ALAMANCE PARKS

2017

Alamance County Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan

2017 ADDENDUM

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Overview

The Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department adopted a Comprehensive Master Plan in 2007 designed to reflect Alamance County's recreational needs and plans to fulfill these needs through the year 2020. Much of the information and data presented in that plan are still relevant. However, the Department has undergone significant organizational change since adoption of the plan in 2007. This document is intended to serve as an addendum containing key updates to the changes over the past ten years, including updates to the Department's organization and mission, county demographics, the Department's structure and facilities, programs, and recreational facilities available in the county as a whole. The plan will also incorporate and reflect current recreational needs as identified by the community through a recent recreational needs survey, public meetings, and focus groups. The plan concludes with recommendations and proposals for future parks, facilities, programs, and services.

Department Mission & Identity

The Alamance County Recreation & Parks Department works to improve the quality of life of Alamance County residents. Through its parks and programs, the Department encourages healthy lifestyles for children and adults, provides inclusive activities for all citizens, and provides access to the natural world. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Alamance County Recreation and Parks enjoyed 488,940 total visitors to all of its facilities. It manages 1200 acres of land, offered 367 programs and events, 282 facility rentals, held 843 youth athletics games, and served the Special Needs population of Alamance County through nine sports accommodating 400 athletes.

In 2016, Alamance County developed and adopted a new strategic plan that all Department efforts will reflect. The County's Vision Statement is: "Alamance County is a cohesive community with a thriving economy that balances respect for our rural history with thoughtful growth and development." The County's Mission Statement is: "Alamance County effectively provides its citizens with high quality public services, the tools for successful economic development, and a responsive, transparent government that supports the community as the preferred place to live, work, and play." The County has also identified five Action Pillars to help guide decision making. These include preserving agriculture, world class education, smart growth and development, public health and safety, and government accountability and resource management. The Recreation & Parks Department's plans and goals will be tied into each of these pillars to ensure that the Department is aligned with the County's mission and goals, and best serving the public. The Recreation & Parks Department also strives daily to embrace the County's Core Values of respect, honesty, accountability, behavior in accordance with the "Golden Rule," and commitment.

In 2016, the Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department rebranded as Alamance Parks, adopting the shorter moniker "Alamance Parks," along with a new logo and branding plan to modernize the Department's appeal to the community. The Department rebranded to act on the need to create a strong, unique, easily identifiable brand to help the community better connect to the Department's offerings and to distinguish it from other area recreation departments and facilities (a need recognized in the 2007 plan). The branding scheme reflects the Department's three major focus areas: the outdoors, community, and athletics. Logos were

developed associated both with the master brand and these focus areas. All Department communications, website, and social media presences reflect the new branding to help make the Department's offerings identifiable. The new branding structure will make it easier for the community to understand the Department's structure and offerings.

Department Structure

Since the 2007 Comprehensive Master Plan was adopted a series of structural changes have taken place. As proposed in the 2007 plan, a Trails & Open Space Coordinator position was created in 2008 to assist the Department Director as was a Parks Superintendent position. In 2015, the Grant Coordinator position was rewritten as a Grants & Communications Coordinator in recognition of the need for a centralized communications staff member for the Department. In 2017, a Programs Superintendent position was created to help coordinate programs across the Department, including athletics, community programs, and outdoor programs. The Department also absorbed the Alamance/Burlington Convention & Visitors' Bureau in 2016. The Department currently has 20 full time staff members and a number of part time staff varying by season that support the efforts of full time staff. The Department is advised by a Recreation & Parks Commission Board.

The new Department organizational structure for full time staff appears in Figure 1.

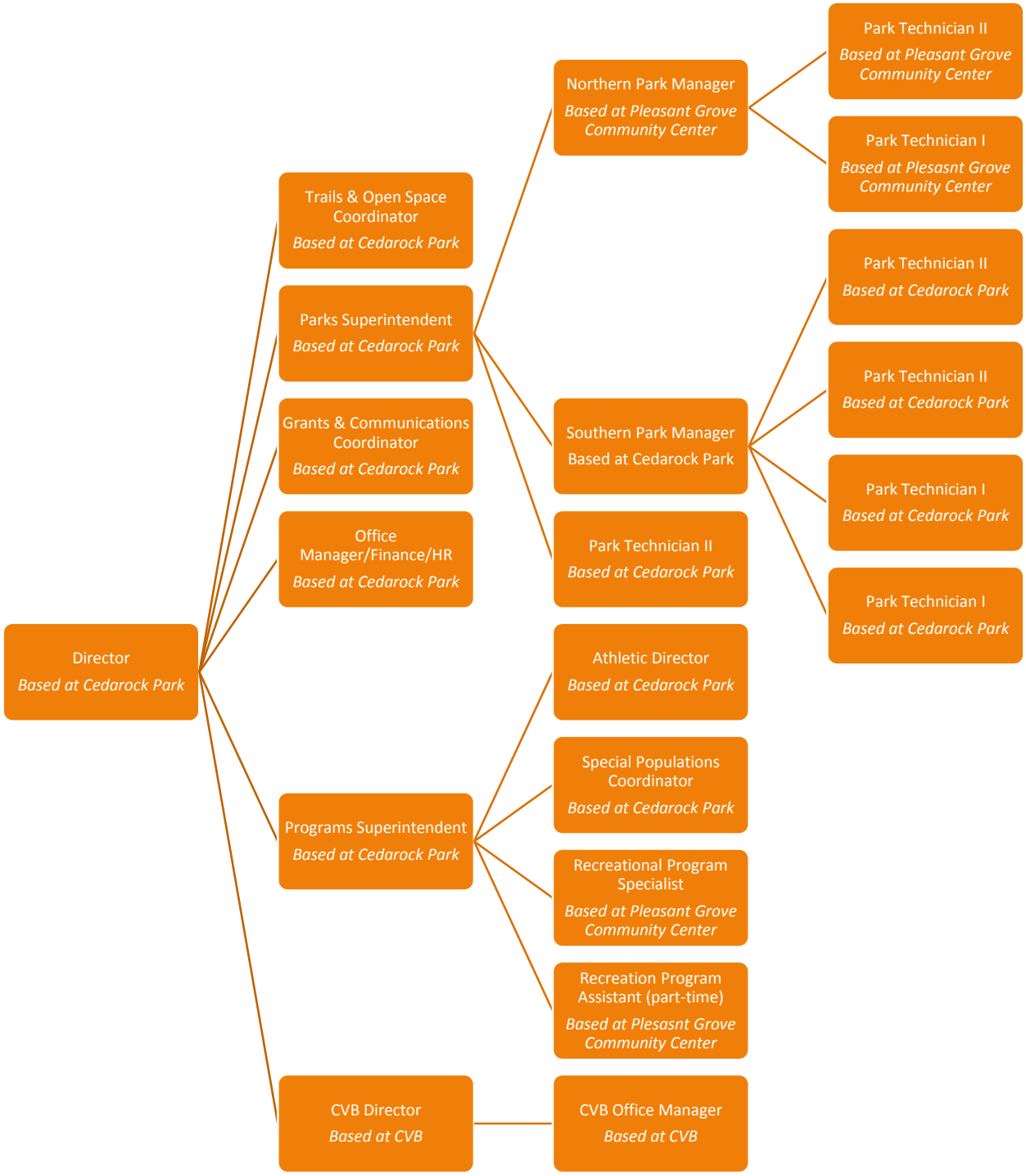

Figure 1. Recreation & Parks Department Staff Structure

COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Overview

The following information is provide as an update to the demographics information detailed in the 2007 Master Plan. The projected demographic information detailed in that plan is roughly on target with the current demographic information provided below.

Population

- The 2015 estimated population for Alamance County was 158,276. The 2010 Census count was 151,131.
- The estimate-based percent change in population from 2010 to 2015 was 4.7% for Alamance County, 5.3% for North Carolina, and 4.1% for the United States

Conclusion: Alamance County and North Carolina are growing slightly faster than the nation.

Urban/Rural

- The 2010 urban population figure was 107,971, or 71.4% of the County population
- The 2010 rural population figure was 43,160, or 28.6% of the County population
- 2012 estimates place 65% of the population in municipalities and 35% in unincorporated areas of the County

Conclusion: Urban areas house a larger proportion of the County's population than do rural areas.

Age

**Based on 2015 data*

- The median age in Alamance County was 39.2 years
- The median age in North Carolina was 38 years
- The median age in the United States was 37.6 years
- 22.7% of the Alamance County population was under 18 years of age and 16.4% of the population was over 65 years of age

Conclusion: These numbers are similar to those presented in the 2007 plan, but reflect a slightly larger percent of aging members of the community and fewer persons under the age of 18. Alamance County has a slightly older demographic compared to North Carolina, and both have an older demographic compared to the United States.

Gender

**Based on 2015 data*

- Overall: Females 52.4%, Males 47.6%
- Over 18 years of age: Females 53.4%, Males 46.6%

- Over 65 years of age: Females 58.5%, Males 41.5%

Conclusion: The County population was comprised of slightly more females in each age group, with the disparity increasing with age.

Race

**Based on 2015 data*

- White: 75%
- Black/African American: 19.7%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 1.4%
- Asian: 1.7%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%
- Two or more races: 2%
- Hispanic or Latino: 12.4%

Conclusion: The racial makeup of Alamance County is predominantly white, with African American/Black being the second most populous race. Compared to North Carolina, Alamance County is less diverse (data not shown). Compared to the 2000 census figures, there is now a higher percentage of Black/African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics/Latinos in Alamance County indicating increasing diversity over time.

Workplace Commuting

Commuting and workplace statistics from 2014 indicate:

- 66.5% of residents work in Alamance County, while 32.8% work outside of the County
- The average time to travel to work was 23.7 minutes
- Most workers traveled by driving a car/truck/van alone, at 82.2%...only 0.3% used public transportation to reach work and 1.2% walked to work

Conclusion: While approximately two-thirds of the County population works in-County, the population still experiences a commute time comparable to that of the state and the nation, and is dependent on driving to get to work. Public transportation is barely utilized.

Economy

- Labor Force (2015): 62.5%
- Labor Force (2000): 66.5%
- Unemployment Rate (2015): 7.9%
- Unemployment Rate (2003): 6.7%
- Largest Employers
    - Educational services, and health care and social assistance: 25%
    - Manufacturing: 16.2%
    - Retail trade: 13%
    - Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services: 9.7%

Conclusion: The labor force and unemployment rates have not changed dramatically since the 2007 plan was written. However, the largest employers have changed with education/health/social services moving ahead of manufacturing, and arts/entertainment/recreation/leisure/food moving ahead of construction.

Education

Between 2011 and 2015 the percent of persons age 25 years+ with the following education levels was:

- Alamance County:
  - High school graduate or higher: 83.2%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 21.6%
- North Carolina:
  - High school graduate or higher: 85.8%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 28.4%
- United States:
  - High school graduate or higher: 86.7%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 29.8%

Income

- Alamance County Median Household Income: $41,814
- North Carolina Median Household Income: $46,868
- United States Median Household Income: $53,889
- Alamance County Per Capita Income: $23,434
- North Carolina Per Capita Income: $25,920
- United States Per Capita Income: $28,930
- Alamance County Poverty Level: 18.9%
- North Carolina Poverty Level: 16.4%
- United States Poverty Level: 13.5%

Conclusion: Alamance County has a lower income level and higher poverty rate than the State and the Nation.

Households

In 2015, household statistics show:

- Alamance County Total number of Households: 62,545
- Alamance County Average Household Size: 2.45
- North Carolina Average Household Size: 2.54
- United States Average Household Size: 2.64
- Alamance County Owner Occupied: 65.4%
- Alamance County Renter Occupied: 34.6%

Conclusion: The County household size is slightly lower than the State and the Nation with more people owning their home than renting.

Population Projection

- The projected population by 2019 is 161,254, representing an annual growth rate of 0.7%
- The projected median age in 2019 is 40 years
- The projected median household income for 2019 is $48,811
- The projected per capita income for 2019 is $24,373

Conclusion: Future projections based on US Census Bureau data demonstrate a small annual growth rate, a slightly older median age in 2019, a higher median household income, and a similar per capita income.

PLANNING EFFORTS

Previous Planning Efforts

For a comprehensive assessment of previous planning efforts please refer to the 2007 Alamance County Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan.

Current Planning Efforts

In 2015, Alamance County adopted the new Alamance County Trail Plan providing a guideline for future trails and greenways in Alamance County. The Trails Plan outlines all future trails and greenway routes throughout the County. Please refer to this document for planned trails and greenways (Appendix D).

PARTNERSHIPS & FUNDING

Burlington Alamance Convention and Visitors' Bureau Merge

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Burlington Alamance Convention and Visitors' Bureau (CVB) was merged into the Recreation & Parks Department. The CVB has a new director under the supervision of the Director of the Recreation & Parks Department. The CVB still functions as a largely autonomous entity but is now under County management.

Public Sector Partnerships

The Alamance County Recreation & Parks Department has entered into several public sector partnerships since completion of the 2007 Master Plan. As proposed in that plan, the Department has entered into a joint use agreement with the Alamance Burlington School System for use of school athletic fields. Per the agreement, the County provides maintenance of the fields with some financial support from the school system, and in return

has use of the athletic fields when they are not in use for school activities. The Recreation & Parks Department has also partnered with various municipal service providers on other projects including expansion of the Haw River Trail.

Non-Profit & Private Sector Partnerships

The Alamance County Recreation & Parks Department has been working closely with Impact Alamance, a new community-based non-profit organization designed to bring together county, municipal and non-profit organizations to better health and wellness opportunities in Alamance County. The Department has representation in the Wellness Collaborative and has received grant funding from the organization. It is also through Impact Alamance that the Department has developed partnerships with various municipal service providers. The Department also partners with other municipal service providers and the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Haw River Trail expansion projects. Special Olympics Alamance County has partnered with Elon University Intramurals to provide athletic activities for special needs athletes. Special Olympics also partners with Elon to hold its annual Spring Games.

Annual Budget- County Funds

The Alamance County Recreation & Parks Department currently has an annual operating budget of approximately 1.6 million dollars. However, the Department's budget varies by year depending on a variety of economic factors and other needs identified in the County, which supports over 30 departments. The Recreation & Parks Department allocates its County funds to support full time and part time staff salaries, routine operating and maintenance expenses for all parks and facilities, program expenses, communications expenses, and critical capital improvements such as major structural repairs (ex. replacement of septic system at Pleasant Grove Community Center).

Grant Funding

The Recreation & Parks Department relies heavily on grant funding from non-County sources to develop new parks and facilities. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Department received over $270,000 in grant funding that allowed for a variety of projects including land acquisition, construction of new playgrounds, expansion of the Haw River Trail, and more. Key funding agencies that the Department routinely applies for grants from include the Recreational Trails Program, the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Water Resources Development Grant Program, and Impact Alamance (a new local, community-focused non-profit grant agency).

Facilities & Programs

INTRODUCTION

The Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department has experienced significant facility restructuring in the past ten years. As proposed in the 2007 plan, the main administrative office has been moved to Cedarock Park. The Ray Street Facility in Graham is no longer under County management, having been transferred to the City of Graham as recommended in the 2007 plan. There is a secondary park office in Cedarock Park for the Southern Park Manager and the Park Technicians under that Manager's supervision. Full-time staff are also present at Pleasant Grove Community Center, which houses the Northern Park Manager, Recreation Program Specialist, two Park Technicians, and part-time Recreation Program Assistant. Eli Whitney Community Center hosts no permanent staff but is used on a routine basis by both full- and part-time staff. The Convention & Visitors' Bureau staff are housed in the Alamance Convention & Visitor's Bureau center located in downtown Burlington. The Haw River Trail parks and trail facilities are overseen on a regular basis by the Trails & Open Space Coordinator and Park Technicians.

The 2007 plan proposed a phasing out of both Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove Community Centers. However, community feedback strongly opposed this plan due to the cultural and historic value of these locations to local community members. Therefore, efforts and resources have been devoted to updating and upgrading the Centers. As proposed in the 2007 plan, a district park is in development in the Cane Creek Mountains range, a park was developed in the Glencoe area, work has continued on the Haw River Trail, and additional amenities have been provided at the Community Centers. The Department also has a formal agreement in place to utilize athletic facilities from Alamance Burlington School Systems, and additional projects involving partnership with public and private sector entities. Please see the following comprehensive updated overview of County Recreation & Park facilities and programs for details. Also included is an updated table of county-wide parks and recreation facilities.

FACILITY LIST

The following facilities are currently operated and maintained by Alamance County Recreation & Parks:

- Cedarock Park
- Great Bend Park
- Shallow Ford Natural Area
- Swepsonville River Park
- Pleasant Grove Community Center
- Eli Whitney Community Center
- Altamahaw Paddle Access
- Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access
- Glencoe Paddle Access
- Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access
- Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access
- Union Bridge Paddle Access
- Additional Haw River Trail Paddle Accesses in conjunction with municipalities

- Haw River Land Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail (mileage in a variety of locations in the County)
- Altamahaw-Ossippee Athletic Park (through joint-use agreement with Alamance Burlington School Systems)
- B. Everett Jordan Athletic Park (through joint-use agreement with Alamance Burlington School Systems)
- E.M. Holt Athletic Park (through joint-use agreement with Alamance Burlington School Systems)
- Sylvan Athletic Park (through joint-use agreement with Alamance Burlington School Systems)

FACILITY UPDATES

Over the past ten years, the Department has acquired and developed a variety of new parks and facilities, and renovated, upgraded, and improved existing facilities. Please see below for park/facility developments and updates.

Cedarock Park

Since adoption of the 2007 plan, Cedarock Park has undergone expansion and extensive improvements. The Department successfully acquired 78 acres along the entrance to the park property, bringing the park's total size to approximately 500 acres. The open field portions of this land have now been completely fenced in and are planned for use in the development of the future Cedarock Park Equestrian Center. The Department is in the process of constructing a dedicated equestrian use entrance behind the fields that will provide an entryway and a circular drive convenient for horse trailers. This phase of the Equestrian Center project will also involve installation of equestrian camping sites and restrooms facilities. Later phases of the project will include construction of a barn and stables, riding ring, and horses and tack. The equestrian trail at the park was redesigned in 2014-2015 and rebuilt to meet higher trail standards. This included a one mile extension connecting to the future Equestrian Center. New bridges were also built on the equestrian trails.

Improvements have also been implemented to the overall hiking trail system. In 2011-2012 a new comprehensive trail plan was developed for the park to provide more interesting and varied trails built to higher standards, and to allow time for old trail recovery. Implementation of the new trail system began in 2012-2013 with construction and opening of a new 2.4 mile trail, the Spoon Branch Trail, including bridges. Later, another additional half mile of hiking trail was added to the Connector Trail as an upland loop for use during wet conditions. In 2014-2015, a bird-watching platform was installed.

A new pond acquired with the new property at the entrance was repaired in preparation for use as a second public fishing pond. The dam and drainage were repaired and the pond was stocked with fish. Landscaping along the main pond was enhanced with the planting of trees to improve attractiveness and delineate that side of the pond from the neighboring disc golf course. In 2015-2016, the main fishing pond was stocked with trout for winter trout fishing. This program was a great success and will continue. It was implemented in tandem with a new fishing pass program.

The mill dam/waterfall along Rock Creek was cleaned and the gazebo overlooking it was repaired. Six new grills were installed at picnic shelters, and the shelters themselves have been repaired, painted, stained, and cleaned as needed. Sewer lines were repaired and the park restrooms were repainted. A new restroom facility was also constructed.

A variety of improvements and maintenance updates were made throughout the disc golf courses as well. Grass has been reseeded as necessary and a number of new foot bridges constructed throughout the Wellspring Disc Golf Course. New baskets were also installed on both the Cedarock Park and the Wellspring Disc Golf Courses.

Pedestrian counters were added to both disc golf courses to assess visitation. Five new tee pads were added to the Cedarock Disc Golf Course in 2012 and the Department is currently in the process of re-pouring all of the tee pads in the Cedarock Disc Golf Course due to wear and tear. New fencing and additional footbridges were recently installed in the Wellspring Disc Golf Course.

Upgrades and maintenance continued on the Historical Farm and other historic buildings on the property. The siding, roof, and windows of the Historic Garrett House were repaired, as was the fence at the Historic Farm. The Department partnered with Elon University to evaluate and improve accessibility at the Garrett House through video production. The Historic Garrett House, Post Office, and Curtis House were also repainted. Foundation and siding were repaired on the Curtis House prior to painting. Interpretive signage was purchased and installed at the Historical Farm as well. The interior of the antique Farm Tool Museum was recently remodeled and updated.

As recommended in the 2007 plan, Cedarock Park is now the administrative headquarters for the Department. A new maintenance building was constructed. The administrative building/welcome center has undergone upgrades and improvements including replacement of the air conditioning units (also replaced in the secondary park office); gutter repair; interior painting; floor refinishing; and installation of a new security system. A new security system was also installed in the maintenance shop.

Park signage has been improved with redesigns of old signs for consistency, clarity, and to reflect rebranding. New signs were installed to indicate which areas are closed for trail recovery. New park hours signs were designed, purchased, and installed to facilitate communication with the public, as well as new signage around the fishing pond. The large welcome signs at the entrance and the Historical Farm were also replaced to update their aesthetic and reflect the Department's new branding. Gates and roadways have been repainted and wooden railings replaced throughout the park as needed.

Great Bend Park

In 2007 the County acquired 30 acres that was developed into Great Bend Park, a park along the Haw River that offers hiking, fishing, riverfront picnic areas, and is within walking distance to Historic Glencoe Mill Village and the Haw River Trail Glencoe Paddle Access. Great Bend Park offers trail that is part of the Haw River Trail as well as park-specific loops including the Highland and Island Trails. In 2011-2012, the Island Trail was reworked to improve accessibility for citizens with low mobility. Information kiosks with brochure boxes were installed at the parking lot and footbridges were repaired. In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, all trail blaze signs were replaced, extensive cleanup occurred, security cameras were installed, and a new buoy was installed at the fishing point. In 2014-2015, a vault restroom facility was installed in the parking area. The following year, new boundary markers were added to the park along with new emergency codes on the trail blazes. A self-guided tree ID tour was also completed on the Highland trail, with species markers on select trees so visitors can learn about tree identification.

Shallow Ford Natural Area

In 2009 the Department partnered with the State of NC to acquire 190 acres of land in northern Alamance County to create a passive use natural area. Shallow Ford Natural Area houses approximately five miles of hiking trails, a Haw River Trail paddle access, primitive hike-in camping, a picnic area, an observation platform, and a wildflower meadow. In 2011-2012, the parking lot (with fencing and safety bollards) was completed and a new vault restroom facility was installed. A number of footbridges were constructed as needed. New fencing and

property boundary markers were installed in 2012-2013 and trail blazes were marked with a GPS-based emergency response marking system. The following year, the observation deck and wildflower meadow were designed and installed on the edge of the park where it passes through an open field formerly used for farming. In 2015-2016, a 220-foot wooden walkway was installed over a muddy section of the main trail and the wildflower meadow was reseeded with additional flowers for the next growing season. New boundary markers were also installed and updated emergency codes were added to the trail blazes.

Swepsonville River Park

Swepsonville River Park was opened in 2006 by the Town of Swepsonville. It is home to two paddle access points on the Haw River Trail, fishing areas, picnicking, and hiking trail. The park is 30 acres and offers a mile of Haw River Land Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail. It is situated at the confluence of Great Alamance Creek with the Haw River.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, a conservation easement was acquired to protect “Spirit Island” south of Swepsonville. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, new tables and picnic tables were designed, constructed and installed. Gravel was added to the former camping pads. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, new boundary markers were added to the park and emergency codes were added to the Haw River Trail blazes.

In 2017, management of this park was transferred from the Town of Swepsonville to the County.

Pleasant Grove Community Center

Significant effort has gone into revitalizing Pleasant Grove Community Center. While the 2007 Master Plan recommended phasing out this facility as well as Eli Whitney, the community felt strongly that the Center is an important part of their local history and did not support its removal. After a fire destroyed everything but the gym, the whole building was replaced. Subsequent improvements have included structural and cosmetic improvements such as repair of the driveway and construction of a defined parking lot with proper signage and traffic control; repair of septic pump, tank, and system drain lines; repainting of portions of the gymnasium, field backstop, porches, and well house; repair of split rail fencing around the walking track/drive/playground; roof repair; restroom repair; exhaust fan repair; replacement of gym flooring; repair and replacement of fencing around grounds as needed; installation of pipe heating element to outside plumbing; and renovation of the entrance and parking area. Sign kiosks were installed and repaired as needed and landscaping was implemented around community center grounds with grading and oak tree plantings. A maintenance area with a security fence was installed and a storage space was created in the gymnasium.

Amenity improvements have included installation of a new gym scoreboard, construction of a pet exercise area, construction of a new picnic shelter, construction of a new bocce court, repair to the outdoor volleyball court, and an overhaul of the fitness center including the installation of new exercise equipment. Additionally, a restored swing set was installed on the playground and two new park benches were added around the walking track. Center programming has undergone updates and diversification as well.

Eli Whitney Community Center

Significant effort has also gone into revitalizing the Eli Whitney Community Center. While the 2007 master plan recommended phasing out this facility, the community felt strongly that the Center is an important part of their local history and did not support its removal. Therefore, the Department is investing in improving the facility to better serve the Eli Whitney community in southern Alamance County. Structural and cosmetic renovations have been implemented at the facility including replacement of the roof and heating system, cleaning, interior and exterior painting, installation of an HVAC unit for the office, scoreboard replacement, flooring replacement for both the gym and lobby, door replacements, and more. A vehicle counter was installed in 2014-2015 to better document visitation.

Once the renovation projects were completed, a number of amenity improvements were developed in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The fitness center was renovated (cleaned and repainted) and the outdated equipment was replaced. The restrooms were improved with installation of new windows, fans, and soap/paper towel dispensers. The landscaping on the property was completely overhauled to improve curb appeal and the walking track was resurfaced. The most notable addition to the facility was a new custom designed playground funded by a grant from Impact Alamance. The new playground replaced an outdated playground that was going to be removed. It was designed to reflect the culture and history of the local area and to improve safety standards. It also included new ground surfacing, a shade structure, picnic tables, and benches. Eli Whitney enjoyed 3,421 visitors in 2015-2016, with a notable upward trend in visitation beginning after the improvements to the facility.

Haw River Trail

Paddle Trail

The Haw River Paddle Trail through Alamance County was completed in 2016 with the opening of Union Bridge Paddle Access on the Alamance-Orange County line. Now, 14 paddle accesses provide safe, easy public access to 40 miles of Haw River Paddle Trail. Each paddle access has a parking area with appropriate fencing and security bollards, wheel stops, and security gates as needed. From the parking area, trail leads to either stairs or a direct put-in to the river, depending on the grade of the bank in that area. Each parking area has an informational kiosk complete with maps and important information. Brochure boxes are placed on the kiosks containing maps that users can take with them. Many Paddle Accesses have restroom facilities, varying from portable toilets to vault restrooms. Some Paddle Accesses also offer access to sections of Haw River Land Trail or are part of a Haw River Trail park/natural area.

The following list of paddle accesses provides the paddle access's name, the agency that operates/maintains it, and the year it was opened:

- **Brooks Bridge Paddle Access:** Guilford County, 2013
- **Altamahaw Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2008
- **Shallow Ford Natural Area Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2011
- **Indian Valley Paddle Access:** City of Burlington, 2004
- **Great Bend Park Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2009
- **Glencoe Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2008
- **Town and County Paddle Access:** City of Burlington, 2005
- **Red Slide Park:** Town of Haw River, 2010

- **Graham Paddle Access:** City of Graham, 2003
- **Swepsonville River Park Paddle Access:** Alamance County (formerly operated by Town of Sweponsville), 2006
- **Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2012
- **Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2011
- **Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2011
- **Union Bridge Paddle Access:** Alamance County, 2016

During the course of the past ten years and as the accesses were developed, they have been maintained, repaired, and upgraded as needed. This has included installation of bridges, brochure boxes, updates to signage, updates to trail blazes, gate replacements, buoy installation, installation of restroom facilities, construction of portages, and repairs to staircases. Many of these paddle accesses were constructed or maintained in conjunction with Haw River Trail partners such as the City of Burlington, Guilford County, and the City of Greensboro.

Land Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail

The Haw River Land Trail is a planned 40-mile linear trail following the Haw River through Alamance County. In 2006, the State of North Carolina re-routed the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) to follow the course of the Haw River through Alamance County. Thus, the MST will combine with the Haw River Trail on its path through Alamance County. Additional trail loops have developed as off-shoots of the planned route for the main path, adding trail mileage for the community to enjoy. This undertaking relies on grant funding and the cooperation of local land owners to reach completion. Through a combination of grant and County funding, as well as the cooperation and generosity of local landowners, the Department has completed 17.5 miles of Haw River Trail. Of these 17.5 miles, 11 contribute to the linear portion of the trail that will combine with the MST and extend through the County.

Currently, 5 of these 11 miles are officially designated as NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail. One mile of linear trail at Shallow Ford Natural Area, one mile of trail at Sweponsville River Park, and three miles of trail from Glencoe to Stoney Creek Marina are currently designated as both HRT/NC-MST. In the past two years, an additional four miles of trail was completed in the Sellers Falls section, connecting Stoney Creek Marina to Red Slide Park and marking the longest contiguous section of HRT open to the public (approximately 8 miles). An additional 5.5 miles of trail are under development in Saxapahaw and Graham. Paperwork is in progress to obtain official NC-MST designation for the Sellers Falls section, and for 4.5 miles of the Saxapahaw and Valley Drive sections. Once these sections are completed, a total of 27 miles of Haw River Land Trail will be open to the public in Alamance County, almost 20 of which represent linear mileage through the County. Future trail development will depend entirely on land acquisition opportunities in the community and funding resources.

Athletic Parks

The Department entered into a joint use agreement with Alamance Burlington School Systems for use of the athletic facilities at various schools, which was renewed in 2016. The Department is responsible for maintenance of the facilities at E.M. Holt Elementary School, B. Everett Jordan Elementary School, and Sylvan Elementary School. Over the past 10 years the Department has repaired the scoreboards, dugouts, gazebos, windows, field

house, bleachers, and press box at E.M. Holt. At B. Everett Jordan the Department replaced the outfield fencing and painted the backstop on the upper field. In spite of these efforts, a lot remains to be done in the way of improvements to the athletic facilities. The Department is currently in the process of designing, ordering, and installing new signage for all facilities and replacing fencing and trash cans. Later phases will include upgrades or replacements of bleachers, picnic benches, and improvement of landscaping.

AMENITIES OVERVIEW

The following represents an overview of recreation and park facilities/amenities by facility/amenity type:

- 16 Park/Recreation Sites (and an additional 7 through partnership with the Haw River Trail)
- 1200 Acres of Land Managed
- 2 Community Centers
- 3 Playgrounds (and an additional 1 through partnership with the Haw River Trail)
- 11 Picnic Shelters/Gazebos
- 10 Outdoor/Open Picnic Areas
- 4 Baseball/Softball Fields
- 2 Multipurpose Fields
- 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 2 Indoor Basketball Courts
- 2 Walking Tracks ($1/10^{th}$ mile each)
- 2 Disc Golf Courses
- 1 Historical Farm
- 20+ miles Hiking Trail (some mileage through partnership with the Haw River Trail)
- 6 miles Equestrian Trail
- 7 Paddle Accesses (and an additional 7 through partnership with the Haw River Trail)
- 2 Facilities with Camping
- 11 Fishing Locations (some through partnership with the Haw River Trail)

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Overview

Alamance County Recreation & Parks offers a variety of programs and special events. Some programs, such as senior bingo and open gym times, are recurring offerings throughout the year. Other programs are season-specific, such as athletic seasons and particular Special Olympics sports, while some programs are sporadic or one-time-only special events. The vast majority of programs are offered as free public services. Exceptions include events requiring fees to cover special materials or fundraising events. The majority of activities are open to all ages, unless otherwise specified. Below is an overview of programs that have been offered in the past ten years, divided by program focus category.

Outdoor

- Disc Golf Tournaments (Sneeky Pete, Pro Am, Alamap Disc Golf, U.S. Masters Disc Golf Tournament)
- Farm to Table
- Preserving Our Heritage Festival
- Open Farms Days (living history program)
- Farm Tours
- Alamance Community College Animal Husbandry Class
- Dog Days at Cedarock Park
- Junior Fishing Rodeo
- Run at the Rock Trail Race
- Various School Trail Runs
- NC Envirothon
- NC Wildlife Fish Feeder Programs
- Guided Nature and History Hikes
- Nature Craft Workshop
- Nature Journal Workshop
- Pumpkin Painting
- Yoga
- Outdoor Survival Skills
- Foxfire in Cedarock Park (series of workshops on old-time skills and current DIY methods such as beekeeping, canning, pottery, mountain music, woodturning, and more)
- Fall Festival
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Yee-Haw! River Paddle
- Haw River Trailathlon
- Haw River Hustle
- Wag N' Walk Dog Hikes
- Alamance County Champion Tree Program
- National Trails Day Activities
- Senior Hikes
- First Saturday Hikes
- Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Stargazing

Community Centers

- Arts & Crafts Classes
- Santa's Workshop
- Senior Bingo (at both Community Centers)
- Family Bingo
- Youth Summer Camp
- Potluck Luncheons (at both Community Centers)
- Senior Social Time

- Open Gymnasium (at both Community Centers)
- Field Trips (ex. State Fair, Fruitcake Factory, Museums)
- Halloween Carnival
- Environmental Education Classes
- English as a Second Language Classes
- Fall Festival at Pleasant Grove Elementary
- Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser
- Fitness Center Open Hours (at both Community Centers)
- Uncle Eli's Quilting Party
- North Carolina Science Festival Star Party Host
- Summer Camp Expo at Holly Hill Mall
- Partner with Kids Path to provide Christmas gifts to terminally ill children
- Chair Yoga
- Stretch and Tone exercise
- Breakfast Club
- Host Youth Athletic Games
- Senior Movie Days
- Movie days
- Game/Cards Days
- Family Movie Nights
- Yoga

Athletics

- Youth Basketball
- Youth Baseball, Softball, & Tee-Ball through Little League
- Facilitate Club Youth Baseball & Softball
- Facilitate Club Football
- *All youth athletics programs serve a total of approximately 2000 children annually, both boys and girls, with an average of over 800 total games per year*

Special Populations

- Project Unify
- Unity in Community
- Special Olympics Unified Relay Race
- Special Olympics Spring Games (*over 350 athletes and over 1000 volunteers*)
- Special Olympics basketball, track and field, aquatics, golf, bowling, cycling, equestrian, tennis, and skiing *(serves over 400 special needs athletes)*
- Lifespan Junior Olympics
- Various Special Olympics Fundraising Events
- Visually Impaired Program Monthly Field Trips (ex. shopping, cookout, movies, ball games, bowling, putt-putt, boat tours, and more)

Public/Community Outreach & Councils

- Community Council
- Community Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking
- Wellness Committee
- Wellness Collaborative
- Leadership Alamance
- Senior Games
- Middle School Career Fair
- Sheetz Shwellness Day
- Burlington Active City Streets
- Glen Raven Wellness Fair
- Be Healthy Now Hikes
- Go Green Kids
- Special Olympics Global Messenger
- Law Enforcement Torch Runs for Special Olympics
- Various Haw River Trail presentations to conferences, local community organizations, and more
- Various Special Olympics outreach presentations

COUNTYWIDE FACILITY INVENTORY UPDATE

Please refer to the 2007 Master Plan for a comprehensive inventory of Alamance County recreation and park facilities across all sectors. Pertinent updates to this information are provided here. These updates follow the 2007 Master Plan's definitions of regional, district, community, neighborhood, special use, and linear/greenway parks.

The County has expanded with several parks, additional land at Cedarock Park, and additional linear mileage through the Haw River Trail. The County has added Great Bend Park (approximately 30 acres), Shallow Ford Natural Area (approximately 197 acres), and a number of Haw River Trail Paddle Accesses for a final total of 14 in the County. Two if its old facilities, Ray Street Community Center and Morgan Park, have been transferred into the hands of municipalities. Swepsonville River Park was recently transferred to the County for management.

There has been limited additional activity from the municipal sector in this time period in terms of building new facilities, though there are some new parks currently planned. Burlington has developed Springwood Park, which is functioning as a special use park and offers a variety of amenities the most popular of which is disc golf. Green Level has added Green Level Park, a community park. The Town of Haw River has added Red Slide Park as a neighborhood park, which also has Haw River Trail mileage and a Haw River Trail Paddle Access. Graham is in the process of building a new park with extensive outdoor fitness options.

There are currently 16 private gyms, 5 yoga studios, 15 private martial arts centers, and approximately 5 shooting/sporting clubs in Alamance County. There are also dozens of private churches in Alamance County, many of which provide playgrounds or recreation opportunities for their members. There are 36 schools as well

as Elon University and Alamance Community College. Plans are in progress for making certain school playgrounds open to the public at designated times. Alamance County YMCA is also still in operation.

At the regional level, Haw River State Park has opened. This approximately 1400-acre park is home to the headwaters of the Haw River and offers an environmental education center and trails. Alamance County is fortunate to be situated within easy access to a number of regional parks.

Please see the Community Needs Assessment- Park Acreage section for updates to parks and facilities that need to be developed by 2020 to meet the goals laid out in the 2007 Master Plan based on population projections and national standards.

Community Needs Assessment

INTRODUCTION

A critical component of a recreation master plan is the identification and incorporation of community feedback and needs. As previous community needs assessments were last completed ten years ago for the 2007 Master Plan, the Department took several approaches to acquire updated feedback from the community. To identify the recreation and parks needs of the Alamance County community, the Department administered an online and on paper Recreational Needs Survey in early 2017; held focus groups in early 2017 to identify parks and recreation needs; and incorporated feedback from public meetings held in conjunction with the County's strategic plan meetings which convened throughout 2016.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY

In February and March of 2017, the Department conducted a recreational needs survey in order to acquire updated information on the recreation and parks related needs of the Alamance County community. The last recreational needs survey was conducted in conjunction with the 2007 Master Plan. The current survey informed the development of this Master Plan Addendum and will help shape the future direction of the Department. Alamance County Recreation and Parks contracted with the consulting firm Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture, PLLC, for assistance with the recreational needs survey. The consulting firm worked with Alamance County Recreation and Parks to develop the survey instrument. The firm also came up with recommended distribution methods to ensure the survey reached a broad and sufficiently representative range of citizens and ensured that questions were clear, unbiased, and did not limit citizens to choosing from a narrow range of choices. All questions included a response that respondents could use to opt out of answering the question or an "other" category to allow them to write in their preferences if they were not represented by the choices presented.

Distribution

The Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey was distributed in both online and paper survey format. The online survey was made available through SurveyMonkey. The information provided on the introductory screen informed participants of the option to take the survey on paper if they prefer and how to obtain it if desired. The paper survey contained a link to the online survey to give respondents the option to take the survey online if they preferred. Thus, respondents had the option of completing the survey either online or paper regardless of how they encountered it.

SurveyMonkey allows the use of multiple collector links that collect the data together but allow it to be filtered if desired, so a different link was provided with the paper surveys v. the online surveys. This allowed the Department to distinguish between surveys taken directly from online venues versus from an individual having received a paper copy of the survey then taking it online. A separate collector link was also used to manually input all paper survey results into SurveyMonkey so that the software could analyze the data together.

The online and paper surveys included exactly the same questions and same introductory information, with minor tweaks to the introductory information as dictated by needing to refer the respondent to the paper or online alternative. Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of the paper survey and a copy of the online survey. Every reasonable effort was made to make it easy for citizens to obtain, complete, and return the surveys. In

addition to making access to taking the survey easy and flexible, the Department attempted to make returning the survey easy and accessible as well. In terms of returning the paper survey, respondents had the option to mail it back to the Department, return it to the distribution spot, or return it to any of the other locations with surveys.

The Alamance County Public Information Officer sent out a press release to announce the survey on February 15, 2017. The press release was sent to a wide variety of media venues including local newspapers, magazines, radio stations, and TV channels. Surveys were made available online beginning February 15, 2017, with paper surveys available upon request. Paper surveys were then distributed to a geographically representative collection of locations on March 1, 2017 (see the following for details). The survey was kept open until March 31st with the request that all surveys be received or completed by midnight on that date.

Online surveys were distributed through a variety of email list-servs, websites, and social media. Email list-servs included all County employees, all Alamance Burlington School System staff, Alamance Community College faculty and staff, Elon University's newsletter, the Wellness Collaborative, the Food Collaborative, Impact Alamance, Community Council, Alamance County Boy Scouts, and the Alamance County Recreation & Parks Department newsletter. Information and links were also posted on the Alamance Recreation& Parks Department website, the Alamance County website, the Alamance County Libraries website, and the Burlington Recreation and Parks Outdoors website. The survey link was also advertised through the local TV Public Education Government Channel (Time Warner Channel 5).

