

Town of Blowing Rock

Request for Council Action

FROM: Jennifer Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation
SUBJECT: Parks & Recreation Master Plan
TO: Town Council
DATE: November 13, 2018
REQUESTED BY: Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation

Public Hearing Yes No Not required NA
Properly Advertised Yes No Not required NA

BACKGROUND:

In 2004 McGill and Associates and the Parks & Recreation Director, Jamie Saitta, created a Comprehensive Master Plan for Parks & Recreation. During the January 11, 2005 Town meeting the Master Plan was adopted.

Our Master Plan is now thirteen years old and there have been a lot of changes that has occurred in the past thirteen years. We would like to apply for grants to help with costs on all the needs of Parks & Recreation and by having our Master Plan updated, it can help our success rate at receiving the grants.

McGill and Associates along with our Recreation Oversight Group that was approved during the May 15, 2018 Town Council meeting, have worked on updating the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. McGill set up during two events to get feedback and take a survey on what people would like to see in Blowing Rock. McGill also created an online survey that was sent out by email, Facebook, put on the Town's website, and gave out cards with the link to take the survey. We also held a joint meeting with McGill, Town Council, and the Recreation Oversight Group to discuss the draft plan.

After several months of meetings and surveys you have before you the final draft plan for your approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Blowing Rock Master Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that Town Council adopt the updated Blowing Rock Master Plan.

2018

Comprehensive System-wide



Parks & Recreation

Master Plan

Town of Blowing Rock

NORTH CAROLINA





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Town of Blowing Rock wishes to express its sincere appreciation to those entities and individuals, who, in any way, contributed to the creation of the Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan, some of which are identified below. Without the knowledge and expertise of these persons, in both individual, and team settings, this document would not be possible.

Blowing Rock Town Council

Charlie Sellers – Mayor
Albert Yount – Mayor Pro-Tem
Doug Matheson – Councilman
Virginia Powell - Councilwoman
Jim Steele – Councilman
Sue Sweeting – Councilwoman

Blowing Rock Recreation Oversight Group

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FISHING



NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS



NATURAL FOUNTAIN



TRAIL BIKE



PUBLIC ART CLASSES



OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS



PLAYGROUND



CLASSROOM



BENCH



COMMUNITY GARDEN



BIKE PUMP COURSE



ADVENTURE COURSE



PAVILION



COMMUNITY GARDEN



NON-PROGRAMMED OPEN SPACE



TRADITIONAL GAME COURT



INTERACTIVE





SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSES AND GOALS

The Town of Blowing Rock provides public recreation to its citizens as a means of supporting a high quality of life. Studies have shown that ‘quality of life’ issues are very important to residents and visitors. Lively programs and events can also have a major impact on community economic development.

The Town recognizes the importance of *planning* as a means of improving recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors. As a result, the Blowing Rock Town Council hired McGill Associates to assist with the creation of an updated 10-year Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan – to include all existing and future park facilities and grounds.

The Town of Blowing Rock’s Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan 2018-2028 provides the framework for guiding The Town of Blowing Rock Council and Staff. The framework for this Master Plan is based upon conducting an inventory of the existing park system, recording site observations, and public comments made at community meetings. The assessment of the existing park facilities, or lack of facilities, will identify the immediate facility needs in the community and predict the future needs of residents.

Another purpose of the Master Plan is to analyze and recommend the addition or renovation of parks, programs, and recreational facilities. Not only does this document include recommendations, but it also prioritizes certain projects, such as recommended park upgrades, or possible expansion, taking into consideration the identification of user population and the development of recreation standards.





The Master Plan is action-oriented and will provide The Town of Blowing Rock with a practical guide for the enhancement of its facilities and programs for the next ten years.

In preparing the Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan, the Town Council of Blowing Rock appointed a Recreational Oversight Group (ROG) who guided McGill Associate's team in the development of the public survey and Plan goals and recommendations. A key objective in the development of the Master Plan was the solicitation of community input, thereby identifying additional needs for Town residents, such as renovation, construction, property acquisition, development, and operational policies, for both now and in the future. Community input, along with the comparison to state and national standards are the initial steps in the Master Plan process.

State and National Standards were used as a guide to support the recommendations made for the Town of Blowing Rock recreation facilities. Using these standard guidelines, McGill Associates, P.A. developed a plan which applied specifically to the resident and non-resident users of the Town's recreation facilities.

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

Of utmost importance, the Master Plan is intended to maintain the type of venue in the Town of Blowing Rock that fosters community spirit, activism, and bonding between local citizens.

The study of the demographic profile of Town residents' is a key factor in making specific and accurate recommendations.

Not only does the Master Plan make recommendations for a ten-year period (2018-2028), but it also suggests the means by which the identified objectives might be achieved. Opportunities for grants, partnerships, and outside funding are recommended as aids in the establishment of a Capital Improvement Plan and an operating budget.

The Master Plan focuses on providing the Town of Blowing Rock with an accurate, usable guide for decision-making as the Town begins to implement projects, such as:

- Renovating existing facilities currently owned by the Town of Blowing Rock.
- Exploring the possibilities for developing new facilities.
- Developing facilities and programming for future parks and greenways



The Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan is divided into six major component sections:

- Section 1 - Introduction
- Section 2 – Population Trends and Projections
- Section 3 – Existing Park Facilities
- Section 4 – Recreation Needs Assessment
- Section 5 – Goals and Recommendations
- Section 6 – Implementation Plan

1.2 TOWN HISTORY

The land where the Town of Blowing Rock currently exists was home to the Cherokee and Catawba native American tribes. These warring tribes gave rise to the story of “The Blowing Rock”. In 1752, a Moravian Bishop, August Gottlieb Spangenberg, came to visit the windy cliffs located in the heart of the High Country.



After the mid-eighteenth century the Scotch-Irish began to settle in the Appalachian range and the mountain passes between southern Virginia and Kentucky attracted colonists, farmers, hunters, and trappers. The settlers continued to move south throughout the mountain region and into North Carolina. The first family to settle near “The Blowing Rock” in the mid 1800’s were the Greenes. Their settlement would eventually become the Green Park Hotel. Other families to follow the Greenes included the Hayes, Coffey, Bolick, Estes, and Storie families.

During this time of early settlement, people from nearby Lenoir would come during the summer months to enjoy the cool fresh air, beautiful mountain views, and the wonders of nature. More people began to visit Blowing Rock as word traveled south and the merits of Blowing Rock became more widespread. At first, visitors to the area were camping, but as time passed the Hayes and Martin Houses became boarding houses to the many people that began to flock to the area. To accommodate the summer visitors the Watauga Hotel, the Green Park Hotel, and the Blowing Tock Hotel, as well as many other homes that were converted to hotels, became popular amenities.

Many Civil War soldiers, who sent their wives and children to the mountains for refuge, began to permanently settle after the war was over. On March 11, 1889 “Uncle Joe Clarke” became the first mayor of the newly chartered and



incorporated Town of Blowing Rock. It was home to a permanent population of just over 300 people.

As residents sought to improve the tourist economy and meet the visitors' needs for cleaner, better streets, roads began to be paved. An ordinance was also passed that required livestock to be fenced in. This was due to farm animals wandering into town while looking for readily available food.

The introduction of the automobile and improved roads further solidified Blowing Rock as being one of the premier destination communities. People came from as far away as Florida to enjoy the finest offerings in lodging, food, and entertainment. This attractive tourist destination became known as the "Crown of the Blue Ridge". It continues today to be a top destination for visitors to enjoy the cool climate, magnificent views, year-round activities, and some of the finest accommodations, restaurants, and shopping in the High Country.

1.3 LOCAL SETTING

Known as the "Crown of the Blue Ridge", Blowing Rock is located on the Eastern Continental Divide in North Carolina's High Country at nearly 4,000 feet in elevation. Located in portions of both Caldwell County and Watauga County in Western North Carolina, it is approximately 18 miles to the north of Lenoir - Caldwell County's Government Seat, and approximately 8 miles to the south of Boone - Watauga County's Government Seat. Connecting Blowing Rock to the region are US Highways 321 and 221. The Town is also located adjacent to the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, which attracts visitors and provides additional recreational amenities for residents and tourists of the area. Over its history, the town has been a popular tourism destination and second home getaway for residents of the nearby Charlotte and Piedmont Triad metropolitan areas and throughout the Southeast. Blowing Rock is in the heart of a region filled with outdoor recreational opportunities and breathtaking scenery that embodies the well-known characteristics of the western North Carolina appeal and charm.

As of the 2016 U.S Census ACS 5-year estimate, Blowing Rock is home to 1,213 permanent residents. During the Fall and Summer vacation seasons, the local population increases to 10 times that size, with the peak summertime population reaching approximately 9,000.

The town is a popular destination for vacationers who come to enjoy the Appalachian Mountains and the unique history and culture of the area. Visitors enjoy the natural scenic views, outdoor activities like hiking and fishing, and driving the Blue Ridge Parkway. Visitors normally are comprised of families who come for week long stays often renting a cottage or come for the weekend and stay in short term rentals. Others may have second homes in Town.



- END OF SECTION -

Come Share With Us

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK





SECTION 2 POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information for the Town of Blowing Rock has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community. It also serves as a tool to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning age and gender are important factors in determining the needs for recreation in the community. The table (below) contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Blowing Rock, as ascertained by the 2016 US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
SEX		
Male	554	45.7%
Female	659	54.3%
Total:	1,213	100%
AGE		
Under 5 years	17	1.4%
5 to 9 years	57	4.7%
10 to 14 years	45	3.7%
15 to 19 years	30	2.5%
20 to 24 years	54	4.5%
25 to 34 years	86	7.1%
35 to 44 years	123	10.1%
45 to 54 years	120	9.9%
55 to 59 years	74	6.1%
60 to 64 years	115	9.5%
65 to 74 years	281	23.2%
75 to 84 years	164	13.5%
85 years and over	47	3.9%
Total:	1,213	100%



RACE		
White	1,166	96.1%
Black or African American	23	1.9%
Hispanic	9	0.7%
One Race: Other	1,200	98.9%
Two or More Races	13	1.1%
American Indian/Alaskan	4	0.3%
Asian	7	0.6%
Total:	1,213	100%

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: FactFinder.census.gov

A decline in population occurred during the early 2000's, a possible reflection of the economic downturn that occurred in 2008-2010. However, since that time there has been an increase in population – a trend that is likely to continue as more and more individuals are attracted to the mountain lifestyle and the opportunities that it provides. When planning recreation, it is important to consider the impact of vacationers, visitors, and temporary residents visiting the community on a seasonal basis. Typically, the seasonal population has the greatest impact on services and resources from the end of May to the beginning of November.

Populations in mountain municipalities can vary throughout a given year. Determining how the seasonal population impacts a town can be difficult due to the range of factors that must be considered in estimating the peak population. In addition, population (year-round) figures established by the NC state demographer and the US Census Bureau do not account for the seasonal population. This requires figures to be estimated based upon best available data. According to the Chamber of Commerce, the approximate estimated seasonal population grows to around 9,000+. While the permanent residents of the Town of Blowing Rock are the key members to plan for, it is also important to understand that the seasonal population plays a big role in how the park facilities are used and any necessary recommendations must account for this large group of people.



2.2 TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population Projections

Much like seasonal and peak population estimates, population projections can vary widely due to intervening factors such as the strength of the economy, availability of jobs, and housing prices. Population projections identify potential challenges and needs that may confront the community in the future.

County population projections are provided by the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (NCOSBM); however, municipal population projections are not, thus requiring, a third-party estimate of the projection. The State Demographer's population growth estimate for Watauga County indicates population increase will mostly occur from migration into the county, while natural growth from births will have a minor change in the county's population growth. It is also assumed that this trend of a majority in migration growth and minority in natural population growth will be the same for Blowing Rock.

According to the North Carolina Economic Development Partnership, in 2022 the permanent population of Blowing Rock is projected to be 1,394 people. This is an increase of about 181 people or 14.92%. Whereas in 2028, the permanent population is expected to be 1,575 people. While this is not a significant increase in full time population, the seasonal population could increase dramatically. The Chamber of Commerce claimed that seasonal population is approximately 8 to 10 times that of the full-time population. If this holds true, then projected seasonal population could increase to around 12,000 people. This is a significant increase from the current approximation of 9,000.

2.3 POPULATION TRENDS

According to the North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2009-2013, senior citizens and children comprise two of the largest age groups. The senior population is expected to have significant impacts throughout society because of income levels, population, and unique needs. Since the senior population of Blowing Rock is significantly higher than either the state or national averages, the proposed Parks and Recreation Department will have to develop a strategy for dealing with the needs of this growing segment of the population.

In addition, the SCORP mentioned that the number of children between the ages of 5 and 14 will continue to increase. This phenomenon is known as the 'eco-boom'; the parents of these children have delayed childbirth until a later age to concentrate on their careers. This growing segment of our society is a significant user of recreational programming and facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department will have to increase the number and type of activities and facilities to effectively serve this population, both now, and in the future.



More youth and adults are seeking active lifestyles as part of their daily routines

The Town of Blowing Rock’s vision statement made in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan shows the desire to provide the best amenities for both its local residents and visitors to the area. It states as follows:

“The shared vision for the future of the Town of Blowing Rock is one of a vibrant mountain resort community that welcomes all with its charming authenticity and unique sense of place. As the premier destination for visitors to North Carolina’s High Country, Blowing Rock will provide abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation, shopping, dining, lodging and entertainment in a memorable setting that cannot be replicated elsewhere. With a focus on maintaining its rustic authenticity, the community will continue to exemplify the western North Carolina vernacular through its architecture, its culture and by preserving and protecting the natural beauty of the mountain landscape. As a full-service community, residents and visitors will continue to enjoy high-quality services and amenities that make the Town a desirable place to live or visit year-round. Moving toward this vision, the community will embrace change while remaining vigilant to ensure that the Town’s unique character and quality of life are not compromised.”

When we couple the Outdoor Recreation Plan’s remarks with the town of Blowing Rock’s vision statement the need for recreation services for the Town of Blowing Rock’s residents becomes clear. To meet the demands of residents and visitors, the Town’s Parks and Recreation and Landscaping Department will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities, as well as offer more types of recreational programs as the population changes.

- END OF SECTION -



SECTION 3 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1 FACILITY INVENTORY



The Town of Blowing Rock is surrounded by recreational opportunities. To fully understand the depth of these opportunities this section will look at all the facilities offered. These recreational facilities derive from many different sources, including the following:

- Town owned parks and other recreational facilities
- Privately owned facilities
- National Forests and Parks
- State Parks
- County owned facilities
- Other local municipalities
- Schools
- Non-profit organizations

A brief analysis of Blowing Rock recreation facilities was performed, noting any visible improvements needed for that facility. The necessary improvements to existing facilities can be found in Section 5. This method of study served as a



guide for the Town of Blowing Rock in its efforts to develop a plan for present and future needs.

The Town of Blowing Rock full-time/part-time residents and visitors have many of their recreation needs met through a variety of facility offerings owned by the Town. In addition to the facilities owned by the Town, the National Park Service is a tremendous asset – providing numerous resources to the Town’s immediate area.

Watauga County school recreation facilities are made available for use by the public. Watauga County’s eight public elementary schools (geographically distributed throughout the county) and one high school have recreation facilities typical of most schools: playgrounds, baseball/softball field, gymnasium, etc.

The North Carolina Community Schools Act (G.S. 115C Art 13) was passed to allow “greater community use of public school facilities.” The Watauga County Board of Education policy for these school facilities states that the Board “shall make school facilities available for use by local community groups and organizations when such use does not interfere with the instructional program of the schools.” The policy prioritizes use (other than by the school itself) as follows: 1) school affiliated groups; 2) Watauga County Parks & Recreation; 3) other non-profit use. Private resources are also available in the area.

Recreation Facilities Owned and Operated by the Town of Blowing Rock

Memorial Park

Memorial Park is located on Main Street in the center of Downtown Blowing Rock. This park not only serves as a center for various recreational activities but is also one of the Town’s most accessible amenities for citizens and visitors. Downtown shoppers can relax on one of the park benches, picnic tables, or in the gazebo. In addition, the park offers two tennis courts, two basketball courts, a volleyball court, pickleball, and two horseshoe pits. Playground equipment, including swings, a children’s rock climbing wall, and two multi-purpose playground components, are also a part of Memorial Park. The park also has a Veterans Memorial dedicated to those that served in the armed forces.





Broyhill Park

The recreation at Broyhill Park is predominately passive in nature with Mayview Lake serving as the central focal point. Walking trails with benches surround the park and allow users to leisurely walk around the lake and view the lush landscaping. A gazebo and observation deck are located adjacent to the lake - offering users an area to enjoy small concerts, other events, fishing, or simply viewing the park. A memorial dedicated to J.E. Broyhill is centrally located in the park. The Rufus Hallmark Memorial, dedicated to the former mayor of Blowing Rock Rufus Hallmark, is also located at the park.



Davant Field

Davant Field is the only facility in the Town of Blowing Rock with an athletic field. The field is primarily used for youth baseball, soccer, and football. The complex also has a maintenance building, restroom facility, and the Rotary Pavilion which is used for picnics, meeting area, and an observation platform. A paved walking trail surrounds the park and another walking trail connects Davant Field to the adjacent Broyhill Park.



Robbin's Pool at Broyhill Park (Grover C. Robbin's Memorial Pool)

Robbins Memorial pool, located adjacent to Broyhill Park, provides the community with an outdoor, heated swimming pool. It is the only outdoor public pool facility in Watauga County. The facility includes a large multi-use pool and a small wading pool. There is also a building that provides refreshments and concessions to users. This complex also provides an area for showering, changing, and restrooms. Also located on the grounds is a picnic pavilion with a grill and a small playground that is a great space for parties and family gatherings





Annie L. Cannon Memorial Garden

Located across Laurel Lane from Broyhill Park, Annie L. Cannon Memorial Garden offers visitors a variety of ornamental landscaping and a meandering walking path that leads to an observation deck overlooking the garden. The spillway for Mayview Lake creates a scenic waterfall. A small amphitheater offers opportunities for outdoor theater, small concerts, and recreation programming. Some areas of the park were in need of maintenance and repair.



Glen Burney Trail

The Glen Burney Trail is a 1.6-mile nature trail that offers hiking opportunities amongst mature trees and follows the New Year's Creek. The trail begins at the Annie Cannon Gardens and offers residents and visitors an opportunity to observe the natural beauty of the mountain forest. This trail is considered physically strenuous and ends at the base of the scenic Glen Burney Falls and Glen Marie Falls. At the time of this document's writing, the trail bridge was out of service.



Koerschner Memorial Garden

Located on the corner of Laurel Lane and Wallingford Street, the Koerschner Memorial Garden is a passive recreation area. It is dedicated by family members in memory of Bill and Marty Koerschner, who formed the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission. The garden provides a short walking path through ornamental landscaping and a seating area where visitors can sit and relax while enjoying the natural surroundings. The wooden/gravel steps were in need of maintenance.





American Legion Building

Located behind Memorial Park, the American Legion Building is available for rental purposes to the community for large group gatherings. It has a large open room that is perfect for parties, weddings, and meetings. There is a full-service kitchen on site for food prep and rearming. A large deck on the back of the building overlooks Broyhill Park and the lake.



Blowing Rock Clubhouse

The Blowing Rock Clubhouse is located beside Robbins Memorial Pool. It is perfect for smaller gatherings. It contains an open room, a full-service kitchen, and a restroom.



Blowing Rock Recreation Center

The recreation center is located adjacent to Town Hall. The center offers an open indoor facility great for meetings, receptions, youth activities and parties. It is a popular space for summer camps and other various events for community members. At the time of this document's writing the Recreation Department was working to update the Recreation Center offerings and opportunities to accommodate additional space for indoor activities, including the possibility of a fitness area with equipment.



Private Facilities Near Blowing Rock

The Blowing Rock

432 The Rock Rd.,
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum

159 Chestnut St.
Blowing Rock, NC 28605



Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve

1500 Laurel Ln.
Blowing rock, NC 28605

Chetola Resort - Highlands Sports and Recreation Center

185 Chetola Lake Drive
PO Box 17
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Gossip Park (Lot adjacent to US Post Office)

977 Main St.
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Appalachian Ski Mountain

940 Ski Mountain Road
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Sugar Mountain Resort

1009 Sugar Mountain Dr.
Sugar Mountain, NC 28604

Beech Mountain Ski Resort

1007 Beech Mountain Pkwy.
Beech Mountain, NC 28604

Hawksnest Tubing & Ziplines

2058 Skyland Dr.
Seven Devils, NC 28604

Westglow Resort & Spa

2845 US 221 Hwy S
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Tweetsie Railroad

300 Tweetsie Railroad Ln
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

High Gravity Adventures Zip Line & Aerial Park

215 Tweetsie Railroad Rd
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Grandfather Mountain

2050 Blowing Rock Highway
Linville, NC 28646



Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park

Hwy 421
Boone, NC 28607

Center 45 Climbing and Fitness

200 Den Mac Dr.
Boone, NC 28607

Sky Valley Zip Tours

634 Sky Ranch Rd
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Local Golf Courses

Blowing Rock Country Club (Private)

200 Country Club Drive,
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Boone Golf Club (Public)

433 Fairway Drive,
Boone, NC 28607

Hound Ears Club (Private)

328 Shulls Mill Road,
Boone, NC 28607

Parks Owned and Operated by Other Government Entities

National Parks

Linn Cove Visitor's Center – Pisgah National Forest

Blue Ridge Parkway, Mile marker 316
Linville Falls, NC 28647

- Visitor's Center
- Trails

Blue Ridge Parkway – Blowing Rock

- Scenic Overlooks
- Historic Areas w/ Interpretive Trails
- Camping
- Fishing
- Hiking



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

Moses H Cone Memorial Park

Blue Ridge Parkway, Mile marker 294
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

- Preserved Historic Home/Visitor's Center
- Trails
- Interpretive Signage

Julian Price Memorial Park

Blue Ridge Parkway, Mile marker 297
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

- 4,300 acres of woodland with a small lake
- 21 miles of trails
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Camping
- Picnic Shelters
- 300 seat amphitheater

State Parks

Elk Knob State Park

5564 Meat Camp Rd.
Todd, NC 28684

- 5,520 ft. peak with observation overlooks
- 5.5 miles of walking/hiking trails
- Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing
- Backcountry Camping
- Picnicking

Grandfather Mountain State Park

9872 Hwy 105 S. Suite #6
Banner Elk, NC 28604

- 2,456 acres of forest in the Appalachian Mountain Rang
- 12 miles of hiking trails
- Backcountry Camping

Mountains-to-Sea Trail

- 1,175 mile cross state hiking trail
- Diverse scenery across the entire state of North Carolina
- Backcountry Camping



Bass Lake

1 Bass Lake Dr.
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

- 1.5 mile trail around the lake
- Fishing
- Restrooms

County Parks

Howard's Knob County Park

604 Howards Knob Rd.
Boone, NC 28607

- Picnic shelters
- Trails and overlooks

Watauga County Parks and Recreation Complex

231 Complex Dr.
Boone, NC 28607

- Community center with fitness center
- Athletic fields
- Picnic shelters
- Indoor swimming pool
- Tot lot playground

Boone Parks

Junaluska City Park

175 Summit St.
Boone, NC 28607

- Picnic shelter
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Basketball courts
- Multi-use field

Daniel Boone Park/Boone Jaycee Park

591 Horn in the W Dr.
Boone, NC 28607

- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Daniel Boone Native Gardens
- Historical context and shows
- Watauga County Farmer's Market
- Amphitheater



North Street Park

567 North St.

Boone, NC 28607

- Playground
- Seating

Clawson-Burnley Park

355 Hunting Hills Ln.

Boone, NC 28607

- Picnic Shelter
- Greenway connection
- Constructed wetlands
- Restrooms

Lee and Vivian Reynolds Greenway

201 Casey Ln.

Boone, NC 28607

- 3 mile paved/gravel trail
- Historical covered bridge

Public Schools near the Town of Blowing Rock

Blowing Rock is part of the Watauga County public school system. The public schools serving Blowing Rock include:

Blowing Rock Elementary School

165 Morris St.

Blowing Rock, NC 285605

- Promenade (1/10th mi. walking path)
- Open Space (0.8 acres)
- Playground
- Gymnasium (multi-purpose)

Watauga High School

300 Go Pioneers Dr.

Boone, NC 28607

- (6) Paved Tennis Courts
- Running Track (1/4 mi.)
- Football field
- Soccer Field (325 ft.)
- (2) baseball/softball fields (320 ft. & 220 ft.)
- Gymnasium (multi-purpose, basketball, volleyball)



Non-Profit Agencies

Blue Ridge Conservancy

Middle Fork Greenway

P.O. Box 568
Boone, NC 28607

- 6.5-mile Greenway-in-progress connecting Blowing Rock to Boone
- Nearly one mile completed and being used from Sterling Creek Park to Tweetsie Railroad
- Access to Middle Fork New River, a hatchery supported trout stream
- Connecting to three County Owned Pocked Parks
- Connecting to Blue Ridge Parkway and Mountains-to-Sea trail

The Middle Fork Greenway is a greenway-in-progress that when finished will be approximately 6.5 miles and will connect to the existing Boone Greenway and downtown Blowing Rock sidewalks. Currently, nearly one mile is completed with another 2.1 miles being prepared for construction. 1.2 miles within the Town of Blowing Rock has been funded which includes a trailhead, pavilion, and parking area. The Middle Fork Greenway is a Blue Ridge Conservancy project in partnership with the Town of Blowing Rock, Town of Boone and Watauga County. The Middle Fork Greenway will be a paved 8-10 ft wide path providing residents and visitors of all ages safe and healthy access to the natural world while protecting the environment and strengthening our local economy.

- END OF SECTION -





Section 4 Recreation Needs Assessment

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The degree of need for parks, recreation, and open space is most directly influenced by the expectations of the Town of Blowing Rock residents, relating strictly to the 'quality of life' to which they aspire. This Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan addresses, as its first priority, the parks and recreation facility needs envisioned by the residents and visitors of the Town of Blowing Rock.

Section 3 of this Master Plan inventories the Town of Blowing Rock's existing park facilities as well as listing the recreation facilities available at local schools, local municipalities, and private recreation facilities near the Town. It also looks at National parks, State parks, and County parks within proximity to Town. This detailed inventory includes the facilities which are available within each park to create a better understanding of the existing recreation opportunities within the Town. The demographic and population trends (found in Section 2 of this Master Plan) provide information needed to understand the expected growth of the Town of Blowing Rock in the future. This Master Plan will be used as a guide for improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Community input and recreation standards were used as the primary method in determining the adequate types and number of park facilities needed for the Town of Blowing Rock. This Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan compares standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), an independent, non-profit professional organization for park/recreation departments nationwide. In 1996, NRPA published a manual entitled, *Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*, which is a widely accepted reference standard for communities.

Standards are guidelines, *not requirements*, for use by communities in estimating the demand for recreation in their given geographic areas. To assure that the Town of Blowing Rock's System-wide Recreation Master Plan contains distinctiveness, yet versatility, input was sought from its integral components: The Recreation Oversight Group, Town of Blowing Rock Staff, Town Council, and citizen representatives.

4.2 TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A comprehensive park system is made up of a variety of park types ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to larger parks with athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers, and open space. The type of park reflects the differing recreational preferences of diverse users. Park models are used as guidelines



for fulfilling the future recreational needs of communities. Not all of these types of parks are the responsibility of the Town government; several agencies (federal, state, county, and other local municipalities) play roles in providing recreational opportunities as well. To further understand the Town's role in providing recreation services to its citizens, it is necessary to understand the elements of a comprehensive park system. These types of parks and recreation facilities may or may not be included in comprehensive park systems and are delineated in the following pages of this section:

- Regional Parks
- District Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Linear Parks/Greenways
- Special Use Facilities
- Open Space

Regional Parks

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



Grandfather Mountain State Park

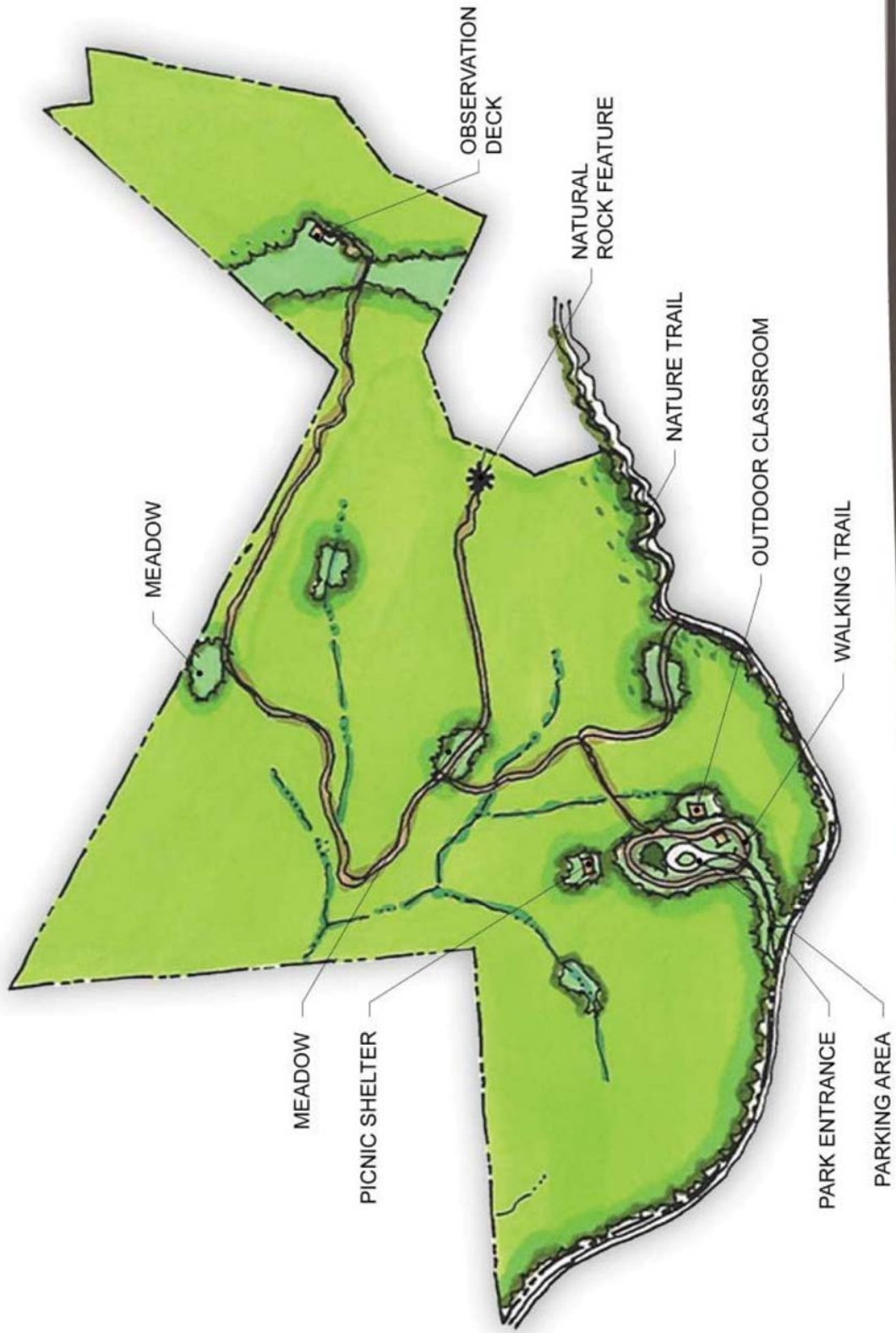
When land is acquired for the development of regional parks (or the expansion of existing sites), the land should be comprised of the previously-mentioned characteristics and, whenever it is possible, accompanied by natural water features such as lakes, rivers, or creeks. The majority of the site should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



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

<u>Service area:</u>	Region-wide
<u>Acreeage/Population Ratio:</u>	10 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Minimum Size:</u>	150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in Community Parks.)
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	
Environmental Center	Caretaker's House
Equestrian Center	Primitive Camping
Group Camping	Recreational Vehicle Camping
Nature Trails	Observation Deck
Picnic Shelters and Grills	Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
Boating	Restrooms/Vending
Parking	Swimming
Fishing Piers/Boat Docks	

See diagram of a regional park on the next page.



