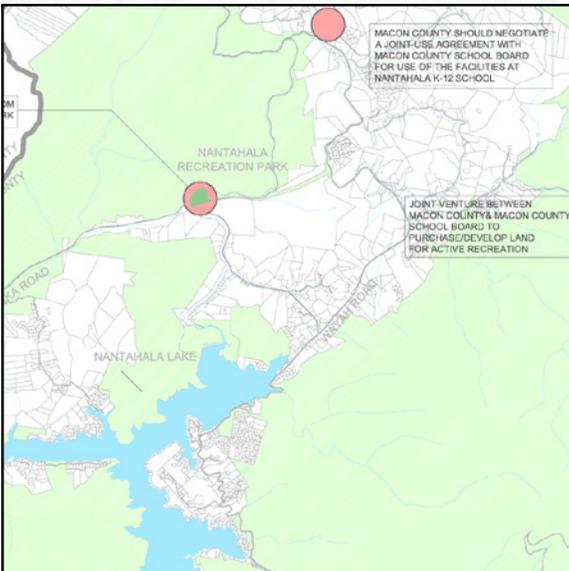




Macon County Recreation Master Plan



September 13, 2005

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Project Information

Introduction

Macon County is located in the mountains of western North Carolina along the North Carolina/Georgia border. The county is home to two incorporated municipalities (Franklin and Highlands) and a number of communities. Natural features, such as mountains associated with the Appalachian Mountain Range and the waters of the Little Tennessee River, separate many of Macon County's existing communities and municipalities.

According to the U.S. Census conducted in 2000, Macon County had a total population of 29,811 residents. According to the same census information, Macon County's population increased 26.8% since the previous U.S. Census, conducted in 1990. The current population estimate for the county is 32,567, an increase of 9.2% in the last 5 years and 36% in the last 13 years. These numbers indicate Macon County's growth rate is greater than North Carolina's mean growth rate. Further projections show a steady increase in the county's population.

A large part of this recent and projected growth may stem from the recent improvements to US 23-441, a major connector from Macon County to the Atlanta, GA area. Another factor leading to the county's growth may be attributed to a number of people who once visited Macon County as seasonal residents, but have decided to move to the area permanently.

Purpose

The purpose of the Macon County Recreation Master Plan is to evaluate recreational facilities, activities and programs currently offered by the Macon County Parks & Recreation Department (MCPRD) and guide the county to better service the communities and their recreational needs. The process used in compiling the information presented in this plan allows Macon County to inventory and assess all existing park facilities and programs, evaluate the communities' satisfaction with those facilities and programs and recommend a clear direction for the department to grow facilities, programs and staff to meet the future recreational needs for the people of Macon County.

Methodology

This plan identifies the current recreation facility and program offerings for Macon County and creates a strategy that allows the MCRPD to meet the county's current and future needs. In order to compile the necessary information to determine these needs, the following process was used:

Step 1

Identify existing parks, recreational and health base programs, greenways, open space, facilities, county controlled properties and geophysical site conditions for Macon County;

Compile this information into charts, organized text and mapping layers for evaluation;

Analyze geographic and program data to identify key resources;

Identify ways to incorporate these resources into the planning process.

Step 2

Determine a "policy" plan for Macon County through the creation of a mission statement and supporting goals and objectives;

Gather facilities information from Macon County and comparable communities;

Inventory participation ratios of recreation program users to available facilities;

Host a series of public workshops;

Survey residents and users to determine how they feel about current programs and facilities;

Tabulate and analyze survey results and comments made during the public input sessions;

Gain input from MCRPD employees regarding existing facilities, proposed facilities and maintenance issues, along with any other recreation based input they might have.

Step 3

Create a set of Planning Criteria to be used as the basis for recreational facility and program recommendations;

Gather and present overall and activity based recreation participation information, facility usage information and recreation/facility demand information outlining current recreational trends in Macon County

Establish a Park Classification system and Park Districts for Macon County and apply the classification to current recreational parks and facilities in Macon County.

Step 4

Establish an Action Plan based on data and information gathered throughout Steps 1, 2 and 3.

Macon County

Macon County is located in the mountains of western North Carolina, situated between Jackson County to the east, Swain County to the North, Cherokee and Clay Counties to the west in North Carolina and Rabun County, Georgia to the south. The county is home to a number of natural amenities, trails, lakes and rivers.

The major roadways that provide regional transit routes for Macon County include: US Highways 23/441, US Highways 74/19 and US Highway 64/State Highway 28 and State Highway 106. Most of the county's development occurs along these corridors and around the areas of the highway intersections.

The three major rivers in Macon County are the Little Tennessee River along central Macon County, the Nantahala River in the western area of the county and the Cullasaja River that flows from Highlands into Franklin. The county's major lakes include Nantahala Lake and Queens Creek Lake in the western area of the county, Lake Emory in the central area of the county and Lake Sequoyah, Mirror Lake, Club Lake and Ravenel Lake in the southeastern area of the county and Lake Emory North of Franklin. Parts of the Nantahala National Forest are located throughout Macon County, with a more concentrated land holding in the western area of the county.

Other Planning Efforts

This is the first Comprehensive Recreation Plan conducted by Macon County and the MCPRD.

Macon County's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is currently working on a comprehensive Macon County School Health Program that address these eight components: Health Education, Health Services, Counseling, Family/Community, Worksite Wellness, Safe Schools, Child Nutrition and Physical Education. Each of the eight components then lists specific goals the committee intends to reach and the settings, methods, target populations, roles, responsibilities and resources necessary to reach those goals. The Macon County School Health Program has a completion date of 2007.

*Macon County Community
Facilities Building*



Natural Amenities

Macon County has an abundance of natural amenities within its boundaries. A variety of land features, water bodies, day use areas and protected lands are located throughout the county. These areas are not owned or programmed by the MCPRD, but they are open to the public and serve specific recreational needs. The following are a few examples of Macon County's natural amenities.

Appalachian Mountain Range

This mountain range stretches approximately 1,600-miles across the eastern United States and Canada from Quebec to Alabama. Known in North Carolina as the Blue Ridge Mountains, these land features dominate views and land use throughout Macon County. Local ranges include the Nantahala Mountains in western Macon County and the Cowee Mountains in eastern Macon County.

Little Tennessee River

Beginning south of Macon County in Rabun County, Georgia, the Little Tennessee River serves as one of two major rivers in Macon County. Once the home of many Cherokee "Middle Towns", or villages located along the banks of the river, the Little Tennessee River now serves as a source of recreation through boating and fishing. The river also offers many scenic views as it flows north through the Blue Ridge Mountains, eventually feeding into the Gulf of Mexico.

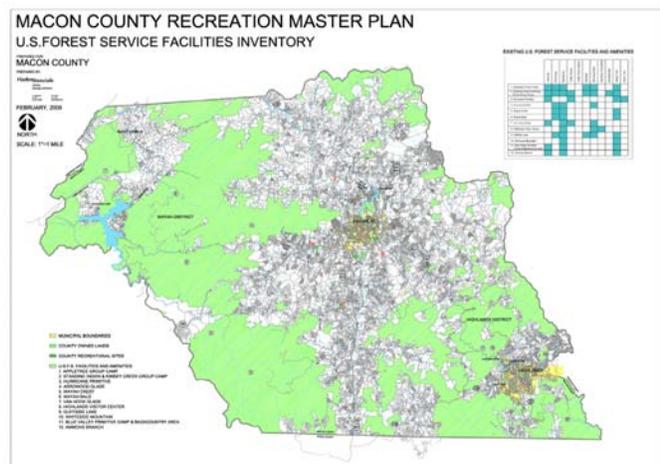
Nantahala National Forest

Located in both the Highlands and the Wayah Districts, Macon County is home to 153,211 acres of the 1,349,000 acres that encompass the Nantahala National Forest. Areas of the forest protect a host of native wildlife and vegetation, as well as dozens of threatened and endangered plant and animal species. The Nantahala National Forest borders the Cherokee National Forest to the west and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the north.

Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail stretches 2,174.9 miles from Maine to Georgia along the ridges and valleys of the Appalachian Mountain Range. Approximately 58 miles of the trail are located within Macon County. One popular spot along the Appalachian Trail within the county is Wayah Bald, a 5,385 feet rise within the Nantahala National Forest. Several other trails cross and radiate from Wayah Bald, including the Bartram Trail, a trail that stretches over 100 miles through the mountains of North Carolina and Georgia.

*U.S. Forest Service Facilities
The area in green represents land within
the Nantahala National Forest.*



Existing Parks & Facilities

The following is an inventory of existing parks and properties currently owned and operated by MCPRD:

Cartoogechaye Park (23.0 acres)

- Multiuse Field
- Little Tennessee Greenway Access

Cullasaja Park (17.3 acres)

- Multiuse Field (football/soccer practices)

Industrial Park Recreation Facilities (16.0 acres)

- 6- Soccer Fields
- Baseball Field (200 ft.)
- 2- Concession Stands
- Bathrooms

Macon County Buck Creek Recreation Complex (6.0 acres)

- Baseball Field/Soccer Field
- Concession Stand
- Meeting Room

Macon County Community Facilities Building

at Macon Recreation Park (18,000 SF.)

- Gymnasium
- 3- Meeting Rooms
- Bathrooms w/ Showers
- MCPRD Staff Offices

Macon Recreation Park (30.3 acres)

- Swimming Pool w/ Bathhouse
- Baseball Field (200 ft.)
- Baseball Field (300 ft.)
- 2- Softball Fields
- 2- Picnic Shelters (one w/ grills)
- 0.25-mile Walking Trail
- 4- Shuffleboard Courts
- 2- Horseshoe Areas
- 6- Tennis Courts
- 1- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Swing Set Area
- Volleyball Court (sand)
- Multiuse Court
- Canoe put-in
- Concession Stand w/ Restrooms

Nantahala Recreation Park (27.0 acres)

- Playground
- Basketball/Tennis Court w/ fence
- 2- Picnic Areas
- 1- Picnic Area w/ Shelter
- Building w/ Kitchen and Storage
- Baseball Field (260 ft.)/Soccer Field (300 ft. x 260 ft.)

South Macon Recreation Park (19.0 acres, Proposed)

- 2- Softball Fields (300 ft.)
- Baseball Field (250 ft.)
- Soccer Field
- Walking Trail
- Playground
- Bathrooms
- Picnic Shelter
- Concession Stand

Other Area Provided Amenities

Franklin Health & Fitness Center

- Indoor/Outdoor swimming pool
- Nautilus equipment
- Cardiovascular equipment
- Weight room
- Multi-use room
- Raquetball court
- Pro shop
- Nursery/childcare
- Fitness classes
- Physical therapy services
- Personal trainers

Franklin Memorial Park (3.0 acres)

- Basketball Court
- 2- Picnic Shelters
- Playground
- Building w/ Meeting Room (w/ kitchen)
- Open Play Field

Highlands Ball field (6.0 acres)

- Baseball Field
- Concession Stand

Highlands Civic Center and Recreation Park (35.0 acres)

Civic Center:

- Gymnasium
- Fitness Room
- Meeting Room
- Kitchen

Outside:

- Swimming Pool
- 4- Tennis Courts
- Hiking Trail
- 3-Picnic Shelters
- Playground
- All-purpose Court

Little Tennessee Greenway (170.0 acres)

- Big Bear Park
- Tassee Park
- 4.5-miles Multipurpose Trail
- 2- Picnic Shelters (1,800 SF. w/ restrooms)
- Playground (10,000 SF)

Nantahala National Forest Facilities/ Campgrounds

Facilities associated with the Nantahala National Forest within Macon County include:

- Appletree Group Camp
- Arrowood Glade
- Cliffside Lake
- Dry Falls
- Highlands Visitor Center
- Standing Indian & Kimsey Creek Group Camp
- Van Hook Glade
- Wayah Bald
- Whiteside Mountain

*Little Tennessee Greenway
Big Bear Park*



Schools

Cartoogechaye Elementary School (34.0 acres)

