

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: December 3, 2007

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation
2007 Facility Needs Assessment

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. 2007 Facility Needs Assessment Report
2. Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department, as part of a Facilities Needs Assessment, has over the past three months conducted five public input sessions and two follow-up meetings with the Recreation Advisory Board and staff. These input sessions held at the four public high schools in the county and one at the main branch of the public library, sought to gather the public's thoughts and ideas on facility needs for the parks and recreation department. These input sessions were facilitated by Steve Allan, consultant with Solutions 4 Local Government. The input sessions identified the following needs:

1. Soccer Complex
2. Recreation Center
3. Greenways
4. Additional Parks
5. Maintenance
6. Handicap & Special Needs Accommodations
7. Dog Park

The attached report presents the recommendations from the Recreation Advisory Board and staff. It also includes a brief description of facilities and potential budgetary expenditures associated with the needs.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: No action is requested at this time. This agenda item is for the Board's consideration as we move into the Fiscal Year 2008 budget process.

Suggested Motion: n/a



Facilities Needs Assessment Report

Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department

December 3, 2007

Executive Summary

The Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department, as part of a Facilities Needs Assessment, has over the past three months conducted five public input sessions and two follow-up meetings with the Recreation Advisory Board and staff. These input sessions held at the four public high schools in the county and one at the main branch of the public library, sought to gather the public's thoughts and ideas on facility needs for the parks and recreation department. These input sessions were facilitated by Steve Allan, consultant with Solutions 4 Local Government. The input sessions identified the following needs:

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Henderson County Parks and Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment

Public Input Sessions

The Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department currently manages and operates seven parks and centers. These facilities are located throughout the county and are available to the general public. These facilities include athletic fields, walking trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, a BMX track, tennis courts, river access ramp, and areas that have been left in their natural state. The growth of recreation programs and the steady increase in the county's population has created a demand for more parks and recreation facilities and open green spaces.

To address these needs the county hired Steve Allan with Solutions 4 Local Government to facilitate and coordinate the creation of a Facilities Needs Assessment. After initial planning, it was determined that 5 public input sessions would be held throughout the county. A public input session was held at each of the four county high schools. These sessions were held in the schools auditorium and provided an opportunity for the public to detail their thoughts on facility needs. The sessions at the high schools were all held on Tuesday nights from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. A final session was also held at the Henderson County Public Library main branch on a Tuesday from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

Upon review of the data gathered during the sessions, the following seven needs were identified as the most needed by the public:

1. Soccer Complex
2. Recreation Center (with gymnasium and indoor pool)
3. Greenways and Trails
4. Additional Parks
5. Maintenance of Facilities
6. Handicap and Special Needs Accommodations
7. Dog Park

At each session, comments from the public were recorded and included in the list of identified needs. A summary of the comments from the sessions and a list of the comments can be found at the end of this report. The information gathered was later reviewed during two follow-up sessions that were held with the Recreation Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation staff.

Follow-up Session Comments

When asked by Steve Allan, the facilitator, what they liked best about living in Henderson County, the Recreation Advisory Board and staff noted four points. These points were also reiterated by the general public during the public input sessions. Statements including wording such as "the diversity of the population", "access to and variety of outdoor activities",

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“a safe community and a great place to raise kids” and “green spaces” were noted as quality of life factors that make Henderson County a great place to live. This quality of life factor and sentiment that Henderson County is a great place to live was communicated at all the public input sessions. The publics’ general sense was that with the new and enhanced facilities these experiences could be further enhanced.

It was noted that the goals of the Parks and Recreation Department should be to meet the recreation needs of all children and adults of every age; manage and care for facilities and venues including buildings, fields, courts, and roads; provide recreational opportunities to all areas of the county; provide safe facilities and activities; provide value; enhance the quality of life; and add to the sense of community. These goals were presented as part of the Recreation Advisory Board and staffs follow-up discussions facilitated by Mr. Allan. The follow-up sessions also included discussion on the facility needs which are discussed on the following pages.

