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## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MASTER PLAN PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

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The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process is a vital component of local government operations. Its purpose is to assess the current state of affairs regarding the provision of community parks, recreation and open space services, stimulate an open public discussion of future needs for community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities, and establish a plan of action for the future growth and development of community parks, recreation and open space services. The end product of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process provides the town and the parks and recreation department a viable blueprint and plan of action to guide the future orderly growth and development of the community's comprehensive parks and recreation system. This section of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* contains a brief synopsis of the community characteristics of the Town of Carolina Beach, a quick description of the public input portion of the planning process, and, a summary of the master plan recommendations.

## ***Community Characteristics***

The Town of Carolina Beach is a rapidly growing coastal town located on Pleasure Island in New Hanover County in southeastern North Carolina. The Town of Carolina Beach is situated approximately 25 minutes south of Wilmington, North Carolina and lies between the Cape Fear River to its west and the Atlantic Ocean to its east. Its location, weather, climate, natural resources and amenities make the Town of Carolina Beach an ideal resort community.

The Town of Carolina Beach was established in 1857. The population of the Town of Carolina Beach in 2000 was 4,778. This represented a 31% increase from the 1990 population. The latest population figure of 5,264 represents the 2002 State Demographer Certified Estimates and a 45% increase from the 1990 population (**Appendix A**). A portion of the population boost from 2000 to 2002 can be attributed to an annexation by the Town.

## ***Public Input***

A significant amount of time and effort was expended identifying the desires, needs and interests of the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach for parks and recreation programs, services, areas and facilities. To this end, the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach were provided the following opportunities to directly and actively participate in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process:

- A formal information gathering session was held with the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Two (2) public meetings were facilitated
- Specific interviews with four (4) key community parks and recreation stakeholders were conducted
- Key stakeholders were identified and participated in a Focus Group discussion
- The town's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comprised of selected local stakeholders met separately on several additional occasions to discuss and provide input into the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process

- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Community Needs Assessment Survey instruments were administered to town residents through the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department's Recreation Center

### ***Summary of Recommendations***

The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* outlines the existing and anticipated parks and recreation needs for the Town of Carolina Beach. The Master Plan primarily focuses on the issues and challenges of **1)** land acquisition, **2)** area and facility development, **3)** program and service development, **4)** policy and procedure considerations, and, **5)** personnel considerations.

While focusing on these five (5) identified issues and challenges, the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* also acknowledges the facts that **a)** the Town of Carolina Beach is not currently operating under an updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan; **b)** New Hanover County is a relatively small county and the Town of Carolina Beach is closely impacted by parks and recreation programs, services, areas and facilities provided by New Hanover County itself and the three additional incorporated municipalities of the City of Wilmington, the Town of Kure Beach and the Town of Wrightsville Beach; and, **c)** the economic and fiscal environment in and surrounding the Town of Carolina Beach is not currently, nor expected to be over the next 3 – 5 years, supportive of a high-dollar Parks and Recreation Master Plan detailing significant and costly parks and recreation services recommendations. Therefore, this Master Plan makes specific recommendations for the next five (5) year period (2008 – 2013) while at the same time identifying several issues and challenges for the Town of Carolina Beach beyond the year 2013.

#### ***1. Land Acquisition—2008 – 2013***

Although this document makes no specific recommendations regarding the acquisition of land for parks, recreation and open space for 2008 – 2013, it does recognize and acknowledge that it would be highly advantageous for the Town of Carolina Beach to acquire additional land for parks, recreation and open space purposes. The only recommendation is that the Town of Carolina Beach implements an aggressive initiative to acquire properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space. This acquisition

could be through outright purchase, but it could also include land donations, eminent domain acquisitions and conservation easements.

## ***2. Area and Facility Development—2008 – 2013***

In terms of area and facility development, recommendations include, but are not limited to, expanding the Carolina Beach Recreation Center; improving and enhancing the Carolina Beach Lake Park and constructing an Environmental Education Center on the site; developing small parks in the southern and northern ends of town; improving and expanding Mike Chappell Park; and, adding public access sites and amenities along the Cape Fear River and Myrtle Grove Sound.

## ***3. Program and Service Development—2008 – 2013***

Recommendations for program and service development include, but are not limited to, the acquisition of a multi-passenger vehicle; offering additional special events and tournaments such as surfing, sailing, kayaking, biking and holiday programs; providing additional recreational programs and services directly on the oceanfront beach and estuarine waters in and around Carolina Beach such as scuba diving, swimming and boating; expanding the soccer, basketball and baseball/softball leagues; and, providing additional programs for older adults and senior citizens such as over-night trips, nutrition classes and exercise and fitness classes.

## ***4. Policy and Procedure Considerations—2008 – 2013***

The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* discusses several policy and procedure changes impacting the delivery of parks and recreation services to Town residents. Policy and procedure considerations presented in the Master Plan include, but are not limited to, the establishment of new and the expansion of existing formal cooperative partnerships with interested community agencies and organizations; adherence to and compliance with American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and recreational inclusion practices and procedures; the creation of a Pedestrian and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Steering Committee; the establishment of an Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point Liaison Committee; the establishment of a Town Shoreline Access Task Force and Plan; and, the appointment of a Town Council Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

## **5. Personnel Considerations—2008 – 2013**

The recommendations presented in this document are worthless without a commitment to providing adequate professional parks and recreation staff to carry out the existing needs and proposed changes. The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* recommends 1) the creation and hiring of additional full-time staff positions between 2008 – 2013 (Parks Maintenance Specialist, Parks Program Supervisor, Recreation Leader, Environmental Education Center Supervisor, and Environmental Education Center Specialist); and, 2) the creation and hiring of additional full-time staff positions Beyond 2013 (Aquatics Complex Supervisor, Assistant Aquatics Complex Supervisor, Aquatics Complex Specialist, Central Business District (CBD) Center Supervisor, Recreation Center Supervisor, Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor, Recreation Leader, and Parks Maintenance Specialist. The document also recommends that the Parks Programs Supervisor position created from 2008 – 2013 be renamed and refocused as an Assistant Parks Programs Superintendent Beyond 2013.

### ***Highlights***

In summary, the major focus of Town efforts over the next five (5) years should be:

1. the expansion of the Carolina Beach Recreation Center
2. the improvement, expansion and renovation of Mike Chappell Park
3. the improvement, expansion and renovation of Carolina Beach Lake Park
4. the design and construction of a comprehensive pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle transportation network
5. the establishment of public access sites and amenities and preservation of working waterfronts along the Cape Fear River and Myrtle Grove Sound
6. the construction of a small park in the southern end of town
7. the construction of a small park in the northern end of town
8. the creation and hiring of new full-time staff positions
9. the improvement, remodeling, upgrading and expansion of public facilities in the Central Business District (CBD) and the downtown Boardwalk area

10. the expansion and improvement of general cooperative partnerships and the establishment of various committees and task forces such as the Pedestrian and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Steering Committee, the Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point Liaison Committee, the Federal Emergency Management Act “Buy-Out” Committee, and, the Shoreline Access Task Force
11. the appointment of a Town Council Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is intended to be a working document that is not encumbered by hypothetical or academic scenarios that hold little practical application in the real world. This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan gives the citizens, managers and administrators of the Town of Carolina Beach solid recommendations that are both feasible and realistic given the economic, political, cultural and social climates of the time and area.

Standards developed and recommended by organizations such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Division of Parks and Recreation were considered and evaluated in the preparation of this Master Plan. These standards were judged only to be guidelines to be considered and not requirements to be meet. A listing of these standards is presented in Chapter 5 of this document.





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## ***CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION***

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The purpose of this *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is: (1) to identify and define the parks and recreation needs and interests of the citizens of Carolina Beach; and, (2) to provide a recommended, practical, comprehensive plan of action for meeting the immediate and long-range parks and recreation needs and interests for services, programs, areas and facilities in the Town of Carolina Beach.

The Town of Carolina Beach currently offers its residents and visitors a wide variety of recreational opportunities and experiences through the Parks and Recreation Department. This department provides a diversity of recreation and leisure opportunities and experiences and unique amenities for the Town of Carolina Beach and its residents and visitors. Opportunities and experiences for leisure fulfillment and enjoyment provided by the Town of Carolina Beach include, but are not limited to, a youth summer day camp, a youth basketball league, an adult men's basketball league, a women's exercise group, a variety of fitness classes, and numerous annual special events.

## ***Benefits of Parks and Recreation Programs and Services***

Individuals are universally beginning to accept the notion that well-planned, well-organized and well-managed parks and recreation services, programs, areas, and facilities improve the quality of life within a community. Actual participation in parks and recreation and leisure programs and services provides benefits for both the individual involved in the activity and for society in general. DeGraff et al (1999) have identified five categories of individual and social benefits of parks and recreation and leisure—psychological benefits, psycho-physiological benefits, sociological and cultural benefits, economic benefits, and environmental benefits.

Individual psychological benefits include better mental health and health maintenance, personal development and growth, and, personal appreciation and satisfaction. In addition to these psychological benefits, psycho-physiological individual benefits of parks and recreation and leisure participation include increased bone mass and strength in children, decreased body fat and obesity, increased life expectancy, and, cardiovascular benefits—including prevention of strokes.

Environmental benefits of parks and recreation and leisure involvement encourage environmental preservation, the preservation of cultural/heritage/historic sites and areas, an increased understanding of human dependency on the natural world, and, proper stewardship and preservation of natural areas and sites.

From a social and cultural standpoint, participation in parks and recreation and leisure enhances and highlights ethnic identity and cultural diversity, supports community integration, provides an enhanced world-view, reduces social alienation, and, increases community satisfaction and family bonding.

Finally, parks and recreation and leisure participation and involvement offer significant economic benefits. The economic benefits of parks and recreation services and programs include reduced health costs, decreased job turnover, local and regional economic growth, and, contribution to the net national economic development and the international balance of payments through tourism (DeGraff et al, 1999).





## ***Demand for Parks and Recreation Programs and Services***

Parks and Recreation programs and services were major forces in the economic and social life of twentieth century America and they will continue to be significant forces in the twenty-first century. Parks and recreation services and programs are a product of industrialization and the leisure-work trade-off. As industrialism increased during the twentieth century, workers sought outlets in the form of leisure. As a result of this search for leisure, an organized system of programs and services emerged to meet the leisure needs, expectations, interests and desires of these workers and their families. The Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department is an excellent example of one of the functioning components of this system.

Most of the accepted indicators utilized to estimate the future demand for parks and recreation programs and services lead one to believe that the demand for parks and recreation programs and services will continue to increase during the early years of the twenty-first century. Few services and industries over the last twenty years have expanded more rapidly than those associated with individuals' recreation and leisure behavior (Sessoms and Henderson, 1994).

Several new trends in parks and recreation facilities for the twenty-first century have been identified in the research literature. These new trends are the result of the gradual acceptance of an entrepreneurial and marketing-based emphasis in many parks and recreation agencies created by the new pressure to develop facilities and programs that lend themselves to fiscal self-sufficiency. One of the more visible outcomes of this recognition is the recent development and operation by parks and recreation agencies of multifaceted, state-of-the-art indoor recreation facilities that include fully equipped weight and exercise rooms, full-size gymnasiums, swimming pools, and in many cases meeting rooms, food courts, and other specialized areas (Kraus, 1997).

Population, demographics, and trends in lifestyles also have an impact on the type and amount of parks and recreation services and programs demanded by citizens. For example, as the overall size of the population in an area increases, so does the demand for parks and recreation services and programs. As the age of the population increases the demand for alternative types of parks and recreation programs and services expands. The demand for parks and recreation programs and services also changes and increases with

the influx of population diversity, such as Hispanics and individuals from different regions of the United States. And finally, lifestyle changes, such as the wellness and fitness craze and increasing environmental awareness, contribute to the demand for parks and recreation programs and services.

Five core constraints have been identified by various researchers that hinder the actual satisfaction of an individual's demand for parks and recreation programs and services. These core constraints or barriers to participation in parks and recreation programs and services are 1) lack of interest, 2) lack of money, 3) lack of time, 4) lack of the necessary skills and abilities, and, 5) lack of facilities (Edginton et al., 1998). It is incumbent upon each professional parks and recreation agency to eliminate or minimize to the greatest extent possible the impact of each of these barriers to participation in the parks and recreation programs and services provided.

### ***Purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan***

The purpose of the ***Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is to assess and determine the recreation and leisure needs, goals, objectives, and priorities of the citizens, elected officials, appointed officials and staff of the Town of Carolina Beach. The ***Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is intended to serve as a long-range, comprehensive, practical planning document and policy guide for public policy decisions pertaining to the quantity, quality, location, and, scope of parks and recreation services, programs, areas and facilities. The Master Plan also makes recommendations regarding the administration, acquisition, development and operation of these parks and recreation services, programs, areas and facilities.

The ***Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is organized into eleven (11) sections:

- a. Executive Summary of Master Plan Process and Recommendations
- b. Chapter One—Introduction
- c. Chapter Two—Master Plan Goal and Objectives
- d. Chapter Three—Town of Carolina Beach Characteristics and Demographics
- e. Chapter Four—Inventory of Existing Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities
- f. Chapter Five—Parks, Recreation and Open Space Standards

- g. Chapter Six—Assessment of Town of Carolina Beach Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs
- h. Chapter Seven—Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations
- i. Chapter Eight—Implementation Plan
- j. Bibliography
- k. Appendices

The scope of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* was delimited to the existing jurisdiction of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department. However, the analysis recognized the fact that residents of the Town of Carolina Beach are also residents of New Hanover County and that New Hanover County includes three other municipalities (the Town of Wrightsville Beach, the City of Wilmington and the Town of Kure Beach) in addition to the Town of Carolina Beach. As a result, the parks and recreation needs and resources of the entire County are factored into the analysis process in recognition of the fact that individuals' recreation and leisure involvement patterns and preferences are not normally restricted and limited by municipal or county boundaries and jurisdictions.

### ***Previous Community Studies and Assessments***

The following previous studies and assessments were consulted and examined in the preparation of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*:

- a. New Hanover County Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space, January 2006
- b. City of Wilmington 2003 – 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, February 2003
- c. Town of Carolina Beach Water Use and Harbor Management Plan, Final Draft, December 4, 2006
- d. 2005 Town of Carolina Beach Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan, Draft, Revised May 7, 2007
- e. Pleasure Island Bike Path Survey, May 2000

## ***The 2003 Town of Carolina Beach Vision Statement***

The Town of Carolina Beach, its citizens, property owners, and business owners, hereby strive to safeguard the standards for living, work and recreation that have made Carolina Beach a preferred residential and vacationing community. The Town shall seek to promote a family-oriented residential community with entertainment, recreation and commercial services geared toward both the Town's permanent and vacationing families. Shopping and dining at the Boardwalk, enjoying the entertainment area, and relaxing at the public beaches, waters, parks, or marinas are all activities to be preserved and enhanced in Carolina Beach. The Town recognizes the protection of its environmental and natural characteristics as being crucial in maintaining residents' enjoyment of their surroundings and quality of life. Sustaining economic growth from tourism and recreation is also a Town goal relying on a healthy and preserved ecosystem. Therefore, the duty of the Town of Carolina Beach shall be to manage and encourage sustainable growth through its policies and regulations in the pursuit of a safe, healthy and small-scale family community.

## ***Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department Goals and Objectives***

The overall goal of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department is:

*“To provide a wide variety of events and programs for all age groups with emphasis on sportsmanship, fair play and customer service”*

The overall broad objective of the Parks and Recreation Department is:

*“To offer programs and special events that reflect the needs of the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach.*





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## ***CHAPTER TWO:***

# ***MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES***

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Contained within this chapter of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* are the overall goals and objectives of the planning process and the master plan itself. It is with these goals and objectives in mind that the planning process was conducted and the structure of the master plan itself formulated.

The Town of Carolina Beach in particular and New Hanover County in general have experienced a high level of population and economic growth in recent years, particularly throughout the 1990's and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The result of this growth and development has been the exertion of tremendous pressures upon the Town of Carolina Beach to adequately meet the demand and need for public services. It is the aim of this Master Plan to offer a framework for analyzing and evaluating the current level of parks and recreation services provided by the Town of Carolina Beach and to supply a strategic agenda for realistically meeting the projected parks and recreation needs and interests of the citizens in the immediate future.

Goals and objectives provide structure, guidance and direction in the formulation of a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. In addition, clear and concise goals

and objectives assist in the definition of overall public policy and aid in decision-making during the planning and implementation phases of the Master Plan process. However, a progression and successful parks and recreation delivery system for the Town of Carolina Beach will require long-term commitment and coordinated action by all stakeholders in order to achieve these goals and objectives. This long-term commitment and coordinated action must be coupled with an effective program of overall citizen involvement in and support for parks and recreation programs and services.

### ***Goals***

- ◆ To provide a comprehensive, practical plan of action for meeting the parks and recreation needs of the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach for the years 2008 – 2013 and beyond
- ◆ To enrich and enhance the overall quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach
- ◆ To protect and conserve the natural resources and environmental quality in and surrounding the Town of Carolina Beach
- ◆ To provide parks, greenways, trails, bike paths, recreation programs and services, and, leisure opportunities and experiences for every citizen of the Town of Carolina Beach
- ◆ To provide the citizens, elected officials, appointed officials, and staff of the Town of Carolina Beach a pragmatic plan of action and implementation that identifies the recreation and leisure needs and interests of all stakeholders and provides a feasible and economically attainable schedule and timetable for administering, developing, managing, operating, and acquiring parks and recreation areas, facilities and resources

### ***Objectives***

- ◆ To involve the citizens and general public of the Town of Carolina Beach in planning and implementation of the Master Plan:
  - Through the use of public meetings to gather information and comments

- Through the use of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to gather information and comments
  - Through the use of general citizen comments and suggestions during the analysis and evaluation processes
  - By making the Plan accessible and understandable to all concerned stakeholders
- ◆ To accurately identify existing and projected recreation and leisure needs and interests for parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs
  - ◆ To guarantee the Master Plan is consistent with and compliments other Town of Carolina Beach plans and ordinances and the areas, facilities, and programs provided by other public, private, and commercial leisure service delivery systems
  - ◆ To consider both the acquisition, development and the future operation of proposed recreation and leisure areas and facilities
  - ◆ To provide easily accessible, conveniently located and equitably distributed recreation and leisure areas, facilities and programs to serve the needs and interests of all citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach including, youth, teenagers, adults, seniors, persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged and anyone requiring special considerations
  - ◆ To identify funding sources for the acquisition, development, maintenance, operation and administration of the proposed areas, facilities and programs
  - ◆ To suggest pragmatic, reasonable and sensible strategies for meeting the parks and recreation needs and interests of the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach over the next 5-year period





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## ***CHAPTER THREE:***

### ***TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH***

### ***CHARACTERISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS***

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#### ***Location/Geography/Natural Resources***

It is beyond the scope of this study to describe the particular physical and geographical characteristics of the Town of Carolina Beach in great detail. It is important, however, to set forth in brief form those characteristics that have significant implications for meeting parks and recreation needs and interests in the Town of Carolina Beach and New Hanover County.

The Town of Carolina Beach is located on a narrow slip of land between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean in the southeastern portion of North Carolina approximately 25 minutes by automobile from downtown Wilmington, North Carolina. The Town is separated from the mainland by the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (Snow's Cut) and was established in 1857. The only major road leading in and out of the Town of Carolina Beach is U.S. Highway 421.

The Town of Carolina Beach underwent a dramatic transformation during the 1990s and is currently evolving into a heavily residential community dedicated to



creating a wholesome family environment. Recent years have seen the cultivation of improved services, pleasant landscaping, consideration of proper zoning principles and tangible citizen action to make the Town of Carolina Beach an attractive visitor destination.

