



**TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND
RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

March, 2022



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Town of Knightdale Board of Commissioners

Jessica Day — Mayor
Stephen Morgan — Mayor Pro Tempore
Ben McDonald — Councilor
Latatious Morris — Councilor
Mark Swan — Councilor

Town of Knightdale Recreation Advisory Board

Alan Smith — Chair
Christina Brewer
Richard Chen
Kenya Gomez

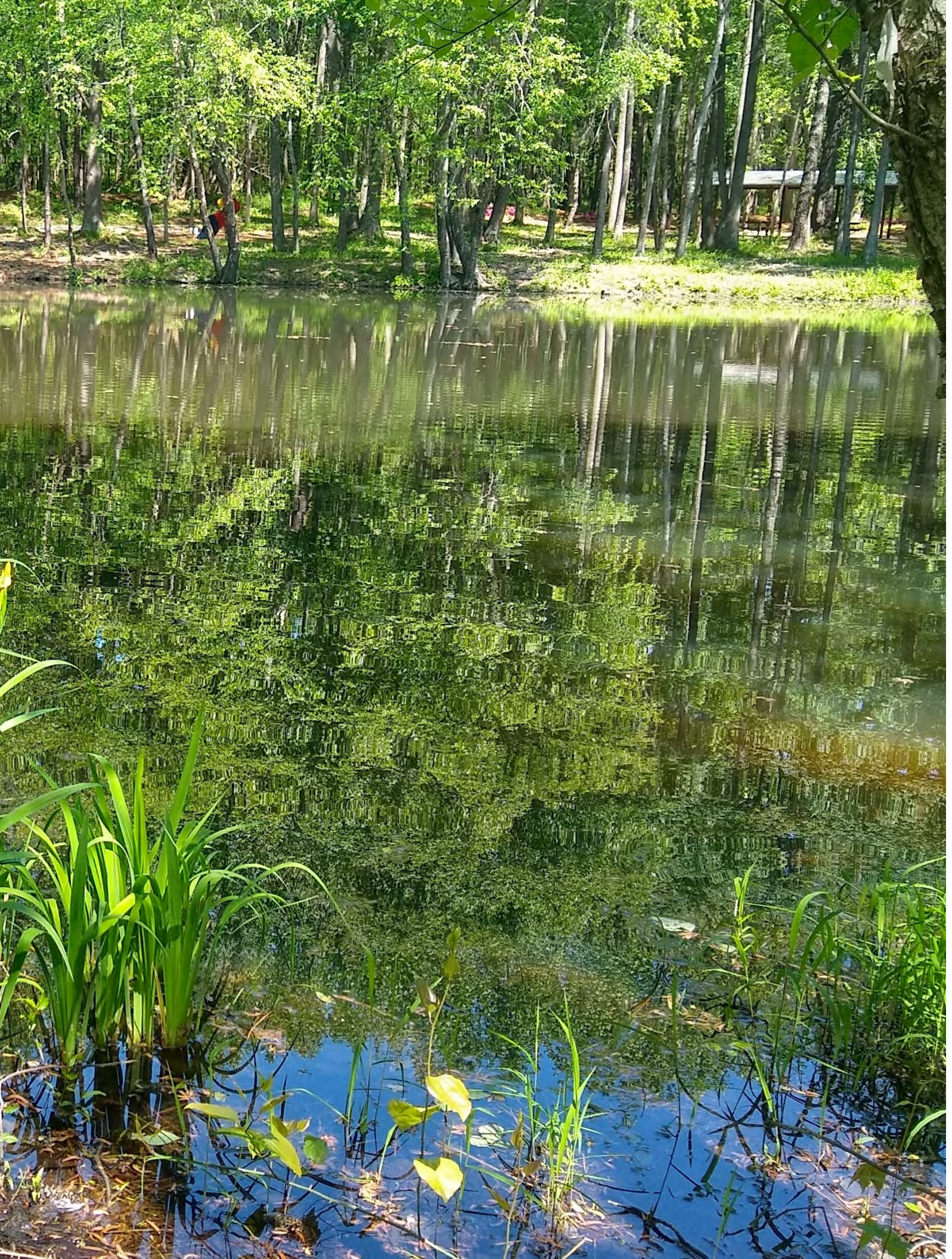
Town of Knightdale Staff

Bill Summers — Town Manager
Dustin Tripp — Assistant Town Manager
Suzanne Yeatts — Assistant Town Manager
Chris Wiley — Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Programs Director
JP Lefever — Assistant Director
Megan Parker — Administrative Assistant
Victor Davis — Athletic Supervisor
Armoni Shipman — Athletic Supervisor
Andrew Wiggins — Recreation Supervisor

Consultant

McGill Associates, PA
1240 19th Street Lane NW
Hickory, NC 28601
828.328.2024





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks and recreation are an integral piece of any community. They provide people with high quality of life standards that include health and wellness benefits, the opportunity for leisure, and the ability to connect with other people and the surrounding natural resources. It is commonly accepted that physical activity through recreation activities and park use improves one's overall mental and physical health. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) states that "the nation's public parks and recreation are leaders in improving the overall health and wellness of the nation. They are essential partners in combating some of the most complicated challenges our country faces – poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Park and recreation agencies effectively improve health outcomes and thus should be supported through national and community level funding and policies that enable them to continue to expand their efforts in making a positive change in the health and wellness of our nation." ("Role of Parks and Recreation on Health and Wellness: Position Statement: National Recreation and Park Association." Role of Parks and Recreation on Health and Wellness | Position Statement | National Recreation and Park Association, <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/role-of-parks-and-recreation-on-health-and-wellness/>.)



Knightdale Station Park, Knightdale

The Town of Knightdale provides public recreation to its citizens as a means of supporting a high quality of life. Studies have shown that quality of life is very important to residents and visitors. Extensive research also demonstrates the positive economic impact of recreation, parks, and tourism on local economies. Lively programs and events also have a major impact on community economic development and a sense of unity within a community. Knightdale has the potential to attract new residents and businesses eager to experience the quality of life the Town provides.



Harper Park, Knightdale

"...THERE IS NOT A SINGLE SET OF STANDARDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION BECAUSE DIFFERENT AGENCIES SERVE DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE UNIQUE NEEDS, DESIRES, AND CHALLENGES."

- 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review

As the Covid-19 pandemic affected the population on a global basis, parks and recreation became a critical outlet for many people. It provided for the necessary physical, mental, and social well being for individuals. This trend has been a positive influence for communities as a whole, however the negative impact on a parks and recreation system is the increased need for maintenance due to high usage. According to the NRPA 2020 National Report, 1 in 5 parks and recreation agencies are reducing operations spending by at least 33% with 66% of agencies facing a median reduction of 10-19%. The Town will need to evaluate their budget and determine what efficiencies may need to be incorporated.

The Town recognizes the importance of *planning* as a means of improving recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors. As a result, The Town of Knightdale hired McGill Associates, PA (McGill) to assist with the creation of a ten year comprehensive recreation master plan.

The Town of Knightdale's Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan 2021-2031 provides the framework for guiding the Town's board and staff. The framework for this master plan is based upon conducting an inventory of the existing park system, recording site observations, discussing needs from Town staff, and evaluating public comments made through community input. In addition, state and national standards were used as a guide to support the recommendations made for the Town recreation facilities. The assessment of existing park facilities will identify the immediate needs in the community and predict future needs.

Another purpose of the master plan is to analyze and recommend the addition or renovation of parks, programs, and recreational facilities. It also prioritizes certain projects, such as recommended park upgrades or possible expansion, by taking into consideration the identification of user population and the development of recreation standards. The master plan is action oriented and will provide Knightdale with a practical guide for the enhancement of its facilities and programs for the next ten years. It is intended to maintain the type of location that fosters community spirit, activism, and bonding between local citizens.

The Town of Knightdale's Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan is divided into five sections. A brief summary of the findings provides the Town with a snapshot of what the future of parks and recreation in Knightdale can be.

Section 1 gives a brief synopsis of the local history, provides insight into the community, looks at the people that make up The Town of Knightdale, and addresses population trends and projections.

Section 2 provides a detailed inventory of the recreational facilities in The Town of Knightdale provided by both public and private entities.

Section 3 looks at the needs of the Town through public input gathered by the community, state, and national guidelines for recreation as well as the evaluation of the facilities, programs, and staff.

Section 4 provides goals and recommendations to improve upon the current parks and recreational offerings within The Town of Knightdale.

Section 5 provides the Town with actionable items to implement improvements as well as offer insight into funding opportunities.

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

The Town of Knightdale currently owns, operates, and maintains six parks, a recreation center, a swimming pool, and a three-and-a-half-mile greenway. Each of these facilities provides both active and passive recreational opportunities for residents who live in the Town as well as tourists who come to experience all that the Town of Knightdale has to offer.



KNIGHTDALE STATION PARK

Knightdale Station Park is the flagship park for the Town. This 71-acre site is located along the eastern edge of Town is a hub of energy. Along with the active and passive recreation amenities, this park provides cultural activities, such as concerts and shows at the amphitheater, and is adjacent to neighborhood businesses and restaurants.



HARPER PARK

Harper Park is a four-acre neighborhood park that is honoring Eugene Harper, Knightdale's longest serving mayor. This beautiful park provides active recreation with tennis and pickleball as well as passive recreation with open lawns. The park is a great addition to the surrounding neighborhoods.



KNIGHTDALE COMMUNITY PARK

Knightdale Community Park is a hub of active recreation. Located adjacent to Knightdale High School, the four baseball fields are used both for community leagues and the High School league. Visitors also have access to active recreation facilities at the school during out of school hours.



MINGO CREEK PARK

Mingo Creek Park is a small neighborhood park that provides active recreation for the local community. Located in central Knightdale, this park is at the beginning of the popular Mingo Creek Trail.



KNIGHTDALE ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

This small environmental park is a natural jewel that is located adjacent to Town Hall and East Wake Regional Library. This passive park is a beautiful space for visitors to observe nature and as a preserve in the middle of Town for local flora and fauna.



WAKE STONE ATHLETIC PARK

This athletic park is operated in partnership with NCFC Youth to provide active recreation and team sports to the community. The Town owns the land while NCFC Youth organizes programming and maintains the fields.



KNIGHTDALE RECREATION CENTER

Knightdale provides a recreation center with rentable space for classes and events and indoor recreation opportunities. The rec center is adjacent to Forestville Elementary School. This provides teachers and students at the school the opportunity to utilize the space for a variety of extracurricular activities. This facility is a valuable amenity for the community.



MINGO CREEK TRAIL

Mingo Creek Trail is a fantastic amenity to the community. This three-and-a-half-mile trail provides visitors the opportunity to explore, boost health and wellness, and is an alternative transportation facility. Mingo Creek Trail also connects to the Neuse River Trail, a 27.5-mile paved greenway maintained by the City of Raleigh.



KNIGHTDALE COMMUNITY POOL

This special facility is an excellent opportunity for residents and visitors alike to find respite from North Carolina summers. A swimming pool is a great community asset that can be enjoyed for multiple occasions.



KNIGHTDALE

*parks, recreation
& cultural programs*

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

The people that make up a community plays an integral role in how to plan and prepare for the future of a sustainable parks and recreation system. A study of the demographic profile of Town residents is a key factor in making specific and accurate recommendations. The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM) showed that the Town's overall population in 2020 is 19,435 with the average age of residents within the Town being 32 years old.

As well as demographics, understanding population trends and projections is an integral part of proposals. NC OSBM projects that by the year 2030 1 in 5 North Carolinians will be 65 years old or older. NC OSBM also projects that the Town will have a population increase of around 18.4% by the year 2031.



PUBLIC INPUT

In preparing the recreation master plan, the Town appointed a steering committee who guided McGill's team in the development of the public survey and plan goals and recommendations. A key objective in the development of the master plan was the solicitation of community input, thereby identifying additional needs for Town residents and visitors, such as renovation, construction, property acquisition, development, and operational policies, for both now and in the future. Community input, along with the comparison to state and national standards, are the initial steps in the master plan process.

In addition to a public survey, there were two public meetings that provided important knowledge that aided in the process towards making recommendations for the Town of Knightdale's Parks Recreation and Cultural Department.

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The master plan emphasizes practical and more desirable improvements to the existing recreation system including parks and recreational facilities. It is not designed to be exclusive but rather to enhance recreational opportunities in the community.

The master plan focuses on providing the Town of Knightdale with an accurate, usable guide for decision making as the Town begins to implement projects, such as:

- Renovating existing facilities currently owned by the Town of Knightdale
- Exploring the possibilities for developing new facilities within the Town of Knightdale
- Developing facilities and programming for future greenways that will promote walking and cycling
- Updating policy and ordinances to meet community needs and desires

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Town can leverage its many natural, historic, and recreational resources, as well as develop its visitor tourism by improving public spaces, park facilities, programming, and events. Developers and community leaders recognize the importance of greenways and trails, open spaces, water-based recreation amenities, athletic facilities, and cultural programs. Recommendations provided in the comprehensive master plan provide achievable actions that support Knightdale’s goals and ability to serve its residents.



Gateway to Knightdale Environmental Park from Knightdale Town Hall

VISION

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Department enhances the quality of life for citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County by providing an experienced staff to plan, implement, and manage a wide variety of passive, active, and cultural opportunities. The Department strives to provide a system of parks, greenways, recreational facilities, and open space areas which will ensure quality recreation opportunities for present and future citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County.”

GOALS

Exploring possibilities for developing new amenities, developing facilities and programs for future parks and greenways, renovating existing Town-owned facilities, seek funding opportunities, and partnerships.

PROCESS

DISCOVERY + DATA COLLECTION

Understanding the community requires looking at current demographics as well inventorying Town owned recreation facilities and programs.. Inventory and analysis of this information is used to improve the current parks and recreation system. Who the Town is serving correlates directly to what improvements may be appropriate.

ASSESSMENT

The future of Knightdale’s parks and recreation is determined by listening and understanding to what has worked in the past and what can be improved upon. After discovering who the community is and what facilities and programs exist, the needs of Town residents and staff are considered. Through analysis of open conversations with residents, public survey input, staff input, and looking at typical standards, a picture of how to move forward with improvements and future expansion of Town recreation facilities and services develops.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Resident and staff input identified through the discovery phase and needs assessment are evaluated and analyzed to identify actions that will benefit the Town in the future. Recommendations for improvements are made based on community needs and desires as well as departmental and consulting team experience. These recommendations are presented and prioritized based on immediate needs (0–5 years), short-term needs (5–10 years), and long-term future needs (10 years and beyond).

PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS + ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN + STAFF COMMITMENT



Knightdale Environmental Park, Knightdale

GETTING TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY







Historical elements add a unique character to a community

GETTING TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY

Located in eastern Wake County, Knightdale is ideally situated in close proximity to North Carolina's state capital of Raleigh providing access to a large urban fabric, yet far enough away to have a small town feel that lends itself to people having the desire to call it home. Connecting Knightdale to the region are Interstate 87, Interstate 540, and US Business Highway 64.

As reflected in the 2020 NC OSBM report, Knightdale has a population of 19,435 permanent residents. Due to its proximity to Raleigh and Research Triangle Park, Knightdale is a rapidly growing community. Knightdale boasts the slogan "start something" and with the sustained growth, opportunities for economic development, and recreational prospects Knightdale is truly a place to "start something."

TOWN HISTORY

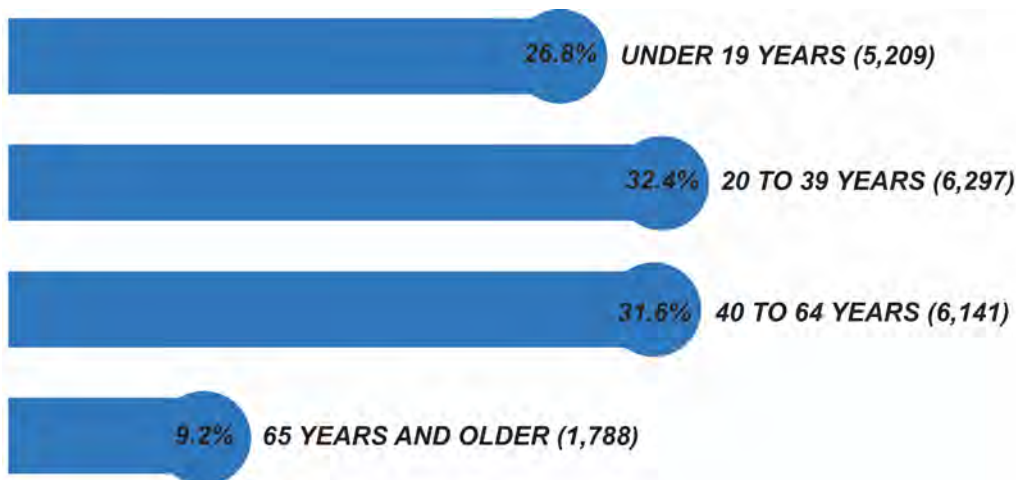
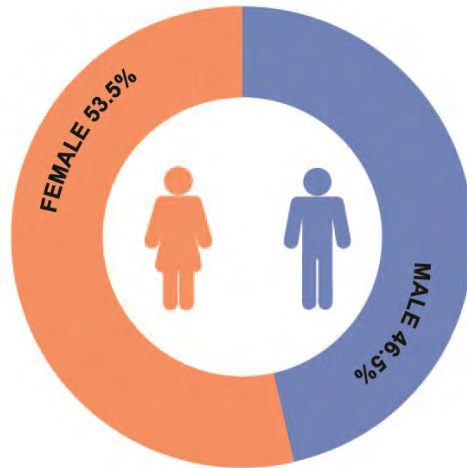
Knightdale was first explored in the early 1700's after John Lawson set out to explore the interior of Carolina. Lawson's 1,000-mile trek led him through this area where he met and made peace with Tuscarora Indians along the banks of the Neuse River.

After Lawson's expedition, a man named John Hinton became the first person to settle in the area. As time continued to move on more people settled in the area that eventually led to the creation of Johnston County in the 1750s and eventually Wake County in 1771. Hinton became a local leader and was tasked with creating a militia that fought in the American Revolution.

After the era of war, farming became a standard in the area, with tobacco and cotton being the dominant crop. Near the end of the 19th century Henry Haywood Knight donated land in the hopes to attract the railroad that would expand growth and industry for the area. Knightdale is named after Henry Knight and shortly after his death the Town was incorporated in 1927. With the railroad now in town the community continued to grow, attracting business and industry. Knightdale continues to be a thriving community that many people call home.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information for the Town of Knightdale has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community. It also serves as a tool to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning age and gender are important factors in determining the needs for recreation in the community. The general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Knightdale is obtained by the 2020 NC OSBM.



<i>RACE</i>	<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>PERCENT</i>
White	7,524	38.7%
Black or African American	8,247	42.4%
Hispanic	2,877	14.8%
Asian	654	3.4%
Other	133	.007%
Total:	19,435	100%

Demographics from 2020 NC OSBM

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

According to the North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2020-2025, senior citizens comprise the fastest growing age group. The senior population is expected to have significant impacts throughout society because of income levels, population, and unique needs. NC OSBM projects that by the year 2030 1 in 5 North Carolinians will be 65 years old or older.



This growing segment of our society is a significant user of recreational programming and facilities. The parks, recreation, and cultural programs will have to increase the number and type of activities and facilities to effectively serve this population, both now, and in the future. To meet the demands of residents and visitors, the Town's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Programs will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities, as well as offer more types of recreational programs as the population changes.

Another segment of Knightdale's growing population to consider is the rise in young families. With the Triangle being a rapidly growing area due to the high job market, relatively low housing market, and plethora of activities, Knightdale is a popular community for families with young children. This segment of the population uses parks and recreational facilities on a regular basis for social gatherings, organized sporting events, and daily outdoor activities. The Town will need to ensure that their offerings meet the needs of this growing population.



By the year 2030, 1 in 5 people in North Carolina will be seniors.

Population projections can vary widely due to intervening factors such as the strength of the economy, availability of jobs, and housing prices. Population projections identify potential challenges and needs that may confront the community in the future. Wake County has seen sustained growth for the past 30 years or more. Knightdale has seen the same growth and this trend will likely continue as Wake County and the communities within continue to be rated as some of the top places to live throughout the Nation. With the Town of Knightdale being so close to large urban hubs within the Triangle it has become an increasingly popular place for families to call home. Recent large-scale residential development has accelerated the growth in Town. Home values, compared to other large urban areas across the United States, are relatively low and the multiple work opportunities within close proximity make Knightdale an ideal location. The Town is well connected with multiple interstates and state highways and provides easy access to Research Triangle Park and the Triangle. These facts support continued growth expectations

County population projections are provided by NC OSBM; however, municipal population projections are not, thus requiring a third-party estimate of the projection. The State Demographer's population growth estimate for Wake County indicates population increase will mostly occur from migration into the county, while natural growth from births will have a minor change in the county's population growth. It is also assumed that this trend of a majority in migration growth and minority in natural population growth will be the same for Knightdale.

According to the NC OSBM, in 2020 the permanent population of Wake County was projected to be 1,102,782 people, whereas in 2030, the permanent population is expected to be 1,305,154 people. This is an increase of about 202,372 people or 18.4%. If the same percentage increase were applied to the 2020 NC OSBM report population of 19,435 for Knightdale the estimated increase for 2030 would be 23,011.



Inviting outdoor spaces play an integral role to the growth in Knightdale

PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY





PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

Recreation is a necessary part of any community to provide places to play, opportunities to improve health and wellness, and conserve and protect natural resources. This section will look at the typical parks and recreation facilities that can be offered to a community. An inventory of all the facilities offered to the Town is also provided to fully understand the recreational opportunities that Knightdale has access to. These recreational facilities are derived from many different sources, including the following:

- Town-owned parks and other recreational facilities
- Publicly owned facilities (national, state, county, and local municipalities)
- Schools
- Privately owned facilities

A brief analysis of Knightdale’s recreation facilities was performed noting any visible improvements needed for that facility. This method of study served as a guide for Knightdale in its efforts to develop a plan for present and future needs.



Pickleball courts at Harper Park, Knightdale

TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

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

REGIONAL PARKS

DISTRICT PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS

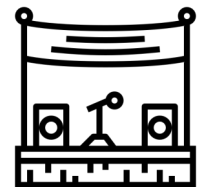
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

MINI PARKS

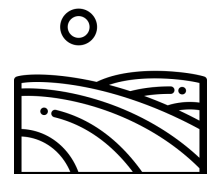
LINEAR PARKS / GREENWAYS



SPECIAL USE FACILITIES



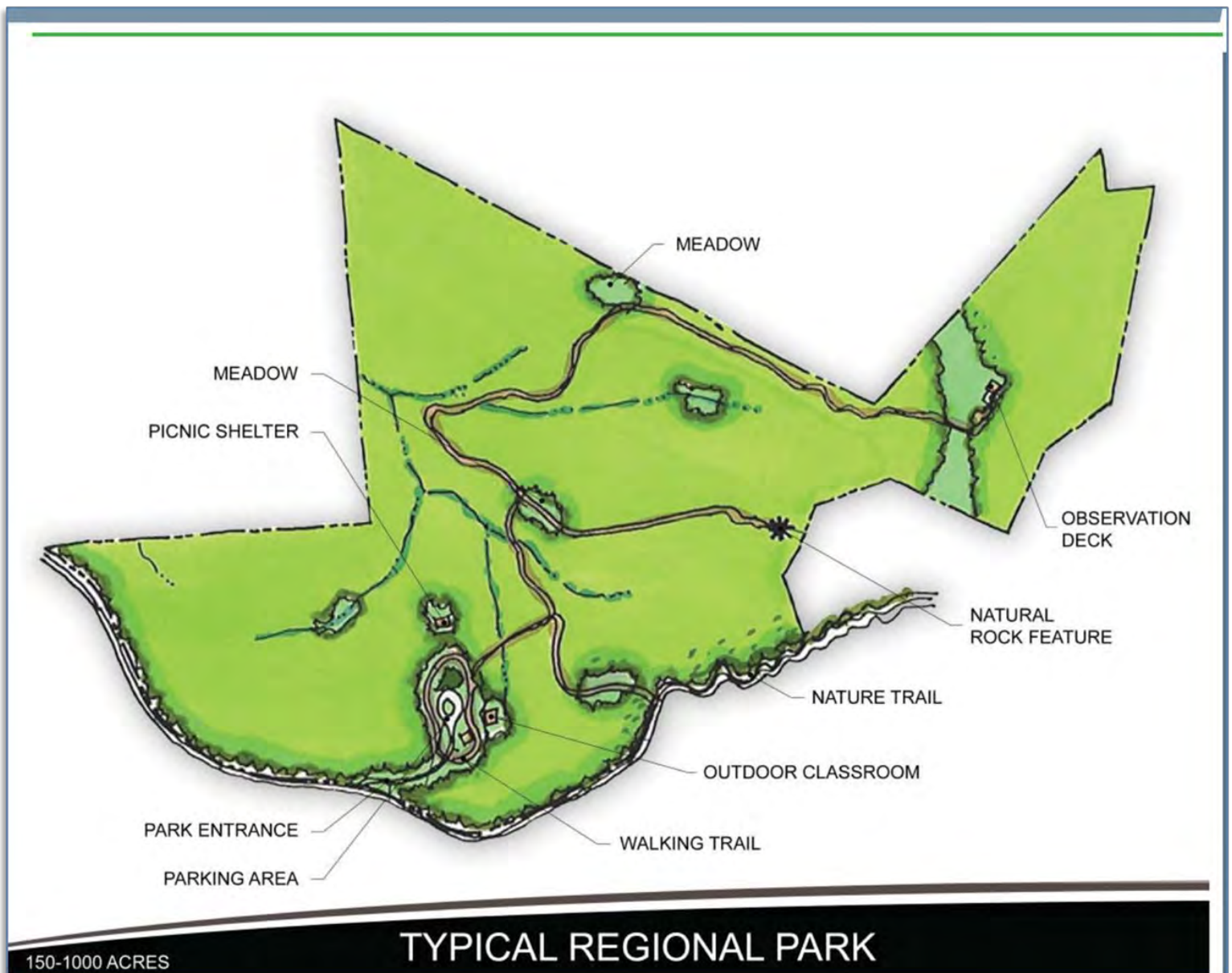
OPEN SPACE



Regional Parks

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

When land is acquired for the development of regional parks (or the expansion of existing sites), the land should be comprised of the previously mentioned characteristics and, whenever it is possible, accompanied by natural water features, such as lakes, rivers, or creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage used for active recreation. Both the acquisition and the development of regional parks are typically undertaken by a federal or state agency.



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

Service Area:

10 acres per 1,000 persons

Acreage / Population Ratio: _____

Region wide

Minimum Size:

150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in community parks.)

