

Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Adopted June 2007
Updated October 2009, March 2014

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Introduction and Background

In June 1991, the Hillsborough Town Board recommended as a top priority in the Vision 2010 Plan the formation of a parks and recreation task force, PRTF, and the creation of a master parks and recreation plan for the town. The task force was formed and adopted the following mission:

1. To study and prioritize the recreational needs of town and extraterritorial jurisdiction residents;
2. To coordinate with other bodies of government to provide services efficiently;
3. To recommend a parks and recreation master plan that addresses the needs of area residents;
4. To focus on facility planning rather than recreation programming; and
5. To create policy directives for the town to administrate.

In December 1993, the Town Board adopted the Hillsborough Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which represented the first attempt to comprehensively study Hillsborough's recreational needs. The plan included an inventory of existing facilities, a needs assessment and a schematic plan for a recreation system as well as recommendations to guide the development of recreation facilities. The official adoption of the master plan allowed Hillsborough to participate in state and federal grant programs that fund recreation endeavors.

One of the outcomes of the master plan was the formation of a permanent parks and recreation board in Hillsborough. The Parks and Recreation Board was formed in October 1995 and is composed of up to 12 volunteer residents of Hillsborough and the extraterritorial jurisdiction. The board is responsible for implementing the master plan, including the following duties:

1. Cooperate with Orange County to facilitate shared use and responsibility for publicly owned land.
2. Concentrate on developing parks and recreation facilities that can be programmed for use by others.
3. Coordinate with other town committees on items of mutual interest.
4. Review proposed subdivisions for compliance with the master plan and make recommendations to the Planning Board.
5. Recommend funding priorities for parks and recreation projects to the Town Board.

In August 2006 the PRB decided to initiate a comprehensive master plan update. The 2006 update included a revised inventory of existing and proposed resources, an updated needs assessment and new recommendations for the planning of recreation facilities and resources. In September 2009, another update was carried out. This update took into account additional recreational resources that were created since 2007, amended and additional park districts that were created, updated demographic information, and progress made with local and regional partnerships. Every few years the Parks and Recreation Board revisits the Master Plan to make key updates and recommendations. The Master Plan was again updated in February 2014.

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Hillsborough: The Past

Hillsborough was settled on 400 acres north of the Eno River adjacent to a Native American trading path and Occoneechee Village. William Churton laid out the town in 1754, using a grid street pattern for orderly development. He also included public squares at the intersections of main streets by reserving a 33-foot square from each of the corner lots. The Churton/King Streets square was developed as market place. The squares were abandoned in 1766, and the lands once reserved for public space were returned to private ownership. The area north of West Queen Street and west of North Hassel Street also was reserved as a town green for grazing and maintaining local livestock and animals. This area remained the town commons until some point after 1863 when it was divided and sold to individuals. Although it was divided earlier, this area did not begin to develop until after World War II.

Hillsborough has served as the county seat for Orange County since the town was established in 1754. Hillsborough was established at the crossing of colonial roads and served as a center for commerce and trade. As county seat, it also became a political and judicial hub. With all of this activity and its attractive climate, Hillsborough began to attract people from the Cape Fear area as summer and year-round residents. As the frontier moved farther west, Hillsborough became more centrally located in the state. When New Bern was determined to be too far east to serve as state capital, Hillsborough was among those discussed to become the new state capital. Hillsborough continued to lobby for the position until Raleigh was surveyed and established as capital in 1792.

Although the streets were laid out on a compact grid system with one-acre lots, homes were constructed on these lots with ample open spaces around them. Despite this open plan of development, people gathered together for recreation and relaxation at key places around the town.

Occoneechee Mountain has been used as a nature park since the earliest days.

The Historic Occoneechee Speedway was used for horse racing from the late 1800s to 1920. In the 1940s, automobile racing took over the track and continued until 1965. Shortly thereafter, in 1968, this same area became the football field for the high school and was used as such for four years. Recently, the track, which is owned and maintained by Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, has been designated as a historic site on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been restored as an interpretive trail and is open for recreation use by the public.

Baseball games often were played in the former open field by the Exchange Park Lane Bridge. Until 1964, this bridge was the main entrance into town. The open field also was a stopping place for traveling circuses and carnivals. Semi-professional baseball games were played in the Eno Mill field, across the railroad tracks from the train depot, in the future Gold Park. Other organized sports and

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school functions were held at the high school. The Whitted Building, which now houses the Department of Social Services and Orange County Recreation and Parks Department on West Tryon Street, was the local high school.

The Eno River has been commonly used for recreational activities over the years. Many public gathering spaces have been located along the river. Swimming also was a popular activity. From about 1920 to 1950, Willow Beach, located along the Eno River, was used as the town swimming hole. Willow Beach was at the end of Wake Street and upstream of the old grist mill dam. Other river activities included hunting, fishing, hiking and walking.

The Masonic Lodge on West King Street was host to a number of bazaars and lawn parties in the early 1900s. The Hillsborough Men's and Women's clubs played billiards and cards at their respective meetings. The Hillsborough Garden Club was established in 1925 and continues to be active today.

This is by no means a complete account of the history of recreation in Hillsborough, but it illustrates the ingenuity of residents seeking recreational facilities in the past.

Hillsborough: The Present and Future

Hillsborough has grown to include 3,100 acres in the town limits and has zoning jurisdiction over 5,900 acres. Currently, the town has a population of more than 6,900, and approximately 10,000 people live within the park district boundaries. Population projections estimate that the town's population will rise by 1,400 by 2020, bringing the total population to 8,300. Hillsborough occupies almost 4.85 square miles, but new annexations are likely. A large number of people live outside of Hillsborough's town limits but also regularly use town parks and facilities; the 2010 Census estimated the population in the 27278 zip code at 24,286.

Central North Carolina continues to be a favorite place to live and an attractive location for businesses. With excellent interstate connections to the Triangle (Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill), the Triad (Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem) and the industrializing corridor in Burlington, Mebane and Efland, Hillsborough will continue to see non-residential and residential growth. Easy access to the interstates and rail corridor further Hillsborough's marketability for development.

Recreation and relaxation are vitally important to public health and community well-being. As the town's population continues to grow, there is an increasing public responsibility to provide recreation opportunities. Hillsborough's population is diverse, and future recreation planning should include safe, inexpensive and convenient opportunities for various ages, interests, and preferences.

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Household income in Hillsborough is lower than the Orange County average, so careful consideration of public financing for recreational resources is important. Bond issues and tax increases for recreation facilities may not be reasonable expectations. Projects must be selected with care and must be financed with creative combinations from many sources, including loans and grants. Emphasis should be on well-designed, decentralized facilities to serve the needs of the people at the lowest possible cost.

Goals for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

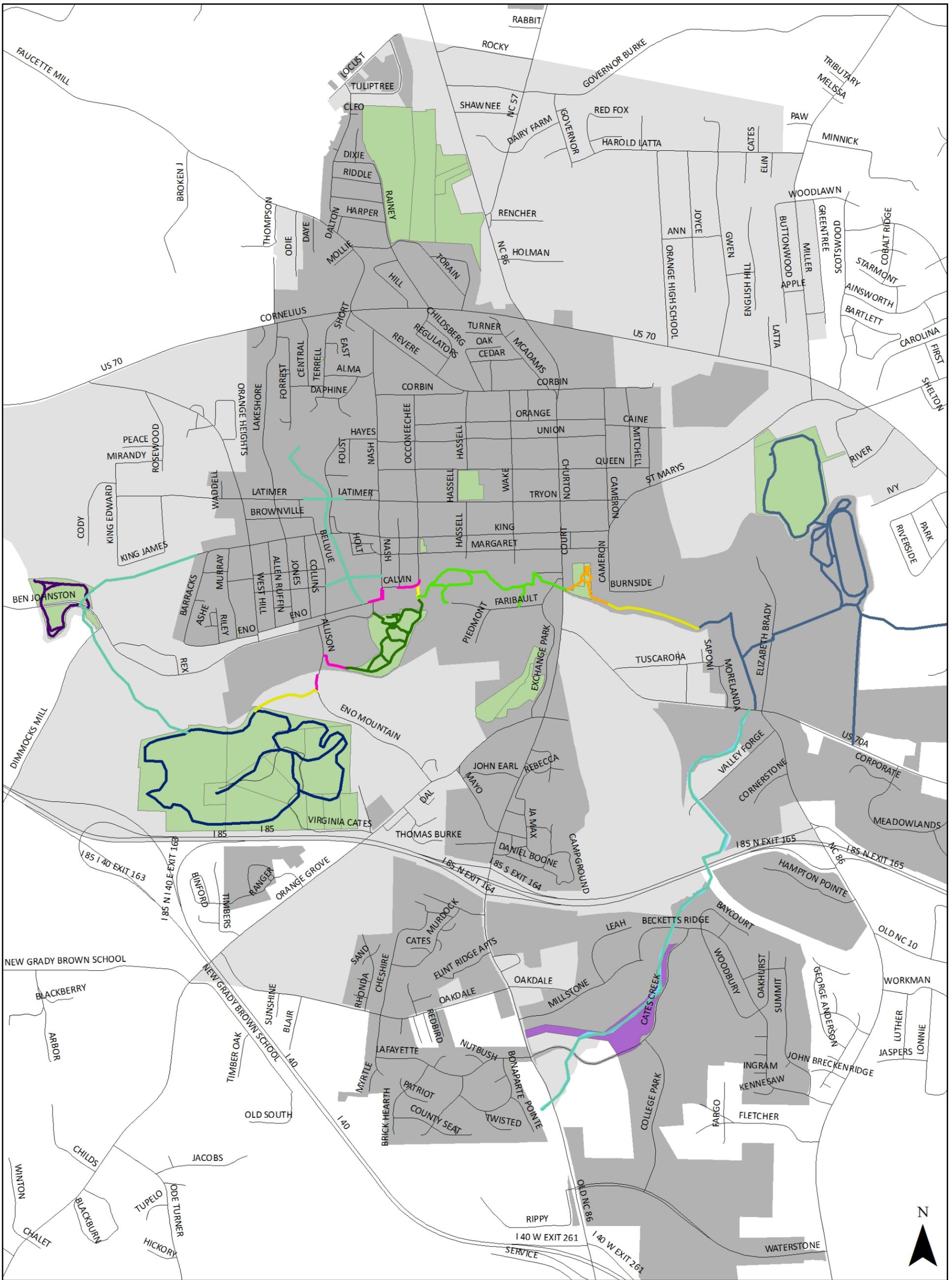
Upon initiating the process of the master plan update, the Parks and Recreation Board adopted the following goals:

1. Utilize the town's natural and historical heritage as recreational resources.
2. Provide recreation facilities in every park district.
3. Meet the recreational needs of the town's diverse population by providing facilities and programs that offer opportunities to all citizens in a nondiscriminatory manner.
4. Acquire and maintain playing fields, courts and other facilities for organized sports and fitness.
5. Provide safe, convenient and efficient travel ways for non-motorized transportation for all people in Hillsborough.
6. Actively seek participation and cooperation of all organizations involved in, or concerned with, the provision of recreational services in the Hillsborough area.