Facility Recommendations

It is important when addressing the needs identified in this report; that detailed planning is conducted prior to any design or construction. This process would be best accomplished with one detailed plan considering all of the needs and current facilities. In addition to facilities, the scope of the plan should consider the Department’s current and potential programs. This would assure greater accuracy in meeting the needs addressed in this report.

Soccer Complex. The need for a Soccer Complex was identified as a top priority. The current fields used for the youth soccer programs were deemed to be inadequate and in many cases unsafe. Overuse has resulted in part due to the large numbers involved with the program (1500 participants annually) and the demand created by adults playing pick-up games. In addition to these uses, the opportunity to host tournaments would be available with a complex. Currently, the County’s facilities are not adequate for tournaments. The fields used for soccer also accommodate a variety of other events and functions.

The current youth soccer program requires an area of 5 full size fields; however during the twenty year period of this study, as many as 10 fields could be needed. A full size soccer field measures 120 x 80 yards. Ideally, as many fields as possible should be located together. This greatly enhances the opportunity to host tournaments and better facilitates scheduling of games for participants and staff. The use of artificial turf was proposed as one possible solution to address the heavy use of the soccer fields. Artificial turf fields can accommodate almost non-stop play, whereas, turf fields require extended periods of recovery without any use. Artificial turf has a greater initial cost but lower annual maintenance cost as compared with turf. A soccer complex was also identified as a facility that would have adequate parking, concessions, restrooms, maintenance (facilities and equipment) and amenities such as walking tracks/trails, playgrounds and green areas.

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A complex with five fields is currently needed in the County. Additional fields could be added into the complex to meet the growth of soccer over the next twenty years or a second complex built. The complex(s) need to be centrally located within the County and best close to the intersection of I-26 and US 64. It is not practical to plan for this type of facility to be duplicated throughout the County and a centralized location near large transportation corridors will provide the best access situation. Also, this location will best accommodate tournament participants. An approximation of the expenditures over the next twenty years is between \$6,000,000 and \$11,500,000.

Recreation Center. A swimming pool was identified by high school swim teams and the general public as the next highest priority need. The current shortage of pool facilities has necessitated that competitive swimmers travel out of the county to use pools in neighboring communities. However, competitive swimming is only a portion of the users for a pool facility. Recreational swimming will likely be the largest user. Other needs are swimming lessons, therapeutic swimming, skill training for canoeing and kayaking, etc. To further expand the utility of the facility, the creation of a Recreation Center that includes a pool and that could accommodate other indoor recreational activities was deemed necessary. Such a facility would be a destination for the county residents seeking multiple forms of recreation. A recreation center would provide amenities and services for a broad spectrum of our county citizens.

The Recreation Center should include an indoor pool, gymnasium and a multi-use area. The pool needs eight 25 meter lanes. The gymnasium would be constructed following high school specifications with collapsible bleachers on each side. The multi-use area could include space for the following: exercise room, weight room, aerobics rooms, locker rooms, public restrooms, lobby/entry, reception/check-in, vending area, staff offices, staff break area, meeting rooms/classrooms, babysitting area, racquetball courts, climbing wall and storage area.

The need for this complete facility currently exists within the County. However, to accommodate limited resources, it could be constructed in phases with the pool the initial phase. As with the soccer complex, a recreation center should be centrally located within the County and best close to the intersection of I-26 and US 64. It is not practical to plan for this type of facility to be duplicated throughout the County and a centralized location near large transportation corridors will provide the best access situation. An approximation of the expenditures over the next twenty years is \$7,600,000

Greenways. Greenways and trails are facilities that could be used by everyone: all ages and abilities. Greenways were also noted as being safe places to walk, jog, push strollers, wheelchair and ride bicycles. Ideally, the greenways would be paved in lieu of gravel or mulch to allow for multiple uses. Also, the width of the greenway should be enough to accommodate two-way, multi-use traffic. Lighting were possible would add security. These facilities were also deemed important to creating connectivity between shops, parks, green space and neighborhoods. Another connection would be to adjacent counties and municipalities in the

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form of Regional Greenways. Furthermore, this need addresses another request from the public input sessions which was for “green spaces.”

