

Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Draft

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Prepared by:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to create a comprehensive vision for the future development of parks and recreational facilities in Greenwood County and its municipalities. The Existing Conditions Element of the Master Plan includes the current and future demographics of the county, which will serve as the basis for needs projections. The Existing Conditions Element also includes an inventory of the County's current parks and recreational facilities.

The Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to update and consolidate several previous planning studies carried out by government agencies and private entities. In 1991 the Greenwood County Council initiated a county-wide comprehensive parks and recreation planning process, which was completed in 1992. The Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Department conducted another study of improvement needs for parks and playgrounds in 1999. While the County Parks and Recreation Department has been primarily focused on sports and active recreation programs, the Greenwood County Parks Commission has emerged as a leading advocate for the development of passive parks and trails. The Commission sponsored the 1999 Parks and Trails Development Plan for Greenwood City/County in order to identify opportunities for passive parks and trails.

Updated County population projections have been included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, since the projections included within the Comprehensive Plan were based on the 2000 Census. More recent data sets have been included within county and municipal projections, such as the Census Bureau's annual population estimates through 2007. Greenwood County is projected to add approximately 10,000 residents within the next twenty years, for a total growth of 14% between 2010 and 2030. Within the past several decades, unincorporated Greenwood County has grown at a faster rate than its municipalities. The share of total County population living within unincorporated areas is anticipated to increase from 59.8% in 2000 to 65.1% in 2030.

Because the age structure of a community is the primary determinant of recreational needs, an age-cohort population model by Woods and Poole was utilized. By factoring in migration, birth, and death rates for each age group, the cohort component projection model offers a more accurate picture of the County's future age demographics. The age cohorts under 20 are projected to grow in proportion to the County's overall growth over the horizon of the planning study. The cohort with the largest projected growth is the over 65 age group.

Current and future demand for sports and recreation activities has been calculated based on national and regional surveys of sports participation rates. Team sports represent key activities among the youth population of Greenwood, while outdoor and passive recreation are popular among adults.

Because of the multiplicity of recreation providers within Greenwood County, it is important to include an inventory of both public and private facilities. The Existing Conditions Element also includes a detailed profile of the public parks and trails located within Greenwood County.

A public outreach program was conducted in order to establish a vision and guiding principles for the Greenwood Parks and Recreation Master Plan. First, a series of interviews were conducted with a variety of stakeholders, including local government representatives, state and federal parks administrators, nonprofit groups, educational institutions, and private recreation providers. Next, a public workshop was conducted in order to present the findings of the initial existing conditions assessment and solicit input on parks and recreation needs. Finally, a recreational needs survey was conducted in both print and online formats.

The results of the public outreach efforts indicate that Greenwood County maintains a variety of recreational interests. While the Parks and Recreation Department serves a consolidated role for both the County and its municipalities, there are also a number of other important recreation providers. Increased coordination and partnerships among these entities should be sought in order to maximize efficiency and avoid duplication of services. Participants in the workshop and survey also indicate a variety of recreational interests. Support was voiced for expanding the Parks and Recreation Department's role to include different types of recreational facilities, such as passive parks and trails. Likewise, a significant number of survey responses indicated support for a greater variety of recreational programs. Activities such as outdoor recreation, social events, biking, and walking for exercise scored particularly well on the survey.

A series of goal statements and supportive strategies were included in the Parks Master Plan in order to articulate the vision established in the public outreach phase. First, the Parks and Recreation Department should establish a target Level of Service and seek to maintain this level of quality for future generations. Recreational opportunities should be provided equitably to all residents of the County, regardless of income or race. A range of park facilities and recreational programs should be provided in order to meet the needs of all age groups within the County. New parks should include both active and passive amenities and be designed with safety and security in mind. The preservation of sensitive environmental habitats and unique landscapes should also be a factor in park design and greenspace acquisition. Parks and greenspace areas should enhance the quality of life and sense of place within Greenwood's communities. Finally, parks and active recreational programs should be coordinated with economic development efforts in order to encourage tourism and quality development.

Next, a level of service analysis was conducted based on national standards for parks and recreational facilities. The existing conditions inventory of both county facilities and those available through schools, private organizations, and other providers was used as the basis for calculating the current level of service. This approach helps to eliminate duplication of services by factoring in all of the facilities located in the County. However, some of the private facilities in Greenwood County, such as the pool and tennis courts at the Country Club are not always available to the general public. Overall, Greenwood County maintains an extensive program of youth athletics and active recreation as compared to national standards. Broadly speaking, this analysis underscores the lack of passive recreational space available within Greenwood County.

Following the Level of Service Analysis, the Master Plan includes a review of typical park classifications and their function within comprehensive recreation systems. Because of Greenwood's consolidated City/County parks system, it is important to provide facilities that meet the needs of both the unincorporated and municipal areas

of the County. As the smallest component of the parks system, mini parks and public plazas are typically an acre in size and feature predominantly passive amenities. These greenspace areas can help build community pride, enhance sense of place, and improve aesthetics within urban neighborhoods and business districts. At the next size level, neighborhood parks are typically less than fifteen acres and feature passive and limited active recreational amenities. Neighborhood parks should form the primary component of the park system within urban areas, since they are designed to serve relatively dense neighborhoods. Because of their accessible design and residential location, neighborhood parks are also important for low-income areas where residents may lack access to transportation.

Community parks and sports complexes should form the backbone of the recreation system within the unincorporated portions of the County. These larger facilities are designed to accommodate a greater number of facilities and serve a wider area. Community parks with a mixture of passive and active recreation are recommended over sports complexes, since the County currently lacks passive parks. Furthermore, community parks are recommended over sports complexes because of their greater compatibility with surrounding residential development.

Greenways and trails serve as linear parks that provide linkages between neighborhoods and community facilities. Greenwood County has substantial potential for trail development with its network of disused railway corridors.

Key system improvement recommendations include the following:

- Develop a long-term expansion strategy for parks, trails, and recreational programs that addresses future demographic trends.
- Expand the scope of the County's parks and recreational system to include functions of both active and passive recreation.
- Focus initial expansion plans on the improvement of existing facilities and the acquisition of underutilized properties.
- Leverage the creation of new greenspace in order to encourage redevelopment and attract quality new development.
- Develop an identity for the County's parks system through consistent signage, streetscaping, and design standards.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for bicycle and pedestrian systems in order to provide linkages between parks, community facilities, and neighborhoods.
- Pursue strategic partnerships with other County departments, cities, utility companies, and recreation providers in order to expand the number of programs available in Greenwood County and reduce liability risks.
- Formalize intergovernmental agreements for park maintenance.
- Expand recreational programming to include a more diverse set of activities.
- Focus new recreational programming on areas of key demographic needs, such as seniors, teens, and girls.
- Develop short-term strategies to cope with the current economic downturn in order to ensure that the quality of Greenwood's system of parks and recreation does not decline.

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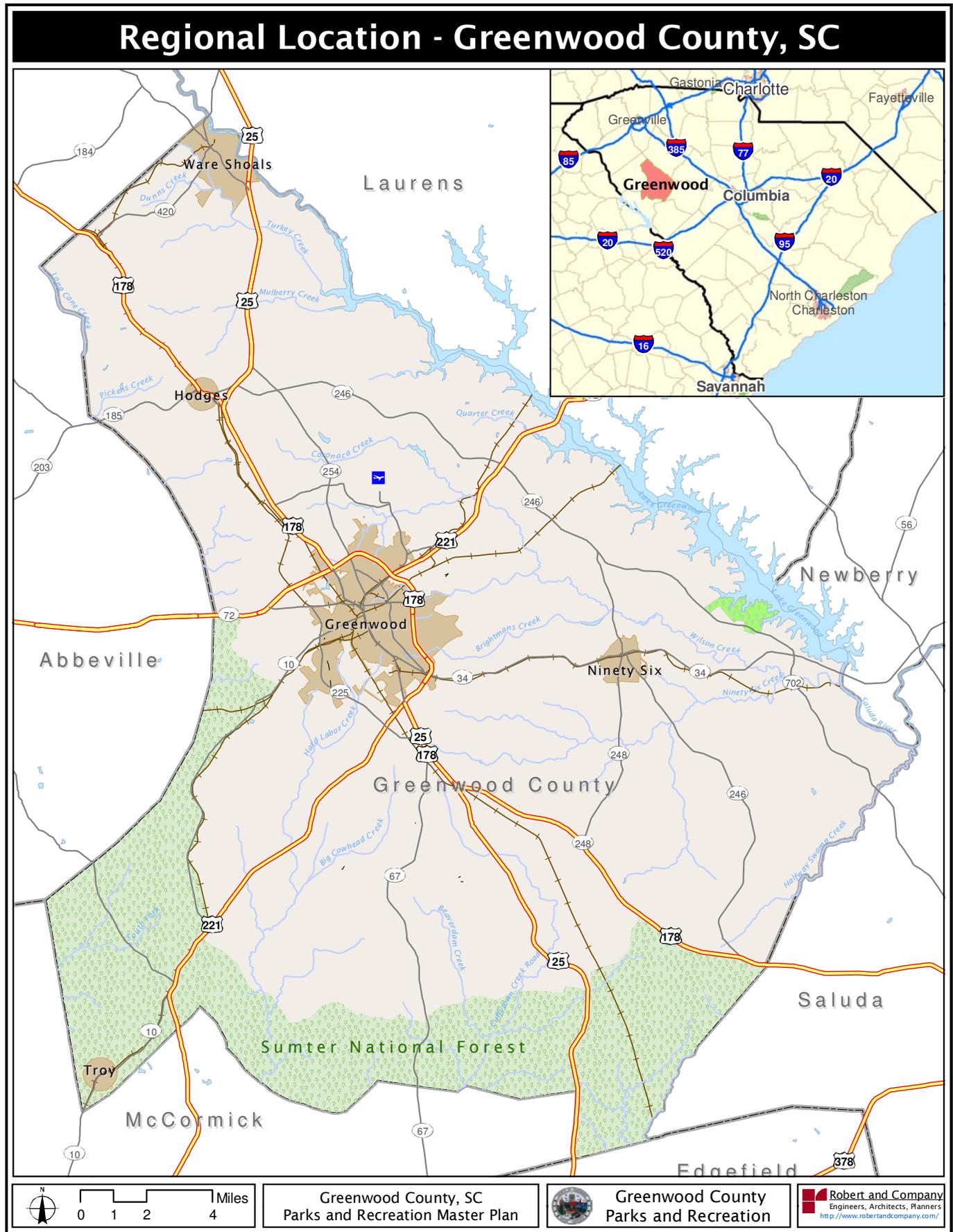
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Regional Location

Greenwood County is located in western South Carolina in the Piedmont physiographic region of the state. (See Figure 1 – Regional Location) The Piedmont region, located between the Appalachian Mountains and the “low country” coastal plains, is characterized by rolling hills and red clay soils. Greenwood County is bounded by the adjoining South Carolina Counties of Abbeville, McCormick, Edgefield, Saluda, Newberry, and Laurens. Excluding Newberry, these counties make up the Upper Savannah region of South Carolina. Greenwood County is predominantly rural and is not included within any Metropolitan Statistical Area. The nearest major urban areas are Columbia (81 miles east), Greenville/Spartanburg (54 and 60 miles north, respectively), Anderson (39 miles northwest), and Augusta, Georgia (59 miles south). However, the influence of these urban areas is limited by the County’s lack of interstate access.

There are five municipalities within Greenwood County: the City of Greenwood, the Town of Hodges, the Town of Ninety Six, the Town of Troy, and the Town of Ware Shoals. The City of Greenwood lies in the west-central portion of the County and is the seat of county government. The Town of Ware Shoals straddles Greenwood, Laurens, and Abbeville Counties along the Saluda River. The Town of Hodges is located between Ware Shoals and Greenwood along U.S. Highway 25. In the most southwestern corner of the County lies the Town of Troy. The Town of Troy is located between the communities of Greenwood and McCormick and is surrounded by the Sumter National Forest. The Town of Ninety Six is located just east of Greenwood along S.C. Highway 34. This community is home to Old Star Fort and the Ninety Six National Historic Site. Ninety Six is the oldest community within Greenwood County.

Figure 1 - Regional Location - Greenwood County, SC



Demographics

Historic Population

Greenwood County had a population of 66,271 as of the year 2000. (See Table 1) This represents an increase in population of 11.3% between 1990 and 2000. Since the last decennial census, the US Census Bureau estimates that the County's population has increased by another 3% between 2000 and 2007. Within the past several decades, unincorporated Greenwood County has grown at a faster rate than its municipalities. Despite municipal annexation, the unincorporated areas of Greenwood now account for 60.6% of the County's total population. As the influence of railroad transportation has diminished, the population of several of the small railroad towns in Greenwood County has declined.

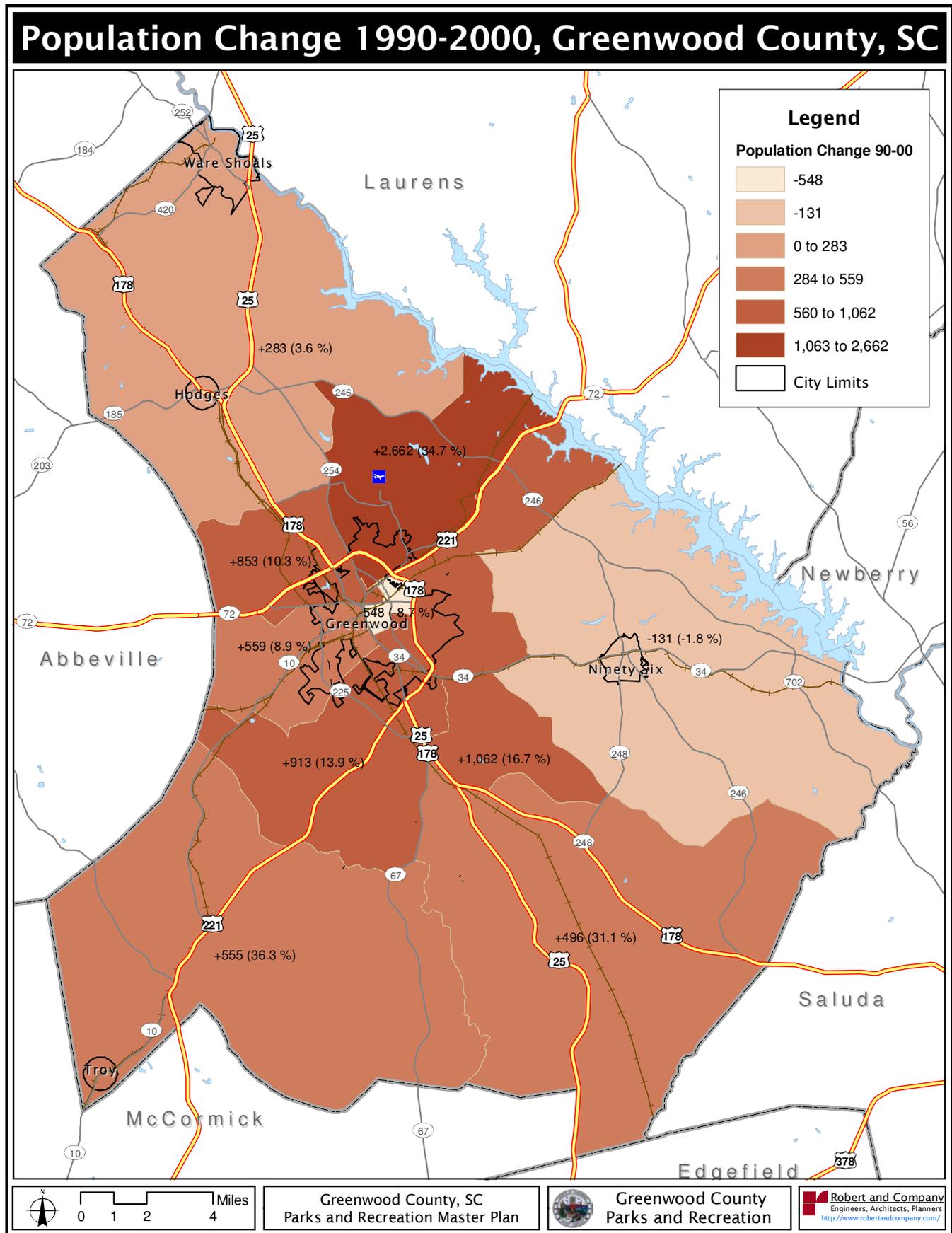
Table 1 – Historic Population 1990-2007, Greenwood County

	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	2007	% of Total	% Change 90-00	% Change 00-07
Greenwood County (Total)	59,567	100.0%	66,271	100.0%	68,259	100.0%	11.3%	3.0%
Greenwood County (Unincorp.)	33,899	56.9%	39,638	59.8%	41,339	60.6%	16.9%	4.3%
Greenwood City	20,807	34.9%	22,071	33.3%	22,383	32.8%	6.1%	1.4%
Hodges	125	0.2%	158	0.2%	166	0.2%	26.4%	5.1%
Ninety Six	2,099	3.5%	1,936	2.9%	1,918	2.8%	-7.8%	-0.9%
Troy	140	0.2%	105	0.2%	107	0.2%	-25.0%	1.9%
Ware Shoals	2,497	4.2%	2,363	3.6%	2,346	3.4%	-5.4%	-0.7%

Source: US Census Bureau 1990 sf1, 2000 sf1, 2007 census estimates

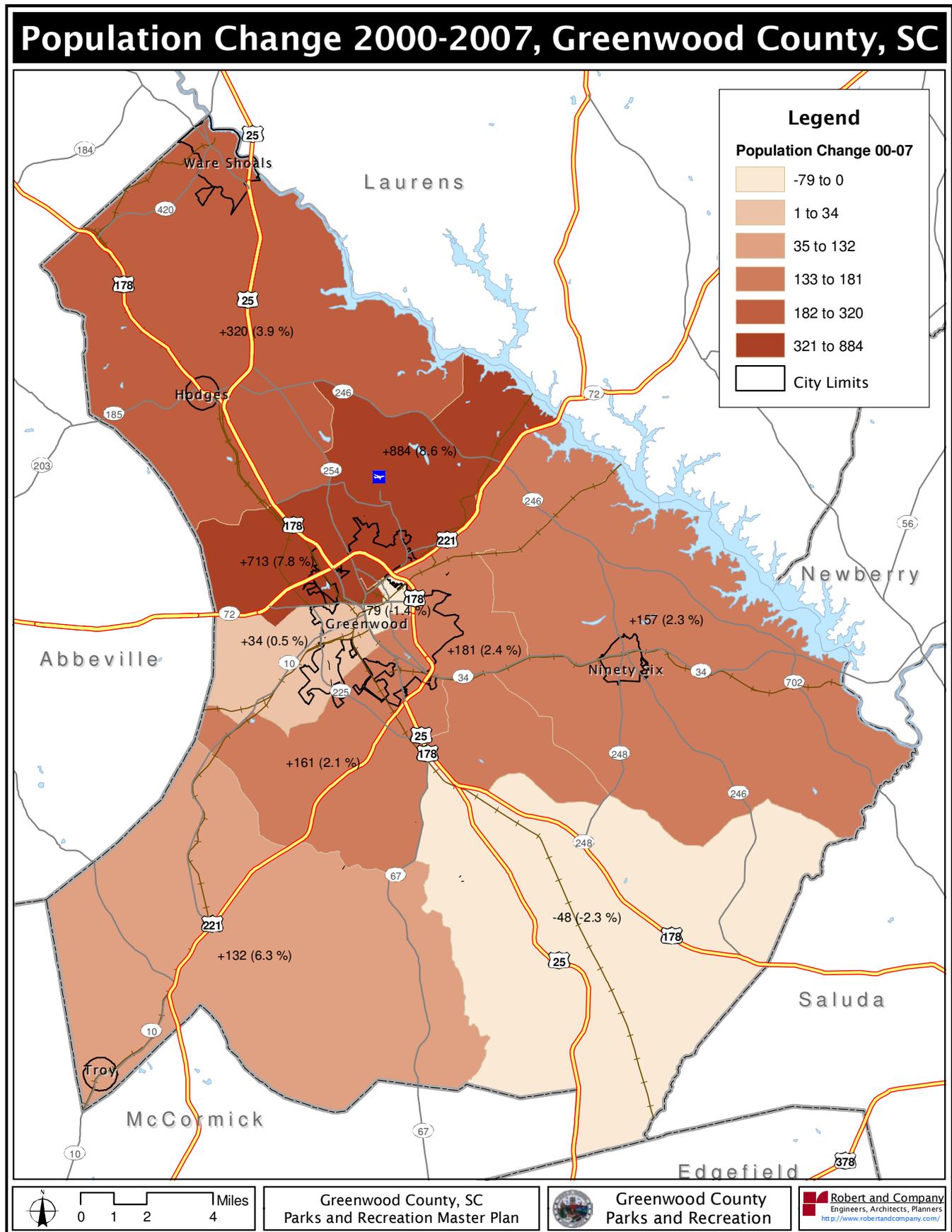
Census tract level population figures reveal the distribution of population change across Greenwood County. Figures 2 and 3 show population change by census tract from 1990-2000 and 2000-2007, respectively. Census tract 9705, representing the central City of Greenwood has declined in population both between 1990-2000 and 2000-2007. The areas of greatest population growth have been located in central Greenwood County on the outskirts of the City of Greenwood. Thus, while downtown City of Greenwood has declined as a population center, the city has remained the primary area of growth in Greenwood County. The tracts surrounding the City of Greenwood in the central portion of the County also maintain the highest population density.

Figure 2 - Population Change 1990 - 2000, Greenwood County, SC



Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 3 - Population Change 2000 - 2007, Greenwood County, SC



Source: US Census Bureau, ESRI

Population Projections

Table 2 provides population projections for Greenwood County from the years 2000 through 2030. The county-wide population projections are based on the Woods and Poole cohort-component model of population forecasting. This method of projection tracks age group cohorts through the years while accounting for birth rates, mortality rates, migration, and regional economic factors. The base years for these projections include decennial census years as well as pre and post census annual estimates through 2008. According to these projections, the population of Greenwood County will grow by 19.7% between 2000 and 2030 and by 14% between 2010 and 2030. Municipal population projections are based on a linear average model using the base years of 1970 through 2007. This linear model is identical to the one used in the Greenwood County Comprehensive Plan, with the added inclusion of the 2007 census population estimates. According to this method, the collective municipalities of Greenwood County will experience modest growth of 3.9% between 2000 and 2030. The share of total County population living within the unincorporated areas is anticipated to increase from 59.8% in 2000 to 65.1% in 2030.

Table 2 – Population Projections 2000 – 2030, Greenwood County

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Greenwood County (Total)	66,271	67,708	69,581	71,895	74,331	76,832	79,357
Greenwood County (Unincorp.)	39,638	40,853	42,633	44,775	47,029	49,346	51,686
Municipalities	26,633	26,855	26,948	27,120	27,302	27,486	27,671

Sources: US Census Bureau, Woods and Poole Economics, Robert and Company

Age

The age structure of a community determines a large part of recreational needs. As the population passes through various life cycle stages, there are differential needs for recreational facilities and programs. The 0-4 age bracket points to the need for playground equipment for infants and toddlers. The 5-9 age bracket represents the point at which children enter kindergarten and become eligible for organized recreation, such as little league sports. The 10-14 age bracket includes the final years of grade school. The 15-19 age bracket includes the years when children attend high school, begin to drive and become independent. While high schools offer a variety of organized recreational programs, it is important to offer positive after school activities for teens. The 20-34 age bracket includes the family forming life cycle stage, where single young adults begin to settle down and form households. The 35-49 age bracket represents the life cycle stage where people typically develop careers and raise families. The 50-64 age bracket represents the prime earning years, when career earning is highest and adult children begin to leave home. The 65 and up age bracket represents the retirement years.

Table 3 provides historic age distribution data for Greenwood County in the years 1990, 2000, and 2007. While data from 1990 and 2000 are based on full decennial census tabulations, 2007 figures are based on census bureau annual estimates.

Table 3 – Historic Age Distribution 1990 – 2007, Greenwood County

Age	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	2007	% of Total	% Change 90-00	% Change 00-07
0 - 4	4,138	6.9%	4,577	6.9%	4,372	6.4%	1.0%	-4.5%
5 - 9	4,270	7.2%	4,814	7.3%	4,620	6.8%	1.2%	-4.0%
10 - 14	4,160	7.0%	4,762	7.2%	4,595	6.7%	1.4%	-3.5%
15 - 19	4,708	7.9%	4,888	7.4%	5,112	7.5%	0.4%	4.6%
20 - 34	13,685	23%	13,905	21%	13,468	19.7%	1.6%	-3.1%
35 - 49	12,001	20.2%	14,007	21.1%	13,852	20.3%	16.7%	-1.1%
50 - 64	8,381	14.1%	10,243	15.5%	12,293	18.0%	22.2%	20.0%
65+	8,224	13.8%	9,075	13.7%	9,947	14.6%	10.3%	9.6%
Total	59,567	100.0%	66,271	100.0%	68,259	100.0%	11.3%	3.0%

Source: US Census Bureau

Tables 4 and 5 provide the projected age distribution of the future population of Greenwood County from 2000 through 2030. The total population of Greenwood County is projected to increase by 19.7% between 2000 and 2030. Following this increase in total population, each of the age cohorts examined is projected to increase in absolute number. However, each age cohort's proportion of the total population is anticipated to change over time. (See Table 5 and Figure 4) While the 0-19 age cohorts are projected to maintain their share of county population, the 20-34 and 35-50 cohorts have a slightly declining share. The largest increase in population share is projected for the 65+ age cohort. This trend points to the need for increased recreational opportunities for seniors in Greenwood County.

Table 4 – Projected Age Distribution 2000 – 2030, Greenwood County

Age	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
0 - 4	4,577	4,345	4,546	4,895	5,140	5,367	5,741
5 - 9	4,814	4,581	4,380	4,700	5,039	5,279	5,457
10 - 14	4,762	4,781	4,710	4,532	4,947	5,326	5,572
15 - 19	4,888	5,026	5,152	5,141	4,964	5,454	5,806
20 - 34	13,905	13,761	13,913	14,406	14,640	14,819	15,545
35 - 49	14,007	13,996	13,767	13,685	13,872	13,853	13,982
50 - 64	10,243	11,700	12,946	13,088	13,022	12,803	12,508
65+	9,075	9,518	10,167	11,448	12,707	13,931	14,746
Total	66,271	67,708	69,581	71,895	74,331	76,832	79,357

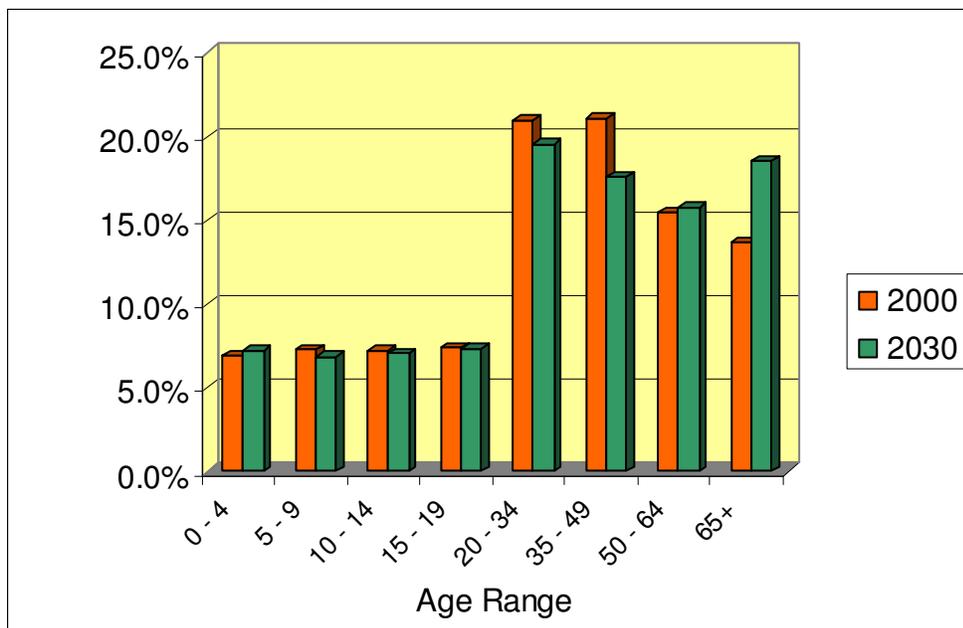
Source: Woods and Poole

Table 5 – Projected Age Distribution 2000 – 2030 by Percent, Greenwood County

Age	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
0 - 4	6.9%	6.4%	6.5%	6.8%	6.9%	7.0%	7.2%
5 - 9	7.3%	6.8%	6.3%	6.5%	6.8%	6.9%	6.9%
10 - 14	7.2%	7.1%	6.8%	6.3%	6.7%	6.9%	7.0%
15 - 19	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.2%	6.7%	7.1%	7.3%
20 - 34	21.0%	20.3%	20.0%	20.0%	19.7%	19.3%	19.6%
35 - 49	21.1%	20.7%	19.8%	19.0%	18.7%	18.0%	17.6%
50 - 64	15.5%	17.3%	18.6%	18.2%	17.5%	16.7%	15.8%
65+	13.7%	14.1%	14.6%	15.9%	17.1%	18.1%	18.6%
Total	100.0%						

Source: Woods and Poole

Chart 1 – Projected Age Distribution 2000 – 2030 by Percent, Greenwood County



Source: Woods and Poole

Race

Table 6 provides the racial and ethnic distribution within Greenwood County and its municipalities. The Hispanic designation represents an ethnicity rather than a race, since there are Spanish-speaking peoples of all races. The County as a whole maintains a 65.6% majority white population with a substantial African American minority of 31.7%. All other races or persons claiming multiple races make up only the remaining 2.7% of the County population. The City of Greenwood maintains a relatively high proportion of minorities as compared to the unincorporated county and the remaining municipalities.

The racial balance within the county has remained relatively stable since 1990 when the population was 69% white and 30% black. Likewise, census bureau estimates of the

County's current racial breakdown have remained stable at 65.8% white, 31.8% black, and 2.4% other in the year 2007. While the Hispanic population remains only a small proportion of the county, their numbers have increased steadily from 0.4% in 1990, to 2.9% in 2000, and 4.6% in 2007.

