



The Town of Hilton Head Island Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

**Thursday, September 9, 2010
3:30 p.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

AGENDA

As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- 3. Freedom of Information Act Compliance**
Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of July 8, 2010
- 5. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda**
- 6. Reports**
 - a. Update from Island Recreation Association
 - b. Update from Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services/Public Works
- 7. Unfinished Business**
- 8. New Business**
 - a. Input on Town Council's 2011 Policy Agenda (Targets for Action) – Marcy Benson
- 9. Updates**
- 10. Park Commissioner Comments**
- 11. Adjournment**

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more Town Council members attend this meeting.

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, July 8, 2010
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: John McCann, Jeffrey North, Daniel Gafgen, Marc Stuckart, Rob Moore, Jack Hamrick, Timothy Singleton

Members Absent: None

Town Council: Mayor Tom Peeples, Ken Heitzke, Mayor Pro Tem; Bill Ferguson

Town Staff: Charles Cousins, Jill Foster, Scott Liggett, Teri Lewis, Julian Walls, Nicole Dixon, Marcy Benson, Anne Cyran

Other: Sarah Calvert, *Island Recreation Association*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCann called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COMPLIANCE

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

IV. SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED COMMISSIONER

Mayor Pro Tem Ken Heitzke performed the swearing in ceremony for returning board member Mr. Marc Stuckart. Mayor Pro Tem Heitzke thanked all Commissioners for their service to the community.

V. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. North made a motion to elect Mr. McCann as Chairman and Mr. Hamrick seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. McCann made a motion to elect Mr. North as Vice Chairman and Mr. Hamrick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 10, 2010 were approved as presented.

VII. APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS

Mr. Frank Babel announced that the Pedal 4 Kids bike event will be on Saturday, September 25, 2010 and encouraged the Commissioners to form a team for that day. Mr. Babel stated that there will be a bicycle friendly committee workshop in October to discuss how can we become a bike friendly community. Mr. Stuckart is the representative for Parks & Recreation Commission.

VIII. REPORTS

- A. Update from Island Recreation Association.** Ms. Sarah Calvert stated that the Island Recreation Center is busy with soccer, cheerleading, hockey, lacrosse and summer camp activities. Water Fun night is tonight from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Shelter Cove Community Park. The Summer Jams brings approximately 150 people to the Shelter Cove Community Park on Tuesday nights. The Island Recreation Center has officially taken over the scheduling and rental use of Barker Field Extension, Chaplin Field, Crossings Park and Bristol Sports Arena. All forms are on the Island Recreation Center's website. Chairman McCann stated that the online information is excellent.
- B. Update from Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services/Public Works.** No Report. The Commissioners requested that the minutes reflect that this is the fourth consecutive month without a report from Beaufort County PALS. It was also requested that when Beaufort County will not be attending the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, that a report be submitted in writing. Chairman McCann also noted that at the March 11, 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, Mrs. Cristina Roberson stated that a steering committee of citizens would be formed and would include members of this Parks & Recreation Commission. The Parks & Recreation Commission has yet to be provided with any further information on this steering committee.
- C. Park Maintenance:** Mr. Scott Liggett reported that the Town continues to perform quarterly inspections of all recreation facilities and conveys that information to Beaufort County. Mr. Liggett stated that he recently met with the County and there is another meeting scheduled in two weeks to continue discussions on park maintenance as well as the Agreement.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed cancer survivor park

Mrs. Sandy Stern and Mrs. Patty Burke had contacted Mayor Peebles about the possibility of using Town owned property for a cancer survivor park. "A cancer survivor park is a tribute to the living and to those who are valiantly fighting their cancer." The presentation (a hardcopy is on file with the minutes) contains all requirements for this type of park, financial support and information on the R.A. Bloch cancer foundation. Chairman McCann made a motion to recommend that Town Council go forward with this proposed cancer survivor park. Mr. North seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

XI. UPDATES

Grants Summary. Ms. Marcy Benson reported on grants that were awarded in the 2010 calendar year, grants applied for in 2010 and are pending, and grant applications that were denied in 2010.

Sailing/Rowing Center. Ms. Marcy Benson stated that this proposal went back to the Public Facilities Committee for review and they recommended to Town Council that funds be allocated in the FY 2011 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget to clean up the site and direct Town staff to submit an application to DHEC and OCRM for a dock permit and to designate funding in the FY 2012 CIP budget for site design and construction. The Public Facilities Committee voted unanimously to move the sailing/rowing center forward to the August 3, 2010 Town Council meeting for discussion.

XII. PARK COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: _____
John McCann, Chairman

DRAFT



TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Community Development Department

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
VIA: Shawn Colin, *Comprehensive Planning Manager*
FROM: Marcy Benson, *Senior Grants Administrator*
DATE: September 1, 2010
SUBJECT: Recommendations for Town Council's 2011 Targets for Action

Recommendation:

Staff requests the Parks and Recreation Commission review the Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and forward a short list of recommendations for Town Council to consider when developing its 2011 Targets for Action.

Summary:

The Town Council conducts a Strategic Planning Retreat each year with the purpose of developing its annual work program guide called "Targets for Action". In advance of the Town Council retreat the Planning Commission provides a list of recommendations, based upon the Comprehensive Plan and other adopted plans, for Town Council to consider when developing the work program for the next year. In parallel to that effort, staff requests that the Parks and Recreation Commission develop a short list of specific recommendations related to Parks and Recreation for Town Council to consider addressing during calendar year 2011.

Background:

The Mission of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to "*make recommendations for the establishment of an effective Parks & Recreation System for the citizens & residents of the Town*". In addition, under the Commission's "Powers and Duties" the Commission has the power to "*make recommendations to the Town Council for the establishment of long and short term goals concerning the development and management of parks and recreation facilities for the citizens and residents of the Town (hereinafter the Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan)*".

The 2010 work program includes the following parks and recreation related "Targets for Action" items (Attachment A). These items are still a work in progress and have not yet been completed. Staff anticipates them to roll forward into the 2011 work program:

- Plan for Coligny Area including expansion of Beach Park
- Port Royal Beach Restoration
- Recreation Center and Aquatic Facilities Direction
- Chaplin Linear Park and Boardwalk Funding
- Prioritize Pathway Links Along William Hilton Parkway

In addition, the following items are currently being worked on and will have implications on the 2011 work program:

- Bicycle Friendly Community Designation
- Rowing and Sailing Center Development

To assist the Commission in identifying additional items from the Recreation Element (Attachment B), staff has outlined the following items for the Commission to consider submitting as recommendations to Town Council for incorporation into the 2011 work program:

- Formalize a Parks Maintenance Agreement with Beaufort County
- Prioritize pathway links to activity areas including parks and recreation areas.

