

**2018 COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
FOR THE
CITY OF MORGANTON
BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**



Prepared For:
City of Morganton
Parks & Recreation Department
300 Collett Street
Morganton, North Carolina 28655

Prepared By:
The LandPlan Group South
1206 Scott Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Toole Design Group
172 East Main Street, Suite 301
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306
Telephone: (864) 336-2276

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its vision to promote continued growth, development, and quality of life in the City of Morganton and to provide first-class recreational facilities for all its citizens, the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation



Department tasked The Landplan Group South and Toole Design Group with creating the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan. The City of Morganton currently encompasses approximately 19-square miles with the planning area for the original study including approximately 60-square miles. As the County Seat of Burke County, The City of Morganton is located in the western piedmont region in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains (Exhibits 1 and 2). According to the 2016 Census Bureau Estimate, the City of Morganton has a population of approximately 16,665.

The Morganton Parks and Recreation Department currently manages over four-hundred (400) acres of land devoted for recreational use. This includes: two (2) recreation centers, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, one (1) soccer complex, eleven (11) parks, and one (1) skeet range. The Parks and Recreation Department also manages an extensive greenway system that encompasses an additional two-hundred (200) acres adjacent to the Catawba River.

The 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan will include the review of the previously completed plan and provide recommendations for future Parks and Recreation improvements. Final recommendations will be provided to guide the implementation of the proposed improvements based on priority, phasing, and funding. The information contained in this report was obtained from public and private entities, The City of Morganton, published references, and by on-site observations of project personnel. Following is a summary of the major points contained in the Updated Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan.



- The City of Morganton has experienced a population increase of approximately ten (10) percent since 1990.
- The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department has added and renovated many facilities since publication of the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan in 1997 as follows:
 - Catawba Meadows Park
 - Martha's Park
 - Catawba River Soccer Complex
 - Morganton Greenway System
 - Morganton Skate Park
- The project team conducted various community outreach sessions and administered surveys to accurately capture the Morganton community's view on the future of its parks and recreation facilities.
- Site inventory and analysis of all the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department facilities is catalogued and included in the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan.
- Over seventeen (17) clubs, classes, and fitness groups; four (4) aquatic programs; five (5) adult sport leagues; and seven (7) youth sport leagues are currently supported by the Morganton Parks and Recreation Department.
- Over 17,000 people utilize the Morganton Greenway System each month.
- The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department owns/operates/maintains more park and recreation acreage than the national average for a city its size. **Due to this unique position, the recommendations in the Comprehensive Master Plan Update will focus on improving existing facilities, rather than creating new ones.**
- The project team will outline marketing objectives and opportunities for the City of Morganton as well as establish project priority, phasing, cost estimates, and identify potential funding sources and grant opportunities.

Exhibit 1 Vicinity Map

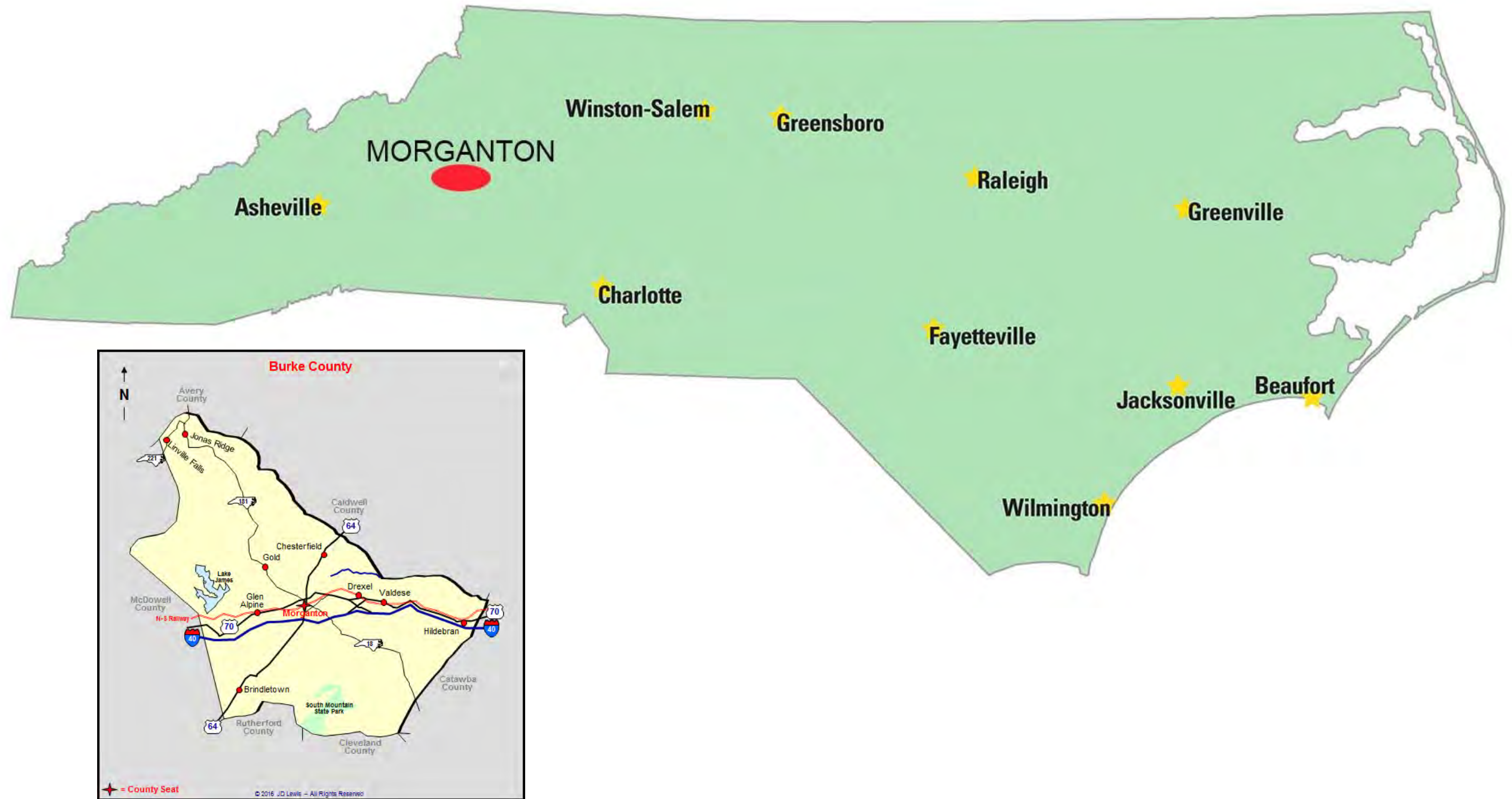
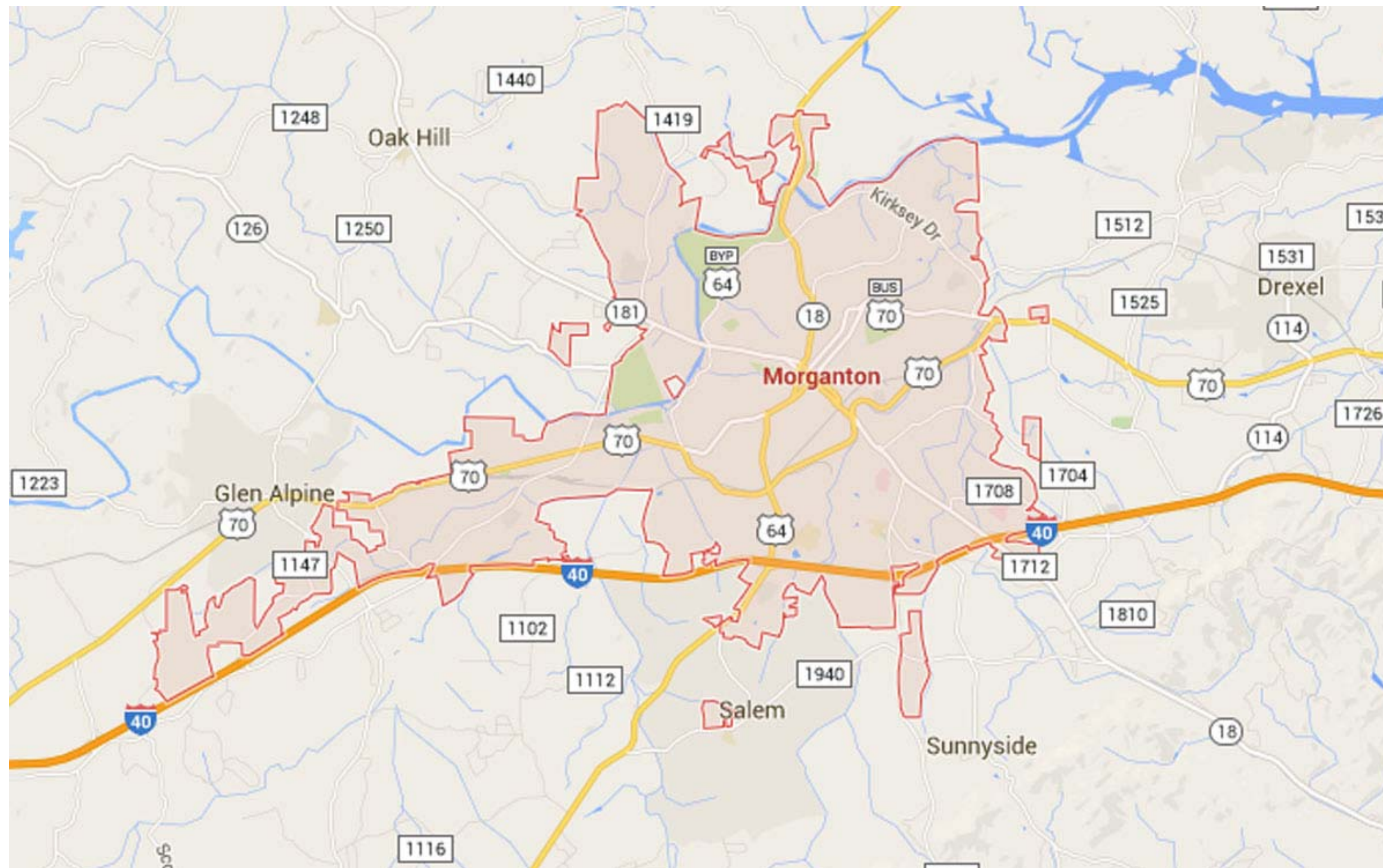


Exhibit 2 **Location Map**
www.google.com



II. PHASE I - RESEARCH

As illustrated in Exhibit 1, the City of Morganton is located in the Western Piedmont Region of North Carolina approximately 55-miles east of Asheville, North Carolina and 70-miles northwest of Charlotte, North Carolina. The city encompasses approximately 19-square miles and has an estimated population (2016 Census Bureau Estimate) of approximately 16,555. Interstate 40 crosses the



southern portion of the City of Morganton providing easy access to the Cities of Asheville (West) and Hickory (East). US Highway 64 runs through the heart of the City connecting I-40 with NC Highway 18. NC Highway 181 (Cobb Highway) runs northwest of the City and provides direct connection to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

A. 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan (June 1997)

The 2015 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan published in June 1997 by Woolpert will be the baseline for all updated master plan information and recommendations contained herein.

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department successfully implemented several recommendations presented in the 2015 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan to develop and enhance several new and existing facilities over the past two decades.



1. Catawba Meadows Park

Catawba Meadows Park currently includes nine (9) lighted ball fields with four (4) additional fields proposed in park master plan. Tennis facilities, a mountain bike trail, a professional disc golf course as well as picnic areas are



offered within the park. The user may fully experience all Catawba Meadows Park has to offer with onsite bike, canoe, and raft rentals available. Other amenities that provide a unique facility include the following: a river overlook, batting cages, concessions, a festival area, restrooms, playground, sand volleyball courts, and the Beanstalk Zip lines. The park is located adjacent to the Catawba River and is part of the Catawba River Greenway and Morganton Greenway System. The greenway connection provides direct linkage to local schools, shopping areas, and other City of Morganton Park and Recreation facilities.

The Living History Center at Catawba Meadows Park is located on the site of a regionally significant 16th century Catawba Indian Village. The interactive and interpretive center includes reconstructed 16th century style dwellings and facilities based on information gathered from previous onsite archaeological excavations and investigations.



Catawba Meadows Park is a first-class facility that will continue to provide recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages for many years to come. The park is a tangible example of the progress the City Morganton Parks and Recreation Department has achieved and is a testament to the

continued efforts that will keep the Morganton Parks and Recreational facilities high level amenities for all users.

2. Martha's Park

Martha's Park was originally opened in 1972. As part of the 2015 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan agenda, Martha's Park was renovated in 2004. The park includes a fenced and gated play area with playground equipment, picnic shelters, parking, restrooms, and a children's splash pad that is enjoyed throughout the summer months.

3. Catawba River Soccer Complex

In 2000, the Catawba River Soccer complex was completed. The park encompasses approximately 30-acres and provides four (4) lighted soccer/lacrosse fields with a field house, first aid facility, and concessions. Other amenities present at the park include petanque courts, a large picnic pavilion, dog park, and playground. The Catawba River Soccer Complex is also directly connected to the Greenway Trail System.

4. Morganton Greenway System

In its vision to provide new and existing facilities for all its citizens, the City of Morganton procured property with approximately 6-miles of frontage along the Catawba River in the early



1990's. The scenic and rolling Catawba River is a unique natural resource that flows through approximately 8-miles of Morganton's City limits.

The City of Morganton Greenway System has become a highlighted example both regionally and nationally as its extensive bikeway and pedestrian greenway system provide a wide variety of



recreational opportunities to local citizens. Approximately 17,000 local citizens and visitors to the community utilize the greenway each month.

Morganton's Greenway System includes portions of the Catawba River Greenway as well as the Freedom Trail Greenway. Running along the Catawba river for approximately 3.8-miles, the Catawba River Greenway is paved with a fully accessible walking trail. This portion of the greenway is accessible via the Rocky Ford Access area and the Greenlee Ford Access area that is adjacent to the Catawba River Soccer Complex. The Freedom Trail Greenway is approximately .7-miles in length and connects Freedom Park and Freedom High School to the Catawba River Greenway. A strategically placed 226-foot pedestrian bridge spans the Catawba River and provides a wide expanse of scenic views to its users. An additional 10-foot wide bridge provides full access to the bikeway and pedestrian system along the southern side of the Catawba River and connects the northern and southern sides of the City of Morganton.

The United States National Park Service has placed historical markers along the Morganton Greenway walking trail commemorating the historic King's Mountain March of 1780. Formally certified by the National Park Service as part of the Overmountain Victory Trail, the Morganton Greenway System is a one of a kind feature that the City of Morganton's Parks and Recreation Department can continue to successfully expand, utilize, and market as a high interest attraction for many years to come.

5. Morganton Skate Park

Approved by Morganton City Council in 2016, the City of Morganton skate park is currently under construction. The City received



donations from the Morganton Recreation Foundation, Morganton Optimist Club, Morganton Service League, and the Tony Hawk Foundation for construction of the project. The City of Morganton will also provide labor and equipment to complete the job through its Public Works Department.

B. Demographics

The 2015 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan identified the study area included in the report as approximately 60-square miles including areas outside the city limits yet inside the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) boundary for the City. Despite a slight decline in recent years, the population of the City of Morganton has experienced an overall increase of approximately ten (10) percent since 1990 according to United States Census Bureau statistics illustrated in Table 1. The most recent statistics that identify the racial make-up of the City of Morganton indicate the City is approximately 66% Caucasian, 12% African American, 10% Hispanic, and 12% other.

Table 1 – Population from 1990 to 2016:

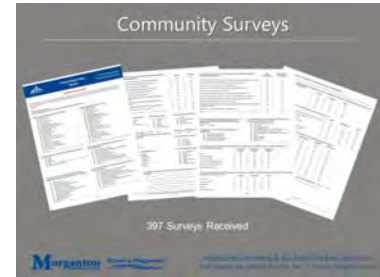
	1990	2000	2010	2016*
City of Morganton	15,085	17,310	16,918	16,665

**US Census Bureau Projection*

The population of the City of Morganton falls in the following age groups: age 65 & Up (18%), age 45-64 (23%), age 25-44 (29%), age 18-24 (9%), Under age 18 (21%). Based on federal, state, and community data, it is estimated more than 65,000 people live within a 15-minute drive of the City, 35,300 people within 5-miles of the City, and almost 80,000 people within 10-miles of Morganton. Many of these individuals will utilize City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Facilities desite being located outside of the incorporated limits.

C. Community Outreach

The Landplan Group South and Toole Design Group initiated the community outreach process in the early part of 2017. Throughout 2017, various avenues of information gathering were undertaken at various locations in and around Morganton. In order to provide the City of Morganton with as much information for consideration during the process of developing the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan, events/meetings were held with various focus groups and steering/stakeholder committees. In addition, The Landplan Group South and Toole Design group conducted intercept surveys at predetermined locations and events throughout the year and conducted multiple public information and input sessions.



1. Focus Groups

- a) Morganton City Council Workshop
 - February 27, 2017
- b) Morganton Parks and Recreation Staff
 - April 4, 2017
- c) Morganton Parks and Recreation Steering Committee
 - April 4, 2017
 - September 21, 2017

2. Intercept Surveys

- a) Greenway
 - June 3, 2017
- b) Red, White, and Bluegrass
 - July 4, 2017



3. Public Information and Input Sessions

a) Mountain View Recreation Center

- June 8, 2017

b) Collett Street Recreation Center

- August 3, 2017

The Overall Input received during the public outreach process detailed in no particular order includes:

- ✓ Soccer Complex Expansion
- ✓ Additional Staff
- ✓ Dog Parks
- ✓ Update Pools
- ✓ More Spray Grounds
- ✓ More Greenway
- ✓ Update Playgrounds
- ✓ Inclusive Playgrounds
- ✓ Bethel Park Drainage Improvements
- ✓ Updated HVAC (Rec. Centers)
- ✓ More Wheeled Sports
- ✓ Pickle Ball
- ✓ Scavenger Hunts on Trails
- ✓ Marketing
- ✓ Fly Fishing Opportunities
- ✓ BMX
- ✓ Petanque
- ✓ Miracle Field
- ✓ More Restroom Facilities on Greenway
- ✓ Summer Camps
- ✓ Team Building Activities
- ✓ Relocate Recycling



- ✓ Connection to School of Math & Science
- ✓ Downtown Connectivity
- ✓ Updated Restrooms at Carbon City Park
- ✓ ADA Accessibility
- ✓ Neighborhood Connectivity
- ✓ Restrooms at Ballfields
- ✓ More Youth Programming
- ✓ Rock Climbing
- ✓ Wildlife Integration
- ✓ Renovate Recreation Centers
- ✓ Mountain Biking
- ✓ Skate Park
- ✓ More Senior Programming
- ✓ Repair Tennis Courts
- ✓ Fossil Pit
- ✓ Connection to Jonesboro Neighborhood
- ✓ Repair Bridges
- ✓ River Access at Warrior Fork
- ✓ Interactive Art





Community Survey

Parks Master Plan Survey

City of Morganton
Parks and Recreation

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Morganton already has an amazing parks and trail system, but we want to make it even better! By completing this survey you will help us understand what you like, don't like, and what we can do better. Even if you don't use our parks and trails, your feedback is valuable!

Thank you for your input!

If you would like to receive updates, please write your email address here: _____

1.) Which park is located closest to your home?

- Asian Gardens
- Bethel Park
- Carbon City Park
- Cascade Park
- Catawba Meadows Park
- Catawba River Soccer Complex
- Drexel Heritage Park
- Freedom Park
- Gene Turner Park
- Martha's Park
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Morganton Greenway System
- Shuey Park
- Collett Street Center
- Mountain View Center
- Aquatic Center/Outdoor Pool
- I am not sure
- Other: _____

2.) Which park do you go to the most?

- Asian Gardens
- Bethel Park
- Carbon City Park
- Cascade Park
- Catawba Meadows Park
- Catawba River Soccer Complex
- Drexel Heritage Park
- Freedom Park
- Gene Turner Park
- Martha's Park
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Morganton Greenway System
- Shuey Park
- Collett Street Center
- Mountain View Center
- Aquatic Center/Outdoor Pool
- I am not sure
- Other: _____

3.) How do you get to the park or trail? (Check all that apply)

- Drive
- Walk
- Ride a bike
- Other: _____
- I don't go to parks or trails

4.) I would walk to the park more often if there was: (Check all that apply)

- Safer street crossings
- Better accessibility for people with disabilities
- Improved sidewalks
- Better lighting and security
- Easier access to trailheads
- Connectivity from existing trails to parks
- More paths and trails connected to parks
- Other: _____

5.) Visits to the City's parks and trails would be more comfortable if they had the following: (Check all that apply)

- More lighting
- Security officer patrol
- Well-maintained walking surfaces
- Emergency call boxes
- Well marked street crossings
- Soft ground cover under playground area
- Storage for personal items
- Bike parking facilities
- Shelter from weather
- Water fountain
- Other: _____

6.) I would ride my bike to the park more often if there was: (Check all that apply)

- More bike lanes on surrounding streets
- More bicycle paths and trails
- Connections from existing trails to parks
- More separation between bicyclists and vehicles
- More directional signage
- Bike accommodations through intersections
- I don't own a bike
- I don't ride a bike
- Other: _____



7.) I or my family members have participated in or would like to participate in the following park activities:

	Have Participated	Would Like to Participate
Age specific programs and events (youth recreation programs, senior activities, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation leagues (adult softball leagues, soccer, baseball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special events (movies in the park, family night, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charitable events (charity 5K or marathon, fundraising events, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exercise classes (yoga, dance classes, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational events (bike safety trainings, healthy cooking classes, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park exercise/recreation facilities (tennis, disc golf, running on greenway, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General park activities (walking on trails, picnicking, use of playground etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic activities (swimming, water aerobics, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities for people with special needs (safe playgrounds, sports leagues for people with special needs, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet friendly facilities (dog parks, pet waste bags, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.) I feel well informed about existing facilities and events/programming by the Morganton Parks and Recreation Department?

True False

10.) Morganton Parks and Recreation programs and activities are:

- Consistently high quality
- Consistently good quality
- Quality varies with programs
- Consistently poor quality

9.) How would you like to receive information about park events/programs? (Check all that apply)

- City of Morganton website
- Direct mail
- Banner signs in parks
- Local media (television, radio, newspaper)
- Facebook, Twitter or other social media
- City schools (flyers, e-newsletter, play guide, etc.)
- Email
- Text messages
- Word of mouth
- Other: _____

11.) Overall, how well do you think the following facilities, programs, and activities provided by the City of Morganton are currently meeting your needs?

	Meeting All Needs	Meeting Most Needs	Not Meeting Needs
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Athletic Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails/ Greenways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Programs/ Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Athletic Programs/ Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics/Outdoor Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. How do you feel about the following characteristics of the current FACILITIES FOR FITNESS (Aquatic Centers, Collett Street Weight Room, Greenway & Trails)?

	Excellent	Adequate	Poor
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



13.) Please list classes you would like to see offered at the FACILITIES FOR FITNESS.

14.) How do you feel about the following characteristics of the current FACILITIES FOR ATHLETICS (Catawba Meadows, Catawba River Soccer Complex, Shuey Park)?

	Excellent	Adequate	Poor
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Room for spectators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grounds Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15.) How often do you take part in the following parks and recreation programs?

	Often	Occasionally	Never
Passive park usage (walking, picnicking, relaxing with friends or family, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A special event (5k walk or run, movie in the park, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual activity (tennis, basketball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Programs (dancing, exercise classes, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programmed Sports (baseball league, soccer league, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic activity (swim team, water aerobics, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16.) In your opinion, does the City of Morganton need more or less of the following types of facilities:

	Needs More	Just Right	Needs Less
Soccer fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fields/activities for people with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Splash pads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gyms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exercise classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight training facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails/greenways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17.) Do you use recreation facilities offered by a private provider (i.e. Golds Gym, YMCA, etc.)? Yes No

If yes which private provider? _____

If yes please tell us why. (Check all that apply)

- They are close to my residence
- They offer services that Morganton parks do not
- They have better quality facilities
- They have better programming/activities
- They are safer
- Hours of operation
- I was not aware of Morganton parks' services, programming, and activities
- Other: _____



18.) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree to the following comments.

- Recreation facilities and parks are well maintained
- Parks are well-distributed throughout the city
- Additional sport fields are needed
- Additional meeting/program space is needed
- Existing facilities need to be renovated
- Sports leagues are well-organized
- Advertisements about upcoming events/programs are adequate
- I can easily contact parks and recreation officials for information
- I feel safe when visiting a park or recreational facility
- I feel that I have good access to a park
- Other: _____

	Agree	Disagree	Do Not Know
Recreation facilities and parks are well maintained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks are well-distributed throughout the city	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional sport fields are needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional meeting/program space is needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing facilities need to be renovated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports leagues are well-organized	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisements about upcoming events/programs are adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can easily contact parks and recreation officials for information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel safe when visiting a park or recreational facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel that I have good access to a park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19.) What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

20.) What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-40
- 41-60
- Over 60
- Prefer not to say

21.) What is your current household status?

- Single
- Living with someone
- Married
- Prefer not to say

22.) Do you have children? Yes No
If yes, how many children do you have in each age range that live at home with you?

- ___ 0-5
- ___ 6-10
- ___ 11-15
- ___ 16-18
- ___ 19 and older

23.) Do you live within the city limits of Morganton?

- Yes No

24.) How long have you lived in Morganton?

- 0 - 5 years
- 6- 10 years
- 11 - 20 years
- Over 20 years

25.) What is your household income?

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 or more
- Prefer not to say

26.) How would you describe your race or ethnicity?

- African American
- Latino
- Caucasian
- Asian
- Native American
- Other
- Prefer not to say

27.) Please provide any additional comments below (i.e. What other park improvements, amenities, or additional park locations would you like to see added?) _____

Thank you for helping Morganton Parks and Recreation and your Community!

Community Survey - Spanish



Encuesta del Plan Maestro de Parques

City of Morganton
Parks and Recreation

NECESITAMOS SUS COMENTARIOS!

¡Morganton ya tiene un sistema increíble de parques y senderos, pero queremos hacerlo aún mejor! Al completar esta encuesta nos ayudará a entender lo que le gusta, lo que no le gusta y lo que necesita mejorar. ¡Así no utilice el sistema de parques y senderos, sus comentarios son valiosos!

Gracias por sus comentarios!

Por favor proporcione su correo electrónico si lo desea actualizaciones: _____

1.) ¿Qué parque es el más cercano a su casa?

- Asian Gardens
- Bethel Park
- Carbon City Park
- Cascade Park
- Catawba Meadows Park
- Catawba River Soccer Complex
- Drexel Heritage Park
- Freedom Park
- Gene Turner Park
- Martha's Park
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Morganton Greenway System
- Shuey Park
- Collett Street Center
- Mountain View Center
- Aquatic Center/Outdoor Pool
- No estoy seguro
- Otro: _____

2.) ¿Qué parque visita con mayor frecuencia?

- Asian Gardens
- Bethel Park
- Carbon City Park
- Cascade Park
- Catawba Meadows Park
- Catawba River Soccer Complex
- Drexel Heritage Park
- Freedom Park
- Gene Turner Park
- Martha's Park
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Morganton Greenway System
- Shuey Park
- Collett Street Center
- Mountain View Center
- Aquatic Center/Outdoor Pool
- No estoy seguro
- Otro: _____

3.) ¿Cómo viaja al parque o al sendero? (Escoja todas las opciones que correspondan)

- Manejando
- Caminando
- En bicicleta
- Otro: _____
- No voy a parques or senderos

4.) Caminaría al parque más a menudo si hubiese: (Escoja todas las opciones que correspondan)

- Cruces de las calles más seguras
- Mejor accesibilidad para las personas con discapacidad
- Mejoras banquetas
- Mejor iluminación y seguridad
- Acceso más fácil a entradas de senderos
- Conectividad de senderos existentes a parques
- Más sendas y senderos conectados a parques
- Otro: _____

5.) Visitar a los parques y senderos de la ciudad sería más cómodo si tuvieran: (Escoja todas las opciones que correspondan)

- Más iluminación
- Oficiales de seguridad
- Superficies para caminar bien mantenidas
- Teléfonos de emergencia
- Cruces de las calles bien demarcados
- Superficie blanda bajo del parque infantil
- Casilleros para artículos personales
- Estacionamiento de bicicletas
- Refugio del clima
- Fuente de agua
- Otro: _____

6.) Iría en bicicleta al parque más a menudo si había: (Escoja todas las opciones que correspondan)

- Más carriles bicicletas en las calles circundantes
- Más sendas y senderos
- Conectividad de senderos existentes a parques
- Más separación entre ciclistas y vehículos
- Más señales direccionales
- Instalaciones de bicicletas a través de intersecciones
- No tengo bicicleta
- No voy en bicicleta
- Otro: _____



7.) Yo o alguien en mi familia hemos participado en o quisieramos participar en las siguientes actividades en el parque:

- Programas y eventos específicos para cada edad
- Ligas recreativas (softball, futbol, baloncesto, etc.)
- Eventos especiales (películas en el parque, noches de familia, etc.)
- Eventos benéficos
- Clases de ejercicios (yoga, classes de baile, etc.)
- Eventos educativos (clases de seguridad para bicicletas, clases de cocina sana, etc.)
- Instalaciones de ejercicio/recreación del parque (tennis, golf, correr en la pista, etc.)
- Actividades generales del parque (caminar en los senderos, ir de picnic, etc.)
- Actividades acuáticas (nadar, aeróbicos en el agua, etc.)
- Actividades para personas con necesidades especiales (Parques de juegos seguros, ligas deportivas para personas con necesidades especiales, etc.)
- Instalaciones para mascotas
- Otro: _____

He Participado	Me gustaría participar
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.) Me siento bien informado sobre eventos/programación por el Departamento de Parques y Recreación Morganton

- Cierto Falso

10.) Los programas y actividades del departamento de Departamento de Parques y Recreación Morganton son:

- Consistentemente de la mejor calidad
- Consistentemente de buena calidad
- La calidad varía con cada programa
- Consistentemente de mala calidad

9.) ¿Cómo le gustaría recibir información sobre los eventos/ programas del parque? (marque todo lo que corresponda)

- El sitio web de la Ciudad de Morganton
- Correo
- Señales en los parques
- Medios de comunicación (televisión, radio, periódico)
- Facebook/Twitter
- Escuelas (Folletos, boletín electrónico, etc.)
- Correo electrónico
- Mensajes de texto
- Palabra de boca
- Otro: _____

11.) ¿Qué tan bien cree usted que las siguientes instalaciones/campos, programas y actividades proporcionados por la Ciudad de Morganton están satisfaciendo sus necesidades?

	Cumple todas mis necesidades	Cumple la de mayoría mis necesidades	No cumple mis necesidades
Parques	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campos Atlético	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senderos/Greenways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programas/Actividades de Recreaciones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programas/Actividades de Atlético	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
La Piscina Pública	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12.) ¿Cómo se siente acerca de las siguientes características de las instalaciones para FITNESS (Aquatic Centers, Collett Street Weight Room, Greenway & Trails)?

	Excelente	Suficiente	Mediocre
Limpieza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Número de cuartos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disponibilidad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estacionamiento	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mantenimiento de las instalaciones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



13.) Indique qué clases le gustaría que se ofreciesen en las instalaciones para FITNESS.

14.) ¿Cómo se siente acerca de las siguientes características de las instalaciones para DEPORTES (Catawba Meadows, Catawba River Soccer Complex, Shuey Park)?

	Excelente	Suficiente	Mediocre
Limpieza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Espacio para espectadores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disponibilidad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estacionamiento	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mantenimiento del campo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15.) ¿Con qué frecuencia participa en los siguientes programas de parques y recreación?