Table 6 – Race and Hispanic Ethnicity 2000, Greenwood County

	White	%	Black	%	Other	%	Total	Hispanic	%
Greenwood County (Total)	43,455	65.6%	21,036	31.7%	1,780	2.7%	66,271	1,902	2.9%
Greenwood County (Unincorp.)	28,851	72.8%	10,035	25.3%	752	1.9%	39,638	443	1.1%
Greenwood City	11,057	50.1%	10,044	45.5%	970	4.4%	22,071	1,440	6.5%
Hodges	140	88.6%	12	7.6%	6	3.8%	158	0	0.0%
Ninety Six	1,481	76.5%	440	22.7%	15	0.8%	1,936	10	0.5%
Troy	75	71.4%	30	28.6%	0	0.0%	105	0	0.0%
Ware Shoals	1,851	78.3%	475	20.1%	37	1.6%	2,363	9	0.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

Income and Poverty

Median household income in Greenwood County, South Carolina has increased from \$34,702 in 1999 to \$43,221 in 2008. However, after adjusting for inflation, this change represents a net decline of -2.3%. (See Table 7) The County's median income is projected to increase to \$49,831 by 2013. Historically, Greenwood County has maintained a higher median income than its municipalities. For example, the 1999 median income for Greenwood County was \$34,702 in 1999 as compared to \$26,284 in the City of Greenwood. The City of Greenwood also had a higher proportion of persons below the poverty rate in 1999 (23.1%) as compared to Greenwood County (13.7%).

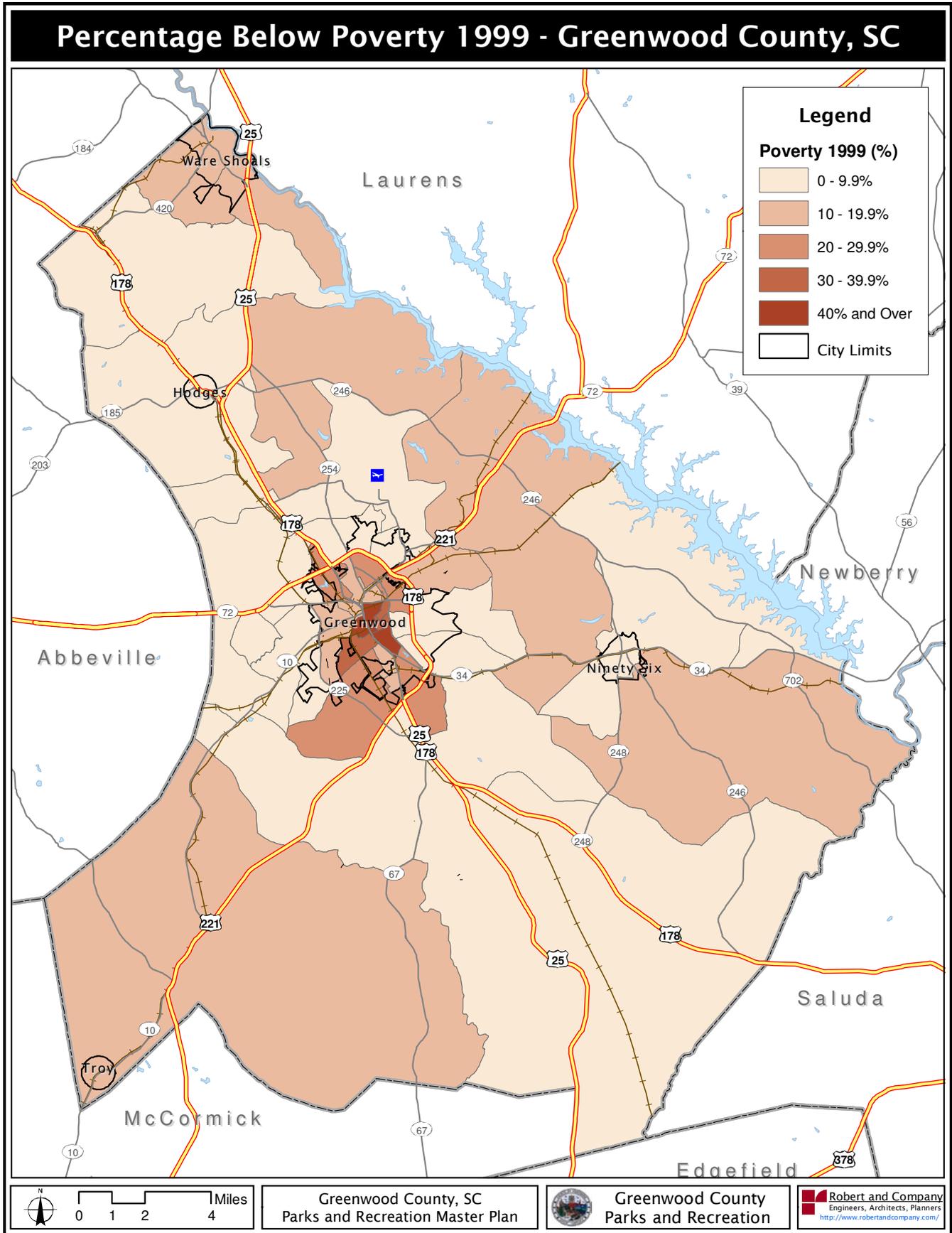
Table 7 – Median Household Income 1999-2013, Greenwood County, SC

	1999	1999 Inflation Adjusted to 2008 Dollars	2008	2013	% Change 99-08 Adjusted
Greenwood County	\$ 34,702	\$ 44,247	\$ 43,221	\$ 49,831	-2.3%

Sources: US Census Bureau 1999; Inflation adjustment by US Bureau of Labor Statistics; 2008 and 2013 figures by ESRI Business Analyst;

Figure 4 shows the proportion of the population of Greenwood County that was below the federal poverty limit as of 1999. While Greenwood County's overall poverty rate (13.7%) was nearly identical to that of the State of South Carolina, there were some areas of concentrated poverty within the County. Specifically, there are some blockgroups within the central and south areas of the City of Greenwood which have a significantly higher proportion of residents living below poverty.

Figure 4 - Percentage Below Poverty 1999 - Greenwood County, SC



Sports and Leisure Demand

Adult Sports and Leisure Participation

Recreational market potential studies are intended to assess the number of persons who are likely to participate in a given activity or purchase a product at least once per year. Table 8 provides estimates of current participation rates in a variety of sports and recreational activities. The estimates provided are based on survey data provided by Mediamark Research and Intelligence, Inc. Activity participation rates are based on Mediamark's national Survey of the American Consumer. However, the figures available include only persons over the age of 18. Youth participation rates for sports activities are provided in the subsequent section.

The Market Potential Index (MPI) represents a comparison of local activity participation rates as compared to national rates for the same activity. A score of 100 represents an average activity participation rate as compared to the nation as a whole. Scores below 100 represent activities that are not as common or popular as the national average. Finally, MPI scores above 100 represent activities that are more popular locally than the national average.

Table 8- Adult Participation by Leisure Activity 2008, Greenwood, SC

Recreational Activity	2008	%	MPI
Participated in aerobics	3,493	6.7%	71
Participated in backpacking/hiking	3,284	6.3%	79
Participated in baseball	2,606	5.0%	95
Participated in basketball	4,483	8.6%	95
Participated in bicycling (mountain)	1,668	3.2%	82
Participated in bicycling (road)	3,493	6.7%	77
Participated in boating (power)	2,815	5.4%	90
Participated in bowling	5,161	9.9%	94
Participated in canoeing/kayaking	1,825	3.5%	81
Participated in downhill skiing	1,251	2.4%	69
Participated in fishing (fresh water)	7,976	15.3%	116
Participated in fishing (salt water)	1,981	3.8%	97
Participated in football	2,659	5.1%	95
Participated in Frisbee	2,294	4.4%	94
Participated in golf	4,483	8.6%	81
Play golf < once a month	1,564	3.0%	74
Play golf 1+ times a month	2,346	4.5%	84
Participated in horseback riding	1,460	2.8%	94
Participated in hunting with rifle	3,284	6.3%	131
Participated in hunting with shotgun	2,919	5.6%	127
Participated in ice skating	938	1.8%	77
Participated in jogging/running	3,962	7.6%	76
Participated in motorcycling	1,825	3.5%	108
Participated in roller blading/in-line skating	990	1.9%	76
Participated in soccer	1,616	3.1%	86

Source: Mediamark, Inc., Woods and Poole, and Robert and Company

Table 8 (Cont.) – Adult Participation by Leisure Activity 2008, Greenwood, SC

Recreational Activity	2008	%	MPI
Participated in softball	1,929	3.7%	91
Participated in swimming	8,236	15.8%	87
Participated in target shooting	2,294	4.4%	118
Participated in tennis	1,668	3.2%	74
Participated in volleyball	1,720	3.3%	90
Participated in walking for exercise	11,938	22.9%	85
Participated in water skiing	834	1.6%	82
Participated in weight lifting	4,900	9.4%	80
Participated in yoga	1,772	3.4%	70
Spent on high end sports/recreation equipment/12 mo: <\$250	2,189	4.2%	96
Spent on high end sports/recreation equipment/12 mo: \$250+	1,460	2.8%	80
Attend sports event: auto racing (NASCAR)	2,919	5.6%	101
Attend sports event: auto racing (not NASCAR)	2,294	4.4%	99
Attend sports event: baseball game	5,109	9.8%	78
Attend sports event: basketball game (college)	2,971	5.7%	92
Attend sports event: basketball game (pro)	2,346	4.5%	73
Attend sports event: football game (college)	3,962	7.6%	89
Attend sports event: football-Monday night game (pro)	1,825	3.5%	91
Attend sports event: football-weekend game (pro)	2,867	5.5%	76
Attend sports event: golf tournament	1,668	3.2%	89
Attend sports event: ice hockey game	1,929	3.7%	81
Attend sports event: soccer game	1,981	3.8%	89
Attend sports event: tennis match	1,355	2.6%	89
Attended adult education course in last 12 months	2,867	5.5%	83
Attended auto show in last 12 months	3,649	7.0%	92
Went to bar/night club in last 12 months	8,601	16.5%	90
Went to beach in last 12 months	9,018	17.3%	76
Attended dance performance in last 12 months	1,564	3.0%	79
Danced/went dancing in last 12 months	4,014	7.7%	80
Dined out in last 12 months	22,676	43.5%	90
Dine out < once a month	1,981	3.8%	92
Dine out once a month	2,971	5.7%	92
Dine out 2-3 times a month	4,900	9.4%	86
Dine out once a week	5,369	10.3%	87
Dine out 2+ times per week	4,483	8.6%	85
Gambled at casino in last 12 months	7,142	13.7%	82
Gambled at casino 6+ times in last 12 months	1,407	2.7%	103
Gambled in Atlantic City in last 12 months	1,303	2.5%	76
Gambled in Las Vegas in last 12 months	1,668	3.2%	64
Attended horse races in last 12 months	1,147	2.2%	80
Attended movies in last 6 months	25,700	49.3%	87
Attended movies in last 90 days: < once a month	13,814	26.5%	89
Attended movies in last 90 days: once a month	4,118	7.9%	76

Source: Mediamark, Inc., Woods and Poole, and Robert and Company

Table 8 (Cont.) – Adult Participation by Leisure Activity 2008, Greenwood, SC

Recreational Activity	2008	%	MPI
Attended movies in last 90 days: 2-3 times a month	2,659	5.1%	79
Attended movies in last 90 days: once/week or more	1,199	2.3%	90
Prefer to see movie after second week of release	10,426	20.0%	84
Went to museum in last 12 months	4,275	8.2%	67
Attended country music performance in last 12 mo	2,554	4.9%	94
Attended rock music performance in last 12 months	4,118	7.9%	80
Attended classical music/opera performance/12 mo	2,085	4.0%	77
Went to live theater in last 12 months	5,057	9.7%	76
Visited a theme park in last 12 months	9,592	18.4%	84
Visited Disney World (FL)/12 mo: Magic Kingdom	1,407	2.7%	78
Visited any Sea World in last 12 months	1,199	2.3%	70
Visited any Six Flags in last 12 months	3,023	5.8%	84
Went to zoo in last 12 months	5,057	9.7%	81
Played billiards/pool in last 12 months	4,692	9.0%	99
Played bingo in last 12 months	2,346	4.5%	103
Did birdwatching in last 12 months	3,128	6.0%	107
Played board game in last 12 months	8,601	16.5%	92
Played cards in last 12 months	11,312	21.7%	97
Played chess in last 12 months	1,564	3.0%	89
Cooked for fun in last 12 months	8,549	16.4%	88
Did crossword puzzle in last 12 months	7,194	13.8%	97
Flew a kite in last 12 months	1,303	2.5%	89
Did furniture refinishing in last 12 months	1,772	3.4%	100
Did indoor gardening/plant care in last 12 months	7,142	13.7%	101
Participated in karaoke in last 12 months	2,085	4.0%	92
Bought lottery ticket in last 12 months	16,838	32.3%	91
Bought lottery ticket in last 12 mo: Daily Drawing	2,242	4.3%	83
Bought lottery ticket in last 12 mo: Instant Game	8,810	16.9%	105
Bought lottery ticket in last 12 mo: Lotto Drawing	10,061	19.3%	84
Played lottery: <2 times in last 30 days	5,161	9.9%	82
Played lottery: 2-6 times in last 30 days	6,255	12.0%	91
Played lottery: 7+ times in last 30 days	5,369	10.3%	101
Played musical instrument in last 12 months	3,962	7.6%	93
Did painting/drawing in last 12 months	3,180	6.1%	101
Did photography in last 12 months	5,838	11.2%	87
Read book in last 12 months	17,463	33.5%	90
Participated in trivia games in last 12 months	2,763	5.3%	89
Played video game in last 12 months	5,474	10.5%	98
Did woodworking in last 12 months	2,398	4.6%	94
Participated in word games in last 12 months	4,170	8.0%	94
Member of charitable organization	2,815	5.4%	84
Member of church board	2,815	5.4%	112
Member of fraternal order	2,085	4.0%	100
Member of religious club	3,753	7.2%	105
Member of union	2,554	4.9%	82
Member of veterans club	2,085	4.0%	106

Source: Mediamark, Inc., Woods and Poole, and Robert and Company

Youth Sports Participation

Table 9 provides national sports participation rates by both youth and adult age groupings for the year 2007. Youth participation rates are substantially higher than adult participation rates for most organized sports, with golf being the greatest exception.

Table 9 – Youth Sports Participation by Age Group, US 2007

Sport	Age 7-11	Age 12-17	Age 18 +	TOTAL 7 +
Baseball	20.5%	11.5%	3.2%	5.3%
Basketball	25.4%	27.4%	5.6%	9.1%
Bicycle Riding	36.3%	25.7%	10.8%	14.1%
Bowling	26.2%	26.9%	14.3%	16.4%
Fishing (Fresh water)	14.9%	12.3%	11.3%	11.6%
Football (Tackle)	7.4%	15.4%	1.7%	3.5%
Golf	3.4%	5.7%	9.4%	8.6%
Mountain Biking (Off road)	3.3%	3.7%	2.6%	2.8%
Roller Skating (In-line)	15.5%	13.4%	2.0%	4.0%
Skateboarding	16.3%	16.5%	1.3%	3.8%
Soccer	26.0%	13.1%	2.4%	5.2%
Softball	6.0%	7.1%	3.2%	3.8%
Tennis	7.4%	7.4%	4.1%	4.6%
Volleyball	6.1%	12.0%	3.5%	4.5%
Total U.S.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: National Sporting Goods Association

Sports Participation Trends

Table 10 provides a look at national trends in sports participation rates between 1998 and 2007. Participation rates are calculated for the population 7 years of age and older. Table 10 also provides the percentage change in the total number of participants in each sporting activity between 1998 and 2007.

Table 10 – Sports Participation Trends, US 1998-2007

Selected Sports and Leisure Activities	Participation Rate 1998	Participation Rate 2007	% Change 98-07
Aerobic Exercising	10.6%	11.4%	17.8%
Archery	2.0%	2.5%	37.9%
Baseball	6.5%	5.3%	-12.0%
Basketball	12.1%	9.1%	-17.9%
Bicycle Riding	17.9%	14.1%	-14.1%
Billiards / Pool	13.3%	11.1%	-8.7%
Boating, (Motor)	10.6%	12.0%	23.9%
Bowling	16.5%	16.4%	8.5%
Camping / Backpacking	25.2%	22.8%	-0.9%
Exercise Walking	32.0%	33.8%	15.6%
Exercising w/ Equipment	19.0%	19.9%	14.5%
Fishing	4.5%	3.9%	-5.6%
Football	3.1%	3.5%	23.5%
Golf	11.3%	8.6%	-17.3%
Hiking	11.2%	10.8%	5.3%
Hunting	10.7%	10.9%	11.1%
Mountain Biking (Off road)	3.5%	2.8%	-13.8%
Mountain / Rock Climbing	1.6%	1.7%	16.9%
Roller Skating (In-line)	11.1%	4.0%	-60.4%
Running / Jogging	9.3%	11.4%	34.8%
Skateboarding	2.4%	3.8%	75.3%
Soccer	5.4%	5.2%	4.6%
Softball	6.4%	3.8%	-36.1%
Swimming	24.0%	19.7%	-10.1%
Target Shooting	5.3%	7.7%	61.0%
Tennis	4.6%	4.6%	9.5%
Volleyball	6.1%	4.5%	-18.7%
Water Skiing	3.0%	2.0%	-27.0%
Workout at Club	10.9%	12.7%	27.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	9.3%

Source: National Sporting Goods Association



Projected Sports Participation

Such sports participation data can be used to project the amount of future demand for recreational facilities. Table 11 provides an estimation of the future number of participants in Greenwood County for a variety of sporting activities. In this case, participation rates were based on the national average participation rate for each activity between 1998 and 2007. The estimated number of participants includes ages 7 and up.

Table 11 – Projected Sports Participation 2010-2030, Greenwood County

Selected Sports and Leisure Activities	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Aerobic Exercising	7,246	7,454	7,690	7,944	8,178
Archery	1,345	1,383	1,427	1,474	1,518
Baseball	3,615	3,718	3,836	3,963	4,080
Basketball	6,692	6,884	7,102	7,336	7,553
Bicycle Riding	9,557	9,831	10,143	10,478	10,787
Billiards / Pool	8,008	8,238	8,499	8,780	9,039
Boating, (Motor)	6,578	6,767	6,981	7,212	7,424
Bowling	10,588	10,892	11,236	11,608	11,950
Camping / Backpacking	15,436	15,878	16,381	16,922	17,422
Canoeing	1,714	1,763	1,819	1,879	1,935
Exercise Walking	20,568	21,158	21,828	22,549	23,215
Exercising with Equipment	12,317	12,670	13,072	13,504	13,902
Fishing	10,178	10,470	10,802	11,159	11,488
Football	2,206	2,269	2,341	2,418	2,490
Golf	6,122	6,298	6,497	6,712	6,910
Hiking	6,815	7,010	7,232	7,471	7,691
Hunting	6,883	7,080	7,305	7,546	7,769
Kayaking	1,393	1,432	1,478	1,527	1,572
Mountain Biking (Off road)	1,943	1,999	2,062	2,130	2,193
Mountain / Rock Climbing	1,076	1,107	1,142	1,180	1,214
Paintball Games	1,739	1,788	1,845	1,906	1,962
Racquetball	886	912	940	971	1,000
Roller Skating (In-line)	3,635	3,739	3,857	3,985	4,103
Running / Jogging	6,611	6,801	7,016	7,248	7,462
Skateboarding	2,494	2,565	2,647	2,734	2,815
Soccer	3,361	3,457	3,567	3,684	3,793
Softball	2,992	3,078	3,175	3,280	3,377
Swimming	13,335	13,718	14,152	14,620	15,051
Target Shooting	5,873	6,041	6,233	6,439	6,629
Tennis	2,689	2,767	2,854	2,948	3,035
Volleyball	2,857	2,939	3,032	3,132	3,225
Water Skiing	1,429	1,470	1,517	1,567	1,613
Weight Lifting	7,126	7,330	7,562	7,812	8,042
Workout at Club	7,621	7,840	8,088	8,355	8,602
Yoga	2,532	2,604	2,687	2,776	2,858
TOTAL POP. (Age 7+)	63,296	65,111	67,173	69,392	71,440

Sources: Robert and Company, National Sporting Goods Association, Woods and Poole

EXISTING FACILITIES

Introduction

Greenwood County parks provide a variety of recreational, social, educational, historic, interpretative, and cultural opportunities to citizens and visitors alike. A well-balanced park system engages people of all ages, denominations, and ethnic backgrounds and enhances the overall quality of life. The definition of a park system concept that encourages a broad range of park types and facility combinations is an important first step in meeting the varied needs of the public.

Figure 5 provides a map of the locations of parks and recreational facilities throughout Greenwood County. Figures 6, 7, and 8 show more detailed maps of the parks and recreational facilities located in the municipalities of Greenwood, Ninety Six, and Ware Shoals, respectively.

A summary of the classification, principal uses, size, and ownership status for each of the public recreational facilities in Greenwood County and its municipalities is listed in Table 12. A chart of the specific recreational amenities provided in each park is included within Table 13. It is also important to provide an inventory of the parks and recreational facilities operated by other entities within Greenwood County, such as school systems and private recreation providers. A list of the amenities provided through schools and private providers is included in Tables 14-15 respectively.

Table 12 – Existing Recreational Facilities, Greenwood County, SC

Facility Name	Principle Use	Category	Acreage	Ownership
Brewer Rec. Center	Athletics	Special Use	20.0	County
Civic Center	Admin.	Special Use	10.0	County
Cokesbury Park	Athletics	Playfield, Ballfield	46.0	County
Fox Boozer Park	Athletics	Neighborhood Park	11.0	County
Greenwood Rec. Center	Athletics	Recreation Complex	80.0	County
Johnny Williams Park	Passive	Mini Park	1.0	City
Larry Traynham Center	Admin.	Neighborhood Park	4.0	County
Magnolia Park	Passive	Neighborhood Park	2.0	City
Ninety Six Park	Passive	Neighborhood Park	4.0	County
R.L. Stevens Park	Athletics	Neighborhood Park	2.0	City
Stockman Park	Athletics	Neighborhood Park	5.0	County
Ware Shoals Park	Passive	Mini Park	2.0	County
West Cambridge Park	Passive	Neighborhood Park	9.0	City
Young Park	Athletics	Recreation Complex	18.0	County
Total Acreage			214.0	



Figure 5 - Parks, Recreation, and Greenspace - Greenwood County, SC

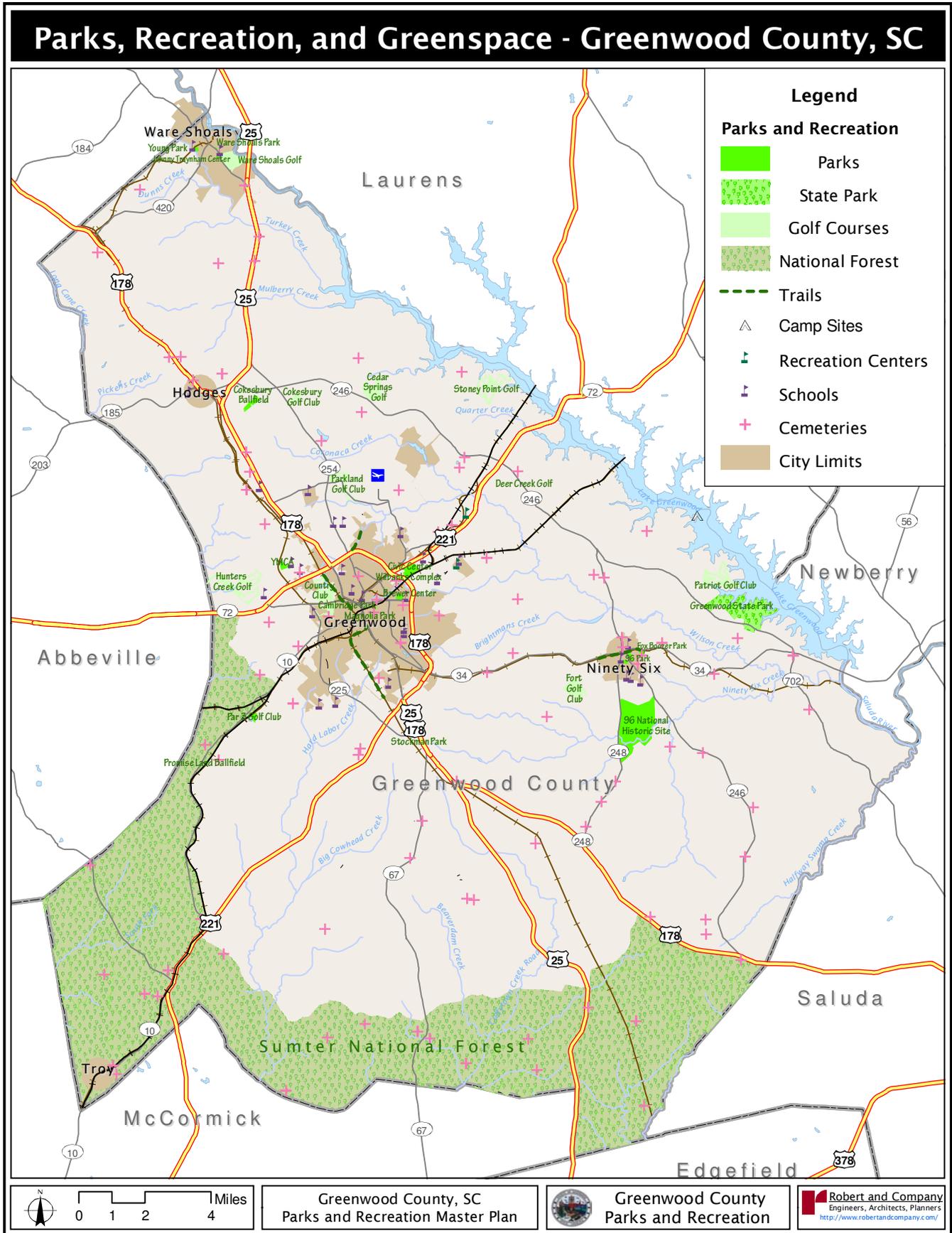


Figure 6 – Parks and Recreational Facilities – City of Greenwood, SC

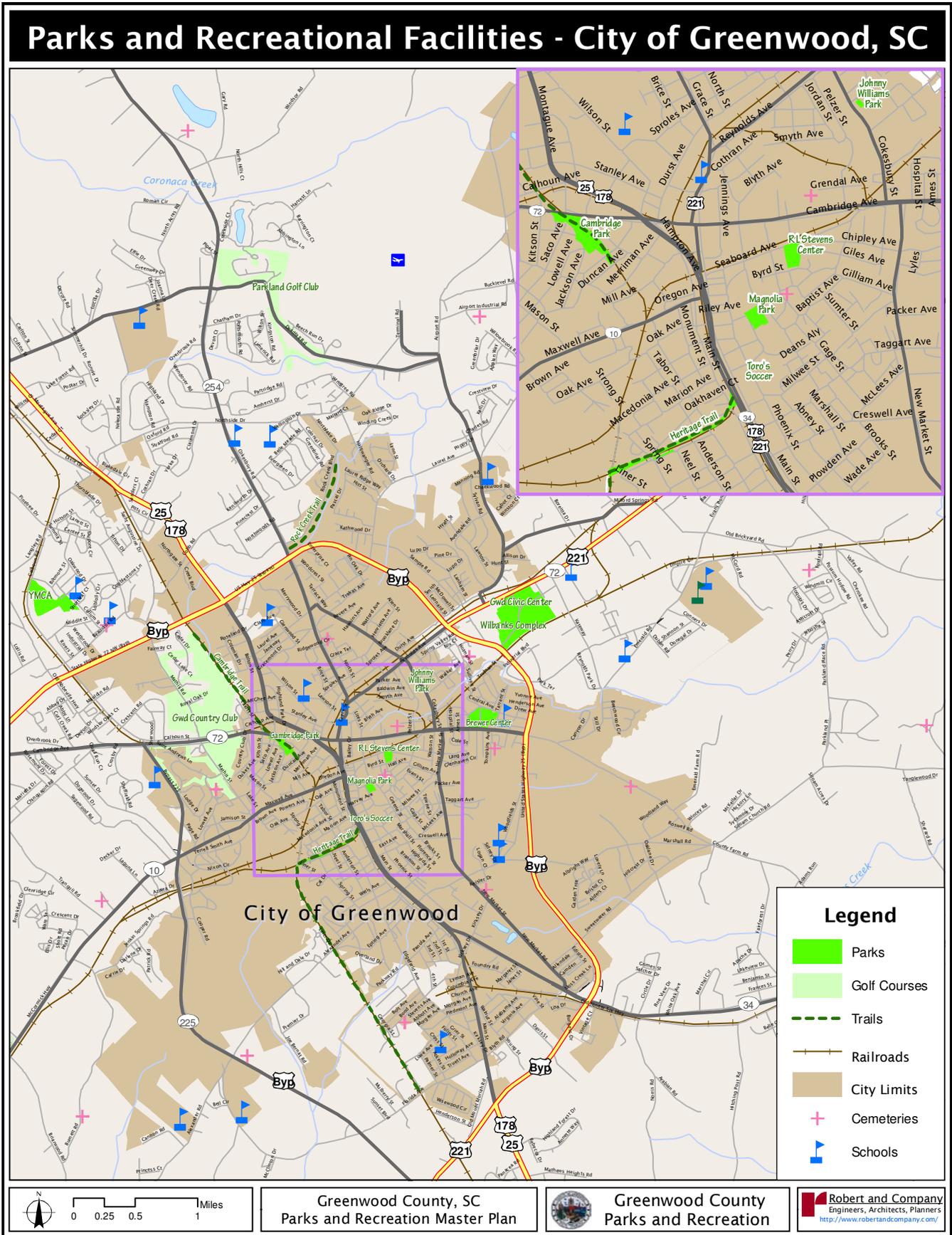


Figure 7 - Parks and Recreational Facilities - City of Ninety Six

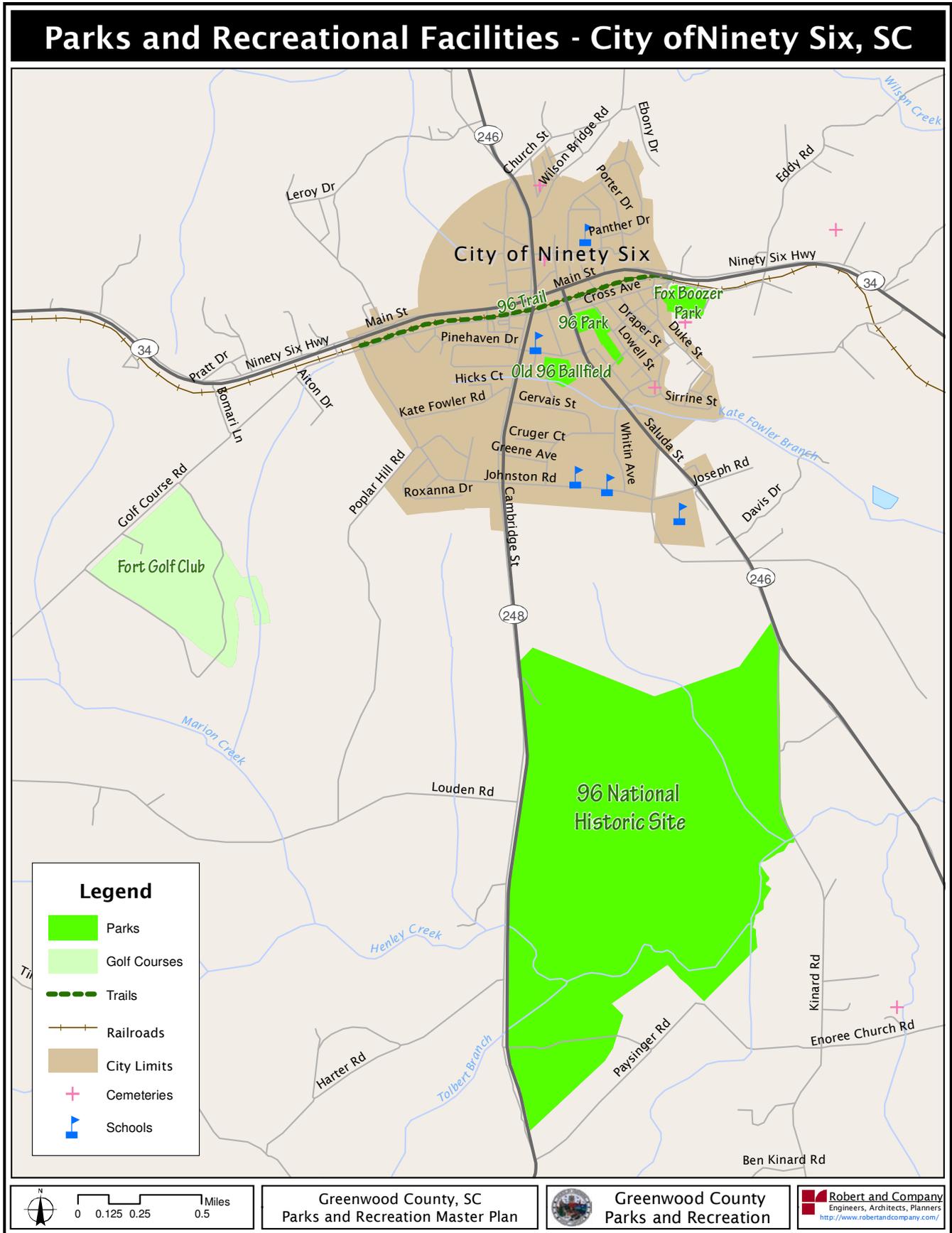


Table 13 – Recreational Amenities by Existing Park

Existing Parks and Recreation Centers	Baseball	Batting Cages	Basketball (Outdoor)	Classrooms	Concessions Building	Fitness Area	Football	Gymnasium	Meeting Rooms	Multi-Use Fields	Picnic Areas	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Practice Fields (Baseball)	Practice Fields (Soccer)	Restrooms / Portable Toilets	Soccer	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Walking Trail (Paved)	Walking Trail (Natural)	
Brewer Recreation Center			4	1				3	1					1	1	1						
Civic Center								1	1							1						
Cokesbury	1				1											1						
Fox Boozer Park	3											1	1			1						
Greenwood Rec. Center	8	2	2		1	1	1					2	3			1	2		6	1		
Johnny Williams Park			2							1			1									
Larry Traynham Center				2				1								1						
Magnolia Park												1	2			1					1	
Ninety Six Park										1	2		2			1					1	
R.L.Stevens Park								1		1	1		1					1				
Stockman Park			4							1		1	1									
Ware Shoals Park													1									
West Cambridge Park												1	2			1						1
Young Park	2					1						1	1			1	1				1	
Total	14	2	12	3	2	2	1	6	2	4	3	7	15	1	1	10	3	1	6	4	1	

