

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mission

The Parks and Recreation mission is *“To provide quality recreational facilities, parks and programs which are safe, diverse, affordable, and enriching to the community through our commitment to public service.”*

Vision

“Williamsburg Parks and Recreation will create a lifetime of memorable experiences for citizens and visitors.”

The department focuses on providing parks and recreational opportunities and programs that make Williamsburg a premiere community to discover,



imagine, and grow. Parks and Recreation serves not only residents of the City, but James City County and York County along with visitors and tourists.

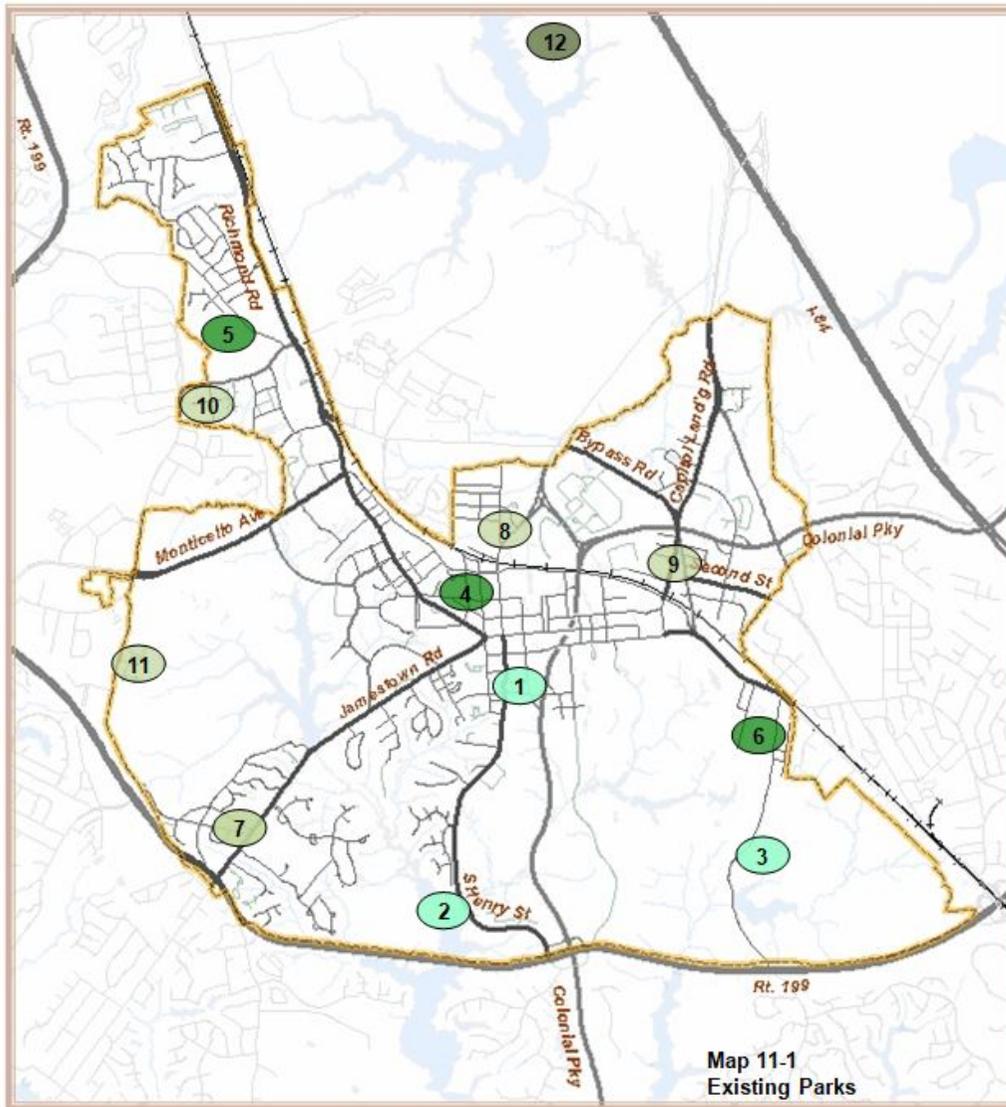
The Parks and Recreation Department works with adjacent communities to maximize facilities and resources to offer a variety of programs and activities in the City. It continues to improve programming for residents and non-residents to enjoy.

The City owns twelve parks and recreational facilities, and the demand for these active and passive recreational areas will increase as the Williamsburg area continues to grow. The physical planning aspects of the Parks and Recreation system will be discussed in the following sections, focusing first on the existing facilities and then on recommended improvements.

