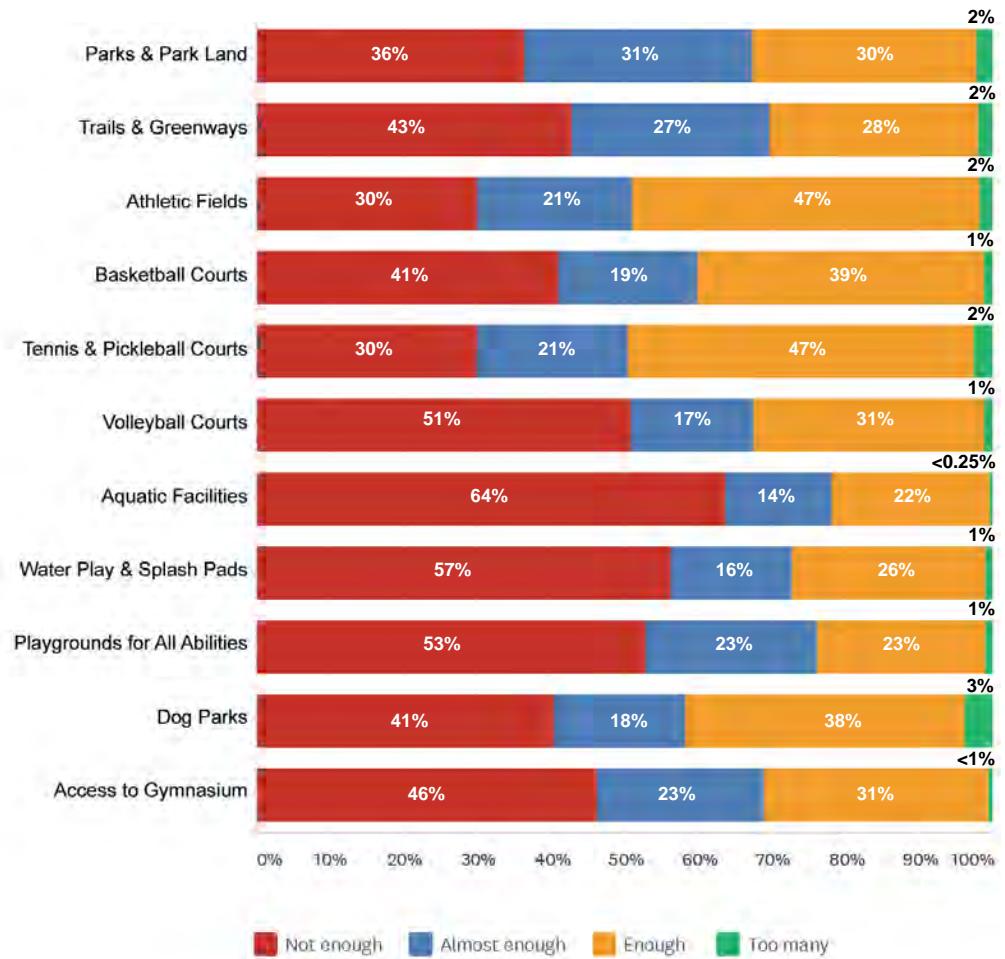
Q3. How often do you utilize any section of the City of Statesville's greenways and trails system?

> More than 1/3 of respondents use trails and greenways at least monthly.



Q3. Do you think the following facilities provided in Statesville are currently meeting the needs of the community?

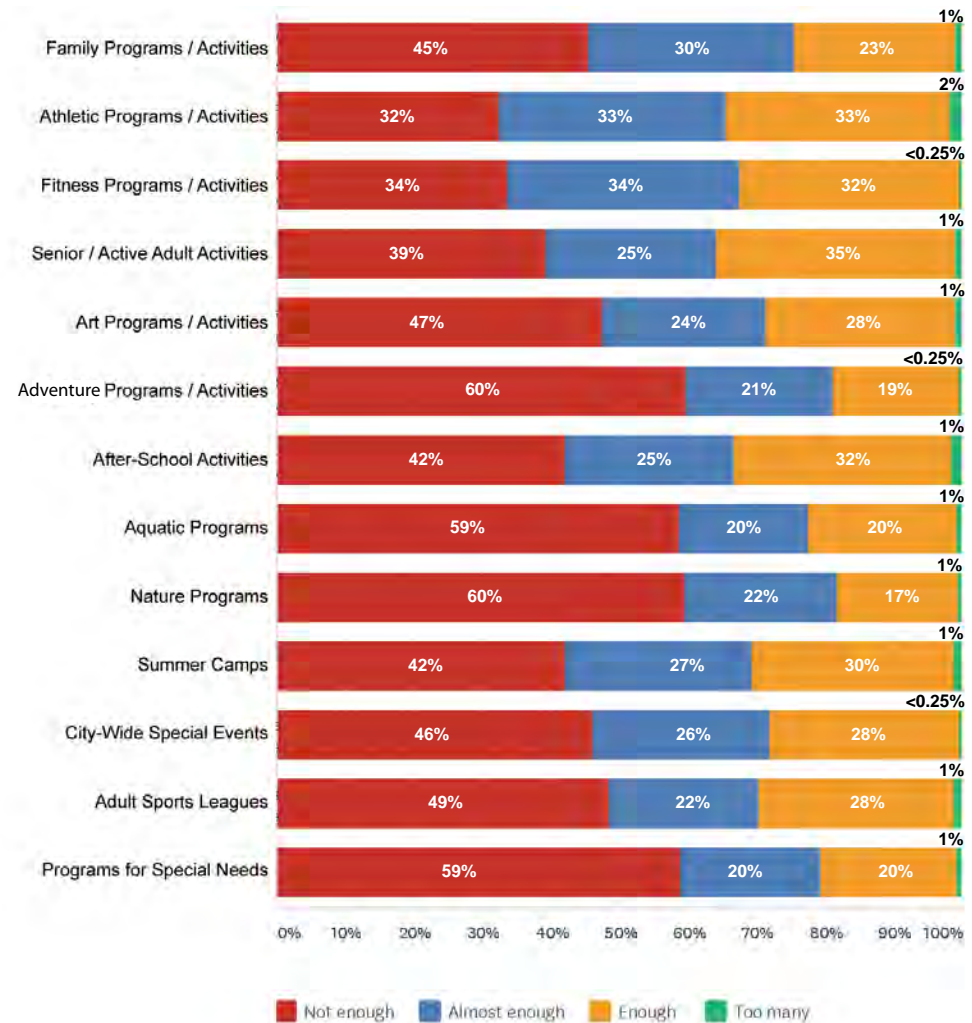
> *Aquatic Facilities and water play/splash pads were the amenities with the highest response of "not enough."*



Community Needs Assessment

Q7. Do you think the following programs and activities provided in Statesville are currently meeting the needs of the community? Please check the appropriate response.

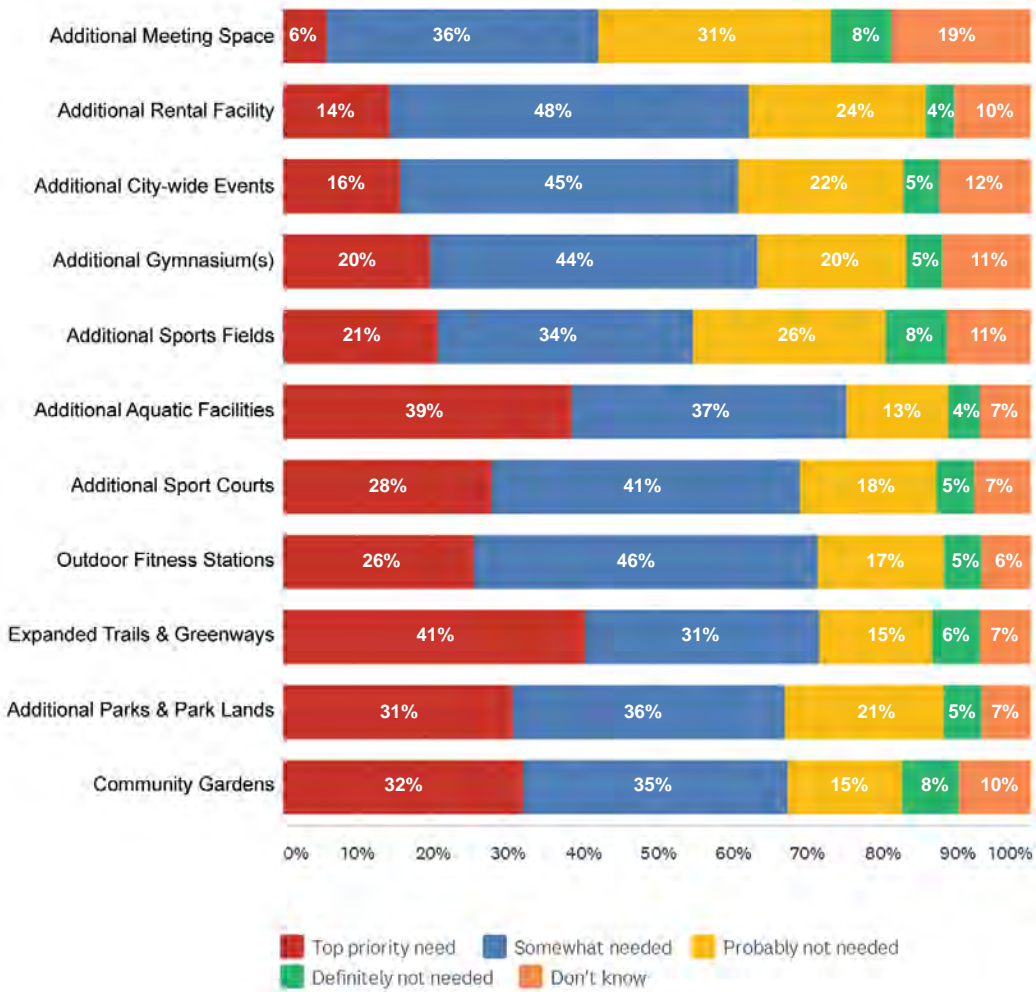
> The highest levels of “not enough” activities in adventure, aquatic and nature programs and program for people with special needs.



Q8

Q8. Please indicate what you feel is the level of need for facilities listed below that the city of Statesville should consider adding in the future.

> *Additional greenways/trails and additional aquatic facilities are the greatest need for the community.*

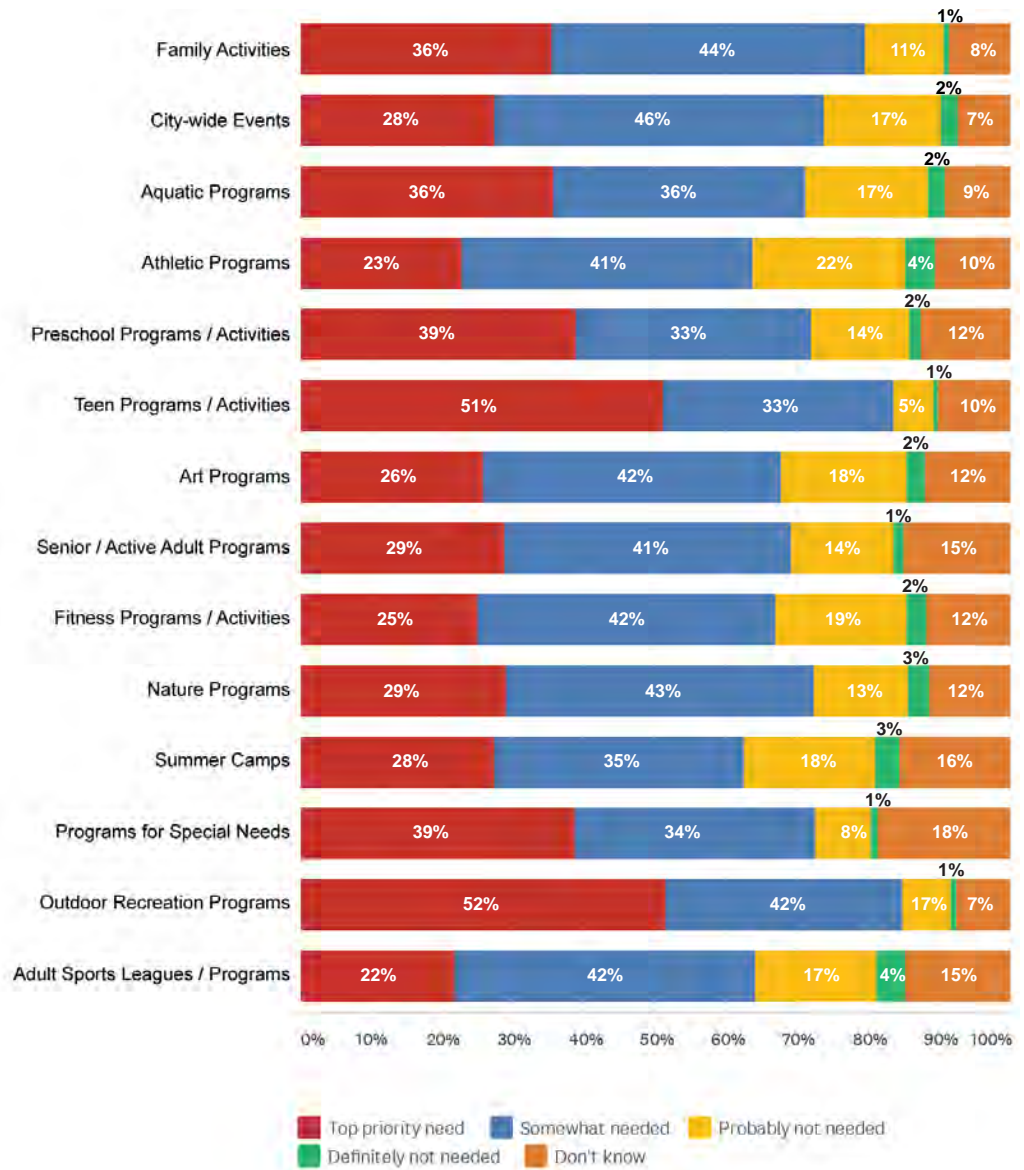
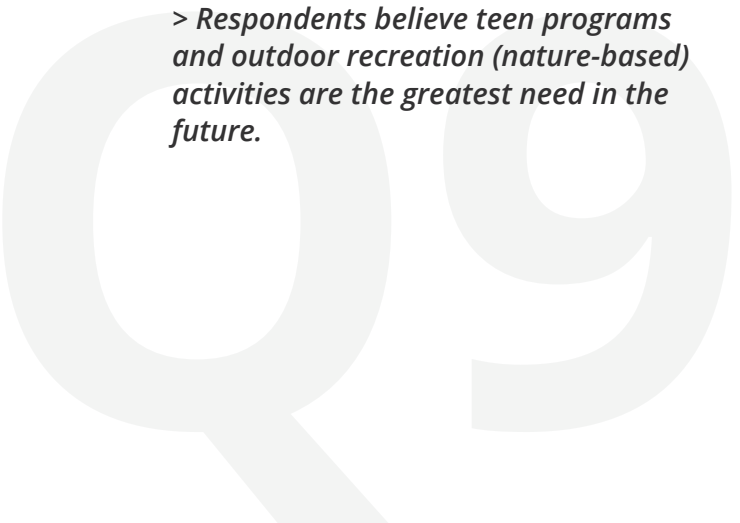


Community Needs Assessment



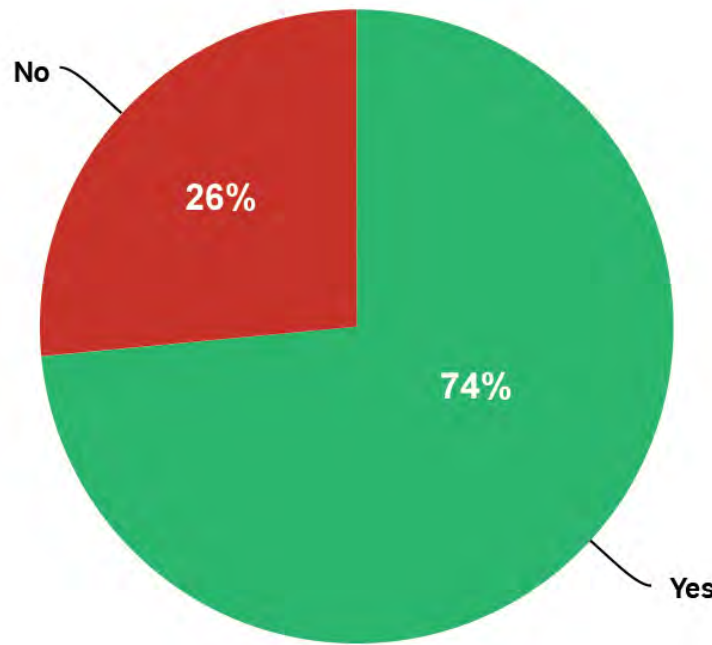
Q9. Please indicate what you feel is the level of need for each program or activity listed below that the City of Statesville should consider adding in the future.