Table 14 - Recreational Amenities at Public Schools

Public Schools	Baseball	Basketball (Outdoor)	Football	Gymnasium	Meeting Rooms	Multi-Use Fields	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Practice Field (Baseball)	Practice Field (Football)	Practice Field (Soccer)	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Courts	Volleyball	Walking Trail (Paved)
Brewer Middle School					1				1							
Edgewood Middle School									1		1					
Emerald High School	2		1							1						
Emma Maddox Elementary	1							1								
Genesis (Old Northside)		4				1			1							
Greenwood High School	1		1													
Hodges Elementary								2								
Lakeview Elementary								3								
Mathews Elementary (New)																
Mathews Elementary (Old)		4				1		1								1
Merrywood Elementary		4				1		2								
Ninety Six Elementary						1	1	1								
Ninety Six High School			1											2	1	
Northside Middle School	1		1													
Oakland Elementary		8				1		2								
Pinecrest Elementary		4						1								
Southside Middle																
Springfield Elementary		4						3								
Ware Shoals High School	1		1	1								1	1			
Ware Shoals Middle School	1		1	1								1	1			
Westview Middle School	1		1							1						
Woodfields Elementary (New)																
Total	8	28	7	2	1	5	1	16	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	1

Table 15 - Private Recreational Amenities

Private Recreational Facilities	Baseball	Practice Field (Baseball)	Campgrounds	Fitness Areas	Golf (Number of Holes)	Golf (Disc)	Gymnasium	Horseshoes	Lake	Meeting Rooms	Multi-Use Field	Picnic Shelter	Playgrounds	Restrooms / Portable Toilets	Soccer	Softball	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Volleyball	Walking Trail (Paved)	Walking Trail (Natural)
Burton Center		1																		1	
Lake Greenwood State Park			2						1	1		4		6							1
Lander Univ. Prop. Expansion	1			1		1		1			2		1		1	1	2	12	1	1	
Lander University	1					1									1						
Piedmont Technical College											1	1									1
Star Fort / 96 Hist. Site									1											1	4
YMCA	2			1			1				1	1			2		1			1	
Cedar Spring Golf Course					9																
Cokesbury Golf Course					9																
Grand Harbor Golf Club					36																
Greenwood Country Club					27												1	10			
Hunters Creek Golf Course					27																
Par Three West					9																
Star Fort Golf Course					18																
Stoney Point Golf Course					18																
Ware Shoals Golf Course					9																
Total	4	1	2	2	162	2	1	1	2	1	4	6	1	6	4	1	3	12	1	4	6

PARK PROFILES

The Park Profiles section of the Master Plan provides a detailed inventory of existing recreation facilities within the County as well as recommendations for improvements to existing facilities.

Brewer Recreation Center:

- Classification - Special Use
- Size - 20 Acres
- Location- E. Cambridge Avenue, City of Greenwood
- Amenities -
 - 2 Multi-use fields (baseball and soccer)
 - 4 Outdoor basketball goals
 - 3 Indoor basketball courts
 - Fitness room, classrooms, cafeteria.
 - Parking - 50 spaces (gravel & paved lots)

The old Brewer School in Greenwood, built during the 1950's, was refurbished to create the Brewer Community Complex and Brewer Recreation Center in the fall of 2007. The center boasts several youth programs and hosts events such as weddings, baby showers, Bible study groups and computer classes.

The Brewer Complex is managed and operated by GLEAMNS and supported by a partnership between GLEAMNS and Greenwood County, City of Greenwood, Greenwood School District 50, Upper Savannah Council of Governments, and the S.C. Department of Commerce.

Recommendations:

- Pave parking areas
- Replace / upgrade chain link fencing with black vinyl coated fencing
- Reseed multi-use fields

- Improve pedestrian connection between Rec. Center, outdoor activities, and sporting fields.
- Update / replace playground equipment.
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Provide additional trash receptacles at outdoor basketball courts
- Supplement landscape with trees and shrubs



Gymnasium at Brewer Center

Civic Center / Greenwood Recreation Complex:

- Classification - Special Use / Recreation Complex
- Size - 90 Acres
- Location- Highway 221/72 E, City of Greenwood
- Amenities -
 - Performance arena
 - 2 Kitchens
 - Cafeteria
 - Meeting room
 - 1 Ball field Stadium (w/ Restrooms & Concessions)
 - Farmers Market
 - 8 Ball fields (various age groups)
 - 1 Football field
 - 2 Soccer fields
 - 2 Basketball goals
 - 6 Lighted tennis courts
 - Tennis Center
 - 2 Group pavilions
 - Paved walking trail w/ fitness stations (1 mile)
 - Picnic pavilions
 - 1 Large playground
 - 2 Small playgrounds
 - Parking - 200 spaces (paved)
 - Parking- 300 spaces (gravel)

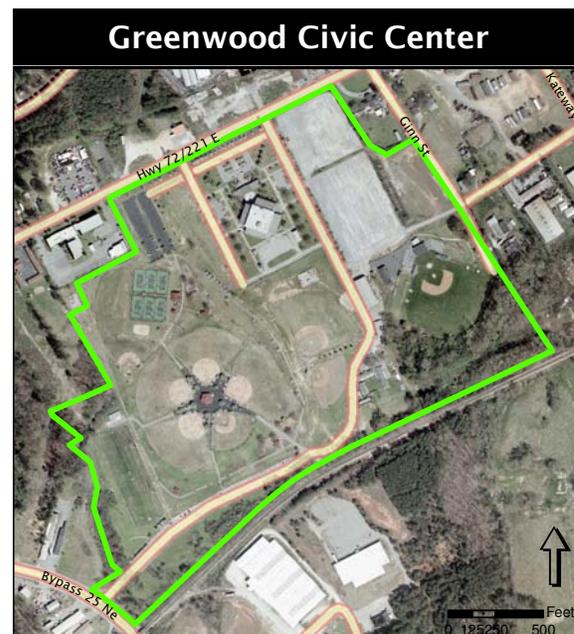
The Civic Center / Greenwood Recreation Complex is currently the largest recreation facility in the County. The Civic Center has a seating capacity of 4,800 and accommodates a wide variety of activities including fairs, concerts, circuses, graduations, banquets, dances, meetings and other special community events.

The Greenwood Recreation Complex is utilized predominantly for active recreation. The complex hosts Legion Field - a ball field stadium currently used by Lander University, There is the potential for upgrading and retrofitting of some of the park elements to

accommodate underserved activities within the community.

Recommendations

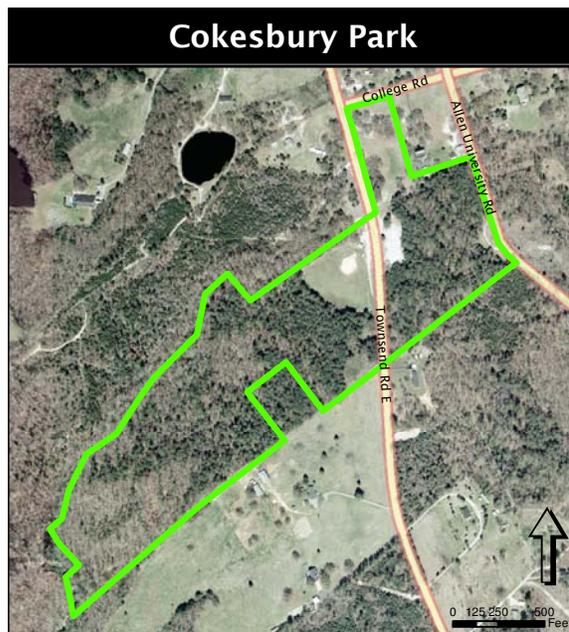
- Update / retrofit existing Civic Center to accommodate underserved activities within the community.
- Convert overflow parking to additional recreational facilities
- Improve landscape throughout park to match level of landscape improvements at tennis facility
- Provide additional shade trees throughout park.
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



Cokesbury Park:

- Classification – Neighborhood Park
- Size – 46 Acres
- Location- Townsend Road, Town of Hodges
- Amenities –
 - 1 Ball field
 - Restroom / Concession
 - Parking – off street informal gravel lot (no designated spaces)

Currently, only 4 of the 46 acres are being utilized by a lighted ball field and a concession / restroom building. The remaining 42 acres are wooded and could provide area to expand the active recreation elements of the park, or could potentially provide passive recreation, including such elements as nature and hiking trails, playground areas or picnic opportunities.



Recommendations:

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds
- Renovate / replace restroom / concession building
- Improve dug out areas
- Replace bent fence panels as necessary
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Provide site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc.)
- Develop multi-use, nature, hiking, biking trails through undeveloped wooded section of site.
- Develop picnic area(s)
- Develop playground area(s)
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan



Fox Boozer Park:

- Classification – Neighborhood Park
- Size – 11 Acres
- Location- Duke Street, Town of Ninety Six
- Amenities –
 - 3 Ball fields
 - 1 Multi-purpose field
 - 1 Picnic shelter
 - 1 Playground (2-5 years)
 - Paved Walking Trail (.4 mile)
 - Restroom Facility
 - Parking – 50 spaces

Fox Boozer Park is approximately 20 years old and is utilized for active recreation, serving predominately as a ball field complex. Several lights around the fields are in need of replacement.

**Recommendations:**

- Replace lighting as necessary around ball fields
- Regrade infield of field 1 for improved drainage
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



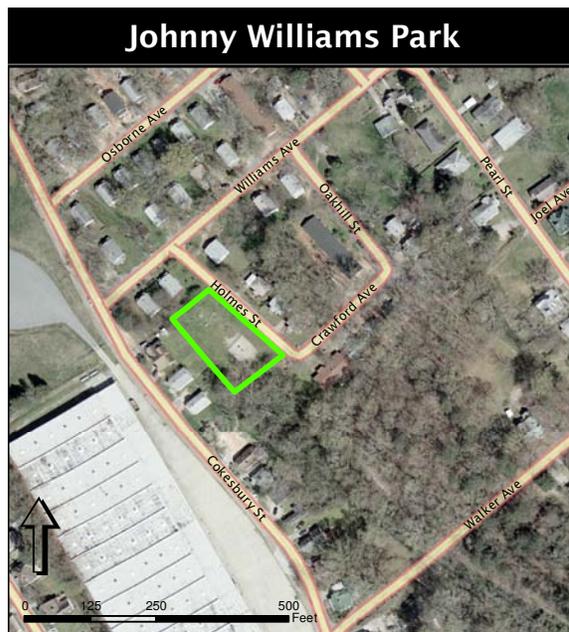
Johnny Williams Park:

- Classification - Mini Park
- Size - 1 Acre
- Location- Holmes Street, City of Greenwood
- Amenities -
 - Play area (swings)
 - 1 Small multi-use field
 - 2 Outdoor basketball goals

Many of the park elements are in need of updating and improvement. The park is predominantly a walk-to-park. Therefore, no parking is available on site.

Recommendations:

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds. -Potential to develop prototype for additional neighborhood/ mini parks.
- Replace/ upgrade/ improve playground equipment
- Provide common area / gathering area for neighborhood events
- Provide small pavilion
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Re-grade and reseed for improved drainage
- Replace nets on basketball goals
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility.
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan



Larry Traynham Center:

- Classification - Neighborhood Park
- Size - 4 Acres
- Location- S Greenwood Avenue, Ware Shoals
- Amenities -
 - Classrooms
 - 1 Indoor Basketball Court
 - Parking - 25 spaces (paved)

The Ware Shoals Recreation Center was renamed the Larry Traynham Center after the former director of the center.

Recommendations:

No recommendations at this time



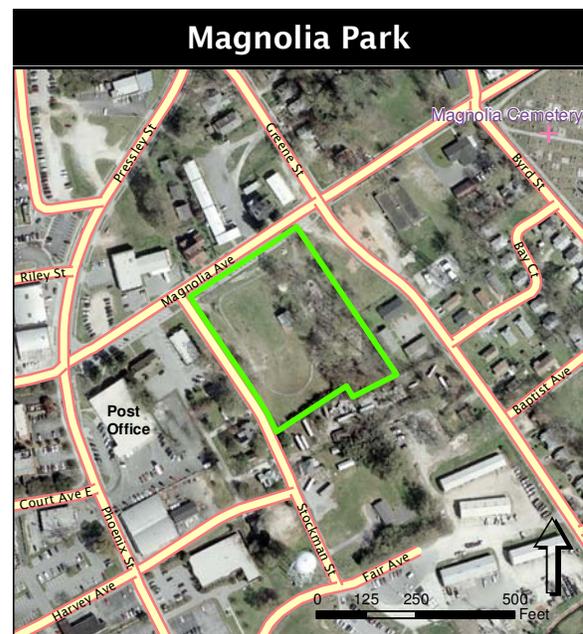
Magnolia Park:

- Classification – Neighborhood Park
- Size – 2 Acres
- Location- Magnolia Avenue in uptown Greenwood
- Amenities-
 - 2 Playgrounds (various age groups)
 - Swings
 - 1 Picnic/Fellowship Pavilion
 - Walking trail loop (.3 mile)
 - Lawn area w/ benches for unstructured play
 - Port-e-let facilities

Two memorials add to the aesthetic of the park: One, a tile clad structure, the other a memorial garden. The opening of the park marked a milestone in community collaboration through grassroots efforts in the City of Greenwood.

Recommendations:

- Update playground equipment
- Resurface walking trail loop
- Improve playground surfacing (engineered mulch)
- Develop restroom building facilities
- Improve drainage at base of pavilion to minimize erosion
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



Colorful tile-clad structure at Magnolia Park



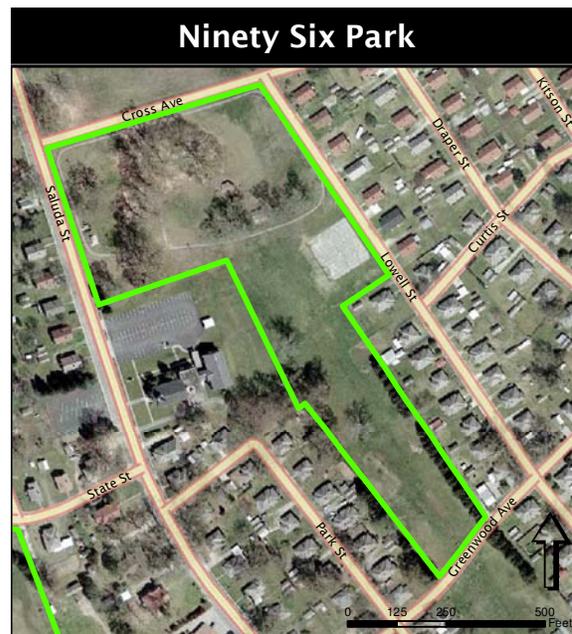
Ninety Six Park:

- Classification – Neighborhood Park
- Size – 4 Acres
- Location- Saluda Street, Town of Ninety Six
- Amenities –
 - 2 Playgrounds (2-5 and 5-12 years)
 - 1 Picnic pavilion
 - 1 Multi-use field w/ backstop
 - Paved walking trail (.4 mile)
 - Restroom facility
 - Parking – on street

Considered a predominantly passive recreation neighborhood park, Ninety Six Park provides recreational opportunities for the Mill Village that surrounds the property. Several of the site furnishings, i.e. benches, water fountains, picnic tables, etc could use replacement and the restroom facilities could use some attention (door handle on women's restroom).

Recommendations:

- Renovate/ replace restroom facility
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Repair water fountains
- Replace free standing play equipment (swings, etc.)
- Improve / define surfacing under stand alone play equipment and picnic areas to minimize erosion.
- Provide spur trails to park elements to minimize erosion
- Reseed lawn areas.
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Supplement landscape for future
- Resurface walking trail loop

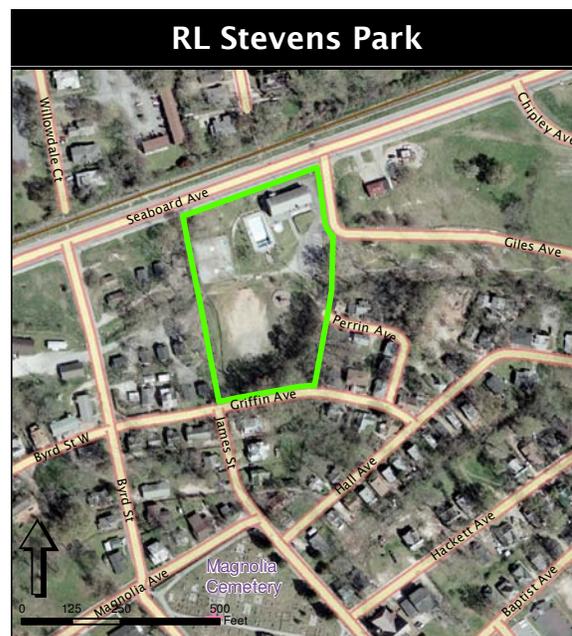


R.L. Stevens Recreation Center (Seaboard): (Closed as of Jan 12, 2009)

- Classification - Neighborhood Park
- Size - 2 Acres
- Location- Seaboard Avenue, City of Greenwood
- Amenities -
 - 1 Outdoor pool
 - Gym w/ basketball courts
 - 1 Playground (5-12 years)
 - Picnic area
 - 1 Multi-use field
 - Parking - 10 spaces (paved)

The Rec. Center Property functions as a walk to linear park for the surrounding residential developments. The RL Stevens building is in dire need of heavy structural repair, as well as updates pertaining to ADA compliance, and fire codes. Activities associated with the building have been relocated to the nearby Brewer Complex. With repairing and remodeling the RL Stevens Recreation Center could be retrofitted to accommodate future community needs.

- Improve connection to surrounding neighborhood
- Resurface pool deck
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan



Recommendations

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds.
- Renovate and retrofit recreation center to accommodate future community needs
- Define playground area(s)
- Update / replace all playground equipment to include play structures for all ages and abilities.
- Improve playground surfacing below play structures (engineered mulch)
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility.
- Relocate trail for better functionality



Stockman Park:

- Classification – Neighborhood Park
- Size – 5 Acres
- Location- Highway 25 South, City of Greenwood
- Amenities –
 - 4 Basketball goals
 - Play area (swings and slide)
 - 1 Picnic pavilion
 - 1 Multi-use field w/ backstop and soccer goals
 - Parking – 50 spaces (paved)

This park is highly utilized for basketball and activities associated with the multi-use field. All features of the park could benefit from upgrading including, reseeding of the field and new play equipment, pavilion and park amenities.

**Recommendations:**

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds.
- Update / replace playground equipment and surfacing
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Provide additional trash receptacles
- Reseed multi-use field
- Remove dead / dying trees and supplement landscape.
- Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility.
- Designate parking area to minimize vehicle access to unpaved areas of park.
- Reconfigure parking area for improved vehicular flow
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Develop more inviting entrance to park.
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan



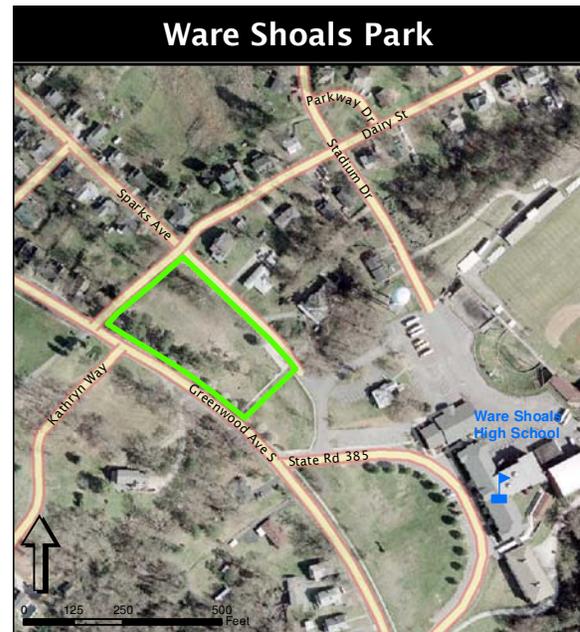
Ware Shoals Park:

- Classification – Mini Park
- Size – 2 Acres
- Location- W. Main Street, Ware Shoals
- Amenities –
 - 1 Playground
 - Picnic areas
 - Benches
 - Parking – 4 spaces (paved)

Ware Shoals Park is located just north of Ware Shoals High School. The small neighborhood park is a “walk-to” park with predominantly passive recreation. This park is maintained by the Town of Ware Shoals.

Recommendations:

- Update / replace playground equipment
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Re-grade / reseed areas illustrating erosion
- Improve playground surfacing below play structures (engineered mulch)
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



West Cambridge Park

- Classification – Neighborhood Park
- Size – 9 Acres
- Location- West Cambridge Avenue, City of Greenwood
- Amenities –
 - 2 Playgrounds (T-5 and 6-12 Years)
 - Open air pavilion
 - Picnic shelters
 - Benches
 - Restroom facility
 - Walking / bike trail connection
 - Parking – 20 spaces

Formerly a railroad-switching yard, West Cambridge Park is Greenwood's newest park and was privately funded. The Park provides quiet areas for relaxation for many of the park's visitors who need an escape from a hectic schedule.

Recommendations:

- Improve connections between park and surrounding neighborhoods through spur trail development.



Open air pavilion at West Cambridge Park



Young Park:

- Classification – Recreation Complex
- Size – 18 Acres
- Location-W. Main Street, Ware Shoals
- Amenities –
 - 2 Ball fields
 - 1 Soccer field
 - Covered picnic shelter
 - Restroom facilities
 - Large playground
 - Paved walking trail w/ fitness station
 - Parking – 125 spaces (paved)

Young Park is located across the street from Emma Maddox Elementary School.

Recommendations:

- Provide plantings on slope between soccer field and ball field to minimize erosion and discourage pedestrian traffic
- Stabilize slope between road and soccer field
- Reconfigure parking area for improved vehicular flow
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Develop more inviting entrance to park.



EXISTING TRAILS

One of the goals of this Recreation Master Plan is to work toward achieving pedestrian and bicycle linkage or connectivity between parks and other points of interest such as schools, libraries, institutional land uses and commercial nodes. In short, the development of a greenway system in Greenwood County is a priority for this plan. This emphasis on trails and greenways is supported by extensive trends research which indicates that activities such as walking, hiking, running, cycling and in-line skating are all among the most preferred active recreational pursuits today. Internal park trail systems and greenways that link parks to other destinations provide these types of activities. The following pages list the existing trails and their amenities currently located within Greenwood County.

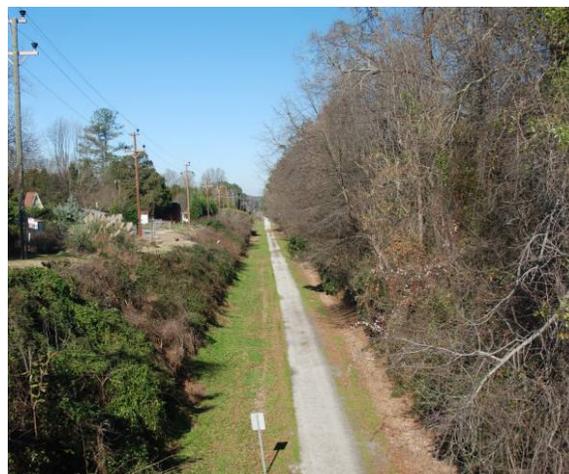
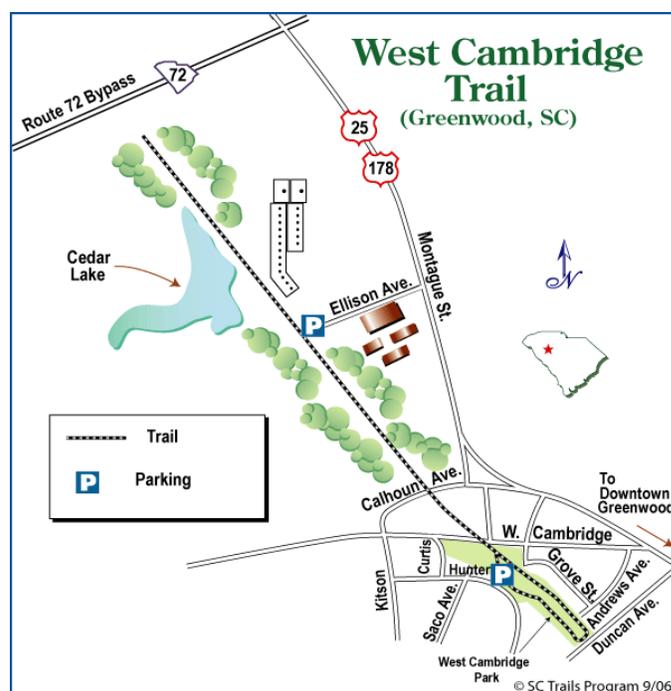
West Cambridge Trail:

- Classification - Multi-use bicycle / pedestrian trail
- Surface - Compacted crush and run
- Length - 1.7 miles
- Amenities -
 - Restroom facilities available at West Cambridge Park
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Parking available at West Cambridge Park and at Ellison Avenue.

The West Cambridge Trail can be accessed from two locations; the West Cambridge Park parking lot and from Ellison Avenue. The trail is a fairly level, somewhat-isolated, easy-to-follow, out and back trail. The trail borders both residential and commercial areas, passing by the Greenwood Golf Club and its associated Cedar Lake. The trail is open from dawn until dusk.

Recommendations:

- Provide benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic plantings for more inviting experience
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



Heritage Trail:

- Classification - Multi-use bicycle / pedestrian trail
- Surface - Asphalt
- Length - 2.5 miles
- Amenities -
 - Benches
 - Wildlife along trail
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Parking available at Palmetto Bank

Heritage Trail is an accessible, out-and-back trail developed on old rail bed that extends through Greenwood from the trail head at Circular Avenue to Florida Avenue. The trail connects several points of interest in the city's railroad and textile mill heritage. Although this is a city trail, parts of it seem quite rural. Heritage trail passes backyards, historic structures, pastureland and the backdoors of local industries. Several benches along the way provide seating areas.