Specific locations have not been addressed in this study, but are being studied by the Apple Country Greenway Commission. The planning document mentioned above will also be the appropriate resource to identify locations. Often it is the availability of right of way that determines the timing of the construction of a greenway, for example when a railroad is abandoned. We need to be able to take advantage of opportunities to create greenways when the right of way becomes available.

An approximation of the expenditures over the next twenty years is \$5,000,000. The Greenway approximation is not determined from a physical assessment of potential locations and construction, but as a reflection of the priority of this project to the others. In general, this appropriation could represent 50 miles of paved trails constructed from undeveloped land.

Additional Parks. The need for additional parks and especially community parks was also a frequent request. These parks may require land acquisition but would also create and preserve “green spaces” and enhance community pride. Areas such as Green River, Mills River, Gerton, and Balfour were seen as potential new park locations. New community parks should include picnic shelters, restrooms, walking paths, a playground and general use open areas.

An approximation of the expenditures over the next twenty years is \$2,000,000. As with the Greenway, the additional community parks approximation is not determined from specific locations or construction. It is a reflection of its priority relative to the other needs. The need for land acquisition expenditures is more important in this need because it will be a larger percentage of the project.

Maintenance. The deficit in maintenance of park facilities was identified by numerous comments during the public input, by the Advisory Board and staff. The need for adequate maintenance is as important as the other new facilities identified. Whereas maintenance is an operational expenditure, it is separate from the other capital needs identified in this report. It must be noted, without an increase in the maintenance budget the capital expenditures identified above will not provide as much value to the citizens. Furthermore, pursuing new facilities without addressing the current maintenance deficit will only compound the existing deficiencies.

Handicap and Special Needs Accommodations. The inclusion of handicap and special needs accommodations was seen as important. With the age diversity in the county population, the recreational needs for these groups of young and older residents need to be considered. Identifying special locations for the recreational activities of these groups or ensuring accommodation at new facilities is important. Addressing Handicap Accommodations is best considered in two different ways: new construction and retrofitting existing facilities. The first way must be addressed during the planning and design of the new park facilities. Obviously, the plans need to include access to buildings as per code, but also need to include for

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example less typical accommodations like playground equipment access and sports fields and courts for special needs citizens. More difficult and expensive but no less important is retrofitting the Park's existing facilities. These retrofits would be best considered during the planning process mentioned above. The facilities in need of retrofitting could be identified based on a County wide survey and then a plan with costs and a schedule developed.

Dog Park. The final facility identified as needed by the community was a dog park. The need for this facility comes as many residents find themselves living with dogs in areas that do not allow dogs off a leash. The general requirements were that the area be fenced, include separate areas for large and small dogs, and have benches and other amenities for the owners. An approximation of the expenditures over the next twenty years is \$150,000.

Budgetary Expenditures

In general, these approximations consider the facilities meeting current and long-term future needs. Conservative estimates were used to generate the long-term needs. However, the planning process for these needs would provide a greater accuracy and in turn, could reduce the scope of the overall facilities. Also, these approximations consider the current value of the dollar. Planning, design and construction are included. Finally, land acquisition is also included; however, it is not unrealistic to locate some or all of them on existing County property and reduce expenditures.

Funding

The question of how to fund these new facilities was asked by Mr. Allan at the end of each input session. The issue of funding was also discussed at the follow-up sessions. Possible sources of funding for these facilities included sales tax, property tax, requesting money from municipalities, and a bond referendum for recreation. Private funding is certainly an option and has provided substantial resources in the past.

It was determined that a bond referendum was the most likely approach for funding the needs. With a vote from the citizens in the County in support of recreation, justification for directing resources toward recreation would be more convincing. If a bond referendum were the choice and to ensure success, a significant portion of the planning process should be done before the referendum. This would provide specific information to the voters and in turn increase confidence in their vote. The campaign for such a referendum must include specifically what is being proposed, what it will look like, how much it will cost and how it will benefit the community.

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Conclusion

The process of creating a Facilities Need Assessment has allowed for the community and staff to work together toward a plan to address the community's facility needs for recreation. The six facilities identified; Soccer Complex, Recreation Center, Greenways, Additional Parks, Handicap & Special Needs Accommodations and a Dog Park would all be wonderful public assets. When these facilities are constructed they must be well-planned, sufficiently funded and professionally designed to promote civic pride in Henderson County's recreational opportunities.

