

# Public Involvement

The master planning process relies heavily on participation from the public, recreation users, local officials and interested groups. A range of methods were used in order to get a broad representation of the community's values, priorities and expectations related to parks, recreation and trails. There were over 300 people who participated in the master plan process through surveys, meetings or focus groups. This section describes and summarizes the results derived from the various public involvement activities.



*Spectators take in a tennis match at Municipal Park Photo. H. Cockburn*

## Recreation User Survey

There were 251 responses to the user survey, 228 respondents completed all 5 sections of the survey, 122 survey respondents said they lived in Elkin, 106 lived outside Elkin (23 skipped this question). The survey was distributed in the following ways:

- 1) 2,500 inserts into the Elkin Tribune November 2012;
- 2) A link to the survey in a newspaper article October, 2012 (Monthly Unique Visitors: 26,000 );
- 3) Distributed at meetings (e.g., plan public workshop, high school parks and recreation event; Elkin Valley Trails Association meetings) ;
- 4) Available at Town Hall, Recreation Center and Library;
- 5) E-mailed to Chamber of Commerce list, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Town staff and Hospital employees;
- 6) Parks and Recreation Facebook Page.

The following responses are reported for all survey respondents unless otherwise noted. Where applicable, # of responses or % of responses shown in ( ).

### Section 1: Elkin Parks Use

- Elkin Municipal Park is used daily or weekly by 56% of respondents and (Question 1)
- E & A Railroad nature trail is used more often than the OVT Trail (Question 5-6)

## **Section 2: How do you recreate?**

- Cornhole (85), miniature golf (82) and yard games (73) are the top reported games/activities; (Question 1)
- Arts/Crafts (149), Concerts (100) and Outdoor Drama (89) are top reported Arts interests; (Question 2)
- Swimming (118), basketball (107) and tennis (88) are the top reported sports activities; (Question 3)
- Walking (182), Hiking Trails (150) and Fishing (104) and Canoe/kayaking (102) are the top reported passive outdoor pursuits; (Question 4-5)
- Aerobics/pilates/yoga (60), arts & crafts (53), music (53) and CPR (40) are top reported Instructional Classes; (Question 6)
- Summer camp (25) and after school (17) are the two top recreation center programs; (Question 7)
- Weight lifting (80), fitness activities (75), lap swimming (44) and Zumba (43) are the top fitness activities; and (Question 8)
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival (151), Yadkin Valley Wine Festival (141) and the farmer's market (125) are the top three special events. (Question 9)

## **Section 3: What do we need?**

- Personal fitness training (91), seasonal/holiday special events (81), outdoor adventure (77) and adult athletics (74) are the top Recreation Center programs/activities to offer; (Question 1)
- Aquatics facility (25%\* weighted), restrooms accessible from the outside (16%), larger fitness room (12%) and gym floor renovations (11%\*)<sup>1</sup> are the top four weighted responses (one to five rank)of amenities to add to the Recreation center from ***Elkin only responses***; (Question 2)
- Indoor aquatics facility (34%\*\* weighted), expand greenway trail system (23%\*\*), expand the Elkin recreation center (20%\*\* ) are the top three weighted responses (one to three rank) to add to the Parks systems from ***Elkin only responses***; (Question 3) (see below for response comments)

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<sup>1</sup> \* Weighted score for top five rank, weight is calculated as sum of; top choice x5, second choice x4, third choice x3, fourth choice x2 and fifth choice x1.

\*\*Weight score for top three rank, weight is calculated as sum of; top choice x3, second choice x2 and third choice x1

- Music (35%\*\* weighted), movies (22%\*\* ) and outdoor dramas (19%\*\*)<sup>2</sup> are top weighted responses (one to three rank) to add to special events at the Municipal Park; (Question 4)
- Pre-school, seniors and high school age groups are the least adequately served of all age groups; (Question 5)
- Only two of the 122 respondents who live inside Elkin disagree with new or expanded financial methods to help fund recreation and parks expansions and renovations; (Question 6)
- Recreation & Parks Bond referendum (Recreation & Parks Bond 38%\*\* weighted), Annual household fee \$25-50 (25%\*\* ) and Increase of participation fees (11%\*\* ) are the top three reported finance choices (one to three rank) to fund improvements from *Elkin only responses*. (Question 7)

#### **Section 4: Trail Use**

- Walking or Hiking (47%\*\* weighted), bicycling or multi-use trails (20%\*\* ) and on-street bicycle lanes/MTB (11%\*\* ) are the top four responses (one to three rank) for trail use from *Elkin only responses*, water and blueway trails are 3<sup>rd</sup> highest (12%) when considering all responses and (Question 1)
- Connects to existing trails (34%\*\* weighted), connects to existing parks (25%\*\* ) and addresses safety concerns (23%\*\* ) are the top three choices for determining locations of new trail. (Question 2)

#### **Section 5: About You**

- From *Elkin only responses* Age 35-54 and ages 5-9 have the highest number of responses; (Question 1)
- From *Elkin only responses* 72% of respondents have lived in Elkin more than ten years, 16% more than five years and 12% less than 5 years; (Question 3)
- From *Elkin only responses* 31% of households earn less than \$50,000, 26% of households have income between \$50,000-75,000, 16% between \$75,000 and 100,000 and 19% between \$100,000-150,000; and (Question 4)
- From *Elkin only responses* 61% prefer email notice of programs and activities, 16% newspaper and 14% social media. (Question 5)

Detailed results from the survey can be found in the Appendix.