The survey was also advertised via a boosted Facebook post on the Department's Cedarock Park Facebook page. Facebook post boosting is a process that allows the user to pay for a post to appear more frequently before a certain audience. The post was first boosted to the page's existing followers and their friends, then re-boosted to target all zip codes in Alamance County. Facebook tracks the number of people the post reaches and the number of people who click on and interact with the post. The survey was also advertised through the Alamance County Facebook page and Alamance County Twitter handle, as well as Impact Alamance's Facebook page.

Paper surveys were distributed through a variety of venues in an effort to ensure that all citizens had equal access to the survey. In addition to making them available upon request, paper surveys were available for pick up, completion, and return at the following locations:

- May Memorial Public Library
- North Park Public Library
- South Annex Public Library
- Mebane Public Library
- Graham Public Library
- Main County Building (contains courthouse, tax department, etc.)
- Alamance Arts
- The Children's Museum of Alamance County
- Cedarock Park (both offices)
- Pleasant Grove Community Center
- Eli Whitney Community Center

Paper surveys were also distributed through select schools in the Alamance Burlington School System. Per the advice of the consulting agency and the school's public information officer, five schools were selected as geographically and demographically representative of the County. This included three elementary schools, to whom the Department provided one survey copy per student for family completion. This also included two middle schools to whom the Department provided two survey copies per student, one for the student and one

for the family to complete. High schools were not included due to school system restrictions on distributing information to high school students. The following schools received surveys:

- Pleasant Grove Elementary School
- E.M. Holt Elementary School
- Sylvan Elementary School
- Hawfields Middle School
- Western Middle School

Please refer to Appendix A for a map of the locations at which paper surveys were available and the schools to which they were distributed. The schools worked with the Department to provide the option for students and their families to return completed surveys to the school's front office to facilitate survey return. Paper surveys were also distributed at various City of Burlington Outdoor Programs, Alamance County Recreation and Parks programs, and in person outside of park programs/facilities (to clubs, church groups, etc.).

The following table quantifies a summary of the distribution scheme for the surveys. An "NA" indicates that the number of recipients was unknown (ex. for website distribution and press releases). Note that the views on social media are an underestimate, as the posts were re-shared a number of times, at which point the program cannot track the distribution.

Distribution Method	**Number of Recipients**
Email listservs (non-Departmental)	8,468
Email listservs (ACRPD)	2,456
Cedarock Park Facebook Page	7,791+
Other Social Media (non-ACRPD)	NA
Websites (ACRPD & non-ACRPD)	NA
Press Release (newspaper, TV, radio)	NA
Libraries	250
Schools	4,210
ACRPD facilities	325
ACRPD programs	260
City of Burlington Outdoors programs	60
Locations Around County	175
In Person Distribution	260
Total Surveys Distributed	**24,255+**

Table 1. Recreational needs survey distribution. ACRPD=Alamance County Recreation & Parks Department.

The broad geographical distribution of the paper surveys and the online zip code targeting of the Facebook post helped ensure that the survey reached a broad and representative sample of citizens. The schools and libraries cover all areas of the County and the online options are available to anyone with a computer or access to a library computer. Additionally, advertisement through press releases helped ensure awareness of the survey throughout the County. Well over half of the distributed surveys were provided through non-Departmental venues.

Results

The Department received 1,765 responses to the Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey (Recreational Needs Survey). Of these responses, 159 came from paper surveys returned to distribution locations or mailed in; 488 came from online responses using the link only available on paper copies of the survey (i.e. the respondent obtained a paper copy then took the survey online); and 1,118 of the responses came from the online link.

Please refer to the survey for full questions/answer options. The following lists the question and a summary of responses paired with a conclusion regarding the response for that question. For full complete responses please refer to Appendix A.

Demographics

Question 1. Are you a resident of Alamance County?

Responses: 89.1% responded yes (1,561) and 10.9% (191) responded no

Conclusion: The vast majority of respondents are Alamance County residents. Based on zip codes, comments and responses to other questions, many of those who are not Alamance County residents are located just over the County line or otherwise very nearby and still represent community members who use County facilities.

Question 2. What is your zip code?

Responses: Please see the distribution map in Figure 2 and details in Table 2. All County zip codes were represented, as well as some out of County zip codes. Note some zip codes were mis-entered by respondents and indecipherable; these were excluded.

Conclusion: All county zip codes were represented, indicating that the survey respondents represented a wide geographic distribution in the County. Responses were concentrated in zip codes that represent the more densely populated areas of the County (such as Burlington, Mebane, and Graham), as would be expected. Out of County zip codes were also represented but with significantly fewer respondents. Of the out of County zip codes, the majority came from Guilford and Orange County, the largest west and east neighboring counties.

Question 3. What is your gender?

Responses: 32.32% of respondents to this question were male; 66.17% were female; and 1.59% elected "prefer not to answer."

Conclusion: County demographics show a proportion of 52% female to 48% male residents. The responses to this question indicate that there was a higher representation of female respondents than male. The Department suggests that this may be due to the fact that a number of surveys were answering the question as a household rather than an individual and perhaps the female member of the household took the survey. Other factors may also have influenced this.

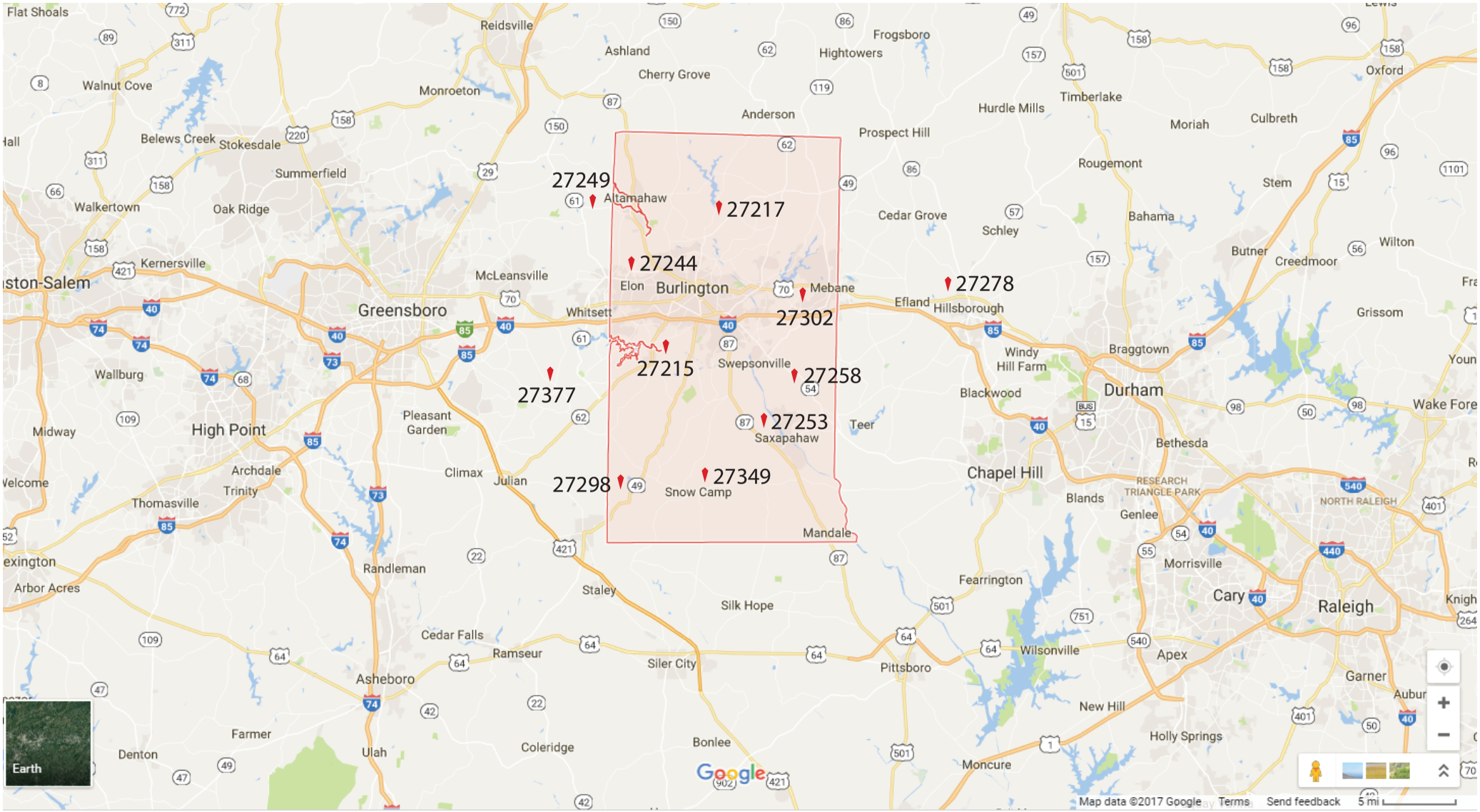

Figure 2. Recreational Needs Survey Respondent Distribution Map*

**Only zip codes represented by 10+ respondents are shown on this map. For a full list of respondent locations please refer to Table 3.*

Alamance County Zip Codes	Location	Number of Respondents
27302	Mebane, Eastern Alamance County	349
27253, 27340, 27359	Graham, Swepsonville, Saxapahaw, & Southeastern Alamance County	338
27215, 27201, 27216	Southwestern Burlington, Alamance, Bellemont	306
27217	Northern Burlington, Glencoe, Glen Raven, Pleasant Grove	175
27258	Haw River, Southeastern Alamance County	144
27349	Snow Camp, Southern Alamance County	62
27298	Southwestern Alamance County	32
Out of County Zip Codes	**Location**	**Number of Respondents**
27305, 27315, 27379	Caswell County	6
27207, 27208, 27312, 27344	Chatham County	12
27295, 27360	Davidson County	2
27701, 27704, 27707, 27712, 27713	Durham County	8
27012, 27103, 27107	Forsyth County	3
27214, 27233, 27249, 27262, 27265, 27283, 27301, 27313, 27358, 27377, 27401, 27405, 27406, 27410, 27455	Guilford County	96
27577, 27592	Johnston County	2
27330	Lee County	1
28217	Mecklenburg County	1
27231, 27243, 27278, 27510, 27514, 27516, 27705	Orange County	19
27541, 27583	Person County	2
27248	Randolph County	1
27025, 27320	Rockingham County	6
27511, 27513, 27519, 27539, 27587, 27603, 27606, 27610, 27612, 27615	Wake County	12
Out of State Zip Codes	**Location**	**Number of Respondents**
25450	Danville, VA	1
26205	Craigsville, WV	1
37215	Nashville, TN	1

Table 2. Recreational Needs Survey Respondent Distribution

Question 4. To which racial or ethnic group do you most identify?

Responses: Of respondents, 74.2% were White/Caucasian, 9.3% were Black/African American, 7.5% were Hispanic/Latino, slightly over 3% each were of multiple race decent or chose not to answer, and less than 1% each were American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Asian.

Conclusion: The ethnic/racial demographics represented in the survey were reflective of overall County demographics for White/Caucasians, multiple races, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and Asians. Hispanic/Latinos were slightly under-represented at 7.5% compared to the County whole of 12.4%; however, this particular demographic often presents confusing numbers as those identifying as Hispanic/Latino may be of a different race and referring to their ethnicity, confounding responses to survey questions depending on how they are worded. Blacks/African Americans were underrepresented at 9.3% compared to the County whole of 19.7%.

Question 5. List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below?

Responses: The age brackets with the most representation were, in order from highest to lowest, 45-54 years, 35-33 years, and under 18 years. Other ages were represented but in smaller numbers.

Conclusion: The age brackets most represented are suggestive of families as the main group of respondents. The 35-44 and 45-54 age bracket is suggestive of parents with the large number of under 18 suggestive of their children as well as respondents from the schools to which surveys were distributed. These results are consistent with the median age of Alamance County, which is 39.2 years. It is also reflective of the 22.7% of the County population that is under 18 years of age. Seniors may have been slightly underrepresented, as 16.4% of the County is over 65 years of age.

Preferences

Question 6. How often do you and your family visit a park or trail?

Responses: The top two responses were “A few times per year” and “2 or more times per month.” “A few times per year” was represented by 34.4% of respondents and “2 or more times per month” by 31.2%. Next were “rarely” at 15.4% and “2 or more times per week” at 12.9%. Only 1.7% visit a park or trail every day and 4.5% never visit a park or trail.

Conclusion: The vast majority of respondents (approximately 65%) of respondents visit a trail 2 or more times per month or a few times per year. Outside of this user group, almost equally represented were people who visit them two or more times per week or rarely. This demonstrates that the average is a few times per month or every few months and the remainder are fairly evenly divided between heavy park/trail users and those who rarely or never use them.

Question 7. Please check which Alamance County parks and trails you have visited over the past year:

Responses: 80.5% have visited Cedarock Park in the past year. 11.6% have visited Great Bend Park, 16.4% Shallowford Natural Area, 47.4% Haw River Trail trail or paddles accesses, 10.9% Pleasant Grove Community Center, and 17.6% Eli Whitney Community Center.

Conclusion: Of Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department parks and trails, Cedarock Park was the most frequently visited followed by the Haw River Trail trail or paddle accesses. Other facilities were visited by between 10% and 17% of respondents. This indicates that Cedarock Park and the Haw River Trail are the Department's most popular facilities. It may also reflect that the other facilities are not attracting visitors or that those who do visit these other facilities were underrepresented in the survey. These results suggest that the Department should look into improvements and opportunities at the less frequently visited facilities while maintaining a high standard at the most visited facilities.

Question 8. What other City and Town parks/facilities, schools, health clubs, places of worship, or other organizations do you use for recreation?

Responses: This question was open-ended. Based on text analysis, the most frequently listed other facilities included Burlington City Park, the YMCA, private Church facilities, Lake Macintosh Park, Joe Davidson Park, Springwood Park, Beth Schmidt Park, and unspecified parks in Haw River, Elon, Mebane, and Graham.

Conclusion: The other most visited facilities represent other large and popular facilities in Alamance County. Burlington City Park is well-known and well-loved by residents. Springwood Park and Lake Macintosh Park are also large and well-known. There are a large number of churches in Alamance County so it is not surprising that Church facilities was a frequent answer.

Question 9. Which park or recreational facility is closest to your home?

Responses: This question was open-ended. Based on text analysis, the most frequently listed facilities included Cedarock Park (Alamance County), Burlington City Park (City of Burlington), the Haw River Trail (Alamance County & partners); Shallow Ford Natural Area (Alamance County); Joe Davidson Park (Burlington); Haw River Park (Town of Haw River); Mebane parks (City of Mebane); and Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove Community Centers (Alamance County).

Conclusion: These responses provide some insight into where respondents live, although zip codes are a more reliable indicator. These results are likely skewed by a lack of knowledge of all available parks and facilities in the County. The top listed parks are quite well-known, the first three being some of the most popular and well-advertised in the County. This may mean that perhaps a respondent lives closer to a different park/facility that they do not know about. This is supported to some extent by the zip code distribution of respondents (see question 2).

Question 10. How would you rate the physical condition of the Alamance County facilities and trails you have visited?

Responses: Alamance County facilities and trails were rated "Excellent" by 18.4% of respondents; "Good" by 57.9%; "Fair" by 15.3%; "Poor" by 1.43%; and 7% offered "No Opinion."

Conclusion: The majority of respondents rated the condition as "Good." Taken together, "Good" and "Excellent" represented 76.3% of responses. This shows the Department that overall it is doing a good to excellent job maintaining its facilities. However, there is still room for improvement and the Department can work on identifying what caused some ratings to be low. It is worth noting that

comments in other questions revealed confusion about which facilities are maintained by the County v. other municipalities, so ratings may be confounded by respondents' understanding of which facilities/trails are actually operated by the County.

Question 11. How do you learn about upcoming parks and recreation activities? Please select the top 3 most important to your household.

Responses: Respondents had 12 options as well as a write-in option. The top five are presented here. 57.9% responded "Friends & Neighbors," 42.2% responded "Facebook/social media," 25.5% responded "Internet search engine," 24.7% responded "Alamance Parks/Haw River Trail/and or County website," and 20.6% responded "Newspaper." Write-in responses, based on text analysis, most frequently included "Library," "School," "Park," "Driving," and "Signs on the Road."

Conclusion: These responses indicate that word of mouth, the Internet, and the newspaper are the most important means of communication for the community to find out what is happening at Alamance Parks. The libraries, schools, and road signs are also important means of communication. This information will allow the Department to focus its advertising efforts in these areas to most effectively reach community members.

Question 12. Which of the following should Alamance Parks prioritize in future efforts/projects? Please check all that apply.

Responses: The percent of respondents that indicated prioritizing each option are as follows:

- Improve/maintain existing facilities: 49.6%
- Create new parks and natural areas: 41.3%
- Expand educational programming: 22.78%
- Develop trails and greenways for walking and biking that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, and other facilities: 51.43%
- Expand facilities and programs at Rural Community Centers: 19%
- Improve youth athletics facilities and opportunities: 32.6%
- I don't know/prefer not to answer: 10%

Write-in comments, based on text analysis, suggest an interest in Mebane and County facilities, Trails, Parks, Kids, Disc Golf Courses, Bathrooms, Basketball Courts, and Soccer Fields.

Conclusion: Of the answer options provided, the community indicated the strongest preference for developing trails and greenways for walking and biking that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, and other facilities (51.4%). This was followed fairly closely by improving/maintaining existing facilities (49.6%) and then by creating new parks and natural areas (41.3%). This shows that citizens would like to see more trails, greenways, and connectivity but that they also place an importance on maintaining and improving existing facilities. However, they would also like to see new parks and natural areas developed.

Question 13. Please select your interest level in the programs below (not/somewhat/very interested):

Responses: Respondents had 13 options as well as a write-in option. The top five are presented here. The survey software calculates a weighted total for each option based on the number of responses in each category (not/somewhat/very interested). Based on these weighted totals, the most popular programs (in order) included Special Events, Active Athletics, Fitness & Wellness, Field Trips, and Arts & Crafts.* Write-in options were highly varied and tended to represent an individual's personal preferences.

Conclusion: This information will help inform the Department's future program efforts. The Department did observe that the results for this question changed significantly after distribution to middle school students. Prior to their completion of the survey, Environmental Education and Historical/Cultural Education were ranked much higher. In-depth analysis of the data and the over-time survey trend will inform the Department about program offerings that will best meet the needs of each age demographic.

Question 14. Please select your interest level in the following facilities (not/somewhat/very interested):

Responses: Respondents had 28 choices as well as a write-in option. The top five are presented here. The survey software calculates a weighted total for each option based on the number of responses in each category (not/somewhat/very interested). Based on these weighted totals, the facility types with the most interest included (from most to least): hiking/walking trails; then picnic shelters and gazebos tied with nature observation decks/platforms/boardwalks; nature play areas; playgrounds; and fitness trails. Of respondents, 61.9% were "very" interested in hiking/walking trails giving this category a strong lead with a weighted average of 2.54. The next most popular were 2.26 and below. For other facility types, the level of distinction between "somewhat" and "very" interested was more variable. Write-in options, based on text analysis, included soccer fields, playgrounds, paddle boats, and trails as frequently occurring responses, but also represented a lot of individual preferences as with other questions' write-in options.

Conclusion: This information will help inform the Department's future facility developments and improvements. It is clear that the community has a very strong preference for hiking/walking trails as well as open spaces allowing for picnicking and nature observation. Play areas and playgrounds also ranked highly. Many of the facility options that ranked below these were still close in score, including paddle/canoe trails, indoor fitness centers/weight rooms, open play fields, active athletic fields, historic buildings, greenways, campgrounds, fishing facilities, community gardens, and more. This shows that the community has an interest in diverse facility offerings. It is interesting to note that the lower ranking of active athletic fields does not align with the strong program interest in athletic fields, again pointing to some bias introduced by age of the respondents in the programs category. The Department will use detailed analysis of this information to guide future facility decisions.

Question 15. What barriers prevent you and your family from using county parks, trails, recreation facilities or programs more often? Please check all that apply.

Responses: Respondents had 15 options as well as a write-in option. The top five are presented here. 39.8% responded "not enough time," 39.1% responded "I do not know what is being offered," 20.8%

responded “I use city and town parks and facilities,” 17.7% responded “parks/trails are too far from our residence,” and 16.1% responded “I do not know locations of parks/facilities.”

Write-in responses, based on text analysis, typically expanded an explanation of the selections chosen as opposed to providing other barriers not listed as options.

Conclusion: Aside from residents not having enough time to visit the parks, the major barriers were knowledge of offerings, use of other municipalities’ facilities, distance to parks, and lack of knowledge of locations. The issue of lack of time is due to individuals’ own choices and prioritizations of their time, or economic/lifestyle constraints. Distance and the use of municipality facilities are related to where people live. These responses, and to some extent the lack of time response, indicate a desire for parks that are close to people’s homes so they do not have to travel far. However, the issues of lack of knowledge of park/facility locations and offerings is something that the Department will work on addressing through increased advertising and improved communications. The responses from question 11 will help inform the Department on how to best reach the community to correct this issue.

Question 16. What do you feel are the most important benefits of parks and recreation for the future of Alamance County? Please check all that apply.

Responses: Respondents had 15 options as well as a write-in option. The top five are presented here. Almost tied at 76.6% and 76.1% were “Makes Alamance County a more desirable place to live” and “Improves physical health and fitness,” respectively. The next three were “Improves mental health and reduces stress” at 67.2%, “Preserves open space and the environment” at 61.1%, and “Attracts new businesses and residents” at 41.4%.

Conclusion: These responses indicate that the Alamance County community places a value on parks and recreation as making the community a more desirable place to live, increasing overall wellness, protecting the environment, and promoting economic growth. The fact that the top responses were related to making Alamance County a more desirable place to live and improving physical health shows that the community values parks and recreation as a priority aspect of their lives and integral to maintaining their well-being.

Question 17. Pease share any additional thoughts/comments:

Responses: This was an open ended question that received 213 written responses. The words that occur most frequently based on text analysis include “Alamance County,” “Trails,” “Parks,” “Love,” “Community,” “Fields,” “Activities,” “Nice,” “Great Job,” “Survey,” “Play,” and “Place.”

Conclusion: This question, being open-ended, attracted a lot of specific “wish list” requests that were highly individualized. Outside of this type of question, analysis revealed a trend in a desire for better connectivity, trails/greenways, bike facilities, more outdoor athletic opportunities such as skate parks, soccer fields, and basketball courts, appreciation for the ability to provide feedback, appreciation/compliments for the parks as they are, concerns about bathrooms/bathroom cleanliness, desire for dog parks, and more. It was clear from the comments that many respondents did not know which parks are County-run facilities and which belong to municipalities. A lot of suggestions were park, facility, or neighborhood specific and some applied to facilities not operated by the County.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In 2016, County staff held community forums in seventeen locations that involved more than 190 participants from across the County. The forums were designed to gather community input regarding the County's strategic plan, which focuses on all aspects of County services including Recreation & Parks. In Appendix B please find a complete list of dates, times, and locations of forums; a complete list of forum participants; a map of participants' locations and forum locations; a copy of the guide provided to participants (see the following); and a copy of the raw data from the forum responses.

Participants were given a guide containing three main questions and seven categories for discussion during the forums. They were then divided into small groups with staff members available to answer questions and were given a specific amount of time to discuss each of the three questions. The questions posed to forum participants were:

1. "One untapped or underappreciated asset of Alamance County is _____."
2. "Within the key issue areas, what do you see currently happening or about to happen that present the **best opportunities** for Alamance County? List each opportunity on a separate post-it note."
3. "In 30 years, what aspect of Alamance County will you be glad you protected or encouraged today?"

For Question 1, the following were identified as untapped/underappreciated County assets related to recreation & parks (the number in parentheses indicates the number of times each topic appeared on the list):

- Parks & Recreation/Park System/Eco-tourism (10)
- Haw River Trail/Haw River (7)
- Natural Resources/Wilderness/Water (6)
- Heritage Tourism/Historic Resources (6)
- Transportation Corridors (4)
- Trails (3)
- Green Areas/Green Spaces/Greenways (3)
- Tourism (2)
- Need for Youth Programs (2)
- Rural Areas, Open Land, & Protected Growth Strategies- various (11)

All of the above represent topics both directly or indirectly related to Recreation & Parks, and represent 25% of the 212 responses provided to this question. This feedback demonstrates recognition of Recreation and Parks as assets in the County, specifically including the Haw River Trail, and reflects that citizens value open spaces, green spaces, and the rural feel of the County- all of which involve parks. The fact that these items are identified as underappreciated or untapped suggests that there is room for growth, additional development including parks and green spaces, and improvements, particularly in communicating the availability of these opportunities to the community.

For Question 2, participants were asked to identify the best opportunities for Alamance County within key issue areas. Responses covered all areas of County and community functions and many cross over between themes. The following provides a snapshot of the themes that relate to and will affect Recreation and Parks:

- Citizens indicated a desire for smart growth development including planning for development that protects open spaces and agriculture; proactive zoning to accommodate increasing development;

improvement and repurposing of existing spaces; taking advantage of currently underutilized amenities; and plans that account for increased transportation and connectivity opportunities.

- Respondents expressed a need for increased and better communication/outreach between the County and its citizens to provide information about County activities, amenities, services, offerings, involvement opportunity, and role in the community. This included specific recommendations to improve online communication. They also indicated a desire for a more cohesive County identity, improved branding, and marketing of the County.

- There were a number of responses related directly to Parks and Recreation. These included:
    - Maintenance and upgrades of parks for the future, a focus on parks and recreation, and utilization of existing facilities
    - Identification of a need for new parks and trails, open space, land protection, and consideration of the environment in planned growth
    - Identification of the Haw River Trail as a growth opportunity, amenity, and an eco-tourism draw to the County/economic development tool, with specific reference to active expansion of the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail through the County. Respondents also indicated a desire for enhancement of development/trails and access to the Haw River Trail system and an emphasis on Alamance County trail systems (hiking, biking, and paddling).
    - The desire for connectivity through active transportation options (sidewalks, cycling, etc.)
    - Protection of water quality and the Haw River Watershed, other natural resources, and wildlife
    - Various suggestions about potential new parks in specific areas
    - Recognition of the importance of parks for tourism/eco-tourism
    - The importance of heritage and history tourism in the County
    - Interest in a variety of specific amenities and programs including bike trails, dog parks, tennis courts, services for seniors, childcare activities, family and community activities, quality youth athletics programs, free fitness programs, baseball fields, and more playgrounds

The final question asked participants to identify "what aspect of Alamance County will you be glad you protected or encouraged today?" Of the 186 responses, 24% related to parks and recreation. These included (the number in parentheses indicates how many responses related to each theme):

- Parks & trails (9)
- Green areas/Green Spaces/Greenways (9)
- Protection/maintenance of historic sites (5)
- Preserve and expand open spaces (5)
- Access to/protection of natural resources (4)
- Connectivity through active transport (4)
- Protect the Haw River (3)
- Protect and conserve water resources (3)
- Beautification of Alamance County (1)

Note that there is significant overlap in these themes, such as "green spaces" and "open spaces." Taken together, these responses clearly show that the citizens of Alamance County consider parks, trails, green areas/open spaces, protection and conservation of natural resources, and active transportation to be priorities for Alamance County.

FOCUS GROUPS

Two focus group sessions were also held to solicit feedback from key organizations involved in health, wellness, and leadership in Alamance County. Focus group participants were asked to each write down three priorities for future recreational facilities, services, and/or programs to be provided by Alamance County Recreation & Parks.

The first focus group session was held on March 8, 2017 at a meeting of the Alamance Leadership class, a group of selected community members representing emerging leaders in the County. This focus session had 17 participants. The second focus group session was held on March 16, 2017 at a meeting of the Wellness Collaborative, a community coalition focused on improving health and wellness in Alamance County. This focus session had 27 participants.

These groups' recommendations were collected and compiled, then organized into groups of related themes. A list of participants and the raw data for responses can be found in Appendix C. There were 73 total responses. The following summary identifies the top recommendations from focus group participants (the number in parentheses indicates the number of times a response theme appeared):

- Greenways & connectivity to sidewalks/public transportation (12)
- Hiking trails/nature parks with hiking (13) **including a specific note to continue building the Haw River Trail*
- Community gardening/edible landscaping/canning classes (6)
- Outdoor education/outdoor learning/environmental education (6)
- Biking paths, lanes, or trails (5)
- Safe, affordable family-friendly parks/activities (4)
- Active athletics, exercise/fitness opportunities (4)
- Varying suggestions for programs targeting youth: pre-k, sports, at-risk youth, teens, summer camps (6 total suggestions)
- Festivals (2)
- Transportation to parks (2)
- Other suggestions included maintaining green spaces, collaborative recreation, horseback riding facility, restrooms at parks/par courses, outdoor venues for events, safety features, water splash park, classes targeting diabetes, senior activities, healthy eating classes, camping sites, Fitbit contest, and foot golf

The focus group responses indicate a clear prioritization of the need for greenways, hiking trails, and connectivity of these trails to existing sidewalks and public transportation. Of the 73 total responses, 25 focused on this theme (34%). Community gardening and outdoor education opportunities each accounted for 8% of the responses, showing up as the second and third most frequently identified needs. Also popular were biking opportunities (7%), family-friendly recreation offerings (5%), and active athletics/fitness opportunities (5%).

PARK ACREAGE NEEDS

According to the tabulations laid out in the 2007 Master Plan and updated with facilities added in the past ten years, Alamance County still has several parks and recreation needs to be met in the public sector. The area has sufficient access to regional parks. However, the County still needs 1 to 2 more district parks. Although Cedarock Park acquired additional acreage, no new district park was constructed. Expansion of the Haw River Trail has accounted for 20 of the 51 linear park/greenway trail miles recommended in the 2007 Master Plan. Graham's new park and Green Level Park expanded on the previously accounted for community parks, while Red Slide

Park added a neighborhood park in Haw River. The County still needs 2 to 3 more community parks, 19-27 neighborhood parks, and 31 more miles of greenway/linear parks. Please see the Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations for plans to meet these needs.

Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

The following proposals outline the Department's plans for facility improvements and additions, new parks and facilities, development of greenways and linear parks, and changes to the Department over the coming years. These proposals are a revision to those outlined in the 2007 Master Plan and are informed by the updated community needs assessment. However, the Department will continue focusing on the development of district parks, greenway/linear parks, and special use facilities, and services/programs for special needs populations as recommended in the 2007 Master Plan. Per this plan, municipalities would be responsible for providing and maintaining the majority of community and neighborhood parks. Note that while some of the following proposed facilities would fit into the definition of community and neighborhood parks in terms of size, they would serve the entire County, functioning in some ways as special use or at the district level, and are therefore included herein.

The Department will continue seeking and developing partnerships with the public and private sectors as outlined in the 2007 Master Plan. It will continue to fund its efforts with a combination of annually budgeted County funds and grant funds, with some support from donations and sponsorship for smaller scale projects and programs. The Department will also modify programs, its size, and the number of staff as needed to maintain and manage its facilities as it grows.

IMPROVEMENTS & ADDITIONS TO CURRENT FACILITIES

Cedarock Park

- Addition of the Cedarock Equestrian Complex. Currently, the complex is under partial development. The Department proposes a dedicated entrance for equestrian users, circular drive, equestrian camping facilities, plumbed restroom facilities, a riding ring, use of an existing fenced 78 acres, construction of a stable, and the addition of horses and tack to offer the public affordable trail ride/lesson opportunities. The entrance, drive, camping facilities, and restrooms are currently under construction. The remainder of facilities be later phases of the project.

Swepsonville River Park

- Continue improvements to Sweponsville River Park. The County recently took over management of this facility from the Town of Swepsonville. It requires clean up, renovation of the existing trail system, installation of new picnic tables, improvements to the paddle access put-ins, gates, and regular maintenance/patrolling.

Pleasant Grove Community Center

- Construction of a surfaced walking trail. Currently, the Department has a grant application in place to fund the construction of an accessible, surfaced greenway to extend the outdoor fitness opportunities at Pleasant Grove.

Eli Whitney Community Center

- Repair/replacement of the gymnasium floor
- New septic tank and restrooms
- Repurposing of unused athletic field into a Dog Park
- Evaluate need for indoor space
- Multipurpose outdoor athletic court

Athletic Parks

- Continue improvements to athletic fields including improved signage, repair/replace fencing, install picnic areas, install trash cans, and replacement and repair of aging facilities as dictated by use. The facilities at B. Everett Jordan need significant renovations.

Comprehensive

- Renovate & restore historic buildings, particularly at Cedarock Historical Farm
- Upgrade restroom facilities at Department parks and facilities
- Improve nutrition and food service at Department athletic games and programs

New Parks

District

Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area- The Department is in the process of acquiring land for and developing the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area, which will serve as a 600+ acre passive use natural area. This project was proposed in the 2007 Master Plan. The Department has acquired portions of the land through grants from Clean Water Management Trust Fund and continues to apply for funding to acquire additional land as it becomes available. The Cane Creek Mountains are a Piedmont Monadnock Range that represent a highly unique natural resource and house an important Natural Heritage Area. The Department is working closely with Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the Piedmont Land Conservancy to acquire and protect this resource so that the public can enjoy it for passive recreational use.

Additional District Park- Due to several circumstances, one of the proposed district parks from the 2007 Master Plan could not be completed. The department plans to identify an alternate location for an additional district park. These parks in would offer the recommended additional district parks for Alamance County's population size.

Community/Special Use

Great Bend Park/Glencoe Extension- A need has been identified for acquisition of additional land around the Great Bend Park/Glencoe Area. This would allow expansion of Great Bend Park and complement connectivity to the Historic Glencoe Mill Village and nearby Glencoe Paddle Access with attached Haw River Trail mileage.

Mountain Bike Park- A need has been identified for development of a mountain bike/biking park/facility. This is an amenity not currently available in the County and for which there is interest.

Indoor Park Center- A need has been identified for construction of an indoor park center that will serve as a multi-purpose center for hosting environmental education classes, historical/cultural education classes, fitness/exercise activities, meetings, and more.

Although these parks/facilities are planned to be of a size better fitting the Community Park description, they will be available to the whole County and will also serve as a special use facility. It will help meet the recommendation of 3-4 additional Community Parks by the year 2020 (please refer to the 2007 master plan). In combination with parks provided by municipalities, this need will be met or surpassed.

Additional Needs- A need has also been identified for an outdoor firing range, ATV trails, and additional hunting & fishing areas.

Addition of these parks/facilities would help meet the recommended need for additional community parks for the County.

Neighborhood/Special Use

Saxapahaw Island Park- The Department is in the process of developing Saxapahaw Island Park, a neighborhood-size park in the heart of Saxapahaw. While this Park is relatively small, it is expected to become one of the most highly-utilized parks managed by the Department due to the popularity of Saxapahaw within the village and nearby communities. The Park will feature a trailhead, hiking trails, nature observation areas, waterfront deck area, nature play area, and connectivity to Haw River Trail north and south of the island. The Department has secured two grants to begin development of this park.

Because this park will offer the only other nature play area currently available in the County, it is something of a special use facility. Neighborhood parks are not the primary focus of the Department's planned facilities, but this park's connectivity to the Haw River Trail and unique location grant it a wide appeal to the community as a whole. The 2007 plan identified the need for 20-28 neighborhood parks by 2020, a goal that municipalities will help to meet.

Other- Note that the recommended park acreage for each type of park facility encourages the addition of 20+ new neighborhood parks. However, as outlined in the original 2007 Master Plan, the County will continue to focus on parks at the district and community level as well as trails and special use facilities throughout the County, with municipalities focusing on neighborhood parks per the plan's recommendation.

Greenway/Linear Parks

Haw River Trail

The Department will continue to develop the Haw River Land and Paddle Trail in Alamance County. The Department has completed the major access points for the Paddle Trail, but ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and expansions will be required. The Haw River Land Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail currently consists of several non-contiguous segments of trail in Alamance County. Of approximately 40 planned miles, 18 are complete and open to the public. The Department will continue to acquire land and develop trail to connect these segments until the Trail is complete through the County. The Department has and will continue to serve in an advisory capacity for other counties involved in development of Haw River Trail sections in their areas.

Updates to the mileage recommended in the 2007 Master Plan identify the need for 31 miles of new trail by 2020. Plans are in place to reach this goal.

Additional Greenways/Trails

Please refer to the Alamance County Trail Plan for additional proposed Greenways and Trails (Appendix D). The Department will continue taking the lead role in planning and coordinating greenway and trail efforts throughout the County, as proposed in the 2007 Master Plan. It will focus on working with willing landowners to acquire land and easements as they become available for the purpose of future trail and greenway development.

Additional Needs

The Department recognizes that the needs of a community change over time. Though this plan is intended to address critical needs for the upcoming five to ten years, the Department will also plan to accommodate needs of the community as dictated by change over time. The ability to adapt to changing needs allows the Department flexibility to best serve its citizens.

PROGRAMS

Overview

The Department recently created a Programs Superintendent position. It is the intent of the Department that this position will coordinate and facilitate all program offerings in the Department across the three focus areas of athletics, community, and outdoors. The position will streamline programming, ensure that programs are meeting community needs and functioning smoothly, and provide necessary support to other program staff.

Outdoor

The Department will continue to expand and diversify its outdoor programming offerings. Diversification of these programs is a relatively new focus for the Department and will continue to be developed. The Department would specifically like to expand nature and historical/cultural education program opportunities.

Community Centers

The Department will continue to offer its current programming through the Rural Community Centers. Programs are revised and diversified as needed. Changes will be informed by the results of the recent Recreation Needs Survey as well as the success of different program types.

Special Populations

The Department will continue to provide recreation services/programs for special populations. Currently, these services are provided through Special Olympics Alamance County and the Visually Impaired Program. These offerings will continue and will be strengthened and possibly diversified under the leadership of a new Special Populations Coordinator hired in early 2017.

Athletics

As proposed in the 2007 Master Plan, the Department has a partnership agreement with the school system for use of athletic fields. Over coming years, the Department will monitor its athletic programming landscape and participation levels to assess the need for restructuring of athletic programs or consolidation of programs with municipalities and/or club leagues.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Structural Changes

At this time, the Department does not propose any structural changes beyond the proposed positions outlined below. However, given the recent merger of the Convention and Visitors Bureau with the Department, it is possible that the need may arise for some changes over time.

Positions

The Department proposes the creation of an Outdoor Program Specialist position. Outdoor programs offered by the Department have remained fairly static over the lifetime of the Department and only in recent years have begun to diversify. With this increase in offerings, the needs for outdoor programming support are growing. Currently outdoor programming is handled by a combination of other staff, including the Trail and Open Space Coordinator, Grants & Communications Coordinator, Southern and Northern Parks Managers, Park Technicians, Programs Superintendent, Program Specialist, and part-time Program Assistant. As programs expand, this is becoming an unsustainable model that pulls these positions away from their regular job duties. A dedicated Outdoor Program Specialist position under supervision by the Programs Superintendent would relieve this burden.

The Department will also need to continue hiring additional park technicians as new parks are opened. For example, Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area will be a 600+ acre park that will require staff to manage and

maintain it. Saxapahaw Island is anticipated to be one of the most highly visited parks the Department will operate and will also therefore require staff dedicated to its maintenance. These needs will be identified and addressed as they arise.

REFERENCES

- U.S. Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov)
- N.C. Department of Commerce (http://accessnc.nccommerce.com/EDIS/demographics.html)
- Alamance County Recreation and Parks (https://www.alamance-nc.com/recreation)
- Alamance County (https://www.alamance-nc.com)
- City of Burlington (http://burlingtonnc.gov/facilities/facility/details/Springwood-Park-57)
- Town of Green Level (http://greenlevelnc.com/departments/parks-and-recreation/park/)
- Town of Haw River (http://townofhawriver.com/Facilities.aspx)
- N.C. State Parks (https://www.ncparks.gov/haw-river-state-park)

APPENDIX A- RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY

The following pages contain supporting documentation relevant to the Recreational Needs Survey:

- A copy of the paper survey
- A copy of the online survey
- A copy of the paper survey distributed to schools
- A map of locations where paper surveys were available
- A map of the zip codes of respondents
- A copy of survey responses

15. What barriers prevent you and your family from using county parks, trails, recreation facilities or programs more often? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ I do not know what is being offered
- ☐ Program times are not convenient
- ☐ Lack of parking
- ☐ I use city and town parks and facilities
- ☐ Parks/trails are too far from our residence
- ☐ Overcrowding
- ☐ Lack of accessibility
- ☐ Lack of restrooms
- ☐ Feel unsafe
- ☐ I do not know locations of parks/facilities
- ☐ Park operating hours are not convenient
- ☐ Not enough time
- ☐ Parks are not well maintained
- ☐ Facility and program fees are too high
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify):_____

16. What do you feel are the most important benefits of parks and recreation for the future of Alamance County? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Makes Alamance County a more desirable place to live
- ☐ Improves physical health and fitness
- ☐ Attracts new businesses and residents
- ☐ Increases property values
- ☐ Promotes tourism
- ☐ Reduces crime
- ☐ Improves mental health and reduces stress
- ☐ Preserves open space and the environment
- ☐ Protects water quality
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please describe):_____

17. Please share any additional thoughts/comments:

_____

_____

_____

18. If you would like to be entered in the raffle for $100, be involved in future planning efforts/volunteer opportunities, or receive our newsletter, please provide your contact information (minimum name & email or phone number):

_____

_____

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time and valuable input!

place tape here

Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey
Alamance Parks
3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd.
Burlington, NC 27215

Postage Required

Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey

Alamance Parks, the County's Recreation & Parks Department, is dedicated to offering quality programming and facilities. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey about Alamance County parks and recreation services and facilities. Your feedback will help the county better understand the wants, needs and satisfaction of our citizens.

