
A Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of
Harrisonburg, Virginia

COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION AND PARKS MASTER PLAN

The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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Parks and Recreation Department

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements		i
 Chapter One : Executive Summary		
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Public Survey Results	1
1.3	Demographic Analysis Results	2
1.4	Vision	4
1.5	Policies	4
1.6	Goals	5
1.7	General Recommendations	5
1.8	Operational Requirements	6
1.9	Fiscal Requirements	7
 Chapter Two : Introduction		
2.1	Background	9
2.2	Purpose	10
 Chapter Three : Methodology		
3.1	Background	11
3.2	Process	11
 Chapter Four : Existing Conditions and Opportunities		
4.1	Existing Facilities	15
4.2	Management	18
4.3	Demographic Factors	19
4.4	Current Use Patterns	20
4.5	Trends	22
4.6	Physical Resources	23
 Chapter Five : Standards for Recreational Facilities		
5.1	Introduction	27
5.2	Park Classification System	27
5.3	Standards for Park Acreage by Type	29
5.5	Population Ration Standards	30
 Chapter Six : Summary of Needs Analysis		
6.1	Introduction	31
6.2	Inventory	31
6.3	Population Estimates	34
6.4	Demand	34
6.5	Standards for Park Acreage	36
6.6	Existing Use	36
6.7	Stakeholder Input	37
6.8	Special Needs	39

Chapter Seven : Recommendations

7.1	Introduction	42
7.2	Existing Park Improvements	42
7.3	Tourism	56
7.4	Program Improvements	57
7.5	New Facilities	59
7.6	Operations and Management	62

Chapter Eight : Master Plan Priorities

8.1	Introduction	63
8.2	An Action Plan	64

Chapter Nine : Summary of Cost

9.1	Introduction	67
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Chapter Ten : Funding

10.1	Background	69
10.2	Options	69
10.3	Funding Workshop	72
10.4	Action Strategies for Funding	73

Chapter Eleven : Demonstration Projects

11.1	Introduction	76
11.2	Program Elements	76
11.3	Implementation	77

List of Tables

Table 1	Existing Inventory : Existing Parks and Proposed Parks
Table 2	Existing Recreation Facilities
Table 3	Existing School Parks
Table 4	Park Usages
Table 5	Park Visits
Table 6	Number of Visits per Park
Table 7	Census Information – Age
Table 8	Census Information – Race
Table 9	Census Information – School Population by Race
Table 10	Census Information – Population Compared by Education Enrollment
Table 11	Facility Needs Based on National, State, and Expressed Standards
Table 12	Facility Needs Based on Projected Population
Table 13	Standards for Parks Acreage by Type
Table 14	Park Acreage Requirements per Park
Table 15a	Estimated Cost Per Park
Table 15b	Estimated Cost Per Park
Table 16	Custom Standards for Park Acreage by Type
Table 17	Programs/Class Participation
Table 18	Household Member Use Per Park

Table 19	Household Member US Per Park Per Precinct
Table 20	Distance to Parks Per Precinct
Table 21	Ramblewood & Purcell Park Usage
Table 22	Community Activity Center Open Play/Activities
Table 23	CAC Special Programs
Table 24	Class Enrollment/Participation
Table 25	CAC Facility Attendance 2001
Table 26	Tennis
Table 27	Aquatics
Table 28	Facility Rating
Table 29	Activity Participation
Table 30	Independent Activities
Table 31	Requested Facilities
Table 32	Requested Programs
Table 33	Important Features
Table 34	Operational Facets
Table 35	Supply and Demand Based on Population
Table 36	Which Age Groups Can Participate in the Listed Existing Programs?

List of Figures

Figure 1	Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities
Figure 2	Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities and Possible Parks
Figure 3	Harrisonburg Voting Precincts
Figure 4	Harrisonburg Zoning Maps
Figure 5	Harrisonburg Land Use Map
Figure 6	Park Service Areas
Figure 7	City Owned Property
Figure 8	Mini-Park Diagram
Figure 9	Neighborhood Park Diagram
Figure 10	Community Park Diagram
Figure 11	Bridgewater College Property Boundary
Figure 12	Bridgewater College Property Bubble Diagram
Figure 13	Bridgewater College Property Vision Plan
Figure 14	Smithland Road Boundary
Figure 15	Smithland Road Bubble Diagram
Figure 16	Smithland Road Vision Plan
Figure 17	Hillandale Park Features
Figure 18	Westover Park Features
Figure 19	Waterman Elem./Morrison Park Features
Figure 20	Ralph Sampson Park Features
Figure 21	Smithland Road Property Features
Figure 22	Kiwanis Park Features
Figure 23	Eastover Tennis Courts Features
Figure 24	Purcell Park Features
Figure 25	Ramblewood Fields Features
Figure 26	Bridgewater College Property Features
Figure 27	Heritage Oaks Golf Course Features
Figure 28	Keister Elem. School Features
Figure 29	Riven Rock Park Features
Figure 30	Harrisonburg High School Features
Figure 31	Thomas Harrison Middle School Features
Figure 32	Stone Spring Elem. School Features

APPENDIXES

Appendix A : Park Assessments

- 1.1 Community Parks
 - 1.1.1 Westover Park
 - 1.1.2 Hillandale Park
 - 1.1.3 Purcell Park
 - 1.1.4 Riven Rock Park
- 1.2 Neighborhood Parks
 - 1.2.1 Ralph Sampson Park
 - 1.2.2 Morrison Park
- 1.3 Athletic Parks
 - 1.3.1 Heritage Oaks Golf Course
 - 1.3.2 Ramblewood Park
 - 1.3.3 Smithland Road Soccer Complex
 - 1.3.4 Willow Street Tennis Courts
 - 1.3.5 Eastover Tennis Courts
- 1.4 Mini Parks
 - 1.4.1 Spotswood Elementary and Kiwanis Park
 - 1.4.2 National Guard Armory Site
- 1.5 Site/ Field Survey Form for Park Assessment
 - 1.5.1 Willow St. Tennis Courts
 - 1.5.2 Morrison Park
 - 1.5.3 Ralph Sampson Park
 - 1.5.4 Eastover Tennis Courts
 - 1.5.5 Spotswood Elem./ Kiwanis Park
 - 1.5.6 Smithland Road
 - 1.5.7 Heritage Oak Golf Course
 - 1.5.8 Ramblewood Fields
 - 1.5.9 Purcell Park
 - 1.5.10 Westover Park
 - 1.5.11 Hillandale Park

Appendix B : Survey Report

- 2.1 Resident Survey Announcement
- 2.2 Resident Survey
- 2.3 Table of Contents
- 2.4 Reading This Report
- 2.5 Background and Purpose
- 2.6 Methodology and Procedures
- 2.7 Executive Summary
- 2.8 Detailed Findings

Appendix C : Meeting Minutes

- 3.1 Meeting Agenda for 9/26/02
- 3.2 Meeting Agenda for 11/06/02

- 3.3 Meeting Agenda for 7/17/02
- 3.4 Meeting Report for 7/22/02
- 3.5 Meeting Report for 10/17/02
- 3.6 Meeting Report for 11/12/02
- 3.7 Meeting Report for 11/18/02
- 3.8 Meeting Report for 3/14/02, 7 PM
- 3.9 Meeting Report for 3/14/02, 9 PM

Appendix D : Stakeholders Interview Minutes

- 4.1 Stakeholder Phone Interview Report for 1/24/02
- 4.2 Stakeholder Phone Interview Report for 10/25/03
- 4.3 Stakeholder Phone Interview Report for 1/30/03, 2:30 PM
- 4.4 Stakeholder Phone Interview Report for 1/30/03, 2:00 PM

Appendix E : Organized Group Leader Survey

- 5.1 Organized Group Leader Survey Worksheets

Appendix F : School Use

- 6.1 Facility Usage for Harrisonburg High School
- 6.2 Table 37 Tennis Court Use
- 6.3 Table 38a Gymnasium Use – Girls Basketball
- 6.4 Table 38b Gymnasium Use – Boys Basketball, Volleyball, Wrestling
- 6.5 Table 39a Stadium Use – Football
- 6.6 Table 39b Stadium Use – Track
- 6.7 Table 40a Baseball Field Use
- 6.8 Table 40b Baseball Field Use
- 6.9 Table 41 Soccer Field Use
- 6.10 Table 42a Softball Field Use
- 6.11 Table 42b Softball Field Use

Appendix G : Demonstration Project Feasibility Report

- 7.1 Smithland Road Property, Bridgewater College Property
- 7.2 Smithland Road Property Vision Plan
- 7.3 Smithland Road Property Total Civil/Site Estimate
- 7.4 Bridgewater College Property
- 7.5 Bridgewater College Property Vision Plan

Appendix H : Facilities and Program Requests

- 8.1 Facilities Program Requests
- 8.2 Programs

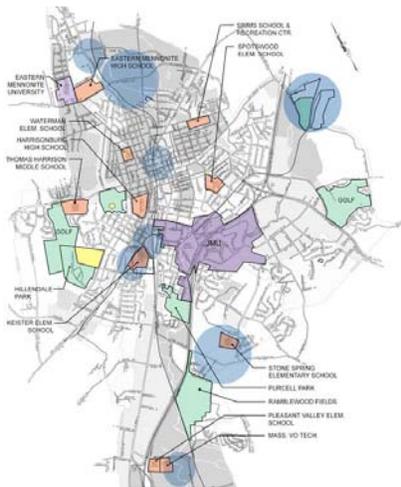
References

Executive summary

Introduction

The function of this summary is to give the reader a broad overview of the master plan for the purposes of gaining general understanding. Key points have been presented in bulleted form for a quick read-through. This will help readers who wish to comprehend the master plan, but who have limited time. Reading this summary will also help those who intend to read the entire master plan, given that it provides a foundation from which to better understand the more detailed portions.

Public Survey Results

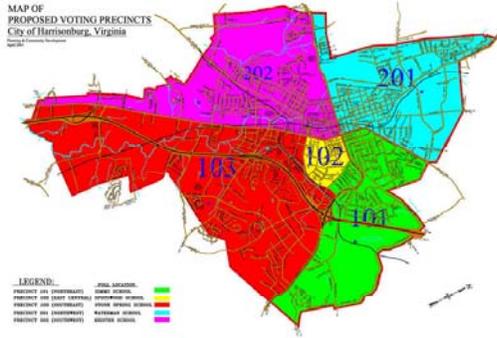


Parks and Schools in the City

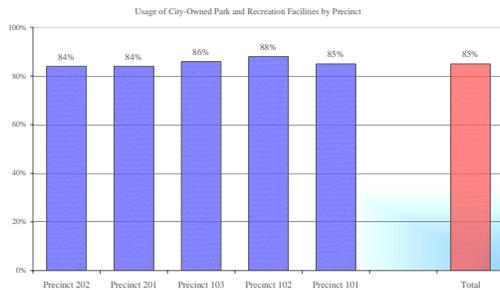
The main objective of the public survey was to obtain information on citizens' patterns of current use, preferences and desires with the goal of understanding any current and future deficiencies in Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. Other objectives of the study were to discover effectiveness of the City's Parks and Recreation system as a service to the community, to gauge customer satisfaction and to determine current level of use of City parks. The survey was conducted by telephone calls to 400 randomly selected respondents in each of the five voting precincts. A detailed analysis can be found in the appendix. Survey result tables, charts and graphs are also found in the appendix and list of tables.

The data gathered was tabulated and charted to reveal many facets of citizens' use patterns and needs. Some of the notable findings included:

- Approximately 85% of Harrisonburg residents use the Parks and Recreation system.
- Overall park use is distributed evenly over each voting precinct.
- Approximately 85% of Harrisonburg households rate their satisfaction with the Parks and Recreation system as good to excellent.
- Picnicking, swimming, hiking, biking and running were the activities most participated in by households.



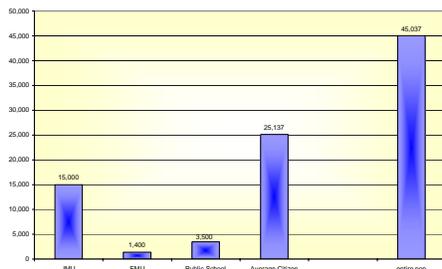
Voting Precincts



Use by Precinct

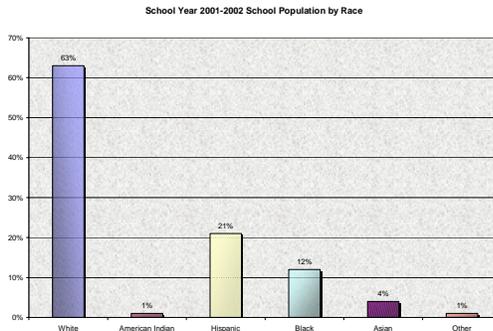
- Soccer, football, golf, softball, baseball, basketball and tennis were the activities second most participated in by household.
- 65% of Harrisonburg households visited museums as a leisure activity, 42 % visited nature and interpretive centers.
- The top most requested improvements were a walking trail, bike trail, better security and activities for different age groups. 30% of households had no suggested improvements to the Parks and Recreation system.
- The top most requested parks or facilities were a skateboard park, water parks and swimming pools, children’s sports fields and walking/bike trails. 31% of households had no suggested improvements to the Parks and Recreation system.
- The top most requested improvements to existing programs and classes were more variety of hours/scheduling, swimming classes, painting classes and better information of what classes are offered.
- Requests for new programs and activities were very diverse. 24% of households had no suggestions for new classes or programs.
- The most desired leisure activities were concerts or music festivals, live theater, arts and crafts events and sporting activities. 70% of respondents did not know or had no suggested improvements.
- Purcell, Hillendale and Westover Parks were the most used parks overall by Harrisonburg households.
- Morrison, Purcell and Westover Parks were the most frequently visited parks on average.
- Hillendale, Purcell and Westover Parks were the most evenly used by residents of each of the five voting precincts.

Demographic Analysis Results



Population Figures

Population and demographic trends data is a crucial component to the development of this plan. Current and projected population estimates and trends were used in this report to calculate the expressed demand ratios for facilities and the standards for park acreages, and to identify significant trends that would affect the delivery of Parks and Recreation services. Population figures have been analyzed in the existing conditions and opportunities chapter in greater detail. The analysis was further refined using population estimates prepared by Claritas Inc. as part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan update. The estimate report can be found in the appendix. The following information was discovered in the analysis:



Population by Race

- The population for the City of Harrisonburg from the 2000 census was 40,468.
- Average growth of 2.06% per year
- Average growth from 2000-2002 was estimated at 4.4%.
- The City population is expected to cap at around 52,000 individuals, these estimates may be low.
- At the 2.06% growth rate the City population is expected to be 47,638 in 2008.
- County populations within the 3 mile service radius of City parks are expected to grow rapidly due to the lack of developable land within the City, lifting of water service moratoriums, cost of land and taxes. The County population within three miles of Harrisonburg City Limits is 21,943 individuals.
- The colleges and universities in and around Harrisonburg affect the population and recreational facility demands. By the year 2005, the population of James Madison University (JMU) is expected to cap at 16,000.
- The City is significantly inhabited by families with young children. The largest age group is the 5-20 year olds at 32% of the population. Other age groups include 21-24 year olds at 18%+/-, 25-44 year olds at 21%+/- (family raising age), and 45-54 year olds at 8%. The female population is at 5%+/- higher than the male population in the City.
- Ethnic populations continue to grow; the Hispanic population has grown from 481 in 1990 to 3,580 in 2000, a 644.3% increase. Other populations continue to grow in size and grow more diverse
- The School system population is expected to cap at approximately 6000 students by 2015. This is based on a 2.6% growth rate.

Analysis of the demographic trends suggest many things. For this study the following conclusions were made:

- With the rapid growth, the City will need to continue to expand the recreational facilities available for residents, including the local college/university students and surrounding heavily populated County neighborhoods.
- The large family population creates needs for more children-oriented facilities, including safe parks, space for youth activities, and resources for child-care.
- With a diverse population, the City should provide culturally diverse recreational programs and facilities. This can include space and facilities for festivals, more athletic fields for sports that appeal to a variety of ethnic groups, and

increase in park availability throughout the City for the various neighborhoods.

- The nature of rental homes promotes transitory residents, causing the population to fluctuate, but again, demonstrating the need for a diverse recreational program.

Vision

A universal vision for this plan already exists in the operating goals of the Parks and Recreation Department. That vision is supported by this plan and the community. Through careful planning and implementation of this plan Harrisonburg can continue to “grow” a Parks and Recreation system for all citizens to be proud of.

Policies

Several policy recommendations are outlined in this document. Most of them relate to the marketing, funding and provision of services, programs and facilities. The following are highlights from the recommendations.

- Continue to recognize the importance of Parks and Recreation to the quality of the community and its ability to attract desirable business and a healthy and diverse citizen population.
- Continue to recognize and foster the relationships between the Parks and Recreation Department and other City departments.
- Develop partnerships with business and community organizations.
- Integrate economic and tourism marketing strategies.
- Develop equitable partnerships with local school facilities and the County.
- Develop an on going marketing and information strategy for Parks and Recreation.

Goals

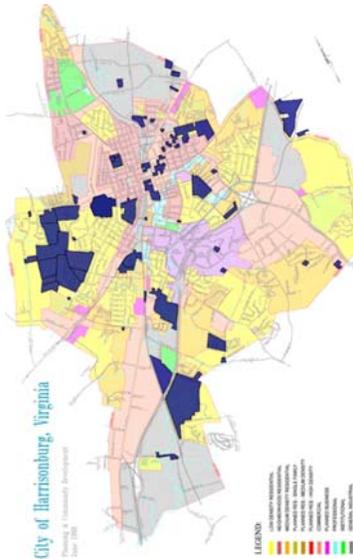
Parks and recreation has been and important element in the quality of life in Harrisonburg. The development of this plan continues the City's commitment to the importance of openspace and recreation in the lives of the citizens. The following goals have been identified to support themes of discussion from the public and stakeholder participation process:

- Continue to support and market Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation system as a major community benefit and indirect revenue generator.
- Integrate parks and recreational facilities and programs fully into the City's environmental policies.
- Enhance facilities and programs to fully serve the populations diversity of needs.
- Develop an interconnected, accessible network of park and recreational facilities through the development of a greenway system.
- Improve security at existing parks by evaluating use patterns, operation hours, visibility and maintenance.
- Continue to enhance the appearance of park facilities through maintenance programming and renovations.
- Commit to providing high quality well distributed parks and recreational facilities rather than many facilities.
- Increase effective use of facilities by aggressive scheduling and maintenance programs.

General Recommendations

The public survey and the comparative analysis of level of use standards have revealed several shortfalls and need for improvements in the Parks and Recreation system. Many of the needs expressed were in the area of athletic fields, walking trails, swimming pools, indoor hardcourts and expanded programs for youth activities. A high demand was expressed for soccer and softball/baseball facilities. This was due to intensive use of existing facilities and the popularity of these sports with the general population as well as specific ethnic groups. In an analysis of available park acreage and distribution of parks by neighborhoods and voting precincts it became evident that the population was relatively well served by larger community parks. However, the availability and distribution of neighborhood and mini parks was generally deficient. Generally, these types of parks underserve the

east side of the City. This area is where much of the expected population growth is speculated to occur. The following summarizes the major recommendations of this study.



Available Land is Limited

- Purchase or dedicate sufficient land for several new neighborhood parks in the Waterman, Stone Spring and Simms voting precincts.
- Develop several new mini parks in urban areas around the City.
- Expand and redevelop existing community and neighborhood parks, taking advantage of underutilized spaces.
- Support and develop a City wide Greenway system that includes connections to parks, schools and community facilities.
- Expand the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Center to include additional hard court space, auxiliary gym, improved site circulation and parking, expanded activity rooms and expanded swimming facilities.
- Provide additional youth athletic fields and programs.
- Provide additional youth programs and activities.
- Expand program staffing, volunteers and hours for programs and classes where appropriate.
- Develop the Smithland road property as a major community and athletic park with amenities for the neighborhood in that area.
- Begin planning and development of a new Community Recreation Center in the southeastern sector of the City. The center should be accessible to the general public by mass transportation as well as by walking and bicycling.
- Provide a conveniently located facility for events and performances.
- Develop several new athletic fields including soccer, football, softball and baseball.

Operational Requirements

The general, every day operations of the parks and recreation department require appropriate distribution of labor and management through well thought-out organization. This helps to ensure that residents have proper access and usability for recreation and exercise purposes, making a department that is pleasurable and uncomplicated for residents to use.

It is vital for the City to be in sync with the population growth and consequent increase of use and demands on the department. Important issues to consider for the operational needs of the department include:

- Establishing new staff positions to correlate with increase of needs and demands.
- Increase budget for additional staff, as well as acreage.
- Develop more facilities and provide more classes.
- Hire more full time and part time staff overall, especially maintenance to deal with increased use and new facilities and parks.

Fiscal Requirements

The basic infrastructure of a community costs money to build and maintain. Communities need water, sanitary facilities, schools and other facilities. Parks and Recreation programs are no different. In an urban environment they are essential to the quality of life in a community. The benefits of a well delivered Parks and Recreation program are many.

- Increase maintenance and administrative staff as appropriate to keep in pace with current needs, trends and population growth.
- Allocate sufficient capital improvement funds each year to keep in reasonable pace with the recommendations of this plan.
- Create a capital improvements plan that is managed by staff and that coordinates proposed improvements with available funding, grant, gifting and partnership opportunities.
- Take advantage of and seek out all partnering opportunities with other groups, organizations and City and County departments.
- Develop a strategic marketing plan for the Department's programs and facilities.
- Develop an activity based cost tracking and pricing system for appropriate programs and facilities that keeps reasonable pace with existing costs and generates revenue for improvements.

Cost of Facilities

Detailed cost for recommended facilities are provided in the cost chapter and in the feasibility studies for The Smithland Road and Bridgewater College properties. The following summarizes the results of the cost analysis.

- Projections of costs for facilities needed within the next 5 years far exceed the Department's capital improvements budgets.
- In 2002 the Department's capital improvement budget was \$267,790. This was enough money to build one large soccer field and the skate board park.
- With a \$300,000 capital improvements budget the Department could presumably build 2 soccer or baseball fields per year. This would come close to meeting the demand for those facilities.
- Long term shortfall costs will be easier to plan for. This is because of lower shortages due to the assumption that current short term needs will have been taken care of.
- The Department will need to postpone some improvements past the recommended term. This will need to be based on a frank evaluation of priorities.
- Immediate priorities should be focused on providing additional athletic fields in existing parks, continuing development of the Smithland Road and Bridgewater College sites and expanding and renovating aquatic facilities.
- A bond referendum or similar funding mechanism will need to be adopted in order to pay for "big ticket" items such as a new recreation center or major renovations and expansion of the existing recreation center.
- Harrisonburg's overall budget is relatively low as compared to similar sized communities. The department does a good job with limited funds.

Introduction

Background



Soccer is Very Popular in Harrisonburg



Existing Parks Offer Large Open Spaces

Many communities now realize that parks and recreation has a considerable effect on all quality of life, community health and economic sustainability of our communities. A well developed Parks and Recreation system can offer many benefits to a community including improved health, stress reduction, resource conservation and protection, flood protection, improved air quality, improved aesthetics, revenue generation, enhanced property values among others.

A formal recreation program was first introduced in Harrisonburg at the end of World War II. In 1954 a full time recreation director was hired and a Parks and Recreation Department was created. In 1967, the first comprehensive master plan for parks and recreation was created. The plan initialized a commitment by the City to provide a comprehensive approach to parks and open space planning in the City. Since then, many directors, superintendents, staff and employees have worked diligently to create a first class Park and Recreation system for the City of Harrisonburg. The Plan was updated in 1993 in order to update the process for identifying future needs and to help manage the growth of the Parks and Recreation system.

The current Parks and Recreation Department is housed in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Center on South Dogwood Drive. The department's current goals are to first, "enhance the quality of life for its citizens by providing a broad and comprehensive program of leisure time activities", second, "is to contribute to the character of the City by developing and maintaining a system of parks, recreational facilities and open space areas".

30 full time employees and various part-time seasonal help staff the Parks and Recreation Department. The department is led by a director and assistant director. Separate directors are hired for various departments and programs. The needs of the general community are represented by a Parks and Recreation commission that is composed of 8 members. The members are appointed by City



The Pool is Extremely Popular

Council and serve a four-year term. Two Commissioners are assigned to each of the City's four voting precincts. The Commission's main objective is to communicate citizen's needs and input into the long range planning and improvement of the Parks and Recreation system.

The Parks and Recreation system has grown considerably in the amount of land and facilities it holds. The Parks and Recreation Department's ability to change and grow has enabled it to keep up with the growth of the City. The survey conducted as part of this study showed that 85% of households rated the Parks and Recreation system good to excellent. This is quite remarkable given that the City's average ten-year growth rate has been approximately 36 percent since 1960, the largest growth being between 1980 and 1990. This shows, at the least, that the City's hard work and belief in comprehensive planning has tangible results. Harrisonburg has done a reasonably good job at acquiring land and developing facilities to meet its diverse needs. Acquisition of land for parks and facilities and the development of those facilities has always been a major challenge for the department and will continue to be in the future as the population continues to grow more diverse and larger in size.

Purpose

The process for developing this plan began with an assessment of existing facilities and a detailed public and stakeholder input program. It included an analysis of community needs, several community meetings and programming. The methodology for this process is outlined in this document and the resulting input is summarized in the Appendix for easy reference.

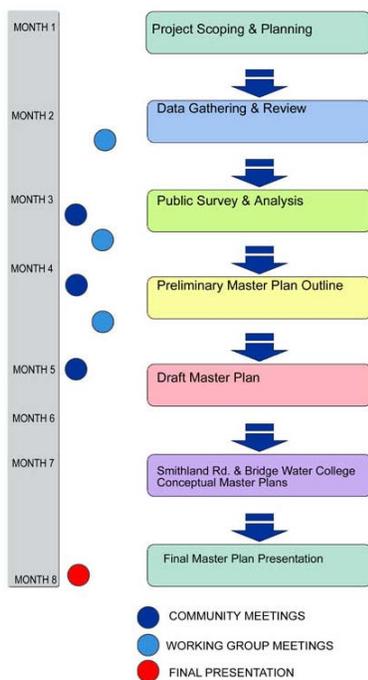
This plan for parks and recreation and its management outlines policies and actions that will need to be implemented to ensure that Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation system continues to meet the needs of the community. The plan provides a framework for implementing new programs, facilities and funding in the short term and long term future. For purposes of this Master Plan, short term is described as 5 years, and long term is 15 years from the year 2003.

Methodology

Background

Harrisonburg’s Comprehensive Recreation and Parks Master Plan began with the issuance of an RFP by the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department for a consultant to assess the needs of the City residents relative to the provision of open space, parks and recreational programs and facilities. Proposals were reviewed and interviews were conducted by a selection committee composed of the Parks and Recreation Director, the assistant director and members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. In May of 2002 the selection committee recommended that the City hire Land Planning & Design Associates in association with the Southeastern Institute of Research (SIR) and RKK engineers.

Process



The planning team’s focus was to identify if the existing parks and recreational facilities were serving the community at large well enough and if there were deficiencies in the facilities or programs. The planning team would need to identify the needs of the community and propose how to best serve it. What, Why and How were the main priorities of the planning process. The planning process was designed to determine what the needs of the general community were and how this was being provided or not provided. The process involved a multifaceted approach, which included:

- A telephone survey of City Residents.
- Public input and information meetings.
- Stakeholder interviews and input forms.
- Coordination with City Staff.
- Inventory of existing facilities and condition.
- Comparative analysis of State and National level of service standards.
- Preparation of conceptual plans for two demonstration park sites.
- Preparation of custom level of service standards and classification system.
- Recommendations for new facilities and programs.

- Recommendations for new parks and facilities.
- Evaluation of priorities.
- Analysis of cost and phasing.

Survey

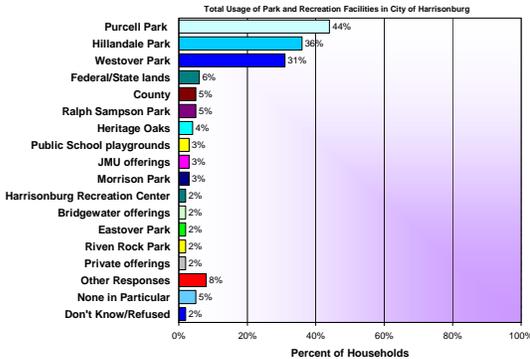
A telephone survey was conducted of four hundred households in the City. An equal amount of phone interviews were conducted in each of the City’s five voting precincts. Residents were asked several questions about their use of City facilities, their preferences and needs. The results of the survey were tabulated and graphed for easy reference. The survey revealed many interesting patterns and needs that both confirmed and contradicted State and National standards for level of service. A detailed summary is included in the appendix.

Public Meetings

Four public meetings were held to gain insight from the general community. The first meeting was held to inform the public of the planning process, to review what facilities existed and to review the preliminary results of the telephone survey. The public was also invited to make comments and suggestions about needs and to make program suggestions for two future parks sites that would be planned as demonstration projects for the needs assessment and programming process.

The second public meeting was held to review the final results of the public survey and the preliminary results of the needs assessment. National and State level of service standards were discussed and compared to the public survey results. An inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities was reviewed and conceptual programs and bubble diagrams were reviewed for the Smithland Road Property and the Bridgewater College Property. Shortfalls in facilities and programs were discussed and the public was invited to make comments about their needs and the preliminary recommendations.

The third public meeting was held to review the draft Master Plan of the recommendations for park and recreation facilities and programs improvements and additions. A menu of new facilities and program improvements was discussed as well as recommendations for new park implementation and facility improvements. General funding sources were discussed and priorities were reviewed. Revised concept plans for the Smithland Road and Bridgewater College parks were reviewed.



Public Meeting 3

The fourth public meeting was held to review the final Master Plan. The results of the Plan process were reviewed and presented with City Council and the general public. The public was given the opportunity to offer final comments prior to the adoption of the plan.

The final plan included the goals, objectives and a short term and long-term program for facilities, parks and programs.

The following recommendations were made during the various Public Meetings:

- Provide adequate gathering spaces, soccer fields and other facilities were lacking for the general population and Latin American Community.
- Build disc golf courses to meet current need and use underutilized property.
- Continue to identify and purchase land for future parks.
- Provide spaces for festivals and for an amphitheater for events and concerts.
- Provide more pool facilities.
- Provide more hard court space for indoor tennis, basketball and track.
- Build another Recreation Center.
- Provide more tot lots and pocket parks.
- Provide for better tennis facilities.
- Evaluate safety in parks, especially Hillandale and provide safer facilities.
- Provide more trails in parks and around town.
- Safety and emergency access were issues to deal with at the Smithland Road property.
- The deer population was out of hand in Harrisonburg and at the Bridgewater College site.
- Provide ample buffers should be provided at the Bridgewater College site.
- Develop the Bridgewater College site less intensively.

Comprehensive Plan Meetings



Currently the City is updating its City-wide Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is described by the Virginia Code: “the comprehensive plan shall be made with the purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the territory which will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants.” Through Comprehensive Plan meetings focusing on

the parks and recreational needs of Harrisonburg, the following issues were brought up:

- Consider a new recreation center, specifically to feature after-school programs.
- Development of Community facilities for adult education and workforce training
- Recreation opportunities and areas; i.e., green areas, trees, parks, trails, sports areas, bike way, green way, adequate land protected from development, pocket parks, playgrounds, clean streams and ponds, dog runs.
- Insufficient lighting in Purcell Park.
- Expand soccer facilities in this area; soccer complex.
- Set aside some land for public use – parks, open spaces, etc.
- Institute Safe-Routes-To-School-Program – location, walking, etc.
- Promote safety and health – walkable; children safety, community activities, etc.
- Become leader in environmental management – EMS, etc.
- More green space downtown.
- Partnerships – increase social interaction in the City; i.e., Blacks Run Greenway.
- Greater attention to aesthetics of the City.
- Provide a downtown urban park and mixed-use town center.
- Put in a “frisbee golf course”.
- Need to correlate park land/ open space with population level.
- Recreation facilities more spread out in the City.

Existing conditions and opportunities

Existing facilities



The Pool at Westover Park

Harrisonburg has been fortunate with a fairly developed system of park facilities. Several of the parks have served the community for many years and serve as focal points for community activity and interaction. The park system includes several types of parks serving varied purposes. These include Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Mini Parks, School Parks and Athletic Parks.

Community Parks

Westover Park

This 48 acre park is home to the Westover Swimming Pool Complex and the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Center. The park also has 4 picnic shelters, a playground area, and the Price Rotary Senior Citizens Center.

Purcell Park

Purcell Park is a 67 acre park located on Monument Avenue on the east side and on S. Main street on the south side of the park. There are two entrances to the park - one from Monument Avenue and the other from Miller Circle off of S. Main Street. The park has 3 softball/baseball fields, 4 tennis courts, two playground areas, 3 picnic shelters, several restrooms, and a 1.5 mile walking trail.



Purcell Park is Very Popular

Hillandale Park

Located on Hillandale Avenue, this 75 acre park has 12 picnic shelters, new playground equipment, a 1.3 mile walking trail, a regulation sand volleyball court, two asphalt basketball courts, three restroom facilities, two horseshoe pitching areas, and a reproduction log cabin.



Fly Fishing at Riven Rock Park

Riven Rock Park

This 28 acre park adjoins the George Washington National Forest. There are 4 picnic shelters and a walking trail.

Neighborhood Parks

Morrison Park

This newly renovated 6 acre park features a basketball court, large playground area, two tennis courts, and restrooms.

Ralph Sampson Park

This 32 acre park is located on East Washington Street. The park has one picnic shelter, restroom facilities, two tennis courts, a basketball court, newly renovated playground equipment, and horseshoe pits.



Ralph Sampson Park

Mini Parks

Kiwanis Park

As a small 3.8 acre park, it features a basketball court and playground area. Located on Myers Avenue.

National Guard Armory

Part of this facility, 7.23 acres, is open for the public, which includes a large multi-purpose room with bleachers for recreation use, and an adjacent area containing 4 lighted tennis courts and a multi-purpose athletic field. This 7.23 acre area is located on 340 South Willow Street.

School Parks

Keister Elementary School Park

Three playground areas with several wooden playsets, open play areas and a running track are located on the School property.

Spotswood Elementary School Park

This school park has playground equipment and baseball/softball field access.



Spotswood Elementary Grounds

Stone Spring Elementary School Park

Located in the southeast section of Harrisonburg, this school park property contains soccer fields and potentially part of the new bikeway trail.

Athletic Parks

Ramblewood Fields

This 60 acre park is located on Ramblewood Road. The park contains softball fields, soccer fields, and a concession stand.



Ramblewood Fields Concessions

Smithland Road Park

This 130 acre park is located on Smithland road on the East side of the City. The park land is actually in Rockingham County. 26 acres of the park is developed with 3 irrigated championship size soccer fields, 200 parking spaces and a maintenance facility. The property is divided by a railroad. The remaining portions of the property are being planned for additional athletic fields, trails and other facilities.

Little League at Purcell Park

This 0.5 acre property is a part of the Purcell Community Park.



Soccer Fields at Smithland Road

Willow Street Tennis Courts

These tennis courts are located behind the Harrisonburg High School. There are four courts.

Eastover Tennis Courts

Located on the Shover property, across from Spotswood Elementary School, Eastover provides four lighted courts.

Heritage Oaks Golf Course

With 178 acres of property with the entrance on Garbers Church Road, these greens have been designed and built to USGA specifications. It includes a clubhouse, driving range, indoor instructional area, and 18 holes.



Heritage Oaks

Proposed Parks

Smithland Road Property Exp.



Trail Access From Hillandale to the
Bridgewater College Property

Future development of 70 acres on this site will include additional athletic facilities, picnic facilities, and trails.

Westover Skate Park

This skate park will also include picnic shelters in addition to providing a safe environment for skateboarders.

Bridgewater College

At approximately 46 acres, this property will host picnic shelters, restrooms, trails, volleyball and horseshoe areas, and playground equipment.

Blacks Run Greenway

The proposed 20 acre greenway is to be a linear park that runs through Harrisonburg along the Blacks Run stream.

Management

The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department is made up full time and part time, professional and maintenance/operational staff, each providing unique skills necessary for the operation of the department.

Currently, the department is organized into four-tiers, with the Director and Assistant Director as overseers. The next tier is made up of program directors and maintenance superintendents. This includes the Parks Superintendent, Athletic Director, Golf Course Superintendent, Golf Course Professional, Community Activities Center Director, Aquatics Director, Special Projects Coordinator, Crew Supervisor, Administrative Specialists, and Recreation Instructor.

The third tier is comprised of specific program directors and operational supervisors. The fourth tier is mostly staffed with laborers, instructors, and fundamental operational workers. This group is predominantly made up of part time, seasonal and/or temporary workers.

Presently, through the parks and recreation survey, Harrisonburg residents are reasonably satisfied with the attitude and efforts of the staff. However, as the population and needs grow, Harrisonburg will need to increase staff, especially supporting/operational staff.

Demographic factors

The population for the City of Harrisonburg from the 2000 census was 40,468. With an average growth of 36.3% per ten years since 1960, the greatest increase due partly to annexations, the City can expect a rapid population growth to over fifty thousand by the year 2010. By 2014, the population projection is 52,958, as estimated by Claritas, Inc.

The surrounding neighborhoods in the County of Rockingham also play a role in the consideration of Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation program. With County neighborhoods primarily to the North and Southeast, these residents have easy access to the facilities available within the City. The accumulated population of all neighborhoods within three miles of the City is expected to continue to grow due to the lack of developable area within the City. Currently this population is estimated to be 21,943 and growing. This population figure was estimated by City Planning staff for the area within 3 miles of the City limits. This number is of particular interest because the City is experiencing significant participation of County residents in City programs.

The colleges and universities in and around Harrisonburg affect the population and recreational facility demands. By the year 2005, the population of James Madison University (JMU) is expected to cap at 16,337. Currently, for the school year 2002-03, Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) has an enrollment of 1,501. The JMU population has a greater impact on the surrounding community and its projected growth. The college and university students feel like they are a part of the community, and seek to use the facilities as any other resident.

The population by age in the City of Harrisonburg suggests that the City is significantly inhabited by families with young children. The largest age group is the 5-20 year olds at 32% of the population. Other age groups include 21-24 year olds at 18%+/-, 25-44 year olds at 21%+/- (family raising age), and 45-54 year olds at 8%. The female population is at 5%+/- higher than the male population in the City.

By ethnicity, it is important to note a significant increase in population of those of Hispanic Origin within the last 10 years, from 481 in 1990 to 3,580 in 2000, a 644.3% increase. Other minority groups also enjoy a tremendous increase in population, with an

average of 206% per race (other than Hispanic and White) increase since 1990. The white population has increased 22.8% in the same period of time. Within the City public schools for the school year 2001-2002, the approximate race percentages are as follows:

White – 62.55%	- Asian – 4.28%
Black – 11.72%	- Indian/Alaskan - .08%
Hispanic – 21.25%	- Other - .08%

Within the City housing there are approximately 10,000 rental units and 6,000 owned homes. Housing occupied by families is about equivalent to non-family residences.

These percentages and figures suggest:

- With the rapid growth, the City will need to continue to expand the recreational facilities available for residents, including the local college/university students and surrounding heavily populated County neighborhoods.
- The large family population creates needs for more children-oriented facilities, including safe parks, space for youth activities, and resources for child-care.
- With a diverse population, the City should provide culturally diverse recreational programs and facilities. This can include space and facilities for festivals, more athletic fields for sports that appeal to a variety of ethnic groups, and increase in park availability throughout the City for the various neighborhoods.
- If the City were to annex again, the population should be expected to increase more rapidly, again creating the need for more facilities and park space within the City.
- The nature of rental homes promotes transitory residents, causing the population to fluctuate, but again, demonstrating the need for a diverse recreational program.

Current use patterns

The availability of recreational opportunities within Harrisonburg parks and recreational areas is diverse and has the potential to be enhanced. Approximately 85% of Harrisonburg residents use the parks and recreation system, whether through athletics, classes, family outings, community festivals, or numerous other available activities.

Harrisonburg residents, as per household, listed picnicking, swimming, hiking, biking and running as activities they had ever participated in. An incredible 75% of respondents have participated in picnicking, 62% swimming, 49% hiking, 46% bicycling, and 39% running. Soccer, football, golf, softball, baseball, basketball and tennis were additional activities residents participated in, to a lesser degree, but still with significance. 65% of Harrisonburg households visited museums as a leisure activity, 42 % visited nature and interpretive centers.

When considered by precinct, Harrisonburg residents' overall City-owned park and recreation use is fairly evenly distributed. Each of the five precincts has an average of 85% of resident use, with a range of 84% for the Keister precinct to 88% for the Spotswood precinct. Hillandale, Purcell and Westover Parks were the most evenly used by residents of each of the five voting precincts. Eastover Park was visited most often by residents from the Stone Spring precinct, Harrisonburg Recreation Center largely by the Keister precinct, Heritage Oaks by the Simms precinct, Morrison Park largely by the Waterman precinct, and Ralph Sampson Park by the Simms precinct. Conversely, the Simms precinct visited the Hillandale Park most frequently, Spotswood precinct the Purcell Park, Stone Spring precinct Purcell and Eastover park equally, Waterman precinct the Morrison Park, and Keister precinct the Harrisonburg Recreation Center. Interestingly, the average minutes from home to park reported by residents are as follows:

- Eastover Park – 12 minutes
- Hillandale Park – 10 minutes
- Heritage Oaks – 10 minutes
- Westover Park – 9 minutes
- Purcell Park – 9 minutes
- Morrison Park – 7 minutes
- Hbrg Rec. Ctr. – 7 minutes
- Sampson Park – 6 minutes

Overall, by number of household use, Purcell, Hillandale and Westover Parks were the most used parks. Out of Harrisonburg households, Purcell Park was used by 44%, Hillandale by 36%, and Westover by 31%. Actual number of visits show that Morrison, Purcell and Westover Parks were the most frequently visited parks on average. Morrison Park received an average of 23 visits per household per 12 month period, Purcell Park received 19, and Westover received 14.

Trends

Harrisonburg residents participate in a variety of activities. These activities range from organized athletics, to leisure play, to classes, and many others.

Leisure/Independent Activities

Independent activities, such as those done by oneself, with family or friends, and not through an organized league or group, are frequent in Harrisonburg. Residents are able to enjoy these activities in their own time, with family and friends. Of these, picnicking and swimming prove most popular. Walking and hiking are also activities with high participation. Regarding these activities, residents ask for more trails. Also popular with families are playgrounds and open gym availability.

Cultural/Educational Activities

Participating in local cultural events or educational opportunities also keep the interest of Harrisonburg residents. Visiting museums and battlefields rate high, as well as watching live theater and going camping. Residents noted that they would be interested in seeing more concert/music festivals and theatre, as well as more arts/crafts and historical museums. This demonstrates the diversity of interests, and also the need for maintaining environments that are both educational and entertaining for residents.

Facilities

The City of Harrisonburg has a variety of facilities throughout the City, containing features such as playgrounds, swimming pools, softball fields, gymnasiums, and more. Of the various parks, those visited most often are those that contain picnic areas, play equipment, basketball and tennis courts, trails, ball fields, swimming pools, and/or concession stands. The top most attractive and requested features of the Harrisonburg facilities include multi-use/connecting trails, playgrounds, swimming pools, and a variety of playing fields. Residents would like to see new parks and facilities such as a skateboard park, an additional water park, sports fields designated for kids, trails, an amphitheater, and dog parks. Also, residents enjoy facilities that are well maintained and up to date, safe, and offer a variety of activities in which the whole community can participate.

Programs/Classes

Harrisonburg residents are offered numerous classes and educational programs. Some popular classes among residents fit in the genre of arts/crafts, safety/child care, dance/gymnastics, skiing, and/or swimming. Of the programs most requested by surveyed residents, adult arts/crafts, painting, dancing, golfing, swimming, and children arts/crafts top the list. Residents also wish to have more variety of hours and scheduling of classes, child care services available during classes, and have inexpensive activities to participate in.

Athletics

Organized sports are offered in an array of league, teams, and clubs. Among the most participated in sports are men's and boy's softball, miscellaneous football and basketball, and various tournaments.

Physical Resources

Land Use

Before future development and planning of the parks system in Harrisonburg can take place, it is important to acknowledge the current usage and availability of the City's land. This includes knowing how the land is zoned, what it is being used for, and future proposed usages.

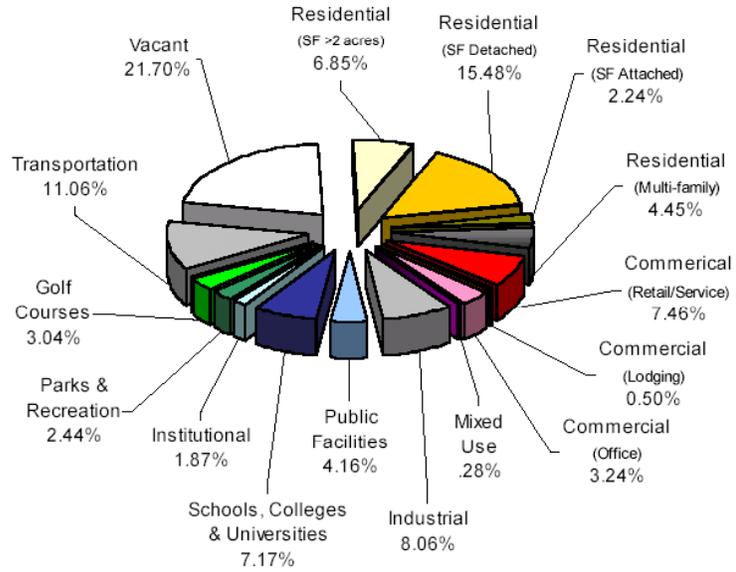
Existing Land Use

The Department of Planning and Communitary Development developed the following tables to depict current acreage usage. The DPCD was able to draw these statistics based upon available information to them, including their data on property use and the City's real estate assessment files.

**Existing Land Use
In the City of Harrisonburg**

Land Use	Area in Acres	Percentage of City Land Area not in Roads / RR	Percentage of Total City Land Area
Vacant	2415.47	24.40 %	21.70 %
Residential - Single Family Greater than 2 acres	762.14	7.70 %	6.85 %
Residential - Single Family Detached	1722.24	17.40 %	15.48 %
Residential - Single Family Attached (duplexes, quadraplexes, townhouses)	249.53	2.52 %	2.24 %
Residential - Multifamily	495.29	5.00 %	4.45 %
Commercial - Retail / Service	829.66	8.38 %	7.46 %
Commercial - Lodging	56.12	0.57 %	0.50 %
Commercial - Office	360.02	3.64 %	3.24 %
Industrial	897.26	9.07 %	8.06 %
Public Facilities (city, county, state, federal properties)	462.74	4.68 %	4.16 %
Schools, Colleges and Universities	798.24	8.07 %	7.17 %
Institutional (churches, cemeteries, service clubs)	207.73	2.10 %	1.87 %
Parks and Recreation	271.34	2.74 %	2.44 %
Golf Courses	338.84	3.42 %	3.04 %
Mixed Use	30.72	0.31 %	0.28 %
SUBTOTAL (Land in Parcels)	9897.34	100.00 %	
Transportation (Roads, Railroads)	1231.17		11.06 %
TOTAL (Total City Area)	11128.51		100.00 %

Source: Department of Planning and Community Development



These tables are derived from information about current conditions as of February 2003. It is important to note that the City of Harrisonburg is continually changing and growing, making this information a good indication of current land use, but increasingly outdated.

Planned Land Use

The City’s 1998 City wide Comprehensive plan included a Land Use Guide, which recommended future mixes of land uses. The resulting table below was a snapshot of what the City would have liked the mix of landuses to be. It is interesting to note that the desired acreage for Parks and Conservation is around 833 acres. The estimated current shortfall of park acreage added to the current park acreage of 532 acres yields a desired total acreage of 738 acres. This does not include conservation areas.

**City Land Use
As Recommended
By the 1998 Land Use Guide**

Planned Land Use	Area in Acres	Percentage of City Land Area Not in Roads / Railroads
Low Density Residential	2461.55	24.87 %
Neighborhood Residential	614.16	6.21 %
Medium Density Residential	1300.20	13.14 %
Planned Residential – Single Family	109.71	1.11 %
Planned Residential – Medium Density	120.51	1.22 %
Commercial	1660.77	16.78 %
Planned Business	131.99	1.33 %
Professional	98.68	1.00 %
Institutional	202.54	2.05 %
General Industrial	1641.92	16.59 %
Public / Semi-Public	531.95	5.37 %
Conservation / Recreation	833.16	8.42 %
County*	190.20	1.92 %
TOTAL	9897.34	100.00 %

* Some parcels at the edge of the city have portions that extend into the county. The county acreage is included here; the city acreage has been assigned a city Land Use Guide recommendation.

Source: Department of Planning and Community Development

Source: City Wide Comprehensive Plan Memorandum, Sympoetica, March 2003

Zoning

It is important to consider zoning within the City to determine what kind of development is allowed on currently vacant and available land. This helps planners determine potential future growth areas and land uses. From the City's Official Zoning Map, it was determined that approximately 40% of remaining vacant land is zoned for residential development. Other land is set aside for economic development, and therefore, little is set aside for recreational use and development.

Conclusions

The City of Harrisonburg is continually growing and developing, especially in areas marked for residential and commercial expansion. This provides limited opportunities for Harrisonburg to find land for future parks and recreational areas.

Due to inadequate vacancies, the City will need to consider alternative and creative approaches to developing their parks. Some such considerations include brownfield and greyfield parks.

Brownfields

Brownfields refers to properties that were developed, used, and then abandoned. Sometimes, these brownfields are left with vacant lots and empty buildings, and possible contaminants. With some effort, these properties can be converted into usable land for the City's use. Throughout the country, communities are able to restore these brownfields into usable public land for parks, gardens, and general green open spaces. What was once an eyesore can become a productive piece of land available for residents' use.

Greyfields

Greyfields are similar to brownfields in that they are poorly used land with the potential to become attractive, usable sites for the public's use. These greyfields are defined as older, economically outdated retail or commercial areas, usually with oversized parking lots. Not only are these sites unpleasant visually, they also fail to bring in the revenue they were originally built for. Through successful redevelopment, the City can use these sites to develop parks with bike and hiking trails.

Standards for Recreational Facilities

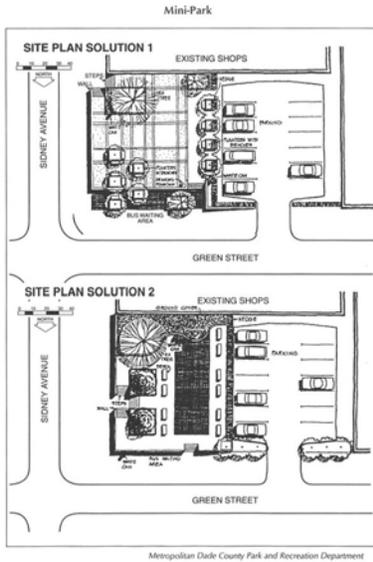
Introduction

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) both have developed standards for the delivery of parks and recreation facilities to communities. These standards were used for a baseline for comparisons in this study. Specific standards were developed for Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation system using data gathered during the needs analysis and using the State and National standards as a model. (See Table 11).

Standards are provided for types of parks, park acreage (overall and by type), and number of facilities to be provided per population. Expressed demand by the public and stakeholders was interpolated into numbers of facilities to be provided to the population. The comparison was performed to better understand the specific needs of the community and to see where those needs are similar or differ from the standards. The standards and comparisons are illustrated in a series of tables. Table 11 lists a typical menu of facilities that are provided in similar communities as outlined by National and State standards. Several facilities were listed in the comparison that are not provided by any group in the community. This is because there is currently no demand or that they simply had not been a priority to provide. This included badminton, hockey, and camping among others. The purpose of the comparison was to project current and future shortfalls or excess of facilities.

Park Classification System

Both the NRPA and the Virginia Outdoors Plan provide standards for park types. They are classified by size, population served, purpose and types of facilities within. There are six types of parks that the Department manages. These are outlined in Table 1. It should be noted that the development standards for the park types are only guidelines. Specific standards have been developed as part of this plan that considers existing park acreage and current deficiencies in park acreage as expressed by the shortfalls in facilities. Table 1



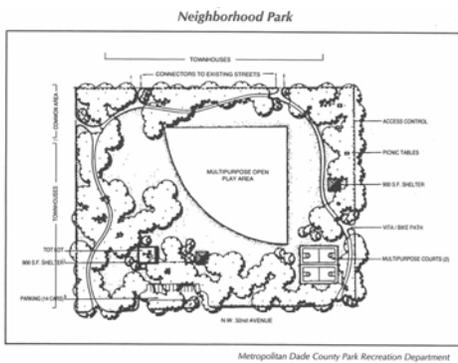
and the following are outlines of the types of parks based on NRPA standards.