Recommendations:

- Provide benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic plantings for more inviting experience
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



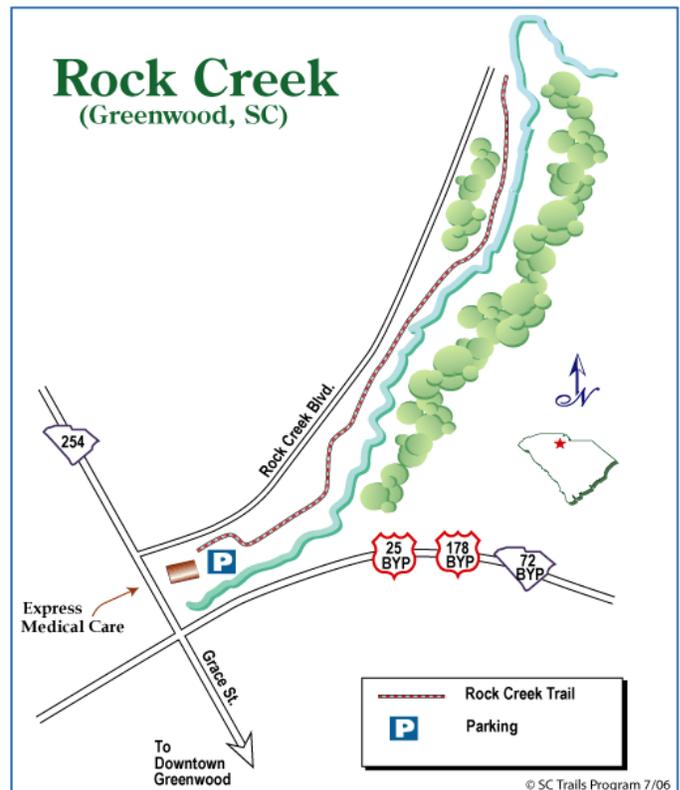
Rock Creek Trail:

- Classification –Pedestrian trail
- Surface – Dirt / gravel
- Length – .9 miles
- Amenities –
 - Wildlife along trail
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Parking available in the Express Medical Care Clinic lot

Rock Creek Trail is an out-and-back trail, located on the north side of Greenwood at the corner of Rock Creek Boulevard and Highway 254. The trail head is located at the far end of the lawn area behind the Express Medical Care Clinic. The trail winds beneath a canopy of hardwoods next to Rock Creek.

Recommendations:

- Provide benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic plantings for more inviting experience
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Expand trail opportunities by connecting to Grace Street Property (Provides opportunity for expanded recreation)



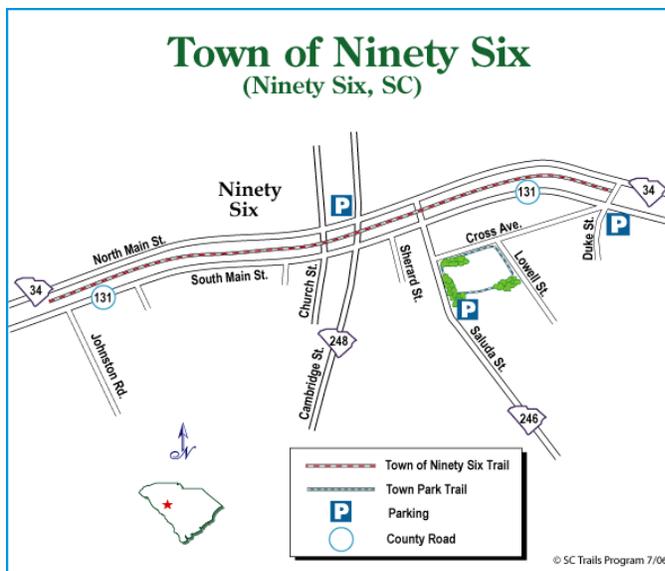
Town of Ninety Six Rail Trail:

- Classification -Multi-use bicycle / pedestrian trail
- Surface -Concrete / gravel
- Length - 1.6 miles
- Amenities -
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Parking available at Fox Boozer Park or at in any of the free parking areas within town.

Built on an old rail bed which parallels SC 34 this level trail travels through the center of town from Fox Boozer Park to just west of Johnson Road. The Ninety Six Rail Trail is an out and back trail constructed as both a hard surface trail and as a soft surface trail. Areas predominately near the Visitors Center, are typically concrete and as you extend outward in either direction becomes soft surface.

Recommendations:

- Provide benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic plantings for more inviting experience
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Pave gravel section of trail



Gravel section of Ninety Six Rail Trail



Historic Depot Building (Visitor Center) in Downtown Ninety Six

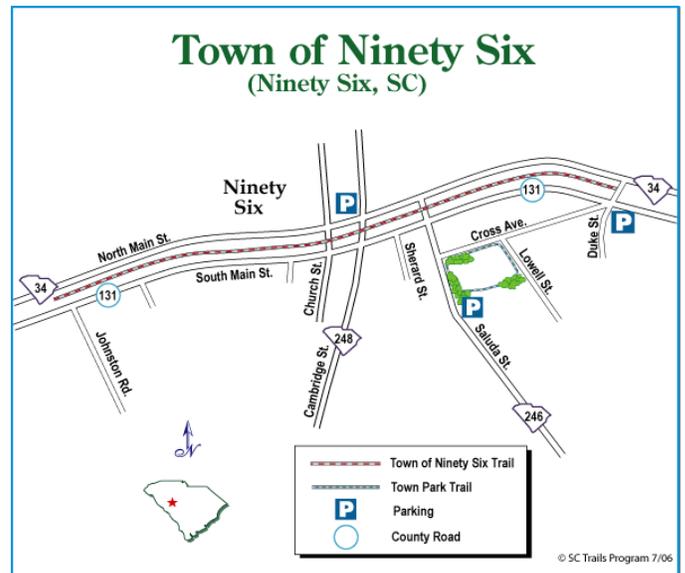
Town of Ninety Six Park Trail:

- Classification –Pedestrian trail
- Surface – Concrete
- Length – .4 miles
- Amenities –
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Restroom available within Town of Ninety Six Park
 - Playground facilities available within Town of Ninety Six Park.
 - Benches and picnic areas associated with Town of Ninety Six Park available
 - Parking – on street only

This park trail is a paved walking-only perimeter loop trail around an existing neighborhood park. Large oak trees shade the trail as it passes a World War II Memorial, military tank, playground and picnic pavilion.

Recommendations:

- Provide benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic plantings for more inviting experience
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Resurface trail



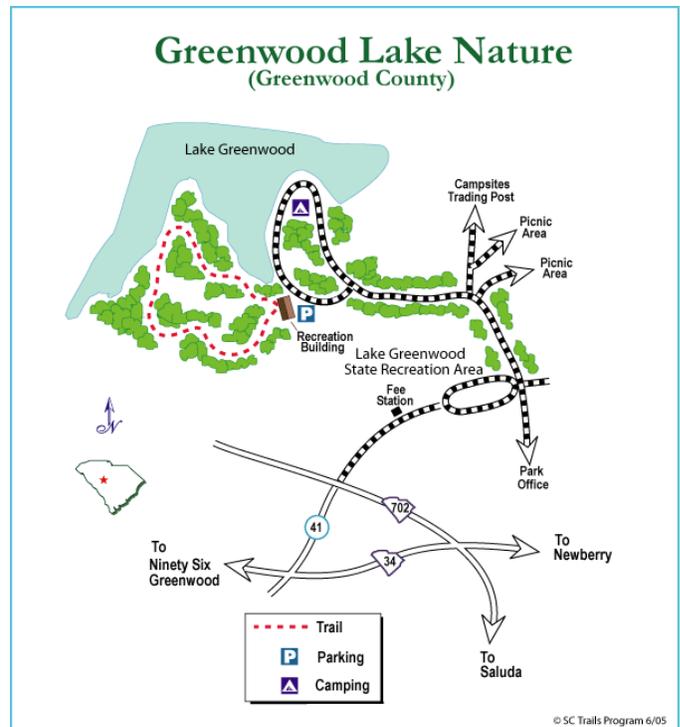
Greenwood Lake Nature Trail

- Classification –Pedestrian trail
- Surface – Dirt
- Length – .8 miles
- Amenities –
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Restroom / water available in camping areas
 - Wildlife along trail
 - Lake views
 - Parking – At Recreation building

Located at Lake Greenwood State recreation Area, the trail is accessible behind the recreation building and passes through pine and hardwood forest. Ducks and other water birds are often visible along the shore as other small animals take refuge in the forest areas. A number of footpaths crisscross the trail near the camping areas but yellow markers help keep users on track.

Recommendations:

No recommendations at this time



Ninety Six National Historic Site

The Ninety Six National Historic Site features a network of five trails: the Ninety Six Historic Trail, the Gouedy Trail, the Cherokee Path, the Star Fort Trail, and the Fisherman Access Trail. Each of these trails are described in detail within the following section.

- Amenities -
 - Parking - At Visitors Center
 - Restroom / water available @ Visitors Center
 - Pet friendly (leashed)
 - Maps available

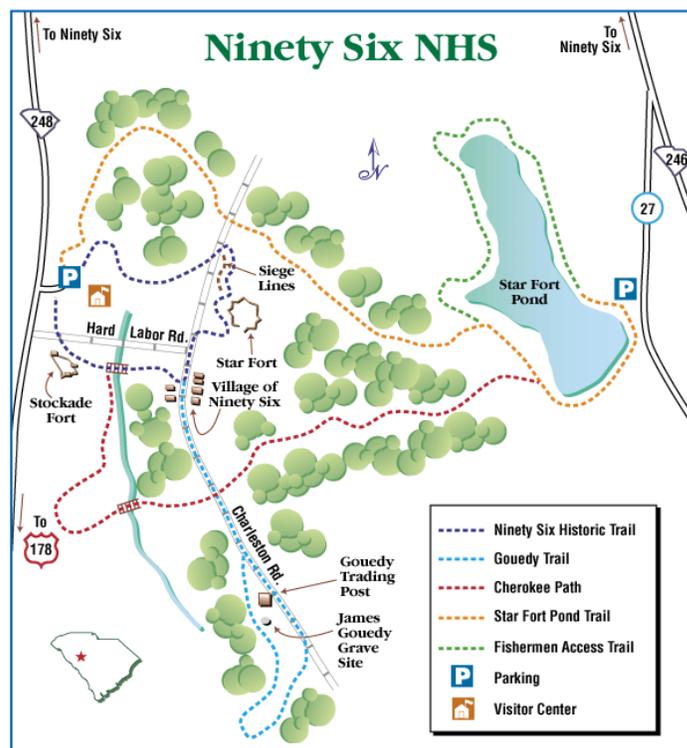
Recommendations:

No recommendations at this time

Ninety Six Historic Trail

- Classification - Interpretive pedestrian trail
- Surface - Asphalt
- Length - 1 mile loop

Located at the Ninety Six National Historic Site, this self guided, paved loop trail winds through historic Revolutionary War battlegrounds. The trail begins at the Visitors Center and meanders through pines and hardwood trees, before it comes to a wooden platform overlooking the battlefield area. Signs and maps point out the historical features, including the Star Fort earthworks, the Jail Site, and the reconstructed Stockade Fort. Additionally, the trail provides connections to 4 additional trail options; Cherokee Path, Gouedy Trail, Star Fort Pond Trail and the Fisherman Access Trail. The Ninety Six Historic Trail is strictly a walking trail, no motorized vehicles, bicycles, skates, skateboards, rollerblades or horses are permitted.



Cherokee Path

- Classification -Pedestrian trail
- Surface - Natural surface
- Length - 1.2 miles

Located at the Ninety Six National Historic Site, Cherokee Path is a spur of the Ninety Six Historic Trail. Cherokee Path is accessed at the trail sign between the fort and the footbridge on the Historic Trail. The out-and-back trail crosses ground that was once a major battlefield. Blue blazes provide direction as the trail crosses intersecting paths and firebreaks, passes through tall grass, skirts and open filed and passes under a canopy of oak and pine trees. The path terminates at the Star Fort Pond although there is the option to pick up trail mileage by taking the Star Fort Pond Trail. The Cherokee Path is a well maintained natural surface path and is considered to be a hiking trail and is therefore not handicapped accessible.

hike on the Cherokee Path which crosses Charleston Road.



Gouedy Trail

- Classification -Pedestrian trail
- Surface - Natural surface
- Length - 1.1 miles

Located at the Ninety Six National Historic Site, Gouedy Trail is a spur of the Ninety Six Historic Trail. Gouedy Trail is accessed from the Ninety Six Historic Trail, near the Star Fort earthworks. This spur trail is open to foot traffic only. The trail follows the grass-covered historic Charleston Road before crossing a field, meandering through woods and passing by a bench at the James Gouedy gravesite. The trail then continues as a winding dirt trail back toward the Charleston Road finally tying back into the Ninety Six Historic Trail. There is the option to extend a



Star Fort Pond Trail:

- Classification -Pedestrian trail
- Surface - Natural surface
- Length - 1.7 miles

Located at the Ninety Six National Historic Site, Star Fort Pond Trail is an out-and-back dirt road trail. This easy walking trail is accessible from the far left of the buildings at the Visitors Center parking area, and winds beneath shade trees. The trail terminates at Star Fort Pond, a 27 acre pond located on the Historic site. There are several options for returning to the parking area; returning via the original trail or returning on the combined Ninety Six Historic and the Cherokee Path Trails. An additional option would extend a hike by hiking around the pond on the Fishermen's Access Trail.

Fishermen Access Trail:

- Classification -Pedestrian trail
- Surface - Natural surface
- Length - 0.9 miles

Located at the Ninety Six National Historic Site, the Fishermen Access Trail allows public access to the Star Fort Pond for fishing activities. The easy to follow shore-line-path is accessible from the Cherokee Path, the Star Fort Pond Trail or the parking area off SC27.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach forms the basis of the vision, goals, and future needs assessment established for the Greenwood City/County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The public outreach process for this planning study included a series of interviews with local stakeholders, a public workshop, a needs assessment survey, and a presentation before the Greenwood County Council.

Stakeholder Interviews

Individual stakeholder interviews were conducted from January 22 -23 with a variety of interested parties. Stakeholders were selected based on the need to obtain input and representation from a diverse set of local officials, recreation providers, and interest groups. Because of the consolidated city/county scope of the study and parks and recreation department, representatives from Greenwood County and the major municipalities of the City of Greenwood, the Town of Ninety Six, and the Town of Ware Shoals were invited to participate. Nonprofit foundations, such as the County Parks Commission were represented. Representatives of local educational institutions, such as Lander University and Greenwood's school districts were also invited to participate. Next, private recreational providers and sports organizations, such as the YMCA, Toros Soccer, and Greenwood Little League were interviewed. State and national recreation providers, such representatives from Lake Greenwood State Park and Sumter National Forest were interviewed. Finally, the stakeholder interviews included minority representatives and special needs recreation providers, such as the directors of the Brewer Center and Burton Center.

Stakeholders

Kathryn Smith	Burton Center
Steve Brown	City of Greenwood
Tommy O'Dell	Cokesbury Commission
Dr. Joe Patton	GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc
Eddie Bartless	Greenwood City/County Planning Commission
Edith Childs	Greenwood County Council
Billy Nicholson	Greenwood County Parks Commission
Gray Stallworth	Greenwood Family YMCA
Kelly McWhorter	Greenwood Regional Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Gary Johnson	Greenwood School District 50
Ken Uldrick	Greenwood Toros Soccer Club
Kevin Fallaw	Greenwood-Abbeville Little League
Fayette Yenny	Lake Greenwood State Recreation Area
Jeff Beaver	Lander University
Malinda Zupon	Ninety Six National Historic Site
Dr. Dan Powell	Ninety Six School District 52
Jim Klauber	Piedmont Technical College
Anne Kiser	Sumter National Forest (Long Cane Ranger District)
Mayor Arvest Turner	Town of Ninety Six
Mayor Sonny Frederick	Town of Ware Shoals



Public Workshop

A public workshop was held at the Mays Auditorium in Uptown City of Greenwood on February 19th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. At this session, an overview of the planning process was provided to participants along with a summary of the preliminary findings of the existing conditions assessment. In addition, participants were presented a draft list of goals developed based on stakeholder interviews.

Following the presentation of the initial findings of the Existing Conditions Element, participants were invited to engage in a discussion of the county's parks and recreational needs. Participants were asked to describe the types of park facilities and recreational programs that were needed. Future opportunities for new parks and facilities were also discussed. Finally, residents were able to raise issues and ask questions. The following summary provides a list of the issues raised at the public workshop grouped by discussion point.

Discussion Points

Park Types Needed

- Regional Parks
- Sports Complex
- Dog Park
- Passive Recreation / Parks
- Neighborhood Parks

Trail Types Needed

- Hiking / biking trails / Mountain Biking / walking
- Bike Lanes
- Comprehensive Sidewalk Plan
- Greenways / Wildlife Corridors

Recreation Needed

- Sports facilities (ball fields)
- Community Center with Meeting Rooms
- Supervised youth / Mentor Programs (specifically on the Southside)
- Playground on the west side of town
- Natural spaces (Grace Street Property)

Issues / Concerns

- Accessibility
- Maintenance of existing parks (specifically Neighborhood Parks)
- Landscape / Tree Ordinance – City and County need to coordinate so regulations are of the same caliber, could potentially utilize students at Lander University.
- There needs to be more recreation on the South side of the County
- Will the addition of new facilities bring revenue to the County?
- Beautify Heritage Trail (benches, trash cans, flowers)
- Police Heritage Trail
- Need to utilize the scenic corridor for more tourist potential opportunities



- Prioritize what needs to be done first
- Establish dedicated funding sources
- Locate and utilize alternative funding sources

Potential Recreation Opportunities

- Utility easements (greenways / trails)
- Floodplain
- Grace Street Property
- Promised Land School
- Parkland Golf Course

Needs Assessment Survey

The recreational needs survey was conducted as another means of measuring the demand for various types of parks, facilities, and recreational programs in Greenwood County. The survey was administered in both paper and online versions in order to facilitate the maximum amount of input possible. Links to the online survey were posted on the Greenwood County and City of Greenwood websites.

An initial tabulation of the needs assessment survey was conducted thirty days after the public workshop. Another final tabulation of the survey will be conducted for inclusion in the final draft of the Master Plan. As of the initial tabulation of the survey, over six hundred responses were recorded with vary levels of response to the individual questions. The full tally of responses for each question is provided in the following tables. Text responses to the open-ended survey questions as well as survey comments are provided in Appendix A.

Survey Results

Please evaluate the need for each of the potential parks and recreational facilities listed below					
Answer Options	Not Needed	Neutral	Needed	Strongly Needed	Response Count
Sports Facilities	9.4%	22.8%	35.7%	32.2%	575
Greenspace and Nature Preserves	5.2%	17.6%	35.6%	41.5%	578
Playgrounds	5.9%	13.6%	41.7%	38.8%	575
Gymnasiums / Fitness Centers	20.2%	24.9%	31.4%	23.5%	570
Community Centers	8.5%	28.5%	38.7%	24.3%	568
Swimming Pools	16.8%	24.6%	33.2%	25.4%	566
Public Beach on Lake Greenwood	13.5%	24.6%	32.9%	29.0%	569
Walking / Biking Trails	3.9%	10.4%	37.0%	48.6%	584
Dog Parks	16.2%	33.8%	27.2%	22.8%	574
<i>answered question</i>					600
<i>skipped question</i>					11



Which of the activities listed below would your household participate in often if made available? Select all that apply.		
SPORTS FACILITIES		
Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Badminton	25.1%	121
Baseball	39.8%	192
Basketball	40.4%	195
Disc Golf	23.0%	111
Dodgeball	14.7%	71
Field Hockey	3.5%	17
Flag Football	29.4%	142
Golf	41.4%	200
Handball	7.5%	36
Inline / Roller Hockey	7.2%	35
Kickball	20.7%	100
Lacrosse	2.1%	10
Racquetball	15.9%	77
Roller Derby	3.3%	16
Rugby	3.3%	16
Soccer	41.8%	202
Softball – Slow Pitch	36.4%	176
Softball – Fast Pitch	15.1%	73
Squash	1.7%	8
Tennis	45.3%	219
Ultimate Frisbee	20.5%	99
Volleyball	40.0%	193
Whiffleball	8.5%	41
<i>answered question</i>		483
<i>skipped question</i>		128



Which of the activities listed below would your household participate in often if made available? Select all that apply.		
FITNESS		
Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Aerobics	43.4%	235
Baton	4.3%	23
Biking - Road	44.2%	239
Biking - Mountain	27.7%	150
Biking - Track / BMX	15.3%	83
Calisthenics	8.7%	47
Climbing	22.4%	121
Dance - Ballet	13.7%	74
Dance - Ballroom	21.4%	116
Dance – Folk / Line	14.0%	76
Dance – Modern / Hip Hop	22.6%	122
Dance - Tap	12.2%	66
Gymnastics	20.7%	112
Ice Skating	28.8%	156
Inline Skating (Rollerblading)	14.6%	79
Jump Rope	10.0%	54
Martial Arts	21.3%	115
Paintball	27.2%	147
Pilates	22.7%	123
Punching Bags	13.7%	74
Skateboarding	18.9%	102
Spinning	9.4%	51
Swimming / Diving	42.3%	229
Tai Chi	13.9%	75
Track and Field	14.8%	80
Triathlon	8.9%	48
Walking for Exercise	76.7%	415
Water Aerobics	30.9%	167
Weight Lifting	32.9%	178
Yoga	31.1%	168
<i>answered question</i>		541
<i>skipped question</i>		70



Which of the activities listed below would your household participate in often if made available?		
GAMES		
Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Air Hockey	30.2%	128
Billiards	45.8%	194
Bocce	17.7%	75
Bowling	63.4%	269
Card Games	38.9%	165
Croquet	18.4%	78
Board Games	38.0%	161
Foosball	25.9%	110
Horseshoes	52.4%	222
Ping Pong	54.5%	231
Tetherball	10.4%	44
Video Games	35.4%	150
<i>answered question</i>		424
<i>skipped question</i>		187

Which of the activities listed below would your household participate in often if made available? Select all that apply.		
OUTDOORS		
Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Archery	31.9%	165
Birdwatching	26.1%	135
Boating	44.8%	232
Camping and Scouting	47.5%	246
Canoeing	41.5%	215
Fishing	62.7%	325
Hiking	55.6%	288
Horseback Riding	43.6%	226
Hunting	29.7%	154
Kayaking	32.8%	170
Off-Road Vehicles	22.6%	117
Orienteering	8.7%	45
Shooting	37.3%	193
Water Skiing	26.4%	137
<i>answered question</i>		518
<i>skipped question</i>		93



Which of the activities listed below would your household participate in often if made available? Select all that apply.		
ARTS AND CRAFTS		
Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Arts & Crafts	49.9%	262
Ceramics / Pottery	38.5%	202
Concerts / Performances	61.9%	325
Computers	30.7%	161
Choir / Singing	23.4%	123
Drama / Theater	35.4%	186
Drawing	25.1%	132
Gardening	51.0%	268
Knitting	10.7%	56
Movies	47.6%	250
Musical Instruction	25.1%	132
Needlework / Sewing	18.9%	99
Painting	25.7%	135
Photography	52.4%	275
Quilting	14.9%	78
Sculpture	14.3%	75
Television	19.2%	101
Weaving	9.9%	52
Welding	13.0%	68
Wood Working	35.0%	184
<i>answered question</i>		525
<i>skipped question</i>		86

Which of the activities listed below would your household participate in often if made available? Select all that apply.		
SOCIAL EVENTS		
Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Dinners / Cookoffs	57.8%	294
Family Reunions	37.7%	192
Festivals	72.7%	370
Mentor Programs	28.9%	147
Picnicking / BBQ	72.7%	370
Senior Groups	23.4%	119
Social Events	57.4%	292
Special Needs Programs	24.6%	125
<i>answered question</i>		509
<i>skipped question</i>		102



VISION AND GOALS

A vision and set of goals were developed for the Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Master Plan based on public outreach, stakeholder interviews, input from city and county staff, as well as the mission and core values of the South Carolina Parks and Recreation Association (SCRPA). The vision statement outlines the general purpose behind the City/County's Parks and Recreation Department's programs. Next, a series of goals and strategy statements were drafted in order to articulate the future direction and guiding principles of the department.

Vision Statement

The Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department will strive to meet both the active and passive recreational needs of all residents of the County in order to encourage health and fitness, facilitate social interaction and cultural unity, promote economic development and tourism, strengthen community image and sense of place, protect environmental resources, and enhance the quality of life in Greenwood County.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 – Bring Greenwood County up to national and regional Level of Service (LOS) standards for parks and recreational services.

Strategy 1.1 – Regularly compare the county's LOS to national standards set by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA).

Strategy 1.2 – Conduct a benchmark analysis to compare the County's parks and recreational amenities to those provided by other communities.

Strategy 1.3 - Create a modified LOS standard for Greenwood County which takes into account the parks and recreational amenities provided by universities, schools, and private organizations. The recreational facilities maintained by other providers should be factored into LOS standards on the basis of public accessibility. When joint use agreements are not feasible, the County should consider only those facilities reasonably accessible to the public.

Goal 2 – Ensure that Greenwood County’s Level of Service for parks and recreational amenities does not decline as the population of the county grows.

Strategy 2.1 – Regularly maintain detailed population estimates and projections for Greenwood County which include a breakdown of the community’s age structure.

Strategy 2.2 – Create a program for the expansion of parks and recreational facilities in Greenwood County that is proportional to the anticipated growth in population.

Strategy 2.3 – Ensure that the staffing of recreational programs is adequate to meet the growing need for sports and leisure activities.

Goal 3 - Provide equitable opportunities for recreation to all residents of Greenwood County.

Strategy 3.1 – Provide neighborhood parks with playgrounds and sports fields within walking distance of low-income neighborhoods.

Strategy 3.2 – Provide parks and recreational programs specifically geared toward minorities and immigrants.

Strategy 3.3 – Ensure that parks and recreational facilities are accessible to special needs populations.

Goal 4 – Provide parks and recreational programs for all age groups within Greenwood County.

Strategy 4.1 – Provide playgrounds, sports facilities, and youth sports programs for small children and teens.

Strategy 4.2 – Provide fitness and wellness facilities for adults and seniors.

Strategy 4.3 – Provide passive parks, greenspace, and trails which allow for informal recreation and social interaction among the County’s various age groups.

Strategy 4.4 – Provide for the unique needs of the growing population of seniors and retirees in Greenwood County.

Goal 5 - Improve coordination between County Parks Department, Parks Commission, and cities.

Strategy 5.1 – Formalize maintenance, staffing, funding, and security agreements between cities and Parks Department.

Strategy 5.2 – Negotiate joint use agreements between Parks Department, schools, and private recreation providers.



Goal 6 - Provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation

- Strategy 6.1 – Provide facilities and programs for team sports, fitness, and other active recreation.
- Strategy 6.2 – Provide community center facilities and programs for indoor recreation, such as media equipment, games, social events, and meetings.
- Strategy 6.3 – Provide public greenspace areas for passive, informal recreation and special events.
- Strategy 6.4 – Provide nature preserves and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Goal 7 - Provide a range of park sizes in order to meet neighborhood, community, and regional recreational needs.

- Strategy 7.1 – Provide mini parks, playgrounds, and neighborhood parks in order to serve distinct neighborhood recreational needs
- Strategy 7.2 – Provide community parks and large enough to serve several neighborhoods.
- Strategy 7.3 – Provide large parks and sports complexes big enough to serve regions of the Greenwood County.

Goal 8 - Provide walking and biking trails in order to promote fitness and provide connectivity between parks and neighborhoods.

- Strategy 8.1 – Provide hard surface trails and tracks within parks in order to allow for fitness walking, running, in-line skating, and bicycling.
- Strategy 8.2 – Provide paved multi-use bicycle/pedestrian trails along abandoned railway corridors
- Strategy 8.3 – Provide on-street bicycle lanes and bicycle routes in appropriate areas.
- Strategy 8.4 – Provide unpaved nature trails, such as hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, and ORV trails.

Goals 9 – Provide opportunities for swimming and water sports.

- Strategy 9.1 – Provide children’s water features, such as splash fountains.
- Strategy 9.2 – Work with recreation providers such as YMCA and Brewer Center to provide public access to swimming pools.
- Strategy 9.3 – Maintain access to Lake Greenwood for boating, fishing, and swimming

Goal 10 – Ensure that public safety is maintained within all parks through design, maintenance, and staffing.

Strategy 10.1 – Ensure that new park design is consistent with the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Strategy 10.2 – Ensure that parks are well-maintained in order to promote safety and security.

Strategy 10.3 – Conduct periodic police patrols through parks and along trails in order to deter crime.

Strategy 10.4 – Provide staff and volunteers to oversee potentially dangerous recreational activities. User fees and concessions should be combined with staffing in order to offset personnel costs.

Goal 11 – Provide community greenspace that creates a sense of place and enhances cultural unity.

Strategy 11.1 – Develop landscaped gateways and signage that improve the initial impression of Greenwood County communities.

Strategy 11.2 – Design new park facilities to accommodate community events and encourage social interaction.

Strategy 11.3 – Increase requirements and incentives for neighborhood greenspace and tree preservation within new subdivisions.

Strategy 11.4 – Promote conservation subdivisions which allow for the clustering of development while preserving common greenspace.

Goal 12 – Protect and preserve sensitive environmental resources and unique scenic features.

Strategy 12.1 – Plan for an integrated system of greenways in order to protect wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Strategy 12.2 – Incorporate interpretive features within trails and parks in order to educate the public about the importance of natural resources.

Goal 13 – Utilize parks and recreational facilities to attract tourism and economic development.

Strategy 13.1 – Seek out partnerships with local sporting associations in order to attract tournaments and regional events to the County.

Strategy 13.2 – Develop a major regional park that could serve as a tourist attraction for the surrounding area.

Strategy 13.3 – Develop park space as an anchor amenity to spur mixed-use redevelopment.



LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

Future demands for parks and recreational facilities can be computed based on a comparison of population projections and targeted level of service standards. Parks and recreation needs are directly related to the demographic structure of a community. For example, areas with large numbers of families with young children will require playgrounds and teen recreational programs. On the other hand, areas with older populations may benefit from passive open space and community centers. In order to accommodate the needs of various population groups, a balance of different types of parks and facilities is needed.

Recreational Standards

Per Capita park acreage standards were first introduced by the National Playground Association of America in the early 1900s. This standard recommended that schools have one acre of land for each 2,000 students. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) first published its widely adopted standards for open space and recreational facilities in the 1970s. The first NRPA standards recommended 10 acres of park and open space per 1,000 persons within each city plus an equal area of nearby parkways, large parks, and forests.

Over the past 30 years, the NRPA has sought to refine its standards to encourage a more customized approach. While per capita standards provide an accessible planning tool, each analysis should also take into account unique local characteristics. Open space guidelines should be flexible in order to account for the variable land needs of different active and passive facilities.

Greenwood County is somewhat unique as a county-sponsored parks and recreation department serving a predominantly rural area. In contrast, many parks and open space standards are based on urban park programs. Likewise, annual per-capita park acreage data compiled by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) tracks park systems run by the largest cities in the nation. In rural areas, practical level of service standards should take into account the availability of outdoor recreational opportunities within conservation areas. For example, the park acreage needs for Greenwood County should take into account outdoor recreational opportunities such as Lake Greenwood State Park and Sumter National Forest.

