Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Town of Siler City
NORTH CAROLINA

McGill ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERING-PLANNING-FINANCE
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SECTION 1                     INTRODUCTION

1.1 Siler City Town History

The Town of Siler City is located in the central portion of North Carolina in Chatham County (considered to be in the eastern Piedmont) and is bordered by Randolph County to the west, Wake and Harnett Counties to the east, Harnett County to the southeast, Alamance, Durham, and Orange Counties to the north, and Moore and Lee Counties to the south. Chartered in 1887, Siler City has grown to be the largest town in Chatham County. The town is part of the Durham-Chapel Hill Statistical Area, which is also included in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Combined Statistical area, with a population of almost two (2) million people. Siler City is regularly acknowledged as a small town with big city amenities.

Around 1750, Plikard Dedrick and Elizabeth Hartzoe Siler (originally from Rhine, Germany) settled in the area known as Lacy Creek and began a productive plantation farm. For decades to follow, large portions of land were purchased in much the same way. The following timeline depicts the times, places, and/or events that led to the growth of early settlement and prosperity; and the eventual establishment of the Town:

- 1756 Rocky River Baptist Church was formed.
- 1768-1771 (War of the Regulation) NC Regulators met frequently at the Rocky River Baptist Church.
- 1815 Country Store was operated by John Siler on his plantation farm.
- 1842 Matthews Crossroads was the location of a boarding house.
- 1861 The Confederate Army volunteers (Chatham Boys) drilled at Matthews Crossroads; became Company G of the 26th North Carolina Regiment.
- 1870 Water-powered grist mill was being operated by Samuel Siler.
- 1880 Post Office (named Energy) was opened in Samuel Siler’s storehouse.
- 1884 Siler-Matthews House was operating as a hotel by A.C. Jordan.
• 1884 Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway was completed through the area; the depot was named Siler Station.
• 1884 E.R. McLean & Co. opened as a general merchandise store.
• 1885 A tobacco warehouse (Chatham Warehouse Co.) opened.
• 1885 Teague & Lambe (a general merchandise and building supply store) opened.
• 1885 Dr. J.A. Turner was recognized as the Mayor of Siler City.
• 1886 The Post Office was renamed – Siler City.
• 1887 Thompson School was opened.
• 1887 NC General Assembly incorporated the Town of Siler City.

Today, the downtown area includes many historic buildings, which currently house shops, restaurants, banks, churches, and even an art incubator. Several murals (illustrating the Town’s history and culture) have been painted on exterior walls throughout the Town. Some of Chatham County’s major industries – textiles and poultry processing – are located in Siler City. The rural character and small-town identity of Siler City has been preserved through the years, even as nearby urban areas have annexed their smaller neighbors. Residents of Siler City respect their land; and, their rural personality is reflected in the banks of the Rocky River, the rolling hills and countryside, the agricultural economy, and the citizenry.

Positioned between the Piedmont Triad (Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point) and Research Triangle (Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill) regions of North Carolina, Siler City is located at the intersection of two (2) major highways – US 421 and US 64. Because of its central location in the state, it is about equidistant from the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean.

The Town of Siler City is part of the Chatham County Public Schools District, with Siler City Elementary, Virginia Cross Elementary, Chatham Middle, Jordan-Matthews High, and SAGE Academy all being located within the Town. Private schools - Chatham Charter and Chatham Charter High Schools - are also located there.
The total land area of the Town of Siler City is six (6.0) square miles. The population according to the (April 1) 2010 United States Census was 7,880. The 10 year population growth from 2000 thru 2010 for Siler City was 12.96% - compared to the North Carolina state increase of 18.5% during the same decade.

Regardless of the population estimates used to project the future growth of Siler City, good planning practices will help to maintain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by today’s and tomorrow’s residents. An official Recreation Master Plan will help the Town of Siler City make proper decisions to meet existing recreation needs and provide for the development of programs/facilities for the future.

1.2 BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEMS

Public parks offer a much greater value than is typically appreciated by most people. Park facilities support a high quality of life, health, and happiness for both residents and visitors of a community. Parks are important physical assets to the community, often serving as one or more of the following: public gathering places, natural places/environmental conservation areas, venues for the arts, and economic drivers. Public parks improve the quality of life in a community; while both stimulating public/private investment and improving the overall health and well-being of residents.

Social Impact

Parks provide for a place where the community can come together in a safe, neutral space regardless of class, race, and/or gender. Research suggests that access to parks and recreation facilities alleviates feelings of isolation in individuals - especially the elderly.

Physical Impact

Public park facilities play a key role in the physical health of a community. Designated outdoor recreation space encourages physical activity and provides for greater
contact with the natural environment. Multiple studies suggest that people with a
greater accessibility to parks, greenways and trails usually have lower rates of
chronic disease and obesity and typically will live longer than those that do not.

**Mental Impact**

Accessibility and use of public recreation facilities can play an important role in mitigating some modern, mental maladies. “Numerous studies demonstrate that access to green views and environments can improve cognitive functioning, impulse control, resilience to stressful life events and overall mental health. Conversely, studies report a link between low nature access with increases in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), clinical depression, stress and anxiety.” (National Recreation and Park Association, Synopsis of 2010 Research Papers: The Key Benefits).

**Developmental Impact**

Appropriate recreational programming may lead to improved development of life skills in young people. One study suggests that “Students who participate in at least one hour of extracurricular activities per week are 49% less likely to use drugs and 37% less likely to become a teen parent.” (National Recreation and Park Association, Synopsis of 2010 Research Papers: The Key Benefits).

**Environmental Impact**

According to the City Parks Alliance, "Nearly 80 percent of the American population lives in urban areas. Parks of all sizes play an important role in preserving and supporting healthy environments. A network of parks and open spaces that include protected natural lands, ecological reserves, wetlands, and other green areas is critical to providing healthy habitats for humans, wildlife and plants in these densely built places. Natural landscapes are vital to preserving regional ecosystems amid growing cities.” (City Parks Alliance -
Vegetation in parks includes; trees, shrubs, and groundcovers which help to clean the air of noxious gases, ozone, and pollutants. Tree canopies, vegetated open areas, and other green spaces in parks detain and filter rainwater runoff, reducing the amount of pollutants like oil and minerals flowing from roads and lawns into surrounding watersheds.

**Economic Impact**

According to the National Parks and Recreation Association, "...parks are one of the most direct ways to put a dent in the approximately $147 billion direct and indirect costs of the obesity epidemic." (National Recreation and Park Association, Synopsis of 2010 Research Papers: The Key Benefits). Researchers indicate that parks are one of the most cost-effective ways to lower long-term health care expenditures, reduce costs associated with removing air pollutants from the air and generate greater tax revenues from properties located close to public parks. Parks are able to provide employment opportunities for groups typically marginalized in the traditional workforce such as young people and the elderly. Parks and open spaces serve to promote economic development by typically enhancing the monetary worth of neighboring properties, leading to improved tax revenues. Well organized and funded parks and recreation systems often serve to increase the perceived value of a community to local businesses and their employees.

**2014 Community Health Assessment, Chatham County**

It would, perhaps, be remiss to further continue without acknowledging the outcome of the 2014 Community Health Assessment, which was funded by the Chatham County Public Health Department. Although these results echo (somewhat) the last several paragraphs written herein, it is still crucial that they be emphasized adamantly.
According to Health Assessment’s Steering Committee, obesity ranked number one in the Top Ten List of Health Issues of Chatham County residents. More importantly – for the Assessment as well as this Parks and Recreation Master Plan – the top two (2) health priorities recommended by the Steering Committee for this issue were as follows:

- Encourage healthy lifestyles through changes in the built environment (community design)
- Promote physical activity

Furthermore, mental health ranked as the fourth highest health issue in Chatham County; and (as has been previously emphasized) has been noted to significantly improve – in some cases – with outdoor access and increased activity.

1.3 PURPOSES AND GOALS

Siler City provides public recreation to its citizens as a means of supporting a higher quality of life. Studies have shown that ‘quality of life’ issues are very important to residents and visitors and lively programs and events can have a major impact on community economic development as well.

The Town recognizes the importance of planning as a means of improving recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors. As a result, the Siler City Board of Commissioners with funding assistance from the Chatham County Health Department approved the creation of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan – to include all existing and future park facilities and recreation grounds. Subsequently, McGill Associates, P.A., was hired as the master plan consultants.
The Siler City Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2015 provides the framework for guiding the Board of Commissioners and Staff in both its current evaluation of- and long-range planning for the parks and recreation system for Siler City. The framework for this Master Plan is based upon conducting a review and inventory of the existing park system and recording the observations. The assessment of these facilities, or lack of facilities, will identify the immediate facility needs in the community and predict the future needs of residents.

Another purpose of the Master Plan is to recommend the addition or renovation of parks, programs, and recreational facilities. Not only does the Master Plan include recommendations, but it also prioritizes specific projects, such as recommended park upgrades, expansion and land acquisition, taking into consideration the identification of user population and the development of recreation standards. This Master Plan is action-oriented and will provide the Town of Siler City with a practical guide for its enhancement of its facilities and programs for the next ten years and beyond. This guide also sets the stage for future development of aquatic recreation activities and programming. A more detailed study and needs assessment of aquatic recreation opportunities and recommendations can be found in Siler City Aquatics Master Plan (under development at the time of this Master Plan).

In preparing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, McGill Associates, P.A., worked with Town Staff and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee.

A key objective in the development of the Master Plan was the solicitation of community input, thereby identifying additional needs for Siler city, such as renovation, construction, land purchase, development and operational policies, for both now and in the future. Community input, along with the comparison to state and national standards are the initial steps in the Master Plan process.

State and National Parks and Recreation Standards were used as a guide to support the recommendations made for the parks and recreation facilities for Siler City. Using these standard guidelines, McGill Associates, P.A., developed a plan, which applied specifically to the resident and non-resident users of parks and recreational facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan emphasizes the potential for connectivity of proposed projects and existing sites, such as parks, recreational facilities,
schools and other government-owned properties. It is not designed to be exclusive, but rather to enhance recreational opportunities in the community.

Of utmost intent, the Master Plan is intended to maintain the type of venue in Siler City that fosters community spirit, activism, and bonding between local citizens. The study of the demographic profile of Town residents’ population and ages - as related to areas of larger or smaller population - is a key factor in making specific and accurate recommendations.

Not only does the Siler City Parks and Recreation Master Plan make recommendations for a ten-year period of time (2015-2025), but it also suggests the means by which the identified objectives might be achieved. Opportunities for grants, partnerships, and outside funding are recommended as aids in the establishment of a Capital Improvement Plan and an operating budget.

The Master Plan focuses on providing the Town of Siler City with an accurate, usable guide for decision-making as the Town begins to implement projects, such as:

- Renovations to Bray Park athletic fields and amenities
- Updating existing recreational facilities (Safety, Accessibility)
- Developing facilities and programming for future parks and greenway trails.
- Managing athletic programming challenges related to fees and event scheduling.
- Considering strategies to capture the market for revenue-generating athletic events and recreation amenities (tournaments, aquatic recreation, etc.).

The Comprehensive Master Plan is divided into six (6) major component sections, which are listed below:

Section 1 - Introduction
Section 2 – Population Trends and Projections
Section 3 – Existing Park Facilities
Section 4 – Recreation Needs Assessment
Section 5 – Goals and Recommendations
Section 6 – Implementation Plan
1.4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A portion of the funding for this Recreation Master Plan came from the Chatham County Public Health Department through the Healthy Communities Grant Program.

The Town of Siler City wishes to express its sincere appreciation for those entities and individuals, who, in any way, contributed to the creation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, some of which are identified below. Without the knowledge and expertise of these persons, in both individual- and team settings, this document would not be possible.

Siler City Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2015
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Rosa Sutton
Jana Wiley
Jay Siler
Tony Cook
Tori Mazur
Jayson Perez
Marcia Grimes
Monaliza Hanner
Lewis Fadely

Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners

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Tony Siler - Commissioner
Larry Cheek - Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner
Michael Constantino - Commissioner
Bill Haiges - Commissioner
Lewis Fadely - Commissioner
Cindy Bray - At Large Commissioner
Thomas K. "Chip" Price - At Large Commissioner
Siler City Town Staff

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- END OF SECTION -
2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information of the Town of Siler City has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community and to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning the age and gender of the population is an important factor in determining the needs for recreation in the community. Statistics from the US Census Bureau and Town Staff indicate that there will be a period of stable growth in Siler City over the next few years. The table below contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Siler City as ascertained by the 2010 Census estimates.
## Population Trends and Projections

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEX</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3,874</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,013</td>
<td>50.9</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
<td>7,887</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
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<td>7.6</td>
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<td>40 to 44 years</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 to 64 years</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 to 69 years</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<td>70 to 74 years</td>
<td>187</td>
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<td>75 to 79 years</td>
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<td>80 to 84 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>85 years and over</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
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<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RACE</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3,471</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,508</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaskan</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Page: 2 of 11*  
*Section 2: Population Trends and Projections*
2.2 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

A review of the demographic information of Siler City has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the county and to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning age and gender are important factors in determining the needs for recreation in the community. The table (below) contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Siler City as a whole as ascertained by the 2010 United States Census.

There have been both times of growth and decline in Siler City's population since the year 2000; but overall, the population is growing at a conservative rate. Five (5)-year growth for the Town of Siler City has been projected as can be seen in the following Table 2.2-1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Category</th>
<th>2010 Census Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
<td>2,456</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,887</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISPANIC OR LATINO (OF ANY RACE)</strong> *</td>
<td><strong>3,925</strong></td>
<td><strong>49.8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC-SILER-CITY-2010-census.asp

*See sub-section 2.3 of this section for an explanation of the U.S. Census race categories as they relate to the counting of Americans of Hispanic/Latino origins.

The 2000-2010 population estimates from the US Census Bureau reveal significant characteristics of Siler City's population. The largest age population division is the Under 5 age group (10%), followed by the 5-9 year age group (8.5%). It is important to note that young people - age birth through age 19 - make up the largest portion of Siler City (33%) but the differences are fairly even as those aged 20-39 account for 29.8%, while 40-59 year olds make up 21.1% of the total. A large majority of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino (49.8%), while about 44% of town identify as being White. A significant segment of the population (19.1%) identify as being Black.
Table 2.2-1 Siler City Population Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Siler City population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>8,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>8,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>8,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8,827</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A population decrease of 10% occurred between 2009 and 2010. This was due to the downsizing of the U.S. economy and corresponding job losses and relocations of workers associated with the poor economy. However, the population showed significant growth (approximately 1.72%) immediately following the downward trend (2010-2011) in part due to Siler City’s geographic proximity to the Greensboro, Sanford, and Triad areas that typically grow - despite of the economy.

According to the updated (February 2015) U.S. Census data, the percentage growth from 2010 to 2011 was 1.2%; and from 2011 to 2012 there was 1.37% growth. From 2012 to 2013 there was .25% growth. The average percent growth for the period between 2010 and 2013 was 1.11%. Using (approximate) 1.11% annual growth, the projected 2025 population is estimated to be 9,327 individuals in Siler City. The estimated 2035 population would be 9,857 individuals.

The population and growth rates of the Town should be re-evaluated in 2025 and adjustments should be made to Plan recommendations, as necessary.
2.3 POPULATION TRENDS

Aging Population

Siler City's population is diverse for a number of different reasons, including an even distribution of age groups and uncharacteristic ethnic makeup (relative to other North Carolina Towns).

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2009-2013 (SCORP) children and senior citizens comprise two (2) of the fastest growing groups in North Carolina, who are in need of more recreation opportunities. As the number of families with children increase in Siler City, special consideration for programming and facility needs should be re-evaluated on an annual basis. Because households with children also tend to engage more in activities such as camping, hiking, organized sports, skateboarding, motorized sports, etc., facilities that can accommodate these types of active recreation should become increasingly popular.

Seniors aged 55 and above, report being more likely to engage in passive activities, such as walking for pleasure, camping, nature study, or fishing. This senior population is expected to have significant impacts throughout society because of income levels, expanding population numbers, and their unique recreation needs.

The increase in senior adults is being fueled, in part, by baby boomers approaching retirement. These boomers will transform what aging means and the meaning of social services for senior adults. Commonly healthier and more active than any previous generation of seniors, these elders will continue seeking active and meaningful outdoor recreation experiences. Part of Siler City’s complexity lies in the diversity of its
population. Young people account for nearly the same portion of the population as middle-aged and older residents. Recreational offerings for these age groups may need to reflect this even distribution of age groups.

**Ethnicity**

According to the 2010 US Census, Siler City's Hispanic population makes up 49.8 percent of the Town's total population while the percentage of Hispanic Americans in North Carolina is only 8.9%.

It should be noted that "Hispanic" is not a race and as such is not a category in the US Census racial categories. According to the US Census Quick Facts (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_RHI825213.htm) website:

"Hispanics or Latinos are those people who classified themselves in one of the specific Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino categories listed on the Census 2010 questionnaire -"Mexican," "Puerto Rican", or "Cuban"-as well as those who indicate that they are "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin." People who do not identify with one of the specific origins listed on the questionnaire but indicate that they are "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin" are those whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, or the Dominican Republic. The terms "Hispanic," "Latino," and "Spanish" are used interchangeably.

Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.

People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial categories."

This does not mean that the needs and desires for recreation amenities and facilities are necessarily different than those of other North Carolina towns, but the fact that Siler City has a unique population should be considered when seeking public input to ensure this historically underserved group is proportionately represented in the data collection process.

Families with children, youth, and senior adults are typically large markets for park and recreation service providers; therefore, increases in these segments of the population will increase demand for recreation and leisure services.

Developing trends are impacting the need for additional recreation services for Town residents. To attract and meet the needs of residents and visitors, the Parks and
Recreation Department will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities and offer an expanding selection of recreation opportunities. Facilities that can accommodate multiple activities as opposed to those that offer only specific activities will be able to more efficiently meet the varied recreation demands of the public.

**Benefits to Public Health**

A portion of the funding for this Recreation Master Plan came from the Chatham County Public Health Department through the Healthy Communities Grant Program. One of the Health Departments’ goals is to make the public aware of the correlation between health and use of public recreation systems. The Health Department completed a guide on the role of healthy community planning in supporting public health objectives in May of 2014 - [Healthy Community Planning and Public Health Chatham County, NC - May 2014](http://www.chathamnc.org/publichealth).

According to this document, recreation departments play a crucial role in promoting physical activity and by extension, healthier communities.

A disturbing trend facing the great majority of Americans is that concerning the effects of obesity. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, in 2014 "...more than a third of (US) adults are obese. Obesity is associated with several health conditions that contribute to the leading causes of death in the United States, including heart disease, stroke, type II diabetes, and some forms of cancer." More disturbing statistics mention that "Nearly 48% of Non-Hispanic Blacks and almost 43% of Hispanic populations in the United States are obese" (CDC 2014). Some residents within the Town of Siler City have to face the realities of these facts every day and having access to public parks and recreation facilities is important for supporting more active lifestyles for these residents.

The Chatham County Study mentions that "Inactivity is a causative factor of obesity..." conversely meaning that being active may mitigate obesity and the related health problems associated with being overweight. Supporting this idea was a study that examined data from the National Center for Health Statistics, "The third and fourth leading causes of preventable deaths in the United States are inactivity and obesity."
By strengthening the Siler City Parks and Recreation System, the Town will be investing in their resident's health and well-being. "Physical activity has been associated with a decrease in obesity and chronic disease, as well as improved cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and psychological health." Koplan, J, Kraak V and Liverman C. (2005). Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance. Washington: National Academies Press.

Healthy community planning is a strategy for incorporating public health into comprehensive planning efforts. This Recreation Master Plan aims to guide future decision making regarding Parks and Recreation. Planning for a healthier Siler City will incorporate many acts of dedication and commitment on the part of Town officials. The impacts of investing in the public parks and recreation areas within the Siler City Recreation System are important for different reasons; not only because of the benefits to community health, but also for the potential economic impact on local government and the perceived quality of life within Siler City. Everything from the condition of existing recreation facilities, the accessibility of and sense of safety within those facilities, and the types and locations of facilities and programming offered within the Parks and Recreation Department influences the success of the Recreation System.

According to the County Health Department's guide on Healthy Community Planning, "The location of parks also influences how frequently they are used" Cohen, D. et al. (2012). Neighborhood poverty, park use, and park-base Physical activity in a Southern California city. Social Science & Medicine, 75, 2317-2325).
Young people who make up approximately 24-30% of Siler City and the elderly are less likely to have the ability to drive to a park or recreational facility and so pedestrian connectivity to these types of facilities is crucial. For this reason, it is recommended that public park facilities be located within walking distance of all recognized residential areas so as to be useful for the widest possible range of residents. Health Department Maps highlighting access to existing recreation facilities by percentage of elderly residents and minorities within Chatham County can be found below, larger copies can be found in the Appendix (B, C, and D):

(Larger version of this map is located in Appendix A)
“Evidenced-based models of successful, healthy community planning take into account the type of amenities available, the location of parks and recreation services, their proximity of residential areas, as well as the connectivity of sidewalk and transportation networks. Communities that have demonstrated the greatest evidence for facilitating increases in physical activity have provided amenities that encourage vigorous activity levels (such as basketball courts and playgrounds), designed parks or trail networks that are located within a half-mile of residential communities, and have continuous access to these places through connected sidewalks.” Healthy Community Planning and Public Health Chatham County, NC - May 2014.

-END OF SECTION-
3.1 INTRODUCTION

A brief analysis of Siler City recreation facilities was performed, noting any visible improvements needed for each facility. This method of study was a guide for the Town of Siler City in its efforts to develop a plan for present and future needs. Below is a map locating the Siler City Park and Recreation facilities and provides typical service areas for each type facility. A larger version of this map is also located in Appendix E. Please refer to section 4.4 *Types of Parks and Recreation Facilities* and 4.5 *Evaluation of Park Land Needs* for additional information regarding service areas.

3.2 FACILITY INVENTORY

**Parks Owned and Operated by the Town of Siler City**

**Paul Braxton Park**

Paul Braxton Park is located at 111 South 3rd Ave., Siler City, NC 27344.
Site Amenities:

- (1) lighted Soccer field
- Gymnasium
- Earl B. Fitts Community Center
- Outdoor Basketball court
- (1) Baseball/Softball Field

Bray Park

Bray Park is located at 800 Alston Bridge Road, Siler City, NC 27344. (The Pool is located at 700 Alston Bridge Road).

Site Amenities:

- (2) 200' lighted Baseball/Softball fields
- (2) 300' lighted Baseball/Softball fields
- (2) Soccer fields
- 100' long (5 lanes) swimming pool (Closed until further notice)
- 20'x60' picnic shelter
- (2) playgrounds
- (3) Tennis courts
- Sand Volleyball court
- Over 80 available parking spaces

Washington Avenue Park

Washington Avenue Park is located at 1305 Washington Avenue Siler City, NC 27344 (off of Snow Camp Road between 13th and 14th Streets).

Site Amenities:

- Walking Track (Approximately .2 mi.)
- (2) outdoor Basketball courts
- 20' x 40' Picnic shelter
- Playground
- 25 available parking spaces
Landrus Siler Park

Landrus Siler Park is located at 406 East Ninth Street, Siler City, NC 27344. This facility is technically owned by Chatham County but is maintained and operated by the Town of Siler City. The Town was in the process of acquiring this property via a Joint-Use Agreement from the County.

Site Amenities:

- Large Soccer field
- (2) outdoor Basketball courts
- 20' x 40' Picnic shelter
- Playground
- 25 available parking spaces

Boling Lane Park

Boling Lane Park is located at 302 South Fir Avenue Siler City, NC 27344

Site Amenities:

- Walking Track (Helen M. Buckner Memorial) (Approximately .2 mi.)
- Tennis court
- 20' x 40' Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Book Sharing Box
- 23 available parking spaces

Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium

Ernest Ramsey Gym is located at 512 East 6th Street, Siler City, NC 27344.

Site Amenities:

- Indoor Gymnasium
W. F. Collins Park

Collins Park is located at 311 North 2nd Avenue (next to City Hall) Siler City, NC 27344

**Site Amenities:**

- Small Shelter with Benches
- Historic Bell

Loves Creek Greenway

Phase 1 of the Loves Creek Greenway includes a ten foot wide asphalt multi-purpose trail that would move pedestrians from near the intersection of Alston Bridge Road and 2nd Avenue to Pony Farm Road (Approx. 1.4 miles). The Greenway would be between Jordan-Matthews High School and the National Guard Armory. A connector trail would link the greenway to the parking area of Bray Park. Currently, this Greenway is now under construction and it is expected to be complete in late Fall of 2015.