**Henderson County Parks and Recreation
Facilities Needs Assessment**

Appendix

Data Summary from Public Input Sessions
2007 Facility Needs Assessment
Henderson County Parks and Recreation

#	Comment Subject	Number
1	Soccer	28
2	Dog Park	24
3	Swimming Pool	24
4	Greenways	17
5	More / Dedicated Funding	10
6	Greenspace	9
7	Recreation Center	8
7	Tennis (scheduling problems)	8
8	Etowah Park (maintenance)	5
8	Tuxedo Park	5
9	East Flat Rock Park (maintenance)	4
9	Edneyville Park Project	4
10	No User Fees	2
11	Full Size Baseball Field	1
11	Handicapped Access to Playgrounds	1
11	Jackson Park (maintenance)	1
11	Recreation Website	1
11	Restrict Tobacco Use	1

This is a simple, nonscientific tabulation of the comments from the
Public Input Sessions for the Facility Needs Assessment

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Public Input Meeting Comments

North Henderson High School Tuesday, August 28, 2007

1. Soccer coach, soccer facilities are declining, need complex with multi-use fields (field turf fields), lighted, location should be centralized in County
2. Greenways, trails and park system, linear parks, get from home to park w/out car, traffic / streets do not provide good opportunities for non-vehicle transportation.
3. Edneyville Park
4. Indoor Recreation Center, Multi-purpose, currently using public school gym's which limit use / times, multi-court, pool, volleyball, basketball
5. Flood plain area to solve greenway problems, private sector help. Edneyville Community Center, diversity of users is important, co-locating facilities on school campuses, Community Centers are important because of difficulties from traffic and density
6. Swimmer, need pool facility, share YMCA with all schools and pool users, have to practice at night (school age), have to pay for school sport due to fee from YMCA, YMCA only has five lanes
7. Swimming for Rehabilitation, need pool facility, swimming year round, swimming is a lifetime sport, important to children, elder services, youth sport, after school care
8. Tennis & birding, Jackson Park is excellent facility for birding, do not disturb birding opportunities at JP, leave some natural habit
9. Edneyville Park, enclosed gym for year round activities, money is the problem, display Edneyville Park design
10. Connecting trails, soccer
11. Soccer, 1000+ kids per year w/ rec (does not include other leagues, could be over 2000+ users) and challenge, facilities are not good, liability to play on our fields, need a complex with multiple fields, Associations funds most of programs, similar to Asheville's complex, grants available, tournaments will add to tourism, 2009 budget for complex but need it sooner. Need dedicated soccer facilities (sharing with school's is not practical)

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12. Soccer, fields are in horrible condition, embarrassing to host travel team from other areas, need complex
13. Dodge ball, basketball camps, indoor soccer (futsal), Jackson Park fields are the same now as 20 years ago, artificial turf fields at high schools in lieu of complex, indoor recreation center. Practice at schools.
14. HC soccer field cause injury, no real fields, need fields
15. Soccer fields at Jackson Park are not adequate, neighboring Counties have much better fields and recreation opportunities, greenspace, injuries from playing soccer on JP fields.
16. Etowah Lions Club, Etowah Park, on going project to enhance park, long term commitment, County does not follow up on projects, existing soccer field needs seeding and to be lighted, adult fitness trails, fitness stations (heavily utilized), use of park is 50% adult – 50% youth, the park’s facilities need to be used more, lights on tennis court
17. New soccer fields, injuries from existing fields, need soccer complex, not a level playing field at JP, holes and bumps on field, soccer is as important as football and baseball, lack of grass on fields cause injuries, Can we please have new soccer fields.
18. Swimming, need pool facility, 5 teams share facility with only 5 lanes, crowded practice, pool facility is for all ages and levels of fitness
19. Edneyville Community Center Association, pool in 3rd phase of park plan, pool is important for adult activities, facilities for seniors.
20. L. Patterson Pool is available to public but private pool.
21. More funding for recreation. Dedicated funding source.
22. Natural turf done correctly is as good as artificial
23. Rails to Trails, Horseshoe to Brevard (??), multi-use.

