

HARNETT COUNTY

**COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION AND PARKS
SYSTEMWIDE MASTER PLAN**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FINAL REPORT BRIEFING**

MAY 7, 2007



‘strong Roots ▪ new growth’



Master Plan Content



Purpose

- Used as a guide for increased recreational opportunities for County citizens.
- Data source for County recreation stakeholders.

Discussion Items

- County population served
- Citizen participation process
- Recreation facilities standard comparisons
- Parks and Facilities recommendations
- Probable cost estimates
- Recreation/School joint use
- Recommendations of procedures and standards
- Current staffing
- Recommendation of staff positions
- Western area regional park

Demographics



Population (Ref. US Census)

YEAR	POPULATION	PERCENT DIFFERENCE FROM PREVIOUS DECADE
1960	48,236	
1970	49,667	1.03%
1980	59,570	16.62%
1990	67,822	12.17%
2000	91,025	25.49%
2005	104,103	12.56%*
2015	136,000	25.00%**

*5 year increment

** Percentage based on previous increases

Citizen Participation Process



Forums

- Overhills High School – October 25, 2005
- Western Harnett High School – October 27, 2005
- Harnett Central High School – November 1, 2005
- Triton High School – November 3, 2005

Citizen Surveys

- Approximately 20,000 surveys were sent
- Responses

Harnett Central	273
Overhills	150
Triton	158
Western Harnett	<u>345</u>
Total	926

Citizen Participation Process Facilities Request



- Facilities needed

Additional Parks (District, neighborhood and co-sports)

Indoor Multipurpose Center

River Recreation

Nature Park

Bike Trails

Aquatics

Citizen Support of Various Funding Sources



- Support of various funding sources (Figures indicates citizens that checked 'yes' or 'may support')

General tax increase – 53%

Dedicated recreation tax – 70%

Increased or new user fees – 73%

Grants – 93%

General obligation bonds – 76%

Long term financing – 75%

Developer fees and land dedication – 85%

Recreation Facilities Standards Comparisons



■ Mythology

In order to determine the number and types of facilities needed, several factors were considered. They included the following data:

- Results of surveys and citizens forums
- Detailed discussions with County Staff
- Data provided by each service provider
- State and National Guidelines.

FACILITIES	NRPA	NCDENR	HARNETT COUNTY STANDARDS
Sports Fields			
Adult Baseball	1/12,000	1/5,000	1/40,000
Youth Baseball	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/7,500
Softball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/8,500
Football	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Soccer	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Courts			
Basketball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/7,500
Tennis	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/4,000
Volleyball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/15,000
Shuffleboard	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/10,000
Horseshoe	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/20,000
Outdoor Areas			
Picnic Shelter	N/A	1/3,000	1/6,000
Playground Activities*	N/A	1/1,000	1/3,000
Trails			
Hiking/Walking	1/region	.4 mile/1,000	.4 mile/1,000
Specialized			
Community Center w/Gym	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/50,000
*Splash Pad/0 Depth Pool	-	-	1/50,000
Golf Course	1/25,000	1/25,000	1/300,000
Camping	N/A	2.5 sites/1,000	2.5 sites/1,000
Archery Area	1/50,000	1/50,000	1/50,000
Stream/Lake Mileage	N/A	.2 mile/1,000	.2 mile/1,000
Stream/Lake Access	N/A	1/10 miles	1/10 miles
Disc Golf	N/A	N/A	1/50,000
Skateboard Park	N/A	N/A	1/150,000

Facilities	Harnett 2006 Standards	**Existing Facilities			Current Demand 106,000	Current Need	2015 Demand 136,000	2015 Projected Need
		H	M	T				
Fields								
Adult Baseball	1/40,000	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
Adult Softball/Junior Baseball	1/8,500	2	8	10	13	3	16	6
Youth Baseball/Softball	1/7,500	6	15	21	14	(7)	18	(3)
Football****	1/10,000	3	9	11	11	0	14	3
Soccer****	1/10,000	3	14	17	11	(6)	14	(3)
Courts								
Basketball RecCtr/Otrd	1/7,500	2	8**	10	14	4	18	8
Tennis	1/ 4,000	12	12	24	26	2	34	10
Volleyball	1/15,000	0	1	1	7	6	9	8
Shuffleboard	1/15,000	1	0	1	7	7	9	9
Horseshoe	1/20,000	2	0	2	5	5	7	7
Outdoor Areas								
Picnic Shelter	1/6,000	1	2	3	18	15	23	20
Playground Act.***	1/3,000	0	9	9	35	26	46	37
Trails								
Pedestrian	.4 miles/1,000	0	15	15	42	27	54	39
Specialized								
Community Center w/Gym	1/20,000	1	1	2	5	3	7	5
Swimming Pool	1/50,000	0	1	1	2	1	3	2
*Splash Pad/0 Depth Pool	1/50,000	0	0	0	2	2	3	1
Golf Course	1/300,000	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Camping	2.5 sites/1,000	0	0	0	42	42	54	54
Archery Area	1/50,000	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Stream/Lake Mileage	.2 mile/1,000	0	2.5	0	21	18.5	27	24.5
Stream/Lake Access	1/10 miles	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
Disc Golf	1/50,000	0	0	0	2	2	3	3
Skateboard Park	1/150,000	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