- Gymnasium
- 2- Multiuse Fields (soccer)
- Basketball Court
- Volleyball Court (sand)
- Playground
- Amphitheater
- Wildlife Observation Area
- Multiuse Walking Trail (lighted)
- Picnic Shelter
- Picnic Area

Cowee Elementary School (5.3 acres)

- Gymnasium
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Soccer Field
- Picnic Shelter

Cullasaja Elementary School (5.0 acres)

- Gymnasium
- Playground
- Walking Track

East Franklin Elementary School (5.0 acres)

- Gymnasium
- Athletic Fields
- Walking Track
- Playground

Franklin High School (30.0 acres)

- Fine Arts Center (seats 700)
- Gymnasium
- Football Field
- Walking Track

Highlands K-12 School (5.9 acres)

- Gymnasium
- Playground (ages 2-5)
- Playground (ages 6 & up)
- Walking Track
- Basketball Court
- Weight room
- Kitchen Facilities

Itola Elementary School (20-21 acres)

- Gymnasium
- Outside Fields

Macon County Middle School (33.0 acres)

- Gymnasium
- Media Center (community meetings)
- Athletic Fields

Nantahala K-12 School

- Gymnasium
- Multi-use Field
- 0.15-mile Walking Track

South Macon Elementary School (33.5 acres)

- Gymnasium
- 2- Baseball Fields
- Playground
- Walking Track

Union Alternative School

Current Programs, Offerings & Special Events

Currently, The MCPRD does not offer or sponsor any recreational activities or programs. Instead, private groups manage local youth and adult sports leagues, activities and programs. These groups are able to use MCPRD facilities for their respective recreation events for a small users fee. Current offerings are:

Programs and Activities

Ages

Active Sports (Youth)

Baseball	5 to 16
Basketball (Boys)	7 to 18
Basketball (Girls)	7 to 14
Cheerleading	7 to 13
Football	6 to 13
Racquetball	8 & Up
Soccer (Boys & Girls)	4 ½ to 18
Softball	6 to 16
Swimming	6 to 18
Wrestling	Grades 9 thru 12

Active Sports (Adult)

Racquetball	8 & Up
Softball (Co-Ed)	14 & Up
Softball (Women)	14 & Up
Softball (Church League)	14 & Up
Volleyball (Women)	14 & Up

Active Programs

Ballroom Dance
Bridge Club
High Mountain Squares
Macon County Line Dancers
Senior Games
Senior Line Dancers

Special Events

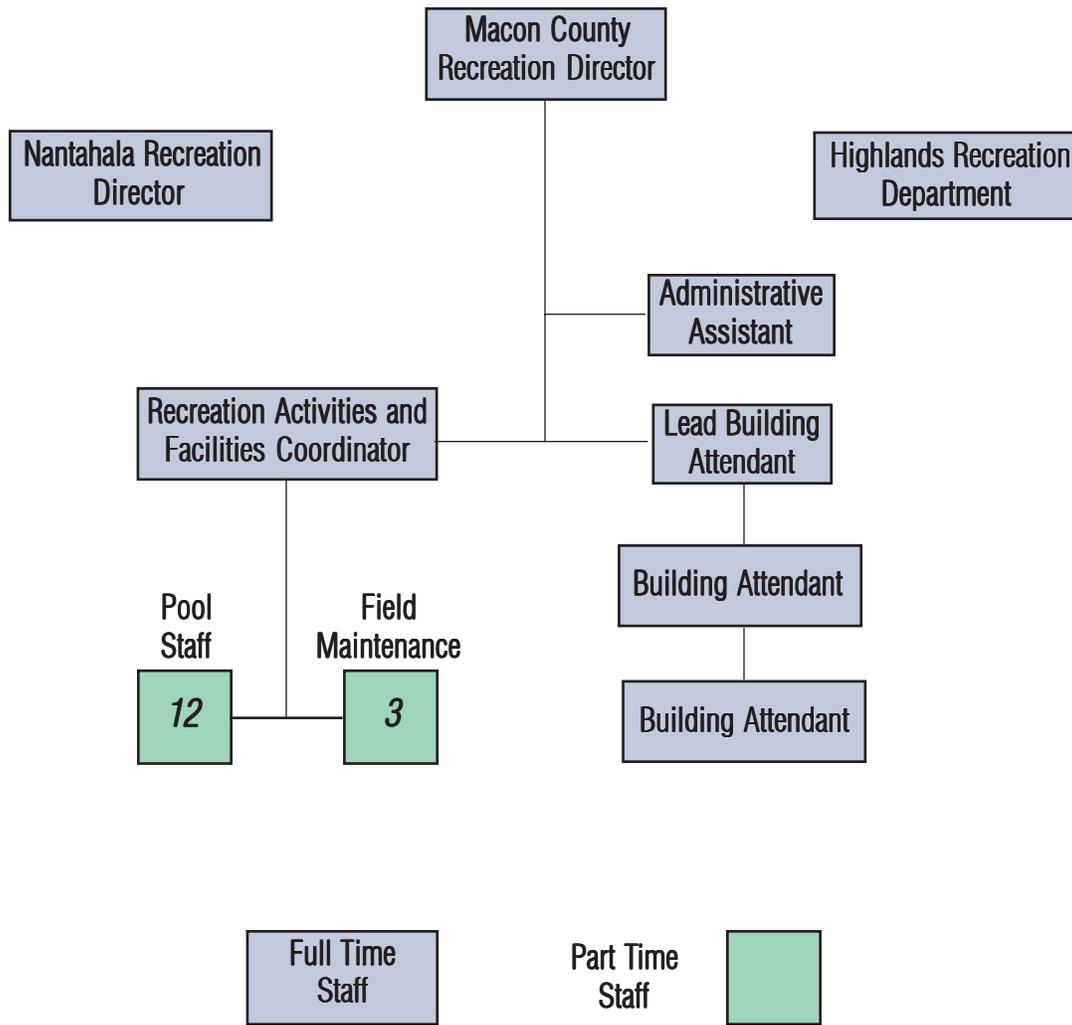
Fourth of July Fireworks & Fun Day	
Senior Games	55 & Up
Summer Day Camp	5 to 12

Additional Programs

Weight Watchers

Current Administrative Structure

The accompanying chart outlines the current staff of the MCPRD. These staff members are charged with organizing and scheduling recreation leagues and programs. All active sports leagues within Macon County are operated through private organizations. These organizations work with MCPRD staff in scheduling practice and game events. Many of the recreational programs offered through the MCPRD are offered through private individuals, but held within the county's facilities. The MCPRD staff is also charged with planning, coordinating and supervising special events, as well as maintaining all of the county's recreation facilities.



Revenue

The MCPRD has one main source of revenue for its activities, the Macon County General Fund. This fund supports all of the county's staff, services, activities, facilities, utilities, insurance, etc. All monies received by the county and its departments through property taxes, fees and other municipal sources are placed into the General Fund.

Some fees are generated through the MCRPD, but are all placed into the General Fund. These fees are collected from various recreation fees associated with sports organizations and facility rentals, pool use during the summer months, vending services and concessions during events. It should be noted that some facilities may be reserved for free, such as the county's picnic shelters.

Expenditures

The MCPRD utilizes its funding in three main areas. A portion of the budget from the county's general fund is used for staff salaries. This ensures that the residents of the county will continue to have quality recreational activities and facilities to use for those activities for years to come.

Funds for operational expenses are taken from the departmental budget and fund the daily operation of the department. These expenses may include utility bills, facility upkeep, equipment upkeep and replacement, vehicle upkeep, supplies, materials, phone bills and postage.

The remainder of the MCPRD budget is used to maintain all indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. The funds generally cover the upkeep of existing facilities and amenities. All new development projects, particularly those that require a large amount of funding, are ear marked specifically by the county and are included above and beyond the department's annual budget.

Industrial Park Soccer Field



Planning Criteria

Mission Statement

Until this master plan, the MCPRD did not have a Mission Statement. Instead, the department worked under the motto:

“We work so others may play”

While this simple phrase says a lot, both the MCPRD and the Franklin Area Recreation Advisory Board felt this master plan process was a good chance to create a more focused statement. Their goal was to create a Mission Statement that will not only influence the recommendations presented in this master plan, but also guide the future of Macon County recreation. It is the goal of the MCPRD and the Franklin Area Recreation Advisory Board:

“To provide the citizens and guests of Macon County with quality recreational services that meet the current and future needs through comprehensive programming, facilities, parks, greenways and open spaces. We strive to be responsive to the growing population through programming, services, and facilities by reflecting the age, sex and cultural diversity of that population.”

“We work so others may play”

Goals & Objectives

The first step toward reaching the goals set forth by the Mission Statement is to create a list of Goals & Objectives. These items will serve as a menu of more specific tasks, both near and long term, to complete in order to fulfill the vision set forth by the Mission Statement. As each one of the Goals & Objectives are met and as time passes, these items should be revisited annually in order to continue to meet the recreational needs of the people of Macon County.

1. Provide South Macon with active recreation facilities and programming, especially:
 - a. Baseball fields
 - b. Practice facilities for football, soccer and other sports.
2. Provide a multiuse recreational facility and programming, especially:
 - a. Indoor basketball courts
 - b. Indoor swimming pool
3. Manage and maintain our existing and future facilities to assure the highest level of service and safe utilization to our citizens and user groups.
4. Seek and provide new programming for all ages, sexes and abilities.
5. To be open to public proposals and ideas for our community's growing recreation needs.
 - a. Seek partnerships with the Macon County School system
 - b. Seek partnerships with Southwestern Community College
6. Improve communication, coordination and opportunities between the three park systems (Franklin, Nantahala & Highlands).
 - a. Establish active Recreation Commissions in each district that meet on a regular basis
 - b. Establish a combined Recreation Commission with representation from each district that meets on a regular basis

7. Target new areas of recreation.

8. Link parks together by a multiuse Greenway system.

- a. Prepare a Comprehensive Greenway Master Plan for Macon County
- b. Seek land acquisition opportunities for greenway corridors

9. Hold annual meetings with leaders of sports leagues and organizations to help determine needs for their programs and promote growth.

10. Serve as a central information resource for background and safety checks for all organized sports.

11. Keep the public involved and informed of recreational opportunities through the use of website and other media outlets.

Public Open Houses

The most helpful tool when completing a recreation master plan is public input. In order to better understand and recommend recreational facilities and programs, it is important to understand what the residents of a certain community, city or county enjoy in terms of recreation. Just as, if not more, important is to understand what those residents would like to have in terms of future recreational facilities and program offerings. This is the information sought in Public Open Houses.

Three Public Open Houses were held in early February, 2005. Three separate locations were chosen for each meeting in order to receive input (at three stations) from as many county residents as possible. Each of the three locations are not far from one another on a map, but mountainous terrain creates a lengthy, and sometime dangerous, commute between areas. The three locations chosen were Nantahala, Highlands and Franklin.

The first Input Station asked participants to indicate which recreational facilities they use on a regular basis. The input received from each Public Open House indicated that most residents decide to recreate near their homes. There is very little indication that residents from one area of the county commute to other areas of the county in order to participate in recreational activities. The majority of open house participants use the recreational facilities within their communities. The exceptions to this trend are senior citizens from other areas of the county driving to the Macon County Community Facilities Building in Franklin and those involved in youth sports, which are offered throughout the county.

When asked about current recreational participation at the second Input Station, many of the same activities were popular across the county, regardless of location. The most popular are: walking and swimming. Other recreation types indicate a number of residents are taking advantage of the county's natural amenities: fishing and camping. Two other top recreational activities include those traditionally shared by families: playgrounds and picnics.

The third and final Input Station asked participants about their desires and needs for future recreational facilities and programs. All three Public Open Houses indicated that indoor or covered swimming pools were among their top priorities. Currently, the only year-round swimming facilities are offered by private organizations. After this, each community had different views on what they would prefer in future recreational facilities and programs.