Finally, please keep in mind that Town resources are limited. This memo outlines seven items that are currently underway that will require dedication of Town resources in 2011, as well as two additional recommendations from the Recreation Element that may be appropriate to recommend to Town Council. Additional items may be recommended by the Commission that are not outlined in this memo; however, selection of strategic, achievable recommendations that can be implemented during calendar year 2011 should be the goal. The *Policy Agenda for 2010* and a copy of the *Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan* have been attached to assist in reviewing and developing these important recommendations.

Main Attachments:

Attachment A – Policy Agenda for 2010

Attachment B – Recreation Element of Comprehensive Plan

Policy Agenda 2010

Targets for Action

Top Priority

- Economic Development Strategy and Direction
- Town Vision: Task Force to Develop Recommendations to Council
- Strategic Growth Area Plan for Coligny Activity Center
- Port Royal Beach Erosion Project: Determine Funding Source
- Promotion of Heritage Golf Tournament
- Marshland Road: Determine Funding to Repave Road

High Priority

- LMO: Rewrite to Reflect Community Expectations
- Redevelopment Policy, Strategy, and Direction
- Residential Recycling Direction and Implementation
- Dredging: Policy Direction, Town's Role and Participation
- Recreational Center and Aquatic Facilities Direction
- Major Event/Public Art Event Level of Support

Moderate Priority

- Commercial Appearance Standards Evaluation and Direction
- Development of Mitchelville Master Plan
- Stormwater Utility Fee Direction
- Dirt Streets Program: Funding and Relations to County
- Hickory Forest Beach Erosion Direction and Funding
- Chaplin Linear Park and Boardwalk Funding
- Prioritize Pathway Links along William Hilton Parkway
- Arts Group Collaboration
- Historic Group Collaboration

Management Targets 2010

Top Priority

- Airport Master Plan: Completion, Policy Direction
- Airport Trees: LMO Amendments to Accomplish Tree Topping & Removal
- Mainland Transportation Agreement
- I-26/I-95 Advocacy for Widening
- Bridge Annexation

High Priority

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Sign & Outdoor Merchandising Regulation & Direction
- Business License Issue: Consider Changes to Classification & Fee Schedule
- Fire Station 6 Direction
- CIP Funding Strategy, Development, and Policy Direction
- Service Benchmarking: Evaluation and Direction
- Create WI-FI at Town-owned Properties

10 Recreation

To enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors by providing diverse recreational facilities and programs which respond to changing needs of the population.

Introduction

Hilton Head Island has become well-known throughout the country as a world class resort destination recognized for its high quality recreational amenities and natural resources. Private resort and residential communities located on the Island provide an exceptional number of leisure facilities highlighting tennis, golf, swimming, bicycling, and boating. The Town government excels in providing specialized recreational facilities such as beach parks, leisure pathways, and ball fields where both residents and visitors may participate in recreation activities. The Town strives to work with public and private recreation organizations to promote leisure time programs and activities that will accommodate all ages, skill levels and interests of residents and visitors.

As discussed in the Cultural and Natural Resources Elements, the Island has a rich cultural history and an abundance of natural resources, including numerous archaeological sites that range from prehistoric shell rings to Civil War sites. The natural resources of the Island provide a highly scenic and diverse landscape that offers outstanding views to water, marshes, maritime forests, and wetlands.

Over the past 15 years the Town of Hilton Head Island has taken steps to assess the future park and recreation needs of Island residents. The Parks and Recreation Commission was created in 1992 to establish long and short term goals for development and management of parks and recreational facilities. In October 1995 the first Recreation and Open Space Plan was written outlining recreation needs for the next twenty years. The plan was adopted by Town Council on January 3, 1996 as an appendix to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The plan was then amended in 1998 and 2000 to address additional future park locations. In 2005, the Recreation Element replaced the Recreation and Open Space Plan and was adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The Recreation Element now includes revised park definitions; an existing facilities inventory; and new park guidelines which are currently in use. Listed below are park definitions which pertain to existing and future parks.

These definitions should be used as guidelines. Due to the unique characteristics of Hilton Head Island these definitions must be flexible. Existing and future parks may not fall neatly into one specific park category. For example, the Town beach parks which are listed as special use parks may also be considered regional parks.

Park service areas are referred to in the park definitions below. A park service area defines the geographic location of expected users. Accessory uses, although not stated in every definition, may be implied at both parks and facilities. For example, accessory uses at a gymnasium, may include fitness or aerobics classes, karate classes, basketball courts, and volleyball courts.

10.1 Park Definitions

Activity Categories

Passive Park: A park and/or recreation area that is used for passive activities which may include walking, cultural and educational activities, contemplative activity, picnicking, non-organized sports activities, playground areas and beach access to name a few examples. Some small scale active activities may be included in a passive park.

Active Park: A park and/or recreation area that is used for active activities which may include organized sporting events and may be comprised of multi-purpose fields, multi-purpose sports courts, playground areas, multi-purpose trails, and boat landings. Passive activities may also be included in an active park.

Park Categories

Mini-Park: The mini-park is the smallest park classification which is used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Mini-parks, also known as pocket parks, address unique recreational needs such as landscaped public use areas in a commercial or residential area, or scenic overlook areas. The mini-park may include such passive uses such as picnic areas, arbors, sitting areas and public art. Accessibility to mini-parks may be via interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume streets. Portions of the park site should be readily visible from adjoining streets to provide a secure environment. A mini-park may be between 2,500 square feet and 1 acre in size. However, park areas less than 5 acres may also be considered a mini-park. Ease of access from the surrounding area and linkage to the community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a mini-park site.

Neighborhood Park: The neighborhood park should serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. It may be developed for both active and passive recreational activities, and accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is important to successful design. A neighborhood park should be centrally located within its service area, which may be ¼ mile to ½ mile radius. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park. Generally 1 acre is the accepted minimum size necessary to provide space for a variety of recreation activities, while 1 to 5 acres may be considered optimal. Active recreational facilities should be used in an informal and unstructured manner. Neighborhood parks are not intended for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, parking problems or congestion. Examples of active facilities are playgrounds or structures, court games, informal play fields, and tennis courts. Examples of passive uses are internal trails connecting to a pathway system, picnic/sitting areas, and contemplative or "people watching" areas. Generally active recreational facilities should consume approximately 50 percent of the park's acreage and the remaining 50 percent should be used for passive activities.

Community Park: The community park is larger in size and serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus should be on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and may offer other recreational opportunities not available at neighborhood parks. Community parks should be developed for both passive and active recreational activities. The optimal size for a community park is between 20 and 50 acres, but its actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses. Reserved and programmed uses are compatible and acceptable for a community park. Examples of active facilities at a community park may include large playgrounds or structures, game courts, ball fields, and swimming pools. Examples of passive facilities may include extensive internal trails, individual and group picnic areas, nature study areas, contemplative and sitting areas. Parking lots should be provided to accommodate user access.

