



# **Recreation, Parks & Greenway Plan for the Town of Elkin**



2014

**Town of Elkin, North Carolina**  
**Recreation, Parks and Greenway Plan**  
*Adopted January 30, 2014*



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# Introduction

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## **Purpose**

Provide a comprehensive snapshot of existing parks, recreation and trail assets and needs in the Town of Elkin. The Plan will identify creative strategies to address community recreation needs by prioritizing capital improvements, developing inclusive programming solutions and developing funding resources.

## **Vision**

Guided by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, we envision a planning process that employs creative methods of engagement and analysis; encourages active participation by a broad range of stakeholders, and is inclusive of all segments of the community.

We envision a Town recreation and trail system that is inclusive and inviting to all citizens, serves as a tourism asset to the greater community, encourages the broad participation of citizens in a range of leisure activities. The recreation and trail facilities will improve the health, wellbeing and fitness of the community as a whole and provides for growth of the system as the needs and desires of citizens evolve and change.

## **Why Active Living Matters**

Play is an important aspect of healthy and active living. The need for play and physical activity cuts across all ages, income levels and cultures. It is an essential part of what makes us human. Access to recreational opportunities is a critical service provided by the Town that directly impacts the quality of life and health of its citizens in numerous ways.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), half of all adults in the United States do not get their recommended thirty (30) minutes of physical activity each day. In Surry County, 28% of adults get no daily physical activity, compared to 25% statewide. These trends go hand-in-hand with the country's growing obesity rate. North Carolina has the fifth highest rate of childhood obesity in the nation. In 2013, 29% of Surry County residents were considered obese.

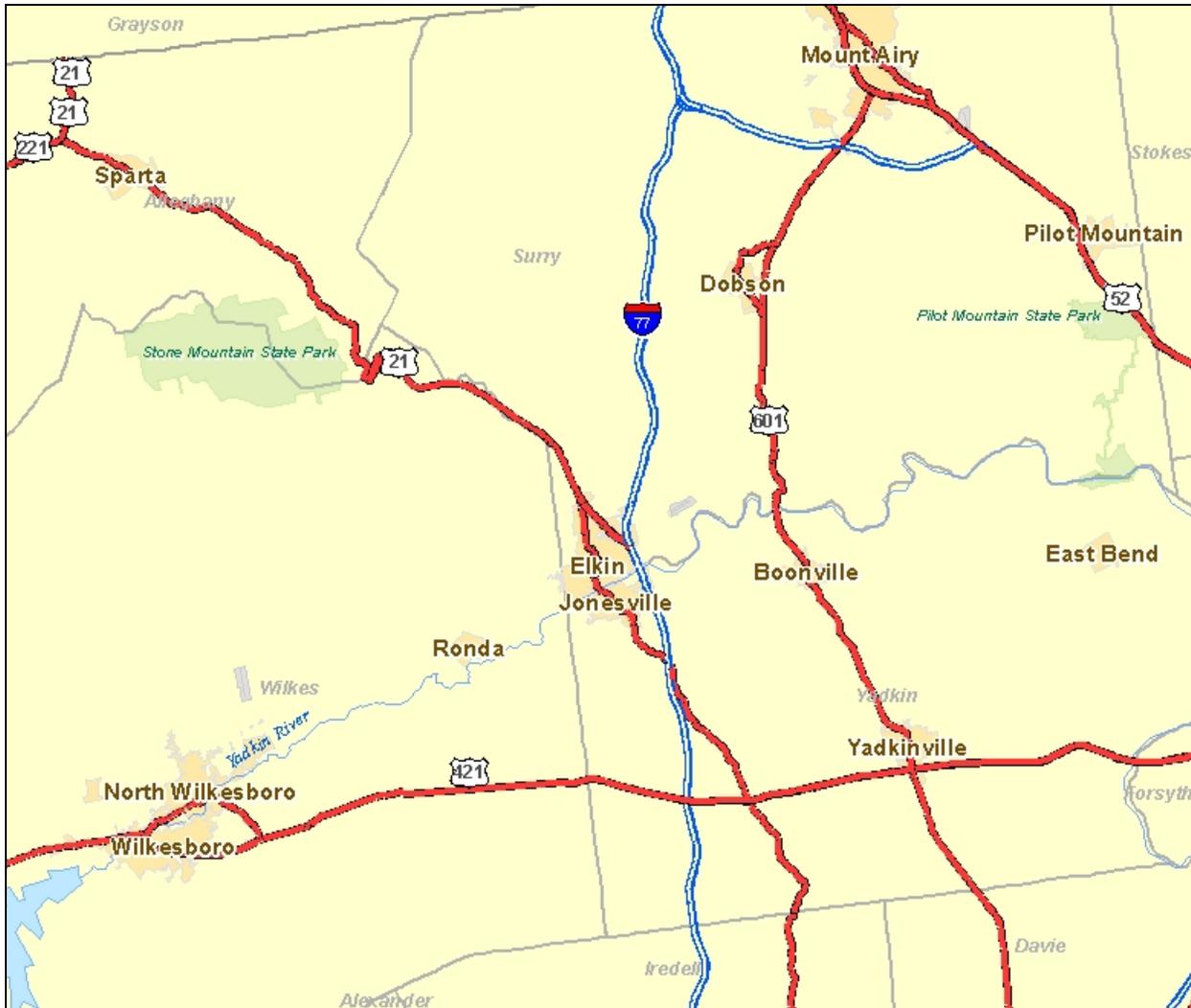
Municipal recreation programs and facilities are a tool to combat obesity and some of its underlying health impacts such as chronic disease, stress and depression. A vibrant Town recreation program allows participants to establish and maintain a strong social network and sense of community, while providing outlets for healthy play. Parks, recreation and trail programs and facilities can also act as an economic development tool, attracting new residents, tourists and development.

# Demographics

To plan for adequate recreational facilities and programs, the Recreation and Parks Department needs to understand its users are, their age, where they live within the community, and the racial and ethnic makeup.

The Town of Elkin has nearly 4,000 residents and is located along the Yadkin River in the southwestern portion of Surry County. It borders Jonesville and Ronda in Yadkin and Wilkes County respectively.