> Respondents believe teen programs and outdoor recreation (nature-based) activities are the greatest need in the future.



Q16. Would you like to see more public art in parks and around Statesville?

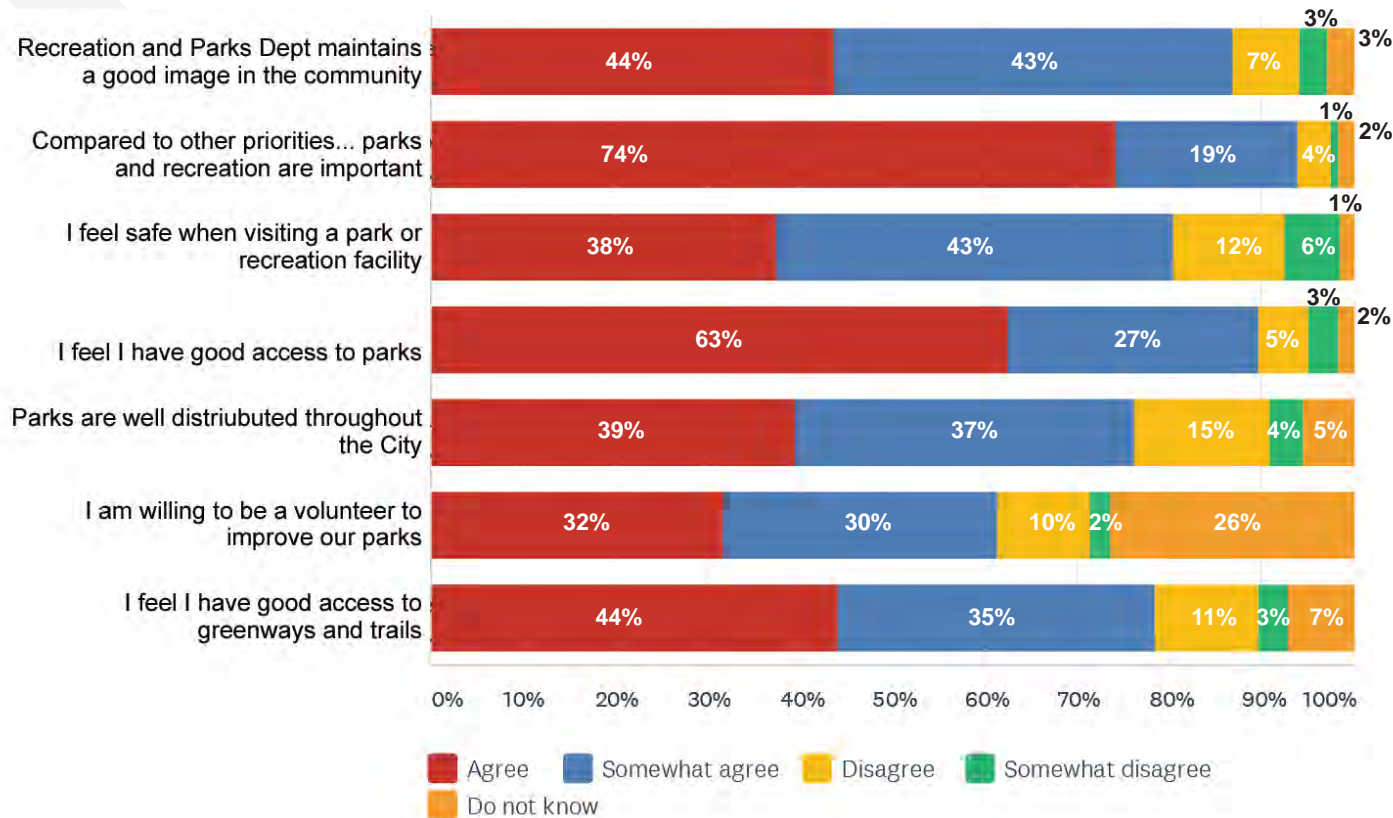
> Nearly ¾ of participants responded yes to public art.



Community Needs Assessment

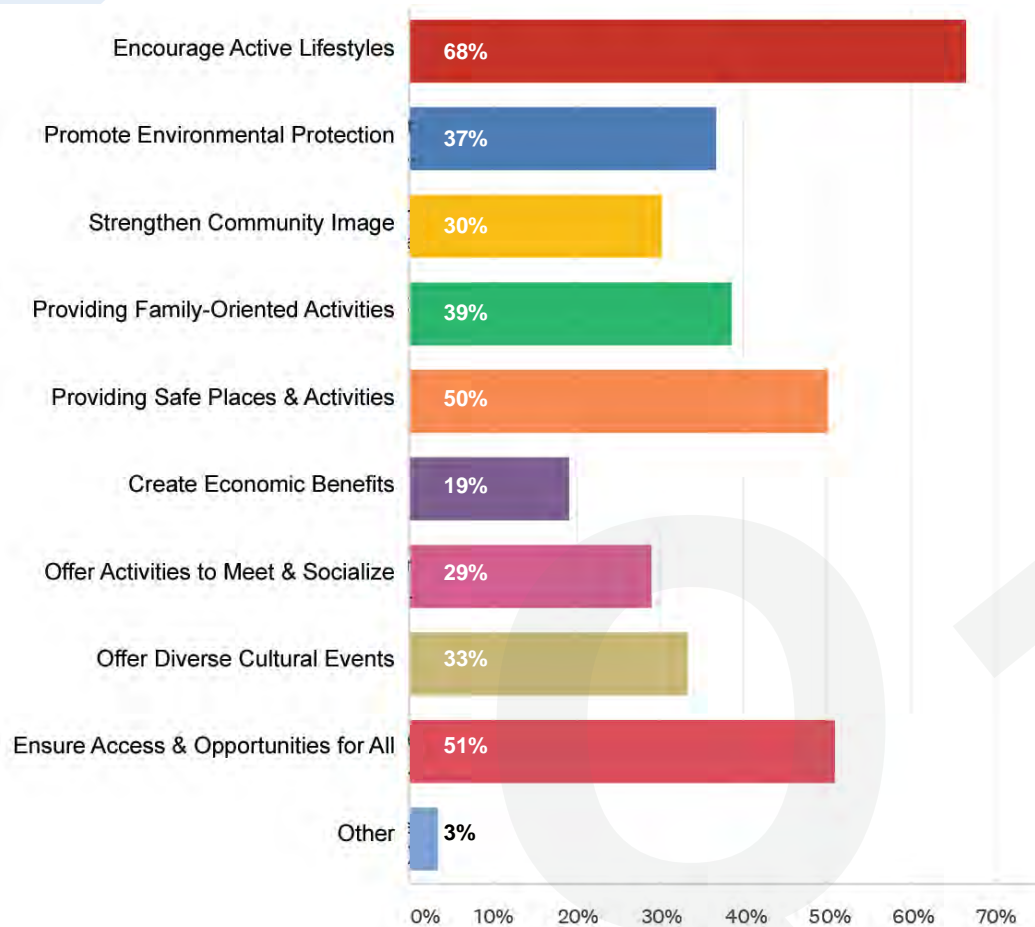
Q17. Please indicate your level of agreement about the following statements:

> Compared to other City priorities, 93% of respondents somewhat agree/agree that parks and recreation is important. 90% of respondents feel they have good access to parks.



Q18. The Statesville Recreation and Parks Department offer parks, greenways, programs, events, and activities in order to meet the leisure needs of the various demographics that make up the City of Statesville. Of the following benefits of community recreation listed below, select three you feel are the most valuable.

> Providing safe places, encouraging active lifestyles and ensure equal access for all are seen as the greatest benefits for residents.

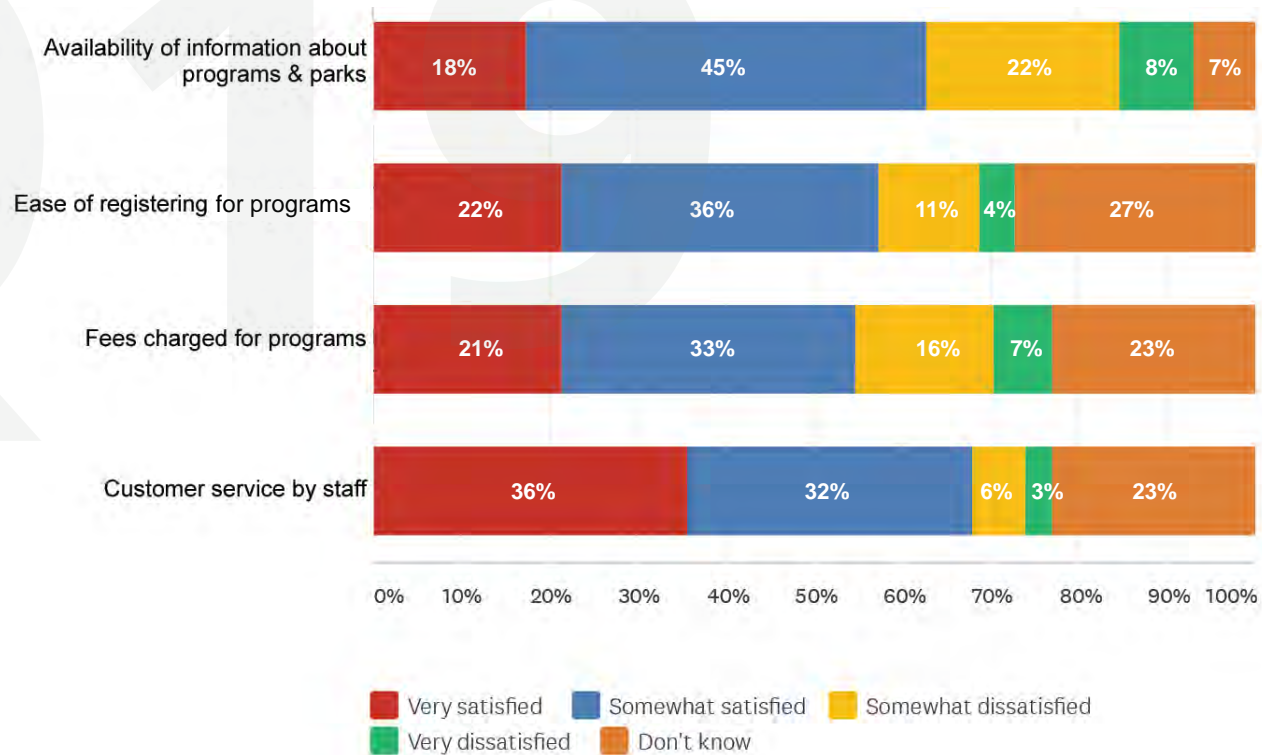


Community Needs Assessment



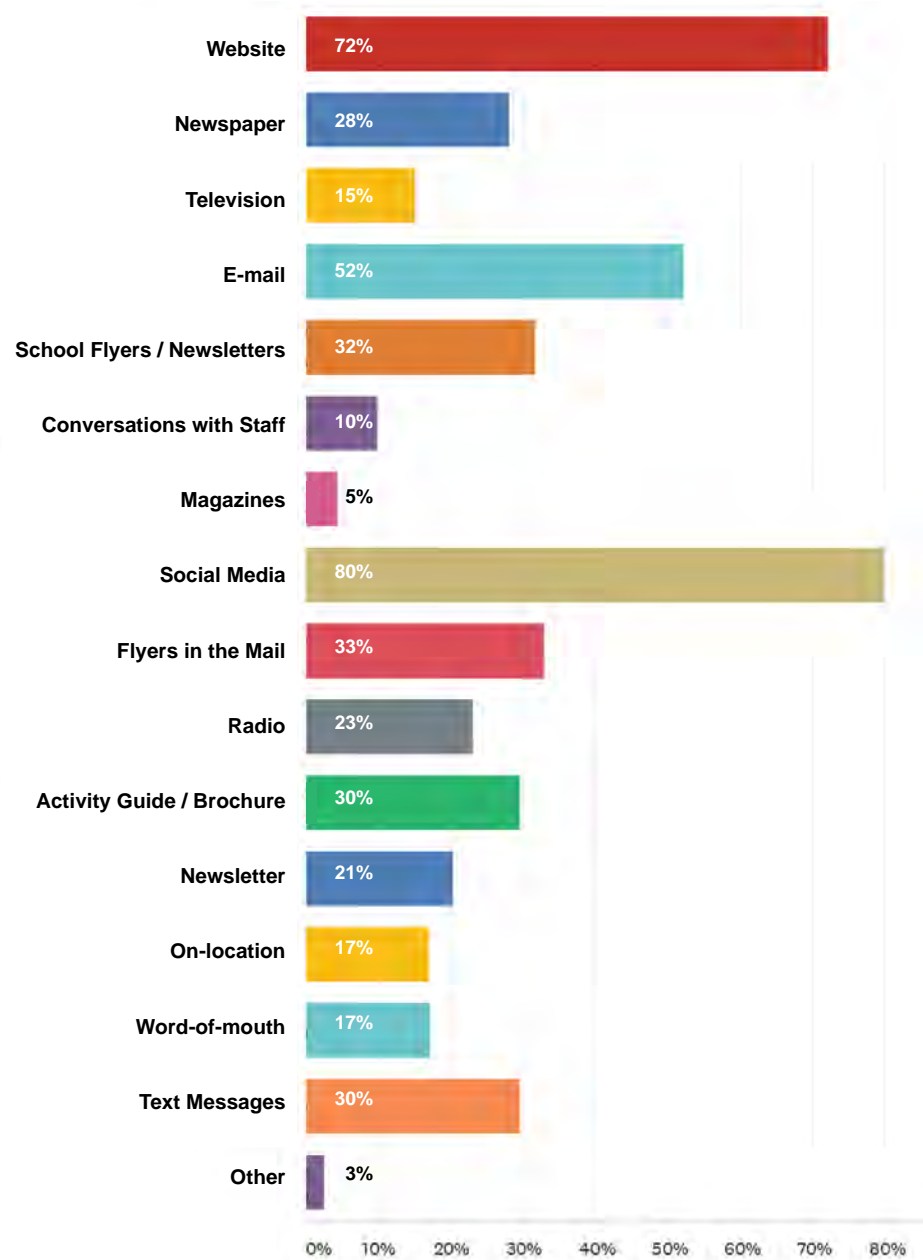
Q19. Please rate your satisfaction with the following parks and recreation services provided by Statesville Recreation and Parks.

