

CHAPTER 5: PARKS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

A. Introduction

This chapter of *Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources (PRCR) Master Plan* provides a comprehensive overview of the Town of Cary's impressive parks and recreation system, which is made up of different types of parks, natural areas, indoor and outdoor recreation, cultural facilities, and greenways and trails. The following sections are included in this chapter.

- Key parks and open space findings from the *Master Plan* needs assessment
- Policy framework for planning
- Park and recreation system classifications
- Public art guidelines and opportunities within the parks and recreation system
- Concept plans for select future parks
- Recommended *Master Plan* goals, objectives, and actions for the park system

B. Key Findings

Cary enjoys a high Level of Service (LOS). Overall, there is high satisfaction of and expectations for a quality parks and recreation system by Cary residents. There is an interest in a system that balances active and passive uses and a perception that the Town of Cary has focused on developed parks. The survey indicates that trails and greenways, parks, and natural areas and open space are priorities. Following are findings highlights from the needs assessment and LOS analysis of the overall parks and recreation system as well as on parks and open space from the needs assessment. (For more detailed information, see *Chapters 3 and 4.*)

Overall System

Survey

- **Overall Cary residents are satisfied with the parks and recreation system**
 - 71% strongly agree the parks and recreation facilities are in proximity to their home (while 21% are neutral, and 9% strongly disagree).
 - 70% strongly agree that Town recreation facilities meet the needs of their household (while 16% are neutral and 5% disagree).
- The **top three priorities for future spending** (out of a list of seven choices) are:
 1. Add new trails to connect or expand the greenway system.
 2. Make improvements/renovate and maintain existing facilities.
 3. Add an outdoor aquatic center **and** Add new parks (tied for 3rd).

Inventory and GRASP® Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

- There is good coverage and access exists within 1-mile to combined parks and recreation components of the system.
- Some gaps are found in walkable access (within ½-mile) to combined components of the system.
- Higher per capita LOS for all components exists in the Maynard Loop subarea, followed by the West Cary subarea.

Public Meetings & Focus Groups

- The system has a wide range of well-maintained parks, recreation, cultural resources facilities, and programs.
- There is a perceived need for more amenities to serve Western Cary.
- There is interest in adding aquatics, a permanent farmer's market, and creating a lively downtown, as well as adding trail connections.

Parks and Open Space

Survey

- **Top facilities outdoor facilities** to expand, improve, or add (out of a list of 23):
 1. Soft surface trails
 2. Hard surface trails
 3. Nature preserves/natural areas
 4. Neighborhood parks
 5. Playgrounds
 6. Community gardens/urban agriculture
 7. Outdoor swimming pool
 8. Multipurpose fields
- **Use of other providers is high**
 - Home Owners Associations (HOAs) provide recreation facilities for many neighborhoods (e.g., outdoor pools, tennis courts, etc.) – **46% of survey respondents use HOA facilities.**
 - In addition to HOAs, other providers most commonly used per the survey include: State and County parks and open space (50%), private fitness clubs (40%), and private or public schools (29%).
- **Open space and natural areas are valued**
 - Town open space and natural areas had the 3rd highest frequency of use (after greenways/trails and Town parks).
 - Town open space and natural areas rated the 3rd highest in importance out of a list of 14 programs and facilities.
 - 50% strongly agreed that sufficient open space has been protected by the Town of Cary (with 32% indicating a neutral response and 17% strongly disagreed to this statement).
 - After trails, natural areas rated the highest outdoor facility priority to add, expand, or improve, followed by neighborhood parks.
- The three most important aspects of open space management are:
 1. Greenway and trail maintenance
 2. Preservation, protection, and restoration of natural areas
 3. Stream and creek conservation

Public Meetings & Focus Groups

Open Space

- There is a desire to balance active and passive uses and a perception that Cary has focused on developed parks.
- There is interest in preserving areas of natural significance (like Hemlock Bluffs) and biologically diverse areas, especially wetlands.
- Specific areas to be preserved identified at public meetings include: North Cary Park, farmland across from Carpenter Village, Green Hope Greenway.

Parks

- Amenities lacking in the Town parks and recreation system included in the Public and Focus Group meeting comments:
 - Pools
 - Community gardens
 - Cricket facility
 - Public golf course
 - Running track
 - Places to take my child with special needs
 - Baseball Fields
 - Multi-purpose Fields
 - Tennis Courts and specifically Indoor Tennis Courts
 - Places to watch birds
 - Rock climbing
- Public meeting comments relating to “*my neighborhood park should have,*” include:
 - Disc golf
 - Public art
 - Sprayground
 - Dog parks
 - Bocce and shuffleboard
 - Sidewalk access
 - Trails
 - Sustainable site design
 - Natural areas
 - Playground
 - Nice seating for adults
 - Community garden
 - Located within ¼-mile of my home

Benchmarking

- Cary rated 4th in current developed acres per 1,000 residents (at 8.8 acres) out of seven other benchmarked communities.
- Cary rated 2nd highest in undeveloped park acres after Lakewood, Colorado.
- Cary’s parkland acre standard of 7.5 acres per 1000 residents ranked 5th out of seven communities.

Athletic Facility Analysis

- An analysis was completed to determine the need for specific athletic facilities, and how these might be distributed equitably across the community and lastly to estimate future facility development costs.
- Tennis courts - The current inventory of tennis courts is 58 courts (Fifty Four 78' courts and Four 36' courts). 25 courts exist at Annie Jones Park, Godbold Park, Middle Creek School Park and Dunham Park. 33 courts are situated across 24 acres at the Cary Tennis Park. Cary is unique in having the Cary Tennis Park. It is the largest tennis facility in North Carolina and one of the largest in the Southeast. Since its opening in 2002, it has sparked the growth of tennis in Cary which has resulted in an increase in demand for more courts. In recognizing the success of the Tennis Park as a hub of tennis in Cary, it is recommended that future tennis court expansion include a combination of smaller, hub facilities that are staffed and programmed along with a few satellite facilities developed as joint use projects. Over the next 15 years it is estimated that an additional 36 courts will need to be constructed to maintain current service levels and meet demand.
- Ballfields (Includes Youth, Youth Baseball, Full Baseball and Adult Softball Fields) - The current inventory of baseball and softball fields is 19. These are divided up into 16 Small Fields (220-225 ft fence); 2 Youth Baseball Fields (250-275 ft fence) and 1 Full Baseball Field (325-375 ft fence). Areas of need include additional adult softball and baseball fields and additional Youth Fields. The majority of these fields will need to be located out west and in the central area of the Town.
- Multi-purpose fields - The current inventory of multi-purpose fields is 11 fields. This includes 8 fields at WakeMed Soccer Park, 2 at Middle Creek Park and 3 at Mills Park. There are additional fields on Town property that are programmed and maintained by the Capital Area Soccer League. These include 4 fields at Davis Drive Park, 1 field at North Cary Park and 3 fields at Preston. An additional 14 fields will be needed over the next 15 years. The majority of these fields will need to be located out west and in the central area of the Town.

