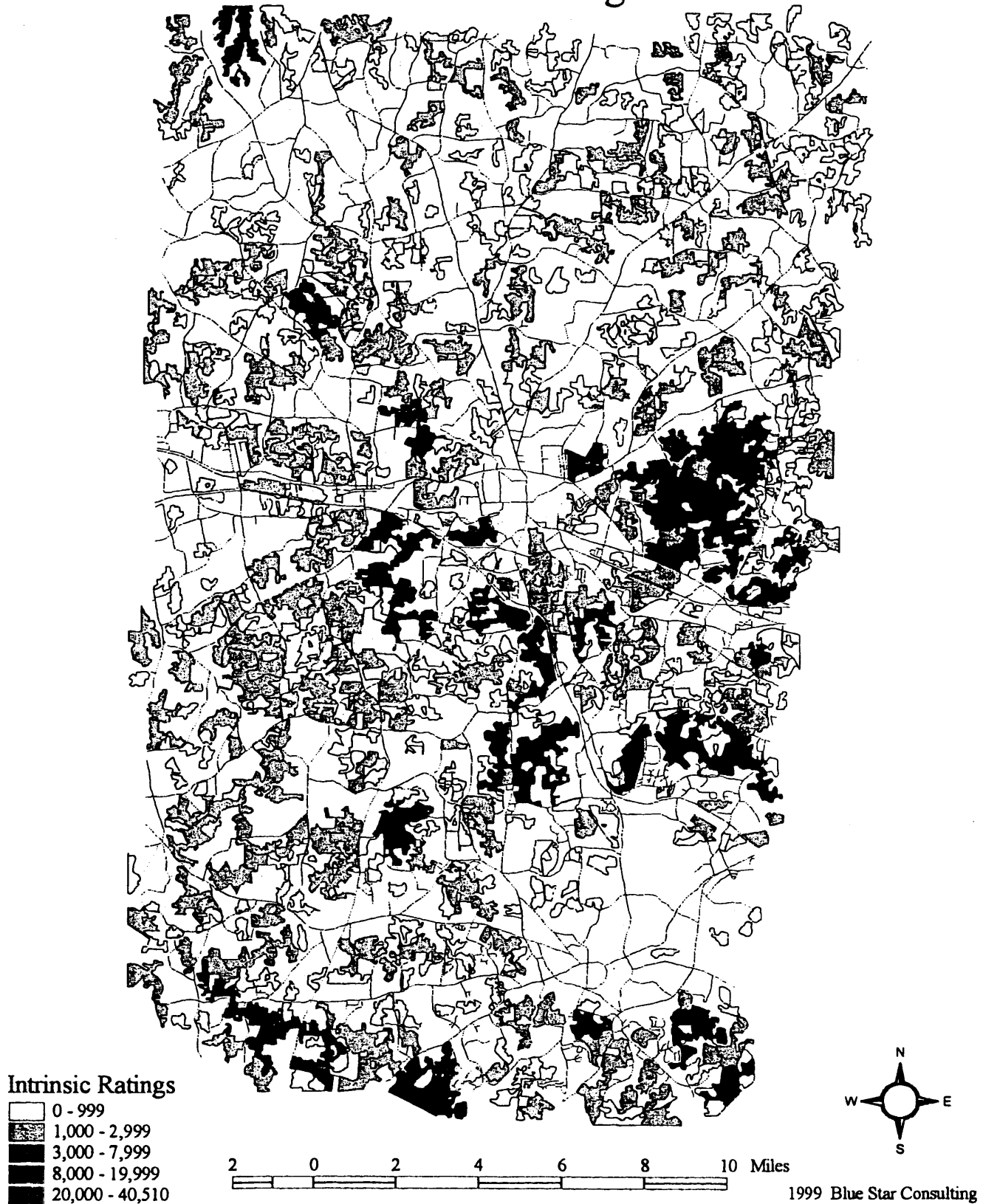
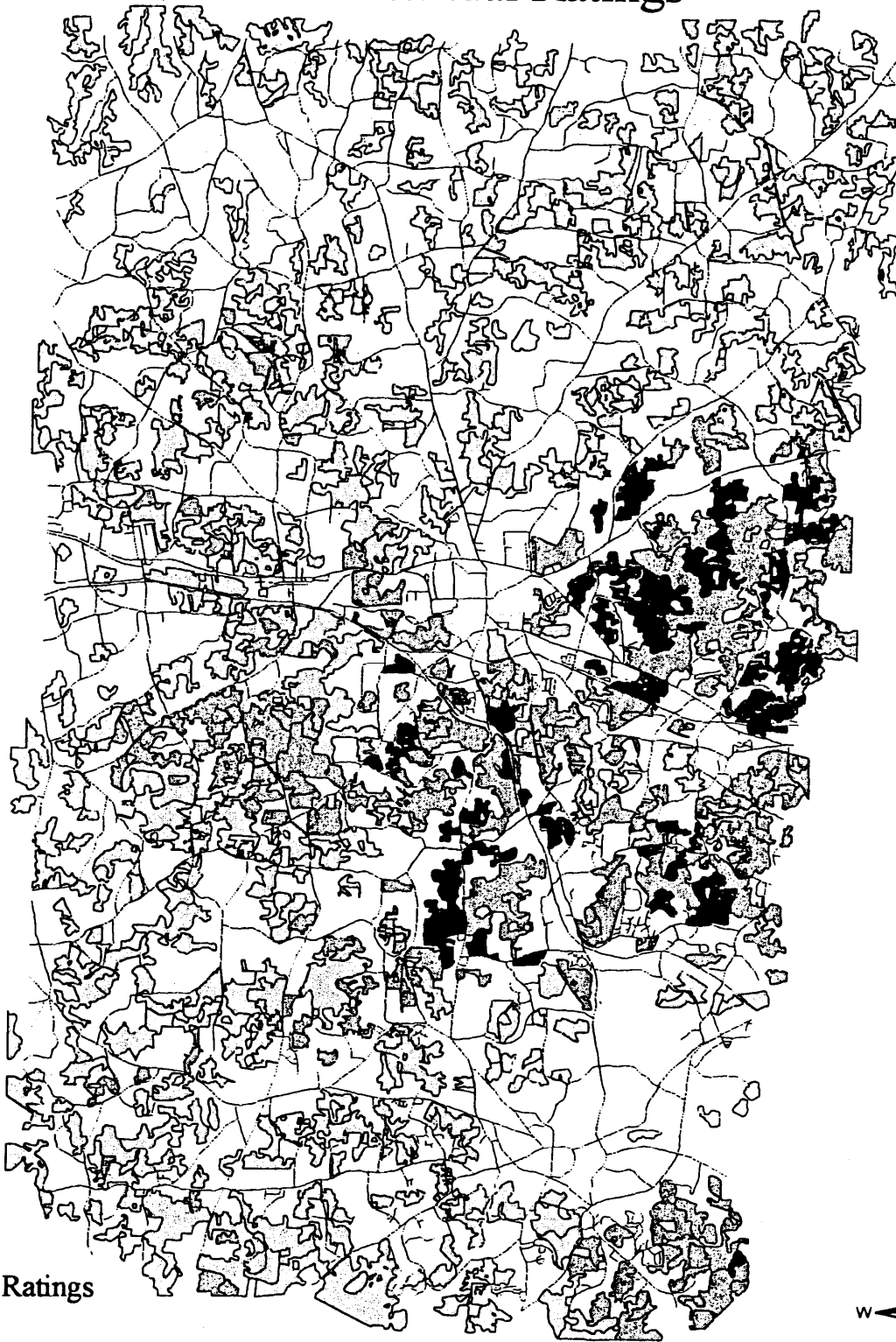