Mini Parks

These parks often serve special needs and are located in urban areas or densely populated neighborhoods where space is limited. They range in size from 1 to 5 acres and have a service radius of about ¼ mile. Between .25 and .5 acres of this park type should be provided per 1000 in population. Currently Harrisonburg delivers about .25 acres per 1000. Only two parks qualify by acreage. These are large for this park type. In general an even distribution of this smaller park type is needed. Several spaces exist around the City that are serving as mini parks. These include garden parks as well as public spaces like Court Square.

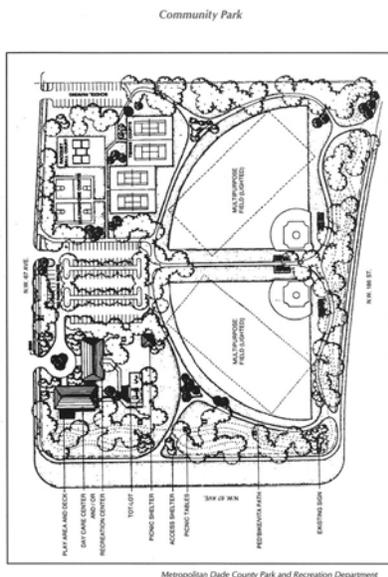
Neighborhood Parks

These parks are the backbone of any park system. They are located within convenient walking distance of homes and are the focal point for social and recreational activities. These parks often include multiuse athletic fields and other amenities. They range in size from 5 to 10 acres and have a service radius of about ½ mile. Between 1 and 2 acres of this park type should be provided per 1000 in population. Currently Harrisonburg delivers about .9 acres per 1000. Harrisonburg’s neighborhood parks are not well distributed among population areas and are typically concentrated in the older neighborhoods of the City.



Community Parks

These parks fulfill the larger need of the community. They serve special purposes and in some cases take advantage of unique opportunities. An example is Purcell Park. They range in size from 10 to 50 acres and have a service radius of about 3 miles. Between 5 and 8 acres of this park type should be provided per 1000 in population. Currently Harrisonburg delivers about 5 acres per 1000. Harrisonburg’s community parks cover the population areas fairly well but are typically concentrated in the older neighborhoods of the City.



Athletic Complex

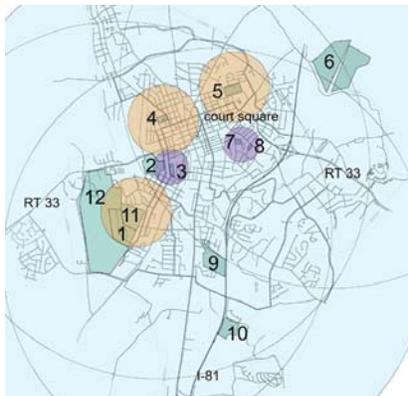
These parks accommodate concentrated use of intensely programmed athletic fields and facilities. They are typically provided on a few strategically located sites. Harrisonburg has several of these facilities some are smaller than the standard while other fit the

profile. An example is Ramblewood Fields. They range in size from 25 acres up and do not have a specific service radius. In general they should be located convenient to transportation routes and should not be located in neighborhoods. There is no standard for acreage per population. Generally this is based on the demand for facilities and type. Harrisonburg will see the development of more athletic focused parks as demand for athletic fields increases. Harrisonburg’s Athletic parks are located fairly well but are not as convenient to alternate transportation. However several of the smaller tennis oriented facilities are.

Joint Use Schools

These parks include indoor facilities such as gymnasiums, multipurpose rooms, athletic fields, and playgrounds. They are used during after hours and on breaks. Priority is given to school use. NRPA encourages the development of school sites as neighborhood and community parks in order to increase the level of service per expended dollar to the community. Several of Harrisonburg’s schools serve this purpose. However, shared use is fairly limited to after school hours, weekends and breaks. This works well for informal activities but is typically a conflict for organized athletics because school athletic facilities are often extensively used for PE classes and extracurricular activities. An example is Spotswood Elementary School.

Standards for Park Acreage by Type



Park Service Areas

A set of standards for park acreage helps a community to gauge goals and progress in meeting an expanding population's needs. Both the NRPA and the Virginia Outdoors Plan outline standards for park acreage. The NRPA gives a range while the Outdoors Plan establishes a fixed acreage based on the supply and demand analysis and survey of State needs. The standards are illustrated in Table 14.

This plan establishes specific standards for park acreages. In most cases these acreages correlate closely with the State and National standards. In all cases they are at the higher end of the spectrum. This is due to the unique needs of an urban population. The standards were developed by projecting required park acreages needed to house facilities identified in the needs analysis and adding the recommended acreages to existing to determine what acreage was needed per 1000 in population.

Population Ratio Standards

Standards for delivery of facilities by a ratio to population were a commonly used and accepted practice. The Virginia Outdoors Plan suggests standards for number of facilities to be delivered per thousands of population. For example the state standard for delivery of soccer fields is 1/5,000 in population. Previous NRPA standards suggest 1/10,000. Both organizations suggest that a custom standard be developed using community input, inventory and level of service models. NRPA no longer supports the use of ratio standards. The current NRPA standards and current park planning trends suggest that population ratio standards and other development standards are only useful as guidelines and that the community should determine what types and mix of facilities best meet its specific needs. Current trends also suggest using market research and surveys to determine relevant recreation needs. It should be noted that the Virginia Outdoors Plan has developed updated ratio standards based on a supply and demand analysis and survey of State needs.

Summary of Needs Analysis

Introduction

A relatively inclusive process was followed to develop the list of facilities that will be needed to satisfy Harrisonburg's park and recreation needs. The process included several steps that involved the general public, interested citizens, staff, organized group leaders, analysis of demographic factors and an analysis of State and National standards. The needs analysis gives a general overview of need but does not evaluate each facilities demand based on actual usage. The projections for numbers of facilities acquired assumes need during peak activity periods. This includes the fall and spring season for athletic fields and the winter season for indoor athletics. It should also be noted that Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation receives a fairly high approval rating from its customers and that this approval rating shows direct correlation to the supply of facilities. Currently shortfalls are limited to areas such as athletic fields, pools and trails. These shortfalls also show direct correlations between stakeholder input, State standards and public demand. It is also important to note that this satisfaction rating is due to relatively lower shortfalls across the board. If new facilities are not built as population increases then approval ratings and general dissatisfaction will be expected. Currently the Department is near an apex of the supply and demand model.

Inventory

A detailed inventory was taken of existing parks and recreational facilities and programs. The inventory included a list of all facilities provided by the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department. This included each park, its location and the facilities provided with in it. School sites and parks were also inventoried with focus on the same information. Future parks and future school facilities were also identified.

This information is illustrated in Tables 1,2, and 3. The purpose of the inventory was to identify all existing and future resources that Harrisonburg has at its disposal. The inventory gives a quantitative outlay of the facilities and serves as the base line that comparisons of need are made to.

School Facilities

The quantity of facilities that the analysis uses is very important in that it establishes a base line for comparison for peak activity periods. For most communities peak activity occurs during the school year, i.e. fall and spring seasons for soccer, football and baseball as well as winter indoor sports. Typically, an inventory of a community's facilities will include Schools because there is always some shared use of school facilities by the general population. However in many cases as it is with Harrisonburg City Schools the school facility use is first and foremost for the students. With increasing participation in extracurricular activities, such as athletics, pressure is being put on the school facilities for practices, games etc. In the analysis of need, school facilities were not counted as being available for use. This is because, historically, they have not been available for use by the general public on any significant level during the school year. It is understood that the school facilities are used by the community to some degree especially on weekends, evenings and during the summer months. However, this use is already occurring and does not leave much if any opportunity for additional shared use with the exception of the summer. Currently public use of school facilities includes, use by JMU, AEU, AU Basketball on weekends, Police Department Basketball teams, Mid Atlantic Wheelchair games among others. Tables 37-42 were provided by Harrisonburg City Schools Athletic department. These tables illustrate availability of school facilities. It is evident that the facilities are currently heavily used with little opportunity for additional shared use. Several new schools and facilities will be built in the near future (see Table 3).

An opportunity exists to dedicate some shared use for Harrisonburg's park and recreation programs. An evaluation should be performed of these new facilities to determine exactly what school activities are to be accommodated and how much time this leaves for other activities. Priority should be given to Department of Parks and Recreation programs and other community groups as appropriate. A partnership agreement should be devised that outlines this commitment.

James Madison University (JMU) and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU)

JMU and EMU house several indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. These include pools, fitness center, climbing wall, athletic fields, and trails, among others.

There is little opportunity to use these facilities in any significant way. JMU is consistently expanding and building in open space areas. This has reduced available athletic fields. JMU retains only 30% of the athletic fields it used in 1981. 36 varsity soccer teams are on a waiting list to use the existing athletic fields. JMU's policy does not allow public use of the student recreation center and other facilities. Use of existing athletic fields does occur some in the summer months due to low demand during these months. JMU and EMU students' use of City parks and facilities is significant due to the lack of recreational open space on campus. One example is Purcell Park, which is used heavily by JMU students. The university is planning to build a large park with 8 new athletic fields and other amenities. The park is not planned to open for another 5-8 years. This creates an opportunity for an equitable partnership. The number and capacity of these new facilities should be examined to determine how much use can occur by public organizations. Priority should be given to Department of Parks and Recreation programs. It is not expected that there will be substantial shared use because of the continued expansion of university enrollments and the current backlog of demand for facilities.

Other Facilities

Several facilities are provided by other private organizations. Facilities include roller-skating, pools, fitness centers, golf, and spas, shooting ranges among others. Offerers include various private organizations, the RMH Wellness Center, Lucy Simms Recreation Center and others. These groups satisfy special recreation needs and in some cases are not entirely accessible to the general population like City facilities. An opportunity exists in the Lucy Simms Recreation Center. This center will be expanded soon to include an additional basketball court, activity rooms and parking. The facility already includes an indoor basketball court and softball field. The facility has been planned for use by various organizations. Use gaps are expected during the day and on weekends. This would create some opportunity for games and practices. The location of this recreation center is convenient and could serve as a main public recreation center. However the center would need to be expanded considerably. This expansion would potentially eliminate the

existing ball field and some facilities in Ralph Sampson Park. These facilities could be relocated elsewhere.

Population Estimates

Accurate population data is a crucial component to the development of this plan. Current and project population estimates were used in this report to calculate the expressed demand ratios for facilities and the standards for park acreages. Population figures have been analyzed in the existing conditions and opportunities chapter. The analysis was further refined using population estimates prepared by Claritas Inc. as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan update. Given the intermediate population projections as concluded by Claritas, Inc. in September 2002, we were able to project the estimated population growth for the years 2008 and 2018. Claritas projected the population for the year 2007 to be 46,308; the year 2012 to be 50,902; and the year 2014 to be 52,958. Based on these figures, it was determined that Claritas used roughly a 2% growth increase, and on average 2.06%. Using this percentage, we compounded the growth for the years 2003, 2008, and 2018. We arrived at 43,021 for 2003; 47,638 for 2008; and 58,413 for 2018.

Demand

Public survey

Several of the questions in the public survey were targeted at finding out what facilities, programs and improvements the public would like to see implemented in the Parks and Recreation system. The results of this survey and methodology can be found in the Appendix. The results were included in the analysis as expressed demand. This was then compared to actual use numbers of existing facilities, stakeholder input and State ratio standards to see what correlations existed between public requests and other trends. In most cases the public requests were consistent with demand experienced by departmental directors and as expressed in State standards. For example, Athletic fields such as soccer, baseball and football were requested. This correlates directly with the Athletic Director's observation of need for these facilities based on the participation. It also correlates directly with the State standard.

Expressed Demand and Population Ratio Standards

In keeping with current park and recreation planning trends the expressed demand for facilities was measured. This was estimated by comparing the results of the public survey, to public input and stakeholder interview results. Expressed demand was illustrated as a standard unit per some thousands in population. For example the expressed standard for soccer fields was 1 field per 4000 in population. This differs from the State standard of 1 field per 5000 in population. This was measured by an inventory of existing facilities and a discussion with the athletic department and the public to determine what additional fields were needed to meet the current demand. This number of required facilities was divided into the current population estimate number. This resulted in a custom ratio.

In some cases, no expressed demand or dissatisfaction was expressed about a particular facility. In these cases the number of existing facilities provided was noted and that was interpolated back to a standard. This standard was then compared to the state and national standards. In most cases the expressed standard was close to the state standard. For example, in the case of horseshoe pits no demand was expressed in the survey, it was not a requested facility. This implies that the population is generally satisfied by the number of these facilities. The number of existing facilities is four. This equates to 1/10000 in population, which matches the State standard.

In cases where no demand was expressed and State standards did not justify any facilities the State standard was used as a reference point. Demand for these facilities will not become evident until population reaches a certain size and citizens start to express their desire for it. Evaluation of expressed demand should be performed every 5 years in order to keep in pace with population growth. A public survey can also be performed when population growth is reaching the limits illustrated in the standards. For example there is currently some expressed demand for an ice skating rink. The State standard for this type of facility is 1/30,000. Past NRPA standards were 1/100000 in population. The ice rink would serve a large population base that Harrisonburg. Because of the cost of construction and maintenance of this type of facility it is recommended that further investigation and survey be performed in regards to the actual demand. An evaluation of market and user population should be performed and partnership opportunities should be examined.

In other cases the facility may already be provided by other areas or organizations. This was confirmed by the lack of expressed demand. This is true in the case of campgrounds. It is not recommended that

campgrounds and tent areas be built to meet State standards. However it is recommended to examine this on a case-by-case basis when new parks are developed. If the community expresses some interest for facilities during the planning process then some may be provided as appropriate.

Standards for Park Acreage

A set of standards for park acreage helps a community to gauge goals and progress in meeting an expanding population's needs. Both the NRPA and the Virginia Outdoors Plan outline standards for park acreage. The NRPA gives a range while the Outdoors Plan establishes a fixed acreage based on the supply and demand analysis and survey of State needs. The standards are illustrated in Table 11.

This plan establishes specific standards for park acreages. In most cases these acreages correlate closely with the State and National standards. In all cases they are at the higher end of the spectrum. This is due to the unique needs of an urban population. The standards were developed by projecting required park acreages needed to house facilities identified in the needs analysis and adding the recommended acreages to existing to determine what acreage was needed per 1000 in population.

Existing Use

Parks in Harrisonburg are heavily used. This is summarized in Tables 5-6 and 19-20. This also became evident during interviews with the athletic department who explained that athletic facilities are aggressively scheduled and used. Demand and use also becomes evident by other non-city groups such as JMU students and Rockingham County residents. In many cases City facilities are being requested for use by JMU athletic organizations as well as City Schools and others.

Current participation records show that 1/3 of participants in the City sanctioned soccer program are County residents. More than half of the participants in the adult softball program are County residents and about half of the participants of classes at the Community Activities Center were County residents. The current trends of use indicate several non-equitable situations with other groups. A fair evaluation needs to be conducted of existing costs to operate these programs and other similar programs. The evaluation should consider cost of operating and maintaining the facilities divided by

the number of participants to determine if non-city users are being charged appropriately for the services if at all.

Existing participation data can also be evaluated for facilities using a quantitative approach. This approach should be used by the department in determining specific needs for athletic facilities. This approach relies on accurate record keeping of the schedules and participation numbers of the various groups or teams that use City facilities. Knowing the number of participants can be helpful in determining a historic participation rate of the population in City sanctioned athletic programs. This will give planners tools to estimate number of participants and thus extrapolate expected numbers of teams in future years. The numbers of teams, their activities held and the frequency of activities held during week days or peak demand times will illustrate how many facilities are required to satisfy that need. For example if soccer has 45 teams and each team holds 2 activities per week then that is 90 total activities. If there are 3 hours in the evening between 6pm to 9pm then you could reasonably hold two activities (games or practices) in that time period (baseball may be less). That would be 45 time slots needed. If you use the fields 5 times a week then that is about 9 fields you need to satisfy the current demand for soccer. You could schedule more time on the fields to reduce the number required. Lighting a field would extend the use about an hour during a weeknight. Extended hours also rely heavily on the amount of use a field can take. This is usually equated in hours of use. Harrisonburg's athletic fields are typically used 15-20 hours a week before showing considerable wear and damage.

Stakeholder Input

Several stakeholders were identified and interviewed as part of the planning process. The results of the stakeholder input are included in the appendix for easy reference. Stakeholders included:

- Harrisonburg Aquatics Department.
- Harrisonburg Athletics Department.
- Harrisonburg Tourism Council.
- Harrisonburg City Schools.
- James Madison University.

Various department heads identified indirect stakeholders using the facilities. Indirect stakeholders included the groups and organizations that the Department and facilities service. Not all of the groups are of can be listed here. It is evident that many groups rely on

Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. This situation is expected to increase with population. Groups that are italicized completed an organized group leader survey worksheet. The purpose of this worksheet was to document the demographic characteristics of the programs and the organizers needs and satisfaction with current programs and facilities. Indirect stakeholders included:

Athletics

Harrisonburg Little League
Harrisonburg Soccer Association
National Softball Association
United States Slow-pitch Softball Association
Ramblewood Concessionaire
Mid-Atlantic Wheelchair Games
Hershey Track and Field Events
Westover Waves
AAU Teams

General

The Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham
African American Festival
International Festival
Valley Fourth Celebration
Children's Museum
TV-3 Children's First Program
JMU Small Business Development Center
Rockingham County Recreation and Facilities
Parade – Downtown Retail Merchants Association
Massanutten Resort-Learn to ski and snow board
King's Dominion-Discount Tickets
Upper Valley Regional Park Authority
Massanutten Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Community Activities Center

City of Harrisonburg
Public Works
Human Resources
Fire Department
Golf Course
Rockingham County Schools
Rockingham County Recreation and Facilities
Virginia Recreation and Parks Society-Western Service Area
James Madison University

University Recreation
Center for Service learning
Lifelong Learning Institute
Recreation Department
Facilities
Eastern Mennonite University
Association for Retarded Citizens
Area 4 Special Olympics
Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
Mid-Atlantic Wheel Chair Athletic Association
Harrisonburg Soccer Club
Harrisonburg Tennis Patrons
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Boys and Girls Club
Massanutten Resort
Family Fun Zone (skating)
Friends of Blacks Run Greenway
Senior Players
National Association of Federal Retired Executives
Head Start
A.A.R.P. 55 Alive
Various Community Groups

Special Needs

Senior Citizens

From a 2001 survey coordinated by the Healthy Community Council, it was found that 17.7% of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County senior residents (ages 65 and above) engage in moderate physical activity (such as a brisk walk) 5 to 7 times per week. Overall, 68.8% of seniors do exercise at least once per week. However, 62.1% of seniors consider themselves overweight. This would suggest that about 1/3 of the seniors do not get enough exercise and/or they don't exercise at all.

A related issue is the mental health of the senior residents. Because depression and loneliness can often affect senior adults, it is important to provide activities in which they can interact with others and participate in activities where they feel useful and needed in the community. Of the surveyed adults, 23.9% enjoyed life two days or less during the given week. The same percentage felt sad two or more weeks during the past year. While 87.9% said they did not feel alone in the past week, 21.4% spent every day with someone outside

of his/her household, and 33.3% spent several times with someone outside the household. 41% of the seniors surveyed live alone.

Because seniors tend to have more time available than other citizens, they are able to offer more time for the sake of volunteerism. 44.7% volunteer time with a religious organization, 22% with a non-profit charitable organization, 6.7% with a hospital, and 29.3% did not volunteer with any organization. A similar question posed to those surveyed was “How much ability to you feel you have to affect how things happen in your neighborhood/community?” With only 8.5% who feel they have a lot of impact, 54.7% feel they have little or no ability to impact their neighborhood/community.

In overall interaction with their community, 85.2% of seniors feel that their neighborhood is a good or excellent place to live. Only 5% listed getting to where he/she needed to go as a difficult task, and 18.9%-20.4% use the transportation assistance provided. Other services/benefits used by resident seniors include the lifeline (22.8%), the senior center (22.4%), home healthcare (17.2%), and financial management and assistance (17.2%). Other benefits used include legal assistance, home delivered meals, counseling, adult daycare, older worker programs, and mental health services.

In relation to the parks and recreational needs of seniors, these percentages lead one to several conclusions. A healthy community for seniors would be one which includes:

- Walking trails which are safe and provide relative ease in access and use.
- Exercise programs available to all seniors of all abilities, such as water aerobics, dancing, senior yoga, chair exercise, etc.
- Recreational facilities where seniors can gather for different activities equally dispersed throughout the City for easy access.
- Programs in which seniors can interact with other seniors, adults, and children from the community.
- Peer groups which establish systems of checking up on each other and providing help when needed, such as “Adopt a Neighbor” or “Keep in Touch” programs.
- Volunteer opportunities for seniors, such as mentorship in area schools, working in a food bank, etc.
- Health related seminars in which seniors can learn from doctors about important health issues.

- Transportation systems which enable seniors to attend community activities and give ease of travel throughout the community.
- Free or reduced-cost financial and mental counseling, as well as health services such as blood pressure screening, hearing screenings, and flu shots.

Currently, Harrisonburg has some such things available for its seniors. Through the Price Rotary Senior Center in Westover Park, residents aged 60 and over can use the center for socialization, recreation, music, field trips, transportation, and noon meals, among other things. The Center also delivers hot meals to housebound senior residents. Within Harrisonburg, there are many private establishments, such as retirement communities and rehabilitation centers, in which seniors can receive assistance and participate in various activities.

Recommendations

Introduction

This chapter outlines specific recommendations for new or improved facilities and programs. New facilities and programs suggested are justified by the corresponding data from the standards and needs assessment. Specific long-term and short-term objectives are outlined. Goals and objectives relate to areas such as quality of life, land acquisition, funding, economic development etc. It is not intended that all suggested improvements and facilities be implemented. It is understood that budget limitations may require postponement of some improvements. The recommendations outline ideal menu of improvements based on the needs analysis.

Proposed Land Acquisition is identified in Tables 13-15. New acquisition is based on the suggested new programs and facilities and the demand for those facilities based on geographic areas of the City. Specific properties are not identified. Identification of specific properties will need to be evaluated based on factors such as City ownership and availability, required acreage and appropriate distribution. Total cost for required acquisition is summarized in the cost estimate.

Existing park improvements

Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation system has many existing resources. The appropriated use, management and maintenance of these resources are crucial to the overall success of the program and the satisfaction of the client base. The following information is suggestions for improvements to specific parks based on the frank assessment of each facilities condition, use and the shortfalls identified in the needs assessment.

Several maintenance and replacement items are common to all parks. These items are typically related to facility repairs and routine maintenance of equipment, landscape and athletic fields. Park assessments and narratives are provided in the appendix of this report. The following is a list of items that need to be examined on a system wide approach.

- All playground equipment should be evaluated and repaired or replaced with equipment meeting current federal safety standards.
- All fall zones around play equipment should be evaluated for size and material. Fall zones and material that does not meet current safety standards should be replaced and adjusted.
- Evaluate handicapped accessibility and accesses to all play areas. Make efforts to provide appropriate access.
- Replace or repair doors on park buildings that shows significant wear, rot and peeling.
- Replace or repair siding on park buildings that show significant wear, rot and peeling.
- Develop a systematic inspection program of all play equipment to evaluate need for repairs and replacements.
- Develop a systematic inspection program of all park structures to evaluate need for repairs and replacements.

Community Parks

Community parks are located in areas that serve the broader community. The City of Harrisonburg is served fairly well by these parks and enjoys overlapping service areas. Community parks can support specialized uses that generate revenues. This is true with the recreation center and pool facility. Harrisonburg residents heavily use existing community parks. Use is fairly evenly distributed by precinct, but spikes and drops in user ship are typically observed in the precincts closest to and farthest from the individual park.

Westover Park

Westover Park is a mainstay of the park system as it offers the communities main recreation center. The park is for many activities that involve various age groups. The recent addition of a skateboard will increase use of the park by teenagers. The parks recreation building, pools and picnic shelters are heavily used. The park is expected to see heavier use as the population increases.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Provide more visitor parking, closer to convenient entrances and define circulation and parking for greater efficiency. Provide separate staff parking away from main public entrances.

- Replace the aging pool cover with a new cover.
- Renovate the pavements around the Junior Olympic pool.
- Replace or repair doors and fixtures in the hallway leading to the Junior Olympic pool.
- Renovate restroom and locker room facilities and replace worn fixtures.
- Re-grade swales near pool to eliminate standing water.
- Conduct a space needs and user needs assessment for the Community Center. Program for the expansion of activities and facilities of the center accordingly.
- Develop a site master plan that addresses program elements recommended in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.
- Develop architectural plans for the future expansion of the community center.
- Add an outdoors activities center focused on providing information and instruction for biking, hiking, caving and climbing and other popular outdoor activities.
- Create a Climbing wall to support the outdoor activities center.
- Renovation of the bathhouse area in dressing rooms and pool office area.
- Connect the Classroom, First Aid Station and Storage area to the bathhouse for Aquatic and Safety programs.
- Provide outdoor basketball/tennis courts.
- Office space and new reception desk area for the Center. Enclose current front desk area, construct new reception desk for better view down the hall
- Connect the park to existing neighborhoods and the City bikeway and sidewalk system by providing sidewalk connections at South Dogwood Drive and West Market Street. Make a connection to the senior center.

Long Term

- Develop a trail system through the park with a main spine connecting South Dogwood Drive with the land behind the picnic shelters.
- Stabilize and develop the creek into riparian habitat with educational interpretive signs and spaces for class activities.
- Expand the Community Center to include additional space for hard court games, specifically add one basketball court.
- Build a recreational pool that is focused on family and children. Add sitting and pavement areas to support this area.
- Build a permanent enclosure for the main pool for year round swimming programs.
- Renovate racquetball court 1.

- Acquire adjacent property around the dynamite shacks for open space and trail development.

Purcell Park

Purcell Park is one of the most heavily used parks in the system. The park is used by permanent residents and students for organized and unorganized athletics, jogging, tennis and other leisure activities. The park sees heavy use by students in warmer months.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Develop a site master plan that addresses program elements recommended in this plan.
- Provide additional parking near Monument Avenue sufficient to serve expanded use and facilities. Relocate facilities as necessary to accommodate parking.
- Provide more prominent entrance signage from Route 11.
- Renovate and replace outdated play equipment. Provide fall zones and resilient play surfacing that meets current federal safety standards. Determine long term maintenance needs of the large timber structure and determine when it will need to be replaced.
- Secure the water level maintenance crossing of Blacks Run.
- Replace aging fence around the Baseball complex.
- Continue to repair and paint park equipment such as bleachers, benches and basketball goals. Identify time and cost of replacement.
- Evaluate condition of sport field lights and provide a schedule for replacement.
- Evaluate purchase of additional property between the interstate and Blacks Run at the southern end of the park for recreational trails and park expansion.
- Add additional picnic areas and shelters.
- Upgrade Pedestrian trails and bridges.
- Add new lights and replace lights as appropriate
- Add two horseshoe pits.

Long Term

- Purchase property along Seibert Creek for expansion of greenway, picnic areas and riparian buffer.
- Build one practice fields and one game field for soccer.

- Expand and dredge the existing pond to allow for varied aquatic habitat and fishing opportunities.
- Expand trails in park and upgrade central trail along blacks run to accommodate multiuse.
- Provide safe and convenient neighborhood connections and connection to JMU at Port Republic Road. Partner with JMU to provide this connection.

Hillandale Park

Hillandale Park is used moderately by citizens from all voting precincts. The Keister and Simms precincts show the highest use of this park. The park has relatively varied topography and is used heavily for picnic areas and trails.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Develop a site master plan that addresses program elements recommended in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The site master plan should address Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals.
- Provide and upgrade neighborhood connections where appropriate.
- Develop a Disc golf course in underutilized portions of the site and in the adjacent Bridge Water College property site.
- Repair or replace damaged pavements on paths and walkways.
- Renovate the soccer field.
- Repave and paint the basketball court.
- Evaluate parking needs and provide adequate parking near playground areas.
- Replace aging exercise equipment.

Long Term

- Make modifications to shelter locations, trail alignments and landscape as necessary to ensure proper security and visibility.
- Provide pedestrian connections to the Bridgewater College property park where appropriate.
- Expand parking at the end of Hillandale Avenue to accommodate expanded park features in the Bridge Water College property.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve as the staple park for a community. Typically these parks are distributed evenly around a City in its various neighborhoods. These parks typically include practice fields and multiuse fields for athletics, trails, picnic areas and playgrounds. Harrisonburg is lacking in these facilities both in quantity and distribution. Harrisonburg's neighborhood parks include Morrison Park and Ralph Sampson Park. Both of these parks are located in the northern portion of the City. Purcell, Hillandale and Westover Parks also serve as neighborhood parks as well as Community Parks. Kiwanis Park also serves as a neighborhood park.

Morrison Park

Morrison Park is located at the Waterman Elementary School site. The site is surrounded by single-family residential development. The majority of its use comes from this neighborhood.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Evaluate use of existing space for neighborhood activities and school activities. Survey neighborhood preferences and School preferences to determine what uses are best suited for the site. Evaluate connections from the school to the park.
- Evaluate need for and provide handicapped access to areas of the site from neighborhood streets.
- Re grade poorly drained areas.
- Repair rot and peeling paint on doors and siding on comfort station and picnic shelter.
- Evaluate condition of school playground equipment on an annual basis and replace equipment as necessary to meet current federal safety standards.

Long Term

- Repair and replace school playground equipment.
- Renovate multiuse play and soccer field. Re grade main field to league standards.

Ralph Sampson Park

Ralph Sampson Park is located next to the Simms school and recreation center. The park is predominately used by the surrounding

neighborhood and the school. The park sees some use by citizens of other voting precincts. Predominately Waterman, Keister and Spotswood.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Evaluate use of existing space for neighborhood activities and school activities. Survey neighborhood preferences and School preferences to determine what uses are best suited for the site.
- Evaluate possibilities for handicapped access.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade the softball field for increased use.
- Add permanent benches on each side of softball field.
- Add one or two picnic shelters at the edges of open areas.
- Expand the playground area to include additional equipment for varied activities.
- Re grade the areas around the spray pool for proper drainage.
- Provide a walking path to the spray pool and basketball area.
- Widen parking lot entrances.
- Fence the south side of the park to eliminate safety issues with neighbor's dogs.
- Provide access points to and from the future renovated Simms School site.

Long Term

- Renovate multiuse fields.
- Renovate and expand the spray pool area to provide multiple water related features.

Mini Parks

Mini parks serve smaller neighborhoods and serve diverse groups in the City's urban areas. They often provide green spaces in heavily developed areas or provide for pedestrians, seating and play areas. These parks typically are not associated with athletics. Generally Harrisonburg lacks mini parks in its urban areas. Some parks may be considered mini parks because of their acreage but serve a neighborhood school or are athletic oriented.

Kiwanis Park at Spotswood Elementary School

Kiwanis Park is located next to the Spotswood Elementary School. The park is predominately used by the surrounding neighborhood and the school. The park sees some use by citizens of other voting precincts, predominately Stone Spring and Simms.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Evaluate use of existing space for neighborhood activities and school activities. Survey neighborhood preferences and School preferences to determine what uses are best suited for the site.
- Evaluate and adjust locations for ball field and multiuse fields to maximize area and orientation.
- Evaluate parking needs.
- Remove protruding rocks on the school multiuse field.

Long Term

- Expand the playground area at Kiwanis Park to include additional equipment for varied activities.
- Repair and replace play ground equipment and surfacing at the park and school site.
- Renovate ball fields at the school.
- Provide handicapped access to the school park.

National Guard Armory site

This site include the National Guard Amory building and related facilities and open space. The site is located on Willow Street next to the High School and tennis courts. Open space includes an informal practice field.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Evaluate use of existing space for neighborhood activities and Armory activities. Survey neighborhood preferences and Armory preferences to determine what uses are best suited for the site and how to deal with security and access issues.

- Continue shared use and access of the Armory indoor hard court.
- Evaluate parking needs and access to the practice field via the School property.
- Evaluate space requirements for the practice field and the multiuse trail proposed in that area.

Long Term

- Renovate the practice field.
- Provide pedestrian access and through circulation with a multiuse trail.

Athletic Complexes

These parks are typically located on larger tracks of land in and around the City and are focused on providing practice and game fields for various sports. Harrisonburg's sports complexes are focused on Baseball, Softball and Soccer. For the most part these facilities require transportation to get to and are not located in neighborhoods due to noise and light levels. Harrisonburg's facilities include Ramblewood Fields, Smithland Road, and the little league fields at Purcell Park, the Willow Street tennis courts, Eastover tennis courts and Heritage Oaks Golf Course.

Ramblewood Fields

This site is located on the east side of Interstate 81 on Stone Spring Road. The park consists of three baseball fields, fences, concessions and parking and is built on top of a closed landfill site. The park is used by various adult and youth leagues for practices and games.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Replace aging timber edging on trails.
- Renovate each field paying specific attention to grades, infields and warning tracks and irrigation lines and heads.
- Evaluate space and pedestrian circulation needs.
- Remove broken pipe bollards in concessions access road.
- Re-grade and repave concessions access road.

- Continue to repair and paint park equipment such as bleachers, benches and basketball goals. Identify time and cost of replacement.
- Evaluate condition of sport field lights and provide a schedule for replacement.

Long Term

- Repave parking lots and reorganize entrances and circulation.
- Screen and secure the maintenance area.
- Provide permanent pedestrian pavements where appropriate.
- Replace gates and fences along road.
- Evaluate existing irrigation system, replace line, valves and heads as necessary to upgrade system and get more efficient uniform coverage.
- Replace aging bleachers, dugouts and benches.

Little League at Purcell Park

This facility is located in Purcell Park and includes two little league fields, parking, concessions and lighting.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Replace outfield fence with appropriate height to eliminate stray balls.

Long Term

- Replace older bleachers, benches and dugouts.
- Replace older fence and backstops.
- Renovate outfields, infields and warning tracks.

Smithland Road soccer complex

This park is located on Smithland Road at the County line in the eastern portion of the City. The park includes three irrigated adult sized soccer fields, parking, porta johns and a maintenance facility.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Develop a site master plan that addresses program elements recommended in this plan. The plan should address neighborhood concerns as well as recreation needs of the community.
- As part of the master plan develop plans for a community recreation center. Evaluate the program for the recreation center based on access, location and community needs.
- Build permanent restrooms and concession facilities.
- Stabilize and repave maintenance the maintenance facility access road.
- Locate and build a dog park and associated trails.
- Build an additional soccer field and multiuse practice field.
- Build additional parking to accommodate current use and future fields.
- Build walking trails.
- Provide more prominent entrance signage from Smithland Road.
- Build picnic areas and shelters.
- Upgrade Pedestrian trails and bridges.
- Add new lights and replace lights as appropriate

Long Term

- Build a ball field complex, concessions and parking off of Old Furnace Road.
- Build three more soccer fields.
- Build a football field.
- Build four volleyball courts.
- Expand the existing maintenance center.
- Build a community recreation center.
- Build an access road, parking, comfort station and soccer fields on the east side of the property.

Willow Street Tennis Courts

This facility is located next to the National Guard Armory on Willow Street. The park includes four tennis courts, associated fencing and benches and sidewalk along Willow Street. No on site parking is provided.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Replace existing benches.
- Provide fence in between tennis courts.
- Replace existing sidewalks to courts with concrete ramps or steps.

Long Term

- Replace existing fence.

Eastover Tennis Courts

This facility is located next to Spotswood Elementary School on South Carlton Street. The park includes four tennis courts, associated fencing and benches, parking and sidewalks. The facility is used by the public at large, JMU student and by local tennis leagues.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Limb up pine trees to provide better visibility.
- Provide walkways or concrete pads around the benches.
- Provide trash receptacles near the courts for ball containers.
- Resolve existing drainage problems
- Replace existing sidewalks to courts with concrete ramps or steps.
- Provide proper turning radii at the parking lot entrance.

Long Term

- Replace existing fence.
- Provide concrete curb around the outer edge of the courts.
- Replace existing benches.
- Replace existing asphalt swale with a grass swale or shallow basin with the appropriate drainage structure and outfall.

Heritage Oaks Golf Course

Heritage Oaks Golf Course was recently built by the City on Garbers Church Road. The course offers the public a unique recreation opportunity within the City limits. The facility includes 18 holes, driving range and practice green, maintenance area, clubhouse and cart storage and associated parking.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Continue to market the golf course to City residents, County residents and the traveling public.
- Examine the possibility of expanded concessions or restaurant at the facility.
- Repair cart cut throughs and provide permanent paths.
- Fix drainage and erosion problems in open areas and on cart paths.
- Reroute intersections of cart paths to avoid steep slopes in turns and intersections.
- Evaluate space needs for golf cart staging and expand this area if necessary.
- Redesign the exit and approach to the cart staging area to provide better circulation and gentler grades.
- Clean up and screen construction and storage area near the old farmstead.

Long Term

- Pave all paths with asphalt or similar product.
- Pave the entrance road and parking lot.

School Parks

City schools are located in various locations and neighborhoods around the City. In all cases the schools provide some shared use of facilities to the general public. In some cases the open spaces associated with the schools serve as neighborhood parks. This includes Keister Elementary, Spotswood Elementary, and Stone Spring Elementary School. The issues relating to each school park are common and are outlined in the following recommendations.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Replace surfacing under all play equipment with appropriate resilient surfacing that meets current federal safety requirements. Do not use pea gravel.
- Evaluate condition and renovation schedule of all ball fields and multiuse fields.

- Evaluate condition of school playground equipment on an annual basis and replace equipment as necessary to meet current federal safety standards.
- Evaluate use of existing space for neighborhood activities and school activities. Survey neighborhood preferences and School preferences to determine what uses are best suited for the site. Evaluate connections from the school to the park.
- Evaluate need for and provide handicapped access to areas of the site from neighborhood streets.
- Re grade poorly drained areas.
- Evaluate and stabilize erosion problems.

Long Term

- Renovate and replace outdated play equipment. Provide fall zones and resilient play surfacing that meets current federal safety standards.
- Renovate ball fields and multiuse fields and replace fences and backstops.
- Replace site furniture.
- Provide appropriate handicapped access.

Other parks

Riven Rock Park

Riven Rock Park is located outside the service radius of a community park. It is located adjacent to the National Forest along Route 33 west of the City. The park offers a unique opportunity for City residents to enjoy picnicking, swimming, hiking and fishing activities in a setting typically associated with National Parks.

Recommendations

Short Term

- Fix washouts and pot holes, resurface gravel access roads where appropriate
- Paint, stain or replace siding of buildings and picnic shelters where needed.
- Regrade areas around picnic pads to eliminate dropoffs.
- Remove stumps, large stones and large branches that create tripping hazards around picnic areas and trails.
- Stabilize stream bank erosion areas.

- Implement river access control measures such as split rail fence and plantings.
- Create defined river access points where appropriate and harden surfaces with appropriate materials such as crushed river gravel.
- Examine the possibility of river oriented programs such as fly fishing classes, river ecology and other programs that teach stewardship.

Long Term

- Renovate pool and pool pavements
- Renovate swinging bridge to meet current building codes or replace the bridge.
- Enhance park trails where appropriate to include interpretation of natural features.

Tourism

Marketing of the Parks and Recreation system to citizens and tourist is an excellent way to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the system. Services, programs and facilities should respond to community needs as well as regional market trends. Specialty facilities can be built that serve the community while generating revenue through participation by regional residents and tourists. One example is the City Golf Course. The golf course is generally justified by population size and demand. However the challenge in the future will be to run the golf course as a business in order to generate revenue and profit. The course must be aggressively marketed to visitors and regional residents within the context of other community amenities. Upgrades and supporting amenities should be provided when and as appropriate. This includes a snack shop or restaurant, golf path hardening/paved, entrance road, and others.

In 2002 the Tourism Council hired a marketing agency to conduct an evaluation of tourism opportunities for the area. The marketing groups research showed that outdoor activities and access to the activities was the best marketing tool. This is due to Harrisonburg's location in the Valley and its proximity to skiing, hiking, fishing, national forest lands, parks and historic sites. A motto to the effect of "our back yard is your playground" was developed to help market the idea.

The Parks and Recreation Department should offer some activities and facilities that fit this market. Some activities and facilities would be more appropriately provided by the private sector or other community organizations based on market demand. Partnering opportunities should be examined where possible. Facilities may include:

- An indoor facility geared towards rock climbing, caving, skiing, skate boarding and biking training, education and sales.
- An Amphitheater or concert facility.
- An indoor laser tag facility.
- A City-wide Greenway.
- A revitalized downtown area.
- A downtown walking tour.
- Bike locker and shower facilities in town (possibly associated with the visitors center).
- Indoor swimming facility geared toward competitive swimming meets and events and training. The facility would be open to the public for observation and use. This could generate cash flow through programming and sponsoring related to local, regional and national events.
- A Miniature golf Course.
- A Par 3 Golf Course.
- Skating rink.
- Outdoor natural swimming attraction (possibly at the quarry).

These are all good ideas and some are supported by the needs analysis. The Department will need to conduct specific market studies for those facilities that seem to be the most practical to be included in the system.

Program Improvements

During the planning process a review of programs was conducted. Input was given by key staff and by the public. During the public survey stage of this project several questions were asked about programs that citizens would like to see or improve. The results of the survey showed planners and staff that the needs of the community were very diverse and that programs and the facilities that supported them needed to be flexible in order to adapt to the changing needs of a changing population. The following information outlines the information gained in the review.

- Citizens would like more variety of hours and scheduling.
- Citizens would like to be better informed of what programs and classes are offered.
- The program information on the City web site is well done. It is informative and up to date.
- The Parks and Recreation brochure is outdated and should be redeveloped.
- The department uses conventional means for promoting programs including, brochures, flyers, newspaper, radio and web sites. These methods should be evaluated to determine how effective they are. The department should be mailing out the summer and winter schedule to citizens.
- A citizen input system should be created to take suggestions for classes and programs. When there is enough expressed demand the program should be offered. The system should be market driven.
- There are a variety of programs and classes offered. The programs and classes cover a wide range of age groups. Generally programs and classes for elderly are lacking. Programs for children under 5 years of age are limited. This could be due to low participation and demand. The programs are offered at various hours. The hours range from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm.
- The department is already offering several programs and classes that have been requested. The department should evaluate if the demand for specific programs exceed the program or class capacity. The department should determine if more programs and associated facilities need to be provided to satisfy the demand. This includes, swimming, painting, and pottery classes in particular.

The following suggestions were made by department heads and organized group leaders:

- Develop a better senior citizen program, possibly using EMU/JMU students to help with programming.
- Provide expanded adult soccer programs.
- Provide a basketball league for 18-31 year olds.
- Provide volleyball leagues.
- Provide racquetball instructional programs with certified staff.
- Provide for racquetball leagues.
- Physical trainers.
- Provide for expanded childcare.
- Provide for preschool program expansion (days and hours).

- Provide more programs for teens.
- Provide for Female athletic programs.
- Drop weight limit requirements in football.
- Create a position for a certified therapeutic recreation specialist.

Market Focus

Programs that are offered generate revenue. The programs should be market driven in order to ensure that attendance figures are appropriate for the time and effort it takes to implement. Programs should be responsive to market demand and should be able to be measured in terms of success.

- Survey public opinion to find what other classes or programs that were suggested by the public in this study would be actively participated in.
- Implement the appropriate programs in accordance with appropriate levels of service and national trends.
- Create performance standards and improvement strategies for all programs.
- Implement a software system for registration to track and manage program offerings and to register public input.

New Facilities

Several new facilities and parks were suggested as part of the needs analysis. The recommendations for new facilities are based on expressed public demand, review of participation figures, interviews with group leaders and department heads and comparisons to national and state standards of service. The following information outlines the general recommendations for new facilities and the types of parks that are most appropriate to accommodate them. The need and distribution of park types were based on expressed public demand, existing park locations and state and national standards for park types and acreages. Table 2 illustrates the facilities needed and how those facilities relate to required park acreage. A more detailed analysis of needs can be found in the Summary of Needs Analysis chapter.

Short Term

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the most lacking in Harrisonburg (see table 13). There has been an expressed desire for more parks that are close to home and that provide a mix of recreation opportunities, including athletic fields. Neighborhood parks are not distributed in voting precincts 103, 104 and the northern reaches of precinct 210. Because of this it is recommended that several neighborhood parks be built in these areas. Figure 6 illustrates the service areas for the different types of parks and their current distribution around the City. The following parks are recommended.

These parks should include multiuse athletic fields for informal play and practices. The type of athletic fields should be based on neighborhood preferences and program needs. The fields should not be lighted. The parks should be limited to day use where residential areas border the property. The parks should also include adequate on street or off street parking, hardcourts as appropriate, playgrounds, picnic areas, picnic shelters, comfort stations, trails and other supporting amenities as appropriate.

Community Parks

A large community park will need to be built to accommodate the athletic fields and other recreation facilities recommended in this study. Several facilities can be accommodated at the Smithland Road property. This park covers service populations in precincts 101 (Simms), 102 (Spotswood) and the northern part of 103 (Stone Spring) fairly well, however the southern portions of precinct 103 and 201 (Waterman) are at the edges of the service area for the other community parks (see Figure 6).

It is understood that the population distribution in many of the precincts discussed are concentrated in certain areas. In each case the proposed parks will need to be located and designed to meet the specific needs of the neighborhood. Table 12 only illustrates how needed facilities might be distributed among the needed types of parks. For example it may be necessary to include a soccer field or multiuse field in each park because of neighborhood demand. It is also important to locate the parks based on proximity to its service population or neighborhood. Each park should be easy to walk to and should not cause parking conflicts. Because land is limited and the neighborhoods in this part of the City are more “suburban” in scale, it may be necessary to bend the design rules a bit to serve the population. Some parks may actually be located on land outside the City limits due to land use and land availability constraints.

Long Term

Long term needs for facilities are outlined in Table 12. These facilities will be distributed among neighborhood and community parks as outlined above. It will be important to track population growth as new parks are proposed. There are many factors that effect the location and development of a park site or facility five or more years from. It is not prudent at this point to predict how and where these parks need to be developed. As new facilities are developed in the short term the Parks and Recreation Department will need to reevaluate community need every five years. This will serve to update assumptions and estimates that were prepared as part of this process.

Athletic fields

All park facilities are important to the overall quality of life in Harrisonburg. However the supply of athletic fields is often the most debated and desired type of facility that requires the attention of park professionals. Harrisonburg needs athletic fields now. Priority should be focused on building the athletic fields needed in existing parks or City owned land. This will ensure the most cost effective and efficient way to provide needed facilities to the public while land is being purchased and parks are being planned for future years.

Operations and Management

Benchmarking

For the Harrisonburg Master Plan, several communities were benchmarked for the purposes of comparing the operation of their Parks and Recreation Departments to Harrisonburg’s. These communities were selected primarily based upon population, as well as similarities in location and parks systems. The communities are Bartlett, Tennessee and Burlington, North Carolina.

	Harrisonburg	Bartlett	Burlington
Population (year 2000)	40,468	40,543	44,917
Staff fulltime	30.5	14.5	47
Capital Improvement	\$331,000	\$132,678	\$1,800,000
Operations/Maintenance	\$867,790	\$1,231,864	\$5,200,000
# of Parks	17	28	24
Park Acres	635.5	442.43	631.45

While this chart gives a good, general overview for comparison’s sake, there are some issues to consider. Particularly, with the budgets for these communities, it may be possible that some staff also perform duties outside of the parks and recreation department, such as snow removal, and assisting public works, etc. Bartlett, on the other hand, hires contract labor during the summer to help with park maintenance. In considering maintenance and operations, it should be noted that with Burlington, 42% of their maintenance and operations budget is collected back through fees and charges of facilities and programs.

In comparing Harrisonburg to these benchmark communities, several key points can be drawn. For the amount of acreage, Harrisonburg does relatively well making the most of their budget. For example, if considering overall budget per acreage, Harrisonburg spends \$1,365.52 per acre, while Burlington spends approximately \$3,000. Harrisonburg’s acreage attributed to parks and recreation is about average in comparison to these benchmark cities. Also, Harrisonburg’s full time staff is also reasonably comparative to the other cities.

Currently, based on satisfaction rates from the public survey, Harrisonburg is doing a good job with staffing and maintenance. But, it would be reasonable to expect that these budgets need to increase significantly as acreage increases, as well as full time staff.

Master Plan Priorities

Introduction

Community priorities have become evident through the public survey, public input and stakeholder input processes. Many facilities and improvements were suggested. Some of the requests showed strong correlations between existing use patterns, standards and stakeholder observations. For example, the existing pools at the community center are heavily used, the community requested more pool and water related facilities, and State and National standards suggest more facilities are needed. Attendance records for 2002 show a total attendance of about 32,000 during the 61 days the pool facilities were open in the summer months. Another example is athletic fields. Again strong correlations were evident between expressed demand, standards, and usage.

Implementation Process

The following outlines the basic process that will need to be followed to implement improvements. Specific priorities and action items are outlined below.

- Refine identification of priority projects.
- Finalize short term and long term planning.
- Identify funding sources and secure funding.
- Identify and purchase or dedicate land.
- Create detailed plans with community input.
- Phase and build each park.
- Update maintenance and operation staff and budgets to accommodate new parks and programs.

Priorities

Several items need to be addressed currently, and within the short term or the next 5 years. These items and items to be implemented in the long term, or the next 15 years, are outlined in Tables 11-14. The actual priority and implementation sequence of the long term improvements will need to be decided later in order to keep in pace with current trends and community needs. This list of priorities addresses areas that either need immediate attention or need to be

planned and implemented within the next 5 years. Many of these items are outlined more specifically in the recommendations. A more detailed action plan is provided to begin to illustrate sequence efforts.

Immediate (2003-2004)

- Adopt and manage the implementation of this plan.
- Examine current and create new equitable partnerships
- Identify and purchase or create use agreements for new park land.
- Begin the planning process for priority facilities.
- Support and help to develop a City-wide greenway system.
- Build as many ball fields as possible, focus on soccer and youth baseball/softball.

Short Term (2003-2005)

- Develop a Marketing plan for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Address public safety and crime prevention issues in the park system.
- Provide for expanded, renovated and additional aquatic facilities.
- Provide for additional athletic fields, especially practice and youth fields.
- Provide for additional indoor hardcourt space.
- Provide facilities for events, festivals and concerts.

An Action Plan

Many recommendations are made in this plan for new and improved facilities and programs. Further physical and fiscal planning will be required for the successful implementation of the plan. Many of the items are discussed in greater detail in other chapters of the plan. The following is an outline of steps that need to occur to implement the plan. Many of the steps, plans or policies can be developed by staff while others will require consultant support. Time and funding for each should be allowed in next years budget.

Immediate (2003-2004)

- Officially adopt this plan.

- Devote staff time or hire staff for the management of its implementation and its periodic updates.
- Assign or hire staff for planning and funding efforts.
- Develop and implement an ongoing process for evaluating public need.
- Examine existing partnerships and use agreements with facilities and organizations. Re-negotiate agreements to create more equitable partnerships. This includes City Schools, Simms Recreation Center, JMU and Rockingham County.
- Conduct a quantitative athletic facilities needs assessment using participation rates, organization numbers and population projections to determine actual number of facilities needed. Update these projections each year to keep in pace with actual organization increases.
- Support and develop a City-wide Greenway system that includes connections to parks, schools and community facilities.
- Create Request for proposals for the final planning and design of Bridgewater College and Smithland Road property park development.
- Identify and purchase or dedicate sufficient land for several new neighborhood parks in the Waterman, Stone Spring and Simms voting precincts.
- Conduct funding workshops for identification of funding strategies.
- Develop marketing campaigns for public dependent funding mechanisms.
- Make needed public safety related repairs as outlined in the recommendations chapter, particularly in the area of playgrounds.
- Build several new Athletic fields.

Short Term (2003-2005)

- Create a set of specific design guidelines and standards for Harrisonburg's parks. Design guidelines should include accessibility, safety and crime prevention standards.
- Create a model park, using the design guidelines as an example for other parks to follow.
- Assess and address crime prevention problems in all parks.
- Assess and address accessibility issues in all parks.
- Create a design model for playgrounds. Eliminate those playgrounds that are not repairable and cannot meet the model.