If you have questions you may email recinfo@alamance-nc.com or call Alamance Parks at (336) 229-2410. **Your feedback will be kept anonymous but you may choose to include your contact information to enter a raffle for $100!** You may complete the survey online or on paper.

Please use the link below to take the survey online:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/recparksurvey

OR

Paper copies are available at multiple locations including all Alamance County Public Libraries (for a complete list of locations please visit www.alamance-nc.com/recreation). Your paper survey may be returned at the location where you picked it up or you may:

-Drop it off at any of the locations listed on our website
-Scan and email it to recinfo@alamance-nc.com
-Return it by mail (this pamphlet is designed for mailing)

The survey will close at midnight on March 31st, 2017. Responses must be received by this date. Thank you!

1 & 2. Are you a resident of Alamance County? What is your zip code?

☐ Yes ☐ No Zip Code _____

3. What is your gender?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer Not To Answer

4. To which racial or ethnic group do you most identify?

- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer Not To Answer
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Multiple Races

5. List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

- ___ Under 18 years
- ___ 18 to 24 years
- ___ 25 to 34 years
- ___ 35 to 44 years
- ___ 45 to 54 years
- ___ 55 to 64 years
- ___ 65 years or older
- ___ Prefer Not to Answer

ALAMANCE PARKS

6. How often do you and your family visit a park or trail?

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ 2 or more times per week
- ☐ 2 or more times per month
- ☐ A few times per year
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

7. Please check which Alamance County parks and trails you have visited over the past year:

- ☐ Cedarock Park
- ☐ Great Bend Park
- ☐ Shallow Ford Natural Area
- ☐ Haw River Trail (trail or paddle accesses)
- ☐ Pleasant Grove Community Center
- ☐ Eli Whitney Community Center

8. What other City and Town parks/facilities, schools, health clubs, places of worship, or other organizations do you use for recreation?

_____

_____

_____

9. Which park or recreational facility is closest to your home?

_____

10. How would you rate the physical condition of the Alamance County facilities and trails you have visited?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ No Opinion

11. How do you learn about upcoming parks and recreation activities? Please select the top 3 most important to your household.

- ☐ Friends & neighbors
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Brochures/fliers
- ☐ Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County website
- ☐ Internet search engine (ex. Google, Bing)
- ☐ Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County newsletter
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ School flier/newsletter
- ☐ Information at parks/trails/facilities
- ☐ Email list
- ☐ Facebook/social media
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

12. Which of the following should Alamance Parks prioritize in future efforts/projects? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Improve/maintain existing facilities
- ☐ Create new parks and natural areas
- ☐ Expand educational programming
- ☐ Develop trails and greenways for walking and biking that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, and other facilities
- ☐ Expand facilities and programs at Rural Community Centers
- ☐ Improve youth athletics facilities and opportunities
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other (please describe): _____

_____

13. Please select your interest level in the programs below:

Program	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Environmental education (bird watching, stargazing, nature hikes)	☐	☐	☐
Historical/cultural education	☐	☐	☐
Fitness & wellness (aerobics, yoga, pilates, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
Active athletics (youth sports/leagues)	☐	☐	☐
After-school camps	☐	☐	☐
Special needs programs	☐	☐	☐
Senior programs	☐	☐	☐
Field trips	☐	☐	☐
Arts and crafts	☐	☐	☐
Theater/drama/music	☐	☐	☐
Day camps	☐	☐	☐
Summer camps	☐	☐	☐
Special Events (ex. festivals, living history, fishing rodeo, paddling events, etc.)	☐	☐	☐

Other (please describe): _____

_____

_____

14. Please select your interest level in the following facilities:

Facility	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Playgrounds	☐	☐	☐
Hiking/walking trails	☐	☐	☐
Equestrian trails	☐	☐	☐
Open play fields	☐	☐	☐
Picnic shelters and gazebos	☐	☐	☐
Nature observation decks, platforms, boardwalks	☐	☐	☐
Fishing platforms/piers	☐	☐	☐
Campgrounds	☐	☐	☐
Amphitheaters	☐	☐	☐
Historic buildings	☐	☐	☐
Paddle/canoe trails	☐	☐	☐
Greenways	☐	☐	☐
Nature play areas	☐	☐	☐
Disc Golf courses	☐	☐	☐
Horseshoe pits	☐	☐	☐
Active athletic fields- baseball, softball, football	☐	☐	☐
Volleyball courts	☐	☐	☐
Basketball courts	☐	☐	☐
Equestrian campgrounds	☐	☐	☐
Ropes courses	☐	☐	☐
Mountain bike trails	☐	☐	☐
Fitness trails	☐	☐	☐
Indoor fitness centers/ weight rooms	☐	☐	☐
Community gardens	☐	☐	☐
Bocce courts	☐	☐	☐
Tennis/Pickle Ball courts	☐	☐	☐
Rural Community Centers	☐	☐	☐
Boat rentals	☐	☐	☐

Other (please describe): _____

_____

Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey

Alamance Parks, the County's Recreation & Parks Department, is dedicated to offering quality programming and facilities. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey about Alamance County parks and recreation services and facilities. Your feedback will help the county better understand the wants, needs and satisfaction of our citizens.

If you have questions you may email recinfo@alamance-nc.com or call Alamance Parks at (336) 229-2410. Your feedback will be kept anonymous but you may choose to include your contact information to enter a raffle for $100! You may complete the survey online or on paper.

Please use this SurveyMonkey survey to complete the survey online.
OR
Paper copies are available at multiple locations including all Alamance County Public Libraries (for a complete list of locations please visit www.alamance-nc.com/recreation). Your paper survey may be returned at the location where you picked it up or you may:
-Drop it off at any of the locations listed on our website
-Scan and email it to recinfo@alamance-nc.com
-Return it by mail (the paper version is a pamphlet designed for convenient folding and mailing)

The survey will close at midnight on March 31st, 2017. Responses must be received by this date.
Thank you!

1. Are you a resident of Alamance County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

2. What is your zip code?

3. What is your gender?

- ◯ Male
- ◯ Female
- ◯ Prefer Not to Answer

4. To which racial or ethnic group do you most identify?

- ◯ Black/African American
- ◯ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ◯ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ◯ Asian
- ◯ Hispanic/Latino
- ◯ White/Caucasian
- ◯ Multiple Races
- ◯ Prefer Not to Answer

Other (please specify)

5. List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

Under 18 years	
18 to 24 years	
25 to 34 years	
35 to 44 years	
45 to 54 years	
55 to 64 years	
65 years or older	
Prefer Not To Answer	

6. How often do you and your family visit a park or trail?

- ◯ Every day
- ◯ 2 or more times per week
- ◯ 2 or more times per month
- ◯ A few times per year
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

7. Please check which Alamance County parks and trails you have visited over the past year:

- ☐ Cedarock Park
- ☐ Great Bend Park
- ☐ Shallow Ford Natural Area
- ☐ Haw River Trail (trail or paddle accesses)
- ☐ Pleasant Grove Community Center
- ☐ Eli Whitney Community Center

8. What other City and Town parks/facilities, schools, health clubs, places of worship, or other organizations do you use for recreation?

9. Which park or recreational facility is closest to your home?

10. How would you rate the physical condition of the Alamance County facilities and trails you have visited?

- ◯ Excellent
- ◯ Good
- ◯ Fair
- ◯ Poor
- ◯ No Opinion

11. How do you learn about upcoming parks and recreation activities? Please select the top 3 most important to your household.

- [ ] Friends & neighbors
- [ ] Newspaper
- [ ] Brochures/fliers
- [ ] Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County website
- [ ] Internet search engine (ex. Google, Bing)
- [ ] Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County newsletter
- [ ] Television
- [ ] Radio
- [ ] School flier/newsletter
- [ ] Information at parks/trails/facilities
- [ ] Email list
- [ ] Facebook/social media

Other (please specify)

12. Which of the following should Alamance Parks prioritize in future efforts/projects? Please check all that apply.

- [ ] Improve/maintain existing facilities
- [ ] Create new parks and natural areas
- [ ] Expand educational programming
- [ ] Develop trails and greenways for walking and biking that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, and other facilities
- [ ] Expand facilities and programs at Rural Community Centers
- [ ] Improve youth athletics facilities and opportunities
- [ ] I don't know/prefer not to answer

Other (please describe)

13. Please rate your interest in the programs below:

	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Environmental education (bird watching, stargazing, nature hikes)	○	○	○
Historical/cultural education	○	○	○
Fitness & wellness (aerobics, yoga, pilates, etc.)	○	○	○
Active athletics (youth sports/leagues)	○	○	○
After-school camps	○	○	○
Special needs programs	○	○	○
Senior programs	○	○	○
Field trips	○	○	○
Arts and crafts	○	○	○
Theater/drama/music	○	○	○
Day camps	○	○	○
Summer camps	○	○	○
Special Events (ex. festivals, living history, fishing rodeo, paddling events, etc.)	○	○	○

Other (please describe)

14. Please rate your interest in the following facilities:

	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Playgrounds	○	○	○
Hiking/walking trails	○	○	○
Equestrian trails	○	○	○
Open play fields	○	○	○
Picnic shelters and gazebos	○	○	○

	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Nature observation decks, platforms, boardwalks	◯	◯	◯
Fishing platforms/piers	◯	◯	◯
Campgrounds	◯	◯	◯
Amphitheaters	◯	◯	◯
Historic buildings	◯	◯	◯
Paddle/canoe trails	◯	◯	◯
Greenways	◯	◯	◯
Nature play areas	◯	◯	◯
Disc Golf courses	◯	◯	◯
Horseshoe pits	◯	◯	◯
Active athletic fields-baseball, softball, football	◯	◯	◯
Volleyball courts	◯	◯	◯
Basketball courts	◯	◯	◯
Equestrian campgrounds	◯	◯	◯
Ropes courses	◯	◯	◯
Mountain bike trails	◯	◯	◯
Fitness trails	◯	◯	◯
Indoor fitness centers/weight rooms	◯	◯	◯
Community gardens	◯	◯	◯
Bocce courts	◯	◯	◯
Tennis/Pickle Ball courts	◯	◯	◯
Rural Community Centers	◯	◯	◯
Boat rentals	◯	◯	◯

Other (please describe)

15. What barriers prevent you and your family from using county parks, trails, recreation facilities, or programs more often? Please check all that apply.

- [ ] I do not know what is being offered
- [ ] Program times are not convenient
- [ ] Lack of parking
- [ ] I use city and town parks and facilities
- [ ] Parks/trails are too far from our residence
- [ ] Overcrowding
- [ ] Lack of accessibility
- [ ] Lack of restrooms
- [ ] Feel unsafe
- [ ] I do not know locations of parks/facilities
- [ ] Park operating hours are not convenient
- [ ] Not enough time
- [ ] Parks are not well maintained
- [ ] Facility and program fees are too high
- [ ] None of the above

Other (please specify)

16. What do you feel are the most important benefits of parks and recreation for the future of Alamance County? Pelase check all that apply.

- [ ] Makes Alamance County a more desirable place to live
- [ ] Improves physical health and fitness
- [ ] Attracts new businesses and residents
- [ ] Increases property values
- [ ] Promotes tourism
- [ ] Reduces crime
- [ ] Improves mental health and reduces stress
- [ ] Preserves open space and the environment
- [ ] Protects water quality
- [ ] None of the above

Other (please desribe)

17. Please share any additional thoughts/comments:

18. If you would like to be entered in the raffle for $100, be involved in future planning efforts/volunteer opportunities, or receive our newsletter, please provide your contact information (minimum name & email or phone number):

Name

Address

Address 2

City/Town

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address

Phone Number

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time and valuable input!

15. What barriers prevent you and your family from using county parks, trails, recreation facilities or programs more often? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ I do not know what is being offered
- ☐ Program times are not convenient
- ☐ Lack of parking
- ☐ I use city and town parks and facilities
- ☐ Parks/trails are too far from our residence
- ☐ Overcrowding
- ☐ Lack of accessibility
- ☐ Lack of restrooms
- ☐ Feel unsafe
- ☐ I do not know locations of parks/facilities
- ☐ Park operating hours are not convenient
- ☐ Not enough time
- ☐ Parks are not well maintained
- ☐ Facility and program fees are too high
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify):_____

16. What do you feel are the most important benefits of parks and recreation for the future of Alamance County? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Makes Alamance County a more desirable place to live
- ☐ Improves physical health and fitness
- ☐ Attracts new businesses and residents
- ☐ Increases property values
- ☐ Promotes tourism
- ☐ Reduces crime
- ☐ Improves mental health and reduces stress
- ☐ Preserves open space and the environment
- ☐ Protects water quality
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please describe):_____

17. Please share any additional thoughts/comments:

_____

_____

_____

18. If you would like to be entered in the raffle for $100, be involved in future planning efforts/volunteer opportunities, or receive our newsletter, please provide your contact information (minimum name & email or phone number):

_____

_____

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time and valuable input!

place tape here

Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey
Alamance Parks
3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd.
Burlington, NC 27215

Postage Required

Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey

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Please use the link below to take the survey online:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/recparksurvey

OR

Paper copies are available at multiple locations including all Alamance County Public Libraries (for a complete list of locations please visit www.alamance-nc.com/recreation). **Your paper survey may be returned to the front office at your school** or you may:

-Drop it off at any of the locations listed on our website
-Scan and email it to recinfo@alamance-nc.com
-Return it by mail (this pamphlet is designed for mailing)

The survey will close at midnight on March 31st, 2017. Responses must be received by this date. Thank you!

1 & 2. Are you a resident of Alamance County? What is your zip code?

☐ Yes ☐ No Zip Code _____

3. What is your gender?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer Not To Answer

4. To which racial or ethnic group do you most identify?

- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer Not To Answer
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Multiple Races

5. List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

- ___ Under 18 years
- ___ 18 to 24 years
- ___ 25 to 34 years
- ___ 35 to 44 years
- ___ 45 to 54 years
- ___ 55 to 64 years
- ___ 65 years or older
- ___ Prefer Not to Answer

ALAMANCE PARKS

6. How often do you and your family visit a park or trail?

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ 2 or more times per week
- ☐ 2 or more times per month
- ☐ A few times per year
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

7. Please check which Alamance County parks and trails you have visited over the past year:

- ☐ Cedarock Park
- ☐ Great Bend Park
- ☐ Shallow Ford Natural Area
- ☐ Haw River Trail (trail or paddle accesses)
- ☐ Pleasant Grove Community Center
- ☐ Eli Whitney Community Center

8. What other City and Town parks/facilities, schools, health clubs, places of worship, or other organizations do you use for recreation?

_____

_____

_____

9. Which park or recreational facility is closest to your home?

_____

10. How would you rate the physical condition of the Alamance County facilities and trails you have visited?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ No Opinion

11. How do you learn about upcoming parks and recreation activities? Please select the top 3 most important to your household.

- ☐ Friends & neighbors
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- ☐ Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County website
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- ☐ Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County newsletter
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ School flier/newsletter
- ☐ Information at parks/trails/facilities
- ☐ Email list
- ☐ Facebook/social media
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

12. Which of the following should Alamance Parks prioritize in future efforts/projects? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Improve/maintain existing facilities
- ☐ Create new parks and natural areas
- ☐ Expand educational programming
- ☐ Develop trails and greenways for walking and biking that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, and other facilities
- ☐ Expand facilities and programs at Rural Community Centers
- ☐ Improve youth athletics facilities and opportunities
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other (please describe): _____

_____

13. Please select your interest level in the programs below:

Program	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Environmental education (bird watching, stargazing, nature hikes)	☐	☐	☐
Historical/cultural education	☐	☐	☐
Fitness & wellness (aerobics, yoga, pilates, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
Active athletics (youth sports/leagues)	☐	☐	☐
After-school camps	☐	☐	☐
Special needs programs	☐	☐	☐
Senior programs	☐	☐	☐
Field trips	☐	☐	☐
Arts and crafts	☐	☐	☐
Theater/drama/music	☐	☐	☐
Day camps	☐	☐	☐
Summer camps	☐	☐	☐
Special Events (ex. festivals, living history, fishing rodeo, paddling events, etc.)	☐	☐	☐

Other (please describe): _____

_____

_____

14. Please select your interest level in the following facilities:

Facility	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
Playgrounds	☐	☐	☐
Hiking/walking trails	☐	☐	☐
Equestrian trails	☐	☐	☐
Open play fields	☐	☐	☐
Picnic shelters and gazebos	☐	☐	☐
Nature observation decks, platforms, boardwalks	☐	☐	☐
Fishing platforms/piers	☐	☐	☐
Campgrounds	☐	☐	☐
Amphitheaters	☐	☐	☐
Historic buildings	☐	☐	☐
Paddle/canoe trails	☐	☐	☐
Greenways	☐	☐	☐
Nature play areas	☐	☐	☐
Disc Golf courses	☐	☐	☐
Horseshoe pits	☐	☐	☐
Active athletic fields- baseball, softball, football	☐	☐	☐
Volleyball courts	☐	☐	☐
Basketball courts	☐	☐	☐
Equestrian campgrounds	☐	☐	☐
Ropes courses	☐	☐	☐
Mountain bike trails	☐	☐	☐
Fitness trails	☐	☐	☐
Indoor fitness centers/ weight rooms	☐	☐	☐
Community gardens	☐	☐	☐
Bocce courts	☐	☐	☐
Tennis/Pickle Ball courts	☐	☐	☐
Rural Community Centers	☐	☐	☐
Boat rentals	☐	☐	☐

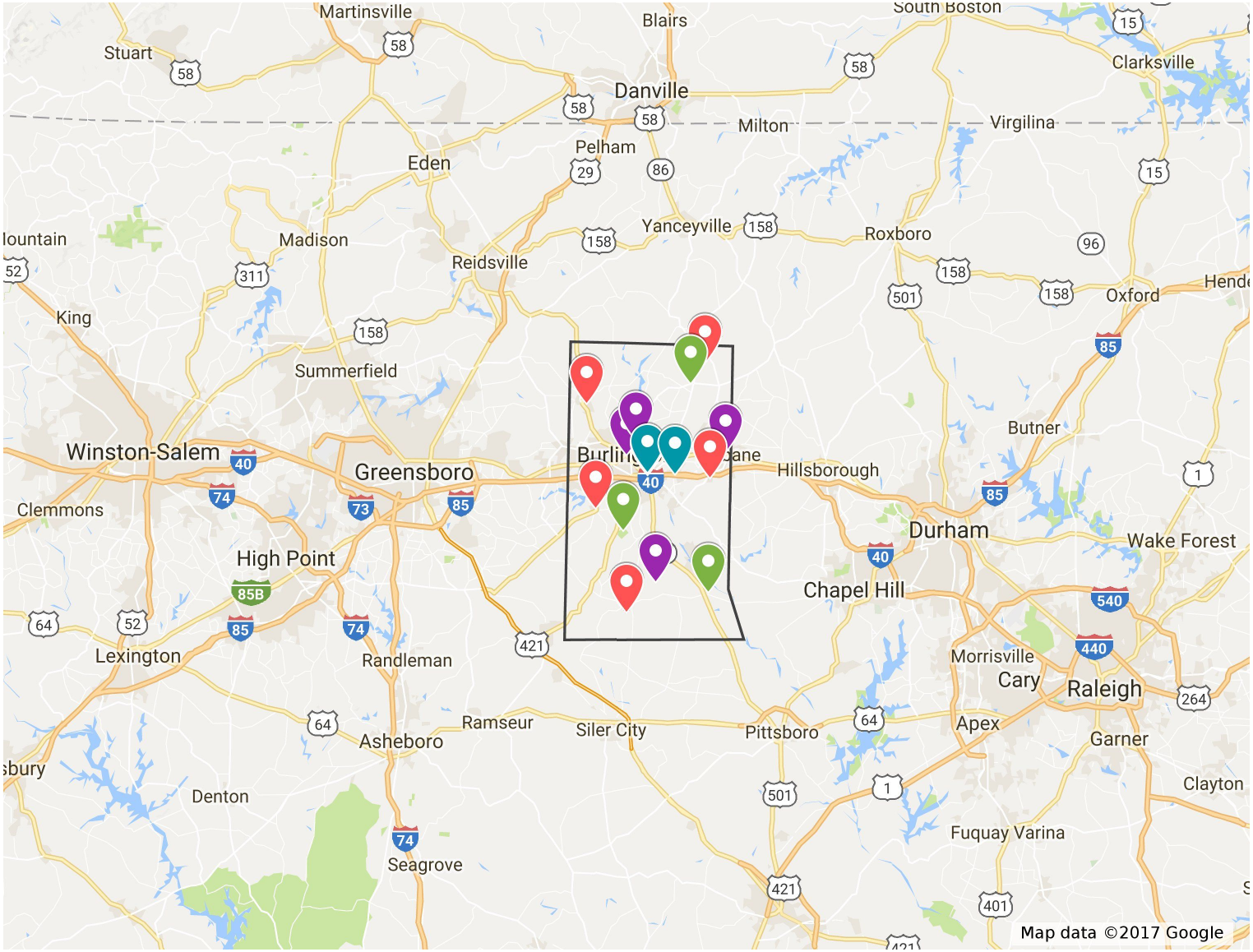
Other (please describe): _____

_____

Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey Distribution

Locations of Paper Surveys

- May Memorial Library
- North Park Library
- Alamance County South Annex
- Graham Public Library
- Mebane Public Library
- Pleasant Grove Elementary School
- Edwin M Holt Elementary School
- Sylvan Elementary School
- Hawfields Middle School
- Western Middle School
- Pleasant Grove Recreation Center
- Eli Whitney Recreation Center
- Cedarock Park
- Alamance Arts
- Children's Museum of Alamance County
- Alamance County Annex



Distribution of paper copies of the 2017 Alamance County Recreation & Parks Survey (recreational needs survey).

Alamance Community College

Alamance County Outline

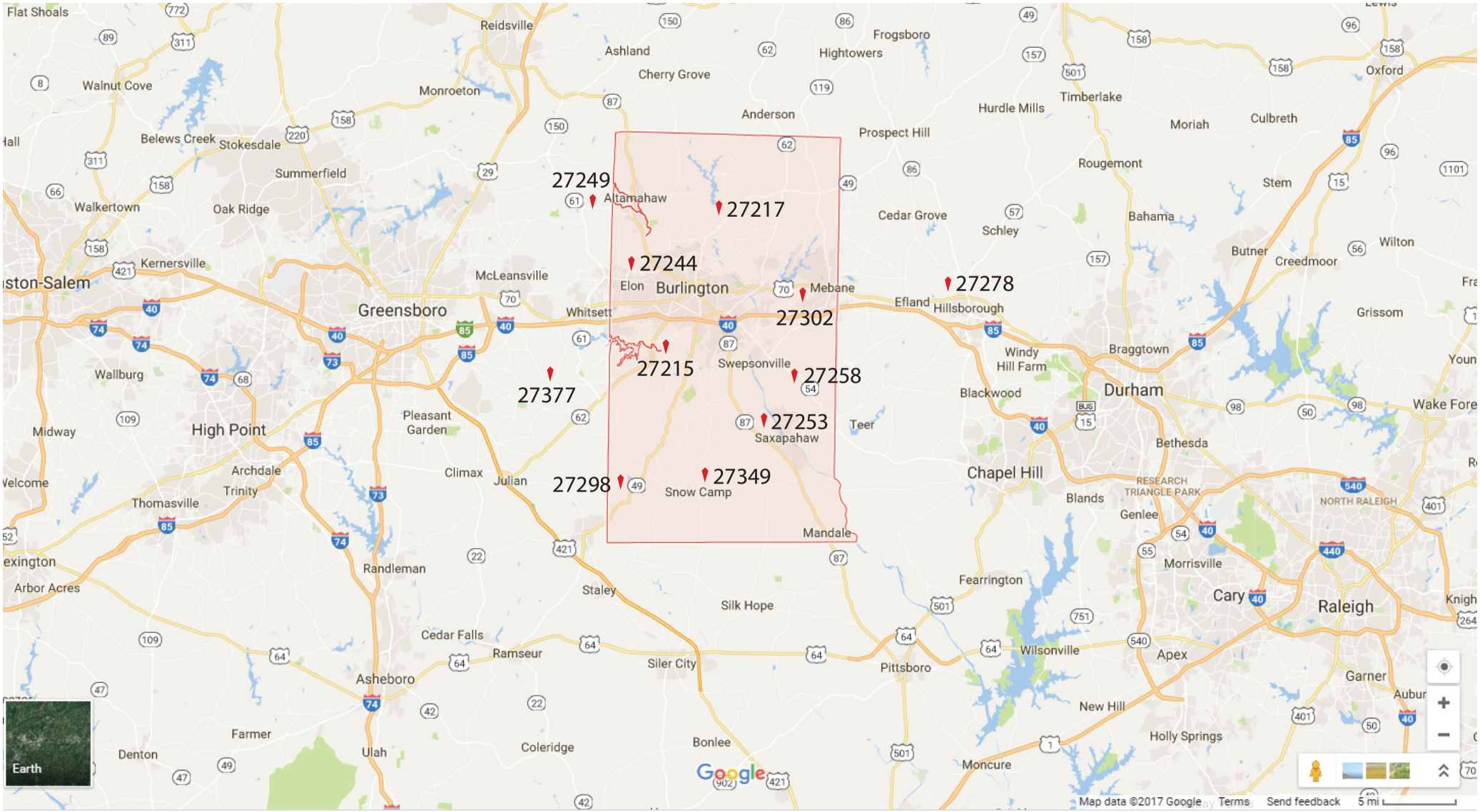
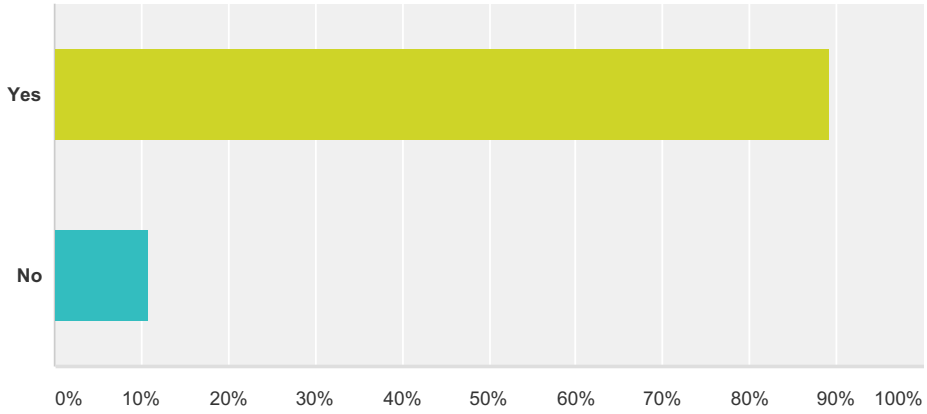


Figure 2. Recreational Needs Survey Respondent Distribution Map*

**Only zip codes represented by 10+ respondents are shown on this map. For a full list of respondent locations please refer to Table 3.*

Q1 Are you a resident of Alamance County?

Answered: 1,752 Skipped: 13



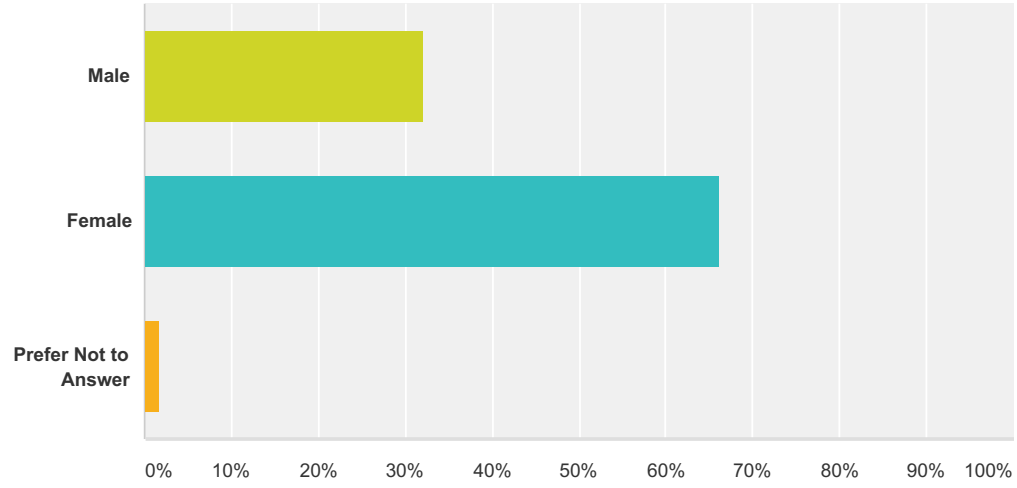
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**89.10%**	1,561
No	**10.90%**	191
Total		**1,752**

Q2 What is your zip code?

Answered: 1,692 Skipped: 73

Q3 What is your gender?

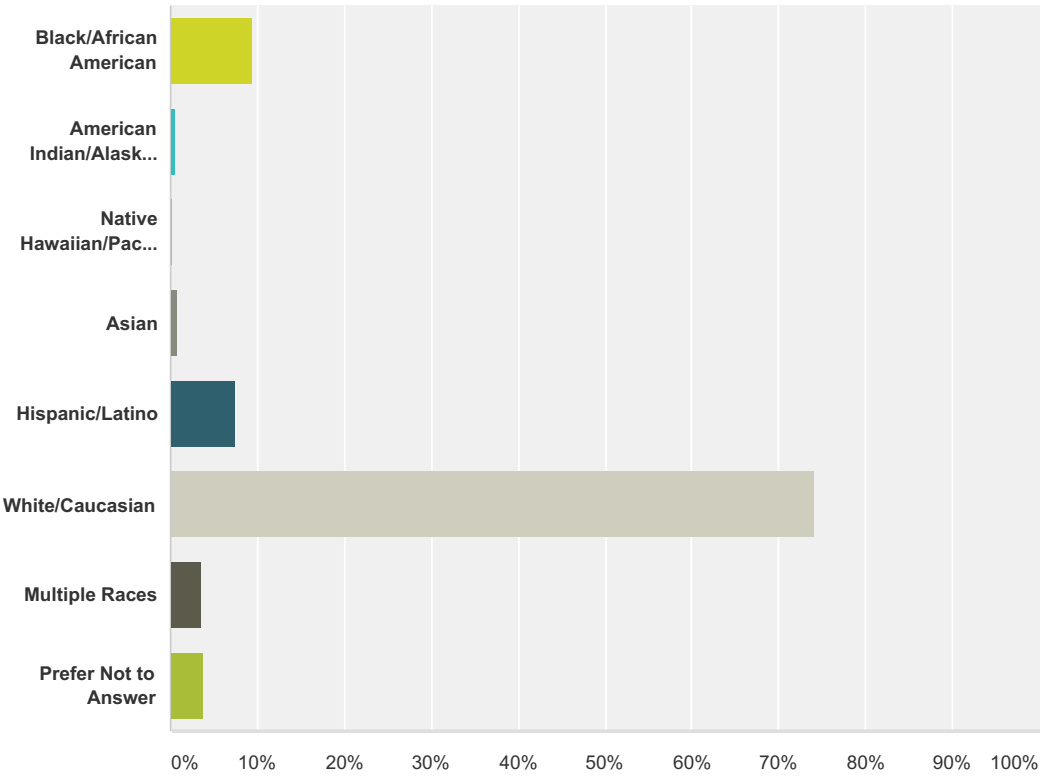
Answered: 1,756 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	**32.23%**	566
Female	**66.17%**	1,162
Prefer Not to Answer	**1.59%**	28
Total		**1,756**

Q4 To which racial or ethnic group do you most identify?

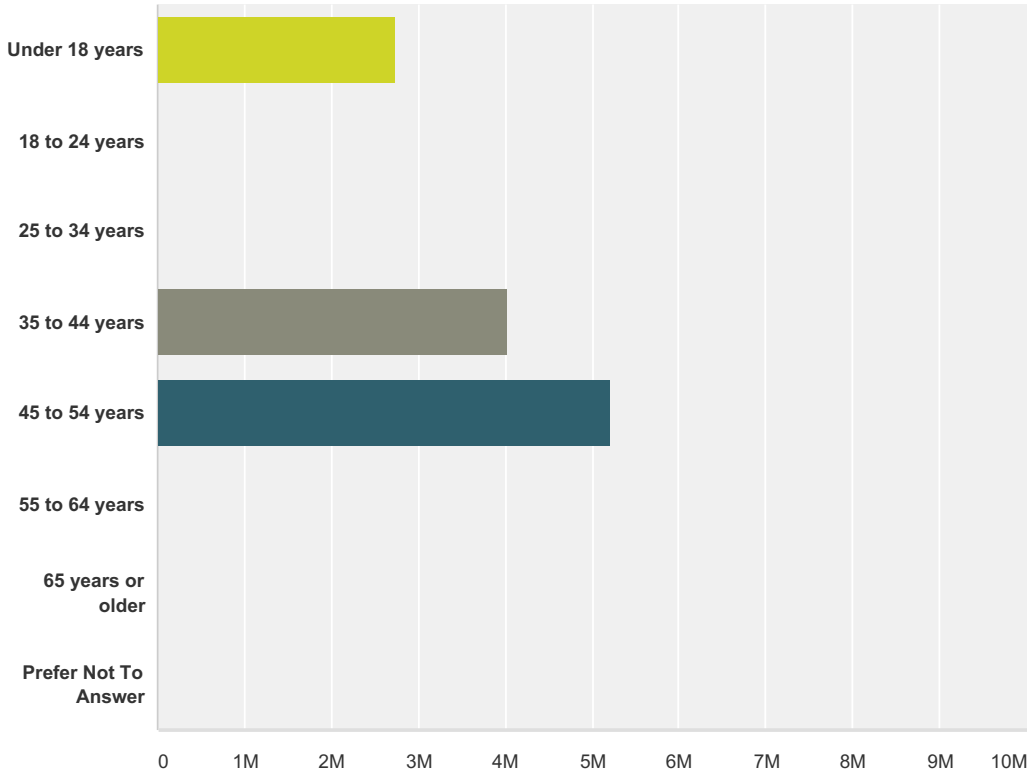
Answered: 1,741 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses	
Black/African American	**9.30%**	162
American Indian/Alaska Native	**0.63%**	11
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**0.11%**	2
Asian	**0.86%**	15
Hispanic/Latino	**7.47%**	130
White/Caucasian	**74.15%**	1,291
Multiple Races	**3.62%**	63
Prefer Not to Answer	**3.85%**	67
Total		**1,741**

Q5 List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

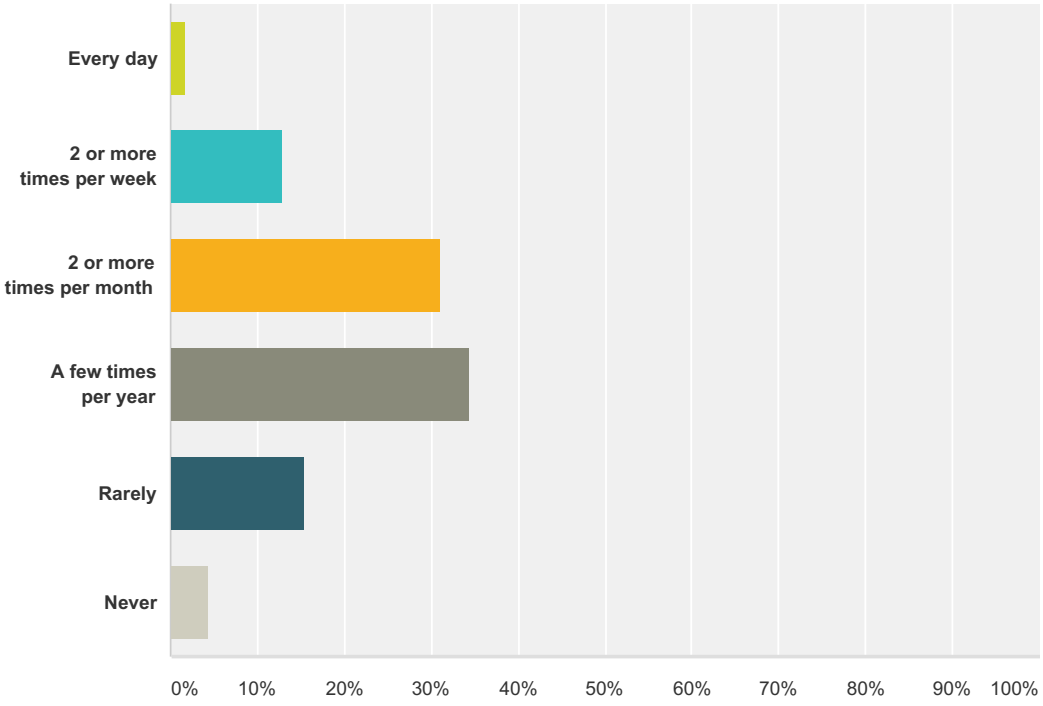
Answered: 1,726 Skipped: 39



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Under 18 years	2,737,205	3,366,761,837	1,230
18 to 24 years	1	536	484
25 to 34 years	1	736	572
35 to 44 years	4,030,444	3,365,421,032	835
45 to 54 years	5,226,368	3,365,781,263	644
55 to 64 years	1	599	451
65 years or older	1	419	290
Prefer Not To Answer	1	50	41
Total Respondents: 1,726			

Q6 How often do you and your family visit a park or trail?

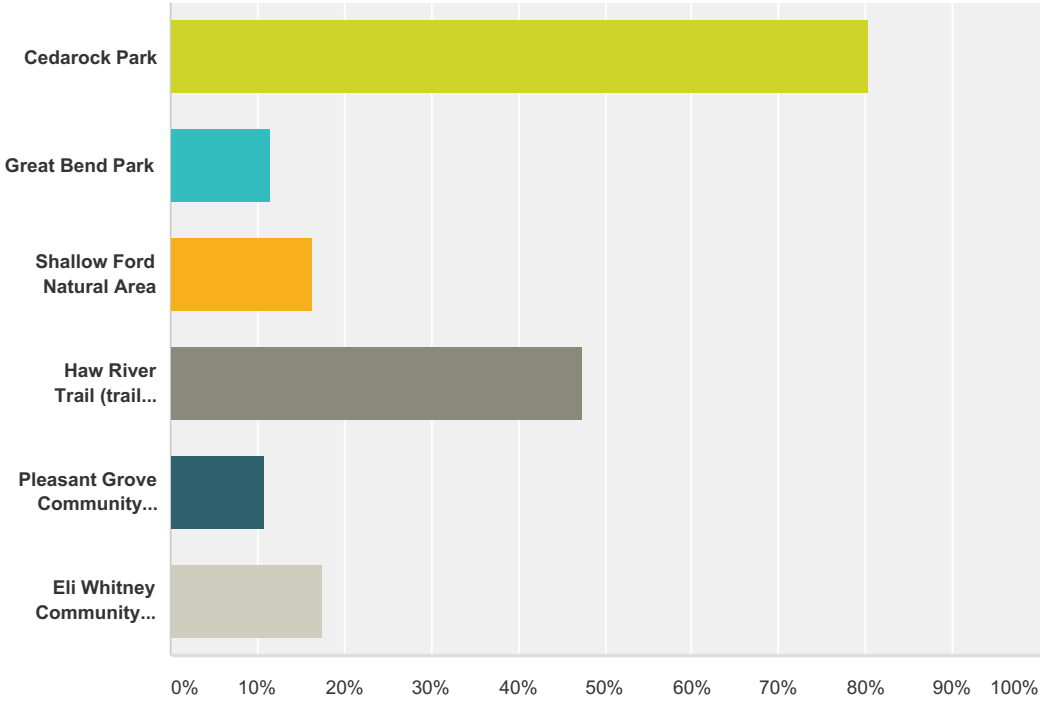
Answered: 1,630 Skipped: 135



Answer Choices	Responses	
Every day	**1.66%**	27
2 or more times per week	**12.94%**	211
2 or more times per month	**31.17%**	508
A few times per year	**34.36%**	560
Rarely	**15.40%**	251
Never	**4.48%**	73
Total		**1,630**

Q7 Please check which Alamance County parks and trails you have visited over the past year:

Answered: 1,356 Skipped: 409



Answer Choices	Responses	
Cedarock Park	**80.46%**	1,091
Great Bend Park	**11.58%**	157
Shallow Ford Natural Area	**16.37%**	222
Haw River Trail (trail or paddle accesses)	**47.35%**	642
Pleasant Grove Community Center	**10.91%**	148
Eli Whitney Community Center	**17.55%**	238
Total Respondents: 1,356		

Q8 What other City and Town parks/facilities, schools, health clubs, places of worship, or other organizations do you use for recreation?

