

Recreation, Parks & Greenway Plan

Final Report and Recommendations



Town of Elkin
Project Update Meeting

January 30, 2014

Purpose of Recreation and Greenways



- **Improve public health**
- **Enhance tourism**
- **Maintain quality of life**
 - Trails #1 community amenity sought by prospective homeowners (NAH, 2008)
 - property value increase of 6 – 12%
- **Stimulate economic development**
 - Recreational equipment, services & products



Photo: EVTA

Project Timeline and Scope of Work

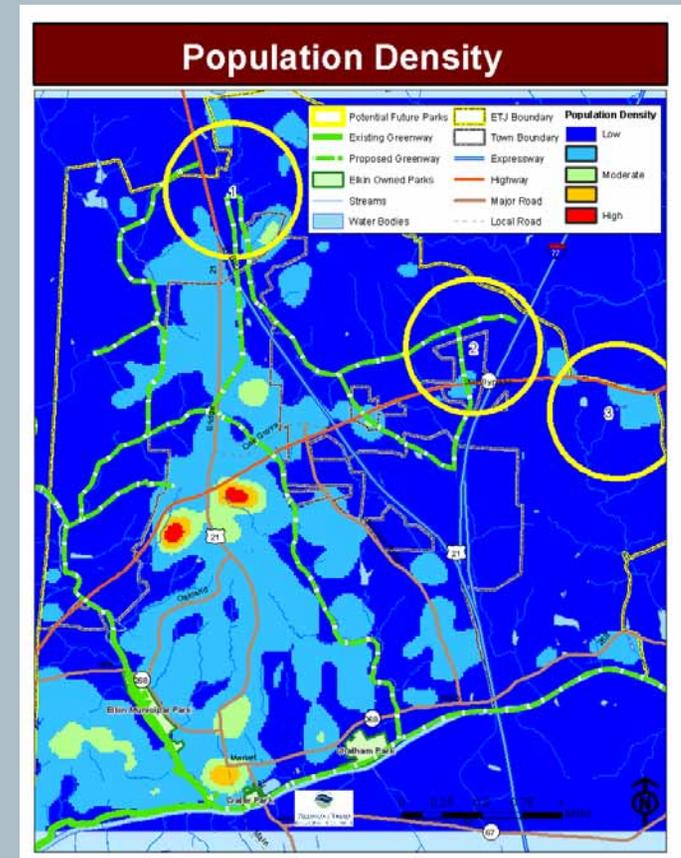


Project Start: Fall 2012

Project Completion: Fall 2013

Scope of Work Components

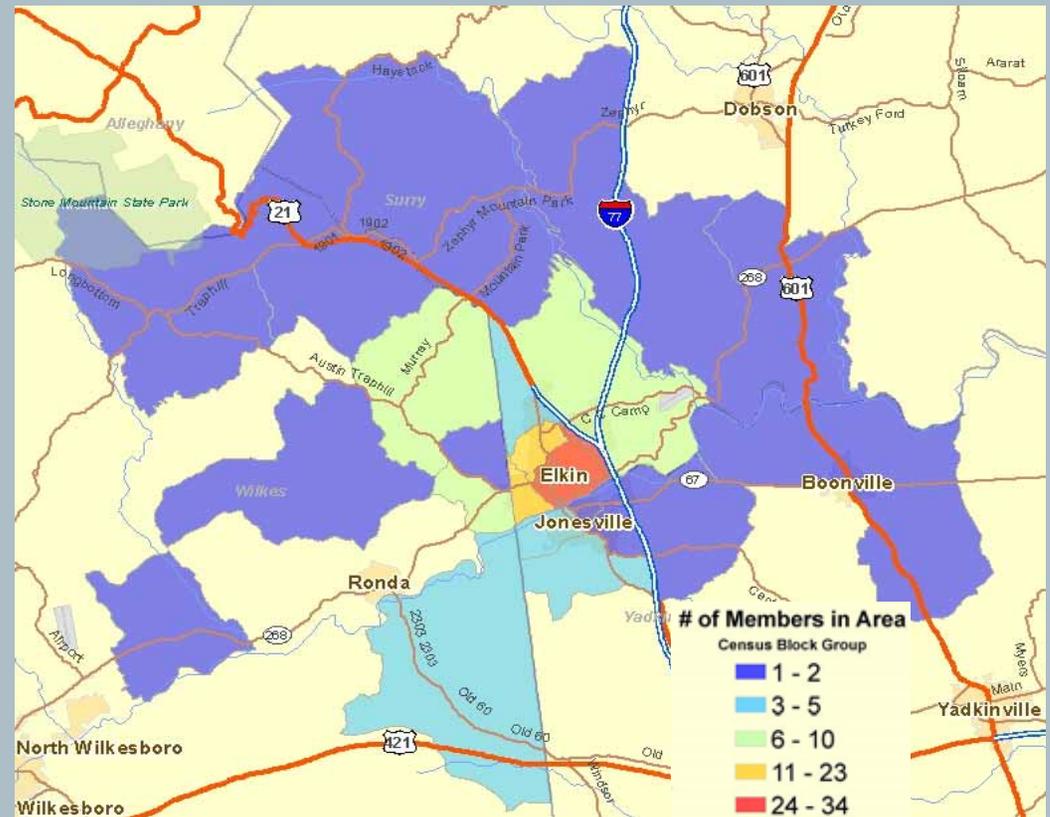
- Demographics Analysis & Existing Conditions
- Survey and Community Involvement
- Proposed Greenways Plan
- Site Specific Plans
- Plan Recommendations



Demographic Analysis & Existing Conditions