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<sup>2</sup> \*\*Weight score for top three rank, weight is calculated as sum of; top choice x3, second choice x2 and third choice x1

## Workshops & Focus Groups

### Public Workshop

The first public workshop was held on November 15, 2012. Fifteen attendees, including elected officials, local trail advocates and other citizens, participated in the workshop. The workshop was structured around the following questions: 1. What do you like about each park and the trails system; 2. What do you dislike? 3. What would you change or add? Full meeting notes are included in the Appendix, but the following themes were heard by participants:

- A. Better trail connections between parks and along the Yadkin River
- B. Utilize Crater Park better for blueway paddlers (including camping)
- C. Improved restrooms at all parks
- D. Indoor pool desired
- E. Recreation Center in need of improvements
- F. More events to promote and market trails, parks and recreation

### Focus Group Meetings

Focus group meetings were scheduled to reach out to the following specific interest groups: program coaches, trail advocates, health experts, parks and recreation staff, older adults and indoor recreation center users. These meetings were facilitated as group discussions to collect ideas and priorities related to trail and recreation needs. The 5 focus group meetings were held on February 18, 2013 with the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What does Elkin Parks and Recreation do well?
- What would you change about Elkin's Parks and Recreation?
- What new programs/facilities/people would you add?
- Anything else that needs to be considered in the planning process?

The following themes emerged from the various focus groups:

- A. The Town of Elkin provides a high level of recreation service that needs to be preserved and marketed
- B. Recreation Center needs an update to its weight room, gym, handicap accessible seating, outdoor restroom access and flex space
- C. Crater Park is a great location to serve the growing paddling community
- D. Adding lighting to ball fields to improve tournament bids and grow tournaments being located in Elkin
- E. Improve wayfinding and signage
- F. Complete proposed trail connections and add amenities (e.g., benches, workout stations)

- G. Engage more senior volunteers and host more events to generate interest in parks, recreation and trail programs
- H. Indoor pool and tennis courts are desired, with an understanding that the costs may be too large for a small town to maintain
- I. Expand recreation program offerings to generate interest in recreation and improve quality of life
- J. Seek to capture more revenue from Tourism generated from parks, recreation and trail events to support and improve facilities.

### **Public Open House**

On June 27, 2013 a public open house was held to show proposed site plan improvements for Municipal and Crater Park. In addition the proposed trail system and programming recommendations were also presented. Attendees were able to provide feedback for each site plan, the trail system and vote on program improvements. Additional themes heard at this meeting include:



*Residents provide feedback on park designs at the Elkin Center*

- Accommodate new trail connections with parking, but not necessarily paved
- Better way finding and include safety signage on river access
- Programs need to be expanded as soon as possible
- Cater to paddlers and provide more facilities at the Yadkin River
- Developing trail system is exciting, maintenance and trail connectivity between parks is important

A summary of the public meetings and focus group results are available in the Appendix.

### **Summary**

The results from public involvement indicate additional recreation programs and facilities are needed in the Town of Elkin, and a priority should be placed on improving the existing recreation center, creating better river access and facilities at the Yadkin River and connecting parks via trails, in addition programs should be available for all age groups.

## **Recreation Standards**

Planning for recreation facilities and parks is part science and part art. The process seeks to strike a balance between community values, recreation demands and available resources. The outcome of the planning process is a series of policy, program and facility recommendations to carry the Recreation and Parks Department forward with clear direction for the next twenty years.

To that end, this section provides analysis and information to aid in forming appropriate standards for Town facilities and programs. Why adopt local recreation facility standards?

These standards:

- Express the accepted minimum standards for recreation facilities across a broad spectrum of communities.
- Provide a guide for determining land requirements for different types of facilities.
- Serve as the foundation for a systems approach to community park planning.
- Act as a clear assessment tool for measuring plan implementation.

In developing facility standards, recreation policy-makers must address two questions: Do these standards reflect our goals and objectives related to recreation and are the standards realistic and attainable within the 2035 planning horizon?

In this section, we explore a variety of methods for developing facilities standards, provide standardized descriptions of different types of park sites and identify the minimum requirements for specific types of improvements.

## **Methodology**

### **Area Percentage Method**

This method of determining recreation demand assumes that a minimum percentage of the total land mass within the Town should be reserved for park sites. While simplistic, it gives a gross assessment of the recreation acreage needed within the City. For example, if 1% is the accepted standard for the Town of Elkin, with a total size of 6.3 square miles, this would result in the recommended reservation of 40 acres for parks and natural areas. A goal of 5% would reserve 200 acres of park and natural area by 2035, essentially doubling the existing park acreage.

### **Population Ratio Method**

This method of determining the desired minimum number of facilities is grounded in the average demand derived from national recreation use surveys. For example, the National Recreation and Parks Association recommends 6–10 acres of parks and open space area per 1,000 persons. Based on a projected 2035 population of less than 4,000, the Town already holds a parkland inventory (67 acres existing) within this range.

**Peer Comparison Method**

A review of recreation and parks expenditures in communities with similar demographic and geographic characteristics provides context and insight into comparable recreation programs. Three peer communities have been selected – Jamestown, Troy, and North Wilkesboro.

While funding for recreation in the Town of Elkin has been stable over the past five years, a comparison of recreation spending among the selected peer communities shows that Elkin is funding recreation at an average of over 10% of total Town expenditures, which is much higher than neighboring N. Wilkesboro and the Town of Troy in Montgomery County.

