

# Open Space, Parks and Greenways



***In 2015, people use our county-wide greenway system for outdoor recreation and to walk or bike to parks, schools, work, and shopping.***

**O**n a clear summer day from atop the new Wachovia tower in downtown Winston-Salem, Forsyth County still seems to offer vast open and green vistas in all directions. But the view from twenty-eight stories up is deceptive. Our County has been losing much of its distinctive green space to development at an increasing rate. Tracts of farmland and forests, privately owned land that make up much of our current open space, are being leveled and paved over for residential subdivisions, retail centers, office parks and the roads that connect and serve them. While there is no consensus on whether this growth is good or bad, people can agree that once the use of the land is changed and open space disappears, it rarely returns.

This loss of open space affects the quality of our lives. Just as we need places to live, work and shop, we also need open space for recreation and to preserve our connection with nature. In an increasingly urban community, we need ribbons of green just as much as we need ribbons of asphalt.

As we lose additional privately owned open space to development, we need to expand public open space, parks and greenways. This green space will enhance community character and add to the quality of our lives by providing opportunities for healthy outdoor activities and quiet reflection. It will help preserve the quantity and quality of our streams and water supplies, protect our homes from flooding, contribute wildlife habitat and increase the value of surrounding properties.

## Our Vision

Although the topic of open space, parks and greenways was not assigned to a specific Legacy Focus Group, many groups discussed these subjects in developing their visions. The results of their work related to open space, parks, and greenways have been brought together to serve as the basis of the vision for this Open Space, Parks and Greenways chapter.

### *In the year 2015 we envision that...*

- ☉ Forsyth County residents enjoy a vast regional system of community parks, significant natural areas, and preserved open space all connected by a green network of trails and streams.
- ☉ Our well-maintained park system provides opportunities for fun and relaxation for all and recreational opportunities are located just minutes from every resident’s home.
- ☉ People use our county-wide greenway system for outdoor recreation and to walk or bike to parks, schools, work, and shopping.
- ☉ Our public open spaces are extensive, providing a break from development and serving to protect natural resources.
- ☉ Local governments in Forsyth County have come together with each other and private providers to efficiently meet the diverse recreation needs of residents.

## Goals, Objectives, Policies and Action Agenda

### Goal:

**Forsyth County residents enjoy an extensive system of parks and preserved natural areas connected by a network of open spaces and greenways.**

.....

### Objective 1: Open Space System

***A system of open spaces and corridors throughout Forsyth County that provides recreational opportunities, environmental protection, enjoyment of nature, enhancement of community character, and links to community resources.***

A system is an assemblage or combination of things or parts forming a complex or unitary whole. Just as it is advantageous for planning and management purposes to think about a street system or a water system, we need to think also of the various elements of our open space as a system. Thinking of open space in this way and drawing the various elements together as an interconnected network can improve connectivity for both people and wildlife.

A linked open space system offers the potential for an extensive system of pathways and trails that people can use to walk from neighborhoods

to parks, schools, and other destinations. For wildlife, the connectivity provided by a system of stream corridors, wetlands, and forested areas may be crucial to their survival. An open space network can provide corridors that allow wildlife access and safe passage to their remaining habitat. An open space system will also help define and buffer neighborhoods and provide visual relief and contrast from our built environment.

The broadest definition of open space includes land which does not have structures for residential, commercial, institutional or industrial use. These lands may be in a natural state (e.g., nature preserves, flood plains and wetlands) or a developed state (e.g., playing fields, plazas, cemeteries). They may also be in the public domain (e.g., municipal parks, commercial plazas), or in the private domain (e.g., residential common areas, golf courses, farms, woodlots, etc.).

A more restricted definition for open space is used in this plan. Open space is defined as land that has been preserved and protected by purchase, conservation easements, dedication and/or donation to a public agency or land trust, and by environmental regulations, or land that is identified for future protection by these means. These categories of open space may be under public or private ownership and may or may not be open for public access and use.

Lands suitable for inclusion in the Forsyth County open space system can include the following open space categories and are shown on the Open Space System Map (Figure 8.1).

