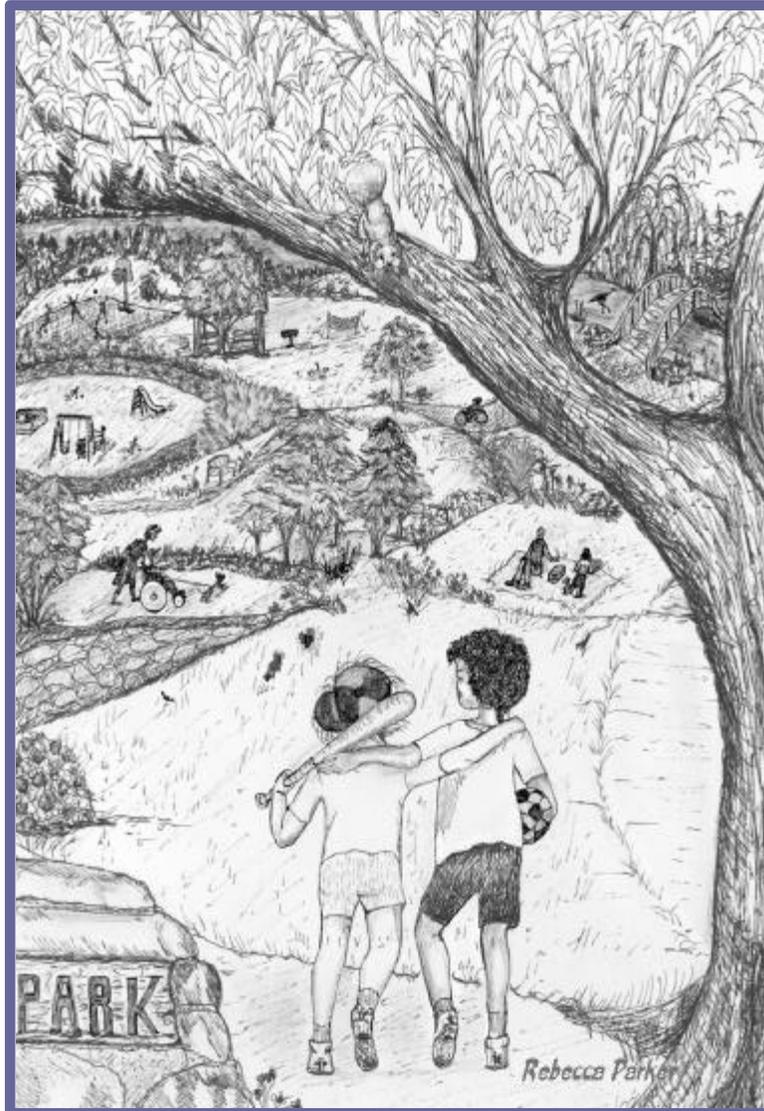


Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Draft
April 16, 2002

Prepared by:
Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department
and
LandMark Design Group

With assistance from:
Leon Younger & PROS and OCULUS



LANDMARK
DESIGN GROUP
Engineers • Planners • Surveyors
Landscape Architects • Environmental Consultants

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Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation



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CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation



MASTER PLAN WORK GROUP

William Bell
Maurice Blackburn
Margie Bryan
Bill Carlson
Donna Cooper
Sharon Entsminger
Noel Losen
Eddie King
Charlotte Kohr
Susie Owens
Rebecca Parker
Clyde Randall
Jayne Rich
Greg Sager
Cathy Sorenson
Eileen Strafalace
Lynn Vanderherchen
Greg Velzy
Wanda Yeatts

Sheriff's Work Crew headed by Deputy Lance Wilson
and Deputy Steven Blount

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Executive Summary

Over the past six months, Chesterfield County's Department of Parks and Recreation has worked with the public, consultants, county staff and key stakeholders to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This process has helped the department focus on key issues that are reshaping government recreation services, not only in Chesterfield, but also across the nation.

Four main ideas continually emerged throughout this intensive effort, which used public meetings, survey findings, demographic analysis, and departmental feedback to evaluate current performance and determine future direction: Take care of what we have, increase system diversity, protect natural systems and historic resources, and utilize public and private partnerships. With those themes in mind, the following 10 goals were developed.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Goal 1: | Provide a coordinated plan to address the recreational needs of the community as a whole. |
| Goal 2: | Provide a consistently high level of service to the public. |
| Goal 3: | Expand upon standards and policies to provide consistent, high-quality maintenance and continuous renovation of aging facilities and appropriate design of new facilities. |
| Goal 4: | Maintain successful community athletic programs throughout the county. |
| Goal 5: | Recognize that parks and recreation are essential components of economic development. |
| Goal 6: | Establish the Department of Parks and Recreation as a leader in planning for the use and the conservation of the entire Chesterfield "outdoors" for future generations. |
| Goal 7: | Incorporate the public interest in greenways, blueways, and trails into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. |
| Goal 8: | Coordinate parks and recreation planning with the preservation and enhancement of historic and cultural resources. |
| Goal 9: | Contribute to the maintenance and improvement of community wellness. |
| Goal 10: | Continue to maximize the use of county financial resources allocated to Parks and Recreation by utilizing alternative funding and staffing strategies. |

To determine what level of maintenance is necessary to protect park resources already in place, what facilities are needed now and in the next 10-20 years, and where and when these facilities should be developed, the department undertook a comprehensive Facility Needs Assessment. As a result of this effort, the facilities plan will emphasize five key areas:

- Acquisition of parkland in advance of growth areas;
- The development of community centers;
- Renovation and replacement of aging facilities;
- Addressing the changing needs in athletic facilities;
- Increasing the diversity of recreational opportunities.

To meet the needs identified in the Needs Assessment, the department plans to develop (during the next 20 years) three new regional parks, seven community parks, and 10 special-purpose parks. The department will acquire land for 29 neighborhood parks in anticipation of future development by local stakeholders. In addition, three 30,000-square-foot and five 20,000-square-foot recreation centers are planned to meet the demand for indoor recreational facilities. A Linear Parks Plan should be prepared, in conjunction with a Countywide Open Space Plan, and incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Extensive capital-facility replacement is required throughout the park system, as many of the facility components have reached their industry life expectancies. Trends emerging in athletic facility development suggest that fewer new facilities are

needed; however, increased lighting and better geographic distribution are needed at this time. This will involve primarily upgrading existing facilities, but will also require some new facilities to meet location requirements. Broadening the spectrum of recreational offerings is also part of the plan, continuing an emphasis on water-based activities, walking and jogging trails, and general outdoor activities that appeal to entire families.

Together, the growing diversity in leisure activities and the rapid pace of development have generated demand for new parks; particularly open space and conservation areas. To ensure that Chesterfield County will continue to be “acknowledged for its extraordinary quality of life,” the department must respond to public demand for new and improved recreation facilities and strategically located green, or open, spaces throughout the county. To continue providing “world-class customer service,” the department must look first toward taking care of what has already been built, including planning for the renovation, maintenance, and operation of aging facilities. To be the “model for excellence in government,” the department must continue to build partnerships for acquisition and development of facilities and work to preserve the unique cultural and historic properties that help define the county’s character and the region’s ecological infrastructure. [Quotes are taken from goals defined in *Our Quality Journey Continues: Strategic Plan: Chesterfield County, Virginia.*]

The department will use the following priorities to implement the master plan.

Priority 1: Take care of what you have!

Priority 2: Protect natural systems by continuing the process of land acquisition and park development in accordance with the needs assessment.

Priority 3: Increase system diversity by planning for a Linear Parks System.

Priority 4: Develop a plan for the preservation and compatible use of the historic and cultural resources of the county.

Priority 5: Develop strategic, ongoing relationships with other county departments, businesses, agencies, and community groups to provide services of mutual interest.

Section I – Introduction

The first Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan was prepared in 1974, initiating an ambitious program of land acquisition and facility development to serve the rapidly increasing population. Since that time, Chesterfield has developed an outstanding system of parks and athletic facilities along with a creative operation program working with local athletic leagues and other community groups. Generally, the athletic needs of the community are well served. A good communication and participation system is in place, consistent with the guidelines of the County Total Quality Improvement Program, allowing for open discussion and resolution of issues that arise.

The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation System has thus been in a process of development and improvement for over 20 years. Now the system has reached a critical transitional state in terms of function, focus, and public expectation. Until recently, the emphasis has been placed primarily on the acquisition and development of regional, community, and neighborhood parks, improvements for active recreation, and some development of passive areas. However, the major issue with active recreation at this time is the development and funding of an ongoing program for renovation, renewal, and improvement of existing athletic facilities. Small community centers are a minor, but much-loved, component of the system that should be expanded to serve a broader public. More recently, the department has begun to develop increased water access and trail systems, and has participated in the preservation, improvement, and programming of the 1611 Cite of Henricus historical site. This recent trend is supported by the findings of this planning effort. The demand for these types of facilities is expected to continue to increase.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan has included input from the general public and the department, as well as from other county employees and elected officials. While there is a high level of satisfaction with the programs and facilities provided by the county, the process of gathering this input has revealed an interest in a broader focus for the department and for the parks and recreation system. There is increased interest in linear greenways, interconnected trail systems, recreation centers, historic site access and preservation, neighborhood parks, and greater diversity of facilities and programs.

The county is on the threshold of change regarding quality-of-life issues such as diverse recreational opportunities and the preservation of “special places.” This plan sets the framework for the larger and more comprehensive view that the department needs to take now and in the future to address growing citizen interest in greater diversity in the system and the changing demographics of the population. It is time for the county to aim for a higher level of quality along with increased diversity of offerings, and to continue to do this in the time-honored tradition of “making a little go a long way.” To broaden the department’s focus, this plan includes recommendations for supplemental plans to address complex issues, the development of internal and external partnerships for the conservation and preservation of county-wide resources, and specific recommendations for land acquisition and facility development.

Section II - Summary of Planning Process

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

**Stakeholder Sessions
Public Input and User Group Meetings
Parks and Recreation Citizen Survey
Departmental Review**

The planning process for this master plan update has involved extensive public input, as well as stakeholder and staff meetings and surveys to obtain the full scope of community and department needs and desires. The following is a summary of the methods used to develop the analysis and recommendations provided in this report.

A. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Five public meetings were conducted during May and June of 2001. These were conducted as a part of the regular Supervisor Constituent Meetings in each of the magisterial districts: Midlothian, Clover Hill, Bermuda, Dale, and Matoaca. To allow the widespread Matoaca District residents ample opportunity to attend a meeting, the supervisor for this district also attended the meetings in Clover Hill and Dale. All meetings were conducted utilizing a set of questions about current performance and current and future desires of the residents. At the end of each session, the people attending were asked to vote on the items of greatest interest and importance to them.

B. CITIZEN SURVEY

To obtain comments from as many citizens as possible, a Parks and Recreation Survey was mailed at random to 4,000 county residents. This survey was intended to assess the level of public interest in a variety of recreation facilities and programs, and also to serve as a baseline tool for ongoing evaluation regarding the performance of the department in meeting citizen expectations. The survey received a viable return rate (11.65%)

and provided results that have been incorporated into the recommendations of this plan.

C. USER GROUP MEETINGS

The county also conducted user group meetings with organizations and groups with specific recreation interests. One meeting was held with the athletic leagues, and one with a variety of community groups, including conservation groups, groups with historical interests, community association groups, and various activity-oriented organizations. The same set of questions was used in these groups as was used for the general public sessions.

D. DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Each park district superintendent completed a Facility Needs Assessment to determine current and future anticipated maintenance and renovation needs. Site visits to each school and park facility were made to determine the amount of replacement and renovation dollars necessary to bring the system up to standard. Staff reviewed site information to determine which facilities could be upgraded and met with athletic leagues to assign priorities to sports field upgrades.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

Several other recent sources of information were reviewed in the preparation of the parks and recreation needs analysis. These include the "Quality-of-Life" survey recently conducted by the Chesterfield County Total Quality Improvement Office, as well as the Chesterfield County needs

component of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation statewide survey, which was conducted during the preparation of the 2001 Virginia Outdoors Plan. Data from several national surveys, as well as information from Census 2000, is used extensively in Chapter IV.

F. STAKEHOLDER SESSION

A stakeholder session was held including representatives of several county departments, citizens with a range of interests, and business representatives. This session included a summary of the issues that had emerged from the survey and public input. The general trends and issues identified in the study were reviewed and validated by this group.

In addition to these specific activities, a planning team consisting of staff planners and outside planning consultants reviewed concepts and issues with key representatives from the

Department of Parks and Recreation and the Planning Department. A core group of citizens representing a range of interests and geographic areas throughout the county met regularly with the planning team. The team regularly briefed and received feedback from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on the progress and results of the activities.

By taking advantage of a wide range of opportunities to gather information, the process has provided a clear picture of the current state of parks and recreation in the county and a consistent message about the desires and needs of the community. Combining this public information with internal service and demand analyses, the recommendations in this plan were developed. The plan is intended to provide a framework for the future of the department, as well as to provide the basis of a Facilities Plan to be incorporated as an updated component of Chesterfield's Comprehensive Plan.

Section III - Parks and Recreation Trends and Issues

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

**National Trends in Parks and Recreation
County Population and Participation Trends
Parks and Recreation Performance
Funding to Meet Parks and Recreation Community Needs
Park Maintenance and Renovation**

A number of trends and issues have been identified that will influence the demand placed upon Chesterfield County to provide parks and recreation facilities, the future role of the Parks and Recreation Department, and consequently the recommendations of this master plan.

A. NATIONAL TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

The trends and issues that emerged during the public input sessions and in a public survey in Chesterfield County tend to be consistent with a number of national trends in parks and recreation. Some of these trends are apparent now while others will become more of an issue in the future. Major trends in Chesterfield County include:

- *Economic Development.* High-quality parks and numerous recreational opportunities are increasingly becoming expectations, not only of residents, but also of businesses locating to a community. Businesses want to locate where their work force would like to live, and a good recreation system is a clear indicator of a community's quality of life. Also, heritage tourism and ecotourism are drawing people to communities such as Chesterfield, that are rich in historic resources and bordered by rivers.
- *Alternative Funding.* Communities across the country are developing alternative and creative funding strategies for community amenities that cannot be paid for completely from the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and operating budgets of those communities.

Park foundations, public-private partnerships for facility development and operations, and various financing alternatives are utilized to fund parks. A business model is often applied to parks and recreation as a part of developing a plan for the system to become more self-sufficient.

- *Environmental Awareness.* In response to growing public concern about environmental conservation, parks and recreation departments will serve an increasingly important role in natural-area stewardship and in cultural resource preservation.
- *Aging Population.* The proportion of senior citizens in the population is increasing, resulting in increased demand for indoor meeting and exercise space, more walking trails and tracks, and transportation to recreation facilities. There is also a greater need to develop fully accessible and therapeutic-exercise facilities.
- *More Teen-agers and Working Parents.* The growing teen-age population, combined with an increasing number of single-parent households, as well as households with two working parents, has created an increased demand for organized recreational activities for teens and after-school transportation. Families also tend to have less leisure time as a result of both parents working and commuting. Some activities offered should not take much time to complete and should be located close to home.

- *Increased Population Diversity.* The population in many areas of the country is becoming more ethnically diverse. As immigrants become established in a community, they bring opportunities for sharing their unique cultures, and the desire for recreation facilities to serve their historic interests. Although communication can be problematic, there is intrinsic value in exploring and celebrating other cultures.



Celebrating Diversity

- *Increasing Economic Gap.* There is an increasing economic gap in communities between the “haves” and “have-nots” that presents unique challenges to a public parks and recreation system, which is dedicated to providing equitable recreation opportunities for all citizens. The trend requires solutions such as creative pricing for programs and provision of educational programs and activities that help to narrow the gap.
- *Increasing Vehicular Congestion.* As our communities become more urbanized and traffic congestion increases, citizens want parks and trail systems close to residences and offices. The closer proximity allows for pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and convenient locations for exercising.

- *Family-Oriented, Multi-Purpose Recreation Centers.* Nationally, there is an increasing demand for central indoor-outdoor recreation centers that meet the needs of all family members, including meeting rooms and conference areas, aquatic centers, gymnasiums, classrooms, and various specialized activities. As such facilities become increasingly common, expectations increase—particularly as more people move into the county who have become accustomed to this type of facility.
- *Increasing Interest in Tourism and Festivals.* Tourism has been on the rise throughout the country. Areas of particular interest are ecotourism, heritage tourism, and travel to attend festivals and cultural events.



Celebrating Chesterfield’s Rich History

- *Health and Fitness Concerns.* These concerns have emerged as the country faces a crisis in obesity levels, particularly among children. Baby-boomers and their parents focus on preventive health care to sustain active, sometimes hectic, lifestyles.

As our communities become more urbanized and traffic congestion increases, citizens want parks and trail systems close to residences and offices.

B. DEPARTMENT CHANGES AND PERFORMANCE

Since the 1994 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared, the department's responsibilities have changed significantly. Since 1996, there has been a 94 percent increase in park acreage and a 19 percent increase in park visitation, along with increases in the number of all facility types. Subsequently, there has been a substantial increase in demand for maintenance. The department reports shortages of labor and equipment and a need for training to develop more expertise to meet specialized needs.

At the same time, several strengths have been recognized. These include:

- A dedicated department staff with can-do attitudes
- Significant community support for facilities and programs
- A significant number of generally high-quality facilities.

Citizens are generally happy with the service provided by the department. They believe that the county has quality facilities that are safe and generally well maintained, that a good variety of programs are run by friendly and responsive staff, and that the general attitude of department staff members is positive and helpful.

C. COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS

Demographic and facility-use trends in Chesterfield County also provide baseline information that helps to define future issues facing the department. While the population of the County, as shown in the recent census, continues to increase, the senior citizen population is increasing at an even faster rate, with the 75-and-over age group demonstrating the largest increase in rate of growth. An increasing number of senior citizens are living alone. Elementary-school enrollment is remaining relatively flat, while the percentage of teen-agers is increasing. Much of the teen-age population is not old enough to drive or does not have access to cars.

These population shifts place new demands on the department regarding programs and facilities, and raise the issue of access for two segments of

the population who often cannot drive to programs.

In addition to changes in age distribution, the county population has also become much more ethnically diverse over the past decade. The Hispanic population has tripled, and all other minority groups have shown significant increases. Minority groups now make up almost a quarter of the population in Chesterfield. Residents at community meetings expressed concern about serving the needs of a more diverse population.

D. COUNTY PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Use of current facilities by sports leagues also reveals some changes in demand. In adult leagues, numbers have remained relatively stable for the past five years. Since the inventory of facilities for these adult sports is generally adequate to serve the current population demand, these use trends indicate that any shortage of facilities is largely due to geographic distribution or scheduling issues, or the relinquishing of fields to youth programs.

Youth league participation rates have also remained stable for most sports. Soccer is the sport with the most participants, but participation has been level for the past five years. Baseball, the second most active league sport, has shown a slight decrease throughout this period. Basketball, while showing an increase in participation through 1998, is now showing a slight decrease, but this is most likely due to competition for gym space with other indoor activities. There may be a continued need for athletic fields as the population grows, but the total demand will be less than projected in 1994 based upon the current level of participation. However, issues about equitable distribution of facilities in areas of greatest demand need to be resolved.

E. INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION

The first facilities in the Chesterfield parks system are now over 20 years old and require renovation. Renovation of the first group of sports fields was initiated in 1999, and this renovation work will need to continue in the future. About 5 percent of the facility inventory needs to be renovated on an annual basis to keep the facilities safe and functional. Consistent with the county emphasis on quality, the funds for such renovation work need to become an ongoing component of the county budget, so that parks do not fall into disrepair.

F. DEMAND FOR DIVERSITY AND STEWARDSHIP

Public input sessions and the public survey indicated an increased desire for diversity in facilities and programs and an increased department role in stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Among expressed priorities were trails for hiking, biking and jogging; preservation of historic sites; riverfront access; open space and wildlife areas; and nature centers and programs. In addition, multi-purpose facilities that serve the whole family are desired, as well as playgrounds and picnic areas. People also want more cultural programs and special events and festivals. Clearly, the trend is toward providing a greater variety of offerings.

G. PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING

Chesterfield County is the fourth most populated county in Virginia, but spends less per capita on parks and recreation than other counties with similar population levels. Funding to meet the parks and recreation needs and desires of a community is always a huge challenge. All too often, recreation is regarded as a frill. Funding for facilities and programs becomes unreliable, as it is often one of the first items to be cut when budget issues arise. Chesterfield County has the opportunity to develop a coordinated program of funding alternatives in order to meet citizen needs. Obtaining the resources and developing the partnerships and relationships necessary to protect or purchase future sites, developing desired facilities, and providing for ongoing maintenance will be easier now than at any time in the future because of increasing acquisition and development costs.



Special Events and Festivals

People want more cultural programs and special events and festivals. Clearly, the trend is toward providing a greater variety of offerings.

SUMMARY

- Many trends and issues in Chesterfield parks and recreation are consistent with national trends. These include population and economic changes, environmental awareness, an interest in health and fitness, and the need for alternative funding sources along with recognition of the significance of parks and recreation to the economic health of the community.
- Specific increasing areas of recreational interest include family-oriented, multi-purpose recreation centers, park access by walking and bicycling, and interest in tourism and festivals.
- The Chesterfield population is becoming older and more diverse.
- Sports demand is relatively stable, but more equitable distribution of high-quality fields is needed.
- A program of on-going renovation of existing facilities must be undertaken as a consistent component of the county budget to maintain and enhance facilities for continued use.

Section IV – Demographics

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

**National, State, and Local Trends in Recreation
Population and Household Change and Diversity
Health and Exercise Trends
Diversity in Recreation Facility Demand
Sports Safety**

A. POPULATION GROWTH

Exhibit IV-1
Projected Population Growth by Age in Chesterfield County

Age Group	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
0-9	38,150	37,792	38,446	40,079	42,113
10-19	42,465	46,210	47,437	46,563	47,450
20-29	27,660	28,300	31,054	33,446	34,414
30-39	41,830	43,975	46,555	47,099	51,713
40-49	47,014	46,897	43,078	45,271	47,518
50-59	33,109	40,744	43,199	42,595	39,103
60-69	15,435	20,889	29,632	36,157	38,387
70-79	10,008	11,498	13,492	18,178	25,790
80-85+	4,232	5,927	7,594	8,702	10,152
TOTAL	259,903	282,232	300,487	318,090	336,640

Source: Chesterfield County Planning Department.

**Chesterfield County, like other localities across the nation, is
“graying” due to the aging of the baby-boom generation and
increasing longevity.**

Exhibit IV-2
Projected Percent Change in Population Growth by Age - 2000 to 2020

Age Group	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2000-2020 % Change
Under 25	93,323	98,564	101,356	103,533	105,916	13.49%
25-54	123,569	126,466	127,773	130,215	136,292	10.30%
55 and older	43,011	57,201	71,358	84,342	94,431	119.55%

Chesterfield County, like other localities across the nation, is “graying” due to the aging of the baby-boom generation and increasing longevity. This County is very popular for families and has a lower median age than most other Virginia locales. However, the doubling in the number of citizens 55 and older by 2020 will have impacts on public facility design and construction. Opportunities for physical activity with minimal impact to joints will become more important. Since over half of the people 65 and older have some disabilities, therapeutic recreation and accessibility issues will also become more important.

By contrast, the number of people in the 25-to 55-year segment will only grow by 10 percent (see Table IV-2). While there are currently slightly less than three middle-aged adults per older adult in the county, there will only be slightly over one middle-aged adult per older adult by 2020. This care-giver group could potentially be faced with the care of four generations, and could need more public support services and recreational facilities located near both child and senior day-care providers. Demand for facilities close to home will increase along with other time-management issues for this busy group of working adults.

Community recreation centers could serve to meet many of these identified needs, if they are designed to serve all age groups. Parents and grandparents could exercise, while their children are involved in athletics or other programs. To meet the needs of families, food-service areas and computer/homework centers should be incorporated into facility design, along with fitness facilities for all age groups. Indoor facilities could provide space for social activities, creative arts, exercise, and education. For seniors, walking, aerobics, weight training, and dancing are some of the most common forms of exercise.¹ Senior health and nutritional needs could also be addressed at a specialized facility.

Community recreation centers could serve to meet many of these identified needs.

¹“A National Survey of Health and Supportive Services in the Aging Network,” The National Council on Aging, Summer 2001, p.5. available online at www.ncoa.org/research/cbo_report.pdf.



B. POPULATION DIVERSITY

Chesterfield County has been attracting a large number of residents from other areas of the country and the world. According to the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 15,808 Chesterfield County citizens reported their residence one year ago was in another county. Approximately half of those moved from another state. Over 1,000 reported that their residence one year ago was in a foreign country.²

Of the total population, over 100,000 residents reported their place of birth as being in another state in the U.S., while over 12,000 were foreign born. While most transplanted U.S. citizens have come from the South (46,757), there are a large number from the North (32,556) and Midwest (15,504).³ These new residents have expectations of government services based on their prior experiences, and may not always be aware of differences in laws, tax revenue, and overall population density.

Minorities now make up a quarter of the population in Chesterfield and all indications are that the population growth rate of some of these groups will continue to outpace the rest of the population. The Hispanic population tripled in the past 10 years, and all other minority groups have shown significant increases. The largest minority groups are Blacks (18% of total population), Hispanics (3% of total population), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.5% of total population, see Table IV-3).

The impacts that growth in these minority communities will have on recreation facilities are still being studied. Soccer is the most popular sport for many migrating ethnic groups, and the demand for more fields will be impacted as these groups assimilate. Among Hispanics, the most favored sport varies by the country of origin, but soccer and baseball are among the most popular.

Predicting facility demand will be difficult if these groups do not gradually assimilate into existing organized leagues. Unscheduled use of fields by the public does not permit control of field maintenance, and some fields may become so overused that turf is destroyed.

² Census 2000 Supplementary Survey Summary Tables, PO41. Residence 1 Year Ago for the Population 1 Year and Over.

³ Census 2000 Supplementary Survey Summary Tables, PO38, Place of Birth by Citizenship Status.

Another consideration for families who have recently come to the United States is the cost of recreation in terms of user fees and transportation. While learning a new language and new job skills, these new Americans often work in low-paying jobs and cannot afford to pay user fees for recreational opportunities. Demand for free and low-cost programs will probably increase along with increases in immigration. Also, it takes time for these new families to be able to provide their own transportation to and from recreation facilities.

Among some Asian groups, leisure activities centered on bathing and relaxation are popular, as are martial arts that exercise both physical and mental discipline. Many ethnic groups prefer activities centered on the whole family.

Community gathering places offer ethnic groups an opportunity to come together in a festive atmosphere. Facilities that offer kitchen and dining areas would be popular for meetings where ethnic foods could be shared. A grand ballroom would be another popular feature, as dances could be hosted that were both instructional and fun, as well as other social gatherings. Facilities with a stage and auditorium seating could be used for cultural performances and seminars that would educate the general public on respecting and appreciating cultural differences. A special-purpose recreation center in Henrico County, the Cultural Arts Center of Glen Allen, is very popular among area residents and is a good example of this type of facility.

Ethnic groups are a tremendous resource for the enrichment of recreation programs. Festivals are very popular activities among some ethnic groups, and these celebrations offer Chesterfield citizens the opportunity to experience foreign culture without the expense of travel. Designated space for festivals that featured grandstands, restrooms, concession stands, covered outdoor arenas, and arts and crafts display areas would be a welcome addition to park facilities for groups that organize these events.

Community gathering places offer ethnic groups an opportunity to come together with others in a festive atmosphere.

Exhibit IV-3
Population Growth by Race - 1990-2000

Race	1990	% 1990 Population	2000	% 2000 Population	Median Age
White	177,067	84.61%	199,447	76.74%	37.4
Black	27,196	13.00%	46,195	17.77%	30.0
Am.Indian/Eskimo/Aleut	487	0.23%	851	0.33%	33.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	3,738	1.79%	6,265	2.41%	31.1
Hispanic of any race	2,511	1.20%	7,617	2.93%	25.4
Other	786	0.38%	3,472	1.34%	24.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 General Population and Housing Characteristics and 2000 General Demographic Characteristics.

C. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The last offsprings from the baby-boom generation are moving into their teen-age years, as evidenced by the large growth in middle and high school enrollment. This change will be accompanied by more demands on student time for homework and after-school clubs and other activities. Adolescents often lose interest in organized team sports and pursue individual activities (skateboarding, hiking, and bicycling) that can be enjoyed after academic demands are satisfied. The majority of participants in park-sponsored athletic programs have been elementary school children.



Exhibit IV-4
Public School Enrollment

Students Enrolled in Chesterfield Schools			
	1990	2000	% Change
Elementary	22,481	23,441	4.3%
Middle	9,987	12,553	25.7%
High	12,012	15,468	28.8%
Total	44,480	51,462	15.7%

Ethnic Groups with Most Students Enrolled	Total	% of Total
Black not Hispanic	11,701	22.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,405	2.7%
Hispanic	1,346	2.6%
American Indian	214	.4%

Source: Chesterfield County Public Schools.

D. HOUSEHOLDS

Although family households, particularly married-couple families, have increased the most in number over the past 10 years, the rate of growth has not kept pace with single-parent households and households where someone lives alone. The number of senior citizens who live alone has increased significantly, as has the number of family households with no husband present. These changes may influence the levels of participation due to the need for transportation to and from recreational activities.

Exhibit IV-5
Changes in Household Type - 1990 to 2000

Household Type	1990	2000	% Change	Number Increase
<i>Family Households</i>	58,395	72,139	23.54%	13,744
Married Couple Families	49,326	58,363	18.32%	9,037
Female Householder	7,138	10,479	46.81%	3,341
<i>Non-Family Households</i>	14,756	21,633	46.60%	6,877
Living Alone	12,062	17,327	43.65%	5,265
Householder 65+	2,658	4,473	68.28%	1,815

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 General Population and Housing Characteristics and 2000 General Demographic Characteristics.

E. HEALTH TRENDS

Although the population under 24 years old is not growing as quickly as the elderly, there will be a significant increase in this age group by 2020 (roughly 25,000 more persons). One of the main problems facing this age group is the increase in obesity (and obesity-related disease) brought on, in part, by sedentary lifestyles, laborsaving and electronic devices, and easy access to high-fat foods. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the rate of overweight children and adolescents has more than doubled since the 1960s. One out of every 10 adolescents is overweight. Overall a higher proportion of males are overweight than females. Among white males, 12 percent are overweight, compared to 10.4 percent of black males. This problem is particularly acute in the South, where a tremendous amount of growth in the last 25 years has followed the urban sprawl pattern, which discourages pedestrian trips.

Teens who are overweight are at an increased risk for hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, and other serious conditions later in life. American Sports Data president Harvey Lauer considers the severe decline in sports participation numbers for the 12-to-17 age group to represent “not only a major assault on the sporting goods industry’s bottom line, but also a chilling omen for the future of public health in the U.S.”⁴

⁴ “Teens Struggle to Keep Up With Grandma and Grandpa.” *Sporting Goods Business*. April 24, 2001, v34, p. 48.



Overweight youths need more energy output through physical activity to mitigate their weight problems, but opportunities for physical activity are decreasing. In the nation in 1991, 41.6 percent of adolescents attended physical education classes daily; in 1999, only 29.1 percent attended.⁵ In Virginia in 1994, physical education was a requirement in only 17 percent of middle and junior high schools and in 2 percent of high schools.⁶

Health issues and health-care costs that arise from lack of physical activity are also a problem for adults. Overweight adults now outnumber healthy weight adults, with 55 percent considered overweight and 22.6 percent obese.⁷ This increase has contributed to a parallel rise in diabetes, with 15 million adult cases last year, up from 9 million in 1991. Researchers say the rises in obesity and diabetes threaten to overwhelm the health-care system. Diabetes alone accounts for \$100 billion in health-care spending.⁸

Efforts by health officials to encourage a sensible diet and plenty of exercise have not been successful. Four of ten U.S. adults report that they never engage in any exercise, sports, or physically active hobbies in their leisure time.⁹ In the Chesterfield Health District, the percent of individuals who exercise regularly is declining, according to a report by the Virginia Department of Health, and 27.3 percent of individuals in the Chesterfield District exceed the recommended weight by at least 20 percent.¹⁰ The County population could benefit from the Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Department partnering with the school system, the health department, and other county agencies and businesses to provide improved access to facilities and physical fitness programming.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *CDC Fact Book 2000/2001 Profile of the Nation's Health*. p. 31.
⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Healthy People 2010 Database*. September 2001 Edition, Focus Area 22.
⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *CDC Fact Book 2000/2001 Profile of the Nation's Health*. p. 49.
⁸ "Obesity rate is up sharply across nation," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 9/13/01.
⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Health Interview Survey*, 1997.
¹⁰ Virginia Department of Health. *Healthy Virginia Communities. Report #2*, August 2000, pp. 52-55.

F. EXERCISE TRENDS

A study by American Sports Data revealed that nationwide, seniors over age 55 exercise more frequently than any other age group. Health professionals mandate exercise more often, and preventive health measures become more immediate with age. In addition, this age group has more free time, and vigorous activity in the golden years is now socially acceptable and generally available.¹¹

Table IV-6 contrasts the nationwide sports participation/exercise growth and decline among teen-agers and seniors. Declines since 1993 are seen in each activity among teens except for in-line skating, skateboarding, snowboarding, and use of weight resistance machines. Among seniors in the same time period, there has been growth in nearly every activity, with the most growth in treadmills, free weights, and weight-resistance machines. Stationary cycling was the only activity that showed no growth.

This data supports other studies that show eight fitness trends that emerged in the 1990s.¹²

- Increased use of free weights
- Growing demand for exercise machines
- Treadmill popularity
- Increased health club popularity
- Surge in home equipment sales
- Continued commitment to fitness among baby boomers
- Diversified forms of exercise
- Emergence of personal trainers

A study by American Sports Data revealed that nationwide, seniors over age 55 exercise more frequently than any other age group.

¹¹ "Teens Struggle to Keep Up With Grandma and Grandpa." *Sporting Goods Business*. April 24, 2001, v34, p. 48.
¹² "Weighty Trends for Fitness Marketers." *Forecast*. Feb 1999, v19, i2, p. 4.

Exhibit IV-6
Selected Activity Participation
 (% nationwide population doing activity at least once per year)

AGE 12-17	1987	1993	2000
Baseball	26.5	22.7	11.5
Basketball	54.8	57.4	45.5
Football (Touch)	35.5	33.4	22.6
Free Weights	25.1	28.5	27.1
In-Line Skating	n/a	16.9	30.3
Running/Jogging	42.6	37.9	31.2
Skateboarding	21.3	8.4	16.8
Soccer	29.4	25.1	20.7
Softball	36.6	33.1	16.1
Snowboarding	n/a	4.5	9.1
Tennis	23.7	20.7	13.3
Volleyball	48.9	46.3	26
Weights/Resistance Machines	9.6	6.9	13.1
AGE 55+	1987	1993	2000
Aerobics	2.5	2.8	4.7
Fitness Walking	15.9	18.3	20.2
Free Weights	1.6	2.3	11.2
Running/Jogging	2.7	1.8	3.8
Stationary Cycling	11.1	12.3	12.1
Stair-Climbers	0.3	2.6	3.7
Treadmill Exercise	1.8	6.7	17.3
Weights/Resistance Machines	1.7	2.2	7.2

Growth areas highlighted in gray.

Source: American Sports Data Inc.



Emerging Fitness Trends

G. DIVERSITY IN FACILITY DEMAND

Demand for facilities is a combination of many factors. Age, gender, race, and income all have implications for the types of facilities that will be used and when they will be needed. Geographic location is also a factor, as the most popular sports at the national level may differ slightly from regional and statewide rankings. Participation rates are influenced by the types of facilities that are available, and may not always reflect the true demand that exists, particularly with emerging sports activities. Time constraints and competing leisure activities are driving the demand for more individualized recreational activities that can be meshed with participants' lifestyles.

Race

In a 1997 report on participants in outdoor recreation 16 and older by the USDA Forest Service, minorities in the Southern Region (defined as other than Caucasian) were more likely to participate in fitness activities such as running/jogging and long-distance biking and team sports (baseball, football and basketball). Popular to a lesser extent were outdoor spectator activities. Minorities were less likely to participate in sports with expensive start-up costs: individual sports such as golf, snow and ice activities, horseback riding, camping, hunting, boating and outdoor adventure (rock climbing, hiking etc.).¹³

Gender

The number of males and females that participated in various sports in the Southern Region in the USDA report were close in many areas, including outdoor spectator and viewing activities, fitness, swimming and social activities. However, outdoor team sports (particularly baseball, football and basketball), golf, hunting, fishing, and boating all had significantly more male participants. Team sports with at least 40 percent female participation included softball, volleyball and handball.

Girls' teams have become more organized in the past decade and often have their own boards of directors. Rather than working around boys' teams to find space, girls' teams are now asking for and receiving equal access to facilities. Demand for high quality-facilities may increase in growth areas as more teams reach this level of organization.

Nationwide, the highest number of female sports participants are in soccer, followed by softball, basketball, volleyball and cheerleading. This nationwide trend is reflected local league participation reports. Among boys, baseball is still No. 1 nationwide, followed by basketball, soccer, and football. Regardless of the sport, most parents believe participation in team sports promotes physical fitness, personal growth, good moral behavior, healthier eating habits and more wholesome lifestyles.¹⁴

¹³Ken Cordell, Jeff Teasley, and Greg Super. "Outdoor Recreation in the United States: Results from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment." USDA Forest Service, August 1997.

¹⁴"Who's the Child." *American Demographics*. August 1, 2001, p. 13.

Exhibit IV-7
Number of Girls (in thousands) who Participated in Select Sports Nationwide - 1999¹⁵

	Aged 7-11		Aged 12-17	
	Number	% Change from 1990	Number	% Change from 1990
Bike Riding	4696	-16.8%	3307	-18.0%
Basketball	1905	13.3%	2930	-4.1%
Soccer	2165	39.0%	1449	-3.3%
Softball	1496	-16.2%	2014	-17.3%
Volleyball	637	-37.7%	2238	-39.4%
Ice/Figure Skating	1372	35.6%	1065	10.7%
Tennis	550	-14.9%	1011	-45.8%
Golf	218	17.2%	412	60.3%
Snowboarding	97	70.2%	360	263.6%

Growth areas highlighted in gray

Source: National Sporting Goods Association.



Regardless of the sport, most parents believe participation in team sports promotes physical fitness, personal growth, good moral behavior, healthier eating habits and more wholesome lifestyles.

¹⁵ John Fetto and David Lipke. "Look Here, Young Lady!" *American Demographics*. March 2001.

Income

Team sports, particularly basketball, football and handball, are popular among low-income participants in the Southern Region of the country. After team sports, the most popular overall activities were hunting, fishing, viewing, social, and fitness activities. High-ranking categories for those earning less than \$15,000 per year include sail boarding/windsurfing, ice-skating, and cross-country skiing. High-ranking categories for those earning \$15,000 to \$24,999 include big and small game hunting, ice fishing, and primitive camping. For the people who earn over \$75,000 per year, individual sports (golf and tennis), and snow and ice activities were the clear favorites. Specific categories with at least 30 percent participation from this income group included downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, migratory bird watching, ice fishing, and snorkeling.

The USDA report also demonstrated that the most dramatic increases in the number of participants in recreational activities were in non-consumptive sports like bird watching, hiking, backpacking, downhill skiing, primitive-area camping, and attending an outdoor concert. Activities that showed a decline in the number of participants included tennis, hunting, fishing, and ice-skating. This report was based on changes since the 1982-83 National Recreation Survey (NRS).