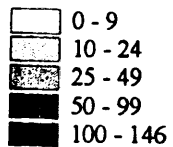
# Wildlife Ratings for Orange County Forests (Excluding Property with Building Permits) Intrinsic Ratings



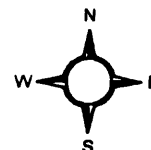
# Wildlife Ratings for Orange County Forests (Excluding Property with Building Permits) Contextual Ratings



## Contextual Ratings



2 0 2 4 6 8 10 Miles



1999 Blue Star Consulting

# Wildlife Ratings for Orange County Forests (Excluding Property with Building Permits)

10-46

## Total Ratings



### Total Ratings

- 0 - 24,999
- 25,000 - 74,999
- 75,000 - 149,999
- 150,000 - 399,999
- 400,000 - 1,097,546

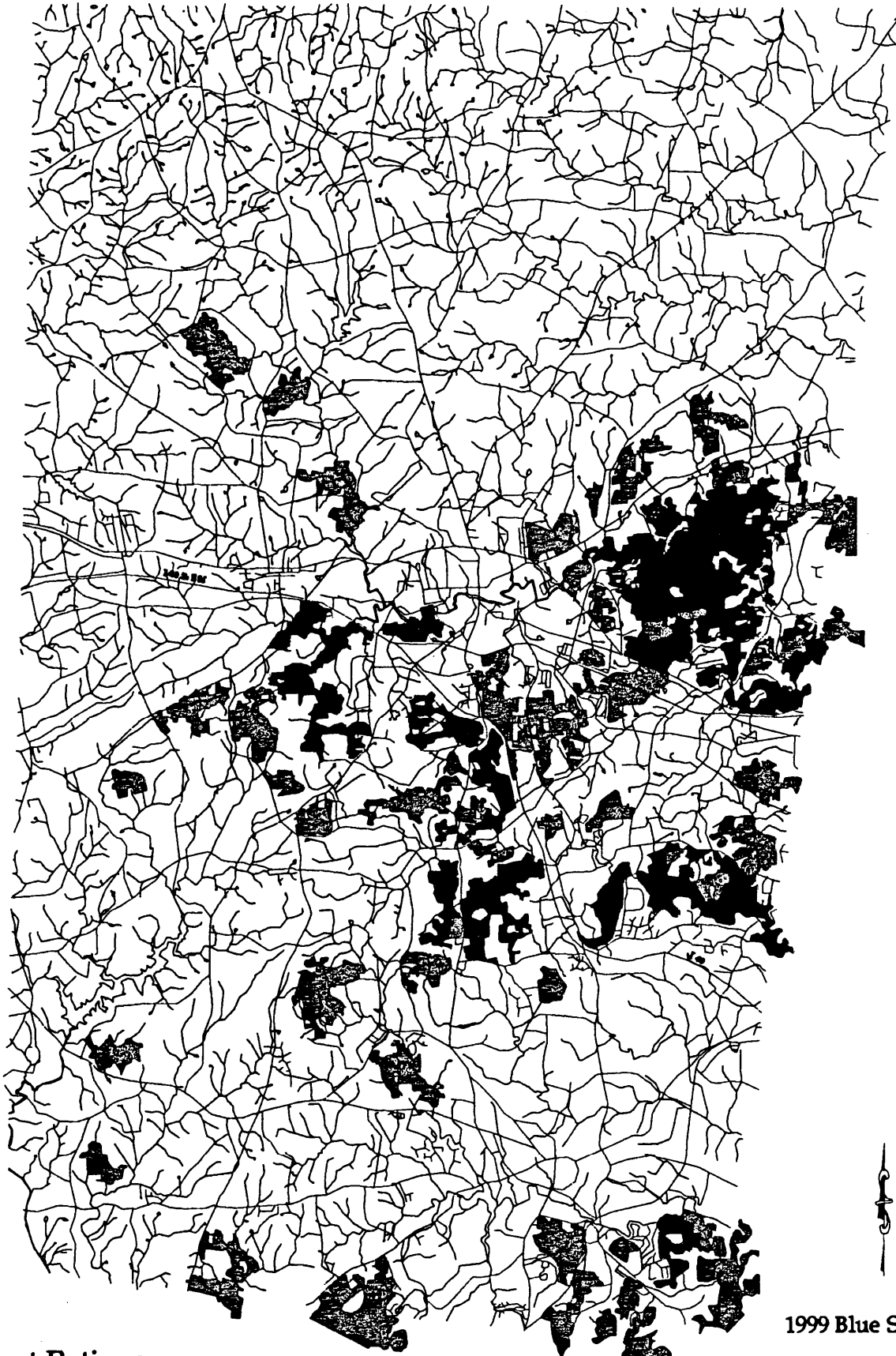
Scale 1 Inch = 16,000 Feet

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Beth Young  
Orange County  
Environment &  
Resource Conservation  
Department

Map 3  
**Wildlife Ratings for Orange County Forests**  
(Excluding Property with Building Permits)  
Areas with the Highest Ratings

10-47



**Highest Ratings**

- 50,000 - 199,999
- 200,000 - 349,999
- 350,000 - 1,100,000

Scale 1 Inch = 16,000 Feet

1999 Blue Star Consulting

Map produced by  
Beth Young  
Orange County  
Environment &  
Resource Conservation  
Department

(b) The requirements of this article shall not apply to the reconstruction or enlargement of pre-existing single-family residential dwelling units or to the reconstruction or renovation of pre-existing multi-family units, except to the extent that such reconstruction or renovation of multi-family residences increases the number of dwelling units or bedrooms within any such residential development. (AMENDED 10/08/96)

**Section 15-198 Open Space.** (AMENDED 04/24/84; 03/26/85; 12/10/85; 11/11/86; REWRITTEN 06/27/95)

(a) The Board finds that when land is developed for residential purposes, the public health, safety, and welfare are best served when substantial portions of the tracts so developed remain as common open space. The preservation of such open space areas serves the following important objectives, to the benefit of the residents of such developments as well as the general public:

- (1) Preservation of open vistas, providing relief from an urban landscape;
- (2) Preservation of environmentally sensitive lands;
- (3) Preservation of habitat for wildlife;
- (4) Preservation of historically or archaeologically significant areas;
- (5) Provision of areas for passive recreation, such as walking or jogging.

(b) For purposes of this section:

- (1) Open space refers to an area that:
  - a. Is not encumbered with any substantial structure;
  - b. Is not devoted to use as a roadway, parking area, or sidewalk;
  - c. Is not part of any privately owned lot that is used or intended for use for residential purposes.
  - d. Is legally and practicably accessible to the general public or to the residents of the development where the open space is located.
- (2) Narrow strips of common area that separate lots within a development from each other, from streets, or from adjoining tracts shall generally not be regarded as open space within the meaning of this section unless such areas:

**Art. XIII RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE**

- a. Are at least 50 feet in width and capable of functioning as a substantial visual buffer; or
  - b. Are configured and/or improved (e.g. through the installation of trails) in such a way as to be conducive to actual use for passive recreational purposes (i.e. walking or jogging) by residents of the development where located.