- Renovate the existing cover and pool at the community center.
- Expand the pool complex to include expanded family and children related water park.
- Plan and build additional indoor hardcourt space at the existing community center.
- Develop several new mini parks in urban areas around the City.
- Expand and redevelop existing community and neighborhood parks, taking advantage of underutilized spaces. This includes Westover Park and Purcell Park.
- Expand the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Center to include additional hard court space, auxiliary gym, improved site circulation and parking, expanded activity rooms and expanded swimming facilities.
- Provide additional youth athletic fields and programs.
- Provide additional youth programs and activities.
- Expand program staffing, volunteers and hours for programs and classes where appropriate.
- Develop the Smithland road property as a major community and athletic park with amenities for the neighborhood in that area.
- Begin planning and development of a new Community Recreation Center in the southeastern sector of the City. The center should be accessible to the general public by mass transportation as well as by walking and bicycling.
- Provide a conveniently located facility for events and performances.
- Develop several new athletic fields including soccer, football, softball and baseball. Athletic fields may be developed in conjunction with park development already mentioned.

Summary of Cost

Introduction

A cost evaluation was prepared based on the distribution of needed park facilities shown in Tables 15a and 15b. The cost analysis shows gross figures and is not intended to be used for specific fiscal planning. The costs were prepared using a menu of facilities developed in the needs analysis. The menu of facilities was distributed among existing parks and proposed parks. Proposed parks were based on the distribution and acreage shortfalls illustrated in the needs analysis. The menu of facilities was assigned specific costs. Those costs were based on current averages of constructed costs estimated from current bid prices and estimating resources such as Means. The accumulated costs developed for the proposed parks does not include site specific costs such as utilities, entrance roads, amenities or planning and engineering. Costs are only provided for the base facilities identified in the needs analysis. A contingency of 50% was added to cover these costs. More detailed cost estimates are shown for the Smithland Road and Bridgewater College properties. The purpose of the cost estimate is to give the Department enough information to govern planning efforts related to funding and priorities. Detailed cost estimates and planning studies will need to be prepared for each proposed park and facility as the Department, City and public commits to its implementation.

Summary

- Projections of costs for facilities needed within the next 5 years far exceed the Department's capital improvements budgets.
- In 2002 the Department's capital improvement budget was \$267,790. This was enough money to build one large soccer field and the skate board park.
- With a \$300,000 capital improvements budget the Department could presumably build 2 soccer or baseball fields per year. This would come close to meeting the demand for those facilities.
- Long-term shortfall costs will be easier to plan for. This is because of lower shortages due to the assumption that current shortfalls will have been taken care of.

- The Department will need to postpone some improvements past the recommended term. This will need to be based on a frank evaluation of priorities.
- Immediate priorities should be focused on providing additional athletic fields in existing parks, continuing development of the Smithland Road and Bridgewater College sites and expanding and renovating aquatic facilities.
- A bond referendum or similar funding mechanism will need to be adopted in order to pay for “big ticket” items such as a new recreation center or major renovations and expansion of the existing recreation center.

Funding

Background

The funding sources for the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation will need to be supplemented to support the long-term expansion and maintenance of programs and facilities. Given the demand for facilities and the limited capital improvements and maintenance budget the City will need to evaluate options based on community opinion and practicality.

There are numerous options available to Harrisonburg for the purpose of continually funding its Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. Some funding can be used in combination with other sources. Some sources are appropriate for the short term, while others suitable for long-term. The following will serve to outline these sources and will provide a synopsis of each.

Options

Local Tax Revenue

Tax options, which create revenue from appropriately related sources, may be as follows:

- Local Sales Tax.
- Food and Beverage Tax.
- Innkeepers Tax.
- County Option Income Tax (COIT).
- Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT).

Sponsorship/Partnerships

Sponsorships and partnerships are important considerations in funding the Parks and Recreation Department, in that they draw in the support of local businesses, patrons, donors, and others. This creates a sense of pride in the community and a communal feeling of ownership.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships are mostly done through advertising in program guides, at sports fields, at special events, or with facility naming. Businesses not only get to contribute to their local community, they also garnish name awareness, thus increasing their business.

Partnerships

Partnerships can be formed in any number of ways, some of the more common including:

- Investment partners.
- Event partners.
- Contractual partners.
- Park partners.
- Non-profit partners.

Foundations

Parks

A park foundation, with a 501(C) (3) status, can be useful for long term funding and beneficial in its ability to respond to funding options in a timely manner, generate opportunities for matching funds from other contributors, guide with estate planning, and others. A parks foundation can be helpful in:

- Assisting in land acquisition.
- Developing facilities.
- Sponsoring programs.
- Buying equipment for the Parks & Rec Department.

General

Foundation funds are useful in land acquisition, development and construction, providing programs, and others. These foundations can include:

- General-purpose foundations with comparatively few restrictions.
- Special program foundations for specific activities.
- Corporate foundations with few limitations, typically coming from local sources.

Government Assistance

Federal and State assistance may be essential in the furtherance of the Parks and Recreation Department. Some sources include:

- U.S. Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).
- U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Virginia Department of Forestry.

Charge per User/Fees

Exclusivity

Based on use, the general public will be charged for access to specific facilities and parks. Some variations include:

- A public service, for use by general public and funded through taxes.
- A merit service, used by individuals who pay for use on top of funding through taxes.
- A private benefit service, where the user pays entirely for use of the facility.

Resident vs. Non-Resident

Fees can be established for out-of-City residents, status being determined through telephone numbers, addresses, or other methods. If there is already a cost involved, an increased fee can be placed on outside residents. Another option is to charge weekend fees for facility use, as it is more likely that County residents are more likely to use the facility on the weekend.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

While not a direct funding, this option allows for an increased financial support through property tax incrementally related to community revitalization.

Non-reverting Funds or Enterprise Funds

A fund is established through excess revenue generated through various programs. From this designated program or facility use, program, operational and maintenance support can then be drawn

from this account to support or subsidize the tax support needed. An ordinance must be created by the enabling legislative body.

Impact Fees

This is a fee charged to developers to help municipalities pay for the infrastructure, such as sewers, which would be necessary for the use of the newly created development.

Revenue Bonds

High use facilities and parks that are able to produce enough excess revenue can use this to cover operational costs and any debt.

Maintenance Endowment

The necessary continued maintenance costs should be a consideration in the need for funding. An endowment should be established and maintained from which the annual interest can be gleaned for the purposes of paying for the needed yearly maintenance.

Naming Rights

A group, business, or individual will provide the funds equivalent to the market value of the parcel of land or facility and its continued maintenance, in order to give their name of choice to the facility or park. This type of funding must be done delicately in order to prevent resentment on the part of the citizens and future donors.

Easements

Some common easements used by municipalities, in which they do not purchase the land from landowners, include recreation easements, conservation easements, and scenic easements. Each allows the landowner to maintain the title to the property, with a possible annual fee. The landowner then agrees to the conditions of the easement, which might include access and use of the property, conservation of the land, or making the site available from off-site as a scenic view.

Funding Workshop

A workshop should be conducted in which the key individuals involved participate in a decision process to determine the best approach for funding the necessary Parks and Recreation

developments and improvements. Tolerances of the community should be determined.

Action Strategies for Funding

Capital Improvements Planning

An organized capital improvements plan will be crucial to the success of delivering recommended improvements and facilities to the public.

- Assign staff to implementation and monitoring of the plan.
- Assign staff to coordination of each capital improvement with available grant sources.
- Incorporate lifecycle, maintenance costs and schedules in all planning and estimating of new facilities.
- Create a coordinated mechanism between City departments and 501-C-3 status groups to develop and manage policies for land donations from the public, developers and utilities departments.
- Coordinate with other City agencies for shared use agreements, easements and the like for use of surplus or underutilized City properties, easements and rights of way.

Revenue Generation

Every opportunity should be maximized to generate revenue for the Parks and Recreation system. Any excess funds generated should be reinvested into the department to improve the quality of facilities and programs.

- Establish a revenue policy that includes enterprise funds for maintenance, re-capitalization and program support.
- Evaluate participation of non-City residents and establish specific fees for programs, activities and facilities for these users. The fees should be based on an equitable model of population vs. facilities and programs required to serve that population.
- Evaluate and implement shared cost and use agreements with non-City organizations and the County.

- Evaluate the possibility of private management of facilities for the City.
- Hold public meetings on or publish the results of all plans that have fiscal impacts on the community.
- Develop marketing campaigns for any major funding options that involve public decisions to use tax dollars or borrowing.

Partnerships

Developing effective partnerships with other departments, schools and organizations can help to fund and provide labor and facilities for improvements and facilities. The City has done well organizing inter departmental cooperation and with athletic associations. The City needs to work on equitable partnerships with local schools and universities and the County.

- Evaluate all existing partnerships in terms of equity and compatibility.
- Develop a means to document the partnership agreement and the vision and goals of that partnership.
- Renegotiate inequitable agreements.
- Identify new partnership possibilities and pursue those.
- Provide support in existing partnerships where the benefits of the other organizations work improves the overall community.

Marketing

Currently, the Tourism Council is marketing Harrisonburg with the motto “Our back yard is your play ground”. The Department should capitalize on this effort and join it with the understanding that Parks and Recreation are a crucial component in the quality of life and the attractiveness of the community to visitors. Opportunities for development of outdoor facilities and tournament facilities that are market driven should be seized.

- Commit to the idea that the Parks and Recreation system is a major community amenity that attracts commerce and improves the quality of the community.
- Develop a marketing plan, image and logo for the Departments offerings.
- Identify and market appropriate corporate sponsors for events, tournaments and programs.

- Create a parks foundation with 501c3 status to manage giving and trusts and endowments.
- Continue the work of this plan to measure customer satisfaction of programs and facilities and address deficiencies.

Program Revenue Management

- Track direct and indirect costs of programs and evaluate required subsidy levels compared to fees generated.
- Create guidelines to guide program pricing.
- Strive to make each program cover its own direct costs.
- Implement methods for making programs available to people with limited resources. Allow people to volunteer or work in lieu of fees.
- Implement credit card payment systems.

Demonstration Projects

Introduction

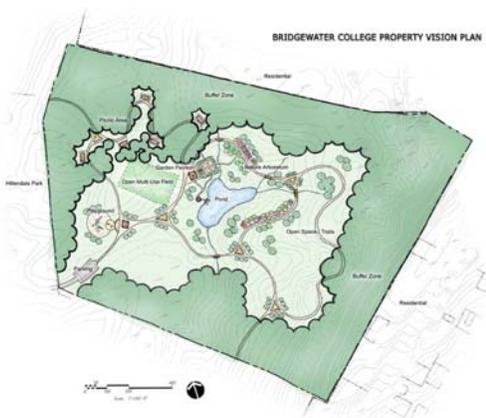


Existing Property at Smithland Road

The purpose of the Demonstration Projects is to test the outcome of the planning process and to illustrate the implementation of the proposed program elements on an appropriate site. The City of Harrisonburg had previously targeted the Bridgewater College Property and Smithland Road Property for future park and recreational facilities. This study is the next step for the development of the facilities. The Bridgewater College Property site will serve as a community park with minimal impact on the neighborhood. The Smithland Road property will serve as a sports complex and community park, but will also function as a neighborhood park due to the lack of park and recreational facilities in the area.

Program Elements

Program elements for the two Demonstration Project sites were chosen by studying existing park standards, gathering information from public input, as well as feasibility analysis studies. A public needs assessment was done which examined the types of parks in the Harrisonburg vicinity as well as what elements were included in the existing parks. From that information, it was determined what program elements were needed and where they were needed. Public input was also gathered during a series of meetings. A total of three meetings were held to review the overall Master Plan process. During these meetings the public was asked to comment on ideas for the two properties. The first meeting included input on program ideas, the second included input on a final program and bubble diagrams and the third included input on more detailed concept plans.



A Vision Plan for the Bridgewater College Property

Bridgewater College Property

The Bridgewater College property site will serve primarily as a community recreational park. The park will include low impact program elements and will be incorporate buffering of the adjacent community. See Figure 13.

The program elements include:

- Picnic areas.
- Garden pavilion.
- Open space / trails.
- Nature arboretum.
- Playground.
- Open multi-use field.

Smithland Road Property

The Smithland Road Property Plan will include several program elements. See Figure 16. Athletic facilities such as soccer and baseball diamonds will be the emphasis of the park. Other program elements include:

- Recreation center.
- Nature center.
- Picnic areas.
- Dog park.
- Concessions.
- Nature arboretum.
- Tennis courts.
- Walking trails.



A Vision Plan for the Smithland Road Property

Implementation

Considering the large size of the sites and amount of program elements involved, especially on the Smithland Road Property site, construction would take place in phases. When breaking the project into phases, it is important to consider grouping of program elements and in what order the phases should be constructed. An example at the Smithland Road site, the construction of roads and parking would want to take place during or before the athletic fields are installed so that access and parking is accommodated. See the appendix for feasibility analysis, which includes phasing for park construction.

Tables

Table 1 : Existing Inventory : Existing Parks and Proposed Parks

	Acreage	Historic Site/Museum	Golf Course	Recreation Center	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Play Equipment	Open Play Area	Bike Path	Exercise Trail	Hiking/Nature Trail	Fishing	Concession	Baseball/Softball	Soccer/Football	Basketball	Tennis	Horseshoes	Skate Park	Volleyball	Multi-Use Fields	Pool	Racquetball	Parking	Special Features	Locations	
Existing Parks																												
Mini Parks																												
Kiwanis Park	3.8								Y	1								1					1			8	Franklin & Myers	
National Guard Armory	7.2			1													1		4				1				340 S Willow St.	
Neighborhood Parks																												
Morrison Pk/Waterman Elem.	6				Y	1		Y										1		2							N. Willow & 2nd	
Ralph Sampson Park	32				Y	1	1	Y	1						1			3	2	2		1	1			30	Spray Pool/VB Washington St	
Community Parks																												
Hillandale Park	74	1			Y	12	3	Y	1	1	1	1			1	1	2			4		2				250	Information Center Hillandale Ave	
Purcell Park	67				Y	3	2	Y	3			1	Y	2	2	2	2	1		4			2			100	Comfort Station Monument Ave	
Riven Rock Park	28				Y	4	2	Y				2	Y								2					150	Grills & Water West on US #33	
Westover Park	49			2	Y	4	2	Y	3			1									2				3	250	Comfort Station Dogwood & Mrkt	
Sports Complex																												
Ramblewood Fields	60						1								1	4										200	League Play Off Ramblewood	
Little League @ Purcell Park	0.5														1	2												Electronic Scoring Hillside Ave
Smithland Rd Soccer Fields	26				Y														3							200	Rt 718 & Rt 720	
Willow Street Tennis Courts																					4							Willow Street
Eastover Tennis Courts																					4					15	Eastover	
Heritage Oaks Golf Course	178			1																						150	Drive Range & SC Heritage Oaks	
School Parks																												
Keister Elementary								Y																				
Spotswood Elementary Sch.								Y							1													
Stone Spring Elementary Sch.																												
Totals for Existing:	532	1	1	3	7	25	11	9	9	1	1	5	2	4	11	7	8	20	10	0	3	5	0	3		1353		
Proposed Parks																												
Smithland Rd Property Exp.	114			1	Y	9	4	2	3	1	1	2			4	8	1	4	4	1	2	2	1			300		
Westover Skate Park	25					1															1							
Bridgewater College	46				Y	5		Y	1		1	1		1							1					15		
Blacks Run Greenway	20							Y	4	1	1	1														60		
Totals for Proposed:	205	0	0	1	2	15	4	4	8	2	3	4	0	1	4	8	1	4	5	2	2	2	2	0		375		
Totals Combined:	737	1	1	4	9	40	15	13	17	3	4	9	2	5	15	15	9	24	15	2	5	7	2	3		1728		

Table 2 : Existing Recreation Facilities

	Acreage	Historic Site/Museum	Craft Rooms	Recreation Center	Picnic Area	Nature Shelter	Restrooms	Play Equipment	Game Rooms	Exercise Rooms	Locker Rooms	Classrooms	Indoor Courts	Aquatics/Pools	Concession	Lobby	Multi-Purpose Room	Basketball	Tennis	Kitchen	Office	Special Features	Locations		
Existing Recreation Facilities																									
Gilkerson Community Center				4	1			2		3	1	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	2			1	2	Dance Studio	305 S Dogwood Dr.
Price Rotary Sr. Citizens Center				1		1		1		1									1			1	1	Health Programs	305 S Dogwood Dr.
Westover Swimming Pool								1							3	1							1	Open Year Round	305 S Dogwood Dr.
Proposed Recreation Facilities																									
Simms Recreation Center		1	1		1	4		2	1			2	2	2			1		1			1	1	Open Year Round	305 S Dogwood Dr.
Totals:				6	1	1	5	6	1	4	1	4	5	6	4	2	2	2	3	0	3	5		Historic School	

Table 3 : Existing School Parks

Schools	Playground/ Play Equipment	Concession	Baseball/Softball	Soccer/Football	Basketball	Large Open Area	Tennis	Track	Multi- Purpose Gym	Auxiliary Gym	Multi-Purpose Room	Locations
Elementary												
Keister Elementary	1				1	1	1		1	1		
Spotswood Elementary	2		1	2	2		1			1		
Stone Spring Elementary	1		2	1			1		1	1		
Waterman Elementary	2						1			1		
Middle School												
Thomas Harrison Middle					1	1	1		1	1		
High School												
Harrisonburg High			1	2	2	1			1	1		
New High School				2	2		1		1	1	1	1
New Elementary School				1	1		1		1	1		
Totals:	6	1	8	10	3	7			6	8	1	1

Table 4 : Park Usage

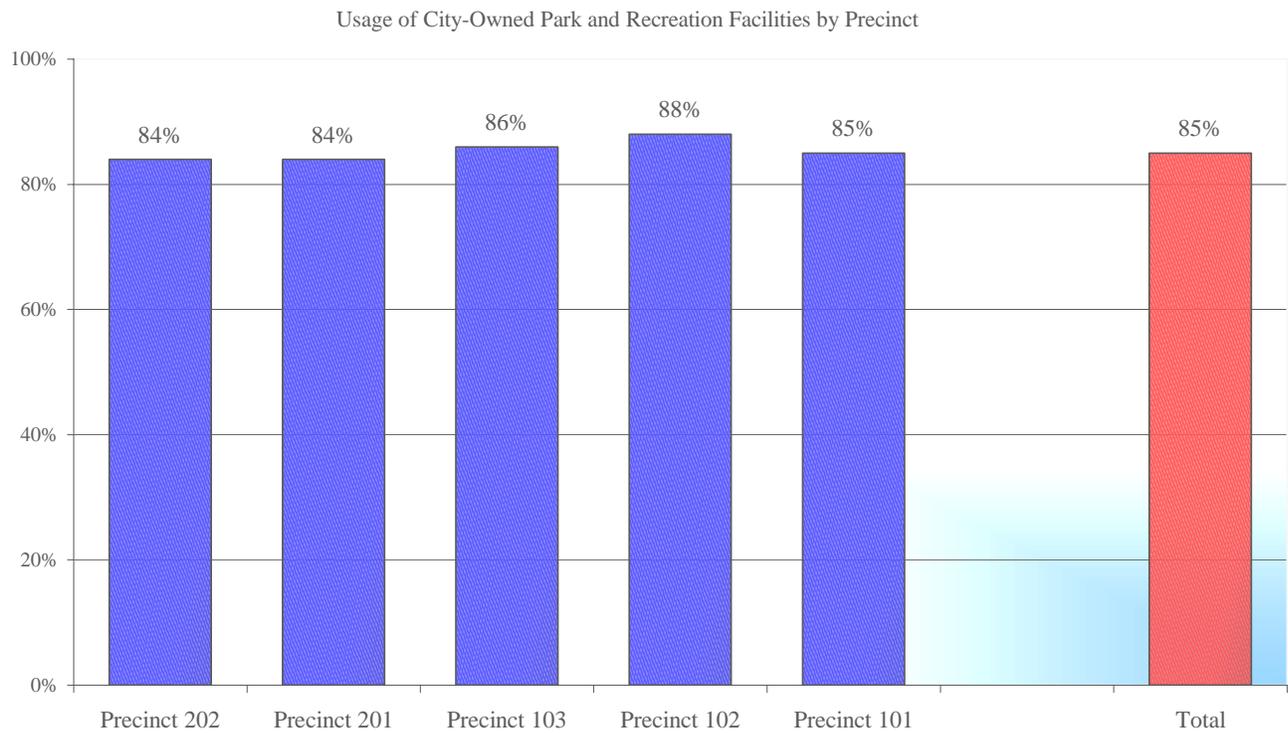


Table 5 : Park Visits

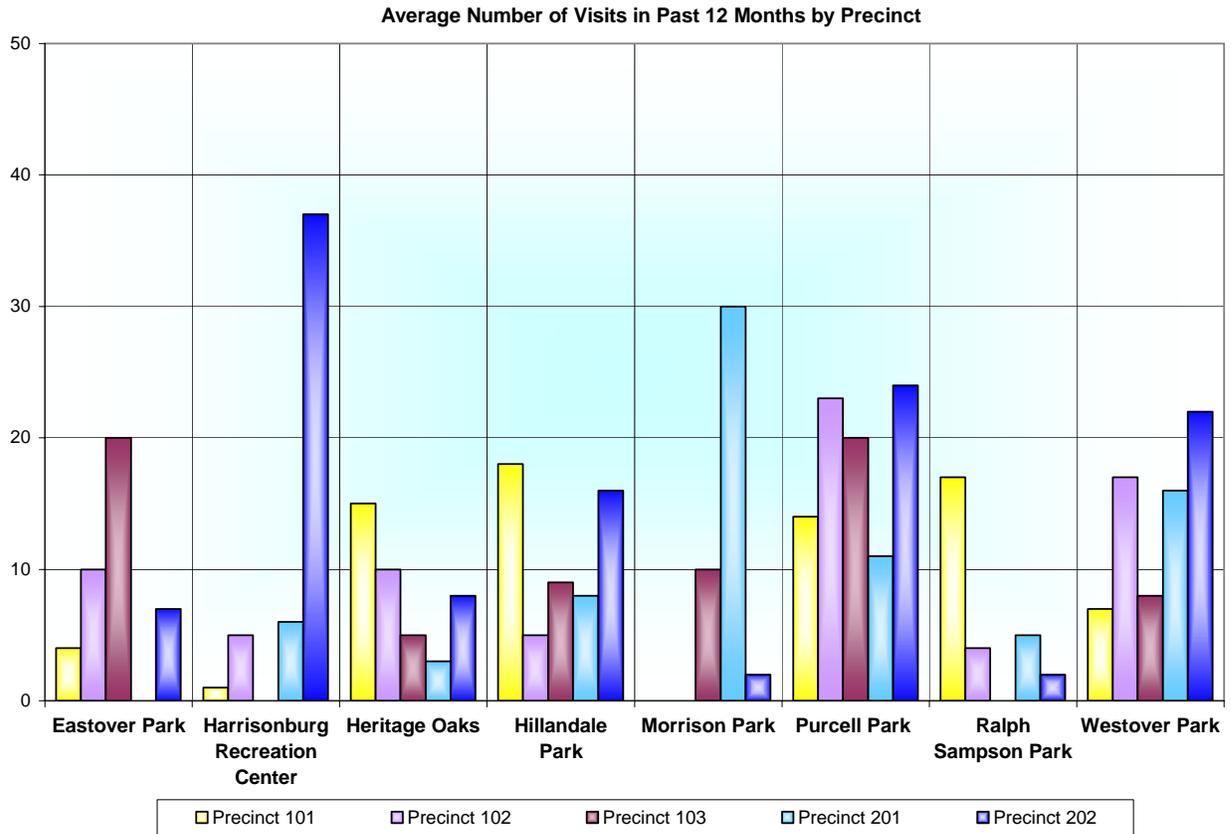


Table 6 : Number of Visits per Park

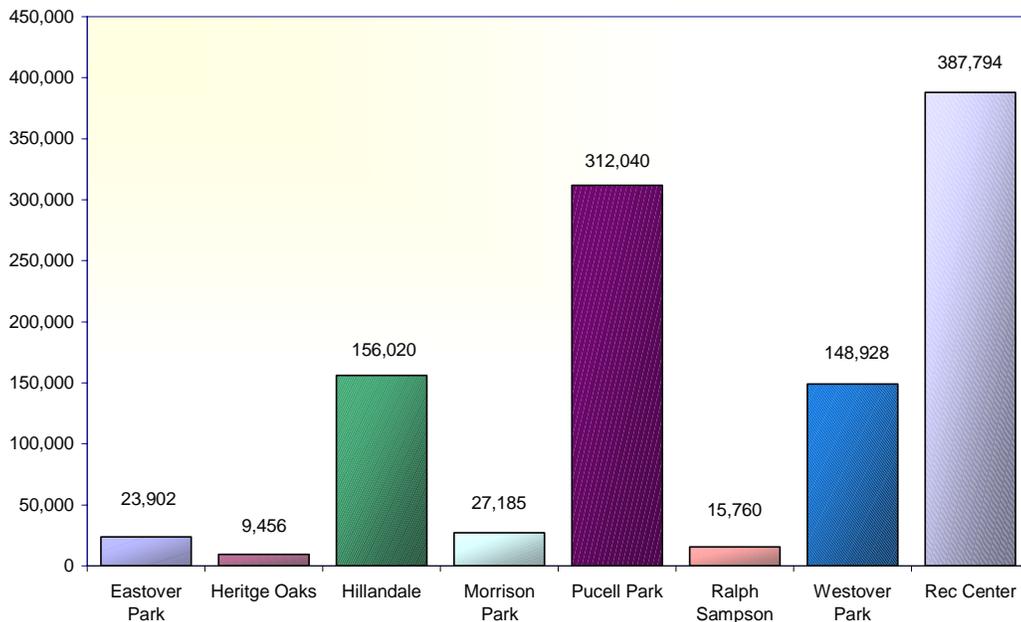


Table 7 : Census Information - Age

Census of Population, Harrisonburg 2000

Source: US Bureau of Census 2000

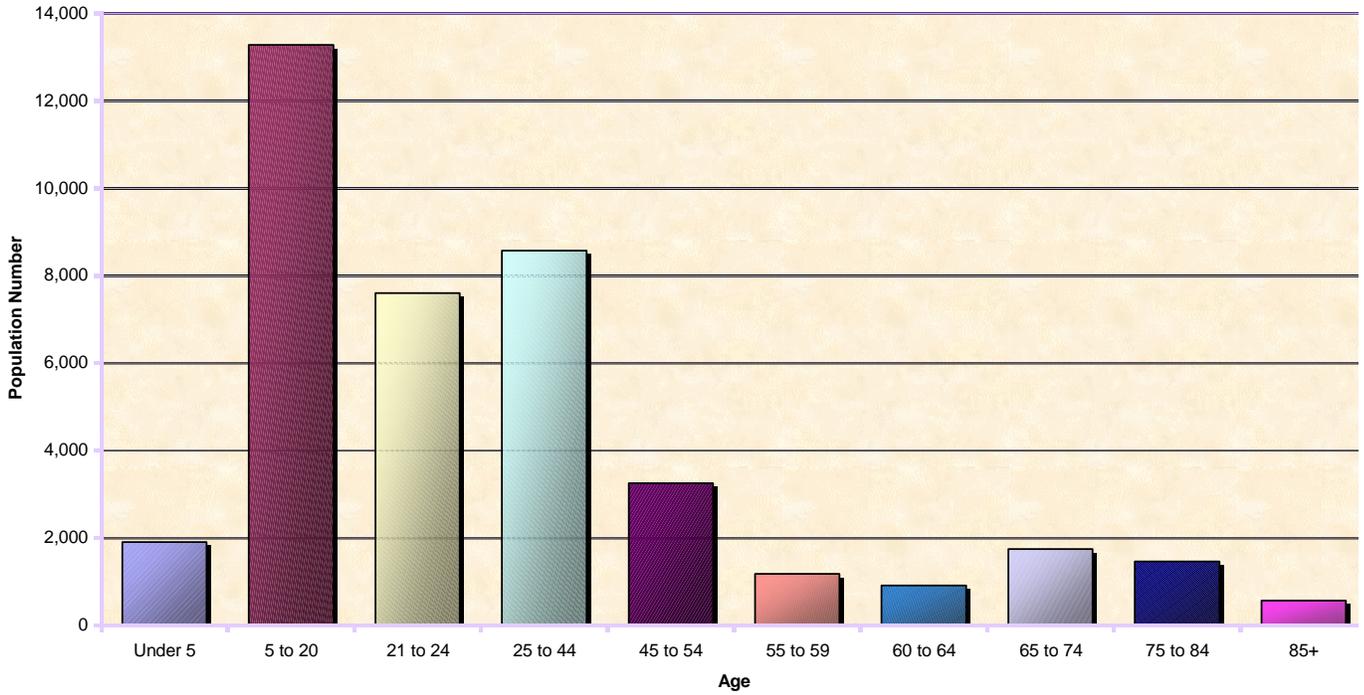
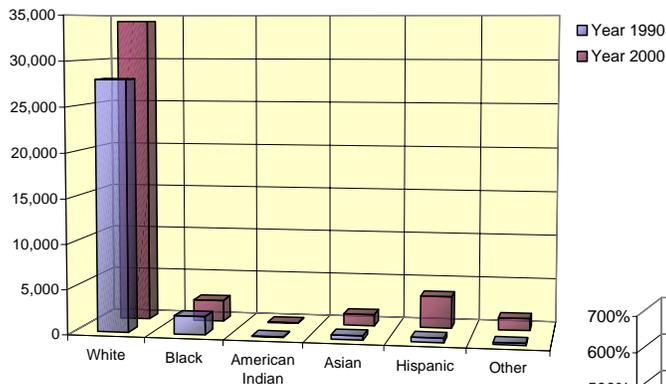


Table 8 : Census Information - Race

Census of Race, Comparing Years 1990 and 2000



Race Increase by Percentage between 1990-2000

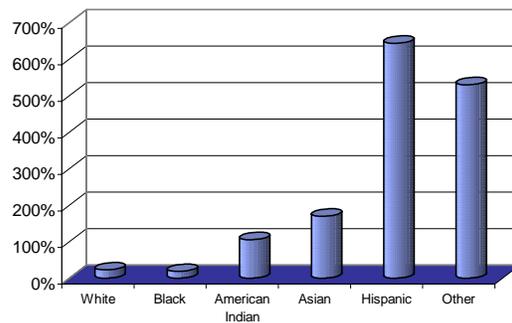


Table 9 : Census Information – School Population by Race

School Year 2001-2002 School Population by Race

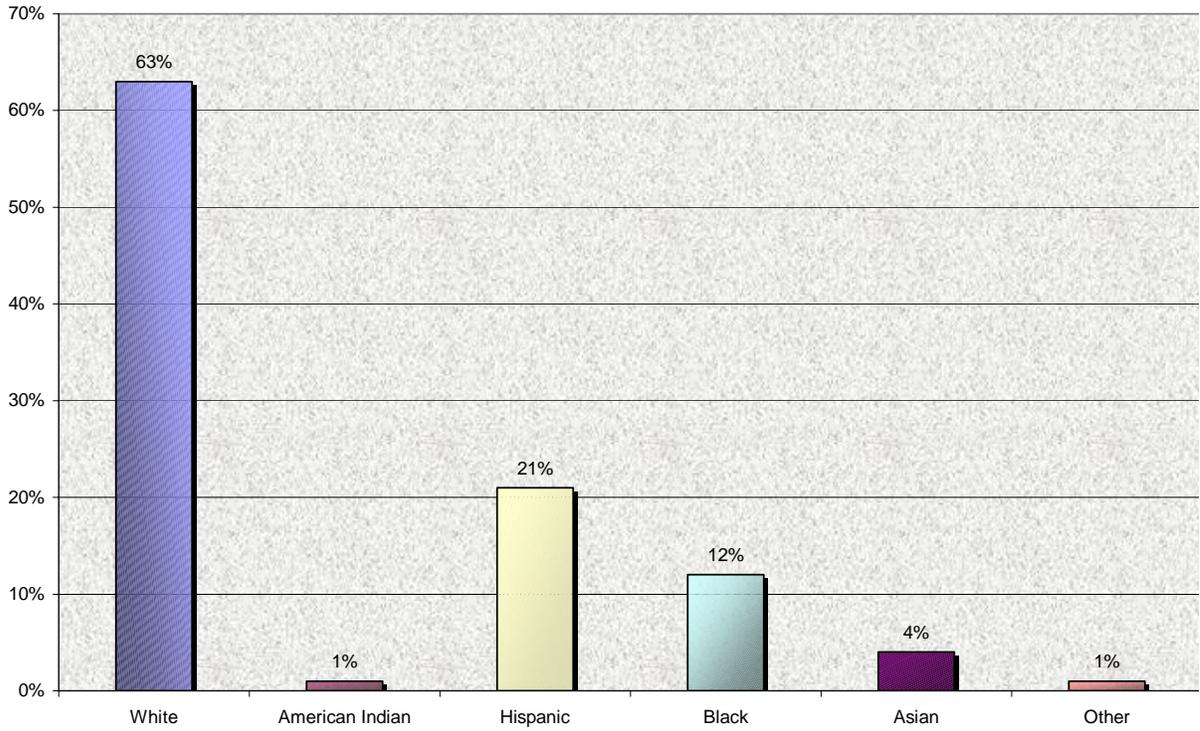


Table 10 : Census Information – Population Compared by Education Enrollment

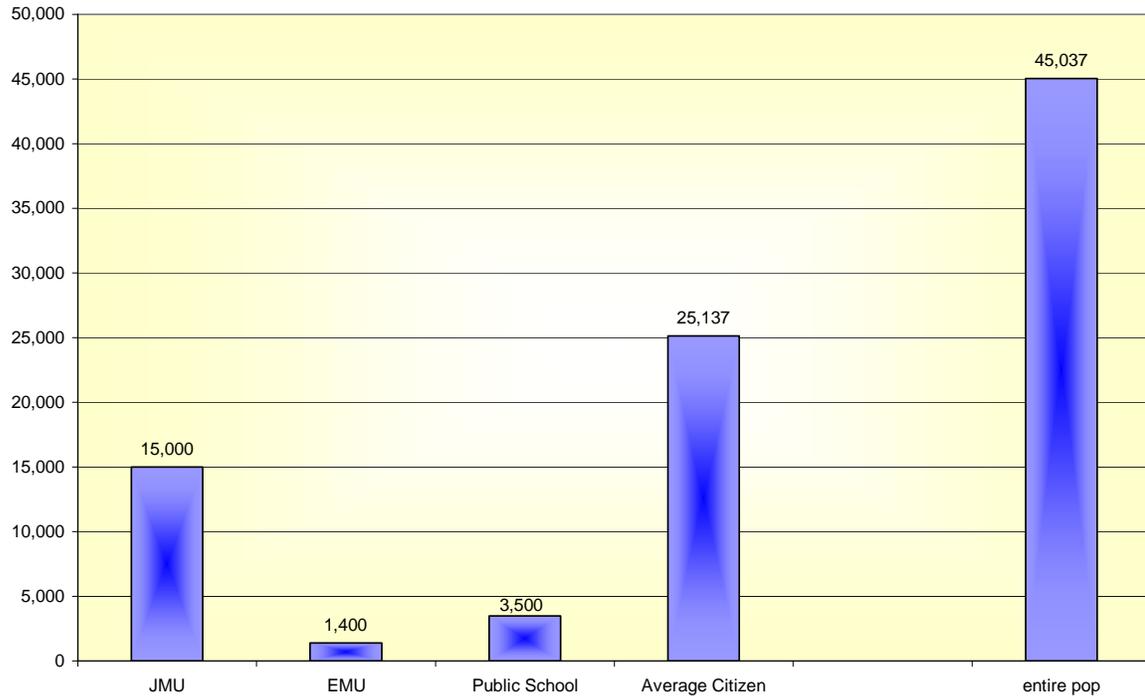


Table 11 : Facility Needs Based on National, State, and Expressed Standards

FACILITY TYPE	NATIONAL STANDARD/ POPULATION	STATE STANDARD/ POPULATION	Expressed DEMAND/STANDARD	TOTAL NEED	EXISTING CITY FACILITIES	EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES	Expressed Shortfall 2003	State Shortfall 2003	National Shortfall 2003	Number of Participant	Existing Seasonal Use	daily Capacity
Badminton	1/5000	<>	<>	9	0		0	<>	-8			<16>
Horse shoes	1/10000	<>	<>	4	4		0	0	0			<16>
Basketball (outdoor)	1/5000	1/5000	1/5000	9	8	3	0	0	0	340		480
Racquet ball	1/20000	<>	1/20000	2	3		+1	+1	+1			<>
Ice Hockey (indoor)	1/100000	1/30000	<>	1	0		<>	-1	0			<>
Tennis	1/2000	1/2000	1/3000	14	16		0	0	0		10,050	384
Volleyball	1/5000	1/1000	<>	9	3		<>	-40	-8			144
Baseball/ Softball	1/5000	1/6000	1/6000	7	5	2	-2	-2	-3			360
Football/ Soccer	1/5000	1/3000	1/6000	8	5	3	-3	-9	-4	413	4000	400
LaCrosse	1/20000	1/10000	1/9000	5	3	3	-2	-1	+1	490		264
Soccer	1/10000	1/5000	1/4000	11	4	4	-7	-5	+3			352
LaCrosse	<>	1/25000	<>	1.5	0		<>	-1.5	<>			<>
Frisbee Golf	<>	1/25000	1/40000	1	0		-1	-1	<>			180
Golf-Driving Range	1/50000	<>	<>	1	1		<>	<>	0			<>
Running Track	1/20000	<>	<>	2	2	4	<>	<>	0	60		<>
Field Hockey	1/20000	1/25000	<>	2	0		-1	-2	-2			<>
Indoor Rec Court	1/10000	<>	1/5000	8	5	7	-3	<>	+1			<>
Trails	1 system/region	1 system/region	1 system/region	1	0		-1	-1	-1			<>
*Archery Range	1/50000	1/50000	<>	0	0		<>	0	0			<>
* Shooting Range	1/50000	1/50000	<>	0	0		<>	0	0			<>
Golf	1/25000	1/25000	<>	1.5	1		<>	0	0			180
Swim Pool Olympic	1/20000	1/20000	1/20000	2	1		-1	-1	-1			675
Swim Pool Jr. Olympic	<>	1/10000	1/20000	2	1		-1	-3	<>			675
Camping	<>	10ac/1000	<>	400	0		<>	<>	<>			0
Tents	<>	5ac/1000	<>	200	0		<>	<>	<>			<>
Skate park	<>	1/25000	1/40000	1	1		0	-1	<>			50
Picnic areas	<>	10/1000	2.5/1000	400	400		<>	1000'	<>			<>
Beach Areas	NA	25/1000			0		<>		<>			<>

all figures based on the 2000 census population (40468) grown by an average population growth rate of 2.06% for a total 2003 population of 43,021
 *Does not apply/Provided by private.
 <> No expressed demand or standard
 expressed shortfalls are based on public demand and stakeholder interviews
 soccer and football numbers are shared use - the number is expressed in actual fields available not the overlap

Table 12 : Facility Needs Based on Projected Population

FACILITY TYPE	req. Ac (state)	Expressed DEMAND/ STANDARD	TOTAL NEED	EX. CITY FAC.	EX. SCHOOL FAC.*	PROP. SCHOOL FAC. BUILDOUT*	2003 shortfall	2003 recommend ed facilities	2008 accum. need	2008 adjusted shortfall	2018 accum. need	2018 adjusted shortfall	2003 acreage	2003-2008 acreage combined	2018 acreage
population estimates			43021				43,021		47,638		58,413				
Badminton	0.15	<1/5000>	9	0			-9	0	10	0	12	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Horse shoes	0.4	<1/10000>	4	4			0	1	5	0	6	1	0.40	0.40	0.40
Basketball (outdoor)	0.15	1/5000	9	8	3		-1	1	10	0	12	2	0.15	0.15	0.30
Racquet ball	0.023	1/20000	2	3			1	0	2	0	3	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ice Hockey (indoor)	0.4	<1/100000>	0	0			<>	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tennis	0.2	1/3000	14	16			2	0	16	2	19	2	0.00	0.40	0.40
Volleyball	0.1	1/5000	9	3			<>	6	10	2	12	2	0.60	0.80	0.20
Baseball/ Softball	3	1/6000	7	5	2		-2	3	8	1	10	1	9.00	12.00	3.00
Football/ Soccer	2.1	1/6000	8	5	3	2	-3	3	8	1	10	1	6.30	8.40	2.10
Soccer	2.25	1/9000	5	3	3		-2	2	5	1	6	1	4.50	6.75	2.25
LaCrosse	2.25	1/4000	8	4	4	2	-4	4	12	2	15	2	9.00	13.50	4.50
Frisbee Golf	3	<25000>	1.5	0			<>	1	2	1	2	0	3.00	6.00	0.00
Golf-Driving Range	20	1/40000	1	0			-1	1	1	1	1	0	20.00	40.00	0.00
Running Track	14	<1/50000>	0	1			<>	0	1	0	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Field Hockey	4.3	<1/20000>	2	2	4	1	<>	0	2	1	3	1	0.00	4.30	4.30
Indoor Rec Court	1.6	<1/25000>	2	0			-2	1	2	1	2	0	1.60	3.20	0.00
Trails	0.25	1/5000	9	5	7		-2	3	10	3	12	2	0.75	1.50	0.50
*Archery Range		1 system/reg.	1	0			-1	1	1	0	1	0	0.00	<>	<>
* Shooting Range	0.85	<1/50000>	0	0			<>	0	1	1	1	0	0.00	<>	<>
Golf		<1/50000>	0	0			<>	0	1	1	1	0	0.00	<>	<>
Swim Pool Olympic	160	<1/50000>	1.5	1			<>	0	1	0	1	0	0.00	0.00	80.00
Swim Pool Jr. Olympic	0.75	1/20000	2	1			-1	1	2	1	3	1	0.75	1.50	0.75
*Camping	0.5	1/20000	2	1			-1	1	2	1	3	1	0.50	1.00	0.50
*Tent area	.125/ac	<10ac/1000>	400	100			300	300	476	76	584	108			
Skate park	.20/ac	<5ac/1000>	200	0			<>	200	238	38	292	54			
Beach Areas	0.25	1/25000	1	1			0	0	2	1	2	1	0.00	0.25	0.58
Picnic areas	3	25/1000	1076	0			<>	1000'			1460	813	2.00		
Base Acres	0.04	10/1000	400	400			0	0	48	53	584	536	0.00	2.12	21.46

high expressed demand and shortfalls
 some expressed demand and need
 no expressed demand or need satisfied
 all figures based on the 2000 census population (40468) grown by an average population growth rate of 2.06% for a total 2003 population of 43,021
 *Does not apply/Provided by private.
 <> No expressed demand or standard
 expressed shortfalls are based on public demand and stakeholder interviews
 soccer and football numbers are shared use the number is expressed in actual fields available not the overlap
 School Facilities are not credited toward City wide totals due to heavy use by school programs.

	Base Acreage	58.55	102.27	121.24
	Base Acreage + 60% openspa	146.38	255.68	303.11

Table 13 : Standards for Parks Acreage by Type

Existing Parks	Minimum Size	current acreage	Standard per 1000	Current	Shortfall	Shortfall	Shortfall	Proposed
				2003	by 2008	by 2018		
Mini Park	.25-5	11	.25 -.5	-11	-13	-18		15
Neighborhood Park	5-20	38	1-2	-27	-33	-50		46
Community Park	20-50	218	5-8	-62	-92	-162		60
Sports Complex	40-200	NA	NA	Size based on need and appropriateness				
Totals				-100	-138	-230		121

Table 14 : Park Acreage Requirements per Park

	Badminton	Horse shoes	Basketball (outdoor)	Racquet Ball	Ice Hockey (indoor)	Tennis	Volleyball	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Lacrosse	Frisbee Golf	Golf-Driving Range	Running Track	Field Hockey	Indoor Rec Court	Trails	Archery Range	Shooting Range	Golf	Swim Pool Olympic	Swim Pool Jr. Olympic	Camping	Tent Area	Skate Park	Beach Areas	Picnic Areas	Base Acreage Required	Total Acreage Required		
Acreage Required	.15	.40	.15	.023	.40	.20	.10	3	2.1	2.25	2.25	3	20	14	4.3	1.6	.25	.85	160	.75	.50	0.125/ac	0.20/ac	.25	3	1000'	53					
Total Need 2003-2008	0	1	1	0	0	2	8	4	4	3	9	2	2	0	1	2	6	1	1	1	0	2	2	376	238	1	1000'	53				
PARK EXPANSIONS																																
Purcell Park		1									1																2	2.65	6.625			
Westover Park		1	1													1						1					2	1.3	3.25			
Ramblewood Fields																													0	0		
Smithland Rd.						4	3	2	1	4	2				1	2						1	1						34.2	85.5		
Westover Skate Park																													0	0		
Bridgewater College												1																	0	0		
Blacks Run Greenway																													0	0		
NEW PARKS																																
Neighborhood Park 1					4	1		1	1									1											5.25	13.125		
Neighborhood Park 2						1	1			1								1											5.35	13.375		
Neighborhood Park 3						1		1	1									1											4.45	11.125		
Neighborhood Park 4						1		1	1									1											4.45	11.125		
Community Park 1					4					1	2		1		1	1		1											33.45	83.625		
Totals																															91.1	227.75

Table 15 A : Estimated Cost Per Park

Harrisonburg Parks MP Cost Estimate

SITE WORK DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	COST
1.1 NEW LAND	1	AC	\$3,000.00	\$ 3,000
1.2 INDOOR REC COURT	7500	SF	\$ 150	\$ 1,125,000
1.3 FIELD HOCKEY	1	EA	\$ 72,000	\$ 72,000
1.4 HORSE SHOES	1	EA	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
1.5 BASKETBALL (OUTDOOR)	1	EA	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
1.6 RACQUET BALL	1000	SF	\$ 150	\$ 150,000
1.7 SWIM POOL (OLYMPIC)	1	EA	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
1.8 SWIM POOL (JR. OLYMPIC)	1	EA	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
1.9 TENNIS COURTS	1	EA	\$ 29,500	\$ 29,500
2 VOLLEYBALL	1	EA	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
2.1 SOCCER FIELDS	1	EA	\$ 156,000	\$ 156,000
2.8 SOCCER (PRACTICE)	1	EA	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2.2 BASEBALL	1	EA	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000
2.3 SOFTBALL	1	EA	\$ 59,000	\$ 59,000
2.4 FOOTBALL	1	EA	\$ 116,250	\$ 116,250
2.5 LACROSSE	1	EA	\$ 104,000	\$ 104,000
2.6 FRISBEE GOLF	1	EA	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
2.7 RUNNING TRACK	1	EA	\$ 83,500	\$ 83,500
2.7 PICNIC	1	EA	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

Table 15 B : Estimated Cost Per Park

Cost Per Item	Purcell Park	Westover Park	Ramblewood Fields	Smithland Rd.	Westover Skate Park	Bridge Water College	Black's Run Greenway	Neighborhood Park 1	Neighborhood Park 2	Neighborhood Park 3	Neighborhood Park 4	Community Park 1
	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY
Badminton												
Horseshoes	1	\$1,500										
Basketball (Outdoor)	1	\$30,000										\$30,000
Racquet Ball												
Ice Hockey (Indoor)												
Tennis												
Volleyball												
Baseball												
Softball												
Football												
Soccer												
Lacrosse												
Frisbee Golf												
Golf-Driving Range												
Running Track												
Field Hockey												
Indoor Rec Court												
Trails												
Archery Range												
Shooting Range												
Golf-Driving Range												
Swimming Pool Olympic												
Swimming Pool Jr. Olympic												
Camping												
Tent Area												
Skate Park												
Beach Areas												
Picnic Areas	2	\$6,000										
Contingency Money												
50% Facilities												
New Land	7	\$21,000										
Total Cost Per Park:		\$266,250		\$3,510,750		\$30,000		\$442,125		\$375,750		\$1,379,625
Total Combined Cost:				\$10,452,375						\$128,250		\$536,625
												\$1,379,625

Table 16 : Custom Standards for Park Acreage by Type

Custom Standards for Park Acreage by Type

Existing Parks	<i>Current acreage</i>	<i>Additional Required</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Standard per 1000</i>	<i>Current Shortfall 2003</i> 43021	<i>Shortfall by 2008</i> 47638	<i>Shortfall by 2018</i> 58413
Mini Park	11	15	26	0.6	-15	-18	-24
Neighborhood Park	38	49	87	2	-48	-57	-79
Community Park	218	145	363	8.4	-143	-182	-273
Sports Complex	NA	34	34	NA	Size based on need & appropriateness		
Totals					-206	-257	-376

* Additional required acreages are based on Park Acreage Requirements Per Park (Table 14)