The main business district is centered on an active yacht basin containing a large number of charter fishing boats and large excursion boats. The nearby Boardwalk area is undergoing revitalization and rebuilding in conjunction with the oceanfront Courtyard by Marriott Resort Hotel and several mixed-use condo/retail projects. Away from the seasonal bustle at the center of the city, the Town of Carolina Beach is a quiet community of approximately 5,000 year-round residents. That number jumps 3 to 5 times at the peak of the vacation season.

The largest employers in and around the Town of Carolina Beach include the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, New Hanover County School System, General Electric, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), New Hanover County Government, the City of Wilmington, Progress Energy and Wal-Mart (**Appendix B**). None of these employers are located exclusively in Carolina Beach. Tourism is currently the second largest industry and major overall employer in the area and continues to grow each year.

### ***Demographics***

The population of the Town of Carolina Beach in 2000 was 4,778. This represented a 31% increase from the 1990 population. The latest population figure of 5,264 represents the 2002 State Demographer Certified Estimates and a 45% increase from the 1990 population (**Appendix A**). A portion of the population boost from 2000 to 2002 can be attributed to an annexation by the Town.

When comparing the Town of Carolina Beach to other coastal communities, Carolina Beach ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> most populous among coastal/beach municipalities in North Carolina (**Appendix C**). The average size of the coastal communities in North Carolina is 2,879 acres. Given Carolina Beach's relatively higher population and its relatively smaller area compared with other coastal communities, it can be inferred that Carolina Beach is a densely populated community when compared to other North Carolina coastal communities.

### ***Families and Population in Families***

Carolina Beach included 1,253 family households in 2000 with an average of 2.59 persons per family. Of these 1,253 family households, 454 (36%) contained families with people under the age of 18 (**Appendix D**). The age group of 35 – 54 represents 41% of non-family households in Carolina Beach. Female non-family households account for 445 or 43% of the non-family household total and male non-family households represent 594 or 57%. Female single parents account for 107 (23%) of 454 family households with children under the age of 18. Male single parents represent 10% or 46 of 454 family households with children under 18. When compared to other jurisdictions in the Carolina Beach area [Kure Beach (23%), Oak Island (29%), Surf City (24%) and Wrightsville Beach (26%)], Carolina Beach has a considerably higher percentage of its total “families” having children under the age of 18 (36%).

### ***Age Groups***

For 2000 in Carolina Beach, the age group 30 – 50 represented 35% of the total population; the age group 45 – 49 represented 10.5% of the total; and, 65 and up represented 12.7% of the total population. The median age for all citizens was 43.6 (**Appendix E**).

### ***Income Characteristics***

The median household income in Carolina Beach is \$37,662 and the average household income is \$48,917. According to SF3 data, there are 439 individuals below the poverty level in Carolina Beach. The majority of these individuals (84%) are between the ages of 18 – 64. The median income for the 45 – 54 age group is \$45,500 and the average is \$51,157. The median income for the 55 – 64 age group is \$43,917 and the average is \$61,918. The median income level for Carolina Beach is lower than the same figure for its comparative coastal communities (**Appendix F**, **Appendix G**, and **Appendix H**).

### ***Educational Attainment***

According to the data, 89% of the population of Carolina Beach over 25 has a high school degree or greater. Thirty-one (31%) percent of those over 25

with a high school degree or greater has attained an Associates Degree or higher (Appendix I).

### *Seasonal Population Estimates*

In order to adequately and accurately plan for parks, recreation and open space needs that may occur as a result of population growth, it is critical to consider the impact the influx of vacationers, visitors and temporary residents presents to the Carolina Beach area on a seasonal basis. Unfortunately, there is no standard method or survey for tabulating seasonal population for a given jurisdiction. Three (3) basic approaches for estimating the seasonal population are identified in the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) guidelines. One approach is to apply a simple ratio derived from Census 2000 housing data tabulating occupied units and seasonal units, i.e. if there are 2,000 people in 1,000 occupied units and there are 1,000 vacant or seasonal units, one could infer that a peak population would be 4,000. This approach infers that the peak population of Carolina Beach is 8,132. A second approach is to derive a formula for the number of persons per each type of accommodation available in the planning jurisdiction, i.e. if one assigned 3 people per hotel room and had 1,000 hotel rooms, the seasonal population could be inferred as 3,000. This approach infers that the peak population of Carolina Beach is 13,335. The third approach is to compare water usage data during the non-peak season and the usage data during the peak season, i.e. if there were a million gallons per day used in January for 1,000 people, a 2 million gallon per day usage in July could infer that 2,000 people were using water. This approach infers that the peak population of Carolina Beach is 10,791. As one can see, it can be safely assumed that the peak population of Carolina Beach fluctuates every year and is probably impossible to accurately gauge. For purposes of this document, an estimate of 12,000 will be used as the peak population for Carolina Beach. This estimate does not include the effect of “day-trippers” to Carolina Beach. For purposes of this document, “day-trippers” will be assumed not to have an impact on the parks, recreation and open space needs for the Town of Carolina Beach.

### ***Populations Projections***

Data providing municipal population projections is not readily produced or available. For the purposes of this document, the population projections contained in the 2005 Town of Carolina Beach Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan will be utilized (**Appendix J** and **Appendix K**).

### ***Summary of Existing Population and Economic Characteristics***

The Town of Carolina Beach permanent resident population has increased 45% through 1990 to 2002 from 3,360 people in 1990 to approximately 5,264 residents in 2002. Carolina Beach is slightly smaller in area than the average coastal/beach North Carolina community; however, it is the third most populous coastal/beach community of North Carolina. The Town of Carolina Beach also has substantial population areas to the north and south of its planning jurisdiction. To the north there are as many as 10,000 people between Snow's Cut and Monkey Junction. There are approximately 1,600 people to the immediate south in Kure Beach.

Approximately 70% of the population of Carolina Beach is in a "family household" and 36% of the "family households" have children under the age of 18 present. Compared to other coastal towns in the region, Carolina Beach has a higher percentage of its "family households" with children living in them. In addition, the average size of families in Carolina Beach is larger than those other communities. This means that Carolina Beach has younger and larger families than the comparable coastal communities.

Individuals in the 30 – 50 age range make up the substantial portion of the Carolina Beach population, while the median age for the community is 43.6 years old. The median age of Carolina Beach is generally lower than comparable coastal communities and the percentage of individuals in the 30 – 50 year old age group is generally larger than those coastal communities as well. The median and mean household income in Carolina Beach is typically lower than that of the regional and comparable sized coastal communities.

The Town of Carolina Beach has nearly 2,000 seasonal accommodation units and, as with other coastal towns, the extra population influx during the peak summer months can strain community services and infrastructure. The peak population, those residing

permanently and those visiting at least overnight, was estimated anywhere from 8,500 to a high of approximately 14,000 total town population during a typical summer period. An additional 3,600 – 4,500 “day-trippers”, those visiting just for the day and not staying overnight, can be expected during a peak summer day. The permanent population of Carolina Beach is expected to continue to grow over the next fifteen (15) years. Carolina Beach can expect a permanent population of approximately 7,200 in the year 2020.





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## ***CHAPTER FOUR: INVENTORY OF EXISTING PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AREAS AND FACILITIES***

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The Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department as well as numerous other public, private, commercial and non-profit organizations provide a diversity of leisure and unique amenities for the residents of Carolina Beach. This chapter provides an inventory of existing parks, recreation programs, recreation services, recreation areas, recreation facilities and open space sites in and around the Town of Carolina Beach area. Most of the programs, services, areas and facilities identified and described are Town of Carolina Beach owned and operated and are primarily provided for recreation purposes for the citizens of Carolina Beach. Significant additional sites and facilities owned and operated by other public, private, commercial and non-profit organizations and agencies are also included in this document. Only those programs, services, areas and facilities provided by non-Carolina Beach entities that could impact the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* are included in this inventory. This inventory acknowledges that the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department does partner with local civic groups in order to

provide more enjoyable and cost-effective recreation, sports, youth and adult programs and special events.

**Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department “Parks”**

**PARKS**

**Carolina Beach Lake Park—11 acres**

- ◆ Location—400 South Lake Park Boulevard
  - a. Gazebos/Observation Decks
  - b. Restrooms
  - c. Sheltered picnic area
  - d. Paved .67 mile Greenway/Walkway
  - e. Benches
  - f. Parking
  - g. Amphitheater
  - h. Veteran’s Memorial Island
  - i. Playground equipment



This park features a picturesque lake environment with a .67 mile paved greenway/walkway, paddleboat rentals, picnic shelters, benches and playground equipment. The park contains the only official greenway for the Town of Carolina Beach.

**Freeman Park—294 acres**

- ◆ Location—North end of Carolina Beach
  - a. Restrooms



Freeman Park is located at the extreme north end of Carolina Beach and about one mile north of Canal Drive. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east; Carolina Beach Inlet on the north; and, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW)/Myrtle Grove Sound on the west. Freeman Park includes coastal wetlands, un-vegetated beach areas, inlet hazard areas with highly eroding shores, and primary nursery areas for commercial and recreational fisheries stocks. The park is accessible only by boat, 4-wheel drive vehicle and/or pedestrian traffic. Either an annual or a daily permit is required to enter the park. Freeman Park is owned by New Hanover County and managed by the Town of Carolina Beach. Overnight camping and small campfires are permitted in designated areas of the park.

**McDonald Park—.6 acres**

- ◆ Location—308 Lumberton Avenue
  - a. Paved slab area with picnic table and a grill
  - b. Water fountain
  - c. Bench
  - d. Walkway
  - e. Playground equipment

McDonald Park recently experienced a significant renovation. The new playground equipment and other amenities represent a major improvement. The park has the potential to be an excellent neighborhood mini-park.

**Mike Chappell Park—12.5 acres**

- ◆ Location—501 South Dow Road
  - a. Tennis courts (2)
  - b. Sand volleyball court
  - c. Playground equipment
  - d. Lighted baseball and softball fields (4)
  - e. Parking (105 spaces)
  - f. Dog park
  - g. Skateboard park
  - h. Picnic areas
  - i. Batting cage
  - j. Restrooms
  - k. Concessions
  - l. Soccer field



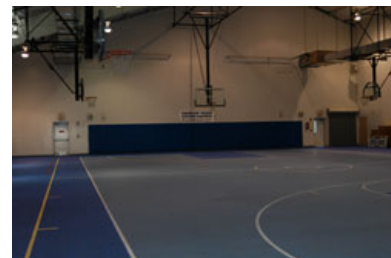


Mike Chappell Park is the flagship outdoor facility of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department park system. This park features baseball fields during the spring months and soccer fields during the fall months. There are also a sand volleyball court, a new skateboard park, 2 tennis courts and an undeveloped wooded area east of Eighth Street.

**Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department “Special Areas and Facilities”**

◆ **Carolina Beach Recreation Center—21,778 square feet**

The Carolina Beach Recreation Center is located behind the Town of Carolina Beach Municipal Building at 1121 – B North Lake Park Boulevard. The Center is equipped with an indoor basketball court, racquetball court, full weight room, cardiovascular room, foosball and ping-pong tables, offices, meeting rooms, lockers and showers. The Center is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 9:00 pm; on Saturday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm; and, on Sunday from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. There is a membership fee to use the facility and the Recreation Center is available for rental reservations.



◆ **Snow's Cut Bike Path**

The Snow's Cut Bike Path is approximately 4,124 feet in length including turn around areas and rest stops. There is also signage and parking.

◆ **Town of Carolina Beach Greenway System/NCDOT E-4746 Project**

The Town of Carolina Beach Greenway System begins at the terminus of Old Dow Road near the Snow's Cut Bike Path and continues along the boundary of Carolina Beach State Park ending at Dow Road and Harper Avenue. The greenway system is a 4,500 linear foot, 10 foot wide asphalt bike/pedestrian trail.

**Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department "Athletics, Programs and Special Events"**

- ◆ *American Kempo Karate*
- ◆ *Annual Doll Show*
- ◆ *Annual TumbleGym Competition*
- ◆ *Art Classes*
- ◆ *Basic and Ball Aerobics and Exercise Classes*
- ◆ *Beginner Yoga*
- ◆ *Carolina Beach Aerobics*
- ◆ *Chi/Core Classes*
- ◆ *Easter Egg Hunt*
- ◆ *Exercise Classes*
- ◆ *Expressions in Oil Painting*
- ◆ *GED Classes*
- ◆ *Gentle Yoga*
- ◆ *Halloween Carnival*
- ◆ *Hula Dance Classes*
- ◆ *Intermediate Yoga*
- ◆ *Jazzercise*
- ◆ *Men's Basketball League (18 and Older; December – March)*
- ◆ *PI Exercise Classes*
- ◆ *Pilates*
- ◆ *Pilates Plus*
- ◆ *Pleasure Island Exercise Club*
- ◆ *Se Jong Tae Kwon Do*
- ◆ *Seaside Stretch Classes*
- ◆ *Step and Sculpt Exercise Classes*
- ◆ *Stretch Classes*

- ◆ *Summer Day Camps (Ages 6 – 10)*
- ◆ *Tai Chi/Chi-Gong*
- ◆ *20/20/20 Classes*
- ◆ *Valentine’s Day Dance*
- ◆ *Women’s Exercise Group (55 and Older)*
- ◆ *Yoga Flow Classes*
- ◆ *Youth Basketball League (Ages 6 – 16; December – March)*
- ◆ *Youth Pier Fishing Tournament*

**Town of Kure Beach Parks and Recreation Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

**Joe Eakes Park**

- ◆ Location—7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South
  - a. Tennis courts (2)
  - b. Dog park
  - c. Outdoor basketball court
  - d. Playground equipment
  - e. Picnic areas
  - f. Baseball/softball field

**Other Public Parks and Recreation Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- ◆ *Cape Fear Community College*
- ◆ *Cape Fear Museum*
- ◆ *Carolina Beach State Park*
  - Approximately 700 acres with a visitors’ center, fishing pier, picnic and camping areas, marina, trails, boat ramp and water access



- ◆ *Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area*
- ◆ *Fort Fisher State Historic Site*
- ◆ *Fort Fisher State Recreation Area*
- ◆ *Masonboro Island National Estuarine Research Reserve*
- ◆ *New Hanover County Arboretum*
- ◆ *New Hanover County Department of Social Services Senior Center*

◆ ***New Hanover County Parks Department***

- Airlie Gardens—67 acres of gardens and 10 acres of freshwater lakes; 1 1/8 mile walking trail
- Hugh MacRae Athletic Complex—20 acres
  - Lighted adult baseball field, 3 lighted softball fields, 4 soccer fields, restrooms, seasonal concessions
- Hugh MacRae Park—98 acres
  - 4 lighted tennis courts, playgrounds, 4 youth ball fields with seasonal concessions, an equestrian ring, 2 playgrounds, a pet exercise area, 6 picnic shelters, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, garden, gazebo, pond
- Hugh MacRae Nature Trail
- Myrtle Grove Middle School Park—7 acres
  - 2 youth ball fields, 1 adult baseball field, football/soccer field, restroom, seasonal concessions
- River Road Park—38 acres
  - Fishing/observation pier, playground, restrooms, picnic shelter, gazebo, water access
- Snow's Cut Park—24 acres
  - 3 picnic shelters, 2 gazebos, 4 water accesses, playground, restrooms
- Veteran's Park—106 acres
  - 6 tennis courts, picnic areas, stadium/track, playground equipment, 2 girl's softball fields, 4 youth lighted baseball fields, 1 adult lighted baseball field, 4 soccer fields, 7 football fields, 4 basketball courts, concessions, restrooms

◆ ***North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher***

◆ ***Pleasure Island Soccer Association—Youth Soccer***

◆ ***Pleasure Island Youth Baseball and Softball Association—Youth Baseball and Softball***

◆ ***Public Boat Ramps***

- ***Carolina Beach State Park***
- ***Federal Point—Terminus of U.S. 421 near Fort Fisher***
- ***North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission—Snow's Cut***

◆ ***UNC Wilmington Campus***

- Boseman Softball Stadium
- Brooks Baseball Stadium
- Gazebo Park
- Hanover Gymnasium
- Intramural fields
- Kenan Auditorium
- Natatorium

- Ropes Course
- Soccer Stadium
- Student Recreation Center
- Tennis courts
- Track
- Trask Coliseum

◆ *Zeke’s Island National Estuarine Research Reserve*

**North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Sites**

- < *Regional Facilities/Access Sites*—generally the largest of the access sites; usually these sites have ample parking, dune crossovers and litter receptacles, and, they often have other facilities such as restrooms, showers, and picnic tables.
- < *Neighborhood Facilities/Access Sites*—generally have fewer parking spaces than regional sites and do not have facilities such as showers or restroom facilities; provide dune crossovers and litter receptacles.
- < *Local Facilities/Access Sites*—often are simply dune crossovers with little or no associated parking and no other facilities; provide litter receptacles.
- < *Urban Waterfront Facilities/Access Sites*—generally located on estuarine waters in urbanized areas; vary greatly in the amount of parking and facilities provided

**Public Beach Access Sites**

- ◆ **Carolina Beach—Oceanfront Access Sites**—The Town of Carolina Beach has 16 Neighborhood Access Sites along 3.5 miles of oceanfront beach, 2 Regional Access Sites roughly in the center of the beach strand, and several Local Access Sites (public street ends).
  - Alabama Avenue—Parking and Restrooms
  - Texas Avenue—Parking
  - South Carolina Avenue—Parking
  - Ocean Boulevard—Parking
  - North Carolina Avenue—Crossover Only
  - Tennessee Avenue—Parking
  - Spartanburg Avenue—Limited Parking
  - Lake Drive—Limited Parking
  - Driftwood—Limited Parking

- Atlanta Avenue—Limited Parking on Site/Public Lot Nearby
- Hamlet Avenue—Parking and Restrooms
- Cape Fear Boulevard to Harper Avenue Oceanfront/Carolina Beach Boardwalk
- Pelican Lane—Limited Parking
- Dolphin Lane—Crossover Only
- Scallop Lane—Limited Parking
- Seagull Lane—Limited Parking
- Sailfish Lane—Crossover Only
- Oystershell Lane—Limited Parking
- Sandpiper Lane—Parking and Restrooms
- Seahorse Lane—Limited Parking
- Scotch Bonnet Lane—Limited Parking
- Starfish Lane—Crossover Only
- Sand Dollar Avenue—Limited Parking
- Clam Shell Lane—Limited Parking
- Periwinkle Lane—Crossover Only
- Sandfiddler Lane North—Limited Parking
- Sea Oats Lane—Limited Parking
- Salt Marsh—Limited Parking
- Canal Drive between Sea Oats Lane and Salt Marsh—Parking, Restrooms and Showers



This is a representative photo of a Local Access Site

- ◆ **Carolina Beach—Estuarine and Sound Access Sites**—*The Town of Carolina Beach has fourteen (14) public access sites on Myrtle Grove Sound (public street ends).*

- Dolphin Lane—Public Viewing Area
- Scallop Lane—Public Viewing Area
- Seagull Lane—Public Viewing Area
- Sailfish Lane—Public Viewing Area
- Oystershell Lane—Large Parking Lot and Lift Station
- Sandpiper Lane—Public Viewing Area and Large Parking Lot
- Seahorse Lane—Public Viewing Area and Dinghy Dock
- Scotch Bonnet Lane—Public Viewing Area
- Starfish Lane—Public Viewing Area
- Sand Dollar Avenue—Public Viewing Area and Dinghy Dock
- Clam Shell Lane—Lift Station
- Delaware Avenue—Public Viewing Area and Dinghy Dock

- Maryland Avenue—Public Viewing Area and Dinghy Dock
- Florida Avenue—Improved with Small Beach
- ◆ **Fort Fisher Area**
  - 1000 Loggerhead Road—200 parking spaces, restroom and showers
  - Ramsgate Road—Four Wheel Drive Vehicles Allowed
- ◆ **Kure Beach**—*The Town of Kure Beach has approximately 3 miles of shoreline access to the Atlantic Ocean within its planning jurisdiction. Along this 3-mile stretch, there are currently 19 public beach access sites. This includes nine local access sites, eight neighborhood access sites, the fishing pier at Avenue K, and an emergency vehicle access site at Davis Beach Road. There is no regional access site in the Town of Kure Beach. In addition to the 19 public access sites, there are six private access sites owned and maintained by the Homeowners' Associations of the following subdivisions: Kure Beach Village, Kure Dunes, Kure by the Sea, the Point at Kure Beach, Fort Fisher Estates, and Sea Watch at Kure Beach.*
  - **Site No. 1: Ocean View Avenue (local).** Access is provided by North Fort Fisher Boulevard, site is located across from Ocean View Avenue. This site is a local access site, containing only a wood dune crossover for use by pedestrians. There is a bike rack at the site. The uses on either side of this access site are residential.
  - **Site No. 2: North of Atmospheric Test Site (local).** Access is provided by North Fort Fisher Boulevard across from Sea Watch Estates residential development. This site is a local access site containing only a wood dune crossover. There are duplexes on either side of the access site and a small gift shop across North Fort Fisher Boulevard.
  - **Site No. 3: South of Atmospheric Test Site (local).** Access is provided by North Fort Fisher Boulevard across from Spotter's Court. This is a local access site containing only a wood dune crossover. The Kure Beach Atmospheric Testing Facility is to the north and single-family homes are to the south and west across North Fort Fisher Boulevard.
  - **Site No. 4: Avenue N (neighborhood).** Access is provided by Avenue N. This is a neighborhood access site with a wood dune crossover and an unimproved parking area at the south side of Avenue N for approximately 7 to 10 cars. There is a signed handicap parking spot at this site but no space is designated on the pavement. Single-family homes are located to the north and south of the site.