- Typical census data
 - Age, Race, Poverty, Population
- Mapped Recreation Center service area
- Field site analysis of park assets
 - Ranking of facilities and natural areas
 - Opportunity identification



Survey and Community Involvement



- 3 Public Workshops
 - Open house style, with interactive feedback stations
- 5 Focus groups
 - Staff, coaches, health professionals, volunteers and older adults
- Presentation to school groups



Photos: PTRC

Survey Highlights



- 251 survey responses
- 54% of respondents live in Elkin
- FACILITY USE
 - Elkin Municipal Park is used daily or weekly by 56% of respondents



Survey Highlights



- **FACILITIES**

- Desired Recreation Center Improvements:

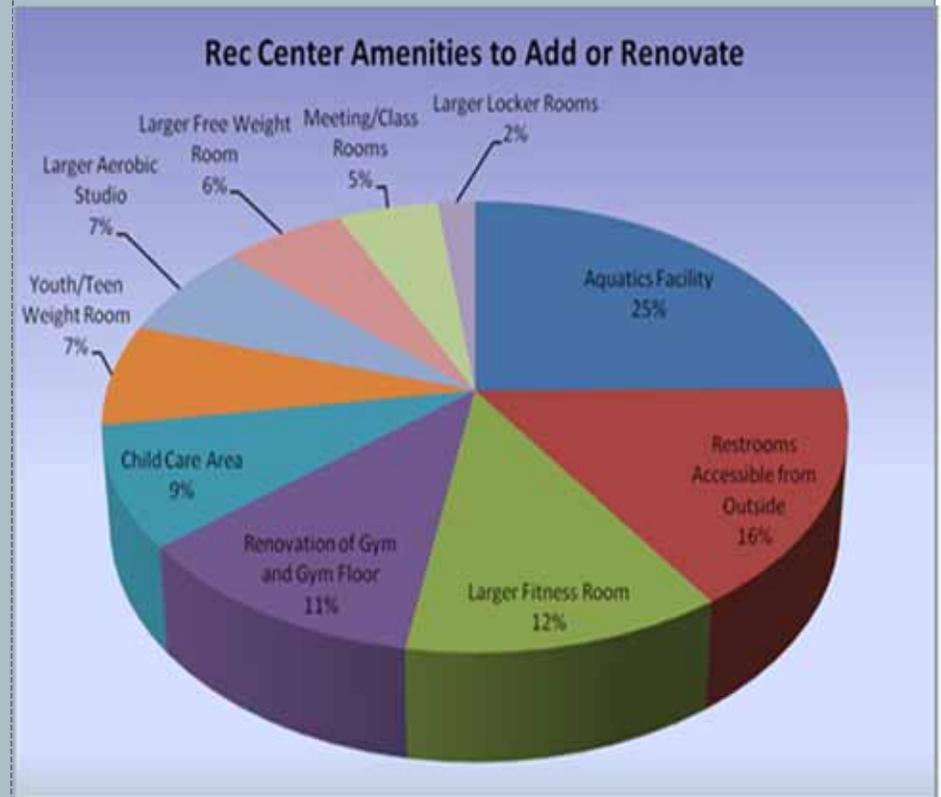
- ✦ Aquatics facility
- ✦ Restrooms accessible from outside
- ✦ Larger fitness room (Gym floor # 3 for region)