Table 17 : Programs/Class Participation

Programs/Classes Participated in During Past 12 Months

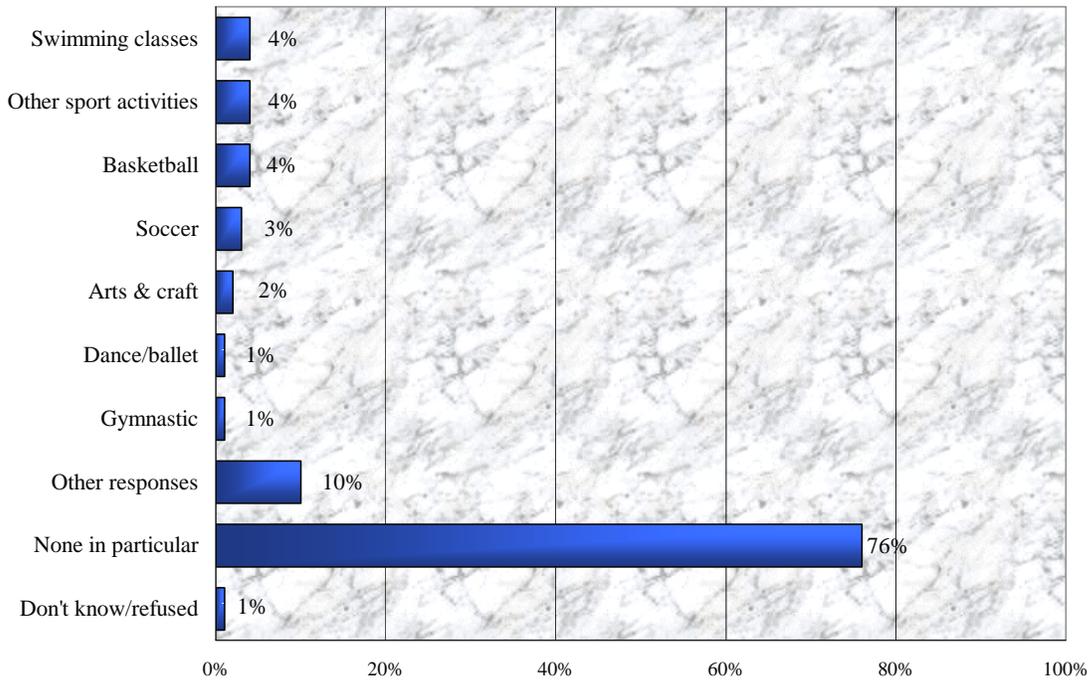


Table 18 : Household Member Use Per Park

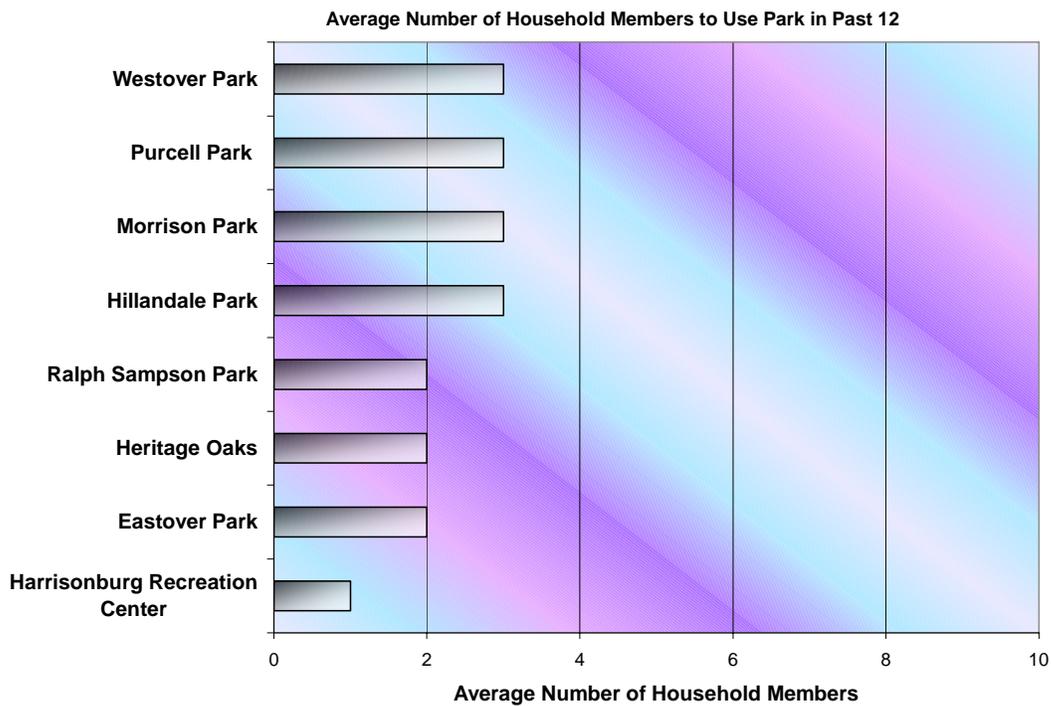


Table 19 : Household Member Use Per Park Per Precinct

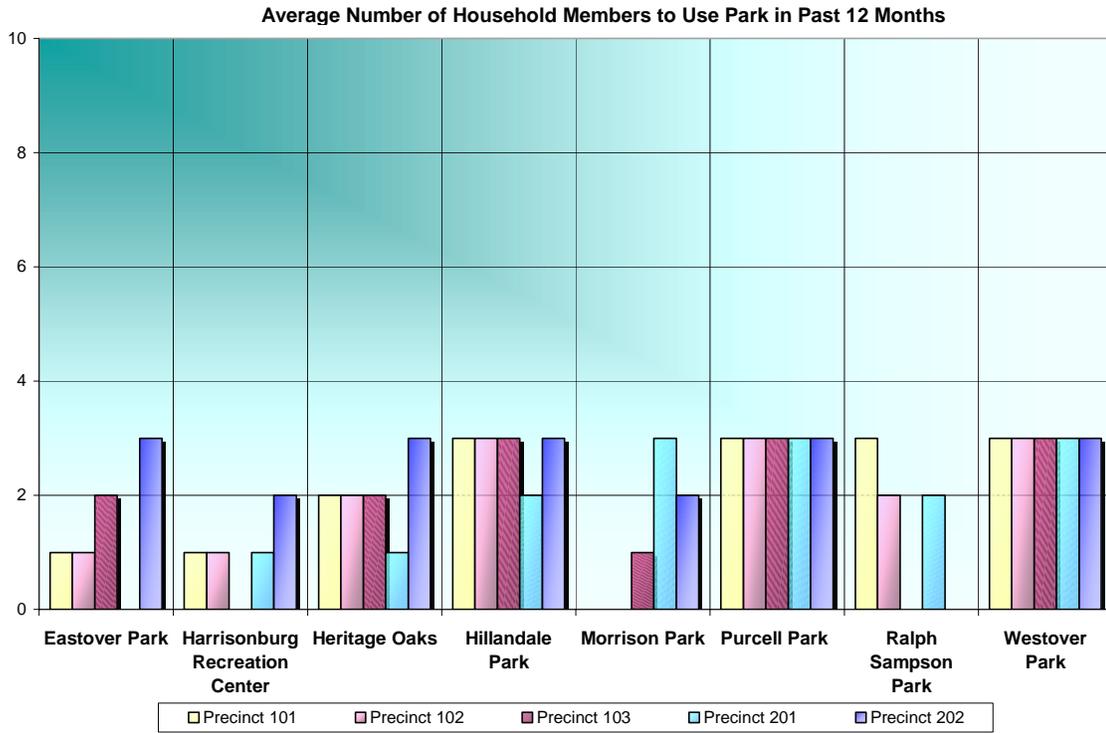
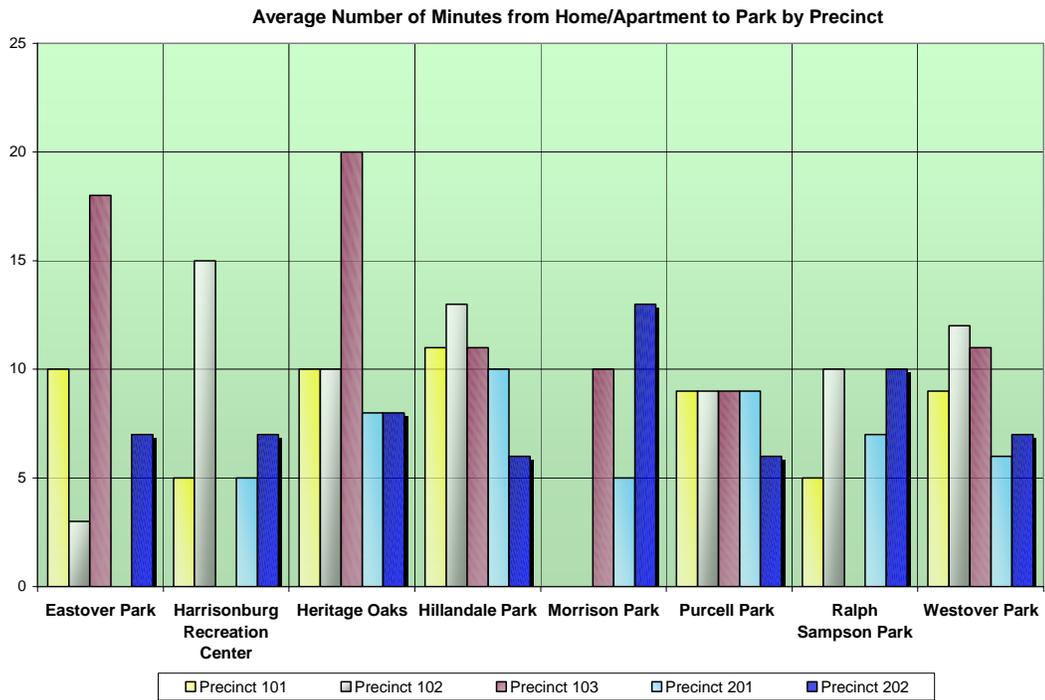


Table 20 : Distance to Parks Per Precinct



USAGE OF FACILITIES

Table 21 : Ramblewood & Purcell Park Usage

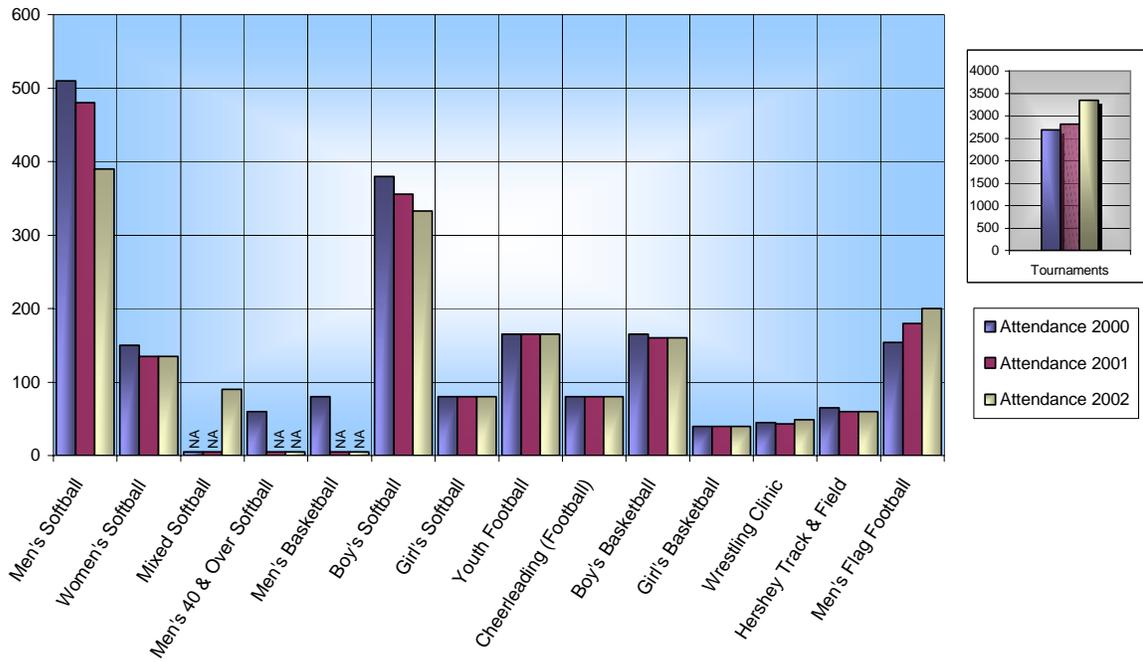


Table 22 : Community Activity Center Open Play/Activities

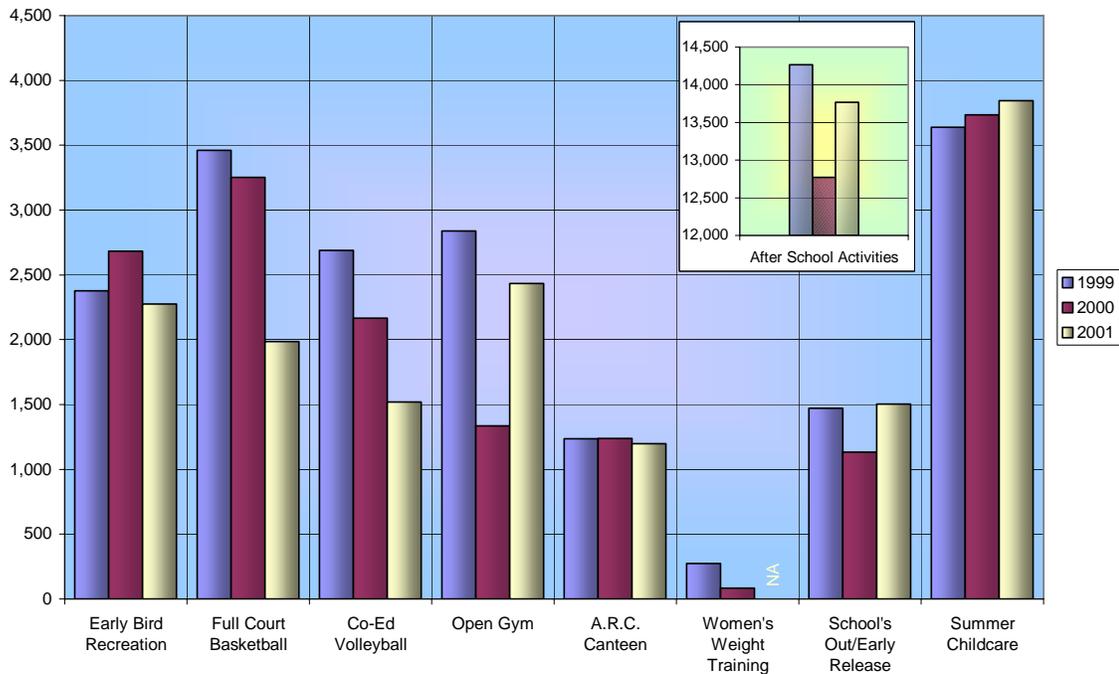


Table 23 : CAC Special Programs

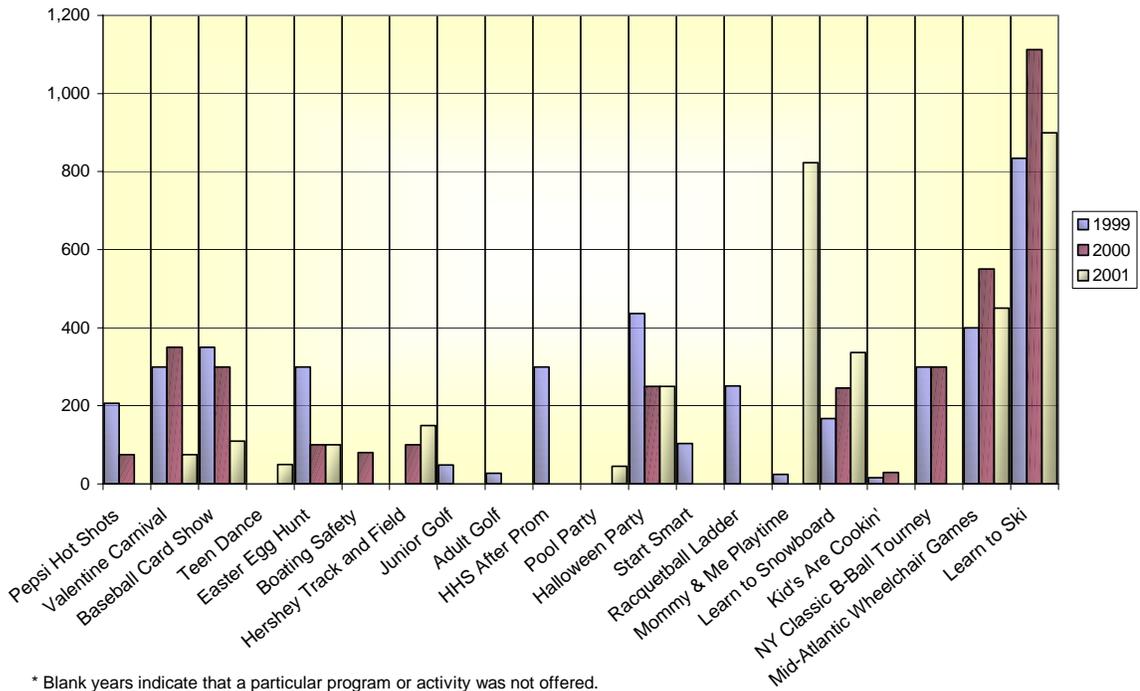


Table 24 : Class Enrollment/Participation

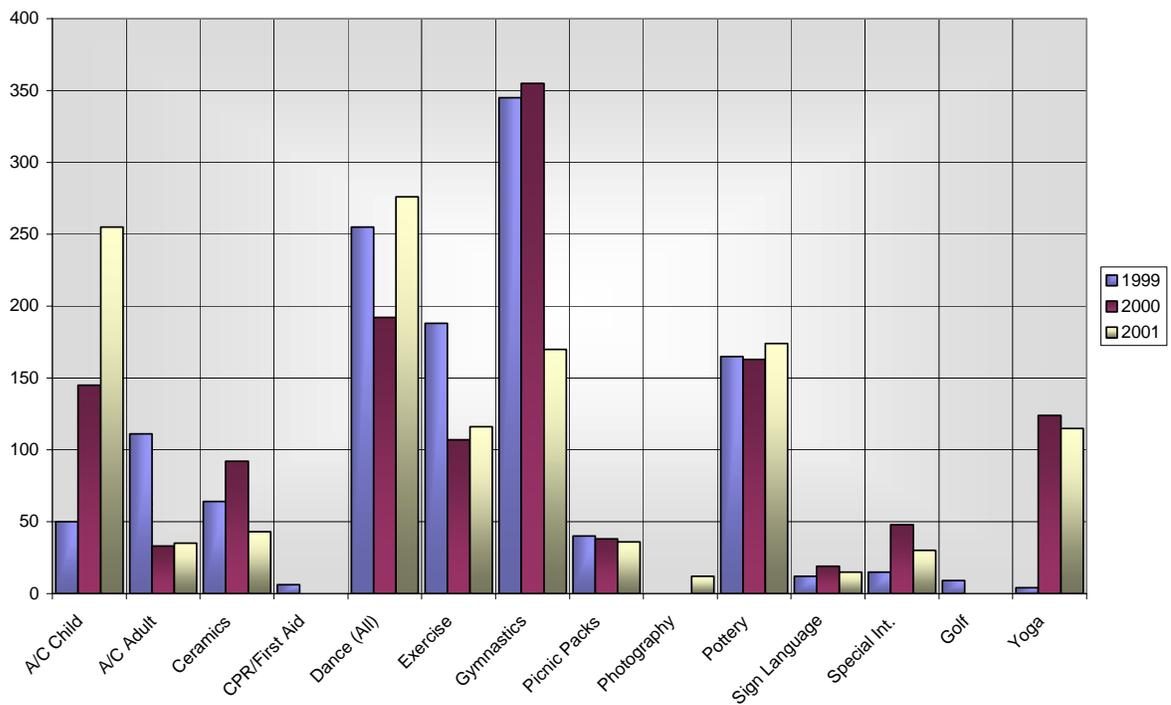


Table 25 : CAC Facility Attendance 2001

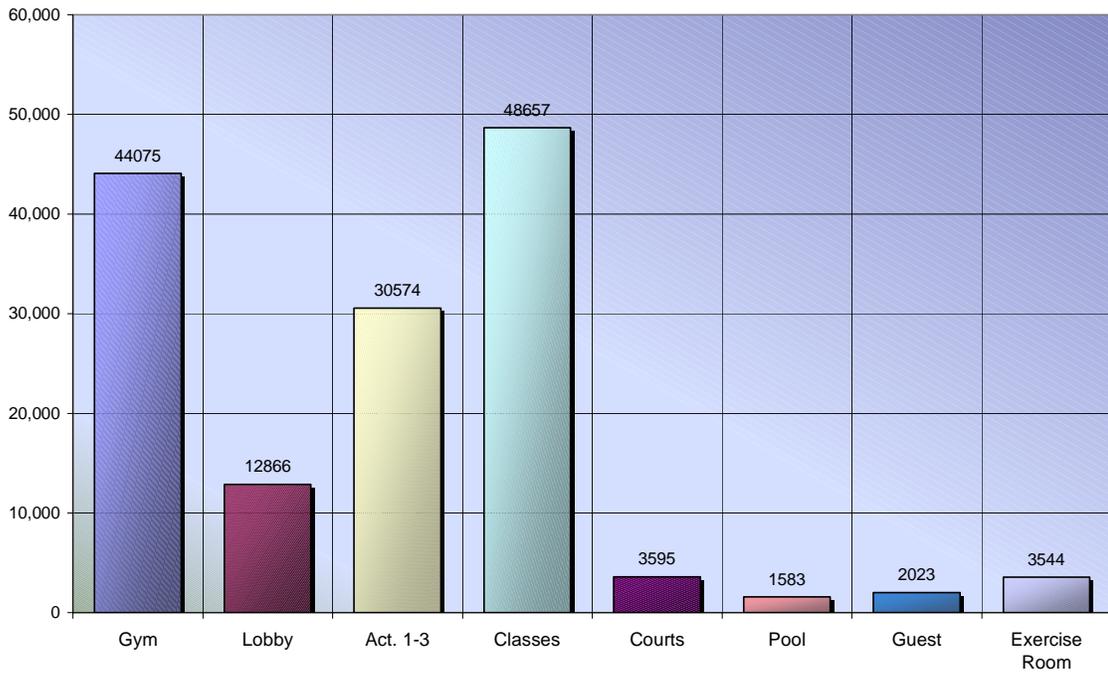
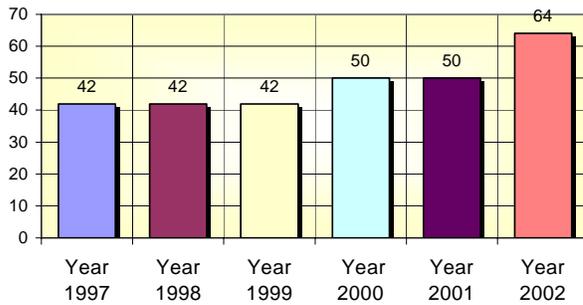


Table 26 : Tennis

Estimated Daily Attendance Figures for Tennis Courts (16 Outdoor Courts)



Yearly Tennis Program Attendance

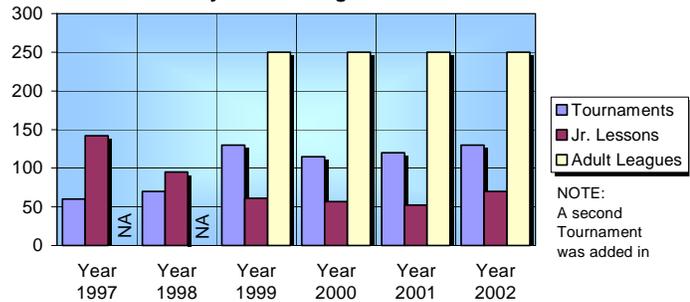
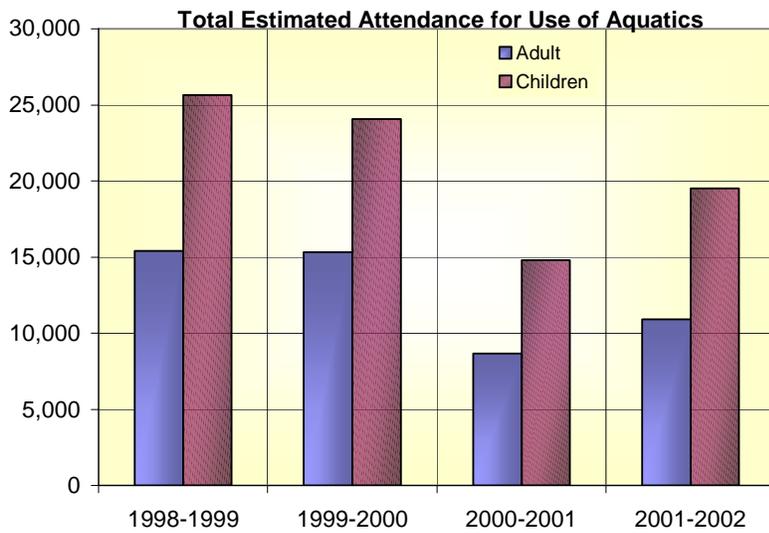
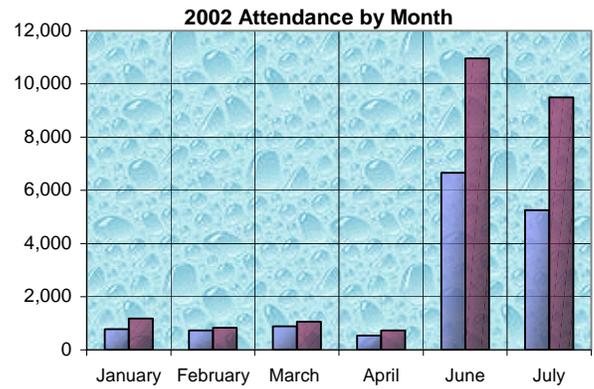


Table 27 : Aquatics

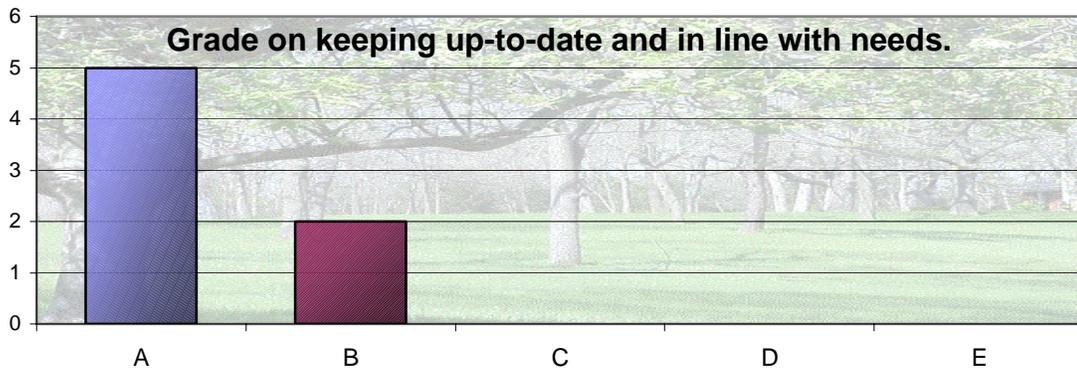
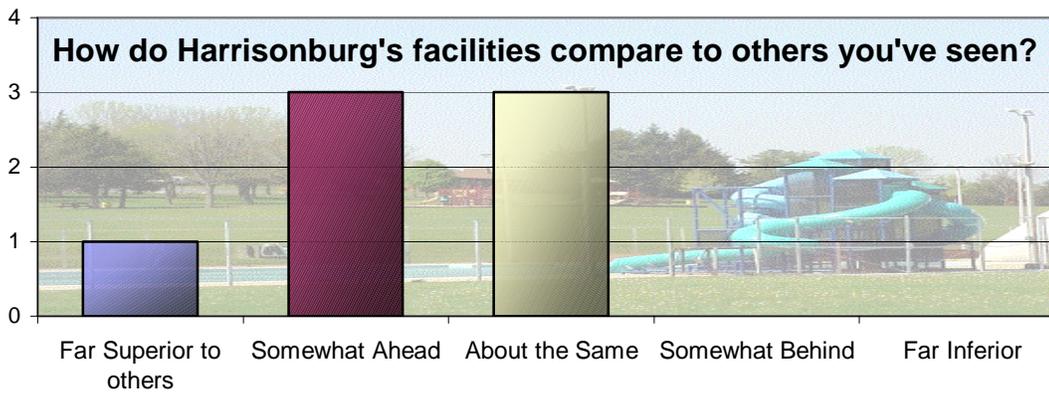
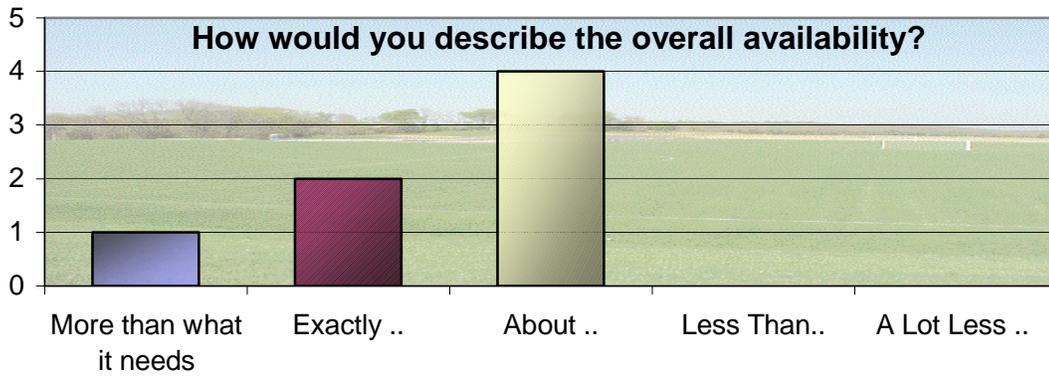


Note: The year is measured from May to May.
Some years, the facility was closed during May.



STAKE HOLDERS INPUT

Table 28 : Facility Rating



MAIL SURVEY RESPONSE

Table 29 : Activity Participation

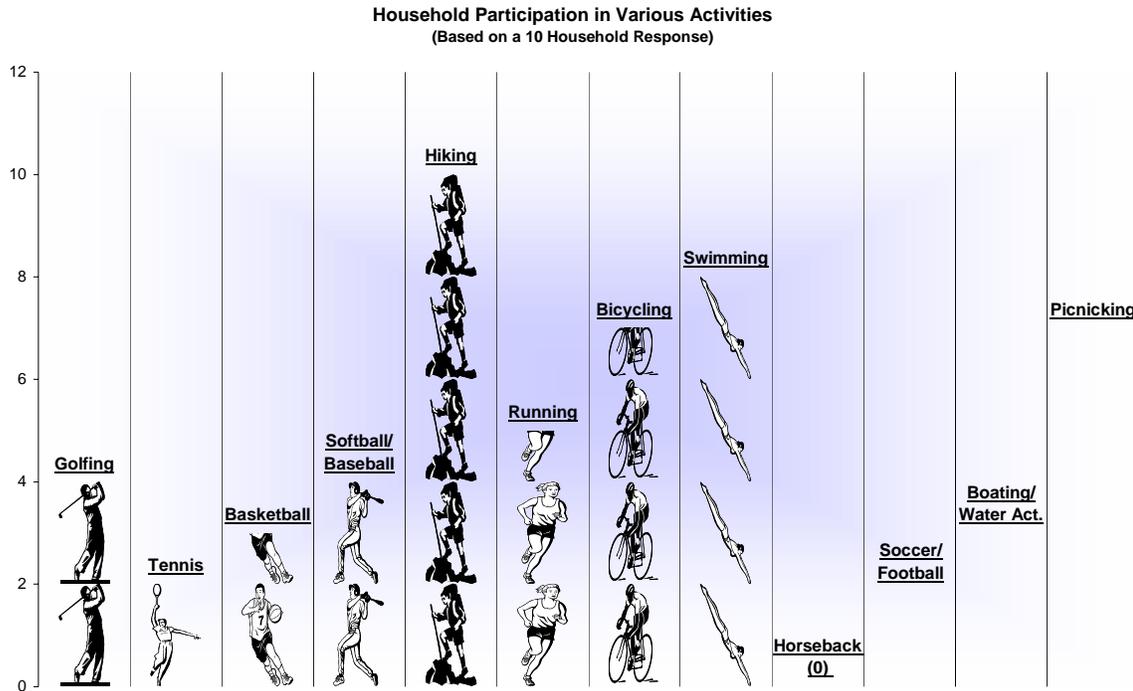


Table 30 : Independent Activities

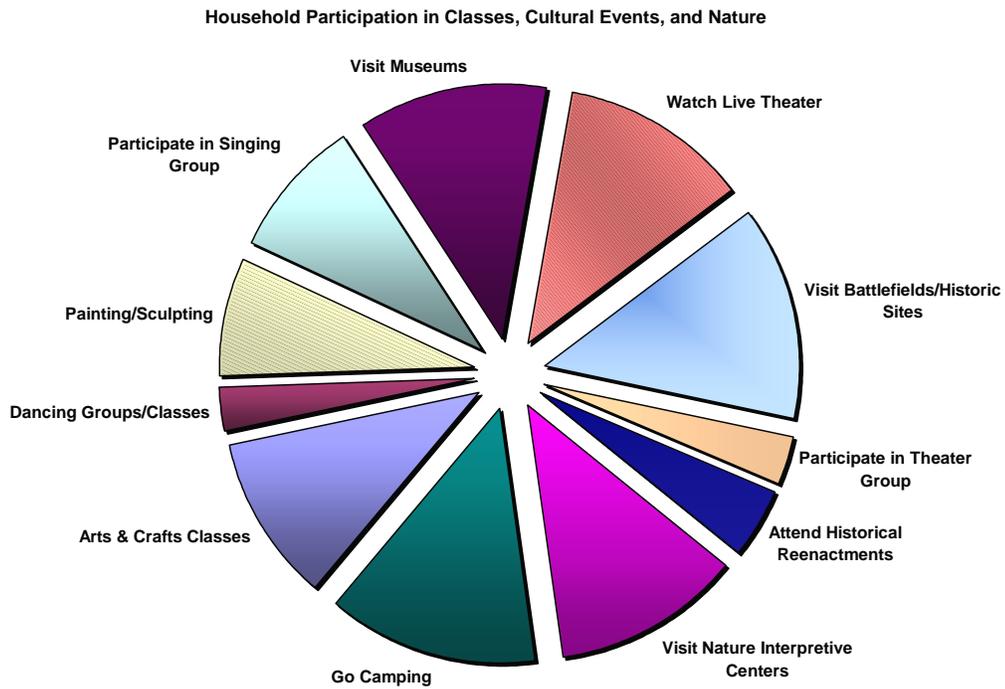


Table 31 : Requested Facilities

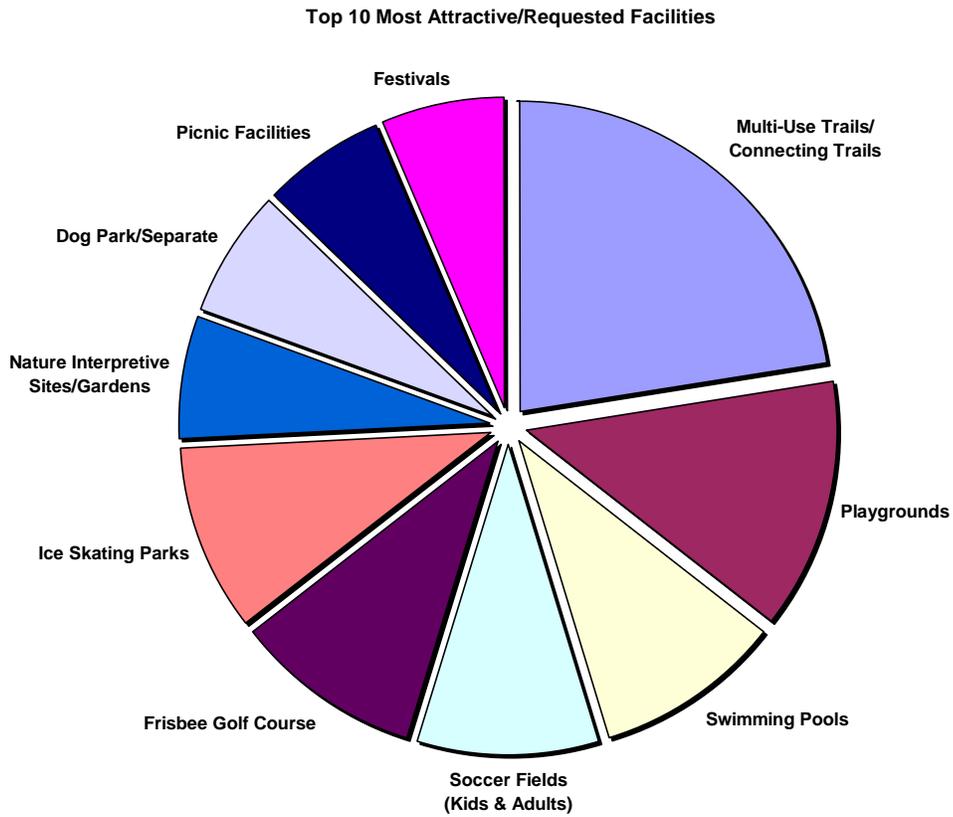


Table 32 : Requested Programs

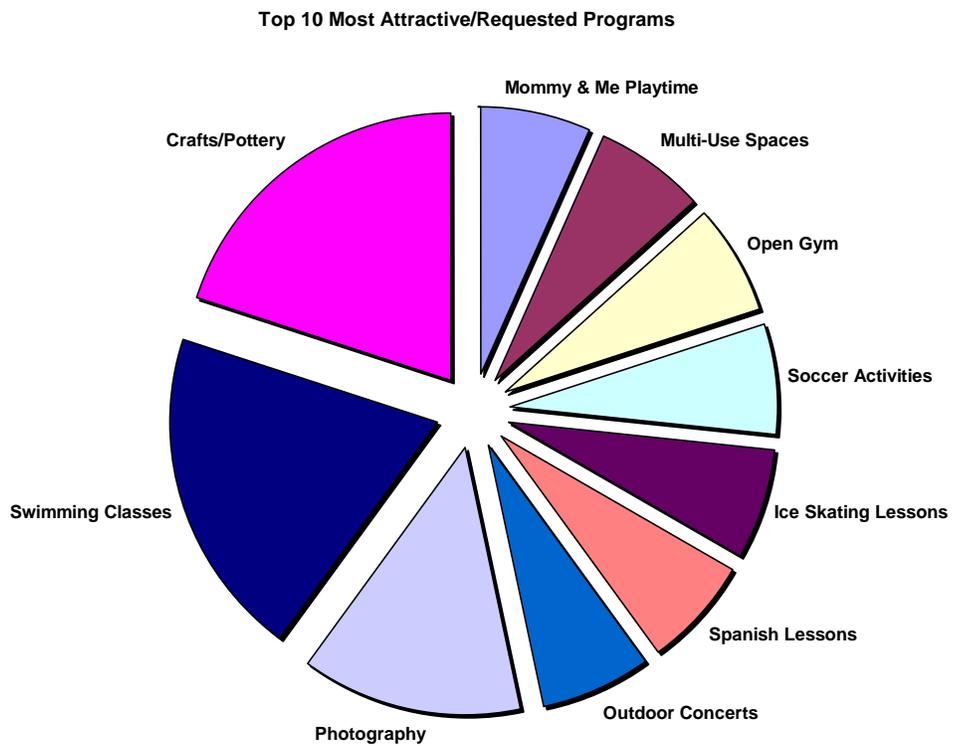


Table 33 : Important Features

Features of Facilities and Programs That Are Important to Residents

- * Up-to-Date & Well Maintained Facilities/Equipment *
- * Appeal to Variety of Adult Special Interests *
- * Timeliness of Program (Family Oriented) *
- * Child-Care Offered During Adult Classes *
- * Diversity of Programs Offered *
- * Whole Community Interaction *
- * Inexpensive to Participate *
- * Public Input *
- * Safety *
- * Fun *

Table 34 : Operational Facets

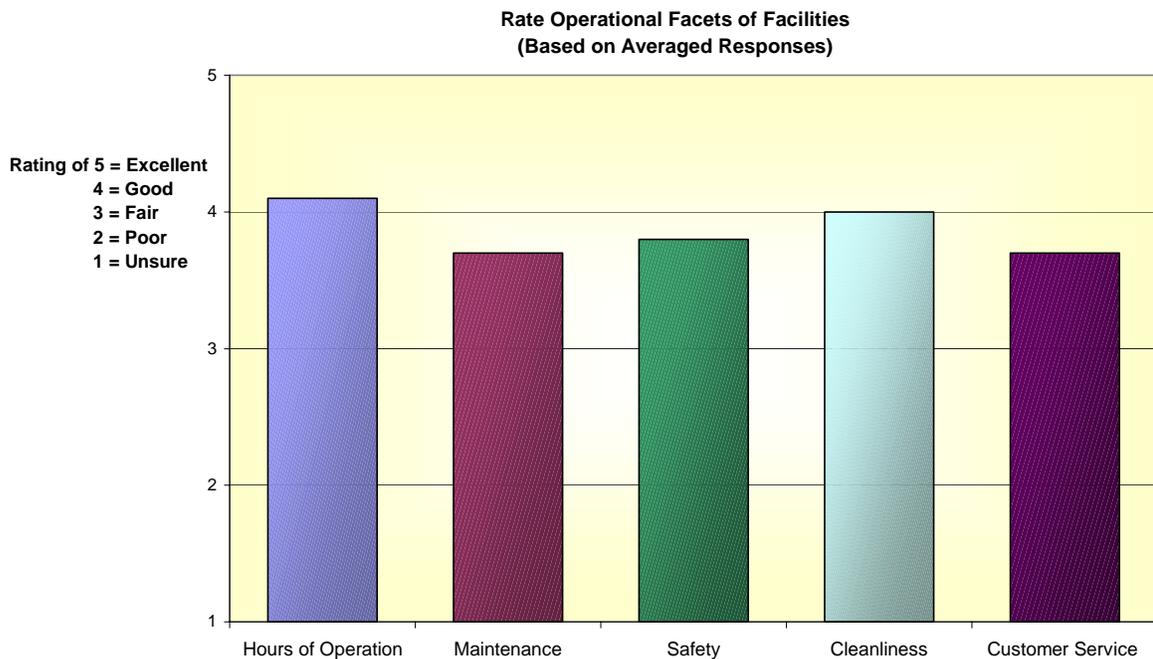


Table 35 : Supply and Demand Based on Population

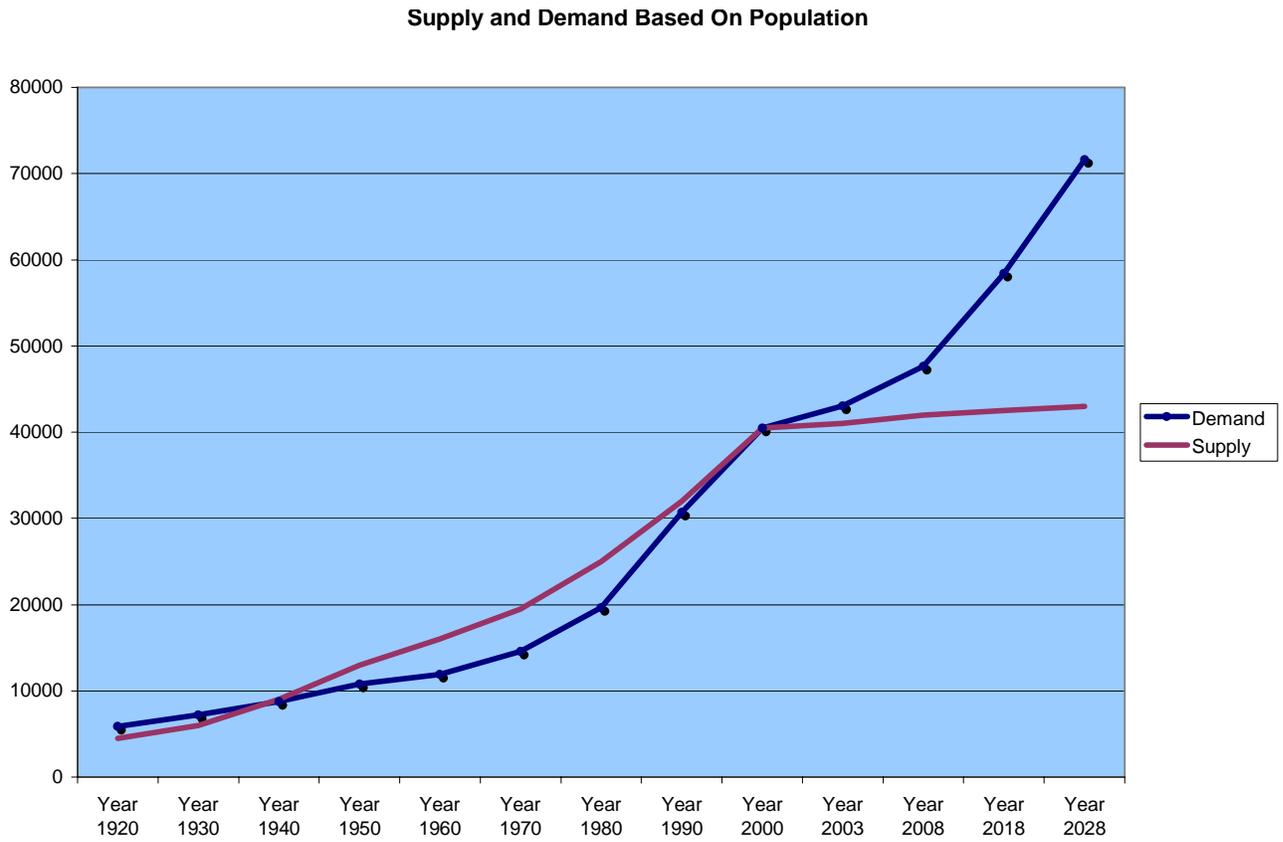


Table 36 : Which Age Groups Can Participate in the Listed Existing Programs?

	0-1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Adult	
Athletics																				
Adult Basketball																				
Adult Flag Football																				
Adult Golf																				
Adult League Tennis																				
Adult Soccer																				
Adult Volleyball																				
Boys & Girls Clinic League BB																				
Boy's Basketball/Hoot Camp																				
Cheerleading (Football)																				
Co-Ed Flag Football																				
Coed Volleyball																				
Early Bird Recreation																				
Full Body Workout																				
Full Court Basketball																				
Girl's Basketball																				
Girls Basketball Camp																				
Girl's Softball																				
Golf																				
Gymnastics																				
Hershey Track & Field																				
Junior Golf																				
Little League Baseball & Softball																				
Men's 40 & Over Softball																				
Men's Basketball																				
Men's Flag Football																				
Men's Over 40+ Softball																				
Men's Softball																				
Mid-Atlantic Wheelchair Games																				
Midnight Basketball																				
Mixed Softball																				
NY Classic B-Ball Tourney																				
Open Gym																				
Open Swim																				
Pepsi Hot Shots																				
Racquetball Ladder																				
Soccer Club																				
Softball Tournaments																				
Special Olympics Basketball																				
Streaks Tiny Tot Camp Basketball																				
Women's Softball																				
Women's Weight Training																				
Wrestling Clinic																				
Yoga																				
Youth Flag League Football																				
Youth Football																				
Youth Soccer																				
Youth Tackle Football																				
Youth Wrestling Clinic																				

Table 36 : Continued

	0-1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Adult	
Classes/Education																				
Adult Pottery																				
Arts & Crafts - misc. Children's																				
Babysitter's Training Course																				
Beginner Guitar																				
Boating Safety																				
Boy's & Girl's Club																				
Ceramics																				
Children's Museum																				
CPR/First Aid																				
Dance - Children's																				
Infant & Child/Standard CPR																				
Jr. Tennis Lessons																				
Kid's Are Cookin'																				
Learn to Ski																				
Learn to Snowboard																				
Photography																				
Pottery																				
Sign Language																				
Swimming Lessons																				
Festivals/Community Events																				
African-American Festival																				
Baseball Card Show																				
Easter Egg Hunt																				
Halloween Party																				
HHS After Prom																				
International Festival																				
Pool Party																				
Teen Dance																				
Valentine Carnival																				
Valley Fourth Celebration																				
Misc.																				
Mommy & Me Playtime																				
Picnic Packs																				
School Age Childcare																				
School's Out/Early Release																				
Start Smart																				
Summer Childcare																				

Figures

Figure 1 : Existing Parks & Recreation facilities

PARKS & FACILITIES

1. HILLDALE PARK
2. WESTOVER PARK
3. HARRISONBURG HIGH SCHOOL
WILLOW STREET TENNIS COURTS
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
4. WATERMAN ELEMENTARY
MORRISON PARK
5. RALPH SAMPSON PARK
6. SMITHLAND ROAD PROPERTY
7. SPOTSWOOD ELEMENTARY
KIWANAS PARK
8. EASTOVER TENNIS COURTS
9. PURCELL PARK
10. RAMBLEWOOD FIELDS
11. BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE
PROPERTY
12. HERITAGE OAKS GOLF COURSE



Figure 2 : Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities and Possible Parks