Town of Hillsborough Planning Jurisdiction

Town Limits
 Extra Territorial Jurisdiction



Existing and Proposed Parks, Trails, and Greenways

- Riverwalk Phase I
- Gold Park Trails
- Kings Highway Park Trails
- Town Limits
- Riverwalk Phase II
- Calvin Street Greenway
- Occonechee Mountain Trails
- Extra Territorial Jurisdiction
- Riverwalk Phase III
- CMAQ Sidewalks Project
- CAHPT Trails
- Riverpark
- Additional Trail Recommendations

Existing and Proposed Parks and Recreation Resources

This section details the recreational resources in the Town of Hillsborough. Pictures of the parks, sports fields, greenways and open spaces are provided. This section of the master plan serves as a resource for citizens and visitors.

Ayr Mount Historic Site is home to a fully restored 1815 plantation house, furnished with Federal style antiques and art. The 265-acre site is located at 376 St. Mary's Rd. Guided tours of the house are available, and the grounds are open to the public. Poet's Walk is a one-mile trail around the perimeter of Ayr Mount along the Eno River. The walk consists of a mulched pedestrian path that leads visitors through the open fields and woodlands of the estate. Ayr Mount is privately owned but is open to the public. Further information can be found by calling the office at 919-732-6886 or by emailing ayrmount@classicalamericanhomes.org. Also check the Classical American Homes website at <http://www.classicalamerican.org/index.html>.



Ayr Mount



Ayr Mount

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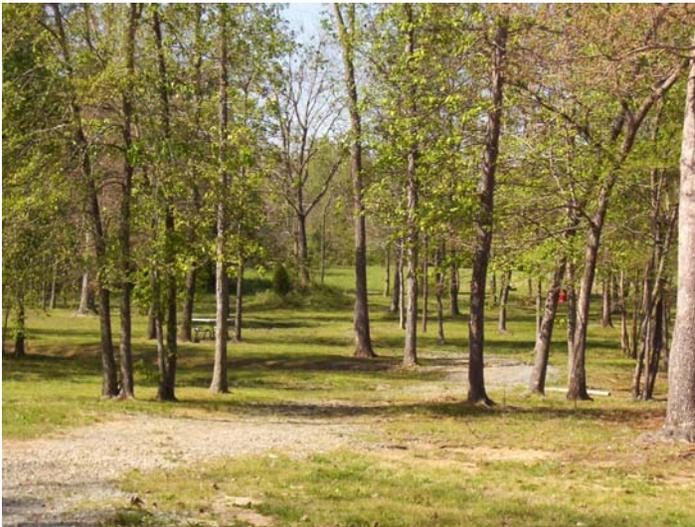
Cates Creek Greenway is a proposed greenway trail located along Cates Creek that connects Occoneechee Speedway to the planned Waterstone Community Park. The pedestrian trail will be 2.6 miles. The project is not yet funded but is recommended to be the next greenway project after Riverwalk is constructed.

Cates Creek Park is a proposed 16.6-acre park that will be located in the planned Waterstone development. The park will include a multi-use field, a playground, two large picnic shelters, five small shelters, and extensive pedestrian trails and natural areas. The park will be built in phases. The first phase will be financed and constructed by the developer and then dedicated to the Town. The park will be owned and maintained by the Town of Hillsborough. The town will be responsible for future phases of the park's development.

Exchange Club Park is located at 331 Exchange Club Lane and is privately owned and operated. The park consists of 16 acres and includes one baseball field that is used frequently for scheduled Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association games. The park also has two playgrounds, open space areas and 16 picnic tables and picnic shelter.



Exchange Club Park



Fairview Park

Fairview Park, located at 195 Torain Street, consists of 92 acres and is maintained by Orange County. The park includes a ¼ mile paved walking trail, a baseball/softball field, a basketball court, tennis courts, a volleyball court, a horseshoe pit, a picnic shelter with tables and grills, a 5-12 year old playground, and restroom facilities. The fields, courts, and shelters are available for reservation through Orange County Recreation and Parks.

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Gold Park is a 20-acre community park located at 415 Dimmocks Mill Road, at the end of South Nash Street. The park includes restroom facilities, seven picnic tables, three picnic shelters, a multi-use field, a playground, a dog park and natural areas and pedestrian trails. The park includes 0.3 miles of the Riverwalk greenway, and eventually will link to downtown Hillsborough via Riverwalk.



Gold Park Playground



Gold Park Picnic Areas

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Hillsborough Heights Park

HYAA Ball Fields are operated by the Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association. The fields are located on Town property at the eastern end of Orange Grove Road. HYAA is a nonprofit community organization composed of volunteers who run children's baseball leagues in various facilities throughout the central and northern part of the county. The fields are scheduled from March through late November. In 2007, HYAA had 47 teams and served 530 children between the ages of 5 and 15.

Hillsborough Heights Park is a town-owned and -maintained tot lot located at 510 Terrell Road. The land was donated to the town, and playground equipment was installed on the lot in 2006. The neighborhood park also has two picnic tables and a grill located at its rear.



HYAA Ball Fields

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Kings Highway Park

Kings Highway Park is an 18-acre natural area located on Ben Johnson Road at the edge of the Hillsborough Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. It is owned and maintained by the town. Over the past few years, volunteers have built trails, bridges and a kiosk in the park. Kings Highway Park now has almost 1 mile of nature trails. The Town Board officially opened the park to the public May 2007.



Murray Street Park

Murray Street Park is a neighborhood park that is owned and maintained by the town. It is located at the corner of Murray and Eno streets in West Hillsborough. The park is a little less than 1 acre and has an open area, a play structure, a slide and swings. A bridge also crosses a small creek to a sitting bench at the park.

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Mayo Park is a small neighborhood park located in downtown Hillsborough at 125 West King Street. Paved with brick and shaded by a large tree, the park has a bench and a small log table with a painted chessboard. The sitting area was named in memory of Odell Mayo, a former town employee who retired from the Public Works Department and who was responsible for keeping the downtown swept and clean.

Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area, at 867 feet, boasts the highest elevation point in Orange County. The park includes almost 190 acres of natural area and 3 miles of pedestrian trails. One trail leads from a parking area, accessed from Orange Grove Road, around a pond and up to the mountain summit. From the summit, most of Hillsborough and the surrounding areas can be seen. Another system of trails exists on the back side of the mountain and can be accessed by way of a walking easement off Allison Road. In the future it is possible that Occoneetchee Mountain trails will connect with Riverwalk. The park is staffed and operated by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation.



Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area



Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area

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The Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail was one of the first two NASCAR tracks to open in the nation and is the only track remaining from that inaugural 1949 season. The site now is heavily forested in 40-year-old pines and sycamores. Remnants of the concession area and grandstands still are visible beside the 1-mile, mulched, oval track. The 44-acre site has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Three miles of pedestrian trails, including a trail that runs alongside the Eno River, are open to the public. The site is located at 320 Elizabeth Brady Road, and is owned and maintained by Classical American Homes Preservation Trust. Further information can be found at <http://www.historicspeedwaygroup.org>.



Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail



Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail

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Orange County Central Recreation Center is located at 300 W. Tryon St. Outdoor facilities at the site include a play structure and a multi-use field. The field has some regularly scheduled activities and is open to the public for use at other times. Indoor facilities such as basketball courts also can be reserved through the Orange County Recreation and Parks Department. The recreation center is owned and maintained by Orange County. Further information can be found at <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/RecParks/>.

River Park is located alongside the Eno River behind the Orange County Justice Facility on Margaret Lane. The park includes 12 acres of natural area and open space. It is owned and maintained by Orange County. The site houses the Public Market House where the Hillsborough Farmer's Market is held, and it also has picnic areas, benches, and paths. In the future, the Riverwalk greenway will connect to River Park.

Riverwalk is a proposed greenway that will run alongside the Eno River from Allison Street through downtown Hillsborough to the Historic Occonechee Speedway Trail system. It will represent a section of the statewide Mountains-to-Sea Trail. It is an 8-foot wide, 1.8-mile trail that will be paved for bicycle, stroller, and handicap accessibility. The greenway is being built and will be maintained by the Town of Hillsborough. The first phase of Riverwalk, 0.3 miles in length, opened in Gold Park in May 2009. Phases II and III of Riverwalk are expected to open for use in fall 2014.



River Park

Triangle SportsPlex is a recreation facility owned and maintained by Orange County. With 90,000 square feet of space it is one of the largest recreational facilities in North Carolina. It houses an ice arena, three swimming pools, and a fitness center.

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Turnip Patch Park is a 1-acre neighborhood park, located at 333 W. King St., which includes a play structure, a footbridge, several garden areas and sitting benches. The park is owned and maintained by the Town of Hillsborough but was built primarily with volunteer donations.



Turnip Patch Park



Turnip Patch Park

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National Standards for Parks and Recreation

The National Recreation and Park Association is the recognized authority in developing guidelines and standards for parks, recreational facilities and open space. The association’s mission is “to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.” In 1983, the association published Recreation, Park and Open Space Guidelines; the guidelines were further revised in 1996 and are considered to be the model for planning park systems. One of the key pieces of information needed to apply the standards to Hillsborough is a population projection. The population projections for Hillsborough call for a total population of 7,500 by 2014. For the purposes of comparison to NRPA standards, a population of 8,000 was used, which accounts for growth over the next 10 years, assuming a 3 percent annual growth rate.

The NRPA standards listed below offer the minimum standard size and quantity of various park and recreation resources adapted to a population of 8,000. A community park is defined as a land site, usually in the range of 15 to 50 acres in size, with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks. A neighborhood park is defined as land intended to serve the recreation needs of people living or working within a 1-mile area. Neighborhood parks serve as a neighborhood’s recreational and social focus. A community park may also be a neighborhood park, depending on its location. Tot lots are play areas, usually within a park, that have at least one play structure targeted towards 2-5 year olds. Natural areas are typically larger than 20 acres, and contain trail systems and occasionally picnic areas. Natural areas rarely contain recreation resources such as playgrounds and ball fields.

Community parks — 64 acres

Neighborhood parks — 16 acres

Tot lots — 8 play areas

Baseball fields — 2 fields

Softball fields — 2 fields

Soccer fields — 1 field

Football fields — 0 fields

Tennis courts — 5 courts

Basketball courts — 2 courts

Volleyball courts — 2 courts

Bicycling routes — 16 miles

Canoeing routes — 1.6 miles

Primitive campsites — 8 campsites

Tent/RV campsites — 19.2 campsites

Hiking trails — 3.2 miles

Interpretive trails — 1.6 miles

Horse trails — 3.2 miles

Bike trails — 16 miles

Picnic tables — 16 tables

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Recreational Resources Inventory

The Town of Hillsborough currently owns over 65 acres of community and neighborhood parks and has over 15 additional acres of parks proposed. The town also has planned more than 4 miles of greenway trails. Other recreation facilities and programming are provided by Orange County and private organizations in the area. The following list describes the assets and deficiencies in Hillsborough in regards to parks and recreation planning.