- **Site No. 5: Atlantic Avenue between Avenue M and Avenue N (local).** Access is provided by Atlantic Avenue, a one-way street. The site is located between Avenue M and Avenue N. This is a local access site with only a wood dune crossover which was donated to the Town of Kure Beach. There is no development to the immediate north or south of the site, but single-family homes are located to the west across Atlantic Avenue.
- **Site No. 6: Avenue M (neighborhood).** Access is provided at the end of Avenue M. This is a neighborhood access site with only a wood dune crossover to the beach. There is no development to the immediate north or south of the site, but there are multi- and single-family homes to the west of the access site along Avenue M. In addition, there is on-street parking available on North Fort Fisher Boulevard near this site.
- **Site No. 7: Atlantic Avenue between Avenue L and Avenue M (local).** Access is provided by Atlantic Avenue, a one-way street, between Avenue L and Avenue M. This is a local access site with only a wood dune crossover which was donated to the Town of Kure Beach. There is no development to the north or south of the access site but single-family homes are located to the west along Atlantic Avenue.
- **Site No. 8: Avenue L (neighborhood).** Access is provided by Avenue L and Atlantic Avenue by way of the Kure Beach Pier. This is a neighborhood access site which is part of the Kure Beach Pier complex. It contains a wood dune crossover and 7 to 10 parking spaces, including 2 handicapped spaces, which are part of the Kure Beach Pier parking area. The crossover at this site was constructed in 1998 and an aluminum railing was added in 1999 to make this site handicap accessible.
- **Site No. 9: Avenue K- Kure Beach Pier (neighborhood).** This is the largest access site in Kure Beach. The Kure Beach Pier runs from Avenue K to Avenue L. Access is provided by Avenue K and Atlantic Avenue. This is a neighborhood access site containing four wood dune crossovers, a boardwalk with wood benches, an emergency vehicle access site, and an improved parking area with space for approximately 80 cars, including five handicapped spaces. There are shops and restaurants along Avenue K between Fort Fisher Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue, and a motel along Atlantic Avenue between Avenue K and Avenue L.
- **Site No. 10: Avenue J (neighborhood).** Access is provided by Avenue J. This is a neighborhood access site. There is a wood dune crossover and a gravel unimproved parking area which appears to have room for 12-15 cars. The Sand Dunes Motel is located to the north and multi-family rental housing is located to the south.
- **Site No. 11: Avenue I (neighborhood).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located at the east end of Avenue I. This is a



neighborhood access site. There is a wood dune crossover and a gravel unimproved parking area. There is room for 16 to 18 cars in the parking area. In addition, there are on-street parking spaces along South Fort Fisher Boulevard. Jim Ring Realty is located to the north, a motel is located to the south, and single-family homes are to the west across South Fort Fisher Boulevard.

- **Site No. 12: Avenue H (neighborhood).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located at the east end of Avenue H. This is a neighborhood access site with a wood dune crossover and a gravel unimproved parking area. This dune crossover is the only one in Kure Beach which has stairs rather than a ramp to cross the sand dune. There is room for 7 to 10 cars at this site. In addition, there are on-street parking spaces available on South Fort Fisher Boulevard. There is a duplex to the north, multi-family housing to the south and southwest, and a vacant lot to the northwest across Fort Fisher Boulevard.
- **Site No. 13: Avenue G (neighborhood).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located at the end of Avenue G. This is a neighborhood access site with a wood dune crossover and a gravel unimproved parking area. There is room for approximately 7-10 cars in the parking area. In addition, there are on-street parking spaces available on South Fort Fisher Boulevard. There are single-family homes to the north and a motel/rental rooms to the south.
- **Site No. 14: Avenue F (neighborhood).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located at the east end of Avenue F. This is a neighborhood access site with a wood dune crossover and a gravel unimproved parking area. There is room for approximately 7 cars in the parking area. Kure Beach Lutheran Ministries is located to the south, and single-family homes are located to the north and west across South Fort Fisher Boulevard.
- **Site No. 15: Avenue E (neighborhood).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located at the east end of Avenue E. This is a neighborhood access site with wood dune crossover and a gravel unimproved parking area. This site is handicapped accessible with aluminum railings along the dune crossover. There is room for approximately 10 cars in the parking area. Single-family homes surround this site.
- **Site No. 16: Davis Beach Road (vehicle).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located across from Davis Beach Road. This is an emergency vehicle access site. There is no parking area at this site and several no parking signs are posted around the site. To the north and south of this site, there is a vacant lot and then single-family homes.

- **Site No. 17: Stormy Petrel Court (local).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located across from Stormy Petrel Court. This is a local access site with only a wood dune crossover between two condominium buildings. This site is located close to the Fort Fisher Military Base and there are single-family homes to the west across South Fort Fisher Boulevard.
- **Site No. 18: Assembly Avenue (local).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; site is located across from Assembly Avenue. This is a local access site with only a wood dune crossover between two condominium buildings. There are single-family homes to the west across South Fort Fisher Boulevard.
- **Site No. 19: Surf Rider Court (local).** Access is provided by South Fort Fisher Boulevard; access site is located across from Surf Rider Court. This is a local access site with only a wood dune crossover between two condominium buildings. There is a concrete, CAMA signed, parking area to the west across South Fort Fisher Boulevard with room for approximately 20 to 25 cars.
- ◆ **Wrightsville Beach**—*The Town of Wrightsville Beach has 43 designated public access points. There are 4 ocean accessible public restrooms, one public restroom in the Wrightsville Beach Park, and 8 ADA accessible ocean access points.*
  - **Designated Public Access Points**
    - End Turn Circle
    - 2698 N. Lumina Avenue
    - 2498 N. Lumina Avenue
    - 2398 N. Lumina Avenue
    - North Ridge Lane
    - South Ridge Lane
    - 2200 Block N. Lumina Avenue
    - 1800 N. Lumina Avenue
    - 1700 N. Lumina Avenue
    - Mallard Street
    - Crane Street
    - Sandpiper Street
    - Heron Street
    - Shearwater Street
    - Seagull Street
    - E. Salisbury Street
    - E. Greensboro Street
    - E. Henderson Street
    - E. Oxford Street
    - E. Fayetteville Street
    - E. Ashville Street

- Augusta Street
  - Raleigh Street
  - E. Charlotte Street
  - E. Atlanta Street
  - E. Columbia Street
  - Birmingham Street
  - Oceanic Street
  - Stone Street
  - Latimer Street
  - Chadbourne Street
  - Arrindale Street
  - Taylor Street
  - Bridgers Street
  - Across From 650 S. Lumina Avenue
  - Beside Surf Suites, 711 S. Lumina Avenue
  - Wright Street
  - Corbett Street
  - Albright Street
  - Northrop Street
  - Jack Parker Boulevard—East Entrance
  - Jack Parker Boulevard—Southeast Entrance by Gazebo
  - Jack Parker Boulevard—Southwest Entrance
- **Public Restroom Ocean Access Locations**
    - 2698 N. Lumina Avenue—29 parking spaces, ADA accessible, restrooms, and a shower
    - 2398 N. Lumina Avenue—99 parking spaces, ADA accessible, and restrooms
    - 25 E. Salisbury Street—parking spaces, ADA accessible, gazebo, restrooms, and shower
    - 650 S. Lumina Avenue—86 parking spaces, ADA accessible, restrooms, and a shower
    - 9 Bob Sawyer Drive (Wrightsville Beach Park)—parking spaces, ADA accessible, and restrooms



- **ADA Accessible Ocean Access Points**
  - 2698 N. Lumina Avenue
  - 2498 N. Lumina Avenue
  - 2398 N. Lumina Avenue

- 1800 N. Lumina Avenue
- 1700 N. Lumina Avenue
- 25 E. Salisbury Street
- 650 S. Lumina Avenue
- 1000 S. Lumina Avenue

**New Hanover County School Sites and Facilities**

- ◆ ***Anderson Elementary School***
  - Playground
  - Outdoor basketball courts
  - Multipurpose field
- ◆ ***Carolina Beach Elementary School***
  - Auditorium/Assembly area
  - Multipurpose field/Open space
  - Playground equipment/areas
  - Covered outdoor pavilion
  - Outdoor basketball goals
- ◆ ***Charles P. Murray Middle School***
  - Gymnasium
  - Multipurpose field
  - Outdoor basketball courts
  - Playground
- ◆ ***Eugene Ashley High School***
  - Football/soccer stadium
  - Gymnasium
  - Minnie Evans Arts Center
  - Baseball field
  - Softball field
  - Outdoor basketball courts

**Private, Commercial, Non-Profit, and Church Recreational Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- ◆ ***Battleship North Carolina***
- ◆ ***Beau Rivage Resort and Golf Club***
- ◆ ***Captain Bill's***
- ◆ ***Community Arts Center***
- ◆ ***Community Boys and Girls Club***
- ◆ ***Echo Farms Golf and Country Club***
- ◆ ***Federal Point History Center***
- ◆ ***Kure Beach Pier***
- ◆ ***Carolina Beach Pier***
- ◆ ***Latimer House Museum***

- ◆ *Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum*
- ◆ *Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church Family Life Center*
- ◆ *Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts*
- ◆ *Pleasure Island Seafood, Blues and Jazz Festival*
- ◆ *The Cape Golf and Racquet Club*
- ◆ *Tregembo Animal Park/ Zoo*
- ◆ *Trinity United Methodist Church Family Life Center*
- ◆ *Wilmington Children's Museum*
- ◆ *YMCA of Wilmington*
- ◆ *YWCA of Lower Cape Fear*





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## ***CHAPTER FIVE: PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS***

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Parks, recreation and open space standards are more likely to serve the needs of a community if those standards meet certain criteria. In reality, the true measure of a good standard is the level of citizen satisfaction with the standards. In developing parks, recreation and open space standards for the Town of Carolina Beach, the following criteria were considered:

- ✚ **Relevance**—the standards should reflect the needs and lifestyles of the community’s residents.
- ✚ **People Orientation**—the standards should reflect the unique needs and preferences of people in the area being served.
- ✚ **Performance Standards**—the standards should provide a basis for measuring achievement of community objectives. They should measure the quality of recreation services rather than simply the quantity.
- ✚ **Feasibility**—the standards should be attainable within a reasonable timeframe and with available funding sources.

✚ **Practicality**—the standards should be simple to understand and apply. They should be based on sound planning principles, information and a credible development process. They should also be flexible enough to handle unanticipated situations and rapidly changing needs.

The national and state parks and recreation standards presented in this section of the Master Plan were utilized strictly as guidelines and benchmarks for comparison in the preparation of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. These national and state standards were not judged to be requirements. They were considered to be subjective recommendations that necessitated modification in order to meet the specific and particular demands and requirements of the Town of Carolina Beach. The standards served only as tenets for what national and state professional agencies and organizations in the field of parks and recreation consider adequate and acceptable types and numbers of parks and recreation programs, services, areas and facilities. They were compiled by and proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Division of Parks and Recreation.

These national and state standards provided a starting point for establishing local standards for parks and recreation development for the Town of Carolina Beach. It is appropriate to state that the NRPA, in a 1995 report entitled “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines”, reached the conclusion that there are no “national standards” for parks and recreation development. In fact, the report reaffirms that notion that each local community is unique, and that standards reflecting the local community’s “uniqueness” should be established. This is the approach that was utilized in constructing standards for the Town of Carolina Beach.

The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* analysis considered and evaluated two types of parks and recreation standards: 1) the total acreage of parkland recommended for inclusion within a park and recreation system; and, 2) the programs, services, and facilities necessary to adequately meet the parks and recreation needs of the citizens. The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* incorporates these park standards

in its recommendations for evaluating the current parks and recreation system and for establishing a plan of action to meet future growth patterns.

### **Parks, Open Space and Greenways Classifications**

A comprehensive park and recreation system is made up of a variety of park types. These park types range from very large Nature Preserves or Regional Parks, often encompassing hundreds of acres, to the very small neighborhood and mini-parks, sometimes less than one acre. Some of these park types are the responsibility of governmental entities other than municipalities, such as federal, state or county government. To fully appreciate and understand the Town of Carolina Beach's role in the provision of parks and recreation services to its citizens, one needs to comprehend the context that makes up a total parks and recreation system.





**Nature Preserves—the acquisition and development of Nature Preserves are typically undertaken by federal and state governments**

Nature Preserves are typically very large sites, encompassing unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found in the region, the diverse land formations, and the variety of vegetation and wildlife. Examples of the types of facilities provided in a Nature Preserve are environmental centers, camping, nature trails, observation decks, and picnic areas. Open fields for non-structured activities, such as Frisbee throwing or kite flying, are also generally found.

Land chosen for future preserves, or the expansion of existing sites, should contain the previously mentioned characteristics accompanied with natural water features such as lakes, rivers, and creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage utilized for active recreation.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing Nature Preserves are as follows:*

Service Area:	County/Region Wide
Acreage/Population Ratio:	2.5 acres per 1,000 persons
Desirable Range:	150 – 1,000 acres with adequate area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed
Typical Facilities:	Environmental Center      Picnic Tables/Grills Equestrian Center      Restrooms Vending      Primitive Camping Beach      Group Camping Swimming      Boating Nature Trails      Fishing Pier Boat Docks      Observation Decks Parking      Picnic Shelters/Grills RV Camping      Caretaker’s House

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on regional/community needs or special site characteristics.

**Regional Parks**—the acquisition and development of Regional Parks typically fall within the responsibility of county government

Regional Parks are typically large sites that provide a wide and varied range of both active and passive recreational opportunities. These parks are intended to serve a substantial number of people who are willing to spend travel time to visit the sites. Examples of the types of areas and facilities provided in a Regional Park are sports complexes, swimming pools, nature trails, fitness trails, restrooms, parking, concessions, picnic shelters, playgrounds, amphitheaters, recreation centers, picnic areas, boating facilities and open play areas.

Land selected for Regional Parks should be located on major transportation corridors and easily accessible by a large number of citizens. The majority of the site should be reserved and utilized for active recreation with adequate provision for passive recreation.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing Regional Parks are as follows:*

Service Area:	8-mile radiuses—typically serve a population base of approximately 60,000	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	2.5 acres per 1,000	
Desirable Range:	125 – 500 acres	
Desirable Size:	+250 acres	
Minimum Size:	125 acres	
Typical Features:	Picnic Shelters/Grills	Picnic Tables/Grills
	Nature Trails	Tennis Complex
	Tournament Baseball Fields	Playground
	Tournament Softball Fields	Fitness Trails
Specialty Features:	Swimming Pool	Recreation Center

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on regional/community needs or special site characteristics.

**Community Parks**—the acquisition and development of Community Parks typically fall within the responsibility of county and municipal governments

Community Parks provide a full range of facilities to support tournament competition for athletic and league sports. These parks also present opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation. Activities that generate large crowds, such as special events and tournament competitions, are well suited for Community Parks, where adequate space and parking are provided. Approximately fifty percent (50%) of a Community Park should be developed for only passive recreation. These relatively undisturbed areas may serve as buffers around the park or act as buffers between active areas and facilities.

Community Parks should have varying topography and vegetative communities. Forested areas should have a variety of tree species. Cleared areas should be present for placing active recreation areas and facilities. One or more natural water features, such as a lake, river, or creek should be included in a Community Park. Parkland should also be contiguous and strategically located in order to be accessible to all users within the service area.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing Community Parks are as follows:*

Service Area:	.5 – 3 mile radiuses—typically serves several neighborhoods	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	5 – 8 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	15 – 100 acres	
Desirable Size:	±25 acres	
Typical Facilities:	Recreation Center	Playground
	Picnic Shelters/Grills	Basketball Court
	Picnic Tables/Grills	Tennis Courts
	Nature Trails	Restrooms
	Tournament Baseball Fields	Parking
	Tournament Softball Fields	Volleyball Courts
	Concessions	Soccer Fields
Special Facilities:	Golf Course	Swimming
	Beaches	Environmental Center
	Boating	Equestrian Center
	Amphitheater	Fishing Pier
	Boat Docks	Observation Decks
	Marina Operations	Swimming Pool
	Fitness Course	Paddle Boats

**Sports Complex**—the acquisition and development of a Sports Complex typically falls within the responsibility of county or municipal governments

A Sports Complex functions as the major source of active recreation in the local community. Programs, services and activities found at a Sports Complex are similar to those in a Community Park, but are developed to support tournament competition. Passive recreation experiences and opportunities are generally limited, but may be found in undisturbed areas, preferably within the surrounding buffers.

Sites for Sports Complexes should be relatively flat to alleviate excessive grading and land preparation for active areas and facilities. Sites without significant vegetation or natural features are preferable since most of the land will be developed for active recreation such as athletic fields. Sites should be easily accessible from major thoroughfares. Direct access to residential areas should be limited and buffers provided adjacent to residential areas.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing a Sports Complex are as follows:*

Service Area:	3 – 5 mile radiuses	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	2.5 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	80 – 100 acres	
Desirable Size:	±100 acres	
Typical Features:	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelter/Grills
	Basketball Courts	Nature Trail
	Tennis Courts	Baseball Fields
	Softball Fields	Benches
	Parking	Multi-Purpose Fields
	Service Yard	Volleyball Courts
	Restrooms/Concessions	
	Tournament Level Soccer Fields	
	Tournament Level Baseball/Softball Fields	
	Tournament Level Tennis Complex	
Alternate Facilities:	Recreation Center	Running Track
	Amphitheater	Observation Decks

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

**District Parks**—the acquisition and development of District Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

District Parks function as the major source of active recreation in the neighborhoods they serve. Activities are similar to those found in Community Parks, but are not developed to support tournament competition. Their smaller size often requires District Parks to be more intensely developed than the Community Parks. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers.