**Figure 1 - Location**



## Location

Elkin is located on Interstate 77 in Surry County, North Carolina. This area, known as the Foothills of the Appalachians, is a traditional manufacturing area as the rolling rivers were perfect for traditional hydro-electricity needed for historic manufacturing. Elkin is located at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains with the mountains bordering to the west, Town of Jonesville to the south and the Yadkin River is the divider between both Jonesville and Elkin.

## Population & Growth

The 2011 certified population estimate for the Town of Elkin was 4,001.

Elkin has experienced a decline in furniture and textile production in the last two decades, with several plant closings or major reductions. It remains a sub-regional center for commerce and tourism. Demographic estimates (Figure 2) project that growth will remain flat or decline.

**Figure 2 - Historical & Projected Population**

Year	Town of Elkin		Surry County	
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1970	2,899	--	51,415	--
1980	2,858	-1.4%	59,449	15.6%
1990	3,790	32.6%	61,704	3.4%
2000	4,109	8.4%	71,219	15.4%
2010	4,001	-2.6%	73,673	3.4%
<i>2020</i>	<i>3,921</i>	<i>-2.0%</i>	<i>73,050</i>	<i>-0.8%</i>
<i>2030</i>	<i>3,866</i>	<i>-1.4%</i>	<i>72,487</i>	<i>-0.8%</i>

*Italics denotes projections*

Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census; NC Office of Budget & Management (county level projections); PTRC Planning Office (city level projections).

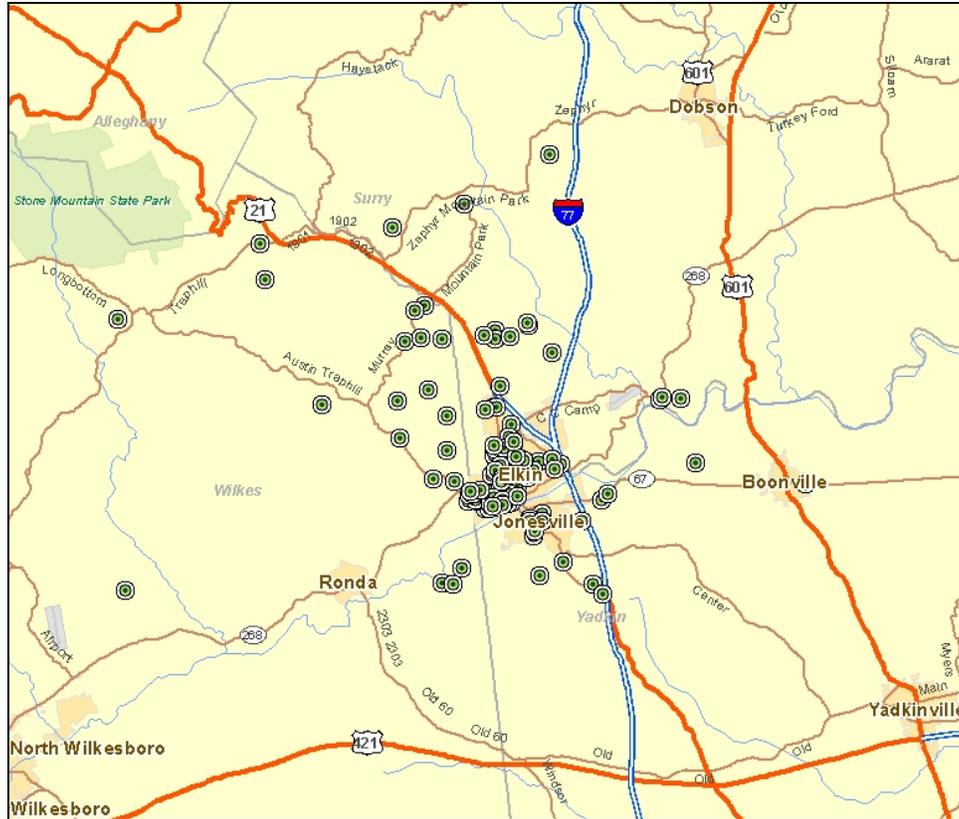
The Town of Elkin service area is much larger than the town itself. Membership at the Recreation Center indicates users are from Wilkes, Surry and Yadkin County. The total population of census tracts containing Recreation Center members is 30,419 (Figure 3, 4 & 5).

**Figure 3 - Elkin Recreation Center Service Area**

Year	Population
2010	30,419

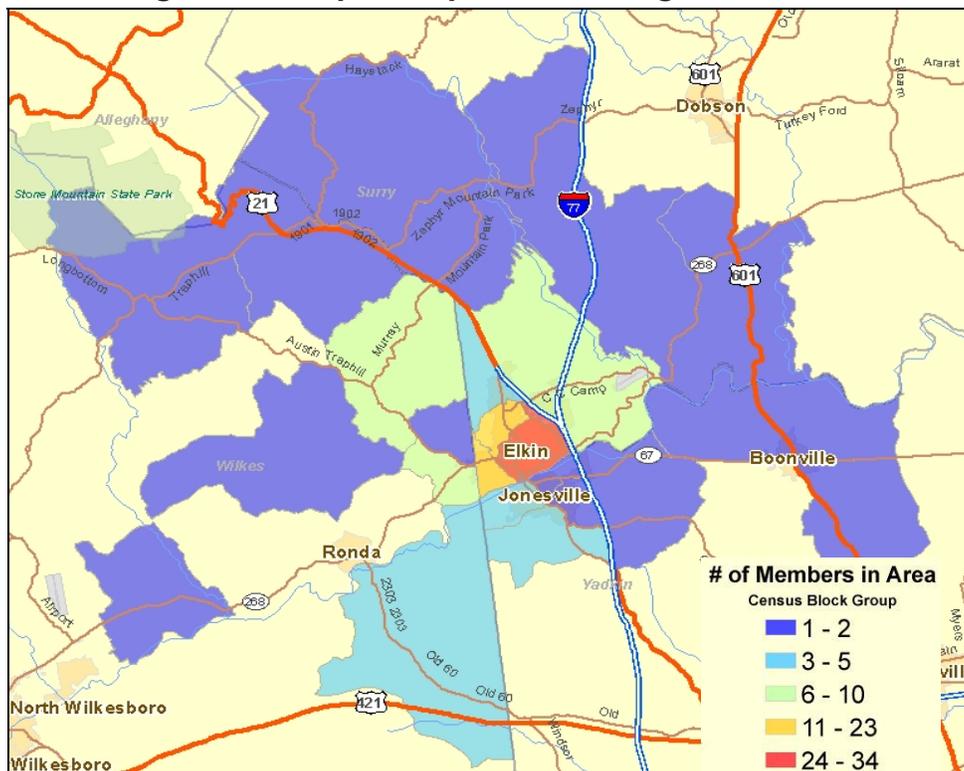
Source: US Census Bureau 2010, ESRI Community Analyst. Elkin Parks & Recreation Department.