Existing Facilities

Williamsburg’s twelve existing facilities contain passive parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and one regional park. The twelve parks comprise approximately 2,785-acres. The largest park, Waller Mill Park, contains 2,705-acres.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2



Passive Parks	Neighborhood Parks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing 1. Bicentennial Park 2. College Landing Park 3. Redoubt Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing 7. Geddy Park 8. Highland Park Community Park
Community Parks	Minor Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing 4. City Square 5. Kiwanis Park 6. Quarterpath Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Minor Park 10. Wales Community Park 11. Strawberry Plains Park
	Regional Parks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing 12. Waller Mill Park

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Passive Parks

Bicentennial Park - 320 Court Street

This landscaped 2.43-acre park provides sitting and strolling areas for residents and visitors, as well as users of the adjacent National Center for State Courts and the Law School.



This park is important because of its location along South Henry Street, a major entrance corridor, and one of the major routes into the Historic Area. It serves to enhance the visual entrance statement provided to visitors and residents by preserving valuable green-space along this important entranceway. Usage will improve with the expansion of the Museums of Colonial Williamsburg scheduled to open in the Spring of 2020.

College Landing Park - 1070 South Henry Street

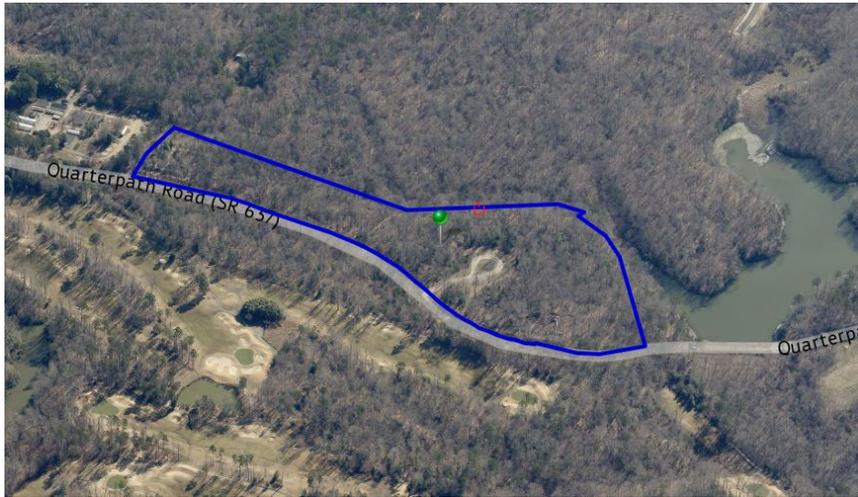
Built on the site of one of Williamsburg's two colonial ports makes this a significant park. The historic two-acre site provides for aesthetic and recreational opportunities. It includes a scenic overlook, a marsh walk, a kayak launch, a picnic area, and parking.



Redoubt Park - 1051 Quarterpath Road

Redoubts 1 and 2 along Quarterpath Road formed part of Confederate General J. B. Magruder's Third Peninsula Line. Redoubt Park makes these earthworks accessible to the public while simultaneously providing interpretation about the Battle of Williamsburg and other historical features found on this parcel.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2



The planning for the park was a joint effort between the City and the Virginia War Museum Foundation and is part of an overall effort to preserve and interpret 1862 Peninsula Campaign sites on the Lower Peninsula. Riverside Health Care dedicated 21.52-acres for the park in 2006 as a part of their Quarterpath at Williamsburg project. The future conversion of the unpaved portion of Quarterpath Road to a multi-use trail will help to preserve the historic setting of Redoubt Park.

Community Parks

City Square Park - 401 North Boundary Street

City Square is an area including the Community Building, the Community Building Lawn, and the plaza between Stryker Center and the Williamsburg Regional Library containing approximately 1.09-acres.



The park includes fountains, seating and is being programmed by the Library and City as a vibrant outdoor space located downtown.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Kiwanis Park - 125 Longhill Road

The 25.49-acre facility located on Longhill Road, adjacent to James Blair Middle School, underwent significant improvements in 2007-2009. The renovations created a new configuration for the three lighted softball fields and expanded the parking lot.