**Figure 15 - Peer Community Comparison**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Elkin</b>	<b>Jamestown</b>	<b>Troy</b>	<b>N. Wilkesboro</b>
Population 2011	4,001	3,504	3,386	4,265
Tax Rate 2011	0.475	0.39	0.48	0.52
Total Municipal Expenditures 2012	\$11,930,740	\$5,720,263	\$4,364,104	\$9,951,148
Recreation Operating Expenditures 2012	\$581,343	\$1,396,903	\$442,635	\$259,534
Recreation Capital Construction & Purchase Expenditures 2012	\$66,501	\$3,781	\$5,318	\$483,288
- As % of total expenditures	5.4%	24.5%	10.3%	7.5%
- Per capita	\$162	\$400	\$132	\$174
Average Annual Recreation Expenditures, prior five years 2006-2011	\$640,214	\$1,642,210	\$301,867	\$267,500
- As % of total expenditures, past five years	10.4%	26.7%	6.9%	3.1%
- Per capita	\$160	\$469	\$89	\$63

Source: North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, County & Municipal Finance Division, 2013.

**Design Criteria**

What makes a good park site? That is often dependent on the recreation goals the site must meet, its geographic location within the community or a unique site feature.

Good park design considers the balance of open play space, buffers and natural areas in relationship to the developed areas of the park site. Topography, streams and other natural land features also influence the ultimate design and flow of a park.

The facilities found or planned for at any given park site are often dependent upon the space available, terrain and a desired park concept. To adequately consider the potential

for enhancing existing facilities or development of a new park site, dimension and area requirements for each type of facility are needed (Figure 16).

**Figure 16 - Recreation Facility Design Standards**

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Minimum Area</b>	<b>Recommended Dimensions</b>
<b>Outdoor Active Amenities</b>		
Full Basketball Court	7,500 sq ft.	50 x 84 ft., 5 ft. clearance
Baseball Field	4 acres	90 ft. baselines; 320 ft. to foul line
Football Field	1.5 acres	160 x 360 ft., 6 ft. clearance
Golf Course	50 -110 acres	Average length of 6,500 yards
Soccer Field	2.1 acres	330 x 360 ft., 10 ft. clearance
Softball Field	2 acres	60 ft. baselines; 200 ft. to foul line
Swimming Pool, Outdoor	½ - 2 acres	25 M x 16 M for competitive swimming; 27 sq ft. per swimmer; 2:1 deck to water ratio
Tennis Court	7,200 sq ft.	36 x 78 ft., 12 ft. side clearance
Volleyball Court	4,000 sq ft.	30 x 60 ft., 6 ft. clearance
Bocce Ball	1500 sq ft.	91 x 13 ft. regulation; 60 x 12 ft. minimum
<b>Indoor Active Amenities</b>		
Recreation/Community Center	10 – 15 acres	Recreation Centers may include both indoor and outdoor amenities with shared parking.
Swimming Pool, Indoor	8,000 sq ft.	
Gymnasium	10,000 sq ft.	
Auditorium	N/A	
<b>Passive Amenities</b>		
Picnic Shelter	1 – 5 acres	Varies
Picnic Tables	1,000 sq ft.	Should be ADA compliant
Playgrounds and Open Play Area	1 – 5 acres	Varies
Boat Launch/Ramp	1 – 5 acres	Varies based on boat type
Hiking Trails	N/A	20 ft r/w; 5 – 8 ft. rock dust path or natural surface
Multi-purpose Trails	N/A	30 ft r/w; 10 ft. paved trail
Equestrian Trails	N/A	30 ft r/w; 20 ft. vertical clearance; 10 ft. rock dust path or natural surface
Amphitheater	10 – 15 acres	Varies

## **Typical Park Site Categories**

Adopting standard definitions of different types of parks provides a continuity of understanding for staff, appointed officials and the public, particularly when new park sites are being sought or planned. These definitions create distinctions between park types, sizes and typical facilities.

*Regional Park.* A park site of 500-1,000 acres or larger which serves multiple communities. A regional park provides opportunities for a wide range of both active and passive outdoor leisure activities on a single site. Generally, 80% of the site is reserved for natural areas and passive activities, and 20% is used for improvements for active outdoor recreation. Regional parks are generally acquired and maintained by the state or a county. Pilot Mountain State Park is a good example of this type of park.

*District Park.* A park site of 100-500 acres in size, serving populations within a ten mile radius. While providing a wide range of both active and passive outdoor leisure activities, a district park may often provide indoor recreation venues as well. These parks are generally located in large municipalities or maintained by a county. Fisher River Park run by Surry County is an example of a district park.

*Community Park.* A park site of 20-50 acres in size, serving a single community or neighborhoods within a five mile radius. Focused primarily on active leisure activities, community parks often provide a mixture of indoor and outdoor facilities in a natural setting. The Elkin Municipal Park is an example of a Community Park, however because of the many facilities offered at the park, it draws beyond a five mile radius.

*Neighborhood Park.* A park site of 5-10 acres in size, serving populations within walking or bicycling distance. Facilities can vary greatly, and may include both passive and active leisure facilities based on community needs and desires.

*Pocket Park.* A park site of one acre or less in size, generally providing areas of greenspace and limited outdoor recreation facilities in highly urbanized areas, intended to serve populations within walking distance.

*Specialty Park.* A park site of varying size, located to capitalize on a unique natural, historic or cultural feature. Facilities may vary widely based on need. Sites should be of sufficient size to protect and interpret the particular resource being featured, while allowing maximum use by the public.