A full breakdown of the Public Open House results can be found in the Appendix.

*Open House Meeting
Input Board*

What types of recreation do you participate in on a regular basis?			
<small>Please mark a box beside all types of recreation that apply. If a recreation type is not listed, please fill in a blank box below.</small>			
Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Football	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnics	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Running	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

User Surveys

As part of the Public Input process for the Macon County Recreation Master Plan, a Recreation Participation and Preference Survey was created. The survey asked participants to identify some basic information, such as age, sex, whether or not they are a resident of Macon County and how many people reside in their household within certain age groups. The survey then asks participants to list their recreation patterns, such as, the types of recreation they currently participate in on a regular basis, what facilities they use when recreating and how often they recreate during each week. Survey participants are then asked to list any recreational programs or activities not currently offered by the MCPRD they would like to see. Finally, survey participants are given a chance to comment on any concerns or statements regarding the present and future of recreational programs, activities and/or facilities in Macon County. A copy of the Macon County Recreation Participation and Preference Survey can be found in the Appendix of this document.

A total of 187 surveys were completed during the three Public Open Houses and by users of the Macon County Community Facilities Building at Recreation Park. The ages of survey participants were spread fairly evenly, with the majority of those between the ages of 31 and 45. According to the survey data regarding the ages of household residents, there are a relatively uniform number of residents in all age groups, with the most residents within the age groups of 35-44 and 10-14. This uniform number from young children to older adults reveals the potential to provide a number of programs for different age groups: youth, teens, adults and seniors. The overwhelming majority of those who participated in the survey are year-round residents of Macon County.

Most of the survey participants regularly use facilities or participate in activities and programs associated with the MCPRD. The majority of those who are active through the MCPRD heard about the facilities and programs through word of mouth, while others read about them in the newspaper or heard about them through Macon County schools. Most survey participants indicated they exercise between 3 and 5 days a week.

The residents of Macon County participate in a wide variety of recreational activities and programs. Walking is by far the most popular recreational activity in Macon County, which corresponds directly with national recreation trends. Walking requires little to no equipment, can be participated in at a variety of locations and its non-jarring movement suits people of all ages. Swimming is the second most popular recreational activity for residents of Macon County. Many residents swim for the same reason they walk, its fluid motion is easy on the joints making it beneficial for people of all ages. However, swimming does require pools or bodies of water, thus limiting some from participation. The third most popular recreational activity is picnicking. This could be due to the large amount of protected natural lands throughout Macon County and the ability to include all members of a family. This also indicates that residents of Macon County are currently taking

advantage of the natural resources in the area, as well as using facilities provided by other entities, in this case, the United States Forest Service. Other popular types of recreation include active sports (basketball, baseball), traditional exercise activities (running/jogging, bicycling) and activities associated with natural amenities (wildlife observation, fishing, camping). The chart located on this page represents the Top Ten Most Popular Recreational Activities in Macon County.

When asked about which parks, recreation or other leisure facilities used within Macon County, the amenities offered at each park or recreational facility seem more important than how far that facility is from the users' home, to a certain extent. Residents in and around Franklin use the Macon County Recreation Park and the Little Tennessee Greenway more than any other facility. Residents in Nantahala use the Nantahala School and Nantahala Recreation Park facilities more than any other. Residents of Highlands frequent Highland Recreation Park and Civic Center more than any other facility in the county. It seems distance within the community doesn't matter as long as the facility provides the types of recreational amenities desired by the user. This does show, however, that residents are currently unlikely to travel from one community to another for recreational activities and programs. This can be caused by a number of factors. The first factor to consider in why residents rarely travel from area to area for recreation is geography. The mountainous terrain within Macon County divides the county into three areas: Nantahala, Franklin and Highlands. The mountainous terrain and the driving time associated with the terrain make regular travel from one area of the county to another very difficult. Several open house participants in Nantahala said they are more likely to go to Andrews, in neighboring Cherokee County, for shopping and/or recreation based on the shorter driving time when compared to Franklin. The second factor affecting travel from area to area could be the lack of a facility with the amenities that draw residents from all areas of Macon County. Currently, Macon County does not have one facility with a wide variety of offerings, such

as an indoor pool, aerobics and fitness rooms, weight and cardio rooms, indoor gymnasium and/or indoor walking track. A single facility with some of these types of recreational offerings is costly, but has the potential to draw users from across the county and even beyond. Another explanation, or factor, affecting a lack of travel by residents from one area to another could be that the facilities desired by residents are well spread throughout the county. It is possible that residents in one area of the county or another are content with the facilities located within their area and have no reason to travel to another area. This factor, however, contradicts information gathered throughout the Public Input Process.

<i>Top Ten Recreational Activities in Macon County</i>
1. Walking
2. Swimming
3. Picnics
4. Fishing
5. Hiking
6. Basketball
7. Running/Jogging
8. Bicycling
9. Camping/RVing
10. Wildlife Observation

Survey participants were then asked to list any recreational activities, facilities or programs they would like to have available to them that are not currently offered through the MCPRD. An overwhelming number of participants would like a year-round, indoor swimming facility. The weather in the North Carolina mountains limits outdoor swimming to the summer months (Memorial Day to Labor Day). Local swim teams and residents interested in swimming must limit their activity to this three-month period of time. The need for an indoor swimming pool was echoed across the county, both through the surveys and through comments at the Public Open Houses. Other survey participants requested a comprehensive recreation center, which may include an indoor swimming facility. Other popular items mentioned by participants that may be included within a recreation center included weight rooms and a walking track (indoors if possible). Others commented on the need or desire for certain programs, such as aerobics and co-ed volleyball. Ping-pong is very popular in Macon County. There were several comments regarding the need for upgraded/new ping-pong tables and paddles. Some survey participants would like more access to local water bodies for various types of boating (canoe, kayak) and fishing. Younger survey participants see a need for an area for skateboarding. Some believe a skate park would benefit the youth and teens of Macon County, while others mentioned having a designated area in which they can skate. Still other survey participants hope to have more ball fields and open space areas for practice and games of traditional, active sports (baseball, football, soccer).

Comments written at the end of the survey reflect much of what the previous paragraph entails. Many residents seem somewhat frustrated with the amount of growth occurring in the area, but see very little growth when it comes to recreational facilities and programs. Some concerns voiced through comments by survey participants address county wide needs, while others are more locally based.

The majority of the survey comments address the need for upgrades to the MCPRD's current facilities, while others focused on the need for new facilities and parks. A number of comments mirror those above regarding the need for indoor swimming facilities for swim and dive teams, residents interested in swimming and those in need of a pool for therapeutic reasons. Many comments reflect the need for additional facilities for team sports, both for practice and games: gyms for basketball, sport specific fields and open space areas for football, baseball and soccer. There were many comments regarding the need for girls softball facilities and programs.

Not all comments centered around the need for new facilities. Other survey participants are interested in having new recreational programs available. There are a number of participants interested in family based activities and programs, arts and crafts, after school offerings, and active programs, such as aerobics. Although some programs are currently offered to the senior citizens of Macon County, some believe there should be more offerings, such as day trips.

There were a number of survey participants who are frustrated with a lack of communication between the MCPRD and residents of Macon County regarding available programs and activities.

Other comments were written simply to thank the MCPRD on a good job.

A summary of the results from the Macon County Recreation Participation and Preference Survey can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Departmental Input

The current staff of the MCPRD was asked for input on what recreational facilities they believe are necessary to continue providing the residents of Macon County with a high quality of recreation parks and facilities. The following comments were taken from interviews with the staff of the MCPRD throughout this master plan process. The items below reflect the opinions of the staff, who work with the county's recreational facilities on a daily basis.

- Increase number of regulation playing fields
- Need indoor/outdoor recreation complex including: indoor walking track, basketball courts, racquetball courts, pool for swimming/diving, meeting/program rooms, greenway access
- Recreation Center could be a center for youth-based activities
- Increase number of recreational programs during the day: aerobics, art classes
- Expand year-round senior activity offerings
- Pursue use of internet website for class offerings, departmental/facility/program information, facility reservation
- Waterfront facility on Nantahala Lake

Goals, Objectives & Standards

Planning Criteria

In order to fully understand the future recreational needs for the people of Macon County, a large amount of information has been gathered. Existing facility inventories have been completed for the county's park facilities, Macon County schools, other county municipalities, federal agencies and private recreation providers. An understanding of the relationship between the MCPRD with private sports organizations and recreation program providers was necessary. In order to make recommendations for the future of the county's recreation facilities and programs, it was important that the means by which the county's recreational activities and facilities are funded, as well as the amount of funds generated by the MCPRD. In addition, it was important to create a goal for the MCPRD and a list of actions to be followed in order to reach that goal. Most important, it was imperative to receive input from the people of Macon County who regularly use the county recreational facilities and programs concerning their existing recreational habits, potential areas of improvement and additional facilities and programs they would enjoy in the future.

While this information is essential in creating a master plan that will improve the quality of recreation in Macon County, additional information is necessary to make accurate recommendations. The following planning criteria were also considered during the recreation master plan process:

- Geographic Features/Travel Perception
- Recreation Participation
- Facility Usage
- Recreation/Facility Demand
- Recreation Standards
- Park Classifications

Geographic Features/Travel Perception

Like much of Western North Carolina, the topography of Macon County is mountainous and in some cases, extreme. These land features are beautiful in all seasons and offer a number of specialized recreational activities that can only be found in certain areas of the country. In contrast, the rise and fall of the land creates some issues in relation to providing quality recreation facilities and programs for people throughout Macon County.

Travel from one area of the county to another can be time consuming, irritating and dangerous during the winter months. In some areas of the county, traveling to facilities in an adjacent county requires less time in the car than it takes to travel to facilities within

Macon County. These factors should be considered when scheduling programs and events, as well as when planning facilities built for use by people across the county.

These geographic features also make land development for park and recreation facilities difficult and costly. When identifying potential sites for recreational fields, land with little to no slope is less costly to develop. Some areas of Macon County lend themselves to development for active recreational facilities. These areas are located within wide valleys through the central areas of the county. It is more difficult to find developable pieces of land in other areas of the county. In many case, parcels that lend themselves for recreational development have already been built upon or carry a steep price tag.

Activity/Sport	No. of Participants					
	0	100	200	300	400	500
Boys Basketball	2003	375				
	2004	390				
	2005	400				
Girls Basketball	2003	232				
	2004	245				
	2005	254				
Football	2003	162				
	2004	160				
	2005	166				
Cheerleading	2003	105				
	2004	107				
	2005	110				
Baseball	2003	385				
	2004	392				
	2005	400				
Softball	2003	238				
	2004	242				
	2005	250				

Soccer: Fall	2003	415					
	2004	420					
	2005	430					
Soccer: Spring	2003	85					
	2004	95					
	2005	130					
Volleyball	2003	110					
	2004	115					
	2005	120					
Men's Softball	2003	97					
	2004	95					
	2005	100					
Women's Softball	2003	40					
	2004	42					
	2005	50					
Church League Softball	2003	235					
	2004	250					
	2005	270					
FAST Swim Team	2003	128					
	2004	135					
	2005	140					

Recreation Participation

An important part of planning for future recreation activities and programs is to evaluate existing offerings. The first category in evaluating the success of the existing offerings is through analyzing participation in recreational programs and activities over a given period of time. An increase in participation more than likely reflects increased interest in a certain activity. Conversely, a decrease in participants most likely indicates a decrease in interest of a certain activity.