**Site Amenities:**

- Asphalt Multi-purpose trail (1.4 miles)

Chatham County-Owned and Operated Facilities

Chatham County Schools

Currently, Chatham County schools do use some Town park facilities. However, there is not a formal standing agreement governing this arrangement.
Chatham County High Schools

- Chatham Central
- Jordan-Matthews
- Northwood
- SAGE Academy

Chatham County Middle Schools

- Chatham
- Horton
- Margaret B. Pollard

Chatham K-8 Schools

- Bennett
- Bonlee
- J.S. Waters
- Moncure
- Silk Hope

Chatham Elementary Schools

- North Chatham
- Perry W. Harrison
- Pittsboro
- Siler City
- Virginia Cross

Earl Thompson Park at Bynum

**Site Amenities:**

- 1 Lighted Youth Baseball Field
- Playground Equipment
- Concession Stand/Restroom
- Facility
- Limited Parking
Southwest District Park

Site Amenities:

- Playground Equipment
- 1/2 Mile Walking Trail
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Parking Lot
- 2 Lighted Multi-purpose fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)
- Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, Concessions and Office
- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- Concession Stand
- 2 Tennis Courts
- Playground Equipment

Bynum Beach Canoe Access

This one acre site on the Haw River was donated to Chatham County through the auspices of the Triangle Land Conservancy. Funds were raised by the Carolina Canoe Club to allow for developing and maintaining a canoe access on the site. The County is currently renovating the site. Renovations include improvements to the footpath, the addition of handrails to the steps, new signage, the installation of bollards and the implementation of a plant management plan.

Northeast District Park

Site Amenities:

- 2 Multi-purpose Fields
- 1 Baseball Field
- Recreation Center
- 2 Concession Stand/Restroom Facilities
- Disc Golf Course
- Fishing Dock
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 2 Playgrounds
• Horseshoe Pitch
• Picnic Shelters
• 2 Basketball Courts
• Walking Trail
• Paved Parking Lots

Northwest District Park

Site Amenities:

• Primitive Camping
• Cabins
• Bathhouse
• Walking Trails
• 2 Tennis Courts
• 2 Basketball Courts
• 2 Proposed Picnic Shelters
• Education/Nature Center
• Corporate Shelter
• Parking
• (2) Soccer Fields
• 2 Baseball Fields
• Playground Equipment
• Recreation Center
• Fishing Pier
• Open Field Area

Haw River Canoe/Kayak Access

This Lower Haw is the most popular run in the Chatham-Wake County area, where a geological phenomenon called the “fall line” has created rapids in a dozen or so local creeks and rivers. A short run with some class II and III rapids, the run is enjoyed by those who want to get their evening whitewater fix after work and is a great place to meet local paddlers on weekday evenings after a good storm. The “put-in” location is at the US Highway 64 Canoe Access. The Lower Haw’s run ends at the Robeson Creek Canoe Access. The distance between is approximately 1.3 miles and can take 1/2 to 1 hour.
Other Municipality-Owned and Operated Facilities

Town of Pittsboro

**Town Lake Park**

**Site Amenities:**

- 1 Soccer Field
- Lake Dock
- 2 mile of walking trail
- Picnic Shelter with (2) tables
- Information Kiosk
- Fitness Play Equipment
- Wetland restoration area
- Wi-Fi accessible

**McClenahan Street Basketball and Tennis Courts**

The rehabilitation of the McClenahan Street Basketball and Tennis Courts is the result of a joint project between the Town of Pittsboro and Chatham County. The Town and the County both provided 50% of the costs for the refurbishing. The facility is operated by the Town of Pittsboro.

**Site Amenities:**

- 3 Lighted Half Basketball Courts
- 3 Lighted Tennis Courts

**Kiwanis Park**

This playground for young children was built on land donated by the Kiwanis Club. The park is located on Credle Street, adjacent to the Kiwanis Club building. The park is fenced in for the safety of the children.

**Site Amenities:**

- Playground Equipment
- Picnic Table
- Big Turtle Sculpture
Mary Hayes Barber Holmes Park

This park is located at 304 Old Rock Springs Cemetery Road in Pittsboro. The ten-acre parcel in the Powell Place Development was donated by the children of the late Agnes and Wade Barber, Sr. in 2008 – along with the receipt of a $500,000 PARTF grant for future park development.

**Site Amenities:**

- Soccer Field
- Playground Equipment
- Climbing Sculptures
- Picnic Shelter with 6 Picnic Tables
- 4 Charcoal Grills
- Walking Trails (1/3 Mile)
- Spray Play Water Mister

Community House

The Pittsboro Community House is located on Thompson Street within a short walking distance from downtown. It is a beautiful home – perfect for meetings and small group functions.

**Site Amenities:**

- Community Center
- Picnic Tables

Rock Ridge Park

**Site Amenities:**

- Disc Golf Course
- Picnic Shelter with 4 Picnic Tables
- 4 Charcoal Grills
- Walking Trails (.6 Mile)
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- Wi-Fi Accessible
- 80-foot Zipline
- Pendulum Swing
- Playground Equipment
Robeson Creek Greenway
The basic corridor is open, and although there is more work to be done, residents are already using the greenway. The greenway corridor stretches from Sanford Road and runs about 1,200 feet to a spot near the intersection of Small and Chatham Streets. The greenway will ultimately extend a bit further to a trailhead off Small Street later this year.

Site Amenities:

- 1/2 mile of 10' asphalt walking trail

Town of Goldston

Jehugh C. Burke Memorial Park

Located in the Town of Goldston, the Jehugh C. Burke Memorial Park is situated next to the old town library building.

Site Amenities:

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- 1 Lighted Softball Field
- Playground
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 1 Basketball Court
- Concession Stand/Restroom Facility
- Batting Cage
- Paved Parking Lot
- Picnic Shelter

Town of Cary

Located only 48 miles from Siler City, the Town of Cary offers recreational opportunities that some residents in Siler City have reported using. Those facilities include the following:

- Annie L. Jones Park
- Cary Dog Park at Godbold Park
- Sk8-Cary Skate Park at Godbold Park
- Robert V. Godbold Park
• Davis Drive Park
• Dorothy Park
• Fred G. Bond Metro Park
• Green Hope Park at Green Hope High School
• Harold D. Ritter Park
• Heater Park
• Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve
• Lions Park
• Lexie Lane Park
• MacDonald Woods Park
• Marla Dorrel Park
• Middle Creek School Park
• Mills School Park
• North Cary Park
• Preston Soccer fields
• R.S. Dunham Park
• Rose Street Park
• Sears Farm Road Park
• Thomas E. Brooks Park
• Urban Park
• Veterans Freedom Park
• Walnut Street Park
• White Oak Park
• Weldon Ridge Greenway (2,400 LF of 10’ trial under construction)

Silk Hope

Silk Hope Farm Heritage Park

Silk Hope Farm Heritage Park is a significant meeting facility in Silk Hope. It is also the site for major annual events, including the longest-running festival in Chatham County, Old-Fashioned Farmers’ Days. On-site is an outstanding collection of antique farm equipment, old farm buildings, and steam-related equipment brought to the park over the last 39 years by the Ruritan Club. This facility features three separate meeting areas:

• Community Room
• Boardroom
• Main Hall
Federally-Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Jordan Lake Dam and Visitors Assistance Center

The Visitors Assistance Center is located at the Dam on Jordan Lake. Rangers at the Center present a variety of programs on the environment and on water safety. The site is owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Federally-Owned and State of North Carolina-Operated Parks and Facilities

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area

The Jordan Lake State Recreation Area is 46,768 acres of lake and forested lands. There are nine North Carolina Parks and Recreation Division (NCPRD) owned recreation areas on the lake plus one private concession site, one site owned by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and one site owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers. A small fee is charged for use of the NCPRD owned sites.

Site Amenities:

- Boat Ramps at all 12 Areas
- 4 Tent Camping Areas
- 4 Dump Stations
- 6 Picnic Shelters
- Parking Lots
- Public Telephones
- 2 Group Camping Areas
- 4 RV Camping Areas
- 4 Hot Shower Facilities
- Picnic Tables with Grills
- Fishing
- Restrooms
7 Swimming Beaches  Walking Trails
3 Playgrounds   Horseshoe Pits
Volleyball Courts  Floating Docks
1 Backpack/Canoe Camping Area

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest

Located on the west side of Jordan Lake, off of Big Woods Road, the Jordan Lake Educational State Forest is one of the newest members of the North Carolina Educational State Forests system. Rangers conduct classes and workshops (for groups of 10 or more) on the ecosystems found within the forest.

Site Amenities:

- Themed Walking Trails
- Picnic Facilities

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The Wildlife Resources Commission manages 41,000 acres of Corps of Engineer land around Jordan Lake for wildlife-related recreation such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. The Commission is also responsible for hunting and fishing regulations and enforcement on this land.

State of North Carolina-Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Haw River Trail (Planned)

In 2007, the State of North Carolina entered into an agreement with several local governments, including Chatham County, to develop the Haw River Trail from the Haw River State Park in Rockingham County to Jordan Lake in Chatham County. The trail will encompass approximately 70 miles of the river. The intent is to provide both a canoe/kayak trail and hiking trails along the river. The hiking/biking trails will be included in the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail system.
Lower Haw River State Natural Area

The Lower Haw River Natural Area includes over 1000 acres of land along the Haw River in Chatham County. The property was purchased by the State of North Carolina from Duke University in 2003. The Natural Area extends along both sides of the Haw River from the old Bynum Bridge to the US-64 Bridge. It is a popular location for canoeing/kayaking and hiking. There are no amenities.

Deep River State Trail (Planned)

Authorized in 2007, the Deep River State Trail will be a land based and water based trail system, running from Guilford County, through Randolph, Moore and Chatham counties to Lee County, where the Deep River joins the Haw River. The trail will be a network of conservation lands and amenities developed by partnerships between the State of North Carolina, local governments, land conservancies, nonprofit organizations, private landowners and recreation interests.

Mountains-to-Sea Trail Alternate Route

A portion of the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail passes through the northeastern section of Chatham County. This alternate route for the trail follows the Haw River south to Jordan Lake and then north along the lake to rejoin the main trail in Orange County. The portion of this trail (that follows the Haw River) is also a portion of the planned Haw River Trail. A second alternate route joins the American Tobacco Trail and runs north along the eastern side of Jordan Lake to Durham County.
Piedmont Spur

The Piedmont Spur is a branch of the North Carolina Mountains to Sea Trail. The spur runs north/south, connecting the southern and northern routes of the Mountains to Sea Trail. It passes through the northwest corner of Chatham County.

Justice Lands

This 870-acre conservation preserve is owned by the North Carolina Division of State Parks. The land was purchased by the Triangle Land Conservancy in 2003. Ownership of the land was transferred to the State in 2005.

Multi-Agency (Joint) Ownership and Operation

American Tobacco Trail – Chatham County

The American Tobacco Trail is a joint effort of several local governments, including Chatham County. The trail runs for 22 miles along an old railroad bed that used to carry tobacco trains to the American Tobacco Company in Durham. 4.6 miles of the trail run through Chatham County. In Chatham County some sections of the trail are a natural surface trail. Other sections of the trail are 10 foot wide asphalt with an adjacent six foot wide crushed stone path. The trail will be open to walkers, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. Once two bridges are completed, the Chatham County portion of the trail will be completed and joined with the trail section in Durham County.

Haw River Trail

The Haw River Trail is an excellent example of a multi-agency co-

Construction on Tobacco Trail Bike & Pedestrian Bridge

Trail follows the Haw River
operative recreation/conservation facility. In 2007, the State of North Carolina entered into an agreement with nine local governments, including Chatham County, to develop the Haw River Trail from the Haw River State Park in Rockingham County to Jordan Lake in Chatham County. The coalition of ten agencies (including the State of NC) is formally known as the Haw River Trail Governmental Agency Partnership, and is responsible for developing and maintaining a unified trail system. The trail will encompass approximately 70 miles of the river. The intent is to provide both a canoe/kayak trail and hiking trails along the river. The hiking/biking trails will be included in the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail system.

Other-Owned and Operated Recreation Facilities

RECREATION ASSOCIATIONS

Bonlee Community Park

This park was built and operated by the Bonlee Recreation Club in the unincorporated area of Bonlee, in the southwestern section of Chatham County. The Club is planning to build a second baseball field in the park.

Site Amenities:

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- 1 Practice Field
- Concession/Restroom Building
- Graveled Parking Lot

Bennett Recreation Club Facility

The Bennett Recreation Club owns land located behind the Bennett Elementary School where they have built a ball field. Bennett is an unincorporated area in the southwestern section of Chatham County.

Site Amenities:

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- Baseball Field
Harper’s Crossroads Community Park

Harper’s Crossroads is an unincorporated area in the southwestern section of Chatham County. A small park has been built for the residents by the Harper’s Crossroads Community Club.

Site Amenities:

- 2 Lighted Baseball Fields
- Community Center
- Tennis Courts

CONSERVATION AREAS/OPEN SPACE

McIver Landing

This site’s five acres of land were purchased by the Triangle Land Conservancy as a part of their efforts to protect the Deep River and a portion of a bottomland hardwood forest. The Conservancy partnered with the Deep River Park Association and Rock Rest Adventures to open and maintain a safe and legal canoe/kayak access to the Deep River. The river access point is located near the unincorporated town of Gulf in the southwest section of Chatham County.

White Pines Nature Preserve

The Triangle Land Conservancy began purchasing land for this site in 1986, with the most recent Chatham County purchase in 2004. Recent additions to the Preserve have been added on the Lee County side of the Deep River. Though located in the North Carolina Piedmont, a microclimate created by north-facing slopes and the confluence of two rivers, has allowed a native stand of mountain
species plants to develop and thrive. The Preserve is open for hiking and bird watching. The planned Deep River State Trail will pass through the White Pines Nature Preserve.

**Site Amenities:**

- Hiking Trails

**Condoret Nature Preserve**

Donated by the Condoret Family to the Triangle Land Conservancy, this 85 acre site is located southeast of Siler City. The NCDOT is conducting a stream restoration project on two streams on the property.

**La Grange Riparian Reserve**

Located in southwestern Chatham County, the La Grange Riparian Reserve consists of 308 acres of land situated on the Deep River. A working farm since before the American Revolution, the land contains several native species of plant and wildlife including a rare diabase seepage bog.

**Wood’s Mill Bend**

Located on the Rocky River in western Chatham County, this Triangle Lands Conservancy ‘open land’ site is 22 acres in size.

**Deep River Park**

Owned and operated by the Deep River Park Association, the 40 acre Deep River Park is located along Cumnock Road, on the banks of the Deep River. The park contains an old camelback truss bridge (listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the North Carolina Transportation Hall of Fame) dating from the early 1900’s.
Site Amenities:

- Canoe Access
- 2 Picnic Shelters

FITNESS CENTERS

Duke Center for Living at Galloway Ridge at Fearrington Village

The Duke Center for Living is a public, membership-based fitness facility. The highly professional trained staff offers an array of fitness and health classes for adults. The indoor facilities include a pool, fitness equipment, a cushioned indoor track and exercise rooms. Fitness classes include a variety of exercise classes, special classes for those with physical limitations, fitness training, massage and a physical therapy department.

Other For-Profit Fitness Facilities

- **Triangle Fitness** is a for-profit fitness center located at, 118 Siler Crossing, Siler City, NC 27344.

- **Curves** of Pittsboro fitness center.

- The **Ladies Fitness Center** of Pittsboro is a for-profit fitness center.

- The **Pittsboro Snap Fitness Center** is a for-profit fitness center located at 125 Siler Crossing, Siler City, NC 27344.

- The **Southeastern Karate School** is a for-profit martial arts learning center.

- **Easy Tan and Fitness** is a for-profit fitness center.
GOLF COURSES

- Chapel Ridge Golf Course – public
- Governors Club – private
- The Preserve at Jordan Lake – public
- Siler City Country Club – private
- Twin Lakes Golf Course – public
- Old Chatham Golf Club – private
- Jordan Lake Driving Range – public

Non-Profits and Miscellaneous Recreation Providers

THANKS Trail – Central Carolina Community College

THANKS stands for “Trail for Health, Art, and Nature for Kids to Seniors. The trail is approximately one mile in length and is paved. There are fitness stations placed along the trail.

U.S. Bicycle Route 1 Trail

This national bike route runs from Florida to Maine. The segment of the trail that runs from Sanford to Apex passes through the southeastern section of Chatham County. The North Carolina and Virginia segments of this trail are the only segments that are recognized by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
Chatham County Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging operates two Senior Centers: one in Pittsboro and one in Siler City. The centers offer a well-rounded slate of opportunities for socializing, exercising and learning through their classes and facilities. The senior centers each have a fitness center and a program of exercise classes for those 55 years of age and older. The Council on Aging sponsors senior games every year. Other activities and classes include health awareness, dancing, and art/craft classes.

Camp Royall

Camp Royall is a special facility owned by the Autism Society of North Carolina. The Society runs a summer camp at the facility for children with autism. The YMCA uses the facility for their soccer program and Chatham County Parks and Recreation uses the facilities for basketball practice.

Carnivore Preservation Trust

The Carnivore Preservation Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing homes to carnivorous animals in need of rescue. They provide educational tours of their facility and provide information about the dangers facing these animals in the wild, pet trade, entertainment industry. Tours are by reservation only. Tour fees are used to support the Trust's mission.
Crosswinds Marina and Boat Rental

Crosswinds is a full service marina located on Lake Jordan.

The Bynum General Store

The Bynum General Store is the home of the Front Porch Music Series every Friday night from May through September. The ‘Store’ reopened in 2007 in order to carry on the tradition of providing Bynum and the surrounding communities with a place to gather and celebrate varied musical traditions and artists. The store also serves as a community center for the residents of Bynum.

Music at Reno’s

Located at the intersection of the Goldston/Pittsboro Road and Reno Sharpe Store Road, Reno Sharpe Store presents an open-mike program of gospel and bluegrass music each weekend.

Shakori Hills

A non-profit organization dedicated to building community through the arts and education. Shakori Hills presents music festivals, performances and art, craft, dance and music workshops throughout the year.

Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company

This for-profit business offers canoe and kayak rentals and tours of the Haw River.

Carolina Meadows

This non-profit, fee-oriented, retirement community is located in northeastern Chatham County. They offer their residents a wide range of recreational and cultural opportunities including facilities for golf, tennis, swimming, walking/biking trails, and exercise room.
Boys and Girls Club of Western Chatham

A Boys and Girls Club is being developed for Chatham County. Initial plans provide for the opening of a Club in Siler City. The purpose of the Club is to provide opportunities for young people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. Programs will target health and life skills, character and leadership development, education and career development, art, sports, fitness and recreation.

The Chatham Branch of the YMCA of the Triangle

The Chatham YMCA is located at: 964 East St. Suite 100 Pittsboro, NC 27312. This facility offers child care, fitness and wellness programs, a swimming pool, and various sports activities and clubs - as well as tutoring and mentoring programs.

END OF SECTION
4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Siler City currently maintains six (6) parks, two (2) gymnasiums, and one (1) community center that provide various degrees of amenities for residents and visitors to enjoy. The Siler City Recreation Department sponsors seasonal activities including youth athletics such as football, basketball, baseball and softball. The recreation program relies heavily on volunteer coaches and other participants who are willing to donate their time for the benefit of others.

The degree of need for additional parks and open space is most directly influenced by the expectations of the residents of the Town of Siler City and related strictly to the ‘quality of life’ to which they aspire. This Master Plan addresses (as its first priority) the parks and recreation facility needs, which are envisioned, appropriate to meet the needs and desires of the Town’s residents at the time of this study and into the future.

Although this Master Plan is developed primarily for the Town of Siler City, park facilities which are not owned and operated by the Town will also be evaluated in determining the needs assessment for the citizens in Siler City. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be used as a guide for improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Section 3 of this Master Plan inventories the Town of Siler City’s existing park facilities and the recreation facilities of other providers within the Town’s limits. This detailed inventory includes the facilities which are available within each park in order to create a better understanding of the existing recreation opportunities in the greater Siler City area. The demographic and population trends (found in Section 2 of the Master Plan) provide information needed to understand the rate of growth within the Town of Siler City for at least the next ten years.
Community input, current recreation demand, and recreation standards were used as the primary methods in determining the adequate type(s) and amount(s) of park facilities needed for the Town of Siler City. This Master Plan compares standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) - an independent, non-profit professional organization for park/recreation departments nationwide – with existing facility/program criteria in Siler City. In 1996, NRPA published a manual entitled, *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, which remains a widely accepted reference standard for municipal Parks and Recreation Departments.

Standards are guidelines, not requirements, for use by communities in estimating the demand for recreation in their given geographic areas. NRPA’s 1996 guidelines shifted its emphasis from the rigid park facility standards to more flexible standards, which better accommodate unique circumstances and situations that exist in every community. To assure that the Town of Siler City’s Master Plan contains distinctiveness, yet versatility, public input was sought from its integral components: various Town of Siler City Staff, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, the Town Council, and citizen representatives.

### 4.2 PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The methodology used in establishing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan should always include citizen input. In order to ensure a successful study, it is vital that the public users of recreational facilities be able to share their concerns, needs, and desires.

**Community Meetings**

To facilitate community input, public workshops and focus group meetings were conducted during the Master Plan process. The Community Meetings sought participation from the users of the Siler City Parks and Recreation system. The focus group meetings sought to illicit the involvement of additional stakeholders within the community. Public opinions, concerns, needs, and desires were polled via handout surveys - as well as - map and visual preference exercises. Some individuals elected to complete the survey shown here online, at a later time.

The handout surveys solicited public opinions on needed improvements to existing park facilities and programs in the Town of Siler City. Questions were also asked about the types of parks and programming they envisioned for their Town’s future.
A map exercise was also undertaken, whereby participants were asked to physically mark the locations where they would like to see recreational facilities offered.

**Community Meeting #1 Bray Park - Building Healthy Kids Festival**

This public workshop occurred on May 1st from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the assistance of the Chatham Health Department. Activities included a Visual Preference Survey that gauged the public's preferences for aquatic recreation types, a map exercise allowing participants to mark where potential new parks/facilities could be sited, and paper hand out surveys to gather information for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Open discussion was encouraged and approximately, 132 participants provided feedback at this meeting.

**Community Meeting #2 - Football/Cheerleading Signups**

This community outreach occurred on May 20th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Earnest Ramsey Gym. Approximately, 15 participants completed surveys and took part in open discussion.

**Focus Group Meetings**

Four (4) focus group meetings were held at the Ernest Ramsey Gym in Siler City on June 4 and June 11, 2015 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and 6:15 to 8:15 pm on each day. The intent of the flexible scheduling was to allow as many Town residents as possible to be able to participate during at least one (1) of the time slots. A Power Point presentation about the Master Planning process was shown and open discussion aimed at revealing the ideas and concerns of the meeting participants was explored. Other activities included a Visual Preference Survey that gauged
the public’s preferences for aquatic recreation types, a map exercise allowing participants to mark where potential new parks/facilities could be sited, and paper hand out surveys to gather information for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The groups represented four unique stake holder groups, which included the Arts District, Hispanic Liaison, Local Business Merchants, and Social Organizations. Approximately, 35 participants provided invaluable feedback during these meetings.

**Focus Group/Public Meeting Summary**

Generally, the focus group participants agreed that facilities, programs, and services offered by the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department need improvement. However, the consensus was that this was due in large part to the age and condition of existing Town facilities. The group also agreed that the re-opening of the Siler City Pool, interest in additional trails and indoor recreation opportunities, and improved communication of events and issues related to Parks and Recreation events and programming should also be considered as significant issues to be addressed.

Other recurring themes from these focus groups and public meetings included:

- Low level of satisfaction with current services
- Current operations primarily focused on sustaining and maintaining; taking care of what we have
- A need for updating an aging park inventory
- Expanding communications and marketing regarding facilities and programs
- Altering and improving scheduling of athletic competitions at recreation facilities
- Capacity constraints including number of lighted soccer fields
- Resources for additional staffing
- Funding of essential department services
- A lack of communication between the Parks and Recreation Department and Town residents

**Community Meeting #3 - Relay for Life**

This public workshop occurred on June 5th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Bray Park in Siler City. Activities included a Visual Preference Survey that gauged the public's preferences for aquatic recreation types, a map exercise allowing participants to mark where potential new parks/facilities could be sited, and paper hand out surveys to gather information for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
Plan. Open discussion was encouraged and approximately 12 participants provided feedback at this meeting.

Concerns mentioned were the need for better restrooms at all Town parks, the lack of a good swimming facility, and the need for improved athletic fields (Soccer and Baseball/Softball).

Participants were also encouraged to list any additional programs and activities/facilities they would like to have. These suggestions follow along the lines of the list (above) with strong emphasis on trails, picnic facilities, and playground facilities. Many respondents reported a desire for improved maintenance of restrooms and existing equipment as well as more parking, better lighting, and beautification efforts at Bray Park.

**Conclusions**

The community meetings were undertaken to receive input from community members as to what they think are the recreation facility and programming needs of Siler City. From the above report, it is pretty obvious that the participants placed a high priority on re-building the Bray Park Pool. Other concerns and desires included developing additional walking/jogging trails, the need for additional lighted soccer fields, and improved restroom facilities. There was also a desire for improvements to existing parking facilities, safety lighting, signage and beautification for all the parks in Siler City. A common complaint from the residents of Hispanic origin was that a number of residents chose to play soccer in vacant or abandoned lots due to the lack of available soccer fields.