Greenwood County currently maintains 213 acres of parks. Within Greenwood County state and federal agencies maintain an additional 914 acres at Lake Greenwood State Park and 10,800 acres of publicly owned land in Sumter National Forest. In addition, there are several publicly owned golf courses throughout the county which are not included within the existing acreage tabulations. Because of Greenwood County's rural setting and its wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities, a standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 of population is recommended. Within the 5 acres, 3 acres of active recreation and 2 acres of passive recreation should be provided. Table 16 shows the resulting acreage needs based on current and anticipated population levels. Currently the county's largest deficit for park land is within passive park space.

Table 16 – Recommended Park Acreage Guidelines

Facility Type	Recommended Guideline	County Facilities Provided	Needed Per Population	Shortfall / Surplus	Needed Per Population	Shortfall / Surplus
			2009		2030	
Parks Acreage (Total)	5 Acres per 1,000	213	346	(133)	397	(184)
Active Recreation	3 Acres per 1,000	196	207	(11)	238	(42)
Passive Recreation	2 Acres per 1,000	17	138	(121)	159	(142)

Per capita recreational standards can also be applied to recreational facilities. The NRPA provides recommended guidelines for number of facilities per population. However, these facility standards should also be adapted to regional differences in recreational demand. Likewise, trends in recreational participation should be factored into facility standards. Finally, the total inventory of available facilities should serve as the basis for needs, except in instances where the cost and accessibility of private facilities limits general availability. Table 17 provides a calculation of current and future facility needs based on modified NRPA standards.

The recommended facility level of service guidelines for Greenwood County are intended to take into account the relative popularity of local activities. For example, the NRPA recommendation for one baseball field per 5,000 residents was increased to one per 2,500 because of the relative popularity of baseball. Conversely, the recommended guidelines for softball, tennis, and volleyball were decreased because of their relatively lower participation rates.

Greenwood County currently maintains a substantial number of athletic fields and outdoor sports facilities. This is consistent with the recreation department's historic function of operating active recreational programs. For most instances, the total available facilities meet or exceed the NRPA's recommended guidelines. Thus, the county currently has an adequate supply for each of the major organized sports of baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. Deficiencies in athletic facilities include softball, running tracks, tennis, and volleyball. The accessibility of tennis courts and swimming pools is also limited by the private status of many of these facilities. For example, ten of the tennis courts and one of the pools surveyed are accessible only to country club members.

The County's park system does notably lack many passive recreational amenities. For example, Greenwood does not maintain a significant number of picnic facilities relative to NRPA guidelines. Because of the increased popularity of bicycling and exercise walking, an increased standard of one mile of paved trails per 7,500 of population is recommended. The county should also consider the creation of mountain bicycle trails and a BMX track in order to provide for specialized bicycling needs.

Indoor recreation is likely to increase in importance with the County's projected growth in seniors. While some senior-oriented activities are conducted at the Greenwood Civic Center, the County does not currently maintain a dedicated senior center. Community centers could also be used to provide senior activities as well as additional indoor recreational programs, such as games and arts and crafts activities.

Table 17 – Recommended Facility Level of Service Guidelines

Facility Type	Recommended Guideline	County Facilities Provided	Total Facilities Available	Needed Per Pop.	Shortfall / Surplus	Needed Per Pop.	Shortfall / Surplus
Athletic Fields and Outdoor Sports Facilities				2009		2030	
Multi-Purpose Fields	1 per 10,000	4	13	7	6	8	5
Baseball Fields	1 per 2,500	15	31	14	17	16	15
Softball Fields	1 per 10,000	0	3	7	(4)	8	(5)
Football Fields	1 per 10,000	1	8	7	1	8	0
Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	3	9	7	2	8	1
Outdoor Basketball	1 per 5,000	12	40	14	26	16	24
Running Tracks	1 per 20,000	1	2	3	(1)	4	(2)
Golf Courses	1 per 25,000	0	9	3	6	3	6
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,500	6	20	28	(8)	32	(12)
Volleyball	1 per 20,000	0	2	3	(1)	4	(2)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	1	4	3	1	4	0
Passive Recreation				2009		2030	
Picnic Pavilions	1 per 2,000	7	14	35	(21)	40	(26)
Picnic Areas	1 per 2,000	3	3	35	(32)	40	(37)
Playgrounds	1 per 2,500	15	32	28	4	32	0
Dog Parks	1 per 70,000	0	0	1	(1)	1	(1)
Trails (Paved)	1 Mile per 7,500	5.6	5.6	9	(4)	11	(5)
Trails (Natural)	1 Mile per 10,000	8.2	8.2	7	1	8	0
Indoor Recreation				2009		2030	
Gymnasiums	1 per 10,000	6	9	7	2	8	1
Fitness Centers	1 per 20,000	2	4	3	1	4	0
Community Centers	1 per 20,000	3	3	3	(0)	4	(1)
Senior Centers	1 per 30,000	0	1	2	(1)	3	(2)
Class / Meeting Rooms	1 per 10,000	5	7	7	0	8	(1)



Park Classifications

Park classifications can serve as the basis for a balanced system of parks and recreation. The creation of a comprehensive parks system is especially important in Greenwood County because of the consolidated city/county structure of the Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department. By identifying the principal functions and general form of each type of park, recreational amenities and services can be provided across both urban and rural areas of the county. Therefore, park classifications should provide general criteria on typical park size, location, development, and uses. This typology of parks provides planning guidance for site selection and design of new park and recreational facilities. The following parks classification descriptions are modeled on guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Mini-Parks and Public Plazas

Mini-parks, sometimes referred to as “pocket parks,” are typically small, isolated public greenspace that provide recreational opportunities to the immediate surrounding neighborhood. Mini-parks are under two acres with an average size of approximately one acre. Mini parks are typically located within residential areas and designed to be accessed by pedestrians. Accessibility should be provided through interconnected trails, sidewalks, and low-volume residential streets with little or no dedicated parking. Because of the pedestrian orientation of mini-parks, the service area of these facilities is limited to a $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius.

Within a downtown or commercial setting, mini-parks often take the form of public plazas or small social gathering spaces. These areas often serve as iconic greenspaces featuring special landscaping, public art, fountains, or memorials. Public plazas function as civic focal points which enhance the unique character of the community. Plazas should be connected to their downtown areas or adjacent commercial districts through wide sidewalks and urban streetscapes.

The size of mini-parks limits the facilities and programs that can be included. Mini-parks typically serve a passive function and are not designed to handle team sports and large-scale active recreation. However, some informal, low-intensity activities may be included, such as horseshoe pits or bocce courts. Passive amenities often include picnic tables, benches, gardens, public artworks, interpretive signs, and historic markers. The form and variety of uses included should correspond to the needs of the surrounding community served by the facility. For example, a mini-park located near housing designated for the elderly might contain benches and sitting areas, walking paths, small water features, and attractive landscaping. A mini-park located in a neighborhood with young families would contain a playground with a picnic shelter and benches.

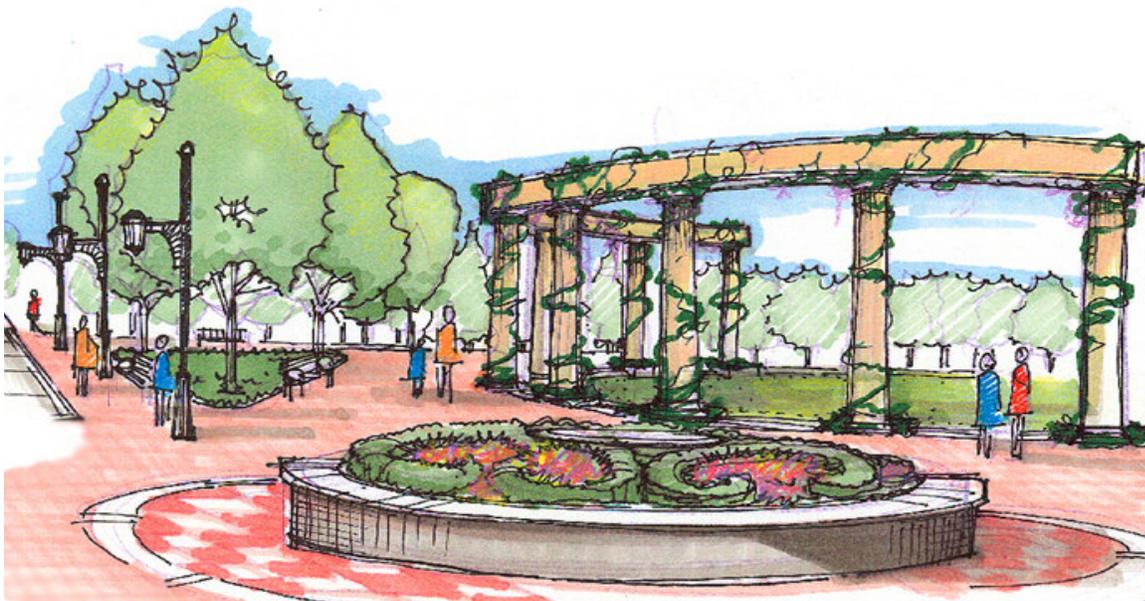


Urban plaza with bocce court





Mini-park with playground



Landscaped plaza with pedestrian linkages

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks represent the basic unit of the park system within municipalities. Parks within this classification are typically two to fifteen acres in size, with an optimal size of seven to ten acres. As the name indicates, neighborhood parks are intended to serve surrounding residential areas within a radius of one-half to one mile. They are typically located within residential areas and are connected to neighborhoods through sidewalks, trails, greenways, and low-volume residential streets. While pedestrian accessibility is the most important focus, neighborhood parks should provide some parking, particularly when active recreational functions are included. The standard is a minimum of seven parking spaces for the first ten acres and one additional space for each acre thereafter, depending on the intended uses of the park.

Locating a neighborhood park in a highly visible area or central part of a community can increase usage and encourage local stewardship. Often it can be cost-effective to select a site with inherent aesthetic qualities rather than attempting to create them through intensive site development. Locations adjacent to schools or community facilities can help to provide access to children and reduce development costs. Low income areas should be a priority for the development of neighborhood parks in order to provide recreation for those lacking access to transportation.

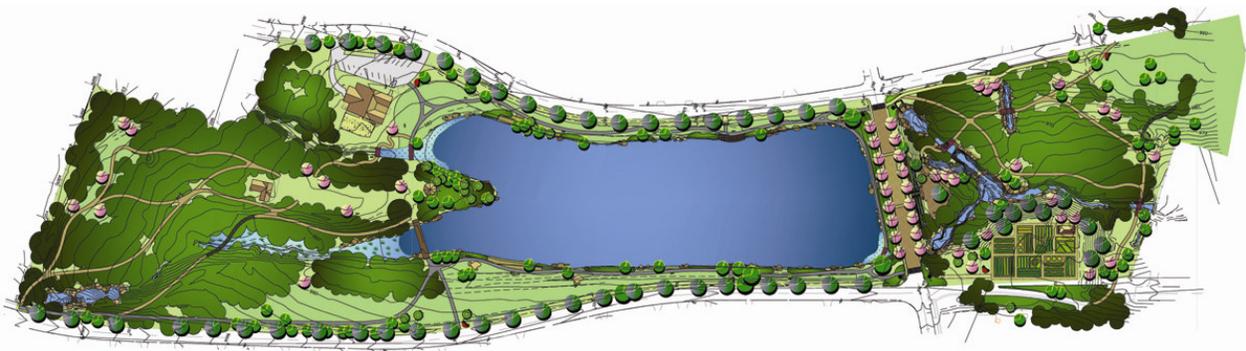
Neighborhood parks should include a balance of active and passive recreational functions. As a general rule, active recreation should consume approximately half of the space within neighborhood parks, with the remaining space dedicated to passive activities, landscaping, and conservation areas. Active recreational facilities are intended to be used in an informal, non-programmed manner. While some limited use by youth sports leagues is expected, neighborhood parks are not designed to accommodate large-scale programmed functions that result in noise, parking problems, and neighborhood congestion.

Neighborhood parks may include passive areas such as playgrounds, picnic and seating areas, pavilions, lawns/grassy areas and internal trails. Active recreation facilities may include sports courts (including tennis, basketball, and volleyball) and softball or soccer practice fields. Neighborhood parks often include many of the same low-intensity informal active recreation as mini-parks, such as shuffleboard, horseshoes, and bocce. Neighborhood parks also often provide restrooms.





Neighborhood park with passive and low-intensity active uses



Eight Acre passive Neighborhood Park with conservation and nature focus

Community Parks and Sports Complexes

Community parks and sports complexes are grouped together within this discussion because they both have the potential to serve larger areas of the County than neighborhood parks or mini-parks. Depending on the size and facilities included, a community park or sports complex can effectively serve an area of three to five miles. Because of this larger potential service area, community parks and sports complexes should form the principal element of the park system within the unincorporated portions of Greenwood County. Due to the low-density rural and suburban nature of Greenwood County, it is not economically feasible to develop pedestrian-oriented neighborhood and mini-parks throughout the unincorporated County.

Community parks serve a broader set of needs and purposes than mini-parks and neighborhood parks. The function of these parks is to serve the recreational needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the County as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks provide opportunities for a diverse mix of uses, including both outdoor and indoor recreation facilities to serve the community. Like neighborhood parks, community parks should provide a balance of both active recreation and passive areas. Typically, community parks are larger than 15 acres and often between 30 and 75 acres.

Sports complexes represent facilities that are heavily programmed with athletic fields and associated facilities. By grouping athletic functions within a larger complex, economies of scale can allow for higher quality facilities. Likewise, the consolidation of sports functions can allow for improved management, scheduling, and control of facility use. Grouping types of fields together can also encourage tournaments which draw in visitors and contribute to the local economy.

In terms of uses, both community parks and sports complexes typically include a wide range of outdoor recreational facilities, such as sports fields, running tracks, basketball courts, tennis courts, skateboard courses, BMX tracks, swimming or wading pools, public beaches, and water features. Indoor recreational facilities may also be included in both community parks and sports complexes, such as gymnasiums, fitness centers, game rooms, and even small community centers with meeting rooms. Park facilities should be connected by an accessible system of paved paths or jogging trails. Community parks typically include more passive recreational features, such as playgrounds, picnicking facilities (tables, shelters), dog run areas, nature trails, ornamental gardens, and general open greenspace. Because of the greater emphasis on athletic events, sports complexes are more likely to include bleachers, concession stands, locker rooms, and equipment storage areas.

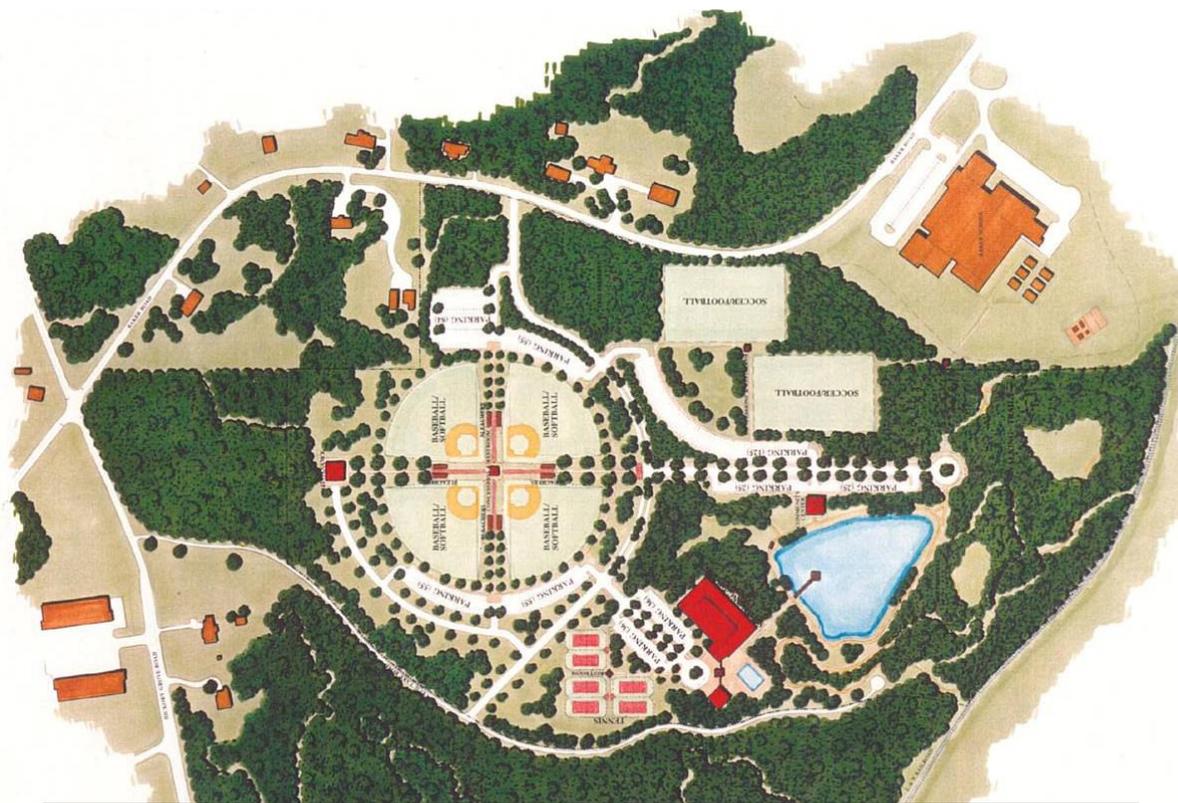
The principal difference between community parks and sports complexes is their compatibility with surrounding residential areas. Because of the greater emphasis on large organized athletic events, sports complexes may have negative impacts on adjacent neighborhoods, such as traffic congestion, parking, and noise. Similarly, facilities that draw from a wide service area may become dominated by those residing outside of the immediate neighborhood, thus impairing local community functions. While community parks with ample greenspace and passive amenities should be directly linked into surrounding neighborhoods, it is often desirable to buffer high-intensity sports complexes from residences. When facilities and events are likely to



generate significant traffic, sites should be accessible from major thoroughfares in order to avoid congestion within neighborhoods.



Community park with balance of active and passive recreation



Community park with sports fields, passive space, and community center

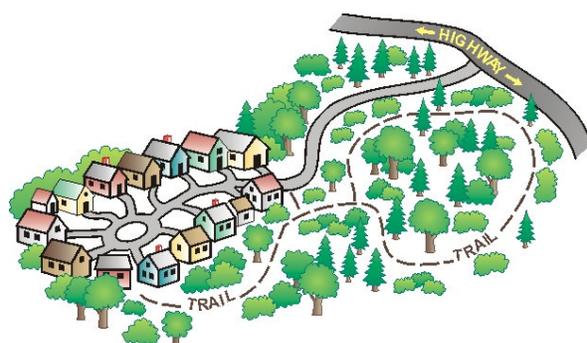
Regional Parks and Nature Preserves

Regional parks and nature preserves serve a broad spectrum of regional recreation needs and often require partnership with landowners and neighboring jurisdictions. These parks typically require substantial funding sources for development. Regional parks include activities that tend to draw participants from longer distances, such as boating, hiking, camping, fishing, golfing, picnicking, and other uses. Depending on the facilities included and uses allowed, regional parks and nature preserves can draw visitors from a radius of one-hour's drive time. These parks and conservation areas tend to be large, at 100 to 200 acres in size or greater. Often regional parks are established in order to preserve and maintain historically significant buildings or sites, such as those located at the Ninety-Six National Historic Site.

Because of the expense of land acquisition and development, as well as their regional focus, regional parks and nature preserves are not typically included within municipal park systems. Thus, regional parks and nature preserves are often developed through state park and national forest programs. Within Greenwood County, Lake Greenwood State Park represents a prominent example of a regional park, while Sumter National Forest represents an example of a nature preserve.

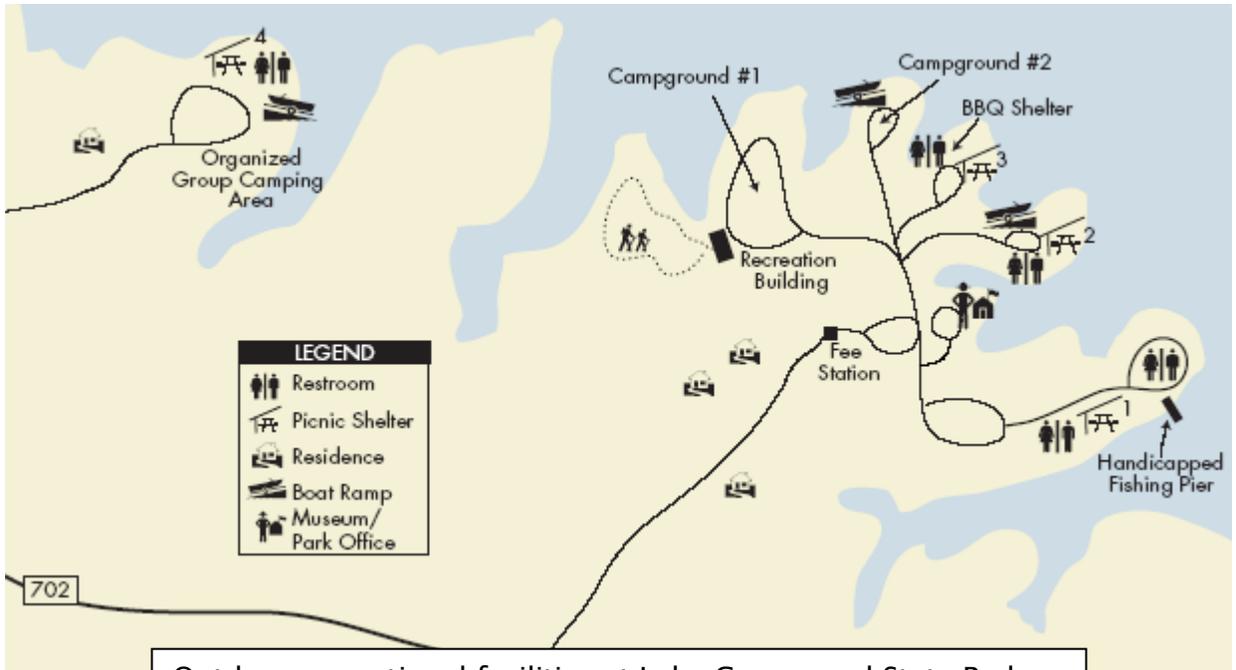
Nature preserves are often designated as a means of protecting unique natural resources, such as large forested areas, mountains, geologic features, and wetlands. These areas can be a valuable tool for protecting sensitive environmental resources, such as functioning ecosystems, wildlife habitats, rare and endangered species, aquifer recharge areas, watersheds, and flood zones. Nature trails, interpretive facilities, environmental learning centers, and other features can be incorporated into nature preserves to expand their use and function in the community. For example, hiking, equestrian, mountain bike, and ORV trails within Sumter National Forest add recreational opportunities within a nature preserve. However, care must be taken to ensure that recreational activities are compatible with environmental features and sensitive habitats.

Conservation areas such as wetlands can often be acquired at little cost due to their lack of development potential and regulatory restrictions. Similarly, conservation subdivisions can provide an incentive for the provision of common greenspace within master planned developments. Conservation subdivisions allow buildings to be clustered within one portion of a development in exchange for the preservation of greenspace within another portion of a site.

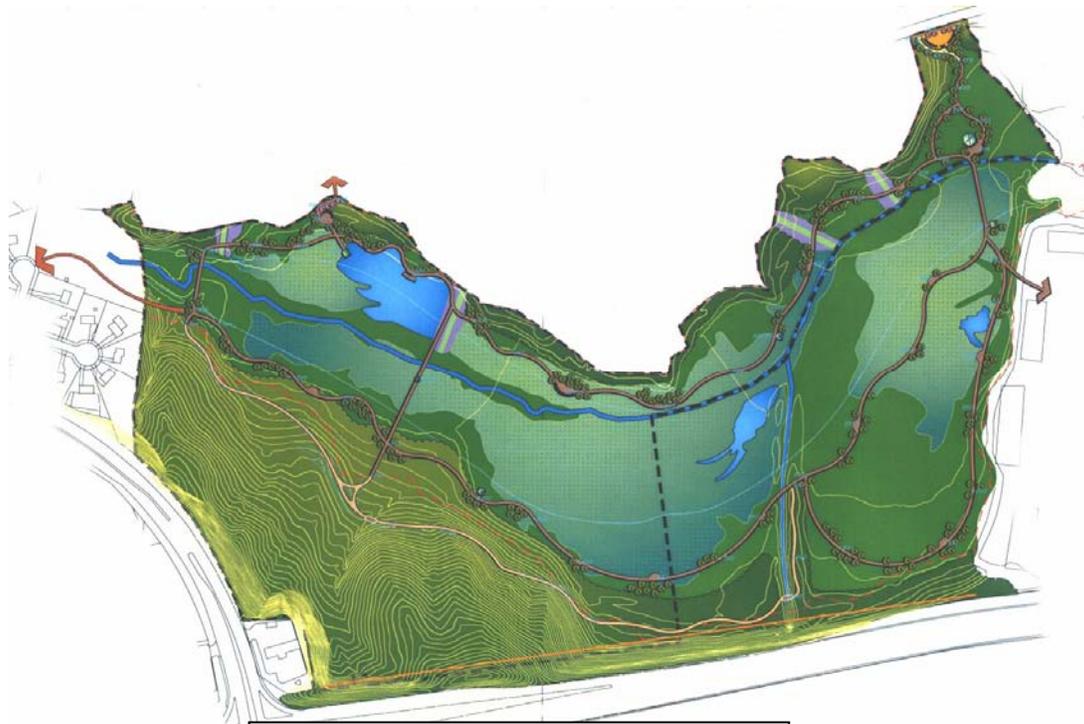


Conservation subdivision example





Outdoor recreational facilities at Lake Greenwood State Park



Wetland conservation park

Greenways and Trails

Greenways are greenspace areas that tie together natural areas, park system components, neighborhoods, schools, and other community uses. Greenways can function to form a continuous, linear park environment, providing connectivity throughout the community and bringing recreation opportunities to the greatest number of residents.

Man-made greenways are corridors that are built as part of development projects, redevelopment areas, and the reuse of old transportation facilities. Man-made greenways can include abandoned railroad beds, utility easements, path systems within master planned residential subdivisions, revitalized waterfronts, and old industrial sites. Some boulevards and parkways that include extensive landscaping and off-street trail opportunities can also be considered man-made greenways. Within Greenwood County, Heritage Trail and Cambridge Trail represent examples of greenways developed along abandoned railroad corridors.



Multi-use path along old rail corridor

Natural greenways may follow natural resources, such as streams and lakes. By forming a continuous natural system, greenways can also protect water resources and allow for the migration of wildlife. These natural greenspace areas can add recreational use to riparian buffers and floodplain areas that are unsuitable for development. Rock Creek Trail in the City of Greenwood allows for hiking alongside a creek.

Paths, trails, and pedestrian and bicycle ways constitute the key developed feature that allows greenways to function as both recreational amenities and systems of light transportation. Paths and trails provide opportunities for recreation and fitness by enhancing connectivity between neighborhoods, community facilities, and park systems. Recreational paths and nature trails can meander away from the road network, and facilitate interaction with the natural environment. Paths, trails, and pedestrian and bicycle ways also provide opportunities for alternative transportation through the community, thus reducing reliance on motor vehicles



Linear park with trail system separated from roadway

Paths, trails, and pedestrian and bicycle ways vary according to their intended function and user requirements. Soft surface hiking trails are typically located within natural resource areas such as stream corridors and nature preserves. Unpaved trails can also accommodate recreational functions, such as mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles. However, due to the potential for safety issues caused by conflict between these uses, nature trails should have designated allowable uses. For example, Sumter National Forest features separate designated trails for mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles. Walking paths are often developed within parks in order to allow park users to get exercise and access different on-site recreational facilities. Paved multi-use trails can allow for a variety of uses, such as walking and jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating.

Bikeways constitute another recreational amenity which can be incorporated into the roadway itself through striped bicycle lanes or bicycle routes marked by signage. The various classifications of Bikeways are as follows:

Classification of Bicycle Facilities

Multi-Use Trail (a.k.a. Class I) - A non-motorized facility, paved or unpaved, physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier. Also called Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail, Bike Path, Non-motorized Trail, Multi-purpose Trail or some combination thereof. Multi-use paths must be at least ten feet wide in order to allow for two-way traffic and passing between cyclists, skaters, and pedestrians. Motorized vehicles are typically prohibited from multi-use paths, with the exception of patrols by public-safety officers.

Bike Lane (a.k.a. Class II) - A portion of a roadway that is designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Most often these are done in couplets, each one being one way and adjacent to the outside through travel lane. (Also called Bicycle Lanes)

Bike Route (a.k.a. Class III) - A segment of road designated by the jurisdiction having authority, with appropriate directional and informational markers, but without striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.(Also called Bicycle Route.)

While bicycle routes can be designated at minimal cost, dedicated bicycle lanes and multi-use trails provide more safety and separation from auto traffic.

Service Areas

An analysis of park service areas can provide guidance for potential facility locations across both the municipal and unincorporated areas of Greenwood County. New park locations should be strategically located in order to serve the largest population areas. Within relatively dense urban areas, mini-parks and neighborhood parks can serve surrounding areas of one-quarter mile to one mile respectively. In the lower-density rural and suburban areas of the unincorporated county, larger community parks and sports complexes can serve wider areas of three to five miles, depending on the park



size and number of facilities provided. Finally, regional parks can serve areas of up to one hour driving time.

Figure 9 provides a map of the service areas of the existing parks and recreational facilities within Greenwood County. Residential land uses located outside of the service area of existing facilities are also displayed on the map. While regional facilities, such as Lake Greenwood State Park and the Ninety-Six National Historic Site serve valuable recreational needs, these sites have been excluded from the service areas analysis. Likewise, some private facilities such as the YMCA and Country Club have been excluded from the analysis because they are not open to the general public without membership.

Computations of the populations served by Greenwood County's existing parks can be made using block-level data from the 2000 decennial census. Approximately 57% of the County's population is located within the immediate service area of an existing park. Substantial areas of residential development are located to the north and west of the city of Greenwood, as well as along Lake Greenwood.