Special Use Park: The special use park should offer the opportunity to highlight unique local historical, educational, cultural, and natural resources. Examples may include performing arts parks, special events parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, amphitheaters, boat landing or other water-oriented facilities and beach parks. Features within a special use park may include both hardscape and softscape development for commemorative purposes. Park use may be passive with some sites functioning as venues for festivals, concerts and other special events. Special use facilities should be viewed as strategically-located community-wide facilities rather than as serving a specific neighborhood or area. The special use park is generally accessed by pedestrians via walkways, sidewalks, or trails around and throughout the site as well as by automobiles. Parking should be provided as appropriate for the specific park - some parks require a significant amount of parking (e.g., beach park) while others do not. Opportunities for sharing parking with nearby facilities should be explored for parks with occasional heavy use (e.g., performing arts park). Park use and space requirements are the primary factors in determining the size of the park site.

Regional Park: Regional parks supplement neighborhood and community parks and may serve broader-based recreational needs. The greater size permits large-scale development of both passive and active facilities providing a wide range of recreational activities. Regional parks may include sizeable areas of undeveloped land with natural vegetation and/or water features. The optimal size for a regional park may be between 50 and 85 acres. Regional parks may have a service area within reasonable and equal driving distance from the populations served. Some residential development should be within walking distance of the park, but any high use activity areas within the park should not be situated adjacent to residential areas. Regional parks may have frontage on major and minor arterial streets and may have designated bicycle and pedestrian pathway access. Major streets should be routed around, rather than through regional parks. One or more parking lots should be provided to accommodate user access. Examples of active facilities at a regional park include a large playground, sports complexes (possibly lighted) with single or multi-purpose fields and concession buildings, basketball courts, multi-use courts, tennis courts, and swimming pools. Examples of passive facilities include open spaces and nature reserves, extensive internal trails, 1 or more picnic areas, 1 or more picnic pavilions of varying sizes, fishing access sites, and landscaped contemplative areas.

Private Park/Recreational Facility: This classification recognizes contributions of private providers to the community park and recreation system. Private parks such as swimming pools, tennis courts, and party houses or meeting rooms are generally within residential areas developed solely for the use of residents and are maintained by a neighborhood association. These facilities should not be considered as a complete substitute for public recreation space. Other private recreational facilities are for-profit businesses such as health and fitness clubs, golf courses, and water parks. The location of private parks/recreational facilities is typically determined by a developer. Service areas for these parks will depend on the type of use. The size of the park is also dependent on the intended use of the park.

Linear Park: Linear parks are greenways of open space that may offer scenic beauty and may allow safe, uninterrupted pedestrian or bicycle movement along natural or man-made corridors. Generally they are located along waterways. Linear parks combined with the planned pathway system may link various other parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, libraries and businesses. Pedestrian and bicycle trails can accommodate both recreational and purposeful trips. Linear parks should conserve ecologically unique areas along marshes and creeks and provide long stretches of open space well suited for pathways. Existing tree cover within natural corridors should be protected. The maximum length of a linear park may be variable. The minimum width should be 50 feet. Support facilities throughout the linear park should include benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, signage, and connectors to adjacent parks and pathways.

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- The detailed definitions for the different park categories provide the Town with more information to plan for future parks and provide a tool to plan for specific types of parks to serve the community.

10.2 Major Facility Categories

These are the major facility categories along with a description. Other facility categories are self-explanatory.

Multi-Use Pathway or Trail: Multi-use pathways or trails may be designed to provide walking, skating, bicycling, and other non-motorized recreational opportunities. These pathways should provide linkages to other areas and facilities and offer non-vehicular options for travel through the community. Paved pathways should generally be developed to a high level to accommodate greater numbers of users of all abilities. Non-paved pathways should generally be developed to match the intent of the park or recreational area in which it is located.

Swimming Pool: Swimming pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough space to accommodate diving boards. For teaching purposes the size of the swimming pool should be 75 feet by 45 feet and have an even depth of 3 to 4 feet in non-diving areas. For competitive purposes the size of the swimming pool should be 75 feet by 70 feet. This will accommodate approximately ten swimming lanes with a minimum of 25 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Generally swimming pools should be located in community or regional parks, within a 15 to 30 minute travel time for facility users.

Basketball Courts: Outdoor basketball courts for general community use should have unobstructed space on all sides. Generally outdoor basketball courts should be located in neighborhood or community parks and regional parks. The service radius for an outdoor basketball court is between ¼ mile and ½ mile and should have safe walking or biking access for facility users.

Tennis Courts: Outdoor tennis courts for general community use should be 36 feet by 78 feet and have a minimum of 12 feet clearance on both ends of the court and should be planned in groups of 2 to 4 courts in one location. Generally outdoor tennis courts should be located in neighborhood or community parks and regional parks. An outdoor tennis court should have safe walking and biking access for facility users.

Baseball/Softball Field: Baseball/Softball fields for general community use should be located in community or regional parks. Baseball/softball fields should be within a 15 to 30 minute travel time for facility users.

Multi-Purpose Rectangular Field: Multi-purpose rectangular sports fields for general community use should be located in community or regional parks. Examples of activities played on multi-purpose rectangular fields include football, soccer, lacrosse, and rugby. Multi-purpose rectangular fields will vary in size based on the intended use of the field - youth activities, adult activities, practice activities, programmed activities and tournament activities.

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- The detailed definitions for the different recreational facilities provide the Town with the background needed to plan for future facilities and provide the basis to determine future needs.

10.3 Park Sites

Table 10.1, Existing Island Parks, shows the existing parks listed by park category based on the general park definitions in Section 10.2. Some of these parks contain characteristics of multiple categories and were placed in the category that most describes their characteristics.

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- An inventory of each facility, the type and the location should be used as a tool in determining whether or not the recreational facilities adequately serve the visitors and population of the community.