Statewide Recreation Participation

More recent data at the state level indicates that the most dramatic increases in sports participation have been in using jet ski/personal watercraft, playing football and soccer, tubing, hiking/backpacking, visiting historic sites, golfing, rafting, skateboarding, and driving four-wheel-drive/off-road. Another growth area has been in-line skating, although no baseline was measured in the 1996 Virginia Outdoors Plan. The percentage of households that participate in in-line skating now outranks those that participate in many traditional athletics (see table IV-8).

The current edition of The Virginia Landmarks Register has 700 more entries than the edition published in 1986.

Walking for pleasure has moved into the top rank of statewide recreation growth areas in terms of how people spend their recreation time, with driving for pleasure a close second. Opportunity seems to be an important predictor of participation levels. There is a wide network of roadways available for people to use during their leisure time, and most people can find space to walk that is close to home. These two activities do not require a specific setting. Opportunity may also partially explain new interest in historic sites (up 37.1 percent), as many new historic landmarks have been recently identified. The current edition of The Virginia Landmarks Register has 700 more entries than the edition published in 1986.¹⁶



Living History



Historic Preservation

¹⁶ The University Press of Virginia. Available online at <http://www.upress.virginia.edu/loth.html>.

Exhibit IV-8
Growth Areas in Statewide Recreation Ranking

2000 Rank	Activity	2000 VOP Statewide %	1996 VOP Statewide %		1996-2000 % Change
1	Walking for Pleasure	67.1	65		3.2%
2	Driving for Pleasure	62.4	60		4.0%
3	Swimming	52.2	53		-1.5%
4	Fishing	42.0	50	*	-16.0%
5	Visiting Historic Sites	40.4	35		15.4%
6	Bicycling	39.7	31		28.1%
7	Sunbathing	39.1	42		-6.9%
8	Boating	34.1	31		10.0%
9	Picnicking	28.7	34		-15.6%
10	Camping	28.2	26		8.5%
11	Visiting Natural Areas	26.9	24		12.1%
12	Golfing	25.1	20		25.5%
13	Using Playgrounds	24.4	24		1.7%
14	Visiting Gardens	21.6	20		8.0%
15	Jogging/Running	21.5	20		7.5%
16	Hiking/Backpacking	18.3	15		22.0%
17	Tennis	16.2	21		-22.9%
18	Playing Basketball	15.4	12		28.3%
19	Hunting	13.8	17		-18.8%
20	Shooting	13.4	NM		
21	Snow Skiing/Snowboarding	11.9	13		-8.5%
22	In-Line Skating	11.2	NM		
23	Nature Study/Program	11.1	9		23.3%
24	Playing Softball	10.1	12		-15.8%
25	Playing Soccer	8.7	6		45.0%
26	Driving Four-Wheel Drive Off-Road	7.6	6		26.7%
27	Using Fitness Trails	7.3	6		21.7%
28	Playing Football	7.0	5		40.0%
29	Waterskiing/Towing	6.7	8		-16.3%
30	Jet Ski/Personal Water Craft	6.5	3		116.7%
31	Playing Baseball	6.2	7		-11.4%
32	Horseback Riding	6.2	6		3.3%
33	Playing Volleyball	6.1	9		-32.2%
34	Tubing	6.1	4		52.5%
35	Skateboarding	4.1	3		36.7%
36	Rafting	3.7	3		23.3%
37	Driving All-Terrain Vehicle	2.4	2	**	20.0%
38	Motorcycling Off-Road	1.2	3		-60.0%

* In 1996 salt-water fishing and freshwater fishing were reported separately.

** In 1996, called "Unlicensed off-road" .

NM Not measured.

Growth in Non-Traditional Sports

Extreme, or “X”, sports are the fastest growing type of sport nationwide, according to a 2001 study by American Sports Data. Nationwide, generation Y males (the sons of baby-boomers) are driving much of the growth in extreme sports. Their “need for speed” has contributed to a 51 percent increase in snowboarding, a 49 percent increase in skateboarding, and a 32 percent increase in wakeboarding between 1999 and 2000. Snowmobiling, artificial-wall climbing, surfing, and paintball have also gained momentum. Participation in group sports is on the decline as individual thrill-seekers search for something new, freestyle, and exciting.¹⁷

Youth participating in perceived “risky” behavior may contribute to an adult wariness of these young thrill seekers and their chosen sports. However, providing for these types of recreation in controlled settings with supervision can provide a dramatic outlet for stress, allowing these young people to work through their problems and burn off youthful exuberance in a non-destructive and creative way.

Of the “boarding” sports, skateboarding is the most accessible, and young people will skateboard wherever they may find a paved surface. In 1995, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended development of skate parks as a safer, more controlled alternative to skateboarding on streets and sidewalks.¹⁸ Irregular riding surfaces account



Safety Training and Skill Development

¹⁷ Sandra Yin. “Going to Extremes.” *American Demographics*. June 2001.

¹⁸ “Rise in Skateboard Parks Mirrors Rise in Injuries.” *Family Practice News*. June 1, 2001, v31, p. 26.

for over half the skateboarding injuries due to falls.¹⁹

H. SAFETY

Sports-related injuries increased in the period from 1990 to 1996, according to a nationwide study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. With people over 65, injuries have increased 54 percent, mostly in connection with more active sports such as bicycling, exercise/weight training, and snow skiing. However golf, fishing, tennis, and swimming/diving were also among the top emergency-room treated injuries in this age category. Americans are remaining physically active into their 70s, 80s and even into their 90s—30 percent of bicycle injuries in 1996 occurred in persons over 75 years old.²⁰

Sports injuries increased 33 percent among baby boomers (age 35 to 54) from 1991 to 1998, due primarily to increased numbers participating in these activities. Over one million injuries in this age group cost the nation over \$18.7 billion in 1998. Bicycling and basketball led other sports with the largest number of injuries treated in emergency rooms, although baseball/softball, exercise/running, and skiing were also leaders. Of deaths in this age group resulting from bicycling injuries (290 a year), all but 35 were motor-vehicle related.²¹ Death from head injuries among baby boomers was nearly twice the rate as among children -- likely the result of greater helmet usage among children.

For people age five to twenty-four years, most sports injuries occurred while playing basketball, followed by football, baseball/softball, and soccer. Most injuries among individual sports participants happened while pedal cycling, although far fewer injuries occurred among individual sports participants. Ice or roller skating/boarding, gymnastics/cheerleading, and laying on a playground were less significant in terms of number of emergency room visits.²²

¹⁹ “Skateboards: Publication #93.” U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Fact Sheet. p. 1.

²⁰ George W. Rutherford Jr. and Thomas J. Schroeder.

“Sports-Related Injuries to Persons 65 Years of Age and Older.” U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. April 1998, pp. 7-9.

²¹ “Baby Boomer Sports Injuries.” U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. April 2000, pp. 2-4.

²² “Ambulatory Health Care Data.” National Center for Health Statistics. Available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/ahcd/injurytable.htm.

Exhibit IV-9
Selected Sports Injury Rates (1998 Data)

Sport & Product Code	Consumer Product Safety Commission, NEISS Estimated Injuries (1998)	1998 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate of Sports Participation (thousands)	Injuries per 1000 Participants
Baseball (5041)	180,582	15,856	11.4
Basketball (1205)	631,186	29,417	21.5
Bicycles (5040)	577,621	43,535	13.3
Football (1211)	355,247	17,091	20.8
Golf (1212)	46,019	27,496	1.7
Ice Hockey (1279)	22,231	2,131	10.4
Ice Skating (3255)	33,741	7,799	4.3
In-Line Skating (3297)	110,783	27,033	4.1
Skateboards (1333)	54,532	5,782	9.4
Soccer (1267)	169,734	13,167	12.9
Softball (5034)	132,625	15,595	8.5
Swimming (3274)	49,331	58,249	0.8
Tennis (3284)	22,665	11,227	2.0

Notes: 1) Data conflicts with other sources, including other data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
 2) Census Bureau Source: "Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2000, pp. 262-263.

Source: Compiled by R. Murphey, Murost Enterprises, LLC, 1/7/02.

SUMMARY

- Chesterfield County is a popular location for families, but the over-55 population is still growing faster than that of younger adults. The population is becoming more culturally diverse, with particular growth in the Hispanic population. Middle and high school enrollment is increasing.
- There is an increased need for exercise activities to promote general health and provide opportunity for increasing interest in fitness activities.
- There is also increased demand for a greater diversity of recreation activities. While the demand for team sports continues, there is a growth in demand for opportunities for walking and driving, as well as for water sports and "extreme" sports.
- Sports-related injuries are increasing as older people increasingly participate in physical activities.

Section V – Existing Resources

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

**Resource Inventory
Parks and Recreation Facility Standards
Recreation Facilities at School Sites
Maps of Existing Resource Locations**

A. REGIONAL RESOURCES

Chesterfield County and the surrounding region are rich in cultural, historic, and scenic resources. In addition to the historic interest derived from colonial architecture, pre-historic riparian settlements, and numerous Civil War battlefield sites, there are many scenic vistas, quaint villages, and other special places that enrich the lives of local citizens.

The James and Appomattox rivers circumscribe Chesterfield's southern and eastern perimeter and offer many water-based recreational activities. Portions of the James and Appomattox have been designated State Scenic Rivers, along with portions of five other rivers in the surrounding region. Because the area marks the transition from the gentle rolling hills of the Piedmont to the sandy plains of the Tidewater, whitewater rapids occur along the fall line and lend excitement to water excursions.

There are a number of federal, state, and private resources within the region that complement the recreational resources provided by the county. These resources (see following list) add value to the lives of county residents, as county-owned resources in turn enrich the region. This symbiotic relationship is important and continues to play a part in planning future facilities.

Federal Facilities

The James River National Wildlife Refuge and Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (part of Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex)
Appomattox Manor and Petersburg National Battlefield
Battery Dantzler Park
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery

State-Owned Resources

Pocahontas State Park
Elko Tract/ White Oak Swamp Natural Area
Game Farm Refuge
Chippokes Plantation State Park
Hog Island Wildlife Management Area
Powhatan Wildlife Management Area
Chickahominy River Wildlife Management Area
Kittewan Wildlife Management Area

Trails

Interstate Bicycle Route 76
Interstate Bicycle Route 1
Trekking Dinwiddie (proposed)
Appomattox River Trail (proposed)
Cabin Creek Trail (proposed)
Seaboard Coast Railroad (proposed)
Virginia Southside Trail (proposed)
East Coast Greenway (proposed)
James River Trail (extensions proposed)
CSX Railway (former Seaboard Airline Railroad- link Chesterfield, Petersburg, and Colonial Heights)
Appomattox River Greenway (westward from Ettrick along river, proposed)

B. COUNTY RESOURCES

Green Infrastructure

Interconnected networks of natural areas and conservation lands that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to public health and quality of life make up the county's green infrastructure.

Although this infrastructure can be useful for recreation, it plays a much greater role as our natural life-support system. The department of Parks and Recreation works with conservation groups, state and federal agencies, and the departments of Planning and Environmental Engineering to identify and protect these ecologically important areas.

The 809-acre Dutch Gap Conservation Area was obtained and improved through grants from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the National Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program as well as a donation from Dominion Virginia Power and a bargain sale from Tarmac American, Inc. Features include an active great blue heron rookery, tidal and non-tidal marshes, freshwater ponds, open fields, a lagoon, trails for hiking and biking, and scenic areas for fishing.

All of Chesterfield County falls within the Chesapeake Bay drainage area and is, therefore, subject to all regulations and restrictions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act of 1990. Because this act limits development in the 100-year floodplain, these riparian areas are becoming part of the county's green infrastructure system on a case-by-case basis.

Land along river and stream banks thus preserved can sometimes provide linear parks with natural trail systems that can provide transportation linkages between schools, parks, and residential and commercial areas. The Swift Creek and Falling Creek corridors, along with their major tributaries, are the highest priority for protection in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (refer to Natural and Cultural Resources map, p. V-22).

More research is needed to identify and map Chesterfield's green infrastructure and this effort is a high priority considering the rapid pace of development. Parks and Recreation is contributing to this effort with the Natural and Cultural Resources map and the map of Neighborhood Parks and Association-Owned Parcels. The department will continue to work with other departments and agencies to develop a Linear Parks System and Open Space/Greenways Plan for the identification and protection of this important resource.



Scenic Areas - Dock / Water Access



Trails for Hiking and Biking

Blueways

Chesterfield County has over 75 miles of riverfront along its borders that has been used for transportation, recreation, and commerce for thousands of years. Although this recreational amenity is currently available to county residents, there is great potential for development of interpretive trails, campsites, and environmental education opportunities along the rivers. In response to community feedback, access to the rivers has been increased through special-purpose parks at Lake Chesdin, Dutch Gap/Henricus, Robious Landing and Point of Rocks Parks. Recently acquired points of access are a 1.8-mile riverside trail at Virginia State University/Ettrick and a trail under development near Falling Creek Ironworks. Additional federal access points include Drewry's Bluff/Fort Darling, Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, and Battery Dantzler. Lake access is under development at Horner Park adjacent to Clover Hill Athletic Complex in western Chesterfield.

Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront is a 501©3 nonprofit group established to oversee and guide the implementation of the county's Riverfront Plan. One of the main tasks of this group is to "foster public access to the riverfront through a variety of public, public-private, and private-recreation access points along the riverfront."¹

Bikeways

An extensive bike-trail system is being developed by Chesterfield's Department of Transportation with both state and federal funding. Bike lanes are added to the shoulders of designated routes when roadways are rebuilt. Over 27 miles of bike lanes have been added to these designated routes throughout the county and another 6 miles are in the design and construction phase. Safety issues are associated with riding along the shoulder, as debris tends to accumulate in these lower portions of the roadway, and any spills from bicycles could result in traffic collisions. Although paved shoulders are adequate for rural highways, separated bike lanes are more suitable for high-traffic areas.

¹ "The Riverfront Plan." *The Plan for Chesterfield*. p. R23.

In addition to bike lanes constructed by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the state provides five miles of trails at Pocahontas State Park. Chesterfield Parks and Recreation recently built the Chester Linear Park, a one-mile bike trail that links nearby residences to Goyne Park. More of these types of connections are essential to reduce traffic congestion and provide self-powered travel alternatives that promote physical fitness and improve air quality (see Bike Routes and Trail Locations map on page V-23).

Scenic Byways

There are many scenic drives available to residents in the rural areas of the county. In the region, routes 5, 6, 617 and 711 are roadways that have been designated as Virginia Scenic Byways. These byways have significant aesthetic and cultural value and lead to, or lie within, an area of historical, natural, or recreational significance. Scenic Byways are important not only for their quality-of-life benefits, they also offer a recreational opportunity to a segment of the population that does not participate in other types of recreation.



Bicycling and Time Together

Historic Resources

Chesterfield’s rich cultural history is a resource that provides both a tangible link to the past and an intangible sense of identity for all residents. Future facility acquisition and development should consider the benefits provided by incorporating historic sites and structures into the parks and recreation system where they can be preserved and interpreted for generations to come.

The 32-acre Henricus Historical Park includes the 1611 Citie of Henricus, site of the second successful English settlement in the New World. Part of the Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Henricus offers living history experiences and programs to visitors.



Nonprofit participation includes partnerships with the Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront and the Henricus Foundation. This project is linked to other riverfront trail development as part of the James River Greenway initiative.

Other historical points of interest include Eppington Plantation, the Mid-Lothian Coal Mines, the 1619 Ironworks on Falling Creek, the museum at Chesterfield Courthouse, and Civil War battlefield sites. There are more opportunities for linking parks to historic sites. The Chesterfield Historical Society and the Chesterfield Historic Alliance are working with the county to identify and preserve what remains of Chesterfield’s rich heritage (see Historic Resources map, page V-24, and Designated Chesterfield County Landmark Sites, Exhibit V-1 on the next page).



Living History Experiences



Cultural History

Chesterfield’s rich cultural history is a resource that provides both a tangible link to the past and an intangible sense of identity for all residents.

Exhibit V-1

Designated Chesterfield County Landmark Sites

Adventure Hill	11801 Winterpock Road, Winterpock area
Bellgrade	11500 Promenade Pkwy, Huguenot & Robious Road
Bellwood	Defense General Supply Center off Jefferson Davis Hwy
Castlewood	10201 Iron Bridge Road, Courthouse area
Chester Collegiate Institute	12133 Richmond Street
Old Chesterfield County Jail (1892)	Courthouse Complex
Chalkley Residence	4600 Centralia Road, Old Centralia area
Chester Hill	2810 Swineford Road, Bensley area
Chester Presbyterian Chapel	3424 West Hundred Road, Chester
Circle Oaks	4510 Centralia Road, Old Centralia area
Clarke Residence	4515 Centralia Road, Old Centralia area
1828 Clerk's Office	Courthouse Complex
1889 Clerk's Office	Courthouse Complex
Clover Hill	16401 Clover Hill Road, Winterpock area
1917 Courthouse	Courthouse Complex
Davis Hall	Campus of Virginia State University, Ettrick
Eppington	14600 Eppes Falls Road, Matoaca area
Falling Creek Ironworks	2221 Station Road, Bensley area
Grymes House	4510 Centralia Road, Old Centralia area
Hallsborough Tavern	16300 Midlothian Turnpike, near Powhatan County
Ivymount	14111 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian area
Magnolia Grange	10020 Iron Bridge Road, Courthouse area
Mount Malady	12501 Bermuda Triangle Road, Enon area
Oakden	3601 Curtis Street, Chester
O.B. Gates Residence	8011 Gates Bluff Place, off Beach Road
Old President's House	Campus of Virginia State University, Ettrick
Physic Hill	14033 Physic Hill Road, Winterpock area
Ragland House	44626 Centralia Road, Old Centralia area
Salem Baptist Church	5930 Centralia Road, Old Centralia area
Swift Creek Mill & Store/Playhouse	17401 Jefferson Davis Highway, near Colonial Heights
Tomahawk	2500 Old Hundred Road, Brandermill area
Trabue's Tavern	11940 Old Buckingham Road, Midlothian area
Tyler House	12124 Richmond Street, Chester
Vawter Hall	Campus of Virginia State University, Ettrick
Ware Bottom Spring	1601 West Hundred Road, Enon area
Yellow House	3001 West Hundred Road, Chesterfield

C. COUNTY PARKS

County parks are extremely popular, and many facilities have seen tremendous growth in visitation over the past decade (up to 3.6 million or a third higher than counts taken in 1992, see Table V-2). New strategically located athletic facilities have contributed to some of the growth, while new conservation areas and historic sites have drawn visitors from throughout the region.

The county park system includes a variety of facility types planned to meet the diverse needs of the citizens. The next few pages summarize the parks in the current system and detail the Park Classification Standard for each type of facility.

Exhibit V-2
Current Parks and Facilities in Chesterfield County and Growth in Visitors

Park Facilities	Visitors		1992 to 2001 % Change
	1992	2001	
Appomattox River Canoe Launch	41,848	34,724	-17.0%
Bensley Park	47,609	88,762	86.4%
Bird Athletic Complex	117,349	166,794	42.1%
Coalfield Road Soccer Complex	107,560	0	Closed
Davis Athletic Complex	31,927	46,804	46.6%
Ettrick Park	127,053	102,229	-19.5%
Goyne Park	132,902	133,718	0.6%
Greenfield Athletic Complex	65,247	85,384	30.9%
Harrowgate Park	116,172	113,744	-2.1%
Huguenot	238,932	247,987	3.8%
Iron Bridge	432,259	858,187	98.5%
Matoaca Park	110,783	84,998	-23.3%
Point of Rocks	275,741	346,043	25.5%
Robious Complex	188,134	218,283	16.0%
Rockwood	576,462	445,497	-22.7%
Woodlake	53,452	116,326	117.6%
	1996	2001	1996 to 2001 % Change
Clover Hill Athletic Complex*	27,547	116,076	321.4%
Dutch Gap Conservation Area	88,048	115,789	31.5%
Henricus Historical	33,145	107,820	225.3%
Warbro Athletic	43,724	141,692	224.1%
	1997	2001	1997 to 2001 % Change
Robious Landing	19,924	66,317	232.8%

*Numbers reflect new facilities coming on line.

Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park system has traditionally been based on joint use of elementary school property. Volunteer athletic associations typically adopt elementary school service boundaries and concentrate their programs at facilities on elementary school grounds. Playing fields are generally Class II and Class III (refer to Maintenance Standards for Athletic Fields in Appendix D).

Also, the Department of Parks and Recreation has upgraded elementary school facilities, such as playgrounds and basketball courts, for use by surrounding residents. However, use of facilities on school property is limited to evening and weekend use most of the year. Additional full-access parks are needed at the neighborhood level.

Type A: Neighborhood Park Standard

Purpose: Provide recreational facilities and open space for several residential neighborhoods

Location Criteria: Parks, green spaces, and trail systems

Typical Facilities: Picnic shelter, playground, fitness trail, open field, wooded area with multipurpose trail, and limited parking (facilities designed to meet local area needs)

**Type B: Neighborhood Athletic Facility Standard
(Limited Access)***

Purpose: Provide predominately active recreational facilities and playing fields for several residential neighborhoods

Location Criteria: Serve the same area as an elementary or middle school. Should be located on a site shared with an elementary or middle school where possible

Typical Facilities: Outdoor-- Class I, II, and III playing fields, game courts, facilities for the safety and comfort of users including restrooms, benches, a drinking fountain, etc. Indoor-- Facilities include a multipurpose school gymnasium, office space, and classrooms/activity rooms. Passive recreation includes fitness trails and playground equipment.

Acreage Range: 5-20 acres

Service Radius: 1.0 to 1.5 miles

Guideline: Outdoor--1.5 acres per 1,000 population

***Limited Access:** Evening and weekends from September through June; open access June through August.

Exhibit V-3
Neighborhood Park and Athletic Facilities

Type A: Park Facilities	Acreage	Type B: Athletic Facility	Acreage
Bensley Park	17	Greenfield Athletic Complex and Elementary	6
Clarendon Park	15	Woodlake Park Complex/Clover Hill Elementary	19
Fernbrook Park	4	Davis Complex and Elementary	10
Chester Pocket Park	1	Manchester Middle	15
Gates Mill Park	11	Midlothian Complex and Middle	12
		Monacan Complex and High	10
		32 other Elementary Schools	160
		7 other Middle Schools	70
		7 other High Schools	105
Subtotal Full Access	48	Subtotal 52 Limited Access	407

Both elementary and middle schools will continue to be used as neighborhood parks, and the Department of Parks and Recreation will work closely with the school system to maximize both indoor and outdoor resources at schools. A large and growing percentage of the population is middle-aged and older. Schools can best serve this community by hosting self-improvement classes in the evenings, providing fitness trails and classes, and providing community-gathering places. A relationship with the community may in turn extend the network of concerned citizens that support school fund-raisers and other programs.

In addition to the 52 limited-access neighborhood parks at schools, there are five full-access neighborhood parks (see Table V-3). Through the zoning process, small trails are being developed that connect residences to school and park sites.

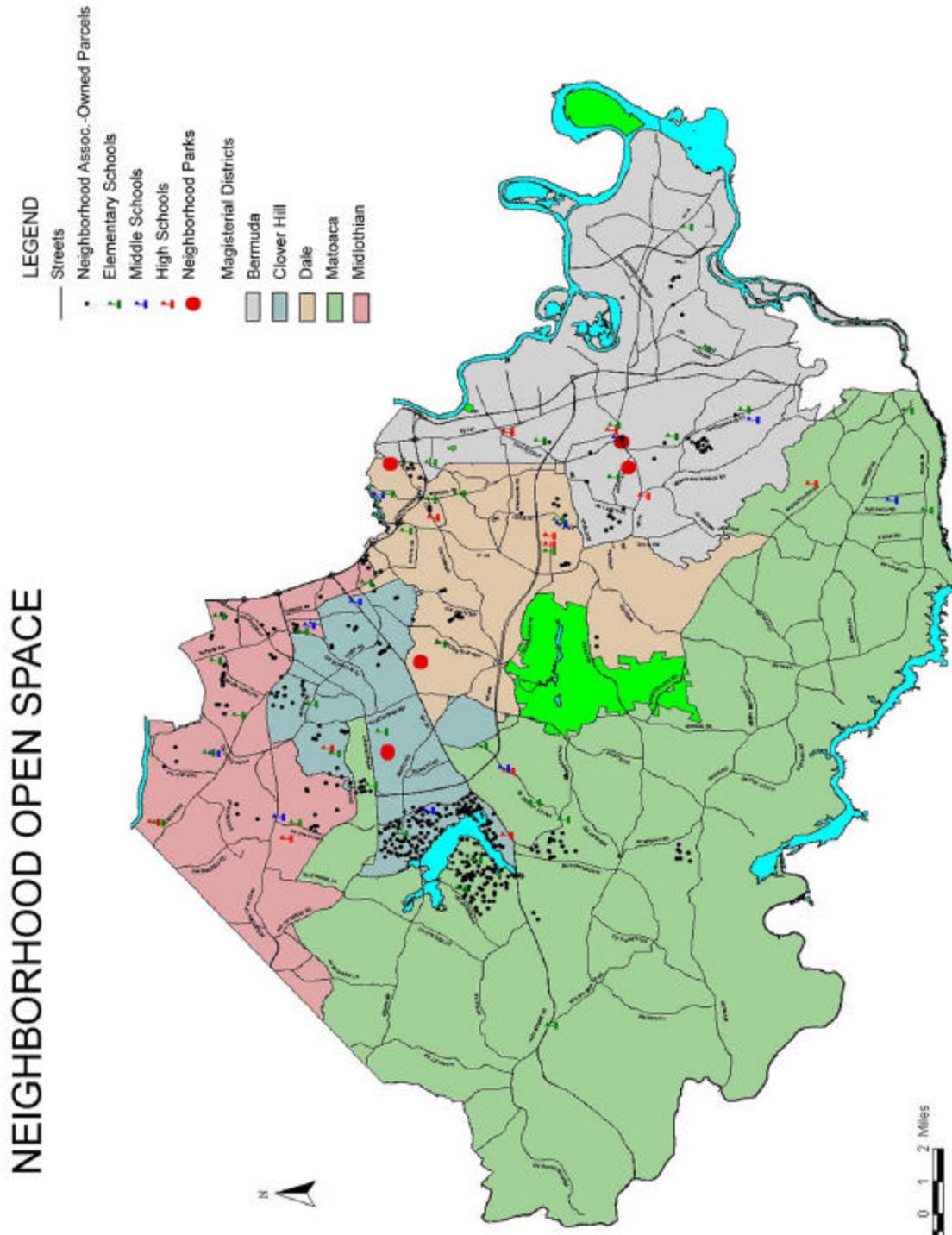
Community groups and philanthropic businesses play important roles in the development of open space at the neighborhood level, and in the development of pocket parks that help preserve or enhance special places that distinguish one neighborhood from another. Recreational areas are increasingly being constructed in planned developments and maintained by neighborhood associations. Communities such as Brandermill and Woodlake may have neighborhood tot-lots, bike trails, outdoor pavilions and amphitheaters, and boathouses and boat-rental programs that are privileges of the development's property

owners. Additional facilities, such as fitness centers, tennis courts and indoor and outdoor swimming pools, may be available for a fee. However, these facilities are not available to the general public and are not spread equitably across the countywide park service area. The Neighborhood Open Space map on the next page identifies neighborhood association-owned parcels along with neighborhood parks and school sites in an effort to identify designated open space at the neighborhood level.



Places for Team Play

Exhibit V-1 - Neighborhood Open Space



Community Parks

The county currently has eight full-access and four limited-access community parks, which generally have 20 to 99 acres and a 3-mile service radius. Typical facilities include baseball/softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, spectator facilities, lights for night use, parking, concessions, and restroom facilities.

Most of the county's athletic fields and courts are located on Chesterfield school grounds. Athletic complexes usually adjoin high and middle school sites that share the use of the facilities during school hours. Shared use of gymnasiums, parking, restrooms, utilities, and athletic facilities results in substantial cost savings for the county. However, use of facilities on school property is limited to evenings and weekends most of the year. At other community parks not associated with school sites, acreage is, again, largely devoted to athletic facilities (see School Athletic Facilities map, p. V-25).

Type A: Community Park Standard

Purpose: Provide gathering space, open space, indoor and outdoor active and passive recreational facilities, and playing fields and courts for a wide range of sports activities to serve the surrounding community

Location Criteria: Located on relatively level, primarily green open space easily accessible to major roadway systems serving the park service area

Typical Facilities: Outdoor--Class I and II baseball/softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, spectator facilities, lights for night use, parking, concessions, and restroom facilities. Passive recreation includes multipurpose trails, fitness trails, picnic sites, and playground equipment. Indoor--Community Centers: Multi-purpose rooms, gym (at larger centers), kitchens, game rooms, art and crafts facilities, classrooms, offices, lobbies, restrooms, and adequate storage.

**Type B: Community Athletic Facility
(Limited Access)***

Purpose: Provide indoor and outdoor active and passive recreational facilities, playing fields, and courts for a wide range of sports activities serving countywide athletes

Location Criteria: Co-located with middle and high schools where possible

Typical Facilities: Outdoor--Class I and II baseball/softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, spectator facilities, lights for night use, parking (if not associated with school parking), concessions, and restroom facilities. Indoor--Facilities include a multipurpose school gymnasium, office space, and classrooms. Passive recreation may include fitness trails, picnic sites, and playground equipment.

Acreage Range: 20-50 acres

Service Radius: 2-4 miles

Guideline: Outdoor--two acres per 1,000 population

***Limited Access:** Evening and weekends from September to June, open access June to August.

Exhibit V-4
Community Park Facilities

Type A: Park Facilities	Acreage	Type B: Athletic Facility	Acreage
Etrick Park	25	Manchester Complex and High	30
Goyme Park	49	Bird Complex and High	30
Harrowgate Park	29	Providence Complex and Middle	30
Matoaca Park	73	Robious Complex/ Middle and Elementary	29
Lowe's Soccer	57		
Warbro Athletic	72		
Huguenot	56		
Subtotal Full Access	361	Subtotal Limited Access	119

Regional Parks

The County currently has six regional parks, including two (Horner and part of Lake Chesdin) that are under development. Regional parks contain a mixture of active and passive recreation facilities to serve both structured and unstructured activities. They generally have at

least 100 acres and a 5-mile service radius. Typical facilities may include nature or fitness trails; picnic shelters; tennis, volleyball and basketball courts; and restrooms, concession buildings, and spectator facilities adjacent to lighted athletic fields (see Existing Parks and Athletic Complexes map, p. V-26).

Regional Park Standard

Purpose: Provide active and passive recreational space and facilities for the whole county, along with playing fields and courts for a wide variety of sports programs.

Location Criteria: Large, unfragmented tracts of relatively level, green, open space, easily accessible land, and connected to major countywide roadway system.

Typical Facilities: Outdoor - Class I baseball/softball fields, football and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, lights for nighttime use parking, spectator facilities, restroom/concession buildings, playgrounds, picnic shelters, bicycle and jogging trails, and specialized facilities (racquetball courts, skate parks, etc.) where desirable. Enough open space for outdoor festivals, other special events, and for non-directed activities such as gardens, nature trails, and nature centers, where resources permit.

Indoor - Community Centers: Multi-purpose rooms, gyms, kitchens, game rooms, arts and crafts facilities, classrooms, offices, lobbies, restrooms, and adequate storage. These centers may also include auditoriums, ballrooms, cafeterias, large gymnasiums, or other specialized facilities to serve the entire county.

Acreage Range: 100-500 acres

Service Radius: 3-5 miles

Guideline: Outdoor- 4.5 acres per 1,000 population

Development Ratio: 60 percent active facilities / 40 percent natural (passive activity)

Exhibit V-5
Regional Park Facilities

Park Facilities	Acreage
Clover Hill Athletic	106
Iron Bridge	367
Irvin J. Horner	232
Point of Rocks	193
Rockwood	163
Lake Chesdin (part)	100
TOTAL Regional	1,161



Opportunities for Passive Recreation

Special Purpose Parks

Special-purpose parks take advantage of unique recreational, cultural, or environmental resources and serve county residents, as well as people within the surrounding region, with bike trails, historic structures and sites, wetlands, wildlife sanctuaries and river access (see Table V-6). There are currently 12 special-purpose parks available to county residents.

Exhibit V-6
Special Purpose Park Facilities

Park Facilities	Acreage
Lake Chesdin (part)	110
Dutch Gap Conservation Area	809
Eppington	44
Fairgrounds	88
Mid-Lothian Mines Park	48
Henricus Historical	32
Falling Creek	43
Ettrick Riverside	1
Fort Stevens	2
Appomattox River Canoe Launch	5
Chester Linear Park	5
Robious Landing Park	97
TOTAL Special Purpose	1,284



Special-Purpose Park Standard

Purpose: To preserve and interpret unique recreational, cultural, or environmental resources for the benefit of county residents, as well as residents of surrounding regions

Location Criteria: Located on sites with historical, ecological, or cultural significance

Typical Facilities: Facilities are dictated by the type of resource obtained. Examples include linear parks, historic houses and sites, Civil War monuments, wetlands, conservation areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and riparian areas (boat ramps, beaches), etc.

Acreage Range: N/A

Service Radius: One hour's drive

Guideline: N/A

Indoor Facilities - Park Operated

Community Buildings

Currently Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation supplies almost 10,000 square feet of community building space operated at Bensley and Ettrick parks. The centers are open during the day, evening, and weekend. Both facilities are comprised of one larger multi-purpose room suitable for special events, senior programs, meetings, rentals, classes, etc., and smaller meeting rooms suitable for classes, card groups, teen activities, and conference space.

- *Rockwood Park Nature Center*
The Rockwood Nature Center is an approximately 1,600-square-foot log building located in Rockwood Park. Open to the public April through October, the center features a children's corner, exhibits on forests, ponds and marshes, as well as exhibits with live snakes and turtles. Center staff also offer programs year-round for the public, schools, and private groups.

Indoor Facilities - Partnership Operations

- *Henricus Visitor Center (Henricus Foundation)*
The City of Henricus has an education center and a museum store that features historic reproduction items. The visitor center is adjacent to an ongoing reconstruction of the settlement's original site.

- *Chesterfield County Museum and Jail (Chesterfield Historical Society)*
Built as a replica of the county's Courthouse of 1750 and located behind the 1917 Courthouse, the museum includes exhibits from a variety of historical periods. The jail, built in 1892, is adjacent to the museum and also features historical exhibits.
- *Castlewood (Chesterfield Historical Society)*
Built in 1817, this unique structure built by Parke Poindexter around 1817 is home to the Chesterfield Historical Society. The house has passed through several hands and served as the parsonage for Trinity Methodist Church in 1860. The county purchased the land and house in 1992 to be used as county offices.
- *Magnolia Grange (Chesterfield Historical Society)*
This handsome, federal-style plantation built by William Winfree in 1822 is available for tours. Magnolia Grange is listed as a Virginia Historic Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- *Eppington (Eppington Foundation)*
Eppington is a unique colonial plantation house overlooking the Appomattox River Valley in southwestern Chesterfield. Built by Frances Eppes, circa 1765-75, this farm was a temporary home to members of Thomas Jefferson's family, and one daughter is believed to be buried there. The Cherry family gave Eppington and 43 acres to Chesterfield in 1989.

Community Building Standard

Purpose: Provide indoor recreational space and community gathering space for a wide range of activities to serve the surrounding community, with specialized facilities to serve the entire county

Location Criteria: Can be co-located with other parks, school district facilities, compatible public service agencies or other community-based program providers with sufficient outdoor recreational space and facilities to support center programs

Typical Facilities: Multi-purpose rooms, gyms, kitchens, game rooms, arts and crafts facilities, classrooms, offices, lobbies, restrooms, and adequate storage. These centers may also include an auditorium, auxiliary gymnasium or other specialized facility to serve the entire county.

Size: 20,000 to 40,000 square feet

Service Radius: 3-5 miles

Guideline: 1.33 square feet per person

D. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recreation Facilities at School Sites

Cooperation with the county school system in the acquisition, development, and maintenance of jointly used facilities is a positive relationship that benefits both the schools and the park system. The current standards for new school site facilities serve the parks and recreation system well when they are applied to land purchases. The cooperative action works to serve the parks and recreation system needs in everyday operations, and calls for close cooperation in site selection, development of new schools and operations and programming of its use.

Application of the county’s development review process has brought full cooperation in a more formalized manner from among the several county departments involved. Parks and Recreation site criteria for this review process currently include the following considerations:

- Topography and other natural site features
- Pedestrian and vehicle access
- Availability and location of utilities
- Building location in relation to outdoor amenities
- Planned location of future building additions
- Inspections by the Parks and Recreation Department of plans and final construction of recreation facilities
- Turf development/maintenance at levels suitable for regular sports program play

- Design of joint use outdoor facilities
- Joint standards for fine grading and seeding
- Design restrooms for after-school programs, with access from outdoor and indoor areas, without compromising the security of the rest of the building

Currently, the recreation division utilizes many of the 54 Chesterfield County schools in some capacity (see Table V-9). The majority of facility use is concentrated at the elementary and middle school levels. The average school is available for programmed recreational use approximately 28 percent of the time during the calendar year. The lack of availability of the schools during weekdays is a concern, particularly as the population ages and has free time during the day.



Fosters Team-Playing Skills

School Site Selection and Development Standards

The following increased acreage criteria are recommended per school type in order to provide for both recreation and school uses.

Elementary School	35 to 40 acres (formerly 25 to 30 acres)
Middle School	45 to 60 acres
High School	100 to 130 acres (formerly 80 to 100 acres)

Elementary schools, which are generally located in close proximity to residential areas, should serve as neighborhood park and recreation centers. It is recommended that the county's past emphasis on elementary and middle school sites be continued to satisfy neighborhood park needs. The following outdoor and indoor facilities should be provided at elementary and middle school sites.

OUTDOOR:

Blacktop area large enough to accommodate two full-size basketball courts
 Durable, high-quality playground equipment
 Turf open-play areas to accommodate a soccer field and football/baseball combination field
 Walking/jogging trails for use by general public and educational programs

INDOOR:

Restrooms accessible from the outside should be constructed for after-school recreation programs and isolated from normal/unused school areas.

The development of joint-use indoor facilities at elementary school sites that are minimally adequate for after-school recreation should include consideration of the following criteria.

1. Minimum play surface area of 70' x 94'
2. Composition or wood floor type
3. 12' x 16' locked storage area for recreation equipment and supplies
4. Minimum of three rows of portable bleachers for seating
5. Electrical wiring for score clock
6. Classroom for recreation programs; should include separate storage closet and be located close to gym
7. Special activities room for recreation programs; should include separate storage closet, sink, and cabinets and be located close to gym
8. Large multi-purpose room for programs/special events located close to gym with easy access from gym and parking area and restricted access to remainder of school
9. Restrooms located close to gym with both inside and outside entrances; restrooms should also be convenient to outside recreation facilities
10. Parking should be located close to gym with ample space for weekend/evening use; entrance should be convenient to all facilities used for recreation programming
11. Restricted access to the unused portion of the school

Every effort should be made to ensure that all forms of access are considered at school sites. Site design and park-rule enforcement should be used to reduce the adverse impact of vehicular and pedestrian conflicts. The following recommendations should be considered when developing sites for both park and school use.

1. Parking – Should be accessible to both school and outdoor recreation facilities. Provisions for future parking should be made if a site is not going to be totally developed.
2. Pedestrian Circulation – When schools are located adjacent to residential areas, consideration should be given to developing pedestrian pathways from the residential area to the school/recreation site.
3. Bikeways – Bicycle access along roadsides and linear parks/open space should also be considered when planning school sites. If the site is adjacent to a residential area, community facility (i.e., library), or existing bikeway facilities, every effort should be made to provide a link for bicycle use to the adjacent sites. Parking facilities for bicycles should also be included. Both the County Bikeway Plan and the proposed Linear Park Plan should be modified as new school sites are developed.