- Public parks and greenways;

- Flood control land along streams identified by the National Flood Insurance Program which has restrictions for development;
- Wetlands protected under the national *Clean Water Act* and other wetlands of local significance;
- Land in the Forsyth County Farmland Preservation Program; (See Chapter 3)
- Land identified in the Forsyth County Natural Heritage Inventory as containing endangered, threatened, or rare species or natural communities characteristic of our region; (See Chapter 7)
- Land containing resources of significant historic and archeological value; and,
- Lands possessing special scenic qualities visible from roads, parks, greenways, streams and rivers and hilltops.

Generally, jurisdictions in Forsyth County have focused on acquiring open space for active recreational use, not environmental quality or natural resource protection, due to both policy issues and funding limitations. There are some exceptions, however. Two of Winston-Salem’s largest parks, Salem Lake and Historic Bethabara, have the primary purpose of resource protection. The County owns two historic courthouse sites that are not currently open to the public.

Parks do provide opportunities for both recreation and meeting other open space objectives if

we develop park facilities in a manner that respects and values natural resources and environmental quality. Park development that is sensitive to the environment and is aesthetically pleasing can be beneficial in its own right and serve as an example to private development efforts.

**Policies**

- Fund the acquisition of open space for natural resource protection.
- Encourage land owners to donate identified land for the open space system using conservation easements and other voluntary means.
- Consider the potential for protection of natural resources as an important factor when identifying new park sites.
- Develop park facilities in a manner that is sensitive to the environment, protects historic and natural features and is aesthetically pleasing.

**Action Agenda**

- Maintain an inventory and map of open space land including flood-prone streams, wetlands, greenways, parks, protected farmland and unique wildlife habitat areas.
- Consider the establishment of a joint City/County Open Space and Greenway Advisory Committee /Commission to advise on open space and greenway plans and policy, land acquisition, and public information on open space and greenways.

**Objective 2  
Park and Open Space Standards**

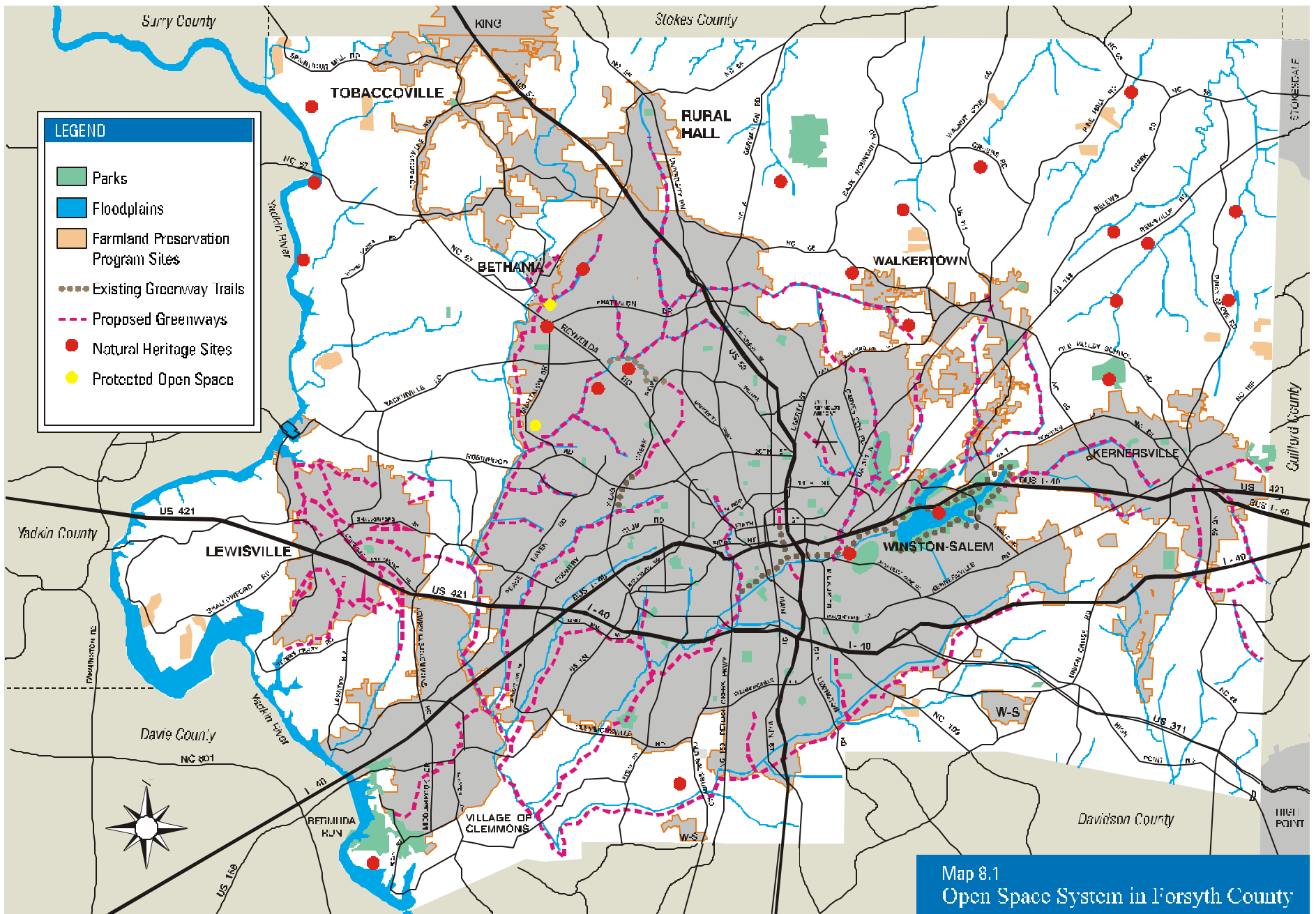
***Provision of park land and open space areas that meet the needs of current and future generations.***