Current Facilities

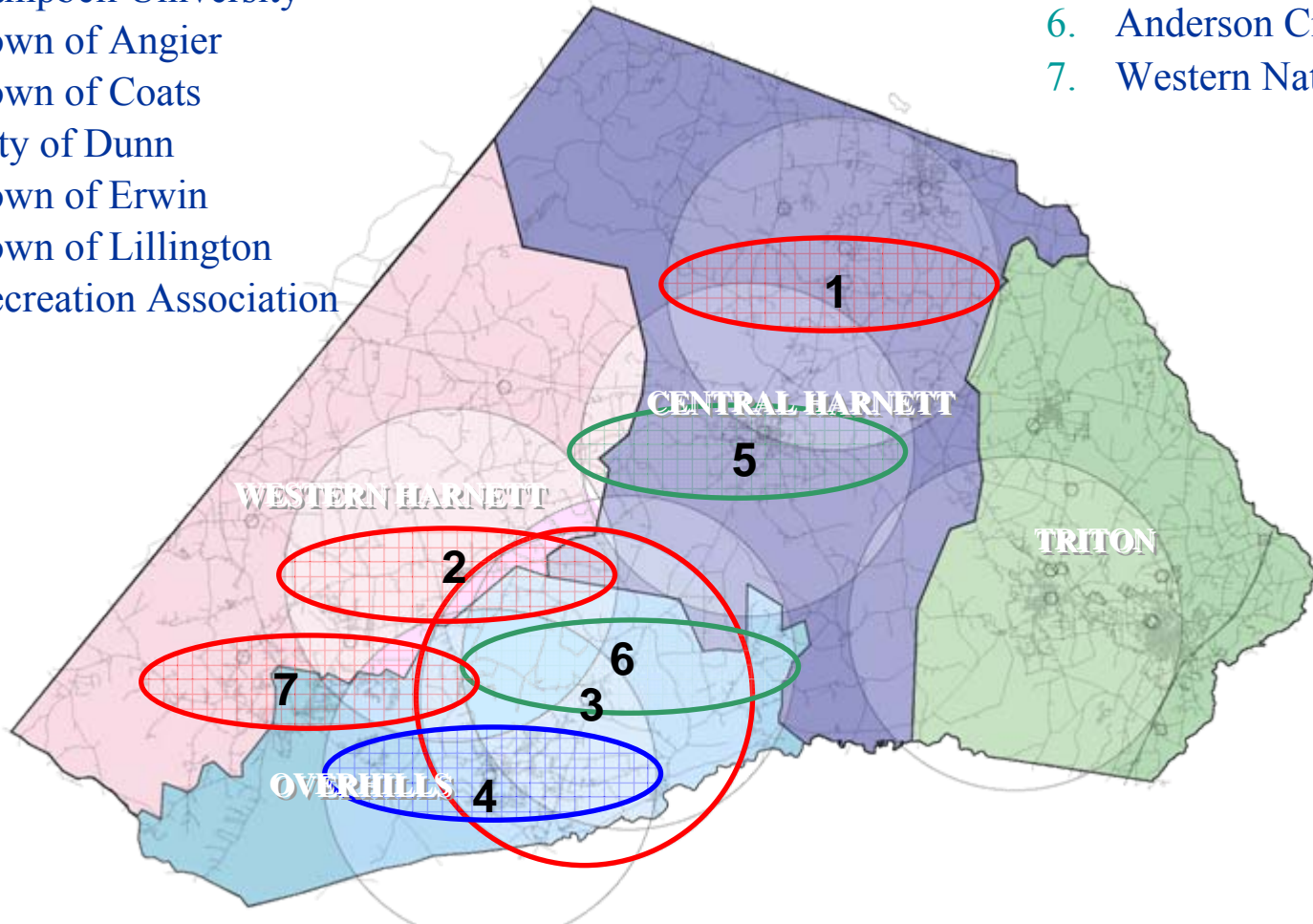


Recreation Providers

- Harnett County Schools
- Campbell University
- Town of Angier
- Town of Coats
- City of Dunn
- Town of Erwin
- Town of Lillington
- Recreation Association