- (3) The following areas shall be regarded as open space if such areas satisfy at least the criteria set forth in Subdivision (1) a, b, and c of subsection (b) of this section:
  - a. Utility easements located outside of street rights of way;
  - b. Cemeteries located on a tract prior to its development.
  - c. Areas used for the growing of crops, such as hay, corn, or vegetables, if and to the extent that such uses occur within an area that is subject to the control of a homeowners association and such uses are approved by the homeowners association. **(AMENDED 05/25/99)**
- (4) The term "primary conservation areas" shall mean: **(AMENDED 05/25/99)**
  - a. Areas containing slopes greater than 25%
  - b. Hardwood areas identified on the Carrboro Natural Constraints Map
  - c. Wetlands as defined pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
  - d. Floodplains
  - e. With respect to streams designated on the adopted Stream Classification Map of Carrboro, those areas within an average perpendicular distance of sixty feet from the edge of the floodway of the stream, if the floodway is designated on the "Flood Boundary and Flood Map" prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or sixty feet from the centerline of the stream where the floodway is not designated on this map.
  - f. Lakes and ponds;
  - g. Road buffers as required by Section 15-312 of this Chapter, except for those portions of the buffers that must be included in road or utility crossings.

(5) The term "secondary conservation areas" shall mean: **(AMENDED 05/25/99)**

- a. Areas containing slopes greater than 15% but not more than 25%;
- b. Wooded areas other than hardwood areas identified on the Carrboro Natural Constraints Map;
- c. Vistas along entranceways to the town;
- d. Other areas containing unusual natural features (such as major rock formations);
- f. Other environmentally, historically or archaeologically significant or unique areas.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (j) and Section 15-203, every residential development in zoning districts other than the R-2 district shall be developed so that at least forty percent (40%) of the total area of the development remains permanently as open space. Every residential development in the R-2 district shall be developed so that at least twenty percent (20%) of the total area of the development remains permanently as open space. **(AMENDED 09/05/95)**

(d) Subject to subsection (g), every residential development containing at least 25 lots or dwelling units shall contain, as part of its required open space, one or more areas that are relatively flat, well drained, grassed, and otherwise well suited for use as a play field:

- (1) Each such area shall contain a minimum of 20,000 square feet configured in such a manner as to be useful as a play field.
- (2) Every development covered by this subsection shall set aside in one or more play fields meeting the criteria of this subsection a minimum of 400 square feet of area per lot or dwelling unit within the development.
- (3) Play fields provided under this section shall be located with due regard for the safety and convenience of those using such facilities as well as the welfare of residents living nearby. The play fields required by this subsection shall be located such that 90% of the lots or dwelling units within any development that is required to install such play field are within 1,500 feet of a play field installed to meet the requirements of this subsection, unless the developer demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that adherence to this requirement would not be feasible.