It should be noted that the Town is now considering the installation of “sports turf” fields, particularly for use as multi-purpose fields. These synthetic fields allow year-round use and as such potential offer double to triple the use for any single field. If implemented, it is expected that installation of sports turf fields would potentially reduce the overall number of needed fields.

C. Policy Framework

The Town of Cary has been proactive in planning for parks and greenways and this is evidenced in a high quality and diverse parks and recreation system. Planning documents and policies have provided the framework for creating the system. A discussion of some key policy documents follows.

Land Dedication Ordinance

The Town of Cary is in the process of reviewing its Land Dedication Ordinance. Two changes are being proposed: 1) to extend the park and recreation land dedication requirement to new multifamily development, along with accompanying payment-in-lieu provisions, and 2) adding greenways as a dedication requirement and thereby increasing the total land dedication acreage from 7.5 acres per 1,000 residents of park land to 11.1 land for parks and greenways. **Table 8** shows the adopted plus proposed acre requirements along with estimated future needs at 2020.

Table 8: Adopted LOS Plus Recommended Greenways LOS

Service Area	Adopted LOS Plus Proposed Greenways (Acres per 1,000 residents)		Estimated Future Acres Needed (by 2020)
Town-wide	Neighborhood Park	2.2	80
	Community Park	2.1	76
	Metro Park	3.2	116
	Greenway	3.6	130
	Total	11.10	402

The Town of Cary population is projected to grow by 36,216 residents from 2011 to 2020. (See demographics section in **Chapter 3** for more detail.) An additional 402 acres of parkland is the projected need to meet the new proposed standards of 11.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

The following criteria are recommended to be included in any future updates to the Land Dedication Ordinance.

- Assembling contiguous parcels of land for recreational purposes is desirable.
- Small, disconnected parcels of land to satisfy recreational land requirements should be discouraged or prohibited.
- Use of the payment-in-lieu-of-dedication option is desirable and preferable in situations where funds can be collected and combined to achieve a range of recreational options for residents, where designated greenway corridors are near a site but not on a development site, and/or where the amount of land to be dedicated is too small to have significant recreational value.

It should also be noted that currently the Level of Service and Land Dedication Ordinance (LDO) metrics differ. Currently the LDO measures requirements in terms of amount of land per dwelling unit. It is common for parks and recreation master plans to measure Level of Service in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. The two calculations are different ways of expressing the same relationship of need for recreation land linked to amount of demand from resident populations. It would be desirable for the Master Plan Level of Service and LDO language to be in sync. While measurements vary from community to community, acres per 1,000 residents is a common metric used across the nation and is therefore useful for comparison purposes and ease of use.

Previous Town Plans

The Town of Cary has been very proactive in planning its parks, recreation, and trails system. Several previous Town plans provide a context for this **Master Plan** update. Following is a brief review of select plans.

Town of Cary Open Space and Historic Resources Plan (OSHRP) (2001)

The purpose of the *Open Space and Historic Resources Plan* was to complete an ecological assessment of the Town of Cary's natural resources. It utilizes the concepts of green infrastructure and threat of loss analysis to identify, evaluate, and prioritize land parcels of significant value to be preserved as part of the community's open space system.

According to the OSHRP:

Open Space is defined generally as natural and human-influenced landscapes that remain relatively undisturbed. Open space may consist of several land categories, ranging from pristine preserves of high ecological significance to active recreational trails associated with Town greenway corridors. (OSHRP, p. 1)

The Plan also recognizes that open space may consist of several land categories (both private and public) including: preserves, natural areas, scenic areas, parks and recreation lands, and greenway corridors.

To develop green infrastructure for Cary, goals of the plan are to:

- Conserve a contiguous network of open, natural areas.
- Create trail corridors and greenways between open space areas.
- Provide recreational and educational benefits to citizens.

In many parts of the Town, the greenway system essentially is the open space system. A combined vision of open space and greenways broadens opportunities for preserving sensitive environments, for preserving wildlife habitat, and for conserving historic landscapes and natural or scenic landscapes beyond the floodplain. Such opportunities only increase the value of greenway corridors linked to open spaces. The Plan includes specific open space acquisition opportunities, many of which surround greenway corridors. The plan recommendations represent a vision for greenway, open space, and park development in Cary. The concepts and resources in the plan continue to provide guidance to Town open space planning.

The preservation of open space priority parcels, according to the Plan, can be accomplished through a combination of methods. Preservation approaches include acquisition (fee simple purchase, negotiation of conservation easements, etc.), regulatory measures, other cooperative agreements with government agencies or non-profit land conservation organizations, and voluntary landowner initiative. The Plan also identified a Town Utility Fund appropriation of \$12.5 million to be used to preserve priority open space parcels.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Facilities Master Plan (2003)

This Master Plan is an update to the 2003 plan which has guided planning efforts by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department for several years. (See the Accomplishments section in **Chapter 2.**) That plan included a focus on the need for additional open space and land conservation efforts and recommended the development of stewardship plans.

Area Plans

The Town of Cary has undergone several area plans including the: *Northwest Area Plan, Southwest Area Plan, Carpenter Community Plan, Town Center Area Plan, Walnut Street Corridor Plan, and the Southeast Area Plan.* These policy documents establish the Town's official long-range vision and recommendations for future land uses. These plans provide a framework for this 2012 **PRCR Master Plan** update.

For example, among the guiding principles of the *Southwest Area Plan* are to preserve open space and significant natural and historic resources. The Plan encourages the preservation of open space and historic resources, especially within those areas designated as Conservation Residential classifications. This designation encourages the use of conservation subdivisions in order to permanently protect additional open space that might otherwise be lost to future development. Landowners can take advantage of the unique qualities of their land and receive “density bonuses” for preserving open space above and beyond the required stream buffers, floodplains, streetscape buffers, and other regulatory open space.

The White Oak Creek Conservation project area was included in the *Southwest Area Plan* as a conservation corridor because of its significant extent of adjacent wetlands and floodplain, and because it represents a major greenway corridor. The Plan identified the acquisition of buffer lands along White Oak Creek as critical in the effort to both protect and improve the quality of waters which ultimately flow to the Jordan Lake reservoir. (The White Oak Creek corridor was classified as a high priority area for protection in the 2001 Town of Cary *Open Space and Historical Resources Plan*.) The project also includes several properties adjacent to the Batchelor Branch Greenway, which links with Thomas Brooks Park.