TYPICAL REGIONAL PARK

150-1000 ACRES



District Parks

A district park functions as the major source of active recreation for several neighborhoods within a community. District parks are intensely developed, offering a multitude of facilities in order to serve their intended geographic user area. Activities are balanced between active and passive recreation. District Parks are typically developed to accommodate athletic league



Ting Park in Holly Springs, NC

sporting events and tournament competition. Passive recreation opportunities, such as walking for pleasure, wildlife observation, and picnicking are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers. District parks present great opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation.

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

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

Service area: 1 to 2 ½ mile radius

Acreage/Population Ratio: 5 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Range: 75-200 acres

Desirable Size: +100 acres

Typical Facilities:

Playgrounds	Full or Half Size Basketball Courts
Volleyball Courts	Baseball/Softball/Multi-Purpose Field
Soccer/Football Field	Soccer Practice Field (movable goals)
Nature Trail	Picnic Tables with Grill (with/without shelter)
Restrooms/Concessions	Benches or Bench Swings
Parking/Service Yard	50% of Site Remains Undeveloped
	Tennis Courts (lighted)



***Alternate Facilities:**

Tennis Center	Amphitheatre
Observation Decks	Fishing Piers/Boating/Boat Dock
	Recreation Center

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.

See diagram of a district park on the next page.



TYPICAL DISTRICT PARK

75-200 ACRES



Community Parks

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

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



Valle Crucis Community Park



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

- Service area:** 1 to 2-mile radius
 - Acreage/Population Ratio:** 2-5 acres per 1,000 persons
 - Desirable Range:** 15-50 acres
 - Desirable Size:** 25 acres
 - Typical Facilities:**
 - Playgrounds Full Size or Half Size Basketball Courts
 - Swimming Pool Tennis/Volleyball Courts
 - Nature Trails 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
 - Restrooms/Concessions Soccer/Multi-Purpose Fields
 - Baseball/Softball Fields
 - Parking Picnic Tables/Shelter with/without Grills
 - Benches or Bench Swings
 - *Alternate Facilities:**
 - Recreation Center Natural Water Features
 - Disc Golf Amphitheatre
 - Observation Decks
- *Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.

See diagram of a typical community park on the next page.



TYPICAL COMMUNITY PARK

15-50 ACRES



Neighborhood Parks

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



Neighborhood parks serve as gathering places.

Specific standards/criteria for neighborhood parks are as follows:

Service area: ¾ to 1-mile radius to serve walk-in

Acreage/Population Ratio: 2 acres per 1,000 persons

Desirable Size: 7-15 acres

Typical Facilities:

- Softball or Baseball Field
- 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
- Multi-Purpose Field
- Half Basketball Courts
- added or
- Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
- Picnic Shelter with Grill
- Benches or Bench Swings, Playground

***Alternate Facilities:**

- Nature Trails
- Tennis Courts
- *Alternate facilities may be substituted

See diagram of a typical neighborhood park on the next page.





Mini Parks

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



Koerschner Memorial Garden is an example of a mini garden.

Specific standards/criteria for mini parks are as follows:

- Service area:** ¼ to ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding populations
- Acreage/Population Ratio:** 0.5 acres per 1,000 persons
- Desirable Size:** ±1 acre
- Typical Facilities:**
- Half Basketball Courts
 - Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
 - Benches or Bench Swings
 - Open Play Area Playground
- *Alternate Facilities:** *Alternate facilities may be added/substituted.
- Nature Trails
 - Tennis Courts

See diagram of a typical mini park on the next page.



TYPICAL MINI PARK

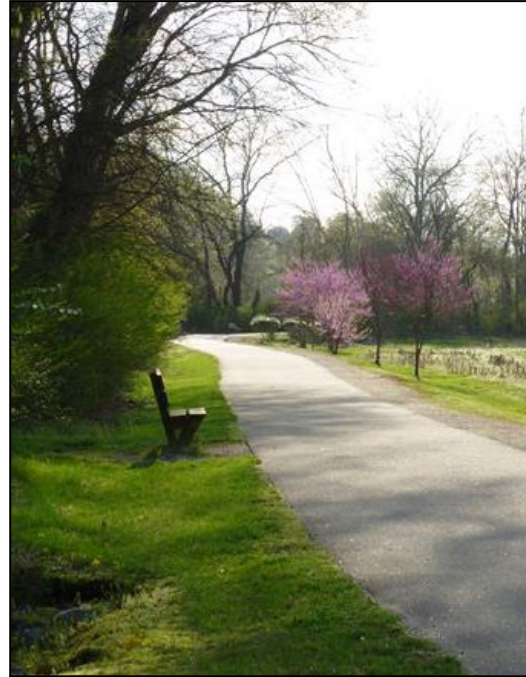


Linear Parks/Greenways

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

- To connect existing recreational facilities
- To facilitate public Right-of-ways
- To connect destination points
- To meet public demand

As such, the length and size of linear parks vary considerably, depending on the terrain of the park land and the distance between entities to be connected—such as parks, schools, homes, businesses, and cultural/historical resources. In some cases, a linear park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with recreation opportunities as a secondary objective. The Glen Burney Trail is an excellent example of a linear park in Blowing Rock. It provides access to nature and a destination at the end with multiple waterfalls.



Yadkin River Greenway Linear Park

Unique or Special Use Facilities

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



Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina



Open Space



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

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

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

While these areas are some of the more common open spaces, many others exist. The Town of Blowing Rock's primary open spaces are the surrounding National Forests, namely the Pisgah National Forest and the Cherokee National Forest.



4.3 PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

Community Involvement

To facilitate community input, two public meetings were conducted during the Master Plan process. These workshops were held at existing community events on May 26th and July 6th. The public meetings, along with the community survey, were advertised by the Town on their website and mass email. These email listings were based on information that the Town currently had for utility purposes. The promotion of the public meeting and survey was also made available through word of mouth by the Recreation Oversight Group and project information cards that were distributed at different locations throughout Blowing Rock. These meetings were conducted so that residents would be able to voice their opinions on the topic of recreation. Approximately 97 participants attended the meetings and provided much-needed feedback.

The community meetings were held at Memorial Park and included mapping and visual preference exercises as well as open dialog and question/answer opportunities. The meetings encouraged attendees to interact and discuss their experiences with the Blowing Rock Recreation system in an open setting that promoted opportunities to share comments, see amenity examples, and ask questions. This is a crucial step to ensure that all who want to are able to be heard, voice their concerns, and receive clarification.

Results of First Meeting - Saturday, May 26, 2018

The first community meeting was held at Blowing Rock's Memorial Day event. Participants engaged in open conversation related to their opinions on the state of the existing recreation system including facilities and programs as well as their concerns and questions. Written notes were used to record participant comments and opinions. A visual preference survey of various park amenities gave participants the opportunity to place a sticker next to the amenities they felt would be





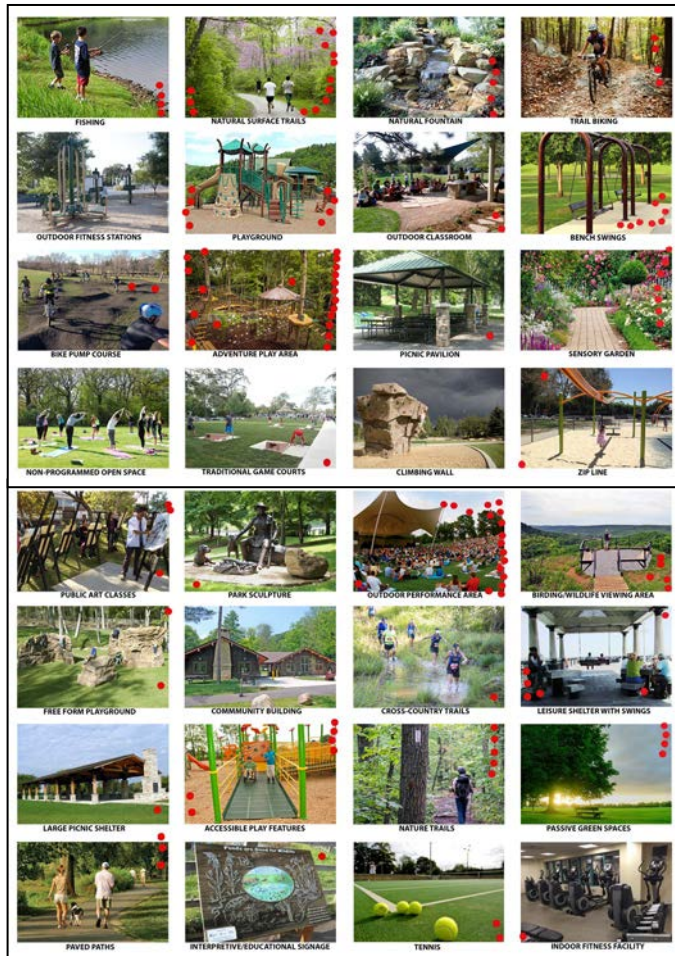
good additions to the town park system. Each participant was limited to two stickers. Two large maps provided participants with the existing locations of each of the Recreation System’s facilities and other destinations such as private facilities and schools. Participants were asked to provide insight into where potential new recreation facilities might be located. These boards gave everyone an opportunity to share their opinions and thoughts to create a list of desired changes to the existing recreation system.

Common concerns that were addressed included:

- The need for an outdoor performance area.
- Desire for adventure type play amenities.
- The incorporation of amenities such as gardens, decorative fountains, and trails.
- Enhancement and maintenance of existing parks.

Community Meeting 1 – Park Facility Preferences

The following is a compilation of preferences as listed by the participants on the images that were presented during the first community meeting. (See Appendix B, Park Facility Preferences). Participants were asked to choose two amenities that they would most like to see offered by Blowing Rock’s Parks and Recreation system. They were each given two red sticker dots and asked to place them next to an image that best correlated with amenities they would like to see. It is clear from the remarks that the participants desire facilities that provide spaces for outdoor festivals and events as well as recreation for families.





Results of Second Meeting - Friday, July 6, 2018

The second community meeting was held at Blowing Rock's Park Dance event. Participants engaged in open conversation related to their opinions on the state of the existing recreation system including facilities and programs as well as their concerns and questions. Written notes were used to record participant comments and opinions. A visual preference survey of various park amenities gave participants the opportunity to place a sticker next to the amenities that they felt would be good additions to the town park. Each participant was limited to two stickers. Two large maps provided participants with the existing locations of each of the Recreation System's facilities and other destinations such as private facilities and schools. Participants were asked to provide insight into where potential new recreation facilities might be located. These boards gave everyone an opportunity to share their opinions and thoughts and help form a list of desired changes to the existing recreation system.

Common concerns that were recorded were similar to the first community meeting and included:

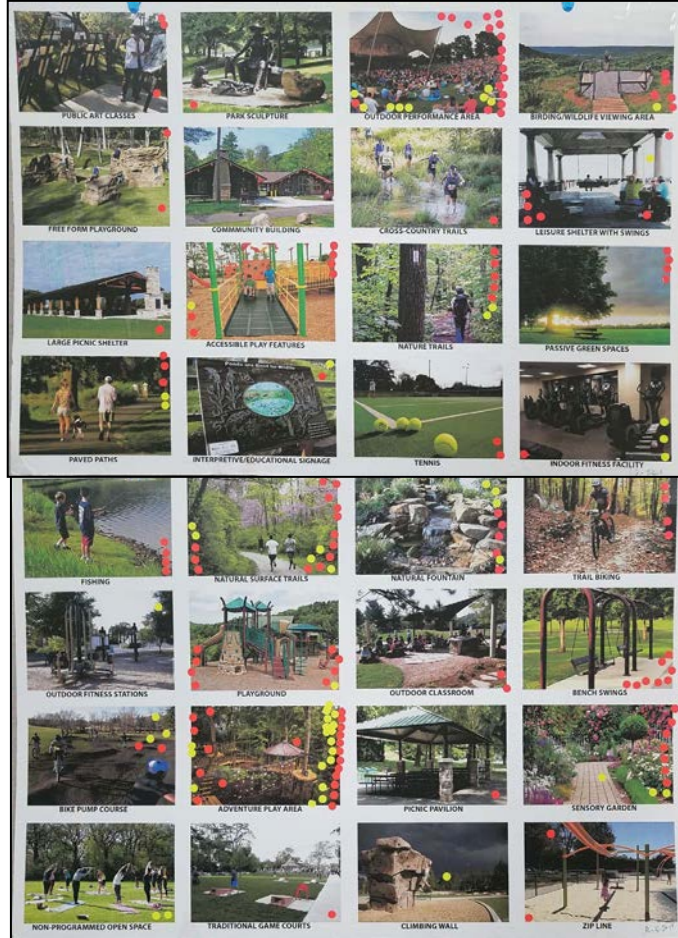
- Desire for adventure type play amenities
- Inclusion of an additional outdoor performance area
- Natural trails and garden features
- Enhancement and maintenance of existing parks





Community Meeting 2 – Park Facility Preferences

The following is a compilation of preferences as listed by the participants on the images that were presented during the first community meeting. (See Appendix B, Park Facility Preferences). Participants were asked to choose two amenities that they would most like to see offered by Blowing Rock’s Parks and Recreation system. They were each given two yellow sticker dots and asked to place them next to an image that best correlated with what they would like to see. The results from the first meeting were shared with participants. It is very clear from the remarks that the participants desire facilities that provide spaces for outdoor performances, adventure type amenities, trails and gardens.



Community Survey

The active participation of residents in the Town of Blowing Rock was crucial in developing a Master Plan that reflects the true needs of the Town. With this in mind, community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. A survey was created as a tool to gather information from the general public concerning the existing and future needs of the Town’s park system. A project marketing card was developed to encourage awareness of the project and provide both a web address to the community survey as well as a QR code that interested individuals

Help Improve Recreation in Blowing Rock!

Community Survey

Please visit the link or use the QR code below:

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

This effort will help inform the Town of Blowing Rock’s planning efforts for Parks and Recreation in the community. Thanks for your participation.







could use via smartphone/mobile device to reach the online survey and provide their input.

To gather further public input, and reach the broadest cross-section of Town residents, a printed version of the Master Plan surveys was also made available at the town meetings. The following sub-section summarizes the results of the community survey (See Appendix A for survey results).

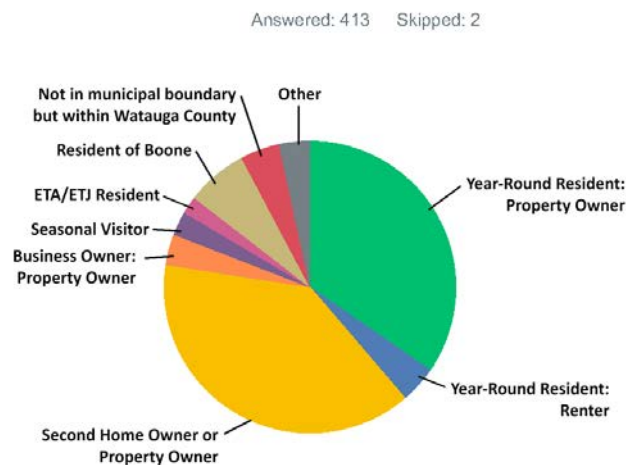
The Town received a total of 278 completed surveys representing about 805 participants for the Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan. These results included both the survey handouts and the online survey results. The surveys provided for data collection from all persons in the household of the survey respondent. The survey data collected was a representative cross section of the Town of Blowing Rock in terms of age and household size.

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

Town of Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Residents vs. Non-Residents of the Town of Blowing Rock

Which statements describes your relationship to the Town of Blowing Rock?



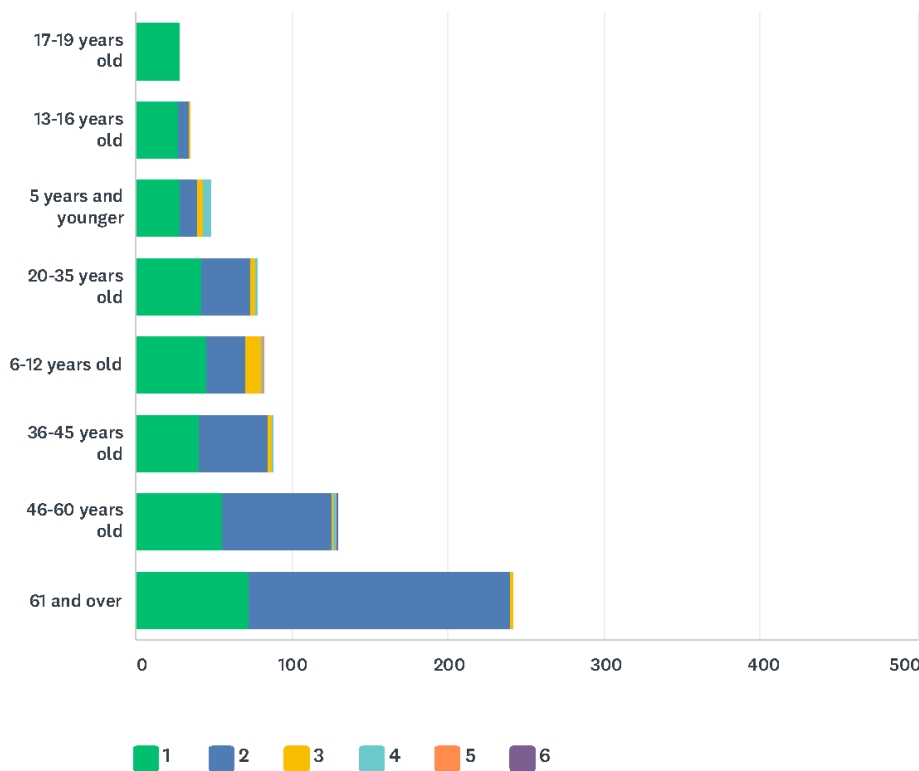


The question about people’s relationship to the Town of Blowing Rock is indicative of the seasonality of the town. During the colder off season in the mountains there is a small population of people that live locally. During the warmer months of the year the population can increase exponentially. It is important to gather the information from the dominant residents of the area as these individuals have a vested interest in the town as their home and not just an occasional vacation location.

Age of Respondents (and members of their households)

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

Answered: 409 Skipped: 6



The three largest age groups represented by town residents in the survey are 61 and over, 46-60 years old, and 36-45 years old. It was clear that participants over the age of 36 represented the largest demographic group of surveyed respondents. This is important to know when planning for facility improvements and for programming purposes.

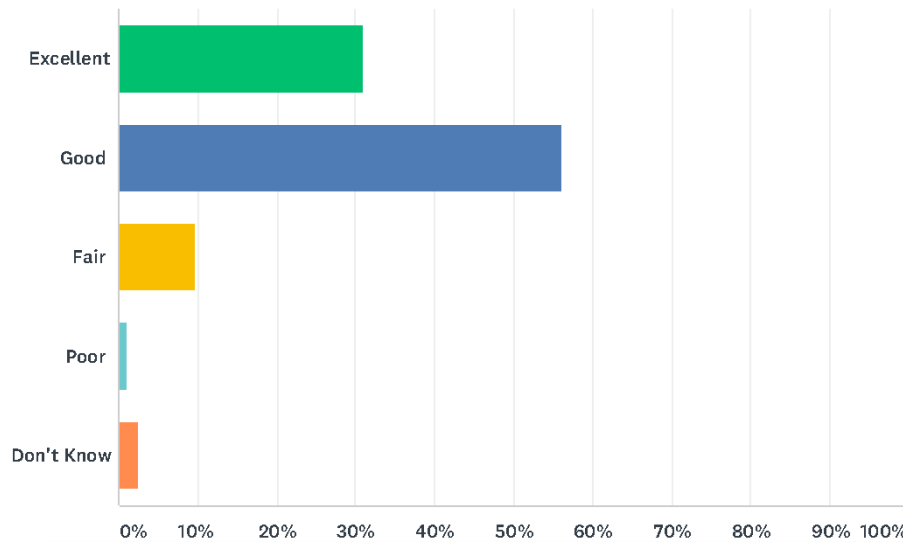


Existing Facilities

The questions were in regard to both public and private facilities that are both within the town limits and outside of the town limits but close enough that people are comfortable visiting them.

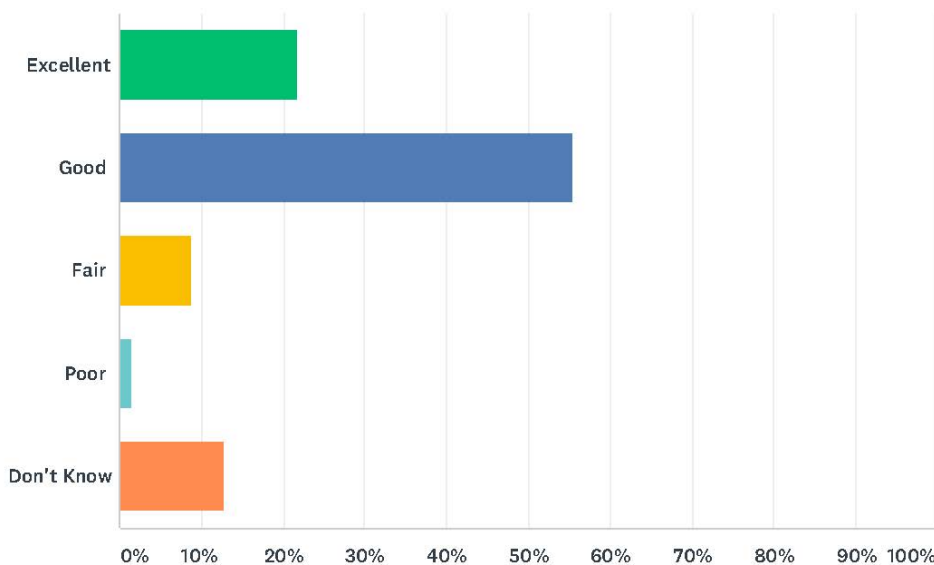
Overall, how would you rate the existing Blowing Rock Memorial Park?

Answered: 408 Skipped: 7



Overall, how would you rate the Town playground located in Memorial Park?

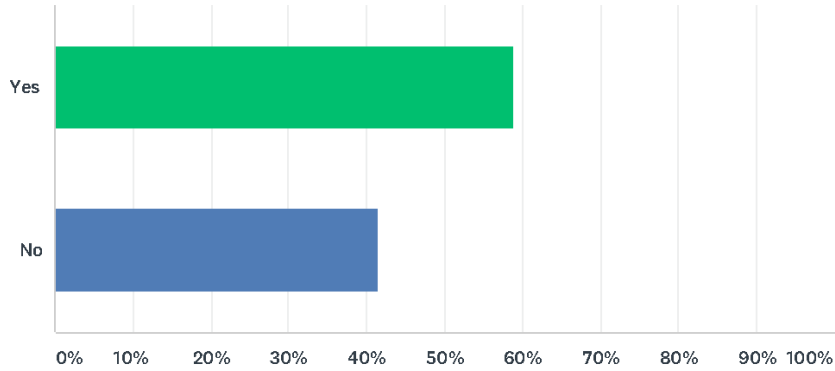
Answered: 410 Skipped: 5





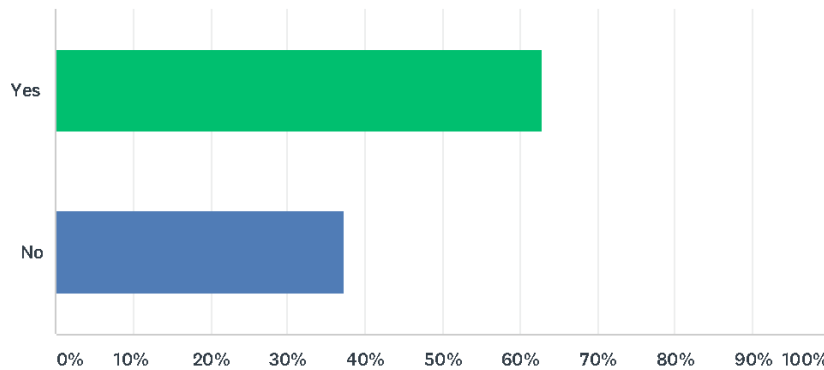
Do you use any school or private facilities (YMCA, private fitness clubs) for recreation or leisure activities?

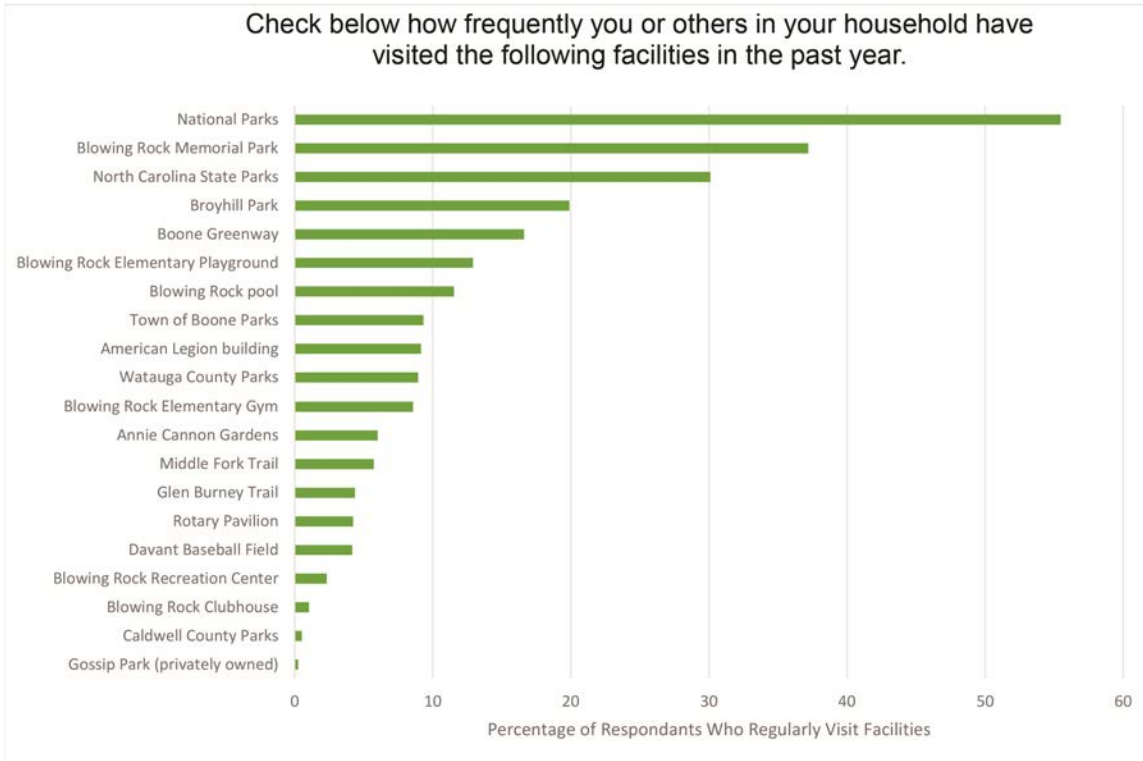
Answered: 394 Skipped: 21



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

Answered: 405 Skipped: 10





Overall, the existing facilities were rated as “excellent” to “good”. This shows that participants are pleased with the park facilities that are offered. Another thing of importance is that both public and private facilities are almost used equally. The most frequently visited parks by participants are National parks, Blowing Rock Memorial Park, North Carolina State parks, Broyhill Park, and the Boone greenway.