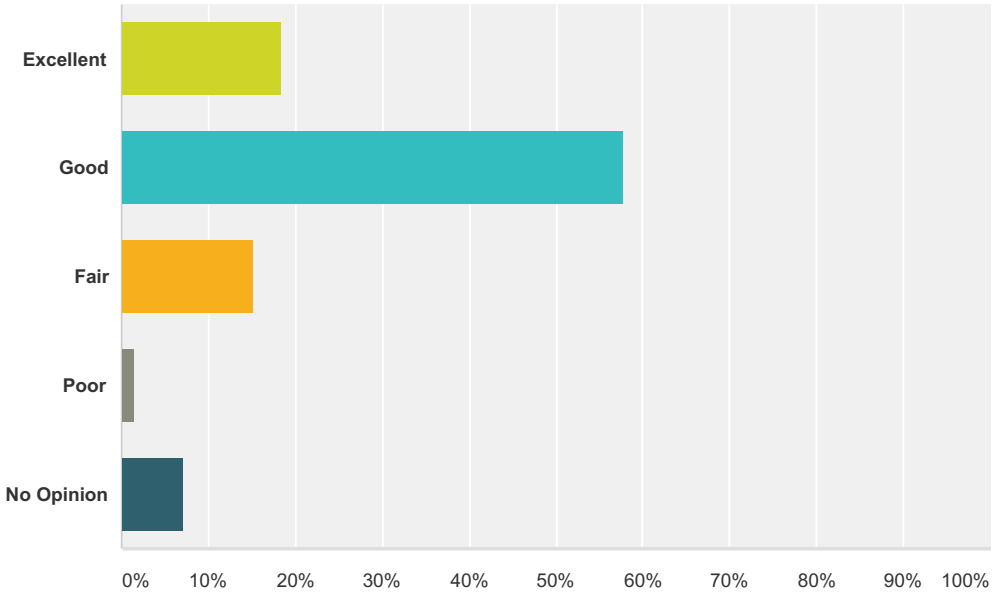
Answered: 1,230 Skipped: 535

Q9 Which park or recreational facility is closest to your home?

Answered: 1,413 Skipped: 352

Q10 How would you rate the physical condition of the Alamance County facilities and trails you have visited?

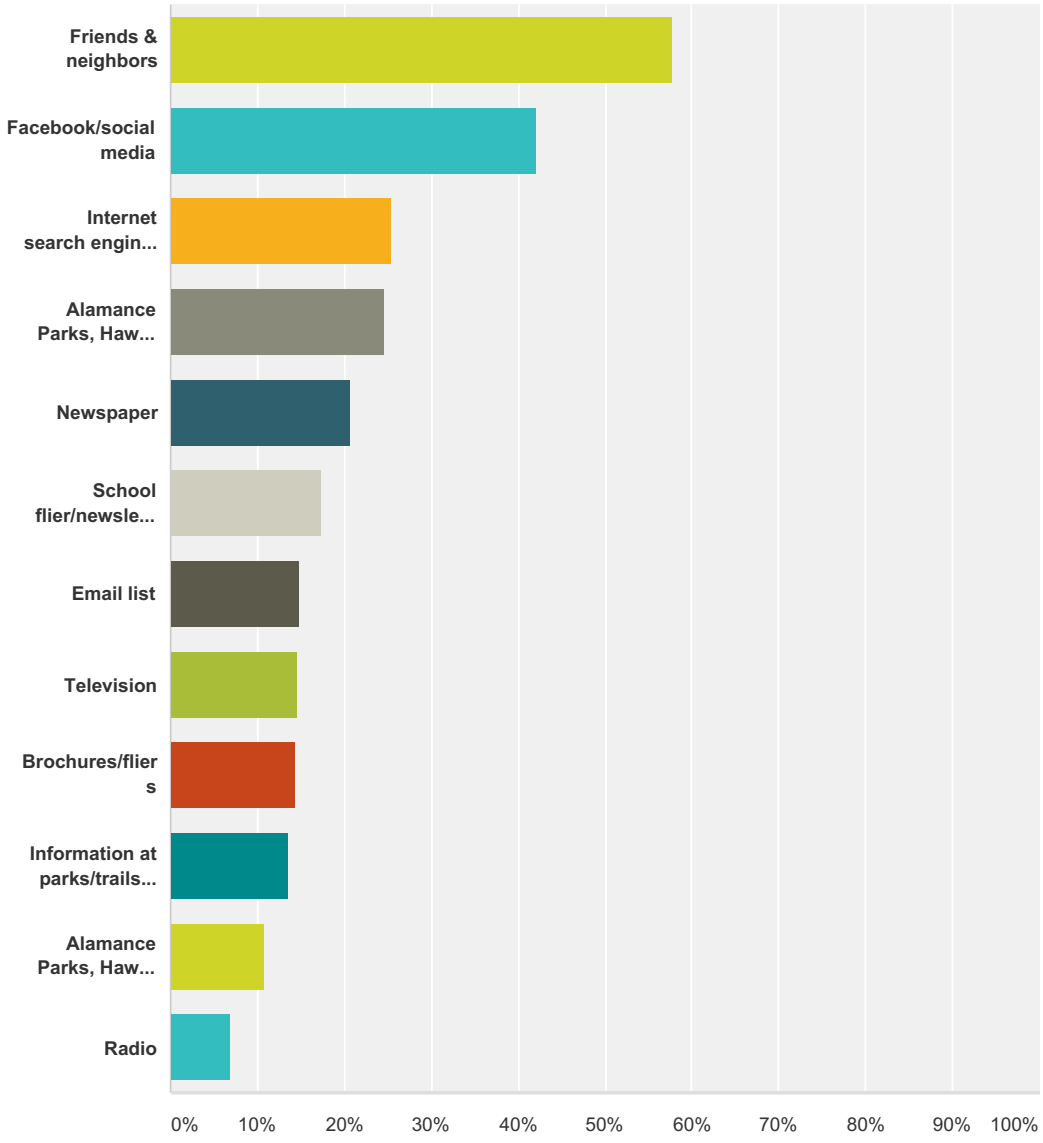
Answered: 1,606 Skipped: 159



Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	**18.37%**	295
Good	**57.85%**	929
Fair	**15.32%**	246
Poor	**1.43%**	23
No Opinion	**7.04%**	113
Total		**1,606**

Q11 How do you learn about upcoming parks and recreation activities? Please select the top 3 most important to your household.

Answered: 1,556 Skipped: 209

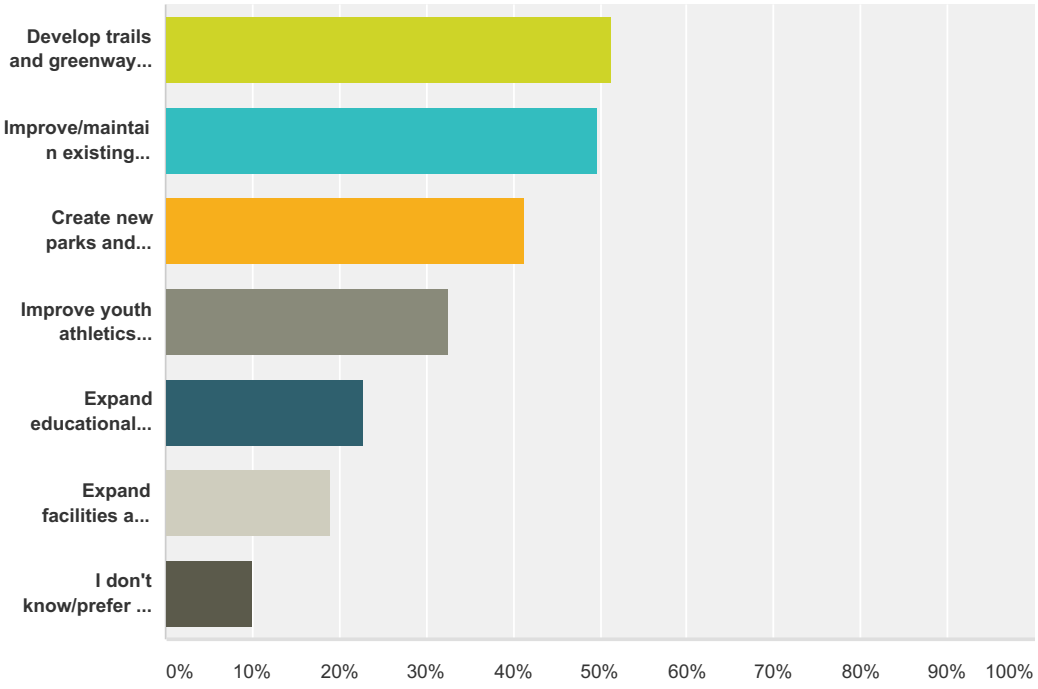


Answer Choices	Responses	
Friends & neighbors	**57.90%**	901
Facebook/social media	**42.16%**	656
Internet search engine (ex. Google, Bing)	**25.45%**	396
Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County website	**24.68%**	384
Newspaper	**20.63%**	321

School flier/newsletter	**17.35%**	270
Email list	**14.91%**	232
Television	**14.59%**	227
Brochures/fliers	**14.40%**	224
Information at parks/trails/facilities	**13.56%**	211
Alamance Parks, Haw River Trail, and/or County newsletter	**10.80%**	168
Radio	**6.88%**	107
Total Respondents: 1,556		

Q12 Which of the following should Alamance Parks prioritize in future efforts/projects? Please check all that apply.

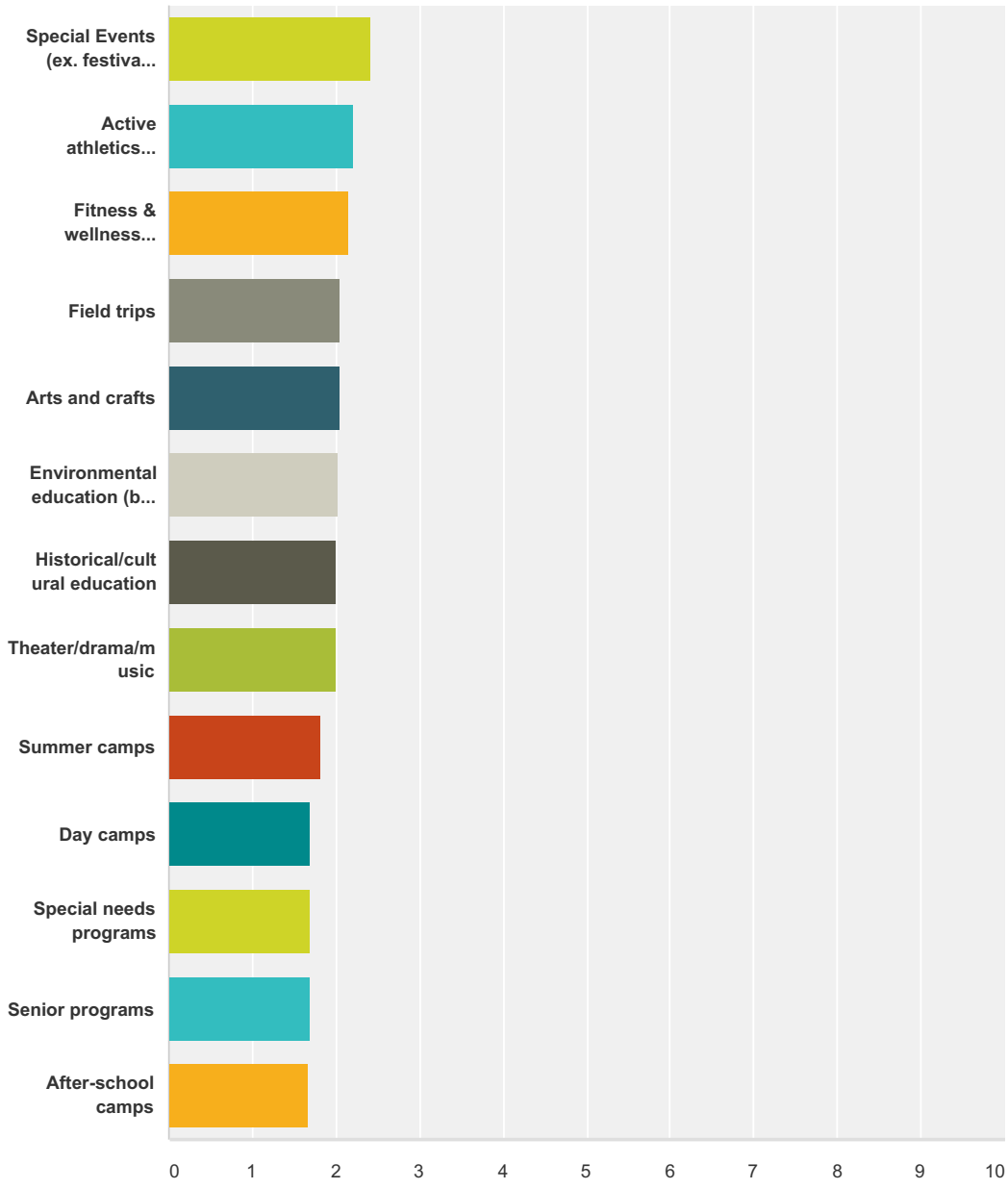
Answered: 1,501 Skipped: 264



Answer Choices	Responses	
Develop trails and greenways for walking and biking that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, and other facilities	**51.43%**	772
Improve/maintain existing facilities	**49.63%**	745
Create new parks and natural areas	**41.31%**	620
Improve youth athletics facilities and opportunities	**32.64%**	490
Expand educational programming	**22.78%**	342
Expand facilities and programs at Rural Community Centers	**18.99%**	285
I don't know/prefer not to answer	**10.06%**	151
Total Respondents: 1,501		

Q13 Please rate your interest in the programs below:

Answered: 1,542 Skipped: 223

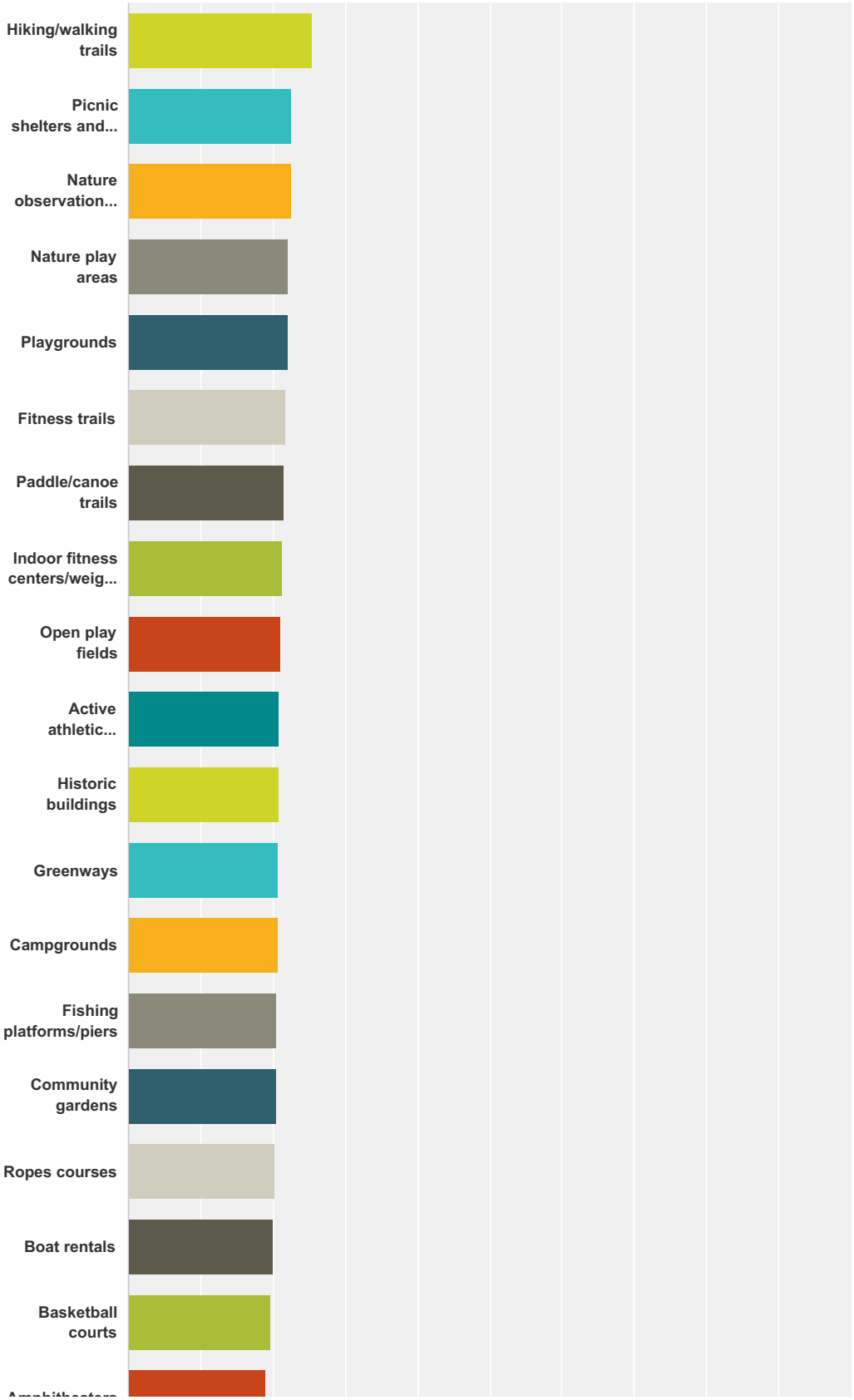


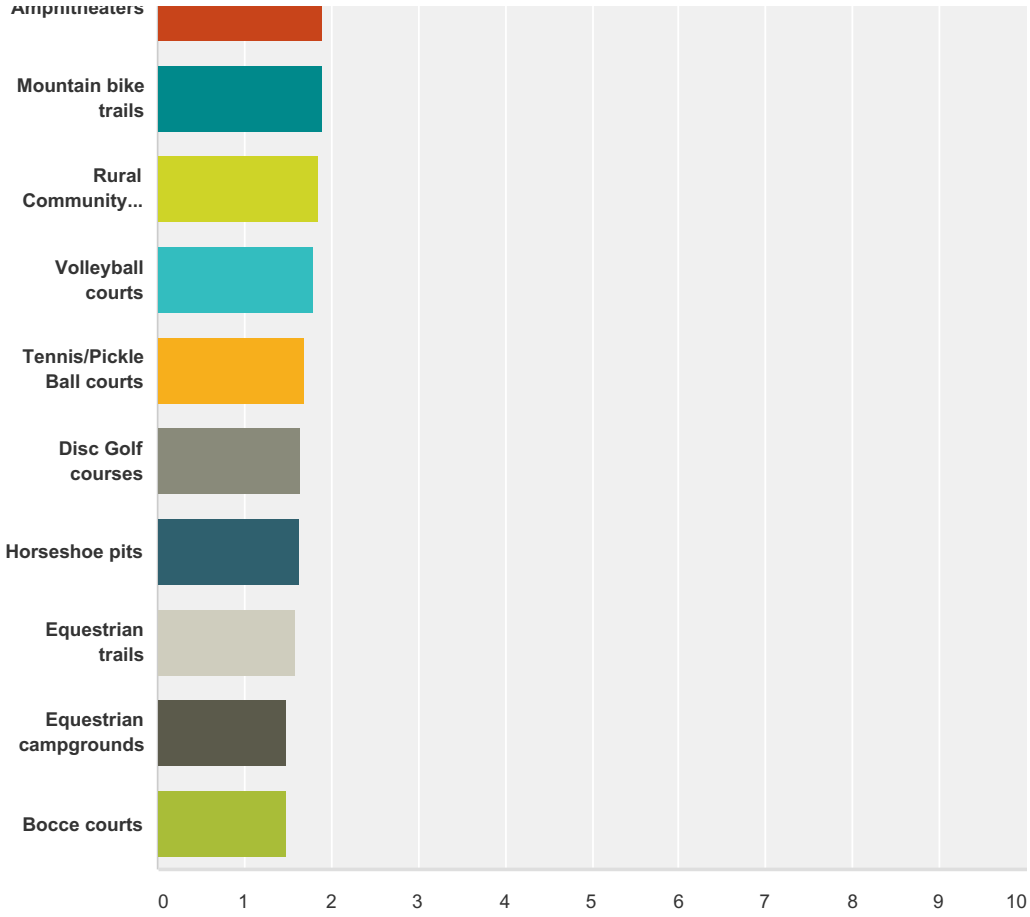
	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested	Total	Weighted Average
Special Events (ex. festivals, living history, fishing rodeo, paddling events, etc.)	**11.64%** 173	**33.98%** 505	**54.37%** 808	1,486	2.43
Active athletics (youth sports/leagues)	**24.70%** 367	**29.74%** 442	**45.56%** 677	1,486	2.21
Fitness & wellness (aerobics, yoga, pilates, etc.)	**20.96%** 313	**42.26%** 631	**36.77%** 549	1,493	2.16

Field trips	**29.51%** 435	**36.30%** 535	**34.19%** 504	1,474	2.05
Arts and crafts	**26.18%** 387	**43.91%** 649	**29.91%** 442	1,478	2.04
Environmental education (bird watching, stargazing, nature hikes)	**24.75%** 369	**47.95%** 715	**27.30%** 407	1,491	2.03
Historical/cultural education	**25.77%** 383	**48.18%** 716	**26.04%** 387	1,486	2.00
Theater/drama/music	**29.22%** 428	**41.30%** 605	**29.49%** 432	1,465	2.00
Summer camps	**43.42%** 634	**32.26%** 471	**24.32%** 355	1,460	1.81
Day camps	**48.83%** 711	**32.21%** 469	**18.96%** 276	1,456	1.70
Special needs programs	**49.62%** 727	**31.88%** 467	**18.50%** 271	1,465	1.69
Senior programs	**48.37%** 710	**34.60%** 508	**17.03%** 250	1,468	1.69
After-school camps	**51.71%** 758	**30.01%** 440	**18.28%** 268	1,466	1.67

Q14 Please rate your interest in the following facilities:

Answered: 1,545 Skipped: 220



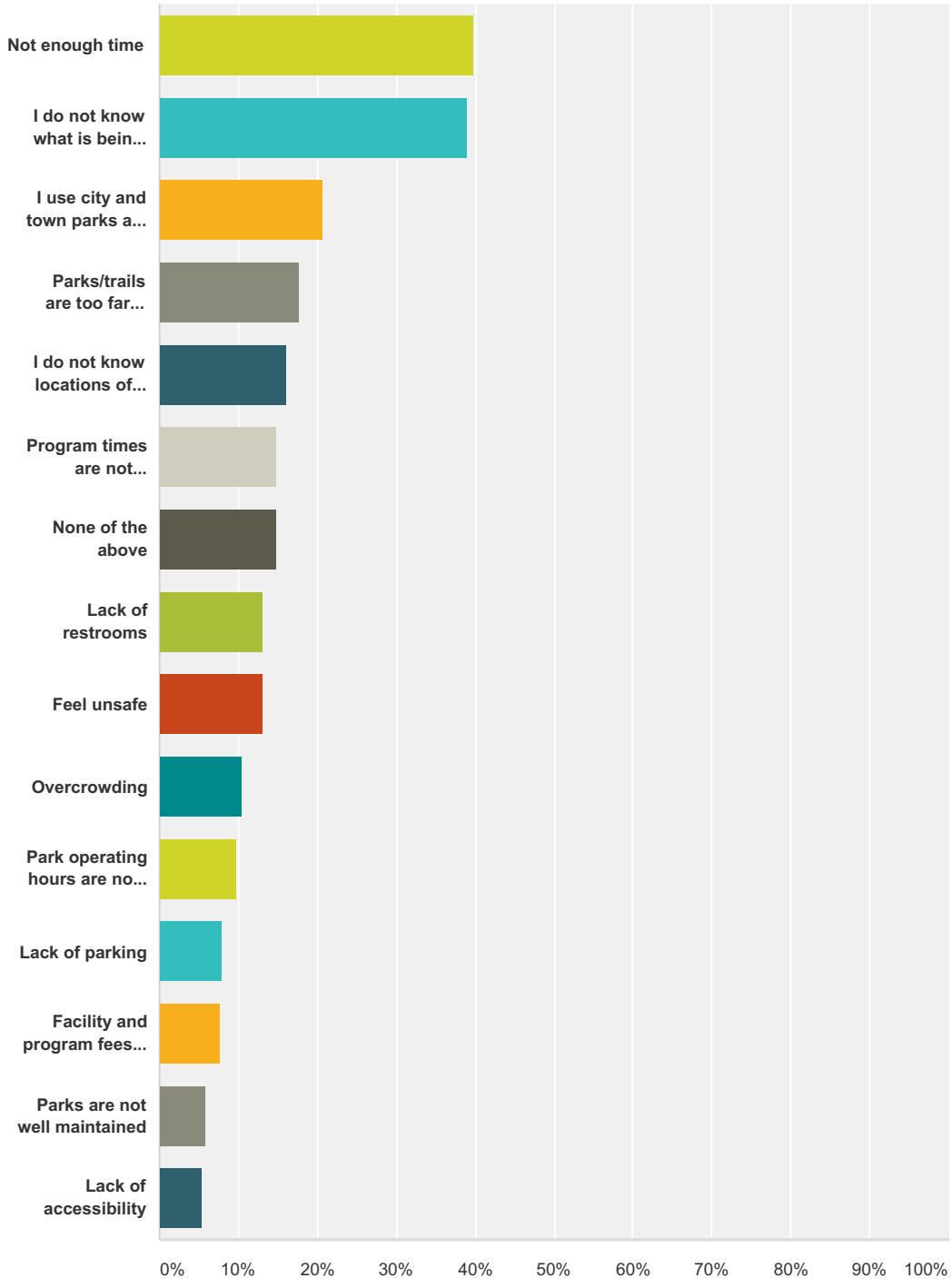


	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested	Total	Weighted Average
Hiking/walking trails	**8.11%** 122	**29.99%** 451	**61.90%** 931	1,504	2.54
Picnic shelters and gazebos	**13.45%** 200	**47.34%** 704	**39.21%** 583	1,487	2.26
Nature observation decks, platforms, boardwalks	**15.87%** 235	**42.40%** 628	**41.73%** 618	1,481	2.26
Nature play areas	**18.21%** 267	**41.88%** 614	**39.90%** 585	1,466	2.22
Playgrounds	**22.12%** 330	**34.58%** 516	**43.30%** 646	1,492	2.21
Fitness trails	**21.88%** 322	**39.27%** 578	**38.86%** 572	1,472	2.17
Paddle/canoe trails	**23.36%** 345	**37.85%** 559	**38.79%** 573	1,477	2.15
Indoor fitness centers/weight rooms	**25.78%** 380	**36.43%** 537	**37.79%** 557	1,474	2.12
Open play fields	**23.20%** 342	**42.61%** 628	**34.19%** 504	1,474	2.11
Active athletic fields- baseball, softball, football	**30.11%** 446	**31.26%** 463	**38.62%** 572	1,481	2.09
Historic buildings	**23.71%** 348	**44.62%** 655	**31.68%** 465	1,468	2.08

Greenways	**26.53%** 390	**40.07%** 589	**33.40%** 491	1,470	2.07
Campgrounds	**29.45%** 435	**35.00%** 517	**35.55%** 525	1,477	2.06
Fishing platforms/piers	**29.03%** 429	**36.60%** 541	**34.37%** 508	1,478	2.05
Community gardens	**26.28%** 386	**43.23%** 635	**30.50%** 448	1,469	2.04
Ropes courses	**30.80%** 450	**35.87%** 524	**33.33%** 487	1,461	2.03
Boat rentals	**30.03%** 439	**39.33%** 575	**30.64%** 448	1,462	2.01
Basketball courts	**35.19%** 518	**33.56%** 494	**31.25%** 460	1,472	1.96
Amphitheaters	**32.88%** 481	**43.34%** 634	**23.79%** 348	1,463	1.91
Mountain bike trails	**37.14%** 543	**35.36%** 517	**27.50%** 402	1,462	1.90
Rural Community Centers	**36.36%** 532	**41.83%** 612	**21.80%** 319	1,463	1.85
Volleyball courts	**42.57%** 622	**34.43%** 503	**23.00%** 336	1,461	1.80
Tennis/Pickle Ball courts	**48.50%** 711	**33.83%** 496	**17.67%** 259	1,466	1.69
Disc Golf courses	**52.85%** 770	**30.54%** 445	**16.61%** 242	1,457	1.64
Horseshoe pits	**51.00%** 743	**35.21%** 513	**13.80%** 201	1,457	1.63
Equestrian trails	**57.11%** 827	**27.14%** 393	**15.75%** 228	1,448	1.59
Equestrian campgrounds	**63.59%** 915	**24.32%** 350	**12.09%** 174	1,439	1.49
Bocce courts	**60.58%** 879	**29.84%** 433	**9.58%** 139	1,451	1.49

Q15 What barriers prevent you and your family from using county parks, trails, recreation facilities, or programs more often? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 1,445 Skipped: 320

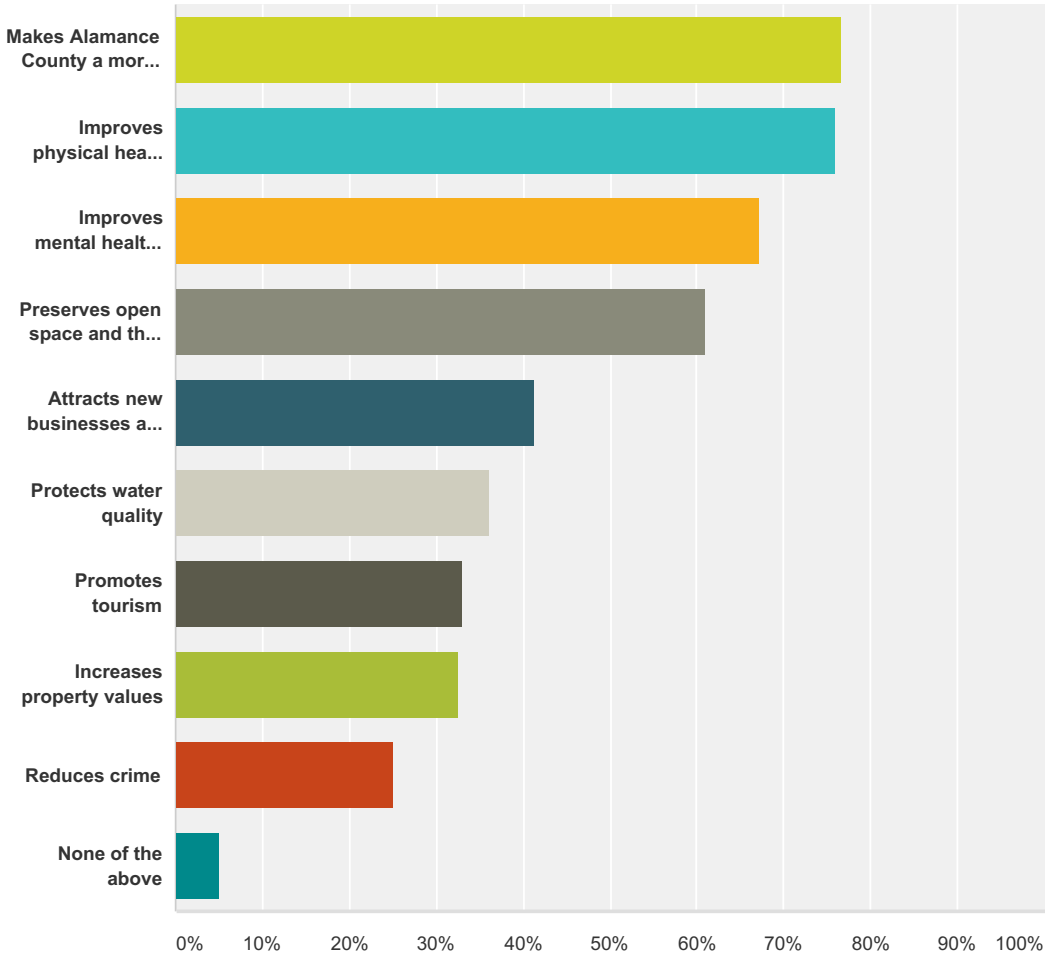


Answer Choices	Responses	
Not enough time	39.79%	575

I do not know what is being offered	**39.10%**	565
I use city and town parks and facilities	**20.76%**	300
Parks/trails are too far from our residence	**17.65%**	255
I do not know locations of parks/facilities	**16.12%**	233
Program times are not convenient	**14.88%**	215
None of the above	**14.81%**	214
Lack of restrooms	**13.22%**	191
Feel unsafe	**13.22%**	191
Overcrowding	**10.38%**	150
Park operating hours are not convenient	**9.76%**	141
Lack of parking	**7.96%**	115
Facility and program fees are too high	**7.75%**	112
Parks are not well maintained	**5.88%**	85
Lack of accessibility	**5.47%**	79
Total Respondents: 1,445		

Q16 What do you feel are the most important benefits of parks and recreation for the future of Alamance County? Pelase check all that apply.

Answered: 1,443 Skipped: 322



Answer Choices	Responses	
Makes Alamance County a more desirable place to live	**76.58%**	1,105
Improves physical health and fitness	**76.09%**	1,098
Improves mental health and reduces stress	**67.22%**	970
Preserves open space and the environment	**61.05%**	881
Attracts new businesses and residents	**41.37%**	597
Protects water quality	**36.17%**	522
Promotes tourism	**32.92%**	475
Increases property values	**32.50%**	469
Reduces crime	**25.02%**	361

None of the above	**4.92%**	71
Total Respondents: 1,443		

Q17 Please share any additional thoughts/comments:

Answered: 213 Skipped: 1,552

Q18 If you would like to be entered in the raffle for $100, be involved in future planning efforts/volunteer opportunities, or receive our newsletter, please provide your contact information (minimum name & email or phone number):

Answered: 927 Skipped: 838

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name	**99.24%**	920
Company	**0.00%**	0
Address	**77.35%**	717
Address 2	**7.12%**	66
City/Town	**80.58%**	747
State/Province	**0.00%**	0
ZIP/Postal Code	**80.37%**	745
Country	**0.00%**	0
Email Address	**93.20%**	864
Phone Number	**76.91%**	713

APPENDIX B- PUBLIC MEETINGS

The following pages contain supporting documentation relevant to the Public Meetings:

- A list of the dates, times, and locations of forums
- A map of the participant and forum locations
- A list of forum participants
- A copy of the guide provided to participants
- A copy of the raw data from participant responses

Public Meeting Dates, Times, & Locations
Alamance County Strategic Plan Sessions

Date(s)	**Location**
Wednesday, December 09, 2015	County Employee Facilitation Training and Forum
	May Memorial Library
Tuesday, January 12, 2016	Community Forum - Elon Campus
Wednesday, January 13, 2016	Community Group Facilitator Training
	Cooperative Extension Building
Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016	Community Forum - Mebane Community Center
Thursday, February 04, 2016	Altamahaw-Ossipee #2
	2806 Old NC 87, Elon, 27244
	Michael Barnette
	station2fd@aol.com
	FD. 584-0526
Monday, February 08, 2016	Elon (Main Station)
6pm	219 S. Williamson Ave., Elon
	Alva Sizemore
	asizemore@ci.elon.nc.us
	FD. 584-9190
Tuesday, February 9	Alamance Community College - Leadership Forum
3 pm	Patterson Auditorium
	ACC Campus
	Carolyn Rhode
Thursday, February 11	Planning Board Forum
7pm	Commissioners Meeting Room
Wednesday, February 17	Alamance Community College - Student Forum
2:30pm	B-22
	ACC Campus
Thursday, February 18, 2016	Swepsonville #1
6pm	2744 Darrell Newton Drive, Graham, NC 27215
	Drew Sharpe

	dsharpe@swepsonvillefire.org
	FD. 578-1500
Monday, February 22, 2016	Faucette #7
6pm	2164 Carolina Road, Burlington NC 27217
	Jimmy Westbrook
	jwestbrook@faucettefire.com
	FD. 226-4042
Thursday, February 25, 2016	Haw River Ball Room
6pm	Saxapahaw
	Susan Holland
Tuesday, March 1, 2016	NEAVFD
6pm	3847 N NC 49, Burlington, NC
	dwest@ci.burlington.nc.us
	FD. 578-3136
Tuesday, March 8, 2016	Eli Whitney Community Center
6pm	3917 E Greensboro Chapel Hill Rd,
	Snow Camp, NC 27349
Wednesday, March 09, 2016	Health Collaborative
8pm	Impact Alamance
Thursday, March 17, 2016	St. Matthew's AME Church
6pm	1136 Apple St.
	Burlington, NC 27217
Wednesday, March 23, 2016	Burlington Alamance County Realtors Association
	215 Alamance Rd.
	Burlington, NC 27215

Rockingham County

Caswell County

Orange County

Guilford County

Randolph County

Chatham County

N

This map should not be used for navigation or legal purposes. It is intended for general reference use only.

Community Forum Participants
Alamance County Strategic Plan Sessions

- There were 203 participants across 17 different community forums without repeats.
- There were 190 participants across 17 different community forms with repeats.

Abby Moylan
Algie Gatewood
Alva Sizemore
Amanda Skiscim
Amelia Berry
Amy Scott Galey (2)
Andrea Rollins
Ann Meletzke (2)
Anna Johnson
Anne Cassebaum
Anne Roycroft
Asheley Rainey
Ashleigh Summers
Barb Young
Barbara D'Anna
Beth Brehler
Biff Hulsey
Bill Sharpe
Bill Traynor
Bob Byrd (2)
Brenda Wilson
Brian Baker
Brian Faucette
Brian Feeley
Britny Neel
Bryan Dalton
C Ratliff
Carla Smith
Carol Disque
Carol Guthrie
Carolyn Rhode (2)
Catherine Palmer
Catherine Williams
Cathy Johnson
Chandler Holland
Charles Langley
Charles Sydnor
Charlie Wyatt
Chris Rollins
Cindy Brady
Clair Haslam
Claire Ricci
Connie Scott
Dade Header
Dana Courtney (2)
Darrin Guthrie
Dave Parker
David Frazee
David Prevatte
David Spruill
Deborah Perotti
Dennis Williams
Devonna Whitehead
Dexter Brower
Donna Buckner
Donna Parker
Donnie Nolf
Donnie West (2)
Dorothy Yarborough
Doug Williams
Drew Sharpe
Duncan Shaw
Eddie Boswell (2)
Edgar Pritchett
Eliot Irman
Elizabeth McCue
Ellen McBane
Emma Klishcer
Andy Klischer
Eric Henri
Erik Conti
Fenesha Wilson
Frank Bell
Frankie Blackburn
Gail Miller
Gary Saunders
Gene Brooks (2)
George Mebane
Glenda Linens (2)
Glenn Patterson
Hannah Allen
Heather Houser
Heidi Garcia
Howard Tash
Ian Baltusis
Ilona Owens
Jacqueline Mehring
James Perotti
Jan Carico
Jane Almon
Janet Ecklebarger
Janie Robbins
Jaqueline Header
Jason Anderson
Jeff Barney
Jeff Deal
Jeffrey Andrews
Jennifer Jones
Jerry Derner
Jerry Fonville
Jerry R. Tolley
Jerry Wagner
Jerry Warren
Jesse Hudson
Jessica Harrell
Jessica Simmons
Jim Aaron
Jodie Thompson
Joel Nelson
John Campbell
John Stanford
John Worthington
Jonathan Clark
Julie Budd
Julie Patton
Justin Hall
Karin Minter
Kathleen Patterson
Kathy Colville
Katie Harper

Kenneth Tolley
Kevin Martin
Kim Traynham
Kindra Bradley
Kristen Herndon
Kristi May
Lecia Booe
Lee Hall Worthington
Linda Carter
Linda Pucci
Lori Hill
Lorri Allison
Maddie Lance
Marcy Greene
Maria Restuccio
Marti Friddle
Mary Farrell
Matt Banko
Matt Kirkpatrick
Melissa Dawkins
Michael Williams
Michale McPherson
Mike Holland
Mike Moore
Monica Miles
Montrena Hadley
Nan Derner
Natalie Miles
Nathan Page (2)
Nick Harper
Nicole Blackwell
Patrick Mills
Paula Allums
R. White
Ralph Houser
Ravi Balan (3)
Renee McPherson
Richard Hill
Rick Cockman
Rick Wilkerson
Ritchie Jones
Rodney Cheek (2)
Ronald Carter
Roslyn NcNeill
Sabrina Degain
Sam Scott
Sammy Moser
Scott Gasque
Scott Queen
Shirley Maness
Sonya McCook
Stephanie Campbell
Steve Couturier
Steve Harrison
Steven Warren
Stevie Buff
Sue Eldon
Susan Holland
Tiffanie Jackson
Tom Gamble
Tom Hartsog
Tony Rose
Tracy Grubb
Tracy West
Tunisia White
Vandy Ellington Graves
Vaughn Willoughby
Wallace Shearin
Willette Griffin

'Alamance Strategic Plan'

Participant Agenda for Community Forums

Duration: Approximately 90-105 minutes

Session Objectives

- To give all group members a chance to participate in the dialogue.
- To learn from one another.
- To generate material that will be fed into all the research for Alamance Strategic Plan.
- To have a community conversation about the future.

