

**TENTATIVE AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
5:30 P.M.**

**WATAUGA COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
COMMUNITY ROOM
231 Complex Drive, Boone, North Carolina**

TIME	#	TOPIC	PRESENTER	PAGE
5:30	1	CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER		
	2	APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting February 20, 2024, Closed Session		1
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5:35	4	PUBLIC COMMENT – Will last up to 1-hour dependent on number of speakers	CHAIRMAN TURNBOW	11
5:40	5	PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT OF THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR 1166 OLD EAST RIDGE ROAD FROM STEWART SIMMONS TO DEEP GAP	MR. WILL HOLT	13
5:45	6	PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2034 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN	MS. KERON POTEAT	19
5:50	7	PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS A. Proposed Watauga Swim Team Contract B. Proposed Addition of Recreation Commission Member and Appointments	MS. KERON POTEAT	135 153
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6:00	9	EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS A. Buckeye Knob Proposal B. Microwave Path Study Proposal C. Public Hearing Request for Ordinance Update	MR. WILL HOLT	177 181 187
6:05	10	MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS A. Budget Amendments B. Boards and Commissions C. Announcements	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	189 193 197
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AGENDA ITEM 2:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting

February 20, 2024, Closed Session

DRAFT**MINUTES****WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting, as scheduled, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. in the Community Room located in the Watauga County Community Recreation Center, Boone, North Carolina.

Chairman Turnbow called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The following were present:

PRESENT: Larry Turnbow, Chairman
 Charlie Wallin, Vice-Chairman
 Todd Castle, Commissioner
 Braxton Eggers, Commissioner
 Ray Russell, Commissioner
 Anthony di Santi, County Attorney
 Deron Geouque, County Manager
 Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Eggers opened with a prayer and Vice-Chairman Wallin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Turnbow called for additions and/or corrections to the February 6, 2024, regular minutes and closed session minutes.

Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wallin, moved to approve the February 6, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
 Nay-0

Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wallin, moved to approve the February 6, 2024, closed session minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
 Nay-0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Turnbow called for additions and/or corrections to the February 20, 2024, agenda.

Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Castle, moved to approve the February 20, 2024, agenda as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
 Nay-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FY 2023 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Ms. Cindy Randolph, with C. Randolph, CPA, PLLC, will present the Fiscal Year 2023 County audit. The County's financial position remains strong due to direction provided by the Commissioners and through execution of that direction by County staff. Below are some of the financial highlights:

- ❖ The total assets of the County exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$242,607,149 primarily due to an increase in cash assets from revenues, particularly sales tax, investment income and property tax.
- ❖ The County's unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$48,714,690 at the end of the year, representing 61% of total General Fund expenditures. This is an increase of \$8,340,715 in the unassigned fund balance from the previous year.
- ❖ The current year collection rate for property taxes was 98.95% which was an increase from last year's 98.70%.
- ❖ Outstanding debt principal increased by \$25,795,000 due to construction of the Valle Crucis School. Total outstanding debt principal at June 30, 2023 is \$62,005,000. Watauga County's legal debt limit is \$1,061,247,856 so the County continues to be well below the state limits.
- ❖ S&P updated their review of the County's financials and reaffirmed the County's stable outlook and credit rating at AA.

The audit was presented for information only; and therefore, no action was required.

Due to strong fiscal management and the increase in the unassigned fund balance, staff recommended transferring \$8,340,715 to the Capital Projects Fund for Future County Buildings. County Manager Geouque stated that the transfer would allow the new 911/Medic/Emergency Operations Facility to be constructed with no financing required.

Vice-Chairman Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Russell, moved to authorize the transfer of the \$8,340,715 increase from unassigned balance to the Capital Reserve Account.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

REQUEST TO RENEW LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF COUNTY SPACE FOR WEEKDAY FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Liz Whiteman, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, presented a proposed renewal to the license agreement allowing the weekday Farmers Market at the Human Service

parking lot. The request was for the same conditions and with a three-year term. The only requested change was an adjustment to the operating hours from 4:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. and set up time from 3:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

County Manager Geouque reminded the Board of an additional consideration being that APP Builds A Home was recently granted permission to utilize six (6) parking spaces during their build process. Ms. Whiteman stated that she was in communication with APP Builds A Home and the Farmers Market would accommodate for the build process.

Vice-Chairman Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Russell, moved to approve the license agreement renewal with the new times as presented by Ms. Whiteman.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST TO APPLY FOR A PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF) GRANT

Ms. Wendy Patoprsty, Blue Ridge Conservancy, requested permission to apply for a \$500,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant for construction of Angler Park on the Middle Fork Greenway corridor. High Country Council of Governments would administer the grant and Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC) would donate the land for the park to the County. The value of the land would account for more than the required local match for the grant. No funding from the County was requested.

Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wallin, moved to authorize the application for the PARTF Grant as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

WATAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Monica Caruso, County Librarian, presented the Watauga County Public Library Annual Report. Ms. Caruso reported on youth and adult services, activities at the Western Watauga Branch, volunteer activities and gave an overview of revenues and expenses, statistics, and grants received. The report was for information only and, therefore, no action was required.

PROJECT ON AGING MATTERS

A. Proposed Appropriation of State Funds for Senior Centers

Ms. Angie Boitnotte, Project on Aging Director requested acceptance of Senior Center General Purpose funding in the amount of \$14,812. Both Senior Centers were eligible; with \$11,093 for the L. E. Harrill Center and \$3,719 for the Western Watauga Community Center. The funds require a 25% match totaling \$4,938. The match was included in the agency's current budget.

Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Castle, moved to accept the Senior Center General Purpose funding in the amount of \$14,812 with the required 25% match.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

B. Requested Appointment of Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) Advisory Committee and Lead Agency

Ms. Boitnotte stated that each year the Board was required to appoint a lead agency and advisory committee to make recommendations on how to best expend the County's allocation from the Home and Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) funds. These funds were previously established by the Older American's Act and are administered by the North Carolina Division of Aging.

Ms. Boitnotte requested the Project on Aging be appointed as the Lead Agency and presented the following names for appointment to the H&CCBG:

Name	Representing
Braxton Eggers	Board of Commissioners
Zack Green	High Country Council of Governments
Dustin Burleson	Vaya Health
Austin Combs	Daymark Recovery Services
Karina Romero	Appalachian District Health Department
Tom Hughes	Social Services
Skylar Taracido	High Country Community Health
Kat Danner	Senior Citizen
Mary Moretz	Senior Citizen (STHL Alternate)
Ed Rosenberg	Senior Citizen

Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Russell, moved to appoint the list of nominations as presented by Ms. Boitnotte to the Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee for FY 2025.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wallin, moved to appoint the Watauga County Project on Aging as the Lead Agency.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

TAX MATTERS***A. Monthly Collections Report***

Mr. Larry Warren, Tax Administrator, presented the Tax Collections Report for the month of January 2024. The report was presented for information only and, therefore, no action was required.

B. Refunds and Releases

Mr. Larry Warren, Tax Administrator, presented the Refunds and Releases Report for January 2024 for Board approval:

TO BE TYPED IN MINUTE BOOK

Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Castle, moved to approve the Refunds and Releases Report for January 2024 as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

PROPOSED DSS ATTORNEY AGREEMENT

Mr. Tom Hughes, Social Services Director, presented a proposed contract for attorney services for Social Services with Reeves DiVenere Wright at a rate of \$150 per hour.

Commissioner Russell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wallin, moved to accept the contract with Reeves DiVenere Wright at a rate of \$150 per hour as presented by Mr. Hughes.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Ms. Keron Poteat, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the new Parks and Recreation Ten-Year Master Plan. Ms. Poteat reviewed the demographics of our area, the facilities, amenities, and programs available. Ms. Poteat shared the top 5 desired recreation facilities citizens wanted more funding for, determined through a survey implemented by an Appalachian State University class, were as follows: greenways, disc golf, pickleball, more amenities at the Community Recreation Center, and adding an outdoor pool/splash area.

Historically, a public hearing would be scheduled prior to adoption. County Manager Geouque stated that having a master plan would add rating points which determines awards of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grants. The Master Plan update could assist Ms. Patoprsty's request for the Middle Fork Park.

By consensus, a public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. to allow public comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The meeting and public hearing will be held in the Community Room at the Community Recreation Center.

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Draft Agenda for the Annual Pre-Budget Retreat

County Manager Geouque shared a draft agenda for the Annual Retreat Scheduled for February 29 and March 1, 2024. Staff may add or remove items prior to the meeting. The County Manager stated that if there were issues Commissioners would like to add to please contact him.

B. Announcements

County Manager Geouque announced that the Annual Pre-Budget Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, beginning at 12:00 P.M. and reconvening on Friday, March 1, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:44 P.M., Vice-Chairman Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Castle, moved to enter Closed Session to discuss Attorney/Client Matters, per G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

Vice-Chairman Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Castle, moved to resume the open meeting at 7:27 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

ADJOURN

Vice-Chairman Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

Larry Turnbow, Chairman

ATTEST: Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

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AGENDA ITEM 3:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 5, 2024, AGENDA

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AGENDA ITEM 4:

PUBLIC COMMENT

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Public Comment will last up to 1-hour dependent upon the number of speakers.

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AGENDA ITEM 5:

PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT OF THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR 1166 OLD EAST RIDGE ROAD FROM STEWART SIMMONS TO DEEP GAP

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

A public hearing has been scheduled to seek citizen input on the adjustment of the fire protection district for 1166 Old East Ridge Road from Stewart Simmons to Deep Gap. The two departments agree on the change as it provides the best access and response for the citizens in this area.

Upon completion of the public hearing, Board approval is required to make the adjustment to the fire protection districts.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to NC General Statute 153A-303 and 69-25.11, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, to allow citizen comment on the proposed adjustment of the fire protection district for 1166 Old East Ridge Rd from Stewart Simmons to Deep Gap. Information regarding the proposed change is available for public viewing on the County's website (www.wataugacounty.org) and in the office of the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners located at 814 West King Street, Boone, North Carolina. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the Community Recreation Center located at 231 Complex Drive, Boone, North Carolina.

Larry Turnbow, Chairman
Watauga County Board of Commissioners



Watauga County Emergency Services

184 Hodges Gap Rd, Suite D
Boone, NC 28607
Phone 828-264-4235
Fax 828-265-7617



Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

January 29th, 2024

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager
Anita Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Subject: Proposed Fire District Adjustment

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider the attached letters and plat to adjust the fire protection district for 1166 Old East Ridge Rd from Stewart Simmons to Deep Gap. This change is requested based on access and the best response for the citizens in this area. Both chiefs concur with this change as noted in their letters.

Respectfully,

Will Holt
ES Director



Watauga County Emergency Services

184 Hodges Gap Rd, Suite D
Boone, NC 28607
Phone 828-264-2435
Fax 828-265-7617



Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

January 24, 2024

Deron Geouque, Manger

Watauga County

814 West King Street

Boone, NC 28607

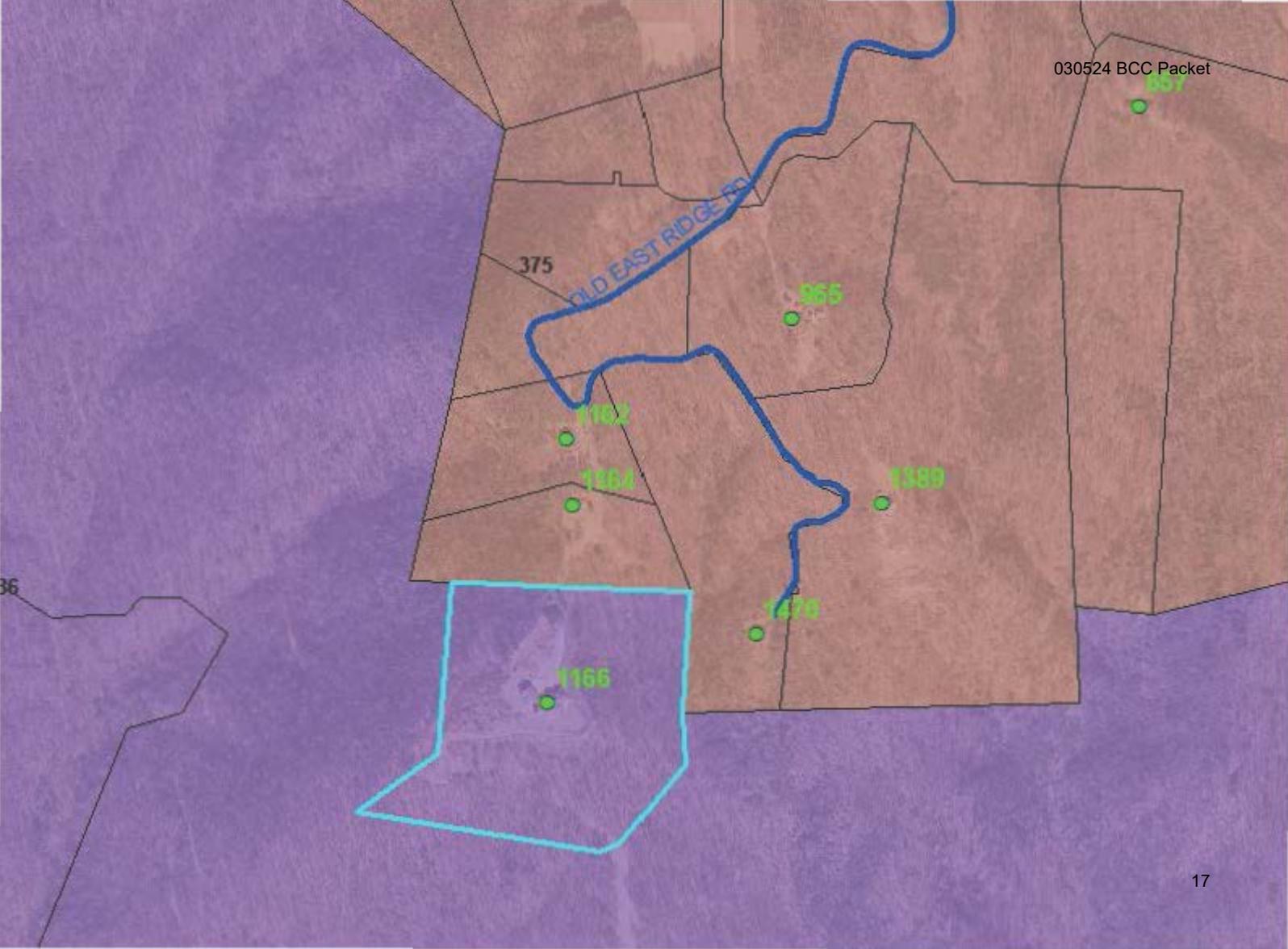
RE: Change in Fire District

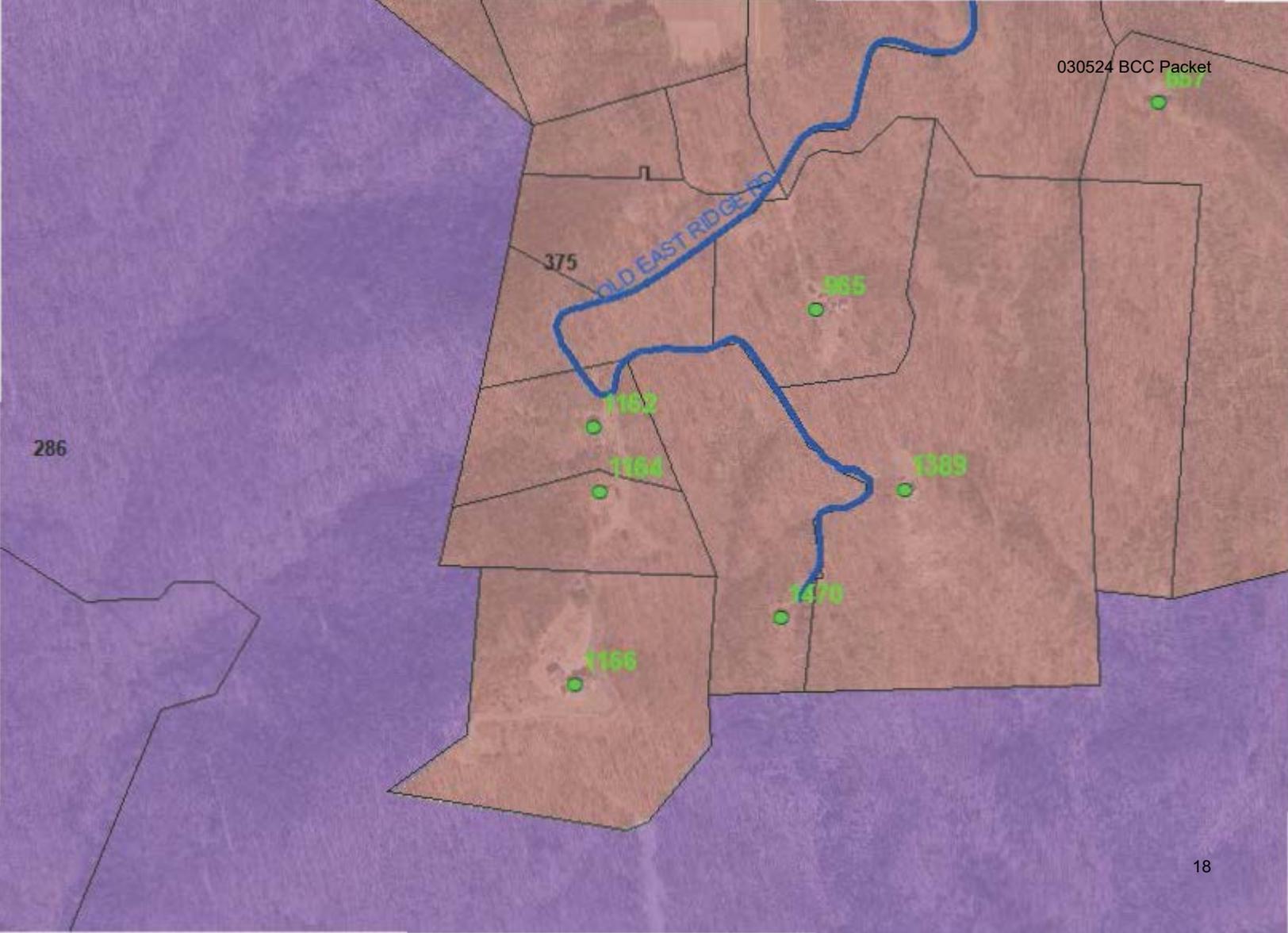
The Deep Gap Fire Department and Stewart Simmons Fire Department are requesting a change with the fire district map. This in regards to the property located at 1166 Old East Ridge Road Boone NC Parcel ID 2940-78-2166-000, legal description 14.905 ac tract as described in plat book 28 page 190. The reason for this is due to access of the residence, the main driveway is located in the Deep Gap fire department area. The requested change is to move this one parcel from the Stewart Simmons Fire area to the Deep Gap Fire area.

Sincerely,

Doug Berry Fire Chief Stewart Simmons Fire

Seth Norris Fire Chief Deep Gap Fire





286

375

OLD EAST RIDGE RD

1162

1164

1166

965

1470

1389

857

AGENDA ITEM 6:

**PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2034
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

A public hearing has been scheduled to seek citizen input on the new Parks and Recreation Ten-Year Master Plan. A Master Plan adds rating points for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grants.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, you may adopt the plan as presented, ask for additional information, or schedule a work session to discuss further.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

THE WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2034 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN. THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM LOCATED IN THE WATAUGA COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AT 231 COMPLEX DRIVE, BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA. INTERESTED PARTIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. YOU MAY VIEW THE MASTER PLAN AND MASTER PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE (WWW.WATAUGACOUNTY.ORG) OR IN THE COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE. FOR INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 828-265-8000.

LARRY TURNBOW
CHAIRMAN



WATAUGA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PLAN



2024-2034

Comprehensive Systemwide Plan

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Watauga County Parks & Recreation Department

Keron Poteat, *Director*
Craig Lands, *Assistant Director*

231 Complex Drive
Boone, North Carolina 28607
828-264-9511

Produced with assistance from High Country Council of Governments

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The purpose of this document is to help Watauga County government make informed decisions regarding recreation. The same information will be available to other recreation providers in the county, which they may find useful for their recreation planning. This comprehensive plan will enable the County and others to achieve the following objectives:

- ensure that decisions regarding future facilities are based on wants and needs of citizens, and that new facilities will be used
- ensure that future facilities will be available, accessible, and convenient to as much of the county's population as possible
- consider the need for recreation facilities in the context of Watauga County's climate, topography, population patterns & trends, other recreation providers, and other factors
- maximize the impact of each dollar spent on recreation
- plan with existing resources in mind, maximize the use of existing facilities, and consider recreation offered by other entities
- ensure that the recreational concerns of all citizens and groups are addressed
- avoid duplication of facilities and services where duplication is unnecessary and undesired
- help justify the need for facilities when applying for grant funds

Introduction & Purpose

Numerous other recreation providers are active in our jurisdiction: towns, state government, federal government, Appalachian State University, community organizations, churches, and schools. Local recreation opportunities exist that are not targeted specifically to county residents, but yet are accessible in some way to Watauga citizens. Despite the large number of recreation opportunities in the county, significant gaps do exist. The purpose of this plan is to identify those recreational gaps and plan the process of filling them.

This comprehensive plan identifies recreational needs of the county's citizens using various methods: household surveys, stakeholder interviews, and day-to-day interactions of recreation staff with citizens. The benefits of recreation in general are listed, along with an explanation of the role of recreation in successful communities and the need for local government support. Current programs are analyzed, especially in relation to their use of facilities. Existing recreation facilities are listed and described in order to identify resources that presently might not be fully recognized and utilized, but have significant potential. Transportation routes, population patterns & projections, and natural features are considered in relation to existing and future recreation facilities. All of this information is analyzed to produce recommendations for future facilities.

Limitations & Revisions

This document is a guide for recreation planning, but not a prescription. Adoption of the plan should not be interpreted as a rigid, step-by-step directive for facility construction. All recommendations are dependent on funding availability, meaning that even the most highly desired and needed facilities might remain unrealized for several years before they can be adequately financed. A separate financial plan with progress dates (typically referred to as a Capital Improvement Plan) can be created, but such a document is not within the bounds of this broad plan.

Priorities can change rapidly due to cultural trends, fluctuating costs, and activities of private businesses and organizations. Other variables include unexpected donations and unique opportunities tied to a particular form of recreation, occurrences in neighboring counties, and numerous other factors. Various efforts have been made to accurately forecast the recreation needs and wants of the Watauga County citizenry, and the feasibility of achieving these objectives. This plan, however, reflects situations and outlooks at a particular point in time, and may be amended as necessary to remain current and relevant.

THE NEED FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

The need for recreation facilities and programs in a rural county located in a rural region may not be obvious. The seeming abundance of open space and natural landscapes offers an impression of numerous opportunities to recreate, enjoy nature, and relax. The fact that Watauga is a resort area and tourist destination reinforces the perception that recreation is close at hand, with little need for deliberate provision.

When examined closely, however, these perceptions are misleading. While many Watauga citizens are rural residents, most live an urban or suburban lifestyle on single-family lots and commute to typical 40-hour/week jobs. The availability of recreation in Watauga County (and elsewhere) is usually an issue of access, facilities development, and organization. While open space might be abundant, access to it is not universal. Even where access is available, barriers might be present and/or facilities might not exist to make recreation possible. In addition, much meaningful recreation is a communal activity; requiring planning, organization, and structure.

The State of North Carolina's Recreation Enabling Law (G.S. 160A Article 18) declares "the lack of adequate recreational programs and facilities is a menace to the morals, happiness, and welfare of the people of this State." Recreation is a basic human physical and mental need, widely recognized as essential to the proper functioning of society, and as important as other local government services such as waste disposal, law enforcement, or education. Recreation as a government service ensures that all citizens- regardless of income level- have access to parks and recreation. Because government is not motivated by profit, it is able to provide parks and natural areas that might not produce income directly, but do have a value to society. Local governments offer stability and permanency to parks and basic recreation facilities that might otherwise be subject to changing economic conditions or fads.



Resource-Based and User-Oriented Facilities

Recreation facilities can be categorized as resource-based or user-oriented. Resource-based facilities are focused on natural or semi-natural *features* such as rivers, lakes, geologic features, scenic settings, etc. They usually encompass many acres and are significant to a broad constituency; i.e. having regional or national significance. Examples in Watauga County include Elk Knob and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Typical providers of resource-based recreation are state and federal agencies.

User-oriented facilities focus on a particular *activity*, such as ball games and picnicking. These activities usually require a relatively small land area, and typically are not dependent on a natural feature; hence they can be established most anywhere. Municipalities typically focus on providing user-oriented facilities- such as ball fields, tennis courts, and playgrounds- because of space limitations.

Counties customarily fit in the middle of this recreation spectrum; i.e. many counties provide both resource-based *and* user-oriented facilities. Some natural features in a given county are attractive, but have little, if any, regional or national significance. Small towns cannot reasonably serve a large rural population beyond their municipal boundaries with user-oriented facilities. Therefore counties fill the gap.

Many resource-based recreation facilities in Watauga County are along the Blue Ridge Parkway. North Carolina has established state parks at Elk Knob and Grandfather Mountain. Because of these state and federal facilities, and others in neighboring counties, Watauga County has focused more on user-oriented facilities.

The provision of recreation is a common service offered by most local governments, but the benefits of recreation to a locality are not always fully recognized and appreciated. Various studies and research show how recreation has a significant positive impact on everything from mental health to economic development. These benefits are far-reaching and widespread. A national survey of perceptions of local recreation and park services, for example, revealed that 71% of *non-users* said they received some benefit from their communities' parks and recreational services (e.g. preventing juvenile delinquency, et al).

BENEFITS of PARKS & RECREATION

Social Capital: Social capital is “the collective value of all social networks and the inclination that arise from these networks to do things for each other.” Recreation enables social interactions that benefit endeavors where collective efforts are essential for success; e.g. government, charitable undertakings, business, and other aspects of the social order.

Health: Beyond the obvious health benefits of exercise associated with active recreation, passive recreation and parks have important health implications as well. One study states, “In terms of overall health, local park and recreation users reported fewer visits to a physician for purposes other than check-ups than did non-park users, even when controlling for the effects of age, income, education level, health status, and other possibly influencing factors.” At a time when increasing health care costs is a major societal concern, the provision of recreation and exercise opportunities could have positive economic implications magnified beyond the immediate cost of the facilities.

Mental Health: Though more difficult to measure and quantify, recreation can definitely have a significant positive impact on a person’s mental health. Exercise is widely recognized as a significant factor in the prevention and treatment of depression. Research has revealed “that just the act of driving by parks and green spaces is related to stress relief.” Community recreation alleviates loneliness and strengthens social ties that are critical to a balanced lifestyle.

Personal Development: Meaningful recreation enhances self-esteem, encourages maturity, and aids in other positive character developments.

Water Quality: The collective effect of parks and other natural areas (even grassy ballfields) helps filter-out pollutants that potentially could contaminate drinking water sources, both surface and ground water. Improved water quality reduces water treatment costs, lessens health threats, and benefits fish and other wildlife that might also have economic value.

Flood Prevention & Stormwater Management: Parks and ballfields absorb rainfall, reducing runoff which lessens the likelihood of flooding.

Crime Prevention: North Carolina’s recreation enabling law frankly states that lack of recreation “is a menace to the morals” of its citizens. Several studies support the notion that recreation gives people (especially youths) “something to do” thus “keeping them out of trouble.” Beyond this obvious influence though, the cumulative impact of recreational benefits such as social capital, economic development, mental health benefits, and personal development would seemingly help create a community environment that is not conducive to criminal activity.

Economic Value: Parks usually increase the value of nearby properties, which in turn increases property tax revenue. The need for clothing and equipment associated with recreation programs stimulates retail sales.

Economic Development: “Corporate CEOs say quality of life for employees is the third-most important factor in locating a business, behind only access to domestic markets and availability of skilled labor. Owners of small companies ranked recreation/parks/open space as the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business.”



CHARACTERISTICS OF WATAUGA COUNTY

Watauga County is located in the northwestern mountains of North Carolina. With a land area of 313 square miles, it ranks 83rd in geographic size among the state's 100 counties. Its 54,086 citizens make it 50th in population size. Most of the population is rural (59%). Appalachian State University's 20,000 students constitute a sizable percentage (37%) of the county's population. The county contains four towns— Boone (pop. 19,878), Blowing Rock (pop. 1,288), Beech Mountain (pop. 616), and Seven Devils (pop. 275). Boone, the county seat, is centrally located and serves as the county's hub for commerce, services, work, and recreation. Watauga County is a vacation destination that attracts numerous tourists and seasonal residents. Following are statistics describing Watauga County's population compared to the state as a whole:

	<u>Watauga County</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>
Median age	32.7	39.1
Poverty rate	24.5%	14.7%
Median household income	\$46,453	\$57,341
Males	50%	48.9%
Females	50%	51.1%
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>		
White (non-Hispanic)	91.1%	62.5%
Black	2.0%	21.1%
Hispanic	4.1%	8.79%
All other	2.8%	7.61%
<u>Educational attainment (population 25 years & over)</u>		
Less than 12th grade	9.3%	13.1%
High school graduate	21%	26.1%
Some college, no degree	18.4%	21.7%
Associate's degree	8.6%	9.3%
Bachelor's degree	23.3%	19.2%
Graduate or professional degree	19.4%	10.6%
<u>Total households</u>		
Average household size	2.32	
Persons under 18 years	12.5%	
Persons 65 years & over	17.4%	



Watauga County's largest employer is Appalachian State University (over 1,000), followed by Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, the school system, and Samaritan's Purse. Also among the top employers are ski resorts, local governments, and retail stores. Agriculture is a significant economic sector with beef cattle and Christmas trees being the major commodities.

NATURAL FEATURES

SURFACE WATER

The headwater streams for several river basins begin in Watauga County: the New River in the east, the Yadkin River in the southeast, the Watauga River in the west, and a small area with headwater streams of the Johns River (Catawba River basin) in the south near Blowing Rock. The wide variation in streamflow- from seeps & bogs to small rivers- offers a variety of scenic settings, wildlife observation opportunities, and recreation. Waterfalls, for example, are common, and several streams are large enough for canoeing and rafting.

TOPOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Watauga County is located in the North Carolina mountains. Elevation ranges from 1,339 feet near the base of the Blue Ridge escarpment to 5,964 feet on Grandfather Mountain. Watauga County's mean elevation of 3,631 feet is among the highest of all counties in the eastern United States. Most of the county lies west of the Blue Ridge escarpment, with about 20% of the land area situated on the escarpment itself (i.e. the Triplett community and surrounding areas). Watauga's topography can be described generally as a mountainous spine running north-south through the center of the county, with two significant river valleys (the Watauga and New) on either side. The spine consists of Flattop, Rich, and Snake Mountains, among others. The town of Boone is situated at the geographic center of the county, at the center of the mountainous spine, and also at the convergence of the New and Watauga River Valleys.

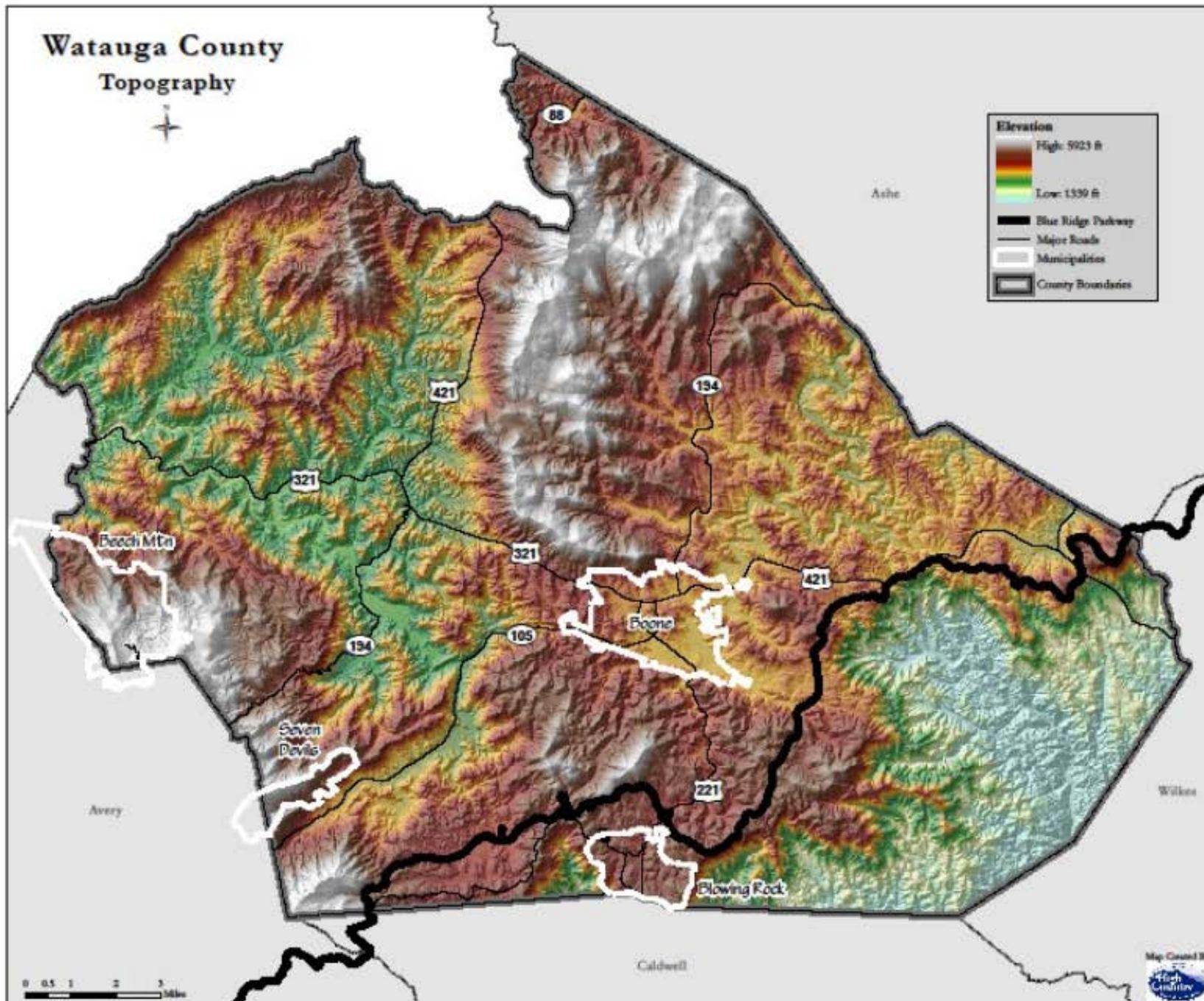
A secondary topographic feature is a highland area in southwestern Watauga that includes portions of Hanging Rock, Grandfather, and Beech Mountains. This high elevation area is mirrored in the southeast by the low elevation area along the Blue Ridge escarpment (the Triplett area). Even though it contains the lowest elevations in the county, the area is generally steep and rugged due to the precipitous drop in elevation.

A major topographic feature of the county is the Watauga River valley, which includes the Cove Creek tributary, the Beaverdam Creek tributary, and the communities in this watershed: Valle Crucis, Bethel, Sugar Grove, Zionville, etc. The New River valley somewhat mirrors the Watauga in the east, but its floodplain is less pronounced, and generally lies at a higher elevation. This area includes the communities of Todd, Deep Gap, Meat Camp, Rutherford, and others. The Blue Ridge includes communities in southern Watauga that are located on the crest of or near the Blue Ridge escarpment: Boone, Blowing Rock, Aho, Triplett, Stony Fork, and Bamboo. Foscoe, Seven Devils, Grandfather community, and Beech Mountain in southwestern Watauga form a distinct section characterized by higher elevations.