- To Add:

- ✦ Indoor Aquatics
- ✦ Expand Greenway

- **TRAILS**

- Connect to downtown
- Address safety issues



Survey Highlights

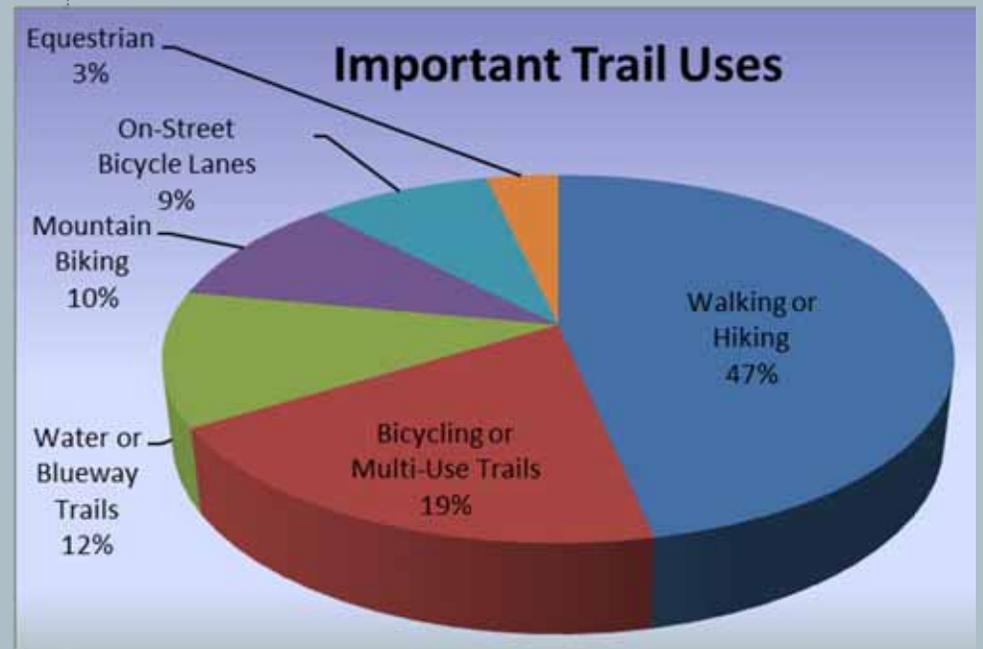


- **FINANCIAL**

- 72% of Elkin residents in support of new financial methods to fund parks and recreation (26% undecided)
- Bond referendum and Annual Household fee are top two choices