> *Customer service by staff scored well with 68% of respondents being satisfied.*



Q20. Which communication types would you prefer for the Recreation and Parks Department to use to inform residents of programs and activities?

> *The most preferred methods of communication were social media, web site and e-mail.*

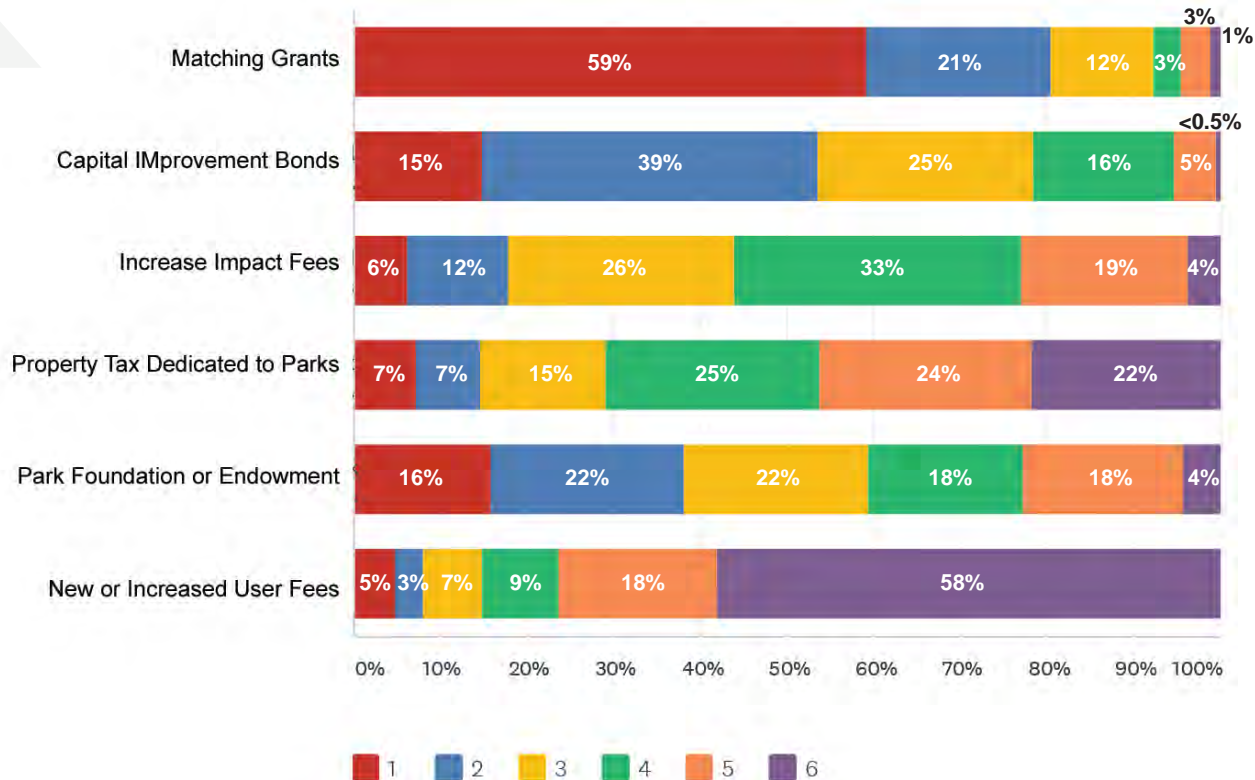


Community Needs Assessment



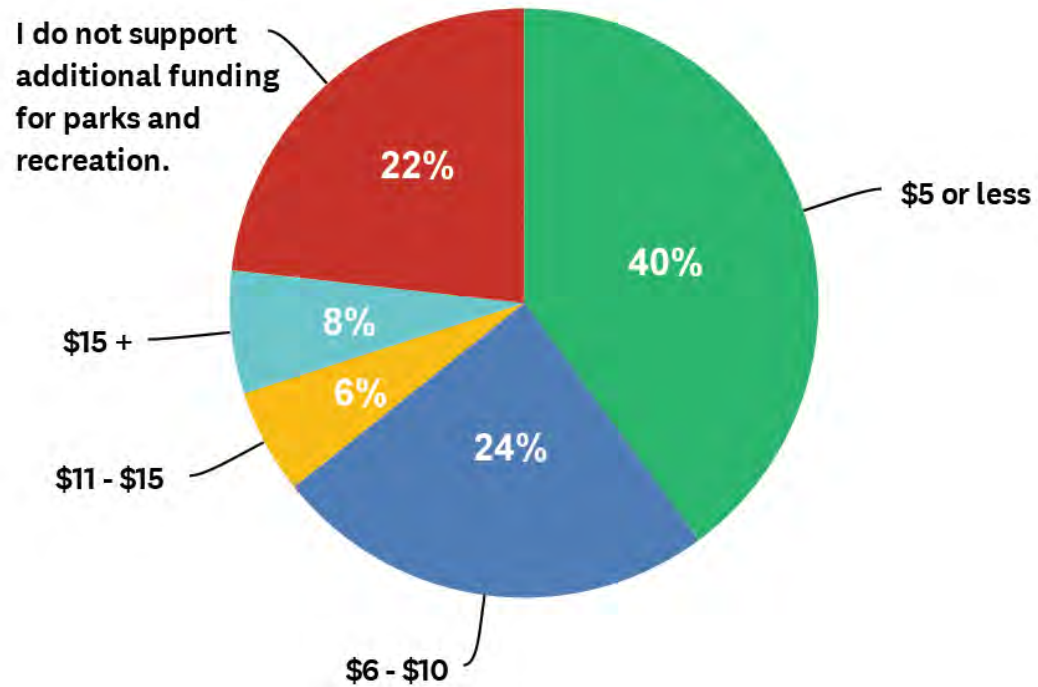
Q24. (Capital Funding) In order to invest in more parks and recreation facilities, the City may require additional funding. Please rank your preferred methods for additional capital funding for recreation and parks. (1 is most preferred method and 5 is the least preferred).

> More than half of respondents are against new or increasing user fees. More than ½ are in favor of capital improvement bonds for parks, trails and greenways.



Q24. (Operational Funding) Please indicate below the amount of additional funding you would support PER MONTH, if any, per household, to improve park maintenance and expand recreation programs.

> *More than 3/4 of respondents are willing to pay more per year to support parks and recreation.*



Community Needs Assessment



3.4 Statistically Valid Survey

This survey was conducted by mail to gain statistically valid citizen input regarding usage of parks, trails, indoor and outdoor facilities; satisfaction with facilities and programs; reasons for participating in programs and activities; barriers to participation in recreation opportunities; methods of reaching residents (i.e. online and printed Activity Guide, Facebook, etc.); priority needs; and support for various methods of funding for improvements to parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs, etc.

Surveys were mailed to a random sampling of 3,000 resident households. Mailed surveys included a postage-paid envelop to return the surveys. Those receiving a mailed survey were also given an opportunity to complete the survey online with a unique password for each recipient. Only households who received a mailed survey could, as an option, complete the survey online. This methodology ensured that only 1 survey could be completed by any household. Approximately 3 weeks after the mailing, postcards were sent to the same 3,000 households who received mailed surveys.

Of the 3,000 mailed surveys, 199 surveys were completed by mail and 53 were completed online. The return rates for the statistically valid survey were somewhat lower than anticipated, possibly due to COVID-19 issues. All told, 252 surveys (+/- 6.1% margin of error) were completed by mail and online.

In addition to information of recreation needs and preferences, the survey also included questions about the demographic characteristics of respondents.

The demographics of the overall sample was compared to U.S. Census and American Community Survey data for Statesville. Based on comparisons, the samples skewed older than the population and the data was weighted based on known age distribution in the community. Weighting is a common procedure in survey data to correct for underrepresented groups in the sample. Thus, the process of weighting ensures that the data is as representative as possible of the actual population of Statesville while maintaining the statistical validity of the data.

The following summarizes the findings of the statistically valid survey:

Finding #1

By a wide margin, walking and biking trails (78%) were the park, trail, or facility used the most often. Other parks, trails, and facilities used the most often over the past 2 years included greenways (56%), playgrounds (41%), natural areas (37%), picnic shelters (37%), and indoor fitness center (36%).

Walking and biking trails were selected by the highest percentage of households with and without children as being used.

Finding #2

Seventy-three percent (73%) of households indicated walking and biking trails were one of three parks, trails, and recreation facilities they had used the most, followed by indoor fitness center (29%) and playgrounds (26%).

Walking and biking trails were used most often by households without children and with children ages 10-19, with playgrounds used most often by households with children under 10 years old.

Finding #3

Eighty-two percent (82%) of households have used the Statesville Fitness and Activity Center over the past 2 years, and it was the most often used (74%) out of the 5 listed facilities.

Statesville Fitness and Activity Center was used the most often by households (based on sum of top 2 choices) for any length of residents (1-5 years to more than 20 years).

Finding #4

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of households indicated having a need for walking trails, with 55% indicating greenways, 53% indicating natural areas, and 52% indicating picnic areas.

At least 72% of households with and without children had a need for walking trails.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Community Needs Assessment



Finding #5

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of households selected walking trails as being their most important recreation element, followed by 41% who selected greenways, 36% who selected biking trails, 23% who selected indoor fitness facilities, and 23% who selected natural areas.

Walking trails were most important for all lengths of residency. Playgrounds were more important to households with children ages 1–9, than any other type of household with or without children.

Finding #6

Nine percent (9%) of households indicated members of their household had participated in 1 program, class, event, and/or activity; 21% participated in 2-4 programs, classes, events, and/or activities; and 8% participated in 5 or more programs, classes, events, and/or activities. Sixty-two percent (62%) did not participate in any programs, classes, events, or activities.

Over the past 2 years, far more households with children under age 10 and ages 11-19 have participated in 2 or more programs, classes, events, and/or activities provided by the City of Statesville than households with no children.

Finding #7

Ninety percent (90%) of respondents indicated they were “very satisfied” (58%) or “somewhat satisfied” (32%) with the quality of the facilities, with 83% of households indicating they were “very satisfied” (60%) or “somewhat satisfied” (23%) with fees charged

for value received. Only 75% indicated they were “very satisfied” (45%) or “somewhat satisfied” (30%) with the times programs, classes, events, or activities were offered.

Ninety-two percent (92%) of White/Caucasian respondents were very satisfied (65%) or somewhat satisfied (27%) with fees charged for value received. Sixty-six (66%) percent of Black/African American respondents were very satisfied (55%) or somewhat satisfied (11%).

Finding #8

Sixty-six percent (66%) of all households indicated the “times programs are offered” is the most important factor for their household, followed by 53% “fees charged for value received,” and the “quality of instructors, coaches, and staff” (49%).

Eighty-one percent (81%) of households with no children and adults age 55 and over indicated that times programs are offered is one of the top 3 services provided in classes, programs, events, and activities that are most important to their household.

Finding #9

Forty-six percent (46%) indicated cultural arts programs would be the most likely program or activity their household members would participate in, followed by performing arts programs (43%), fitness classes (41%), environmental or education programs (36%), and lifelong learning programs (32%). The average household selected approximately 3 programs they would consider participating in.

Finding #10

Fifty-two percent (52%) of households selected “I do not know what is being offered” as the reason they did not participate in any parks, trails, facilities, or programs. This was followed by “safety concerns in the parks” (22%), “program times are not convenient” (22%), and “use services of other agencies” (20%).

Finding #11

Forty-four percent (44%) of households indicated that “acquire open space for greenways and trails” is the most important action the city could take to improve the park system, followed by 35% indicating “maintain and improve existing neighborhood parks”, 30% “develop new long trails” (1-5 miles), 27% “acquire open space for natural and wooded areas”, and 26% “develop new outdoor amenities”, e.g. skateboard park, adventure playgrounds, miniature golf course).

Finding #12

The Online Activity Guide (Website) was one of the top 2 ways of communication for all households with or without children (59%). Eighty-one percent (81%) of households with children ages 1-9 selected Facebook, by far the highest selected way to be kept informed.



Grace Park

Community Needs Assessment



3.5 Community Needs Assessment Summary

Examination of the results from the online survey, mail-in surveys and community meetings revealed numerous similarities and consensus regarding recreational needs and priorities from the community's perspective. Results also shed light on why residents do not participate in programs and their level of support for various methods of financing improvements.

Following are the top 10 preferences for new facilities or facility improvements identified from these three sources of community input taken together:

- ◇ Greenways / Trails
- ◇ Downtown Parks
- ◇ Natural Areas
- ◇ Community Gardens
- ◇ Sports Complexes / Athletic Fields
- ◇ Outdoor Fitness Stations
- ◇ Pool / Splash Pads
- ◇ Dog Parks
- ◇ Athletic Fields
- ◇ Playgrounds

Following are the top 10 preferences for new or additional programs identified from these three sources of community input taken together:

- ◇ Additional Teen Programs
- ◇ Adventure Programs
- ◇ Nature Programs
- ◇ Additional Special Events
- ◇ Aquatic Programs
- ◇ Additional Adult Sports Leagues
- ◇ Senior / Active Adult Programs
- ◇ Special Needs Programs
- ◇ Summer Camps
- ◇ Preschool / Early Childhood Programs

It is also clear from the comments received that residents would support increases in the funding for parks and recreation even if that meant increased taxes or a municipal bond. They would of course like to see grants and other sources of funding utilized, but they understand these funding sources will not support maintenance and operations. The support for increased funding by residents is not fully supported by the elected officials, who are hesitant to sponsor a bond and special taxes for parks and recreation.

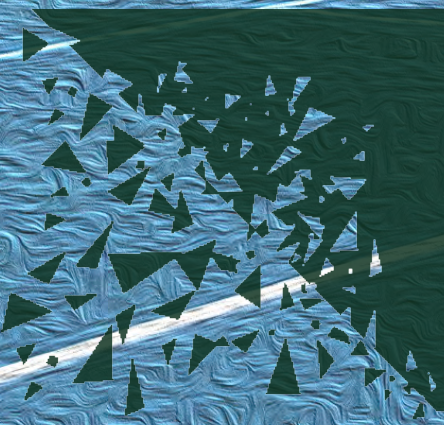


CITY OF
Statesville
RECREATION & PARKS



04

VISION



25



Vision Development

Highlighted by extensive stakeholder and public participation, the City of Statesville launched a multi-faceted workshop of visioning sessions to better understand the community's aspirations for its parks and recreation system. Combining the results from the workshop with previous steps allows the community to provide a comprehensive vision for the future. The following chapter describes these results.

Purpose

The vision for the Route 2 Recreation Parks and Recreation Master Plan and programs is linked to the vision of the city. The City's system of parks, open spaces, recreation facilities, arts, and natural areas, all elements of the public realm, are woven into the fabric of what makes Statesville a great place to live, work and play. This vision integrates components of previous and ongoing City-wide efforts to achieve the overall vision for the City defined in previous planning efforts (see Section 2.1).



Sculpture Park



4.1 Vision Workshop & Framework Development

Approach

The approach for developing the Route 2 Recreation vision is a two-part effort:

- ◇ Through a multi-faceted community involvement process (Chapter 3), residents indicated their needs and priorities for parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- ◇ Supplementing this community involvement, City staff and the consultant team completed a technical review of the existing parks system that identified continued improvements needed to maintain a high level of service for existing and future residents.