Typical Facilities:

Environmental center

Equestrian center

Group camping

Nature trails

Picnic shelters and grills

Boating

Parking

Fishing piers/boat docks

Caretaker's house

Primitive camping

Recreational vehicle camping

Observation deck

Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)

Swimming

Restrooms/vending

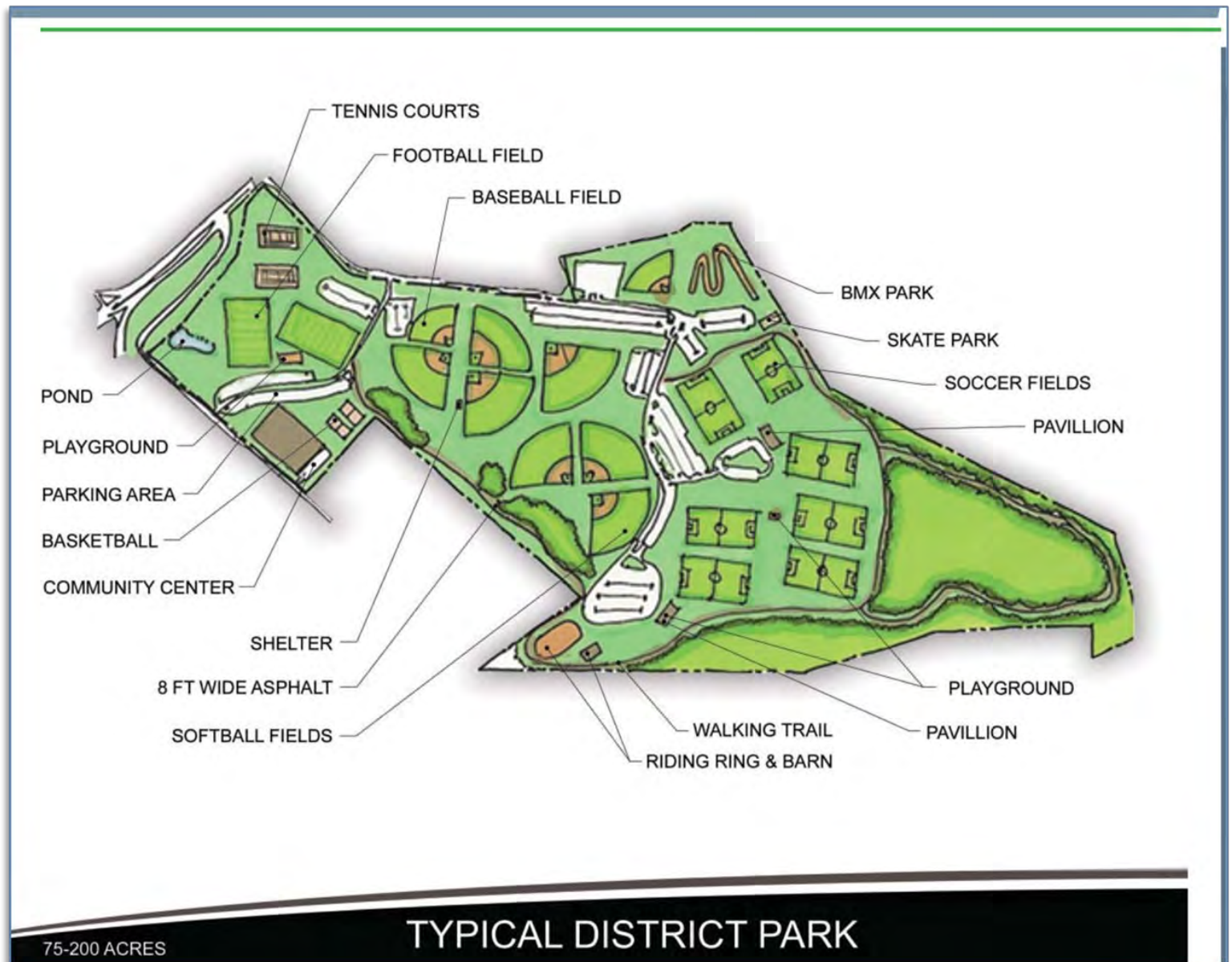


Falls Lake State Recreation Area, located near Knightdale, is a regional park that provides recreational opportunities to citizens within the Town and draws tourists to the area that benefit the local region economically. Falls Lake is also is a natural jewel within Wake County that protects the natural environment and is a protected area for wildlife.

District Parks

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

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



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

Service Area:

1 to 2 ½ mile radius

Acreage/Population Ratio:

5 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Range:

75-200 acres

Desirable Size:

+100 acres

Typical Facilities:

- Playgrounds
- Volleyball courts
- Soccer/football field
- Nature trail
- Restrooms/concessions
- Parking/service yard
- Tennis courts (lighted)

- Full or half size basketball courts
- Baseball/softball/multipurpose field
- Soccer practice field (movable goals)
- Picnic tables with grill (with/without shelter)
- Benches or bench swings
- 50% of site remains undeveloped

***Alternate Facilities:**

- Tennis center
- Observation decks
- Recreation center
- * Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.

- Amphitheatre
- Fishing piers/boating/boat dock

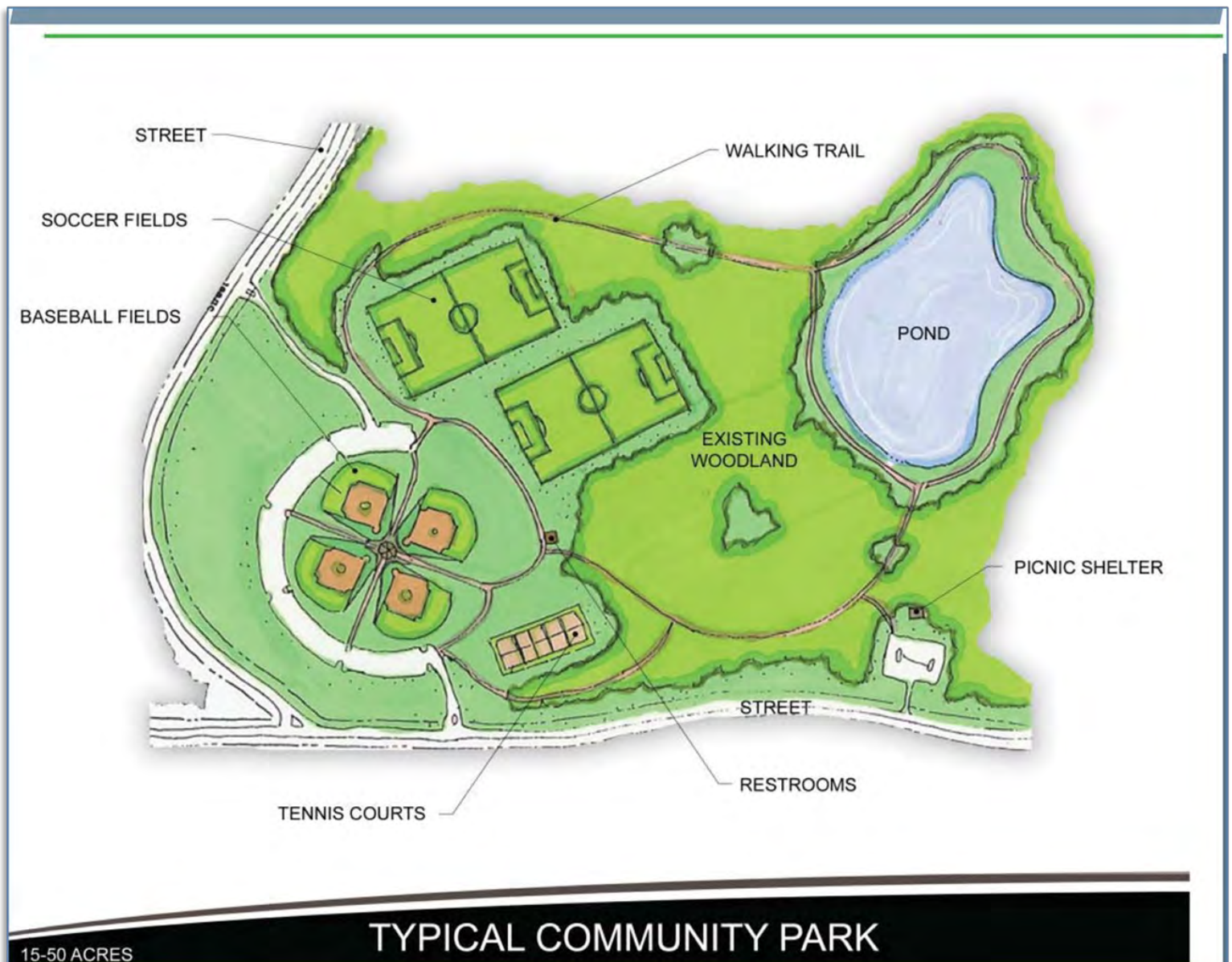


Knightdale Station Park is the Town’s flagship district park. This park offers the community access to nature, recreation, and entertainment. It is also adjacent to the local YMCA and shares athletic fields, offering passive and active recreational opportunities.

Community Parks

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

Community park sites should have varying topography and vegetation. A number of different tree species should also be present in forested areas. Community parks should contain cleared areas for the purpose of locating active recreational facilities. At least one natural water feature (lake, river, or creek) is desirable in community parks. The land acquired for use as a community park should be contiguous in nature and strategically located in order to serve all users within the designated community. The development of community parks typically falls within the realm of municipal responsibilities.



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

Service Area:

1 to 2-mile radius

Acreage/Population Ratio:

2-5 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Range:

15-50 acres

Desirable Size:

25 acres

Typical Facilities:

Playgrounds
Swimming pool
Nature trails
Restrooms/concessions
Baseball/softball fields
Parking

Full size or half size basketball courts
Tennis/volleyball courts
50% of site to remain undeveloped
Soccer/multipurpose fields
Benches or bench swings
Picnic tables/shelter with/without grills

***Alternate Facilities:**

Recreation center
Disc golf
Observation decks
* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.

Natural water features
Amphitheatre



The Town of Knightdale, in conjunction with Knightdale High School, provides active recreation at Knightdale Community Park.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient source of recreation while serving as the social focus point of neighborhoods. Usually located within walking distance of the area serviced, neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that are of interest to all age groups. The smaller size of neighborhood parks, as compared to those previously mentioned, requires intense development with fifty percent of each site remaining undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent property owners.



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

Service area:

¾ to 1-mile radius to serve walking

Acreage/Population Ratio:

2 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Size:

7-15 acres

Typical Facilities:

softball or baseball field
Half basketball courts
Picnic shelter with grill
Benches or bench swings

Multipurpose field
50% of site to remain undeveloped
Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
Playground

***Alternate Facilities:**

Nature trails

Tennis courts

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



Harper Park, located in the southeastern part of Knightdale, is an example of a neighborhood park that offers a variety of recreational facilities for visitors to the park. It is within close walking distance to multiple neighborhoods, shopping, and Knightdale Elementary School.

Mini Parks

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



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

Service Area:

¼ to ½ mile radius to serve walking

Acreage/Population Ratio:

0.5 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Size:

±1 acre

Typical Facilities:

- Half basketball courts
- Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
- Benches or bench swings
- Open play area playground

***Alternate Facilities:**

- Nature trails
- Tennis courts

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



Mini Parks maximize space and provide access to recreation near popular destinations. There are multiple opportunities for community building through programs and amenities. They tend to be near downtown districts.

Linear Parks/Greenways

A linear park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, and driving. Linear parks are developed for several reasons:

- To connect existing recreational facilities
- To facilitate public rights-of-way
- To connect destination points
- For scenic views and leisure touring

The length and size of linear parks vary considerably, depending on their intended use, terrain of the park land and the distance between entities to be connected—such as parks, schools, cultural/historical resources, residential areas, businesses. Often, these linear parks are developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with recreation opportunities as a secondary objective.



Unique or Special-Use Facilities

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



Open Space

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

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

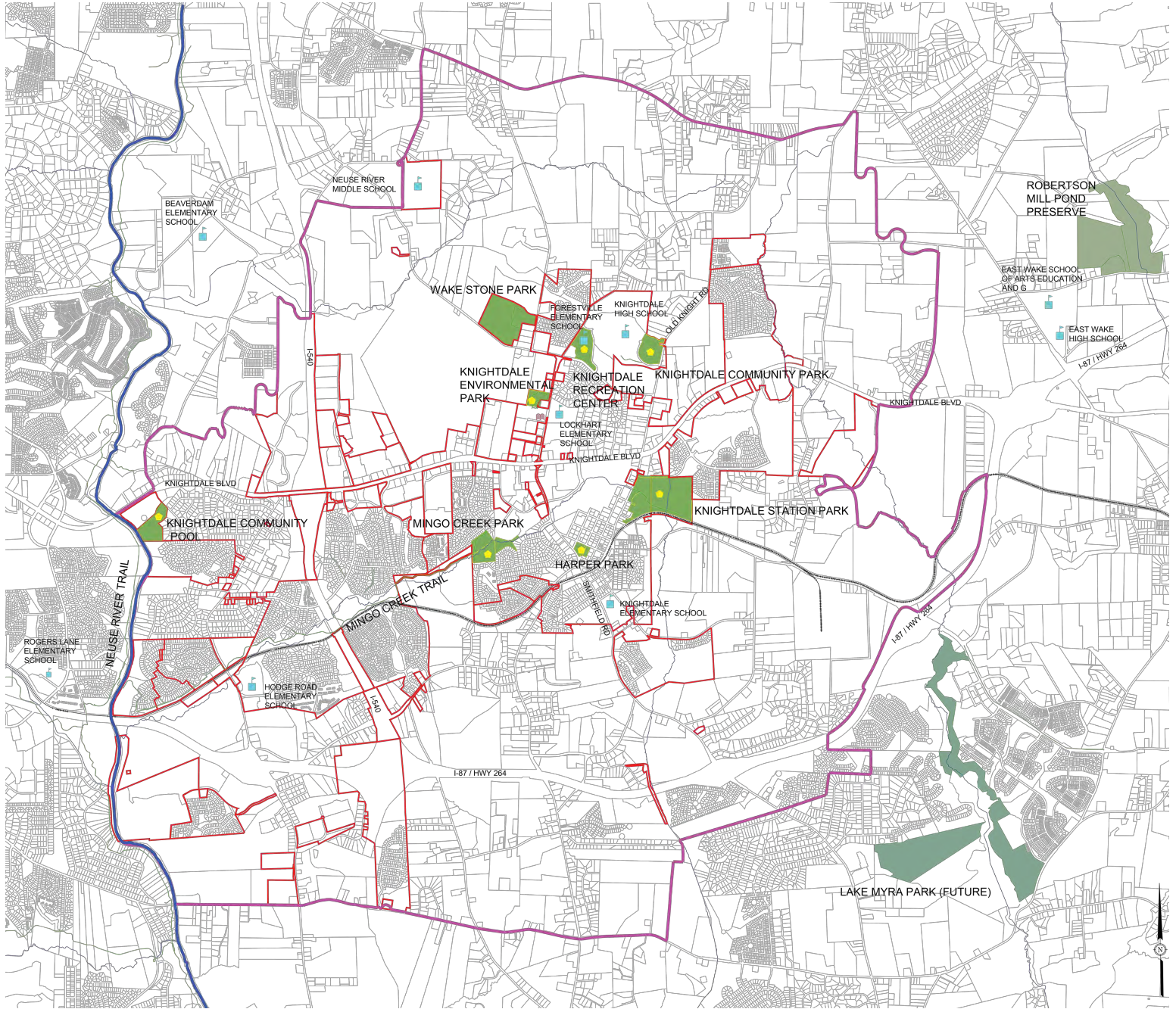
- Preservation of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
- Protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)
- Protection of communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
- Protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
- Protection of approach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

While these areas are some of the more common open spaces, many others exist. Knightdale has access to two State parks that provide visitors access to open space. Umstead State Park and Falls Lake State Recreation Area offers trails and water access in large open woodlands with lakes, ponds, and streams.



Umstead State Park provides open space that protects the natural environment in Wake County

KNIGHTDALE RECREATION FACILITY OFFERINGS



LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Municipal Planning Boundary
- Water Body/Creek
- Existing Knightdale Park
- Existing Public School
- Existing Greenway
- Existing Wake County Park

Map 2.1 Knightdale existing conditions (See Appendix A for 11"x17")



Providing outdoor spaces will increase the quality of life for the residents in the Town of Knightdale

KNIGHTDALE STATION PARK

Description:

Knightdale Station Park is the flagship park for the Town. This 71-acre site is located along the eastern edge of Town and is a hub of energy. Along with the active and passive recreation amenities, this park provides cultural activities such as concerts and shows at the amphitheater, and is adjacent to neighborhood businesses and restaurants.

Amenities include:

- (3) Ponds
- Themed playground
- Multipurpose trails
- Veterans memorial
- Amphitheater
- Large picnic pavilion
- Grilling stations
- Restroom facilities
- Environmental station
- Nature observation
- Open lawn space
- Dog park
- Splash pad
- Farmer's market
- Small picnic shelter
- (3) Soccer fields
- Misting stations

Challenges and problems:

- In need of distance demarcation along walking path
- Lack of shaded seating at playground and amphitheater
- Limited seating at splash pad
- Security concerns



HARPER PARK

Description:

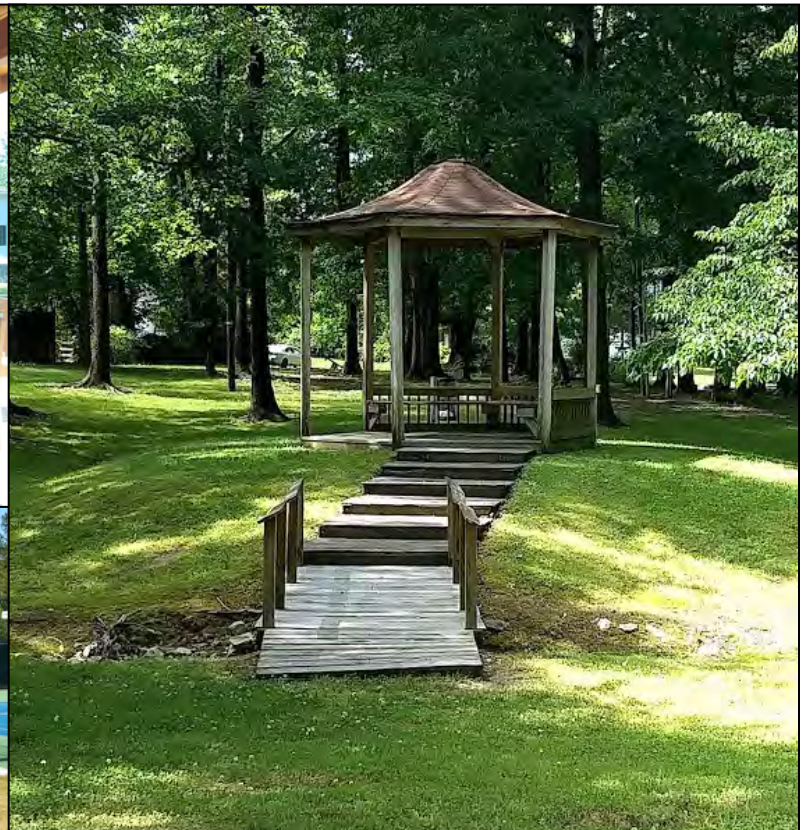
Harper Park is a four-acre neighborhood park that is honoring Eugene Harper, Knightdale’s longest serving mayor. This beautiful park provides active recreation with tennis and pickleball as well as passive recreation with open lawns. The park is a great addition to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Amenities include:

- (4) Tennis courts
- Open lawn
- Picnic areas
- Gazebo
- (2) Pickleball courts
- Picnic shelter
- Concessions
- Restroom facilities

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of ADA access to gazebo
- Lack of playground
- Lack of walking trails



KNIGHTDALE COMMUNITY PARK

Description:

Knightdale Community Park is a hub of active recreation. Located adjacent to Knightdale High School, the 4 baseball fields are used both for community leagues and the High School league. Visitors also have access to access to active recreation facilities at the school during out of school hours.

Amenities include:

- (2) Lighted adult baseball/softball fields
- Concession stand
- (6) Tennis courts (limited hours)
- (2) Lighted youth baseball fields
- Children's play area
- (2) Basketball courts (limited hours)

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of community awareness
- Lack of shade for bleachers
- Lack of walking paths
- Outdated playground
- Confusion with name of park and Knightdale Station Park



MINGO CREEK PARK

Description:

Mingo Creek Park is a small neighborhood park that provides active recreation for the local community. Located in central Knightdale, this park is at the beginning of the popular Mingo Creek Trail.

Amenities include:

- (2) Half-court basketball courts
- Open lawn space
- Bicycle repair tools
- Playground
- Greenway access

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of shade
- Lack of restroom facilities
- Lack of drinking water
- Security concerns
- Lack of entry signage
- Lack of community awareness



KNIGHTDALE ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

Description:

This small environmental park is a natural jewel that is located adjacent to Town Hall and East Wake Regional Library. This passive park is a beautiful space for visitors to observe nature and as a preserve in the middle of Town for local flora and fauna.

Amenities include:

- (2) Picnic shelters
- Natural surface walking trails
- Bench seating
- Nature observation
- Grilling stations
- Boardwalk
- Pond
- Local art

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of community awareness
- Limited seating options
- Lack of entry signage to the park proper in the shared use parking lot
- Lack of educational signage



WAKE STONE ATHLETIC PARK

Description:

This athletic park is operated in partnership with NCFC Youth to provide active recreation and team sports to the community. The Town owns the land while NCFC Youth organizes programming and maintains the fields.

Amenities include:

- (4) Multipurpose soccer fields

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of shade
- Lack of restroom facilities
- Limited amenities



KNIGHTDALE RECREATION CENTER

Description:

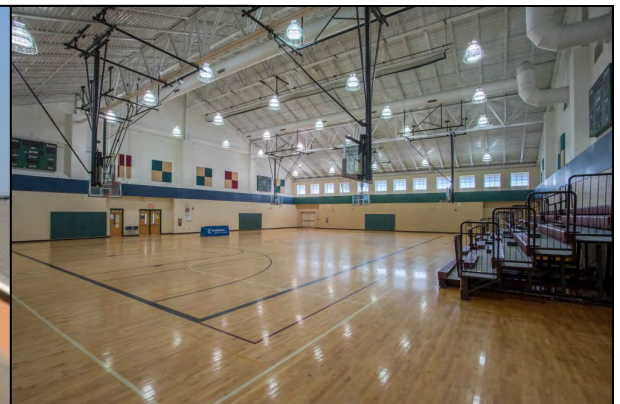
Knightdale provides a recreation center with rentable space for classes and events and indoor recreation opportunities. The rec center is adjacent to Forestville Elementary School. This provides teachers and students at the school the opportunity to utilize the space for a variety of extracurricular activities. This facility is a valuable amenity for the community.

Amenities include:

- Indoor basketball court
- (3) Rentable rooms
- Multi purpose field
- Kitchen space

Challenges and problems:

- Limited access due to partnership with adjacent elementary school
- Possible maintenance considerations
- Meeting rooms do not meet all the needs of the community



MINGO CREEK TRAIL

Description:

Mingo Creek Trail is a fantastic amenity to the community. This 3.5-mile trail provides visitors the opportunity to explore, provides health and wellness, and is an alternative transportation facility. Mingo Creek Trail also connects to the Neuse River Trail, a 27.5-mile paved greenway maintained by the City of Raleigh.

Amenities include:

- 3 1/2-Mile greenway
- Boardwalks
- Bicycle repair tools
- Nature observation
- Transportation

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of major waypoints
- Lack of connection to Knightdale recreational facilities
- Maintenance costs of wooden boardwalks and bridges



KNIGHTDALE COMMUNITY POOL

Description:

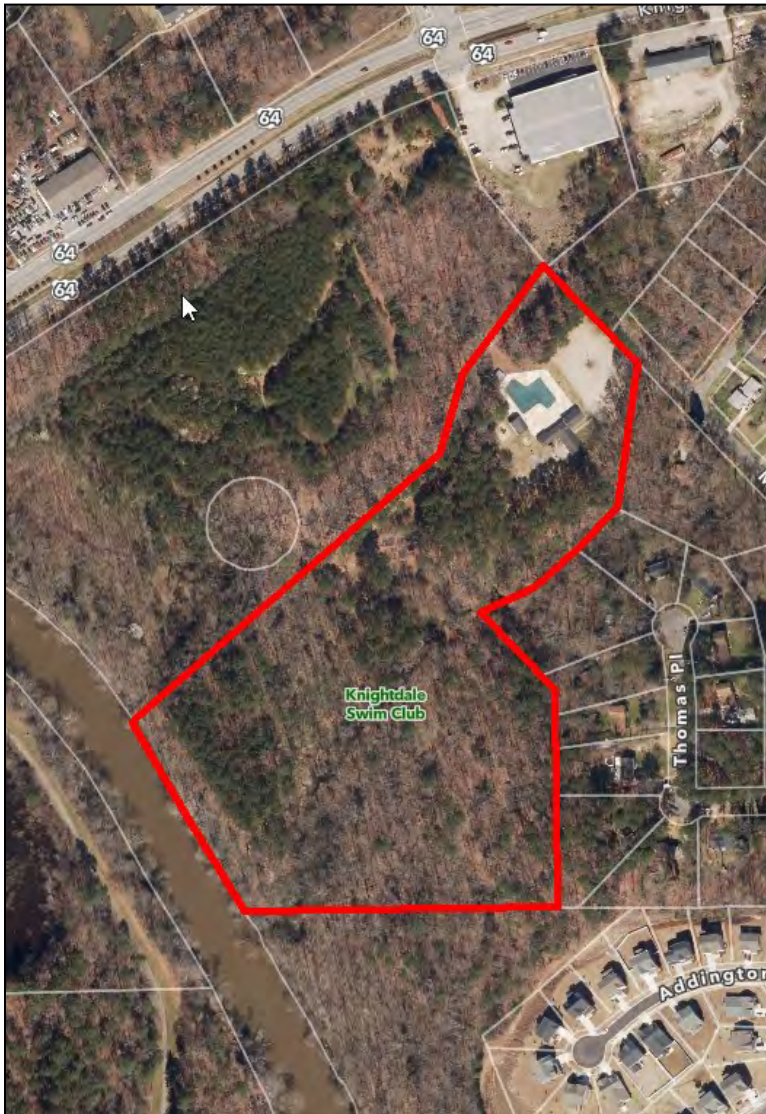
This special facility is an excellent opportunity for residents and visitors alike to find respite from North Carolina summers. A swimming pool is a great community asset that can be enjoyed for multiple occasions.

Amenities include:

- Swimming Pool
- Picnicking
- Half Court Basketball
- Playground
- Concessions

Challenges and problems:

- Outdated facility
- Safety concerns
- Not maximizing usable land





Unique play features at the playground add interest to Knightdale Station Park

KNIGHTDALE RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Recreational programs offered by the Town are an integral part of a parks and recreation system. Programs can be special classes, regular classes, summer camps, and special events that celebrate holidays or important community celebrations. Each of these elements can create a feeling of unity and pride within a community. An inventory of the programs offered by the Town was completed to gain an understanding of the offerings made available to the public.

Athletic Programming

- Youth baseball
- Youth softball
- Youth basketball
- Youth Volleyball Academy
- Youth Tennis Academy
- Adult coed basketball
- Adult coed softball
- Adult tennis
- Virtual athletic drills and resources
- Baseball and softball clinics
- Tennis lessons

Classes, Camps, and Outreach

- Karate classes
- Cheerleading classes
- Adult education by Senior TechEd
- Camp Gladiator workout programs
- Z-Fitness Zumba / line dancing
- Adopt-A-Trail
- Commemorative brick paver program

Special Events

- Christmas tree lighting
- Spring Fling
- Fall on First festival
- Food Truck Thursdays
- 4th on 1st Celebration
- Knightdale Arts and Education festival (K-Fest)
- Saturday in the Park concerts
- Turkey Leg 5K
- Monthly art exhibitions
- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas parade
- Cupid 5K run



PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY OFFERINGS

Public lands located within proximity to Knightdale play an active role in providing recreation opportunities to residents and visitor within the Town. These public spaces are made available through multiple public land managers, such as local municipalities and the State of North Carolina.