1. Welcome and Introductions (15 minutes)

Introductions: Name, connection to Alamance County, and
"One untapped or underappreciated asset of Alamance County is _____."

2. Dialogue and Information Gathering (60-85 minutes)

a. Form a discussion triad (3 member group), preferably with people you have not yet met.

b. Talk with your partner(s) for 21 minutes (7 minutes each) to explore how you'd answer these this question:

Within the key issue areas, what do you see that is currently happening or about to happen that presents the **best opportunities** for Alamance County?

[List each opportunity on a separate post-it note]

c. 'Best opportunities' could mean something that is not working and/or something working well that you'd like to see more of.

d. You may not get to all 7 issue areas, and that's okay. Spend time on the issues you feel are most important to a thriving and successful Alamance County.

e. After about 25 minutes, you'll be asked to post your answers, and have a group member review all answers in one category. Assign a Reporter for your group.

f. Use a phrase or complete sentence and write legibly! This is what will get captured for the record and we want to make sure it translates.

3. Priorities for Change (10 minutes)

In 30 years, what aspect of Alamance County will you be glad you protected or encouraged today?

Community Forum Participant Responses
Alamance County Strategic Plan Sessions

First Question: Untapped/Unappreciated Resources

Contribution to economic development

East Burlington, infrastructure and development

Eastern Burlington/Alamance County

Increase jobs/opportunities, attracting companies

International community; ability to unite

Volunteer force, county government

'Small town feel', quiet, undeveloped feel

211 resources

Abandoned golf course (Swepsonville)

ACC

Access to local foods and culture

Adequate water

Affordable housing

Agr/business

Agricultural history and farmers: formal and organized into great stuff

Agriculture

Agriculture

Agriculture as contributor to economic development

Agriculture-protect and flourish

Alamance Community College is underappreciated

Amtrak station, connection

Array and quality of county services provided

Array of library services

Arts

Arts and cultural events

Burlington Times-News

Business - generate interested and boost the economy

Busy library (variety and # of activities)-more need to know

Central geographic location in the state

Central location

Chamber of Commerce/tourism

Children

Children's museum

Churches

Citizens

City officials

Collaboration among agencies to spread events around the county

Community involvement

Comprehensive planning

Connection for more opportunities/ innovation

Connection/uniqueness

Creative/open mindedness

Culinary department

Dedication and leadership of teachers

Diversity

Diversity

Diversity of community

Diversity of people, cultures

Diversity of the community

Diversity/need more

Doctorates, PhD's in Southern end of county

Don't know

Donut whole location

Downtown area

Downtown resources

Downtowns with character

Education of the area

Educational institutions

Educational opportunities

Elon College-culture value-added, education opportunities

Elon University

Employees do good work

Engaged medical community/Health Dept.

Entrepreneur

Entrepreneurs and small business owners (and their role in economic development

Existing workforce, infrastructure and highway corridor could be tapped to benefit the county

Facilities

Farming

Farms

Find out what to do with family

Friendly people

Future for kids

Future jobs

Good food available around county

Good place to raise children

Good, central location. Close to RTP, interstates, etc.

Graham Cinema

Green areas

Green Spaces

Green Ways

Growth

Growth

Haw River

Haw River is not used and promoted enough

Haw River land development

Haw River trail

Haw River; other natural resources

Health needs for underprivileged

Help farmers/support farmers

Helping others

Helping Veterans with needs

Heritage & tourism opportunities

Heritage tourism

Higher education options beyond Elon-ACC

Highways/accessibility

Historic resources

Historic resources

Historic resources; downtown (untapped)

History in county

Intentional diversity

Interest in future plans

Kids getting into college

Lack of activities for single parents

Lack of sports opportunities for kids

Lakes could be better utilized

Landfill needs upcycle/recycle space

Law enforcement – low crime rate

Libraries

Libraries

Libraries

Library system

Local food/funds

Location (middle of the state; interstate, East Coast, Railroad corridor)

Location for growth

Lots of local resources and training available to lure people to stay here

Low tax rate

Maintain river

Men and women returning home from prison

Mental health

Mixing people involved

Municipal/county employees

Natural resources

Natural resources

Natural resources to attract industry

Need civic center/place for conference

Need for youth programs

Not over restrictive

Older mill buildings

Organics

Our Sister's House

PACE (Piedmont Senior Care)

Park system

Park/natural resources

Parks

Parks

Parks & Rec

Parks and recreation

Parks and recreation opportunities

Parks and recreational opportunities; Eco tourism

Partnerships

Passion/compassion in community

People

People

People

People

People who live and work here

People, Human Resources, Abilities of residents

Pleasant Grove School

Potential for purposeful planned growth and existing assets

Protected growth and land

Public Input

Public library system

Public safety

Public safety/volunteers/Sheriff's Dept.

Public schools K-12

Public transportation

Public safety and county employees in general, including teachers

Quality of life here is great

Rail and freight

Railroad

Recreational facilities

Recreation areas

Resources we do have

Retirees and their skills

Retraining skills

Revitalize City Park

River

Roads/traffic

Rural areas

Rural County

Rural farmland

Rural resources: need economic development strategies that fit for rural areas

Schools role in economic development

Senior support services

Snow Camp drama

Southern half of county

Strong school system that drives economic development

Strong school/education system

Support F.D.

Support for small businesses

Sustainability

Teachers

Technical education

The entire county as part of the region and corridor

The involvement and connections of people

The value of the work of volunteer, emergency, Non-Profit/Civic groups; there are a lot of agencies

Things around county

Tourism

Town of Graham

Trail

Trails

Trails

Trained (but un/underemployed) labor force and opportunity to use vacant buildings/former mills

Transportation

Transportation

Transportation corridors

Underutilized land

Underutilized skill sets

Use of art in a utilitarian way

Utilizing community organizations

Vacant buildings for small businesses

Volunteer agencies - number, coordination of services, communication and collaboration amongst, responsiveness to community needs

Water

We undervalue what we have now

Wilderness

Working adults without literacy/work skills

Young people with degrees that want to stay (untapped)

Youth

Youth involvement in civic affairs

Second Question: Best Opportunities

Opportunity (Actual Responses)

Inclusive, but managed development

County needs to be ready for new development and implement zoning for new developments

Comprehensive municipal plans and strategic plans update

Work together for new businesses

Elon is the 9th densest city in NC; population density affects all other issues;

Need planned growth for rural

Develop ways to support farmers and help them be profitable

Shift in use and development pattern, as evidenced by downtown Burlington

Building communities and neighborhoods

Understanding what young or other groups need to stick around

Cleaning up areas with abandoned buildings to attract new business

Affordable housing

Affordable education

Transform Burlington into a more walkable, liveable place

Fiber optic/high-speed internet access

Mill revitalization

New park/soccer complex in Mebane

Need for more community-based activities

New civic meeting area

Growth in fine arts/cultural arts

Coordination for future growth probably needed

Continue to develop old mill buildings throughout county

Continue to maintain parks well for the future

Community awareness of county services

Bus

River

Expand Mebane Parks & Recreation

"Urban" small businesses

Population growth

Distribution centers

Family activities

More guaranteed affordable housing. Consider this as part of residential development trade-offs

Emphasize our trail systems, hiking, biking, and paddling

Encourage small entrepreneurial businesses by providing access to facilities and advertising

Fund and follow through with the pedestrian and cycling plan for Alamance County

More mindful economic development using citizen input

Active acquisition of MST/HRT

Where do we want growth?

How do we control land development?

Voluntary ag. Districts?

Concentrate development?

Mebane's downtown?

I-85/40

Quality affordable housing

Utilize sport parks that are here

Parks & Rec

Need ones not community supported only

Forestry management

No county recognition or support of agriculture

Need a plan to contain sprawl

Increase participation from county residents

Agriculture an economic tool to support

Voluntary Ag. District requirements need to be looked at again to allow wide variety of farms

Zoning county-wide

Implement zoning county-wide

Growth management

Mindset: need to change, think as a "region"

COG

Water quality

Eco-tourism

Abundant water

Lake in Southern part of county

Help with contaminated water

119 is coming

Broadband access

New North/South Hwy. access

Public transportation

Minimum housing

What makes Pleasant Grove attractive?

62/49

Soils

What does new development look like?

Location of retail services

What do we want to look like in 20 years?

Plan for growth

Haw River Trail

Industry near 85

Coordinate utilities with planning efforts

Connectivity

Voluntary agricultural district

Agritourism ordinance

No planning by panic

Consider land use in a more comprehensive way

Public notices

Educate and engage on development

Haw River Trail a good draw and growth opportunity

Affordable housing for seniors

County water and sewer needed

Access to internet and cell phone service needed

Mebane a good example of planning and working together

Promote agritourism

More collaboration across governmental entities

More vital downtowns

More downtown activities

Jordan Lake issue will be a game changer

Need for zoning laws

Put development standards in place

Overpopulated schools

Protect agriculture and open space by shaping urban areas to more dense and compact

Develop standards for developments

Require sidewalks in new developments

Growing awareness of need for open space, land protection, and zoning

Create awareness of downtown areas; prohibit traffic

Revitalize core of Alamance County-downtown Burlington

Real rail commuter and mass transit

Appreciate and protect local agriculture

Encourage local businesses, e.g., farmer's markets

Some collaboration between major employers

Cities working with business and city groups to bring in new business.

North park farmer's market

Creating connectivity with active transportation

Support growth plans for new development

Changing demographics in community adds new needs

Need for new parks/trails

Need for change but little or no involvement; forum is an opportunity

Obtaining input from the community

Boys and Girls Club, need additional space to accommodate the number of youth, especially teens

Church and business to do cooperative exchanges, pulling these groups together; United Way does some of this, no overlap in funding

Evaluation of the last strategic plan to see what it was, what happened, results of the last plan (this is on the website)

How much of the city and the county government overlap?

Potential buyer for quarry hills golf course

Zoning

Revitalize/support small businesses

County to provide incentives to small, family owned businesses

Regulation of placement of solar farms

Quarry hills golf course as park for the county with event and community center

Zoning for commercial vs. residential buildings

Zoning to protect our current way of life

Consideration of the environment in planned growth

Expanding locally sourced foods

Responsible ecological planning that protects Haw River Watershed

Maintaining (not expanding) landfill

Affordable housing planning

Repurposing existing spaces

Look to the long-term

Seeing preventative healthcare reaching the full county

Thinking of the Haw as an amenity

Property assessments

A need for small farms and a poultry processing plant. Government could help with the Federal permits and an entrepreneur could run it.

Community college

Preserve open space and farmland

Landfill

New distribution centers like Walmart, nccp, ncic, samet.

Service industry, distribution, and logistics companies, how do we serve well?

Establishing new "brand" for Alamance County

Research impact of infrastructure

Alamance County Historical Society and Snow Camp Historical Drama

Tax base from new industry

Agribusiness development

New businesses coming to Mebane;

New businesses coming to Burlington

County focus on investment vs. expense

Business as investment, recruitment as an opportunity

Tourism to parks

Market the county's assets

Connectivity and transportation - recognize corridors

Elon-Alamance Health Partners & other programs/graduates to come

CAP apprenticeship (manufacturing program)

Expansion of jobs, as well as retention

Physical facilities: upgrading governmental buildings

Better school system, competitive pay

Growth of Alamance Crossing and Tanger Outlets

New, diverse industry (Walmart, Honda)

Natural resources

Understand what industries are looking at Alamance

Preserving agricultural heritage of the community and county

Unified Marketing Plan for all county

STEM oriented workforce training at ACC

New jobs as a result of automation

Utilization of Haw River for economic development

Sales tax increase for County

Revitalize East Burlington

Manufacturing

Need for civic/conference center

"Dreamer" students

Expanding and promoting better our online trainings to better compete with for profit schools

Growth in Business/Industry locally providing opportunities and challenges

Bring in more businesses to downtown areas

Expansion of county assistance programs

Low-income housing good

Centralized access to assistance programs

Careful regulation of programs

Where to go/access/awareness

More jobs in tech sector

ACC mechatronics/economics

Applying Mebane's development model to the rest of Alamance County

Downtown city area development (Burlington, Graham and Mebane examples)

Provide the fuel to stat the economic development engine

Emphasize uniqueness of areas in whatever development happens

Balance the growth in all areas (and revenue sources) of the county

Offer entrepreneurial space and resources for small business development

Abundance of available land for use as development sites

Thoughtful and deliberate development, not reactive

Encourage clean dollar development, e.g., ecotourism

Relocation of Highway 119. What opportunities does that present?

Major highway and railroad

Need revenue

What kind of industry do we want?

Blue collar trades

I-85/40

Support local farms

Branding, place ID

Preparing for closures

Chamber of Commerce - support small rural businesses

Possible incentives

Education about membership/rates

Southern Alamance Business Association

Agriculture

Interface with Chamber

Recruiting collaboration with municipalities

Focus on living wage industries

Strategic recruiting

Attract more businesses by improving infrastructure, schools, public safety

Clearly define identity of county to address

What's our identity?

Branding

Let's make sure we have the infrastructure in place to attract

Add to the diversity of recruitment of different types of industries

Expand on to other industries

Internet/broadband

Eco-tourism

Abundant water

Brand

Heritage tourism

Winery tours combined with Alamance history tours

Farm tours

Free or inexpensive activities

Events to support local businesses

Diversity

Organized development

Technical training

Small business center could be better utilized

More info on businesses coming

Incentives for local small businesses

What is county doing?

Helping farmers

Fruit stand man

Small business incentives

Day care/adult care services

Parks and Rec.

Tourism

Agritourism

Food access

Are we becoming bedroom community?

Some industry

Bicycle tourism

Farm tour

Wine

Awesome local airport

County water and sewer needed

Access to internet and cell phone

Property taxes too low

More collaboration across government agencies

More vital downtowns

Need for zoning laws

Put development standards in place

Incentives

Diversity of industries

Maker spaces

Coordinated economic development across city lines

Support for agriculture

More employment opportunities

Downtown plans for abandoned mills

Nonprofits and fire departments - no retirement and no benefits

Growing populations

Need to create more work ready jobs

Opportunity for low education jobs

New industry and industrial parks

Improved transit in county will impact development

Impact of infrastructure on different types of development

City and county are doing strategic plans

Working together across municipalities

Local food growth and distribution

Willowbrook park and school development

Sustainable jobs, higher paying, Walmart/distribution center

More careers instead of jobs

Not at the expense of the environment

Protecting local businesses

Attract new businesses

Support local farmer's markets

Countywide water

Create county zoning board

Increase county pay supplement

Land use

Re-use 2020 plan parks vision

Sax-Glencoe-Chatham Park

Collaboration facilities for small farmers

Using vacant space for local, small grocers, artisans and other vendors

Farm business model

Distribution hub to be built

Coordination in rural education institutions

Business incubation

Farmer's Market

Agriculture

Small businesses

Business communities linked

Planned economic development and consideration of zoning

Eco-tourism parks along Haw

Understand economic development beyond the short term

Understand the value of farmland and farmers

Affordable for local businesses

Need better infrastructure

Mass transit

What about an incubator type economic development?

Government leadership positive and proactive and moving forward in planning and healthy development - continue cooperative works

Accountability

Make sure plan is followed

"Plan your work, work your plan"

We are a training ground for employees

Support bond issue

Must fund

More intergovernmental cooperation

Return on investment

Need progressive leadership

Strategic plan to bring opportunity for employment and active living

Diversity in elected officials

Open minded board members

Increase engagement and advocacy in local government

Desire for more services vs. low tax rate

Communicate what government does

Thinking ahead; being proactive

We have low taxes

Public Involvement

Government employees: how does my job enhance your life?

Increase wages for county employees. This is a form of economic growth

Coordinated governance for strategic growth

Partnership with county for civic center for conventions

Educate community on benefits of well-planned taxation

Local teacher supplements

Collaboration between municipalities for public transportation

Continue forward thinking

Less control, more participating

Listen to stakeholders

More investment/loosen financial constraints on spending for long-term improvements in schools, etc.

Excellent coordination among emergency responders throughout county

City governments working together and with county for a common goal

Local elections awareness

Alamance County website - shows what there is to do?

Website more dynamic/fluid/intuitive

Website meritable content

Team dedicated to website (advertise Alamance County)

Elections rural areas

WIC policy

Lower barriers for public involvement and access to system

Young people don't read the paper

Maybe more oversight?

How do we help citizens get involved and have voice?

Cross pollination – interaction amongst various governing bodies and other groups, i.e., United Way

Better working relationships amongst board of commissioners

Developing a branding marketing strategy for the county, e.g., open space, clean air, local produce

Continue accessibility to/of elected officials

No representation for Southern part of county

Better job communicating opportunities for input and involvement

Alamance scene

County school and commissioners are working together

Municipalities work together

Meetings are happening

Work with Chamber

Communicate resources/programs

Need more transparency in county departments

Need zoning

Better communication of resources

Collaboration with other local governments

Full cost accounting and disclosure

Engage with citizens

Taking responsibility for issues

Collaboration with levels of government

Communicating budget

Kudos for Sr. activities at Pleasant Grove

Engage Healthy Alamance

Getting people involved

Addressing and taxes going to correct place

Regular town halls

Implement community access plan

Coordination with municipalities and utilities

"Regional thinking"

Engage in transp. planning at county level

How are we contacting residents?

Board meetings

Property taxes are too low

More collaboration

Better communication with citizens

Employees/governing body needs to be plugged in to community groups to keep communication flowing

Put development standards in place

Clearinghouse for information

Robocalls for information

More engagement with citizens

Need to develop trust with citizens

Pay attention to all areas of the county, esp. East Burlington

Get more people involved and running for office

Inadequate public funding

Lack of appreciation for public sector employees

Promote arts as a tool to bring diverse communities together

More community use of Elon University

Access to more opportunities for the arts

More conversation between municipalities and county government around growth and development, transparency and increased communication/collaboration

Strategic Planning process for county reviews all other city plans in order to be informed

New ideas: County Manager and Board – need for transparency, outside perspective needed?

“Good Old Boy” network

Same people rotating on and off the board of commissioners; serving their own needs and not those of the citizens

Zoning – feel like superintendent is putting preference to one side of the community

People are not taking advantage of the service offered by the county; participation and visits by citizens are welcomed; website offers lots of information

County website is difficult to navigate; needs to have more information

More community outreach – specific events or invitations, open houses

Voting accessibility to neighborhoods; North Park

Using community input in a meaningful way; no one came back the last time that a forum was hosted, “my opinion was not appreciated”

Telephone numbers and addresses of the commissioners

Zoning for residential single family, multifamily, business/industrial

County commissioners who understand how county works and county needs

Communities working together

More transparency to the community

More positive interaction between governing bodies

More proactive County Commissioners-positive now, continue; this process is indicative of progress

Connectivity

Public transportation (fixed route bus system)

Continue expansion of public transportation

Sidewalks/active transport in growth plan

Internet; importance of high speed connectivity throughout the county for workforce (telecommuting); access for school also

Study of infrastructure locations/ support utilities

Playground for children

Expansion of trails along Haw

Additional parks in rural areas

Rural road maintenance

Utilities - Unity across county

Create a fund to maintain infrastructure throughout the county and assist municipalities

Old mill buildings - opportunity for redevelopment into more than just apartments

Hwy 40/85 - existing asset and opportunity

Bus system (coming)

Wellness Collaborative (planner, public health, parks and recreation)

Services

New school buildings

Need to develop North/South routes

Expand public transportation

Partner with DOT for beautification of interstate and exchanges

Upkeep of city and county roads

Need to renovate/improve/add to educational infrastructure

Beautifying the frontage of 85-45 ACC campus

Update main ACC campus

Construct ACC/ABSS early college facility to accommodate 1,000 students

Continue growth of transportation resources to all areas of county including rural areas

Enhance development and access of Haw River trail system

Furthering the development of the recycling services

Roads need work

Airport

Bus

Parks/rec awareness

Bus transportation

Provide transportation network/improve accessibility of/to rural communities

Continue to push for more affordable housing near public transportation

Continue to develop more public transportation and walkable areas and increase coverage

More public transportation generally

How to get jobs, school and back home

Existing buildings redeveloped (?)

Support bond issue

Follow NCDOT

Limited public transit

Only have what was built out of necessity

Police, Sheriff substations needed in Southern part

Support for recreation facilities

Fire and rescue are out only assets

Identify who has and who needs water/sewer

Make sure infrastructure including all utilities is in place for economic development

Need to identify other funding sources for infrastructure

Long-range planning

Public/private partnerships

Bonds

High-speed fiber

Trails

Supply of water

Pro-active with wells

Internet/broadband capability

Encourage diversity

LINKS

Limited septic capacity

Water

Local contractors?

Baseball field

Use of school facilities

Broadband access

Using churches?

Fire hydrants on 62/49

Examine water and sewer access

Encourage bike traffic on appropriate travel ways

More travel modes

Webb Avenue

Bus system with bike access

Driveway access to major roads

Public transportation

Positive is the amount of water available here

County water and sewer needed

Access to internet and cell service needed

More collaboration across governments

Better communication

Put development standards in place

Traffic issues

Better access to interstate & schools in east Burlington

No reliable transportation for some areas of the county

Limited access to internet in certain areas of county

Keeping up with infrastructure and road development

Vacant buildings

Address commuter needs and bottlenecks, e.g., Amtrak and Highway 70

Beginning of a public transportation and bus system removes barrier for people getting to jobs and services

More bike lanes

Good recreational programs and team sports

Wellness collaborative work to improve built environment

Transportation systems to include hospital and libraries, etc.

Water and sewer expansion to industry parks

Take advantage of empty structures to offer meeting or conference facilities

Community improvements – look around and see, what is the county responsible for? 911, sheriff, health, schools, roads/buildings

Bus system upcoming

Clean water/concerns with well and city water quality

Countywide water source

Enhance county technology

Be a leader in technology

Access to citizens

Clean water

Water filtration

Effective storm and sanitary sewers

How do we want the county to grow?

County transportation

Mass transit

Streets and sidewalks

Better water quality in Haw River

Strengthening community and sharing resources

Urgent care facility

Reduce turnover of personnel

Decide what to do with prison farm

Improve East Burlington

Promote local parks and Haw River trail

Environmental stewardship and social justice

More parks

Distance from law enforcement, need a Sheriff substation

Respecting neighborhood identities/community policing

Safe and active transportation

Burlington Police dept. and Hispanic community – PD is open to feedback, community-building, and establishing trustworthiness

Safety planning (proactive)

Increase awareness of groups to walk and bike

More sidewalks and pedestrian paths

Promoting positive image and forming relationship in the community

CCOM (locating emergency calls using GPS instead of calling)

Law enforcement is now more visible within the community. And they are showcasing the results, e.g., drug busts, 'cleaning up' the community

Collaboration between law enforcement agencies

Public safety training center is badly needed

ACC offers training for new and existing police, fire and emergency services. There is a need for larger, more modern facilities for training.

Need to invest in regional training facility for all public safety

A police substation at ACC

Change focus from locking up to providing other intervention such as education

Build a county training center to provide police force with better communication skills

Unify the partnerships with all public safety sectors and ACC

Transportation corridor

Family activities

Gang awareness

Better clean-up plan for snow and ice

Bus

Access for services

Public Safety

Better community relationships to provide education about public safety issues. We have a great citizen's academy but most don't know about it. Let the citizens know.

Make public safety more available in the satellite communities

Good infrastructure = public safety

Relies on education

Adequate funding

We have excellent fire department and EMT service

Increase retention of law enforcement officers

Negative interaction common with Alamance County Sheriff

Police don't always follow-up

We have Barney Fife!

Good training

Good communication between agencies

Con: retaining good employees

Con: underappreciated

Con: more recognition programs (appreciate employees)

"Training ground"

Employee retention

Parity in pay vs. other counties

Create more opportunities in advancement

Decrease murder rate in Burlington

Very cooperative with each other

Fire/police/EMS doing great job

Elon 10th densest population, so why is Burlington so high right next door?

Need to continue to address pay issues for public safety/Sheriff's office

Broadband access

More deputies/satellite offices

Pay disparities

EMS is good

Rescue squad

Deputy at Social Services a great thing

Review addressing for accuracy with tax district

Plan for growth

Interagency communication

Traffic safety on 87

Cycling

Losing trained officers to other, better paying juris.

People go out of county for health care

People go out of county for health care

People go out of county for health care

People go out of county for health care

People go out of county for health care

Underappreciation of public safety, police and fire

People, all residents, feeling safe to go to police (this is improving)

Address the issue of gangs

Support volunteer firefighters

Maintain community outreach

Educate about school bus safety (make space for on/off bus)

Nixel weather alert and safety system

Planning among all entities for hazard events, school protection

Specific plans in municipalities

Mebane police academy

Respecting neighborhood identities/community policing

Community connections for policing

Body cameras - still questionable as to whether or not everyone is using them properly, incident with 2 cops, only one wore nametag and one with camera. Officer turned his back and did not tape the incident

We would like to have body cameras on our municipal and county police; City of Burlington was given grant money for this. Elon Campus Police has these.

Coffee with a Cop allows for dialogue with a police

Updated training of officers, policies

Citizen advisory review of policies, accountability

Mebane, Alamance County and Burlington have Citizen’s Academy to get perspective on jobs of law enforcement. Transparency is a current trend.

Unified communication center

Interoperability of communication systems

Improved state advertised/county involvement in VIPER system

EMS needs more units, personnel and bases to handle demand

Uncontrolled wildlife due to abandoned properties

Street cleaning ice/snow

Vehicle safety on roads

Much, much needed is traffic management in Saxapahaw near Hawbridge and where residents walk

Help for the villages/unincorporated areas

Sidewalks in our rural areas would make a small but contributive area of county safer for residents/guests

River cleanliness

Sheriff to come talk

Continued emphasis on drug transportation and dissemination

Public safety for all citizens

Big scary trucks

Large trucks on Saxapahaw Roads

Sax-Beth Church Road

Need more ambulance services

Growth in Southern Alamance

Vocational focus for ACC and high schools

Encourage unified voice to advocate on behalf of excellence in education

Invest in education

Get young people involved in community input sessions (this effort and others)

Actively promote excellence in education

Need more public transportation to educational facilities (ACC)

Go with growth, etc.

Overcrowding

ACC blue collar trades

Basis for all the rest

What about teaching farming?

Over testing

Teacher pay (?)

Community input into new high school and redistricting

Property taxes too low

More collaboration

Better communication with citizens

Better schools = better teachers = better pay

Underpaid teachers

Commit support for teachers

School system that attracts and retains families

Decaying school infrastructure partially fixed by bond referendum

Education seen as key to economic development

Investment in schools and smaller class sizes

More education and advertisement about opportunities

Teacher salaries & retention

Charter school student selection

Overpopulated

Lower student/teacher ratio

Competitive pay with surrounding systems

Decrease size of administrative personnel with little/no experience

Long term planning for new construction

Schools drain our children ("suck the life out of them")

New leadership in schools.

Engaged School Board

Continue to build partnerships between/among ACC/ABSS/Elon College

Alamance Achieves

Open use for schools

Work ready initiatives

Teach & use technology to give student understanding & skill set to adapt to changing job market

Community based GED classes

Internships available at ABSS

New AATC (industrial programs) at ACC to open in summer, 2017

Momentum and leadership and creativity from new superintendent

Development of teacher base and use teachers as civic and social leaders

Proposed $150M bond issue for ABSS

SPLASH (Span. Immersion) program gives parents options

3 charter schools

Bilingual preschool (Holy Comforter)

Addressing needs of pre-school (strive together for 1-5)

School system's strategic plan to create nationally recognized programs

Growth of Elon University (+/-)

Public libraries positioning themselves to be more educational; partnering with educational institutions

Career and technical Education center

Offering better pay to keep workers and be more competitive

Need to update facilities to accommodate current technology

Encourage and develop additional industry partnerships

Grow apprenticeship opportunities

Somehow build on ACC's access to the Haw River

Opportunities for upkeep and maintenance of schools to improve morale of students and teachers

Less control, more participating

Rezoning for school population distribution

ACC's new applied technologies center

Expand ACC

Set target of 2025 for number of associate degrees awarded

Employ resources to help underrepresented to earn associate degrees

Revitalize BMOC by developing centralized locations for Continuing Ed. Programs in the multiple empty buildings

Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum at ACC?

Connect NC Bond

Nutrition programs and education

Public libraries' services should be marketed/advertised so as to be better utilized by more people

Funding

Lower barriers

High school college prep program

Overcrowded school

Teacher/student ratio

ACC

English as second language

Literacy - GED, AHS

Adult high school

Online degrees at ACC

Access to services

Public access to books

More and better books; better desks; clean up schools; updated facilities

Saving money through creation of Charter schools

Progressive superintendent

Looking at redistricting

Renovating existing schools

Make education a priority to help attract more funding

Attracting a teaching force that is dedicated to the job

ACC is an asset to county

People come here

Good recruitment

Econ. Dev. - hard to find qualified workers

Looking at new solutions for issues

Value education

Broadband access

You get what you pay for

Need more schools

Organ./planned growth

Better quality schools

Support ACC

ABSS vocational options

ACC

Can graduates stay in the area?

Schools and real estate

Classroom disruption

Great teachers, need our respect

What's happening to Pleasant Grove School?

Proper compensation

Raises and promotion system

Attractive to new residents if schools are good

Leadership structure

Keep kids in own school zones

Attendance zone address verification?

Traffic congestion at pick-up/drop-off

Diversity in schools

Pedestrian access to schools

Drive to create world class school system

Technical school training at ACC and partnerships with local businesses

Support for redistricting

Access across county for opportunities

Endeavor to become national leader in schools

NC Connect funding – good start to funding community colleges

State and local government investing more in schools, helping to attract businesses (middle/upper class jobs) à researching other communities

Compensation for teachers needs to improve to keep them here

Diversity within staff of schools to represent population

Funding of public schools à helping commissioners to understand how the schools are rated, why they are receiving those ratings?

Frustrated with the extravagant salary of the new superintendent

Alamance Community College

Making sure every child can read by 3rd grade on grade level

Haw Bridge School

River Mill School

Pay/benefits/support - more competitive with surrounding counties and states

Make sure we are training and educating for the jobs that are out there

Tutoring is a need

More coordination between those with education and those without

ACC active outreach for internships and job placement in to local businesses

Schools - needs more money

Don’t lose citizens for whom education is top priority

Better pay for teachers

Updated facilities development

Impact fees for education

Address homelessness

Marketing, publicize events and opportunities

Capitalize on great diversity of people and cultures

Need for more affordable housing;

Collaborative nature of non-profits-good at working together; passionate population that expresses themselves peacefully-ex. Confederate Flag Rally and Gay Pride Rally

Collaborative nature of non-profits-good at working together; passionate population that expresses themselves peacefully-ex. Confederate Flag Rally and Gay Pride Rally

Need for more affordable housing;

Homelessness. What’s being done? (Marketing? Infor dissemination?). Share information

Hunger, food deserts. Establish a farmer’s market in Burlington

Advocacy at the state and national level

Improve housing standards

Training in technology is lacking

Take community forums throughout the county

Bringing West and East sides of Burlington to participate together

Focus on early intervention for kids

Curtail drug use

Very active civic groups

Match active retirees with kids that need tutors/mentors

More appropriate/stable/affordable housing

Civic center to attract folks into the county

Non-profits' struggling need consideration for county funding

Affordable housing

Access to county college education

Public transportation

Quality day care for economically disadvantaged

Elder care for growing older population

Strive program through Impact Alamance to bring together local agencies in coordinated effort to support children cradle to jobs

Need to focus community

Free transportation to ACC from various points in county

ACC is one of the best opportunities people in the county have to achieve educational and career goals

Mental health resource awareness

Family activities

Free fitness programs

Access for services

WIC policy

Bullying

Immigration

Human trafficking

Lower barriers

Social security for elderly

Awareness of services

Expand local food options into hungry areas

More coordination of volunteer opportunities

More affordable housing options

Better coordination of services for people with disabilities

Expand and offer more information to citizens

More free or low cost creative opportunities for residents, e.g., art, dance

Gather input from all races, classes, walk of life

Focused outreach and embracing of the new diversity of the county

Offer safety net for lower income citizens in emergency situations

Law enforcement needs to be involved in the community

Food deserts

Speak up

Un/underemployment

Income inequality/concentrations of poverty (everywhere)

Food pantry/closets

Poor housing quality (substandard)

Embrace the diversity, but need figure out how to make it work

Plan to go forward

As an employer, represent population

Public outreach

Minimum housing standards

More community activities

Broadband access

Are we the kind of place you want to grow up and stay here?

Retirees

School disruption

Parental resources

JPA

Parks availability

Get youth involved in all systems

Engage with citizens

Engage with religious communities (?)

Day care - adult/child, in home for adults, long term care, parks and rec role?

More fast food here than anywhere

Engagement: How do we reach people, how to we convince it makes a difference?

Same folks usually involved

Family support system

Need for health care w/out leaving the county

Services for seniors

Affordable housing

Agriculture/tourism/farm-to-table

Underpaid county employees

More transparent government

Enhance and encourage access to health care by mobile and community centers

Lack of addition services; more prevention programs

Promote respect among citizens regardless of background, race, gender, and ethnicity

More inclusive community

20 or so churches are involved in a Racial Reconciliation Initiative, white and black churches are dialoguing, pulpit exchange and worshiping together

Homeless; families with children; 800 children identified as unstable in their housing; veterans

Other communities have eliminated homelessness for veterans; housing in permanent situations

Drugs

Mental health

Senior citizens: adult protective services, exploitation, safety, adequacy of housing

Human trafficking

Increasing services

Affects all groups

Access to healthcare

Food insecurity is an issue for many

Need tennis courts

Dog Park

Bike trails

Culture mill

Older population

Makers at Jordan Elementary

Underutilized resources

Finding a way to connect disparate voices and bring new faces to the table for visioning

Making community connections more intentional - especially with groups that are less engaged

Embrace people of all backgrounds

Health clinic

Engaging Latino population and farm workers

Options for nutritious food and access to open air/nature/play

Bring community together to work together more

Collaborative efforts to bring awareness and education

New grants for health and social issues

Community cohesion and upward mobility

Access to health clinics/care

After and before school care

Access to quality care for children

Minimum housing for county

Health facilities needed

Engage minority populations

*wildlife conservation as a strong addition to all of these areas and garnering public support for wildlife conservation

Third Question: 30 Years

Development of areas

Rundown areas incorporated into community and fixed

Good growth infrastructure

Parks and trails

Protect Haw River

Revitalize East Burlington

The planning process

Water supply/quality water

Well thought out growth

Affordable (for elderly and disabled) housing

Green areas

Land Assets

Natural resources

Open areas/balance (including farms)

Farms

Haw River

Revit. old buildings to get history and maintain natural resources

Absorb what comes in and is able to maintain its identity

Access to natural resources

Agriculture

Agriculture and farm land preservation

Balance of growth/green/sustainable

City planning

Econ. dev., but good corporate citizens

Encouraging a sustainable future

Environment to attract businesses and balance with agriculture

Farmland

Find and maintain balance of regulation/non-regulation, growth with balance

For growth, but controlled

Green areas, farming

Green spaces/rural

Growth

Historic sites

Known for its historical sites, nationally and internationally

Larger lot sizes

Look ahead

Maintain rural areas

Nature greenspace and history of the county

Open spaces

Our deep history

Parks

Plan ahead, be proactive

Planned growth

Preservation

Preservation of rich and strong history

Preserve history of the county

Preserve natural/open/green spaces

Preserve open space

Preserve the health of the environment

Preserving open space and identifying new open space for community. Green space creation and strategic placement for long term sustainability.

Protect farmland and green spaces

Protect our natural resources and special places we have in county as we embrace future growth

Protecting environments for people and wildlife

Quality growth

Quality of life

Renovations of local buildings

Retain small town feel with good public safety, but with growth

Streams and rivers and water

Support controlled growth, being strategic

Uniqueness of character of the county

Vacant buildings for small businesses

Water conservation to protect wells, streams, farms

Zoning

Economic Development

Expansion of small businesses (co-op, etc.)

Able to attract more businesses and families with diversity

Businesses

Economic development

Job opportunities

Economic growth and development

Able to recruit and retain technologically-adept workers

Balance urban and rural

Broaden economic development strategies beyond industrial recruitment

econ. dev. Enhanced-opp. to Alamance County

Educational/job opp.

Grandkids farming here/local food

Growth/economic development

Mindfulness of local businesses

Regional mentality rather than town silos

Respecting local autonomy, making local produce available

Robust job growth

Small farms drive community

Stable economic base

Sustainable organic food expansion

Technology for farming

Participation in this process

Collaborative climate and nature of the county especially as nationally we become more polarized. Keeping collaborative efforts locally

Continue dialogue

Continue relationships together as they add to social change. Improving the county through social improvement and collaborations

County officials represent whole county

Educate people to resources available. Education on what the community needs and how local government and community can support the needs of the community.

Educating people to resource available to connect public to nature.

Everyone has a voice

Expansion of arts programs and appreciation

Greater participation

Integrity of County Government à see a different group; diversity in county staff

Keep engagement high

Keep the great while making it better

Keep with plan for kids/grandkids to stay here

Keep/improve facilities

Positive energy of community and support of councils

Sticking to the plan created today. Follow through with the plan and continue to open dialogue

Taking time to take this step for the community

Talking about future and not putting worry on the past

Using strategic plan to develop focus and guide spending

Voices

Infrastructure

Parks and recreation

Water

Beautification of Alamance County/quality of life

Bus system

Connecting neighborhoods and cities through active transport, especially to parks and social centers

Greenways and green space, bike trails

Healthy food

Increasing connectivity (biking and sidewalks)

Internet

Internet/cell phone

Landfill needs recycle/up cycle space

Medical services

Network of public transportation

Off-fossil fuels/more open space

Outdoor activities

Parks/rivers protected

Promotion and investment in built environment projects

Trails

Trails

Trails and connectivity of trails. Educating public on use of and availability of transport

Trails/ wonder/ nature/ discovery

Transportation

Transportation and connecting one end of county to the other

Transportation options

Water

Safety

Safe neighborhoods

Safety

Increase job skills

Education

Excellence in Schools

Libraries

Supporting Children

Public education

Revit. K-12 - high priority

Education focus (K-12)

Schools are a positive model for rest of state

Strong schools and library

Schools

ABSS and the public school system

Commitment to quality schools

Commitment to quality schools

Educated youth

Education and cradle to career initiatives. Getting kids ready for kindergarten

Education system

Educational opportunities

Local/school/library

Schools

Technical education

Things that benefit children.