The Route 2 Recreation Vision is built upon a framework distilled from input and analysis conducted as part of this two-step effort.

The Vision is intended to guide the parks and recreation system over the next 10 years. Goals and objectives have been developed to reflect the combined results of input and analysis completed in Chapter 2 (Existing System Overview) and Chapter 3 (Needs and Priorities Assessment) of this planning document. These goals and objectives are intended to be modified as needed to address changing priorities of the community, as well as the anticipated growth the city will experience over the next 10 years. In the next chapter, action items are identified to implement this vision within the focus of community priorities, funding strategies, and defined roles. These action items are intended to be updated on a regular basis by staff to reflect the changing trends, priorities, and roles within the community.

Route 2 Recreation is based on input of participants from these workshops, the public comments, and from the needs and priorities assessment. The visioning efforts balanced community input with strategic direction provided by guiding documents and stakeholder engagement to develop a new vision. This Vision strives to integrate the parks and recreation system into the City's infrastructure, while also addressing evolving trends and changing needs of the community.



Brookdale Park



Mission & Vision Statements

In addition to the identification of community goals and priority projects, the Route 2 Recreation developed a new Mission Statement and a Vision Statement. City staff provided insight into both the internal and external values that they felt embodied a successful department, and these were further refined into concise statements to guide the department in its delivery of high-quality parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Statesville Recreation & Parks Department is to connect all people and the community through quality parks, facilities, and programs.

Vision Statement

The Statesville Recreation and Parks Department strives to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Statesville through recreation programs, facilities, and experiences designed to meet the leisure needs of the community and to provide people of every age, race, and creed an opportunity to come together, participate, create, and share the positive experiences of life.



Downtown Statesville

Vision Goals

Based on the components of the Vision Statement, the following overarching goals have been identified for the Route 2 Recreation Vision. These goals serve as the guiding principles for the development of the vision sub-systems, their associated objectives, and the priority projects and action items developed during implementation.

- ◇ Offer comprehensive services through programs, events, facilities, marketing, partnerships, and community engagement.
- ◇ Utilize effective and innovative practices to operate parks, facilities, and programs.
- ◇ Engage community members in planning and implementation for our park system and programs.
- ◇ Provide quality, diverse parks, facilities, programs, and open space for people of all ages and backgrounds.
- ◇ Collaborate with economic development and Downtown partners as well as community developers to provide programs, parks, and open spaces.
- ◇ Provide access to natural areas and integrate environmental education opportunities in our parks and programs.
- ◇ Ensure all residents have equitable access to parks, facilities, and recreation services.
- ◇ Provide everyone with exceptional service that comes across Statesville Recreation and Parks, regardless of background or ability.

4.2 Vision Subsystems

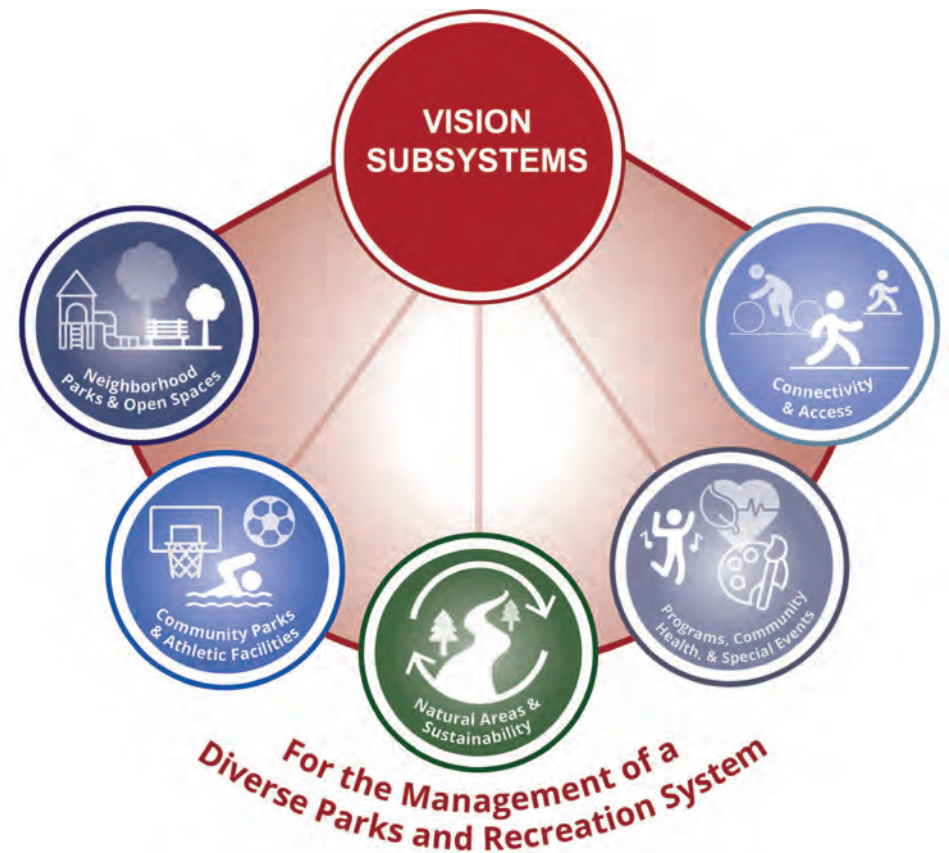
Introduction

As a result of the previously discussed efforts, the Route 2 Recreation Vision is built upon a framework distilled from broad public input and comprehensive analysis. A unique approach was taken for Statesville by establishing a set of five sub-systems that help guide the development of the parks and facilities, and the management of a diverse system. These subsystems, shown in the figure below, are:

- ◇ Neighborhood Parks & Open Spaces
- ◇ Community Parks & Athletic Facilities
- ◇ Natural Areas and Sustainability
- ◇ Programs, Community Health, & Special Events
- ◇ Connectivity & Access

Collectively these subsystems form a rich, vibrant, and dynamic system that contributes to a high quality of life for all residents and positions the Department to continue to provide excellent facilities and services as the city grows. Each sub-system was developed through staff input and an analysis of the existing physical system.

The objectives identified for each of these subsystems are intended to guide the parks and recreation system over the next 10 years. The objectives were developed to reflect the combined results of input and analysis completed in the System Inventory and Analysis, Community Needs Assessment, and the Vision



Development. These objectives and the associated vision concepts are intended to be modified as needed to ensure achievement of the Sub-system Vision and ensure its contribution to the overall vision of the City of Statesville.

In the next chapter, a comprehensive implementation strategy for achieving this vision is presented within the focus on community priorities, funding strategies, and defined roles. This implementation plan is intended to be updated on a regular basis by staff to reflect the changing trends, priorities, and roles within the community.



Neighborhood Parks & Open Space

The City of Statesville parks and open spaces serve as a major contributor to the sense of community and quality of life. They provide residents an opportunity to refresh, explore and play, and serve as important neighborhood resources. Using community input from the Needs Assessment and Workshops, the following guiding principles were developed for neighborhood parks and open spaces:

Goal 1: Continue to provide a high level of service for neighborhood-based parks and open spaces while responding to growth.

- ◇ Develop LOS standards for acreage, facilities, and access that fit with community needs and priorities, expected department capacity, and projected growth.
- ◇ Identify areas where access gaps exist, and high growth is expected for targeted land acquisition.
- ◇ Work with developers to ensure that new neighborhoods and communities have adequate access to high-quality parks and recreation facilities.
- ◇ Utilize existing city-owned or vacant properties for opportunistic acquisition and development.

Goal 2: Pursue the development of parks and open spaces in under-served sections of the city including areas north of Interstate 40 and South Statesville.

- ◇ Activate alleyways and vacant downtown properties through department development or partnerships.
- ◇ Promote characteristics and aesthetics for the city core that create a unique destination experience in Statesville and promotes economic development.

Goal 3: Ensure existing and future neighborhood parks provide appropriate and high-quality amenities for their users.

- ◇ Develop a replacement schedule for neighborhood-based amenities.
- ◇ Continue to engage the community to ensure new and replacement facilities and amenities are meeting the needs of the neighborhoods and communities served by each park.

Community Parks & Athletic Facilities

Athletics, aquatics, and large community parks were also a common topic from stakeholders and residents during community engagement. Facility availability and expansion have emerged as a priority throughout multiple engagement techniques, and the following goals were developed to help guide the approach to addressing athletic and aquatic facility needs in the future.

Goal 1: Provide outdoor fields and athletic facilities that meet the needs of existing and future populations

- ◇ Consolidate athletic fields at an expanded Statesville Park and Soccer Complex.
- ◇ Promote the development of multi-purpose fields where applicable, to increase the availability of facilities for a variety of athletic interests.
- ◇ Develop a second community-level park in the northern portion of Statesville to serve the incoming residents of new development.



Statesville Park and Soccer Complex

Goal 2: Renovate smaller existing facilities to support the expanding needs and participation of a growing population

- ◇ Develop a strategy for the renovation or expansion of existing facilities, such as the Bentley Road and Bristol Road Centers, to provide more flexible, specialized programming, and to work in conjunction with future recreation facilities.

Goal 3: Provide water-based recreation opportunities

- ◇ Provide a splash pad at an existing park location or south of downtown to provide access to water play for Statesville residents.
- ◇ Explore the feasibility of an additional aquatic facility, either indoor or outdoor, to address the needs of current and future residents.



Statesville Fitness & Activity Center



Natural Areas & Sustainability

The City's parks system offers a diverse range of user experiences and opportunities to engage the natural environment in numerous ways. A key part of the experience is due to the promotion of natural system function, biodiversity, and conservation of resources. While the City and the greater region have been successful in developing initiatives that address sustainability and resilience, there are opportunities within the park system to incorporate additional environmental stewardship and awareness. The following guiding principles provide a framework for strategies that should be utilized in future park development and improvement:

Goal 1: Provide access to natural areas and environmental education through Statesville Recreation and Parks.

- ◇ Develop Bristol Road and Mac Anderson Parks as nature-based parks with interactive environmental education and trail connections
- ◇ Utilize the Kimbrough Park as a trail head for the new South-Side Greenbrier Greenway and connect to Shelton Avenue Linear Park and Downtown.
- ◇ Evaluate the potential for a nature center or outdoor environmental exhibit.

Goal 2: Utilize sustainable design principles in new and existing parks.

- ◇ Integrate innovative stormwater management design strategies in existing parks, downtown areas, and greenway corridors.
- ◇ Promote the integration of streetscapes and urban tree canopies in the city core and other developed areas such as South Statesville.



Mac Anderson Park

Programs, Community Health & Special Events

Community health is a critical concern for residents of Statesville. Top priority facilities such as walking and biking trails, nature trails and indoor fitness facilities, and programs such as adult fitness and wellness and senior programs indicate residents' desire for a recreation system that encourages a healthy lifestyle for people of all ages. Recreation programs and special events are also critical components of the park system that provide positive benefits for public health. These programs and events help promote an active, cohesive community that provides a high quality of life for its residents. The following guiding principles will help guide the vision for Programs, Community Health & Special Events:

Goal 1: Continue to provide a high quality of life for residents by promoting a healthy lifestyle through parks and recreation services

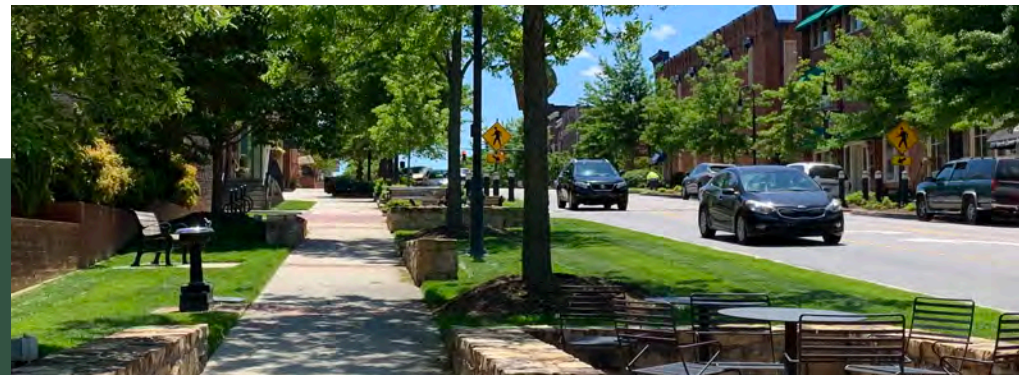
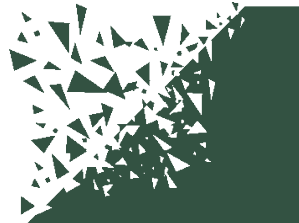
- ◇ Recognize and promote the benefits of parks for a healthy community.
- ◇ Prioritize safety and security in existing and new park facilities.
- ◇ Develop a branding / marketing strategy for department parks and programming, highlighting the availability of existing programs and their benefits for a high quality of life.

Goal 2: Provide greater availability and variety of programs for a growing population

- ◇ Continue to provide and expand diverse programs for youth, adults, and seniors.
- ◇ Utilize partnerships, and other innovative strategies to address short-term needs.
- ◇ Continue to engage the community when planning and implementing new programs, services, and facilities, ensuring offerings are meeting needs and priorities.

Goal 3: Continue to provide and coordinate City-wide special events to bring the community together and connect residents to parks and public spaces

- ◇ Continue to organize and promote special events to bring Statesville residents together – both new and old.
- ◇ Activate existing facilities as host venues for special events, including Downtown, Shelton Avenue Linear Park, and Statesville Fitness & Activity Center.



Downtown Park



Mac Anderson Park

Connectivity & Access

The need for greenways and trails, and access between parks and communities were some of the most prevalent topics during the community engagement process. Access as a concept can be applied to the entire park system's overall vision. The guiding principles for access are supported by other City and County initiatives that seek to improve multi-modal transportation, overall quality of life for residents, and stimulate economic growth throughout the City. The goals for access established through the Visioning workshop are:

Goal 1: Continue to develop greenways and trails, in and around Statesville

- ◇ Identify priority connections to promote access to key parks, economic centers, schools, and neighborhoods.

- ◇ Develop a central east-west connection from Kimbrough Park, across South Statesville to Harris Park, Shelton Avenue Linear Park, Bentley Community Center and on to South Statesville Park & Playground.
- ◇ Continue to work with partners to develop regional trail connections.
- ◇ Work with developers to build greenways and trailheads in new communities, provide appropriate amenities, and connections to other greenways and trails.