Parks are publicly owned open space developed with facilities for active and/or passive recreation use. Parks provide a place to play and to enhance physical and mental well-being. Parks can be a focus of community identity and character. Undeveloped publicly owned open space is also an important community resource and can be land held for future recreation use or held as permanent open space to preserve natural features. Parks and undeveloped open space can serve as a buffer between developed areas and provide a break from the closed-in feeling often associated with extensive urban and suburban development.

As our community becomes more urban and private open space is lost to development, the need to provide parks and other publicly owned open space becomes more pressing, difficult and expensive. Indeed, a necessary requirement and key component of the success of the more compact and higher density development advocated in this plan will be the provision of open space. Unfortunately, in the last 10 years, the amount of publicly owned open space in Forsyth County per 1000 residents has decreased.

*Vision 2005* included recommendations related to open space, parks, and greenways, but a comprehensive parks and recreation plan for our community has not been prepared since the

# OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND GREENWAYS



1970s. The need for a new plan has been recognized and a comprehensive Open Space, Parks, and Greenways Plan for Winston-Salem and Forsyth County is currently being prepared by City-County Planning staff with assistance from the City and County Recreation Departments. The plan will include: an inventory of existing recreational facilities; a geographic analysis of current and future recreation needs relative to adopted standards; specific recommendations for new recreation facilities and sites; and, identification of potential funding mechanisms and other implementation measures.

Park and recreation facility standards were adopted by the City-County Planning Board and the Winston-Salem Recreation Commission in the spring of 1997 to use in the geographic analysis of the recreation plan. The local standards were adapted from criteria developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association and North Carolina's *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. The standards should not be seen as rigid requirements, but rather as guidelines which provide a consistent basis for evaluating existing facilities and comparing the level of service provided in different areas of the community. Most importantly, standards can help set goals for acquiring new park land and providing additional facilities.

The adopted local standards establish separate criteria for parks and major recreational facilities. The park standards include park types, desirable size, service population, service radius, and a recommended minimum amount of park acreage per 1000 residents for three types of parks. Recreation facility standards were adopted for major facilities, such as recreation centers, ball fields, and trail

miles, and include a service radius and recommended minimum number of units per population (e.g., 1 tennis court for each 2,000 people.)

The standards adopted in 1997 are primarily for active recreation areas and facilities and did not include standards for special or regional parks, such as Tanglewood or Salem Lake Park, or for publicly owned open space. For municipal areas, the following minimum numbers of acres per 1000 residents were established for three park types: neighborhood parks – 2.5 acres; community parks – 5 acres; and district parks – 10 acres. Only the district park standard of 10 acres per 1000 residents was adopted for the unincorporated area of Forsyth County since neighborhood and community parks are considered a municipal service.

To emphasize the importance of large regional parks and the need for open space for other than strictly recreational use, an additional standard for other publicly owned open space is needed. A standard of 10 acres per 1000 residents is recommended. The other publicly owned open space could include special and regional parks and natural or historic resource protection areas. The regional park/open space standard should be incorporated into the park and facility standards and used in the analysis of the *Open Space, Parks and Greenways Plan*.