**Figure 4 - Map of Monthly Membership at Elkin Recreation Center**



Source: Elkin Parks & Recreation Department

**Figure 5 - Map of Population using Elkin Parks**



Source: 2010 Census Population and Elkin Recreation Center.

## Age & Race

Most noteworthy about Elkin's population is the change in the minority population over the past three decades. Between 1990 and 2010, the Hispanic/Latino population in Elkin grew by over 25-fold. The Hispanic population growth in Elkin over the same time period has made up for population loss by white and black races (Figure 6).

**Figure 6 - Racial Make-up**

Year	% White	% Black	% Other	% Hispanic
1970	99.2%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%
1980	97.6%	1.7%	0.7%	0.4%
1990	90.2%	9.4%	0.9%	0.7%
2000	84.1%	7.2%	8.7%	13.4%
2010	78.0%	6.4%	15.6%	17.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population & housing.

The age distribution of Elkin's population has remained fairly steady over the last three decades, with a slight increase in the population percentage of ages 0-19.

**Figure 7 - Trends in Age Range**

Year	Age 0 – 19		Age 20 - 59		Age 60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
1970	888	30.6	1,524	52.6	487	16.8
1980	613	21.4	1,341	46.0	904	31.6
1990	775	20.4	1,805	47.6	1,210	31.9
2000	1,004	24.4	1,969	47.9	1,136	27.6
2010	1,002	25.0	1,899	47.5	1,100	26.5

Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population & housing.

## Summary

Elkin's population is not predicted to grow over the next 20 years, however the unincorporated areas are expected to grow at a low rate. Elkin will likely continue to be a sub-regional destination for services, including parks, recreation and trails. A focus on preserving and enhancing recreation programming and facilities, will serve a stable Town population, but also capitalize on the growth in unincorporated areas. With increases in the Latino population likely to continue, enhancements to existing programs and services may be required to address language barriers and cultural differences. Investments in trail development, facilities that attract ball tournaments, facility upgrades and adjustments to programming will serve the Recreation and Parks Department in the future.

# Existing Conditions

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Existing facilities are the face of the Recreation & Parks Department, and an analysis of these facilities is needed in order to identify opportunities to expand programs and services without the capital expense of new park development.

## Facilities

An audit of existing recreation facilities was conducted by Recreation and Parks department staff members in conjunction with PTRC staff in the winter of 2012-13. This included consideration of the unique characteristics of each site within the framework of the following categories:

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Natural Areas	Open play fields and undeveloped areas within the park boundaries
Leisure Facilities	Picnic shelters, playgrounds and other non-competitive, man-made features
Recreation Facilities	Ball fields, courts and other active facilities
Access & Parking	Pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular linkages to and through the site, and supporting parking facilities
Comfort & Amenities	Restrooms, staff offices, maintenance facilities and other support services located on-site and intangible elements including general patterns of use, visual quality and overall experience
Opportunities	This category includes the consideration and identification of recreation improvements at each site.

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### *Scale Metrics*

Conditions in each category were *rated on a scale of 1 to 5; with 1 being the highest score possible and 5 the lowest.* For example, a recreation site with no open play fields or natural buffers would score a 4 or 5, while a recreation site with significant open play areas and well established natural areas would score a 1.

## **General Observations**

Overall, the Town of Elkin provides parks and recreation amenities expected in a Town much larger than its current population. The parks system has three park facilities totaling 67 acres of park land. In addition, a growing trail system includes the Big Elkin Creek Greenway & Nature Trail and Overmountain Victory Trail along Big Elkin Creek and the Yadkin River. These facilities are well cared for and provide users a wide range of passive and active recreation choices. A strong interest in new trail development should be balanced with needed improvements to the existing facilities being maintained by the Elkin Recreation & Parks Department.

## **Elkin Recreation Center**

Located northwest of downtown Elkin, the Elkin Recreation Center provides a mixture of indoor and outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities. The Recreation Center was built in 1990 and is 15,200 square feet. It provides the community with additional recreational opportunities and the Town of Elkin Recreation & Parks Department office space. However, after 23 years of use and programming growth, some upkeep and expansion is needed. A plan was put forward to expand the Recreation Center in 2008, but economic uncertainty put those expansion plans on hold. An update to expansion plans was completed in 2013 and can be found in the *Appendix - Recreation Center Expansion Project Facility Program 2013 Update*.

*Recreation Facilities:* Average rating: 2.5.

The Elkin Recreation Center provides indoor activities and programs for town citizens, surrounding communities, and school system.