Assets

- Orange County Recreation and Parks programs and facilities
- Land-use regulations that limit development along streams and that require subdivisions to dedicate parks and open space or fees in lieu of the dedication
- Interested and active citizens, as well as private, recreation-minded organizations (Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association, Exchange Club, etc.)
- Cohesive neighborhoods and access to open space
- Proximity to other municipal and regional recreation opportunities
- Abundance of architectural and historical sites and significant natural areas

Deficiencies

- Uncertain relationship with school board for use of school property
- Town does not have parks and recreation department
- Lack of existing town-owned and -maintained recreation facilities
- Many population groups in need of recreation facilities
- Very limited funding for recreation resources from town
- Loss of open/green space as land is developed
- No official coordination between town and county for recreational needs

The following table lists existing and planned parks and recreation resources in Hillsborough. Public facilities are those owned by a governmental unit and are available for use by the entire public. Private facilities are owned by private organizations. Some of the private facilities are open for public use, while others allow scheduled use only. Included in the table is information about the types of organized sports, trail and paths, and picnic opportunities located at each recreation facility. The inventory does not include potential opportunities in private developments. Also, school facilities are not included in the inventory because there is not a formal agreement about public use of ball fields and other school facilities, with the exception of the Orange High School tennis courts and walking track. In September of 2008, the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group set out a series of guiding principles governing community use of school facilities for recreation, with a recommendation that they be adopted and acted upon by each elected board involved. The Hillsborough Town Board adopted these guiding principles in December of 2008.

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| Name of Park Resource | Type of Resource | Existing or Planned | Public vs. Private (Ownership) | Size | Organized Sports Facilities | Trails | Picnic Areas |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Ayr Mount/Poet’s Walk | Nature Area/Trails, Picnic tables | Existing | Private — Open to Public | 265 acres | No | 1 mile | 2 picnic tables |
| Cates Creek Greenway | Greenway | Planned | Public — Town | 2.6 miles | No | 2.6 miles | No |
| Cates Creek Park | Community Park — Playing Fields/ Playground/Natural Area | Planned | Public — Town | 16.6 acres | 1 multi-use field | 1 mile | 7 picnic areas |
| Central Recreation Center | Community Center / Gymnasium / Playing Fields / Playground | Existing | Public — County | 2 acres | Yes – gymnasium has activities and can be reserved. | No | 1 picnic area |
| Exchange Club Park | Playing Fields/ Playgrounds | Existing | Private — Open to Public | 16 acres | 1 baseball field | No | 16 picnic tables |
| Fairview Park | Community Park — Playing Fields/ Playground/Natural Area | Existing | Public —County | 92 acres | 1 ball field, 2 basketball courts, 1 volleyball court, tennis courts | 0.25 mile | 10 picnic tables, 1 picnic shelter |
| Gold Park | Community Park — Playing Fields/ Playground/Natural Area | Existing | Public — Town | 20.9 acres | 1 multi-use field | .6 miles | 9 picnic tables, 4 picnic shelters |
| Hillsborough Heights Park | Playground | Existing | Public — Town | 0.14 acres | No | No | 2 picnic tables |

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| Name of Park Resource | Type of Resource | Existing or Planned | Public vs. Private (Ownership) | Size | Organized Sports Facilities | Trails | Picnic areas |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| HYAA Ball Fields | Playing Fields | Existing | Private — Scheduled Use | 10 acres | 2 baseball fields, 2 t-ball fields | No | No |
| Kings Highway Park | Natural Area/Trails | Existing | Public — Town | 18 acres | No | 0.8 miles | 1 picnic table |
| Mayo Park | Neighborhood Park | Existing | Public – Town | 0.01 acres | No | No | No |
| Murray Street Park | Playground | Existing | Public — Town | 0.12 acres | No | No | No |
| Occonechee Mountain | Natural Area/Trails | Existing | Public —State of North Carolina | 190 acres | No | 3 miles | No |
| Occonechee Speedway | Natural Area/Trails | Existing | Private — Open to Public | 44 acres | No | 3 miles | No |
| Recreation Center | Neighborhood Park — Playing Fields/ Playground/Indoor Facilities | Existing | Public — County | 2 acres | 1 multi-use field | No | No |
| River Park | Neighborhood Park — Natural Area | Existing | Public — County | 12 acres | No | No | No |
| Riverwalk | Greenway | Planned | Public — Town | 1.8 miles | No | 1.8 miles | No |
| Turnip Patch Park | Playground | Existing | Public — Town | 0.6 acres | No | No | No |

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The following table includes existing and proposed resources located within a ten-mile radius of the town limits. The existing resources are both publicly and privately owned and are open for use by Hillsborough residents. Planned resources are being designed for the future.

| Name of Park | Facilities | Ownership | Existing or Planned | Size |
|--|--|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Cedar Grove Park | Is located on N.C. 86, seven miles north of Hillsborough next to the Northern Human Services Center. The park includes a playground, a baseball/softball field, a multi-purpose field, walking trails, a paved walking track, basketball courts, a picnic shelter, and restroom facilities. The center includes a gym, meeting space, catering kitchen, and a cafeteria. | Orange County | Existing | 48 acres |
| Duke Forest – Hillsboro Division | Located on U.S. 70 to the west of Hillsborough’s city limits. Has 2.25 miles of gravel road, open to the public for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. | Duke University | Existing | 412 acres |
| Duke Forest – Eno Division | Located between N.C. 86 and Old N.C. 10, just south of Hillsborough. Has 2.83 miles of gravel road open to the public for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Has an additional 1.4 miles of trails for hiking only. | Duke University | Existing | 487 acres |
| Duke Forest – Blackwood Division | Located on old N.C. 86, approximately 10 miles south of Hillsborough. Has 1.05 miles of gravel road open to the public for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. | Duke University | Existing | 264 acres |
| Efland Cheeks Community/School Park | 3 ball fields (one is lighted), 2 lighted basketball courts, lighted walking track, 2 picnic shelters, ages 5-12 playground, community center with activity space, kitchen, and small stage. | Orange County | Existing | 12 acres |

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| Name of Park | Facilities | Ownership | Existing or Planned | Size |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Eurosport Soccer Center | Five full size soccer fields and one youth field, a walking track, lighting, and a concession building with restrooms, an office, equipment storage, a first aid room, and a team room. | Orange County | Existing | 20 acres |
| Johnston Mill Nature Preserve | Two hiking trails cross the preserve, one 1.5 miles in length, the other a 1 mile loop. An interpretive guide booklet is available online at www.triangleland.org | Triangle Land Conservancy | Existing | 296 acres |
| Little River Park | This regional park has seven miles of hiking trails, seven miles of bike trails, a quarter mile paved walking track, two picnic shelters, and a playground. | Orange County | Existing | 391 acres |
| New Hope Park | In planning stage | Orange County | Planned | 152 acres |
| McGowan Creek Preserve | Coming: trails | Orange County | Planned | 63 acres |
| Occoneechee Golf Club | 18-hole golf course. | Private Owner | Existing | 125.6 acres |
| Seven Mile Creek Preserve | Coming: trails, possible camping | Orange County | Planned | 291 acres |

Chapter 2: Establishing the Recreational Needs of Hillsborough’s Population

Needs Assessment

The following sections describe the NRPA standards and compare them against the existing acreage and planned facilities in Hillsborough.

| Type of Resource | Existing/Planned Resources in Hillsborough | | | National Standards Adapted to Population of 8,000 | Remaining Needs in Hillsborough |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | Public | Private | Total | | |
| Community Parks | 151.5 acres | 16 acres | 167.5 acres | 64 acres | |
| Neighborhood Parks | 6.57 (20.9)* acres | 0.5 | 7.07 (27.97)* acres | 16 acres | |
| Tot Lots | 6 play areas | 2 play areas | 8 play areas | 8 play areas | |
| Picnic Tables | 22 | 18 | 40 tables | 16 tables | |
| Baseball Fields | 4 fields | 3 fields | 4 public (3 private) | 2 fields (1.6) | |
| Softball Fields | 1 field | 0 | 1 field | 2 fields (1.6) | 1 field |
| Soccer Fields | 1 field | 1 field | 2 fields | 1 field | |
| Football Fields | 1 field | 0 | 1 field | 1 field | |
| Tennis Courts | 3 courts | 0 | 3 courts | 4 courts | 1 court |
| Basketball Court | 3 courts | 0 | 3 courts | 2 courts | |
| Volleyball Court | 1 court | 0 | 1 court | 2 courts | 1 court |
| Ice Hockey Rink | 1 rink | 0 | 1 rink | 1 rink | |
| Swimming Pool | 3 | 2 | 5 pools | 1 pool | |
| Walking/Running Track | 0.25 miles | 0 | 0.25 miles | 0.25 miles | |
| Walking Trails | 9.9 miles | 6.25 miles | 16.15 miles | 3.2 miles | |
| Interpretive Trails | 2.5 miles | 0 | 2.5 miles | 1.6 miles | |
| Horse Trails | 0 | 2.25 miles | 2.25 miles | 3.2 miles | 0.95 miles |
| Bike Trails | 0 | 2.25 miles | 2.25 miles | 16 miles | 13.75 miles |
| Bicycling Routes | 11 miles | 0 | 11 miles | 16 miles | 5 miles |
| Canoeing Routes | 3 miles (roundtrip) | 0 | 3 miles | 1.6 miles | |
| Primitive Campsites | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 campsites | 8 campsites |
| Tent/RV Campsites | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19.2 campsites | 19.2 campsites |

*The parentheses denote acreage that is both a neighborhood park and a community park.

Note: There are many other types of recreational resources that are not listed in the NRPA standards, such as golf courses, running tracks, roller hockey, disc golf, dog parks, skate parks and nature centers. These types of resources may be available in a community and may be fulfilling a recreational need but are not counted in the needs assessment.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Organized Sports

The town does not have a Parks and Recreation Department and does not offer sports programming. The programming of organized sports is handled by Orange County Parks and Recreation Department and is also offered by local private organizations. There has been, however, a concerted effort in recent years by the town to increase the number of sports facilities open to the public. The town continues to rely on the county to fulfill much of its programming needs. Currently, the county is planning to build a softball field, two basketball courts, three tennis courts and a volleyball court at Fairview Park, which is located just beyond town limits. The county also has an existing multi-use field in the heart of Hillsborough's historic district at the Central Recreation Center. Baseball fields also exist at Exchange Club Park and at the HYAA fields on Town property on Orange Grove Road. These fields are scheduled for youth baseball and t-ball that serves much of the population of Hillsborough.

There are four elementary, one middle, and two high schools in or near Hillsborough. Each of the schools has additional recreation facilities. Currently, there is no formal arrangement for public use of the school ball fields, but there has been a strong urge by the Parks and Recreation Board to explore such an arrangement. There is an existing agreement between the County and the Orange County Board of Education for public use, after school hours, of the tennis courts and walking track at Orange High School. The Intergovernmental Parks Work Group developed a policy statement regarding community use of school facilities that was adopted by the Hillsborough Town Board in December 2008.

Recommendations

1. Consult with the community to establish organized sports and recreation needs.
2. Investigate opportunities for shared use and maintenance responsibilities with schools- and county-organized sports and recreation facilities.
3. Investigate possibility of community access to exterior school fields for organized sports and recreation activities.
4. Locate and design organized sports and recreation facilities for community use in cooperation with Orange County.
5. Consider traffic and access during the design of organized sports and recreation facilities.
6. Identify and investigate property acquisition for land well suited to organized sports and recreation facilities.
7. Recognize and support the non-municipal leagues and organizations that provide organized sports and recreation activities in the community.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Pedestrian/Bike Facilities

Walking is the most basic and natural form of transportation, as well as the least expensive. It is a relaxing and enjoyable way to improve health and experience the community. This easy form of exercise can help combat the rapid increase in obesity among adults and children due to sedentary lifestyles. Walking and bicycling, when used as an alternative to driving, are great ways to improve air quality as well.