**Community Survey**

The active participation of residents in the Town of Siler City was crucial in developing a Comprehensive Master Plan that reflects the true needs for the Siler City area. With this in mind, community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. To begin the data collection process a survey was developed with direction from the Master Plan Steering Committee. This was the initial survey used to gather public input and get the community involved in the planning process. This survey was created in both a Spanish and English version. Public meetings (where this survey was to be used) were advertised in the local newspaper and could be filled out interactively online at the Siler City official web page. Links to the online surveys (generated via Survey Monkey.com) were also made available via Facebook and the Town's official web page. Strips
of paper with the web addresses for both the Spanish and English versions of the survey were made available at all the public meetings, the Parks and Recreation Office, and distributed by Town Staff and Steering Committee members. Paper surveys in both Spanish and English were also made available for those that preferred paper over using a computer.

To ensure the greatest number of residents had a chance to provide input, a second, supplemental survey called a Question Bank (QB) was created with assistance from Management Learning Laboratories (MLL), out of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The process of developing the survey, first involved receiving input collected from focus group meetings with Town Staff and the general public. The comments provided from these focus groups was used to create this secondary survey. This second survey was then mailed out (via utility bills) to over (2,500) residences within the Town. This sub-section summarizes the results for the two community surveys.

**Survey #1 Data and Analysis**

The initial survey provided 453 completed surveys. This total represented approximately 743 individuals. It should be noted that a some surveys returned failed to provide an answer to the question related to household size meaning the total number of individuals represented may actually be larger. These included the online (Survey Monkey) results and the paper survey results. The survey participants adequately reflected a representative cross section of the Town of Siler City in terms of ethnicity, age, and household size.

The surveys were designed to elicit answers on residents’ needs and desires for recreation opportunities. It included a section where respondents rated their participation in existing programs and use of existing facilities. The survey also asked respondents to rank the programs and facilities in order of importance and asked them to list the facilities they would like to see added to the park and recreation system. To determine the profile of respondents, a series of demographic questions were also asked. The results of the surveys are as follows:

Continued on next page
Demographics

**Do you live within the Town of Siler City?**

- Yes: 84%
- No: 16%

The majority of survey participants reported that they live within the Town of Siler City/ETJ.

**Do you live within walking distance of a public park or recreational facility?**

- Yes: 58%
- No: 41%
- I don’t know: 1%

The ability of residents to get to public parks and recreational facilities has an impact on how often they will use those facilities. During open discussions with community meeting participants many users of Siler City Parks and Recreation facilities mentioned “driving” as the main form of transportation they used. However, it should be noted that 41% of survey participants reported being within walking distance of a public park or recreation facility.
The three (3) main reasons identified above, which are preventing survey participants from using a park or recreational facility more often included: "Not enough time", "Facility or program not offered", and "Nothing". These responses made up 70% of the total and indicate typical reasons often heard for busy families and individuals. The response of "Facility or program not offered" coincided with community meeting comments that some athletic programming has become more scarce since the recent economic hardships faced by the Town. Also, this data may reveal that the traditional recreational programming found within the Parks system does not reflect the modern diversity of Siler City's population; for instance, the request for more soccer programs and facilities. The next most often reported reason was "Too far away" which may indicate the need for new facilities in outlying areas.
The most-visited Siler City facilities included: Bray Park, Paul Braxton Park, Boling Lane Park, Ramsey Gym, and Bray Pool. Bray Park was clearly indicated as the "flag ship" facility within Siler City.
While *Town Parades* and *Relay for Life* were the most regularly reported recreation activities; *National Night Out, Baseball/Softball leagues*, and *3rd Friday Art Walks* were also frequently reported.
Overall, survey responses indicate that the majority of respondents felt that the existing recreational facilities in Siler City were Poor to Fair. Considering the age and condition of many of the Town's parks, this response seems appropriate. This data may indicate the need for investment into the Parks and Recreation System.

Responses rating the recreation programs offered in Siler City did fare slightly better in the public's eye then did the facilities. However, these results indicate a need for improvement in the types of programming offered and the management of those programs.
The list of what improvements should be made had no one common response. Survey responses ranged from improvements to public restrooms, picnic/sitting areas, and general aesthetics at park facilities to enhancements to parking areas, trails, etc. It is clear that facility improvements are greatly desired by survey respondents.

There is great support for a new water-based recreational facility.
Please rank the facilities that you would like to see improved within Siler City.

The top 5 responses survey respondents desired included (in order of highest to lowest mentioned):

- Indoor Swimming Pool,
- Outdoor Swimming Pool,
- Multi-Sports Complex,
- Water Spray Ground/Splash Pad, and
- Picnic areas.
When asked if survey respondents would support or oppose new or improved Greenways/Trails throughout Siler City, the majority would support these types of facilities.

There is an even split in the number of people that report using school or private facilities for recreation or leisure activities. This highlights the need for intergovernmental cooperation between the school and recreation systems as well as the fact that a large number of residents use other sources of recreation than the Town's Parks and Recreation Department.
One large indicator of the need to improve and expand the Parks and Recreation system in Siler City is that a majority of survey participants reported traveling out of Siler City to use other recreation facilities or programs.

As a result, the majority of survey respondents reported that they would support the need to improve and expand the facilities and programming offered by the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department.
What, if any, sources of funding would you support in order to make improvements, build new facilities?

Grants and Local gifts were the preferred funding mechanisms for recreation improvements followed closely by Sponsorships, Contributions, and Partnerships. Understandably, Taxes and Bonds were the least supported funding types mentioned.

How many people in your household are in each of the following age groups?

The two (2) largest age groups represented by the surveys ranged from age 30-49.
The majority of survey respondents (70%) reported supporting user fees to attend an event or special facility.

The majority of survey respondents reported being White followed by Hispanic or Latino and then Black or African American.
Survey #2 Data and Analysis

The second survey consisted of a two page paper survey written in both English and Spanish. This survey was mailed out to 2,500 Siler City households as well as provided online for those who preferred that method. Survey participants were asked to answer a list of questions related to a number of different topics related to recreation. Space for open comments was also provided.

The following data was generated from the results of the additional survey effort. Tables with more detailed results and demographic data are available in Appendix I.

Recreation Interests

Participants were asked if they or their family members would have interest in a list of activities including: Arts and Crafts, Performing Arts, Sports and Athletics, Fitness, Aquatics, Outdoor Recreation, Other Special Events. Possible responses included "No Interest", "Some Interest", and "Great Interest".

Special events such as 4th of July, health fairs and summer concerts received the majority responses for "Great Interest" followed by Aquatics, Outdoor recreation, Performing Arts, Fitness, Sports and Athletics, and finally Arts and Crafts (in that order).

Attendance

Participants were asked to indicate how often they or their family members visited/attended specific Siler City Park facilities within a year. Choices provided included: Never, Once, 2-6 times, 7-12 times, and More than 12 times. The question also asked if survey participants were aware of each specific facility.

Bray Park was visited the most followed by Boiling Lane Park. Tied for third most visited facility was Paul Braxton Park/Gym. The fourth most visited facility was a tie between Washington Avenue Park and Collins Park. The parks listed as least often visited included the Pool at Bray Park (it has been closed for two years), Ernest Ramsey Gym, and Landrus Siler Park.


Reasons for non-participation (at park facilities)

The reasons survey participants listed for not using existing park facilities included the following (in order from most often selected reason to least often selected reason):

1) "Lack of information"
2) "Nothing interesting offered"
3) "Lack of maintenance"
4) "Security-Not feeling safe"
5) "Safety of equipment at the parks"
6) "Not enough time"
7) "Inadequate staffing"
8) "Inconvenient program times"
9) "Accessibility issues"
10) "Lack of transportation"
11) "Cost"
12) "Lack of Parking"

Information about parks and recreation opportunities

This question aimed to find out participants' preferences for how best to communicate with Siler City residents about parks and recreation programs and activities. Survey participants reported that "Direct e-mail announcements" were the most effective method of communication followed by "Social Media: Facebook", and "Flyers through the school system". The least effective methods reported included: "Newspaper ads", "text messages", "Brochures, flyers or posters at public facilities", Social Media: Other & Twitter", "Separate Department Website", and least "Radio".

Areas of Emphasis/Importance

When asked what activities and improvements were "Very Important", "Somewhat Important", and "Not Important" the top ten provided responses for what was "Very Important" included:

1. Lighting at facilities
2. Expanding Parks and Open Space
3. Lighted Trails/Paths
4. Jogging/Walking Trails (1-3 miles)
5. Outdoor Swimming Pool
6. Hiking Trails, and Indoor Swimming Pool
7. Open space/Natural areas
8. Additional Restrooms
9. Jogging/Walking Trails (3-6 miles), and Indoor Health & Fitness Complex
10. Fitness Facility, and Picnic Areas

Funding

Survey participants were asked to respond with either "Strongly Disagree", "Disagree", "Agree", "Strongly Agree", or "Don't Know" to a list of different methods of financing parks and recreation.
Survey participants reported that they "Strongly Agree" to (1st) "Corporate sponsorship and donations" and (Federal/State/Private) "Grants" as their main preference followed by (2nd) "Private Individual Donation", (3rd) "Commercial Activities within parks (e.g. cafes and restaurants in parks), (4th) Program user fees, and (5th) Bonds/Taxes

Personal Opinions

The survey asked participants to provide responses of "Strongly Disagree", "Disagree", "Agree", "Strongly Agree", or "Don't Know" for a long list of different statements (see Appendix I for more detailed response data).

Notable responses included (but not limited to) the following:

45% of respondents did not feel that they were satisfied with the recreation opportunities they received for their tax dollars.

54% of respondents agreed to be willing to pay reasonable users fees for new recreational opportunities.

37% of respondents disagreed with the statement that "in general the recreation facilities in Siler City were well maintained" while 34% agreed with that statement.

52% agreed with the statement that Siler City was a healthy place to live.

44% of respondents Strongly Agree that "the existence of well-maintained parks adds to the quality of life in the community".

44% of respondents Strongly Agree that "the recreation facilities in Siler City need to be remodeled as they are getting old".

56% of respondents Strongly Agree that "there is a need for improvements in the downtown area of Siler City".

Conclusions

While the initial efforts to collect residents opinions and ideas consisted of the majority of this plan's public participation, the extra effort of reaching out to the community for additional input and involvement did yield valuable data.

Using the data from the two separate surveys we can determine patterns of use at existing facilities and make decisions on future facilities/programming at existing parks and at new locations. The majority of respondents in the 1st survey were residents of the Town (84%), but 16% were not residents of Siler City. 100% of the second survey results were provided by Town residents.
The age brackets represented were heavily weighted towards those adults 30-49 years of age. Children and senior residents were also well represented.

Bray, Boling and Braxton Parks were the most visited facilities in the Siler City Parks and Recreation system.

Many respondents said that they would use a recreation facility more often if the programming they desired was offered or if they lived within walking distance from a park. Since most of the Town of Siler City’s facilities are located fairly centrally in Town, the Town needs to explore ways to expand opportunities to other areas of the Town where people work or live.

When it comes to recreation, many respondents feel the need to go outside of Town to meet their needs, with 77% reporting traveling outside of Siler City to use a recreational facility. 47% of respondents reported using school or private facilities for recreation or leisure activities.

Survey responses indicated that nearly all aspects of the existing parks facilities in Siler City need enhancement or improvement.

4.3 STATE AND NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Surveys, which are designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation and facilities, have been conducted on both the federal and state levels, by the President’s Commission on Americas Outdoor and the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey, respectively. Following are significant facts that have evolved from these surveys.

- The top ten most popular outdoor recreational activities (nationwide) are:
  1. Picnicking
  2. Driving for pleasure
  3. Swimming
  4. Sightseeing
5. Walking for pleasure  
6. Playing sports  
7. Fishing  
8. Attending sports events  
9. Boating  
10. Bicycling

- The most rapidly growing outdoor activities (nationwide) are:
  1. Canoeing  
  2. Bicycling  
  3. Attending sports events  
  4. Camping (all types)  
  5. Sailing  
  6. Hiking/Backpacking  
  7. Walking for pleasure  
  8. Water skiing

- The top ten most popular outdoor activities (North Carolina) are:
  1. Walking for pleasure  
  2. Driving for pleasure  
  3. Viewing scenery  
  4. Beach Activities  
  5. Visiting Historical Sites  
  6. Swimming (in Lakes, Rivers, and Oceans)  
  7. Visiting Natural Areas  
  8. Picnicking  
  9. Attending Sports Events  
  10. Visiting Zoos

- Local governments (cities and counties) provide 39% of the public recreational opportunities in the United States.

### 4.4 TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A comprehensive park system is made up of a variety of park types, ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to larger parks with athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers and open space. They reflect the differing recreational and preferences of diverse users. Park models are used as guidelines for fulfilling the future recreational
needs of communities. Not all of these types of parks are the responsibility of the municipal agency; several agencies (federal, state, cities, and/or towns,) play roles in providing recreational opportunities as well. To further understand the Town’s role in providing recreation services to its citizens, it is necessary to understand the elements of a comprehensive park system. These types of parks and recreation facilities may or may not be included in comprehensive park systems and are delineated in the following pages of this section:

- Regional Parks
- District Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Linear Parks/Greenways
- Special Use Facilities
- Open Space

**Regional Parks**

Regional parks are typically very large sites. On these sites, the unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found there, such as the diverse land formation, vegetation, and wildlife, are preserved. Parks containing environmental centers, campsites, nature trails, observation decks and picnic areas are examples of the types of facilities that are usually provided in regional parks. In addition, open fields for non-structured activities, such as Frisbee-throwing or kite-flying, are also generally found there.

When land is acquired for the development of regional parks (or the expansion of existing sites), it should be comprised of the previously mentioned characteristics, accompanied by natural water features such as lakes, rivers or creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage used for active recreation.

The acquisition and development of regional parks are typically undertaken by a federal or state agency. Jordan Lake State Recreational Area is a regional park in the Siler City area.
Specific standards/criteria for developing regional parks are as follows:

**Service area:** Region-wide

**Acreage/Population Ratio:** 10 acres per 1,000 persons

**Minimum Size:** 150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in Community Parks.)

**Typical Facilities:**
- Environmental Center
- Primitive Camping
- Recreational Vehicle Camping
- Observation Deck
- Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
- Fishing Piers/Boat Docks
- Caretaker’s House
- Equestrian Center
- Group Camping
- Nature Trails
- Picnic Shelters and Grills
- Restrooms/Vending Swimming
- Boating
- Parking

*Jordan Lake State Recreational Area*
District Parks

A district park functions as the major source of active recreation for several neighborhoods within a community. District parks are intensely developed, offering a multitude of facilities in order to serve their intended geographic user area. Activities are balanced between active and passive recreation. District Parks are typically developed to accommodate athletic league sporting events and tournament competition. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers. District parks present great opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation.

Sites for district parks should be relatively level to alleviate excessive grading for the active facilities. Where possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily as passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should be an important consideration when choosing sites. The development of district parks is typically the responsibility of county or municipal agencies. Bray Park in Siler City is an example of a district park.

Specific standards/criteria for developing district parks are as follows:

**Service area:** 2 to 6 mile radius

**Acreage/Population Ratio:** 5 acres per 1,000 persons

**Desirable Range:** 75-200 acres

**Desirable Size:** +100 acres

**Typical Facilities:**
- Playgrounds
- Full or Half Size Basketball Courts
- Baseball/Softball/Multi-Purpose Field
- Soccer Practice Field (movable goals)
- Picnic Tables with Grill (with/without shelter)
- Benches or Bench Swings
- 50% of Site Remains Undeveloped

**Alternate Facilities:**
- Recreation Center
- Amphitheatre
- Fishing Piers/Boating/Boat Dock
* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.
Community Parks

Community parks focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Compared to district parks, community parks have a smaller range of recreation facilities. They may host athletic league sports events and provide passive recreation. Fifty percent of the community park property should be developed for only passive recreation, with these relatively undisturbed areas serving as buffers around the park and/or acting as buffers between active facilities.

Community park sites should have varying topography and vegetation. A variety of tree species should also be present in forested areas. Community parks should contain cleared areas for the purpose of locating active areas. At least one natural water feature (lake, river or creek) is desirable in a community park. The land acquired for use as a community park should be contiguous in nature and strategically located in order to provide access for all users within the community that it serves.

The development of community parks typically falls within the realm of municipal responsibilities. Paul Braxton and Boling Lane Parks are community parks in Siler City.

Specific standards/criteria for developing community parks are as follows:

**Service area:** 1 to 2 mile radius

**Acreage/Population Ratio:** 2-5 acres per 1,000 persons

**Desirable Range:** 15-50 acres

**Desirable Size:** 25 acres

**Typical Facilities:**

Playgrounds
Full Size or Half Size Basketball Courts
Tennis/Volleyball Courts
50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
Soccer/Multi-Purpose Fields
Swimming Pool
Picnic Tables/Shelter with/without Grills
Nature Trails
Benches or Bench Swings
Restrooms/Concessions
Parking
Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient source of recreation, while serving as the recreational and social focus for the neighborhood. Usually located within walking distance of the area serviced, neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities, which are of interest to all age groups. The smaller size of neighborhood parks, as compared to those previously mentioned requires intense development, with fifty percent of each site remaining undisturbed and thereby serving as a buffer between the park and adjacent property owners. Washington Avenue and Landrus Siler Parks are examples of neighborhood parks in Siler City.

Specific standards/criteria for neighborhood parks are as follows:

**Service area:** ¾ to 1 mile radius to serve walk-in

**Acreage/Population Ratio:** 2 acres per 1,000 persons

**Desirable Size:** 7-15 acres

**Typical Facilities:**
- Playground
- Softball or Baseball Field
- 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
- Multi-Purpose Field
- Half Basketball Courts
- Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
- Picnic Shelter with Grill
- Benches or Bench Swings

**Alternate Facilities:**
- Tennis Courts
- Nature Trails
Mini Parks

The function of a mini park is to provide very limited, isolated and/or unique recreational needs. Mini parks are the smallest classification of parks that exist. They are often served by school and church playgrounds. These parks are located within walking distance of the area served and they provide limited recreational activities. Their very small size requires intense development; there is little or no buffer between mini parks and adjacent property owners. Collins Park is an example of a mini park in Siler City.

Specific standards/criteria for mini parks are as follows:

**Service area:** ¼ to ½ mile radius to serve the walk-in recreation needs of surrounding populations

**Acreage/Population Ratio:** 0.5 acres per 1,000 persons

**Desirable Size:** ±1 acre

**Typical Facilities (one or more):**
- Playground
- Half Basketball Courts
- Picnic Tables
- Benches or Bench Swings
- Open Play Area

**Alternate Facilities:**
- Tennis Courts
- Nature Trails

W. F. Collins Park is an example of a Mini-Park
Linear Parks/Greenways

A linear park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, et cetera. An example of a linear park in Siler City is the recently opened Love's Creek Greenway. Linear parks are developed for several reasons, including:

1) Connectivity to existing recreational facilities.

2) Facilitation of public right-of-ways.

3) Meeting of public demand.

As such, the length and size of linear parks vary considerably, depending on the terrain of the park land in existence and the distance between the entities to be connected. Such entities include parks, schools, homes, businesses and cultural/historical resources. In some cases, the primary reason for a linear park to be developed within a large land area is for the designated protection and management of the natural environment. In cases such as this, recreation opportunities are merely a secondary objective.

Unique or Special Use Facilities

The unique (or special use) facilities are park types that exist for the sole purpose of enhancing or utilizing a special man-made or natural feature of land or water. They can include beaches, parkways, historical sites, sites of archeological significance, a swimming pool, conservation easements, flood plains, etc. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category of park. Notwithstanding, a size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource, while providing optimum use for residents and visitors, is considered to be a desirable outcome..
Open Space

While it is realistic and appropriate to adopt population–based standards for park land and facilities, it is not realistic to establish open space standards. The more reasonable method of establishing appropriate standards for open space is to determine the criteria necessary for the protection of the significant natural areas contained therein.

Public open space is defined as: any land acquired for the purpose of keeping it in a (primarily) undeveloped state. The functions of open space include:

1. Preservation of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
2. Protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)
3. Protection of communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
4. Protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
5. Protection of approach and take-off areas near airports (clear zones)
6. Protection of undevelopable land (landfills)
7. Protection of areas aesthetically pleasing for a corridor (viewshed).

4.5 EVALUATION OF PARK LAND NEEDS

EXISTING ACREAGE

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed standards that were intended as guidelines for use at the local level. However, there has recently been a change to how standards of service are calculated. There is no longer a national standard of “x” number of acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, as this method of calculation is now recognized as deficient. The current NRPA methodology calls on each community to determine its own defining blend of natural, social and economic characteristics. Each community is given the opportunity of developing its own standard, or Level of Service (LOS), tailored to an

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXISTING PARK ACREAGE</th>
<th>Love’s Creek Greenway</th>
<th>Under Construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bray Park</td>
<td>78 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Braxton Park</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landrus Siler Park</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Avenue Park</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Ramsey Gym</td>
<td>.6 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins Park</td>
<td>&gt;.25 acres (.09 ac)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boling Lane Park</td>
<td>5.5 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Town Owned:</td>
<td>98 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
appropriate range, quantity and quality of recreational facilities within its fiscal limits. However, it is cumbersome and expensive for every community to develop an individual standard. Therefore, the previous national standards are still used by most communities as a general way to establish a standard.

When comparing a park system to national standards, one method is to examine the total acreage of the park system. The NRPA Park land guidelines (in acres) for the total service population of the Town of Siler City are provided in the table below. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per population of 1,000) pre-established for each classification of parks.

### PARK ACREAGE BY CLASSIFICATION
(Based on NRPA Guidelines)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF PARK</th>
<th>Existing Acreage</th>
<th>Recommended for 2015 Population 8,352</th>
<th>Recommended for 2025 Population 9,327*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL PARK (NPS)</td>
<td>0 acres</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 acres/1,000 persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT PARK</td>
<td>78 acres</td>
<td>41.76 acres</td>
<td>46.64 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 acres/1,000 persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PARK</td>
<td>12.5 acres</td>
<td>20.88 acres</td>
<td>23.32 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 acres/1,000 persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</td>
<td>7.6 acres</td>
<td>16.70 acres</td>
<td>18.65 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 acres/1,000 persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINI PARK</td>
<td>.09 acres</td>
<td>4.18 acres</td>
<td>4.66 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 acres/1,000 persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Projected growth based on 1.11% growth rate (see Section 2.2 of this document)

Following a summation of park acreage, it has been determined that the Town of Siler City does not meet the national and state acreage guidelines for comprehensive park systems. (See total existing acreage as compared to total recommended acreage above.) The Town does not currently operate a Regional Park. Usually, Regional Parks are operated by large cities and counties or State parks systems and so this category does not apply to this study.

Bray Park is a District Park operated by the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department. This facility provides athletic fields for active recreation as well as other amenities typical of a park of this significance. Bray Park is abundant in space and should be considered as a venue to attract seasonal events to Siler City. While there are two (2) Community Parks in Siler City (Boling Lane and Paul Braxton Parks), a current deficit of 8.38 acres still remains. Using the NRPA guidelines, there will be a deficit of 10.82 acres by the year 2025.
Siler City operates three (3) Neighborhood Parks for residents of Siler City. These include Washington, Landrus Siler, and Ramsey Gym. According to the NRPA guidelines, there remains a deficit of 9.1 acres or roughly one typical Neighborhood Park. Collins Park is Siler City's only Mini Park. The current deficit for parks of this size and function is about 4 acres. Through qualitative data collected via discussions with members of the community, much of the need for small area parks is provided by private, church, and school facilities in the community. One example of this is the pocket park adjacent to the NC Arts Incubator on the corner of North Chatham Avenue and West 2nd Street which provides respite to busy Downtown traffic and serves to host occasional public functions.

4.6 EVALUATION OF FACILITY NEEDS

The results of local standards established by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA), the North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, and (foremost) the Town of Siler City have been compiled (Table 1) in order to assess the current and future facility needs (Table 2), as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>NRPA Standards</th>
<th>NCDENR Standards</th>
<th>Town of Siler City Standards (Recommended)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball</td>
<td>1/12,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe</td>
<td>1/12,000</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
<td>1/5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Town of Siler City Standard (Recommended)</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
<th>Current Demand (pop. 8,352)</th>
<th>10-Year Demand (pop. 9,327 estimate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking/Hiking</td>
<td>1/region</td>
<td>0.4 mile/1,000</td>
<td>2 mile/1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.4 mile/1,000</td>
<td>0.4 mile/1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2.5 sites/1,000</td>
<td>2.5 sites/1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery Area</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling (Urban)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing/Boating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streams/Lakes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.2 mile/1,000</td>
<td>0.2 mile/1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream/Lake Access</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/10 miles</td>
<td>1/10 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where the Town of Siler City standards deviate from the state and national standards, current demands on Park and Recreation programs have been taken into account.