Goal 2: Identify walkability gaps and access barriers, and opportunities to improve connections between parks, residents, and other areas of interest

- ◇ Prioritize the development of sidewalk connections that increase walkability to parks
- ◇ Continue to improve ADA access at existing parks and public facilities
- ◇ Utilize partnerships to help ensure that residents in new neighborhoods and communities are connected to the City Core

Goal 3: Develop Signage, Wayfinding and Trailheads

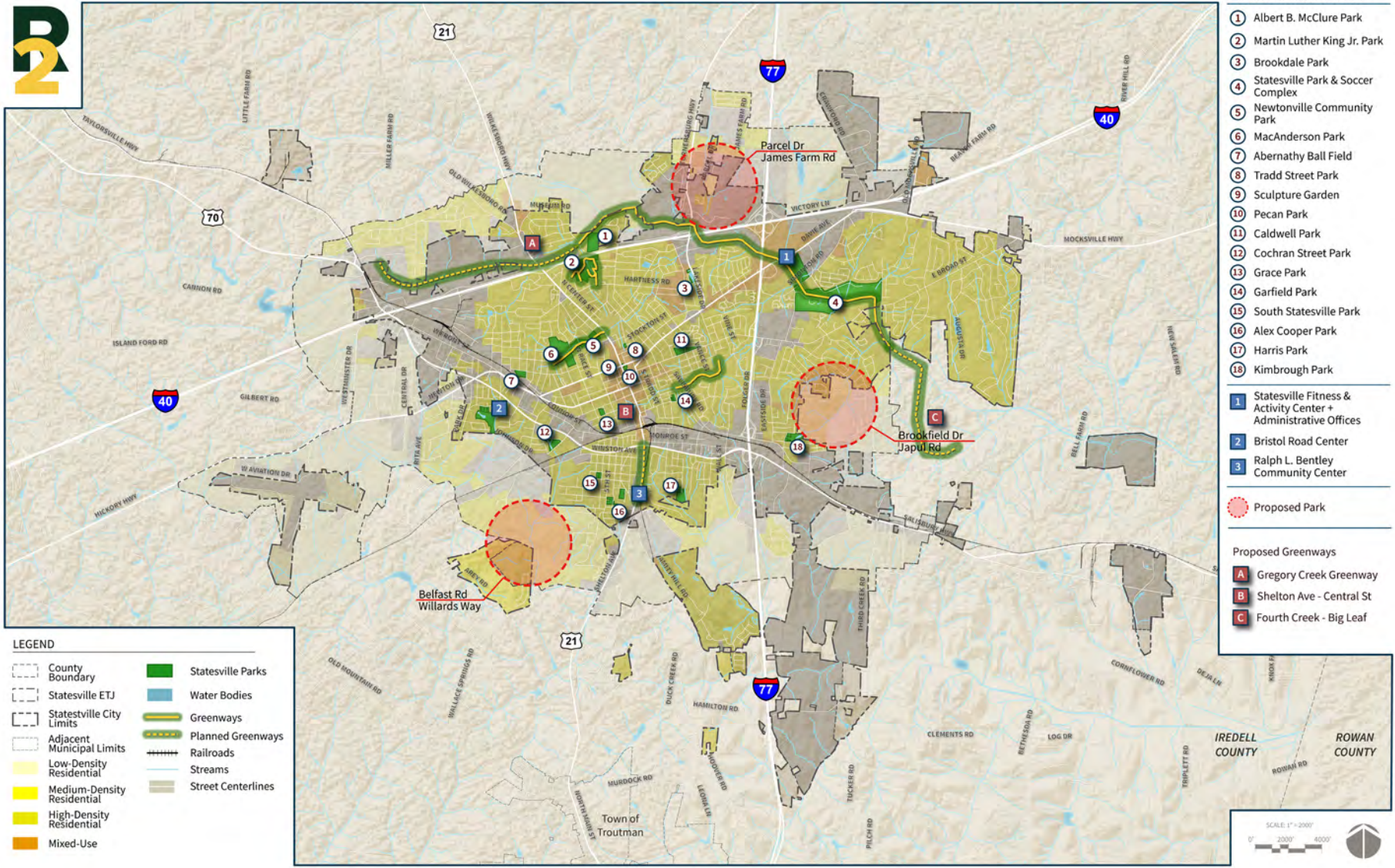
- ◇ Develop a unified signage and wayfinding package that can be utilized throughout the City to identify parks, facilities, greenways, and destinations
- ◇ Develop design guidelines for greenway trail heads in parks and facilities within the Statesville greenway system



The Comprehensive Vision

Each of the Vision Sub-systems discussed in this chapter collectively form the foundation for the synthesis of the Comprehensive Vision for the City of Statesville Recreation and Parks System. The Comprehensive Vision was created as a cumulative representation of the ideas and thoughts shared by the community and stakeholders throughout the Master Plan Process, represented through the goals and objectives of the sub-systems. Illustrated in the map on the right, this Comprehensive Vision Plan will enable the City to graphically represent the future of its parks and recreation system as a communication tool for residents and stakeholders. As noted throughout the Route 2 Recreation Master Plan, the parks and recreation system will play a key role in the continued development of Statesville and its communities. This vision outlines a continuation of investment in these contributing community assets and is consistent with the needs and priorities expressed through extensive engagement efforts.

Implementation of the goals for each sub-system will enable the City of Statesville to develop a robust park and recreation system that will not only enrich the lives of the people in its communities but would also form a prime attraction for future residents and visitors. With ongoing improvements and additions to existing parks; enhancing access to natural areas; incorporating sustainable and resilient strategies into park development and improvement; promoting cultural assets as an integral part of the park system fabric; establishing strong connections and access throughout the system; and, developing facilities that meet the programming needs of the users, the Statesville Recreation and Parks Department serves as the foundation for a livable community.



PARKS & FACILITIES KEY

- 1 Albert B. McClure Park
 - 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Park
 - 3 Brookdale Park
 - 4 Statesville Park & Soccer Complex
 - 5 Newtonville Community Park
 - 6 MacAnderson Park
 - 7 Abernathy Ball Field
 - 8 Tradd Street Park
 - 9 Sculpture Garden
 - 10 Pecan Park
 - 11 Caldwell Park
 - 12 Cochran Street Park
 - 13 Grace Park
 - 14 Garfield Park
 - 15 South Statesville Park
 - 16 Alex Cooper Park
 - 17 Harris Park
 - 18 Kimbrough Park
- 1 Statesville Fitness & Activity Center + Administrative Offices
 - 2 Bristol Road Center
 - 3 Ralph L. Bentley Community Center

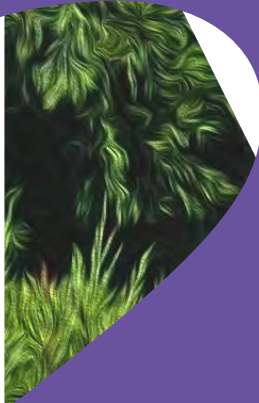
Proposed Park

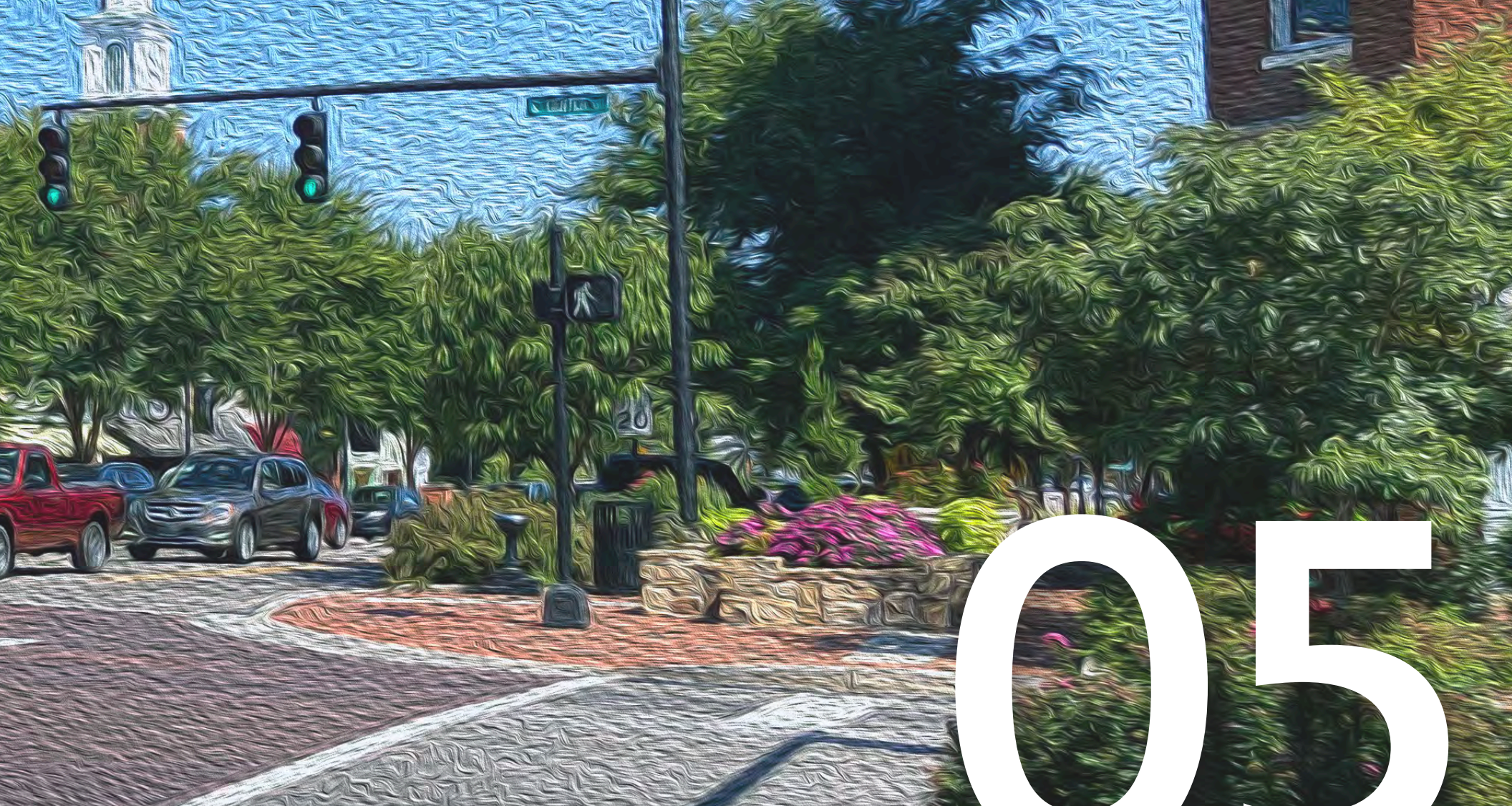
Proposed Greenways

- A Gregory Creek Greenway
- B Shelton Ave - Central St
- C Fourth Creek - Big Leaf

- LEGEND**
- County Boundary
 - Statesville ETJ
 - Statesville City Limits
 - Adjacent Municipal Limits
 - Low-Density Residential
 - Medium-Density Residential
 - High-Density Residential
 - Mixed-Use
 - Statesville Parks
 - Water Bodies
 - Greenways
 - Planned Greenways
 - Railroads
 - Streams
 - Street Centerlines

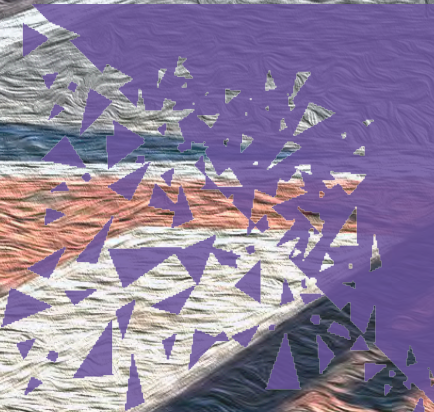






05

IMPLEMENTATION



2



Implementation

Introduction

To advance the parks and recreation vision established by the residents of Statesville, implementation strategies must be defined, and priorities established. As the closing chapter of this Master Plan, Recommendations and Implementation includes an opinion of probable cost of the vision established in Chapter 4; capital improvement recommendations; programming, policy and operations recommendations; evaluation of funding sources; phasing recommendations; and priority action items.

The implementation plan for the City of Statesville Route 2 Recreation Master Plan focuses on the implementation of the vision and guiding principles through two critical components: funding and phasing, and priority action items. Priority of individual action items are tied to public input gathered and documented throughout the Community Needs Assessment. Together, these three components will allow the Recreation and Parks Department to review and as needed, efficiently revise this strategic plan in the future to reflect changing conditions, demographics, or priorities.

The Vision (Chapter 4) of the Master Plan formed five subsystems each defined through a series of goals and objectives. Defining these goals allowed the project team to better understand how to address the needs and priorities that were identified throughout the planning process, as well as the individual park needs that resulted from the System Inventory and Analysis (Chapter 2). Utilizing the park evaluations completed for each park and facility in the system, recommendations intended to satisfy system-wide vision objectives were developed at an individual park level.

These recommendations formed a portion of the opinion of probable construction cost estimate that will be discussed in this section.

In addition to costs associated with the vision recommendations, the opinion of costs also incorporates projects that have been previously identified by the City and the Department, projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and projects identified during the facility evaluation process.

The Phasing and Financial Plan focuses on the Implementation of the Vision and objectives by identifying existing funding available for priority projects, as well as alternative funding the City may consider. These may include leveraging or 'stacking' potential grants; partnerships with public, private, or non-profit agencies; and bond sales for parks and recreation improvements. Analyzing available existing and potential funding sources lays the foundation for the phasing recommendations for funding the probable cost estimates.

For the phasing recommendations, three categories of time have been used:

- ◇ Short-term represents CIP recommendations to be completed in the next 2-3 years,
- ◇ Medium-term, which represents CIP recommendations to be completed in the 4- to 7-year time frame, and
- ◇ Long-term, to be completed in an 8- to 10-year time frame.

5.1 – Recommendations

The recommendations are intended to provide achievable steps for the realization of the vision established through community engagement and discussions with city staff. During discussions, priority projects and program needs were identified as well as considerations for recommended time frames for implementation.

Priority Park Projects		
Projects	Timeframe	Partners
Magnetic Locks	Short	City Departments
Aquatic Facility	Short	Community Stakeholders
Land Acquisition north of I-40	Short	Economic Development Community Stakeholders Developers
Land Acquisitions	Medium-Long	Economic Development Community Stakeholders Developers
Greenway Extensions	Long	Economic Development Community Stakeholders Developers
Program Needs		
Projects	Timeframe	Partners
Increase participation	On-going	Community Stakeholders Private Providers
Park branding / Landscaping	On-going	Community Stakeholders
Community-based / Park-based Programs	Short	Community Stakeholders Private Providers
Nature-based Education	Short	Community Stakeholders Private Providers, Iredell County
Engaging Young Adults & Families	On-going	Community Stakeholders Private Providers
Tournament Events	On-going	Community Stakeholders Private Providers

5.2 – Opinion of Probable Construction Costs

Based on cost estimates derived from the City of Statesville Recreation and Parks Facilities assessments, projects identified in the CIP, and recommendations associated with the Route 2 Recreation Master Plan Vision, the estimated probable capital improvement cost is approximately 39,520,056 in 2022 dollars for complete implementation of all aspects of the Vision. The Vision includes system improvements anticipated to occur to establish and maintain parks delivery within the next ten (10) years consistent with the growth in the City. The following provides a more detailed description of the probable costs.

The figures provided in this chapter are order-of-magnitude costs that are intended for planning purposes only. Acquisition costs for new facilities on land that is not currently owned by the City shall be evaluated on a project-specific basis once individual parcels have been identified.

The proposed vision may be modified over time in response to actual population growth, future resident desires, and available funding sources. Additionally, it is recommended that each proposed project should undergo a detailed feasibility and cost analysis prior to physical implementation. Final actual costs could vary significantly depending on many factors including but not limited to:

- ◇ Timeframe of implementation
- ◇ Individual project scale
- ◇ Changing land acquisition costs

- ◇ Property market values rise/decline
- ◇ Raw products and materials costs

5.3 – Capital Improvement Recommendations

The Vision Opinion of Costs is intended to inform the Recreation and Parks Department’s 10-year Capital Improvement Program by providing an order-of-magnitude estimate for capital projects throughout the park system that are based on community input.

The Phasing Plan will serve as the 10-year recommendations for the CIP, providing a list of projects and estimated costs per year. These recommendations are informed by the summary of improvement at each park, as well as proposed facilities, and the results of prioritization efforts during discussion with city staff. Included on the following page is a summary of the probable costs as they relate to park and facility type.