*School Park.* Active recreation facilities located on school property, but used and maintained jointly by the school system and a parks and recreation department.

*Greenway or Multi-Use Path.* A linear style park that provides shared greenspace and natural resource management areas, typically located along rivers, creeks or streams in a community. These parks are often enhanced with trails for hiking, bicycling or equestrians where feasible.

*Open Space.* Sites intended to remain in an undeveloped state, generally to provide relief from urban develop, preserve natural habitats or maintain the integrity of important natural watershed and drainage systems.

## Summary

Based on the existing inventory of parks and facilities and the public input received during the master plan process, there is not an immediate need for new parkland. There has been significant interest demonstrated to:

- 1) *Expand greenway trails,*
- 2) *Improve the Recreation Center, and*
- 3) *Consider an indoor swimming pool or aquatics facility.*

*Future Park Land Analysis.* Although no new parkland is needed immediately, future land acquisition should be considered in mid and long range planning. The *Appendix Future Park Suitability Analysis* analyzed potential future park parcels greater than 10 acres that may be suitable for future park sites. The facilities provided at Chatham Park are not owned by the Town and require significant remediation of nearby polluted areas. Access to this park may also be limited due to on egress/ingress point over the railroad tracks.

New park site development in the absence of Chatham Park in Elkin should be focused on one or two Community Park sites of 20-50 acres; and provision of new Pocket Parks where new development occurs through the local development ordinance. In addition, the implementation of a greenway system focused on Big Elkin Creek and the Yadkin River has the potential to connect parks within the system and provide a unique recreation opportunity for residents and visitors.

A reasonable goal for Elkin's parks and open space lands is 5% of the Town's total land area, approximately 200 acres. Acquisition of sites across the various park categories as recommended would result in more than doubling the existing inventory of parks and open space area in Elkin by 2035. Although the population is projected to be steady for the next 20 years, growth in the extra territorial district (ETJ) areas outside the Town limits will place demand on existing facilities as the region grows.

A focused approach to recreation, greenway and open space dedication as development occurs would insure that smaller park sites would be available to address recreation needs in growth areas. Land acquisition strategies to locate and secure large Community Park sites in desired areas should be developed to meet the future recreation needs of the community in collaboration with other recreation partners at Surry County and neighboring jurisdictions.

# Recommendations

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Public input from surveys, meetings and focus groups yielded several ideas on how to improve the parks, recreation and trail systems in Elkin. Figures 17-22 reflect a vision for the parks system over the next 20 years. The recommendations found in the figures and additional items are categorized into Short-term (1-5 years), Mid-term (6-10 years) and Long-term (11-20 years) and are organized into existing facility improvements, new facilities, administration and programs. Typically the Recreation and Parks Department would take the lead on each recommendation; however other partners will be needed for successful implementation on many items.

## Short-Term

These improvements are generally recommended to begin or be completed within the next one to five years.

### Existing Facilities

- Recreation Center Improvement and Expansion (*see Figure 17*)
  - Larger fitness/weight room
  - Gymnasium floor improvements and accessible seating improvements
  - Building efficiency improvements (e.g., mechanical system upgrades, roof insulation and repair)
  - Outside restrooms (or accessible from the outside)
  - Staff offices
  - Multi-purpose room
  - Install outdoor patio on backside of Recreation Center
  - Increase parking
- Move and improve band shelter with Recreation Center expansion and add patio
- Water fountain at Municipal Park
- Light Municipal Park baseball/softball fields and soccer field (at least two fields and 10 poles)
- Install 8 benches along trails and at Municipal Park playground
- Include 10 interactive workout stations along existing and future trails
- Acquire 2 mobile bleachers for use at Crater, Chatham or Municipal Park events
- Fix existing bathroom roof at Crater Park
- Provide bicycle accessibility to existing paved or crushed stone trails
- Information kiosk at Crater Park for paddlers and boaters

### New Facilities

- Trail connecting Municipal Park to Crater Park (*see Figure 19 & 20*)
- Extension and expansion of E & A Nature Trail, including 1<sup>st</sup> major bridge over Elkin creek north of Municipal Park (*see Figure 21*)

- Provide rental facility and shuttle for canoe/kayak in partnership with private entity, possibly at the Trail Hub center proposed for the Smith Phillips Lumber building
- Mountain bike trails around the Business Park (*see Figure 21*)

### **Programs**

- Establish a local bicycle club to encourage safety and ridership
- Add senior programs and classes in coordination with local and County Senior services
- Increase the number of fitness classes
- Offer more music at the Municipal Park
- Offer child care for Recreation Center users
- Work with community organizations, health department and others for *Park Days* event celebrating physical activity, parks and recreation
- Offer outdoor adventure programs
- Increased hours at Recreation Center
- Safety signage at boat landing on Yadkin River for paddlers to launch on downstream side of dock
- Improve existing park facility way finding and signage

### **Administration**

- More staff needed for child care and additional fitness classes (2 part-time positions)
- Athletic coordinator needed to handle active sports programming needs (1)
- More maintenance staff required for trail maintenance (1 seasonal part-time staff)
- Work with partner agencies to address Brownfield issue at Chatham Park for future greenway development

### **Mid-Term**

These improvements are generally recommended to begin, continue or be completed within the next six to ten years.