Private Resources

Private facilities make up a growing percentage of the recreation activities available to county residents. Richmond Metro Zoo and Southside Speedway are two private regional attractions located in Chesterfield. Located in Dinwiddie County, Pamplin Historical Park is another example of a private regional attraction. Several of these facilities have been developed by partnerships with local governments. Working with the City of Richmond, Richmond Renaissance helped to create the Riverwalk along the Kanawha Canal and promotes concerts and other special events on Brown's Island that attract residents throughout the region.

The YMCA and commercial businesses provide recreation centers that may include indoor and outdoor pools, fitness and weight rooms, gymnasiums, day-care facilities, and classrooms for aerobics and other types of fitness instruction. Apartment complexes often have fitness rooms, tennis courts and indoor or outdoor pools. A

number of neighborhood associations provide recreational facilities that may include pools, tennis courts, golf courses, fitness centers, trails, and water access. Particularly, new developments tend to have more recreational amenities because developers have become aware that these amenities are very important to homebuyers. Unlike county park resources that are available to all residents, regardless of income, private recreational amenities are restricted to those who can afford homes in planned developments or the monthly fees at private gyms.

System Growth

The parks and recreation system has grown considerably over the past decade. Table V-7 lists the number of facilities available by type of facility, and the chart on the following page breaks down the types of facilities available at 37 county parks and athletic complexes. Additional facilities are available in 60 schools scattered around the County.

Exhibit V-7
Current Parks and Facilities in Chesterfield County

Parks	1994 acres	2001 acres
Regional Parks	774	1161
Community Parks/Athletic Complexes	383	421
Neighborhood Parks	316	252
Special Purpose/Conservation Parks	184	1284
Facilities	1994 Sites	2001 Sites
Picnic Shelters*	23	31
Tennis Courts	77	87
Baseball/Softball Fields	149	180
Soccer Fields	78	90 (57 FFE)
Football Fields	30	25
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	28	54
Canoe Launch	1	2
Boat Ramps	3	3
Archery Range	1	1
Walking and Jogging Trails*	17 miles	24 miles
Volleyball Courts	29	32
Nature Center	1	1
Community Building	2	2
Playground	NM	46
Historic Sites	NM	7
Equestrian Ring	NM	2

FFE - Full-size field equivalents -- Parks employed a new method for measuring soccer fields in 1998.
 NM - Not measured in the 1994 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Exhibit V-8
Park and Facilities

	Facility acreage	Picnic shelters	Picnic areas	Playground	Fitness trail	Self-guided trails	Historical	Fishing	River access	Restrooms	Concession area	Baseball/softball	Football	Soccer	Tennis	Basketball	Volleyball	Horseshoes	Special features and addresses	
Appomattox Canoe Launch	5																		21400 Chesdin Road	
Bensley Park	17																		Community Building 2900 Drewry's Bluff Road	
Bird Athletic Complex	30											?			?				10401 Courthouse Road	
Chester Linear Park	5																		11801 Womack Road	
Clarendon Park	15																		2428 Brookforest Road	
Clover Hill Athletic Complex	106				?	?		?		?		?						?	?	17701 Genito Road
Davis Athletic Complex	10																			415 S. Providence Road
Dutch Gap Boat Ramp	4																			Boat Ramp 441 Coxendale Road
Dutch Gap Conservation Area	809																			6-mile trail 411 Coxendale Road
Eppington Plantation	44																			14201 Eppes Falls Road
Eltrick Park	25	R										?	?		?					Community Building 20621 Woodpecker Road
Eltrick Riverside Park	1																			21514 Chesterfield Avenue
Fairgrounds	88																			Horseshow Rings/ Exhibition Building, Courthouse Road Extension
Falling Creek Linear Park	89					?	?	?		?										6200 Jefferson Davis Highway
Fernbrook ark	4																			9270 Catham Grove Lane
Fort Stevens Historical Park	2																			Civil War features 8900 Pams Avenue
Gates Mill Park	11																			3000 Cogbill Road
Goyme Park	49	R										?	?		?					5300 Ecoff Road
Greenfield Athletic Complex	5																			10751 Savoy Road
Harrowgate Park	29	R										?	?		?	?				4000 Cougar Trail
Henricus Historical Park	32																			Boardwalk and Visitors Center 251 Henricus Park Road
Huguenot Park	56	R													?	?				Azalea Garden, 10901 Robious Road
Iron Bridge Park	367	R										?	?	?	?	?				Boardwalk, Handball/ Racquetball Courts; 6600 White Pine Road
Irvin J. Horner Park	232	?	?	?	?	?		?		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?		Lake/ Trails Genito Road
Lake Chesdin Park	210	?				?														Boat Launch/ Fishing pier 12900 Lake Chesdin Park

KEY | facility ? lighted facility ? facility under development R group shelter reservations accepted

Exhibit V-8
Park and Facilities (Cont)

	Facility acreage	Picnic shelters	Picnic areas	Playground	Fitness trail	Self-guided trails	Historical	Fishing	River access	Restrooms	Concession area	Baseball/softball	Football	Soccer	Tennis	Basketball	Volleyball	Horseshoes	Special features and addresses
Manchester Middle Complex	15											?	?	?	?				7401 Hull Street Road
Manchester High School Complex	30											?							13501 Midlothian Turnpike
Matoaca Park	73	R			?	?						?	?	?	?	?			19900 Holloway Avenue
Mid-Lothian Mines	48	?	?			?	?			?									Interpretive exhibits
Monacan Athletic Complex	10																		11501 Smoketree Drive
Point of Rocks Park	193	R										?	?		?	?			Nature Trail 201 Enon Church Road
Providence Athletic Complex	30												?						900 Starlight Lane
Robious Athletic Complex	29											?	?	?					2801 Robious Crossing Drive
Robious Landing Park	97	R		?						?								?	Boat Slide 2800 James River Road
Rockwood Park	163	R										?			?	?			Nature Center, Boardwalk, Archery Range 3401 Courthouse Road
Warbro Athletic Complex	20											?							3204 Warbro Road
Woodlake Athletic Complex	16																		5700 Woodlake Village

KEY | facility ? lighted facility ? facility under development R group shelter reservations accepted

Exhibit V-9
School Facilities

	Acreage	Playground	Fitness trail	Restrooms	Concession area	Baseball/softball	Football	Soccer	Tennis	Basketball	Volleyball	Adjacent athletic complex	ADDRESS
ELEMENTARY													
Bellwood	13.6	⌋				⌋	⌋						9536 Dawnshire Rd., Richmond, VA 23237
Bensley	11.6	⌋	⌋			⌋							6600 Strathmore Rd., Richmond, VA 23237
Beulah	16.3	⌋	⌋		⌋	⌋				⌋			4216 Beulah Rd., Richmond, VA 23237
Bon Air	25.0	⌋				⌋				⌋	⌋		8701 Polk St., Bon Air, VA 23235.
Chalkley	20.0	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	?	?			?			3301 Turner Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23832
M. Christian	49.4	⌋					⌋	⌋		⌋			14801 Woods Edge Rd., Colonial Hgts., VA 23834
Clover Hill	14.6	⌋				⌋				⌋		↙	5700 Woodlake Village Pky., Midlothian, VA 23112
Crenshaw	20.0	⌋				?	?			⌋			11901 Bailey Bridge Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
Crestwood	17.9	⌋	⌋			⌋				⌋			7600 Whittington Dr., Richmond, VA 23225
Curtis	15.0	⌋				⌋				⌋			3600 W. Hundred Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Davis	24.4	⌋	⌋			⌋		⌋		⌋		↙	415 S. Providence Rd., Richmond, VA 23236
Ecoff	27.8	⌋	⌋			⌋		⌋		?			5200 Ecoff Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Enon	12.5	⌋	⌋			⌋		⌋		⌋			2001 E. Hundred Rd., Chester, VA 23836
Ettrick	11.6	⌋	⌋							⌋			20910 Chesterfield Ave., Ettrick, VA 23803
Evergreen	20.9	⌋	⌋			⌋							1701 Evergreen E. Pkwy., Midlothian, VA 23114
Falling Creek	20.0	⌋				⌋				⌋			4800 Hopkins Rd., Richmond, VA 23234
Gates	19.6	⌋				⌋				⌋			10001 Courthouse Rd., Ext., Chesterfield, VA 23832
Gordon	17.5	⌋				⌋	⌋	⌋		⌋			11701 Gordon School Rd., Richmond, VA 23236
Grange Hall	18.6	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	?	?			⌋	⌋		19301 Hull Street Rd., Moseley, VA 23120
Greenfield	16.5	⌋				⌋		⌋		⌋		↙	10751 Savoy Rd., Richmond, VA 23235
Harrowgate	41.0	⌋				⌋		⌋		⌋			15501 Harrowgate Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Hening	20.3	⌋				⌋	⌋						5230 Chicora Dr., Richmond, VA 23234
Hopkins	12.5	⌋				⌋							6000 Hopkins Rd., Richmond, VA 23234
Jacobs	20.0	⌋				⌋				⌋			8800 Jacobs Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23832
Matoaca	7.6	⌋				⌋				⌋			6627 River Rd., Matoaca, VA 23803
Providence	15.0	⌋				⌋				⌋			11001 W. Providence Rd., Richmond, VA 23236
Reams	16.0	⌋				?	?			⌋			10141 Reams Rd., Richmond, VA 23236
Robious	13.0	⌋		⌋	⌋	?		⌋		⌋		↙	2801 Robious Crossing Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113
Salem	30.1	⌋				⌋							9600 Salem Church Rd., Richmond, VA 23237
Smith	24.1	⌋				⌋	?			⌋			13200 Bailey Bridge Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
Spring Run	24.4	⌋	⌋			⌋				⌋			13901 Spring Run Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
Swift Creek	13.5	⌋	⌋			⌋				⌋			13800 Genito Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
Watkins	21.7	⌋	⌋			?		?		⌋	⌋		501 Coalfield Rd., Midlothian, VA 23114
Weaver	25.6	⌋	⌋			⌋				⌋			3600 James River Rd., Midlothian, VA 23113
Wells	12.7	⌋				⌋				⌋			13101 S. Chester Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Woolridge	24.1	⌋				⌋				⌋			5401 Timber Bluff Pkwy., Midlothian, VA 23112

KEY ⌋ facility ? lighted facility ? facility under development ? lighted facility under development

Exhibit V-9
School Facilities (Cont)

	Acraege	Playground	Fitness trail	Restrooms	Concession area	Baseball/softball	Football	Soccer	Tennis	Basketball	Volleyball	Adjacent athletic complex	
MIDDLE													ADDRESS
Bailey Bridge	35.5					?						✓	12501 Bailey Bridge Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
Carver	45.3						?						3800 Cougar Trail, Chester, VA 23831-0000
Chester	21.2					?		?					3900 W. Hundred Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Falling Creek	34.9												4724 Hopkins Rd., Richmond, VA 23234
Manchester	64.8					?	?	?				✓	7401 Hull Street Rd., Richmond, VA 23235
Matoaca	30.0												20300 Halloway Ave., Matoaca, VA 23803
Midlothian	29.7					?	?	?				✓	13501 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23113
Providence	34.0						?					✓	900 Starlight Lane, Richmond, VA 23235
Robious	47.0											✓	2701 Robious Crossing Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113
Salem	35.5							?					9700 Salem Church Rd., Richmond, VA 23237
Swift Creek	42.2								?				3700 Old Hundred Rd., S., Midlothian, VA 23112
Turning Point Academy	8.4												13824 Lawing Drive, Colonial Heights, VA 23834
HIGH													*Restrooms available during football games only
Bird	75.7					?	?					✓	10301 Courthouse Rd., Ext., Chesterfield, VA 23832
Clover Hill*	50.0						?						13900 Hull Street Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
James River*	74.8						?						3700 James River Rd., Midlothian, VA 23113
Manchester	79.4					?	?					✓	12601 Bailey Bridge Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112
Matoaca*	34.2					?	?						6001 Hickory Rd., Ettrick, VA 23803
Meadowbrook*	50.9					?	?	?					4901 Cogbill Rd., Richmond, VA 23234
Midlothian*	61.3					?	?						401 Charter Colony Rd., Midlothian, VA 23114
Monacan*	72.7						?						11501 Smoketree Dr., Richmond, VA 23236
Thomas Dale*	40.0						?						3626 W. Hundred Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Thomas Dale West	15.0							?					12400 Branders Bridge Rd., Chester, VA 23831
Chesterfield Tech. Center	26.2												10101 Courthouse Rd., Ext. Chesterfield, VA 23832
Community High	4.2												8610 Perrymont Road, Richmond, VA 23237-2815

KEY | facility ? lighted facility ? facility under development ? lighted facility under development

SUMMARY

- Chesterfield County has a range of regional resources, including wildlife areas, historic sites, rivers and lakes, and federal and state-owned resources and facilities. The county has an opportunity to work with community groups, as well as other government agencies, to develop a system of greenways, blueways, and trails, as well as to protect and enhance cultural resources.
- A bike-trail system is being developed through the Department of Transportation that will be tied to off-road pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- County parks are popular and have undergone a tremendous growth in visitors.
- Athletic facilities continue to be a County priority, offered both in conjunction with school sites and at park and athletic field complexes.

Insert Map V-1 - Natural and Cultural Resources - Page 1 of 5

Insert Map V-2 - Bike Routes and Trail Locations - Page 2 of 5

Insert Map V-3 - Major Historical Resources - Page 3 of 5

Insert Map V-4 - School Athletic Facilities - Page 4 of 5

Insert Map V-5 – Existing Parks and Athletics Complexes - Page 5 of 5

Section VI – Vision for the Future: Themes and Goals

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Four Master Plan Themes
Ten Overall Parks and Recreation Goals

The recommendations of this master plan align with four general themes that emerged from the planning process. These themes reflect the positive feelings community members have about their parks and the facilities within them, as well as the confidence they have in the department staff. They also show a desire to have recreation in the county align with and

address other strong cultural values of the community. The themes reflect the changes taking place in the population as the community becomes more urban and more diverse, as well as more aware of the need to protect the natural and cultural environment that makes Chesterfield County a unique and special place.

THEMES

1. Take care of what we have
2. Increase system diversity
3. Protect natural systems and historic resources
4. Utilize public and private partnerships

Taking care of what we have is the most important theme of the plan, reflecting the need to maintain and renew existing facilities before focusing on the development of new ones. A fundamental message within this theme is that the department should not develop more than it can take care of. It is necessary to plan for the staff, resources, and funding needed to accomplish this goal.

Diversity within the system comes in many forms. The department must respond to the changing demographics of residents, which includes meeting the needs of senior citizens, teen-agers, minority communities and residents of various economic levels. Diversity also requires of providing a greater variety

of recreational outlets, including natural open space and trails, recreation centers, competitive sports facilities, and skateboard parks.

Stewardship of the natural and historic resources of the community emerged as an expectation of the department, including the preservation and appropriate use of green areas, rivers, and historical sites. Living in a community with a sense of history and culture and having access to special places were recognized as major quality-of-life issues. This plan recommends working with other departments that also have a stewardship responsibility to develop inter-departmental strategies to meet the desired goals of the residents of the county.

The Parks and Recreation Department will need to **build upon its strong partnering relationships** to enhance public and private partnerships throughout the county and the region to meet the emerging goals of the community. This means working in a closer, more structured way with other county departments,

private businesses and other community groups. The cultural value of respect for property owners in the county and the vital contribution parks and recreational facilities make to a strong county economy are both recognized.

GOALS

- Goal 1: Provide a coordinated plan to address the recreational needs of the community as a whole.
- Goal 2: Provide a consistently high level of service to the public.
- Goal 3: Expand upon standards and policies to provide consistent, high-quality maintenance and continuous renovation of aging facilities and appropriate design of new facilities.
- Goal 4: Maintain successful community athletic programs throughout the County.
- Goal 5: Recognize that parks and recreation are essential components of economic development.
- Goal 6: Establish the Department of Parks and Recreation as a leader in planning for the use and the conservation of the entire Chesterfield “Outdoors” for future generations.
- Goal 7: Incorporate the public interest in greenways, blueways and trails into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Goal 8: Coordinate parks and recreation planning with the preservation and enhancement of historic and cultural resources.
- Goal 9: Contribute to the maintenance and improvement of community wellness.
- Goal 10: Continue to maximize the use of County financial resources allocated to Parks and Recreation by utilizing alternative funding and staffing strategies.

Goal 1: Provide a coordinated plan to address the recreational needs of the community as a whole.

A plan for the recreational needs of the whole community will address a wide range of facility recommendations and recognize population trends within the county. The issues include the changing demographics of the county and changes in resident distribution, which have resulted in some inequity in the location of facility and park acreage, relative to population density. Expanded programs for senior citizens and teenagers, as well as programs and facilities to meet the particular needs of county residents with disabilities, were issues that emerged in public meetings. In addition, special events and programs and more diverse facilities were expressed desires of the population.

The development of a more structured relationship with other county departments would be highly beneficial in achieving desired public goals. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains numerous internal relationships, and the Planning Department played a strong advisory role in the preparation of this plan. **However, for all departments to take full advantage of their mutual resources, relationships should be ongoing and formal. Mutual review and consultation regarding proposals and plans should be made a part of an ongoing county process.**

Providing some of the diverse, specialized facilities that are desired by portions of the community is a particular challenge for the county. An indoor pool for competitive aquatics is one example of a specialized facility for which there is a clear demand, even though the number of participants may not warrant the level of public investment required. **Working with a private business entity to provide such facilities may allow minimal up-front expenditure of public dollars and no on-going maintenance, operating expense or liability concerns.**

The expansion of Level of Service Standards (LOS) for Chesterfield will be necessary as more diverse facilities are further developed. The national trend has been to recognize that all communities are unique, and level of service standards must be developed to reflect the particular needs of the

community being served. **While Chesterfield has standards in place for most facility and park types, these standards should be expanded and evaluated through a continual feedback process to ensure their continued validity.**

Goal 2: Provide a consistently high level of service to the public.

The Parks and Recreation Department has received praise for its high level of service from its constituents. Providing quality service should be an ongoing department goal. Department managers are concerned about the pressure of trying to provide a high level of service with current staffing, equipment and training. It is important to provide adequate resources in order for the department to meet increased public demand. **An Organizational and Programming Evaluation and Alignment Study is a good tool to define resources for an expanded department role. Management plans, training programs, clear design standards and review procedures are tools that will assist in managing these changes.**

Goal 3: Expand upon standards and policies to provide consistent, high-quality maintenance and continuous renovation of aging facilities and appropriate design of new facilities.

Once the county builds a system, it is essential to maintain those facilities not only on an annual basis, but also on a periodic basis to address the life cycle of materials and equipment. **The overall cost of system renewal, renovation, and improvement needs to be funded on an annual basis in the Capital Improvements Program and/or through funding of a reserve portion of the operating budget.** These ongoing funding methodologies will allow the county to anticipate life-cycle expenditures, while allowing the department to address critical renovation needs that may arise as facilities age.

Goal 4: Maintain successful community athletic programs throughout the County.

Organized athletics is a very important component of the culture and the recreation system of Chesterfield County. The athletic leagues handle field allocation, team organization, competition schedules, and referee arrangements, saving personnel costs necessary when county staff run the programs. There is a strong participating relationship between the leagues and the department, and issues are generally resolved through discussion with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAC). **Overall there are generally enough fields for the numbers of people participating in co-sponsored sports. However, some fields are not lighted or suitable for league play while others are not in locations convenient to teams.** The needs of unaffiliated groups and members of the general public for field use should also be addressed. To avoid the cost of developing more fields than necessary, the department and PRAC should continue their frequent dialog with league officials to ensure all options for addressing geographic field shortages are explored. **Improvements to existing fields, conversion of field use to other sports, and changes in field allocations are all potential solutions to field shortages in specific areas. Ongoing upgrades of Class III fields to Class I and II fields and/or adding lighting to extend period of use can address the demand for fields to serve athletic teams.**

The Parks and Recreation Department and the school board have a positive, collaborative relationship. The combined sites, with athletic fields built adjacent to schools, serve two purposes and are an efficient use of public funds. Students can utilize the practice fields during school hours, and athletic teams can use fields and paved areas in the evenings and on weekends. **There is interest in expanding the use of indoor areas of schools when it can be done in a manner that does not disrupt the school.**



Develop Competitive Traits



Inline Skating is Growing in Popularity



Skill Development

Goal 5: Recognize that parks and recreation are essential components of economic development.

Parks and Recreation plays a key role in the economic health of the community in numerous ways and should become part of economic development strategies. By expanding recreational facilities to recognize unique natural and cultural locations within the county, recreation can serve as an attraction to visitors who also spend their travel dollars patronizing local businesses. Tournaments and special events bring substantial income into a community, and the demand for tournament-level facilities for various sports is growing. **Utilizing current facilities, the county hosted 20 tournaments, 2,000 teams, and 30,000 players in 2000, generating an estimated \$3 million from visitor spending. Combined with cultural arts programs, numerous events and concerts, regular programs and park visitation, parks and recreation is conservatively a \$10-million-dollar annual industry at the present time.**

The increasing emphasis businesses place on recreational offerings as a quality-of-life feature fundamental to the issue of economic development. A relationship of mutual benefit may be developed through the support businesses provide to the Parks and Recreation Department. **The department currently has established relationships with several area businesses that have assisted with improvements, particularly to the Citee of Henricus. These relationships should be fostered, and staff responsibility should include establishing ongoing programs with various businesses in the community.**

Goal 6: Establish the Department of Parks and Recreation as a leader in planning for the use and the conservation of the entire Chesterfield “Outdoors” for future generations.



Study and observation of natural process and diversity



Maintaining wildlife areas and open space was one of the highest priorities expressed in the citizen survey, reflecting the growing desire for the Parks and Recreation Department to take on an increasing role in stewardship of the outdoors. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has set an excellent precedent for this planning approach by creating the first statewide “outdoors” plan, updated in 2001 and addressing a comprehensive range of outdoor issues. The Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Plan should be expanded to address similar issues. This does not necessarily require additional responsibility for the department to lead in the areas addressed, but will provide a central resource document for the county regarding these issues. **This is consistent with the need recognized by the Department of Planning to address open space issues in all future area plan updates.**

Citizens expressed a high level of demand for the development of additional facilities, which would provide greater access to natural areas. Both surveys and public-meeting comments revealed the desire for nature programs, nature centers and nature trails.

Goal 7: Incorporate the public interest in greenways, blueways, and trails into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The public opinion survey found hiking and walking trails to be the most desired facilities. They were also consistently mentioned as a high priority in the public input meetings, particularly for providing an activity that can serve all age groups. Bicycle trails were a close second in the survey. **Consequently, the development of a coordinated plan for a Linear Parks System is a very high priority for the county.**

The issue of greenways and blueways for the county drew mixed reactions, generally based on the location of residents in the county. Those in the more developed northern areas of the county supported greenways and trails, while those in the more rural areas of the Matoaca District were opposed to this trend. As the county develops further and open space becomes more rare, support for and interest in a greenways system will undoubtedly grow. **It is important to develop a greenways plan for the county to be**

proactive in planning ahead of increased demand.

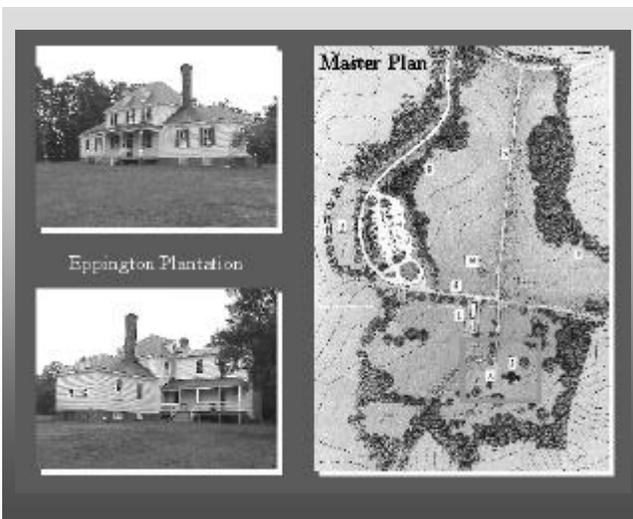
Development of a plan and program for county greenways and blueways and the development of a plan for a County Linear Park System are closely related. Recreation is sometimes compatible with conservation, depending upon the carrying capacity of any particular system or piece of land. Access to appropriate sections of a greenways system can help reinforce public interest in, and support for, conservation, while providing much-needed and desired access to natural areas. **Planning for an open space system of greenways and blueways throughout the County is essential and is appropriately accomplished by the Department of Planning, which deals primarily with land-use issues.** The greenways and blueways systems often are not public land and often do not involve public access. **The Linear Parks System is appropriately planned and operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation as a recreation activity area.** Most of the system will be on public lands, although portions may be on privately held lands through dedicated public access easements. **Planning for the two systems should be coordinated and will require structured interaction between the departments.**



Wetland Preservation

Goal 8: Coordinate parks and recreation planning with the preservation and enhancement of historic and cultural resources.

Chesterfield County has a unique geographic location and, consequently, a rich and varied cultural history. Its history began with Native American settlement and the earliest Colonial settlements, significant Colonial industrial sites, early transportation sites, and significant Civil War battlefield sites. **A clear public mandate for increased protection of historic sites and for maintenance, interpretation, and appropriate public access to cultural sites emerged during this planning process. This is a high-priority issue because important sites are continually lost to other uses.** The Parks and Recreation Department has served as the agent in the County in support of the Heritage Alliance. A staff position is responsible for programming at historic sites. The department should take a leadership role in addressing this public desire and in implementing a program for preservation and interpretation of the landscape. **A study of the cultural resources of the county should be undertaken and incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to develop a strategy to meet this goal.**



Goal 9: Contribute to the maintenance and improvement of community wellness.



Community Building

The role of parks and recreation departments in assisting citizens in developing and maintaining physical and mental health is increasing. In addition to promoting community wellness, incorporating fitness activities and facilities into the system provides an opportunity for all citizens to participate in such activities. **However, any strategy addressing health and fitness issues should be coordinated with public agencies and private groups and businesses, such as the YMCA and fitness centers to avoid competition and take full advantage of the facilities available in the community.** In many communities, parks and recreation departments also partner with healthcare facilities and hospitals to provide therapeutic recreation facilities.

Goal 10: Continue to maximize the use of County financial resources allocated to Parks and Recreation by utilizing alternative funding and staffing strategies.

Funding methodologies for parks and recreation was solicited in the public opinion survey. Program user fees were the preferred method, followed by grants, endowments and private sponsorship. 40% of the residents supported the use of development impact fees and bonds, and only 20% of the respondents favored property taxes.

In public meetings, residents of the County supported developing partnerships and alternative funding strategies in order to avoid a tax increase to pay for increased parks and recreation sites, facilities and programs. Volunteerism is recognized as a strength in the County and a resource for program enrichment. **In order to fully take advantage of potential strategies, a staff position within the department must be assigned primary responsibility for developing and tracking a program.**

Some of the resident’s major desires are relatively inexpensive to maintain compared to the ongoing cost to provide athletic facilities. Active athletic facilities are quite expensive on a per-person use not only to construct, but also to maintain while trails of various types are one of the facilities of greatest interest to citizens, and these facilities are very cost-effective to maintain on a per-use basis. In addition, the cost of land acquisition may be relatively economical, since lands that are of greatest interest for natural area preservation and trails are often the least usable for development or agricultural purposes. **The benefits of trail development to a broad sector of the population and a wide range of age groups is consequently substantial relative to facility cost.**

These themes and goals that emerged out of this planning process will serve as a guide to the Department in land acquisition and facility development, as well as, in developing plans for operations and programming over the next ten years.

SUMMARY

The themes reflect the positive feelings the community has for Chesterfield Parks and Recreation and the interest in the alignment of Parks and Recreation offerings with the overall cultural and natural environment of the County. The accompanying goals emphasize the need for the Department to continue to provide a high level of service, excellent facilities, and successful programs. At the same time, facilities and programs should expand to better serve the increasing interest in greenways, blueways, trails, and historic and cultural resources.

Section VII - Summary of Public Input

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Results of Public Input meetings
Results of Parks and Recreation Survey
Results of Citizen Satisfaction Survey

Following a tradition of incorporating public input into its mission, the Department of Parks and Recreation returned to the public for direction on how department resources could best be used to meet evolving needs. In addition to a series of public meetings, a Parks and Recreation Survey was mailed to a representative sample of county residents to determine the level of public interest in a variety of recreation facilities and programs. In addition, the county's Total Quality Improvement Office spearheaded a Quality-of-Life Survey that was mailed to 10,000 randomly selected residents to provide evidence of performance in all county services.

While the Parks and Recreation Survey focuses on specific issues that surfaced in the public meetings, the Quality-of-Life Survey gives broader insights into how residents feel about their county and their government. In addition to these three public-feedback tools, the department used a statewide survey conducted for the 2001 Virginia Outdoors Plan by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The "Projected Chesterfield County Needs" component of this state survey is derived from the comments of Chesterfield citizens who participated in recreation activities.

Public Input

Public Meetings

Participants in public meetings in each magisterial district raised 32 areas of concern, ranging from access issues to youth services. By total number of votes, the top seven issues in order of importance were:

- Funding parks and recreation (where to get money for desired improvements)
- Swimming facilities (especially indoor facilities that could be used for competitions and therapeutic recreation)
- Senior activities
- Skateboarding and increased school-facility use (tied in ranking)
- Organized athletics (also tied with comments about specific parks)
- Access to the James and Appomattox rivers
- Greenways and conservation (trails)

Four or more districts wanted swimming facilities, senior activities, facilities for the physically challenged, and funding for parks and recreation. Three or more districts wanted skateboarding, river access, increased school-facility use, and bike trails.

The issues that received the most votes in the user groups were:

Co-Sponsored User Group

- Use community buildings rather than schools—accessibility issues
- Preserve green spaces and assure protection of future resources
- Improve views from both rivers to notable sites
- Acquire land and conservation easements, especially in U.S. Rt. 288 corridor

Athletic Co-Sponsored Groups

- Increase sharing of school facilities, especially those in high schools, to meet needs
- Build more fields in eastern and northern areas
- Increase number of lighted soccer fields
- Find space for new sports that are now competing with established sports

Parks and Recreation Survey, July 2001

This community-wide survey was designed to elicit interest, behavior, demographic, and attitude information from county citizens concerning recreation, leisure, and land management. The objective of the survey was to obtain relevant information that would enable the department to be more responsive to recreation needs and to do its job more effectively.

Demographic data from the study suggests that recreation needs should be oriented around the family, but that the department needs to provide recreation opportunities targeted toward the specific needs of different age groups. Due to an economically split community, more study needs to be directed toward evaluating the recreation interests of people in different income brackets and how fee structures might be designed to maximize participation from all socio-economic groups.

Recreation Interests

In terms of recreation interests, outdoor fitness activities, environmental activities, and performing arts received top rankings. Taxes were preferred to fund outdoor-fitness and environmental activities, whereas fees were preferred for performing-arts activities. Next in the ranking were unstructured recreation, self-improvement activities and special events. Although fees were clearly preferred for self-improvement activities, and special events, fees and taxes were about equally favored for unstructured recreation. The third tier of interests included sports and athletics, indoor fitness, and historical programs. Fees were preferred to fund each of these categories. For the breakdown on remaining interests, refer to Management Learning Laboratories *Report of Recreational Needs Assessment for Chesterfield County, Virginia*

in Appendix A, from which this survey summary was derived.

Facility Use

Gymnasiums, swimming pools, and tennis courts appear to be the most widely used facilities in Chesterfield County. Both private and public facilities tend to be used with similar frequencies. Outdoor facilities used most frequently were off-road areas, fitness trails, horseback riding areas, playgrounds, fishing areas, and golf courses. The facilities used most often were not necessarily the most pressing needs expressed by respondents. This suggests that the existing facilities may be meeting the needs of the residents who use them frequently.



Participation

The most frequently cited reasons for not taking advantage of department activities and facilities were inconvenient timing (35 percent) and a lack of time on the part of residents (34 percent). Inconvenient hours of operation were also cited as a reason by 21 percent of the respondents. While there is little the department can do about residents' busy schedules and general lack of time, scheduling changes could be made to enable

more residents to participate in some activities.

Interest and location ranked next as reasons respondents do not participate in department activities. The survey represents a significant step toward ascertaining what interests the residents have with respect to recreation in Chesterfield County. Location needs have also been factored into the Level of Service analysis discussed later in this section.

Because participation in recreation opportunities is determined in part by the availability of residents, one section of the questionnaire was designed to find out the best times during the week for residents to participate in recreation. For adults, the most convenient time slot was from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturdays. This was followed by weeknights between 5 and 8 p.m., Sundays between 2 and 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 5 p.m.

For the youths in families, the most popular time slots overall were from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays. Equally popular were the hours between 5 and 8 p.m. on weeknights, followed by Sundays between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. The results from this availability information will be used to plan programming for adults and youth.

The department should ensure that ongoing, quality web site maintenance is a high priority, given its potential and the fairly widespread use of the Internet by county residents.

Transportation

Transportation would be needed by most youth from 2 to 5 p.m. (9 percent), suggesting that transportation after school may improve youth participation. Adults reported minimal need for transportation, with the highest percentage (4 percent) needing transportation from 5 to 8 p.m. Only 5 percent of respondents overall cited a lack of transportation as a barrier to attending and participating in recreation opportunities.

Communication

By far the most effective publicity method is direct mail of the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation department program guide. Newspaper inserts and newspaper advertisements were also considered very effective. The department should ensure that ongoing, quality web site maintenance is a high priority, given its potential and the fairly widespread use of the Internet by county residents.

Opinion questions related to general recreation issues revealed that 97 percent of respondents agree that well-maintained parks add to the quality of life in the community. Nearly half (49 percent) feel the department is responsive to the community's recreation needs, and 42 percent feel satisfied with the recreation opportunities they receive for their tax dollars.

On issues related to recreation facilities, most respondents (78 percent) indicated a preference for more smaller neighborhood parks located closer to their homes. Most (73 percent) indicated that they feel safe in parks, that parks satisfy their needs (72 percent), and that the parks are clean and generally well maintained (69 percent).

On issues related to administration, most (62 percent) of respondents agree that department staff members are courteous and helpful. Nearly half (42 percent) feel the quality of supervision and instruction provided by the Department is good. Many respondents were not able to offer an opinion on these two questions, suggesting that they had not interacted with the staff.

Nearly half (47 percent) of the respondents indicated they are not aware of the recreation programs and activities the Department offers. With respect to volunteer opportunities, far fewer are aware of what is available (23 percent). The department will use the information from the survey to make improvements in the level of public knowledge about Parks and Recreation offerings and volunteer opportunities.

Funding and Partnerships

A large majority (90 percent) of respondents indicated the ability to pay a fee for new recreation opportunities. In fact, the most widely supported means of funding public recreation are program user fees (82 percent) and grants (69 percent). The next most acceptable means of funding are endowments (64 percent) and private sponsorship (61 percent). Less than half of the respondents consider development impact fees and bonds to be favorable sources of funding. As is usually the case, a property tax was the least popular funding method (20 percent).

Uses of public funds for specific initiatives were more popular. Sixty-one percent of those surveyed both support use of public funds to buy more land for parks and historic sites and also support use of public funds to provide access to the James and Appomattox rivers. More than half (54 percent) support use of public funds to buy more land for conservation of natural habitats.

Cooperation and partnerships were well supported among respondents, with 87 percent supporting public/private partnerships and 82 percent agreeing with the concept of regional cooperation between localities. Nearly three-fourths (73 percent) support conversion of abandoned railways into trails, and 67 percent support increased use of school property for recreational use.

Specific Recreation Needs

One section of the questionnaire was designed to determine the relative importance of specific recreation needs. Trails and other outdoor areas ranked at the top of the facility-related priorities, with about three-fourths of the respondents indicating they should be added. The perceived need for hiking and walking trails (79 percent), bicycle trails (75 percent), riverfront access (74 percent), wildlife areas and open spaces (73 percent), playgrounds (72 percent), picnic facilities (71 percent), and jogging/fitness trails (66 percent) demonstrates a strong and consistent interest in outdoor recreation and appreciation for natural areas.

For indoor facilities, the department should add nature centers (64 percent) and community centers (62 percent). These facilities could accommodate some of the most popular activities like nature programs (66 percent) and family activities (74 percent).

Three-fourths of the respondents consider a commitment to historic sites and preservation to be a need. Activities for the whole family (74 percent), activities for teens (70 percent), and special events and festivals (67 percent) are also considered a need by a significant majority of respondents. The department recognizes the consistent interest in historic programs and preservation, and will make an effort to expand these programs and activities. In addition, programming that meets the needs of families and other residents of all ages for specific interests and hobbies will continue to be a high priority.

The following paragraphs break the results from the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey into more descriptive categories to focus on specific needs. Results are not broken out by district because results indicate that a number of respondents assumed they lived in the Midlothian district because of their mailing address. Although surveys were mailed fairly consistently across all five districts (see map in Appendix A) more than twice as many respondents indicated they lived in the Midlothian district as in any other district.

Private vs. Public Facilities

Last year, people chose public over private recreation facilities for concerts, fishing, or visiting a skatepark or community center. More than three times as many people chose public facilities for fitness and nature trails, nature centers, historic sites, picnic areas, playgrounds, and school facilities. Private facilities were chosen more often for racquetball, rock climbing, and horseback riding. Although numbers of participants were fairly close, private facilities were also used more often for tennis, gyms, golfing, wading/sunbathing, archery, and four-wheeling. Some of these facilities are not available for public use in Chesterfield, which means people are driving to other places to find public facilities (for example, skate parks

and off-road areas for 4-wheel drive vehicles).

Income

The top five recreation interests that should be funded with user fees (across all income brackets) are self-improvement, indoor aquatics, indoor fitness, hobbies, and performing arts. Use of tax funds had the most support for the following five recreation interests, also across all income groups: environmental interest, outdoor fitness, unstructured interest (open space/wildlife habitat/river access/camping), historical programs, and camps.

In terms of recreation interests, low-income respondents preferred self-improvement, outdoor fitness and indoor aquatics. Middle-income respondents had the most interest in indoor and outdoor fitness, and indoor aquatics. Indoor and outdoor fitness and sports and athletics were ranked at the top for high-income respondents.

Gender

The top four recreation interests for women included indoor aquatics, outdoor fitness, self-improvement, and indoor fitness. For men, the top four were outdoor fitness, performing arts, travel and tourism, and outdoor aquatics.

Race

The four recreation activities of most interest to white respondents included outdoor fitness, indoor aquatics, self-improvement, and travel and tourism. Slightly fewer white respondents expressed an interest in competitive aquatics and unstructured recreation. African-Americans expressed a consistent interest in all categories, but had the least interest in the unstructured category, and a bit less interest in camps, environment, indoor fitness, self-improvement, and social awareness. Response from other ethnic groups reflected a fairly consistent interest in all categories.

Age

Of the adults who returned a survey, fewer than seven responded in the 18-to-24 and

over-75 age groups, so they are not included in this analysis. For those aged 25 to 34, sports and athletics, hobbies, outdoor fitness, camps, environmental interest, harvesting (hunting, fishing, pick-your-own, etc.) and historical programs were the most popular. For 35-to-44-year-olds, self-improvement, family programs, indoor and outdoor aquatics, and indoor fitness were the most popular. For those age 45 to 54, indoor aquatics, outdoor fitness, performing arts, self-improvement and environmental interest were the leading categories. For 55-to-64-year-olds, outdoor fitness, indoor aquatics, and self-improvement were most valued. For those age 65 to 69, travel and tourism, indoor and outdoor fitness and performing arts were the most popular. Performing arts and travel and tourism were also the most popular for those aged 70 to 74.