### Table 2: EXISTING AND RECOMMENDED PUBLIC FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Town of Siler City Standard (Recommended)</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
<th>Current Demand (pop. 8,352)</th>
<th>10-Year Demand (pop. 9,327 estimate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Baseball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking/Hiking</td>
<td>0.4 mile/1,000</td>
<td>.4 mi.</td>
<td>3.3 mi.</td>
<td>3.7 mi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>0.4 mile/1,000</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>2.5 sites/1,000</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery Area</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From this exercise, we have concluded that the Town of Siler City is in need of (2) two football fields, (2) two shuffleboard, (2) two horseshoe pits, (1) one volleyball court and about three (3) miles of walking trail.

To summarize, listed below are the results of recreational facility needs assessment, both current and for the future, based on NRPA, NCDENR and Town of Siler City standards, not community input (which is the primary guide for the development of the Master Plan.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Current Short Fall</th>
<th>Future Short Fall if Current Need is Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Shoe Pits</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Court</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking/Hiking Trails</td>
<td>2.9 miles</td>
<td>3.3 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One recreation amenity that is difficult to measure and was not included on the typical list of facilities was for Futsal courts. Futsal is a rapidly growing activity around the world and should continue to grow for many years to come. Developing standards for how many Futsal courts a community needs is difficult due to the sport's evolution outside of the US. However, many communities in the US are beginning to introduce Futsal programming to their Parks and Recreation systems despite the lack of regionally established standards. This plan bases its recommendation of adding (2) two Futsal courts to the Siler City Recreation system on discussions with community meeting participants. The Town should re-evaluate the need for Futsal courts bi-annually and should establish a standard that fits its unique population demands.

- END OF SECTION -
SECTION 5 GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

As identified in the inventory portion of this report (Section 3), there are eight (8) separate, existing recreational facilities owned and operated by the Town of Siler City. These facilities offer both active and passive recreation opportunities. The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as a map for the future development of recreation facilities in the Town of Siler City. The plan incorporates recommendations to accomplish the objectives set forth in the Master Plan. These recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Roles of The Town of Siler City Providers
- Roles of other Recreation Providers
- Park Proposals and Recommendations
- Facility Proposals and Recommendations
- Staffing
- Policies
- Priorities for Development

5.2 ROLES OF THE TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Town of Siler City should continue to offer recreational opportunities at existing parks and support the development of future parks and greenway trails for local residents and visitors alike. This is especially true for addressing connectivity to park and recreation facilities for minorities, the elderly, and youth populations.

To avoid overextending their staff, the Town needs to continue to investigate various partnerships with all the other recreation providers and community groups. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department partners with other area recreation providers occasionally. These partnerships should be further developed and new partnership possibilities explored, especially with the proposed addition of future parks and greenways to the park system.
5.3 ROLES OF OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Chatham County

A number of Siler City residents report using Chatham County park facilities for at least a portion of their recreation needs. The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department also provides staffing assistance for some Siler City Parks and Recreation athletic competitions. A strengthened partnership between the Siler City and the Chatham County parks and recreation departments would be of mutual benefit as it is difficult for one entity to provide all of the necessary programming and facilities for the community. A strong, honest communication between the staffs and elected officials is the key to continuing an ongoing relationship between the County and Siler City.

The Town of Pittsboro

The Town of Pittsboro Parks Department is run by Paul Horne, Parks Planner. The Town is actively pursuing the development of new recreation facilities under the guidance of the Pittsboro Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Their park inventory currently consists of neighborhood parks, a leased playground and a basketball/tennis facility.

A partnership between Siler City and the Town of Pittsboro would benefit both parties. Athletic leagues that could develop into revenue generating tournaments could occur. A joint venture would combine essential resources creating a stronger recreation system for residents of both Pittsboro and Siler City.

Town of Goldston

The Town of Goldston has a community park that includes both passive and active recreation facilities. Programming for the park is performed by the Goldston Recreation Club with some financial assistance through Chatham County recreational grants. Further partnership opportunities with the Town of Goldston should be pursued to provide recreation
programming and facilities for residents in this rural district of the County. Areas for possible partnerships include event planning, programming assistance and guidance in the development of future recreation facilities.

**Town of Cary – Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources**

Like Siler City, the Town of Cary offers a number of recreational opportunities including arts programming and special events. Cooperation would benefit both communities and add positive growth and community interest for both programs. The Cary Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources group should be encouraged to partner with Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation with regards to providing opportunities to share programming and marketing of recreation efforts and special events planning.

**Chatham County Schools**

Chatham County School facilities could serve to provide some of the facility needs required by residents of Siler City and athletic associations in Town. A formal, written agreement between Siler City Parks and Recreation, the Chatham County School System and private sector providers (athletic associations) should be inaugurated. The agreement should spell out the responsibilities and benefits to each partner. Points to be considered should be:

- A system-wide fee structure
- An assignment of maintenance responsibilities
- A fair and effective method of scheduling use of the facilities

The Chatham County School System currently provides recreation facilities that are available for County Parks and Recreation programming and by several athletic associations within the County. Currently, the Chatham County School system does utilize Siler City park facilities for some of its athletic programming. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Chatham County School System should work together to provide mutually beneficial athletic programming, and other public recreation initiatives. Opportunities exist for joint partnership in the areas of after school programs,
volunteer organizations and clubs, vocational assistance, facility improvements, etc. In addition, the Chatham County School System and the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department should coordinate long-range planning and development efforts in order to evaluate the possibilities of expanded recreation facility sharing. This type of cooperation would result in an increased availability of facilities, reduced costs and reduced duplication of facilities.

**Chatham County Council on Aging**

The Chatham County Council on Aging works to promote and enable physical and mental health among adults, age 60 and over. As a part of this goal, the Council provides opportunities for both recreation and physical fitness. A partnership between the Council on Aging and the Parks and Recreation Department could benefit both agencies. The Recreation Department can help to expand the opportunities for physical fitness and senior sports activities, while the members of the Council on Aging could provide volunteer help with future Recreation Department activities. Senior residents of the Town have good experience, knowledge and creativity that will be of great benefit to the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Private Sector**

The private sector includes businesses, residential developers and non-profit organizations. They provide a wide range of recreational opportunities including facilities, open spaces and programming. The Parks and Recreation Department should develop partnerships and actively generate more opportunities to share recreational activities. Potential partnership opportunities could be developed in the future with the local medical and health providers, the YMCA and other private organizations.
YMCA

The YMCA of the Triangle serves Wake, Chatham, Durham, Lee, Johnston, Orange and Pamlico counties, with 15 branches and three overnight camps. The Chatham County branch of the YMCA of the Triangle is well rooted in Chatham County and recently has begun offering full-day, sports, specialty and traditional Summer Day Camps for kids in Siler City. This program is a partnership between the Chatham Branch YMCA and the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department. Siler City should explore other partnership opportunities with the YMCA including those that may lead to long term shared use of recreation facilities.

Communication between the YMCA and the Parks and Recreation Department is necessary for both organizations to reach their community goals. In today’s economic conditions, the large, multi-purpose facilities desired by many Siler City residents may be difficult to achieve quickly, thus encouraging a joint venture between the two organizations.

The YMCA has always been committed to supporting community collaborations and initiatives that generate solutions to local challenges. By fostering partnerships with a diversity of leaders and organizations, all parties involved could benefit.

Developers

Commercial and residential developers are an important component for Siler City in providing resources and opportunities for the Town. Developers can assist the Town by the dedication, construction, and/or reservation of future park sites, open space, and/or greenway corridors during the overall development process. A Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) allows for the dedication of easements for greenway corridors as private property is developed. The requirements would allow the Town to have funds for developing future park facilities.

In many cases, the land offered for dedication by a developer may be in areas where a developer would not place buildings. In addition, the location of the dedicated land offered may not be suitable for Siler City’s long-term goals for future park facilities. The Town should introduce a parkland dedication requirement in order to produce potential park sites that meet the goals and objectives for the Parks Department while granting credit for open space dedications. Also, developers still need to provide payment in lieu of dedication when the property does not reflect the proposals and recommendations set in the master plan or park and greenway development.
A UDO would provide a mechanism for residential developers to provide land for parks, sidewalks, trails, greenways, recreational, and open space purposes. Specifically, all residential conventional subdivisions would have to dedicate land or fee in-lieu of land for open space. By establishing this regulation, the Town could apply subject monies from the fee in-lieu of for the dedication or reservation of future park sites and/or open space, which contributes more to a community rather than a development.

It is recommended that UDO language directing fee in lieu transactions include recommendations made by a recreation advisory committee and be reviewed periodically by Town Staff.

5.4 PARK PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town of Siler City wants to be the main provider of active and passive recreation for the Town of Siler City residents. Bray Park is the cornerstone of recreational opportunities for the residents of Siler City and should continue to be developed to further provide for their recreational needs. Improvements made to other existing Town owned parks should be made to mitigate hazards and improve accessibility and safety. The expansion of park and open space lands would go far in developing recreation opportunities for local residents.

Other potential recreation goals should be considered for siting within the downtown area as a way to bolster planning efforts to revitalize the Downtown Siler City area and to help bring recreation activities closer to local area businesses that could benefit from the increased number of visitors that certain types of parks and amenities could attract. Public commentary included the following ideas related to recreation amenities appropriate for downtown and potentially beneficial to area merchants:

- Design and construct a Downtown Loop Trail with an art theme. Such a trail would be pedestrian/bike-oriented and consist of existing sidewalks and alleys in Downtown Siler City. By utilizing the often
forgotten spaces behind the main street frontages, space for viewing art murals could be created supporting the burgeoning art community in Siler City. One possible path could begin at Collins Park, circle through to Beaver Street and end at the Arts Incubator. Future legs of the path could connect to 2nd Avenue sidewalks and eventually to the Greenway system. This proposed trail would have a positive economic impact as a destination for visitors to Siler City.

- Other proposed recreation projects for future consideration included the construction of a permanent Farmer's Market and Splash Play area within Downtown. Public comment suggested the acquisition of the McNeely Property south of existing drainage ditch to 2nd Street as a possible location. Improved drainage and landscaping of this property along with a new paved parking lot and splash pad would create a destination opportunity within downtown for residents and visitors alike.

- Coordinate efforts to develop a portion of the Birch Avenue Railroad right-of-way. Improvements may include landscaping of the existing pad and installation of sidewalk on the east boundary. This pedestrian path would connect with the proposed Downtown Loop Trail. Where space provides, a small dog park could be sited.

- Consider opportunities within downtown to create open space/passive recreation areas for public gathering. Two examples from the existing Downtown Master plan are to provide such amenities at the northwest corner of South Second Avenue and Beaver Street and the Southwest Corner of East Third Street and North Third Avenue

**General Park System Recommendations**

**Recommendation #1: Facility and Program Accessibility**

Every park and recreation facility the Town of Siler City operates should respect and provide for the needs of the disabled through design and programming. All new facilities should be designed to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. When existing and new facilities are acquired or developed, priority should be given to the continual upgrading of facilities that, perhaps, may have
become or are not ADA compliant. All existing Town facilities should be assessed for safety and accessibility and a strategy to make necessary upgrades should be devised and implemented.

**Recommendation #2: Design and Daily Maintenance**

The facilities owned and operated by the Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation Department should be inviting places for residents of the Town and visitors to the area. Priority should be given to improving the design of facilities such that they are architecturally and functionally progressive. Daily maintenance practices should be implemented to improve the cleanliness and longevity of all facilities. Master planning should always be completed for park improvements or new facilities prior to final budgeting and design; thereby, making the phasing/development more transitional and of higher quality.

**Recommendation #3: Greenways/Multi-use Trails**

Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities. Community commentary also indicated the local demand for these facilities. The Town should continue to implement the recommendations outlined in the Siler City Pedestrian Plan. The Town should continue to develop corridors and greenway trails to various destination points within the Community.

**Recommendation #4: Bike Lanes**

Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concerns and the need to increase the health/fitness of the population, a planned network of bike trails, bike lanes, and shared roadways should be developed in order to support alternative transportation to recreation facilities and travel within the Town of Siler City. All future, new roadway construction within the Town should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing, as well as future park facilities and greenways. In addition, bike racks (sheltered at schools and other potential high-use areas) should be installed at all publicly owned facilities across the Town.
Recommendation #5: Way-finding

The Town of Siler City should consider the implementation of a uniform system of directional signage for all existing and proposed parks and future greenways. Such a system of signage would direct users to recreation facilities, public parking, and significant destinations. A uniform system of signs will allow users to immediately recognize Town Recreation and Park facilities from among the plethora of other directional signage on roadways. The Town should also consider developing one unifying system of way-finding signage that would lead visitors to various recreational, civic, retail, and residential destinations; and, help with directions once they have arrived at the venue.

Recommendation #6: Connectivity

Continue to link the Town of Siler City park system with greenways and/or trails, where possible. Tie them into the major floodplain/open space system - where applicable - through fee simple donation or conservation easements whenever possible.

Recommendation #7: Intergovernmental Coordination

The Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation should continue to coordinate planning efforts with other Town departments such as the Town of Siler City Department of Planning and Community Development and other local municipalities to provide additional greenway and park facilities and pedestrian connectivity. Representatives of the Town and of these agencies should meet periodically to discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the Town. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space, and recreation master plant updates, local municipalities, and adjacent counties. This will also insure that redundancy in services is prevented and all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being utilized. Working with the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) would be beneficial for developing and prioritizing projects as well as finding assistance with project funding. TARPO serves Lee and Moore Counties and the rural portions of Chatham and Orange.
Counties, including the municipalities of Aberdeen, Broadway, Carthage, Foxfire, Goldston, Pinehurst, Pittsboro, Sanford, Siler City, Southern Pines, and Vass.

**Recommendation #8: Update and Expand Code of Ordinances for Recreation and Parks**

The Code of Ordinances for the Recreation and Parks department should be updated to include definitions and rules to govern items such as the following:

- Hours of operation
- Vehicles in parks
- Destruction of recreation property
- Discharge or carrying of firearms or weapons
- Acceptance of gifts, grants, donations
- Greenway rules and regulations
- Advisory Committee responsibilities
- Leasing of Public Park Space to for profit groups
- Permissible activities during Town festivals
- Advertising in parks
- Selling, peddling, etc.
- Gambling
- Alcoholic beverages in parks
- Tobacco use in parks

A Fees and Charges Schedule should also be included in the Code of Ordinances.

**Recommendation #9: Re-Establishment of a Recreation Advisory Committee**

The Town should consider reestablishing a committee with the mission to advocate for Siler City Parks and Recreation and the needs of the community.

The Recreation Advisory Commission should work with the Director of Recreation and make recommendations regarding recreation programs, facilities, resources and needs of the Town.

**Recommendation #10: Partnership Agreement**

It is recommended that the Town Staff meet with existing and potential partners to determine needs and possible partnership opportunities. Potential (or existing partners) include schools, churches, local chamber of commerce, individuals, organizations, other municipalities, etc. The Town should begin this process by developing an approach to each potential partner to establish an
understanding of each entity’s needs; and ultimately, result in a partnership agreement. The process will require periodic progress meetings with each partner to facilitate the partnerships goals and objectives. This may entail presentations to the partner’s board or committee.

Recommendation #11: Joint Use Policy

Develop a formal Schools, Parks, and Recreation “Joint Use Policy”.

Recommendation #12: Developers and Connectivity

The Town should strongly encourage or require developers to provide connectivity between developments and public facilities - such as parks, schools, and other pedestrian facilities. The inclusion of public greenways or trails in private developments should also be encouraged. If no suitable land for park or greenway development is available, the Town should allow developers to pay into the fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication.

Recommendation #13: Interpretative Signage

The Town of Siler City should consider placing signage that would identify any historic and natural landmarks along greenway corridors. This type of signage would not only enhance the pedestrian experience; but also, provide educational and cultural information to greenway users; i.e., on the Loves Creek Greenway as well as many other points of interest throughout the Town.

Recommendation #14: Educational and Stewardship Programming

The Town of Siler City should develop a consistent environmental education program and interpretative facilities at park locations and along future greenway corridors as opportunities arise for future park development. These programs should include stewardship and community volunteer programs geared to the management of natural areas and wildlife habitats.
Recommendation #15: Green Building

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department implement green building components into the existing and future parks facilities. Green building techniques consist of building materials and construction practices which reduce environmental impacts (greenhouse gases, water pollution, and air pollution) and promote energy efficient building materials/methods. These efforts will improve environmental stewardship for park facilities and also educate park users.

Recommendation #16: Contiguous Property Acquisition

As property that is contiguous to existing parks becomes available, reasonable efforts should be made to assess the benefits and costs associated with the acquisition of the property. Large acreage parks offer recreation amenities that can only be achieved on large sites. The acquisition of contiguous property next to Town Parks should be of high priority to the Town of Siler City. Efforts should be made immediately to seek first option on all contiguous properties. At the time these options are sought, other possibilities should be presented to the property owner as well. Some property owners may be receptive to conservation easements while retaining the title to the property. Conservation easements will allow the Town the opportunity to use properties for recreation while providing the immediate benefits of preservation. Numerous grant sources can be used for land acquisition. Extreme care should be exercised in choosing the correct process(es) and timing for acquisition to meet the full potential afforded by grants.

Recommendation #17: Acceptance of Fee Simple Land Donation

If land is offered to the Town of Siler City as donation by fee simple title with no restrictions, the property should be surveyed for natural heritage significance and relationship to existing plans and parks. If the land contains no environmental hazards, or restrictive covenants/easements, it can be useful and beneficial for the Town to assume ownership. Not all donated land has to be developed into a park in order to be useful. Any land donation to the Town serves a great public need even if it is banked for the future, because the development and public needs of the distant future (over 50 years)
is unknown. If donated property were properly managed, the revenue and future significance of the property would far exceed its current contribution to the tax base. If the Town chooses not to accept land donation of a particular property, efforts should be made to assist the property owner with contacting an agency that accepts land donations or conservation easements.

**Recommendation #18: Natural and Cultural Heritage Inventory**

The Town of Siler City should encourage the preparation of an Inventory of Significant Natural and Cultural Areas within the Town. The intent of such a study would be to identify areas deemed to be significant natural and/or cultural resources, which should be evaluated for consideration of preservation. Such an inventory aids in the design and planning of future greenways by serving to highlight potential nodal destinations and would help to identify the unspoiled natural resources that could become destinations for eco-adventure tourism. Such information also may aid in the procurement of financial assistance for trail development.

**Recommendation #19: Funding**

Consider property assessments and grantsmanship to fund greenway construction where the need for pedestrian connections cannot rely on the timing of private property development.

**Recommendation #20: Walkability**

Promote land uses and site designs that make walking convenient, safe, and accessible for all ability levels to enjoy.
Recommendation #21: Easements

Encourage the coordination and planning for future utility easements with greenway facilities. The easements should be established to allow for the inclusion of recreation facilities.

Recommendation #22: Create a marketing strategy to promote and educate residents about parks and recreation opportunities with a thorough system map, a unified way-finding system, and branding.

A well-utilized marketing strategy has the potential to expand the use of existing and future facilities to current and new users. It is recommended that the Town create a branding system for the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department. Such branding should support and introduce a standardized way-finding system for parks, the Loves Creek greenway and any future spurs. As the Greenway expands, this effort should include coordination with neighboring communities such as Pittsboro, Goldston, Cary, etc. As part of this effort it is recommended that the Town engage the community through regular (monthly) communication including both online via the Town website and via point of facility signage (via kiosk in English and Spanish). An updated Program Guide pamphlet should be made available that lists all available programs, important contact information and dates as well as fees for residents and non-residents.

Recommendation #23: Develop a Marketing Strategy for Sustainable Events-Based Recreation

The Town of Siler City should create a task force to come up with how to promote the Town’s existing parks facilities for lease by special event promotors and to make recommendations and provide direction regarding facility rules, public policy, and fee structures.

Recommendation #24: Naming Rights Policy

Develop a Facility Naming Rights Policy that would include the Town’s position on what is required to name a facility, parks, etc., after an individual, citizen group, business, etc. The policy should include the necessary components of sponsorship or co-sponsorship of a program/event by an outside organization.

Recommendation #25: Measure Community Health

It is imperative to be able to determine if the Department is facilitating improved health of residents and deciding if adjustments are needed to further improve
Additional or improved parking, which is well lighted, can draw larger crowds to Bray Park.

Recommendation #26: Streamline Athletic Registration Process

Consider the implementation of online registration software for facility rentals, payment, etc.

Existing Park Facility Recommendations

Bray Park

This facility serves to provide multiple recreation opportunities which could draw large groups to the park at one time. This leads to the need for parking expansion and improvements to existing parking areas. While some efforts have been made to accommodate A.D.A. compliance, further assessment of the accessibility of the individual park amenities should occur and needed improvements implemented. Other improvements include:

1. Lighting should be updated at the smaller fields and picnic shelter.
2. Parking should be expanded to allow for the potential of tournament play and special events.
3. All park amenities should be assessed for compliance to A.D.A. standards.
4. Maintenance should occur on an ongoing basis.
5. The Tennis courts should be evaluated for repairs to the fencing and play surface. (Possible partnership with local/regional USTA should be explored)
6. Bleachers should be assessed for safety issues and repaired or replaced.
7. All field fencing should be evaluated for repair or replacement (Baseball
fields #1 & #2 need immediate repairs)
8. A public restroom/concession building should be constructed.
9. Existing stormwater issues should be assessed for appropriate solutions.
10. A Park Master Plan should be developed for Bray Park.

Landrus Siler Park

This facility has the potential to be a very nice park. However, renovations to all the park amenities are needed. The restrooms are currently closed due to the need for repairs. One major obstacle that had prevented the Town from making improvements to this facility was the fact that the property was owned by Chatham County. Currently the Parks and Recreation department counts this facility in its list of Town Parks and is responsible for all maintenance and programming for this facility. At the time of this Study, the Town was in the process of acquiring a Joint-Use Agreement with the County. Such an agreement would provide Siler City with ownership of this park resource. It is recommended to undergo a study and collect public input as part of a master plan aimed at enhancing this recreation resource.

1. The restrooms, playground, trail and picnic areas, etc., should be assessed for A.D.A. compliance and upgraded as needed.
2. The parking area should be redesigned to include enhanced lighting and be paved with asphalt.
3. The restrooms should be renovated.

Some of Landrus Siler’s upgrades should include park lighting and paving

4. Security lighting should be installed.
5. Way-finding signage leading to the park is needed.
6. Maintenance should occur on an ongoing basis.
7. A Park Master Plan should be developed for Landrus Siler Park.

Boling Lane Park

This facility is used by many residents of Town and is an important feature of the southwest side of Town. Pending the construction of a proposed connector trail, the park will soon become a node along the Loves Creek Greenway. However,
renovations to all the park amenities are needed. It is recommended to undergo a study and collect public input as part of a master plan aimed at enhancing this recreation resource.

1. The Helen M. Buckner Walking Path, Tennis court, playground, and picnic area should be assessed for A.D.A. compliance and upgraded as needed.

2. The existing parking opportunities should be expanded from 23 to 40 spaces.

3. Way-finding signage leading to the park is needed.
4. Consider removal of existing Tennis Court.
5. The existing picnic shelter should be renovated to include a new metal roof.
6. A restroom building should be constructed.
7. Storm drainage should be assessed for functionality and upgraded as necessary.
8. The existing bridge on the walking trail should be assessed for repairs and work completed with the renovation of the storm drainage.
9. Existing metal stream culverts should be assessed for safety issues and repaired/replaced.
10. Maintenance should occur on an ongoing basis.
11. A Park Master Plan should be developed for Boling Lane Park.

**Washington Avenue Park**

Washington Avenue Park serves the northeast side of Siler City. This park is frequently used and very much enjoyed by its neighboring residents.

1. The existing restroom facility should be renovated
2. Lighting in the park should be enhanced
3. The walking trail should be paved to cut down on ongoing/regular maintenance.
4. The picnic shelter should be evaluated for repairs to the roof.
5. Storm drainage should be assessed for functionality and upgraded as necessary.
6. The basketball courts should be upgraded with new goals and court resurfacing.
7. Instructional signage should be installed at all fitness stations.
8. Erosion damage to the paved area at the southeastern edge of the parking lot should be repaired.
9. Handicap signage should be installed at the handicap parking spots.
10. Maintenance should occur on an ongoing basis.
11. Upgrade site lighting.

Ernest Ramsey Gym

According to public comment, this facility is much loved by the community and deserves to be restored. It is recommended that a study be conducted to evaluate the need for renovations. This Gym was recently re-opened (June 2015) as floor and roof repairs were completed. Ongoing roof leaks have occurred and been spot repaired where necessary. The entire gym roof should be assessed for repair/replacement.