Additional Policies

Stream Buffers – Since 2000, the Town of Cary has required 100 foot riparian buffers (also referred to as urban transition buffers) on all perennial and intermittent streams shown on U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 scale topographic maps. There is an additional requirement of 50 foot buffers on all streams mapped on the Wake County Soil Survey. These buffers create substantial areas of conservation land that provide wildlife habitat and help protect water quality. (Source: Town of Cary *Southwest Area Plan*, Chapter 4-Parks)

D. Park System Classifications

Introduction

The 2012 *PRCR Master Plan* represents a change in park type classifications. Cary’s parks system has grown more diverse. The existing park classification system (Neighborhood, Community, and Metro Parks) was too limiting and did not include the growing diversity of Cary’s park system. Facilities such as the Cary Tennis Park and WakeMed Soccer Park, although providing a high level of service for programmed athletic activities, did not fit into the current classification system. The new system is primarily based on how a park functions and serves different parts of the community and region and less on size. The classification system takes into consideration the primary users of the park sites are (e.g., neighbors, broader Cary community, residents in the region).

The following proposed ten park type classifications are described below:

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- School Parks
- Metro Parks
- Special Use Parks/Facilities
- Community Centers
- Greenway Corridors
- Natural Areas & Buffers
- Preserves

Mini Parks

Mini Parks are small pieces of park land meant to serve a residential or business area within a ¼-mile radius. Mini Parks range from less than an acre to four acres in size. For the 2012 *PRCR Master Plan* Update, it is recommended that Mini Parks be utilized more in and around the downtown area. These represent small open spaces designed to complement the urban areas within Town. They include small publicly accessible open spaces connected to the sidewalk circulation. Specifically, Mini Parks should be sited based on their proximity to major pedestrian corridors in downtown Cary. As such, they should be strategically placed to act as gateways into the downtown along with other developing parts of Town. They can also be located in relation to larger event or festival spaces that may take place in public areas. They should consist of small plaza-like spaces that offer seating and shade trees and consist of streetscape paving to emphasize their openness and visual connectivity with the street. They can also include a small water feature, and they are ideal spaces to include public art. Where possible, a direct visual relationship between the park and the street should be maintained to emphasize public accessibility.

Mini Parks should also be used as a replacement for a Neighborhood Park when there is limited opportunity to acquire sufficient parkland required of a Neighborhood Park. In the 2003 *PRCR Facilities Master Plan*, it was recommended that Mini Parks only be located within the Maynard Loop. This will be expanded to include the northeast quadrant which is bounded by N.E. Maynard, Harrison, and I-40.

One last potential area of importance for the development of Mini Parks is to create pockets of park development along trails and greenbelt corridors. In general, since these parks serve a local need, they do not require vehicular parking.

Existing Mini Parks:

- Rose Street Park
- Urban Park
- Dorothy Park
- Heater Park

Neighborhood Parks

The Neighborhood Park is the basic unit of the park system, typically serves the passive recreational and informal active recreational needs of Cary residents, and should be designed to accommodate this wide variety of uses. Local parks should form an integral part of the neighborhood and create a sense of community by providing not only a place to engage in informal sports and playground activities; but also social gathering areas located in association with these park activities and other neighborhood amenities (e.g., libraries, community centers). To encourage this connection with the surrounding neighborhood, these parks should be highly visible from the adjoining street and have frontage along the street that is adequate to accommodate local, neighborhood events that will draw people into the park and shade trees that will create a sense of a “natural” aesthetic environment.

Neighborhood Parks are recommended to serve neighborhoods within a 1-mile radius, provided this distance is not interrupted by a high-volume non-residential street. Although the standard size for a Neighborhood Park ranges from 5-25 acres, smaller Neighborhood Parks should be considered. In some cases, there may be opportunities to establish a Neighborhood Park by acquiring additional acreage (potentially as little as five acres) next to Conservation Areas and infrastructure elements such as parking and utilities could be shared. (To provide park equity in highly urbanized areas, the Town will consider a smaller Neighborhood Park or Mini Park that compensates for size and distribution by being easily reachable on foot and bicycle without crossing major arterials or other physical barriers.) Due to the limited size of Neighborhood Parks, it is recommended that multipurpose rectangular fields typically be limited to Community and Metro parks. It is the goal of the Town of Cary to link all of the Town’s current and new Neighborhood Parks to the Greenway system.

Typically, amenities or components found in a Neighborhood Park include:

- Children’s play area
- Picnic shelter and sitting areas
- Lighted court facilities (basketball, volleyball, and tennis)
- Paved loop trails
- Restrooms
- Open grass areas for multi-generational, informal activities such as kite-flying, dog walking, youth sports/activity areas and Frisbee tossing, etc
- Linked to greenway systems and sidewalks.
- Picnic areas with a mix of single, double, and large group
- Community gardens

Existing Neighborhood Parks:

- Annie L. Jones Park
- Davis Drive Park
- Green Hope Elementary School Park
- Harold D. Ritter Park
- Lexie Lane Park
- Lions Park
- MacDonald Woods Park
- Marla Dorrel Park
- R.S. Dunham Park
- Sears Farm Road Park
- Walnut Street Park
- White Oak Park

Future Neighborhood Parks:

- Cameron Pond Park
- Carpenter Park
- Morris Branch Park
- Tryon Road Park
- Twin Lakes Park
- Walnut Creek Park
- Weldon Ridge Park

Community Parks

Community Parks are larger than Neighborhood Parks, and serve a broader purpose and population. They should allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities not feasible or desirable at the neighborhood level. Community Parks are recommended to help address the active recreation needs of Cary residents and offer the best opportunities for the Town to create distinctive facilities that respond to national recreational trends or unique Town needs. Although Community Parks can range from 20 to 100 acres in size, the determining factor whether a park is a Community Park or not is its appeal to the greater community, beyond that of a Neighborhood Park.

As with Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities, a portion of which may be set aside as undeveloped land to remain in a natural condition or be restored to a naturalistic character. Community Parks should be readily visible from adjoining streets and should serve residents within a 2-mile radius and be linked to the Town's greenway system.

Typical facilities found in a Community Park include:

- Children’s play area
- Reservable picnic areas with a mix of single, double, and large group sizes/areas
- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts (sand/lighted)
- Community gardens
- Athletic fields (including: Little League fields (lighted); softball fields (lighted); soccer fields (lighted))
- Restrooms
- Skateboard park
- Off-leash dog park
- Community center/recreation center (with gymnasium, fitness area, etc.)
- Parking (adequate level to serve the park facilities)
- Landscaped open space areas
- Paths and trails (connecting to neighborhoods and open space)
- Trailheads (if adjacent to open space or a path/trail)

Existing Community Parks:

- Robert V. Godbold Park
- Ritter Park
- North Cary Park
- Mills Park (Phase I)

Future Community Parks:

- Bartley Park
- Raftery Park
- Roberts Road School/Park
- Shaffer Park

School Parks

School recreation sites are facilities that are developed on school land and are available for use by the public for recreation. School Parks may be jointly-owned and/or jointly developed. Public use of these School Parks for recreational purposes is subject to use restrictions defined in specific joint-use agreements between the Town of Cary and the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS). These areas supplement the active recreation areas available to residents. Typical facilities may include active components such as turf ballfields for organized sports, gymnasiums, and hard courts (e.g., basketball, tennis courts). The long term goal of the Town with regard to School Park facilities is to continue to maximize cooperative arrangements with WCPSS to augment the Town’s park system and provide additional park and recreational opportunities for Cary residents.