Expanded and sustained services for elderly

Community

Cultural arts

Health

Social issues

Way of life

Absorb culture/maintain identity

Care for children and elders; good daycare/preschool and senior care

Community spirit of Alamance County

Cultural diversity; respect for one another

Diverse population; inclusiveness of community

Diversity of people

Encouragement of folks to get to know one another (values, worth, ability)

Grow with embracing of diversity

Harmonious, diverse community

Identity

Integration/diversity

The less fortunate

Intentional diversity

Love of community

Preserve arts/culture

Quality of life

Support res. Needs

Thriving community

Vibrant, lively, well-educated and paid county

Volunteer spirit

I'm good

Food access. Healthy local food is accessible

APPENDIX C- FOCUS GROUPS

The following pages contain supporting documentation relevant to the focus group sessions:

- A list of focus group participants
- A copy of the participant responses

Focus Group Attendees
Alamance County Recreation & Parks
Master Plan Addendum Planning Sessions

Leadership Alamance Focus Group
March 8, 2017

Jenson Roll
Rebecca Price
Sarah Black
Sherri Henderson
Beth Bader
Veronica Revels
Susan Watson
Brian Baker
Stephanie Braxton
Gayle Shoffner
Susan Youngsteadt
Walter Britt
Elly Goetz
Anna Patterson
Maggie Bailey
Olivia Murray
Zachary Fisher

Wellness Collaborative Focus Group

March 16, 2017

Amy Nelson
Ann Meletzke
Anna Patterson
Ben Wright
Brian Faucette
Carolyn Rhode
Christiana Kernodle
Ellen Mcbane
Glenda Linens
Jay Graves
Kathy Colville
Libby Hodges
Green, Marcy
Mike Nunn
Montrena Hadley
Nathan Page
Nikki Ratliff
Olivia Murray
Phyllis Creech
Sean Tencer
Stacie Saunders
Tammy Cobb
Tim Schwantes
Tony Laws
Todd Thorpe
Walter Britt
Zachary Fisher

Focus Group Responses
Alamance County Recreation & Parks
Master Plan Addendum Planning Sessions

Leadership Alamance Focus Group
March 8, 2017

- More Greenways & connection to sidewalks/public transportation (5 responses)
- Environmental education programs (2 responses)
- Hiking Trails (2 responses)
- Nature parks with hiking (2 responses)
- Festivals
- Water splash park
- Education gardening /raised beds
- Cooking classes/canning classes
- Classes targeting diabetics
- Bike lanes
- Biking trails
- Continue to build Haw River Trail
- Outdoor education
- Family activities
- Senior activities
- Healthy eating classes
- Exercise classes
- Festivals
- Programs for at risk youth
- Camping sites
- Scholarship opportunity for low income families
- Fitbit contest
- Foot golf

Wellness Collaborative Focus Group
March 16, 2017

- Greenways (paved) (7 responses)
- Hiking trails (8 responses)
- Bike paths (3 responses)
- Summer Camps (2 responses)
- Community Gardens (3 responses)
- Outdoor learning environment (2 responses)
- Transportation to parks (2 responses)
- Youth sports leagues county wide
- Outdoor interactive learning
- Pre K programs
- Maintain green spaces
- Teen programs 12-17 yrs. old
- Expand Sports program – more teams
- More Soccer, Baseball, Football fields
- Collaborative recreation
- Horseback Riding facility
- Walking & workout equipment
- Restrooms at parks/ par courses
- Safe parks where kids & families can play
- Edible landscaping
- Outdoor venues for events
- Free & low cost Community engagement activities for families
- Safety features

APPENDIX D- ALAMANCE COUNTY TRAILS PLAN

The following pages contain the Alamance County Trails Plan, adopted by the Alamance County Board of Commissioners on January 5, 2014.







Alamance County Trails Plan

A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT PROGRAM INITIATIVE

ALAMANCE COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

Communities Transforming
For a healthier North Carolina

PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL





ALAMANCE COUNTY TRAIL PLAN

Developed in partnership with Alamance County Recreation & Parks

With Support from:
Burlington, Graham, Mebane, Gibsonville and Elon

Project Staff

Elizabeth Jernigan, *Piedmont Triad Regional Council*

Malinda Ford, *Piedmont Triad Regional Council*

Jesse Day, AICP, *Piedmont Triad Regional Council*



Made possible with funding through the Community Transformation Grant program;
a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative

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Alamance County Trail Plan

A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT PROGRAM INITIATIVE

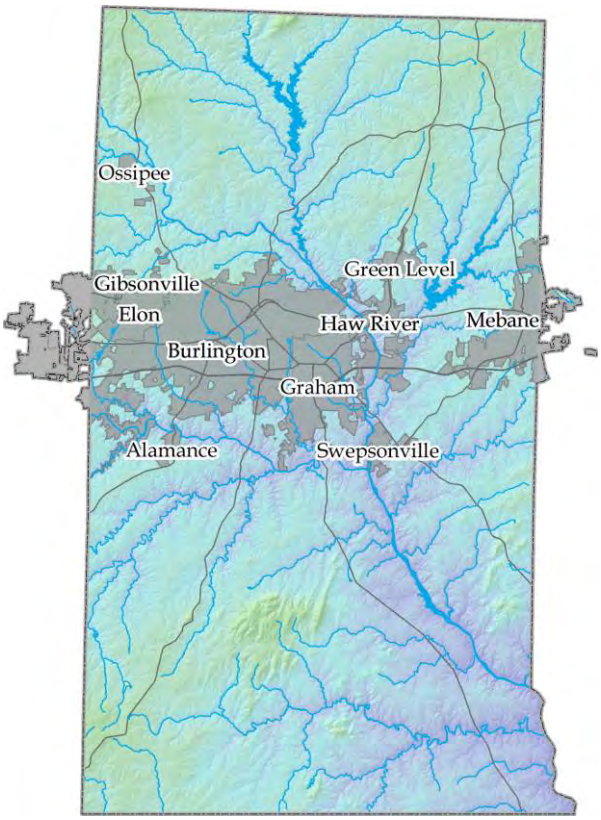
VISION

Greater access to trails and open space in Alamance County and its municipalities will improve the mental and physical health and well-being of citizens by reducing obesity and chronic disease rates, connecting people with schools, parks and neighborhoods, providing broader transportation options for bicyclists and pedestrians, protecting our water resources, natural areas and habitats and connecting people with the natural environment. Trails and open spaces will attract new business, industry, agriculture and tourism dollars, increase home values, keep local dollars in the community and create a more desirable community in which to live, work and play.

INTRODUCTION

The Alamance County Trail Plan is a long range plan that strives to work with municipalities, citizens, business owners, and landowners to identify and prioritize opportunities to create recreational trails throughout Alamance County. While some parts of Alamance County have ready access to recreation, additional passive recreation options such as trails and greenways can provide numerous benefits while not over-burdening existing staff resources.

FIGURE 1: STUDY AREA - ALAMANCE COUNTY

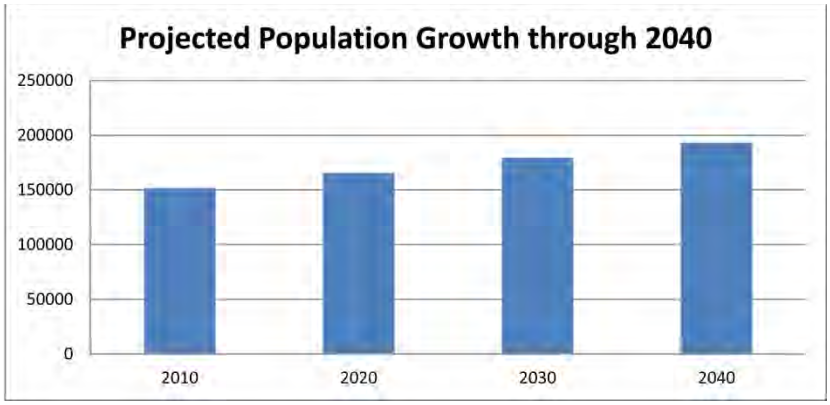


In addition to providing greater access to recreational opportunities, trails and greenways provide alternative transportation options for those without access to a vehicle, public transportation, or who prefer commuting via walking or biking. Trails, greenways and open space also have the potential to improve local air quality by providing alternative transportation, protect open space and water quality, preserve valuable habitat, and provide stewardship and environmental education opportunities.

Providing easier access to recreational opportunities can also yield cost savings by reducing medical expenses. Studies have shown that people with access to parks and green space have lower stress and anxiety levels, decreased blood pressure and cholesterol, recover faster from surgery and heart attacks, and show improved management of attention and behavioral

disorders. One study found regular exercise could save adults an estimated $865 per year in medical costs. Improving access to parks and greenway systems is no longer just a component of parks and recreation systems, but a major component of healthier communities (Odefey et. al. 2012).

FIGURE 3: PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH THROUGH 2040

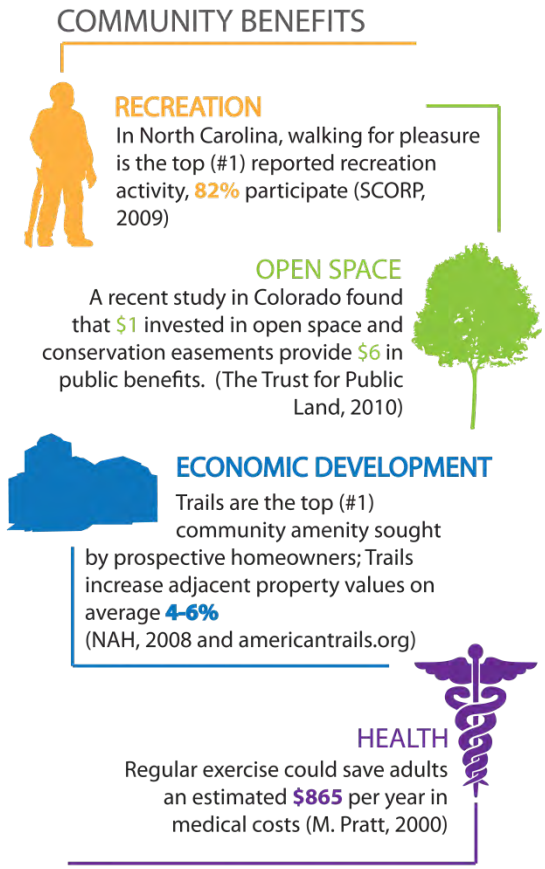


Source: Woods & Poole, 2013

A strong trail system can also have significant economic impact. Creating trails five miles or more in distance encourages visitors to spend an afternoon or a full day exploring a trail system. Instead of just an activity, the trip can become an experience that encourages longer visits, more meals purchased and possibly overnight stays. Longer trails are also more likely to encourage sporting and recreation events, new business opportunities, and are among the top amenities sought out by new homeowners and companies.

The Alamance County Trail Plan is a guidance document for the County and municipalities to use as they are determining how best to improve the health, welfare and quality of life for the community through improved recreational access. This plan will strive to achieve the following goals through implementation:

FIGURE 2: COMMUNITY BENEFITS



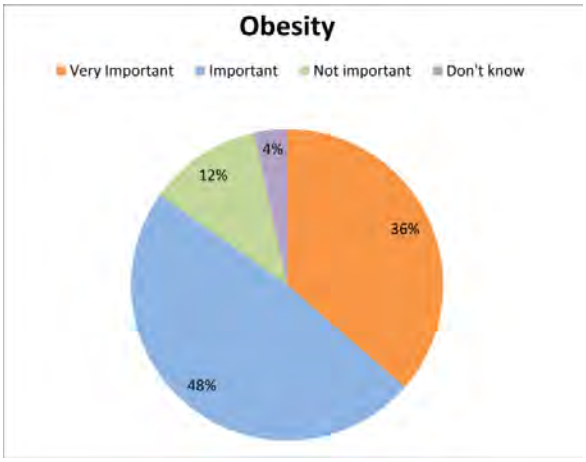
- Link safe places to improve health by increasing the variety of opportunities residents have and providing more off-road venues for physical activity.
- Expand recreation opportunities and improve access, providing outdoor activities for all age groups.
- Protect open space, streams and rivers by allowing people to experience and appreciate open space on designated routes and ensuring that sensitive environmental areas are left open instead of being developed for other more intense uses.
- Support economic development by offering local destinations, attracting people to area recreational opportunities and luring industry with high quality of life for their employees.

BACKGROUND

Alamance County is largely defined by a horizontal belt of merged interstates (I-40 traveling east-west and I-85 traveling north-south), however lack of public transportation is a major challenge. A projected population increase of 27% between 2010 and 2040 (Woods & Poole 2013) makes apparent the need to address alternative transportation choices. People are increasingly utilizing trails and greenways for transportation purposes. In addition to providing recreational opportunities within the County, the Alamance County Trail Plan identifies existing trail and greenway assets, while cataloguing both opportunities and strategies for connecting people along trails to destinations in the County.

Alamance County, Burlington and Graham cooperatively fund a Haw River Trail Coordinator position in Alamance County. While the Coordinator is primarily responsible for planning, acquiring and promoting the 35 mile section of Haw River Paddle Trail and Haw River Trail/Mountains to Sea Trail in Alamance County, they also assist with other trails and open space properties in Alamance County.

FIGURE 4: OBESITY



Source: Elon University 2014

Obesity, Chronic Disease & Mental Health

Alamance County, like much of the country, suffers from an epidemic of obesity. Sedentary lifestyles compounded with unhealthy food options beginning in the early stages of life contributes to the problem. In a poll conducted by Elon University, 84% of Alamance County residents consider obesity to be important or very important to the community. Increasing physical activity options and access to open space, parks and trails, can help reverse this trend among Alamance County citizens.

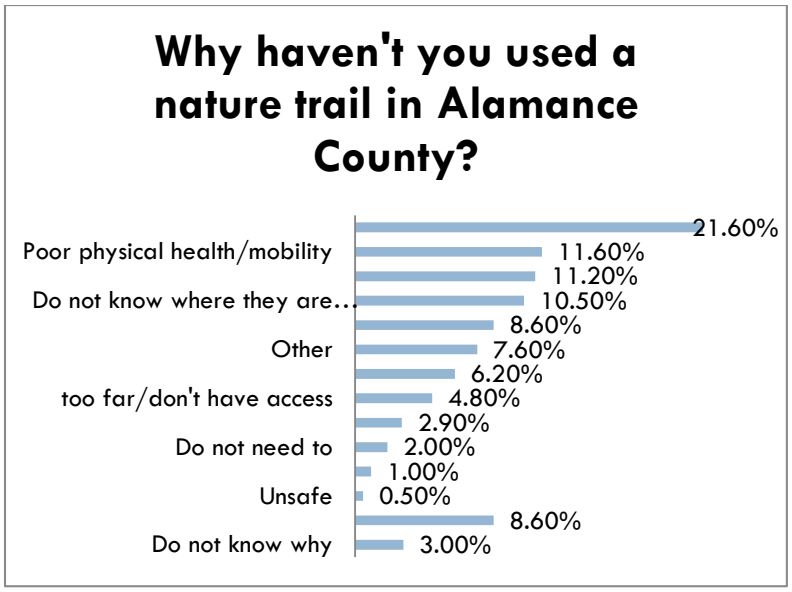
In addition to reducing obesity and chronic disease rates, access to outdoor recreation can have significant positive impacts on mental health. According to one government estimate, the average American spends about 90% of his or her life indoors (Harvard Medical Letter 2010).

A study commissioned by the Sierra Club and conducted by the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment found veterans participating in a multi-day wilderness recreation experience reported "a greater than 10 percent improvement in several measures of psychological well-being, a 9 percent increase in social functioning, and a nearly 8 percent gain in positive life outlook" (University of Michigan 2013).

34% OF ALAMANCE COUNTY ADULTS ARE OBESE COMPARED WITH 29% FOR NORTH CAROLINA

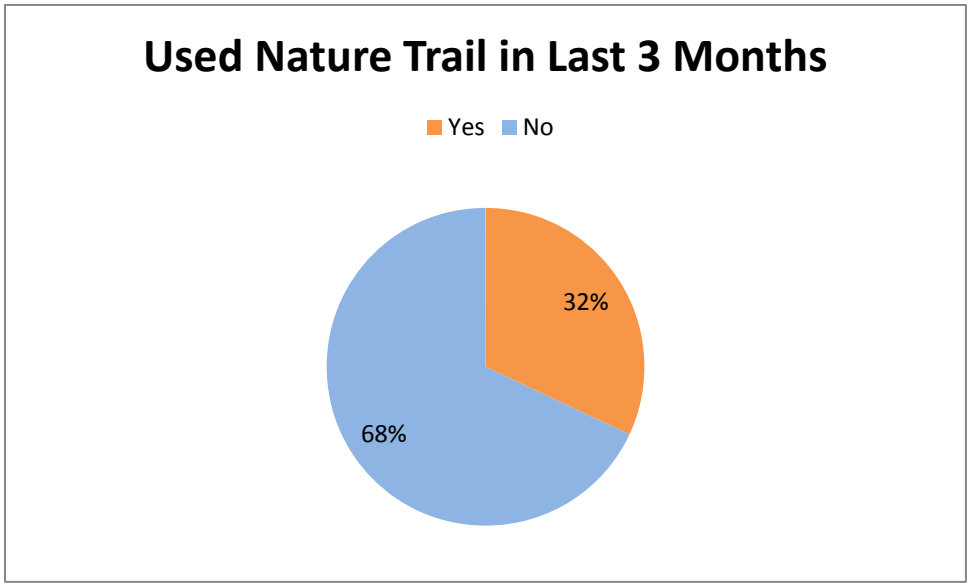
In the Elon University Poll (2014), over 15% percent of residents surveyed did not know where nature trails were located or didn't have access to a nature trail. While the Alamance County Trail Plan cannot change weather conditions (the leading reason citizens did not use a nature trail), the Plan can improve access to trails, including handicap accessible trails and provide tools for educating the public on where trails are located. This will likely entail a partnership between the County and municipalities to further help citizens locate trails that will meet recreational needs as well as provide transportation options.

FIGURE 5: NATURE TRAIL USE IN ALAMANCE COUNTY



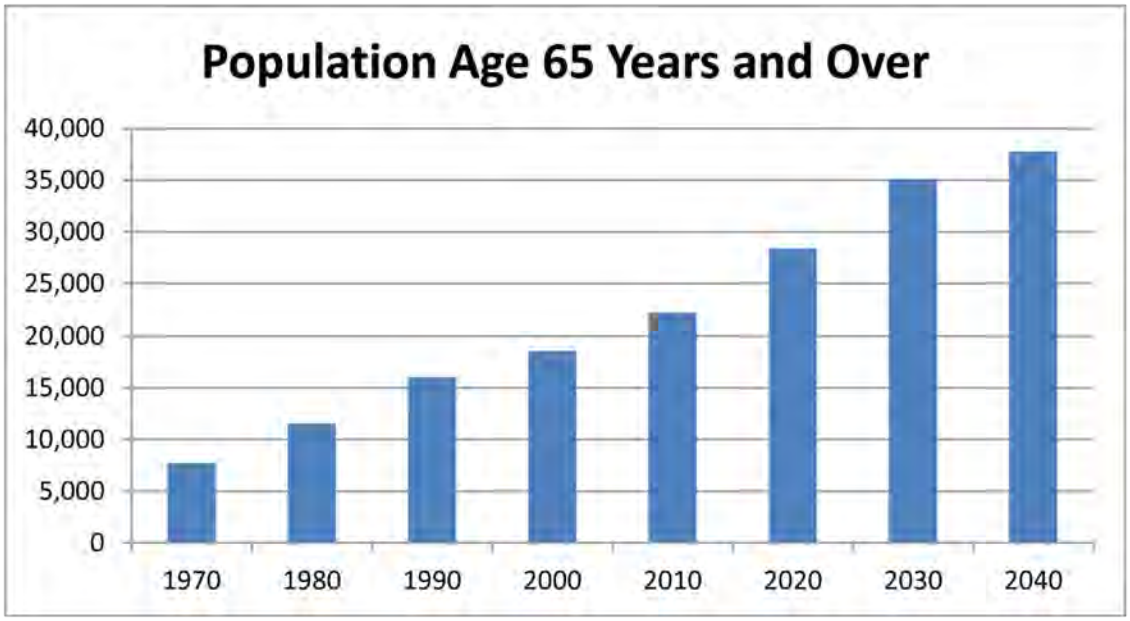
Source: Elon University 2014

FIGURE 6: USED NATURE TRAIL IN LAST 3 MONTHS



Source: Elon University 2014

FIGURE 7: ALAMANCE COUNTY AGING POPULATION 1979-2040



Source: Woods & Poole, 2013

The aging population in the Piedmont Triad is projected to have more growth than any other region in the state. In Alamance County, data predicts an increase in those age 65 years and older of over 70 percent between 2010 and 2040 (Woods & Poole 2013). Along with an increase in the aging population is the increased prevalence of chronic diseases including depression. Despite advances in antidepressant medication, as many as 30-35 percent of patients do not respond to treatment, and even those who do respond often experience a relapse within one year following treatment termination. The use of exercise as a treatment for depression reported a significant decrease in reoccurrence. In addition to treating depression, exercise has been shown to improve cognitive function, mood and general sense of well-being (Blumenthal, James A., et al. 1999). As Alamance County and its municipalities prepare for growth, planning efforts should allow seniors easy access to trails and open space from senior centers, nursing homes and other care facilities. The Kernodle Senior Center in Burlington is a great example of integrating a senior center into parks and recreation master planning efforts. The Center is integrated into City Park and provides easy access to trails and green space among other recreational opportunities.

FIGURE 8: OUTDOOR RECREATION BENEFICIAL FOR SENIORS



Demographics

The following statistics give a profile of Alamance County's population, where growth is occurring, income levels, percent minority and the population's access to motor vehicles. Drawn primarily from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey, the analysis also compares Alamance County and its municipalities to other peer counties in the Piedmont Triad. Preparing and planning for the health, transportation and economic needs of an increased population is an important component of this plan.

TABLE 1: ALAMANCE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS COMPARISON TO OTHER PEER COUNTIES

Population Characteristic	Alamance County		Davidson County		Randolph County	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population*	151,131	-	162,878	-	141,752	-
60 and over*	30,826	20.3%	33,785	20.7%	28,500	20.1%
Minority*	48,417	32.0%	26,547	18.7%	25,544	18.0%
Below Poverty**	23,324	15.4%	23,016	14.1%	23,766	16.8%
Unemployed (16+ Years)**	7,292	610.0%			7,194	6.5%
Without HS Diploma (Over 25 Years)**	17,977	18.0%	23,130	20.7%	21,274	22.5%
Language Other than English (Over 5 Years)**	16,487	11.6%	11,642	7.6%	14,174	10.7%
Households without a vehicle**	4,049	6.7%	3,370	5.2%	3,744	6.8%
Households - Single Woman with Child**	5,081	8.4%	4,113	6.4%	4,313	7.8%

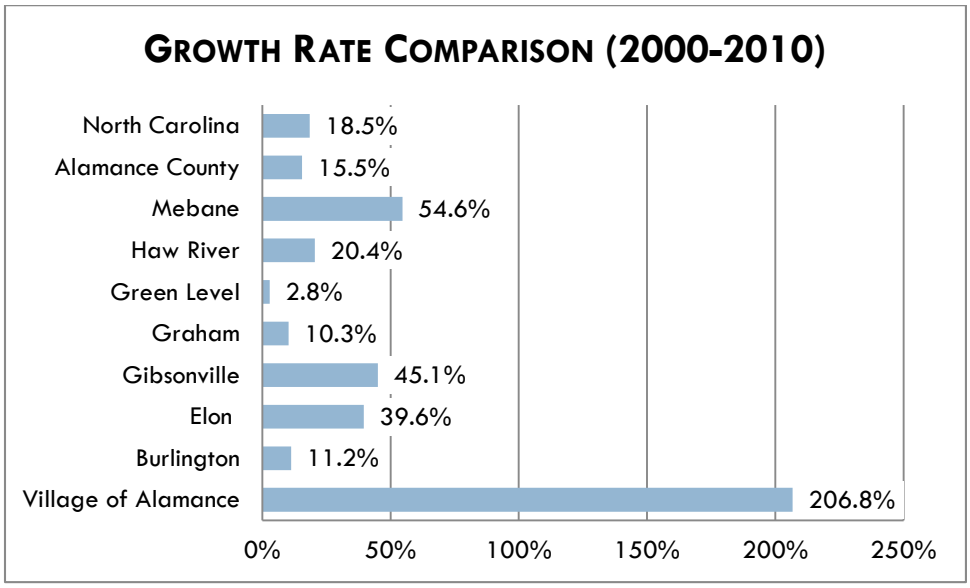
*Woods & Poole, 2013
**US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 year data, 2008-2012

TABLE 2: POPULATION OF ALAMANCE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES 1970 - 2010

Historical Populations	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970
Alamance County	151,131	130,800	108,213	99,319	96,362
Village of Alamance	951	310	258	320	452
Burlington	49,963	44,917	39,498	37,266	35,930
Elon	9,419	6,748	4,448	2,873	2,150
Gibsonville	6,410	4,418	3,445	2,865	2,019
Graham	14,153	12,833	10,368	8,674	8,172
Green Level	2,100	2,042	1,548	No data	No data
Haw River	2,298	1,908	1,914	1,858	1,944
Mebane	11,393	7,367	4,754	2,782	2,573

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1970-2010

FIGURE 9: GROWTH RATES OF ALAMANCE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES 2000-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decentennial Census 2000-2010

FIGURE 10: PERCENT GROWTH RATE OF ALAMANCE COUNTY

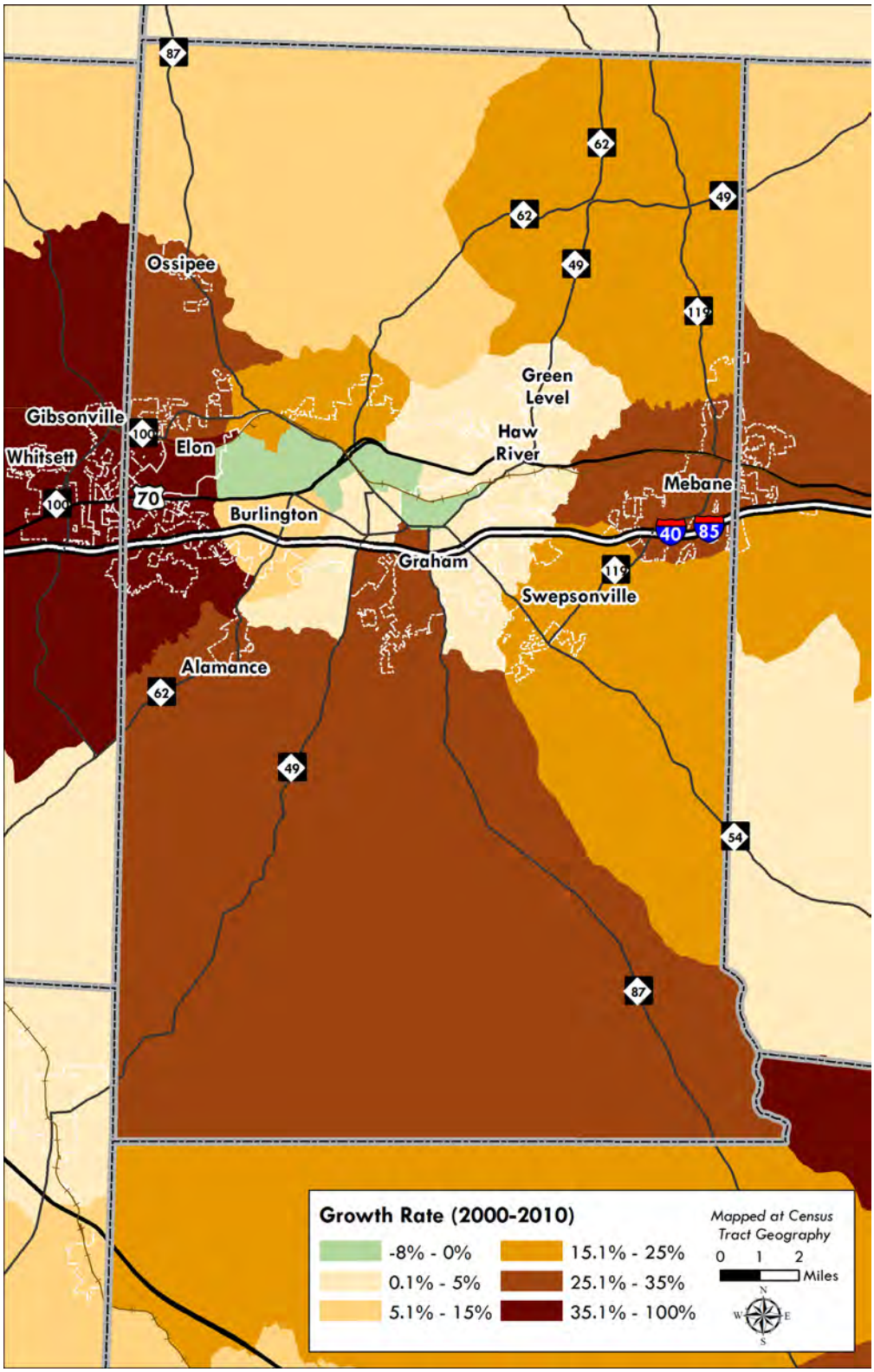


FIGURE 11: POPULATION DENSITY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY

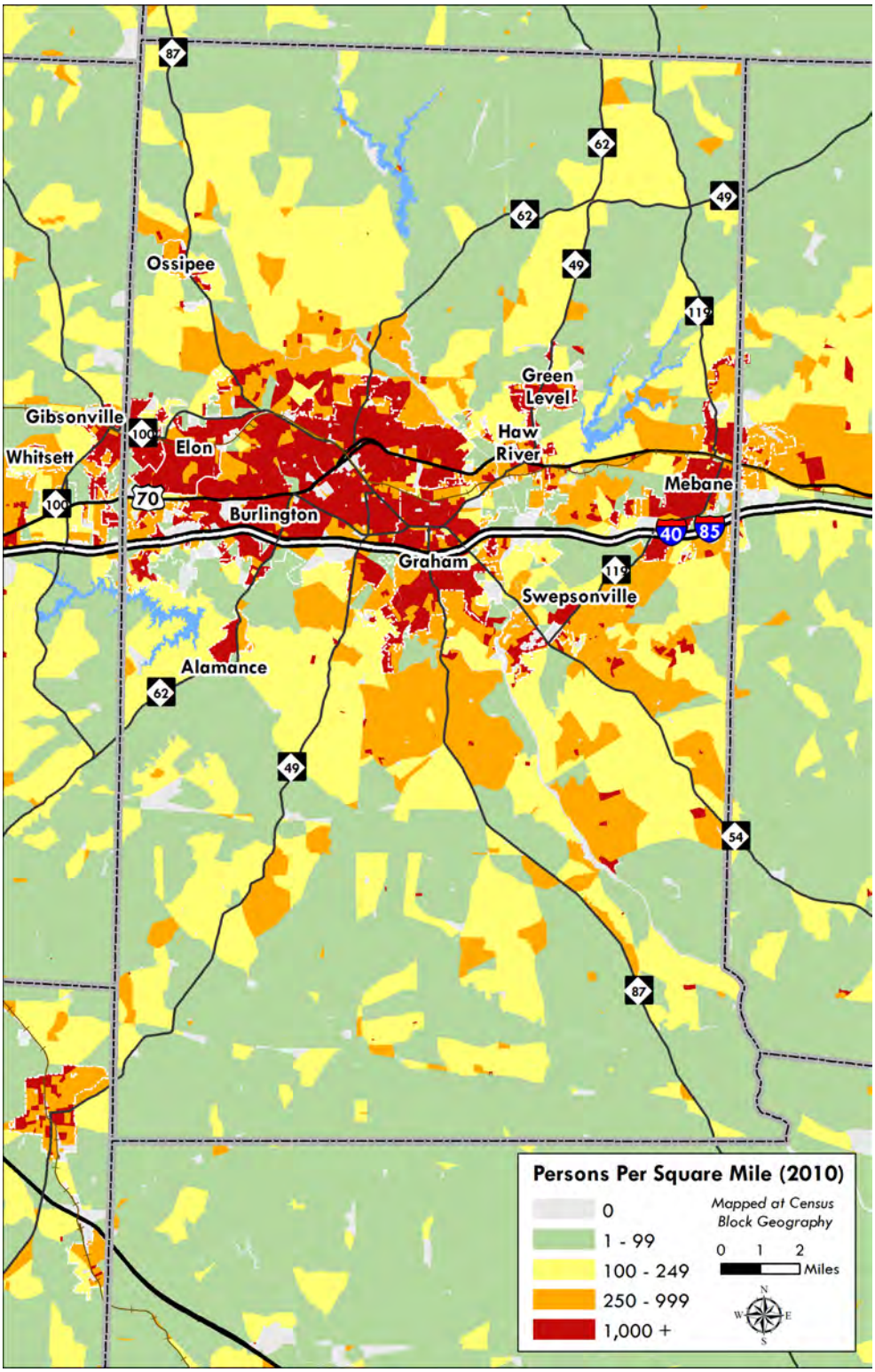


FIGURE 12: PERCENT MINORITY IN ALAMANCE COUNTY

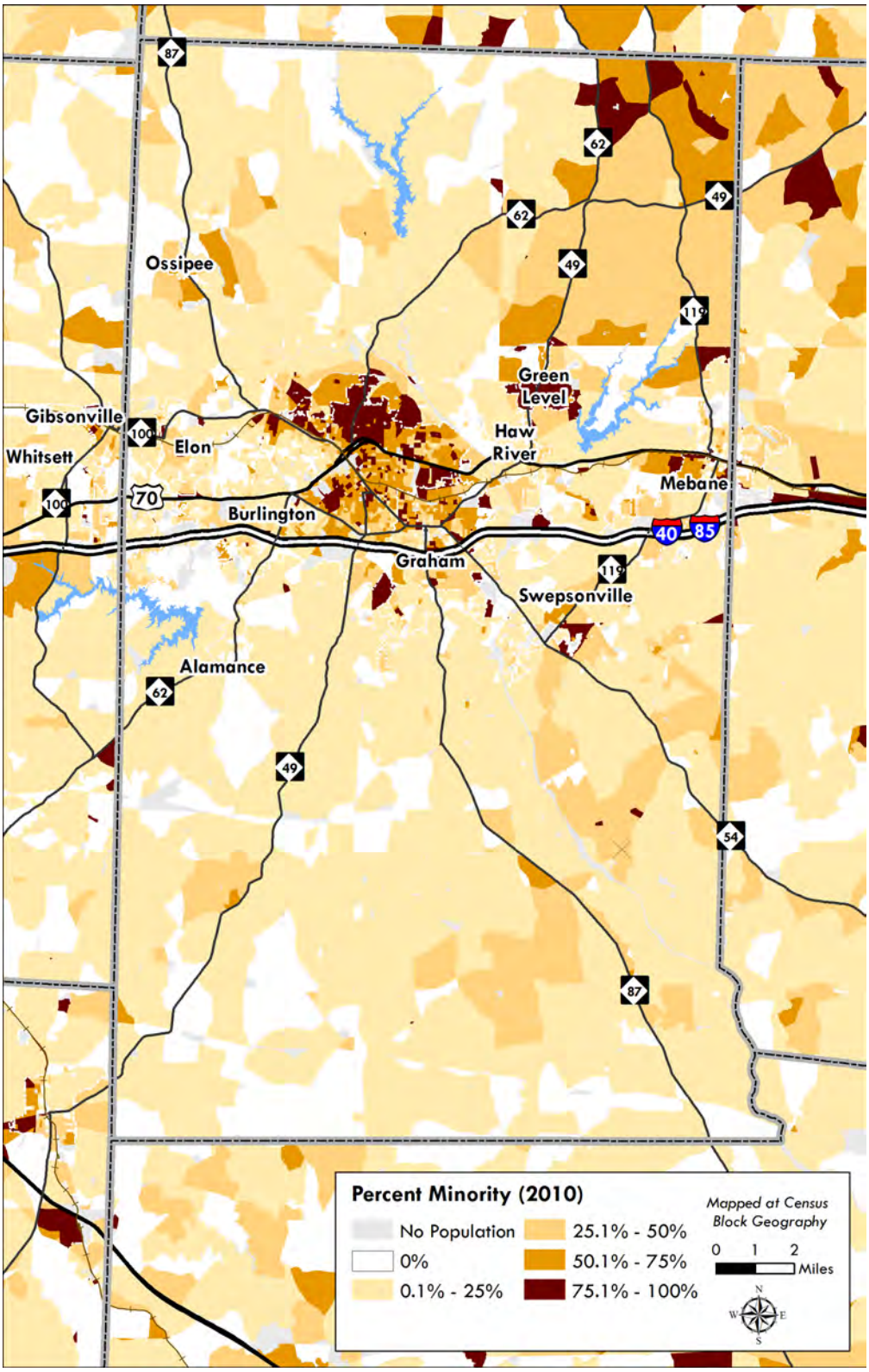


TABLE 3: ALAMANCE COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

RACE		
White alone	107,420	71.1%
Black or African American alone	28,369	18.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	1,020	0.7%
Asian alone	1,837	1.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone	58	0.0%
Some other race alone	9,291	6.1%
Multi-racial	3,136	2.1%
ETHNICITY		
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	16,639	11.0%

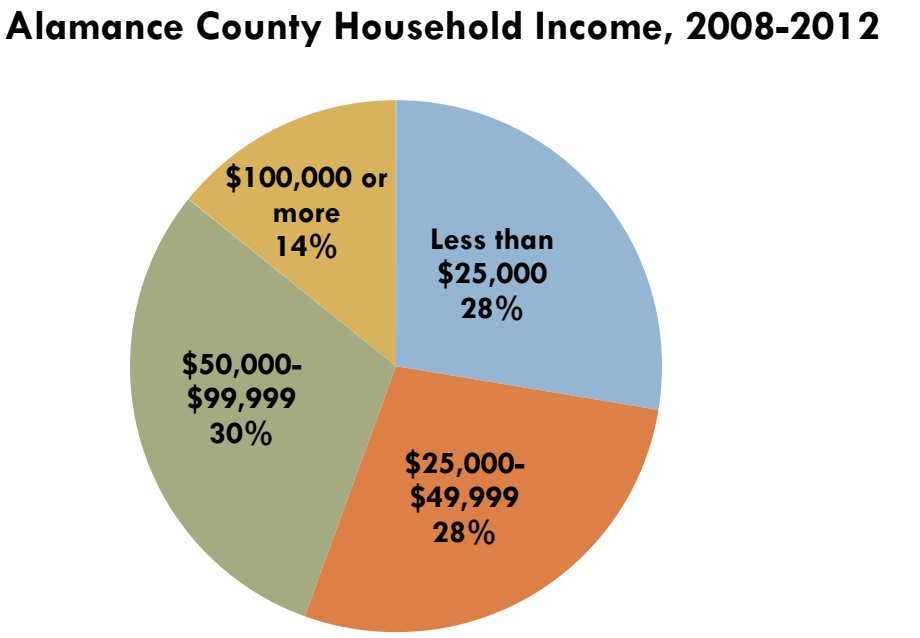
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decentennial Census 2010

TABLE 4: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY INCOME FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES

INCOME, 2008-2012			
	Per Capita	Median Household	Median Family
Alamance County	$23,517	$44,155	$54,335
Burlington	$23,403	$38,183	$47,980
Gibsonville	$25,902	$57,841	$76,182
Elon	$23,654	$49,554	$79,231
Mebane	$27,328	$53,369	$68,214
Graham	$20,652	$40,939	$50,635
Haw River	$18,954	$38,188	$42,974
Green Level	$13,742	$26,563	$34,643
Village of Alamance	$37,049	$84,432	$95,714
Ossipee	$21,291	$52,083	$62,656
Saxapahaw	$23,576	$55,893	$60,972

Source: ACS 2008-2012, DP03

FIGURE 13: ALAMANCE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD INCOME AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION



Source: ACS 2008-2012, DP03

TABLE 5: POVERTY RATE FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES

POVERTY RATE, 2008-2012	Overall	Children (0-17)	Elderly (65+)
Alamance County	17.30%	27.40%	9.00%
Burlington	21.90%	40.10%	10.40%
Gibsonville	8.80%	1.70%	12.00%
Elon	19.80%	0.80%	1.90%
Mebane	13.40%	16.20%	11.50%
Graham	21.00%	34.70%	20.20%
Haw River	18.80%	25.60%	10.00%
Green Level	30.10%	49.60%	3.60%
Village of Alamance	3.50%	1.70%	21.90%
Ossipee	16.00%	29.60%	3.80%
Saxapahaw	1.40%	0.00%	0.00%

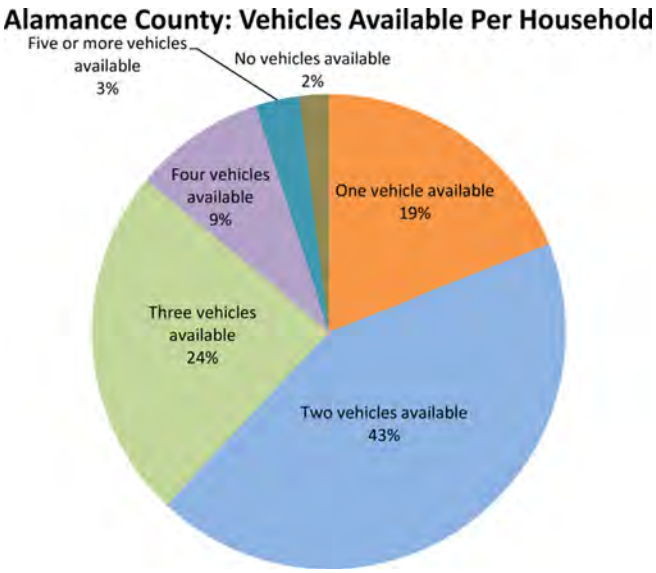
Source: ACS 2008-2012, DP03

TABLE 6: EDUCATION ATTAINMENT ALAMANCE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2008-2012		
	High School	Bachelors Degree or Higher
Alamance County	82.00%	21.80%
Burlington	80.80%	24.40%
Gibsonville	93.00%	36.50%
Elon	92.10%	39.40%
Mebane	90.10%	31.20%
Graham	77.10%	17.00%
Haw River	78.70%	16.30%
Green Level	75.30%	7.50%
Village of Alamance	91.30%	29.40%
Ossipee	88.00%	17.50%

Source: ACS 2008-2012, BO8014

FIGURE 14: ALAMANCE COUNTY: VEHICLES AVAILABLE PER HOUSEHOLD, 2008-2012



Source: ACS 2008-2012, BO8014

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

On January 28th, 2014, project staff met with stakeholders from Alamance County, municipalities and regional and state organizations to establish a vision and goals for the project and ensure mapping efforts reflected current data. The following summarizes open ended questions gathered during the meeting:

Trails will improve health by….