Table 8.1  
**Forsyth County Parks and Open Space Needs**

	Existing Acreage	Standard per 1000 persons	Additional Acres Needed to Meet Current Needs	Additional Acres Needed to Meet 2015 Needs
<b>Municipalities</b>				
Neighborhood Parks	339	2.5 acres	247	392
Community Parks	388	5 acres	785	1072
<b>Municipalities &amp; Unincorporated Areas</b>				
District Parks	2413	10 acres	648	1241
Regional Parks/other	2819	10 acres	242	835
<b>Total County</b>	<b>5959</b>		<b>1922</b>	<b>3540</b>

Based on the adopted park standards and the recommended open space standard, our County should have a total of 27.5 acres of parks and publicly owned open space for each 1000 municipal residents and a total of 20 acres for each 1000 residents of the unincorporated area of Forsyth County. Applying these standards, we need an additional 1,922 acres to meet current needs and an additional 3,540 acres to meet the needs of the projected 365,435 Forsyth County residents in 2015 (See Table 8.1). The *Open Space, Parks and Greenways Plan* will identify needs in specific geographic areas and make recommendations for acquisition and development of new park and recreation facilities.

**Policies**

- Include open space planning in all aspects of comprehensive planning, including transportation plans, facility plans, and area plans.
- Educate citizens on the importance of and need for parks, greenways and open spaces in their community.

**Action Agenda**

- Complete a comprehensive Forsyth County *Open Space, Parks and Greenways Plan* to inventory existing facilities, identify current and projected needs, and recommend future facility development and land acquisition.

**Objective 3  
Parks and Recreation Facilities**

***Provide parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of a diverse population at accessible locations throughout Forsyth County.***

Parks include facilities for both active uses, such a recreation centers, playgrounds, ballfields and ball courts, and for more passive uses, such as picnic areas, nature and walking trails, and greenways. Currently, there are over 97 public parks in all of Forsyth County, encompassing approximately 5959 acres. The City of Winston-Salem has the most extensive system, generally emphasizing active recreation facilities.

Forsyth County’s role in recreation has been to provide basic recreational opportunities for residents of the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County and special facilities for all residents of Forsyth County.

Forsyth County’s current recreation focus is on development of the 426 acre Triad Park, a joint venture with Guilford County, located on the Forsyth/Guilford County line (Map 5.2). Tanglewood Park and SciWorks (the Forsyth County Environmental Science Center) are also

owned by Forsyth County. There is also a wide range of recreation facilities in the Forsyth County School System. These include track and tennis facilities, ballfields and gymnasiums. The widest range of facilities is located at high schools. However, it appears that high school facilities are generally not widely available for use by the general public because of the high demand for their use for school activities.

Elementary and middle school recreation facilities are more available for public use. There is ongoing cooperation between the schools and recreation departments on the use of some of these school recreation facilities for public recreation. The City Recreation Department, for example, uses school gyms in areas without community recreation centers. The schools also have access to public park and recreation facilities located adjacent to schools. In some of the



***Parks and community open spaces typically provide a place to play, but they can also serve to create a sense of community.***

smaller municipalities, with limited public recreational facilities, school facilities are heavily used by residents. It is estimated that recreational facilities located on approximately five hundred acres of school sites are used or have the potential to be used for public recreation.

Generally, active recreation facilities are an urban service, to be provided by municipalities.

New residents expect recreation facilities to be provided along with other urban services when they are annexed into or become part of a municipality. However, some of the newer municipalities in Forsyth County have not yet provided facilities to meet the recreation needs of their residents and continue to rely on County, private, school and City of Winston-Salem facilities. Table 8.2 lists the existing number of parks, total acres, and acreage per 1000 residents for each jurisdiction in Forsyth County.

A challenge for recreation facilities and recreation programs is meeting the needs of a diverse population. One example of diversity is that our population is aging and at the same time, we will have a record number of school age children over the next decade. Older adults typically favor passive recreation activities, such as walking, while school age children place high demand on athletic fields and other active recreation facilities. Another challenge is using limited resources to provide facilities at convenient locations throughout the community.

Parks and community open spaces typically provide a place to play, but they can also serve to create a sense of community. Grace Court Park in Winston-Salem’s West End, with its charming gazebo, provides neighborhood residents with a place to meet and hold celebrations. The Town of Lewisville’s new town center, Shallowford Square, offers not only a meeting place, but provides a central focus for their community life and establishes downtown as the heart of their community.