### **Existing Facilities**

- Crater Park improvements (*see Figure 18*)
  - Improved camping facilities (raised platforms) and restrooms and raise above floodplain
  - Level playing fields and add lighting
  - Re-route access drive to the west of ball field and add parking
  - Add handicap accessible parking
  - Install small playground facility and gardens
  - Walking track
  - Add picnic shelter

- Concessions and restroom
- Improve bathroom and concession facilities, install covered porch and replace tile at existing Municipal pool
- Add two picnic shelters at Municipal Park

### **New Facilities**

- Extend Mountains to Sea Trail along Yadkin River and connect with Surry County's Fisher River park
- Amphitheatre for music and other events
- Add football field at Crater Park on existing ball fields

### **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

## **Long Term**

These improvements are generally recommended to begin, continue or be completed within the next eleven – twenty years.

### **Existing Facilities**

- Add spray park to the existing Municipal Park Pool
- Remove old water plant at southern end of Municipal Park
- Implement improvements and seek grants for improvements identified in Master plan update

### **New Facilities**

- Acquire new park land closer to I—77 to accommodate active and passive recreation if need is not addressed by other entities
- Construct an indoor aquatics facility in partnership with Elkin City Schools and other partners if there has been no facility constructed by a non-profit and community interest is strong
- Implement improvements and seek grants for improvements identified in Master plan update

### **Programs**

- Continue to modify athletic and leisure program offerings based on need and interest