Harris Park

Route 2 Recreation: Statesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Vision - Order of Magnitude Estimate of Probable Capital Improvement Costs (2021)

Existing Parks, Facilities and Greenways

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Subtotal
1. FACILITIES				
A. Existing City Parks				
As Needed All Facilities				
Wayfinding Signage <i>Directional and park signs</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Magnetic Locking Systems <i>All existing restrooms (to be included with new restrooms)</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Subtotal:				\$100,000
As Needed All Facilities Total				\$100,000
Abernathy Ball Field				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities <i>Renovate restrooms</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
<i>Site Improvements (walkways, parking, landscape, signage)</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Subtotal:				\$115,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Abernathy Ball Field Total				\$115,000
Albert B McClure Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities <i>Add fill, regrade and resprig grass outfields</i>	Allowance	1	\$125,000	\$125,000
<i>Replace field fencing</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>Replace existing shelters</i>	Allowance	1	\$130,000	\$130,000
<i>Renovate restrooms</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Subtotal:				\$355,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Reconfigure all field layout to cloverleaf design</i>	Allowance	1	\$750,000	\$750,000
<i>New playground installation</i>	Allowance	1	\$75,000	\$75,000
Subtotal:				\$825,000
Albert B McClure Park Total				\$1,180,000



Alex Cooper Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace playground</i>	Allowance	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
<i>Install new picnic shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
Subtotal:				\$165,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Add new restroom facility</i>	Allowance	1	\$200,000	\$200,000
Subtotal:				\$200,000
Alex Cooper Park Total				\$365,000
Bristol Road Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Pave existing drive to shelter and pond</i>	Allowance	1	\$82,000	\$82,000
<i>Replace shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
<i>Install lighting in shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$25,000	\$25,000
Subtotal:				\$172,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Walking trails</i>	Allowance	1	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Add new shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
Subtotal:				\$215,000
Bristol Road Park Total				\$387,000
Brookdale Lake Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Brookdale Lake Park Total				\$0
Caldwell Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace all courts w/pickleball, tennis, basketball & walled soccer</i>	Allowance	1	\$400,000	\$400,000
<i>Renovate existing bathrooms / shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$185,000	\$185,000
Subtotal:				\$585,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Install irrigation system</i>	Allowance	1	\$35,000	\$35,000
<i>Install retaining walls</i>	Allowance	1	\$75,000	\$75,000
Subtotal:				\$110,000
Caldwell Park Total				\$695,000

Cochran Street Ballfields				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Renovate existing bathrooms</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
<i>Renovate existing ballfield</i>	Allowance	1	\$30,000	\$30,000
Subtotal:				\$95,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Cochran Street Ballfields Total				\$95,000
Garfield Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Garfield Park Total				\$0
Grace Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace existing storage building w/picnic shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$75,000	\$75,000
Subtotal:				\$75,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Grace Park Total				\$75,000



Harris Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace existing swings</i>	Allowance	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
<i>Replace playground</i>	Allowance	1	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Replace existing shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
<i>Renovate multi-purpose field</i>	Allowance	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
Subtotal:				\$335,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Install new picnic shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
<i>Develop walking trail</i>	Allowance	1	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Fencing along parking at multi-purpose field</i>	Allowance	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal:				\$225,000
Harris Park Total				\$560,000
Kimbrough Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace existing swings</i>	Allowance	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
<i>Replace and relocate playground</i>	Allowance	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
<i>Replace and relocate existing shelter</i>	Allowance	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
<i>Renovate existing pond</i>	Allowance	1	\$75,000	\$75,000
Subtotal:				\$260,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Kimbrough Park Total				\$260,000
Mac Anderson Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Repave existing entry drive, park roads and parking areas</i>	Allowance	1	\$160,000	\$160,000
<i>Improve drainage swales and stormwater piping</i>	Allowance	1	\$75,000	\$75,000
<i>Renovate and regrade existing trails</i>	Allowance	1	\$85,000	\$85,000
Subtotal:				\$320,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Install pickleball (4) and bocce courts (2)</i>	Allowance	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
Subtotal:				\$250,000
Mac Anderson Park Total				\$570,000

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace existing pond gabions (600 lf)</i>	Allowance	1	\$60,000	\$60,000
<i>Replace existing swings (2)</i>	Allowance	1	\$40,000	\$40,000
<i>Renovate existing trails</i>	Allowance	1	\$115,000	\$115,000
<i>Replace existing playgrounds (2)</i>	Each	2	\$200,000	\$400,000
Subtotal:				\$615,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Install retaining walls</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>Concrete walkways to shelters and restrooms</i>	Allowance	1	\$75,000	\$75,000
Subtotal:				\$75,000
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Total				\$690,000
Newtonville Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Replace existing playground</i>	Allowance	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
Subtotal:				\$100,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Asphalt parking area</i>	Allowance	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal:				\$10,000
Newtonville Park Total				\$110,000
Pecan Park				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
New Facilities & Amenities				
<i>Install rhythm park or similar</i>	Allowance	1	\$25,000	\$25,000
Subtotal:				\$25,000
Pecan Park Total				\$25,000

Implementation



Sculpture Garden					
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities					\$0
Subtotal:					\$0
New Facilities & Amenities					\$0
Subtotal:					\$0
Sculpture Garden Total					\$0
South Statesville Park & Playground					
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities					
<i>Total park renovation</i>	Allowance	1	\$500,000		\$500,000
Subtotal:					\$500,000
New Facilities & Amenities					\$0
Subtotal:					\$0
South Statesville Park & Playground Total					\$500,000
Statesville Park & Soccer Complex					
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities					
<i>Replace existing playgrounds (2)</i>	Each	2	\$100,000		\$200,000
Subtotal:					\$200,000
New Facilities & Amenities					
<i>Soccer field lighting (3)</i>	Lump Sum	1	\$350,000		\$350,000
<i>Volleyball courts (sand)</i>	Each	2	\$30,000		\$60,000
<i>New maintenance building</i>	Allowance	1	\$26,000		\$26,000
Subtotal:					\$436,000
Statesville Park & Soccer Complex Total					\$636,000

B. Existing Community Centers and Facilities				
Bentley Community Center				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities <i>Expansion and renovation</i>	Allowance	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
Subtotal:				\$500,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Bentley Community Center Total				\$500,000
Bristol Road Center				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities <i>Expansion and renovation</i>	Allowance	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
Subtotal:				\$500,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Bristol Road Total				\$500,000
Statesville Fitness & Activity Center				
Improvements to Existing Facilities & Amenities <i>Expansion and renovation</i>	Allowance	1	\$750,000	\$750,000
Subtotal:				\$750,000
New Facilities & Amenities				
Subtotal:				\$0
Statesville Fitness & Activity Center Total				\$750,000
Existing Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities Subtotal:				\$8,113,000

Implementation



C. Existing Trails and Greenways				
Fourth Creek Greenway				
<i>Streambank stabilization/restoration, ecosystem revitalization</i>	Allowance	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
Subtotal:				\$250,000
Gregory Creek Greenway				
<i>Streambank stabilization/restoration, ecosystem revitalization</i>	Allowance	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
Subtotal:				\$250,000
Existing Trails and Greenways Subtotal:				\$500,000
Planning, Design & Permitting				\$3,100,680
Contingency				\$1,722,600
Existing Facility Improvements				\$13,436,280

Route 2 Recreation: Statesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Vision - Order of Magnitude Estimate of Probable Capital Improvement Costs (2021)

Proposed Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways & Facilities

		Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Subtotal
1. Facilities					
A. City Identified Park and Facility Development Projects					
	Special Facilities				
	Outdoor Event Space				
	<i>Land Acquisition</i>	Allowance	1	\$200,000	\$200,000
	<i>Amphitheater (Covered stage, approx 300 person capacity)</i>	Allowance	1	\$850,000	\$850,000
	<i>Passive Open Space, Parking, Public Art, Signage</i>	Lump Sum	1	\$450,000	\$450,000
	Subtotal:				\$1,500,000
	Downtown Teen Center				
	<i>Multi-purpose facility, classroom and event spaces</i>	Allowance	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
	Subtotal:				\$250,000
	Aquatic Facility (Pool, lap lanes, office/support facilities)				
	<i>Approximately 12,000 SF</i>	SF	12,000	\$300	\$3,600,000
	Subtotal:				\$3,600,000
	Miniature Golf Course				
	<i>18-holes, minimal excavation, 25 ft avg hole length</i>				
	<i>Lighting, landscaping, sidewalks</i>	Lump Sum	1	\$350,000	\$350,000
	Subtotal:				\$350,000
	Splash Pad				
	<i>Recirculating system</i>	Lump Sum	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
	Subtotal:				\$250,000
	Skate Park / Pump Track				
	<i>Vert/Street Skate</i>	Lump Sum	1	\$400,000	\$400,000
	Subtotal:				\$400,000
	Special Facilities Improvement Total:				\$6,350,000
	<i>Planning, Design & Permitting</i>	Is	30%		\$2,286,000
	Subtotal:				\$2,286,000
	<i>Contingency</i>	Is	20%		\$1,270,000
	Subtotal:				\$1,270,000
Proposed Special Facilities Total:					\$9,906,000

Implementation



B. Proposed Parks to Improve LOS					
Multiple Locations (General Locations Identified - 3)					
	Proposed Parks				
	Land Acquisition				
	<i>Two (2) 5-acre average size park sites</i>	Acre	10	\$30,000	\$300,000
	<i>One (1) 15-acre park site</i>	Acre	15	\$30,000	\$450,000
	Subtotal:				\$750,000
	Neighborhood Park Level Additions/Improvements				
	<i>Sitework and preparation</i>	Acre	5	\$35,000	\$175,000
	<i>Sidewalk/Pathway Renovations and Additions (varies by condition and location)</i>	LF	1000	\$100	\$100,000
	<i>New Crosswalks (ADA accessible, high-visibility markings)</i>	Each	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
	<i>Play Equipment</i>	Each	1	\$150,000	\$150,000
	<i>Park Amenities</i>	Allowance	1	\$175,000	\$175,000
	<i>Enhanced Park Entry (one on each side of park)</i>	Allowance	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
	<i>Additional Signage (Park signage, regulatory & wayfinding)</i>	Allowance	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
	<i>Landscape Improvements (Green space improvements, native plantings, shade trees)</i>	Allowance	1	\$25,000	\$25,000
	<i>Stormwater Mitigation Improvements</i>	Allowance	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>Public Art Installation</i>	Allowance	1	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Subtotal:				\$735,000	
	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Subtotal	
	Neighborhood Park Improvement Total (no land costs):			\$1,470,000	
	Each	2			

Route 2 Recreation: Statesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Vision - Order of Magnitude Estimate of Probable Capital Improvement Costs (2021)

Proposed Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways & Facilities

		Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Subtotal
	Community Park Level Additions/Improvements				
	<i>Sitework and preparation</i>	Acre	15	\$35,000	\$525,000
	<i>Sidewalk/Pathway Renovations and Additions</i>	LF	3000	\$100	\$300,000
	<i>New Crosswalks (ADA accessible, high-visibility markings)</i>	Each	4	\$15,000	\$60,000
	<i>Play Equipment</i>	Each	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
	<i>Park Amenities</i>	Allowance	1	\$350,000	\$350,000
	<i>Enhanced Park Entry (multiple entries)</i>	Allowance	1	\$45,000	\$45,000
	<i>Additional Signage (Park signage, regulatory & wayfinding)</i>	Allowance	1	\$30,000	\$30,000
	<i>Landscape Improvements (Green space improvements, native plantings, shade trees)</i>	Allowance	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
	<i>Stormwater Mitigation Improvements</i>	Allowance	1	\$175,000	\$175,000
	<i>Public Art Installation</i>	Allowance	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Subtotal:				\$1,855,000
	Community Park Improvement Total (no land costs):	Each	1		\$1,855,000
	<i>Planning, Design & Permitting</i>	Is	30%		\$1,197,000
	Subtotal:				\$1,197,000
	<i>Contingency</i>	Is	20%		\$665,000
	Subtotal:				\$665,000
Proposed Parks Total (including land costs):					\$5,937,000

C. Trails and Greenways				
Approximate Length of Priority Trails and Greenways - 5 miles				
Shelton Ave Linear Park (Amity Hill Rd to Garner-Bagnal Blvd) <i>Concrete Multiuse Trail, building demolition, site prep, clearing, grading, specialty paving</i> <i>Utility relocations and removals</i> <i>Boardwalk with cable rail</i> <i>Park elements and landscaping</i> <i>Public Art Allowance</i>	Mile	0.75	\$2,600,000	\$1,950,000
	Allowance	1	\$900,000	\$900,000
	Allowance	1	\$550,000	\$550,000
	Allowance	1	\$900,000	\$900,000
	Allowance	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Subtotal:				\$4,320,000
Fourth Creek South Extension (Fourth Creek Trailhead to Bigleaf Slopes Park) <i>Asphalt Multiuse Trail (Base cost for asphalt trail, clearing and grading, swales)</i> <i>Neighborhood Trailheads and Entrances</i> <i>New Crosswalks (ADA accessible, high-visibility markings)</i> <i>Additional Signage (Trail signage, wayfinding)</i> <i>Addition of Trash cans/ Dog Stations (One per 1/2 mile)</i> <i>Benches (One per 1/2 mile)</i> <i>Public Art Allowance</i>	Mile	2.5	\$300,000	\$750,000
	Each	2	\$75,000	\$150,000
	Each	4	\$15,000	\$60,000
	Per Mile	2.5	\$15,000	\$37,500
	Each	5	\$800	\$4,000
	Each	5	\$5,000	\$25,000
	Allowance	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal:				\$1,036,500
Gregory Creek Greenway (Albert McClure Park to Walker Rd) <i>Asphalt Multiuse Trail (Base cost for asphalt trail, clearing and grading, Stream Crossing (Pre-fab Bridge)</i> <i>Neighborhood Trailheads and Entrances</i> <i>New Crosswalks (ADA accessible, high-visibility markings)</i> <i>Additional Signage (Trail signage, wayfinding)</i> <i>Addition of Trash cans/ Dog Stations (One per 1/2 mile)</i> <i>Benches (One per 1/2 mile)</i> <i>Public Art Allowance</i>	Mile	1.5	\$300,000	\$450,000
	Each	2	\$250,000	\$500,000
	Each	2	\$75,000	\$150,000
	Each	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Per Mile	2.5	\$15,000	\$37,500
	Each	7	\$800	\$5,600
	Each	7	\$5,000	\$35,000
	Allowance	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
Subtotal:				\$1,208,100
Proposed Trails and Greenways Subtotal:				\$6,564,600
<i>Planning, Design & Permitting</i>				\$2,363,256
Subtotal:				\$2,363,256
<i>Contingency</i>				\$1,312,920
Subtotal:				\$1,312,920
Proposed Trails & Greenways Total:				\$10,240,776
Proposed Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways & Facilities Total				\$26,083,776

5.4 – Programming & Operations Recommendations

Recreational Programs Recommendations

This section examines the future recommendations for recreation programs and services in the City of Statesville. The future direction of recreation programming is based on the assessment of existing services and public input that was gathered as part of the master planning process.

Vision and Goals

The future direction of recreation programs and services needs to respond to the vision goals and sub system objectives that have been developed for the master plan. Key programming goals included:

Overarching Vision Goals (Guiding Principles)

- ◇ Offer comprehensive services through programs, events, facilities, marketing, partnerships, and community engagement.
- ◇ Utilize effective and innovative practices to operate parks, facilities, and programs.
- ◇ Engage community members in planning and implementation for our park system and programs.
- ◇ Provide quality, diverse parks, facilities, programs, and open space for people of all ages and backgrounds.