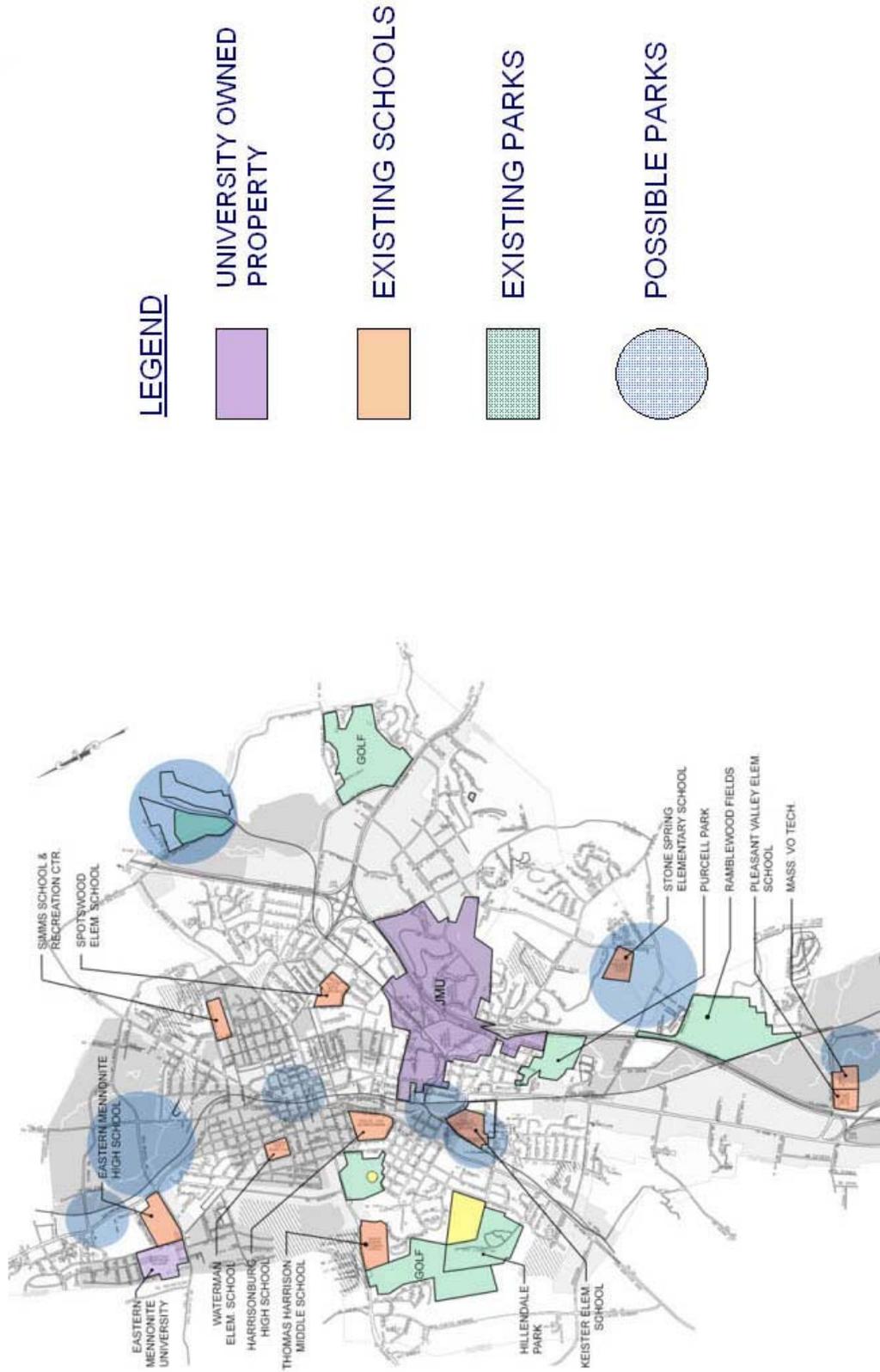


Figure 3 : Harrisonburg Voting Precincts

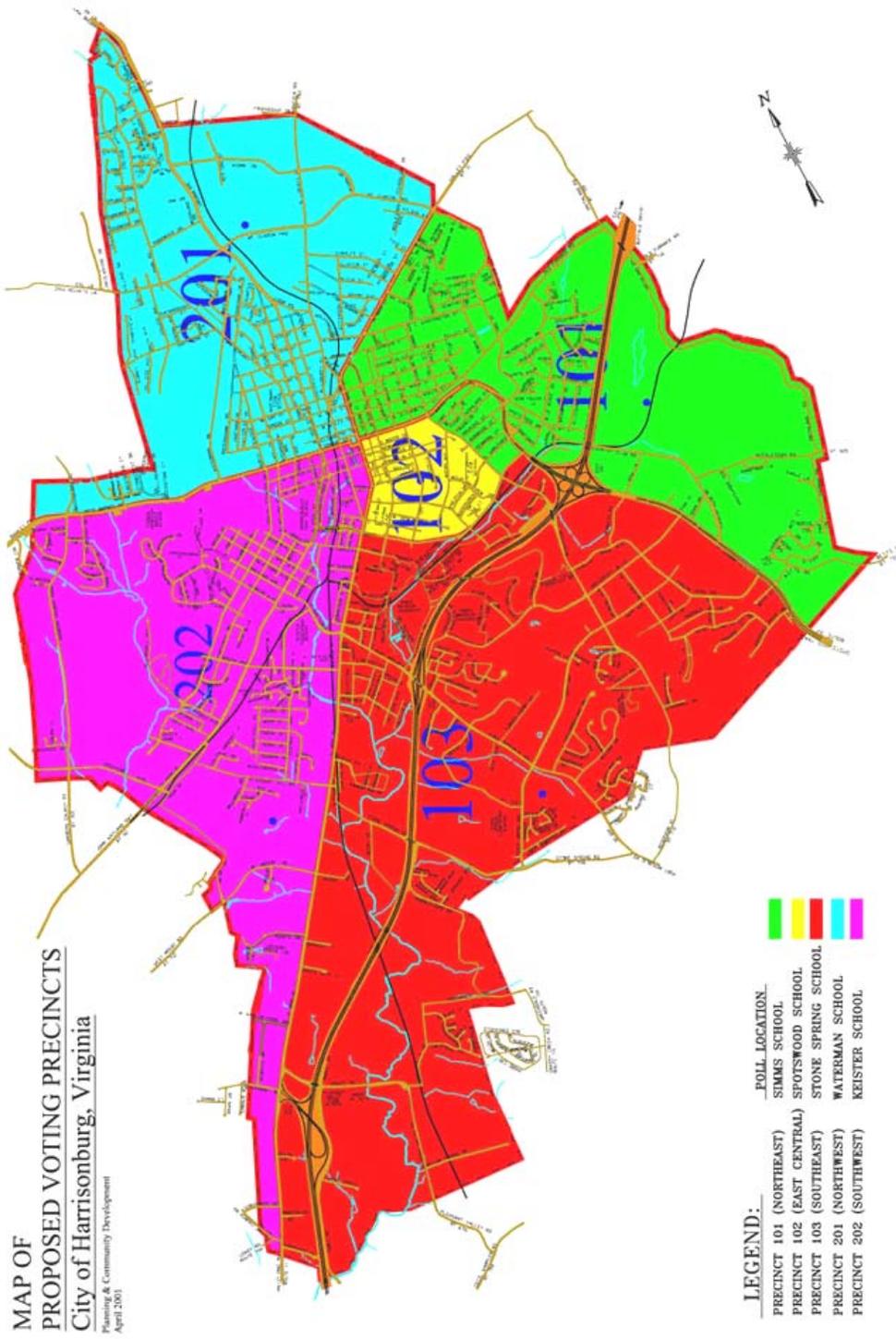


Figure 4 : Harrisonburg Zoning Map

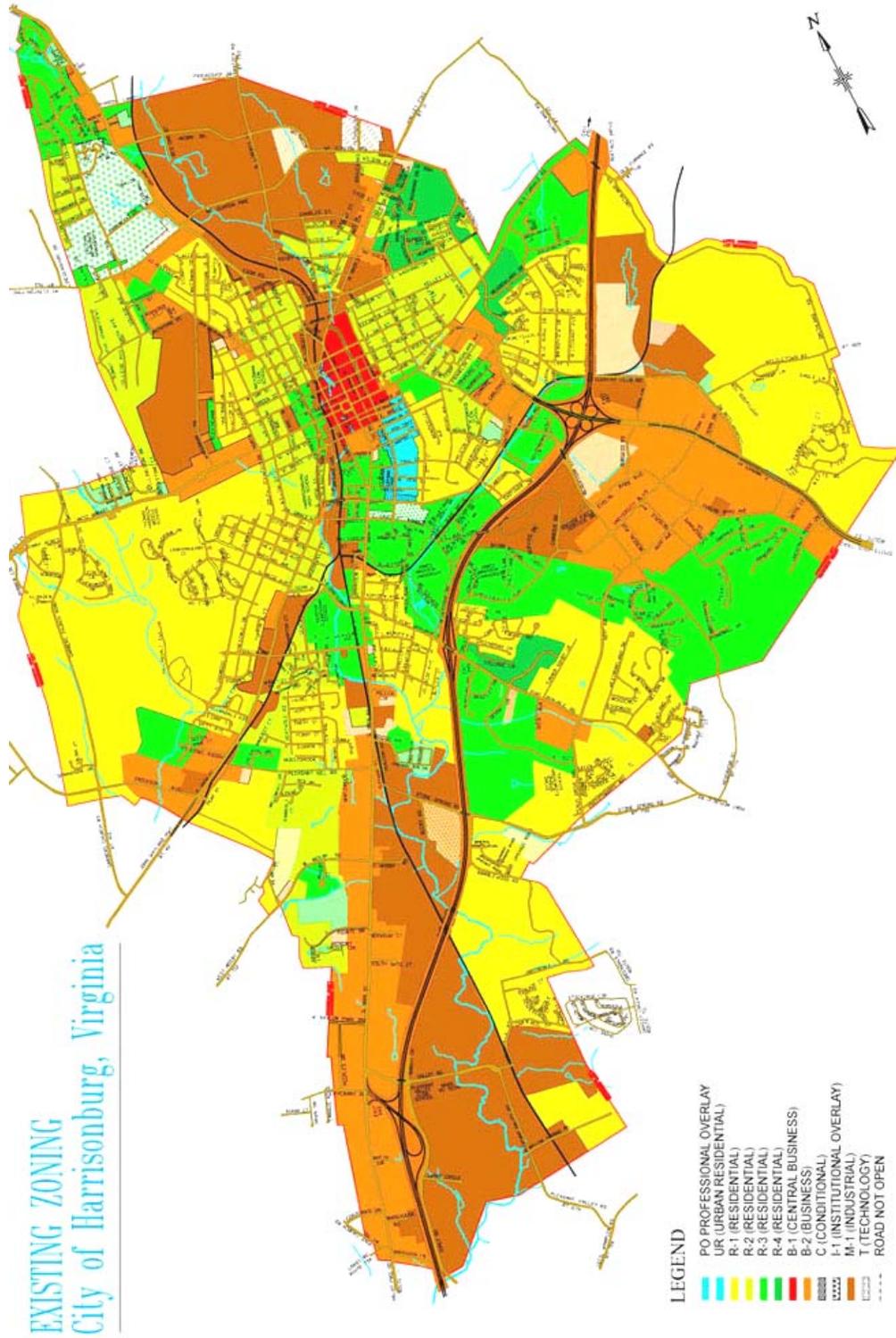


Figure 5 : Harrisonburg Land Use Map

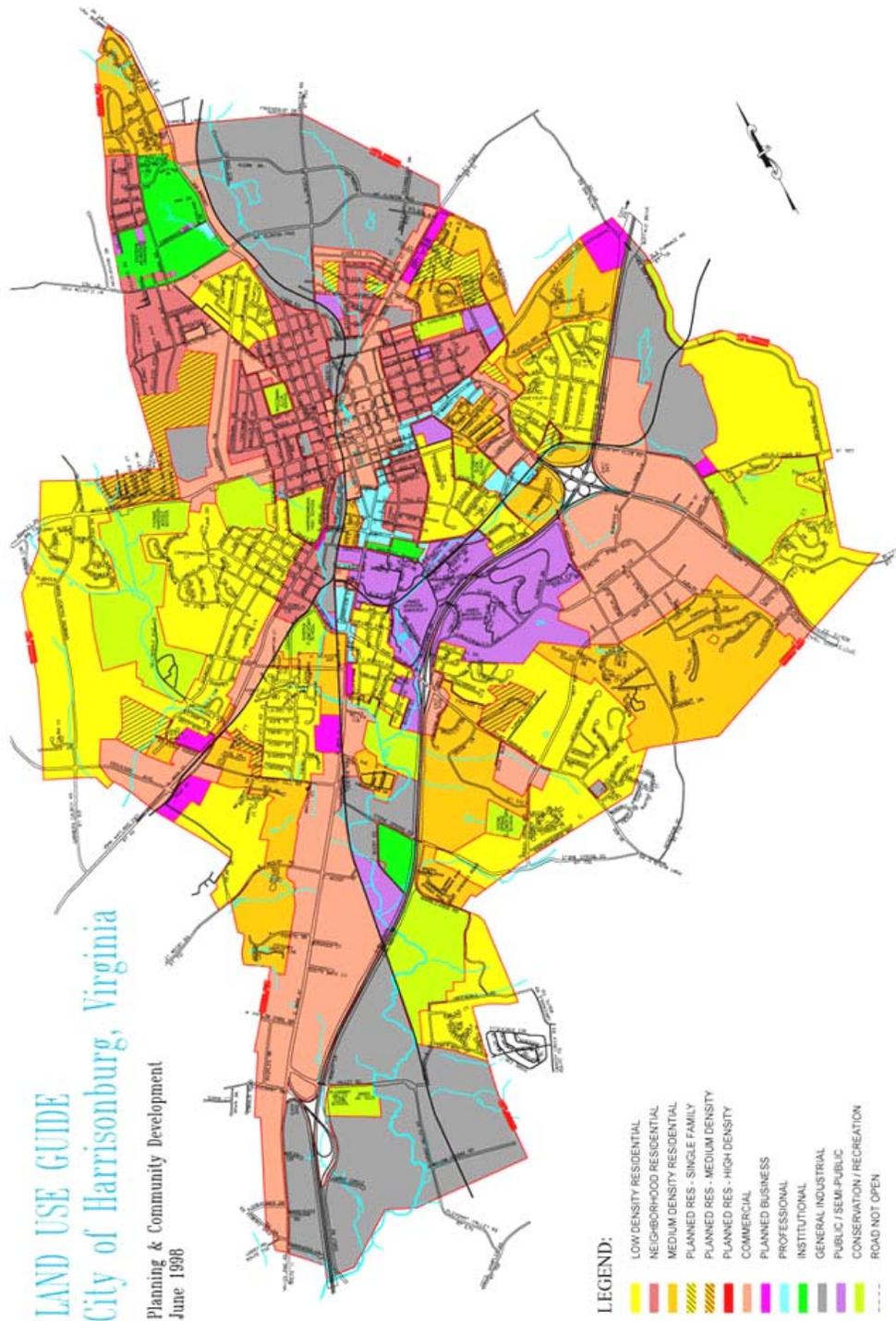


Figure 6 : Park Service Areas

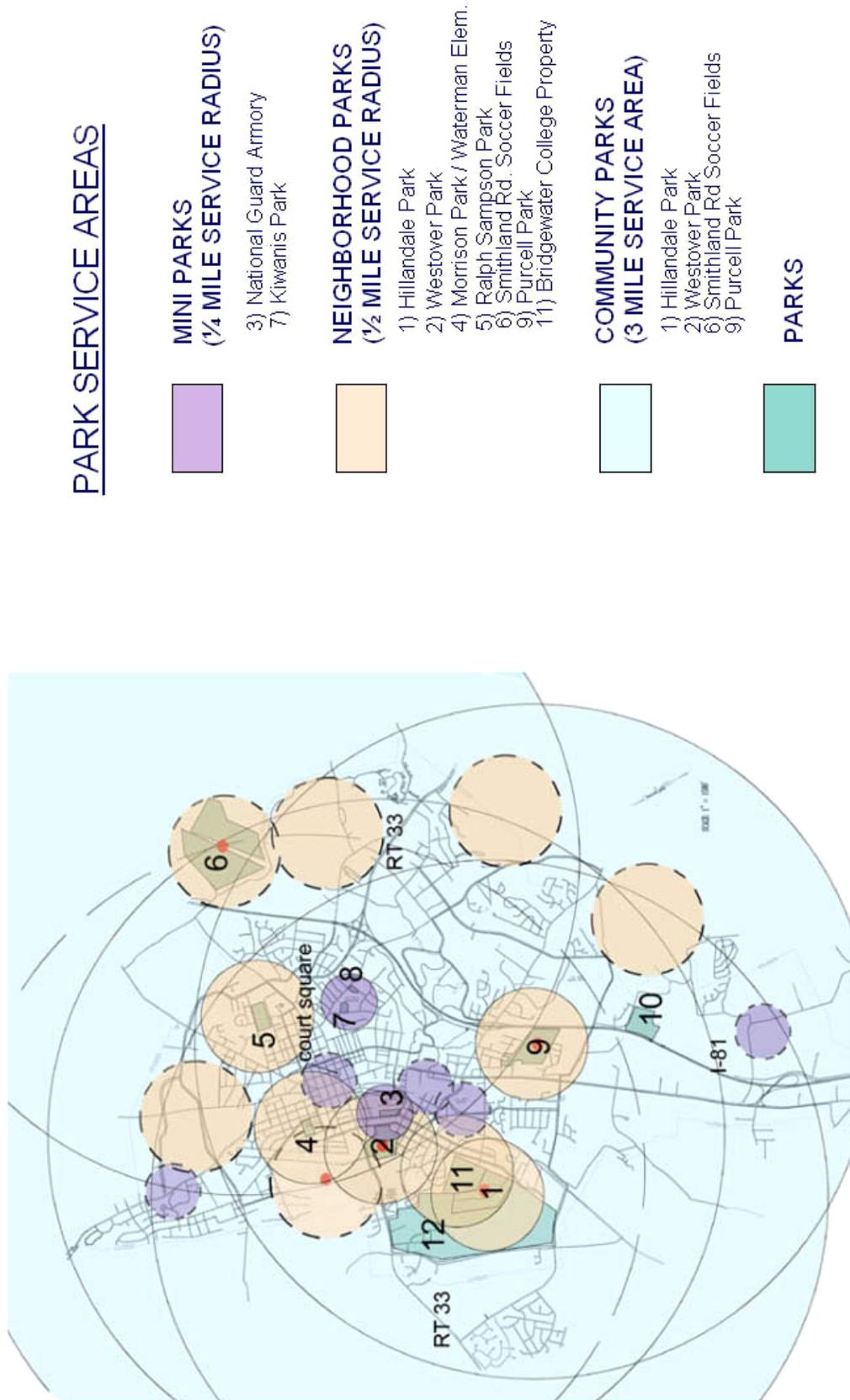


Figure 7 : City Owned Property

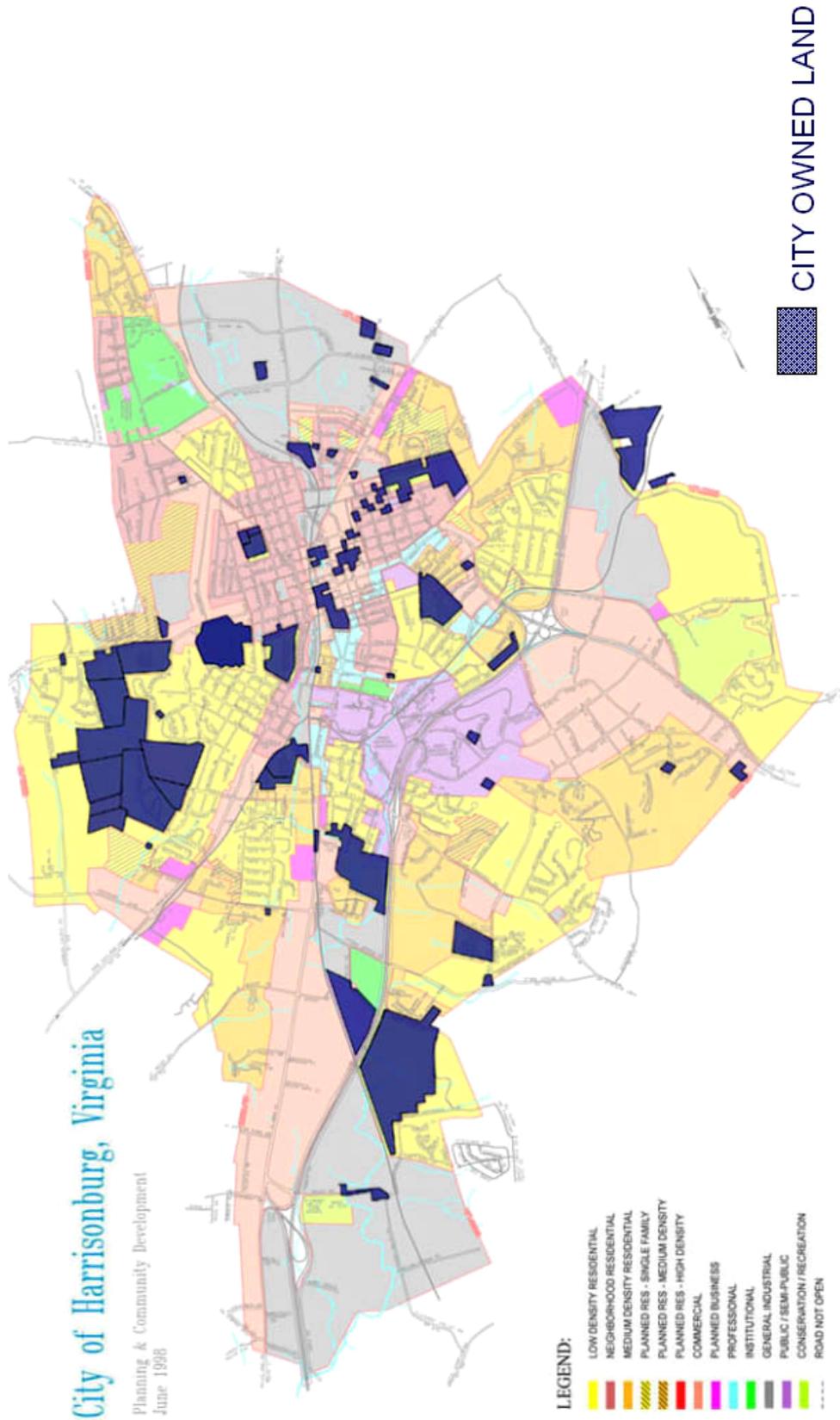
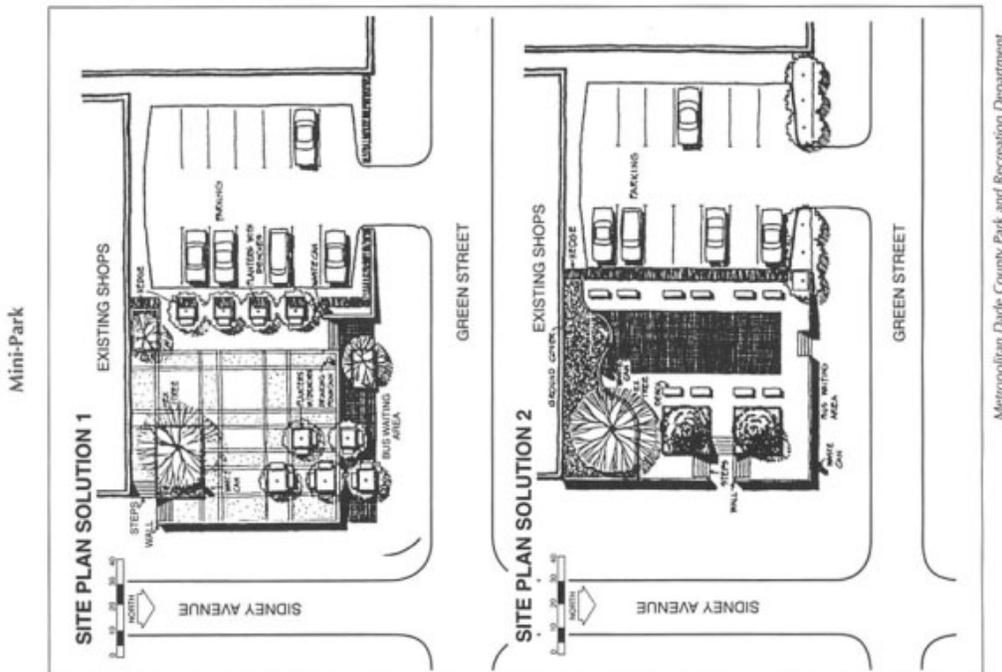


Figure 8 : Mini-Park Diagram



Metropolitan Dade County Park and Recreation Department

Figure 9 : Neighborhood Park Diagram

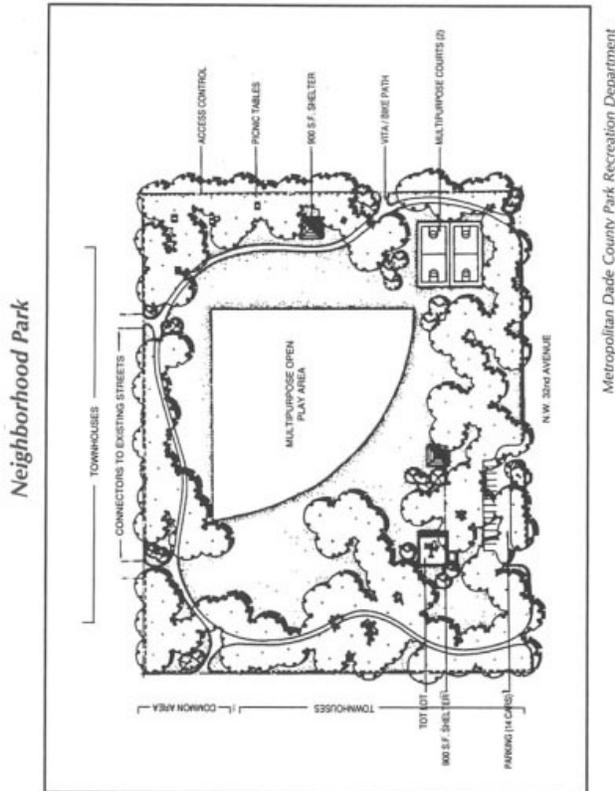


Figure 10 : Community Park Diagram

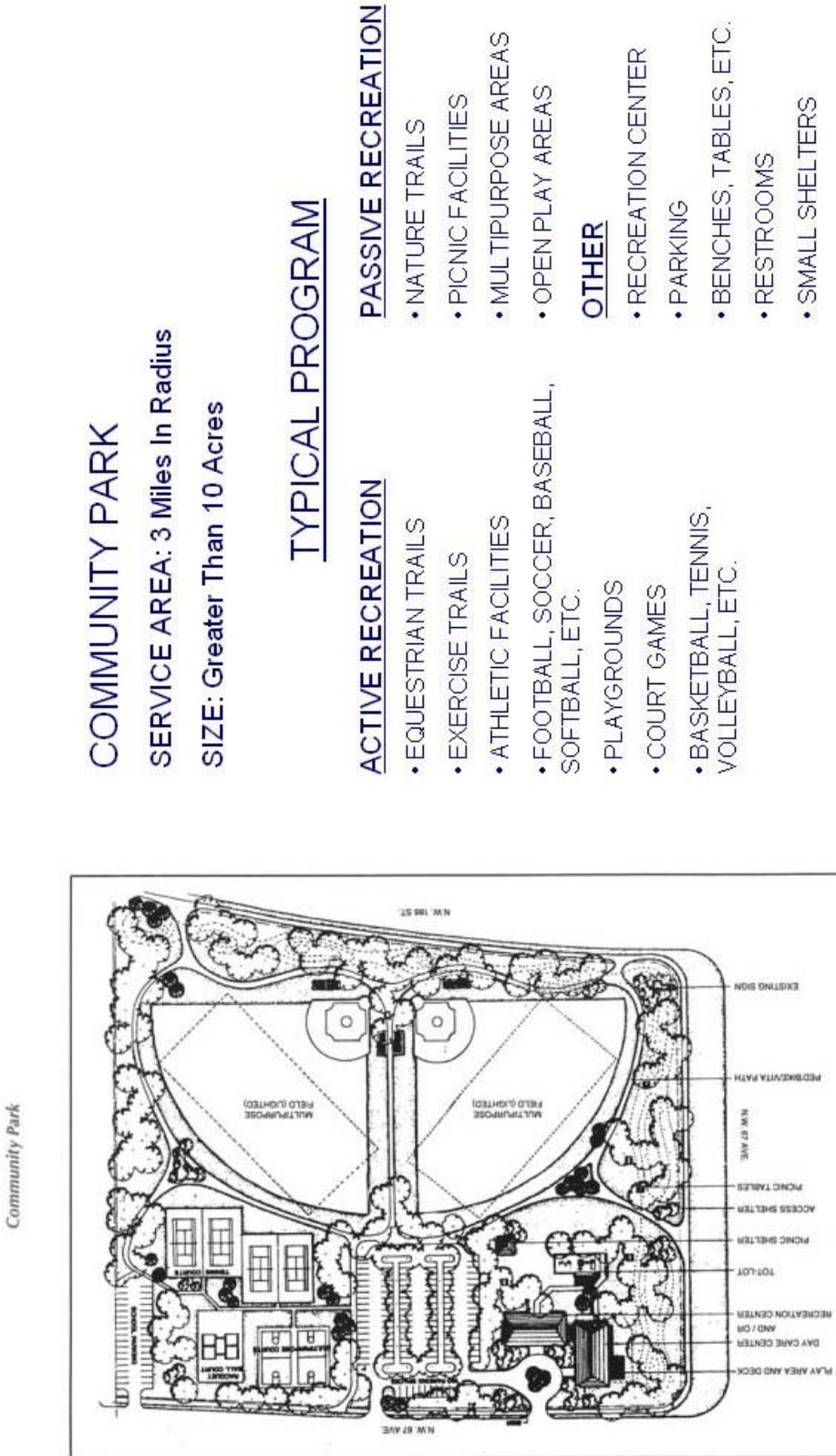


Figure 11 : Bridgewater College Property Boundary

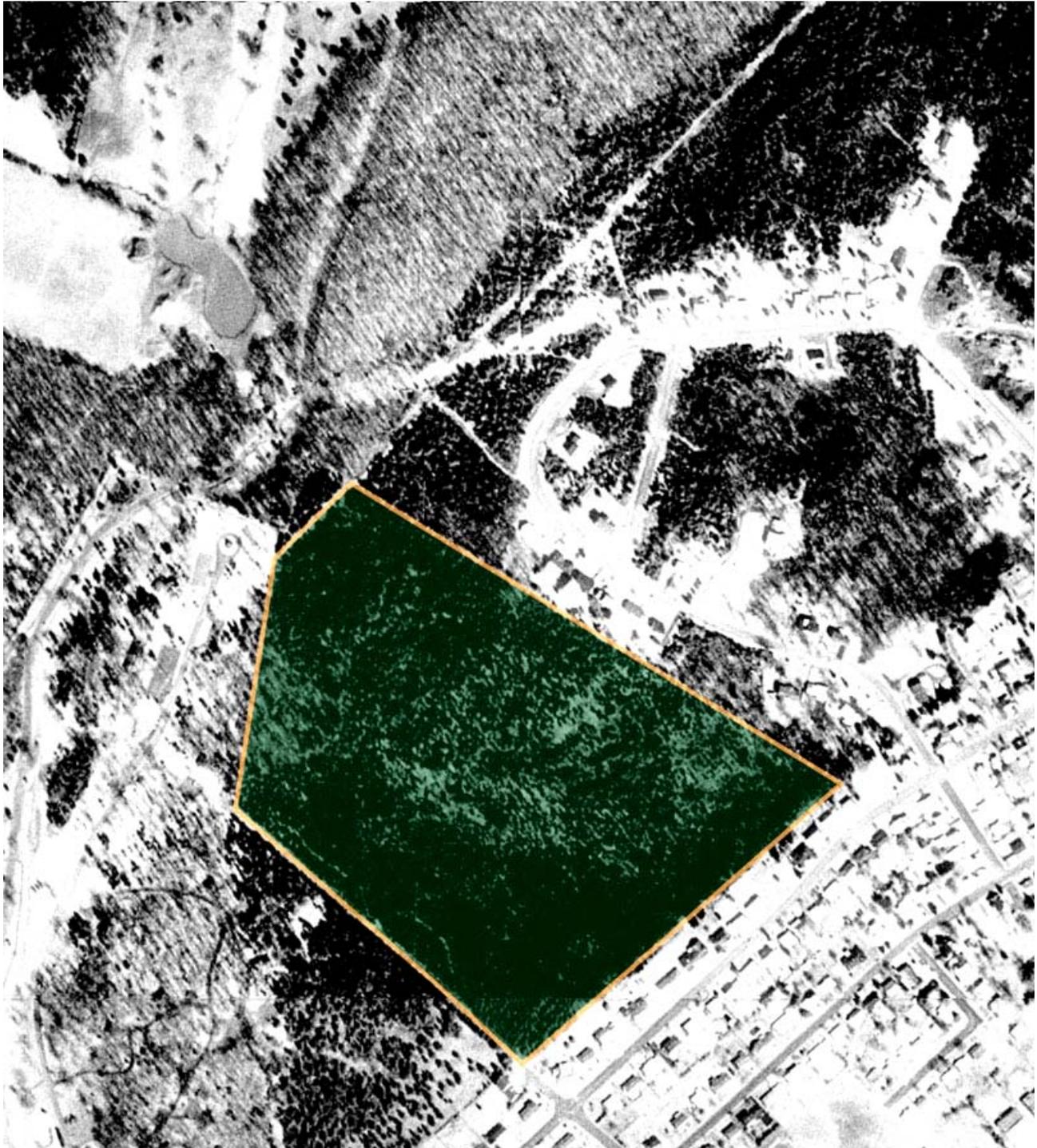


Figure 12 : Bridgewater College Property Bubble Diagram

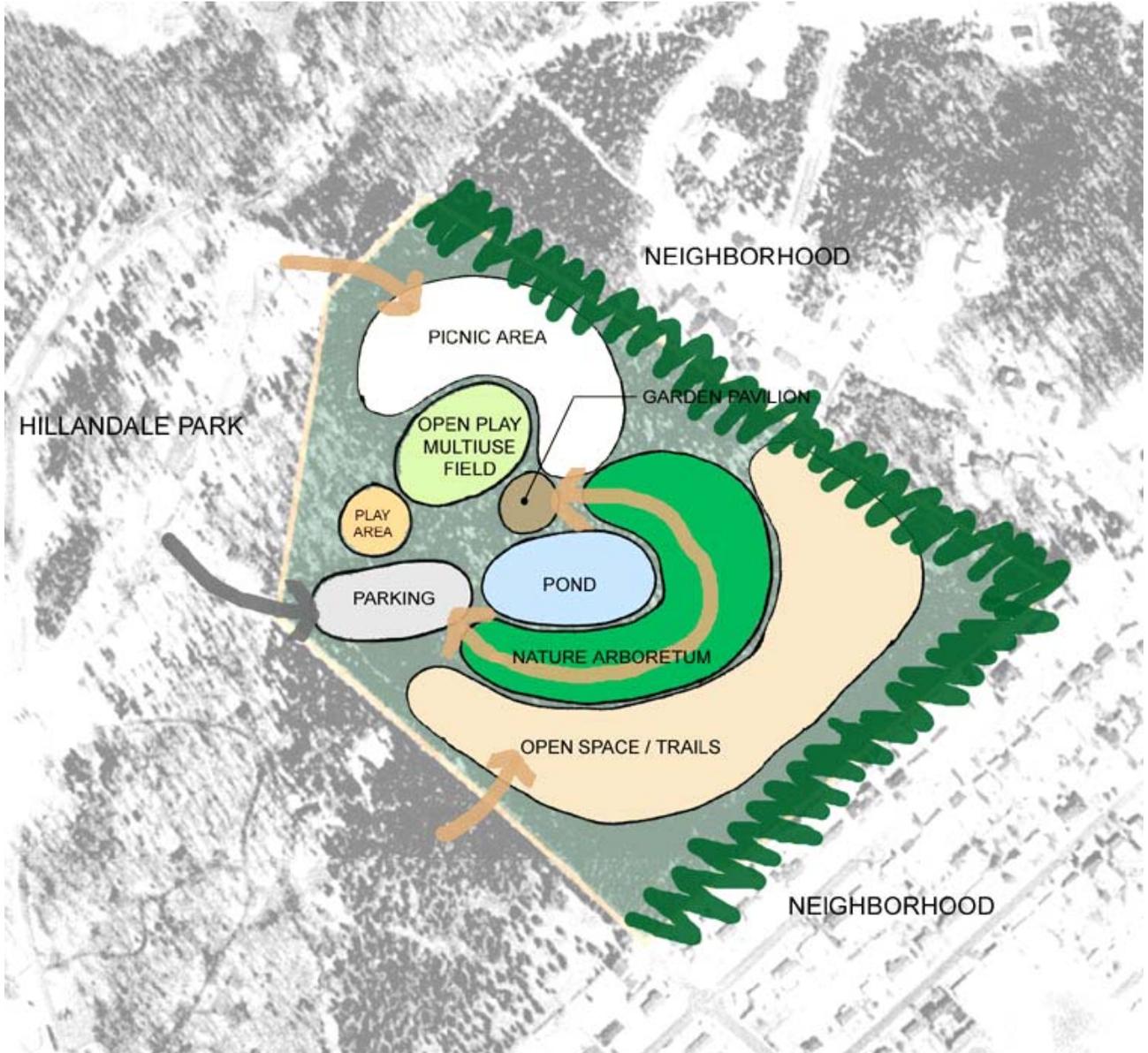


Figure 13 : Bridgewater College Property Vision Plan

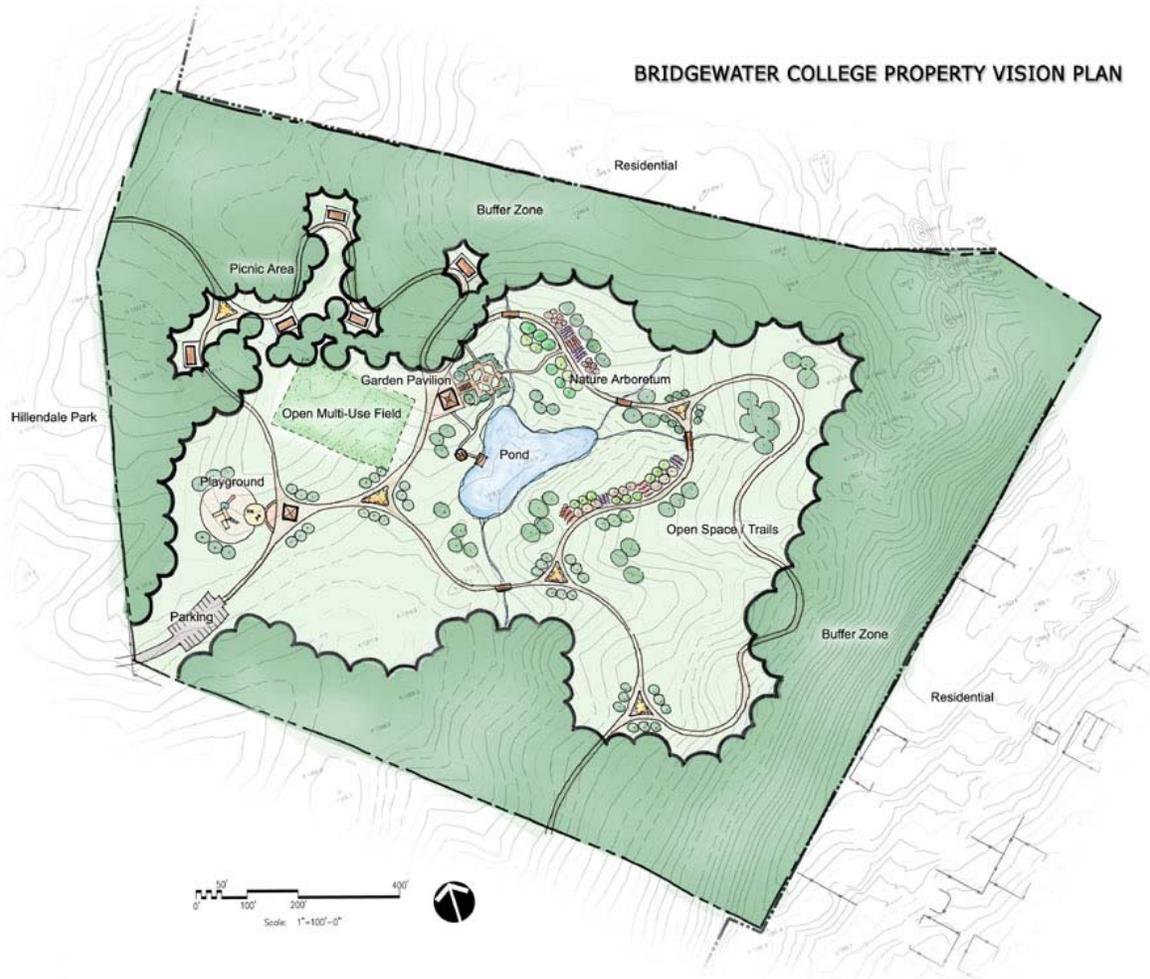


Figure 14 : Smithland Road Boundary



Figure 15 : Smithland Road Bubble Diagram



Figure 16 : Smithland Road Vision Plan

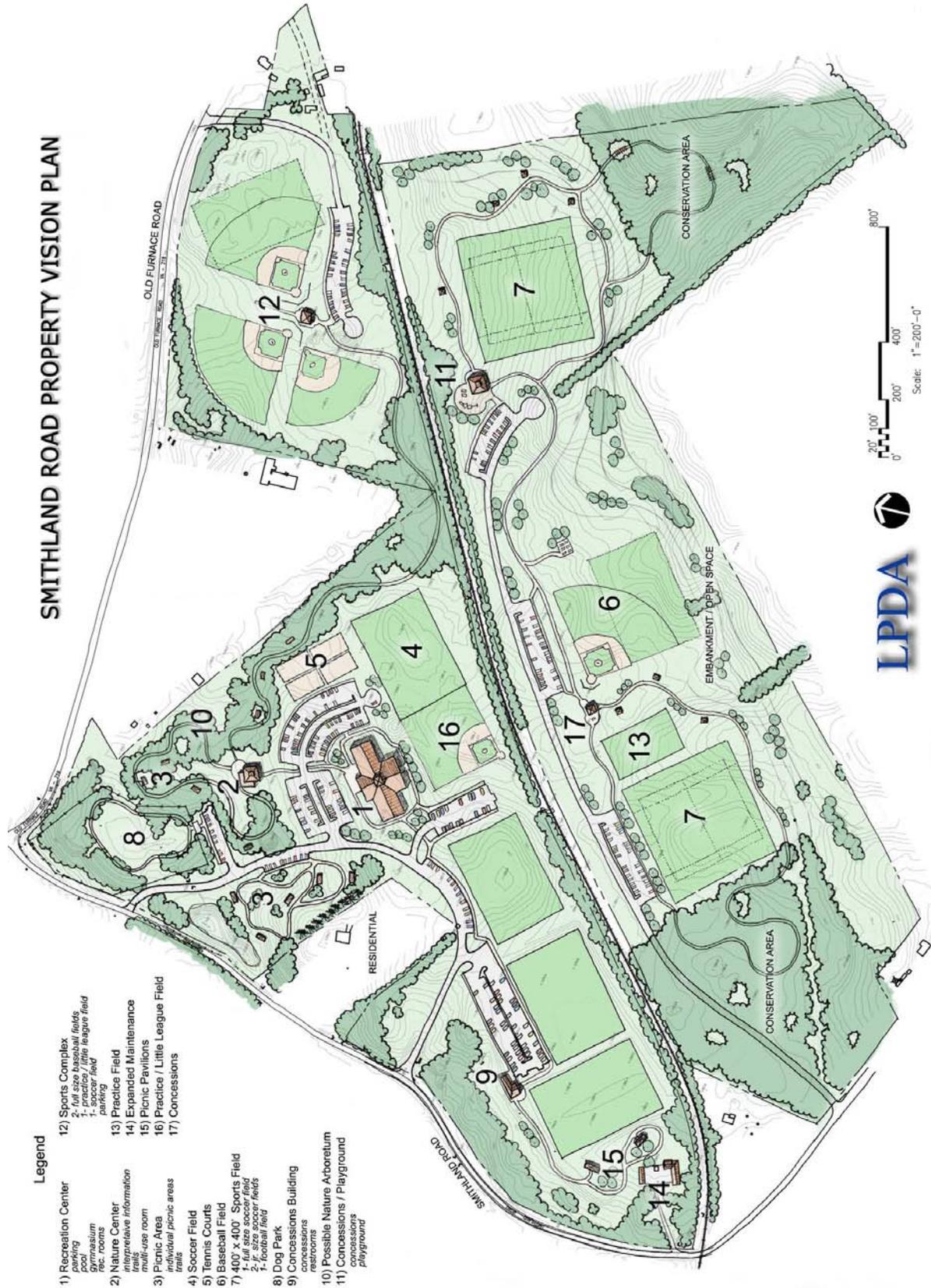


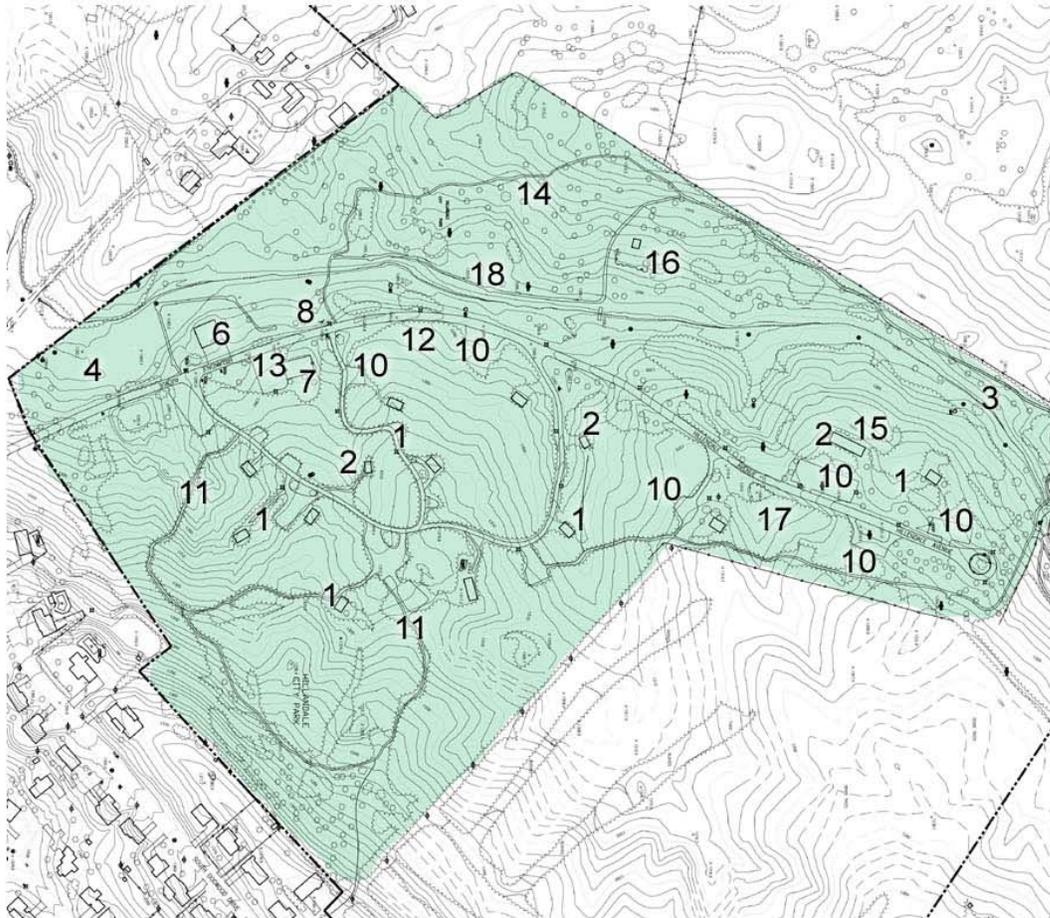
Figure 17 : Hillandale Park Features

Hillandale Park

Community Park

Size: 74.2 Acres

Voting Precinct: 202



Park Features:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) 12 Picnic Shelters • 2) 3 Comfort Stations • 3) Bike Path • 4) 1 Football / Soccer Field • 5) Water / Electricity • 6) Maintenance Building • 7) 2 Basketball Areas • 8) 4 Horseshoes • 9) 1 - 1.3 Mile 20 Station Jogging/ Exercise Trail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10) 250 Parking • 11) Individual Picnic Sites • 12) 1 Playground Area • 13) Multi-purpose Play Area • 14) 1 - 3 Mile Hiking Trail • 15) Information Center • 16) Reproduction Log Cabin • 17) 2 Volleyball • 18) 1 - 1.3 Mile 20 Station Jogging/ Exercise Trail |
|---|--|

Figure 18 : Westover Park Features

Westover Park

Community Park

Size: 49 Acres

Voting Precinct: 202



Park Features:

- 1) Westover Swimming Pool
- 2) Price-Rotary Senior Citizens Center
- 3) Open Picnic Sites
- 4) Playground Equipment
- 5) Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center
- 6) 250 Parking
- 7) 4 Large Picnic Shelters
- 8) 1 Walking Trails
- 9) 2 Comfort Stations
- 10) 3 Open Play Areas
- 11) 1 Nature / Hiking Trail
- 12) 2 Horseshoes
- 13) 3 Racquetball
- 14) Skate Park

Figure 19 : Waterman Elem. / Morrison Park Features

Waterman Elem. / Morrison Park

Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.0 Acres

Voting Precinct: 201



Park Features:

- 1) Playground Equipment
- 2) Lighted Multi-purpose Court
- 3) Spray Pool
- 4) Comfort Station
- 5) Water / Electricity
- 6) Shuffleboard Courts
- 7) Volleyball
- 8) 1 Picnic Shelter
- 9) Individual Picnic Sites
- 10) 2 Tennis Courts
- 11) 1 Basketball Court

Figure 20 : Ralph Sampson Park Features

Ralph Sampson Park

Neighborhood Park

Size: 31.9 Acres

Voting Precinct: 101



Park Features:

- 1) 1 Picnic Shelter
- 2) Individual Picnic Sites
- 3) Water / Electricity
- 4) Spray Pool
- 5) 2 Horseshoe Pits
- 6) 1 baseball / Softball Field
- 7) 3 Basketball Courts
- 8) 1 Comfort Station
- 9) Playground Equipment
- 10) 2 Tennis Courts
- 11) 1 Asphalt Play Area
- 12) 1 Volleyball
- 13) 30 Parking

Figure 21 : Smithland Road Property Features

Smithland Road Property

Sports Complex / Community Park

Size: 130 Acres

Voting Precinct: NA



Park Features:

- 1) Picnic Area
- 2) 3 Soccer / Football Fields
- 3) 200 Parking

Figure 22 : Kiwanis Park Features

Kiwanis Park

Mini Park

Size: 3.8 Acres

Voting Precinct: 102



Park Features:

- 1) Playground Equipment
- 2) 1 Open Play Area
- 3) 1 Basketball Court
- 4) 1 Multi-use Field
- 5) Parking

Figure 23 : Eastover Tennis Courts Features

Eastover Tennis Courts

Mini Park / Sports Complex

Size: 2.5 Acres

Voting Precinct: 102



Park Features:

- 1) 4 Tennis Courts
- 2) 15 Parking

Figure 24 : Purcell Park Features

Purcell Park

Community Park

Size: 67 Acres

Voting Precinct: 103



Park Features:

- 1) Playground Equipment
- 2) 3 Picnic Shelters
- 3) Lighted Little League Ball Park
- 4) 2 Soccer / Football Fields
- 5) 2 Concession Stands
- 6) 3 Open Play Areas
- 7) Bleachers
- 8) 1 Lake For Fishing
- 9) 1 Basketball Area
- 10) 2 Restrooms
- 11) Kid's Castle
- 12) 4 Tennis Courts
- 13) Individual Picnic Sites
- 14) 2 Multi-use Fields
- 15) 2 Press Boxes
- 16) Water / Electricity
- 17) 1.5 Mile Jogging Trail
- 18) Handicapped Play Area
- 19) 100 Parking

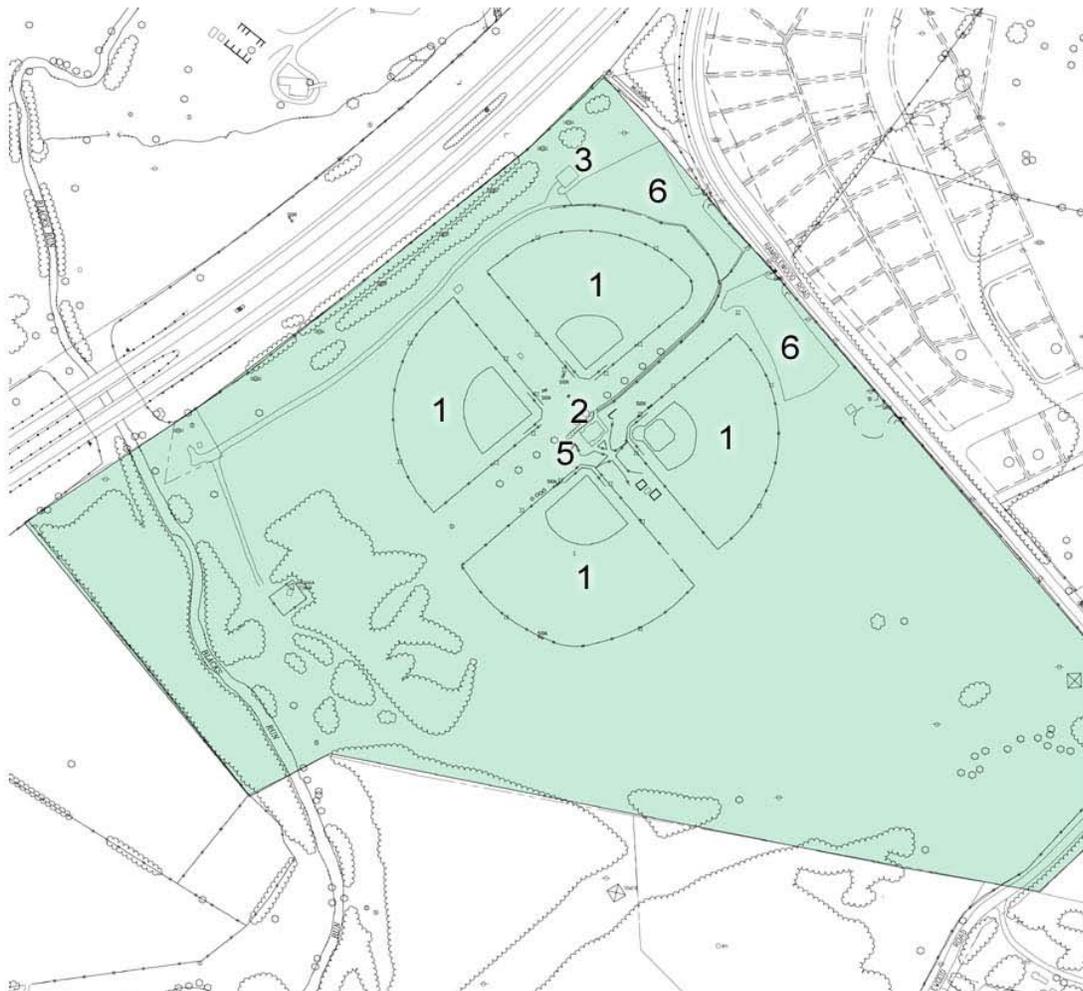
Figure 25 : Ramblewood Fields Features

Ramblewood Fields

Community Park / Sports Complex

Size: 60.0 Acres

Voting Precinct: 103



Park Features:

- 1) 4 Lighted & Irrigated Softball/ Baseball Fields
- 2) 1 Concession Stand / Press Box Facility
- 3) 30' x 40' Maintenance Shed
- 4) Electronic Scoreboards
- 5) 1 Rest Rooms
- 6) 200 Parking

Figure 26 : Bridgewater College Property Features

Bridgewater College Property

Community Park

Size: 46 Acres

Voting Precinct: 202



Park Features:

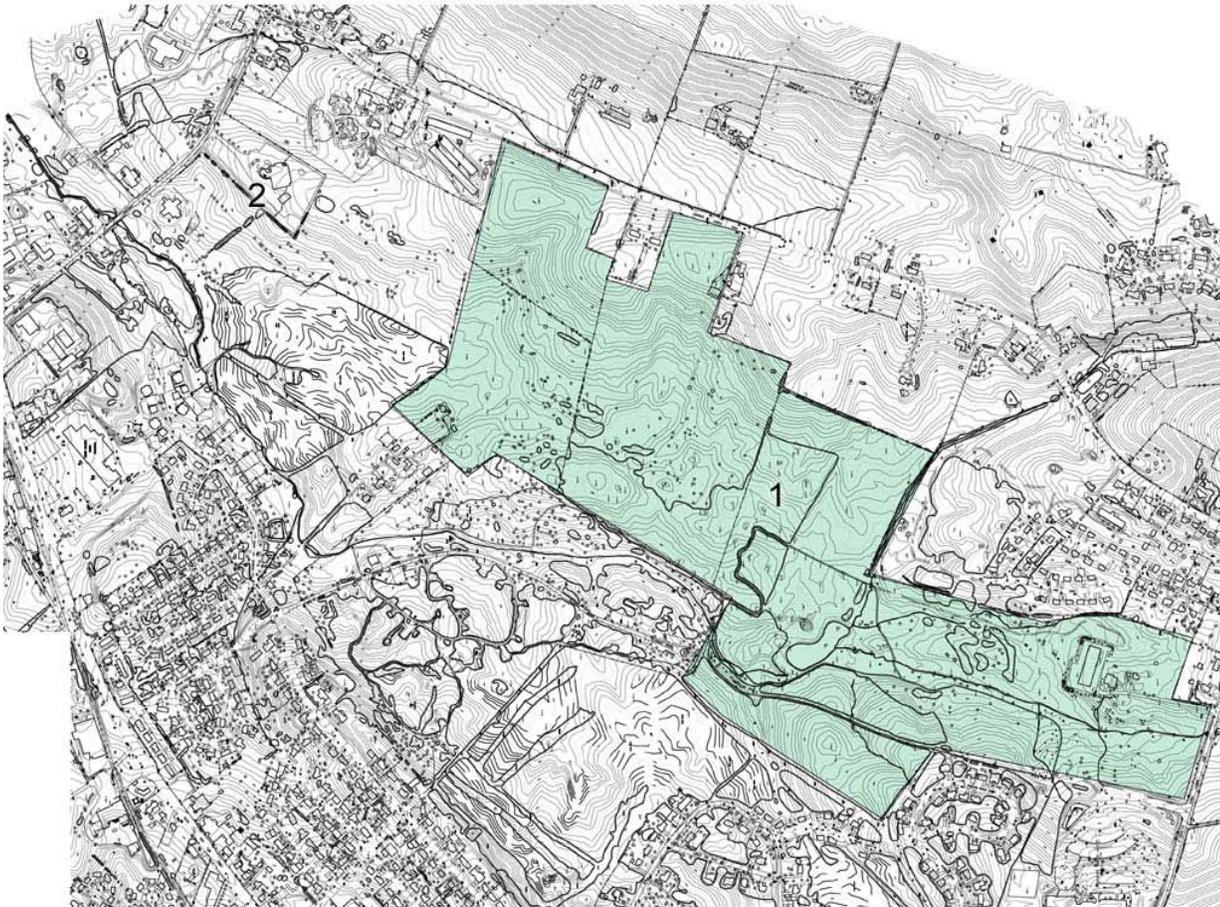
Figure 27 : Heritage Oaks Golf Course Features

Heritage Oaks Golf Course

Community Park / Sports Complex

Size: 178 Acres

Voting Precinct: NA



Park Features:

- 1) 18 Hole Golf Course

Figure 28 : Keister Elem. School Features

Keister Elem. School

School Park

Size: 16.5 Acres

Voting Precinct: 202



Park Features:

- 1) Playground / Play Equipment
- 2) Soccer / Football
- 3) Basketball
- 4) Large Open Area
- 5) Track
- 6) Gym / Multi-Purpose Room

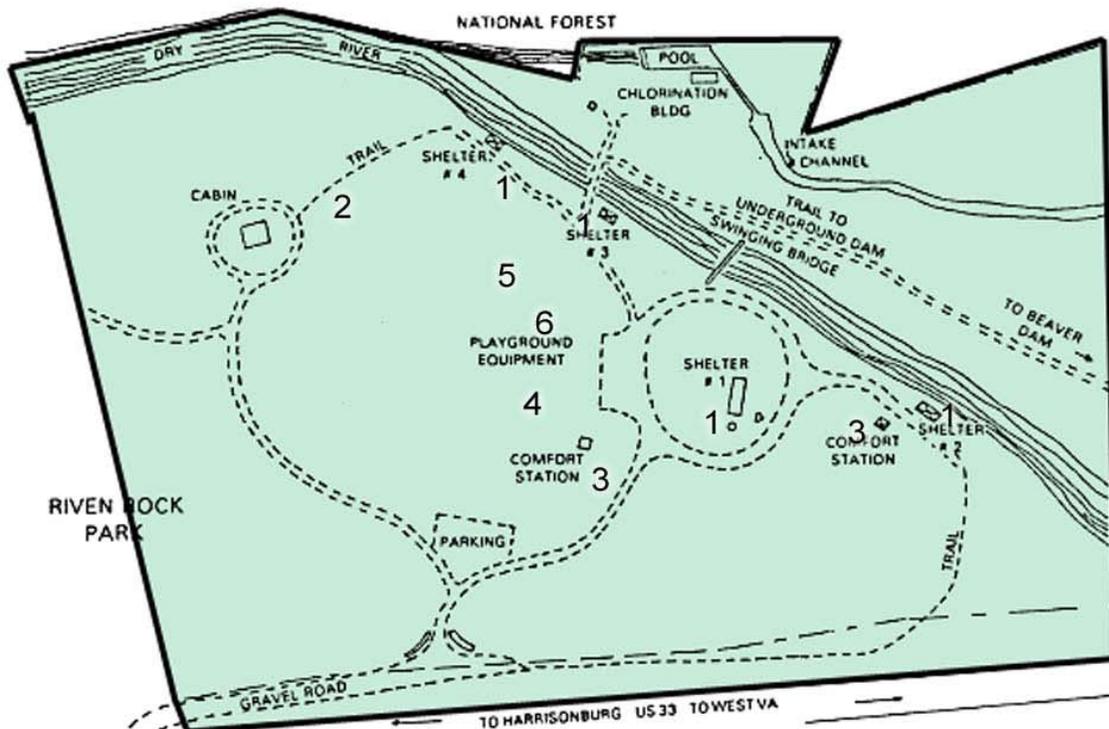
Figure 29 : Riven Rock Park Features

Riven Rock Park

Community Park

Size: 27.75 Acres

Voting Precinct: NA



Park Features:

- 1) 4 Picnic Shelters
- 2) Trails
- 3) Comfort Station
- 4) Playground Area
- 5) Open Picnic Sites
- 6) Horseshoes

Figure 30 : Harrisonburg High School Features

Harrisonburg High School

School Park

Size: 28.5 Acres

Voting Precinct: 202



Park Features:

- 1) Concessions
- 2) Baseball / Softball
- 3) Football
- 4) Gym / Multi-Purpose Room
- 5) Track

Figure 31 : Thomas Harrison Middle School Features

Thomas Harrison Middle School

School Park

Size: 29.1 Acres

Voting Precinct: 202



Park Features:

- 1) Soccer / Football
- 2) Basketball
- 3) Large Open Area
- 4) Track
- 5) Gym / Multi-Purpose Room

Figure 32 : Stone Spring Elem. School Features

Stone Spring Elementary School

School Park

Size: 23.8 Acres

Voting Precinct: 103



Park Features:

- 1) Playground / Play Equipment
- 2) Baseball / Softball
- 3) Soccer / Football
- 4) Large Open Area
- 5) Track
- 6) Gym / Multi-Purpose Room

Appendix A

Summary of facility assessments

Community Parks



Looking Towards the Pool



Community Center Entrance



Spalling of Pool Deck

Westover Park

This facility includes covered picnic shelters, a large community center with an indoor and outdoor pool, a senior center, and new skate park and playground equipment.