Sites for District Parks should be relatively flat to alleviate excessive grading of active areas and facilities. Where possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily with passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should also be a consideration when choosing a site for a District Park.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing a District Park are as follows:*

Service Area:	1 – 2 ½ mile radiuses		
Acreage/Population Ratio:	5 acres per 1,000 persons		
Desirable Range:	20 – 100 acres		
Desirable Size:	±50 acres		
Typical Features:	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelter/Grills	
	Basketball Courts	Nature Trail	
	Tennis Courts	Baseball Fields	
	Softball Fields	Benches	
	Parking	Multi-Purpose Fields	
	Service Yard	Volleyball	
	Soccer Fields		
	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped		
	Alternate Facilities:	Recreation Center	Tennis Center
		Football Fields	Running Trail
Boating		Amphitheater	
Observation Decks		Fishing Piers	
Swimming Pool		Fitness Course	

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

**Neighborhood Parks**—the acquisition and development of Neighborhood Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

Neighborhood Parks offer the local citizens a convenient source of accessible recreation and serve as the basic unit of the parks and recreation system. These parks are located in residential areas and usually within walking distance of the areas served and provide a variety of activities to interest all age groups. While their small size requires intense development, fifty percent (50%) of each site should remain undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent land owners and users.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing Neighborhood Parks are as follows:*

Service Area:	¼ - ½ mile radiuses to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding neighborhood population	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	1 acre per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	5 – 25 acres	
Desirable Size:	± 15 acres	
Typical Facilities:	Playground	Basketball Courts
	Softball Field	Baseball Field
	Multi-Purpose Field	Picnic Shelters/Grills
	Picnic Tables/Grills	Benches
	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped	
Alternate Facilities:	Tennis Courts	Nature Trail
	Fitness Course	

These areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.



**Mini-Parks**—the acquisition and development of Mini-Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

Mini-Park is the smallest park classification. Mini-Parks are often very small in size and are only easily accessible by the citizens immediately surrounding the park. These small parks are usually located within walking distance of the area serviced and provide a limited variety of activities to targeted interest groups.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing Mini-Parks are as follows:*

Service Area:	¼ - ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding population	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	.25 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Size:	±½ acre	
Typical Facilities:	Benches	Picnic Tables/Grills
	Playground	
Specialty Features:	Water Fountain	½ Basketball Courts
	Open Play Area	
	Landscaped Public Use Areas	

These areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

**School-Parks**—the acquisition and development of School-Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

The joint use of public areas and facilities is a national growing trend. Through joint use both local government and the school system benefit from shared use of areas and facilities and valuable land resources. The School-Park concept takes full advantage of the joint use objective and provides a planned area and/or facility that also maximizes public funding. Historically, elementary and small middle schools provide the ideal setting for a neighborhood park while large middle schools and high schools are suitable for a community park or a sports complex.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing School-Parks are as follows:*

Service Area:	Varies depending upon the type of school and park
Desirable Size:	Varies depending upon the type of school and park
Typical Facilities:	Varies depending upon the type of school and park

**Greenways**—the acquisition and development of Greenways typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

Greenways provide an important component of most municipal and county park systems. A greenway is a corridor of protected open space managed for conservation, recreation and non-motorized transportation. Greenways often follow natural geographic features such as ridge lines, wetlands, streams and rivers, but may also be built along canals, utility corridors, or abandoned rail lines. Widths may vary from thirty (30) to a thousand (1,000) feet. Most greenways include a trail or bike path, but others may be designed strictly for environmental or scenic protection.

Greenways, as vegetated linear parks, provide tree cover, wildlife habitat, and riparian buffers to protect streams. The environmental benefits include reduced storm-water runoff, flood reduction, water quality protection, and preservation of biological diversity. The trails within the greenways provide access between neighborhoods and destination points, opportunity to travel without an automobile, outdoor education classrooms, and close-to-home paths for walking, jogging, bicycling, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. Tree cover and use of bicycles instead of cars provide for better air quality, fewer hard surfaced parking lots, and reduced energy costs.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing Greenways are as follows:*

- |                     |                                                                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Desirable Size:     | Varies considerably—A thirty (30) feet width is generally considered a minimum |
| Typical Facilities: | Paved and non-paved paths, benches and lighting                                |





**Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Sites**—the acquisition and development of Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Sites typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

The public’s right of access to beach and coastal waterfront areas is a long-standing tenet of the Public Trust Doctrine with its corresponding issues of Public Trust Rights. One way to guarantee and protect the public’s right to shorelines and waters is for local government to establish public beach and coastal waterfront access sites.

The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management recognizes four (4) types of public access sites: Regional, Neighborhood, Local and Waterfront.

- ✚ **Regional**—these access sites are generally the largest of the access sites. There are exceptions, but usually these sites have ample parking (25+), and often have additional facilities such as restrooms, showers and picnic tables
- ✚ **Neighborhood**—these access sites have fewer parking spaces than regional sites and often do not have facilities such as showers or restrooms. However, there are exceptions.
- ✚ **Local**—these sites are often simply dune crossovers with little or no associated parking and no facilities. However, bicycle racks may be provided. These are primarily used by pedestrians who reside within a few hundred yards of the site.
- ✚ **Waterfront**—these access sites are generally located on estuarine waters in urbanized areas. They vary greatly in the amount of parking and facilities provided.



This is a representative photo of a Neighborhood Site



This is a representative photo of a Local Access Site

**Boat Access Sites**—the acquisition and development of Boat Access Sites typically fall within the responsibility of municipal, county and state governments

Most public boat access sites in North Carolina are designed, constructed and maintained by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. However, there are standard construction and design guidelines for boat ramps.

*Specific standards and criteria for developing boat access sites are as follows:*

Standard Dimensions for Concrete Launch Ramp:

- ✚ Length—varies by site characteristics. Ensure that the bottom of the ramp at Mean Low Water (MLW) will be in at least 3’ of water. The top of the ramp should be at least 1’ above Mean High Water (MHW)
- ✚ Width—single launch ramp should be at least 14’ wide
- ✚ Thickness—concrete should be at least 6”.

Launch Ramp Slope:

- ✚ Approximately 14%, but can vary from 15% to 12.5%

Construction and Materials:

- ✚ Sub-Grade Preparation—the concrete ramp should be placed on compacted aggregate which is placed on geo-textile fabric to prevent washout.
- ✚ Push Slab—use a push slab for the launch ramp below the MLW level. The steel reinforced concrete slab should be cast on upland and allowed to cure for a minimum of 21 days before it is pushed into place. Typically, a 32’L x 14’W x 6”T push slab can be properly placed when the water level is at MLW
- ✚ Cast in Place Section—once the push slab is cast in place, there should be at least 2 – 3 feet of ramp left above the water line. The remaining ramp should be cast in place



## North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

### 2003 – 2008 Park and Recreation Area Class Names and Descriptions

**Neighborhood Park**—Area for intensive recreation such as field and court games, playground equipment, picnicking and wading pools. 6 – 8 acres is a typical size. Examples include mini-parks serving residential areas, playgrounds, sports field complexes and combination playgrounds/sports fields/passive natural areas.

**Community Park**—Area providing a wide array of active recreational opportunities including a recreation center building, fields, hard surface courts, and picnicking. Natural or landscaped areas are provided for passive recreation. May include a swimming pool or be in conjunction with a school. 10 – 20 acres is a typical size. Examples include large parks/school complexes; recreation center/pool/sports field and court complexes; and community center/park complexes.

**District/Metro Area Park**—Area serving one or more suburban or rural communities. Similar to the Community Park, these areas offer intensive recreation activities and natural environment areas. Typical size is 20 – 100 acres. Examples include intensively developed county parks, developed public recreation sites at large reservoirs, and state recreation areas.

**Local Parks**—Combines Neighborhood, Community and District/Metro Area parks classes described above.

**Regional/State Parks**—Area of natural quality for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% developed for recreation. Typical size is 3,000 – 5,000 acres. Examples include state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, educational state forests and large natural resource-based county parks. Activities include nature study, picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, swimming and various trail uses.

**Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area**—Area for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Certain multiple use management approaches produce natural resource outputs such as timber, agricultural produce and minerals. Examples include state game-lands, multiple use areas of national and state forests, reservoir shoreline buffer lands, and Blue Ridge Parkway acreage.

Typical size should be sufficient to protect and manage the primary resource while providing secondary recreational use.

**Wilderness Area**—Area characterized by unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Low interaction between users and evidence of others is minimal. Motorized use is not permitted. Typical size is 5,000 – 15,000 acres. Examples are congressionally designated National Wildlife Areas.

**Historic/Cultural Area**—Area that preserves, maintains, and interprets buildings and places of archaeological, historical, or cultural significance. Should be of sufficient size to protect and interpret the resource while providing optimum use. Examples include local, state, and national historic sites.



## STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

<u>Facility</u>	<u>NRPA Standard</u>	<u>NCDENR Standard</u>
<b><u>Fields</u></b>		
Adult Baseball	1 per 12,000 persons	1 per 5,000 persons
Youth Baseball/Girls Softball	N/A	N/A
Adult Softball	1 per 5,000 persons	1 per 5,000 persons
Football	1 per 10,000 persons	1 per 20,000 persons
Adult Soccer	1 per 10,000 persons	1 per 10,000 persons
Youth Soccer	N/A	N/A
<b><u>Courts</u></b>		
Basketball	1 per 5,000 persons	1 per 5,000 persons
Tennis	1 per 2,000 persons	1 per 2,000 persons
Volleyball	1 per 5,000 persons	1 per 5,000 persons
Shuffleboard	N/A	N/A
Horseshoe	N/A	N/A
<b><u>Outdoor Areas</u></b>		
Picnic Shelters	N/A	1 per 3,000 persons
Playgrounds	N/A	1 per 1,000 persons
Trails		
Hiking	1 per region	.4 mile/1,000 persons
Interpretive	1 per region	.2 mile/1,000 persons
Equestrian	N/A	.4 mile/1,000 persons
Camping	N/A	2.5 site/1,000 persons
Archery Area	1 per 50,000 persons	1 per 50,000 persons
<b><u>Specialized</u></b>		
Community Center	1 per 20,000 persons	1 per 20,000 persons
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000 persons	1 per 20,000 persons
Golf Course	1 per 25,000 persons	1 per 25,000 persons
Bicycling		
Urban	N/A	1 mile/1,000 persons
Rural Touring	N/A	2 mile/1,000 persons
Canoeing		
Stream Mileage	N/A	.2 mile/1,000 persons
Stream Acreage	N/A	1 per 10 miles

## TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND SPORTS

Surveys designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation have been conducted by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, the State of North Carolina and by various other associations and organizations.

### President's Commission on Americans Outdoors

The President's Commission Report indicated the following significant information:

Top 10 outdoor recreation activities nationwide:

Bicycling	Picnicking
Boating	Driving for pleasure
Fishing	Sightseeing
Swimming	Attending sport events
Playing sports	Walking for pleasure

Activities rapidly growing in popularity:

Canoeing	Hiking/backpacking
Water skiing	Bicycling
Sailing	Walking for pleasure
Attending outdoor sports	Camping

### National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) Survey

The National Sporting Goods Association conducts an annual survey of sports participation. The survey lists the following top 25 activities per million participants. A participant is defined as someone seven years of age or older who participates in a sport more than once within a year for all sports except aerobic exercising, bicycle riding, exercise walking, exercising with equipment, running/jogging, step aerobics, weight lifting and swimming. For these seven fitness sports, participation is defined as six times or more during the year. The following chart summarizes the finding for the past 10 years.



### *Ten-Year History of Selected Sports Participation*

<b>Sport</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Aerobic Exercising</b>	29.5	29.0	26.7	25.8	24.1	23.2
<b>Archery (target)</b>	5.3	4.2	4.5	4.8	5.3	NA
<b>Backpack/Wilderness Camp</b>	17.3	14.8	15.4	14.6	11.5	9.8
<b>Baseball</b>	15.9	15.6	15.6	15.9	14.8	15.1
<b>Basketball</b>	27.8	28.9	27.1	29.4	31.8	28.2
<b>Bicycle Riding</b>	40.3	39.7	43.1	43.5	53.3	49.8
<b>Billiards/Pool</b>	34.2	33.1	32.5	32.3	34.5	34.0
<b>Boating, Motor/Power</b>	22.8	26.6	24.2	25.7	28.8	26.4
<b>Bowling</b>	43.8	42.4	43.1	40.1	42.9	37.4
<b>Camping (vacation/overnight)</b>	55.3	55.4	49.9	46.5	44.7	42.9
<b>Exercise Walking</b>	84.7	82.2	81.3	77.6	73.3	70.8
<b>Exercising with Equipment</b>	52.2	46.8	44.8	46.1	47.8	43.8
<b>Fishing</b>	41.2	44.2	47.2	43.6	45.6	45.7
<b>Football (tackle)</b>	8.2	7.8	8.0	8.1	9.0	NA
<b>Football (touch)</b>	9.6	10.3	9.8	10.8	11.6	NA
<b>Golf</b>	24.5	27.1	26.4	27.5	23.1	24.6
<b>Hiking</b>	28.3	27.2	24.3	27.2	26.5	25.3
<b>Hockey (ice)</b>	2.4	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.9
<b>Hunting with Firearms</b>	17.7	19.5	19.1	17.3	18.3	16.4
<b>Hunting with Bow and Arrows</b>	5.8	4.6	4.7	5.6	5.5	NA
<b>Ice/Figure Skating</b>	NA	NA	6.7	7.8	8.4	7.8
<b>Kayaking/Rafting</b>	NA	NA	3.1	3.2	3.6	NA
<b>Kick Boxing</b>	2.8	NA	3.9	2.3	NA	NA
<b>Martial Arts</b>	4.7	4.2	5.4	4.6	4.7	NA
<b>Mountain Biking (off road)</b>	8.0	7.8	7.1	8.6	7.3	5.7
<b>Muzzle-loading</b>	3.8	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.2	NA
<b>Paintball Games</b>	9.4	6.9	5.3	NA	NA	3.7
<b>Roller Skating (in-line)</b>	11.7	18.8	19.2			23.9
<b>Running/Jogging</b>	24.7	24.7	22.8	22.5	22.2	20.6
<b>Sailing</b>	2.6	NA	2.5	3.6	4.0	4.1
<b> Scooter Riding</b>	12.9	13.4	11.6	NA	NA	NA
<b>Skateboarding</b>	10.3	9.7	9.1	5.8	4.7	4.9
<b>Skiing (alpine)</b>	5.9	7.4	7.4	7.7	10.5	10.6
<b>Skiing (cross country)</b>	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.4	3.6
<b>Snorkeling</b>	NA	NA	5.5	7.3	7.1	5.9
<b>Soccer</b>	13.3	13.7	12.9	13.2	13.9	12.5
<b>Softball</b>	12.5	13.6	14.0	15.6	19.9	18.1
<b>Swimming</b>	53.4	53.1	58.8	58.2	60.2	60.3
<b>T'ai Chi/Yoga</b>	6.7	6.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Target Shooting</b>	19.2	18.9	16.9	18.9	21.2	NA
<b>Tennis</b>	9.6	11.0	10.0	11.2	11.5	11.6
<b>Volleyball</b>	10.8	11.5	12.3	14.8	18.5	17.4
<b>Water Skiing</b>	4.7	6.9	5.9	7.2	7.4	7.4
<b>Weight Lifting</b>	26.2	25.1	22.8	NA	NA	NA
<b>Workout at Club</b>	31.8	28.9	24.1	26.5	22.5	20.4

Source: National Sporting Goods Association, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

## **North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey**

The most recent North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey (1989) provided an indication on the most popular outdoor recreation activities in the state. The most popular outdoor recreation activities in North Carolina are:

- ✚ Walking for pleasure
- ✚ Driving for pleasure
- ✚ Viewing scenery
- ✚ Beach activities
- ✚ Visiting historical sites
- ✚ Swimming
- ✚ Visiting natural areas
- ✚ Picnicking
- ✚ Attending sports events
- ✚ Visiting zoos

The results of the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey closely mirror those of the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment conducted in 1994 – 1995 and 2000.

## **2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)**

Results of the 2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment are similar to those of the 1989 North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey as regards outdoor recreation participation, even though the 2 surveys used different survey methodologies, questions, and recreation activity categories for compiling results. The results of the NSRE show that walking for pleasure was the single most popular activity in the nation and in the South, with over 83% of the population age 16 and over participating. The fifteen (15) most popular outdoor recreation activities in the South identified by the survey were:

- ✚ Walking for pleasure—83%
- ✚ Family gathering—72%
- ✚ All sightseeing, driving, etc.—63%
- ✚ All swimming, diving, etc.—58%
- ✚ Visit Nature Centers/Trail/Zoo—54%



- 🚦 Sightseeing—53%
- 🚦 Driving for pleasure—53%
- 🚦 Picnicking—50%
- 🚦 View/photograph natural scenery—47%
- 🚦 Visit historic sites—44%
- 🚦 Non-pool swimming—42%
- 🚦 All fishing—39%
- 🚦 View/photograph other wildlife—37%
- 🚦 View/photograph flowers, etc.—37%
- 🚦 Visit beach—36%





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## ***CHAPTER SIX: ASSESSMENT OF TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE NEEDS***

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A Needs Assessment is defined as a systematic exploration of the “*way things are*” and the “*way they should be.*” A typical Needs Assessment is a four-step process:

1. Perform a “Gap” Analysis—identify the “*current state of affairs*” and the “*desired state of affairs.*” The difference is the “*need*”.
2. Identify priorities and importance
3. Identify causes of problems and/or opportunities
4. Identify solutions and make recommendations

Chapter Four—Inventory of Existing Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities of this document gives us a very good picture of the “*way things are*” and the “*current state of affairs.*” This chapter, Chapter Six—Assessment of Town of Carolina Beach Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs, provides the information collected from all sources important to the delivery of parks and recreation services in the Carolina Beach

area in relation to the “*way things should be*” and the “*desired state of affairs*” and identifies priorities and importance. Chapter Seven—Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations completes the Needs Assessment process.

## ***1. Evaluation and Analysis of Existing Parks, Recreation and Open Space Areas and Facilities***

### **◆ Carolina Beach Lake Park**

Carolina Beach Lake Park Evaluation—This park has excellent neighborhood accessibility and appeal. It also offers the potential to serve as an environmental education facility and should be improved through the construction of a small structure with classroom space, meeting space and displays to take advantage of this potential. There are several additional items that could be recommended for the enhancement and improvement of Carolina Beach Lake Park. These recommendations include, but are not limited to, expanding the existing playground equipment and area; providing increased landscape screening of the public works building located in the park; repairing and replacing if necessary the existing bridges; providing landscape screening of the park from Lake Park Boulevard; general landscape beautification of the entire park; adding water fountains in strategic locations along the greenway path; acquiring all wetland and marsh areas surrounding and adjacent to the park; enlarging and enhancing the existing greenway/walkway and connecting it to the Central Business District (CBD) and the downtown boardwalk; improving the small grassed area between the two main bridges; beautifying the entrance into the park at 4<sup>th</sup> and Claredon Avenue; adding several water displays to the lake itself; constructing roofs over some of the existing benches to provide protection from the sun on hot, sunny days; constructing several small picnic shelters with grills and tables; constructing a small outdoor performance area on the existing impervious surface area in the northeast corner of the park; increasing the number of public parking spaces; and, improving the area known as “Veteran’s Memorial Island.”