Improvements to Existing Facilities

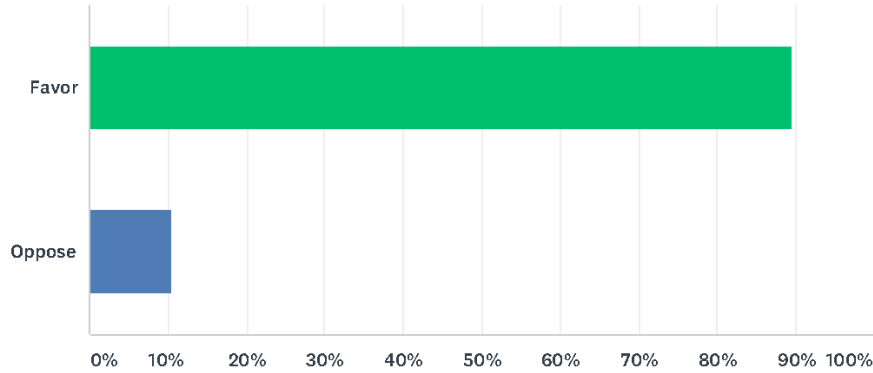
These questions were solicited to gain an understanding of participants perception and view concerning possible improvements to existing facilities within the parks system.

The results of these questions indicated that participants would like to see expansion and improvements of the current parks and recreation facilities.



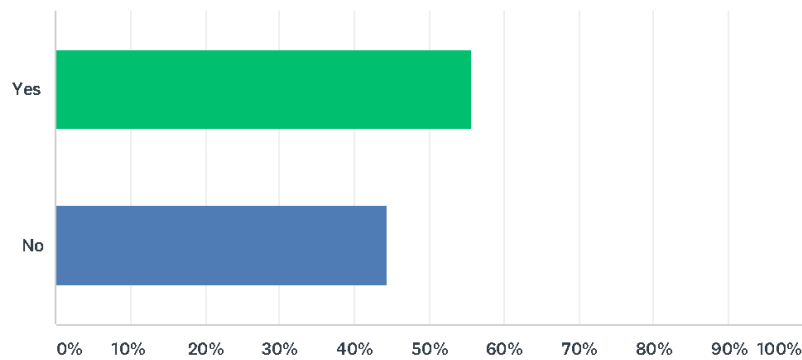
Would you favor or oppose expanding recreational opportunities in Blowing Rock?

Answered: 395 Skipped: 20



Do you feel there is a need for additional park space in the Town of Blowing Rock?

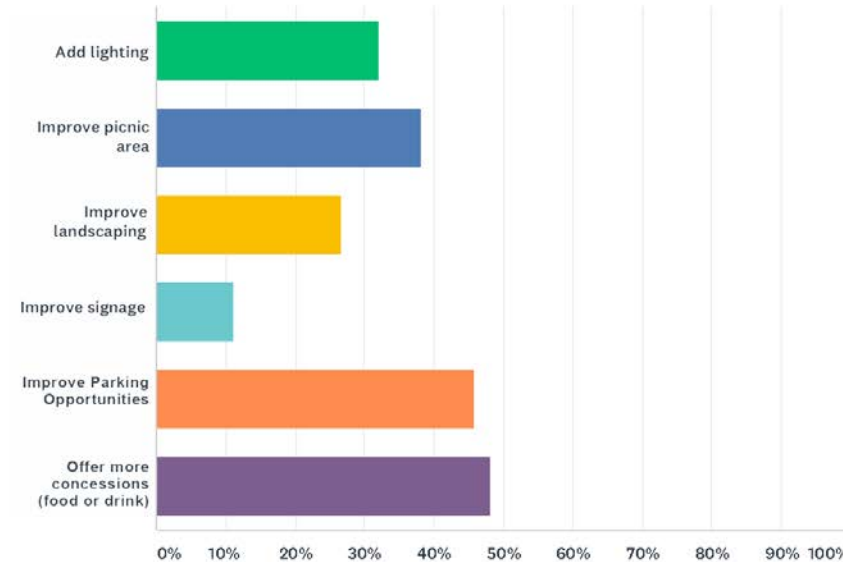
Answered: 392 Skipped: 23





Check below improvements that could be made to the EXISTING Blowing Rock City Swimming Pool.

Answered: 181 Skipped: 234



Programs and Special Events

Questions were asked to gain a better understanding of current programs and special events that the Parks and Recreation department of the Town organizes. These questions provide insight into possible future programs and special events.

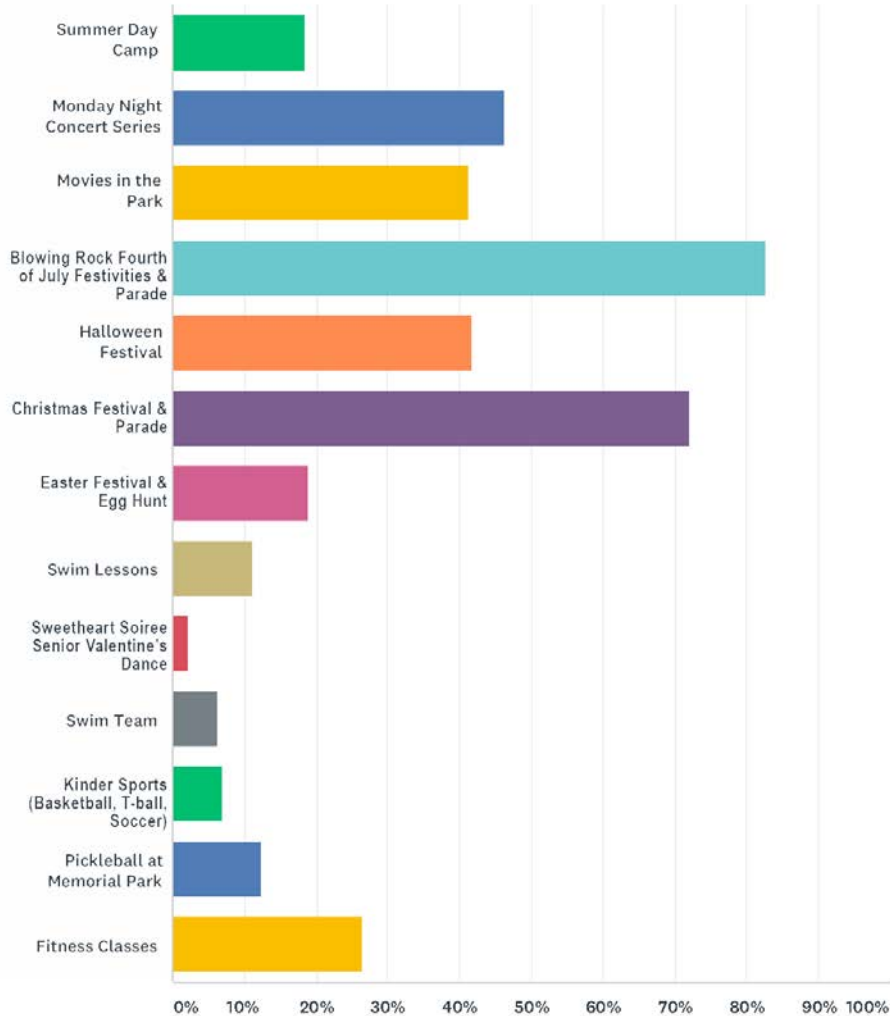
Please list below, any recreation programs or special events that you would like to see offered within the Blowing Rock Recreation System:

programs exercise Group adults hiking great park walking classes love
 Yoga older kids activities fitness classes biking Tennis None
 concerts events



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

Answered: 379 Skipped: 36

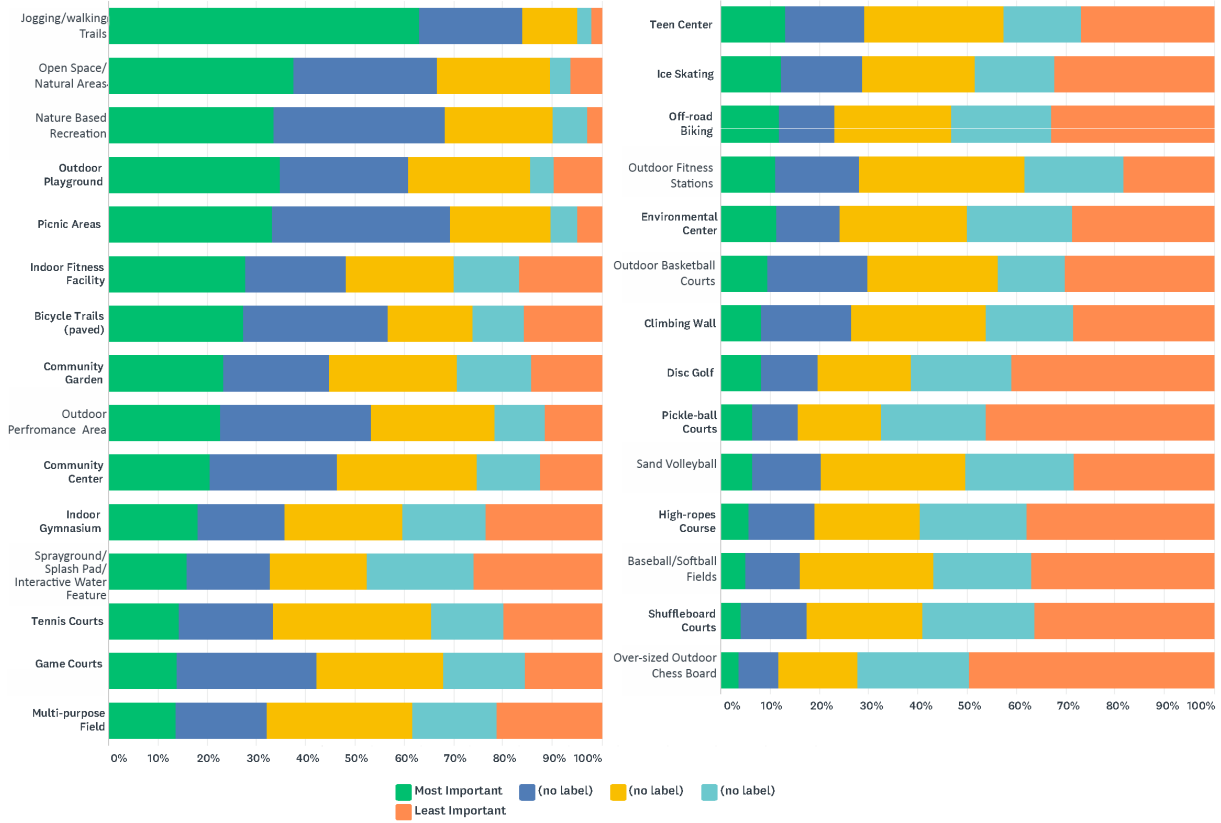


The results of these questions produced an understanding about the use of the programs and events that are offered. The word diagram shows what types of programs participants are interested in. The larger the word the more often it was requested. This is important when planning for facilities to ensure that they are both offered and sized appropriately to accommodate popular programs and special events. The top results of the current programs being offered reflect the importance of community gatherings for town festivals and events as well as opportunities for social and cultural events.



The following is a list of recreation activities that could be offered at a public park or recreation facility. Select from "Most" to "Least" important. Please consider other members of your household.

Answered: 401 Skipped: 14

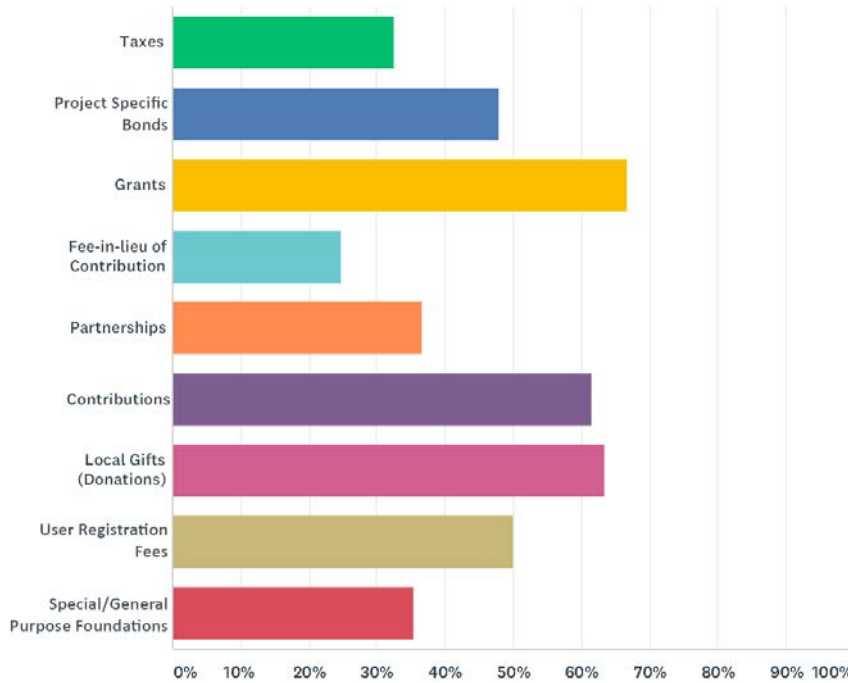




Funding Expansion to Parks and Recreation

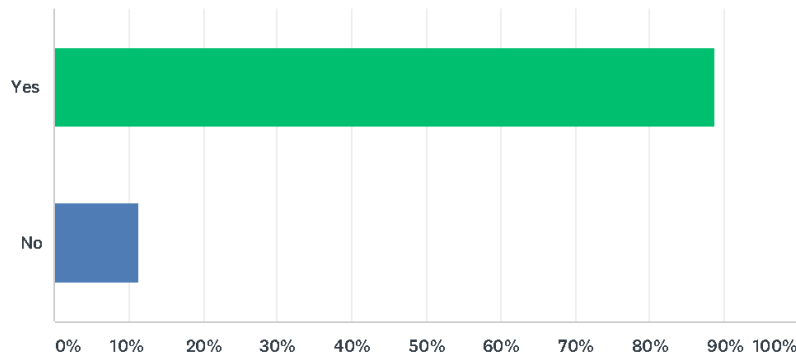
What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities, and create programs? Check all that apply.

Answered: 382 Skipped: 33



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

Answered: 401 Skipped: 14



93% of survey respondents would be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or to use a special facility. The top three funding sources that participants are interested in are grants, contributions, and local gifts.



Conclusions

As the Town of Blowing Rock desires to continue providing quality parks and recreation facilities they will need to understand what kinds of facilities and programming the community desires. The input provided by the community at the public meetings and via survey responses indicate a desire to strengthen existing facilities through updates and new amenities. Some of these include updating the existing play equipment, construction of an area for gatherings and outdoor performances, trail development and maintenance, and continuing to provide beautiful garden settings.

4.4 STATE AND NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Surveys that were designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation and facilities have been conducted on both the federal and state levels by the President's Commission on the Americas Outdoor and the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey. Significant facts have evolved from these surveys, as follow:

- The top ten most popular outdoor recreational activities (nationwide) are:
 1. Picnicking
 2. Driving for pleasure
 3. Swimming
 4. Sightseeing
 5. Walking for pleasure
 6. Playing sports
 7. Fishing
 8. Attending sports events
 9. Boating
 10. Bicycling

- The most rapidly growing outdoor activities (nationwide) are:
 1. Canoeing
 2. Bicycling
 3. Attending sports events
 4. Camping (all types)
 5. Sailing
 6. Hiking/Backpacking
 7. Walking for pleasure
 8. Water skiing

- The top ten most popular outdoor activities (North Carolina) are:
 1. Visiting a beach or lake
 2. Walking for pleasure or exercise
 3. Visiting parks or historical sites



4. Hiking, trails
5. Freshwater fishing
6. Viewing scenery
7. Fishing from a boat
8. Nature viewing
9. Swimming, all types
10. Gardening

- Local governments (cities, towns, and counties) provide 39% of the public recreational opportunities in the United States.

4.5 EVALUATION OF PARK LAND NEEDS

When comparing a park system to national standards, one method is to examine the total acreage of the park system. The NRPA Park land guidelines (in acres) for the total service population of the Town of Blowing Rock are provided in the following table. Population figures in this analysis, estimated at 1,213, include the estimated population of residents in the Town as of 2018. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per population of 1,000) pre-established for each classification of park.

Table 4.5-1 Town of Blowing Rock Recreation Facilities

TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	
Blowing Rock Memorial Park (Community)	3 acres
Broyhill Park (Community)	5 acres
Davant Field (Community)	4.5 acres
Grover C. Robbin's Memorial Pool (Special Use)	1.5 acres
Annie Cannon Gardens (Mini)	1 acre
Glen Burney Trail (Linear Park)	0.8 acres
Koerschner Memorial Garden (Mini)	0.07 Acres
TOTAL TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK PARK ACREAGE	16.87 acres

Presently, the Town of Blowing Rock's recreational facilities serve the entire Town. These facilities are a mix of active and passive recreation. Regional and District park resources are provided by National, State, and County systems that are within close proximity to the Town.



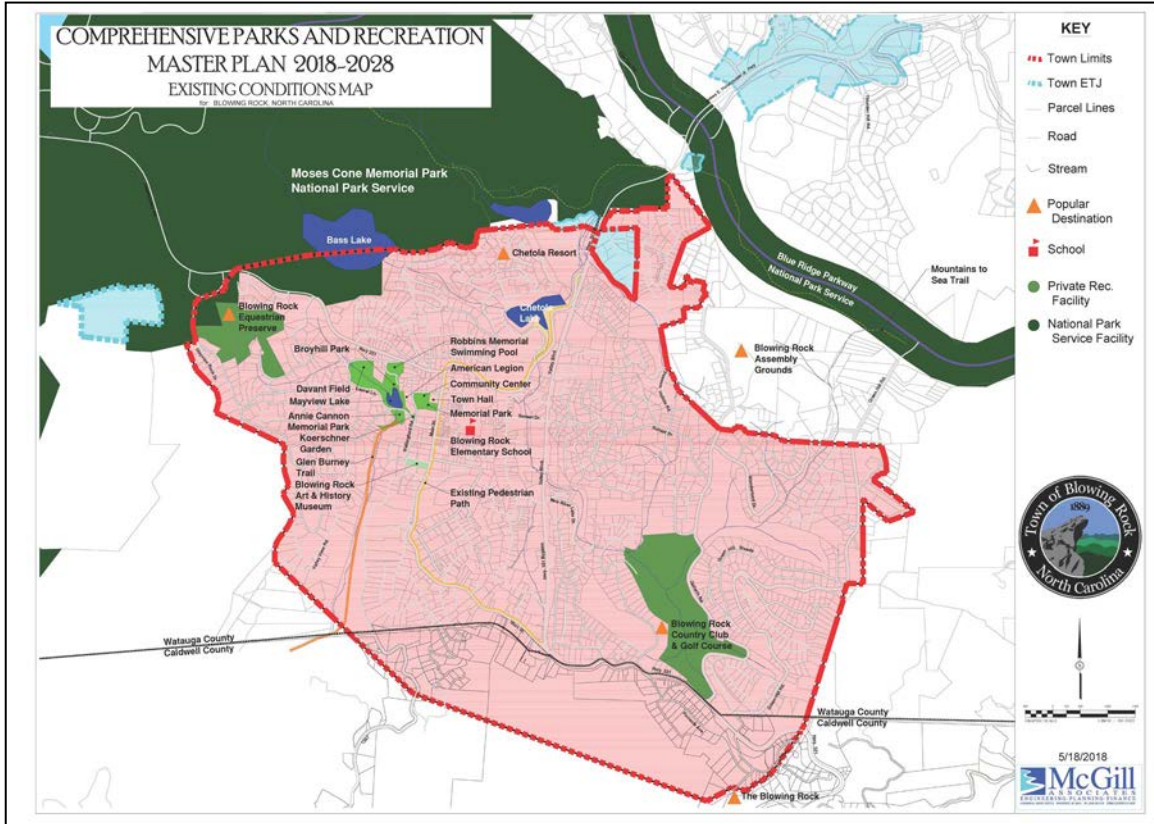
**Table 4.5-2 Town of Blowing Rock
 PARK ACREAGE BY CLASSIFICATION
 (Based on 1995 NRPA Guidelines)**

TYPE OF PARK	Existing** Town of Blowing Rock Acreage	Recommended for 2018 Population 1,213	Recommended for 2028 Population 1,575*
REGIONAL PARK (NPS&NC) 1,000 acres or 10 acres/1,000 persons	NA	NA	NA
DISTRICT PARK 200 acres or 5 acres/1,000 persons	0 acres	3.3 acres	4 acres
COMMUNITY PARK 20-30 acres or 2.5 acres/1,000 persons	12.5 acres	0 acres	0 acres
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK 7-15 acres or 2 acres/1,000 persons	0 acres	2.5 acres	3.15 acres
MINI PARK 1-2 acres or 0.5 acres/1,000 persons	1.07 Acres	0 acres	0 acres

*Figure represents Town Population Projections

**See Chart 4.5-1 for individual park acreage.

Based on the information contained in Table 4.5-2, the Town of Blowing Rock does not meet the national standard guidelines for District and Neighborhood park acreage needs. However, due to ample acreage for Community Parks and the small, close-knit nature typical of Blowing Rock, the acreage listed above is not required for immediate implementation. The community workshops and the recreation survey will be used as the primary guides in prescribing the specific recommendations for the Town of Blowing Rock parks and recreation development, for both now and for the future.



See larger 11"x17" map in Appendix C

The map above shows Blowing Rock's existing facilities.

4.6 EVALUATION OF FACILITY NEEDS

Standards were established based upon information gathered from the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA), the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), and historical evidence from past projects. Recommendations based upon these standards have been compiled in Table 4.6-1 (below) in order to assess the current and projected future (up to 10 years) facility needs for recreation facilities in Blowing Rock.



Table 4.6- 1: EXISTING AND PROJECTED DEMAND FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

Facility	Recommended Standards	Existing Facilities	2018 Recommended per Population	2018 Recommended per Population	2028 Recommended per Population
Town of Blowing Rock facilities*			Population: 1,213	Seasonal Population: 9,000	Projected Population: 1,575
Fields					
Adult Baseball	1/5,000	1*	0	1	0
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	1*	0	1	0
Softball	1/5,000	1*	0	1	0
Football	1/10,000	0	1	1	1
Soccer	1/5,000	0	1	2	1
Courts					
Basketball	1/5,000	2*	0	0	0
Tennis	1/2,000	2*	0	2	0
Volleyball	1/5,000	1*	0	1	0
Pickleball	1/5,000	1*	0	1	0
Horseshoes	1/2,000	2*	0	2	0
Outdoor Areas					
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	3*	0	0	0
Playground	1/2,500	2*	0	1	0
Amphitheater	1/20,000	0	0	1	0
Activities					
Walking	0.25 mi./1,000	3 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles
Equestrian	0.5 mi./2,000	1	0	0	0
Camping	2.5 sites/1,000	NA	NA	N/A	NA
Archery Area	1/50,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Specialized					
Community Center	1/20,000	1*	0	0	0
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1*	0	0	0
Golf Course	1/25,000	1	0	0	0



Auditorium	1/20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Canoeing/Boating/Water Access					
Streams/Lakes	0.2 mi./1,000	2*	0	0	0

*Existing Facilities include only the facilities owned by Town of Blowing Rock

The chart above depicts the results of the current and future recreational facility needs assessment based on NRPA standards, NCDEQ standards, and historical evidence based on experience. The charts do not consider community input, which is the primary guide for the development of the Master Plan.

Based on the information contained in Tables 4.6-1, the Town of Blowing Rock meets the recommended standard guidelines for many of the typical recreational facilities for their permanent population. Blowing Rock is unique in that it is a small mountain community that takes pride in the fact that it has numerous non-traditional recreational opportunities. Due to the specific needs within the Town, the facilities listed above may not be necessary for implementation. The community workshops and the recreation survey will be used as the primary guides in prescribing the specific needs for the Town of Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation development, both now and for the future.

- END OF SECTION -



SECTION 5 GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION



Mayview Lake at Broyhill Park

According to the National Recreation and Park Association the typical park and recreation agency offers one park for every 2,114 residents. As identified in the inventory portion of this report (Section 3), there are ten existing recreational facilities owned and operated by the Town of Blowing Rock. These facilities currently offer a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities. The Town is well above average with the number of facilities that they offer to the community.

This Master Plan serves as a map for the future development of existing recreation facilities for the Town of Blowing Rock. The plan incorporates recommendations to accomplish the objectives set forth by the Town Council, the Recreation Oversight Group, and community members. These recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Roles of the Town of Blowing Rock
- Roles of Other Recreation Providers
- Park Proposals and Recommendations
- Facility Proposals and Recommendations
- Staffing and Maintenance Recommendations
- Priorities for Development



5.2 ROLE OF THE TOWN

The goal of the Town of Blowing Rock is to develop, beautify, conserve, and maintain a system of parks which will assure quality leisure opportunities for all residents and visitors to the Town. To fulfill this goal, it will take work, dedication, and funding to maintain the recreational facilities that are currently owned and operated by the Town of Blowing Rock.

To avoid overextending their staff, the Town needs to investigate partnerships with other recreation providers and community groups. Current partnerships need to continue, and the possibility of new partnerships need to be explored.



5.3 ROLES OF OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Public Sector

Watauga County and Municipal Towns

The Town of Blowing Rock located within Watauga County plays an active role in providing recreation opportunities to both County and Town residents. The Town should encourage the County and other adjacent municipalities to develop greenway trails that connect to destinations such as parks and sidewalks in both the County and Town. As the demand for the future of recreational facilities continues to increase, the Town should coordinate future planning efforts with County Recreation Departments, to identify recreation programming, facility expansion, and potential partnerships.



State and National Parks

With many recreation facilities located in the parks provided by both the State and National sectors, the Town should continue to work towards making connections for both bicyclists and pedestrians. According to the input from community participants at the public events and through the community survey these valuable parks are resources that are used on a regular basis. The Town should coordinate planning efforts to identify possible facility expansion and potential partnerships.

Private Developers

Private developers are an important component for the Town by providing resources and opportunities for the Town's recreation system. Private developers can assist Blowing Rock by the dedication, construction, and/or reservation of future park sites, open space, and/or greenway corridors during the overall development process.

The Town Open Space Ordinance requires new developments to incorporate open space into their development plans. These developments are required to set aside five (5) percent of the gross area developed as usable open space for the enjoyment of the residents of the community. These spaces can either remain in their natural or undisturbed state or be properly planted and landscaped. These requirements make the developments more desirable to potential homeowners and provide a space for unstructured recreation and relaxation.

The Town should consider adding language to the Town's Development Ordinance which requires developers to provide parkland or a fee in-lieu of parkland dedication. In many cases, the land offered for dedication by a developer may be in areas which would remain undeveloped. In addition, the location of the dedicated land offered may not be suitable for the Town of Blowing Rock's long-term goals for future park or greenway facilities. By establishing this regulation, the Town can apply subject monies from the fee in-lieu for the dedication or development of existing parks, future parks, or trail facilities, which contributes more to the whole community rather than to a single development. The Town should continue to uphold this requirement and reevaluate the fee requirement as land values adjust.

In addition, it is recommended that the Town provide language in a Development Ordinance requiring public access for greenways/trails as reflected in the 2014 High Country Bike Plan. The Town should coordinate with the Planning Department to ensure open space or dedication of public access, if applicable.



5.4 PARK PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General Recommendations

General recommendations are designed to provide guidance for the operations, goals, administration, and growth of the Town of Blowing Rock. Many of these recommendations depend upon successful collaboration between the Town and other Town offices, such as the Planning Department.

Recommendation #1: Facility and Program Accessibility

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

Recommendation #2: Design and Daily Maintenance

The facilities owned and operated by the Town of Blowing Rock should appeal to residents of the Town and visitors to the area. Priority should be given to improving the design of facilities such that they are architecturally, functionally, and ecologically progressive. Daily maintenance practices should be implemented to improve the cleanliness and longevity of all facilities.

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

Recommendation #3: Walkable Communities

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



Recommendation #4: Greenways/Multi-use Trails

Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities, which are increasing by bounds. North Carolina's 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) found that 82% of survey participants reported that "walking for pleasure" to be the most common outdoor recreational activity. The plan also found that 31% of survey respondents reported regularly bicycling.



The Town should refer to the 2014 High Country Bike Plan for additional information, project lists, and maps highlighting recommended projects. To facilitate with these projects the Town should continue efforts to work with Watauga County and neighboring municipalities to develop greenway trails to various destination points. The Town should continue to promote the completion of the proposed Middle Fork Greenway that will connect Blowing Rock to Boone.

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

Recommendation #5: Greenway Funding

The Town of Blowing Rock should consider including "language" in a Development Ordinance for fee in-lieu of sidewalk to fund greenway land acquisition and construction where the need for pedestrian connections cannot rely on the timing of private property development.

Recommendation #6: Bicycle Facilities

Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concerns, and the need to increase the health/fitness of the population; a planned network of bike trails, bike lanes, and shared roadways should be developed to support alternative transportation to recreation facilities and travel within the Town of Blowing Rock. Future roadway construction within the Town should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing, as well as future park facilities and greenways. In addition, bike racks (sheltered at schools and other potential high-use areas) should be installed at all publicly-owned facilities within the Town. In addition, the Town should refer to the High-Country Bike Plan for recommended bicycle projects.



Recommendation #7: Way Finding

The Town of Blowing Rock should consider utilizing the guide pamphlets and kiosks to promote parks and recreation facilities. The Town currently has one interactive digital kiosk on Main St. that can be utilized to direct people to the parks. The Town should consider adding an interactive map as well as general descriptions of existing facilities on the digital kiosk. The Town should also consider the addition of another digital kiosk so that visitors will be able to better orient themselves throughout the Town. As well as the using the digital interactive kiosk there are other kiosks and areas with pamphlets throughout the area. Highlighting and mapping the existing park facilities will provide people with the opportunity to locate the facilities throughout the Town.



Recommendation #8: Intergovernmental Cooperation

The Town of Blowing Rock should seek to coordinate planning efforts with the Watauga County School and Recreation Departments, local municipalities, and State and National park systems to provide greenway and park facilities. Representatives of the Town and of these agencies should meet periodically to discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the area. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space, and recreation master plan updates for Watauga County, local municipalities, and adjacent counties. This will also insure that redundancy in services is prevented and that all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being utilized.