Local Municipal and County Parks

East Raleigh

Hill Street Park

- Neighborhood center with rentable space
- Picnic shelter
- Playground

Roberts Park

- Community center with rentable space
- Indoor fitness room
- Indoor gymnasium
- Picnic shelters
- Outdoor basketball court
- Tennis courts
- Baseball field
- Playgrounds

Lions Park

- Community center with rentable space
- Indoor gymnasium
- Indoor fitness room
- Picnic shelter
- Tennis courts
- Outdoor basketball court
- Playground
- BMX course

Milburnie Park

- Neuse River Trail access
- River access
- Canoe/kayak access

Neuse River Trail

- 27.5-mile greenway
- Canoe/kayak access
- Fishing
- Nature observation

Wendell

Wendell Park and Community Center

- Community center with rentable space
- Indoor fitness room
- Indoor gymnasium
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball
- Dog park
- Disc golf
- Horseshoe
- Bocce
- Baseball fields
- Sand volleyball
- Walking trails
- Community garden
- Open space
- Multipurpose fields
- Picnic shelters
- Playground

J. Ashley Wall Town Square

- Performance stage
- Open lawn
- Seating

Wake County Parks

Turnipseed Nature Preserve

- Picnicking
- 3 miles of trails
- Overlooks and nature observation
- Open space
- Fishing
- Agricultural history

Robertson Millpond Preserve

- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Picnicking
- Cultural history

State of North Carolina

The State of North Carolina manages more than 250,000 acres through its State Parks system. This public land is made available to provide recreational opportunities as well as protect and conserve the natural heritage of North Carolina. The North Carolina State Park system manages over 5,000 acres of parkland in Knightdale.



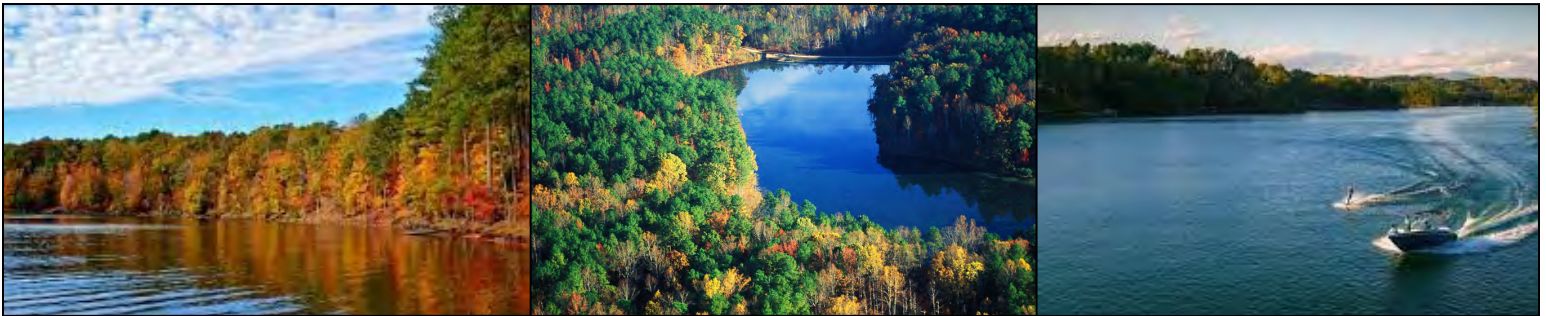
North Carolina State Parks

Falls Lake State Recreation Area

- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Nature Observation
- Boating
- Camping
- Swimming
- Mountain Biking
- Fishing

Umstead State Park

- Hiking
- Group camping
- Nature observation
- Mountain biking
- Bridle trails
- Fishing
- Picnicking
- Canoe / kayaking



Public School System Serving Knightdale

Public school recreation facilities are made available for use by the community. Wake County Public School System operates eight public schools within that serve the Town of Knightdale that have recreation facilities typical of most schools: playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, gymnasiums, etc. This includes three elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and two special learning centers.

The North Carolina Community Schools Act (G.S. 115C Art. 13) was passed to allow “greater community use of public-school facilities.” Since school facilities represent an investment of the citizenry for the education of students and for the general benefit of the community and its citizens, their proper use and enjoyment shall be encouraged and permitted when such does not interfere with school activities.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knightdale High School • Neuse River Middle School • Forestville Elementary School • Lockhart Elementary School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Wake High School • Knightdale Elementary School • Hodge Road Elementary School • Thales Academy Knightdale Pre K–8 |
|--|--|

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITY OFFERINGS

Private recreation providers, non profit organizations, and developers are important components for the Town by providing resources and opportunities for the Town’s recreation system. Private developers can assist Knightdale by the dedication, construction, and/or reservation of future park sites, open space, and/or greenway corridors during the overall development process.

While it is not feasible to provide an exhaustive list of the private recreation facilities throughout the Town of Knightdale it is important to understand the types of recreational facilities that are offered. These facilities can be offered for many reasons; health and wellness, group classes, social gatherings, and children and youth programming. The types of organizations and businesses that provide these opportunities can include private fitness facilities, athletic clubs, neighborhood associations, and local non-profit organizations.

One such facility that serves the community is the YMCA at Knightdale Station. YMCA is a well known organization that provides health and wellness facilities, athletic programs for children and adults, and social opportunities for the community. The YMCA at Knightdale Station also provides members access to an indoor fitness facility, indoor gym, and an outdoor swimming pool with a water slide.



The YMCA at Knightdale Station provides recreation opportunities that promote health and wellness

Another type of special facility offered to the public for recreational purposes are local golf courses. Golf courses provide users an opportunity to be outside, enjoy health benefits, and build comradery amongst visitors. Golf courses also provide an economical boom to the community while preserving land from extensive development. Below is a list of golf courses within close proximity to the Town.

Area Golf Courses

River Ridge Golf Club

3224 Auburn Knightdale Road
Raleigh, NC 27610

Hedingham Golf Club

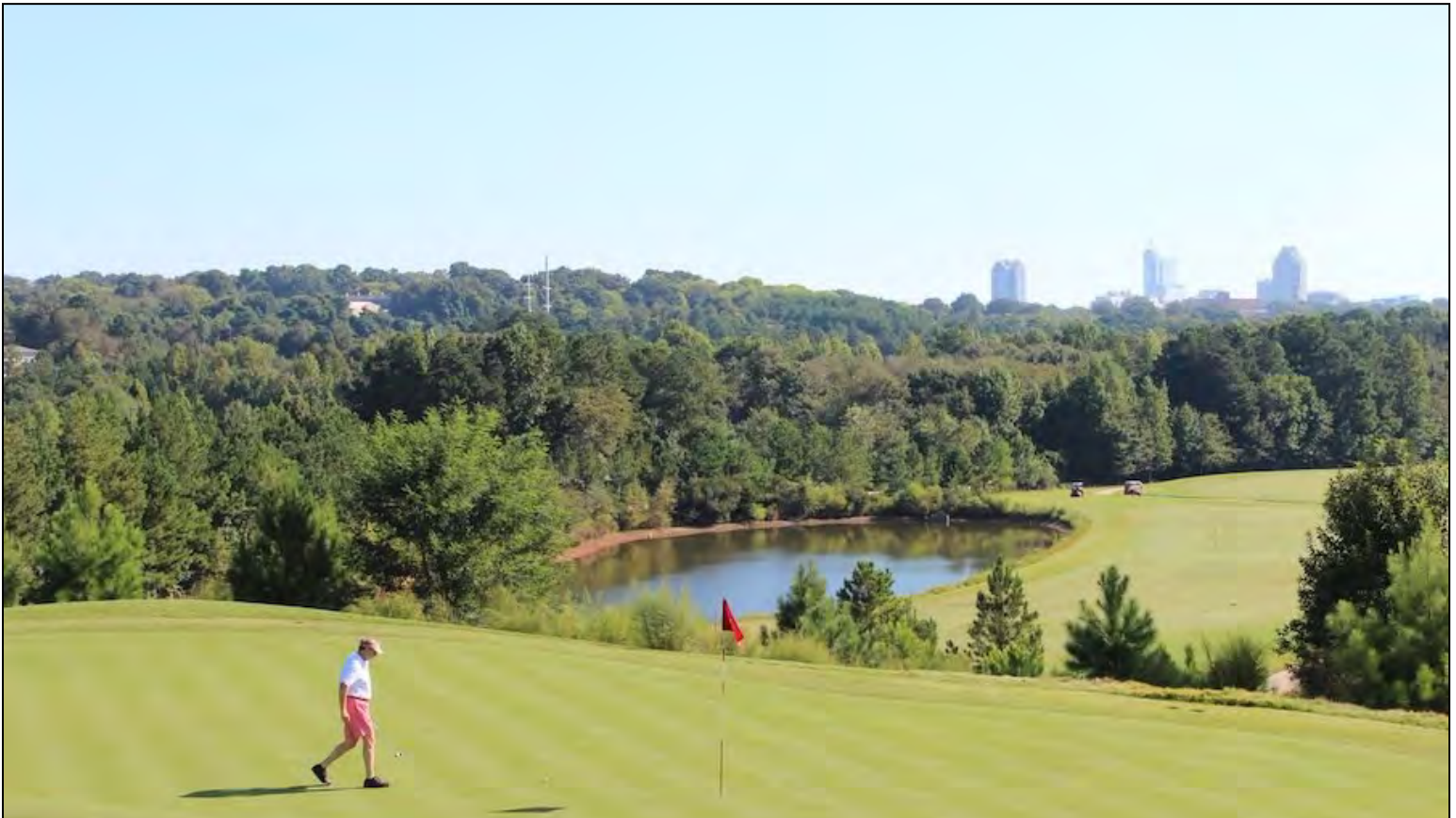
4801 Harbour Towne Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604

Wendell Country Club

180 Jake May Drive
Wendell, NC 27591

Zebulon Country Club

2424 Pearces Road
Zebulon, NC 27597



Golf courses provide an economical boom to a community

PUBLIC INPUT AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT





RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The degree of need for parks, recreation, and open space is most directly influenced by the expectations of Knightdale residents, relating strictly to the quality of life to which they aspire. This comprehensive recreation master plan addresses, as its first priority, the parks and recreation facility needs envisioned by the residents and visitors of Knightdale.

This master plan inventories Knightdale’s existing park facilities as well as listing the recreation facilities available at local schools, local municipalities, and other recreation facilities either within the Town or easily accessible by residents within the Town. This detailed inventory includes the facilities which are available within each park to create a better understanding of the existing recreation opportunities within the Town. The recreational trends also provide information needed to understand the expected growth of Knightdale in the future. This master plan will be used as a guide for improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Community input and recreation standards were used as the primary method in determining the adequate types and number of park facilities needed for Knightdale. This master plan compares standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), an independent, non-profit professional organization for park/recreation departments nationwide.

Standards are guidelines, not requirements, for use by communities in estimating the demand for recreation in their given geographic areas. To assure that the Town of Knightdale’s Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan contains distinctiveness, yet versatility, input was sought from its integral components: The steering committee, Town staff, Town council, and citizen representatives.



Public meetings held on August 11th, 2021 played an integral role in providing community input

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The methodology used in establishing a comprehensive recreation master plan should always include citizen input. In order to ensure a successful study, it is vital that the public users of recreational facilities be able to share their issues, needs, and desires.

To facilitate community input, two public meetings were conducted during the Master Plan process. These workshops were held in accordance with CDC and State recommendations for social distancing required to mitigate COVID-19 spread. Public meetings were drop-in events held on August 11th, 2021. Locations included Knightdale Station Park (10am–4pm) and Oak City Brewing Company (5pm–8pm). This provided the opportunity for a variety of information from many different types of people. Garnering information from multiple generations provides invaluable insight into the needs of the users in different stages of life.

The public meetings, along with the community survey, were advertised by the Town on the Knightdale website, social media pages, and via flyers at park locations. Approximately 59 participants attended the meetings and provided much needed feedback.

The community meetings included a visual preference exercise, as well as open dialog and question/answer opportunities. The meetings encouraged attendees to discuss their experiences with the Knightdale recreation system in an open setting that promoted opportunities to share comments, see amenity examples, and ask questions. This is a crucial step to ensure that all who want to are able to be heard, voice their concerns, and receive clarification.



Input from both the Town and the public were invaluable in guiding the needs and desires for the 2021 Town of Knightdale Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

INPUT WANTED!

**KNIGHTDALE
PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN SURVEY**

WHEN
August 11th, 2021

WHERE
KSP Splash Pad & Playground
11am - 4pm
Oak City Brewing Company
5pm - 8pm

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN KNIGHTDALE?

MORE
Parks
Walking Trails
Playgrounds
Picnic Shelters
Basketball Courts
Tennis Courts
Amphitheatre Events

NEW
Disc Golf Course
Sand Volleyball Courts
Skateboard Park
Community Center
Green Fitness Stations
Teen or Senior Center
Kinder-Age Programs

TAKE THE SURVEY!

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE OR GO TO:
[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/KNIGHTDALERECSURVEY](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KnightdaleRecSurvey)

Public Meetings

Participants engaged in open conversation related to their opinions on the state of the existing recreation system, including facilities and programs as well as their concerns and questions. Written notes were used to record participant comments and opinions. A visual preference survey of various park amenities gave participants the opportunity to place stickers next to the amenities they felt would be good additions to the Town park system. Each participant was limited to three stickers to place on one of 36 typical amenity type images. (See Appendix B for 11"x17")

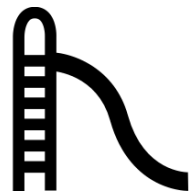
Top Ten Visual Preference Results



Adventure Play
35



Disc Golf
21



Hillside Slide
19



Sensory Garden
17



Basketball Courts
11

Participants were also asked to provide insight into where potential new recreation facilities might be located. This exercise gave everyone an opportunity to share their opinions and thoughts to create a list of desired changes to the existing recreation system.



Community Survey

The active participation of residents in Knightdale was crucial in developing a master plan that reflects the true needs of the Town. With this in mind, community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. A survey was created as a tool to gather information from the general public concerning the existing and future needs of the Town's park system. A project marketing card was developed to encourage awareness of the project and provide both a web address to the community survey as well as a QR code that interested individuals could use with mobile devices to reach the online survey and provide their input.

To gather further public input, and reach the broadest cross section of Town residents, a printed version of the master plan survey was also made available at the Town meetings. The following summarizes the results of the community survey (See Appendix C for survey results).

The Town had **1,256** household surveys accessed and received a total of **1,256** completed household surveys representing about **2,598** individuals for the recreation master planning data collection effort. These results included both the survey handouts and the online survey results. The survey data collected was a representative cross section of Knightdale in terms of age, household size, and geographic distribution.

The surveys were designed to elicit answers on resident's needs and desires for recreation opportunities. It included a section where respondents rated their use of existing facilities both within the Town limits and outside the Town limits. The survey instructed respondents to rank the programs and facilities in order of importance to their household and to list the facilities they would like to see added to the park and recreation system.

Help Improve Recreation in Knightdale! Community Survey

Please visit the link or use the QR code below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KnightdaleRecSurvey>

This effort will help inform the Town of Knightdale's Recreation Master Plan. Thanks for your participation.

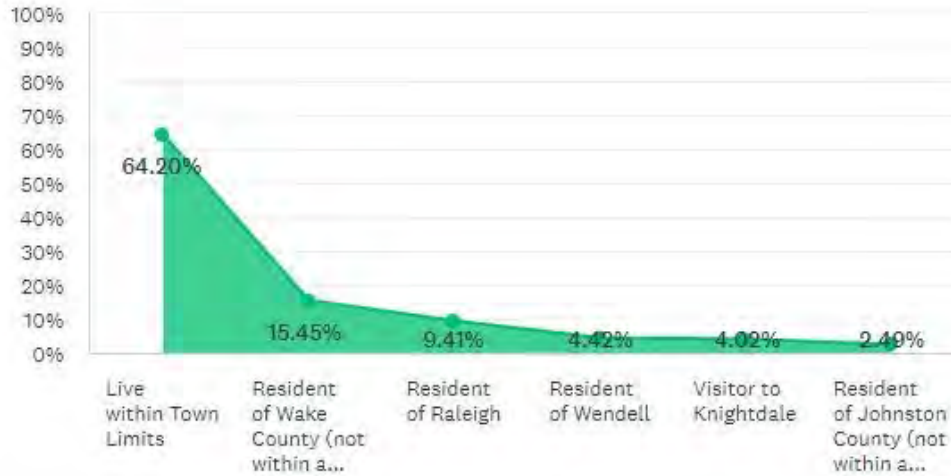




Q1

Where do you live?

Answered: 1,243 Skipped: 13



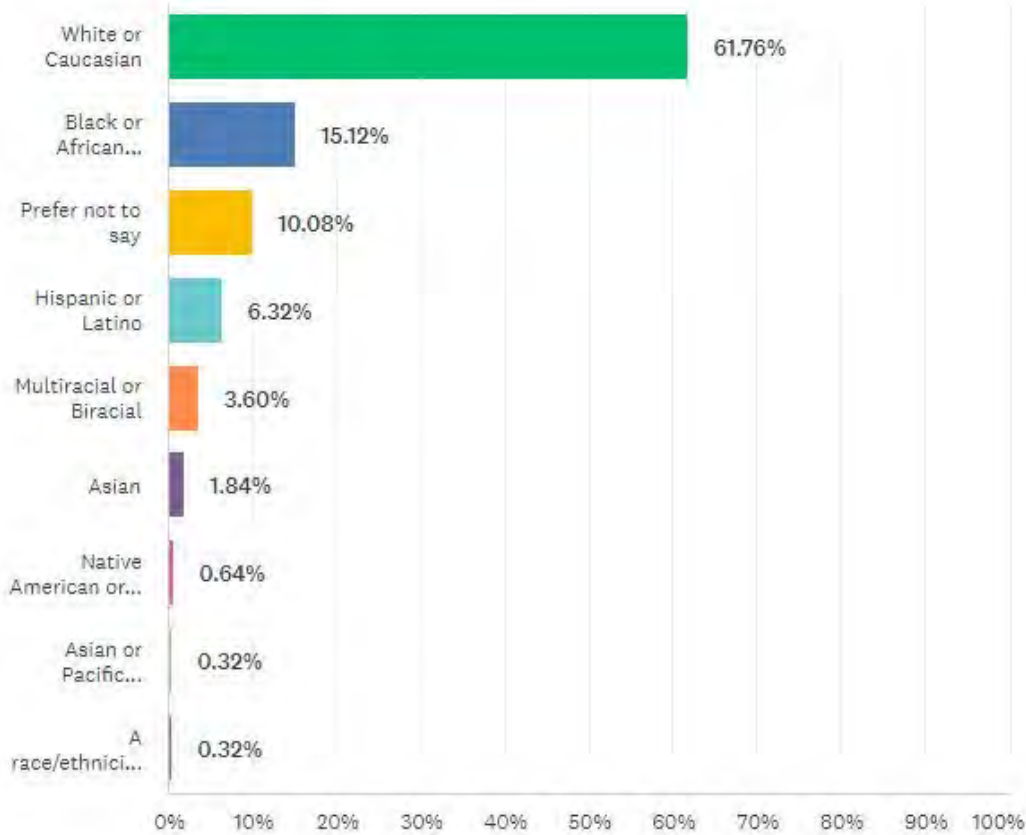
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Live within Town Limits	64.20%	798
Resident of Wake County (not within an incorporated area)	15.45%	192
Resident of Raleigh	9.41%	117
Resident of Wendell	4.42%	55
Visitor to Knightdale	4.02%	50
Resident of Johnston County (not within an incorporated area)	2.49%	31
TOTAL		1,243

The majority of survey participants reported living within Town limits but as expected also included stakeholders from Wake County, Raleigh, Wendell, and other places.

Q2

Which of the following describes you?

Answered: 1,250 Skipped: 6

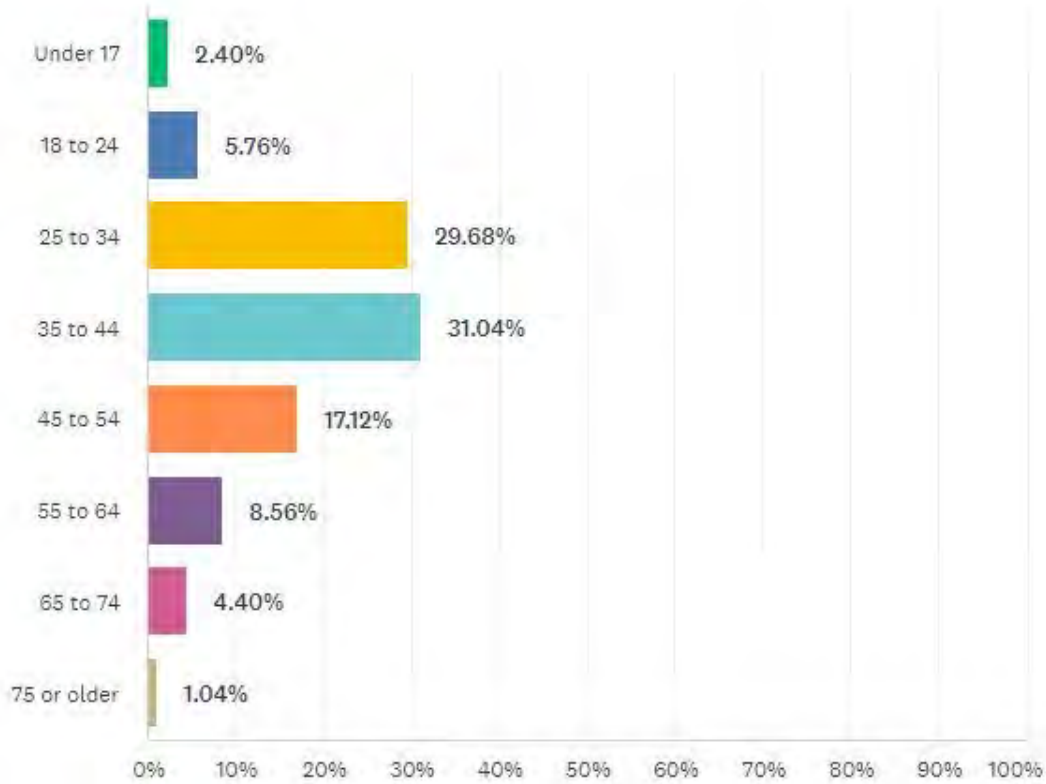


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
White or Caucasian	61.76% 772
Black or African American	15.12% 189
Prefer not to say	10.08% 126
Hispanic or Latino	6.32% 79
Multiracial or Biracial	3.60% 45
Asian	1.84% 23
Native American or Alaskan Native	0.64% 8
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.32% 4
A race/ethnicity not listed here	0.32% 4
TOTAL	1,250

Q3

What is your age?

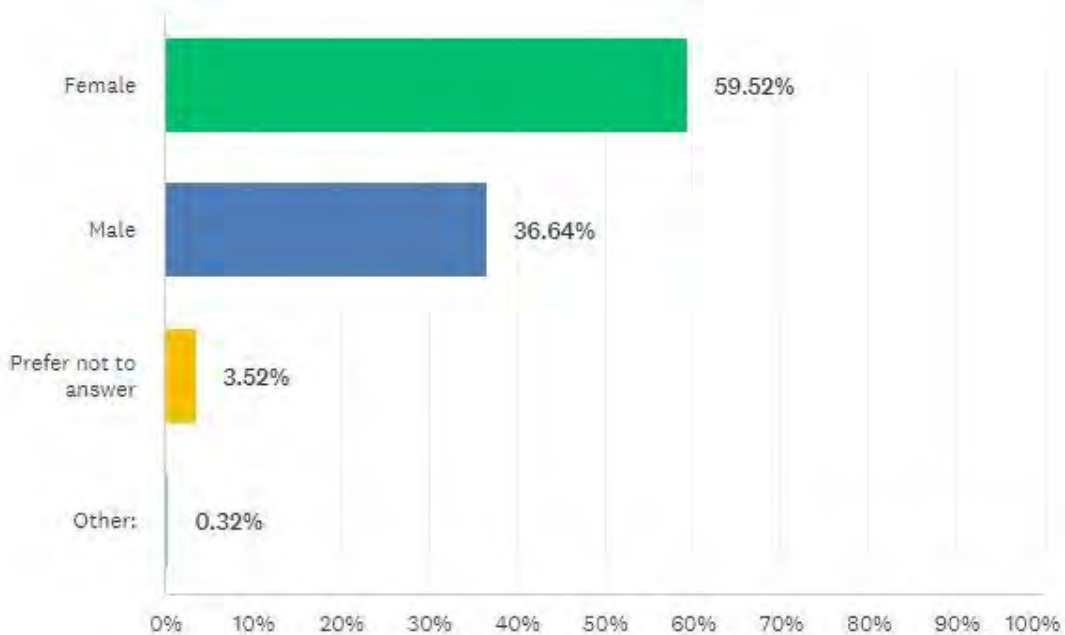
Answered: 1,250 Skipped: 6



Q4

Please provide your gender:

Answered: 1,250 Skipped: 6



Q5

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

Answered: 1,159 Skipped: 97

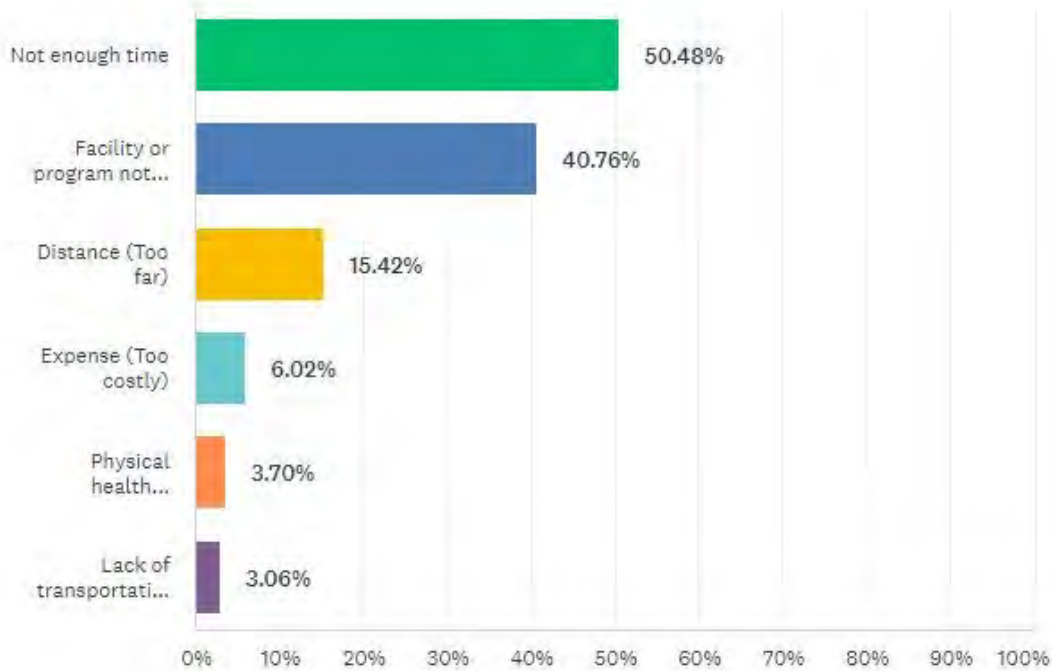
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
5 years and younger	61.23% 248	27.65% 112	6.67% 27	2.96% 12	1.48% 6	1.23% 5	405
6-12 years old	65.22% 225	28.41% 98	4.64% 16	1.45% 5	0.00% 0	0.58% 2	345
13-16 years old	79.59% 156	19.39% 38	0.51% 1	0.51% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	196
17-19 years old	86.26% 113	13.74% 18	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	131
20-35 years old	44.06% 252	52.45% 300	2.97% 17	0.87% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	572
36-45 years old	46.44% 202	52.87% 230	0.46% 2	0.46% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	435
46-60 years old	50.58% 173	48.83% 167	0.58% 2	0.29% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	342
61 and over	65.70% 113	32.56% 56	1.16% 2	1.16% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	172

Knightdale is made up of a balance of older and younger residents. Families with children made up a large portion of participant responses.