*Gymnasium:* The Recreation Center gymnasium is used for club sports such as basketball and volleyball and as a summer camp for school age kids, and by members as an indoor walking track. It is also used by the school system for other sports. The gym floor and roof is in need of repair or replacement (see figure 8 Elkin Recreation Center Photos). Potential improvements to the gymnasium include:

- a) Inspect and repair foundation as needed, some settling is occurring
- b) Inspect and repair roof to ensure stability and fix leaks. The normal lifespan of a roof, depending on material, construction, and weather is 15 to 30 years. Replace damaged insulation as needed
- c) Resurface gym floor
- d) Mobile bleacher installation to increase seating accessibility
- e) Improve lighting
- f) Install air conditioning and replace heating units

*Free-weight and fitness rooms.* These rooms are over-crowded during peak use times. The free-weight room starts to get crowded when more than 8 people are using it at one-time. Free weights, weight and fitness machines are expensive, but are a contributing driver to Recreation Center membership. Having an over-crowded free-weight room is a factor in limiting enrollment. Recommended improvements include:

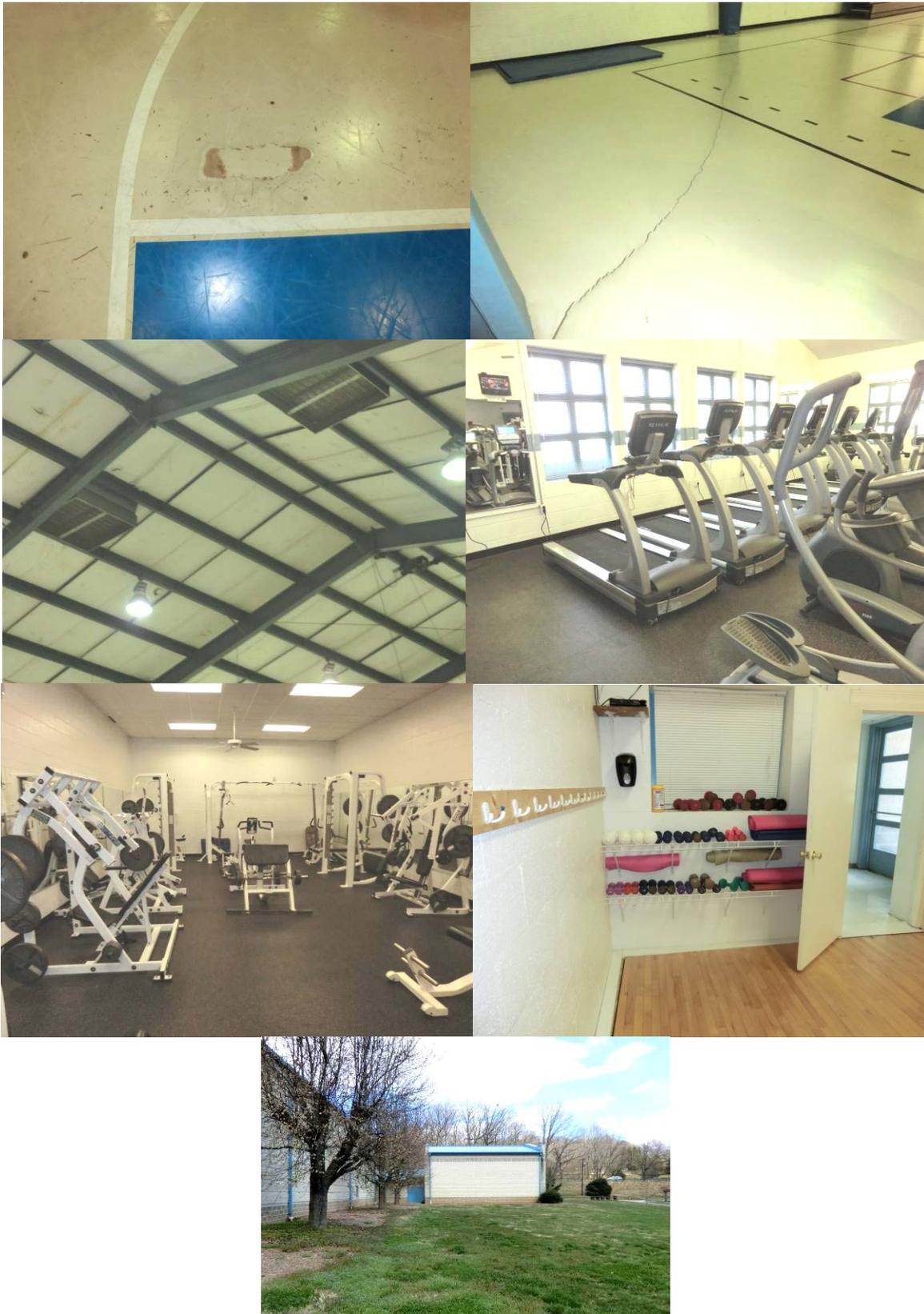
- a) Enlarge the free-weight and fitness room to the west. Move the machine weights and free-weights into one large room that provides enough space for peak use out 10 years, while also accommodating a fitness area.

*Multi-purpose room.* Recommended improvements include:

- b) Enlarge the multi-purpose room to serve a larger variety of functions. Provide a divider wall for smaller functions

*Opportunities:* Staff has done well to maintain existing facilities and increase offerings in limited space. However, employees have converted storage rooms to offices because of expanded programming needs. Enlarging the free-weight and fitness rooms and office expansion would provide the space needed for current staff and possible expansion along with needed storage and meeting space. Expansion would also allow the staff offices to be at the entrance of the building improving accessibility, safety and improved customer service. Finally, the gymnasium has several improvements that are necessary to improve functionality and reduce repair due to delayed maintenance.

**Figure 8 - Elkin Recreation Center Photos**



*Top Left Clockwise: 1) Gym floor damage, 2) Gym floor large crack, 3) Fitness room treadmills, 4) Multi-purpose room, 5) Southside of Recreation Center gym for potential expansion, 6) Weight-machines, 7) Gym ceiling*

The following project space list shows the proposed space allotment for the Recreation Center expansion project. Originally proposed for expansion in 2008, it was delayed due to the economic recession. The following table is part of the report Recreation Center Expansion Project Facility Program completed in March 2008 and updated in the Spring of 2013.