◆ **Freeman Park**

Freeman Park Evaluation—This park is actually owned by New Hanover County but managed through a cooperative agreement by the Town of Carolina Beach. Access to the park is restricted to 4-wheel drive vehicles, boats and pedestrians. It is not unusual for several hundred individuals to be in the park during holidays and weekends. The park contains oceanfront beaches, estuarine shoreline, marsh areas, dune fields and dry sand areas. All efforts should be made to protect the fragile natural resources of the park and the safety of all park users. No permanent structures should be constructed at the park. Consistent and strict adherence to all existing park rules and regulations should be enforced.

◆ **McDonald Park**

McDonald Park Evaluation—This park recently received some renovations that have significantly improved both the functionality and aesthetics of the park. However, McDonald Park still needs some additional renovation and improvement. The park displays limited aesthetic appeal or imagination. Additional landscaping should be added to beautify the park. The building in the middle of the park should be properly screened and hidden as much as possible from view and examined for safety concerns. The “Whirl-a-Round” should be removed. A playground structure for youth ages 5 – 12 should be added to the park. The existing water fountain should be replaced. Additional benches should be added in strategic locations within the park. Either horseshoe pits and/or a bocce ball court and an outdoor basketball half-court should be constructed at the park.

◆ **Mike Chappell Park**

Mike Chappell Park Evaluation—This park is the flagship outdoor recreation area of the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department park system. The park has recently undergone some renovations and improvements that will serve to increase participation at the facility. The ball fields at the park are not in the best condition and should be improved. Improvements to the ball fields would include replacing the existing lighting

system, replacing the existing fences, and replacing/repairing the grass outfields. The playground equipment at Mike Chappell Park should be replaced and expanded and the playground areas improved. At least one picnic shelter complete with tables and grills should be provided as well as water fountains placed in strategic locations around the park. Emphasis should also be placed upon beautifying the park with additional landscaping. An irrigation system should be installed in the outfield areas of all of the ball fields. Other suggestions are the replacement of the existing tennis court lights and the construction of a lighted outdoor basketball court.

◆ **Carolina Beach Recreation Center**

Carolina Beach Recreation Center Evaluation—The recreation center is the flagship indoor recreation facility of the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department parks and recreation system. The 21,778 square foot recreation center is home to the majority of supervised programs and services offered by the Department. It is recommended that the existing facility be expanded to include at a minimum a new aerobics floor, an expanded and improved weight room that includes cardio equipment, and, additional storage areas. In addition to the expansion of the recreation center, the Town should consider purchasing a small bus or other multi-passenger vehicle to be used for transporting program participants for in-town and out-of-town excursions.

◆ **Snow's Cut Bike Path**

Snow's Cut Bike Path Evaluation—This bike path is a beginning of a comprehensive pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized vehicular transportation network but it needs to be greatly expanded and coordinated with the Town of Kure Beach, New Hanover County, Carolina Beach State Park, Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area and the Ocean Military Terminal at Sunny Point. Through coordination with these agencies, the Town of Carolina Beach should and can create a comprehensive pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized vehicular transportation network that connects public parks, greenways, open space areas and other public areas and facilities allowing the citizens of the Town of

Carolina Beach and its surrounding neighbors a safe and enjoyable alternative transportation system.

## ***2. Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Meeting With Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee***

A formal session was held with the members of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on February 5, 2007 to receive input from the Committee members regarding the parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities for the Town of Carolina Beach. This input from the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

The information discussed and collected at the Committee meeting is summarized below:

### **◆ Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas, and Facilities**

- Swimming Pool
- 9-Hole Golf Course
- Tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, bocce ball courts, shuffleboard courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, horseshoe pits and frisbee golf course
- Bike path
- Walking paths around existing retention ponds
- Kids-Oriented Park at the North End and South End of Town
- Update Existing Playground Equipment
- Pave Existing Parking Lot at Chapel Park
- Landscaping and Park in Central Business District
- Expansion of Current Recreation Center
- Ball-field Light Replacement
- New Bridge and Restroom Facilities at Lake
- New Restrooms, Concessions and Turf Irrigation at Ball-field
- Boat Landing Facility
- Beach Access
- Remodel Restroom Facilities at the Boardwalk
- Beautify Entrances into Town
- Water Structure at Boardwalk Area
- Adult Out-of-Town Trips
- Purchase a Small Bus
- Summer Day Camps for Teens
- Doggie Park

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- Builder's Fee and/or Impact Fee's
- Sponsor-A-Park/Adopt-A-Park Program
- Increased Emphasis on Land Acquisition
- Child Care at the Recreation Center
- Security Cameras in the Parks
- Additional Maintenance and Programming Personnel
- Improved Maintenance of Existing Areas and Facilities

**3. Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Public Meetings (2)**

Direct community and citizen input received at two (2) public meetings scheduled on February 7, 2007 and March 14, 2007 was also utilized to provide an initial understanding and assessment of the specific expressed parks, recreation and open needs and priorities of the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach. This input from the Town of Carolina Beach residents was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

The information collected and discussed at each of the meetings is summarized below:

**Town of Carolina Beach Community Center—February 7, 2007**

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas, and Facilities**

- Sidewalks, pedestrian corridors, trails, paths to provide access and connectors between public facilities
- Programs and services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities and other special needs
- Updated playground equipment at school

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- Cooperation and coordination between the public school system and the Town
- Builder's youth fee

The citizens in attendance expressed the opinion that a critical need exists for alternative means of non-vehicular transportation such as bike trails, walking trails, sidewalks, etc. to connect public areas and facilities, particularly the Town's parks and the public schools. Those in attendance also questioned why Town of Carolina Beach youth seemed to be attending

programs and services offered by the City of Wilmington rather than the Town of Carolina Beach.

**Town of Carolina Beach Community Center—March 14, 2007**

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas, and Facilities**

- o Comprehensive bike and pedestrian path connecting town and neighboring areas and facilities
- o Park at the water tower site along the Kure Beach/Carolina Beach boundary line
- o Increased and improved boat and pedestrian access to the river and the sound
- o Public restroom facilities at strategic locations
- o Public amenities at the boat and pedestrian access areas
- o Expand the existing Recreation Center—new aerobics floor, expand the weight room, provide new and improved weight room equipment, cardio equipment, sauna and whirlpool
- o Community indoor swimming pool
- o Outdoor basketball courts at Mike Chappell and McDonald Parks
- o Wave pool
- o Flow park
- o ADA compliant crossovers to the oceanfront beach
- o Better signage regarding ADA compliant beach access and more beach wheelchairs
- o Additional lifeguards at the beach as well as additional trash cans
- o Special events such as kayaking and surfing events
- o Event Center
- o Observation deck at Snow’s Cut and other locations for birding and wildlife
- o Tennis court by the library
- o Improve the landscaping at the entrances to the downtown boardwalk area
- o Expand the downtown wooded boardwalk
- o Provide additional indoor and outdoor space for classes

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- o Partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to provide public restrooms at boat ramps and to provide connections for the proposed town bike/pedestrian path
- o Become more “dog friendly”
- o Cooperative agreements with other public and private entities

**4. Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Interviews with Key Town Stakeholders (4)**

A purposive, deliberate sample of Town of Carolina Beach stakeholders was selected and each individual interviewed regarding his/her opinions concerning parks,



recreation and open space needs and priorities. The stakeholders interviewed were the Town Manager—Tim Owens (March 9, 2007), the Director of Parks and Recreation—Ted Lashley (March 14, 2007), the Town’s Senior Planner—Ed Parvin (March 14, 2007), and, a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee—Billy Beasley (March 19, 2007). This input from the Town of Carolina Beach stakeholders was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

The information generated from the interviews is anonymously summarized below:

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- Second Recreation Center focusing upon young adults
- Need for land for open space and passive recreation
- Develop a passive park, in cooperation with Carolina Beach State Park, on land directly behind the existing Recreation Center
- New ball-field lights at Mike Chappell Park
- Expand Mike Chappell Park and add restrooms, ball-fields, soccer/football fields, Frisbee golf course, bike/walking trails, tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts
- Expand the existing Recreation Center by enlarging and improving the weight room and aerobics room and moving the storage outside
- Add a Recreation Facility in the downtown CBD
- Provide more recreation programs on the beach
- Add another full-time maintenance employee
- Add additional recreation staff if programs, services, areas and facilities are expanded
- Purchase a multi-passenger vehicle for out-of-town trips
- Purchase land in the CBD or rehabilitate an existing building in the CBD for recreation purposes
- Provide safe bike trails and pedestrian ways that link the entire island
- Add an indoor track in an existing building
- Provide a walking path around Lake Park that connects to the CBD and the boardwalk
- Provide environmental education programs at Lake Park
- Provide additional vehicular parking at Lake Park
- Develop a park near the Kure Beach/Carolina Beach town line
- Expand existing marina basin and increase number of transient boat slips
- Provide a marked kayak trail in Myrtle Grove Sound
- Provide outdoor basketball courts
- Provide structured tennis lessons, swimming classes and water safety classes
- Passive park at the corner of Cape Fear and Canal—introduce public art

- o Acquire wetland area around Lake Park and construct a walkway system for environmental education
- o Community pool
- o Frisbee golf at Mike Chappell Park
- o Better utilization of the Cape Fear lot that now houses the senior center, library, community building and water infrastructure
- o Increase passive observation decks and sitting areas at existing beach access locations
- o Increase seating and passive areas at the marina
- o Rehab the small park near Goldsboro Avenue
- o Improve Lake Park by adding amenities, landscaping, etc.
- o Upgrade the lighting in the Recreation Center gymnasium
- o Add lights to the tennis courts at Mike Chappell Park
- o Upgrade and improve playground equipment
- o Additional parks and recreation department professional staff

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- o Become more involved in marketing and tourism issues
- o Partnership with the State of North Carolina, particularly Carolina Beach State Park, to create a passive park on the state property behind Town Hall
- o Partnership with Sunny Point Ocean Military Terminal to expand Mike Chappell Park
- o Develop a town comprehensive parking plan that increases parking in areas adjacent to the oceanfront beach
- o Develop a program of outreach to visitors and tourists that makes them better aware of town parks and recreation programs and services
- o Conduct a comprehensive survey of the Recreation Center patrons to better understand their needs and interests
- o Increase senior citizen involvement and support by adding additional programs for seniors
- o Evaluate town property in the CBD that was acquired with Hazard Mitigation funds as potential public park areas
- o Partnership with Carolina Beach State Park, Sunny Point Ocean Military Terminal, the Town of Kure Beach and the North Carolina Land Trust to the greatest extent possible
- o Preserve public access to the river, beach and sound



## **5. *Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Focus Group***

The Focus Group was formed from a purposive, deliberate sample of Town of Carolina Beach stakeholders. The stakeholders who formed the Focus Group were Wanda Barbour, Heather Kenny, Gena Benton, Mike Bennett and John Batson. The Focus Group members were collectively asked to address the following questions:

1. What is it that the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department is currently doing well in terms of programs, services, areas and facilities?
2. What needs does the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department have in terms of programs, services, areas and facilities?
3. What is it that is presently inhibiting the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department from providing the programs, services, areas and facilities identified in the last question?
4. Of all of the needs identified in the second question, what are the 10 most important?

This input from the Focus Group was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

The information generated from the Focus Group is anonymously summarized below:

### **◆ Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas, and Facilities**

- Recreation Center is a good facility
- Maintenance at Mike Chappell Park is good
- Like the special events that are offered
- Like the new bike path and walking path
- Like programs in general and the athletic initiatives
- Need more hours offered at the Recreation Center
- Need more equipment at the Recreation Center
- Need more facilities at Mike Chappell Park such as outdoor basketball courts and more supervision
- Need another park like Mike Chappell Park
- Provide more sports programs in the fall
- Provide aquatics programs and instruction
- Need a swimming pool
- Construct a soccer complex

- Need sidewalks connecting public areas and facilities
- Need a bike path along Dow Road
- Need a scenic path along Lake Park Boulevard and the beach area
- Beautify the entrance into Carolina Beach as one comes in over the Snow's Cut Bridge
- Provide additional programs and services for senior citizens
- Need a 15-passenger van or small bus
- Provide surfing competitions and instruction
- Beautify Freeman Park and provide bike racks
- Improve the cleanliness of the beach
- Need an irrigation system and new turf at Mike Chappell Park
- Provide more programs and services for youth ages 13 – 21
- Provide additional public gathering spaces
- Provide a new park in the south and the north of town
- Improve the maintenance of existing areas and facilities
- Boat basin needs improved maintenance and upkeep
- Provide additional special events for families
- Expand the boardwalk to the north and to the south
- Install lights for the parking at Mike Chappell Park

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- Have good partnerships with local civic groups
- Like the new regulations at Freeman Park
- Need to improve the partnership with Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point
- The boat basin should be the crown jewel of Carolina Beach
- Available land is very limited if not non-existent for additional parks, recreation and open spaces
- Need to have the youth more involved in the planning of programs and services for them
- Need to find a way to get the Town Council more involved in parks and recreation programs and services
- Money is not available to expand programs and services

◆ **Input Identification—Top “Needs” as identified by the Focus Group**

1. Irrigation system, new turf and improved maintenance at Mike Chappell Park
2. More year-round activities for youth and children
3. Additional space for active recreation
4. Better cooperation and communication with the Town Council
5. Construct a swimming pool complex and programs
6. Provide better supervision of existing programs and services
7. Upgrade, expand and maintain the equipment at the Recreation Center

8. Request a Liaison from the Town Council
9. Beautify the Town
10. Provide a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian system



## **6. Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Survey**

A survey instrument entitled “*Carolina Beach Parks & Recreation—2007 Survey*” was developed by the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department. The survey instruments were first made available to the citizens of Carolina Beach in 2005. Copies of the survey instruments were placed at the entrance to the Carolina Beach Recreation Center and an electronic copy was linked to the Parks and Recreation Department’s web-page. Approximately 300 copies of the survey instrument were personally distributed between January and March 2007 to Recreation Center members as they entered the facility. The local newspaper, *The Island Gazette*, also ran a copy of the survey instrument on several occasions. A total of 69 completed survey instruments were collected. Fifty (50%) percent of the respondents were female and 50% were male. Sixty-one (61%) percent of the respondents were Carolina Beach residents and 70% were members of the Recreation Center. The data from the survey was analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.



The information discussed and collected from the survey data is summarized below:

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas, and Facilities**

🚩 *Percentage of respondents participating in various programs at the Recreation Center during the past year*

Program	Percentage of Respondents
Valentine's Dance	26%
Halloween Carnival	14%
Summer Day Camp	14%
Drop in Yoga Classes	14%
Youth Pier Fishing Tournament	13%
P.I. Women's Exercise Club	10%
Easter Egg Hunt	9%
Teacher Workday Day Camp	4%

- ◆ 26% of the respondents had participated in the **Valentine's Dance**
- ◆ 14% of the respondents had participated in the **Halloween Carnival**
- ◆ 14% of the respondents had participated in the **Summer Day Camp**
- ◆ 14% of the respondents had participated in the **Drop in Yoga Classes**
- ◆ 13% of the respondents had participated in the **Youth Pier Fishing Tournament**
- ◆ 10% of the respondents had participated in the **P.I. Women's Exercise Club**
- ◆ 9% of the respondents had participated in the **Easter Egg Hunt**
- ◆ 4% of the respondents had participated in the **Teacher Workday Day Camp**



✚ *Percentage of respondents participating in Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department athletic leagues during the past year*

Athletic League	Percentage of Respondents
Youth Basketball	68%
Youth Soccer (PISA)	39%
Youth Baseball (PIYBS)	13%
Men's Basketball	3%

- ◆ 68% of the respondents had participated in the **Youth Basketball League**
- ◆ 39% of the respondents had participated in the **Youth Soccer (PISA) League**
- ◆ 13% of the respondents had participated in the **Youth Baseball (PIYBS) League**
- ◆ 3% of the respondents had participated in the **Men's Basketball League**



✚ *Percentage of respondents who expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing certain Special Events*

Special Event	Percentage of Respondents
Beach Olympics	38%
Annual Sandcastle Building Contest	30%
Bicycle Race	25%
Holiday Party	25%
Senior Fun Run/Walk	17%
Adult Fishing Tournament	14%

- ◆ 38% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing a **Beach Olympics** Special Event
- ◆ 30% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing an **Annual Sandcastle Building Contest** Special Event
- ◆ 25% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing a **Bicycle Race** Special Event
- ◆ 25% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing a **Holiday Party** Special Event
- ◆ 17% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing a **Senior Fun Run/Walk** Special Event
- ◆ 14% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing an **Adult Fishing Tournament** Special Event

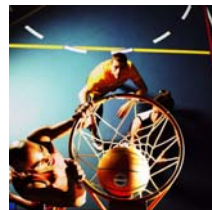




✚ *Percentage of respondents and/or any member of his/her family who participated in specific activities during the past year*

Activity	Percentage of Respondents
Basketball	71%
Soccer	39%
Surfing	32%
Yoga	25%
Nature Hikes	23%
Baseball/Tee Ball	23%
Aerobics	22%
Day Camps/Summer Camps	14%
Art Classes	13%
Gymnastics	13%
Football	13%

- ◆ 71% of the respondents participated in **Basketball** during the past year
- ◆ 39% of the respondents participated in **Soccer** during the past year
- ◆ 32% of the respondents participated in **Surfing** during the past year
- ◆ 25% of the respondents participated in **Yoga** during the past year
- ◆ 23% of the respondents participated in **Nature Hikes** during the past year
- ◆ 23% of the respondents participated in **Baseball/Tee Ball** during the past year
- ◆ 22% of the respondents participated in **Aerobics** during the past year
- ◆ 14% of the respondents participated in **Day Camps/Summer Camps** during the past year
- ◆ 13% of the respondents participated in **Art Classes** during the past year
- ◆ 13% of the respondents participated in **Gymnastics** during the past year
- ◆ 13% of the respondents participated in **Football** during the past year



✚ *Percentage of respondents who expressed an interest in the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department providing various new programs*

Program	Percentage of Respondents
Basketball	36%
Volleyball League	30%
Karate	19%
Flag Football	16%
Bingo	16%
After School Program	16%
Kick Boxing	12%
Dance Instruction	12%
More Art Classes	9%
Adult Baseball	7%
Kickball	7%

- ◆ 36% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Summer Basketball** as a new program
- ◆ 30% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing a **Volleyball League** as a new program
- ◆ 19% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Karate** as a new program
- ◆ 16% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Flag Football** as a new program
- ◆ 16% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Bingo** as a new program
- ◆ 16% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing an **After School Program** as a new program
- ◆ 12% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Kick Boxing** as a new program
- ◆ 12% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Dance Instruction** as a new program
- ◆ 9% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **More Art Classes** as a new program
- ◆ 7% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Adult Basketball** as a new program
- ◆ 7% of the respondents expressed an interest in the Parks and Recreation Department providing **Kickball** as a new program

✚ *List of open-ended responses to what type of programs respondents would like to see the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department offer*