Table 10.1: Existing Island Parks

Park Category	Existing Parks	Acreage
Mini Park	Compass Rose Park	2
Neighborhood Park	Old Schoolhouse	3
	Greens Shell	3
Community Park	Barker Field*	20
	Island Recreation Center*	6
	Jarvis Creek *	56
	Crossings Park*	74
	Chaplin Community Park*	67
	Barker Field Expansion/Mitchelville Beach Park	27
Special Use Park	Shelter Cove Park	8
	Shelter Cove Memorial Park	6
	Fish Haul Park	31
	Folly Field Beach Park	1
	Islanders Beach Park*	13
	Alder Lane Beach Park	1
	Malphrus Beach Park	7
	Coligny Beach Park	8
	Cordillo Courts*	2
	Driessen Beach Park*	15
	Xeriscape Interpretive Garden	3
	Marshland Road Boat Landing	5
	Old House Fishing Pier (Freddie’s Place Landing/Rasta Drive Fishing Pier)	1
	Cross Island Boat Landing	3
	Honey Horn	69
Northridge (limited use due to conservation easements)	70	
Regional Park	Beaufort County Schools Campus	12
Private Parks/ Recreational Facilities	Leamington Recreation Center (Neighborhood Park)	varies
	Palmetto Hall Recreation Area (Neighborhood Park)	
	Hilton Head Plantation Spring Lake Area (Neighborhood Park)	
	Hilton Head Plantation Dolphin Head Area (Neighborhood Park)	
	Port Royal Plantation Children’s Play Field (Neighborhood Park)	
	Wexford Croquet Court (Neighborhood Park)	
	Sea Pines Harbor Town Liberty Oak (Neighborhood Park)	
	Sea Pines South Beach (Neighborhood Park)	
	Sea Pines Six Oaks Park (Neighborhood Park)	
	Hilton Head Plantation Whooping Crane Conservancy (Special Use Park)	
	Hilton Head Plantation Cypress Conservancy (Special Use Park)	
	Shipyard Beach Club (Special Use Park)	
	Port Royal Plantation Beach Club (Special Use Park)	
	Long Cove Community Dock (Special Use Park)	
	Sea Pines Newhall Preserve (Special Use Park)	
	Sea Pines Forest Preserve (Special Use Park)	
Sea Pines Deer Island Park Preserve (Special Use Park)		
Sea Pines Baynard Ruins Park (Special Use Park)		
Port Royal Plantation Croquet Court		
Linear Park	None at this time	0

Note 1: Parks in Table 10.1 with an asterisk (*) can also be considered a Neighborhood Park.

Note 2: The school campus is considered regional in nature due to the stadium.

Note 3: The Northridge property is considered a Special Use Park; however, there are restrictive covenants on the property that prevent certain uses.

10.4 Park Development Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is moving away from recommending national standards and encouraging communities to create their own unique standards or guidelines for public and private parks and recreational facilities. Since Hilton Head Island has a diverse wealth of recreation opportunities and a unique population that is divided among permanent residents and visitors to the Island, using generic park standards or guidelines is not appropriate.

Table 10.2 shows new park development guidelines and future park needs. The guidelines include park category, general park size, population served, existing parks in 2009, additional parks needed by 2020, and total number of parks needed in 2020, which includes both existing and additional park figures. The calculations for the additional parks needed by 2020 are based on the population projection of 53,300 permanent residents in the year 2020. This population figure was projected by the Town of Hilton Head Island in August 2004 for the Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan. In the Neighborhood Park and Community Park categories, the numbers for additional parks have been adjusted to better reflect the Island's unique characteristics, including private facilities and a public beach.

The park numbers shown in Table 10.2 reflect the recommended number of existing and future public parks and do not include parks located in private gated communities. It is unknown if the PUDs plan to expand or construct new parks or facilities for their residents.

The number of Community Parks needed in the year 2020 reflects the use of private facilities and beach. Several of the PUDs and private schools provide recreational facilities that could be accommodated in Community Parks such as rectangular multi-purpose fields and other single purpose fields. The number of additional Community Parks needed by 2020 has been adjusted to reflect this. For every 2 rectangular multi-purpose fields and 2 single-purpose fields in PUDs or at private schools, one Community Park was deducted from the guidelines for the number of parks calculated using the population projection of 53,300 permanent residents.

Park types recommended for expansion can be seen in reviewing the information in Table 10.2 for the Neighborhood Park, Community Park and Regional Park categories. Based on previous assessments, by the year 2020, a total of 2 additional Community Parks, 1 additional Regional Park, and 14 additional Neighborhood Parks were recommended for construction on the Island. The Town will work with residents of individual neighborhoods to determine if there is an interest for a neighborhood park. The number of additional parks needed and the total parks needed by 2020 presented in Table 10.2 in the Neighborhood Park category are based on the population projection of 16,421 permanent residents outside of PUDs. This number was used because the Town does not plan to construct Neighborhood parks inside PUDs. The word “varies” in Table 10.2 indicates the information is not based on population but rather the desire of the Town, the location of the property, and any opportunities available on the property.

Beaufort County adopted the Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan in 2006. One of the sections of this plan addresses parks and recreation on a regional level in southern Beaufort County. The Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan is not intended to replace this Recreation Element of the Hilton Head Island Comprehensive Plan. The Regional Plan has a broad scope of the recreation needs of the entire area while this Recreation Element also includes local and special use parks that serve the needs of the people on Hilton Head Island.

Table 10.2: New Park Development Guidelines & Future Park Needs

Park Category	General Size in Acres	Population Served	Existing Number of Parks in 2009	Additional Parks Needed by 2020	Total of Existing & Additional Parks Needed by 2020
Neighborhood	1-5	500-1,000	2	14*	16
Community	20-80	2,000-5,000	6	2	8
Regional	50-85	5,000-20,000	1	1	2
Special Use	1-50	1,000-5,000	16	0	16
Mini	2500sq. ft –1 acre	Varies	1	Varies	Varies
Linear	Varies	Varies	0	Varies	Varies

*It should be noted that the need for Neighborhood Parks will fluctuate depending on the requests of each individual neighborhood.

The Town of Hilton Head Island worked with the Beaufort County to assist in the development of the Regional Plan. The Town provided information for the regional plan on the park and recreation needs of the residents of Hilton Head Island. The Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan recommended the Town of Hilton Head Island adopt the following levels of service for a regional park network:

- 12.2 acres of land per 1,000 residents; and
- \$722 of park and recreational facilities per capita

It should be noted this level of service was adapted from a list of existing parks considered regional in nature. With the inclusion of all other existing and future parks the Town of Hilton Head Island is exceeding this level of service.

FUNDING SOURCES

Town Council attempts to minimize reliance on property tax while expanding alternative revenue sources. Several funding sources are used to construct and maintain the Town's park system.

- Parks impact fees were enacted Countywide to provide funding for emerging park needs. Similar to Traffic Impact Fees, parkland purchases and park developments have nearly exhausted the accumulated monies in our Park Impact Fee account. Thus, the Town may consider Interfund borrowing that will be repaid with interest as the Town continues to garner park impact fees through build out.
- Ad valorem property taxes, collected during the fiscal year.
- Sunday Liquor Sales Permit Fees derived from the sale of permits to sell alcohol on Sunday.
- County Contributions such as their bond issue for CIP projects.
- Donations.
- Grants.
- Local Accommodation Tax (ATAX) grants are derived from a State mandated two- percent tax on short-term rentals, hotels and motel accommodations.
- Beach Fees are derived from an additional two-percent Local Accommodations Tax levied by Town Council. This source provides dedicated funds to beach renourishment and related monitoring, dune refurbishment, maintenance and operations, and new beach parks and access facilities.
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) are funds derived from increased assessed value above the baseline assessment when the TIF District was established. These funds may be used for public projects within the District.
- Real Estate Transfer Fee which is .25 of 1% on each real estate transaction in the Town. The funds generated by this fee are dedicated to the Land Acquisition Program and its debt service for land acquisition only.