Pocket parks are small open spaces located in urban neighborhoods which provide recreation or green spaces for nearby residents. Grace Court

Park in the West End neighborhood near downtown Winston-Salem is a pocket park. The more compact development proposed in the Growth Management Plan for some areas in Forsyth County may require additional pocket parks to provide needed green space in these denser urban environments.

For parks and other community open spaces to be used they must be safe places, especially for children and older adults. Although law enforcement and community surveillance are a major part of park safety, the physical design of parks can also play an important role in assuring that parks are community resources, not places of fear and avoidance. The physical design and community building methods used to help reduce crime is often called *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* and is discussed in more detail in the Community Life Chapter.

**Policies**

- Continue development, enhancement and maintenance of the system of County parks and open space areas, which provide for the general recreation needs of residents of Forsyth County. Provide large multipurpose parks and special facilities for all citizens of Forsyth County and consider providing more active recreation facilities.
- Continue development, enhancement and maintenance of the City of Winston-Salem’s system of parks and facilities which offer a variety of recreation opportunities through regional, district, community, and neighborhood parks, supplemented by school grounds, playlots and special facilities.

- Commit to and fund development of parks within all municipalities in Forsyth County to meet the general recreational needs of municipal residents.
- Provide diverse facilities and programs at conveniently and equitably distributed locations to

**Table 8.2  
Forsyth County Parks By Jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction	Number of Parks	Total Acreage	Acres/ 1000 persons
<b>Forsyth County</b> <sup>1</sup>	15	2384	7.8
<b>Municipalities</b>	82	3575	15.2
Winston-Salem	72	3575	18.3
Rural Hall <sup>2</sup>	2	30	12.1
Tobaccoville	1	14	6.3
Kernersville	5	111	6.5
Walkertown <sup>3</sup>	1	25	6.2
Lewisville	1	3	0.3
Clemmons <sup>4</sup>	*	*	0
Bethania	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> All County owned facilities including 2 historic sites not open to the general public.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes 25 undeveloped acres adjacent to an existing park.  
<sup>3</sup> Site has not yet been developed for recreation use.  
<sup>4</sup> Clemmons has no Village-owned park land but has provided funding to the West Forsyth YMCA for outdoor recreation facilities.

meet the basic recreational interests of children, teenagers, and adults, recognizing the special needs of the elderly, disadvantaged and disabled citizens.

- ❑ Provide a park or central public space in all neighborhoods or communities to be an urban geographic reference point and focus of civic and community life where people can gather to play, celebrate, interact, and learn about each other.
- ❑ Consider safety, security, and aesthetics when designing new and improving existing public spaces and recreation facilities.

**Objective 4.  
Greenways**

***A network of greenways providing recreational opportunities, open space, protection of our natural environment and open space, and alternative transportation links between neighborhoods and activity areas.***

Greenways are linear parks left in a natural undeveloped state except for a system of trails. Those trails connect points of interest such as parks, schools, shopping and neighborhoods. Stream corridors, railroad rights-of-way, and undeveloped land are among the most common places for greenway development.

The greenway concept has been around for over a hundred years in a variety of forms. Greenways have once again become popular within the last

twenty years and can now be found across the nation. *Vision 2005* identified 120 miles of potential greenways focused along major streams in Forsyth County. Sixteen miles of trails have already been built. The greenway map (Map 8.1) shows most trails identified in *Vision 2005* and in small area and community plans completed since the adoption of *Vision 2005*, along with some new community and neighborhood connections.

Behind the greenway effort is the concept of connectivity, linking our communities and neighborhoods through a network of open space. Traditional neighborhood and community parks will be needed for our future residents and the proposed greenway system can provide a link to our park system. In fact, greenways can be used to provide some of the overall acreage needed for future recreation. Greenways can provide popular recreational activities such as jogging, walking, bicycling and skating. The popularity of the existing trails for walking and jogging shows the continuing interest in this form of exercise. Greenways are also passive recreational areas where picnicking, bird-watching and enjoyment of nature take place.

Greenways also provide many environmental benefits. The existing and proposed greenway system in Forsyth County focuses on a flood-

plain-oriented linear park network left primarily in its natural state. By retaining floodplain vegetation along greenways, surface water runoff can be reduced, erosion controlled, water supplies protected, flood damage lessened, and critical ground water recharge areas safeguarded.