- ◇ Collaborate with Economic Development and Downtown partners as well as community developers to provide programs, parks, and open spaces.
- ◇ Provide access to natural areas and environmental education opportunities into our parks and programs.
- ◇ Ensure all residents have equitable access to parks, facilities, and recreation services.
- ◇ Serve everyone with exceptional service that interacts with Statesville Recreation and Parks, regardless of background or ability.

Goals for Programs, Community Health and Special Events

- ◇ Continue to provide a high quality of life for residents by promoting a healthy lifestyle through parks and recreation services.
- ◇ Expand and provide a variety of programs beyond the community centers into the neighborhoods and other areas of the city for a growing population.
- ◇ Continue to provide and coordinate City-wide special events to bring the community together and connect residents to parks and public spaces.

Implementation

Future Recreation Programming Recommendations

The City of Statesville should consider the future direction for recreation programming and services as outlined below to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

- ◇ Recreation programs and services need to respond to the demographics of the community that indicate a growing population, a younger median age with rapid growth in the youth age group, a large number of families, and the general ability to pay for services.
- ◇ Build off the strong base of existing recreation programs offered by the City.
- ◇ Strive to serve all age groups more equitably. This means an increase in programs for:
 - ◇ **Preschool**
 - ◇ **Teens**
 - ◇ **Young Adults**
 - ◇ **Adults**
 - ◇ **Seniors**
 - ◇ **Families**
 - ◇ **Intergeneration / Multi-generational**

- ◇ Grow programs outside of the Community Centers to include parks and other areas.
- ◇ Develop mobile recreation opportunities including pop-up events.
- ◇ Increasing community-based events and identifying opportunities to support and encourage private organizations and partners to offer events.
- ◇ Provide activities and events that can generate an economic impact for the city. This could include sports tournaments and special events.



Caldwell Park

Specific Program Recommendations

Continue to grow programs in the following areas:

- ◇ **Youth sports** - including newer and non-traditional team sports, individual, and adventure sports
- ◇ **Special events** - especially culturally-based activities
- ◇ **Fitness/wellness** - with a strong emphasis on wellness
- ◇ **Seniors** - with a focus on the younger more active seniors
- ◇ **Cultural arts** - especially the performing arts
- ◇ **Youth camps/after school** – expand the variety of specialty camps and provide additional after school programs
- ◇ **Self-directed programs** – the ability for the community to recreate on their own will always be important and the demand will only continue to grow.

Develop new programs in the following areas:

- ◇ **Environmental education** - this is one of the top demands for new programming, especially nature-based programs
- ◇ **Adult sports** - including traditional team sports, individual sports, and adventure sports
- ◇ **Aquatics** - a variety of aquatic activities from learn to swim, youth swim team, and aqua exercise
- ◇ **Special needs** - establishing basic programming to serve this population
- ◇ **Teens** - focus on a broader range of teen programs



Brookdale Lake Park



Alex Cooper Park

Implementation

Statesville Programming Strategies

To ensure that recreation programming reaches its full potential, the following strategies should be undertaken.

- ◇ Determine the level of financial commitment that the City is willing to make to provide recreation programs and services. Growing programming will require additional staff and an increase in the operating budget.
- ◇ Continue re-organization of staff to realign staff focus.
- ◇ A recognition of the challenges in the delivery of recreation services in a cost-effective and efficient manner with the ever-expanding level of programming that is being asked for by the community.
- ◇ There will need to be a determination of the area of focus for the programming efforts based on demographics and program type. It will be impossible to meet all the programming needs without partnerships with other providers.



Garfield Park

- ◇ There will be a need to have parks and other facilities that support recreation programs and services. This includes the addition of the following facilities:
 - ◇ **Community Center** – expanding indoor-based recreation programming will require additional indoor space beyond the existing community centers. A new center should have a large gym with multiple courts, fitness amenities, community rooms and a location for performing arts. An additional center was identified as a priority by the community.
 - ◇ **Special Events Venues** – create outdoor spaces that are designed to host special events including concerts, festivals, and other community-wide events.
 - ◇ **Athletic Fields** – additional fields will provide a variety of sports and tournament play opportunities to serve a growing youth population and increase opportunities for adult sporting events to occur.
 - ◇ **Aquatic Center** – if the City is going to provide enhanced aquatic services, then expand partnerships to offer water play experiences until the City can build and maintain an additional aquatic facility.
- ◇ Identify partners who can assist in expanding recreation opportunities.
- ◇ Enhanced recreation programs and services need to be supported by established marketing efforts.



Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Establish a Programming Philosophy

The Parks and Recreation Department should develop an overall programming philosophy with the following objectives:

- ◇ Provide recreation program and service opportunities to all ages, incomes, abilities, gender, and ethnic groups in an equitable and inclusive manner
- ◇ Provide recreation program and service opportunities in areas of interest that are identified as a need in the community.
- ◇ Partner with other providers to bring a full spectrum of recreation programs and services to the community.
- ◇ Recreation programs and service offerings will be delivered on a community-wide basis and a neighborhood level where appropriate. Recreation programs and service offerings will respond to identified community needs in a cost-effective and efficient manner.



Grace Park

Implementation



Develop a Program Plan

Developing a program plan for the Department that includes the general direction of recreation programming for the next 5-plus years should be undertaken. This would include the following areas of programming focus:

Identify priorities for increasing programming to include:

- ◇ ***Environmental Education***
- ◇ ***Fitness/Wellness***
- ◇ ***Youth Sports***
- ◇ ***Youth Programs***
- ◇ ***Seniors***
- ◇ ***Special Events***
- ◇ ***Cultural Arts***

Establish an implementation plan:

- ◇ Start with an incremental development of new programs for the first couple of years with a limited number of programs being directly offered by City.
- ◇ Start with growing programs that can be offered in existing facilities or parks and do not require extensive capital investment.
- ◇ Enhance key performance measures to gauge program success.



- ◇ Programming should include virtual options in addition to traditional in-person offerings.
- ◇ Determine the role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. Establish key partnerships with other providers to expand program offerings.
- ◇ Clearly identify areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.
- ◇ Establish clear staffing and operational budget requirements to support the program plan.

A key aspect of developing a program plan is determining the long-term role of the City in the delivery of recreation programs and services based on three (3) classifications. The placement of programs into these classifications does not indicate the overall importance of these activities in the community but the role of the Department in providing these programs.

- ◇ Core Programs are the program categories that are a primary responsibility of the Recreation and Parks Department to provide as city-based activities.

- ◇ Secondary Programs are the program categories that are a lower priority to be provided directly by the Department but may be offered by other individuals or partner organizations through direct contract with the City
- ◇ Support Programs are the program categories that are not a priority for the Department but where the city may provide support through facilities and promotion of activities for other organizations.

Possible FUTURE Recreation Programs Classifications (next 5-10 years)

Core Programs	Youth Sports, Special Events, Senior Programs, Cultural Arts
Secondary Programs	Adult Sports, Teen Programs
Support Programs	General Interests



Implementation

Role of Other Providers

A key aspect of developing a program plan is determining the long-term role of the city in the delivery of recreation programs and services based on three classifications. The placement of programs into these three classifications does not indicate the overall importance of these activities in the community but the role of the Department in providing these programs.

- ◇ The Parks and Recreation Department will need to be a “clearinghouse” for recreation programs and services provided by others. This should involve promotion of their activities, coordinating of some programs, and permitting of facilities that are consistent with department mission, visions, and goals. However, this process needs to be proactively managed to be successful.
- ◇ The Department will always need to be a provider of many of the facilities (especially community centers, parks, and athletic fields) for other organizations to use.
- ◇ Partnerships with other organizations and entities will be necessary to develop and expand recreation programs. All partnerships should be backed up by a memorandum of understanding or contract to formalize the relationship. This should clearly identify specific roles and expectations as well as limits to facility scheduling, fees, and operations. Partnerships with organizations should reflect the needs and culture of the specific markets they will be providing the services for.

For partnerships to be effective and successful, the following must occur:

- ◇ Must actively pursue and sell the benefits of the partnership
- ◇ Weigh the benefits versus the cost of the partnership
- ◇ Do not compromise on the original vision and mission of the Recreation and Parks Department
- ◇ Establish a shared partnership vision
- ◇ Expect compromises to meet diverse needs and expectations
- ◇ Clearly define development and operations requirements



Cochran Street Ballfield

Before determining which programs and services to contract or have provided by others, an assessment of the specific pros and cons of such a move needs to be completed. A major aspect of this analysis should be to determine the financial impacts and quality of the services that will be provided. Key questions to be asked include:

- ◇ How does this fit with the program plan that has been developed?
- ◇ Will this be the most cost-effective method to obtain the program, service, or function?
- ◇ Does the Department have the resources and equipment to provide the program, service, or function?
- ◇ Will the quality of the program, service, or function suffer if it is contracted to other organizations?
- ◇ Are there other more qualified organizations that should provide the program, service, or function?
- ◇ Is the service, program, or function only available from a contract provider?
- ◇ Are the safety and liability risks too high to provide the program or service in-house?

Other Supportive Issues

To implement the program plan, the following will need to be considered:

- ◇ Programming efforts must be viewed through a diversity, equity and inclusion lens that ensures recreation program and service access to all ages, incomes, abilities, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnic groups in an equitable and inclusive manner.
- ◇ Track program trends on a regional and national basis to ensure that program offerings are current and reflect the opportunities that are available.
- ◇ Continue the tracking of performance measures by analyzing and summarizing all the following on an annual basis.
 - Rates of fill for programs.
 - Participation numbers by major program area and comparisons to past years/seasons.
 - Rate of program cancellations.
 - Financial performance including costs per participant.
 - Evaluations from participants.

Implementation

- ◇ Develop a comprehensive marketing plan, on a yearly basis, for recreation programs and services that includes:
 - Outlines areas of focus
 - Demographic markets and ethnic groups to serve
 - Specific marketing tools and tasks
 - Identify responsible staff member of implementation
 - Financial resources that are required
 - A thorough evaluation process.
- ◇ Check in with the community on a regular basis to determine satisfaction with the current programs and services and provide directions for the future.
- ◇ Develop a comprehensive fee policy that outlines how fees are established for facility use, programs and services, as well as facility rentals. Tier programs/ services by cost recovery categories and benchmark fees with other agencies. This should include the establishment of a fee assistance program for those that do not have the financial means to take programs or use facilities.
- ◇ Establish a formal sponsorship program for programs and special events that will provide a basic level of support and funding for key activities.
- ◇ Critical to growing recreation programs and services is the assurance that a participant's safety and security is being addressed on an ongoing basis. This requires not only equipment, such as possibly security cameras, but also specific policies to be in place as well as a comprehensive emergency action plan.



Abernathy Park

5.5 – Phasing & Financial Plan

Historic Funding

Over the last five (5) years, the Recreation and Parks Department budget has seen General Fund appropriations steadily rise with an average fund appropriation of \$4,277,726 per year. The 2020-2021 appropriations saw their highest increase yet, with the operating budget rising to - \$5,069,960.

Several grants have been identified for projects proposed in the Vision, with a potential total (not including any leveraging) of approximately \$22-\$33MM, with many providing options to apply annually.

Individual grants may apply to multiple projects, therefore, the projected funding totals for each project may include the use of overlapping grants for a different project. The tables on the following pages include summarized descriptions of project-based potential funding sources.

The integration of stormwater, emergency management, public health, and educational functions into projects such as a recreation center or recreation trail can significantly increase the funding opportunities available to the city. Examples of design features that would facilitate additional funding opportunities would include: the construction of parking areas to act as drainage and/or treatment basins for severe weather events; stormwater retention ponds that alleviate localized flooding as part of park or trail project; and the hardening of an indoor facility such as a recreation center to act as a shelter and/or public outreach center before and after a disaster.



Alex Cooper Park

Implementation



Grant Stacking

Utilizing multiple funding sources has become the most effective way of maximizing the amount of funding a community can obtain. “Grant stacking” allows a project to draw funding from several sources. The idea of grant stacking refers to grouping grants of varying levels (federal, state, and local) to support one project. Careful selection of grants can result in one grant providing the matching funds requirement for another grant and the reciprocal as well. This process can address acquisition and development in phases to best meet a project’s intent and time schedule. The example on the following page provides an example of how this process can be successfully completed.

General Notes

- ◇ Funding is based on the City’s eligibility to apply for the listed grant opportunities. Prior awards or current projects may affect the ability of the city to obtain listed grants.
- ◇ Grant amounts are based on maximum award possible. The cost of elements will determine the maximum amount to be obtained.
- ◇ Other funding opportunities may be available; however, those listed are stable grant programs that normally occur every year. This list does not include line-item appropriations from any local, state, or federal government.

Potential Funding

The funding discussion highlights the 10-year schedule of projected funding that may be utilized to advance capital projects. As discussed, the overall shared community vision created during the master plan process is estimated at approximately \$39,520,056 in 2022 dollars. The City of Statesville has several funding sources available that can be utilized for implementation, many of which can be phased or even enhanced for additional funding opportunities to help address economic fluctuations and changing City priorities over time. Through the analysis of existing sources, projections of future funding options and recommendations are as follows:

- ◇ Grants – Through the identification of over \$2-3MM in grant opportunities annually, the department has the potential to increase funds available for capital improvements over the next ten years.
- ◇ Borrowing – As a funding source, general obligation bonds have historically received support from municipalities in the surrounding region. While Statesville has made it a practice to fund most capital outlay from current operating budgets rather than through long-term financing, debt financing may prove to be the most cost-effective means of future funding for infrastructure improvements. A potential option to consider is utilizing projected funding through CIP, grants, and taxes to fund most improvements to existing parks, while utilizing a bond to fund the proposed improvements that fall within the medium and long-term time frames.

A parks and recreation bond of \$20-25MM would provide substantial funding to complete the proposed improvements like greenways, new parks, community center renovations and expansions, and an aquatic facility while also providing incentive for potential partners such as Iredell County or private developers to contribute additional funds. It is recommended that the City explore the feasibility of a bond through additional public engagement and financial analysis.

Though there are additional funding sources available to the city, the funding options listed above are traditionally the most utilized and supported. As a result, the city has the potential to secure funding to implement a sizable portion of the Vision. With further evaluation of the feasibility of a parks and recreation bond, the city could realistically achieve \$30MM or more in funding over the next 10 years.



Statesville Park and Soccer Complex



Statesville Park and Soccer Complex

Implementation

Phasing Recommendations

The Phasing Plan for capital improvement projects is comprised of three different phases based on community needs and priorities. The phases, summarized in the adjoining tables, provide a framework for the implementation of \$39,520,056 in capital improvement projects.

In addition to the three capital project phases, ongoing efforts should be conducted concurrently across the ten-year period. These projects help advance longer-term projects including multi-modal connectivity projects, such as bike lanes and greenways, and new park development. Considering Phases 1-3 in the ten-year timeframe, as well as the ongoing projects, the phasing achieves a total of approximately \$39MM from the overall Vision. This 10-year phased approach aligns with the projected funding discussed in the previous section, leaving less than one million dollars in improvements to be implemented beyond the 10-year time period, or as additional funding opportunities become available.

To determine recommendations for phasing of projects, the project team assigned a category to each project in the cost estimate. These categories are:

- ◇ Existing Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities
- ◇ Proposed Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities
- ◇ Priority Greenways and Connections
- ◇ Ongoing Projects



Grace Park



Abernathy Park

Phase 1: Short-term Capital Projects (1-3 Years)

\$9,137,700 including design permitting and contingency

Phase 1 focuses on immediate needs and the highest priorities of the community and reinvestment and additions to existing parks. These immediate actions will help increase the capacity of the park system by adding more facilities, amenities, and open space at existing parks.