Household Type

The most popular activities for married families with children were indoor and outdoor aquatics, hobbies, and indoor and outdoor fitness. With more disposable income and leisure time, married couples without children preferred outdoor fitness, special

events, performing arts, and travel and tourism. For single head-of-households, environmental interest (environmental education center, nature walks) and outdoor fitness ranked highest. For those living alone, leading categories included indoor fitness and aquatics, self-improvement, and travel and tourism.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey, September 2001

Most citizens (91.8 percent) rate the overall quality of life in Chesterfield as excellent or good. Convenient location, safety, schools, affordable housing, and suburban life are the "best things about living in Chesterfield County." Over 88 percent felt that Chesterfield is an excellent or good place to raise children. The availability of quality parks and recreation may have an impact on this perception.

The five biggest challenges faced by the county are traffic congestion, rapid growth, spillover crime, schools, and illegal drugs. The county's total population has more than tripled since the 1970s. This rapid rate of growth has spurred public concern over the protection of historic and cultural resources, the timing of development, and the importance of land acquisition for parks and recreation use.

Citizen ratings for parks and recreation have improved since 1998, with 78 percent of respondents rating parks excellent or good, and 69 percent rating recreational services excellent or good. Satisfaction with recreation facilities has also increased from 59 percent of respondents satisfied in 1998 to 64 percent satisfied in 2001. In fact, satisfaction with recreation facilities was among the twelve most improved areas of county government (improved 5 percent or more from 1998).

Parks and Recreation assumed schoolyard maintenance in the fall of 1996 and there has been a 4 percent increase in respondents who rate school-ground maintenance as excellent or good (68 percent in 2001; up from 64 percent in 1998). Maintenance of parks and recreational facilities has also shown a slight increase in the respondent approval rating from 1998 (78 percent rate as excellent or good in 2001).

The location of parks and recreational facilities, although rated favorably by 76 percent of respondents in 2001, has declined slightly since 1998. The Midlothian and Matoaca districts rated location most unfavorably (a quarter of respondents rating location as fair or poor), although both these districts have improved their favorable ratings since 1998.

New park development at Grove Shaft, Clover Hill/Horner, and Robious Landing may have influenced these improved ratings. The greatest increase in unfavorable ratings during the past three years has occurred in the Bermuda and Clover Hill districts. Rapid growth in these areas has outpaced park development.

Citizens feel safer in county parks than they did three years ago, with 65 percent reporting they felt somewhat or very safe in 2001, compared to 54 percent in 1998. Safety in parks also made the top 12 for "most-improved" government services.

Respondents who felt the county was doing an excellent or good job in preserving and protecting the environment declined slightly from 65 percent in 1998 to 63 percent in 2001. While favorable ratings in Clover Hill and Matoaca declined over 5 percent in three years, ratings improved in Dale over the same time period. Citizens in areas where farmland and forest are quickly being converted to subdivisions are more likely to feel the impacts of growth than older, established districts.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Survey - Projected Chesterfield County Needs 2001

The Division of Planning and Recreation Resources at DCR reports large discrepancies between supply and demand in a number of recreation categories. Some of these discrepancies are due to inaccurate supply and demand figures where local preferences and usage patterns have not been applied. These demand numbers, based on activity days reported by citizens, are used in conjunction with other data to evaluate facility guidelines in the Needs Assessment Section that follows.

SUMMARY

- A public input process was basic to the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Methods of obtaining input included a series of public meetings within each magisterial district, meetings with user groups, mail-out parks and recreation survey, and the county Citizen Satisfaction Survey.
- Information generated by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation was also reviewed and utilized to provide information on recreation needs and desires.

Section VIII – Facilities and Needs Assessment

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Renovation of Existing Parks and Facilities
 Projected New and Expanded Facility Needs
 Park Facility Planning Guidelines and Goals
 Park Acreage Needs
 Service Area Maps
 Proposed Park Sites Map

The facilities and needs assessment component of this master plan looks at Department needs for the next 10 years in three ways:

- 1) **Renovation of Existing Parks and Facilities**
- 2) **Projected New and Expanded Facility Needs**
- 3) **Park Acreage Needs**

There are various standards that may be applied in determining level-of-services needs for park acreage, recreation facilities, and indoor recreation space. This analysis utilized recommendations of the National Recreation and Park Association and guidelines provided in the 2001 Virginia Outdoors Plan, as well as using past standards for Chesterfield County. Because of the range in individual facility standards, we also used the results of the public input sessions, the public survey, and historical records to customize the standards to match the specific needs in Chesterfield County for future facility needs.

A. RENOVATION OF EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

The department prepared an inventory of facility improvement needs as directed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission in 1998-99. The goals were as follows: 1) Quantifying the inventory of aging facilities, 2) Placing a value on these items, and 3) Determining the per year replacement/renovation costs to bring these items back to standards within the parks, athletic complexes, and school system maintained by the department. **The results found almost \$26 million or 40 percent of the entire \$64 million**

inventory of parks and recreation facilities and land were beyond its industry life expectancy, requiring almost \$1 million annual expenditure to replace and renovate (see Table VIII-2). Using the 20-year average life-cycle period, 5 percent of non-land assets need to be replaced or renovated each year.

The most commonly expendable items are fencing and backstops, court resurfacing, outdoor lighting system, parking lots and roadways, buildings and structures, trails and walkways, and site amenities/sports furnishings. This information helped shape the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Several of the critical renovation areas have been addressed in part: athletic lighting, fencing and backstops, court surfaces, playgrounds, roadways and parking, and trail systems. Even with the substantial expenditures of the past several years, the appropriated funds have not been sufficient, and the same documented needs remain three years later.

The current CIP targets additional funds for these types of improvements to the parks and recreation system, which should greatly reduce the backlog of work required. **However, a dedicated annual appropriation is needed to fully address these needs, to be supplemented by periodic bond referendums, for the department to maintain its facilities according to standards and the expectations of its users.**

Table VIII-1
Summary of Inventory and Annual Replacement Costs

Major Findings

Staff
 Research

SUMMARY OF INVENTORY AND REPLACEMENT

Total inventory exceeds \$64,000,000. The facilities below typically require replacement or renovation after 15 years

Facility Component	Inventory/Value	Annual Cost
Fence	23.5 Miles 1,340,730	56,109
Backstops	132 702,000	27,450
Court Resurfacing	81 195,000	25,300
Outdoor Lighting	3,770 Lamps	35,344
Athletic Lighting Systems	99 4,950,000	141,438
Parking Lots	4,170 Spaces 6,200,171	288,417
Roadways	34,000 Lin. Ft. 2,720,000	90,667
Buildings and Structures	71 7,421,000	160,452
Trails, Walks and Paths	73,962 Lin. Ft. 858,000	42,836
Site Amenities	1,202,100	57,316
Grand Totals	\$25,589,001	\$926,329

The 1999 Renovations and Replacements research provided the general monetary target for each year and specified which facility components require funding. **Specific funding requirements and desired site locations/recreation facilities to make these improvements should be developed on a yearly basis as part of the Capital Improvement Program.** For this to happen in a systematic fashion, the department has prepared a complete inventory and evaluation of its park system that addresses detailed funding requirements and sets priorities for the expenditure of funds. A targeted time period of five years has been set for implementation of the most pressing needs within the system for renovation and replacement. A total of \$4,085,070 is required to implement the most pressing renovations and

replacements, which address code compliance, safety, use, and reduction in maintenance. These estimated expenditures are detailed in Table VII-3, divided by magisterial and maintenance districts. A full summary of all sites, with facility renovation and replacement costs, is available in the supplemental research report available in the parks and recreation maintenance office. Evaluation reports and detailed cost estimates are cataloged in the Research Supplement to this master plan, available at the parks and recreation maintenance office. This log will be updated as facilities reach their life expectancy to maintain a current list of required improvements.

Table VIII-2
Park System Aging

Major Findings	
Staff Research	PARK SYSTEM AGING
	FACILITY AGE ACREAGE % OF SYSTEM
	25 YEARS 163 10
	20 YEARS 269 20
	15 YEARS 981 50
	10 YEARS 1,113 70
	5 YEARS 1,556 90
	CURRENT 2,820 100

Exhibit VIII-3
Unaudited Summary of Estimated Expenditures for Renovations and Replacements

Magisterial District	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Bermuda	314,300	506,000	423,000	432,000	360,000	2,035,300
Dale	335,200	555,000	465,000	450,000	397,100	2,202,300
Matoaca	294,500	482,000	402,000	399,000	340,800	1,918,300
Midlothian	265,100	431,000	359,000	357,000	302,000	1,714,100
Cloverhill	341,000	561,000	463,000	462,000	403,000	2,230,000
Subtotal	1,550,100	2,535,000	2,112,000	2,100,000	1,802,900	10,100,000
Maintenance District						
One	387,500	649,000	540,000	540,000	433,000	2,549,500
Two	412,500	777,000	647,000	647,000	518,000	3,001,500
Three	365,100	691,000	576,000	576,000	461,000	2,669,100
Four	385,000	418,000	349,000	337,000	390,900	1,879,900
Subtotal	1,550,100	2,535,000	2,112,000	2,100,000	1,802,900	10,100,000
Total	1,550,100	2,535,000	2,112,000	2,100,000	1,802,900	10,100,000

Existing Facility Renovation

The county inventory of park facilities over 20 years old exceeds \$26 million and continues to grow. In the past, replacement and renovation of park facilities was only partially funded in the

Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The majority of these funds were through bond referendums, and renovations have not always been timely or cost effective. The current 2003-2007 CIP allots \$5,516,300 for replacement and renovation of park facilities. This leaves a shortfall of \$4,583,700 by fiscal year 2007.

As facilities continue to grow, this shortfall will continue to grow. If the Parks and Recreation Department is to maintain its current quality of service and keep up with the growing demand for new facilities, annual funding will need to be appropriated for timely renovation and replacement of facilities. The proposed systematic approach to renovations, with priority ratings for the most critical work, forms the framework for the budgeting and implementation of facilities renovations and replacements. To remain a first-choice community, a plan of action and funding will need to be in place to maintain Chesterfield County's first-rate facilities.

B. PROJECTED FACILITY NEEDS

The demand analysis consists of two spreadsheets that were developed to measure current and future facility needs. In Current Facility Needs (Appendix C) "aggregate supply" was determined based on resources available to county residents from federal, state, county and private providers. Aggregate demand was determined based on 1994 facility standards and state need assessments. Input from public meetings and survey results were then used to qualify demand levels used to determine aggregate needs. New standards based on these needs were applied to project facility needs based on population projections released by the Planning Department to predict facility needs through 2010. The results are provided in the Projected Facility Needs (Appendix C) and Table VII-2, Park Facility Planning Guidelines.

Outdoor Athletic Facility Needs

To refine the analysis for needed athletic facilities, the department is employing a methodology based on historic usage patterns of various sports groups. The results have been reviewed with representatives of sports groups and found to be generally accurate for the county as a whole. It is acknowledged that certain areas of the county remain underserved due to high concentrations of teams, and other areas have surplus fields, predominately in the southern part of the county. Driving distances, scheduling of referees, and

availability of lights prohibit the utilization of the fields to alleviate the shortage. The number of teams that can play on each type of field per week was determined based on activity periods available for field use. The number of teams likely to play on each field was based on participation levels over the past five years in baseball/softball, football, soccer, and indoor sports including basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and indoor soccer. To account for the demand for facilities by unaffiliated groups not captured through the Activity Period (AP) records, an additional 14 percent demand was added to the documented demand for sports fields and gymnasium space. See Appendix C for documented Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) sports programs and other rental use of fields in determining this additional factor of demand. This Projected Needs for Athletic Facilities (Appendix C) and Table VII-3, Park Acreage and Facility Goals, indicates on a countywide basis a current surplus in baseball fields. Continued deficiencies in football and soccer fields along with gymnasium space for basketball will occur through 2010.

To determine the best locations for sport field upgrades, staff identified the census tracts with the highest populations under age 18 years old, and considered feedback from athletic leagues and land use constraints. Staff also contacted representatives from Hispanic and Asian communities to determine what types of

Athletic Facility Needs

The department has currently met demand for new athletic fields when examined countywide. The most pressing need is lighted fields primarily for practice and for games. Available fields can be lighted and upgraded as a cost-effective method to meet the demand. Fields will also need to be upgraded (fencing, turf, irrigation, and drainage) to bring the facilities up to standards.

Expansion of existing, undeveloped park sites and acquisition of new parkland will handle projected growth in athletic facility needs. Upgrades to existing facilities should be targeted for primarily the northern and western areas of the county, with a secondary emphasis on the central area. This approach will address both current and projected field time for practice situations. In some cases, new fields will have to be built at existing sites to handle critical areas where existing facility upgrades do not fully address the demand.

facilities would be in demand as ethnic minorities continue to move into the area.

In addition, the percentage of fields in each maintenance district was compared to the number of elementary school children enrolled in those districts, since elementary school children are the primary participants in organized athletic leagues. In addition to the aggregate number of fields required, a balance of lighted and unlighted fields is needed to satisfy the teams' practice requirements and in some cases the game needs. This is generally 75/25 percent lighted to unlighted for baseball and softball, 100 percent for football and 30/70 percent for soccer. The majority of needs can be met with lighting of strategically located existing fields at parks and school athletic sites. This approach is recommended over the construction of new fields for development and maintenance cost savings. In some areas of the county, new fields are the only answer to meet specific highly concentrated demand. A list of potential upgradeable sites and facilities was developed where expansion of facilities could be accommodated (see Appendix C). The areas of high demand are generally found in the northern part of the county, represented by parks maintenance districts 3 and 4, followed by the central district 2 and areas in southern and eastern Chesterfield. (See Athletic Field Location in Appendix C for a list of potential sites for expansion to meet the demand due to geographic concentration of teams). The park system and facility expansion documented in this plan, and the Capital Improvements Program should adequately address the overall needs of the

county for the future. The sites for the parks have already accounted for quantity and location of growth. Several fields in each district will be reserved for non-league, general-public rental and free-play use. This should fully satisfy all forms of demand on the park system.

Indoor Facility Needs

To determine space needs for indoor facilities, school facility use for non-athletic programming was evaluated as well as the use of community centers. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends that each neighborhood or elementary school district contain 3,000 square feet of available, usable space for recreation programs. This space is generally in a cafeteria, larger classroom, and/or gymnasium at each school. The National Recreation and Park Association guidelines for district-based community centers suggest one 6,000-square foot center per 50,000-population base. This is approximately equivalent to one community building per current magisterial district. According to the 1996 Virginia Outdoors Plan, most localities have developed a standard of 0.5 to 0.75 square feet of indoor recreational facilities per resident.

The Recreation Division currently utilizes many of the 60 Chesterfield County schools in some capacity. The majority of use is concentrated at the elementary and middle school level. In 18 schools, recreation programs are held utilizing the cafeteria, which averages 1,500 square feet of space. In 15 schools, recreation programs are held utilizing art and music rooms and other larger classroom space, which averages 400

square feet of space. In 25 schools, recreation programs are held utilizing some form of gymnasium space (auxiliary or main gymnasium), which averages 6,300 square feet of space.

In calculating when school space is available, it is important to note that there are three separate time periods during the calendar year when school availability fluctuates. Weighting school space availability according to the time of year, we calculate that the average school is available 28 percent of the time during the calendar year. Applying this 28 percent factor, the available elementary school space falls 704 square feet short of the guideline. It is through the use of the middle schools and very limited use of the high schools that this shortfall is addressed.

While the needed square footage for indoor space is consequently available through the schools, the lack of availability of the schools during the weekday is a real concern. This is especially important as the population ages and has free time during the day. One way to address this concern would be by providing indoor recreation space at community buildings.

The Recreation Division reviewed current programming in community buildings. Currently, Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation supplies almost 10,000 square feet of community building space operated at Bensley and Ettrick Parks. Both facilities are comprised of one larger multi-purpose room suitable for special events, senior programs, meetings, rentals, classes, etc. Additionally both facilities offer smaller meeting rooms suitable for classes, card groups, teen activities, and conference space. The centers are open during the days, evenings, and on weekends.

Based on a the county population in 2000, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards indicate the need for a total of approximately 31,000 square feet of community building space. With just 10,000 square feet now in existence covering two magisterial districts, this produces a shortfall of 21,000 square feet encompassing three magisterial districts. If the 1996 Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) standard were applied, the county would currently have a deficiency of approximately 185,000 square-feet.

Demand analysis and public feedback suggest the VOP standard is a much closer reflection of

the true needs for indoor recreation space in the county.

Community centers will not only meet the needs of seniors for daytime facility use and families in the evenings, they will provide a base for program development at the community level. These centers can be easily developed in a phased approach to work within funding limits. The recommended construction phases are as follows: 1) meeting and activity spaces, 2) kitchen and multi-purposes rooms and 3) gymnasiums.



Community centers will not only meet the needs of seniors for daytime facility use and families in the evenings, they will provide a base for program development at the community level.

Indoor Facility Needs

In terms of indoor space, although four gymnasiums are needed to meet current needs, more will be needed by 2015 to provide space for anticipated use by basketball teams alone.

Five 15-20,000-square-foot facilities would supplement indoor space needs at the neighborhood level. These smaller facilities generally would provide a multipurpose room, gymnasium, arts and crafts area, game room, kitchen, lounge and lobby, restrooms and an office. Three larger facilities (30-40,000 square feet) in the north, south and central areas of the county would also provide space for an auxiliary gym, or auditorium.

The department should continue its policy of appointing nonprofit Advisory Council at each community center to help plan and put on programs and activities and hire coaches and teachers. This group would represent the immediate geographic neighborhoods so that concentrations of people of one ethnicity or another would be represented and served.

Trails

The Projected Facility Needs (Appendix C) identified shortfalls in all types of trails for public use: biking, hiking/backpacking, equestrian, and jogging/fitness. The development of trails on park sites will not address all the shortfalls identified in trail miles. The department will pursue other opportunities for recreational trail development, including use of abandoned railroad right of ways, utility right of ways, and floodplain trail development along the James and Appomattox rivers and along Swift and Falling creeks and their major tributaries.



Organized Athletics

The Projected Facility Needs identified shortfalls for tennis courts, tournament-quality sporting events, and volleyball courts. A surplus of outdoor basketball courts is projected. Demand for tennis and volleyball can be met with additions to existing parks and as a standard component of new park development. The tournament-quality sporting events facility is best approached in partnership with the private sector. A facility is currently being planned by Sports Quest and should be supported by the county, as long as general public access is provided to similar facilities, as required by county policy. This type of facility could bring regional and national attention to the county and has the potential for revenue from tournaments and other large-scale sporting events. An indoor arena of size to handle small concerts and high school graduations would be a necessary part of this facility.

Water Access

The Projected Facility Needs identified shortfalls in all types of facilities and activities for water access and viewing: boat ramps, canoe launches and providing river and stream access. The demands will be met with implementation of existing master plans for park sites on the James and Appomattox rivers and on Lake Chesdin, and through targeted new river access on the upper Appomattox and lower James rivers. Stream use and access should be concentrated on the Swift and Falling creeks and their tributaries. This

should be coordinated with a connected Open Space Plan as to be developed by the county.



Access to Waterways



Fishing Opportunities

Conservation Areas

The Projected Facility Needs identified shortfalls for environmental/nature centers and recreational historic sites. Demand for environmental/nature centers can be met by expansion of the Rockwood Center and a new center at Dutch Gap Conservation Area in the 2000-2010 planning period. Future sites should be acquired on a case-by-case basis as a unique land resource becomes available. Historic sites should only be developed as deemed appropriate to the importance of the resource. This selection and development process should be coordinated with the Chesterfield Historic Alliance and other preservation agencies within the county.

Other Sports

The Projected Facility Needs identified shortfalls for equestrian rings, golf courses and skateboarding. Demand for additional equestrian rings and golf courses should be handled through the private sector. The Fairgrounds Park provides sufficient public equestrian rings for the foreseeable future. Supervised skate parks for in-line skating and skateboarding should be constructed at existing park or school sites and recreation centers, geographically distributed across the county. The development of the facilities should be in partnership with the user groups, with the county assuming maintenance and operations.



Park Facilities

The Projected Facility Needs identified shortfalls for performing arts, picnic shelters, and playgrounds. Demand for all these facilities can be met with additions to existing parks and as a standard component of new park development for picnic shelters and playgrounds. An appropriate number of playgrounds with access for people with disabilities should be developed to address this underserved portion of the population. An outdoor amphitheater is proposed as part of the Fairgrounds Park, and a special events area is to be developed at Horner Park. In combination with the shared use of Pocahontas State Park, these additions to the system should be sufficient to meet the demand.

Table VIII-4
Park Facility Planning Guidelines

Youth Sports	Unit	Unit/Team	Source
Baseball/Softball	Lit Fields	1:6	AP
	Unlit Fields	1:3	AP
	Total	1:4.26	AP
Football	Lit Fields	1:4	AP
	Unlit Fields	1:3.5	AP
	Total	1:3.75	AP
Soccer	Lit Fields	1:10	AP
	Unlit	1:5	AP
	Total	1:7.5	AP
Basketball*	Gymnasiums	1:10	AP
Adult Sports	Unit	Unit/Team	Source
Softball	Lit Fields	1:20	AP
Active Recreation	Unit	Unit/Population	Source
Outdoor Tennis	Courts	1:1,200	(b)
Outdoor Basketball	Courts	1:7,000	(b)
Outdoor Volleyball	Courts	1:8,000	(b)
Passive Recreation	Unit	Unit/Population	Source
Children's Play	Playgrounds	1:3,500	(b)
Picnicking	Shelters	1:6,000	(b)
Hiking / Backpacking	Miles	1:3,000	(b)
Jogging & Fitness	Miles	1:6,000	(b)
Bicycling	Miles	1:2,000	(b)
Boating	Ramps	1:50,000	(b)
Canoe	Ramps	1:50,000	(b)
Archery	Ranges	1:50,000	(b)
Skating / Skateboarding	Sites	1:50,000	(b)
Horseback Riding	Horse Ring	1:75,000	(b)
Indoor School Space	Square Feet	2	(b)
Recreation Center	Square Feet	.75	(b)
Park Land	Unit	Unit/1,000 Residents	Source
Regional Parks	Acres	4.5	3-5 Miles
Community Park	Acres	2	2-4 Miles
Neighborhood Park	Acres	1.5	1-1.5 Miles
Total Park Acreage	Acres	8	

*Indoor recreation use at elementary and middle schools includes youth basketball. Youth guideline of one gymnasium/10.75 teams assumes two usable courts @ 6,000 square feet. Additional square footage available in cafeteria, auditorium, and classroom space.

(AP) Based on number of activity periods available at a facility for league play.

(b) See Demand Analysis

Exhibit VIII-5
Park Acreage and Facility Goals: 2000-2010
 Based on Projected Facility Needs

Activity	Unit	1 per x		1993			2000			2005		2010	
		Resident	Demand	Supply	Needs	Demand	Supply	Needs	Demand	Needs	Demand	Needs	
Sports Fields													
Baseball/Softball	Fields	1,556	149	140	9	167	180	surplus	181	1	193	13	
Football	Fields	8,189	28	30	0	32	25	7	34	9	37	12	
Soccer	Fields	4,001	80	78	2	65 FFE	90 (57 FFE)*	8 FFE	71 FFE	14	75 FFE	18	
Basketball	Gyms	6,188	37	36	1	42	37	5	45	8	49	12	
Other Recreation													
Indoor Tennis	Courts	1,200	80	77	3	217	87+ 127**	3	235	21	250	36	
Indoor Basketball	Courts	7,000	31	28	3	37	54	surplus	40	surplus	43	surplus	
Indoor Volleyball	Courts	8,000	31	29	2	31	32	0	33	3	35	6	
Climbing	Ramps	50,000	3	3	0	5	3+ 1	1	6	2	6	2	
Canoeing	Ramps	50,000				5	2+ 1	2	6	3	6	3	
Archery	Ranges	50,000	4	1	3	5	1	4	6	5	6	5	
Children's Play	Play-ground	3,500	43	43	0	74	46	28	81	35	86	40	
Sheltering	Shelters	6,000	24	23	1	43	31	12	47	16	50	19	
Recreational Horseback Riding	Horse Ring	75,000	1	0	1	3	2	1	4	2	4	2	
Walking & Backpacking	Miles	3,000	16	17	0	87	19	68	94	75	100	81	
Walking & Fitness	Miles	6,000				43	5	38	47	42	50	45	
Roller Skating/Skateboarding	Sites	50,000				5	0	5	6	6	6	6	
Bicycling	Miles	2,000	216	22	194	130	27+ 5	98	141	109	150	118	
Indoor School Space	Square Feet	.50 SF	620,000	586,000	340,000	519,806	545,400	surplus	564,464	19,064	600,974	55,574	
Recreation Center***	Square Feet	1.33 SF				195,416	10,000	185,416	212,205	202,205	225,930	215,930	
Per 1000 Land Residents													
Regional	Acres	4.5	972	774	198	1170	1161	9	1270	109	1352	191	
Community/Athletic	Acres	2	432	383	49	520	421	99	564	143	601	180	
Neighborhood	Acres	1.5	324	316	8	390	252	138	423	171	451	199	
Local	Acres	8	1728	1473	255	2080	1834	246	2257	423	2404	570	

Demand in 1993 based on 1994 Master Plan.

Demand from 2000-2010 based on Demand Analysis in Appendix C.

Youth Sports assumes a 14% public use demand on facilities in addition to the needs based on organized-league activity periods

*Changed method of counting soccer fields in 2000 to full-field equivalents (FFE).

**Supply made up of two numbers added together indicates public supply + private supply

***Although numbers indicate a surplus, staff is pressed for more space to run programs because of the limited access to school facilities, leading to the demand for recreation center space

Development Considerations

Funding for the development of all facilities, other than organized athletics and other active sport facilities, is in comparison much less and can be constructed, for the most part, on department lands. The time period required to open these facilities is also reduced. Supplemental funding from grants and private foundations is much easier to obtain for non-traditional recreation, particularly for water-based and trail-based development programs.

Chesterfield Department of Transportation (CDOT) shall be involved in all planning of public space/greenways and linear park systems. Public space/greenways and linear park systems will be planned in order to avoid conflict with existing and future roads identified in the Chesterfield County Thoroughfare Plan. Whenever a proposed park facility crosses a Thoroughfare Plan road, ultimate right of way will be provided to the county, and a license agreement will be issued to the Parks and Recreation Department for the crossing/use of such right of way.

When funding and public support allow, bikeways will be considered for inclusion with public roadway improvements.

C. PARK ACREAGE NEEDS

A Level of Service Analysis looked at park service-radius coverage by census tract to determine community and regional park deficiencies (see Service Radius: Existing Parks Map on page VIII-16). Also considered were the service radii of limited-access neighborhood and community parks, most of which are located at school sites (see Service Radius: Existing Limited Access School Sites Map on page VIII-17).

It has been assumed that satisfying acreage targets and subsequent development of typical facilities for each park type will result in meeting demand for both land and facilities. This assumption is based on a 1983 benchmark standard prepared by the county that established population-based land acreage and facility standards that addressed community needs at that time. Since the park classification system and standards in the county have remained the same, using this method should adequately

predict acquisition requirements (see Appendix C, Level of Service Summary).

The largest deficiency was determined to be in neighborhood park facilities, with only 11 of 59 census tracts meeting or exceeding acreage standards (1.5 acres per thousand). The inventory of parcels owned by neighborhood associations indicates that the distribution of residential recreational areas would be inequitable if left to private development. The county must take a more active role in providing open space at the neighborhood level to ensure citizens in older or lower-income communities are served.

The Neighborhood Open Space Map, Section V, page 9, depicts county-owned neighborhood parks and schools and parcels that are owned by a neighborhood association. When examined at the census tract level, there are currently 11 tracts without any designated neighborhood open space. These would be the highest priority for neighborhood park development. Twelve tracts have only one of the three types of neighborhood open space, and six have no more than two. These 29 census tracts are identified by district in the Table VIII-6 along with an additional nine tracts that have only three to five designated open-space parcels. Census tracts highlighted in gray have over 5,000 residents, and would also be a priority for neighborhood park development.

Today, the county is 199 acres short of neighborhood parkland at the 1.5-acres-per-thousand standard. Development of parks within the 23 census tracts, with one or less designated open space parcel at an average of 8.7 acres each, would mitigate this shortfall. By 2020, another six to seven similarly sized parks would need to be developed to meet the additional 54-acre shortfall at that time.

Implementation of the neighborhood park component of the park system will be addressed in two ways: 1) acquisition of parkland for neighborhood parks and 2) acquisition and development of neighborhood athletic parks (associated with school sites). The department will partner with local civic groups and developers to construct and maintain the neighborhood parks acquired by the county. Targeting development of trails, picnic shelters and playground facilities at these sites will address the shortfall in these facilities identified in the Projected Facility Needs.

Exhibit VIII-6
Designated Neighborhood Open Space

District	Identified Census Tracts in Need of Designated Neighborhood Parks			
	None	1	2	3 to 5
Midlothian	1009.20	1009.28	1009.25	1009.26
	1009.15			1009.21
	1009.24			1009.3
				1009.7
				1001.6
				1001.7
Matoaca	1007.03	1007.01	1007.02	1010.06
	1010.03	1006.00		
	1009.32			
Clover Hill	1009.23	1009.10		
		1009.19		
		1009.13		
Dale	1008.14	1008.07	1008.09	1008.05
	1008.06	1008.15	1008.12	
Bermuda	1003.00	1004.05	1004.07	1005.05
	1004.04	1004.06	1005.06	
		1004.08		
		1004.03		
Total	11	12	6	9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population.

Although community parkland is adequate at the overall standard of two acres per thousand, there are still many census tracts that are underserved. The map indicates concentrations of census tracts with a deficiency greater than eight acres. During the next 20 years, this deficiency will grow to 252 acres overall--based on current population projections--if no new land is designated for community parks. At an average of 36 acres each, this would require seven new parks.

Regional parkland is also adequate at the current level of 4.5 acres per thousand. Three parks will need to be added in the next 20 years to meet level-of-service requirements in 2020. In areas of the county where large tracts of land may not be available for purchase or the cost prohibitive, substituting multiple community-scale parks for the regional park will be the only practical solution. This is the case for the Northern Midlothian Area Park. The census tracts with a deficiency of 18 or more acres of regional parkland have been identified on the Underserved Areas Map on page VIII-18).

In addition to current deficiencies, neighborhoods with annual growth rates anticipated at 2.9 percent or higher were mapped to project location needs over the next seven years (see Projected Growth Areas Map on page VIII-19). This map also indicates census tracts with the highest population densities based on new census figures. The pattern of development is consistent, with concentric bands radiating from the urban core. The middle band of the county is currently growing at the fastest rate. However, development in the Matoaca band has already begun, and growth will increase exponentially there if development patterns continue.

In choosing locations for new park acquisition and in consideration of proposed private and public development adjacent to existing park sites, the viewsheds that are associated with the park site/facility should be thoroughly examined. The visual backdrop is often vital to successful recreational experience. This is particularly important for historic sites and natural areas where the context of the park in its surroundings affects the design and appreciation of the resource.

New and Expanded Facilities

<u>Facility Location</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
<u>Regional Parks (average size 150 acres)</u>	
1. Winterpock)	2005-2010
2. Northern Midlothian*	2010-2015
3. Eastern Matoaca	2015-2020
*Substituted with three community-scale parks	
<u>Community Parks (average size 25 acres)</u>	
Spring Run Athletic Complex	2000-2005
Green Springs	2005-2010
Belmont/Henning/Meadowbrook (formerly Northern Area)	2005-2010
Magnolia Green	2005-2010
Pocahontas (formerly Central Area)	2005-2010
Harrowgate (formerly South-Eastern Area)	2015-2020
Enon (formerly Eastern Area)	2015-2020
<u>*Neighborhood Parks (average size 8-9 acres)</u>	
{Identified by corridor or general area of the county)	
<u>INNER BAND:</u>	
(5) parks, Midlothian area; north of Route 60	
4 parks	2000-2010
1 park	2010-2020
(4) parks, eastern Route 60/Route 360 interior corridor	
4 parks	2000-2010
(3) parks, eastern Route 360/Route 10 interior corridor	
4 parks	2000-2010
(9) parks, Route 10/Route 301 interior corridor	
6 parks	2000-2010
3 parks	2010-2020
(1) park, interstate 95 north	2010-2020
<u>OUTER BAND:</u>	
(1) park, Skinnquarter	2010-2020
(1) park, River Road	2000-2010
(1) park, south Chester	2010-2020
(3) parks, Ettrick area	2000-2010

New and Expanded Facilities

Facility Location (Special Purpose Parks--no size classification)	Time Period
Robious Landing Expansion	2000-2005
Lake Chesdin Park	2000-2005
Virginia State University Riverside Trail	2000-2005
Falling Creek Expansion	2000-2005
Bermuda Hundred (Brown & Williamson)	2005-2010
Appomattox Park	2005-2010
Western Lake Chesdin Boat Launch	2005-2010
Rt. 360 & Appomattox Canoe Launch	2005-2010
River Rd. & Appomattox Canoe Launch	2005-2010
James River Historic Blueway (Trail Nodes)	2015-2020

Recreation Centers

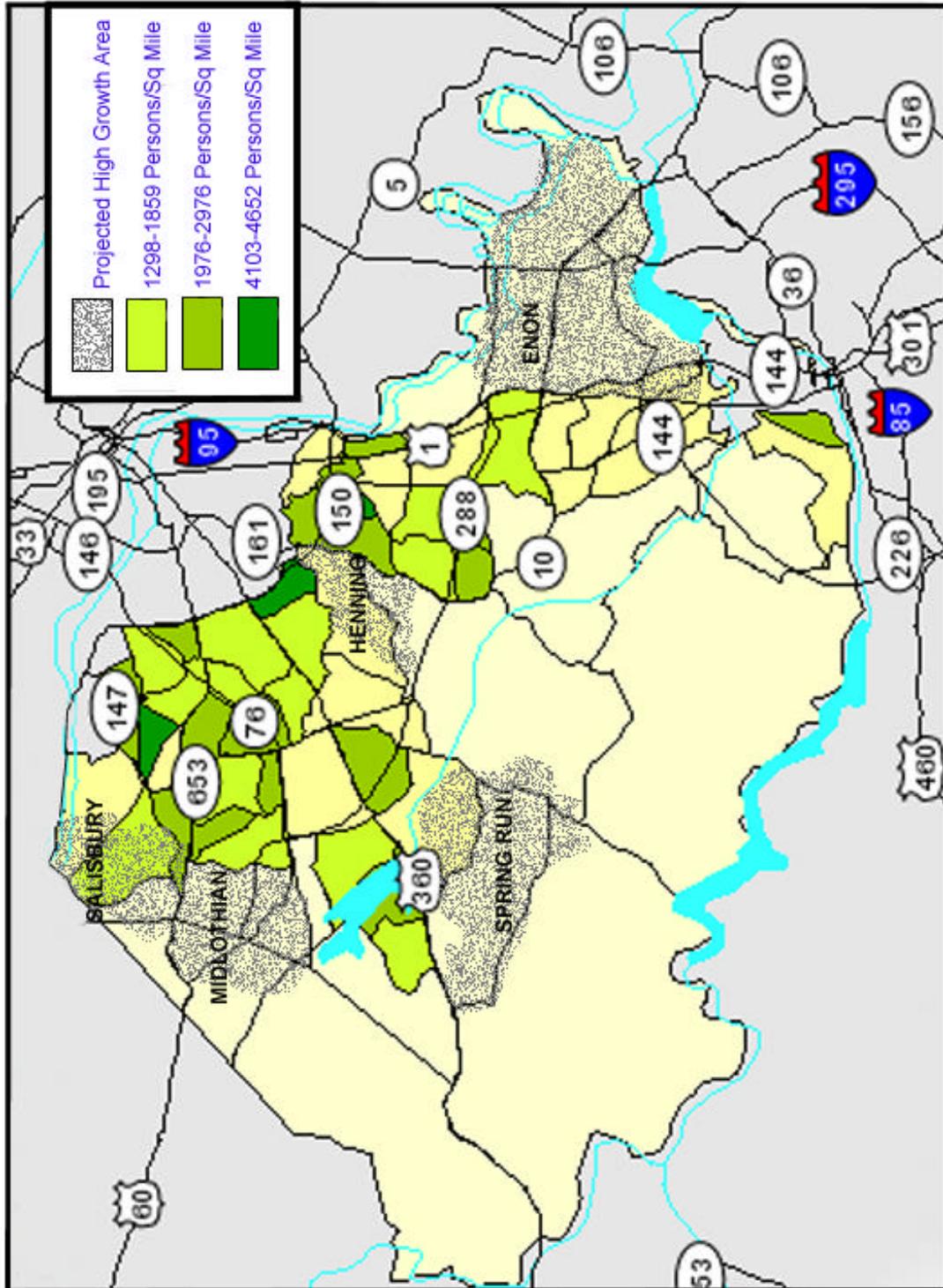
30,000 Square Foot Facility with Gymnasium and large multi-purpose room Government Complex	2005-2010
Northern Midlothian Parks	2010-2015
Ettrick Park Expansion	2010-2020
20,000 Square Foot Facility with Gymnasium Winterpock	2005-2010
Rockwood Park	2005-2010
Pocahontas	2010-2015
Enon	2015-2020
Bensley Expansion	2015-2020

Note: Place names for proposed park sites indicate general areas only and are not intended to mark specific sites.

SUMMARY

To maintain its current quality of service and keep up with growing demand for facilities, annual funding should be appropriated for renovation and replacement of facilities. The average life cycle for facilities is 20 years, requiring 5 percent of non-land assets to be replaced or renovated each year. Expansion of existing park sites and new park acquisition will handle projected growth in outdoor athletic facility needs. The pressing need for lighted fields will be accomplished by lighting and upgrades of existing fields. The county has a shortfall of indoor recreation space, particularly space available during school hours. There are current shortfalls in all types of trails, water access, nature centers, performing arts, picnic shelters, and playgrounds. These facilities may be provided for the most part on county parklands, and often can obtain supplemental funding through grant programs. Lack of neighborhood parks is the greatest deficiency in parkland. This need will be addressed through acquisition of neighborhood parkland in underserved areas and by acquisition and development of neighborhood park areas associated with school sites.

Map VIII-1- Projected Growth Areas through 2007
And Current High Density Areas



Map Base Source: American Factfinder, Census 2000

Insert Map VIII-2 Service Radius Existing Park, Page 1 of 4

Insert Map VIII-3, Service Radius Existing Limited School Sites, - Page 2 of 4

Insert Map VIII-4, Under Served Areas Community & Regional Parks, Page 3 of 4

Insert Map VIII-5, Proposed Park Sites - Page 4 of 4

Section IX – Implementation and Recommendations

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Implementation Prioritization Summary of Implementation Recommendations

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Implementation of the recommendations included in this report utilize a multi-faceted approach with several types of activities occurring on an annual basis. **The implementation will need to include a combination of further planning and land acquisition, facility development, and of primary importance, the maintenance, renovation, and improvement of existing facilities.**

Priorities will be adjusted on an annual basis as part of specific department planning and budgeting recommendations and according to the spending priorities determined by the board of supervisors. The following, however, are some recommended guidelines for establishing implementation priorities.

Priority 1: Take care of what you have!

The first theme of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan expresses the top priority for the system at this time. **It is critical that funding and staffing be provided to allow for continued and improved maintenance, for ongoing annual renovation and renewal of facilities, and for upgrades of facilities to more adequately meet the needs of the community.** Equitable geographic distribution issues should be addressed, with an emphasis placed first on facility upgrades and second on new facilities, where user demand is greatest.

Inherent in this priority is refining department standards for park types, facility elements, and maintenance, and providing all of the elements

needed to create a successful facility in the initial phase of development. **Quality and completeness should be emphasized over quantity of new facilities.**

From a planning perspective, the organizational analysis is a high priority to determine department staffing needs to accomplish the goal of providing ongoing facility maintenance in the most efficient possible manner.