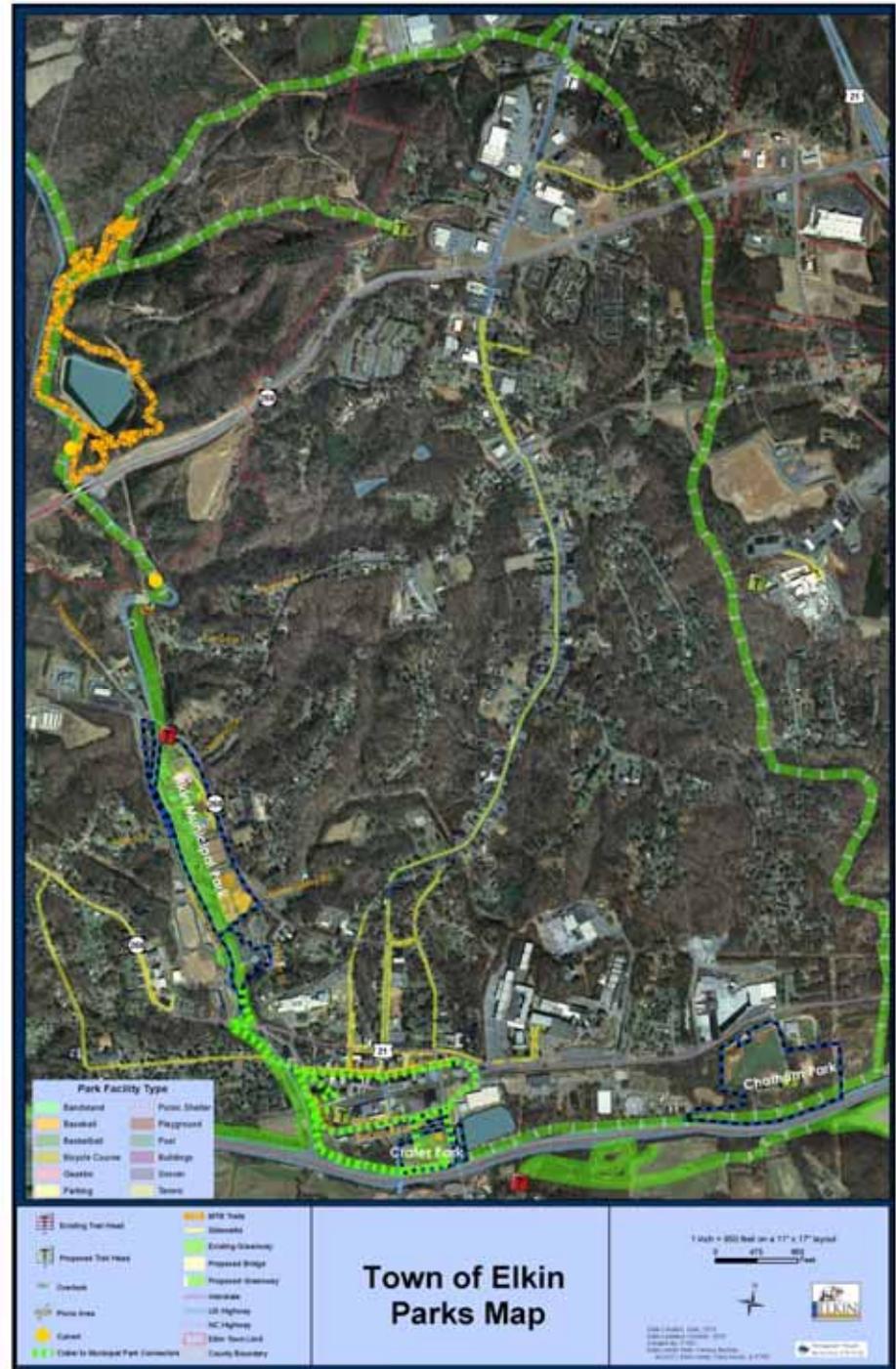
- **OTHER**

- Music events at municipal park reported as top special event
- Personal fitness training is recommended new program
- 72% of Elkin respondents have lived here more than 10 years or all their life



Greenway Plan

- Alternatives for connecting Municipal and Crater Park
- Some conceptual routes
- EVTA provided significant feedback and direction
 - Mountain bike trail system layout
 - Trail alignment in implementation north of Municipal Park
- Plan includes 3 different trail maps



Crater Park Site Plan



- Proposed improvements
 - Playground and garden
 - Concessions & restrooms
 - Picnic shelter 2x
 - Re-grade ball field
 - Camping platforms
 - New access drive and parking additions