	A Menudo	A Veces	Nunca
Uso pasivo del parque (Caminar, hacer picnic, relajarse , etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eventos especiales (Carreras de 5 kilómetros, películas en el parque, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Actividades individuales (tenis, basketball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programas para personas de la tercera edad (bailar, ejercitarse, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programas para los jóvenes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ligas deportivas (ligas de basketball, futbol, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Actividades acuáticas (equipos de natación, aerobicos acuáticos, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16.) En su opinión, ¿la Ciudad de Morganton necesita más o menos de los siguientes tipos de instalaciones?

	Necesita más	Está bien	Necesita menos
Campos de fútbol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campos de béisbol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campos/actividades para las personas con discapacidad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Piscinas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Piscinas para niños (chapoteando)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Actividades acuáticas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canchas de tenis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canchas de baloncesto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gimnasios	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clases de ejercicios	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instalaciones para entrenamiento con pesas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senderos/Greenways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otro: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17.) ¿Utiliza instalaciones recreativas ofrecidas por un proveedor privado (i.e., Golds Gym, YMCA, etc)? Sí No

Si la respuesta es afirmativa, ¿cuál? _____

Si la respuesta es afirmativa, ¿por qué? (marque todo lo que corresponda)

- Cerca de mi casa
- Ofrecen servicios que la ciudad no
- Mejor calidad de instalaciones
- Mejores programas/actividades
- Más seguro
- Mejores horas de operación
- No conocía sobre los programas, servicios, y actividades del departamento del parque de Morganton
- Otro: _____



18.) Indique si está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con los siguientes comentarios:

	De Acuerdo	En Desacuerdo	No sé
Las instalaciones recreativas y los parques están bien mantenidos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Los parques están bien distribuidos en la ciudad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campos adicionales son necesarios	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Necesita espacio adicional del programa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Las instalaciones existentes necesitan ser renovadas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Las ligas deportivas están bien organizadas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Los anuncios sobre los eventos/programas son suficientes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Puedo contactar a los oficiales de parques y recreación para obtener información	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Me siento seguro al visitar un parque o una instalación recreativa en la ciudad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Me siento que tengo buen acceso al parque	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otro: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19.) ¿Cuál es su género?

- Femenino
- Masculino
- Prefiero no decirlo

20.) ¿Cuál es su edad?

- Menor de 18
- 18-40
- 41-60
- Mayores de 60
- Prefiero no decirlo

21.) ¿Cuál es su estado civil?

- Soltero/a
- Vivo con alguien
- Casado/a
- Prefiero no decirlo

22.) ¿Tiene niños?

- Sí
- No

Si tiene niños, ¿cuántos niños viven en con usted en cada uno de los siguientes rangos de edad?

- ____ 0-5
- ____ 6-10
- ____ 11-15
- ____ 16-18
- ____ Mayores de 19

23.) ¿Vive dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Morganton?

- Sí
- No

24.) ¿Hace cuantos años vive en la Ciudad de Morganton?

- 0 - 5 años
- 6- 10 años
- 11 - 20 años
- Más de 20 años

25.) ¿Cuál es su ingreso?

- Menos de \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- Más de \$100,000
- Prefiero no decirlo

26.) ¿Cuál es su raza?

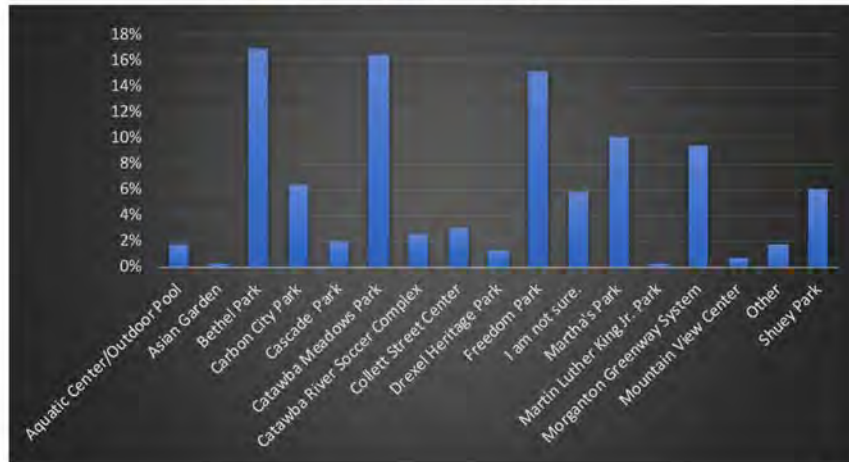
- Negro/a
- Hispano/Latino
- Blanca
- Asiático/a
- India americana
- Otro _____
- Prefiero no decirlo

27.) Escriba cualquier comentario adicional debajo:

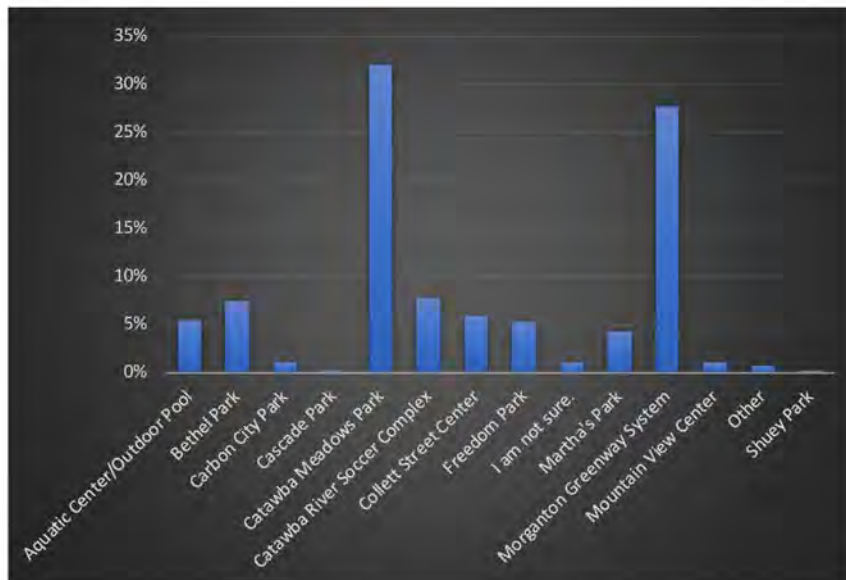
¡Gracias por sus comentarios!

Community Survey: Results

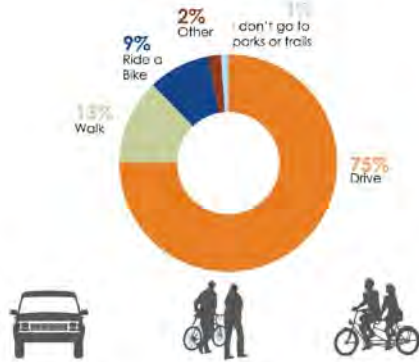
1.) Which park is located closest to your home?



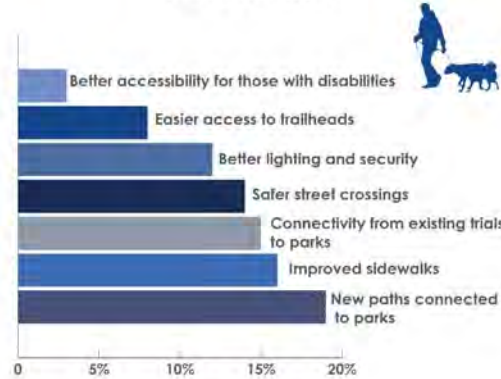
2.) Which park do you go to the most?



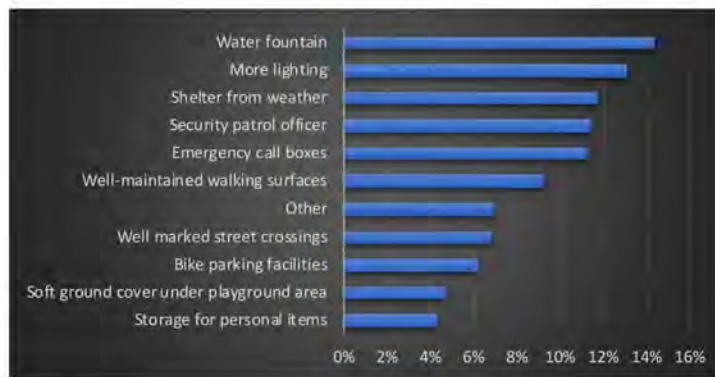
3.) How do you get to the park or trail?
(Check all that apply)



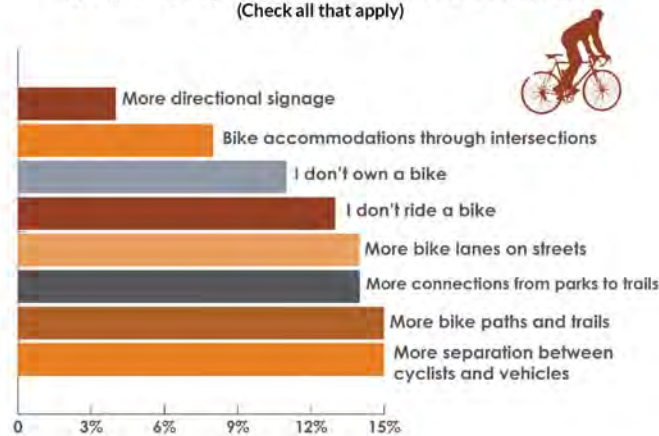
4.) I would walk to the park more often if there was:
(Check all that apply)



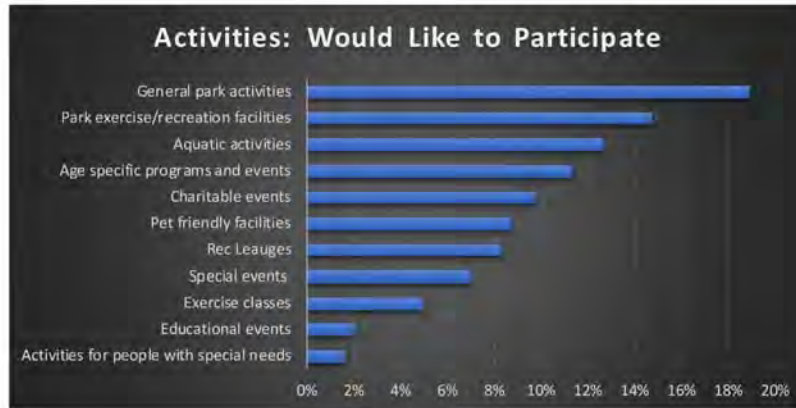
5.) Visits to the City's parks and trails would be more comfortable if they had the following:
(Check all that apply)



6.) I would ride my bike to the park more often if there was:
(Check all that apply)



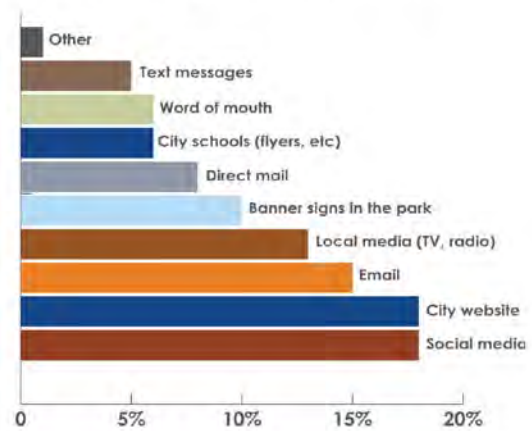
7.) I or my family members have participated in or would like to participate in the following park activities:



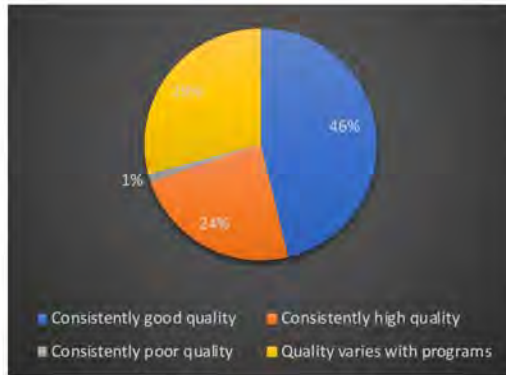
8.) I feel well informed about existing facilities and events/programming by the Morganton Parks and Recreation Department? (True or False)



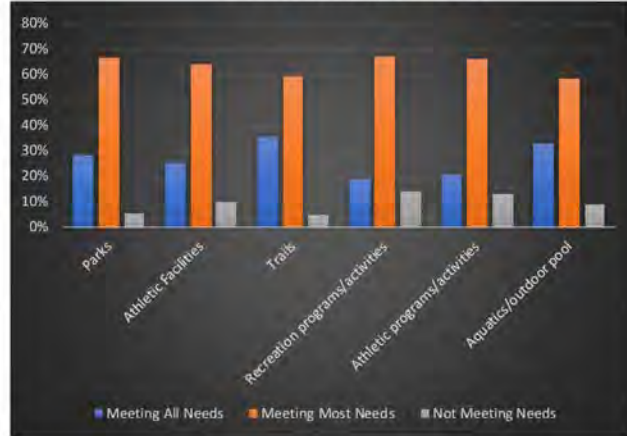
9.) How would you like to receive information about park events/programs? (Check all that apply)



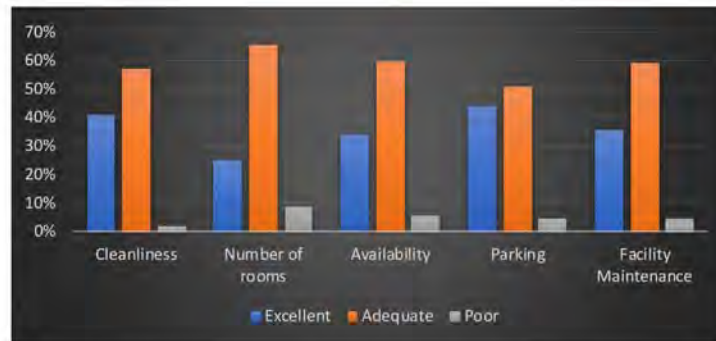
10.) Morganton Parks and Recreation programs and activities are:



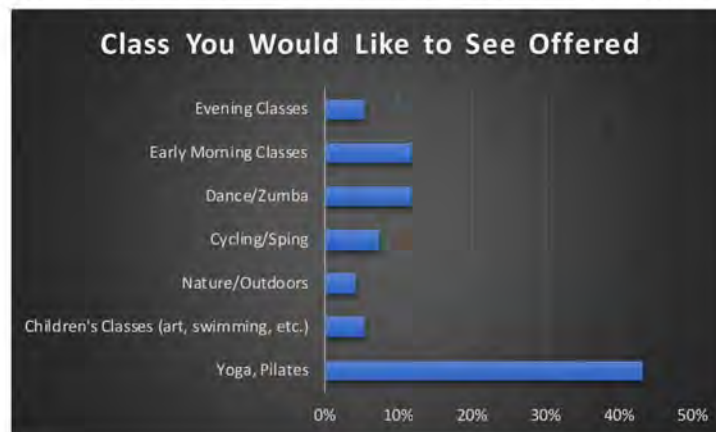
11.) Overall, how well do you think the following facilities, programs, and activities provided by the City of Morganton are currently meeting your needs?



12. How do you feel about the following characteristics of the current FACILITIES FOR FITNESS (Aquatic Centers, Collett Street Weight Room, Greenway & Trails)?



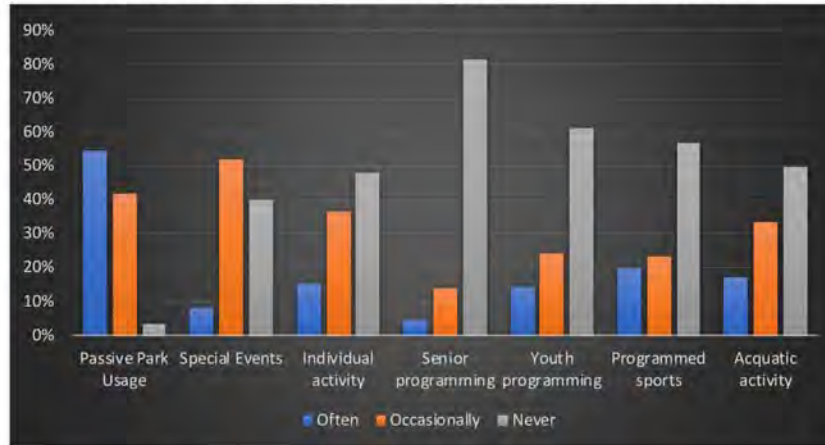
13.) Please list classes you would like to see offered at the FACILITIES FOR FITNESS.



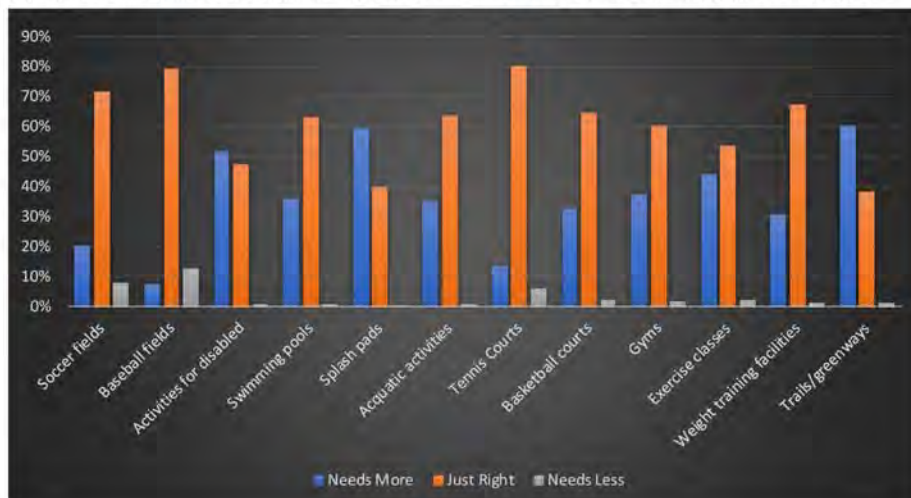
14.) How do you feel about the following characteristics of the current FACILITIES FOR ATHLETICS (Catawba Meadows, Catawba River Soccer Complex, Shuey Park)?



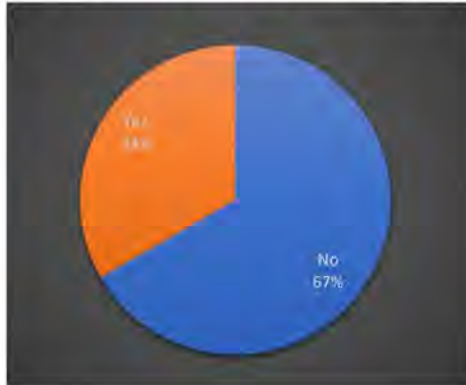
15.) How often do you take part in the following parks and recreation programs?



16.) In your opinion, does the City of Morganton need more or less of the following types of facilities:



17.) Do you use recreation facilities offered by a private provider (i.e. Golds Gym, YMCA, etc.)?



*If yes which private provider?



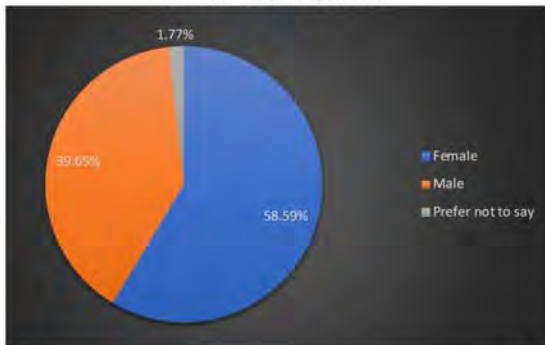
*If yes please tell us why. (Check all that apply)



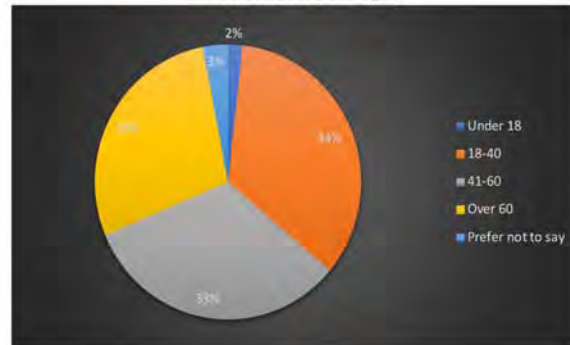
18.) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree to the following comments.

Question	Agree	Disagree	Do not know	Total
Recreation facilities and parks are well-maintained	84%	12%	4%	100%
Parks are well-distributed throughout the city	84%	11%	4%	100%
Additional sport fields are needed	84%	12%	4%	100%
Additional meeting/program space is needed	84%	12%	3%	100%
Existing facilities need to be renovated	84%	12%	3%	100%
Sports leagues are well-organized	85%	12%	3%	100%
Advertisements about upcoming events/programs are adequate	85%	12%	3%	100%
I can easily contact parks and recreation officials for information	84%	12%	4%	100%

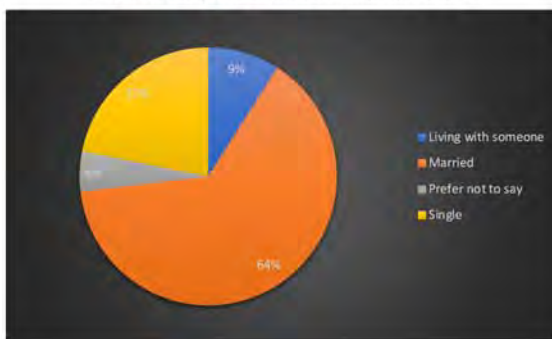
19.) What is your gender?



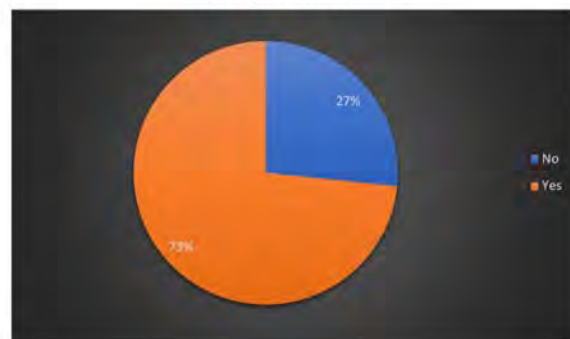
20.) What is your age?



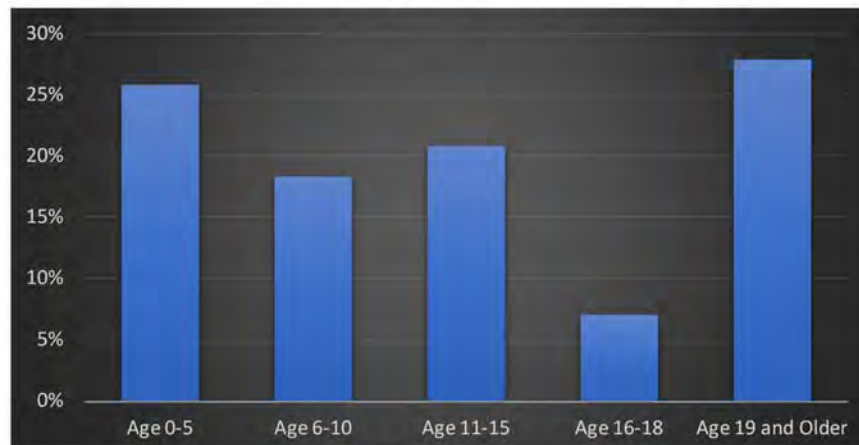
21.) What is your current household status?



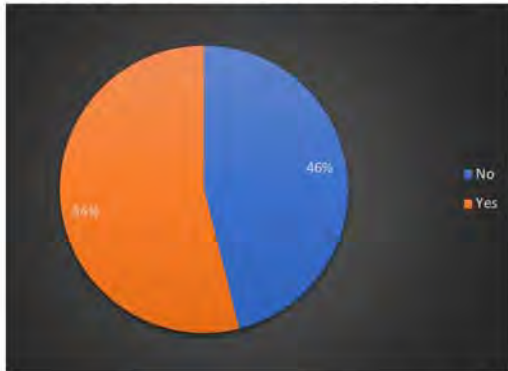
22.) Do you have children?



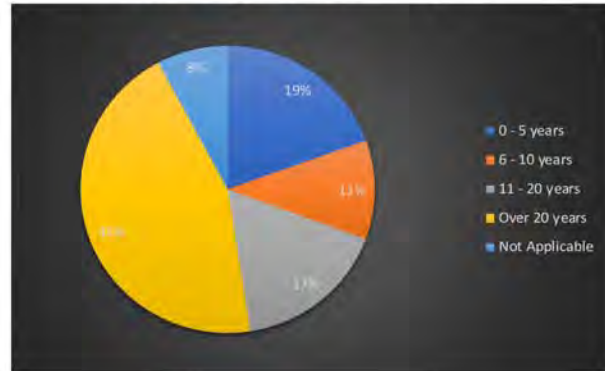
*If you do have children, what age range are they? (Select all that apply)



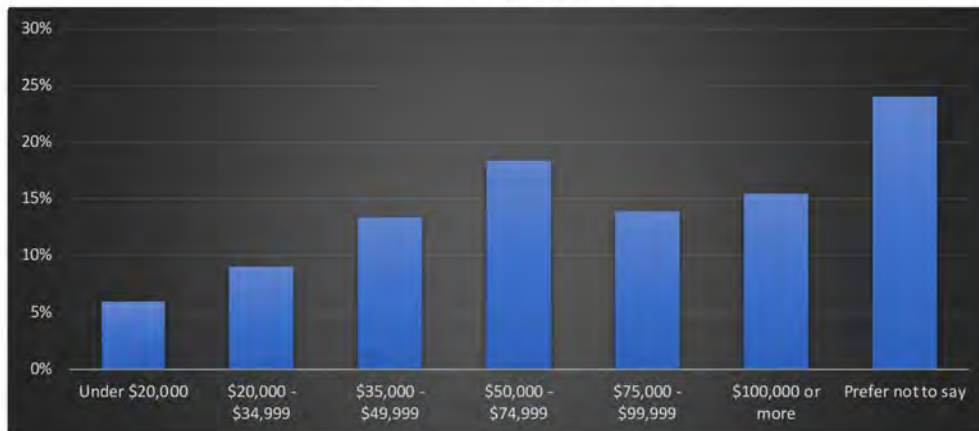
23.) Do you live within the city limits of Morganton?



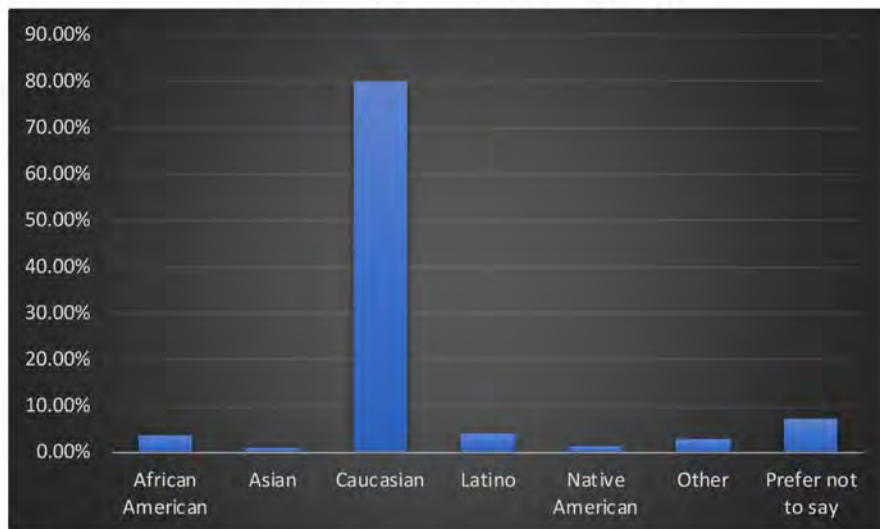
24.) How long have you lived in Morganton?



25.) What is your household income?



26.) How would you describe your race or ethnicity?



Greenway Survey



Parks Master Plan Greenway Survey

City of Morganton
Parks and Recreation

Morganton already has an amazing parks and trail system, but we want to make it even better! By completing this survey you will help us understand how to improve the parks and trails in your community. Your feedback is valuable!

Thank you for your input!

If you would like to receive updates, please write your email address here: _____

1.) What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

2.) What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-40
- 41-60
- Over 60
- Prefer not to say

3.) How did you get to the greenway today?

- Drive
- Walk
- Bike
- Other _____

4.) How far did you travel to get to the greenway?

- 0-2 miles
- 3-5 miles
- 6+ miles

5.) At what location did you enter the greenway?

- Main Trailhead
- Catawba River Soccer Complex
- Freedom Park
- River Village/Boardwalk
- Catawba Meadows
- Trailhead at Lenoir Road

6.) How important to you is extending the greenway network in Morganton?

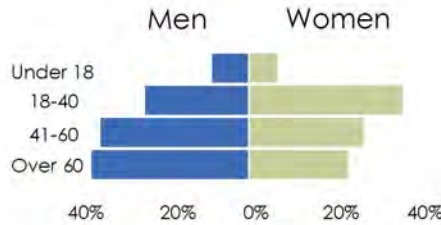
- The greenway network is fine how it is today.
- Extending the network would be nice but not necessary.
- More greenways and trails are extremely important to me.

7.) How often would you use a greenway that is connected to:

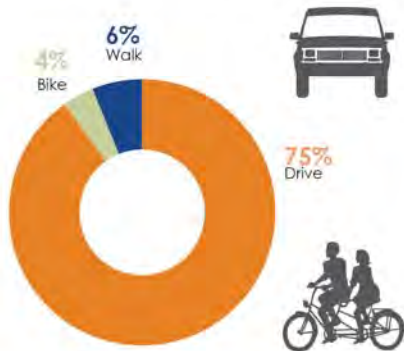
	Never	Occasionally	Frequently
Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bethel Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Piedmont Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Greenway Survey: Results

1.) What is your gender? 2.) What is your age?



3.) How did you get to the greenway today?



4.) How far did you travel to get to the greenway?



5.) At what location did you enter the greenway?



6.) How important to you is extending the greenway network in Morganton?



7.) How often would you use a greenway that is connected to:



Kids Engagement Activity

Sorry Grown-ups, this one is for KIDS only!

What do YOU like to do at parks, trails, and recreation centers?

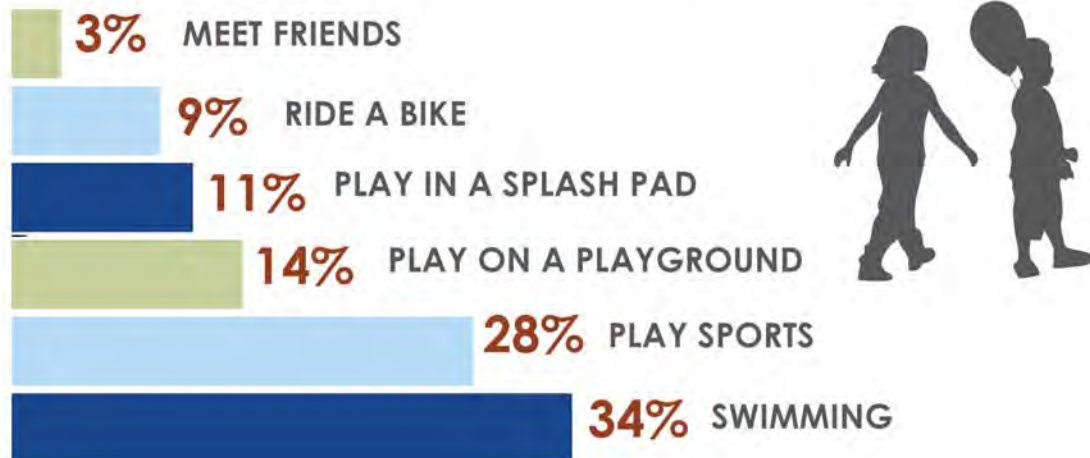
 <p>Meet Friends</p>	 <p>Play in a Splash Pad</p>
 <p>Ride a Bike</p>	 <p>Play Sports</p>
 <p>Play on a Playground</p>	 <p>Swimming</p>

Morganton Parks and Recreation Survey Material



Kids Engagement Activity: Results

What do **KIDS** like to do at parks, trails,
and recreation centers?