Q6

What is the greatest barrier to your household's regular use of public park, recreational facilities, athletic programs, and special events.

Answered: 947 Skipped: 309



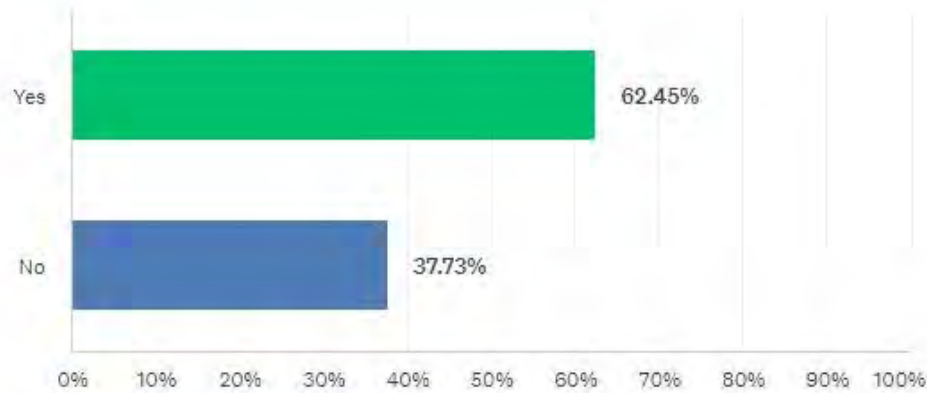
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not enough time	50.48%	478
Facility or program not offered	40.76%	386
Distance (Too far)	15.42%	146
Expense (Too costly)	6.02%	57
Physical health limitations	3.70%	35
Lack of transportation to and from a facility	3.06%	29
Total Respondents: 947		

Survey participants indicated that their lack of time was the main barrier to their household’s regular use of public park, recreation facilities, athletic programs, and special events. However, a large number of participants felt that a lack of facilities or programs was a barrier. This may indicate a need for additional facilities or programs or broader access to existing facilities or programs offered.

Q7

Within the last year have you traveled out of the Town of Knightdale to use a recreation facility or program?

Answered: 1,145 Skipped: 111



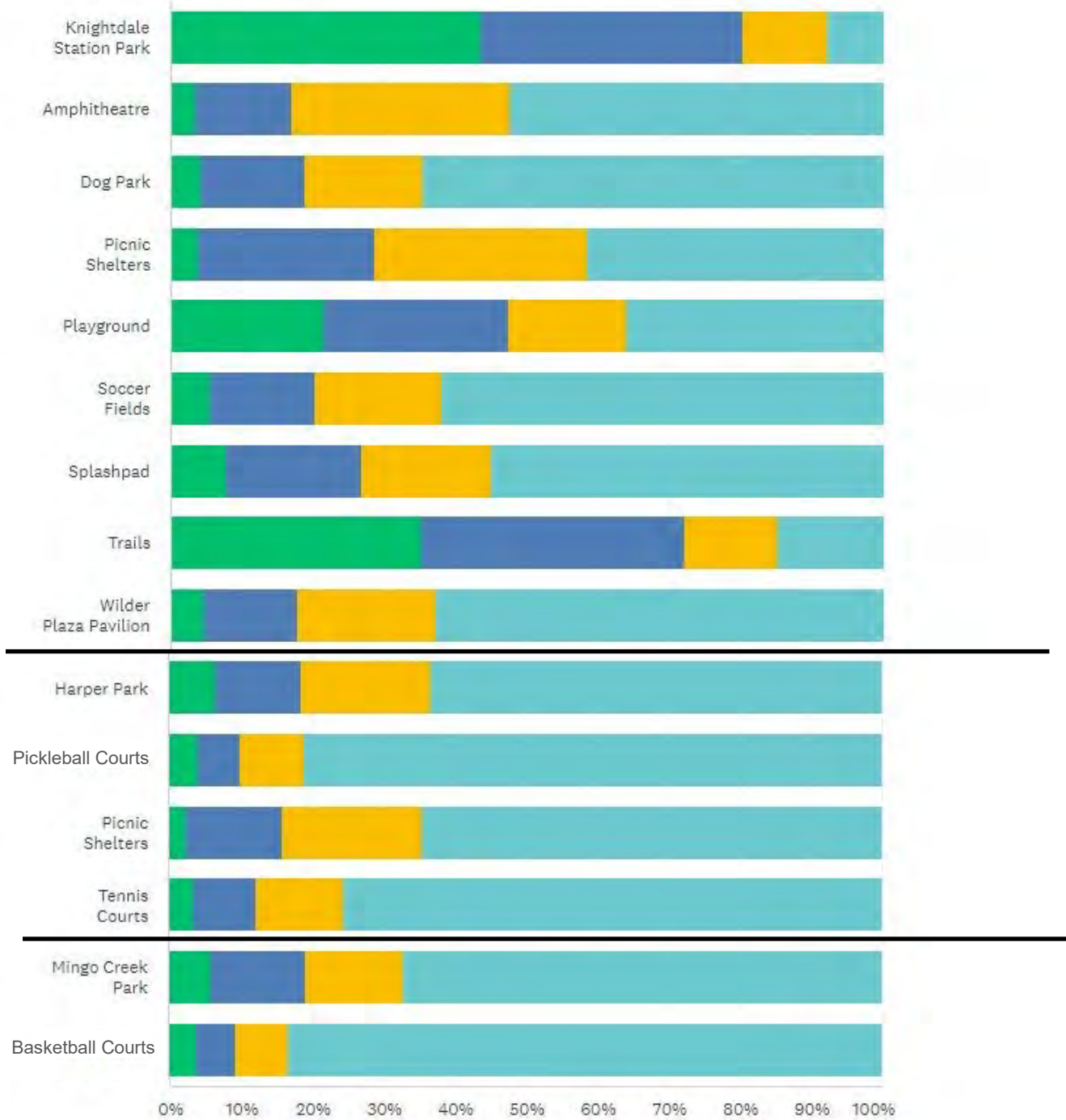
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.45%	715
No	37.73%	432
Total Respondents: 1,145		
Raleigh	26.62%	144
Wendell	7.21%	39
disc golf	6.47%	35
Clayton	3.88%	21
Wake Forest	3.70%	20
disc golf course	3.51%	19
Cary	3.51%	19
trails	3.51%	19
Zebulon	3.33%	18
playgrounds	3.14%	17

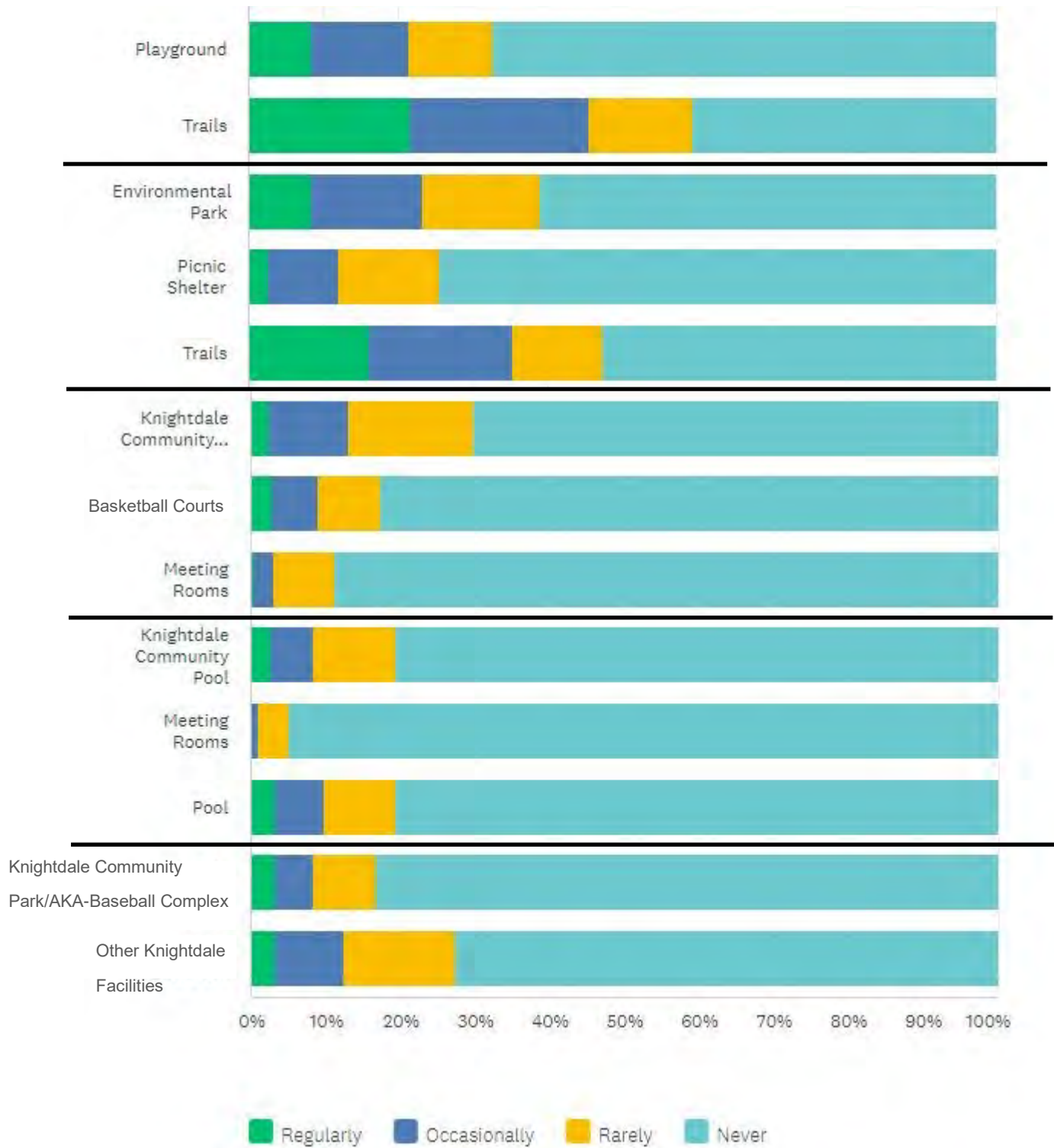
The top ten comments provided by survey participants related to where they typically were traveling to outside of Knightdale focused on trips to Raleigh but also Wendell.

Q8

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

Answered: 1,075 Skipped: 181



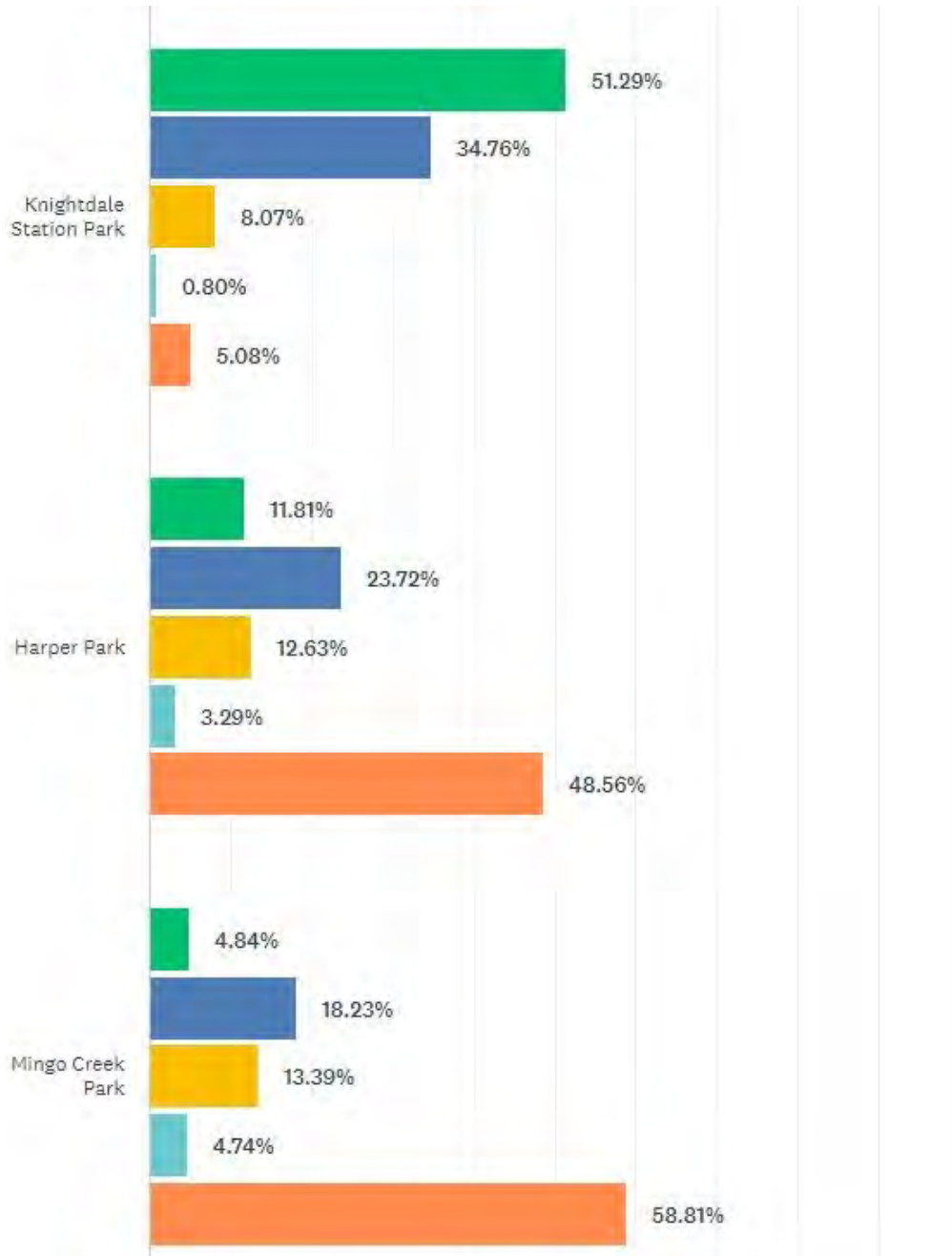


The top three most frequently used facilities according to survey responses were: Knightdale Park, Environmental Park, and Harper Park. From the results, most respondents frequent the trails, but the playground at Knightdale Station Park was also a popular amenity with survey participants.

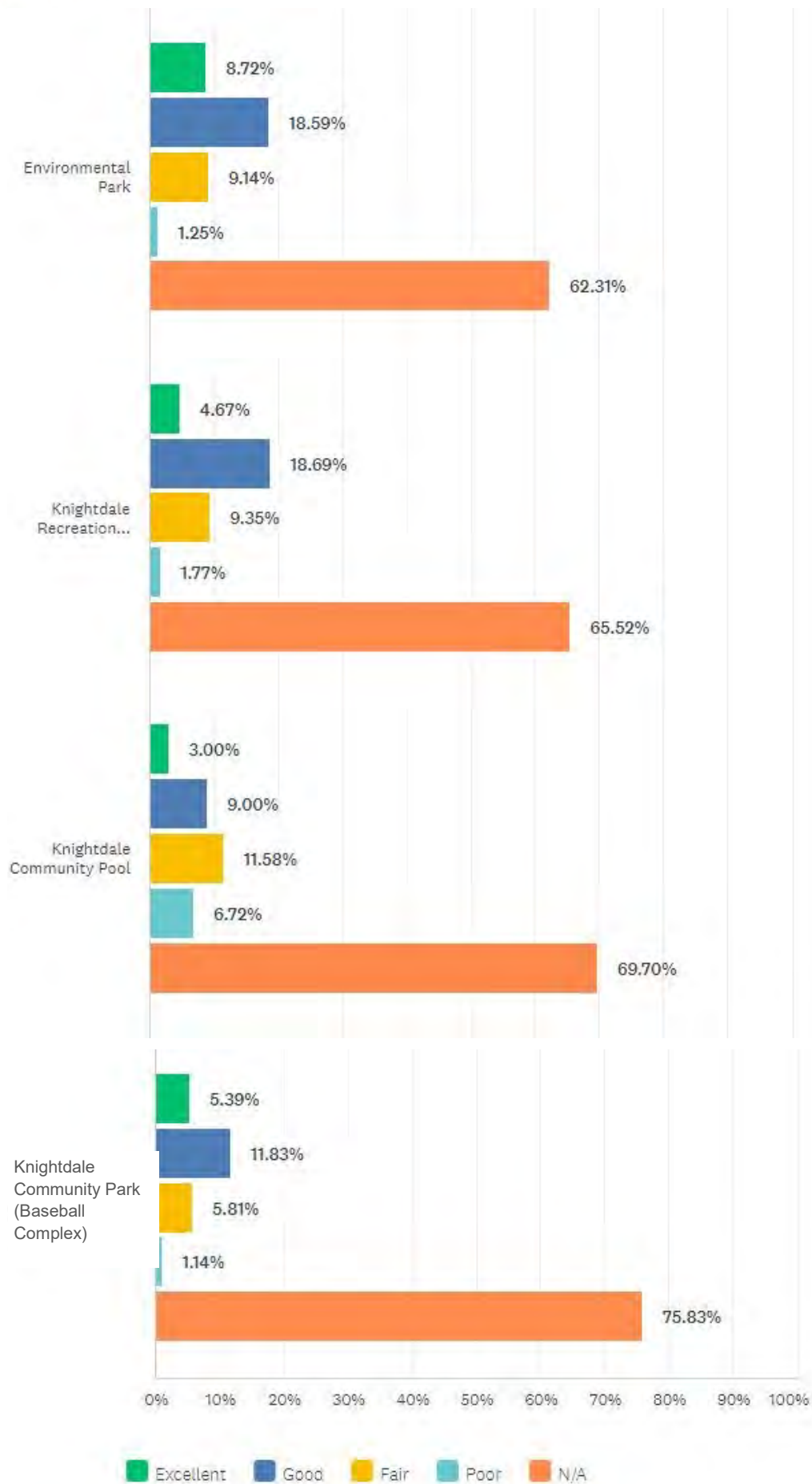
Q9

Overall, how would you rate the existing Knightdale parks and recreation facilities?

Answered: 1,009 Skipped: 247



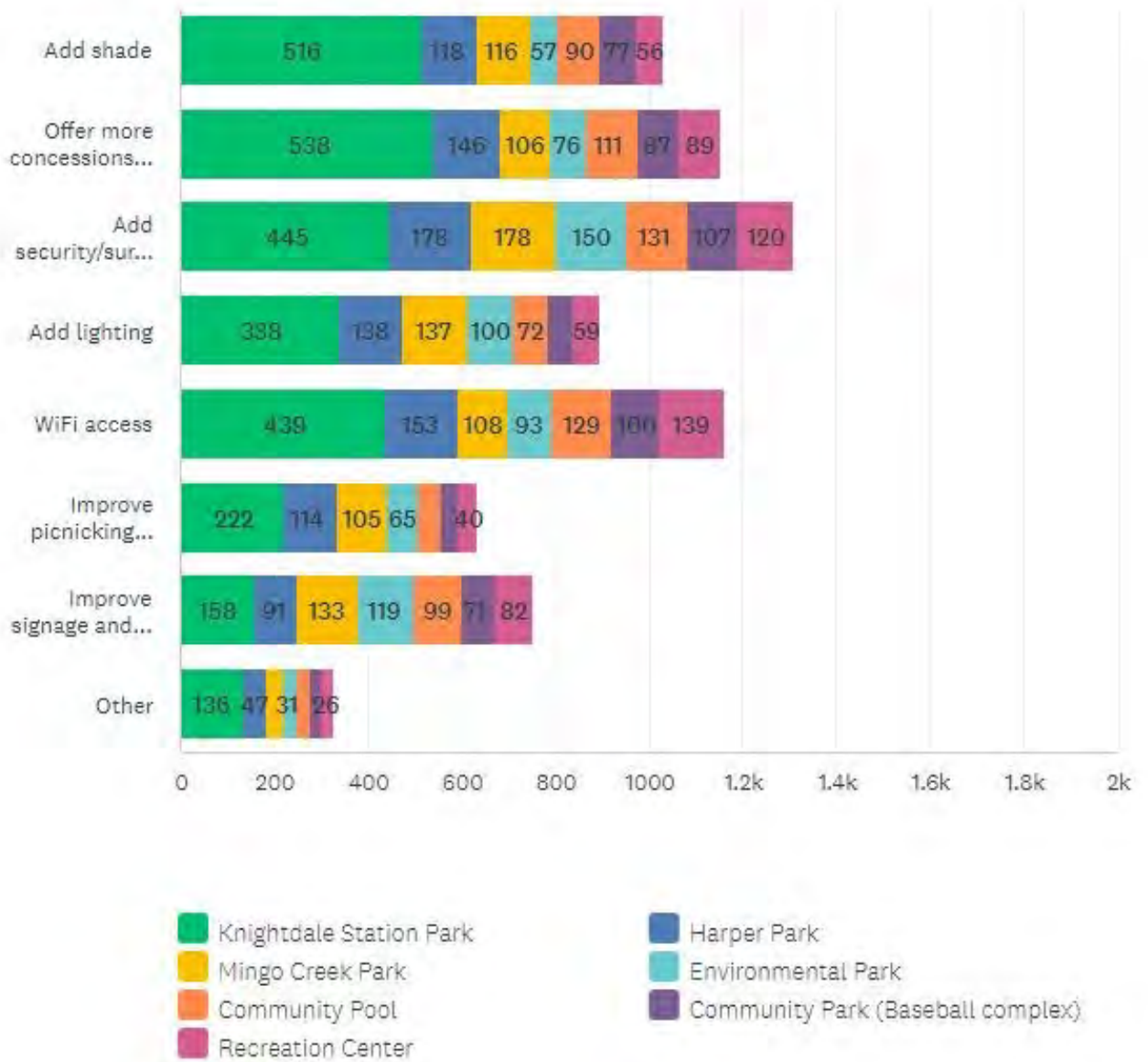
Survey participants rated Knightdale Station Park as an excellent facility, however, responses also indicate the need to improve the Knightdale Community Pool. Overall, survey participants rated the majority of Knightdale parks and recreation facilities well.



Q10

Check below improvements that should be made to EXISTING Knightdale Parks?

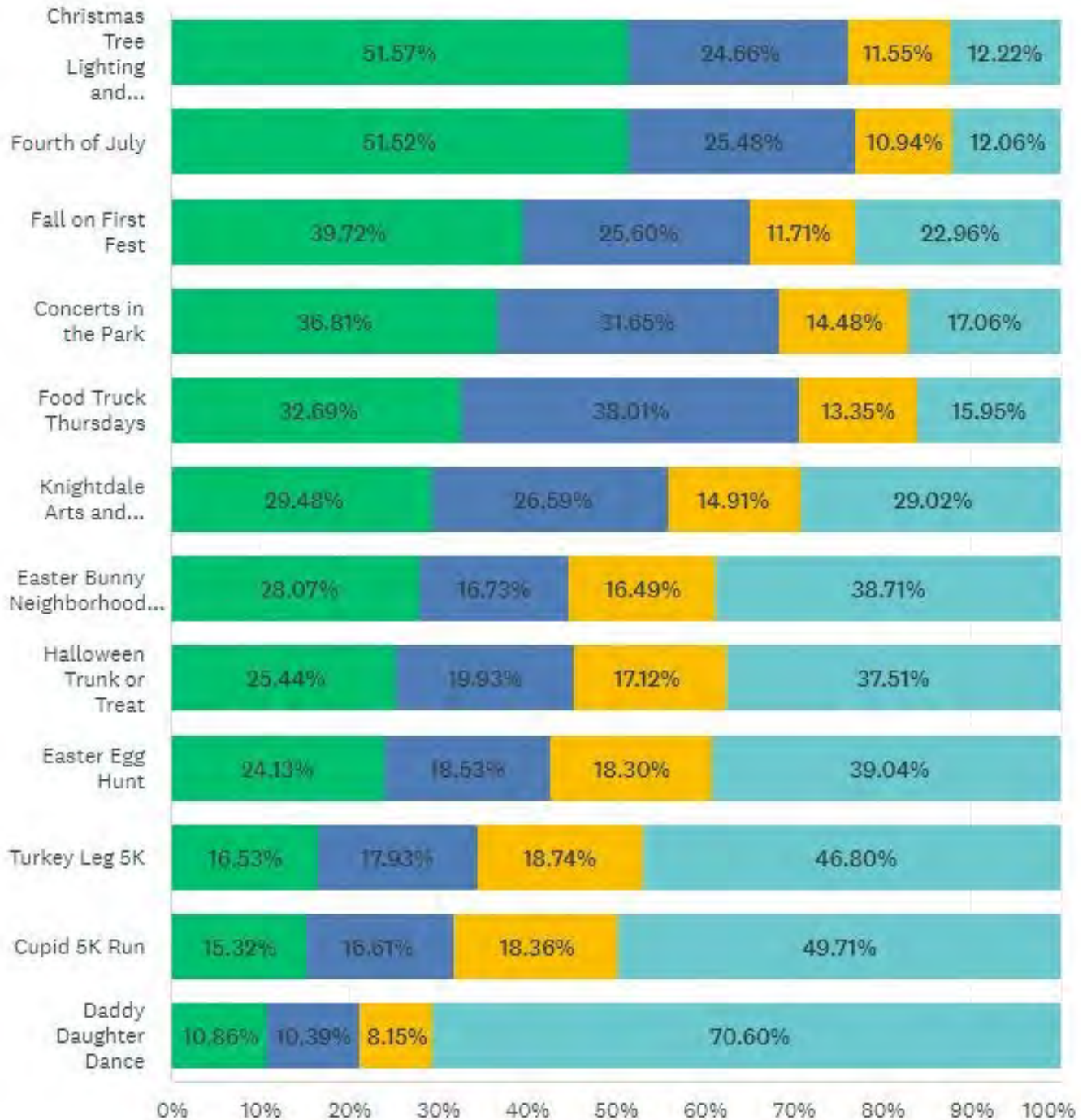
Answered: 823 Skipped: 433



Q11

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

Answered: 907 Skipped: 349

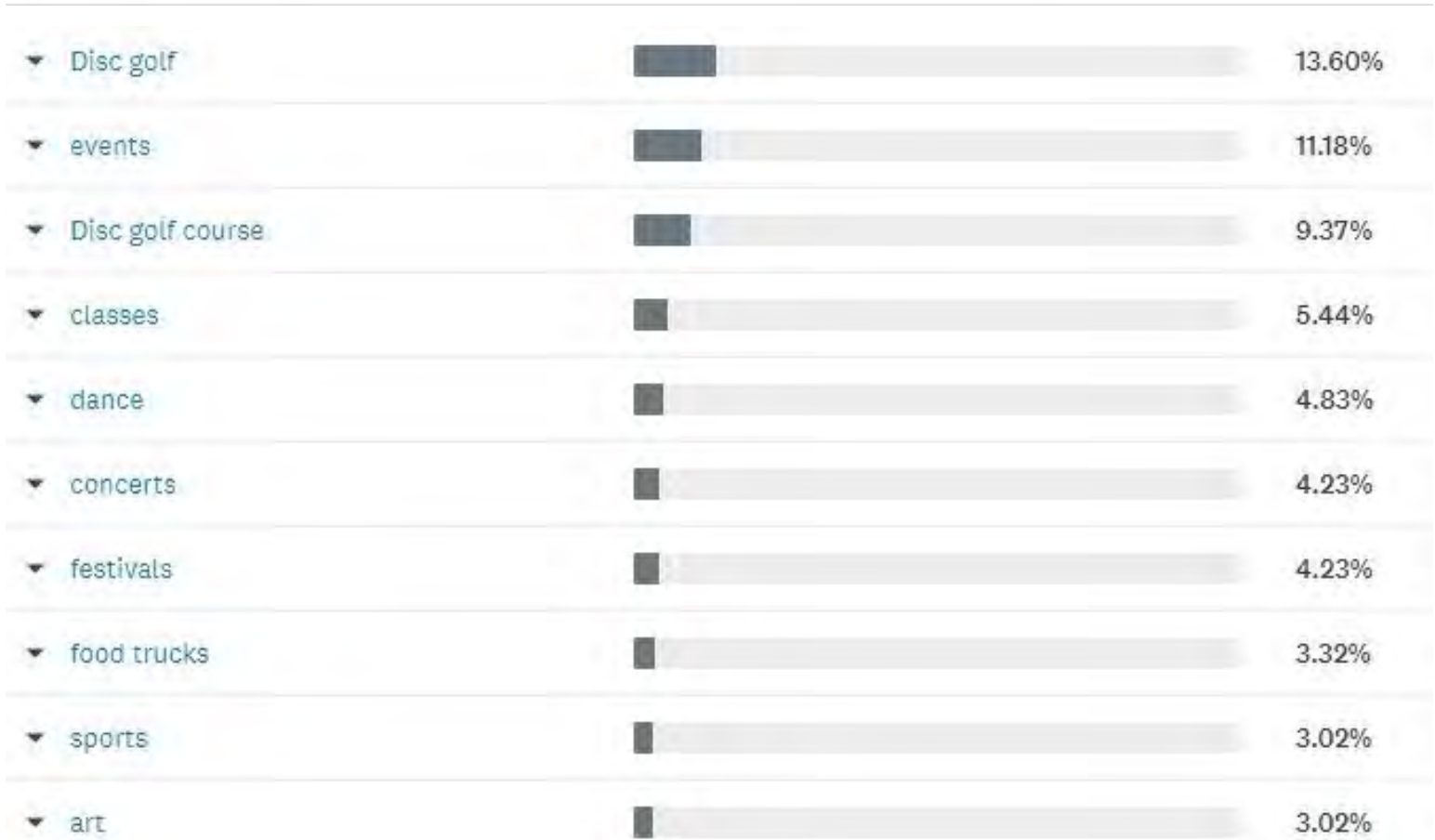


Regularly Occasionally Rarely Never

Q12

Please list below, any recreation programs or special events that you would like to see offered within the Knightdale Recreation System:

Answered: 331 Skipped: 925



When asked about what recreation programs or special events participants wanted to see offered within the Knightdale recreation system a disc golf course was mentioned the most. However, overall interest in a wide variety of classes and events collectively made up a large portion of the open ended responses provided.