**Figure 9 - Elkin Recreation Center Expansion – Project Space List**

**Space Requirements**

**Building Addition**

Area	No. Persons per Area	No. of Areas	NSF/Area	Total NSF	N-G Mult.	Total GSF
<b>Gymnasium</b>						
Players' Restrooms	12	2	450	900	1.45	1,305
Vending	4	1	160	160	1.40	224
Janitor Closet (JC)	1	2	42	84	1.45	122
<b>Fitness</b>						
Cardio	16-18	1	500	500	1.40	700
Group Activities	60	1	1800	1,800	1.40	2,520
Free Weights	18-20	1	1000	1,000	1.40	1,400
Teen Fitness	16	1	480	480	1.40	672
<b>Staff</b>						
Director	4	1	165	165	1.45	239
Programs Supervisor	3	n/a	n/a	-	1.45	-
Athletic Supervisor	3	n/a	n/a	-	1.45	-
Fitness Supervisor	3	1	140	115	1.45	167
Staff Work Area & Supply Storage	3	1	374	374	1.45	542
<b>Support</b>						
Outdoor/Equipment Storage	2	1	400	400	1.40	560
				5,978		8,451

**Gymnasium Event Lobby w/Additional Seating Capacity**

Area	No. Persons per Area	No. of Areas	NSF/Area	Total NSF	N-G Mult.	Total GSF
Vestibule	8	1	160	160	1.45	232
Event Entrance Lobby	60	1	580	580	1.45	841
Spectator/Public Restrooms	4	2	225	450	1.45	653
Concession Area	8	1	320	320	1.45	464
Bleacher Seating (movable)	40	4	160	640	1.45	928
				2,150		3,118

The full report includes engineered diagrams of the existing Recreation Center and proposed expansion areas; it can be found in the *Appendix - Recreation Center Expansion Project Facility Program 2013 Update*.

## Elkin Municipal Park

Located less than ½ mile northwest of Downtown Elkin, Elkin Municipal Park is an expansive community park site totaling nearly 35 acres, offering a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreation and leisure facilities, including athletic fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters, playground and trail system – including the Overmountain Victory Trail. The Elkin Recreation Center is located on the Municipal Park property.

**Figure 10 - Elkin Municipal Park Photos**



*Top Left Clockwise: 1) Playground and gazebo, 2) Relaxing by the tennis courts, 3) Youth soccer in open play area north of the Recreation Center, 4) Basketball courts and bicycling skills course at southern end of park, 5) Municipal park pool off-season, 6) Baseball diamond*

*Natural Areas.* Average rating: 1.

Elkin Creek provides natural buffer on the West side of the park and provides separation from Memorial Park Drive and the High School. The park is located within the floodplain. NC 268 runs along the East side of the park, is naturally elevated along a ridge, recreational activities do not enter this State highway. Trees are well placed along Elkin Creek and good tree buffer is in place to separate the baseball fields from the electrical transformer in the southeast part of the park. An open play field is frequently used for pick-up soccer and aerobic activities. A crushed stone greenway exists that meanders with Elkin Creek, encircling back along the western portion of the park and also exiting the park to the south.

*Leisure Facilities.* Average rating: 1.1.

Picnic shelters are placed close to the Recreation Center and the kids playground area. Grills and a water fountain are recommended for the shelters. To further improve the shelters, electricity for Shelter #2 is also recommended. The Overmountain Victory Trail inside of the park is well used. Usage of the trail may increase with more benches on the nature trail, wayfinding and allowance for bicycles.

*Recreation Facilities.* Average rating: 1.1.

Eight (8) Tennis courts, two (2) baseball fields, two (2) large soccer fields, one (1) basketball court, a bicycle skills course, and an outdoor pool is provided. Current program demands are outpacing facility availability. Reconfiguring the baseball and soccer fields would allow for an additional soccer field. Full lighting of this area would allow the Town of Elkin to benefit from baseball and soccer tournaments and increase tourism. Enlargement to the outdoor pool is needed for older age groups to enjoy the pool. Providing an indoor pool facility would allow for all-year swimming and provide more options for different age groups and residents who travel to the Yadkinville YMCA, Hospital or other pool location. The pool is occupied by children and teenagers in the summer months, limiting options for adult and older adult use.

*Access and Parking.* Average rating: 1.4.

Current parking is adequate for day-to-day activities. But additional parking would be needed for different events. Current parking is nicely connected to walkways for internal circulation. Additional lighting may be needed further away from the Recreation Center. Sidewalk connections to adjacent developments and Surry County Bicycle Route (NC 268) may be warranted. Additional parking along the south side of the park should be investigated. During the winter, the parking lot around the Recreation Center is typically over capacity at peak use times. An additional 20 – 30 parking spots are necessary to satisfy current peak demand, while more than 70 spaces are needed for special events.

*Comfort and Amenities.* Average rating: 1.4.

Restrooms accessible from the outside are needed. Restrooms at the pool facility need to be improved. Additional benches will benefit trail users in the Park and north of the park.

*Opportunities.* As mentioned above, there are several facility improvements to consider including: a) outdoor restrooms, b) field lighting, c) electricity at shelters, d) expansion of pool, and e) more benches along the Overmountain Victory Trail. The municipal park improvements along with the Recreation Center improvements would improve the quality of existing facilities in Town and increase membership for the Center. Long term facility development at the Municipal Park could be supported with removal of the old water plant building in the southern portion of the Municipal Park. Brownfield grants may be available to help remove and repurpose this facility, but would likely take several years.

## **Chatham Park**

Located about 1 mile east of downtown off of NC 268, the site includes multiple soccer fields, 2 baseball fields, and a shelter. The land is owned by CMC Holding Corporation, but maintenance and programming is coordinated by the Elkin Recreation & Parks Department. The area cleared for fields is approximately 10 acres, while the entire parcel is approximately 28 acres.

**Figure 11 - Chatham Park Photos**



*Left to Right: 1) Youth soccer; 2) Picnic shelter*

*Natural Areas.* Average rating: 2.

The park is 100 yards from the Yadkin River, separated by a wooded buffer. A fenced off waste disposal site is located in the woods between the park and the river, which is well posted. Wooded buffers are located to the east and west.

*Leisure Facilities.* Average rating: 3.

One basic picnic shelter is provided. No grills. The road access to the park provides a walking track for park users.

*Recreation Facilities.* Average rating: 3.5.

Open field area can accommodate four (4) youth soccer fields and two (2) baseball diamonds.