Existing School Parks:

- Cary High School Softball Field
- Davis Drive School Park
- Green Hope High School Park

Although classified as traditional parks or facilities, the following share use with Wake County Public Schools:

- Green Hope Elementary
- Middle Creek Park
- Cary Tennis Park
- Cary Arts Center
- Mills Park

Proposed or Expanded School Parks Facilities:

- Alston Ridge Middle School (Future)
- Briarcliff Elementary
- Cary Elementary
- East Cary Middle
- Farmington Woods Elementary (Homeowners' Recreation Site only)
- Mills Park Middle School
- Oak Grove Elementary
- Panther Creek High School
- Penny Road Elementary
- Reedy Creek Elementary
- Roberts Road High School (Future)
- Weatherstone Elementary

Metro Park

Metro Parks are the largest component of the Town's Open Space system. They generally serve not only the entire Town, but also surrounding communities and visitors. They can contain a variety of outdoor recreation amenities such as sports complexes or associated facilities and are located strategically throughout the community. Historically, Bond Park has been the only park within the Town's park system that has been classified as a metro park. For the purposes of the 2012 **PRCR Master Plan Update**, the "Metro Park" park type has been broadened to include the venue facilities such as the Cary Tennis Park, WakeMed Soccer Park, Koka Booth Amphitheatre, and USA Baseball. This is due to their size, the level of service they are providing, and the regional impact they have on the community as a whole.

Metro Parks such as Bond Park include many of the same elements of a Community Park but at a larger scale. New Metro Parks are recommended to be at least 100 acres in size. Metro Parks should be serviced by arterial and collector streets and be easily accessible by way of public transit. They are recommended to serve as central hubs for the Greenway Trail system. As with Community Parks, a Metro Park can fulfill the needs of a Neighborhood Park for the adjacent neighborhood, provided that it also meets the criteria as outlined in the Neighborhood Parks description.

Active and passive recreation facilities include facilities similar to those listed for Neighborhood and Community Parks at a larger scale. Typical amenities/components found in a Metro Park include:

- Children’s play area
- Reservable picnic areas with a mix of single, double, and large group sizes/areas
- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts (sand/lighted)
- Community gardens
- Sports complexes (soccer, baseball, softball)
- Restrooms
- Skateboard park
- Off-leash dog park
- Community center/recreation center (with gymnasium, fitness area, etc.)
- Parking (adequate level to serve the park facilities)
- Landscaped open space areas
- Paths and trails (connecting to neighborhoods and open space)
- Trailheads (if adjacent to open space or a path/trail)

Existing Metro Parks:

- Fred G. Bond Metro Park
- Middle Creek School/Park
- Cary Tennis Park (Venue)
- Koka Booth Amphitheatre & Symphony Lake (Venue)
- Thomas E. Brooks Park - USA Baseball National Training Center (Venue)
- WakeMed Soccer Park (Venue)

Special Use Parks/Facilities

Special Use Parks are areas that are intended for specialized or single-purpose recreation activities. The size and location of these Special Use Parks depends on its function. Often it is the component or facility located on the site that makes for a Special Use Park. Some of the uses that fall into this classification include: special population group facilities such as senior centers; cultural facilities such as historic areas, theaters, auditoriums, and botanic gardens; single purpose sites that are used for golf, field sports, aquatics, or other activities; and sites occupied by a special-use building such as historic structures. Similarly, design criteria depends upon the type of facility and type of activity. Special Use facilities often have a larger draw and could be considered “regional” in service area.

Existing Special Use Parks/Facilities:

- Cary Arts Center
- Page Walker Arts & History Center
- Sertoma Amphitheatre (Bond Park)
- Hillcrest Cemetery (Historic)
- White Plains Cemetery (Historic)

Future Special Use Parks/Facilities:

- A.M. Howard Farm (Historic)
- C.F. Ferrell Store Park (Historic)
- Town Center Park (Cultural)
- Waldo Rood Homestead (Downtown Historic)
- Downtown “Cary” Theater (Downtown Cultural)
- Downtown “Arts Parts” (Downtown Cultural)

Community Centers

The Town’s community centers are focal points of recreational programming, providing space for classes, meetings, and special events. The service area is roughly a 3-5 mile radius. Today, community centers are designed to serve all demographic groups in one setting. These include preschool, grade school, middle school, high school, single adults, young families, extended families, and older adults. Designated spaces for older adults and teens are usual components of these facilities. These facilities can generate income to offset operational costs as they serve large population areas rather than neighborhood specific areas. Community centers should be located on thoroughfares. Ideally, all community centers should be linked with a Town of Cary greenway to encourage access by bicycle or foot.

At a minimum, indoor amenities should include multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums for basketball, volleyball, and badminton and fitness /exercise facilities for activities such as dance, yoga, Pilates, spinning, and kick boxing, preferably with wood floors and adjacent lockers/changing rooms. Associated outdoor amenities commonly found with a community center include an outdoor amphitheater/ performance/ classroom space, small tot lot, picnic area, and informal turf play areas (100-foot square minimum). Due to the population diversity they serve, recreation centers have the flexibility to contain the following amenities/components:

- Gymnasiums
- Indoor walking tracks
- Game rooms
- Tutorial spaces
- Meeting rooms
- Indoor or outdoor aquatic spaces
- Cardiovascular and free weight fitness rooms
- Aerobic/dance rooms
- Art or performing art spaces
- Kid fit and preschool areas
- Climbing walls
- Locker rooms
- Sauna and steam areas
- Adequate storage space
- Offices
- Community gathering spaces
- Concession or restaurant spaces

Existing Community Centers:

- Cary Senior Center (Bond Park)
- Herb Young Community Center
- Bond Park Community Center
- Middle Creek Community Center

Greenway Corridors

A greenway is a linear open space established along either a natural corridor such as a stream valley or overland along a man-made corridor such as a converted railroad right-of-way, canal, road, or parkway. Greenways tie park sites together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system. Within a natural environment, they allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community and provide people with a resource-based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience. Greenways may be as wide as a watershed or as narrow as a trail. Some greenways are publicly owned. Some are established on private land by easements or other methods that protect valuable natural areas and cultural/historic sites or allow public access along trails. Some are managed to preserve ecological diversity, while others are purely recreational. Suitable activities for greenways include hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, dog-walking, and in-line skating.

The Town of Cary currently has over 60 miles of paved greenway. These are located within 171 acres of open space.

As part of the greenway system, trailhead sites with amenities such as restrooms, parking, and playgrounds to support the usage of the trail system are planned. Depending on the size and number of amenities these trailheads may also function as parks.

Natural Surface Trails – Natural surface trails should be found within parks or conservation areas and are maintained with those facilities. Natural surface trails are not considered part of the overall greenway network. These trails provide a more natural setting for citizens to interact with nature. Pedestrian traffic should be the primary use of the natural surface trails.