D. Operations

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department is currently directed by Mr. Rob Winkler who oversees the day to day operations of seventeen (17) full-time positions as well as two (2) $\frac{3}{4}$ full-time employees. The Landplan Group South and Toole Design Group reviewed the 2016 NRPA Field Report (Appendix D) and the criteria set forth therein to determine the following:



- The City of Morganton has fourteen (14) parks. Using Morganton’s projected 2016 population of 16,665 residents and the national average of one (1) park for every 2,777 residents, Morganton would be required to have six (6) parks. Morganton’s fourteen (14) parks is more than double the national average.
- “Typical Park and Recreation Agencies have 9.5 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents.” Using the 16,665 projected 2016 population figure, Morganton would require approximately 158-acres of Park Land to meet the average. The City of Morganton currently has over 330-acres of Park Land managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. This also doubles the national average.
- The City of Morganton currently has seventeen (17) full-time employees and two (2) $\frac{3}{4}$ full-time employees in its Parks and Recreation Department. The national average of 7.4 full time employees for every 10,000 residents would require 12.33 employees. Despite the fact Morganton does exceed the national average of required employees, it should again be noted that the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department operates over twice the national average of park space.



E. Programming

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department (www.morgantonnc.gov) offers the citizens of Morganton a wide variety of recreational activities, classes, and etc. The current programming will be evaluated during the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan process in order to fit the needs the community.

1. Classes, Clubs, and Fitness

- Ballroom and Line Dancing
- Exercise and Basketball Camp
- Gymnastics (Ages 4 to 8)
- Keyboard Lessons
- Kids Week Out!
- Morganton JAM
- P90X
- Piyo (Pilates and Yoga)
- Purple Pig
- Senior Club
- Skeet and Trap Shooting
- Spin Class
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tennis Lessons
- Pickleball Lessons
- Winter Art Camp @ Purple Pig
- Zumba

2. Aquatic Programs

- Lifeguard Certification Class
- Morganton Swim Club

- Swim Lessons
- Water Exercise Class

3. Adult Sports

- Basketball (40 And Over)
- Basketball (Church and Industrial League)
- Wooden Bat Softball League
- Golf Leagues
- Flag Football

4. Youth Sports

- Baseball
- Flag Football
- Girls Fastpitch Softball
- Junior Baseball and Softball
- Soccer
- Wrestling

F. Recreation Trends

The LandPlan Group South and the Toole Design Group recommend that The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department consider the latest national trends in continuing to provide and update programming of its current and future facilities.



Pickleball is currently the trendy sport being added to parks and recreation throughout the nation. The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department is already utilizing its existing facilities to offer lessons as well as play. The

anticipated growth of this new sport will align with the Comprehensive Master Plan Update.

Other notable initiatives that should be included as part of future programming and planning include accessible/inclusive playgrounds, spray grounds/water features, lacrosse, passive recreation opportunities for elderly citizens, small group training, mini soccer, interactive art and technology, and petanque. Offering shorter sports seasons and maintaining a diversity of activities available for all age groups will be an important aspect of the Morganton Parks and Recreation Department future programming.

G. City of Morganton Parks & Recreation Site Inventory

In order to provide the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department with a complete and thorough 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan, The LandPlan Group South and Toole Design Group evaluated, visited, and verified all current City of Morganton Parks and Recreation facilities. Several facilities catalogued in the 2015 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan no longer exist. Many facilities have been renovated/improved and new facilities have been constructed in accordance with the needs of the citizens of Morganton.



1. Collett Street Recreation Center *300 Collett Street*

- Morganton Parks and Recreation Department Headquarters and Offices
- Indoor Basketball Court
- Three (3) Outdoor Tennis Courts
- Meeting Rooms for Clubs



- Social Hall
- Exercise/Weight Room
- Locker Rooms/Showers
- Billiards Room
- TV Room
- On-Site Parking

2. Collett Street Outdoor Pool

401 North King Street

- Pool (50-Meters with Multiple Lanes)
- Wading Pool for Toddlers
- Covered Pavilion Area
- Locker Rooms/Showers
- On-Site Parking

3. Mountain View Recreation Center

645 First Street

- One (1) Swimming Pool
- Indoor Gymnasium for Multiple Uses
- Two (2) Outdoor Tennis Courts
- Meeting Rooms for Clubs
- Social Hall
- Kitchen (Full Service)
- On-Site Parking

4. Morganton Aquatics Center

117 Alphabet Lane

- Indoor Pool (25-Meters with five (5) Lanes)
- Lobby Area
- Locker Rooms/Showers



- On-Site Parking

5. Catawba Meadows Park

220 Catawba Meadows Drive

230-Acres

- Five (5) Lighted Little League Baseball Fields
- Four (4) Light Youth and Adult Softball/Baseball Fields
- Field House with Concessions
- Observation and Eating Area
- Team Meeting Room
- Umpires and Coaches Meeting Room
- Athletic Merchandise Center
- Batting Cages
- Accessible Restrooms
- Three (3) Picnic Shelters (100-person)
- Two (2) Sand Volleyball Courts
- 18-Hole Disc Golf Course
- Festival Area
- Adventure Playground
- Greenway (Over ½-Mile)
- Beanstalk Zip Lines
- Kitchen (Full Service)
- On-Site Parking

6. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Currently Undergoing Renovation

111 Alphabet Lane

Completed in 1987, 1-Acre

- Fencing
- Playground Equipment



- Three (3) Picnic Shelters/Grills
- Walking Track (1/4-Mile)
- Restrooms

7. Cascade Park

Morehead Street Extension

- Walking Trail
- Wooded/Scenic Views
- Neighborhood Park (No Parking Available)

8. Asian Garden

North King Street (700 Block)

1.8-Acres

- Asian Themed Pergola
- Passive Green Space
- Bench Seating
- Arbor
- Stone Bridge
- On-Street Parking (Via King Street)

9. Gene Turner Park

North King Street (800 Block)

Originally Completed in 1951, Expanded 1981, 2.3-Acres

- One (1) Lighted Baseball Fields
- One (1) Batting Cage
- Field House
- Concession Stand
- Bio-Retention Education Site
- On-Site Parking



10. Martha's Park

Collett Street (200 Block)

Originally Completed in 1972, Expanded 2004, 1.4-Acres

- Fenced Play Area
- Playground Equipment
- Three (3) Picnic Shelters
- Splash Pad
- Swing Sets
- Accessible Restrooms
- On-Site Parking

11. Bethel Park

Bethel Road (600 Block)

Completed in 1978, 15-Acres

- Walking Track (3/4 Mile)
- Two (2) Lighted Asphalt Tennis Courts
- Two (2) Basketball Courts
- Six (6) Picnic Shelters/Grills
- Dog Park (Bethel Bark Park)
- Disc Golf Course (Bethel Park Disc Golf Course)
- Accessible Restrooms
- Swing Sets
- On-Site Parking

12. Drexel Heritage Park

West Concord Street (600 Block)

Completed in 1998, 3-Acres

- Fenced Play Area
- Playground Equipment
- Four (4) Picnic Shelters/Grills
- Accessible Restrooms



- On-Site Parking

13. Shuey Park

101 Golf Course Road

Completed in 1968, 16-Acres

- Two (2) Lighted Softball/Baseball Fields (270-feet)
- American Legion Baseball Field (350-feet)
- Field House
- Two (2) Concession Stands
- Five (5) Lighted Horseshoe Courts
- Picnic Shelter
- Restrooms
- On-Site Parking

14. Catawba River Soccer Complex

110 Greenlee Ford Road

Completed in 2000, 30-Acres

- Four (4) Lighted Soccer/Lacrosse Fields
- Petanque Courts
- Dog Park
- Field House/Office
- Concession Stand
- First Aid Room
- On-site Storage
- Picnic Shelter (80-person)
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Greenway Trail
- On-Site Parking



15. Carbon City Park

Carbon City Road (800 Block)

2-Acres

- Two (2) Asphalt Tennis Courts
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelter/Grills
- Playground
- Swing Set
- Restrooms
- On-Site Parking

16. Freedom Park

Independence Boulevard (400 Block)

Completed in 1983, 30-Acres

- Lighted Walking Track (1-Mile)
- Two (2) Playgrounds
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Lighted Softball Field
- Six (6) Lighted “Flex Court” Tennis Courts
- Soccer and Football Fields (Practice)
- Two (2) Basketball Courts
- Four (4) Picnic Shelters/Grills
- Accessible Restrooms
- On-Site Parking

17. Morganton Greenway System a

Started in 1990’s

Access Points

- *Greenlee Ford – Greenlee Ford Road*
- *Freedom Park – Liberty Drive*



- *River Village – 300 Sanford Village*
- *Catawba Meadows Park – Catawba Meadows Drive*
- *Rocky Ford*

Features

- Overmountain Victory Trail
- Paved Accessible Trail (4.4-Miles)
- Boardwalk
- Canoe Launches
- Emergency Markers
- Fishing Pier
- Fitness Trail
- Gold Panning Area
- Pedestrian Bridges
- Picnic Shelter/Tables
- Playgrounds
- Restrooms
- Scenic River Overlooks
- Part of the North Carolina Birding Trail

18. Community Garden
110 Greenlee Ford Road

- Garden Tools (Hoes, Rake, Shovels, etc.)
- Tillers and Lawn Mowers
- Mulching Straw
- Water Source with Hoses
- On-Site Parking

19. Morganton Skeet and Trap Range
400 Causby Quarry Road
Originally Completed in 1975, Expanded 1995, 1.5-Acres

- Three (3) Lighted Skeet Fields
- One (1) Combined Trap and Skeet Field
- Clubhouse (Kitchen, Restrooms, Meeting Room, and Pool Table)
- On-Site Parking

20. Morganton Skate Park
Currently Under Construction

21. Broughton Reuse Project
Currently Under Evaluation

In 2013, the planned construction of a new Broughton Hospital prompted the City of Morganton to petition State Representatives for funding to reuse/utilize the grounds and buildings of the original facility. The North Carolina General Assembly authorized the State Commerce Department to conduct a study of potential redevelopment opportunities for the historic campus and adjoining publicly owned land in 2014.



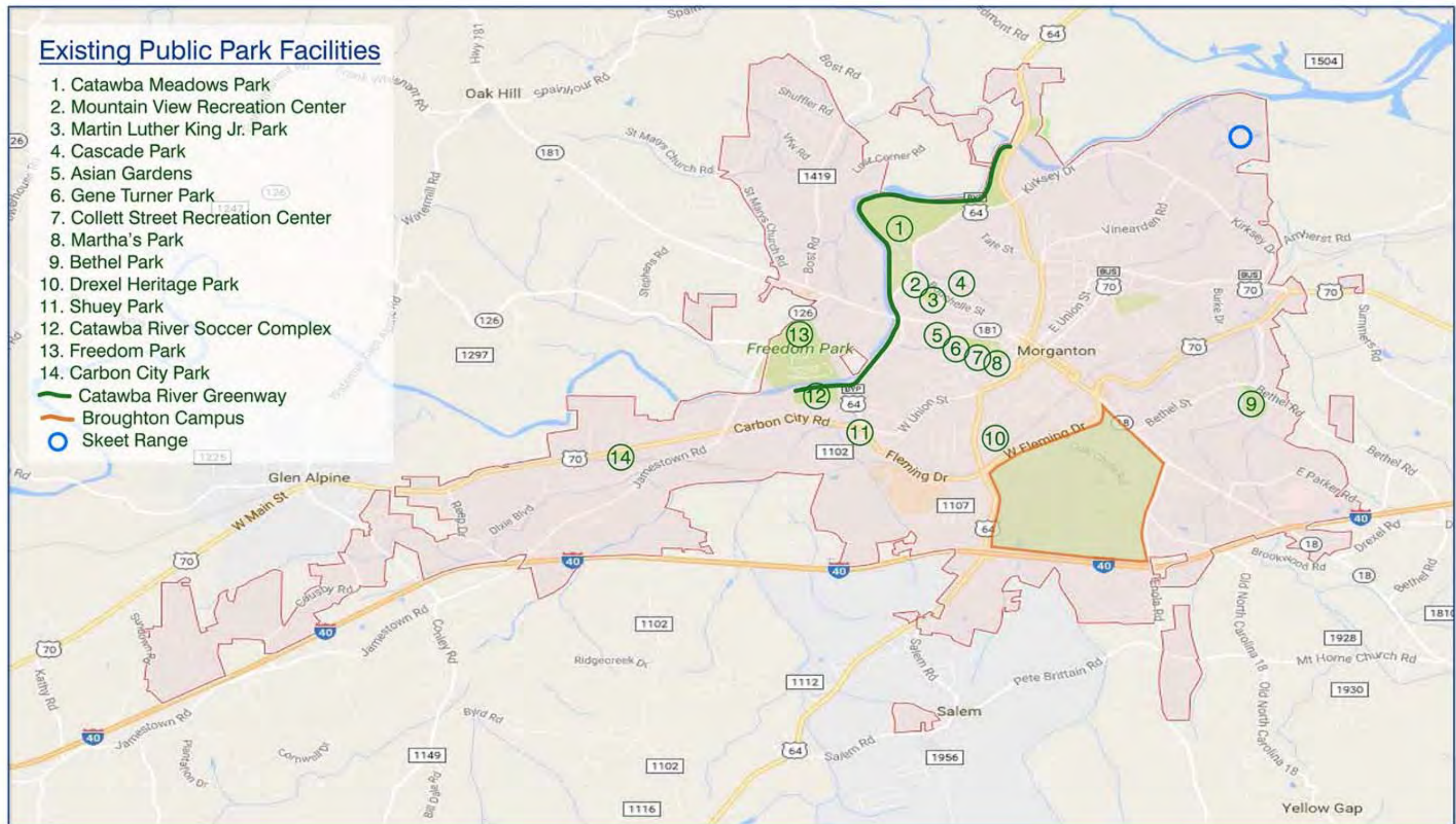
The study was completed by the Development Finance Initiative of the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The future opportunities identified in the report for the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department include expansion of the Morganton Greenways through the site, construction of new athletic fields/parks, and community agricultural/gardening areas.



Table 2 – Site Inventory:

	Acreage	Walking Trail	Tennis Courts	Basketball Court	Dog Park	Miracle Field	Baseball	Softball Field	Playground	Splash Pad	Disc Golf	Petanque Ct	Inclusive Play Equip.	Batting Cage	Horseshoes	Picnic Shelter	Swimming Pool	Restrooms	Soft Trail	Grill	Community Garden	Parking	Sand Volleyball	Interpretive Ctr	Soccer Field	Con. to Greenway	Gymnasium / Rec Ctr
Catawba Meadows	230	✓					4	5	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓
Mountain View R.C.			2	1													✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓
MLK Jr. Park	1	✓							✓							✓	✓	✓				✓					
Cascade Park	5																	✓									
Asia Gardens	1.8																	✓									
Gene Turner Park	2.3						2							✓													
Collett St. Rec. Ctr			3	1													✓	✓									✓
Martha's Park									✓	✓						✓	✓	✓				✓	✓				
Bethel Park	15	✓	2	2	✓				✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				✓	✓				
Drexel Heritage	3	✓							✓							✓	✓	✓				✓					
Shuey Park	16						1	2							✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
C.R. Soccer Complex	30	✓			✓				✓			✓				✓	✓	✓				✓			4	✓	
Freedom Park	30	✓	6				1	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓				✓			2	✓	
Carbon City Park	2		1	1					✓							✓	✓	✓				✓					
Indoor																											

Exhibit 3 City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Dept. Facilities Map



H. Local and Regional Recreation Inventory

As illustrated, the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs and facilities for public consumption. Morganton's status as the county seat of Burke County coupled with its centralized location allows its citizens the opportunity to experience many park and recreational opportunities offered throughout the region by various recreation providers.

1. Burke County Parks and Recreation Department


In 2014, Burke County published its Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2034 (McGill Associates). The plan details the County's future plans for recreational development as well provides insight into its existing facilities. Current and future Burke County facilities include:



- Brown Mountain Overlook encompasses approximately .5-acres and is located to the north of Morganton off of NC Highway 81. Located near Adako, this recreational facility provides parking, signage, and a viewing area that focuses on the Brown Mountain Lights. The Brown Mountain Lights are a local phenomenon that attract interest both regionally and nationally.
- Lake James County Park is currently in the preliminary planning and programming stages. Burke County owns approximately 141-acres of



land that it intends to develop into a regional recreational destination. Burke County will seek to promote the site as Eco/Adventure recreation opportunity with future plans that the Lake James Loop Trail will provide connection to Lake James State Park as well as the surrounding communities.

- Fonta Flora County Park is currently in the early stages of programming, design, and construction. A portion of the access road has been completed and Burke County Community Development is in the process of master planning the park. Proposed elements of the park will include: a parking area, restroom facilities, asphalt trail, large picnic shelter, Eagle's Nest lookout platform, and overnight treehouse accommodations. The park will capitalize on the panoramic views of Lake James and the eastern ridge of Linville Gorge and Shortoff Mountain. In addition, the initial trail head of the Fonta Flora State Trail is currently being engineered and will be located near the park entrance.
- Parker Road Park is County owned and operated even though it is located within the City of Morganton. At approximately 14-acres, the park provides the following recreational opportunities:
 - One (1) Basketball Court
 - Approximately 2,500 LF exercise/walking trail with benches
 - Large group covered and smaller uncovered picnic shelters
 - Restroom facilities
 - Playground equipment and horseshoe pits
 - Small Recreation Lake/Pond



- Reep Park is located to the Southeast of the City of Morganton near Hickory, NC. At approximately 100-acres, the facility offers the following:
 - Four (4) Baseball/Softball Fields
 - One (1) multi-use Football/Soccer Field
 - One (1) multi-use Practice Field
 - Restroom, concessions, and playground facilities
 - Covered picnic shelter and approximately 3,400 LF of exercise trail.

- Spring Park is located due east of the City of Morganton along I-40. The park includes approximately 32-acres of recreation opportunities including the following:
 - One (1) Multi-Use Field
 - One (1) Baseball/Softball Field
 - Approximately 1,800 LF of exercise/walking trail
 - Covered picnic shelter
 - Wildlife Observation Deck
 - Amphitheatre, concession stand, and restroom facilities

- Simpson Park is located west of the City of Morganton near Glen Alpine. The recreational opportunities within the approximately 22-acre park include:
 - Two (2) lighting little league baseball fields
 - One (1) Basketball Court
 - Restrooms, concessions, and covered picnic facilities
 - Approximately 2,100 LF of exercise/walking trail
 - One (1) Multi-Use Field (*non-lighted*)

- Old Burke County Courthouse is located in the center of Morganton. Currently a museum, the site offers seating areas as well as special event space that can be utilized by the surrounding community.
- East Burke Senior Center is a program/activity driven facility that hosts social activities and educational/informative events as well providing the following:
 - Health Checks
 - Fitness Room
 - Dances
 - Computer Classes

2. North Carolina State Parks

The State of North Carolina offers a wide variety of variety of educational and recreational opportunities to its citizens through its forty-two (42) state parks and other amenities. The City of Morganton and its citizens are within a 30-minute drive of several of these highly visited first-class recreational opportunities.

- Lake James State Park is a recreation lovers' paradise. The park offers scenic mountain views along with a pristine 6,812-acre lake available for fishing and



swimming. The parks unique location at the base of the Linville Gorge and wide variety of available activities and facilities make Lake James State Park one of the most popular State Parks in North Carolina. Park activities and amenities include the following:

- Assembly Area/Amphitheatre

- Camping/Camp Sites
 - Fire Rings
 - 25-miles of trails (15-mile mountain bike accessible portion)
 - Access to the Overmountain Victory Trail
 - Grilling and Picnic Areas
 - Restroom and Bath House
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Child-Friendly Activities
 - Educational Programs/Activities
 - Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting
 - Canoe/kayak/Paddleboard Rentals
 - Boat Ramps
 - Swim Beach
 - Fishing and Swimming
 - Food Storage Lockers
 - Paved Access and Parking
-
- South Mountains State Park is geared for the rugged outdoor enthusiast. The park's challenging mountain topography varies up to 3,000 feet throughout the park. An adventurous network of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails provide an abundance of opportunities to experience the native landscape first hand. The crown jewel of South Mountains State Park is High Shoals Falls. At approximately 80-feet high, the falls are a true awe-inspiring experience. In addition to the Visitors Center, the park boasts many unique and exciting facilities and activities as follows:
 - Assembly Area/Amphitheatre





- Backpack Camping
 - Group & Family Camping/Camp Sites
 - Equestrian Camping
 - Fishing (Trout)
 - 47-Miles of Hiking/Walking Trails
 - 33-Miles of Equestrian Trails
 - 18-Mile Mountain Bike Loop
 - Grilling and Picnic Areas
 - Restrooms/Showers/Comfort Station
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Educational Programs/Activities
 - Paved Access and Parking
 - Scenic Waterfalls with Boardwalk Overlooks
-
- The North Carolina Mountains to Sea Trail runs through northern Burke County across the Linville River and through the Pisgah National Forest. The trail begins in the Great Smoky Mountains at Clingmans Dome and ends on the Outer Banks. Currently, approximately 700-miles of footpath are complete. The diverse and dynamic scenery, landforms, and ecosystems of the State of North Carolina can be experienced on the trail.

 - The Fonta Flora State Trail is long range project seeking to provide connection between Asheville and Morganton. The first planned phase of the trail will be an approximately 29-mile loop around Lake James. Predominantly a natural surface trail, hikers and bikers will be able to enjoy the peaceful and scenic views throughout the year.

3. United States National Parks and Recreational Areas

The State of North Carolina is home to many recreational areas provided by the US Forestry Service as well as the National Park Service. These areas serve to protect the beauty and integrity of the natural landscape while providing recreational and educational opportunities.

- The Pisgah National Forest contains over 500,000-acres of pristine hardwood forest. Mountain peaks and valleys, whitewater rivers, and scenic waterfalls occupy heavily forested slopes. Hundreds of miles of trails meander throughout the forest and are accessible most of the year. The Pisgah National Forest contains the first tract of land purchased by government as part of the establishment of the National Parks Service as well as holds historic status as home to the first forestry school in the United States. The designated wilderness areas within the forest make enjoying the natural beauty of the mountains an exciting adventure for all ages.

- The Blue Ridge Parkway is located in the northern part of Burke County. The Parkway winds approximately 469-miles connecting the Great Smoky Mountains National



Park and the Shenandoah National Park. As a driving experience, the 45-Mile Per Hour speed limit is set to ensure an experience free from commercial congestion. The wide diversity of wildlife and plants that can be seen during a typical drive on the Parkway are a nature lovers delight. In addition, the annual fall foliage display is highly anticipated and viewed every year by travelers from around the globe.

- The Overmountain Victory Trail is approximately 330-miles long and runs through North Carolina as well as its neighboring states (South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia). The trail revisits the Overmountain route traveled by the patriot militiamen during the Revolutionary War to the pivotal battle of Kings Mountain. Burke County and the City of Morganton sit uniquely where several legs of the trail converge. In addition to the overall historical experience, educational opportunities are readily available through the trail kiosks and signage.



4. Other Regionally Significant Recreational Amenities

- The Upper Catawba River Trail is a regionally significant feature that is directly accessible to Morganton and Burke County. Though many of the sites are currently in place, once fully completed, there will be sixteen (16) public recreation sites associated with the trail in Burke County. This will include seven (7) sites on Lake James, six (6) sites along the Catawba River, and five (5) sites on Lake Rhodiss. The trail includes sixteen (16) additional sites in neighboring Alexander, Caldwell, Catawba, and McDowell Counties.

I. City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Site Analysis

The Landplan Group South and Toole Design Group studied all information gathered both by on-site observations and through the community outreach process. The careful analysis of this information will





guide future recommendations that will align with the needs of the citizens of Morganton.

1. Collett Street Recreation Center

- Building Facade Needs Renovations/Improvements
- Utilities Need Updating
- Recondition Gym Floor
- Update HVAC
- Replace Roof

2. Collett Street Outdoor Pool

- Pool Area Aging, Needs Upgrading
- Water Park Expansion

3. Mountain View Recreation Center

- Utilities Need Updating
- Tennis Courts in Good Condition
- Parking Lot in Good Condition
- Recondition Gym Floor
- Update HVAC
- Replace Roof

4. Morganton Aquatic Center

- Facility in Fair Condition
- Replace Roof

5. Catawba Meadows Park

- Good Park Signage and Visibility/View Corridors
- Well Maintained in Good Overall Condition



- Large Open Areas Underutilized

6. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

- Park Currently Under Construction
- Signage in Poor Condition, Lacks Visibility
- Parking Lot in Fair to Poor Condition

7. Cascade Park

- Poor Signage Visibility
- Beautiful Woodland with Soft Trails
- No Vehicular Parking Area

8. Asian Garden

- Well Maintained in Good Overall Condition

9. Gene Turner Park

- Wide Road Profile, Light Traffic Patterns
- Poor Signage Visibility
- Ball Field in Poor Condition
- Restroom Facility in Fair Condition
- Overgrown Vegetation in Bio-Retention Area
- Potential Miracle Field

10. Martha's Park

- Well Maintained in Good Overall Condition

11. Bethel Park

- Poor Drainage at Lower End of Park
- Parking Lots in Fair to Poor Condition
- Tennis Courts in Poor Condition
- Signage and Landscape Improvements Needed



12. Drexel Heritage Park

- Signage in Good Condition
- Playground (Ages 2-5) in Fair Condition
- Playground (Ages 5-12) in Fair Condition
- Landscape Improvements Needed

13. Shuey Park

- Ball Fields in Good Condition
- Signage in Good Condition
- Recycle Dumpsters are Unsightly, Consider Alt. Location
- Parking Lot Deteriorating in Poor Condition
- Landscape Improvements Needed

14. Catawba River Soccer Complex

- Good Signage
- Playing Fields Well Maintained in Good Condition
- Playgrounds in Good Condition
- Adequate Parking
- Restrooms in Good Condition
- Dog Park in Good to Fair Condition
- Good Connection to Catawba River Greenway
- Room for Park Expansion

15. Carbon City Park

- Signage and Landscaping Needs Improvements
- Parking Lot in Poor Condition
- Restroom Facility in Fair Condition
- Basketball Courts in Extremely Poor Condition
- Tennis Courts in Poor Condition
- Fencing Needs Upgrading



- Shelter in Fair Condition
- Playground/Swings in Fair Condition

16. Freedom Park

- Softball Fields in Fair to Good Condition
- Adequate Parking
- Two Park Signs, Signage Needs Consolidating
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Adequate Restrooms

17. Morganton Greenway

- Excellent Condition
- Expansion Needed

18. Community Garden

- Facility is Adequate for Current Usage

19. Morganton Skeet and Trap

- Facility is Adequate for Current Usage

20. Morganton Skate Park

- Under Construction

III. PHASE II - RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to fully assess the current conditions and provide future facility and programing recommendations for the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department, The Landplan Group South and Toole Design Group



completed community outreach sessions, surveys, and site assessment visits. The previously completed Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan published in 1997 was reviewed during the preparation of the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan. The final recommendations are included in the following sections.

A. Operations

Operationally, the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department operates with seventeen (17) full-time and two (2) $\frac{3}{4}$ full-time employees. However, the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department also owns, operates, and maintains facilities that far exceed the national average in both acreage and number for a city of its population.

Based upon the Updated Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan, The Landplan Group South and the Toole Design Group Recommend the following:

- Add two (2) Full-Time Maintenance Personnel
- Add one (1) Full-Time Supervisory/Programming Level Staff Member

The addition of the new personnel will allow the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department to better serve its users as well as offer new programming opportunities.



B. Programming

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department offers its citizens a wide and unique variety of sports, classes and programs. Programs/Activities such as Pickleball and Petanque have been added in recent years based on heavy interest in the community. The 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan recommends the following programming additions:

- Add Youth Programming
- Add Active Summer Camps
- Market Health and Wellness Programming
- Promote Mountain/BMX Biking Activities

C. Parks

The 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan recommends the following improvements/additions to the City of Morganton's existing parks:

- Planning and Construction for New Canoe Access Points (Water Treatment Plant, Rocky Ford, Portage)
- Bethel Park Drainage Improvements
- Replace Aging Playground Equipment with Inclusive Equipment at All City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Identify Alternate Sites for Relocation of Recycle Dumpsters Currently at Shuey Park
- Convert Selected Underused Tennis Courts to Pickleball Courts
- Construct Mountain Bike Trails at Catawba Meadows Park
- Install Interactive Art along the Greenway
- Complete Improvements to MLK, Jr. Park
- Complete Skate Park at Collett Street Rec Center/Gene Turner Field and Add Pump Track
- Construct Miracle Field at Broughton Site (State of North Carolina and J. Iverson Riddle Support)



- Identify Additional Trail Head Park Site near Northeast end Greenway Extension
- Identify Additional Neighborhood Park and Playground in Northeast Morganton Area
- Improve Park Signage and Landscaping at all parks
- Coordinate District Planning Opportunities for Mountain Bike Trails and Passive Park Space on Broughton Campus
- Construct two (2) Multi-Use Fields at the Catawba River Soccer Complex
- Expand Overmountain Trail
- Fully Market and Promote the Existing Festival Area at Catawba Meadows Park
- Relocate Community Gardens
- Renovate Restrooms at MLK, Jr. Park, Shuey Park, Carbon City Park, and Bethel Park

D. Facilities

The recommended facility updates included in The 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan include:

- Utility Upgrades (Electric, HVAC, Water, Boilers) at Collett St Rec Center
- Utility Upgrades (Electric, HVAC, Water, Boilers) at Mountain View Rec Center
- Update Paint, Ceiling Tiles, and General Appearance at Collet St. Rec Center
- Update Paint, Ceiling Tiles, and General Appearance at Mountain View Rec Center
- Expand/Upgrade Collett Rec Center Outdoor Pool Area with Zero Entry Pool and Water Park
- Improve Signage and Landscaping at all Facilities



- Expand Mountain View Rec Center for Consolidated Weight Room
- Construct JOARA Headquarters at Catawba Meadows Park
- Construct one (1) Indoor Multi-Plex Facility

E. Greenways

The Comprehensive Master Plan Update recommends the following new greenway connections:

- College Street from Green Street to Fleming Street
- Green Street to Freedom Park Shared Use Path
- Hospital to Bethel Park
- Hunting Creek Trail Through Broughton Campus
- Western Bank of the Catawba River

F. Marketing

The purpose of this marketing recommendation is to steer the Morganton Parks and Recreation Department on a course that will enable it to communicate to the public available park and recreation opportunities as well as attract new local and regional visitors, long-term partners, and sponsors. To achieve this goal, the plan focused on the following objectives:

- 1. Understand the Role of Morganton Parks and Recreation**
- 2. Expand Morganton Parks and Recreation Products and Services**
- 3. Understand the Competitive Marketplace for Recreation Services**
- 4. Identify Areas for Potential Growth in Programming and Market Focus**

Objective 1: Understand the Role of Morganton Parks and Recreation

- The Morganton City recreational facilities are essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community. Positive impacts are evident throughout the community.
- Recreation brings the community together, encourages safer, cleaner neighborhoods and creates a livelier community atmosphere.



- The City's parks help improve the community's image, socioeconomic status and enhance the area's desirability. Residents recognize the numerous benefits that well-maintained open spaces and recreation facilities have for the community.
- Low crime rates increase property values and help residents feel secure.
- The Morganton Parks and Recreation Department has a multi-faceted function in the community:
 - Primary provider of affordable, organized youth and adult sports in the community
 - Primary provider of scenic, passive greenspace, picnic areas, playgrounds and trails/greenway system
 - Provider of affordable/quality fitness facilities and programs
 - Provider of safe/public access to the Catawba River
 - Provider of a public event space for community use and private events
- Other key priorities for Morganton Parks and Recreation can be categorized into three pillars to support the objectives of strengthening community image, supporting economic development and promoting health and wellness.
 - Conservation

Parks are critical in the role of preserving natural resources for communities. Local parks are the leaders, and often the only voice in communities, for protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and providing education and programming that helps communities engage in conservation practices.
 - Health and Wellness

Local parks lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of communities. They are essential partners in preventing and combating some of the most complicated and expensive challenges our



country faces — poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, chronic disease and physical inactivity.