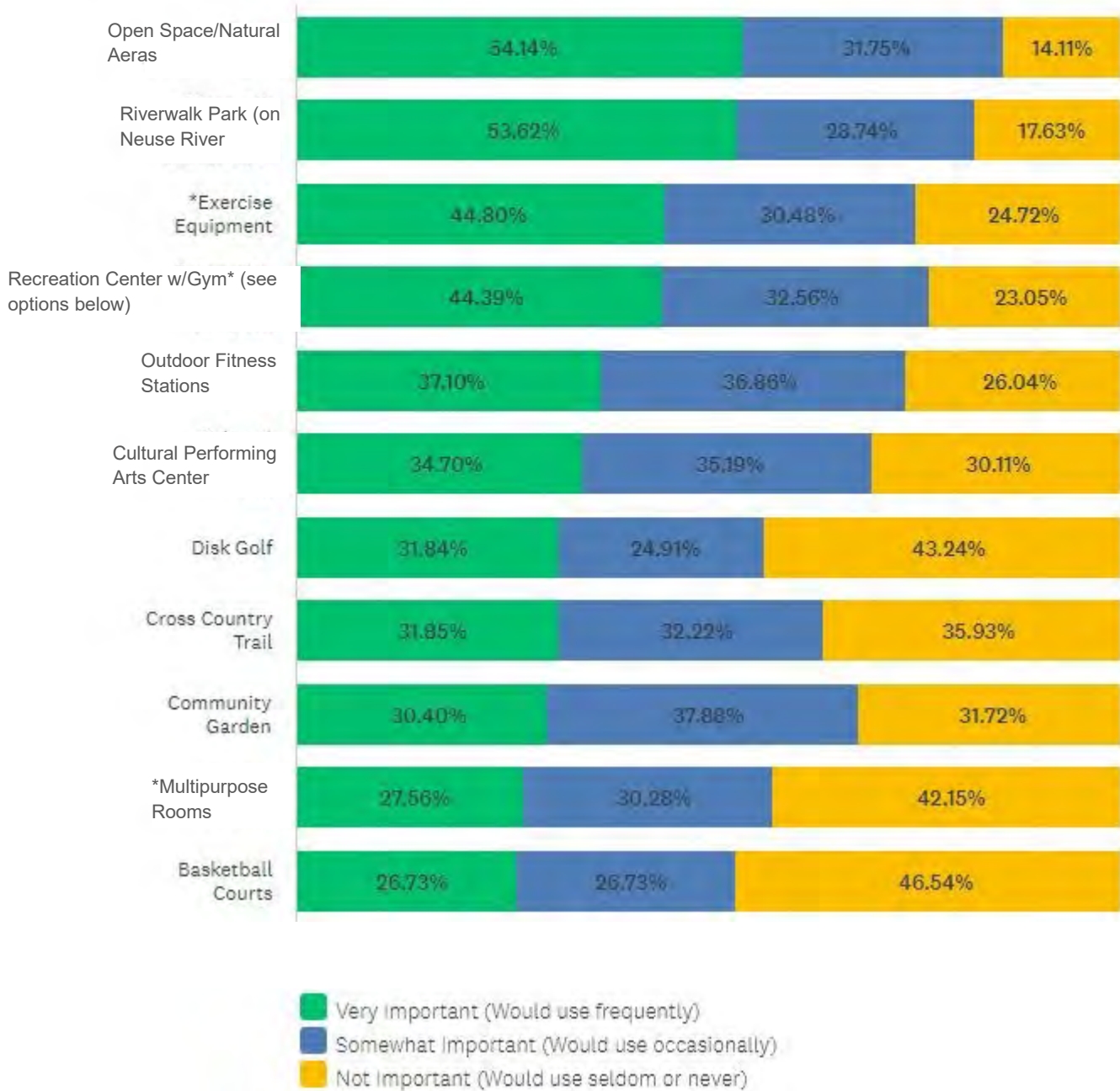


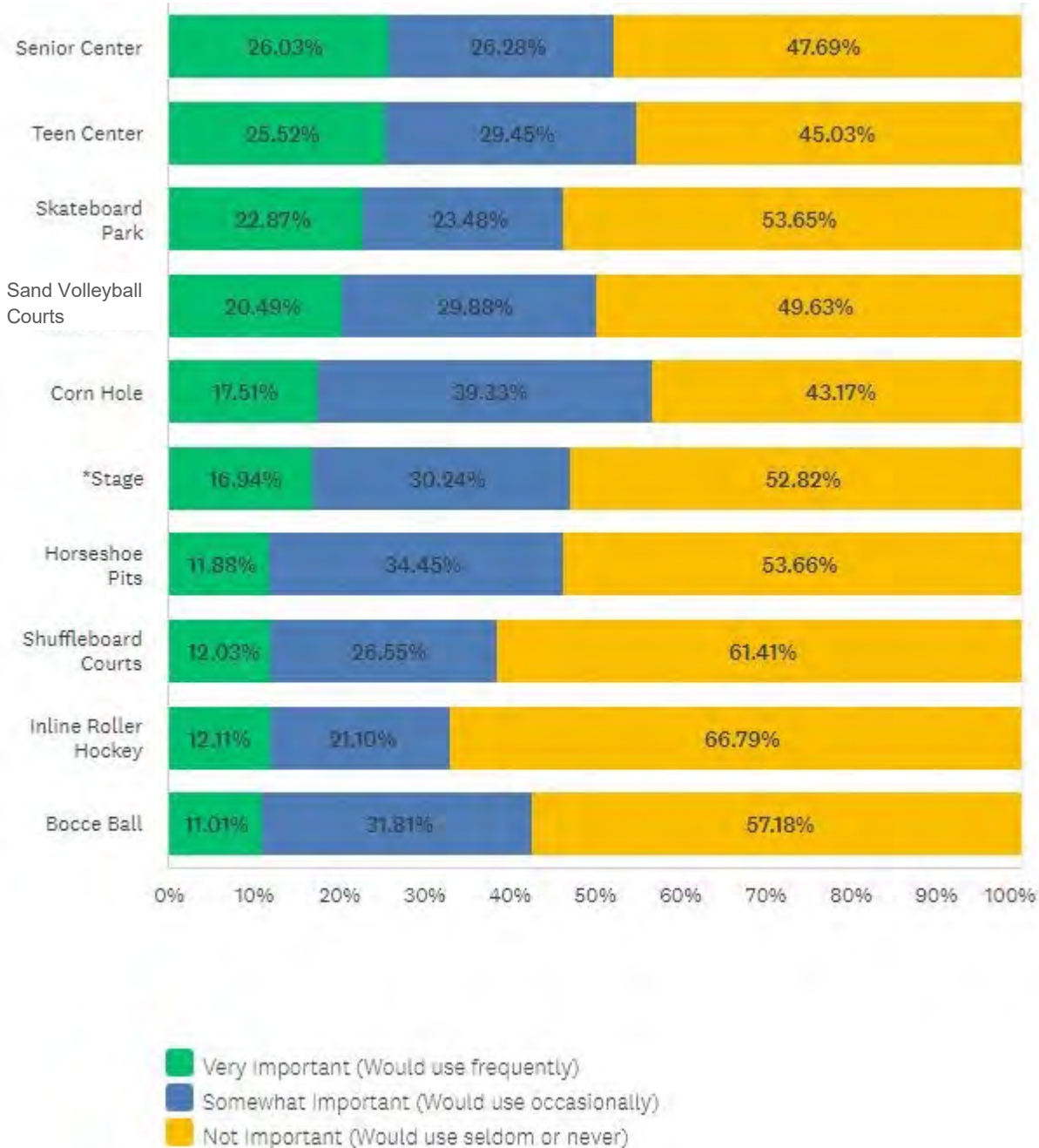
Providing a variety of programs meets the needs of the community

Q13

How important is it Knightdale add the following NEW facilities?

Answered: 909 Skipped: 347

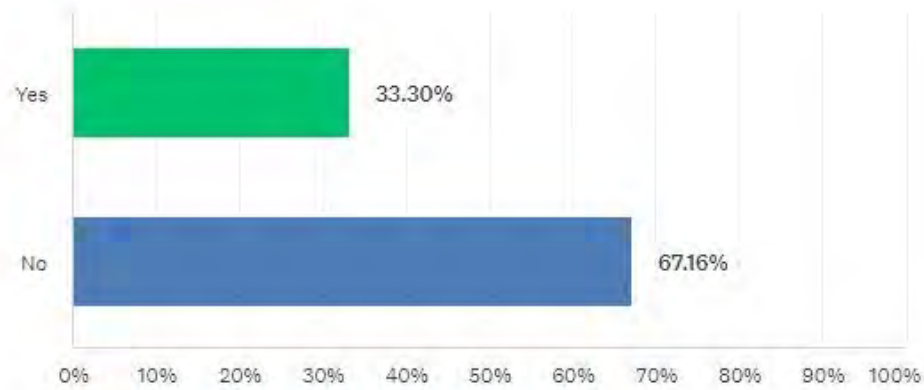




Q14

Do you use any school or private facilities in Knightdale (YMCA pool, private fitness clubs, etc.) for recreation or leisure activities?

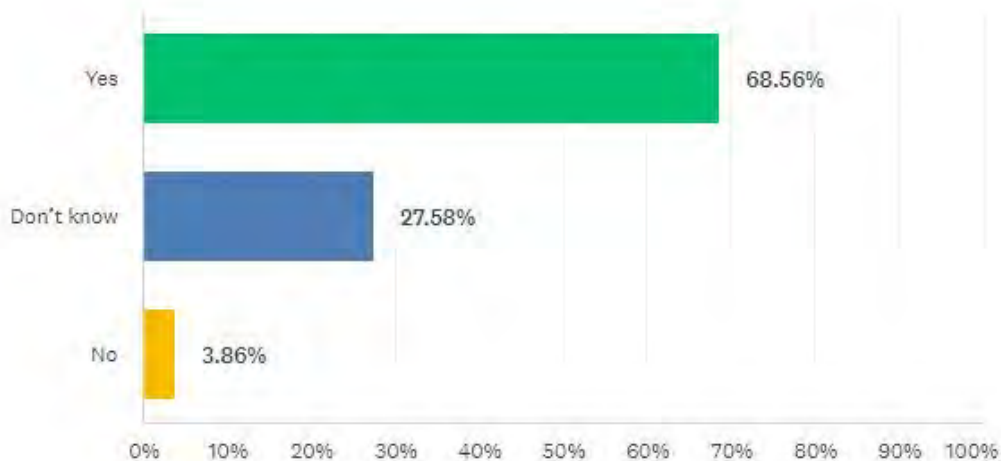
Answered: 877 Skipped: 379



Q15

Would you support the development of a new community center in Knightdale?

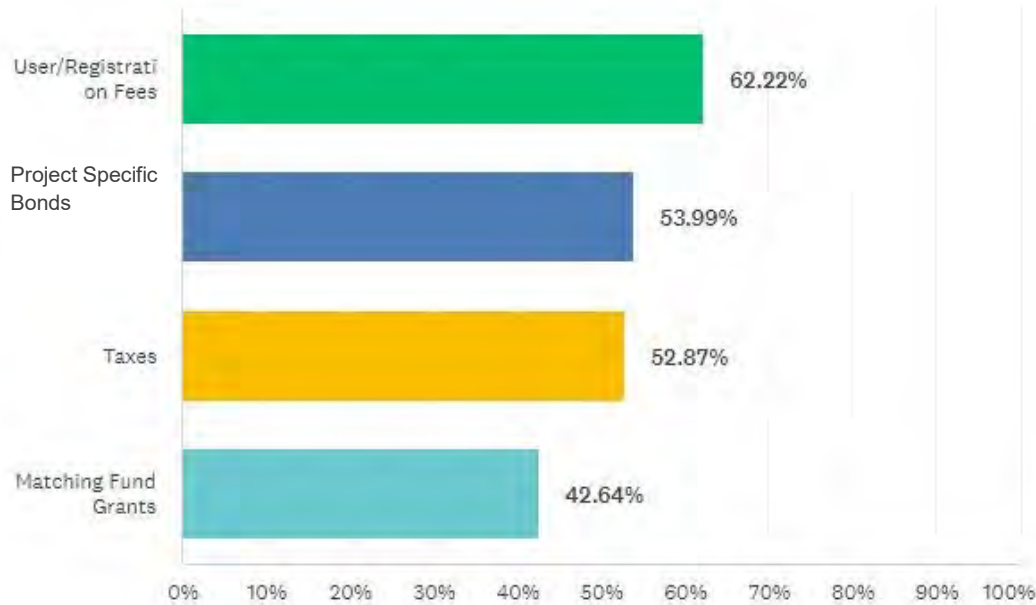
Answered: 881 Skipped: 375



Q16

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

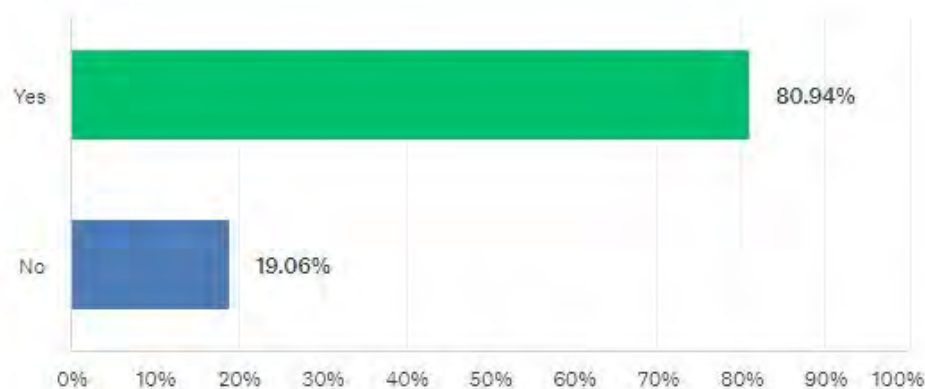
Answered: 802 Skipped: 454



Q17

Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or use a special facility in Knightdale?

Answered: 876 Skipped: 380



Survey Conclusions

The Knightdale recreation survey was designed to obtain information about existing town owned/operated recreation facilities and programs. The consultant worked comprehensively with parks, recreation, and cultural programs staff, elected officials, and the comprehensive master plan steering committee/recreation advisory board in the development of the survey questionnaire.

The community survey was a broadly promoted and well received effort to engage residents and stakeholders in Knightdale's recreation planning. The survey data was collected from two primary sources: online and paper handouts. The majority of participants opted to provide their input via the online collection tool. The survey was advertised via the main Knightdale web page, via the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Programs department web page, social media posts, via roadside signage, posted flyers at Knightdale parks and Town Hall, at the community meetings (survey marketing cards and word of mouth), and promoted by Knightdale staff and project steering committee members (via marketing cards, social media posts, and word of mouth).

Major Survey Findings

The survey contained a series of questions that were designed to measure behavior as well as perceptions by Knightdale residents and other nearby patrons. There were several opportunities for participants to provide specific comments from open ended questions.

Overall, respondents felt facilities were fair to excellent but some felt that desired facilities or programs were not offered. This data may be why some survey participants reported traveling out of the Town of Knightdale to use a recreation facility or program. Knightdale Station Park is the most visited facility in the system with trails and the playground being the most used amenities of the park.

Overall improvements to existing parks that survey participants desired varied but the top five (in order from most desired to least) included: addition of shade, food/drink concessions, addition of security/surveillance cameras and lighting, Wi-Fi access, and improved picnicking areas.

Survey data indicate participants support existing programs/special events and would continue to as these programs and new ones are offered by Town. Participants were very interested in multi-generational programs and facilities but strong support was indicated for disc golf programs and recreation department offered classes.

Open space, trails, and fitness oriented amenities were very popular with survey participants. However, the range of reported interests was broad with many participants also supporting the development of a performing arts center, community center, community garden, and multipurpose rooms. (See complete survey responses in Appendix C)



SHADE



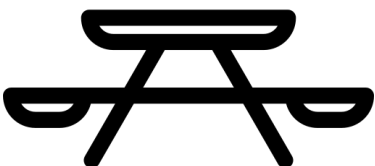
FOOD/DRINK CONCESSIONS



IMPROVED SECURITY



WI-FI ACCESS



PICNIC AREA

STATE AND NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Surveys that were designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation and facilities have been conducted on both the federal and state levels by private, non-profit, and governmental agencies. This information is important as it sets a precedent for what popular activities may be expected by typical park users.

The top five most popular outdoor recreational activities nationwide based on the 2021 Outdoor Participation Trends Report generated by the Outdoor Foundation are:

1. Running, jogging, and trail running
2. Hiking
3. Freshwater, saltwater, and fly fishing
4. Road biking, mountain biking, and BMX
5. Car, backyard, backpacking, and RV camping

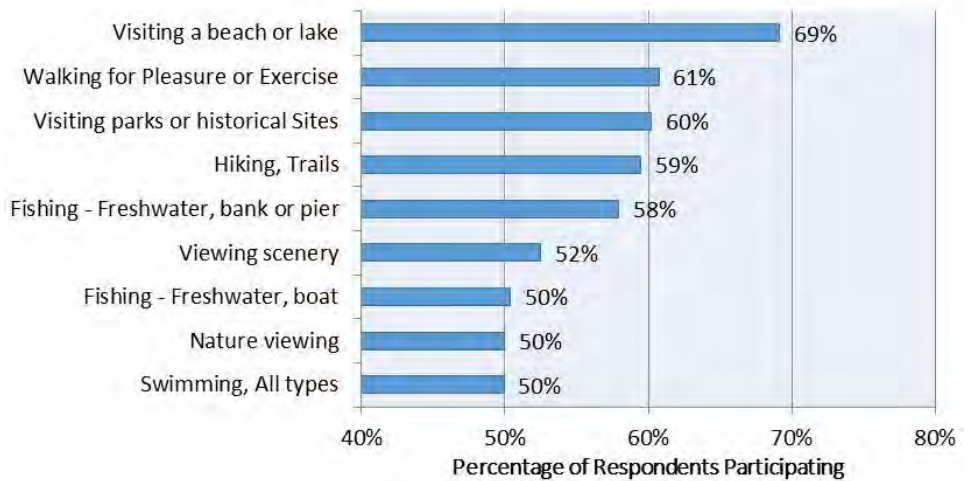
MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES BY PARTICIPATION RATE

1 RUNNING, JOGGING AND TRAIL RUNNING	21.0% of Americans	83.8 million participants
2 HIKING	19.0% of Americans	57.8 million participants
3 FRESHWATER, SALTWATER AND FLY FISHING	18.0% of Americans	54.7 million participants
4 ROAD BIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING AND BMX	17.3% of Americans	52.7 million participants
5 CAR, BACKYARD, BACKPACKING AND RV CAMPING	15.8% of Americans	47.9 million participants

Outdoor Foundation 2021 Outdoor Participation Trends Report

The top nine most popular outdoor activities in North Carolina based on the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2020 — 2025 (SCORP) produced by the Division of Parks and Recreation are:

1. Visiting a beach or lake
2. Walking for pleasure or exercise
3. Visiting parks or historical sites
4. Hiking, trails
5. Freshwater fishing from a bank or pier
6. Viewing scenery
7. Fishing from a boat
8. Nature viewing
9. Swimming, all types



2020 — 2025 NC SCORP

Local governments (cities, towns, and counties) provide 39% of the public recreational opportunities in the United States. However, due to their proximity to the population density they provide key access to public recreational opportunities.

EVALUATION OF PARK LAND NEEDS

To better understand what recreation resources a community has and how accessible those facilities and programs may be to the general population this study looked at typical service areas. Map 3.1 illustrates what portions of the community lie within or near the typical recreation service areas. The outcome of this exercise reveals that portions of the community live far enough from recreational facilities that they cannot easily access them. Populations typically affected include children and seniors that do not drive. Both user groups generally have greater leisure time and can directly benefit from access to parks and recreation facilities.

Solutions to improving recreation in The Town of Knightdale includes providing facilities and amenities that residents desire and need. It also considers where such facilities and amenities should be located. Existing recreation service areas illustrated indicate that the areas outside of the core of municipalities have the least access to parks. Planning for future parks and recreation system expansion should consider developing facilities outside of the Town's core. As new residential and large commercial developments are planned the Town should take an active role in working with developers on what types of recreation amenities should be provided per Town's planning department requirements.

Knightdale's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan considers community workshops, recreation survey findings, projected demand, service area analysis, and Town staff input as the primary guides in prescribing the current and future recommendations for Knightdale parks and recreation development.



Mingo Creek Trail, Knightdale



LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Municipal Planning Boundary
- Water Body/Creek
- Existing Knightdale Park
- Existing Public School
- Existing Greenway
- Existing Wake County Park

TYPICAL SERVICE AREAS

- 2.5 Mile
(Existing District Park)
- 2.0 Mile
(Existing Community Park)
- 1 Mile
(Existing Neighborhood Park)
- 0.5 Mile
(Existing Mini Park)

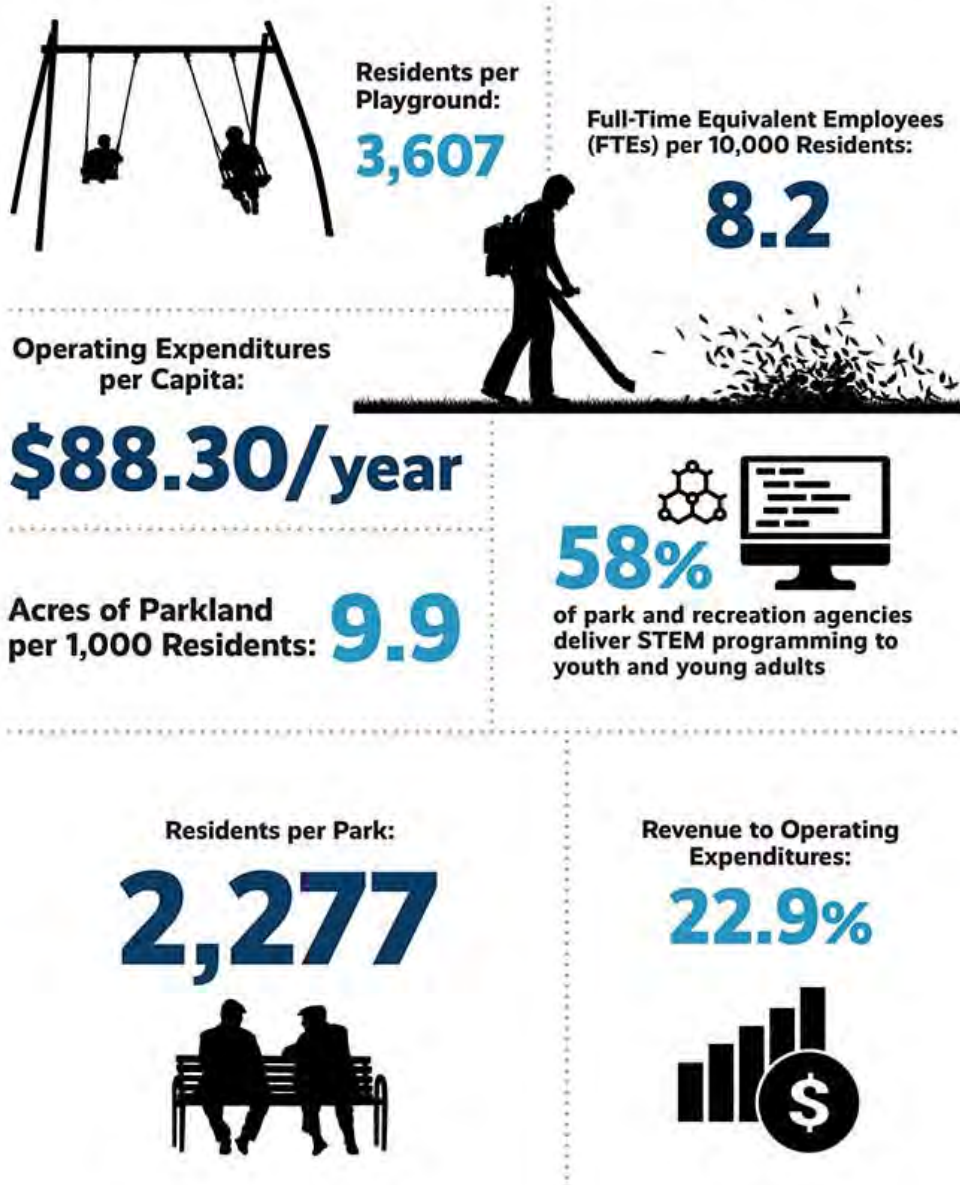
Map 3.1 Knightdale existing service area (See Appendix A for 11"x17")



When comparing a park system to national standards, one method is to examine the total acreage of the park system. The NRPA Park land guidelines (in acres) for the total service population of Knightdale are provided in Tables 3.1 and 3.2. Population figures in this analysis, estimated at 19,435, include the estimated population of residents in the Town as of 2021. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per population of 1,000) pre-established for each classification of park.