The picnic shelters are in good condition and contain fairly new picnic tables. The charcoal grills may need to be replaced, as they look old and outdated. The walking paths between the buildings, picnic area and bathroom facilities are constructed out of aggregate, which requires routine maintenance. There are some paths where it is evident that the aggregate has eroded. It is recommended that the walking paths throughout Westover Park be evaluated and new aggregate placed where necessary for stabilization.

The interior and exterior of the Community Center is in very good shape. Vehicular access into and out of the Center is sufficient, however many citizens seem to be parking in the side parking lot where most parking spaces are assigned for staff. The handicap accessibility from the side parking lot may need some modification, as the grade into the side door may be too steep. The roadway and parking lot pavement is in fair condition. There is evidence of alligator cracking at the crosswalk leading into the side parking lot. The crosswalks throughout the park require routine maintenance and need some repainting. A crosswalk also needs to be added from the Community Center to the walking trail crossing the main entrance road. Some minor realignment of the access road to the parking lot may be necessary to allow for a perpendicular crosswalk. The bike racks in front of the Center look old and outdated and may be a safety issue if a child gets his/her food stuck in between the bars. We recommend that if the bike racks are being used regularly, that they be updated.

The outdoor pool facility is in good condition. The current indoor pool facility needs major renovation. The pool and concrete deck is old, stained and cracked. The indoor bubble was leaking water

during our assessment. The diving boards and lifeguard stands are very old and outdated. The entrance gates into the pool area need a new paint job or need to be replaced. The locker rooms look very old and the equipment such as the shower faucets and lockers are old. This facility has a high probability of requiring major maintenance in the near future.



Senior Center

The interior of the Senior Center is in fair condition. The ceiling tiles are beginning to fall and need to be replaced. The building definitely has some age, but is functional. Access to the Center is sufficient. There are enough parking spaces to accommodate the building size, however the parking lot is built on a steep slope. This steep slope causes the handicap parking spaces to be very inclined, which may result in accidents or falls if the weather is cold and icy. The parking lot pavement between the center and the front bench is cracked and is beginning to break up. This needs to be replaced. There is a tripping hazard located on the concrete slab in the picnic shelter behind the Center. The concrete from the walking path and the picnic slab does not meet at the same elevation.

The newly constructed skate park looks excellent. There is some evidence of erosion from the runoff from the courts onto the slopes. This runoff is causing erosion gullies. It is recommended to install under drainpipes where necessary, from the court to the bottom of the slope to carry this water to the ditch line. The ditch line between the pool facility and the skate park has large amounts of standing water. This will be a mosquito breeding area in the summer. It is recommended that the ditch line be re-graded so the water can flow to the inlet structure.



Pool Cover

Some of the playground equipment located at the top of the pool facility slope is old and outdated. The new playground does not have handicap access. Safe fall zones and fall material need to be evaluated for this equipment.

There are large open areas that can be used in the future for recreation and facility expansion. One example is the area between the pool/community center and the playground equipment. The slope can be cut, a retaining wall can be constructed and the community center can be expanded.

Hillandale Park

This facility includes basketball courts, a soccer field, and a volleyball court, walking paths with exercise equipment, many picnic shelters and a playground area.



Trails at Hillandale Park

Vehicular access throughout the park is very good. More parking spaces could be added to the playground area. A car can easily access all the picnic shelters and most shelters have a handicap parking space and handicap access to the shelters.

There are two basketball courts. The court closest to the entrance is in great shape. The parking lot servicing this court is not paved. The second court, further into the park is constructed of asphalt that definitely needs a resurfacing. This court has no striping to show the free-throw line or three-point line. It is recommended that a new surface be placed on this court.

The turf on the soccer field needs maintenance. This soccer field is built in a low area and may hold water. The sand volleyball court is in good shape. New sand may be needed for the summer season.



Existing Tennis Court

The walking paths are constructed of asphalt and aggregate. There is also exercise equipment located along the walking paths. This equipment looks old and outdated and may need to be replaced. The walking path to the bathroom facility coming off the main road by shelter #9 needs to be replaced. The asphalt is coming apart and is a tripping hazard.

The playground area is new and is handicap accessible. More parking may be needed in this area.

There is a lot of open space in this park, however much of the space has rocks protruding out of the ground, making this open area unusable. These rocks may be a hazard to children playing on them. A suggestion would be posting a sign of warning to stay off the rocks.

Purcell Park

This facility includes soccer fields, a football field, baseball fields, a fishing pond, and playground equipment, walking trails, picnic shelters and tennis courts. This park had far more citizens utilizing the facilities when compared to any other park visited on this date.

There are three access points into the park. Two are from subdivisions and one is from behind the skating rink. There were no signs referencing the park from the skating rink entrance. The number of parking spaces seems to be low for such a highly used park. There are some guide wires with no protection around them



Paved Walking Trails at Purcell Park



Popular Soccer Field

near the walking path coming from the parking lot behind the skate rink. This could be a safety hazard.

All the sports fields were in good shape. The outer most softball field can use some routine maintenance. The fence around the Baseball/football Park is old and needs to be replaced. The bleachers also looked old, however seemed to be newly painted. The tennis courts have a new surface and the hoops look old, but are still fully functioning. The squares above the hoops can be painted on the existing backboards.

There is a lot of playground equipment at this park. The main playground attraction is the wood fortress. This structure has some age and may need extensive amounts of maintenance in the near future to prevent splinters from the dry wood. The pea gravel around this structure should be replaced with wood fiber mulch to create safe fall zones. Some of the other smaller playground equipment is old and outdated and needs to be replaced.



Little League Field

The walking trails throughout this park are mostly asphalt. There are some creek crossings used for maintenance equipment (concrete) that are very low to the water. This is a major safety hazard. Gates should be erected to discourage foot traffic from crossing the creek at these points.

There is a large amount of open space towards the backside of the park. These areas could be leveled off and turned into additional sports fields. An additional entrance and a parking lot can also be added to the backside of the park. Meetings would need to be held with the public and park managers to determine if this option is desired.

Riven Rock Park



Typical Picnic Shelter at Riven Rock

This park is located in Rockingham County adjacent to the National Forest. The Park entrance is located off of Route 33. A wood routed sign marks the gravel road leading to the interior of the park. The park consists of wooded area, cleared picnic areas, picnic shelters, a closed swinging bridge, low water ford, river access, trails and a small pool.

Gravel roads needed some minor maintenance due to wash outs and potholes. The entrance site distance was awkward due to the skewed angle of its intersection with Route 33. Several old stumps were found in picnic areas that needed to be removed. The swinging

bridge was closed and was in need of some upgrade and repair if it were to be opened again. The pool area was inaccessible due to high water in the river.

Picnic shelters and furniture were found to be in fair to good condition. In some cases picnic shelters required minor maintenance to repair or repaint siding, flashings and roofing material.

Access to the river is limited to three or four spots in other areas the public has eroded vegetation and the banks of the river. Care should be taken to control access to the river and to provide appropriate stabilization where erosion problems are becoming evident.

Neighborhood Parks

Ralph Sampson park



New Play Equipment

This park is located adjacent to the Lucy Simms School and ball field. The park offers views to surrounding neighborhoods and dramatic rolling topography. The Park includes a large play area, spray pool, basketball court, comfort station, large picnic shelter, tennis courts and open space. The Simms school offers a softball/baseball field, soccer field and indoor facilities. The park is generally in good condition. The parking lot entrance is tight with deficient turning radii and some sight distance issues to the top of the hill. No handicapped access is evident to the park and no sidewalks exist into the park. This has created some wear problems at the parking lot entrance gate. Some drainage problems exist around the spray pool and basketball court. This area should be re graded to allow for proper drainage. Several park neighbors have chained dogs that are an apparent safety problem. A fence should be placed between these neighbors and the park to ensure that the dogs do not bite wandering children.

Morrison Park



Typical Spring Afternoon at Morrison Park

This park is located next to Waterman Elementary. The park is bordered on all sides by neighborhood homes and streets. The park includes two multiuse fields, basketball court, comfort station, picnic shelter, play equipment and tennis courts. The multiuse fields show evidence of wear and soil compaction. Play equipment at the school is generally outdated but includes some interesting timber play structures. The remaining equipment should be replaced with new equipment with the appropriate safety surfacing. The timber structure should be maintained to avoid hazards but should be replaced when

repairs and maintenance become frequent. Parking is generally provided on street and in the school parking lot after hours. Handicapped access was not evident at this park from the street level or the school. Grade changes may prevent this but some access should be provided for. The park play equipment is in good condition and has the proper surface material placed around it. The hard courts are in good condition and have been recently resurfaced. The comfort and picnic shelter structures are in good condition with some minor repair issues evident. This includes rot and cracking of doors and siding at the ground levels. Some drainage issues are evident in the park at the edge of the tennis courts.

Athletic Parks

Heritage Oaks Golf Course



Cut Through at the Golf Course

This golf course is fairly new. The Clubhouse is in great shape. Access to the golf course is sufficient, however the parking lot is not paved. The cart paths on the golf course are not paved either. These paths are used constantly and require high maintenance to keep the paths stabilized. This aggregate is very hard on the carts as well. The turf is in fair shape considering the off-season, but still requires routine maintenance to repair bare spots. There are some areas where water coming off the surrounding subdivisions is creating erosion control problems on the golf course. There were not enough permanent signs to direct golfers to the correct holes. There were some temporary paper signs, which were getting knocked over. We recommend paving the cart paths and installing permanent signs for locations of holes.

Ramblewood Fields Park



Typical Baseball Field

This facility includes four baseball fields, a concession stand and parking lots. This facility was built on a landfill. The fields are beginning to settle, creating non-level playing fields. The turf and base running areas is in fair condition. Due to the settling, routine maintenance needs to be conducted to keep the fields playable.

There are two parking areas with access off the main road. The number of spaces is adequate for this size park. When exiting the park and making the left from Ramblewood Road onto Stone Spring Road there is limited sign distance to the oncoming Stone Spring Road Traffic. This is a major safety hazard and should be addresses.



New Soccer Field at Smithland Road



Smithland Road Entrance



Access Problems at the Tennis Courts

There is still one landfill cell at the back of the park that is not completely covered. This area could be used for future fields or an expansion to the park.

Smithland Road Soccer Complex

This facility includes three adult sized soccer fields, a maintenance center, portable restrooms and a large parking area. The remainder of the site is open vestigial farmland with hardwood forest, pine forest, hedgerows and patches of Cedar trees. The soccer fields have been built within the past few years and are in good condition. Some erosion problems exist on fill slopes and ditches due to soil shifting and sparse grass cover during the construction and maintenance contract period. They have not experienced significant soil compaction from play and have a healthy stand of turf grass. The fields are heavily used in the spring and fall seasons by various leagues and groups. With heavy use the fields can become damaged and will need repair. The site is accessed with one main entrance road and one maintenance access road. The main entrance is relatively steep, drainage and erosion is kept in check with riprap swales. The entrance road is paved up to the parking lot. Sight distance to the entrance is sufficient but the entrance is not as visible or prominent as it could be. The maintenance access road is steep and has some problems with erosion. This should be addressed with repaving and riprap swales. The parking lot is not paved and shows some evidence of wear. It is likely that this facility will see increased use. Paving the parking lot will be needed in the future. Parking currently is adequate for the three fields. During tournament play however the parking lot would be expected to be full. Expansion of parking should be analyzed during the master planning of the property expansion. This site is irrigated and uses a large well near the maintenance center. Permanent comfort stations should be investigated for this site that include drinking water and restrooms. The maintenance center and parking area should be screened appropriately and will need to be expanded with the expansion of the park.

Willow Street Tennis Courts

The Willow Street tennis courts are located adjacent to the National Guard Armory next to the High School. Access and parking is provided on Willow Street and some folks will park at the school or armory and walk to the courts. Parking on site is not possible due to limited space and terrain. The courts have been resurfaced and are in

good condition nets and backboards are new. Benches on the street are old and leaning and need to be replaced or repaired. Sidewalks to the courts are narrow and in ill repair. Half steps and tripping hazards are evident in several places. The courts lack full separation by fences. Errant balls can be a problem. The fence around this facility is old and rusty and will need to be replaced soon.



Resurfaced Tennis Courts

Eastover Tennis Courts

Eastover Tennis Courts offer Tennis practice and game facilities to schools, organized groups, college students and the general public. Parking is adequate in most instances with some overflow probable during doubles events. The parking lot entrance is narrow and has deficient turning radii. Sidewalks are narrow and in some cases cracking. No sidewalks exist on this side of the street and a crosswalk should be considered to connect to existing sidewalks along South Carlton Street

The fence is showing some age and should be scheduled for replacement soon. The courts have been resurfaced and are in good repair. Some cracking and crumbling of asphalt is apparent at the back edges of the courts. The City has made an attempt to contain this edge with concrete. A concrete curb should be poured along this edge to accommodate the grade change when the fence is replaced. This will also eliminate the safety hazard of this steep edge and drop off.



Drainage is Concentrated and is Not Stored or Treated

Drainage problems exist at the back of the courts and to the right of the parking lot. Benches are older but functional. Area hardening should be provided around the benches to reduce erosion and turf wear. The pine trees in front of and to the side of the courts offer windbreaks but also create some convenient places for folks to hang out and drink beer. Limbing up the trees in areas should be considered.

Mini Parks



Play Ground Equipment at Kiwanis

Spotswood Elementary and Kiwanis Park

This site includes play equipment and multiuse athletic field, a softball field related to the school site and a mini park that serves the neighborhood and specifically the Franklin Heights neighborhood.

The school park is a great benefit to the neighborhood and is relatively well connected. Handicapped access is needed here.



Basket Ball Court at Kiwanis



Athletic Fields are in Need of Repair



Play Equipment Needs Proper Surfacing

Parking is available during breaks and after school hours. The school park is in general disrepair. The athletic field areas show evidence of over use, soil compaction, erosion and inconsistency in surface grades. Some drainage problems exist in low areas that aggravate erosion problems. The fields are heavily used by the school children during recess and by the neighborhood after school hours and during summer months. By early spring the fields are in bad shape. Rocks are sticking out of the ground in some locations; this is a safety hazard that needs to be addressed immediately. The fields will need to be re graded soon to resolve drainage and damage issues. The fields are fertilized, aerated and slit seeded each year by the Parks department.

The play equipment on this site is relatively old. Some new equipment exists. The new equipment is in good condition. The old equipment is adequate in some cases but some of it should be replaced with equipment that meets current safety standards. The condition and materials used for resilient surfacing around play equipment is unacceptable. Proper fall zones are not provided in many instances and non-resilient, high maintenance materials are used. This includes the extensive use of pea gravel. This practice should be stopped and all surfacing should be replaced with an approved resilient material such as wood fiber (not wood mulch or chips) or rubber surfaces.

All surfacing and equipment should be evaluated for replacement and redesign considering accessibility, circulation and fall zones. The basketball court pavement is in good condition the hoops and poles are old and rusty and need new nets and need to be painted or Kiwanis Park is a beautiful mini park offering connections to the neighborhood. The park includes a newly surface basketball court, neighborhood access points, walking paths, play equipment and picnic areas. The basketball court is in great shape with some minor access and related erosion problems that need to be addressed with area hardening. Turf areas are in good shape with weed problems. The playground equipment is outdated in many cases and should be evaluated for replacement. Surfacing under many of the areas is gravel and is unacceptable. All surfacing and equipment should be evaluated for replacement and redesign considering accessibility, circulation and fall zones. Specific parking for this park does not exist. Parking is available on street. Most of the use of this park is neighborhood related with folks walking and biking to the park.

National Guard Armory site

This site include the National Guard Amory building and related facilities and open space. The site is located on Willow Street next to the High School and tennis courts. Open space includes an informal practice field. The practice field has no formal parking related to it. Several plantings have been placed at the edge of the field. This site should be evaluated to determine if it is best suited for a practice field or other open space. Currently the Armory parking, High school parking and on street parking support its use as an athletic field.

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Willow St. Tennis Courts Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: Good

Visibility: Good

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 40

Trails: Y or N

Open Space: Y or N

Landscape: Y or N

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: _____

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: Y or N

Number: _____

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: Y or N # _____.

Bathrooms: Y or N # _____.

Storage: Y or N # _____.

Maintenance Shed: Y or N # _____

Other Facilities: Y or N # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis : 4 _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: (I) = irrigated

Soccer _____ (I)

Softball _____ (I)

Multi-Use 1 _____ (I)

Field Hockey _____ (I)

Baseball _____ (I)

Football _____ (I)

Other _____ (I)

Sidewalks: Y or N

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4** – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0** – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3** – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1** – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Morrison Park Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: OK

Visibility: OK

Parking:

Y or N: School & Street

Number of Spaces: 60

Trails: **Y or N**

Open Space: **Y or N**

Landscape: **Y or N:** Trees

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: 1

Tables: 8-10

Play Grounds: **Y or N**

Number: 1

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N** # _____.

Bathrooms: **Y or N** # 1.

Storage: **Y or N** # _____.

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N** # _____

Other Facilities: **Y or N** # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: 1

Volleyball _____

Tennis 2

Racquetball _____

Other 1

Fields: **(I)** = irrigated

Soccer _____ **(I)**

Softball _____ **(I)**

Multi-Use _____ **(I)**

Field Hockey _____ **(I)**

Baseball _____ **(I)**

Football _____ **(I)**

Other _____ **(I)**

Sidewalks: **Y or N**

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0** – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0** – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2** – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2** – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0** – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N** – Not applicable
- 0** – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1** – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: **Ralph Sampson Park** Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1
Sight Distance: good
Visibility: OK one direction
is poor.

Parking:

Y or N
Number of Spaces: 30

Trails: Y or N

Open Space: Y or N

Landscape: Y or N

Picnic Area:

Y or N
Shelters: 1
Tables: 8

Play Grounds: Y or N

Number: 1
Size: large 50x20
Age Group: 4-12

Structures:

Concessions: Y or N #
Bathrooms: Y or N # 1
Storage: Y or N #
Maintenance Shed: Y or N #
Other Facilities: Y or N #

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: 3
 Volleyball 1
 Tennis 2
 Racquetball _____
 Other 1

Simms

Fields: (I) = irrigated

Soccer _____ (I)
 Softball 1 (I)
 Multi-Use _____ (I)
 Field Hockey _____ (I)
 Baseball _____ (I)
 Football _____ (I)
 Other _____ (I)

Sidewalks: Y or N

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable
0 – No Problems
2 – Access has some problems
4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped
2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped
4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable
0 – No Problems
2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use
periods or only occasionally
4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable
0 – No Problems
1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance
2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary
3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major
repairs
4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete
renovation
5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems
2 – Some safety issues apparent
4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2** – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – No Problems
- 1** – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0** – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS:

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Eastover Tennis Courts Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: good

Visibility: OK can not see courts

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 15

Trails: Y or N

Open Space: Y or N

Landscape: Y or N

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: _____

Tables: 4 Benches

Play Grounds: Y or N

Number: _____

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N** # _____.

Bathrooms: **Y or N** # _____.

Storage: **Y or N** # _____.

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N** # _____

Other Facilities: **Y or N** # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis 4 _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: (I) = irrigated

Soccer _____ (I)

Softball _____ (I)

Multi-Use _____ (I)

Field Hockey _____ (I)

Baseball _____ (I)

Football _____ (I)

Other _____ (I)

Sidewalks: Y or N

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs

4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

N – Not applicable

0 – Good neighborhood linkages

2 – Some linkages exist

4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

N – Not applicable

0 – Many multi-uses

2 – Some multi-use

4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance

2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair

3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs

4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs

5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas

2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding

3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation

4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

0 – No problems

2 – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed

4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation

5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

0 – No Problems

1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems

2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work

3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)

4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

0 – No Problems

1 – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems

2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material

3 – Several areas have problems that need work

4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated

5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

0 – No problems

2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues

4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

N – Not applicable

0 – No problems

1 – Equipment is old but can still be used

2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance

3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation

4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced

5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

N – Not applicable

0 – No problems

1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping

2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs

3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing

5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____
_____.

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Spotswood Elem / Kiwanis Park Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: Good

Visibility: Good

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: _____

Trails: **Y or N:** upper area

Open Space: **Y or N**

Landscape: **Y or N:**

minimal trees

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: _____

Tables: Benches

Play Grounds: **Y or N**

Number: _____

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N** # _____.

Bathrooms: **Y or N** # _____.

Storage: **Y or N** # _____.

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N** # _____

Other Facilities: **Y or N** # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: 1

Volleyball _____

Tennis _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: **(I)** = irrigated

Soccer 1 in outfield **(I)**

Softball _____ **(I)**

Multi-Use 1 **(I)**

Field Hockey _____ **(I)**

Baseball 1 **(I)**

Football _____ **(I)**

Other _____ **(I)**

Sidewalks: **Y or N**

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exist

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2** – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2** – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3** – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4** – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2** – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0** – No problems
- 2** – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2** – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1** – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5** – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Smithland Road Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1public

Sight Distance: Good

Visibility: OK

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 200

Trails: Y or N

Open Space: Y or N

Landscape: Y or N

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: _____

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: Y or N

Number: _____

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: Y or N # _____.

Bathrooms: Y or N # _____.

Storage: Y or N # _____.

Maintenance Shed: Y or N # 1

Other Facilities: Y or N # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: (I) = irrigated

Soccer 3 (I)

Softball _____ (I)

Multi-Use _____ (I)

Field Hockey _____ (I)

Baseball _____ (I)

Football _____ (I)

Other _____ (I)

Sidewalks: Y or N

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4** – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4** – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0** – No problems
- 2 – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0** – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N** – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS:

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick/ Mimi Kronisch Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Heritage Oak Golf Course Location: _____

Overall Score: 14

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: good

Visibility: good

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: unpaved

Trails: Y or N

Open Space: Y or N

Landscape: Y or N

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: _____

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: Y or N

Number: _____

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: Y or N # _____.

Bathrooms: Y or N # _____.

Storage: Y or N # _____.

Maintenance Shed: Y or N # _____

Other Facilities: Y or N # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: (I) = irrigated

Soccer _____ (I)

Softball _____ (I)

Multi-Use _____ (I)

Field Hockey _____ (I)

Baseball _____ (I)

Football _____ (I)

Other golf course (I)

Sidewalks: Y or N

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2 – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0 – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick/ Mimi Kronisch Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Ramblewood Fields Location: _____

Overall Score: 18

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1-2

Sight Distance: OK

Visibility: OK

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 200

Trails: **Y or N**

Open Space: **Y or N**

Landscape: **Y or N**

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: 12

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: **Y or N**

Number: _____

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N** # 1

Bathrooms: **Y or N** # 1

Storage: **Y or N** # _____

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N** # _____

Other Facilities: **Y or N** # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: 2

Volleyball 2

Tennis _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: **(I)** = irrigated

Soccer _____ **(I)**

Softball _____ **(I)**

Multi-Use _____ **(I)**

Field Hockey _____ **(I)**

Baseball 4 **(I)**

Football _____ **(I)**

Other _____ **(I)**

Sidewalks: **Y or N**

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2 – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0 – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick/ Mimi Kronisch Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Purcell Park Location: _____

Overall Score: 16

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 3

Sight Distance: OK

Visibility: OK

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 100

Trails: **Y or N**

Open Space: **Y or N**

Landscape: **Y or N**

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: 3

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: **Y or N**

Number: 1

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N # 2**

Bathrooms: **Y or N # 2**

Storage: **Y or N #**

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N #**

Other Facilities: **Y or N #**

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis 4 _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: **(I)** = irrigated

Soccer 2 _____ **(I)**

Softball 2 _____ **(I)**

Multi-Use 2 _____ **(I)**

Field Hockey _____ **(I)**

Baseball 2 _____ **(I)**

Football 2 _____ **(I)**

Other _____ **(I)**

Sidewalks: **Y or N**

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2** – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0** – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0** – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2** – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1** – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick/ Mimi Kronisch Date: 3-10-30

Site Name: Westover Park Location: _____

Overall Score: 21

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 2

Sight Distance: OK

Visibility: OK

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 250

Trails: **Y or N**

Open Space: **Y or N**

Landscape: **Y or N**

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: 4

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: **Y or N**

Number: 1

Size: medium

Age Group: all

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N** # _____.

Bathrooms: **Y or N** # 2.

Storage: **Y or N** # _____.

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N** # _____

Other Facilities: **Y or N** # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis _____

Racquetball 3

Other skate park

Fields: **(I)** = irrigated

Soccer _____ **(I)**

Softball _____ **(I)**

Multi-Use 1 **(I)**

Field Hockey _____ **(I)**

Baseball _____ **(I)**

Football _____ **(I)**

Other _____ **(I)**

Sidewalks: **Y or N**

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2** – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2** – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0** – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1** – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0 – No problems
- 2** – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2** – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0** – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick/ Mimi Kronisch Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Hillandale Park Location: _____

Overall Score: 18

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: OK

Visibility: OK

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: 250

Trails: **Y or N**

Open Space: **Y or N**

Landscape: **Y or N**

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: 12

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: **Y or N**

Number: 1

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: **Y or N** # _____.

Bathrooms: **Y or N** # _____.

Storage: **Y or N** # _____.

Maintenance Shed: **Y or N** # _____

Other Facilities: **Y or N** # _____

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: 2

Volleyball 2

Tennis _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: **(I)** = irrigated

Soccer 1 **(I)**

Softball _____ **(I)**

Multi-Use 1 **(I)**

Field Hockey _____ **(I)**

Baseball _____ **(I)**

Football 1 **(I)**

Other _____ **(I)**

Sidewalks: **Y or N**

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs
- 4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation
- 5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Good neighborhood linkages
- 2 – Some linkages exist
- 4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – Many multi-uses
- 2 – Some multi-use
- 4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance
- 2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair
- 3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs
- 4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs
- 5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas
- 2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding
- 3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation
- 4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

- 0 – No problems
- 2 – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed
- 4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation
- 5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

Irrigation Systems:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems
- 2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work
- 3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)
- 4 – System is in very poor condition or no system at all

Planting and Trees:

- 0 – No Problems
- 1 – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems
- 2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material
- 3 – Several areas have problems that need work
- 4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated
- 5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

- 0 – No problems
- 2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues
- 4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Equipment is old but can still be used
- 2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance
- 3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation
- 4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced
- 5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

- N – Not applicable
- 0 – No problems
- 1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping
- 2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs
- 3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing
- 5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: _____

LPDA

SITE/FIELD SURVEY FORM FOR PARK ASSESSMENT

Form filled out by: Bill Mechnick Date: 3-10-03

Site Name: Riven Rock Park Location: _____

Overall Score: _____

INVENTORY

Vehicular Access:

Access Points: 1

Sight Distance: ok

Visibility: poor

Parking:

Y or N

Number of Spaces: _____

Trails: Y or N

Open Space: Y or N

Landscape: Y or N

Picnic Area:

Y or N

Shelters: 4

Tables: _____

Play Grounds: Y or N

Number: 1

Size: _____

Age Group: _____

Structures:

Concessions: Y or N #

Bathrooms: Y or N #

Storage: Y or N #

Maintenance Shed: Y or N #

Other Facilities: Y or N #

Hard Courts/Soft Courts:

Basketball no.: _____

Volleyball _____

Tennis _____

Racquetball _____

Other _____

Fields: (I) = irrigated

Soccer _____ (I)

Softball _____ (I)

Multi-Use _____ (I)

Field Hockey _____ (I)

Baseball _____ (I)

Football _____ (I)

Other _____ (I)

Sidewalks: Y or N

ASSESSMENT

Vehicular Access:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Access has some problems

4 – Access is inadequate for facility

Accessibility:

0 – Entire park is accessible to handicapped

2 – Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped

4 – None of the park is accessible to the handicapped

Parking Availability:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally

4 – Not enough parking most of the time

Parking:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance

2 – Surface in fair condition – spot repairs are necessary

3 – Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs

4 – Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Safety:

0 – No Problems

2 – Some safety issues apparent

4 – Dangerous condition exists

LPDA

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

2 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs

4 – Sidewalks/paths/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation

5 – Dangerous conditions exist

Neighborhood Linkages:

N – Not applicable

0 – Good neighborhood linkages

2 – Some linkages exist

4 – No linkages

Multi-Use:

N – Not applicable

0 – Many multi-uses

2 – Some multi-use

4 – No multi-use

Ball Fields:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Good condition. Needs minor fence, turf repair and maintenance

2 – Fair condition. Needs minor repair

3 – Poor condition. Needs major repairs

4 – Very poor. Needs extensive repairs

5 – Unplayable. Dangerous

Turf:

N – Not applicable

0 – No Problems

1 – Turf is in good condition with some bare areas

2 – Turf has a few problems that need some work; e.g. aeration and over-seeding

3 – Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation

4 – Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone

Drainage Systems:

0 – No problems

2 – Some saturation/standing water – minor improvements needed

4 – Very poor drainage – system needs renovation

5 – Dangerous system/conditions exist

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0 – No Problems

1 – System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems

2 – System in fair condition, needs frequent work

3 – System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage)

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Planting and Trees:

0 – No Problems

1 – Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems

2 – Some bare areas that needs additional plant material

3 – Several areas have problems that need work

4 – Plantings/trees are in very poor condition and should be completely renovated

5 – Condition of trees presents dangerous safety situation

Cleanliness/Appearance:

0 – No problems

2 – Fairly clean; some minor issues

4 – Littered – requires thorough cleaning

Equipment

N – Not applicable

0 – No problems

1 – Equipment is old but can still be used

2 – Equipment requires regular routine maintenance

3 – Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation

4 – Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced

5 – Dangerous condition exists

Hard Courts

N – Not applicable

0 – No problems

1 – Good condition, need minor routine maintenance – patching and striping

2 – Fair condition, needs minor repairs

3 – Poor conditions – potholes, cracks; needs extensive repair/resurfacing

5 – Dangerous surface conditions exist – holes, large cracks, etc.

COMMENTS: Park entrance is awkward. Erosion of river banks, eroded vehicle areas, stumps, tripping hazards.

June 10, 2002

Dear Harrisonburg Resident:

The City of Harrisonburg has retained the services of the Southeastern Institute of Research, Inc. (SIR) to determine the attitudes and opinions residents have of its recreation and parks offerings -- both facilities and programs.

We ask that only Harrisonburg residents and only one head of household complete this survey. We also ask that you identify yourself as either the male or female head of your household and for classification purposes, the City Voting District within which you live. We can only accept your answers to this survey if these questions are answered.

The information you give SIR will remain confidential and your name will never be associated with your answers. The answers you give us will be grouped with the answers of all other persons responding to this survey. After completing the questionnaire, please refold it and return it to the Southeastern Institute of Research in the accompanying business-reply envelope. The postage is prepaid and you need only drop it into the nearest U.S. Postal Service mailbox. Please return by May 15, 1998 for your response to be included in the findings.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this important survey, you may contact either myself or John Fries, also of Southeastern Institute of Research at (804) 358-8981. Thank you in advance for your willingness and time to participate in this most important endeavor. Your comments and answers will help immensely.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Steele
Executive Vice President

RGS/alb

L-Harrisonburg Resident-6-10-02

1B. What are they? (**PROBE**)

2. Now, let's talk about **leisure time activities**. As I read each of these, tell me if you or anyone in your household participates in or attends it. Do you, or anyone in your household

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
Take arts and crafts classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in dancing groups or take dancing classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take painting or sculpting classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in a singing group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watch live stage theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit battlefields or other historic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in a theater group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend historical reenactments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit nature interpretive centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2A. Are there other **leisure time activities** you or other members of your household participate in that I have not mentioned?

Yes No DK

IF NO OR DK, SKIP TO Q3

2B. What are they? (**PROBE**)

FACILITIES

3. Now we're going to talk about the City of Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation Facilities that are located throughout the city. Which City-owned Parks and Recreation Facilities have you and other members of your household visited for Recreation and Parks related activities, including any for Parks and Recreation Classes, during the past 12 months; that is, all of the times you have visited throughout the year -- spring, summer, fall and winter. (**RECORD BELOW**) (**NOTE: A CLASS COUNTS AS ONE ACTIVITY VISIT, NOT PER CLASS SESSION**)

None (IF "NONE", SKIP TO Q4)

	<u>Park or Facility Name</u>	(3a) <u># of Visits</u>	(3b) # In <u>Household</u>	(3c) <u>Travel Time in Minutes</u>
A.	_____	_____	_____	_____
B.	_____	_____	_____	_____
C.	_____	_____	_____	_____
D.	_____	_____	_____	_____
E.	_____	_____	_____	_____

3a) About how many times have you or other members of your household visited or used (**facility name**) during the past 12 months?

3b) And, how many different members of your household visited or used (**facility name**) in the past 12 months?

3c) About how many minutes would you say does it take to get from your house or apartment to (**facility name**)?

4. What could the City of Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation Department do to make the existing parks and facilities more appealing - in other words, what would make you use the parks facilities more than you do now? (**PROBE, CLARIFY**)

5. What types of new parks and facilities would you and your household like to see offered in Harrisonburg? (**PROBE, CLARIFY**)

PROGRAMS

6. Now we are going to talk about programs and classes that Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation Department offers. Do you currently receive the Recreation and Parks Program Guide distributed three times per year by the City of Harrisonburg through the local newspaper?

- Yes No DK

7. Which Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation programs, classes, or activities have you or other members of your household participated in during the past 12 months; thinking of the whole year -- spring, summer, fall and winter. **(PROBE) (NOTE - A CLASS = ONE VISIT, NOT ONE PER VISIT)**

None (IF "NONE", SKIP TO Q9)

Program Name

- A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
 D. _____
 E. _____

Are there any programs, classes, or activities offered by the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation department that you or members of your household would like to participate in but haven't?

Yes
 (SKIP TO Q10) → No
 (SKIP TO Q10) → DK/Refused

8. What could the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department do to make the existing programs, classes or activities more appealing - in other words, what would make you or other members of your household use the programs more than they do now? **(PROBE, CLARIFY)**

9. What new programs, classes, or activities would you like to see the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department offer? **(PROBE, CLARIFY)**

10. What other types of recreational, cultural or other leisure activities would you or other members of your household like to see more of? **(PROBE, CLARIFY)**

MAINTENANCE

11. Now please tell me how you would rate Harrisonburg's Parks on each of these measures; as I read each to you tell me if you would rate them as excellent, good, fair or poor. **(ROTATE ITEMS, BEGINNING AT RED-X)**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK</u>
Hours of operation	1	2	3	4	5
Maintenance	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness	1	2	3	4	5
Customer service of staff	1	2	3	4	5

DEMOGRAPHICS

My last few questions are for classification purposes only!

A. Do you or any member of your household belong to a private recreational association such as swim or health club, tennis club, YMCA or country club?

- Yes 1
 No 2
 (DK/Refused) 3

- B. Is your age:
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Under 25 | 1 |
| 25 - 34 | 2 |
| 35 - 44 | 3 |
| 45 - 54 | 4 |
| 55 - 64 | 5 |
| 65 or older | 6 |
| (DK/Refused) | 7 |

- C. What is your marital status? Are you:
- | | |
|---|---|
| Married | 1 |
| Or, single (Incl. Separated, Divorced, Widowed) | 2 |
| (DK/Refused) | 3 |

- D. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

- E. How many people in your household are:
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Under 6 years of age | ___ |
| 6 to 12 years | ___ |
| 13 to 18 years | ___ |
| Over 18 years | ___ |
| (DK/REF) | ___ |

- F. What is your Zip code? _____

- G. Which of the following categories includes the last year or grade of school you have completed? Is it:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Some high school or less | 1 |
| High school graduate | 2 |
| Some college or technical school | 3 |
| College graduate | 4 |
| or, Post-graduate studies or degree | 5 |
| (DK/Refused) | 6 |

- H. With which racial or ethnic group do you identify with? Would you say:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| White | 1 |
| Black | 2 |
| Hispanic | 3 |
| Asian-American | 4 |
| American Indian | 5 |
| Or, some other race or ethnic group | 6 |
| (DK/Refused) | 7 |

- I. Which of the following categories includes your total annual household income? Is it:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Under \$20,000 | 1 |
| \$20,000 to \$40,000 (\$39,999) | 2 |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| \$40,000 to \$60,000 (\$59,999) | 3 |
| \$60,000 to \$80,000 (\$79,999) | 4 |
| \$80,000 to \$100,000 (\$99,999) | 5 |
| \$100,000 or more | 6 |
| (DK/Refused) | 7 |

- J. And, finally, may I verify that I reached you at:
(_____)_____

- K. Would you like an opportunity to participate in a town meeting about Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreational facilities, and to receive information in the mail about Parks facilities and programs? **(IF YES, RECORD:)**

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION ON THIS STUDY! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!!!

(GENDER BY VOICE): **Male 1**
Female 2

Telephone #: _____ - _____

Time Start: _____ Time End: _____

Date: _____ Time Elapsed: _____

Interviewer # _____

Name: _____

1. Please indicate if you or anyone in your household ever participates in these activities:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Golfing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball/baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer/football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boating/other water-related activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you, or anyone in your household ...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Take arts and crafts classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in dancing groups or take dancing classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take painting or sculpting classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in a singing group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watch live stage theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit battlefields or other historic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in a theater group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend historical reenactments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit nature interpretative centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2a. What other **leisure time activities** do you or other members of your household participate?

3. Which of Harrisonburg's **parks and recreation facilities** have you and other members of your household visited for recreation and parks related activities? (Check all "" that apply)

3a. About how many times have you or other members of your household visited or used each **park and facility** during the past 12 months? (Record answer below.)

3b. How many different members of your household visited or used each **park or facility** in the past 12 months? (Record answer below.)

3c. About how many minutes would you say it takes to get to each **park or facility** that you use from your house or apartment? (Record answer below.)

	(3a) Times Used	(3b) Numbers Using	(3c) Minutes Away
<input type="checkbox"/> Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Center	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Hillendale Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Kiwanis Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Little League Ball Park at Purcell Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Morrison Park/Waterman Elementary	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard Armory	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Ralph Sampson Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Price Rotary Senior Citizens Center	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Purcell Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Riven Rock Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Westover Swimming Pool	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Westover Park	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Ramblewood Fields	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Smithland Road Soccer Fields	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Street Tennis Courts	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastover Tennis Courts	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Keister Elementary	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotswood Elementary School	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Oaks Golf Course	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---

4. Which features of the **parks or facilities** you now use attract you the most?

5. What else would you like to see these **parks or facilities** have?

6. What could the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department do to make the existing **parks and facilities** more appealing -- in other words, what would make you use the parks facilities more than you now do?

7. What types of new **parks and facilities** would you and your household like to see in Harrisonburg?

These next few questions deal with the **programs and classes** that the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department offers.

8. Do you currently receive the Recreation and Parks Program Guide “_____?”

Yes

No

Unsure

9. Which Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department **programs, classes, or activities** have you or other members of your household participated in during the past 12 months; including the whole year -- spring, summer, fall and winter.

Programs, classes or activities by name:

10. Which features of these **programs/classes/activities** attract you the most?

11. What else would you like to see in these **programs/classes/activities**?

12. What could the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department do to make the existing **programs, classes or activities** more appealing -- in other words, what would make you or other members of your household use the programs more than they do now?

13. What new **programs, classes, or activities** would you like to see the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department offer?

14. What other types of recreation, culture or other leisure activities would you or other members of your household like to see more of?

15. If Harrisonburg’s Parks and Recreation Department **facilities and programs** were located **closer** to your home, would you or other members of your household be:

- More likely to use them 1
- Less likely to use them 2
- or, Would you use them about as much as you do now 3
- Don’t know 4

16. How do you rate the following operational facets of Harrisonburg’s **parks and recreation facilities**. Please indicate whether you think each operational facet is **excellent, good, fair** or **poor**.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Hours of Operation	5	4	3	2	1
Maintenance	5	4	3	2	1

Safety	5	4	3	2	1
Cleanliness	5	4	3	2	1
Customer service of staff	5	4	3	2	1

DEMOGRAPHICS

These last few questions are for classification purposes only!

A. Do you or any member of your household belong to a private recreation association such as a swim or health club, tennis club, Fitness center or country club?

- Yes 1
- No 2

B. Is your age:

- Under 25 1
- 25 - 34 2
- 35 - 44 3
- 45 - 54 4
- 55 - 64 5
- 65 or older 6

C. Are you married or single?

- Married 1
- Single 2

D. Including yourself, how many people live in your household? _____

E. How many people in your household are:

- Under 6 years old _____
- 6 to 12 _____
- 13 to 18 _____
- Over 18 _____

F. What is your Zip code? ____ _

G. Which of the following categories includes the last year or grade of school you have completed?

- Some high school or less 1
- High school graduate 2
- Some college or technical school 3
- College graduate 4
- or, Post-graduate studies or degree 5

H. What race or ethnic group do you consider yourself?

- Hispanic 1

- Black or African-American 2
- White 3
- Asian 4
- Or, some other race or ethnic group 5

I. Which of the following categories includes your total annual household income?

- Under \$20,000 1
- \$20,000 to \$40,000 (\$39,999) 2
- \$40,000 to \$60,000 (\$59,999) 3
- \$60,000 to \$80,000 (\$79,999) 4
- \$80,000 to \$100,000 (\$99,999) 5
- \$100,000 or more 6

J. What is your gender:

- Male 1
- Female 2

K. For classification purposes, please tell us which City of Harrisonburg Voting Precinct you live in; or, your address or, your zip code and the names of the two streets that cross at the closest intersection to your house or apartment.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Voting location | Check or list info. |
| Keister | |
| Spotswood | |
| Simms | |
| Stonespring | |
| Waterman | |

I. If you would like an opportunity to participate in either a town meeting about Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation facilities or to receive information in the mail about parks facilities and programs. Please give us your name, address and phone number.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION ON THIS STUDY! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!!!

Appendix B

LPDA

Land Planning & Design Associates
310 East Main Street, Suite 200
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

434-296-2108

Research Report:
City of Harrisonburg Recreation and Parks
Comprehensive Master Plan

2003

LAND PLANNING & DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC.
Landscape Architecture . Planning

310 East Main Street
Suite 200
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
434.296.2108
Fax: 434.296.2109
www.lpda.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
READING THIS REPORT	3
BACKGROUND & PURPOSE	4
METHODOLOGY & PROCEDURES	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
DETAILED FINDINGS	7
ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION	7
PARKS & FACILITY USE	10
RECOMMENDATIONS, RATING, AND REQUESTS	12
<u>Charts</u>	
Chart 1: Participation in Selected Recreational Activities	7
Chart 2: Participation in Volunteered Recreational Activities	8
Chart 3: Participation in Selected Leisure Activities	9
Chart 4: Participation in Volunteered Leisure Activities	9
Chart 5: Total Use of Parks and Recreation Facilities in City of Harrisonburg	10
Chart 6: Average Number of Visits in Last 12 Months	10
Chart 7: Usage of City-Owned Park and Recreation Facilities by Precinct	11
Chart 8: Average Number of Visits in a 12 Month Period by Precinct	11
Chart 9: Average Number of Minutes from Home to Park	12
Chart 10: Overall Rating on Harrisonburg Parks on Select Criteria	12
Chart 11: Recommendations for New Types of Park and Recreation Facilities	13
Chart 12: Suggested Improvements to Existing Park and Recreation Facilities	13
Chart 13: Recommendations for New Programs and Classes	14
Chart 14: Suggested Improvements to Existing Programs and Classes	15
Chart 15: Other Recreation or Leisure Activities Residents Would Like to See	15
Chart 16: Private Recreational Association	16
Chart 17: Age of Respondent	16
Chart 18: Number of People, Including Respondent Within Household	17
Chart 19: Racial or Ethnic Group Respondent Identifies With	17
Chart 20: Annual Household Income of Respondents	18

READING THIS REPORT

This report has been designed to meet the needs of a wide variety of readers, including those who will derive decisions based on this report. While a thorough reading may be necessary for various managers involved in the project, most readers will find that reading key points of selected portions will be sufficient. Paragraphs in the Executive Summary and Detailed Findings begin with key points, followed by supporting detail and clarification.

Depending upon the desired depth of information by the reader, one can approach this study in a variety of ways:

- **Global Understanding:** To obtain the big picture, a reader can read just the Executive Summary. This document is suitable as a standalone document, and is suitable for the busy reader.
- **General Understanding:** A reader may get a general overview by reading the Executive Summary and parts of the Detailed Findings, either in full or the highlighted portions.
- **Additional Insight:** Should further detail be necessary for the reader, one may study the charts and graphs provided.

LPDA

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

This report summarizes the findings of a telephone survey conducted by calling randomly selected citizens within the City of Harrisonburg. Southeastern Institute of Research, Inc., performed the surveys and organized the information.

The primary objective for this study was to determine the frequency and intensity of usage of the Harrisonburg parks and recreational facilities and programs. The study also looked at residents' desires for future improvements and additions to the existing facilities and programs. In addition, the survey obtained demographic profiles and statistics in relation to facility and program usage.

This report was prepared by Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc., (LPDA) through the use of information provided by Southeastern Institute of Research, Inc. (SIR).

METHODOLOGY & PROCEDURES

SIR conducted the survey through telephone calls to 400 randomly selected respondents in each of the five voting precincts. Interviewers spoke with the head of household, introducing the survey as a study on recreational activities. The City of Harrisonburg was identified in the introduction.

The key issues to be measured by the questionnaire were directed by the City of Harrisonburg.

The universe of study is all City of Harrisonburg households. SIR identified respondents by asking for a head of the household and verifying that he or she is a resident of City of Harrisonburg.

Sampling was accomplished by applying a random digit dialing process to all the households living within City of Harrisonburg. Interviews were then conducted with only those households that qualified. Qualified respondents were head of the household and a legal resident of The City of Harrisonburg. Samples of 400 yield a maximum statistical error of $\pm 5.0\%$ at the 95% level of confidence.

Interviews were conducted from SIR's 50-station central telephone bank with direct supervision over all calls. This process resulted in consistently high-quality interviewing as supervisors were immediately available to resolve any questions brought up during interviewing. The survey was pre-tested prior to actual fielding in an effort to eliminate confusing questions or wordings and to ensure that the survey was meeting objectives. Interviews were conducted between 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. during the week and 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekends, unless a respondent requested another time for an interview. If necessary, interviewers attempted to reach each telephone number in the sample at least four times on various days.

Tabulation for this study was initiated and completed under the supervision of SIR's Data Development Department. Both a telephone interviewing supervisor and a data processing clerk edited all questionnaires prior to actual coding to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy. The data was electronically keyed, 100% key-verified, and processed on SIR's own in-house tabulation equipment which permits multilevel selection criteria.

Statistical tests were performed to determine where apparent differences are "statistically significant," given the number of people asked the question and the percentage who gave a particular response. Significant differences were discussed in the "Detailed Findings" section and highlighted in the Executive Summary of the report.

Charts show the significant data collected for this study and findings are shown according to total sample.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of the public survey was to obtain information on citizens' patterns of current use, preferences and desires with the goal of understanding any current and future deficiencies in parks and recreation programs and facilities. Other objectives of the study were to discover effectiveness of the City's Parks and Recreation system as a service to the community, to gauge customer satisfaction and to determine current level of use of City parks. The survey was conducted by telephone calls to 400 randomly selected respondents in each of the five voting precincts.