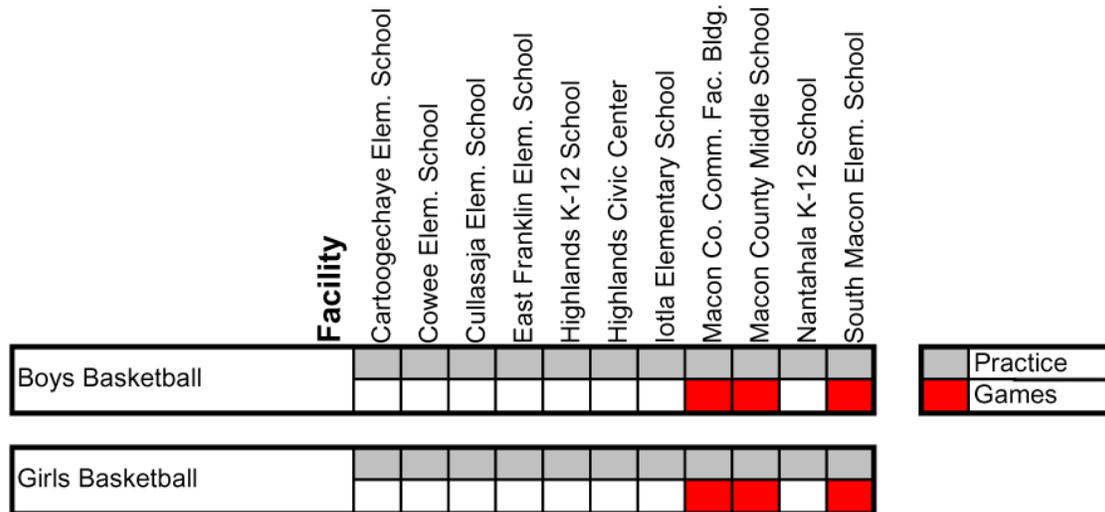
The accompanying chart summarizes Recreation Participation for a number of recreational activities provided through the MCPRD over the past three years.

Facility Usage

Another area to evaluate when analyzing existing recreational activities and programs is existing recreation facilities and how they are used. Many times the same fields are used throughout the course of a year by a variety of activity groups. In some case, fields are used for different sports due to lack of sports

appropriate facilities. Additional information can be gathered by evaluating what fields are used for practice versus games and why.

The following charts illustrate what facilities are being used for individual sports activities for practice and games.



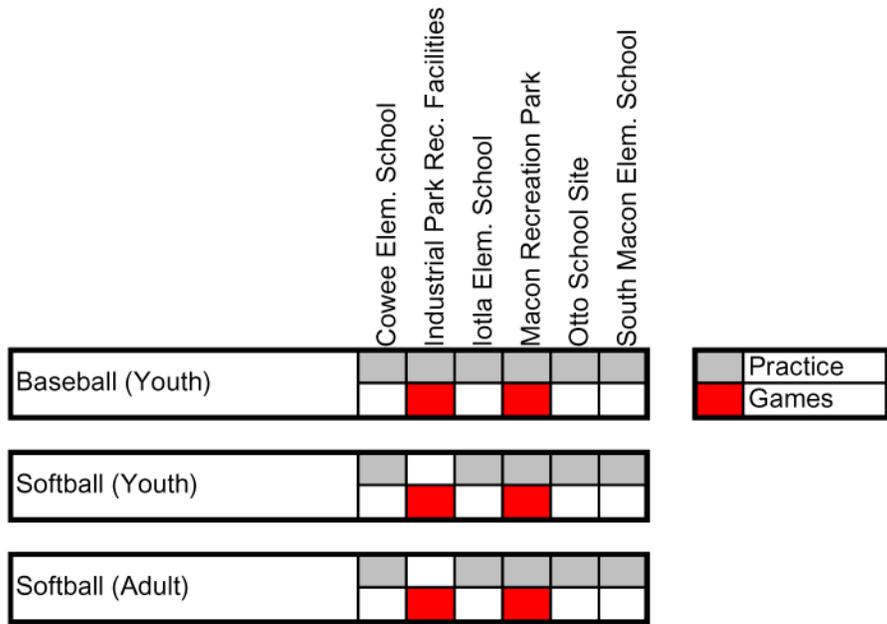
Season: Girls- November to December
Boys- January to March

Notes: Many facilities used for practice are inadequate for games.
9 of 11 facilities used for practice/games are school gymnasiums.



Season: July to October

Notes: Forced to use school facility for games.



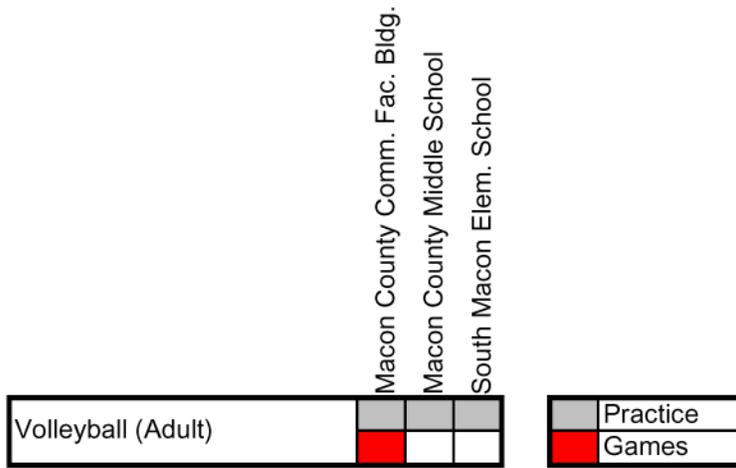
Seasons: Baseball- March to June
 Softball (Youth)- March to June
 Softball (Adult)- April to July

Notes: With these seasons overlapping and a number of adult and youth participants, scheduling is difficult and games are played late into the night.



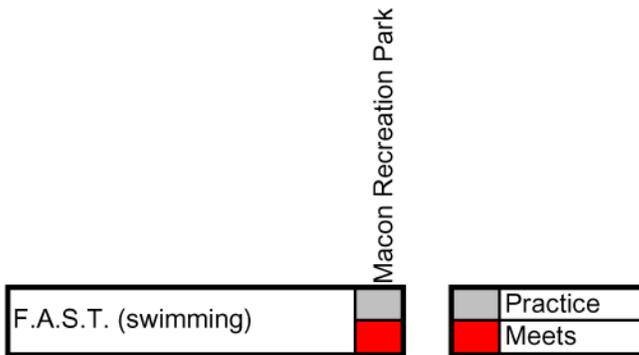
Season: Spring: March to June
 Fall: July to October

Notes: Macon County currently has one facility that houses soccer games.



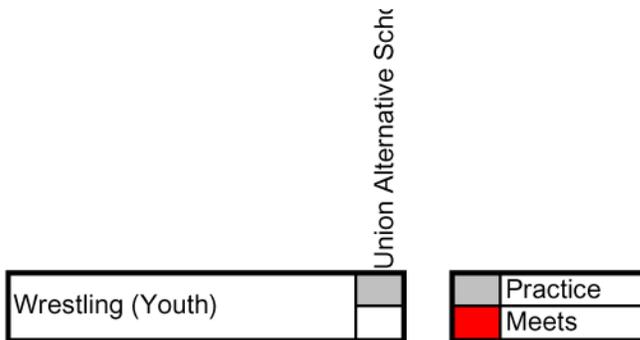
Season: Fall & Winter

Notes: Interest is steadily increasing. Currently competes with basketball and open gym for practices/games.



Season: June to July

Notes: The team only practices/competes 2 months out of the year due to lack of facilities



Season: November to December

Recreation/Facility Demand

As the numbers indicate, participation in most of Macon County's recreational activities continues to grow. This growth has begun to create scheduling conflicts due to the limited numbers of some types of facilities. These types of issues indicate:

Fields have no chance to rest.

Some fields are used 4 to 6 days a week, giving the department little to no opportunity to refurbish and maintain the fields.

The number of appropriately sized/equipped facilities is limited.

Scheduling for some activities forces games to be played well into the night.

Important and scarce gym space must be used for special events and sales, creating scheduling conflicts and demand for more space.

Park Classifications

Macon County does not currently have a park classification system. Park classifications are a useful tool in identifying what types of recreation facilities can be found at a specific park. This system is also useful when planning, programming and designing recreational facilities during the master plan process. These classifications enable appropriate recreational facilities to be planned to meet the need of the residents and visitors to a certain area.

Park classification is developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). In addition, state level classification development can be found in the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan, also referred to as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). These guidelines help create a classification system that reflects the individual needs of communities.

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation recommend examining the following characteristics when establishing a specialized park classification system: setting, proximity to populated areas, size, facilities (existing and proposed), natural resources available, activities and the intended experience.

The following park classification recommendations take into account the State of North Carolina Classification System attributes and the recreational needs and desires of the people of Macon County.

Town Park

- 5 to 20 acres in size
- Facilities are limited and likely include non-programmed multiuse areas
- Serves small, local areas/communities

Community Center

- Size of center is variable
- Serves the entire community
- Should offer support services such as restrooms, concessions and parking
- Should provide a variety of indoor recreational activities and programs

Community Park

- 15 to 50 acres in size
- Serves larger, community based residents/groups
- Provides more variety of recreational activities
- May provide both active and passive types of recreation
- Can be used to protect natural/historic resources/land features

District Park

- 50 to 200 acres in size
- Provides a large variety of activities
- Used primarily for active recreation and tournaments
- Site should be relatively flat, easily developable
- Special uses, such as Community Center, may be located in these parks

Natural Resource Area

- Size varies according to resources being preserved
- Used to protect unique landscapes, cultural amenities and historic landmarks
- Used to preserve open space, natural buffers and view corridors
- Any recreation associated with these areas must be passive in nature

Special Use Park

- Varies in size according to use
- Provides single, specific use
- Uses can include historical site, indoor recreation facilities or outdoor recreational facilities and complexes

School Park

- Size of park varies depending on site, community need and function
- Combines two municipal expenditures into one location
- Ideal for rural areas with limited/no park facilities
- Depending on size, park could serve as a neighborhood, community or district park
- Joint use agreement necessary for programming

The following park classifications list categorizes Macon County's recreational parks and facilities, as well as other municipal-owned parks with the county.

Macon County Park Classifications	
<u>Town Parks</u> Big Bear Park (Little Tennessee Greenway) Cullasaja Park Franklin Memorial Park Highlands Ballfield Macon County Buck Creek Recreation Complex Tassee Park (Little Tennessee Greenway)	<u>District Park</u> <u>School Parks</u> <u>Special Use Park</u> Little Tennessee Greenway
<u>Community Centers</u> Highlands Civic Center Macon County Community Facilities Building	
<u>Community Parks</u> Cartoogechaye Park (Proposed) Highlands Recreation Park Industrial Park Recreation Facilities Macon County Recreation Park Nantahala Recreation Park South Macon Recreation Park (Proposed)	

Action Plan

Action Plan

The purpose of the Macon County Recreation Master Plan is to provide an effective, usable document that will serve as a guide and resource as the MCPRD continues to grow and expand. During the planning process, a large amount of information was gathered, processed and studied in an effort to create as definable recommendations as possible. The information gathered throughout this process includes, but is not limited to: geographic locations, current and projected populations, current facility use, current program and activity participation, other area provided recreational opportunities, adjacent county recreational facilities and participation rates, public survey results, staff input, staff recommendations and public meeting feedback. This information is presented in the first three sections of this report.

The Action Plan carefully considers all of this information. The following pages outline the recommendations that aim to guide the MCPRD in the coming months and years in order to provide quality recreational activities and programs to all residents of Macon County. The Macon County Recreation Master Plan shall serve as a guide to enable the MCPRD to make sound decisions for facility and programming expansions and acquisitions that result in a higher quality of recreation.

Action Items

Action item recommendations are presented in the following order and categories:

- Policy Plan
- County and Area Recommendations
- Proposed Administrative Structure
- Alternative Funding Sources

Action items for each category will be further defined by immediate needs (0-2 years), near term needs (3-5 years) and long term needs (6-10 years) where applicable.

Policy

In the past, the MCPRD has not provided recreational programs to the people of Macon County. Instead, the department would allow individuals to rent the county's recreational facilities and offer programs. Those participating in the programs would pay a fee to the instructor and the instructor would retain the money minus the small rental fee. Though this system of operation has proven effective as far as offering people of Macon County the opportunity to participate in various recreational programs, it is not fulfilling the duties of a recreation department.