Recommendation #9: Developers

The Town currently requires new developments in Blowing Rock to incorporate open space into their development plans. The inclusion of public greenways, trails, and bike lanes in private developments should also be encouraged. If no suitable land for park or greenway development is available, the Town should consider allowing developers to pay into the fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication.

Recommendation #10: Partnership Agreement

It is recommended that the Town Staff meet with existing and potential partners to determine needs and possible partnership opportunities. The Town should begin this process by developing an approach to each potential partner to establish an understanding of each entity's needs; and ultimately, result in a partnership agreement. The process will require periodic progress meetings



with each partner to facilitate the partnerships goals and objectives. This may entail presentations to the partner's board or committee.

Recommendation #11: Interpretative Signage

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

Recommendation #12: Educational and Stewardship Programming

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

Recommendation #13: Green Building

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

Recommendation #14: Contiguous Property Acquisition

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

Recommendation #15: Acceptance of Fee Simple Land Donation

If land is offered to the Town of Blowing Rock as donation by fee simple title with no restrictions, the property should be surveyed for natural heritage significance and relationship to existing plans and parks. If the land contains no environmental hazards, restrictive covenants, or restrictive easements it can be useful and beneficial for the Town to assume ownership. Not all donated land has to be developed into a park in order to be useful. Any land donation to the



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

Recommendation #16: Natural and Cultural Heritage Inventory

The Town of Blowing Rock should encourage the preparation of an Inventory of Significant Natural and Cultural Areas within the Town of Blowing Rock and planning jurisdiction. The intent of this study would be to identify areas deemed to be significant natural and/or cultural resources, which should be evaluated for consideration of preservation.

Park Recommendations

In Section 4, "Recreation Needs Assessment: Evaluation of Facility Needs", specific facility needs were identified for the Town of Blowing Rock by both the recreation guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Parks Association and the community input process. Subsequently, Section 5 summarizes the Town's needs for their existing facilities and makes recommendations for activities to be considered in the future development of their park system.



Memorial Park

- Replace dead trees
- Consider additional picnic pavilion in a central location
- Replace dated playground equipment with multi-generational playground and fitness stations (consider "adventure" theme)
- Update existing horseshoes pit and climbing wall
- Refurbish artificial turf on Tennis courts
- Erosion control around existing tennis courts



Broyhill Park

- Safety railing around road bridge
- Repair sidewalk in various places around perimeter
- Add railing next to metal grate in sidewalk on Laurel Lane
- Trail improvements on path to Davant Field



Davant Field

- Shade structures for dugout areas
- Signage with distance demarcations on new paved trail
- Construct performance/event area (stage or pad)
- Accessible sidewalk from existing restrooms to recently paved path
- Install necessary grading and drainage improvements for Rotary pavilion and restrooms
- Stream bank stabilization and erosion control



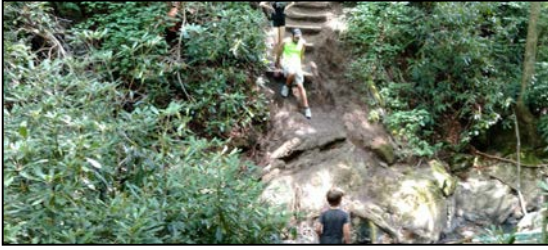
Grover C. Robbins' Memorial Pool

- Ongoing maintenance
- Improved concessions
- Expand parking



Annie L. Cannon Memorial Gardens

- General maintenance
- Replace stage
- Renovate water feature
- Repair wood timbers on stairs
- Replace bench seating
- Wall improvements along creek
- Slope stabilization and revegetation
- Continue working with local garden clubs



Glen Burney Trail

- Trail renovations
- Replace pedestrian bridge
- Signage on trail (distance, educational)



Koerschner Memorial Garden

- Fill gaps in timber/stone stairs
- Continue working with local garden clubs



American Legion Building

- Continue connection improvements to Broyhill Park
- Landscape improvements around building according to Virginia Tech schematic plan



Blowing Rock Clubhouse

- Restroom upgrades
- Kitchen renovation
- ADA accessibility



Recreation Center

- Include dedicated area for fitness equipment (cardio & resistance machines)
- Move entry door (private funding)
- Build additional office (private funding)
- New flooring & wall upgrades
- Renovate restrooms
- Add sidewalk extension to picnic area
- Entryway sidewalk, stairs, retaining walls, and A.D.A. ramp according to the Virginia Tech



- schematic plan
- Pedestrian plaza according to the Virginia Tech schematic plan

5.5 FACILITY PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In Section 4, "Recreation Needs Assessment: Evaluation of Facility Needs", specific facility needs were identified for the Town of Blowing Rock Town by both the recreation guidelines set forth by reviewing accepted National Parks Standards and the community input process. This section summarizes the Town's needs for its existing/future facilities and makes recommendations for activities to be considered in the future development of its park system.

Adult/Youth Basketball

The Town currently has two (2) basketball courts. Based on the recommended guidelines the Town meets the requirements.

Softball

The Town currently has one (1) softball field. Based on the recommended guidelines the Town meets the requirements.

Football

The Town currently has no football field. Base on the recommended guidelines the town needs access to one (1) field. Currently, the Town has no designated football field but utilizes Davant Field as a multi-purpose field where football is played. The Town may rely on Watauga County facilities for Town Football Programing.

Soccer

Soccer has become a very popular sport among youth in this country and is a growing trend among young adults. The recommended standards show a need for at least one (1) soccer field for the Town of Blowing Rock. Currently, the Town has no designated soccer field but utilizes Davant Field as a multi-purpose field where soccer is played. The Town may rely on Watauga County facilities for Town Soccer Programing.

Tennis Courts

According to park standards (Section 4), the Town of Blowing Rock currently provides two (2) tennis courts. Based on the recommended guidelines the Town meets the requirements.

Picnic Shelters and Tables

The Town currently has three (3) dedicated shelters with picnic tables at various facilities. According to recommended guidelines, the Town meets the requirements. However, based upon comments from the community survey and public input sessions, it is recommended that one (1) picnic shelter be installed in a central location at Memorial Park



Playground Activities

According to recreation standards established in this document, Blowing Rock meets the necessary requirements for playground equipment. According to the results of the public input sessions and the community survey it is recommended that the current playground equipment be updated to a facility that is adventure based. The playground equipment should be accessible to all ages and physical abilities.

Walking /Hiking Trails and Bikeways

Currently, the Town provides limited trails for walking or bicycling. Due to the proximity of the mountains as well as National and State parks the Town should consider making non-vehicular connections to these facilities. For further project recommendations the Town should review the 2014 High Country Bike Plan.

5.6 STAFFING AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

This Master Plan covers a planning period of 10 years. The facilities to be implemented during that time as part of the recommendations may require some level of additional staffing and additional funding for facility operation and maintenance. Consideration of these budgetary impacts should be made prior to facility implementation.



Multiple factors may come to influence what the future staffing needs of the Town of Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation Department will encompass. Those may include population growth, available tax dollars, Capital Improvement Plans, development of tourism efforts, etc.

The Town of Blowing Rock Park and Recreation Department's structure and number of personnel is on par with the national average of 9.8 full-time equivalent employees based upon the National Recreation and Park Association's 2018 Agency Performance Review.

Maintaining adequate staffing for Parks and Recreation facilities and programs will be necessary to foster a good quality of life for Town residents, and prospective businesses that may seek to relocate to the Town of Blowing Rock. The existing and proposed staffing levels for the Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation and Landscape Department are as follows:



Existing Staffing Levels:

Full-time Positions

- Director of Parks and Recreation (1)
- Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation (1)
- Facilities Coordinator (1)
- Landscape Specialist (1)
- Assistant Landscape Specialist (1)
- Stone Mason (1)
- Maintenance/Landscape Assistant (1)
- Maintenance Technician (1)

Part-time/Seasonal Positions

- Park Attendants (3)
- Lifeguards (15)
- Cashiers (2)
- Day Camp Counselors
 - Full time (6)
 - Part time (2)
- Kinder Program Coaches (3)

Proposed Additional Staffing Positions

Full-time Position

- Maintenance Technician (2)

Part-time/Seasonal Positions

- As needed to properly staff programming events

5.7 PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Priority Methodology

The park system for the Town of Blowing Rock should continue to grow and respond to changes in Town demographics. Future planned facilities should be implemented incrementally to provide for these changes. This section describes how the recommended facilities for the Town are prioritized. The following factors guided the prioritization of individual segments of the Master Plan and were derived from input and desires specified by the residents of Blowing Rock:



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

Priorities for Development

The park facility prioritization is an essential tool that provides the Town of Blowing Rock's Parks and Recreation Department with a breakdown of the priority for each capital improvement. Given the magnitude of the budgets for improvements to existing parks and for new park and greenway facilities, prioritization of these needs is important. The following is a list of priorities based upon the needs assessment process:

Prioritized Project Tasks

2018-2023

- *Analyze opportunities to partner with neighboring Recreation Departments on shared programming (active recreation)*
- *Update play equipment at Memorial Park*
- *Glen Burney Trail Bridge replacement & Trail renovations*
- *Implement Recreation Center improvements*
- *Refurbish Memorial Park Tennis Court surfacing*
- *Trail improvements on path connecting Davant Field and Broyhill Park*
- *Annie Cannon Garden Improvements*

2023-2028

- *Streambank & erosion control improvements at Davant Field*
- *Construct performance stage/pad at Davant Field*
- *Construct additional picnic pavilion at Memorial Park*
- *American Legion access and landscaping improvements*
- *Expand parking at Robbins Pool*

- END OF SECTION -



Section 6 **Action Implementation Plan**

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes how the Town of Blowing Rock can implement a safe, convenient, and usable park and recreation system through the execution of its established goals in the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan. The strategy for achieving goals involves the recommended park and recreation facilities/programs discussed in Section 5. Section 6 exhibits strategies and opportunities, key implementation steps and policies, necessary staffing, and methods for developing facilities. Together, these sections form the implementation program.



The results of the Town of Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2018-2028 are based on the following discovery methods: (1) a review of the study area that is within the Town limits, (2) an analysis of the existing parks and facilities; (3) community input; and (4) recreation standards that have been generically developed for municipalities and Town governments. The Master Plan is designed to be action-oriented and serve as a tool in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the Town of Blowing Rock.

6.2 FUNDING

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

To meet the existing and future needs of the Town of Blowing Rock, the goals and objectives that are identified in the Master Plan, must be seriously considered for implementation. The Town will need to update their annual budget for the Parks and Recreation Department based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, and operations/maintenance costs.



Park and Recreation Capital Expenditures

The population estimates used in this report were certified county and municipal estimates in July 2013. The estimates were provided by the 2014-15 M CPRSS (*North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study Executive Report*). The figures can be found online at <https://rrs.cnr.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2014-2015-Executive-Summary.pdf>. The per capita expenditure figures are also from the *North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2014-2015*.

Table 6.2-1 shows government entities that represent North Carolina municipalities with populations less than 4,999 people.

Table 6.2-1

Municipalities with Populations Less than 4999	Population Estimate 2012-2013	Ranking by Expenditure	Per Capita Expenditures 2012-2013
Beech Mountain	322	1	1569.99
Highlands	919	2	665.69
Faison	987	30	80.68
Youngsville	1,154	23	95.49
Blowing Rock	1,224	4	358.61
Pine Bluff	1,358	50	20.21
Tryon	1,650	19	119.82
Biscoe	1,707	31	79.75
Pine Level	1,734	27	92.18
Chadbourn	1,831	49	20.52
Oakboro	1,891	7	254.55
Surf City	1,919	8	232.31
Madison - Mayodan	2,212	39	63.29
Haw River	2,309	32	77.55
Marshville	2,394	45	31.95
Wrightsville Beach	2,500	9	218.83
Enfield	2,536	51	20.06
Liberty	2,647	33	76.36
Swansboro	2,808	11	172.36
Locust	3,001	26	93.1
Landis	3,082	24	94.58
Warsaw	3,096	15	146.68
Wilson's Mills	3,257	53	2.38
Lillington	3,269	28	85.43
Maiden	3,350	14	151.62
Louisburg	3,367	40	58.77



Wilkesboro	3,425	36	67.73
Red Springs	3,431	46	29.95
Jamestown	3,557	3	382.57
Elizabethtown	3,575	52	18.1
Stanley	3,592	10	174.62
Emerald Isle	3,717	6	260.77
Hudson	3,857	29	83.85
Tabor City	3,941	43	39.73
Wallace	3,957	17	123.34
Elkin	3,963	12	164.83
Pittsboro	4,033	47	26.63
Randleman	4,103	25	93.24
Rolesville	4,137	20	119.31
Canton	4,163	38	64.15
Creedmoor	4,223	48	25.03
Cramerton	4,225	21	115.56
North Wilkesboro	4,237	37	65.54
Valdese	4,428	13	158.25
Erwin	4,487	35	70.4
Zebulon	4,526	5	277.76
Angier	4,547	41	56.05
Granite Falls	4,671	34	76.02
Mount Olive	4,687	44	38.18
Farmville	4,695	22	113.75
Ahoskie	4,945	16	145.37
Edenton - Chowan County	4,975	42	43.86
Ayden	4,992	18	120.73

RECOMMENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A Capital Improvement Program for the development of park facilities is designed to encompass, at a minimum, a 10-year period of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The proposed costs are based on 2018 material/labor costs. Capital improvement costs include general expenditures such as site preparation, building structures, access, site utilities, parking, and specific recreation improvements. The capital improvement plan also includes estimates for planning or design fees.

The proposed Capital Improvements Plan found in table 6.2-2 would cover a 10-year period and would serve to set recreation expenses for each fiscal year for implementation of specific projects. The opinions of cost are preliminary in

Town of Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation
2018 - Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan



nature and are for planning purposes only. As the time approaches to consider the recommended improvements it will be necessary to receive up to date opinions of cost.

Table 6.5.1: Town of Blowing Rock - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2018-2028
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1 2018-2019	YEAR 2 2019-2020	YEAR 3 2020-2021	YEAR 4 2021-2022	YEAR 5 2022-2023	YEAR 6 2023-2024	YEAR 7 2024-2025	YEAR 8 2025-2026	YEAR 9 2026-2027	YEAR 10 2027-2028	FUTURE
Memorial Park												
Remove dead trees	\$3,000	\$3,000										
Additional picnic pavilion	\$60,000							\$60,000				
Update existing non-sheets pit	\$1,000											
Update climbing wall	\$20,000				\$500							
Update playground equipment to adventure type equipment	\$250,000								\$20,000			
Rebuild artificial turf on tennis courts	\$40,000											
Erosion control around existing tennis courts	\$6,000											
Sub-total	\$374,000				\$500			\$60,000	\$20,000			
Broynhill Park												
Safety railing around road bridge	\$4,000		\$4,000									
Assess and repair sidewalk as needed	\$10,000											
Asphalt road to rock arena sidewalk on Laurel Ln.	\$1,500											
Turf improvements on path to Davant trail	\$40,000											
Sub-total	\$55,500											
Davant Field												
Install shade structures for dugout areas	\$5,000											
Acid sprays with distance demarcations on paved path	\$1,500					\$1,500						
Performance/slope	\$16,000											
Accessible sidewalk from restrooms to paved path	\$12,000											
Grading and drainage improvements at pavilion & restrooms	\$38,000											
Green turf stabilization and erosion control	\$40,000											
Sub-total	\$271,500											
Robbins Pool at Broynhill Park												
Expand parking	\$200,000											
Sub-total	\$200,000											
Annie Cannon Gardens												
Landscape improvements	\$28,000		\$5,000									
Replace slugs	\$5,000											
Remove water feature	\$4,500											
Repair wood linkers on stairs	\$5,000											
Replace bench seating	\$10,000											
Slope stabilization and revegetation	\$35,000											
Tree improvements along New Year Creek	\$30,000											
Sub-total	\$80,500											
Gen Burner Trail												
Trail renovations	\$35,000											
Replace pedestrian bridge	\$30,000											
Signage along trail	\$5,000											
Sub-total	\$70,000											
Koerschner Memorial Garden												
Sub-total	\$0											
American Legion Building												
Developing improvements around building based on Virginia Tech	\$415,000											
Sub-total	\$415,000											
Blowing Rock Clubhouse												
Restroom Upgrades	\$3,000											
Kitchen Remodel	\$10,000											
ADA improvements	\$10,000											
Sub-total	\$23,000											
Recreation Center												
Renovate indoor space (lighting, flooring, walls, restrooms)	\$50,000		\$30,000									
Add stonewalk extension to picnic area	\$20,000											
Artwork/stonewalk, stumps, retaining wall and ADA ramp per Virginia Tech	\$150,000											
Recreation plaza per Virginia Tech plan	\$40,000											
Sub-total	\$260,000											
Grand Total	\$1,819,500	\$113,500	\$149,000	\$307,000	\$217,500	\$65,000	\$79,000	\$62,000	\$824,500	\$2,000	\$204,000	\$2,000

Table 6.2-2 (2018 Blowing Rock CIP Appendix D)



This Total Capital Improvement cost of \$1,819,500 represents the proposed, cumulative figure to be spent for park and recreation development, improvements, and renovations by the year 2028. The total figure does not consider an inflation rate over the 10-year period through the year 2028.

6.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

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

Multi-Use Trails

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



Greenways are both a recreational and transportation asset.

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

Multi-use trails having vegetated buffers located adjacent to waterways act as “filters” to clean the water, trapping nonpoint source pollutants. These pollutants, including sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gas, and other chemicals, are



transported into streams, rivers, and/or lakes by stormwater when rain or snow events occur.

Trail Development

The ongoing construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is proving to be a wise economic investment for the communities through which they pass. Blowing Rock's Parks and Recreation department should annually assess and include funding towards the maintenance of popular Town trails to preserve the value that they contribute to the community. Trails and pathways have a positive effect on nearby property values with homebuyers and business owners realizing the effect that such facilities bring to a community. According to



Property values increase where trails have been developed.

research by the *Rails to Trails Conservancy*, there are vast amounts of people who are using rail trails. It is easy to understand how communities can profit economically by meeting the needs of trail users. Entrepreneurs who invest in restaurants, convenience stores, bicycle and other merchandise shops, campgrounds, and alternate lodging attribute the location of a nearby trail to at least a portion of their success. Realtors and homebuyers alike are recognizing the benefits of properties located near trails. Both locally and nationally, the construction of trails has proven to be a cost-effective use of public funds. Multi-use trails allow more visitors and residents to replace automobile trips with non-motorized trips, thereby moving the citizenry closer to achieving public health objectives, including increased opportunities for physical exercise.

Parks

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

Increased Property Value

The real estate market consistently demonstrates that residents throughout the country are willing to invest larger amounts of money in properties that are located close to parks and open space areas than they would for homes that do not offer these types of amenities. The higher values of these homes produce higher property taxes in the affected area. In some instances, additional property



taxes are sufficient to recoup the annual debt charges on bonds, which were originally used to finance park acquisition and development.

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

Revitalization of Businesses

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



Businesses have been revitalized due to the increase of pedestrian activity in downtown areas.

Tourism

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



Natural resources attract many tourists.

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



6.4 OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES

Dedicated Source of Local Funding

In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the programs listed above, the Town of Blowing Rock should evaluate the existing departmental budget and funding for capital improvements to include the following:

- Property/sales tax
- Bonds
- Fee in-lieu of contributions
- User fees/registration fees

Property/Sales Tax Revenues

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

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

General Obligation Bonds

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

General Obligation bonds are the preferred financing approach of the North Carolina Local Government Commission and the general securities market because these instruments are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer.



That simply means that the bonds represent an encumbrance against the property tax base of the issuing jurisdiction and therefore offer the best available security to the bond holder. The State of North Carolina gives the issuance of bonds not to exceed the total cost of improvements (including land acquisition). In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, the Town may consider continuing to use General Obligation bonds to develop new facilities. Total bonding capacities for local government is limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

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

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

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

Fee in-lieu of contributions

According to Blowing Rock's code, developers are required to set aside 5% of any residential development to be maintained as open space. The Town should consider providing developers with an option to pay a 'fee in lieu of' rather than to dedicate land for open space or recreation within conventional subdivisions. This program has proven to be successful for many local governments in providing a dedicated source of revenue earmarked for park development.



Developers utilize UDO for revenue source.



User fees/registration fees

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

Other sources of funding

Funding/acquisition sources

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

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



McGill Associates advises the Town of Blowing Rock to pursue a variety of funding options. Below is a list of park and greenway funding opportunities that are typically sought by communities. Creative planning and consistent monitoring of funding options will likely produce new opportunities not listed below.

Grants

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

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF):

PARTF was established for local governments and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation in 1994 as a funding source for the development and/or improvement of parks and recreation facilities, and for the purpose of land acquisition. A state-funded program, PARTF matches monies spent by municipalities on parks and recreation, with each sharing 50% of the cost. The maximum matching fund amount provided by PARTF is \$500,000. Contact the Recreational Resources Service for additional information at (919) 515-7118.



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

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



North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important



natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. Eligible agencies include the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission, the Dept. of Cultural Resources, and the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Although the Town of Blowing Rock cannot be the applicant, there are state agencies, which could acquire properties, institute programs, et cetera in the Town for preservation or education purposes. Grants are awarded for the following:

- The purchase of lands that represent the state's ecological diversity to ensure their preservation and conversation for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural, and aesthetic purposes.
- The purchase of additions to state parks, state trails, aesthetic forests, wild or scenic rivers, and fish/wildlife management areas.
- The development of a balanced state program of historic properties.
- The inventory and conservation planning of natural areas by the Natural Heritage program.

Federal Aid Construction Funds

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

Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

The Safe Routes to Schools Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program is a sub-program of the Transportation Alternatives Program, falling under the Surface Transportation Program. Under TAP the SRTS Program is combined with the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) to provide financial assistance to projects that fall under alternative transportation. Communities must come up with 20% of a project cost while the remaining 80% is funded through grant competitions. All TAP projects are administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOT's).



The Federal program provides funds to the States to improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely. The purposes of the Safe Routes to Schools program are outlined below:



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

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

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program

The N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP) combines a wetlands-restoration initiative by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality with ongoing environmental efforts by the Dept. of Transportation to restore, enhance, and protect its wetlands and waterways. NCEEP provides:

- High-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection
- Compensation for unavoidable environmental impacts associated with transportation, infrastructure, and economic development
- Detailed watershed-planning and project-implementation efforts within North Carolina's threatened or degraded watersheds

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA).

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA), approved by the federal government in 2004, is a primary source for financing bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway projects throughout the country, at both the local and state levels. Providing as much as 80% for development and construction costs, this grant is earmarked for facilities such as sidewalks, rail-trails, bike-lanes and greenways. The Enhancement Program (a section of SAFETEA) is used primarily by municipalities since this section focuses on bicycle and pedestrian corridors, environmental mitigation, historic preservation and scenic byways. 20% matching funds are required by the applying entity and applicants must meet several other criteria as well. Prior to applying for this grant, a thorough engineering assessment should be performed to determine construction costs.



Recreation Trails Program

The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). RTP makes recreation funds available for state allocation to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation trail users. RTP funds are distributed to states by a legislative formula: half of the funds are distributed equally among all states and half are distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of non-highway recreational fuel used in each state. Non-highway recreational fuel typically used by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles, and off-road light trucks.



RTP distributes funds equally among states.

Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

Created in 1996 by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grants monies to local governments, state agencies and not-for-profit conservation groups. The money is to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution issues. CWMTF will fund projects that contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational and recreational benefits. There is no match required by local municipalities, however the suggestion of a match is highly recommended.

Watershed Protection and Flood Protection

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

State Construction Funds

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



The North Carolina Conservation Tax Credit

This program provides an incentive (in the form of an income tax credit) for landowners that donate interests in real property for conservation purposes. Property donations can be fee simple or in the form of conservation easements or bargain sale. The goal of this program is to manage stormwater, protect water supply watersheds, preserve working farms and forests and set-aside greenways for ecological communities, public trails and wildlife corridors. Additional information is available at <http://ncctc.enr.state.nc.us/>.

Contributions

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

Park Foundations

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

Partnerships

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





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

- Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are municipally owned.
- Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities.
- Development partnerships to purchase land and/or build facilities.
- Management partnerships to maintain properties and/or facilities.

The Town of Blowing Rock is currently participating in partnerships with Blowing Rock School, the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission, and the Blowing Rock garden club. The Town should evaluate forming additional partnerships which address the needs of a comprehensive park system. Direct requests should be made to meet potential partners, inviting them to evaluate the possible benefits of partnering. This step should be made to generate interest and agreement prior to solidifying any responsibilities for each participating party.

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

Land Acquisition and Development

Life Estate

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

Local Gifts

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





Easement

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

Fee Simple Purchase

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

Fee Simple with Lease-Back or Resale

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

Long-Term Option

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

6.5 PLAN ADOPTION

The first step in implementation of the Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan is adoption of the plan by the Town of Blowing Rock. By adopting the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan, the community is able to help shape larger regional decisions so that they fit within the goals of the plan. The Town also gives itself greater authority in shaping local land use decisions so



that they achieve the goals and vision of this plan. In addition, the adoption of this Master Plan is essential in order to maximize available grant opportunities.

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



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

Action Steps

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

1. Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program and address the goals of the Master Plan.
2. Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of this plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities that are proposed.
3. Develop and implement educational and awareness programs such as public events and promotion of parks awareness by civic and environmental advocacy groups. These programs can be used to announce new park facilities and upcoming projects.
4. Begin working on the recommendations that are listed in the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program. From these opportunities come the framework for an initial implementation strategy. These recommendations include:



- Aggressively begin to establish potential funding mechanisms for future park expansions. This high priority goal is essential for realizing the proposed recommendations for the future growth and development of Blowing Rock's parks and recreation facilities.
- Use the nucleus of park patrons to expand the awareness of the amenities and programming of the Town of Blowing Rock parks and recreation system.
- Expand and modify the existing park system into a comprehensive, multi-use system, distributed so that it better meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities to all and enhances the current park system.
- Continue making the critical pedestrian and bicycle connections between destination points that will allow for preservation of open space and offer an alternative mode of transportation.

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

- The Town needs to ensure that facility planning is integrated with other regional planning efforts at the state and local levels and with long-range and current land use, economic development, parks, environmental, and community planning. The following are mechanisms to achieve this action step:
 - 1) Expand local capital improvements program for yearly appropriation for greenway and park development.
 - 2) Set aside money for future land acquisition, construction, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
 - 3) Pursue and request pedestrian/bicycle projects to be added to NCDOT TIP.
 - 4) Pursue developing and expanding existing and new partnerships.
 - 5) Apply for PARTF Grants and other related recreation grants for future parks and recreation projects
 - 6) Seek other sources of revenue funding for parks and greenway improvements, such as including local assessment districts and developer exactions.
 - 7) Pursue funding from other sources listed in this section.

6.6 CONCLUSION

This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan has laid out a set of strategies for expanding and developing a safe, convenient, and usable park system. The plan has assessed the study area, analyzed the existing facilities, received and analyzed community input, reviewed recreation standards, developed recommendations, and provided strategies for implementing the plan.



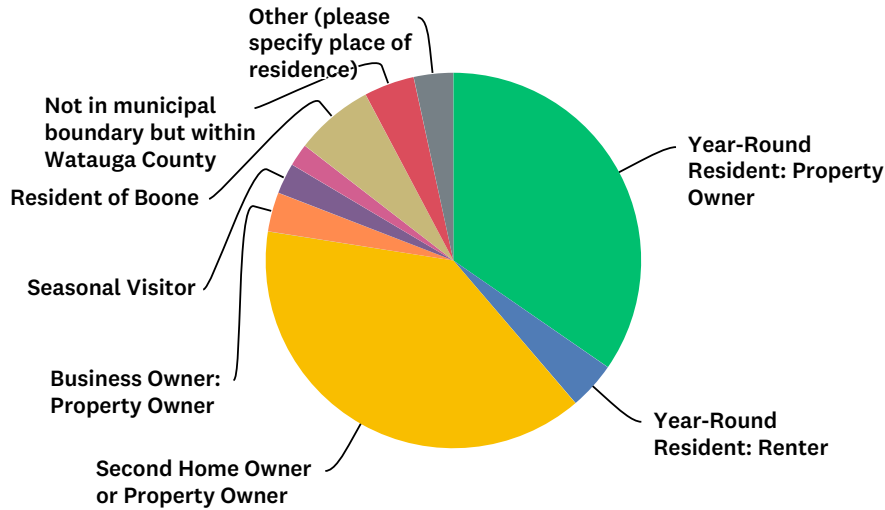
The Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is a comprehensive guide to be used in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the Town of Blowing Rock.

- END OF SECTION -

APPENDIX A

Q1 Which statements describes your relationship to the Town of Blowing Rock?