Additional benefits greenways provide are enhancement of the urban environment through air quality, temperature, and noise moderation obtained from the conservation of vegetation. This vegetation can also serve as a buffer strip between neighborhoods and competing land uses.

Linear in nature, greenways can also function to preserve wildlife habitat. Often critical in linking “islands” of wildlife habitat,

greenways can help to overcome fragmentation of wildlife populations and provide wildlife corridors allowing a greater diversity of animals to travel through and survive within urban areas.

Greenway trails as part of the transportation system are covered in Chapter 4, “Transportation Options.” It is important to note that non-driving citizens, including the elderly, disabled, and young people, can utilize greenway trails to reach nearby neighborhood-scale shopping and services, schools,



*Behind the greenway effort is the concept of connectivity, linking our communities and neighborhoods through a network of open space.*

churches, and public open space. The greenway system could also function as a reasonable and safe alternative to streets for short commuter trips.

Greenways typically run along floodplains and stream corridors. However, when stream based routes are not available or practical, paths parallel to roadways can supplement or link stream based greenway trails. Paths, similar to sidewalks or bikeways, can be developed parallel to roads with a green buffer zone between the roadway and the pathway. This placement of greenway trails is often necessary when linking different watersheds and may be useful in densely developed areas. Acquiring land to parallel existing roadways is difficult and expensive and should be considered only when other options are not available. Construction of new roads, however, presents greater opportunities. Developing paths for bikes and pedestrians parallel to new roads should be considered as part of the planning for all new road projects.

A regional greenway which would link our county-wide greenway system to other cities, people and resources in the Triad is discussed in the Regional Planning and Development chapter. The proposed Open Space/Greenway Committee/Commission (see Objective 1 - Action Agenda) could be responsible for developing a land acquisition program, reviewing plans, setting policy and educating the public on the value of greenways.

**Policies**

- Continue to develop a county-wide system of greenways that links neighborhoods, parks,

schools, shopping and employment areas, and activity centers and which is linked to the Triad regional greenway system.

- Utilize the Greenway Plan to identify greenway needs when planning new parks, identifying and purchasing parkland, and reviewing public projects.
- Consider locating pedestrian and bike paths parallel to roads in all road planning projects to supplement and link greenways.
- Continue requiring the dedication of greenway easements along identified potential greenway corridors through the zoning and subdivision process and obtain greenway easements together with sewer easements.
- Encourage the use of tax benefits as an incentive for property owners to provide greenway easements where potential corridors are identified.
- Encourage new residential development to connect with the greenway system and retrofit existing neighborhoods with connections.

**Action Agenda**

- Complete a Greenway Plan as a part of the comprehensive *Open Space, Parks and Greenways Plan* to identify: potential greenway corridors, such as easements, rights-of-way, and natural corridors; methods of acquisition; and, a development schedule.

**Objective 5  
Coordination and Cooperation**

***Increase coordination and cooperation between governmental jurisdictions, institutions, and recreation providers to efficiently meet the recreation and open space needs of citizens.***

Local governments are among the numerous providers of recreational facilities in Forsyth County. Other providers include businesses, civic clubs, little leagues, churches, schools, tenant/homeowners associations and nonprofit organizations.

Government owned and operated facilities are not the only way for local jurisdictions to meet the recreation needs of their citizens. There are many opportunities for local governments to work with other providers to meet recreation needs effectively and efficiently. Many examples of cooperation already exist. The City Recreation Department uses school gyms in areas without community recreation centers. The Village of Clemmons provides funding to the West Forsyth YMCA for outdoor recreational facilities. Little leagues and Optimist’s Soccer use school and City owned facilities. There are, however, many other opportunities for cooperation and coordination. For example, there is a long history of sharing school and park facilities, but there is currently no system in place to assure that recreation needs of an area are considered when new school sites are acquired. More attention also needs to be given to cooperation with the City-County Utilities Commission on the reclamation and pos-

sible reuse of landfill sites, and the use of utility corridors and other sites under its jurisdiction for parks, greenways and other recreation facilities.