East Henderson High School Tuesday, September 11, 2007

1. indoor swimming facility, high school teams, county use, referendum for facilities, swimming lessons for youth

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2. submitted article on birding from Times News, need for habitat, preserve habitat for walking/birding
3. satellite tennis tournament, Jackson Park good venue for event, good source of money for community(economic impact), lots of senior tennis players, model after other communities
4. urge concept of park, gardens, walking for pleasure, Greenways, concept around Jackson Park, connecting to south side development, soccer complex
5. dog park, allows off leash running for dogs, playing field at East Flat Rock Park full of rocks and sticks (under used) field needs improvements
6. park in Tuxedo area, field at East Flat Rock Park needs grading, improving, supports East Flat Rock Park, erosion control (preventative maintenance), safety issue for players (Lax, soccer) with regards to playing field at EFRP
7. raise attitude in terms of tennis, needs for tennis after school, tennis for East and Hendersonville High Schools, keep pressure on commissioners for courts at East and HHS, teach tennis to kids on public courts
8. more money for soccer fields, large recreation center with multiple facilities, walking trails, rails trails, wave pool, make recreation a destination item, return on investment for money put in, worth it, think BIG and more attractive
9. dog park, fenced area for dogs to play, parts of park for dogs to play
10. growing needs of tennis, CTA supports, provides materials, improve scheduling of courts, more courts or courts at high schools, schools to 5:45pm, league tennis 6:00pm, limited maintenance needed for courts
11. multi handicapped access to playgrounds, make playgrounds accessible for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. "Boundless Playgrounds" which allow access, Barrier Free Playgrounds, www.boundlessplaygrounds.org, have one in Shelby, NC
12. EFR field needs improvement, erosion on trails needs controlling, lights on walking trails, thanks for bus service
13. supports a dog park, bicycle/walking trail, use railways (Rails to Trails) that are not used for walking/biking
14. wants dog park to allow dogs to run, pond/water for dogs to swim, fenced in area for dogs

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15. dog park, water available for dogs, allow area for off leash running/walking
16. dog park, 2-3 acre dog park, low cost to construct and maintain,
17. EFR small park, money is problem, parks and recreation needs money, ball field unlevel, parking issue when organized sports at EFR, erosion problem, do it right first time, clear brush at back area, tennis court, fitness trail, access mat for playground, wants grant for EFR park (matching funds available), properly planned parks, need park in Tuxedo
18. modest resources for parks, wants more money set aside for parks, communication, schools supporting recreation center that meets needs swimming, tennis courts, independent park specific budgets, repair scoreboards at Etowah Park,
19. aquatic center, soccer fields, fine facilities like other areas, revamp Jackson Park and make a show piece again

West Henderson High School Tuesday, September 18, 2007

1. Issues with USTA and High School tennis with regards to schedules. Coordinate scheduling of tennis courts with home matches and USTA matches. On High School tennis practice nights allow USTA to use at 5:45pm.
2. Dog Park, open area with water, shade, benches and fence for dogs to socialize.
3. Swimming pool, cost of swimming programs (make affordable), place to teach swimming, land transfer tax may be way to fund
4. Keep green spaces we have, need to add and continue growth of open spaces, need for a dog park (allow off leash socializing for dogs)
5. Need for a swimming pool (high school programs), soccer fields to accommodate growth, high pressure of use at Jackson Park, availability of sports for all social classes, advocate pools and soccer fields
6. Dog park, fenced area with water, benches, area for people to meet and socialize
7. User fees for Senior Softball, user fees impact possible participation, build soccer fields (good for children) provides opportunity to be a part of team and experience success,

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transfer tax not a consistent source of revenue (caution depending on just this source)
have a more stable funding source