Answered: 413 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Year-Round Resident: Property Owner	34.62%	143
Year-Round Resident: Renter	4.12%	17
Second Home Owner or Property Owner	38.74%	160
Rent a home	0.00%	0
Business Owner: Property Owner	3.39%	14
Seasonal Visitor	2.66%	11
Extra-territorial Area (ETA)/Extra-territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) Resident	1.94%	8
Resident of Boone	6.78%	28
Not in municipal boundary but within Watauga County	4.36%	18
Other (please specify place of residence)	3.39%	14
TOTAL		413

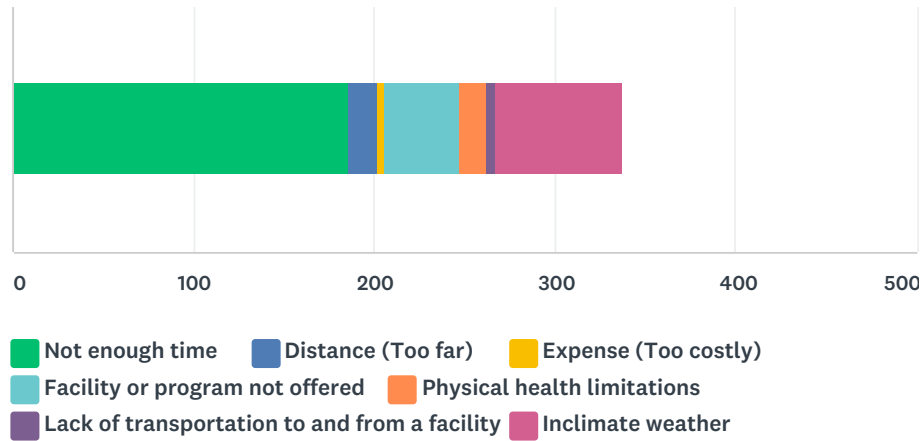
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)	DATE
1	Year round resident: property and business owner	10/20/2018 7:23 PM
2	Business Owner (Rent): Extra-territorial Area Property Owner	10/19/2018 12:36 PM
3	Too crowded in summer. Parking is an issue.	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
4	teach at Blowing Rock School, live right outside of town limit	10/17/2018 10:16 AM
5	Teacher @BRE	10/17/2018 6:54 AM
6	Employee of a business in Blowing Rock / Year-round	7/23/2018 9:12 AM
7	Boone resident- Blowing Rock school district	7/22/2018 11:06 AM

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8	Live in Blowing Rock year-round; student who lives with parents.	7/20/2018 12:27 PM
9	I work here full time but live in Vilas	7/20/2018 10:10 AM
10	Work and play in Blowing Rock	6/15/2018 7:51 PM
11	Business Owner/Rent Property	6/15/2018 1:06 PM
12	Business owner/Resident/property owener year round	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
13	Resident of Boone, worked in Blowing Tock for 15 years.	6/13/2018 9:09 PM
14	Blowing Rock address but outside town of Blowing Rock town limits.	6/12/2018 7:25 PM

Q2 What is the greatest barrier to your households regular use of public parks or recreational facilities?

Answered: 316 Skipped: 99



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not enough time	58.86%	186
Distance (Too far)	5.06%	16
Expense (Too costly)	1.27%	4
Facility or program not offered	12.97%	41
Physical health limitations	4.75%	15
Lack of transportation to and from a facility	1.58%	5
Inclimate weather	22.15%	70
Total Respondents: 316		

#	OTHER, PLEASE DESCRIBE	DATE
1	none	10/23/2018 5:52 PM
2	no barrier	10/23/2018 4:48 PM
3	Don't really use as we are members of two other facilities.	10/21/2018 1:39 PM
4	no problem use the parks all the time	10/20/2018 7:23 PM
5	No barriers	10/20/2018 11:23 AM
6	None	10/19/2018 4:38 PM
7	nothing really	10/19/2018 1:05 PM
8	It's great! I don't use it much, but happy others do!	10/19/2018 8:43 AM
9	caregiver	10/18/2018 10:46 PM
10	Often too crowded with tourists and their children.	10/18/2018 10:34 PM
11	Use BRCC facilities	10/18/2018 8:15 PM
12	no barrier	10/18/2018 5:31 PM
13	Nothing	10/18/2018 4:54 PM

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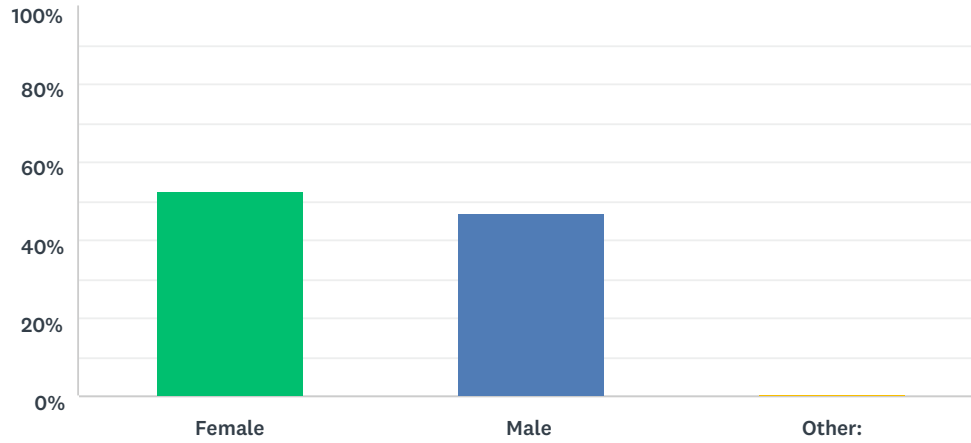
14	We have NO barrier. When our Grandchildren come to visit we are in & out of at lease 3 of the parks	10/18/2018 3:29 PM
15	no children	10/18/2018 1:55 PM
16	No barrier.	10/18/2018 1:13 PM
17	None	10/18/2018 12:48 PM
18	Pickle ball	10/18/2018 12:27 PM
19	Need sidewalk from town to Bass Lake where we like to walk but don't like all of the traffic.	10/18/2018 12:25 PM
20	none	10/18/2018 12:23 PM
21	Parking	10/18/2018 11:59 AM
22	condition of the facilities	10/18/2018 11:49 AM
23	Lack of interest because of competing activities	10/18/2018 11:39 AM
24	greatest barrier is too few parks and recreational facilities. Middle Fork Greenway would help remove barriers.	10/18/2018 11:14 AM
25	none of the above	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
26	Not enough organized things to do	10/18/2018 10:36 AM
27	No problem	10/18/2018 10:35 AM
28	Parking	10/18/2018 10:26 AM
29	We do use regularly	10/18/2018 10:06 AM
30	lack of knowledge of what's available	10/18/2018 10:05 AM
31	We walk at the Cone propery and use BRCC heath facility.	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
32	None..we use them regularly	10/18/2018 9:45 AM
33	Parking	10/17/2018 9:43 PM
34	Kids grown. Parking.	10/17/2018 6:54 AM
35	we visited the park & enrolled in summer camp when our child was young	10/16/2018 11:54 PM
36	I go to the park.	10/16/2018 7:29 PM
37	NA	10/16/2018 4:25 PM
38	Safety concerns	10/16/2018 4:15 PM
39	None	7/24/2018 7:09 AM
40	non	7/22/2018 3:05 PM
41	Parking nearby	7/22/2018 11:50 AM
42	None	7/22/2018 9:47 AM
43	Lack of information as to what is available	7/20/2018 11:46 AM
44	We go as often as possible. No real barrier	7/19/2018 10:17 PM
45	Too crowded with day tourists	7/19/2018 10:47 AM
46	Parking issues	7/9/2018 2:38 PM
47	None	6/28/2018 11:15 AM
48	Now totally enjoy	6/22/2018 9:01 AM
49	Unable to have pet dog along	6/19/2018 1:56 PM
50	Spaces that aren't dog friendly are not for us	6/17/2018 7:16 PM
51	No Limitation	6/16/2018 9:09 AM
52	No barriers	6/16/2018 9:05 AM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

53	We use	6/16/2018 7:52 AM
54	Parking or crowds in the summer months	6/16/2018 7:24 AM
55	None	6/15/2018 10:04 PM
56	Work full time and have a part time job.	6/15/2018 7:26 PM
57	we love and use the parks	6/15/2018 4:30 PM
58	We use the park 2-3 times a week	6/15/2018 3:53 PM
59	I have no barriers.	6/15/2018 3:49 PM
60	Parking	6/15/2018 3:24 PM
61	Love all that the parks offer.....especially when the grandchildren are here.	6/15/2018 2:44 PM
62	We visit and enjoy the park and the pool regularly in the summer in Blowing Rock	6/15/2018 12:37 PM
63	Too many tourists.	6/15/2018 12:16 PM
64	none	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
65	We DO use public parks often whenever we are up!	6/15/2018 12:00 PM
66	we have no problem and we live in town	6/15/2018 11:58 AM
67	None	6/15/2018 11:53 AM
68	Interest	6/15/2018 11:45 AM
69	Typically use other facilities	6/15/2018 11:26 AM
70	Parking	6/15/2018 11:06 AM
71	breat to entertain children & socials but for others there is a lot of other activities in the area!	6/15/2018 11:00 AM
72	Or ice of events	6/15/2018 10:43 AM
73	no significant barriers for me	6/15/2018 10:32 AM
74	not in B Rock as often as I would like	6/15/2018 10:30 AM
75	We need a weight training center.	6/15/2018 10:20 AM
76	However, we use the "amenities" on a regular basis.	6/14/2018 9:02 AM
77	Lack of parking	6/12/2018 5:55 PM
78	We use our parks regularly	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

Q3 Please provide your gender:

Answered: 408 Skipped: 7

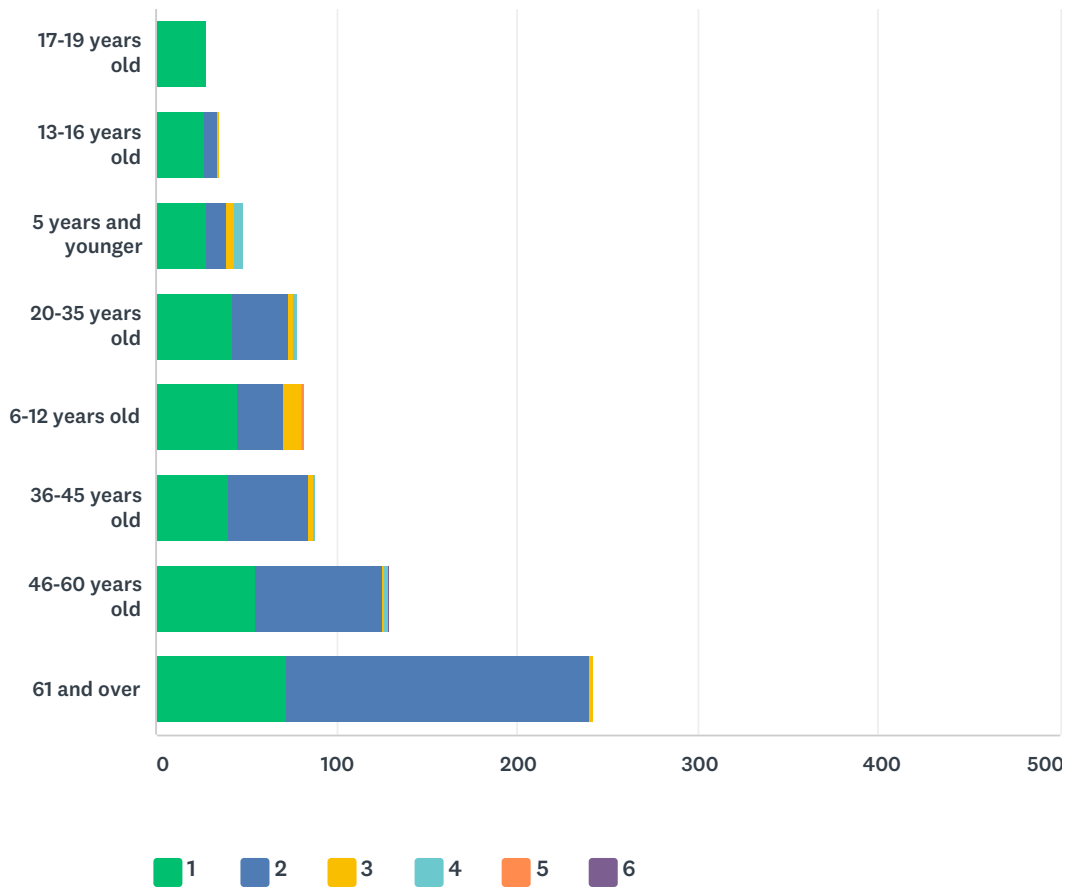


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	52.45%	214
Male	47.06%	192
Other:	0.49%	2
TOTAL		408

#	OTHER:	DATE
1	husband and wife	6/15/2018 11:58 AM
2	Advance Notice of events	6/15/2018 10:43 AM

Q4 Select the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

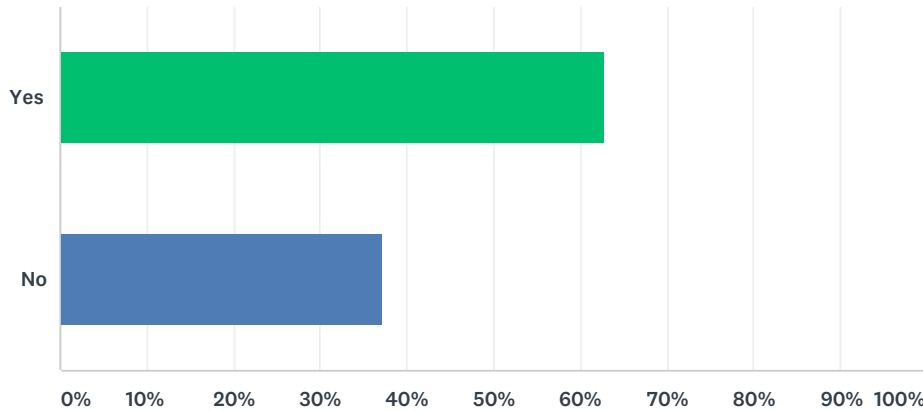
Answered: 409 Skipped: 6



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
17-19 years old	100.00% 28	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
13-16 years old	77.14% 27	20.00% 7	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
5 years and younger	58.33% 28	22.92% 11	8.33% 4	10.42% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	48
20-35 years old	53.85% 42	39.74% 31	3.85% 3	2.56% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	78
6-12 years old	54.88% 45	30.49% 25	12.20% 10	1.22% 1	1.22% 1	0.00% 0	82
36-45 years old	46.51% 40	51.16% 44	3.49% 3	1.16% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	86
46-60 years old	42.97% 55	55.47% 71	0.78% 1	1.56% 2	0.00% 0	0.78% 1	128
61 and over	30.38% 72	70.89% 168	0.84% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	237

Q5 Within the last year have you traveled out of the Town of Blowing Rock to use a recreation facility or program?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	62.72% 254
No	37.28% 151
Total Respondents: 405	

#	IF SO, WHAT FACILITIES? PLEASE LIST ALL THAT APPLY.	DATE
1	Greenway in Boone	10/23/2018 10:12 AM
2	Wellness Center	10/22/2018 6:04 PM
3	Benvenue Country Club, Rocky Mount, NC	10/21/2018 10:22 PM
4	Westglow	10/21/2018 1:39 PM
5	Wellness Center to swim	10/21/2018 11:34 AM
6	Boone Pool	10/20/2018 8:39 PM
7	Value Crusis park	10/20/2018 12:14 PM
8	Lake Lanier, Lake Allatoona, Chattahoochee at Powers Ferry	10/20/2018 10:50 AM
9	Trout fishing, hiking, basketball games, kid's games in Charlotte	10/19/2018 4:38 PM
10	Ted Mackorel Soccer Complex in Boone	10/19/2018 12:36 PM
11	Wash, DC-Smithsonian - National Gallery	10/19/2018 8:18 AM
12	Boone Forked	10/19/2018 7:09 AM
13	Town park, blue ridge parkway, bass lake, Moses cone trails, mountains to sea, glen burney	10/19/2018 6:21 AM
14	Boone, Lenoir,	10/18/2018 10:34 PM
15	Broyhill	10/18/2018 9:21 PM
16	Lenior	10/18/2018 8:44 PM
17	Facilities in our home town	10/18/2018 8:15 PM
18	Westglow, Appalachian State,	10/18/2018 7:41 PM
19	Boone Greenway	10/18/2018 7:08 PM

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20	Boone Pickleball	10/18/2018 6:13 PM
21	NY City, Bicycle in Central Park	10/18/2018 5:48 PM
22	wellnes center swim exercise	10/18/2018 5:31 PM
23	Wellness Center	10/18/2018 4:54 PM
24	several...golf courses, athletics events	10/18/2018 4:31 PM
25	Boone Greenway trail. Other Greenways in region.	10/18/2018 3:13 PM
26	Boone Fork Trail	10/18/2018 3:11 PM
27	Creeper trail, indoor pool	10/18/2018 1:53 PM
28	Trampoline park	10/18/2018 1:36 PM
29	Pisgah National Forest, Blue Ridge Parkway	10/18/2018 1:25 PM
30	5	10/18/2018 1:09 PM
31	National Parks, Canada	10/18/2018 12:45 PM
32	Boone wellness cn	10/18/2018 12:27 PM
33	Bike paths that we don't have available here	10/18/2018 12:25 PM
34	Wilson Creek, Bald Head Island, Grandfather Mtn	10/18/2018 12:00 PM
35	YMCA Charlotte	10/18/2018 11:59 AM
36	BRP, GSMNP, NC coast	10/18/2018 11:39 AM
37	I have traveled to Blowing Rock to enjoy the Cone trails and Glen Burney trail	10/18/2018 11:14 AM
38	Daniel Stowe park	10/18/2018 11:00 AM
39	Ice Skating Rink in Highlands, NC Fantastic facility	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
40	Hiking trails	10/18/2018 10:40 AM
41	Boone Greenway, Student Recreation Center	10/18/2018 10:36 AM
42	Winston Salem	10/18/2018 10:35 AM
43	Parks in Tampa, Florida area	10/18/2018 10:23 AM
44	Price Lake, Grandfather Mtn	10/18/2018 10:21 AM
45	Englewood, FL	10/18/2018 10:19 AM
46	Hiking Trails	10/18/2018 10:06 AM
47	fishing on watagua	10/18/2018 10:05 AM
48	Biltmore	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
49	In Charlotte we walk in parks mostly	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
50	Valle Crucis Park	10/18/2018 9:53 AM
51	Myers Park CC in Charlotte	10/18/2018 9:53 AM
52	Broyhill Wellness Center	10/18/2018 9:47 AM
53	Many	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
54	Parkway trails	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
55	State parks	10/18/2018 9:40 AM
56	Deer Valley in Boone, NC for indoor tennis	10/18/2018 9:16 AM
57	Broyhill Wellness	10/17/2018 7:34 PM
58	Public beach	10/17/2018 4:48 PM
59	Watauga rec center in Boone	10/17/2018 2:30 PM
60	Grandfather Mtn., pullen park in Raleigh, ocracoke beaches, Boone sr. Cente	10/17/2018 10:12 AM

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61	Wellness Center	10/17/2018 7:34 AM
62	Soccer fields, hiking trails,	10/17/2018 6:54 AM
63	Boone wellness center	10/17/2018 12:06 AM
64	Gymnastics club	10/16/2018 11:33 PM
65	Boone parks WHS Greenway Trail	10/16/2018 7:29 PM
66	Boone	10/16/2018 5:16 PM
67	Watauga Swim Complex	10/16/2018 5:05 PM
68	YCMA avery, Boone swim complex, Deer Valley RC	10/16/2018 5:00 PM
69	Broyhill Fitness Center for aquatic exercises	10/16/2018 4:25 PM
70	New river, park where input into new river near Todd off of Big Hill Road	10/16/2018 4:15 PM
71	Little League Baseball	8/2/2018 10:17 AM
72	Boone Greenway, Lenoir Greenway	7/27/2018 3:32 PM
73	ASU pool	7/25/2018 5:09 PM
74	Hurricane, WV - Splash Park and Obstacle Course	7/24/2018 1:06 PM
75	National and state parks	7/24/2018 7:09 AM
76	The Wellness Center - A gym or facility with classes	7/23/2018 9:12 AM
77	Appalachian State Rec Center	7/22/2018 7:46 PM
78	Deer Valley, Wellness Center	7/22/2018 11:06 AM
79	Grandfather mountain, Valle crucis community park	7/20/2018 7:19 PM
80	The giant park outside Morganton	7/20/2018 6:55 PM
81	Catawba Meadows Morgantown	7/20/2018 4:12 PM
82	Blue Ridge Parkway, Price Lake, Watauga Lake, Rock Climbing in Boone, hiking in Boone	7/20/2018 12:27 PM
83	Parks and lakes in Raleigh, NC prior to my move.	7/20/2018 10:40 AM
84	Lake Lure, NC Watauga Lake, NC	7/20/2018 9:23 AM
85	Greenway Trail	7/19/2018 3:04 PM
86	Tot lot, Greenway in Boone, Middle Fork Greenway, Grandfather Mountain, Moses Cone	7/19/2018 1:05 PM
87	Price Lake, Grandfather Mtn, BR Parkway, Boone Greenway	7/19/2018 10:47 AM
88	State parks	7/12/2018 3:22 AM
89	Luarel Creek Falls, Barter Theatre	6/28/2018 11:15 AM
90	Boone greenway	6/28/2018 8:28 AM
91	Broyhill Wellness Center in Boone	6/22/2018 7:17 AM
92	Water aerobics pool - theatre productions	6/21/2018 12:24 PM
93	Boone pools and parks	6/20/2018 2:00 PM
94	Student Rec Center at ASU	6/19/2018 4:54 PM
95	BR Parkway trails and lakes	6/19/2018 4:10 PM
96	Valle cruiz Park	6/19/2018 1:56 PM
97	hiking trails	6/19/2018 11:38 AM
98	Bass Lake & Price Lake	6/18/2018 9:09 PM
99	Appalachian Wellness Center	6/18/2018 6:19 PM
100	Morganton Catawba Meadows Park	6/18/2018 3:28 PM
101	Boone Pool, Broyhill Fitness Center	6/18/2018 9:48 AM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

102	State and National parks	6/17/2018 7:08 PM
103	From Georgia through the blue ridge	6/17/2018 4:06 PM
104	tweetsie	6/17/2018 9:52 AM
105	Hiking trails	6/17/2018 8:52 AM
106	Tot Lot, Wellness Center Pool	6/17/2018 7:38 AM
107	YMCA - Hickory, Catawba Country Club, Rock Barn, Yonahlossee, BR Country Club	6/16/2018 3:09 PM
108	golf, National and State Parks	6/16/2018 12:31 PM
109	coastal beaches	6/16/2018 10:50 AM
110	Blue Ridge Parkway and trails	6/16/2018 9:09 AM
111	Trails, parks, Grandfather Mtn., lakes	6/16/2018 9:05 AM
112	Asheville Racquet Club	6/16/2018 8:37 AM
113	Valle Crucis Park	6/16/2018 8:10 AM
114	South African gardens and parks (hiking and zip lining)	6/16/2018 8:10 AM
115	Grandfather- Magnolia Gardens +	6/16/2018 7:52 AM
116	Hiking Trails	6/16/2018 7:24 AM
117	Wellness Ctr	6/16/2018 5:03 AM
118	Greenway	6/15/2018 11:36 PM
119	Watauga pool	6/15/2018 9:57 PM
120	Fitness Center	6/15/2018 9:11 PM
121	Broyhill Wellness Center	6/15/2018 8:38 PM
122	Beach trip	6/15/2018 8:10 PM
123	URec at App State, Valle Crucis Community Park, Grandfather Mtn, Rocky Knob Park, BR Pkwy, WC Parks & Rec	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
124	Appalachian trail	6/15/2018 6:30 PM
125	Wellness Center in Boone	6/15/2018 6:27 PM
126	Yonahlossee Raquel club, greenway in Boone, Deerfield tennis, high country yoga, broyhill fitness center	6/15/2018 6:03 PM
127	We live on Beech Mountain and we use the fitness center of the Beech Mountain Club a lot.	6/15/2018 6:00 PM
128	Blue Ridge Parkway, Colombia State Park, Sequoia National Park, Yosemite National Park, Julian Price Park	6/15/2018 5:08 PM
129	Blue Ridge trails	6/15/2018 3:53 PM
130	Golf, hiking, biking	6/15/2018 3:49 PM
131	Ski slope bass lake	6/15/2018 3:24 PM
132	hiking trails, mountain bike trails, road bike routes	6/15/2018 3:16 PM
133	Hungry Mother State Park - near Marion VA	6/15/2018 3:02 PM
134	Baseball, basketball tournaments	6/15/2018 2:55 PM
135	Harrisburg Park in Harrisburg NC :)	6/15/2018 2:17 PM
136	Boone public park	6/15/2018 1:53 PM
137	Moses Cone park	6/15/2018 1:51 PM
138	Creeper Trail, Damascus, VA	6/15/2018 1:40 PM
139	Wellness Center, Boone; Watauga High School; Watauga Pool	6/15/2018 1:38 PM
140	Downtown park, Mayview park	6/15/2018 1:24 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

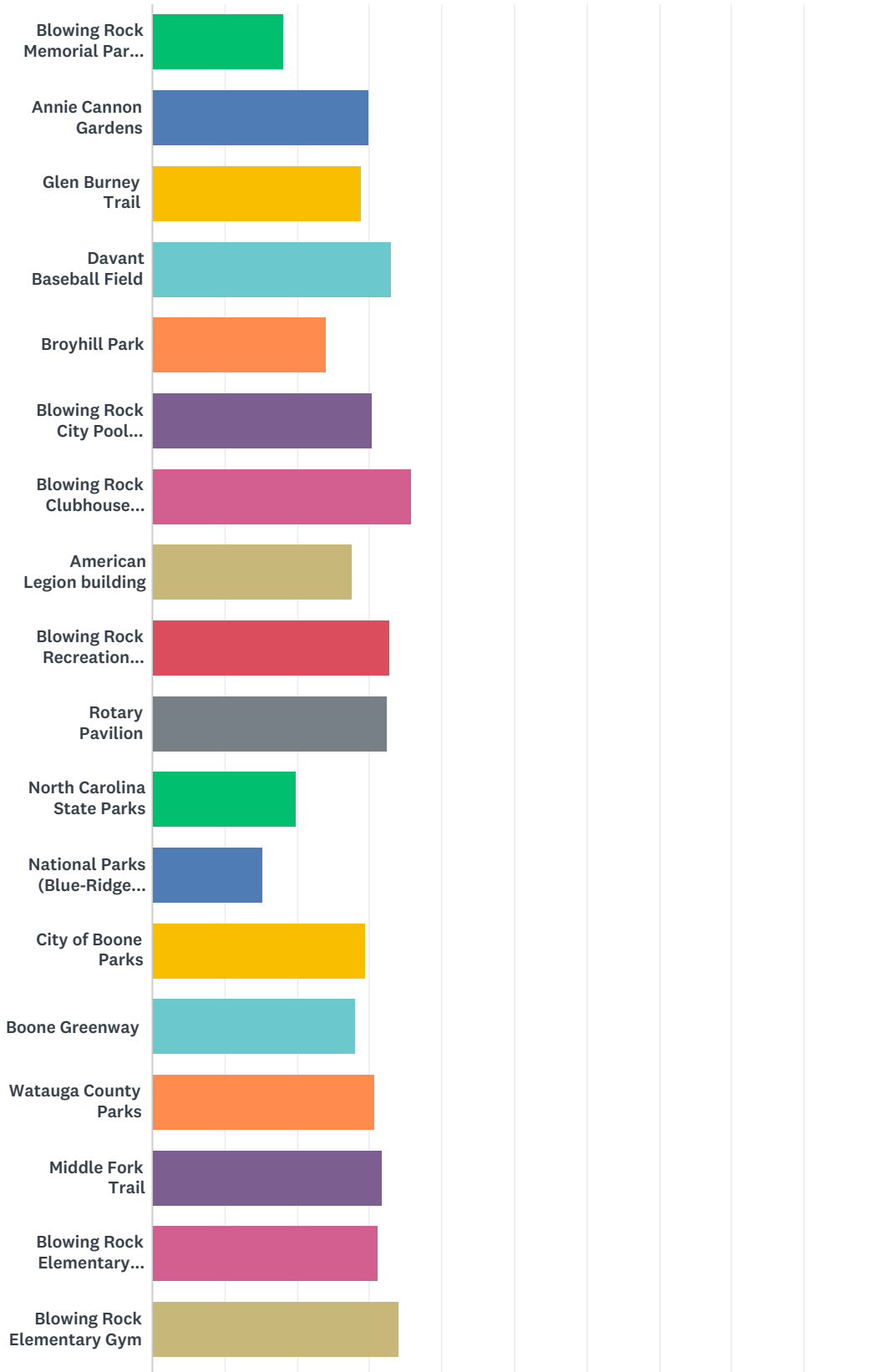
141	Watauga County Swim Complex	6/15/2018 12:56 PM
142	Umstead Park, Pullen Park (both in Raleigh) and Linville Gorge Recreation area	6/15/2018 12:37 PM
143	Wellness Center in Boone	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
144	Broyhill Wellness Center Boone (every time we visit), Boone Greenway (EVERY time we are up), various National Park sites in the area	6/15/2018 12:00 PM
145	fishing	6/15/2018 11:49 AM
146	boone	6/15/2018 11:42 AM
147	Lake norman	6/15/2018 11:35 AM
148	Golf in Linville	6/15/2018 11:26 AM
149	Boone greenway, Lenoir greenway	6/15/2018 11:26 AM
150	hiking,pool	6/15/2018 11:25 AM
151	state and national parks throughout the U.S.	6/15/2018 11:21 AM
152	Gym-Crossfit	6/15/2018 11:06 AM
153	The Wellness Center in Boone	6/15/2018 11:02 AM
154	water. hiking, skiing, sight seeing and shopping	6/15/2018 11:00 AM
155	Trout Lake, Bass Lake	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
156	gym with machines	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
157	Reguarly attend music events in North Wilkesboro and Mt Airy at their outdoor festival areas and amphitheater.	6/15/2018 10:48 AM
158	Park's	6/15/2018 10:43 AM
159	Watauga lake, Cherokee National Forest	6/15/2018 10:43 AM
160	Golf	6/15/2018 10:42 AM
161	Blue Ridge Parkway, fishing spots & hiking trails	6/15/2018 10:38 AM
162	Valle Crucis Park	6/15/2018 10:37 AM
163	Club Volleyball all across the state and Georgia, and TN	6/15/2018 10:37 AM
164	Grandfather Mtn, Julian Price, Cone Estate	6/15/2018 10:34 AM
165	Greenway in Lenoir	6/15/2018 10:32 AM
166	Charlotte Parks , Greensboro Parks,	6/15/2018 10:30 AM
167	golf	6/15/2018 10:23 AM
168	BR gym	6/15/2018 10:20 AM
169	Indoor pool, gym, playground, splash pad	6/15/2018 8:10 AM
170	HCSA, Town of Boone	6/14/2018 4:36 PM
171	Basketball (church) and Baseball (Watauga Rec.)	6/14/2018 9:02 AM
172	Blowing Rock summer camp	6/13/2018 9:09 PM
173	YMCA in Linville, Watauga Parks and Rec, ASU Recreation Department	6/13/2018 1:34 PM
174	Wellness Center, Brookshire, Optimist Park, Swimming Complex, Skating rink, and Greenway Trail	6/13/2018 6:24 AM
175	The wellness center and Boone greenway	6/12/2018 9:26 PM
176	Fitness studio	6/12/2018 8:47 PM
177	Town Park, Swimming Pool, Broyhill Park	6/12/2018 8:42 PM
178	Camp grounds	6/12/2018 8:35 PM
179	Boone greenway valle crucis banner elk	6/12/2018 8:06 PM

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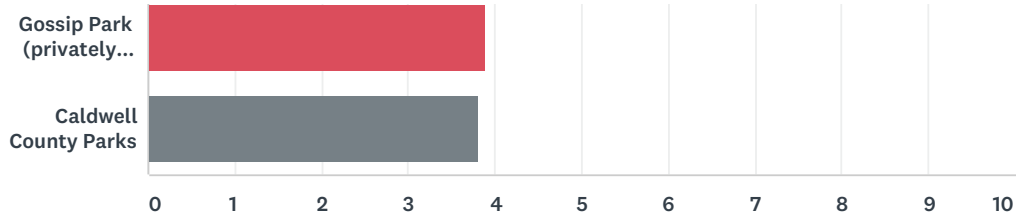
180	Swim complex in Boone, CATAWBA Meadows, Ashe Co. Parks and Rec disc golf course, Sawmills disc golf, Wilkes Co. disc golf.	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
181	To many to list	6/12/2018 6:28 PM
182	Glenn Barney Trail	6/12/2018 5:55 PM
183	Park, BRAHM	6/12/2018 4:07 PM
184	YMCA Liville	6/12/2018 4:03 PM
185	Wake County greenways	6/12/2018 3:13 PM
186	Tot lot and Boone greenway	6/12/2018 3:11 PM
187	Deerfield, boone playground, out of county facilities	6/12/2018 3:11 PM
188	SRC	6/12/2018 3:05 PM
189	Linville YMCA Pool in Winter and for swim lessons	6/12/2018 3:05 PM
190	ASU and YMCA Banner Elk	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

Q6 Check below how frequently you or others in your household have visited the following facilities in the past year.