Mountain Bike Trails - Have the potential as a stand-alone facility. Mountain bike facilities could parallel a greenway trail, be developed within a park site, or utilize park and associated greenway corridors to create routes of desired length and varied terrain.

Natural Areas & Buffers

Natural Areas & Buffers are set aside to conserve significant natural or cultural resources, landscapes, and open space or provide enhanced aesthetics/buffering. As such, their use for recreation is a secondary objective. These areas typically include dedicated watersheds or natural/non-developed areas. The Town currently has 689 acres of natural areas that have been protected. Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment with recreation uses such as trails as a secondary objective. Open space may or may not have public access.

This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and can include wildlife habitat, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant/animal species. Improvements should be kept to a minimum, with a focus on the natural environmental, interpretive exhibits, outdoor education, and trail connections to regional open space and/or community trails and greenways. Design and management of these areas should be oriented toward providing non-motorized access, a sense of open space/solitude, and environmental protection of sensitive resources.

Preserves

Preserves are lands set aside primarily for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, visual aesthetics and buffering, or for wildlife protection. Suitable activities and facilities for Preserves include those that minimize disturbance on the natural setting, such as: nature centers, areas of nature interpretation, wildlife viewing, and natural surface trails.

Existing Preserve:

- Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve

E. Future Park Concept Plans

As part of the master plan process, program plans were developed for a series of undeveloped park sites in Cary. The Town of Cary has successfully landbanked a number of future parks sites. Programs for these undeveloped parks were developed in preparation for when funding would be available to initiate the design process. Concept plans were completed for each park site showing primary entrance, parking, locations of all facilities including play areas, picnic shelters, restrooms, multi-purpose fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, special use facilities, etc. Sites and areas include the following:

West Cary (area west of NC 55)

- Shaffer Park
- Morris Branch Park
- Cameron Pond Park
- Mills Park
- Weldon Ridge Park
- New Hope Church Road Trailhead Park
- Raftery Park

Central Cary (area east of NC 55 and north of US 1/64)

- A.M. Howard Farm
- C.F. Ferrell Store/Ruritan Park Site
- Carpenter Park
- Twin Lakes

Downtown & the Maynard Loop

- An open space/park concept plan was completed for the area within the Maynard Loop, which includes the downtown
- Lexie Lane Park

The concept plans for each of these sites are found in **Appendix I**, which has been provided as part of a separate document.

F. Potential Future School Parks

The concept of School Parks recognizes the great potential for collaboration between the Town and Wake County Schools. In recognition of these opportunities, the 2003 *Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Facilities Master Plan* developed concept plans for nine school sites to serve recreation needs in areas less adequately served by public parks. (See School Concept Plans excerpted from the 2003 Plan in **Appendix H**, which has been provided as part of a separate document.) While each school site presented different opportunities, six principles were applied to each site, as outlined below:

- Seek efficient use of existing spaces and suitable undeveloped areas of the site.
- Optimize athletic field development within site constraints.
- Explore access, visibility, and security requirements that would typically be considered in park development.
- Recommend lighting and irrigation enhancements to extend the use of existing and new facilities.
- Promote connections to surrounding neighborhoods and incorporate facilities that encourage use by people within walking distance of the site.
- Consider and respect the spatial and operational needs of the school.

Concepts for each of the eight selected sites below were developed based upon these principles:

- Briarcliff Elementary
- Cary Elementary
- Davis Drive Elementary and Middle
- East Cary Middle
- Farmington Woods Elementary (Homeowners' Recreation Site only)
- Oak Grove Elementary
- Reedy Creek Elementary
- Weatherstone Elementary

A majority of the potential improvements focus on athletic field improvements, and thus, would alleviate some of the identified need for fields. Three School Parks were identified as having particularly significant recreational potential to be upgraded to a level at which they can serve as Neighborhood Parks (e.g., Briarcliff Elementary, East Cary Middle, and Farmington Woods Elementary) per the previous *Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Facilities Master Plan* (2003).

In conclusion, these sites represent opportunities to develop field facilities without acquiring new land. These sites often represent opportunities for access to recreation facilities where public parks or available land for public parks cannot currently meet the community's recreation needs. Finally, the suggested improvements and additions will benefit both the children attending the schools and the public-at-large.

G. Public Art Guidelines & Opportunities

In Cary, public art is seen as a multi-faceted benefit for all citizens and visitors, regardless of age, economic or educational background, or any other distinction. It offers many opportunities to celebrate the history and culture of the Town, enhance destination places, create new experiences, inspire and promote dialogue, and revitalize important centers.

Public art in Cary is administered by the Cultural Arts Division of the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department. The purpose of the public art program is to create a means to express the Town's unique identity, foster community pride, and promote economic development.

Public Art General Guidelines

The process of planning and procuring public art should be done in accordance with the program objectives and guidelines of the *Cary Public Art Master Plan* (2012). Other policy and planning documents, such as urban design guidelines and vision plans, are helpful to understand the urban design principles and public investment strategies of a given place. In addition, the following guidelines should be followed for public art in parks, greenways and public facilities:

- **PROCESS:** The process for determining the type and location of public art projects should follow basic urban design principles by understanding the visual and cultural context of the site, the active and passive uses of the area, linkages to other destination places, and the type of users of the facility (e.g. pedestrian, cyclists or vehicles).
- **CONTEXT:** The materials and themes of public art should be sensitive to its context.
- **SCALE:** The scale of art should be consistent with the venue and facility. For example, public art outside of a small house museum would be in modest proportion to the building, whereas public art in a national sports facility should recognize the magnitude of the participants and audience of the venue.

Opportunities and Themes for Public Art

There are three major venues for public art within the context of the 2012 *Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Master Plan*: Parks and Greenways, Civic and Cultural Facilities, and the Maynard Loop.

Parks and Greenways

Parks and greenways are natural settings devoted to passive and active outdoor activities. The natural environment provides many possible themes for site-specific art, including: topography and geological forces, ecosystems, natural seasons, local history, the cultural landscape, environmental stewardship, and native flora and fauna. While many other themes are perfectly acceptable, the relationship of the art to its setting is desirable. Although these public art themes are appropriate for both parks and greenways, the activities in these two types of venues differ and therefore present distinctly different opportunities.

Parks are typically expansive areas dedicated to recreation, picnicking, and social gatherings. Opportunities abound for public art that is interactive and engaging and offers discovery and surprise in the park. Examples of public art opportunities in parks include, but are not limited to:

- Functional art that provides seating or picnic tables.
- Art integrated into parks infrastructure such as footbridges and paths.
- Wayfinding and signage at trailheads and parking entrances.
- Installations that invite contemplation in quiet or scenic settings.
- Interactive art that engages people individually and shared experiences.