1. The existing gymnasium floor was in great need of repair and so the decision to remove the floating floor tiles, exposing the concrete sub-floor was made. This concrete surface is not ideal for use but after court striping, this decision allowed for the gym’s use for summer programming. It should be noted that this solution is temporary as playing on concrete may pose a safety concern. Efforts to install a permanent playing surface suitable for indoor gym use should be considered.

2. The existing restrooms at the front of the facility are not A.D.A. compliant and need to be renovated. The locker room/restrooms are in great disrepair and should be either renovated or converted for some other use.
3. The boiler room may contain asbestos. The Town should consult an asbestos abatement professional for how best to deal with the removal of any environmental/health hazards.

4. The heating system for the gym is dated and should be assessed for proper functionality and any needed repairs made.

5. Consider the addition of an A/C system to attract more use of the facility

6. The concession stand should be renovated.

7. The exterior sidewalks and covered awnings should be assessed for accessibility, cracks and needed repairs. The awning gutters are dated and may need replacement.

8. Parking around the gym is limited. A.D.A. accessibility from the existing parking areas to the gym should be assessed and needed improvements made.

9. Protective ceiling netting is recommended to prevent balls from damaging the overhead lights. Programming that includes indoor Soccer or Futsal may be appropriate for play once the netting is installed.

**Paul Braxton Park**

Recent improvements have been made to some of the amenities of this facility but other site amenities are very dated and pose significant safety risks. The basketball court has been recently upgraded with new pavement and backboards. The existing soccer field was re-sodded with Bermuda sod but was closed as of the time of this study due to excessive ponding but reopened in May of 2015. The existing gym is dated with many needed repairs and the Community Center is in fair condition. The site also has a baseball/softball field in very poor condition.

1. The parking area, gym, Community Center, and other recreation amenities should be assessed for A.D.A. compliance and upgraded as needed.
2. Parking for this facility should be upgraded to included lighting, paving and drainage improvements.
3. The existing soccer field should be surveyed for grading and drainage improvements.
4. The gym structure should be evaluated for needed repairs/renovation or demolition and rebuilding.
5. The existing baseball/softball field and associated components should be evaluated for safety issues and repaired/replaced.
6. Consider future acquisition of the property east of the park (across Chestnut Street adjacent to the old Siler City Monument Company building) to expand park functionality.
7. Maintenance should occur on an ongoing basis.

Collins Park

W. F. Collins Park serves as a memorial to the historic Thompson School, housing the original school bell under a small shelter. This mini park lends to the character of the Downtown area and as such deserves to stand out as a civic space.

1. The existing shelter should be evaluated for repairs and safety issues.
2. The accessibility of the site from the existing parking area and from the sidewalk along North 2nd Avenue should be evaluated for A.D.A. compliance and repairs completed as needed.

3. The damaged concrete sidewalk in front of the park should be repaired or replaced.
4. The landscape areas should be updated with new edging, mulch, etc.
5. Existing trees and shrubs should be pruned to prevent safety or security issues.
6. Lighting of the park should be enhanced.
7. Educational signage highlighting the history of Siler City should be considered for development.
8. The inclusion of a community information kiosk is recommended.
Love's Creek Greenway

The Love’s Creek Greenway (2015) provides pedestrians and bicyclists of all abilities a safe and legal route to navigate the areas between the intersection of Alston Bridge Road and 2nd Avenue to Pony Farm Road with a connector to Bray Park. The new greenway provides 1.4 miles of walking trail. The 2013 Siler City Bike and Pedestrian plan points to number of important pedestrian projects that can ensure residents and visitors of Siler City can walk or bike to area destinations including recreation facilities.

It is recommended that the Town continue to follow the guidance laid out in this Plan as this effort can provide a variety of opportunities for local residents and visitors; and promote tourism and low infrastructure economic development within the Town of Siler City and the surrounding region.

5.5 EXISTING FACILITY PROPOSALS / RECOMMENDATIONS

In Section 4, “Recreation Needs Assessment: Evaluation of Facility Needs”, specific facility needs were identified for The Town of Siler City’s recreation facilities by both the recreation guidelines set forth by the State of North Carolina and the community input process. This section summarizes the Town’s needs for its existing/future facilities and makes recommendations for activities to be considered in the future development of its park system.
Adult/Youth Baseball/T-Ball

Currently, The Town of Siler City meets its current need for adult and youth baseball fields. It is recommended however, that existing fields be renovated and additional adult and youth baseball fields be developed to ease the ability of leagues to host tournament play. Both Baseball and T-Ball registration has dropped significantly since 1997 (Siler City Parks and Registration Stats as provided by Town Staff - See Appendix). This fact may reflect changes in the economy and the loss of residents and traditional sponsors due to businesses relocating out of Town. Currently the public is not satisfied with the existing system of baseball/T-Ball registration. The addition of a new Recreation/Athletic Program Specialist with training and access to online event registration software would help to elevate this perception.

Softball

Currently, The Town of Siler City meets its current need for softball fields. It is recommended however, that existing fields be renovated and additional fields be developed to ease the ability of leagues to host tournament play. Softball registration has dropped significantly since 1997 (Siler City Parks and Registration Stats as provided by Town Staff - See Appendix). This fact may reflect changes in the economy and the loss of residents and traditional sponsors due to businesses relocating out of Town. Currently the public is not satisfied with the existing system of Softball registration. The addition of a new Recreation/Athletic Program Specialist with training and access to online event registration software would help to elevate this perception.
Basketball

Currently, The Town of Siler City meets its current need for Basketball Courts. It is recommended that the existing indoor courts be renovated to mitigate safety and accessibility issues. All outdoor courts should be reviewed annually for court resurfacing, and lighting needs. Basketball registration in Siler City has dropped steadily since the early 2000s (Siler City Parks and Registration Stats as provided by Town Staff - See Appendix). This fact may be due to a change in demographics or the interests of Town residents. Basketball will remain an important part of the Siler City Parks and Recreation system and the needs for additional courts should be re-evaluated annually.

Cheerleading

Currently, the interest in cheerleading is trending up for Siler City. This trend has been growing since 2008 (Siler City Parks and Registration Stats as provided by Town Staff - See Appendix).

Youth Football

Currently, The Town of Siler City does not meet its need for football fields. There is a need for two additional fields. This need may be accommodated for through strategic sharing of fields for Soccer or other activities but this effort can occasionally run into scheduling conflicts and is typically considered as a temporary solution. During the Master Planning of Bray Park, dedicated, lighted football fields should be considered. Football registration has dropped slightly since 2002 (Siler City Parks and Registration Stats as provided by Town Staff - See Appendix). This slight drop in registration may indicate a shift in demographics or indicate regional programming competition.
Soccer

Soccer has become a very popular sport among youth in this country and it is a growing trend among young adults. Soccer registration has grown significantly in Siler City from 2009 to 2013 and continues to grow (Siler City Parks and Registration Stats as provided by Town Staff - See Appendix). Currently, The Town of Siler City meets its need for soccer existing fields according to Town standards. However, public comment mentions that this activity is currently being played in vacant lots and in otherwise non-town owned locations that may present safety concerns to residents using these sites. This indicates that there may be a previously unrecognized need for additional locations to play soccer. The need for additional locations for play should be re-evaluated bi-annually and short-falls accommodated for. During the Master Planning of Bray Park, dedicated, lighted soccer fields should be considered.

Futsal

According to Wikipedia, Futsal is a variant of soccer that is played on a smaller field and mainly played indoors. It can be considered a version of five-a-side football. Its name comes from the Portuguese Futebol de salão, which can be translated as "room football". It was developed in Brazil in the 1930s and 1940s. In Brazil, futsal is played by more people than soccer but does not attract as many spectators as the outdoor sport. Several futsal players have moved on to careers as successful professional soccer players.

Currently, there is a demand for spaces to play Futsal in Siler City. However, no formal location has been established for the games' play. Town Staff have mentioned that Futsal or 5-on-5 court soccer is being played at the tennis court at the Boling Lane Park against park rules prohibiting proper use of the tennis courts. Comments made by a majority of community meeting participants indicate that tennis is not often played at the Boling Lane court and that the space may offer greater function as a futsal court. The game is also being played at the Bray Park Tennis Courts against park rules. Futsal was being considered for permissible use at Ramsey Gym at the time of this Study. This plan recommends that this activity be accommodated in at least two (2) separate Siler City park locations.
Tennis Courts

Currently, The Town of Siler City does meet its need for tennis courts. However, there will be a need for one additional lighted court by 2025. The need for additional Tennis courts should be periodically re-evaluated to determine if and when new courts should be constructed.

This plan recommends seeking a partnership with the local/regional USTA to encourage participation of tennis in Siler City and to assist with programming responsibilities.

Walking /Hiking Trails and Urban Bikeways

Currently, the majority of available trails and bikeways are provided via downtown sidewalks. Limited urban bikeways and greenways are made available via local municipalities; however, connectivity from one town to another is lacking. The Town's existing and future parks need to be integrated into a Town-wide pathway system that links area towns and public lands. Existing and future parks would serve as natural destination points, resting stops, and trail heads. Such a connected system would ideally be a partnership between The Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation, other local municipalities, and the State of North Carolina. A well-conceived and jointly managed system of trails and bikeways would support a burgeoning eco/adventure tourism market and provide positive economic impact for the whole Town. This plan supports the 2013 Siler City Bike and Pedestrian Plan recommendations.

Aquatic Recreation

At the time of this study there was an Aquatic Recreation Study being conducted that aimed at gauging the community's desire for water based facilities such as a pool, splash pad, etc. The findings from the Aquatic Recreation Study have been used to create recommendations that will guide the Town in decision making regarding whether or not to build a Town pool or other aquatic facility and where best to site any future aquatic facilities.
Aquatic Centers range in scope and versatility and include many factors in their design.

Public commentary that came out of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan study noted a number of requests for a pool that could incorporate a zero-entry feature to assist with improved accessibility to the water. Also, there was great support for a temporary shell that could be erected during the cooler months and that would allow for out of season use of the pool. Such an added feature would allow for year round use of the pool and would possibly improve the revenue generation potential of such a facility. With a winter shell over the pool, other enhancements should also be included such as a pool heater, ventilation system, etc. Pending the findings of the Aquatic Recreation Study, it is recommended that a site master plan for a new pool include those features mentioned above.

A number of parents and children that participated in the public meetings supported the addition of a splash play area somewhere in the Siler City Parks and Recreation system. Such a feature is not always associated with a swimming pool and may be sited as a stand-alone amenity.

Aquatic Study Outcomes

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Aquatic Study Steering Committee was presented with various options ranging from eliminating the Town pool, only having a splash pad, building a new pool facility (indoor/outdoor), and renovating the existing pool with various improvements to improve accessibility, flexibility of activities, and costs.

In August of 2015 the Steering Committee heard the details of the different pool options. The recommendation of the Committee was to renovate the existing pool and consider the feasibility of adding a seasonal pool bubble to keep the pool open during the winter months. Ultimately, the recommendation provided by Siler City was that a pool bubble should be considered as a future possibility but that other renovations to the existing pool would be the fastest way to meet the needs and desires of the Town's residents.
Per discussions with Town staff and the Steering Committee, pool renovations should include a number of different features with the aim of serving the greatest number of residents possible.

Steering Committee recommendations included a zero entry area to improve accessibility and to broaden the age range of potential pool users. Other improvements should include the assessment and repair of needed pool tank repairs, updating safety and accessibility of the pool, a new pool deck, upgraded pool equipment, and installation of water spray amenities. The opinion of costs for these renovation items ranged between $460K-$690K.

Upgrades to the existing bath house were separate from the pool renovations and at the time of the Aquatic Study an opinion of costs for this work ranged between $150K and $250K. Parking area improvements were to be considered as a future project tied into overall improvements to Bray Park.

On October 8, 2015 three concept renderings representing different layouts and options for pool renovations was presented to the Steering Committee in order to get a recommendation for a final concept layout of pool renovations. The Steering Committee’s recommended concept sketch can be seen below. A larger version of this sketch can be found in the Appendix J.
This concept includes the basic conceptual layout recommended by the Steering Committee for the pool renovations. This sketch also shows a small shelter adjacent to the existing bathhouse. This feature was not included in the original price range ($460K-$690K) for pool renovations but was recommended by the Steering Committee to be considered for inclusion in the final project.

Operation expenditures for the Siler City Pool had historically been close to $35,000.00+/- annually. Upon discussion with the Siler City Recreation Department staff, this budget was insufficient to maintain the aging pool and meet the maintenance and staffing requirements of the facility.

The operating budget for a new pool facility should be carefully analyzed and constructed to maintain the facility in a safe and accessible manner for all Town residents. This plan recommends that Town Staff and a Recreation Advisory Committee work together to formulate a recommended budget to meet the pool facility needs. This budget should be reevaluated on an annual basis and revised as necessary.

Other Proposed Aquatic Recreation Facilities

Recently there has been interest among Town Staff in utilizing the property located at the Siler City Water Supply Reservoir as a natural, water-based recreational resource. This location is located north of downtown off of Water Plant Road. Comments from the community indicated that historically there were recreation facilities located here but these were eventually closed to public access.

It is recommended that the Town explore the possibility using this property as a new passive recreation facility. Such a facility would include natural open space, walking trails, environmental education signage, and an opportunity for non-motorized boating (canoe/kayak) and possibly fishing. The addition of an observation platform, fishing piers, and a playground or fitness stations would support the usefulness of this type of park as well as meet the current demand for non-active types of recreation.

Indoor Recreation/Fitness Facility

A clear desire for a large scale public indoor recreation facility that could accommodate a fitness facility, indoor pool, new gym, indoor walking track, and community center was expressed by participants of the public meetings and via the survey questionnaires. Many residents wanted such a proposed facility to be sited Downtown across from the existing Police Station/Fire Department site. Other residents expressed a desire to see such a proposed facility at one of the recently closed chicken processing sites or at the old (abandoned) Chatham County Hospital that was open from 1950-2008. This plan recommends that the
Town undergo a separate study into the viability of such a project as public support is strong. The aforementioned sites should be considered for future development but other potential sites should be considered as well. Because of the magnitude of such an undertaking, partnership opportunities with area businesses, non-profits, and other organizations should be formed to ensure a broad foundation of support will lead to a sustainable project outcome.

**Fitness Complexes**

Fitness complexes require intense planning and multiple funding partners.

**Picnic Shelters and Tables**

While full picnic facilities are not needed at every park in the future system, it is suggested that either benches or picnic tables be placed in each existing and future park. New or remodeled picnic shelters, restrooms and activity areas should be built in the following parks:

1. Paul Braxton Park (at old baseball field)
2. Bray Park
3. Bray Pool
4. Boling Lane Park
5. Washington Park
6. Landrus Siler Park

**Playground Activities**

According to recreation standards, Siler City currently meets the need for public playgrounds. However, the existing condition of Siler City playgrounds is only fair. All playground equipment should be inspected for safety hazards and all playground surfacing should be updated per the Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines (CPSCG). [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)
According to the CPSCG "Each year more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground." The CPSCG recommends the following steps related to playground safety:

1. Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

2. Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.

3. Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.

4. Check for dangerous hardware - open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.

5. Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.

6. Check for sharp points or edges.

7. Look out for tripping hazards - exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.

8. Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.

9. Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.

10. Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.

General Operations and Maintenance

Meetings with Department maintenance staff revealed some issues of concern in regard to operations and maintenance. As aging facilities begin to need major repairs, the lack of sufficient staffing and funding, are having an adverse effect on achieving maintenance service objectives and meeting maintenance priorities. The primary concerns voiced by staff are:
1. Increased workload and resulting staff shortage means that maintenance tasks cannot be performed as frequently as they should.

2. Inconvenient storage of mowers and materials diminishes the efficiency of daily maintenance.

3. Park equipment should be selected not only on basis of initial cost, but on basis of maintenance requirements and longevity. Facilities should be 'bulletproof,' and easily maintained.

4. Design of future park facilities should facilitate ease of maintenance.

5. As part of developing recommendations for enhancing the work of the Parks and Recreation Department, maintenance service objectives need to be identified. Levels of maintenance and maintenance priorities can then be established and applied to existing and proposed facilities.

**Maintenance Service Objectives**

Maintenance Service Objectives identify the minimum acceptable levels of maintenance to be provided. Parks maintenance is the key to protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare, as well as the basis of the public's image of the quality of Town facilities and services. The following objectives are designed to aid in establishing a comprehensive maintenance program:

1. **Safety**: Maintain parks and landscapes in a condition which protects the health, safety and welfare of the public.

2. **Cleanliness**: Maintain facilities in a clean and sanitary condition.

3. **Facility Performance**: Maintain facilities in a condition which allows for the intended recreational use.

4. **Resource Protection**: Protect natural resources, developed improvements, and equipment from deterioration, vandalism, and waste. Manage efficient use of time.

5. **Responsiveness**: Respond to public needs, requests, and unsolicited concerns in a timely way.

**Levels of Maintenance**

The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department features a wide-ranging array of facilities accommodating diverse activities. While this requires a number of different approaches to parks maintenance, a systematic approach is
recommended instead. This allows the Department to categorize maintenance activities based on certain facility characteristics and facility types. Based on these, a general list of maintenance tasks can be defined for each maintenance level. Maintenance levels do not necessarily imply quality of work. They are developed in response to meeting maintenance service objectives and the level of effort that is typically required. The primary basis for establishing maintenance levels is the frequency at which maintenance is traditionally required. These frequencies are based on peak seasonal use from March through October, inclusive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL ONE - Daily or Semi-Weekly Facility Maintenance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Characteristics:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive development for active recreational uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Located in proximity to large number of users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily accessible to large number of users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streetscapes fronting park areas (Collins Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed areas in parks of all classifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any turf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavily used parks (Bray and Boling Lane Parks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tasks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation system testing and checking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empty trash receptacles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweep walks and courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean shelters, picnic tables, and BBQ grills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rake sand in playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain athletic fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform safety checks of play equipment, fencing, bleachers, handrails, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain special facilities - pools, gyms, memorials, community centers, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain new plants/sod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL TWO - Weekly Facility Maintenance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Characteristics:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy use at peak times (weekends/holidays); otherwise, moderately heavy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive development for active recreational uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Located in proximity to large number of users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily accessible to large number of users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation systems (where applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation building exteriors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental plantings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavily used open space areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic areas (not under shelter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tasks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pruning shrubs and vines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeding loose surface walking trails; landscaping plant beds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check/repair area lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolve warrantee issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### LEVEL THREE - Semi-Monthly Facility Maintenance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderately heavy use at peak times; otherwise, moderate use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mix of passive and active recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Located in moderate to lower density of development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible to moderate number of users</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open space areas with easy accessibility or relatively high use levels for passive activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental plantings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open space liability issues - downed trees, erosion, vandalism, rough mowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check/repair area lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check/repair site furnishings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolve warranty issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish vegetative cover</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LEVEL FOUR - Monthly Facility Maintenance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderate use at peak times; otherwise, low use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predominantly passive recreational uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Located in moderate to lower density areas of development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible to a moderate number of users; distance from users begins to limit accessibility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenway trails, sidewalks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open spaces subject to moderate use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped park areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenway trail and sidewalk debris removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough mowing - seasonal for fire protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check/repair site furnishings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Greenways and trails can be difficult to maintain.
Maintenance Priorities

Maintenance priorities have been established in response to the Maintenance Service Objectives. These are based on key issues including enhancing public safety, increasing the usability of facilities, and inspiring community pride in Siler City Parks.

1. Safety inspections and repairs: playground equipment, ballfields and otherwise-located facilities, site furnishings, and athletic equipment.

2. Lighting: maintaining safe illumination levels for sports fields, picnic shelters, greenway trails, sidewalks and paths, parking areas, and building entries.

3. Restroom facilities: construct or renovate restroom facilities where necessary, complying with all A.D.A. requirements.

4. Surfaces: firm, well maintained, and A.D.A. accessible, making repairs immediately, as required.
5. Turf maintenance: mowing at sufficient frequency to allow optimum intended use, application of correct amounts of water and fertilizer, aerating, and de-thatching.

6. Irrigation systems (where applicable): balancing and adjusting, start-up and shut-down.

7. Plant disease, weed, and pest control.

8. Tree maintenance: pruning, removal of damaged limbs, and application of correct amounts of water and fertilizer to ensure livelihood.

9. Landscape maintenance: pruning, seasonal maintenance of ground covers and annual plantings, and application of correct amounts of water and fertilizer.

Recommendations: Operations and Maintenance

Prepare an Operation and Maintenance Program Guide. This would develop detailed guidelines for:

1. Personnel issues, including organizational structure, communications, record keeping, etc.

2. Training, licensing, and legal responsibilities

3. Equipment management system

4. Time and resource management procedures

5. Maintenance and task specifications and methods

6. Maintenance task cost analysis prior to completion of any work

Create a time and resource management structure. This would help to organize and track employee time and maintenance expenses, allowing the Recreation Department to monitor actual maintenance expenses in a detailed manner and allocate resources more accurately. Components of this system would be as follows:

1. Assign 'project numbers' to each facility. Employees would charge time to these, or to an 'overhead' number if involved in non-park specific
2. Develop a specific list of task categories for tracking time

3. When appropriate, charge supplies to a specific project number, or apportion according to a percentage of use at different facilities

4. Charge equipment to separate (general) project numbers and apportion to appropriate project or task

5. Using the maintenance task specifications and cost analysis developed in the Operation and Maintenance Program Guide, establish procedures for contracting out certain elements of required parks maintenance. Contracting work to the private sector often reduces costs by lowering required staffing levels and equipment/supply funds.

**Maintenance Facility**

Interviews with Town staff have indicated certain insufficiencies related to park maintenance. Presently, park maintenance equipment is housed at the main Public Works Facility. The Parks and Recreation Department does not have a secure location at any of the Town-owned parks to store the machines and materials that it uses on an often daily basis. The existing area that is allocated within the Public Works yard is inconvenient for park staff. As park maintenance is improved and expanded, the present location may no longer be adequate. It is recommended that the Town consider constructing a maintenance building and equipment/materials storage location at Bray Park that could serve as a centralized location for park maintenance equipment.

**Staffing and Maintenance**

This Master Plan covers a planning period of 10 years. The facilities to be implemented during that time as part of the recommendations will require some level of additional staffing and additional funding for facility operation and maintenance. Consideration of these budgetary impacts should be made prior to facility implementation.
Multiple factors may come to influence what the future staffing needs of the Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation Department will encompass. Those may include population growth, available tax dollars, Capital Improvement Plans, consolidation of public school facilities, development of tourism efforts, etc.

The Town of Siler City Park and Recreation Department’s structure and number of personnel are below that of fairly comparably sized communities in the state. For a population of nearly 9,000 citizens there are only (2) two full time employees. The strain of the maintenance and care of The Town of Siler City’s public park facilities, the management of recreation programs, and the day to day running of a Town-wide Recreation Department, is higher than it should be. The Town should re-evaluate its commitment to public recreation and allocate funds necessary to properly staff the Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation Department as demand for its services will continue to grow for the next 20 years.

Increasing funding for Parks and Recreation facilities and programs will be necessary to foster a good quality of life for Town residents, and prospective businesses that may seek to relocate to The Town of Siler City. The existing and proposed staffing levels for the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department are as follows:

**Existing Staffing Levels for (2014-2015) budget year:**

**Full-time Positions**

- Director of Parks and Recreation (1)
- Park Maintenance Supervisor (1)
Part-time Positions

- Administration Assistant (1) (20 hrs.)
- Maintenance worker - year round (1) (20 hrs.)
- Gym Supervisors for walking program (2) opening/closing
- Gym/Field Supervisors for athletic programs (4) Seasonal/hourly
- Rental Attendant (open and close for rentals for all four parks with facilities as needed)
- Score Keepers/Referees (as needed)

Proposed Additional Staffing Positions

- Recreation/Athletic Program Specialist (1 full time, immediate need)
- Administrative Assistant (1 full time - immediate need)
- Parks Laborers (3 full time - 1 for immediate need)
- Marketing and Special Events Coordinators (2 full time) - One (1) for Special Events/Classes and one (1) for other non-athletic programs.
- Pool Staff (A minimum of two lifeguards should be on duty when the pool is open for swimming) Additional staff for facility maintenance and pool operations should be available during operating hours.