The New River valley somewhat mirrors the Watauga in the east, but its floodplain is less pronounced, and generally lies at a higher elevation. This area includes the communities of Todd, Deep Gap, Meat Camp, Rutherford, and others. The Blue Ridge includes communities in southern Watauga that are located on the crest of or near the Blue Ridge escarpment: Boone, Blowing Rock, Aho, Triplett, Stony Fork, and Bamboo. Foscoe, Seven Devils, Grandfather community, and Beech Mountain in southwestern Watauga form a distinct section characterized by higher elevations.

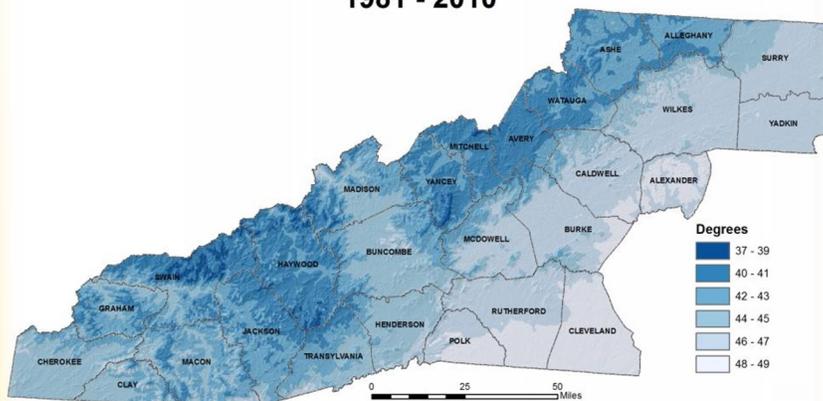
Boone's central location makes it reasonably accessible from almost all areas of the county. Beech Mountain, Triplett, and the North Fork community -located at extreme ends of the county- are somewhat disconnected from these overall patterns due to topography and road patterns.



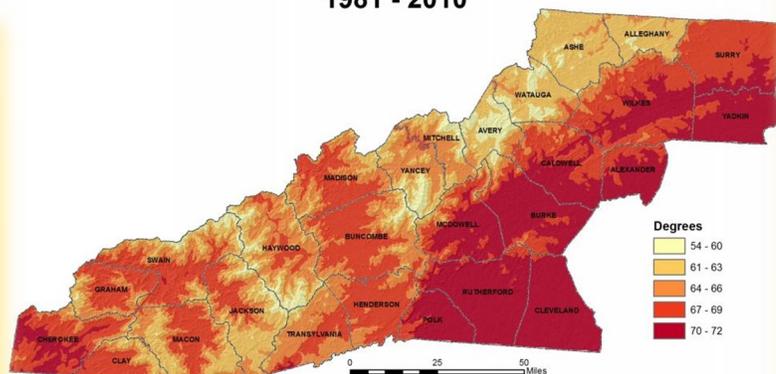
CLIMATE & RECREATION

Watauga County's climate is characterized by four distinct seasons, with cold winters and moderately warm summers. Temperatures also vary considerably according to elevation. Seasonal transition times in the fall and spring often result in unpredictably wide temperature fluctuations over a short period of time. The average date of the last spring freeze is around mid May, and the average date of the first fall freeze is late September, resulting in a growing season of a little over three months (varying with elevation). These dates very roughly correspond to the time period when games and other recreation activities can be comfortably scheduled outdoors. Though many pleasant days occur before and after this timeframe, the weather becomes more unpredictable for any given day the farther way from the growing season. As shown below, Watauga ranks at or near the top among the coldest counties in the state, and also receives a great deal of rainfall and snow, compared to other counties. As the maps show, there is marked variation in temperature and precipitation within the county as well. Watauga's frequently wet and chilly climate affects opportunities for outdoor recreation and makes planning games and other activities difficult.

**Average Annual Minimum Temperature
1981 - 2010**

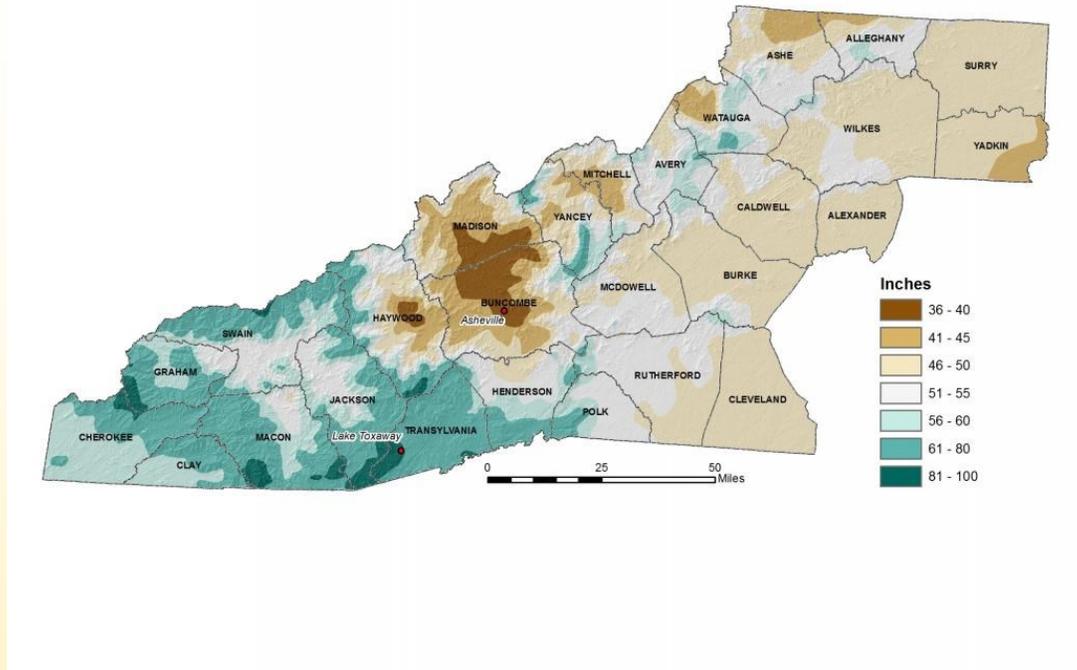


**Average Annual Maximum Temperature
1981 - 2010**

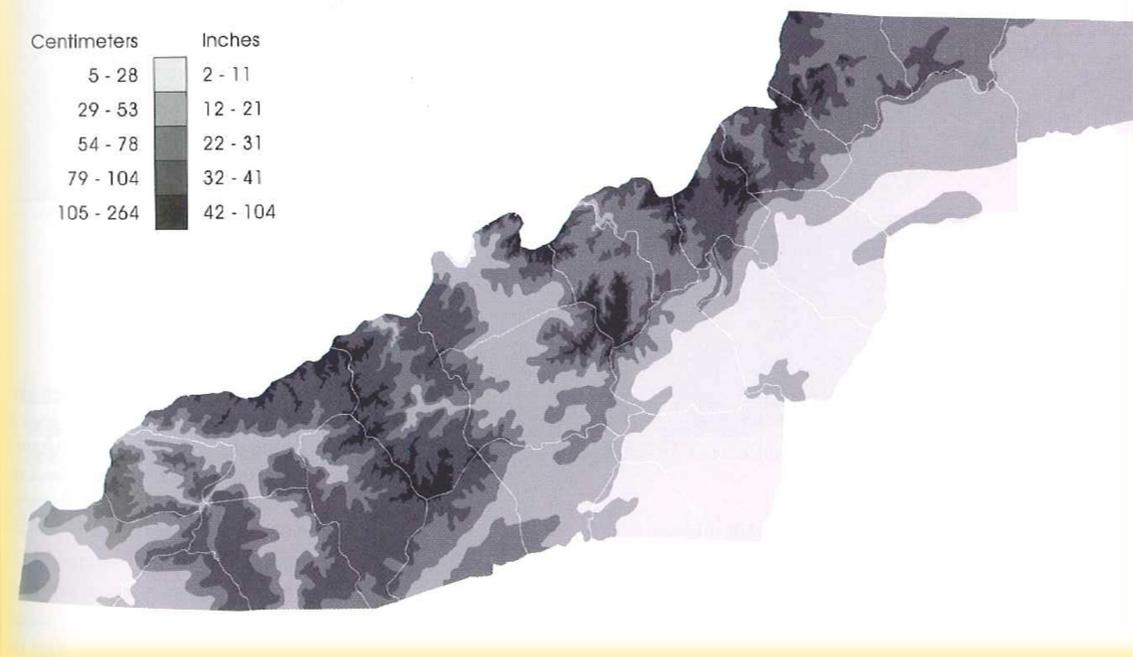


CLIMATE & RECREATION

Average Annual Precipitation (1981 - 2010)

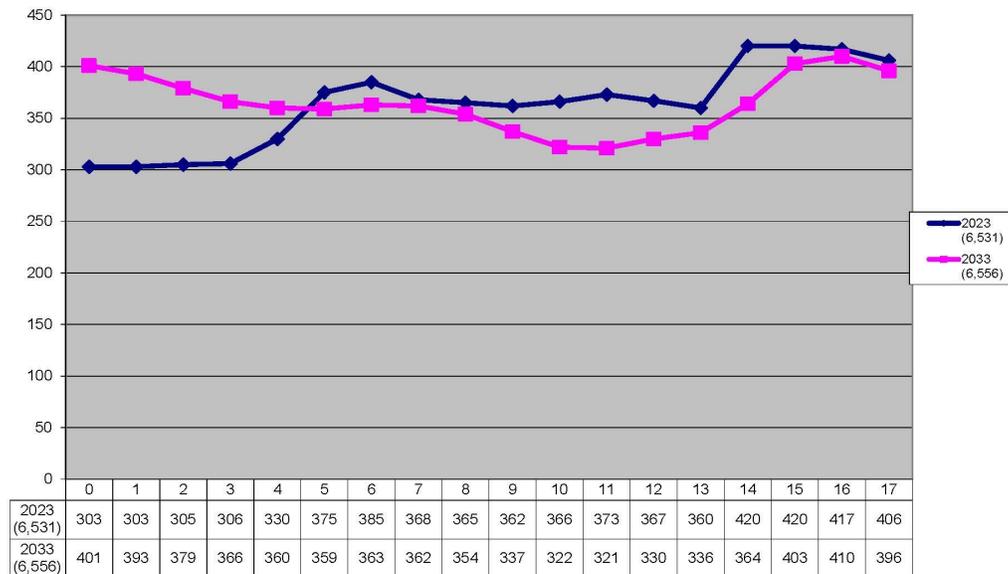


Average Annual Snowfall



POPULATION PATTERNS

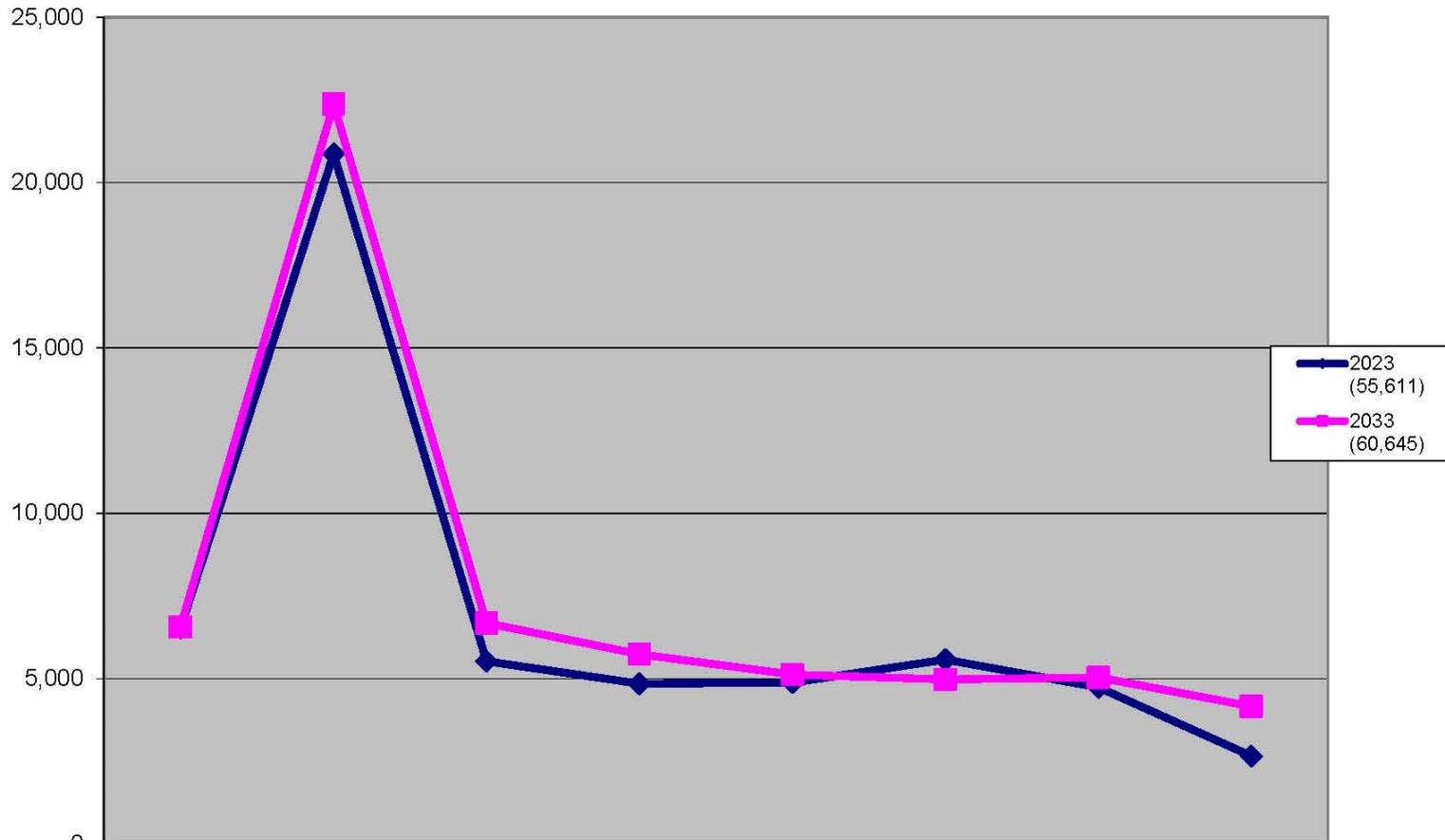
Watauga County Children Population Projections



Demographic trends in Watauga County indicate a fairly stable population. The total population is expected to grow by 5,034 persons between 2023 and 2033, a significant increase but not a population boom. There is little variation in age cohorts between the beginning and end of the decade, with the exception of a higher number of persons 80+ years old by 2033. The number of children (ages 0-17) is expected to increase by only 25 in ten years. The graph shows some variation at specific ages but the overall trendline is fairly level. The implication for recreation is that while additional facilities might be needed to meet current recreational deficiencies, population projections alone do not justify more recreation features beyond maintenance, replacement, and new *types* of recreation to add variety. The only exception might be features that appeal to a senior population, as this demographic group is expected to expand slightly over the next ten years.

A factor not reflected in the population numbers alone is that people are more likely to be healthy at all ages. According to the North Carolina State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, even with millions more people reaching retirement age, the number of people in nursing homes declined nationwide during the 1990s, and have remained fairly stable since then. People are remaining active in their chosen activities longer in life, creating additional demand for recreation areas and facilities.

Watauga County Population Projections



	0-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
2023 (55,611)	6,531	20,867	5,522	4,845	4,877	5,578	4,734	2,657
2033 (60,645)	6,556	22,374	6,678	5,738	5,121	4,978	5,039	4,161

WATAUGA COUNTY-OWNED & OPERATED PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Watauga County Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages a wide variety of recreation facilities, from river access points to athletic fields to indoor recreation and more. Most, though not all, are centrally located in Boone or just beyond the town limits. The growth in the number and variety of County-owned facilities since the last plan was developed in 2010 has been remarkable.

Watauga Community Recreation Center (indoor facility) off State Farm Road
 Various facilities at the outdoor Recreation Complex off State Farm Road
 Brookshire Park and the Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex off Hwy 421 east of Boone
 Old Cove Creek School park and gym
 Health Department field on West King Street
 Howard's Knob Park
 Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park
 Completed sections of the Middle Fork Greenway along US Hwy 321
 Watauga Gorge River Access – 2514 Old Watauga River Road, Sugar Grove
 Watauga River Access at Guy Ford Road
 New River Access at Pine Run Road

The County leases the following facilities and manages them for County recreation programs:

- Anne Marie fields off State Farm Road (leased from Town of Boone)
- Industrial Fields off State Farm Road (leased from Town of Boone)

Watauga Community Recreation Center

This indoor facility in a new building opened in 2021. It offers the following recreation opportunities:

- four gym courts for pickleball, basketball, and volleyball
- an indoor walking track
- a wide array of fitness equipment
- two indoor pools- a competitive lap pool and a recreational pool. The recreational pool has water features and, the lap pool has a climbing wall.
- a multi-purpose room for meetings, classes, & events



Recreation Complex

Off State Farm Road

The recreation complex consists of a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities beside the indoor recreation center. This area has restrooms and a picnic shelter with six tables. The Recreation Complex merges seamlessly with facilities in the same locality managed by other recreation providers: Clawson-Burnley Park, Boone Greenway, and university fields.

- Playground with a picnic shelter and tables
- Two lighted pickleball courts
- Four lighted tennis courts
- Three picnic shelters with 16 tables
- Restrooms
- Lighted basketball court
- Walking path
- Baseball/softball field (Field 1), lighted
- Two lighted baseball/softball fields (Fields 2 & 3), also known as the Anne Marie fields, which are leased from the Town of Boone. Four picnic tables are available in this area.
- Two lighted baseball/softball fields (Fields 4 & 5), also known as the Industrial fields, which are leased from the Town of Boone. This area has restrooms and a picnic shelter with six tables.



Brookshire Park

250 Brookshire Road, off Hwy 421

- Multipurpose field
- 2.8 mile walking trail
- Picnic shelter with five tables
- Two grills
- Access to New River
- Lighting
- Restrooms



Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex

Adjacent to Brookshire Park on Brookshire Road

- Soccer field
- Lighting
- Concessions
- Restrooms



Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park

Off of Hwy 421 between Boone & Deep Gap

- Eight miles of mountain bike trails (can also be hiked)
- Pump track (pictured)
- Picnic shelter with seating for 48
- Playground
- Restrooms

Most of these facilities are fairly new and in good to excellent condition.



Middle Fork Greenway

Blue Ridge Conservancy is establishing a greenway along the Middle Fork of the New River between Boone and Blowing Rock, for a total length of 6.5 miles. Ownership of completed sections has been transferred to Watauga County for management and maintenance. When finished, all 6.5 miles will be a County recreation facility. The project has a full-time executive director responsible for planning, fundraising, acquisition, and construction. The following sections are complete or on track to be constructed in the near future:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Blowing Rock trailhead | |
| • Blowing Rock to Foley Rehabilitation Center | 1.1 miles |
| • Tweetsie/Sterling Creek Park section | 0.95 mile |
| • Highway 321 trailhead | |
| • Goldmine Branch Park to Quality Plus gas section | 0.90 mile |
| • Payne Branch Park | 500 feet |
| • Boone Gorge section | 1.0 mile greenway; additional hiking trails in progress |
| • Hospital section | 0.75 mile |

River Access Points

The County Recreation Department owns and manages three river access points that provide parking and stream entry ramps for canoeing, tubing, kayaking, etc.

- Watauga River Access at Guy Ford Road
- Watauga River Gorge Access at 2514 Old Watauga River Road
- New River Access at Pine Run Road (pictured)



Howard's Knob Park

604 Howard's Knob Road

This park provides impressive views of Boone and the surrounding area. Park amenities, however, are aging and in disrepair. In response, the County has recently produced a redevelopment plan that will guide rehabilitation. Current facilities are:

- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables distributed throughout the park
- Two overlook areas
- Trails



Old Cove Creek School Park

207 Dale Adams Road, Sugar Grove

- Meeting room/community center
- Gymnasium
- Multipurpose field with bleacher
- Two tennis courts
- Outdoor basketball court
- Paved walking trail 0.25 mile
- Playground
- Picnic shelter
- Ten picnic tables
- Four other picnic tables
- Two grills
- Fishing
- Restrooms in gym (not open all the time)



The park, an open field with few trees, is on the grounds of the former Cove Creek school, a historic rock structure whose preservation is the objective of the nonprofit Cove Creek Preservation & Development, Inc. The site also offers indoor recreation facilities, parking, access to Cove Creek, and a rural location near community thoroughfares but away from traffic. The Western Watauga Community Center is located nearby.

Health Department Field

West King Street, Boone

Multipurpose field located between the NCWorks/Project on Aging building and the health department.



OTHER PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES IN WATAUGA COUNTY

OVERVIEW

Watauga County citizens are fortunate to have many recreation opportunities offered by a wide range of providers, not just the county government. Being a tourist destination, the county has recreational features targeted to visitors, but accessible to local residents just the same. These providers are the state and federal governments, and private businesses. Other recreation providers are schools, towns, and community organizations.

Public school facilities

Watauga County's eight public elementary schools (geographically distributed throughout the county) and one high school have recreation facilities typical of most schools: gym, playground, ballfield, etc.

The North Carolina Community Schools Act (G.S. 115C Art 13) was passed to allow "greater community use of public school facilities." The Watauga County Board of Education policy allows public use of outdoor facilities such as walking paths and playgrounds. Indoor facilities, such as gyms, require reservations. See the full policy at <https://www.wataugaschools.org/cms/lib/NC01810403/Centricity/Domain/312/5030%20Community%20Use%20of%20Facilities%20Updated%206.28.21.pdf> for details, including fees.

Community Parks

Watauga County contains four community-owned and operated parks: Green Valley, Valle Crucis, Foscoe/Grandfather, and the Mountaineer Ruritan athletic field. These community organizations are significant recreation providers, with most parks offering many recreation opportunities.

Towns

Boone, Blowing Rock, Seven Devils, and Beech Mountain own and operate major parks and recreation facilities. All, except Boone, have recreation programs and dedicated staff.

Town of Boone

The Town of Boone operates parks and a greenway trail. These facilities are maintained by the Town's public works department (the Town does not have a separate recreation department or staff).

Town of Blowing Rock

Blowing Rock's Davant, Broyhill, Cannon, Glen Burney, and Memorial parks offer a wide variety of recreation opportunities, from team sports to a quiet nature walk. The Town employs a full-time recreation director and other staff.

Town of Seven Devils

The Town has established Otter Falls Park in the last decade. Seven Devils recently developed a recreation plan in order to enhance existing facilities, revitalize dormant recreation facilities, and develop new opportunities.

Town of Beech Mountain

The Town of Beech Mountain has an active recreation department and numerous recreation facilities, including: Buckeye Indoor Recreation Center, parks, and 25 miles of hiking, biking, and cross country skiing trails.

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES (CONT.)

Appalachian State University

Most App State facilities are not open to the public, but staff, faculty, and their families (in addition to students) have access to numerous recreation and fitness facilities for a relatively low fee. Alumni and “university affiliates” also have access. Considering the fact that Appalachian State employs over 3,000 persons (all of whom have access to the facilities along with their families) and the number of alumni who live in the county, the university is, in effect, a significant recreation provider in Watauga County and should be factored into any analysis of available recreation.

State & National Parks

Elk Knob State Park, a fairly new state park, has continued to develop recreation facilities over the past decade. Grandfather Mountain State Park’s trail system, accessible from Watauga County, offers numerous hiking opportunities.

Though the Blue Ridge Parkway’s primary recreational opportunity is scenic driving, Watauga County contains a large number of non-road related Parkway recreation facilities such as trails and picnic areas. The roadway itself offers several natural open spaces for picnicking and passive recreation.

Commercial Recreation Facilities

Commercial recreation providers are common in Watauga County, due in part to the county being a tourist destination. Such providers offer unique experiences, such as ziplines and skiing, usually not found in most other counties.

Churches

Many churches have picnic shelters and some provide playgrounds. Mt. Vernon Baptist has two baseball/softball fields. Some churches allow public use/rent of their facilities. While most church facilities are for members only and not open to the public like a county park, they collectively serve a large constituency of county residents and thus should be considered significant in an inventory analysis of recreation facilities in the county.

Town Facilities

Boone

Boone Greenway Trail

4.4 miles total (7.5 miles total including App State’s trails)

The 4.4 mile greenway trail currently extends from the Town’s wastewater treatment plant to Leola Street near Wal-Mart. With only a few exceptions, it parallels the South Fork New River and Winkler’s Creek. A spur extends to the high school, and a loop spur is located off Deerfield Road. Because the trail runs through areas that are mostly undeveloped or developed for recreation, the greenway also offers opportunities for passive recreation such as enjoying the natural setting of the river. The paved Boone trail connects to App State’s system of grass and gravel trails- known as the Kennedy Course- for a total of 7.5 miles of trails.

Jaycee’s Park

728 Horn in the West Drive

- ADA Accessible
- Grill
- Pavilion
- Picnic Areas
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms

Boone

Strawberry Hill Arboretum

668 Horn In The West Drive

"The Strawberry Hill Arboretum began as one of fifteen sites across North Carolina chosen to be part of the North Carolina Urban Tree Evaluation Program in the 1990's. The purpose of the program was to develop an information data base on the survival, performance, and limitations (disease, insect, and cultural problems) of a wide assortment of tree species and cultivars in North Carolina. Appalachian State University has created an interactive map which labels every tree and provides valuable information regarding the trees located in the Strawberry Hill Arboretum." (from Town of Boone website)

Junaluska Park

135 Bear Trail

- Basketball Court
- Picnic Areas
- Picnic Shelters
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Multi-purpose field
- Walking Track

Clawson Burnley Park

355 Martin Luther King Jr Street

This park is situated around a constructed wetland and is located adjacent to the Boone Greenway.

- 24 picnic tables
- Two picnic shelters
- Gazebo
- Benches
- Wetland educational signage
- Walking path
- Portable toilet

Jones House & Grounds

604 West King Street

Historic house with an art gallery. Events and concerts are held inside the house and

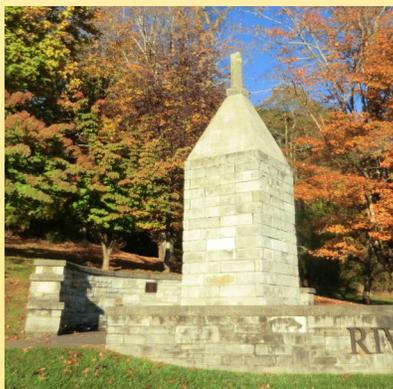


Clawson Burnley Park

North Street Park

567 North Street

- Playground
- Benches
- Community garden



Rivers House Park

150 Clay House Drive

The Daniel Boone monument in this park was originally located about ¾ mile south on Rivers Street, where it marked the location of the cabin Boone used on his hunting and exploring trips through the area. Stones from the original fireplace were used in the construction of the monument. Also on the grounds of this park is a sugar maple thought to be one of the largest in the state. It has been designated a Champion Tree by the North Carolina Forest Service.

Daniel Boone Native Gardens

651 Horn in the West Drive

A collection of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.

Blowing Rock

Blowing Rock's Davant, Broyhill, Cannon, and Glen Burney parks are contiguous and therefore function to some degree as a single large park. Yet each is distinctive and their boundaries are perceptible. Collectively, they offer a wide variety of recreation opportunities in a small area, from team sports to a quiet nature walk. Parking is available near all three. The Town's Memorial Park, though not immediately adjacent, is a short walk from the others and has active recreation facilities such as play equipment and tennis courts.

Memorial Park

- Two tennis courts
- Two basketball courts
- Volleyball court
- Pickleball court
- Two horseshoe pits
- Playground
- Children's climbing wall
- Gazebo
- Picnic tables
- Benches

Broyhill Park

- Mayview Lake
- Walking trail
- Benches
- Gazebo
- Space for small concerts or other events

Davant Field

- Multi-purpose athletic field
- Walking trail
- Restrooms
- Picnic pavilion

Robbin's Pool

- Heated outdoor pool
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground

Annie L. Cannon Memorial Garden

Passive recreation garden with a walking path and a small amphitheater.

Glen Burney Trail

With the trailhead in the middle of town, the Glen Burney Trail offers a unique opportunity for a rugged, remote hiking experience that is easily accessible. The trail parallels New Years Creek for 1.6 miles down the Blue Ridge escarpment, beginning at the Annie Cannon Garden. Other than the overall forested setting, numerous cascades and waterfalls are the primary attraction of this trail.

Koerschner Memorial Garden

Passive recreation area with a short walking path and seating.

American Legion Building

Available to rent for large gatherings. Includes a full service kitchen.

Blowing Rock Clubhouse

Available to rent for small gatherings. Includes a full service kitchen.

Blowing Rock Recreation Center

Indoor facility for youth activities and gatherings.



Glen Burney Falls at the end of the Glen Burney Trail

Beech Mountain

Buckeye Recreation Center

-indoor

- basketball
- walking track
- badminton
- fitness center

- volleyball
- group fitness classes
- children's play area
- pickleball

- tennis
- loungue area (w/WIFI)
- meeting rooms

-outdoor

- tennis
- playground
- walking track
- boating

- softball field
- fishing
- soccer field
- hiking & biking trails

- picnic shelter & restrooms
- campfire area
- basketball
- pickleball w/ portable nets

Lake Coffey

- walking trails
- picnic facilities

- basketball court
- fishing

Hayden's Park

- picnic facilities

Perry Park

- trailhead

- lighted waterfall

- picnic facilities

Sunset Park

- picnic facilities

Hiking trails

- 25 miles including sections for mountain biking and cross country skiing

Sledding Hill

Seven Devils

Otter Falls Trail

10-acre park with a waterfall and 1.2 miles of trail. Includes a picnic table and benches.

Old Town Hall

Repurposed as a community center

Black Bear Family Park

0.6 acre park

- Picnic shelter with tables
- Playground
- Two tennis/pickleball courts
- Basketball goal

Alpine Meadows Mini Park

Passive recreation park with a bench and landscaping

Town roads (13 miles) and a state road (3 miles)

According to the Town recreation plan "are used by residents and visitors for walking & biking. Signs are in place advising motorists to respect these uses."

Schools

Green Valley Elementary School

189 Big Hill Rd (just off Hwy 194)

- New playground
- Four basketball goals
- New picnic shelter with eight tables
- Multipurpose field
- Walking trail with fitness stations
- Gymnasium
- Portable toilet

Parkway Elementary School

160 Parkway School Drive (borders Old Hwy 421)

- Four basketball goals
- Multipurpose field
- Two playgrounds
- Picnic shelter with 12 tables
- Volleyball court
- Walking trail
- Nature trail
- Gymnasium

Watauga High School

300 Go Pioneers Drive (off Old East King Street)

- Two lighted baseball fields
- Six tennis courts
- Picnic shelter with eight tables
- Football field and track
- 13 picnic tables in the courtyard
- Gymnasium

Mabel Elementary School

404 Mabel School Road, Zionville

- Three multipurpose fields
- Walking trail
- Two basketball goals
- Picnic shelter with eight tables
- Play structure (aging)
- Playground for small children
- Gymnasium

Blowing Rock Elementary School

165 Morris Street, Blowing Rock

- Walking path
- Multipurpose field
- Playground
- Gymnasium

Hardin Park Elementary School

361 Jefferson Road, Boone

- Walking trail
- Picnic shelter with five tables
- Playground
- Amphitheater
- Grassy play area
- Football field with track
- Gymnasium

Cove Creek Elementary School

930 Vanderpool Road, Vilas

- Walking trail
- Multipurpose field
- Picnic shelter with seven tables
- Five basketball goals
- Playground
- Gymnasium

Bethel Elementary School

138 Bethel School Road (off Bethel Road)

- Two playgrounds
- Four horseshoe pits
- Walking trail
- Picnic shelter with eight tables
- Baseball field
- Tennis court
- Two basketball goals
- Gymnasium

Valle Crucis Elementary School

2998 Broadstone Road, Valle Crucis

- Meeting room/community center
- Gymnasium
- Multi-purpose field
- Playground
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables

Public schools are required, by law, to make their facilities available to the community. The North Carolina Community Schools Act (G.S. Article 13 115C-203-209.1) states in part, "The purpose of this Article is to encourage greater community involvement in the public schools and greater community use of public school facilities. To this end it is declared to be the policy of this State...to assure maximum use of public school facilities by the citizens of each community in this State." The Article sets forth procedures to accomplish this goal. The Watauga County Schools official Community Use of Facilities policy is located in the appendix. Public use of some recreation facilities require prior approval, but walking tracks and playgrounds can be used without permission. In many communities these facilities are underutilized. Promoting their use might be the equivalent of adding new facilities at no cost. The county has nine public schools that are well-distributed geographically.

Community-Owned Parks

Four parks in Watauga County were created by the communities they serve and are operated by nonprofit organizations formed for that purpose.

Valle Crucis Community Park

2892 Broadstone Rd Governed/operated by a Board of Directors, 28 acres

www.vallecrucispark.org

- Two picnic shelters
- 21 picnic tables in shelters
- Seven grills
- Nine picnic tables elsewhere in park
- Performance stage
- Walking trail, paved & natural surface
- Two playgrounds
- Basketball court (outdoor)
- Gazebo
- Volleyball court
- Large, multi-purpose fields
- Fishing
- Wetlands
- Restrooms



- Watauga River access
- Benches
- Two disc golf goals

Green Valley Community Park

Owned/managed by Green Valley Community Park, Inc., a nonprofit organization. www.greenvalleypark.org

This 19-acre park is an expansive, multi-purpose facility bordering the New River off Big Hill Road. It consists of the river floodplain and a higher-elevation level connected by trails. The park has the following features:

- Picnic shelter with nine tables
- Paved walking trail
- Natural surface hiking trails
- Playground
- River access ramp for canoes, kayaks, tubes
- River access for fishing
- Very large multipurpose field
- Open space/natural area near river



Mountaineer Ruritan Club Field

This baseball field, located on Hwy 321 in Sugar Grove, is utilized in the parks & recreation department programming.

Foscoe/Grandfather Community Center & Park

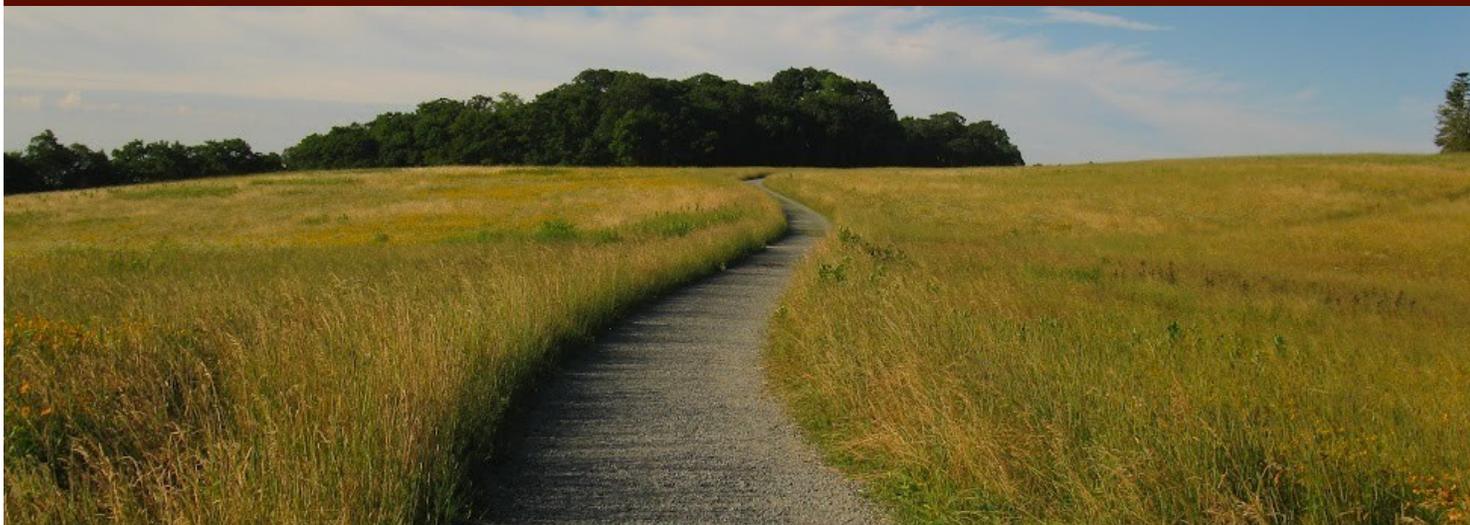
233 Park Rd Owned/operated by: Foscoe/Grandfather Community Center, Inc. 7.8 acres
www.foscoecommunitycenter.com

- Multi-use lighted field
- Five picnic tables
- Indoor community center (2,500 sq ft with a kitchen, banquet tables, and 110 chairs)
- Playground
- Outdoor basketball court
- Restrooms
- Grill
- Fishing in Watauga River
- Covered performance stage

Blue Ridge Parkway

The Blue Ridge Parkway traverses the southern and southeastern sections of the county. Various overlooks and open spaces are scattered along the entire route, with some having picnic tables. Watauga County contains an exceptional number of Parkway recreation facilities (in addition to the road itself). Most of these facilities are located in Moses Cone Park (3,500 acres) and Julian Price Park (4,200 acres); two contiguous areas in the southern part of the county near Blowing Rock. The two parks contain many miles of walking/jogging and horseback riding trails. The trails can also be used for cross-country skiing. The trails pass through varied landscapes- from open pastures to deep woods- offering a variety of opportunities for passive recreation. A developed picnic area exists in Price Park. These federal facilities are significant local assets that don't require management and maintenance by the local governments. They are accessible to and used by many residents.