The MCPRD should begin offering a small number of classes through the department. Using input from the people of Macon County available through this master plan report, the MCPRD should choose a small number of recreational programs to offer several times a week. Based on interest and participation in these programs, the department can begin to gauge what types of recreational programs citizens are willing to participate in, the times in which they are willing to participate and the fees participants are will to be charged for these programs.

It is important to work with the same private recreational program providers who currently offer classes at the county's facilities. These program providers have done a great service to the people of Macon County. It is now the department's responsibility to provide the people of Macon County with quality recreational programs, while at the same time, continuing to allow private recreational program providers to serve the public and make a living doing so. It is very important to preserve the relationships these providers have with program participants and the relationships between the MCPRD and the providers. There will remain a partnership between the MCPRD and private recreational program providers, but it is the department's obligation to take a more active role.

Initially, these programs may be provided at one or two centrally located facilities. As interest increases, the department should seek feedback from those who participate in the programs. This feedback will give the MCPRD information pertaining to scheduling times, the effectiveness of the current offerings and ideas for potential future offerings. It will also be important to receive input from those who have not had an opportunity to participate for one reason or another. What factors are leading to the decision to not participate? Does the current program schedule conflict with work or family? Are the facilities too far from home? Are they uninterested in the current recreational program offerings? Is there a different program that might interest them? These types of questions will give the MCPRD a clear picture of what the next steps should be in providing recreational programs for people of all abilities throughout the county. These steps will also help in providing for a growing, diverse population.

As interest and participation increases, so can the number of facilities that offer recreational programs. It will be important to offer programs that can be used by the population across the county, not just in one area of the county. In order to effectively do this, the MCPRD must begin partnerships with other area and municipal recreation providers. The department must also strive to receive feedback from the more remote areas of the county and use that feedback to include it in recreational programs and activities.

Park Areas

Macon County is divided into three basic areas by natural land features: Nanatahala, Franklin and Highlands. These are the three main areas of development within the county. The land dividing these sections of the county is sparsely populated, much of it owned by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Nantahala National Forest.

Throughout this master plan process, it appears that residents in some areas of the county may feel slighted due to a perceived lack of facilities in one area over another. Though it is true that certain areas of Macon County have more recreation facilities than others, factors involved in the siting of some facilities are beyond the control of the MCPRD.

This division of the county, and the population of the county to some extent, creates problems when planning recreational facilities, activities and programs. It is helpful to learn what needs to be considered when beginning to plan new recreational facilities and programs. Below is a list of factors that should be considered:

- Countywide Needs
- Area Needs
- Current Land Holdings
- Available Land for Acquisition
- Character of Land Available for Acquisition
- Input from Residents throughout the County

It is also important to work with the people of Macon County as these factors are being considered. Residents may have a different opinion or viewpoint than those involved in the decision making process. Inclusion of the public also serves to educate them on what is involved when making these types of recreation decisions. One key process that will help foster this interaction between residents and county authorities is a more broad Advisory Board or Recreation Commission structure.

Advisory Board

A Recreation Advisory Board is a group of impassioned volunteer citizens interested in helping the local recreation staff to provide a high quality of life for that specific area. Many times, these same people are involved with other local recreation organizations. This involvement gives them a slightly different point of view from the parks and recreation staff, which may shift their opinion in the how's, what's, when's and where's in regards to future recreational programs and facilities. It is this range of opinion that is important to share with parks and recreation staff on a regular basis.

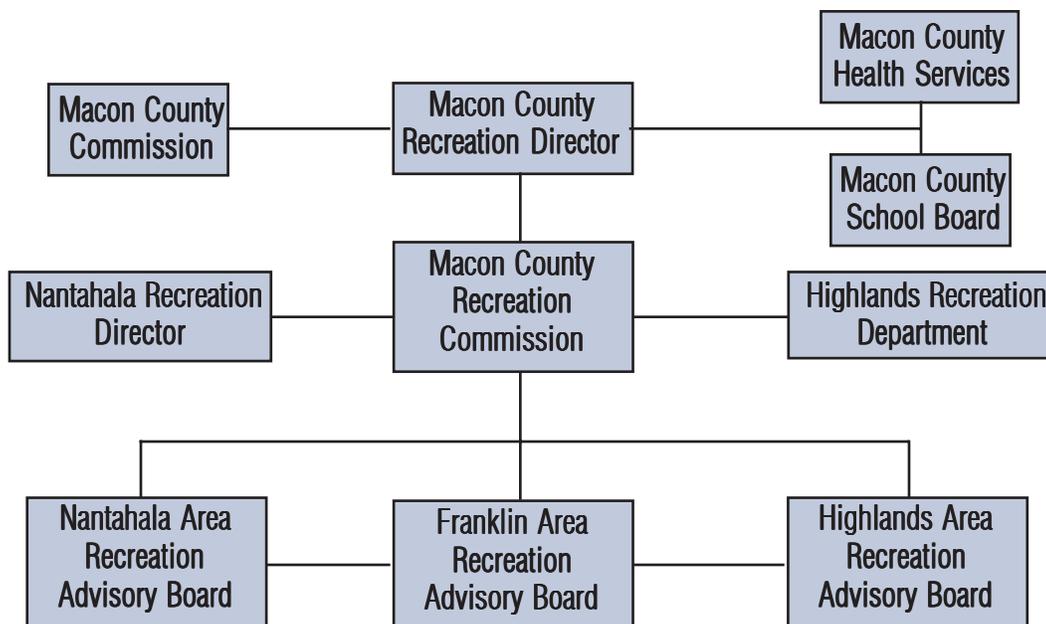
Currently, there are two Recreation Advisory Boards that meet on a regular basis in Macon County: the Macon County Recreation Commission and the Town of Highlands Recreation Advisory Board. The Macon County Recreation Commission meets regularly in Franklin and focuses mainly on facilities in the Franklin area. The Highlands Recreation Advisory Board works directly with the Town of Highlands Recreation Department and focuses on recreational concerns in the Town of Highlands. The Macon County Recreation Commission and the Highlands Recreation Advisory Board have little to no communication between the bodies. There was a Recreation Advisory Board in the Nantahala area, but this board does not meet on a regular basis nor communicates with the MCPRD.

In simple terms, the current recreational advisory system is not working as efficiently as it could. This is not to say that the current Macon County Recreation Commission

or the Highlands Recreation Advisory Board has not done what they set out to do. New recreational facilities have been developed within the last five years and county-owned land is ready for recreational development. However, some perceive the current situation as being beneficial to certain of the county's residents, not all.

In order to better meet the goals set forth in the MCPRD Mission Statement, it is recommended that one countywide recreation commission be created. Members of this commission, the Macon County Recreation Commission, will represent different areas of Macon County to ensure the recreational needs of the entire county are being considered and met. The realignment of the Macon County Recreation Commission should better accomplish the goals of the MCPRD in receiving input and guidance from residents throughout the county on a quarterly basis.

In addition, three Area Recreation Advisory Boards should be created. These areas would include the Nantahala area, the Franklin area and the Highlands area. Each area Recreation Commission should focus on the recreational needs, issues, programs and facilities specific to that area during monthly meetings. The chair of each of the three Area Recreation Advisory Boards would hold a seat on the Macon County Recreation Commission. By appointing residents from each area of the county onto the Macon County Recreation Commission, this creates a clear line of communication from one end of the county to the other.



Action Plan

It is also important to establish and maintain relationships with other area recreation organizations. These organizations include local sports organizations, clubs, trail or greenway organizations, along with any other organization dedicated to providing quality recreational activities to the public. Members of these groups will have an opportunity to serve on their local Area Recreation Commissions and/or voice any concerns publicly during recreation commission meetings.

The following is a recommended roster of the Macon County Recreation Commission:

<i>Macon County Recreation Commission</i>	
<i>Macon County Parks and Recreation Director & staff</i>	<i>2 seats (nonvoting)</i>
<i>Nantahala Area Recreation Director</i>	<i>1 seat (nonvoting)</i>
<i>Highlands Recreation Department Director</i>	<i>1 seat (nonvoting)</i>
<i>Nantahala Area Recreation Advisory Board chair</i>	<i>1 seat</i>
<i>Franklin Area Recreation Advisory Board chair</i>	<i>1 seat</i>
<i>Highlands Area Recreation Advisory Board chair</i>	<i>1 seat</i>
<i>Macon County School Board</i>	<i>1 seat</i>
<i>Macon County Health Services</i>	<i>1 seat</i>
<i>Macon County Commissioners</i>	<i>1 seat</i>

The role of each Recreation Advisory Board is as follows:

To listen to all citizens of Macon County and inform the MCPRD regarding overall public opinion on current recreational program offerings, facility use and overall department performance and maintenance.

To give input and constructive comments regarding future programs, facility development and construction and land acquisition for future park sites as planned by the MCPRD.

To advise and assist the MCPRD on the current and future recreational program and facility needs and create a long-range plan to fulfill those needs.

To increase understanding and support from the citizens of Macon County for future planned recreational program offerings and facility development.

To educate the County Commission and the citizens of Macon County on the importance and benefits of recreational activity and influence county policy in regards to all recreational issues.

To coordinate communications between the citizens of Macon County, the MCPRD and other local agencies in regards to future county development, recreation or otherwise.

To increase public interest in Macon County recreational programs and special events, and recruit volunteers to assist in those activities.

To be proactive in nature, creative in planning and current on all recreational trends, issues and challenges.

Facility and Program Needs

Countywide Recreation Recommendations

In this day and age, municipal budgets are stretched thin in order to continue providing services to the public. Macon County is no exception. For this reason, certain recreational facilities and programs must be limited to one location within the county. This is the result of several factors. Budgets simply cannot support certain facilities in several areas of the county. Demand for certain types of facilities or programs may be much higher in one area of the county than another. Land, topography, availability or cost could force a facility to be located in one area of the county over another.

Facilities

Immediate Needs (0-2 years):

Begin land acquisition, master planning and budgeting for an indoor, multiuse recreation facility to include:

- Indoor swimming/diving facility
- Indoor walking track
- Indoor basketball courts
- Activity/program/meeting rooms
- Weight room

Prepare a comprehensive, countywide greenway master plan

Seek partnerships with Southwestern Community College

Seek partnerships with other area and municipal recreation providers

Begin identifying land/location for cultural/performing arts center

Begin identifying land/location for District Park to include:

- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Soccer fields

Assess existing parks and facilities for compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Standards

Near Term Needs (3-5 years):

Begin construction and development for indoor, multiuse recreation facility (phase one)

Continue budgeting for later phases of indoor, multiuse recreation facility

Begin land acquisition, master planning and budgeting for cultural/performing arts center

Begin land acquisition, master planning and budgeting for District Park

Long Term Needs (6-10 years):

Complete indoor, multiuse recreation facility

Begin construction and development for cultural/performing arts center

Begin construction and development for District park

Programs

Immediate Needs (0-2 years):

Begin several recreational programs through Macon County Community Facilities Building, which may include:

- Aerobics
- Arts & Crafts
- Dancing
- Family Night Out
- Senior Games (2-days a week)
- Yoga

Contact other area recreation departments regarding recent local programming trends

Promote recreational programs countywide

Coordinate with Highlands Recreation Department regarding program scheduling in Highlands Civic Center

Seek feedback from Nantahala and Highlands areas towards what programs to provide

Near Term Needs (3-5 years):

Expand programs to other facilities and areas of the county

Expand and/or realign times of programs and activities

Begin programming indoor, multi-use recreation facility

Seek program/membership partnerships with other area and municipal recreation providers

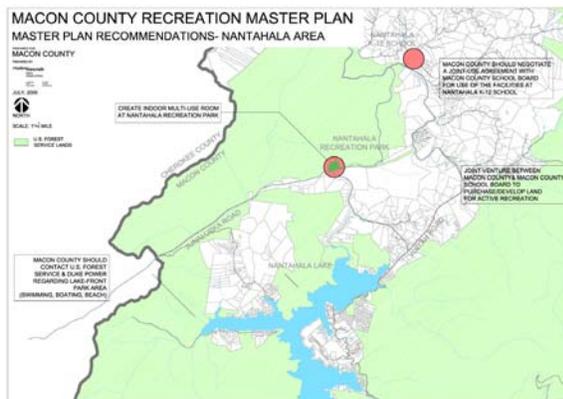
Seek countywide feedback regarding current recreational programs

Long Term Needs (6-10 years):

Begin promoting and programming cultural/performing arts center

Begin promoting and programming District Park

Seek countywide feedback regarding current recreational programs



Nantahala Area Recreation Recommendations

The Nantahala Area is one of the more remote areas of Macon County. It is also one of the three areas of the county that has a large influx of seasonal residents during the summer months. When speaking with participants at the Open House held at the Nantahala K-12 School, it was learned that a trip to the next county's recreation

facilities takes about half the time than a trip to Franklin in Macon County. This fact does not lessen the need to provide adequate recreational facilities and programs to the people of the Nantahala Area.