➤ Social Equity

Universal access to public parks and recreation is a right, not just a privilege. Local park and recreation agencies work hard to ensure all members of their communities have access to their resources and programming.

Objective 2: Expand Morganton Parks & Recreation Products and Services:

- Morganton City leaders are meeting many of these challenges head-on and made a strong commitment to public parks and recreation in 1995 with the publication of the original Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Department’s experienced, dedicated staff is enthusiastic, committed and knowledgeable in areas of maintenance, athletics, fitness, and administration management.
- The recommendations and implementation of all the improvements included in the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan, will expand the current programming and facilities.

Objective 3: Maintain Affordability in the Competitive Marketplace for Recreation Services

- Review the current pricing policy and update as follows:
 - Encourage Accessibility for the Entire Community
 - Provide a Competitive Rate Structure
 - Develop and Maintain User Partnerships for Long-Term Success
 - Scholarship Programs for Youth Athletics to Ensure Universal Availability
 - Review all Non-Profit User Agreements to Ensure Agency Costs are Covered



Objective 4: Enhance and Promote the Value of Morganton Parks & Recreation

- Enhance the value of the Morganton Parks and Recreation Department as a major contributor to the quality of life in Morganton.
 - Adopt a message reflecting the value Morganton Parks and Recreation Department contributes to the city.
 - Promote the quality of the agency’s skilled professionals.
 - Promote the quality of coaches and skill development for children.
 - Promote the value of youth mentoring.
 - Promote the quality and number of facilities (Above National Average).
 - Targeted Consumer Demographics
 - Surrounding Areas of Unincorporated Burke County

- Public Relations Strategy and Execution -- Develop a promotional presentation for speaking engagements to build community awareness of the master plan, goals and progress. Schedule speaking engagements for:
 - City Leadership/Employees
 - County Leadership
 - Civic Clubs
 - Church Groups
 - School District Leadership
 - Parent Organizations

- Advertising Strategy and Execution -- Develop a broad variety of entry points for public information.
 - Maintain an inviting, user-friendly, informative website.
 - Build and maintain a social media presence – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
 - Distribute regular press releases to local print, radio and broadcast media.
 - Distribute flyers or club cards in schools and churches quarterly.
 - Participate in Back to School registrations annually.



- Publish a quarterly guide of all recreation opportunities.
- Continue to Create seasonal flyers or club flyers for individual programs.
- Create a marketing brand and print it on promotional merchandise -- magnets, T-shirts, caps, cups, etc. to be used at registration tables, community information fairs, etc.

- Strengthening the image of parks and recreation as vital to the image of the community.
- Increase fitness and youth services.
- To ensure marketing goals are met, set clear, measurable goals that utilize all available resources:
 - Track Website traffic, Page Views, and Downloads
 - Monitor Social Chatter -- Likes, shares, tweets
 - Log Repeat Customers
 - Record Event Attendance
 - Return on Investment -- Revenue generated over cost
 - E-newsletter Subscriptions and Renewals
 - Record Number of Volunteers
 - Participant Evaluations (Where Do They Get Information)
 - Online Surveys
 - Phone Inquiries
 - New Memberships at the Rec Centers
 - Target and Increase Number of Partners and Sponsorships



IV. PHASE III - IMPLEMENTATION

In order to continue to provide first-class facilities and programs for all of its citizens, the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department understands that improvements, new construction, and renovations to its park and recreational facilities will be necessary. The department will also evaluate future community programming needs based upon the information presented in the 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan. The prioritization of all documented recommendations will guide the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department into throughout the next decade.

A. Project Priority and Phasing

1. Year 0-3

- ❖ Update Utilities (Electrical, HVAC, Water, and Boilers) at Collett Street Rec Center
- ❖ Update Utilities (Electrical, HVAC, Water, and Boilers) at Mountain View Rec Center
- ❖ Replace/Improve Park Signage for Consistent Branding
- ❖ Hire two (2) Full-Time Maintenance Employees
- ❖ Hire one (1) Full-Time Supervisory/Programming Level Staff Member
- ❖ Convert Selected Tennis Courts to Pickleball Courts
- ❖ Install Interactive Art Along Greenway
- ❖ Complete Improvements at MLK, Jr. Park
- ❖ Complete Skate Park at Collett Street Rec Center and Construct Pump Track
- ❖ Plan and Construct two (2) Additional Multi-Use Recreation Fields at Catawba River Soccer Complex
- ❖ Initiate Planning and Design of Collett Street Outdoor Swimming Pool and Water Park



- ❖ Initiate Planning and Design for Bethel Park Drainage Improvements
- ❖ Design and Construct Highest Priority Greenway Extension
- ❖ Identify potential Trail Head and Park Location in Northeast Morganton Area
- ❖ Convert Shuey Baseball Fields (2) to Girls Softball Fields, Add Trail, Playground, Horseshoes and Provide ADA Accessibility
- ❖ Construct Mountain Bike Trails & Pump Track at Catawba Meadows Park
- ❖ Evaluate Condition of Existing Playground Equipment and Park Amenities
- ❖ Coordinate Cost Sharing Partnerships to Construct Broughton Campus Parks/Trails.
- ❖ Relocate Community Gardens
- ❖ Coordinate Broughton Campus Connectivity
- ❖ Design and Construct Additional Greenway Extension Segments
 - Green Street to Freedom Park Shared Use Path

**(See Pages 84 & 88 for Greenway Information and Estimate)*

Exhibit 4 Carbon City Park – Proposed Improvements





Carbon City Park Proposed Improvements

Probable Cost of Construction

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	\$30,285.00	\$30,285.00
2	Demolition	1	LS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
3	Erosion Control & Inspections	1	LS	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
4	Trail (5' Conc.)	325	SY	\$60.00	\$19,500.00
5	Grading/ Earthwork	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
6	Play Structure				
	a)Structure	1	EA	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
	b)Rubber Fall Surfacing (optional)	4,500	SF	\$10.00	\$45,000.00
7	Tennis Court Resurfacing				
	a)Resurface Existing/Rehab Fence	1	LS	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
8	Restroom Upgrade	1	LS	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
10	Lighting Upgrade	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
11	Site Furnishings	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
12	Landscaping/Signage Improvements	1	LS	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
				subtotal:	\$336,500.00
				10% SD/ DD/ Geotech/Structural/Const.Docs/Const. Admin:	\$33,650.00
				subtotal:	<u>\$400,435.00</u>
				10% contingency:	<u>\$40,043.50</u>
				TOTAL:	\$440,478.50

Exhibit 6 Catawba River Soccer Complex – Proposed Improvements



Catawba River Soccer Complex Phase III Improvements

Probable Cost of Construction

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Price
1	24'x24' Picnic Shelter (4 Tables and 2 Trash Receptacles)	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
2	Playground (Play Structure and Accesible Structure)	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
3	Greenway Extension (10 Feet Wide Asphalt Trail)	1840	LF	\$45.00	\$82,800.00
4	2 Multipurpose Fields (Finish Grade w/ Irrigation, and Grass)	1	LS	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
5	Fencing for Multipurpose Fields (6 Foot Green Vinyl)	2,400	LF	\$30.00	\$72,000.00
6	6 Feet Wide Conc. Sidewalk	845	LF	\$40.00	\$33,800.00
7	Parking Lot - 148 Cars (Stone/asphalt top, 2' curb & gutter)	1	LS	\$380,000.00	\$380,000.00
8	Site Preparation (Clearing, rough grading, fill dirt)	16	AC	\$17,500.00	\$280,000.00
9	Dog Park (1.2 Acres and 6 Foot Green Vinyl)	750	LF	\$30.00	\$22,500.00
10	Landscaping/Grassing (Fields and Parking)	1	LS	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
11	Erosion Control and Drainage Pond (Underground Storage Under Parking)	1	LS	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00
Subtotal:					\$1,281,100.00
Contingency (Not to exceed 5%):					\$64,055.00
Bonds and Mobilization @ 5%					\$64,055.00
Land Acquisition (Donation)					
Const. Management, Site Planning, Preliminary Design, Etc. (Not to exceed 20%):					
Total Project Cost:					\$1,409,210.00
Total PARTF Grant Request:					\$385,000.00
Total Local Match:					\$1,024,210.00

Exhibit 8 Bethel Park – Proposed Improvements



Bethel Park Proposed Improvements

Probable Cost of Construction

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	\$123,111.00	\$123,111.00
2	Demolition	1	LS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
3	Erosion Control & Inspections	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
4	Trail (10' Conc.)	1,340	SY	\$60.00	\$80,400.00
5	Grading/ Earthwork				
	a) Misc Earthwork	1	LS	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
	b) Stream Remediation	12,000	CY	\$17.00	\$204,000.00
	c) Fountain (in Pond)	3	EA	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00
6	Play Structure				
	a) Structure	1	EA	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00
	b) Rubber Fall Surfacing (optional)	8,000	SF	\$10.00	\$80,000.00
7	Tennis Courts				
	a) Resurface Existing/Rehab Fence	1	LS	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
	b) New Courts (2)	1	LS	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
8	Grassing				
	a) Pond & Soccer Field (Hydroseed)	350,000	SF	\$0.45	\$157,500.00
9	Site Furnishings	1	LS	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
10	Landscaping	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
				subtotal:	\$1,367,900.00
				10% SD/ DD/ Geotech/Structural/Const.Docs/Const. Admin:	\$136,790.00
				subtotal:	\$1,627,801.00
				10% contingency:	\$162,780.10
				TOTAL:	\$1,790,581.10

Exhibit 10 Collett Street Pool – Proposed Improvements



Collett Street Pool Proposed Improvements

Probable Cost of Construction

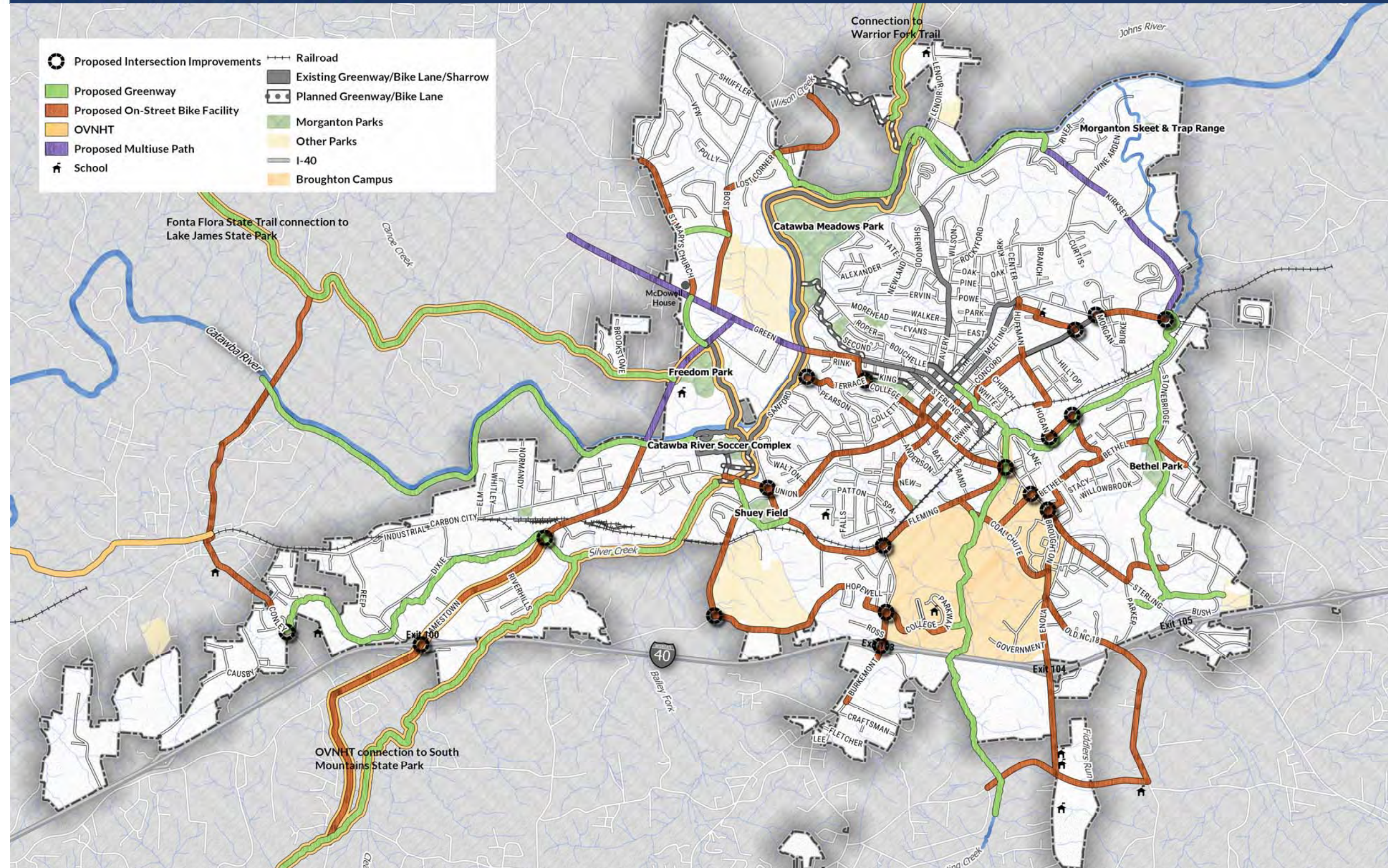
Item No.	Description	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	\$101,250.00	\$101,250.00
2	Demolition	1	LS	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
3	Erosion Control & Inspections	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
4	Pool Deck				
	a) Resurfacing Existing Deck	1	LS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	b) Expansion Decking	1	LS	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
5	Grading/ Earthwork				
	a) Misc Earthwork	1	LS	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
6	Picnic Shelter				
	a) Structure	2	EA	\$45,000.00	\$90,000.00
7	Pool Expansion				
	a) Splash Pad/Sprayground	1	LS	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
	b) Expansion Surfacing	1	LS	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
9	Site Furnishings	1	LS	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00
10	Water Slides w/ Stairs	1	LS	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
				subtotal:	\$1,125,000.00
				10% SD/ DD/ Geotech/Structural/Const.Docs/Const. Admin:	\$112,500.00
				subtotal:	\$1,338,750.00
				10% contingency:	\$133,875.00
				TOTAL:	\$1,472,625.00



2. Year 3-5

- ❖ Construct Bethel Park Drainage Improvements
- ❖ Construct Miracle Field at Broughton Campus
- ❖ Construct Pool and Water Park at Collett Street Outdoor Swimming Facility
- ❖ Design and Construct Additional Greenway Extension Segments
 - College Street from Green Street to Fleming Street
 - Hospital to Bethel Park
 - Hunting Creek Trail Through Broughton Campus
 - Western Bank of the Catawba River
- ❖ Construct Northeast Trail Head and Park
- ❖ Coordinate with Broughton District Stakeholders to Identify Additional Recreation Opportunities within the Campus
- ❖ Replace Aging Playground Equipment with Inclusive Equipment
- ❖ Install Interactive Art

Trail Connectivity Map





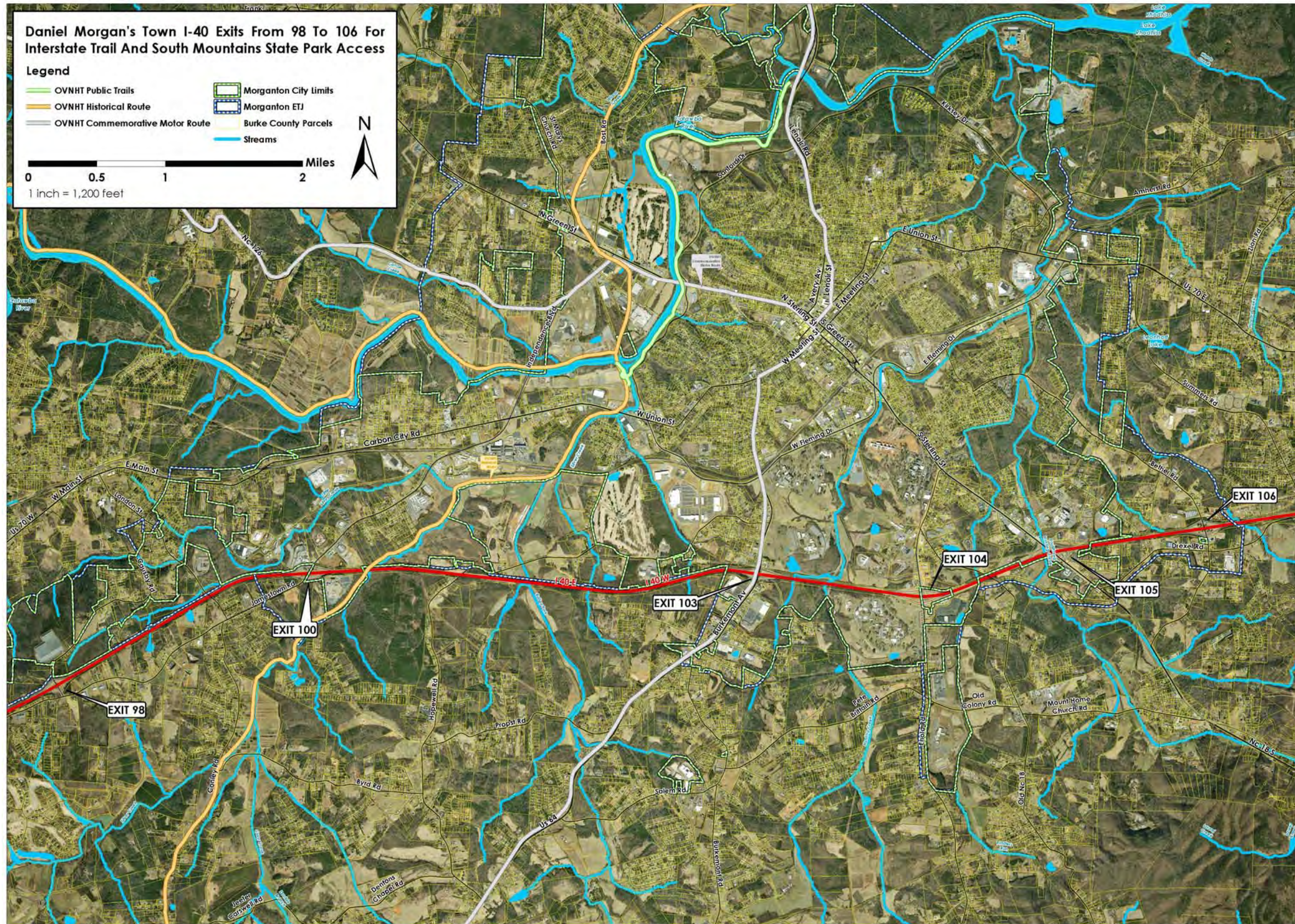
Network Connectivity:

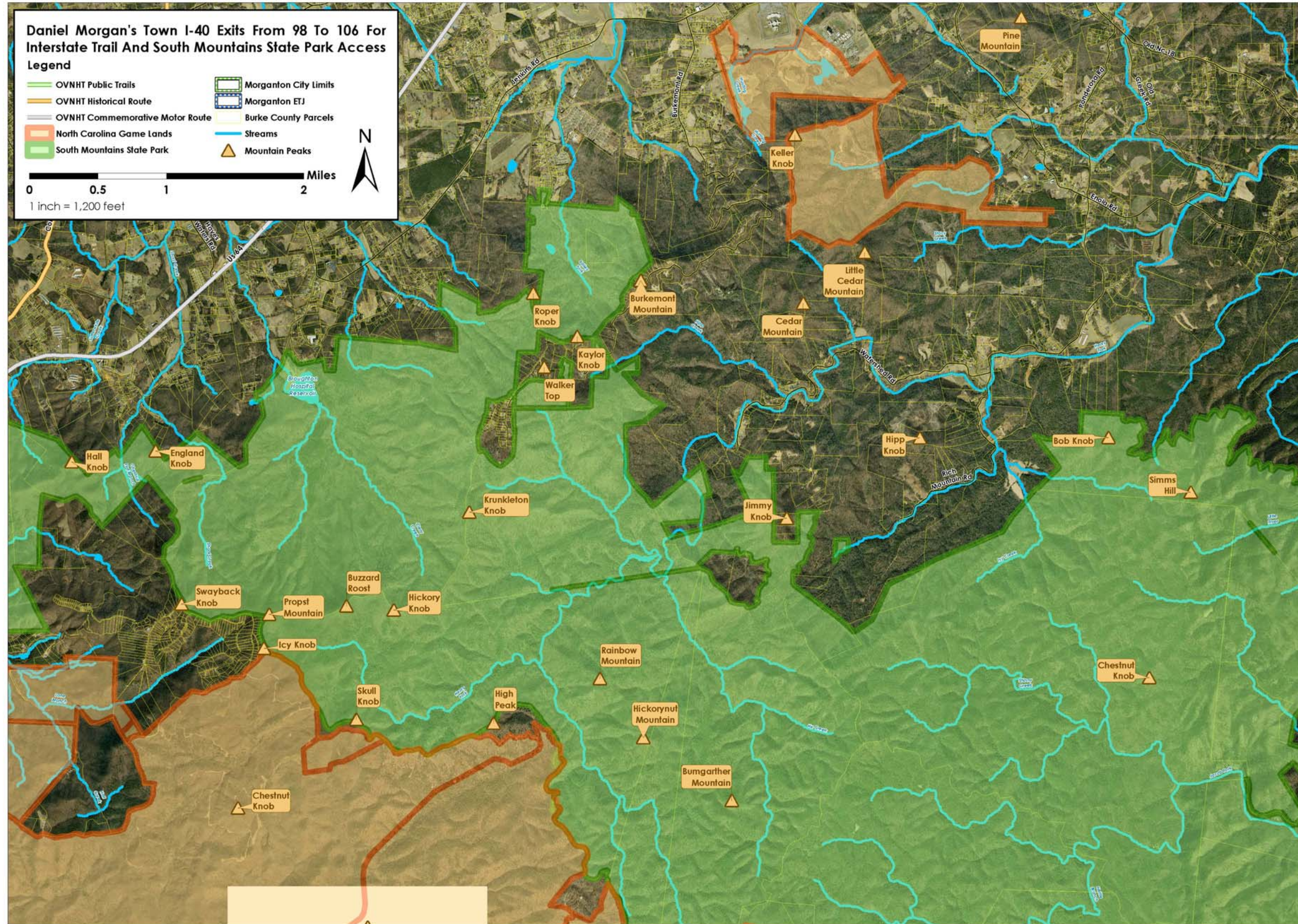
Developing a comprehensive bike and pedestrian network throughout the City of Morganton is crucial to enhancing accessibility to key community destinations, specifically parks. The greenway in Morganton is an asset and destination for local residents and regional visitors and was central to crafting a city-wide connectivity plan. The proposed network builds upon and expands the existing bike and pedestrian facilities, along with identifying barriers to overcome in order to create an environment that is comfortable and inviting for existing and new users. Connectivity cannot be achieved through greenways alone; however, implementing safe on-street bike and pedestrian infrastructure will complete an overall network and link parks throughout the City.

The proposed bike and pedestrian network considered parks, schools, downtown, and the existing greenway as the most critical destinations. Recommended improvements create a series of loops that link parks to one another for recreational purposes, but these loops may also be used for active transportation by community members. A variety of other amenities and assets can be accessed through the proposed network, including the Broughton Hospital Campus, Western Piedmont Community College, The North Carolina School for the Deaf, local schools, the Carolina HealthCare System Blue Ridge Campus, numerous assisted living facilities, and the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. These connections along with the improved access to parks in the community provide users with a comfortable greenway-like experience and the ability to truly explore the City of Morganton.

Regional Connectivity:

Morganton embraces its moniker as “nature’s playground” and has demonstrated its commitment to both local and regional connectivity. While the Morganton Recreation Master Plan is principally focused on the City of Morganton, connecting Morganton to the larger region will continue to be of great importance. Today, Morganton’s park and trail network draws visitors from throughout the region, and it is essential that Morganton continue to work to connect its residents back out to regional recreational and natural attractions. The trail connectivity map provides several connections that should continue to be pursued, including connecting to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, Fonta Flora State Trail, Lake James State Park, and South Mountains State Park. As these connections primarily exist outside the city limits of Morganton, they will most likely be implemented by other jurisdictions and agencies, but it is critical that the City of Morganton continue to embrace these regional connections, work in partnership with others, and plan for these regional connections to dovetail with City initiatives. The following two maps show the routes of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail which helped guide the selection of greenway and trail routes in the development of Morganton’s connectivity network.





College Street Shared Use Path



Proposed Improvement:



Shared Use Path Significance:

College Street is a secondary City-owned street and a north-south connector around Downtown Morganton. The street provides easy access to Gene Turner Park, Collett Street Recreation Center, Martha’s Park, the Asian Garden, and Downtown from the surrounding neighborhoods.

A 12-foot wide, 1.3-mile long, shared use path on the north side (downtown side) of College Street is recommended from North Green Street to East Fleming Drive. To accomplish the shared use path, a road diet is proposed from North Green Street to West Meeting Street. The College Street Shared Use Path will serve as the downtown bicycle and pedestrian spine.

*Refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Greenway Trail Standards for more information
 *Estimate does not include right-of-way.
 *Include five percent per year for inflation.

Preliminary Engineer’s Estimate

A detailed cost estimate has been prepared and is provided separately. Total estimated cost is summarized below.

Subtotal:	\$2,436,789.00
Contingency @ 30%:	\$487,357.80
Signal Upgrades @ 10%:	\$243,678.90
Construction Inspection 10%:	\$243,678.90
Utility Relocation @10%:	\$243,678.90
TOTAL:	\$3,655,184.00

Green Street Shared Use Path



Recommended Improvements:



Shared Use Path Significance:

The proposed Green Street shared use path extends 2.25-miles along the south side of the road, from W. A. Harris Road to College Street. This 12-foot wide path is recommended because it provides important connections to neighborhoods, a grocery store, the Catawba Greenway, and the proposed College Street shared used path. The proposed path includes a 400-foot pedestrian bridge over the Catawba River as well as safety and access improvements to adjacent intersections.

Along the proposed path, a spur is recommended through available property to access Freedom Park. The 0.4-mile path includes a mid-block crossing, safety improvements at the park entrance, and ensures greater connectivity to green space.

	NAME	UNITS	NO. UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL
A	Greenway/Multiuse Path (Paved)	Linear Foot	13,992	\$180	\$2,518,560
B	Wayfinding Sign	Each	2	\$2,500	\$5,000
C	ADA Ramp	Each	22	\$3,000	\$66,000
D	Crosswalk - Standard	Each	5	\$1,000	\$5,000
E	Crosswalk - Enhanced	Each	6	\$2,800	\$16,800
F	Pedestrian Refuge	Each	1	\$14,200	\$14,200
G	Pedestrian Bridge	Linear Foot	400	\$1,000	\$400,000
H	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	Each	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
I	Trail Kiosk	Each	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
J	Stop Bar	Each	13	\$100	\$1,300
K	Sign	Each	2	\$500	\$1,000
	Subtotal:				\$3,057,860
	Contingency @ 25%:				\$764,465
	TOTAL:				\$3,822,325

*Refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Greenway Trail Standards for more information.

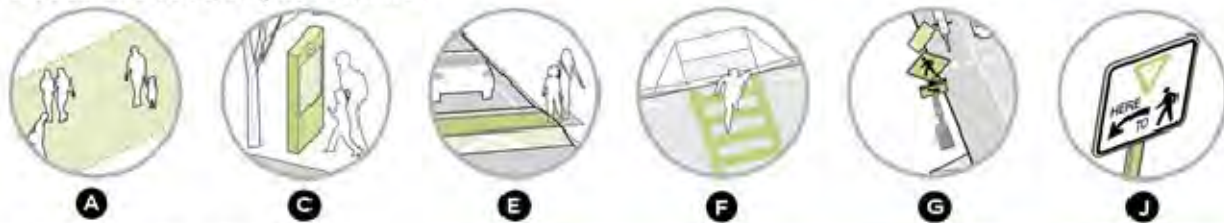
*Estimate does not include right-of-way.

*Include five percent per year for inflation.

East Prong Hunting Creek Greenway



Recommended Improvements:



Greenway Significance:

A greenway is proposed along East Prong Hunting Creek and along Stonebridge Drive. The trail would run from Grace Hospital Parkway to East Fleming Drive. The proposed 1.75-mile greenway would be a 12-foot wide natural surface trail along the creek and transition to a paved trail along Stonebridge Drive for phase one. During a later phase, it is proposed to pave over the natural surface trail.

The proposed greenway connects neighborhoods to Bethel Park, and provides hospital employees, patients, and those in assisted living an opportunity to experience nature, provide recreation, and enhance rehabilitation.

	NAME	UNITS	NO. UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL
A	Greenway/Multiuse Path (Paved)	Linear Foot	3,000	\$180	\$540,000
B	Greenway/Multiuse Path (Natural)	Linear Foot	6,293	\$100	\$629,300
C	Wayfinding Sign	Each	4	\$2,500	\$10,000
D	ADA Ramp	Each	6	\$3,000	\$18,000
E	Crosswalk - Raised	Each	1	\$16,000	\$16,000
F	Crosswalk - Enhanced	Each	2	\$2,800	\$5,600
G	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	Each	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
H	Trail Kiosk	Each	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
I	Stop Bar	Each	5	\$100	\$500
J	Sign	Each	2	\$500	\$1,000

Subtotal: \$1,250,400
 Contingency @ 25%: \$312,600
TOTAL: \$1,563,000

*Refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Greenway Trail Standards for more information.
 *Estimate does not include right-of-way.
 *Include five percent per year for inflation

Hunting Creek Greenway: Phase I



Recommended Improvements:



Greenway Significance:

Phase I of the Hunting Creek Greenway runs along Hunting Creek from the intersection of College Street and Fleming Drive to Interstate 40. This is an important connection to the redeveloping Broughton Campus and will serve as the active transportation/recreation spine of the campus. The trail can be initially implemented as a natural surface trail and be paved later when resources allow. Several trails will be created/developed off this trail throughout the campus.

	NAME	UNITS	NO. UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL
A	Greenway/Multiuse Path (Natural)	Linear Foot	8,184	\$100	\$818,400
B	Wayfinding Sign	Each	2	\$2,500	\$5,000
C	ADA Ramp	Each	2	\$3,000	\$6,000
D	Crosswalk - Enhanced	Each	1	\$2,800	\$2,800
E	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	Each	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
F	Stop Bar	Each	2	\$100	\$200
G	Sign	Each	2	\$500	\$1,000
H	Pedestrian Bridge	Linear Foot	40	\$1000	\$40,000
				Subtotal:	\$893,400
				Contingency @ 25%:	\$223,350
				TOTAL:	\$1,116,750

*Refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Greenway Trail Standards for more information
 †Estimate does not include right-of-way
 ‡Include five percent per year for inflation

Hunting Creek Greenway: Phase II



Recommended Improvements:



Greenway Significance:

After Phase I of the Hunting Creek Greenway is implemented, Phase II of the greenway is proposed to extend along the creek at the south side of Fleming Drive to Kirksey Drive. This paved 12-foot wide portion of the trail extends for 1.89 miles and is important in developing a loop and connection to downtown.

The path design will include intersection safety improvements, a 260-foot pedestrian bridge to cross the creek before approaching Kirksey Drive, and a mid-block crossing with a pedestrian hybrid beacon.