- North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail- The Watauga County section of the trail is complete and runs parallel to the Parkway, overlapping with Parkway trails in some locations. While the trail is intended for long-distance hiking, it passes through several Watauga communities and thus is accessible for many residents to use as a local walking trail.
- Cone Park carriage trails (25 miles)- for hiking, jogging, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Short and easily accessible loop trails are located at Bass and Trout Lakes. Parking and access are available at the Cone Manor House, Bass Lake (via Hwy 221), and Trout Lake (via Shulls Mill Road). Open spaces along the trails offer picnicking and passive recreation opportunities, with some areas located close to parking.
- Price Park picnic area- developed recreation area offering 100 picnic sites. Multi-purpose fields are available. The picnic area includes restrooms, access to trails, and streamside natural areas.
- Price Park trails (10.5 miles)- These hiking trails vary in difficulty.
- Tanawha Trail (13.5 miles total; a portion is in Avery County)- This trail parallels the Parkway from Price Park, around the southeastern side of Grandfather Mountain, to the Beacon Heights Parking Area. Parking and access are available at Price Park and the Boone Fork Parking Area. Tanawha intersects and offers access to Grandfather Mountain State Park Trails, specifically, the Nuwati Trail and the Daniel Boone Scout Trail.



The trails at Moses Cone Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway traverse a variety of natural areas, from deep woodlands to open fields.

State Parks

Elk Knob

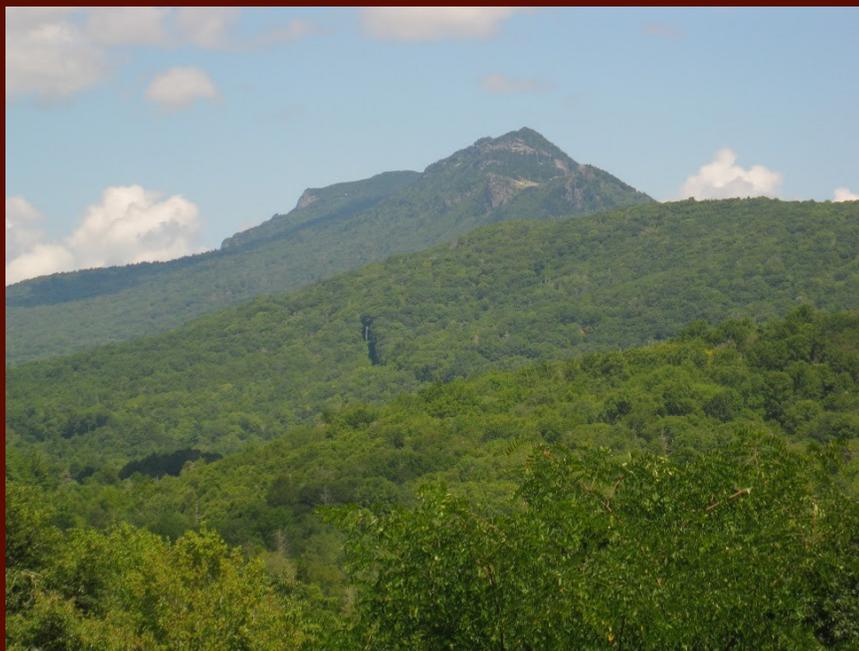
5564 Meat Camp Road

- 5.5 miles hiking trails
- Summit with panoramic views
- In the winter, about 1 mile of ungroomed trail is open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Tent sites
(backpacking and zone backpacking only)
- Group tent sites
(backpacking only)
- Picnic facilities
- Amphitheater

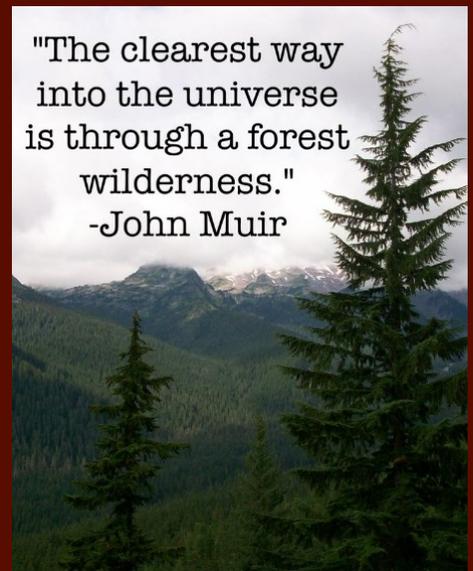


Grandfather Mountain

Grandfather Mountain's trail system totals 13 miles in Watauga, Caldwell, and Avery Counties. This trail system can be accessed in Watauga County via the Blue Ridge Parkway's 13-mile Tanawha Trail, which generally parallels the road, extending from Julian Price Park to the Beacon Heights parking area. Parkway overlooks at Cold Prong Pond, Calloway Peak, and Boone Fork parking area offer parking and access to the trail. From the Tanawha Trail, hikers can access Grandfather's Nuwati and Daniel Boone Scout Trails.



"The clearest way
into the universe
is through a forest
wilderness."
-John Muir



Commercial Recreation Providers

Watauga County has numerous and varied commercial recreation providers who offer activities and experiences at affordable rates. While many are tourist-oriented, they are available to county residents just the same.

Skiing

Appalachian Ski Mountain
Beech Mountain Ski Resort

Ziplines

Hawksnest Snow Tubing & Ziplines
High Gravity Adventures Zipline & Aerial Park
Sky Valley Zip Tours

Climbing

Center 45 Climbing & Fitness
Climbing Wall at Footsloggers

Golf

Boone Golf Club
Willow Creek Golf Course
Mountaineer Golf Center & Driving Range

Fitness

Anytime Fitness
Deer Valley Athletic Club
-tennis, pickleball, swimming pool, fitness
Yonahlossee Racquet Club
-seven outdoor clay tennis courts, three indoor tennis courts, a 75-foot heated indoor pool, two pickleball courts, a fitness center, hiking trails

Axe Throwing

Elwood's Hatchet House
- Eight axe throwing targets, two corn hole lanes, a giant connect four, pool table, air hockey, pinball
Tomahawk Hill at Mystery Hill

Horseback Riding

Broyhill Equestrian Preserve
Dutch Creek Trails

Outdoor Adventures

Guides for canoeing, caving, rafting, hiking, tubing, kayaking, fishing
River and Earth Adventures
Wahoo's Adventures
River Girl Fishing
Due South Outfitters
Appalachian Outdoor Adventures
-UTV rentals and tours

Miscellaneous

Country Billiards
The Blowing Rock
High Country Lanes (bowling)
Skate World
Beech Mountain Bike Park
Beech Mountain Disc Golf
Mountaineer Performance (indoor turf field)
The Summit (indoor pickleball)

Evaluation of Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities

The preceding inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities reveals that the county has an abundance of recreation opportunities, with most being in good to excellent condition. Most recreation providers strive to maintain and improve their facilities, and create new opportunities as needed (see following section on other plans). Nevertheless, deficiencies exist. These needs are identified in the following sections: recommendations, program descriptions, citizen survey, stakeholders, and community meetings.

OTHER PARKS & RECREATION PLANS

Each of the four towns in Watauga County has developed a plan for parks and recreation, either as a standalone document or as part of a larger comprehensive plan. In addition, specialized plans have been developed for specific trails, parks, activities, etc. in Watauga County. The contents of these plans are summarized below.

Blowing Rock

The Town of Blowing Rock developed a comprehensive recreation master plan in 2018, and revised it in March 2021. The plan contains a number of general recommendations related to accessibility, maintenance, encouraging a walkable community, and wayfinding. The plan stresses greenways/multi-use trails in general, and references the 2014 High Country Bike Plan for recommended projects. Completion of the Middle Fork Greenway is emphasized. While no new parks are recommended, the plan states that “all reasonable efforts should be made to acquire” property that is contiguous to existing parks, and that such action should be a high priority.



In a separate section, specific recommendations are made for 10 town parks and recreation facilities. Most are various maintenance, repair, and upgrade issues, though a common theme is sidewalk/trail improvements and connections to other facilities.

Beech Mountain

The Town of Beech Mountain has been somewhat of an anomaly in Watauga County in that while most of the town is within the boundaries of Watauga, paved access to the town was only through Avery County near Banner Elk. However, Buckeye Creek Road has recently been paved and improved, resulting in paved access to Hwy 321 in Watauga County.

The Town’s comprehensive plan (2020-2035) contains a lengthy section on parks and recreation. One recommendation is to “market activities and programs to out-of-town residents,” specifically “residents of areas such as Vilas, Bethel, Cove Creek, and Boone would use Buckeye Recreation Center if they were aware of what was offered.”

Other recommendations in the plan are for the following facilities:

- A picnic shelter at the Lake Coffey recreation area
- A sheltered outdoor cooking facility at Buckeye Recreation Center
- Camping facilities
- An amphitheater
- A ropes course, climbing wall, or zipline

Boone

The Town of Boone's 2006 Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2018 and contains a section on parks, recreation, and open space. Expansion of the greenway is emphasized. A past greenway study noted that "Boone's topography and multiple streams offer good opportunities for an even distribution of greenways throughout the urban area." The plan envisions a system of greenways rather than a simple extension of the existing one. However, it makes only a general recommendation and doesn't identify any specific sites where greenways might be established.



The plan notes that Boone has 30 neighborhoods, but very few neighborhood parks. It recommends "long term development of neighborhood mini parks, pocket parks, and other, more sizable neighborhood facilities." Again, this is a general recommendation with no specific sites identified other than the need for "public green spaces and parks in the downtown business district."

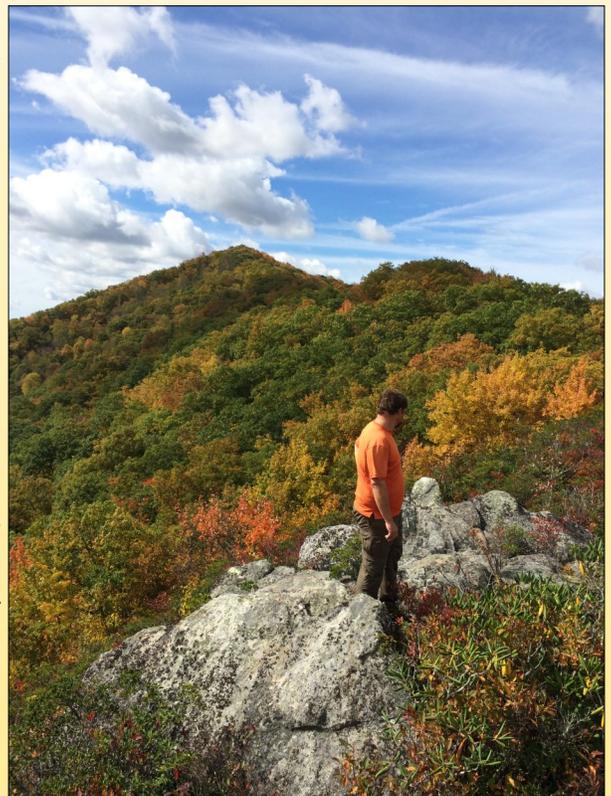
The plan generally recommends "land acquisition for new recreation sites in advance of need".

Seven Devils

Recommendations in Seven Devils' plan focus on trail and greenway construction, with many routes specifically identified. Notable is the recommendation to establish trail access to Bear Paw State Natural Area. Other proposals include repurposing the old town hall building as a community center with fitness equipment and meeting rooms, and establishing a sledding hill. Blue Ridge Conservancy owns a large tract of land on Peak Mountain and plans to construct a trail there in the near future. The new town hall sits on a 6.5 acre tract that is proposed to be developed into a park.

Conclusions regarding town plans

The most obvious planning overlap between the towns and the county is Boone and Blowing Rock's support of the Middle Fork Greenway, though specific details are not to be found. Trails and greenways are a common theme in all four plans, though not surprisingly much of the focus is internal (i.e. within town limits). Beech Mountain's invitation for western Watauga residents to use their facilities should inform Watauga County's recreation planning.



A trail is planned along the ridge of Peak Mountain in Seven Devils.

Northern Peaks Trail Master Plan

In 2011, the Watauga County Tourism Development Authority produced the *Boone Area Outdoor Recreation Plan* which included a recommendation for a 40-mile trail linking Boone to West Jefferson along a series of mountain peaks. Called the Northern Peaks Trail, the concept received much public support and interest from local governments and private organizations, who sponsored production of the Northern Peaks Trail Master Plan, completed in 2017 (https://issuu.com/dbdplanning/docs/npt_final_plan).



The North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation subsequently recommended, and the General Assembly approved, designation of the Northern Peaks Trail as an official state trail. State trails must meet the following criteria:

1. Statewide significant natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation value;
2. Sufficient potential length and beauty to attract varied and significant use from regions outside the local area; and
3. Minimal and surmountable incompatible features, such as roads, intrusive development or large water bodies.

State trails are units of the North Carolina state parks system, but they are not wholly owned and managed by the state. Sections of a state trail might be owned and managed by a variety of entities- local governments, federal government, state parks, private conservation organizations, etc.

The southern terminus of the proposed trail is Rivers Park in downtown Boone. The planning area in Watauga County encompasses Rich Mountain, Snake Mountain, and Elk Knob. The master plan identifies Watauga County-owned Howard's Knob Park "as a major destination for the Northern Peaks Trail" with "significant potential as a destination trailhead." The plan envisions linking the NPT to the Mountains-To-Sea State Trail via the Boone Greenway and the Middle Fork Greenway.

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners has approved a resolution in support of the trail. Blue Ridge Conservancy has taken the lead in project implementation by hiring a project manager to work exclusively toward the goal.

The trail is relevant to Watauga Parks and Recreation planning because Howard's Knob Park is identified as a major feature along the route. In addition, the possibility exists that one or more segments of the trail would be appropriate for County ownership and management.

For more details and updates, visit the following websites:

<https://npt.dbdplanning.com/> <https://blueridgeconservancy.org/northern-peaks-trail>

Howard's Knob Park Master Plan

The 5.7-acre County-owned park at the peak of Howard's Knob is highly visible from downtown Boone. Conversely, the view from the park of Boone is spectacular (the park's elevation is 4,400 feet). It was previously the site of an experimental wind turbine, owned by the federal government. When the turbine was taken down in 1983, the property was donated to the County, which then developed it into a park with a picnic shelter, viewing area, picnic tables, an open green, and a parking lot. These facilities have deteriorated over the years.

The park is surrounded by a few single family homes and undeveloped private property. Blue Ridge Conservancy owns a 46-acre parcel near the park that contains a 1.5 mile trail. The Conservancy has an interest in conserving additional properties on the Knob if opportunities develop.

Watauga County, the county Tourism Development Authority, and a number of other partners commissioned the plan as a guide for the park's redevelopment. Redevelopment of the park is important for three reasons: 1) as a recreation facility for county residents, much like any other park; 2) as a tourist attraction that contributes to the county's tourist economy; and 3) as an important component of the planned Northern Peaks Trail (see section on Northern Peaks Trail).



The plan was developed with the help of a steering committee, a community survey, public engagement meetings, and stakeholder meetings.

Recommendations call for a thorough upgrade of park facilities, in addition to several new features. The primary attraction of the redesigned park will be an improved, accessible overlook. Three new overlooks are proposed. Infrastructure improvements are included (parking, signage, restrooms, and fencing). Walking trails and restored picnic facilities are recommended. New features in the plan are a tranquility garden, a council ring, and bouldering areas. The plan also recommends that the TDA consider developing a land acquisition strategy for surrounding property that would provide for a larger trail system and aid in the implementation of the Northern Peaks Trail.

Total cost estimate for all recommendations is \$2,581,553 as of Fall 2022.

The complete plan can be found at this link:

https://issuu.com/dbdplanning/docs/new_howards_knob_mp_draft_09_28_2022

The County received a \$350,000 Accessibility for Parks grant in March 2023 for park improvements.

Middle Fork Greenway

The Middle Fork Greenway is a work-in-progress that will eventually connect Boone and Blowing Rock along the Middle Fork of the New River (South Fork). It is a project of Blue Ridge Conservancy in partnership with Watauga County, the Town of Blowing Rock, and the Town of Boone. A full-time greenway director oversees planning, fundraising, land acquisition, and construction. Finished sections are as follows:

- Tweetsie Railroad to a site just south of Mystery Hill
- Niley Cook Road to Quality Plus Gas (across from Tweetsie), including a trailhead on Niley Cook Road and one on Hwy 321
- Blowing Rock trailhead at Shoppes on the Parkway
- Boone Greenway connector on Deerfield Road
- Payne Branch Park section

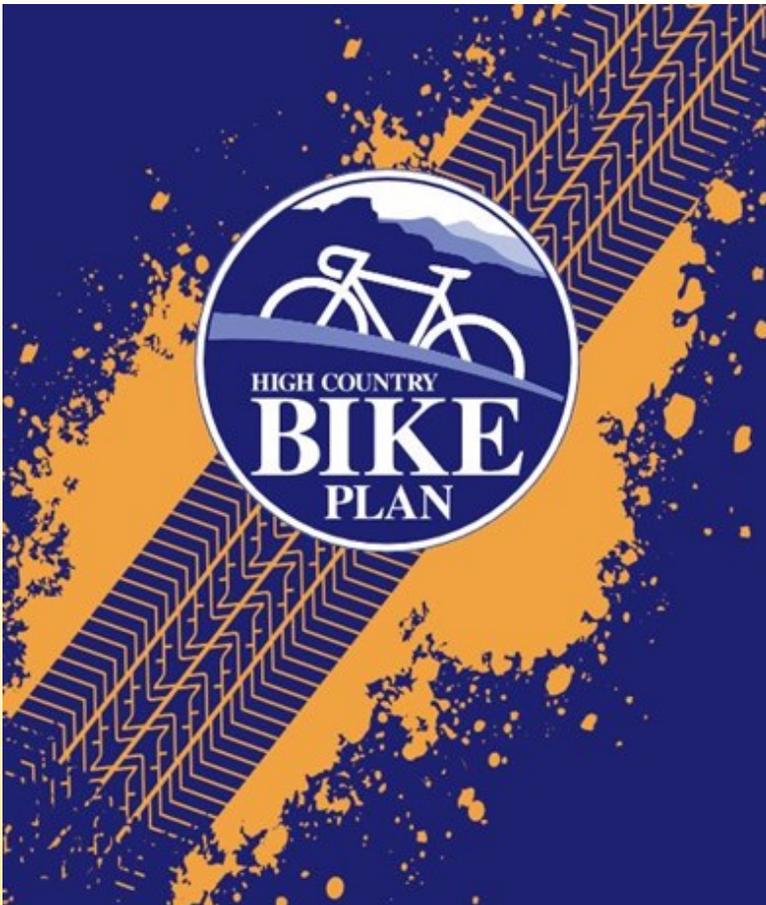
Blue Ridge Conservancy recently purchased a 33-acre tract along the Middle Fork just outside Boone town limits. Fundraising is currently underway to pay for one mile of trail construction and development of the tract into a trailhead park. Land acquisition, construction preparation, and fundraising continue on other segments.

Watauga County Parks & Recreation owns and manages completed sections of the greenway in its jurisdiction. The County also aids in fundraising by being the fiduciary agent on certain grant applications. When complete, the Greenway will be a major recreation asset for the county. More details can be found on the Greenway website- <https://www.middleforkgreenway.org/>



High Country Bike Plan

The plan was produced in 2014 by High Country Council of Governments with input from a steering committee, local government staff, a survey, and community meetings. The plan is transportation-focused (as opposed to recreation, which is not to say that a route could not be both); intending to identify a network of routes that connect municipalities and other destinations in the region. The purpose is that when road improvements are made on these routes, accommodations will be added for bicycles. Consideration of off-road, unpaved trails is not within the scope of the plan. Off-road paved greenways were considered if they also serve a transportation purpose.



In Watauga County, a total of 93.6 miles of road is recommended for bicycle improvements. These improvements range from a 2-foot paved shoulder to an off-road paved path. Specific recommendations in Watauga County are:

- Hwy 221 between Blowing Rock and Grandfather Mountain
- Hwy 105
- Hwy 194 from Banner Elk to Valle Crucis
- Broadstone Road, Hwy 194, Mast Gap Road, Hwy 321 to Hwy 421
- Hwy 321 from Hwy 421 in Boone to Hwy 221 in Blowing Rock (i.e. Middle Fork Greenway)
- Deerfield Road and Bamboo Road from Deerfield intersection to the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Hwy 421 from Boone to Tennessee; and from Boone to Hwy 221 in Deep Gap
- Old Hwy 421 from Hwy 421 intersection to Deep Gap
- Hwy 194 from Boone to Hwy 221

Notwithstanding a focus on transportation routes, the plan does identify one recreational route in the county. However, such delineation does not come with any proposed road improvements, being for promotional purposes only. The Watauga recreational route begins at Valle Crucis Park, follows Hwy 194 to Mast Gap Road, crosses Hwy 321 to Old Hwy 421 to Emory Greer Road in Zionville to Slabtown Road to Silverstone Road to Joe Shumaker Road to Sherwood Road and ends the loop at Old Hwy 421.

Complete plan available at:

<https://hccog.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Bike-Plan-2014-final-min.pdf>

PROGRAMS

Recreational programs operated by Watauga County Parks & Recreation consist of the following:

Aquatics

Group swim lessons

Season: February- November and occasionally December - January

Number of participants: 21 per week

Ages: 3-12

Needs: more instructors and toys

Parent/infant swim lessons

Season: About every other month

Number of participants: 9 per month

Ages: 6 months- 3 years

Private swim lessons

Season: year round

Number of participants: 130 per month

Ages: 5 months- 81

Needs: more instructors

Lifeguard training class

Season: quarterly or as needed

Facilities used: party rooms, rec and lap pools

Number of participants: 5 per class

Ages: 15+



Water aerobics classes

Season: year-round

Facilities used: Rec pool

Number of participants: average 35 per day (summer-55)

Ages: 20-95

Needs: additional instructor

Deep water aerobics classes**Season:** year-round**Facilities used:** lap pool**Number of participants:** average 20 per day**Ages:** 20-95**Need:** additional instructor**Lap & public swim****Season:** year-round**Facilities used:** rec and lap pools**Number of participants:** 200+ per week (summer-350+)**Ages:** infant-senior**Swim Meets****Season:** year-round**Facilities used:** lap pool**Number of participants:** 121 swimmers per meet on average**Ages:** 6-18**Adaptive Swim****Season:** Aug-May**Facilities used:** rec pool**Number of participants:** average 20 per week**Swim Safe****Season:** Fall and Spring**Facilities used:** rec pool (lap for swim tests only)**Number of participants:** average 65-70 per week**Ages:** 6-8**Needs:** More volunteers to help teach

Fitness

Weight Room/Cardio Space

The weight room and cardio spaces within the facility provide year-round fitness opportunities for members and customers with day passes. The fitness area is one of the most popular attractions of the Recreation Center. The fitness area and equipment are offered for ages 13+ and attracts a wide range of ages from young adults to seniors.

Season: Year-round**Facilities used:** Weight Room, Spin Room, Community Room, Gym, and Pool Party Rooms**Ages:** 13+

Needs/Comments: Fitness is growing and expanding aggressively. A larger maintenance budget to service and clean equipment on a scheduled rotation, and purchase more cardio/weight lifting equipment is needed to serve the large influx of users. Ideally, a full-time fitness director for both the internal fitness programs and potential outdoor fitness expansion is desired.

Group Fitness

Group Fitness (ages 16+) provides year-round fitness training for members and customers with day passes, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, be a part of a community, and share in the joy of working out alongside others.

Season:	Year 'Round
Facilities used:	Weight Room, Spin Room, Community Room, Gym, and Pool Party Rooms
Number of participants:	25 per class
Number of Classes:	Average 56 per week
Needs/Comments:	More equipment is beneficial to effectively continue these group classes. Group fitness is now an integral part of the recreation center. Expanding to outdoor facilities, and other properties would be a goal moving forward.



Personal Training

Personal Training provides year-round fitness opportunities for members to encourage them to get more involved in their health and fitness. Personal trainers are essential to the fitness community at the recreation center because they offer members the opportunity to understand our equipment and be safe while they use our facility. Trainers help instill confidence, knowledge, and partnership within our gym environment.

Season:	Year-Round
Facilities used:	WCRC Weight Room, Community Room, and Cardio Area
Number of participants:	45 per week
Ages:	13+
Needs/Comments:	Offering personal trainer certifications in-house is a goal.

Aqua Fitness Classes

Aqua fitness provides year-round water aerobics for members and customers with day passes, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, be a part of a community, and share in the joy of working out alongside others. Aqua fitness is offered for ages 16+, with a variety of middle-aged to senior people in class.

Season:	Year-round
Facilities used:	Recreation and Lap Pool
Number of participants:	Ave. 15/class
Ages:	16+
Needs/Comments:	Because the water has salt, supplies and equipment for classes erode much quicker. New equipment will have to be purchased more regularly than other pools in the area.

Youth Sports— Baseball/Softball

Lil' Hitters T Ball

This first level of baseball is designed to develop a love of the game while teaching basic baseball skills through fun games.

Season:	May
Facilities used:	Brookshire Park
Number of participants:	40
Ages:	3-5
Needs/Comments:	There is demand in the community to offer more sessions, which would require additional staff.

T-Ball

T-Ball is the first level of co-ed baseball for children ages 5 and 6. The program is designed to teach children the fundamentals of baseball/softball including throwing, catching, and batting. Participants bat off a tee the first part of the season and might bat coach pitch late in the season. This program also emphasizes teamwork and sportsmanship. Teams are formed by geographical location.

Season:	April-June
Facilities used:	8 School Fields, Mountaineer Ruritan, Blowing Rock Davant, Complex 2, Brookshire Park, Old Cove Creek Field
Number of participants:	118
Number of teams:	13
Needs:	A dedicated, centrally located field with skinned infield and lights for league games.

Machine-Pitch Baseball

Machine Pitch Baseball is a co-ed league for children ages 7 and 8. The basics and fundamentals of baseball are taught. Teams meet three times per week for practices and games. Teams are formed by geographical location.

Season:	April - June
Facilities used:	8 School Fields, Mountaineer Ruritan, Blowing Rock Davant, Complex 3, Brookshire Park, Old Cove Creek Field
Number of participants:	60
Number of teams:	6
Needs/Comments:	A dedicated, centrally located field with skinned infield and lights for league games.

**12-U Baseball**

Children ages 11 and 12 continue to develop the fundamentals of baseball. The season runs approximately three months. Teams meet four times each week for practices and games. At the end of the season, an all-star team is formed.

Season:	March - June
Facilities used:	Complex 4 Field and Complex 3 Field
Number of participants:	38
Number of teams:	3
Needs:	Additional field space for practices. Indoor space is needed for practices early in the season, during inclement weather, for batting practices, and additional practices throughout the season.

10-U Baseball

Major 2 Baseball is for children ages 9-10. This is the first level of kid pitch. In this league, the fundamentals of baseball are developed. Teams meet four times each week for practices and games. At the end of the season, an all-star team is formed.

Season:	March - June
Facilities used:	Complex 3 and Complex 4 Fields
Number of participants:	60
Number of teams:	5
Needs/Comments:	Additional field space for practices. Some teams practiced only one time each week due to lack of space. Indoor space for placement drills, batting practices, early season practices, practices during inclement weather, and additional practices throughout the season.

Junior League Baseball

Junior League Baseball is for children ages 13-15. In this league, the fundamentals of baseball continue to be developed. The season runs approximately 3 months. Teams meet 4 times each week for practices and games. At the end of the season, an All-Star team is formed.

Season:	April - June
Facilities used:	Complex 3 and Complex 2 Field
Number of participants:	60
Number of teams:	5
Needs/Comments:	Need dedicated field space for both games and practices. In 2022, practices and games were held on the complex 3 field - an adult softball field that is too large for this age group. Teams practiced only one time each week due to lack of space or not at all if a practice was cancelled due to weather. Indoor space is needed for placement drills, batting practices, early season practices, practices during inclement weather, and additional practices throughout the season.

Girls' Machine Pitch Softball

This program is designed to teach girls ages 7 & 8 the fundamentals of fast pitch softball. Teams are formed by geographic location. Girls play approximately 10 games during the season and meet approximately 3 times per week for games, practices, and/or clinics.

Season:	April through early-June
Facilities used:	Eight school fields, Mountaineer Ruritan, Blowing Rock Davant, Complex 1, Complex 3, Brookshire Park, Old Cove Creek Field
Number of participants:	31
Number of teams:	3
Needs/Comments:	A dedicated, centrally located field with skinned infield and lights is needed for league games. Indoor space is needed for placement drills, batting practices, early season practices, practices during inclement weather, and additional practices throughout the season.

Girls' Fast Pitch Softball 10-U & 12-U

This program is designed to teach girls age 9 - 12 the fundamentals of fast pitch softball. With sufficient registrations, two separate leagues are formed - Major 2 for 9 & 10 year old girls and Major 1 for 11 & 12 year old girls. Girls play approximately 12 games during the season. Teams meet approximately four times per week for games, practices, and/or clinics. At the end of the season, an All Star Team is formed.

Season:	March through June
Facilities used:	Complex 1, WHS Softball Field. Some games are played in other counties.
Number of participants:	35
Number of teams:	4
Needs/Comments:	Need indoor space for placement drills, batting practices, early season practices, practices during inclement weather, and additional practices throughout the season. Additional field space is needed for practices.

All-Star Baseball 8-U, 10-U, 12-U, 15-U and Softball 8-U, 10-U, 12-U

All-Star teams are formed at the end of regular season from the regular season teams. These teams compete in the district tournament and have the opportunity to advance to the state tournament in July.

Season:	March through June
Facilities used:	Complex 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Mountaineer Ruritan, Blowing Rock Davant
Number of participants:	72
Number of teams:	Typically 7
Needs/Comments:	Indoor space is needed for team selection, batting practices, practices during inclement weather, and additional practices throughout the season.

Lil' Kickers Soccer

Lil' Kickers Soccer is the first level of soccer for children ages 3 - 4 years old. This program is designed to develop a love of soccer while teaching basic soccer skills through fun games.

Season: September-Early October

Facilities used: Complex 4

Number of participants: 30 with a waitlist

Ages: 3-4

Needs/Comments: There is a community demand for more sessions, but additional staff is needed in order to offer more.

Youth Soccer Leagues

Open to children ages 5 -15. Six levels of play are offered based on age: U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, U-15. Whenever possible, teams are formed by geographical location. Separate boys' and girls' leagues are created when sufficient numbers exist in any age group. If numbers do not allow for separate leagues, the leagues are co-ed.

Season: mid-August - late October or early November

Facilities used: Eight School Facilities, Brookshire Park, Valle Crucis Park, Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex, Blowing Rock Davant Field

Number of participants: 467

Number of teams: 46

Needs/Comments: Indoor space needed for placement drills, late season practices, practices during inclement weather, and additional practices throughout the season.

Spring Soccer Clinics

Youth soccer clinics are offered in the spring to promote development of individual soccer skills. Soccer skills are taught through a variety of drills and games. Small sided games are played at the end of each clinic to showcase individuals' growth and development.

Season: April - May

Facilities used: Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex

Number of participants: 85

Needs/Comments: Indoor space is needed for practices during inclement weather. An indoor facility would also allow for indoor, winter soccer clinics and leagues.

Football

Flag Football Clinics

Flag Football Clinics are offered for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. This program is designed to develop a love of football while teaching basic football skills through fun games. Small sided games are played as the clinic progresses. The clinics are instructed by Watauga middle school football coaches, staff, and players. This clinic consists of five sessions lasting one-hour each. The clinic meets Saturday mornings.

Season: September - October

Facilities used: Hardin Park School Field

Number of participants: 11

Ages: 5-8

Needs/Comments: Indoor facility needed for clinics to limit distractions and weather related elements.



Flag Football League

Watauga County Parks and Recreation offers a youth flag football league to children in 1st through 6th grades. Three levels of play are offered based on grade: 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, and 5th/6th grade. All leagues are co-ed. Teams meet an average of three times per week, including games and practices.

Season:	Late August - October
Facilities used:	Hardin Park School field, Watauga High School lower field, Watauga High School football field, some travel to surrounding counties for games.
Number of participants:	66
Number of teams:	7
Needs/Comments:	Dedicated field(s) are needed for this program, preferably with lighting. Current reliance is on school facilities that are often unavailable due to their own programming. An indoor facility is needed for practices during inclement weather and for additional practices throughout the season. Extra officiating and field supervising staff will be needed with expected growth of the program.

Basketball

K-1st Basketball League

This basketball league is for youth in kindergarten and first grade. Fundamentals of basketball are taught and developed by volunteer coaches at practices. Teams meet three times each week for games and/or practices.

Season:	Late October - December
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center, Old Cove Creek Gym, eight elementary schools
Number of participants:	88
Number of teams:	9
Needs/Comments:	Additional gym space is needed in order to adequately offer a full season of game dates and practice space.

**2nd & 3rd Grade Basketball League**

Fundamentals of basketball are taught and developed at practices by volunteer coaches. Games are played to implement and showcase these skills. Teams meet three times each week for games and/or practices.

Season:	Late October - December
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center, Old Cove Creek Gym, eight elementary schools
Number of participants:	139
Number of teams:	15
Needs/Comments:	Additional gym space will be needed in order to adequately offer a full season of game dates and practice space.

4th-5th Grade Basketball League

Fundamentals of basketball continue to be taught and developed at this level at practices by volunteer coaches, and strategies are introduced. Teams meet three times each week for games and/or practices. When registration numbers are high enough, boys and girls are divided into separate leagues.

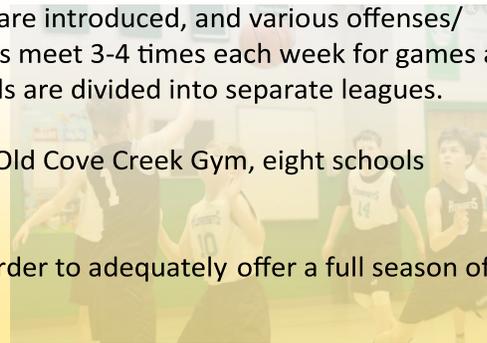
Season:	January - early March
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center, Old Cove Creek Gym, eight elementary schools
Number of participants:	165
Number of teams:	17
Needs/Comments:	Additional gym space will be needed in order to adequately offer a full season of game dates and practice space.