5.6 PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The park facility prioritization is an essential tool that provides The Town of Siler City’s Parks and Recreation Department with a breakdown of the priority for each capital improvement. Given the magnitude of the budgets for improvements to existing parks and for potential new park and greenway facilities, prioritization of these needs is clearly important. The following is a list of priorities based upon the needs assessment process.
Prioritized Project Tasks

2015-2019
- implement Siler City Aquatic Recreation Study recommendations
- Re-establish a Recreation Advisory Committee
- Improve park maintenance at all facilities including repairs at all park restroom facilities
- Improve general lighting at all existing facilities
- Develop and implement a plan to address any Town owned parks’ A.D.A. accessibility shortcomings
- Improve parking areas at all existing recreation facilities
- Follow through with Aquatic Study Recommendations and Findings
- Assess grading and drainage issues at Braxton Soccer Field.
- Renovate picnic shelters and playgrounds at Washington, Boling Lane, and Bray Parks.
- Repair/Replace Ramsey Gym roof per recommendations of a qualified roofing professional
- Renovate existing locker rooms/restrooms at Ramsey Gym
- Consult a hazardous materials abatement professional to assess Ramsey Gym for possible hazardous materials identification and removal
- Perform landscape maintenance and structural improvements at Collins Park.
- Repair/Replace fencing at Bray Park
- Develop a Master Plan for Bray Park
- Implement Community input session for updating the Recreation Master Plan

2020-2024
- Implement Master Plan of Bray Park
- Assess Town population growth and recreation demand
- Construct a park with water access at the Siler City Reservoir Property
- Implement Community input session for updating the Recreation Master Plan
- Continue Implementation of Pedestrian Plan Recommendations

2025-2029
- Continue Implementation of Pedestrian Plan Recommendations
- Determine location, develop plans, and construct new neighborhood parks as driven by population growth.
- Re-assess need and public support for the implementation of an indoor fitness facility/community center
- Implement Community input session for updating the Recreation Master Plan
- Develop and Implement a master plan for Landrus Siler Park
2030-2034

- Expand Greenway trails
- Implement Community input session for updating the Recreation Master Plan
- Update comprehensive recreation plan

- END OF SECTION -
SECTION 6 Action Implementation Plan

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes how Siler City can implement a safe, convenient, and usable park and recreation system through the execution of its established goals in the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The strategy for achieving goals involves the recommended park, recreation, and greenway facilities/programs discussed in Section 5. Section 6 deals with strategies and opportunities, key implementation steps (implementation policies), necessary staffing, and methods for developing facilities. Together, these sections form the implementation program.

The results of Siler City Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2015 are based on the following discovery methods: (1) a review of the study area that is within the Town limits, (2) an analysis of the existing parks and facilities; (3) community input; and (4) recreation standards that have been generically developed for municipal governments. The Master Plan is designed to be action-oriented and serve as a tool in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for Siler City.

Identification of sufficient funding is a crucial element that is required to implement the Master Plan, considering in particular, the Town budget constraints. The North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a guide by which inadequate funding for park and recreation facilities may be identified. Insufficient funding will be a key issue that will need to be addressed in the upcoming years if governments continue to provide basic minimum services. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, North Carolina and its
local governments are 33% below the national average in the funding of parks and recreation services.

To meet the existing and future needs of Siler City Parks and Recreation Department, the goals and objectives that are identified in the Master Plan, must be seriously considered for implementation. The Town will need to continue to establish annual budgets for parks and recreation based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, and operations/maintenance costs.

To help guide and inform the decision making process concerning Parks and Recreation related issues this plan recommends the re-establishment of a Recreation Advisory Committee. The current ordinance defining the role of the Committee appears to be adequate but may need to be reviewed prior to the Committee’s creation.

6.2 MISSION, VALUES, VISION, AND GOALS FRAMEWORK

To help to guide the philosophy and future efforts of the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department it is important to establish a mission statement based on the vision of Town Staff on behalf of the community in which it serves. The following mission statement, vision, core values, and goals are based on interviews with Department Staff and serve as a framework for which more formal language may be developed:

**Mission**

“Deliver quality recreation opportunities and inviting parks, Greenways and recreation facilities to the residents of Siler City.

**Vision**

"We envision an innovative, inclusive, and interconnected system of parks and recreation services that promotes recreation, health, and community cohesion as integral to a livable community."

**Core Values**

1. **Conservation** - We value the conservation of parks, natural and open spaces, and ecological resources.

2. **Inclusiveness** - We value creating, enhancing, expanding and promoting opportunities for participation in and enjoyment of parks and recreation services for all the residents of the Town of Siler City.

3. **Connectivity** - We value an interconnected parks and facilities network that provides access to the parks system across Siler City.
4. **Stewardship** - We value efficient and effective management of our assets and stewardship of our parks and open space, to sustain them for future generations.

5. **Quality of Life** - We value the health & well-being of the Siler City community, and the benefits that parks, recreation and open space offer to our quality of life.

**Goals**

1. To provide a quality, diversified Parks and Recreation system that supports opportunities for active and passive recreation and conserves and enhances significant environmental or historical resources and features within Town.

2. Manage a local system of off-street Greenway trails and sidewalks that links parks, open spaces, significant environmental features, public facilities, and areas of interest.

3. Incorporate features and amenities into parks that fit the local context; contribute to environmental sustainability; and are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain for the long term.

4. Develop and operate recreation facilities to support core recreation program areas or economic development goals and meet identified recreation needs.

5. Serve as a local recreation coordinator, forging partnerships and fostering opportunities for countywide collaboration among all major recreation providers in the provision of parks, facilities, programs, and services. Promote, coordinate, facilitate, or provide recreation programs that serve local needs, support community livability, connect the community with their parks, and encourage greater recreation participation in areas not served by other providers.

6. Use effective and innovative funding methods to build, maintain, operate and promote the Town's Parks and Recreation system.

7. Develop, train, and support a professional Parks and Recreation staff that effectively serves the community in the realization of the goals and objectives of this Plan.

8. Engage Siler City residents in the planning, stewardship, and programming of park and recreation resources, and provide effective
community outreach and marketing to increase public awareness and support of recreation services.

6.3 PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

The population estimates used in the analysis of municipal recreation expenditures were certified estimates in July, 2012. The estimates were calculated by the State Demographer, Office of State Budget and Management and North Carolina Office of the Governor. The figures were provided online at http://demog.state.nc.us. The per capita expenditure figures are from the North Carolina Municipal and Town Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Municipal Per Capita Expenditures are provided here to provide a comparable perspective.

The following government entities represent North Carolina Municipal Recreation Departments serving population sizes similar to that of Siler City. This list is organized from least to most dollars spent Per Capita.

Table 7.1.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Providers with populations of approximately 7,000-9,000</th>
<th>Population Estimate 2012</th>
<th>Per Capita Expenditure 2011-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selma Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>7,671</td>
<td>$39.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Siler City Parks and Recreation</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,713</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40.96</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pineville Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>7,747</td>
<td>$43.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterville Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>9,154</td>
<td>$59.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Island Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>8,594</td>
<td>$110.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Recreation and Parks</td>
<td>8,810</td>
<td>$122.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moorhead City Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>8,830</td>
<td>$145.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Mountain Recreation and Parks</td>
<td>8,526</td>
<td>$159.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Graham County Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>8,327</td>
<td>$160.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest City Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>7,133</td>
<td>$181.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summerfield Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>8,051</td>
<td>$306.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Unlike the other municipalities in this list, this is a County Department.

From the table above it is clear to see that there is some variation in the amount of per capita expenditure by municipalities of similar population size to Siler City. Siler City per capita expenditure is lower than the average for municipalities with similar populations (population range was 7,133-9,154 - see Table 7.1.1).

To meet the existing and future recreation needs of Siler City’s population, the goals and objectives, which are identified in the Master Plan, must be seriously considered for implementation. The Town will need to continue establish annual budgets for its parks and recreation facilities based on projected capital...
improvement costs, staffing needs and operations/maintenance costs. The operating budget should include costs for staff, operations, and general maintenance requirements.

Please see Appendix H for the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). These facility improvements are for the first 10-year period, 2015-2025, of the Master Plan recommendations and are broken into each fiscal year for implementation of specific projects. It should be noted that final prioritization of these improvements be determined by the Town of Siler City and should reflect the realities of available resources.

All of the probable costs are based on 2015 material/labor costs, with no economic changes factored into the yearly increments. Capital improvement costs include general expenditures such as site preparation, access, site utilities and parking, along with specific recreation improvements.

Below is a summary of the probable costs for facility improvements listed in the CIP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Opinion of Probable Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bray Park</td>
<td>$4,107,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bray Park Aquatic Facility</td>
<td>$940,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landrus Siler Park</td>
<td>$162,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boling Lane Park</td>
<td>$252,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Avenue Park</td>
<td>$84,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Ramsey Gym</td>
<td>$913,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Braxton Park</td>
<td>$261,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins Park</td>
<td>$87,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Facility Improvements:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,810,040</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Studies have shown that economies are impacted very positively where bicycle and pedestrian tourism is fostered and promoted; and where investments are made in bicycle/pedestrian facilities. The number of people who feel comfortable walking or riding bicycles is a measure of the quality of life in that area.
Trails and Greenways

Trails and greenways are extremely popular amenities for vacationing bicyclists and pedestrians. Tourists and visitors to the area often return to communities that provide places (which are safely removed from busy roads) for walking and bicycling. One successful example of this is the Morganton Greenway. Trails offer scenic recreation, which is suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities. Many times, lodging is in close proximity to popular trails, thereby increasing occupancy for the owner. For residents in these locales, investments in trails and greenways can increase property values and improve the overall livability of a community, as well as attracting, retaining, and expanding tourism and the associated revenues.

Greenways, as vegetated buffers located adjacent to waterways, act as “filters” to clean the water, trapping nonpoint source pollutants. These pollutants which include sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gas and other chemicals, are transported into streams, rivers, and/or lakes by stormwater when rain or snow events occur. Greenways, therefore, can reduce the need for expensive pre-treatment of the water supply by cleaning it before it reaches residents.

Investing dollars in greenways yield substantial community-wide returns. These returns are in the form of increased property values, business attraction, recreation revenue, and reduced water treatment and flooding costs. Not only are tourists attracted to these areas, but business leaders are selecting sites for the relocation and expansion of industries and corporations where the quality of life is high and recreation opportunities are abundant. Increasingly, corporations are recognizing the benefits of convenient fitness and recreation for their employees and are seeking these greenway amenities for potential locations.

Trail Development

The ongoing construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is proving to be a very wise economic investment for the communities through which they pass. Trails and pathways have a positive effect on nearby property values with homebuyers and business owners realizing the effect that such facilities bring to a community. According to research by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, there are vast amounts of people, who are using rail trails. It is easy to understand how communities can profit economically by meeting the needs of trail users: restaurants, convenience stores, bicycle and other
merchandise shops, campgrounds and alternate lodging. All of these types of entrepreneurs attribute the location of a nearby trail to at least a portion of their success. Realtors and homebuyers alike are recognizing the benefits of properties located near trails. Both locally and nationally, the construction of trails have proven to be a cost effective use of public funds. In particular, multi-use trails allow more visitors and residents to replace automobile trips with non-motorized trips, thereby moving the citizenry closer to achieving public health objectives, including increased opportunities for physical exercise.

**Parks**

Research has substantiated the direct proportion between economic growth and the existence of parks and open space in communities and municipalities around the country. This growth includes increased property values in residential, urban, and industrial communities, as well as the increased revenue from tourists.

**Increased Property Value**

The real estate market consistently demonstrates that residents throughout the country are willing to invest larger amounts of money in properties that are located close to parks and open space areas than they would for homes that do not offer these types of amenities. The higher values of these homes produce higher property taxes in the affected area. In some instances, additional property taxes are sufficient to recoup the annual debt charges on bonds, which were originally used to finance park acquisition and development.

Studies have also concluded that the positive relationship between park proximity and property value also holds true in low-income urban areas. In dense, urban neighborhoods, the value effect of nearby green space can be stronger than the resident’s lot value, increasing the lot value and again, yielding higher property taxes, to, perhaps fund the cost of the park.

The values of commercial properties also increase when parks or outdoor facilities (such as outdoor festivals, movies,
restaurants, etc.) are in the immediate locale. Studies indicate that “commercial asking rents” near park property exceed rents in surrounding submarkets.

**Tourism**

A park often becomes the signature attraction for a community or municipality. It is often used as a marketing tool to attract residents, tourists, conventions, and businesses. Parks often shape the identity of the area and give residents a sense of pride.

Organized events held in public parks; arts festivals, athletic events, food festivals, concerts, plays, et cetera, often bring substantial positive economic impacts to their communities by filling hotel rooms and restaurants, and bringing customers to other local business enterprises.

### 6.5 OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Dedicated Source of Local Funding

In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the programs listed above, Siler City should evaluate the existing departmental budget and funding for capital improvements to include the following:

- Property/sales tax
- Bonds
- Fee in-lieu of contributions
- User fees/registration fees

**Property/Sales Tax Revenues**

General tax revenues traditionally provide sources for general operations and maintenance of park systems for local governments. The Parks and Recreation Department is scheduled along with health, public safety, utilities, et cetera. in regular budgets established by the Town. Assessed valuation of real and personal property tax and sales tax provides the framework for the major portion of the tax base for the Town.

Traditionally ad valorem tax revenue has been the primary source of funding for the park and recreation enhancement of properties/facilities owned by local governments, ‘Recreational opportunities’ are considered a public service and often are a standard line item on general fund budgets. Creative financial opportunities are possible; however, ad valorem taxes will
continue to be the major revenue source to support the system. As such, communities often vote to raise their local tax rate temporarily in support of their park and recreation systems.

**General Obligation Bonds**

Many communities issue bonds that are typically approved by the shareholders, to finance site development and land acquisition costs. The State of North Carolina grants local governments the authority to borrow funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds. The amount is not to exceed the cost of acquisition or improvement of park and recreation facilities. Total bond capacities for local governments are limited for parks and recreation, to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation. Since the issuance of bonds relies on the support of the voting population, the implementation of awareness programs is absolutely essential prior to a referendum vote.

General Obligation bonds are the preferred financing approach of the North Carolina Local Government Commission and the general securities market, because these instruments are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer. That simply means that the bonds represent an encumbrance against the property tax base of the issuing jurisdiction and therefore offer the best available security to the bond holder. The State of North Carolina gives the issuance of bonds not to exceed the total cost of improvements (including land acquisition). In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, borrowing of funds to develop new facilities may be necessary. Total bonding capacities for local government is limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

The following are key factors to consider before using this financing instrument:

- In North Carolina, the issuance of General Obligation bonds requires a referendum of the voters within the issuing jurisdiction.

- The term of the debt may be extended to 20-30 years.

- The debt is publicly sold, so there are costs associated with the sale. These costs generally total 3% to 5% of the total bond principal. The issuance costs offset the lower interest rate and therefore, this instrument becomes more attractive as the size of the issuance increases and the issuance costs are spread over the larger debt. It has been found that this financing option becomes financially superior as the debt principal exceeds $10-$12 million.
• Generally, prepayment of the debt cannot be accomplished until reaching a call date. This usually is around 75% of debt retirement.

Failure of the General Obligation Bond to be ratified by referendum could mean that the Town could not go forward with an alternative approach to financing without substantially changing the scope of the project.

**Fee in - lieu of contributions**

Under a revised Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), developers would have an option to pay a ‘fee in lieu of’ rather than to dedicate land for open space or recreation within conventional subdivisions. This program has proven to be successful for many local governments in providing a dedicated source of revenue, earmarked for park development. The Town should consider this source of revenue when studying the feasibility of introducing the fee in-lieu formula.

**User fees/registration fees**

Communities throughout the nation employ a wide variety of user fees for public use of recreational programs and services within their recreation departments. The amount of the fee is usually determined by a portion of the recreation costs needed for improvements and operations. These user fees are typically levied for special facilities such as water parks and golf courses; however, they can also be charged for the use of trails and ball fields. Siler City should continue to generate revenue by charging user fees for use of facilities such as picnic shelters and Community Center in order to cover operation and administrative costs. As the park system continues develop, the Town should examine their fee structure to identify opportunities for additional revenue. The current user fees appear to be fair and reasonable for a majority of the Town residents. Elected officials should determine the fees and charges; the fees should not be so high that persons of modest income would ultimately be denied the use of park facilities. Develop Facility Rental Policy for the various facilities that shall govern time of use, events allowed, cost, etc.
Sports tournaments bring revenue to local economies.

The following Parks are not rented: Boling Lane Park, Landrus Siler Park, and Washington Avenue Park.

Facilities Fee Schedule Exceptions
The Town of Siler City seeks to provide access to quality facilities through the Town’s Department of Parks and Recreation with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for all of its residents and patrons. The Town of Siler City recognizes that local non-profit organizations serving a public good may be unduly limited in access to these facilities owing to limited availability of funds. In addition, the Town of Siler City recognizes the universal benefits of forming meaningful and lasting partnerships between the Town and local nongovernmental nonprofit organizations and governmental organizations alike.
Other Sources of Funding

Tournament Based Recreation

The demand for recreational facilities, which can host large sports tournaments, is prevalent across the state. Tournament-quality sports complexes emphasize the vital role sports play in our everyday lives and generate revenue through the hosting of local youth, adult, and senior competitions - by providing a venue for regional, state, and national sports league tournaments. Sports complexes also highlight the quality of life in a community and serve to attract visitors and prospective residents. Sports complexes support the development of local athletics, tournament events, sports leagues and organizations.

A tangible benefit that sports complexes bring to their community is the generation of revenue from the hosting of tournaments. The local park and recreation department benefits financially from the rental of the facility, admission fees, parking, and concession fees. The local retail community benefits financially from the influx of visitors spending money at retail establishments, hotels and restaurants. Indirect economic impact on the community comes in the form of additional tax revenue from sales taxes.

The main goal of any sports complex is to maximize the economic benefits of sports for the betterment of the entire local community. By increasing the number of people exposed to the host community’s visitor amenities (i.e. restaurants, hotels, gas stations, etc.) these businesses gain increased opportunities to earn profit. The increased tourism generated by the sports complex may also improve visitor exposure to other local area attractions. Sports complexes capable of hosting events that span a wide spectrum of sports and performance levels can maintain their economic impact potential by creating seasonal sports tourism for the community throughout the year.

Sports complexes provide jobs in the form of public sector operations and maintenance staff. Operation of the facility can produce economic growth and private sector development and generate better statewide and regional exposure for the community.

The Rocky Mount Sports Complex is one example of how such a facility can produce a significant economic impact. This complex consists of a number of amenities including a championship baseball field, four softball/multi-purpose
fields, and six youth ball fields with adjustable bases from 60’-70’, two regulation basketball courts, ample lighting, and parking for 600 vehicles, restrooms and concession areas.

According to the Rocky Mount, North Carolina 2006-2007 Rocky Mount Sports Complex Economic Impact Report for March 15th to July 1st, there was an overall economic impact of $2,242,000.00 from tournament events. These numbers reflect a total number of 12 tournament weekends with 220 total teams participating with an average attendance of 510 patrons per day. The dollar amount was based on $40 a day spent for the average day tripper and $100 a day spent by the average over-night visitor (Averages from Raleigh Sports Data, Greater Raleigh Sports Council 2007).

Following its opening in 2006, the Catawba Meadows Park in Morganton played host to a 93 team, regional little league baseball tournament. With five little league ball fields and four softball/baseball fields this complex has already won a state economic development award and helped Morganton become one of the state’s largest tourism regions.

Morganton’s Catawba Meadows Park hosted four larger scale youth tournaments and serves as a great example of a typical tournament based facility. According to the 2006 Greater Hickory Recreation/Tourism Plan (a Western Piedmont Council of Governments and the Unifour Recreation and Open Space Task Force report), the four tournaments generated about $1.3 million in total economic activity. This amount is based on 60 teams with an average of 15 participants per team and 1.5 family members per team member. These tournaments occurred between March and July and were organized by a number of different organizations including BPA Baseball, AFA Fast-pitch Softball, USSSA Baseball and Triple Crown Baseball.

The involvement of host clubs and organizations with regard to implementing and managing sports tournaments is crucial for the success of any sports complex. These groups can be regional, statewide, national, or even international; and thus, could be an inexhaustible resource for encouraging sports tourists to visit any given sports complex.

According to the Travel Industry Association (TIA), sports events-related travel has increased significantly in America. In 2007, TIA reports that “…in the last five years, 75.3 million U.S. adults attended an organized sports event, competition, or tournament as either a spectator or as a participant while on a trip of 50 miles or more, one-way, or away from home.” TIA also reports that a
quarter of all sports events travelers attended events to watch their children or grandchildren play. Becoming part of this sports tourism market is possible by providing the sports tournament infrastructure necessary to attract this market. Therefore, having a successful sports complex can mean providing economic growth while attracting visitors and prospective residents to the community.

### 6.6 FUNDING/ACQUISITION SOURCES

Implementing the recommendations of this Comprehensive Parks Master Plan will require a combination of funding sources that include local, state, federal and private money. This Section provides a listing of the most commonly used funds for park and greenway facility projects in North Carolina. Fortunately, the benefits of protected greenways and parks are many and varied. This allows programs in Siler City to access money earmarked for a variety of purposes including water quality, hazard mitigation, recreation, air quality, alternative transportation, wildlife protection, community health and economic development. Competition is always stiff for state and federal funds. It becomes imperative that local governments work together to create multi-jurisdictional partnerships and to develop their own local sources of funding. These sources can then be used to leverage outside assistance. The long term success of this plan will almost certainly depend on the dedication of local revenue stream for park and greenway projects.

It is important that Siler City fully evaluate its available options and develop a funding strategy that can meet community needs, maximize local resources, improve quality of life, and leverage outside funding. Financing will be needed to administer the continued planning and implementation process, acquire parcels or easements and manage and maintain facilities. Further research into these programs is recommended to determine requirements for specific grants.

McGill Associates advises Siler City to pursue a variety of funding options. Below is a list of park and greenway funding opportunities that communities typically seek. Creative planning and consistent monitoring of funding options will likely turn up new opportunities not listed here.
Grants

State and federal agencies offer numerous grants to assist municipalities in the financing of their parks and recreation projects. This source of funding should definitely be investigated and pursued by Siler City for present and future park and recreation improvements.

Federal Aid Construction Funds

These funds are included in the National Highway System (NHS) Surface Transportation Program (STP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). The funds provide for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities. The primary source of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is STP Enhancement Funding.

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program

The N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) combines a wetlands-restoration initiative by the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources with ongoing environmental efforts by the Dept. of Transportation to restore, enhance, and protect its wetlands and waterways. EEP provides:

- High-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection
- Compensation for unavoidable environmental impacts associated with transportation, infrastructure and economic development
- Detailed watershed-planning and project-implementation efforts within threatened or degraded watersheds of North Carolina.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA)

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA), approved by the federal government in 2004, is a primary source for financing bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway projects throughout the country, at both the local and state levels. Providing as much as 80% for development and construction costs, this grant is earmarked for facilities such as sidewalks, rail-trails, bike-lanes and greenways. The Enhancement Program (a section of SAFETEA) is used primarily by municipalities since this section focuses on bicycle and...
pedestrian corridors, environmental mitigation, historic preservation and scenic byways. 20% matching funds are required by the applying entity and applicants must meet several other criteria as well. Prior to applying for this grant, a through engineering assessment should be performed to determine construction costs.

**Recreation Trails Program**

The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). RTP makes recreation funds available for state allocation to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation trail users. RTP funds are distributed to states by a legislative formula: half of the funds are distributed equally among all states and half are distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of non-highway recreational fuel used in each state. (Non-highway recreational fuel is the type which is typically used by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and off-road light trucks.)

**Watershed Protection and Flood Protection**

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) assists state and local governments in their operation and maintenance of watersheds whose areas are less than 250,000 square acres. The NRCS provides both financial and technical assistance to eligible projects for the improvement of watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50% local match for public recreation and fish/wildlife projects.

**State Construction Funds**

These funds (not including the Highway Trust Fund for Urban Loops and Interchanges) may be used for the construction of sidewalks and bicycle accommodations that are a part of roadway improvement projects.

**The North Carolina Conservation Tax Credit**

This program provides an incentive (in the form of an income tax credit) for landowners that donate interests in real property for conservation purposes. Property donations can be fee simple or in the form of conservation easements or bargain sale. The goal of this program is to
manage stormwater, protect water supply watersheds, and preserve working farms and forests, and set-aside greenways for ecological communities, public trails and wildlife corridors. For additional information, visit the website at http://ncctc.enr.state.nc.us/.

**Farmland Protection Trust Fund**

Ranging from only a couple hundred thousand dollars to millions of dollars over the last several years, this program is funded through an allocation by the NC General Assembly to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It is a voluntary program designed to protect farmland from development by either acquiring property outright or acquiring conservation easements on the property. The program is administered by the Conservation Trust Fund for North Carolina (CTNC). Questions about available funding should be directed to CTNC.

**Contributions**

The solicitation of contributions is an acceptable method of fund-raising for recreation departments. These donations, typically in the form of land, cash, labor, and/or materials, could be solicited to assist Siler City with its enhancement program. Corporations, civic organizations, individuals and other groups generally donate to a specific park project; however, donations may also be solicited for multiple project improvements or additions. The National Recreation and Park Association recommend the use of private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt foundations as a means of accepting and administering private gifts to a public park system.

**Park Foundations**

Foundations are another source of financing by making direct contributions within communities, states or the nation. These types of funds are usually described as special program foundations, general-purpose foundations, or corporate foundations. Foundations generally have very few restrictions and/or limitations, and are typically received from local entities. A list of appropriate foundations can be found at [http://foundationcenter.org](http://foundationcenter.org).