Immediate Term Needs (0-2 years):

Create space for an indoor, multiuse room at Nantahala Recreation Park

M CPRD should coordinate w/ USFS and Duke Energy regarding lake front park access; Seek joint-use agreement

Establish and promote regular programming and scheduling for Nantahala Recreation Park

M CPRD should seek joint venture with Macon County School Board to purchase/develop land for active recreation and a joint-use agreement for use of facilities at the Nantahala K-12 School

Near Term Needs (3-5 years):

Begin land acquisition, master planning and budgeting for school park to include (pending agreement):

Active recreation fields

Indoor activity/program/meeting room

Begin land selection, master planning, budgeting and development of lake front park to include (pending agreement):

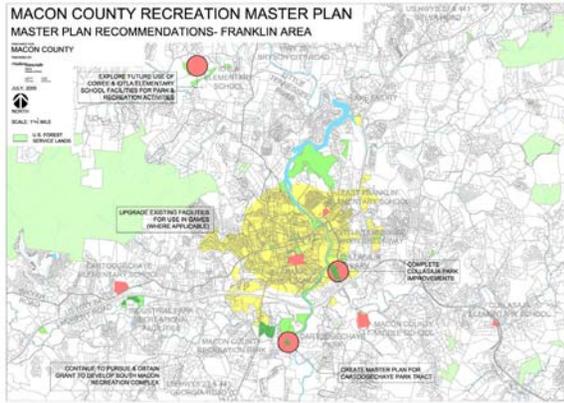
- Swimming area
- Picnic shelter(s)
- Picnic tables
- Passive recreation activities

Long Term Needs (6-10 years):

Develop and construct school park

Complete development and construction of lake front park

Begin land acquisition and budgeting for pilot greenway project based on findings from Greenway Master Plan



Franklin Area Recreation Recommendations

The Franklin Area is the largest and most densely populated of the three main areas of the county, sprawling north and south through the valley along side the Little Tennessee River. Franklin is also the Macon County seat. The size of the Franklin Area, it's central location within the county and the natural character of the land, make it an easy location for many countywide facilities and programs.

Immediate Needs (0-2 years):

Continue to pursue grant monies to develop South Macon Recreation Complex to include:

- (3) Ball fields
- (1) Soccer fields
- Trails

Continue to pursue grant monies to upgrade Macon County Facilities Building gymnasium

Complete Cullasaja Park improvements

Begin a campus style master plan and budgeting for Cartoogechaye Park

Explore future use of Cowee & Lotla School facilities for parks and recreation use

Upgrade existing facilities for use in Senior Games where applicable

Study connectivity from existing parks and land holdings to existing greenway

Near Term Needs (3-5 years):

Begin and complete development and construction of South Macon Recreation Complex

Begin development and construction of Cartoogechaye Park

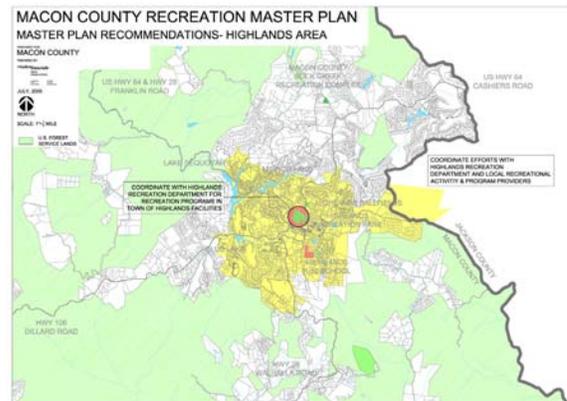
Begin land acquisition and budgeting for next phase of greenway based on Greenway Master Plan

Long Term Needs (6-10 years):

Complete development and construction of Cartoogechaye Park

Highlands Area Recreation Recommendations

The Highlands Area is also somewhat isolated from the remainder of Macon County, but is more densely populated than the Nantahala Area and is an incorporated town with its own recreation department. In addition, Highlands has a large number of seasonal residents during the warmer months of the year. These factors contribute to the county's need to take a slightly different role when planning recreation based activities to the residents of this area of Macon County.



Immediate Needs (0-2 years):

Coordinate efforts with Highlands Recreation Department for recreation programs in Town of Highlands facilities

Coordinate efforts with Highlands Recreation Department and local recreational activity and program providers

Near Term Needs (3-5 years):

Begin land acquisition and budgeting for pilot greenway project based on findings from Greenway Master Plan

Long Term Needs (6-10 years):

Construct pilot greenway project based on findings from Greenway Master Plan

Health, Nutrition and Recreation

This master plan report was funded by a statewide health initiative named Eat Smart, Move More...North Carolina. This program is aimed at enabling county and area health departments to increase opportunities for healthy living. The Eat Smart, Move More...North Carolina program focuses on educating the public on healthy nutrition and physical activity, as well as creating healthy environments.

The Macon County Recreation Master Plan focuses on one of Eat Smart, Move More...North Carolina major themes, the creation of a healthier, activity based environment. By partnering with Macon County Health Services, the MCPRD will be able to facilitate recreational activity throughout Macon County.

The relationship between these two county departments can go further. The MCPRD and Macon County Health Services can work together to provide nutrition programs through park and recreation department, in conjunction with other recreation based events. The departments can also work together in providing recreational programming that meets some of the goals of this health initiative. For instance, one type of program requested by survey participants involves family-based programming. Presentations and literature can be made available on Eat Smart, Move More...North Carolina's programs, Families Eating Smart and Moving More. This program focuses on families working together to create a healthier life-style family by family.

In addition, the MCPRD can continue to work with other local groups, such as Friends of the Greenway (FROGs), in developing a more complete, expansive greenway system. By connecting more and more destinations with off-road walking and biking trails, a safe environment is created that encourages and enables healthier living. Additional recreational activities and offerings, such as those that would be offered by an indoor recreation complex, further expand the possibilities for healthy living and increased recreation.

Recommended Administrative Structure

As part of this master plan report, additions to the current administrative structure have been created. These administrative recommendations reflect the growth of facilities and programs sought by the people of Macon County and will help maintain the high level of service that currently exists within the MCPRD.

Immediate Needs (0-2 years):

- Program Director (Part Time)
- Funding and Grant Coordinator (Part Time)
- Program Instructors (Part Time) Franklin
- Program Instructors (Part Time) Highlands

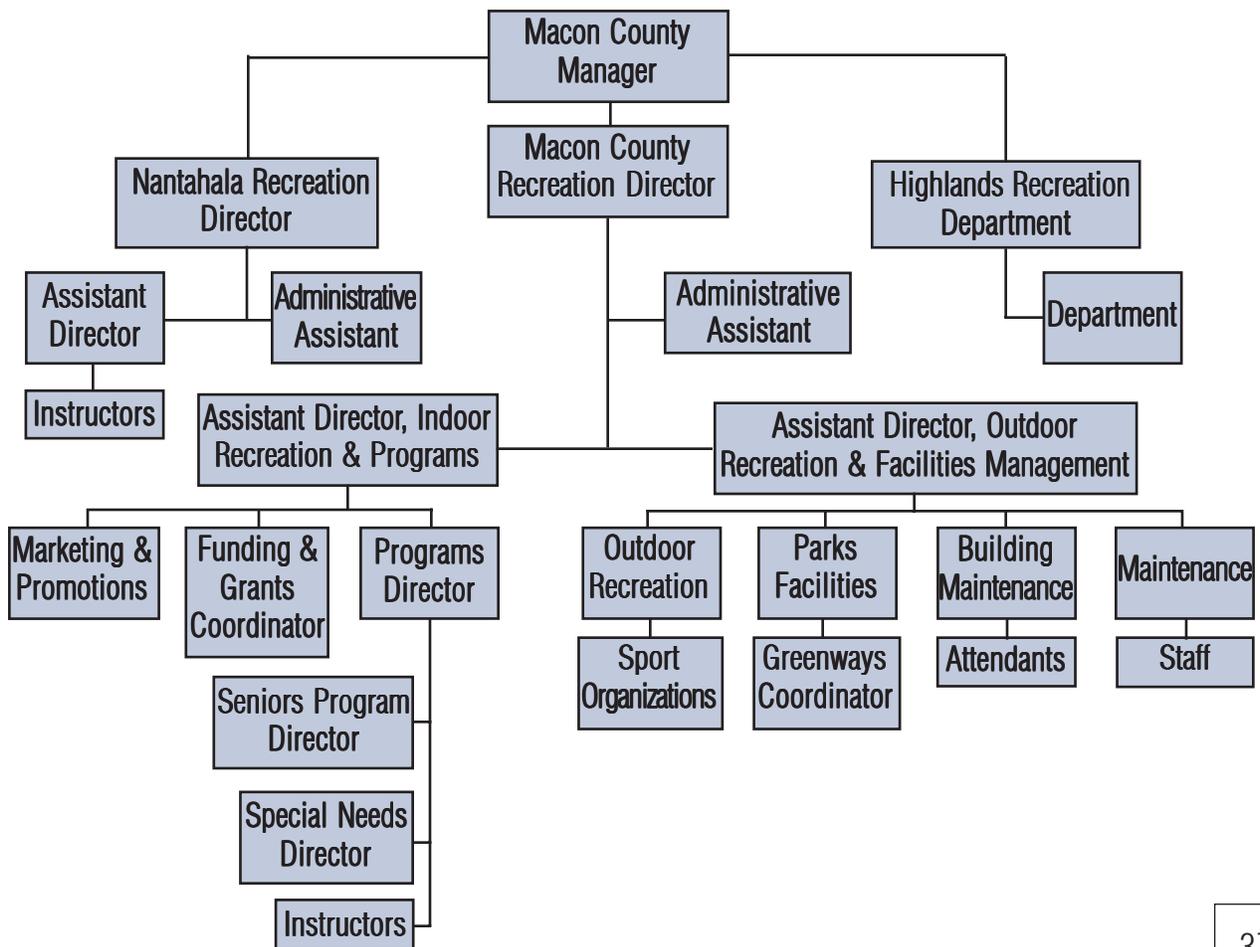
Near Term Needs (3-5 years):

- Program Director (Full Time)
- Senior Program Director (Part Time)

- Funding and Grant Coordinator (Full Time)
- Greenways Coordinator (Part Time)
- Indoor Recreation Complex:
 - Director/Co. Assistant Director
 - Administrator
 - Program Director
 - Pool Staff (4-5, 2 full time)
 - Janitorial
 - Instructors (Part Time)
- Nantahala Assistant Director (Part Time)
- Program Instructors (Part Time) Nantahala
- Marketing and Promotions (Part Time)

Long Term Needs (6-10 years):

- Greenways Coordinator (Full Time)
- Marketing and Promotions (Full Time)
- Seniors Program Director (Full Time)
- Special Needs Coordinator (Part Time)
- Nantahala Administrator (Part Time)
- Nantahala Assistant Director (Full Time)



Action Plan

Alternative Funding Sources

In addition to general revenues and funding from the county budget, Macon County should pursue a variety of funding sources for future recreation land acquisition, planning and development. The funding sources listed below represent several funding opportunities that may be useful.