Harnett County

1. Neill's Creek Park
2. Barbeque Creek Park
3. South Harnett
4. Senior Center
5. Shawtown Gym
6. Anderson Creek Gym
7. Western Nature Park



Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ Senior Center

GENERAL

The senior center is approximately 2,000 square feet and contains one large multi-purpose room and several other smaller rooms for offices and storage. It is in good repair.

A new roof was recently installed.

Average daily participants: 20 to 40 persons depending on daily activities.

The site has limited parking.

The current 2-acre parcel lacks an adequate area for any significant expansion of the center without affecting the parking area or open areas of the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the current limitations of the present site, the distance from the County's northern sections and the anticipated growth, it is recommended that the facility be replaced with two centers.

Each center should would 8,000 to 10, 000 square feet.

Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations: \$4,728,000

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ Multi-purpose Recreation Complex

GENERAL

The multi-purpose recreation center complex would need approximately 20,000 square feet and would contain one gymnasium, several multi-purpose rooms, game room, and several other smaller rooms for offices and storage.

Parking would be approximately 200 vehicles.

In order to have adequate parking and open space, the center would need to be constructed on approximately 8 acres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Harnett County Standards indicate that County have 7 centers by 2015. It is our understanding that Lillington, Coats and Angier is anticipating construction of multi-use facilities within this period. Furthermore, Dunn has recently opened a center. Therefore, it is recommended that two multi-purpose centers be constructed by the County. One in the southwestern and one in the north central area.

Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations: \$8,927,050

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ Aquatic Complex

GENERAL

Structure should be approximately 20,000 square feet to include indoor pool, multi-purpose rooms, shower rooms, offices, dressing rooms and concessions.

Outdoor amenities include zero depth pool (splash pad) with recirculation system, seating plaza, and outdoor volleyball.

Minimum 15-acres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Construct the complex in the central part of the County accessible to all citizens.

Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations: \$7,300,700

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ District Parks

GENERAL

At a minimum, complex should contain two 200-foot fields and one 160-foot x 360 foot multi-purpose field.

Site should also to contain, one volleyball court, 4 lighted tennis courts, one playground system and walking trails.

Parking for 150 vehicles.

Minimum 35-acres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Construct two parks. One in the northwestern part of the County and the other in the southwestern area.

**Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations (two facilities):
\$5,200,600**

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ Sports Complex

GENERAL

The Complex should contain two 300-foot fields, two 200-foot fields and one 160-foot x 360 foot multi-purpose field. Tournament type facility.

Site also should contain, one volleyball court, one playground system and two park shelters.

Park would also include a ½ mile walking track.

Site should be centrally located and a minimum of 50-acres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Construct the complex in the central part of the State accessible to all County citizens.

Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations: \$3,475,800

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ Skate Park

GENERAL

The Complex would contain approximately 10 elements.

Skating area is contained on level concrete pad.

Site also to contain, one volleyball court, one playground system and two park shelters.

Park also includes a ½ mile walking track.

Site should be located within a multi-purpose park and contain approximately 8-acres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The complex should be located in the central part of the County in order to be accessible to all citizens.

Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations: \$298,625

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



■ Cape Fear River Trail Park

GENERAL

Complex to contain one shelter, parking area, canoe access, vehicle bridges, foot bridges and trails.

Site is located in Erwin on the Cape Fear River.

Project was awarded a PARTF grant and is currently being designed.

Approximate probable construction cost of recommendations: \$489,250

* Source: Cape Fear River Trail PARTF Grant Application

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



Roll of Western Park

The primary activities of the Western Regional Park should be passive in nature.

Some examples include:

Equestrian

Walking and Nature Trails

Wetlands Walks

Campgrounds

Picnic Areas

Nature and Learning Center

Overlooks

Could incorporate a active area without major affect on the natural elements of the site.