### **Administration**

- Update Recreation, Parks and Greenway Master Plan

Figure 17 – Municipal Park Improvements

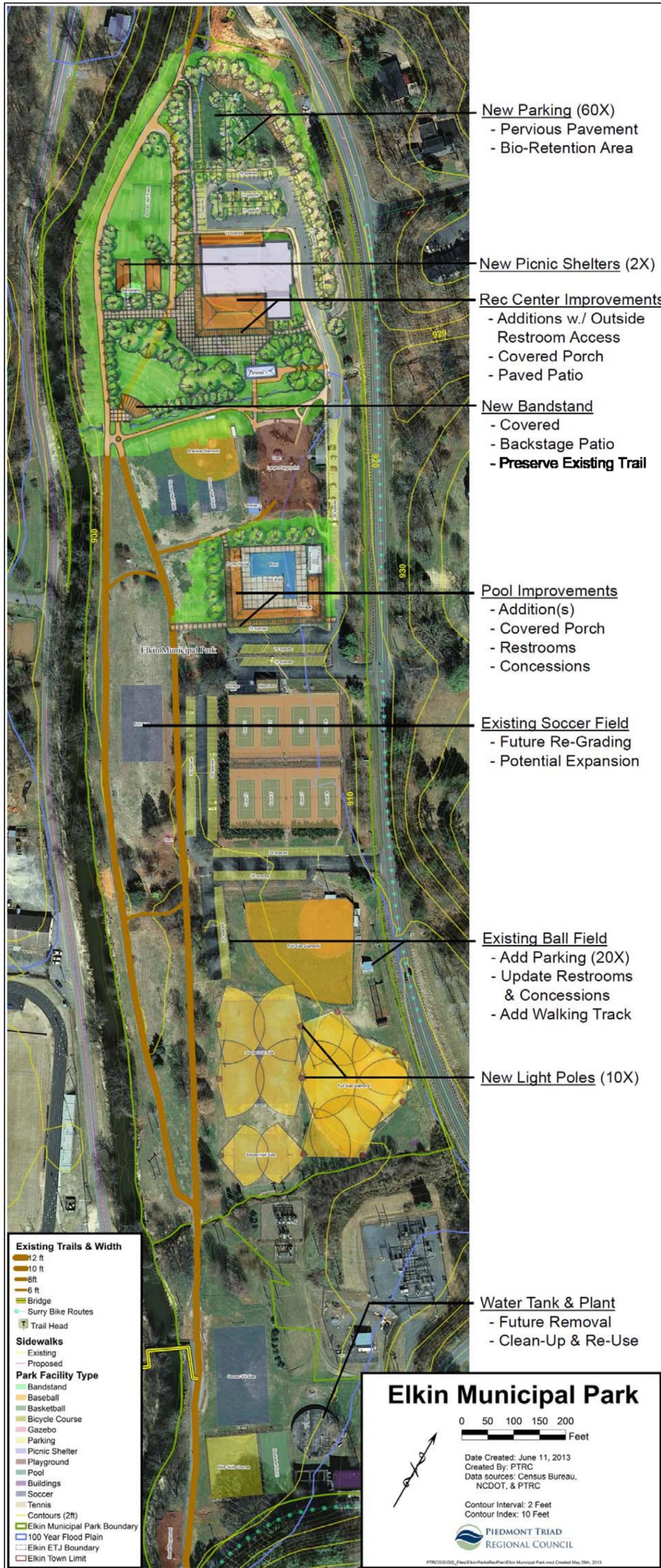


Figure 18 – Crater Park Improvements



Figure 19 – Proposed Crater Park to Municipal Park Trail Connectors



Figure 20 – Parks and Proposed Facilities Map

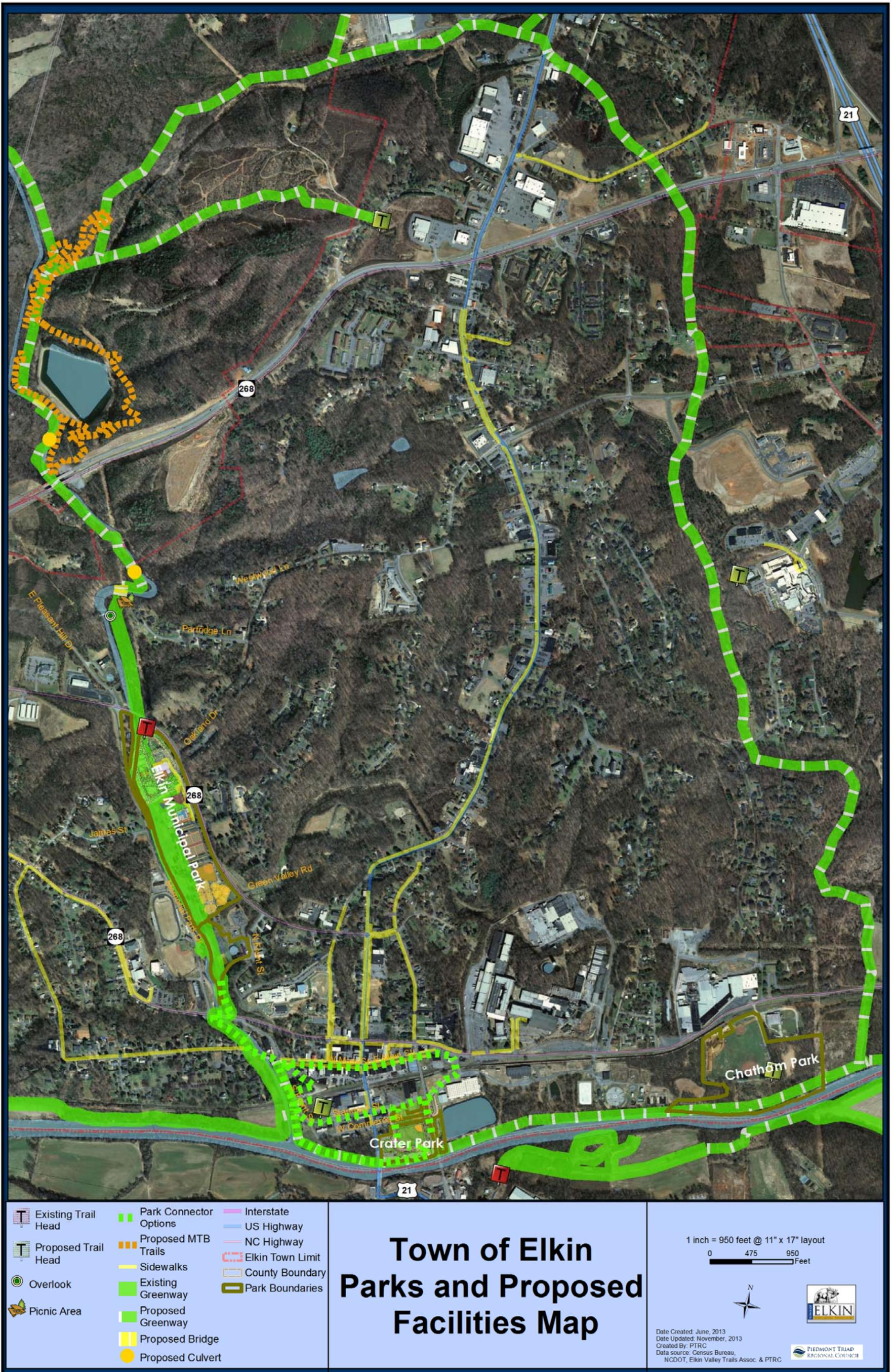
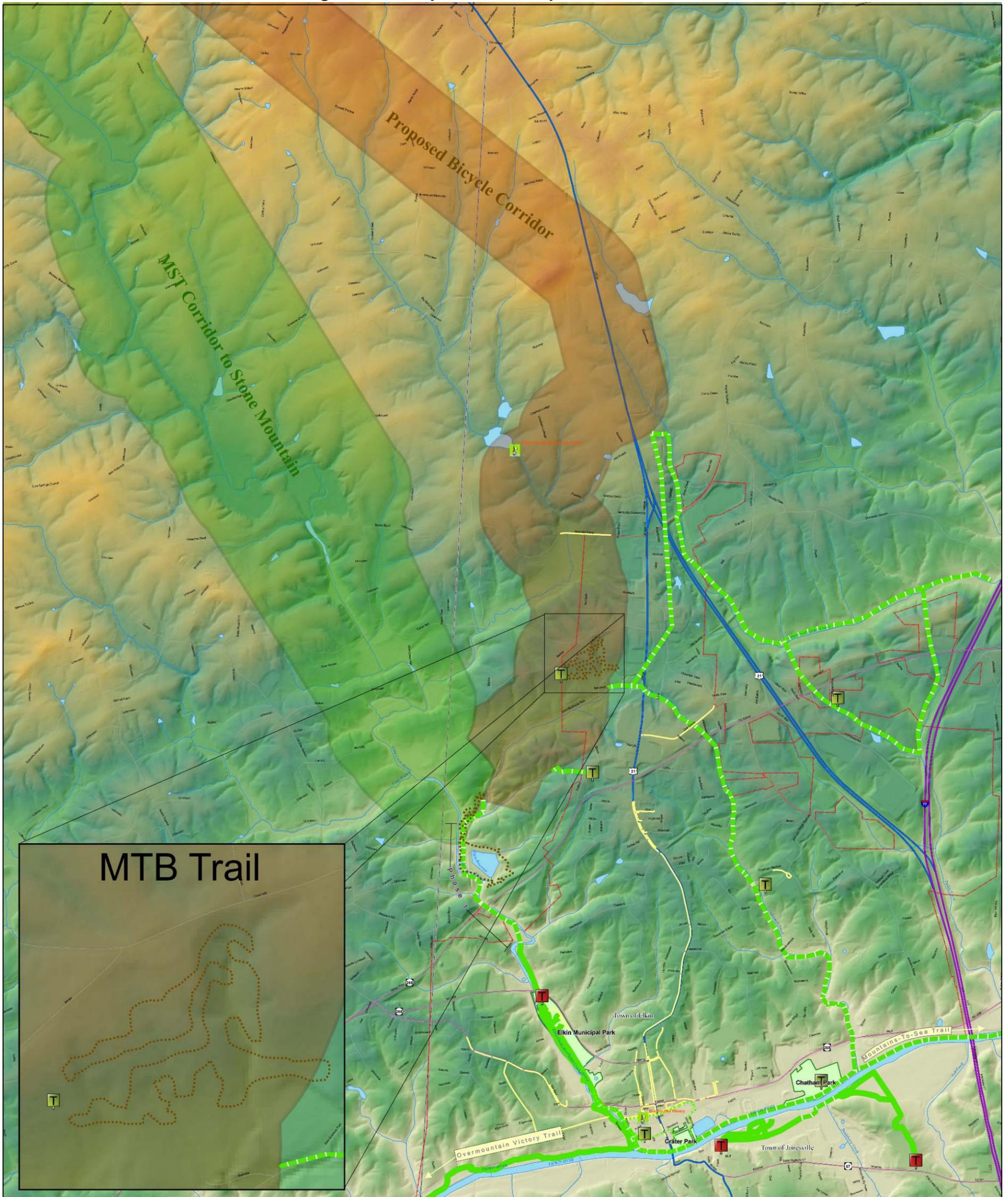