Hillsborough has a good environment for recreational and commuter cycling, and a strong cycling community exists in Hillsborough and the surrounding areas. Several cycling events take place in Hillsborough annually. The Carolina Tarheels, a cycling club, holds BikeFest, a bike race that starts at the Old Courthouse and has designated routes that run throughout the downtown historic district and into Orange County.



Walkable Hillsborough Day, June 2006
Photo credit: Nancy Espersen



Nash Street Sidewalk Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, September 2011
Photo credit: Margaret Hauth

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Strategies that the town can employ to encourage walking include:

- Design streets that promote pedestrian comfort and safety, such as narrow streets, reduced turning radii, crosswalks with activated signals, bulb-outs, raised crosswalks, pedestrian islands, pedestrian streetlights and other traffic-calming strategies
- Land-use strategies and development projects that promote walking, such as mixed-use, infill and transit-oriented development at increased densities
- Site design that encourages walking, such as reduced setbacks, sidewalks and paths, building entrances near sidewalks and transit stops and short blocks
- Pedestrian amenities, such as sidewalks, benches and landscaping

Greenways and trails offer excellent walking and bicycling environments and are an alternative to sidewalk systems and bike lanes, which can be very expensive.

The benefits of greenways include:

- **Transportation Improvements:** If designed to be destination oriented and easily accessible, greenways can provide relief to congested streets by offering safe and convenient transportation networks for members of the community and can serve as extensions of the road network.
- **Air Quality Improvements:** Greenways can act as alternative transportation corridors, which can reduce traffic congestion, helping to improve local air quality.
- **Economic Benefits:** Greenways and trails have been proven to offer numerous economic benefits, such as raising property values in the immediate vicinity and increasing tourism in town.
- **Health and Recreation Benefits:** Studies show that 30 minutes a day of moderate intensity exercise can significantly improve a person's health and prevent certain diseases. Safe and convenient greenways encourage more walking, biking and jogging by community members, creating substantial health benefits.
- **Cultural/Historical Benefits:** Greenways can act as cultural venues for charity events, such as scheduled walks and runs as well as celebratory parades. Greenways also can be educational tools, designed to expose historical patterns of traffic and to offer interpretation of historic and archaeological sites along greenways, increasing awareness and appreciation of the history of a place.
- **Flood Control:** If built along creeks and streams and designed as wooded open space with trail systems, greenways can act as the primary storage zone during periods of heavy rainfall when streams overflow their banks.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

- Water Quality Improvements: If designed to be open wooded space with trail systems, greenways can act as additional filtration areas for surface runoff and can provide additional absorption areas as well. This can reduce the amount of runoff that is discharged directly into streams through traditional storm water management systems, such as culverts and pipes.

Recommendations

1. Provide safe, convenient and efficient routes of travel for non-motorized traffic in Hillsborough.
2. Promote additional greenway projects, including Cates Creek and the N.C. Mountains-to-Sea connector trails.
3. Promote connectivity on a greater level by designing greenways and trails to link with regional trail systems.
4. Promote the implementation of the Downtown Access Plan.
5. Provide pedestrian amenities, such as benches and water fountains, at public parks and recreational spaces.
6. Investigate expansion of pedestrian and bicycle paths along historic routes, utility rights-of-way and stream corridors.
7. Integrate town facilities, such as sewer easements, scheduled buffers, water protection areas, flood plains, transportation corridors and rights-of-way, with pedestrian and bicycle routes.
8. Coordinate project planning between Public Works and Planning departments to construct a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community.
9. Promote bicycle paths along major transportation corridors.
10. Provide bicycle racks at all public parks and recreational spaces.
11. Promote the inclusion of pedestrian and bicycle routes and amenities in development and redevelopment projects.
12. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to schools
13. Support ordinance amendments that enhance the pedestrian and bicycle environment in Hillsborough

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Social Equity

The Parks and Recreation Board advocates that all populations should be served by the town's parks and recreation resources. The following recommendations advance social equity through park planning.

Recommendations

1. Consider people of diverse backgrounds, economic status and age when designing and locating recreational resources.
2. Provide appropriate recreational opportunities to all citizens and visitors in a nondiscriminatory manner.



Hillsborough Town Hall

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Partnerships with Local and Regional Organizations

Numerous regional and local groups participate in and/or provide parks and recreational services in the town and surrounding areas. The Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the importance of cooperation between organizations with regard to park planning and programming. The relationship between the town and Orange County is especially important in that the town does not have a designated Parks and Recreation Department and does not participate in recreation programming. Instead, the town relies on the expertise and resources of the county for these matters.

Cooperation with other municipalities and related interest groups is imperative in regional greenway and trail planning. The town is represented in the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group, whose mission is to (1) gather, exchange and share information on parks planning and development in the municipalities and county, (2) maintain and update the Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities developed as part of the Joint Master Recreation and Parks Work Group Report, including new properties acquired or dedicated, (3) foster communication between the municipalities and county on future opportunities and collaborative ventures, (4) provide a coordinating mechanism for updates to parks and recreation plans in each jurisdiction, (5) review and inform the municipalities and county concerning parks needs and potential opportunities, (6) develop parameters for parks standards, leaving flexibility for the actual standards to vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction within these parameters, and (7) develop and coordinate public education and public outreach on parks issues, such as coordinated brochures. Continued participation in the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group is crucial.

Recommendations

1. Partner with Orange County Recreation and Parks Department in all matters related to shared facilities and planning of parks and recreation resources.
2. Coordinate with other municipalities and the county in matters that relate to regional connectivity and recreation planning.
3. Join regional and local parks-and-recreation-related groups and discussions.
4. Investigate opportunities for recreational use of the water reservoir in conjunction with the Town of Hillsborough Engineering Department and the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Neighborhood Park Districts

In the original 1993 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, neighborhood districts were defined and recommendations were made particular to each area. For the 2007 Plan and subsequent updates, the Parks and Recreation Board decided to continue this approach to analyzing specific parks and recreational needs in Hillsborough.

The town limits have changed since 1993, and thus the park districts have been updated in each plan update. First, recently annexed areas that originally were outside of the districts were included. Beckett's Ridge subdivision is an example of an annexed area that has a large number of residents and significantly impacts decision-making around parks and recreation resources. The Parks and Recreation Board uses common barriers that restrict access, such as major roads, the railroad corridor, and the Eno River to define district boundaries. The districts include neighborhoods within the extraterritorial jurisdiction, which is the town's planning and zoning jurisdiction. Once the district boundaries are updated, dwelling units, population data and land area are estimated using GIS data and projected Census data.

In the September 2009 update, two districts were expanded and two additional districts were created to capture Valley Forge Road, Millstone Drive, Hampton Pointe, Forest Ridge, and the Triangle SportsPlex.

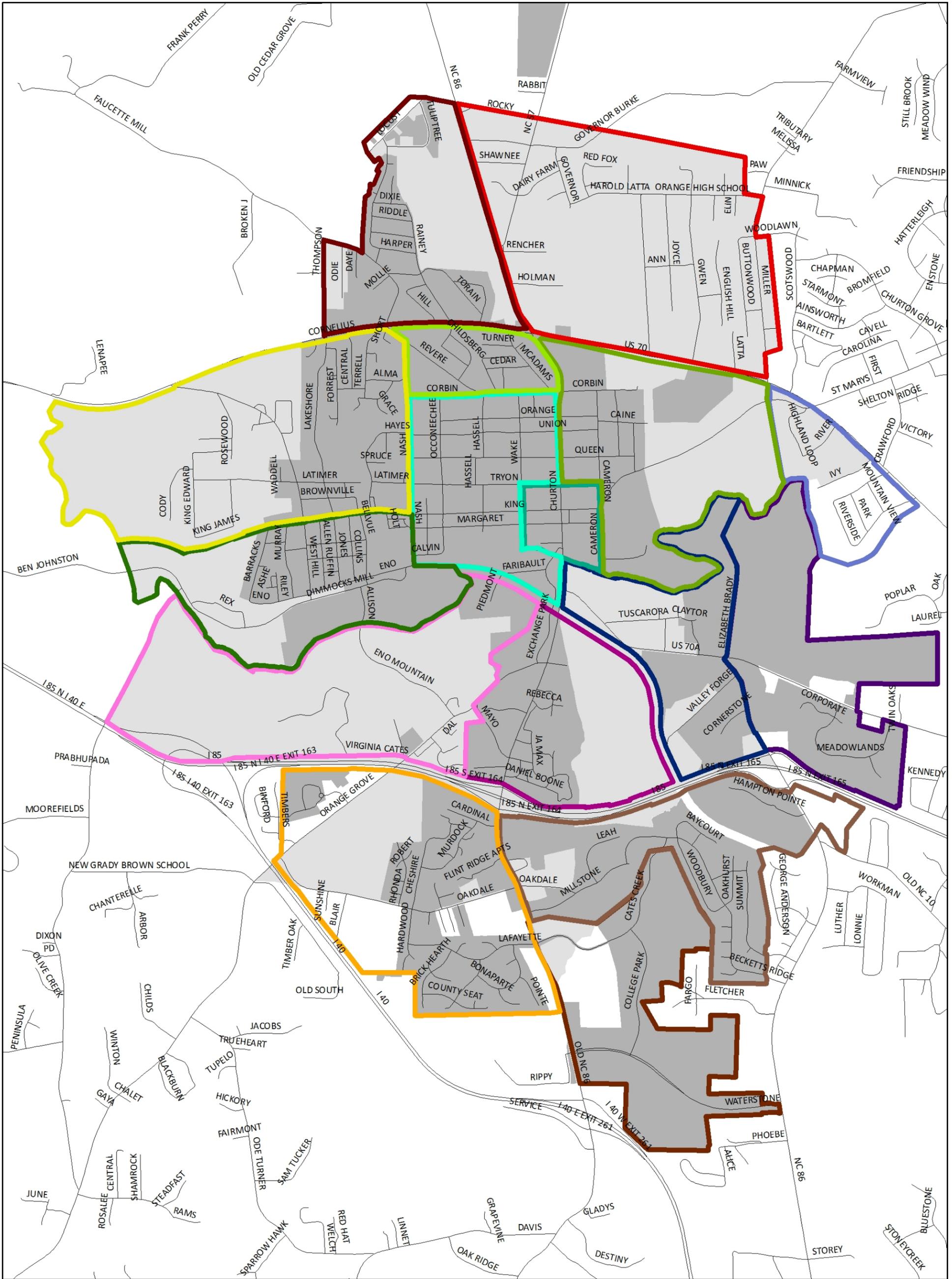
The table below summarizes the number of dwelling units, estimated population, land area, and associated proportions for each district and provides an idea of how the population and land area is distributed among the districts. A map of the all of the neighborhood districts is on the following page.