*Comfort and Amenities.* Average rating: 3.

The park needs signage on NC 268. The bathroom facilities are in need of improvement. The railroad runs along the northern border of the park and presents some concern on egress or ingress in case of an emergency.

*Opportunities.* Since the property is not owned by the Town of Elkin, investment of town resources into the facility is problematic. The close proximity to the Yadkin River provides an opportunity to create more access to this natural resource, but pollution issues must be addressed first.

## Crater Park

Located on the Yadkin River adjacent to Downtown Elkin, the 9.5 acre site includes a NC Wildlife River Access, one baseball diamond and large open play areas.

**Figure 12 - Crater Park Photos**



Top Left Clockwise: 1) Open field area looking towards the river; 2) Baseball diamond; 3) Restroom facilities; 4) Entrance Sign

*Natural Areas.* Average rating: 2.

The site provides significant open play area and access to the Yadkin River. The driveway needs weed removal where pavement does not exist. Boat access ramp is not clearly marked. The park border with Standard Street is in need of tree planting.

*Leisure Facilities.* Average rating: N/A

Crater Park does not have any current trail or picnic shelter facilities.

*Recreation Facilities.* Average rating: 3.

One (1) baseball/softball field and one (1) boat access ramp which is also used for fishing. The restrooms need a new roof. The site would benefit from mobile bleachers and a mobile concession stand.

*Access and Parking.* Average rating: 4.

The site has adequate parking, however, parking and driveway is in bad shape. Weeds need to be removed from the driveway. Use permeable pavers to instead of gravel for your parking lots to allow for movement of stormwater without losing your surface. Additional parking could be added on Standard St.

*Comfort and Amenities.* Average rating: 2.5.

Bathrooms facilities are in need of improvement. Use of crosswalks and sidewalks from downtown to Crater Park would make it more attractive. Most amenities need to be mobile, such as bleachers and concessions due to the park being located in the floodplain.

*Opportunities.* This park has potential for more usage due to its close proximity to downtown and undeveloped areas. Observations for short term improvements include: 1) landscaping, 2) parking delineation off of Standard Street and 3) permeable pavers for the parking lot. The driveway to Standard Street needs repaving. Consideration of permeable pavement or gravel may reduce stormwater run-off, but may also be problematic due to maintenance. Additionally, the park may benefit from trail facilities.

### **Hollywood Cemetery**

One of the oldest cemeteries in the area, Hollywood Cemetery is approximately 12 acres. Located at 451 North Bridge Street, the cemetery is organized by a combination of straight and curving lanes flowing tranquilly through old, massive shade trees. The original section of the cemetery stretches northward from North Bridge Street, where a low rubble-stone wall with a rusticated granite cap is located. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Hollywood Cemetery in Winter  
Photo: Town of Elkin*

*Existing Facilities.* The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery and sale of burial plots. There are nearly 1,700 graves on the cemetery property divided up into more than a dozen sections. The portion of the cemetery that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places includes around 1,100 graves. Gravestones consist primarily of large and small obelisks and tablet head and foot stones consistent with those typically found in cemeteries of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## Trail System

The Elkin trail system has been growing in use and interest over the last several years. The Elkin Valley Trail Association in collaboration with the Town of Elkin has been shepherding trail implementation along the Big Elkin Creek. The Overmountain Victory Trail has a trailhead at the north end of Elkin Municipal Park, which heads south along Big Elkin Creek, crosses over the creek near the Town library and heads west along the Yadkin River towards Wilkesboro.

*Existing Trails.* Existing trails provide access to Big Elkin Creek and portions of the Yadkin River. The following are trail names and distances in the Town of Elkin: (Figure 13 Existing Trails Map shows the existing trails)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Length</u>
Overmountain Victory Trail	3 miles (in Elkin)
Big Elkin Creek Greenway	1 mile
Yadkin River Blueway Trail	4.1 miles (in Elkin)

*Opportunities.* Currently no bicycling is allowed on the Big Elkin Creek Greenway or the Overmountain Victory Trail. Some sections of the Big Elkin Creek Greenway may be suitable for shared use in the Municipal Park, but portions north of the Recreation Center will require widening to accommodate bicyclists. A Surry County Bicycle Route runs along NC 268 adjacent to the Municipal Park, connecting with downtown and scenic riding areas in the surrounding countryside.

The downtown area has an extensive system of sidewalks providing walking opportunities in the center of town, which connect with the Overmountain Victory Trail and the Big Elkin Creek Greenway. Additionally, sidewalk connections to Crater Park and the Yadkin River boat access, provide excellent opportunities to increase tourism along the 125 mile Yadkin River Blueway trail.



*Overmountain Victory Trail Trailhead Marker  
Photo: PTRC*

Figure 13 – Existing Trails Map



## Related Trail Plans

There are several plans that discuss trail development in Elkin, supporting implementation of trails and trail-based recreation in the Elkin area. More and more plans are interweaving tourism and trail use in vision and goals for the Town and region.

### Surry County Greenway Master Plan – 2005

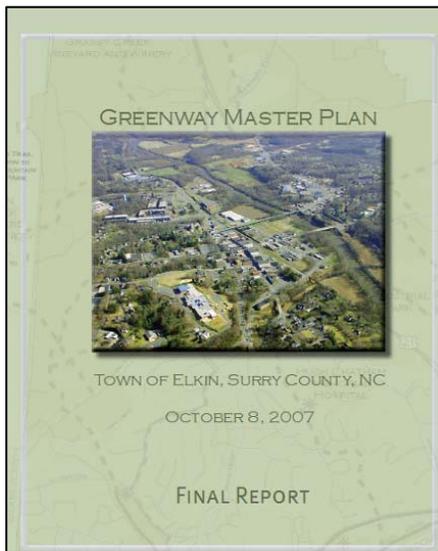
The Surry County Parks and Recreation Department completed a master plan for greenways across Surry County. The Yadkin River Greenway and Big Elkin Creek Greenway were identified as corridors for future greenway development. This plan provided a foundation for funding and development of trails systems across Surry County, including Elkin.