**Partnerships**

To implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive master plan, Siler City will most certainly have to expand their partnership agreements with other public agencies and private-sector organizations. There are many
different types of partnerships that can be formed to achieve the goals established by the Town. In fact, many local governments throughout the nation are utilizing partnerships with public and private-sector interests to accomplish community goals.

Listed below are the various types of partnerships that the Town should consider in its efforts for the improvement and addition of parks and recreational facilities:

- Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are municipally owned.
- Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities.
- Development partnerships to purchase land and/or build facilities.
- Management partnerships to maintain properties and/or facilities.

Siler City is currently participating with partnerships in other related endeavors/functions and should evaluate forming additional partnerships which address the needs of a comprehensive park system. Direct requests should be made to potential partners, asking them to meet and to evaluate the possible benefits of partnering. This step should be made to generate interest and agreement prior to solidifying any responsibilities for each participating party.

Private-sector partnerships can be beneficial to municipalities. Developers can use private funds to develop facilities on municipal property and lease it to the Town over a long term. Over a period of time, the developer returns a portion of the revenue to the Town and at the end of the lease the facility is turned over to public ownership. This type of arrangement would typically be a large capital investment for a special use facility.

**Recreation Department Cost Recovery**

Revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department comes from two primary sources, the Town’s General Fund and the fees charged for facility rentals. Revenue from rental fees is currently not significant enough to support any one individual facility. The current total Department cost recovery level is approximately 0%.

**Fee Philosophy**

There has historically not been a unified fee philosophy for the Siler Town Parks and Recreation Department. A typical fee philosophy for Parks and Recreation departments is as follows: Direct cost plus 30% to cover utilities, publication of
activities/marketing materials, janitorial work, and facility maintenance. The existing fee schedule currently being used by the Department is a good start to managing future revenue generation but the Fees and Charges schedule should be included in the Siler City Code of Ordinances to help with standardization and transparency of how revenue is collected.

The Parks and Recreation annual budget is not structured to meet the example fee philosophy outlined above, and expenses beyond those covered by fees are funded through General Fund revenues of the Town. There are nationally accepted methodologies and best practices that should be implemented in the future to help decision makers and Department Staff work using reliable guidelines and cost recovery targets for categories of service. This is not to promote inter-departmental comparisons (as parks, trails, and open space will naturally always have a lower cost recovery expectation than recreation due to the nature of the services). It is to provide each fund with standard and consistent descriptions of cost of service provisions to benchmark against itself over time, based on leadership guidance, Departmental goals, and community values and expectations. This methodology can also be examined based on community input regarding “willingness to pay” and demand for additional services and facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Department seeks to achieve fair and equitable cost recovery levels. The Department should periodically revisit these levels to ensure that they are moving in a direction that seeks to sustain the quality of facilities, programs, and services now and into the future.

Cost Recovery and Subsidy Allocation Philosophy

Refining the subsidy and cost recovery philosophy is important as the Town works to sustain services in both the short and long term. The creation of a cost recovery and subsidy allocation philosophy and policy is a key component to maintaining an agency’s financial control, equitable pricing ability, and facilitating the identification of central services including facilities and programs. Important to the development of this philosophical undertaking is the backing of elected officials and Town staff, task groups, and ultimately, citizens. Whether or not noteworthy changes are called for, the organization should be certain that it philosophically aligns with its constituents. The development of a financial resource allocation philosophy and policy should be built upon a logical foundation, one such philosophy could be based upon the theory that those who benefit from parks and recreation services ultimately pay for services. Benefits to individuals and the community as a whole should be understood and determined by policy makers.

The identification of core programs and development of a cost recovery policy should be built on a very logical foundation; using the understanding of who is benefitting from recreation services to determine how the costs for that service
should be offset. In the process, recreation programs and services may be sorted along a continuum of what delivers the greatest community benefit to what delivers the greatest individual benefit. The percentage of cost recovery for each type of recreational service (program or activity) is then resolved to create an overall cost recovery policy. Developing effective ongoing systems that help measure success in reaching cost recovery goals and anticipate potential pitfalls are reliant on the following:

- Understanding of current revenue streams and their sustainability.
- Pursuing all expenses and revenues for programs, facilities, and services to understand their contributions to overall department cost recovery.
- Analyzing who is benefiting from programs, facilities, and services and to what degree they should be subsidized.
- Accepting the full cost of each program (those direct and indirect costs associated with program delivery) and where the program fits on the continuum of who benefits from the program or service, to determine appropriate cost recovery targets.
- Defining direct costs as those that normally exist mainly because of the program.
- Defining in-direct costs as those that are typically costs that would exist anyway (like some fulltime staff, utilities, administration, debt service etc.).

Program fees should not be founded on capability to pay, but an objective program should be in place that allows for easy admittance for lower income participants, through availability of scholarships and/or discounts.

**Land Acquisition and Development**

There are many different types of land acquisition available to Siler City for park system expansion and/or future development. Due to the land costs and land availability, it is recommended that the Town prioritize the property to be acquired for park facilities. Listed below are several methods for acquiring and developing parks:

**Life Estate**

A life estate is a gift, whereby a donor retains the land during his/her lifetime and relinquishes title of the property after his/her death. In return, the owner (or family) is relieved of property tax for the given land.

**Local Gifts**

Donations of land, money, labor and construction can have significant impact on the acquisition and development of park property. The solicitation of local gifts is highly recommended and should be organized thoroughly, with the utilization of very specific strategic methods. This
often untapped source of obtaining funds requires the contacting of potential donors such as individuals, institutions, foundations, service clubs, et cetera.

**Easement**

An easement is the most common type of ‘less-than-fee’ interest in land. An easement seeks to compensate the property owner for the right to use his/her land in some way or to compensate for the loss of his/her privileges to use the land. Generally, the land owner may still use the land and therefore continues to generate property tax revenue for the Town.

**Fee Simple Purchase**

Fee simple purchase is the most common method used to acquire municipal property for park facilities. Although it has the advantage of simplifying justification to the general public, fee simple purchase is the most difficult method to pursue due to limited monetary resources.

**Fee Simple with Lease-Back or Resale**

This method allows local governments to acquire land by fee simple purchase; yet allows them to either sell or lease the property to prospective users with restrictions that will preserve the land from future development. The fee simple with lease-back or resale method of development commonly results from situations in which land owners, who have lost considerable monetary amounts in property value, determine that it is more economical to sell the land to the Town (with a lease-back option) than to keep it.

**Long-Term Option**

Long-term options allow municipalities to purchase property over a long period of time. This method is particularly useful because it enables the Town to consider a particular piece of land that may have future value, though it is not currently desired or affordable at the time. There are advantages to this method of property acquisition. The Town can protect the future of the land without purchasing it upfront. Meanwhile, the purchase price of the land will not increase and the Town will have the right to exercise its option. The disadvantage to the Town is that all privileges relinquished by the land owner require compensation in the form of securing the option.
6.7 PLAN ADOPTION

The first step in implementation of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is adoption of the plan by Siler City. By adopting the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan, the community is able to help shape larger regional decisions so that they fit within the goals of the plan. The Town also gives itself greater authority in shaping local land use decisions so that they achieve the goals and vision of this plan. In addition, the adoption of this Master Plan is essential in order to maximize available grant opportunities.

Among the opportunities available to promote the recommendations contained in the Master Plan is the ability to build upon an already committed and active base of residents, visitors and enthusiasts in the area. Through their organizations, institutions, publications and networks, Siler City can promote both the improved and new parks and greenway facilities and programs.

Second among the opportunities is the availability of the existing park facilities (amenities, programs, existing trails, et cetera.) Though some changes are being suggested in the short-term and an expanded network is suggested for the long-term, the presence of an existing network provides a strong foundation from which to build. Many Town residents are already accustomed to using the existing park facilities and should become used to seeing new park amenities, programs, signage, and other improvements. Building on existing awareness is much easier than building on no awareness.

Action Steps

Upon adoption of this plan, implementation of specific recommendations can begin. Many of these will occur simultaneously and include policy and facility improvement changes. The key steps are:

**Action Step 1:** Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address a 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program and address the goals of the Master Plan.

**Action Step 2:** Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of this plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities that are proposed; for example, the Town may designate or hire an employee to oversee this task.

**Action Step 3:** Create Siler City Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund through the NC Community Foundation.
**Action Step 4:** Develop/implement educational and awareness programs such as public events and parks awareness by creating advocacy groups. They can be used to announce new park facilities and upcoming projects.

**Action Step 5:** Begin working on the proposed facilities that are listed in the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program. These opportunities produce the framework for an initial implementation strategy:

1) Aggressively begin to establish potential funding mechanisms for future park expansions. This high priority goal is essential for realizing the proposed recommendations for the future growth and development of Siler City’s parks and recreation facilities.

2) Use the nucleus of park patrons to expand the awareness of the amenities and programs of Siler City parks and recreation system.

3) Expand and modify the existing park system into a comprehensive, multi-use system, distributed so that it better meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities to all, and enhances the current park system.

4) Begin making the critical greenway connections between destination points that will allow for preservation of open space and offer an alternative mode of transportation.

These four steps represent the core of the implementation strategy. As the individual policy recommendations and physical recommendations are addressed, they should each fit with one of these four primary strategies.

**Action Step 6:** Ensure that park and greenway planning is integrated with other regional planning efforts at the state and local levels, and with long-range and current land use, economic development, parks, environmental, and community planning. The following are mechanisms to achieve this action step:

1) Expand local capital improvements program for yearly appropriation for greenway and park development.

2) Set aside money for land acquisition, construction, and maintenance of parks and greenway facilities in the annual operating budget.

3) Pursue and request pedestrian/bicycle projects to be added to NCDOT TIP.

4) Pursue developing and expanding existing and new
partnerships.

5) Apply for PARTF Grants and other related recreation grants for park projects and improvements.

6) Seek other sources of revenue funding for parks and greenway improvements, such as including local assessment districts, developer exactions, et cetera.

7) Pursue funding from other sources listed in this section.

8) Evaluate the inclusion of a ‘fee in lieu’ funding formula in the Town of Siler City Unified Development Ordinance.

6.8 CONCLUSION

This Comprehensive Parks Master Plan has laid out a set of strategies for expanding and developing a safe, convenient, and usable park system as reflected in the following:

- Expansion and enhancement of existing facilities; and
- Creation of new facilities in areas of demand.

The plan has assessed the study area, analyzed the existing facilities, received community input, reviewed recreation standards, developed recommendations and provided strategies for implementing the plan. The Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is a comprehensive guide to be used in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department.

- END OF SECTION -
APPENDIX A

Recreation Facilities Access and Residents 18 and Under Map
Recreation Facilities Access and the Elderly Map
Recreation Facilities Access and Hispanic Residents Map
Existing Recreation Facilities and Non-Hispanic Black Residents, US Census Bureau 2010
APPENDIX E

Service Areas/Existing Parks Inventory Map
Siler City
North Carolina
Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2015

Map 1
Park Facility Service Areas

- Existing Community Park: 1 to 2 Mile Radius
- Existing Neighborhood Park: 3/4 to 1 Mile Radius
- Existing Mini Park: .25 to .5 Mile Radius

Existing Siler City Parks
Proposed Parks
Existing County Parks
Siler City Town Limits
Town of Siler City ETJ
Stream
Existing School
APPENDIX F

Community Survey - English
The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of creating a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and would like your input. Please take a moment to complete the following survey. The information that you provide will help determine park and recreation priorities in our community. Please limit one completed survey per household.

Thank you for your time and interest in continuing to improve the Parks and Recreation opportunities in Siler City.

Do you live within a ½ mile of a public park or recreational facility?  o Yes  o No

What is the greatest household barrier to more regular use of a park or recreational facility?

Not enough time  Program too expensive  Physical health limitations
Too far away  Facility or program not offered  Lack of transportation to and from a facility
Other, please describe ____________________________

Ethnicity origin (or Race): Please specify your ethnicity

o White  o Hispanic or Latino  o Black or African American  o Native American or American Indian
o Asian / Pacific Islander  o Other: ________________________________

List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

1-5  6-8  9-12  13-15  16-18  19-21  22-29  30-39  40-49  50-59  60+

Check below how frequently you or others in your household have visited the following facilities in the past year.

Boling Lane  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Washington Ave. Park  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Bray Park  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Bray Park Pool  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Paul Braxton Park  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Landrus Siler Park  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Ernest Ramsey Gym  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never
Collins Park  o Regularly  o Occasionally  o Rarely  o Never

Overall, how would you rate the existing recreational facilities in the Siler City?

o Excellent  o Good  o Fair  o Poor  o Don’t know

Overall, how would you rate the recreational programs offered in the Siler City?

o Excellent  o Good  o Fair  o Poor  o Don’t know

In which of the following City-wide recreation programs and special events do you or others in your household participate on a regular basis?

Soccer  Basketball  Baseball/Softball League  3rd Friday Art Walks
Football  National Night Out  Halloween Hoopla  Town Parade
5K for Family  Relay for Life of SCMA  Easter Egg Hunt
Peace  West Chatham
Other

Please reverse page for additional survey questions
Check below improvements that could be made to EXISTING parks and list facilities

☐ Add lighting to facilities
☐ Improve parking areas in parks
☐ Add more public restrooms
☐ Expanding parks and open space
☐ Add picnic and sitting areas
☐ Increasing beautification in parks
☐ Add/Improve Trails
☐ Add signage to facilities
☐ Others: ________________________________________________________________________________

Please check the top TEN facilities from the list below that could be further developed within Siler City. Please consider other members of your household as well.

____ Bicycle Trails (3-6 Miles) ______ Jogging/Walking Trails (1-3 Miles)
____ Bicycle Trails (6-12 Miles) ______ Skateboard Park
____ Water Spray Ground/Splash Pad ______ Jogging/Walking Trails (3-6 Miles)
____ Baseball/Softball Fields ______ Outdoor Basketball Courts
____ Community Recreation Center ______ Indoor Swimming Pool
____ In-Line Hockey ______ Outdoor Swimming Pool
____ Football Field ______ Outdoor Tennis Courts
____ Open Space/Natural Areas ______ Outdoor Track
____ Picnic Areas ______ Mountain Biking
____ Horseshoe Pits ______ Sand Volleyball Courts
____ Indoor Swimming Pool ______ Soccer Fields
____ In-Line Skating (2-3 Miles) ______ Indoor Gymnasium
____ Dog Park ______ Outdoor Performance Area
____ Multi-Sports Complex ______ Teen Center
____ Fitness Facility, e.g. cardio/strength training ______ Disc Golf
____ Environmental Education Center ______ Hiking Trails
____ Bocce Courts ______ Shuffleboard Courts
____ Outdoor Playground

(Other Specify): ________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list below, any recreation programs or special events that you would like to see offered within Siler City: __________________________________________

Are you or anyone in your household in favor of the development of additional aquatic recreation facilities?
ο Yes  ο No

Are you in favor of continued expansion of the Greenways throughout Siler City?
ο Yes  ο No

Do you use any school or private facilities for recreation or leisure activities?
If so, which ones?
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Within the last year have you traveled out of Siler City to use a recreation facility or program?
ο Yes  ο No
If so, what facility?
________________                            __________________________________________

Would you favor or oppose expanding recreational opportunities in the Siler City?
ο Favor  ο Oppose

What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities and create programs?

____ Bonds  ______ Fee-in-lieu of Contribution  ______ Local Gifts (Donations)
____ Taxes  ______ Partnerships  ______ User/Registration Fees
____ Grants  ______ Contributions  ______ Special/General Purpose Foundations

Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or use a special facility?
ο Yes  ο No

Thank you for your time and your opinions regarding Siler City Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.
APPENDIX G

Community Survey - Spanish
ENCUESTA COMUNITARIA PARA EL PLAN MAESTRO DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN DE SILER CITY

El Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Siler City está en el proceso de crear un plan maestro para parques y centros recreacionales y quisiera saber su opinión. Por favor tome un momento para completar la siguiente encuesta. La información que usted nos proporcione nos ayudará a determinar las prioridades para los parques y centros recreacionales en nuestra comunidad. Por favor complete solo una encuesta por hogar.

Le agradecemos por su tiempo y su interés en continuar mejorando las oportunidades para los parques y centros de recreación en Siler City. Por favor visite nuestra página web www.silercity.org para actualizaciones e información acerca de futuros eventos.

¿Vive usted en Siler City?  □ Sí  □ No  Si marco no, ¿vive usted □ dentro de 3 millas □ 3-5 millas □ más de 5 millas de Siler City?  ¿Cuál es su código postal?:____________________________

¿Vive usted dentro de una distancia cercana a un parque público o centro de recreación?  □ Sí  □ No  □ No lo sé.

¿En general, cómo calificaría los centros recreacionales en Siler City?  □ Excelentes  □ Buenos  □ Aceptables  □ Malos  □ No se.

¿En general, cómo calificaría los programas recreacionales que se ofrecen en Siler City?  □ Excelentes  □ Buenos  □ Aceptables  □ Malos  □ No se.

¿Cuáles de los siguientes programas de recreación o eventos especiales a través de la ciudad participa usted u otros miembros de su hogar regularmente? Marque todos los que apliquen.

□ Ligas de fútbol □ Ligas de beisbol/softbol □ Caminatas de arte cada 3er viernes □ Desfiles del pueblo □ Halloween Hoopla (Celebración de Halloween/Noche de Brujas) □ Carrera 5K para la Paz en Familia □ Búsqueda de Huevos de Pascua de SCMA □ Añadir iluminación a los centros □ Mejorar las áreas de estacionamiento □ Añadir baños públicos □ Expandir los parques o espacios libres □ Añadir áreas para picnics y áreas de descanso □ Aumentar la seguridad en los parques □ Añadir/mejorar los senderos □ Limpieza en los parques □ Hacer los parques más atractivos □ Añadir rótulos/letreros a los centros □ Otras: __________________________________________________________________________________________

¿Cuántas veces en el último año ha visitado cada uno de los siguientes centros?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parque/Evento</th>
<th>Ninguna</th>
<th>1-5 veces</th>
<th>6-10 veces</th>
<th>11-25 veces</th>
<th>26-49 veces</th>
<th>50 o más</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boling Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Washington Ave.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Bray</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscina del Parque Bray</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Paul Braxton</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Landrus Siler</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimnasio Ernest Ramsey</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Collins</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¿Cuáles de las siguientes mejoras deberían hacerse a los parques que YA EXISTEN? Marque todos los que apliquen.

□ Añadir iluminación a los centros
□ Mejorar las áreas de estacionamiento
□ Añadir baños públicos
□ Expandir los parques o espacios libres
□ Añadir áreas para picnics y áreas de descanso
□ Aumentar la seguridad en los parques
□ Añadir/mejorar los senderos
□ Limpieza en los parques
□ Hacer los parques más atractivos
□ Añadir rótulos/letreros a los centros
□ Otras: __________________________________________________________________________________________
Por favor califique del 1 al 5, las cinco cosas de mayor importancia para usted en la lista abajo, que quisiera ver construidas o mejoradas dentro de Siler City. Esciba el 1 al lado de su más importante elección, el 2 al lado de la siguiente elección de mayor importancia, el 3 al lado de la tercera elección, etc. Por favor también tome en cuenta a los miembros de su hogar.

____Senderos para bicicletas (3-6 millas) ____Senderos para caminar/trotar (1-3 millas)   ____Canchas de rácquetbol
____Senderos para bicicletas (6-12 millas) ____Parques para el monopatín (patinetas)   ____Canchas de baloncesto al aire libre
____Juegos infantiles de agua en el parque ____Senderos para caminar/trotar (3-6 millas)   ____Senderos o vías iluminadas
____Canchas de beisbol/softbol ____Canchas de baloncesto al aire libre   ____Canchas para el juego de bochas
____Centro de Recreación Comunitaria ____Piscinas cubiertas                        ____Golf del disco
____Hockey en línea ____Piscinas al aire libre                                   ____Rutas de excursión
____Canchas de futbol americano ____Canchas de tenis al aire libre             ____Centro para adolescentes
____Espacios abiertos/áreas naturales ____Pistas de atletismo al aire libre      ____Gimnasio
____Áreas para picnic ____Ciclismo de montaña                                   ____Centro para la salud y bienestar/Gimnasio
____Áreas de juego con herraduras ____Canchas de arena para voleibol           ____Canchas para el juego de bochas
____Juegos infantiles al aire libre ____Canchas de fútbol                        ____Gimnasio con entrenamiento de fortalecimiento/cardio
____Patinaje en línea (2-3 millas) ____Gimnasio                                ____Polideportivo
____Parque para perros ____Áreas de teatro al aire libre                       ____Centro para el juego tejo
____Polideportivo ____Centro para adolescentes                                 ____Canchas para el juego de bochas
____Gimnasio con entrenamiento de fortalecimiento/cardio
____Centro de educación ambiental
____Centro para la salud y bienestar/Gimnasio

(Otro, especifique): ___________________________________________________________________________

Por favor escriba abajo cualquier programa recreacional o evento especial que le gustaría fuese disponible dentro de Siler City:
____________________________________________________________________________

¿Usted apoyaría o se opondría a un nuevo centro recreacional acuático (piscina, juegos infantiles de agua)?
□ Lo apoyaría  □ Me opondría  □ No lo se

¿Usted apoyaría o se opondría a nuevas o mejores vías verdes o senderos a través de Siler City?
□ Lo apoyaría  □ Me opondría  □ No lo se

¿Usa alguna de instalaciones en las escuelas o áreas privadas para actividades de recreación o tiempo libre? Si su respuesta es sí, ¿cuáles?
□ Sí  □ No  □ No los se  Por favor escriba cuales usa
______________________________________________________________________________

En el último año, ¿ha viajado fuera de Siler City para usar un centro o participar en algún programa de recreación?
□ Sí  □ No  Si marco sí, ¿a donde fue y que tipo de centro es?_________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________________

¿Usted apoyaría o se opondría a la expansión de oportunidades recreacionales en Siler City?
□ Lo apoyaría  □ Me opondría  □ No lo se

¿Cuáles, si algunas, de la siguientes fuentes de financiamiento apoyaría usted para hacer mejoras, construir nuevos centros y crear programas?

________Impuestos  ________Asociaciones      _______Cuotas de Registro/usuario          _______Regalos/Donaciones
________Becas/Subvenciones ________Contribuciones      _______Patrocinios                             _______ Bonos

¿Estaría dispuesto a pagar una cuota de usuario para asistir a un evento o para usar algún centro especial?
□ Sí  □ No  □ No lo se

¿Cuántas personas en su hogar están en cada uno de los siguientes grupos de edades? Escriba el número de personas que corresponde al lado de cada rango de edades, incluyéndose a usted.