2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Findings



The 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review provides benchmarks from recreation departments across the country

Table 3.1 Knightdale existing park acreage by classification

TYPE OF PARK	Existing Town Acreage	Recommended for 2022 Population 19,435	Recommended for 2032 Population 23,011	(Surplus) / Deficit for 2022 Population
REGIONAL PARK (NPS & NC) 1,000 acres or 10 acres / 1,000 persons	NA	NA	NA	NA
DISTRICT PARK 200 acres or 5 acres / 1,500 persons	89 acres	65 acres	77 acres	(6) acres
COMMUNITY PARK 2.5 acres / 4,000 persons	66 acres	12 acres	14 acres	(54) acres
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK 2 acres / 4,000 persons	12 acres	10 acres	11.5 acres	(2) acres
MINI PARK 0.5 acres / 4,000 persons	8 Acre	2.5 acres	3 acres	(5.5) acres

Table 3.2 Knightdale existing park acreage

KNIGHTDALE EXISTING PARKS	
Knightdale Station Park (District)	71 acres
Knightdale Community Pool (Special Use District)	18 acre
Knightdale Community Park (Community)	16 acre
Wake Stone Athletic Park (Community)	50 acre
Harper Park (Neighborhood)	4 acre
Mingo Creek Park (Neighborhood)	8 acre
Knightdale Environmental Park (Mini)	8 acre
KNIGHTDALE PARK ACREAGE	175 acres

Presently, the Town of Knightdale’s recreational facilities serve the entire Town. These facilities are a mix of active and passive recreation. Regional park resources are provided by state and county systems that are within proximity of the Town.

Based on the information contained in Table 3.1, Knightdale meets the national standard guidelines for all of the park acreage needs. The community workshops and the recreation survey will be used as the primary guides in prescribing the specific recommendations for Knightdale parks and recreation development, for both now and for the future.

10 Minute Walk



The National Recreation and Park Association, the Trust for Public Land, and the Urban Land Institute have joined together for a nationwide movement to help people have greater access to parks and green spaces while transforming communities. They have set a goal to provide safe, equitable access to 100% of people in US cities by 2050.

The Trust for Public Land has created an online tool called ParkServe®. ParkServe® uses GIS databases and demographics to analyze the percentage of residents within a community who have access to parks and green space. Reports are generated for local communities to gain insight into how they are doing. The report provides information for local municipalities and can give insight into how a Town is servicing the local residents and is another tool to show where gaps within a recreation system are. The following information was generated using the ParkServe® tool for the Town of Knightdale.



Knightdale

According to ParkServe® 5% of the Town of Knightdale’s land is dedicated to parks and green space. The total population is 18,179 and the population within a 10-minute walk is 6,583 or 36.2%.

36% of residents live within a 10 minute walk of a park.

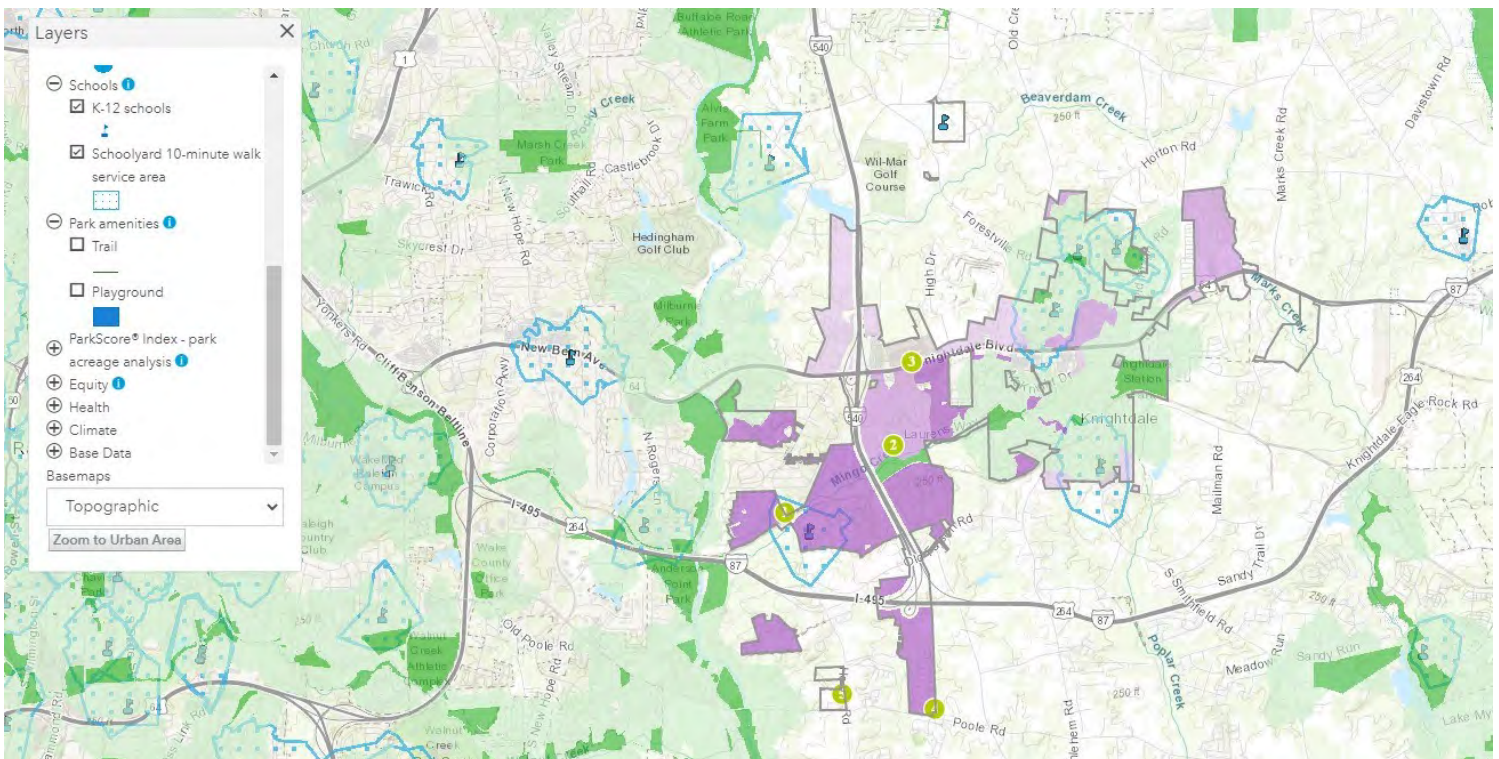


National average **55%**

5% of Knightdale's city land is used for parks and recreation.



National median **15%**



EVALUATION OF AMENITY NEEDS

Standards were established based upon information gathered from NRPA and historical evidence from past projects. An inventory of the existing amenities is shown in Table 3.3. Recommendations for what is needed can be found in Section 4 under the subtitle ‘Amenity Proposals and Recommendations’ in Table 4.1.

In the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review a list of outdoor park and recreation amenities was given with the median number of residents per amenity. This data is one more way to see how Knightdale is meeting the needs of the community. The public meetings and the recreation survey will be used as the primary guides in prescribing the specific needs for Town of Knightdale parks and recreation development, both now and for the future.

**FIGURE 3: OUTDOOR PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES – POPULATION PER FACILITY
(BY PREVALENCE AND POPULATION PER FACILITY)**

Type of Facilities		Median Number of Residents per Facility					
		All Agencies	Population of Jurisdiction				
Percent of Agencies			Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Playgrounds	94.4%	3,607	2,132	2,961	3,672	4,804	8,271
Basketball courts	87.4	7,187	4,051	7,000	8,790	8,477	11,632
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	81.4	5,089	2,748	4,819	5,726	5,818	9,997
Diamond fields: baseball – youth	78.0	6,763	3,000	5,099	7,560	12,914	23,619
Rectangular fields: multipurpose	66.4	8,750	3,895	7,400	11,212	10,792	22,538
Diamond fields: softball – adult	65.5	13,510	5,663	11,184	16,250	28,081	35,875
Dog parks	64.9	46,000	11,148	27,528	58,926	76,610	129,506
Diamond fields: softball – youth	59.3	11,287	5,447	9,891	11,884	26,073	43,670
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	51.5	37,569	8,591	25,402	43,100	67,004	93,534
Diamond fields: baseball – adult	51.3	20,159	7,989	20,522	22,366	38,899	48,657
Rectangular fields: soccer – youth	48.9	7,192	3,433	5,833	8,291	12,646	32,649
Community gardens	48.3	31,175	9,001	25,480	51,197	72,238	96,322
Tot lots	45.1	11,000	6,194	8,974	13,701	19,122	22,163
Multiuse courts: basketball, volleyball	44.6	20,000	6,200	18,850	24,644	36,979	70,287
Rectangular fields: soccer – adult	43.6	12,943	7,541	11,161	12,800	20,000	30,092
Skate parks	39.3	49,750	11,000	31,248	66,672	109,798	247,664
Rectangular fields: football	36.5	25,977	7,917	16,584	31,972	51,719	78,656
Multipurpose synthetic fields	21.0	38,328	13,200	22,041	40,305	53,550	112,707
Ice rinks (outdoor only)	17.9	16,664	10,000	13,049	29,386	112,000	472,688
Rectangular fields: cricket	12.1	128,393	ISD*	29,404	62,958	110,936	370,119
Rectangular fields: lacrosse	11.2	29,000	7,051	13,333	33,437	63,250	174,861
Overlay fields	8.7	15,385	4,385	8,935	10,724	42,139	87,438
Rectangular fields: field hockey	3.5	23,270	ISD*	15,007	ISD*	110,558	ISD*

*ISD = Insufficient Data

2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Median population per recreation amenity provided by parks and recreation agencies across the nation

Table 3.3 Knightdale existing amenities

Amenity	McGill Recommended Standards	Existing Amenities Currently Provided by Knightdale
Knightdale Amenities		
Adult Baseball Field (>300')	1/7,000	1
Adult Softball Field (250'-300')	1/5,000	1
Youth Baseball Field (200'-250')	1/3,500	2
Youth Softball Field (<200')	1/5,000	0
Multipurpose Athletic Field	1/5,000	5
Soccer Field	1/5,000	3
Lacrosse Field	1/5,000	3
Indoor / Outdoor Basketball Court	1/5,000	4
Tennis Court	1/5,000	4
Pickleball Court	1/2,500	2
Volleyball Court	1/5,000	0
Lawn Games	1/2,500	1
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	5
Picnic Station (unsheltered)	1/2,000	4
Playground	1/2,000	4
Walking / Running Trails	0.25 mi./1,000	7 mi.
Dog Park	1/5,000	1
Recreation Center	1/20,000	1
Outdoor Amphitheater	1/20,000	1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1
Splash Pad	1/10,000	1
Disc Golf Course	1/20,000	0
Skate Park	1/20,000	0

EVALUATION OF STAFFING NEEDS

The people that make up a parks and recreation department are what makes up a successful agency. Everyone from the parks and recreation director to athletic specialists to maintenance staff work together to provide quality offerings to the community and visitors to the area.

Knightdale has six full-time employees that work to create the quality of life environment for users of the parks system. Knightdale's estimated population is 19,435 and the current staffing levels are well below average of typical agencies serving similar population sizes. Based on the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review the median Full-time Staff Equivalent (FTE) for parks and recreation departments across the country is 10.3 per ten thousand residents. The Town should provide, at a minimum, 11 FTE to match the lower quartile of agencies serving populations less than 20,000

Knightdale Parks and Recreation Staffing

- Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Director (1)
- Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Assistant Director (1)
- Athletic Supervisor (2)
- Recreation / Special Events Supervisor (1)
- Administrative Assistant (1)
- Part-time Seasonal Staff (~ 20)



Quality staff are an integral part of providing a parks and recreation system that meets the need of the community

11.25 FTE

The current number of full-time staff equivalents provided by Knightdale to support the recreational needs for the present population of 19,435.

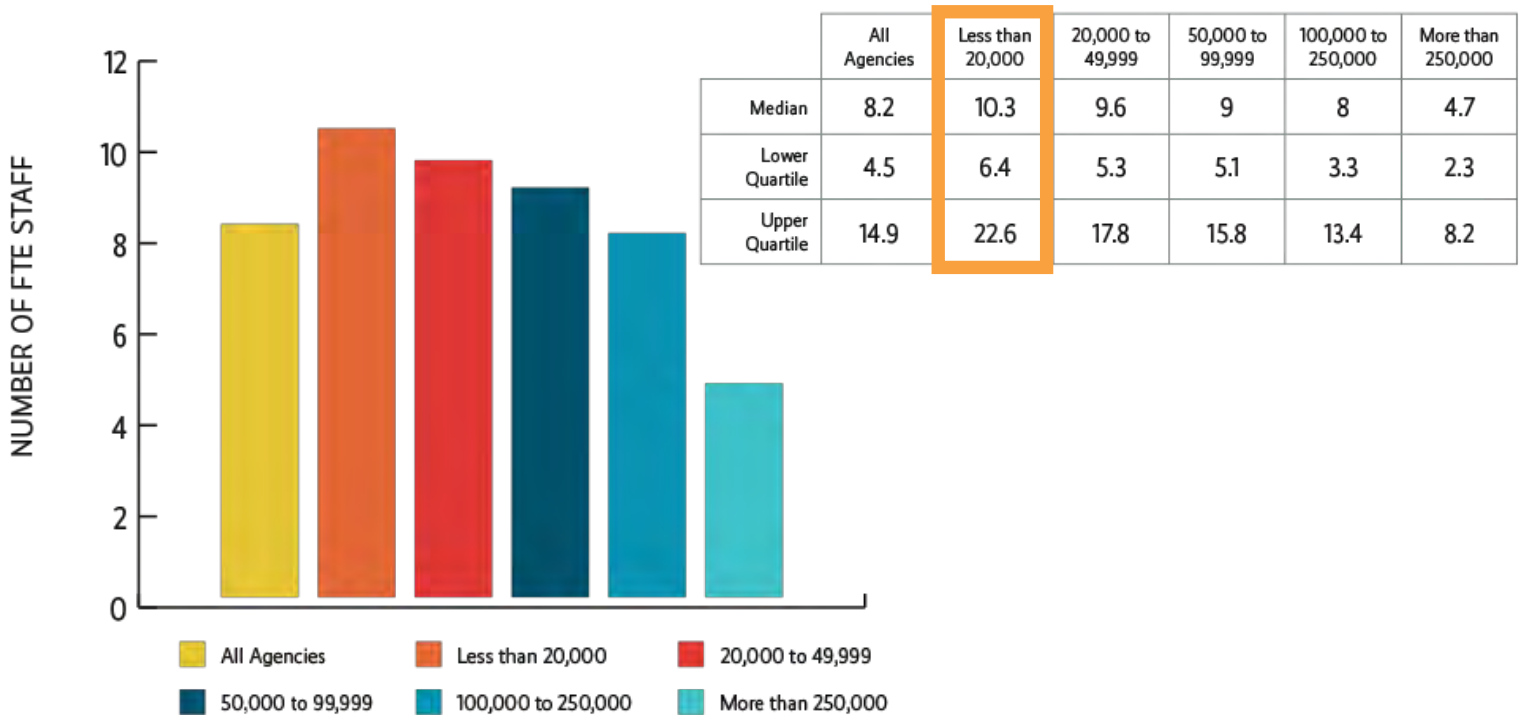
12.4 FTE

The minimum number of full-time staff equivalent is 6.4 per 10,000 residents based on the 2021 NRPA staffing guidelines for Knightdale's current population of 19,435.

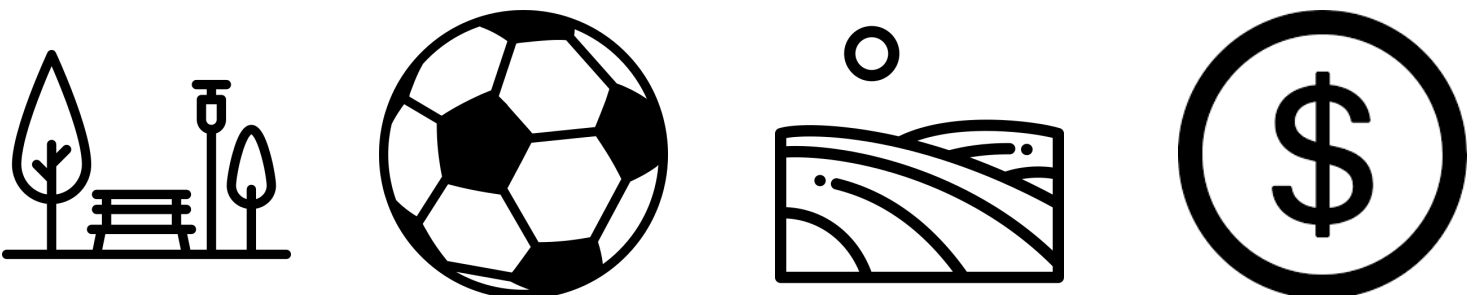
17.8 FTE

The median number of full-time staff equivalent is 10.3 per 10,000 residents based on the 2021 NRPA staffing guidelines for Knightdale's current population of 19,435.

FIGURE 11: PARK AND RECREATION FTEs PER 10,000 RESIDENTS (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)



The 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review: FTEs for parks and recreation departments across the country



PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS





OBJECTIVES

Understanding the needs and desires of the Town and the community members is essential before making recommendations to the existing park system and expansion possibilities. The community workshops, Town staff discussions, and the recreation survey were integral in helping identify the primary interests and concerns of Town residents.

As identified in the inventory portion of this report, there are seven existing recreational facilities owned and operated by the Town of Knightdale. These facilities currently offer a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities.

This master plan serves as a map for the future development of existing recreation facilities for Knightdale and establishes basic objectives to obtain Knightdale's recreation goals. The plan incorporates recommendations to accomplish the objectives set forth by the Town Council, the steering committee, and community members.

Knightdale Parks and Recreation's mission statement proclaims that "The Department enhances the quality of life for citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County by providing an experienced staff to plan, implement, and manage a wide variety of passive, active, and cultural opportunities. The Department strives to provide a system of parks, greenways, recreational facilities, and open space areas which will ensure quality recreation opportunities for present and future citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County." In order to fulfill this statement, the Town has set goals to provide recreational programs and facilities to its residents and visitors.



Harper Park, Knightdale



OBJECTIVES

- Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure, and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all citizens
- Planning for the projected growth of the community
- Gauging the recreation needs of the community
- Provide appropriate recreation improvements and expansion of recreation opportunities and pedestrian connectivity
- Pursue equitable access to recreation opportunities
- Develop creative and inclusive programming for Knightdale
- Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by adopting a policy of inclusive recreation
- Develop parks and facilities to become models of sustainable design
- Provide recreation land in the form of district, community, neighborhood, and mini parks which are convenient and accessible to all residents
- Create programs that encourage inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth
- Continue and improve existing coordination with schools and other recreation partners
- Provide adequate staffing at levels commiserate to needs
- Solicit creative funding strategies and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs
- Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and recreation trends

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES

General recommendations are based on professional experience and review of national and state recreational best practices. They are intended to provide guidance for the operations, administration, and growth of the Town of Knightdale Parks and Recreation department. They provide advice on elements ranging from policy, safety, maintenance, and other general issues. These general recommendations are intended to inform future decision making. Many of these recommendations depend upon collaboration between Town departments and other recreation partners. They are not specific to any single facility or program initiative.

Recommendation #1: Facility and Program Accessibility

Every parks and recreation facility Knightdale operates should respect and provide the needs of the disabled population through design and programming. All new facilities should be designed to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Currently, the Town meets compliance with these regulations at all of the existing facilities. As new facilities are acquired or developed, priority should be given to the continual upgrading of existing facilities that, perhaps, become non-compliant.

Recommendation #2: Design and Daily Maintenance

The facilities owned and operated by Knightdale should appeal to residents of the Town and visitors to the area. Priority should be given to improving the design of facilities so that they are architecturally, functionally, and ecologically progressive.



Master planning should always be completed for park improvements or new facilities prior to final budgeting and/or design; thereby, making the phasing/development more transitional and of higher quality. Design (and redesign) of all facilities should embrace ecologically responsible elements and methods such as the use of native plants for landscaping, the incorporation of wildlife habitats, the use of permeable surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff where possible, and “green” building practices for structures.

Recommendation #3: Walkable Communities

Knightdale should continue to promote land uses and site designs that make walking and bicycling convenient and enjoyable. They should continue to encourage the inclusion of public greenways or trails in private developments and the establishment of connectivity to and/or between both current and future public schools, parks, and other public destinations.

Recommendation #4: 10 Minute Walk Movement

NRPA, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) have partnered together to promote safe, equitable park access for US citizens. The goal is to provide 100% of people access to a quality park or green space within a 10 minute walk of their homes by 2050. The Town of Knightdale should pledge their support to the 10 Minute Walk Mission. For more information visit 10minutewalk.org.

10-MINUTE WALK

Recommendation #5: Greenways/Multi-Use Trails

Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities, which are increasing by bounds. North Carolina’s 2020-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) found that 67% of survey participants reported that linear parks are the most needed facility within their park systems. The SCORP also found that 61% of respondents viewed walking for pleasure to be a common outdoor recreational activity.

Knightdale should continue to encourage the coordination and planning for future utility easements with greenway facilities. The easements should be established to allow for the inclusion of recreation facilities where possible. Where new development occurs, the Town should continue to work with developers to provide rights-of-way or easements for proposed and future greenway facilities.

Recommendation #6: Greenway Funding

Knightdale should consider including language in a development ordinance for fee in-lieu of sidewalk to fund greenway land acquisition and construction where the need for pedestrian connections cannot rely on the timing of private property development.

Recommendation #7: Bicycle Facilities

Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concerns, and the need to increase the health and fitness of the population, a planned network of bike trails, bike lanes, and shared roadways should be developed to support alternative transportation to recreation facilities and travel within Knightdale. Future roadway construction within the Town should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing, as well as future park facilities and greenways. In addition, the Town should continue to require bike racks (sheltered at schools and other potential high-use areas) be installed at all publicly owned facilities within the Town. The Town should work with NCDOT to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian facilities are provided as much as possible to promote alternative modes of transportation.



Recommendation #8: Entrance and Wayfinding Signage

To provide uniformity throughout the park system Knightdale should consider providing signage that is uniform and consistent to promote parks and recreation facilities. Entrance signage is the face of parks and therefore the face of the Town’s Parks and Recreation. To provide visitors with ease of navigation throughout the park system wayfinding signage should also be installed to elevate the parks and provide consistency throughout the parks system.

Recommendation #9: Interpretative Signage

Knightdale should consider placing signage that would identify any historic and natural landmarks along pedestrian corridors. This type of signage would not only enhance the pedestrian experience but also provide educational and cultural information to greenway users.

Recommendation #10: Intergovernmental Cooperation

The Town of Knightdale should seek to coordinate planning efforts with Wake County, the Wake County School System, local municipalities, the Town planning department, and state park systems to provide greenway and park facilities. Representatives of the Town and of these agencies should meet periodically to

discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the area. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space, and recreation master plan updates for local municipalities and adjacent counties. This will also ensure that redundancy in services is prevented and that all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being utilized.

Recommendation #11: Partnership Agreement

It is recommended that the Town staff meet with existing and potential partners, such as local hospitals, not for profit organizations, local churches, and athletic associations, to determine needs and possible partnership opportunities. The Town should begin this process by developing an approach to each potential partner to establish an understanding of each entity's needs and ultimately result in a partnership agreement. The process will require periodic progress meetings with each partner to facilitate the partnerships goals and objectives. This may entail presentations to the partner's board or committee.

Recommendation #12: Educational and Stewardship Programming

Knightdale should develop a consistent environmental education program and interpretative facilities at park locations and along future greenway corridors as opportunities arise for future park development. These programs should include stewardship and community volunteer programs geared to the management of natural areas and wildlife habitats.

Recommendation #13: Green Building

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



Recommendation #14: Contiguous Property Acquisition

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



Recommendation #15: Acceptance of Fee Simple Land Donation

If land is offered to Knightdale as donation by fee simple title with no restrictions the property should be surveyed for natural heritage significance and relationship to existing plans and parks. If the land contains no environmental hazards, restrictive covenants, or restrictive easements it can be useful and beneficial for the

Town to assume ownership. Not all donated land has to be developed into a park to be useful. Any land donation to the Town serves a great public need even if it is banked for the future because the development and public needs of the distant future (over 50 years) is unknown. If donated property were properly managed, the revenue and future significance of the property would far exceed its current contribution to the tax base. If the Town chooses not to accept land donation of a particular property, efforts should be made to assist the property owner with contacting an agency that accepts land donations or conservation easements. Land donations (which the Town has no interest in owning) could be donated to the local parks foundation.

Recommendation #16: Natural and Cultural Heritage Inventory

The Town of Knightdale should refer to the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program’s Natural Area Inventory of Knightdale North Carolina. The intent of this study is to identify areas deemed to be significant natural resources, which should be evaluated for consideration of preservation and future use as recreational resources.

Recommendation #17: Technology Access

As the culture continues to move towards information accessibility, providing access to wi-fi connectivity within the parks is an amenity that can elevate the usership of park facilities. Knightdale should identify the locations within their park facilities to install the necessary equipment that will provide users the ability to access wi-fi connectivity.



Recommendation #18: Programs and Classes

To expand recreation programming, the Town should continue to provide recreation classes and programs in appropriate Town parks and facilities. The Town should assess the need to contract future programming offerings out to concessionaires. This could extend the programs offered by non-profits and private recreation providers into future Town owned facilities, which may be more accessible to residents who are not currently served. It also would strive to increase programming options by starting new contract programs and activities in the following service areas: health and fitness, swim safety classes, environmental education, nature-based outdoor recreation, non-sports interest classes and fine/cultural arts programs.

Recommendation #19: Facility Marketing Campaign

Parks and recreation facilities are an invaluable asset to any community. The need to provide public awareness of recreation opportunities is just as important as providing the necessary facilities. To improve awareness of Town owned facilities and programs Knightdale should launch a Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Programs marketing campaign. The Town should consider options to raise awareness through social media, special events at lesser known facilities, and signage throughout the Town directing visitors to the parks. As growth continues to occur through the region Knightdale should partner with local chambers of commerce and real estate groups to provide pamphlets to people who relocate to the Town.