High-Quality Facilities

Priority 2: Continue to implement the ongoing process of land acquisition and park development in accordance with the needs assessment.

To allow for equitable distribution of desired facilities in all areas of the county, continue to acquire land through the zoning process, work with the public school system, and purchase land to meet the need for more parks, particularly neighborhood sites. Emphasize the development of water-access facilities, particularly for access to both the James and Appomattox rivers.

In developing equitable distribution of athletic facilities throughout the county, the department will hold in-depth discussions with athletic leagues. These discussions will lead to refinements of the field allocation system, and improve efficiency in use of existing fields throughout the county. Without the need for new, large-scale development, the department can reallocate funding for renovations and upgrades within the existing athletic-fields inventory.



Keeping Pace with Demands for New Facilities



Priority 3: Plan for a Linear Parks System.

The strong demand for linear trails, greenways, and blueways necessitates the development of a plan for a Linear Parks System along with specific strategies for creating the system. **This planning should be coordinated with the development of a greenways and blueways plan prepared by the Department of Planning and Zoning, coordinated with other long-range planning documents maintained by county departments such as environmental engineering, transportation, schools, libraries and utilities. Planning these trail systems should also involve adjacent jurisdictions.** To develop an interconnected system, planning must come before acquisition methods and funding. Delay in planning for such a system will result in lost opportunity to utilize the zoning process and work with various private entities to develop a continuous system. It will also delay the opportunity to benefit from trails that may be associated with other public works and utility projects. **The Linear Parks System Plan should become a component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.**

Priority 4: Develop a plan for the preservation and compatible use of the historic and cultural resources of the County.

Chesterfield County is rich in historic and cultural resources that benefit the county, region, and nation. As the department that establishes programming for the currently developed historic sites, **Parks and Recreation is best positioned to take responsibility for developing plans and strategies for protecting critical resources, including viewsheds, and for implementation of a plan, working closely with private groups, individuals, and state and federal agencies.** A Cultural Landscape Plan should be prepared as an addition to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and adequate staff resources should be provided to implement the plan.



Develops Cultural Awareness

Priority 5: Develop strategic, ongoing relationships with other county departments, businesses, agencies, and community groups to provide services of common interest.

Key departments with which Parks and Recreation should work regularly include the Planning, Utilities and Right-of-Way, Environmental Engineering, Economic Development, and Transportation. Other potential partners are Youth Services, the Department of Health and the Police Department. **Close working relationships with these departments will result in better coordination of projects that can provide multiple benefits to the citizens of the County, and will better allow for cost-effective alternatives to providing needed land and facilities.**

B. SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities

Public Park Land Acquisition

- Acquire and develop three new regional parks (minimum 100 acres each) during the next 20 years
- Acquire and develop seven new community parks (minimum 35 acres each) during the next 20 years
- Acquire and develop cooperatively with civic groups and developers 29 new neighborhood parks (minimum 8 acres each) during the next 20 years
- Acquire and develop five new special purpose parks along the James and Appomattox rivers and develop and expand five existing parks during the next 20 years
- Increase acreage in linear parks and open space
 - The linear park and open space systems should focus on riparian areas associated with the James and Appomattox rivers and with Swift and Falling creeks and their major tributaries. These areas offer the greatest opportunities for connections to parks, schools, and other public areas of the county, as well as private retail destinations.
- Increase acreage in historic properties (priorities to be determined by Cultural Landscape/Historic Resources Plan)

Sports Facilities

- Upgrade and light existing sports fields to meet current demand and future growth in existing communities for youth and adult leagues, equally, as well as the general public
- Implement higher-quality maintenance and state-of-the-art facility components for athletic facilities. (Outdoor improvements: ball field fencing, turf,

irrigation and infields. Indoor improvements: gym clear space, flooring and storage)

- Increase number of fields available to leagues in existing and projected high-population areas.
- ? Upgrade existing facilities where possible by lighting and field improvements
- ? Construct new fields on existing county land where upgrades are insufficient
- ? Target the following school-service areas and park service sites for baseball, softball, football, soccer and gym space improvements:
 - Carver Middle, Marguerite Christian Elementary
 - Gates Elementary, Meadowbrook High, Falling Creek Elementary and Middle
 - Davis Elementary, Bailey Bridge Middle/Manchester High, Spring Run Elementary
 - Betty Weaver Elementary, Huguenot Park, James River High, Midlothian Middle, Monacan Complex, Robious Complex
- ? Construct sports fields as part of new park development in growth areas of the county in accordance with park acreage and facility goals. Provide several fields and gyms for each sport in each district of the county for non-league and general-public use
- Build/upgrade the following sports fields by 2010:
 - 13 baseball/softball fields
 - 12 football fields
 - 18 soccer fields

Designate and consolidate game sites for a higher level of maintenance. Upgrades could include lighting, irrigation, grading and reseeding, or improvements to fences, backstops, and goals



- Add 12 gyms by 2010, achieved through a combination of upgrades, rental, adaptive re-use, increased school access and new construction

Aging facilities (Take Care of What We Have)

- Provide for “catch up” of renovations and replacements at older sites for critical safety, code, and maintenance problem areas. Target elimination of maintenance backlog in five years
- Provide for ongoing renovations and replacements as facilities wear out
- Maintain log quantifying facility components that have reached their industry life spans to determine future budgeting requirements for replacement or renovation

General Recreation

- Improve and expand trail systems within existing parks and acquire new trail lands concentrating on abandoned ROW. and riparian corridors to provide an additional 118 miles of bike trails, 81 hiking/ backpacking miles and 6 miles of trails for horseback riding by 2010
- Add/upgrade play courts (36 tennis and 6 volleyball) at existing parks and include in development plans for new parks to serve growth areas by 2010. A portion of the demand for play courts will be met by the private sector

- Support private-sector initiative headed by Sports Quest for tournament-quality sports facility and indoor arena
- Expand Rockwood Nature Center and construct three new environment/nature centers at conservation areas throughout the county
- Construct five skating facilities throughout the county in partnership with user groups and other partners;. operate with appropriate supervision
- Construct 19 picnic shelters and 40 playgrounds throughout the county at existing parks/school sites and as part of new park development

Historic Sites

- Continue as operating and development partners with the foundations that operate Falling Creek, Henricus, Eppington, and Mid-Lothian Mines park sites
- Continue support of Chesterfield Heritage Alliance for the cooperative promotion of historic Chesterfield and county-supported historical tourism
- Perform cultural landscape/historic resources study to determine resources to preserve, enhance, develop by private partnerships and acquire by the county to develop and operate as public parks

Community Centers

- Expand community center system for countywide access and enlarge typical building plan to include indoor gym(s) (to alleviate the need for indoor space at school sites with limited access usage) and large multi-use space
- Target one of the community centers to principally address cultural arts programming; align programming with area high schools that specialize in the arts



Space for Community Gathering

- Develop by phased approach over the next 20 years: 3 large (2 new; 1 expansion) community centers; 5 small (4 new; 1 expansion) community centers

Department Operations

Staff Development

- Match human resources and equipment resources in proportion to growth in facilities and programming to meet demand
- Increase skill levels of staff through training in specialized areas to develop in-house capabilities to provide a higher level of service (i.e. maintenance, construction, programs, resource development, automation, technology, and other educational programs)

Staff Responsibilities

- Establish staff responsibilities for securing grants, developing partnerships, and other forms of alternative funding/development of programs and facilities
- Establish staff responsibilities for coordinated volunteer program for facilities and programming

Marketing

- Further develop and maintain department's web site for general distribution of information, interactive registration, and co-sponsored groups' required reporting. (Specifically programs offered, facilities available and illustrations of all facilities)
- Increase awareness and promotion of natural-and-cultural-resource parks and tie to overall county tourism package to generate out-of-county revenues
- Increase awareness and promotion of amateur sporting events and other special events and tie to overall county tourism package to generate out-of-county revenues

Program Development

- Match current staff levels to meet existing recreation-program demands and adequately address future community needs
- Continue to enhance and develop technological resources to facilitate excellent customer service
- Position recreation resources to take advantage of new trends in programming to meet the public need

Future Emphasis

Emerging Trends

- Develop additional accessible facilities (transportation issues/available time)

Acquired by neighborhood parks to be developed and maintained in partnership with local civic groups and developers.
- Develop facilities that serve the aging population:

Community centers
Walking trails
General outdoor pursuits
Therapeutic recreation

- Develop community centers and the associated athletic and general-recreation facilities to serve diverse needs, and provide recreation opportunities for all ages
- Target groups that do not use facilities because they lack the ability to pay user fees and secure opportunities to allow for participation in programs



Multigenerational Activities



Arts and Crafts

Develop "individual" sports facilities; integrated into the existing park system, such as

- ? roller-blading, skateboarding, and other wheeled sports. Appropriate supervision should be provided for all activities with potential inherent physical injury to users and others
- ? other individual or unstructured recreation including fishing, historic interpretation, and wildlife observation



Teaches Social Skills



Cultivates Willingness to Take Risks and Face Adversity

Diversity

- Provide specialized indoor programming that fosters assimilation of foreign arrivals to County and promotes continuation of ethnic culture
- Promote special events centered around ethnic holidays/ heritage months
- Minimize language barriers through bi-lingual signage and increased staff awareness of communication issues

Cooperative Development

- Continue relationship with school board for operation and development of shared-use school sites for neighborhood athletic parks, both indoor and outdoor facilities. Acquire target acreage and facilities needed at school sites to allow for new and expanded recreational role at schools (neighborhood athletic park)
- Work with other County Departments and developers to monitor and guide new development to minimize impacts on the environment and enhance quality of life
- ? Protect view sheds, which are an important aspect of the quality park experience, in all acquisition projects and for development near existing parks



- ? Work towards the preservation of traditional agricultural communities and other cultural points of interest
- ? Provide walking and biking connections linking adjacent neighborhoods, schools, libraries and recreation facilities and generally work to minimize vehicle-miles-traveled to promote clean air and healthy lifestyles
- ? Schedule regular meetings with planning and other County Departments for discussions of common issues



Walking is the Most Popular Recreational Activity



Develops Balance and Coordination

- Work with other County Departments, agencies, non-profits, co-sponsored groups and businesses to promote public health and physical fitness, both in facility design and development and in programming to accommodate all age groups and special needs populations
 - ? Develop ongoing partnerships with agencies and businesses to promote healthy lifestyles
 - ? Develop ongoing partnerships with agencies and businesses in a structured way for acquisition, development and programming

Future Plan Development

- Develop the following supplemental plans/studies to expand and clarify the department's role:
 - ? Open Space Plan (Greenways and Blueways)
 - ? Linear Parks Plan (bikeways, multi-purpose trails)
 - ? Cultural landscape/historic resources inventory and evaluation
 - ? Staffing/Action Plan for partnership development, volunteer coordination and organizational outreach
 - ? Department Organizational and programming evaluation

PARK AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Phone	Address	e-mail	website
American Canoe Association	703-451-0141	7432 Alban Station Blvd, Suite B-232, Springfield, VA 22150	aca@acanet.org	www.acanet.org
American Farmland Trust	202-331-7300	1200 18th St. NW, Ste.800, Washington, DC 20031	info@farmland.org	http://www.farmland.org
American Hiking Society	301-565-6704	1422 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring MD 20910		http://www.americanhiking.org/policy/trail_fund
BikeWalk Virginia	757-229-7969	PO Box 203, Williamsburg, VA 23187-0188	aturnbull@bikewalkvirginia.org	www.bikewalkvirginia.org
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	804-765-7498	Capitol Place, 1108 East Main St., Suite 1600, Richmond, VA 23219	chesapeake@cbf.org	www.cbf.org
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department	804-225-3440	James Monroe Bldg., 101 North 14th St., 17th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219		www.cblad.state.va.us
Chesterfield County Public Schools		P.O. Box 10, Chesterfield, VA 23832	ccpsinfo@chesterfield.k12.va.us	http://chesterfield.k12.va.us
Chesterfield Preservation Committee	804-748-1052		kingg@co.chesterfield.va.us	http://www.chesterfield.gov/CommunityDevelopment/Planning/Indmrk
Chesterfield Business Council	804-783-9316	PO Box 40, Chestefield, VA 23832-0040		http://www.grcc.com/services/businesscouncils_cchesterfield
Chesterfield County Economic Development	804-748-3963	9401 Courthouse Road, Suite B, PO Box 760, Chesterfield, VA 23832	cced@chesterfieldbusiness.com	http://www.chesterfieldbusiness.com
Chesterfield Historical Alliance				www.chesterfieldtourism.com
Chesterfield Historical Society	804-777-9663		farmerdp@co.chesterfield.va.us	http://www.chesterfield.gov/historicalociety/lecture
East Coast Greenway Alliance	401-789-4625	135 Main Street, Wakefield, RI 02879	ecga@greenway.org	www.greenway.org
Eppington Foundation	804-748-8230	P.O. Box 2394, Chesterfield, VA 23832	ataylorwhite@mindspring.com	
Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront	804-796-6091	PO Box 2158, Chesterfield, VA 23832	riverfronts@earthlink.net	www.co.chesterfield.va.us/riverfront
Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce	804-648-1234	201 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219		http://www.grcc.com/index
Greater Richmond Partnership	800-229-6332	901 East Byrd St., Suite 801, Richmond, VA 23219-4070		http://www.grpva.com/index1
Henricus Foundation	804-706-1340	P.O. Box 523, Chesterfield, VA 23832		
Land Trust Alliance	202-638-4725	1331 H Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005-4734	lta@lta.org	www.lta.org
Metropolitan Richmond Sports Backers	804-285-9495	100 Avenue of Champions, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23230		www.sportsbackers.org

Name	Phone	Address	e-mail	website
Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts		P.O. Box 2662, Fairfax, VA 22031		http://www.more-mtb.org
Mountain Bike Virginia	804-768-0755	14200 Birds Eye Terrace, Chester, VA 23831	bikewright@earthlink.net	www.imba.com/contacts/near_you/virginia
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	202-857-0166	1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036	jonathan.mawdsley@nfwf.org	www.nfwf.org
National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance	410-267-5747	410 Severn Avenue Suite 109, Annapolis, MD 21303	Hastings.Wink@epamail.epa.gov	www.nps.gov/chal/rtca
National Wildlife Federation	703-438-6334	1110 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190	obert@nwf.org	www.nwf.org
North American Water Trails, Inc.	202-232-8354	1688 Oak St., NW, Washington, DC 20010	astaats@watertrails.org	www.watertrails.org
Pocahontas State Park	804-796-4255	10301 State Park Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838-4713		http://www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/pocahont
Rails to Trails Conservancy- Trails & Greenways Clearinghouse	877-476-9297	1100 17th Street, NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20036	greenways@transact.org	www.trailsandgreenways.org
Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond	804-662-5500	5101 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23230-3621	info@retailmerchants.com	http://www.retailmerchants.com
Richmond Audubon Society	804-257-0813	PO Box 804, Richmond, VA 23207	audubon@www.cvco.org	http://freenet.vcu.edu/science/audubon/audubon
Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau				http://www.richmondva.org
Scenic America	202-543-6200	801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20003	webmaster@scenic.org	www.scenic.org
The Henricus Foundation	804-706-1340	P.O. Box 523, Chesterfield, VA 23832	henricus98@aol.com	http://www.henricus.org
The Nature Conservancy	804-295-6106	490 Westfield Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901	nrovner@tnc.org	http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/virginia
Trust for Public Land	202-543-7552	Chesapeake Field Office, 666 Pennsylvanic Ave., SE, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20003	debi.osborne@tpl.org	http://www.tpl.org/tier2_rl.cfm?folder_id=632
Virginia Bicycling Federation	703-271-0895	1030 S. Barton St., Suite 274, Arlington, VA 22204	muchnick@capaccess.org	www.vabike.org
Virginia Civil War Trails, Inc.		550 E. Marshall St., Richmond, VA 233219		http://www.civilwar-va.com/virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Environmental Studies	804-828-7202	PO Box 843050, Richmond, VA 23284-3050	ces-vcu@vcu.edu	www.vcu.edu/cesweb
Virginia Conservation Network	804-644-0283	1001 East Broad St., Richmond VA 23219	ellenshepard@yahoo.com	www.vcnva.org

Name	Phone	Address	e-mail	website
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	804-786-1712	203 Governor Street, Suite 213, Richmond, VA 23219-2094	pco@dcr.state.va.us	www.dcr.state.va.us
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	804-698-4000	PO Box 10009, Richmond, VA 23240-0009		www.deq.state.va.us
Virginia Department of Forestry	804-796-4360	9200 Beach Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838	reuser@dof.state.va.us	www.dof.state.va.us/R2/chesterf.htm
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	804-367-1000	4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230	dgifweb@dgif.state.va.us	www.dgif.state.va.us
Virginia Department of Historic Resources	804-367-2323	2801 Kensington Ave., Richmond, VA 23221		http://state.vipnet.org/dhr
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	804-371-7078	501 N. Second Street, Richmond, VA 23219		www.dhcd.vipnet.org
Virginia Department of Transportation, Bicycling and Pedestrian Program			vabiking@vdot.state.va.us	http://virginiadot.org/infoservice/bk-default
Virginia Horse Center	540-463-2194	P.O. Box 1051, Lexington, VA 24450	info@horsecenter.org	http://www.horsecenter.org
Virginia Marine Resources Commission	757-247-2200	2600 Washington Ave., 3rd Floor, Newport News, VA 23607-0756		www.mrc.state.va.us
Virginia Naturally-Environmental Education Initiative	804-698-4198	c/o Dept. of Environmental Quality PO Box 10009, Richmond, VA 23240-0009	vanaturally@deq.state.va.us	www.vanaturally.com
Virginia Recreation and Parks Society	804-730-9447	6038 Cold Harbor Road, Mech., VA 23111	vrps@vrps.com	http://www.vwc.edu/vrps/home.htm
Virginia Sierra Club	804-225-9113	6 North 6th St., Suite 401, Richmond, VA 23219	glen.besa@sierraclub.org	http://virginia.sierraclub.org
Virginia Tourism Corporation	800-321-3244	901 E. Byrd St., Richmond, VA 23219	vainfo@virginia.org	www.virginia.org

For specific information on organized sports leagues, contact Bill Carlson, Athletic Director, at 748-1128

APPENDIX A
REPORT OF RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY



Report of Recreational Needs Assessment for Chesterfield County, Virginia

Submitted by

Management Learning Laboratories

Winston-Salem, NC

September 2001



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READING THE REPORT

This report is one component of the final outcome of the Needs Assessment that was commissioned by the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department (henceforth referred to as “CCPRD”) in 2001. The other segment is the computer program and the data from the two surveys. In reading this report, it is important to note that the results are presented in several ways. First, there is a narrative description of the findings, which are then supported by tables of data. **Key findings and summaries are underlined in the body of the report.**

Recommendations are made across the entire body of the report and are always supported by data. *All recommendations are presented in italics in the body of the report.*

Additionally, this summary report needs to be considered as a snap shot of the results of the Needs Assessment. The tables and numbers in the report should be considered carefully. Since there were sometimes several questions that addressed similar issues, these items were distributed in different parts of the questionnaire. These pieces of information together make up the entire report and results. *In many cases, the importance attached to a particular piece of numeric data has to be interpreted in relation to other similar questions in the instrument.* Moreover, before drawing specific conclusions, it is important to recognize that a universal yardstick cannot be used to interpret the results. For instance, in some cases, a particular facility which 40% of the respondents indicated was a need could be considered to be the biggest necessity in that category. This is so because other facilities in the category might have received far less endorsement. On the other hand, a different facility with 40% of the respondents supporting it could be considered very insignificant in that category because there were several other facilities in the category that received far more support. **It is the ranking, as presented in the tables, that is most important.** Consequently, it is impossible to try to find one percentage as the cut-off point for all the questions. Each question needs to be considered separately and as a part of the category to which it belongs.

It is also important to note that the data set represents responses from 303 individuals who answered 262 questions. It is possible to create databased queries about each of these questions. For instance, the recreation staff might be interested in seeing if the respondents who indicated a certain facility is a need tend to live in the same area. Since it is impossible to anticipate all such questions, and impractical to include each one of the thousands of possible tables in the report, the CCPRD is given a database query program called *CompuRec*. Using this program, the various staff of the CCPRD will be able to generate tables that answer specific questions about sub-groups of the population. The program is user-friendly and features a series of simple menus. When used along with the program manual and the data dictionary, *CompuRec*

can generate tables, graphs and charts that provide instantaneous answers to specific questions about the respondents' recreational habits and preferences.

Finally, when reading this report, it is important to keep in mind that many questions, such as whether men like an activity more than women, that arise from reading the report can be answered quickly with the use of *CompuRec*. In fact, it is possible to verify all the statistical results reported here using *CompuRec*. The staff of the CCPRD is encouraged to use the program to further explore the data as they make planning decisions. Since the staff receives a thorough training in the use of the software, this is especially easy to do. Looking at this report alone will provide a look at the aggregate data, but further in-depth analysis can be conducted using *CompuRec*. Therefore, this report should be read with the intention of generating questions that can be answered by *CompuRec*.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

The study was designed to elicit interest, behavior, demographic, and attitude information from the citizens served by the CCPRD concerning recreation, leisure and land management. It is important to note that this survey was intended to obtain information from the entire community and not any specific user group. Since this was a community-wide survey, the sample was selected to represent the opinion of the entire population of Chesterfield County. The objective of the survey was to obtain the relevant information that will help the CCPRD do its job more effectively by enabling it to be more responsive to the recreation needs of the residents of Chesterfield County. Additionally, the information can also be used to better organize the internal workings of the CCPRD to stay in tune with the current and future needs of the community. This also implies that the CCPRD will benefit by learning about the residents' awareness of the CCPRD's recreation activities within Chesterfield County. In summary, this survey was not a user's survey, but a more comprehensive assessment of the recreation needs, attitudes and opinions of the residents of the entire community. Thus, it should be noted that the primary goal of the survey was to obtain information about recreation in Chesterfield County.

It is not practical to report all the various tables that include the results of the survey broken down into sub-groups of respondents. However, using a standard database inquiry tool such as *CompuRec*, it is possible to obtain such information when used in combination with the data set. As explained in the previous section, the use of *CompuRec* will greatly benefit the CCPRD in making informed decisions about recreation opportunities in Chesterfield County.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

Determination of the Sample

While it is desirable to question all of the residents of Chesterfield County, it is not possible to do so due to a variety of constraints including cost, available time and access. However, using the principles of random sampling, it was possible to collect data from a part of the population and then make projections about the entire population. For this reason, a statistically viable and reliable random sampling procedure was used for this survey. Given the fact that it was a random sample of the population, it is possible to claim that, within a small margin of error (3.00%), the sample is representative of the community as a whole.

In this case, a sample of 4,000 addresses was selected from a variety of lists that are maintained by commercial and governmental agencies (e.g., listed phone numbers, Department of Motor Vehicles lists, utility company lists). Addresses were then chosen randomly from this frame so that every address had an equal chance of being selected. The addresses were then provided to CCPRD to be used for mailing the questionnaires.

Development of the Survey Questionnaire

Before the development of the first draft of the survey instrument, information was collected about the CCPRD. This information included several examples of program brochures and flyers from the past several years, literature about recreational facilities and other materials distributed by the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department. Furthermore, a representative from the consulting team attended and observed public meetings and also had the opportunity to meet with staff and elected officials to discuss the draft questionnaire.

The information gathered in these meetings was compiled to produce an initial draft of the questionnaire. The early drafts were then reviewed by the consulting team, as well as by the members of the CCPRD. After extensive reviews, a final draft of the questionnaire was approved by the CCPRD. The review consisted of staff members reading the questionnaire in its various forms and the final design of the questionnaire format.

The first section of the questionnaire was designed to elicit respondent interest in various recreation categories such as “arts and crafts,” “performing arts,” “sports and athletics,” etc. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest in the categories as well their opinion

about the funding method to be used for each category. Examples of activities within each category were offered to help respondents understand what each category meant.

The next section, labeled “Areas of Emphasis,” listed items that were indicated as needs in the various meetings. The respondents were asked to indicate whether they felt that these additions were necessary. These included both programmatic and facility additions.

These items were followed by a section that was designed to find out the best ways of funding public recreation in Chesterfield County. The options included options such as “bonds,” “endowments,” and “program user fees,” and the results from these items can help the CCPRD gauge public support for various funding options.

The next section of the questionnaire was designed to elicit the respondents’ availability for recreation and attendance at various key recreational facilities owned and operated by CCPRD. The respondents were asked to indicate when, during an average week, they are available for participating in recreational activities. The information was collected in two grids that listed the days of the week and specific time slots. Information about both the adults and youth was collected. Additionally, respondents were asked to indicate if they required transportation at any of their preferred times. Then, a list of several general recreation facilities was provided to the respondents. Respondents were asked to indicate how often they visited those facilities and if they used a private or a public facility.

To help the CCPRD do its tasks better, the next part of the questionnaire elicited information about the reasons for non-use and non-attendance, and the respondents were asked to indicate all the reasons that applied to them. Twenty possible reasons such as “inconvenient location,” “lack of maintenance,” “crowding,” etc. were listed for the respondents. This section of the questionnaire will allow CCPRD to evaluate what the citizens consider the major barriers to participating in recreation and leisure activities in Chesterfield County.

Respondents were then asked about the best ways of keeping them informed about public recreation opportunities. They were provided with a list that included items such as cable television, seasonal brochures and word of mouth, and respondents were asked to evaluate the effectiveness of each method for conveying information about recreation.

The next section of the questionnaire dealt with personal opinions of the respondents. First, there were several statements for which they could indicate their level of agreement on a five-point scale that ranged from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree,” with a “don’t know” option. These items all related to the availability and adequacy of recreation in Chesterfield County. Needless to say, while the focus was on recreation, there was a need to include related issues that could indirectly impact the opinions toward recreation. For instance, while there were items that focused on the role of the CCPRD in providing recreation, there were also items that

dealt with issues about the quality of life in Chesterfield County. Overall, these opinion statements addressed the following issues:

- Respondents' personal knowledge and feelings about the CCPRD and its offerings,
- Specific improvements that the CCPRD could make in its services,
- General recreation issues related to the CCPRD,
- Opinions about the effectiveness of marketing and publicity efforts of the CCPRD,
- General questions about the quality of life in Chesterfield County, and
- Questions about the financing options available to the CCPRD

The results from this section of the questionnaire provide a good description of the overall attitudes and opinions of residents with respect to recreation, leisure and the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department. A second part of this section also elicited information about the support that respondents had for various suggested changes to or initiatives by the CCPRD.

The last section of the questionnaire included the general demographic questions concerning gender, age, marital status, household composition, length of residence in Chesterfield County, and where specifically the respondent lives in the community.

Procedures for Administering and Analyzing the Surveys

Once the final questionnaire was ready it was provided in a camera-ready format to the CCPRD along with the sample. The CCPRD arranged for the delivery of the questionnaire and the collection of completed questionnaires. Ultimately, the CCPRD provided MLL with a data set containing 466 responses.

The survey data were analyzed using the *CompuRec* data analysis and query program. *CompuRec* is a data analysis package specifically designed to analyze recreation-related data. Data analysis consisted primarily of frequency distributions for each response category on each survey item, in order to determine the percentage of respondents who selected each answer option. This was done for the sample as a whole, and then broken down further into gender, age, and other demographic categories such as geographic location, to support recommendations. Given the large number of tables that can potentially be produced, the CCPRD staff needs to decide which tables would be most useful. Tables for all variables can be produced easily using a standard recreation database inquiry and analysis program such as *CompuRec*. Furthermore, additional and advanced data analysis in the form of reliability checks, factor analysis and tests for significant difference of mean responses between groups were conducted and these have been reported when relevant. The CCPRD staff has been trained in doing this analysis as well using the *CompuRec* system installed on the CCPRD computer.

It is important to note that the analysis reported here, as well as the recommendations presented at the end, are primarily based on the aggregate information and data. Furthermore, it should be noted that the data presented in this report are based only on the responses obtained in the community-wide survey and the descriptive and narrative information collected in the focus group meetings. There are no presumptions about the actual performance of the CCPRD; only the perceptions of the community are reported. It is quite possible that many of the perceptions do not match the actual activities of the CCPRD. However, the purpose of this report is to present the perception, accurate or inaccurate, to demonstrate how the community feels about the CCPRD.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY: DEMOGRAPHICS

Description of the Population

There was a set of questions that were designed to elicit demographic information such as age, marital status, gender, etc. These are questions that can provide information about a community's makeup and therefore its possible recreation needs. It is useful to note that the percentages reported and tabulated often add up to 101% or 99% due to the effects of rounding of decimals. Furthermore, the demographic information from the survey data was compared to the Year 2000 Census data and sampling weights were computed to correct for any under- or over-representation of demographic categories. Sample weights help to reduce any bias due to an excess of a demographic group, such as if more women than men completed the questionnaire, or lack of a demographic group, such as the young adults, in the data set. Eventually, sample weights were considered necessary to correct the biases in race. Sample weights were used to conduct the analysis, and they have been used to present the results in the report. The sample weights are also included in the *CompuRec* data set and the CCPRD staff has the option of doing either weighted or un-weighted analyses of the data set.

Gender

The sample was made up of 45% male and 55% female respondents.

Age

The questionnaire provided different age categories and the percentages are reported below.

Age Category	Percent
18-24	1%
25-34	17%
35-44	36%
55-64	13%
65-69	4%
70-74	4%
Over 75	2%

Income

The income distribution varied from under \$24,999 to over \$125,000 per year, with the median income being around \$55,000. The specific income categories were as follows:

Income Category	Percent
Under \$25,000	3%
\$25-50,000	22%
\$50-75,000	30%
\$75-100,000	19%
\$49-60,000	15%
\$100-125,000	15%
Over \$125,000	12%

Length of residence in Chesterfield County

About 25% of the respondents claimed that they have lived in Chesterfield County for one to five years, while another 27% claimed that they have lived there between six and twelve years. Another 22% indicated that they have lived in Chesterfield County for thirteen to twenty one years. The remaining 25% indicated that they have lived there for more than twenty-one years.

Household composition: Adults, Children, Race, Disability

The respondents indicated that 69% of the households had two adults in the home, while 16% reported only one adult in the household. The remainder had three or more adults in the household. Furthermore, nearly 40% had one or more children under five years of age, 34% had at least one child in the five to ten years range, 27% of the respondents indicated that they had at least one child in the eleven to fourteen years age range and 24% had at least one child in the fifteen to eighteen year range. Additionally, 57% of the respondents indicated that they represent a household of a married couple with children, 22% claimed to be a household of married couples without children, and 9% indicated that they had a single head of household. This provides a picture of the types of families in Chesterfield County.

The data also suggest that 79% of the respondents are white, 16% are African-American, 2% are Asian, and 1% are Hispanic. About 8% of the respondents described themselves as

disabled. The questionnaire also explored the reasons why some members of the household might require physical activity. Of all the respondents, 33% claimed that they needed it for improved coordination skills, 53% to lose weight, 46% to reduce stress, 24% to improve social interaction and team playing skills, and 13% to satisfy their doctor's orders.

Area of residence

The respondents were asked to indicate in which part of Chesterfield County they live and they were given a list of districts. The following table shows the distribution of districts for the respondents.

District	Percent
Bermuda	22%
Clover Hill	15%
Dale	9%
Mataoca	15%
Midlothian	38%

Demographic Summary

Based on the data collected in this study, it is possible to claim that the community represented by the sample is a stable, family-oriented population. It is also clear that Chesterfield County represents a new community with a significant number of people having moved into the area within the last decade. About half the households also have two adults, suggesting that there are ample nuclear families. These results suggest that the recreation needs of the community would be oriented around the family, which would also indicate needs for the younger population of Chesterfield County.

The demographic data also suggest that there is an even distribution of age categories, with about half of the households having at least one person in the 25 to 44 age group, and about 22% of the households having at least one person who is 55 years or older. This is an emerging trend in the United States, as a large proportion of the population is becoming senior citizens. This “graying” of the country has significant impacts on recreation needs, as there are now two major groups of people who often have different recreation needs. First, there is the younger age group with one or more children in the age range toddlers to 18 who are interested in activities that are appealing to the youth as well as the middle-aged adult; second, there is a need for activities that are of interest to the older population. Recreation organizations like the CCPRD need to address this dual need. Part of the answer lies in identifying the activities that are appealing to each age group. The CCPRD can accomplish this easily with the use of *CompuRec* to examine how the interest levels in activities differ by age. Based on this data it is possible to claim that *the CCPRD needs to provide recreation opportunities targeted towards the specific needs of the different sectors of the population.*

The community is also economically split, with about half the respondents living in households that earn less than \$50,000 per year, while about 26% of the households claim annual incomes over \$100,000. Although income is not a very good predictor of recreation habits, this distribution can have impacts on the amounts of fees and charges that the CCPRD can levy for its programs and facilities. It is therefore advisable that the CCPRD staff use *CompuRec* to get a sense of the way in which the different income groups enjoy recreation. This would reveal whether there are programs that are particularly appealing to the higher income brackets and whether there can be a tiered fee structure.

Overall, the population is somewhat diverse with respect to age and income, and as such, it is important to explore the different recreation needs of the different sections of the community. The CCPRD is encouraged to conduct this exploration with the use of the *CompuRec* program.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY: GENERAL FINDINGS

The following sections of this report describe the findings about the various recreational needs of the residents of Chesterfield County. The questionnaire was used to explore their recreation interests, which facilities they visit and why they may choose not to take advantage of recreation opportunities, as well as the best way to keep the residents informed about CCPRD offerings. Moreover, information was elicited about the times residents are available to participate in recreation activities, their opinions about various recreation-related issues, and what they believe should be areas of emphasis for the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department. Unless otherwise specified, numbers in parentheses refer to the percentage responding positively to a question. Furthermore, it should be noted that the percentages are estimates and can vary between plus or minus three percentage points.

Recreation Interests

The first section of the questionnaire asked respondents to indicate their level of interest in each of nineteen activity categories. Examples of specific activities pertaining to each general category were provided. The scale included the options, “great interest,” “some interest,” and “no interest,” but for simplicity of presentation in this report, the results from the first two categories have been combined. *CompuRec* can be used to break the results into the specific levels of interest if such information is needed. Respondents were also asked how each type of activity should be funded; the options “tax,” “user fee” and “don’t know” were provided for this purpose. This information will help the CCPRD gauge public support for its various funding options with respect to each type of activity, and it will supplement the results from the other questionnaire items related to finances (Tables 12 and 13).

Outdoor fitness activities (89%), environmental activities (83%), and performing arts interests (83%) appear at the top of the ranking. Several of the top-ranked needs discussed later in this report (Tables 15 and 16) reflect these interests as well, suggesting there is ample demand for activities of these types: trails that can accommodate hiking, walking, bicycling, jogging, and fitness are supported as needs by two-thirds or more of the respondents, and interest in the environment is reflected in the strong perceived need for wildlife areas, open space and nature programs. Outdoor fitness activities, environmental activities, and performing arts activities could include both instructional and appreciation-focused types of programs. Taxes were preferred for outdoor fitness and environmental activities, whereas fees were preferred for

performing arts activities; however, the preference for taxes over fees for outdoor fitness was small. *The CCPRD should make sure there are sufficient opportunities and areas for outdoor fitness, environmental activities and performing arts, given the high and consistent levels of interest in activities of these types.*

Unstructured recreation (78%), self-improvement activities (76%), and special events (76%) appear next in the ranking. Interests in unstructured recreation could be accommodated by large general-use areas, both indoors and outdoors, as could the interest in self-improvement activities. Special events could help meet the need for activities in which the whole family can participate (Table 16). Fees and tax dollars were about equally favored for unstructured recreation, but fees were clearly preferred for self-improvement activities and special events. *The CCPRD should ensure there are opportunities and spaces for unstructured recreation, self-improvement, and special events, given the large need they could fulfill.*

Sports and athletics (75%), indoor fitness (74%), and historical programs (72%) were also of interest to the majority of respondents. The interest in athletics and fitness is echoed in part in the need for various trails (Table 15) and the interest in outdoor fitness, which was slightly more popular than indoor (Table 1). The interest in historical programs also reflects many of the priorities expressed later in this report (Tables 14 and 16). Fees were supported over taxes for all three types of activities. *The CCPRD should ensure it provides opportunities for the residents to participate in activities related to sports/athletics, indoor fitness, and historical programs, once the more popular interests have been addressed.*

Outdoor aquatics (69%) and indoor aquatics (67%) represent a consistent interest in water-based recreation. Respondents favored fees for both types of activities. This interest is reflected elsewhere: riverfront access, boat and canoe ramps, and aquatic facilities are needs that are supported by the majority of respondents (Tables 15 and 16). *The CCPRD should provide ample water-based recreation opportunities for the residents of Chesterfield County.*

Camps (68%), hobbies (67%), and travel and tourism (66%) represent more specialized interests that are still of interest to the majority of respondents. It makes sense that fees were preferred means of funding for these types of activities that involve more specific interests and segments of the population. However, given that other interests are far more popular, *the CCPRD should evaluate the extent to which fees can make activities like camps, hobby-related programming, and travel and tourism feasible, since these types of activities must be prioritized against more popular interests.*

The remaining activity categories were of interest to fewer than two-thirds of the respondents. However, their placement as the least popular interests does not mean they should be ignored. *The CCPRD first should focus on those activities in which most residents are*

interested, while using CompuRec to determine which less popular needs are needed by certain subgroups of residents.

The results from these items are presented in the following table. Percentages reflect the respondents who indicated an interest in each activity category, as well as the preferred means of funding each type of activity. The total across for the fees, taxes, and “don’t know” response options do not always add up to 100%, presumably because some respondents who indicated they had no interest in a given category also chose not to indicate a preferred funding source.

Table 1: Recreation Interests

	Interest	No Interest	Fees	Tax	Don't Know
Outdoor Fitness	89%	11%	37%	41%	7%
Environmental	83%	17%	29%	44%	7%
Performing Arts	83%	17%	62%	14%	6%
Unstructured	78%	22%	32%	35%	11%
Self-Improvement	76%	24%	65%	5%	7%
Special Events	76%	24%	53%	16%	11%
Sports & Athletics	75%	25%	51%	23%	8%
Indoor Fitness	74%	26%	62%	10%	7%
Historical Programs	72%	28%	41%	28%	8%
Outdoor Aquatics	69%	31%	56%	16%	9%
Camps	68%	32%	42%	26%	8%
Indoor Aquatics	67%	33%	65%	7%	8%
Hobbies	67%	33%	63%	5%	8%
Travel & Tourism	66%	34%	62%	5%	10%
Harvesting	60%	40%	51%	12%	12%
Social Awareness	58%	42%	48%	16%	10%
Equestrian Activities	53%	47%	56%	5%	11%
Family Programs	41%	59%	51%	6%	10%
Competitive Aquatics	30%	70%	49%	4%	12%

Visits to CCPRD Facilities

One section of the questionnaire asked respondents to indicate with what frequency they visit various parks and facilities in Chesterfield County and whether the facilities and activities were maintained by a private or public agency. For each facility type, respondents were asked to specify approximately how many times they and/or their family had used each facility in the past twelve months. This information gives the CCPRD an idea of which parks and facilities are most popular among the residents as well as preferences for public or private recreation facilities. Numbers in parentheses in this section reflect the average number of visits in the past year by the respondents, and they have been rounded off. Table 2 is organized in descending order according to the average number of visits (not rounded) to each type of facility, so the facilities that were attended most frequently appear toward the top of the table.