Local governments can also work with other local governments to jointly provide recreation facilities for their residents. An example of regional government cooperation is operation of the Triad Park which is jointly owned and operated by Forsyth and Guilford Counties. Since Guilford County does not have a parks department, it decided to contract with Forsyth County to provide all maintenance for the park. In Forsyth County, the Winston-Salem and Forsyth County recreation departments could work together to jointly develop new or expand existing recreation facilities to serve local residents. Municipalities without parks departments or maintenance staff could contract with other jurisdictions to operate or maintain facilities within their communities.

There are also many opportunities for local governments to coordinate with others to provide open space and protect natural and historic resources in Forsyth County. Agencies and organizations playing a role in protecting open space and natural resources in Forsyth County include: the Farmland Preservation Program; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; the North Carolina Department of Transportation; the Piedmont Land Conservancy; the Nature Conservancy; and the Trust for Public Lands. Additional coordination and cooperation among these organizations could provide efficiencies and greater levels of open space and natural resource protection.

**Policies**

- Use existing institutional facilities including schools, libraries, places of worship, and private recreation facilities to meet recreation needs when possible.
- Develop an administrative mechanism for cooperating with the School Board, Forsyth Technical Community College and other municipal and County departments in selecting, designing, and developing new sites to assure dual use of facilities and land.
- Offer programs, services, and facilities which complement and supplement those provided by private organizations and work with private providers to assure citizens affordable access to recreation needs not met by governmental providers.
- Develop partnerships with nonprofit organizations to protect, acquire and manage open space and important natural resource areas.

**Action Agenda**

- Develop intergovernmental and intra-governmental agreements to jointly provide recreation facilities and protect open space.

.....  
**Objective 6:  
 Acquisition, Development and  
 Maintenance**

***Utilize a variety of traditional and innovative methods to acquire, develop and maintain open space, parks, and greenways.***

In this era of limited government funding, finding resources to acquire, develop, and maintain open space and recreational facilities is a great challenge. To adequately meet the recreation needs and interests of citizens, local governments will need to use both traditional and innovative methods.

Acquisition of park land is most appropriate in advance of need when large tracts can be acquired at reasonable cost. Advance acquisition is especially important in the “urban fringe area,” the area that is becoming urbanized and likely to be annexed into a municipality in the next ten to fifteen years. Unfortunately, local governments have had difficulty maintaining and upgrading facilities to serve existing residents, much less acquire land where residential growth will occur in the future. New funding sources and a commitment to advance land acquisition must be developed to deal with this problem and meet future needs.

Currently, the acquisition of park land is considered separate from acquisition of land for other governmental functions, such as new schools and roads. Considering open space needs during planning and land acquisition for other government projects could result in better facility

location and potential cost savings for site selection and land acquisition.

As discussed under Objective 5 above, coordination and cooperation among jurisdictions in Forsyth County and with non-profit and for-profit recreational providers affords many opportunities to efficiently meet community recreation needs.

Educating citizens about the needs and benefits of parks, open space, and greenways will increase the community acceptance of facilities and could make acquisition easier by increasing support for bond referenda and other funding and acquisition measures.

### Policies

- Consider a variety of methods to acquire and develop recreation facilities and to provide open space including, but not limited to, general revenue funds, voter approved bond issues, federal and State funds, fee simple donations, conservation easements, restrictive covenants, transfer of development rights programs, purchase of development rights, leasing of land, special tax levies and required dedications or fees-in-lieu of dedication.
- Identify and acquire open space in advance of need to obtain land at the most appropriate locations and at reasonable cost.
- Consider potential acquisition of park land and open space in the site identification and procurement process for all local government property and facility acquisitions.

- Make temporary recreational use of existing publicly owned land acquired for other purposes and lease privately owned land for recreation uses.
- Develop cooperative agreements with businesses to fund development of park and recreation facilities.
- Consider cost saving and revenue enhancements including service contracts and increased user fees.
- Utilize volunteers to develop and maintain park facilities, greenways, and open space areas, including expansion of Winston-Salem's Adopt a Park Program and extension of similar programs to other jurisdictions.

### Action Agenda

- Actively seek the donation of easements, land, and funds for recreational uses and open space preservation.
- Dedicate funding in municipal and county annual budgets for open space and greenway development.

### Conclusions

Forsyth County is an increasingly urban county. In the new century, the challenge will be to provide sufficient recreation and open space to accommodate the active and passive recreation needs of a growing population. The recommendations in this chapter point the way towards that goal — fulfilling our vision of ample open space, parks and greenways that provide opportunities for healthy outdoor activities and quiet reflection for all our citizens.