	NAME	UNITS	NO. UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL
A	Greenway/Multiuse Path (Paved)	Linear Foot	9,979	\$180	\$1,796,220
B	Wayfinding Sign	Each	3	\$2,500	\$7,500
C	ADA Ramp	Each	8	\$3,000	\$24,000
D	Crosswalk - Enhanced	Each	6	\$2,800	\$16,800
E	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	Each	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
F	Stop Bar	Each	9	\$100	\$900
G	Sign	Each	2	\$500	\$1,000
H	Pedestrian Signal	Each	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
I	Pedestrian Refuge	Each	2	\$14,200	\$28,400
J	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon	Each	2	\$69,500	\$139,500
K	Pedestrian Bridge	Linear Foot	26	\$1000	\$260,000

Subtotal: \$2,298,220
 Contingency @ 25%: \$574,555
TOTAL: \$2,872,775

*Refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Greenway Trail Standards for more information.
 *Estimate does not include right-of-way.
 *Include five percent per year for inflation.

Catawba River Greenway Western Connection



Recommended Improvements:



Greenway Significance:

The proposed Catawba River Greenway Western Connection is a 4.0-mile extension of the existing 3.8-mile riverside greenway. The 12-foot wide paved extension begins at the main trail head at the Catawba River Soccer Complex and extends to Watermill Glen Alpine Road. The extension follows the route of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

The path's design does not intersect with any roadways and will utilize existing bridges and underpasses without interference. Amenities like benches, trash receptacles and a picnic shelter are proposed, given the path's scenic nature and substantial distance.

	NAME	UNITS	NO. UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL
A	Greenway/Multiuse Path (Paved)	Linear Foot	21,120	\$180	\$3,801,600
B	Wayfinding Sign	Each	2	\$2,500	\$5,000
C	Picnic Shelter	Each	2	\$30,000	\$60,000
D	Trail Kiosk	Each	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
E	Bench	Each	4	\$2,500	\$10,000
F	Trash/Recycling Receptacle	Each	1	\$1,800	\$1,800

Subtotal: \$3,888,400

Contingency @ 25%: \$972,100

TOTAL: \$4,860,500

*Refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Greenway Trail Standards for more information.

*Estimate does not include right-of-way.

*Include five percent per year for inflation.



3. Year 5-10

- ❖ Begin Planning and Design of Mountain View Expansion and Weight Room Consolidation
- ❖ Extend Greenway Connections to Overmountain Victory Trail
- ❖ Construct Mountain View Rec Center Expansion Improvements
- ❖ Construct Additional four (4) baseball cluster at Catawba Meadows Park
- ❖ Restroom Renovations at MLK, Jr. Park, Shuey Park, Carbon City Park, and Bethel Park
- ❖ Install Interactive Art

B. Funding

Projects recommended in this report reflect the needs for parks and recreation services in the City of Morganton, covering the next ten (10) years. Sources of funding for the recommended projects/programs can be categorized into five primary categories: capital improvements, bonds, partnerships, grants, donations/foundations.

1. Capital Improvement Program

As a long-range plan, the Capital Improvement Program reflects the City's goals for long term physical and economic development. As with any type of long-range planning effort, updates will be necessary as departmental goals and objectives continually evolve. A typical program item would cost over \$5,000 and may include equipment or vehicle purchases, construction or renovation of facilities, or purchases of land. Any project must represent significant contributions to the City's overall inventory of physical assets.



2. General Obligation Bond Program

A general obligation bond is a municipal bond backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction rather than the revenue from a given project. General obligation bonds are issued with the belief that a municipality will be able to repay its debt obligation through taxation or revenue from projects.

3. Revenue Bond Program

Revenue bonds are municipal bonds that finance income-producing projects and are secured by a specified revenue source. Typically, revenue bonds can be issued by any government agency or fund that is managed in the manner of a business, such as entities having both operating revenues and expenses.

4. Partnerships

It is critical that the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department develop partnerships to fulfill its role of providing quality services to the community. The key to creating those partnerships is to identify agencies and businesses whose values and beliefs align with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Public private partnerships can become the mechanism to allow businesses and agencies to invest in the park system. The basic approach is for the department to enter into a working agreement with a private business to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department has the option to offer incentives to a business invest in a partnership, including land, tax advantages, and special access to the facility. Well-crafted partnerships are just one way of providing public facilities at a lower cost. Major Area Employers typically have an interest in investing in projects and programs



that enhance the quality of life, create healthy communities, and impact the economic vitality of a community.

- **Private Partnership Opportunities:**

- **Case Farms**
- **Carolinas Healthcare Blue Ridge**
- **Leviton**
- **Continental Teves**
- **Viscotec**

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department should explore potential partnerships with other public entities that share its common goals and interests. These potential partnerships will have interest in promoting the Morganton Community as an active, healthy, and vibrant place while providing each entity an opportunity to share its story with the community.

- **Public Partnership Opportunities:**

- **Burke County Recreation**
- **Burke County Schools**
- **Broughton Hospital**
- **J. Iverson Riddle Development Center**
- **Western Piedmont Community College**

5. Grants

There are a number of state and federal grants available for funding park and recreation projects. These options include:

- **North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation**

- **North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund**

Provides dollar for dollar matching grants to local governments for qualifying park and recreation projects. Funds are allocated for



acquisition of land, development, and renovation. As past beneficiary of this program, the City Morganton is familiar with the potential benefits.

○ **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

The LWCF State Grants program provides matching grants to States and local governments for locally supported projects that provide close-to-home recreation areas and facilities. Since its inception, there have been more than 42,000 matching grants totaling over \$4 billion more in local public and private investment. In North Carolina, LWCF has funded approximately \$75 Million which has funded almost 900 park projects.

○ **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

A federal-aid assistance program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration, designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. The funds may be used to develop or improve trails for off-road motorcycles, ATVs, mountain bikes, equestrians, hikers and water trails. A 20% match is required.

➤ **Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)**

The CWMTF will fund projects that enhance or restore degraded waters, protect unpolluted waters, and/or contribute to a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.

➤ **North Carolina Forest Service Urban & Community Forest Grant Program (U&CF)**

The U&CF funds local government projects which lead to a more effective and efficient management of urban and community forests, and



improve public understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in communities.

➤ **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)**

The SFI Conservation and Community Partnership Grant Program supports community-based projects that promote forestry education activities and green building for low-income families.

➤ **The Trust for Public Land (TPL)**

TPL seeks to conserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment while improving the quality of life in American communities.

➤ **Kaboom Grants**

Kaboom provides grants for communities to begin or complete play space/playground projects.

➤ **Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina (BCBS)**

Provides funding for programs that increase access to healthy lifestyle and services that target children, elderly adults, and minorities.

➤ **Greenfields Outdoor Fitness Grant**

Allows local municipalities to partner with entities such as schools in providing matching funding for the purchase of Greenfields Outdoor Fitness equipment.

➤ **National Park Service – State, Tribal, Local Plans and Grants**

Grant programs available that seek to preserve America's historic places and diverse history.



6. Donations

Parks and recreation departments can solicit donations of labor, land, materials, or cash to fund smaller projects, such as picnic shelters or playground improvements, or they may be involved in larger aspects of park development. Donations and volunteer efforts can fund significant improvements, as well as help to acquire new public open spaces.

7. Foundations

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department can investigate funding opportunities through private Foundations that are responsive to changing community needs in areas of education, health, social services and cultural affairs.

KEY CONTACT PERSONNEL & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



City of Morganton

305 East Union Street, Suite A100
Morganton, NC 28655
Telephone: (828) 438-5230
Contact: Ms. Sally Sandy, City Manager
Email: citymanager@ci.morganton.nc.us



City of Morganton Parks & Recreation Department

300 Collett Street
Morganton, NC 28655
Telephone: (828) 438-5351
Contact: Mr. Rob Winkler, Director
Email: rwinkler@ci.morganton.nc.us



The LandPlan Group South

1206 Scott Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Telephone: (803) 256-0562
Contact: Mr. Rick McMackin
Email: rmcmakin@landplansouth.com
Contact: Mr. Charles Howell, Jr.
Email: chowell@landplansouth.com



Toole Design Group

172 East Main Street, Suite 301
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Telephone: (864) 336-2276
Contact: Mr. Ernie Boughman
Email: eboughman@tooledesign.com
Contact: Mr. Chris Lambka
Email: clambka@tooledesign.com



City of Morganton

The Honorable Ronnie Thompson, Mayor
Mr. Forrest A. Fleming, Mayor Pro Tem, District 2
Mr. S. Sidney Simmons – City Council District 1
Mr. Chris Hawkins – City Council District 3
Ms. Wendy Cato – City Council District 4



City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department

Ms. Jennifer Nicholson, Administrative Manager
Mr. Robert Bolick, Assistant Director - Programs
Mr. Mike Foust, Aquatic Programs Supervisor - Programs
Mr. Tim Knipp, Facilities Maintenance Sup. – Maintenance

Steering Committee Members

Ms. Brandi Behlke
Ms. Danette Brackett
Mr. John Cantrell
Ms. Judith Francis
Mr. Allen Fullwood
Mr. Wayne Giese
Mr. Pat Grady
Mr. Daniel Hernandez
Mr. Jimmy Holland
Mr. Tim Johnson
Mr. Bryant Lindsey
Mr. George Logan
Mr. Michael Lowther
Mr. Eliot Lytle
Mr. Butch McSwain
Mr. Richard Mode
Ms. Sherri Morris
Ms. Marie Palacios
Mr. Ed Phillips
Mr. Rick Roper
Ms. Ruth Roseboro
Ms. Debbie Van Ordstrand
Mr. John Whisnant
Mr. Scott Whisnant
Mr. Alan Wood

APPENDIX A
MORGANTON PARKS & RECREATION
FACILITIES MAPS

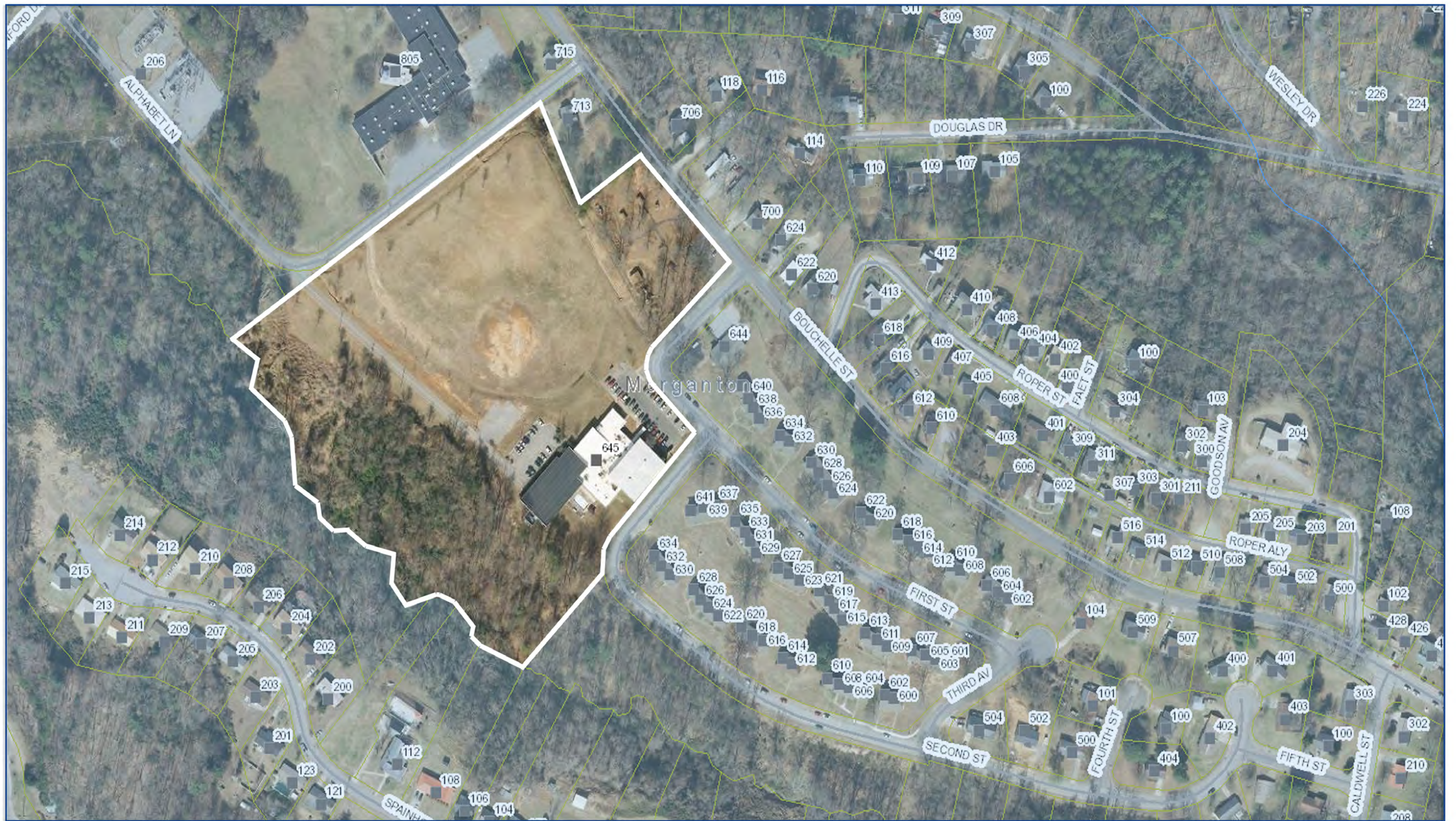


2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

COLLETT STREET RECREATION CENTER



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
Landscape Architecture | Engineering | Planning



2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
Landscape Architecture | Engineering | Planning



2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

CATAWBA MEADOWS PARK



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

CASCADE PARK



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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

ASIAN GARDENS



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
Landscape Architecture | Engineering | Planning



2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

GENE TURNER PARK



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
Landscape Architecture | Engineering | Planning



2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

MARTHA'S PARK



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

BETHEL PARK



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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

DREXEL HERITAGE PARK



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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

SHUEY PARK



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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

CATAWBA RIVER SOCCER COMPLEX



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Landscape Architecture | Engineering | Planning



2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

CARBON CITY PARK



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
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2018 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan - Existing Conditions

FREEDOM PARK



THE LANDPLAN GROUP SOUTH
Landscape Architecture | Engineering | Planning

Morganton Greenway system



City of Morganton, North Carolina

The Morganton Greenway System offers more than 4.8 miles of paved, fully accessible walking trails. Along the trails are picnic shelters, tables, benches, restrooms (open all year), playgrounds, fishing piers, canoe launches, a gazebo, observation decks, parks and pedestrian bridges. The greenways are also part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the North Carolina Birding Trail.

- Catawba River Greenway • 3.8 miles
- Freedom Trail Greenway • 0.6 miles
- Green Street Greenway • 0.4 miles

Distances along the Greenway (miles)

- 0.26 • Greenlee Ford Access to Freedom Trail
- 0.84 • Freedom Trail to River Village
- 0.12 • Length of Boardwalk at River Village
- 0.89 • River Village Access to Catawba Meadows Park Access
- 1.70 • Catawba Meadows Park Access to Rocky Ford Access



Map Key

- █ Catawba River Greenway
- █ Freedom Trail Greenway
- █ Green Street Greenway
- Access Points
- P Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Fishing Pier
- Canoe Launch
- Pedestrian Bridge
- City Parks
- ➔ To Downtown

Greenlee Ford Access 1

Catawba River Soccer Complex

The Soccer Complex covers about 30 acres and offers:

- 4 lighted regulation soccer/lacrosse fields
- Dog Park
- 80-person picnic shelter
- Multi-feature playground equipment

The Greenlee Ford Access to the Catawba River Greenway is located at the Catawba River Soccer Complex off Carbon City Road / US 70.

Freedom Park Access 2

The Freedom Trail Access is located in Freedom Park adjacent to Freedom High School. Turn off of Independence Blvd. onto the Freedom Park road. The site has abundant parking as well as a public restroom.

Freedom Park covers about 30 acres and offers:

- 1-mile walking track (no bikes)
- 6 lighted tennis courts
- Multi-feature playground equipment
- 2 basketball courts
- 4 picnic shelters with grills

River Village Access 3

The River Village access is highlighted by 1,000 feet of boardwalk as well as private shops offering dining, bike rentals, massage therapy and other specialty services.

Catawba Meadows Park Access 4

After turning into the park from Sanford Drive, turn left at the intersection to park in the lot nearest to the Greenway Access.

Catawba Meadows Park covers more than 200 acres and offers:

- 2 regulation sand Volleyball Courts
- 18-hole Disc Golf Course
- Festival Area
- Adventure Playground
- 3 100-person corporate picnic shelters
- Zip Line Course
- Tubing and canoeing rentals

Rocky Ford Access 5

The public can access the Rocky Ford parking area directly from Lenoir Road (NC 18 / US 64). The access offers:

- Civil War Exhibit

APPENDIX B
MORGANTON GREENWAY TRAIL
STANDARDS (TOOLE DESIGN GROUP)

USING THIS GUIDE



PURPOSE

The City of Morganton has developed guidelines to provide policy and design and operation guidance of roadways, greenways and overall trail network in Morganton. The guidelines are intended to ensure that Morganton's greenway network is safe for all users, and to foster an efficient project development and review process.

Greenway design in the City of Morganton is complex and designs must respond to varied local conditions and site constraints. Design decisions require flexibility to balance the use of available guidance and judgement with creativity in trail design. These guidelines have been developed to supplement existing standards, including those issued by the American Association of State Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO).

It is important to note that urban and rural conditions and conditions in Morganton are complex. The treatments outlined must be tailored to individual situations and contexts. Good engineering is encouraged in all cases in order to serve all users--walkers, runners, bicyclists, mountain bikers, and, in some cases, automobile drivers.

TRAIL TYPOLOGY

Trail typologies form the basis for the City of Morganton's greenway network. They have been developed to supplement the functional street and trail classifications and to provide additional guidance during the selection of design elements. Typologies can serve as models or as options when community members need to make informed choices in the visioning process of a corridor redesign project. Taking into consideration the type of trail or street will help to ensure that land use contexts are reflected in the design and use of Morganton's greenway network.

GUIDE LAYOUT

The layout and design of the guidelines are organized in a hierarchy to guide readers from high level design principles to individual greenway typologies. Cost estimates and maintenance recommendations follow these typologies.



01 TRAIL DESIGN GUIDELINES

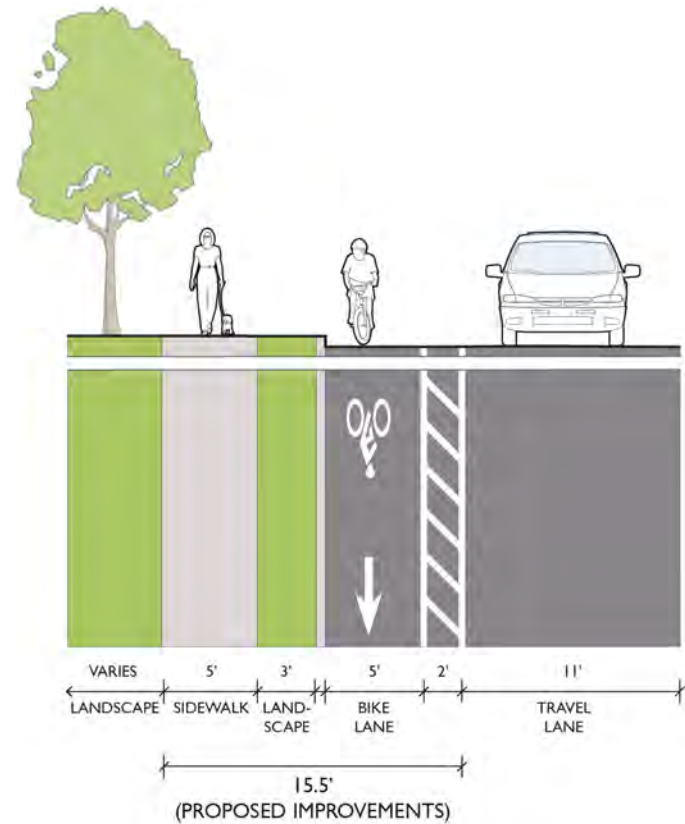
An understanding of design elements for the City of Morganton's greenway network is presented here. Utilizing national design best practices, typologies for the greenway network were developed. One size will not fit all; rather a palette of facility types is envisioned, each appropriate for a particular context. To service all users - walkers, runners, bicyclists, and mountain bikers - a variety of typologies are needed, including natural surface, paved, and concrete trail and greenway sections.

Eight typologies were designed and detailed to address the scenarios encountered in the City of Morganton.

CROSS SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

The following design guidelines describe the general structure, character, and safety components for multiple types of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Each cross section identifies a typology that will work best for the given contexts; some may be most appropriate for rural or preserved settings, while others may be better suited for urban conditions alongside existing streets. In practice, the final design may deviate from the typical section to accommodate for limited right of way (ROW), intersections, driveways, or other constraints and contextual needs. These sections serve as guides for developing coherent and safe bicycle and pedestrian connectivity among Morganton’s existing parks and trails.

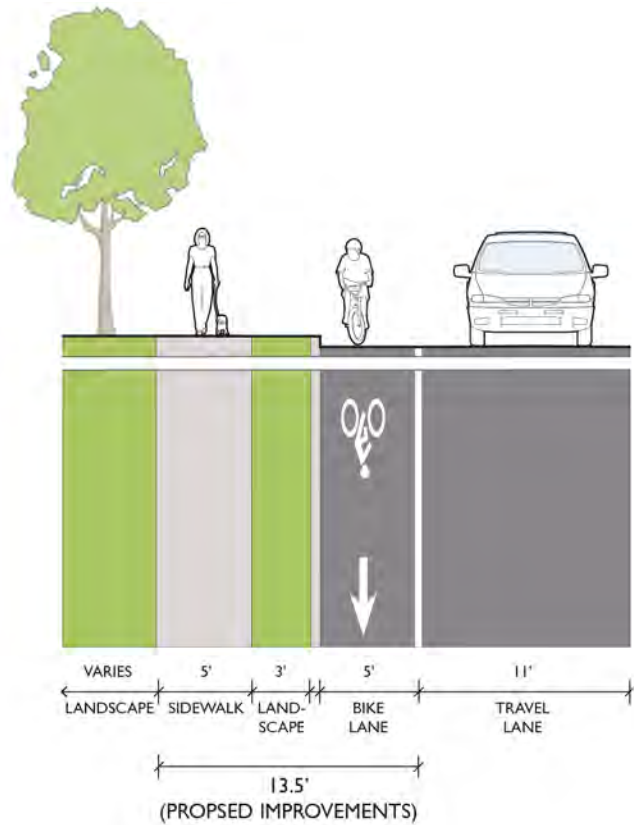
All roadway typical cross section improvements are shown from outside of travel lane marking or edge of pavement. Travel lanes are shown at 11 foot per NCDOT minimum distance. Many streets throughout Morganton have travel lanes that are much wider than the minimum shown. It is assumed that travel lanes may be restriped to accommodate a facility without necessarily moving the curb.



BIKE LANE WITH PAINTED BUFFER

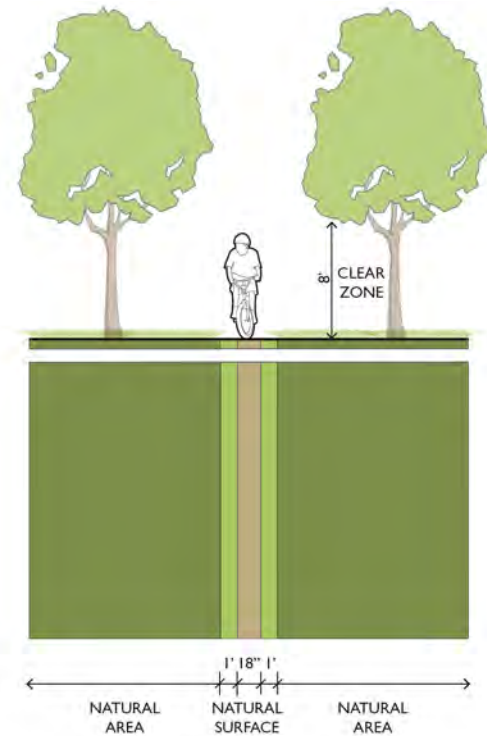
Bike lanes with painted buffers are appropriate in urban and suburban settings alongside existing streets. Streets that have additional ROW, surplus parking, or road diet potential are good candidates for buffered bike lanes. While not offering physical protection for cyclists, the two-foot painted buffer creates a greater distance between cyclists and motor vehicles. Cyclists have more “shy” space—riders tend to shy away from objects or vehicular traffic—than a traditional bike lane, which makes less experienced riders feel more comfortable (NACTO). The painted buffer also allows cyclists to pass one another without entering the vehicular lane of traffic (NACTO). Wider travel lanes and greater separation from traffic appeals to multiple types of riders, including those who may not feel confident to ride in mixed traffic or with a typical bike lane.

Pedestrian traffic is separated by a landscaped median and a vertical curb, which discourage cyclists from entering pedestrian traffic. The three-foot landscape buffer offers opportunities for plantings.



BIKE LANE

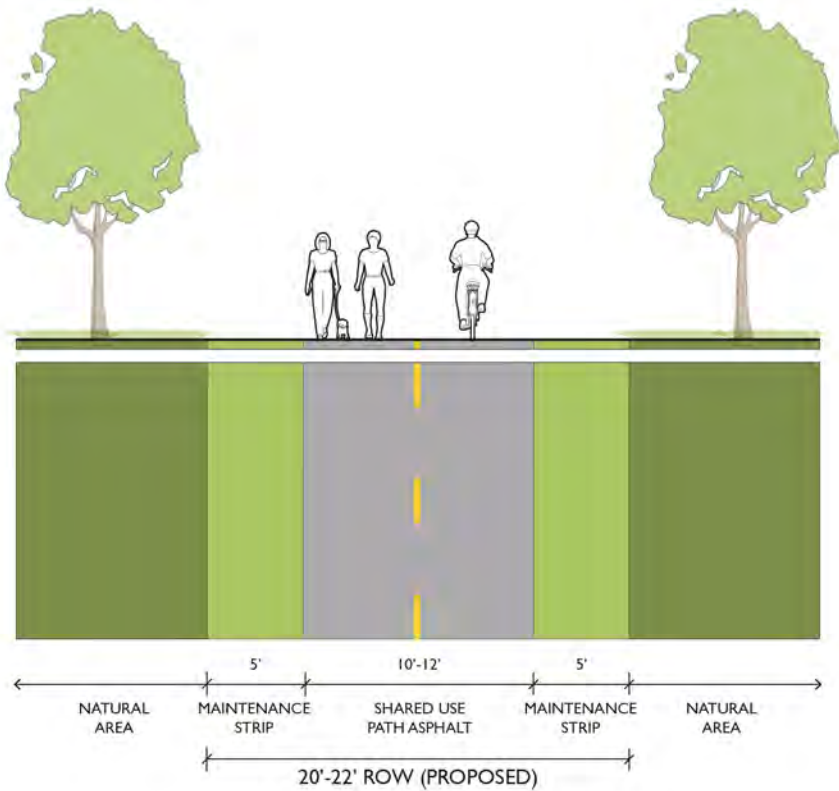
Bike lanes can be implemented on existing streets with limited additional ROW, surplus parking, or road diet potential. The minimum width for a traditional bike lane is five-foot. These facilities allow cyclists to have their own travel lane, but without any physical protection or painted buffer. Traditional bike lanes appeal to users who are already confident in their riding abilities. Pedestrians are also separated from bicycle and vehicular traffic by a three-foot landscaped buffer and a vertical curb. The landscaped buffer provides opportunities for smaller plantings.



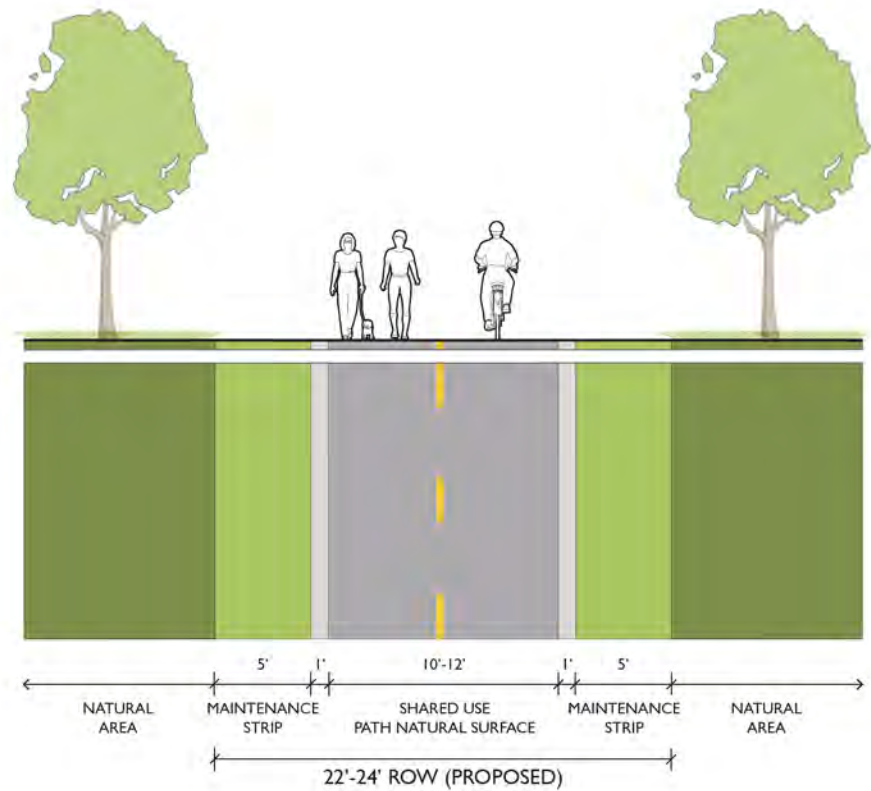
SINGLE TRACK MOUNTAIN BIKE

Single track mountain bike trails are appropriate in rural or preserved settings where there is opportunity for connectivity between one or more destinations. This trail type is appropriate for cyclists only. An eighth-foot verticle clear zone must be maintained to ensure that tree limbs are not hazardous to riders. A 1' maintenance strip on each side of the natural surface trail should also be maintained so that overgrowth or debris do not endanger the cyclists. These may be used to supplement existing paths or trails, or to create a network of mountain biking trails.

01. Trail Cross Sections



OPTION A:



OPTION B:

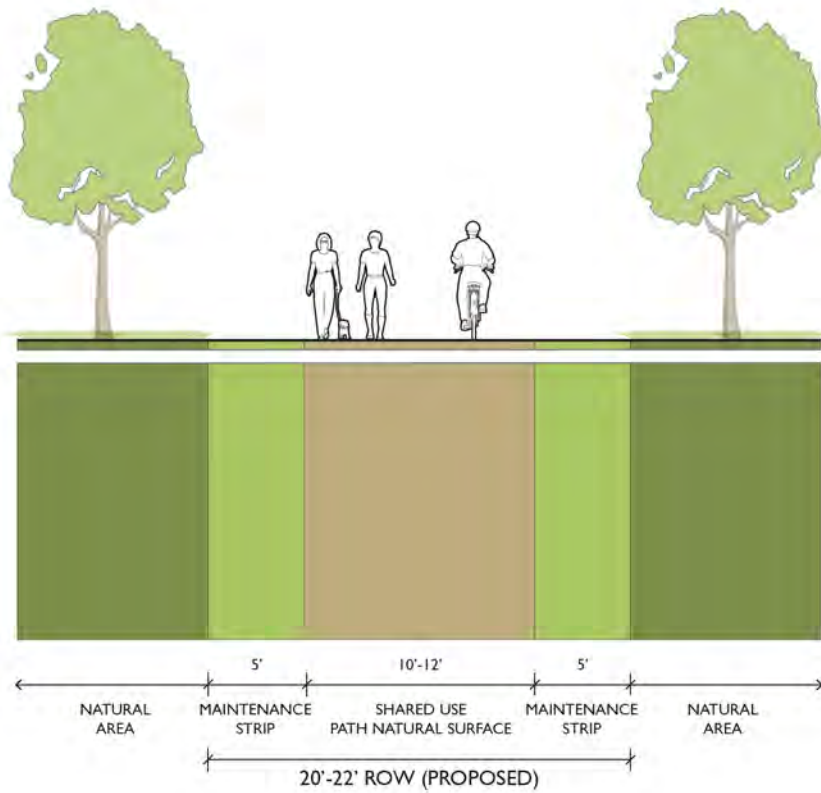
GREENWAY (OPTION A AND OPTION B)

Greenways create exclusive connectivity for active transportation users between destinations. Users can include bicyclists, walkers, runners, those with disabilities, and other recreational users. Greenways are best employed in natural or preserved areas that connect one or more destinations. These facilities may also be implemented in flood plain areas in certain cases.