Recommendation #20: Facility Security

Where feasible, add fencing to facility perimeters. Add surveillance cameras and site attendant patrols to mitigate security issues and provide a safer public environment for park patrons.

Recommendation #21: Mitigation of Asset Obsolescence

All Town facilities, equipment, and items needed to provide the public with safe and adequate recreation services should be evaluated annually to ensure they meet appropriate standards of service. Assets should be replaced at the end of their useful life.

KNIGHTDALE FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Knightsdale Station Park

Description:

Knightsdale Station Park is the flagship park for the Town. This 71-acre site is located along the eastern edge of Town however is a hub of energy. Along with the active and passive recreation amenities, this park provides cultural activities such as concerts and shows at the amphitheater, and is adjacent to neighborhood businesses and restaurants.

Challenges and problems:

- In need of distance demarcation along walking path
- Lack of shaded seating at playground and amphitheater
- Limited seating at splash pad
- Security issues concerning vandalism

Recommendations

- Provide trail mile markers indicating distance in both directions
- Provide shaded seating at the playground
- Provide shaded seating and 10' paved concrete path along back of amphitheater seating arena
- Provide more seating opportunities at the splash pad
- Install security cameras throughout the park
- Increase policing throughout park during active hours
- Install adventure play area in woodland between large ponds
- Install 18-hole disc golf course in woodland along southern boundary
- Install group of fitness stations in open space between parking lots
- Install shade structure / sails over educational overlook along southern border of pond
- Add dedicated parking space for potential food truck location



Examples of recommendations for Knightdale Station Park



Examples of recommendations for Knightdale Station Park

Harper park

Description:

Harper Park is a 4-acre neighborhood park that is honoring Eugene Harper, Knightdale's longest serving mayor. This beautiful park provides active recreation with tennis and pickleball as well as passive recreation with open lawns. The park is a great addition to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of ADA access to gazebo
- Lack of playground
- Lack of walking trails

Recommendations

- Continue with plans to replace gazebo with picnic shelter
- Continue with plans to provide activity tables in park
- Continue with playground improvements



Example of recommendations for Harper Park



Examples of recommendations for Harper Park

Knightdale Community Park

Description:

Knightdale Community Park is a hub of active recreation. Located adjacent to Knightdale High School, the 4 baseball fields are used both for community leagues and the High School league. Visitors also have access to access to active recreation facilities at the school during out of school hours.

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of community awareness
- Lack of shade for bleachers
- Lack of walking paths
- Outdated playground (currently owned by Wake County Parks system)
- Confusion with name of park and Knightdale Station Park. People think Knightdale Station Park is the community park when it is referenced

Recommendations

- Provide shade for bleachers
- Install a greenway connecting the park and Knightdale Recreation Center
- Install a picnic shelter near the play area
- Communicate with Wake County to replace the outdated playground equipment
- Consider renaming the park to eliminate confusion



Examples of recommendations for Knightdale Community Park



Examples of recommendations for Knightdale Community Park

Mingo Creek Park

Description:

Mingo Creek Park is a small neighborhood park that provides active recreation for the local community. Located in central Knightdale, this park is at the beginning of the popular Mingo Creek Trail.

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of shade
- Lack of restroom facilities
- Lack of drinking water
- Security concerns
- Lack of entry signage
- Lack of community awareness

Recommendations

- Develop a park master plan to redesign and update the park facility



Example of recommendations for Mingo Creek Park



Examples of recommendations for Mingo Creek Park

Knightdale Environmental Park

Description:

This small environmental is a natural jewel that is located adjacent to town hall and East Wake Regional Library. This passive park is a beautiful space for visitors to observe nature and as a preserve in the middle of Town for local flora and fauna.

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of community awareness
- Limited seating options
- Lack of entry signage to the park proper in the shared use parking lot
- Lack of educational signage

Recommendations

- Install fountain aerator in pond to increase air flow
- Provide additional seating opportunities
- Improve signage along the road to increase awareness of the park
- Provide park signage in the parking lot at the main park entrance
- Provide educational signage throughout the park
- Provide additional art installation opportunities
- Continue to partner with the library for a story walk



Examples of recommendations for Knightdale Environmental Park



Example of recommendations for Knightdale Environmental Park

Wake Stone Athletic Park

Description:

This athletic park is operated in partnership with NCFC Youth to provide active recreation and team sports to the community. The Town owns the land while NCFC Youth organizes programming and maintains the fields.

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of shade
- Lack of restroom facilities
- Limited amenities

Recommendations

- Pave existing parking lots
- Install shade structures
- Install playground
- Install restroom / concessions building
- Install picnic shelter
- Add dedicated parking space for potential food truck location
- Develop master plan for future community center and gymnasium to either be sited on the northwest side of the existing property or via a future project on adjacent parcels



Examples of recommendations for Wake Stone Athletic Park



Wake Stone Athletic Park is the most recent addition to the Town of Knightdale's parks and recreation system

Knightdale Recreation Center

Description:

Knightdale provides a recreation center with rentable space for classes and events and indoor recreation opportunities. The recreation center is adjacent to Forestville Elementary School. This provides teachers and students at the school the opportunity to utilize the space for a variety of extracurricular activities. Due to safety concerns with school schedules the indoor gymnasium has limited access. The community expressed a need for more available hours to utilize this valuable amenity for the community.

Challenges and problems:

- Limited access to indoor gymnasium due to limited hours available from programming of adjacent elementary school
- Possible maintenance considerations
- Meeting rooms don't meet all the needs of the community

Recommendations

- Assess for needed maintenance
- Update meeting rooms
- Install a greenway connecting the recreation center and Knightdale Community Park



Providing a greenway connector will allow students access between the schools, park, and recreation center



Examples of recommendations for Knightdale Recreation Center

Mingo Creek Trail

Description:

Mingo Creek Trail is a fantastic amenity to the community. This 3.5-mile trail provides visitors the opportunity to explore, provides health and wellness, and is an alternative transportation facility. Mingo Creek Trail also connects to the Neuse River Trail, a 27.5-mile paved greenway maintained by the City of Raleigh.

Challenges and problems:

- Lack of major waypoints with drinking water
- Lack of connection to Knightdale recreational facilities

Recommendations

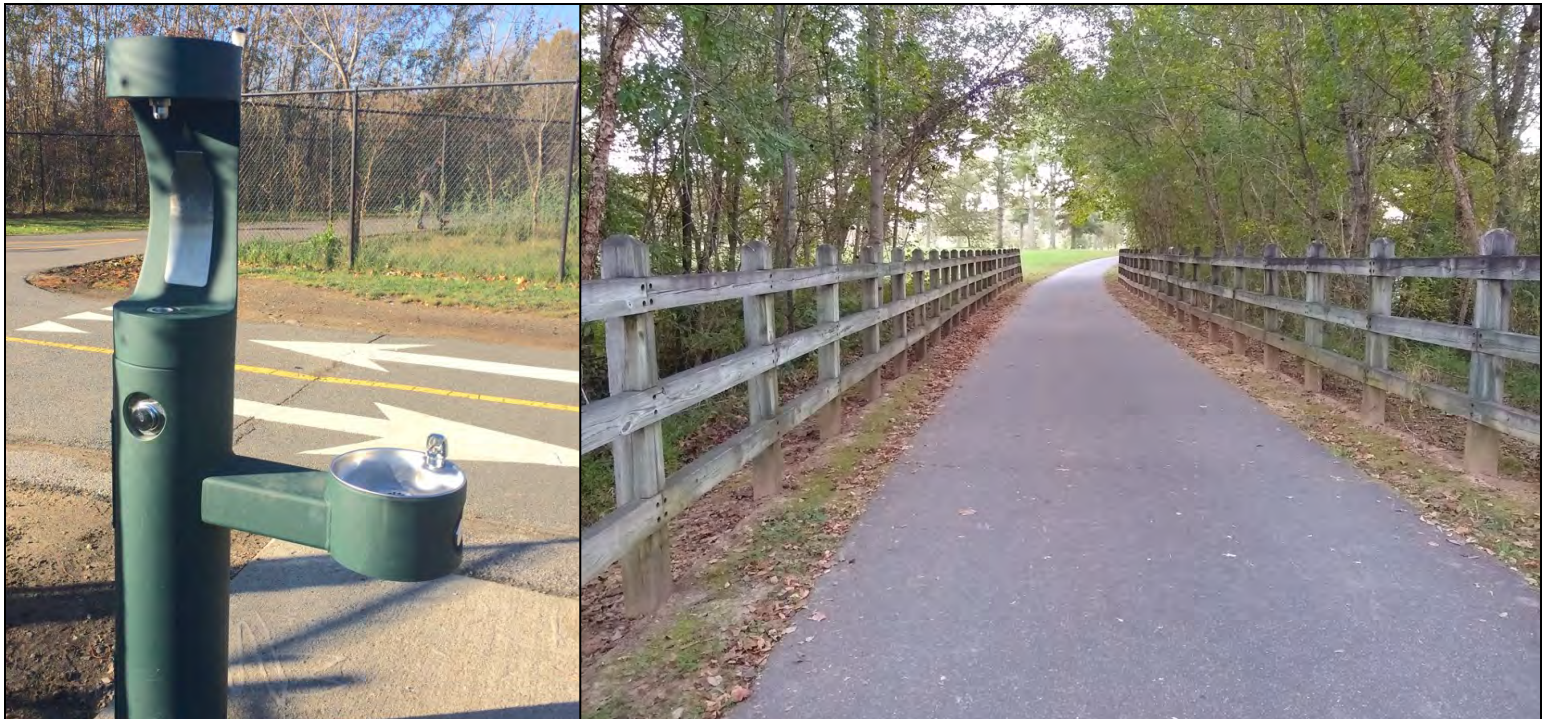
- Evaluation locations to provide drinking water
- Continue with project to connect to Knightdale Station Park and Harper Park



Example of recommendations for Mingo Creek Trail



Connecting Mingo Creek Trail with other recreational facilities will be a great asset to the Town



Examples of recommendations for Mingo Creek Trail

Knightdale Community Pool

Description:

This special facility is an excellent opportunity for residents and visitors alike to find respite from North Carolina summers. A swimming pool is a great community asset that can be enjoyed for multiple occasions.

Challenges and problems:

- Outdated facility
- Safety concerns
- Not maximizing usable land

Recommendations

- Conduct a feasibility study to determine if swimming pool is needed or if converting facility to an alternative waterplay facility is a better use of the land
- Establish a park master plan to maximize usable land with possible nature park and Neuse River access



Example of recommendations for Knightdale Community Pool



Maximizing the park property will provide visitors educational opportunities and access to the Neuse River

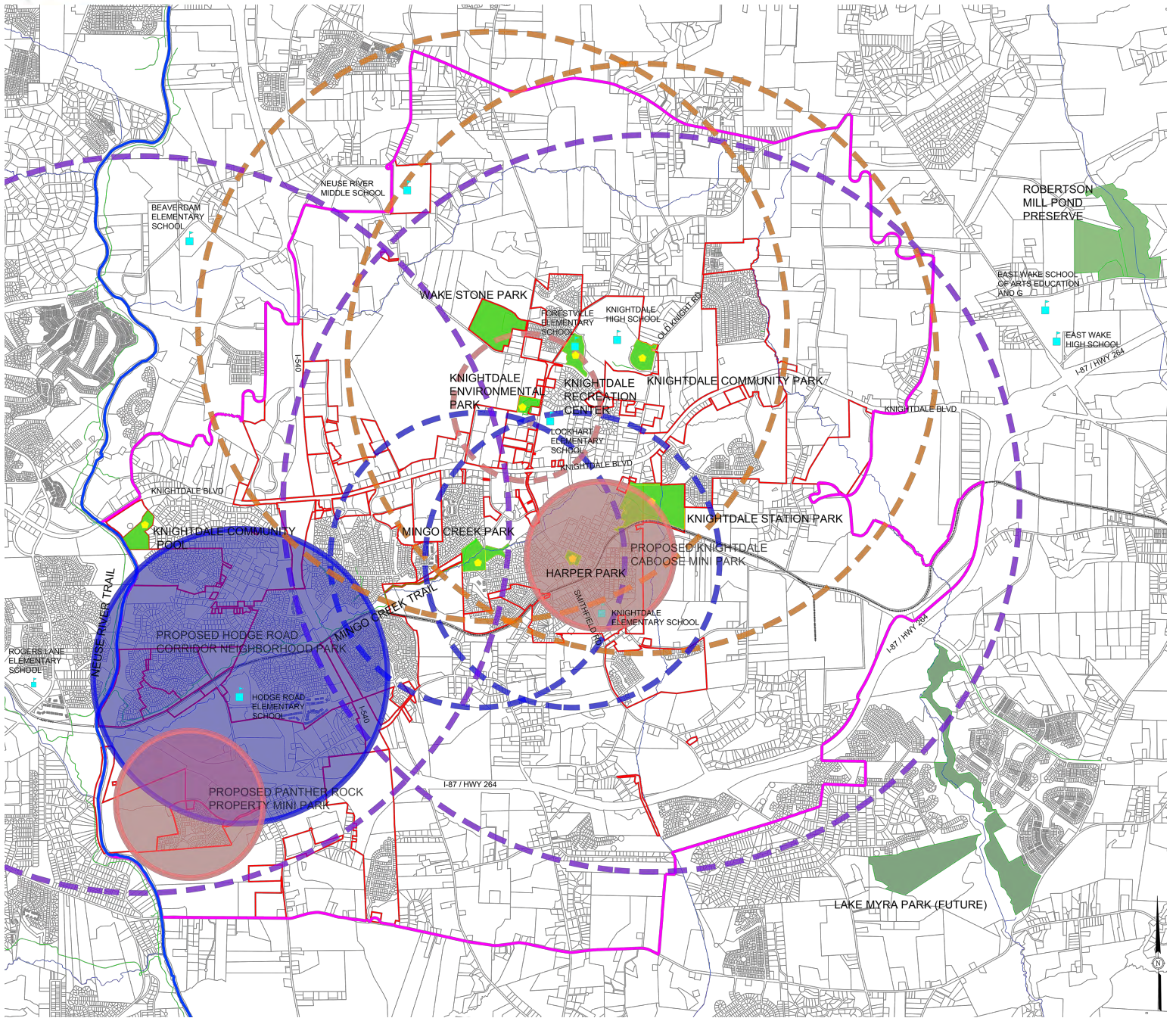
FUTURE FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Geographic equity of park access is an important consideration to provide short distance access and service to all Knightdale residents. An analysis of recreation service areas can be used to make land acquisition recommendations for both current and future needs. Future park site acquisitions should be balanced and proportional to service populations in all areas of the Town.

Map 4.1 shows possible park projects aimed at meeting future recreation demand. This plan proposes expanding the existing Wake Stone Athletic Park property and implementing a new indoor recreation center on the property, one new neighborhood park, and two new mini parks to expand the current Knightdale park system. These new recreation facilities will better serve the community and provide additional, needed recreation opportunities for the current and future Knightdale population.



As Knightdale continues to grow it is essential to provide adequate parks and open space to promote a high quality of life



LEGEND

TYPICAL SERVICE AREAS

- Municipal Boundary
- Municipal Planning Boundary
- Water Body/Creek
- Existing Knightdale Park
- Existing Public School
- Existing Greenway
- Existing Wake County Park
- Proposed Greenway
- 2.5 Mile (Existing District Park)
- 2.0 Mile (Existing Community Park)
- 1 Mile (Existing Neighborhood Park)
- 1 Mile (Future Neighborhood Park)
- 0.5 Mile (Existing Mini Park)
- 0.5 Mile (Future Mini Park)

Map 4.1 Knightdale proposed service area (See Appendix A for 11"x17")

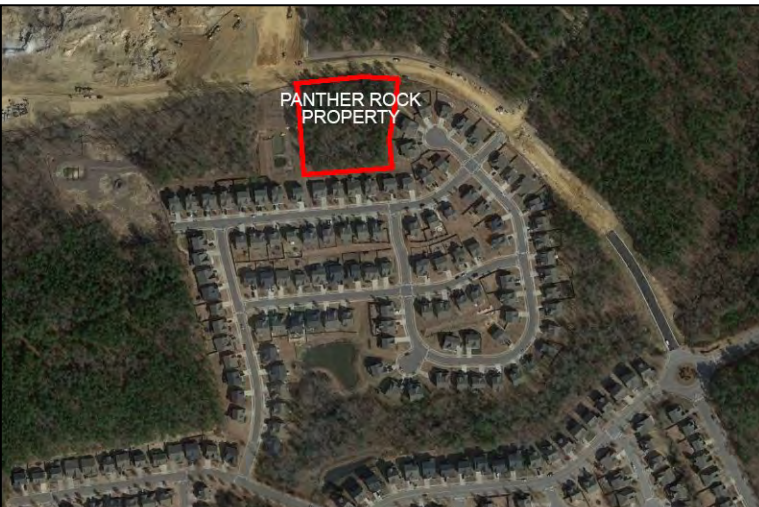
In order to provide more equitable access to Knightdale recreation services, three new capital projects are recommended for development along with improvements to existing facilities, trail connections, and general recommendations. The first capital project includes the expansion of Wake Stone Athletic Park. This addition could comprise a full community center / indoor recreation building. Any new community center would need to host indoor recreation activities such as basketball, pickleball, and volleyball as well as classrooms and space for arts / cultural programming. A design and programming feasibility study should include additional input from stakeholders as part of the master plan for such a facility.



The second project is the development of a neighborhood park in the southeast area of Town (See Map 4.1 Knightdale proposed service area page 116). Such a development would provide a place for general day use activities in a portion of the community where they don't currently exist for those living outside of private neighborhood based recreation services or within proximity to existing Town owned parks. Land acquisition and a site master plan would be needed to fully realize the new park's programming and desired stakeholder amenities. See typical neighborhood park description on pages 17-18 of this document for additional information.

The third project is the development of a small passive mini park on property currently owned by the Town known as Panther Rock. This mini park would provide a space for residents within the Cheswick subdivision and visitors to enjoy the surrounding natural environment, provide a space for small gatherings, a playground, and other elements that are suited for smaller areas. See the typical mini park description on pages 19-20 of this document for additional information.

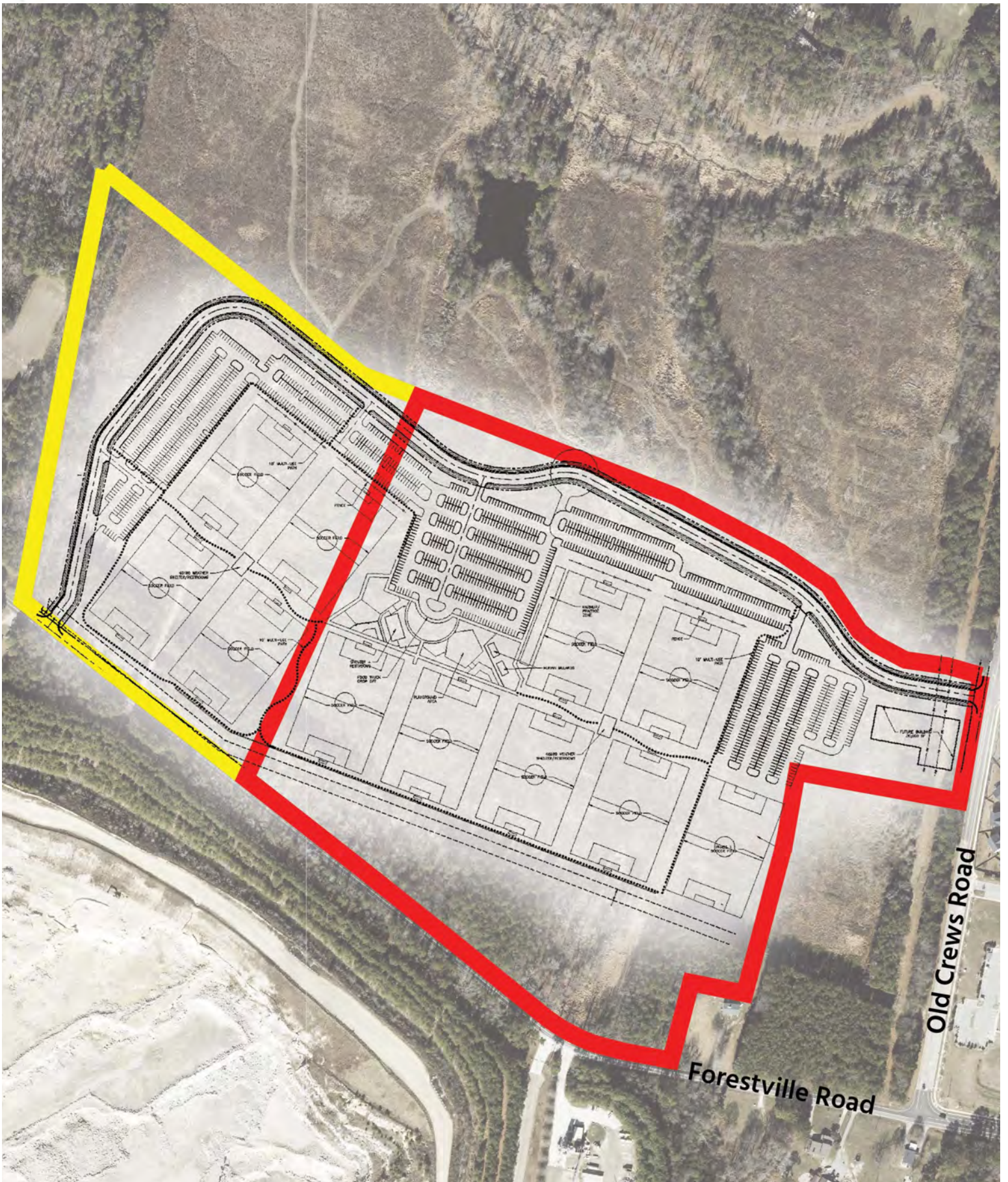
The final project is the development of a small passive mini park that will highlight local history. There is currently an historical caboose in downtown Knightdale. Through conversations with Town staff the recommendation to improve the area surrounding the amenity and providing a space for small gatherings and educational opportunities is recommended. This will provide a unique feature for the Town of Knightdale that both residents and visitors can enjoy.



The Panther Rock property is ideally situated to provide recreation in the southeastern part of Knightdale



The future Knightdale Caboose Park will highlight local history and provide a space downtown that is unique







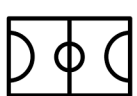















Expanding Wake Stone Athletic Park to provide more active recreation and a recreation center will aid the Town as it continues to

AMENITY PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Amenity	McGill Standards	Existing Amenity	2022 Recommended per Population	Needed for 2022	2032 Recommended per Population	Needed for 2032
Knightdale Amenities			Population: 19,435		Projected Population: 23,011	
Adult Baseball Field	1/7,000	1	3	2	3	0
Adult Softball Field	1/5,000	1	4	3	5	1
Youth Baseball Field	1/3,500	2	6	4	7	1
Youth Softball Field	1/5,000	0	4	4	5	1
Multipurpose Field	1/5,000	5	4	0	5	0
Soccer Field	1/5,000	3	4	1	5	1
Lacrosse Field	1/5,000	3	4	1	5	1
Basketball Court	1/5,000	4	4	0	5	1
Tennis Court	1/5,000	4	4	0	5	1
Pickleball Court	1/2,500	2	8	6	9	1
Volleyball Court	1/5,000	0	4	4	5	1
Lawn Games	1/2,500	1	8	7	9	1
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	5	7	2	8	1
Picnic Station	1/2,000	4	10	6	12	2
Playground	1/2,000	4	10	6	12	2
Walking / Running Trails	1/4 mi./1,000	7 mi.	4.85 mi.	0 mi.	5.75 mi.	0 mi.
Dog Park	1/5,000	1	4	3	5	1
Recreation Center	1/20,000	1	1	0	1	0
Outdoor Amphitheater	1/20,000	1	1	0	1	0
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1	1	0	1	0
Splash Pad	1/10,000	1	2	1	2	0
Disc Golf Course	1/10,000	0	2	2	2	0
Skate Park	1/20,000	0	1	1	1	0

Table 4.1 Knightdale existing amenities and recommendations

Based on the information contained in Table 4.1, the Town meets the recommended Knightdale recreation service standards for many of the typical recreational facilities for their permanent population. As recreation trends and public needs vary over time, recommended amenities may not be necessary for immediate implementation. The recommendations are intended to meet the anticipated recreation service needs over a ten-year period but implementation of specific projects may depend on available funding, land acquisition, and periodic reevaluation of recreation needs. It is important to note that the Town resident’s recreational needs are also being provided by local municipalities, county facilities, state public lands, and other private recreational facilities as well as through shared use agreements with Town schools. The community workshops and the recreation survey will be used as the primary guides in prescribing the specific needs for Knightdale parks and recreation development, both now and for the future.

	5 NEW / 1 FUTURE ADULT BASEBALL / SOFTBALL		8 NEW / 3 FUTURE SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED PICNIC
	8 NEW / 2 FUTURE YOUTH BASEBALL / SOFTBALL		6 NEW / 2 FUTURE PLAYGROUND
	0 ADDITIONAL MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS		0 ADDITIONAL TRAIL MILES
	1 NEW / 1 FUTURE SOCCER FIELD		3 NEW / 1 FUTURE DOG PARK
	1 NEW / 1 FUTURE LACROSSE FIELD		0 ADDITIONAL RECREATION CENTER
	0 NEW / 1 FUTURE BASKETBALL COURT		0 ADDITIONAL AMPHITHEATER
	0 NEW / 1 FUTURE TENNIS COURT		0 ADDITIONAL SWIMMING POOL
	6 NEW / 1 FUTURE PICKLEBALL		1 NEW / 0 FUTURE SPLASH PAD
	4 NEW / 1 FUTURE VOLLEYBALL		2 NEW / 0 FUTURE DISC GOLF
	7 NEW / 1 FUTURE LAWN GAMES		1 NEW / 0 FUTURE SKATE PARK

STAFFING RECOMMENDATIONS



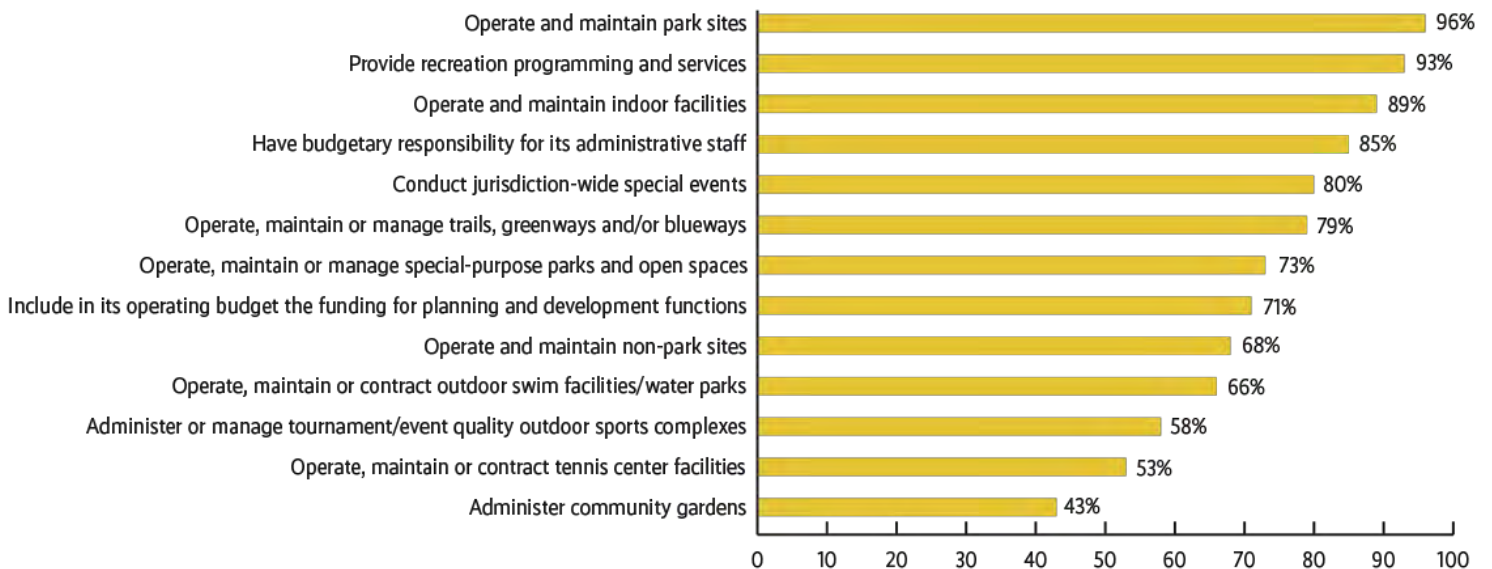
This master plan covers a planning period of ten years. The facilities to be implemented during that time as part of the recommendations may require some level of additional staffing and additional funding for facility operation and maintenance. Consideration of these budgetary impacts should be made prior to facility implementation.