Figure 21 – Proposed Trail Map for Greater Elkin



- |                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Existing Trail Head                 | Interstate        |
| Proposed Trail Head                 | US Highway        |
| Proposed Mountain Bike Trails       | NC Highway        |
| Crater to Municipal Park Connectors | Vineyard/Winery   |
| Sidewalk                            | Roads             |
| Existing Greenway                   | Ponds & Rivers    |
| Proposed Greenway                   | Streams           |
| MST Corridor                        | Elkin Owned Parks |
| Proposed Bike Corridor              | Elkin_Town_Limit  |
|                                     | County Boundary   |

## Town of Elkin Trails Map

1 inch = 1,000 feet  
0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Feet

Date Created: June, 2013  
Date Updated: August, 2013  
Created By: PTRC  
Data sources: Census Bureau, NCDOT,  
Elkin Valley Trails Assoc. & PTRC



## Funding & Financing Summary

New programs and facilities proposed in this plan will require a considerable increase in recreation funding. Capital costs to develop the recommended parks and recreation facilities identified over the next 20 years are estimated at nearly \$13.7 million. Years 1-5 or short term recommendations total \$2.8 million, Years 6-10 or mid-term recommendations are estimated at \$1.35 million and Years 11-20 or long term recommendations are estimated \$9.5 million in 2013 dollars. Given inflation, total capital costs will likely increase further in the future and these estimates are expressed in 2013 dollars. *Figure 22* on the following pages show the estimated costs of facilities. Large facilities listed in the mid and long term recommendations may require a feasibility study to figure out actual construction costs. The cost estimates should be used for planning purposes only.

The best way to secure such a large sum of capital funding is through a municipal bond, or series of bonds. Given the Town of Elkin's excellent bond rating and low debt ratio along with wide-spread public support for new facilities, a municipal recreation bond would be a reasonable strategy to secure funding. In fact 72% or nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Elkin residents responded to the survey question in favor of "new or expanded financial methods to fund recreation and parks expansion and renovations".

Local funding can be used to leverage outside funding, primarily in the form of grants from foundations, associations and the state and federal government. An annotated list of grant resources is provided in the *Appendix – Grant Resources*.