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- As the population of the Island changes, so does the need for recreational opportunities.
- Guidelines should provide a mechanism to establish a plan to develop future parks and to determine the needs of the community. Several factors should be considered such as population, level of service, and the associated projections. The Comprehensive Plan should provide the foundation to establish the guidelines while recognizing that other factors, such as changing community needs and use trends in order to determine whether or not future parks are necessary.
- Additional funding sources and ways to efficiently utilize the existing funding sources should be considered and reviewed.

10.5 Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

Table 10.3 is an inventory of existing recreational facilities. The extensive list shows the wealth and variety of recreational facilities in the Town both outside and inside Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), giving a more accurate representation of available recreational facilities within the Town. Commercial businesses such as mini-golf, health clubs/fitness centers and tennis clubs were not included in the survey information. Private schools and church facilities were also not included.

Swimming pools and tennis courts located at multi-family developments were also not included in the inventory. These facilities are available to the owners of the multi-family units and their guests, and not to the general public. In the instance of a PUD, swimming pools and tennis courts available to all residents of the PUD were included in the survey and those available to only one group of property owners in the PUD were not counted due to their limited access.

Table 10.3, Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities, shows that the Town has over 60 miles of paved pathways/trails. These pathways link various Town parks and commercial and residential areas of the Island. These pathways service pedestrians by providing access along roadways throughout the Island. The pathways are used by both residents and visitors for transportation and recreation activities such as bicycling, walking, and jogging. In private gated communities there are also paved pathways and trails.

While not limited to non-motorized boat traffic, the County boat landing at Marshland Road is used heavily by people to launch kayaks. Other launching sites exist at private and commercial marinas and docks along the waterfront throughout the Island and were not included in the survey information.

ROLE OF PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

The majority of the Town's neighborhoods consist of subdivisions that are master-planned with parks and recreation in mind. Parks are located to provide safe and convenient access to recreation opportunities. Most commonly, pathways and parks are privately owned and maintained by property owner's associations (POAs). The Town's current policy is that new development provides for community open space and parks to serve the development's residential population. Pathways located in private developments, which serve the connectivity needs of residents within the development, are not publicly accessible. The Town's pathways are intended to provide connectivity outside the gates to encourage non-motorized travel.

Although privately owned and maintained, their use by the general public cannot be discounted. The facilities provided by PUDs address many of the recreation needs of residents and visitors. Many of the parks are utilized as team sports practice fields when a resident parent serves as coach. Often there are non-resident participants who benefit from the private facilities.

ROLE OF SCHOOLS

Given the high cost of land on Hilton Head Island, it is important that schools serve multiple needs of the community. When community groups or organizations wish to utilize Beaufort County School's fields, gymnasiums or other school facilities for recreation activities, each event must be approved and scheduled through the specific school's principal. A continued strong working relationship with the schools is strategic to providing the most efficient delivery of leisure services.

ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Beaches: The Town of Hilton Head Island contains 12 miles of the world's finest beach. The entire beach is public, from the ocean to the high water mark. However, access to the beach may be either public or private. The Town of Hilton Head Island provides beach access at nine different locations:

- Alder Lane Beach Access, off South Forest Beach Drive
- Burkes Beach Access, at the end of Burkes Beach Road
- Chaplin Community Park, off of William Hilton Parkway
- Coligny Beach Park, off Coligny Circle
- Driessen Beach Park, at the end of Bradley Beach Road
- Fish Haul Park, at the end of Beach City Road
- Folly Field Beach Park, off Folly Field Road
- Islanders Beach Park, off Folly Field Road
- Mitchelville Beach Park, off Beach City Road

The beach is used for various recreational activities, including passive beach going, running, cycling, kite flying, surfing, swimming, exercising and numerous other activities. Maintenance of the beach is contracted with a private company that also supplies various equipment and beach items for a fee. Other planned activities include weddings, competitive races and events, religious services and fitness programs occur on the beach during various times. The beach has a significant economic impact to the community, from the creation of jobs associated with the beach and the millions of visitors and users, which is further described in both the Community Facilities and Economic Development Element of this plan.

Multi-Purpose Pathways: The Town of Hilton Head Island provides nearly 55 miles of public pathways and nature trails. The pathways are used for both transportation and recreation, by casual cycling and walking. The pathways are continuous through much of the island, providing connectivity to other recreational opportunities, and residential and other commercial centers.

In addition, there are more than 50 miles of pathways and shared roadways within the private developments. These private pathways are for the use of residents and renters of the respective communities and their guests.

Figure 10.1 Existing and Future Parks illustrates the existing and future parks anticipated for the Town.

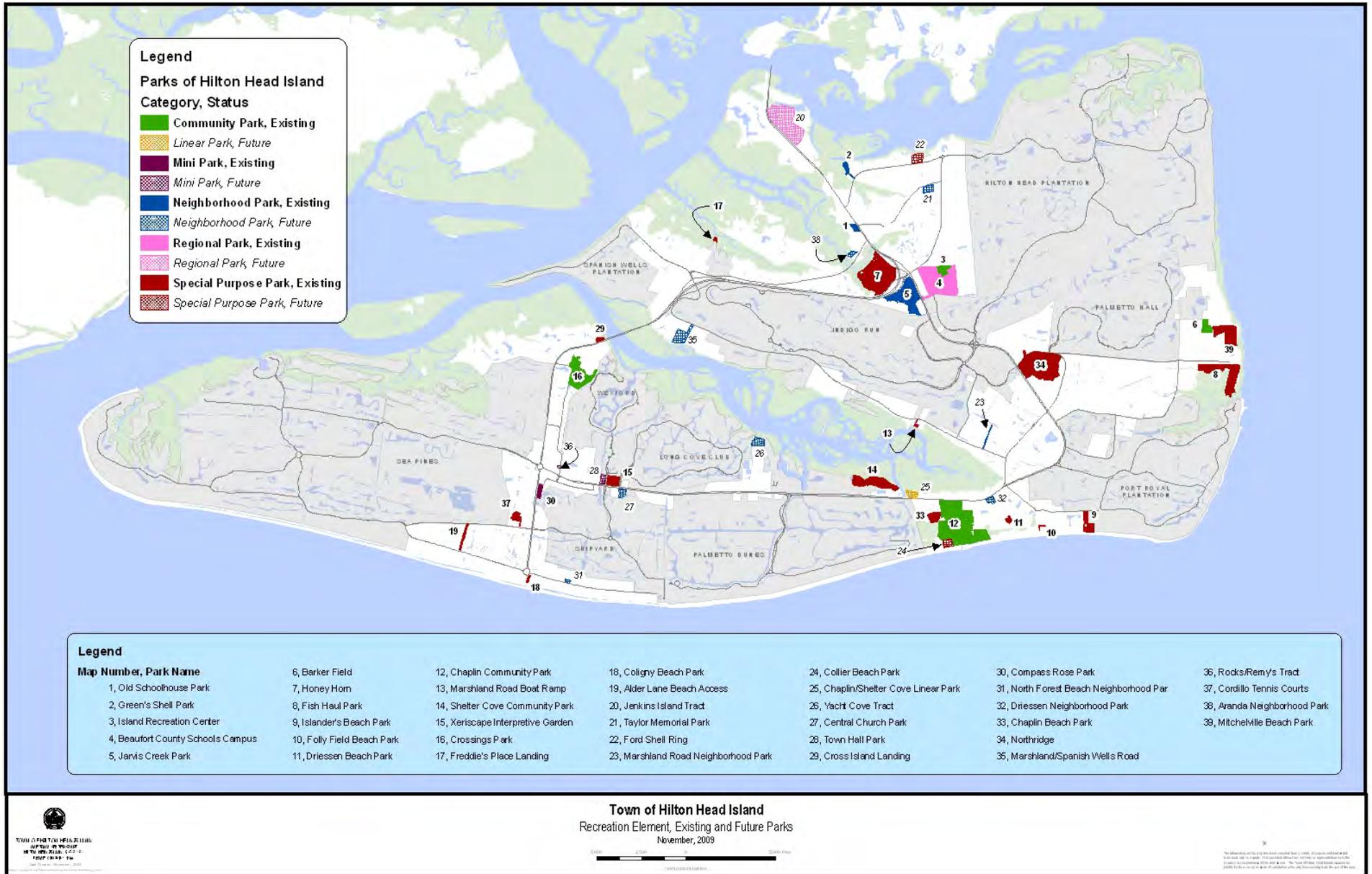
Table 10.3: Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