6th - 8th Grade Basketball League

030524 BCC Packet

Fundamentals of basketball are continued to be developed, strategies are introduced, and various offenses/ defenses are taught. Teams are managed by volunteer coaches. Teams meet 3-4 times each week for games and/ or practices. When registration numbers are high enough, boys and girls are divided into separate leagues.

Season:	January- early March
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center, Old Cove Creek Gym, eight schools
Number of participants:	172
Number of teams:	18
Needs/Comments:	Additional gym space will be needed in order to adequately offer a full season of game dates and practice space.



Youth Volleyball Clinics

Youth Volleyball Clinics are offered to promote development of individual volleyball skills. Modified games are played at the end of the program to showcase individuals' growth and development.

Season:	February - March
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	Ave. of 30
Needs/Comments:	Growth of program will require additional gym space.

Tennis

Quick Start Tennis

Quick Start Tennis is offered to children ages 5 - 8. Equipment and courts are tailored to the size of a young child so that participants can develop skills, learn, and succeed at a faster rate and have fun. The standard court size for 5 - 8 year old children is 36' X 18' instead of the traditional full size 78' X 27' court.

Season:	June - July
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center Tennis Courts
Number of participants:	38

Junior Tennis

The Junior Tennis program is for children ages 9 - 15. Three levels of lessons are offered: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. The beginners start with learning and then mastering the basics of tennis. The intermediate and advanced players are taught strokes and strategies. This program allows children to advance at their own pace. Advanced players have the opportunity to play matches against other recreational tennis programs over the course of the summer.

Season:	June-July
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center tennis courts & WHS tennis courts
Number of participants:	59



Youth Pickleball Clinics/Leagues/Tournaments

A variety of youth pickleball clinics are offered over the course of the year. The instructional clinics are for beginner to intermediate players. The goal is to develop year-round clinics, leagues, & tournaments.

Season:	Year-round
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	130
Ages:	8-15
Comments:	This is a new program. Growth is expected in numbers and programs offered.

Adult Fall Softball

Two levels of men's softball (recreational and competitive) as well as co-ed leagues are offered in the fall. Team registration is accepted. Games are played Monday- Thursday evenings. Teams are scheduled for 12 games to include an end of season tournament. Awards are given to regular season champions and runners-up as well as tournament champions and runners-up in each division.

Season:	August- September
Facilities used:	Complex 2 & 3
Number of participants:	272
Number of teams:	17



Adult Spring Softball

Four divisions of adult softball are offered during the spring season: Men's Open A (competitive league), Men's Open B (recreational), Men's Church League, and Women's Open League. Games are played Monday- Friday evenings. Teams are scheduled for 14 games to include an end of season tournament.

Awards are given to regular season champions and runners-up as well as tournament champions and runners-up in each division.

Season:	April - July
Facilities used:	Complex 2 & 3 Fields
Number of participants:	272
Number of teams:	17
Ages:	16 years of age and older



Adult Volleyball

Men's and women's volleyball are offered in the winter. Women's volleyball has two divisions: Division A (Competitive) and Division B (Recreational). Team registration is accepted. Each team is scheduled for 11 matches, to include an end-of-season tournament. Awards are given to regular season champions and runners-up as well as tournament champions and runners-up in each division.

Season:	Mid-January - March
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	190
Number of teams:	19
Ages:	16 years & older



Adult Co-ed Volleyball

Two divisions of co-ed volleyball are offered - Division A (Competitive) and Division B (Recreational). Team registration is accepted. Each team is scheduled for 11 matches, to include an end-of-season tournament. Awards are given to regular season champions and runners-up as well as tournament champions and runners-up in each division. Matches are played in the fall at the Watauga Community Recreation Center.

Season:	Late September - early November
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	120
Number of teams:	12
Ages:	16 and over

Adult Basketball

Three divisions of men's basketball are offered- Competitive, Recreational, and Church League. Teams are scheduled for 10 games, to include an end-of-season tournament. Awards are given to regular season champions and runners-up as well as tournament champions and runners-up in each division.

Season:	November-December
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	168
Number of teams:	14
Ages:	16 years of age & older

Adult 3v3 Basketball

This program is for both men and women. Three divisions are offered- Competitive, Recreational, and 50 & older. Teams are scheduled for 10 games, to include an end-of-season tournament. Awards are given to regular season champions and runners-up as well as tournament champions and runners-up in each division.

Season:	Early November - late December
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	60
Number of teams:	10
Ages:	16 years of age & older

Adult Open Gym Pickleball

Adult Open Gym Pickleball is offered daily at the recreation center for all levels of pickleball players. Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions are available each week.

Season:	Daily, year-round
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	Estimated 18,000 annually (based on sign in sheets of 40-70 participants daily)
Ages:	16 years of age & older

Friends & Family Pickleball

This program is offered several times each week so that groups can play together exclusively (no rotations of partners or opponents). There are no restrictions on age or structure.

Season:	3-6 times per week, year round
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	Estimated 4,000 annually (based on sign in sheets of 10-30 participants per session)

Adult Pickleball 101 Clinic for True Beginners

This clinic teaches the basics of pickleball and is offered to true beginners.

Season:	1-3 days per week, year-round
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	Estimated 1,600 annually (based on sign in sheets of 12-36 players/clinic)
Ages:	16 years of age & older

Adult Pickleball Clinics for Advanced Beginners

Adult Pickleball Clinics are offered for Advanced Beginners 2-4 times each week. Participants must register in advance for these clinics to ensure a 1:6, instructor to participant ratio. In these clinics, technical skills and strategies are taught and developed.

Season:	2-4 days per week, year round
Facilities used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants:	Estimated 1,300 annually (based on 12 students per clinic, 2 times each week)
Ages:	16 years of age & older

Adult Pickleball Leagues & Tournaments

Adult Pickleball Leagues and Tournaments are available several times each year. Doubles, mixed doubles, singles leagues, & tournaments are offered.

Season:	Year-round
Facilities Used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center
Ages:	16 years of age & older



OTHER PROGRAMS

Teen Extreme Camp

A 5-week day camp for rising 7th through rising 9th graders, this camp provides activities for teens to engage in field trips, arts, and games. Registration begins the first Monday of May.

Season: Summer
Facilities used: Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants: 30-35/week
Ages: Rising 7th through 9th graders

Summer Adventure Camp

An 8-week day camp program for rising 1st through 7th grade children, the camp is centrally located at WHS. This structured camp provides themed weeks with activities, field trips, arts, and games.

Season: Summer
Facilities used: Watauga High School, Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of Participants: 100/week
Ages: Rising 1st-7th graders
Needs/Comments: More space to expand numbers, and more staff to work

Over Yonder Camp

A 7-week summer day camp program, this camp provides a needed day camp resource to parents on the western end of Watauga County. This structured camp provides themed weeks with activities, field trips, arts, and games.

Season: Summer
Facilities used: Mabel School, Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants: 50/week
Ages: Rising 1st-7th graders

Fun in the Sun Camp

Summer day camp program centrally located at Hardin Park School. This camp provides activities, field trips, arts, and games.

Season: Summer
Facilities Used: Hardin Park School, Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants: 60/week
Ages: Rising 1st-7th graders
Needs/Comments: More school access/availability needed to offer more weeks of camp

Extreme Dance Camp

A one-week camp focusing on clogging, hip-hop, and cheerleading. Dance showcase at the end of the week.

Season: Summer
Facilities used: Watauga High School, Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of participants: 80-115
Ages: 5-17
Needs/Comments: More school/space availability to offer the camp to more children

Holiday Break Camps

Five days of camp offered during both the winter/spring school break for girls and boys. This structured camp provides activities, field trips, arts, and games.

Season: Spring/Winter
Facilities used: Watauga Community Recreation Center
Number of Participants: 30/day
Ages: Rising 1st-6th graders
Needs/Comments: Additional staff would allow for more participants

Senior Games

With the goal of health promotion and wellness education, the Senior Games is a program for adults 50 years of age and older. Qualifiers from the local games will move on to state finals. The games emphasize the importance of staying active while engaging in friendly competition. This competition is in both sports and the arts. Sports include basketball, racquetball, and swimming. SilverArts showcases the creativity of seniors with categories including literary arts, visual arts, performing arts, heritage arts, and cheerleaders.

Season: year-round with emphasis in spring
Facilities used: multiple venues
Number of participants: 100-200
Needs/Comments: Need to recruit younger participants



Senior Trips & Activities

Focusing on health and social wellness, seniors can embark on journeys and activities within the community and surrounding areas. From hikes, to art, to adventure, the Senior Trips & Activities take participants to places they've never been before.

Season: year-round
Facilities Used: Watauga Community Recreation Center & area venues
Number of Participants: 100-200

Special Populations

Special Olympics

Special Olympics provides year-round athletic training and sports competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families and other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Season: year-round
Facilities used: Watauga Community Recreation Center & area venues
Number of participants: 100-200 annually
Number of teams: 14
Ages: 6 to 80
Needs/Comments: More volunteers and coaching staff are needed.

Sports Expo

In conjunction with Special Olympics Watauga County, the Sports Expo offers a day for athletes to try out new sports. Each year five different sports are offered. Athletes travel to each sport station to try their hand (or foot) with a new activity.

Season: Fall
Facilities Used: Watauga Community Recreation Center and the Recreation Complex
Number of participants: 100-125
Ages: 6-80
Needs/Comments: Volunteers

Spring Games

The Special Olympics Watauga County Spring Games highlight the athletic competition of local athletes in track & field, aquatics, bocce, softball skills, volleyball, and powerlifting.

Season: Spring
Facilities Used: Watauga Community Recreation Center and the Recreation Complex
Number of Participants: 100-200
Ages: 6-80
Needs/Comments: Volunteers

OTHER PROGRAMS

Teen Activities

From dances, to meetings, to classes, and crafts - Teen Activities are geared to teen boys and girls. With the goal of wellness, health, and social activity, teens can enjoy a variety of events.

Season:	year-round
Facilities Used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center and the Recreation Complex
Number of participants:	Desired 100+ annually
Ages:	13-17
Needs/Comments:	Education & awareness to recruit interest

Trunk-or-Treat

Watauga Community Recreation Center parking lot neighborhood of vehicles, decorated and ready to hand out treats. For children of all ages.

Season:	Fall
Number of participants:	500-1,000
Ages:	All ages
Needs/Comments:	More participating vehicles

Swim with Santa

Holiday event at the featuring a visit and swim with Santa Claus, stories, and photographs.

Season:	Winter
Facilities Used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center's Recreation Pool
Number of participants:	25-50
Ages:	0-16
Needs/Comments:	

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

An all-age holiday affair, this event features arts & craft vendors for holiday shopping as well as festive pop up activities for the kids.

Season:	Winter
Facilities Used:	Watauga Community Recreation Center and the Recreation Complex
Number of participants:	Anticipated 250-2,000
Ages:	0 and up
Needs/Comments:	Staffing, volunteers, vendors, and food trucks needed.

Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Easter event with over 3,000 eggs spread throughout Complex 4 and 5 fields for children ages 0-12. Free event for the community.

Season:	Spring
Number of participants:	200-300
Needs/Comments:	Community donations of prizes and eggs needed



PUBLIC INPUT—CITIZEN SURVEY

Watauga County Parks and Recreation Department commissioned an online survey (implemented by an App State class) to gauge public opinion on desired recreation opportunities. Complete survey results, methodology, and a demographic profile of respondents are located in the appendix. Following is a summary and analysis of the results.

Facilities

Respondents were asked to allocate \$100 toward their desired recreation facility(s). The top five receiving the most dollars were:

Greenway	\$5,062
Disc golf	\$2,160
Pickleball	\$1,808
Recreation center	\$1,676
Outdoor pool	\$1,461

The next highest item, a splash pad, received \$509. Note that the interval between item # 1 and item # 2 is not incremental; i.e. a greenway received almost 3,000 more dollars than the second highest item. Similarly, # 5 received almost three times as many dollars as # 6.

The average of all items was \$548, thus greenway, disc golf, pickle ball, recreation center, and outdoor pool were the only items above average.

The recreation center option was not for a new center, but rather for enhancements to the existing one, such as better weight equipment and more room for fitness classes. These items were grouped into a single recreation center category. Note also that the survey administrator included a catch-all category labeled "Facilities," which received \$4,184 (the second highest item). This category included but was not limited to "year-round restrooms at all parks, a community and multipurpose space, indoor sports facilities, outdoor amphitheater/pavilion, a teen center, rental facilities to hold a camp, and general maintenance."

RESULTS FOR ALL ITEMS

GRAND Totals			
Greenway Total	\$ 5,062	Pool Total	\$ 140
Facilities Total	\$ 4,184	Climbing wall Total	\$ 135
Disc Golf Total	\$ 2,160	Tot Lot Total	\$ 130
Pickle Ball Total	\$ 1,808	Racquetball Total	\$ 125
Rec Center Total	\$ 1,676	Golf Total	\$ 100
Outdoor Pool Total	\$ 1,461	Bike Lane Total	\$ 100
Splash Pad Total	\$ 509	Preservation/ Protection Total	\$ 75
Mountain Biking Total	\$ 425	Roller Rink Total	\$ 60
Tennis Total	\$ 395	Stoplight	\$ 53
Dog Park Total	\$ 391	Basketball Total	\$ 45
Hiking Trails Total	\$ 338	Football Total	\$ 45
Trails Total	\$ 348	Fishing Total	\$ 40
Schedule Total	\$ 283	Softball Total	\$ 40
Batting cages Total	\$ 285	Parking	\$ 34
Skateboard Total	\$ 270	Howards Knob improvements	\$ 33
River Sports Total	\$ 270	Outdoor Bocce	\$ 20
Playground Total	\$ 269	Bouldering Area	\$ 20
Ice Rink Total	\$ 265	E-Sports Total	\$ 20
Biking Total	\$ 265	Roller Rink Total	\$ 20
Volleyball Total	\$ 185	Speed bumps	\$ 5
Soccer Total	\$ 170	Average	\$ 547.52
Baseball Total	\$ 260		

Programs

Respondents were also asked to allocate \$100 to desired programs. The responses that were above average (\$480) were:

Youth sports	\$1,996
Pickleball	\$990
Fitness	\$905
Disc golf	\$690
Adult programs	\$620
After school	\$600
Aquatics	\$570



Note that youth sports received almost \$1,000 more than the next closest program. Specific sports were not identified in this category. Though not as wide, a significant gap is evident between # 3 and # 4.

All desired programs are listed here:

Grand Totals		Running	\$394
Youth Sports	\$1996	Art Programs	\$355
Pickleball	\$990	Hiking	\$330
Fitness	\$905	Summer Camp	\$325
Disc Golf	\$690	Tennis	\$320
Adult Programs	\$620	Volleyball	\$300
After School	\$600	Youth Volleyball	\$263
Aquatics	\$570	Football	\$209
Hockey / Ice Skating	\$450	Gymnastics	\$200
Disability Programming	\$440	Yoga	\$140
Soccer	\$420	Cycling	\$138
Senior Programs	\$403	Skateboarding	\$50
Lacrosse	\$400	Average	\$479.50

Grading existing facilities

Respondents were asked to grade existing County recreation facilities using the following scale:

- A = excellent
- B = good
- C = average
- D = poor
- E = failing

They were also given the options:
 Unaware of
 Never used
 Not applicable



Tennis courts	59%	Never used
Pickle ball courts	58%	“
Baseball/softball fields	46%	“
Old Cove Creek gym	45%	“
River access-Watauga	42%	“
River access- New	41%	“
Howard’s Knob Park	33%	“
Rocky Knob Bike Park	32%	“
Ted Mackorell Soccer	32%	“
Tot Lot	25%	“
Brookshire Park	17%	“
Middle Fork Greenway	14%	“
Recreation Center	12%	“



Much smaller percentages marked “Unaware of” or “Not Applicable” but when coupled with “Never Used,” the satisfaction with existing facilities can be misleading. For example, only 30% expressed average or above satisfaction with the tennis courts, but 59% said they never used the tennis courts, five percent said “not applicable” and one percent were unaware of them. Therefore, to get a true gauging of tennis courts satisfaction, we must measure the satisfaction of those who actually use the tennis courts. This can be done by adding the percentages of grades A through E, which totals 36% of the respondents. Then divide the 30% , A through C, of average and above satisfaction by 36%, revealing that 83% of those who actually use the tennis courts have average or above satisfaction with them.

Below is a table showing the average and above percentages for each facility, using the above calculation method:

Facility/Amenity	Average, Good, and Excellent Responses
Middle Fork Greenway	100%
Rocky Knob Bike Park	98%
Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex	98%
River Access – Watauga River	98%
River Access – New River	98%
Brookshire Park	97%
Pickleball Courts	95%
Recreation Center	94%
Baseball/softball fields	91%
Tot Lot	90%
Howard’s Knob Park	88%
Tennis Courts	83%
Old Cove Creek Gym	73%

In summary, the data above shows that most people using the facilities rate them good to excellent. Even the lowest scoring item- Old Cove Creek Gym – ranked at the average level.

Gauging meeting community's needs

The survey also asked to what degree various facilities and programs “meet your household’s or community’s needs.” As above, satisfaction levels were calculated based on actual use of facilities/programs. Results are below:

Amenity/Program	Average, Good, and Excellent Responses
Natural areas/open space	95%
Community parks	94%
Unpaved hiking/walking trails	92%
Indoor fitness/exercise facilities	92%
Swim lessons	92%
Indoor gyms (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)	91%
Paved walking/biking trails (not including bike lanes/sidewalks)	90%
Public recreation opportunities (require membership)	88%
Summer camps	86%
Fitness classes	85%
Special Olympics	84%
Athletic programs for children	83%
Public recreation opportunities (don't require membership)	83%
Athletic programs for adults	80%
Safe biking paths	78%
Senior center	76%
Land use planning	71%
Senior games	71%
Arts and craft workshops	67%

Satisfaction is good to excellent for most of these facilities/programs. Even the lowest scoring item is within the average range.

Support for various actions

Respondents were asked their level of support for various actions the County could take to improve, expand, or create recreation facilities. Most of these actions would involve a significant capital outlay. “Somewhat Supportive” and “Very Supportive” were combined, as well as “Somewhat Unsupportive” and “Very Unsupportive” in order to comprehend the data at a glance.



Actions	Somewhat Supportive & Very supportive	Unsure	Somewhat Unsupportive & Very Unsupportive	No opinion	N/A
Fix-up/repair older park buildings & facilities.	92%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Develop new walking/biking trails that connect to existing trails.	91%	4%	5%	0%	0%
Purchase land to preserve open space, natural and historic areas.	90%	7%	3%	1%	0%
Purchase land for developing future use.	83%	11%	5%	0%	0%
Develop new walking/biking trails in places that aren't nearby existing trails.	82%	10%	7%	0%	0%
Renovate existing walking/biking trails.	80%	12%	9%	0%	0%
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting.	78%	11%	6%	4%	0%
Expand outdoor fitness facilities.	75%	16%	7%	2%	0%
Develop new nature, history & horticulture facilities.	74%	13%	12%	1%	0%
Build new spray (water) parks with fountains for use by non-swimmers.	64%	16%	17%	3%	0%
Develop dog park facilities (fenced, but no leashes required).	62%	14%	19%	3%	0%
Expand indoor fitness facilities.	62%	22%	11%	4%	0%
Develop new athletic fields.	55%	24%	17%	4%	0%

All actions received over 50% support, with about half 80% or over. Note that the lower scoring items had a significant percentage of “Unsure” (as high as 24%), meaning that the unsupportive percentages were not very high, even though the supportive scored lower. No item had an unsupportive score higher than 19%, with most in the single digits.

Among the higher scoring items were three actions related to trails, which reiterates support for greenways evident in other parts of the survey. Two options for purchasing land ranked high.



Facility use

Approximately how many times have you visited each Watauga County Parks and Recreation facility in the last year?	Average
Middle Fork Greenway	83
Tot Lot	66
Watauga Recreation Center	44
Brookshire Park/ Soccer Field	16
Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex	13
Complex Ballfield	13
Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park	12
Pickleball court	8
River Access - Watauga	6
River Access - New River	5
Old Cove Creek Gym/Conference Center	4
Howard's Knob Park	2
Tennis court	1



PUBLIC INPUT- COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Two community meetings were held to obtain in-person public input– one in Boone and the other at the Old Cove Creek School Gym. These meetings were attended by 84 citizens. Attendees participated in a “dot exercise” where a list of recreation opportunities was displayed and each person was given four dots to place beside their desired facilities. The results are as follows:

The results are as follows:

Dots Awarded	Activity/Amenity
36	splash pad
29	greenway
23	educational nature center
18	inclusive playground
17	picnic shelter with restroom
15	outdoor beach volleyball
13	float dock with ADA paddle access
13	tennis
12	paddle access
12	trail running
11	boardwalk with educational materials
10	nature theme multi-level playground
10	outdoor pickleball
9	single track
9	SUP boarding
8	fishing piers
7	boardwalk over dry area
7	whitewater rafting
7	canoeing
6	adult flag football
5	biking
4	boardwalk over wetlands
4	nature preserve
3	wetland viewing areas
3	youth flag football
2	restrooms
2	adult basketball
2	baseball
261	Total number of dots or “votes”
10.6	Average number of votes per facility

In addition, participants were given individual comment cards. A total of 80 comments were made. Disc golf was by far the most desired facility, with 20 comments related to it. The next closest in number- more facilities outside of Boone, a sauna, and bike trails- received four comments each. The remaining comments were wide-ranging and mostly unique, with no comment repeated more than once. See appendix for all comments.

Comments were solicited from several community groups/agencies that might have an interest in the provision of recreation but are not recreation providers themselves. Those contacted were Boone Area Chamber of Commerce (no response), Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce (responded), Watauga County Economic Development Commission (EDC) (responded), Appalachian District Health Department (responded), Watauga County Tourism Development Authority (no response), and Blue Ridge Conservancy (responded).

Comments were varied with no overriding theme. Following is a summary, in no particular order:

- The need to locate programming and/or facilities in the rural communities outside Boone was mentioned several times.
- The EDC is prioritizing the outdoor economy and Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC) “is increasingly focusing on public access recreation projects.” Although the TDA did not respond, the agency is currently in the process of developing a plan called “Imagine Watauga.” Past planning and project funding would indicate that the Imagine Watauga plan will continue to focus on public access recreation projects. BRC said, “A broader cross section of the community prefers non team sport recreation opportunities” leading the organization to recommend the following priorities: completion of the Middle Fork Greenway, additional river access points, and development of the Northern Peaks State Trail with a trailhead at Howard’s Knob Park.
- While new recreation opportunities are encouraged, “maintenance and upkeep of all county owned and managed properties has to be factored in,” says BRC.
- The health department stressed the need to address “barriers to participation” such as unawareness of programs, distance from facilities, and costs that are prohibitive for low-income persons. Programming that aligns with the interests of the Hispanic community was encouraged.
- The EDC has an economic interest in the recreation department hosting tournaments, which brings numerous people into the county spending money on lodging, restaurants, etc.
- Support for recreation department staff was mentioned as a way to ensure adequate and consistent programming. Support would include competitive pay, professional development, and sufficient staffing levels.



RECOMMENDATIONS & COST ESTIMATES

The following recommendations are based on the citizen’s survey, community meetings, staff observations, recreation commission comments, facilities inventory, demographic trends, stakeholder comments, the plans of other recreation providers, and participation and interest in existing programming. In short, all the other elements of this document culminated in these recommendations.

Cost estimates are current for 2023, but the plan covers a 10-year period, so inflation should be considered when referencing costs as this plan ages. Some recommendations are general, without precise dimensions, number, features, etc. determined at this time. Consequently, cost estimates for these items are only approximations.

1. Construct outdoor restrooms at Complex 2 & 3 fields.

In the citizen’s survey, respondents were asked to allocate \$100 toward their desired recreation facility(ies). The survey included a catch-all category labeled “Facilities,” which received \$4,184 (the second highest item). This category included but was not limited to “year-round restrooms at all parks, a community and multipurpose space, indoor sports facilities, outdoor amphitheater/pavilion, a teen center, rental facilities to hold a camp, and general maintenance.”

Cost estimate = \$200,000 each, based on recent construction elsewhere in the region.

2. Update/revamp Old Cove Creek School outdoor amenities (playground, tennis, basketball courts).

The need for more recreation opportunities outside Boone was mentioned at the community meetings and by the Recreation Commission. In the citizen’s survey, when asked for their level of support for various actions the County could take regarding recreation, 92% of respondents were either somewhat supportive or very supportive of “Fix-up/repair older park buildings & facilities”. This action ranked first among the 13 actions listed. Upgrading facilities that already exist outside Boone is a logical place to start.

Cost estimate = \$100,000

3. Construct an indoor practice/playing field for baseball, softball, football, soccer, etc. for year –long programming.

This recreation feature has been mentioned in many contexts as a priority- current and former directors, the recreation commission, and the citizen’s survey. Much frustration has been expressed about the difficulty of scheduling programming in the spring and fall when the weather is frequently uncooperative. While expensive, an indoor field can be used for a wide variety of sports, thus maximizing the impact of dollars spent. In the citizen’s survey, respondents were asked to allocate \$100 to desired programs. Youth sports, by far, received the most dollars (\$1,996), almost \$1,000 more than the next closest program (average allocation was \$480). The proposed facility would serve youth sports more than any other program. Similarly in another question, respondents were asked to allocate \$100 toward their desired recreation facility(s). The survey included a catch-all category labeled “Facilities,” which received \$4,184 (the second highest item) (average allocation was \$548). This category included but was not limited to “year-round restrooms at all parks, a community and multipurpose space, indoor sports facilities, outdoor amphitheater/pavilion, a teen center, rental facilities to hold a camp, and general maintenance.”

Cost estimate = Almost impossible to estimate because of so many variables that are undetermined at this time (cost of land, site preparation, number & types of features inside, etc.). Construction alone would probably cost at least \$1.0 million based on information from various websites on the subject. A rule of thumb is at least \$150 per square foot.

4. Add/replace fitness equipment in the recreation center.

62% of survey respondents were somewhat supportive or very supportive of expanding indoor fitness facilities (only 11% were unsupportive).

Cost estimate = Almost impossible to estimate without identifying at this point which pieces of equipment to purchase. Gymstarters.com offers four packages (includes both cardio & strength training) ranging from a low of eight pieces of equipment for \$9,000 to a high of a 35-piece set for \$42,000, not including shipping and installation.

5. Restore/preserve streambanks near armory, Brookshire Park, and old Cove Creek School fields.

In the same way that recreation equipment and infrastructure has to be maintained or eventually replaced, ballfields must be protected from erosion. Loss of land at the three locations listed above threatens the integrity of these parks. Procedures for restoring streambanks and halting erosion are available. Cost share funding through the county's Soil & Water Conservation District might be obtainable.



An example of a once-eroding streambank that has been repaired.

Cost estimate: An approximate price range for stream restoration is \$100 - \$250 per foot. A true estimate would depend on several factors, such as stream size, the severity of bank erosion, the deviation of the stream from its natural channel, etc. Usually an engineer must create a design for stream restoration and then will estimate the cost based on the design. Using a mid-range price of \$200/foot, following are estimates for each location:

- Armory 622 feet = \$124,400
- Cove Creek School 825 feet = \$165,000
- Brookshire Park 1,000 feet = \$200,000

6. Upgrade tot lot playground with inclusive playground features.

This playground at the recreation complex off State Farm Road is a popular feature. Survey respondents each used the facility an average of 66 times annually. Inclusive features are those that can be used by handicapped children, as well as the non-handicapped.

Cost estimate: Inclusive playgrounds are more costly than conventional ones, starting at approximately \$250,000 based on a recent installation in a nearby town.



6. Hire additional full-time staff for the recreation center (facility/fitness director).

Prior to the opening of the Watauga Community Recreation Center, the full-time staff for Watauga County Parks & Recreation included: 1) A Director; 2) An Aquatics Director; 3) An Assistant Aquatics Director; 4) An Athletic Director; 5) A Recreation Specialist 1; 6) A Recreation Specialist 2; 7) A Program Assistant; 8) And, an Administrative Assistant. Post opening, additional staff include: 1) Additional Program Assistant for the front desk; 2) Additional Recreation Specialist 1 in athletics; and 3) A Part-time Regular Personal Trainer for fitness. With very limited additions to assist with the WCRC, this is remarkable because the center represents a major expansion of new recreation opportunities. A dedicated facility director is needed to ensure efficient operation of the center and allow the department director to devote sufficient attention to other facilities and programs.

Attendance for group fitness at the recreation center has increased tremendously, and the fitness classes are driving a sizable portion of new and existing memberships. Group fitness is now an integral part of the recreation center, and it would grow even more if given additional attention. Fitness came in third in the survey as one of the most desired programs.

Cost estimate: The salary for this combined position would be approximately \$45,000 annually.



7. Hire additional full-time staff for the parks & recreation department, specifically a camps/special events coordinator.

The department operates seven camp programs and at least five special events annually. Such an offering justifies an employee dedicated to managing them. Regular programming requires the full attention of current staff, with little time available for camps and special events.

Cost estimate: The salary for this combined position would be approximately \$45,000 annually.



9. Establish a disc golf course.

This recreation feature has been mentioned in many contexts as a priority- current and former directors, the recreation commission, community meetings, and the citizen’s survey. Disc golf is a very popular sport that ranked second as a desired feature in a question from the citizen’s survey. Disc golf, by far, received the most comments at community meetings.

Cost estimate = The following cost estimate discussion comes from the Professional Disc Golf Association, and doesn’t include the cost of land:

A barebones installation with light duty baskets, natural tees, simple wooden signs, and do-it-yourself design can be installed for about \$350 per hole. A full-service community course with heavy duty baskets, dual cement tee pads, nice dual tee signs, and two sleeves for basket placements on each hole could run up to \$1000 per hole which includes a basic design fee on a property with little clearing to be done. The per hole expense can run up to \$2000 with a more deluxe installation and the design fee could be \$2000-\$3000 higher if the course requires lots of fairway clearing through woods and the designer is involved in supervising that process. An added cost might be if the clearing is done by professionals versus park staff and volunteers. A very nice course can be installed for under \$25,000 in most places where not much clearing is required. A professional course designer is a worthy investment to ensure an entertaining, safe, and manageable course. The course design fee can vary quite a bit (an 18-hole design can run anywhere from \$5000 to \$20,000), depending on the complexity of the site, the number and nature of course features, and the services required from the designer.



10. Construct outdoor bocce courts.

This feature is needed to help diversify recreation opportunities offered by the County.

Cost estimate: According to bocceboss.com, a regulation-sized court (91 feet by 13 feet) with high-end materials can cost as much as \$24,000. This appears to be a high estimate; i.e. a less costly court is possible.

11. Integrate Middle Fork Greenway, Howard's Knob Park, and outdoor recreation areas (e.g. river access) into Watauga County Parks and Recreation programming.

These facilities, while under the management of the department, are not currently utilized for programming. However, they could be incorporated into the agendas of camps and special events, for example. Group hikes, canoeing, and picnics are three activities that could be carried out at these recreation points.

Cost estimate: There would be no major direct costs of incorporating these features into programming, though expanding programming will require an additional staff person. See recommendation # 7.

12. Construct a stand-alone building for camps, meetings, and special events.

The department operates seven camp programs and at least five special events annually. They require spacious facilities that can be occupied for an extended period. Competition with other programs and school activities makes scheduling difficult, with activity space that is less than ideal. A building dedicated to only camps, meetings, and special events would resolve this issue and make the programming more effective.

Cost estimate: A 3,461 square foot steel building for a project in Watauga County was recently priced at \$519,000 (\$150/sf).

13. Construct an outdoor sand volleyball court.

The recreation department offers two adult volleyball programs and a youth volleyball clinic. All are scheduled in the fall and winter, with a total of approximately 220 participants. The popularity of the programs points to the need for an outdoor volleyball court to use in the spring and summer.

Cost estimate: Constructing a durable sand volleyball court is more complicated and costly than might be evident at first glance. Properly done, a drainage system should be installed. A particular type of sand is necessary, and the cost per ton varies widely according to the site's geographic location. Consequently, a total cost estimate ranges from a low of \$22,000 to a high of \$119,000, according to the website <https://sand-boarding.com/sand-volleyball-court/>.



14. Enhance the landscaping at the Watauga Community Recreation Center.

Enhancement could be as minimal as planting a few shrubs or as elaborate as creating major landscaped spaces with trees, shrubs, flowers, and sod.

Cost estimate: The retail price of most shrubs ranges from \$25 to \$100. Small tree seedlings can be bought for as little as \$5, but sizable tree saplings range well over \$100. Planting by a professional landscape business would be an additional cost.

15. Construct an additional multipurpose room onto the recreation center.

The center’s existing community room is heavily used and also serves as space for fitness classes. An additional community room is needed to meet the high demand for multipurpose space.

Cost estimate: Building construction costs at least \$150/sq ft., meaning that a 75’ x 50’ addition to the recreation center would cost at least \$562,500. However, the precise dimensions are undetermined at this time.

16. Continue to support the construction of the Middle Fork Greenway.

Citizen support for greenway construction is overwhelming. In the survey, respondents were asked to allocate \$100 toward their desired recreation facilities. Greenway (unspecified) received the highest allocation (\$5,062), which was almost \$3,000 more than the second most desired facility. In addition, respondents were asked to grade existing facilities (excellent, good, average, poor, or failing), including finished sections of the Middle Fork Greenway. 100% of respondents graded the Greenway as either average, good, or excellent, the only facility to score this high.

Cost estimate: The Middle Fork Greenway is a long-term endeavor that will likely exceed the timeframe of this plan. Costs will vary according to negotiations with landowners and fluctuations over time in the cost of materials and site development. Estimates for future segments would be highly speculative and therefore not useful for planning purposes. Fundraising from private donors and grant programs is ongoing and focused on the most immediately feasible section(s). The completion of the Middle Fork Greenway project will require financial support from both state and county governments.

Middle Fork Greenway
"Connecting Blowing Rock to Boone - Naturally"

Welcome to the Middle Fork Greenway

Please help us keep the greenway safe and in good shape by observing the following Greenway Etiquette:

1. Although there is no "locked gate", the trail is open from dawn until dusk.
2. Share the trail. Stay to the right of the trail and pass on the left. People walking have the Right-of-Way.
3. Communicate when you are getting ready to pass someone else on the trail.
4. Bicyclists should pass safely. "On your left" before passing is not those in front of them.
5. All pets must be on a leash and please clean up after them. No one likes to encounter dog droppings.
6. Pay attention to signage, especially at crossings and road underpasses. If you are bicycling, you may need to dismount at an underpass.
7. Always wear your crash helmet, especially when you are bicycling, in-line skating or skateboarding.
8. Maintain control and a safe speed.
9. Help keep the trail clean. No paint markings on the trail. Leave the park/trail as you find it and remove all trash (pack it in, pack it out).
10. Respect Trail Environment: Do not disturb the wildlife or the many native plants and wildflowers that grow along the Greenway.
11. In an emergency, you know what to do: call 911.

The following are prohibited on the Middle Fork Greenway Trail:

- Motorized vehicles
- Leashes
- Hunting, firearms, fireworks, and fire
- Alcoholic beverages, smoking and illegal drugs

Thank you for helping us keep the Greenway a great place to have fun!
Do you want to help the Greenway? Donate here:

www.middleforkgreenway.org/donate

17. Continue to implement recommendations in the Howard’s Knob Park Master Plan.

In March 2023, the County received a \$350,000 grant for improvements to Howard’s Knob Park. While a significant milestone in the park’s redevelopment, the project will only partially address needs identified in the master plan. Total cost estimate for all recommendations is \$2,581,553 (as of Fall 2022).