*Art. XIII RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE*

- (4) Play fields constructed to meet the requirements of this subsection may be used by the developer to satisfy the active recreational requirements set forth in Section 15-196 as well as the open space requirements of this section. However, the recreation points assigned to such play fields shall be based upon the actual cost of constructing such play fields, exclusive of land costs.

**(AMENDED 05/25/99)**

(e) Subject to subsection (g), if a tract where a residential development is proposed contains any areas defined above as primary conservation areas, then such areas shall be designated as open space. **(AMENDED 05/25/99)**

(f) **RESERVED (AMENDED 05/25/99)**

(g) A developer shall not be required to set aside as open space under the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) more than the minimum required percentage of open space set forth in subsection (c). If the sum total of open space otherwise required under the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) exceeds forty percent of the development tract (twenty percent in the R-2 district), then the permit issuing authority shall allow the developer to set aside a smaller area of open space under subsections (d) and (e), individually or collectively, so that the developer is not required to preserve as open space more than forty percent of the development tract (twenty percent in the R-2 district). However, if areas that constitute primary conservation areas have not been set aside as open space, then the development plans shall otherwise provide for the preservation of such areas even though they may be located within privately owned lots (e.g. by specifying buildable areas within individual lots). Notwithstanding the foregoing, hardwood areas identified on the Carrboro Natural Constraints Map that are not set aside as common open space shall be preserved except to the extent that removal of such hardwood trees is necessary to accommodate the permitted uses created out of land not set aside as common open space. **(AMENDED 09/05/95; 05/25/99)**

(h) If the area of open space required to be preserved under subsections (d) and (e) does not exceed forty percent (40%) of the area of the development tract (20% in the R-2 district), then the permit issuing authority may require that the developer set aside from among the areas that constitute secondary conservation areas as defined above an amount of open space equal to the difference between the amount of open space preserved under subsections (d) and (e) and forty percent (40%) of the development tract (20% in the R-2 district). **(AMENDED 09/05/95; 05/25/99)**

(i) Except as otherwise set forth in this section, the choice as to the areas to be set aside as open space shall remain with the developer.

(j) Subdivided residential developments of less than fifteen dwelling units are exempt from the requirements of this section unless the town agrees that it will accept an offer of dedication of such open space, and in that case the offer of dedication shall be made. Subdivided residential developments exempted by this subsection from the requirement of providing usable open space shall be required to make a payment in lieu thereof to the town's open space and



*Art. XIII RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE*

recreational facilities fund in accordance with Section 15-203 if the town determines that it will be possible to provide usable open space areas that are reasonably expected to benefit or serve the residents of such developments. For purposes of this subsection, the term "developments" shall have the same meaning as is set forth in subsection 15-196(d)(3).

(k) Residential developments consisting solely of multi-family, single-room occupancy units (1/340) shall be exempt from the requirements of this section. (AMENDED 01/11/00)

**Section 15-199 Ownership and Maintenance of Recreational Facilities and Open Space Not Dedicated to the Town. (REWRITTEN 06/27/95)**

(a) Unless the town requires that recreational facilities or open space be dedicated to the town or agrees to accept an offer of dedication voluntarily made by the developer, such recreational facilities and open space shall remain under the ownership and control of the developer (or his successor) or a homeowners' association or similar organization that satisfies the criteria established in Section 15-201. If such recreational facilities and open space are not publicly dedicated, they shall be made available to all residents of the development under reasonable rules and regulations established to encourage and govern the use of such facilities and open space by the residents without payment of separate optional fees or charges other than membership fees in a homeowners' association. Such facilities and open space may be made available to a limited extent on a fee basis to persons who are not residents of the development where such facilities or open space are located, so long as such use does not become so extensive as to remove the facilities and open space from the category of an accessory use to a residential development and transform the use to a separate principal use classification (see use classification 6.000) under the Table of Permissible Uses.

(b) The person or entity identified in subsection (a) as having the right of ownership and control over such recreational facilities and open space shall be responsible for the continuing upkeep and proper maintenance of the same.

**Section 15-200 Dedication of Open Space. (AMENDED 11/26/85; REWRITTEN 06/27/95; REPEALED 09/05/95)**

**Section 15-201 Homeowners' Association. (AMENDED 11/26/85)**

Homeowners' associations or similar legal entities that, pursuant to Section 15-199, are responsible for the maintenance and control of common areas, including recreational facilities and open space, shall be established in such a manner that:

- (1) Provisions for the establishment of the association or similar entity is made before any lot in the development is sold or any building occupied;
- (2) The association or similar legal entity has clear legal authority to maintain and exercise control over such common areas and facilities;

# REPORT OF THE MASTER RECREATION AND PARKS WORK GROUP



May 26, 1999

[Executive Summary](#) | [Master Recreation & Parks Work Group](#) | [ERCD Homepage](#)

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## **Table of Contents**

### **I. Background History 1**

- A. Rationale for Intergovernmental Plan
- B. Joint Planning Efforts - 1996-97
- C. Summary of Existing Plans
- D. Background and Rationale for Updating Joint Plan

### **II. Descriptive Scenario - Where are we now?**

- A. Inventory of Parks and Recreation resources
- B. Parks and Recreation Needs
- C. Parks and Recreation Standards
- D. Status of Previous Bonds and Projects Constructed