Greenways (and trails within parks) are designed to accommodate the movement of pedestrians and cyclists. The activities are generally limited to walking/running, skating, cycling, and rest areas. Greenways and trails provide a safe, attractive, and inexpensive means of exercise, as well as a route for travel and circulation. The entry points to a greenway should be marked clearly for easy accessibility. To encourage more public use, public art can be used to accentuate the entrances using landmarks, gateways, and signage. Along the path, public art can also be used to help define the trails and enhance the experience for pedestrians and cyclists. Examples of public art in greenways or along trails include, but are not limited to:

- Wayfinding and signage to highlight entrances and crossroads, which may or may not require lighting to emphasize a safe and accessible entry.
- Trail markers to guide users along a path and provide linkages where there are gaps in the path.
- Small scale art projects that provide a sense of discovery or surprise along the path.
- For natural paths in pristine settings, it may be desirable to limit public art to entry points.

Civic, Sports, and Cultural Facilities

Civic, sports, and cultural facilities typically center around a structural element for activities, performances, recreation, and events. Civic and cultural facilities include libraries, the Town Hall, schools, the Cary Arts Center, amphitheaters, and related facilities. Sports facilities are dotted throughout Cary ranging from local, neighborhood, and school fields to the large sport venues. Appropriate themes for civic and cultural facilities include history-inspired projects based upon local people and events associated with the facility, the historical use of the site and facility, cultural elements of Cary, and activities and events that take place within the facility.

Examples of public art opportunities for civic, cultural, and sports facilities include, but are not limited to:

- Interactive art projects that engage people in a shared experience.
- Entries and gateways with public art scaled to the size of the facility.
- Functional art that provides seating, pathways or other infrastructure.
- Large-scale artworks that highlight sites and buildings of regional destination places.
- Fully integrated artworks as part of the infrastructure, e.g. walls, floors, stairs, windows, etc.

Maynard Loop

Bounded by Maynard Drive, the Maynard Loop refers to the downtown area that comprises the nucleus, or center of Cary. The Loop includes the core area of downtown, the cultural arts district, and surrounding neighborhoods and parks. The Town of Cary has been focusing public and private investment in this area to stimulate economic development and revitalize the Town Center. A 2001 *Town Center Area Plan* (TCAP) provides a framework to make this collective area “a unique, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly location — a regional destination and a place to live, work, and play.” The vision of that plan is for “new multi-level, mixed-use buildings with an exciting mix of shops, restaurants, entertainment, housing, and offices.” Though the study area of the TCAP is slightly smaller than the Maynard Loop – it does not include the residential neighborhoods and park – the primary venues for public art are essentially the same: the downtown core, the cultural arts district, and the systems of parks and greenways.

The TCAP has been a catalyst for subsequent plans and studies, some of which have been adopted and others that are ongoing. Planning for public art within the Maynard Loop should be consistent with these plans and vision statements. As the revitalization plans for Town Center continue to evolve, so too will the opportunities for public art.

Downtown Cary

For the core downtown area, public art should build upon the Town’s ongoing revitalization efforts and serve as an economic engine for attracting residents and visitors. One of the visions of the TCAP is for streetscape improvements to create a brand identity in the Town Center through uniqueness and consistency. The Plan defines uniqueness as “elements that set Cary apart from other communities.” Public art can play a large role in this vision when it is integrated into the streetscapes through lighting, benches, bus shelters, trash receptacles, paving materials, and sidewalks. Consistency is necessary for the brand identity and can be achieved through a shared palette of design elements within a street corridor. Chatham Street and Academy Street are considered the primary corridors, because they are the major thoroughfares and drive public and private investment.

Public art in downtown Cary should complement buildings and urban design amenities to signal the arrival to a special destination place of both a local and regional scale. Public art can serve a variety of functions: highlight special buildings and public spaces, provide linkages between destination spots, integrate art into infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks, etc), and provide elements of surprise in unusual places. The combined effect of public art in the downtown and cultural arts district should be memorable and one that will encourage repeated visits. Public art opportunities in the downtown district include, but are not limited to:

- Art projects that connect anchor sites and encourage pedestrian movement from one site to another, such as the theatre, a pocket park, a cluster of restaurants, etc. Connecting the sites could be as obvious as art-integrated sidewalks or lighting installations, or more subtle with occasional installations at and between destination areas and major intersections.
- Integrated art such as seating areas, trash receptacles, bus shelters, walkways, lighting, and stormwater facilities.
- Gateways delineating entries into downtown from Chatham Street or Academy Street.
- Interactive art that draws people downtown for an engaging experience.
- Public art integrated into pocket parks.
- Art projects with a film theme to build upon the new theatre.
- Wayfinding and landmarks to improve connectivity and legibility.

- Technological and digital art that provide an intriguing and engaging experience in both the day and night.
- A large scale art project at the intersection of Academy Street and Chatham Avenue to highlight the core of downtown and counterpoint the Cary Arts Center at the southern end of Academy.
- A palette of art work unique to Academy Street from Chatham to the Arts Center that connects downtown with the cultural arts district and provides a remarkable walking experience.
- Bridges and parking decks.

Downtown Cultural Arts District

The cultural arts district is anchored by the Cary Arts Center at the termination of Academy Street. The vista of the Arts Center from the Chatham intersection and the view seen from the pedestrian walking south on Academy Street offers tremendous possibilities. Low profile art projects have been installed at the Arts Center enhancing the experience of the site once a visitor has arrived. Additional art work should be considered that can be seen from Chatham Street to draw people down to the facility and highlight the Academy Street axis as an urban design experience. Public art opportunities in the cultural arts district include, but are not limited to:

- Technological art, such as digital media and mapped projections on buildings. One opportunity in particular is the two blank, outer flanking walls of the Cary Arts Center facing Academy Street.
- Functional and integrated art that connects future cultural arts facilities, such as walkways, seating, and wayfinding projects.
- Art projects that reflect upon the use of the facilities.

Parks and Greenways

Parks and greenways within the Maynard Loop offer a natural respite from the bustle of downtown shops and cultural arts facilities. They provide for both passive and active outdoor activities for individuals and families, residents, and visitors. Public art opportunities should follow the same guidelines and opportunities discussed earlier for parks and greenways throughout the Town. In addition, the parks and greenways in the Maynard Loop should be linked to the downtown and cultural arts districts through wayfinding, landmarks, and integrated art projects.

H. Recommendations – Parks & Open Space

GOAL 1: Maintain a diverse and balanced park and open space system as the Town of Cary grows.