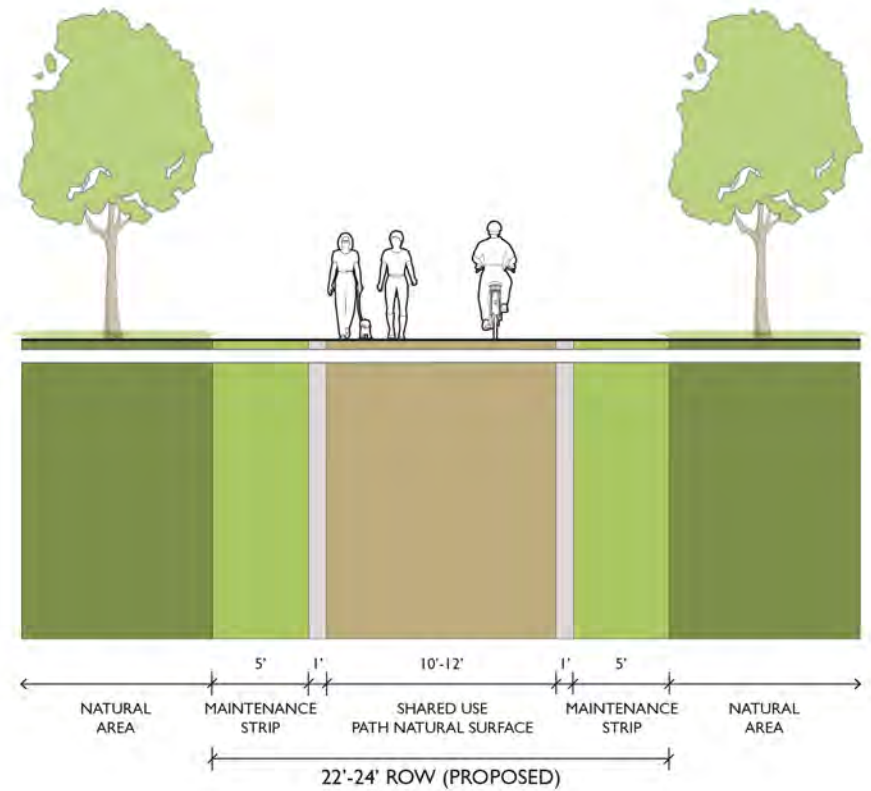
Greenways serve as important connections that can generate new active transportation users; complete separation for vehicular traffic encourages less experienced riders, walkers, and runners to feel comfortable using it for transportation or recreation. For that reason, greenways can become hubs of bicycle and pedestrian activity for all ages and abilities, as has been the case with Morganton's existing greenway system.

The shared use path allows for multiple user types to utilize the facility at the same time. A minimum of a ten-foot width allows users to pass one another comfortably. A synthetic surface is smoother than a natural surface trail, which may be safer for some disabled users. There are also opportunities to implement pervious pavement along portions of the system that can limit storm water management controls. The five-foot maintenance strips on each side of the path minimize maintenance along the trail, as well as emphasizes the natural character alongside the greenway.

Option B has the same benefits as Option A, but with the added benefits of erosion control and path delineation through the inclusion of one-foot concrete ribbons on either side of the path.



OPTION A:



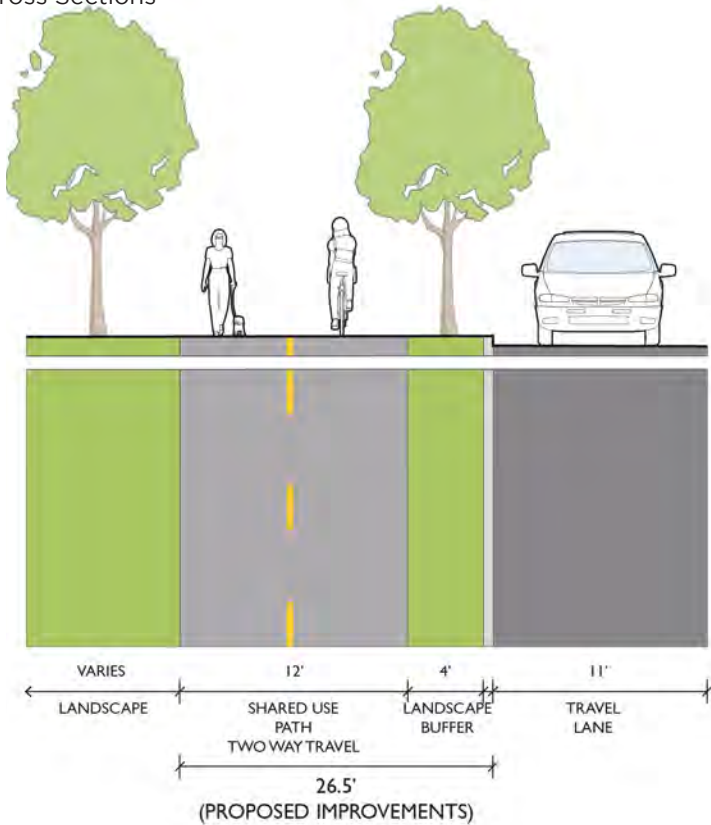
OPTION B:

NATURAL SURFACE (OPTION A AND OPTION B)

A natural surface trail is appropriate for natural or preserved settings, and some rural settings. In some cases, these trails can be implemented in flood plains; where flooding would cause minor damage, and the pervious surface allows for natural drainage. Trail users include those who are walking, riding mountain bikes, or running. Depending on the desired use, different paving types can be considered, including packed soil, fine gravels, or wood chips/fibers. Complete separation from automobile traffic encourages less experienced users to feel comfortable utilizing these facilities.

Due to its simplicity and its natural character, this trail type requires little maintenance. It is important for natural surface trails to be regularly cleared of debris to ensure user safety. A five-foot buffering “maintenance strip” along each side of the trail must be maintained to prevent overgrowth of natural plant material. A natural surface with a concrete band (Option B) enhances the character of the trail and creates connectivity in natural areas, but with the added measures of erosion control and clear path delineation.

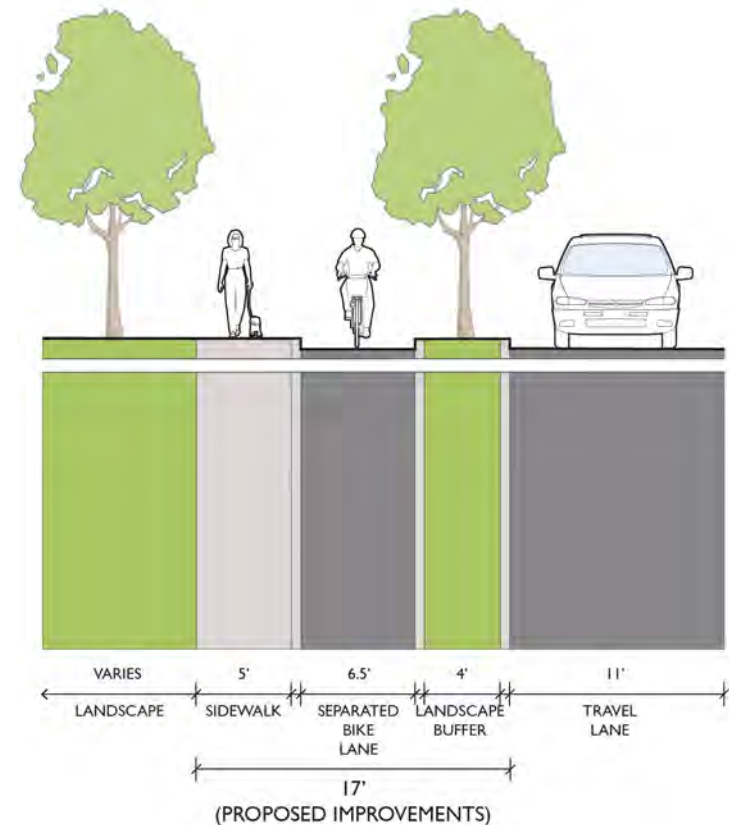
01. Trail Cross Sections



SHARED USE PATH - TWO-WAY TRAVEL

Shared use paths are often used in rural and suburban areas alongside existing streets. These facilities provide physical separation from automobile traffic in two forms: (1) the four-foot landscape buffer, and (2) the vertical curb, which further deters vehicles from encroaching into the path. Shared use paths are best suited for streets where there are few conflict points, such as driveways, and existing ROW at intersections to allow for path setback (NACTO). In some cases, a two-way shared lane may also require less total ROW than a one-way bicycle lane on each side of the road. The landscape buffer also allows opportunities for retaining existing street trees or for planting new street trees, which can add to the street's aesthetic appeal.

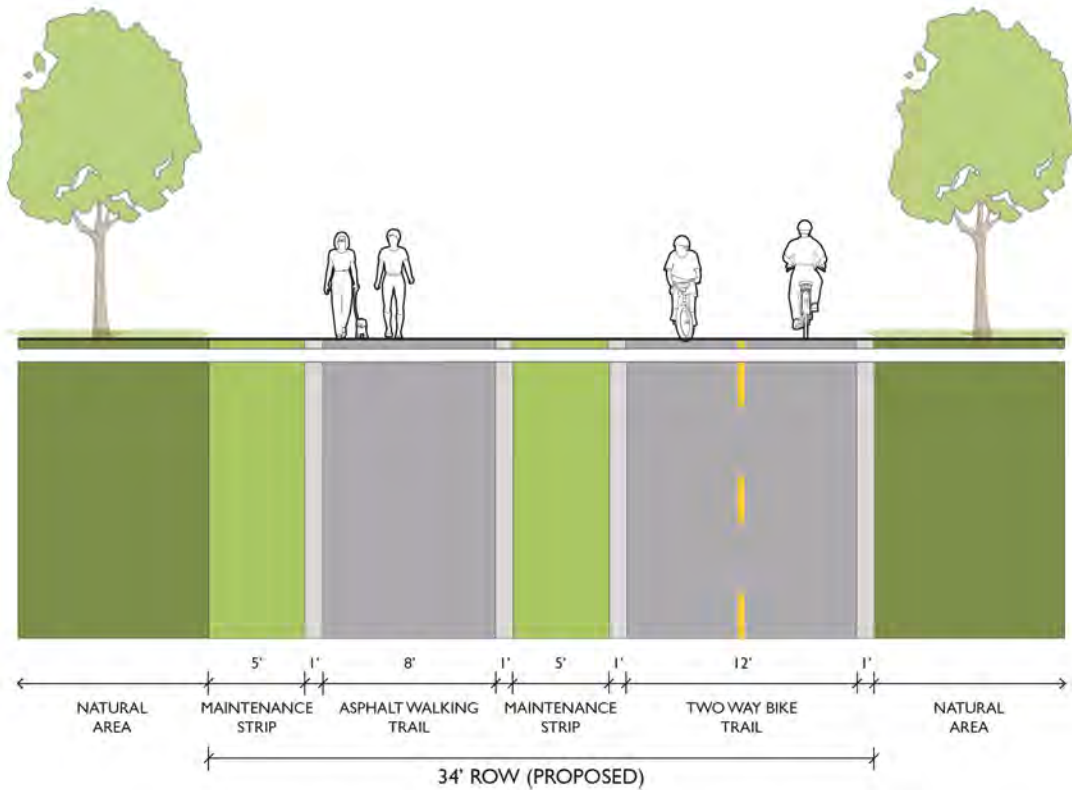
Shared use paths can make less experienced cyclists and other users feel more comfortable as compared to a traditional bike lane alongside high-speed and high-volume roads. The two-way shared use path allows for multiple user types, including those biking, walking, or roller blading. The path's twelve foot width allows for passing opportunities, which means that different skill levels of cyclists, walkers, and runners can comfortably pass.



SEPARATED BIKE LANE

The separated bike lane cross section physically protects cyclists from automobile traffic with a four-foot landscaped buffer and a vertical curb. The buffer allows for preservation or addition of street shade trees, and it allows for planting opportunities to increase a street's aesthetic appeal and traffic calming. The bike lane sits at street level but shifted off of travel lanes, which improves drivers' ability to see cyclists on the road and at intersections. The street level bike lane also simplifies storm water drainage design. Separated bike lane design is applicable in urban or suburban settings alongside existing streets where there is available ROW on each side of the street, surplus parking, or road diet potential.

The physical separation of pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile traffic allows more vulnerable users to feel comfortable using the facility; all users have their own space, which can encourage less confident users to feel safe while traveling. When paired with appropriate ADA ramps, these facilities can be accessible by users with disabilities.



HIGH TRAFFIC GREENWAY

High traffic greenways are best used in settings with existing (or expected) high levels of bicycle and pedestrian activity. These facilities have many of the same benefits as traditional greenways, but with more space for more users. Physical separation of bicycle and pedestrian traffic with a five-foot maintenance strip ensures that high volumes of users (cyclists, walkers, runners, roller blade users, etc.) can safely maneuver without overcrowding or encountering speed conflicts. The one-foot concrete band further delineates the two paths while also providing erosion protection.

The twelve-foot two-way bicycle trail can be comfortable for very inexperienced riders, as they are free from high-speed automobile traffic and separated from slower pedestrian traffic. Six-foot travel lanes in each direction allow for comfortable passing. The synthetic walking trail allows for comfortable and safe use for all ages and abilities. There are also opportunities for pervious surface trails to minimize storm water controls.



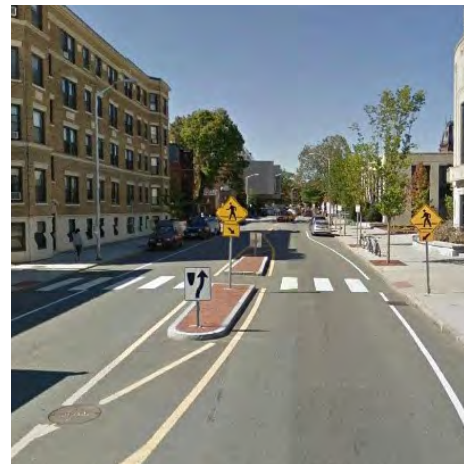
02 OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

The City of Morganton budget level opinion of probable cost is organized into individual design elements.

Opinion of probable cost line item notes:

1. This is an order-of-magnitude Estimate made for Budget purposes only. This estimate shall be reviewed, revised and adjusted accordingly at program verification/schematic design phases.
2. The estimates assume a competitive bid situation. It is an opinion of probable cost based on fair market value, historical NCDOT bid tabulations, and estimator’s judgement. This is not a prediction of the anticipated low bid.

02. Opinion of Probable Cost



NAME	UNIT	UNIT COST	NOTES
Bike Lane	Linear Foot	\$10	Assumes removing travel lane stripe, bike lane restripe, pavement markings, and signage on one side of street. No intersection improvements.
Separated Bike Lane	Linear Foot	\$360	Assumes use of existing curb and drainage, install new curb, landscape buffer, signage, and pedestrian improvements on one side of the road.
Greenway/Multiuse Path (Paved)	Linear Foot	\$180	Assumes 12-foot path constructed in open space w/o need for moving curbs or installing utilities. Does not include right-of-way acquisition or signal upgrades.
Greenway/Multiuse Path (Natural Surface)	Linear Foot	\$100	Assumes 12-foot path constructed in open space w/o need for moving curbs or installing utilities. Does not include right-of-way acquisition or signal upgrades.
Single Track Mountain Bike Trail	Linear Foot	\$45	Assumes an 18-inch wide single track natural surface.
Sidewalk w/o curb and gutter	Linear Foot	\$45	Assumes a five-foot sidewalk along one side of road without curb and gutter.
Sidewalk w/curb and gutter	Linear Foot	\$90	Assumes a five-foot sidewalk along one side of road with curb and gutter.
Curb Extension	Each	\$16,800	Assumes a curb extension of 40 feet x 8 feet.
Pedestrian Refuge	Each	\$14,200	Assumes a refuge area of 40 feet x 8 feet median w/detectable warnings in crossing area.
Raised Crossing	Each	\$16,000	Assumes a crossing that is 40 feet long.
ADA Ramp	Each	\$3,000	Assumes complete installation with detectable warning.
Crosswalk - standard	Each	\$1,000	Assumes a crosswalk that is 40 feet x 8 feet
Crosswalk - enhanced	Each	\$2,800	Assumes a crosswalk that is 40 feet x 8 feet
Crosswalk - pattern/texture	Each	\$7,200	Assumes a crosswalk that is 40 feet x 8 feet Street Print with two colors.

02. Opinion of Probable Cost



NAME	UNIT	UNIT COST	NOTES
Lighting	Each	\$8,500	Assumes minimum of eight lights
Pedestrian Signal	Each	\$2,000	At previously signalized intersection; no cabinet upgrades required.
Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	Each	\$20,000	Assumes a pair of two RRFB's installed at one crossing; solar powered.
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon	Each	\$69,500	At location where electricity already exists; no utility location/relocation.
Sign	Each	\$ 500	Includes post.
Striping (Painted)	Linear Foot	\$2	
Remove Striping	Linear Foot	\$4	
Bench	Each	\$2,500	Includes installation.
Trash/Recycling Receptacle	Each	\$1,800	Includes installation.
Pedestrian Bridge	Linear Foot	\$1,000- \$1,500	Includes installation. Materials, location, and width play role in cost.
Picnic Shelter	Each	\$30,000- \$100,000	Includes installation. Materials, location, and size play role in cost.
Trail Kiosk	Each	\$10,000	Includes installation.
Large Canopy Tree	Each	\$1,000	Includes installation and soil ammendments.
Trail Network Wayfinding Sign	Each	\$1,000- \$5,000	Does not include graphic design. Materials play role in cost.

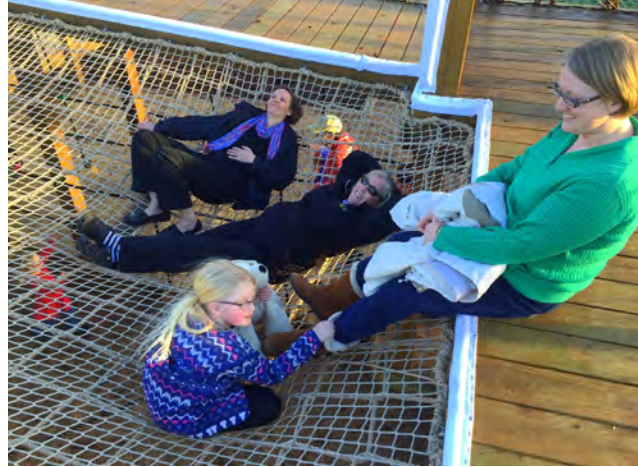


03 MAINTENANCE

Trailways, greenways, and bicycle lanes require routine maintenance to ensure they provide safe conditions for users. The City of Morganton should strive to keep its greenway in a state of good repair, design projects with consideration for maintenance, and coordinate construction permitting to reduce redundancies and conflicts between overlapping projects.

This chapter provides best practices for the maintenance of greenways, shared used paths, separated bike lanes, and other typologies proposed. It addresses typical elements of maintenance plans, maintenance activities scheduling, repair and replacement considerations, and strategies for construction zones.

These guidelines are designed to be flexible, adapting to innovations in technology and best practices. It takes into consideration the life-cycle costs of typical maintenance, such as mowing, sweeping, drainage, refuse collection, and storm cleanup.



3.1 OVERVIEW

Estimating trail maintenance costs for Morganton greenways typologies is challenging. Ultimately, exact facility design and community desires will dictate the level of maintenance required. Design elements such as surface material, landscape, proximity to bodies of water, and proximity to town centers should all be evaluated during maintenance cost estimating. Additional questions must be answered, such as, “Can economies of scale be realized by scheduling trail maintenance as part of parks and recreation, transportation, or public works routine maintenance schedules?”

Trails that are used for transportation purposes, rather than exclusively serving recreational users, will need to be maintained more regularly and held to a higher standard, as they provide essential connectivity and accessibility throughout the community.

3.2 AVERAGE COSTS

Based on literature review, trail maintenance costs between \$2,500 and \$10,000 per

mile annually. Street maintenance for bike lanes and separated bike lanes annually costs between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per mile. After the first year of maintenance, actual expenses per mile should be evaluated and the annual budget per mile should be adjusted accordingly.

3.3 MAINTENANCE LIFE CYCLE

Each trail’s maintenance needs will differ within Morganton’s greenway network and will ultimately be dependent on design, topography, weather, and surface material.

Below is a breakdown of the typical “life cycle” of city greenways and bicycle lanes; however, improvements may be needed at anytime to address safety and access concerns.

TWENTY TIMES PER YEAR:

- Sweeping/Blowing Trail and Bicycle Lanes
- Trash Removal
- Mowing Trail (THREE-FOOT minimum on each side of trail)

TEN TIMES PER YEAR:

- Application of Herbicide or Pesticides
- Street Cleaning

FOUR TIMES PER YEAR:

- Drainage Maintenance (power washing, silt removal, etc.)
- Seasonal Plantings

TWO TIMES PER YEAR:

- Vegetation Management (leaf clearing, pruning of trees, etc.)

ANNUALLY:

- Minor repairs
- Maintenance and Supplies
- Equipment Fuel and Repairs

THREE TO FIVE YEARS:

- Restriping

TEN TO TWENTY YEARS:

- Resurfacing

The frequency each item is performed can fluctuate and will be based on a community’s needs and/or desires.



3.4 REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

INVENTORY AND INSPECTION

Components of separated bike lanes, bike lanes and trailways will need to be cared for, repaired and replaced and should be incorporated into inspection programs. The City of Morganton can encourage users to report maintenance needs as well as supplement greenway inspections with call-in telephone numbers, websites or smartphone applications.

CONSIDERATIONS

When maintenance is performed in greenway areas, for example during utility or pavement repair operations, maintenance crews should follow standard procedures supplemented with the following considerations

Bike Lane and Trail Surface

Pavement seams, trenches or other surface depressions should not be left in bike lanes given the hazardous conditions they create.

Where trenching must occur, for example, to access utilities, consider repaving the full width of a one-way bike lane or to the centerline of a two-way bike lane. This places the resulting longitudinal seam outside of the bicyclists' path.

Gravel and other debris should be completely removed from the greenway because they can puncture tires or lead to crashes.

Greenway and Sidewalk Buffers

Repairs to sidewalk and greenway buffers should follow standard repair procedures for damage or cracking.

Regular inspection is recommended for damaged or displaced vertical objects in the buffer zone. Street buffer and lane striping should be inspected along the same maintenance schedule and retroreflectivity specifications as other roadway striping.

Trees and landscape in the greenway and buffers should be pruned to ensure proper sight distances at intersection approaches.

Pruning tree branches to within twelve inches from the outside of the trail and up to 100 inches over the trail surface to ensure proper vertical clearance.

3.5 FUNDING

Trail maintenance is a vital part of a vibrant and well functioning trail network and must be planned for. Options for accomplishing trail maintenance include:

- Local government funding and/or in-kind labor and use of equipment
- Creation of a not-for-profit trail foundation
- Private donations of labor, equipment, and/or funding maintenance in exchange for sponsorship or naming rights
- Volunteer labor

APPENDIX C
PRELIMINARY CONCEPT AND DESIGN
(COLLEGE STREET GREENWAY)

PRELIMINARY ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE

COLLEGE STREET
MORGANTON, NC

PREPARED BY: Toole Design Group

TOTAL LENGTH OF PROJECT: 1.4 MILES

PAY ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	ITEM COST
0000100000-N	MOBILIZATION	1	LS	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
0000400000-N	CONSTRUCTION SURVEYING	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
0106000000-E	BORROW EXCAVATION	4,800	CY	\$30.00	\$144,000.00
0156000000-E	REMOVAL OF EXISTING ASPHALT	12,500	SY	\$20.00	\$250,000.00
1121000000-E	AGGREGATE BASE COURSE (6")	2,725	TN	\$45.00	\$122,625.00
1297000000-E	MILL ASPHALT PAVEMENT (DEPTH 2")	29,300	SY	\$3.00	\$87,900.00
1519000000-E	ASPHALT CONCRETE SURFACE COURSE TYPE S 9.5B	4,120	TON	\$55.00	\$226,600.00
1575000000-E	ASPHALT BINDER FOR PLANT MIX	247	TON	\$575.00	\$142,140.00
1704000000-E	PATCHING EXISTING PAVEMENT	206	TON	\$120.00	\$24,720.00
2591000000-E	CONCRETE SIDEWALK (4")	3,078	SY	\$60.00	\$184,680.00
2605000000-N	CONCRETE CURB RAMP	2	EA	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
2612000000-E	CONCRETE DRIVEWAY (6")	1,131	SY	\$80.00	\$90,480.00
2655000000-E	CONCRETE ISLANDS (5")	318	SY	\$60.00	\$19,080.00
4686000000-E	THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKING LINES 4" (120 MILS) - WHITE	1,800	LF	\$0.59	\$1,062.00
4686000000-E	THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKING LINES 4" (120 MILS) - YELLOW	15,000	LF	\$0.59	\$8,850.00
4710000000-E	THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKING LINES 24" (120 MILS) - WHITE	2,826	LF	\$12.50	\$35,325.00
4725000000-E	THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT SYMBOL	31	EA	\$125.00	\$3,875.00
6000000000-E	TEMPORARY SILT FENCE	14,784	LF	\$2.50	\$36,960.00
6084000000-E	SEEDING AND MULCHING	1	AC	\$2,220.00	\$2,582.00
	REMOVAL OF EXISTING CURB AND GUTTER	8,780	LF	\$12.00	\$105,360.00
	2'-0" CURB AND GUTTER	12,300	LF	\$25.00	\$307,500.00
	DETECTABLE WARNING SURFACE	975	SF	\$40.00	\$39,000.00
	MEDIAN CURB	708	LF	\$25.00	\$17,700.00
	MOUNTABLE CURB	75	LF	\$18.00	\$1,350.00
	IRRIGATION	1	LS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	DRAINAGE	1	LS	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
	LANDSCAPE	1	LS	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Subtotal					\$2,436,789.00
Contingency (30%)					\$487,357.80
Signal Upgrades (10%)					\$243,678.90
Construction Engineering and Inspection at (10%)					\$243,678.90
Utility Relocations at 10%					\$243,678.90
Total Estimated Cost					\$3,655,183.51

Note:

1. R/W Estimate not included in Engineer's Estimate.



MORGANTON PARKS AND RECREATION // College Street Shared Use Path: Concept Not For Construction



Match-Line

CONCRETE MEDIAN WITH PEDESTRIAN REFUGE

E MEETING STREET

CONCORD STREET

MCDOWELL STREET

ERWIN STREET

HERRON STREET

OAK GROVE STREET

CLINE STREET

SECRET NW WAY

FLEMING DRIVE

PEDESTRIAN REFUGE

BULB-OUT

BRIDGE SECTION

TRAIL HEAD FOR FUTURE HUNTING CREEK GREENWAY THROUGH THE BROUGHTON CAMPUS

MOUNTABLE TRUCK APRON

APPENDIX D
2016 NRPA FIELD REPORT



2016 NRPA Field Report

Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks



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Executive Summary

Welcome to the *2016 NRPA Field Report*, the most comprehensive resource of data and insights for park and recreation agencies in the United States. The *2016 NRPA Field Report* contains data and key insights from PRORAGIS, NRPA's benchmarking tool that assists park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities.

Why is the 2016 NRPA Field Report an important resource to park and recreation agencies? There is no other resource that provides park and recreation professionals and other key stakeholders with this wealth of valuable benchmarks and insights that informs on the state of the industry. These insights help:

1. Show the prevalence of expanded activities and offerings of agencies throughout the nation.
2. Provide guidance to park and recreation professionals to evaluate the performance of their agencies. Do their agencies provide as much open space, recreation opportunities and programming as their peers? Is the agency properly staffed? Sufficiently funded?
3. Make informed decisions on the optimal set of service and facility offerings based on the demographics and, therefore, the needs of a specific community while also providing comparative agency data from other communities/agencies.

So, is the information in the 2016 NRPA Field Report the final answer in terms of decision making for local park and recreation agencies? No. Instead, park and recreation leaders should use findings from this report to start the conversation with internal colleagues, external consultants and partners, and policymakers. Data is only a tool — albeit a very valuable tool — to help determine the best decisions for an agency.



Consider that no two park and recreation agencies are the same. They serve different residents with different needs, desires and challenges and have different access to funding. For example, just because an agency may have more workers per 1,000 residents relative to “typical” park and recreation agencies does not mean that agency should shed staff. It is possible that the agency with more staff offers more hands-on programming because of the unique needs of the population it serves.

A successful agency is one that tailors its services to meet the demands of its community. Knowing who uses your agency's resource and who may use it in the future (including age, race, income trends) are also factors in shaping the optimal mix of facilities and services to be offered. Every park and recreation agency and the public it serves are unique. Communities look different and so too should their park and recreation agency. It is this reason why NRPA no longer publishes “National Standards.”



Consequently, the *2016 NRPA Field Report* should be used in conjunction with other resources, including those that are proprietary to an agency, from NRPA and from outside sources. The following are some NRPA resources to consider:



PRORAGIS: The information contained in the NRPA Field Report comes from PRORAGIS, NRPA's park and recreation benchmarking resource. Whereas the NRPA Field Report provides data for "typical" agencies, you can customize key metrics with PRORAGIS to compare the characteristics of your agency to its peers. This may include filtering by agency type, size and geographic region. The experience is further enhanced when you enter your agency's data into PRORAGIS, which allows the reports to compare your agency's data with the key metrics of agencies throughout the United States.



NRPA Facility Market Reports: These customized reports offer key census and marketing data and insights about the market served by your agency's facilities. Your agency will gain a greater understanding of the residents served by a park, aquatic center, recreation center or any other facility, with a particular focus on their habits and interests.



NRPA Connect: There may be no better resource to answer your park and recreation questions than your peers. NRPA Connect is an online professional networking tool that connects you with like-minded park and recreation professionals from across the country and is a valuable resource to receive information, ask industry questions and get insight into trends in the field.



Economic Impact of Local Parks: This study finds operations and capital spending at America's local and regional park agencies was responsible for approximately \$140 billion in annual economic activity and nearly 1 million jobs in 2013. The report also includes estimates of the economic impact of operations and capital spending at local and regional park agencies for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



Americans' Broad-Based Support for Local Recreation and Park Services: This survey of more than 1,100 Americans affirms their passion for their local public parks. In fact, virtually all Americans agree that their communities benefit from their local public parks, *even if they themselves are not regular park users*. The support for local public parks crosses nearly every demographic segment of Americans (including age, income, household formation and political affiliation) and has gone unabated for the past 25 years even as our nation and the ways we interact and entertain each other have dramatically evolved.



Parks & Recreation magazine: No other publication covers trends and issues affecting the industry like NRPA's monthly flagship magazine. Each issue features content on a number of topics, including conservation, health and wellness, social equity, advocacy, law review and operations.