APPENDIX

Complete Citizens Survey

School Use Policy

Needs Assessment for Watauga Parks and Recreation

Dr. Erik Rabinowitz

Keron Poteat, Director

Craig Lands, Assistant Director

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Introduction

Park/open space needs are directly influenced by the expectations of the residents of Watauga County and related to the 'quality of life' of the area in which they live. In general, this needs assessment addresses active and passive parks and recreation facilities that are available to all residents and aspires to provide quality recreation opportunities. As such, the updated needs assessment uses community input obtained through public forums and surveys to understand current recreational priorities, desires, needs, wants, and potentially underrepresented community members. The last Watauga County Parks and Recreation needs assessment was conducted on February 6th, 2023. Watauga County residents' need for physical activity, awareness to preserve and learn about the environment, beneficial stress relief offered by the outdoor experience, changes in the economy, demographics, and overall 'quality of life' is relevant in recreational expectations. In-depth data gained from the forums and surveys will be presented in this section to better assist the Watauga County and Watauga County Parks and Recreation in its goal to provide quality programming to all community citizens.

Methodology

To gather community input Watauga County Parks and Recreation got assistance from Dr. Erik Rabinowitz, a Full Professor from Appalachian State University in the Department of Recreation Management and Physical Education and owner of Rec8er LLC. In collaboration with the county representatives, a collection of data through an online survey and public input meeting sessions were created. The survey was available starting January 14th, 2022 and was open until April 15th, 2023. Two countywide public hearing sessions were scheduled and conducted, one at the Watauga County Recreation Center on February 1st at 6 pm, and the second at Old Cove Creek School, held on February 6th at 6:00 pm. These locations were picked by the County Parks Recreation Department and were administered by them also. Data from these collections should assist the county in creating the above-mentioned master plan.

For the Watauga County Parks and Recreation survey section, participants were solicited through countywide social media sites, onsite at Watauga County parks and recreation locations with QR code advertisement, and Watauga Democrat advertisement. Emails from Watauga County Parks and Recreation list serve and the county's largest employer, Appalachian State University faculty and staff announcement site were also included.

The needs assessment questionnaire (survey) included open-ended questions asking participants to self-report any facility and any program they would like offered or improved by Watauga County Parks and Recreation. Participants were also asked to assign dollar amounts of up to \$100 for the items. Participants could assign all \$100 to one thing or disperse the \$100 in any way they desired through up to 5 items. (See Appendix 1 for the actual online assessment) and linked here https://appstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etDY2ssQnO7L72C. The questions that followed were created to assess the number of times participants used a particular Watauga

County Parks and Recreation facility; special attention to facilities that are more difficult to count usage was included. Participants were also asked to grade numerous facilities using a traditional grading scale (A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Average, D=Poor, and E=Failing) to assess which facilities were doing better and which were not. To avoid influencing participants, open-ended questions were included, an additional list of items of potential closed-ended needs was offered later, and participants were asked how supportive they would be of each of the items (such as Purchasing land to preserve open space and natural and historic areas). The final components of the needs assessment included extensive demographic information. The survey was pilot tested by Senior students in the Recreation Management course at Appalachian State University and county stakeholders. The mailing survey to the randomly pulled participants from the registered county voter pool was withdrawn due to the electronic response rate being deemed acceptable by the lead investigator and county parks recreation Director. This was based on the 494 responses; unfortunately, those clicks did not constitute fully completed responses.

Respondent's Demographical Information

There were 258 usable completed needs assessments for the Watauga County Parks and Recreation needs assessment. A total of 494 people clicked the assessment, and some partially completed the questionnaire. These responses are retained and are included when appropriate by the lead investigator, but 258 fully completed the questionnaire are the foundation of the results presented. The overall demographic components are presented below of these respondents. A significant majority of responses come from White or Caucasian identified individuals (n=212). This matches the census data of 94.6% White reported in July 2022. Hispanic, Latina/o/x/e, or Chicana/o/x/e, and Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Indigenous or First Nation each had four responses, Asian with 2 and 1 Black or African American responded. Ethnicity/racial self-identified responses are presented in Figure 1 below.

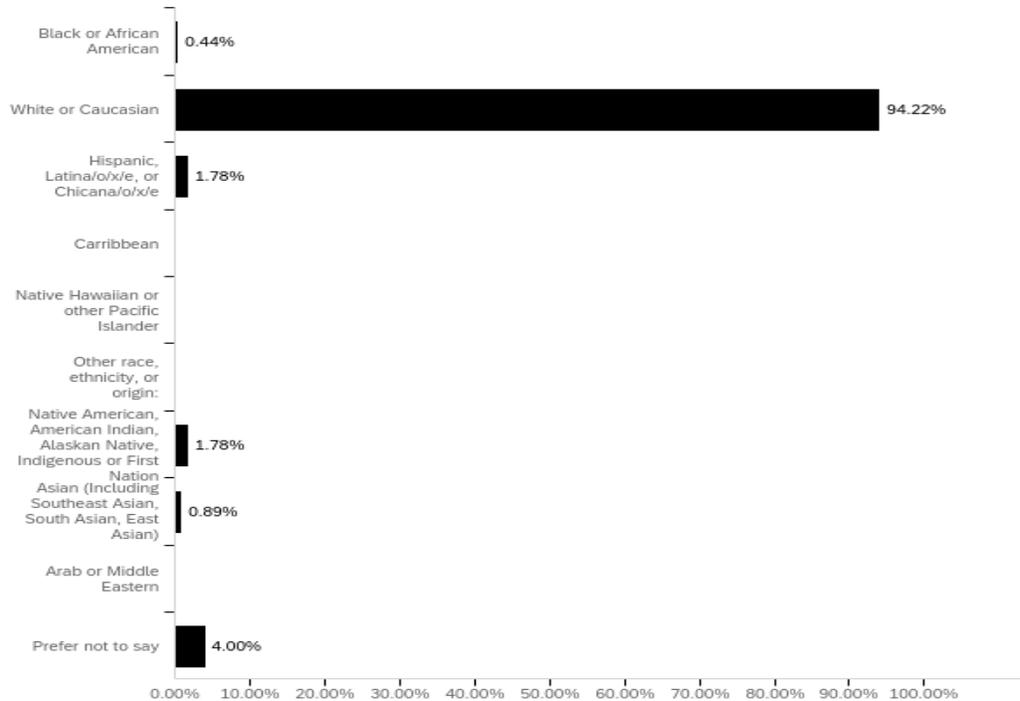


Figure 1: Ethnicity/racial Self-identified Responses

Education level of respondents saw a higher than census data on education level with the largest responses from master's degree participants at 37.5% (n=84), followed by bachelor's degrees 32.6% (n=73) Doctorate 9.8% (n=22), Associate's 8.0% (n=18) and 100% with high school or above degrees (See Figure X below).

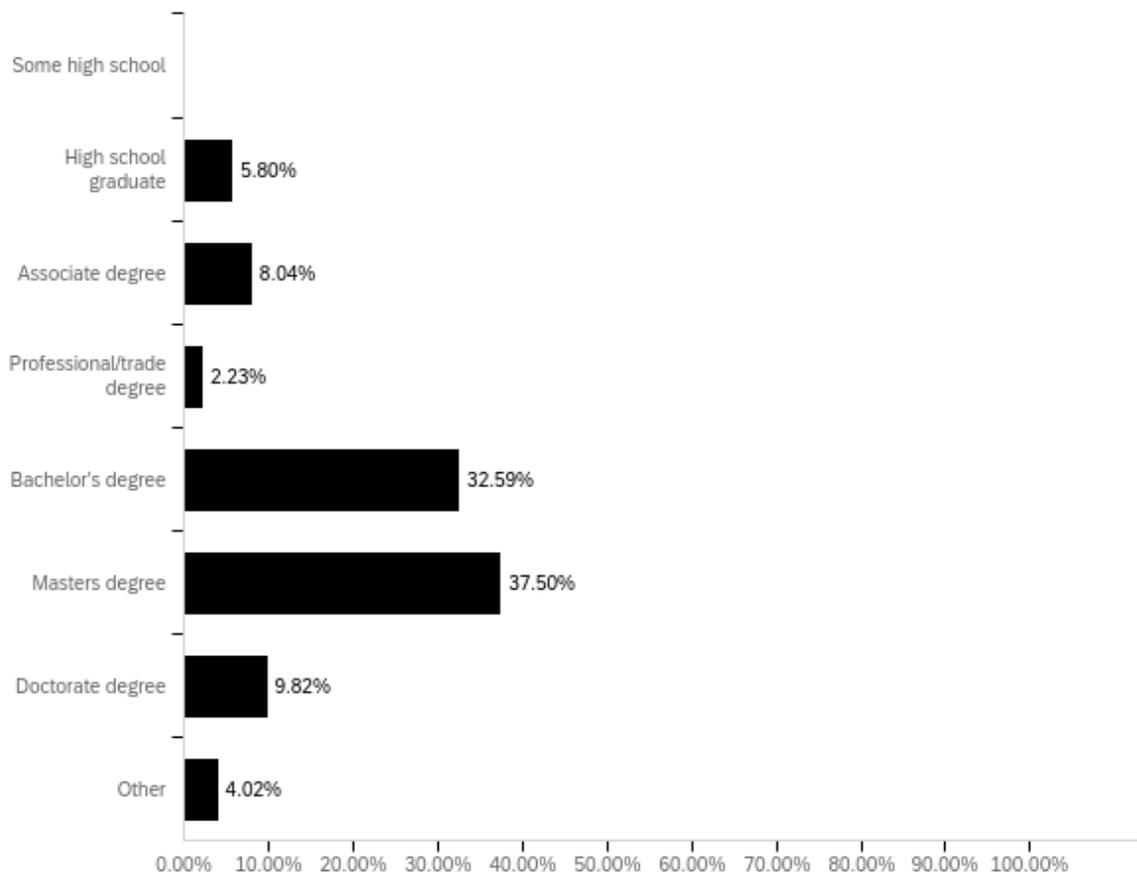


Figure 2: Education Level of Respondents

A significant larger number of respondents live in Watauga County 96% and 63.3% work full-time in the county (n=143), 181 respondents stated their primary home is in the county equaling 80.1%, and 60% have lived here for more than 10 years. Only 1.8% of respondents are second homeowners in the county.

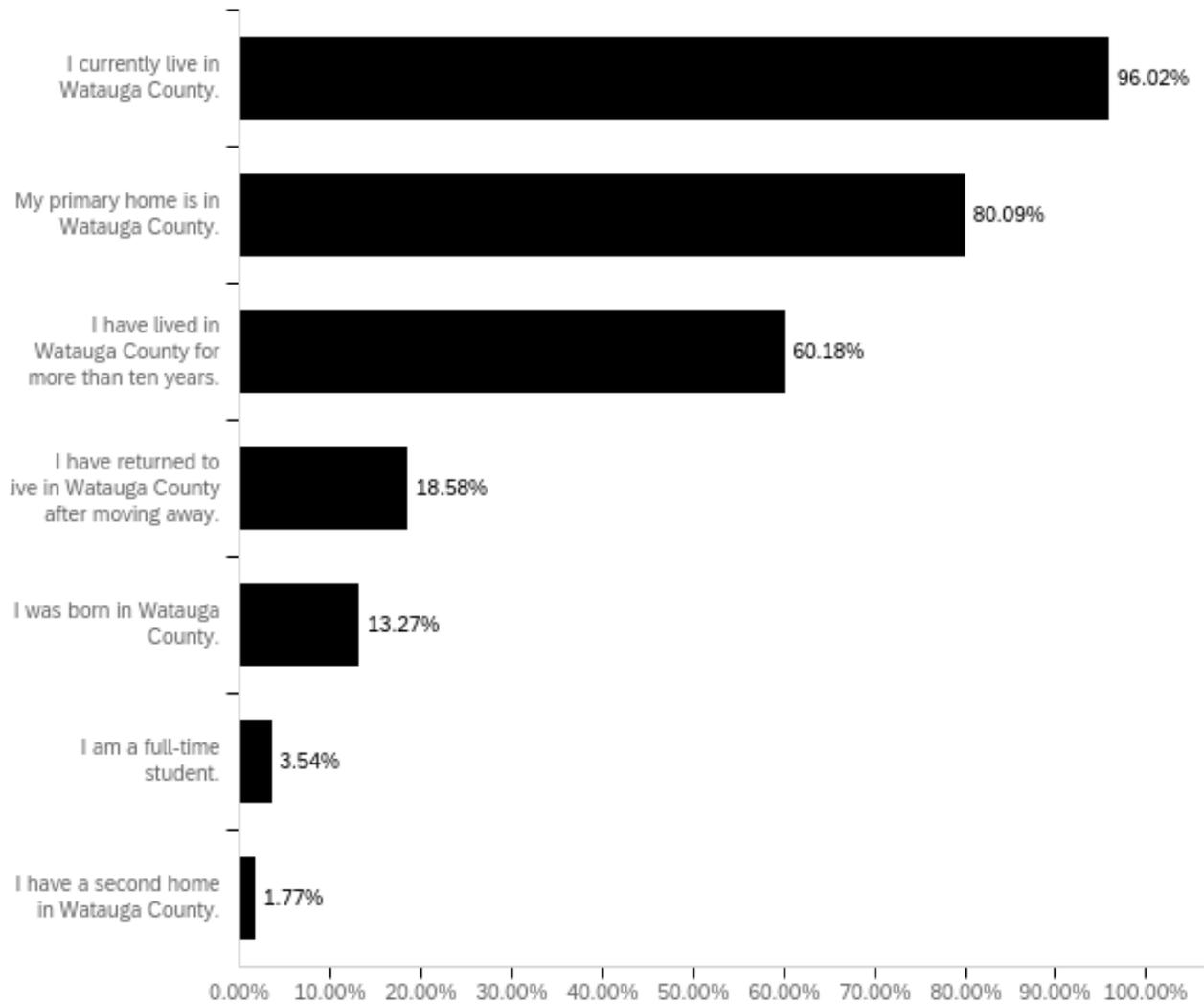


Figure 3: Resident Living Examination of Respondents

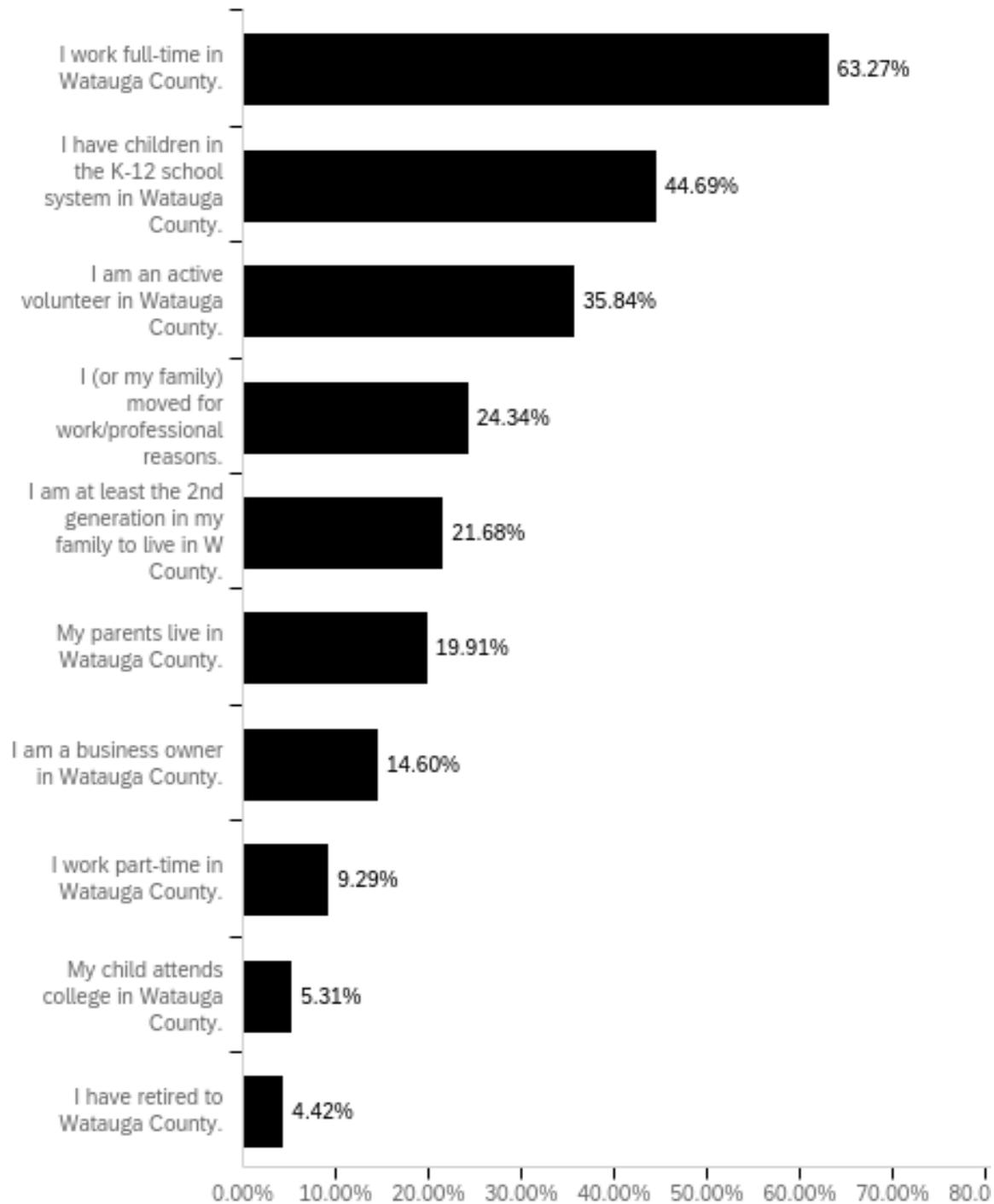


Figure 4: Additional Residential Make-up of Respondents

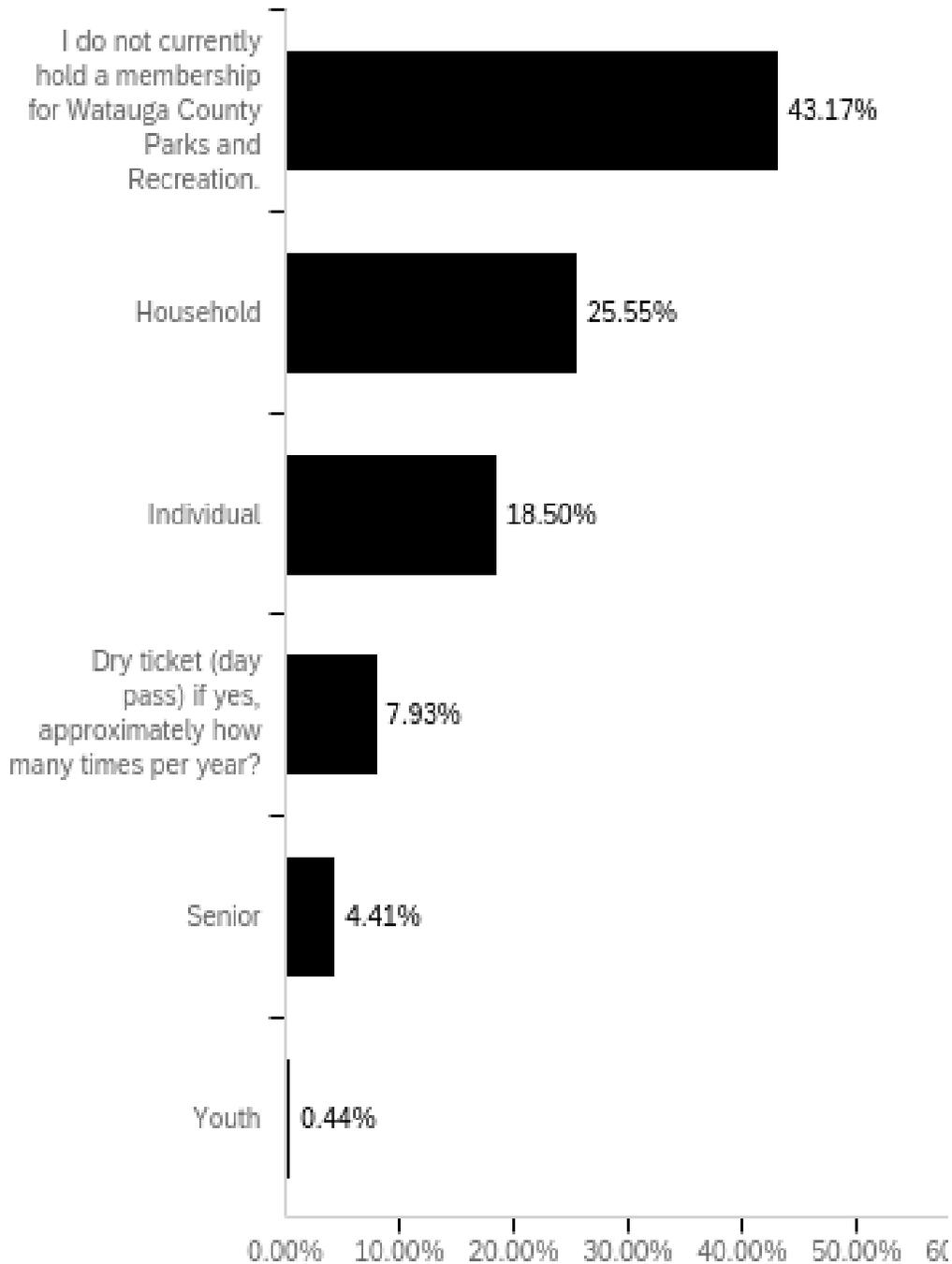


Figure 5: Membership of respondents

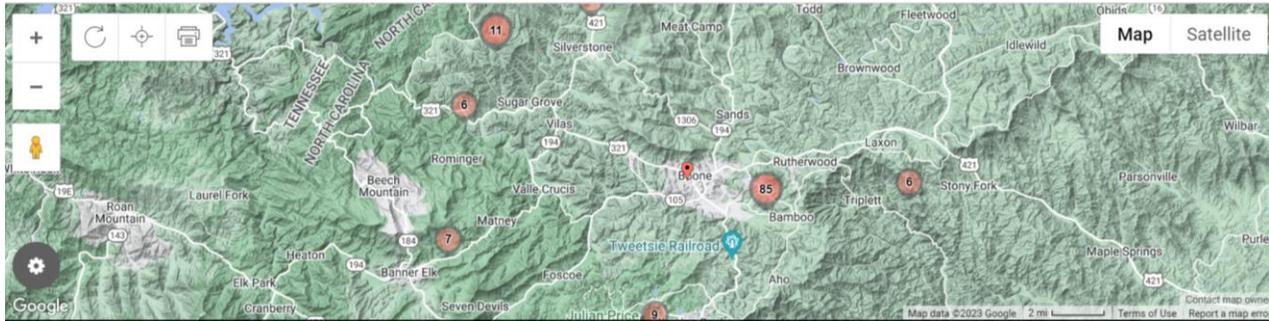


Figure 6: Map of respondents by zip codes

Zip code responses from participants can be seen on the following link.

<https://www.batchgeo.com/map/eb2c35b96517df62f64c99387e2223cb> of those responses 84% reported living in Watauga County zip codes.

Table 1: Percentage make-up of responses by zip code

<u>Watauga County Zip codes</u>	<u>Area of responses</u>	<u>%</u>
28607		50%
28697		9%
28605		6%
28604		4%
28678		4%
28698		4%
28618		4%
28684		2%
<u>28608</u>		<u>0%</u>

Needs Assessment Results

This section is broken down into two significant parts: the facility and the program desired expansion by respondents. Participants in the online data collection were asked to write in the desired facilities they would like to see offered or expanded by Watauga County Parks and Recreation. The following responses are presented. Participants in this survey were given the option to choose up to five open-ended responses they would like to see implemented by the department in the future. They were asked to spend up to \$100 total on their choices, thereby, ranking their priorities and desires. Their results are presented below with the cumulation of dollars spent on each item. The primary investigator sometimes forces agreement on items; the following are presented in 1-5th choices and the total combined options. Overall conclusions and recommendations from the data are made for each subsection of facilities and then programs.

Example of the open-ended question asked:

Part one:
List any **facilities** that you think Watauga County Parks and Recreation needs (i.e. Greenway expansion).

Part two:
You are given \$100 to spend. Assign how much of this \$100 would you spend on each suggested facility.

	Part 1	Part 2
1st item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
2nd item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
3rd item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
4th item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
5th item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Total		<input type="text" value="0"/>

Facility Expansion Needs Assessment Desired by All Respondents

Adding up all the responses the grand totals for the facilities' responses are presented in Table 2 and the top six items are presented in Figure 7. The response with the most money spent overall is a Greenway, with a total of \$5,062 spent by 118 respondents. Next is Facilities, with \$4,184 spent by 106 participants, followed by disc golf, where 40 people paid \$2,160. Pickleball follows, where 41 people spent 1,808. The Recreation Center total was \$1,676 spent by 37 people. The outdoor pool accounted for a total of \$1,461 from 32 people.

Table 2: All Open-Ended Desired Watauga County Parks and Recreation Facility Expansion Items

GRAND Totals			
Greenway Total	\$ 5,062	Pool Total	\$ 140
Facilities Total	\$ 4,184	Climbing wall Total	\$ 135
Disc Golf Total	\$ 2,160	Tot Lot Total	\$ 130
Pickleball Total	\$ 1,808	Racquetball Total	\$ 125
Rec Center Total	\$ 1,676	Golf Total	\$ 100
Outdoor Pool Total	\$ 1,461	Bike Lane Total	\$ 100
Splash Pad Total	\$ 509	Preservation/ Protection Total	\$ 75
Mountain Biking Total	\$ 425	Roller Rink Total	\$ 60
Tennis Total	\$ 395	Stoplight	\$ 53
Dog Park Total	\$ 391	Basketball Total	\$ 45
Hiking Trails Total	\$ 338	Football Total	\$ 45
Trails Total	\$ 348	Fishing Total	\$ 40
Schedule Total	\$ 283	Softball Total	\$ 40
Batting cages Total	\$ 285	Parking	\$ 34
Skateboard Total	\$ 270	Howards Knob improvements	\$ 33
River Sports Total	\$ 270	Outdoor Bocce	\$ 20
Playground Total	\$ 269	Bouldering Area	\$ 20
Ice Rink Total	\$ 265	E-Sports Total	\$ 20
Biking Total	\$ 265	Roller Rink Total	\$ 20
Volleyball Total	\$ 185	Speed bumps	\$ 5
Soccer Total	\$ 170	Average	\$ 547.52
Baseball Total	\$ 260		

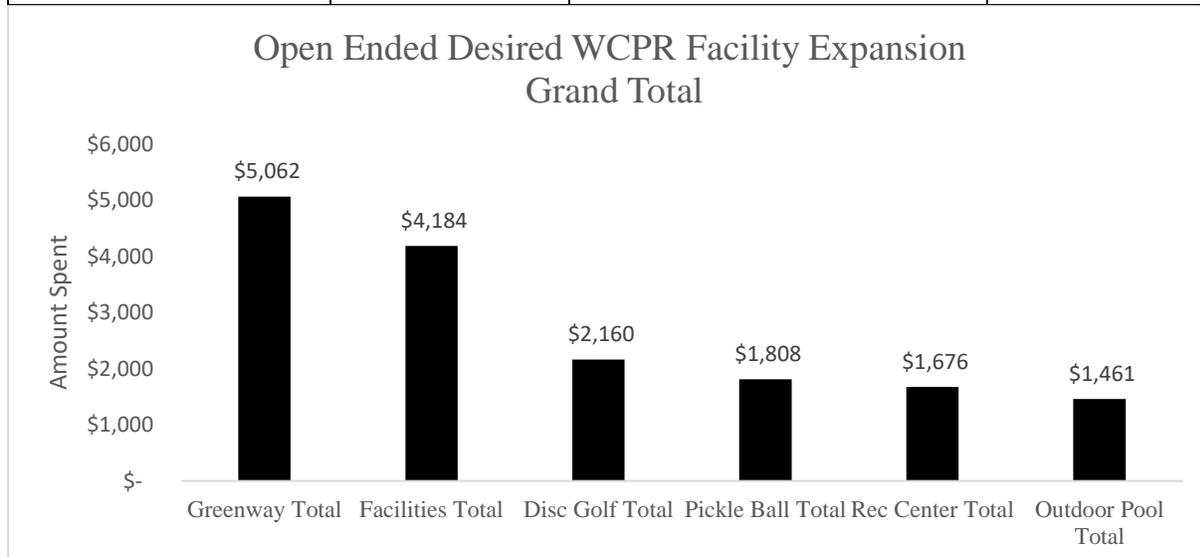


Figure 7: Open Ended Facilities Responses Grand Total

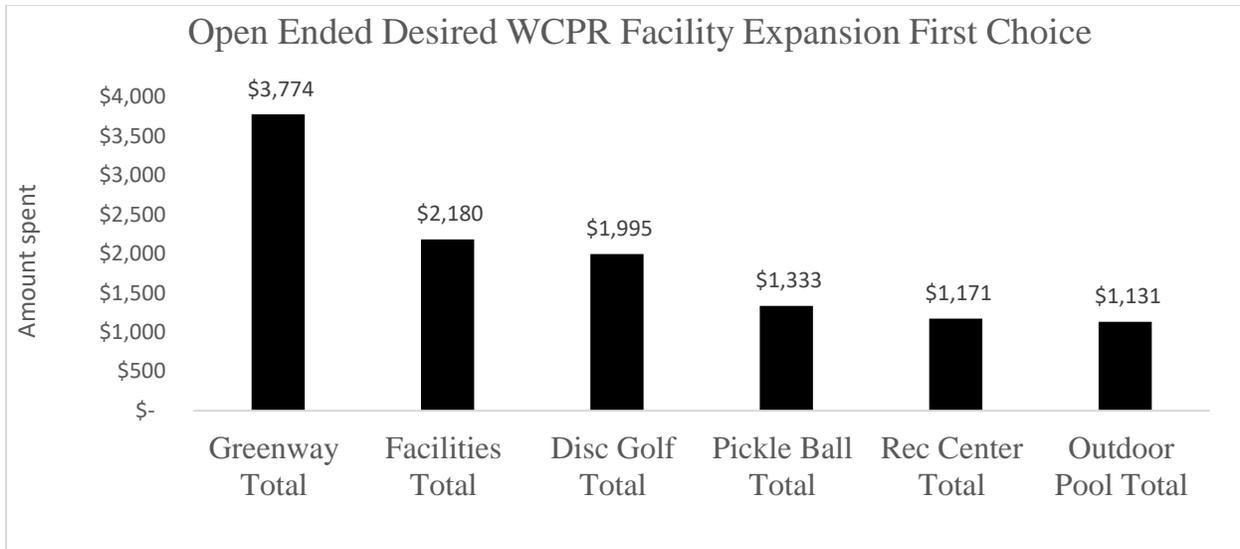


Figure 8: Open Ended Desired Facility Expansion First Choice

From the responses for the first choice of recreation facilities, participants would most like to put money towards the greenway (see Figure 8 above). This first choice accounted for \$3,774 of a total of 65 responses. This includes those who want to see greenway expansion, permanent restrooms at the facility, and more security in the area. Facilities total is next, with participants spending a total of \$2,180, which came from a total of 34 responses. This encompasses those who would like to see new facilities created, including but not limited to year-round restrooms at all parks, a community and multipurpose space, and indoor sports facilities. Disc golf accounted for \$1,995 (n=28). This was primarily comprised of participants simply wanting to see a disc golf course in the county that would be free and accessible to the community. Pickleball was the fourth choice and accounted for \$1,333 (n=19). Most of these inquiries were about adding more outdoor pickleball courts. The Recreation Center specifically accounted for \$1,171 (n=16). Those responses included many participants' desires for better weight equipment and improved room for fitness classes. The outdoor pool accounted for \$1,131 from a total of 19 responses. Most of these responses stated the county's desire to have an outdoor pool.

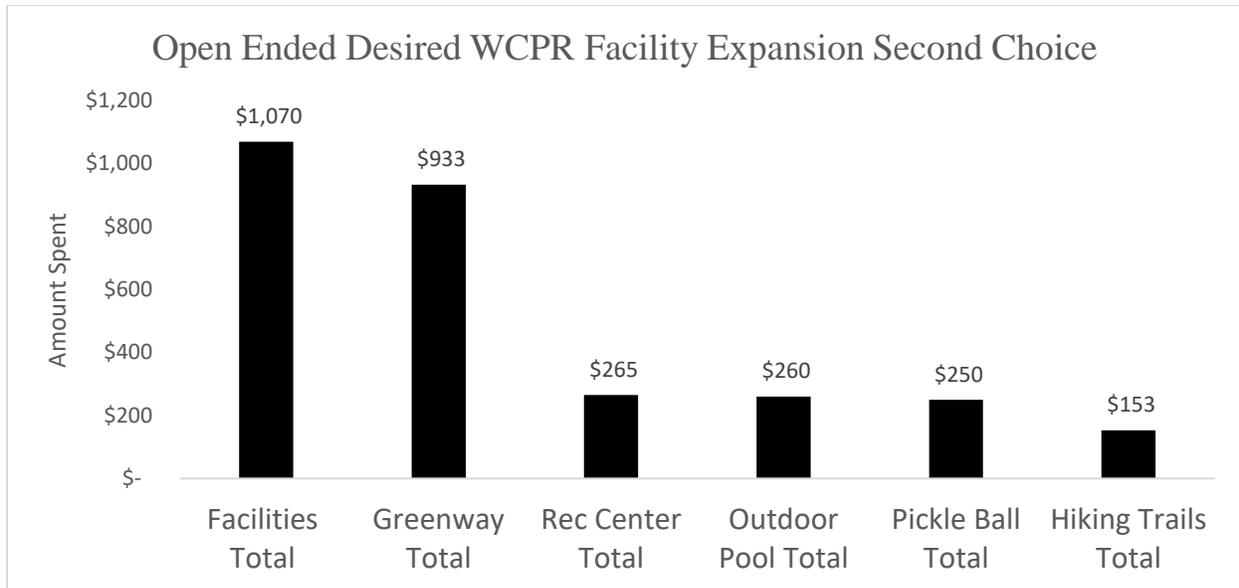


Figure 9: Open Ended Desired Facility Expansion Second Choice

Facilities were where the participants spent the most money for their second choice, with \$1,070 being spent by a total of 30 people with no delineation of what they precisely desired (see Figure 9 above). Some facilities being desired include an outdoor amphitheater/ pavilion, a teen center, and rental facilities to hold a camp were mentioned in other locations. Second, in these responses was the greenway, with a total of \$933 spent by 36 people seeking greenway expansion, increased safety measures, and connecting the greenway to Brookshire Park and Blowing Rock. Coming in third was the Recreation Center, with a total of \$265 spent by 14 people. Participants are interested in a steam room, increased size of the weight room, and more inclusive areas. Fourth is outdoor pools, with a total of \$260 spent by nine people. Most of these responses stated the desire to have an outdoor pool. Pickleball accounted for \$250 being spent by eight people who sought more courts both inside and outside. Hiking trails totaled \$153 being spent by five people who are looking for trail development, trail expansion, and a downtown trail network.