Answered: 411 Skipped: 4



Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey



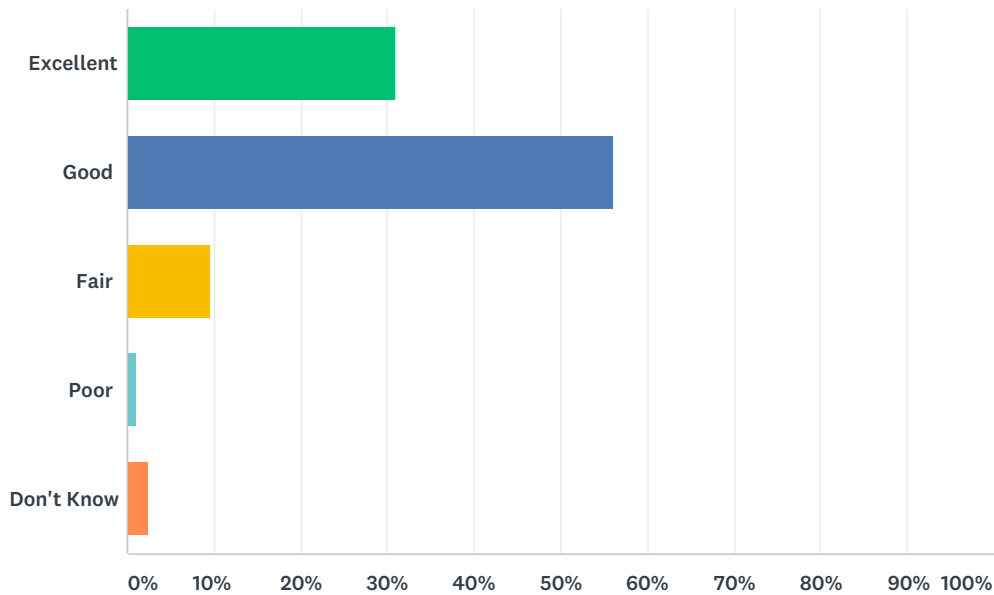
	REGULARLY	OCCASIONALLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Blowing Rock Memorial Park (City Park)	37.19% 151	47.04% 191	13.05% 53	2.71% 11	406	1.81
Annie Cannon Gardens	6.01% 23	25.59% 98	30.55% 117	37.86% 145	383	3.00
Glen Burney Trail	4.37% 17	32.13% 125	33.42% 130	30.08% 117	389	2.89
Davant Baseball Field	4.18% 16	17.49% 67	21.15% 81	57.18% 219	383	3.31
Broyhill Park	19.90% 77	38.24% 148	24.03% 93	17.83% 69	387	2.40
Blowing Rock City Pool (Grover C. Robbin's Memorial Pool)	11.54% 45	18.72% 73	24.87% 97	44.87% 175	390	3.03
Blowing Rock Clubhouse (Formerly known as the Ruritan building)	1.04% 4	10.10% 39	19.69% 76	69.17% 267	386	3.57
American Legion building	9.14% 36	34.77% 137	26.14% 103	29.95% 118	394	2.77
Blowing Rock Recreation Center	2.33% 9	17.62% 68	28.76% 111	51.30% 198	386	3.29
Rotary Pavilion	4.24% 16	19.10% 72	25.46% 96	51.19% 193	377	3.24
North Carolina State Parks	30.10% 118	47.96% 188	16.07% 63	5.87% 23	392	1.98
National Parks (Blue-Ridge Parkway, Julian Price Park, etc.)	55.45% 224	37.87% 153	5.69% 23	0.99% 4	404	1.52
City of Boone Parks	9.33% 36	26.42% 102	22.80% 88	41.45% 160	386	2.96
Boone Greenway	16.62% 64	24.42% 94	20.00% 77	38.96% 150	385	2.81
Watauga County Parks	8.95% 34	18.42% 70	28.68% 109	43.95% 167	380	3.08
Middle Fork Trail	5.73% 22	18.49% 71	27.08% 104	48.70% 187	384	3.19
Blowing Rock Elementary Playground	12.92% 50	16.80% 65	15.25% 59	55.04% 213	387	3.12
Blowing Rock Elementary Gym	8.57% 33	10.13% 39	13.77% 53	67.53% 260	385	3.40
Gossip Park (privately owned)	0.26% 1	1.04% 4	7.53% 29	91.17% 351	385	3.90
Caldwell County Parks	0.52% 2	3.36% 13	10.34% 40	85.79% 332	387	3.81

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#	OTHER	DATE
1	Visit Moses Cone trails every day I am in BR (Rain or Shine)	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
2	Moses CONE almost everyday	6/15/2018 8:38 PM
3	App State URec pool: regularly	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
4	When grandchildren visit multiply by 10!	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
5	broyhill gardens, lenoir, n.c.	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
6	WE wish the Greenway would be extended all the way to Blowing Rock--best thing you could do!	6/15/2018 12:00 PM
7	Valle Crucis Park	6/12/2018 3:42 PM

Q7 Overall, how would you rate the existing Blowing Rock Memorial Park?

Answered: 408 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	30.88% 126
Good	56.13% 229
Fair	9.56% 39
Poor	0.98% 4
Don't Know	2.45% 10
TOTAL	408

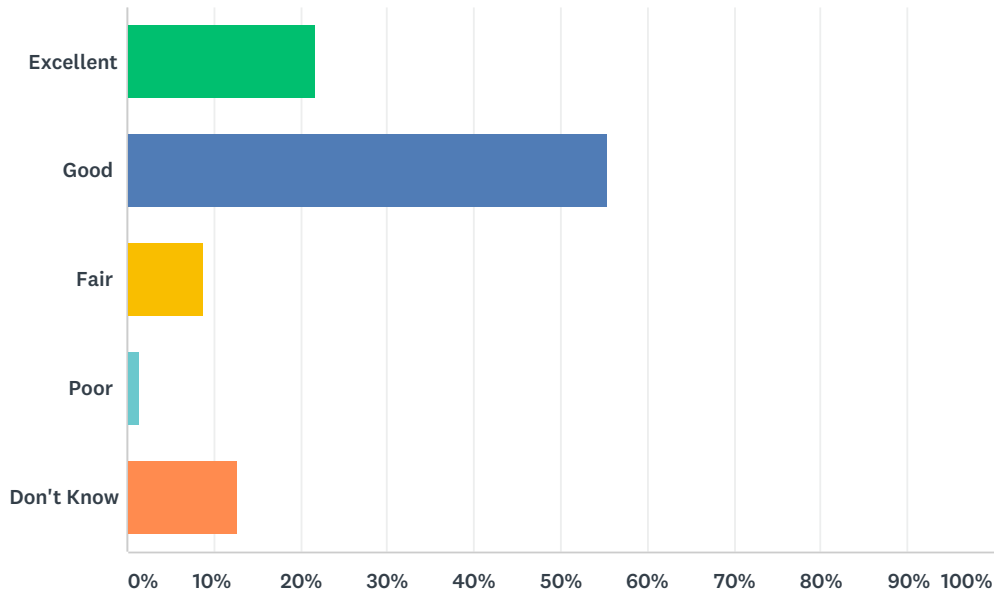
#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE SPACE BELOW.	DATE
1	Love the flowers! Thank you, Garden Club!	10/20/2018 10:50 AM
2	The pool should have been enclosed so residents could have had year round pool access	10/19/2018 10:14 PM
3	My family really enjoys it especially when there are not so many tourists there.	10/18/2018 1:36 PM
4	We claim to be a super dog friendly town yet dogs not allowed. It's all for children no place to sit out and relax with or without your dog whether on a blanket or sitting unless you want to sit and face the crowds and traffic!	10/18/2018 11:59 AM
5	wooden steps in poor condition	10/18/2018 11:49 AM
6	Just miss those beautiful trees, but understand the danger.	10/18/2018 11:08 AM
7	would love to see the hard space ie basketball courts or Tennis courts improved or turned into something like the space in Highlands (Ice Skating in the Winter and multi use in Summer	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
8	Need organized activities	10/18/2018 10:36 AM
9	Finish the wall!	10/18/2018 10:26 AM
10	I miss the trees... better landscaping in park would certainly help	10/18/2018 10:23 AM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

11	Good, but lack of shade and too many benches!	10/18/2018 10:21 AM
12	many dangerous sharp-edged signs; boring play equipment	10/18/2018 10:19 AM
13	Too many facilities not enough park-like atmosphere	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
14	THis is the most important and shooud be a priority.	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
15	The lack of trees and greenery bad. It looks cold	10/18/2018 9:16 AM
16	needs updates other than plants	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
17	I think the park should be dog friendly.	10/17/2018 2:30 PM
18	Not very nice without the trees	10/16/2018 5:16 PM
19	The playground equipment could use an update	10/16/2018 5:00 PM
20	Will get better as current work is completed and trees mature	7/24/2018 7:09 AM
21	Taking down of trees has left a place where all you see are electric poles. No character any more.	7/22/2018 11:50 AM
22	So nice to see the tree issue behind us.	7/20/2018 9:23 AM
23	Lawn maintenance has left something to be desired since mid May.	7/19/2018 3:04 PM
24	Well kept but for the price, nothing special. Hiking is pretty lame in fact.	7/9/2018 2:38 PM
25	Am pleased with the replanting of the trees and the changes to protect the park going forward	6/16/2018 9:09 AM
26	Just doesn't look as pretty without the mature trees	6/16/2018 8:37 AM
27	Nice improvements this year. Thank you.	6/16/2018 7:24 AM
28	I miss the maples.	6/15/2018 12:56 PM
29	Need to paint safety stripe when gazebo has step down.	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
30	Thank you for upgrading the trees and surrounding landscape!	6/15/2018 11:45 AM
31	Love the park! But playground could use some updates or growth.	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
32	Need more parking!	6/12/2018 5:55 PM

Q8 Overall, how would you rate the Town playground?

Answered: 410 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	21.71%	89
Good	55.37%	227
Fair	8.78%	36
Poor	1.46%	6
Don't Know	12.68%	52
TOTAL		410

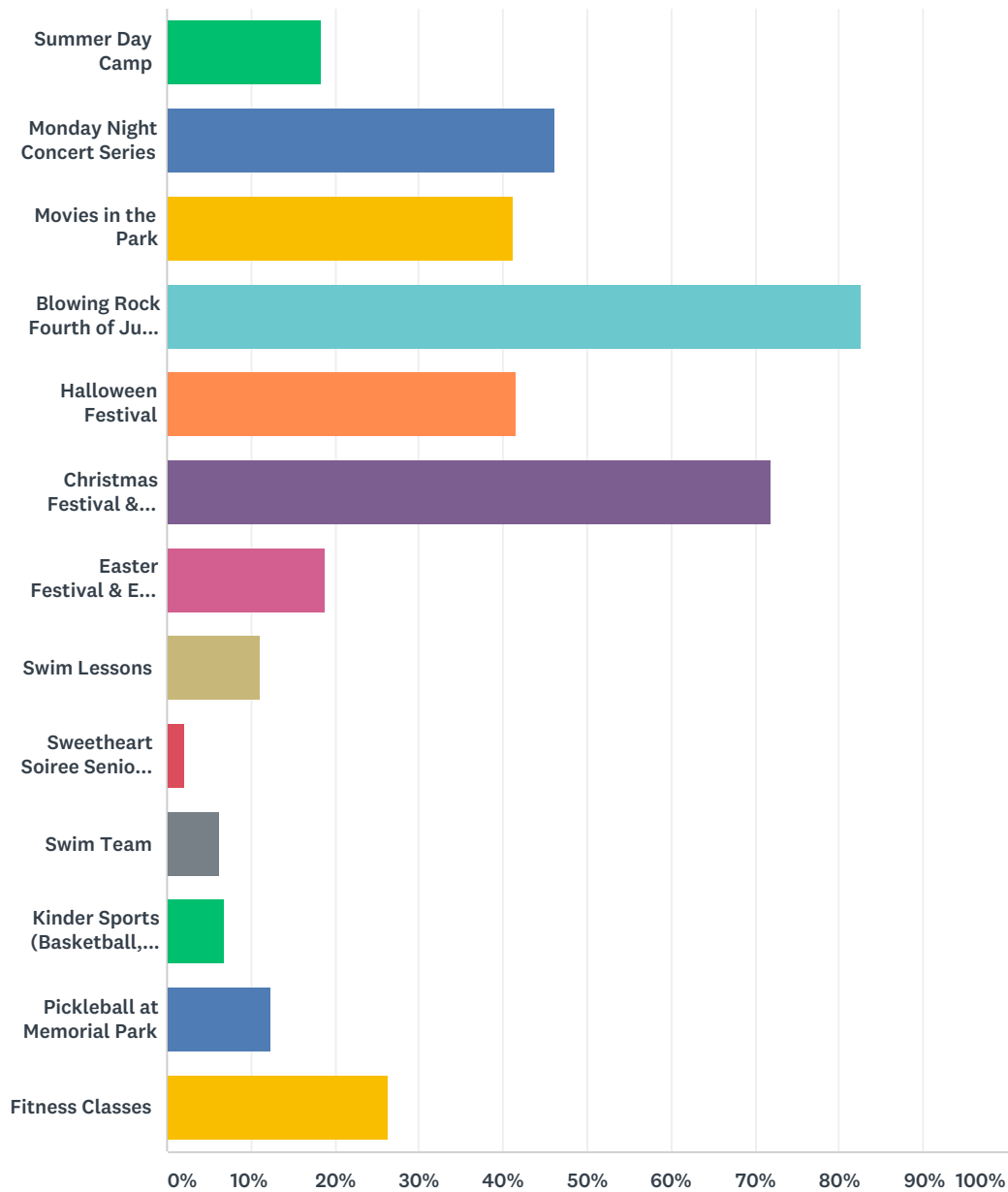
#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE SPACE BELOW.	DATE
1	I miss the trees but I understand new ones have been planted.	10/18/2018 11:36 AM
2	Grandkids use	10/18/2018 10:40 AM
3	Do lot like the little signs around the play are... looks tacky to me	10/18/2018 10:23 AM
4	miss the merry-go-round and large slides;	10/18/2018 10:19 AM
5	No children or grandchildren	10/18/2018 9:40 AM
6	It's outdated and in poor condition	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
7	Hard to push stroller on playground surfaced	10/17/2018 10:12 AM
8	Love the amenities. More play ground equipment as well as sports equipment would be a great additon.	7/22/2018 3:05 PM
9	Kids LOVE to climb the trees although now not allowed ☹️	7/22/2018 11:06 AM
10	Good to great for younger kids but as they get older they are less interested.	7/20/2018 4:12 PM
11	Needs to be updated or replaced with an adventure playground	7/20/2018 9:23 AM
12	Better/more regulation size basketball goals, with stronger backboards would be fantastic!	6/19/2018 4:54 PM

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13	Not enough four kids 5-10	6/17/2018 4:06 PM
14	Could add some new equipment to go with existing; include sandbox toys for borrowing	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
15	The Blowing Rock School Playground is preferred	6/13/2018 1:34 PM
16	Would love to see a splash pad!	6/12/2018 8:42 PM
17	Would love to see more things to climb, a bit more for bigger kids.	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
18	I would like to see better safety precautions such as rubber mats and a place for children in wheel chairs to play also	6/12/2018 5:55 PM
19	Bottoms of slides collect water, please have equipment that drains with all the rain we get	6/12/2018 3:11 PM

Q9 In which of the following recreation programs and special events would you or others in your household participate on a regular basis?

Answered: 379 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Summer Day Camp	18.47%	70
Monday Night Concert Series	46.17%	175
Movies in the Park	41.16%	156
Blowing Rock Fourth of July Festivities & Parade	82.59%	313
Halloween Festival	41.69%	158

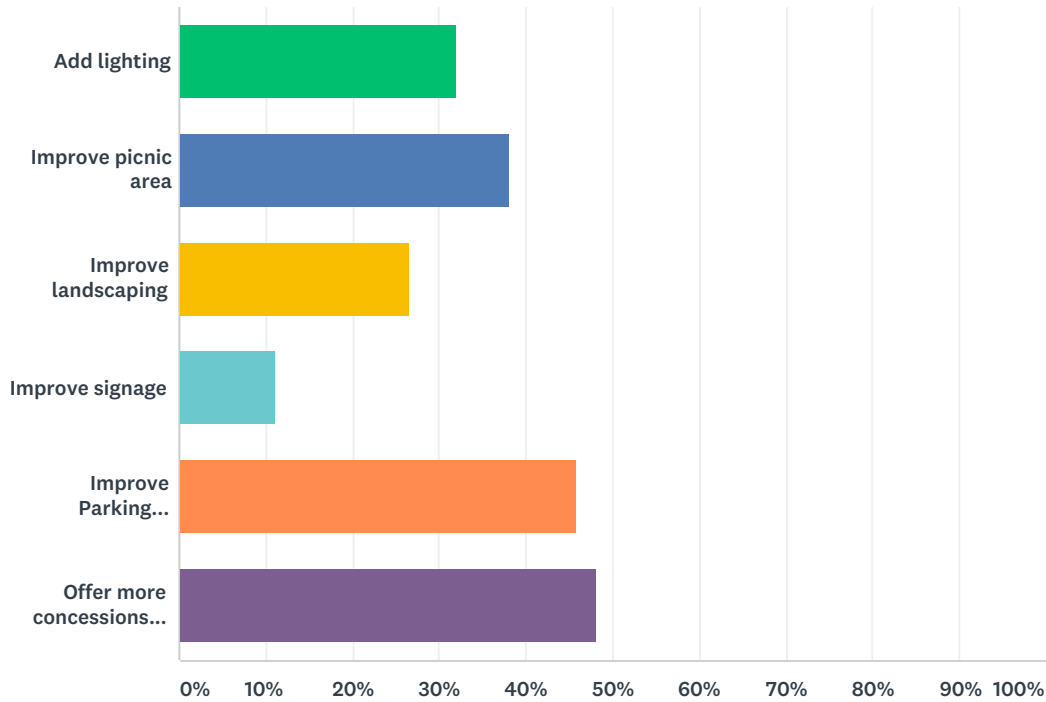
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Christmas Festival & Parade	72.03%	273
Easter Festival & Egg Hunt	18.73%	71
Swim Lessons	11.08%	42
Sweetheart Soiree Senior Valentine's Dance	2.11%	8
Swim Team	6.33%	24
Kinder Sports (Basketball, T-ball, Soccer)	6.86%	26
Pickleball at Memorial Park	12.40%	47
Fitness Classes	26.39%	100
Total Respondents: 379		

#	OTHER	DATE
1	N/A	10/19/2018 8:18 AM
2	More Greenway s and sidewalks	10/19/2018 6:21 AM
3	Again, hard to participate in some activities, due to overcrowding from non residents. (Fourth of July especially bad Nd the most annoying!	10/18/2018 10:34 PM
4	I think all of these programs are very good and I am glad they are available to the citizens of B R and surrounding towns	10/18/2018 5:31 PM
5	Saturday night concerts in the spring summer fall	10/18/2018 11:59 AM
6	Art in the Park	10/18/2018 11:08 AM
7	Lap swim. In am	10/18/2018 10:22 AM
8	Concerts on the weekend would be great.	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
9	Add summer concert series on saturday nights. Could be outside with picnics or inside	10/16/2018 4:15 PM
10	yoga	6/18/2018 9:09 PM
11	PLEASE -- Fitness classes	6/18/2018 6:19 PM
12	Only events that are pet friendly	6/17/2018 7:16 PM
13	would like yoga classes	6/17/2018 9:52 AM
14	We woud go to the concerts if the bands were more current.	6/17/2018 8:52 AM
15	Expand kinder sports to include sports for 6-8 year olds; town fitness center would be great	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
16	Blowing Rock to Boone Greenway	6/15/2018 6:30 PM
17	Yoga classes, group hiked	6/15/2018 1:53 PM
18	Tennis	6/15/2018 12:43 PM
19	Grandchildren love camp!	6/15/2018 12:16 PM
20	Need more classes for seniors (chair yoga) for example	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
21	Winter fest	6/12/2018 9:26 PM
22	Would probably do more holiday type activities if we weren't always out of town visiting family at those times. Y'all do a great job with them. Honestly Halloween is juat too crowded for me personally but is also a great event.	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
23	Yoga classes would be awesome.	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

Q10 Check below improvements that could be made to the EXISTING Blowing Rock City Swimming Pool.

Answered: 181 Skipped: 234



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Add lighting	32.04% 58
Improve picnic area	38.12% 69
Improve landscaping	26.52% 48
Improve signage	11.05% 20
Improve Parking Opportunities	45.86% 83
Offer more concessions (food or drink)	48.07% 87
Total Respondents: 181	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Please charge more to use ths by those who do use it to pay for any improvements	10/21/2018 10:22 PM
2	More lap lanes	10/20/2018 8:39 PM
3	warmer water/ no more than one camp at a time at the pool	10/20/2018 7:23 PM
4	Enclose for year round access!	10/19/2018 10:14 PM
5	Cover, heat open year round	10/19/2018 5:40 PM
6	I dont use it	10/19/2018 8:43 AM
7	Make some activities during holidays for citizens only . Taxpayers pay for it, but often do not get to	10/18/2018 10:34 PM
8	Limit the days for the campers who come in on busses. Too many to enjoy the pool.	10/18/2018 7:41 PM

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9	Eco not use	10/18/2018 7:25 PM
10	Have not been swimming in years	10/18/2018 5:48 PM
11	I have only been in the day and really just went and did nt have aproblem with th earea	10/18/2018 5:31 PM
12	Do not use	10/18/2018 4:31 PM
13	close it	10/18/2018 2:46 PM
14	no opinion	10/18/2018 2:15 PM
15	provide chairs	10/18/2018 12:45 PM
16	Have not used the pool so N/A	10/18/2018 12:00 PM
17	Chairs	10/18/2018 11:52 AM
18	lane line for lap swimming	10/18/2018 11:49 AM
19	don't know do not use it	10/18/2018 11:08 AM
20	N/A	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
21	Improve seating	10/18/2018 10:40 AM
22	NA	10/18/2018 10:35 AM
23	N/A	10/18/2018 10:26 AM
24	Morning adult lap swim	10/18/2018 10:22 AM
25	n/a	10/18/2018 10:19 AM
26	Never go there	10/18/2018 10:06 AM
27	Add seating within the pool area. Currently everyone sits on the concrete	10/18/2018 9:53 AM
28	It's fine	10/18/2018 9:45 AM
29	N/A for me	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
30	SHADE!	10/17/2018 9:43 PM
31	Longer season (through September at least) and higher fees for out of towners	10/17/2018 10:12 AM
32	Drinking fountains, bathrooms	10/17/2018 6:54 AM
33	more seating and shade	10/16/2018 5:00 PM
34	No experience	7/24/2018 7:09 AM
35	last time we went there was no parking due to construction material and equipment.	7/22/2018 11:50 AM
36	I think it is perfect!	7/22/2018 11:06 AM
37	Have a time when you turn of the sprayer things. They are loud and make the pool colder than it already is.	7/20/2018 4:12 PM
38	Have larger times for adult swim and swimming of fitness purposes - maybe put in lanes	7/20/2018 12:27 PM
39	More seating	7/19/2018 1:05 PM
40	get rid of "adult swim time	7/12/2018 3:04 PM
41	Not familiar enough to give good answer	6/28/2018 11:15 AM
42	not something I use	6/21/2018 8:15 PM
43	If the 5:00 pm adult swim could be shifted to 6 pm, that would help parents quite a bit. My child is coming out of his summer camp at 4:00, and by the time he gets back to BR, it's 5:00 and the pool is closed.	6/20/2018 2:00 PM
44	We do not use the pool :)	6/19/2018 4:54 PM
45	extra lounge chairs are still needed	6/19/2018 12:39 PM
46	provide chairs	6/19/2018 11:38 AM
47	More for toddler age	6/17/2018 4:06 PM

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48	Locks on restroom doors that work, concession machines that work	6/17/2018 7:38 AM
49	do not use it	6/16/2018 3:16 PM
50	more seating	6/16/2018 12:31 PM
51	Nothing	6/16/2018 7:52 AM
52	Don't use the pool	6/16/2018 7:24 AM
53	Do not swim	6/16/2018 6:57 AM
54	Seating around the pool	6/15/2018 9:57 PM
55	Have not visited pool in several years - -	6/15/2018 9:11 PM
56	Don't use	6/15/2018 8:34 PM
57	Add chairs	6/15/2018 8:32 PM
58	Have more lap times for adults, have prorated passes for half the summer, have pass options for si le please parents and kids, better heating in pool, ability to purchase passes online, option to purchase book of passes for a week/month (could be spread out over summer)	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
59	?	6/15/2018 7:14 PM
60	Seating!!! Having to bring a chair to the pool is crazy and is one of the main reasons we don't go.	6/15/2018 6:03 PM
61	Seating for parents and grandparents	6/15/2018 4:56 PM
62	like it as is	6/15/2018 4:30 PM
63	none - do not use pool	6/15/2018 4:00 PM
64	No opinion	6/15/2018 3:49 PM
65	Extend hours for this who can't make it during the existing times	6/15/2018 12:58 PM
66	Make it more comfortable to sit	6/15/2018 12:56 PM
67	More lounge chairs	6/15/2018 12:09 PM
68	Looks like we got chairs this year. Yea!	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
69	art in park=great	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
70	Don't use, family comes they use it and just fine and fun	6/15/2018 11:58 AM
71	Morning lap swim	6/15/2018 11:53 AM
72	I don't use.	6/15/2018 11:45 AM
73	seating	6/15/2018 11:42 AM
74	Cover it	6/15/2018 11:26 AM
75	more adult hours - perhaps in the morning	6/15/2018 11:21 AM
76	need seating and the water needs to be warmer - children turn blue	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
77	Does not need improvement	6/15/2018 10:43 AM
78	More lounge chairs to sit on	6/15/2018 10:37 AM
79	Na	6/15/2018 10:32 AM
80	More shade	6/15/2018 10:27 AM
81	Vending Machine that takes dollar bills	6/14/2018 9:02 AM
82	New Chairs are great but limited so please add more chairs	6/13/2018 1:34 PM
83	My family loves to use the pool.	6/13/2018 6:24 AM
84	Even a change machine would do wonders. Healthier snacks would be a plus.	6/12/2018 8:35 PM
85	More seating at pool, places to hang bags so they don't get wet,	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
86	Shade areas with seating	6/12/2018 4:07 PM

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87	excellent pool for young children	6/12/2018 3:11 PM
88	The lounge chairs this year are great!	6/12/2018 3:05 PM
89	More picnic areas. More parking.	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

Q11 Please list below, any recreation programs or special events that you would like to see offered within the Blowing Rock Recreation System:

Answered: 103 Skipped: 312

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Zumba classes, Pilates	10/23/2018 10:12 AM
2	Year round pool / lap swim Fitness classes - yoga, tai chi, cross fit/HIIT	10/20/2018 8:39 PM
3	Group exercise	10/19/2018 5:40 PM
4	Middle fork Greenway	10/19/2018 6:21 AM
5	Pickle ball classes and tournaments. Cross country skiing. Card games and tournaments.	10/18/2018 7:41 PM
6	Improved walking/running/biking trails Frisbee golf course	10/18/2018 7:08 PM
7	Permanent or regular deployment of Pickleball nets.	10/18/2018 6:13 PM
8	do the best job for what programs you already have in place. The summer program is great but can always be added too.	10/18/2018 5:48 PM
9	None	10/18/2018 4:36 PM
10	no recommendations	10/18/2018 4:31 PM
11	NONE send them home	10/18/2018 2:46 PM
12	Would love some events geared toward locals and building more community rather than focus seems to be to provide events for visitors.	10/18/2018 1:36 PM
13	More senior fitness programs, particularly year-round.	10/18/2018 1:25 PM
14	It is adequate. There is more than enough to do in Blowing Rock and the surrounding areas, forest lands, etc.	10/18/2018 12:48 PM
15	Pickle ball	10/18/2018 12:27 PM
16	Completion of sidewalk to Bass Lake and Middle Fork Greenway	10/18/2018 12:25 PM
17	???	10/18/2018 12:00 PM
18	Yoga, hiking groups, art classes for 13+ and separate for adults	10/18/2018 11:59 AM
19	Something to tie into the Middle Fork Greenway trailhead	10/18/2018 11:14 AM
20	Again...I believe adding an Ice Skating Rink that is revenue generating would be a good draw for not only tourist but also for people that live within a 30 mile radius of BR....BR is lacking activities in the Winter and this would not only be a great visual for the town (if done correctly) would be a draw for tourist!!!	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
21	permanent pickleball courts	10/18/2018 10:36 AM
22	Hiking leadership	10/18/2018 10:35 AM
23	Enhanced Winter Festival.	10/18/2018 10:28 AM
24	n/a	10/18/2018 10:19 AM
25	Area for board games, regular hiking schedule Biking events	10/18/2018 10:06 AM
26	concerts--bluegrass	10/18/2018 10:05 AM
27	Yoga classes at convenient times of day. Like 10 am.	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
28	None	10/18/2018 9:45 AM
29	Pickleball Competition/Tournaments/Lighting	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
30	None....it is exceptional as it is...The Crown Jewel	10/18/2018 9:44 AM

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31	More festivals	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
32	At this point. I am 76 and very active personally in my own interest.	10/18/2018 9:16 AM
33	Gym	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
34	Outdoor yoga/fitness classes in the park	10/17/2018 2:30 PM
35	Adult swim / exercise classes Senior offerings at American legion during winter months (game day?) bridge, mah Jongg, scrabble, other card games, etc. for socialization. Could offer soup and sandwich lunch as well.	10/17/2018 10:12 AM
36	I'd like to see the summer camp moved back to where it belongs -- the town rec center & park.	10/16/2018 11:54 PM
37	Yoga for people who work! 10 am doesn't work.	10/16/2018 7:45 PM
38	I would love to see an indoor gym with weights and machines, and weekday morning quick work out classes to fit the schedule of working parents (7:45-8:30 or so)	10/16/2018 5:00 PM
39	hiking events	7/24/2018 7:09 AM
40	Fitness Classes	7/22/2018 7:46 PM
41	Swim team	7/22/2018 11:50 AM
42	Craft opportunities for kids, parents, seniors	7/22/2018 11:06 AM
43	I don't have anything specific but really like what is listed below. I think for people who live here with kids growing up it would be nice to have more to do in the parks that would be fun and they would consistently want to do as they outgrow the playground. Would really love a place nearby to ride bikes on pavement and on easy trails. My kids are still relatively young so basketball and tennis are not easily played but games like corn hole, shuffle board, chess, disc golf would be great to get out and do or meet up with friends and play.	7/20/2018 4:12 PM
44	Rock CLimbing, rafting, more walking/hiking trails!	7/20/2018 12:27 PM
45	I enjoy wine tasting and beer festival events (as do a lot of others my age.) I also wish there was a "dog park" in Blowing Rock where owners could bring their dogs for socialization and exercise.	7/20/2018 10:40 AM
46	Introduction to rock climbing	7/20/2018 9:23 AM
47	A Summer Swim Team PLEASE!!	7/20/2018 8:09 AM
48	Summer camps including physical activities as well as art offerings.	7/19/2018 11:59 PM
49	Tennis lessons; basketball for kids older than 5	7/19/2018 1:05 PM
50	Ice hockey, Sledding Hill, Ice skating	7/12/2018 3:22 AM
51	Yoga, dance exercise	7/11/2018 1:14 PM
52	Enjoy what you do	6/22/2018 9:01 AM
53	An active activities director with regularly schedule of events	6/22/2018 7:17 AM
54	walking groups for seniors	6/21/2018 8:15 PM
55	Indoor water aerobics for older people	6/21/2018 12:24 PM
56	I would love to see a dog park available somewhere within town limits, especially since dogs are not allowed in the memorial park. It would be nice to have a safe place for them to exercise outdoors, and play with other pups.	6/19/2018 4:54 PM
57	Guided nature hikes - trees, animals, flower, mushrooms	6/19/2018 4:10 PM
58	Group yoga	6/19/2018 1:56 PM
59	Yoga	6/18/2018 9:09 PM
60	an expansion of indoor activities during the winter season would be great--specifically for kids	6/18/2018 12:15 PM
61	yoga	6/17/2018 9:52 AM
62	Fitness Classes, Tennis Leagues	6/16/2018 3:09 PM
63	Senior Tai Chi- stretch and strengthen classes. Zimba	6/16/2018 7:52 AM
64	Plein air artists demonstration and sales perhaps around Broyhill or Bass Lake	6/16/2018 7:24 AM

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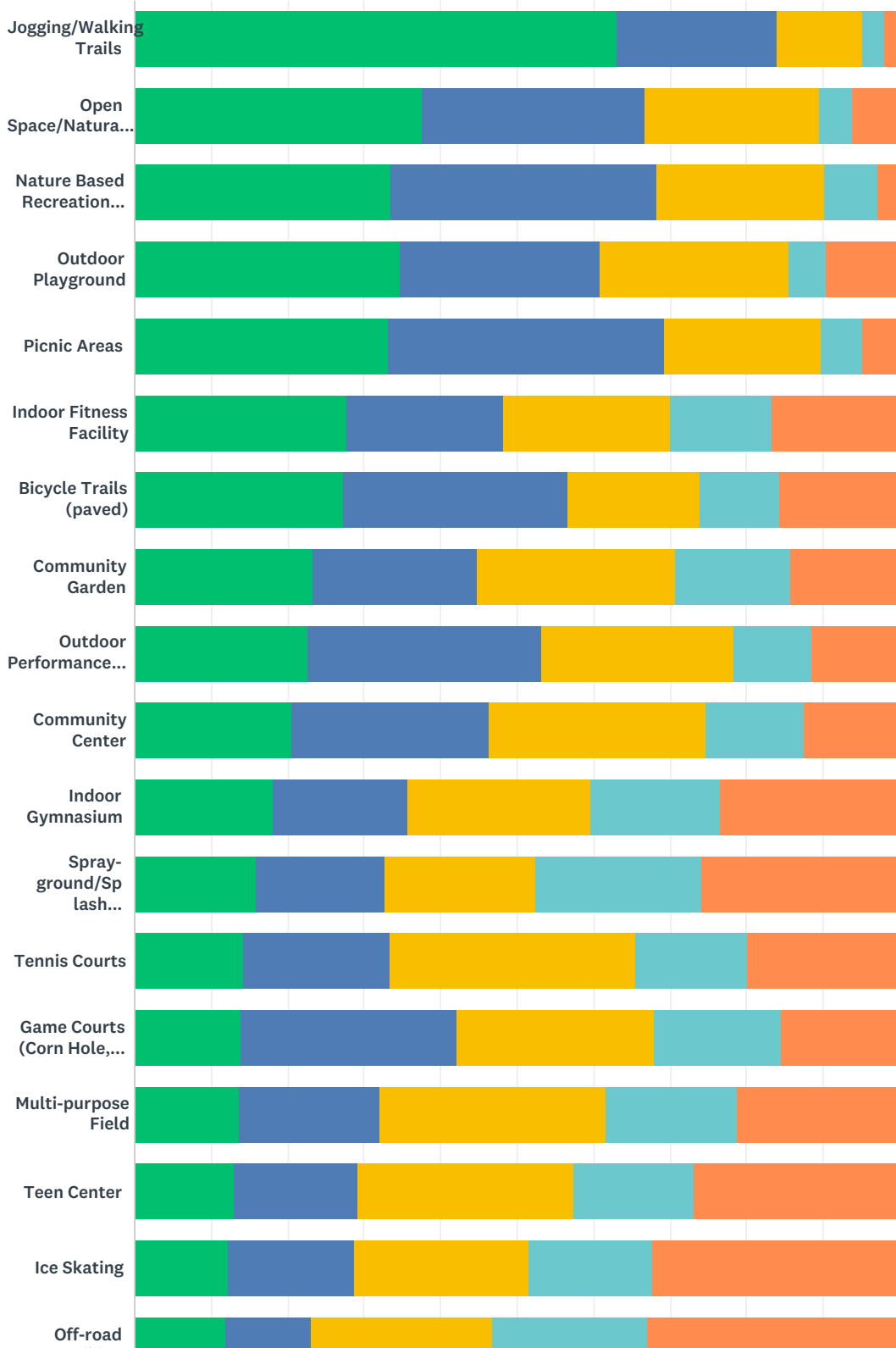
65	Yoga	6/15/2018 11:36 PM
66	Don't use	6/15/2018 8:34 PM
67	More sports programming for kids 6-10, educational nature programming for kids, family movie nights throughout the year, screenings of classic movies, tennis lessons for kids, biking/running trails	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
68	More regularly scheduled yoga	6/15/2018 6:03 PM
69	Fitness club featuring running and walking.	6/15/2018 6:00 PM
70	Fewer; spend less money and allocate it to repairing infrastructure	6/15/2018 3:49 PM
71	Parking	6/15/2018 2:44 PM
72	Group organized hikes	6/15/2018 1:53 PM
73	If there were a way to enlarge the pool. It gets so crowded we choose not to go.	6/15/2018 1:10 PM
74	Yoga in early morning sessions several times per week.	6/15/2018 1:06 PM
75	Tai Chi, Yoga, dance	6/15/2018 12:56 PM
76	Overnight "Wilderness Explorers" type camp for older kids!	6/15/2018 12:37 PM
77	food truck festival	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
78	More jogging/hiking/biking trails	6/15/2018 12:00 PM
79	Place for local artist at Art in the Park to display their work	6/15/2018 11:58 AM
80	entertainment,demonstrations of products	6/15/2018 11:49 AM
81	Concerts, concerts, concerts!	6/15/2018 11:45 AM
82	Movies in the American Legion in the winter months, more activities for local families in the winter months.	6/15/2018 11:35 AM
83	None	6/15/2018 11:26 AM
84	Yoga Adult lessons-tennis, golf	6/15/2018 11:02 AM
85	Fitness programs, including yoga, zumba	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
86	yoga	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
87	Paddle tennis courts!!!! BR is the perfect community	6/15/2018 10:46 AM
88	Nothing additional	6/15/2018 10:43 AM
89	Small concerts and music programs	6/15/2018 10:43 AM
90	Closing Main St. one day a month for bicycle and walking?	6/15/2018 10:39 AM
91	Bring the Friday evening concerts to a Park; it is too crowded and there is too much traffic noise at the current venue.	6/15/2018 10:37 AM
92	Tennis Tournaments	6/15/2018 10:26 AM
93	An indoor pool for colder months would be great.	6/13/2018 6:24 AM
94	Sports and fitness classes for older kids and teens. Everything seems to end at age 12	6/13/2018 1:58 AM
95	Tennis league	6/12/2018 9:26 PM
96	Fitness class for adults	6/12/2018 8:47 PM
97	Love the idea of a concert series...and we LOVE the movies! Maybe sell popcorn? A climbing wall! You have to help go to AUS or pay a lot for just bouldering at Center 45. Would probably be more utilized than anything else I'd guess. Disc golf would be VERY popular. You have to drive out of the county to play or know someone to use a private course. Splash pad would be wonderful!	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
98	Group fitness classes "Wine and design" style classes	6/12/2018 5:55 PM
99	Basketball Rec for older kids	6/12/2018 4:07 PM
100	Are there adult leagues such as softball? I haven't seen this advertised.	6/12/2018 3:11 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

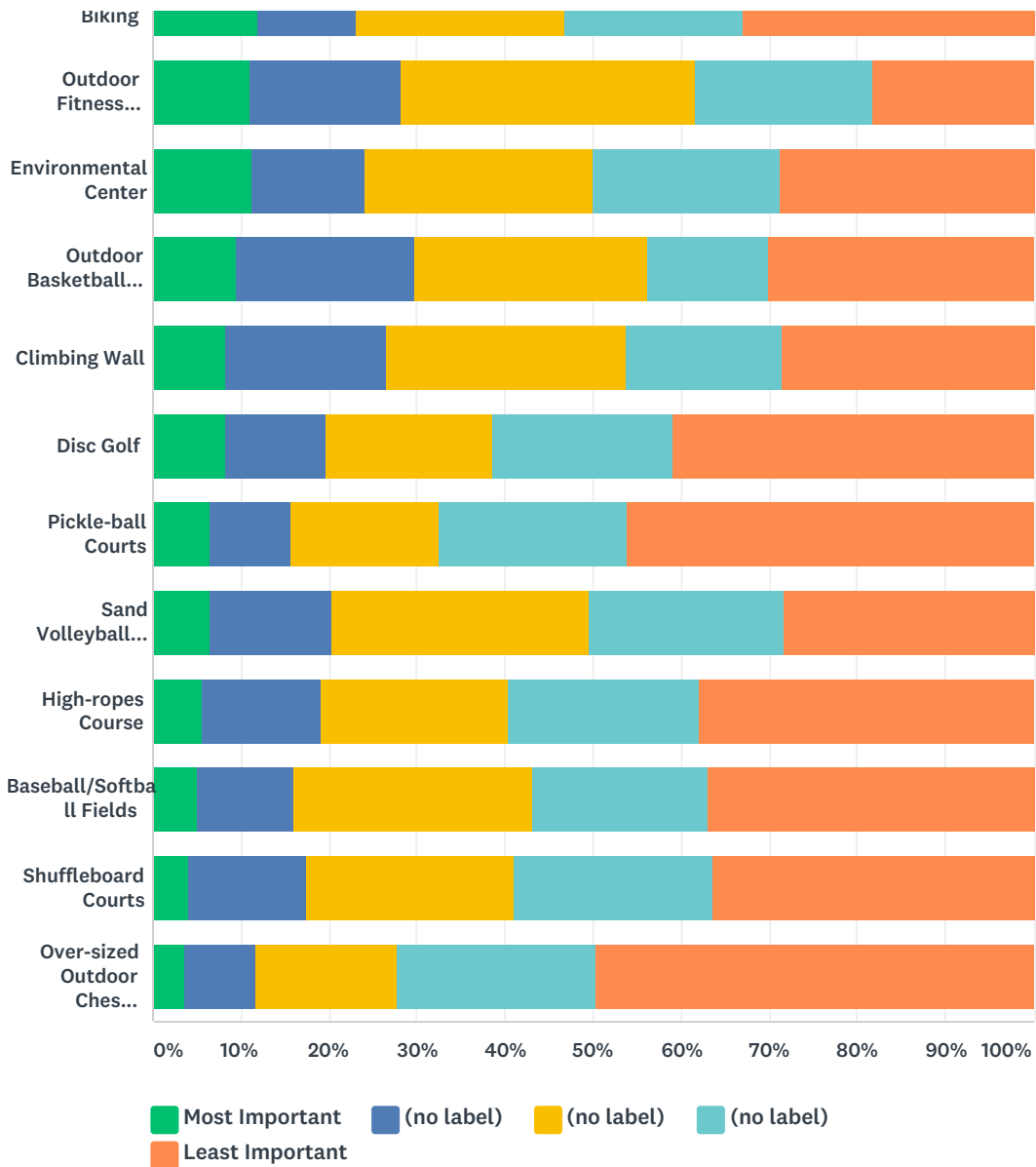
101	Something needs to be added for children in the Winter.	6/12/2018 3:05 PM
102	yoga	6/12/2018 3:02 PM
103	More yoga/fitness class times Children's martial arts Children's beginner dance classes	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

Q12 The following is a list of recreation activities that could be offered at a public park or recreation facility. Select from "Most" to "Least" important. Please consider other members of your household.

Answered: 401 Skipped: 14



Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey



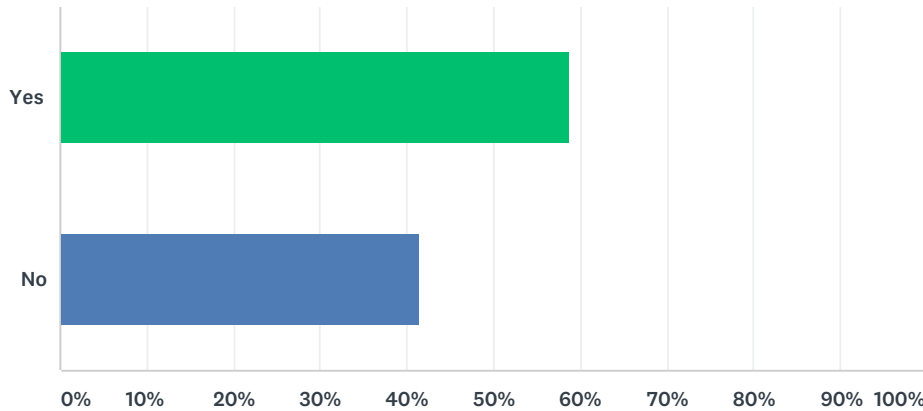
	MOST IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	LEAST IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Jogging/Walking Trails	63.08% 246	20.77% 81	11.28% 44	2.82% 11	2.05% 8	390
Open Space/Natural Areas	37.60% 141	29.07% 109	22.93% 86	4.27% 16	6.13% 23	375
Nature Based Recreation (Nature Walks, Wildlife Observation Areas)	33.51% 130	34.79% 135	21.91% 85	6.96% 27	2.84% 11	388
Outdoor Playground	34.77% 129	26.15% 97	24.53% 91	4.85% 18	9.70% 36	371
Picnic Areas	33.16% 126	36.05% 137	20.53% 78	5.53% 21	4.74% 18	380
Indoor Fitness Facility	27.81% 104	20.32% 76	21.93% 82	13.37% 50	16.58% 62	374
Bicycle Trails (paved)	27.25% 103	29.37% 111	17.20% 65	10.58% 40	15.61% 59	378

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

Community Garden	23.22% 85	21.58% 79	25.96% 95	15.03% 55	14.21% 52	366
Outdoor Performance Area	22.73% 85	30.48% 114	25.13% 94	10.16% 38	11.50% 43	374
Community Center	20.49% 76	25.88% 96	28.30% 105	12.94% 48	12.40% 46	371
Indoor Gymnasium	18.11% 67	17.57% 65	24.05% 89	16.76% 62	23.51% 87	370
Spray-ground/Splash Pad/Interactive Water Feature	15.87% 60	16.93% 64	19.58% 74	21.69% 82	25.93% 98	378
Tennis Courts	14.17% 53	19.25% 72	32.09% 120	14.71% 55	19.79% 74	374
Game Courts (Corn Hole, Horseshoe Pits, Boccie Ball, Pétanque)	13.90% 52	28.34% 106	25.67% 96	16.58% 62	15.51% 58	374
Multi-purpose Field	13.62% 50	18.53% 68	29.43% 108	17.17% 63	21.25% 78	367
Teen Center	13.04% 48	16.03% 59	28.26% 104	15.76% 58	26.90% 99	368
Ice Skating	12.23% 45	16.58% 61	22.83% 84	16.03% 59	32.34% 119	368
Off-road Biking	11.81% 43	11.26% 41	23.63% 86	20.33% 74	32.97% 120	364
Outdoor Fitness Stations	10.99% 41	17.16% 64	33.51% 125	20.11% 75	18.23% 68	373
Environmental Center	11.20% 41	12.84% 47	25.96% 95	21.31% 78	28.69% 105	366
Outdoor Basketball Courts	9.50% 36	20.32% 77	26.39% 100	13.72% 52	30.08% 114	379
Climbing Wall	8.31% 31	18.23% 68	27.35% 102	17.69% 66	28.42% 106	373
Disc Golf	8.20% 30	11.48% 42	18.85% 69	20.49% 75	40.98% 150	366
Pickle-ball Courts	6.38% 24	9.31% 35	16.76% 63	21.28% 80	46.28% 174	376
Sand Volleyball Courts	6.40% 24	13.87% 52	29.33% 110	22.13% 83	28.27% 106	375
High-ropes Course	5.57% 21	13.53% 51	21.22% 80	21.75% 82	37.93% 143	377
Baseball/Softball Fields	5.09% 19	10.99% 41	27.08% 101	19.84% 74	37.00% 138	373
Shuffleboard Courts	4.01% 15	13.37% 50	23.53% 88	22.73% 85	36.36% 136	374
Over-sized Outdoor Chess Board	3.52% 13	8.13% 30	15.99% 59	22.76% 84	49.59% 183	369

Q13 Do you use any school or private facilities (YMCA, private fitness clubs) for recreation or leisure activities?

Answered: 394 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	58.88% 232
No	41.37% 163
Total Respondents: 394	

#	IF SO, WHICH ONES?	DATE
1	Wellness Center	10/22/2018 6:04 PM
2	Westglow	10/21/2018 11:58 PM
3	Westglow and BRCC	10/21/2018 1:39 PM
4	BRCC, Westglow, Wellness	10/21/2018 11:34 AM
5	Boone	10/19/2018 5:40 PM
6	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/19/2018 1:05 PM
7	Chetola, High Country Yoga	10/19/2018 12:36 PM
8	BRCC	10/19/2018 8:43 AM
9	Wellness Center, Deer Valley Athletic Club	10/19/2018 8:18 AM
10	Broyhill wellness	10/19/2018 7:09 AM
11	Wellness center, 72 gym	10/19/2018 6:21 AM
12	BRCC, Boone wellness Center	10/18/2018 10:34 PM
13	BRCC	10/18/2018 9:21 PM
14	BRCC	10/18/2018 8:15 PM
15	Westglow	10/18/2018 7:41 PM
16	YMCA, BRCC	10/18/2018 7:25 PM
17	YMCA	10/18/2018 7:08 PM
18	BRCC	10/18/2018 6:25 PM
19	Pickleball	10/18/2018 6:13 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

20	BRCC	10/18/2018 5:31 PM
21	Country Club	10/18/2018 4:54 PM
22	BRCC	10/18/2018 4:31 PM
23	BRCC	10/18/2018 4:23 PM
24	Charlotte	10/18/2018 3:03 PM
25	BRCC	10/18/2018 2:15 PM
26	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/18/2018 2:08 PM
27	wellness center	10/18/2018 1:55 PM
28	Broyhill	10/18/2018 1:53 PM
29	Crossfit swimming	10/18/2018 1:36 PM
30	Broyhill Wellness Center, Boone	10/18/2018 1:25 PM
31	BRCC and Deer Valley	10/18/2018 1:09 PM
32	Area facilities.	10/18/2018 12:48 PM
33	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/18/2018 12:45 PM
34	App wellness can, boone golf. Parkway hiking	10/18/2018 12:27 PM
35	Country club	10/18/2018 12:23 PM
36	BRCC and Westglow	10/18/2018 12:17 PM
37	Wellness can and ymca Charlotte	10/18/2018 11:59 AM
38	BRCC, Wellness Center in Boone	10/18/2018 11:52 AM
39	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/18/2018 11:49 AM
40	brcc	10/18/2018 11:45 AM
41	BRCC	10/18/2018 11:39 AM
42	gym	10/18/2018 11:27 AM
43	Westglow	10/18/2018 11:00 AM
44	YMCA in Charlotte	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
45	BRCC	10/18/2018 10:40 AM
46	Blowing Rock Country Club (would like to drop it)	10/18/2018 10:36 AM
47	BR Country Club and Westglow	10/18/2018 10:32 AM
48	Fitness Center at BRCC	10/18/2018 10:28 AM
49	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/18/2018 10:26 AM
50	Home gym	10/18/2018 10:22 AM
51	Westglow	10/18/2018 10:21 AM
52	Wellness Center	10/18/2018 10:06 AM
53	blowing rock country club	10/18/2018 10:05 AM
54	BRCC	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
55	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
56	Broyhill Wellness	10/18/2018 9:54 AM
57	BRCC	10/18/2018 9:53 AM
58	CrossFit Boone/Broyhill Wellness Center	10/18/2018 9:47 AM
59	BRCC	10/18/2018 9:45 AM
60	BRCC fitness center and golf course	10/18/2018 9:44 AM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

61	BRCC	10/18/2018 9:40 AM
62	Blowing Rock Country Club	10/18/2018 9:16 AM
63	Wellness center in boone	10/17/2018 9:43 PM
64	Wellness center	10/17/2018 4:48 PM
65	Chetola, Deer Valley Fitness	10/17/2018 2:30 PM
66	Not now, but I have paid the The Meadowbrook to work out before.	10/17/2018 10:16 AM
67	Wellness ctr. And sr. Center in Boone	10/17/2018 10:12 AM
68	Wellness Center	10/17/2018 7:34 AM
69	Planet Fitnessuuj	10/16/2018 11:33 PM
70	Deer Valley	10/16/2018 7:29 PM
71	Chetola, Wellness Center	10/16/2018 5:05 PM
72	Broyhill Fitness	10/16/2018 4:25 PM
73	YMCA	7/31/2018 9:50 AM
74	QUEST - Lenoir, Broyhill - Boone	7/27/2018 3:32 PM
75	Ymca	7/24/2018 8:21 PM
76	Wellness Center	7/24/2018 1:06 PM
77	Wellness Center	7/24/2018 7:09 AM
78	Yoga & full body workouts	7/23/2018 9:12 AM
79	Appalachian State	7/22/2018 7:46 PM
80	Deer Valley, Chetola, Wellness center	7/22/2018 11:06 AM
81	Wellness center	7/20/2018 4:12 PM
82	pool in boone, Student Rec center	7/20/2018 12:27 PM
83	Anytime Fitness	7/20/2018 10:40 AM
84	I used to be a member at the Y	7/20/2018 8:09 AM
85	Chetola	7/20/2018 7:57 AM
86	Blowing Rock School, Deer Valley Racquet Club	7/19/2018 1:05 PM
87	West Glow	7/19/2018 10:47 AM
88	BRCC	7/12/2018 3:04 PM
89	ARHC wellness center	7/12/2018 3:22 AM
90	broyhill	7/10/2018 2:01 PM
91	Broyhill Wellness Center in Boone; Blowing Rock Country Club	6/22/2018 7:17 AM
92	Broyhill Wellness Center in Boone	6/21/2018 8:15 PM
93	YMCA in hometown	6/21/2018 12:24 PM
94	Quest in Lenoir	6/19/2018 11:52 PM
95	ASU student rec center	6/19/2018 4:54 PM
96	WEllness Center	6/19/2018 4:10 PM
97	Watauga swim complex	6/19/2018 1:56 PM
98	westglow spa	6/19/2018 12:39 PM
99	BRCC	6/19/2018 11:38 AM
100	Westglow	6/18/2018 9:09 PM
101	Wellness Center	6/18/2018 6:19 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

102	Chetola, Deer Valley	6/18/2018 3:28 PM
103	ASU	6/18/2018 12:15 PM
104	Broyhill Center in Boone	6/18/2018 9:48 AM
105	ASU	6/17/2018 7:16 PM
106	School playground	6/17/2018 4:06 PM
107	Wellness Center	6/17/2018 7:38 AM
108	West glow	6/16/2018 8:49 PM
109	App State	6/16/2018 3:16 PM
110	Deer Valley Athletic Club	6/16/2018 3:09 PM
111	Wellness Center - Boone	6/16/2018 12:31 PM
112	crossfit	6/16/2018 10:52 AM
113	BRCC	6/16/2018 9:05 AM
114	Chetola	6/16/2018 8:37 AM
115	BR school. BR country club	6/16/2018 8:10 AM
116	Chetola Fitness	6/16/2018 7:25 AM
117	St. Mary's Meditation Garden, The Blowing Rock grounds	6/16/2018 7:24 AM
118	Westglow	6/16/2018 6:57 AM
119	Wellness Ctr.	6/16/2018 5:03 AM
120	Blowing Rock Country Club	6/15/2018 10:04 PM
121	Broyhill Wellness Center	6/15/2018 9:11 PM
122	BRS, App State, VCS/VC Community Park, Higher Gravity, Tweetsie playground	6/15/2018 8:06 PM
123	Paul Broyhill Wellness Center	6/15/2018 7:26 PM
124	Broyhill Gym	6/15/2018 6:30 PM
125	Chetola fitness, broyhill fitness, high country yoga	6/15/2018 6:03 PM
126	Beech Mountain Club and Beech Mountain Rec Center	6/15/2018 6:00 PM
127	Yoga studios in Boone	6/15/2018 4:56 PM
128	YMCA	6/15/2018 4:42 PM
129	Conover YMCA	6/15/2018 4:39 PM
130	Blowing Rock elementary, Yonahlossee Racquet club, deer valley	6/15/2018 4:17 PM
131	BRCC	6/15/2018 4:09 PM
132	Broyhill Health center	6/15/2018 3:53 PM
133	Boone Wellness Center/Country Club	6/15/2018 3:49 PM
134	BRCC	6/15/2018 3:47 PM
135	BRCC	6/15/2018 3:24 PM
136	WHS, Wellness Center	6/15/2018 2:55 PM
137	Westglow Spa	6/15/2018 2:46 PM
138	Broyhill Wellness Center, Boone	6/15/2018 1:38 PM
139	Wellness Center	6/15/2018 1:17 PM
140	Neighborhood based private gym	6/15/2018 1:06 PM
141	YMCA	6/15/2018 12:45 PM
142	Wellness center	6/15/2018 12:43 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

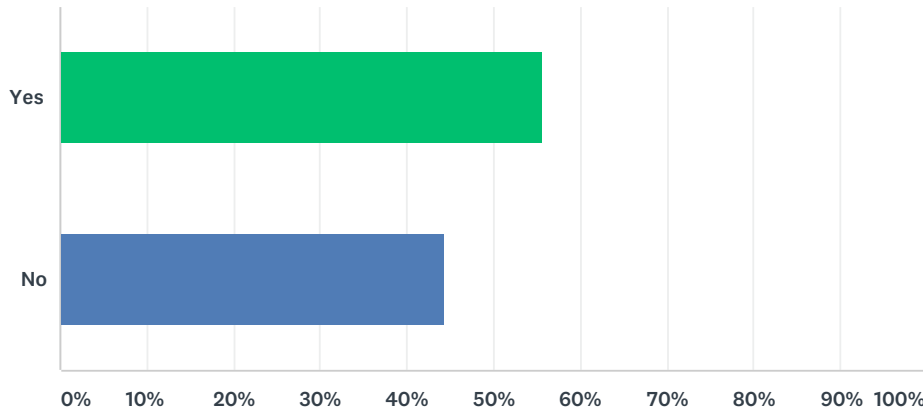
143	YMCA in winter	6/15/2018 12:37 PM
144	BRCC, Wellness Center in Boone	6/15/2018 12:16 PM
145	Wellness center in Boone.	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
146	Broyhill -- Boone	6/15/2018 12:00 PM
147	br country club	6/15/2018 11:49 AM
148	Broyhill Wellness Center	6/15/2018 11:45 AM
149	BRCC	6/15/2018 11:39 AM
150	Broyhill Wellness Center	6/15/2018 11:35 AM
151	UNC Wellness	6/15/2018 11:29 AM
152	Anytime Fitness	6/15/2018 11:27 AM
153	BRCC	6/15/2018 11:26 AM
154	Wellness Center	6/15/2018 11:25 AM
155	Deer Valley Tennis	6/15/2018 11:17 AM
156	Crossfit	6/15/2018 11:06 AM
157	Wellness Center in Boone	6/15/2018 11:02 AM
158	ymca	6/15/2018 11:00 AM
159	anytime fitness	6/15/2018 10:55 AM
160	broyhill fitness center	6/15/2018 10:45 AM
161	Wellness Center	6/15/2018 10:39 AM
162	AHRS Gym Boone	6/15/2018 10:34 AM
163	YMCA, golf, swimming	6/15/2018 10:30 AM
164	BRCC	6/15/2018 10:29 AM
165	Planet Fitness	6/15/2018 10:27 AM
166	Wellness Center	6/15/2018 8:10 AM
167	BRS/HP/WHS, Ted Mack Soccer Complex	6/14/2018 4:36 PM
168	Chetola in the winter	6/14/2018 9:02 AM
169	Deer valley	6/14/2018 7:48 AM
170	ASU Faculty/Staff Gym, Chetola Indoor Pool	6/13/2018 1:34 PM
171	Wellness Center	6/13/2018 6:24 AM
172	The wellness center	6/12/2018 9:26 PM
173	WestGlow	6/12/2018 8:47 PM
174	BRCC	6/12/2018 8:15 PM
175	Swim complex, asu climbing wall, disc golf!	6/12/2018 7:25 PM
176	App State	6/12/2018 6:05 PM
177	Anytime fitness	6/12/2018 5:55 PM
178	Ymca	6/12/2018 5:17 PM
179	Wellness Center in Boone	6/12/2018 4:16 PM
180	Wellness Center	6/12/2018 4:12 PM
181	Chetola Rec facilities	6/12/2018 4:07 PM
182	YMCA	6/12/2018 4:03 PM
183	SRC, Swim Complex	6/12/2018 3:05 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

184	Linville YMCA for swimming	6/12/2018 3:05 PM
185	Wellness Center	6/12/2018 3:05 PM
186	ASU	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

Q14 Do you feel there is a need for additional park space in the Town of Blowing Rock?