	Town of HHI	Bft County PALS	HH Schools Campus	Island Rec. Center	Boys & Girls Club	Hilton Head Plantation	Indigo Run	Long Cove Club	Palmetto Dunes	Palmetto Hall	Port Royal Plantation	Sea Pines	Shipyard Plantation	Spanish Wells Plantation	Wexford Plantation	TOTAL
Paved Trails (miles)	55		1.2			10	1.5		4		7	15	10		5	108
Unpaved Trails (miles)	2.5										2	2				6.5
Beach (miles)																13
Rectangular Multi –Purpose Fields	11	5	4	1		1	1					1				24
Single Purpose Fields	3	7	6			1		1		1	1					20
Running Track			1													1
Indoor Basketball Court			5	1	1											7
Outdoor Basketball Court	5	1		3	2	1.5		2			1				1	16.5
Outdoor Tennis Court	8	2	10			33	6	10	25	4	20	59	20	2	6	205
Volleyball Court			1	2		2										5
Public Golf Course (# of holes)						36	18		54	36	36	54	27			261
Private Golf Course (# of holes)						36	18	18			18	18		9	18	135
Outdoor Swimming Pool				1		1*	3*	1*		1	1*	4*		1	1*	14*
Indoor Swimming Pool												1				1
Playground	6	2	6	1	2	2	4	1	2	1	1	2	1		1	28
Dog Park	1															1
Beach Park	8					1			2		2	2	1			16
Creek Park								1								1
Boat Landing		3							1			1				5
Nature Preserve (Acres)	70**					177					6.5	605				858.5
Gymnasium			4	1	1											6
Community House/Meeting Room (Square Footage)	2,660			280	280	9,632	3575	14,000			3,500	5,400	4,000	1,500	5,500	50,327
Picnic Areas	22	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1			1	39
Horse Stables												1				1
Lawn Bowling Court															1	1
Croquet Court											1				1	2
Roller Hockey Facility	1															1
Skateboard Facility	1															1
Outdoor Band/Theater/Pavilion/Stage									1			2				3
Civic Art Areas									1			2				3
Teen Club					1											1
Rowing/Sailing Center									1							1

*Of the 14 outdoor swimming pools in this table, 9 have outdoor “kiddy” pools in addition to adult pools.

** This 70 acre nature preserve is the Town-owned Northridge property.

Figure 10.1: Existing and Future Parks



Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- It is important to understand the recreation facilities that are available throughout the Town. The inventory includes both public and private recreational facilities indicating that organizations and individual communities have assumed the responsibility to develop recreational opportunities to meet their needs. This detailed inventory of available recreational opportunities should be used as a tool in determining whether or not adequate facilities are available for the community.
- All organizations and groups, including the Town, School District and private communities and developers should work together when developing park and recreation plans.

10.6 Facilities Guidelines

As mentioned earlier, the National Recreation and Park Association is moving away from recommending national standards. The NRPA is advocating communities create unique guidelines for recreational facilities that will accommodate each community's individual needs. Guidelines for several regularly-used recreational facilities in Hilton Head Island have been developed by Town staff using information from a variety of sources such as public input, other communities' guidelines or standards, and the National Recreation and Park Association.

These guidelines are not rigid and can fluctuate depending on the community's recreation needs, population and the availability of land to build new facilities or renovate existing facilities. The total number of facilities used in these guidelines includes facilities located inside and outside private gated communities. By including these, the total number of recreational facilities is more accurately related to the total population of the Island. Some of the more popular facilities are described below.

Multi-purpose rectangular fields are typically used for sports such as football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and rugby. Currently there are 24 multi-purpose rectangular fields in the Town with 3 of those in gated communities. Since these fields accommodate a variety of sports the number of users that each field can serve is a cumulative total of 5,000 people.

There are currently 20 single purpose fields in the Town with 4 of those in gated communities. An example of a single purpose field is a baseball/softball field. Since these fields accommodate one type of sport the number of users that each field can serve is a cumulative total of 3,000 people.

There are a total of 23.5 basketball courts in the Town with 5.5 of those in gated communities. This number is a combination of 7 indoor and 16.5 outdoor basketball courts. One basketball court (indoor or outdoor) can serve approximately 5,000 people.

Tennis is a popular recreational activity in the Town. There are a total of 205 tennis courts on the Island with 185 of those in gated communities. This figure does not include commercial tennis facilities. One tennis court can serve approximately 4,000 people.

There are many swimming pools in the Town. There are 14 outdoor swimming pools in gated communities and 1 year-round indoor pool outside the gates. It is important to note that the outdoor swimming pool located at the Island Recreation Center converts to an indoor pool during the winter months with a dome that is placed over the pool facility. This pool is counted in the outdoor category. Of the 14 locations reporting outdoor pools, 9 also have outdoor "kiddy" pools. One pool can serve approximately 20,000 people.

The need for additional swimming pools has recently been a topic of discussion with residents and recreation organizations on the Island. There is one swimming pool for community-wide use located at the Island Recreation Center. Although there appears to be a sufficient number of limited access swimming pools Island residents believe another community-wide swimming pool should be constructed.

There are 28 playgrounds located in the Town with 14 of those in gated communities. One playground can serve approximately 2,000 people.