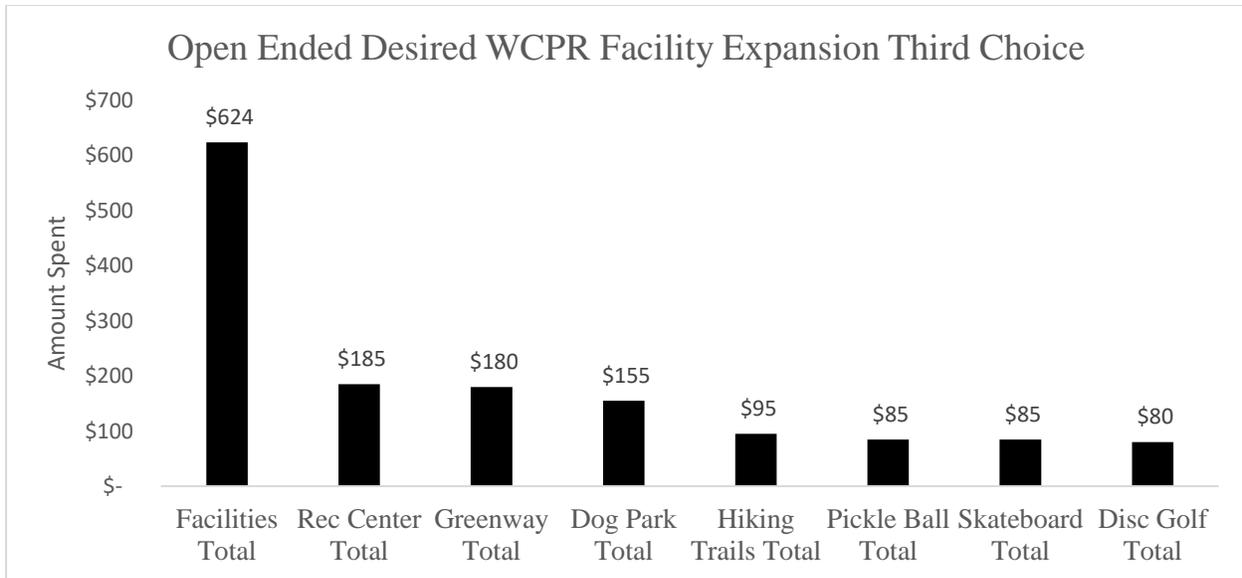


Figure 10: Open Ended Facilities Responses Choice 3

Facilities accounted for \$624 from a total of 28 responses. Some of those responses included general maintenance of existing facilities and parks, community space, and permanent bathrooms at parks throughout the county (see Figure 10 above). The Recreation Center accounted for \$185 spent by nine people. Some of those requests included a hot tub, sauna, a more significant weight room, and more classes. Next was the greenway, with \$180 spent by ten people looking for greenway expansion, trail maps, and year around restrooms. A dog park accounted for \$155 paid by nine people, all looking for a dog park in the county. Hiking trails accounted for \$95, pickleball and skateboarding accounted for 85 dollars, and disc golf had a total of 80 spent.

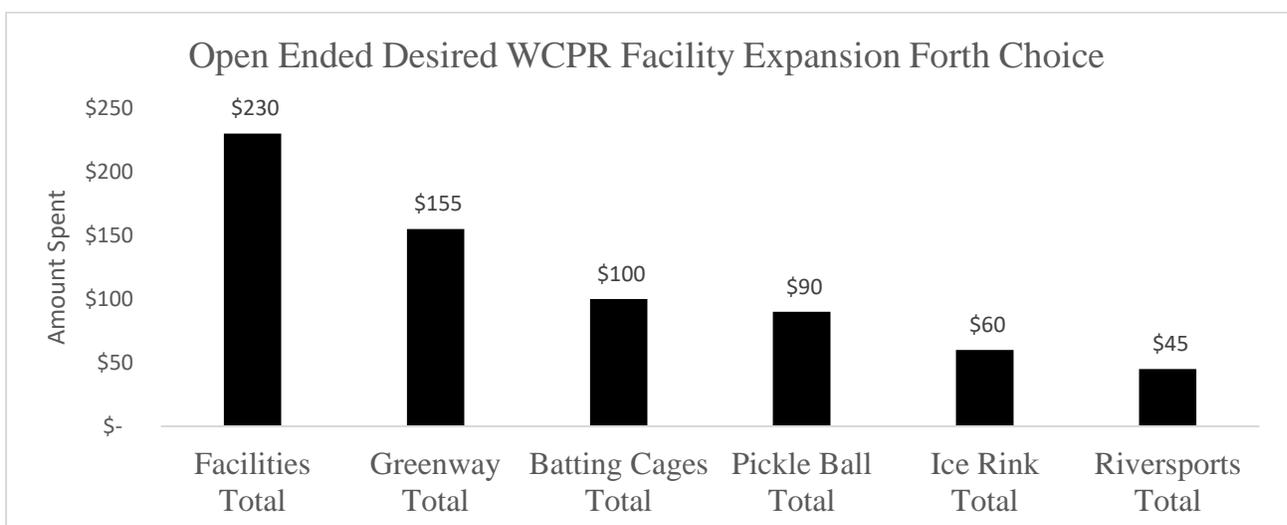


Figure 11: Open Ended Facilities Responses Choice 4

Facilities were once again where participants spent the most money for this choice: \$230 was spent by ten people (see Figure 11 above). Those people requested permanent park restrooms, indoor baseball and soccer sports facilities, a picnic shelter upgrade (Rocky Knob), and a dedicated performing arts space. The Greenway was second, with a total of \$155 spent by seven people. Those people are looking for greenway expansion and better lighting at night. Next were batting cages; an indoor field/batting cage facility requested \$100. Pickleball accounted for \$90 from 6 participants who wished to see more indoor and outdoor courts. The ice rink collected \$60 from 4 participants looking for an indoor skating/hockey rink. River sports accounted for \$45 spent by two people looking for improved river access.

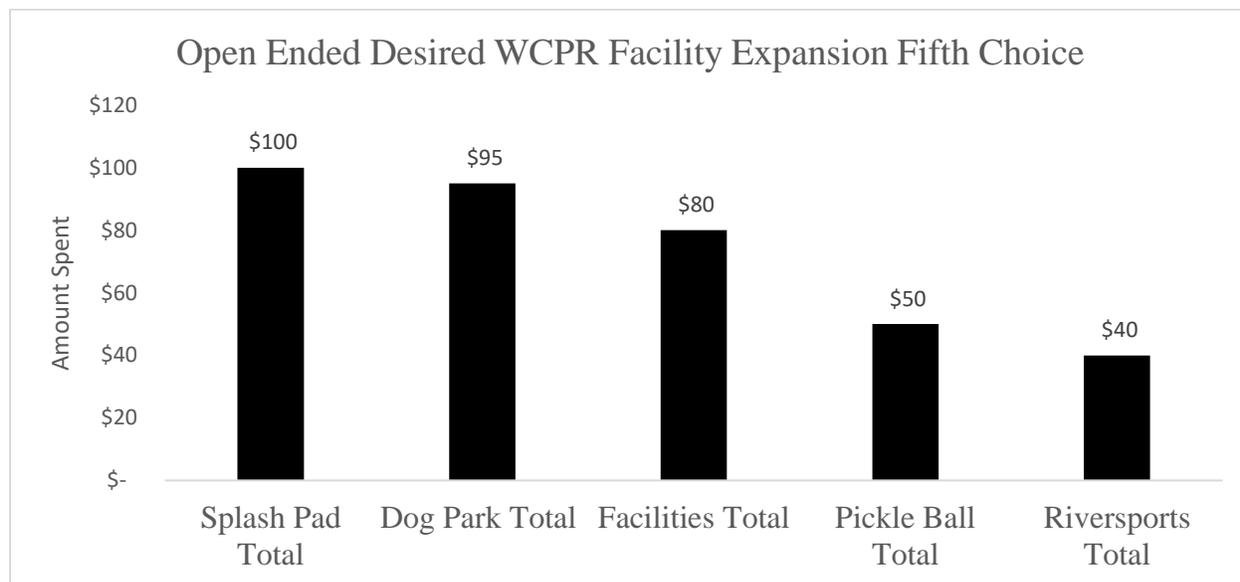


Figure 12: Open Ended Facilities Responses Choice 5

For the last open-ended response, the splash pad received the most money, with \$100, as participants are looking for this facility to be built in the county (see Figure 12 above). Next is the dog park, which accounted for \$95 from five people. Those are looking for a fenced-in public park, and one participant is looking for an indoor playground. Facilities are following, with \$80 from four people; they requested upgrades for out-of-date parks, a wet and dry sauna, and facilities in the western part of the county. Pickleball has a total of \$50 spent by three people looking for more courts inside and outside. Last is river sports, where two participants spent \$40 looking for a lake or river beach and improved river access.

Facility Expansion Needs Assessment Conclusions

Given the needs assessment results, 118 of the 258 (46%) respondents mentioned the greenway, accounting for a total of \$5,062. This encompassed greenway expansion, increased safety measures, and overall upkeep. Facilities were the second most popular response; 106 (41%) participants put \$4,184 towards this area. This includes things such as creating new facilities within the county (shared community spaces, pavilions, and more) as well as maintaining existing facilities. Disc golf was the third most popular response, with 42 (16%) people spending \$2,160 and expressing the desire for a course in Watauga County. Pickleball was the next most popular response, with \$1,808 spent by 41 (15%) of the people. Most wished for more courts, both inside and outside.

Facility Expansion Needs Assessment Recommendations

Based on the findings from this needs assessment, the County should focus on the greenway, creating new facilities, creating a disc golf course, and pickleball expansion. The most popular response, the greenway, clarifies that the people of Watauga country want to see greenway expansion. Continuing the Middle Fork project connecting Boone to Blowing Rock is mentioned by numerous respondents, but any efforts towards greenway expansion would be supported by the community. Assessing land availability and potentially looking into other locations throughout the county might be considered. An example might include, but is not limited to, the Sugar Grove community (Creekside). Additionally, the next would be to do further work on the facilities for which the community wish, as many mentioned multi-purpose spaces and indoor sports facilities (with the new recreation center in place, this response should focus on other facilities the Watauga County Parks and Recreation manage). For example, better maintenance of existing facilities with mention of Old Cove Creek by numerous members of the Sugar Grove community and even maybe a facility in Mabel. The third recommendation would be a disc golf course as many participants expressed an interest in the recreation activity. Once land is available this would be recommended. Currently, the best public grounds are within the Town of Boone limits. Still, Dr. Rabinowitz may have missed lands on a potential site, so a land audit of ownership by Watauga County should be available for a proper analysis. Additionally, since a disc course is a new recreation, potential funding sources such as North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) (<https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund>) which is one criterion for receiving PARTF funds might be sought in a couple of years. Locations to consider are the Middle Fork Greenway and Boone Gorge Park (that PARTF has recently funded). Additionally, a brand-new grant could examine the following possible locations: the acres between Watauga High School off the greenway, Old Cove Creek School, the land near the Southern States, and even the existing greenway since many communities have both the greenway and a disc course using the same space. A task force would be easy to assemble as public concerns and desires for a disc golf course are very high. A pickleball facility might be considered for facility expansions. Since pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America (and does not seem like it will be reducing anytime soon), the county might consider jumping on this opportunity to build a facility dedicated to the sport with the potential for revenue through tournaments: economic impact of the sport seems very promising. One item that the county might consider, but is not necessarily a parks and recreation issue, is that the increased traffic from the creation of the Watauga County Recreation center has caused traffic

problems in front of the fire department. This seems like a significant problem, and while a traffic light does exist at the Levine building, it would seem more appropriately placed at the intersection of the fire department and the recreation center, allowing the fire department to control the light during emergency times. All desired items that the respondents stated again are presented in Table 2 above, and while some did not receive the highest amounts, many might be considered for long-term planning such as, an outdoor pool facility,

Program Expansion Needs Assessment by All Respondents

Participants in the online data collection were asked to write in the desired programs they would like to see offered or expanded by Watauga County Parks and Recreation. The following responses are presented. Participants in this survey were given the option to choose up to five programs they would like to see implemented in the department. They were asked to spend up to \$100 total on their choices. Only 5% of subjects completed more than four items in this section.

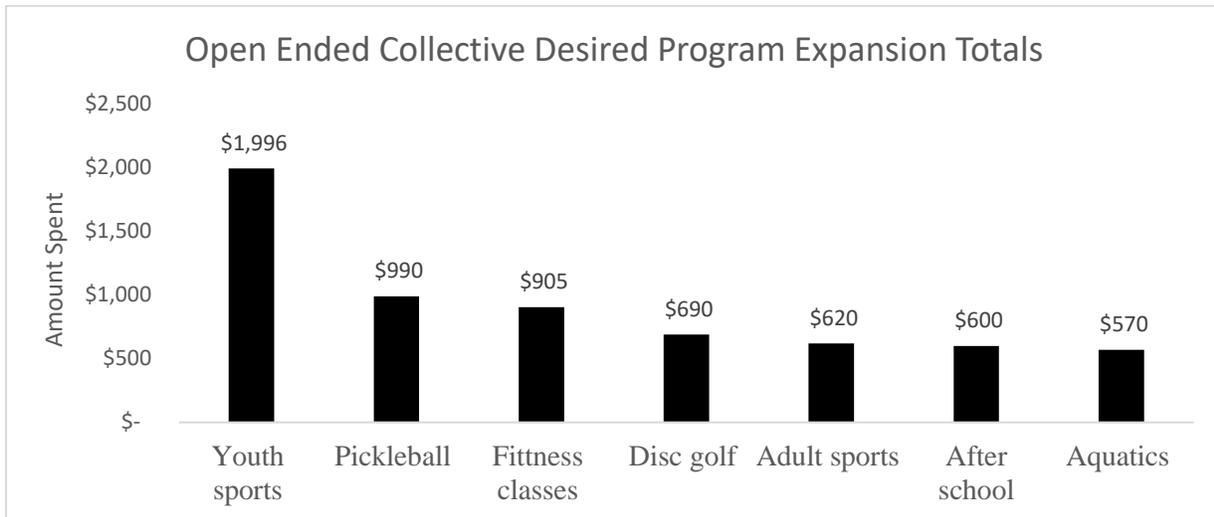


Figure 13: Combination of All Responses of Desired Program Expansion

Figure 13 above reflects a sum of all the choices. These six responses were designated the most amount of money. Youth sports programming was given \$1,996. This number represents responses that gave a general answer for youth sports and did not specify a particular sport. Pickleball programming was given \$990. Fitness classes were designated \$905. There was an array of options people would like to see for fitness classes; some of which included spin, strength training, boot camp style, and cardio-focused classes including those for youth to participate in. There was a total of \$690 towards having the opportunity to disc golf. Adult sports programming was given \$620. Some desire people expressed for this category include sports leagues, art classes, and aquatics. Afterschool programming is desired and was given \$600 by 11 different participants. Lastly, aquatics programs were designated \$570 in total.

Table 3: Open Ended Desired Watauga County Parks and Recreation Program Expansion All Responses

Grand Totals		Running	\$394
Youth Sports	\$1996	Art Programs	\$355
Pickleball	\$990	Hiking	\$330
Fitness	\$905	Summer Camp	\$325
Disc Golf	\$690	Tennis	\$320
Adult Programs	\$620	Volleyball	\$300
After School	\$600	Youth Volleyball	\$263
Aquatics	\$570	Football	\$209
Hockey / Ice Skating	\$450	Gymnastics	\$200
Disability Programming	\$440	Yoga	\$140
Soccer	\$420	Cycling	\$138
Senior Programs	\$403	Skateboarding	\$50
Lacrosse	\$400	Average	\$479.50

Figure 14 below reports the cumulative amount of money that was designated to the most popular responses. The four choices collected an amount that was above the mean across all responses for choice one. There was \$1,571 spent towards youth sports, which includes responses that had a general answer of youth sports and did not specify a specific sport. \$740 was spent on fitness programs, mainly including different types of group workout classes. \$710 was spent on pickleball programming. \$560 was put towards disc golf. \$415 was designated to afterschool programs.

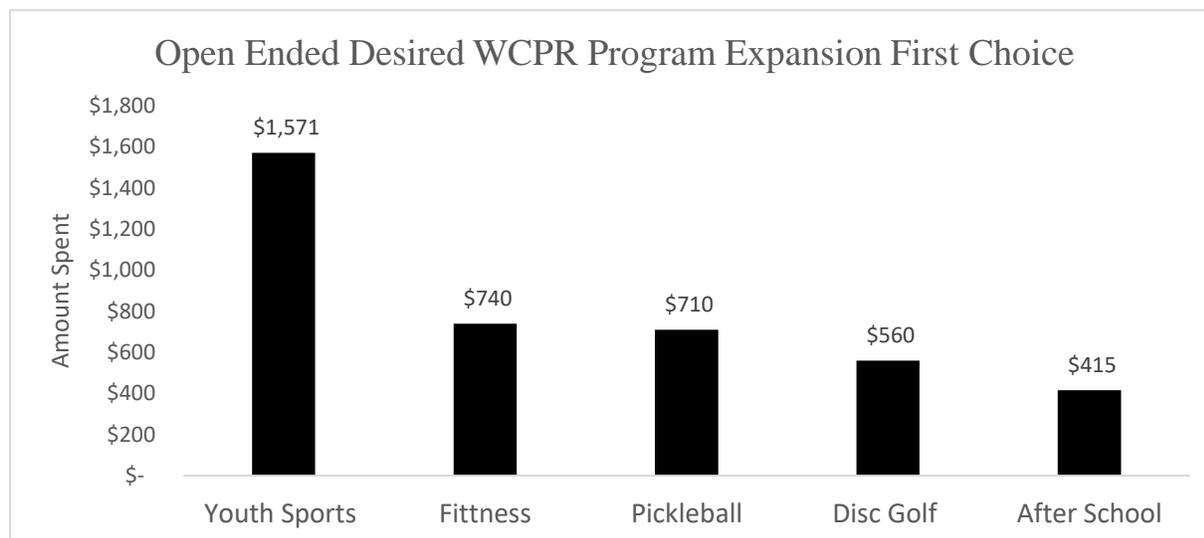


Figure 14: Choice 1 desired Watauga County Parks and Recreation program expansion

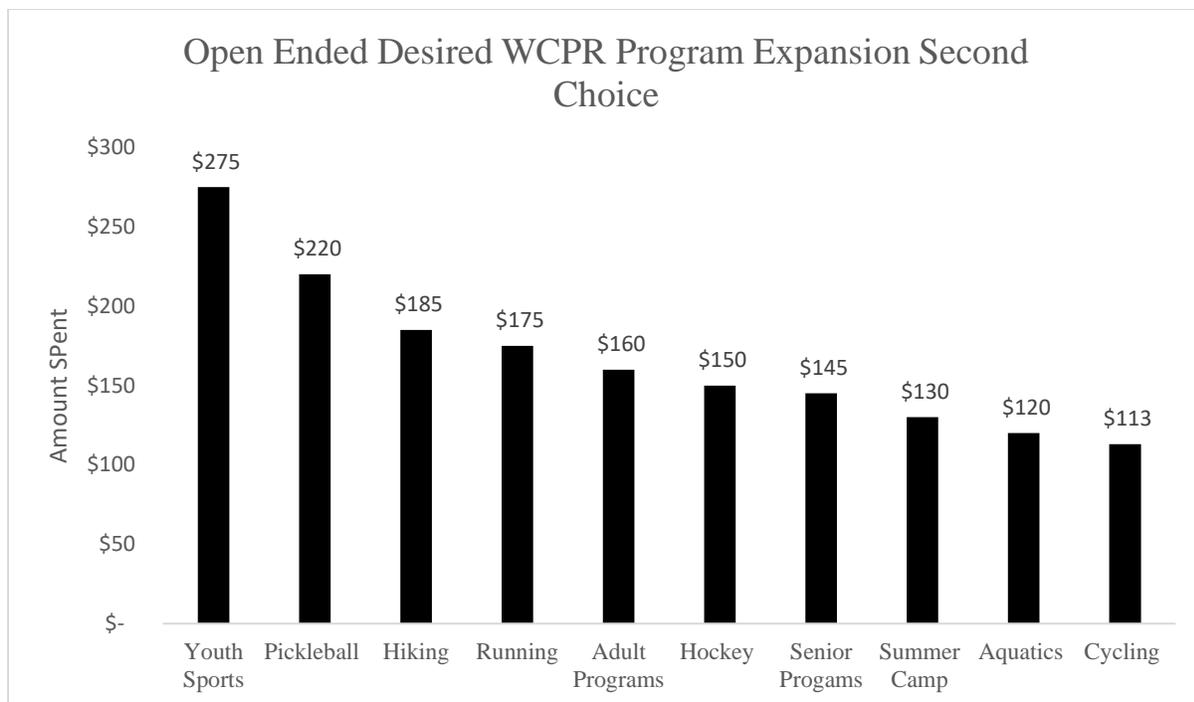


Figure 15: Choice 2 Desired Program Expansion

Figure 15 above reflects responses that were recorded above the mean amount of money spent. Similarly, to the figure representing first choices, we see the most significant amount spent on youth sports; \$ 275 was spent here. Behind youth sports was \$220 spent on pickleball programming. \$185 towards hiking programs such as group hikes. \$175 towards running, including running clubs and more community races such as 5Ks. Adult programming saw \$160 spent on adult sports leagues and other programs specifically for adults. There was \$150 towards creating hockey programs, and \$145 spent towards the desire to see more programs tailored to seniors, including fitness classes and aquatic programs. \$130 was designated to an expansion of summer camp offerings. Not all cycling programs were specified, but there was a mix of indoor and outdoor responses. Aquatics programming was designated \$120. Cycling programs were given \$113.

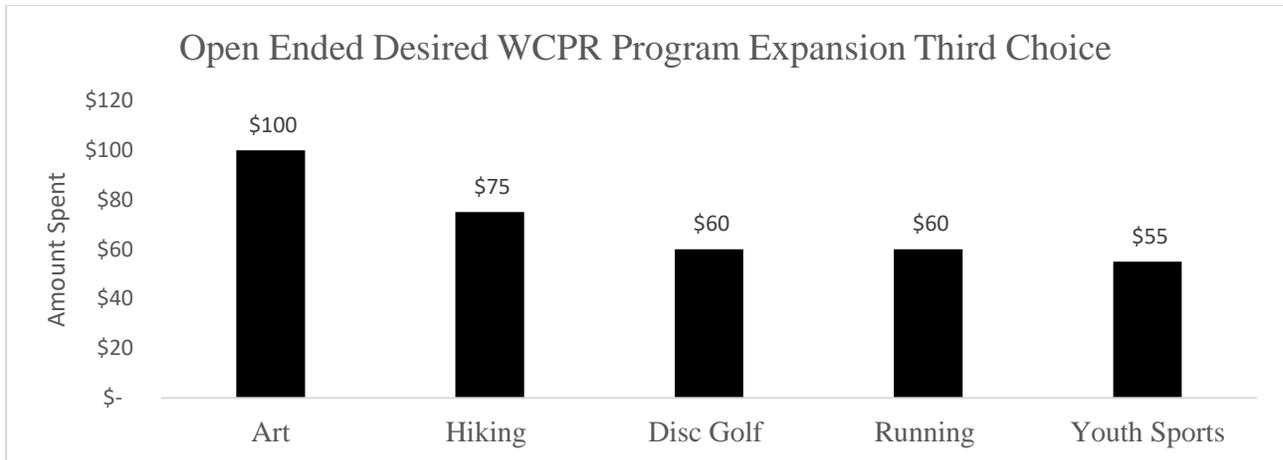


Figure 16: Choice 3 Desired Program Expansion

Figure 16 represents the responses with an amount greater than the mean for the third choice. Not all participants provided 5 options for this question so there is a dramatic decrease in data for this choice: many categories show a sum of fewer than five respondents. Art programming, such as art classes, was given \$100 by three respondents. Hiking groups and programs were given \$75. Disc golf availability was designated \$60. Running and races were given \$60. Lastly, youth sports, in general, were given \$55.

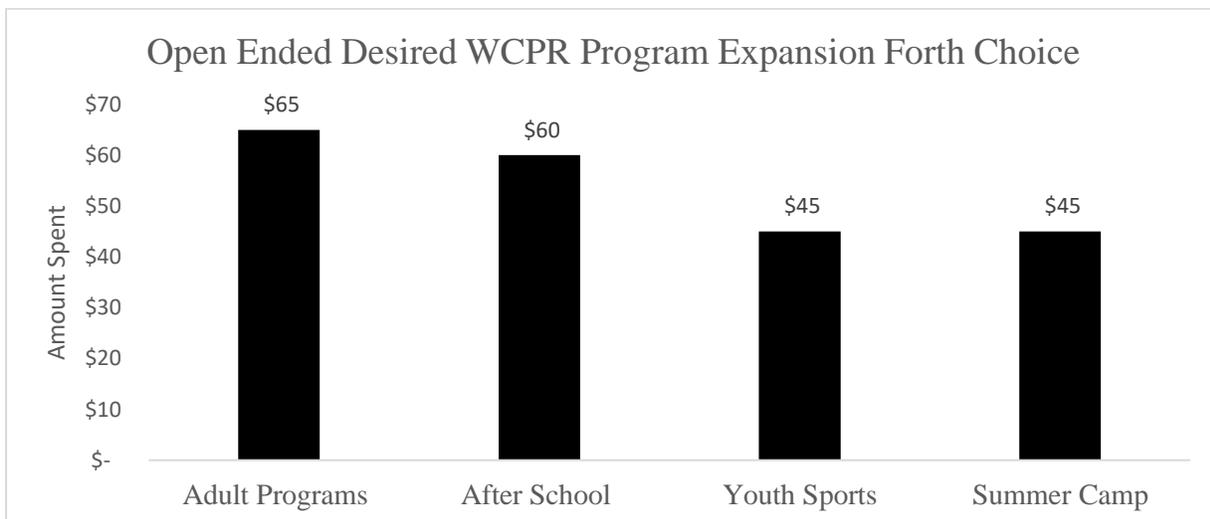


Figure 17: Choice 4 Desired Program Expansion

Looking at the data collected from responses for choice four Figure 17, we again saw a decrease in the number of answers given. With that said, this chart still represents what was above the mean score. Adult-focused programs were designated \$65; after-school programs, \$60; General youth sports programming, \$45; and lastly, summer camp was given \$45.

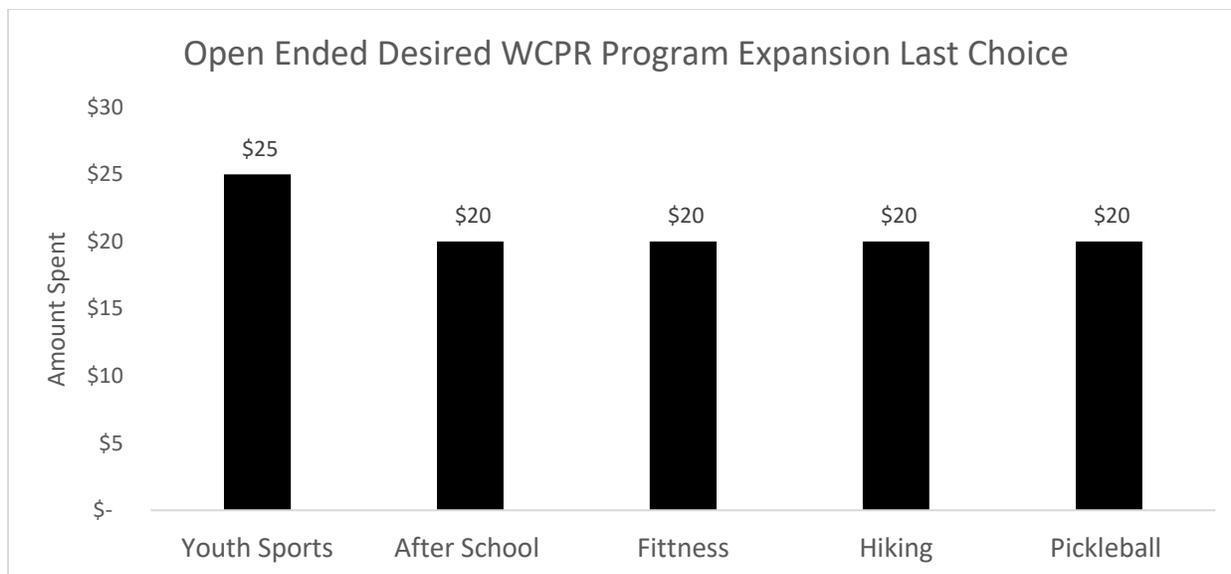


Figure 18: Choice 5 Desired Program Expansion

Figure 18 represents what participants recorded as their fifth choice, and the chart reflects those that were above the mean. Each of these categories was recorded and designated money by just one respondent. Youth sports was given \$25, after-school programs \$20, fitness programming \$20, hiking \$20, and pickleball programming were given \$20.

Program Expansion Needs Assessment Conclusions

In conclusion, there was an overwhelming number of responses with an emphasis on youth sports and improvements in those programs. There was a total of \$1,996 designated to youth sports as a general answer, with no specific sports references. Most responses simply provided just the words youth sports. This number was \$1,006 above the second overall choice of pickleball, which was given \$990 total. Pickleball programs, including kid and adult clubs/leagues were mentioned. Fitness classes were designated \$905. There was an array of options people would like to see for fitness classes; some of which included spin, strength training, boot camp style, and cardio-focused classes, including those for youth to participate in. There was a total of \$690 towards having the opportunity to disc golf. Adult sports programming was given \$620 with some people expressing a desire for sports leagues, art classes, and aquatics. The availability of an afterschool program was given \$600. Lastly, aquatics programs were designated \$570 in total; these include youth programs, adult programs, and senior programs.

Program Expansion Needs Assessment Recommendations

Based on the findings above, it would be recommended to focus more on youth sports. Expanding the offerings and improving the existing programs seem to be of the most importance

to the survey participants. Outside of youth sports, it would also be beneficial to place a larger emphasis on pickleball. Participants are eager for more availability of programs that surround this newly popular sport. Creating programs for kids to participate in, as well as adults, is something that is desired in the community. Lastly, creating more opportunities for fitness classes is something that is wanted as well. Creating more times for people to participate in group fitness classes and expanding the offerings of types of classes would be greatly appreciated by those that use the facilities.

Present Watauga County Parks and Recreation Facilities Grading by Respondents

Respondents were asked to use a traditional grading scale that they are familiar with from schooling to grade each facility on a list created by the primary investigator with the assistance of Watauga County Parks and Recreation staff. The results are presented below in Tables 4 & 5. Example of the question is presented below.

Using the scale (A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Average, D=Poor and E=Failing), please “grade” the offerings of Watauga County Parks and Recreation.

	A	B	C	D	E	Never used	N/A	Unaware of existence
Watauga Recreation Center	<input type="radio"/>							
Baseball/softball fields	<input type="radio"/>							
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>							
Pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>							
Tot Lot	<input type="radio"/>							
Middle Fork Greenway	<input type="radio"/>							

Table 4: Grading the present existing facilities highlight in the needs assessment.

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Unaware of</u>	<u>Never used</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Total</u>
Watauga Recreation Center	40%	33%	10%	3%	2%	0%	12%	1%	240
Baseball/softball fields	11%	20%	12%	3%	1%	1%	46%	6%	236
Tennis courts	12%	13%	5%	3%	3%	1%	59%	5%	234
Pickleball courts	17%	13%	5%	1%	1%	1%	58%	4%	233
Tot Lot	16%	26%	23%	5%	2%	1%	25%	3%	232
Middle Fork Greenway	39%	34%	9%	0%	0%	1%	14%	4%	234
Old Cove Creek Gym	3%	13%	16%	9%	3%	5%	45%	5%	232
Howard's Knob Park	8%	24%	18%	6%	1%	1%	33%	8%	233
Brookshire Park/Soc Fields	29%	33%	14%	2%	0%	1%	17%	3%	234
Rocky Knob Mountain Bike	31%	23%	7%	1%	0%	0%	32%	6%	234
Ted Mackorell Soccer Comp	30%	28%	4%	1%	0%	2%	32%	3%	232
River Access - Watauga River	14%	24%	9%	1%	0%	5%	42%	5%	234
River Access - New River	15%	24%	9%	1%	0%	5%	41%	5%	232

Items in Table 4 above show that most respondents are happy with the Watauga County Parks and Recreation present facilities, with the new Watauga Community Recreation Center showing the highest grade, with 40% of respondents giving the center an A grade, followed by the Middle Fork Greenway. The Tot Lot scored the lowest; however, no item scored below average.

Additional items were included in this examination and are presented below.

Table 5: Grade how these existing Parks and Recreation facilities/programs meet your household's or community needs.

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Unaware</u> <u>of</u>	<u>Never</u> <u>used</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Total</u>
Paved walking/biking trails (not including bike lanes/sidewalks)	29%	42%	17%	7%	2%	0%	2%	0%	224
Unpaved hiking/walking trails	22%	39%	21%	6%	1%	1%	9%	1%	223
Community parks	19%	55%	16%	3%	3%	0%	3%	1%	223
Natural areas/open space	29%	46%	17%	3%	2%	0%	3%	0%	221
Indoor fitness/exercise facilities	25%	32%	15%	2%	3%	0%	20%	2%	220
Indoor gyms (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)	30%	19%	11%	3%	3%	0%	30%	4%	221
Senior center	3%	7%	3%	1%	3%	6%	65%	12%	221
Land use planning	2%	9%	16%	7%	5%	17%	29%	16%	219
Athletic programs for children	7%	27%	15%	7%	4%	1%	33%	7%	221
Athletic programs for adults	2%	19%	14%	5%	5%	3%	49%	4%	221
Public recreation opportunities (don't require membership)	7%	30%	22%	8%	4%	11%	14%	4%	220
Public recreation opportunities (require membership)	10%	29%	12%	5%	3%	7%	28%	7%	221
Safe biking paths	9%	28%	19%	8%	9%	1%	24%	3%	221
Fitness classes	9%	15%	11%	4%	1%	2%	53%	4%	221
Swim lessons	9%	13%	11%	1%	2%	1%	56%	7%	219
Special Olympics	8%	7%	1%	0%	1%	5%	63%	13%	219
Summer camps	4%	13%	8%	3%	1%	3%	58%	10%	220
Senior games	2%	5%	3%	0%	3%	6%	67%	13%	220
Arts and craft workshops	2%	4%	4%	2%	2%	23%	57%	5%	220

Items in Table 5 that stand out are that indoor gym facilities scored the highest, with 30% grading them with an A, and no facility/program on the list received a poor grade amongst those that use the item.

Support from Respondents on Items Picked by PI

Question as presented to respondents.

The following are actions that Watauga County could take to improve the local Watauga Parks and Recreation system.

How supportive are you of _____?

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Unsure	Somewhat unresponsive
Purchase land to preserve open space, natural and historic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase land for developing future use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fix-up/repair older park buildings & facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renovate existing walking/biking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Table 6: Support from Respondents on Items Picked by PI (i.e. such as land purchases)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Unsure	Somewhat unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion	N/A	Total
Purchase land to preserve open space, natural and historic areas	73%	17%	7%	2%	1%	1%	0%	222
Purchase land for developing future use	55%	28%	11%	4%	1%	0%	0%	224
Fix-up/repair older park buildings & facilities	71%	21%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	224
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting	48%	30%	11%	5%	1%	4%	0%	223
Renovate existing walking/biking trails	55%	25%	12%	8%	1%	0%	0%	223
Develop new walking/biking trails that connect to existing trails	79%	12%	4%	4%	1%	0%	0%	224
Develop new walking/biking trails in places that aren't nearby existing trails	63%	19%	10%	6%	1%	0%	0%	223
Develop new athletic fields	29%	26%	24%	13%	4%	4%	0%	223
Develop new nature, history & horticulture facilities	42%	32%	13%	9%	3%	1%	0%	222
Develop dog parks facilities (fenced, but no leashes required)	32%	30%	14%	10%	9%	3%	0%	222
Build new spray (water) parks with fountains for use by non-swimmers	42%	22%	16%	12%	5%	3%	0%	222
Expand indoor fitness facilities	42%	20%	22%	7%	4%	4%	0%	223
Expand outdoor fitness facilities	51%	24%	16%	6%	1%	2%	0%	218

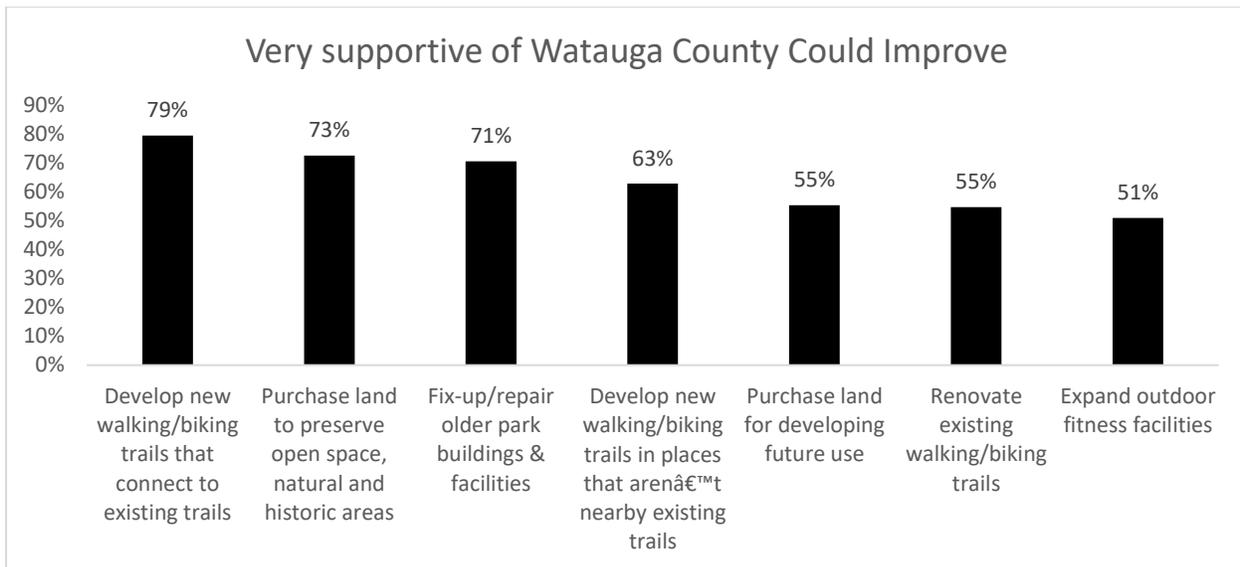


Figure 19: Very supportive of Watauga County Could Improve

The top three items that received the highest support are the development of new walking/biking trails that connect to existing trails (79%), the purchasing of land to preserve open space, natural and historical areas (73%), and fixing-up/repairing older parks buildings & facilities (71%). The top seven items are presented in Figure 19 above.