- ◆ Swimming pool
- ◆ Additional hours at the Recreation Center
- ◆ Second gymnasium
- ◆ Another recreation center
- ◆ Improved and expanded weight room with better cardio/weight equipment
- ◆ Soccer fields
- ◆ Sports complex
- ◆ Outdoor basketball courts
- ◆ Pilates, golf, tennis, ballroom dancing, fitness, self-improvement, swimming, jazzercise, karate, golf, kayaking, surfing, snorkeling and scuba diving classes/instruction
- ◆ Craft fair
- ◆ A “real” park with full amenities
- ◆ Biking events and paths
- ◆ Walking events
- ◆ Co-ed adult softball
- ◆ Adult softball
- ◆ Adult baseball
- ◆ Better publicity regarding programs and services
- ◆ Additional activities for kids and youth
- ◆ Summer basketball leagues
- ◆ Additional youth soccer leagues
- ◆ Surfing contests
- ◆ Second racquetball court

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

✚ *Respondents’ assessment of the programs and special events offered by the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department—on a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 being the best and 1 the worst*

Rating	Percentage of Respondents
1	4%
2	5%
3	19%
4	42%
5	30%

- ✚ *Respondents' assessment of the friendliness and helpfulness of the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department staff at the Recreation Center—on a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 being the best and 1 the worst*

Rating	Percentage of Respondents
1	6%
2	0%
3	11%
4	27%
5	56%

- ✚ *Respondents' assessment of the facilities at the Recreation Center—on a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 being the best and 1 the worst*

Rating	Percentage of Respondents
1	6%
2	3%
3	42%
4	37%
5	12%

- ✚ *Respondents' overall assessment of the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department—on a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 being the best and 1 the worst*

Rating	Percentage of Respondents
1	7%
2	0%
3	17%
4	40%
5	36%



7. *New Hanover County Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space*

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- Develop a county-wide greenway and bike plan and system
- Expand opportunities for water access

8. *City of Wilmington 2003 – 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- Acquire land for a 30 – 75 acre Community/District Park in the southern end of the City’s jurisdictional boundary
- Complete the downtown Riverwalk from the Memorial Bridge to the Holmes Bridge
- Construct a Natatorium and multi-purpose recreational facility
- Planning and development of a system of non-vehicular transportation

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- Establish an ad hoc Pedestrian and Non-Vehicular Transportation Committee
- Expand and enhance the number and type of cooperative partnerships

9. *Pleasure Island Bike Path Survey*

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- Provide a bike path on Pleasure Island

10. *Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan Update*

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- Need to promote environmentally sensitive and sound opportunities, amenities and facilities for more tourism, recreation and transient boating visitors to Myrtle Grove Sound
- Balance the use and accessibility of Myrtle Grove Sound among commercial, sport fishing, recreational and transient boaters
- Need to preserve or expand sound-side shoreline public access
- Maximize public access to the beaches and the public trust waters of the jurisdiction
- Need for a public parking deck
- Need for increased public property maintenance (public restrooms, parks and sidewalks)
- Need to continue Boardwalk revitalization
- Improve parking
- Improve pedestrian/bicycle access and mobility options
- Enhance and increase pedestrian and bicycle mobility and interconnectivity

- o Expand parks and youth facilities
- o Continue Boardwalk revitalization

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- o Need to pro-actively resolve the issues regarding vehicular access to beach, inadequacy of public access and parking and traffic management problems facing the North End
- o Compliance with Town sidewalks to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- o Promote family-oriented tourism, economy and services
- o Increase family orientation of Boardwalk

**11. *Town of Carolina Beach Water Use and Harbor Management Plan***

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- o Improve boater access to the harbor area by establishing an area in the harbor for boats to be permanently moored (Mooring Field)
- o Maximize use of the municipal marina by installing some signage to educate the public about various environmental issues; dredging shallow areas in the marina; and, expanding the dockage available for transient boaters
- o Develop additional boat launch facilities in the harbor and Myrtle Grove Sound areas through either public acquisition of land for such facilities or encouraging private land owners to construct additional dry stack storage facilities near the harbor area
- o Use the “dredge hole” and surrounding lands to construct a large regional boat launch facility
- o Maintain and where possible improve existing public access facilities along the harbor

◆ **Input Identification—Policy and Personnel Considerations**

- o Develop a strategy for improving the existing public access sites along the harbor and Myrtle Grove Sound
- o Develop a strategy for managing users conflicts among competing uses of the shoreline, public trust waters, and submerged lands

**12. *Margaret Koch—Katie B. Hines Senior Center***

◆ **Input Identification—Programs, Services, Areas and Facilities**

- o Swimming pool
- o Increased recreational facilities for young people
- o Additional parking by the walkway behind Food Lion
- o Park benches in the CBD
- o Extend the existing boardwalk the length of the beach
- o Safe walking areas



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## ***CHAPTER SEVEN: MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

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The Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department has traditionally, historically and accurately seen its role as one of providing basic public parks and recreation opportunities and experiences for the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach. This accepted role is certainly one that the Department should continue, expand and enhance over the next five (5) years. Community input and a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the Department's current areas, facilities, services and programs reveal several deficiencies or "needs" in the Town of Carolina Beach's existing parks and recreation delivery system and resources. These deficiencies or "needs" can be satisfied through the long-range strategic planning process and the careful allocation and management of the Town of Carolina Beach's resources over the next five (5) years.

Although there were over one hundred (100) specific and diverse comments regarding parks and recreation programs and services for the Town of Carolina Beach generated during the public input and needs assessment process, it is impractical to suppose or believe that all of these suggestions and recommendations can or should be

targeted for acceptance and completion in this current updated 5-year Master Plan. It is, however, wise, feasible and practical to identify the most significant of those suggestions and recommendations and to develop a plan of action for their incorporation and completion. In order to facilitate and simplify this process, the needs have been categorized into five areas: 1) land acquisition, 2) facility development, 3) program development, 4) policy and procedure considerations, and, 5) personnel considerations. In addition, the recommendations for land acquisition, facility development and personnel considerations have been grouped, when appropriate, into two (2) categories: recommendations for the years “2008 – 2013”, and, recommendations for the years “Beyond 2013”.

### **1) Land Acquisition**

#### ***A) Land Acquisition—2008 – 2013***

The acquisition of land for parks, recreation and open space in the Town of Carolina Beach would be difficult at best. Not only is there very little available and appropriate land that is undeveloped in and around the Town of Carolina Beach, but the problem is compounded by the fact that what land is available and appropriate is probably cost prohibitive. Fortunately, there is no real specific single identified need for land acquisition at this time. Therefore, this document makes no recommendations regarding the acquisition of specific land parcels for parks, recreation and open space purposes. The only recommendation is that the Town of Carolina Beach acquires properties that become available that are affordable and/or offer specific advantages for parks, recreation and open space. Such specific advantages would include, but are not limited to, greenways, land adjacent to existing Town of Carolina Beach parks and recreation areas and facilities, such as Mike Chappell Park; land offering the possibility of public access and amenities especially to the sound and estuarine waters surrounding the Town of Carolina Beach; and, land in areas of the Town of Carolina Beach presently without existing public parks and recreation amenities, such as the southern and northern areas of the Town of Carolina Beach. This land acquisition program could be implemented either through direct purchase of land or through an aggressive agenda of land donation, eminent domain acquisition and the development of conservation easements. It might also be possible



to enter into cooperative agreements with existing public land owners such as Carolina Beach State Park and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

### ***B) Land Acquisition—Beyond 2013***

- 1) The Town of Carolina Beach should acquire land for a community aquatics complex.
- 2) The Town of Carolina Beach should acquire land for an additional community recreation center.
- 3) The Town of Carolina Beach should acquire land for a multi-purpose sports complex.

## **2) Area and Facility Development**

### ***A) Area and Facility Development—2008 – 2013***

Area and facility development should be the primary focus of the Town of Carolina Beach for the next 5 years. There is a need to upgrade several of the existing areas and facilities and to develop additional new parks and recreation facilities. In line with this need, facility upgrade and development has already been completed and is still currently underway in several of the Town's existing park areas, such as the Mike Chappell Park, the McDonald Park and the Carolina Beach Lake Park. This and similar work that has already been scheduled in the Town's budget and long-range plan should continue and be completed.

Numerous suggestions and recommendations for further facility upgrades and development were received during the public information gathering process. These included general and specific requests such as a swimming pool; a 9-hole golf course; additional tennis, outdoor basketball, bocce ball, and shuffleboard courts; horseshoe pits; soccer and baseball fields; beach access; additional parks; bike and pedestrian paths; and much more.

Eight (8) major area and facility development needs and recommendations are specifically identified in this updated 5-year Master Plan that are deemed to be the most urgent and the most practical to implement during the period of this document. These "needs" and recommendations are not presented in any particular or priority order in this list:

- 1) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is to expand the existing Carolina Beach Recreation Center to include additional storage areas, an expanded weight room with improved weight equipment and cardio equipment, a new aerobics exercise floor and possibly a sauna and whirlpool area.
- 2) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is for the planning and initial development of a comprehensive system of non-vehicular and pedestrian transportation between and connecting public areas and facilities within the Town of Carolina Beach's planning jurisdiction. This system would include sidewalks, biking paths, hiking trails, walking trails, greenways, and, other pedestrian and non-vehicular corridors. This recommendation is expanded with additional detail in the section entitled ***"Policy and Procedure Considerations"***.
- 3) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is to develop facilities for additional public beach and coastal waterfront access and amenities, particularly access and amenities to the creeks, rivers, and sounds in and surrounding the Town of Carolina Beach. These access areas and amenities should be concentrated along the Cape Fear River and Myrtle Grove Sound and include both pedestrian amenities and boat access to the waters. This recommendation is expanded with additional detail in the section entitled ***"Policy and Procedure Considerations"***.
- 4) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is for the Town of Carolina Beach to work cooperatively with Carolina Beach State Park to develop the approximately 22 acre parcel of land owned by the state park that is adjacent to the existing Carolina Beach Recreation Center. This site could serve as an excellent compliment to the recreation center and provide additional passive and active recreational opportunities for the citizens of Carolina Beach.
- 5) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is for the Town of Carolina Beach to develop small, youth-oriented parks at the north end of town near the Snow's Cut Bridge and at the south end of town near the Town

of Kure Beach town limits. These parks could be developed on either existing town-owned land or on land obtained via acquisition or a cooperative agreement with another agency/entity.

- 6) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is for the Town of Carolina Beach to improve, remodel, upgrade and expand all public facilities in and around the Central Business District (CBD) and the Boardwalk area to include but not limited to landscaping, restroom facilities, concessions, open space and park areas.
- 7) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is to provide marked kayak/canoe trails in Myrtle Grove Sound.
- 8) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan is to continue the upgrading, expansion and/or modernization of existing parks and recreation areas and facilities to include:
  - i. Carolina Beach Lake Park—construct and operate an environmental education center complete with classroom space, meeting space, restroom facilities, exhibits and displays; expand and update the existing playground area and equipment; provide landscape screening of the public works building located in the park; repair and replace, if necessary, the existing bridges; provide landscape screening of the park from Lake Park Boulevard; provide general landscape beautification of the entire park; add water fountains in strategic locations along the greenway/walkway path; acquire all wetland and marsh areas surrounding and adjacent to the park; enlarge and enhance the existing greenway/walkway and connect the greenway/walkway to the Central Business District (CBD) and the downtown boardwalk (look at utilizing the property at 1204 North Lake Park Boulevard); improve the small grassed area between the two main bridges; beautify the entrance into the park at 4<sup>th</sup> and Claredon Avenue; add several water displays to the lake itself; construct roofs over some of the existing benches to provide protection from the sun on hot, sunny days; construct several small picnic shelters with grills and tables; construct a small outdoor performance area on the existing impervious

surface area in the northeast corner of the park; replace the existing impervious surface area in the northeast corner of the park with a pervious surface area; add an area for activities such as horseshoes, bocce ball and shuffleboard; increase the number of public parking spaces; and, improve the area known as “Veteran’s Memorial Island.”

- ii. Freeman Park—provide bike racks at the entrance to the park.
- iii. McDonald Park—remove the small Whirl-a-Round play structure from the site; install new playground equipment for children ages 5 – 12; replace the existing water fountain; add amply and additional landscaping and benches; screen the existing building with appropriate and sufficient landscaping; construct an outdoor basketball goal/court; add a horseshoe pit; and/or, construct a bocce ball court.
- iv. Mike Chappell Park—replace the existing lighting system and fencing at the ball fields; replace and/or repair the turf in the outfield at the ball fields; install an automatic irrigation water system in the outfield areas of the ball fields; upgrade, improve and expand the existing concession and restroom facilities; remove the existing playground equipment and replace with an expanded playground equipment that meets all ADA and safety requirements; construct at least one (1) lighted outdoor basketball court; construct at least one (1) picnic shelter complete with tables, grills and a water fountain; place additional water fountains in strategic locations throughout the park; cover the existing dirt parking areas with an eco-friendly pervious surface such as pavers or other pervious solid materials; add landscaping to enhance and beautify the park; and, improve the existing tennis court lighting system.

### ***B) Area and Facility Development—Beyond 2013***

- 1) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan for Beyond 2013 is to develop and construct a community indoor aquatics (swimming pool) complex.
- 2) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan for Beyond 2013 is to develop and construct an additional community recreation center.

- 3) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan for Beyond 2013 is to develop and construct a multi-purpose sports complex.
- 4) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan for Beyond 2013 is to develop and construct an observation deck/platform under the bridge at Snow's Cut and other water accessible areas for observation of birds and other wildlife.
- 5) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan for Beyond 2013 is to develop and construct a recreation facility in the downtown Central Business District (CBD).
- 6) An identified need and recommendation of this master plan for Beyond 2013 is to expand and improve the existing Carolina Beach marina basin and increase the number of transient boat slips and public amenities.

### **3) Program and Service Development**

#### ***A) Program and Service Development—2008 – 2013***

In general, the needs assessment process identified a wide range and variety of programs and services of interest to the citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach. Based upon the information obtained during the needs assessment process and after a comprehensive evaluation of the capabilities of the Town of Carolina Beach to provide various programs and services, the following programs and services are recommended to be addressed over the next 5 years:

- 1) Acquire/purchase a multi-passenger vehicle (van or small bus) that will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to safely, efficiently and effectively transport individuals to and from programs and services
- 2) Additional special events and tournaments should be provided such as Beach Olympics, sandcastle building contests, bike races, holiday parties, kayaking, surfing, fishing, kite boarding, sailing, boating and other water related activities and family events.
- 3) Consideration should be given to the provision of additional recreation programs and services directly on the oceanfront beach and estuarine waters such as scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, boating, swimming and other water related activities and programs.

- 4) Additional classes and programs should be provided in volleyball, karate, flag football, kick boxing, tennis, swimming, water safety and activities and programs suitable and of interest to children, youth and adults.
- 5) Additional programs and services should be provided for older adults and senior citizens such as nutrition classes, exercise and fitness classes, day trips and over-night trips to points of interest and such.
- 6) The existing soccer, basketball and baseball/softball leagues should be expanded to include different seasons of the year

### ***B) Program and Service Development—Beyond 2013***

- 1) Once the community swimming pool complex is developed and open for operation, the Town will need to program the facility and staff the facility appropriately.
- 2) Once the additional community recreation center is developed and open for operation, the Town will need to program the facility and staff the facility appropriately.
- 3) Once the multi-purpose sports complex is developed and open for operation, the Town will need to program the facility and staff the facility appropriately.
- 4) Expand, revitalize and improve the existing downtown Boardwalk area by increasing the north and south lengths of the Boardwalk and adding visitor friendly amenities and facilities.

## **4) Policy and Procedure Considerations**

### ***A) Policy and Procedure Considerations—2008 – 2013***

There are several areas of policy and procedure that need to be examined and evaluated in light of the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Some of these policies and procedures are currently strategic parts of the standard operating procedures of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department. However, several of the policy and procedure recommendations delve into areas not presently an active part of the Town's operating procedures. Highlights of these policy and procedure considerations and recommendations are detailed and summarized as follows:

- ◆ ***General Cooperative Partnerships***—The number and type of general cooperative partnerships should be expanded, enriched and enhanced. Although the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department is already involved in several significant partnership commitments that have provided valuable services to the citizens of Carolina Beach, there are still numerous groups, agencies and organizations within the Town’s planning and jurisdiction sphere available and possibly willing to enter into additional and/or expanded partnerships with the Parks and Recreation Department in the provision and administration of parks and recreation programs, services areas, and facilities to the citizens of Carolina Beach. These partnerships would significantly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Town resources and expand the scope of available parks and recreation programs and services. Available potential partners include, but are not limited to, the Town of Kure Beach, the New Hanover County School System and Board of Education, the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Service, Carolina Beach State Park; Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point; Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area; North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Cape Fear River Watch, the New Hanover County Parks Department, UNC Wilmington, the Audubon Society, the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, other public entities operating in Carolina Beach and New Hanover County, and, other non-profit, private, service and civic organizations. In addition to creating new partnerships, the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department should work vigorously to improve upon and expand the existing cooperative arrangements with organizations such as the Pleasure Island Youth Soccer Association and the Pleasure Island Youth Baseball and Softball Association.
  
- ◆ ***Pedestrian and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Steering Committee***—A Committee should be formed to address the need for pedestrian and non-vehicular transportation access and connectors between Town areas and facilities. This committee should

include staff members of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Planning Department as well as representatives from the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Town of Kure Beach, Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point, the New Hanover County Parks Department and local stakeholders and citizens. The Committee should work closely with the consultant hired to develop the Pedestrian and Non-Motorized Vehicular Plan.

- ◆ ***Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance***—The 1990 passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it imperative that the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department make a strong and comprehensive commitment to providing ADA accessibility to all citizens of the Town of Carolina Beach. The Department should make ADA compliance and recreational inclusion a top administrative priority in the development and implementation of all new programs, services, areas and facilities and in the evaluation and assessment of existing programs, services, areas and facilities.
- ◆ ***Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point Liaison Committee***—As a means of improving and increasing communication and cooperation between the Town Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point a Liaison Committee should be formed. The Committee should be comprised of members of the Town Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Parks and Recreation Department staff, the Planning Board, and the Planning staff. This committee would work closely with the appropriate representatives of the Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point to coordinate and expand such items such as Mike Chappell Park, the proposed pedestrian and non-motorized vehicular path, access and amenities along the Cape Fear River, particularly at the “Dredge Hole” and other projects of interest to the Town of Carolina Beach.



- ◆ ***Request the Appointment of a Town Council Member as an Active Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee***—As a means of improving and increasing communication and cooperation between the Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee a member of the Town Council should be appointed to serve as a Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The liaison would work closely with the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, attend the Committee meetings, perform as an ex-officio member of the Committee and serve as an active link between the Town Council and the Committee.
- ◆ ***Establishment of a Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) “Buy-Out” Committee and Plan*** —The Town of Carolina Beach should create a committee to evaluate town property acquired with federal hazard mitigation funds and adopt a formal policy and acquisition plan regarding potential lands that become available. This committee would be appointed by the Mayor and include representatives of the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Planning Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation staff and the Planning staff.
- ◆ ***Establishment of a Shoreline Access Task Force and Plan***—A Shoreline Access Task Force should be created and a Shoreline Access Plan should be developed and implemented to address the need for adequate and appropriate public access and amenities to the estuarine and sound waters surrounding the Town of Carolina Beach, particularly the Myrtle Grove Sound and Cape Fear River areas. Funding for this plan could come from a grant from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. The Director of Parks and Recreation or his/her designee, the Planning Director or his/her designee and a representative of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee would serve on the task force that develops the Shoreline Access Plan. The plan would specific the details

regarding access locations, access types, amenities, costs and methods for financing the plan.