The waterways surrounding Hilton Head Island and the 13 miles of beaches draw residents and tourists to the Island to live, work, and visit the beautiful natural environment. There are 16 beach parks located on Hilton Head Island, 8 of these parks are owned and maintained by the Town. The number of people served by one beach park will fluctuate based on the park size, proximity to residential areas, and the number of parking spaces available at the park. In addition to the private and Town-owned Beach Parks there are several beach access points in established subdivisions throughout the Island, such as the North Forest Beach neighborhood, where residents can access the beach.

In and around Hilton Head Island there are 5 boat landings/ramps; 3 are county boat ramps and 2 are privately owned. Based on the available parking and the size of the boat landing, 1 boat landing can accommodate between approximately 1,000 to 8,000 people, depending on parking.

Outdoor recreation activities abound on Hilton Head Island and picnicking is a popular activity for both residents and visitors alike. The Town has 39 picnic areas with 12 of these in gated communities. Each picnicking area can serve approximately 2,000 people. Table 10.4: Future Parks and Suggested Facility Locations, indicates types of facilities and locations for future parks.

Table 10.4: Future Parks and Suggested Facility Locations

Park Category	Future Parks As Designated in the CIP	Suggested Facilities from the Public
Neighborhood	TBD (See Note 1)	Playgrounds Picnic Areas Basketball Courts Tennis Courts
Community	Yacht Cove Island Recreation Aquatics Center	Multi Purpose Fields (See Note 2) Swimming Pool with Kiddie Pool Indoor & Outdoor Volleyball Court Jogging Track With Exercise Stops Basketball Courts Tennis Courts
Regional	TBD	TBD
Special Use	Collier Beach Park Ford Shell Ring Sailing & Rowing Center	Sailing/Rowing Center Fishing Pier for Fresh & Salt Water More Boat Ramps/Landings
Mini	Rock’s/ Remy’s Tract	Water Fountains Picnic Areas Public Art
Linear	Chaplin Linear Park All Pathways	Boardwalks with Water Views Lighting, Street Furniture, etc.

Note 1: To be determined after coordinating with neighborhoods who desires neighborhood parks.

Note 2: Many organizations have requested dedicated single purpose fields. It is the Town’s desire to create as many multi-purpose fields as possible in order to supply the needs of the various ball teams. Better scheduling and lighting of the existing fields could result in postponing the need for construction of more fields. This needs to be monitored annually.

TBD: To be determined

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- Guidelines should be considered when making recommendations for future park development. However, they should be used as a tool with the consideration that our population and visitors may have needs that are unique to the character of the Island community.

10.7 Park Maintenance Tasks and Levels of Service

Maintenance of parks and recreational facilities within the Town is done by both the Town and Beaufort County through shared informal agreements which may be formalized in the future as intergovernmental agreements. Beaufort County maintains the active recreational facilities such as multi-purpose fields and baseball and softball fields. The Town of Hilton Head Island Facilities Management Division maintains the passive parks and beach parks located on Town properties.

There is a high expectation of residents and visitors of Hilton Head Island for excellent recreational facilities. To maintain the expected level of service requires an impact on fiscal resources. Redevelopment and development of new parks and facilities should be considered in annual budgets to ensure that the long term maintenance is addressed.

The Town also maintains a beach patrol franchise agreement with Shore Beach Services for patrolling and servicing the 13 miles of beaches on the Island. The Town may want to investigate ways to work with Beaufort County to have improved maintenance to meet the expectations and evaluate ability of Town's Facilities Management Division to assume all maintenance and operation of parks.

MAINTENANCE TASKS

Maintenance tasks are divided into 7 major categories described below and are performed by both the Town of Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County to sustain a high level of service for the residents and visitors of Hilton Head Island.

Park Landscape Maintenance

Turf areas are mowed on a regular basis and sidewalks, decks, and parking lots are cleared with leaf blowing machines and edging on an as-needed basis. Pruning of trees and shrubs is performed when necessary to maintain an orderly appearance. Spraying for insect and disease control, weed control (performed by manual, mechanical, or chemical means) and mulching or pine strawing is performed throughout the year.

Pathways/Sidewalks/Trails Maintenance

Pathways are maintained in a safe and neat appearance at all times. This includes edging, and clearing tree limbs and branches, mowing shoulders and removing other objects interfering with a clear pathway.

Playground Maintenance

Grass, weeds, and other vegetation is hand-pulled from playground areas as needed. No chemicals are used in playground areas. All maintenance work in playground areas is performed during daylight hours.

Ball Field Maintenance

Turf at athletic fields is maintained by the County. Disease and insect problems are treated immediately upon observation and the irrigation systems are maintained in proper working order at all times.

Park Janitorial Services

Restroom facilities at park locations are opened and cleaned daily with additional cleanings on weekends, holidays, and during the visitor high season between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Litter Control

All litter and debris is removed prior to mowing or any other landscape services performed at Town parks and recreational facilities. Trash receptacles at park locations are emptied daily.

Street Sweeping

All Town owned parking lots and entry roads into parks and recreational facilities operated by the Town are swept weekly.

Recycling

The Town has established a beach and park recycling pilot program at Islander's and Coligny Beach Parks, as well as Chaplin Park to serve the highest concentration of Island residents. A solar powered trash receptacle with a recycling kiosk will also be installed in Coligny Beach Park.

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- Responses from the Community Survey indicated that the community is satisfied with the existing recreational facilities and parks; however, would like to ensure that they are maintained to ensure high quality and character.
- Fiscal responsibility and the community's willingness to pay for potential increase in costs associated with the redevelopment or development of new or existing facilities and to maintain a certain level of quality should be included as a consideration when making policy and planning decisions.
- The Town should coordinate maintenance standards and other related maintenance issues, including a formalized agreement with Beaufort County and Shore Beach Services to verify that all organizations and departments involved in maintenance of recreational facilities are operating under the same standards.

10.8 Recreation Programs

Recreation programs for children, adults and senior citizens in Hilton Head Island are offered through the Island Recreation Association and Beaufort County Parks and Leisure Services (PALS). The Island Recreation Association is a non-profit organization which provides and coordinates public recreation programs, activities and special events in the Town. Beaufort County PALS is a division of the county government which provides recreational facilities and activities in Beaufort County.

The Island Recreation Association maintains the Island Recreation Center located on Wilborn Road on the north end of the Island. As a Town facility, it is being reviewed for recapitalization and maintenance by the Town in the future. This facility and several other recreational facilities in the Town are home to many of the programs offered by the Association. Programs offered by the association are grouped into categories which include preschool programs, youth programs, youth athletics, adult and senior programs, adult athletics, aquatics and special events.

Pre-school programs are for children between the ages of 2 and 5, starting ages vary based on the program. Some of the programs offered include discovery club preschool, mother's morning out, storybook hour, art classes, kitchen/cooking classes and various sports.

Youth programs are for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Some of the programs offered include kid's night out, girl's night out, after school recreation club, vacation club, summer camp, and birthday parties.