8. Issue with user fees going to general fund, Etowah Park - issue with restrooms during season and tournaments, reseal and paint basketball court, problem with tree roots on trail, score boards trenched down center of field repair so can be used, need help to upgrade facilities, Help make soccer field at Etowah, add lights to tennis courts at Etowah Park,
9. Etowah Park – children’s playground needs expanding, adult fitness center along walking trail, expansion to create opportunities for adults and children to have organized programs
10. Planned or projects not completed, soccer field at Etowah Park final grading, fertilize, seeding, tennis courts need lights, need completion of projects, under funded as far as recreation
11. Inadequate funding for recreation, need parks at a higher level for funding, specific budgets for parks, parks and recreation very low priority needs to be elevated to a higher concern
12. Need for a swim program, need for increase of soccer fields, seeing what other counties have, need more money for recreation facilities
13. Coordination of USTA schedules and school teams
14. Work to coordinate tennis programs
15. Dog park, many seniors own dogs, place to take dogs to run free
16. Need information on county web site, literature for programs, community centers are lacking, schools to use as community centers 7pm-11pm week nights for P & R, on weekends too, develop partnership between school board and P & R. Like to see trail network in county, Fletcher to Flat Rock, Code of Ethics for sport groups, players, coaches, etc. Safe environment for kids, Where is the information? Plan for cultural activities and development of community
17. Need a dog parks and more nature trails and areas to walk
18. Soccer and Pools, increased funding, think of future, advocate for sports complex that meet needs, soccer complex that accommodates al needs, pools, dogs parks, trails, etc.

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19. Not much money allocated to recreation, reallocate money to build soccer fields, pools, etc. too much emphasis on volunteers, county should do some of things done by volunteers
20. Soccer fields are not adequate, economics of soccer tournaments, impact on community as far as income generated by tourism and overnight stays, Good soccer complex would achieve this
21. Not enough facilities for diving teams, swimming pool that has diving area
22. Swim team – pool
23. Swimming programs, indoor/outdoor pool, rehab, workouts in pools, need to teach swimming, family event, water safety training in schools, residents deserve year round swimming facilities
24. pool, for all ages, funding lacking, fix restrooms
25. swimming needs a pool, benefits old and young, important to community
26. paying for training facilities for swimming/diving teams, Pay to Play concern, over crowding at YMCA when used for high school teams (1 hour for practice), need programs for swimming and to do that need pool.
27. Issues of travel to facilities outside of our area, concern with user fees, need recreation center for seniors and others.

Hendersonville High School Tuesday, September 25, 2007

1. Tobacco Policy at parks, reduce exposure to, designated areas for use
2. Dog park, for socializing dogs, place dogs to run off leash, area for dogs to chase disks, tennis balls
3. Artificial turf at high schools, open school resources for public use after school hours, build stadium for schools at central complex, indoor courts for basketball, futsal
4. Separate soccer complex, loss of economic impact to Henderson County with tournaments hosted in other areas,

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5. Greenways, linear parks for multiple uses, walking, biking, connecting parks/residential areas with Greenways, transportation option, DOT sources of funding, positive economic benefits, Rail to Trails (H'ville to Brevard)
6. Supports Greenways, taking care of current facilities, worn turf, make parks a jewel for county
7. Preserve birding habitat at Jackson Park, Jackson Park nationally known spot for birding, Trails and Greenways good for birding
8. Some area for dogs to run off leash, fenced in, water, and rules
9. Facilities need to be improved, concern with soccer fields, lack of a quality field, change perception of community as a retirement community, activism toward soccer, Greenways as a transportation solution, park in Green River area, ease of access to park facilities to reduce travel by cars
10. Support need for soccer fields/soccer complex, fields that allow player development, multiple fields, current fields in terrible shape, safety issue and poor reflection on community, soccer complex will allow tournaments that attract economic benefits to community (soccer complex is an area with several fields minimum 4, restrooms, ample parking, concessions, lighting)
11. Dog park, separate areas for small (15 lbs max) and large dogs, water, fenced, dogs with up to date shots,
12. Dog recreation area, fenced in area, Wisconsin has a guide for dog parks (submitted a copy), resources to maintain dog park
13. Soccer complex, sport for all ages and sizes, helps with targeting health issues- obesity,
14. Swimming pool, for high schools, life time sport, aquatics complex, Mega Center – with lots of facilities, figure in maintenance, limited funding for parks and library (4%) in HC, county needs more money put into recreation, need more than 1 million dollar budget
15. Dog park, teach dogs to be sociable
16. Greenways, need approach to create, benefits all, bike, walk, Soccer fields are a need, New ways to revitalize current fields (grass), Parks and Rec does not have full size baseball field 90ft bases and 360ft (dead center) 300ft down baselines
17. dog park (rename) for humans to get out, be active, mission may not be for animals but rather people to get out,