Bond Referendums

A bond referendum can be placed on a ballot to finance land acquisition and site development costs for parks and/or greenways. Voters must approve a bond. Because of this fact, it is critical to educate the public on the mission and intent of the bond in order to gain support.

Impact Fees

Impact fees are one-time monetary charges levied by a local government on new development. Unlike dedication fees required through development, one-time impact fees can be applied to finance nearby recreation facilities.

Taxation

Communities can vote to raise tax money in support of MCPRD and greenway efforts.

Friends of Parks

With increasing competition for general revenues and government funds each year and less funding to spread around, many municipalities have created foundations or programs that help establish organizations that assist with raising alternate funding sources for parks and recreation systems. Such a foundation could help support the MCPRD through the raising of funds to support programs and projects throughout the system, receiving of in-kind donations of materials and time to help keep parks and facilities enjoyable for the residents of Macon County or to help receive donation of land for expansion of the recreation and parks system. Some organizations can establish and manage endowment programs or lead annual fund-raising events. The roles and

responsibilities of a “Friends of Parks” would need to be determined when establishing the program and its management Board.

Private Funding Sources

Macon County has many local businesses, regional offices and industries located within the county. The county should establish a list of business owners through the Chamber of Commerce to seek financial and volunteer support for local events and park improvements.

User Fees

Counties and municipalities typically charge a variety of user fees for recreational services and facilities within a park system. These fees are usually associated with special program participation and facility use. Macon County should review, update and impose small user fees for the use and upkeep of these facilities and programs.

The membership and user fees generated at the an indoor recreation center should be allowed to remain at the recreation center for upkeep and maintenance.

Volunteer Work

Local and regional volunteers can help with park and greenway development, maintenance and monetary donations. Local organizations looking for a public service project, like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or conservation groups, would be ideal for this type of participation. All groups and organizations would require prior approval and would be supervised by a representative from the MCPRD.

AmeriCorp's National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)

One type of project these teams of volunteers participate in is trail construction. They have been involved in trail projects in 50 states and have worked in some of North Carolina's state parks. These groups have experience in trail clearing, construction to comply with federal standards and the implementation of erosion control measures.

Grants:

Macon County should continue to apply for, and access county, state and federal grant programs as another method of financing recreation facility acquisition and development. Several grant programs that should be investigated are listed below:

Be Active North Carolina Grant Recipient Program

grants \$2,000 or less for recreation and fitness programs that improve the overall health of a given community and work towards the mission of promotion of physical activity to reduce disease and poor health.

Bikes Belong Coalition

accepts grant applications of up to \$10,000 to assist location organizations in bicycle facility development. More information can be found at: www.bikesbelong.org.

Cherokee Preservation Foundation

This new Foundation uses moneys from Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel to fund projects intended to resolve regional issues, preserve cultural or natural elements and undertake other civic enhancement projects. These grants begin at \$500, but fund projects up to and over \$200,000.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Offered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), this program offers grants to communities for a number of improvements, including additions and improvements to community facilities. Some HUD grant funds have been used for new greenway trail construction.

The Conservation Fund

administers the American Greenways Kodak Awards Program that targets local greenway planning and offers grants of up to \$2,500. More information can be found at: www.conservationfund.org

The Environmental Protection Agency

offers funding through both the Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) for the purposes of providing emergency response access on greenways and other recreational facilities. More information can be found at: www.epa.gov/otag

Eat Smart, Move More

A statewide initiative that promotes increased opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating through policy and environmental change. The Macon County Recreation Master Plan was funded through this grant. Grants for trail enhancement and awareness are available at: www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

supports the creation of park and recreation areas that guarantee perpetual public outdoor recreational opportunities. LWCF Grant funds may be used for planning, acquisition and development of facilities that provide active and/or passive recreation opportunities. More information can be found at: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/lwcf/home1.html or contact the Recreation Resources Service at (828) 296-4500.

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF):

This funding source provides matching funds annually for local park land acquisition, development and renovation to communities across the state. The funding source, which comes from a real estate transfer tax, requires a 50-50 match from local government and no more than \$500,000 can be requested. The Recreation Resources Service should be contacted for additional information (828) 296-4500 or www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/partfund/home.

North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

was established by the General Assembly in 1996 (Article 13A; Chapter 113 of the North Carolina General Statutes). At the end of each fiscal year, 6.5% of the unreserved credit balance in North Carolina's General Fund (or a minimum of \$30 million) will go into the CWMTF. Revenues from the CWMTF will then be allocated in the form of grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation nonprofit groups to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems. CWMTF will fund projects that **(1)** enhance or restore degraded waters, **(2)** protect unpolluted waters, and/or **(3)** contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits. More information can be found at: www.cwmtf.net

Transportation Enhancement Funds

The North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation (G.S. 136-71.12 Funds) that authorizes the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), specifically the Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, to spend any federal, state, local or private funds available to the Department and designated for the accomplishment of Article 4A, Bicycle and Bikeway Act of 1974. In addition, the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty-First Century (TEA-21) requires the Department to set aside federal funds from eligible categories for the construction of bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities. www.ncdot.org

NC DWQ Wetland Restoration Program:

Collects fees from developers for required mitigation for impacting a wetland through development. Funding is available for acquiring land in a degraded watershed or for mitigation on a particular site.

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation Trails Program

DENR, has two trail grants: 1) NC Adopt-A-Trail, 2) NC Recreational Trails Program. Both provide funding assistance for acquisition and development of public trails. They offer full funding up to \$5,000, while the recreation trails grant requires 80:20 cost share up to \$50,000. <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/trails/grant.html> or www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rtpstate.htm

National Heritage Trust Fund

is a supplemental funding source for state agencies to acquire and protect important natural areas, preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory natural heritage resources of the state. <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/heritage/nhtf.html>

National Park Foundation

has a competitive grants program that awards money from \$2,000 to \$50,000 for projects that promote conservation, preservation, and education in parks. NPF seeks parks that need "seed" money for a park or program.

Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse

catalogues several regional specific grant sources and offers useful technical assistance. Information can be found at: www.trailsandgreenways.org

The Trust for Public Land

is currently working with municipalities in the region to help purchase and preserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of communities. www.tpl.org

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

Provides matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban cities. Three types of grants are available: Rehabilitation (provides capital funding to renovate or redesign existing close-to-home facilities), Innovation (funding aimed at supporting specific activities that increase recreation programs or improve efficiency to operate existing programs) and Planning (funding for development of a recovery action program plan).

www.nps.gov/uprr/program_inbrief.html

US Soccer Foundation

Offers grants for project and program development as well as equipment purchases. Grants in 2003 ranged from \$5,000 to \$100,000. More information can be found at: www.ussoccerfoundation.org

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grants

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding and guidance to eligible projects for the improvements of public water-based fishing and wildlife enhancements, recreation planning, along with other watershed protection projects. This grant requires a 50% local match for the above mentioned project types.

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

The ZSR Grants, averaging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 with no actual limit, are awarded to organizations not affiliated with governments or tax-supported agencies. The Foundations grants focus on projects that deal with community economic development, pre-collegiate education, the environment, issues affecting minorities and issues affecting women.

Other Grant Programs

There is a new website that contains information about finding and applying for all federal grant programs. For more information go to: www.grants.gov

Sponsorships:

“Adopt-A” Series :

Macon County can promote parks and greenways and generate interest by developing a local Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Trail, Adopt-A-Greenway or Adopt-A-Playground program that identifies the organization for providing a walk through cleanup four times a year. Some local communities have constructed community playgrounds with its primary funds coming from private donations and volunteer labor. Donators are identified with plaques and recognition markers.

Athletic Programs:

Successful programs are made by donations of time, in-kind gifts and cash donations.

Annual Programs and Special Events:

Underwriting, in-kind gifts and financial support help keep these popular traditions going. Local, private companies partner with the Recreation and Parks Department to bring free or low-cost events to the public. This allows the Department to offer more activities and save tax dollars.

Appendix

User Surveys

MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION MASTER PLAN RECREATION PARTICIPATION AND PREFERENCE SURVEY

The Macon County Parks and Recreation Department wants to hear what its users want for quality parks and recreational opportunities. **TO DO SO, WE NEED YOUR HELP and INPUT!** Please take a few minutes from your busy schedule and help us improve your parks, recreation, and leisure opportunities by letting us know what you think! When you are finished, please return your survey immediately by placing it with the staff at this facility, OR you can drop it off at the Parks & Recreation Office, 1288 Georgia Rd, Franklin, no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday March 9, 2005. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!**

- 1) Your Age: (Please circle one): 5-17 18-30 31-45 46-54 55+
 - 2) Sex: M F
 - 3) Please indicate the number of individuals residing in your household in the following age groups: 0-4 ____ 5-9 ____ 10-14 ____ 15-19 ____ 20-24 ____ 25-34 ____ 35-44 ____ 45-54 ____ 55-64 ____ 65+ ____
 - 4) Are you currently a resident of Macon County? YES NO
Seasonal Year Round
How long have you been a resident of Macon County? _____
 - 5) Have you, or members of your household, used Macon County Parks and Recreation Programs? YES NO If so, which programs?

 - 6) Are there any programs you or members of your household would like to participate in that are not currently provided by the Macon County? (Please list any activities)

 - 7) If you use Macon County Parks and Recreation Programs and/or facilities, how did you hear about them?

- Which Parks and/or facilities have you or members of your household used in Macon County?

- How often have you used them? _____
What is the closest park or facility to your home? _____
What is the travel distance to the closest park or facility? _____

MACON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

9) What recreational activities do you and or members of your household participate in for recreation or exercise? (Please check all that apply)

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swim | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerobics | <input type="checkbox"/> Football |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Rollerblade | <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce | <input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run/Jog | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga | <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe | <input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Daycamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Sail | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Observation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball-Fast Pitch | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball-Slow Pitch | | | |

Please list activities you participate in that are not listed above:

10) Do you use any school or private facilities for recreation? If so, which ones?

11) How often do you exercise a week? (Please Circle One): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 days

12) What activity do you or your family members participate in most frequently for exercise?

13) Have you or members of your household attended Special events presented by Macon County? YES NO

If so, which ones? _____

14) Do you visit local or regional cultural or historical sites? YES NO

If so, where in NC have you visited?