Pictometry Photo 2019

A variety of recreational facilities on the developed twelve-acres include seven lighted all-weather tennis courts and three lighted softball fields for the Recreation Department's youth softball programs, including weekend tournaments, plus a concession

and restroom building. The playground and shelter were renovated in 2018 to include new playground equipment, shelter, and exercise equipment. A fourth field is slated for construction in 2020 and is discussed in the Planned Improvements section of this chapter. Fifteen acres of undeveloped woods adjoin the facility.



Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Quarterpath Park - 202 Quarterpath Road

This twenty-three-acre facility located on Quarterpath Road near Route 60 East includes three lighted softball fields; two sand volleyball courts, three all-weather tennis courts, playground equipment, and a picnic shelter accommodating approximately 75 people. It is also the site of the Quarterpath Recreation Center, a 36,144 square foot facility renovated in 2002.

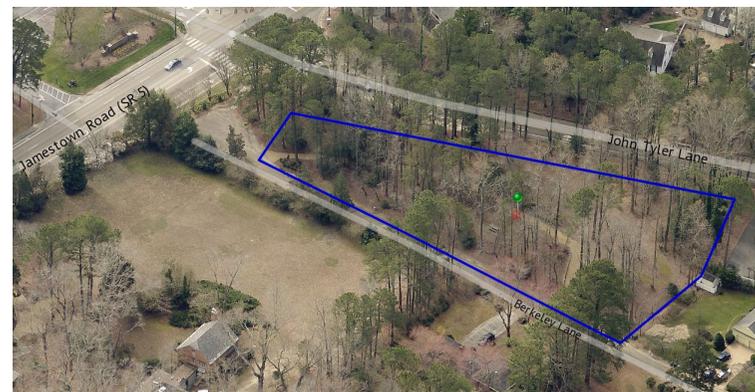


The Recreation Center houses offices for the Williamsburg Parks and Recreation Department, an 18,000 square foot double gymnasium, a 1,700 square foot dance/aerobics room, two classrooms, and a 1,900 square foot multi-purpose room. Various

instructional classes, athletic programs for youth and adults, sports camps, and special events use this facility throughout the year. The facility also has a community room with lounge, ping-pong, pool table and serves as a warming/cooling center.

Neighborhood Parks

Geddy Park - 110 Berkeley Lane. Located at the end of the cul-de-sac, on Berkeley Lane, adjacent to Jamestown Road and across from Walsingham Academy on approximately 1.15-acres.

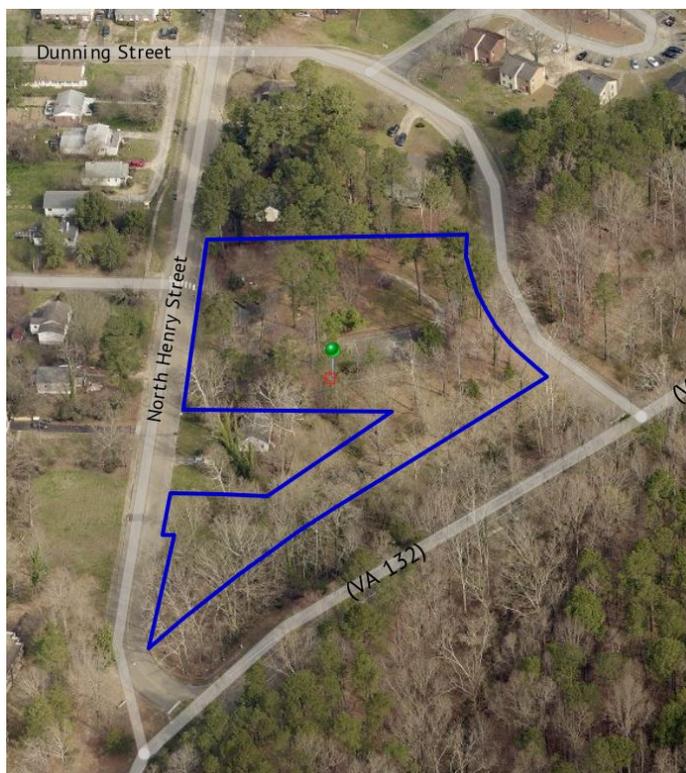


This park was improved in fall 2010 to better serve the surrounding neighborhoods by replacing benches, adding a picnic table, and planting more flowers.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