Existing Parks Analysis and Improvements Recommendation



Summary

Neill's Creek Park Renovations	\$870,650
Barbeque Park	\$790,300
South Harnett	\$557,750
Senior Centers (2)	\$4,728,000
Anderson Creek Gymnasium	\$425,000
Shawtown Gymnasium	\$420,000
Multi-Purpose Recreation Complex (2)	\$8,927,050
Aquatic Complex	\$7,300,700
District Parks (2)	\$5,200,600
Sports Complex	\$3,476,800
Skate Park	\$298,625
Cape Fear River Trail Park	<u>\$489,500</u>
Total	\$33,484,975

Recommended Recreation Facilities

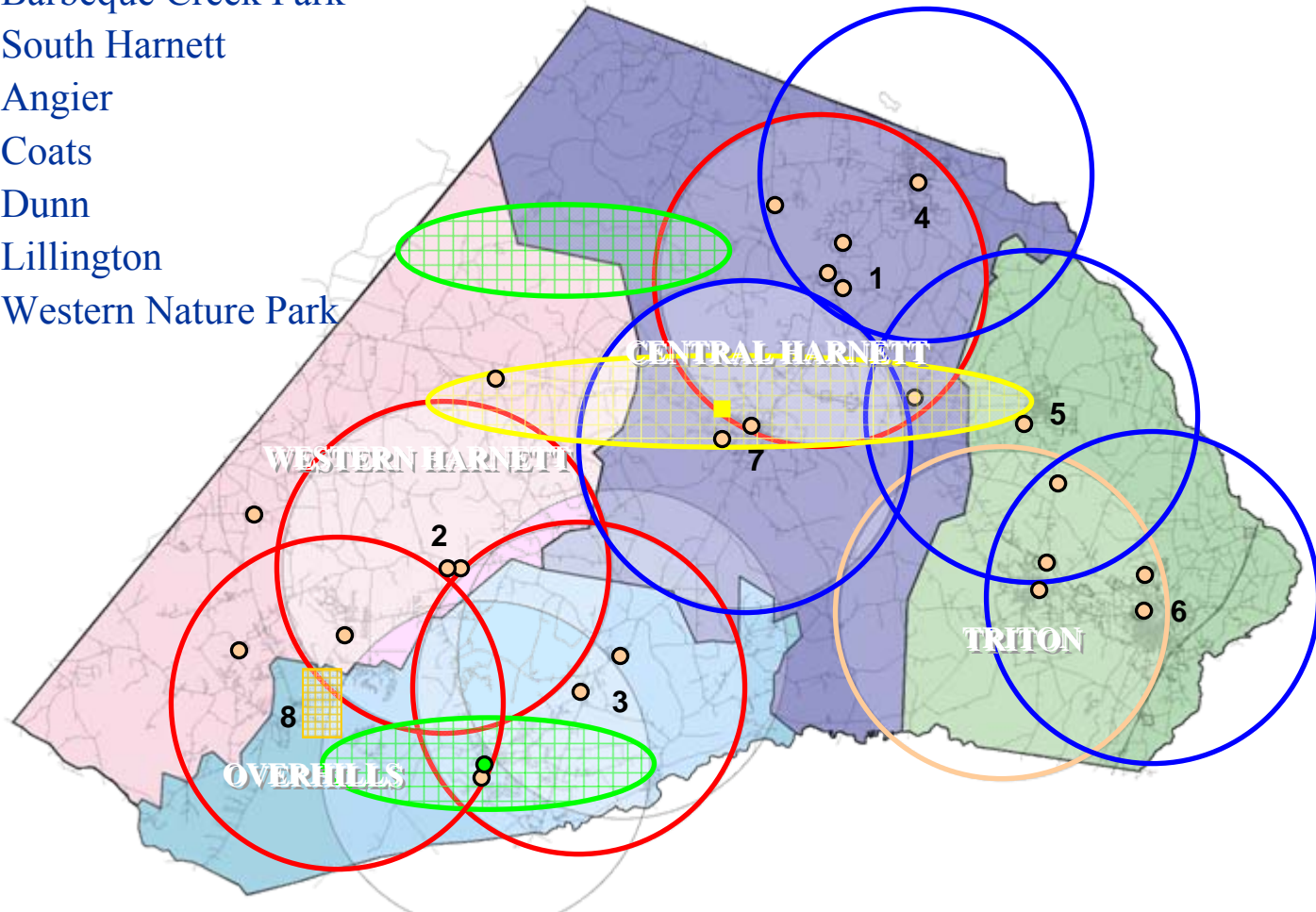


Existing Parks

1. Neill's Creek Park
2. Barbeque Creek Park
3. South Harnett
4. Angier
5. Coats
6. Dunn
7. Lillington
8. Western Nature Park