### **III. Future Efforts and Issues - Where to go from here?**

- A. Park/Recreation Acquisition Goals, Objectives and Criteria

- B. Joint Siting and Management of Sites
- C. Impediments to Location of New Facilities
- D. Mechanisms for Implementing Goals Through CIP's and Land-Banking
- E. Coordination Opportunities with UNC and Implications of UNC Expansion
- F. Coordination Opportunities with OWASA
- G. Coordination Opportunities with Duke University

**IV. Adequate and Timely Provision of Parklands and Natural Use Corridors**

- A. Ensuring Recreation Needs Are Met
- B. Greenways in Urban Areas and Wildlife Corridors in Rural Areas
- C. Analysis Criteria of Land for Greenways and Corridors

**V. Acquisition of Land**

- A. Coordination with Resource Acquisition Program
- B. Funding Sources

**VI. Payment-In-Lieu Programs**

- A. Development Exactions for Recreation Land in Orange County
- B. Definition of Payment-in-Lieu and Impact Fee Programs
- C. Current Status of Payment-in-Lieu Throughout the County
- D. Difficulties with Payment-in-Lieu Programs
- E. Comparison with Other Programs Regionally and Nationally

**VII. Proposals and Recommendations**

- A. Create a Parks and Resource Lands Council
- B. Inter-jurisdictional Efforts to Standardize Parks and Recreation Requirements
- C. Joint Siting, Design, and Management of School/Park Sites Across Jurisdictions
- D. Public/Private Partnerships
- E. Joint Capital Facilities Plan/Coordinated Land Identification, Acquisition and Banking
- F. Open Facilities Policy
- G. Payment-in-Lieu Changes
- H. Address Existing Needs
- I. Recommendations for Use of Current and Future Bond Funds

Appendices A-K (NOTE: These are not included in this document. In order to get a copy, please contact David Stancil.)

**Members of the Joint Master Recreation and Parks Work Group**

Margaret Brown, Chair  
Ken Chavious  
Keith Cook  
Judson Edeburn  
Martin Feinstein  
Kevin Foy  
Jacqueline Gist  
Bea Hughes-Werner  
Ron Hyatt  
Barry Jacobs  
Loraine Kohorn  
Dianne Lemasters  
Patrick Mulkey  
Wendy Olsen  
Bill Strom  
Wendy Weiher  
John Link

## **IV. ADEQUATE AND TIMELY PROVISION OF PARKLAND AND NATURAL CORRIDORS**

### **A. Ensuring Recreation Needs Are Met**

In Section II of this document, recreation needs have been identified for each of the jurisdictions within Orange County, using previous works and new assessments. While there are some differences between the jurisdictions, in general the needs fall into the following major categories:

- **Acquisition of lands for long-term park use ("land-banking");**
- School/park combinations;
- Acquisition of open space and natural areas for low-impact recreation;
- Acquisition and development of greenways, trails, and linear parks;
- Active recreation facilities and/or gymnasiums
- Larger community/district parks with a mixture of activities
- Neighborhood-scale parks

If coordinated capital funding and long-term land acquisition is pursued, a flexible process must be developed that would allow for revisions as well as the introduction of new priorities with a timetable that ranks needs and establishes a reasonable timeframe to assure the communities' recreational needs are being met. A model along the lines of the NCDOT seven-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) might be a starting point.

A multi-jurisdictional committee charged with evaluating needs, funding availability and long-term plans could undertake the development of this mechanism.

### **B. Greenways in Urban Areas and Wildlife Corridors in Rural Areas**

One of the most prominent needs identified in both urban and rural areas are the need to preserve green corridors. These corridors serve a variety of recreation needs, while preserving visual and natural resources. In rural areas, the need for wildlife corridors has been documented – areas that serve as connectors between watersheds along streamways and ridges. Inside the Towns, paved or gravel trails along utility easements and streamways have been and continue to be a high priority – such as the much-used Bolin Creek Greenway in Chapel Hill. Other types of corridors merge these two concepts, serving as a combination of the two (such as Eno River State Park and the planned Riverwalk in Hillsborough/Orange County).

#### **1. Greenways**

In the past 15 years, a considerable degree of planning has occurred in the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro for greenways. In 1985, the Town of Chapel Hill received a Greenways Task Force Report that led to the creation of a Greenways

Commission, and the planning and development of Bolin Creek Greenway. In 1990, a Comprehensive Greenways Master Plan was adopted that outlines future greenways, funding and construction plans and priorities. The 1996 plan focused on four new greenway trails: Lower Booker Creek (Phase II), Upper Booker Creek, Dry Creek (Phase I) and Dry Creek (Phase II).

The Town of Carrboro's "Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Plan" calls for active greenways to be located on the Morgan and Bolin Creek corridors. Both would be off-street facilities, for a total of ten miles and linking up with greenways planned in Chapel Hill. It has been the practice to require offers of dedication in both areas as part of the Town's Land Use Ordinance. However, no offers have been formally accepted by the Town as of this date. In regards to other non-motorized access, Carrboro's bikeways system is among the best in North Carolina. The bikeway system is designed to allow residents to safely commute from their neighborhoods through the central business district to Chapel Hill at Cameron Avenue. For the sporting cyclist concerned with touring or training, routes start at Jones Ferry and Old Hillsborough roads. The town's recreational facilities are easily accessible to Carrboro residents by the bikeway system.

While the Town of Hillsborough does not have a formal greenways program, recent initiatives to link Oconeechee Mountain to the Eno River State Park and develop a Riverwalk along the Eno in Hillsborough (in conjunction with Orange County) would form a significant beginning for a greenways system.

There is a fourth area where the potential for greenways currently exists, although no facilities have been planned or developed to date. The 1986 Joint Planning Area Plan Use Plan adopted by the County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro contains a strategy map that provides for future greenway corridors along the network of streams in the Rural Buffer area as well as the Town's long-term transition areas. Through the Orange County Subdivision Regulations, the County has a policy to require dedication of land for greenways in the Rural Buffer area. While some land has been dedicated to date in the Rural Buffer, no plans have been developed for a greenway system. This subject would likely be dealt with in the planned revision to the County Master Recreation and Parks Plan.