Population and Land Area Distribution within the Park Districts

| District # | Dwelling Units | Estimated Population* | Land Area (acres) | Population % | Land Area % | Population/Acre |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 412 | 928 | 333 | 9% | 6% | 2.79 |
| 2 | 509 | 1,147 | 662 | 11% | 11% | 1.73 |
| 3 | 547 | 1,233 | 689 | 12% | 12% | 1.79 |
| 4 | 183 | 412 | 102 | 4% | 2% | 4.04 |
| 5 | 153 | 345 | 425 | 3% | 7% | 0.81 |
| 6 | 308 | 694 | 332 | 7% | 6% | 2.09 |
| 7 | 342 | 771 | 256 | 8% | 4% | 3.01 |
| 8 | 50 | 113 | 63 | 1% | 1% | 1.79 |
| 9 | 133 | 300 | 145 | 3% | 2% | 2.07 |
| 10 | 230 | 518 | 622 | 5% | 10% | 0.83 |
| 11 | 33 | 74 | 333 | 1% | 6% | 0.22 |
| 12 | 64 | 144 | 279 | 1% | 5% | 0.52 |
| 13 | 88 | 198 | 375 | 2% | 6% | 0.53 |
| 14 | 1,119 | 2,521 | 528 | 25% | 9% | 4.78 |
| 15 | 296 | 667 | 371 | 7% | 6% | 1.80 |
| 16 | 5 | 11 | 410 | 0% | 7% | 0.03 |
| Total: | 4,472 | 10,077 | 5,925 | 100% | 100% | |

*Population estimate based on 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 87% of housing units are occupied, 2.59 people per household.

The section that follows includes maps, district data and recommendations for each neighborhood district individually.

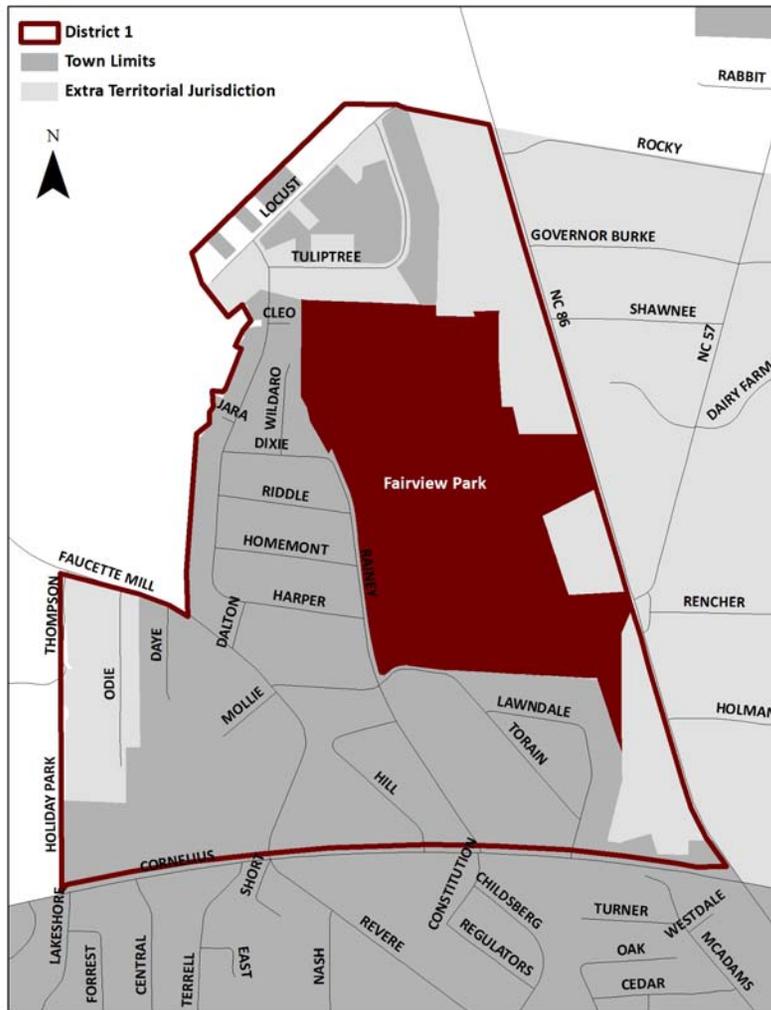


Existing and Proposed Parks, Trails, and Greenways

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| District 1 | District 5 | District 9 | District 13 | Town Limits |
| District 2 | District 6 | District 10 | District 14 | Extra Territorial Jurisdiction |
| District 3 | District 7 | District 11 | District 15 | |
| District 4 | District 8 | District 12 | District 16 | |



Park District 1:



Boundaries:

North: AT&T right-of-way

South: Cornelius Street

East: N.C. 86 North

West: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 412

Estimated Population: 928

Land Area: 333 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Fairview Park

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Moose Lodge, Habitat for Humanity Community Garden

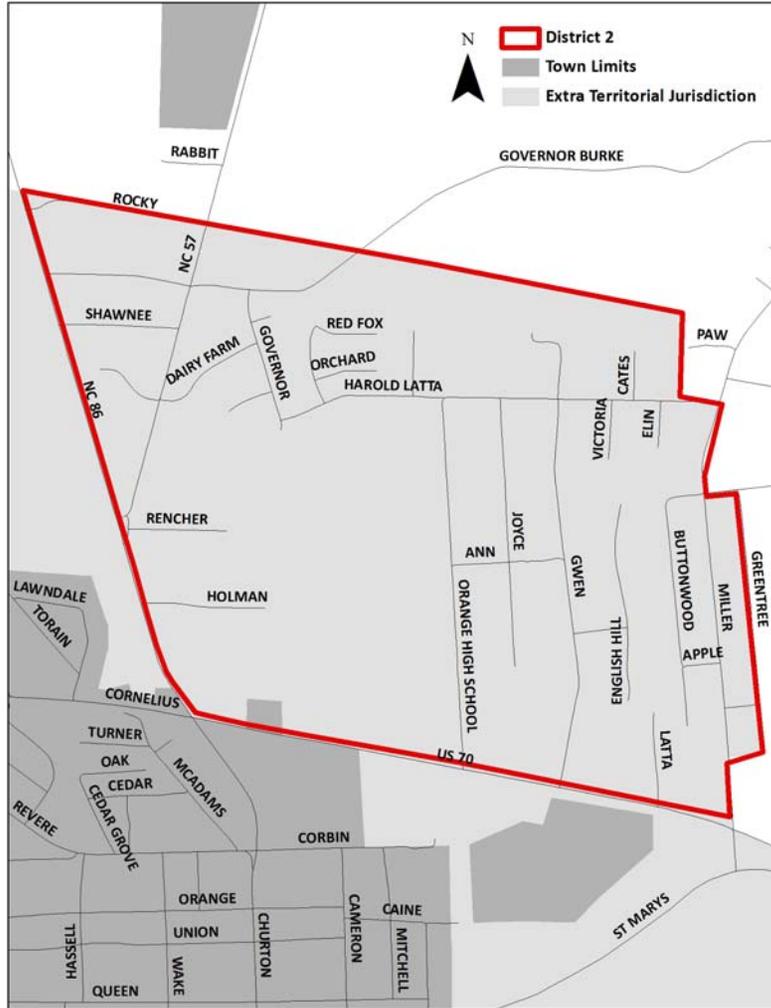
Existing Recreation Opportunities: Tuliptree area open-space triangle

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide bicycle and pedestrian paths along U.S. 70.
3. Investigate the possibility for a trail system within Fairview Park.
4. Support the three-part plans to improve and maintain Fairview Park.
5. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 2:



Boundaries:

- North: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
- South: U.S. 70 Bypass East
- East: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
- West: N.C. 86 North

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 509
Estimated Population: 1,147
Land Area: 662 acres

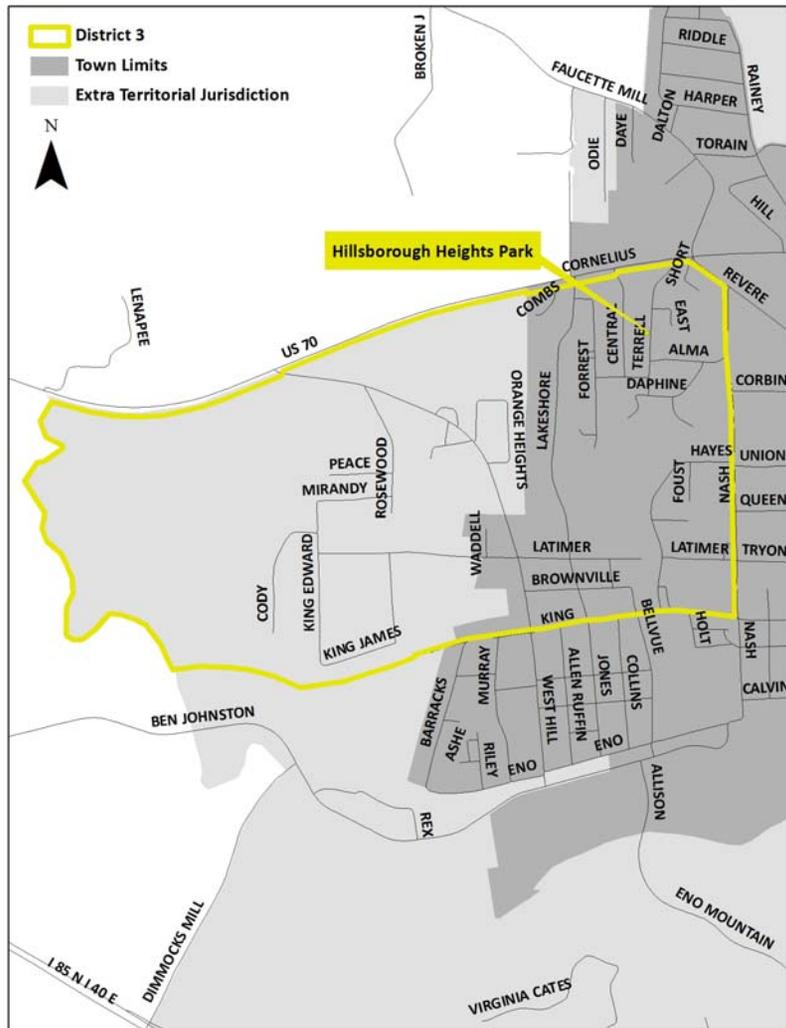
Existing Public Recreation Resources: Stanford Middle School (limited access), Orange High School tennis courts and walking track (limited access)
Existing Private Recreation Resources: none
Existing Recreation Opportunities: AT&T right-of-way
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the schools in this district.
3. Campaign with N.C. Department of Transportation for a safe pedestrian crossing at the intersection of U.S. 70 and Orange High School Road.
4. Promote the creation of a formal agreement between the Orange County School Board and the Town or County granting public access to school facilities.
5. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 3:



Boundaries:

North: Cornelius Street
South: West King Street
East: North Nash Street
West: Duke Forest

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 547

Estimated Population: 1,123

Land Area: 689 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Nature trails behind Central Elementary School (limited access), Hillsborough Heights Park

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Duke Forest

Existing Recreation Opportunities: 3 drainage ways

Proposed Recreation Resources: Nash Street sidewalk project

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the schools in this district.
3. Support the maintenance and public use of nature trails behind Central Elementary School.
4. Advocate with Orange County to site organized sports facilities in this district.
5. Investigate opportunity to open a pedestrian connection along Latimer Street between Hayes and Durham streets.
6. Maintain and promote the use of Hillsborough Heights Park for public recreation.
7. Investigate opportunities for greenway access along sewer easements.
8. Investigate option to provide pedestrian access between West King Street and Kings Highway Park.
9. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 4:



Boundaries:

North: Cornelius Street
South: West Corbin Street
East: North Churton Street
West: Revere Road

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 183

Estimated Population: 412

Land Area: 102 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: none

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Kenion Grove open space and recreational resources

Existing Recreation Opportunities: Un-built R-10 lot behind Orange County Planning and Agricultural Building on Revere Road

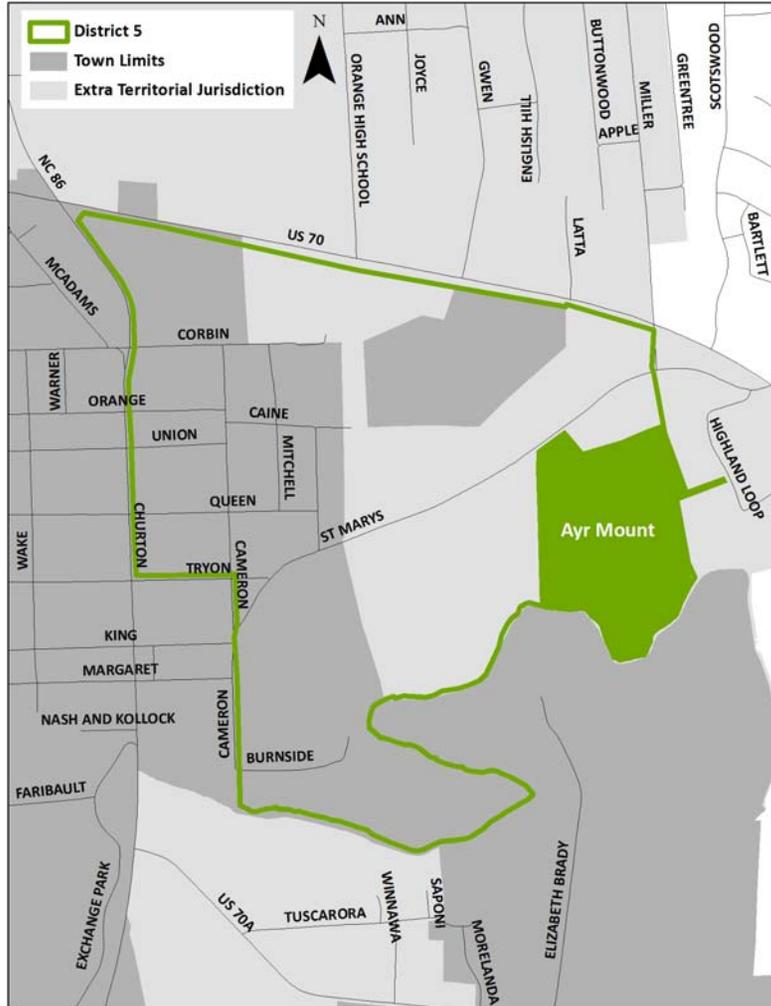
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Recommend to Orange County the installment of a public park on the un-built lot behind Orange County Planning and Agricultural Building.
3. Promote use of rights-of-way for pedestrian access if street alignments change.
4. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 5:



Boundaries:

- North: U.S. 70 Bypass
- South: East King Street
- East: St. Mary's Road
- West: North Churton Street

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 153

Estimated Population: 345

Land Area: 425 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Town Hall, Town Cemetery, Cameron Park Elementary School (limited access)

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Poet's Walk at Ayr Mount Historic Site

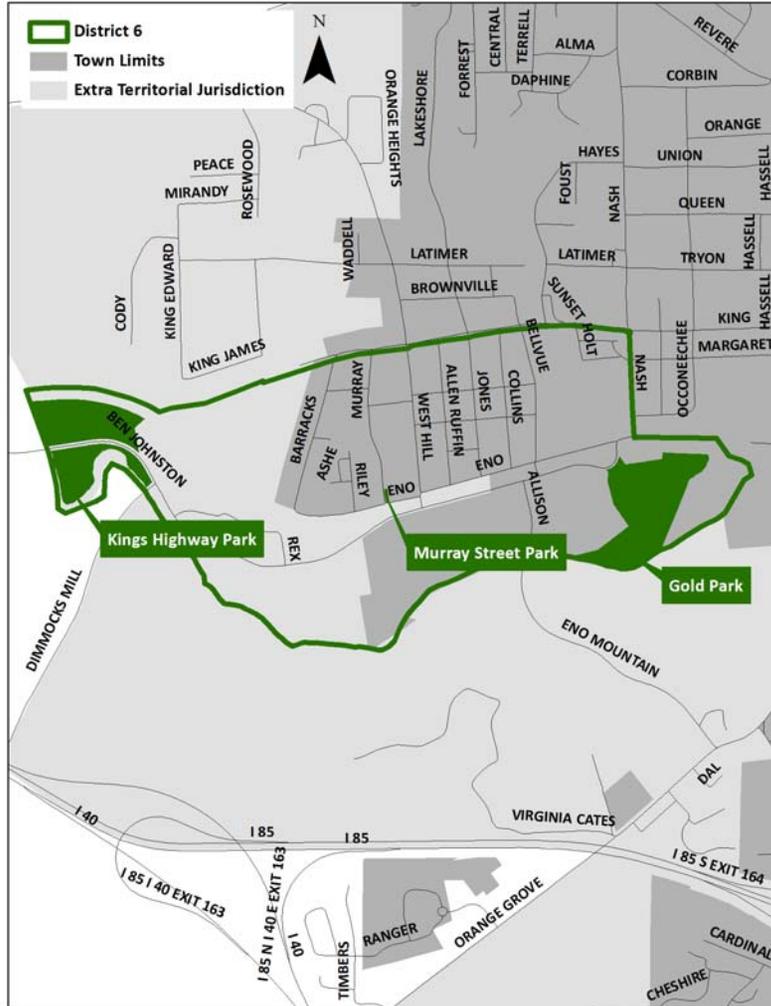
Existing Recreation Opportunities: Old Oxford Highway, Eno River
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the schools in this district.
3. Promote the use of Poet's Walk at Ayr Mount Historic Site for public recreation.
4. Promote the use of the Town Hall grounds for public recreation.
5. Investigate opportunities to add neighborhood parks to this district.
6. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 6:



Boundaries:

North: West King Street
South: Railroad/Eno River
East: South Nash Street
West: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 308

Estimated Population: 694

Land Area: 332 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Murray Street Park, Kings Highway Park

Existing Private Recreation Resources: none

Existing Recreation Opportunities: railroad right-of-way

Proposed Recreation Resources: Gold Park, Riverwalk

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Investigate opportunity to install a pedestrian trail from the end of West King Street to Kings Highway Park.
3. Maintain and promote the use of Murray Street Park for public recreation.
4. Construct, maintain and promote the use of Gold Park for public recreation.
5. Construct, maintain and promote the use of Riverwalk for public recreation.
6. Promote the use of the east-west connector, which is a public walking easement, within the Bellevue Mill redevelopment site for public recreation.
7. Promote the use of the north-south walking path, along the sewer easement, within the Bellevue Mill redevelopment site for public recreation.
8. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 7:



Boundaries:

- North: West Corbin Street/Revere Road
- South: Eno River
- East: Churton Street
- West: Nash Street

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 342

Estimated Population: 771

Land Area: 256 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Turnip Patch Park, Hillsborough Elementary School (limited access), Central Recreation Center, Orange County Public Library, Margaret Lane Cemetery, Old Town Cemetery, Orange County Historical Museum, Preservation Fund of Hillsborough lot (Wake Street at Eno River)

Existing Private Recreation Resources: none

Existing Recreation Opportunities: Eno River

Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the schools in this district.
3. Maintain and promote the use of Turnip Patch Park for public recreation.
4. Construct, maintain and promote the use of Riverwalk for public recreation.
5. Promote the use of Central Recreation Center for public recreation.
6. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 8:



Boundaries:

North: Tryon Street
South: Railroad
East: Cameron Street
West: Wake Street

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 50

Estimated Population: 113

Land Area: 63 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Old Orange County Courthouse, River Park, Mayo Park

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Dickson House

Existing Recreation Opportunities: none

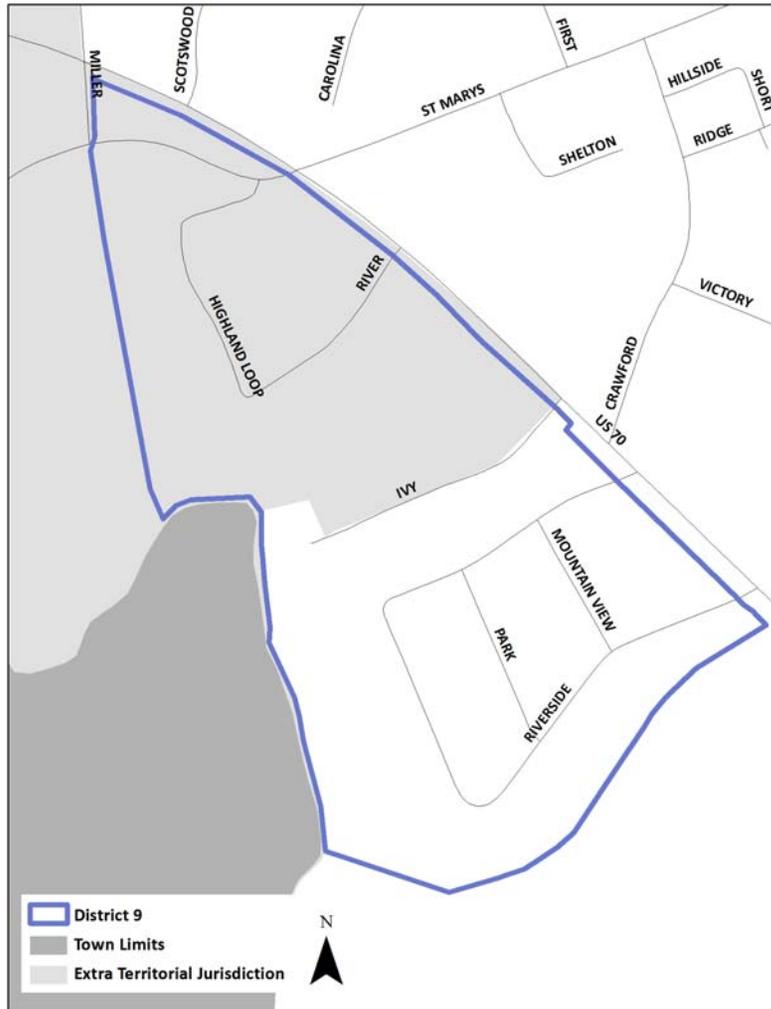
Proposed Recreation Resources: Riverwalk

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Maintain and promote the use of Mayo Park for public recreation.
3. Construct, maintain and promote the use of Riverwalk for public recreation.
4. Provide convenient public access to Riverwalk.
5. Promote the use of River Park for public recreation.
6. Investigate opportunities to preserve the Nash Mill site and promote its use for public recreation.
7. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 9:



Boundaries:

North: St. Mary's Road

South: Eno River

East: U.S. 70 west

West: Eno River

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 133

Estimated Population: 300

Land Area: 145 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: none

Existing Private Recreation Resources: none

Existing Recreation Opportunities: Eno River

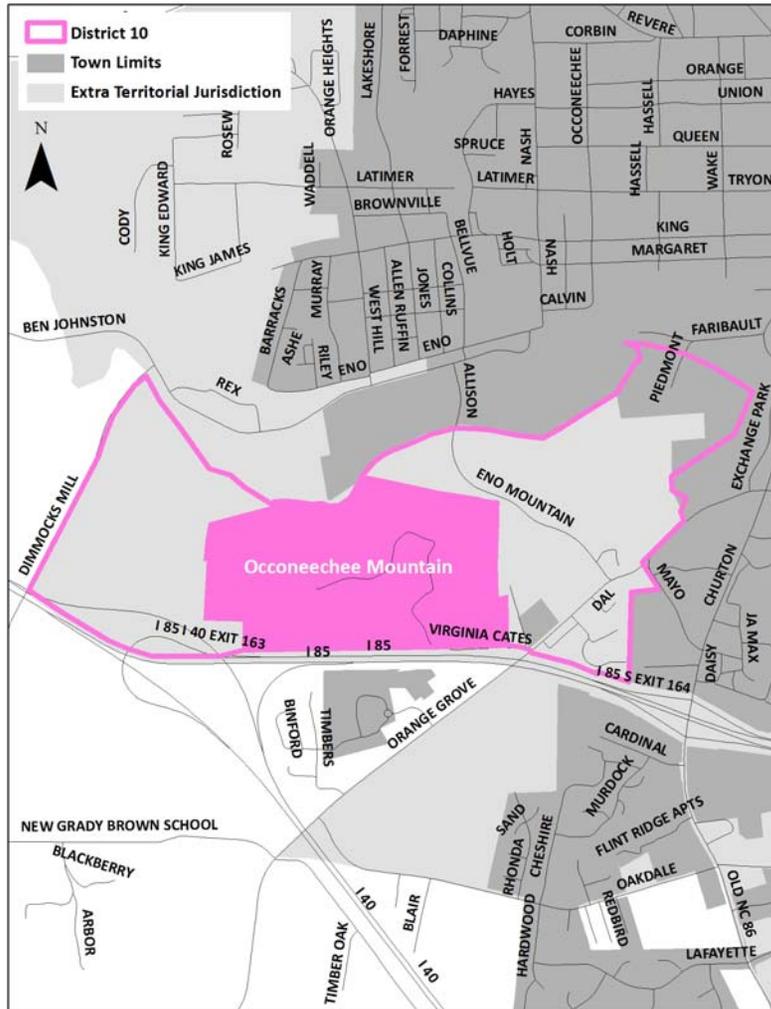
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. If the Elizabeth Brady Road Bypass is built, provide wide outside lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road.
3. If Elizabeth Brady Road Bypass is built, secure passage under any bridges for the Mountains to Sea trail.
4. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 10:



Boundaries:

- North: Eno River
- South: Interstate 85
- East: Orange Grove Road
- West: Dimmocks Mill Road

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 230

Estimated Population: 518

Land Area: 622

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area

Existing Private Recreation Resources: none

Existing Recreation Opportunities: Eno River

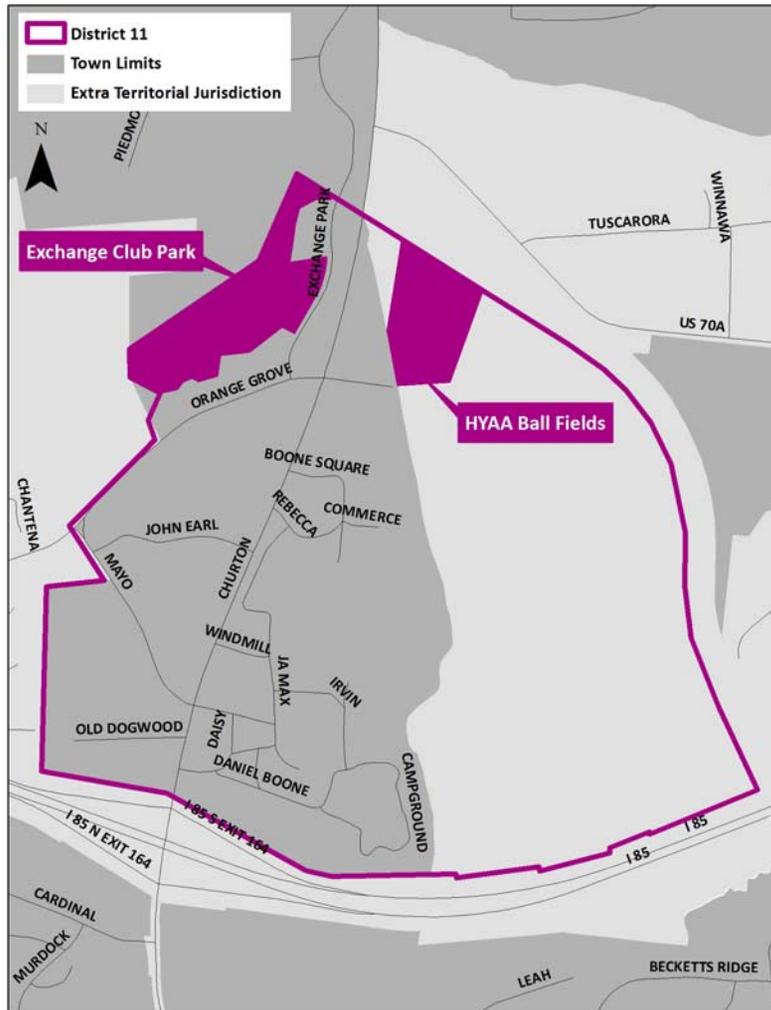
Proposed Recreation Resources: Riverwalk

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Construct, maintain and promote the use of Riverwalk for public recreation.
3. Provide convenient public access to Riverwalk.
4. Promote the use of Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area for public recreation.
5. Investigate opportunities for pedestrian access to Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area from Kings Highway Park and Riverwalk.
6. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 11:



Boundaries:

North: Railroad
South: Interstate 85
East: Railroad
West: Orange Grove Road

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 33

Estimated Population: 74

Land Area: 333 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: none

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Exchange Club Park, HYAA Ball Fields

Existing Recreation Opportunities: none

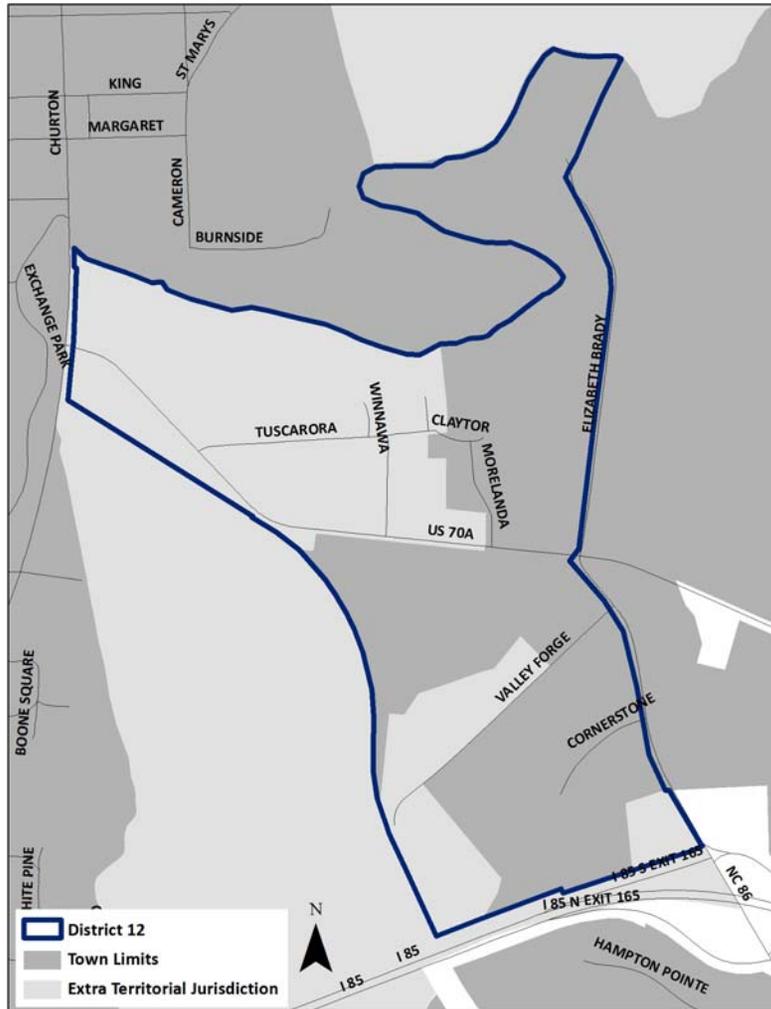
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Find a new location for the HYAA ball fields.
3. Promote the use of Exchange Club Park for public recreation.
4. Promote the preservation of historic road beds for public recreation.
5. Investigate opportunities for public recreational use of Dark Walk.
6. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access from new developments to downtown Hillsborough.
7. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 12:



Boundaries:

North: Eno River
South: Interstate 85
East: Elizabeth Brady Road
West: Railroad

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 64

Estimated Population: 144

Land Area: 279 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: none

Existing Private Recreation Resources: none

Existing Recreation Opportunities: Eno River

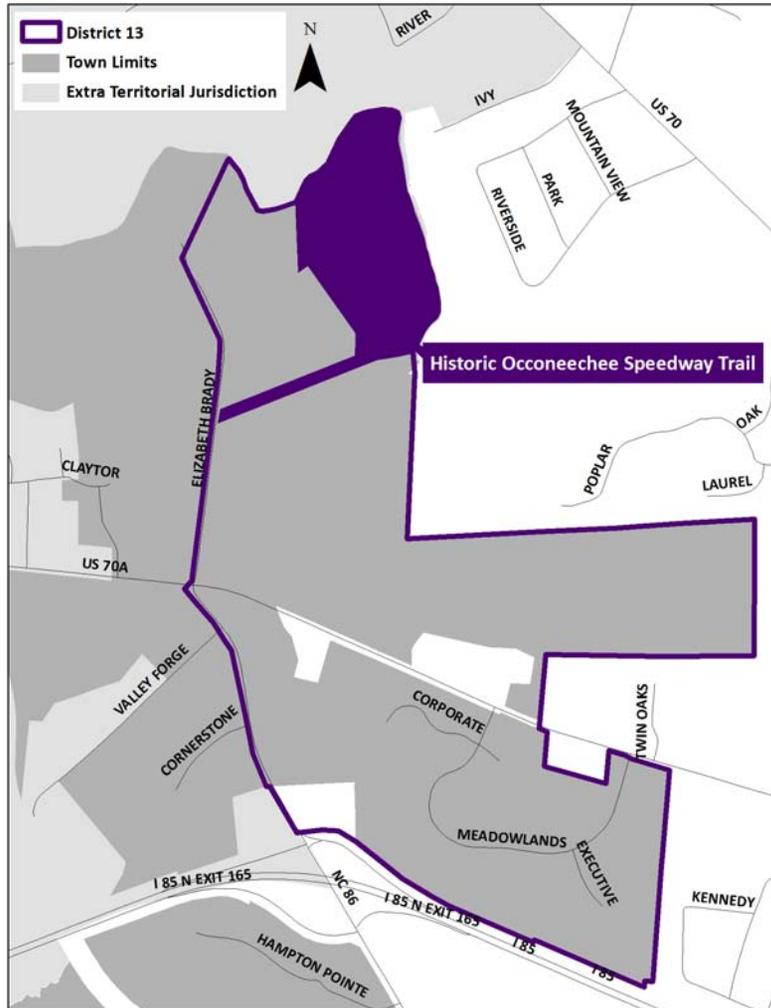
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access from new developments to downtown Hillsborough.
3. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chapter 3: Recommendations for Recreation in Hillsborough