New Parks

- Harnett County Complex Area Aquatic Center & Regional Park
- Northwest District Park
- Southwest District Park
- Western Nature Park



Recommendations and Goals



- **County Staffing**
- **School Joint Use**
- **Municipal and Recreation Association Joint Participation**
- **General Goals**

Recreation and Parks Department Staffing



■ Recreation and Parks Department Staffing

The department has very limited staff time to developing new programs, efficiently maintain facilities and provide an adequate amount of supervision at all times. Based on the results of the citizen participation process and detailed discussions with the County Staff, the following positions are recommended:

Recommendation:

Assistant Director / Programming – This position would allow the Department to have someone in responsible charge in the event of the Directors absence. Furthermore, the individual would assist in maintaining and developing existing and new programs, provide oversight of youth association activities and volunteers, and a liaison between the public and the department.

Administrative Assistant – Maintain department records, provide administrative support. Keep web site and parks information current.

Permanent Part-time Maintenance Personnel – The Department currently has only one full time person in their maintenance department. The significant increases in the use of the County recreation facilities over the past 10 years has place an undue burden on properly maintaining the facilities. While the recent improvements to the County parks have helped, maintenance of the facilities is expected to increase as the population increases.

Harnett County School Participation



■ **Current Contract for Neill's Creek and Barbeque Parks**

Effective May 1976.

Park Hours: 8:30 am – 11:00 pm 7 days a week

‘County offers use of some park facilities to the Board of Education due to Board offering use of its indoor and outdoor facilities (football stadium, gymnasium) Park baseball field shall be for the sole use of the public.’

Recommendation: Harnett County and Harnett County Board of Education develop and implement an inner local agreement for joint use of facilities.

Harnett County School Participation



■ Recommendations

Utilize Existing Land – If available, co-locate schools and recreation amenities on existing school sites.

New sites - Install new recreation improvements on jointly purchased land for use by both parties. These would include such items as walking trails, fields, courts and multipurpose centers.

Example: Acreage of district parks and community centers indicated in the study – Approximately 80 acres. At 10,000 per acre, a savings of \$800,000 would be achieved if facilities could be constructed on school property and jointly used.

Recreation / School Improvements - Improve and upgrade existing school facilities. Adding items as sports lighting and irrigation to existing fields would extend the hours of use for recreation play and minimize the impacts to the school programs.

Harnett County School Participation



■ Potential Cost Savings Example (With School Participation)

■ Recreation Centers (2) (Construct facility on school campus and use of School Gymnasiums)	\$2,400,000
■ Aquatic Complex (Co-construct indoor pool building)	\$2,740,000
■ District Parks (2) (Utilize existing school fields by installing field lighting and irrigation systems on 2 softball/baseball fields and 2 multipurpose fields)	\$700,000
■ Improvement Cost without Participation	\$33,484,975
■ Improvement Cost with Participation	<u>\$27,644,975</u>
Potential Savings	\$5,840,000

Other Items not included in above cost savings – Utilize existing playground units versus constructing new component Playgrounds: \$55,000 each Unit (A unit is defined as a component playground system with approximately 8 features, edging and manufactured wood mulch fall zone material)

Inner Department Co-ordination



Recommendation:

Set-up a advisory group/managing authority that provides direction and assistance to County and Municipal Parks and Recreation Departments and sets uniform standards and policies.

Advisory Group (Managing Authority)

Board Members – Department Directors

Recreation Association Managers

Responsibilities - Set general guidelines for providing services

Develop uniform policies

Co-ordinate shared use and development of new facilities

Develop uniform standards for each sport or activity

Develop a means of communicating information

Develop common registration forms

Goals and Objectives



■ General

- Stronger cooperative effort between County and School system.
- Joint cooperative effort between county and municipalities.
- Setup an action committee with members from all recreation providers. Set overall policies, coordinate efforts and share information.
- Develop a uniform set of standards and policies.
- Do not use volunteers in responsible positions of authority or security.
- Investigate not only short term impacts and advantages but long term impacts of any changes in existing programs and facilities.
- Market facilities and promote economic benefits.

Goals and Objectives (cont.)



Specific

- Investigate in house recreation programming. (County)
- Develop a park system where every citizen will have access.
- Provide a balance between active and passive facilities.
- Provide links to parks from anticipated trail systems.
- Develop river recreation.
- Strengthen arts and wellness programs in schools.
- Investigate joint economic strategies, tournaments and festivals.
- Develop a one-stop registration and information center.
- Develop a funding strategy.