### Greenway Master Plan – 2007

The greenway master plan completed in 2007 identifies several trail planning opportunities. The primary trails proposed in the master plan include:

Big Elkin Creek Greenway	Walking/Hiking (3+ miles)
Yadkin River Greenway	Multi-Use (4+ miles)

In addition, utility lines and destination points such as vineyards and large employment centers were identified as potential sites for trail development.

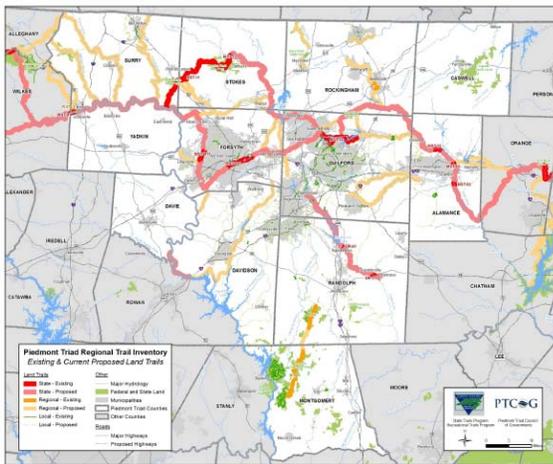


### Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Master Plan – 2009

This plan had multiple purposes, including economic development, historic and natural marketing, trail development, partnerships and others. Funded by the Yadkin Valley Partnership, the plan has identified several opportunities for leveraging funding, staff resources, non-profit, business and public sector partners. A detailed implementation section with specific action steps, project partners, marketing strategies and other supporting details are included in this Master Plan. Connections to regional and State trails, such as the Mountains to Sea Trail and Overmountain Victory Trail are identified as priorities.



Piedmont Triad Regional Trail Plan & Inventory - 2010

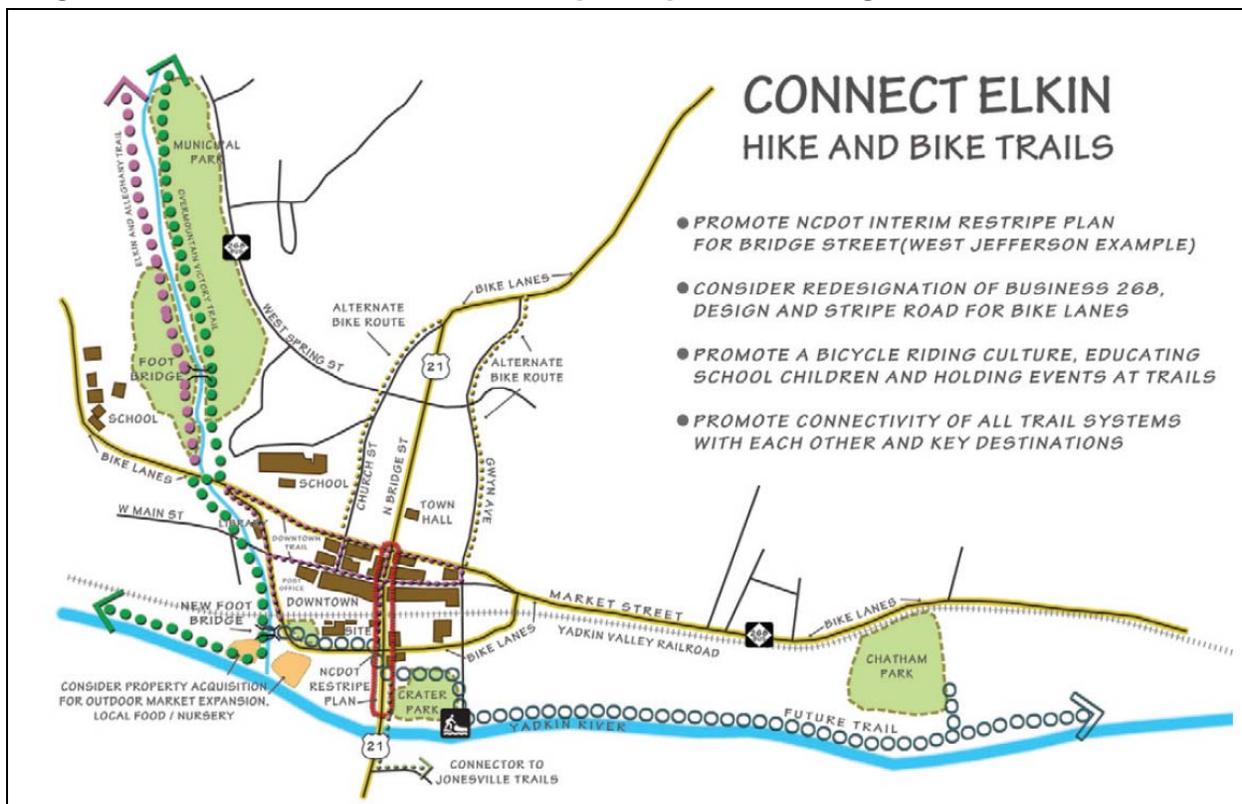


The Piedmont Triad Regional Trail Plan & Inventory identified and catalogued the existing trails in the 12 county Piedmont Triad region. The plan also identified top priority locations for new trail development, typically connecting existing hiking, multi-use, equestrian and blueway trail locations. State, regional and local trail systems were identified, while State and regional trails were prioritized for development. The plan was funded by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Smith Philips Trails Center Plan – 2013

The Smith Philips building is being considered for reuse as a visitors center, trails hub, kayak and bike rental facility, and community gathering place. As part of the planning process for rehabilitation of the building and property, the following trail plan (Figure 14) was produced identifying connections between recreational assets in Elkin. Existing trails are shown in dotted green lines.

**Figure 14 - Trail Connection Concept Map for Existing Parks and Downtown**



Health by Design – A Regional Plan for Active Living Infrastructure for Northwest North Carolina – 2013

Health by Design is a 15-year master plan identifying key projects, or Priority Initiatives, that both improve the built-environment and positively impact public health. The Health by Design Plan packages and presents a regional analysis on the relationship between the built-environment and public health while providing a roadmap and tools for public health experts and planners to effect positive change.