Plan Recommendations – Short Term 1-5 Yr



Existing Facilities	Cost Est
· Recreation Center Improvement and Expansion (see Figure 17)	\$2,374,626
o Larger fitness/weight room	
o Gymnasium floor improvements and accessible seating improvements \$100,000 w/ medallion bleachers	
o Building efficiency improvements (e.g., mechanical system upgrades, roof, insulation and repair) (\$125,000)	
o Outside restrooms (or accessible from the outside)	
o Staff offices, multi-purpose room, outdoor patio, increased parking	
· Move and improve band shelter with Recreation Center expansion and add patio	\$25,000
· Water fountain at Municipal Park	\$800
· Light Municipal Park baseball/softball fields and soccer field (at least two)	\$150,000
· Install 8 benches along trails and at Municipal Park playground	\$2,000
· Include 10 interactive workout stations along existing and future trails	\$6,000
· Acquire 2 mobile bleachers for use at park events	\$14,000
· Fix existing bathroom roof at Crater Park	\$2,000
· Provide bicycle accessibility to existing paved or crushed stone trails	\$5,000
· Information kiosk at Crater Park for paddlers and boaters	\$2,000

Plan Recommendations – Short Term 1-5 Yr



<u>New Facilities</u>	<u>CostEst.</u>
· Trail connecting Municipal Park to Crater Park (see Figure 19)	\$25,000
· Extension and expansion of E & A Nature Trail	\$100,000
· Provide rental facility and shuttle for canoe/kayak in partnership with private entity	\$5,000
· MTB trails around Elkin Business Park (see Figure 20)	\$10,000
<u>Programs</u>	
· Establish a local bicycle club to encourage safety and ridership	
· Add senior programs and classes in coordination with local and County Senior services	\$2,000
· Increase the number of fitness classes	\$4,000
· Offer more music at the Municipal Park	
· Offer child care for Recreation Center users	\$11,232
· Work with community organizations for <i>Park Days</i> event	\$500
· Offer outdoor adventure programs	
· Increased hours at Recreation Center	\$5,408
· Safety signage at boat landing on Yadkin River for paddlers	\$500
· Improve existing park facility way finding and signage	\$2,000
<u>Administration</u>	
· More staff needed for child care and additional fitness classes (2 part-time positions)	\$10,000
· More maintenance staff required for trail maintenance (1 seasonal part-time position)	\$5,400
· Athletic coordinator needed to handle active sports programming needs (1 full time seasonal position)	\$28,000
· Work with partner agencies to address brownfield issue at Chatham Park	\$0
TOTAL SHORT TERM COST ESTIMATE	\$2.8M

Plan Recommendations – Mid Term 6-10 Yr



Existing Facilities

- Crater Park improvements (see Figure 18)
- Improve bathroom and concessions, install covered porch at Municipal pool
- Add two picnic shelters at Municipal Park

New Facilities

- Extend MST along Yadkin River and connect with Surry County's Fisher River park
- Amphitheatre for music and other events

Programs

- Expand programs and special event based on community interest
- Engage local bicycle club to continue to advocate for on-road bicycling improvements to improve access to parks and trail facilities

Administration

- Develop formal funding partnership with the Elkin City Schools and other recreation partners for future existing and facility needs
- Update Recreation, Parks and Greenway Master Plan

TOTAL MID TERM COST ESTIMATE

\$1.4M

Plan Recommendations – Long Term 11-20 Yr



- Recommendations
 - Add spray park to Municipal Park pool
 - Remove old water plant
 - Acquire land closer to I-77 for future recreation needs
 - Construct indoor aquatics facility in partnership with Elkin City Schools or other partners
 - Update Recreation, Parks and Greenway Plan
 - Update programming and events based on demand, need and interest

Plan Outcomes



- Site specific plans for priority facilities & programs
- Strategy for implementation plan over the next 10 years
- Pursue Strategic Partnerships
 - Strongly encouraged from funders both public and private
- Plans required for grants
 - PARTF
 - Recreational Trails Program
 - NCDOT

NCDOT Enhancement funded grant project



Photo: PTRC

Thank you! Questions?



PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

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