Objectives:

- 1.1. Continue to protect areas that are ecologically important and have a high wildlife habitat value (e.g., riparian corridors, forests, large sections of early successional habitat).**

Actions:

- a. *Utilize conservation planning tools to prioritize high value natural resources to acquire for preservation. (Existing tools include those identified in Town Plans including the 2001 Open Space and Historic Resources Plan to identify, locate, and rank parcels containing significant resources, and identify potential corridors of linkage to create an interconnecting system of open space/green infrastructure.) Acquisition criteria include:*
 - *Broad corridors when possible*
 - *Connectivity and adjacency to larger natural areas (e.g., Jordan Lake, Lake Crabtree, Umstead State Park, etc.)*
 - *Connectivity and adjacency to existing parks and greenway corridors*
- b. *Continue to use a variety of strategies including purchasing land, securing conservation easements, and promoting conservation tax benefits (Federal and State of North Carolina) for donation or bargain sale of land or conservation easements.*
- c. *Pursue partnership opportunities (e.g., grant writing, acquisition, and stewardship activities) with Triangle Land Conservancy, Wake Soil and Water Conservation District, and other conservation organizations.*
- d. *Evaluate zoning within open space priority areas (e.g., land within National Register Historic District that is zoned as commercial could be rezoned to residential or another designation to reduce property tax burden).*
- e. *Consider ways to generate revenue, in addition to the use of the Utility Fund for open space acquisition.*

1.2. Actively manage the Town’s natural resources.

Actions:

- a. *Develop a natural resource management plan for the White Oak Greenway and Conservation Area. (The White Oak Creek corridor was classified as a high priority area for protection in the 2001 Town of Cary Open Space and Historical Resources Plan and is identified as a conservation priority in the Southwest Area Plan.)*
- b. *Develop a natural resource management plan for the Black Creek Corridor. Partner with the Black Creek Watershed Association and North Carolina State University (NCSU). Coordinate with the goals and strategies identified in the Black Creek Watershed Restoration Plan.*
- c. *Prioritize other high value park lands for the development of natural resource management plans.*
- d. *Complete preliminary natural resource management plans outlining ongoing management costs prior to purchasing open space parcels.*
- e. *Identify partnership opportunities with NCSU or other organizations to assist in the development of natural resource management plans for properties or portions of properties that will be maintained as nature areas or will have minimal development to maximize conservation benefits.*
- f. *Utilize the Town’s “Spruce” Program in developing an environmental stewardship volunteer program to provide citizens the opportunity to become involved in caring for natural areas (e.g., invasive species removal).*
- g. *Manage water resources in the protection and development of the parks and open space system in coordination with the Stormwater Master Plan.*

1.3. Continue to develop a high quality, geographically-based system of parks through-out Town.

Actions:

- a. Utilize this Master Plan to help prioritize and guide development of new parks.
- b. Maintain high quality of existing parks by continuing to fund lifecycle replacement costs.
- c. Develop new parks on existing land-banked park property.
- d. Acquire new park land (in northeast and south Cary).
- e. Emphasize greenspace in Downtown Cary.
- f. Identify and secure funding for new park development.
- g. Explore short-term, low-cost improvements and partnership opportunities to activate land-banked park property until they can be fully developed. (Partnership opportunities may include a disc golf course and/or mountain bike, single track trails.)
- h. As development occurs on existing land-banked park properties, research any existing structures, old-growth, champion trees, etc., for historic preservation
- i. Meet facility needs by expanding joint-use partnerships with the Wake County School District at the following locations (and private schools, as appropriate):
 - o Alston Middle School – Gym and multipurpose fields
 - o Briarcliff Elementary School
 - o Cary Elementary School
 - o Davis Drive Middle School
 - o East Cary Middle School
 - o Mills Park Middle School – Gym
 - o Oak Grove Elementary School
 - o Panther Creek High School - Gym
 - o Penny Road Elementary School
 - o Reedy Creek Elementary School
 - o Roberts Road High School
 - o Turner Creek Elementary School – Multipurpose field
 - o Weatherstone Elementary
 - o West Cary Middle School – Multipurpose field

1.4. Update the Master Plan Level of Service to match with the Land Dedication Ordinance.

Actions:

- a. Update to include the addition of multifamily development and adjustment of the land dedication acreage to 11.1 acres of park land per 1,000 residents for parks and greenways.
- b. Redefine park types to reflect diversity and complexity of current park system.

1.5. Evaluate open space requirements for future developments and ensure developments are providing adequate open space that maximizes public benefit (e.g., water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat).

Actions:

- a. Continue to work with developers to set aside important open space that provides trail connectivity, wildlife habitat corridors, and water quality protection.
- b. Acquire park land in accordance with the Town Plans and Land Dedication regulations. (For example, an additional 402 acres of park and greenway land is needed to meet the proposed standard of 11.1 acres per 1,000 residents based on 2020 population projections.)

- 1.6. Develop a well connected open space system in the Maynard Loop and downtown that provides improved opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists, promotes economic vitality of the Town’s center, and reflects the unique character of these areas.**

Actions:

- a. *Provide flexibility in classification system and minimum acreage requirements for parks in the Maynard Loop and downtown. Mini parks, plazas, and linear parks can function as specialty and neighborhood parks. Priority should be given to the location, street presence, and connectivity for park and greenway site selection.*
- b. *Build a downtown urban park to include the following:*
 - *Destination features, art, interactive water features, and public gathering spaces for a variety of events*
 - *Promote restaurants and food vendors along the park edges and within the park*
 - *Public art focus through the park integrated with park design and programmed and non-programmed events*
 - *Pedestrian scale decorative lighting for evening use*
 - *Major water feature- interactive fountain(s)*
 - *Shaded seating space*
 - *Moveable tables and chairs*
 - *Tables with permanent game boards (chess/checkers)*
 - *Informal open lawn area*
 - *Child’s play – non-structured and integrated with art and design of park*
 - *Formal planting areas (gardens)*
 - *Outdoor multi-use special event space*
 - *Ice skating rink during winter months*
 - *Enhanced streetscape surrounding the park*
 - *On-street parking*
- c. *Further study potential locations for mini parks and greenways utilizing stream buffers, wider sidewalks, and green spaces between buildings that provide unique opportunities to enhance connectivity, downtown vitality, the art district theme, Cary’s history, and environmental stewardship.*
- d. *Complete the final design of the 3rd phase of the Higgins Greenway and present to Council to make a final determination whether to extend this greenway to Kildaire Farm Road, Cary Elementary, and the Cary Arts Center.*
- e. *Encourage the incorporation of art, environmental enhancement opportunities, and Cary’s historical assets in the parks and open space components in the Maynard Loop and downtown.*
- f. *Further study improvements that would better integrate the Town Hall Campus green spaces, plazas, and art as part of downtown park system.*
- g. *Create a history walk with interpretative signage connecting the Page Walker Arts & History Center with the Cary Arts Center.*

- 1.7. Upon approval of the Cary-Chatham Land Use Plan, develop a plan in partnership with Chatham County for future parks, greenways, and open space.**

Actions:

- a. *Consider making development of parks part of future urban and developing nodes within Chatham County.*
- b. *Require spur trails that connect to the American Tobacco Trail for future private development adjacent to the American Tobacco Trail.*
- c. *Consider the development of joint-use recreation uses between Chatham County and the Town of Cary as future school locations are considered.*

1.8. Based on an increasing demand for court-related athletic facilities, develop plan to increase the quantity and diversity of court types that are geographically dispersed throughout Town.