- Increasing physical activity including walking, running, bike riding, etc.
- Increasing accessibility to trails and open space.
- Improving opportunities for active transportation
- Reducing obesity and chronic disease rates
- Providing a distraction from TV and Video Games
- Putting outdoor exercise amenities in safe areas where people will want to be
- Improving mental health through access to nature and exercise.
- Connecting people and place by providing more opportunities to walk/bike within their communities.

Trails will improve recreation opportunities by…

- Providing local venues for active recreation that cover longer distances and are more scenic
- Connecting communities to open space destinations and recreational facilities throughout the county
- Offering more options connecting neighborhoods, parks, and other amenities
- Providing children and others a safe place to run, walk, bike, camp and experience nature
- Linking local food, farms and markets
- Creating low cost, low maintenance, self-directed recreation experiences

Trails will help protect open space, streams and rivers by….

- Preserving critical land
- Bringing awareness of the benefits of nature and open space
- Providing volunteer opportunities
- Protecting wildlife corridors
- Reducing impacts from development
- Preserving green space
- Creating opportunities for education
- Designating space for recreation
- Improving air quality
- providing a buffer from development and corridors for wildlife to use

Trails will help economic development by….

- Creating a more desirable community to live, work and play
- Increasing home values

- Attracting businesses, industries, agriculture, and tourism
- Keeping local dollars in the community
- Bringing outdoor enthusiasts to the County and bolstering those who provide products and services related to outdoor recreation

TABLE 7: SHORT-TERM GOALS

SHORT-TERM GOALS: 0-4 YEARS
• Extend the Haw River Trail
• Aid in the development and/or implementation of Land Development Plans (LDPs) o Burlington LDP, June 2015, o Graham LDP, January 2015, o Mebane LDP, June 2015
• Aid in the development and/or implementation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans o Mebane Bike and Pedestrian Plan, o Gibsonville Pedestrian Plan, o Burlington Pedestrian Plan, o Town of Elon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
• Inventory existing trails
• Identify connections (parks, sidewalks, green spaces and existing trails) between the communities and the County (inter-connectivity)
• Acquire land along the designated trail routes for trailheads and anchor points

TABLE 8: LONG-TERM GOALS

LONG-TERM GOALS: 5-10 YEARS
• Update Land Development Plans
• Update Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans
• Connect Haw River Trail to municipal parks and trails
• Connect trails with adjacent counties
• Provide trail access at schools (especially in rural areas)
• Connect municipal and County green space
• Connection to Graham-Mebane Lake

FIGURE 15: WORD CLOUD GENERATED FROM STAKEHOLDER MEETING

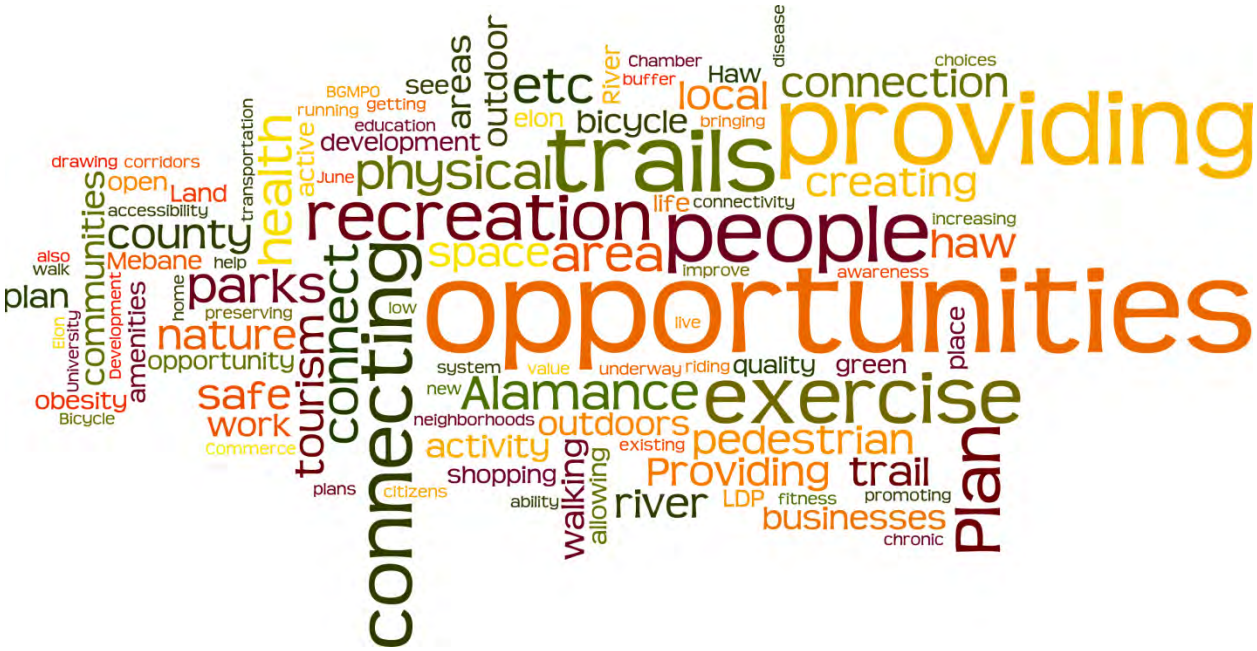
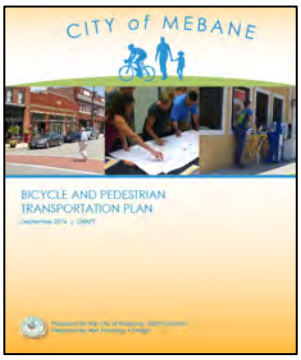


TABLE 9: STAKEHOLDER MEETING ATTENDEES

Stakeholder Meeting Attendees – January 28th, 2014	
Glenda Linens	Alamance County Health Department
Tony Laws	Burlington Recreation and Parks
Amy Nelson	Burlington Planning
Andrew Shore	Burlington GIS
Kate Dixon	Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail
Melody Wiggins	City of Graham Recreation and Parks
Annie Martini	Community Transformation Grant Project
Jesse Day	Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Melissa Guilbeau	City of Graham Planning
Bruce Walker	Alamance County GIS
April Durr	Healthy Alamance
Smith Raynor	NC State Parks
Bryan Hagood	Alamance County Recreation and Parks
Montrena W. Hadley	City of Mebane Planning
Brandon Parker	Town of Gibsonville Planning
Elizabeth Jernigan	Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Sean Tencer	Town of Elon

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

The planning efforts described in this section present a foundation for the Alamance County Trails Plan to build upon. Commitment from local staff and citizens across the County in implementation has yielded a growing list of trails and open space available to the public. This plan builds on these previous efforts. This list is not comprehensive, but identifies several critical planning efforts.



City of Mebane Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (in process)

The City of Mebane has produced a draft bicycle and pedestrian transportation plan that looks at enhancing the trail and sidewalk network in Mebane. Currently there are 42 miles of sidewalk, sidepath and trail in the City. This plan recommends a series of improvements and action steps to make Mebane more bikeable and walkable over the next 10 to 20 years. A public draft of the plan was released in the fall of 2014. (City of Mebane, Alta Planning and Design)

The Burlington-Graham MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2014)

The Burlington-Graham MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) study is a long range plan, which identifies major transportation improvement needs and develops long term solutions for the next 25 to 30 years. It is a joint effort between the Burlington-Graham MPO and the NCDOT - Transportation Planning Branch (TPB). The CTP study involves both government officials and the public in an effort to determine the area's future transportation needs based on the best information available including, but not limited to, population, economic conditions, traffic trends and patterns of land development in and around the town. The study will also include alternative modes of transportation (NCDOT, BGMPO 2014).

Town of Gibsonville Pedestrian Master Plan (2014)

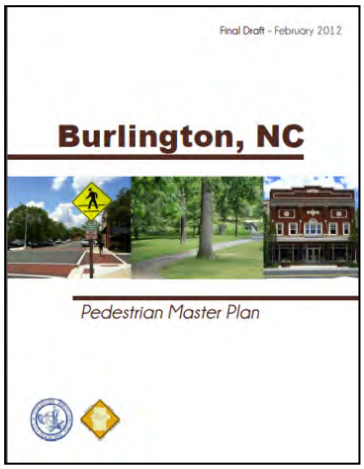
The Town of Gibsonville is currently in the process of developing a Pedestrian Plan. The Plan will guide the Town of Gibsonville, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and other local and regional partners in improving the existing infrastructure and constructing new facilities for pedestrians in Gibsonville and fostering a more active and pedestrian-friendly culture through the development of related programs and policies. The Plan will utilize a project steering committee, data collection and assessment, and public involvement. The goals of the plan are to: provide a strong, interconnected network of sidewalks, develop and implement educational programming, adopt the pedestrian master plan, identify and prioritize gaps in the pedestrian project, revise development regulations to include a sidewalk ordinance, and increase quality of sidewalks (Town of Gibsonville, Alta Planning and Design 2014).

City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Plan (2013)

The City of Mebane is currently in the process of completing its Recreation Master Plan, a project that will assess the city's current recreation and parks facilities and address how the City should proceed over the next 10 years. The final plan will include an inventory of all Mebane's existing parks and recreational facilities as well as other local and County facilities, public input,

development of standards for parks and recreation facilities, needs assessment, and a plan of action (City of Mebane, Site Solutions 2014).

Burlington Recreation & Parks Comprehensive Master Plan (2012)



The City of Burlington Recreation and Parks Department provides diversified program opportunities at properly designed and strategically located facilities throughout the city. The Department is a critical component in ensuring Burlington citizens have a high quality of life. As the City's population continues to grow, the need for an updated plan became apparent. The updated plan includes an introduction and master plan purpose, review of demographic information, inventory of existing recreation facilities and programs, community needs assessment of recreation and facilities, master plan proposals and recommendations and action plan implementation. The plan is designed to be a usable and accurate tool in guiding actions and decisions in the following areas: future recreation role for the city, park facility development and renovation, cooperative efforts in providing recreation needs, open space and greenway needs and possible land acquisitions (City of Burlington, Woolpert North Carolina, PLLC 2012).

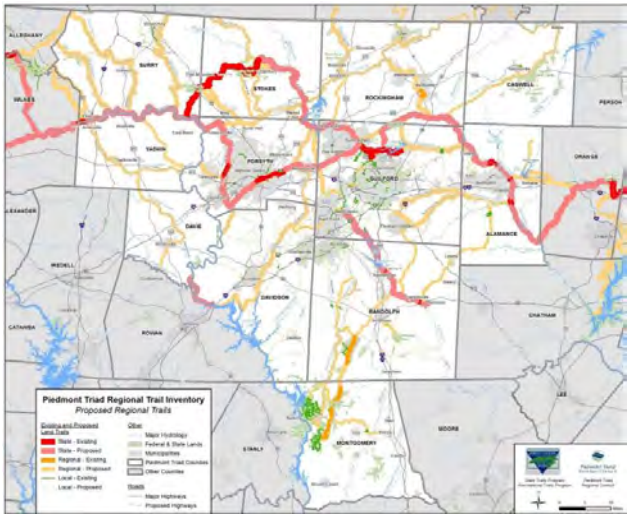
Burlington, NC - Pedestrian Master Plan (2012)

In 2011, the City of Burlington and the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) began developing a Pedestrian Master Plan. This plan will provide guidance towards becoming a more walkable community and therefore a more livable, sustainable community with multi-modal transportation improvements. The plan provides clear guidance, tools and programs for improving walkability in the City of Burlington (City of Burlington, Alta Planning and Design 2012).

Piedmont Triad Regional Trail Plan & Inventory (2010)

The Piedmont Triad Regional Trail Plan & Inventory identified and catalogued the existing trails in the 12- county Piedmont Triad. The plan also identified top priority locations for new trail development, typically connecting existing hiking, multi-use, equestrian and blueway trail locations. State, Regional and Local trail systems were identified, while State and Regional trails were prioritized for development. (NC Division of Parks and Recreation, PTCOG 2010)

FIGURE 16: PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL TRAIL PLAN



Town of Elon – Bicycle, Pedestrian and Lighting Plan: An Alternative Transportation Strategy (2008)

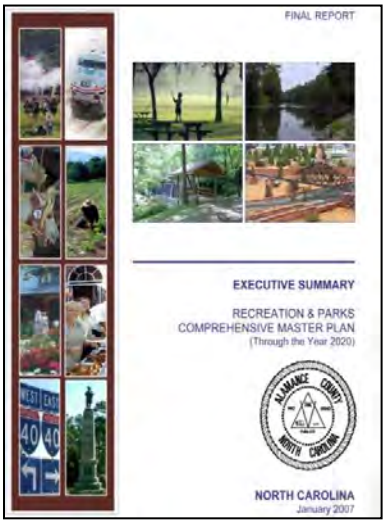


In 2008, the Town of Elon and the PTCOG developed a plan identifying and prioritizing key opportunities for improving Elon's bicycle, pedestrian, and lighting systems over the next 20 years. Key objectives included: improving the health and fitness of Town residents and University students, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, improving pedestrian safety, and helping to provide a pedestrian-friendly environment for existing and future residents and visitors. The plan identifies key resources for implementation of projects that support alternative transportation (Town of Elon, PTCOG 2008).

The City of Graham Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2008)

The City of Graham Recreation & Parks Master Plan documents the role parks and recreation play in quality of life, community health and economic development. This plan provides staff, decision makers and the public with a snapshot of community recreation needs; inventories of existing facilities, programs and conditions, priorities for staff, program and facility improvements, and a framework of data and information to support decision-making. The planning process relied heavily on participation from the public, recreation users, local officials and interested group and more than 250 residents participated in the process through workshops, surveys, focus groups and meetings (City of Graham, PTCOG 2008).

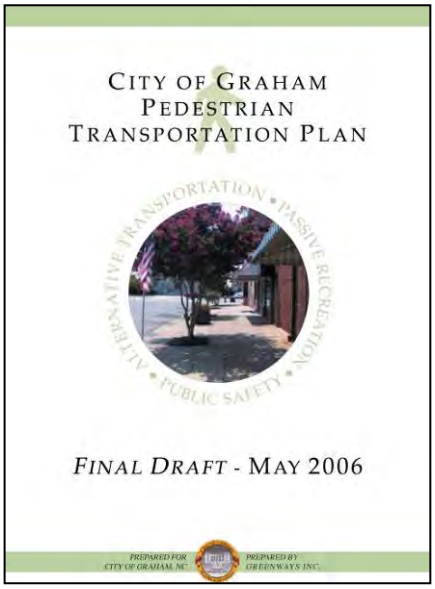
Alamance County Recreation & Parks Comprehensive Master Plan (2007)



The Alamance County Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master plan was developed to provide Alamance County and the Burlington-Alamance County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) with an accurate, usable plan to guide its action and decisions concerning the park system, and identify challenges and opportunities that exist with developing a tourism action plan. The planning process emphasizes recreation facility needs through the planning period (year 2020). The Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department (ACRPD), Alamance County Visitors Bureau (CVB), and Woolpert Consulting organized a plan around five major components: Introduction and review of demographic information and existing planning efforts, inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, community needs assessment, proposals and recommendations, and action plan implementation (ACRPD, CVB, Woolpert 2007).

City of Graham Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2006)

In March of 2005, the City of Graham contracted with Greenways Incorporated (GWI) to create a Pedestrian Transportation Plan. The project was started and funded through the bicycle and pedestrian planning grant initiative of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The project area covers the entire Graham Municipal Boundary, encompassing over nine square miles.



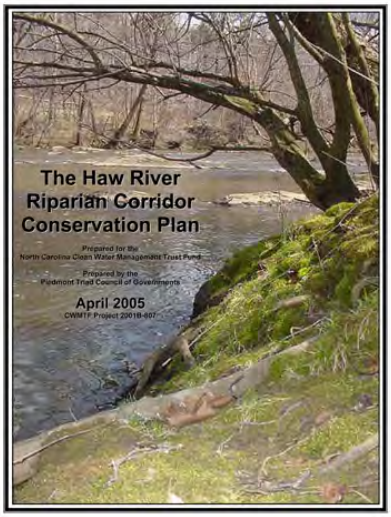
The Pedestrian Transportation Plan offers an improved alternative transportation network that addresses specific pedestrian safety concerns while recommending key pedestrian routes and connections. The Plan recommends both new facilities and enhancements to older facilities in order to best connect pedestrians to their key destinations. The Pedestrian Transportation Plan will be a key resource for the City in securing grants from a growing supply of funds dedicated to pedestrian safety and livable communities (City of Graham, Greenways Incorporated 2006).

Alamance Land Development Plan (2006)

In 2006, Alamance County and the PTCOG developed the Alamance County Land Development as a guide for making strategic decisions about the orderly growth and development of the County. The plan serves as a source of information, a strategic guide to government decision-making, an opportunity for community involvement and outlines strategic actions needed to implement the plans' vision. Most relevant to this plan is documentation of over 300 citizens from 8 "core" townships who voted for "more" or "much more" open space/natural area protection and "more" or "much more" parks, recreation and greenway opportunities (PTCOG, Alamance County Planning Department 2007).

The Haw River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan (2005)

In April 2003 the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG) received a $65,000 grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF - Project 2001B-807) to organize public and private agencies, interest groups and land owners to create a riparian corridor conservation plan for a 20-mile impaired segment of the Haw River in northern Alamance County between the I-40/85 corridor and the Guilford County line. The purpose of the project was to identify and recommend top-priority conservation and restoration "pilot projects" to restore water quality, conserve river resources, and provide a variety of potential habitat and recreation benefits along the Haw River corridor. The planning process was designed and conducted to build



consensus among multiple state agencies, local governments, non-governmental river advocacy groups, and landowners within the study area. A detailed description of significant site features; pertinent background information and specific strategies are provided for implementing each of the 18 recommended pilot projects (PTCOG 2005).

EXISTING TRAILS

TABLE 10: EXISTING TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

TRAIL NAME	LOCATION	MILES
Haw River Trail (MST)	Shallow Ford Natural Area	1.6
Haw River Trail (MST)	Indian Valley to Stoney Creek Marina	3.7
Haw River Trail (MST)	Red Slide Park	0.5
Haw River Trail (MST)	Swepsonville River Park	1.0
Haw River Trail (MST)	Saxapahaw Mill	0.7
Saxapahaw Mill Trails	Saxapahaw Mill	1.0
Basin Creek Trail	Shallow Ford Natural Area	0.8
Hidden Hill Trail	Shallow Ford Natural Area	1.5
Homestead Trail	Shallow Ford Natural Area	1.8
Shallowford Loop Trail	Shallow Ford Natural Area	0.4
Burlington Park Path	Burlington Park	0.8
Elon Park Trail	Elon Park	0.2
Elon Greenway	Along University Dr & Cook Rd	1.6
Walking Path	North Park	0.1
Walking Path	Robinson Park	0.1
Walking Path	Elmira Park	0.1
Walking Paths	Burlington City Park	1.6
Walking Track	Fairchild Park	0.2
Walking Path	Forest Hills Park	0.1
Walking Path	Graham Park	0.1
Walking Path	Green Level Park	0.6
Walking Path	Graham Municipal Park	0.9
Walking Path	Graham Park	0.3
ADA Trail	Cedarock Park	0.3
Blue Trail	Cedarock Park	0.7
Bridle Trail	Cedarock Park	4.0
Mountain Bike Trail	Cedarock Park	1.3
Red Trail	Cedarock Park	0.2
Yellow Trail	Cedarock Park	1.6
Total Trail Miles		27.8

***5.5 more miles of the Haw River Trail (MST) in development from Stoney Creek Marina to I-40*

FIGURE 17: ALAMANCE COUNTY TRAIL PRIORITIES

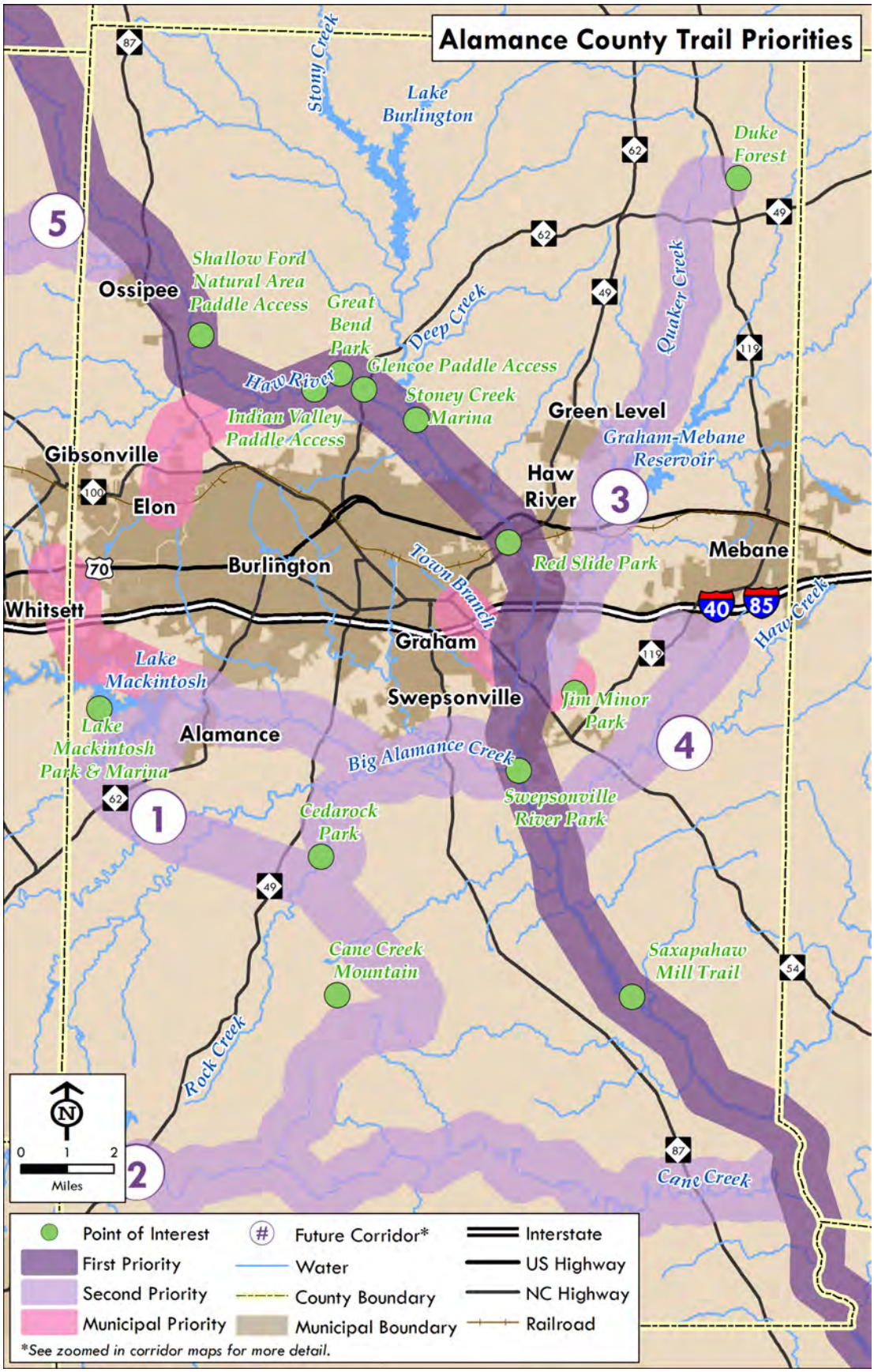


FIGURE 18: GREAT ALAMANCE CREEK TRAIL & ALTERNATE

Great Alamance Creek Trail & Alternate Route

Length: Trail is approximately 12 miles, alternate is approximately 13.5.

Potential Connections:

- Guilford County along Big Alamance Creek
- Guilford County along Little Alamance Creek
- Municipalities

Interpretative Value:

This trail passes several sites of historic importance during the Regulation movement and the American Revolution.

Historic & Cultural Points of Interest

1. Virginia Mills
2. George Curtis / Judge Ruffin House
3. Lacy Holt Brick House
4. G.S. Rogers House
5. Lacy Holt Frame House
6. Stoner's Cemetery
7. Bellemont Mill
8. Pyle's Defeat
9. Alamance Mill Village
10. Clapp's Mill Site
11. Alamance Battleground/John Allen House
12. Coble Log House
13. Patterson Mill
14. G.W. Patterson House
15. Friendship Methodist Church
16. Garrett Historical Farm
17. Huffman Mill Site/Curtis House
18. B. Holt House

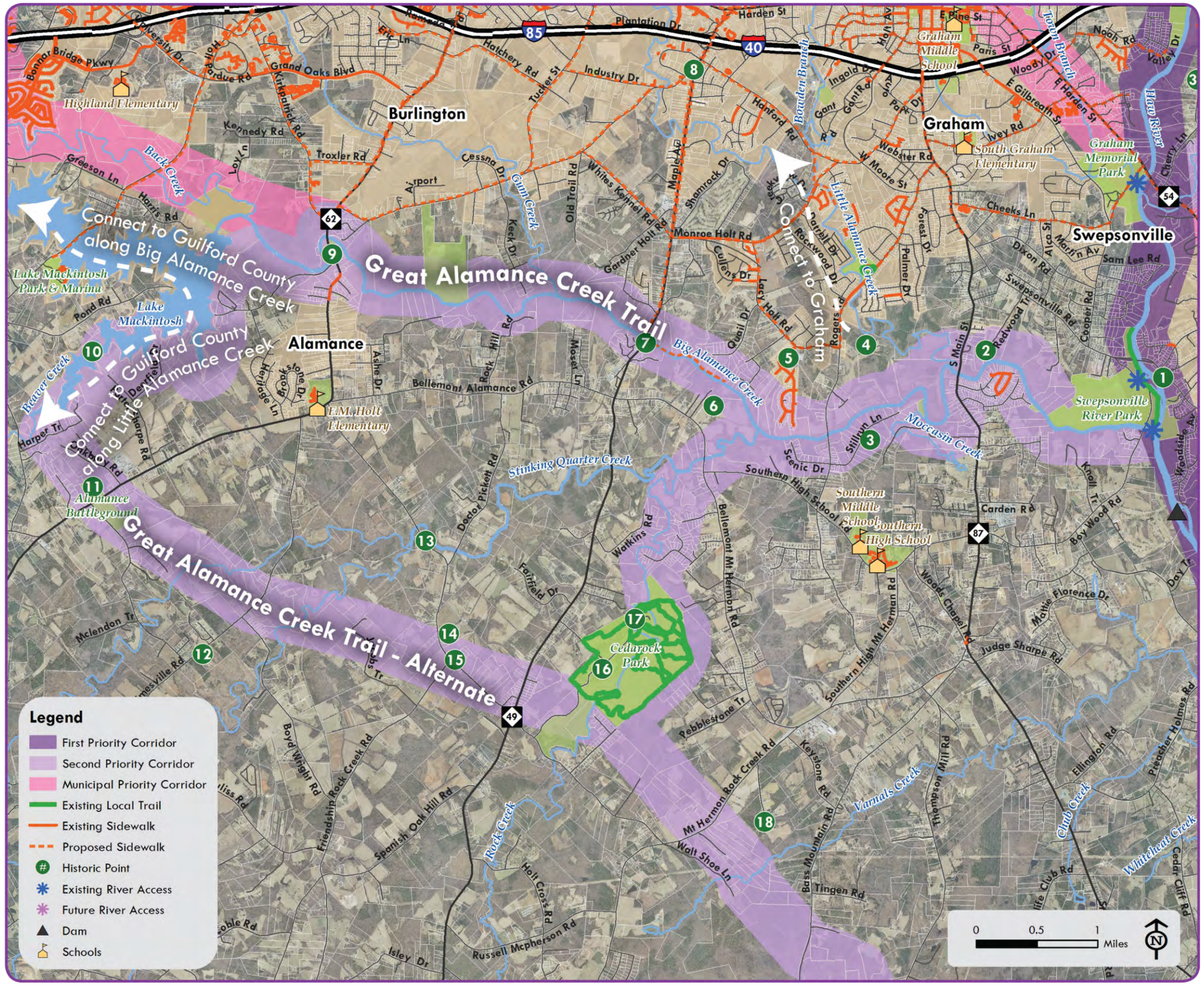


FIGURE 19: CANE CREEK & CANE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Cane Creek & Cane Mountain Trail

Length: Cane Creek Trail is approximately 19 miles, Cane Mountain Trail is 9 miles.

Potential Connections:

- Haw River Trail
- Cane Creek Reservoir
- Cedarock Park

Interpretive Value:

This equestrian/hiking/multi-use trail traverses the Cane Mountain Range, the dominant natural feature in southern Alamance County. The trail will showcase the approximately 300 million year old mountains and climb the highest peaks in Alamance County, Cane Mountain (987 feet) and Bass Mountain (902 feet).

Historic & Cultural Points of Interest

18 B. Holt House
19 Cane Creek Mountains
20 Owens House
21 Former Oakwood School
22 Roxanna Hobson House
23 A. McPherson House
24 Isley-Pike House
25 Hornaday House
26 Ward Mill
27 Moses Pike House
28 Dixon's Mill Ruins
29 Snow Camp Dam
30 Cane Creek Dam
31 Holman House
32 Oscar Braxon House
33 Lindley Mill
34 Guthrie-McBane Mill
35 Stafford-Henley Mill

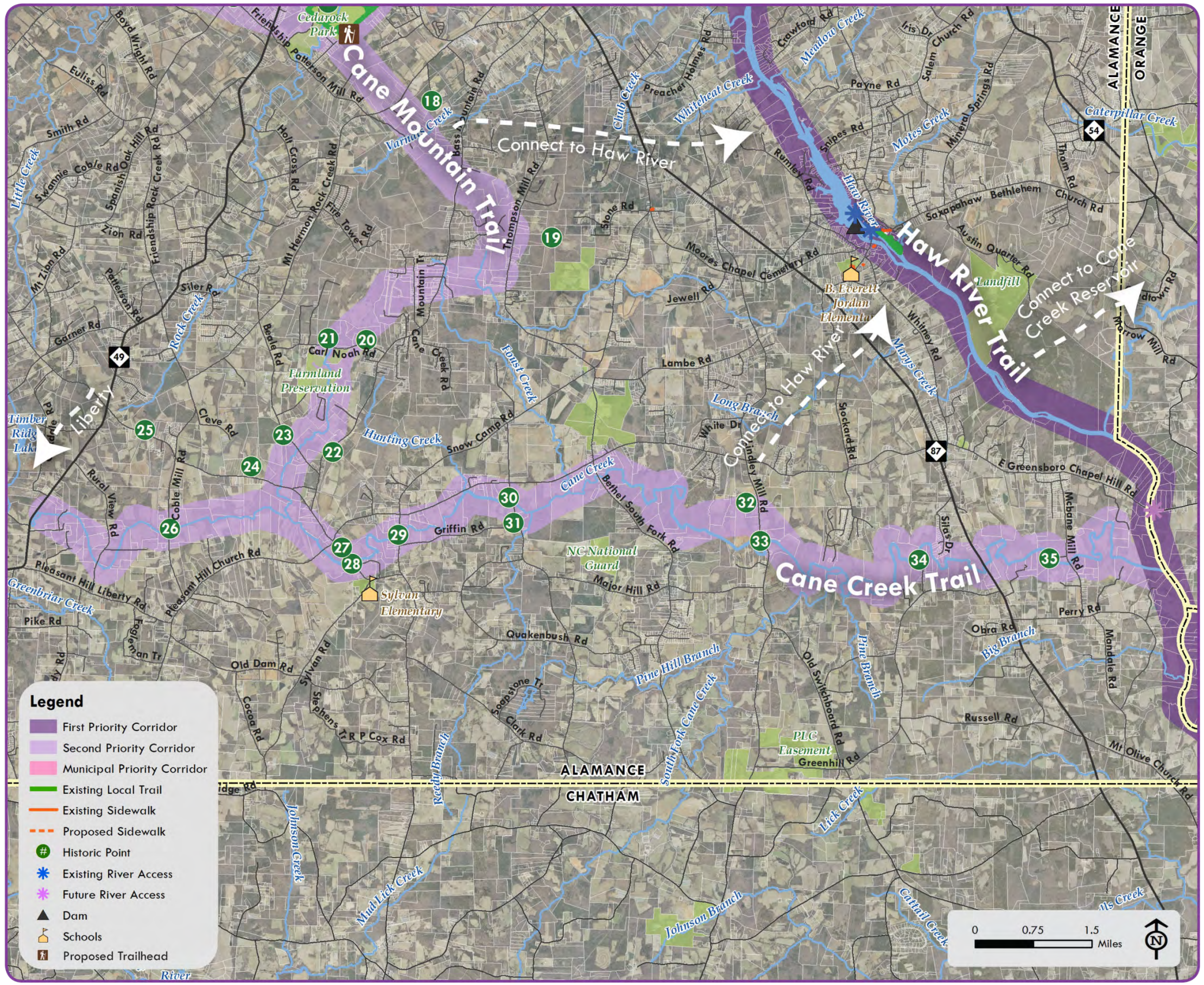


FIGURE 20: BACK CREEK TRAIL

Back Creek Trail

Length: Approximately 15.4 miles.

Potential Connections:

- Haw River Trail
- Municipalities
- Duke Forest

InterpretiveValue:

This trail passes near several houses of historical significance including the Scott estate, home to two governors of North Carolina.

Historic & Cultural Points of Interest

36 Charles Albright House
37 J.J. Thompson House
38 Kerr Place
39 Governor Kerr Scott House
40 Hughes Dixon House
41 Pleasant Dixon House
42 Joseph Bason House
43 Henry Bason House
44 John Ray House
45 Dickey Mill
46 W.P. Browning House
47 Sol Martin House
48 Dailey's Store

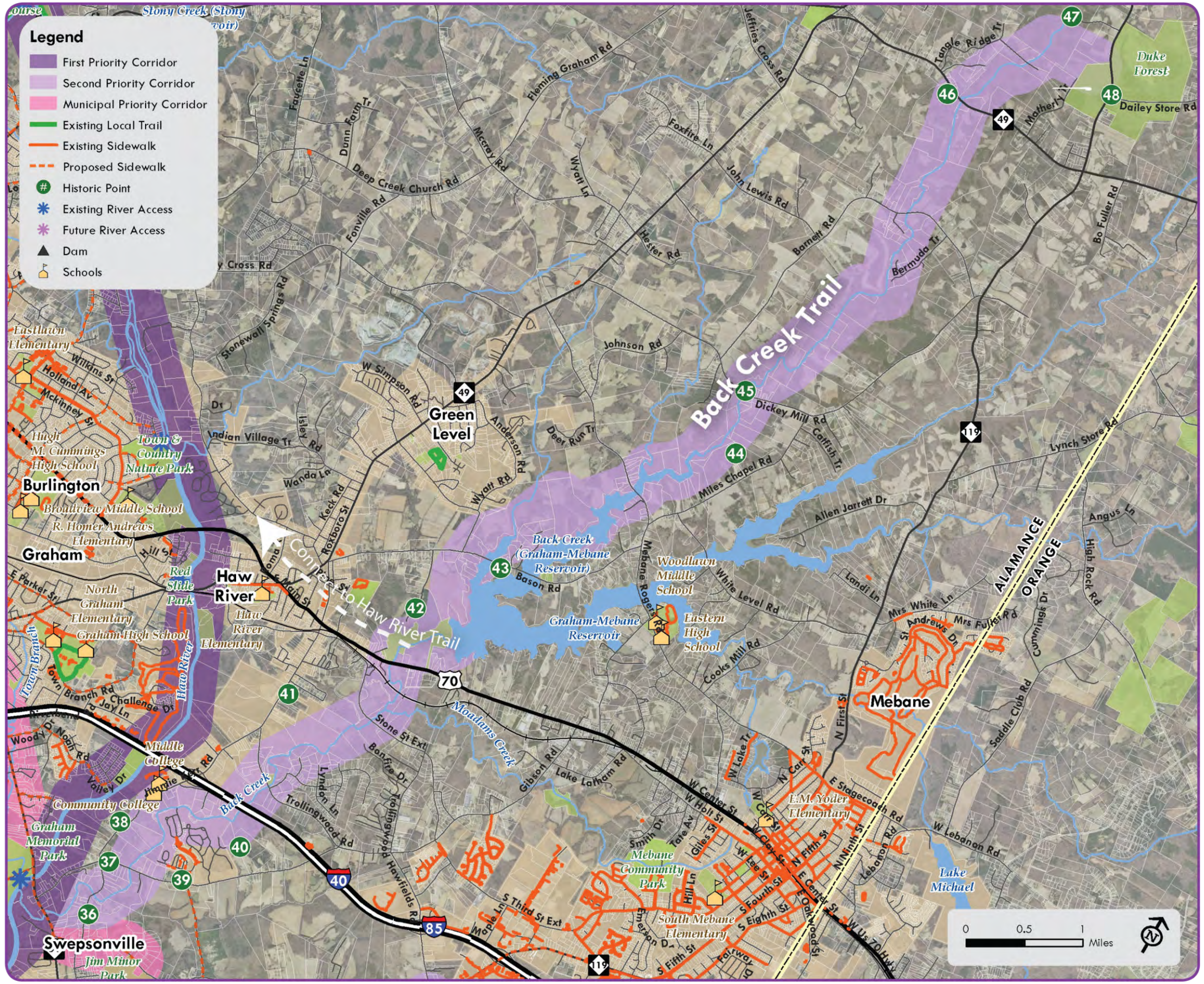


FIGURE 21: HAW CREEK TRAIL

Haw Creek Trail

Length: Approximately 9 miles.

Potential Connections:

- Haw River Trail
- Municipalities
- Triangle

Interpretive; Value:

Following the path of Haw Creek through south-east Alamance County, this trail brings hikers past a historic mill site, church and numerous homes and estates.

Historic & Cultural Points of Interest

1. Virginia Mills
36. Charles Albright House
49. George Thompson House
50. Patterson-Thompson House
51. Melville Church
52. Crawford-Covington House
53. S.W. Patton House
54. Graham Albright House
55. Kirkpatrick-Covington House

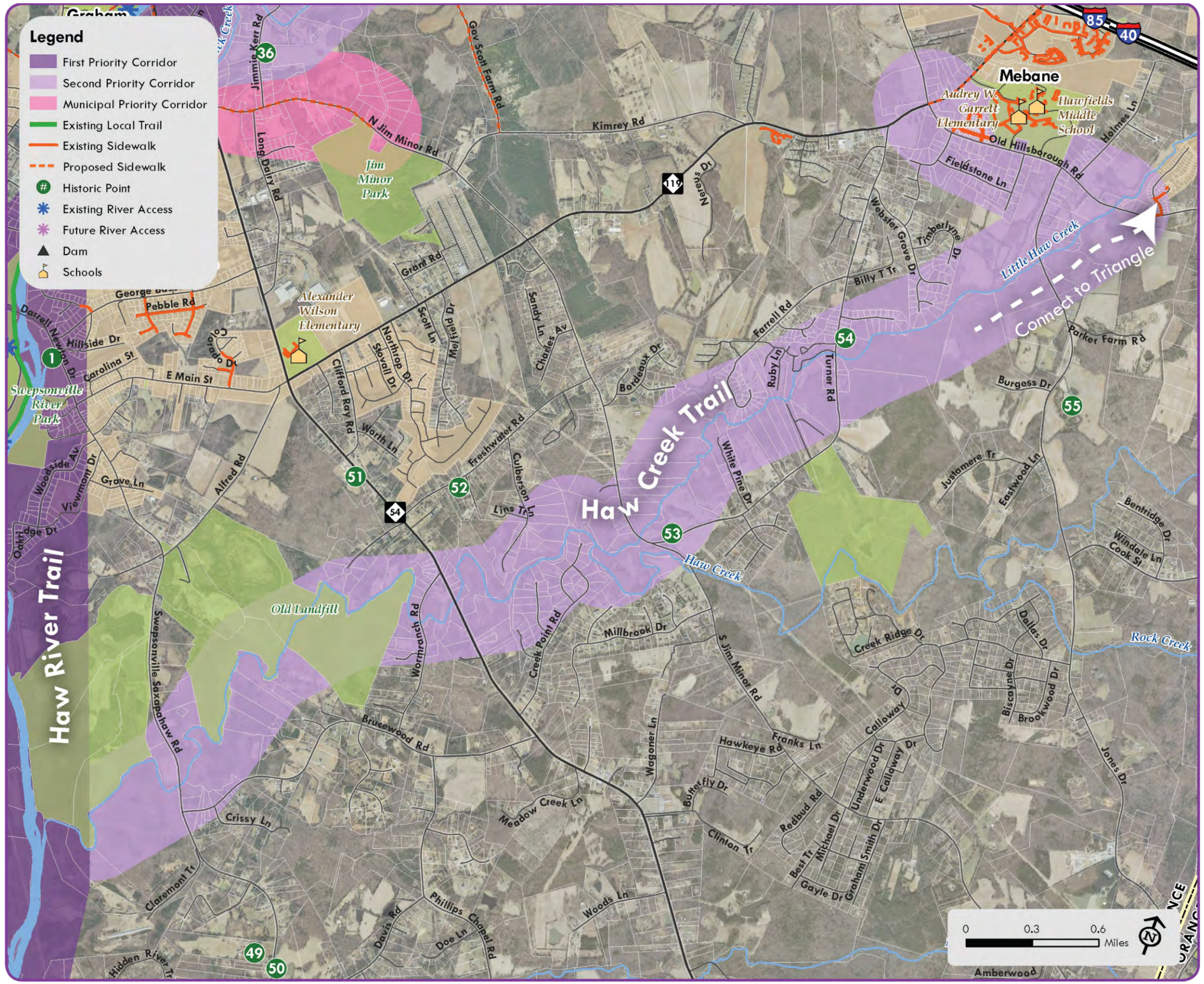


FIGURE 22: REEDY FORK TRAIL

Reedy Fork Trail

Length: Approximately 12 miles.