Edades: 1-5  6-8  9-12  13-15  16-18  19-21  22-29  30-39  40-49  50-59  60+

Origen de su etnicidad (o Raza): Por favor especifique su etnicidad

□ Blanco  □ Hispano o Latino  □ Afro Americano  □ Indio Americano o Nativo de América
□ Asiático / de las Islas del Pacífico  □ Otro: ___________________________________________________________

Gracias por su tiempo y sus opiniones con respecto a los centros y los programas del Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Siler City. Usted puede devolver esta encuesta al Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Siler City, a la dirección: 311 North Second Avenue; City Hall Basement; Siler City, NC 27344
APPENDIX H

Community Survey 2 - Data Tables
English/Spainish
RECREATION INTERESTS

Listed below are many different categories of recreational activities that can be enjoyed year-round. For each activity, please indicate whether YOU and/or your family would have interest in the activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>No Interest</th>
<th>Some Interest</th>
<th>Great Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>Carving class, quilting etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>Theater, concerts, ballet, music, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports &amp; Athletics</td>
<td>Basketball, volleyball, disc golf, indoor soccer, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness</td>
<td>Aerobics, weights, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatics</td>
<td>Lap swim, swim lessons, open swim, family swim, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor recreation</td>
<td>Mountain biking, hiking, walking, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>4th of July events, health fairs, summer concerts, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE

Please indicate approximately how many times YOU and/or your family visited/attended the following in the past 12 months. Also, please indicate if you were aware of the facility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>2-6 times</th>
<th>7-12 times</th>
<th>More than 12 times</th>
<th>Yes I was aware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boling Lane Park</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bray Park</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bray Park Pool</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins Park</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Ramsey Gym</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landrus Siler Park</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Braxton Gym</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Braxton Park</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Ave. Park</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REASONS FOR NOT USE

There are many reasons why people might not be able or willing to participate in public recreation activities. By circling all reasons that apply, please indicate why you or other members of your household do not participate in recreation activities available in your community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility issues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of equipment at the parks</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate staffing</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security – not feeling safe</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconvenient program times</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing interesting offered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Very Ineffective</th>
<th>Ineffective</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Very Effective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brochures, flyers or posters at public facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct e-mail announcements</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyers through the school system</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper ads</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate Department Website</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media: Facebook</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media: Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media: Twitter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text message</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**INTERESES DE RECREACIÓN**

La siguiente es una lista de varias categorías de actividades recreacionales que se pueden disfrutar durante todo el año. Para cada actividad, por favor indique si usted o su familia tendrían interés en las actividades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categoría</th>
<th>Ejemplo</th>
<th>Ningún interés</th>
<th>Algun interés</th>
<th>Gran interés</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artes y manualidades</td>
<td>Clases de tallado de madera, acolchados etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artes de Escénicas</td>
<td>Teatro, conciertos, ballet, música, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atletismo y Deportes</td>
<td>Basquetbol, volibol, golf de disco, futbol de salon, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condición Física</td>
<td>Aerobicos, levantamiento de pesas, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deportes Acuáticos</td>
<td>Nado de distancia, lecciones de natación, nado libre, nado familiar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreación al aire libre</td>
<td>Ciclismo de montaña, caminatas de naturaleza, caminata, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eventos especiales</td>
<td>Eventos del día de Independencia, ferias de salud, conciertos de verano, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASISTENCIA O USO**

Por favor indique aproximadamente cuantas veces usted o su familia han visitado/usado las instalaciones en los últimos 12 meses. También indique si usted conocía o sabía de cada instalación.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalación</th>
<th>Nunca</th>
<th>Vez que</th>
<th>2-6 veces</th>
<th>7-12 veces</th>
<th>Más de 12 veces</th>
<th>Sí, era consciente de</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parque Boling Lane</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Bray</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscina del Parque Bray</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Collins</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimnasio Ernest Ramsey</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Landruss Siler</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimnasio Paul Braxton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Paul Braxton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque de Avenida Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RAZONES POR LAS CUALES NO USA LAS INSTALACIONES**

Hay muchas razones por qué gente no sea capaz o dispuesta a participar en actividades de esparcimiento público. Circundando todas las razones que se aplican, por favor indique por qué usted u otros miembros de su familia no participan en actividades recreativas disponibles en su comunidad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Razón</th>
<th>Sí</th>
<th>Sí</th>
<th>Sí</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problemas de acceso</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seguridad de los aparatos en el parque</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falta de mantenimiento</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal inadecuado</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seguridad: no sentirse seguro</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falta de transporte</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horarios de los programa no es conveniente</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falta de transporte</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horarios de los programa no es conveniente</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Razón</th>
<th>Sí</th>
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<tr>
<td>Falta de transporte</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horarios de los programa no es conveniente</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INFORMACIÓN ACERCA DE OPORTUNIDADES DE PARQUES Y RECREACIONES

Estamos interesados en determinar las mejores maneras de informarle acerca de programas y actividades en el área de parques y recreaciones. Para ayudarnos, por favor circule los números abajo para indicar que tan efectivos serían los siguientes métodos para mantenerlo informado.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Método</th>
<th>Muy ineficaz</th>
<th>Ineficaz</th>
<th>No estoy seguro</th>
<th>Eficaz</th>
<th>Muy eficaz</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folletos, volantes o carteles en instalaciones públicas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anuncios directos de correo electrónico</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redes sociales: Facebook</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Social Media: otros</td>
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**ÁREAS DE ÉNFASIS**

*Por favor, indique cuán importantes son los siguientes para los niños, adolescentes, adultos o personas mayores en su familia.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Área</th>
<th>No es importante</th>
<th>Algo importante</th>
<th>Muy importante</th>
<th>Rutas para correr/caminar (1-3 millas)</th>
<th>No es importante</th>
<th>Algo importante</th>
<th>Muy importante</th>
<th>Rutas para correr/caminar (3-6 millas)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mas Estacionamiento</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Rutas para correr/caminar (1-3 millas)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Rutas para correr/caminar (3-6 millas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mas Baños</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuidados después de la escuela</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rutas de senderos iluminadas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paseo de arte</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>En las instalaciones de iluminación</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campos de béisbol/Softbol</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bicicleta de montaña</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutas de bicicleta (3-6 millas)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Complejo polideportivo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutas de bicicleta (6-12 millas)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Áreas de espacio abierto, natural</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canchas de bochas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canchas de baloncesto al aire libre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Área de actuación al aire libre</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuidado durante el día</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Patio al aire libre</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disco golf</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Piscina al aire libre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parque para perros</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canchas de tenis al aire libre</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Centro de educación ambiental</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pista al aire libre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ampliación de parques y espacios abiertos</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Áreas de picnic</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gimnasio</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pistas de squash</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campo de fútbol</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canchas de voleibol arena</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutas para caminar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canchas de tejo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoyos de la herradura</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Señalización</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimnasio</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Parque de skateboard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complejo de salud y condición física</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Campos de fútbol</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campos de fútbol de salón</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cojin de Splash</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscina climatizada interior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Campamentos de verano</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey de patines de línea</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Centro para adolescentes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patinaje con patines de línea (2-3 millas)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tierra de spray de agua</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Favor de escribir comentarios adicionales y necesidades que usted sienta que son importantes para usted y su familia:
**FINANCIACIÓN**

*Por favor indique si usted está de acuerdo en que el siguiente debe utilizarse para la financiación de programas y servicios de recreación*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Muy en desacuerdo</th>
<th>No está de acuerdo</th>
<th>Estoy de acuerdo</th>
<th>Muy de acuerdo</th>
<th>No sé</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonos (a pagar por impuestos a la propiedad aprobadas por los votantes (endeudamiento de los gobiernos locales)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actividades comerciales dentro de los parques (por ejemplo, cafés y restaurantes en los parques)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donaciones y patrocinio corporativo</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becas ($ de fuentes estatales, federales y privadas)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donación privada individual</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programa de honorarios o cuotas por uso</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**OPINIONES PERSONALES**

Por favor circule el número que más refleja su actitud.

| Tengo conocimiento de los programas de recreación, instalaciones y actividades disponibles en la ciudad | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Estoy satisfecho con las oportunidades de recreación que recibo para mis dólares de impuestos | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Estoy dispuesto a pagar cuotas razonables de los usuarios por nuevas oportunidades de recreación | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Me parece atractiva la recreación en la ciudad de Siler | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| En general estoy satisfecho con la manera en que se gastan mis impuestos por la ciudad | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| En general están limpias las instalaciones de recreación en Siler City | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| En general son seguras las instalaciones de recreación en Siler City | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| En general son bien mantenidas las instalaciones de recreación en Siler City | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| En general, siento que la ciudad es un lugar saludable para vivir | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| En general, la recreación que he visitado satisface mis necesidades | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Siler City debe promocionarse como un destino para actividades de recreación | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| La existencia de parques bien cuidados añade a la calidad de vida de la comunidad | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| El Departamento de recreación es sensible a las necesidades de recreación de la comunidad | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Las instalaciones de recreación deben ser remodeladas ya que están muy viejas | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay suficientes oportunidades para la recreación para personas con discapacidad | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay necesidad de una instalación centralizada de recreación en Siler City | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay necesidad de una mayor variedad de oportunidades de recreación más allá de atletismo | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay una necesidad de personal adicional de recreación, tales como entrenadores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay una necesidad de mejoras en el centro de la ciudad de Siler City | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay una necesidad de nuevas instalaciones de recreación para reemplazar a las antiguas instalaciones en Siler City | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay necesidad de programas que sean accesibles a todos los grupos de diferentes ingresos económicos | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay una necesidad de programas recreativos en los que puede participar toda la familia | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hay una necesidad de programas especiales para personas mayores de 55 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
INFORMACIÓN GENERAL
Por favor, ayudarnos a tomar mejores decisiones proporcionando la siguiente información. Por favor recuerde que las respuestas individuales serán tratadas con confianza. Por favor el número de la respuesta del círculo o llenar el espacio en blanco.

¿Cuál es tu género?
Hombre... 1 mujer... 2

¿Cuántos años tienes?
18-24... 1 25-34... 2 35-44... 3... de 45-54 4 55-64... 5 65-69... 6 70-74... 7 más de 75... 8

¿Cuál fue su ingreso antes de impuestos en el 2014?
Bajo $24,000... 1 $75,000 a $99,999... 4 $150,000 a $174,999... 7
$24,000 a $49,999... 2 $100,000 a $124,999... 5 por $175,000... 8
$50,000 a $74,999... 3 $125,000 a $149,999... 6

¿Cuál es el nivel más alto de educación que ha obtenido?
1- No hay escuela terminó 2 - escuela primaria 3 - secundaria 4 - High School secundaria
5- Asociar el grado de licenciatura grado 7 - 8 - graduado algunos 6 - college (ningún grado) o postgrado

¿Cuántas personas, incluyéndote a ti mismo, 19 años y arriba, en la actualidad viven en su casa? ____

¿Cómo muchos niños en su casa: bajo edad cinco ___; ___ 5 a 10 años de edad; las edades 11 a 14 ___; las edades de 15 a 18 años ___

¿Cuál es su estado civil:
Se casó con... 1 divorciadas/separadas... Solo 2... 3

Utilizas Internet en: Casa de ... 1 trabajo... 2 hogar y el trabajo... 3 no hay acceso... 4

¿Cuántos años ha vivido en Siler City? _____

Si tienes que ir a un lugar de trabajo todos los días, ¿cuánto, en millas, tienes que viajar para llegar a su lugar de trabajo? ____

¿Hasta dónde, en millas, tienes que viajar para llegar a su centro de recreación más cercano o Parque? ____

¿Qué otro idioma, aparte del inglés, es hablado en su hogar? _____________________________
## AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Please indicate how important the following are for the children, teens, adults or seniors in your family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional parking</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional restrooms</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>After-school care</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Art walk</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball/Softball fields</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle trails (3-6 Miles)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle trails (6-12 Miles)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bocce courts</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community recreation center</td>
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<td>Day care</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disc golf</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Dog park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental education center</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding parks and open space</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitness facility</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football field</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiking trails</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horseshoe pits</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor health &amp; fitness complex</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Indoor soccer fields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor swimming pool</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Line hockey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Line skating (2-3 Miles)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please add any additional comments and needs that you feel are important to you and your family:
**FUNDING**

*Please indicate if you agree that the following should be used for funding recreation facilities and programs.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonds (to be paid by voter approved property taxes (Local government borrowing))</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Activities within parks (e.g. cafes and restaurants in parks)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate sponsorship and donations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants ($ from state, federal, &amp; private sources)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private individual donation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program user fees</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERSONAL OPINIONS**

*Please circle the number that most closely reflects your attitudes.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of the recreation programs, facilities and activities available in the City</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am willing to pay reasonable users fees for new recreational opportunities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I find the recreation facilities in Siler City attractive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general I am satisfied with the way in which my tax dollars are spent by the City</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general the recreation facilities in Siler City are clean</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general the recreation facilities in Siler City are safe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general the recreation facilities in Siler City are well-maintained</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general, I feel that the City is a healthy place to live</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In general, the recreation facilities that I have visited satisfy my needs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siler City should promote itself as a destination for recreation activities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The existence of well-maintained parks adds to the quality of life in the community</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Recreation Dept. is responsive to community recreation needs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The recreation facilities in Siler City need to be re-modelled as they are getting old</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are enough opportunities for recreation for people with disabilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for a centralized recreation facility in Siler City</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for a larger variety of recreation opportunities beyond athletics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for additional recreation staff, such as coaches</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for improvements in the downtown area of Siler City</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for new recreation facilities to replace the older facilities in Siler City</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for programs that are accessible to all income groups</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for recreational programs in which the whole family can participate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a need for special programs for persons over age 55</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL INFORMATION
Please help us make better decisions by providing the following information. Please remember that the individual answers will be treated with confidence. Please circle the number of the response or fill in the blank.

What is your gender?
Male….1       Female….2

What is your age?
18-24…1       25-34…2       35-44…3       45-54…4       55-64…5       65-69…6       70-74…7       Over 75…8

What was your household income before taxes in 2014?
Under $24,000………1     $75,000 to $99,999………4     $150,000 to $174,999………7
$24,000 to $49,999…2     $100,000 to $124,999…5     Over $175,000………8
$50,000 to $74,999…3     $125,000 to $149,999…6

What is your race?
1 - Caucasian       2 - African-American
3 - Hispanic       4 - American-Indian or Alaskan Native
5 - Asian       6 - Pacific Islander
7 - Other (Specify) ______________________________________________________

What is the highest level of education you have obtained?
1 - No school completed       2 - Elementary school       3 - Middle school       4 - High school
5 - Some college (no degree)       6 - Associate degree       7 - Bachelors degree       8 - Graduate or post-graduate degree

How many people, including yourself, age 19 and above, currently live in your household? ____

How many children in your household are: under age five ____; ages 5 to 10 ____; ages 11 to 14 ____; ages 15 to 18 ____

What is your marital status:
Married…1       Divorced/Separated…2       Single…3

Do you use the Internet at: Home…1       Work…2       Home and Work…3       No access…4

How many years have you lived in Siler City? _____

If you have to go to a place of work every day, how far, in miles, do you have to travel to reach your place of work? _____

How far, in miles, do you have to travel to reach your closest recreation facility or park? _____

What is another language, other than English, is spoken in your home? ________________________________
APPENDIX I

Capital Improvement Plan - Probable Costs Table
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category / Improvement</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signage and Wayfinding</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Furnishings</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court Resurfacing and Restriping</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install Fitness Stations (5)</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct (2) 300' x 180' Multi-Purpose Fields w/ Lighting</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct (2) 200' Ball Fields w/ Lighting</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct (2) 200' Ball Fields</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Restroom/Concession Building</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Signage and Wayfinding</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1. WWCF Grant Projects allow a 20(governing agency)/80(WWCF) match for outdoor park facilities
2. WCDOT Grant Projects allow a 20(governing agency)/80(WCDOT) match for Multi-Purpose Trail Projects, and Support Facilities
3. TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: $1,150,000

---

Potential LWCF Grant Projects allow a 20(governing agency)/80(LWCF) match for outdoor park facilities

Potential NCDOT Grant Projects allow a 20(governing agency)/80(NCDOT) match for Multi Use Trail Projects, and Support Facilities

TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: $1,150,000

---

**Town of Siler City - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2015**

**Capital Improvements Plan (1st 10 Years)**

---

**Signage and Wayfinding**

**Engineering and Design (12%)**

**Contingency (10%)**

**Collins Park**

- Accessibility Improvements (LS)
- New Dugouts and Bleachers
- Upgrade Parking Area (Pave existing 50 spaces)
- Overseeding (Bermuda) of existing Soccer Field
- Refurbish Gymnasium

**Engineering and Design (12%)**

**Contingency (10%)**

**Mobilization (3%)**

**Develop Park Master Plan**

---

**Paul Braxton Park**

- Installation of Protective Ceiling Netting
- Hazardous Material Abatement
- New Floating Gym Floor
- New Roof

**Accessibility Improvements (LS)**

**Contingency (10%)**

**Mobilization (3%)**

**Ernest Ramsey Gym**

- Update Parking and Picnic Area Lighting
- Signage Upgrades (Park sign, handicap signage, etc.)
- Drainage Improvements (including parking lot pavement repair)
- New Picnic Tables (4)
- New Playground Equipment
- New Roof for Existing Picnic Shelter
- Refurbish Restrooms

**Accessibility Improvements (LS)**

**Contingency (10%)**

**Mobilization (3%)**

**Washington Avenue Park**

- Drainage Improvements
- Accessibility Improvements (LS)
- Construction of 20 Additional Parking Spaces
- New Playground Equipment
- New Picnic Tables (4)
- Demolition of Existing Tennis Court

**Contingency (10%)**

**Mobilization (3%)**

**Boling Lane Park**

- Pave Parking Area
- Refurbish Picnic Shelter
- Refurbish Restrooms
- Accessibility Improvements (LS)
- Contingency (10%)
- Develop Park Master Plan (5%)
Siler City Aquatic Recreation Study and Recommendations
Town of Siler City Aquatics Plan

Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting #2

August 13, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Earl B. Fitts Community Center - Braxton Park

Meeting Attendees:

- David White – McGill Associates
- Jim Ford – McGill Associates
- Christopher Moseley - Aquatic Resource Group
- Jessica Puckett – Director, Parks and Recreation
- Jack Meadows – Director of Planning and Community Development
- Larry Cheek – District 2 Commissioner - Mayor Pro Tem
- Lewis Fadely – District 5 Commissioner
- Rosa Sutton
- Jana Wiley
- Tony Cook
- Tori Mazur
- Jayson Perez
- Marcia Grimes
- Monaliza Hanner

The meeting started at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Earl B. Fitts Community Center.

Introductions and some background information were provided by Jim Ford and David White of McGill Associates.

Jim Ford (via a PowerPoint presentation) revisited the topics discussed and outcomes from the first Steering Committee meeting. Issues discussed included:

- Existing conditions of pool facility at Bray Park
- Review of survey data
- Review alternatives and opinions of costs -
  - Option 1 – City-wide Swimming Pool
  - 1A. “Short Term Fix” of existing pool
1B. “Renovate Existing Swimming Pool with Optional Aquatic Amenities”

1C. “Construction of New Pool Facility”

- Option 2 - City-wide Splash Play Area
- Option 3 - No aquatic Recreation

Chris Moseley provided professional opinions and experiences regarding each of the alternatives presented. Following the discussions of the alternatives the Steering Committee talked at length about the probable construction costs and costs associated with annual operations. Ultimately the group voted to recommend that the Town of Siler City consider option 1B - Renovation of the existing pool with optional aquatic amenities.

The meeting concluded with the Steering Committee recommendation. Additional information regarding the alternatives and associated costs are attached to this document.
Town of Siler City
Parks and Recreation Department
Aquatic Recreation Study
Steering Committee Meeting

August 13, 2015
Welcome/Introductions
Meeting Purpose/Format
Role of Steering Committee
Review of Survey Data
Review Alternatives and opinions of costs
  - Option One – City-wide Swimming Pool
    a. “Short Term Fix”
    b. “Renovate Existing Swimming Pool with Optional Aquatic Amenities”
    c. “Construction of New Pool Facility”
  - Option Two - City-wide Splash Play Area
  - Option Three - No aquatic Recreation
Steering Committee’s Recommendations
Would you support or oppose a new water based recreational facility (swimming pool, splash pad, spray ground, etc.?)

- Support: 89%
- Oppose: 8%
- I don't know: 3%
Please rank the facilities that you would like to see improved within Siler City.

The top 2 responses survey respondents desired included:

- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Indoor Swimming Pool
WATER BASED RECREATION VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY

130 Total votes

Traditional outdoor pool
Piscina al aire libre tradicional
12

Removable roof/Seasonally indoor pool
Techo desmontable piscina / estación de interior
37

Traditional indoor (Lap) pool
(Lap) Tradicional piscina cubierta
1

Small scale “Spray-ground”
Pequeña escala "Spray-terreno"
2

Large scale “Spray-ground”
Gran escala "Spray-terreno"
12

Zero-entry leisure pool
Piscina de ocio zero-entrada
60

Natural setting splash play area
Entorno natural zona de juegos splash
1

Interactive fountain
Fuente interactiva
3

Indoor splash play area
Chapoteo cubierta zona de juegos
2

SILER CITY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN & AQUATIC STUDY 2015
Options and Possibilities

Therapy Pool

Outdoor Lap Pool

Pool w/ Bubble Cover

Large Indoor Lap Pool
Options and Possibilities

Leisure Pools represent a growing trend in aquatic recreation.

Multiple amenities at a single facility offer broad appeal.
Options and Possibilities

Splash Pad

Zero/Beach Entry

Splash Pad/Wading Pool
Option 1A – Repair Existing Swimming Pool

Short term fix – Goal of opening pool as soon as possible.

Work would consist of:
- Patch leaks in pool surface
- Bring pool up to current safety codes
- New Plumbing Equipment
- New Decking

$250,000-$300,000
Pool repair only
Pros:
• Shortest time from repairs to being open for swimming
• Potentially short term lower cost

Cons:
• Repairs may offer only 7-10 years of use before additional repairs are needed in order to keep facility operational
Option 1B – Renovate/Redesign Existing Swimming Pool with Optional Aquatic Amenities

Work includes 1A tasks and could include the following:

- New Pool Surface
- Zero-entry/Beach Entry
- Splash Play Area
- Upgrade of Pool Deck (Pavers)
- Seal-coat fencing
- Pump improvements

$460,000-$690,000

Pool Only
Option 1B – Renovate/Redesign Existing Swimming Pool with Optional Aquatic Amenities

Pros:

• Repairs intended to provide 25+ years of operation
• Greater accessibility, interest, and appeal to residents, and visitors
• Opportunity for community pride
• Additional pool usage may help offset operational costs
• Could be designed to accommodate all-season use with removable Pool Bubble.
• Greater Recreational Opportunities than original configuration

Cons:

• Greater cost than only repairing pool
• Longer time to open for swimming
Option 1C – Construction of New Pool Facility

Work would include:

- New Pool
- New Deck
- New Plumbing/Equipment
- Splash Play Area

$1.1 – $1.7 Million

New Pool
Option 1C – Construction of New Pool Facility

Pros:

- Repairs intended to provide 25+ years of operation
- New amenities offer greater accessibility, interest and appeal to residents and visitors
- Additional pool usage may help offset operational costs
- Could be designed to accommodate all-season use with removable Pool Bubble.
- Greater Recreational Opportunities than original configuration

Cons:

- Longest Construction time and costs
- Additional Site Development (Parking, Sidewalks, Potential Land Acquisition, Utilities, etc.)
- Remove/Demolish Existing Pool and Related Structures
Option 2 – Construction of New Splash Play Area

Work may include:

- New Splash Pad
- Spray Fountains
- Water Treatment equipment
- Restroom Building

$200,000 - $1 Million - Depending on magnitude
Pros:

- Cheaper to build and operate than a pool
- Typically less liability concern
- Very popular with children

Cons:

- Does not provide opportunities for teaching swimming/water safety
- No opportunity for free swim or competitive swimming
- Limited attraction for teens and adults
Option 3 – No Town Provided Aquatic Recreation

Concept: Town relies on private sector to provide aquatic recreation opportunities

Pros:
• Least expensive option
• No capital, operational or maintenance cost
• No Liability

Cons:
• Those unable to afford private opportunities go unserved
• No public swimming lessons, water safety classes
• No public swimming
• Impacts to community

CDC - From 2005-2009, there were an average of 3,533 fatal unintentional drownings (non-boating related) annually in the United States — about ten deaths per day. About one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger
### Review of Options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Cost Range</th>
<th>Probable Annual Operation Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A – Repair Pool:</td>
<td>$250,000 – $300,000</td>
<td>$50,000 - $55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B – Renovate/Redesign:</td>
<td>$460,000 – $690,000</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C – New Pool:</td>
<td>$1.1-1.7 Million</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – New Splash Play Area:</td>
<td>$200,000 – $1 Million</td>
<td>$15,000 - $30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – No Town Provided Aquatic Recreation:</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/Renovated Bath House</td>
<td>$150,000 - $250,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions or Comments?
Town of Siler City
Parks and Recreation Department
Aquatic Recreation Study
Agenda
From 10/8/2015 meeting

• Introduction
• Review of Alternatives and Opinions of Cost
  – “1B” – Pool renovation with optional aquatic Amenities
  – Layout Options
  – Spray Features and typical costs
  – Steering Committee’s Recommendation
Facilities Recommendations

Bray Park Pool Improvements - Option 1B

(Design and Engineering)
- Improve A.D.A. Accessibility
- Patch Leaks in Pool Surface
- Bring Pool Up to Current Safety Codes
- New Plumbing Equipment
- New Pool Surface
- Zero-entry/Beach Entry
- Splash Play Area
- Upgrade of Pool Deck (Pavers)
- Seal-coat Fencing
- Pump Improvements

Opinion of Probable Costs - Pool Only - $460,000-$690,000
New/Renovated Bathhouse - 150,000 - 250,000
Options and Possibilities

Pool Playground 200K

6’ Water Dome 8K-10K

Tumble Buckets (13K)

Simple Spray Jet 100.00

Rain Drop Bar 8K-10K

40K worth of spray equipment would provide sprays for most of the leisure pool area.
Options and Possibilities

Therapy Pools 80K-120K
Siler City Pool Concept #2

- Zero Entry
- Existing Picnic Shelter
- Water Features
- Dividing Wall
- Lap Lanes
- Renovated Pool Deck
- Renovated Bath House (Future)
Siler City Pool Concept #3

- Therapy Pool
- Zero Entry
- Existing Picnic Shelter
- Water Features
- Dividing Wall
- Renovated Bath House (Future)
- Lap Lanes
- Renovated Pool Deck
1B – Renovate/Redesign: $460,000 – $690,000

a) - Water Spray Features Prices range 15K+ (initial cost for infrastructure and a single feature)
b) - Additional features typically cost 7,500– 15K
c) - Simple Spray Jets 100.00 EA
d) - Therapy Pool prices range 80K-120K

c) - Therapy Pool prices range 80K-120K

d) - Deck material types range (Plain concrete to decorative pavers)

New/Renovated Bath House: $150,000 - $250,000
Revised concept per Steering Committee recommendation includes considering small shelter adjacent to bath house.