## **2. Wildlife Corridors**

In 1988, the Triangle Land Conservancy developed an Inventory of Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats for Orange County. In identifying 64 of the most significant sites countywide, the Inventory also identified and addressed the importance of preserving wildlife corridors along selected streams and ridges as connectors. These connectors provide habitat and allow migrating wildlife to move between larger open land masses and water bodies. In many of these corridors a primitive trail system exists, formed by years of use by wildlife and local hikers, although many of the lands in the corridor are privately-held.

The need for this green skeleton will increase in the future as development

continues to occur. The proposed wildlife corridor network in the 1988 Inventory, connects the Jordan Lake lands to University Lake, and Cane Creek Reservoir to the Eno River and Little River. This corridor has been incorporated in the Orange County Comprehensive Plan as part of the Resource Protection Area category. Much of the wildlife corridor lies within floodplain or poorly-drained land that would not be developed, but important overland connectors exist along several ridges.

Attempts to protect this corridor in its natural state are currently pursued through the County's voluntary Flexible Development ordinance. Other corridors may also be important to the natural eco-system and wildlife habitat.

### **3. Linkages between Greenways and Linear Parks**

There are clear distinctions between greenways designed for human recreational use and wildlife corridors to be maintained in a natural state. A third component of the system is the existing/planned network of open space in the County, areas such as Eno River State Park, Duke Forest, and the planned Riverwalk in Hillsborough. These areas are apparent as "nodes" or junctions in the green infrastructure of the County, often connected by stream or wildlife corridors. This type of network also exists in the urban areas, where greenways serve to connect many Town parks.

As the County and towns continue to grow and develop, retention of a green corridor concept will be important. Additionally, ways to link rural linear parks and open space accessible to the public to Town greenways at a few key junctions could greatly expand low-impact recreational opportunities. Identification of strategic corridors (rural trail links) that can tie these pieces of the open space network will be needed in the long-term.

## **C. Analyze Potential of Land for Greenways and Rural Trail Links**

The use of land for greenways, rural trails and wildlife corridors may be viewed as a continuum of types. One example of a continuum is found in the 1996 Chapel Hill Greenways Plan.

The Greenways Plan classifies six different types of natural corridors or trails, ranging from natural wildlife corridors, to 10-foot paved greenways for bike and pedestrian use. The six classes from the Chapel Hill Greenways Plan (with some modified terminology) are:

1. Unimproved Corridors lacking trails. No maintenance unless problems (such as diseased or dying trees) affect neighboring properties.
2. Primitive Trails, created by wildlife or citizens. Not maintained.
3. Improved Woodland Trails, with soft natural surface and minimal improvements that can accommodate mountain bikes and serve as interpretive trails. Basic maintenance (removal of litter, fallen trees and limbs)
4. Unpaved Access Drive with gates or bollards to prevent casual vehicle use, suitable for pedestrians or mountain bikes. Usually a road built for other purposes and used for a

trail.

5. Paved Greenway Trail, under 10-feet wide. Can be pedestrian- only or allow bicycle use. Maintenance.
6. Paved Greenway Trail 10-Feet or Wider, for mixed bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Built to ADA standards.

While developed with greenways in mind, this classification scheme could be used on a broader scale. Classes 1-2, for example, might reasonably fit into the scheme of wildlife corridors, adding provisions that specify no improvements, no public access, and any trails only as previously created by wildlife or people.

Classes 4-6 would appear to be more-properly classified as greenways, since their use is more targeted to people (either pedestrian or bicycle). Classes 4-6 would be more urban in nature, publicly owned or eased, and found inside the Towns or adjacent areas.

Class 3 (Improved Woodland Trails) could be seen as a hybrid trail found in both urban and rural areas, and as such could be used as an example of rural trail links that tie some parks and open space to a regional trail system on a primary corridor to be identified in the future. In this sense, Woodland Trails may constitute a third category of corridors and trails.

There are several criteria that could be used to evaluate land suitability for wildlife corridors, woodland trails and greenways, in this setting. Examples might include:

#### Wildlife Corridor Evaluation Criteria

- <>Located along perennial streams, or ridges connecting watershed basins and their perennial streams
- Located away from residential structures to preserve privacy
- Connects and includes identified natural areas and wildlife habitat and other areas of public interest
- Privately held unless dedicated to public entity - no public access unless granted by property owner/public entity
- No trails, except as existing from the movement of wildlife/people



#### Woodland Trails (Rural Trail Links) Evaluation Criteria

- Located along an identified primary corridor system
- Located away from natural areas and wildlife habitat, or in such fashion as to minimize impact on these areas
- Links parks, urban greenways systems and existing open space areas such as Eno River State Park
- Consistent with a long-term regional trails system
- Located in areas with minimal streamway and adjoining lands erosion potential
- Located away from residential structures to preserve privacy

- Located in areas where periodic access for emergency vehicles can be secured

### Greenway Evaluation Criteria

- Located along streamway systems in urban or surrounding areas
- Co-located with existing easements (such as utility easements)
- Located as far as possible from residences to preserve privacy
- Located no closer than 25 feet to the stream bank
- Stream crossings should be avoided whenever possible and grade separated when necessary
- Located to ensure that minimum disruption of the trail would result from repair or replacement of utilities
- Located to connect existing neighborhoods, parks and services
- Located to allow for emergency vehicle access