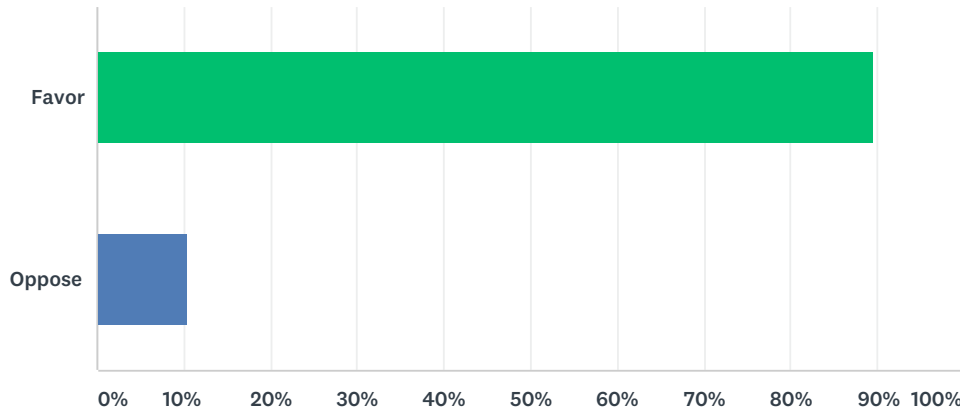
Answered: 392 Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.61%	218
No	44.39%	174
TOTAL		392

Q15 Would you favor or oppose expanding recreational opportunities in Blowing Rock?

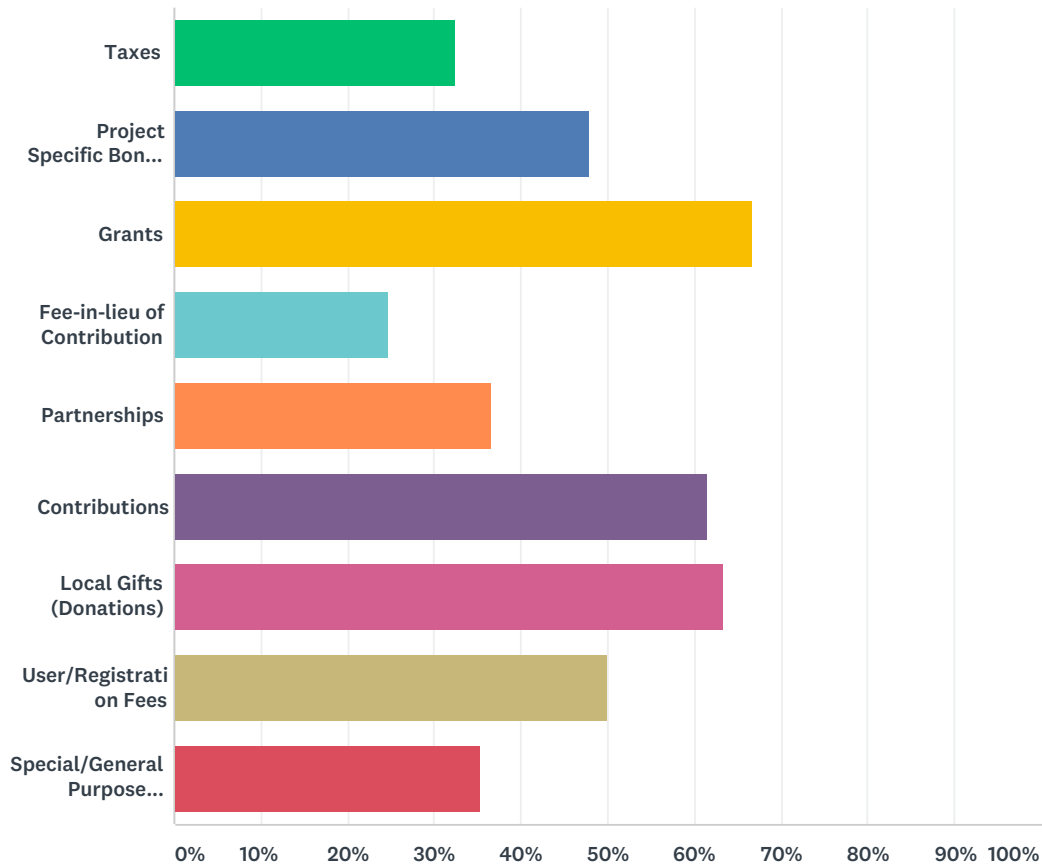
Answered: 395 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Favor	89.62%	354
Oppose	10.38%	41
TOTAL		395

Q16 What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities, and create programs? Check all that apply.

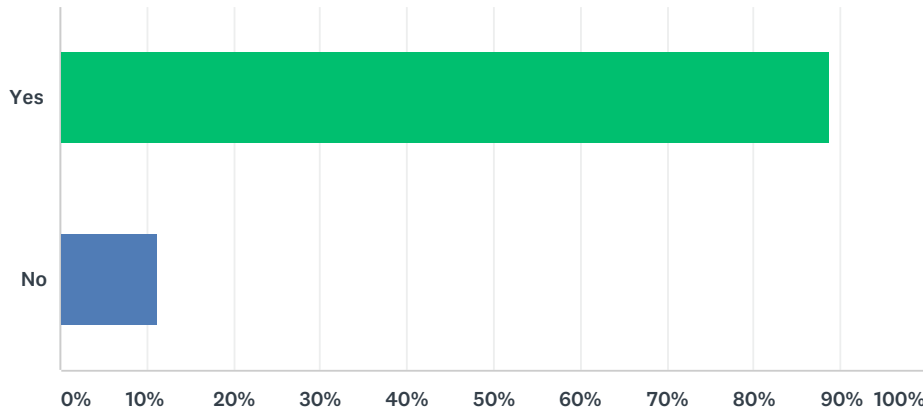
Answered: 382 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Taxes	32.46%	124
Project Specific Bond Referendums	47.91%	183
Grants	66.75%	255
Fee-in-lieu of Contribution	24.61%	94
Partnerships	36.65%	140
Contributions	61.52%	235
Local Gifts (Donations)	63.35%	242
User/Registration Fees	50.00%	191
Special/General Purpose Foundations	35.34%	135
Total Respondents: 382		

Q17 Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or use a special facility?

Answered: 401 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.78%	356
No	11.22%	45
TOTAL		401

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

Q18 Additional Comments:

Answered: 62 Skipped: 353

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I would sincerely appreciate if you would have the people using the facilities (swimming pool, etc) pay higher usage fees rather than to charge non users more in taxes. thank you	10/21/2018 10:22 PM
2	We have our natural resources as a huge draw here and we need to promote that. Our weather makes it necessary to have all the indoor amenities for our guests that visit when the weather is bad. We also need to be aware that having things available is a huge reason to visit a place even if they are under utilized. Stay positive and ahead of the curve! Don't listen to the negative and cheap complainers. We are a tourist town and anything we do for them upgrades the experience for those of us who live here and vice versa. Cheers and good luck!	10/21/2018 11:34 AM
3	In regard to Question 17 - yes, I would pay a fee, but only to a point. Fees/prices need to be reasonable and not limiting to families. It is important to provide recreational facilities for families/children. While BR has much affluence, we need to ensure all residents can participate and enjoy whatever facilities are developed - vice be turned off/away by user fees.	10/20/2018 8:39 PM
4	The is a very lopsided survey, we have everything you are asking that we want. What are you wanting. What are trying to do. This is not use of good time for the council or the people taking this survey	10/20/2018 7:23 PM
5	Finishing the middle fork Greenway will be so important for the blowing rock community	10/19/2018 6:21 AM
6	I regret that my family situation makes it impossible to make more use of local facilities, but still wish to make things better for others.	10/18/2018 10:46 PM
7	This survey seems a bit behind the approved rev center in Boone.	10/18/2018 7:41 PM
8	Outdoor fitness stations is a great idea. I'll bet you could get private money to support this!	10/18/2018 5:48 PM
9	We feel the are ample facilities in the surrounding area instead of expanding BR's facilities'	10/18/2018 4:36 PM
10	Overall, very nice offerings for a small town. Would like to see the Middle Fork Greenway become a reality. And another small sitting park or two-- one with a view from Mayview?? The town screwed up years ago when they allowed private development of "Lover's Leap". That will stick in my craw for as long as I live here.	10/18/2018 3:13 PM
11	Town council should have permitted the memorial to the Constitution in the park or in front of town hall. This was a wonderful opportunity for school children to see what this represents. Blowing Rock Commissioners 'blew; this one, and I'm surprised on an ongoing basis how many residents I chat with are upset with this unpatriotic stance and short sighted leadership. Plus, it was free to the town, so any discussion on spending money on pet projects costing even more taxpayers dollars will be met with disdain from residents, judging by the ire of townsfolk.	10/18/2018 12:48 PM
12	I wish Blowing Rock had more sidewalks. I like the sidewalk that goes up above Main Street--wish there were more of those although I understand elevations and narrow lanes don't make sidewalks possible in most places. Blowing Rock is surrounded by beautiful places to hike but ironically, the actual village isn't very walkable. I can't even walk to the Food Lion easily from my home on Mockingbird Lane--no sidewalks on Sunset, no sidewalks on Possum Hollow Lane, etc. I'm a new resident so I'm still investigating fitness center options. I know Boone is building a new fitness center, but I'd rather not have to drive to Boone.	10/18/2018 11:36 AM
13	I appreciate the Town's support for the Middle Fork Greenway. Thank you.	10/18/2018 11:14 AM
14	I also strongly believe the proposed greenway from BR to Boone would be a huge draw and economic engine for our area....I lived in Greenville, SC and have been amazed at what the "Swamp Rabbit Trail" has done for that City.	10/18/2018 10:45 AM
15	Need to justify Town budget based on use statistics. For example, pool is 85% use by non-residents.	10/18/2018 10:40 AM
16	pickleball is the fastest growing sport in USA. Blowing Rock could be a draw.	10/18/2018 10:36 AM
17	Thanks for the hard work!	10/18/2018 10:35 AM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

18	Thanks to Virginia for letting us Blowing Rock Civic Association members know about this survey.	10/18/2018 10:19 AM
19	Let's focus on finishing the Middle Fork Greenway.	10/18/2018 10:12 AM
20	communication of events and availability of facilities is very important to keep public informed. email etc, hotel/motel to dispence info, info booth on main street	10/18/2018 10:05 AM
21	I am proud of the facilities that are offered and feel a priority should be to improve and maintain these facilities over adding new ones. We do not have grandchildren but I know our friends like the pool and outdoor courts to entertain theirs.	10/18/2018 9:55 AM
22	For question 12, I mainly considered just my own family. I don't know enough about the demographics in BR to make an educated decision about what other facilities might be needed. They all sound appealing if we have the people to use them. I just don't know enough to appropriately answer. Thanks for asking!!	10/18/2018 9:44 AM
23	The only thing about paying to use facilities is that there are some families that can't afford to do that. They rent in the area and their kids attend the school, but if there are several kids, it is just too costly. If there is a cost, maybe people could apply for scholarships.	10/17/2018 10:16 AM
24	Should we wait to see what happens with rec center plans in Boone? Won't we be paying for that with our taxes as well? We could provide some transportation to it rather than duplicate services... Also, shouldn't we encourage use of the Natural Beauty and resources we have? For example climbing on real rocks instead of plastic ones and completing a loop around town for walking — to include a portion by the river ?	10/17/2018 10:12 AM
25	I would pay a fee but currently rely on scholarships for discounts or fee waivers for my little boy to participate in things. People in Blowing Rock and the nearby areas live in poverty too.	10/16/2018 5:16 PM
26	Due to the nature of the climate in Blowing Rock there is a great need for indoor recreational facilities that can be used year round.	7/31/2018 9:50 AM
27	Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation does a great job of providing for the guests and citizens of the town. I think the priority should be renovations of existing spaces as well as expansion of existing areas. Think of the main constituents that are served - mainly elderly and families. Keep up the great work.	7/22/2018 3:05 PM
28	Blowing Rock ia a great location already with Bass Lake, the park with basketball/tennis/volleyball, new School playground. Some great ideas on here to make BR even better! But, tax increase? No thank you. (And reminder I am not a BR taxpayer) ☺	7/22/2018 11:06 AM
29	I think that it is a crime to charge people to see the blowing Rock.	7/20/2018 7:19 PM
30	More/different marketing may be beneficial. I have lived in Boone and worked in Blowing for a few years and have very little knowledge of the opportunities Blowing Rock provides.	7/20/2018 11:46 AM
31	Grounds crew is lacking in decorum and capacity	7/19/2018 3:04 PM
32	I think a public indoor fitness facility with equipment and group classes would be well used by many families in the Blowing Rock School and business community for convenience. We currently belong to Deer Valley because it is just as close to our home, but having kids in the school here and working downtown, it would be more convenient, and probably more cost effective, to use a gym and the pool here if both were offered.	7/19/2018 1:05 PM
33	I believe that having free events and use of facilities is important for bringing peopel in, as well as keeping them here. If prices are needed for an event/facility, they should be kepts as low as possible. This would be inorder to maintain teh areas, not to make a profit.	7/12/2018 3:04 PM
34	would like to see dog park	7/10/2018 2:01 PM
35	We have enjoyed The American Legion Bld.for the past few years, and are disappointed that the rental fee has DOUBLED in price.	6/19/2018 11:52 PM
36	Thank you for opening this survey to feedback from residents and guests— it means a lot that the Town wants to improve its already great resources. We are excited for what's to come!	6/19/2018 4:54 PM
37	Our tennis courts need work! Better tennis courts really needed!	6/18/2018 9:09 PM
38	Thanks for asking for our input!	6/16/2018 3:09 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

39	The Town should turn a number of it's streets into one-way so that walking and bike lanes could be added at virtually no significant cost to the town. It would add to the character of our town and make it pedestrian friendly and environmentally inviting. It is unsafe to walk or bike on most of our streets and lanes.	6/16/2018 12:31 PM
40	Parking- parking - Town should have built more parking decks on Main Street long ago. Like along the left of Post Office all the way to Main St. before the Main St house sold.	6/16/2018 7:52 AM
41	I think parking and restroom facilities are the biggest deterrents to attending events and activities in town. Would also like options for viewing the mountains/gorge such as at sunset wall on Wonderland Trail or an overlook on 321.	6/16/2018 7:24 AM
42	Rein in taxes, or grants monies! I have NEVER seen anyone walking up 221 from downtown to Bass lake, and i'm there everyday. Do we really need to blow grant money on a sidewalk that will be hardly used?	6/15/2018 5:08 PM
43	What is definition of "nominal"; questions such as this allow those who want to, to actually spend more money	6/15/2018 3:49 PM
44	We need to be careful to avoid duplicating recreational facilities. There are SO many great places in the Blowing Rock area already.	6/15/2018 1:51 PM
45	At nearly 80 there are things that are not important to be but grandchildren use the park and pool when they visit.	6/15/2018 1:29 PM
46	Thank you for all that you do! You have our full support. Keep up the great work. We have owned our home in BR since 1956. The fourth generation of our family is now using the park!	6/15/2018 12:37 PM
47	We are overrun with tourists in the summer months and the taxpayers rarely have the opportunity to take advantage of Fourth of July and other special Park events due to being squeezed out by visitors! Many fun activities are paid for by the citizens, but benefit the tourists. We pay for many of these programs, but rarely benefit. The Parks and Rec summer camp program we use for our grandchildren and it is a wonderful program! Well run, diversity of activities and fun!! It is also a program we can take advantage of and the fee is nominal. (No tourists)	6/15/2018 12:16 PM
48	sad to see the trees cut down	6/15/2018 12:03 PM
49	Please don't turn the town into just like many other town's We are special, keep it quaint, small, yet provide. Not into an amusement park feeling. Town is for us first in needs. Yes visitors but be what we are and if they like it fine but if it doesn't please them always remember we see and live here 24-7. They leave town and we want our town to not be left like a scar when we look at us each day. We are Blowing Rock. A special town and there are few left	6/15/2018 11:58 AM
50	A prominent municipal Parks and Recreation function is vital to the quality of life of every community.	6/15/2018 11:45 AM
51	close Main St on Saturdays to vehicle traffic and open for pedestrian use from 9 AM to 7PM. Provide offsite parking rides to downtown. Will increase all types of traffic, stay longer & spend more with a much more enjoyable experience!	6/15/2018 11:00 AM
52	.	6/15/2018 10:48 AM
53	Blowing Rock desperately needs a fitness facility. This should be a private or private/public venture that is paid for by usage fees. The youth in our area also need better access to a gym for activities in the Winter.	6/15/2018 10:48 AM
54	We're lucky to have what we already have, but this is a relatively wealthy and low-tax resort/retirement town and we should strive to expand and improve all of our facilities.	6/15/2018 10:37 AM
55	Horse trailer parking on US221 at entrance to Bass Lake is a real eyesore. They should all park at the stables. Maybe special rates for day visitors. The current parking area could be a gardens or simply be paved and a fee charged to park there; really needs to be fenced or hedged in.	6/15/2018 10:34 AM
56	None	6/15/2018 10:26 AM
57	Please build a fitness facility!	6/15/2018 10:20 AM
58	You all do such an amazing job!!!!	6/14/2018 9:02 AM
59	Bike paths would be great!	6/12/2018 8:35 PM
60	Yes in general but being in a lower income bracket, it would have to be pretty inexpensive and it would have to be something we use on a regular basis.	6/12/2018 7:25 PM

Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Public Survey

61	-Downtown is not handicap friendly. -Publish a colored user friendly map of the downtown stores and restaurants with the pool etc on it as well -Need a parking garage as you are losing business from locals who don't want to fight tourist traffic in order to shop or dine. -Keep doing surveys to get locals feedback	6/12/2018 4:07 PM
62	Expand! Public services are awesome! We love Blowing Rock Parks and Rec! :)	6/12/2018 3:02 PM

APPENDIX B



FISHING



NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS



NATURAL FOUNTAIN



TRAIL BIKING



OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS



PLAYGROUND



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



BENCH SWINGS



BIKE PUMP COURSE



ADVENTURE PLAY AREA



PICNIC PAVILION



SENSORY GARDEN



NON-PROGRAMMED OPEN SPACE



TRADITIONAL GAME COURTS



CLIMBING WALL



ZIP LINE

R-5-26-18



PUBLIC ART CLASSES



PARK SCULPTURE



OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE AREA



BIRDING/WILDLIFE VIEWING AREA



FREE FORM PLAYGROUND



COMMUNITY BUILDING



CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS



LEISURE SHELTER WITH SWINGS



LARGE PICNIC SHELTER



ACCESSIBLE PLAY FEATURES



NATURE TRAILS



PASSIVE GREEN SPACES



PAVED PATHS



INTERPRETIVE/EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



TENNIS



INDOOR FITNESS FACILITY










APPENDIX C

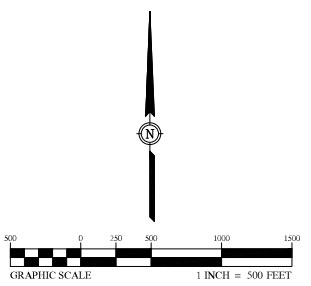
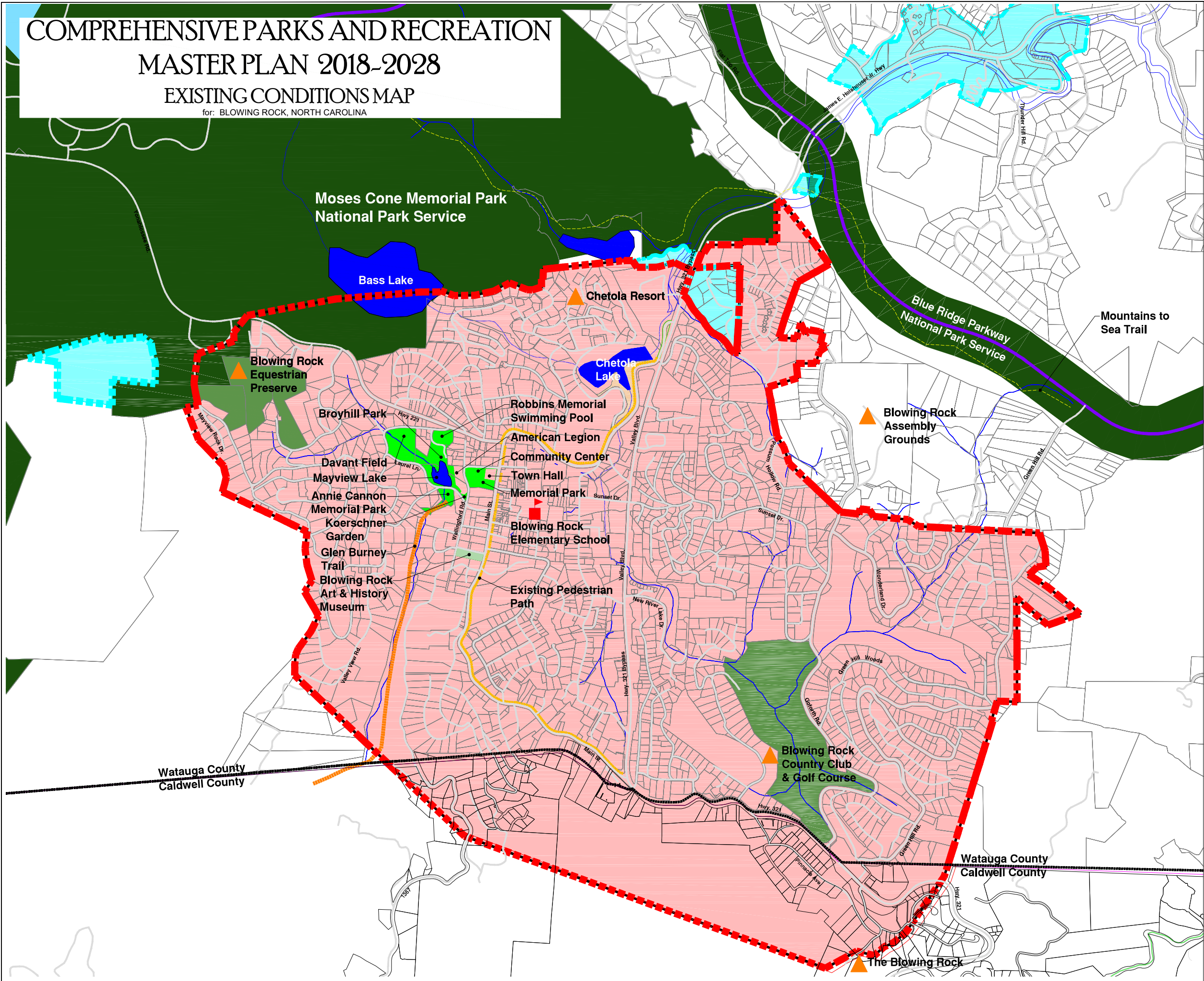
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2018-2028

EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP

for: BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

KEY

-  Town Limits
-  Town ETJ
-  Parcel Lines
-  Road
-  Stream
-  Popular Destination
-  School
-  Private Rec. Facility
-  National Park Service Facility



5/18/2018



APPENDIX D

Table 6.5.1. Town of Blowing Rock - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2018-2028
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	FUTURE
		2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	
Memorial Park												
Replace dead trees	\$3,000	\$3,000										
Additional picnic pavilion	\$60,000							\$60,000				
Update existing horseshoes pit	\$1,000				\$500				\$500			
Update climbing wall	\$20,000					\$20,000						
Update playground equipment to adventure type equipment	\$250,000			\$250,000								
Refurbish artificial turf on tennis courts	\$40,000		\$40,000									
Erosion control around existing tennis courts	\$6,000		\$6,000									
Sub-total	\$374,000											
Broyhill Park												
Safety railing around road bridge	\$4,000	\$4,000										
Assess and repair sidewalk as needed	\$10,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000	
Add railing next to metal grate in sidewalk on Laurel Ln.	\$1,500	\$1,500										
Trail improvements on path to Davant Field	\$40,000				\$40,000							
Sub-total	\$55,500											
Davant Field												
Install shade structures for dugout areas	\$5,000					\$5,000						
Add signage with distance demarcations on paved path	\$1,500		\$1,500									
Performance/event stage	\$15,000						\$15,000					
Accessible sidewalk from restrooms to paved path	\$12,000		\$12,000									
Grading and drainage improvements at pavilion & restrooms	\$38,000					\$38,000						
Stream bank stabilization and erosion control	\$40,000			\$40,000								
Sub-total	\$21,500											
Robbins Pool at Broyhill Park												
Expand parking	\$200,000										\$200,000	
Sub-total	\$200,000											
Annie Cannon Gardens												
Landscape improvements	\$26,000	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Replace stage	\$5,000				\$5,000							
Renovate water feature	\$4,500		\$4,500									
Repair wood timbers on stairs	\$5,000	\$5,000										
Replace bench seating	\$10,000				\$5,000				\$5,000			
Slope stabilization and revegetation	\$35,000	\$35,000										
Wall improvements along New Year Creek	\$30,000		\$30,000									
Sub-total	\$50,500											
Glen Burney Trail												
Trail renovations	\$35,000		\$35,000									
Replace pedestrian bridge	\$30,000	\$30,000										
Signage along trail	\$5,000			\$5,000								
Sub-total	\$70,000											
Koerschner Memorial Garden												
	\$0											
Sub-total	\$0											
American Legion Building												
Landscaping improvements around building based on Virginia Tech plan	\$815,000								\$815,000			
Sub-total	\$815,000											
Blowing Rock Clubhouse												
Restroom Upgrades	\$3,000				\$3,000							
Kitchen Remodel	\$10,000				\$10,000							
ADA improvements	\$10,000		\$5,000									
Sub-total	\$13,000											
Recreation Center												
Renovate indoor space (lighting, flooring, walls, restrooms)	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$10,000								
Add sidewalk extension to picnic area	\$20,000						\$20,000					
Entryway sidewalk, stairs, retaining wall and ADA ramp per Virginia Tech plan	\$150,000				\$150,000							
Pedestrian plaza per Virginia Tech plan	\$40,000						\$40,000					
Sub-total	\$220,000											
Grand Total	\$1,819,500	\$113,500	\$149,000	\$307,000	\$217,500	\$65,000	\$79,000	\$62,000	\$824,500	\$2,000	\$204,000	\$2,000