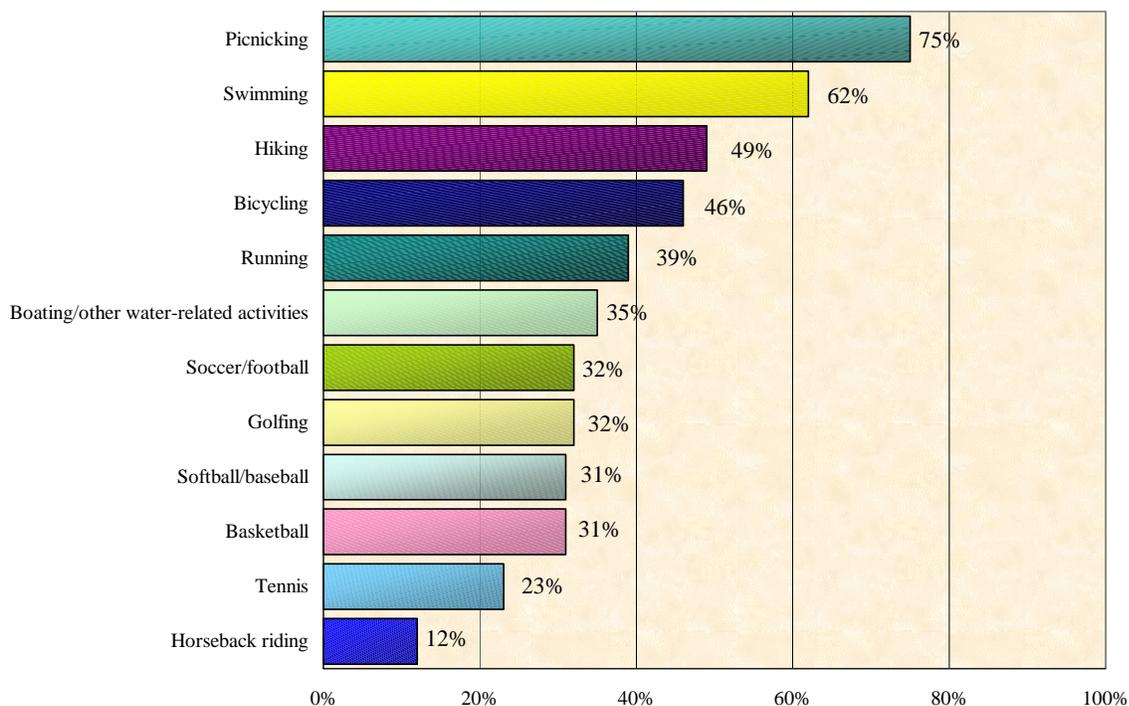
- Harrisonburg City residents significantly utilize available parks and recreation facilities
- Residents are able take advantage of the variety of programs and classes available through the City
- Residents generally use facilities within their precinct, but overall, park use is fairly equally distributed
- Residents are, by and large, satisfied with existing facilities and programs
- Improvements sought by the residents in facilities and programs are miscellaneous at best, but some general trends stick out
- Some residents are interested in new programs and facilities, but most surveyed seek nothing in particular at this time
- Residents surveyed represent a good cross section of Harrisonburg in terms of age, race, annual income, and household size.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Activity Participation

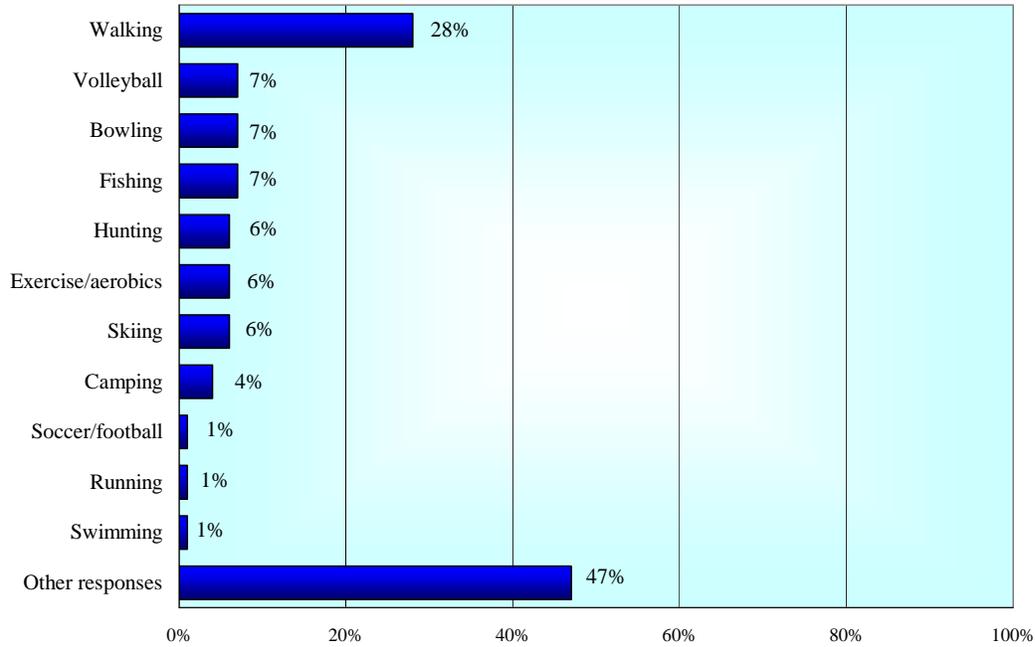
Harrisonburg residents participate in a variety of recreational activities, whether they are community and city organized, or done by the individual or family on their own. Question 1 of the survey asked “Do you or anyone in your household ever participate in this activity:”, and twelve choices were given (see Chart 1). Question 1a asked if there were other activities that were not mentioned in which someone from the household participated. The predominant answer was “No” at 67%, with “Yes” only at 33%. Question 1b allowed the respondent to tell what the other activities were. Because of the openness of the questions, “other responses”, (meaning many of the activities were only mentioned once or twice by respondents) counted for 47% of the answers. However, the top four activities mentioned include walking, volleyball, bowling, and fishing (see Chart 2).

Chart 1: Participation in Selected Recreational Activities



* Chart 1 is assembled from Question 1 and Table 1 of the survey information

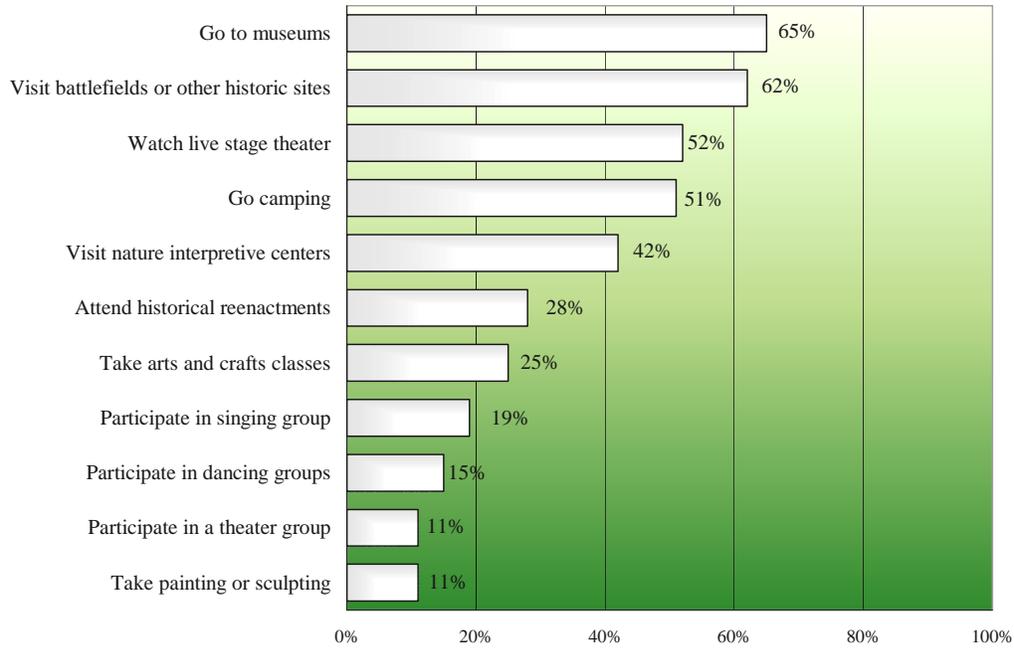
Chart 2: Participation in Volunteered Recreational Activities



* Chart 2 is assembled from Question 1B and Table 3 of the survey information

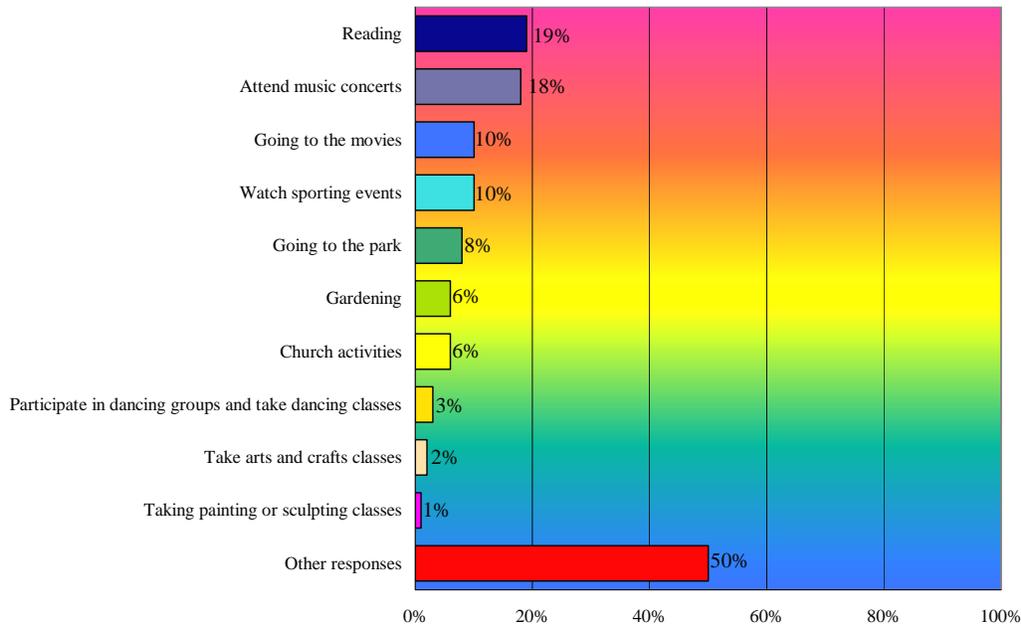
Harrisonburg residents also enjoy a wide variety of leisure activities, which include historical, educational, cultural and outdoor related events. Again, respondents were given a list of activities to choose from, then asked if there were other activities not mentioned (No at 72%, Yes at 28%), and given a chance to tell what other activities they participate in. Of the selected leisure activities mentioned by the survey taker, visiting museum and historical sites topped the list, followed by watching theatre, camping, and going to nature centers (see Chart 3). When asked what other activities they participated in, respondents gave reading as their top leisure activity, followed by attending music concerts, going to the movies, and watching sports events (see Chart 4). Other responses, where there wasn't a significant response for each, accounted for 50% of the responses.

Chart 3: Participation in Selected Leisure Activities



* Chart 3 is assembled from Question 2 and Table 4 of the survey information

Chart 4: Participation in Volunteered Leisure Activities

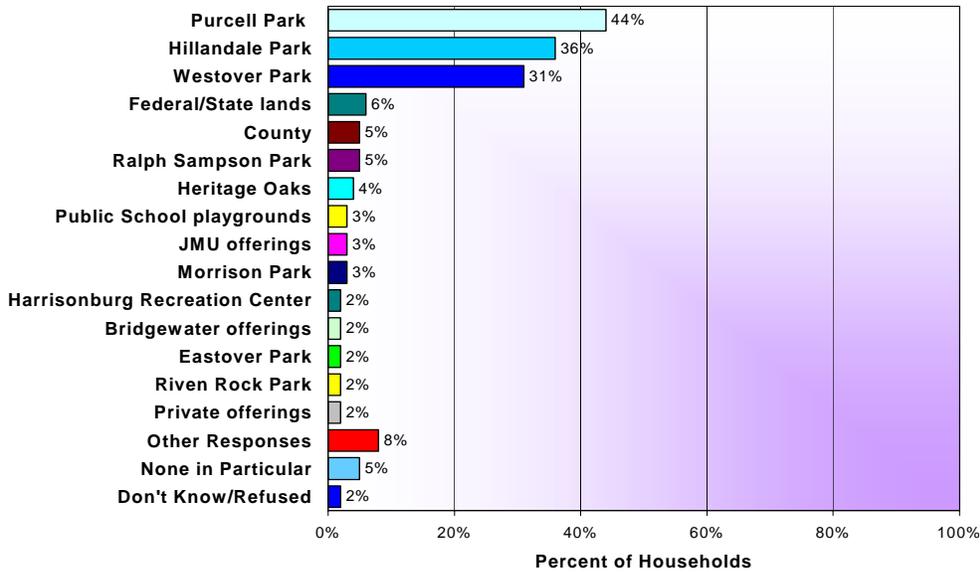


* Chart 4 is assembled from Question 2B and Table 6 of the survey information

Park and Facility Use

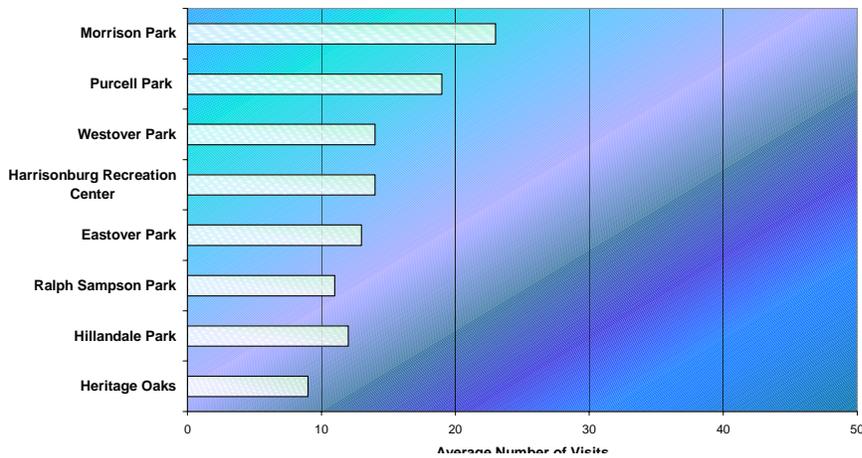
A large percentage, 85%, of Harrisonburg households have visited a City-owned park and/or recreation facility within a 12-month period. Per household, the park which most households visited was Purcell Park (see Chart 5). However, based on the number of total visits within a 12-month period, Morrison Park was the most frequently visited (see Chart 6).

Chart 5: Total Use of Parks and Recreation Facilities in City of Harrisonburg



* Chart 5 is assembled from Question 3A and Table 8 of the survey information

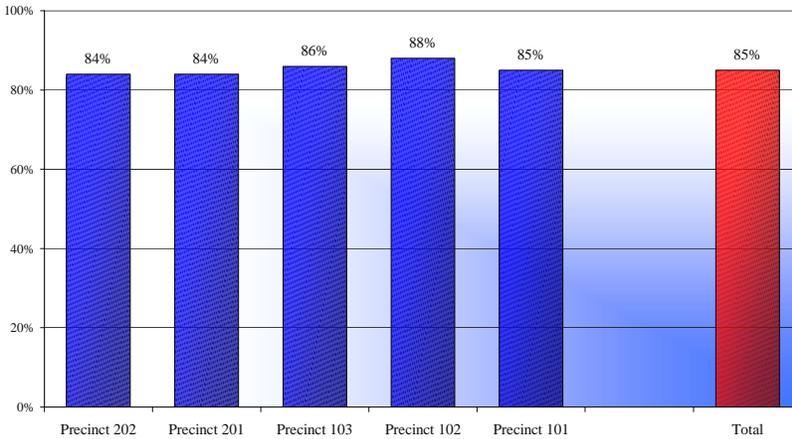
Chart 6: Average Number of Visits in Last 12 Months



* Chart 6 is assembled from Question 3A-3E and Table 9-30 of the survey information

When considering park and recreation facility use by precinct, there is a fairly equal amount of usage per the five precincts (see Chart 7). Precinct 101, poll location Simms School, is in the northeast corner of Harrisonburg; Precinct 102, Spotswood School, east central; Precinct 103, Stone Spring School, southeast; Precinct 201, Waterman School, northwest; and Precinct 202, Keister School, southwest.

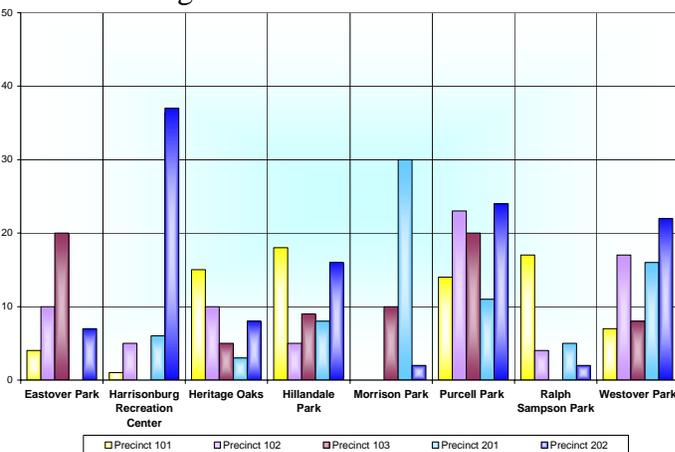
Chart 7: Usage of City-Owned Park and Recreation Facilities by Precinct.



* Chart 7 is assembled from Question 3 and Table 7 of the survey information

The average number of visits within a 12-month period by precinct varies (see Chart 8). For instance, the Harrisonburg Recreation Center was visited most often by residents from Precinct 202, while Morrison Park was most frequently visited by Precinct 201 residents. The general trend of use depends on the location of the facility; if a facility is located in Precinct 101, it is most likely that residents in the precinct will visit it the most often. However, some obvious exceptions include Heritage Oaks and Hillandale Park, which are used most often by Precinct 101 (northeast), even though the facilities are in Precinct 202 (southwest).

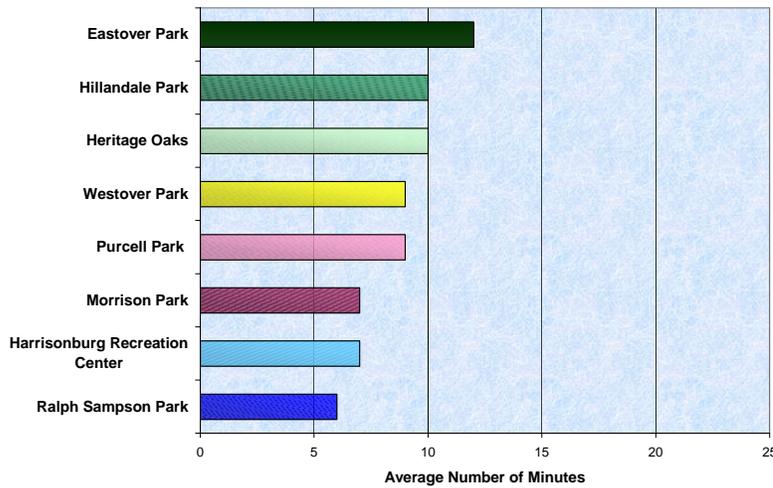
Chart 8: Average Number of Visits in a 12-Month Period by Precinct



* Chart 8 is assembled from Question 3A-3E and Table 9-30 of the survey information

While facility location does have an effect on its usage, as shown above, Harrisonburg residents affirm that the amount of time for travel to a facility is reasonable, and, by average, is no more than 15 minutes (see Chart 9).

Chart 9: Average Number of Minutes from Home to Park

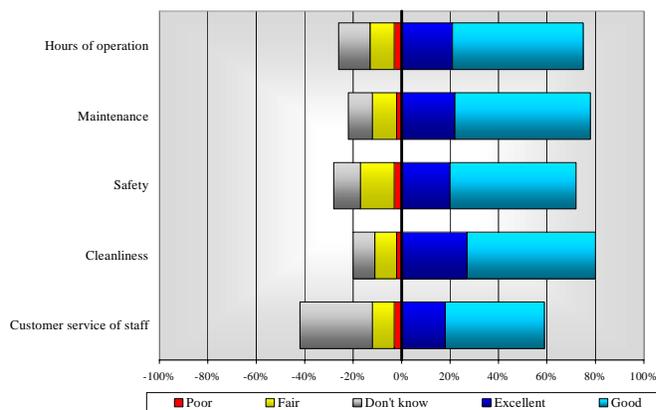


* Chart 9 is assembled from Question 3A-3E and Table 11-32 of the survey information

Recommendations, Rating, and Requests for Existing Facilities and Programs

Harrisonburg residents rate park facilities favorably, but still have some wishes regarding facility improvement, increased programs and facilities, and other concerns. Regarding existing parks, residents rate cleanliness the best, with customer service of staff getting, on average, the lowest rating of the five criteria (see Chart 10).

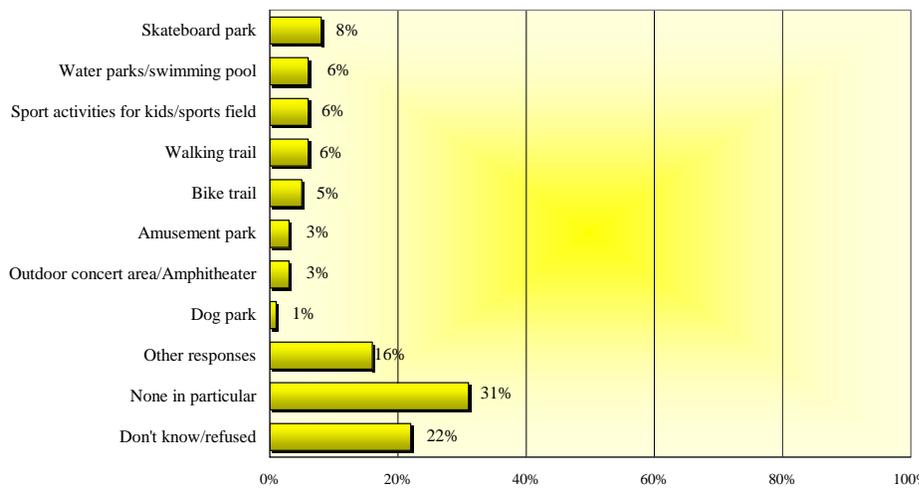
Chart 10: Overall Rating of Harrisonburg Parks on Select Criteria



* Chart 10 is assembled from Question 11 and Table 42-46 of the survey information

Respondents to the survey provided an interesting array of new parks and recreation facilities they would like to see created (see Chart 11). Because the question was open-ended, respondents’ answers were quite diverse, which accounts for the 16%, as shown on Chart 11. The “None in Particular” response, at 31%, can be construed as positive, in that the respondent felt there was no need to add to the current facilities available.

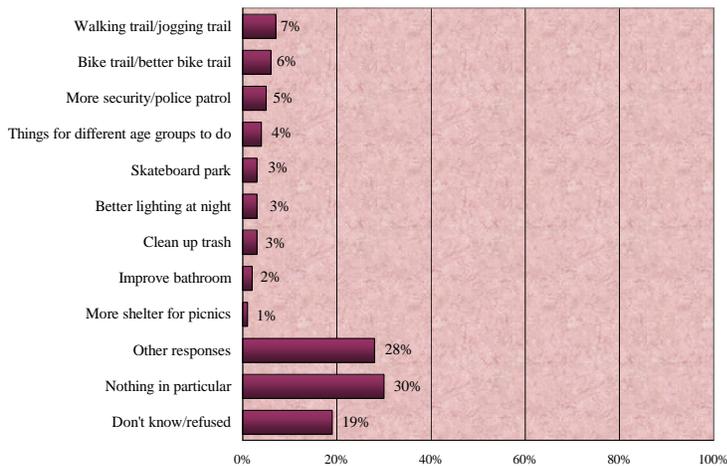
Chart 11: Recommendations for New Types of Park and Recreation Facilities



* Chart 11 is assembled from Question 6 and Table 34 of the survey information

When it comes to improving existing parks and facilities, Harrisonburg residents most often mention trails of one type or another (see Chart 12). Again, with the questioning, respondents were able to give any answer, which accounts for the 28% of “Other Responses”. The “Nothing in Particular” response at 30% shows that almost one-third of the respondents most likely don’t think improvements need to be made on existing parks and facilities.

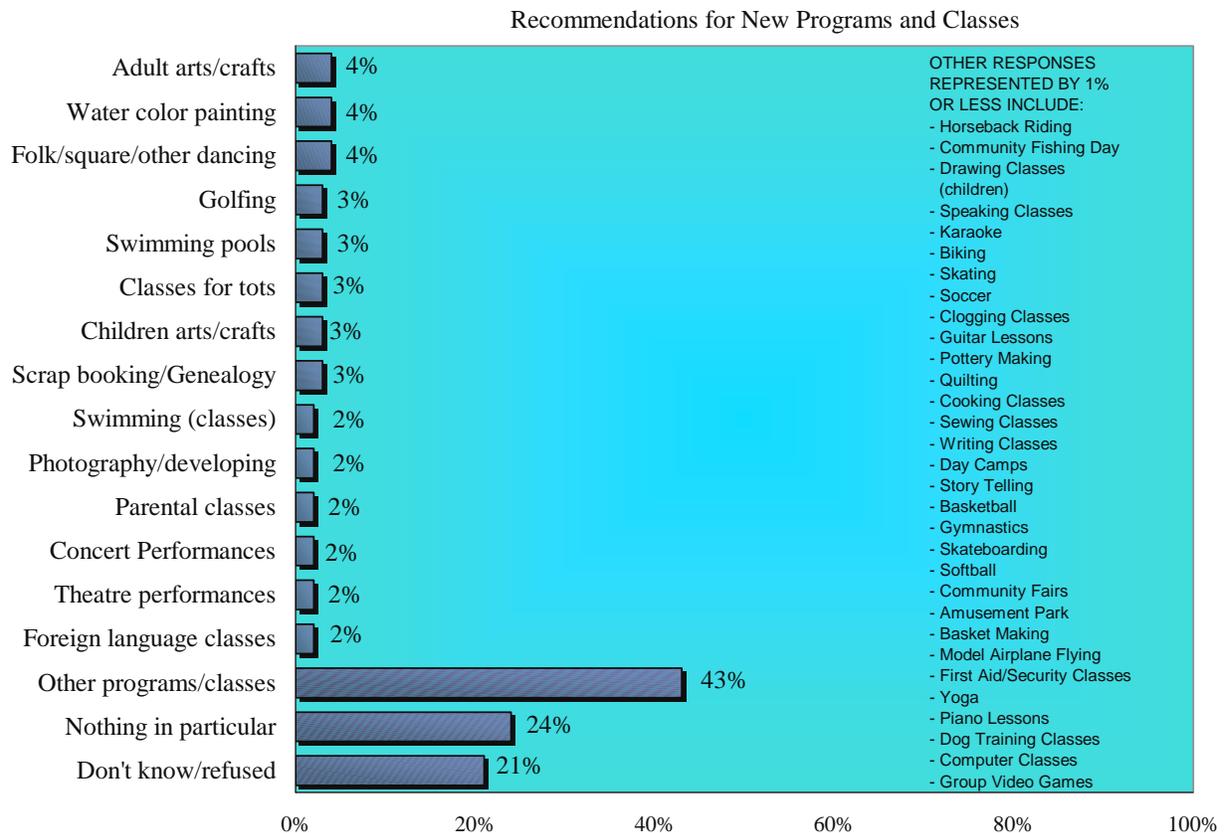
Chart 12: Suggested Improvements to Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities



* Chart 12 is assembled from Question 5 and Table 33 of the survey information

Harrisonburg City residents have diverse interests when it comes to educational and recreational opportunities provided by the City. Art related classes, outdoor activities, whole community participation, and awareness classes are some of the many categories residents are interested in for new programs and classes (see Chart 13).

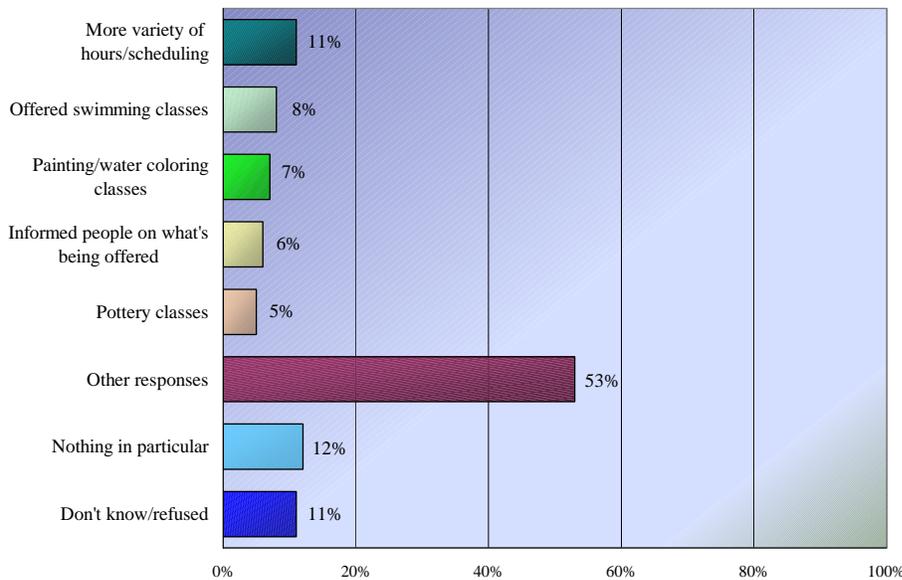
Chart 13: Recommendations for New Programs and Classes



* Chart 13 is assembled from Question 10 and Table 39 of the survey information

For existing programs and classes, residents again have a wide range of requested improvements or characteristics which would make these programs more appealing to them and their household. However, some reoccurring themes in their answers relate to timeliness and better notices to the community members about upcoming classes, programs, and events. Many residents also seem to desire more swimming and art related classes than what is currently being made available. As seen on Chart 14, “Other Responses” accounts for 53% of the responses.

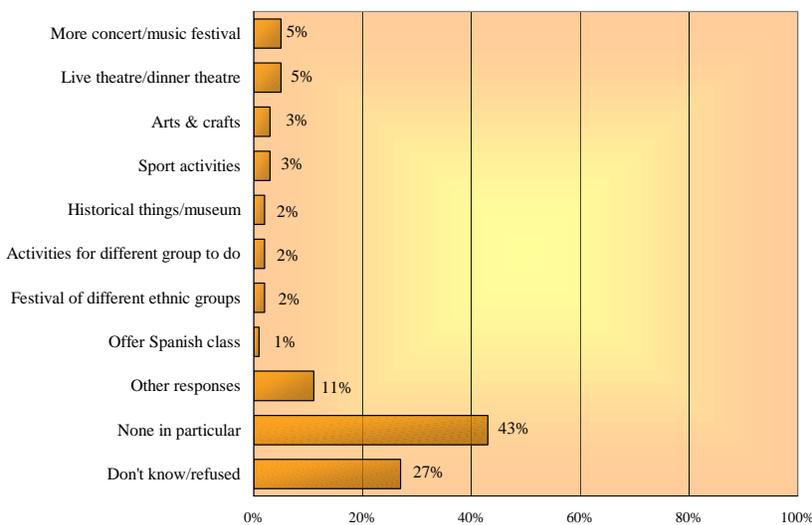
Chart 14: Suggested Improvements to Existing Programs and Classes



* Chart 14 is assembled from Question 9 and Table 38 of the survey information

When asked if there were any other recreation or leisure activities residents would like to see, 43% responded “None in Particular”. Those who gave a definitive answer primarily wished to see music and theatre related performances added to the City’s repertoire (see Chart 15).

Chart 15: Other Recreation or Leisure Activities Residents Would Like to See

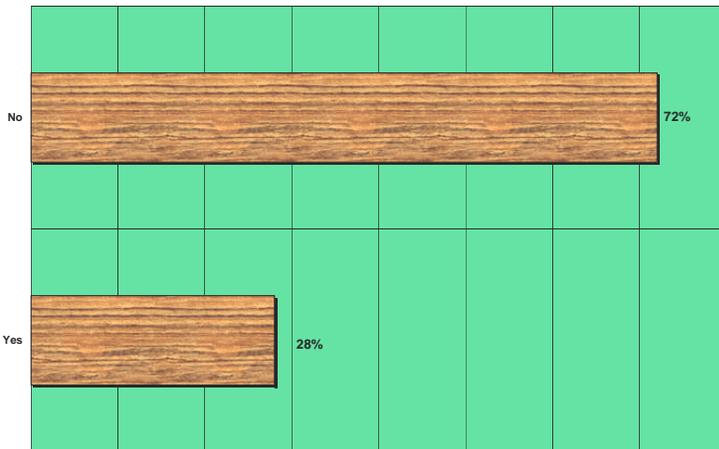


* Chart 15 is assembled from Question 11 and Table 40 of the survey information

Respondent Demographics

The majority of respondents to the questionnaire do not belong to a private recreational association. When the respondent was asked if he/she or any member of the household belonged to a private recreational association such as a swim or health club, tennis club, YMCA, or country club, most respondents answered “No.”(see Chart 16).

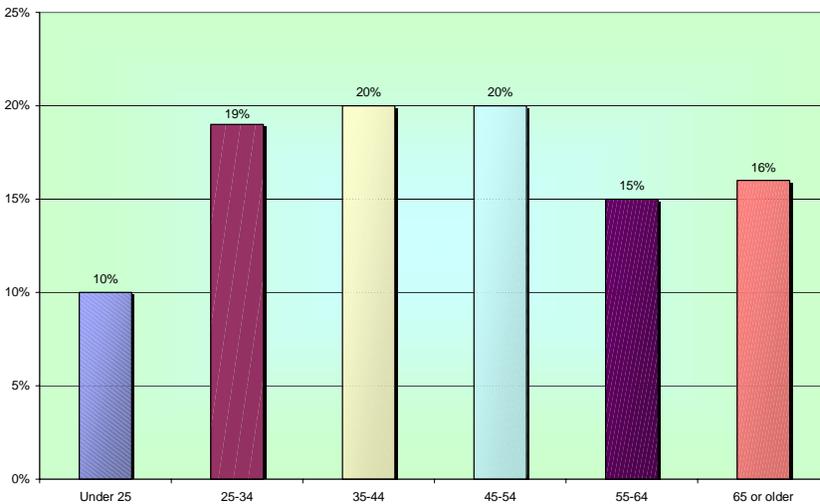
Chart 16: Private Recreational Association



* Chart 16 is assembled from Question A and Table 46 of the survey information

The survey respondents represent a fairly distributive amount of the Harrisonburg population based on age. Most respondents fall in the age range of 35-44 and 45-54, but other age categories are not far behind (see Chart 17).

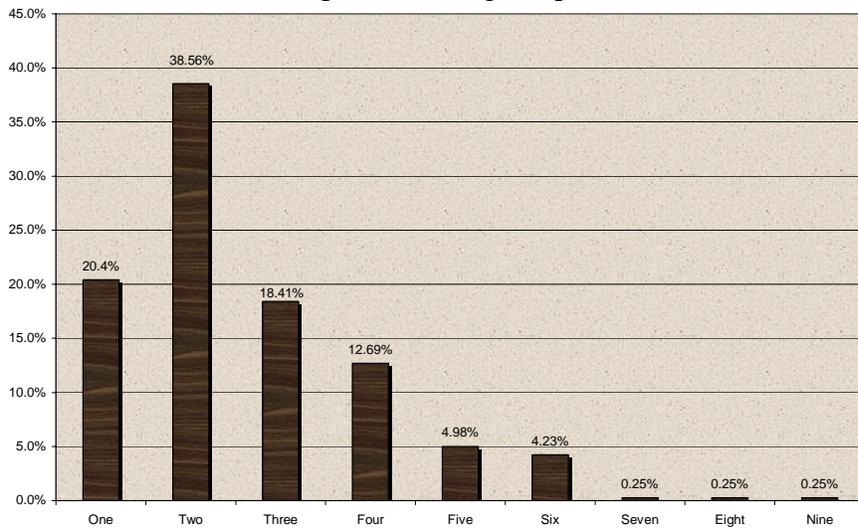
Chart 17: Age of Respondent



* Chart 17 is assembled from Question B and Table 47 of the survey information

Most respondents to the survey have two people in the household, including the respondent. Based on the question “Including yourself, how many people live in your household?”, surveyors found that most respondents belong to a smaller per person household than larger. Not many respondents belong to a household containing seven, eight, or nine people, with only one respondent for each (see Chart 18).

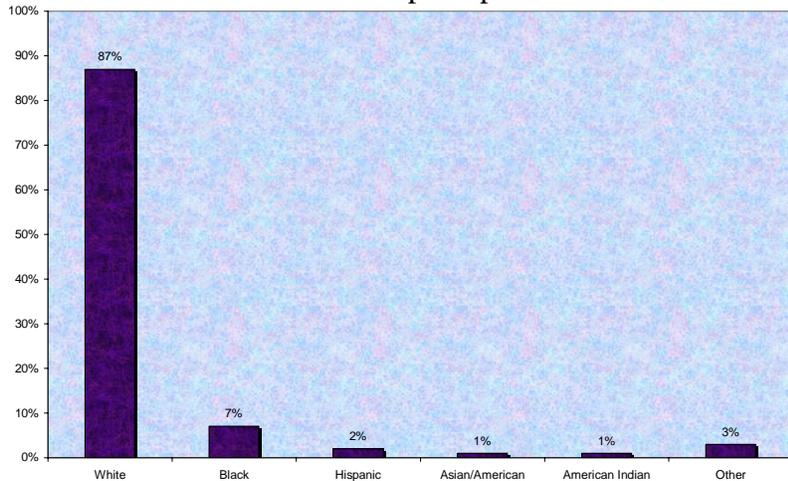
Chart 18: Number of People, Including Respondent, Within Household



* Chart 18 is assembled from Question D and Table 49 of the survey information

Based on ethnicity, many of the respondents identify themselves as white. Other races/ethnic groups mentioned by the surveyors include Black, Hispanic, Asian American, and American Indian. If a respondent did not associate with those listed by the surveyor, they were placed in the “Some other race or ethnic group” category, representing 3% (see Chart 19).

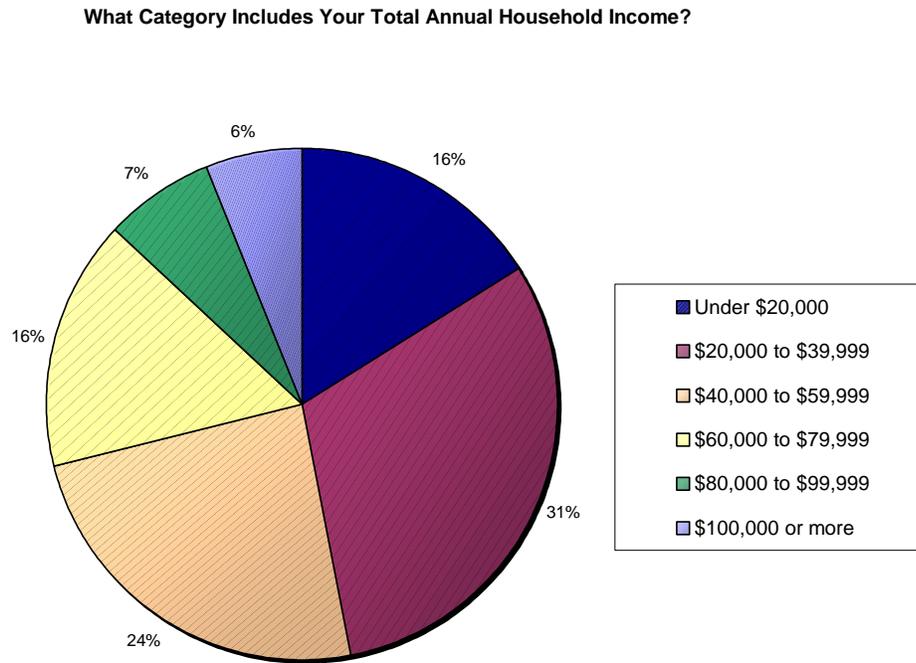
Chart 19: Racial or Ethnic Group Respondent Identifies With



* Chart 19 is assembled from Question H and Table 56 of the survey information

Respondents were asked which of the listed categories includes the total annual household income. Most respondents fell in the \$20,000-\$39,999 annual household income range (see Chart 20).

Chart 20: Annual Household Income of Respondents



* Chart 20 is assembled from Question I and Table 57 of the survey information

Appendix C

Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Public Meeting Agenda
Meeting Agenda for 9/26/2002
Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm Location:

Help decide the future of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Facilities !!!

Find out what the community thinks!!!

Help design two new parks!!!

MEETING AGENDA

- Introduction of project goals and objectives Stan 5
- Review of planning process Bill 5
- Review of existing Parks and Recreation facilities and plans Lee 5
- Introduce Smithland Road and Bridgewater College Properties Bill 5
- Review of existing trends and attendance data Lee 5
- Review of current standards Bill 5
- Review the results of preliminary public surveys Stan10
- Program Ideas for Smithland Road and Bridgewater college Bill 15
- Open Questions and Answers and comments session Team 15
- Self administered questionnaires

**Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Public Meeting Agenda**

Meeting Agenda for 11/06/2002

Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Location: Community Activities Center

Help decide the future of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Facilities !!!

Find out what the community thinks!!!

Help design two new parks!!!

MEETING AGENDA

- Introduction of project Lee 2
- Introduction of project goals and objectives Stan 1
- Review of planning process Stan 3
- Review of existing Parks and Recreation facilities and plans Lee 3
- Introduce Smithland Road and Bridgewater College Properties Bill 2
- Review of existing trends and user attendance data Bill 5
- Review the results of the final public surveys Bill 5
- Review results of previous meetings and handout surveys Bill 2
- Review of current standards Bill 2
- Review tentative conclusions of the needs assessment Bill 5
- Design Review and Program Ideas for Smithland Road and Bridgewater college properties Bill 15
- Open Questions and Answers and comments session Team 15
- Self administered questionnaires

Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Scoping and Planning Meeting Agenda
Meeting Agenda for 7/17/2002
9:30 am at City Parks and Recreation Offices

The Planning Team will meet with staff in order to discuss the following:

- Clarification of roles with the Planning Team and expectations.
- Identify project priorities and goals.
- Review Planning Process.
- Review Work Plan and Schedule (critical dates for submittals, meetings, etc.).
- Define the Working Group, i.e. Key individuals involved in planning process.
- Identify key stakeholder (direct and indirect).
- Identify and review the product submittal, review and approval process.
- Identify what information is needed and in what format, i.e. mapping, land use data, park data, programs data, facilities data, departmental data.
- Review survey forms content, discuss survey method.
- Review typical analysis format and what information is appropriate to illustrate here.
- Review procedure for obtaining information from department heads.
- Exchange information such as existing plans, existing park facility information, mapping, etc.
- Other information staff wants to discuss.

LPDA

July 22, 2002

MEETING REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 9:30 AM, July 17, 2002

Meeting Location: City Parks Department, Harrisonburg Virginia

Meeting Agenda: Review schedule, deliverables, process, stakeholders and available info.

Attendees: Mr. Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. David Wiggington, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA
Mr. Stan Tatum, President, LPDA

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A meeting was held with City Parks and Recreation staff to discuss schedule, process and roles. An agenda was presented. The following items were specifically discussed and acted on:

The roles of the planning team were discussed and no changes or clarifications were made.

The project priorities and main goals were reviewed once more, it was confirmed that the major priority was to identify where there are deficiencies in the park and recreation system, what needs to be provided to address the “need”, where needs should be physically accommodated, and how this will be accomplished.

The planning process was reviewed generally. The consultant explained that three different data sets would be looked at and compared in the master plan. These were: state and national standards, community survey data and general community input.

The work plan and schedule were discussed generally. It was discussed that most of the data gathering, inventory and review of applicable standards would happen before September. The months September through November would be reserved for the bulk of the public meetings and planning. A detailed schedule will be submitted to the City during the first week of August to outline what specific tasks need to happen and critical dates.

The working group was discussed. It was determined that the working group would consist of Lee Foerster, the City Parks and Recreation Director, David Wiggington, the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Charlie Chenault, the Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman and Bill Mechnick, Principal of Land Planning and Design Associates. Stan Tatum was identified as a back up resource at LPDA.

LPDA

Page 2

Stakeholders were discussed. Several stakeholder groups were mentioned. These included direct and indirect stakeholders. The direct stakeholders were identified as groups and departments directly being involved with the day to day planning and operation of the parks and recreation system. Direct stakeholders included:

- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Athletics
- Aquatics
- The Parks Division
- The Parks Superintendent
- The Golf Superintendent
- The Golf Professional

Indirect stakeholders included:

- James Madison University Recreation Department
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Local Trail Advocacy Groups
- North East Neighborhood Association
- Purcell Park Neighborhood Association
- North West Neighborhood Association
- Various Rockingham County Neighborhoods
- The Golf Association
- The Friends of Hillendale Park
- Little League Associations
- Soccer Association
- Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Valley Area Swim Team (VAST)
- Valley Programs for Aging Services
- Harrisonburg Tennis Patrons
- Each School in the School system
- City Department Heads
- Latin American Groups
- Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Club

It was recommended that the direct stakeholders will be contacted directly and will be given a specific questionnaire designed to gather information about their specific program and what they feel their needs are. It was recommended that the indirect stakeholders be contacted individually by letter where they will be informed of the objectives and process involved in the planning and how they might participate.

The group discussed what information was available for the planning effort. Lee mentioned that fairly accurate information could be obtained from department heads about the current use of the facilities. He also mentioned a set of demographic data that was collected from the school systems. The demographic data will present more accurate numbers than the census data in terms of ethnic groups and race percentages within the City. Other information that should be available was discussed, including:

LPDA

Page 3

planimetric mapping, neighborhood boundaries, voting precinct boundaries, park location and boundary mapping, land use and zoning information, City owned parcel information, park use data and programs use data. The City requested that LPDA provide a list of information needed to complete the study. This list will be submitted the first week of August.

The community survey forms were reviewed, staff indicated that the forms structure generally made sense. They indicated a few minor revisions would need to be made. David Wiggington indicated that he needed to finalize his review of the forms.

The procedure for obtaining information from department heads was discussed. It was decided that a general information survey form will be given to these individuals. The survey form will ask each department head for both qualitative and quantitative information about facilities, programs, usership, adequacy of facilities, etc. LPDA will prepare this form and forward it to City staff for review. The form will need to be complete by August 7th.

Some information was reviewed and exchanged. Lee provided mapping for the Smithland Road property and trail easement plans for the Bridgewater College property. General concepts, constraints, and opportunities were reviewed for each property.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA

Cc: All attendees

This report is believed to be a true and accurate account of the meeting discussion. Any and all additions, revisions or corrections to this report should be brought to the attention of LPDA and submitted in writing or by email within 10 days of receipt. Upon receiving comments LPDA will issue a revised meeting report.

LPDA

October 17, 2002

MEETING REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 7:00 PM, September 26, 2002

Meeting Location: Community Activities Center, Harrisonburg Virginia

Meeting Agenda: Review schedule, process, existing facilities, review Smithland rd. and Bridgewater College properties; review existing trends, standards and public survey results.

Attendees: Mr. Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. David Wiggington, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA
Mr. Stan Tatum, President, LPDA
The General Public

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A meeting was held with The general public and City Parks and Recreation staff to discuss the master planning objectives, process, preliminary results of data gathering and to gain input from the attendees. About 27 people attended the meeting. Several folks showed up from the neighborhoods adjacent to the Bridgewater College property. The following items were specifically discussed during and after the presentation:

General Comments

- The Latin/Spanish Community was mentioned on several occasions. They do have an active role in the parks, soccer and other things, and there is also an International Festival that Harrisonburg holds. However, there was no Spanish or Latin representative at the public meeting.
- There is only one Recreation Center and pool facility and there has been some request from the Northeast section of the City for another Rec. Center and pool, given the other existing facility is near capacity. The existing recreation center is perceived as being “very” active.
- Several comments were given that the Smithland Road property seemed to be a remote location for a Community Recreation Center.
- A comment was made that there is a perceived shortage in the provision of soccer facilities for the adult population and the Latino community.

- A comment was made that the exercise room in the existing facility needs to be improved and expanded and some of that apparently is under way according to Lee Foerster.
- A comment was made that there also needs to be some forest-outdoor learning/training area facility so that people have a better appreciation for their outside natural resources and how they can help preserve and protect them.
- A comment was made that there is a need for better tennis facilities, although the survey seemed to contradict that, but I think this points up an important factor that the telephone survey only makes contact with a certain number of people, and while it is statistically reliable, it misses a lot, so the distribution of other surveys and contacts with other groups is advantageous and helpful.
- There was some concern expressed about safety and crime prevention at Hillandale Park. One of the parks was mentioned as a good example of visibility given that the trees were limbed up and it had a more open feel about it.
- Some discussion was made regarding disc or Frisbee golf facility.
- Also, expression of desire for multi-use trails, biking, jogging, etc., and more trails.
- Another comment for a large indoor facility, which would accommodate indoor soccer, tennis, basketball, track, etc.
- A comment was made that an Ice skating facility is needed. Comments were made about the perceived demand for ice skating facilities and the fact that many folks have to drive to Charlottesville to use one and that a local rink may keep people off local ponds in the winter.
- A comment was made about an international festival, mentioned earlier, that draws 10-15 thousand people and it seems that this has the potential as a major cultural recreational event as part of this Comprehensive Master Plan.
- The next comment was made about paved trails, and bike trails, and also the fact that there are currently no marked bike trails in the City.
- A question was raised regarding a band show and where a good place would be for that. Nobody seems to have a good idea where that might be.
- Also a comment was made that there is a desire for more pocket parks particularly neighborhood tot-lots and things of that sort.

Smithland Road Program Comments

- A comment was made that nature trails and environmental interpretation needs to be provided.
- A comment was made that a pavilion and restrooms should be provided.
- Concessions were requested.
- Another comment made was that there should be restrooms, shelters, and probably telephones at Smithland Road, since it is somewhat isolated currently. Safety kits and call boxes were requested because of the remote location.
- Frisbee golf was requested.
- A question was raised of would there be any public transportation to get people to and from Smithland Road Park. That might be something to think about relative to some of the other facilities. Also, apparently there are no designated bike lanes in the City of Harrisonburg currently, and that might be something that could crop up within this study that identifying some bike lanes around the City might facilitate access to some of the parks.

Bridgewater College Property Program Comments

- Several comments were made that passive recreation is the most appropriate use for the property given its adjacency to neighborhoods.
- Several comments were made that lighting should be fairly low key and should be used for security purposes and should not shine on neighbors properties.
- Several people mentioned that when the Parks and Recreation Department acquired the land they used the word “passive” to describe future uses of the park.
- Several people requested walking trails and mentioned that more trails need to be provided in general for local folks who do not want to or can not drive to regional hiking trails.
- Several people commented that the deer population in Harrisonburg and on this property is out of control.
- Several people requested a Band shell or Amphitheater but thought this would not be appropriate for the property and that Hillandale Park may be a better location.
- A comment was made that an arboretum would be a good use for the property.
- A comment was made that a buffer should be maintained between property owners and the park.
- Bridgewater property generally seemed to be looked at as more passive areas with trails. Considerable comment was made about the deer population and habitat at Bridgewater property and in the area – an overabundance of deer!

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

This report is believed to be a true and accurate account of the meeting discussion. Any and all additions, revisions or corrections to this report should be brought to the attention of LPDA and submitted in writing or by email within 10 days of receipt. Upon receiving comments LPDA will issue a revised meeting report.

LPDA

November 12, 2002

MEETING REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 7:00 PM, November 6, 2002

Meeting Location: Community Activities Center, Harrisonburg Virginia

Meeting Agenda: Review schedule, process, existing facilities, review Smithland rd. and Bridgewater College plans; review existing trends, standards and public survey results, park types, distribution, discuss preliminary recommendations.

Attendees: Mr. Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. David Wiggington, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA
Mr. Stan Tatum, President, LPDA
The General Public

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A meeting was held with The general public and City Parks and Recreation staff to discuss the master planning objectives, process, preliminary results of data gathering and to gain input from the attendees. About 25 people attended the meeting. Several folks showed up from the neighborhoods adjacent to the Bridgewater College property. The following items were specifically discussed during and after the presentation:

General Comments

- A representative of that community mentioned the Latin/Spanish Community. Discussion was held about certain parks that receive higher use by the Latin American community for gatherings, picnics and semi-organized athletics (soccer). There was a perception by this representative that the neighborhoods around these parks submitted complaints and did not like so many folks there at one time and parking on the street. Provision of better parking facilities and more neighborhood parks with athletic fields, picnic facilities and proper trash receptacles etc. was discussed.
- Several requests were made for a Disc Golf Course in Hillandale Park or another park. A suggestion was that the disc golf course was a good low impact method of utilizing underutilized portions of the parks and that this would help reduce undesired activities in these areas.
- A former Parks and Recreation Director for the City, Cecil F. Gilkerson, spoke to the public about the current need to acquire more parkland. He felt that this was very important and noted that when

he was director and at other periods the City was purchasing land with the intention of using that land for parks or other uses.