With these priorities in mind, the long-term potential for a few carefully-sited rustic rural trails linking some urban greenways or parks to existing and future rural linear parks and open space does exist. Plans for development of any coordinated intra-County trail system should be developed with linkages to regional plans for parks and trails. Linkages along the Haw River, Eno River State Park, New Hope Creek, Jordan Lake and future rails-to-trails initiatives will likely be critical components of a long-range regional trails system. The Joint Planning Area Strategy Map shows the beginnings of such a system that was envisioned in 1987. While considerable further work is needed in this area, it is possible with existing mapping to visualize three examples of possible long-term rural trail links tying town parks and open space to those in rural areas:

- A North Chapel Hill/Rural Buffer corridor linking Booker Creek Greenway, Northern Community Park, Duke Forest, New Hope Creek (including TLC lands and Duke Forest) back to the New Hope Creek Corridor and the Durham County line.
- A corridor in southwest/central Orange County linking the Haw River, Cane Creek Reservoir, OWASA mitigation lands, Seven-Mile Creek lands, Eno River and Duke Forest, Eno River Walk in Hillsborough and the Eno River State Park. (A northern branch along the Eno toward the new Hillsborough reservoir could be added to this concept).
- A corridor in southern Orange linking Bolin Creek Greenway via Meadowmont and UNC to the UNC Botanical Garden to Jordan Lake lands.

back to top

## **V. ACQUISITION OF LAND**

### **A. Coordination with County Resource Acquisition Program**



**RECREATION AND PARKS  
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

**THROUGH THE YEAR 2015**

**Recreation and Parks Department  
Town of Carrboro**

**Carrboro, North Carolina**

**1994**

## SECTION 5

### MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### INTRODUCTION

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department currently has the mission to serve the leisure needs of the Town's citizens by offering a variety of recreation programs through a system of attractive and safe public parks. Over the past 22 years the Department has successfully met the challenges of this mission. The Department has created an excellent balance between athletic and general programs to meet the diverse needs of the community. New park sites and facilities have also been developed by the town to support the growing population. A key accomplishment was the passing of the \$1.5 bond referendum in 1978 for the development of Carrboro Community Park and a segment of the bikeway system. As successful as the town has been in the past, its greatest challenge still lies in the future. From 1970 to 1990 the population of Carrboro grew by approximately 7,000. Over the next twenty year period Carrboro will grow by more than 12,000 people. There will be increased demand for quality leisure services and the citizens of Carrboro will expect the town to be the main provider.

In the upcoming years there will be a strong need for additional park sites in Carrboro. Even in its present state there is limited available land for recreational development in Carrboro. More recreation programs will be desired and existing programs will be expected to grow in size. These demands will create a need for additional staff and increased funds for the Recreation and Parks Department to adequately meet its mission.

The Master Plan proposals and recommendations addresses all these future demands in a realistic manner to insure that implementation will be possible. The proposals and recommendations evolved through discussions with the Recreation and Parks Master Plan Management Group. Capital improvement and operation costs for various scenarios were projected and evaluated as to their impact on the town. This section of the master plan presents the final results of this interactive process. The proposal and recommendations begin by defining the roles of the recreational providers in the community. Next specific park and facility proposals are listed, followed by recommendations for program enhancements. Finally, the proposals are prioritized and broken down into 5 year increments.

#### ROLES OF RECREATIONAL PROVIDERS

Meeting all the recreational needs of the community will require a joint effort between the various government agencies and the private sector. No one group can be held solely responsible for providing all the programs and facilities for the community. The

development being proposed on the Horace Williams Tract. A site master plan is required to develop the proposed Pathway Drive Park which should be coordinated with the Bolin Creek Greenway project.

## **Greenways**

The proposed "Morgan Creek Greenway", is envisioned to be approximately three miles of off-street greenway following the banks of Morgan Creek, from Smith Level Road to University Lake. The existing OWASA Facility on University Lake is proposed to be used as a trail head. This will require a formal agreement with OWASA for joint use of this facility. The greenway will have spur connections to the proposed "South Community Park" and "Odum Park". The trail would connect into Chapel Hill's proposed Morgan Creek Greenway and present an opportunity of linking together University Lake with the N.C. Botanical Gardens. Other important nodes along the entire Carrboro/Chapel Hill Morgan Creek Greenway include the Hunt Arboretum, Frank Porter Graham School, proposed Chapel Hill South Community Park, proposed Carrboro Community Center and potentially Culbreth Junior High School.

"Bolin Creek Greenway", a proposed off-street greenway, would stretch approximately seven miles. The proposed greenway would be aligned primarily with Bolin Creek extending from Estes Drive, northward around Hogan Lake, crossing Old NC 86, and connecting into the proposed "Union Grove Church Road Park". A spur extension would provide a link from Bolin Creek, up Jones Creek, to the proposed "North Community Park" off Eubanks Road. Other spur extensions are proposed from Bolin Creek to the proposed "Pathway Drive Park", and the Seawell Elementary School. The trail would connect into the Chapel Hill Bolin Creek Greenway at two locations: Seawell Elementary School and at Estes Drive. Chapel Hill has proposed that their greenway go from Estes Drive, eastward to the existing Community Center just off E. Franklin Street. Other potential important nodes along the Carrboro/Chapel Hill Bolin Creek Greenway would include Hargraves Park, Umstead Park, the Chapel Hill Community Center and the new development that UNC is planning for the Horace William property.

## **FACILITY PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

As previously stated, by the year 2015 the town of Carrboro should contain (3) community parks, (5) neighborhood parks, (6) mini parks and (10) miles of greenways. These park sites and active greenway corridors will allow for expansion of needed recreation facilities. All new facilities will need to comply with federal, state and local building codes. This includes the requirements of the American Disabilities Act which requires access to all public services. In Section 4, "Community Needs Assessment of Recreation and Facilities", specific facility needs were identified in the community involvement process and by using recreation standards. This section summarizes facility improvements that need to be considered in future park development.