Gymnasiums (44), swimming pools (31) and tennis courts (27) appear to be the most widely used facilities in Chesterfield County, with averages of more than two visits per month among the residents. Both private and public facilities tend to be used with similar frequencies. These types of facilities have wide appeal, and it will be important for the CCPRD to provide and maintain adequate facilities of these types. It is useful to note that aquatic facilities and tennis courts are not among the most pressing needs expressed by the respondents (see Table 15), suggesting that the facilities that exist may be meeting the needs of the residents who use them frequently.

Several outdoor areas and facilities are fairly widely used. Off-road areas (24), fitness trails, (21), horseback riding (18), playgrounds (17), fishing (16), and golf courses (13) were visited an average of one to two times per month by the respondents. Most of these areas tended to be publicly owned. For widely used areas like these, the CCPRD may find it useful to consult *CompuRec* to determine whether there are relationships between usage, perceived need and area of residence. For example, playgrounds are used frequently, but they are also considered to be a need by nearly three-fourths of the respondents (Table 15). One possibility is that those respondents who consider them to be a need are not frequent users, suggesting that they may not be sufficiently aware of the playgrounds that exist. Another possibility is that those who consider them to be a need are aware, but they are part of the 64% who agree that parks need to be more geographically distributed (Table 9). In this case, information about residential area and perceived need may point to areas where playgrounds are in fact needed. *CompuRec* can provide information like this if it is desired by the CCPRD.

School facilities (23) and community centers (11) are fairly popular publicly-owned areas that are used by the residents frequently. It is useful to mention here that two-thirds of the respondents support use of local schools as community parks (Table 14). The next items in the

ranking are water-related: boat and canoe launches (11) and wading/sunbathing areas (10) were visited an average of once per month by the respondents. This usage is consistent with the interest in aquatics that is evident elsewhere in the results.

The remaining areas and facilities were visited fewer than ten times in the last year, on average. This does not mean they are insignificant, but they do tend to represent more specific and specialized interests and therefore logically have lower usage levels. It will be useful to consider these items alongside the results presented in Tables 15 and 16, because low usage and high perceived need may reveal a lack of public awareness that a particular facility exists, or negative perceptions about the existing facility. This will be explored further in the section entitled “Areas of Emphasis.”

The results from the usage items are presented in the next table. The numbers reflect the average number of times each facility has been visited in the past year, and the percentages reflect whether the visits tended to be to public or private facilities.

Table 2: Visits to CCPRD Facilities

	Visits	Private	Public
Gymnasium	43.64	13%	10%
Swimming pool	31.49	31%	8%
Tennis court	26.54	10%	9%
Off-road vehicles/4WD	24.4	2%	1%
School facility	23.29	2%	34%
Fitness trail	21.06	7%	27%
Horseback-riding	17.56	5%	1%
Playground	16.56	6%	32%
Fishing	15.87	12%	21%
Golf course	12.83	17%	14%
Community center	10.74	5%	9%
Boat/Canoe Launch	10.68	9%	20%
Wading/sunbathing	10.37	11%	11%
Racquet/handball	9.69	3%	0%
Nature trail	8.75	4%	32%
Dancing	7.76	7%	5%
Skate park/BMX	6.12	3%	4%
Historic site	5.55	11%	34%
Archery range	5.4	3%	3%
Picnic area	5.09	4%	35%
Concert	4.27	13%	20%
Nature center	4.1	3%	24%
Rockclimbing	3.83	5%	2%

Reasons for Non-attendance

This section of the questionnaire was aimed at investigating the reasons that residents may have for not visiting or attending CCPRD facilities or programs, so that the staff can address issues that may serve as barriers to participation. Twenty possible reasons for not using CCPRD facilities and activities were listed, and respondents were asked to circle all responses that applied to them and their family members.

The most frequently cited reasons for not taking advantage of CCPRD activities and facilities were perceptions of inconvenient timing (35%) and a lack of time on the part of respondents (34%). Inconvenient hours of operation was also cited as a reason by about one-fifth (21%) of the respondents. While there is little the CCPRD can do about residents' busy schedules and a general lack of time, there may be scheduling changes that could be made to enable more residents to participate. The next section in this part of the report discusses results from items designed to find out which times of each day of the week are most convenient for the residents to participate in recreation opportunities. The CCPRD can consider the preferred recreation times (Tables 4 and 5) alongside expressed interests to find out if certain groups that enjoy particular activities could be accommodated at special times. *The CCPRD should attempt to work around residents' schedules in order to enable them to participate in recreation offerings.*

Interest and location ranked next as reasons respondents do not participate in CCPRD activities. Nearly one-third of the respondents (32%) feel they do not have an interest in what is offered, and slightly fewer (31%) cited inconvenient location. With respect to interest, this Needs Assessment is a significant step toward ascertaining what interests the residents have with respect to recreation in Chesterfield County. With respect to location, there may be additional analysis that the CCPRD can do to investigate this issue further. One option is to see if the respondents who cited inconvenient location tend to reside in similar areas; if so, that information may point to locations where new facilities or transportation services are most needed. *The CCPRD should use the results provided in this report, as well as additional analyses with CompuRec, to investigate further the potential barriers of interest and location.*

Cost (16%), crowding (14%), and safety and security concerns (13%) ranked next as barriers to participation. The results presented in Table 13 ("Funding Public Recreation") will help the CCPRD address the issue of cost, but it is worth mentioning here that 90% of the respondents indicated they can afford to pay reasonable user fees for new recreation opportunities (Table 12). This helps explain the relatively small percentage of respondents who cited cost as a barrier, but further analysis with *CompuRec* might shed light on the 16% who do consider cost to be a barrier. With respect to crowding and safety, it is encouraging that these percentages are low, but *the CCPRD should continually monitor issues like cost, crowding and safety so these potential barriers do not begin to deter larger numbers of residents*

Competing facilities (12%) and full or canceled programs (12%) appear next in the ranking. Certainly the results from this Needs Assessment will help the CCPRD be more competitive by enabling it to meet the recreation needs of the residents of Chesterfield County, and these results will also help the staff know which programs are in greatest demand in order to reduce instances of crowding or cancellations. *The CCPRD should use the results from this*

Needs Assessment to bolster its competitiveness and ability to offer sufficient, relevant programming for the residents on Chesterfield County.

The remaining reasons were cited by 10% or fewer of the respondents, suggesting these issues do not constitute significant barriers to enjoying CCPRD recreation offerings. They should not be ignored, but they need not be considered a priority.

The results from these items are presented in the following table. Percentages reflect those respondents who selected each as a reason they do not participate in CCPRD activities or attend the facilities.

Table 3: Reasons for Non-attendance

Inconvenient timing	35%
I do not have time	34%
No interest	32%
Inconvenient Location	31%
Hours of operation	21%
Program cost too high	16%
Too crowded	14%
Safety/security concerns	13%
Competing facilities	12%
Program was full or canceled	12%
Poor quality of program	10%
Lack of restrooms	10%
Lack of maintenance/cleanliness	10%
Parking not adequate	8%
Inconvenient registration system	6%
Lack of qualified staffing	5%
Lack of transportation	5%
Substandard, old facilities	5%
Poor customer service	4%
Not accessible for the disabled	3%

Times the Residents are Available

Because participation in recreation opportunities is determined in part by the availability of the residents, one section of the questionnaire was designed to find out the best times during the week for residents to participate in recreation. In fact, the top two reasons for not taking advantage of CCPRD offerings were perceptions of inconvenient timing and a general lack of time. Because of the significance of this issue, two grids were provided in the questionnaire, one for the adults and one for the youth in the respondents' families. Each grid contained the days of the week and time slots for each day, and respondents were asked to circle the time slots that were most convenient for them and their families to attend recreation programs, activities and facilities. Additionally, each grid also asked respondents whether transportation was needed in order to participate during the times indicated.

For the adults, the most convenient time slot was from 5:00 to 8:00 pm on Saturdays, with nearly half of the respondents indicating availability during those times. This was followed by weeknights between 5:00 and 8:00 pm, Sundays between 2:00 and 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, with more than one-third of the respondents indicating those time slots are convenient for them. Overall, Saturdays seem to be the best day for recreation, with 30% indicating availability from 8:00 to 11:00 pm as well. This is followed by Sundays between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm, with about one-fourth of the respondents favoring those times. Finally, weeknights from 8:00 to 11:00 pm were popular among about one-fifth to one-fourth of the respondents. *The CCPRD should take this information into account when scheduling activities for the adults to make sure it is offering activities at times when residents are most able to participate. The CCPRD should also use CompuRec to find out more about the respondents who enjoy recreating during the less popular time slots, so activities during those times might be tailored for them.*

The results for the availability of the adults are summarized in the following table.

Table 4: Times Adults Are Available

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5-8 am	7%	7%	6%	8%	7%	14%	11%
8-11 am	11%	9%	10%	9%	11%	35%	23%
11-2 pm	8%	8%	9%	8%	9%	36%	29%
2-5 pm	9%	9%	11%	10%	12%	37%	38%
5-8 pm	38%	40%	39%	40%	40%	44%	37%
8-11 pm	18%	20%	17%	20%	25%	30%	19%

For the youth in the families, percentages were lower overall, but the most popular time slots overall for the youth to participate in recreation offerings were from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturdays, with about one-fourth of the respondents indicating the youth in their families could participate during these times. About equally popular were the hours between 5:00 and 8:00 pm on weeknights, followed by Sundays between 2:00 and 8:00 pm, and 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The next best time is later on Saturday nights (8:00 to 11:00 pm) and between 2:00 and 5:00 pm on weekdays. *The CCPRD should use this availability information when planning programming for the youth, as well as consult CompuRec for additional information about the less popular time slots.*

The results from this grid are presented in the next table.

Table 5: Times Youth Are Available

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5-8 am	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	11%	9%
8-11 am	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	25%	15%
11-2 pm	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	25%	18%
2-5 pm	15%	15%	15%	15%	16%	27%	25%
5-8 pm	25%	25%	24%	25%	23%	27%	22%
8-11 pm	7%	7%	7%	7%	10%	16%	10%

As indicated above, this part of the questionnaire also included a question about whether transportation would be needed in order to participate in recreation during the time slots listed in the questionnaire. Table 6 shows that transportation is needed more by the youth than the adults overall, with 2:00 to 8:00 pm being the time slots with the greatest need, followed by 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. All percentages are relatively low, suggesting that perhaps more limited but focused efforts may be all that is needed. If particular youth-oriented activities are offered during these times, then transportation may enable greater attendance. It should also be kept in mind, however, that only 5% of the respondents overall cited a lack of transportation as a barrier to attending and participating, which explains the low percentages reported here. *The CCPRD should consider the feasibility of transportation alongside the perceived need for it as indicated in these results.*

The results from the transportation items are presented in the next table. Percentages reflect the respondents who indicated transportation would be needed in order to participate in recreation opportunities during each of the time slots listed.

Table 6: Transportation Needs

	Adult	Youth
5-8 am	1%	5%
8-11 am	2%	6%
11-2 pm	3%	6%
2-5 pm	3%	9%
5-8 pm	4%	8%
8-11 pm	2%	5%

Information About Recreation Opportunities

The issue of publicity surfaced in the focus group meetings, and there was some concern that the residents may not be as well informed as they could be about the recreation opportunities that are available to them. Table 11 shows that nearly half (47%) of the respondents do not feel they are informed about the recreation programs and activities offered by the CCPRD. As such, publicity constitutes an important issue that can and should be considered as the CCPRD strives to make improvements.

In order to help the CCPRD address this issue, one section of the questionnaire was devoted to finding out which channels are the best for conveying information about recreation opportunities to the residents. Eleven publicity methods were listed, and respondents were asked to rate each one as either “very effective,” “somewhat effective,” or “ineffective.” A fourth “not sure” option was also provided in case respondents did not have enough information to form an opinion. For this report, the first two response options were combined in order to facilitate discussion and comprehension, but *CompuRec* can quickly provide the original data if they are needed. The results presented here will help the CCPRD target its informational efforts more strategically to best reach the residents and increase use of its facilities and programming.

By far, the most effective publicity method is direct mail of the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department program guide. Ninety-four percent of the respondents considered program brochure mailings to be effective, demonstrating that *the CCPRD should use direct mail, particularly the program guide, to disseminate information regularly about recreation opportunities to all residents of Chesterfield County.*

Newspaper inserts (83%) and newspaper advertisements (81%) were also considered very effective, with more than three-fourths of the respondents indicating they are good ways to keep the residents informed about CCPRD offerings. These methods can supplement the direct mailings and serve as reminders that residents have already received some information. After direct mailings, *the CCPRD should use newspaper inserts and advertisements to keep the residents of Chesterfield County informed about recreation opportunities.*

Brochures, flyers and posters (79%) ranked next, followed by radio announcements (77%) and cable television (75%). These are significant in that postings at public facilities can be relatively inexpensive, and well-placed signs can generate discussion of upcoming events among residents. Indeed, word of mouth was considered effective by 60% of the respondents. *The CCPRD should consider using well-placed brochures, flyers and posters before making investments in more expensive media like radio and cable television.*

The Internet and e-mail (65%) appear next in the ranking, followed by banners and marquees (62%) and flyers from school (61%). Use of the Internet can provide continuously updated information on CCPRD offerings that can be accessed by residents at any time; allowing residents to sign up to receive regular electronic mailings could also reduce the need for some print materials. Compared to the telephone hotline (33%), the website seems to have greater usefulness. This is not to say the information line should be abandoned, of course, but *the CCPRD should ensure that ongoing, quality website maintenance is a high priority, given its potential and the fairly widespread use of the Internet by the residents of Chesterfield County. Banners and marquees, as well as flyers from schools, should be used only after the more effective methods have been tapped.*

The results from the publicity items are summarized in the next table.

Table 7: Information About Recreation Opportunities

	Effective	Not Effective	Not Sure
Direct mail of program guide	94%	4%	2%
Newspaper inserts	83%	14%	3%
Newspaper advertisements	81%	13%	6%
Brochures, flyers, posters	79%	17%	4%
Radio announcements	77%	20%	3%
Cable TV	75%	20%	5%
Internet/e-mail	65%	25%	10%
Banners and marquees	62%	32%	6%
Flyers from school	61%	29%	10%
Word of mouth	60%	33%	7%
Telephone hotline	33%	52%	15%

Opinions About Recreation in Chesterfield County

This section of the questionnaire was divided into two parts. Part I tapped opinions about various aspects of recreation by asking respondents for their level of agreement with various statements, while Part II asked about public support for various recreation initiatives. Part I will be considered here (Tables 8-12), according to areas of concern. The results from the section on “Funding Public Recreation” will follow (Table 13) because it is logical to consider them alongside the finance-related opinion items in Table 12. Part II will be considered separately (Table 14) after these topic areas have been explored because it addresses issues that are distinct from Part I.

Part I contained eighteen opinion statements with which respondents could agree or disagree. A four-point scale ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” was provided, along with a fifth “don’t know” option in case the respondents did not have enough experience with a particular issue to form an opinion about it. For the sake of simplicity of presentation, the results have been collapsed into the categories “agree,” “disagree” and “don’t know,” but the CCPRD can use *CompuRec* if more detail is needed to discriminate between levels of agreement

or disagreement. These opinion items were generated in part on the basis of the focus group meetings with staff and residents, and they reflect some of the larger issues surrounding the operation of the CCPRD. Although the items were arranged alphabetically in the questionnaire, the results are presented here around five major topic areas.

General recreation issues

Six items in the opinions section were related to general recreation issues.

Nearly all (97%) of the respondents agreed that well-maintained parks add to the quality of life in the community. Nearly three-fourths (71%) feel that the Department should play an active role in historic preservation, implying that such efforts would also add to the quality of life in Chesterfield County. This opinion is consistent with results in Table 16 that show high levels of support for adding historic site preservation to the CCPRD's efforts, as well as the high level of interest in historical programs, as presented in Table 1. *The CCPRD should continue its high levels of maintenance of parks and consider increasing historic preservation efforts.*

Nearly half (49%) of the respondents feel the Department is responsive to the community's recreation needs; slightly fewer (42%) feel satisfied with the recreation opportunities they receive for their tax dollars. These issues represent areas for improvement, and this Needs Assessment will provide the CCPRD with the information necessary to begin such efforts. A lack of interest in available recreation opportunities is preventing about one-third of the respondents from taking advantage of what the CCPRD offers (Table 3), and addressing this can have significant impacts on recreation in Chesterfield County. *The CCPRD should use the results from the Needs Assessment to determine how it can best meet the recreation needs of the residents and help the public feel they are receiving ample recreation opportunities for their tax dollars.*

Respondents were fairly evenly split on the issue of whether recreation activities are primarily tailored for the youth of Chesterfield County, while more than half disagreed that activities are tailored for the adults. In order to change the perception that few activities are tailored for adults, *the CCPRD should pay special attention to the activities and scheduling preferences of the adult respondents.*

The general recreation items from the opinions section of the questionnaire are presented in the following table.

Table 8: General Recreation Issues

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Well-maintained parks add to the quality of life in the community	97%	1%	2%
The department should play an active role in historic preservation	71%	11%	18%
The department is responsive to community recreation needs	49%	14%	37%
I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars	42%	42%	16%
Recreation activities are primarily tailored for the youth	33%	35%	32%
Recreation activities are primarily tailored for adults	14%	51%	35%

Issues related to recreation facilities

Six of the items in the opinions section of the questionnaire specifically addressed the facilities maintained by the CCPRD. These items asked for respondents' opinions about the development of new facilities and use of existing ones, and they will help the staff understand what needs there may be. They will also complement the results presented in Table 15, the facility-related areas of emphasis.

With respect to the issue of more smaller parks versus fewer large parks, most (78%) of the respondents indicated a preference for more smaller, neighborhood parks located closer to their homes, while 42% indicated a preference for larger centralized parks. This fairly clear preference for neighborhood parks should not be interpreted as implying there is no need for larger, more centralized parks. Also relevant to this issue is the majority opinion that parks need to be more geographically distributed (64%). *The CCPRD should use CompuRec to determine whether there are relationships between areas of residence and a perceived need for better geographical distribution, keeping in mind the preference for neighborhood parks.*

Most of the respondents indicated that they feel safe in the parks (73%), that the parks satisfy their needs (72%), and that the parks are clean and generally well maintained (69%). These opinions help explain the very low percentages of respondents who cited negative facility characteristics as reasons they do not use CCPRD facilities, and they are certainly related to the high levels of park usage as well. It should be kept in mind, however, that there does seem to be some room for improvement in these areas. *The CCPRD should take pride in the significant and*

positive role that parks have in the recreation needs of the residents of Chesterfield County but also continually monitor safety and maintenance levels.

The results from the facility-related opinion items are presented in the next table.

Table 9: Opinions About Recreation Facilities

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
I prefer neighborhood parks (many smaller parks located closer to home)	78%	16%	6%
I feel safe in the parks	73%	16%	11%
In general, the facilities that I have visited satisfy my needs	72%	20%	8%
Park buildings and facilities I visit are clean and well-maintained	69%	17%	14%
The parks need to be more geographically distributed	64%	15%	21%
I prefer centralized parks (fewer larger parks with more recreation options)	42%	46%	12%

Issues related to administration

Two items related to administration were included in the opinions section of the questionnaire. First, most (62%) of the respondents agree that the Department staff members are courteous and helpful. The only reason that this percentage is not higher seems to stem from the fact that many (35%) did not know, suggesting that they have not had an opportunity to interact with the staff and form an opinion. Second, nearly half (41%) feel the quality of supervision and instruction provided by the Department is good. Again, this is due in large part to the 49% who were not able to provide an opinion on this issue. However, the 10% who disagreed should not be forgotten. *The CCPRD should include as one of its top priorities efforts to change public perceptions about facility and program quality; while they are not significantly problematic, efforts should be made to ensure they do not become so.*

The results from these administration items are presented in the next table.

Table 10: Opinions About Administration

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Department staff is courteous and helpful	62%	3%	35%
The quality of supervision/instruction provided by the department is good	41%	10%	49%

Issues related to marketing

Two items in the opinions section of the questionnaire are related to publicity and marketing. They can help shed light on the results presented in Table 7. First, nearly half (47%) of the respondents indicated they are not aware of the recreation programs and activities the Department offers. This is significant, and even though another 44% feel they are well informed, there seems to be a large segment of the population who lacks the necessary information to be able to take advantage of recreation opportunities provided by the CCPRD. Second, with respect to volunteer opportunities, far fewer are aware of what is available (23%). *The CCPRD should use the information from this report to make significant improvements in the level of public knowledge about CCPRD offerings and volunteer opportunities.*

Table 11: Opinions about Marketing

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
I am aware of the recreation programs and activities the Department offers	44%	47%	9%
I am aware of volunteer opportunities	23%	59%	18%

Issues related to finances

Finally, two of the items in the opinions section of the questionnaire were related to finances and recreation. These items provide insight about perceived cost and value of recreation in the community, and they should be considered alongside the results in Table 13 regarding the most acceptable ways to fund public recreation.

A large majority (90%) of the respondents indicated an ability to pay a fee for new recreation opportunities. This may enable the CCPRD to add new programs and publicize them sufficiently so that those residents who currently feel there is nothing of interest to them may be able to find programs and facilities that meet their recreation needs. Considering that 42% are not satisfied with the recreation opportunities they receive for their tax dollars, this may be a way to demonstrate that relevant programming can be provided at minimal expense to residents. Additionally, most (64%) of the respondents agreed that special interest groups should pay for their own facilities, while only one-fifth disagreed. *The CCPRD should consider the best ways of taking advantage of reasonable user fees, especially for special interest groups, as well as making sure to provide new programs that will be of interest to the residents of Chesterfield County.*

The results from the finance-related items are presented in the following table.

Table 12: Issues Related to Finances

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
I can afford to pay reasonable user fees for new recreation opportunities	90%	7%	3%
Special interest groups should pay for their own facilities	64%	20%	16%

Funding Public Recreation

In addition to the two opinion items about finances, one section of the questionnaire was designed to elicit respondents' opinions about various options for funding public recreation in Chesterfield County. Seven sources of funding were listed, and respondents were asked to circle all the ways they would favor for funding public recreation facilities and programs. This information will help the CCPRD gauge the level of public support for various sources of funding and therefore know what is likely to be acceptable to the residents of Chesterfield County when financial decisions need to be made.

The most widely supported means of funding are program user fees (82%) and grants (69%), with the majority of respondents selecting each of these two sources as preferable. This is consistent with the results reported in the previous section: 90% of the respondents indicated an ability to pay reasonable user fees (Table 12). This match is significant in that it demonstrates an understanding on the part of the respondents that user fees are not a way of putting the financial burden on someone else; the vast majority of respondents are agreeable to personally paying user fees for programming and facilities that are of interest to them. It is also understandable, however, that grants would be significantly popular, since they can help reduce the burden on taxpayers and users, and since user fees cannot be used for all types of recreation expenses. *The CCPRD should consider how it may take advantage of reasonable user fees and grants in providing relevant recreation opportunities to the residents of Chesterfield County.*

The next most acceptable means of funding are endowments (64%) and private sponsorship (61%), with the majority of the respondents supporting usage of these funds. These types of donations and sponsorships can also lift part of the burden off the taxpayers' and users' shoulders, and enable greater varieties of recreation opportunities. *The CCPRD should seek out endowments, and to a lesser extent private sponsorship, when possible.*

Development Impact Fees (39%) and bonds (36%) appear next in the ranking, with less than half of the respondents considering them to be favorable sources of funding. While support for these are lower than several other funding sources, the CCPRD may be able to use them in equitable ways. As is usually the case, a property tax was least popular (20%). *The CCPRD should proceed with caution when considering bonds and DIF's, and property taxes should be avoided unless the CCPRD can significantly increase public support for them as being necessary in order to provide much-needed facilities.*

The results from the funding items are presented in the following table. Percentages reflect the proportion of respondents who selected each means of funding as preferable.

Table 13: Funding Public Recreation

Program User Fees	82%
Grants	69%
Endowments	64%
Private Sponsorship	61%
Development Impact Fees	39%
Bonds	36%
Property Tax	20%

Public Support for Recreation Initiatives

As indicated above, the second part of the opinions section of the questionnaire asked respondents to indicate their level of support for various initiatives. These results are considered separately because they represent opinions about what priorities the CCPRD should have with respect to use of funds, use of land, and cooperation with other agencies. This information will help the CCPRD get a sense of what the residents deem important and worth pursuing. These items differ from those considered under “Areas of Emphasis” in that these items measure support for general strategies, while the latter focus on specific recreation facilities and programs that are needed. In this section of the questionnaire, nine items were provided, and respondents were asked whether they “support” or “don’t support” the initiative. As before, a third “don’t know” option was provided in case respondents did not have enough information to form an opinion.

Cooperation and partnerships seem well-supported among the respondents, with 87% supporting County/private partnerships in order to develop park facilities and 82% agreeing with the concept of regional cooperation between localities. Such ventures can enable public recreation agencies to broaden their offerings with lower expenditures, and they can take advantage of the strengths of both parties. *The CCPRD should consider partnerships and cooperation when possible in order to better meet the recreation needs of the residents of Chesterfield County.*

The next results show significant support for multiple uses of existing areas. Nearly three-fourths (73%) support conversion of abandoned railways into trails. The next section on perceived needs underscores the interest in trails of all types (see Table 15), and this significant

perceived need could be met by such efforts. About two-thirds (67%) also support increased use of local schools as community parks. *The CCPRD should make the best possible use of existing areas by converting abandoned railways into trails and considering how it may use school property as parks.*

The next items deal with use of public funds, and these initiatives are generally supported among the respondents. First, 61% support use of public funds to buy more land for parks and historic sites. This is consistent with the interest in the outdoors and historic preservation efforts (Tables 1, 15 and 16). Second, 61% also support use of public funds to provide access to the James and Appomattox Rivers. This is consistent with the interest in water-related recreation (Tables 1, 15 and 16). Finally, more than half (54%) support use of public funds to buy more land for conservation of natural habitat. Considered together, these results show approval for using public funds to acquire land for recreation use; however, they also show slight preferences for how that land should be used. While there are not significant differences between support levels for these three initiatives, these and other relevant results can be further investigated using *CompuRec* in order to provide useful insight. Because the CCPRD staff will have questions that cannot be anticipated, *the CCPRD is encouraged to use CompuRec to further investigate use of public funds for land acquisition, keeping in mind that such use of funds is generally supported among the respondents.*

Finally, obtaining an independent park security system (50%) and obtaining easements on private land to increase pedestrian linkages (43%) appear at the bottom of the ranking. This does not mean they are not important to the respondents; indeed, a significant portion of respondents supported these measures. However, when priorities have to be established, these issues should not receive the same kind of attention that the more widely supported initiatives do. *The CCPRD should focus its efforts on cooperation, land use and land acquisition before putting significant resources toward the lowest-ranking priorities.*

The results from these items are presented in the following table.

Table 14: Public Support for Recreation Initiatives

	Support	Don't Support	Don't Know
County government partnering with private sector to develop park facilities	87%	6%	7%
Regional cooperation between localities	82%	9%	9%
Converting abandoned railways to trails	73%	9%	18%
Increased use of local schools as community parks	67%	21%	12%
Use of public funds to buy more land for parks and historic sites	61%	18%	21%
Use of public funds to provide access to the James & Appomattox Rivers	61%	21%	18%
Use of public funds to buy more land for conservation of natural habitat	54%	26%	20%
Independent park security system	50%	20%	30%
Obtaining easements on private land to increase pedestrian linkages	43%	33%	24%

Areas of Emphasis

One section of the questionnaire was designed to determine the relative importance of specific recreation needs there may be in the community. Fifty possible needs were listed for the respondents, and they were asked whether each was needed for the children, teens, adults and seniors in their family (“add” or “don’t add”). These results can help the CCPRD prioritize its future additions in terms of what the community perceives as a need; they can also help the Parks and Recreation Department recognize areas that may be perceived as a need simply because residents are not aware of existing provisions. The items were listed alphabetically in the questionnaire but they have been divided into facilities and programs for ease of presentation and data analysis.

Areas of emphasis – Facilities

Thirty-two possible facilities were listed for the respondents, based on issues that surfaced in the focus group meetings.

First, trails and other outdoor areas ranked at the top of the facility-related priorities, with about three-fourths of the respondents indicating they are important. The perceived need for hiking and walking trails (79%), bicycle trails (75%), riverfront access (74%), wildlife areas and open spaces (73%), playgrounds (72%), picnic facilities (71%), and jogging/fitness trails (66%) demonstrates a strong and consistent interest in outdoor recreation and appreciation for natural areas. *The CCPRD should ensure ample natural and other outdoor areas for residents to enjoy, given the strong and consistent interest in and perceived need for them.*

Nature centers (64%) and a community center (62%) were considered a need by a majority of the respondents. Both of these facilities could accommodate some of the most popular activities listed in Table 16, such as nature programs (66%) and activities for whole families (74%). As shown in Table 2, on average, respondents visit community centers almost monthly, and nature center visits averaged 4 times in the past year. It may be useful to consider usage and perceived need together to determine whether lack of awareness of existing facilities may be causing these perceptions. Additionally, looking at possible relationships between area of residence and perceived need may point to areas that could benefit from a new facility, even if there are other similar facilities in other areas. *The perceived need for a nature center and community centers should be considered alongside the usage results (Table 2) and areas of residence to determine if new facilities are needed or existing facilities can meet the need with better publicity efforts.*

Lighted fields (59%), botanical gardens (56%) and camping facilities (53%) were also significantly popular. These outdoor improvements could boost usage of areas already maintained by the CCPRD. With respect to fields, the significant interest in sports and athletics (Table 1) may speak to the utility of expanding the hours that such fields may be used. Botanical gardens and camping facilities can meet passive and active recreation needs by adding utility and value to areas that people may already be using. *After addressing the more pressing needs, the CCPRD should consider the necessity of lighted fields, botanical gardens and camping facilities.*

Aquatic needs include boat ramps and canoe access (58%) and aquatic facilities (55%), which were considered a need by more than half of the respondents. Together, these represent a fairly consistent interest in water-related recreation, mirroring the 69% of respondents who indicated interest in outdoor aquatics (Table 1). *The CCPRD should ensure adequate access to water-based recreation opportunities.*

Basketball courts (52%) and a regional recreation complex (52%) appear next in the ranking. Facilities of these types can often meet the recreation needs of many residents, especially if the basketball courts are conceived of as multi-use areas. However, these needs appear relatively low in the ranking and therefore should not be considered urgent. The remaining facility-related needs were considered a need by half or fewer of the respondents. Many tend to be more specialized facilities that logically would draw a smaller group of dedicated users. This does not mean that these less significant needs should be ignored, but rather they should remain lower in priority than the more pressing needs. Furthermore, additional inquiries may be made using *CompuRec* to get a better picture of the relative urgency of these lower-ranked needs. The need for particular special-use facilities may be well-supported among the relatively smaller proportion of residents who use them, and this may be determined by looking for possible relationships between those respondents who indicated that they use the various facilities (Table 2) and those who consider these types of facilities to be a need. *The CCPRD should address the most pressing facility-related needs first, and further investigate the less urgent needs using CompuRec.*

The results from the facility-related needs are summarized in the following table. The numbers represent the percentage of respondents who feel that each facility should be added in Chesterfield County.

Table 15: Areas of Emphasis – Facilities

Hiking/walking trails	79%
Bicycle trails	75%
Riverfront access	74%
Wildlife areas, open space	73%
Playgrounds	72%
Picnic facilities	71%
Jogging/fitness trails	66%
Nature centers	64%
Community center	62%
Lighted fields	59%
Boat ramps/canoe access	58%
Botanical gardens	56%
Aquatic facilities	55%
Camping facilities	53%
Basketball courts	52%
Regional recreation complex	52%
Skatepark/BMX	50%
Baseball fields	48%
Volleyball courts	47%
Greenways/trail connections	47%
Better signage	46%
Golf course, practice range	46%
Tennis courts	46%
Softball fields	45%
Handball/racquetball	41%
Challenge rope course	38%
Dedicated horse trail	38%
Football fields	37%
Soccer fields	36%
Garden plots	35%
Off-road vehicle access	31%
Archery ranges	29%

Areas of emphasis – Programming

In addition to facilities, eighteen items related to programming were also included in this section of the questionnaire. Results from these items can help the CCPRD recognize some of the interests of the residents, as well as which existing programs might benefit from greater publicity efforts.

Consistent with the interest in historical programs (Table 1) and using land for historic sites (Table 14), three-fourths of the respondents consider a commitment to historic sites and preservation to be a need. Programs like these can draw tourists and residents alike for enjoyment purposes, but they can also engage residents if there are educational or preservation activities to accompany such efforts. *The CCPRD should recognize the consistent interest in historic programs and preservation and provide opportunities for residents to enjoy programs and activities of these types.*

Activities for the whole family (74%), activities for teens (70%), and special events and festivals (67%) appear next in the ranking and are considered a need by a significant majority of respondents. Senior citizen programs (62%) are also considered a need. Together, these types of activities and events can address the recreation needs of most segments of Chesterfield County. *The CCPRD should make a special effort to provide programming to meet the needs of residents of all ages, as well as families.*

Nature programs (66%), self-improvement (65%), cultural programs (62%), arts and crafts (60%), and camp programs (55%) reflect some of the specific interests that residents have. Such programs could be provided in new or existing community centers, and they can also help meet the need for activities in which the whole family can participate. These programs can be focused around education and/or enjoyment. *The CCPRD should provide programming for specific interests and hobbies, such as nature-related programs and self-improvement programs.*

The remaining programs were considered a need by fewer than half of the respondents. As with the facility-related needs, the programs that appear at the bottom of the ranking should remain lower in priority, but they should also be investigated to determine if a smaller but very dedicated group of residents might benefit from adding or enhancing such programs.

The results from the program-related needs are presented in the following table.

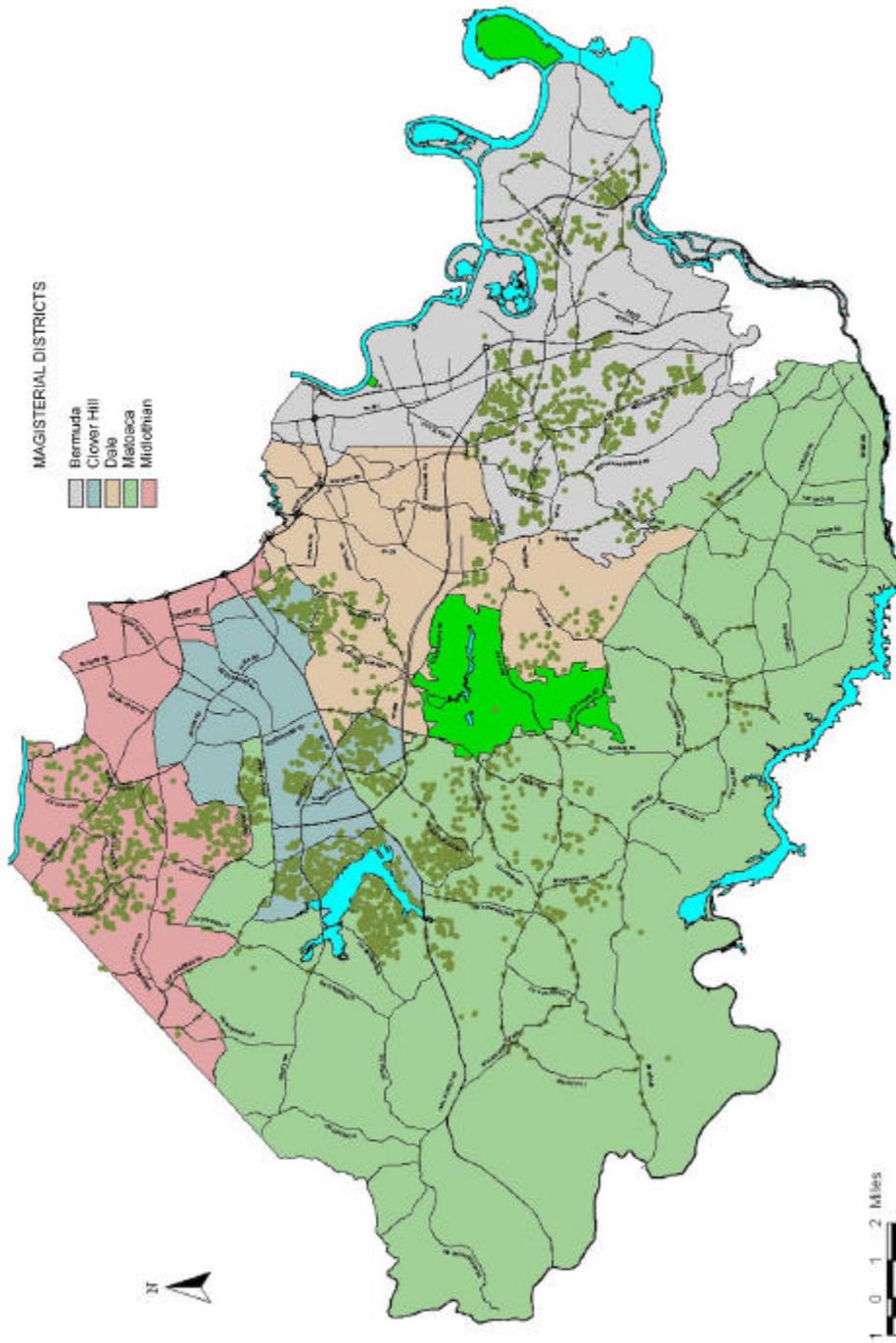
Table 16: Areas of Emphasis – Programming

Historic sites/preservation	75%
Activities for whole families	74%
Activities for teens	70%
Special events/festivals	67%
Nature programs	66%
Self-improvement programs	65%
Cultural programs	62%
Senior citizen programs	61%
Arts & Crafts programs	60%
Camp programs	55%
Activities for disabled	49%
Large gym/special events	48%
Pre-school programs	47%
Transportation to/from	38%
Interpretive programs	34%
Rockclimbing	34%
Frisbee golf	22%
Lacrosse/field hockey	19%

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation

Public Opinion Survey, July 2001

Dots represent survey locations



Green dots represent the 4000 addresses that surveys were mailed to based on a random selections from a County database.

**PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC OPINION POLL
RECREATION INTERESTS**

*Listed below are many different categories of recreational activities that can be enjoyed year-round. For each activity, please indicate with a circle whether YOU and/or your family would have **interest** in the activities and how you think these activities should be **funded**.*

Category	Type of Activity	Interest Level			How to Fund	
		Great Interest	Some Interest	No Interest	Tax	User Fee
Indoor Aquatics	Lap/fitness swim, swim lessons, open swim, hydrotherapy etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Outdoor Aquatics	Boating, fishing, swimming, tubing	5	4	3	2	1
Competitive Aquatics	Swimming, diving, water polo	5	4	3	2	1
Camps	Summer playground, nature, adventure, special population	5	4	3	2	1
Environmental	Environmental education center, nature walks, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Equestrian Activities	Horseback riding, trails, shows, riding therapy	5	4	3	2	1
Family Programs	Splash parties and parent/child dances	5	4	3	2	1
Harvesting	Hunting, fishing, rock/fossil hunting, pick vegetables/fruit	5	4	3	2	1
Historical Programs	Restoration, tours, displays, interpretive programs	5	4	3	2	1
Hobbies	Cooking, flower arranging, models, chess, ceramics, gardening	5	4	3	2	1
Indoor Fitness	Exercise equipment, free weights, jogging track, aerobics, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Outdoor Fitness	Hiking, skating, running, walking, biking, fitness trails, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Performing Arts	Theater, concerts, ballet, music, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Self-Improvement	Self-defense, home improvement, home computer, yoga, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Social Awareness	Dancing, teen clubs, senior club, bridge, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Special Events	One or two day events, festivals, shows, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Sports & Athletics	Baseball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, football, tennis, golf, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Travel & Tourism	Trips to points of interest within 3 hour drive, etc.	5	4	3	2	1
Unstructured	Open space, wildlife habitat, river access, camping	5	4	3	2	1
Other	_____	5	4	3	2	1

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Please indicate with a circle what facilities and programs need to be added for the children, teens, adults and seniors in your family.