15) Overall, how would you rate the recreational programs and facilities offered by Macon County? Excellent____ Good____ Fair____ Poor____ Don't Know____

16) Additional Comments and Recreation Recommendations:

MACON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Macon County Recreation Master Plan					
Public Meeting Survey Results					
Public Meeting Totals					
138 Surveys Total					
1. Your Age:					
	5-17				34
	18-30				21
	31-45				61
	46-54				27
	55+				43
	None Indicated				1
2. Gender:					
	Male				69
	Female				116
	None Indicated				2
3. Please indicate the number of individuals residing in your household in the following age groups:					
	0-4				51
	5-9				52
	10-14				76
	15-19				46
	20-24				15
	25-34				59
	35-44				78
	45-54				70
	55-64				41
	65+				35
4. Are you currently a resident of Macon County?					
	Yes				177
	No				9
	None Indicated				1
If Yes, are you:					
	Seasonal				6
	Year Round				143
	None Indicated				38
5. Have you or members of your household used park and recreation facilities or programs within Macon County?					
	Yes				175
	No				12
6. If you checked "Yes" on Number 5, how did you hear about the recreation programs or facilities?					
	Word of Mouth				54
	Newspaper				40
	Schools				15
This represents the top three responses. For a complete list of responses, please see the Attached Comment Sheets					

7. Are there any recreation or leisure programs you, or members of your household, would like to participate in that are not currently provided within Macon County? (Please list any activities)			
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets			
8. Which parks, recreation, or other leisure facilities have you or members of your household used in Macon County and approximately how often do you use them?			
What is the closest park or facility to your home?			
What is the estimated travel distance to the closest park or facility?			
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets			
9. What recreational activities do you and or members of your household participate in for recreation or exercise? (Please check all that apply)			
Swim			121
Walk			152
Skateboard			36
Run/Jog			74
Canoe/paddling			38
Climbing			30
Softball-Slow Pitch			52
Wildlife Observation			66
Baseball			42
Soccer			50
Horseshoes			28
Kayak			23
Basketball			83
Day Camps			20
Mountain Bike			42
Rollerblade			24
Bicycle			71
Tennis			38
Martial Arts			19
Arts & Crafts			45
Dog Walking			59
Senior Games			20
Aerobics			43
Bocce			5
Fishing			92
Yoga			30
Golf			45
Softball-Fast Pitch			16
Playground			75
Camping/RVing			67
Football			43
Frisbee			29
Volleyball			58
Hiking			88
Picnic			103
Please list any activities you participate in that are not listed above:			
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets			

10. Do you use any school or private facilities for recreation? If so, which ones?				
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets				
11. How many days/week do you exercise?				
	0			6
	1			8
	2			15
	3			53
	4			27
	5			40
	6			14
	7			18
	None Indicated			6
12. What exercise activities do you or your family members participate in most frequently?				
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets				
13. Have you or members of your household attended Special Events presented by Macon County?				
	Yes			96
	No			72
	None Indicated			24
If so, which ones?				
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets				
14. Do you visit local or regional cultural or historical sites?				
	Yes			121
	No			57
	None Indicated			9
15. Overall, how would you rate the recreational programs and facilities offered by Macon County?				
	Excellent			17
	Good			64
	Fair			61
	Poor			30
	Don't Know			9
	None Indicated			6
16. Additional Comment and Recreation Recommendations:				
See Comments on Attached Comment Sheets				

8. Which parks, recreation, or other leisure facilities have you or members of your household used in Macon County and approximately how often do you use them?

Greenway	D:	13		
	W:	16		
	M:	9		
	Y:	2	Total:	30.00
Rec Park	D:	1		
	W:	15		
	M:	15		
	Y:	13	Total:	23.00
Rec pool	D:	4		
	W:	7		
	M:	5		
	Y:	5	Total:	13.00
Rec/Fitness Center	D:	7		
	W:	5		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	11.25
Community Building	D:	0		
	W:	14		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	11.00
Highlands Rec Park	D:	3		
	W:	7		
	M:	1		
	Y:	1	Total:	9.00
Fields	D:	1		
	W:	7		
	M:	2		
	Y:	2	Total:	7.75
Softball fields	D:	4		
	W:	3		
	M:	2		
	Y:	2	Total:	7.75
Gym (b-ball)	D:	1		
	W:	7		
	M:	1		
	Y:	2	Total:	7.25
Baseball	D:	0		
	W:	7		
	M:	2		
	Y:	2	Total:	6.75

Nantahala Rec Park	D:	0		
	W:	4		
	M:	6		
	Y:	1	Total:	6.25
Tennis	D:	1		
	W:	4		
	M:	3		
	Y:	1	Total:	5.75
Schools	D:	3		
	W:	3		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	5.50
Basketball	D:	2		
	W:	4		
	M:	0		
	Y:	2	Total:	5.50
Playgrounds	D:	1		
	W:	2		
	M:	4		
	Y:	2	Total:	5.00
Nantahala Rec Park	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	4		
	Y:	4	Total:	4.00
National Forest	D:	0		
	W:	3		
	M:	3		
	Y:	0	Total:	3.75
Volleyball	D:	0		
	W:	5		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	3.75
Walk	D:	1		
	W:	3		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	3.25
Track	D:	3		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	3.00

Walking Trails	D:	1		
	W:	2		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	3.00
Industrial Park	D:	0		
	W:	3		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	2.75
Natahala School	D:	2		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	2.75
Rivers	D:	0		
	W:	3		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	2.50
East Franklin School	D:	1		
	W:	1		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	2.25
Big Bear	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	2		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.75
Nantahala School Gym	D:	1		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.75
Wesley Powell Park	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	2		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.75
Franklin Health & Fitness	D:	0		
	W:	2		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.50
Line Dancing	D:	0		
	W:	2		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.50

South Macon	D:	0		
	W:	2		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.50
Georgia Road	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.25
Pavillions	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	2		
	Y:	1	Total:	1.25
Body Visions Gym	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Cartoogechaye School	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	1.00
Christian Training Center	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Fairground	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	1.00
Highlands Civic Center	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	1.00
Highlands Pool	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Lake	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	1.00

Library	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Running	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Skate	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Soccer	D:	1		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	1.00
Aerobics	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Badminton	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Bike	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Golf	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Gym at Civic Center	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Hiking	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75

Meeting Rooms	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Nantahala Boating	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Nantahala Walking Track	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Otto Elementary School	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Queens Lake	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Swim	D:	0		
	W:	1		
	M:	0		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.75
Buck Creek Park	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.50
Cliffside Lake	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	2	Total:	0.50
Fun Factory	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.50
Highland Nature Center	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	2	Total:	0.50

JC Park	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.50
Picnic	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.50
Rec Park Picnic	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.50
Sunset Rock	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	2	Total:	0.50
Wayah Bald Picnic	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	1		
	Y:	0	Total:	0.50
4 th July	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	2	Total:	0.50
Arts and crafts	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Camping @ Standing Indian	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Dry Falls	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Fine Arts Center	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25

Hunting	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Macon County	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Nantahala	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Senior Games	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25
Standing Indian	D:	0		
	W:	0		
	M:	0		
	Y:	1	Total:	0.25

Public Open Houses

What types of recreation do you participate in on a regular basis?

Please mark a box beside all types of recreation that apply.
If a recreation type is not listed, please fill in a blank box below.

Baseball		Softball	
Basketball		Swimming	
Bicycling		Tennis	
Camping		Walking	
Fishing			
Football			
Golf			
Picnics			
Playgrounds			
Running			
Soccer			

Macon County Recreation Master Plan
Public Meeting Participation Board Results
 Meeting One: Nantahala
 2.8.05

Which Macon County recreational facilities do you use?

Cartoogechaye Park	0
Cullasaja Park	0
Highlands Ballfield (Highlands)	0
Highlands Recreation Park (Highlands)	0
Industrial Park Recreation Facilities	0
Little Tennessee Greenway	0
Macon Recreation Park	9
Nantahala Recreation Park	33
South Macon Recreation Park	0
Macon County Bucks Creek Recreation Complex	0
Cartoogechaye Elementary	1
Cowee Elementary	0
Cullasaja Elementary	0
East Franklin Elementary	0
Franklin High School	0
Highlands K-12	0
Iotla Elementary	0
Macon County Middle School	2
Nantahala K-12	42
South Macon Elementary	0
Union Alternative School	0

What types of recreation do you participate in on a regular basis?

Baseball	8
Basketball	31
Bicycling	16
Camping	22
Fishing	27
Football	14
Golf	8
Picnics	18
Playgrounds	23
Running	13
Soccer	8
Softball	11
Swimming	25
Tennis	2
Walking	25
Others: (submitted by participants)	
Ping Pong	22
Travel	15
Skateboarding	13

What types of recreational facilities and programs would you like to see in Macon County? (submitted by participants)

Aerobics	14
Swimming Pool	23
Ping Pong	19
Toning Classes (men and women)	13
Senior Striders walking activities	6
Parent-Children Recreation Activities- hiking, camping, field trips, etc	15
Swimming Lessons- Franklin or Andrews	4
Arts and Crafts (children and adults)	21
Basketball	24
Softball	15
Recreational Swimming Area at Nantahala Lake	23
Picnic Area at Nantahala Lake	19
Camping	17
Girls Football	15
Skatepark	20
Playground	5
Racquet Ball	2
Baseball	3

Additional Comments posted during this Open House.

Need public access for swimming at Nantahala and Queens Creek Lakes, Beach area with Picnic Tables

Nantahala Recreation Park- Open on weekends and have scheduled activities such as: ping pong, softball leagues (church, schools, etc.), field trips for students w/ planned activities, director should communicate w/ community clubs and school PTO

Activities for all different age groups: youth, teens, parents, seniors

Money for equipment

Schedule for suitable activities for all ages

Regular community meetings with recreation staff

FERC Agreement Recreation Facilities

LISTING OF ACCESS AREA WORK PLANNED FOR NANTAHALA AREA IN MACON COUNTY AS RESULT OF RELICENSING

YEAR (PLAN #)	PROJECT	EST. START DATE	EST. FINISH DATE	GENERAL SCOPE OF PROJECTS
2006				
	Big Choga 1st Stage Nantahala Project	Jan-06	Dec-06	Install pump & haul toilet, add trash cans, add lights designed to minimize effect on fish and wildlife, establish bank fishing area
	Rocky Branch 1st Stage Nantahala Project	Jan-06	Dec-06	Install pump & haul toilet, add trash cans, add lights designed to minimize effect on fish and wildlife, establish bank fishing area
	Lake Nantahala Primitive Camping (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-06	Dec-06	Reimbursement to the USFS for construction of scattered boat-accessible-only primitive camping on USFS owned property
	Lake Nantahala Wildlife Viewing Platform Nantahala Project	Jan-06	Dec-06	Construction of one wildlife viewing platform at either the Big Choga Access Area, Rocky Creek Access Area or on USFS owned property
	Power Canal Nantahala Project	Jan-06	Dec-06	ADA Accessible Fishing Access Area w/ parking area on Nantahala River Bypass just upstream of its confluence with the power canal. River Mile 14.0
	Franklin Canoe Portage Franklin Project	Jan-06	Dec-06	Construct canoe portage for tote and float use with parking area to portage around the Franklin Project Dam
2007				
	River Mile 16.5 Bypass Site (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-07	Dec-07	Construction of parking lot for at least five cars and an access trail to the Nantahala River Bypassed Reach on USFS-owned property on Wayah Road below Cascades
	Lake Emory Franklin Project	Jan-07	Dec-07	Construct ramp and gravel parking area on Lake Emory on Duke property off of Lakeside Drive
2008				
	River Mile 17.0 Bypass Site (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-08	Dec-08	Construction of parking lot for at least five cars and a viewing platform on USFS-owned property along Wayah Road at the "Horns of God" rapid in the Cascades section
	River Mile 17.8 Bypass Site	Jan-08	Dec-08	Construction of parking lot for at least five cars on USFS-owned property along Old

**LISTING OF ACCESS AREA WORK PLANNED FOR NANTAHALA AREA
IN MACON COUNTY AS RESULT OF RELICENSING**

YEAR (PLAN #)	PROJECT	EST. START DATE	EST. FINISH DATE	GENERAL SCOPE OF PROJECTS
	(O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project			River Rd at Slot Falls
2010				
	Big Choga Parking Lot Paving Nantahala Project	Jan-10	Dec-10	Pave Parking Lot
	Rocky Branch Parking Lot Paving Nantahala Project	Jan-10	Dec-10	Pave Parking Lot
2011				
	River Mile 19.0 Bypass Site (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-11	Dec-12	Construction of parking lot for at least three cars along Old River Road at Cocktail Falls on USFS-owned property
	River Mile 17.6 Bypass Site (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-11	Dec-12	Construction of parking lot for at least three cars along Old River Road near White Oak Creek on USFS-owned property
2012				
	River Mile 19.0 Bypass Site (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-11	Dec-12	Construction of parking lot for at least three cars along Old River Road at Cocktail Falls on USFS-owned property
	River Mile 17.6 Bypass Site (O&M Possibly) Nantahala Project	Jan-11	Dec-12	Construction of parking lot for at least three cars along Old River Road near White Oak Creek on USFS-owned property

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