Potential Connections:

- Haw River Trail
- Municipalities

Interpretive Value:

Following the path of Reedy Fork, this trail brings hikers past historic mills and homesites.

Historic & Cultural Points of Interest

56 Altamahaw Mill Office

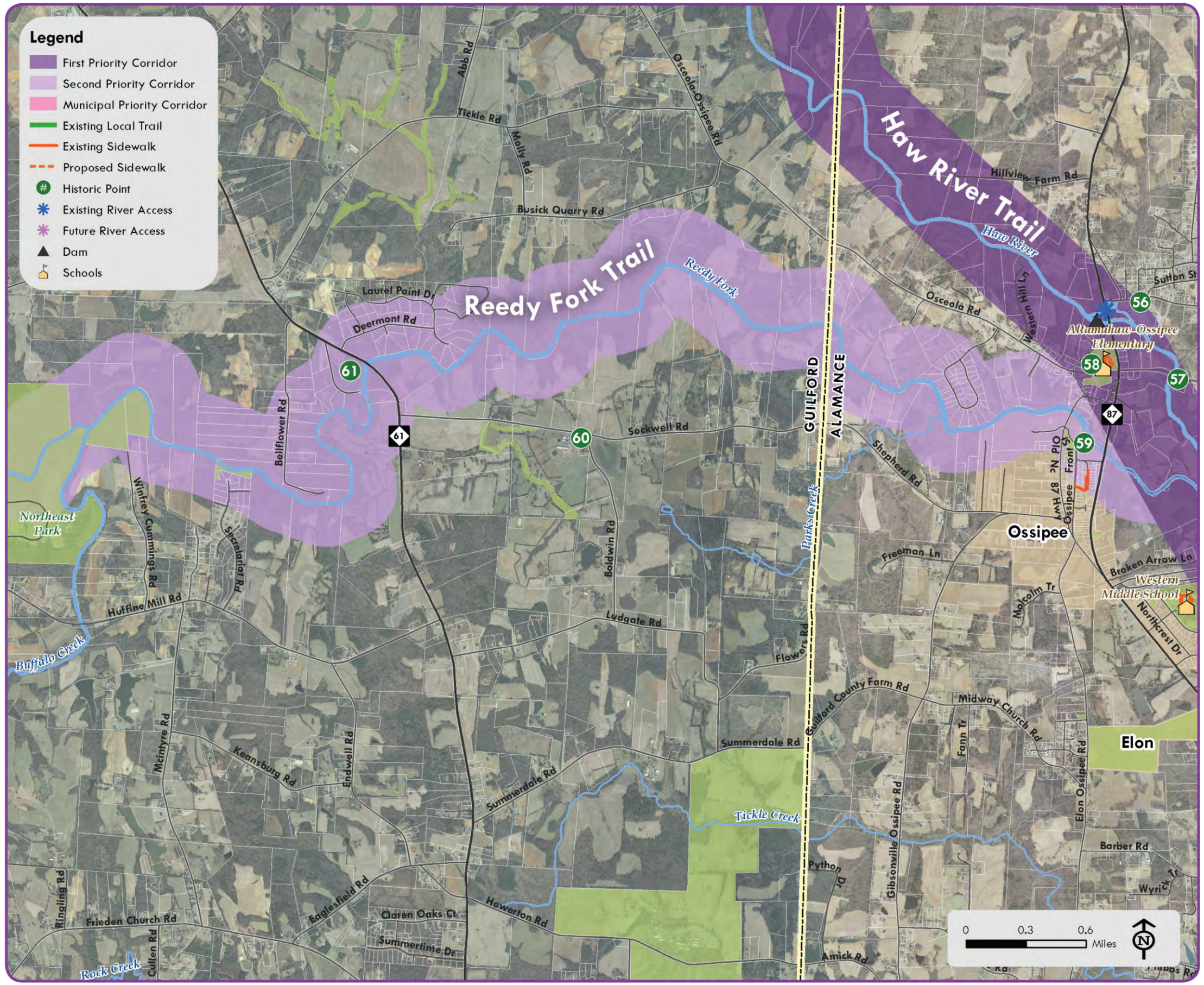
57 Hub Mill

58 Altamahaw-Ossipee School

59 Ossipee Mill

60 George Kernodle Farm House

61 Summers House



IMPLEMENTATION

Effective implementation of the plan recommendations outlined require sustained, focused and coordinated efforts by County and Municipal leaders, citizens and advocates. The efforts in this plan, citizen health surveys and municipal efforts have reinforced the interest of citizens in creating more trails, sidewalks, open space and safe road crossings. Continued effort in implementing action items will create the momentum needed to carry out projects over the next 10-20 years. The schedule of action items on the following page outlines how the highest priority action items can be implemented and the entities that could assist in carrying out each action item.

Alamance County and municipalities should capitalize on road projects, municipal projects or other unforeseen opportunities that may present themselves as an opportunity to implement trail projects. The list of action items should be reviewed and evaluated by County staff and reprioritized every 2 years. As projects are completed the County should conduct a periodic audit of trail infrastructure, assets and needs to identify changing issues and re-focus limited capital efficiently.

The step-by-step implementation process detailed for the next 2 years is not necessarily in sequential order. The suggested party or parties who need to complete each action step is also included in an effort to create connections across different entities. As publicly available resources for trail development remain scarce, there is also an increasing demand from citizens for amenities. Effective partnerships on funding, project development and project management will ensure not only more projects, but also develop projects that better link neighborhoods and communities across Alamance County. Opportunities for funding will always change and one source of funding should not be relied upon for implementation.

Funding opportunities from state and federal agencies and non-profits are listed in the Appendix. In many cases, match for grant applications will be necessary. For example, federal Transportation Alternative Programs requires a 20% local match. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), a State program, requires 50% match. Dedicated funding from local sources will need to be secured to leverage grant funding. Successful applications for funding from the various resources will be integral to implementation of pedestrian transportation goals and objectives.

In five years a broader assessment and evaluation of efforts should be performed to both re-prioritize and check progress on implementing projects, programs and policies. New ideas, challenges and opportunities should also be explored. The 5-year reassessment would serve as a Plan Update and may modify a number of sections of this current Trail Plan.

2 Year Action Items

2015 Action Items	Partners
o Establish Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Implementation Committee	**Municipal staff, Burlington-Graham MPO, Cone Health, NCDOT, trail advocates**
o Submit and apply for funding of top priority project (e.g. PARTF, Recreational Trails Program, BGMPO)	**Municipal staff, Burlington-Graham MPO, Cone Health, PARTF, Recreational Trails Program**
o Revise sub-division ordinance to require dedication of trail easements for adopted trail corridors	**Alamance County Planning Board, Board of Commissioners**
o Establish a Complete Streets policy that explicitly includes accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists on new road projects	**Alamance County Board of Commissioners**
o Seek funding sources needed to build top priority projects ▪ Establish grant writing schedule and seek grants for specific projects to achieve project building goals ▪ Provide matching money for grant applications ▪ Seek Safe Routes to School Funding	**Alamance County Parks and Recreation, Alamance County Health Department, municipalities, Burlington-Graham MPO, Cone Health, Friends of the MST Trail, Haw River Trail other non-profit partners**
2016 Action Items	**Partners**
o Submit and apply for funding 2 additional projects based upon funding availability and ongoing projects	**Municipal staff, Burlington-Graham MPO, Cone Health, PARTF, Recreational Trails Program**
o Continue to seek funding sources needed to build trail, bicycle and pedestrian projects ▪ Establish grant writing schedule and seek grants for specific projects to achieve project building goals ▪ County and Town to provide matching money for grant applications; ▪ Renew Capital Program funding for sidewalks ▪ Seek other funding sources	**Alamance County Parks and Recreation Municipal staff, Burlington-Graham MPO, Cone Health, Alamance County Health Department, municipalities, Friends of the MST Trail, NCDOT, Haw River Trail, other non-profit partners, trail advocates**
o Receive notice of funding for top priority project	**Alamance County and partner municipality (if applicable)**

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University of Michigan. *Study of Veterans Finds Links Between Outdoor Activities, Improved Mental Health.* July 25, 2013. http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/07/130725112735.htm (accessed April 2014).

Woods & Poole. "2013 State Profile." Washington, DC: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 2013.

LINKS AND RESOURCES

Land Trails

Haw River Trail – www.hawrivertrail.org
Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail - www.ncmst.org
Haw River State Park - http://www.ncparks.gov
Glencoe Textile Heritage Museum - http://www.textileheritagemuseum.org/

Partners

Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department - www.alamance-nc.com
All In 4 Health - www.allin4health.com
Alamance County Community Assessment - www.alamancecommunityassessment.com
Elon University – www.elon.edu
City of Burlington Recreation and Parks Department - burlingtonnc.gov
City of Graham Recreation and Parks Department - www.grahamrecreationandparks.com
Piedmont Triad Regional Council – www.ptrc.org

Conservation

The Trust For Public Land – www.tpl.org
Citizens for Haw River State Park - www.citizensforhawriversp.org/
Piedmont Land Conservancy - www.piedmontland.org
Triangle Land Conservancy - www.triangleland.org
River Network - www.rivernetwork.org
Haw River Assembly - www.hawriver.org

APPENDIX A
Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES

Local, state, federal, and private funding is available to support the planning, construction, right of way acquisition and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Available funding sources are related to a variety of purposes including transportation, water quality, hazard mitigation, recreation, air quality, wildlife protection, community health, and economic development. This list identifies of some of the bicycle and pedestrian facility funding opportunities available through federal, state, local, foundation and corporate sources. An important key to obtaining funding is for local governments to have adopted plans for greenway, bicycle, pedestrian or multi-use path systems in place prior to making an application for funding.

Funding Allocated by State Agencies

Transportation

Bicycle and Pedestrian Independent Projects Funded Through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

In North Carolina, the Department of Transportation, Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) manages the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) selection process for bicycle and pedestrian projects in consultation with the Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations.

Projects programmed into the TIP are independent projects – those which are not related to a scheduled highway project. Incidental projects – those related to a scheduled highway project – are handled through other funding sources described in this section.

Each year, the DBPT regularly sets aside TIP funding for the department to fund projects such as training workshops, pedestrian safety and research projects, and other pedestrian needs statewide. Those interested in learning about training workshops, research and other opportunities should contact the DBPT for information.

Bicycle and pedestrian projects are eligible for TIP funding, including the construction of multi-use paths, the striping of bicycle lanes, and the construction of paved shoulders, among other facilities. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the DBPT regarding funding assistance for bicycle and pedestrian projects. For a detailed description of the TIP project selection process, visit: http://www.ncdot.gov/performance/reform/prioritization/

Incidental Projects – Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations such as bike lanes, widened paved shoulders, sidewalks and bicycle-safe bridge design are frequently included as incidental features of highway projects. In addition, bicycle-safe drainage grates are a standard feature of all highway construction. Most bicycle and pedestrian safety accommodations built by NCDOT are included as part of scheduled highway improvement projects funded with a combination of National Highway System funds and State Highway Trust Funds.

Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) – The mission of the GHSP is to promote highway safety awareness and reduce the number of traffic crashes in the state of North Carolina through the planning and execution of safety programs. GHSP funding is provided through an annual program, upon approval of specific project requests. Amounts of GHSP funds vary from year to year, according to the specific amounts requested. Communities may apply for a GHSP grant to be used as seed money to start a program to enhance highway safety. Once a grant is awarded, funding is provided on a reimbursement basis. Evidence of reductions in

crashes, injuries, and fatalities is required. For information on applying for GHSP funding, visit: www.ncdot.org/programs/ghsp/.

Funding Available Through North Carolina Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

MPOs in North Carolina which are located in air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas have the authority to program Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. CMAQ funding is intended for projects that reduce transportation related emissions. Some NC MPOs have chosen to use the CMAQ funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Local governments in air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas should contact their MPO or RPO for information on CMAQ funding opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Check for MAP-21 detail changes on funding formula amounts.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, managed by NCDOT, DBPT

To encourage the development of comprehensive local bicycle plans and pedestrian plans, the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) and the Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) have created a matching grant program to fund plan development. This program was initiated through a special allocation of funding approved by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2003 along with federal funds earmarked specifically for bicycle and pedestrian planning by the TPB. The planning grant program was launched in January 2004, and it is currently administered through NCDOT-DBPT and the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at NC State University. Over the span of the initiative, 167 plans have been funded. A total of nearly $4 million has been allocated. For more information, visit: https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrant/Pages/default.aspx

Safe Routes to School Program, managed by NCDOT, DBPT

The NCDOT Safe Routes to School Program is lumped in with Transportation Alternatives. There may be $20 Million of unobligated funds as of the end of SAFETEA-LU; the last federal transportation appropriation bill. The Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation at NCDOT is charged with disseminating SRTS funding.

The state of North Carolina has been allocated $15 million in Safe Routes to School funding for fiscal years 2005 through 2009 for infrastructure or non-infrastructure projects. All proposed projects must relate to increasing walking or biking to and from an elementary or middle school. An example of a non-infrastructure project is an education or encouragement program to improve rates of walking and biking to school. An example of an infrastructure project is construction of sidewalks around a school. Infrastructure improvements under this program must be made within 2 miles of an elementary or middle school. The state requires the completion of a competitive application to apply for funding. For more information, visit: www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/funding/

Small Urban Funds managed by NCDOT Highway Division Offices

Small Urban Funds are available for small improvement projects in urban areas. Each NCDOT Highway Division has $2 million of small urban funds available annually. Although not commonly used for bicycle facilities, local requests for small bicycle projects can be directed to the NCDOT Highway Division office for funding through this source. A written request should be submitted to the Division Engineer providing technical information, such as location, improvements being requested, timing, etc. for thorough review.

Hazard Elimination Program by NCDOT Highway Division Offices

This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes. Bicycle and pedestrian projects are eligible for this program, although the funds are not usually used for this purpose.

This program is administered through the NCDOT Division of Highways. Similar to the Small Urban Funds, it is a significantly limited funding source.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

MAP-21 combined this with Transportation Alternatives. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program is a reimbursable, 50/50 matching grants program to states for conservation and recreation purposes, and through the states to local governments to address "close to home" outdoor recreation needs. LWCF grants can be used by communities to build a trail within one park site, if the local government has fee-simple title to the park site. Grants for a maximum of $250,000 in LWCF assistance are awarded yearly to county governments, incorporated municipalities, public authorities and federally recognized Indian tribes. The local match may be provided with in-kind services or cash. The program's funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of $900 million each year. However, Congress generally appropriates only a small fraction of this amount. The allotted money for the year 2007 is $632,846.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the US Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Since 1965, the LWCF program has built a permanent park legacy for present and future generations. In North Carolina alone, the LWCF program has provided more than $63 million in matching grants to protect land and support more than 800 state and local park projects. More than 37,000 acres have been acquired with LWCF assistance to establish a park legacy in our state. For more information, visit: www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/lwcf_grant.php

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a grant program funded by Congress with money from the federal gas taxes paid on fuel used by off-highway vehicles. This program's intent is to meet the trail and trail-related recreational needs identified by the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Grant applicants must be able contribute 20% of the project cost with cash or in-kind contributions. The program is managed by the State Trails Program, which is a section of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

The grant application is available and instruction handbook is available through the State Trails Program website at www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_RTP_project.php Pre-Applications are typically due in November and, if invited, final applications are due January 31st. For more information, call (919) 715-8699.

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)

The fund was established in 1994 by the North Carolina General Assembly and is administered by the Parks and Recreation Authority. Through this program, several million dollars each year are available to local governments to fund the acquisition, development and renovation of recreational areas. Applicable projects require a 50/50 match from the local government. Grants for a maximum of $500,000 are awarded yearly to county governments or incorporated municipalities. . The fund was originally funded by the State's portion of the real estate deed transfer tax, but is now controlled out of the General Fund.

The trust fund is allocated three ways:

- 65 percent to the state parks through the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

- 30 percent as dollar-for dollar matching grants to local governments for park and recreation purposes.

- 5 percent for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Access Program.

For information on how to apply, visit: www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_eligibility.php

Powell Bill Program

Annually, State street-aid (Powell Bill) allocations are made to incorporated municipalities which establish their eligibility and qualify as provided by statute. This program is a state grant to municipalities for the purposes of maintaining, repairing, constructing, reconstructing or widening of local streets that are the responsibility of the municipalities or for planning, construction, and maintenance of bikeways or sidewalks along public streets and highways. Funding for this program is collected from fuel taxes. Amount of funds are based on population and mileage of City-maintained streets. For more information, visit: https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/State-Street-Aid/Pages/default.aspx

Conservation & Environment

North Carolina Conservation Tax Credit Program

North Carolina has a unique incentive program to assist land-owners to protect the environment and the quality of life. A credit is allowed against individual and corporate income taxes when real property is donated for conservation purposes. Interests in property that promote specific public benefits may be donated to a qualified recipient. Such conservation donations qualify for a substantial tax credit. For more information, visit: www.onencnaturally.org/web/cpca/conservation-incentives

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

This program offers small grants that can be used to plant urban trees, establish a community arboretum, or other programs that promote tree canopy in urban areas. The program operates as a cooperative partnership between the NC Division of Forest Resources and the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. To qualify for this program, a community must pledge to develop a street-tree inventory, a municipal tree ordinance, a tree commission, and an urban forestry-management plan. All of these can be funded through the program. For more information and a grant application, contact the NC Division of Forest Resources and/or visit: http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_overview.htm

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources

Urban and Community Forestry Grant can provide funding for a variety of projects that will help toward planning and establishing street trees as well as trees for urban open space. For more information visit: http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_overview.htm

Ecosystem Enhancement Program

Developed in 2003 as a new mechanism to facilitate improved mitigation projects for NC highways, this program offers funding for restoration projects and for protection projects that serve to enhance water quality and wildlife habitat in NC. Information on the program is available by contacting the Natural Heritage Program in the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). For more information, visit: www.nceep.net/pages/partners.html or call 919-715-0476.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

This program is a joint effort of the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP), and the Farm Service Agency - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address water quality problems of the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico and Chowan river basins as well as the Jordan Lake watershed area.

CREP is a voluntary program that seeks to protect land along watercourses that is currently in agricultural production. The objectives of the program include: installing 100,000 acres of forested riparian buffers, grassed filter strips and wetlands; reducing the impacts of sediment and nutrients within the targeted area; and providing substantial ecological benefits for many wildlife species that are declining in part as a result of habitat loss. Program funding will combine the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) funding with State funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Agriculture Cost Share Program, and North Carolina Wetlands Restoration Program.

For more information, please visit: www.ncaswcd.org/?page_id=90

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Established in 1984, this program assists farmers with the cost of installing best management practices (BMPs) that benefit water quality. The program covers as much as 75 percent of the costs to implement BMPs. The NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation within the NC Department of Agriculture administers this program through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). For more information, visit: www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/ACSP/index.html

Water Resources Development Grant Program

The NC Division of Water Resources offers cost-sharing grants to local governments on projects related to water resources. Of the seven project application categories available, the category which relates to the establishment of greenways is "Land Acquisition and Facility Development for Water-Based Recreation Projects." Applicants may apply for funding for a greenway as long as the greenway is in close proximity to a water body. For more information, see: www.ncwater.org/Financial_Assistance or call 919-733-4064.

Funding Allocated by Federal Agencies

Wetlands Reserve Program

This federal funding source is a voluntary program offering technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to restore and protect wetland areas for water quality and wildlife habitat. The US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) administers the program and provides direct payments to private landowners who agree to place sensitive wetlands under permanent easements. This program can be used to fund the protection of open space and greenways within riparian corridors. For more information, visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/

The Community Development Block Grant (HUD-CDBG)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers financial grants to communities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, especially in low and moderate income areas. Several communities have used HUD funds to develop greenways, including the Boulding Branch Greenway in High Point, North Carolina. Grants from this program range widely and are either made to municipalities or non-profits. There is no formal application process. For more information, visit: www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/

USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants

Public and private nonprofit groups in communities with populations under 50,000 are eligible to apply for grant assistance to help their local small business environment. $1 million is available for North Carolina on an annual basis and may be used for sidewalk and other community facilities. For more information from the local USDA Service Center, visit: www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_rbeg.html

Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, State, and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America

Although the program does not provide funding for projects, it does provide valuable on-the-ground technical assistance, from strategic consultation and partnership development to serving as liaison with other government agencies. Communities must apply for assistance. For more information, visit: www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/ or contact Deirdre Hewitt, Program Manager deirdre_hewitt@nps.gov (404) 507-5691

Public Lands Highways Discretionary Fund

The Federal Highway Administration administers discretionary funding for projects that will reduce congestion and improve air quality. The FHWA issues a call for projects to disseminate this funding. The FHWA estimates that the PLHD funding for the 2007 call will be $85 million. In the past, Congress has earmarked a portion of the total available funding for projects. For information on how to apply, visit: www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary/

Community Forest Program

The Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. Community forests provide many benefits such as places to recreate and enjoy nature; they protect habitat, water quality and other environmental benefits, and they can provide economic benefits through timber resources. Community Forests have also long been sites for environmental and cultural education, for more information please visit: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml

Community Facilities Grants

Community Programs provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grant funds may be used to assist in the development of essential community facilities. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services; for more information please visit: www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-CF_Grants.html

Partners for Fish and Wildlife NC

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's primary mechanism for delivering voluntary on-the-ground habitat improvement projects on private lands for the benefit of Federal trust species. Biologists provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to restore and enhance fish and wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife works in a diversity of habitat types throughout the state. Some Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects are educational in nature, providing the necessary materials and opportunities for children and adults to learn the significance of the State's natural resources. Habitat types protected in NC:

- Forested Wetlands (Bottomland Hardwoods, Non-alluvial swamp forest, Pocosins)
- Longleaf Pine
- Piedmont Prairies
- Streams and Riparian Areas

for more information e-mail: JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov or call 919/856 4520 ext. 17

Web site: www.fws.gov/raleigh/pfw.html

Division of Water Quality 319 Grant Program

The FY2013 319 Grant RFP is soliciting restoration or implementation projects in impaired watersheds. The purpose of this funding is to *restore* waters impaired by nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The 319 grant watershed restoration funds must be used to implement a Watershed Restoration Plan for a waterbody or watershed that is impaired. A list of North Carolina 9-element watershed restoration plans associated with the 319 program that can be used to guide restoration efforts is available at this link: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/nps/319program/nc-watershed-plans

Local Funding Sources

Municipalities often plan for the funding of pedestrian facilities or improvements through development of Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). In Raleigh, for example, the greenways system has been developed over many years through a dedicated source of annual funding that has ranged from $100,000 to $500,000, administered through the Recreation and Parks Department. CIPs should include all types of capital improvements (water, sewer, buildings, streets, etc.) versus programs for single purposes. This allows municipal decision-makers to balance all capital needs. Typical capital funding mechanisms include the following: capital reserve fund, capital protection ordinances, municipal service district, tax increment financing, taxes, fees, and bonds. Each of these categories are described below.

Capital Reserve Fund

Municipalities have statutory authority to create capital reserve funds for any capital purpose, including pedestrian facilities. The reserve fund must be created through ordinance or resolution that states the purpose of the fund, the duration of the fund, the approximate amount of the fund, and the source of revenue for the fund. Sources of revenue can include general fund allocations, fund balance allocations, grants and donations for the specified use.

Capital Project Ordinances

Municipalities can pass Capital Project Ordinances that are project specific. The ordinance identifies and makes appropriations for the project.

Municipal Service District

Municipalities have statutory authority to establish municipal service districts, to levy a property tax in the district additional to the citywide property tax, and to use the proceeds to provide services in the district. Downtown revitalization projects are one of the eligible uses of service districts.

Tax Increment Financing

Tax increment financing (TIF) is a tool to use future gains in taxes to finance the current improvements that will create those gains. When a public project, such as the construction of a greenway, is carried out, there is an increase in the value of surrounding real estate. Oftentimes, new investment in the area follows such a project. This increase in value and investment creates more taxable property, which increases tax revenues. These increased revenues can be referred to as the "tax increment." Tax Increment Financing dedicates that increased revenue to finance debt issued to pay for the project. TIF is designed to channel funding toward improvements in distressed or underdeveloped areas where development would not otherwise occur. TIF creates funding for public projects that may otherwise be unaffordable to localities. The large majority of states have enabling legislation for tax increment financing.

Installment Purchase Financing

As an alternative to debt financing of capital improvements, communities can execute installment/lease purchase contracts for improvements. This type of financing is typically used for relatively small projects that the seller or a financial institution is willing to finance or when up-front funds are unavailable. In a lease purchase contract the community leases the property or improvement from the seller or financial institution. The lease is paid in installments that include principal, interest, and associated costs. Upon completion of the lease period, the community owns the property or improvement. While lease purchase contracts are similar to a bond, this arrangement allows

the community to acquire the property or improvement without issuing debt. These instruments, however, are more costly than issuing debt.

Taxes

Many communities have raised money through self-imposed increases in taxes and bonds. For example, Pinellas County residents in Florida voted to adopt a one-cent sales tax increase, which provided an additional $5 million for the development of the overwhelmingly popular Pinellas Trail. Sales taxes have also been used in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and in Boulder, Colorado to fund open space projects. A gas tax is another method used by some municipalities to fund public improvements. A number of taxes provide direct or indirect funding for the operations of local governments. Examples include:

Sales Tax

In North Carolina, the state has authorized a sales tax at the state and county levels. Local governments that choose to exercise the local option sales tax (all counties currently do), use the tax revenues to provide funding for a wide variety of projects and activities. Any increase in the sales tax, even if applying to a single county, must gain approval of the state legislature. In 1998, Mecklenburg County was granted authority to institute a one-half cent sales tax increase for mass transit.

Property Tax

Property taxes generally support a significant portion of a municipality's activities. However, the revenues from property taxes can also be used to pay debt service on general obligation bonds issued to finance greenway system acquisitions. Because of limits imposed on tax rates, use of property taxes to fund greenways could limit the municipality's ability to raise funds for other activities. Property taxes can provide a steady stream of financing while broadly distributing the tax burden. In other parts of the country, this mechanism has been popular with voters as long as the increase is restricted to parks and open space. Note, other public agencies compete vigorously for these funds, and taxpayers are generally concerned about high property tax rates.

Excise Taxes

Excise taxes are taxes on specific goods and services. These taxes require special legislation and the use of the funds generated through the tax are limited to specific uses. Examples include lodging, food, and beverage taxes that generate funds for promotion of tourism, and the gas tax that generates revenues for transportation related activities.

Occupancy Tax

The NC General Assembly may grant towns the authority to levy occupancy tax on hotel and motel rooms. The act granting the taxing authority limits the use of the proceeds, usually for tourism-promotion purposes.

Fees

Three fee options that have been used by local governments to assist in funding pedestriAn and bicycle facilities are listed here:

Stormwater Utility Fees

Greenway sections may be purchased with stormwater fees, if the property in question is used to mitigate floodwater or filter pollutants. Stormwater charges are typically based on an estimate of the amount of impervious surface on a user's property. Impervious surfaces (such as rooftops and paved areas) increase both the amount and rate of stormwater runoff compared to natural conditions. Such surfaces cause runoff that directly or indirectly discharge into public storm drainage facilities and creates a need for stormwater management services. Thus, users with more impervious surface are charged more for stormwater service than users with less impervious surface. The rates, fees, and charges collected for stormwater management services may not exceed the costs incurred to provide these services. The costs that may be recovered through the stormwater rates, fees, and charges includes any costs necessary to assure that all aspects of stormwater quality and quantity are managed in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations, and rules.

Streetscape Utility Fees

Streetscape Utility Fees could help support streetscape maintenance of the area between the curb and the property line through a flat monthly fee per residential dwelling unit. Discounts would be available for senior and disabled citizens. Non-residential customers would be charged a per foot fee based on the length of frontage on streetscape improvements. This amount could be capped for non-residential customers with extremely large amounts of street frontage. The revenues raised from Streetscape Utility fees would be limited by ordinance to maintenance (or construction and maintenance) activities in support of the streetscape.

Impact Fees

Developers can be required to provide greenway impact fees through local enabling legislation. Impact fees, which are also known as capital contributions, facilities fees, or system development charges, are typically collected from developers or property owners at the time of building permit issuance to pay for capital improvements that provide capacity to serve new growth. The intent of these fees is to avoid burdening existing customers with the costs of providing capacity to serve new growth ("growth pays its own way"). Greenway impact fees are designed to reflect the costs incurred to provide sufficient capacity in the system to meet the additional needs of a growing community. These charges are set in a fee schedule applied uniformly to all new development. Communities that institute impact fees must develop a sound financial model that enables policy makers to justify fee levels for different user groups, and to ensure that revenues generated meet (but do not exceed) the needs of development. Factors used to determine an appropriate impact fee amount can include: lot size, number of occupants, and types of subdivision improvements. If Holly Springs is interested in pursuing open space impact fees, it will require enabling legislation to authorize the collection of the fees.

Exactions

Exactions are similar to impact fees in that they both provide facilities to growing communities. The difference is that through exactions it can be established that it is the responsibility of the developer to build the greenway or pedestrian facility that crosses through the property, or adjacent to the property being developed.

In-Lieu-Of Fees

As an alternative to requiring developers to dedicate on-site greenway sections that would serve their development, some communities provide a choice of paying a front-end charge for off-site protection of pieces of the larger system. Payment is generally a condition of development approval and recovers the cost of the off-site land acquisition or the development's proportionate share of the cost of a regional facility serving a larger area. Some communities prefer in-lieu-of fees. This alternative allows community staff to purchase land worthy of protection rather than accept marginal land that meets the quantitative requirements of a developer dedication but falls a bit short of qualitative interests.

Bonds and Loans

Bonds have been a very popular way for communities across the country to finance their pedestrian and greenway projects. A number of bond options are listed below. Contracting with a private consultant to assist with this program may be advisable. Since bonds rely on the support of the voting population, an education and awareness program should be implemented prior to any vote. Billings, Montana used the issuance of a bond in the amount of $599,000 to provide the matching funds for several of their TEA-21 enhancement dollars. Austin, Texas has also used bond issues to fund a portion of their bicycle and trail system.

Revenue Bonds

Revenue bonds are bonds that are secured by a pledge of the revenues from a certain local government activity. The entity issuing bonds, pledges to generate sufficient revenue annually to cover the program's operating costs, plus meet the annual debt service requirements (principal and interest payment). Revenue bonds are not constrained by the debt ceilings of general obligation bonds, but they are generally more expensive than general obligation bonds.

General Obligation Bonds

Cities, counties, and service districts generally are able to issue general obligation (G.O.) bonds that are secured by the full faith and credit of the entity. In this case, the local government issuing the bonds pledges to raise its property taxes, or use any other sources of revenue, to generate sufficient revenues to make the debt service payments on the bonds. A general obligation pledge is stronger than a revenue pledge, and thus may carry a lower interest rate than a revenue bond. Frequently, when local governments issue G.O. bonds for public enterprise improvements, the public enterprise will make the debt service payments on the G.O. bonds with revenues generated through the public entity's rates and charges. However, if those rate revenues are insufficient to make the debt payment, the local government is obligated to raise taxes or use other sources of revenue to make the payments. G.O. bonds distribute the costs

of land acquisition and greenway development and make funds available for immediate purchases and projects. Voter approval is required.

Special Assessment Bonds

Special assessment bonds are secured by a lien on the property that benefits by the improvements funded with the special assessment bond proceeds. Debt service payments on these bonds are funded through annual assessments to the property owners in the assessment area.

State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans

Initially funded with federal and state money, and continued by funds generated by repayment of earlier loans, State Revolving Funds (SRFs) provide low interest loans for local governments to fund water pollution control and water supply related projects including many watershed management activities. These loans typically require a revenue pledge, like a revenue bond, but carry a below market interest rate and limited term for debt repayment (20 years).

Other Local Options

Facility Maintenance Districts

Facility Maintenance Districts (FMDs) can be created to pay for the costs of on-going maintenance of public facilities and landscaping within the areas of the Town where improvements have been concentrated and where their benefits most directly benefit business and institutional property owners. An FMD is needed in order to assure a sustainable maintenance program. Fees may be based upon the length of lot frontage along streets where improvements have been installed, or upon other factors such as the size of the parcel. The program supported by the FMD should include regular maintenance of streetscape of off road trail improvements. The municipality can initiate public outreach efforts to merchants, the Chamber of Commerce, and property owners. In these meetings, Town staff will discuss the proposed apportionment and allocation methodology and will explore implementation strategies.

The municipality can manage maintenance responsibilities either through its own staff or through private contractors.

Partnerships

Another method of funding pedestrian systems and greenways is to partner with public agencies and private companies and organizations. Partnerships engender a spirit of cooperation, civic pride and community participation. The key to the involvement of private partners is to make a compelling argument for their participation. Major employers and developers should be identified and provided with a "Benefits of Walking"-type handout for themselves and their employees. Very specific routes that make critical connections to place of business would be targeted for private partners' monetary support following a successful master planning effort. Potential partners include major employers which are located along or accessible to pedestrian facilities such as shared-use paths or greenways. Name recognition for corporate partnerships would be accomplished through signage trail heads or interpretive signage along greenway systems. Utilities often make good partners and many trails now share corridors with them. Money raised from providing an easement to utilities can help defray the costs of maintenance. It is important to have a lawyer review the legal agreement and verify ownership of the subsurface, surface or air rights in order to enter into an agreement.

Local Trail Sponsors

A sponsorship program for trail amenities allows smaller donations to be received from both individuals and businesses. Cash donations could be placed into a trust fund to be accessed for certain construction or acquisition projects associated with the greenways and open space system. Some recognition of the donors is appropriate and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, the naming of a trail segment, and/or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Types of gifts other than cash could include donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies.

Volunteer Work

It is expected that many citizens will be excited about the development of a greenway corridor. Individual volunteers from the community can be brought together with groups of volunteers form church groups, civic groups, scout troops and environmental groups to work on greenway development on special community work days. Volunteers can also be used for fund-raising, maintenance, and programming needs.

Private Foundations and Organizations

Many communities have solicited greenway funding assistance from private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors. Below are a few examples of private funding opportunities available in North Carolina.

Bikes Belong

The Bikes Belong Grants Program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths, lanes, and routes, as well as bike parks, mountain bike trails, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives.

Since 1999, Bikes Belong has awarded over 175 grants to municipalities and grassroots groups in 44 states and the District of Columbia, investing over $1.5 million in community bicycling projects and leveraging more than $500 million in federal, state, and private funding; for more information please visit: www.bikesbelong.org/bikes-belong-foundation/

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation

The foundation has provided support for a number of projects ranging from local community equipment grants to collaboration on large statewide initiatives that work to improve health and lower obesity rates through healthy eating and active living; for more information please visit: www.bcbsncfoundation.org/

Creating New Economies Fund

Small grant program supports innovative triple bottom line (Environmental Stewardship, Economic Development and Social justice) projects, providing communities with resources to address multiple issues simultaneously. Grants average $8,000 to $12,000, with the maximum award being $15,000. Pre-Proposals due in December; for more information please visit: www.conservationfund.org/our-conservation-strategy/major-programs/resourceful-communities-program/investing-in-communities/

Kate B. Reynolds Foundation

The Winston-Salem based Foundation has funded Community Transformation Catalyst positions in 4 Tier 1 counties, including Rockingham County. The Community Transformation Catalyst program is funded under the Health Care Division of the foundation. Grant deadlines are February and August. Check the website here for updated information: http://kbr.org/content/health-care-division

Land for Tomorrow Campaign

Land for Tomorrow is a diverse partnership of businesses, conservationists, farmers, environmental groups, health professionals and community groups committed to securing support from the public and General Assembly for protecting land, water and historic places. The campaign is asking the North Carolina General Assembly to support

issuance of a bond for $200 million a year for five years to preserve and protect its special land and water resources. Land for Tomorrow will enable North Carolina to reach a goal of ensuring that working farms and forests; sanctuaries for wildlife; land bordering streams, parks and greenways; land that helps strengthen communities and promotes job growth; historic downtowns and neighborhoods; and more, will be there to enhance the quality of life for generations to come. For more information, visit: www.land4tomorrow.org/

National Trails Fund

In 1998, the American Hiking Society created the National Trails Fund, the only privately supported national grants program providing funding to grassroots organizations working toward establishing, protecting and maintaining foot trails in America. Each year, 73 million people enjoy foot trails, yet many of our favorite

trails need major repairs due to a $200 million in badly needed maintenance. National Trails Fund grants give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools and materials to protect America's cherished public trails. For 2005, American Hiking distributed over $40,000 in grants thanks to the generous support of Cascade Designs and L.L.Bean, the program's Charter Sponsors. To date, American Hiking has granted more than $240,000 to 56 different trail projects across the U.S. for land acquisition, constituency building campaigns, and traditional trail work projects. Awards range from $500 to $10,000 per project.

What types of projects will American Hiking Society consider? Securing trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors, and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements. Building and maintaining trails which will result in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage. Constituency building surrounding specific trail projects - including volunteer recruitment and support. For more information please visit: www.americanhiking.org/gear-resources/grant-opportunities/

North Carolina Community Foundation

The North Carolina Community Foundation, established in 1988, is a statewide foundation seeking gifts from individuals, corporations, and other foundations to build endowments and ensure financial security for nonprofit organizations and institutions throughout the state. Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, the foundation also manages a number of community affiliates throughout North Carolina that make grants in the areas of human services, education, health, arts, religion, civic affairs, and the conservation and preservation of historical, cultural, and environmental resources. In addition, the foundation manages various scholarship programs statewide. For more information please visit: www.nccommunityfoundation.org

The Trust for Public Land

Land conservation is central to the mission of the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Founded in 1972, the Trust for Public Land is the only national nonprofit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well being. TPL helps conserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities. TPL's legal and real estate specialists work with landowners, government agencies, and community groups to:

- Create urban parks, gardens, greenways, and riverways
- Build livable communities by setting aside open space in the path of growth

• Conserve land for watershed protection, scenic beauty, and close-to home recreation safeguard the character of communities by preserving historic landmarks and landscapes.

The following are TPL's Conservation Services:

- Conservation Vision: TPL helps agencies and communities define conservation priorities, identify lands to be protected, and plan networks of conserved land that meet public need.
- Conservation Finance: TPL helps agencies and communities identify and raise funds for conservation from federal, state, local, and philanthropic sources.
- Conservation Transactions: TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas.
- Research & Education: TPL acquires and shares knowledge of conservation issues and techniques to improve the practice of conservation and promote its public benefits.

Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete more than 3,000 land conservation projects in 46 states, protecting more than 2 million acres. Since 1994, TPL has helped states and communities craft and pass over 330 ballot measures, generating almost $25 billion in new conservation-related funding. For more information, visit: www.tpl.org/

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

This Winston-Salem based foundation has been assisting the environmental projects of local governments and non-profits in North Carolina for many years. The foundation has two grant cycles per year and generally does not fund land acquisition. However, the foundation may be able to support municipalities in other areas of greenways development. More information is available at: www.zsr.org .