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18. “but if not enough money” – hope there will be dedicated funds, march on commissioners
19. www.strikerssoccer.com (example) – build all out stadium, coordinate agencies, Committees for groups, have solutions that are presented with issues raised

Henderson County Public Library Tuesday, October 2, 2007

1. Park in the Green River Community, revisit the former Tuxedo School property issue, land of former school is available, have newly formed association representing the community
2. Swimming facility, examples like Rock Hill, SC and Murphy and Franklin. Recreation Center with multiple facilities, swimming facility that can/would be used for school programs and recreation, cover the entire population with regards to recreation, commissioners provide some money for such a facility
3. Consider ways for people to get around in county, use Greenways, paths, bike trails, alternate ways of getting around other than a car, consider grants that can be received with partnerships with different groups within the community
4. Dogs park, wants a place for dogs to run off a leash, one place safe and secure for dogs to enjoy themselves, fenced area
5. Dog park, nice big space for small and big dogs, not allow dogs that are not spade and neutered
6. Need for Green Space, open areas, current areas/parks showing wear, have realtors assist in locating ponds, lakes for public parks, think of trees, motives to keep areas from being paved,
7. Soccer fastest growing sport, facilities for sport non-existent in community, swimming and physical recreation facilities (PEAC group, made a study, BRCC, administered by YMCA), multi use facilities that would enhance community
8. Dog park, lives in Etowah, believes there is a space for such a facility
9. Dog facility for exercise and dog socialization, dog park

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10. Dog park, need more money allocated for parks, least expensive facility, willing to volunteer
11. Multi use and multi purpose recreation facility (swimming pool, etc.), facility that brings all into one place, supports idea of property transfer tax or property tax increase to fund facilities, lobby in community to get funds raised for facilities
12. Budget too small in community, lack of soccer facilities, improve current facilities, create new facilities for sport, supports need for public swimming facilities
13. Looking for more areas for parks, open areas, keep asking, Open areas, non-competitive sports areas, more walking trails, more passive recreation facilities, Greenways for connecting areas, linear parks, (small area plan meetings, Designing our Future)
14. Advocating for soccer, Hispanic players, competitive players, youth, need improvements to fields, well maintained multi-use facilities that accommodates soccer, Frisbee golf, lacrosse, Use current facilities for multi use, keep areas open for use (baseball fields)
15. Plug for linear parks, parks that build a stronger community, bike trails and walk ways that all can use, opportunities that allow for family recreation together
16. Need a recreation center, including meeting rooms, look at UNCA in Asheville as an example, add artificial turf to high schools, need to lobby for share of funds
17. Dog park advocate, area for off leash dog play, safe place for animals, need as a result of compact/cluster housing, well maintained space with rules, fund with sponsors, ideal park should have 2-4 acres, 4-6 ft tall, small/large areas, safe parking, two gates, benches, wheel chair friendly, water, shade
18. Need for soccer complex, large group of children , adults playing, behind other areas of community, complex good for economy, private support for such a facility, county needs to take a lead
19. Consider access or facilities to get into wetland area across from MLK (Four Seasons swamp). Birding, photography purposes
20. Soccer fit enough for tournaments from economic impact stand point hotels, restaurants, Green River – kayaking and paddling, need parking and access to Game lands areas, proper access to river, support the current parking area, people come to area for recreation, develop Plan that attracts tourism and people to spend money