Youth athletics are for children between the ages of 6 and 12, some ages vary based on the activity. Some of the youth athletic programs offered are basketball, roller hockey league, flag football, soccer league, soccer camp, softball, junior golf school, karate, tennis, and baseball.

Adult athletics are offered through the Island Recreation Center and include: dodge ball league, basketball league, soccer leagues, tennis leagues, kickball league, and jazzercise classes.

Aquatics programs are offered to a variety of age groups from babies to master swimmers. Aquatic programs offered at the Island Recreation Center are: group swim lessons, water babies, private swim lessons, lifeguard training, masters swimming, Hilton Head aquatics swim team, open/lap swimming, water fitness classes and recreational swim club.

The Island Recreation Association also offers a variety of special events held during the year at various facilities throughout the Island. Some special events include: golf tournaments, a water festival, tennis tournaments, Wingfest, oyster roasts, and the Summer Jams concert series.

The Senior Center (SHARE) is a division of the Island Recreation Association and offers a variety of educational, recreation and social activities to adults over 50 years of age.

These activities are offered at various locations including the senior center (SHARE), the Island Recreation Center, St. Andrew Methodist Church and the Player's Club. The examples listed in the Adult Programs category are just a sample of the activities offered through the senior center. There also are regularly scheduled daily activities at the senior center facility such as bowling, group bicycle rides, table tennis, and bridge games. Numerous seminars and discussion groups are scheduled throughout the year which includes a wellness series, guest author series, gardening series, and financial seminars. Day and extended trips are organized through the senior center and they include trips to places of interests in the region such as Charleston, Beaufort, Kiawah Island, and Savannah and Macon, Georgia.

Beaufort County PALS offers youth and adult athletic programs on the Island. Throughout the year PALS coordinates adult soccer leagues and various youth sports leagues: baseball and softball, soccer, football, cheerleading, and basketball.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry is an organization that exists solely for the benefit of children. It is funded by a variety of sources, but mostly depends on the community including churches, civic organizations, businesses, local foundations, and individuals. They provide such programs as Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; the Arts; and Sports, Fitness and Recreation.

Many of the private gated communities throughout the Town offer a variety of recreational programs for their residents and guests of residents. Examples of these programs include summer day camps, dancing lessons, fitness classes, social or special interest clubs, and holiday themed parties for adults and children. There are also an assortment of private sports organizations, such as Gator Football, Dixie Youth Baseball, Public Tennis Inc. and others, that provide programming for a variety of sports activities such as baseball, soccer, swimming, boating, football, tennis, golf, and martial arts.

Implications for the Comprehensive Plan

- There are various programs available on the Island that cross different population and socio-economic groups. As our population changes, community programs and services should be evaluated to ensure that the needs of our community are being met. The variations in programs provide social interaction and provide connectivity among members of the community.
- It is recommended the Town continue to participate with local recreation organizations to develop recreation programs that will meet the needs of the residents and visitors of the Island, including: baseball, football, tennis, soccer, running, sailing, and martial arts.

10.9 Goals and Implementation Strategies

Key issues of recreation were identified based on public input that was received throughout this process and data that was collected by Town staff. Recreation needs are not isolated; therefore, the implementation strategies should be approached regionally and collectively, integrating a palette of solutions.

Goals

Goal 10.1 Recreation Needs

- A. Continue to expand the public recreation system by providing adequate facilities to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of the Island population (including visitors) while maintaining sensitivity to the specific needs of the Island.
- B. Participate with local recreation organizations in the development of programs and facilities to meet the needs of the resident and visitor populations of the Island.
- C. Continue working with Beaufort County and the Town of Bluffton to ensure a regional park system on the mainland is developed that will serve the recreational needs of the residents and visitors of Southern Beaufort County.

Goal 10.2 Protection of Unique Features

- A. Acquire conservation and park lands as a means to preserve natural and cultural resources for educational, interpretive, and passive recreation uses.
- B. Expand national recognition of Town's recreational facilities, programs, and opportunities such as beaches, pathways and cycling.

Goal 10.3 Neighborhood Parks

- A. Provide neighborhood parks where needed and desired.

Goal 10.4 Pathways

- A. Continue improving and expanding the existing network of multi-use pathways throughout the Island enabling residents and visitors to access recreational areas, shopping centers, schools and businesses by non-motorized forms of transportation.

Goal 10.5 Maintenance

- A. Continue working with Beaufort County to provide the high standards of maintenance Island residents and visitors expect from this community.
- B. Budget for and provide cost effective park maintenance and operations in order to maintain the expected level of service for all Town-owned parks.

Goal 10.6 Funding Sources

- A. Continue to seek and utilize a variety of funding sources in order to attain required parks at build-out.

Implementation Strategies

10.1 Recreation Needs

- A. Be proactive in consideration of leisure services based on current park and recreation needs assessment.
- B. Continue participation with local recreation organizations in the development of programs and facilities to meet the needs of the diverse populations of the Island.
- C. Work with appropriate agencies to ensure the recreational needs of the Island's various age groups, specifically youth and elderly residents are met through adequate facilities and programs.
- D. Include within the park system a combination of all park types and strive to achieve the park guidelines as stated in this element by providing the number of future parks needed based on population projections.
- E. Encourage public participation in the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of recreational facilities and programs.
- F. Improve and expand existing parks to accommodate additional facility needs.
- G. Planning for parks should begin as appropriate Town-owned properties are identified for such a use, including locating specific facilities within future parks.

10.2 Protection of Unique Features

- A. Coordinate with various agencies including Beaufort County Rural & Critical Lands Board and property owners to identify and purchase undeveloped property for parks and recreation lands as needed.
- B. Acquire properties located in areas of need for both passive and active uses, and for access points to waterways.
- C. Support accessible regional parks which complement the local park system.
- D. Seek recognition as a place that offers unique recreation facilities, programs and opportunities.

10.3 Neighborhood Parks

- A. Work directly with residents of neighborhoods to determine a need or desire for a neighborhood park.

10.4 Pathways

- A. Continually make improvements to the existing pathway system and provide new pathway links.
- B. Build pathways when improving or building roads and in conjunction with utility projects.
- C. Educate residents and visitors on the use of bicycles and the rules and responsibilities of bicycling.
- D. Educate residents and visitors on the use pathways.
- E. Link new parks with the multi-use pathway system.

10.5 Maintenance

- A. Determine if the Town's Facilities Management Division should increase park maintenance responsibilities.
- B. Examine the need to create a Parks and Recreation Department to supplement or replace those services provided by Beaufort County.
- C. Work with the County to ensure high quality recreational facilities through proper maintenance.

10.6 Funding Sources

- A. Apply for Federal and State grants for park construction.
- B. Continue to seek private donations and co-operative agreements.
- C. Continue to evaluate Park Impact Fee Program to determine its adequacy.
- D. Increase park maintenance funding proportionately to increases in park construction
- E. Seek additional funding sources.