Actions:

- a. *Conduct tennis court demand analysis to help identify opportunities to most efficiently and effectively respond to demands.*
- b. *Develop the Cary Tennis Park as the hub of tennis in Cary, with future tennis court expansion based on smaller satellite facilities located throughout Town. Suggested locations and quantities include:*
 - o *Add 8 additional covered courts at the Cary Tennis Park.*
 - o *Add 8 clay courts at Mills Park. (These should be included with other Town amenities such as ball fields and community centers to create some operational and staffing efficiencies.)*
- c. *Work with WCPSS to complete joint use agreements for tennis courts at: Panther Creek High School (6 courts) and Roberts Road High School (Future) (8 courts.)*
- d. *Develop specific courts for pickleball and badminton. (In addition to tennis, there are other court-related sports that have been growing in popularity such as pickleball and badminton. Both of these sports require different striping and net heights.)*

1.9. Better meet peak demand for athletic fields by converting select fields to synthetic turf, adding lighting, and expanding partnerships with schools and local sports clubs, where appropriate.

Actions:

- a. *Conduct athletic field demand analysis to help identify opportunities to most efficiently and effectively respond to demands. Consider adding fields at the following locations:*
 - o *Add 2 Fields at the future Bartley Community Park.*
 - o *Add 2 Fields at the future Weldon Ridge Park.*
 - o *Add 2 additional Fields Tom Brooks Park.*
- b. *Work with WCPSS to complete joint use agreements for multi-purpose fields at the following schools:*
 - o *Penny Road Elementary school (1 Field)*
 - o *Alston Ridge Middle School (Future) (2 Fields)*
 - o *Roberts Road High School (Future)(1 Field)*
 - o *East Cary Middle School (2 Fields)*
 - o *Reedy Creek Schools (1 Field)*
 - o *Davis Drive Schools (2 Fields)*
 - o *Turner Creek Elementary School (1 Field)*
 - o *West Cary Middle School (1 Field)*

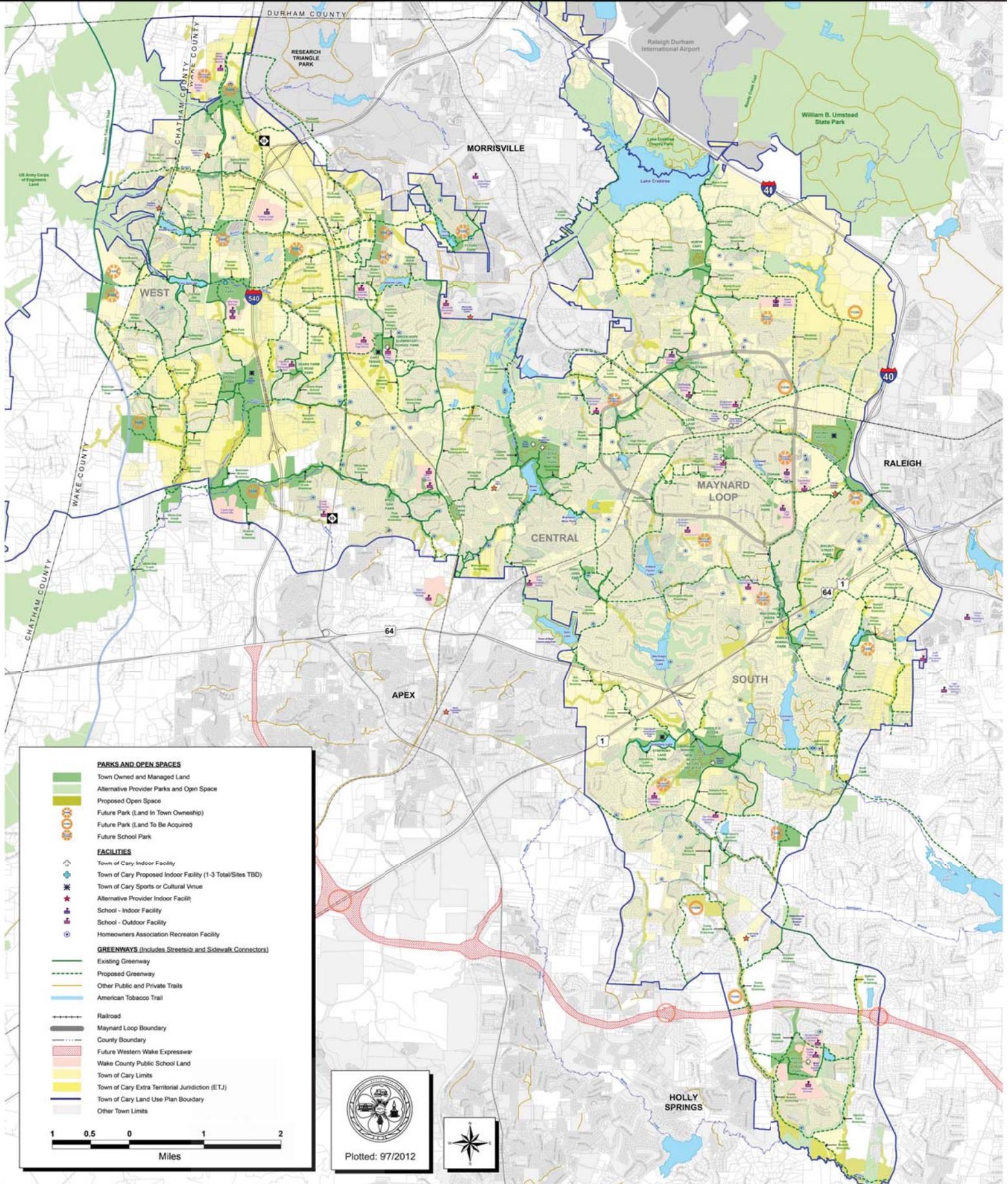
- c. *When possible group multipurpose fields to better accommodate practices and tournaments.*
- d. *Develop a plan for the conversion of existing multi-purpose fields to sports turf fields. As part of plan, complete a cost analysis of converting existing fields to sports turf fields versus only constructing sports turf fields as part of new park capital projects.*
- e. *Partner with local sports clubs on the allocation of multipurpose fields.*

1.10. Based on an increasing demand for baseball fields, develop plan to increase the quantity of field types that are geographically dispersed throughout Town.

Actions:

- a. *Conduct athletic field demand analysis to help identify opportunities to most efficiently and effectively respond to demands. Areas of need include additional adult softball and baseball fields and additional Youth Fields. Consider locating a majority of these fields in west and central Cary. Consider the following:*
 - *8 Youth Fields (200-225 ft)*
 - *2 Youth Baseball Fields (250-275 ft)*
 - *3 Full Baseball Fields (325-375 ft)*
 - *3 Adult Softball*

TOWN OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES 2012 MASTER PLAN



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