A map of potential park service areas is provided in Figure 10. Community-level parks should be strategically located throughout the County in order to serve the maximum number of residents living in unincorporated areas. Neighborhood parks should also be provided as a means of serving residents within incorporated and dense urbanized area of the County. Neighborhood parks are particularly needed within low-income residential areas where residents often lack access to transportation. Several comments within the recreational needs survey reinforce the need for neighborhood parks within accessible distance to low-income neighborhoods. Census blockgroups with poverty levels over 20% which are outside of the service area of a walkable neighborhood park include 9708.5 and 9708.2 on the south side of the City of Greenwood. (See Figure 4)

Figure 9 – Existing Park Service Areas – Greenwood County, SC

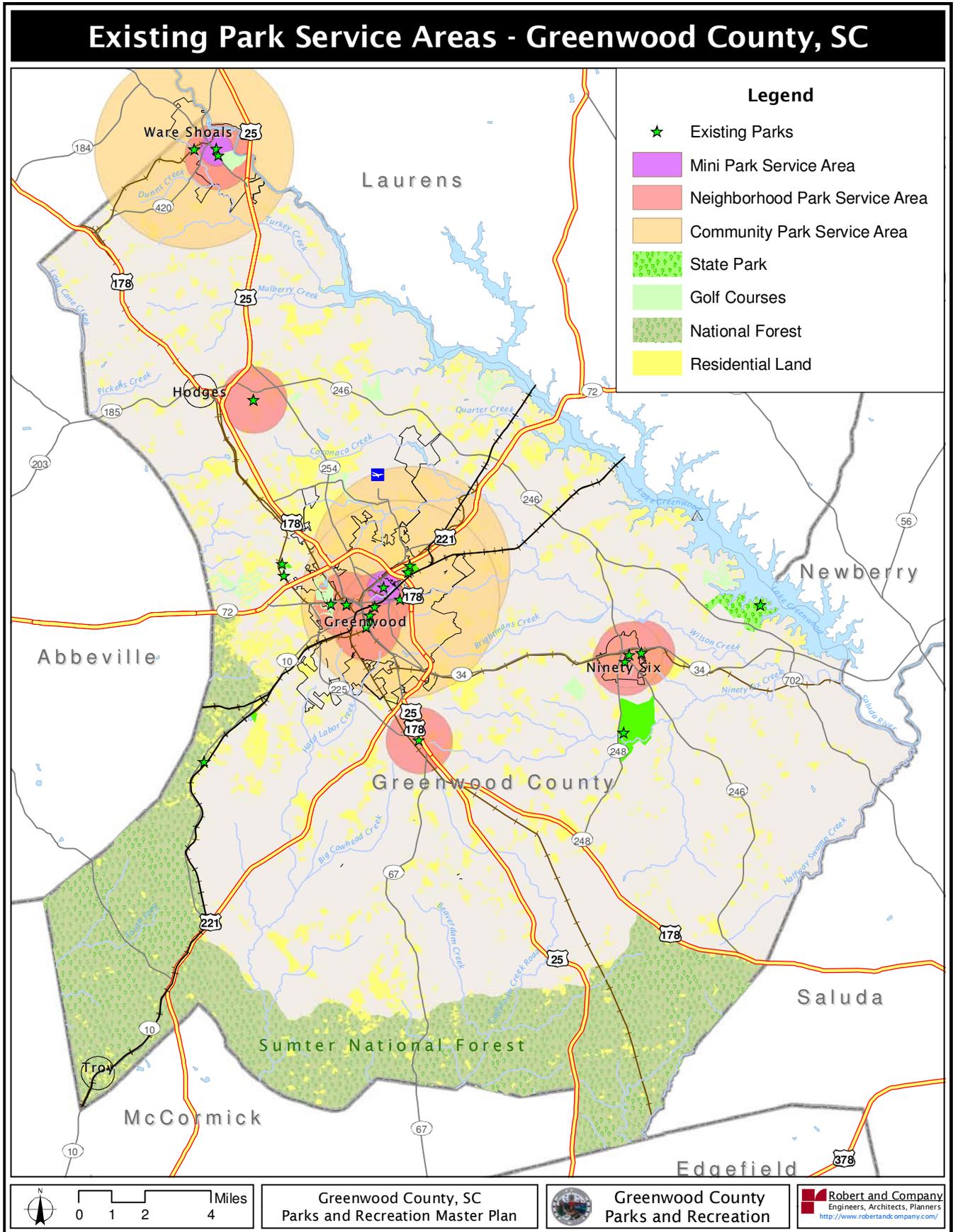
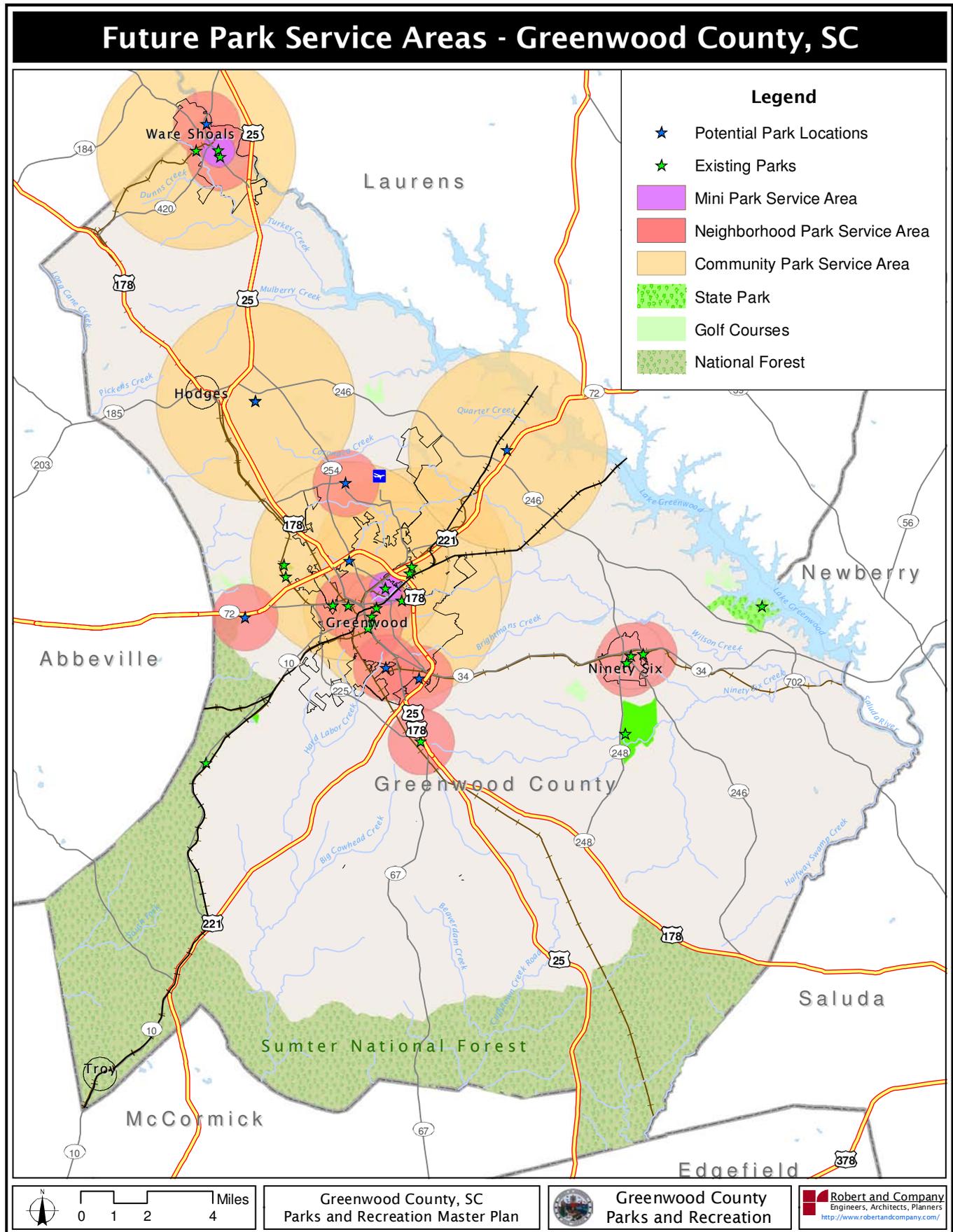


Figure 10 - Future Park Service Areas - Greenwood County, SC



FUTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This section provides a summary of the plan's recommendations relating to the County's park system concepts, land acquisitions, facility development, and programming. These recommendations have been described in detail throughout the report and are a culmination of the input received through a variety of sources including the existing comprehensive plan, public meetings and questionnaires, Stakeholders, survey, past plans and reports, the Consultants' extensive research and experience, County staff expertise, and local knowledge.

Key System Recommendations

- Develop a long-term expansion strategy for parks, trails, and recreational programs that addresses future demographic trends.
- Expand the scope of the County's parks and recreational system to include functions of both active and passive recreation.
- Focus initial expansion plans on the improvement of existing facilities and the acquisition of underutilized properties.
- Leverage the creation of new greenspace in order to encourage redevelopment and attract quality new development.
- Develop an identity for the County's parks system through consistent signage, streetscaping, and design standards.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for bicycle and pedestrian systems in order to provide linkages between parks, community facilities, and neighborhoods.
- Pursue strategic partnerships with other County departments, cities, utility companies, and recreation providers in order to expand the number of programs available in Greenwood County and reduce liability risks.
- Formalize intergovernmental agreements for park maintenance.
- Expand recreational programming to include a more diverse set of activities.
- Focus new recreational programming on areas of key demographic needs, such as seniors, teens, and girls.
- Develop short-term strategies to cope with the current economic downturn in order to ensure that the quality of Greenwood's system of parks and recreation does not decline.

System Expansion Recommendations

While some short-term reduction in the funding and capacity of the Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department may be inevitable due to the current recession, it is also important to create a plan for the long-term expansion of the County's parks and recreation services. In order to build a comprehensive system of parks and recreation, it is recommended that Greenwood County expand its facilities and programs to accommodate both passive and active recreational needs. The recreational needs survey conducted as part of this planning effort demonstrates a demand for passive amenities. For example, passive amenities such as greenspace, nature preserves, and walking/biking trails were ranked above sports facilities as the most needed facilities. Likewise, passive activities, such as picnicking, social events, walking, and biking were cited most frequently among the potential programs listed on the survey. While passive parks have been traditionally viewed as an urban amenity, Greenwood's



consolidated city/county recreation and planning functions necessitate a balanced approach. Furthermore, the pattern of suburban growth surrounding Greenwood County's municipalities points to the need for additional types of amenities throughout the unincorporated county. Thus, it is recommended that new parks be developed with a mixture of both passive and active uses.

Short-term facility improvements should prioritize existing system deficits, such as passive amenities and currently underserved communities. One potential strategy for increasing the amount of passive space within the County system is to focus initial efforts on currently public-owned land. For example, the Cokesbury Park property contains 46 acres of land, while only about 4 acres are developed as a ballfield. One relatively inexpensive option for adding passive space may be to cut nature trails or mountain biking trails through the woods at the Cokesbury site. Private recreational organizations and volunteer programs may also be able to help with the construction of such trails. The old water works property on Grace Street, the site of the former Parkland Golf Club, and the Promised Land Ballfield present additional opportunities to redevelop existing community facilities for recreational use.

The acquisition and redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized commercial and industrial sites presents an excellent opportunity for Greenwood to not only provide parkland to under-served areas, but also to assist in revitalizing and improving the overall quality of life of such areas. The removal of blighted structure can also provide the impetus for redevelopment. The current down-turn in real estate may also provide opportunities for property acquisition which may be unavailable after the economy recovers. The Planning Department should seek out opportunities to acquire vacant or under-utilized commercial and industrial properties which may be available to serve urban communities. For example, a program allowing the parks department to act as receiver for tax foreclosed properties may provide a means of acquiring land for park development.

The development of new parks and recreational facilities should be coordinated with economic development efforts in order to leverage new investments in greenspace. Unique public greenspace areas can serve as key amenities which help spur redevelopment. Within Uptown City of Greenwood, the proposed trail section running down Main Street should be coordinated with the Greenwood City Center Plan. The downtown master plan identified the width of Main Street as an impediment to pedestrian activity and called for the creation of a downtown plaza or square. Consideration should be given to the creation of a downtown linear park to serve as the City of Greenwood's signature greenspace area. Within rural areas of the county, park development can also be leveraged as a means of attracting quality development. For example, master planned communities are often developed around recreational amenities, such as golf courses. Public-private partnerships may be feasible allowing for the creation of publicly-accessible community parks with linkages to new master-planned residential and mixed-use developments.

As new greenspace and facilities are developed, the County should focus on building a unique identity for its parks and recreation program. The creation of unique public greenspace areas creates a sense of place that enhances community bonds and increases property values. Another means of creating an identity for the County's



system of parks is to provide consistent development standards for new facilities. For example, standards for signage, site furnishings, and equipment could help create a consistent positive image for parks in Greenwood County.

Land Acquisition

The County currently owns and / or leases approximately 213 acres of land at 13 sites. Based on recommended park acreage standards, the County as a whole has a current parkland deficit of 133 acres. Because of the County's historic focus on active recreational programs, the majority of the acreage deficit is within passive facilities. The most immediate needs for active recreation and playgrounds are found within low-income neighborhoods which may lack access to transportation. Forecasted population growth and increasing diversity in Greenwood will require the County to acquire and construct new parks and to upgrade or complete construction at existing parks. According to the recommended level of service for park acreage, the County should acquire an additional 51 acres in order to meet the needs of future population growth.

Although expansion of existing parks, such as utilizing the undeveloped 42 acres at Cokesbury Park for passive recreation, will assist in addressing some of the undersupply in recreation facilities, a significant deficit will remain. In terms of parkland acquisition and expansion for passive recreation, the County should place high priority on the Grace Street Property. Much of this site lies within a floodplain, is predominantly wooded, has immediate vehicular access to a main road, and is pedestrian friendly. This 50 acre site provides an excellent opportunity for a passive recreation or conservation type park. Additionally, the County should investigate acquiring land along the Saluda River Dam in Ware Shoals. A prospective park site at this location would provide areas for walking trail, hiking trails, equestrian trails, as well as a physical connection to the river and Laurens County's Pitts Park. Additionally, beyond the river shoals area, five (5) one acre parcels should be acquired along the length of the Saluda River within Greenwood County, to provide land for non-motorized boats to launch, expanding the recreational experience by incorporating a canoe / kayaking trail down the Saluda River. Further, the former Parkland Golf Course could be acquired and developed in an effort to maintain natural buffers between residential areas and the Greenwood Airport. The County should also identify and acquire land along the HWY 72 corridor on the east side of Greenwood near Lake Greenwood to establish a county community center / gym / senior center. This area of the county appears to have a higher percentage of retirees and would therefore be more receptive to a senior center.

The County should look to acquire vacant properties of around 2-15 acres in the Mathews Mill Village, Highland Forest, or Panola Mill Village areas. Potential sites should be of the aforementioned acreage, within walking distance of several residential areas, and accessible at a minimum. Additionally a mini or neighborhood park property should be acquired along highway 72, west of Greenwood between Promised Land and Hunters Creek.

Park Accessibility

The accessibility of new facilities constitutes an important criteria for site selection as well as an important design consideration. In order to serve large areas of the County, new facilities must be accessible to major roadways. However, pedestrian accessibility should also be provided. While larger, community-level facilities should form the backbone of the County's greenspace network; new parks should be compatible with surrounding residential areas. Thus, community parks that feature a mix of passive and active amenities are recommended over sports complexes.

Although it is recognized that special events and tournaments often provide economic benefits to local recreation organizations and the County as a whole, new facilities that maybe required should meet the recreational activity needs of local residents first and foremost. Local residents should not be displaced by non-local events, professional or amateur. When a major event will impact directly on a user group or on an adjacent community, every effort should be made to balance the local interest with the broader corporate goal of bringing revenue to the County. When pursuing major sporting, cultural or special events, it is recommended that the County continue to consider the needs of local residents and the facility requirements as the County's primary responsibility.

With the County's population growth and changing demographics, an increase in the numbers of person who will face challenges in accessing the recreational system is anticipated. As a result, new parks and recreational facilities should be handicapped-accessible and comply with ADA standards. It is also recommended that the County work with its partners in recreation to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to the recreational system.

Greenway Development

The development of an interconnected greenway system in Greenwood County is a key priority for this plan, as identified by stakeholders, citizen input, and previous planning efforts such as the Parks Commission's 1999 Parks and Trails Master Plan, the 2007 Greenwood City/County Comprehensive Plan, and the 2002 South Carolina State Trails Plan. The goal of these efforts is to achieve pedestrian and bicycle linkages and connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and other points of interest such as schools, libraries, community facilities and commercial areas. Furthermore, the recreational needs survey indicates support for trails and greenways along with a high level of participation in bicycling, walking for exercise, and hiking.

A map of potential trail locations is provided in Figure 11. It is recommended that the County negotiate multi-purpose easements that combine greenway public access rights with sewer and utility easements and along abandoned rails systems. The main focus of trail development should be along the County's extensive network of abandoned railway lines. These corridors constitute the greatest opportunity for continuous linkages between developed population centers. Multi-use trails are the recommended preferred type of trail, since they allow for bicycles, pedestrians, skateboards, and in-line skating. However, some natural surface trails are also feasible along riparian corridors, such as the Rock Creek Trail. A canoe/kayak trail from Ware Shoals to Lake

Greenwood State Park could provide another type of recreational amenity that builds on existing facilities and takes advantage of access to Lake Greenwood.

A system of bicycle routes, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks should also be integrated into the County's greenway development plans as a means of providing additional linkages into neighborhoods and connecting large sections of trail. For example, the existing bicycle route along SC-246 could be improved to include bicycle lanes connecting the proposed multi-use trail running from Hodges through Ninety Six. A full bicycle and pedestrian master plan would help to coordinate sidewalk needs with trail planning.

Intergovernmental Coordination and Strategic Partnerships

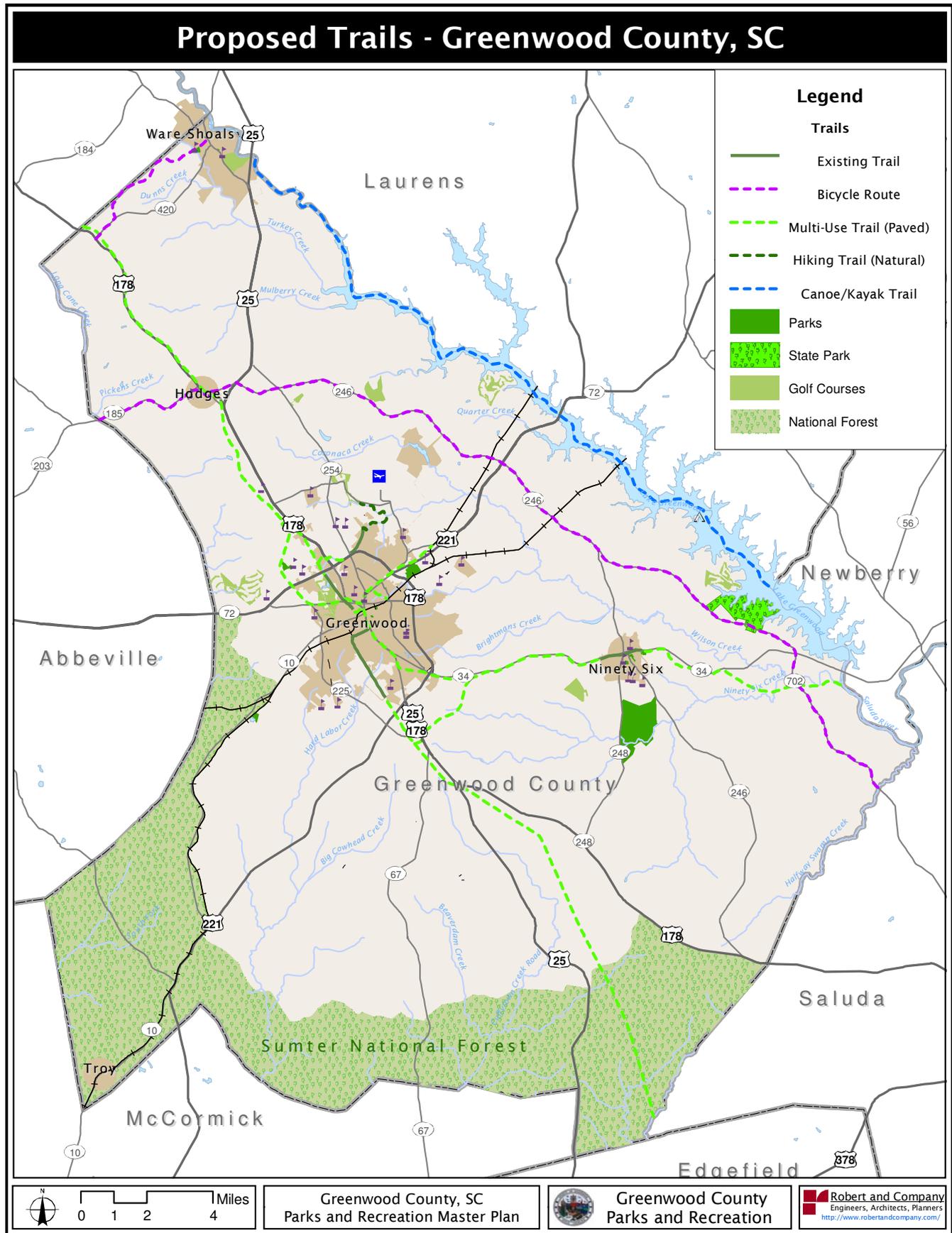
Within Greenwood County there are several smaller communities which have recreational facilities and parkland. The County provides parks and recreation planning staff to assist these smaller departments. These communities play an important role in providing for the recreational needs of the County residents and their contributions should not be overlooked. Other groups such as athletic associations, not-for-profit agencies, boards of education, and other leisure-oriented community groups also play integral roles. Thus, it is recommended that Greenwood County continue to support and work with private groups as well as government organizations, such as the Parks Commission, in order to increase the overall supply of park land and to build public support for new parks. Without all agencies working together, it would not be possible to provide the citizens of Greenwood County with the recreation services they require and deserve.

It is recommended that the County Park and Recreation Department recognize the following organizations as partners in recreation including, but not limited to, athletic associations, Boards of Education, Lander University, Piedmont Tech, County Library System, Greenwood County Convention and Visitors Bureau, local governments, YMCA, Brewer Center, Burton Center, and other key community-based leisure organizations. These agencies and groups should be actively engaged in the planning and development of new and redevelopment facilities. For example, the Parks and Recreation Department should work with the Brewer Center in order to help develop an aquatic center. It is recommended that the County continue to advance its working relationship with these partners to ensure non-duplication of services, allow for public access to facilities, and provide the most appropriate mix of facilities to meet the needs of all groups in the County.

One principal challenge for intergovernmental coordination is the establishment of formal maintenance agreements for parks and recreational facilities. While the County Parks Commission has successfully spearheaded the development of new passive parks within the City of Greenwood, formal maintenance agreements have not been established. The Parks Commission's previous strategy of relying on volunteer maintenance for new parks should be revised to support professional facility management. Formal maintenance agreements should be established along with the creation of each new facility. It is recommended that the entity receiving ownership of each facility should conduct maintenance. Because land ownership confers ultimate liability for the state of each park and facility, maintenance responsibility should coincide with property ownership.



Figure 11 - Proposed Trails - Greenwood County, SC



Recreational Programming

The expansion of the County's facilities and programs should be designed to address both current needs and future demographic trends. Many of the current needs and public interests in Greenwood County can be identified in the needs assessment survey. The County's offerings are complemented well by the recreational opportunities provide by local athletic associations, community schools, community groups and private enterprise. Based on the needs assessment survey, and national trends it would appear that Greenwood County is currently offering an excellent level of service for the major youth sports that constitute the bulk of active recreational planning. However, the recreational needs survey indicates a public desire for more diverse set of recreational offerings.

Numerous activities that are currently not offered received considerable support on the survey. While interest was expressed in a variety of the recreational activities listed, there were also some overall themes that emerged from the survey. First, special events such as festivals, concerts, performances, social events, dinners, and picnics were all ranked highly. This indicates the need to maintain passive facilities capable of hosting special events and social gatherings. Next, outdoor recreational activities scored highly on the survey, such as hiking, camping, and equestrian activities. Recreational programs may meet some of these needs through greater usage of wilderness areas within Sumter National Forest. Water sports such as swimming, fishing, boating, and canoeing were also cited frequently on the needs assessment survey. This points to the need to expand public access to Lake Greenwood as well as provide for swimming pools. Additional boat ramps, canoe/kayak launch areas, and public docks along Lake Greenwood could expand access to the Lake outside of the state park. While there are currently several swimming pools located in Greenwood County, the private status of most of these facilities limits public accessibility.

Another means of assessing leisure programming needs is through age group demographics. The various program topics (by age group) that are available to Greenwood residents through the County's Park System are listed in Table 3. Population projections and input received through public input indicate that more attention will need to be paid to youth and senior programs in the future. It is recommended that programming for seniors and youth-at-risk be modified and or expanded in order to meet the ever-changing needs of these groups. Some activities, such as swimming and biking/walking trails, provide the opportunity to address the needs of both youth and senior populations. Within the more ethnically diverse neighborhoods, it is recommended that community outreach efforts be enhanced in order to identify and address local preferences and program needs.



Table 18 – Leisure Activities Available by Age Group

Pre-School (0-4)	Children (5-9)	Teens (10-19)	Adults (20-54)
climbing (play equipment)	swimming walking cycling organized sports: (soccer, baseball, basketball) playground activities summer youth prgms	swimming, walking cycling in-line skating organized sports: (soccer, baseball basketball, football) summer youth prgms.	walking & jogging golf basketball continuing education computer classes fitness
Seniors (55+)	Families	People w/ Disabilities	Special Populations
walking swimming golf computer classes special events	swimming walking cycling special events; (Civic Center)	specialized programs (privatized - Burton Ctr.)	varies by type & level of need but may include low-cost programs, social services, ethnic services, organized sports

Senior Programming Needs

Looking specifically at the facility / programming needs of older adults the research suggests that the recreational pursuits of the “new” and “future” senior citizen are going to be different from previous generations. While the senior citizen of past generations pursued more passive activities, today’s seniors are more fit and more interested in maintaining their current exercise habits, though perhaps at a more leisurely pace. The traditional senior center does not permit a range of active recreational activities. To better meet the needs of today’s senior, Greenwood County should look to a multi-purpose facility where a range of active and passive recreational opportunities can be provided.

Although activities such as horseshoes, bocce, shuffleboard and walking for fitness may be enjoyed by all generations of park user, these types of recreation have been grouped together to form a Senior Facilities portion of the Needs Assessment. With a growing population of senior citizens in Greenwood County, their recreation needs should be a primary consideration. The 50-plus age group can be a “wealth of knowledge” in the community and also bring higher incomes into the community.

Some specific facility and programming trends associated with older adults:

- Increased demand for computer centers in recreation facilities to meet the growing interest of older Americans in digital technology, web design, emailing, etc.
- Life long learning/ short courses/ workshops.
- Fitness pools for water walking, water aerobics and lap swimming with warmer water

- A re-thinking of terminology; the aging baby boomers don't consider themselves to be "Seniors"; terms to use instead of "senior center" include adult center or social center
- Some trends anticipate lower time commitments to volunteering which could have an impact on parks and recreation agencies that rely on older volunteers.

With the exception of a few walking trails and classrooms provided by the Parks and Recreation system of the County, there are minimal facilities that are geared toward the senior population. The majority of senior facilities are relatively inexpensive and easy to locate. The county could easily support more facilities for senior activities such as handball, shuffleboard, bocce ball, horseshoe courts, banquet facilities, fitness space, outdoor courtyards / gardens, large meeting rooms, breakout rooms, workshops, arts / crafts rooms, as well as computer centers to meet growing interest of older citizens in digital technology.

Teen Programming Needs

Survey after survey finds that the needs of teenagers are less well served than other age groups. Due to the sheer size of the age group at this time (children of baby boomers), the voices of teenagers have become louder. The trend research indicated that individual sports such as skateboarding, in-line skating, mountain biking, disc golf and BMX biking are popular.

In research by the Robert and Company / JB+a consultants in other jurisdictions the message from teens and the list of facility "wants" have been consistent:

- Dedicated space for teens which provides an opportunity for casual socializing and a range of active and passive recreational activities;
- Basketball;
- Skateboarding / in-line skating;
- Swimming
- Age segregated opportunities at recreational facilities; for example, a 17 year old doesn't want to swim or play basketball with a 12 year old.

Obesity levels are a concern nationally. The "epidemic" of childhood obesity is fueling federal initiatives to increase activity and fitness levels among youth. While there has been an effort to increase activity within the school systems there is also a need for communities to develop and promote the use of safe, well maintained and close to home sidewalk, crosswalks, multi-use trails, bicycle paths, parks and recreational facilities.

Historically, teenagers have been the fittest age group, however, trends research shows declining participation numbers for the 12-17 year age bracket (Seniors - 50+ years of age, were shown to be the most physically active age group). Greenwood County should anticipate greater efforts on the part of the local community organizations to engage the inactive teenager in active recreation. As a direct provider of recreational programming, the County should also ensure that its own programming helps youth to get the "fitness hook" or get hooked on fitness.



Female Programming Needs

Girls and women are participating in outdoor recreation and sports generally in greater numbers. The Women's Sports Foundation Research Report "Go out and Play" Youth Sports in America (October 2008) indicated the following:

- A gender gap exists in sports and physical activity, but it is uneven. The variations strongly suggest that the girls' and boys' participation in sports and exercise is primarily shaped by access and opportunity.
- Girls take part in a wider array of sports and exercise activities than boys do, including traditional, recreational and newly emerging sports such as cheerleading, dance, double Dutch and volleyball.
- Girls enter sports at a later age than boys (7.4 years old compared to 6.8 years old)
- Many parents are aware that girls are getting fewer opportunities in sports and physical activity than boys are. More African-American and Hispanic parents feel schools and communities are failing their daughters.
- Participating in organized or team sports helps to enhance girls' quality of life. Girls who do not currently participate in a team sport are less content with their lives than girls involved in sports. Sports involvement enhances the quality of life for girls.

The National Council of Youth Sports Report on Trends in Youth Sports (2001) reported that girls are participating at younger ages than they had in the past and the overall percentage of boys and girls participating has remained the same since 1997 (63% for boys, 37% for girls). Female participation increased for every age group other than the 16-18 year age group.

Looking to the future, Greenwood County can anticipate increased numbers of girls and women participating in sports and recreation.

Active Recreation Needs

Table 2 indicates that Greenwood County exceeds the recommended number of facilities for baseball, football, soccer, and outdoor basketball. However, a number of public comments indicated that Greenwood County does not have enough fields and that the fields are not large enough or regulation size for hosting tournaments for soccer or baseball. While facilities capable of hosting tournaments do represent a viable strategy for attracting sports tourism, the development of large new sports complexes is not recommended as a high priority given the number of existing facilities within the County.

In an effort to address comments from local citizens the County may first want to consider expanding existing facilities either through the consolidation of fields to provide a larger field, or the expansion of existing fields. The following parks allow for this potential:

Note: these recommendations for expansion are based off of observations gathered through the use of aerial photography and site reconnaissance and will be contingent upon the findings of the Parks and Recreation Department as determined by the athletic associations.