All of these resources can be found at www.nrpa.org

How to Read the 2016 NRPA Field Report

The 2016 NRPA Field Report presents most of its data with medians, along with data responses at both lower-quartile (lowest 25 percent) and upper-quartile (highest 25 percent). The data presentation provides insight as to where your agency stands compared not only to typical agencies (i.e., those at the median values), but also to the full spectrum of agencies at both the high and low quartiles of values. Many metrics presented include the top-line figures as well as certain cross tabulations of jurisdiction population or population density. A more comprehensive set of cross tabulations of the data presented in the following pages is available as a set of interactive tables at www.nrpa.org/2016-Field-Report.

As noted above, we encourage you to use the *2016 NRPA Field Report* as a first step and then turn to the reporting tools available in PRORAGIS to get more in-depth statistical cuts of the metrics you care about the most. Your agency can receive even more valuable insights when it updates and completes its PRORAGIS profile and therefore is eligible to receive an Agency Performance Report. This report specifically addresses the metrics for your agency as it relates to statistically similar agency characteristics such as population or density.

The *2016 NRPA Field Report* contains data from more than 950 park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between the years 2013 and 2015. Note: Not all agencies answered every survey question.

NRPA FIELD REPORT AT A GLANCE

The Typical Park and Recreation Agency...

Has 9.5 acres of park land
per 1,000 residents

Has operating expenditures
per capita of

\$76.44



Has

7.4

staff members
per 10,000 residents



Recovers
29%

of operating expenditures
through revenue generation

ADMIT
ONE

Has 1 Park for every
2,277 residents



80% of agencies
offer summer camps



50% of agencies
offer afterschool programs



Index of Figures

Figures	Top-Line Finding	Page
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Figure 2: Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	The typical park and recreation agency has 9.5 acres of park land for every thousand residents in the jurisdiction.	5
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Figure 20: 5-Year Capital Budget Spending	Park and recreation agencies have a median of \$2.981 million in capital expenditures budgeted over the next five years.	16
Figure 21: Targets for Capital Expenditures	On average, just over half of the capital budget is designated for renovation while 30 percent is geared toward new development.	16

Key Findings

Park Facilities

America's local and regional park agencies differ greatly in size and facility offerings. Whereas the typical agency participating in PRORAGIS serves a jurisdiction (e.g., a town, city, county and/or region) of 40,800 people, there are agencies that serve an area of just a few hundred people while others are a primary recreation resource for millions of people. Naturally, the offerings of these agencies vary as much as do the markets they serve. The typical agency has 19 parks under its watch comprising a total 400 acres. Adding in non-park facilities, the median number of parks and non-park facilities rises to 24 comprising 490 acres.

At the typical agency, there is one park for every 2,277 residents. The number of people per park rises as the population of the town, city, county or region served by the agency increases. At agencies located in jurisdictions with less than 20,000 residents, there is one park for every 1,335 residents. The ratio rises to one park for every 2,396 residents in jurisdictions with 50,000 to 99,999 people and one park for every 6,250 people at agencies serving areas with more than 250,000 people.

The typical park and recreation agency has 9.5 acres of park land for every thousand residents in the jurisdiction. So, which agencies offer the most park land acreage per 1,000 residents? The smallest and largest agencies: those serving fewer than 20,000 residents typically have 10.6 acres per 1,000 residents compared to 12.5 acres per 1,000 residents at jurisdictions serving more than 250,000 people. At the same time, agencies serving jurisdictions between 100,000 and 250,000 people have 7.4 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Figure 1

Residents per Park
(by Jurisdiction Population)

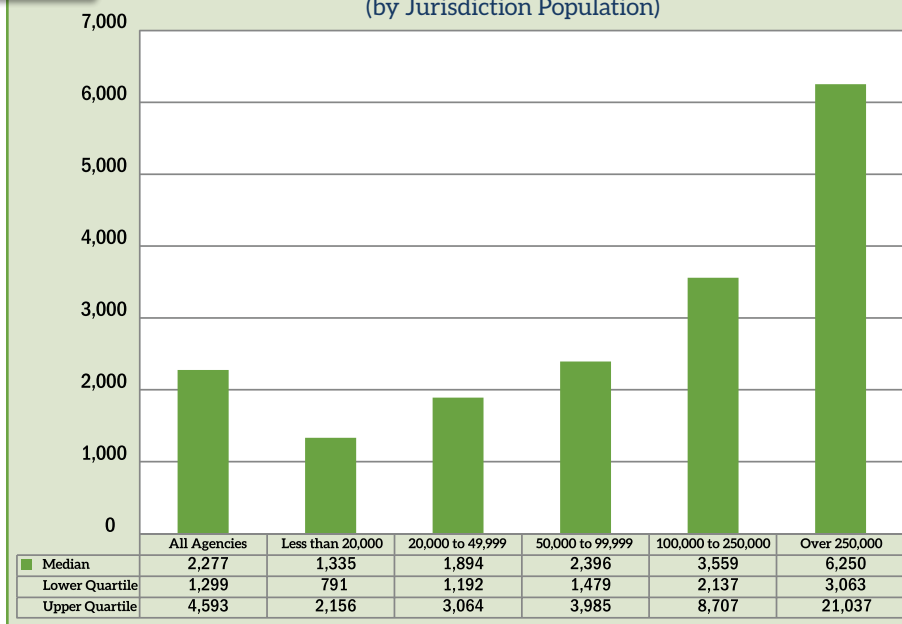


Figure 2

Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents
(by Jurisdiction Population)

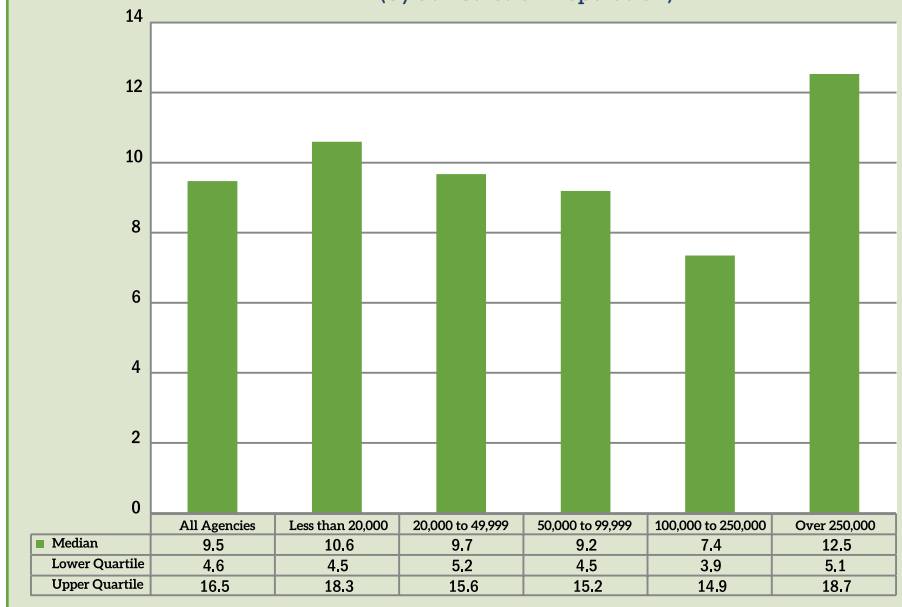


Figure 3

Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities

Outdoor Facility	Agencies Offering this Facility	Median Number of Residents per Facility
Playgrounds	91%	3,560
Basketball courts	85%	7,000
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	65%	12,463
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	61%	4,295
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	59%	9,687
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	58%	6,599
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	54%	34,686
Rectangular fields: multipurpose	50%	8,060
Community gardens	47%	32,376
Tot lots	45%	12,112
Dog park	41%	43,183
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	39%	19,694
Rectangular fields: football field	38%	25,523
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	37%	6,671
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	34%	12,365
Diamond fields: tee-ball	28%	12,771
Multise courts -basketball, volleyball	25%	13,736
Ice rink (outdoor only)	21%	16,572
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	7%	26,639
Rectangular fields: cricket field	6%	199,199
Multipurpose synthetic field	5%	34,915
Rectangular fields: field hockey field	3%	22,767
Overlay field	3%	7,257

Park and recreation agencies offer a wide variety of facility types and features. **An overwhelming majority of park and recreation agencies have playgrounds (91 percent) and basketball courts (85 percent) in their portfolio of outdoor assets.** Further, a majority of agencies have diamond fields for baseball and/or softball, tennis courts, outdoor swimming pools and multipurpose rectangular fields.

In addition, the typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 11.0 miles of trails in its network. Agencies serving more than 250,000 people in their area have a median of 90.1 miles of trails under their purview.

Park and recreation agencies also offer a number of indoor facilities for their residents. **A majority of agencies offer recreation centers and gyms, while at least two in five agencies offer community centers, senior centers and fitness centers.** Figure 4 provides median populations served by the following facility and/or activity area.

Figure 4

Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities

Indoor Facility	Agencies Offering this Facility	Median Number of Residents per Facility
Recreation centers	69%	26,650
Gyms	63%	26,418
Community centers	45%	30,000
Senior centers	43%	49,500
Fitness center	40%	39,765
Performance amphitheater	28%	45,817
Nature centers	27%	114,620
Stadiums	15%	57,051
Ice rink	15%	28,500
Teen centers	9%	62,700
Indoor track	7%	49,715
Arena	5%	57,637

Note some of these facilities may be included as a part of another facility. For example, a fitness center may be a part of a recreation center.

Programming

Park and recreation agencies may have thousands, if not millions, of interactions with their residents and visitors each year. **The typical park and recreation agency has a quarter million contacts per year.** An agency at the 75th percentile has 811,816 annual contacts while one at the 95th percentile has more than 4.3 million contacts each year.

So what is a contact? These can be visits to a local park, running or biking on a local trail, visits to the local recreation center or any other interaction with any of the agency's park and recreation facilities. And to be clear, a person can have more than one contact; for example, a person who visits their local aquatic center ten times and runs on the local trail five times would be counted as 15 contacts.

Programming is a key outreach method to drive usage of park and recreation facilities and, when associated with registration fees, also happens to be the largest non-tax revenue source for most agencies. The typical agency generates more than 23,000 contacts from its free and fee-based programming events, with annual contacts rising to more than 100,000 at the 75th percentile agency and surging to more than a half million contacts arising from both free and fee-based park and recreation programming at the 95th percentile agency.

Programming spans across many differing types of park and recreation activities, with many touching one or more of NRPA's Three Pillars of Conservation, Health & Wellness and Social Equity. Key programming activities offered by at least 60 percent of park and recreation agencies include:

- Team sports (84 percent)
- Fitness enhancement classes (83 percent)
- Health and wellness education (81 percent)
- Safety training (69 percent)
- Visual arts (67 percent)
- Trips and tours (66 percent)
- Martial arts (60 percent)
- Performing arts (60 percent)
- Aquatics (60 percent)

Agencies serving larger populations are more likely than agencies serving smaller towns to present a number of programming offerings, including:

- Health and wellness education
- Aquatics
- Golf
- Cultural crafts
- Performing arts
- Natural and cultural history activities
- Trips and tours
- Visual arts

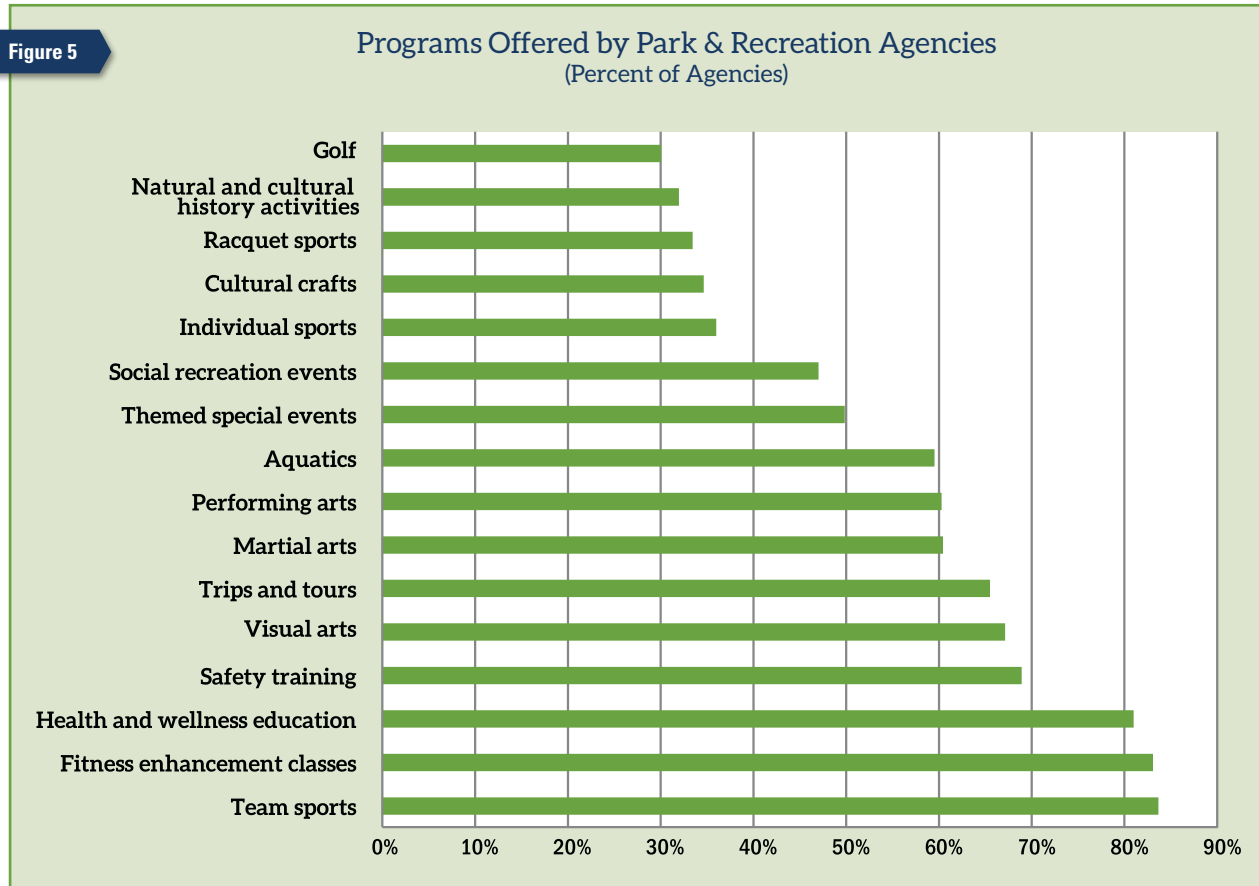


Figure 6 Targeted Programs for Children, Seniors and People with Disabilities (Percent of Agencies, by Jurisdiction Population)

	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Summer camp	80%	73%	81%	83%	85%	87%
Before school programs	31%	22%	24%	38%	35%	46%
After school programs	50%	44%	36%	64%	62%	66%
Preschool	34%	25%	36%	41%	31%	38%
Full day care	9%	2%	7%	12%	12%	18%
Specific teen programs	60%	44%	59%	74%	73%	68%
Specific senior programs	73%	62%	75%	88%	80%	72%
Programs for people with disabilities	58%	39%	55%	72%	69%	78%

Park and recreation agencies are leaders in providing services and programming for children, seniors and people with disabilities. Larger agencies are more likely to offer programming for children, whether in the form of a summer camp or before and after school care and full day care. Four in five agencies offer summer camps to their residents. This rises to 87 percent at agencies serving jurisdictions with more than 250,000 people. Similarly, agencies serving jurisdictions with more than 250,000 residents are more likely to offer before and after school care and day care.

In addition, 78 percent of park and recreation agencies in larger jurisdictions offer programming designed for people with disabilities versus fewer than two in five agencies serving less than 20,000 residents.

Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies

Park and recreation agencies take on many responsibilities for their communities, beyond their “traditional” roles of operating parks and facilities and providing recreation programming and services. In addition to those two functions, the top responsibilities for park and recreation agencies are as follows:

- Operate and maintain indoor facilities (92 percent)
- Conduct major jurisdiction-wide special events (73 percent)
- Have budgetary responsibility for their administrative staff (54 percent)
- Administer or manage tournament/event-quality outdoor sports complexes (54 percent)
- Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways (TGB) (44 percent)
- Manage major aquatic complex (43 percent)
- Administer community gardens (40 percent)
- Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces (38 percent).

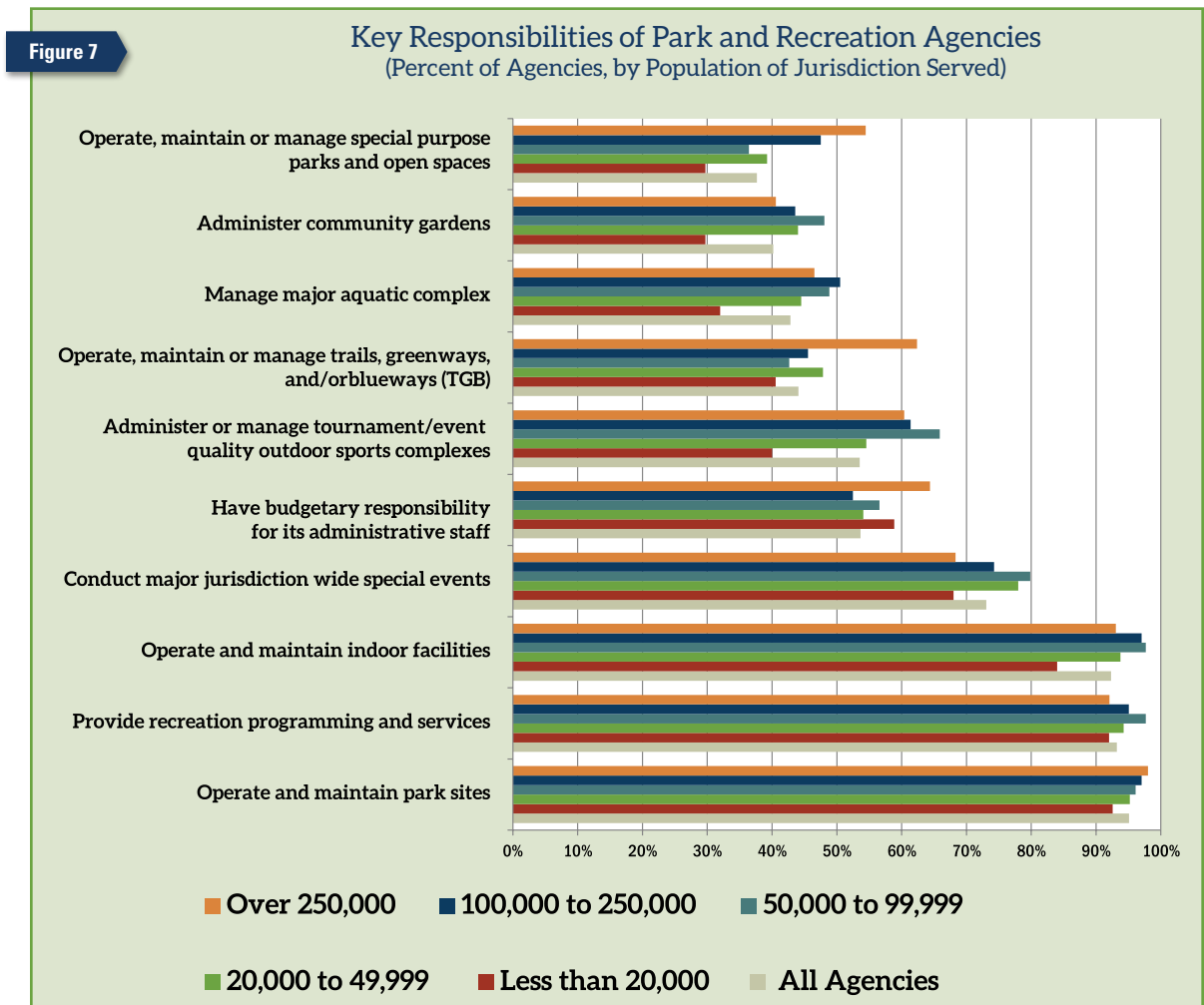


Figure 8

Other Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies (Percent of Agencies)

Operate and maintain non-park sites	37%
Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	35%
Operate, maintain or contract water parks	30%
Operate, maintain or contract golf courses	29%
Operate, maintain or contract other attractions or facilities	27%
Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters	24%
Operate, maintain or contract tennis center facilities	24%
Administer or manage tournament/event-quality indoor sports complexes	22%
Administer or manage farmer's markets	19%
Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center	18%
Operate, maintain or contract campgrounds	16%
Operate, maintain or contract tourism attractions	14%
Administer or manage professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack	10%
Operate, maintain or contract indoor swim facility	8%
Manage or maintain fairgrounds	5%

Staffing

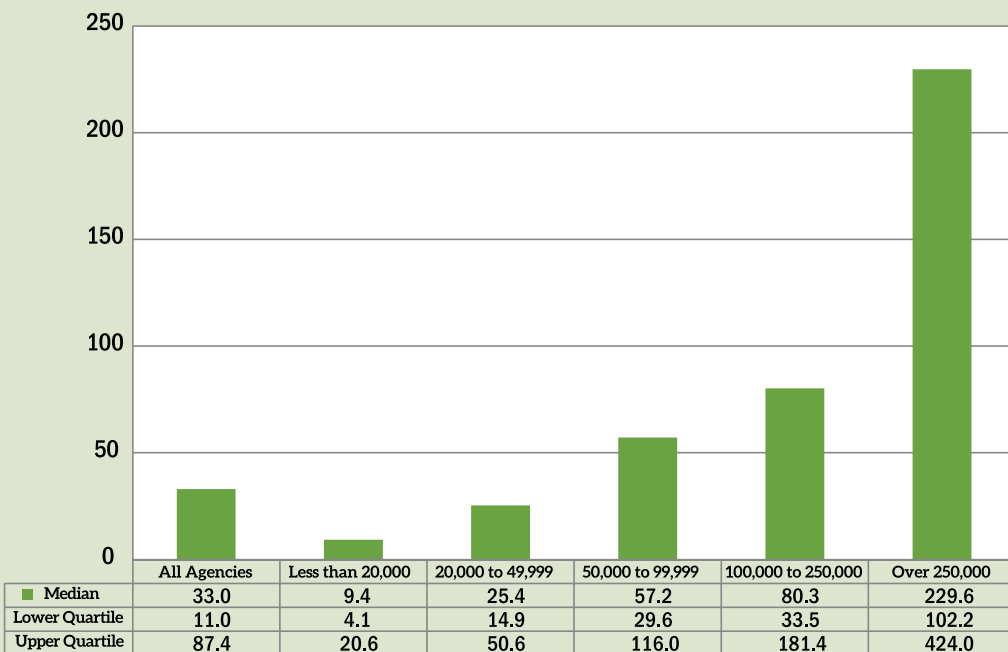
The typical park and recreation agency is staffed with 33 full-time equivalents (FTEs) that include a mix of full-time and part-time staff. But, the size of the staff expands exponentially as the size of the jurisdiction served by the agency expands. Park and recreation agencies serving jurisdictions with less than 20,000 people have a median of 9.4 FTEs on staff. Agencies serving areas with 50,000 to 99,999 people have a median of 57.2 FTEs, while those serving areas with more than 250,000 have a staff with a median of 229.6 workers.

Median counts of FTEs on staff also positively correlates with:

- Number of acres maintained – 250 or less acres: 13.9 FTEs versus over 3,500 acres: 266.1 FTEs
- Number of parks maintained – Less than 10 parks: 11.0 FTEs versus 50 or more parks: 200.3 FTEs
- Operating expenditures – Less than \$500,000: 3.2 FTEs versus over \$10 million: 201.4 FTEs.
- Population served by agency – Less than 500 people per square mile: 14.4 FTEs versus more than 2,500 people per square mile: 56.9 FTEs.

Figure 9

Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (by Jurisdiction Population)



One way to view agency staffing is to measure it relative to the population of the area that the agency serves. **The typical park and recreation agency has 7.4 FTEs on staff for each 10,000 residents living in the jurisdiction served by the agency.** Agencies tend to have fewer FTEs on staff when located in more populated areas. Agencies serving jurisdictions with less than 20,000 people have 9.3 FTEs for each 10,000 residents, with this measure falling to 3.9 FTEs for 10,000 residents in areas with more than 250,000 people.

Agencies also tend to have more FTEs per residents when they serve areas with greater population density. Agencies operating in areas with less than 500 people per square mile have 4.2 FTEs per 10,000 people served versus 9.7 FTEs per 10,000 residents in areas with more than 2,500 people per square mile.

There are many responsibilities covered by an agency's park and recreation professionals. Park and recreation staff members have duties that span across many functional areas:

- Maintenance (30 percent)
- Operations (27 percent)
- Programming (22 percent)
- Administration (18 percent)

Just over a third of park and recreation agencies (35 percent) have workers that are covered by collective bargaining. Union members are more likely to be part of an agency's park and recreation staff at agencies that:

- Have larger staffs – 21 percent of agencies with staffs of less than 10 FTEs versus 52 percent of agencies with 100 or more FTEs.
- Serve larger populations – 21 percent of agencies in jurisdictions with less than 20,000 people versus 53 percent of agencies in jurisdictions with more than 250,000 people.
- Have more parks – 13 percent of agencies with less than 10 parks versus 61 percent of agencies with at least 50 parks.
- Maintain more park land – 27 percent of agencies that maintain 250 or less acres of parkland versus 59 percent of agencies that maintain more than 3,500 acres of parkland.

Figure 10

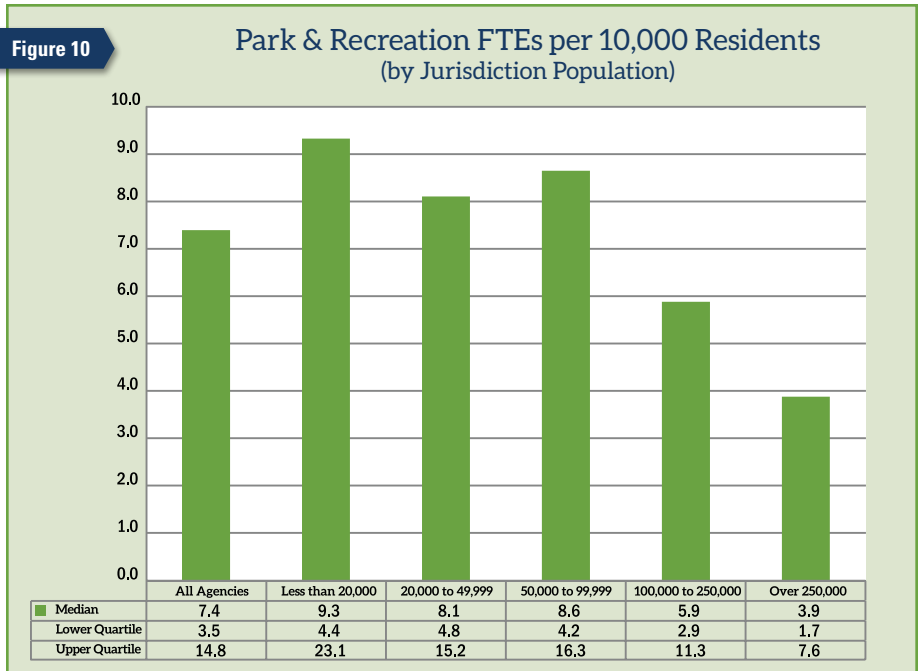
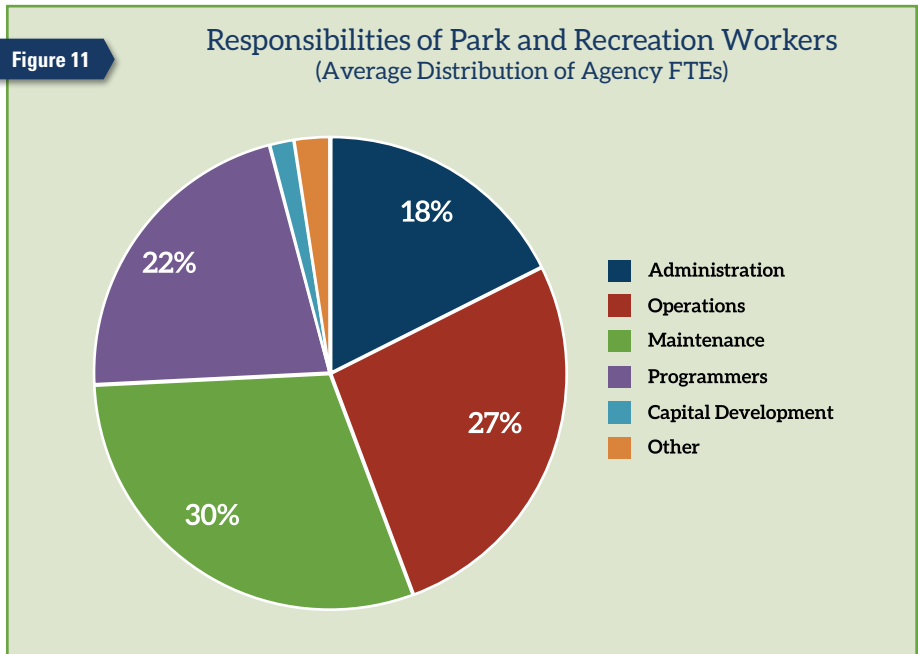


Figure 11



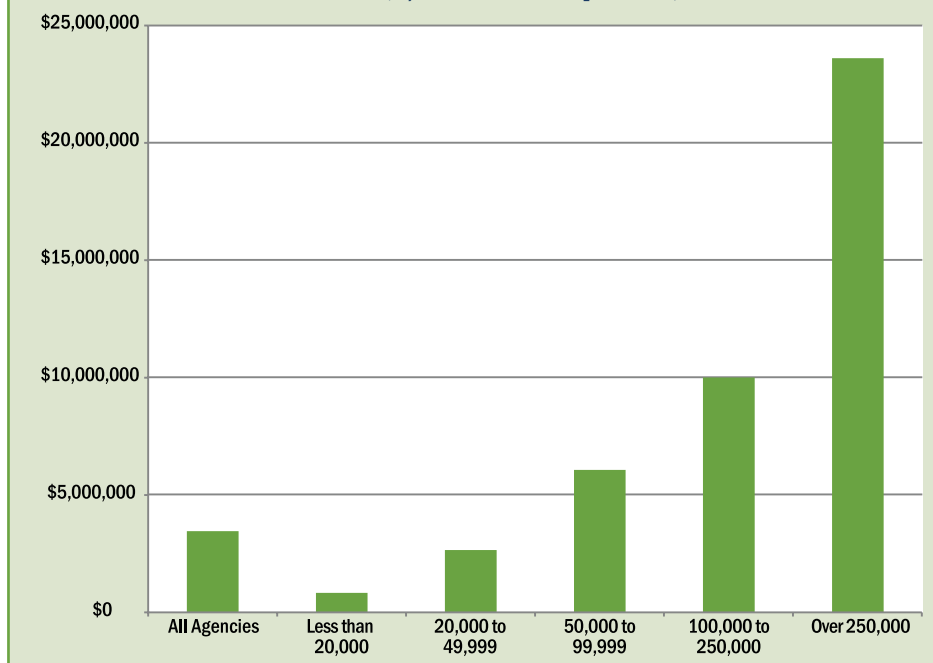
Budget

How does the funding at your park and recreation agency compare with funding levels at other agencies? Does your agency have access to the same level of funding as its peers? As noted in the NRPA report, [The Economic Impact of Local Parks](#), local and regional park agencies had operations expenditures of \$32.3 billion in 2013. This amount is split across the thousands of park and recreation agencies throughout the nation with **the typical park agency having annual operating expenditures of \$3,459,846**.

But, the size of an agency's operating expenditures varies dramatically by the size of the agency (e.g., in terms of park and non-park acres managed and the population of the jurisdiction), the mission and responsibilities of the agency, and so forth. One way to start the comparison is to normalize operation expenditure data by the size of the agency.