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21. Need for a park in Tuxedo community, (common open space), swimming facility with all entities (all with a stake holders), time to set land aside as natural park areas (work on partnerships, conservation groups)
22. Connect green spaces/parks with rails to trails, greenways, paths, dedicated trails for non motorized travel, more open natural spaces, preserve now, have developers set land aside (open space)
23. need green spaces preserved- Savannah, GA, thanks for work that being done, need to let commissioners know that recreation, green space, facilities are important (need more than funding), all use open areas, lobby for substantial funds for recreation, have one large fund raiser a year for recreation- people want to come to our area, have a referendum for parks-organize, lobby, attend meetings for your cause

Comments received via email

1. The County needs dog parks (an enclosed area) at both Jackson and Etowah. Etowah is used by walkers with and without dogs daily while the remaining facilities are seldom used except during Little League season. Dogs need to socialize and burn off energy which cannot be accomplished while walking on a leash. The Etowah area has a high percentage of retired families with pets that needs this facility. A dog park could be in the field to the left of the ball diamonds at very little expense. Please give this proposal serious consideration in your plans for the future.
2. Dear Henderson County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, I would like to thank you for receiving input from the community on what we feel like our community needs to have in place for recreational purposes. I would like to request a 25 meter enclosed swimming facility that could be used by local competitive swim teams and high school swim teams (others could use it as well) to practice and host meets. The local facilities are heavily used by the public or facility members and swim team practice space is limited and often expensive. If you look at the big picture, there are soccer fields and ball fields everywhere you look but no public pool for the local swim teams. I am not the most knowledgeable person to speak on this topic and can't give you the full history of swimming in Henderson County but I can definitely see the need for an enclosed public pool that can be used by the high school swim teams and local swim teams. Please support them by providing a facility. I also see the need for improved soccer fields from the high school level all the way to the six year old level. The fields are very rough and over used. Funds should be allocated to make improvements on these fields just like the baseball and softball fields. They sure get lots of money and attention (new lights, graded frequently...). Why can the soccer fields get the same attention? Again, thank

***Henderson County Parks and Recreation
Facilities Needs Assessment***

you for listening to the public. In summary, we need a 25 meter enclosed swimming facility immediately and the soccer fields could certainly use some tender loving care.

2007 Facility Needs Assessment

- Significant Opportunity for Public Input
 - 5 Public Input Sessions
 - Mail and Email Input
- 2 Follow Up Sessions with Advisory Board and Staff
- Written Report with Recommendations

Parks and Recreation



2007 Facility Needs Assessment

Recommendations

1. Soccer Complex
2. Recreation Center
3. Greenways
4. Additional Parks
5. Maintenance of Facilities
6. Handicap and Special Need Accommodations
7. Dog Park

Parks and Recreation



2007 Facility Needs Assessment

Soccer Complex

- Youth and Adult Leagues, Tournaments, Other Activities
- Immediate Need for 5 Co-located, Full-Size Fields with up to 5 Additional during 20 Year Study Period.
- Centrally located near I-26 and US 64
- Approximate Twenty Year Expenditure: \$6,000,000 to \$11,500,000.

Parks and Recreation



2007 Facility Needs Assessment

Recreation Complex

- Recreational & Competitive Swimming, Court Sports, Exercise Rooms, Office Space
- Multi-purpose Building with Pool, Gymnasium and various other areas
- Need Currently Exists for Facility
- Centrally located near I-26 and US 64
- Approximate Twenty Year Expenditure: \$7,600,000.

Parks and Recreation



2007 Facility Needs Assessment

Greenways

- Walking, Jogging, Pushing Strollers, Accessing with Wheelchairs, and Riding Bicycles
- Paved Surface with Enough Width for Two-Way, Multi-use traffic, Lighted
- As Right of Way Opportunities are Available
- Connectivity between other Greenways, Shops, Parks, Green Space, Neighborhoods and other Counties and Municipalities
- Approximate Twenty Year Expenditure: \$5,000,000.

Parks and Recreation



2007 Facility Needs Assessment

Funding Sources

- Dedicated Property Tax Levy
- Dedicated Sales Tax Levy
- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants
- Private Funding (Associations, Business, etc)
- Partnerships with Municipalities
- Bond Referendum
 - Campaign needs Significant Planning

Parks and Recreation



2007 Facility Needs Assessment

Questions?

Thank you.

Parks and Recreation