**Figure 22 – Short, Mid and Long - Term Recommendations and Estimated Costs**

<b>Short-Term 1-5 Years</b>			
<b>Existing Facilities</b>		<b>Estimated Imp. Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Vendor, Justification or Notes (if applicable)</b>
	· Recreation Center Improvement and Expansion (see Figure 17)	\$2,374,626	Recreation Center Expansion Project Facility Report 2013
	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		
	o Multi-purpose room		
	o Install outdoor patio on backside of Recreation Center		
	o Increase parking		
	· Move and improve band shelter with Recreation Center expansion and add patio	\$25,000	Enwood or Poligon
	· Water fountain at Municipal Park	\$800	Most Dependable Fountain
	· Light Municipal Park baseball/softball fields and soccer field (at least two)	\$150,000	MUSCO
	· Install 8 benches along trails and at Municipal Park playground	\$2,000	NC Correction Enterprise
	· Include 10 interactive workout stations along existing and future trails	\$6,000	Fit/Trail or Southwood
	· Acquire 2 mobile bleachers for use at Crater, Chatham or Municipal park events	\$14,000	BSN
	· Fix existing bathroom roof at Crater Park	\$2,000	
	· Provide bicycle accessibility to existing paved or crushed stone trails	\$5,000	Spot improvements for site distance and trail sharing width
	· Information kiosk at Crater Park for paddlers and boaters	\$2,000	
<b>New Facilities</b>			
	· Trail connecting Municipal Park to Crater Park (see Figure 19)	\$25,000	Use existing sidewalk when possible
	· Extension and expansion of E & A Nature Trail, including 1 <sup>st</sup> major bridge over Elkin creek north of Municipal Park	\$100,000	Big R Bridge
	· Provide rental facility and shuttle for canoe/kayak in partnership with private entity, possibly at the Trail Hub center proposed for the Smith Phillips Lumber building	\$5,000	Matching funds, private entity to supply other funds
	· MTB trails around Elkin Business Park (see Figure 20)	\$10,000	Trail Dynmics or volunteer labor
<b>Programs</b>			
	· Establish a local bicycle club to encourage safety and ridership	\$0	
	· Add senior programs and classes in coordination with local and County Senior services	\$2,000	
	· Increase the number of fitness classes	\$4,000	\$10/hr, 4 additional classes for 2 hrs/wk/ea over 50 weeks
	· Offer more music at the Municipal Park		
	· Offer child care for Recreation Center users	\$11,232	\$9/hr at 24hrs/wk or 1,248 annual
	· Work with community organizations, health department and others for <i>Park Days</i> event celebrating physical activity, parks and recreation	\$500	Budget for giveaways, snacks and supplies
	· Offer outdoor adventure programs		
	· Increased hours at Recreation Center	\$5,408	\$8/hr at 13hrs/wk over 52 weeks
	· Safety signage at boat landing on Yadkin River for paddlers to launch on downstream side of dock	\$500	
	· Improve existing park facility way finding and signage	\$2,000	
<b>Administration</b>			
	· More staff needed for child care and additional fitness classes (2 part-time positions)	\$10,000	See above programs
	· More maintenance staff required for trail maintenance (1 seasonal part-time position)	\$5,400	\$9/hr at 20 hrs/wk for 30 weeks (600 hrs)
	· 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 for future greenway development	\$0	
<b>Total Short Term Cost Est.</b>		<b>\$2,790,466</b>	

Mid-Term 6-10 Years			
<b>Existing Facilities</b>			
	· Crater Park improvements (see Figure 18)	\$1,070,000	
	o Site Design/Engineering <b>\$80,000</b>		
	o Improved camping facilities (raised platforms 4 x) and restrooms and raise above floodplain <b>\$5,000</b>		Platforms raised 2 feet
	o Field Amenities: Fencing, Dugouts, Scoreboard, Infield Material, Security Lighting, Underground utilities <b>\$175,000</b>		
	o Level playing fields and add lighting (7 poles) \$100,000 lights and \$150,000 grading <b>\$250,000</b>		
	o Re-route access drive to the west of ball field and add parking (43,700 sq ft paved driveway and 33,800 sq ft grass permeable paver) <b>\$110,000</b>		
	o Add handicap accessible parking (approximately 1,100 sq ft of paving area) <b>\$20,000</b>		Add ramps to sidewalk
	o Install small playground facility and gardens <b>\$50,000</b>		
	o Walking track (3,000 ft) <b>\$20,000</b>		3,000 ft
	o Add picnic shelter <b>\$35,000</b>		
	o Concession stand <b>\$70,000</b>		600 sq ft
	o Restrooms (need to be raised up 6-10 feet) <b>\$100,000</b>		8-10 commodes and 6 sinks 600 sq ft
	o Contingency <b>\$150,000</b>		
	· Improve bathroom and concession facilities, install covered porch and replace tile at existing Municipal pool	\$30,000	
	· Add two picnic shelters at Municipal Park	\$60,000	Enwood or Poligon
<b>New Facilities</b>			
	· Extend Mountains to Sea Trail along Yadkin River and connect with Surry County's Fisher River park	\$125,000	Grants and partner agencies to assist
	· Amphitheatre for music and other events	\$45,000	
	· Add football field at Crater Park on existing ball fields	\$5,000	
<b>Programs</b>			
	· Expand programs and special event based on community interest	\$0	
	· Engage local bicycle club to continue to advocate for on-road bicycling improvements to improve access to parks and trail facilities	\$0	
<b>Administration</b>			
	· 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	\$15,000	
<b>Total Mid Term Cost Est.</b>		<b>\$1,345,000*</b>	
Long Term 11-20 Years			
<b>Existing Facilities</b>			
	· Add spray park to the existing Municipal Park Pool	\$500,000	
	· Remove old water plant at southern end of Municipal Park	\$250,000	
	· Implement improvements and seek grants for improvements identified in Master plan update	\$0	
<b>New Facilities</b>			
	· Acquire new park land closer to I-77 to accommodate active and passive recreation if need is not addressed by other entities	\$750,000	
	· Construct an indoor aquatics facility in partnership with Elkin City Schools and other partners if there has been no facility constructed by a non-profit	\$8,000,000	Estimated facility cost, does not include maintenance
	· Implement improvements and seek grants for improvements identified in Master plan update	\$0	
<b>Programs</b>			
	· Continue to modify athletic and leisure program offerings based on need and interest	\$0	
<b>Administration</b>			
	· Update Recreation, Parks and Greenway Master Plan	\$25,000	
<b>Total Long Term Cost Est</b>		<b>\$9,525,000*</b>	
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>		<b>\$13,660,466*</b>	

\*Large facilities listed in the mid and long term recommendations may require a feasibility study to figure out actual construction costs. The cost estimates should be used for planning purposes only.