Capital Improvement Projects: Years 1-3 Total

Fourth Creek South Greenway Extension & Stream Restoration	\$1,286,500
Albert B McClure Park	\$1,180,000
Alex Cooper Park	\$365,000
Bristol Road Park	\$387,000
Caldwell Park	\$695,000
Cochran Street Ballfields	\$95,000
Harris Park	\$560,000
M. L. King, Jr. Park	\$690,000
Statesville Park & Soccer Complex	\$636,000
Bentley Community Center	\$500,000
Downtown Teen Center	\$250,000
Wayfinding and Signage	\$50,000
Magnetic Locking Systems	\$50,000

Costs do not include planning, design, permitting or contingency



Phase 2: Medium-term Capital Projects (4-7 Years)

\$23,819,500 including design permitting and contingency

Phase 2 further advances improvements to existing parks and continues addressing aged amenity / equipment replacement. This phase also includes the continuation of projects that add more parks, open spaces, and special-use facilities, while also positioning the department for further land acquisition and new park development.

Capital Improvement Projects: Years 4-7 Total	
Land Acquisition – 15 acres	\$750,000
New Neighborhood Parks (2)	\$1,470,000
New Community Park	\$1,855,000
Aquatic Facility	\$3,600,00
Shelton Avenue Linear Park	\$4,320,000
Gregory Creek Greenway Extension and Stream Restoration	\$1,458,100
Grace Park	\$75,000
Kimbrough Park	\$260,000
South Statesville Park & Playground	\$500,000
Bristol Road Community Center	\$500,000
Statesville Fitness & Activity Center	\$750,000

Costs do not include planning, design, permitting or contingency

Phase 3: Long-term Capital Projects (8-10 Years)

\$4,999,800 including design permitting and contingency

Phase 3 is focused on continuing to improve and replace aging facilities in existing parks, as well as develop a large community park that increase the level of service of the park system and provide high quality recreation opportunities for the City of Statesville residents.

Capital Improvement Projects: Years 8-10 Total	
Mac Anderson Park	\$570,000
Newtonville Park	\$110,000
Pecan Park	\$25,000
Outdoor Event Space	\$1,500,000
Miniature Golf Course	\$350,000
Splash Pad	\$250,000
Skate Park / Pump Track	\$400,000

Costs do not include planning, design, permitting or contingency

Implementation



Land and Water Conservation Fund	
Level of Funding	State
Management Agency	NC Division of Parks and Recreation
Website	https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/lwcf-grants
Description	The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquire land for a public park• Renovate/replace outdoor recreational or support facilities at existing park sites
Grant Amount	\$500,000
Match	At least 50% of the total cost of the project
Application Deadline	Early October



Grace Park



Garfield Park

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

Level of Funding	State
Management Agency	NC Division of Parks and Recreation
Website	https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund
Description	The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PRTF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire land for a public park • Renovate/replace outdoor recreational or support facilities at existing park sites
Grant Amount	\$500,000
Match	At least 50% of the total cost of the project
Application Deadline	Early May



Grace Park



NC Land and Water Fund	
Level of Funding	State
Management Agency	NC Land and Water Fund
Website	https://www.nclwf.nc.gov
Description	The Land and Water Fund improves water quality, sustains ecological diversity, and protects historic sites and military installations by funding projects to acquire land, restore the habitat for fish, wildlife, and other species, and enhance the filtering of stormwater runoff to reduce pollutants from entering water supplies.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition • Restoration projects to enhance or restore degraded waters and to protect downstream natural resources such as drinking water supplies, fisheries, and recreation opportunities, • Stream restoration • Innovative stormwater • Planning efforts that develop potential projects with one or more of the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance or restore degraded waters • Protect unpolluted waters • Contribute towards a network of riparian buffers • Provide buffers around military bases • Acquire land that represents ecological diversity • Acquire land for a balanced program of historic properties • Facilitate innovative efforts in improve stormwater treatment
Grant Amount	No set funding range
Match	No match requirement. However, the percentage of match and the type of match are factored in the application rating system
Application Deadline	Early February

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Level of Funding	Federal
Management Agency	NCDEQ – Division of Water Infrastructure
Website	https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure
Description	The Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides funds for wastewater treatment facilities and projects associated with estuary and nonpoint source programs
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater treatment • Wastewater collection • Reclaimed water • Stormwater BMPs • Stream restoration • Energy efficiency at treatment works or collection systems
Grant Amount	\$30,000,000, 0% loan, 20-year term
Match	n/a
Application Deadline	Spring and Fall application funding cycles

Implementation



Water Source Development Fund	
Level of Funding	State
Management Agency	NCDEQ – Division of Water Infrastructure
Website	https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources
Description	The purpose of this program is to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments for seven eligible project types
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General navigation • Recreational navigation • Water management • Stream restoration • Water-based recreation • Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) • Feasibility/Engineering studies
Grant Amount	\$200,000, however larger awards may be granted
Match	50%
Application Deadline	Spring

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	US Department of Transportation (USDOT)
Website	https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/about
Description	These grants fund regional and multi-modal transportation projects of regional and local significance. In 2021, the program funded bike and pedestrian projects at the highest level ever and “includes new or improved walking, biking, and rolling access for the disabled, especially access that reverses the disproportional impacts of crashes on people of color.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trails and greenways• Bike lanes• Installation
Grant Amount	No set amounts
Match	No match required
Application Deadline	Mid-April



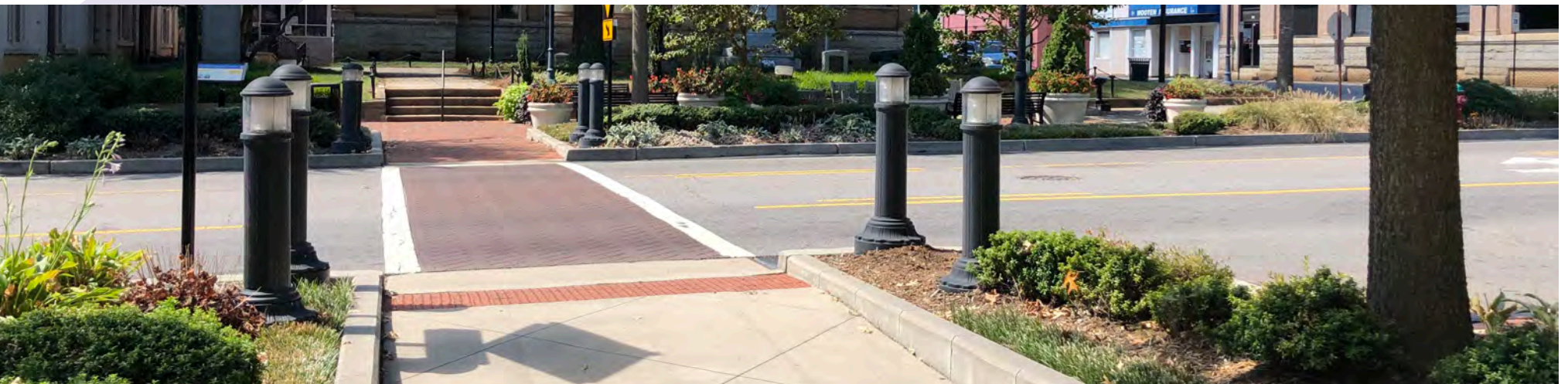
Implementation



Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	
Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	US Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Website	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program
Description	The purpose is to protect forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and provide community benefits such as environmental benefits including clean air, water and wildlife habitat; benefits from forest-based educational programs; benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and recreational benefits secured with public access.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community outreach • Land purchases • Installation
Grant Amount	\$20,000-\$50,000
Match	At least 50% of the total cost of the project.
Application Deadline	January

Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative

Level of Funding	State
Management Agency	North Carolina Department of Transportation
Website	https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Planning-Grant-Initiative.aspx
Description	Encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Bicycle Plans • Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan • Comprehensive Plan Updates
Grant Amount	No set amount
Match	Sliding scale based on population (high populations must have higher match)
Application Deadline	June



Downtown Statesville

Implementation



Recreational Trails Grant Program	
Level of Funding	State
Management Agency	North Carolina Trails Committee
Website	https://trails.nc.gov/trail-grants/apply-grant
Description	Grants help fund sustainable, construction ready projects that meet recreational trail needs to provide low infrastructure economic development opportunities through natural resource tourism.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trail construction and renovation• Land acquisition• Planning, legal and permitting
Grant Amount	\$10,000-\$100,000
Match	At least 25% of the total cost of the project.
Application Deadline	September

Community Challenge

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
Website	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2021/2021-challenge/?cmp=EMC-DSM-NLC-LC-HOMFAM-20210217_LivableCommunities_1094001_1430301-021721-F1-
Description	This program provides funding for projects that create change and opportunity for walking and movement at the community level.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of public spaces and parks • Increase community engagement • Programs or services
Grant Amount	No set amounts.
Match	At least 25% of the total cost of the project.
Application Deadline	April

Implementation



Carolina Thread Trail Grant	
Level of Funding	Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union (North Carolina) and Chester, Cherokee, Lancaster, York (South Carolina)
Management Agency	Caroline Thread Trail
Website	https://www.carolinathreadtrail.org/resources/grant-program-funding-sources/
Description	Communities and partner organizations may receive financial and technical support from the project to create and implement their own community-based trails.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail construction • Planning, design & permitting • Land acquisition
Grant Amount	\$5,000-\$50,000 depending on type of project.
Match	No match required.
Application Deadline	Fall

Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund Grant

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Website	https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/grants/doppelt
Description	Support organizations and local governments that are implementing projects to build and improve multi-use trails.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails and greenways • Bike lanes • Installation
Grant Amount	\$5,000-\$85,000
Match	No match required.
Application Deadline	Unknown



Cochran Street Ballfield

Implementation



T-Mobile Hometown Grants	
Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	T-Mobile
Website	https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants
Description	This program provides funding for projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections. Communities must have less than 50,000 in population to be eligible.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park construction• Site furnishings & beautification efforts• Public art installation• Accessibility improvements• Rebuilding/renovating urban spaces
Grant Amount	Up to \$50,000
Match	No match required.
Application Deadline	Quarterly

Safe Routes to School (Safe Routes to Parks Partnership)

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	Safe Routes Partnership
Website	https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/healthy-communities/saferoutestoparks
Description	This program provides funding for park access, especially in low-income areas and in communities of color; grants given to nonprofits.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sidewalk route planning construction• Park access• Accessibility improvements
Grant Amount	\$12,500 plus technical assistance
Match	No match required
Application Deadline	December



Harris Park

Implementation



Bloomberg Asphalt Art	
Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	Bloomberg
Website	https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/grants/
Description	Fund visual art interventions on roadways, pedestrian spaces, and public infrastructure in U.S. cities with the goal of improving street and pedestrian safety, revitalizing and activating underutilized public space, and promoting collaboration and civic engagement in local communities.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving street and pedestrian safety• Revitalizing and activating underutilized spaces• Promoting collaboration and civic engagement
Grant Amount	Up to \$25,000 plus technical assistance
Match	No match required
Application Deadline	April

Pool Safety Grant Program

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	Consumer Product Safety Commission
Website	https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/grants/
Description	These grants provide funds to assist jurisdictions in reducing deaths and injuries from drowning and drain entrapment incidents in pools and spas.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool plumbing system reconstruction
Grant Amount	\$50,000-\$400,000
Match	No match required
Application Deadline	July

Build it with KaBOOM!

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	KaBOOM!
Website	https://www.kaboom.org/grants/build-it-with-kaboom
Description	KaBOOM! Works with communities to design and build playgrounds and play spaces
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground equipment including shipping • Safety surfacing • Installation
Grant Amount	No set amounts. Grant will provide equipment, safety surfacing, and installation
Match	\$8,500
Application Deadline	Accepted on rolling basis throughout the year

Implementation



Build it Yourself – Community-Built Playgrounds

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	KaBOOM!
Website	https://www.kaboom.org/grants/build-it-with-kaboom
Description	KaBOOM! Works with communities to design and build playgrounds and play spaces
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playground equipment including shipping
Grant Amount	\$15,000
Match	\$9,000-\$15,000 for a maximum project cost of \$50,000
Application Deadline	Accepted on rolling basis throughout the year



Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Bark for your Park

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	KaBOOM!
Website	https://www.barkforyourpark.petsafe.com
Description	The PetSafe Bark for your Park program provides funding to create new dog parks to maintain/improve existing dog parks
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a new dog park • Dog Park improvements and maintenance
Grant Amount	\$25,000 for a new park; \$5,000 for improvements and maintenance of existing park
Match	None
Application Deadline	June



Mac Anderson Park

Implementation



Baseball of Tomorrow Fund Youth Development Foundation	
Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation
Website	https://www.mlbplayers.com/ydf
Description	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. It was created to increase participation in and expand access to youth baseball and softball. The Foundation makes grants to organizations in the United States and internationally.
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects include building and renovating fields and practice facilities and installing lighting. Field and lighting capital projects that have most of the funding secured will be prioritized • Baseball/Softball programs include in-school/after-school baseball/softball programming, equipment and uniforms, umpire fees, player registration fees and practice facility rental fees • Education initiatives include programs, exhibits and other learning opportunities that use baseball and softball as its primary focus to promote interest and engagement in the game
Grant Amount	No set funding range
Match	No match required; however, field and lighting capital projects that have most of the funding secured will be prioritized
Application Deadline	Accepted on rolling basis throughout the year

Community Improvement Grants

Level of Funding	National
Management Agency	Keep America Beautiful
Website	https://www.kab.org/grants
Description	Grant recipients are selected based on their potential to collect cans and bottles as well as creating new or expanded access to recycling opportunities in a community. Keep America Beautiful selects recipients based on the merits of their proposal, then works with its vendors to arrange delivery of the bins at no cost to the grant recipients
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recycling access to greater numbers of people • Provide access in environmentally sensitive areas • Potential to increase overall recycling participation in a community
Grant Amount	Recipients are granted recycling bins as requested
Match	None
Application Deadline	March

Implementation



Triangle Community Foundation – GSK Impact Awards	
Level of Funding	Local
Management Agency	Triangle Community Foundation
Website	https://www.trianglecf.org/nonprofits/grants
Description	Triangle Community Foundation is made up of over 800 philanthropic funds which are used in a variety of ways to provide support for nonprofit organizations. Grants from the Foundation are made in two ways: from the discretionary grant programs and through donor-advised grants.
Project Examples	Programs that support healthy eating, exercise, sports, outdoor activities to help the community achieve or maintain healthy weight.
Grant Amount	\$50,000
Match	None
Application Deadline	March

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Level of Funding	Federal
Management Agency	USDA
Website	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan
Description	Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings
Project Examples	<p>Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities • Public facilities such as city and town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements • Community support services such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing • Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment • Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools • Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
Grant Amount	No set funding range
Match	None
Application Deadline	Accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year

Implementation



People for Bikes	
Level of Funding	Local
Management Agency	Triangle Community Foundation
Website	https://www.peopleforbikes.org/grants-guidelines
Description	Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride
Project Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges • Mountain bike facilities • Bike parks and pump tracks • BMX facilities • End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations and bike storage
Grant Amount	\$10,000
Match	No specific match is required but will not consider grant request in which funding would amount to 50% or more of the total project cost
Application Deadline	2 cycles per year: April and October

Route
2 recreation