Specific Filtered Examinations of the Results

Watauga County Residents and Their Support of Watauga County Parks and Recreation Department Actions

An examination of county residents was conducted; all participants with zip codes outside Watauga County, full-time students (non-tax paying), and second homeowners in the county were omitted from the question regarding the support of parks and recreation department actions. It is found that 81% of Watauga County residents are very supportive of developing new trails that connect to existing trails, 73% are very supportive of purchasing land to preserve open space, 71% are very supportive of repairing older park buildings and facilities, 64% are very supportive of developing new trails, 56% are very supportive or purchasing land for future use, 55% are very supportive of renovating existing walking and biking trails, and 51% are very supportive of expanding outdoor fitness facilities. See Figure 20 below to visualize this data.

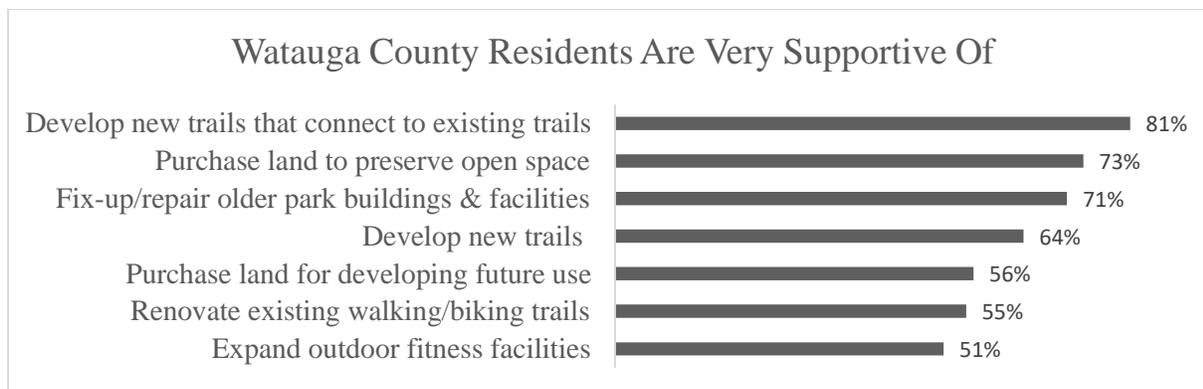


Figure 20: Watauga County Residents Support

Ten percent of Watauga County residents are very unsupportive of developing dog park facilities, 5% are very unsupportive of building new water parks for non-swimmers, and 5% are very unsupportive of expanding indoor fitness facilities. The Figure 20 below visualizes this data.

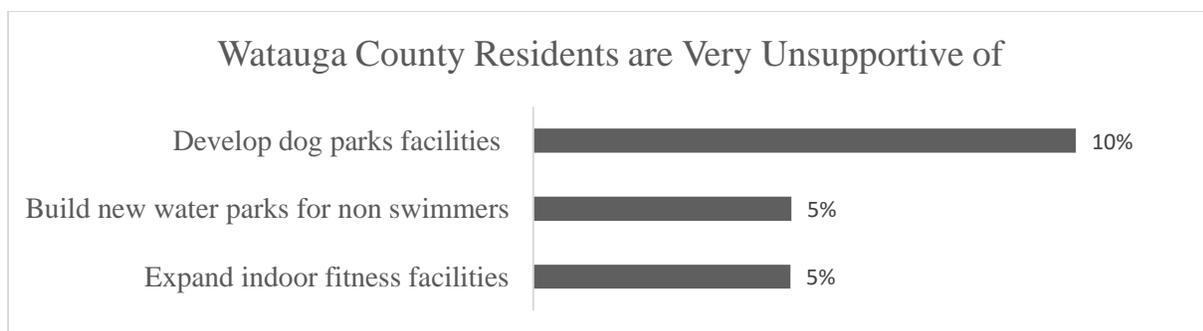


Figure 21: Watauga County Residents Do Not Support

A write-in option where respondents could add what actions they would like the county to take to improve the local parks and recreation system was also provided. The responses are spread through many different variations and ideas. The most common item with 15% of respondents would be the development of a disc golf course, 12% wrote about the expansion of pickleball, 6% wrote about the expansion of the greenway and trail system, 5% wrote about the development of a multi-use indoor sports facility, and 5% reported in the expansion of the parks and recreation system on the western side of the county. Please note there were many responses not listed because of their lack of relevancy. The figure below shows this data.

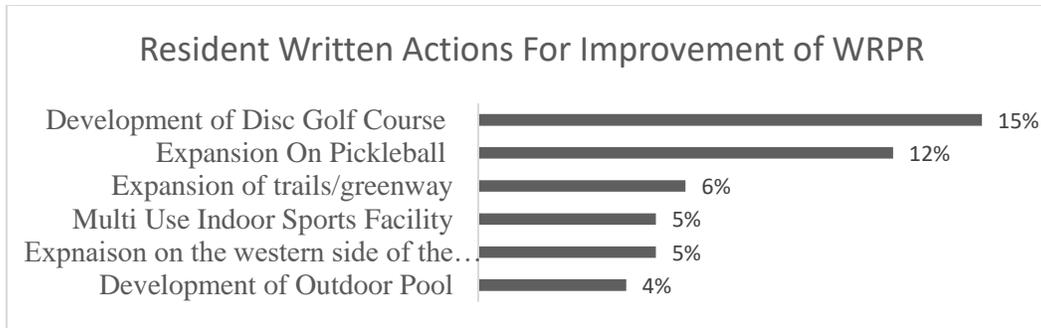


Figure 22: Watauga County Residents Write-in Support

Watauga County Residents with Children K-12 and their support of Watauga County Parks and Recreation Actions

Examination of 101 individuals with children in K-12 on the needs assessment was conducted. All those members who live within the county and have children were included.

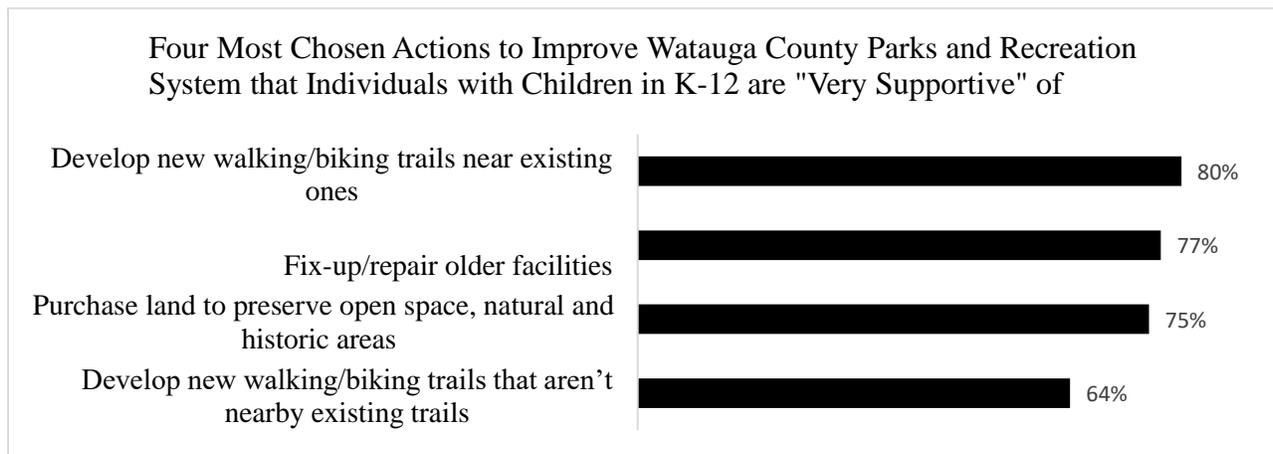


Figure 23: Four Most Chosen Actions to Improve Watauga County Parks and Recreation System that Individuals with Children in K-12 are "Very Supportive" of

Figure 23 depicts the percentages of individuals with children in K-12 who chose the response "Very Supportive" when asked about various potential actions to improve the Watauga County Parks and Recreation system. The top four choices based on the highest percentages are displayed in this graph. The development of new walking/biking trails near existing ones was very supported by 80% of respondents. Repairs being conducted on older facilities were very supported by 77% of respondents. Land purchases that would preserve open space, as well as natural and historic areas, were very supported by 75% of respondents. The development of new trails for walking and biking not near existing trails was very supported by 64% of respondents.

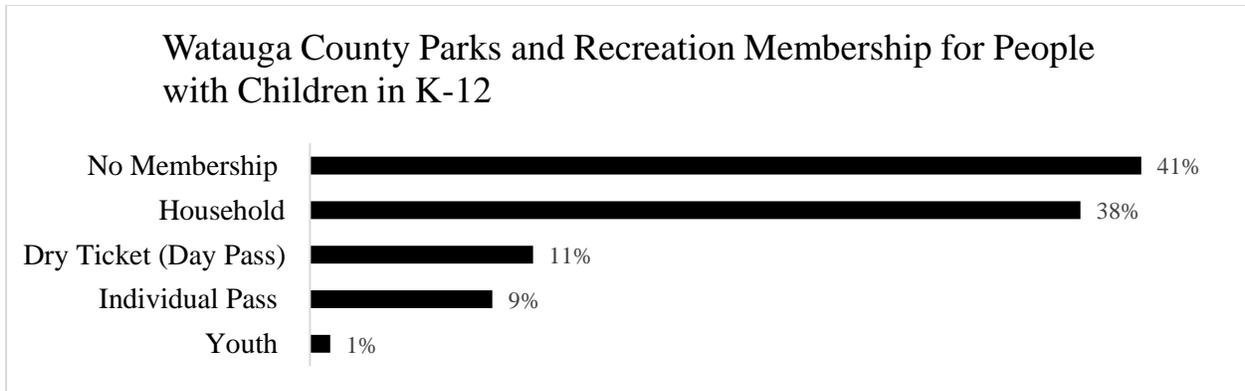


Figure 24: Watauga County Parks and Recreation Membership for People with Children in K-12

Figure 24 depicts the percentage of respondents with children in K-12 who have a membership with Watauga County Parks and Recreation. The most significant response was that 41% have no membership, 38% of respondents have a household membership, 11% have a dry ticket or day pass, 9% have an individual passes, and only 1% have a youth passes.

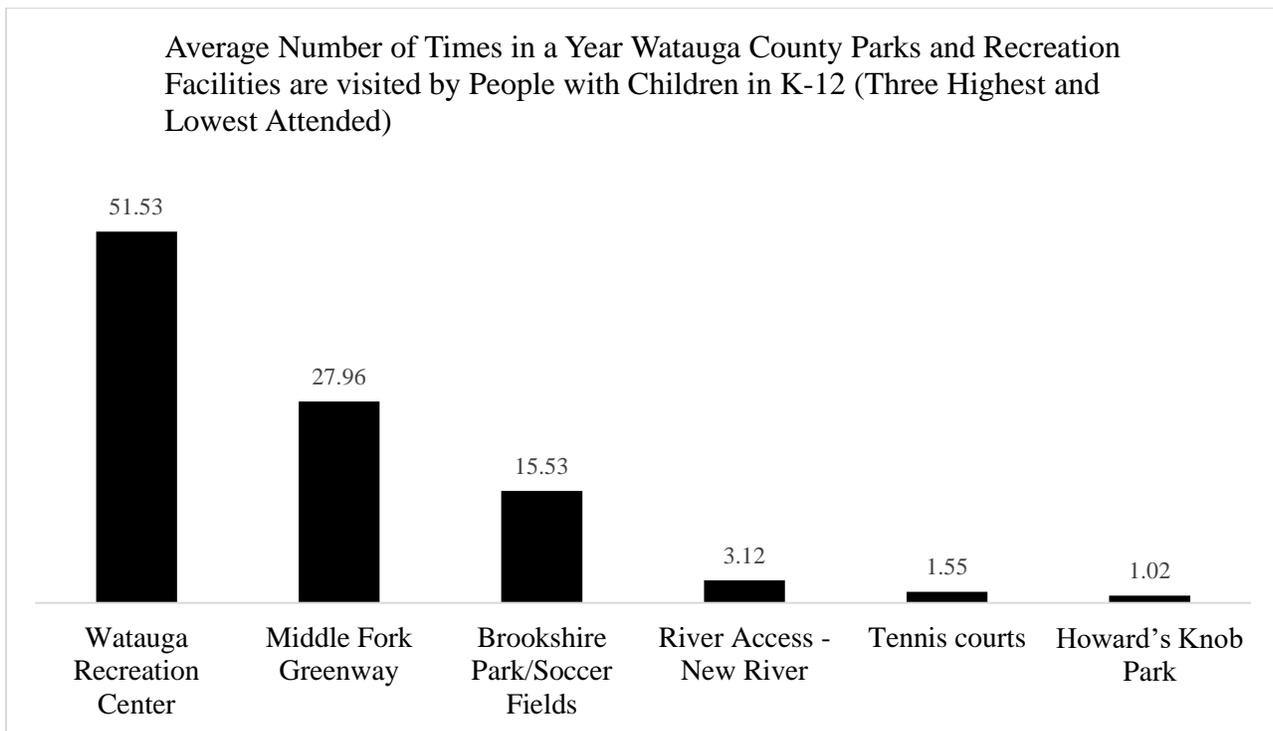


Figure 25: Average Number of Times in the Past Year Watauga County Parks and Recreation Facilities were Visited by People with Children in K-12 (Three Highest and Lowest Attended)

Figure 25 depicts the average number of times individuals with children in K-12 visited various Watauga Parks and Recreation facilities in the past year. The three highest and three lowest average attended facilities are listed in this chart. The most visited facility was the Watauga Recreation Center, which was visited an average of 51.53 days this past year. The Middle Fork Greenway was visited an average of 27.96 days this past year. The Brookshire Park/Soccer fields have been visited an average of 15.53 days this past year. The New River Access has visited an average of 3.12 days this past year. Howard's Knob Park has visited an average of 1.02 days this past year.

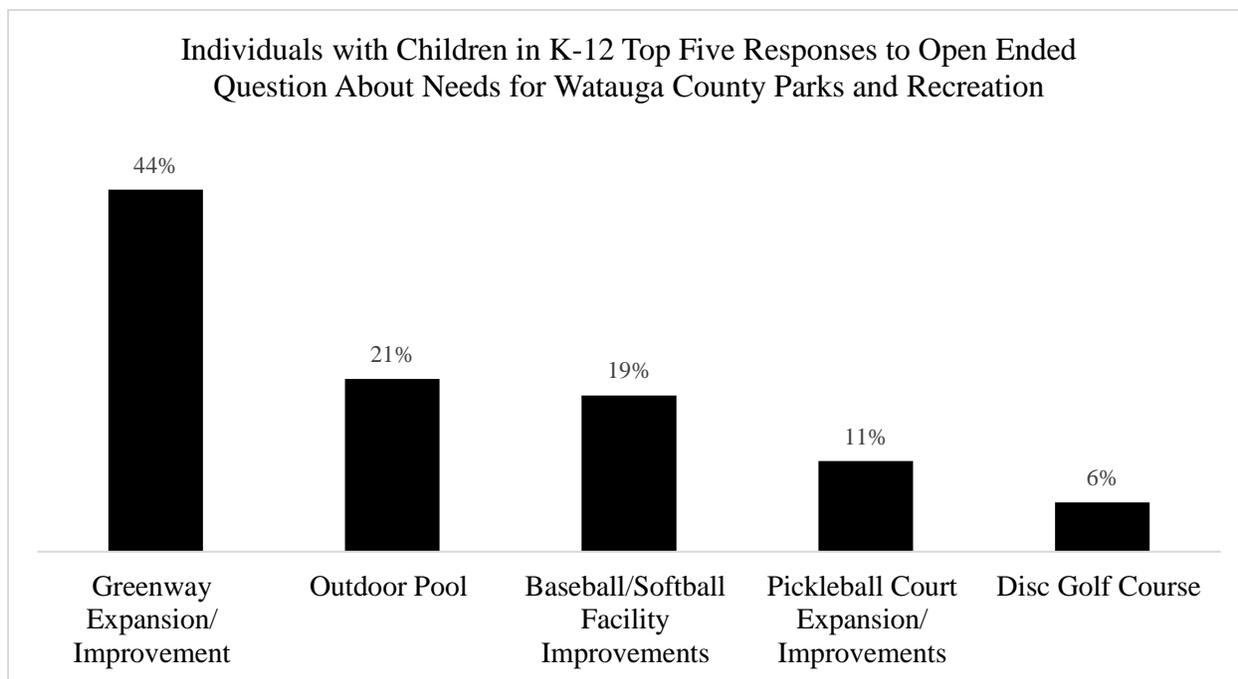


Figure 26: Individuals with Children in K-12 Responses to Open Ended Question About Needs for Watauga County Parks and Recreation

Figure 26 depicts open-ended responses of individuals with children in K-12 regarding the facility needs of Watauga County Parks and Recreation. Greenway expansion and improvement were mentioned in 44% of responses. The construction of an outdoor pool was mentioned in 21% of responses. Baseball and softball facility improvements were mentioned in 19% of responses. Pickleball court expansions and improvements were mentioned in 11% of responses. The construction of a disc golf course was suggested by 6% of respondents.

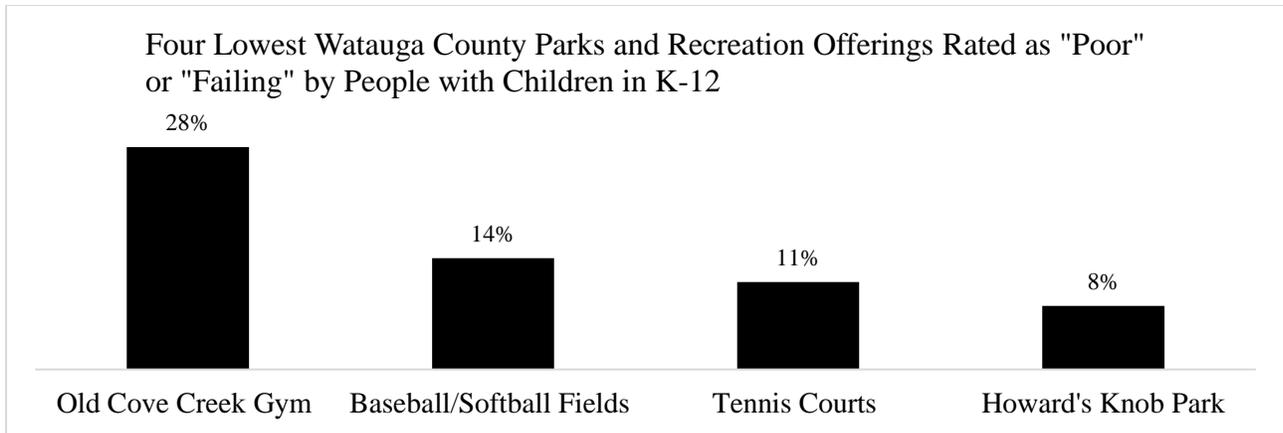


Figure 27: Four Lowest Watauga County Parks and Recreation Offerings Rated as “Poor” of “Failing” by People with Children in K-12

Figure 27 shows the bottom four ratings by individuals with children in K-12 of Watauga County Parks and Recreation offerings. Howard’s Knob Park received 8% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Tennis courts received 11% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Baseball/softball fields received 14% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Old Cove Creek Gym received 28% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.”

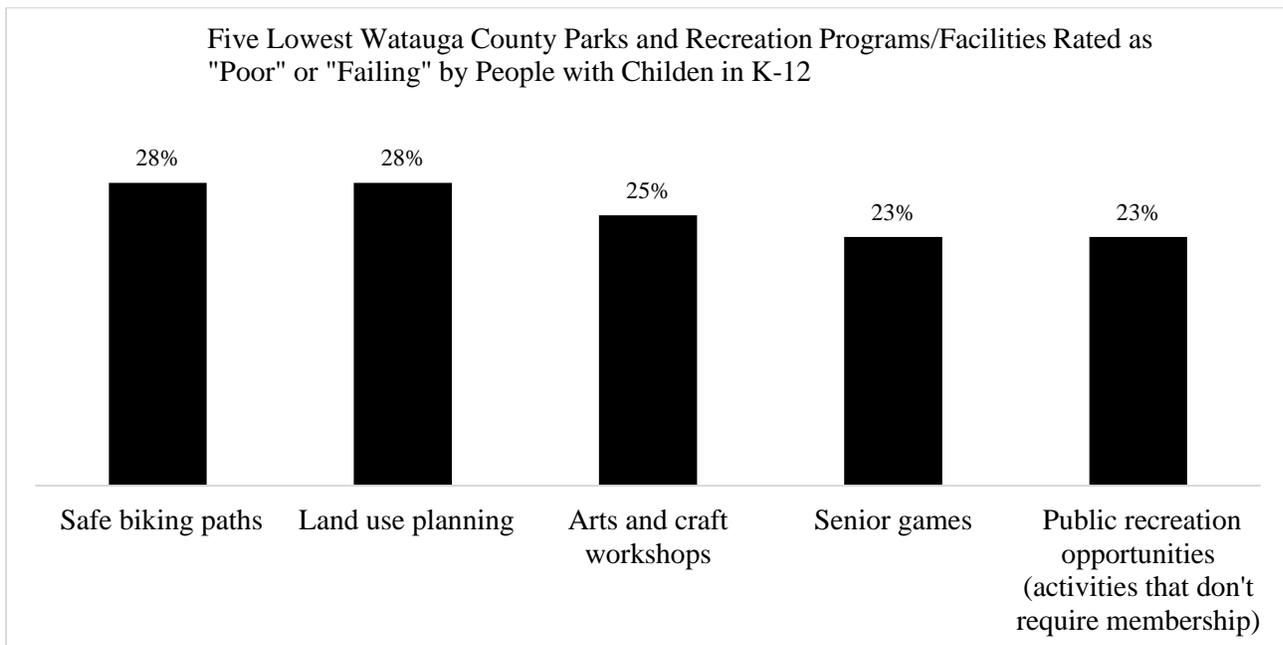


Figure 28: Five Lowest Watauga County Parks and Recreation Programs/Facilities Rated as “Poor” of “Failing” by People with Children in K-12

Figure 28 shows the bottom five ratings by individuals with children in K-12 of Watauga County Parks and Recreation programs/facilities. Public recreation opportunities that don’t require a membership received 23% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Senior games received 23% of

ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Arts and craft workshops received 25% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Safe biking paths received 28% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.” Land use planning received 28% of ratings as “poor” or “failing.”

Female Identifying Watauga County Residents

An inquiry was conducted to examine female-identifying Watauga County residents, and their population may be underserved. Figure 29 below shows the most poorly rated parks and facilities by respondents who identify as female. Women respondents comprise 47% of the total population or respondents (n=127). These included the Tot Lot (1.7), Recreation Center (1.6), Brookshire Park/Soccer Fields (1.4), Howard’s Knob Park (1.4), Middle Fork Greenway (1.3), and Old Cove Creek Gym (1.2). These results show that female-identifying individuals are dissatisfied with the same offerings as the population.

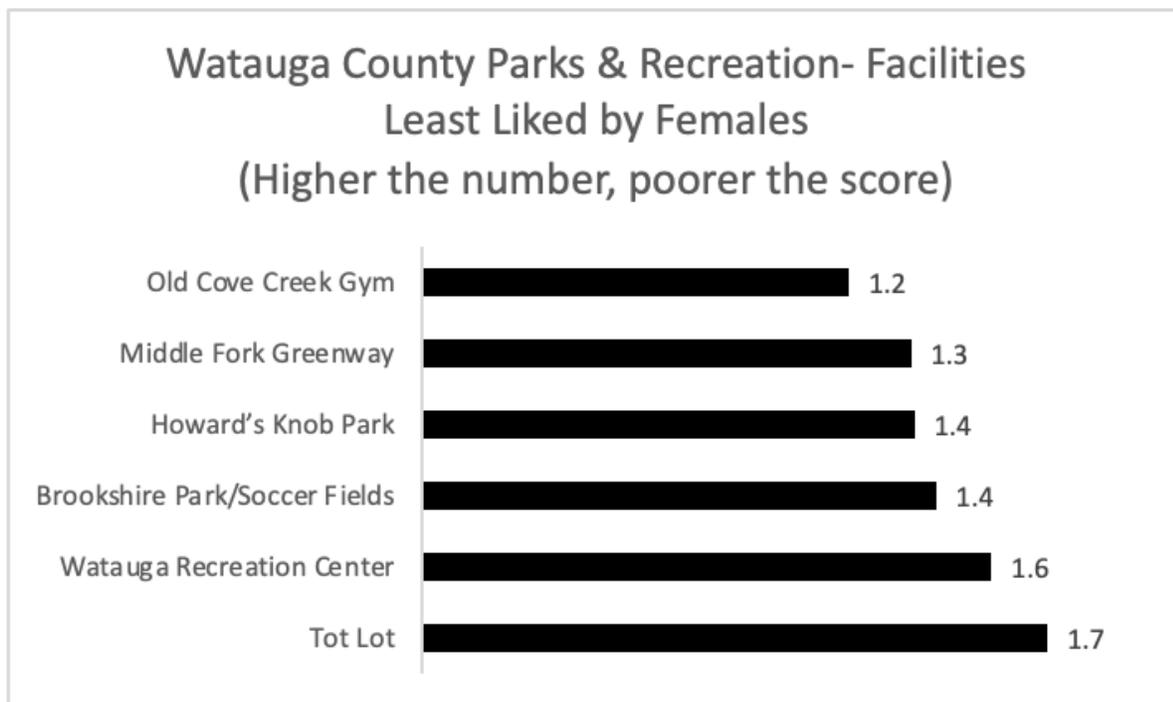


Figure 29: Examination of the Female Identifying Least Liked Facilities Offered

Figure 30 below demonstrates the most needed facilities according to female identifying respondents. The top choices were greenway expansion/upgrades (49%), outdoor pool/indoor pool upgrades (17%), pickleball (14%), and tennis (4%).

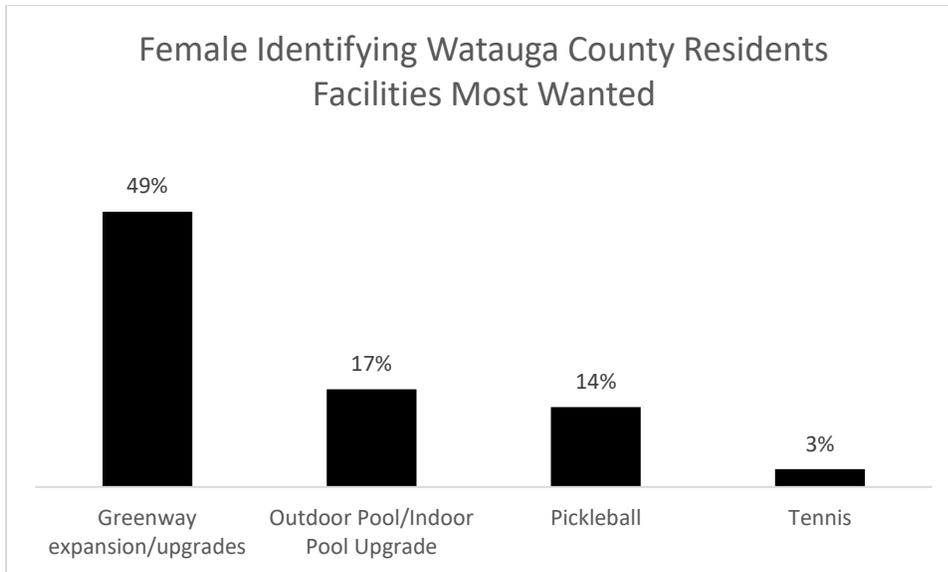


Figure 30: Female Identifying Watauga County Residents Facilities Most Wanted.

These results show that the Female identifying respondents are consistent with the total population in thinking that the greenway expansion/upgrades and outdoor pool/indoor pool upgrades are the top two most needed facilities. However, the females differ from the total population on the 3rd and 4th most facilities required. Women respondents believe pickleball and tennis are most needed; whereas, the total population believes disc golf and sports fields are most needed.

The percentages of female identifying respondents that mentioned these programs in their top two choices are as follows: youth sports/programs (34%), adult sports/programs (8%), groups/clubs (8%), and senior programs (6%). Figure 31 below demonstrates these percentages.

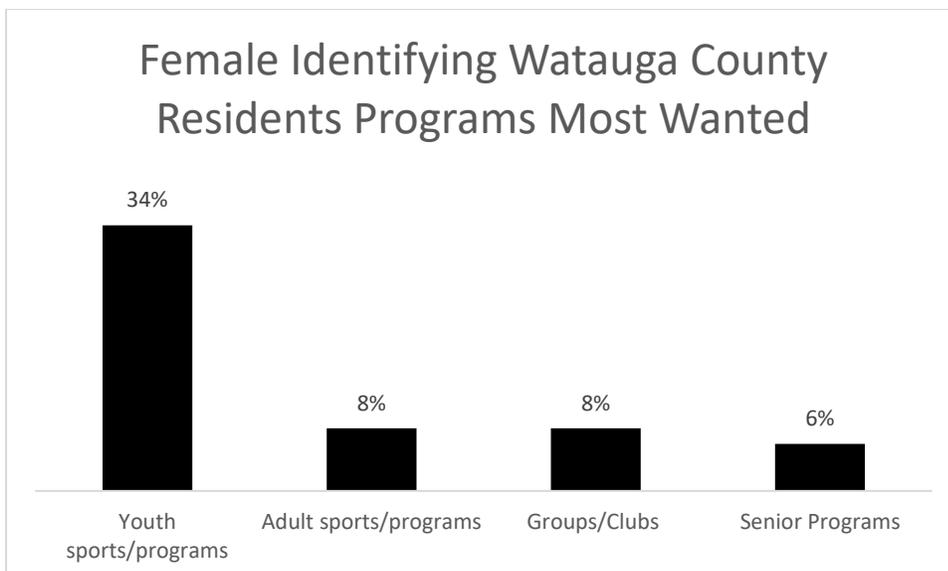


Figure 31: Female Identifying Watauga County Residents Programs Most Wanted.

These results show that the female identifying respondents are consistent with the population in thinking that youth sports/programs and adult sports/programs are the top two most needed programs. However, the females differ from the total population on the 3rd and 4th most needed programs. Women respondents believe groups/clubs and senior programs are most required, whereas the total population believes classes and groups/clubs are the most needed.

Figure 32 below shows the actions for improvement that are strongly supported by female identifying respondents. These actions include developing new walking/biking trails that connect to existing trails (68%), fix-up/repairing older park buildings and facilities (68%) and purchasing land to preserve open space and natural and historical areas (72%).



Figure 32: Actions Strongly Supported by Female

These results show that the women respondents are consistent with the total population in strongly supporting the top three actions for improvement: develop new walking/biking trails that connect to existing trails, fix up/repair older park buildings and facilities, and purchase land to preserve open space, natural and historic areas. However, the top three actions for improvement are the only ones strongly supported by women-identifying respondents. When looking at the total population, they strongly support several other actions for improvement: develop new walking/biking trails in places that aren't nearby existing trails, purchase land for developing future use, upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting, and expand outdoor fitness facilities. The women-identifying respondents are not as supportive of these actions.

Watauga County Parks and Recreation Facility Usage

Examination of usage by respondents can be difficult for certain areas where staffing is limited; as such, participants were asked of their usage of each site below. The average is presented in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Watauga County Facility Usage Examination

Approximately how many times have you visited each Watauga County Parks and Recreation facility in the last year?		
	Average	Total reported use
Middle Fork Greenway	83	16344
Tot Lot	66	11814
Watauga Recreation Center	44	9194
Brookshire Park/ Soccer Field	16	2982
Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex	13	2164
Complex Ballfield	13	2111
Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park	12	1992
Pickleball court	8	1272
River Access - Watauga	6	918
River Access - New River	5	798
Old Cove Creek Gym/Conference Center	4	609
Howard's Knob Park	2	339
Tennis court	1	226

Appendices

Survey does not come clean from Qualtrics see link for cleaner version. This survey is copywritten and is the solo propriety of Rec8er LLC and Erik Rabinowitz © without written permission is prohibited. https://appstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etDY2ssQnO7L72C

The Watauga County Parks & Recreation Department is interested in knowing what needs best fit the residents of Watauga County. As such, your input is sought and needed for the county to apply for grant funds. The entire process is designed to take no more than 10 minutes. Your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from the needs assessment at any time without penalty or loss of benefit. No names will be used and individual responses will be maintained in confidence.

As a thank you for your time, we will enter your completed needs assessment into a drawing for one of seven gas cards valued at \$20 each to be given away at the conclusion of the survey period. Feel free to forward the needs assessment link to others that you feel would be interested. This will close on February, 28, 2022.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

- Yes, I would like to continue the needs assessment
- No, I would not like to continue the needs assessment

Part one:

List any facilities that you think Watauga County Parks and Recreation needs (i.e. Greenway expansion).

Part two:

You are given \$100 to spend. Assign how much of this \$100 would you spend on each suggested facility.

	Part 1	Part
2		
1st item suggested:	<input style="width: 280px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	0 <input style="width: 60px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
2nd item suggested:	<input style="width: 290px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	0 <input style="width: 60px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
3rd item suggested:	<input style="width: 280px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	0 <input style="width: 60px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
4th item suggested:	<input style="width: 280px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	0 <input style="width: 60px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
5th item suggested:	<input style="width: 280px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	0 <input style="width: 60px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Total		0 <input style="width: 60px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>

Part one:

List any program(s) that you think Watauga County Parks and Recreation needs (i.e. youth sports).

Part two:

You are given \$100 to spend. Assign how much of this \$100 would you spend on each suggested program.

Part 1

Part 2

1st item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
2nd item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
3rd item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
4th item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
5th item suggested:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Total		<input type="text" value="0"/>

Approximately how many times have you visited each Watauga County Parks and Recreation facility in the last year?

Watauga Recreation Center

Complex Ballfields

Tennis courts

Pickleball courts

Tot Lot

Middle Fork Greenway

Old Cove Creek Gym/Conference Center

Howard's Knob Park

Brookshire Park/Soccer Fields

Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park

Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex

River Access - Watauga

River Access - New River



Using the scale (A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Average, D=Poor and E=Failing), please “grade” the offerings of Watauga County Parks and Recreation.