### **Adult Baseball**

There is currently only (1) baseball field serving the entire town. The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department currently does not offer an adult baseball league

## **Picnic Shelters and Tables**

Picnic shelters currently exist at Community, Wilson, and Baldwin Parks. The shelters can be reserved with a fee for group use at Community and Wilson Parks. Picnic tables exist at all the public park sites and at Carrboro Elementary School. National and state users surveys have determined that picnicking is consistently one of the top desired outdoor recreation activities. Usually there are never enough picnic shelters and tables within a park system. It is recommended by 2015, that each new community park have at least (2) large group picnic shelters and each neighborhood and mini park have (1) small group picnic shelter. Picnic tables should be clustered around each shelter for both individual and group use.

## **Playground Activities**

There are (3) playground activities at Carrboro Elementary School and (1) each at Community, Wilson, Baldwin and Brewer's Lane Parks. By the year 2015, it is anticipated that a minimum of (7) additional playgrounds will be needed in Carrboro. It is recommended that a new playground activity be located at all the new community, neighborhood, and mini park sites. Playground activities also need to occur at all elementary and middle schools.

## **Hiking/Interpretive Trails**

Currently, there is a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile trail at Community Park and a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile trail at Carrboro Elementary School. Recreation standards indicate that by 2015, (12) miles of hiking trails and (5) miles of interpretive trails will be needed to serve the community. It is recommended that the majority of these trails be incorporated as part of the proposed active Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek Greenways. Bolin Creek Greenway is recommended to be (7) miles in length and Morgan Creek Greenway (3) miles. The remaining (2) miles of trails should be included as part of the new community parks. Interpretive trails should be located along select routes of the greenways, where there are opportunities for environmental interpretation.

The hiking trails should be designed to serve primarily walkers and joggers, and in certain cases bicyclist. The trail surface can be either natural or paved and normally is 10' in width. The Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek Greenways need to be planned in conjunction with the overall Carrboro open space network. Certain sections of this open space network will include "active" greenways such as the proposed Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek Greenways, while other areas will be left totally undeveloped as open space. The public involvement process strongly supported the concept of an active greenway system interconnecting between Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Orange County.

## **Amphitheater**

The Orange County Master Recreation and Parks Plan and this document recommends that an outdoor amphitheater be located at the proposed Chapel Hill District Park on Eubanks Road to serve the southern portion of the county. It is anticipated that this facility would need to be able to serve approximately 2,500 to 5,000 people, and would be owned and operated by Orange County. It is recommended that the Town of

An on-going evaluation process from the staff programmers should help them be able to respond to the following questions:

- What new programs should be provided and why?
- What existing programs should be eliminated and why?
- Who benefits and pays for each of the programs?
- Is the overall recreation program consistent with the mission statement, including the goals and objectives?

A current evaluation of programs by the Recreation and Parks staff includes the following findings:

- There is difficulty/inability to meet programming demands due to a shortage of both outdoor and indoor recreation facilities. Key concerns are with youth baseball during the spring; picnicking during the spring, summer, and fall; and a lack of adequate sized gymnasiums hinders the basketball programs.
- There is a lack of available school space for afternoon programming.
- There is a lack of available indoor facilities, especially weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for daytime programming.
- It is difficult to conduct special events because there is no adequate facility.
- The Carrboro Senior Center is in jeopardy of being closed because the Orange County Department of Aging is considering a relocation.
- Carrboro Elementary School is considering a year round school program which will reduce access of this facility for recreational purposes.
- A relocation of the Carrboro Baptist Church may impact the senior fitness program.
- Special Populations and teens non-sport activities continues to experience low participation rates.

## **PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

The park and facility proposals have been prioritized into four separate time frames for implementation. The prioritization was influenced by the evaluation of existing facilities, the community needs assessment and the financial ability of the town to implement the overall capital improvement plan.

### **Years 1995-2000**

- Provide general on-going renovations to existing facilities at all community, neighborhood, and mini-park sites.
- Along with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School System, provide expanded recreation facilities at Carrboro Elementary School, and new facilities at McDougle School Site.

- Begin acquiring property along Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek Greenway corridors and start developing facilities where possible. Accept all previous offers of dedication and easements along Morgan and Bolin Creek for the greenway system.
- Fully develop the "Morgan Creek Neighborhood Park".
- Acquire property for "Bolin Creek Neighborhood Park" and fully develop.
- Fully develop "Odum Mini-Park".
- Acquire additional property for "Pathway Drive Mini-Park" and fully develop.
- Build the Morgan Creek Community Center.

**Years 2001-2005**

- Continue to provide on-going renovations to existing facilities at all community, neighborhood and mini-park sites, and greenway corridors.
- Along with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School System, provide additional recreation facilities at Carrboro Elementary School.
- Continue acquiring additional property along Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek Greenway corridors and continue developing facilities where possible.
- Acquire property for "North and South Community Parks".
- Acquire property for "Homestead Road" and "Union Grove Church Road Neighborhood Parks".

**Years 2006-2010**

- Continue to provide on-going renovations to existing facilities at all community, neighborhood and mini-park sites, and greenway corridors.
- Along with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School System, provide additional recreation facilities at Carrboro Elementary School.
- Continue acquiring additional property along Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek Greenway corridors and continue developing facilities where possible.
- Fully develop "South Community Park".
- Fully develop "Homestead Road Neighborhood Park".

**Years 2011-2015**

- Continue to provide on-going renovations to existing facilities at all community, neighborhood and mini-park sites, and greenway corridors.

- Along with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School System provide additional recreation facilities at Carrboro Elementary School.
- Continue acquiring additional property along the Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek greenway corridors and continue developing facilities where possible.
- Fully develop "North Community Park".
- Fully develop "Union Grove Church Road Neighborhood Park".
- Build the Union Grove Church Road Neighborhood Center.