Park District 13:



Boundaries:

North: Eno River
South: Interstate 85
East: Town Limits
West: Elizabeth Brady Road

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 88

Estimated Population: 198

Land Area: 375 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Triangle SportsPlex

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Oconeechee Speedway

Existing Recreation Opportunities: none

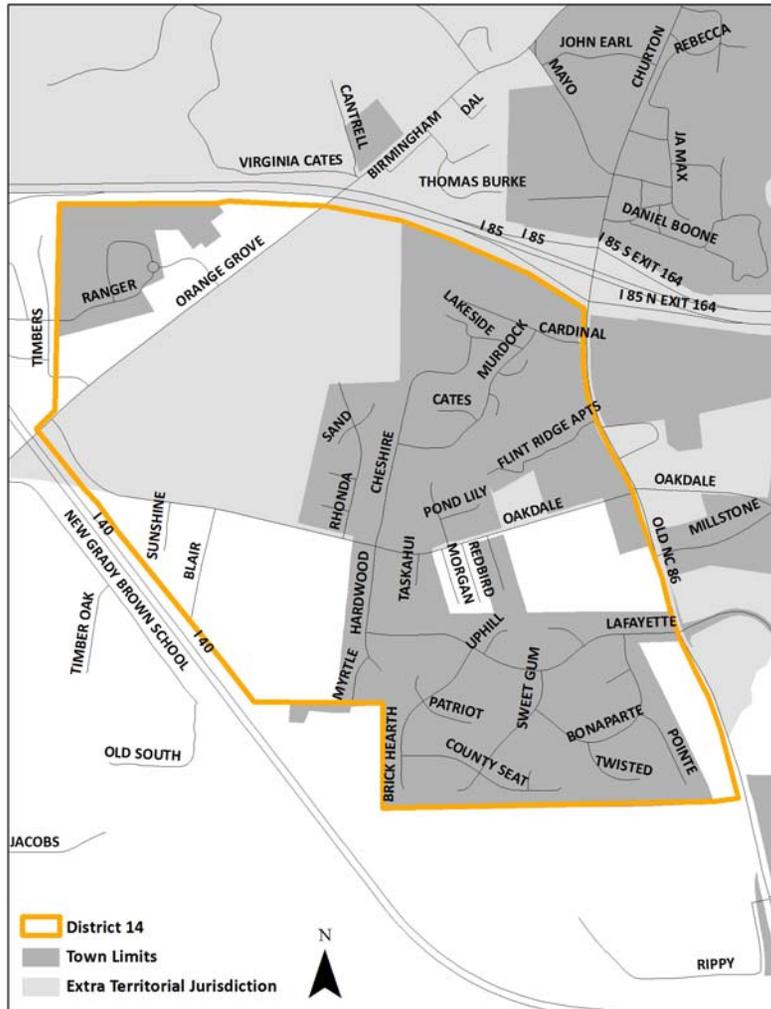
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Construct, maintain and promote the use of Riverwalk for public recreation.
3. Investigate the feasibility of constructing a greenway along Cates Creek from Historic Oconeechee Speedway Trail to Waterstone Community Park.
4. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 14:



Boundaries:

- North: Interstate 85
- South: Town Limits
- East: Old N.C. 86
- West: Interstate 40 / Timbers Street

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 1,119

Estimated Population: 2,521

Land Area: 528 acres

Existing Public Recreation Resources: Grady Brown Elementary School (limited access)

Existing Private Recreation Resources: Cornwallis Hills subdivision open area, Oakdale Mobile Home Park pool

Existing Recreation Opportunities: McDonald's Playland

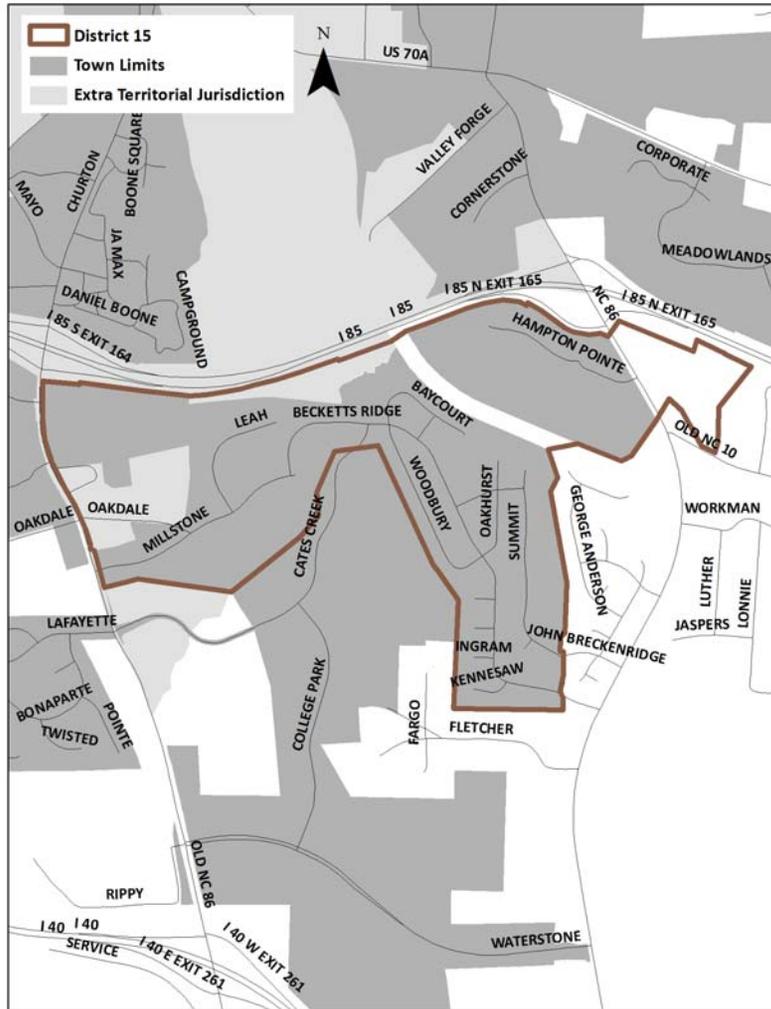
Proposed Recreation Resources: none

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access from new developments to downtown Hillsborough.
3. Support the use of Cornwallis Hills open area as a community garden.
4. Provide better public recreation resources.
5. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 15:



Boundaries:

North: Interstate 85

South: Cates Creek Parkway / Waterstone

East: N.C. 86

West: Old N.C. 86

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 296

Estimated Population: 667

Land Area: 371

Existing Public Recreation Resources:

Existing Private Recreation Resources: 3 tot lots in neighborhood developments

Existing Recreation Opportunities:

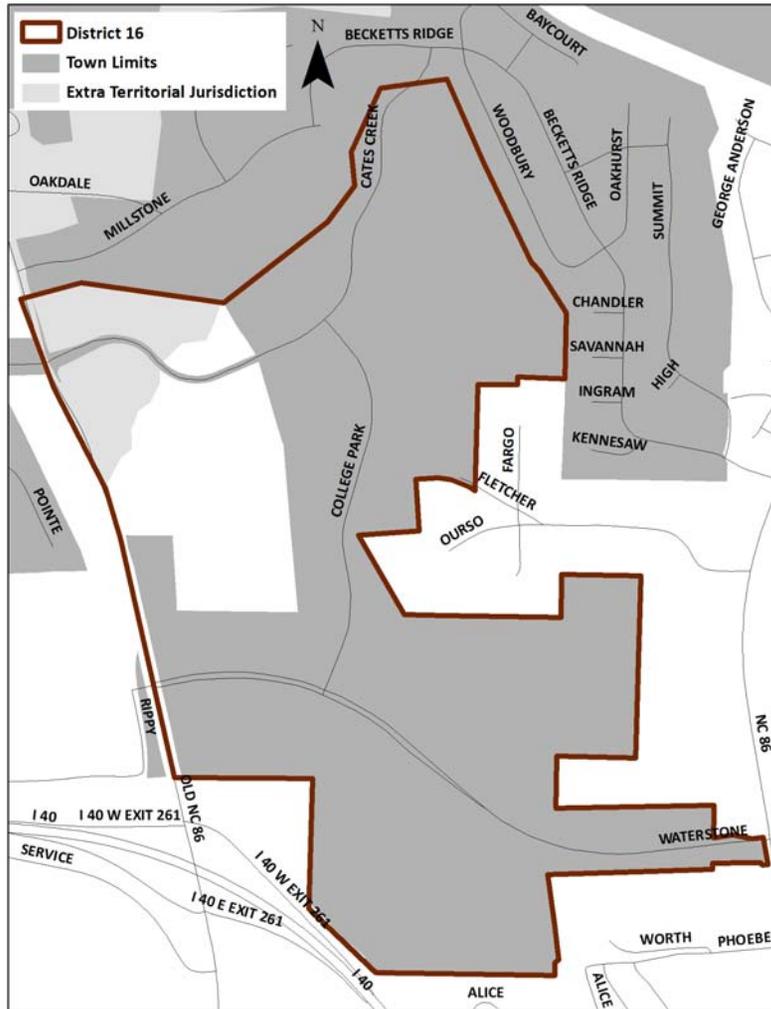
Proposed Recreation Resources:

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Investigate the feasibility of constructing a greenway along Cates Creek from Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail to Cates Creek Park.
3. Promote the preservation of historic road beds for public recreation.
4. Investigate the feasibility of providing walking easements along existing sewer easements.
5. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board.

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Park District 16:



Boundaries:

- North: Cates Creek Park
- South: Town Limits
- East: Back of Beckett's Ridge/Town Limits
- West: Old N.C. 86

Estimated Number of Dwelling Units: 5 (pre-Waterstone)

Estimated Population: 11 (pre-Waterstone)

Land Area: 410

Existing Public Recreation Resources: none

Existing Private Recreation Resources: none

Existing Recreation Opportunities: none

Proposed Recreation Resources: Cates Creek Park, Cates Creek Greenway

Recommendations:

1. Provide internal and external pedestrian connectivity.
2. Investigate the feasibility of constructing a greenway along Cates Creek from Historic Occaneechee Speedway Trail to Waterstone Community Park.
3. Promote the preservation of historic road beds for public recreation.
4. Investigate the feasibility of providing walking easements along existing sewer easements.
5. Investigate the opportunity of enhancing the beaver pond in Waterstone for use as public recreation.
6. Seek representation from the district on the Parks and Recreation Board