Multiple factors influence what the future staffing needs of the Town of Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department will encompass. These can include population growth, available tax dollars, capital improvement plans, and development of tourism efforts. Staff compensation should be fair and based on market precedents. Maintaining adequate staffing for parks and recreation facilities and programs will be necessary to foster a good quality

of life for Town residents and prospective businesses that may seek to relocate to Knightdale.

The Town recreation department needs to add additional full-time and part-time employees for programming needs, preferably situated at each facility. The Town’s population is growing and parks and facilities will continue to see increasing use. Knightdale should provide adequate programming and maintenance staff to continue providing safe and enjoyable recreation services to the community.

**FIGURE 8: KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES
(PERCENT OF AGENCIES)**



Immediate Needs for Knightdale Parks and Recreation Staffing (2022–2025)

- Recreation Supervisor (1)
- Park Maintenance Technician (1)
- Park Ranger (1)
- Part-time staff as needed for programming
- Part-time staff as needed for park supervisors

Future Needs for Knightdale Parks and Recreation Staffing (2026 – 2032)

- Park Maintenance Technician (2)
- Park Ranger (1 for future environmental park at Knightdale Community Pool and 1 for future Wake Stone Athletic Park expansion)
- Part-time staff as needed for programming

STAFFING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (BASED ON 2021 NRPA REPORT)	Recommended for 2022 Population 19,435	Deficit for 2022 Population (based on current 11.25 FTE)	Recommended for 2032 Population 23,011	Deficit for 2032 Population (based on current 11.25 FTE)
LOWER QUARTILE (6.4 per 10,000 residents)	12.4 FTE	1.15 FTE	14.7 FTE	3.45 FTE
MEDIAN (10.3 per 10,000 residents)	20 FTE	8.75 FTE	23.7 FTE	12.45 FTE
UPPER QUARTILE (14.9 per 10,000 residents)	29 FTE	17.75 FTE	34.3 FTE	23.05 FTE



Finding qualified staff is critical to providing quality services of facility maintenance and programming

PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The park system for Knightdale should continue to grow and respond to changes in Town demographics. Future planned facilities should be implemented incrementally to provide for these changes. The following factors guided the prioritization of individual segments of the master plan and were derived from input and desires specified by the residents of Knightdale:

- Needed improvements to existing Knightdale owned facilities
- Development of planned facilities to meet the *current* needs of recreation for Town residents
- Development of planned facilities to meet the *future* needs of recreation for Town residents

The park facility prioritization is an essential tool that provides Knightdale’s Parks and Recreation Department with a breakdown of the priority for each capital improvement. Given the magnitude of the budgets for improvements to existing parks and for new park and greenway facilities, prioritization of these needs is important.



Harper’s Park, Knightdale

2022-2026

- Provide trail mile markers indicating distance in both directions at Knightdale Station Park
- Provide shaded seating at the playground at Knightdale Station Park
- Provide more seating opportunities at the splash pad at Knightdale Station Park
- Install security cameras throughout Knightdale Station Park
- Install 18-hole disc golf course in woodland along southern boundary at Knightdale Station Park
- Continue with plans to replace gazebo with picnic shelter at Harper Park
- Continue with plans to provide activity tables at Harper Park
- Continue with playground improvements at Harper Park
- Provide shade for bleachers at Knightdale Community Park
- Install a picnic shelter near the play area at Knightdale Community Park
- Communicate with County to replace the outdated playground at Knightdale Community Park
- Consider renaming the park to eliminate visitor confusion with Knightdale Station Park
- Develop a park master plan to redesign and update Mingo Creek Park
- Provide additional seating opportunities at Knightdale Environmental park
- Install an entry sign at the gateway in the parking lot at Knightdale Environmental Park
- Provide signage on the main entrance road for Knightdale Environmental Park to increase visitor awareness
- Provide educational signage throughout Knightdale Environmental Park
- Expand partnership with the library for additional programming at Knightdale Environmental Park
- Pave existing parking lot at Wake Stone Athletic Park
- Install playground at Wake Stone Athletic Park
- Install restroom / concessions building at Wake Stone Athletic Park
- Install shade structures and picnic shelter at Wake Stone Athletic Park
- Develop master plan for future community center and gymnasium at Wake Stone Athletic Park
- Evaluate locations to provide drinking water along the Mingo Creek Trail
- Continue with project to extend the Mingo Creek Trail to Knightdale Station Park
- Conduct a feasibility study for Knightdale Community Pool to determine best use of pool space
- Establish a park master plan to maximize usable land with possible nature park and Neuse River access at Knightdale Community Pool
- Develop a park master plan for a future neighborhood park in the southwest part of the Town
- Continue with plans to update signs to the Knightdale Parks, Recreation, and Cultural department's standard park signs where still needed
- Add dedicated parking space for potential food truck location where necessary at Town Parks
- Review existing plans to develop Caboose Minipark and secure funding

2027-2032

- Provide shaded seating and ten-foot wide paved concrete path along back of amphitheater seating arena at Knightdale Station Park
- Install adventure play area in woodland between large ponds at Knightdale Station Park
- Install group of fitness stations in open space or along walking trails at Knightdale Station Park
- Install shade over educational overlook along southern border of pond at Knightdale Station Park
- Install a greenway connecting the Knightdale Community Park and Knightdale Recreation Center
- Install fountain aerator in pond at Knightdale Environmental Park
- Provide additional art installation opportunities at Knightdale Environmental Park
- Construct an indoor recreation center at Wake Stone Athletic Park
- Construct nature park on usable land at Knightdale Community Pool
- Construct new neighborhood park near Hodge Road corridor in the southeast part of Knightdale
- Construct new Caboose minipark downtown
- Construct new mini park at Panther Rock property

ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This section describes how Knightdale can implement a safe, convenient, and usable park and recreation system through the execution of its established goals in the master plan. The strategy for achieving goals involves the recommended park and recreation facilities and programs and this section exhibits strategies and opportunities, key implementation steps and policies, necessary staffing, and methods for developing the facilities. Together, these sections form the implementation program.

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

REVIEW THE STUDY AREA

ANALYZE THE EXISTING FACILITIES

GATHER PUBLIC INPUT

REVIEW RECREATION STANDARDS

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

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

ANTICIPATED FUTURE RECREATIONAL PROJECT LIST

A recreation capital improvement program for the development of park facilities is designed to encompass, at a minimum, a ten-year period of the Town of Knightdale Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. To assist the Town in determining those needs this study provides a list of anticipated recreation projects based on plan recommendations. The proposed recreational project list provides costs based on recent (2020-2021) material/labor costs. The provided opinion of probable costs includes assumed general expenditures such as site preparation, building structures, access, site utilities, parking, and specific recreation improvements. The list provided also includes estimates for planning or design fees.

The proposed anticipated future recreational project list would cover a ten-year period and would serve to set recreation expenses for each fiscal year for implementation of specific projects. The opinions of cost are preliminary in nature and are for planning purposes only. As the time approaches to consider the recommended improvements it will be necessary to receive up to date opinions of cost.

This total anticipated future recreational project cost of \$17,298,100 represents the proposed, cumulative figure to be spent for park and recreation development, improvements, and renovations by the year 2031. The total figure does not consider an inflation rate over the ten-year period through the year 2031. (See Appendix D for anticipated future recreational project list.)



Knightdale Community Park, Knightdale

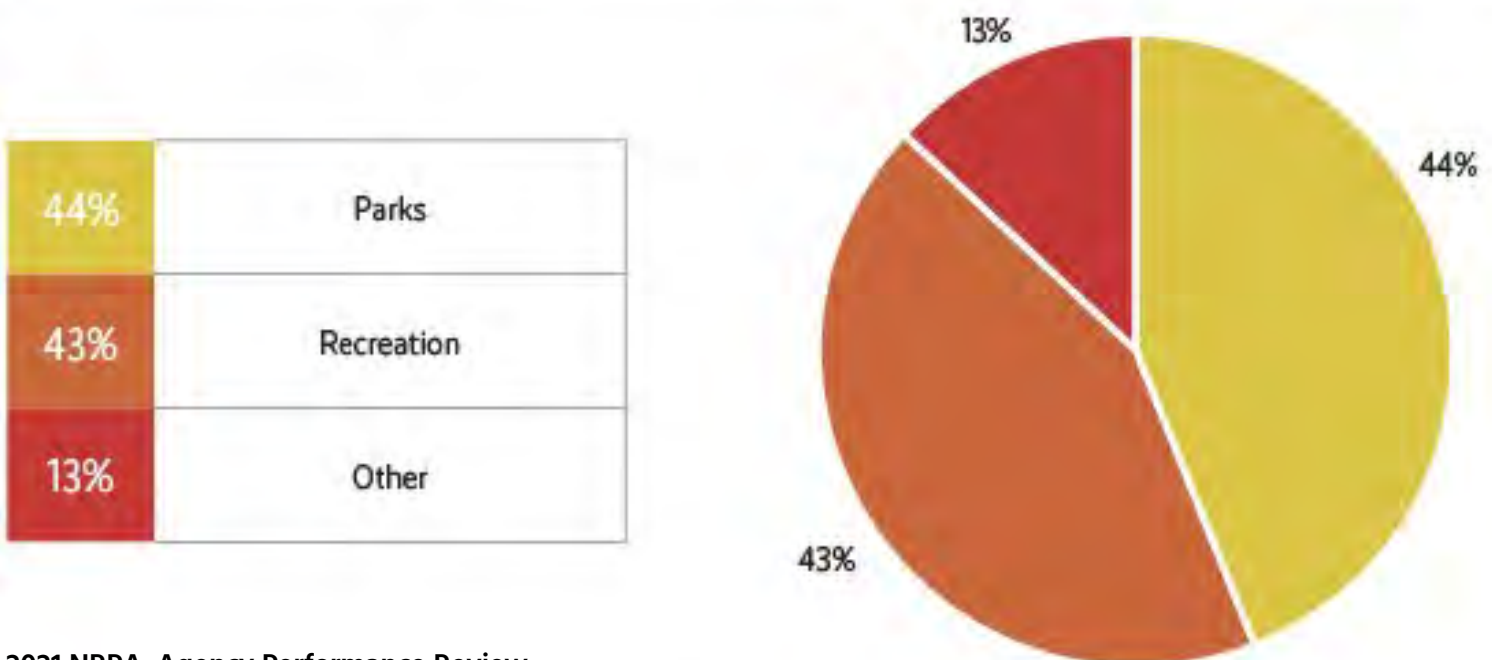
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Identification of sufficient funding is a crucial element that is required to implement the master plan. The North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a guide by which funding sources for park and recreation facilities may be identified. Funding for future projects will be a key issue that will need to be addressed in the upcoming years if governments continue to provide basic minimum services.

To meet the existing and future needs of Knightdale, the goals and objectives that are identified in the master plan, must be seriously considered for implementation. The Town will need to update their annual budget for the parks and recreation department based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, and operations and maintenance costs.



FIGURE 18: OPERATING EXPENDITURES DEDICATED TO PARKS OR RECREATION (AVERAGE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES)



Park and Recreation Capital Expenditures

The latest reliable recreation expense data per population (2018) has been used. The population estimates used in this report were certified county and municipal estimates on April 18, 2019 by Raleigh News & Observer - *US Census data for County and Metropolitan Area Estimates*. The budget figures were provided by NC OSBM facts and figures (Log Into North Carolina (LINC) data system) for cultural and recreation expenses.

Table 5.1 North Carolina municipalities with populations between 15,000 and 18,000

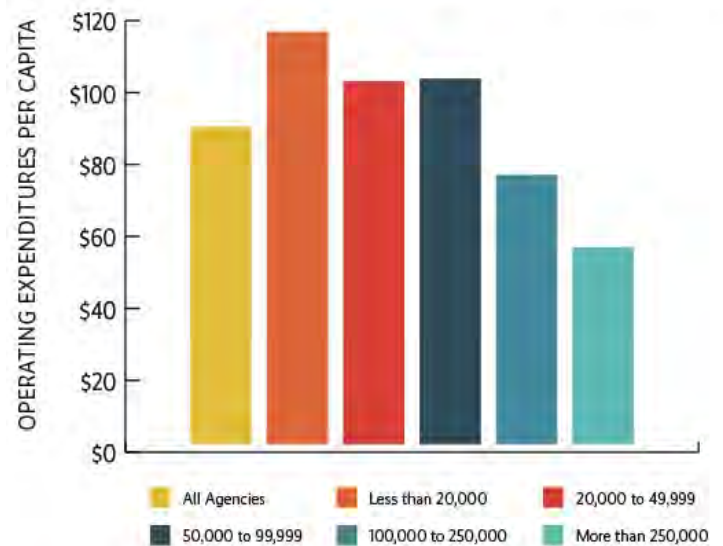
Municipalities with Populations Similar to Knightdale	Population Estimate 2018	Per Capita Expenditures 2018
Hope Mills	15,769	\$105.55
Harrisburg	15,806	\$110.56
Albemarle	15,980	\$109.31
Knightdale	16,001	\$166.49
Pinehurst	16,050	\$189.14
Morganton	16,481	\$342.27
Elizabeth City	17,629	\$138.91

According to the NRPA 2021 Agency Performance Review, recreation department operating expenditures per capita for populations less than 20,000 were between \$64.02 and \$222.94 with a median of \$114.62 per capita.

There is a wide range of recreation departments with a diverse mix of facilities, programs, and other services. For this reason, we recommend the comparison analysis of other similar sized North Carolina municipalities (Table 5.1).

2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review

FIGURE 14: OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER CAPITA (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	\$88.30	\$114.62	\$100.93	\$101.65	\$74.87	\$54.68
Lower Quartile	\$48.84	\$64.02	\$60.04	\$58.77	\$45.39	\$21.77
Upper Quartile	\$159.07	\$222.94	\$195.81	\$166.17	\$154.56	\$85.33

Economic Development Initiative

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

Parks

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



Multi-Use Trails

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

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

Multi-use trails having vegetated buffers located adjacent to waterways act as filters to clean the water, trapping nonpoint source pollutants. These pollutants, including sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gas, and other chemicals, are transported into streams, rivers, and/or lakes by stormwater when rain or snow events occur.



Trail Development

The ongoing construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is proving to be a wise economic investment for the communities through which they pass. Knightdale's parks and recreation department should annually assess and include funding towards the maintenance of popular Town trails to preserve the value that they contribute to the community. Trails and pathways have a positive effect on nearby property values with homebuyers and business owners realizing the effect that such facilities bring to a community. According to research by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, there are vast amounts of people who are using rail trails. It is easy to understand how communities can profit economically by meeting the needs of trail users. Entrepreneurs who invest in restaurants, convenience stores, bicycle and other merchandise shops, campgrounds, and alternate lodging attribute the location of a nearby trail to at least a portion of their success. Realtors and homebuyers alike are recognizing the benefits of properties located near trails. Both locally and nationally, the construction of trails has proven to be a cost effective use of public funds. Multi-use trails allow more visitors and residents to replace automobile trips with non-motorized trips, thereby moving the citizenry closer to achieving public health objectives, including increased opportunities for physical exercise.

Increased Property Value

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

Studies have shown that property values typically increase when parks or outdoor facilities, such as outdoor festivals, movies, and restaurants, are in the immediate locale. Studies indicate that commercial asking rents near park property exceed rents in surrounding submarkets.

Revitalization of Businesses

In recent years, there has been a trend to revitalize inner-Town and urban areas to improve their quality of life. The success of this revitalization has included the addition of parks and recreational activity in Town areas. Generally speaking, people do not want to live or work in an environment where they have no refuge from Town buildings without having any place to go for a stroll, walk the dog, or just enjoy the outdoors. In studies of Town revitalizations, the top recommendations include the dramatic expansion of parks and open spaces.

Tourism

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

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

Dedicated Source of Local Funding

In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the programs listed Knightdale should evaluate the existing departmental budget and funding for capital improvements.

Property/Sales Tax Revenues

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



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

General Obligation Bonds

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



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

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

- In North Carolina, the issuance of general obligation bonds requires a referendum of the voters within the issuing jurisdiction.
- The term of the debt may be extended to 20-30 years.
- The debt is publicly sold, so there are costs associated with the sale. These costs generally total 3% to 5% of the total bond principal. The issuance costs offset the lower interest rate and, therefore, this instrument becomes more attractive as the size of the issuance increases and the issuance costs are spread over the larger debt. It has been found that this financing option becomes financially superior as the debt principal exceeds \$10-\$12 million.
- Generally, prepayment of the debt cannot be accomplished until reaching a call date. This usually is around 75% of debt retirement.



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

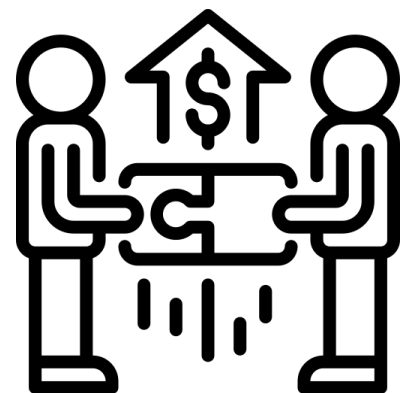
Fee in-lieu of Contributions

The Town should consider providing developers with an option to pay a fee in-lieu of rather than to dedicate land for open space or recreation within conventional subdivisions. This program has proven to be successful for many local governments in providing a dedicated source of revenue earmarked for park development.



User Fees/Registration Fees

Communities throughout the nation employ a wide variety of user fees for public recreational programs and services within their recreation departments. The amount of the fee is usually determined by a portion of the recreation costs needed for improvements and operations. These user fees are typically levied for special facilities such as water parks and golf courses; however, they can also be charged for the use of trails and ball fields. The Town of Knightdale should continue to generate revenue by charging user fees for use of facilities such as picnic shelters in order to cover operation and administrative costs. In addition, the Town should continue to have a separate fee rate structure for residents and non-residents. As the park system continues to develop, the Town should examine their fee structure to identify opportunities and additional revenue. The current user fees appear to be fair and reasonable for a majority of the Town residents and non-residents. Elected officials should determine the fees and changes based on departmental input; the fees should not be so high that persons of modest income would ultimately be denied the use of park facilities.



Grants

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



The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) was established for local governments and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation in 1994 as a funding source for the development and/or improvement of parks and recreation facilities and for the purpose of land acquisition. A state-funded program, PARTF matches monies spent by municipalities on parks and recreation, with each sharing 50% of the cost. The maximum matching fund amount provided by PARTF is \$500,000.



The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is a \$1.5-million federal grant program designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. The program is administered by the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration.

RTP is a reimbursement grant program. Funds must be spent and then reimbursed upon completion of deliverables. Eligible applicants must be a state, federal or local government agency or qualified nonprofit organization. All applications are reviewed by the North Carolina Trails Committee and recommendations are made to the Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Secretary makes the final determination on grant awards.



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



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federally funded program that was established for local and state governments in 1965 as a funding source for outdoor recreational development and land acquisition. LWCF monies are derived from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily offshore oil and gas leases, and surplus federal land sales. Acquisition and development grants may be used for a wide variety of outdoor projects such as Town parks, tennis courts, bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, and support facilities (roads, water supply, et cetera.) Facility design must be rather basic rather than elaborate and must remain accessible to the general public. No more than 50% of the project cost may be federally funded by LWCF, although all or part of the project sponsor's matching share may be obtained from certain other federal assistance programs.

The Safe Routes to Schools Program is a federal aid program of the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The program is a sub-program of the Transportation Alternatives Program, falling under the Surface Transportation Program. Under TAP the SRTS Program is combined with RTP to provide financial assistance to projects that fall under alternative transportation. Communities must come up with 20% of a project cost while the remaining 80% is funded through grant competitions. All TAP projects are administered by state departments of transportation (DOTs). The federal program provides funds to the states to improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely. The purposes of the Safe Routes to Schools program are outlined below:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age
- To facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity (approximately 2 miles) of primary and middle schools (grades K-8)

For more information on North Carolina's Safe Routes to School Program visit <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/pages/safe-routes-to-school.aspx>.

SafeRoutes

DC Safe Routes to School Program



EEG

The Environmental Enhancement Grant Program (EEG) is used to fund projects that address environmental needs of North Carolina, specifically to protect water quality as well as conserve natural areas. To be eligible applicants must be nonprofit organizations or government entities for projects in North Carolina, with preference for programs focused on the eastern part of the state. The types of grants included are land acquisitions and easements, construction, remediation, restoration, and research, planning, education. The maximum award available is \$500,000 to be completed in 3 years from date of fully executed memorandum of understanding.

From agreement: “obtain environmental easements, construct, or maintain wetlands, and other such environmental purposes, as the Attorney General deems appropriate.



The North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) was created in 1996 by the North Carolina General Assembly and previously referred to as the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), grants monies to local governments, state agencies, and not-for-profit conservation groups. The money is to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution issues. NCLWF will fund projects that contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.



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



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



Contributions

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

Park Foundations

Foundations are another source of financing by making direct contributions within communities, states, or the nation. These types of funds are usually described as special program foundations, general purpose foundations, or corporate foundations. Foundations can provide the needed resources to support park projects. Foundations generally have very few restrictions and/or limitations and are typically received from local entities. A list of appropriate foundations can be found at: <http://foundationcenter.org>.



Ashley Wilder Dog Park at Knightdale Station Park, Knightdale

Partnerships

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



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

- Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are Town owned
- Create a plan to solicit local businesses for sponsorship opportunities related to specific facilities, amenities, programs, and special events
- Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities
- Development partnerships to purchase land and / or build facilities
- Management partnerships to maintain properties and / or facilities

The Town of Knightdale is currently participating in partnerships with the Neuse River Futbol Alliance for youth soccer workouts, practices, games, and other programs throughout the year, Wake County school system for facility partnerships, and Raleigh Volleyball Club, Raleigh Tennis Association, and Champions in Motion for specific sports lessons and programs. Knightdale has also partner with NCFC Youth to program and maintain Wake Stone Athletic Park. The Town should evaluate and update their current partnerships to ensure they are providing the best opportunities for the community. The Town should also evaluate forming additional partnerships which address the needs of a comprehensive park system. Direct requests should be made to meet potential partners, inviting them to evaluate the possible benefits of partnering. This step should be made to generate interest and agreement prior to solidifying any responsibilities for each participating party.

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



LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Life Estate

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



Local Gifts

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

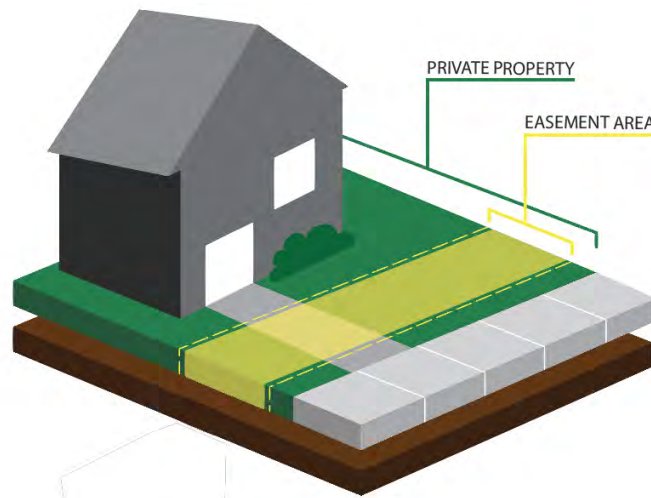


Long-Term Option

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

Easement

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



Fee Simple Purchase

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

Fee Simple with Lease-Back or Resale

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



PLAN ADOPTION

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

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

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

Action Steps

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

1. Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address the ten-year and beyond anticipated future recreational project list and address the goals of the master plan
2. Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of this plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities that are proposed
3. Develop and implement educational and awareness programs such as public events and promotion of parks awareness by civic and environmental advocacy groups. These programs can be used to announce new park facilities and upcoming projects
4. Begin working on the recommendations that are listed in the 10-year and beyond anticipated future recreational project list. From these opportunities come the framework for an initial implementation strategy. These recommendations include:
 - Aggressively begin to establish potential funding mechanisms for future park expansions. This high priority goal is essential for realizing the proposed recommendations for the future growth and development of Knightdale's parks and recreation facilities
 - Use the nucleus of park patrons to expand the awareness of the amenities and programming of Knightdale parks and recreation system
 - Expand and modify the existing park system into a comprehensive, multi-use system, distributed so that it better meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities to all and enhances the current park system
 - Continue making the critical pedestrian and bicycle connections between destination points that will allow for preservation of open space and offer an alternative mode of transportation



Knightdale Station Park, Knightdale

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

The Town needs to ensure that facility planning is integrated with other regional planning efforts at the state and local levels and with long-range and current land use, economic development, parks, environmental, and community planning. The following are mechanisms to achieve this action step:

1. Expand local capital improvements program for yearly appropriation for greenway and park development
2. Set aside money for future land acquisition, construction, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities
3. Pursue and request pedestrian/bicycle projects to be added to NCDOT TIP
4. Pursue developing and expanding existing and new partnerships.
5. Apply for PARTF grants and other related recreation grants for future parks and recreation projects
6. Seek other sources of revenue funding for parks and greenway improvements, such as including local assessment districts and developer exactions
7. Pursue funding from other sources listed in this section



MOVING FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

“The Department enhances the quality of life for citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County by providing an experienced staff to plan, implement, and manage a wide variety of passive, active, and cultural opportunities. The Department strives to provide a system of parks, greenways, recreational facilities, and open space areas which will ensure quality recreation opportunities for present and future citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County.”

In order to continue to fulfill this mission, the Town of Knightdale has pursued planning as a way to improve the parks and recreation system throughout the Town. This comprehensive parks and recreation master plan has laid out a set of strategies for expanding and developing a safe, convenient, and usable park system. The plan has assessed the study area, analyzed the existing facilities, received and analyzed community input, reviewed recreation standards, developed recommendations, and provided strategies for implementing the plan. The Town of Knightdale Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a comprehensive guide to be used in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for Knightdale.



QUALITY OF LIFE



healthy living

HEALTH & WELLNESS



COMMUNITY