- ◆ ***Youth Sports Coaches Certification and Training Programs***—In order to enhance program quality and manage risk and legal liability, the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department should institute a mandatory coaches' certification and training program for all youth sports athletic programs and activities, even if the programs and activities are not directly operated by the Department. Included within this procedure should be a process for instituting formal police and criminal background investigation checks on all potential volunteers for the Department.
- ◆ ***Adopt-A-Park/Sponsor-A-Park Program***—Contact should be made with area homeowner associations and garden and civic clubs regarding the establishment of formal contracts and arrangements for their assistance in maintaining and improving parks and recreation areas and facilities. The contracts and arrangements could include trash pick-up, placement of flowering plants and shrubs in landscape beds, surveillance, and, the construction of minor improvements and repairs.
- ◆ ***Parks and Recreation Foundation***—It is a recommendation of this plan that Carolina Beach explore the possibility of creating a “***Parks and Recreation Foundation***” to assist the Town of Carolina Beach and the Parks and Recreation Department in generating support and raising funds for land acquisition, facility development and program services. Citizens are typically more willing and apt to provide financial support when non-profit organizations are involved in the fund raising effort rather than governmental entities. A non-profit Parks and Recreation Foundation could become a valuable tool for increasing community volunteer support for parks and recreation programs and services while at the same time significantly increasing the availability of operating and capital funding for the Department.

- ◆ ***5-Year Capital Improvements Budget***—The City needs to initiate, develop and maintain an active 5-year capital improvements budget for parks and recreation services. This budget would be in addition to the existing annual operating budget.

### ***B) Policy and Procedure Considerations—Beyond 2013***

- ◆ ***Builders' and/or Impact Fees***—The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee should consider and debate the merits of requesting the Town Council to adopt Builders'/Impact Fees to be imposed upon new development and construction in the Town's planning jurisdiction. These fees would be used to fund parks, recreation and open space projects, programs and services in the areas from which the fees were extracted. If the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approves the idea of imposing Builders'/Impact Fees on development in the Town of Carolina Beach planning jurisdiction, this recommendation should then be forwarded to the Town Council through the Town Council Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.
- ◆ ***Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment***—On a regularly scheduled basis, the Town of Carolina Beach should contract with a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to inspect all parks and playground equipment and areas under the maintenance and operation of the Town. This action will ensure that the Town's parks and playground equipment are in compliance with existing park and playground standards and serve as an additional protection against negligence lawsuits. This action may also require the Town to improve and/or replace some existing playground structures.

## **5) Personnel Considerations**

### ***A) Personnel Considerations—2008 – 2013***

The current organizational chart for the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department is presented in **Appendix L**. The Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department is directly responsible to the Carolina Beach Town Manager.

The full-time staff of the Parks and Recreation Department consists of the Director of Parks and Recreation, a Parks Program Superintendent, a Parks Maintenance Supervisor and four (4) Recreational Leaders. The department also hires part-time and seasonal staff to compliment and supplement of hours of the full-time employees.

Recommended changes and additions to the Department's areas, facilities, programs and services due to land acquisition, facility develop, program development and increased maintenance responsibilities between 2008 – 2013 will require the following additional full-time personnel, exact numbers of each to be determined, in order to afford the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department the ability and capability to accomplish its mission, goals and objectives in the future (these recommendations do not include part-time and seasonal staff positions that may also be required):

- ◆ Parks Maintenance Specialist
- ◆ Parks Programs Supervisor
- ◆ Recreation Leader
- ◆ Environmental Education Center Supervisor
- ◆ Environmental Education Center Specialist

**Total Recommended Staff Additions from 2008 – 2013 (Appendix M)**

***B) Personnel Considerations—Beyond 2013***

Recommended changes and additions to the Department's areas, facilities, programs and services due to land acquisition, facility development, program development and increased maintenance responsibilities Beyond 2013 will require changing the title of the Parks Programs Supervisor to Assistant Parks Programs Superintendent and the following additional personnel, exact numbers of each to be determined, in order to afford the Parks and Recreation Department the ability and capability to accomplish its mission, goals and objectives Beyond 2013 (these recommendations do not include part-time and seasonal staff positions that may also be required):

- ◆ Aquatics Complex Supervisor
- ◆ Assistant Aquatics Complex Supervisor
- ◆ Aquatics Complex Specialist

- ◆ CBD Center Supervisor
- ◆ Recreation Center Supervisor
- ◆ Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor
- ◆ Recreation Leader
- ◆ Parks Maintenance Specialist

**Total Recommended Staff Additions Beyond 2013 (Appendix N)**





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## ***CHAPTER EIGHT: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN***

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The *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is grounded in an analysis and synthesis of current background information for the Town of Carolina Beach, an inventory and evaluation of the current parks and recreation delivery system, an understanding of existing parks and recreation standards and guidelines, and, the identification of participant needs and interests.

The recommendations and proposals of the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* are designed to be planned and implemented over the next 5 year period utilizing revenues and funds from current appropriations, the annual Town operating budget, grants, tax revenues, gifts, donations, a bond issue, and/or, user fees and charges. The Master Plan also is contingent upon the Town's ability to enter into joint cooperative ventures with various complimentary public, private and quasi-public agencies and organizations currently operating in and around the Town of Carolina Beach and New Hanover County.

**Land Acquisition**—There are no specific land acquisition recommendations contained in the *Town of Carolina Beach 2008 – 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. The recommendation for 2008 – 2013 is for the Town of Carolina Beach to acquire land for parks, recreation and open space purposes on an “as available” basis. However, it is also recommended that the Town of Carolina Beach immediately begin a process of budgeting \$75,000 – \$100,000 per year in a capital improvements budget for land acquisition. The accumulated funds in this budgeted item would then be available for land acquisition purposes as the need arises in the future. Any land acquisition could also be partially funded through Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access and Clean Water Management Trust Fund grants through the state of North Carolina.

**Area and Facility Development**—The specific details for the area and facility development recommendations contained within this master plan should be worked out in a 2008 – 2013 5-Year Capital Improvements Project Budget for the Town of Carolina Beach. The Town of Carolina Beach can and should apply for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant funding for the 2008 – 2013 recommendations regarding the improvements and expansion of the Community Recreation Center; the development of the small parks in the southern and northern ends of town; the improvement, remodeling, upgrading and expansion of public facilities in and around the downtown Central Business District and the Boardwalk area; and, the upgrading and improvement of the existing areas and facilities such as Carolina Beach Lake Park, McDonald Park and Mike Chappell Park. The Town of Carolina Beach can and should also apply for Public Fishing Access Areas Grants and Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Grants from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The funds from these sources could be utilized to develop access facilities and amenities to the creeks, sounds, Cape Fear River and Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) areas surrounding the Town of Carolina Beach. The non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation network between and connecting public areas and facilities within the Carolina Beach planning jurisdiction could be funded through bicycle transportation grants through the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

**Total individual project development cost estimates for each of the eight (8) Area and Facility Development needs identified for 2008 – 2013 are:**

- 1) Park Improvements to Existing Areas and Facilities \$500,000 – \$1,000,000
  - On-Going Project
- 2) Non-Vehicular Transportation Network \$450,000 – \$600,000
  - On-going Project
- 3) Public Beach and Waterfront Access \$200,000 – \$750,000
  - On-Going Project
- 4) Kayak/Canoe Trail Signage \$20,000 – \$35,000
  - Should be Completed by the end of 2008
- 5) Carolina Beach Recreation Center Improvements \$450,000 – \$525,000
  - Should be Completed by the end of 2009
- 6) Carolina Beach State Park Project \$400,000 – \$500,000
  - Should be Completed by the end of 2010
- 7) North and South Parks \$450,000 – \$1,250,000
  - Should be Completed by 2012
- 8) CBD Improvements \$250,000 – \$450,000
  - Should be Completed by the end of 2012

***Total Estimate for 2008 – 2013 Individual Area and Facility Development.....\$2,720,000 – \$5,110,000***

**Total individual project development cost estimates for each of the seven (7) Area and Facility Development needs identified Beyond 2013 are:**

- 1) Aquatics Complex \$2,300,000 – \$3,500,000
- 2) Community Recreation Center \$3,000,000 – \$5,000,000
- 3) Multi-Purpose Sports Complex \$2,750,000 – \$4,000,000
- 4) Observation Decks/Platforms \$75,000 – \$135,000
- 5) CBD Recreation Facility \$150,000 – \$1,000,000
- 6) Marina Improvements \$350,000 – \$700,000

***Total Estimate for Beyond 2013 Area and Facility Development.....\$8,625,000 – \$14,335,000***



**Program and Service Development**—The additional recommended programs and services should be offered by the Town of Carolina Beach as a part of the normal operating budget and as staff, areas and facilities and financial resources allow. The multi-passenger vehicle cost estimate is approximately \$45,000 – \$75,000 and should be purchased from the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year Budget. The additional special events and tournaments, the additional classes and programs, the additional programs and services for older adults and senior citizens, and, the programs and services to be offered directly on the oceanfront beach and estuarine waters are not resource intensive and should be able to be accomplished with the existing staff, resources and facilities or contracted out for professional outfitters and contractors to provide at minimal cost to the Town. These programs and services will also be revenue generating activities which will help to decrease the net cost. The provision of these programs and services might also be facilitated via cooperative arrangements with other agencies and organizations.

**Policy and Procedure Considerations**

- 1) ***General Cooperative Partnerships***—The Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department should immediately begin to create, enhance and expand appropriate formal partnerships with interested agencies and organizations such as Carolina Beach State Park, the Town of Kure Beach, the New Hanover County School System, the New Hanover County Parks Department, the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Service, the Coastal Land Trust, Cape Fear River Watch, UNC Wilmington, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and other public entities and non-profit, service and civic organizations in order to facilitate the delivery of recreation and leisure services in the Town of Carolina Beach. The existing cooperative partnerships with the Pleasure Island Youth Soccer Association and the Pleasure Island Youth Baseball and Softball Association should be re-evaluated to determine ways to improve, enhance and expand these relationships. The Director of Parks and Recreation should take the lead in this endeavor.
- 2) ***Pedestrian and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Steering Committee***—A Committee should be assemble and formed to evaluate and address the need for pedestrian and non-motorized vehicular transportation access and connectors

between Town areas and facilities. This committee should be chaired by a member of the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department staff while including representatives of the Town Planning staff, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Town Planning Board, the Town of Kure Beach, New Hanover County Parks Department staff, staff from the State Department of Transportation, staff from Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point, and, interested citizens and stakeholders. The committee should be created during the summer 2008 and submit a report to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee during the spring 2009. This committee should work closely with the Consultant hired to prepare the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should the Town receive a planning grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

- 3) ***Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Accessibility Compliance***—The Parks and Recreation Department should hire a competent certified, professional to conduct a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of all existing programs, services, areas and facilities in order to determine current ADA and recreational inclusion compliance. This inventory and evaluation should be completed during the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year. All future programs, services, areas and facilities should be designed, constructed and implemented according to recommended and acceptable ADA and recreational inclusion guidelines and standards.
- 4) ***Ocean Military Terminal Sunny Point Liaison Committee***—A Committee comprised of representatives from the Town of Carolina Beach Town Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Town staff, and the Planning Board should be formed as soon as possible. The Director of Parks and Recreation working with the Town Manager should take the lead in this endeavor.
- 5) ***Request the Appointment of a Town Council Member as an Active Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee***—The Parks and Recreation Director and the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee should arrange a meeting immediately with the Town Manager and the Mayor to discuss this recommendation and subsequent appointment of a Town Council member as an active Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The

appointee should be a Town Council member with a strong interest in the Parks and Recreation Department who is willing to attend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings and serve as a link between the Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

- 6) ***Establishment of a Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) Buy-Out Plan***—This Committee should be appointed by the Mayor and include representatives of the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Planning Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation and Planning staffs. The Director of Parks and Recreation should arrange a meeting in the spring 2008 with the Town Manager and the Mayor to discuss this recommendation.
- 7) ***Establishment of a Shoreline Access Task Force and Plan***—The Task Force should be chaired by the Director of Planning or his/her designee and also include the Director of Parks and Recreation or his/her designee and the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Director of Parks and Recreation should take the initial lead in this endeavor and arrange a meeting with the Town Manager during the summer 2008 to discuss the implementation of this recommendation.
- 8) ***Youth Sports Coaches Certification and Training Programs***—Several reputable youth sports coaches' certification and training programs currently exist. The Director of Parks and Recreation should investigate these programs and make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding implementation of the program at the April 2008 meeting.
- 9) ***Adopt-A-Park/Sponsor-A-Park Program***—The Director of Parks and Recreation should investigate the legality and practicality of creating and implementing an aggressive “Adopt-A-Park/Sponsor-A-Park” program. The program would encourage and solicit the assistance of area homeowner associations and garden and civic clubs and organizations in maintaining and improving parks and recreation areas and facilities. The Director should report the findings to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee at the August 2008 meeting.

**10) Parks and Recreation Foundation**—The Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Director of Parks and Recreation, should begin the process of developing a planning and implementation plan for the creation of a Parks and Recreation Foundation immediately. A sub-committee of the Advisory Committee should be formed during the 2008 calendar year to spearhead the process and a report summarizing the planning and implementation plan made to the full Advisory Committee before the end of the 2008 calendar year. The Foundation should be created and operational by the early part of the 2009 calendar year.

**11) 5-Year Capital Improvements Budget**—The Town of Carolina Beach should immediately initiate, develop and maintain a realistic, active, practical and comprehensive 5-year capital improvements project budget for parks and recreation services. This document would assist the staff and citizens in understanding and satisfying the parks and recreation needs and interests for the Town of Carolina Beach.

**Personnel Considerations for 2008 – 2013**—One of the items noted during the course of the Needs Assessment portion of this document was the fact that the Town of Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department areas and facilities are not maintained at the level desired by both the staff and users. This is primarily due to the fact that only one (1) current Parks and Recreation Department staff member is employed for this purpose. Therefore, an additional full-time Parks Maintenance Specialist is required during the 2008 – 2009 budget year to assist in the general maintenance and upkeep of the existing Parks and Recreation Department areas and facilities. A second Parks Maintenance Specialist is recommended for hiring during the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year to assist as new and improve areas and facilities come on line.

It will be necessary with the completion of the expansion and enhancement of the existing Carolina Beach Recreation Center to hire an additional Recreation Leader to assist with the supervision of the facility and the programming of events, classes, programs and services. It is also recommended that a Parks Programs Supervisor be hired at that time to assist the current Parks Programs Superintendent.

It is recommended that an Environmental Education Center be constructed and operated at the Carolina Beach Lake Park. In anticipation of this Center opening during the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year, it is recommended that an Environmental Education Center Supervisor and an Environmental Education Center Specialist be hired at that time. A second Environmental Education Specialist is recommended to be hired during the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year.

◆ **2008 – 2013 Staffing Implementation Recommendations**

- 2008 – 2009
  - Parks Maintenance Specialist
  - Parks Programs Supervisor
  - Recreation Leader
- 2009 – 2010
  - Parks Maintenance Specialist
  - Environmental Education Center Supervisor
  - Environmental Education Center Specialist
- 2010 – 2011
  - Environmental Education Center Specialist

◆ **Beyond 2013 Staffing Implementation Anticipated Needs**

- Upon construction and opening of the Aquatics Complex
  - Aquatics Complex Supervisor
  - Assistant Aquatics Complex Supervisor
  - Aquatics Complex Specialist—2
- Upon construction and opening of the Recreation Center
  - Recreation Center Supervisor
- Upon construction and opening of the Sports Complex
- Upon construction and opening of the CBD Facility
  - CBD Facility Center Supervisor

## **Grant Funding Opportunities**

In response to shrinking federal assistance during the 1980s and 1990s, North Carolina established dedicated funding sources for recreation from sources such as bonds, real-estate transfer taxes, user fees, state sales taxes, income tax write-offs, and mineral severance taxes. North Carolina has taken major steps to provide on-going sources of park and conservation funds with the establishment of the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. In addition, grant money is also available through the federally funded SAFTEA [formerly known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)]. The North Carolina Department of Transportation administers the funds and the local government agency can use these funds for developing portions of any proposed greenway system. Local governments can also apply for assistance with pedestrian, bikeway, beach and water access and greenway projects by applying for North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Public Beach and Waterfront Access Program.

🚧 ***Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF)***—The Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) was established in North Carolina in 1987. The fund provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state’s ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state.

🚧 ***Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)***—The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides state parks and local governments with a reliable funding source for projects. The North Carolina General Assembly established the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in July 1994 to fund improvements in the state’s park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public’s access to the state’s beaches and coastal waters. The PARTF program provides dollar-for-dollar grants to local governments. Recipients use the grants to acquire land and/or to develop parks and recreational projects that serve the general public. A portion of the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is the primary funding source for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access (PBCWA) Program. The PBCWA Program, administered by the North

Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grants to local governments throughout North Carolina’s 20 coastal counties. The fund is fueled by money from property sold in North Carolina and is allocated in 3 ways: 65% to the state parks through the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation; 30% as dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for park and recreation purposes; and, 5% for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Access Program.

✚ **Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)**—The 1996 North Carolina General Assembly created the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) “to clean up pollution in the state’s surface waters and to protect and conserve those waters that are not yet polluted.” State agencies, local governments or other political subdivisions of the state, and non-profit conservation organizations may apply for grants. Projects must “...specifically address water pollution problems and focus on upgrading surface waters, eliminating pollution and protecting and conserving unpolluted surface waters, including urban drinking water supplies.” The funds from the CWMTF can be used for acquisition of riparian properties, financing of innovative wastewater management initiatives, storm water mitigation and stream bank restoration projects, support for greenways, and some planning programs. The acquired or purchased property can be used for recreation while protecting valuable water resources from the affects of urban encroachment.