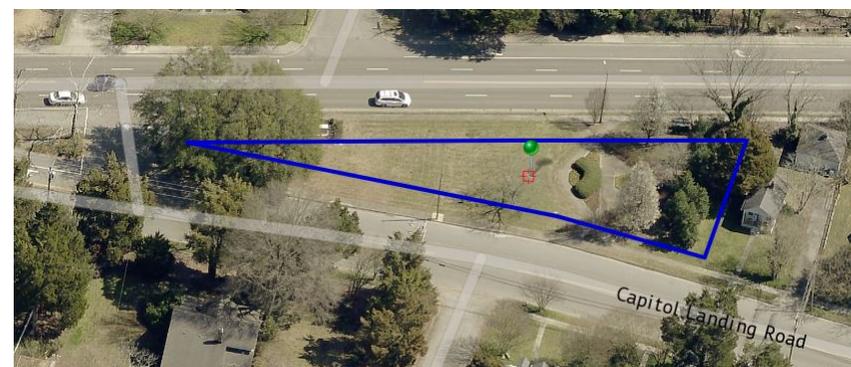
Highland Park Community Park - 703 North Henry Street

This two-acre park on North Henry Street is within the Highland Park Community. This park has playground equipment, a half-court basketball court, a picnic shelter with grills, and a paved walking trail.



Minor Park - 605 Capitol Landing Road

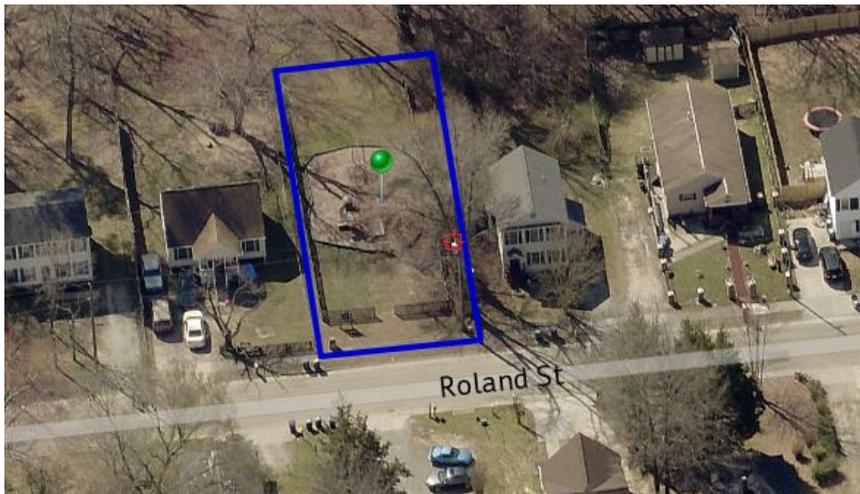
This 0.17-acre facility, purchased by the City in 1987, has been improved and helps to beautify the Capitol Landing Road/Page Street area. This park contains benches, a neighborhood book exchange box (Registered Little Free Library), and landscaping that makes it a pleasant place to visit.



Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Wales Community Park - 308 Roland Street

This 0.2-acre park is located in the Wales Subdivision and includes multi-station playground equipment and swing set.



Strawberry Plains Community Park - 205 Watson Drive

This 0.7-acre park located within the Strawberry Plains subdivision, contains a multi-station playground apparatus, a swing set, several benches, and a neighborhood book exchange box (Registered Little Free Library). There is also a small open green space for children to play.



Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Regional Park

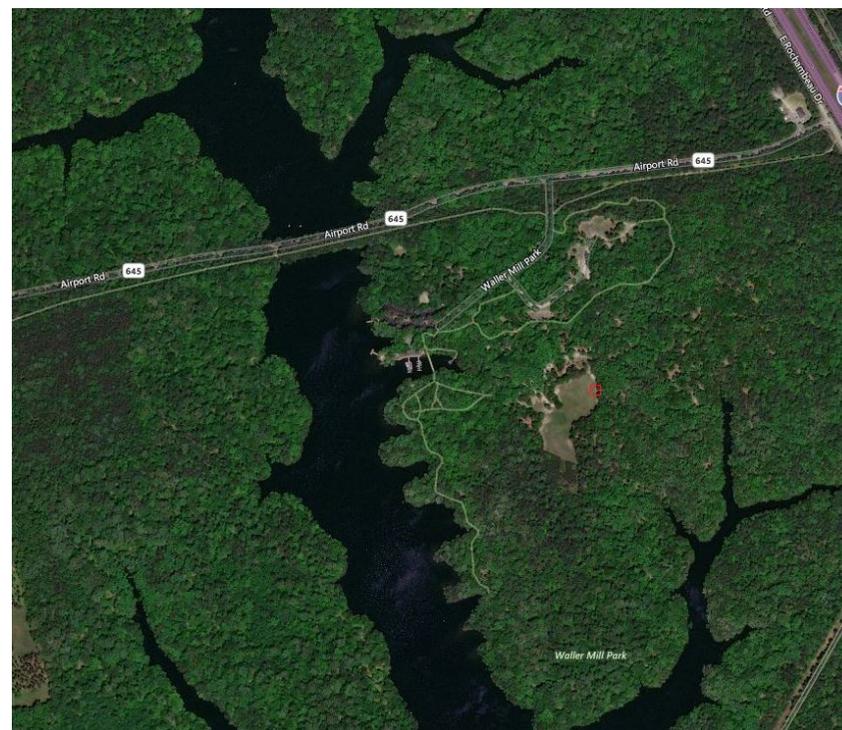
Waller Mill Park - 901 Airport Road

Located on Airport Road between I-64 and Richmond Road, Waller Mill Park's 2,705-acres is situated around the City's Waller Mill Reservoir. The park opened to the public in 1972. The 308-acre lake is open for fishing, boating, pedal boating, canoeing, and kayaking with a tunnel connecting the upper and lower sections of the lake. Numerous picnic tables, shelters, playfields, and playground equipment nestled among the trees provide a variety of scenic picnic areas. A new picnic pavilion was installed in 2019. In addition to these facilities, there are over five miles of hiking trails and an additional two miles of paved bike path. A 1.5-acre dog park is also part of this park. In 2014 the City added an 18-hole Disc Golf course through the woods and along the water.

Other Facilities

In addition to these municipal facilities, the Williamsburg area has several private and nearby public areas that enhance the community's available resources. These include the beautiful green spaces and facilities of the James, City County Recreation Center, Freedom Park,

Mid-County Park, Chickahominy Riverfront Park, Little Creek Reservoir Park, Upper County Park, College of William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg. Nearby regional facilities include York River State Park, Chippokes State Park, and the Colonial National Historic Park (Yorktown Battlefield, Jamestown Island and the Colonial Parkway). Other facilities include the following schools.



Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Matthew Whaley Elementary School. The school grounds contain a softball field and numerous pieces of multi-station playground equipment.

James Blair Middle School. This facility provides a regulation baseball field and batting cage. James Blair Middle School football games and local club football uses Cooley Field.

Berkeley Middle School. The school grounds contain a baseball and a softball field, as well as the capability of having a football field superimposed on the baseball field. The playfield at this school provides facilities for after-school and summer recreational programs. The indoor facilities provide opportunities for year-round program scheduling.

Planned Improvements

Passive Parks

Capitol Landing Park. The Capitol Landing site on Queens Creek should be acquired to preserve a portion of the historic site of one of the City's two colonial ports. It has the potential to be an interpretative site and provide an additional passive recreation opportunity in the north-eastern section of

the City. The scope of the park should be similar to that of College Landing Park, the site of the City's other colonial port. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation staff may be able to assist in determining the scope for this park if property is acquired.

College Creek Parks. The four parks listed below have the potential to form a unique system of over 189-acres of linked open spaces in the southern portion of the City.

- **College Landing Park** contains 2.1-acres located on the historic site of one of Williamsburg's two colonial ports, includes a scenic overlook, a marsh walk, boat access, a picnic area, and parking facilities incorporated into the park.
- **Papermill Creek Park** will have at its core 37-acres on the north side of Papermill Creek. The park will have a definite ecological orientation and will take advantage of the wetlands of Papermill Creek, with trails and marsh overlooks. Access to this park will be available from the south at College Landing Park and the north on South Henry Street opposite the

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

entrance to the Port Anne subdivision. The northern section, due to topographical restrictions, is suited for a nature center or “trailhead” for the park. It may also be possible to incorporate the former Great Neck Picnic Area into the park, which requires approval from the National Park Service. The addition of the Great Neck Picnic Area could provide a pedestrian connection to downtown from The Oaks subdivision.

- **College Creek Nature Area** is a 45-acre undeveloped area bordered by South Henry Street, Route 199, and College Creek. The City should investigate acquiring the property to preserve open space to maintain South Henry Street as a scenic entry corridor. The northern part of the site should provide a connection to the College Landing Park marsh walk.
- **College Creek Conservation Area** is a 105-acre conservation area acquired by the City in 1996. This property should remain undeveloped and preserved in its natural wooded state to serve as a viewshed and as a place of quiet enjoyment. Public access should be from the adjacent public streets in the Holly Hills subdivision. The construction of off-street parking should be

prohibited. It may be possible to provide a pedestrian connection to this area from College Landing Park by constructing a pedestrian bridge from College Landing Park across College Creek.