Greenwood Recreation Center

- Retrofit / expand existing ball fields or soccer fields to accommodate various age groups and or levels of play
- Convert overflow parking area to sports fields. (Appears to be large enough to accommodate 2 regulation sized soccer fields.)

Note: It is recommended that a Park Master Plan illustrating improvements be developed prior to any conversion or expansion to fields.

Brewer Recreation Center

- Renovation of existing multi-use field will accommodate at a minimum 1 large ballfield and 1 soccer field, or several smaller fields

Note: It is recommended that a Park Master Plan illustrating improvements be developed prior to any conversion or expansion to fields.

Cokesbury Park

- Existing Ballfield could be expanded to accommodate regulation sized ballfield while maintaining the majority of the site as passive recreation.

Note: It is recommended that a Park Master Plan illustrating improvements be developed prior to any conversion or expansion to fields.

Young Park

- Existing ballfield (southern most field) could be expanded to accommodate a larger field
- Eastern most field (near playground) has the potential to be converted to soccer field.

Beyond the consolidation of fields and or the expansion of existing fields additional facilities may be warranted. It is recommended that the County recognize and pursue partners who offer potential partnership opportunities either in the provision of land for development, joint use of new facilities or the use of existing facilities. For example, a joint use agreement with Lander University allows for the potential use of Landers Legion field or the University Soccer field for tournament play. Additionally, the County may want to consider utilizing multiple upgraded fields throughout the County for tournament play – rather than developing a full sports complex specifically for tournaments, in an effort to spread the economic benefits through the county and minimize the inconvenience of traffic congestion to the local residents. Finally, to accommodate tournaments for younger players utilizing the existing or upgraded large fields, movable fencing and or baselines may be considered.

Staffing

While the primary focus of the Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan is on facilities and capital improvements, it is also important to review the department's staffing and operational needs. Parks and recreational staff may be categorized into several different functions within a departmental structure. First, there is typically a departmental management function which includes the professionals charged with overseeing operations as well as administrative support.

Next, recreational departments include program leaders, who are charged with supervising athletics programs and leisure activities. Under these program leaders, there are frequently independent contractors who lead specialized activities, such as dance classes, martial arts lessons, fitness instructors, and arts and crafts programs. Activity programs also include seasonal staff members that are frequently hired part time for summer recreational programs and special events.

Volunteers also play an important role in staffing activity programs and seasonal events. For example, volunteers deliver many athletic association programs in Greenwood. As the number of volunteers declines, as the general trend in recent years, more resources will be needed for volunteer training and recruitment. The Parks and Recreation Department should also clearly define its responsibilities towards volunteers, including the definition of roles and responsibilities and parameters for their involvement in the delivery of County services. As a general principle, it is recommended that the County support volunteers by offering training in organizational development.

While volunteers serve as the backbone of activity programming, grounds maintenance should be the responsibility of professional park staff. Grounds crews must maintain landscaping, plantings and tree pruning; while facilities crews maintain the upkeep of buildings and structures. Grounds crews and facility maintenance workers may be supplemented with inmate labor and community service workers. In such cases, detail officers must be certified in managing inmate labor. Specialized workers may also be needed to maintain and staff facilities with unique functions such as aquatics complexes, community centers, and senior centers.

Current Staff

The Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains a management structure with four (4) professional managers, (one Parks and Rec. Director, and four Center Directors Greenwood Rec. Center, Larry Traynham Center, Ninety Six Center, Brewer Recreation Center). Under these managers, there are two (2) administrative support staff who handle functions such as office support, secretarial, receptionist and basics Information Technology (IT).

Under recreational program staff, the county maintains one (1) athletic supervisor and two (2) program supervisors (Brewer Recreation Center). No facility supervisors are currently employed as full time. Seasonal activity leaders may include part time summer employees.

For upkeep of grounds and facilities, the current staff is comprised of one (1) maintenance supervisor, one (1) Grounds/ Maintenance Foreman, and four (4) Grounds / Maintenance Workers. Seasonal activity may include part time summer employees.

Staffing Needs Assessment

Current and future staff needs have been identified through interviews with Greenwood County staff, public input and trends research. First, the management structure of the Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Department appears to be adequate to meet the immediate needs of overseeing the County's parks and recreational facilities,



however, in coming years additional staff may be required, as the need for youth-at-risk and seniors program coordinators has been identified.

Future staffing needs for recreational programs are somewhat dependant on activity participation levels. Participant-to-staff ratios may be employed to determine appropriate staffing levels for specific activities. For example, the American Camp Association (ACA) has the following standards for accredited resident camps: one staff member for every 6 campers aged 6 to 8; one staff member for every 8 campers aged 9 to 14; and one staff member for every 10 campers aged 15 to 18. Likewise, independent contractors for activity classes may be employed on the basis of participation. Specialized activities and classes often utilize user fees to fund these independent contractors. Typically, independent contractors receive 80% of the user fees assessed for each such activity, with an additional 20% reserved for administrative costs.

Future staffing needs for grounds maintenance will be determined largely by the addition of new parks and facilities.

**Calculating the staffing requirements for a particular grounds area is based on two essential factors. First is the type of area that must be maintained and the tasks associated with that maintenance. Second is the amount of care to be provided, or the level of attention to be paid, to the grounds area.*

(Chapter 3: Grounds Staffing Guidelines. NRPA Operational Guidelines for Grounds Management)

Thus, if the County acquires an additional 133 acres of parkland as specified in the needs assessment, then they will require additional grounds maintenance employees. However, the construction of specialized facilities, such as a Community Center, may require additional maintenance personnel.

As mentioned the construction of specialized facilities will generate the need for specialized staff. For example a Community Center may require a director, administrative staff, programming staff and janitorial staff. A new Senior Center may require therapeutic staff, ceramics programmers, and nutritionists. There will be staff implications for every facility added to the parks and recreation inventory and every additional acre of parkland acquired. It will be imperative to identify staffing, requirements associated with new parks and facilities and budget accordingly. The trends research and consultation with staff and the public indicates that additional staff will be required over the next few years in the areas of maintenance, community development and programming for seniors and youth-at-risk.

Short-Term Budget Strategies

Within the short-term, the current economic crisis occurring throughout the nation is likely to have significant impacts on Greenwood County's Parks and Recreation Department. As government revenues are negatively impacted by slumping real estate values, increased unemployment, and reduced consumer spending, many local governments may see parks and recreation as a tempting luxury item to cut in the face of budget shortfalls. Thus, it is important that the Parks and Recreation Department



develop some short-term strategies in order to boost revenues in the event of budget cuts.

Increased user fees for recreation programs can provide a means of supplementing revenues and creating a direct linkage between usage and costs. In order to maintain equity and access to recreational programs for low-income residents, any increase in user fees should be implemented along with a system of fee waivers. For example, some counties administer youth sports fee waivers through school lunch program documentation. Children with documentation of free or reduced cost lunch programs are automatically eligible for recreational program fee waivers. Sponsorships and charitable donations may provide another source for youth sports fee “scholarships”.

Facility Improvement Recommendations

A summary of the recommended capital improvements are listed for the existing parks and recreational facilities within Greenwood County. If a park is not listed, there are no recommended changes to it. The facility development recommendations are listed below alphabetically by park and have not been placed in order of priority. The priority and capital cost of each recommendation is provided in the proposed Capital Improvements Program.

Brewer Recreation Center

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds
- Pave parking areas
- Replace / upgrade chain link fencing with black vinyl coated fencing
- Reseed multi-use fields
- Improve pedestrian connection between Rec. Center, outdoor activities, and sporting fields.
- Update / replace playground equipment.
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Provide additional trash receptacles at outdoor basketball courts
- Supplement landscape with trees and shrubs
- Develop Aquatics Center
- Develop Outdoor Sports Complex
- Add security fencing
- Provide picnic pavilion (s) at least one available for rentals

Civic Center / Greenwood Recreation Center

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds
- Update / retrofit existing Civic Center to accommodate underserved activities within the community. (Potential for Community Center)
- Convert overflow parking to additional recreational facilities as determined by Master Plan
- Renovate Farmers Market (replace exterior siding and roofing, insulate interior of building, upgrade lighting)
- Improve landscape throughout park to match level of landscape improvements at tennis facility
- Provide additional shade trees throughout park.
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



Cokesbury Park

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds
- Renovate / replace restroom / concession building
- Improve dug out areas
- Replace bent fence panels as necessary
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Provide site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc.)
- Develop multi-use, nature, hiking, mountain biking trails through undeveloped wooded section of site.
- Develop picnic area(s)
- Develop playground area(s)
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan
- Designate parking area as determined by Master Plan

Fox Boozer Park

- Replace lighting as necessary around ball fields
- Regrade infield of field 1 for improved drainage
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)

Johnny Williams Park

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds. –Potential to develop prototype for additional neighborhood/ mini parks
- Replace/ upgrade/ improve playground equipment
- Provide common area / gathering area for neighborhood events
- Provide small pavilion
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Re-grade and reseed for improved drainage
- Replace nets on basketball goals
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility.
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan

Larry Traynham Center

- Renovate / retrofit recreation complex for new / expanded recreation opportunities

Magnolia Park

- Update playground equipment
- Resurface walking trail loop
- Improve playground surfacing (engineered mulch)
- Develop restroom building facilities
- Improve drainage at base of pavilion to minimize erosion
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)



Ninety Six Park

- Renovate/ replace restroom facility
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Repair water fountains
- Replace free standing play equipment (swings, etc.)
- Improve / define surfacing under stand alone play equipment and picnic areas to minimize erosion.
- Provide spur trails to park elements to minimize erosion
- Reseed lawn areas.
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Supplement landscape for future
- Resurface walking trail loop

RL Stevens Recreation Center

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds.
- Renovate and retrofit recreation center to accommodate future community needs
- Define playground area(s)
- Update / replace all playground equipment to include play structures for all ages and abilities
- Improve playground surfacing below play structures (engineered mulch)
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility.
- Relocate trail for better functionality
- Improve connection to surrounding neighborhood
- Resurface pool deck
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan

Stockman Park

- Develop Master Plan for improvement / update to park grounds
- Update / replace playground equipment and surfacing
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Provide additional trash receptacles
- Reseed multi-use field
- Remove dead / dying trees and supplement landscape.
- Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility.
- Designate parking area to minimize vehicle access to unpaved areas of park
- Reconfigure parking area for improved vehicular flow
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Develop more inviting entrance to park
- Provide park lighting
- Develop restroom facility
- Contingency for other facilities TBD by the Park Master Plan



Ware Shoals Park

- Update / replace playground equipment
- Replace park furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.)
- Re-grade / reseed areas illustrating erosion
- Improve playground surfacing below play structures (engineered mulch)
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)

West Cambridge Park

- Improve connections between park and surrounding neighborhoods through spur trail development

Young Park

- Provide plantings on slope between soccer field and ball field to minimize erosion and discourage pedestrian traffic
- Stabilize slope between road and soccer field
- Reconfigure parking area for improved vehicular flow
- Improve signage (RE: Park System Improvements)
- Develop more inviting entrance to park



DRAFT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Long Range Capital Improvement Plan

To meet the goals of this plan and to provide specific direction to future capital spending, priorities for land acquisition and facility development have been established. Tables 19 and 20 provide a key to the Capital Improvement Program's color-coded tasks and a numbered priority schedule, respectively. Table 21 lists the recommended capital parks and recreation facility projects detailed in this plan. As the County grows, it is possible that priorities for spending will change over the next five to ten year period. In order to meet the most critical needs of the dynamic and changing population, staff and political officials will need to modify the priorities of capital projects over time. Recommendations have been made for the periodic review and updating of this plan.

Cost Estimates

Cost estimates for each capital project were prepared using figures typical of park master plans developed by the Consultant and actual costs for recently bid projects. In cases where estimates were taken from existing park master plans, the estimates will be based on the anticipated construction costs. All other cost estimates are shown in 2008 dollars (since the economy is a mess right now, many bids are coming in low-balled and are therefore not very accurate) and have not been adjusted for inflation.

Table 19 – Capital Improvements Program Key

Key- Capital Improvements Program	
	Aquatics
	Baseball / Softball
	Community Center, Activity Bldg, Senior Center, Gym
	Greenway / Blueway
	Improvements / Upgrades to Existing Parks / Trails
	Internal Park Trails
	Park Master Plans
	Park / Greenway Acquisitions
	Playground
	Supporting Site Infrastructure
	Other

Table 20 – Capital Improvements Program Priority Schedule

Priority	Improvement Years
1	2009 to 2015
2	2015 to 2020
3	2020 to 2025
4	2025 to 2030



Table 21A - Capital Improvements Program - Existing Facilities

Priority	Park	Recommendations	Est. Cost (\$000s)
1	Amelioration - (all parks)	Develop standarization for park signage, furnishings, equipment, and amenities	\$20
2	West Cambridge Park	Spur trail development to improve connections to surrounding neighborhoods	\$20
2	Magnolia Park	Update playground equipment and improve surfacing	\$25
2	Magnolia Park	Resurface internal walking trail loop	\$8
3	Magnolia Park	Develop restroom facilities	\$100
1	Magnolia Park	Improve drainage at base of picnic pavilion to minimize erosion.	\$3
1	RL Stevens Park	Develop Park Master Plan for redevelopment of site.	\$10
3	RL Stevens Park	Renovate / retrofit recreation facility to accomated future community needs	\$250
1	RL Stevens Park	Define playground area based on Master Plan, Update playground equipment to accommodate all ages and abilities, improve playground surfacing.	\$25
1	RL Stevens Park	Replace park furnishings, (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc) as per adopted standards	\$10
1	RL Stevens Park	Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park	\$3
1	RL Stevens Park	Relocate walking path for better functionality and improved connection to surrounding neighborhood	\$20
4	RL Stevens Park	Resurface pool deck	\$30
1	Stockman Park	Develop Park Master Plan for redevelopment of site.	\$10
2	Stockman Park	Define playground area based on Master Plan, Update playground equipment to accommodate all ages and abilities, improve playground surfacing.	\$25
2	Stockman Park	Replace park furnishings, (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc) as per adopted standards	\$7
1	Stockman Park	Fine grade and reseed multi-use field	\$5
2	Stockman Park	Improve landscape: remove dead / dying trees, supplement landscape, remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park.	\$10
2	Stockman Park	Improve parking area; designate parking area to minimize vehicular access to unpaved areas of park, reconfigure parking to improve flow. (Wheel stops, striping, etc.)	\$10

Priority		Park	Recommendations	Est. Cost (\$000s)
2		Stockman Park	Improve park entrance: develop more inviting park entrance, improve landscape and signage based on park standards.	\$10
1		Brewer Recreation Center	Develop master plan to include new Aquatics Center, improved connections between park elements, reconfigured parking and other elements as determined by Master Plan	\$20
2		Brewer Recreation Center	Implement Master Plan - Potential for: (Multi-use fields, Ballfields, trails, parking, outdoor basketball, playground, shelter, contingency for other elements as determined by master plan	\$4,700
2		Brewer Recreation Center	Improve parking area; designate parking area to minimize vehicular access to upaved areas of park, pave lots.	\$30
1		Brewer Recreation Center	Replace park furnishings, (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc) as per adopted standards Replace / upgrade chain link fencing with black vinyl coated fencing.	\$12
1		Brewer Recreation Center	Update playground equipment to accommodate all ages and abilities, include improved playground surfacing.	\$25
4		Brewer Recreation Center	Develop Aquatics Center to replace RL Stevens	\$8,000
2		Brewer Recreation Center	Improve pedestrian connection between Rec. Center, outdoor activities, and sporting fields	\$10
2		Brewer Recreation Center	Improve Landscape; reseed multi-use fields, develop landscape plan to include supplemental supplemental landscape (trees and shrubs)	\$30
3		Civic Center	Renovate / retrofit recreation facility to accomated future community needs	\$300
1		Greenwood Recreation Center	Develop Master Plan that includes conversion of Civic Center to new use and overflow parking to additional recreation facilities	\$25
2		Green wood Recreation Center	Implement Master Plan - Potential for: (Softball field, soccer, trails, special needs playground, bocce, shuffleboard, horseshoes, dog park, disc golf, as determined by master plan)	\$4,500
2		Greenwood Recreation Center	Improve Landscape; develop landscape plan that incorporates improved landscape throughout the park to match the level of landscape near the tennis facility	\$80
3		Greenwood Recreation Center	Convert overflow parking to accommodate additional recreational facilities	\$80

Priority		Park	Recommendations	Est. Cost (\$000s)
1		Johnny Williams Park	Develop Park Master Plan for redevelopment of site as mini park. Include common area, gathering space for neighborhood events, small pavilion, basket ball, playground or other amenities as determined by master plan	\$5
1		Johnny Williams Park	Define playground area based on Master Plan, Update playground equipment to accommodate all ages and abilities, include improved playground surfacing, replace nets on basketball goals	\$25
1		Johnny Williams Park	Replace park furnishings, (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc) as per adopted standards	\$5
1		Johnny Williams Park	Remove underbrush and invasive plant materials at perimeter of park for better visibility	\$5
3		Ninety Six Park	Renovate / Replace Restroom Facility	\$100
1		Ninety Six Park	Replace park furnishings, (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc) as per adopted standards, Replace / repair water fountains	\$15
2		Ninety Six Park	Improve/Define surfacing under stand alone play equipment and picnic areas to minimize erosion. Update / replace stand alone play equipment (swings, etc.)	\$25
1		Ninety Six Park	Develop spur trails to park elements (picnic shelter) to minimize erosion, resurface existing walking trail.	\$10
1		Ninety Six Park	Improve Landscape; reseed lawn areas, develop landscape plan to include supplemental landscape for future (trees)	\$10
1		Fox Boozer Park	Replace lighting around ballfields as necessary	\$100
1		Fox Boozer Park	Regrade infield of field 1 for improved drainage	\$3
1		Cokesbury Park	Develop Park Master Plan to include undeveloped 42 acres as potential passive recreation. Potential for: (Trails, playground, picnic facilities, etc...)	\$20
1		Cokesbury Park	Implement multi-use, nature, hiking, mountain biking trail through wooded section of site based on master plan.	\$300
2		Cokesbury Park	Renovate or replace restroom / concession building	\$75
2		Cokesbury Park	Develop Picnic / Playground area(s)	\$30
1		Cokesbury Park	Improve dug out areas and replace damaged fence panels as necessary.	\$5



Priority	Park	Recommendations	Est. Cost (\$000s)
2	Cokesbury Park	Provide site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc.) as per standards	\$15
3	Cokesbury Park	Improve parking area; designate parking area and entry exit points to be determined by master plan	\$30
3	Ware Shoals Park	Update playground equipment to accommodate all ages and abilities, include improved playground surfacing.	\$25
2	Ware Shoals Park	Replace park furnishings, (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc) as per adopted standards, Replace / repair water fountains	\$5
1	Ware Shoals Park	Regrade and reseed areas displaying signs of erosion	\$2
2	Young Park	Improve park entrance: develop more inviting park entrance, improve landscape and signage based on park standards.	\$15
1	Young Park	Stabilize slope between road and soccer field Regrade and provide plantings.	\$5
1	Young Park	Plant slope between soccer field and ball field to minimize erosion and discourage pedestrian traffic.	\$3
2	Young Park	Reconfigure parking to improve flow. (Striping)	\$2
1	Amelioration - (all County owned Trails)	Develop standarization for trail signage, wayfinding Provide benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic plantings for more inviting experience, remove invasives (kudzu, privet, etc.) along trails, thin out or remove over grown plantings as necessary for better visibility and safety.	\$30
1	Rock Creek Trail	Expand trail opportunities by connecting trail to Grace Street Property, once Grace Street Park is developed. (.3 mile)	\$10
4	Town of Ninety Six Trail	Pave gravel section of trail (1.13mile x 10')	\$225



Table 21B – Capital Improvements Program – Land Acquisition

Priority	Park	Recommendations	Est. Cost (\$000s)
1	Land - New Acquisition	Acquire the 50 acre Grace Street Property toward the following goals: Establish large passive recreation park to include, nature trails, walking trails, greenspace conservation, wildlife conservation, etc.	\$25,000
1	Land - New Acquisition	Acquire 2-15 acres of land within the Mathews Mill Village on the south side of Greenwood for use as a Mini or Neighborhood Park, to include; playground, picnic shelter, tables, benches and other passive recreation amenities.	\$225
2	Land - New Acquisition	Acquire 2-15 acres of land within the Panola Mill Village on the south side of Greenwood for use as a Mini or Neighborhood Park, to include; playground, picnic shelter, tables, benches and other passive recreation amenities.	\$225
1	Land - New Acquisition	Acquire 50 acres at the Saluda River Dam area toward establishing the following goals; walking trails, equestrian trails, linkages to boat launches, additional passive recreation TBD by park master plan	\$12,500
3	Land - New Acquisition	Acquire 2-15 acres of land along the highway 72 corridor on the west side of Greenwood between Promised Land and Hunters Creek for use as a Mini or Neighborhood Park, to include; playground, picnic shelter, tables, benches and other passive recreation amenities.	\$225
2	Land - New Acquisition	Identify and Acquire land along the highway 72 corridor on the east side of Greenwood toward Lake Greenwood, to establish a County Community Center, Gym and Senior Center Complex. (Minimum 20 acres)	\$2,000
1	Land - New Acquisition	Acquire the former Parkland Golf Course toward the following goals: Establish large passive recreation park to include, nature trails, walking trails, greenspace conservation, wildlife conservation, etc.	\$1,800



Table 21C - Capital Improvement Program - Trails

Priority	Bicycle Route <i>Ware Shoals Connector</i>	Recommendations	
3	Hwy 178 to Pitts Park (Ware Shoals)	5.6 Mile Class III Bike Route	\$22
Priority	Bicycle Route <i>West to East Bike Route</i>	Recommendations	
4	Abbeville Co. Line to Hodges (Co. Rd. 185)	3.5 Mile Class III Bike Route	\$14
3	Hodges to Coronaca (Co. Rd. 246)	10.7 Mile Class III Bike Route	\$42
2	Coronaca to Lake Greenwood State Park (Co. Rd. 702)	9.5 Mile Class III Bike Route	\$38
4	Lake Greenwood State Park to Saluda Co. Line (Co. Rd. 702)	7.0 Mile Class III Bike Route	\$28
Priority	Multi-Use Trail (Paved) <i>West Cambridge Trail Extension</i>	Recommendations	
1	Land- Calhoun Rd. Intersection to West Cambridge Trail	Acquire 1.4 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$80 (seek donation)
2	Calhoun Rd. Intersection to West Cambridge Trail (Abandoned Rail Line)	1.4 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$350
2	Land - Hodges to Calhoun Rd. Inters.	Acquire 5.4 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$180 (seek donation)
3	Hodges to Calhoun Rd. Intersection (Abandoned Rail Line)	5.4 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$1,320
3	Land - Abbeville Line to Hodges	Acquire 6.5 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$215 (seek donation)
4	Abbeville Line to Hodges (Abandoned Rail Line)	6.5 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$1,600
Priority	Multi-Use Trail (Paved) <i>Heritage Trail Extension</i>	Recommendations	
3	Land- Florida Avenue to Saluda Co Line	Acquire 16.2 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$700 (seek donation)
4	Florida Ave. to Saluda Co. Line (Abandoned Rail Line)	16.2 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$3,980
Priority	Multi-Use Trail (Paved) <i>Heritage Trail Connector (West / East)</i>	Recommendations	
3	Land-Heritage Trail Extension to Highway 24	Acquire 3.6 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$223 (seek donation)
4	Heritage Trail Ext. to Hwy 34 (Abandoned Rail Line)	3.6 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$885
Priority	Multi-Use Trail (Paved) <i>Ninety Six Connector</i>	Recommendations	
2	Land-178/221 Intersection East to Town of Ninety Six Rail Trail	Acquire 7.75 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$385 (seek donation)
3	178 / 221 Intersection East to Town of Ninety Six Rail Trail (Abandoned Rail line)	7.75 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$2,100

Priority	Multi-Use Trail (Paved) <i>Town of Ninety Six Trail Extension</i>	Recommendations	
3	Land-Town of Ninety Six Trail (East Section) to Saluda River	Acquire 6.7 mile x 34' abandoned rail line for use towards the following goal - Multi-use trail.	\$335 (seek donation)
4	Town of Ninety Six Trail (East Section) to Saluda River (Abandoned Rail line)	6.7 Mile, 12' wide Multi-Use Trail (paved)	\$1,700
Priority	Hiking Trail (Natural Surface) <i>Rock Creek Trail Extension</i>	Recommendations	
1	Rock Creek Trail (East End) to former Parkland Golf Course	Acquire 1.0 mile x 20' stream line setback use towards the following goal - Natural surface trail.	\$40
2	Rock Creek Trail (East End) to former Parkland Golf Course (Stream Setback)	1.0 Mile, Natural Surface Trail	\$500
Priority	Canoe / Kayak Trail <i>Byway Canoe / Kayak Trail</i>	Recommendations	
2	Ware Shoals to Ninety Six Trail Extension (Saluda River)	Acquire five (5) 1 acrea parcels of land for boat launch areas along length of Blueway trail	\$250
2	Ware Shoals to Ninety Six Trail Extension (Saluda River)	26.8 Mile Canoe / Kayak Blueway with boat launch areas and boat retrieval. (5 launch areas)	\$247

APPENDIX A – SURVEY RESPONSES – OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Please list any additional recreational activities or community facilities needed in Greenwood County.

The county needs to provide the funding necessary to procure the Grace Street property from the CPW and turn it into a park.
A long hiking path along Lake Greenwood would be ideal for many.
More camp grounds at the lake or Cabin rental
In the first questions, I only checked those things that I think are STILL NEEDED, as some I think we have already, like playground equipment, with the civic center and Cambridge Park the parks and rec system needs to be reevaluated based on how they provide help to volunteer coaches in all sports and how these systems are set up. the current attitude is to just provide a service for kids not to actually hold them accountable for not actually showing up for practice etc. also with the recent lawsuits and deaths the parks should be responsible for providing safety equipment and hydration equipment at each practice and game of any sport. this shouldn't be the responsibility of the volunteer coaches and parents of the children.
During these difficult time, use the money to help people with everyday struggles
More "safe" walking/running areas for general public!!
Outlying areas such as Ninety Six could use gyms and such....maybe a YMCA program.
More outdoor/indoor social-type events for individuals in their 20's/30's. Greenwood struggles to retain young professionals that move here (unless they are originally from here).
More community basketball courts.
Drag strip/racetracks
Massage Therapy
Please keep working on the CPW 72 ByPass park.
I think an area Gwd is missing is a trail area for runners, bikers, walkers, and dog owners. Not a concrete circle. This recreation space tends to attract a younger population because it is a free individual activity to participate in.
DOG PARKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Dog Park!!!!!!!!!!!!
Boat Landing for small boats at Buzzards Roost
It would be wonderful to have a really nice soccer complex that would serve the entire community like we have seen in other cities. That can be such a draw to a community.
Indoor party facilities for kids. We have just few and always very crowded for the reservations.
We are in need of extra fields so that our local soccer club could host tournaments and bring money into our community.
For club soccer
a place for skateboarders
More linkages through linear parks to desirable locations. An additional set of ball fields on the north or west part of the city.
Parks and Recreation is in need of more gymnasiums as well as ballfields for the programs they currently have and to accommodate growth in the future.
Frisbee goff
Conveniently located Senior centers & Activities, More Advertising of the events on a weekly basis
PARK ON GRACE ST
it would be nice to see the property that borders 72 by pass and grace to be turned back into a 9 hole PUBLIC golf course...or even a driving range..ball sails would pay for ???just a thought
gyms and community centers
I would love for us to have a botanical garden.



Please list any additional recreational activities or community facilities needed in Greenwood County.

Amusement Parks(like Frankies Fun Park or Carowinds), Historic Tours, Carriage Rides, Miniature Golf (Putt-Putt), Batting cages, Go-cart Tracks, Bumper Boats, Arcade games; Swimming Pools.
I would love to see Greenwood get a location such as Frankie's fun park or a Water park as in Simpsonville. Feel from living there previously it would greatly benefit our community.
BMX IS MAKING A COMEBACK. WE NEED TO OPEN A NEW TRACK.
We would like to see a Mountain Bike/Hike trail that is prohibited to hunting and horseback riding in Greenwood County. Hickory Knob State Park in McCormick County is an excellent example of this type of trail system, The Long Cane Horse Trail in Abbeville is a great trail system but sharing it with Hunters and Horses has it's drawbacks. McCormick County has 4 well maintained trail systems for Hiking/Mountain Biking. Greenwood has none
daytime/ summer activities for stay-at-home moms
We need mountain bike trails but most importantly we need bike lanes throughout the city for commuting. We need share the road signs along the road where cyclist ride daily. Greenwood is growing and we need to be a more fitness oriented city; bike lanes would do wonders.
Mountain bike trails are needed Indoor rock climbing gym
96 Needs a skateboard park, updated equipment in city park and program for youth.
An ice skating rink
Outdoor basketball courts More family fun festivals like Myrtle beach has a Sun Fun Festival. Miniature Golf Dave and Busters Better Mall Target
The roads around Greenwood County need to be made more bike friendly. We are in desperate need of bike lanes throughout the County.
We very definitely need green spaces- we have to go to Greenville to the Reedy River park in the west end just to enjoy a park!!!!
Grace Street CPW must be a park A BIG Central park
The Civic Center is an eyesore should be renovated (or torn down and rebuilt) and utilized as a meeting space facility. It should also be used/marketed for concerts and special events for tourism in Greenwood.
An outdoor ampitheater would be great.
Greenwood has a great baseball, soccer and softball field at the civic center. It also have a good tennis court. But we are missing basketball courts. This is the only other very popular sport that we do not provide a good, decent, monitored area for kids interested in Basketball.
Would like to see park facilities in south end of town which I understand is already being developed by the Housing Authority. I support that action.
There is a need for an agricultural facility in Greenwood. A livestock/horse arena with facilities would be very beneficial to 4-H/FFA kids who currently have to go to private individuals or rent a facility for any Greenwood activity. In 2008 Greenwood had its first Livestock Show in many years during the County Fair. We had to use a make-shift arena for the livestock shows and horse show. We had approx. 170 participants over a three-day period from numerous surrounding counties. An agricultural facility would be a great benefit to Greenwood's tourist industry.
More things for children of all ages to do.
Parks, Parks, Parks....



Please list any additional recreational activities or community facilities needed in Greenwood County.