The plan identifies several planning, design and implementation projects for Surry County to support trail development and recreation, including: a) Stone Mountain to Elkin Trail Master Plan; b) Wayfinding Signage Plan; c) Greenway Feasibility Analysis; d) Pedestrian Plan Implementation; e) Updating the Surry County Recreation Plan; f) Mountains-to-Sea Trail Foot Bridge Design and g) Detailed Master Plan for Connecting Elkin's Parks.

Funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), implementation funding may be available from the health field to support existing streams of funding for pedestrian, bicycle, trail and recreation improvements that can improve health outcomes and increase physical activity options.

## **Programs**

The Recreation and Parks Department provides a broad range of recreation and leisure programs for citizens of all ages and interests through direct program offerings and partnerships with Surry County Parks and Recreation, Surry County School District and the Town of Elkin Schools. Fees are charged for team athletics, camps, classes and tournaments. Program fees vary by league and residency and are reviewed annually. Community-wide programs are generally provided free of charge.

### **Fee-Based Programs and Athletics**

The following programs are offered by the Parks and Recreation program. Other sports are organized by the schools system, utilizing the Town of Elkin facilities.

- Recreation Center (Weight Room, Gym)
- Outdoor Swimming Pool (Summer Only)
- Outdoor Soccer (five different groups Fall & Spring)
- Indoor Soccer (4 to 7 years)
- Baseball (six different youth age groups & fall program)
- Basketball (five different youth age groups)
- Swim Team (5 to 18 years)
- Swim Lessons (three different age groups)
- Summer Camp

### **Leisure Services**

- Zumba
- Fitness Classes
- Yoga

### **Special Events**

- Yadkin Valley Wine Festival
- Fishing Tournaments
- Summer Concerts
- Christmas Event
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event

## **Other Area Recreation Programs**

The Surry County School District and the Town of Elkin schools utilize Elkin Recreation and Parks facilities for soccer, basketball, baseball and softball at Crater, Chatham and Municipal Park. In addition, some football practices are held at Crater Park. Good relationships exist among staff in each agency, and most programs and services are provided in a mutually supportive manner, minimizing competition for participants.

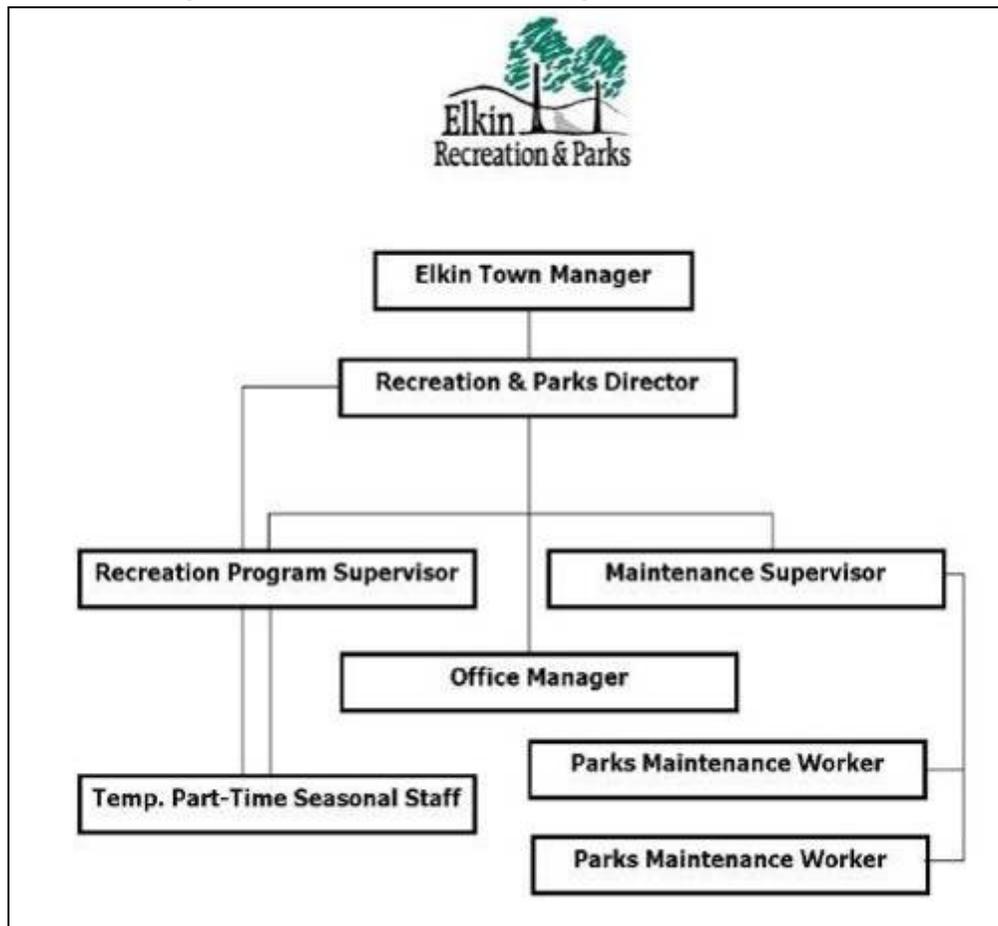
## Administration

The recreation programs and park facilities in the Town of Elkin are administered by the Recreation and Parks Department, including maintenance.

### Organization

The department director is responsible for oversight of two professional full-time staff, one full-time maintenance staff, two part-time maintenance staff and other seasonal staff. Staff members are responsible for implementing recreation programs, overseeing capital improvements and managing day-to-day activities.

**Figure 15 - Department Organizational Chart**



### Operating & Capital Funds

Funds for recreation operations for the Department are authorized on an annual basis by the Elkin Town Commission. The total budget for the program in Fiscal Year 2012 was \$713,992.

Outside grant funds have been actively sought and secured by staff to supplement local funding for both programming and capital improvements. In the past 10 years, approximately \$675,000 has been secured from federal and state grants as well as local private donations for parks, recreation and trail system facilities.