Active Parks

Kiwanis Park. Proposed improvements for Kiwanis Park include the development of a fourth lighted softball field between fields 1 and 3. The possible construction of a multi-use path through the wooded area that connects the developed portion of the park to the Longhill Connector.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Recommended Improvements

The 2019 Parks & Recreation Master Plan identified recommended improvements throughout the City's parks system. The areas that need improvement are identified here by each park.

Bicentennial Park

- ADA accessibility throughout
- Site Furnishings
- ADA Parking
- Pedestrian Entry on Newport Avenue
- Pedestrian Entry at Nassau & Court Streets
- Pedestrian Entry at South Henry and West Court Streets

College Landing

- ADA accessibility throughout
- Kayak Launch
- Observation/Overlook Pad
- Access to 0/0 Pad
- Boardwalk

Geddy Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces

Highland Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces
- Internal Steps
- Swings
- Basketball Court wall/bench

Kiwanis Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces
- Vehicle Entry at Tennis
- Tennis Parking
- Tennis Building

Quarterpath Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces
- Vehicle Entries 2, 3, & 4
- Three court Tennis Complex
- Locker Room Building

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Redoubt Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Tuttle Trail

Strawberry Plains Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces

Wales Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces
- Pedestrian Entry

Waller Mill Park

- ADA Accessibility throughout
- ADA Parking Spaces (throughout & at docking complex)
- Parking for Shelters 2 & 3
- Old restroom facility/storage
- Playground at shelter 3
- Swings at playground 3

In addition to recommended areas for improvement, the 2019 Parks & Recreation Master Plan identified four goals and numerous objectives. The goals and objectives addressed system-wide improvements and were developed by a thorough review of facilities and management and by discussing needs as identified by staff and members of the public.

Goal 1: Add new and improve existing infrastructure and amenities

- Maintain and improve existing facilities, parks, trails, and open spaces.
- Explore improving/adding bike lanes, bike paths, and walking trails.
- Pursue connecting to the Capitol Trail.
- Explore adding open spaces and improving natural area preservations.
- Explore adding Splash Pads and/or a Destination Playground.
- Develop a Departmental ADA Transition Plan.
- Develop additional indoor recreational facilities and amenities.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

- Develop other outdoor recreational facilities and amenities.
- Continue to pursue opportunities for sports tourism.
- Explore adding public art in parks and recreational facilities.

Goal 2: Continue to improve programs and service delivery

- Continue to monitor the participation and usage of the programs, facilities, and services and make appropriate adjustments based on collected data.
- Enhance special event programming.
- Explore opportunities to increase fitness and wellness programming and service delivery based on demand and trends.
- Continue to work with other service providers to develop programs and services to meet demand and trends.
- Continue to monitor the affordability of programs and services.
- Monitor staffing levels and available space.

Goal 3: Continue to improve organizational efficiencies

- Improve Departmental marketing and communications and grow the identity and create a brand for the department.
- Enhance and improve external communication regarding Department activities, programs, and services to increase community awareness.
- Staff appropriately to meet current demand and maintain established quality of service.
- Review current Joint Use Agreements (JUA and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and how each is benefiting the Parks and Recreation Department - maximize the potential.
- Explore additional partnerships to assist with funding, volunteering, and marketing.
- Upgrade WiFi Service in parks and facilities.
- Implement the use of recreation management software.

Chapter 11 - Parks and Recreation - Draft 2

Goal 4: Increase Financial Opportunities

- Explore additional funding options.
- Explore opportunities to increase sponsorships.
- Pursue grant and philanthropic opportunities.
- Review the current program and rental fees.
- Explore capital funding opportunities.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to make ADA improvements throughout City Parks.
2. Complete repairs and improvements to tennis courts at Kiwanis Park.
3. Conduct a feasibility study on facility expansion of Quarterpath Park.
4. Complete gym improvements at Quarterpath Park.
5. Replace softball field fence at Quarterpath Park.
6. Continue shelter and amenity improvements at Waller Mill Park.
7. Implement a recreation management software system.
8. Study the feasibility and benefit of a regional sports complex.