We need more small parks in different areas of the county. Also, we could use a Putt Putt Golf at or near the parks.
Greenwood desperately needs a livestock/horse show "home".
grace street park and a nice park on the south end of town
There is no place to swim at Lake Greenwood except for that awful little "beach" at the state park - and you have to pay to get in there. Get some sand, at least, it should be easy to get in SC.
You have walking but not running. There is a need for an off-the-road cross country running track.
Would love to see a water park!
equestrian facilities, livestock facilities
A public beach area besides the state park would be great on Lake Greenwood. Also the Old Grace Street water plant should be improved greenspace and offer an outdoor facility for concerts and community functions. A science center would be a great drawing attraction for this site as well. The WC Park cannot accommodate parking for such events.
It is a positive move that our Parks and Rec has joined with USSSA to offer more baseball and softball opportunities. Has consideration been given to a spray park or a small water park similar to the Simpsonville which is at capacity daily - this could be a revenue generating opportunity for the park to consider.
More gym space for basketball.
Sidewalks in rural areas of the county.
bike paths for casual bike riding like the ones in Hilton Head. a more up to date camping ground at lake gwd. and easy access to the water for all to enjoy. I had a couple from out of town who just wanted to go sit and enjoy the lake. I suggested state park they said been there no where to just sit and enjoy the scenery. I agree w them. we need somewhere you can do that we have a beautiful lake and it is not utilized for the right reasons. we would have more revenue for gwd if we had more places to go for pic nics easier access to get in the water. state park doesn't do that.
Need a Park on the North side of town
fencing
We need more facilities/trails for horse activities.
Dog agility courses as well as a dog park.
A large green space and a dog park are needed.
Fastpitch Softball Fields Community Center with a pool
An area that could accommodate equestrian events/horse shows is very much needed and would be well used.
Water Park with slides...GVL county is making money off theirs!
Large park with walking path, playground, picnic area
n/a-all were included
I think that Greenwood would benefit from more small, neighborhood parks and playgrounds. This would help build a sense of community as we get to know our neighbors, and encourage walking rather than driving to the park.
GREENWOOD COUNTY NEEDS ADDITIONAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY AS WELL AS THE COUNTY.
Geocaching



Please list any additional recreational activities or community facilities needed in Greenwood County.

A very important facility that Greenwood needs is a dog park. Almost every has a dog now and need a place to give them their exercise and social time. Please consider this. Thanks.
livestock arena for horse and livestock shows
Something for the kids that families can afford. The kids are the ones who need a safe place to play and learn. Something like a community center where they can have help with homework as well as have fun playing sports.
Golf course
There needs to be an upgraded public basketball ct and swimming facility. We also need to look at brining some concerts here.
There is an absence of community facilities in minority neighborhoods in the county. There was only one and it was closed. Everyone in the county deserves these same opportunities, not just the wealthy and those that make the decisions where these facilities are located.
neighborhood parks
You need biking/jogging lanes on your roadsides- and/or sidewalks to make jogging safer.
We really need some indoor activities like an indoor playground. Christmas break is a long time for kids and it is usually wet and cold. Why not a piece of playground equipment in the mall like Haywood Mall has. Maybe that would increase mall traffic. We also need things that are reasonably priced.
trails for walking and biking
Ninety Six needs a facility where people can get together to play open basketball or volleyball a couple nights a week. Maybe a school gym would suffice.
Day Camp in summer for young children
addiional parks/playgrounds similiar to Cambridge Road park close to neighborhoods in Greenwood County
Water park
Summer programs for children both include recreational and educational. This could also provide employment opportunities for young adults still in school.
Seaboard Parks & Recreation (R.L.Stevens Center) needs any thing that would put it up to par with all other recreational facilities.
we would very much support the purchase of the cpw land with tax money. this is a no brainer and needs some leadership from someone or some official body. don't let this opportunity slip away.
We need a place for our children to have horse shows, trail rides and other livestock events BADLY!!!!!! Do you know just in one family when we go out of town for a horse show (which we always have to do because we don't have anywhere in Greenwood) we usually take around 15 people just from our family ----we eat out we get motel rooms, we shop before and after shows- so I really think getting some stuff for the livestock people in Greenwood would make a HUGE difference in Greenwood!!!!
a big park at the old water plant at Grace Street
park benches in the shade to sit, read, feed ducks,and watch birds
venue for outdoor concerts, play,s etc, like an outdoor amphitheater. A labyrinth to walk.
a nice park with flowers and walking paths
an ampitheatre for outdoor concerts (classical and popular) and more cultural events open and free to the public. or even just very inexpensive.
hiking
We need a place for you women and men can go and learn something new and have fun. They spend to much time in the streets. The activities would have to volunteer but I believe they would enjoy it



Please list any additional recreational activities or community facilities needed in Greenwood County.

A facility geared toward entertaining older children and young teenagers. Facility could include video games, putt putt, go karts, skateboarding, similar to an facility in Augusta GA...Adventure Crossing!
Cricket
Anyway the Greenwood Community can add more green space and trail access for biking in town would be a true benefit to our community. Many of the items you have listed on your survey from a public pool to more access to the outdoors either via nature of athletics are always great improvements!
1. American Idol competition program. 2. We as people need to come together, Not black here and white here, WE NEED A CHANGE
open park space with 5-10 mile trails
Facilities are needed on the south end of town specifically for youth, but also for elderly and home bound.
More for the young children (6-12). We leave often to take our children to Greenville for exposure to up to date activities.
More community centers.
Botanical Garden with paths, fountains and benches.
more walking and biking trails.
Amphitheater
Meeting facilities for groups such as master gardeners, naturalists, livestock producers, bee keepers, fcc groups, forestry assoicateion. We also need a new farmer's market facility. The one we have is being taken over by Parks & Rec. We also need an arena for livestock activities. Extension staff should be housed along with these facilities. Seek stimulus funds.
Sports facilities for all especially teen sports, especially for young girls. Look at facility in Rock Hill it is excellent. Areas for walking but also where crafts could be displayed, sold, local artists including musical could perform.
Mountain Bike, Hiking Trails
We need to learn from our older population baking, crochet, whittling, and other crafts such as quilting.
Large park (not playground) needed. Recommend using vacant CPW "water plant" property - Wonderful location!!!
Need a large park (open) space. Suggestion: The CPW "water plant" property. Great Location.
Biking / hiking along metro sewer lines close to airport
Preserve what we have -- have had
We need to be sure all children have safe outdoor & indoor activities. Safe walking for adults. Some safe biking trails
Address governance and sustainability of program -- heal the disconnect between Parks Commission & Parks & Recreation Department. Address long term maintenance of all facilities.
walking trails.
Race Track - Speedway; Public Firing Range (Guns, Pistols)
Improvements to playground equipment and restroom facilities.
Better management and maintenance



Are there any improvements that could be made to increase the quality of Greenwood County's park facilities and recreational programs?

The Heritage Trail does not feel safe to walk on at all, but I would love to take advantage of it if there was better security along the route and in the surrounding neighborhoods.
Security
Better restroom area. More well-lit areas. More park benches and grassy areas.
starting some sports sooner as far as practice is concerned. example football practices about two weeks and then start games. that is both hazardous to the children and also not very productive in their development in sports. most other rec departments allow a month or more of practices and scrimages that allow the children to get acclimated with the sport and the heat etc. also the rec should be more involved in recognition type programs all star events traveling teams etc. also the parks systems current system especially in football places a competitive disadvantage against the regional teams that the teams in greenwood have to compete against. players should be placed in a player draft based on skill and also if they participated the year before. this participation should include an evaluation from the previous coach as to the players attendance at practices and games. the park system has a problem with allowing kids to just show up for games and then requiring the coaches to play those children the same as the ones who have put in the time. all coaches should be required to be trained in first aid and the rules of the sport they are participating. all of the successful youth programs in the state are directly related to the school programs or have some affiliation that makes the kids feel good about themselves.
Upgrade the Civic Center.
we have enough parks
Don't know that much, or see that much evidence, about either!!
need new restroom facility at ninety-six complex
With today's economy, it would help if any activities or facilities were free of charge.
Pave the parking lot at the Greenwood Civic Center
Restroom facilities could use improvements and we need to break stereo-typing boundaries of 'who plays in which parks', i.e. what populations of people. Be more integrated in our county parks.
I don't know of any hiking wooded hiking trails open to the public. I understand there might be some at Lake Greenwood. There are bike paths I understand down toward Abbeville in the Sumpter National Forest. Well kept secret. The Civic Center park is wonderful but mainly soft ball/base ball oriented. The Park on the West side has a wonderful children's area. We have been warned not to walk toward the genetics center because it goes through the bad side of town.
A running track around Lake Greenwood
Those which are present should include clean restroom facilities and water fountains.
I would like to see girls fast pitch softball start at 8 years old. We are behind other programs.
The civic center needs call buttons. More sidewalks connecting different areas around town would be nice as well.
Upgrading bathroom facilities
They are not very centrally located. They also seem to need some maintenance -too much chain link fencing.
regulation size fields
If Grace Street becomes a park, in addition to playground, hiking, biking, have an area for special landscaping i.e. invite Park Seed, Clemson Ext. Service, Master Gardeners, Garden Clubs to collaborate in the Master Plan.
need cultural activities



Are there any improvements that could be made to increase the quality of Greenwood County's park facilities and recreational programs?

Bathrooms closer to soccer fields- not portables! killing of ant hills
Maintain current properties. I don't bring family to parks due to embarassment of the condition.
One of the prime park needs in the County is park space for public free concerts.
repaving parking lots at civic center complex.Pave more areas for parking.
Weekly advertising with more activities & clubs for older adults(50+) not just physical but hobby centers
ADDING PARK ON GRACE ST
There is a need for a restroom at the park on Magnolia Avenue. It's a very good park and there is no reason that park shouldn't have a restroom area and not a potable.
The inter-connection of bike trails, with dedicated lanes, between parks, historic sites, and other cities would be a good thing for both locals and tourists.
The tennis facility needs to be brought back to at least what it was. It needs a back board, at least two more courts that were not replaced when they were upgraded, the building , which was built for the tennis people needs to be returned to them, and someone to administer the program, and I would highly recomend Howard Green, who has been doing a great job with the youngsters in that area.
The Grace Street (water plant) property needs to be brought into the public's ownership and reserved for walking trails, picnic areas, recreational facilities and the like.
We have a few places to go, but none that are really pretty except the park on West Cambridge. I think if we had some really pretty places to go and be around nature that it would be nice and improve quality of life for the citizens of Greenwood.
Swimming Facilities and Swim Classes
Keep the drug dealers and teenagers from dealing and doing drugs and from having sex on the walking path at the park we now have!
bathroom facilities kept clean and operational
More of them, and more available offerred through Gwd county parks and recreation. I really would like to have access to an outside pool in the summer, as I am not a member of a "club" around here. I really liked hte idea of a public "beach" on Lake Greenwood. That would be beneficial to all. Some people in this community have never seen a beach, and would provide a glimpse at least.
Vending Machines at West Cambridge Park, possible trail system somewhere along Lake Greenwood, or other public/private land
The county's recreation complex needs to be enhanced in order to attract more softball and baseball tournaments. Some fields need to be larger and more seating should be added.
splash pad, shaded playsets
We need trails for biking, both on and off road. There are currently no mountain bike trails in Gwood county.
Drain pipes need to be install in neighborbors so water want stand for days after it rain
Yes- build a nice park with trails for hiking and mountain biking. Put a climbing wall out there. We need a place to skateboard and BMX ride too. We are way behind in letting our youth get out and enjoy themselves. All they can do is sit on the couch, play video games and contribute to the obesity problem we are facing in the states.
Additions or extentions to the rails trails, additional green areas, parks
easier to find out about. I always hear about activities going on after it is too late to sign up.
Yes, everything in Greenwood is for retired people.
Nail down that Grace Street CPW park. Add something for the South Side of Greenwood
restrooms in the parks



Are there any improvements that could be made to increase the quality of Greenwood County's park facilities and recreational programs?

Bike lanes throughout the County.
Our family does travel baseball. This is big all around the nation. We travel to Atlanta, Orlando, North Carolina, Myrtle Beach, Tennessee, etc. and play all weekend and sometimes for 4 & 5 day weeks. There is a lot of money added to the economy with tournaments. Our facilities are too small to handle these large gatherings. Aiken, S C has a great facility and teams come from all over.
The parks we have are wonderful...we just need more throughout the County.
The E. Cambridge Park is wonderful. Any project undertaken should be fulfilled w/ the same quality seen at that park.
Yes, Greenwood has several parks but only a couple look good. We should provide all parks with equal attention and funding. Don't turn a blind eye to the parks in the low income areas just to make the others look good so Gwd can say they have beautiful parks.
Install public restrooms in Magnolia Park. May need to lock park in PM to prevent vandalism and vagrancy.
more supervision when teenagers are present
A designated area for horseback riding trails.
monetary support and volunteer participation
There is no place to go and walk or sit in a nice park. The Cambridge park is nice for little children to play, but where is a nice park to go as a destination to walk, sit, read, people watch?
There is a need for at least one top-of-line serves all green area park for general use - a place for leisure not sports.
Pick fair coaches!!!
offer more training camps for girls softball and boys baseball and clinics for basketball
A real county fairground
The Civic Center facilities are in poor condition. There is a lot that could be done to improve the grounds alone. The county has been very poor at ground maintenance. They need to step up the beautification process to make Greenwood more attractive.
A spray pad similar to those in Charleston and Myrtle Beach where water jets out of a fountain randomly - no water accumulates on ground floor and is self-manged.
Batting cages for baseball & softball.
more centrally located for everyone and not a specific social background, ex Mexican and blacks
Take the land on Grace and By-pass and make a park. It would be perfect.
to bring back baseball for children ages 15 and up.
o
The rec now caters only to baseball.
Quit putting them in low rent neighborhoods where they are torn up and decent people are scared to go after dark.
Rework the current athletic fields located at the civic center to accommodate tournament play
yes- a swimming beach
More hiking/biking trails
I sign my son up for football and basketball every year. Each year I am disappointed by the lack of commitment in the coaches. The kids just want to play and have fun. We need a better recreational program to allow full participation. Another downside to the rec department is that the teams are limited to few practices which put the players in a bad situation when they play other teams who are well prepared.
WE just need a more things to do.



Are there any improvements that could be made to increase the quality of Greenwood County's park facilities and recreational programs?

Yes. Improvements should be made where there is ample parking, parks should be located throughout the community, especially where there are huge numbers of children and families.
restore Stockman Park
Need a dog park at Lake Greenwood State Park
The Civic Center Soccer fields should be updated to accomidate youth soccer better. The baseball fields are in good shape, but the soccer fields, are pitiful.
Combine the existing sports facilities for usage and you would have more than enough for everybody.
Please make all county faciltiesa smoke free for the 80% of our population who do not smoke and for the health of our children and adults. Can't even sit in the bleachers at the games without having to leave for the rude smokers around the area!
more passive parks and trails
BIKE TRAILS!! and walking trails
We need at least two more parks like Cambridge Ave Park for families.
We need to plan for Green Space nowbefore it is all developed and gone.
try running the civic center facilities right and alot of you're problems would vanish.
no smoking in public areas including resterurants
Parks linked by walking/biking trails.
Seaboard Parks & Receptions has been underfunded for over the last 20 years and long before it became the R.L.Stevens Center which whom birthday is Feb. 17, 1933. Before any other receation projects begin careful consideration should be given for major basketball gym and baseball field as well as playground renovations.
planning
Improve the facilities in Ninety Six.
get the county involved in parks and trails
shade trees and benches
The Grace Street property is a strategically located green space that should become a public park.
reach more people,one park is in area that we would not go
A place to meet.another farmers market; the recreational dept has about taken over the farmers market. Would like to see the clemson extension agency housed where their could be science based programs for both adults and youth. Would also like to see an arena for livestock shows and clinics. Lots of young people seek outdoor science projects.groups such as master gardeners;livestock groups;bee keepers;fcl groups;forestery association;master tree farmers;etc. We need a location to house and teach those group of people who are interested in these type rec needs
the civic center (main building) may be used more if it was a little more up to date/renovated.
bike trails, hiking trails
Civic center needs to be improved. Need better and cleaner bathrooms. Play ground needs to be repaired and outside basketball courts away from skating ramp would be a great idea. You don't want children skating around balls.
I walk at the civic center,it needs to be cleaner,trash cans emptied more often
Just a nice place to picnic with friends



Are there any improvements that could be made to increase the quality of Greenwood County's park facilities and recreational programs?

The civic center should be "earmarked" as a project to be ready to go in 120 days. Serious renovations may attract small plays on tour, small up and coming children entertainment in the form of circuses, musical shows, etc and intimate concerts or comedic shows as well as good rental space for area schools, businesses, organizations, and citizens of greenwood
Make the facilities closer, most child don't have transportation.
More advertisement of what is already available.
take over the old water plant garage and convert it to open park land with no commercials
Awareness about all of the programs available and to whom they are available would be a good place to start. Most citizens do not know what is already here.
more of them
I don't know if the State Park is included but if it is it is dirty and needs to be cleaned up.
More places for social functions.
More parks are needed for picnicing and sports.
more walking and biking trails
More green space!!!
Garden area in the low income apartment like they have on Cherry St in McCormick would be nice for the residents. This may help bridge the gap of youth with the older generation. Gardening also helps mentally when someone loses their job.
Toilet paper please at Ware Shoals park. There has been none there for weeks.
Cooperation between all public entities to have more green spaces
We need the farmer's market facility back. It is currently being used for a purpose that it was not intended for.
There REALLY needs to be a water fountain @ W. Cambridge Park.
We know that the lack of greenspace within the city of Greenwood is a negative in recruiting medical professionals & businesses assessing greenwood as a location for work/industry.
Increase the #
Yes many of our older parks (Stockman Field at Peninfor could have light put in and resurface. The fields easier and cheaper than building new facilities and tearing up more good green land
Update fields, complex at the civic center.
We need intensive programs for school age children in South Greenwood - but suburban children also to lesser degree lack good recreation
Leadership in the Parks & Recreational Department. Who is best at into new programs & planning for the future -- are they satisfied with the status quo -- They need some direction and forward thinking.
Securing the Grace St. property is critical for the growth of this county. We need to implement the system of parks & trails envisioned by the Parks Commission over a decade ago.
Programs are needed for senior citizens.
More Centers



Comments

Looking forward to seeing what improvements are made!
Have a look at Mill Creek Park in Youngstown, OH http://www.millcreekmetroparks.com/ParksFacilities/tabid/1407/Default.aspx
i grew up in the parks system and played all three major sports throughout my jr and sr high school careers. and i see a big difference in the attitude of the parents. today they think of the parks system as a babysitter who has to actually pick the kids up from there house if you want them to play. this needs to change so the system will keep VOLUNTEER coaches who care about the kids in the system. most gety fed up and stop coaching.
Increase participation in Fastpitch Softball. Greenwood is WAY behind in this and it is detrimental to girls looking to play college ball.
I think this is an excellent survey. The more activities that is offered in this area will keep Greenwood and surrounding areas in Greenwood county.
Good luck with this effort!
Especially interested in dog parks!
It would be so nice to get some of these things in so the community can become involved.
Thanks for all you do!
Keep some of the old water plant a park.
Any parks or recreational areas need to be safe and clean.
Even though it is nice to receive county recreational programs for free, a fee should be charged so that a child/parent is vested in the activity and provide revenue to maintain the properties at an acceptable level. Programs in other counties are far above ours (youth baseball and football).
In light of our economic situation, I do not think our government should take on any additional expense to develop or to maintain facilities. None of these are esential services.
If swimming pool is built it should located where everyone could use it.maybe indoors near civic center.
We not only need physcial activity but within these parks we need activity hobby centers to promote the arts & crafts at low cost.
Thanks.
I really appreciate the consideration for Parks and Recreation around the Greenwood area. I was completely dissapointed when the water plant site didn't make the turn around as a park. What a great area to turn into a park/recreation center. I hope to see something in the near future. Thanks again.
why are we looking at an increased or even same level of spending for non essentials when we can't provide bare esential funding to emergency services --fire depts.
Thank you for considering, my Ideas. Ashby Stokes 864 223 1614, feel free to contact me ashby_stokes@mac.com For more info on advocacy and trails www.imba.com or www.sorba.org
Greenspace, walking trails, and a dog park are things that will enhance the quality of life here in Greenwood.
I am a single-track (mountian) biker. I truly value the trails of LCHT and sincerely appreciate the efforts gone before to establish and to maintain these trails. Weather permitting, I ride on LCHT 2~3 times/week, and annually contribute hours of my time to maintain and to improve this quality-of-life asset.
It,s great to had input
How about making Greenwood a nice destination place for outdoor activities? Skateboarding, BMX ridind, road cycling, and mountain biking.



Comments

There is a college right in the middle of town, but no one would know that because nothing here symbolizes that or supports the Lander Bearcats. College students are bored out of their mind when it comes to the weekends because there is nothing to do. All there is, is bowling (no one does), movies, Sports Break, Fast food restaurants. That's it! We need more. I'm surprise Greenwood doesn't have a higher D.U.I rate because the majority of students turn to alcohol to tolerate the lack of activities in Greenwood. You have to travel 45+ mins. just to have fun, and we don't have money to travel and have fun. The mall is a bust. There is nothing in it. Bars are fun when there is a game and on Thirsty Thursdays, but what are we suppose to do on the weekend? Today was a beautiful day and I just wanted to go out and walk, but there is no where to walk with beautiful views. Ever been to Market Commons in Myrtle beach? Outside shopping centers with restaurants that are at a walkable distant with an area to eat outside. The only place to shop is Rue 21 and Old Navy. Where can we get name brand clothes? Live entertainment? It would be nice if we can add a college feel to the community. There are ways we can make this a town for the retired and for young college students. But as of now, it's just for the retired. And it's killing the college students...Thank you
There is a need for more parks in the communities. I do not want to go to the Civic Center for exercise
A printed guide of Greenwood County's available park facilities and recreational programs would be helpful.
Raymon White
Suggest that Greenwood focus on obtaining property for a park in an area that is in the proximity of the city limits, but not in commercial zoning areas. A park should be along a creek.
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be heard.
You guys do a great job. Thank you for asking me for my comments.
The uptown bluegrass festival AND the bbq cook-off are fantastic events with a great turnout. More events of this nature from a parks/rec. standpoint would draw crowds.
Thanks for allowing us to give input. Please consider the actual needs of the kids and not the prestige of a few.
I would like to see a barn built at the greenwood state park and trails made available for horseback riding. We need a place to teach gun safty and target shooting.
there should be a "green space" on every road leading in to greenwood
I'm rather new in this town and very disappointed in the public facilities that are NOT available.
If walking or biking trails were made available, would like them to be in open, safe areas.
We need to promote ag projects
We participate in a travel baseball team and spend lots of money in "other parks". We have a strong baseball and softball representation in this town and would love to see some team come here for a tournament - teams usually arrive on Friday and depart Sunday afternoon - patronizing hotels, shopping malls, and restraunts.
this is a great idea. i hope more people take this survey.
They need to consult with greenville, and get ideas. they have great walking paths and waterfalls etc.



Comments

<p>There are a lot of children in Greenwood that are between the ages of 15 -18 who are in school and don't make the high school team or that their parents can't afford to pay for them to play travel ball that would love to play at the parks and rec. My children grew up playing ball at the parks and rec. And I remember when there was baseball for the older teenagers. My husband coached at the parks and rec for 18 years. We really think if there was a place for these kids to play ball just maybe this in some case would keep these children from getting into trouble. My husband sees children that he has coached over the years and they still remember him. He has had some to tell him thank you and when he asks for what they would tell him for being there when they need someone to count on. Greenwood really needs something for these children to do, not for just to keep them off the street but because some of them would just like to play ball.</p>
<p>I think you have come up with a great idea. It is something Greenwood needs to improve the moral of Greenwood community.</p>
<p>This is the only city I have lived in that didn't have any parks for children to play in.</p>
<p>I would love to have a park like Cleveland Park in Greenville. We travel there quite often in the summertime just to walk and picnic.</p>
<p>The proposed Grace St. park needs to move forward</p>
<p>I think upgrading the state park for more camping would be nice. Maybe even some cabins for rent. Also a quiet place on water for canoeing and kayaking.</p>
<p>We have many amenities in place such as ball fields at the Y, Piedmont Tech continuing edu, Civic Center, Heritage trail, and Greenwood State Park. I think we could develop more areas as visitor parks and recreation. Show visitors we have a lot of plans and minor development of open spaces & parks. Suggest you look at the parks in Boise Idaho. A staff of only 5 people, scouts and volunteers could handle many acres of parks with benches, bike trails, and similar small amenities with little burden to tax payers thru grants and public foundations. Thanks, Bob Dietel</p>
<p>Keep the good work up that you already do.</p>
<p>Efforts should go to low-income neighborhoods first and given first priority since the new "social hub" the YMCA currently gets more use than the Civic Center, neither of which are accessible to the poor, those without transportation, and those without income. Greenwood has made extra efforts to fix lake front properties and to lure the wealthy to town. They have made one new park, in a part of town where a certain type of people can visit and use. It is labeled a public park, but if a study was done to see who used it, it would show that it is not accessible or public. It is also not user friendly because it lacks parking. My concern is that as the hospital builds and expands, South Greenwood is going down hill fast. There are a lot of vacant spaces and buildings that can be torn down and used for "greenspace." Currently there are no parks "in good condition" on that side of town. It seems that there is a focus to please some of the town, and recruit new wealthy people to town, but no effort made to give those who are less fortunate and zoned in certain areas the same attention. Please consider all of the region when considering parks and greenspaces.</p>
<p>Don't spend more local tax dollars & don't increase property taxes & utility costs - make Greenwood an affordable place to live</p>
<p>The last time my wife took our dogs to Lake Greenwood State Park, she was ticketed.</p>



Comments

The NSA, ASA, and WFC leagues would love to host fast pitch softball tournaments in Greenwood. They have been tried but teams will not sign up for tournaments if the facilities will not support it. The tournaments we have had could use only 2 fields. We need the ability to host U10, U12, U14 and U16 in one weekend. This would require at least 4 fields and temporary fencing for those fields. No one wants to sign for a girls fastpitch tournament and play on men's slow pitch full size fields. Tournaments bring a lot of money into the community. People have to eat and sleep when they are here for the weekend. We should not let Greenville, Spartanburg and Lexington get all this money. Provide the facilities and they will come.
Thank you for being concerned. Good luck!
I'll be glad to volunteer. Emalie Harrison emalieharrison@remax.net. 993-6880
The current staff want maintain the facilities we use now. I wish the council would go visit these sites from Ninety six to Greenwood. They would be outraged. The bathrooms are filthy and the general conditions are not good. So why spend more money on more areas that will not have any upkeep?
I think socceer is highly overated and out of control
We need more green space for the public to enjoy and to have festivals and gatherings
John Ek 543-2578
Closing RL Stevens Center did a great diservice th the children in that area. How can a building get in that bad shape if it is routinely maintained?
I'm happy to see someone begin to think seriously about parks and green spaces in our beautiful county. It is so beautiful and when you visit other places and come home you realize how beautiful. We need to preserve this.
I applaud your effort.
Indoor pools and a football partice feild should also be incorporated into furture plans. Since R.L.Stevens died in 1999 so has programs and athletics that has produced professional athletes in the community that it surrounds in a walking distance. Robert L. Stevens along with other peers of his time was committed to saving lives providing finacial support for those less fortunate taking time and money away from his own family to help others and though he wasn't paid much, his labor of love helped alot families. His love for his work should be continued with the funding it needs to be named as a Greenwood County Parks and Recreation facility.
Keep the livestock people in mind there are alot more in Greenwood than what people think!!!!
preserve existing green spaces like Grace St waterplant acreage and Marshall Roal wooded area in city between New Market and Phoenix st
Tree ordinance, addition of trees to large, hot ,asphalt parking lots.
Greenwood needs open, multi-use parks for passive recreational use, not just athletic facilities.
we need a nice park,Orangeburg has a very nice park,,in honor the veterns,It is also a rose test garden.I feel that Parks and other garden supply owners and gardeners could keep it growing.
Mentioned above
Could use bike lanes on the roads
Greenwood already has a potential site - Make the Grace St. Park a reality.
GREENWOOD SHOULD BE KNOWN FOR BEING OUTDOOR FRIENDLY AND GREEN. RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD MORE CLOSELY MATCH POPULATION GROWTH. QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES SHOULD PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLL IN PLANNING GREENWOOD'S FUTURE.
Thank you



Comments

Greenwood has a natural beauty that could be "exploited" for the good of the citizens of Greenwood by creating beautiful landscaping that can only be observed through bike and walk trails. In addition, Greenwood County has a family atmosphere which should urge appropriate personnel to develop a plan to keep out older children and young teenagers (8-15) entertained in Greenwood with facilities that cater to the current technology and interests of today's youth!
greenspace, hiking trails, and dog parks are all very much needed.
need to stop playing games on Wednesday nights play on Fridays or Saturday mornings
This is an excellent start to the improvement of the area's parks and rec options. Thank you for getting the ball rolling the right way.
Maintain and improve the parks and facilities we have prior to adding more - with the exception of something on the south end. Increase awareness of public facilities and that they are available to the total community.
Less development in much needed green spaces!!!
My e-mail is allstar221@gmail.com.
Thanks for the opportunity. Need science based knowledge programs for recreation.
We very much need to preserve the few large greenspaces within the city limits for permanent greenspaces.
Greenwood needs to be able to compete with other communities for families and businesses. We may not be New York, but we could have parks similar to NY. Again look at the sports facility in Rock Hill. It's wonderful. Parks in Greenwood now need more shade and future parks also need shade and sun. Parks for outdoor concerts, craft festivals. NO motorcycle or ATV areas these are too dangerous for riders & pedestrians. Our parks need water fountains like the riverside park in Charleston. We need parks for everyone not just for small children. Remember the North, East & West side may have parks but they are NOT appropriate for teens only young children. Also, sports facilities at the moment cater to young boys -- very few have female activities. Right now you have to pay to play for girls. i.e. soccer, dance, gymnastics. Whatever the race girls seem to get the short end of the stick in Greenwood when it comes to parks. Please do not be prejudice in regard to race or SEX.
Connect heritage trail to the other trail Cambridge as well. Initially planned biking lanes or biking education to people who are running us off the roads. If I'm cycling in the right lane, then that lane is mine and by law they have to wait until the road allows passing and NOT run cyclists off the road.
Rec & Parks needed on south end of Greenwood - 25 SOUTH.
Our school drop out rate tells us we are failing our children. Recreation programs can help.
Facilities, staff and programs are good in quality -- I believe they can improve. We are a little stagnant -- City of Greenwood should be at the table working with the County more than ever.
I think that the community/county is missing out on tourism dollars by not having vacation rentals on Lake Greenwood. The State Park camp sites book up very quickly -- would make more money for the county if cabins were available as well.
We need a lot of direction and insight into planning.