**North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund**

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**APPENDIX A**

**POPULATION CHANGE FROM 1990 TO 2002**

**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>% Growth (1990 – 2000)</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>% Growth (1990 – 2002)</i>	<i>Acreage of Corporate Limits*</i>
<b>Carolina Beach</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>2,126</b>
<b>Kure Beach</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>144%</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>163%</b>	<b>726</b>
<b>Oak Island</b>	<b>4,550</b>			<b>7,033</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>5,761</b>
<b>Surf City</b>	<b>970</b>			<b>1,166</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3,414</b>
<b>Wrightsville Beach</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>-11.7%</b>	<b>2,612</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>2,186</b>

Source: U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

North Carolina State Demographer

\*Acreage totals include land and water areas

**APPENDIX B**

**TOP 15 EMPLOYERS IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Product/Service</b>	<b>Employees</b>
1	New Hanover Regional Medical Center	Hospital	4,600
2	New Hanover County School System	Education	3,126
3	General Electric	Nuclear/Aircraft	1,650
4	UNC Wilmington	Higher Education	1,627
5	New Hanover County	County Government	1,368
6	City of Wilmington Government	Government	1,131
7	Progress Energy	Electricity	1,100
8	Wal-Mart	Retail	1,055
9	International Paper	Bleached Pulp & Paperboard	900
10	PPD, Inc.	Pharmaceutical	900
11	Corning, Inc.	Optical Fiber	800
12	Cape Fear Community College	Education	648
13	aaiPharma	Pharmaceutical Product Sales and Drug Development Services	630
14	DAK Americas, LLC	Dacron Polyester	514
15	Louisiana Pacific Corporation	Laminated Veneer Lumber	300

Source: Greater Wilmington Area Chamber of Commerce

**APPENDIX C**

**NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL AND BEACH MUNICIPALITY COMPARISON**

**POPULATION GROWTH**

**1990 – 2002**

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>% Growth (1990 – 2000)</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>% Growth (1990 – 2002)</i>	<i>Acreage of Corporate Limits*</i>
Bald Head Island	78			189	242%	3,128
Calabash	1,210			1,330	10%	938
Carolina Beach	3,630	4,778	31%	5,264	45%	2,126
Caswell Beach	175			406	132%	2,591
Emerald Isle	2,434			3,564	46%	3,322
Holden Beach	626			841	34%	2,059
Kill Devil Hills	4,238			6,282	48%	3,568
Kitty Hawk	1,937			3,206	66%	5,248
Kure Beach	619	1,512	144%	1,629	163%	726
Oak Island	4,550			7,033	55%	5,761
Ocean Isle Beach	534			449	-16%	1,839
Southport	2,369			2,534	7%	1,412
Sunset Beach	311			1,886	506%	3,883
Surf City	970			1,166	20%	3,414
Topsail Beach	362			494	36%	3,867
Wrightsville Beach	2,937	2,593	-11.7%	2,612	-11%	3,867

Source: U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

North Carolina State Demographer

\*Acreage totals include land and water areas

**APPENDIX D**  
**FAMILIES AND POPULATION IN FAMILIES**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**1990 – 2000**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b><i>Families with People Under 18 (2000)</i></b>	<b><i>Families with No People Under 18 (2000)</i></b>
<b>Family Household</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>454 (36% of Families)</b>	<b>799 (64% of Families)</b>
<b>Population in Families</b>	<b>2,781 (77% of Population)</b>	<b>3,249 (69% of Population)</b>		
<b>Persons Per Family</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.59</b>		
<b>Non-Family Household</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,039</b>

Source: U.S. Census SF1 1990 and 2000

**APPENDIX E**  
**POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**1990 – 2000**

<i>Age</i>	<i>1990 Decennial Census</i>	<i>2000 Decennial Census</i>	<i>Female 1990</i>	<i>Female 2000*</i>	<i>Male 1990</i>	<i>Male 2000*</i>
Under 5	158	171	73 (46%)	80 (47%) (3.5%)	115 (53%)	91 (53%) (3.5%)
5 – 9	174	178	83 (48%)	97 (54%) (4.2%)	91 (52%)	81 (46%) (3.4%)
10 – 14	202	211	86 (43%)	104 (49%) (4.5%)	116 (57%)	107 (51%) (4.5%)
15 – 17	123	134	51 (41%)	64 (48%) (2.8%)	72 (59%)	70 (52%) (2.9%)
18 – 21	219	172	108 (49%)	79 (46%) (3.4%)	111 (51%)	93 (54%) (3.8%)
22 – 29	403	462	200 (49%)	226 (49%) (9.7%)	203 (51%)	236 (51%) (9.9%)
30 – 39	667	719	333 (50%)	325 (45%) (14.1%)	334 (50%)	394 (55%) (16.4%)
40 – 49	552	931	279 (51%)	455 (49%) (19.8%)	273 (49%)	476 (51%) (19.9%)
50 – 59	410	839	201 (49%)	423 (50%) (18.3%)	209 (51%)	416 (50%) (17.4%)
60 – 69	409	483	205 (50%)	228 (47%) (9.8%)	204 (50%)	255 (53%) (10.7%)
70+	401	401	148 (59%)	228 (57%) (9.9%)	103 (41%)	173 (43%) (7.3%)
30 – 50	1,219	1,650 (35% of Population)				
65 and Up	450	595 (12.7% of Population)				
Median Age		43.6		44.3		42.7

Source: U.S. Census SF1 1990 and 2000

\*The columns “Female 2000” and “Male 2000” have values for total number in age group, percent of total for both genders in the age group, and percent the age group represents to the total count in each gender, respectively

Note: Median is the central value where half of the rest of the other values are below and half are above

**APPENDIX F**  
**INCOME CHARACTERISTICS**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**2000**

<i>Income</i>	<i>Number of Households</i>
Less than \$10,000	197
\$10,000 – \$14,999	163
\$15,000 – \$19,999	132
\$20,000 – \$24,999	194
\$25,000 – \$29,999	165
\$30,000 – \$34,999	174
\$35,000 – \$39,999	239
\$40,000 – \$44,999	154
\$45,000 – \$49,999	165
\$50,000 – \$59,999	147
\$60,000 – \$74,999	207
\$75,000 – \$99,999	194
\$100,000 – \$124,999	59
\$125,000 – \$149,999	40
\$150,000 – \$199,999	38
\$200,000 or more	58

Source: U.S. Census SF3 2000

**APPENDIX G**

**MEDIAN AND MEAN INCOME LEVEL COMPARISONS**

**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**

**2000**

<b><i>Municipality</i></b>	<b><i>Median</i></b>	<b><i>Mean</i></b>	<b><i>Population Below Poverty Level</i></b>
<b>Carolina Beach</b>	<b>\$37,662</b>	<b>\$48,917</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Kure Beach</b>	<b>\$47,143</b>	<b>\$57,411</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Oak Island</b>	<b>\$40,496</b>	<b>\$51,337</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Surf City</b>	<b>\$40,521</b>	<b>\$52,954</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Wrightsville Beach</b>	<b>\$55,903</b>	<b>\$73,304</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Emerald Isle</b>	<b>\$53,274</b>	<b>\$66,320</b>	
<b>Kill Devil Hills</b>	<b>\$39,713</b>	<b>\$47,700</b>	

Source: U.S. Census SF3 2000

**APPENDIX H**  
**HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999 BY**  
**AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**

<i>Householder Age Group</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Under 25	\$21,094	\$20,299
25 – 34	\$26,944	\$30,970
35 – 44	\$37,241	\$56,089
45 – 54	\$45,500	\$51,157
55 – 64	\$43,917	\$61,918
65 – 74	\$39,554	\$46,429
75 and Up	\$38,819	\$45,505

Source: U.S. Census Bureau SF3 2000

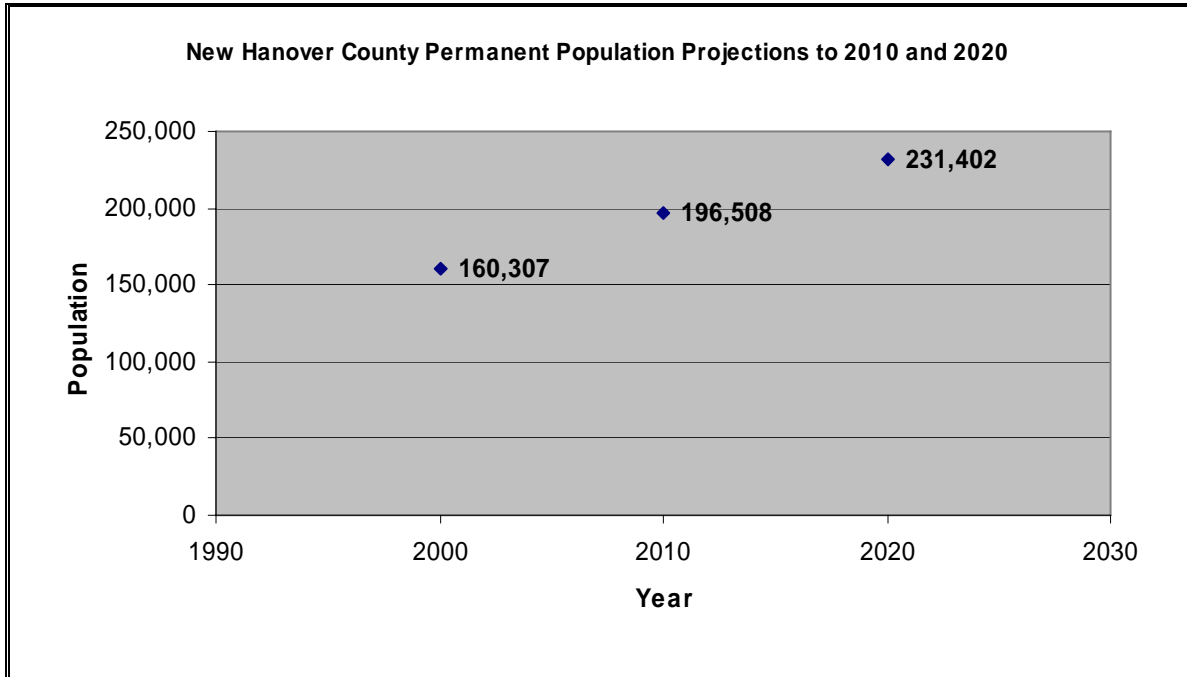


**APPENDIX I**  
**POPULATION EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**AGES 25 AND OVER**

<i>Education</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
<b>Population 25 and Up</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>1,837</b>
<b>No School Completed</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Nursery to 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>117</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>102</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>12th, No Diploma</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>High School/GED Equivalent</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>572</b>
<b>&lt;1 Year College</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>&gt;1 Year College, No Degree</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>364</b>
<b>Associate Degree</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>291</b>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Professional Degree</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Doctorate Degree</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>

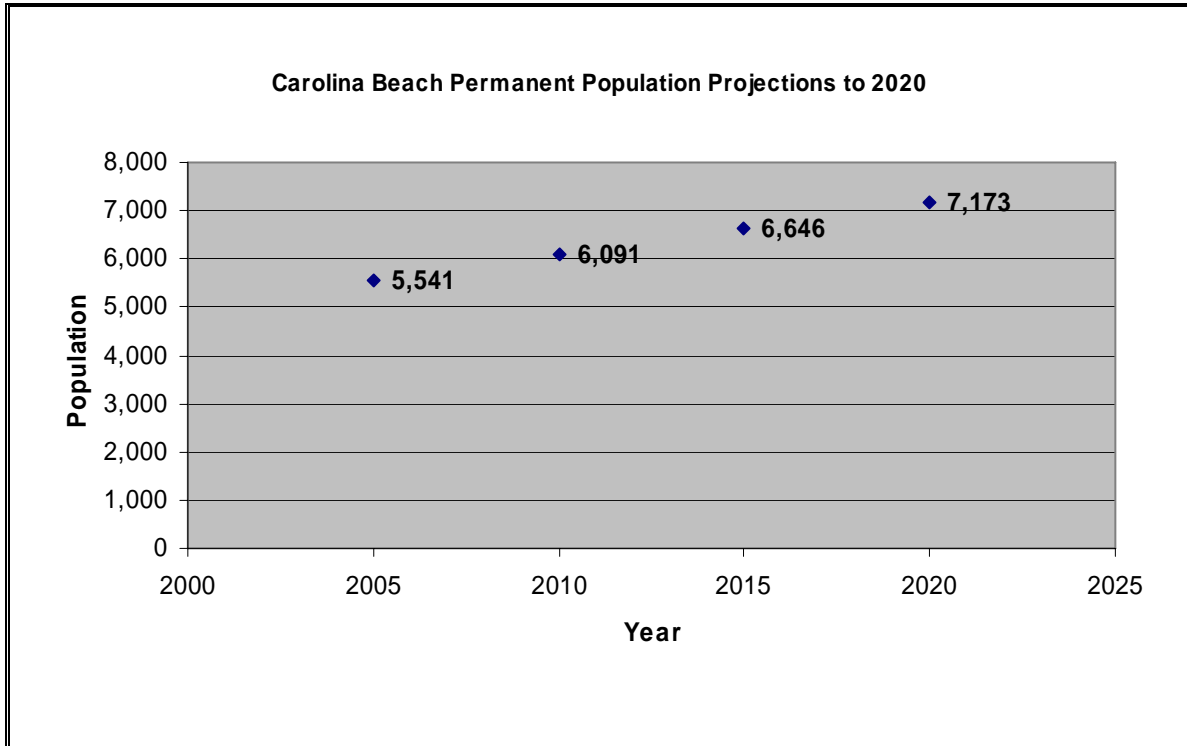
Source: U.S. Census SF3 2000

**APPENDIX J**  
**NEW HANOVER COUNTY PERMANENT**  
**POPULATION PROJECTIONS**  
**2010 and 2020**



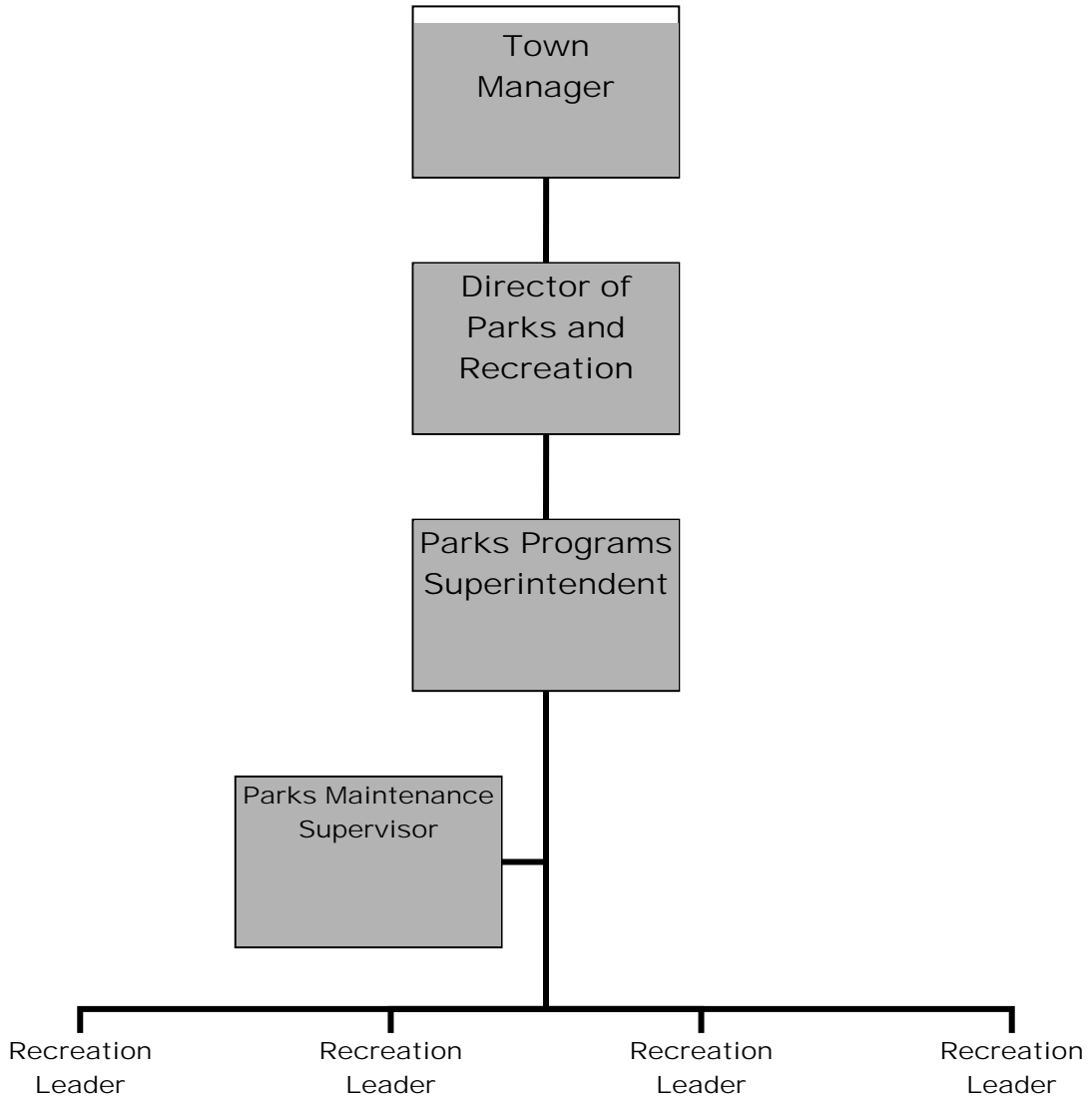
Source: North Carolina State Demographer

**APPENDIX K**  
**MUNICIPAL PERMANENT POPULATION PROJECTIONS**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**2005 – 2020**

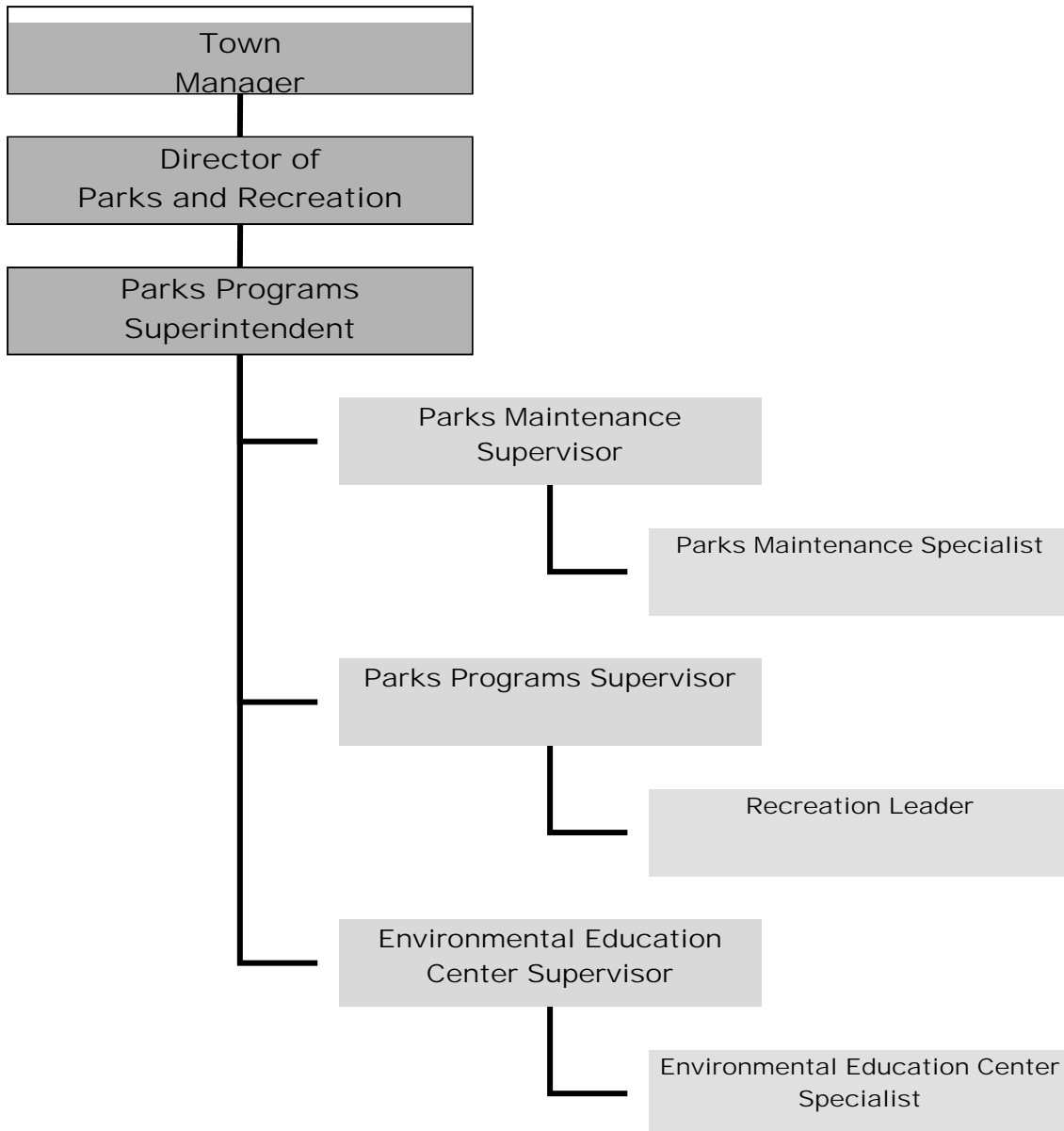


Source: North Carolina State Demographer

**APPENDIX L**  
**CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**2007**



**APPENDIX M**  
**PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**FOR 2008 – 2013**



**APPENDIX N**  
**PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**  
**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**BEYOND 2013**