	Add	Don't Add		Add	Don't Add		Add	Do
Activities for disabled	1	2	Corporate/Private Partners	1	2	Picnic facilities	1	2
Activities for whole families	1	2	Cultural Programs	1	2	Playgrounds	1	2
Activities for teens	1	2	Dedicated horse trail	1	2	Pre-school programs	1	2
Aquatic facilities	1	2	Football fields	1	2	Regional recreation complex	1	2
Archery ranges	1	2	Garden plots	1	2	Rockclimbing	1	2
Arts and crafts programs	1	2	Golf course, practice range	1	2	Self-Improvement programs	1	2
Baseball fields	1	2	Greenways/trail connections	1	2	Senior citizen programs	1	2
Basketball courts	1	2	Handball/Racquetball courts	1	2	Skatepark/BMX	1	2
Better signage for facilities	1	2	Historic sites/preservation	1	2	Soccer fields	1	2
Bicycle trails	1	2	Interpretive programs	1	2	Softball fields	1	2
Boat ramps/canoe access	1	2	Jogging/Fitness trails	1	2	Special events, festivals	1	2
Botanical garden	1	2	Lacrosse/field hockey fields	1	2	Tennis courts	1	2
Riverfront access (trails, beach, wading, fishing)	1	2	Large gym for special events	1	2	Transportation to/from facilities	1	2
Camp programs	1	2	Lighted fields	1	2	Volleyball courts	1	2
Camping facilities	1	2	Nature centers	1	2	Walking trails	1	2
Challenge rope course	1	2	Nature programs	1	2	Wildlife areas, open space	1	2
Community Center	1	2	Off-road vehicle access	1	2	Other _____	1	2

FUNDING PUBLIC RECREATION

Please indicate which of the following ways you prefer to fund your public recreation facilities and programs (circle all that apply).

Bonds (local government borrowing)	1	Program User Fees (participant pays for program, not the taxpayers)	5
Endowments (private donations)	2	Private sponsorship (corporate, volunteer)	6
Property Tax (increase in local taxes dedicated to parks and recreation)	3	Development Impact Fees (provided by land developer; per State approval)	7
Grants (\$ from state, federal, & private sources)	4	Other _____	8

FACILITY USE

The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department wants to schedule recreational activities and special events when it is most convenient for you and your family. Please circle all the times when you and your family would rather attend recreation activities and if attendance at that time would require transportation to or from the recreation activity.

Time of Use	ADULTS REQUIRE TRANSPORTATION								YOUTH REQUIRE TRANSPORTATION							
	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Yes	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Yes
<i>Example</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5 a.m. - 8 a.m.								8								8
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.								8								8
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.								8								8
8 p.m. - 11 p.m.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Please indicate by writing in a number approximately how many times YOU and/or your family visited/attended and used the following facilities in Chesterfield in the past 12 months.

	Number	Facility			Number	Facility			Number	Facility	
	of Visits	Private	Public		of Visits	Private	Public		of Visits	Private	Public
<i>Example</i>		1	2	Community Ctr.		1	2	Playground		1	2
Archery range		1	2	Fitness trails		1	2	Racquet/Handball		1	2
Baseball fields		1	2	Football fields		1	2	Rockclimbing		1	2
Basketball courts		1	2	Golf course		1	2	Soccer fields		1	2
Boat/Canoe launch		1	2	Gymnasium		1	2	Softball fields		1	2
Botanical garden		1	2	Nature trails		1	2	Swimming pool		1	2
Campground		1	2	Picnic areas		1	2	Tennis courts		1	2
		1	2			1	2	Volleyball courts		1	2

There are some reasons why people cannot, or do not, participate in programs, or visit sites offered by the Department. Please indicate the reasons YOU and/or your family have **not** participated. Circle all that apply.

	Yes		Yes
Inconvenient location	1	Lack of restrooms	1
Poor quality of program	1	Lack of maintenance/ cleanliness	1
I do not have the time	1	The facilities are too crowded	1
Inconvenient timing	1	Safety/ security concerns	1
Lack of qualified staffing	1	Not accessible for the disabled	1
Competing facilities	1	Substandard old facilities	1
Program was full or cancelled	1	Not interested in public recreation	1
Lack of transportation	1	Parking not adequate	1
Hours of operation	1	Program cost too high	1
Poor customer service	1	Inconvenient registration system	1
No interest	1	Other _____	1

INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

We are interested in determining the best ways of informing you about parks and recreation programs and activities. To help us, please circle the appropriate numbers below to indicate how effective the following methods would be for keeping you informed.

	Very Effective	Effective	Not Sure	Ineffective	Very Ineffective
Direct mail of program guide	5	4	3	2	1
Flyers coming home from schools	5	4	3	2	1
Brochures, flyers or posters at public facilities	5	4	3	2	1
Banners and marquees	5	4	3	2	1
Program inserts (program guide)	5	4	3	2	1
Newspaper ads	5	4	3	2	1
Radio announcements	5	4	3	2	1
Telephone hot line	5	4	3	2	1
Internet/e-mail	5	4	3	2	1
Word of mouth	5	4	3	2	1
Cable TV	5	4	3	2	1

PERSONAL OPINIONS

We would like to obtain your personal opinions about a variety of issues. Please circle the number that most closely reflects your attitudes.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Department staff is courteous and helpful	4	3	2	1	8
I am aware of the recreation programs and activities the Department offers	4	3	2	1	8
I am aware of volunteer opportunities	4	3	2	1	8
I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars	4	3	2	1	8
I am willing to pay reasonable users fees for new recreation opportunities	4	3	2	1	8
I feel safe in the parks	4	3	2	1	8
I prefer neighborhood facilities over centralized parks	4	3	2	1	8
In general, the facilities that I have visited satisfy my needs	4	3	2	1	8
Park buildings and facilities I visit are clean and well-maintained	4	3	2	1	8
Recreation activities are primarily tailored for adults	4	3	2	1	8
Recreation activities are primarily tailored for the youth	4	3	2	1	8
Special interest groups should pay for their own facilities	4	3	2	1	8
The Department is responsive to community recreation needs	4	3	2	1	8
The Department should play an active role in historic preservation	4	3	2	1	8
The existence of well-maintained parks adds to the quality of life in the community	4	3	2	1	8
The parks need to be more geographically distributed	4	3	2	1	8
The quality of supervision/instruction provided by the Department is good	4	3	2	1	8

	Support	Don't Support	Don't Know
Converting abandoned railways to trails	2	1	8
Independent park security system	2	1	8
Obtaining easements on private land to increase pedestrian linkages	2	1	8
Regional cooperation between localities	2	1	8
Increased use of local schools as community parks	2	1	8
Use of public funds to buy more land for conservation of natural habitat	2	1	8
Use of public funds to buy more land for parks and historic sites	2	1	8
Use of public funds to provide access to the James & Appomattox Rivers	2	1	8

APPENDIX B
PUBLIC INPUT SESSION SUMMARY

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Public Input Session Summary

Date: June 6, 2001



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- Attachment A May 7, 2001, Midlothian District Meeting Notes
- Attachment B May 14, 2001, Clover Hill / Matoaca Districts Meeting Notes
- Attachment C May 21, 2001, Bermuda District Meeting Notes
- Attachment D May 24, 2001, Dale / Matoaca Districts Meeting Notes
- Attachment E June 4, 2001, Matoaca District Meeting Notes

INTRODUCTION

Chesterfield County Public Input Sessions Schedule

May 7, 2001	Midlothian District Meeting
May 14, 2001	Clover Hill / Matoaca Districts Meeting
May 21, 2001	Bermuda District Meeting
May 24, 2001	Dale / Matoaca Districts Meeting
June 4, 2001	Matoaca District Meeting

Methodology

The following material is a summary of the comments received during five public input sessions conducted in Chesterfield County in May and June of 2001 as an initial information-gathering step in the preparation of a Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan and Public Facilities Plan update. The public input sessions were held in various locations throughout the County.

Complete reports on all of the comments received are provided as Attachments A through E of this document. Following the receipt of comments, each person attending the meeting was invited to place three dots on the comment charts as "votes" for what he or she considered to be the most critical issue or issues. The summary of the comments provides a listing of the issues that were voted on at each meeting, and those that emerged as the most important issues.

In addition to these public meetings, County staff is conducting user group meetings with organizations and groups with recreation interests. A random citizen survey is also being conducted to determine needs and issues relative to parks and recreation. All of these data gathering elements will be analyzed and considered in the process of preparing recommendations for the Master Plan.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Votes Received for Each Issue Area

<i>Issue Areas</i>	Midlothian District	Clover Hill / Matoaca Districts	Bermuda District	Dale / Matoaca Districts	Matoaca District	Total
	Number of Votes					
Access		1				1
Adult Community Services			2	1		3
Biking		1	2		2	5
Bowling Facilities	3					3
Building Community		2				2
Community Center (w/Catering Facilities)		1				1
Determining Needs			1	4		5
Economic Development		2				2
Equine Programs				5		5
Funding		6	4	11	10	31
Greenways and Conservation (Trails)		4	3			7
Gym Facilities					6	6
Historical Significance		2			4	6
Large Event Facilities		2		3		5
Maintenance of Facilities				1		1
Multi-Generational Activities			3			3
Organized Athletics		1			10	11
Other Active Recreation				3		3
Passive Recreation				1	2	3
Physically Challenged Facilities	1	1	1	2		5
Public Relations		1				1
River Access – James and Appomattox			6	1	2	9
School Facilities Use		11	5	2		18
Safety and Security					4	4
Senior Activities	3	7	4	1	4	19
Skateboarding		6	4	8		18
Specific Park Comments			2	5	4	11
Summer Programs			5			5
Swimming Facilities	4		5	6	7	22
Tennis Facilities		3				3
Wildlife			3			3
Youth Centers	3			1		4
TOTAL	14	51	50	55	55	225

Issue Areas Receiving the Highest Votes

The Issue Areas receiving the highest number of votes are as follows:

- Funding (31 votes)
- Swimming Facilities (22 votes)
- Senior Activities (19 votes)
- School Facilities Use (18 votes)
- Skateboarding (18 votes)
- Organized Athletics (11 votes)
- Specific Park Comments (11 votes)
- River Access – James and Appomattox (9 votes)
- Greenways and Conservation (Trails) (7 votes)
- Gym Facilities (6 votes)
- Historical Significance (6 votes)

MIDLOTHIAN DISTRICT

Summary of Comments
Public Meeting - May 7, 2001

Total Attendance: 20

Major Issue Areas

(Listed in order of importance as voted on at the Midlothian District Meeting)

Swimming Facilities (4 votes)

- No large competitive, year round facility in Richmond Metro area
- Foundation for fundraising
- Only hot water pool in the area is closing down (hydrotherapy)
- Other water sports
 - ? Competitive Diving
 - ? Water polo
- Potential community college partnership for funding
- Maximum benefit for expenditure of public dollars (combined activities)

Bowling Facilities (3 votes)

Senior Activities (3 votes)

- More passive
- Social Interaction
- Partnership with Richmond
- Senior center needed in the north to accommodate aging population there

- Senior athletic leagues
- Emphasis on senior activities is good
 - ? Including social as well as active items
 - ? Birding / nature area education

Youth Centers (3 votes)

Physically Challenged Facilities (1 vote)

Summary of Other Issue Areas

Biking

- Leisurely connections between neighborhoods and parks
- Trails for mountain biking
- Good trend to add bike paths along the roads

Funding

- Partnership with State
- Taxes are acceptable to pay for programs
- User fees – good concept
- Bonding acceptable – broad
- Grants

- Scholarships, work funding, pay-for-play, golden age passports for assistance
- Some uses should be partially subsidized
- Athletics people are already paying fees for programs
- Resident discount rates / may cause problems with City vs. County
- Volunteers / youth investment in facilities
- Tax deductible foundations

· **Greenways and Conservation (Trails)**

- Birding
- Children's nature education
- Linear Parks
 - ? Possible use of power line easements / property for trails
 - ? Wetlands and undeveloped areas of subdivisions used for connector trails
 - ? Attraction like Maymont Park Zoo in the county
 - ? Respond to the needs / demands of citizens - put in place a responsive process to meet changing needs - clarify and communicate this process
 - ? Better serve Hispanic citizens
 - Interpretive dance program
 - ? Better serve aging baby-boomers

- Walking Partnership – like Smoketree Subdivision

· **Organized Athletics**

- Softball fields for adults in Midlothian

· **Other Active Recreation**

- Plan for lacrosse and field hockey growth – need structure, can use existing soccer fields
- Need to predict sports of the future, so that we are ahead of the curve
- Running Clubs / Trails
- Golf driving / practice range for this part of the County

· **Passive Recreation**

- Improvements to skid pad driving demonstration area / controlled opportunity for young drivers

· **Public Relations**

- Continuous information exchange
 - ? Web site expansion

· **River Access – James and Appomattox**

- Rowing Club
 - ? Canoeing
 - ? Kayaking
 - ? Sculling

- **Safety and Security**

- Security program put in place for trails and parks

- **Skateboarding**

- Problem with skateboard damage to buildings; need appropriate location in Midlothian Village
- In-line skating

- **Specific Park Comments**

- Rockwood Park needs better maintenance on the trail system, basketball court fence and tennis court fencing - overall it is a well-used facility
- Better access to trails in Pocahontas from the west and north (long vehicle travel distance to access main entrance)

CLOVER HILL / MATOACA DISTRICTS

Summary of Comments
Public Meeting - May 14, 2001

Total Attendance: 35

Major Issue Areas

(Listed in order of importance as voted on at the Clover Hill / Matoaca Districts Meeting)

School Facilities Use (11 votes)

- Update and improve schools
 - ? Manchester High School Tennis as an example
- Public access
- Good idea to combine parks and schools – need better access
 - ? Lower cost needed
 - ? Use for adult education
 - ? Cooking classes at schools
 - ? Would involve community in schools
 - ? Consider funding options
- Shared Use
 - ? Leverage resources
- Potential reuse of schools for other community use
 - ? Adaptation / reuse

Senior Activities (7 votes)

- Good senior programs need to be replicated throughout the County
- Meeting places
- Collaborate with other agencies
 - ? Ballroom dancing as an example

Funding (6 votes)

- Corporate Partnerships
- Facilitate and encourage public / private partnerships
- Yes to taxes, user fees & bonds
- Proffers – cash or land
- Partnerships – public / public, public / private, business, civic groups, non-profits
- Grants
- Volunteer groups
- User fees in some cases
- Scholarship program for your athletics
 - ? County funded
 - ? Work for play

- ? Corporations
- ? Foundations
- **Skateboarding (6 votes)**
 - Is underserved
 - Consider liability
- **Greenways and Conservation (Trails) (4 votes)**
 - Regional cooperation (blueways an example)
 - Need more greenways / trails
 - Swift Creek access to State Park
 - Access throughout County
 - Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Improved access
 - Walking trails
- **Tennis Facilities (3 votes)**
 - More and improved
 - Lit for nighttime use
- **Building Community (2 votes)**
 - Legal issues
 - Easements
 - Enabling / prohibiting legislation
- **Economic Development (2 votes)**
 - Require Developers to devote land to parks and the public
 - Needs assessment
 - An example is Meadow Farm
- **Historical Significance (2 votes)**
 - Plantations
 - Homeplaces
 - Historical site improvements (ironworks and mine)
 - ? Look at Cotton Mill area
 - ? Adding canal
 - ? VSU owns some
 - ? Some privately owned
- **Large Event Facilities (2 votes)**
 - Indoor Athletics
 - Graduations
 - Conventions
- **Access (1 vote)**
 - Adequate transportation routes
- **Biking (1 vote)**
 - BMX facilities

- **Community Center (w/Catering Facility) (1 vote)**

- Community Center

- **Organized Athletics (1 vote)**

- Golf for modest income

- **Physically Challenged Facilities (1 vote)**

- Good Policy for special populations
 - ? Need more funds to be able to consistently provide assistance

- **Public Relations (1 vote)**

- Communicate what's there
- Marketing
- Expanded Public Relations / Marketing / Communication

Summary of Other Issue Areas

- **Maintenance of Facilities**

- **Multi-Generational Activities**

- All age family orientation

- **Passive Recreation**

- County fairground utilization
- Community area at the mall

- **River Access – James and Appomattox**

- Programs that emphasize water activities

- Motorboat

- **Specific Park Comments**

- Eppington
 - ? Opportunity for Community Program Park

- **Swimming Facilities**

- Competitive swim facility
 - ? Cooperative effort with John Tyler Community Center
 - ? Year round
 - ? Including warm water hydrotherapy
 - ? Integrate with cultural events
 - ? Serve changing population
 - ? Virginia State University Facility
- Teach swimming
 - ? County-wide
 - ? Opportunity to collaborate with community swim clubs

- **Youth Centers**

- Teen population
 - ? Gathering areas
 - Include organized activities
 - Access critical (transportation)

**Suggested Program Improvements /
Miscellaneous Comments**

- Embrace current multi-cultural population
 - ? Asian
 - ? Hispanic
- Embrace a cultural perspective
- Parks reflecting cultural heritage
 - ? Native American
 - ? Colonial
 - Example Seattle
- Land acquisition
 - ? Multiple strategies for appropriate acquisition / development
- Personnel Resources
- Diversity
 - ? Types of parks
- Sanitation

- Understanding trends
 - ? Staying power
- Environmental Integrity
- Liability
- Community Centers throughout the County – not just in CDBG areas
- More diverse program approach
 - ? Focus on community
- Encourage volunteerism
- Kids programs great, but need throughout the County
- Develop versatility / adaptability of facilities to allow change
- Link past and future
- Take advantage of State Park
- Rail to Trail

BERMUDA DISTRICT
Summary of Comments
Public Meeting - May 21, 2001

Total Attendance: 36

Major Issue Areas

(Listed in order of importance as voted on at the Bermuda District Meeting)

· ***River Access – James and Appomattox (6 votes)***

- More canoe launches / kayaks / rowing
- Create more linkages

· ***School Facilities Use (5 votes)***

- Lack of recreation opportunities for middle school age
 - ? After school programs needed with transportation
 - ? Possible school based after-school activities
 - Clean up activities
- Recreation opportunities needed for high school and elementary

· ***Summer Programs (5 votes)***

- Lower cost activities
- Possible in neighborhood playground locations
- Parks & Recreation sponsored summer programs in schools and parks

- ? Two-tier system
 - Neighborhood / local
 - Region / larger area

· ***Swimming Facilities (5 votes)***

- Year-round team and individual facilities
- Learn to swim facilities and programs
- For older people (good long term activity)
- Hot water pool (for hydrotherapy)
- Partnership potential with John Tyler Community College
- Economic draw (meets bring money to the area)

· ***Funding (4 votes)***

- User fees should be minimized – can exclude some people
- Bonds good for capital expenses
 - ? Bond referendum
 - ? Taxes for operating / user fees
 - ? Renovations should be capital expenses / bonds
- More / continued financial support for the economically disadvantaged youth

- **Senior Activities (4 votes)**

- Bensley Community Center – great use by seniors
- More evening programs for seniors (more continuing to work)

- **Skateboarding (4 votes)**

- Underserved
- Distribute sites throughout County (three to five locations)
- Long term plan for facility development
- Conflicts now with joggers
- Consider supervision at each facility
- In-line skaters
- Skate Park reduces maintenance costs for businesses and other public spaces
- Biggest problem with Skate Park is liability insurance; corporate funding can help with this
- Combine with bikes, etc., a family facility to help with supervision
- Those who use facilities help support

- **Greenways and Conservation (Trails) (3 votes)**

- Keep greenspace
- Greenways and linear parks
 - ? Paths to connect parks / facilities

- Accessibility between trails and parks
 - ? Trails / linear connections

- **Multi-Generational Activities (3 votes)**

- Need places for
- Example – Jamestown Settlement

- **Wildlife (3 votes)**

- Protect
- Maintain habitat
- Keep trees

- **Adult Community Services (2 votes)**

- More needed in existing spaces
- Adult organizations can provide programming if Parks & Recreation provides space

- **Biking (2 votes)**

- Bicycling should be address in the plan
- BMX bicyclers

- **Specific Park Comments (2 votes)**

- Older Dale District needs more fields to be closer to home
 - ? In fill opportunities for park / athletic complex development
- Better access / entrance to Pocahontas State Park (from north end of Park)

- **Determining Needs (1 vote)**

- **Physically Challenged Facilities (1 vote)**

- Special Needs children's playground

Summary of Other Issue Areas

- **Access**

- Focus new facilities on bus routes for public access

- **Economic Development**

- Parks & Recreation facilities are an economic development area

- **Maintenance of Facilities**

- Improve quality of maintenance

- **Other Active Recreation**

- Places for Go-Carts
- Lighting on soccer fields
 - ? Especially for adults
 - ? Also youth use in fall
 - ? Allow use of high school fields

- **Passive Recreation**

- Places for self-directed leisure

- **Public Relations**

- Market what we have
 - ? Public relations campaign

- **Safety and Security**

- Vehicles get on fields
- Possible independent security at Park sites
- Possible temporary, off-season fencing of athletic fields

- **Youth Centers**

- Activities for youth other than teams

- **Suggested Program Improvements / Miscellaneous Comments**

- More Community Centers
 - ? At least one in every major population area of County
- Distribute programs throughout County so less travel time
- Add more facilities
 - ? Adult groups sometimes can't teach / run programs due to rental cost (higher cost factor at the start)
 - ? Some people can't afford fees
- Increased Hispanic population
 - ? Provide services geared to them
 - ? More young children in this demographic group
- Focus on providing services to lower income groups - fee waivers, equal access
- Raise quality of programs and facilities

DALE / MATOACA DISTRICTS

Summary of Comments
Public Meeting - May 24, 2001

Total Attendance: 37

Major Issue Areas

(Listed in order of importance as voted on at the Dale / Matoaca Districts Meeting)

Funding (11 votes)

- No taxes
- No bonds
- Special interest groups should help pay for facilities
- User fees for non-residents only
- Expand public / private partnerships
- Keep costs at a lower level
 - ? Seek better return on investment

Skateboarding (8 votes)

- Skate Park (like Laurel) (2)
 - ? Consider liability
- Supervised
- Add Skate Parks
- Skate Park (but not like Laurel) (6)
 - ? Less controlled

Swimming Facilities (6 votes)

- Multi-purpose

- Learn to swim
- Hydrotherapy
- Cultural events
- Serve all ages
- Indoor / outdoor / year round

Equine Programs (5 votes)

- For 4H organization
- General Public Access
- Equestrian trail connections
- Need more dedicated horse trails
 - ? With parking and unloading facilities

Specific Park Comments (5 votes)

- Winterpock (southwest area of County)
 - ? Growing facilities in this area
- Rowing facility at Robious Landing
 - ? Facilities are heavily used
- Dale District may not have enough youth facilities
- Improve the Boulders Concert Area

· **Determining Needs (4 votes)**

- Review number of parks relative to need / consider distribution
- Stick with original scope when new parks are acquired and developed
- Value to customer; add more programs
- Relate timing of facility development to need
- Accelerate projects to meet need
- Projected use
- Cost / benefit

· **Large Event Facilities (3 votes)**

- Graduations, concerts, festivals
 - ? Indoor or outdoor facility within County

· **Other Active Recreation (3 votes)**

- Need more lighted fields on large baseball fields
- Skeet range / firing range needed

· **Physically Challenged Facilities (2 votes)**

- Equine program
- Add more to existing parks
- Space access inclusion

· **School Facilities Use (2 votes)**

- Use high school facilities in summer for the public

· **Adult Community Services (1 vote)**

- Park for food festivals where alcohol could be served with permits and controls
- Need centrally located festival activity
- Facility for plays, concerts, food festivals
 - ? Amphitheatre
 - ? Separate children play activities from concert areas

· **Maintenance of Facilities (1 vote)**

- Upkeep of existing facilities

· **Passive Recreation (1 vote)**

- Social interaction
- Botanical garden

· **River Access – James and Appomattox (1 vote)**

- Boat ramp on Appomattox for motor boats

· **Senior Activities (1 vote)**

- Add more to existing parks

- **Youth Centers (1 vote)**

- Too much travel to too many places (too much driving)?
 - ? One or two centrally located parks for youth sports

Summary of Other Issue Areas

- **Greenways and Conservation (Trails)**

- Improve trails
- Need more walking facilities

- **Safety and Security**

- Safety

- **Suggested Program Improvements / Miscellaneous Comments**

- Wider variety of programs
- Don't pay to do something more than once
- Limit use of lights on athletic fields to only when in use (timer issue)

MATOACA DISTRICT
Summary of Comments
Public Meeting – June 4, 2001

Total Attendance: _____

Major Issue Areas

(Listed in order of importance as voted on at the Matoaca District Meeting)

· ***Funding (10 votes)***

- Cash proffers (for funding)
- Public / private partnerships
- Regional tri-city facility
- User fees are ok
- Bonds are ok
- Public / public partnerships
- No more taxes
- Increase in cash proffers from developers
- ? More for Parks & Recreation

· ***Organized Athletics (10 votes)***

- Sports facilities as population grows in Matoaca
- ? Youth and adult
- Growth in sports participation - youth

· ***Swimming Facilities (7 votes)***

- Learn to swim program

· ***Gym Facilities (6 votes)***

- Would like to have a gym
- Cardiovascular and strength training

· ***Historical Significance (4 votes)***

- Purchase historical sites in this area - identify

· ***Safety and Security (4 votes)***

- Increase security
- Need more supervision of activities

· ***Senior Activities (4 votes)***

- Want a swimming pool for the elderly
- Senior citizens are underserved

· ***Specific Park Comments (4 votes)***

- Bigger park at Ettrick
- Improve Ettrick generally
- ? Sports facilities
- ? Walking trails
- ? More family activities
- ? Exercise trails
- ? More picnic tables

- ? Additional picnic pavilion
- ? Public pool
- Improve entrance and circulation at Ettrick Park and parking
- ? Underway planning
- Improve drainage Ettrick Park
- Ettrick trail linkages
- Drainage issue from Park to Union Grove Baptist
- Riverwalk along canal walks and cotton mills
- ? Ettrick Mills (textiles)
- River Park trail
- ? Keep natural
- **Biking (2 votes)**
 - Bike trails
- **Passive Recreation (2 votes)**
 - Arts and crafts weekend events in parks
- **River Access – James and Appomattox (2 votes)**
 - Fishing access
 - Paddler’s access

Summary of Other Issue Areas

- **Greenways and Conservation (Trails)**
 - Connect neighborhoods with off-road walking paths – better connections also to schools and recreation facilities
- **Multi-Generational Activities**
 - Family based community
 - ? Multi-use parks work
 - Larger version of diverse park
- **Skateboarding**
 - Skateboarders underserved
 - In-line skaters underserved
- **Other Active Recreation**
 - Soccer underserved in this area
- **Wildlife**
 - Needs improvement
- **Suggested Program Improvements / Miscellaneous Comments**
 - More signs to facilities
 - ? Example – boat ramp, Eppington

ATTACHMENT A
MAY 7, 2001, MIDLOTHIAN DISTRICT MEETING
NOTES

MIDLOTHIAN DISTRICT MEETING

Monday, May 7, 2001
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Honorable Edward B. Barber
Division Instructional Center

Public Input Session – Comprehensive Master Plan

Citizen Attendance: 10

Groups Represented – Poseidon Swimming
Virginia Boat Club
Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront

Consultants: 3

Landmark Design Group; Pros

Staff: Parks and Recreation 5

Mike Golden	Director
Phil Innis	Assistant Director, Recreation
Mark Askin	Chief of Parks Operations
Stuart Connock	Chief of Design and Construction
Lynell McClinton	Chief of Administration

Other County Representation 2

Brad Hammer	Deputy County Administrator
Ron Maxey	PRAC Member; Midlothian

Total Attendance 20

Summary

1. Mr. Barber held open discussion with citizens on matters of interest.
2. Mr. Golden introduced staff and consultants and explained the purpose of meeting and background on previous master plan and trends in recreation and parks development.
3. Mr. Connock presented overview of Parks and Recreation System in the county, since its inception in 1974. He also explained public input schedule and planning process to be used.
4. Consultants facilitated discussion with group obtaining responses to nine (9) predetermined questions and received general input from the public. A synopsis of the responses follows:

1) **What are the key issues that must be addressed in this masterplan?**

- a) Need more softball fields for adults in Midlothian.
- b) Rockwood Park needs better maintenance on the trail system, basketball court fence and tennis court fencing. Overall it is a well-used facility.
- c) Need to predict sports of the future, so that we are ahead of the curve:
 - i) Take advantage of the river.
 - ii) Other water sports
 - (1) Competitive Diving
 - (2) Water polo
 - iii) Rowing Club
 - (1) Canoeing
 - (2) Kayaking
 - (3) Sculling
 - iv) Skateboarding – Problem with skateboard damage to buildings; need appropriate location in Midlothian Village.
 - v) In – Line Skating.
 - vi) Plan for lacrosse and field hockey growth – need structure, can use existing soccer fields.

2) **What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks and Recreation system?**

- a) Diversity of activities.
 - i) Distribution of facilities.
 - ii) Good picnic facilities. Rating on 1-10 scale (9)
- b) Emphasis on Senior Activities – Senior centers.
 - i) Including social as well as active items.
 - ii) Birding / nature area education.

3) **How would you like to see Parks and Recreation facilities improved?**

- a) Swimming facilities ****
 - i) No large competitive, year round facility in Richmond Metro area.
 - ii) Potential community college partnership for funding.
 - iii) Foundation for fundraising.

- iv) Only hot water pool in the area is closing down. (Hydrotherapy)
- v) Maximum benefit for expenditure of public dollars (combined activities)
- b) Bowling ***
- c) Youth Centers ***
- d) Need more facilities for the physically challenged. *
- e) Senior Activities *
 - i) More passive
 - ii) Social Interaction
 - iii) Senior Centers – Partnership with Richmond.
- f) Biking
 - i) Leisurely connections between neighborhoods and parks.
 - ii) Trails for mountain biking.
 - iii) Good trend to add bike paths along the roads.
- g) Birding
- h) Greenways and Conservation Activities
- i) Children's Nature Education

4) What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks and Recreation programs?

- a) Adventure Series; Guest lectures, (Dupont Company provides sponsorship)
- b) Good variety
- c) Good group size
- d) Well organized
- e) Diversity of Activities / Facilities
- f) Good picnic facilities
- g) Good rating overall

5) What additional programs and program improvements would you like to see offered?

- a) Improvements to:
 - i) Skid pad driving demonstration area / controlled opportunity for young drivers.

- ii) Better public awareness / communication / marketing.
- b) Running Clubs / Trails
- c) Walking Partnership – like Smoketree Subdivision
- d) Linear Parks
 - i) Possible use of power line easements / property for trails.
 - ii) Wetlands and undeveloped areas of subdivisions used for connector trails.
 - iii) Security program put in place for trails and parks.
 - iv) Attraction like Maymont Park Zoo in the county.
 - v) Respond to the needs / demands of citizens. Put in place a responsive process to meet changing needs. Clarify and communicate this process.
 - vi) Better access to trails in Pocahontas from the west and north (long vehicle travel distance to access main entrance).
 - vii) Partnership with State.

6) Are there areas in the County or segments of the population who are underserved by Parks and Recreation facilities and programs?

- a) Who and what are they?
 - i) Physically challenged
 - ii) Senior citizens – Senior center needed in the north to accommodate aging population there.**
 - iii) Hispanic citizens
 - (1) Interpretive dance program.
 - iv) Ageing Baby-Boomers.

7) Which types of Parks and Recreation facilities and programs do you want to see for yourselves, your children, your grandchildren and your parents?

- a) Golf driving / practice range for this part of the county.
- b) Continuous information exchange.
 - i) Web site expansion.
- c) Senior athletic leagues.

8) Are you willing to pay for programs, services, and enhanced maintenance through:

- a) Taxes
 - i) Taxes are acceptable.
- b) User Fees
 - i) Good concept.
- c) Bonds
 - i) Bonding acceptable (broad)
- d) Scholarships, work funding, pay-for-play, golden age passports for assistance.
- e) Some uses should be partially subsidized.
- f) Grants
- g) Athletics people are already paying fees for programs.
- h) Resident discount rates / may cause problems with city vs. county.
- i) Volunteers / Youth investment in facilities.
- j) Tax deductible foundations.

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ATTACHMENT B
MAY 14, 2001, CLOVER HILL / MATOACA
DISTRICTS
MEETING NOTES

CLOVER HILL/MATOACA DISTRICTS MEETING

Monday, May 14, 2001

The Honorable Renny B. Humphrey- Matoaca

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Honorable Art Warren – Clover Hill

Clover Hill Elementary School

Public Input Session – Comprehensive Master Plan

Citizen Attendance: 22

Groups Represented – Poseidon Swimming
Observer Newspaper

Consultants: 3

Landmark Design Group; Pros

Staff: Parks and Recreation 5

Mike Golden	Director
Phil Innis	Assistant Director, Recreation
Greg Sager	Community Recreation Manager
Stuart Connock, Jr.	Chief of Parks Design and Construction
Bill Carlson	Athletic Manager

Other County Representation 5

Brad Hammer	Deputy County Administrator
<u>PRAC Master Plan Committee</u>	
Dorcas Yeager – Conservation/Greenways	
Richard Young – Outdoor Recreation	
Bryan Walker	PRAC Member; Bermuda
Richard Worcester	PRAC Member, Clover Hill

Total Attendance 35

Summary

1. Mr. Golden introduced staff and consultants and explained the purpose of meeting and background on previous master plan and trends in recreation and parks development. He also explained public input schedule and planning process to be used.
2. Mr. Connock presented overview of Parks and Recreation System in the County, since its inception in 1974.
3. Consultants facilitated discussion with group obtaining responses to nine (9) predetermined questions and received general input from the public. A synopsis of the responses follows:

1) What are the key issues that must be addressed in this masterplan?

- a) Funding
- b) Land Acquisition
- c) Maintenance
- d) Access (Safety)
 - i) Adequate Transportation Routes
- e) Personnel Resources
- f) Diversity
 - i) Types of Parks
- g) Sanitation
- h) Understanding Trends
 - i) Staying Power
- i) Environmental Integrity
- j) Liability
- k) Building Community
 - i) Legal Issues
 - ii) Easements
 - iii) Enabling / prohibiting legislation
- l) Vehicle for Economic Development
 - i) Needs Assessment
- m) Public Relations
 - i) Communicate What's There
 - ii) Marketing
- n) Shared Use
 - i) Leverage Resources
- o) Facilitate and Encourage Public / Private Partnerships
- p) Regional Cooperation
 - i) Blueways an example
- q) Corporate Partnerships
- r) Athletics
- s) Historical Significance
 - i) Plantations
 - ii) Homeplaces

- t) Aids Economic Development
 - i) Example Meadow Farm
- u) Potential Reuse of Schools for Other Community Use
 - i) Adaptation / Reuse
- v) Parks Reflecting Cultural Heritage
 - i) Native American
 - ii) Colonial
 - (1) Example Seattle
- w) Embrace a Cultural Perspective
- x) Embrace Current Multi-Cultural Population
 - i) Asian
 - ii) Hispanic
- y) Require Developers to Devote Land to Parks & Public
- z) Multiple Strategies for Appropriate Acquisition / Development

2) What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks and Recreation System?

- a) Diversity
- b) Nature Center
- c) Walking Trails
- d) Pocahontas State Park
- e) Distribution of Parks
- f) Athletic Complexes
- g) Playgrounds
- h) Tree Retention
- i) Good Park Design
- j) Maintenance and Landscaping of Schools
- k) Community Centers

3) How would you like to see the Parks and Recreation facilities improved?

- a) Eppington
 - i) Opportunity for Community Program Park
- b) Large Event Facility
 - i) Indoor Athletics
 - ii) Graduations
 - iii) Conventions
- c) Connections
 - i) Greenways
 - ii) Blueways
 - iii) Improved Access
 - iv) Walking Trails
- d) Competitive Swim Facility
 - i) Cooperative Effort With John Tyler Community Center
 - ii) Year Round
 - iii) Including Warm Water Hydro-Therapy
 - iv) Integrate With Cultural Events
 - v) Serve Changing Population
 - vi) Virginia State University Facility
- e) County Fairground Utilization
- f) Community Center Cooking Facility
- g) More For The Elderly
 - i) Meeting Places
 - ii) Collaborate With Other Agencies
 - (1) Example Ballroom Dancing
- h) Community Centers Throughout The County - Not Just In CDBG Areas.
- i) Update And Improve Schools
 - i) Manchester High School Tennis As Example
- j) More Public Access To School Facilities

4) What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks and Recreation programs?

- a) Good Senior Programs Need To Be Replicated Throughout County
- b) Good Policy For Special Populations
 - i) Need More Funds To Be Able To Consistently Provide Assistance
- c) Year - Round Activities Are Wonderful
- d) Fourth Of July Fireworks
- e) Adventure Camps

5) What additional programs would you like to see offered?

- a) More Diverse Program Approach
 - i) Focus On Community
- b) Expanded Public Relations / Marketing / Communication
- c) Encourage Volunteerism
- d) Need More Greenways / Trails
- e) Programs That Emphasize Water Activities
- f) Teach Swimming
 - i) County Wide
 - ii) Opportunity To Collaborate With Community Swim Clubs
- g) Good Idea To Combine Parks And Schools – Need Better Access
 - i) Lower Cost Needed
 - ii) Use For Adult Education
 - iii) Cooking Classes At Schools
 - iv) Would Involve Community In Schools
 - v) Consider Funding Options
- h) Kids Programs Great But Need Throughout County

6) **Are there areas in the County or segments of population who are under served by Parks and Recreation facilities and programs?**

- a) Skateboarders
 - i) Consider Liability
- b) BMX Facilities
- c) Teen Population
 - i) Gathering Areas
 - (1) Include Organized Activities
 - (2) Access Critical (Transportation)
- d) Community Center Facility At The Malls throughout the county
- e) Seniors
- f) Golf For Modest Income
- g) Motorboat Water Access

7) **Which types of Parks and Recreation facilities and programs do you want to see for yourselves, your children, your grandchildren and your parents?**

- a) Like Historical Site Improvements (Ironworks And Mine)
 - i) Look At Cotton Mill Area of Matoaca
 - ii) Look at Adding Canal along Appomattox River
 - iii) VSU Owns Some of Cotton Mills
 - iv) Some Privately Owned.
- b) Develop Versatility / Adaptability Of Facilities To Allow Change.
- c) Link Past And Future
- d) More And Improved Tennis Facilities
 - i) Lit For Nighttime Use
- e) Greenways
 - i) Swift Creek Access To State Park
 - ii) Access From Throughout County
- f) Take Advantage Of Pocahontas State Park
- g) Abandoned Rail lines To Trail System
- h) Multi Cultural
- i) All Age Family Orientation

8) Are you willing to pay for programs, services, and enhanced maintenance through:

- a) Yes To All
 - i) Taxes, User Fees, & Bonds
- b) Proffers
 - i) Cash Or Land
- c) Partnerships
 - i) Public - Public
 - ii) Public - Private, Etc
 - iii) Business
 - iv) Civic Groups
 - v) Non - Profits / YMCA
- d) Grants
- e) Volunteer Groups
- f) User Fees In Some Cases
 - i) More Appeal Than Increased Taxes
- g) Scholarship Program For Youth Athletics
 - i) County Funded
 - ii) Work For Play
 - iii) Corporate sponsorship
 - iv) Foundation sponsorship.