- A comment was made that there is a perceived shortage in the provision of soccer facilities for the adult population and the Latino community.
- There was some concern expressed about safety and crime prevention at Hillandale Park. One of the parks was mentioned as a good example of visibility given that the trees were limbed up and it had a more open feel about it.
- Also, expression of desire for multi-use trails, biking, jogging, etc., and more trails.

Smithland Road Plan Comments

- Comments were made about sink holes and safety issues.
- Questions were raised about pedestrian access to other parts of the park separated by the railroad.

Bridgewater College Property Plan Comments

- Several people commented that the deer population in Harrisonburg and on this property is out of control.
- Cecil mentioned that some of the uses shown may want to be spread out a little and that the development of the park might not want to be as intense as shown.
- Questions were raised about parking an access to the park.
- Questions were raised about the buffer and if it was enough.
- Bridgewater property generally seemed to be looked at as more passive areas with trails. Comment was made about the deer population and habitat at Bridgewater property and in the area – an overabundance of deer!

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

November 18, 2002

MEETING REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 7:00 PM, November 18, 2002

Meeting Location: Harrisonburg Virginia

Meeting Agenda: Review schedule, process, existing facilities, review Smithland rd. and Bridgewater College properties; review existing trends, standards and public survey results.

Attendees: Mr. Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. David Wiggington, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Stan Tatum, President, LPDA
Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A presentation was given to the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the master planning objectives, process, and preliminary results of data gathering and to gain input. The following items were specifically discussed during and after the presentation:

General Comments

One question was raised about the survey question procedure, particularly when the contacts were asked which parks they went to and utilized. The question was "Were the contacts prompted with any park names?" LPDA responded that typically the questionnaire would not try to influence the response in any way and that the contact individual would be expected to be able to identify any parks if they had visited them. LPDA checked with SIR and confirmed that this indeed was how the questionnaire was utilized and that in no case do they phrase a question or lead the response.

Other comments:

Charles Schnult, the Chairman, believes that the comment made at the previous presentation on the 6th of the month at the second public meeting, by Mr. Gilkerson, former director of the department, concerning additional land acquisition is something they must pay strong attention to and believes that they will need to acquire additional land to provide more facilities and activities.

Mr. Hugh Lance, another member of the committee, wondered if it would be a good idea or not, to acquire additional property around the Smithland Road parcel as apposed to trying to acquire other properties in other locations that may not be as well served.

Roger Jones asked that more neighborhood pocket parks be developed.

Generally, questions were minimal and that they seemed clear on the course of the effort and where things stand currently. We are happy with the results to date.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mechnick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

This report is believed to be a true and accurate account of the meeting discussion. Any and all additions, revisions or corrections to this report should be brought to the attention of LPDA and submitted in writing or by email within 10 days of receipt. Upon receiving comments LPDA will issue a revised meeting report.

LPDA

March 14, 2002

MEETING REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 7:00 PM, March 12, 2003

Meeting Location: Community Activities Center, Harrisonburg Virginia

Meeting Agenda: Review schedule, process, existing facilities, review Smithland rd. and Bridgewater College plans; review existing trends, standards and public survey results, park types, distribution, discuss draft recommendations and priorities.

Attendees: Mr. Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. David Wiggington, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA
Mr. Stan Tatum, President, LPDA
The General Public

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A meeting was held with The general public and City Parks and Recreation staff to discuss the master planning objectives, process, final results of data gathering, draft recommendations and to gain input from the public regarding the conclusions and priorities. About 25 people attended the meeting. Five Park and Recreation Commission members attended the meeting. About nine community members were present from the last public meeting. The following items were specifically discussed during and after the presentation:

General Comments

- A suggestion was that the disc golf course was a good low impact method of utilizing underutilized portions of the parks and that this would help reduce undesired activities in these areas.
- A question was asked if the growth of the Latin American community was figured into the needs estimate. LPDA explained that the population was considered but that growth of that population was not considered.
- A comment was made that there is a perceived shortage in the provision of soccer facilities for the adult population and the Latino community.
- A question was asked if the school facilities were being counted as part of the existing inventory. LPDA and the City explained that they are not because typically they do not get much use by the

LPDA

Page 2

general public. Lee Forester mentioned that there is some use but it is limited and that the school programs use city facilities for swimming and other activities. It was mentioned that the Superintendent of Schools expects heavy programming and use of the facilities for school programs.

- A question was raised if the elderly population was considered in terms of the types of facilities offered. LPDA explained that this population was considered to some degree but no special provisions were being made at this time. LPDA mentioned that they could evaluate what services public sectors private and public sectors were providing. A community member mentioned that a study had been prepared of recreational needs of the elderly by the healthy community council.
- Comments were made about the water requirements for new ball fields. Several options were discussed that could reduce water usage including: drought tolerant grass species, low volume irrigation, soil additives, reclaimed water, ponds etc.
- Generally no comments were made about the Smithland Rd. and Bridgewater college master plans. Clarification was requested to point out certain park features.
- Little comment was made about the conclusions of the study or priorities. Generally folks seemed to agree with the priorities listed in the presentation.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

LPDA

March 14, 2002

MEETING REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 9:00 PM, March 12, 2003

Meeting Location: Community Activities Center, Harrisonburg Virginia

Meeting Agenda: Comments on results of master plan

Attendees: Mr. Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. David Wiggington, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA
Mr. Stan Tatum, President, LPDA
Park commission members: Charles R. Chenault, Rory DePaolis, Lynn Driver, Roger A. Jones, Sam Lorenzo, Knight Robert, E. Toohey, Tim Lacey, Hugh J. Lance (not all commission members were present)

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A meeting was held with The Parks Commission City Parks and Recreation staff to discuss the master planning objectives, process, and final results of data gathering, draft recommendations and to gain input from the public regarding the conclusions and priorities. The following items were specifically discussed during and after the presentation:

General Comments

- A Commission member requested that the study look at population build out figures more closely to be sure we are not overestimating growth and thus need.
- A Commission member requested the use of school facilities should be examined. It was explained that this was looked at and the master plan will recommend more shared use where appropriate. LPDA is looking at programming of facilities to determine if there are any reasonable gaps for use by the general public.

LPDA

Page 2

- Camping was mentioned. It was explained that camping is provided in many other places in the region and that generally the types of parkland Harrisonburg will have do not have enough room for a lot of camping activity.
- Frisbee golf was mentioned as a good idea that can help reduce undesirable activities.
- The County use of City facilities was discussed. A commission member raised the point that the City's policy was to allow for County use. Another commission member and others raised the point that if the county use is significant and the City residents are paying the bill then county residents are going to have to pay there fair share of costs.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

Appendix D

LPDA

January 24, 2002

STAKEHOLDER PHONE INTERVIEW REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 7:00 PM, January 24, 2002

Interview Location: NA

Interview Agenda: Discuss the Athletic departments needs and concerns related to the Recreation and Parks plan.

Participants:

Mr. Larry Heatwole, Athletics Director
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A phone interview was held with Mr. Heatwole to discuss the Athletic departments role in the parks and recreation program and their needs as an individual department. The following items were discussed:

General Comments

- Larry stated that the Athletic department served as a “facilitator” for the various leagues and programs using athletic fields and hard courts. The department provides storage for equipment but is not responsible for providing specific equipment, only the management of facilities.
- Larry mentioned that the biggest challenge facing his department is a shortage of facilities of almost every type.
- The dual season for soccer has put much pressure on existing fields and has also created conflicts with the spring softball season in some cases.
- There is a very high demand for use of soccer fields. Currently many fields are over scheduled and repair and maintenance periods have been reduced.
- Larry felt that separate practice and game fields are needed. Practice fields should be located in the various neighborhoods and should be easy to get to. Game fields could be located at a dedicated area, possibly the Smithland Road property.
- Neighborhood practice fields would need to be designed sensitively to the neighborhood and should not be used in the evenings etc. unless they are buffered appropriately.
- Softball is currently offered at Simms School and Spotswood Elementary, Ramblewood Fields Park and Purcell Park. These fields receive high use and soccer teams often want to use the outfields for practice.
- The fields at Ramblewood have been a constant maintenance issue due to settling of the landfill cells.

- Ball fields at various schools are not used that much for community leagues and cater more to youth, school related games and practices. Some increase in youth program use outside of school seasons may be feasible. Currently softball fields are used for community games and practice.
- There seems to be a shortage of hard courts. The only dedicated indoor basketball courts are at the Community Center and the Armory. The use of the Armory Courts is questionable to continue. The Community Center court is often closed due to programs.
- Courts are available at the various schools but are typically used for school related activities and are not typically scheduled for community activities and games.
- There is a lack of gym space for adults. Separate adult facilities are needed.
- Larry suggested a general program of improvements that included:

- 3-4 additional indoor Hard courts possibly in an auxiliary gym
- 4-5 additional youth baseball and softball fields
- 1-2 additional softball practice fields
- 1-2 additional football fields
- 4 additional adult soccer fields

- Larry mentioned that there was good cooperation between the different leagues and that people were making the best of what they have.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

This report is believed to be a true and accurate account of the meeting discussion. Any and all additions, revisions or corrections to this report should be brought to the attention of LPDA and submitted in writing or by email within 10 days of receipt. Upon receiving comments LPDA will issue a revised meeting report.

LPDA

October 25, 2002

STAKEHOLDER PHONE INTERVIEW REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 7:00 PM, October 25, 2002

Interview Location: NA

Interview Agenda: Discuss JMU interests in City Parks & Recreation plans. Discuss dual use of JMU and City Facilities, Discuss JMU needs and plans.

Participants:

Mr. Eric Nichols, Director of Recreation, James Madison University
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A phone interview was held with Mr. Nichols to discuss the Universities interests in the preparation of the City's Recreation and Parks Comprehensive plan. Discussions were held regarding current plans, shared use and University and City perceptions and relationships:

General Comments

- Eric mentioned that the JMU student population is growing. The student population is expected to reach 16,000 by 2005.
- Students generally feel that they are residents of the City and would expect to benefit from City services and facilities.
- Shared use of JMU and City facilities is fairly limited. Purcell Park is used frequently by JMU students.
- The Student Recreation Center is not open to use by City Residents.
- The University is sensitive to mixing public use with Student facilities and Housing Areas for safety reasons.
- Use of JMU facilities is low in the summer months and some City scheduled activities occur but these are fairly limited. The peak of the demand in the City and JMU is during the fall and spring seasons.
- Eric expressed that the University is experiencing high demand for athletic fields and low supply. Currently the University retains only 30% of the athletic fields they had in 1981. This is due to construction of new buildings and facilities on campus that has greatly reduced the network of open spaces on campus.
- Scheduling of existing athletic fields for various varsity leagues and clubs is very tight. A moratorium has been instated for any new clubs using fields.

LPDA

Page 2

- Currently 36 soccer teams are on a waiting list to use the Universities facilities.
- Eric mentioned that the University would like to use some City facilities if appropriate but they were not counting on that and were making other plans.
- JMU is considering the construction of a 50 acre park somewhere near campus. The park would need to be located conveniently to students and the transit system. They are currently looking for properties. The park would include 8 athletic fields, including soccer, softball, and multiuse fields. The park would also include passive recreation, space for ultimate Frisbee etc. and a team building challenge course. Eric Thought the University would share these facilities to the degree it was appropriate.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

This report is believed to be a true and accurate account of the meeting discussion. Any and all additions, revisions or corrections to this report should be brought to the attention of LPDA and submitted in writing or by email within 10 days of receipt. Upon receiving comments LPDA will issue a revised meeting report.

LPDA

January 30, 2003

STAKEHOLDER PHONE INTERVIEW REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 2:30 PM, January 30, 2003, 2nd interview February 4, 10:00 am

Interview Location: NA

Interview Agenda: Discuss the City public school systems needs and concerns related to the Recreation and Parks plan.

Participants:

Dr. Don Ford, Superintendent, Harrisonburg City Schools
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A phone interview was held with Dr. Ford to discuss what concerns and needs the school system had in relation to the parks and recreation comprehensive plan. General opportunities and ideas were discussed also. A separate phone interview was scheduled to cover school programs and plans in more detail. The following items were discussed:

General Comments

- LPDA reviewed what was understood at this point. It was discussed that school facility use was fairly limited by the public and was generally limited to use of athletic fields for youth related leagues and activities.
- LPDA asked what shared use opportunities existed between City Parks and City Schools facilities. Dr. Ford stated that he was not against the use of school recreation facilities by the community. He stated that schools are funded with City tax dollars and City residents should be able to use them as long as the priority of education and safety is addressed first. He mentioned that the facilities are in high demand and that they have not been available for other activities very often.
- Dr. Ford mentioned the new High School would include several new facilities including, softball, baseball, soccer, football and practice fields, a gymnasium, auxiliary gym and a multipurpose court.
- Dr. Ford mentioned that a new elementary school is planned for 2005; this school will include some recreational facilities also. These will include a multiuse field, track and soccer/football field. This new facility will be similar to the Stone Spring Elementary School.
- Dr. Ford felt that the addition of these facilities might make Harrisonburg High School's facilities more available to the public. (Currently this includes a football field and running track with stadium style seating, a practice field, baseball field with grandstand and softball field.

LPDA

- Dr. Ford explained that the School Board is planning for a build out of schools for a student population of approximately 6000 by 2015. This build out projection uses student growth population figures based on recent demographics. An average growth percentage of 2.6 % is being used.
- Dr. Ford explained that the addition of the new schools would require a conversion of the other schools. The current High School may become a middle school. The Middle School may be converted to an elementary school for grades 5-6 or 4-6 depending on what grades the new elementary school handles.
- Dr. Ford explained that the ball fields at the current High School would probably continue to receive use and that they could not be sacrificed to the general community. The schools will continue to need ball fields for their athletic programs.
- LPDA asked Dr. Ford who about programming issues. Dr. Ford explained that J.J. Updike at Thomas Harrison Middle School handled programming of use of the athletic fields. LPDA asked Dr. Ford if it would be ok to call Mrs. Updike about the programming of facilities to determine if there would be any functional gaps that the general community could take advantage of. If school facilities were determined to be under programmed then use by the community for appropriately scheduled activities would be feasible. If programming were done efficiently, using the fullest potential of the facility, then the shared use would be expected to be minimal.
- At build out the Harrisonburg school system will include 10 Gymnasium facilities. This includes the following:

Harrisonburg High School	1 Gymnasium
Thomas Harrison Middle School	1 Gymnasium 1 half gym
Existing Elementary schools	4 Gymnasiums
New High School	1 Gymnasium 1 Auxiliary Gymnasium 1 multi purpose room
New Elementary School	1 Gymnasium

In summary this equals 8 gymnasiums, 1 auxiliary gymnasium and 1 multipurpose room.

- At build out the Harrisonburg school system will include several athletic field facilities. This includes the following:

Harrisonburg High School	1 football field 1 practice football field 1 running track 1 baseball field 1 practice baseball field
Thomas Harrison Middle School	1 football/soccer field 1 running track 1 practice field
Existing Elementary schools	3 baseball/softball fields 4 soccer/football fields 4 multi purpose fields
New High School	1 softball field

New Elementary School

1 baseball field
1 soccer field
1 football field
2 practice fields
1 soccer/football field
1 softball/baseball field
1 multiuse field
1 running track

In summary this equals 2 football fields, 1 soccer field, 6 soccer/football fields, 2 baseball fields, 1 softball field, 4 baseball/softball fields, 5 multipurpose fields, 5 practice fields, 3 running tracks.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

LPDA

January 30, 2003

STAKEHOLDER PHONE INTERVIEW REPORT

Project: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
LPDA PROJECT #: 0206-01

Meeting Time & Date: 2:00 PM, January 30, 2003

Interview Location: NA

Interview Agenda: Discuss the Athletic departments needs and concerns related to the Recreation and Parks plan.

Participants:

Ms. Allison Coonley, Harrisonburg Regional Tourism Council
Mr. Bill Mechnick, Principal, LPDA

Meeting Issues and discussion:

A phone interview was held with Ms. Coonley to discuss what concerns and needs tourism in the area had in relation to the parks and recreation comprehensive plan. General opportunities and ideas were discussed also. Alison brought these questions to light at one of the regular scheduled meetings for discussion prior to reporting back to LPDA in the phone interview. The following items were discussed:

General Comments

- Allison appreciated the idea that tourism was being considered in the comprehensive plan. She was enthusiastic about tourism opportunities that a well developed and properly marketed parks and recreation system could bring to the City.
- Allison mentioned that the Tourism Council had hired a marketing agency to conduct an evaluation of tourism opportunities for the area. The marketing groups research showed that outdoor activities and access to the activities was the best marketing tool. This is due to Harrisonburg's location in the Valley and its proximity to skiing, hiking, fishing, national forest lands, parks and historic sites. A slogan to the effect of "our back yard is your playground" was developed to help market the idea.
- A discussion ensued on how the parks and recreation system could offer some activities and facilities that fit this market. Several ideas were discussed including an indoor facility geared towards rock climbing, caving, skiing, skate boarding and biking training, education and sales. An indoor laser tag facility was discussed. Other facilities discussed included the proposed Blacks Run Greenway, revitalized downtown area, a downtown walking tour, bike locker and shower facilities in town (possibly associated with the visitors center).
- Allison expressed the need for an indoor swimming facility geared toward competitive swimming meets and events and training. The facility would be open to the public for observation and use.

This could generate cash flow through programming and sponsoring related to local, regional and national events.

- Allison supported the idea of the golf course and felt that the golf course should be marketed more aggressively.
- Discussion was held about other venues that drew revenue from visitors and tourists. These included Miniature golf, Par 3 courses, competitive swimming, skating rinks, Laser tag and indoor facilities focused on outdoor sports and information.
- The idea of some sort of outdoor natural swimming attraction was discussed as a facility that could “round out” Harrisonburg’s recreation offerings.

Meeting Report prepared and distributed by:



Bill Mechnick, ASLA, Principal
Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.

Appendix E

Appendix E has been omitted from the digital form of the report. It can be found in the hard copy. Contact LPDA if appendix E is needed.

Appendix F

Facility Usage for Harrisonburg High School

The following information was provided by the Harrisonburg City Schools Athletic Department.

Harrisonburg High School currently has 32 sport teams that compete in the Virginia High School League. With over 25 of these sports competing and practicing on campus, facility usage is at a premium. One of the busiest facilities is the gymnasium. It is used all year round by a variety of teams. In the Fall season, the gym is home to Varsity and JV Girls Basketball. From mid-August to November the gym is in use at least 12 hours a week by these teams. Typically there will be one home contest lasting 4 hours and at least 3 days of practice lasting another 4-5 hours. In the Fall, the football and cheerleading teams also use the gym during inclement weather. The gym has approximately 200 usage hours in the fall season.

Gym space is at a premium in the winter season, which lasts from November to February. At this time, Varsity, JV, and Freshman boy's basketball teams must all practice and play here along with Varsity and JV girls VB games and practice plus wrestling meets. Between the three boys basketball teams, the contests and practices take up anywhere from 8 –16 hours a week, depending on their schedule. The volleyball team is in the gym from 6-10 hours a week and there are usually 3-5 wrestling matches a year. Incredibly, the gym has approximately 275 usage hours during the winter season. In the spring season, most sports are outside, but usually must start practicing inside during February and March because of cold weather. Teams also use the gym when there is rain or snow. The gym has approximately 75 usage hours and is often used for other events such as AAU basketball tournaments and other community events. HHS teams use the gym approximately 550 hours a year.

The stadium field at HHS is used by the three football teams during the fall and the track team during the spring. To keep the stadium grass in tact and safe to play on the football teams only practice on the field once a week. But there can be up to 3 games played on it per week. It is usually used 4- 8 hours a week depending on the game schedule. This constitutes 50- 60 hours of usage during the fall season.

The track team is on the stadium field and track during the spring. The field events practice on the football field. They usually practice 8 –10 hours a week with 5-8 Varsity and JV track meets a year. This

adds up to approximately 120 hours for the spring season and 180 hours during the school year.

The baseball and softball fields are used by their respective team in the spring and for football practice in the fall. The football teams use each outfield about 10 hours a week during the season plus 20- 30 a week during August two-a-days. This results in about 150 usage hours for each field in the fall season.

The JV and varsity baseball and softball teams' play anywhere from 1-4 contests a week on the field and practice the other days. This can account for 12- 20 hours of usage week and around 180 hours for the spring season. Both the baseball and softball fields are used approximately 330 hours a year.

The Blue Streak soccer teams practice at Thomas Harrison Middle School during the spring season. There are two fields that are shared by 4 teams, Varsity and JV boys and girls soccer. There are usually 2-4 home games a week and practice there almost every day. This adds up to approximately 210 hours of use per spring.

Other sports at HHS use facilities when available. These sports could be cheerleading, indoor track, tennis, swimming, gymnastics and golf. The switching of season for girls volleyball and basketball could make the task of finding gym time for each team even more difficult.

The Harrisonburg High School facilities are also utilized by many outside organizations. These include (but are not limited to):

- Harrisonburg Turk Baseball (NCAA sanctioned College Baseball League).
- Baseball field, all summer.
- Little League Softball May-June, Softball Field.
- AAU Basketball-Sunday practices throughout the year. Up to 4.
- Tournaments per year.
- HPD Basketball-Sunday evenings throughout the year.
- Mid-Atlantic Wheel Chair Games-1 Saturday, FB Field.
- Harrisonburg Pregnancy Walk for Life-1 Saturday, Track and FB Field.
- Hershey Track Meet-1 day, track and field.
- Rotary Club Volleyball-1 Saturday, FB field.
- HPD Special Olympics Volleyball-1 day, basketball courts.

- Recreation Dept. Wrestling-1 night/month in winter, wrestling area.
- Various summer recreation camps.

Chart 38a-b : Gymnasium Use

Chart 38-a

Girls Basketball

	Girls V	Girls JV	Girls PR	Totals
15-Aug			20	20
22-Aug	8		20	28
29-Aug	8		8	16
6-Sep	4		8	12
13-Sep	4		8	12
20-Sep	4		8	12
27-Sep	4		8	12
4-Oct	4		8	12
11-Oct	4		8	12
18-Oct	4		8	12
25-Oct	4		8	12
1-Nov			8	8
8-Nov	4		6	10
Total	52		126	178

Chart 38a-b : Gymnasium Use

Chart 38b	Boys Basketball			Volleyball		Wrestling	
Week ending	Boys V	Boys FR	Boys PR	Girls VB	VB PR	WREST	
15-Nov			12		10		22
22-Nov			12		10		22
29-Nov			10	3	6		19
6-Dec	4		6	3	6		19
13-Dec	4	2	6	3	6		21
20-Dec	4		6	3	6	3	22
27-Dec	0		6	0	6	12	24
3-Jan	4		6	3	6		19
10-Jan	4	2	4	3	4		17
17-Jan	4		4	3	6		17
24-Jan	8	2	4	3	4		21
1-Feb	4	2	4	3	4		17
7-Feb	4		6		0	3	13
14-Feb	8		6				14
Totals W	48	8	92	27	74	18	267
Totals F							178
Totals Year							445

Chart 39a-b : Stadium Use

Chart 39a

FOOTBALL

Week ending	Hours V	Hours JV	Hours FR		Practice		Total
6-Sep			2		3		5
13-Sep	3				1.5		4.5
20-Sep	3				1.5		4.5
27-Sep	3				1.5		4.5
4-Oct		2	2		1.5		5.5
11-Oct	3	2			1.5		6.5
18-Oct			2		1.5		3.5
25-Oct		2	2		1.5		5.5
1-Nov	3				1.5		4.5
8-Nov			2		1.5		3.5
15-Nov					1.5		
23-Nov							
Total	15	6	12	0	18		51

Chart 39a-b : Stadium Use

Chart 39b

TRACK

		Meets		Practice	
7-Mar				10	
14-Mar				10	
21-Mar				10	
28-Mar				10	
4-Apr		6		8	
11-Apr				8	
18-Apr		4		8	
25-Apr		4		6	
2-May				6	
9-May		4		6	
16-May				8	
23-May				8	
					Total Use
Total		18		98	116

Chart 40a-b : Baseball Field Use

Chart 40a

Week ending	Hours V	Hours JV	BB Practice	FB Practice
15-Aug				30
22-Aug				15
29-Aug				9
6-Sep				9
13-Sep				9
20-Sep				9
27-Sep				9
4-Oct				9
11-Oct				9
18-Oct				9
25-Oct				9
1-Nov				9
8-Nov				9
15-Nov				
23-Nov				
Total				144

Chart 40a-b : Baseball Field Use

Chart 40b

	V	JV	PR		Total
28-Feb					
7-Mar			20		20
14-Mar			20		20
21-Mar	9		8		17
28-Mar	3		12		15
4-Apr	6	3	12		21
11-Apr	0	6	8		14
18-Apr	3	3	8		14
25-Apr	6	3	12		21
2-May	3	6	8		17
9-May	3	0	8		11
16-May		3	8		11
23-May					
				144	
Totals	33	24	124		181
					325

Chart 41 : Soccer Field Use

	B SOC	BJV SOC	G SOC	G JVSOC	GAME	PRACTICE	Total
7-Mar						20	20
14-Mar						20	20
21-Mar	2	2	2	2	8	12	20
28-Mar	2	0	2	0	4	12	16
4-Apr	2	0	2	2	6	12	18
11-Apr	0	0	2	2	4	14	18
18-Apr	2	2	2	6	12	10	22
25-Apr	2	2	2	0	6	12	18
2-May	2	0	2	2	6	12	18
9-May	2	4	0	2	8	12	20
16-May	2	4	2	0	8	12	20
23-May							
Totals	16	14	16	16	62	148	210

Chart 42a-b : Softball Field Use

Chart 42a

Week ending	Hours V	Hours JV	SB Practice	FB Practice
15-Aug				
				30
22-Aug				
				15
29-Aug				
				9
6-Sep				
				9
13-Sep				
				9
20-Sep				
				9
27-Sep				
				9
4-Oct				
				9
11-Oct				
				9
18-Oct				
				9
25-Oct				
				9
1-Nov				
				9
8-Nov				
				9
15-Nov				
23-Nov				
Total				144

Chart 42a-b : Softball Field Use

Chart 42b

	V	JV	Practice	Football	Total
21-Feb					
28-Feb			20		20
7-Mar	3		12		15
14-Mar	3		12		15
21-Mar	0	3	12		15
28-Mar	3	3	8		14
4-Apr	3	3	12		18
11-Apr	6	0	8		14
18-Apr	3	3	12		18
25-Apr	3	6	8		17
2-May	6	3	8		17
9-May	3	3	8		14
16-May	3	0	6		9
23-May					
Totals	36	24	126	144	186
					330

Appendix G

**HARRISONBURG PARKS MASTER PLAN
SMITHLAND ROAD PROPERTY
BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE PROPERTY
MARCH 28, 2003**

BACKGROUND

In support of the Harrisonburg Parks Master Plan and lead consultant, Land Planning and Design, Associates, Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RK&K) was requested to provide a report of engineering feasibility for park development of the Smithland Road property and the Bridgewater College property, both belonging to the City of Harrisonburg Department of Parks and Recreation. This report will provide an overview of our site investigations and engineering feasibility as well as program cost estimates for the civil, site and utility work anticipated to deliver the programmed developments for each site.

SMITHLAND ROAD PROPERTY

This site provides a very feasible location for development of a multi-purpose recreational area as shown on the Smithland Road Property Vision Plan. The site can provide the area required for full development of the property for park use and the infrastructure required for this type of development will be available by the time development occurs.

Environmental/Geotechnical

The Smithland Road site contains a mixture of agricultural land, existing recreational fields, a parking lot, woodland areas and fallow grassland. A railroad line bisects the site. The largest areas of forest on the site are found on the west side of the railroad tracks at the western and eastern extremes of the property. The western area of forest is an early successional forest likely not exceeding 40 years in age. The eastern forest area is a triangular area surrounded by agricultural fields on all sides. A stream and potential fringe wetlands bisect this area. This forest area is mid-successional and contains mature hardwoods providing good habitat value. An additional small wetland area is mapped on the property according to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (see figure1). Several sinkholes were observed on the property, primarily to the east of the railroad line. Sinkholes are common features in Karst terrain (*landscape with topographic depressions such as sinkholes and caves, caused by underground solution of limestone bedrock*) and provide a mechanism for surface water and pollutants to directly enter the groundwater system.





View of Recreation Center Location and
Potential Sinkhole in Foreground

The Smithland site contains ample areas for recreational improvement. Every effort should be made to minimize removal of existing forest, especially in the eastern triangle portion of the site containing the stream and potential fringe wetlands. The USFWS NWI maps show a wetland area on the northern portion of the property near Old Furnace Road. During a site visit a potential wet area was observed in the area shown along Old Furnace Road, however a formal wetland evaluation and, if necessary, a delineation should be performed as the site planning process proceeds. Impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the US should be avoided. Construction on the site must also consider the Karst terrain. Sinkholes on the site have the potential to expand and could result in failure to any future facilities or structures constructed on filled sinkholes. The Karst terrain of the site can allow groundwater to be easily compromised and increased water flow into sinkholes can affect the specific sinkhole as well as the underground geology of the area. A review of the site should be conducted in coordination with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Program to determine if any state rare, threatened or endangered species or federally listed species occur on the site.



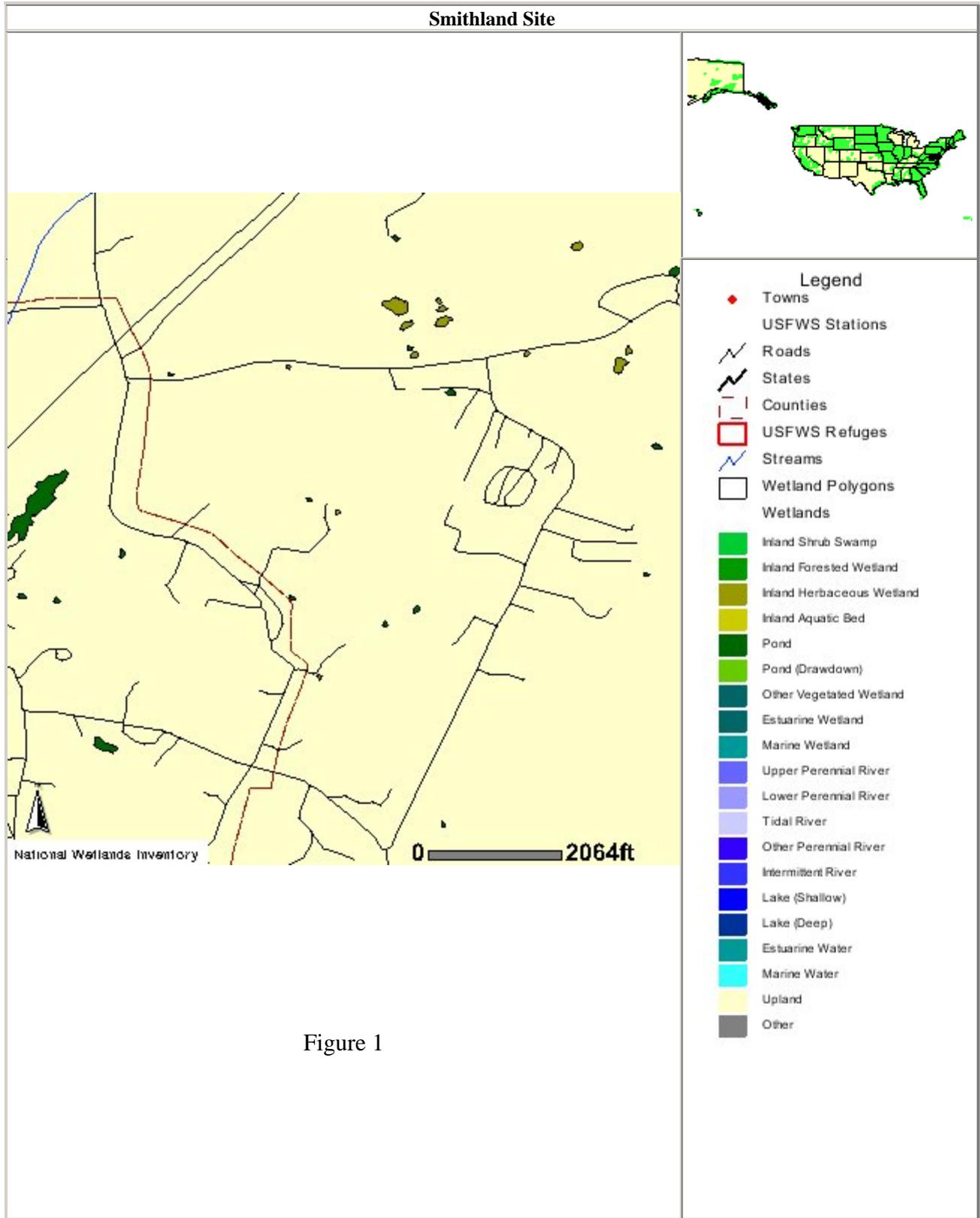


Figure 1



Site Development and Site Access

Overall, the site layout and differing areas of the park provide a variety of park activities. Site conditions will not allow all of these various areas to be interconnected for vehicle or pedestrian traffic. This is due to the railroad, which bisects the property between a northern parcel and southern parcel, and at least one property that is not owned by the City of Harrisonburg. Therefore the site will require separate access points to the various activity areas. The master plan drawing calls for two of these access points to be from Smithland Road and one from Old Furnace Road.

The three main access points, and their locations, will distribute traffic around the site and will provide adequate access to the planned facilities. As on-site and off-site development takes place, additional roadway improvements may become necessary to accommodate the additional traffic. These improvements may include improving roadway and shoulder widths to accommodate the additional traffic volumes, construction of turn lanes at major park entrances and improving the at-grade railroad crossings to include signal arms and improved site distances. These improvements will likely be driven by off-site development more than park development and, with the exception of turn lanes, would not require funding from the recreational budget. Interim improvements at entrances, such as turn lanes and clearing shoulders of vegetation and other obstacles, should be considered as park usage increases.



Smithland Road Entrance (Looking North)





Old Furnace Road Entrance (Looking North)



Railroad Crossing on Smithland Road



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consulting engineers

The master plan layout provides good protection of potential wetland locations near the nature trail and dog park to the north as well as the natural stream within the wooded area of the southeast portion of the property. The plan also preserves the limited amounts of wooded area that exist on the property. Sufficient on-site parking is provided for the facilities shown and if more on-site parking is needed, there is sufficient room in most areas for this to be added at a later date.

When staging the park development, it may be necessary to locate and arrange parking and other features to accommodate early site and infrastructure needs without impacting future phases of work. The layout and arrangement of ball fields will need to take this into consideration as well. When the area south of the railroad is developed as a later phase, fence should be constructed on both sides of the railway right of way to prevent pedestrian traffic from crossing the railroad tracks to gain access from one portion of the park to the other.

Utilities

The location and availability of water, sanitary sewer and electric facilities was researched with the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. This research revealed a water main currently under construction, by the City of Harrisonburg, along Smithland Road south of the railroad tracks and ending at the railroad tracks. The City has plans to extend this main north along Smithland Road, past the proposed park site and continuing under I-81. Within the next 18 – 24 months, a 12” water main will exist along the Smithland Road frontage of the proposed park site. Any improvements fronting on Old Furnace Road will require that offsite water main improvements be constructed along Old Furnace Road from the intersection with Smithland road. The exact water requirements of the proposed park facilities will be addressed at a later date, however no additional offsite water main work is anticipated along Smithland Road.

The research also revealed plans for a proposed sanitary sewer gravity collection system from approximately the intersection of Smithland Road and Old Furnace Road to a proposed sanitary sewer pumping station in the vicinity of the residential property on Smithland Road. From the proposed pumping station, a force main is proposed to extend south along Smithland Road and cross under the railroad tracks. After crossing the railroad tracks the force main will turn and extend to the west along the railroad right of way. No sanitary sewer facilities exist in Old Furnace Road and there are no plans in the future to extend facilities along Old Furnace Road. The on-site sanitary sewer layout / design will be determined at a later date, however the proposed sanitary sewer facilities along Smithland Road have been designed with enough capacity to handle the maximum amount of flows from the park site. Several remote areas of the Smithland Road park site may warrant utilizing on-site sanitary sewer disposal systems, such as septic systems, due to the distance from existing facilities. The specific sanitary sewer system(s) to serve the proposed park facilities will be evaluated at a later date.

Overall the Smithland Road site is feasible, from the aspect of available utilities, based on the programmed park improvements. The Smithland Road site can be divided into three (3) sections for the purposes of this summary. The section of this site north of the railroad track and fronting



Smithland Road can be served by the water, sanitary sewer and electric power located along Smithland Road. The location of these facilities does not require off-site construction other than to make connections. The section of the Smithland Road site fronting Old Furnace Road will require the extension of off-site water facilities in order to construct concessions and restroom facilities. The inclusion of sanitary sewer facilities can be obtained by constructing an on-site sanitary sewer disposal system such as a septic system. Electric facilities exist along Old Furnace Road and connection to these facilities is all that will be required to extend electric facilities on-site. The section of the Smithland Road site south of the railroad track can be served by water and electric facilities located along Smithland Road. Based on the type and size of the programmed improvements for this section, sanitary sewer facilities should be provided by constructing an on-site sanitary sewer disposal system, such as a septic system. Due to the remote nature of the programmed improvements, as mentioned above, the extension of off-site sanitary sewer facilities is not cost-effective for this section of the Smithland Road site.



Old Furnace Road Entrance (Looking East)





Existing Park Area and Parking Lot (Looking East)



Existing Park Parking Lot (Looking West Toward Maintenance Facilities)



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Smithland Road Property

RK&K Consulting Engineers

Total Civil/Site Estimate

26-Feb-03

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5 (Rec. Center)
Earthwork	\$375,000.00	\$1,140,000.00	\$136,000.00	\$1,725,000.00	\$125,000.00
Paving	\$305,000.00	\$86,000.00	\$98,000.00	\$322,000.00	\$100,000.00
Topsoil	\$26,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$62,500.00	\$72,500.00	\$7,500.00
Seed (all disturbed areas not including sports fields and paved areas)	\$25,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$47,000.00	\$114,000.00	\$7,500.00
Tennis Courts	\$120,000.00				
Baseball Fields	\$30,000.00	\$60,000.00		\$30,000.00	
Soccer Field	\$23,000.00			\$69,000.00	
Multipurpose Field		\$30,000.00			
Ornamental Fence (railroad)				\$200,000.00	
Lighting Baseball Fields		\$60,000.00			
Lighting Soccer Fields		\$40,000.00			
Lighting Parking Lots/Tennis Courts		\$20,000.00			\$100,000.00
Utilities:					
Water	\$25,000.00	\$60,000.00		\$75,000.00	\$20,000.00
Sewer/Septic	\$40,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$30,000.00	\$50,000.00
Electric	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$100,000.00	\$25,000.00

Sub-Total:	\$974,000.00	\$1,579,000.00	\$343,500.00	\$2,737,500.00	\$435,000.00
30% Contingency	\$292,200.00	\$473,700.00	\$103,050.00	\$821,250.00	\$130,500.00
Grand Total:	\$1,266,200.00	\$2,052,700.00	\$446,550.00	\$3,558,750.00	\$565,500.00

Grand Total:	\$7,889,700.00
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BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE PROPERTY

Environmental/Geotechnical

The Bridgewater College Property is forested with predominately eastern red cedar forest cover. A series of linear openings have been created throughout the site to reduce use of the site by starlings. The early successional, red cedar forest stands suggest the property may have been heavily grazed in the past and are also characteristically found on dry, shallow soils. The understory is sparse where the canopy is closed and dense in any openings. No wetlands are identified on the property according to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (see Figure 2) and no streams are shown on the property according to the USGS Topographic Map (see Figure 3). In addition to the forest cover type suggesting shallow soils, exposed stones are evident throughout the site with some minor rock outcroppings.

The Bridgewater site contains opportunities for recreational improvement. The existing red cedar forest cover type that dominates the site is not generally considered desirable in park situations, however it does reduce visibility and promote privacy. A management plan should be developed to manipulate the forest, encouraging species diversity and a forest with a larger hardwood species component. Any proposed recreational fields will likely require the importation of topsoil and any vegetation proposed to be planted as part of park improvements should be tolerant of the existing soil conditions. The USFWS NWI map does not show any wetland areas on the property, however a formal wetland evaluation and, if necessary, a delineation should be performed as the site planning process proceeds to verify the presence/absence of any jurisdictional wetlands. If present, impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the US should be avoided. A review of the site should be conducted in coordination with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Program to determine if any state rare, threatened or endangered species or federally listed species occur on the site.





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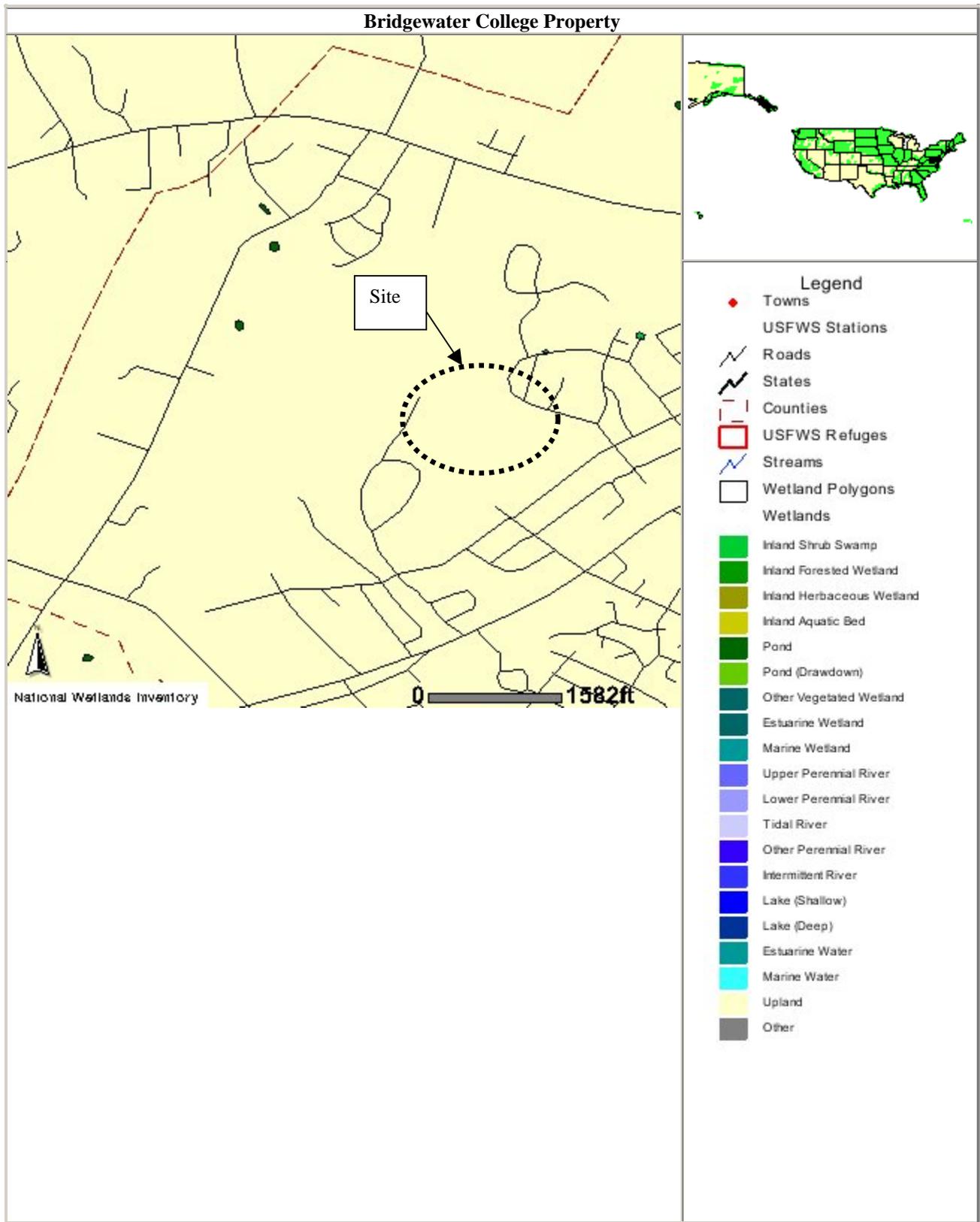


Figure 2



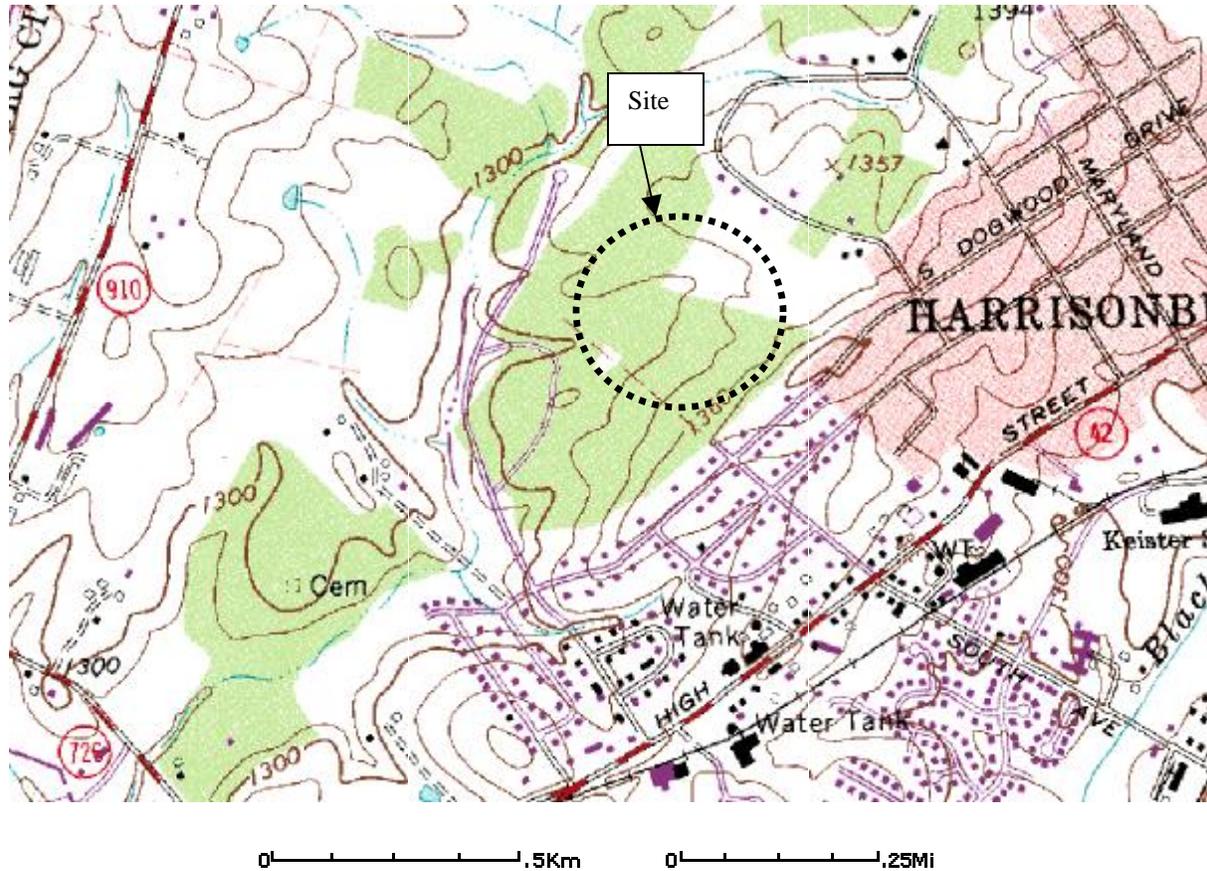


Figure 3

Site Development and Site Access

The site is adjacent to Hillandale Park, to the west and south, and fully developed residential neighborhoods to the east and north. Park access will be through the Hillandale Park property and the streets that are present within the park property. Existing parking is available immediately adjacent to the site and additional parking could be constructed on the property.

Due to the shallow soils believed to be present on the site, any excavation will be expensive due to rock that is likely present, therefore this may not be the best parcel for large fields or facilities requiring extensive excavation. The combination of uses, including a nature trail, a small multi-use field, playgrounds and picnic areas will be the most efficient use of this property and will prevent the need for large amounts of excavation or fill.

The site has adequate access and sufficient area for the recreational facilities planned. Access to the parcel will be by car, bike or walking through Hillandale Park. Once reaching the property,



access around the site will be on foot or bicycle. There are no connections to the adjacent residential areas planned at this time.

Utilities

Water, sewer and electric service are available immediately adjacent to this parcel on the Hillandale Park property. The facilities currently programmed do not require these services. Should water, sewer or electric service become necessary as part of future development, they can be easily accessed from the facilities available within the Hillandale park.

Bridgewater College Property

RK&K Consulting Engineers

Total Civil/Site Estimate

20-Mar-03

	Bridgewater
Earthwork	\$300,000.00
Paving	\$82,100.00
Topsoil	\$78,000.00
Seed (all disturbed areas not including sports fields and paved areas)	\$58,500.00
Multipurpose Field	\$10,000.00
Picnic Tables	\$2,500.00
Walk Bridges	\$6,000.00
Utilities:	
Water	
Sewer/Septic	
Electric	

Sub-Total: \$537,100.00
30% Contingency \$161,130.00
Grand Total: \$698,230.00



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consulting engineers

Appendix H

LPDA

FACILITIES PROGRAM REQUESTS **From various departments and organized group leaders**

Overall/City Wide:

- More bleachers at all athletic facilities
- More soccer fields
- New/updated shelters in all parks
- Mountain bike course within future city park system
- Lights for soccer fields
- Multipurpose stands and field (for concerts, city fair, athletic events, etc.)
- ADA compliant facilities throughout all parks
- Emergency phone system in all parks
- Park Rangers/Police
- Mini golf course
- Additional “pocket-parks” throughout city (esp. north side)
- In-line roller skate track or trail
- Dog park
- Meadow park
- Butterfly gardens
- Amphitheatre or permanent bandstand to encourage music groups, arts, etc.
- Large shelter + parking for large corporations to have picnics
- Swimming pool complex in another part of the city
- Develop park facilities that are more conducive to festivals, including permanent sound stage, parking, traffic flow, etc.
- Bankshot system
- Better parking control
- Develop campground/RV facility to accommodate locals and bring in tourists

East Side of the City:

- Develop a recreation complex to include classrooms, pool complex, gym, racquetball courts, indoor/outdoor tracks, and overall be more health and fitness oriented.

Smithland:

- More soccer fields
- Rest room facilities with running water
- More youth baseball/softball fields
- More practice fields for softball
- Second football facility
- Develop City Park with picnic pavilions/tennis courts/playgrounds, etc.
- Satellite maintenance operations center
- Arboretum with nature walking trail

LPDA

- Disc golf course

Purcell:

- New lights
- Auxiliary gym with wood floor
- Replace utility infrastructures
- Frisbee-golf course
- Develop an air structure

Rivenrock:

- New comfort stations

Blacks Run:

- Stabilize banks with permanent wall or similar

Hillandale:

- Replace utility infrastructures

Skate Park:

- Build sidewalk from parking lot to entrance

Kiwanis:

- Shelter

Westover:

- Another swimming pool
- Renovation of the bathhouse area in dressing rooms and pool office area
- Change traffic patterns
- Classroom, First Aid Station and Storage area need to be connected to the bathhouse for Aquatic and Safety programs
- Outdoor basketball/tennis courts
- Athletic field with backstop.
- Office space and new reception desk are for the Center. Enclose current front desk area, construct new reception desk for better view down the hall
- Indoor aquatic facility for year round swimming programs
- Renovate racquetball court 1
- Create climbing wall/cave in and around Squash Court
- Have staff access only parking – currently gets too congested

LPDA

Ralph Sampson Park:

- Keep and maintain softball field
- Add permanent benches on each side of softball field
- Add another shelter
- Add swings to the playground area

Eastover Tennis Courts:

- Add two additional courts with lighting
- Add an air structure

CAC/CFG:

- Build a second gym and storage area
- Expand the size of building for other activities, special events, more storage, classes, office space, etc.

PROGRAMS

- Develop a better senior citizen program, possibly using EMU/JMU students to help with programming
- Adult soccer
- Basketball league for 18-31 year olds
- Volleyball leagues
- Racquetball instructional programs with certified staff
- Racquetball leagues
- Physical trainers
- Childcare
- Preschool program expansion (days and hours)
- Teen programming
- Female athletic programs
- Drop weight limit requirements in football
- Certified therapeutic recreation specialist

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