Figure 12

Annual Operating Expenditures (by Jurisdiction Population)



As shown in Figure 13, **the typical park and recreation agency has annual operating expenses of \$76.44 on a per capita basis**. The denser the population served by the agency, the higher per capita operating expenses, with the typical agency serving a jurisdiction with less than 500 people per square mile having per capita operating expenses of \$37.84 and one serving an area with more than 2,500 people per square mile with median operating expenses rising to \$100.63 per resident. At the same time, per capita operations spending is *inversely* related to the population of the area served: agencies serving jurisdictions with less than 20,000 people have median operations spending of \$85.84, which drops to \$42.69 per resident for agencies serving jurisdictions with more than 250,000 people.

Figure 13

Operating Expenditures per Capita (by Population Density per Square Mile)

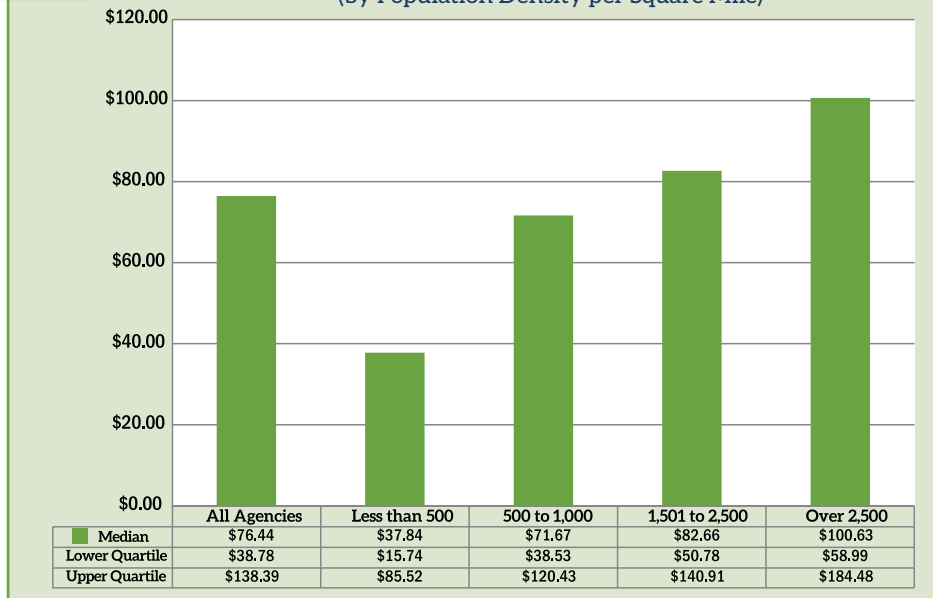
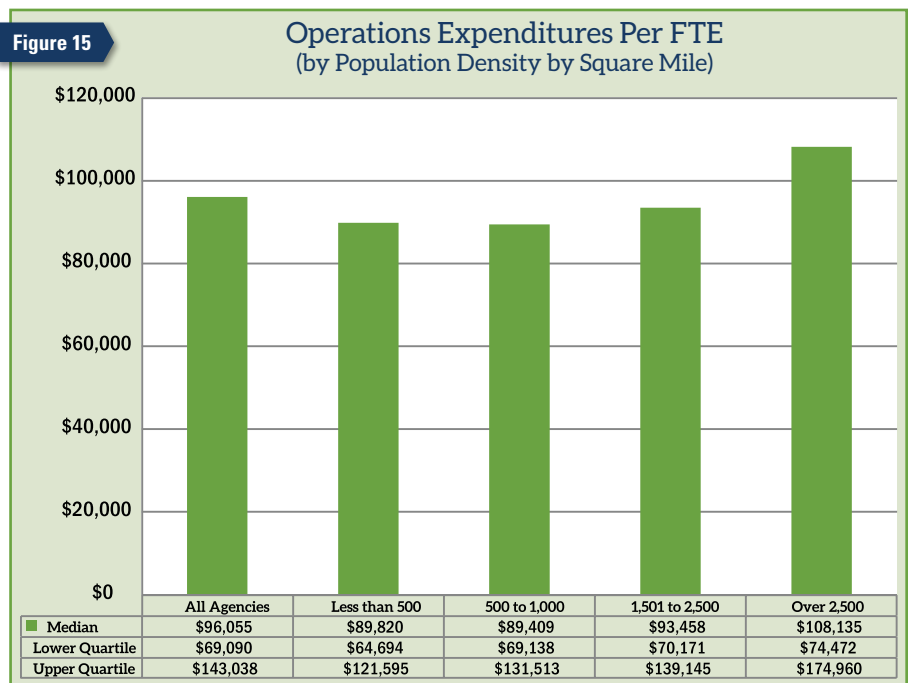
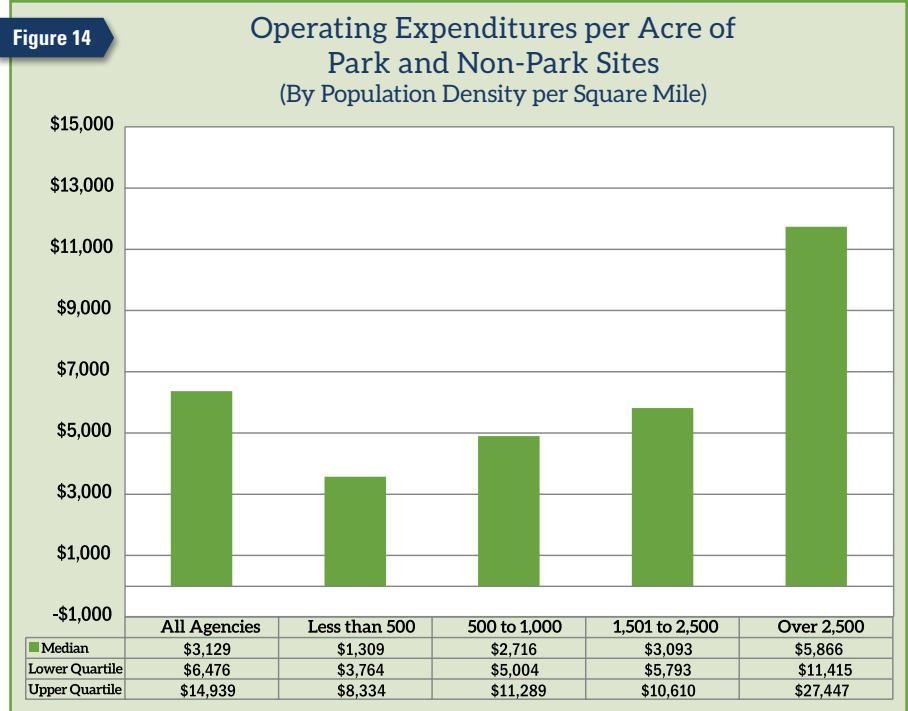


Figure 14 shows that **the median level operating expenditures is \$6,476 per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency.** Non-park sites are defined as public spaces (such as lawns at a city hall) that are not designated as parks but are budgeted for maintenance and/or operation by the park and recreation agency. The typical operating expenditures rise with population density. For example, the typical agency serving a jurisdiction with fewer than 500 people per square mile spends \$3,764 per acre of park and non-park sites. The median rises to \$11,415 per acre at agencies serving a jurisdiction with a population density greater than 2,500 per square mile.

Park and recreation agencies serving larger populaces tend to have lower operations expenditures than do agencies serving smaller and medium-sized jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency serving a jurisdiction with less than 20,000 people spends a median of \$7,644 per acre of park and non-park sites. The median slips slightly to \$7,547 per acre for agencies serving jurisdictions with between 50,000 and 99,999 people and then falls rapidly to \$3,533 per acre managed at agencies serving jurisdictions greater than 250,000 people.

The typical park and recreation agency has \$96,055 in annual operations expenditures for each employee (as measured by full time equivalents, or FTEs). The denser the jurisdiction served by the agency, the higher the operations expenditures for each FTE. Agencies serving jurisdictions with less than 500 residents per square mile have median operations expenditures of \$89,820 for each FTE. The median rises to \$108,135 per FTE for agencies serving areas with more than 2,500 residents per square mile. Similarly, the measure rises from \$88,056 for agencies with less than 10 parks to \$100,995 for agencies with 50 or more parks.

At the typical park and recreation agency, personnel services represent 55 percent of the operations budget. This includes expenditures for all salaries, wages and benefits for both full-time and non-full-time personnel along with contracted individuals. Another 37 percent of operations expenditures are dedicated to operations of the agency, including operational support for force accounted employees where the capital fund repays the operating budget; all enterprise funds; interdepartmental transfers; and, in some cases, the capital debt service. Another six percent of the operations spending includes capital expenses not included in the agency's capital improvement plan (CIP). This includes expenditures for capital equipment (e.g., computers, vehicles, large area mowers, tractors, boats, etc.), some periodic cyclical maintenance (carpets, conference chairs, push mowers, etc.) and, perhaps, debt services paid from the agency's operating funds.



Agency Funding

On average, **park and recreation agencies derive three-fifths of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support**, although the percentage of funding from general fund tax support tends to be lower at agencies with larger operating budgets. The next biggest source of revenue for most agencies is earned/generated revenues, responsible for an average of 25 percent of operating expenditures. Many agencies depend on special dedicated taxes for part of their budget. Many park and recreation districts obtain the majority of their funding from tax levies that are approved in referendum by citizens for specified park and recreation purposes.

The typical park and recreation agency generates \$795,500 in non-tax revenues on an annual basis, although this can vary greatly based on agency size, services and facilities offered by the agency and mandate from leadership and policy-makers. Agencies with annual operating budgets under \$500,000 typically derive \$74,414 in non-tax revenues while those with annual budgets greater than \$10 million generate a median of \$6.469 million from non-tax revenue sources.

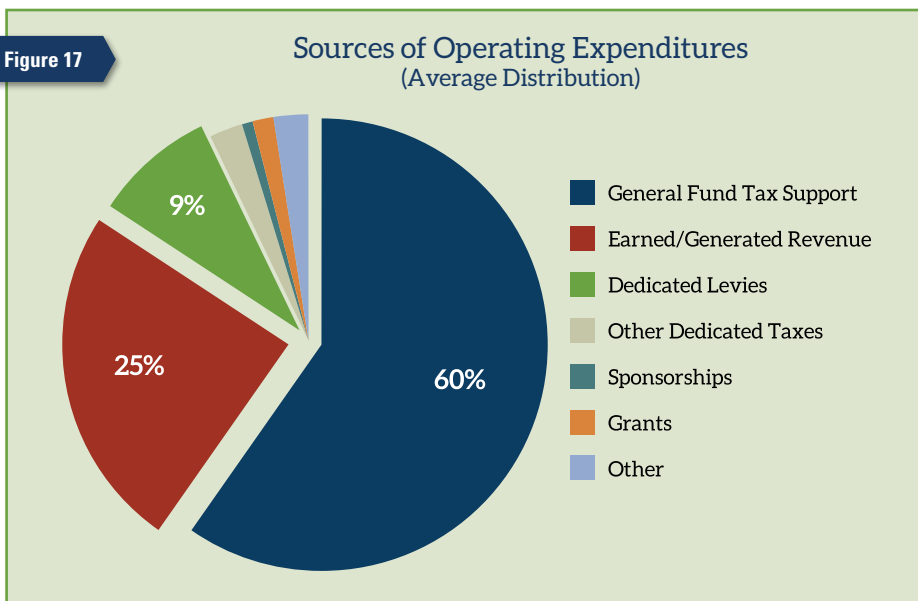
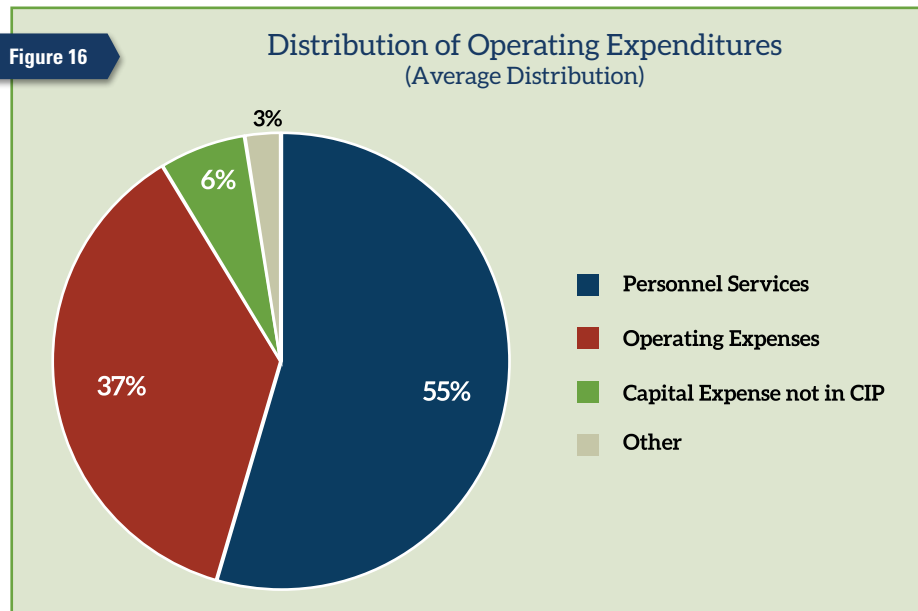
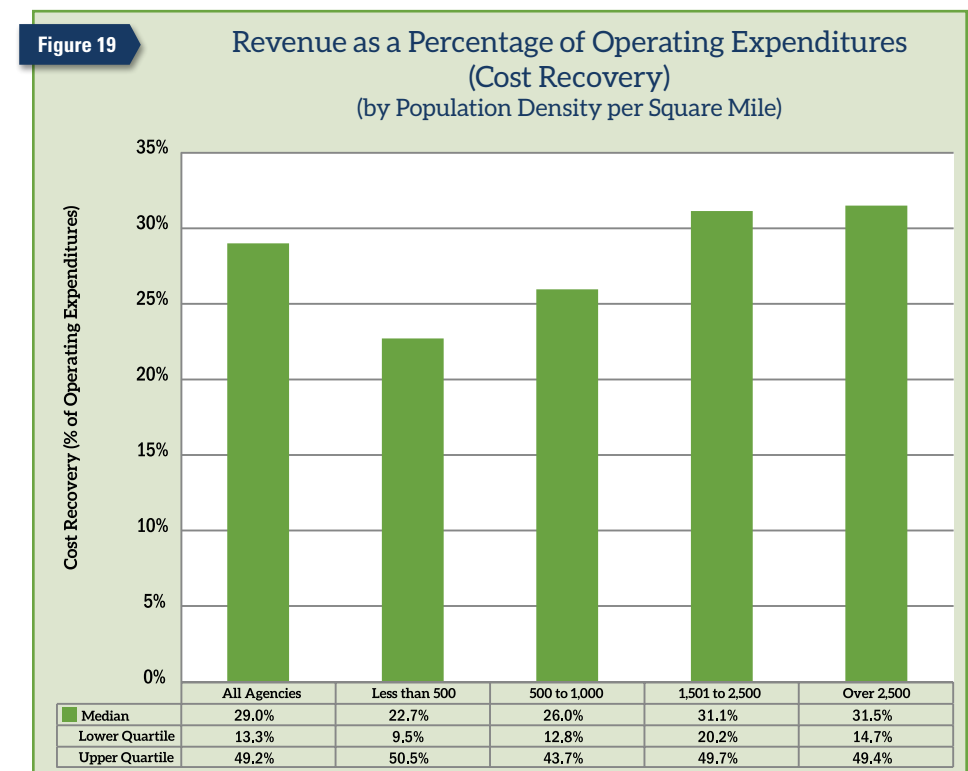
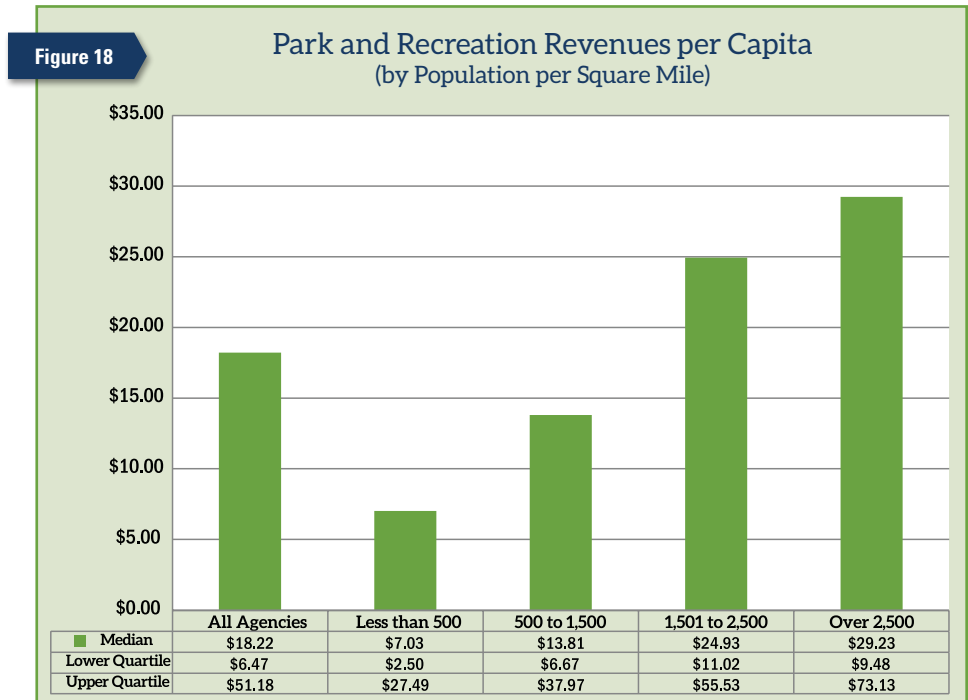


Figure 18 shows that **the typical park and recreation agency generates \$18.22 in revenue annually for each resident living in the jurisdiction it serves.** Agencies operating in less population-dense areas generate less revenue than those in greater populated areas. The typical agency, operating in a jurisdiction with less than 500 people per square mile, generates \$7.03 in revenue on a per capita basis per year compared to a median of \$29.23 for agencies serving a jurisdiction with more than 2,500 people per square mile.

Medium-sized agencies generate more revenue on a per capita basis than small and large park and recreation agencies. Agencies serving jurisdictions with between 50,000 and 99,999 people generate a median of \$29.57 in revenue per resident each year versus \$21.85 in per capita revenue in jurisdictions with less than 20,000 people and \$9.04 per capita from agencies serving jurisdictions with more than 250,000 people.

Another way to look at the revenues is in the form of cost recovery as a percentage of operating expenditures. **The typical agency recovers 29.0 percent of its operating expenditures from non-tax revenues.** The amount of cost recovery differs greatly from agency to agency based on the agency's portfolio of facilities and programming, the demographics of the populace served, agency mission and possible revenue mandates from their governing jurisdictions.

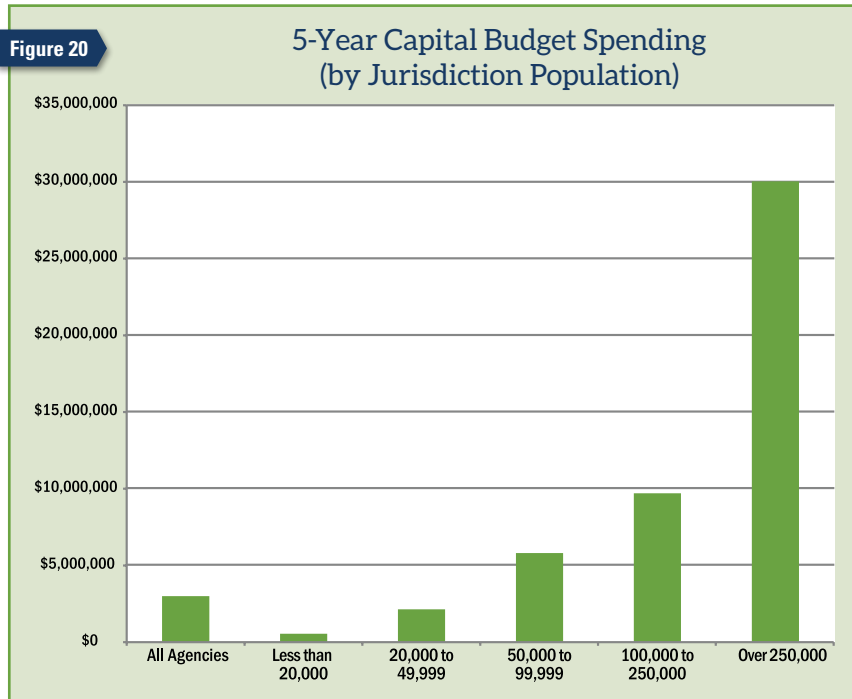
At the same time, agencies serving more population-dense jurisdictions tend to have higher percentages of cost recovery. Agencies serving an area with less than 500 people per square mile have a median percentage of cost recovery of 22.7 percent. Cost recovery rises to 31.5 percent of operating expenditures for agencies serving jurisdictions with more than 2,500 people per square mile.



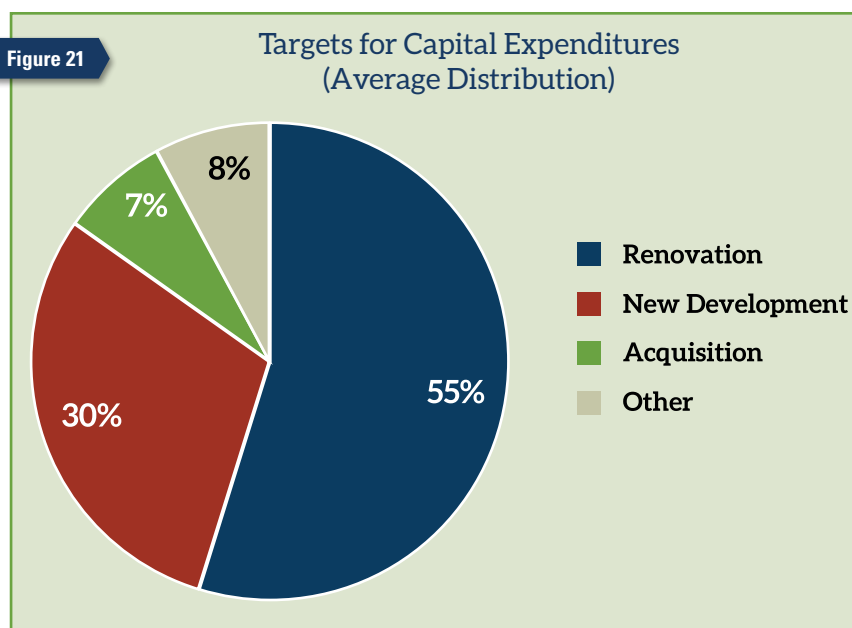
Beyond day-to-day operations, **park and recreation agencies have a median of \$2.981 million in capital expenditures budgeted over the next five years.** Not at all surprising is that the larger the agency, the larger the size of the five-year capital budget. The typical park and recreation agency serving a jurisdiction with less than 20,000 people has a median five-year capital budget of \$547,000. This five-year capital budget expands to \$5.8 million at agencies serving jurisdictions with 50,000 to 99,999 people and to \$30 million to agencies in areas with more than 250,000 residents.

Also, the following are positively related to the size of five-year capital budgets:

- The number of parks maintained – Less than 10 parks: \$859,059 versus 50 more parks: \$22.247 million
- Acreage of parks maintained – 250 or less acres: \$1 million versus more than 3,500 acres: \$36.759 million.
- Operating budgets – Annual operating budgets less than \$500,000: \$253,598 versus annual operating budgets greater than \$10 million: \$24.811 million.
- Population density – Less than 500 people per square mile: \$1.546 million versus more than 2,500 people per square mile: \$4.843 million.



So, where are park and recreation agencies designating these capital expenditures? **On average, just over half of the capital budget is designated for renovation while 30 percent is geared toward new development.** At larger park and recreation agencies, new development is the focus of a greater percentage of capital budgets. At agencies serving jurisdictions with more than 250,000 residents, 37 percent of capital budgets are for new development while 48 percent are for renovating current properties.



Looking Forward: A Perfect Storm?

Whereas most of the 2016 NRPA Field Report focuses on current performance benchmarks, a look at current challenges and future trends also should be a part of park and recreation professionals' future decision making. We asked William Beckner, President of CEHP, Inc., for his insights.

In 1991, Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke made the opening remarks at that year's NRPA Congress. At the time, America's cities were in the midst of the largest recorded violent crime epidemic in American history. Baltimore was experiencing a murder-rate that had the entire city on edge, unemployment was astronomical for minorities, and citizens were seeking answers. The same was true for many cities across the nation. Mayor Schmoke said that in all this turmoil it was the parks that made it possible to have conversations with the residents. The violent crimes epidemic eventually eased, beginning in 1995. But as we know, all is not well.

The challenges many of our cities now face represent opportunities for park and recreation departments to play a significant role in their community. But to be successful, they will require a steady hand and courage in the face of enormous waves in the forms of social equity, finance, global warming, safe play issues and community engagement.

Social Equity/Environmental Justice

As parks are a very visible measure of equitable public service, the community park and recreation departments may be front and center in the public perception of inequitable treatment. Social Equity, one of the three NRPA Pillars, is beginning to merge with social and environmental justice that is part of a rising tide of sentiment for equal and just treatment.

What are the park and recreation department opportunities?

- Ensure that all residents have access to facilities and services that are of similar quality
- Listen to your customers' complaints about unfair treatment
- Use your park and recreation advisory or policy board as an early warning system of issues at hand
- Program speakers and events to address issues that seem important

Capital and Operating Finance

The recently completed NRPA Study, "[Americans' Broad-Based Support for Local Recreation and Park Services](#)" clearly shows the significant public support from Americans for their parks. But, that study's results and NRPA's research findings that local parks create significant economic activity for their communities do not mean the funding for renovation, new development or operation and maintenance will suddenly be easy to obtain. Instead, park and recreation professionals and supporters need to focus their energies on promoting the value of parks to our communities.

Infrastructure Priorities

In his 2016 State of the Union address, President Obama proposed one trillion dollars be spent by the federal government and matched by state and local governments to take on the decaying infrastructure that threatens our safety and our economy. But, where are the dollars coming from to sustain and improve our parks? Opportunities include:

- Getting to the table early; be in place when the deals are made
- Focusing on trails and corridor-type facilities
- Looking to multiple-use such as storm detention basins and rectangular fields
- Constructing in-ground water storage or flood drainage facilities that also provide spaces for athletic facilities
- Creating partnerships with foundations and other third-party groups
- Being flexible and creative

Global Warming and Natural Disasters

The need for infrastructure investment is also exacerbated by the early effects of global warming. Rising seas, higher incidence of catastrophic floods and natural disasters, including drought and fire, can be linked to rising sea temperatures. The increasing volatility of climatic conditions affects park and recreation departments in numerous ways, including:

- Financing infrastructure such as sea walls
- Rising maintenance costs for beaches and other lands subject to flooding
- Costs related to replacement of facilities destroyed in natural events
- Staff becoming the caregivers when park and recreation facilities are the only community resources left standing

Operating Budgets

The federal budget constraints have truncated the economic recovery of state and local governments in much of the country. In turn, many states responded to these tight budgets by pushing the costs of services to the cities and municipalities, making it even more challenging to properly finance park facilities and services. Park and recreation professionals who have the facts and the credibility with budget decision makers are the most likely to prosper. They must:

- Know what it costs to provide the services their agency offers, including for its facilities and programs
- Create a quarterly reporting system that demonstrates accountability in meeting their budget goals
- Define their core services that need to be subsidized
- Partner as appropriate with nonprofit or private sector providers to expand opportunities

Safe Play

Not all of the challenges are external to the park and recreation field. Going forward, the issue of safety is becoming a challenge for traditional team sports. Certainly, football is now in a precarious position with many studies beginning to show that cumulative hits are as impactful as a single violent hit. Some experts are suggesting prohibiting preteens from playing tackle football. Concussions are not isolated to just football as they also appear to be a problem in ice hockey, soccer and other sports. It is not solely a youth issue but can impact any sports programs run by your department. What are the opportunities for park and recreation agencies to encourage safe play?

- Do not make unilateral decisions
- Form committees to address the issues
- Identify knowledgeable resources to educate interested parties about the issues
- Consider alternatives that reduce the concussion potential, such as flag football for ages under 13

What are the implications of a switch to flag football? Your agency may see an increased interest in the sport of flag football with as much demand for fields as before. This scenario would cost less since expensive equipment would not be needed. Another future advantage is that flag football, like soccer, can be played at any age.

Community Engagement

The Internet is filled with stories about youth undertaking community projects. With each reported success, it seems more ideas are emerging. They usually start as volunteer projects and then sometimes morph into an entrepreneurial opportunity. This phenomenon is a result of the desire in many of Generation Z (Born after 2000) to make a difference in their community. There are numerous examples. One compelling example is the 10-year-old who began collecting restaurant cooking oils for use as heating fuels (<http://www.upworthy.com/her-dad-thought-her-clean-energy-idea-was-just-a-kids-project-he-was-wrong?c=upw1>). As of last year, she was able to accumulate enough supply to heat 400 homes of economically disadvantaged folks in the community. If the youth in your community have a strong inclination toward community service, you might consider investigating ways to facilitate their dreams and interests for the benefit of the community.

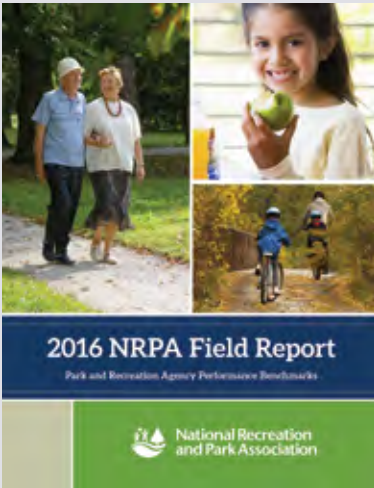
Conclusion

As shown in the *2016 NRPA Field Report*, park and recreation agencies are as diverse as the towns, cities and counties that they serve. Agencies not only differ in size and service offerings, but also in what their core mission is when serving their communities. It is for that reason the data presented in this report are a valuable tool in the planning and operating of park and recreation agencies.

Beyond comparing one's agency to that of the "typical" agency, we challenge all park and recreation professionals to enter their agency's data in PRORAGIS so they can gain a more detailed analysis of their agency's performance against its peers through the United States. Linking the insights contained in this report and PRORAGIS with other NRPA reports and resources will arm all park and recreation professionals with the tools needed to tell their agency's story and to make the case for further investments in the future.



How Can Your Agency's Data be Included in this Report?



The NRPA Field Report is dependent on the data shared by hundreds of agencies every year. By sharing your agency's performance data, not only will you help NRPA create a more comprehensive Field Report, you will be able to access custom reports specific to the information you shared. With access to both of these resources, your agency will be able to gain more support, improve operations, and better serve your community.

NRPA's new streamlined Agency Performance Survey in PRORAGIS allows you to easily input information about your agency's performance, without requiring a lot of time or effort, and get back two extremely useful resources you can't find anywhere else.

To compare your agency's performance today, visit www.nrpa.org/PRORAGIS

A more comprehensive set of cross tabulations of the data presented in this report is available as a set of interactive tables at www.nrpa.org/2016-Field-Report

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of more than 50,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space.

NRPA brings strength to our message by partnering with like-minded organizations including those in the federal government, nonprofits and commercial enterprises. Funded through dues, grants, registrations and charitable contributions, NRPA produces research, education and policy initiatives for our members that ultimately enrich the communities they serve.

NRPA places great importance on research to understand and improve various aspects of the park and recreation field. Research is vital to ensure park and recreation professionals have the resources to make informed decisions. At NRPA, the development of current research via empirical studies and literature reviews for our members and the public is a key priority.

The Value of Parks and Recreation

Conservation—Public parks are critical to preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and providing programs that engage communities in conservation.

Health and Wellness—Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the health and wellness of communities. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.

Social Equity—We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to quality parks and programs, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.





National Recreation
and Park Association

22377 Belmont Ridge Road
Ashburn, VA 20148-4501
800.626.NRPA (6772)

www.nrpa.org