SC/bp/stuart/comprehensivemasterplan/cloverhillmatoacaworkshopnotes

ATTACHMENT C
MAY 21, 2001, BERMUDA DISTRICT MEETING NOTES

BERMUDA DISTRICT MEETING

Monday, May 21, 2001

The Honorable Jack McHale

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Curtis Elementary School

Public Input Session – Comprehensive Master Plan

Citizen Attendance: 23

Groups Represented – Poseidon Swimming
Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront

Consultants: 3

Landmark Design Group; Pros

Staff: Parks and Recreation 5

Mike Golden	Director
Phil Innis	Assistant Director, Recreation
Greg Sager	Community Recreation Manager
Bruce Dove	Assistant Director
Stuart Connock, Jr.	Chief of Parks Design and Construction

Other County Representation 5

Brad Hammer	Deputy County Administrator
Phil Cunningham	Planning Commission-Bermuda District
<u>PRAC Master Plan Committee</u>	
Dorcas Yeager	Conservation/Greenways
Bryan Walker	PRAC Member; Bermuda
Terry Minor	PRAC Member, Clover Hill

Total Attendance 36

Summary

1. Mr. Golden introduced staff and consultants and explained the purpose of meeting and background on previous master plan and trends in recreation and parks development. He also explained public input schedule and planning process to be used.
2. Mr. Connock presented overview of Parks and Recreation System in the County, since its inception in 1974.
3. Consultants facilitated discussion with group obtaining responses to nine (9) predetermined questions and received general input from the public. A synopsis of the responses follows:

1. What are the key issues concerning Parks & Recreation?

- a. Determining needs *
- b. Raise quality of programs and facilities
- c. Improve quality of maintenance
- d. More adult community services needed in existing facilities **
 - i. Adult organizations can provide programming if parks & recreation provides space
- e. Protect wildlife ***
 - i. Maintain habitat
 - ii. Keep trees
- f. Keep greenspace *
- g. Focus on providing services to lower income groups
 - i. Fee waivers
 - ii. Equal access
- h. Lack of recreation opportunities for middle school age *****
 - i. After school programs needed with transportation
 - ii. Possible school based after-school activities
 - 1. Clean up activities
- i. Same needed for high school and elementary
- j. Accessibility between schools and parks
 - i. Trails / linear connections
- k. Parks & recreation sponsored summer programs in schools and parks
 - i. Two tier system
 - 1. Neighborhood / local
 - 2. Region / larger area
- l. Activities for youth other than teams.
- m. Focus new facilities on bus routes for public access
- n. Swimming *****
 - i. Year – round team and individual facilities
 - ii. Learn to swim facilities and programs
 - iii. For older people (good long term activity)
 - iv. Hot water pool (for hydro-therapy)
 - v. Partnership potential with John Tyler community college.
 - vi. Economic draw (meets bring money to the area)

2. What do you like about the Parks & Recreation Facilities?

- a. State of the Art facilities and equipment (trails, benches)
- b. Facilities planned/ constructed to be easy for public to use.
- c. Good parking
- d. Clean restrooms
- e. Good trash removal
- f. High standard of care
- g. Development of historical sites
 - i. Continue this development
- h. Linear park / greenways
- i. Bensley Community Center – great use by seniors ****
- j. Rivers (James & Appomattox) **
 - i. Create more linkages

3. What would you improve about the Parks & Recreation Facilities?

- a. Need places for multi-generational activities ***
 - i. Example – Jamestown settlement
- b. Market what we have
 - i. Public relations campaign
- c. Security
 - i. Vehicles get on fields
 - ii. Possible independent security at Park sites
 - iii. Possible temporary, off season fencing of athletic fields
- d. Places for go-carts and skateboarding
- e. Lighting on soccer fields
 - i. Especially for adults
 - ii. Also fall use youth
 - iii. Allow use of high school fields
- f. More community centers
 - i. At least one in every major population area of County
- g. Water front access ****
 - i. More canoe launches / kayaks / rowing

4. What do you like about the Parks & Recreation Programs?

- a. Wonderful programs
 - i. Low cost
 - ii. Convenient
 - iii. Good variety
- b. Programs are established and run by citizens that want them.(i.e. sports leagues)
- c. “Hang Time” program is excellent. (housed Bensley Community Center)
 - i. Variety of sports
 - ii. Crafts
 - iii. Speakers
 - iv. Trips
 - v. Three days a week at the community center
- d. Harrowgate “Fun Club” after school.

5. How would you improve Parks & Recreation Programs?

- a. Add more –
 - i. Adult groups sometimes can’t teach / run programs due to rental cost of facility (higher cost factor at the start)
 - ii. Some people can’t afford fees
- b. Summer programs *****
 - i. Lower cost activities
 - ii. Possible in neighborhood playgrounds locations
- c. More evening programs for adults / seniors (more continuing to work)
- d. Distribute programs throughout County so less travel time
- e. Better access / entrance to Pocahontas State Park. (from north end of Park)

6. Who do you think is currently being underserved by Parks & Recreation Programs?

- a. Skateboarders ***8,000 – 9,000 in the County
 - i. Distribute sites throughout County (3-5 locations)
 - ii. Long term plan for facility development
 - iii. Local and regional competitions (revenue to County)
 - iv. Conflicts now with joggers
 - v. Consider supervision at each facility
- b. In-line skaters
- c. BMX bicyclers
- d. Places for self-directed leisure
- e. More / Continued financial support for the economically disadvantaged youth
- f. Older Dale District needs more fields to be closer to home **
 - i. In fill opportunities for Park/athletic complex development
- g. Increased Hispanic population
 - i. Provide services geared to them
 - ii. More young children in this demographic group
- h. Parks & Recreation facilities are an economic development issue
- i. Special Needs Children's playground *

7. Other

- a. Bicycling should be addressed in plan **
- b. Skate park reduces maintenance costs for businesses and other public spaces *
- c. Biggest problem with Skate Park is liability insurance; corporate funding can help with this.
- d. Combine with bikes, etc. – a family facility to help with supervision.

8. What are your long – term needs / desires?

- a. Greenways and linear parks **
 - i. Paths to connect parks / facilities

9. How should these programs be funded?

- a. User fees should be minimized – can exclude some people. **
- b. Would like to see those who use facilities help to support
 - i. Such as a skate park
- c. “Passport” program could subsidize those who need assistance and allow user fees.
 - i. Base on income
- d. No new taxes
- e. Bonds good for capital expenses **
 - i. Bond referendum
 - ii. Taxes for operating / user fees
 - iii. Renovations should be capital expenses / bonds.

SC/bp/stuart/comprehensivemasterplan/Bermudaworkshopnotes

ATTACHMENT D
MAY 24, 2001, DALE / MATO7CA DISTRICTS
MEETING NOTES

DALE/MATOACA DISTRICTS MEETING

Thursday, May 24, 2001

The Honorable Renny B. Humphrey- Matoaca

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Honorable Kelly Miller – Dale

Central Library: Rooms A & B

Public Input Session – Comprehensive Master Plan

Citizen Attendance: 20

Groups Represented – Poseidon Swimming
Equestrian Groups

Consultants: 3

Landmark Design Group; Pros

Staff: Parks and Recreation 6

Mike Golden	Director
Phil Innis	Assistant Director, Recreation
Greg Sager	Community Recreation Manager
Bill Carlson	Athletic Manager
Bruce Dove	Assistant Director
Stuart Connock, Jr.	Chief of Parks Design and Construction
Mark Askin	Chief of Parks Operations

Other County Representation 8

Brad Hammer	Deputy County Administrator
Sherman Litton	Planning Commission Dale District

PRAC Master Plan Committee

Dorcas Yeager	– Conservation/Greenways
Richard Young	– Outdoor Recreation
Bryan Walker	PRAC Member; Bermuda
Bob Terrell	PRAC Member, Dale
Marsha Litton	PRAC Member; School Board
Dennis Harding	PRAC Member; Dale District

Total Attendance 37

Summary

1. Mr. Golden introduced staff and consultants and explained the purpose of meeting and background on previous master plan and trends in recreation and parks development. He also explained public input schedule and planning process to be used.
2. Mr. Connock presented overview of Parks and Recreation System in the County, since its inception in 1974.
3. Consultants facilitated discussion with group obtaining responses to nine (9) predetermined questions and received general input from the public. A synopsis of the responses follows:

1. What are the key issues concerning that must be addressed in this Master Plan?

- a. Cost of facilities and programs
- b. Skateparks
- c. Projected Use
- d. Value To Consumer *
- e. Cost / Benefit
- f. Safety
- g. Add More Programs To Existing Parks *
 - i. Elderly
 - ii. Disabled Population *
 - iii. Wider Variety Of Programs
 - iv. Social Interaction *
- h. Upkeep Of Existing Facilities *
- i. Relate Timing Of Facility Development To Need
- j. Accelerate Projects To Meet Need.
- k. Review number of parks relative to need / consider distribution. *
- l. Too much travel to too many places (too much driving?)
 - i. One or two centrally located parks for youth sports. *
- m. Stick with original project scope when new parks are acquired and developed. *
- n. Facility for plays, concerts, food festivals
 - i. Amphitheatre
- o. Separate children play activities from concert areas.
 - i. Play parks for children
 - ii. Separate festival area

2. What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks & Recreation System?

- a. Some nice parks
 - i. Rockwood is good.
- b. Henricus – can ride horses
- c. Lighting on fields
- d. Fitness trails
 - ii. Improve existing *
- e. Good variety of facilities

3. How would you like to see Parks & Recreation Facilities improved?

- a. Need More Lighted Fields and large baseball fields *
- b. Improve Trails
- c. Need More Walking Facilities
- d. Control Pets in Park facilities
- e. Need Dedicated Horse Trails
 - i. With Parking And Unloading Facilities
- f. Skeet Range / Firing Range Needed **
- g. Improve The Boulders concert area
- h. Need Centrally Located Festival Facility
- i. Add Skateparks

4. What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks & Recreation Programs?

- a. Amphitheatre At Pocahontas
 - i. Do Not Like That There Is No Alcohol Allowed In Parks

5. What additional programs and program improvements would you like to see offered?

- a. Park For Food Festivals Where Alcohol Could Be Served With Permits And Controls *
- b. Skateboard Parks
 - i. Supervised
- c. Swim Facility *****
 - i. Multi-Purpose
 - ii. Learn To Swim
 - iii. Hydrotherapy

- iv. Cultural Events
- v. Serve All Ages
- vi. Indoor / Outdoor / Year Round
- d. Community Space Access For Disabled At Low / No Cost
 - i. Inclusion
- e. Equine Programs *****
 - ii. For 4H organization
 - iii. Disabled *
 - iv. General Public Access

6. Are there areas in the County or segments of the population who are underserved by Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programs?

- a. Winterpock (southwest area of County)**
 - i. Growing No Facilities in this area
- b. Boat Ramps On Appomattox For Motor Boats *
- c. Dale District May Not Have Enough Youth Facilities
- d. Skateboarders

7. What types of Parks & Recreations facilities and programs do you want to see for yourselves, your children, your grandchildren and your parents?

- a. Skate Park (Like Laurel) **
 - i. Consider Liability
- b. Use High School Facilities In Summer For The Public **
- c. Rowing Facility At Robious Landing ***
 - ii. Facilities Are Heavily Used.
- d. Graduations, Concerts, Festivals ***
 - iii. Indoor Or Outdoor facility within County
- e. Equestrian Trail Connections

8. Are you willing to pay for programs, services and enhanced maintenance through Taxes, User fees, or Bonds?

- a. No Taxes ****
- b. No User Fees
- c. No Bonds *
- d. Expand Public / Private Partnerships
- e. Keep Costs At A Lower Level:
 - i. Seek Better Return On Investment
- f. Special Interest Groups Should Help Pay For Facilities****
- g. User Fees For Non – Residents Only **

9. What other information or ideas should we hear from you?

- a. Don't Pay To Do Something More Than Once
 - i. Better Planning
- b. Limit use of lights on athletic fields to only when in use (timer issue)
- c. Botanical Garden
- d. Skateboard Park, but not Like Laurel *****
 - i. Less Controlled

SC/bp/stuart/comprehensivemasterplan/dalematoacaworkshopnotes

ATTACHMENT E
JUNE 4, 2001, MATOACA DISTRICT MEETING NOTES

1. What do you like about Chesterfield's Parks & Recreation System?

- a. Ettrick Community Center
- b. Would Like To Have A Gym *****
- c. Want Swimming Pool For The Elderly *
- b. Cardiovascular And Strength Training *

2. How would you like to see Parks & Recreation Facilities improved?

- a. Drainage Issue From Park to Union Grove Baptist
- b. Improved Drainage Ettrick Park
- c. Arts And Crafts Weekend Events In Parks **
- d. Wildlife / Other Special Events
- e. Connect Neighborhoods With Off-Road Walking Paths – Better Connections Also To Schools And Recreations Facilities
- f. More Signs To Facilities
 - i. Example – Boat Ramp, Eppington
- g. Riverwalk Along Canal Walks & Cotton Mills
 - i. Ettrick Mills (Textiles)
- h. Sports Facilities As Population Grows In Matoaca *****
 - i. Youth And Adults
- i. Growth In Sports Participation – Youth
- j. Increase In Cash Proffers From Developers
 - i. More For Parks And Recreation
- k. This Area Needs The Majority Of New Services
- l. Bike Trails **
- m. River Park Trail
 - i. Keep Natural

3. Are there areas in the County or segments of the population who are underserved by Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programs?

- a. This Area
- b. Senior Citizens ***
- c. Skateboarders
- d. In Line Skaters
- e. Soccer Underserved In This Area
- f. Learn To Swim Program *****

4. What types of Parks & Receptions facilities and programs do you want to see for yourselves, your children, your grandchildren and your parents?

- a. Family Based Community
 - i. Multi-Use Parks Work
- b. Larger Version Of Diverse Park
- c. Bigger Park At Ettrick ****

5. What other information or ideas should we hear from you?

- a. Increase Security **
- b. Need More Supervision Of Activities **
- c. How Funds Will Be Dispersed
- d. Purchase Historical Sites In This Area – Identify *****
- e. Friends Of The Lower Appomattox
- f. Ettrick Trail Linkages
- g. Paddlers Access
- h. Fishing Access **
- i. Improve Entrance And Circulation At Ettrick Park & Parking
 - i. Underway Planning
- j. Improve Ettrick Park Generally
 - i. Sports Facilities
 - ii. Walking Trails

- iii. More Family Activities
- iv. Exercise Trails
- v. More Picnic Tables
- vi. Additional Picnic Pavilion
- vii. Public Pool

6. Are you willing to pay for programs, services and enhanced maintenance through

Taxes, User fees, or Bonds?

- a. No More Taxes
- b. User Fees Are OK
- c. Bonds Are OK
- d. Public / Private Partnerships *
- e. Public / Public Partnerships
- f. Regional Tri-City Facility
- g. Cash Proffers *****

APPENDIX C
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ATHLETIC FACILITY LOCATION ANALYSIS

To determine where athletic facilities are needed, the Department mapped the census tracts with the largest populations under 18 in 2000. This identified four hotspots, which correspond roughly to the following planning communities: Spring Run, Salisbury/Robious, Manchester/Belmont/Henning and Enon/Chester/Harrowgate. These areas were consistent with feedback from staff involved with athletic programming, who identified the Northern area, Route 360 corridor and Enon as areas of specific concern.

Staff also looked at concentrations of ethnic minority populations according to the latest census figures to determine where demand for soccer fields may be highest. Communities identified with the largest concentrations of Hispanics were Bensley/Meadowbrook and Belmont/Manchester. This is consistent with discussions with Hispanic community leaders, who report the Meadowbrook/Boulders area as being a hotspot for their community.

Staff also examined the number of Activity Periods available to youth, adult and public users. There are currently no public rentals available except in Matoaca, and adult activity periods are restricted to two park maintenance districts to ensure availability for youth leagues.

Staff compared the number of Class I, II and III fields that are available in each District as a percentage of the total number of elementary school children enrolled in those districts (elementary school-age children are the leading participants in department-sponsored athletic leagues). This identified deficiencies in the Rockwood and Huguenot maintenance districts.

After determining which sites had potential for upgrades and new field construction, staff met with representatives from athletic leagues to determine specific sites to set as a high priority in the Facilities Plan. The leagues confirmed that the northern end of the County and the Spring Run areas were problem areas. The specific sites chosen for upgrades are as follows:

District 1

Carver Middle
Marguerite Christian

District 2

Gates Elementary
Meadowbrook High

District 3

Davis Athletic Complex
Bailey Bridge/Manchester High
Spring Run Elementary

District 4

Betty Weaver Elementary
Huguenot Park
James River High
Midlothian Middle
Monacan Athletic Complex
Robious Complex

**Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation
Sponsored and Co-Sponsored League Participants by Fiscal Year**

FY 95-96	FY 96-97	FY 97-98	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01
YOUTH SPRING BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL					
9110	9326	8810	8647	8468	8688
YOUTH FOOTBALL					
2408	2473	2639	2613	2901	2645
YOUTH FALL SOCCER					
5392	5050	4610	5148	5286	5332
ADULT FALL SOCCER					
946	874	898	1010	876	941
YOUTH WRESTLING					
165	169	117	138	126	131
ADULT VOLLEYBALL					
165	169	117	138	126	131
INDOOR SOCCER					
2374	2087	1873	1699	1462	1420
ADULT SPRING SOFTBALL					
3717	3266	3719	3828	4073	4039
ADULT AND YOUTH BASKETBALL					
3717	3266	3719	3828	4073	4039

Participation in organized youth baseball and softball in Chesterfield has declined over the past six years, consistent with nationwide sports trends. Participation in adult softball has increased, however. Numbers have remained fairly flat with outdoor soccer, and declined for indoor soccer. Other indoor sports have also declined, due in part to competition for gym space with basketball teams, which have been growing. Participation in football has also increased.

Along with extreme sports and other types of individual sports, there has been an increase in participation in groups that are not affiliated with organized sports leagues. The Amateur Athletic Union of the United States (AAU) is a competitive travel organization for numerous youth sports in Chesterfield County. Each team is totally independent of each other and new teams only need to apply to the main AAU office to officially become an AAU team.

Currently there are around 20 AAU baseball teams in Chesterfield County. They begin practice around March 1st and continue to play into almost November. They try to practice at least two times per week and travel to play tournaments on the weekends. Area AAU teams travel within the state as well as outside of the state of Virginia.

AAU basketball has around 15 to 20 teams located in Chesterfield County. They begin practice in December and tournaments may continue through the summer months. They also practice during the week and travel on weekends to tournaments.

AAU in Chesterfield has grown very little the last few years due to facility availability for practice and games, but statewide AAU participation in baseball has increased by 31.7% in

two years. Although participation in boy's basketball has declined slightly, girl's teams have increased.

AAU would like to be able to have more practice time available to them, but most coaches and players already play or coach in an established co-sponsored league. AAU would also like to have available to them the use of county facilities for tournament play. They feel that they would be able to bring large tournaments into the county that would help not only county revenue but also help with travel funds for local teams. AAU is also currently working with the Sports Backers to help develop a large sports facility in Chesterfield County, this is a long term project that currently is not funded.

APPENDIX D
MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE PLAYABLE DIAMONDS WITH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS CONSISTENT WITH LEVELS OF PLAY.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
CLASS DESCRIPTION	Highest quality for league play.	Suitable game play for middle and upper level leagues	Suitable game play for low level leagues and practice fields
LIGHTING	Provided to permit night play. Minimum 20/30 foot candles. Bi-annual inspections. 90% of fixtures burning.	Some fields provided to permit night play. Minimum 20/30 foot candles. Bi-annual inspections. 90% of fixtures burning.	NONE
PLAYER BENCHES	Provided for both dugouts.	Provided for both teams.	OPTIONAL
CHAINLINK FENCES AND BACKSTOPS	Permanent backstops, dugouts, outfield fencing, foul poles and distance markers. Monthly inspection and repairs. *Refer to Park Fence Specifications.	Permanent backstops and sideline fences. Monthly inspection and repairs. *Refer to Park Fencing Specifications.	Permanent backstops and sideline fences. Monthly inspection and repairs. *Refer to Park Fencing Specifications.
INFIELD MAINTENANCE	Game day field preparation per specifications. Home plate, pitching rubber, bases provided. Annual regrading/reconditioning.	Game day preparation provided 2 to 3 times per week. Home plate, pitching rubber and base pegs provided. Bases provided by league. Annual regrading/reconditioning.	Periodic dragging. Homeplates provided on game fields. Provide marking lime. Bases and pitching rubbers provided by leagues. Annual regrading/reconditioning
LITTER CONTROL	Provide (1) trash receptacle per dugout and (1) receptacle per bleacher. Emptied daily in season.	Provide (1) receptacle per bleacher. Emptied twice a week in season.	Provide (1) trash receptacle per field. Emptied weekly.
TURF AREA MAINTENANCE	Maintain premium turf standard. Reestablish turf, as needed, by seeding, sprigging or sodding. Grass height maintained according to species and variety. Provide mowing at least every (7) days. Fertilize and aerate minimal (2) times per year. Provide weed control.	Maintain improved quality turf standards. Provide mowing every 10-14 days. Provide minimal fertilization, aeration, seeding, weed control and herbicide application.	Maintain adequate turf standards. Provide mowing every 10-14 days. Provide minimal fertilization, aeration, seeding, weed control and herbicide application.
SPECTATOR SEATING	Permanent or temporary seating for a minimum of 100 persons.	Temporary seating for a minimum of 50 persons.	NONE
RESTROOM FACILITIES	Permanent facilities - daily cleaning. Temporary facilities - weekly cleaning.	Facilities with heavy participation (generally 2 or more fields on the site) to be provided with temporary facilities - weekly cleaning.	NONE

FOOTBALL FIELDS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE PLAYABLE FIELDS WITH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS CONSISTENT WITH LEVELS OF PLAY.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
CLASS DESCRIPTION	Highest quality for play by leagues.	Suitable for league play and practice.	Suitable for league play and practice.
FENCING/GOALS	Permanent sidelines. Permanent or temporary goals.	Permanent or temporary goals.	Permanent or temporary goals.
FIELD MAINTENANCE	Field lining before or on game day.	Field lining before or on game day.	Once per season lining for practice fields.
LIGHTING	Where provided, lighted to permit an average light level of 30 foot candles. Bi-annual inspections.	Where provided, lighted to permit an average level of 30 foot candles. Bi-annual inspections.	NONE
LITTER CONTROL	Minimum of (8) can per site. Emptied first working day after each game.	Minimum of (8) cans per site. Emptied first working day after each game.	(1) can provided per practice site. Emptied as needed.
PLAYER BENCHES	Permanent or temporary provided for both teams.	Optional (provided if available).	NONE
RESTROOMS	Permanent facilities - daily cleaning. Temporary facilities - weekly cleaning.	(2) portable toilets provided at game sites only. Weekly cleaning.	(2) portable toilets provided at game sites only. Weekly cleaning.
SPECTATOR SEATING	Permanent or temporary seating for a minimum of 200 persons.	Temporary seating for a minimum of 200 persons.	NONE
TURF AREA MAINTENANCE	Maintain premium turf standard. Reestablish turf, as needed, by seeding, sprigging or sodding. Grass height maintained according to species and variety. Provide mowing at least every (7) days. Fertilize and aerate minimal (2) times per year. Provide weed control so that no more than 10% of weeds are present.	Maintain improved quality turf standards. Provide mowing every 10-14 days. Provide minimal fertilization, aeration, seeding, weed control and herbicide application.	Maintain improved quality turf standards. Provide mowing every 10-14 days. Provide minimal fertilization, aeration seeding, weed control and herbicide application.

SOCCER FIELDS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE PLAYABLE FIELDS WITH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS CONSISTENT WITH LEVELS OF PLAY.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
CLASS DESCRIPTION	Highest quality for league play.	Suitable for league play.	Suitable for practice.
GOALS	Temporary or permanent goals.	Temporary or permanent goals.	Temporary or permanent goals.
FIELD MAINTENANCE	Lining before game day.	Lining before game day.	Lining before game day; once per season lining for practice fields.
LIGHTING	Where provided, lighted to permit night play with a minimum light level of 30 foot candles. Bi-annual inspections.	Where provided, lighted to permit night play with a minimum light level of 30 foot candles. Bi-annual inspections.	NONE
LITTER CONTROL	Minimum of (2) cans per site. Emptied first working day after each game.	Minimum of (2) cans per site. Emptied first working day after each game.	(1) can per field. Emptied on first working day after each game.
RESTROOMS	Permanent facilities - daily cleaning, or (2) portable toilets provided. Serviced weekly.	(2) portable toilets provided at sites with (2) to (5) game fields. Serviced weekly.	(2) portable toilets provided at sites with (2) to (5) game fields. Serviced weekly.
TURF AREA MAINTENANCE	Maintain premium turf standard. Reestablish turf, as needed, by seeding, sprigging or sodding. Grass height maintained according to species and variety. Provide mowing at least every (7) days. Fertilize and aerate minimal (2) times per year. Provide weed control so that no more than 10% of weeds are present.	Maintain improved quality turf standards. Provide mowing every 10-14 days. Provide minimal fertilization, aeration, seeding, weed control and herbicide application.	Maintain improved quality turf standards. Provide mowing every 10-14 days. Provide minimal fertilization, aeration, seeding, weed control and herbicide application.

TENNIS COURTS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE COURTS IN THE CONDITION SUITABLE FOR THE KIND AND INTENSITY OF PLAY DEMANDED BY THE PUBLIC.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
MAINTENANCE ITEM	PARK/ATHLETIC COMPLEX High quality courts for use by better players, utilized for tournaments, normally services entire geographic location.	IMPROVED SCHOOLS High quality courts for use by better players, utilized for tournaments, normally serves entire geographic location.	OTHER SCHOOLS Low quality courts, primary use for school programs.
NUMBER OF COURTS	Two or more provided in a grouping.	Two or more provided in a grouping.	Two or more provided in a grouping.
NETS/STRAPS/ANCHORS/OTHER ITEMS	Replaced as needed; replace center straps and anchors as needed.	Replaced as needed; replace center straps and anchors as needed.	All items provided by Schools, replaced by Parks staff as needed.
SURFACE	Color coated asphalt, cracks filled as needed, resurfaced every six years, courts swept or vacuumed once per week in the fall, once per month during the remainder of the playing season.	Color coated asphalt, cracks filled as needed. Courts swept or vacuumed one time per month.	Major repairs (non-color coated blacktop surface and/or striping to be performed by School Board Maintenance.
SIGNAGE	Provided for court rules.	Provided for court rules.	Not provided.
LIGHTING	Provided, light level minimums average 30 foot candles. Available March 15 - December 1. Check lamps twice per year. (Year long at selected sites)	Provided on some courts, light level minimums average 30 foot candles. Available March 15 - December 1. Check lamps twice per year.	Not provided.
PRACTICE BOARD	Optional (depending on need and fence construction).	Optional (depending on need and fence construction).	Optional (depending on need and fence construction).
FENCE MAINTENANCE	Inspect and repair as needed, trim every 7 to 10 days or spray herbicide 2 times per year.	Inspect and repair as needed, trim every 10-14 days or spray herbicide 2 times per year.	Spray herbicide one time per year, repair fence as needed.
LITTER CONTROL	Daily in season (Apr.-Oct.), weekly out of season (Nov.-March).	Monthly	Handled by School Board Maintenance (Janitor).

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BASKETBALL COURTS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE ALL WEATHER AREAS FOR BASKETBALL OR A VARIETY OF SMALL COURT GAMES.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
MAINTENANCE ITEM	PARK/ATHLETIC COMPLEX High quality courts for use by better players, utilized for tournaments, normally services entire geographic location.	IMPROVED SCHOOLS High quality courts for use by better players, utilized for tournaments, normally serves entire geographic location.	OTHER SCHOOLS Low quality courts, utilized for school or local play.
BASKETBALL	Steel post and backboard, post located off playing area.	Steel post and backboard, post located off play area.	Steel post and backboard.
SURFACE	Color coated asphalt, cracks filled as needed, resurfaced every six years, courts swept or vacuumed once per week in the fall, once per month during the remainder of the playing season.	Color coated asphalt, cracks filled as needed. Courts swept or vacuumed two times per year.	Courts swept or vacuumed annually.
NETS	Provided as required.	Provided monthly.	Not provided (may be provided by school)
SPECTATOR BENCHES	Provided	Provided	Not provided (may be provided by school)
LITTER CONTROL	Daily in season (Apr.-Oct.), weekly out of season (Nov.-March).	Twice per month in season (Apr.-Oct.), monthly out of season (Nov.-March).	Monthly
LIGHTING	Provided on all courts, light level minimum average 15 foot candles.	Provided on some courts, light level minimum average 8 foot candles.	Not provided
BACKBOARDS & RIMS	Repaint backboards every year or as necessary.	Repaint backboards every 2 years.	Repaint backboards (School Board Maintenance)
FENCE MAINTENANCE	Inspect and repair as needed; trim every 7 to 10 days or spray herbicide 2 times per year.	Spray herbicide one time per year.	Spray herbicide one time per year.

Effective 1/97 (revised 12/98)

PARK TURF AREAS (NON-ATHLETIC FIELD AREAS)

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE TURF AREAS AT A DEGREE OF MAINTENANCE REQUIRED TO SERVE THE LEVEL OF USE.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II
MAINTENANCE ITEM	High traffic, high visibility areas.	Large areas with limited use or adjacent to natural areas.
OVERSEEDING	Annually as needed.	None
FERTILIZE AND LIME	Fertilize one time per year, lime to maintain pH above 5.8	None
LITTER PICKUP	Daily in season (Apr.-Nov.); weekly (Dec.-March).	Monthly
MOWING	One time per week as required.	2-3 times per year
LEAF REMOVAL	One time per year or as necessary to maintain growth	None

PICNIC AREAS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE AREAS FOR PICNICKING AT A DEGREE OF MAINTENANCE REQUIRED TO SERVE LEVEL OF PUBLIC USE.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II
MAINTENANCE ITEM	GROUP RESERVATION Picnic shelters established for frequent use by organizations and other large groups.	SCATTERED Areas usually found throughout park and athletic complexes.
LITTER CONTROL	Daily pick-up in season (March. 15 - Nov. 15), weekly out of season (Nov. 16 - March 14).	Daily pick-up in season (April - Nov.), weekly out of season (Nov March).
TABLES	Inspected and cleaned for each reservations (March 15 - Nov. 15), 8-12 tables per shelter or reserved area.	1-4 tables per area. Inspected monthly for damage.
GRILLS/FIREPLACES	One large or two small per shelter.	One per area.
SURFACE	Remove graffiti immediately; sweep floors weekly or prior to reservations (March 15 - Nov. 15); inspect structure yearly; rake areas monthly as needed.	No shelter provided; rake areas monthly as needed.
TREES	Inspected annually and pruned to remove dead branches and to provide 8' overhead clearance.	Inspected annually and pruned to remove dead branches and provide 8' overhead clearance.

TRAILS AND PATHS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE PATHS AT A DEGREE OF MAINTENANCE REQUIRED TO SERVE THE LEVEL OF USE.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
MAINTENANCE ITEM	Hard surface or boardwalk/bridge.	Stone surface.	Natural surface.
SURFACE	Sweep or blow off leaves, etc., two times per year or as necessary; inspect wooden structures one time per week Apr.-Oct., one time per month Nov.-March.	Blow off leaves, etc., one time per year or as necessary. Replenish material as needed.	Blow off leaves where appropriate, control erosion damage, reroute trail as needed.
LITTER PICKUP	One time per week Apr.-Oct.; one time per month Nov.-March.	One time per week Apr.-Oct.; one time per month Nov.-March.	One time per week Apr.-Oct.; one time per month Nov.-March.
TREES	Inspected monthly and pruned to remove dead branches or potentially hazardous trees; provide 8' overhead clearance.	Inspected monthly and pruned to remove dead branches or potentially hazardous trees; provide 8' overhead clearance.	Inspected annually and pruned to remove dead branches or potentially hazardous trees; provide 8' overhead clearance.
SIGNAGE AND BLAZING	Provide and maintain.	Provide and maintain.	Blazed and repainted yearly.

Effective 1/97 (revised 12/98)

HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPED AREAS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE NECESSARY CARE FOR TREES, SHRUBS AND OTHER PLANT MATERIAL DICTATED BY PARK DESIGN AND FUNCTION OF THE EXISTING VEGETATION OR PLANTINGS.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
MAINTENANCE ITEM	Horticulture Displays/Gardens	Park/School Landscapes	Natural
TRIMMING/PRUNING	As plant growth requires; will include shaping at least twice per year.	As plant growth requires; will include shaping at least twice per year.	Safety trimming only.
WEED CONTROL	Remove weeds by hand or by pre/post emergency application..	Apply pre/post emergency as required.	None, use mulch.
REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT	Removed when plant becomes undesirable; replaced before end of next planting season.	Removed when dead; replaced within 2 years.	Removed only if public hazard; replacement usually by natural succession
FEEDING	Once or more per year; as plant required.	As needed until plants established.	Feeding year after planting only.
SPRAYING	Only when serious damage may occur from disease and for weed control.	Only when serious damage may occur from disease or for weed control..	None
IRRIGATION	In drought condition to maintain life of plant.	Only to ensure new materials establishment.	Only upon initial establishment.
MULCH	Twice per year.	Once per year.	

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ROADS AND LOTS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE ACCESS TO THE COUNTY'S PARK FACILITIES.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
MAINTENANCE ITEM	Asphalt surface	Triple shot	Gravel
LITTER CONTROL	Daily in season; weekly Nov.-Dec.	Daily in season; weekly Nov.-Dec.	Weekly
STRIPING	Provided, repainted every 3 years	Not provided	Not provided
TRAFFIC CONTROL	Traffic bumpers provided in lots, repainted yearly as necessary. Speed bumps provided where necessary, repainted yearly.	Traffic bumpers provided in lots, repainted yearly as necessary. Speed bumps provided where necessary, repainted yearly.	Traffic bumpers provided where necessary repainted yearly as necessary.
LIGHTING	Provided in park sites and athletic facilities for security or as necessary, regardless of class.	Provided in park sites and athletic facilities for security or as necessary, regardless of class.	Provided in park sites and athletic facilities for security or as necessary, regardless of class.
SURFACE TREATMENT OR GRADING	Patch holes yearly; removal of debris and loose gravel.	Patch holes yearly; removal of debris and loose gravel.	Top dressing and grading annually or as needed.
WEED CONTROL	Spray as needed.	Spray as needed.	Sprayed twice yearly.

EQUIPMENT

PURPOSE: TO MAINTAIN ALL DEPARTMENT OWNED EQUIPMENT SO AS TO BE SAFE AND OPERATIONAL AT ALL TIMES.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV
MAINTENANCE ITEM	Vehicles	Riding Equipment	Gas Powered Tools	Electric Powered Tools
CLEANING	Litter removed daily; cab and beds cleaned weekly; wash vehicle monthly.	Clean after each use.	Clean after each use.	Clean after each use.
MAINTENANCE	Provided by the County garage as per the fleet standards.	As per the manufacturers recommendations.	As per the manufacturers recommendations.	As per the manufacturer recommendations.
INSPECTIONS	Daily visual inspections by operator; monthly supervisors inspections.	Daily visual or per use inspections.	Daily visual or per use inspections.	Daily visual or per use inspections.
SAFETY	Equipped with fire extinguisher, first aid kit, jumper cables, (towing and supervisors vehicles) triangles, and safety procedures manual. Basic tool boxes provided, spare tires and jacks.	Proper warning labels provided and proper safety devices provided and maintained.	Proper warning labels provided and proper safety devices provided and maintained.	Proper warning labels provided and proper safety devices provided and maintained.
SECURITY	Lock all vehicles overnight and remove keys daily.	Lock all vehicles overnight and remove keys daily.	Lock all vehicles overnight and remove keys daily.	Lock all vehicles overnight and remove keys daily.

BUILDINGS

PURPOSE: TO MAINTAIN PARK BUILDINGS IN A CLEAN AND STRUCTURALLY SOUND MANNER.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV
EXTERIOR	Restrooms	Shops and Offices	Interpretive	Concessions/Storage Buildin
PAVING AND WALKS	Sweep weekly; power wash annually.	Sweep weekly	Sweep weekly in season	Sweep weekly in season
FIXTURES, FOUNTAINS, PHONES, ETC.	Cleaned weekly	Cleaned weekly	Cleaned weekly in season	Cleaned weekly in season
LIGHTING	Maintained to full operation	Maintained to full operation	Maintained to full operation	Maintained to full operation
STRUCTURE	Inspect monthly, painted surfaces should be repainted every 5 years or as needed, graffiti removed as needed, roofing replaced every 20 years, maintain proper signage & replace per the department sign policy.	Inspect monthly, painted surfaces should be repainted every 5 years or as needed, graffiti removed as needed, roofing replaced every 20 years, maintain proper signage & replace per department sign policy.	Inspect monthly, painted surfaces should be repainted every 5 years or as needed, graffiti removed as needed, roofing replaced every 20 years, maintain proper signage & replace per department sign policy.	Inspect monthly, painted surfa should be repainted every 5 ye or as needed, graffiti removed needed, roofing replaced every years, maintain proper signage replace per department si policy.
WINDOWS	None	Twice yearly	Yearly	Yearly
INTERIOR	Restrooms	Shops and Offices	Interpretive	Concessions/Storage Buildin
FLOORS	Sweep and mop daily in season; renew surface annually	Sweep daily, mop weekly; waxed monthly; paint floors every 3 years	Sweep weekly; refinish annually as traffic demands	Paint floors every 3 years or needed
FIXTURES	Scrub daily, flush sinks twice weekly; inspect daily, provide TP daily	Scrub weekly, inspect daily, provide TP daily	Inspect monthly, repair or replace as necessary	Inspect yearly, repair or repla as necessary; tenant fixtu repaired and replaced by tenar
FURNISHING	None	Office furniture dusted weekly; lunch room dusted weekly	Dusted monthly	None
LIGHTING	Inspect and maintain daily	Inspect and maintain daily	Inspect monthly	Inspect yearly
STRUCTURE	Scrub walls as necessary to remove graffiti; paint every 3 years or as necessary to remove graffiti; winterize yearly; high power wash yearly	Scrub walls yearly; paint every 3 years as necessary.	Paint every 3 years as necessary	Paint every 3 years as necessa; winterize yearly

PLAYGROUNDS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SAFE PLAY AREAS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN PARKS AND TO MAINTAIN PLAY AREAS ON SCHOOL SITES THAT WERE CONSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ITEM	CLASS I	CLASS II
MAINTENANCE ITEM	PARK SITES	SCHOOL SITES
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	Playground equipment installed shall meet Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards. Installation shall comply with manufacturer guidelines, specifications and instructions.	Playground equipment installed shall meet Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards. Installation shall comply with manufacturer guidelines, specifications and instructions.
SURFACE	Provide a minimum surface material for critical fall heights per CPSC Guidelines under all structures. Replenish material to maintain surface depth. Refill displaced surface material areas weekly. Provide borders to retain surface material. Maintain surface area weed free.	Provide a minimum surface material for critical fall heights per CPSC Guidelines under all structures. Replenish material to maintain surface depth. *Refer to School Grounds Maintenance Standards for specifics.
LITTER	Daily pick-up in season, weekly Nov.-March	Pick-up monthly during inspection. School Board Maintenance (Janitor) to pick-up daily.
BENCHES	Provided	Not provided
INSPECTIONS	Monthly	Monthly
REPAIRS	Safety hazards remedied immediately upon notification. Repair of damage within 48 hours of notification, tighten hardware semi-annually.	Safety hazards remedied immediately upon notification from School staff; repair of damage within 72 hours of notification pending availability of parts; tighten hardware as necessary on a monthly basis as indicated by safety inspection.
REPLACEMENT	Replace equipment every 10 to 15 years for wood; replace equipment every 15 to 20 years for metal to maintain a high level of safety.	Parks and Recreation is not responsible for replacement equipment.