	A	B	C	D	E	Never used	N/A	Unaware of existence
Watauga Recreation Center	<input type="radio"/>							
Baseball/softball fields	<input type="radio"/>							
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>							
Pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>							
Tot Lot	<input type="radio"/>							
Middle Fork Greenway	<input type="radio"/>							
Old Cove Creek Gym	<input type="radio"/>							
Howard's Knob Park	<input type="radio"/>							
Brookshire Park/Soccer Fields	<input type="radio"/>							
Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park	<input type="radio"/>							
Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex	<input type="radio"/>							
River Access - Watauga River	<input type="radio"/>							

A B C D Never
 E used N/A

River Access - New River

Using the scale (A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Average, D=Poor and E=Failing), please “grade” how these existing Watauga County Parks and Recreation facilities/programs meet your household’s or community needs.

	A	B	C	D	E	Never used	N/A	Unaw of existe
Paved walking/biking trails (not including bike lanes or sidewalks)	<input type="radio"/>							
Unpaved hiking/walking trails	<input type="radio"/>	Community						
parks	<input type="radio"/>	Natural						
areas/open space	<input type="radio"/>	Indoor						
fitness/exercise facilities	<input type="radio"/>	Indoor						
gyms (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)	<input type="radio"/>	Senior						
center	<input type="radio"/>	Land						
use planning	<input type="radio"/>	Athletic						
programs for children	<input type="radio"/>	Athletic						
programs for adults	<input type="radio"/>							
Public recreation opportunities (activities that don't require membership)	<input type="radio"/>							
	<input type="radio"/>							

	A	B	C	D	E	Never used	N/A	of existence
Public recreation opportunities (activities that do require membership)	<input type="radio"/>	C						
Safe biking paths	<input type="radio"/>	Fitness						
classes	<input type="radio"/>	Swim						
lessons	<input type="radio"/>	Special						
Olympics	<input type="radio"/>	Summer						
camps	<input type="radio"/>	Senior						
games	<input type="radio"/>	Arts						
and craft workshops	<input type="radio"/>	C						

The following are actions that Watauga County could take to improve the local Watauga Parks and Recreation system.

How supportive are you of _____?

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Unsure	Somewhat unsupportive
Purchase land to preserve open space, natural and historic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase land for developing future use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fix-up/repair older park buildings & facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Unsure	Somewhat unsupportive
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renovate existing walking/biking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop new walking/biking trails that connect to existing trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop new walking/biking trails in places that aren't nearby existing trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop new athletic fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop new nature, history & horticulture facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop dog parks facilities (fenced, but no leashes required)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build new spray (water) parks with fountains for use by non-swimmers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand indoor fitness facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand outdoor fitness facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you currently hold a membership for Watauga County Parks and Recreation?

If yes, select which membership you hold.

I do not currently hold a membership for Watauga County Parks and Recreation.

Individual

Household

Senior

Youth

Dry ticket (day pass) if yes, approximately how many times per year?

Which of the following best describes you? Select all that apply:

Black or African American

Native American, American Indian,
 Alaskan Native, Indigenous or First Nation

White or Caucasian

Asian (Including Southeast Asian, South Asian, East Asian)

Hispanic, Latina/o/x/e, or

Arab or Middle Eastern

Chicana/o/x/e

Carribbean

Prefer not to say

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific

Other race, ethnicity, or origin:

Islander

Please indicate your highest level of education:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Some high school | <input type="radio"/> Bachelor's degree |
| <input type="radio"/> High school graduate | <input type="radio"/> Master's degree |
| <input type="radio"/> Associate degree | <input type="radio"/> Doctorate degree |
| <input type="radio"/> Professional/trade degree | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input style="width: 400px; height: 40px;" type="text"/> |

What is your affiliation with the Watauga County area? Please read these responses carefully and check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I currently live in Watauga County. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a business owner in Watauga County. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a full-time student. | <input type="checkbox"/> I work full-time in Watauga County. <input type="checkbox"/> I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> was born in Watauga County. | <input type="checkbox"/> I work part-time in Watauga County. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have lived in Watauga County for more than ten years. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am an active volunteer in Watauga County. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have returned to live in Watauga County after moving away. | <input type="checkbox"/> I have retired to Watauga County. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My primary home is in Watauga County. | <input type="checkbox"/> I (or my family and I) moved to Watauga County for work/professional reasons. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a second home in Watauga County. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am at least the second generation in my family to live in Watauga County. |

I have children in the K-12 school system in Watauga County.

My parents live in Watauga County.

My child attends college in Watauga County.

Where is your permanent residence?

What is your zipcode?

How long have you lived in Watauga County? Please reply in whole years. If you lived in Watauga County prior and moved back, please provide total number of years.

If you are a second home owner, how many months out of the year do you call Watauga County home?

Please answer the following questions for each member of your household. If you have less members than provided spaces, leave them blank.

Age

Gender Identity

Yourself

Age

Gender Identity

2nd household member

3rd household member

4th household member

5th household member

6th household member

Are you interested in attending one of the two public forums that will discuss the future of Watauga County Parks and Recreation?

- No, I am not interested in attending one of the public forums.
- Yes, I am interested in attending one of the public forums. I will include my email address below (Note: This response will not be included with your other responses above).

Are you interested in entering to win one of the seven gas cards valued at \$20 each?

- No, I am not interested in entering to win.

- Yes, I am interested in entering to win. I will include my email address below
(Note: This response will not be included with your other responses above).

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AGENDA ITEM 7:

PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS

A. Proposed Watauga Swim Team Contract

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

Ms. Keron Poteat, Watauga County Parks and Recreation Director, will present the contract with the Watauga Swim Team. The contract was approved by the Recreation Commission.

Board approval is required to adopt the contract as presented contingent upon County Attorney review.



WATAUGA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

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POOL USE AGREEMENT

This agreement, by and between Watauga County, a body politic of the State of North Carolina, and the Watauga Swim Team (WST) is for the purpose of governing the use of the aquatic facilities owned and operated by Watauga County.

Whereas, the WST is a non-profit organization created for the purpose of providing swim instruction and opportunity for competition with other swim teams in the area; and,

Whereas, the WST is desirous of using the County facilities for practices and training purposes;

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants and terms stated herein, the parties hereby agree to the following:

1. Watauga County shall allow the WST to use the aquatics lap pool at the Watauga Community Recreation Center (WCRC) upon such dates and times mutually agreed upon between the Watauga County Parks and Recreation (WCPR) Director and the President of the WST. The director and the president shall meet as needed to establish schedules for use of the pool and lanes. The County reserves the right to adjust this schedule depending upon the circumstances and needs in the aquatics portion of the WCRC.
2. The WST and their coaches are responsible for enforcing all rules pertaining to the team and the facility, including but not limited to compliance with all requests from the lifeguards and other WCRC staff. The WST shall supervise swimmers at all times, including the front lobby, locker rooms, pool deck, and pool. No swimmers may be in the pool before or after practice without WST staff supervision.
3. The WST agrees that it will at all times conduct their activities with full regard to public safety, and will observe and abide by all facility rules, regulations, policies, and applicable laws, and requests from the County, the aquatics staff, and other County staff. An adult representative of the WST shall supervise all members of the WST at all times (for practice purposes) while within the WCRC, including the locker rooms. All WST coaches, staff, and volunteers must be of good character and standing.
4. In exchange for the privilege to use the facility, each member of the WST shall be required to possess a current WCRC membership or pay a daily fee during the duration of their participation with the WST. In the event that a member of the WST opts out of their swim team membership or in the event that the County ejects, suspends, or terminates that participant, no refund will be issued.



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5. In addition to the membership requirement, the WST shall pay to the County, a fee of \$7,000 annually. The WST will pay \$1,750 quarterly. Every active WST member must scan in or pay the daily fee at the front desk upon each visit.
6. The WST shall inform the Aquatics Director or Assistant Aquatics Director as soon as possible if a practice will be missed or cancelled.
7. The WST staff shall be responsible for conveying and covering the rules and regulations of the facility with swim team members. The Swim Team Orientation and Safety Review (attached), shall be covered with all WST members quarterly.
8. The WST shall make sure that all areas of the WCRC, including the lobby, locker rooms, pool deck, benches, etc. are kept in a neat and tidy manner. All members' personal belongings shall be contained in an orderly fashion. No food, drink, or trash may be left in the lobby, benches, floor, or pool deck. Noise levels should be kept at normal conversation levels at all times, especially in the lobby and locker rooms.
9. The WST shall ensure that members' time in the locker rooms is used solely for showering and changing clothes. No loitering, phones, or horseplay are permitted.
10. The WST shall provide their own equipment, and may not use the County equipment without the express permission of the Aquatics Director.
11. Dryland workouts on the pool deck or in other areas of the WST must be approved by the Aquatics Director.
12. All WST members must shower prior to entering the pool.
13. The County shall provide the WST with a space to store equipment. All equipment within this location must be confined to the containers or racks in a neat and orderly fashion. No equipment may be left on the pool deck.
14. Deck space must be kept clear for patrons and lifeguards, including but not limited to: kickboards, fins, towels, chairs, and personal belongings.
15. The WST may not remove lane lines without the permission of the Aquatics Director.
16. Any special events or meeting requests by the WST must be approved by the Aquatics Director.
17. The WST shall provide to the County current copies of staff's USA swim safety certifications as well as the WST Certificate of Liability.
18. The Aquatics Director for the County reserves the right to address any areas of concern with the WST as they arise. The Aquatics Director and Assistant Aquatics Director or their designee reserve the right to eject or otherwise remove any objectionable person or persons from the facility. In the event the WST disagrees with a decision or action made, the decision may be appealed by the WST President to the WCPR Director. The decision of the WCPR Director shall be the final decision in the matter.



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19. Membership with the WST shall be available to all participants without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, or disability. The WST shall ensure that all of its members and members' parents receive and review the County Swim Team Orientation and Safety Review.
 20. The County shall regulate pool and on deck temperatures. The WST shall not change any of these conditions. Additionally, the County reserves the right to interrupt usage of the aquatic facility for the safety of the participants. Decisions to interrupt usage shall be the sole discretion of the County.
 21. The WST hereby agrees to indemnify, defend (at County's option), and hold harmless Watauga County and each of its officials, officers, agents, staff, volunteers, successors, and designees from and against all and any claims, demands, defense costs, liability, expense, or damages (direct and indirect) of any kind or nature arising from or in connection with the WST's use and/or occupancy of the facility, or arising out of any act or omission of the WST or its affiliates.
 22. The County retains, at all times, the right to control the management of the facility in its sole and unfettered discretion and to enforce all rules regarding the management and operation thereof. Nothing in this agreement or the act of permitting the usage of the facility to the WST shall be interpreted as relinquishing any rights of the County.
 23. The County of the SWT may terminate this agreement for any reason provided that a thirty (30) day written notice is provided to the other party of the intent to cancel. No cancellation or termination by either party shall relieve the WST for its obligation to pay any and all amounts due.
 24. If any occurrence, event, or reason renders fulfillment of this Agreement by the County impracticable, the County's obligations to the WST shall be suspended immediately and the County shall not be liable or responsible to the WST for any damage or loss.
 25. In the event of a dispute between the WST and the County regarding the use of this facility or the terms of this Agreement, the County and the WST agree to be bound by the decision of the WCPR Director.
 26. This Agreement shall be governed by, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. If any portion of this Agreement is held invalid under any applicable statute or rule of law, then only such portion shall be deemed invalid and the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected, thereby and shall remain in full effect and force. No waiver or failure to exercise any right, option or privilege under the terms of this Agreement on any occasion shall be construed to be a waiver of any other right, option or privilege on any other occasion, nor shall any waiver constitute a continuing waiver. No waiver shall be binding unless executed in writing by the party making the waiver.



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- 27. This document, including the Swim Team Orientation and Safety Review, contains the entire Agreement between the WST and the County. No promise, representation, warranty or covenant not included in this document has been made or is relied upon by any party. No waiver, modification, or amendment of this Agreement shall be in force or in effect unless in writing and executed by all parties.
- 28. The WST may not assign this Agreement without the express, prior written consent of the County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Agreement on the _____ day of _____ in the year of _____.

WATAUGA COUNTY

By: _____
Keron Poteat, Director, Watauga County Parks & Recreation

Attest: _____
Anita Fogle, Clerk to the Board

WATAUGA SWIM TEAM

By: _____
Rebecca Riddle, President

Attest: _____
WST Secretary



Watauga County Parks & Recreation

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Swim Team Orientation & Safety Review

Watauga County Parks and Recreation Statement of Belief

It is the goal of Watauga County Parks and Recreation to provide quality programming to all the citizens of the community. We believe programs should be enjoyable, fun, safe, fulfilling, and rewarding. Recreational opportunities should emphasize participation for enjoyment., self understanding, self discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The primary purpose of our programs are for youth and adults to reach their full potential through complete participation in recreational activities. Watauga County Parks and Recreation strives to prepare youth for adulthood and the enhancement of overall quality of life for all Watauga County citizens.

WCRC Code of Conduct

The WCRC is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all members and guests. To promote safety and comfort for all, individuals are expected to act appropriately at all times. The Code of Conduct outlines prohibited actions:

- ◆ Use of alcohol, drugs, or illegal chemicals is prohibited on any and all Watauga County property including facilities, parking lots, fields, or any Watauga County Parks and Recreation sponsored programming.
- ◆ The WCRC has a strict “No Tobacco Products” or “E-cigs” policy. Use of these or other vaping sources will result in immediately expulsion from the center.
- ◆ Weapons on the grounds are strictly prohibited. This includes carry or concealed weapons, knives, or any device/object that may be used as a weapon.
- ◆ The WCRC has a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding harassment, bullying, abusive language or actions, discrimination, cursing and yelling.
- ◆ Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult, 18 years of age or older, at all times. Children dropped off and left under the age of 12 will be asked to call their parents.
- ◆ Explicit conversation or behavior will not be tolerated. Violators will be dismissed and suspended from using the WCRC.
- ◆ Inappropriate, immodest, opaque, or sexually revealing swimsuits or attire is prohibited.
- ◆ Theft or behavior that results in the destruction or loss of property will result in prosecution.
- ◆ Loitering within or on the grounds of the WCRC is prohibited.
- ◆ Solicitation within or on the grounds of the WCRC is prohibited.
- ◆ Persons under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other self-altering substances will be ask to leave immediately.



Watauga County Parks & Recreation

231 Complex Drive Boone, NC

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- ◆ Disrespect of WCRC staff or volunteers will result in immediately dismissal from the facility.

Anyone failing to follow the posted rules or directions from staff is subject to immediate removal from the premises. Members and guests are encouraged to take responsibility for their personal comfort and safety by asking anyone whose behavior threatens them to refrain from doing so. Anyone who feels uncomfortable in dealing with a person directly should report the inappropriate behavior immediately to a staff person.

Building a Pathway to Success For Swim Teams

The primary responsibility of the aquatic staff will be preventing and managing life threatening events. Swim coaches and leadership will be responsible for supervising and reminding swim team members about the Code of Conduct and the following rules:

- ◆ Swimmers should not hang on the lane lines, run on the deck, horseplay in and around the pool, locker rooms, or lobby.
- ◆ Swim team members must abide by all posted and printed rules.
- ◆ Swim team staff must supervise all swimmers, especially those under the age of 12 at all times. Any swim team member under the age of 12 must be supervised by WST staff until a parent or guardian picks them up. They may not be left unattended at the WCRC.
- ◆ WCRC spaces should be left in clean and organized condition at the end of practice. All food wrappers, drink bottles, and trash must be disposed of properly.
- ◆ No food or drinks are allowed in the locker rooms or on the pool deck.
- ◆ As a shared space, please keep the noise level at normal conversation levels at all times. No yelling, screaming or whistle blast during practice when other programs are occurring.
- ◆ Time spent in locker rooms should be kept to a minimum. No horseplay. No phones. No loud conversations. Be conscious and respectful of other members and guests using the locker rooms.
- ◆ The lap pool will be the only pool allowed for practice unless prior approval is granted by the aquatics director or assistant director.
- ◆ Dryland workouts should be approved by the aquatics director or assistant aquatics director prior to use.
- ◆ All swimmers are required to shower before entering the pool. No exceptions.
- ◆ Aquatic leadership will take responsibility for lane removal during WST practice time.
- ◆ Water polo is not permitted.
- ◆ All special events or meeting requests must be approved by the aquatics director or assistant aquatics director.



Watauga County Parks & Recreation

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Watauga County Swim Team Testing Requirement

All members of the team or trying out for the team must be able to pass a swim test that includes: swimming; a coordinated freestyle with face in the water; and, rotary breathing for 25 meters without the stopping. The individual must perform a front facing total entry with a submersion and recovery, and demonstrate complete comfort in finding the surface. The member must be able to comfortably tread water for 30 consecutive seconds. Lastly, the member must demonstrate the ability to independently exit the deep end of the pool with no hook, hold, grab, or ladder-based exit.

Visiting the WCRC

- ◆ Every person with the WST is required to swipe their membership card at the front desk every time that they arrive for practice.
- ◆ A WST roster is requested from the WST to the WCRC front desk staff.
- ◆ WST parents who are not members of the WCRC are required to remain in the lobby while waiting to pick up their children after practice. A membership or daily fee is required for parents wishing to use any areas of the WCRC.

Equipment Expectations

- ◆ The WST may store equipment in a neat and orderly fashion in the space allotted by the WCRC. Additionally, the WST must use their own equipment and not that of the WCRC unless approved otherwise by the aquatic director or assistant aquatic director.
- ◆ No belongings or equipment should be left out in the locker rooms or lobby (unless secured in a locker).
- ◆ No equipment will be allowed on the deck prior to practice beginning.
- ◆ Deck space must be kept clear for patrons and lifeguards. Kickboards, fins, goggles and such shall not obstruct any walking space.

Updating Leadership

- ◆ With any turnover or additions to the WST leadership, review of all rules, policies, and contracts is required.
- ◆ New coaches, leadership, and WST volunteers must review and sign the Swim Team Orientation and Safety Review.
- ◆ Coaches and leadership will review the Emergency Action Plans with the aquatics director and assistant director annually to ensure that roles and expectations are understood.

Required Documentation

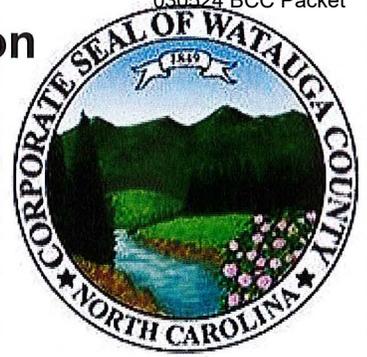
- ⇒ Current USA Swim Coach certifications
- ⇒ Certificate of Liability
- ⇒ Compliance with NCHSAA guidelines for coaching, practice times and meets



Watauga County Parks & Recreation

231 Complex Drive Boone, NC

828.264.9511



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

REVIEW

Exposure Control Plan

Bodily Fluids or Fecal Exposure

Supervisor/Staff Responsibilities

Fecal Accident

- Clear pool
- Glove up & remove solid with net & dispose. Clean & disinfect net in hall utility closet
- Test water to verify chlorine at 2.0 ppm or higher
- Add 1 cup granular chlorine (mixed) to area of exposure
- Close pool for ½ hour if solid/semi-solid accident; 24 hours if diarrhea
- Notify front end of closure and direct to post signs and notify new guests as they arrive

Blood

On Deck:

- Close off exposed area (10 ft)
- Glove up & blot up excess with paper towels and dispose in biohazard bag
- Spray area with bleach solution, using hand power sprayer, let sit 5 minutes, Rinse into drain
- OR
- **Use biohazard spill clean up kit**

In Pool:

- Close off exposed area (10 ft)
- Test water to verify chlorine at 2.0 or higher
- Add 1 cup granular chlorine (mixed) to area.
- Restrict use of area for ½ hour minimum

COMMUNICATION
&
GUEST RELATIONS

**UNIVERSAL
PRECAUTIONS**

COMMUNICATION
&
GUEST RELATIONS

COMMUNICATION
&
GUEST RELATIONS

On Deck:

- Close off exposed area (10 ft)
- Glove up & wipe up excess with paper towels and dispose in biohazard bag or use mop and clean/disinfect mop in closet.
- Spray area with bleach solution, using hand power sprayer, let sit 5 minutes, Rinse into drain
- OR
- **Use biohazard spill clean up kit**

In Pool:

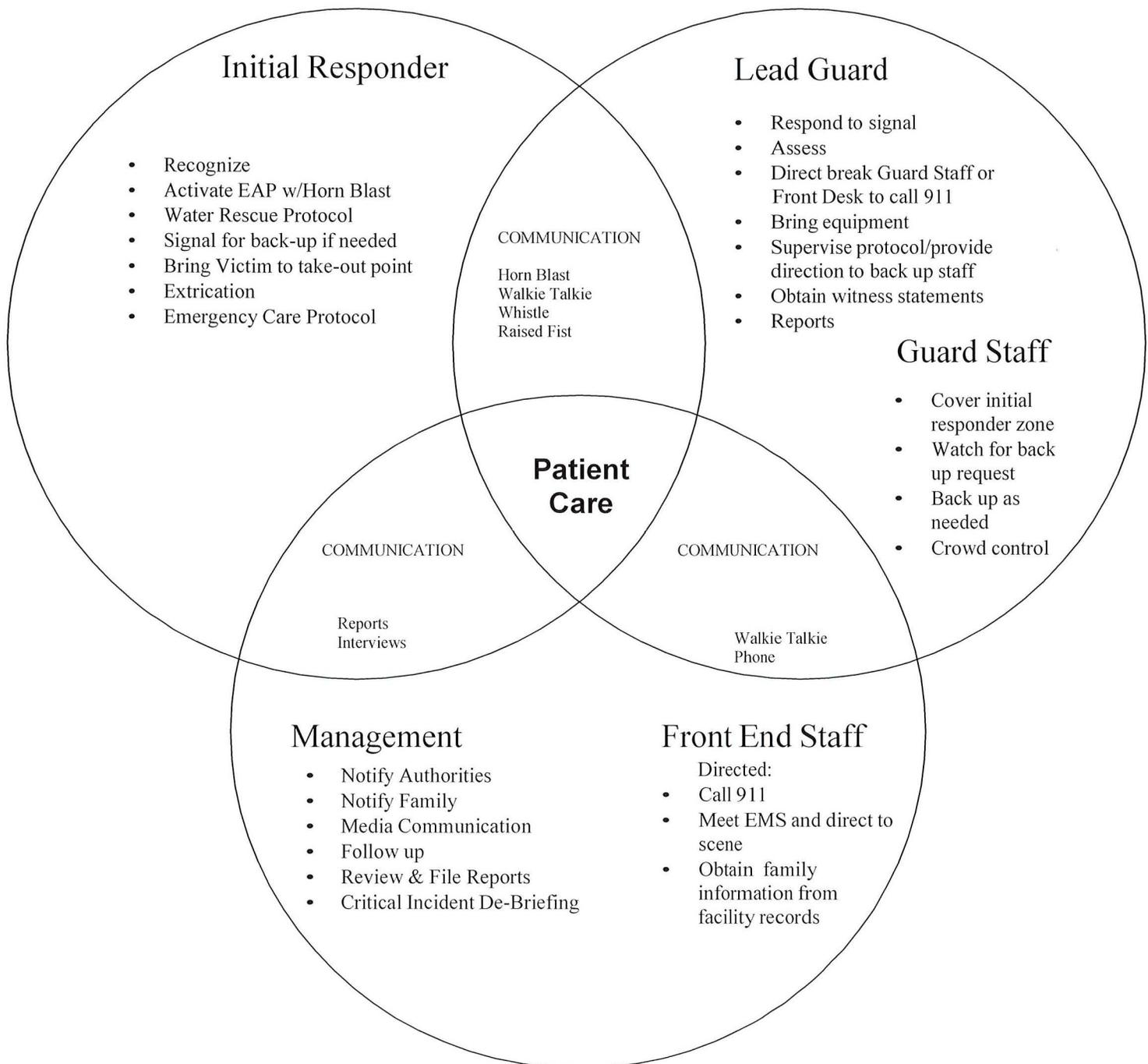
- Close off exposed area (10 ft)
- Scoop out with net, clean/disinfect net in closet
- Test water to verify chlorine at 2.0 ppm or higher
- Add 1 cup granular chlorine (mixed) to area.
- Restrict use of area for ½ hour.

Vomit

Emergency Action Plan

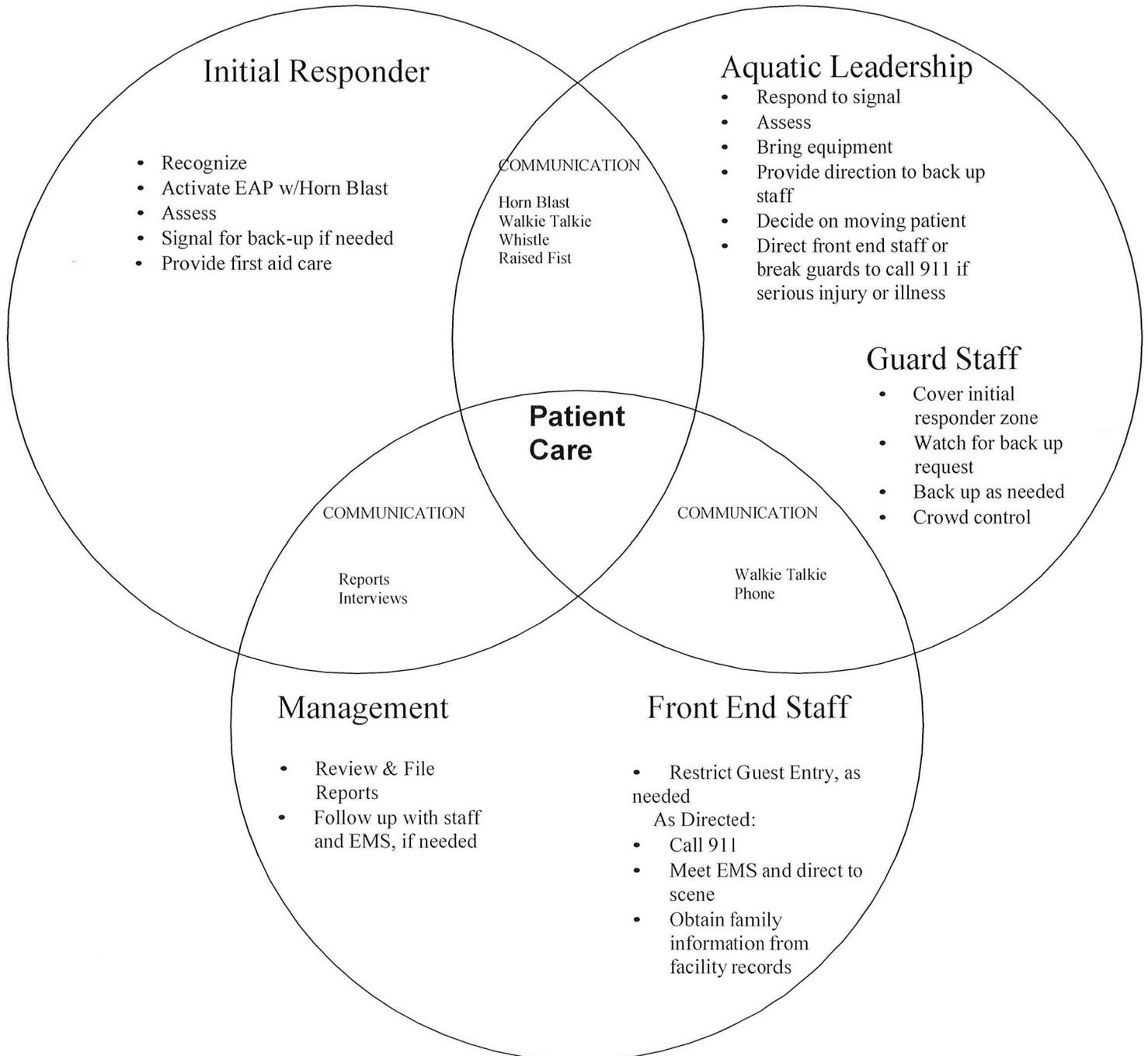
Life Threatening Emergency

(Drowning, Heart Attack, Severe Bleeding, Stroke, Unconscious/Unresponsive, etc...)



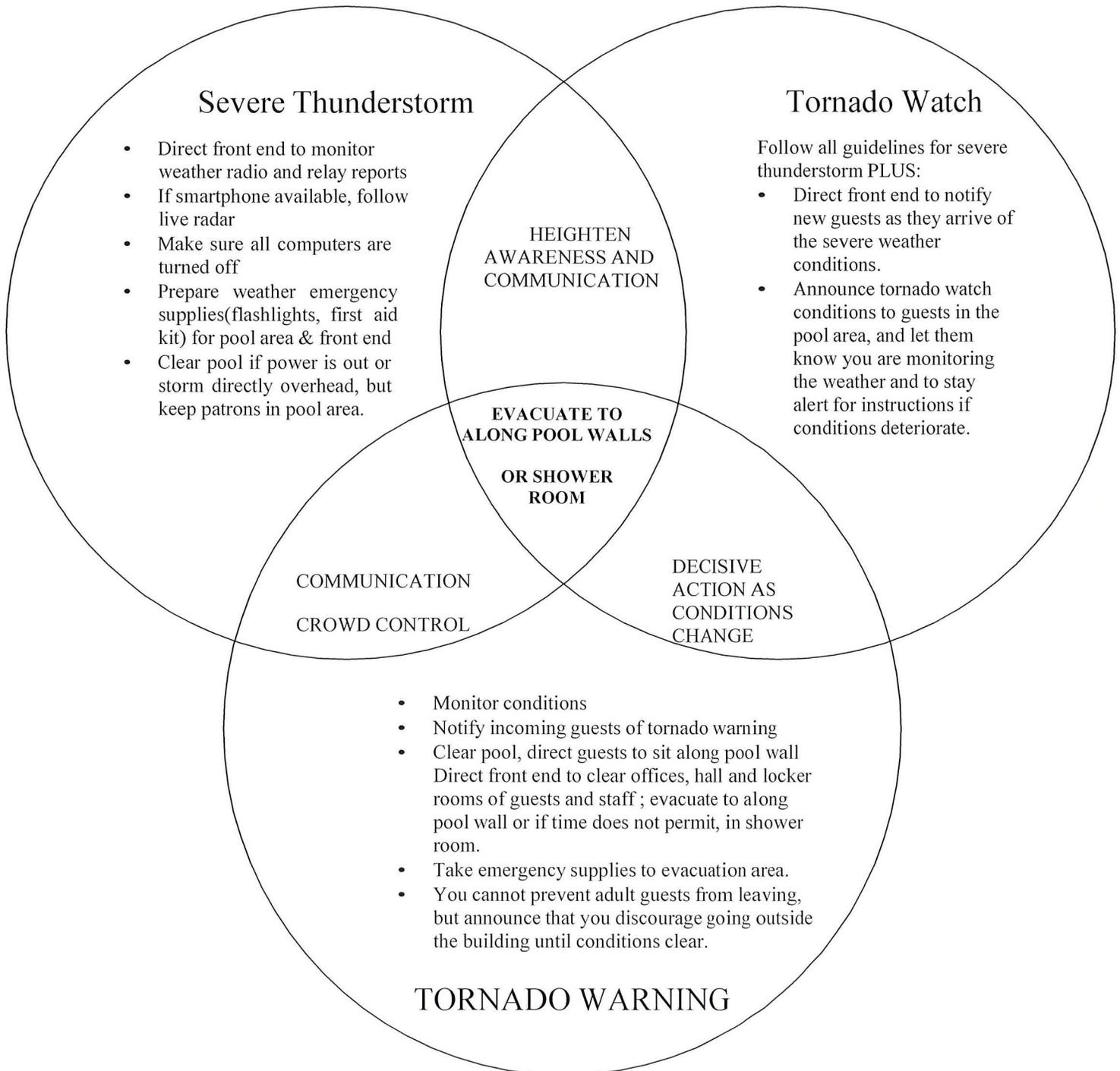
Emergency Action Plan

Non-Life Threatening Emergency

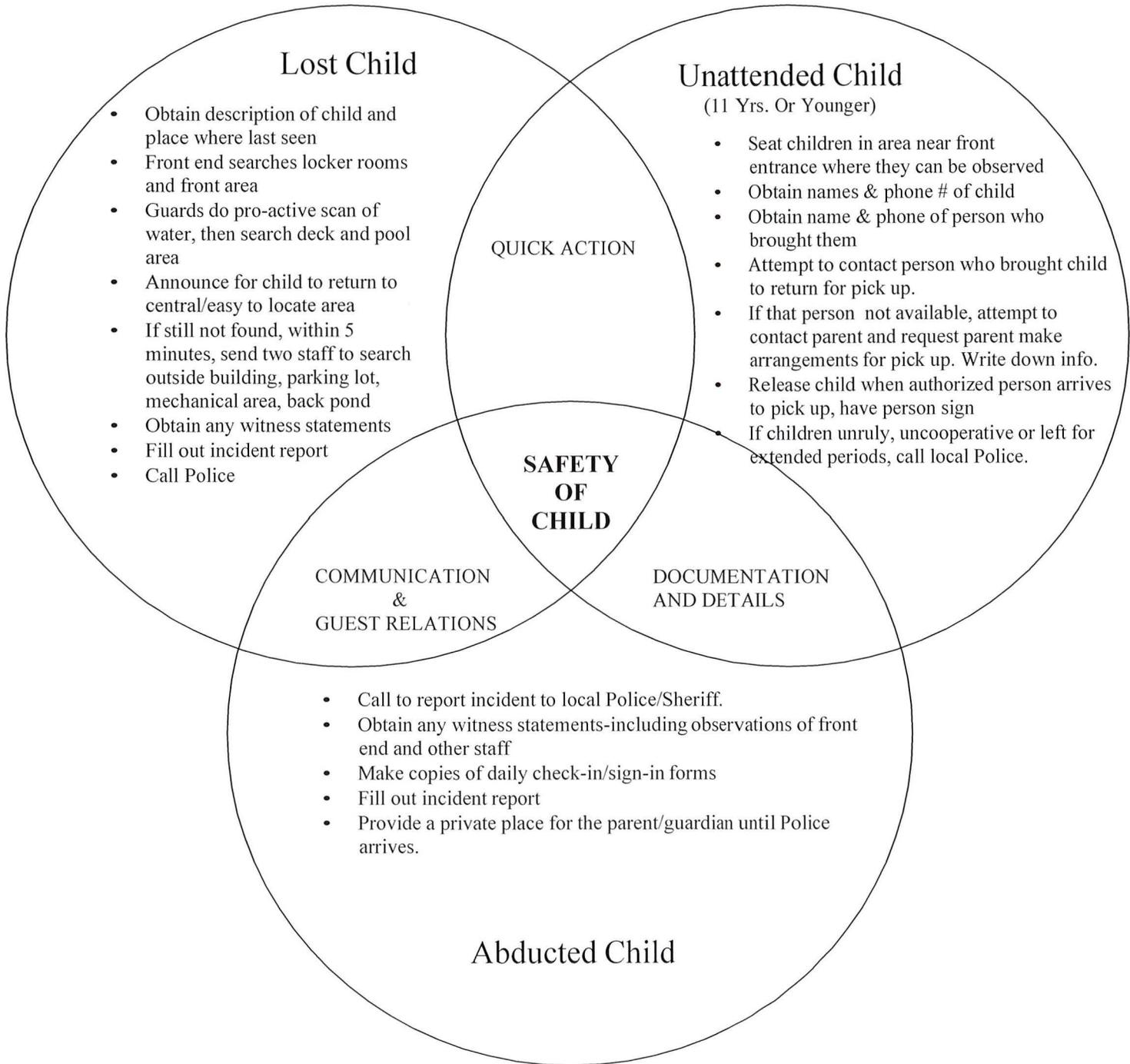


Emergency Action Plan

Weather Emergency: Management Responsibilities

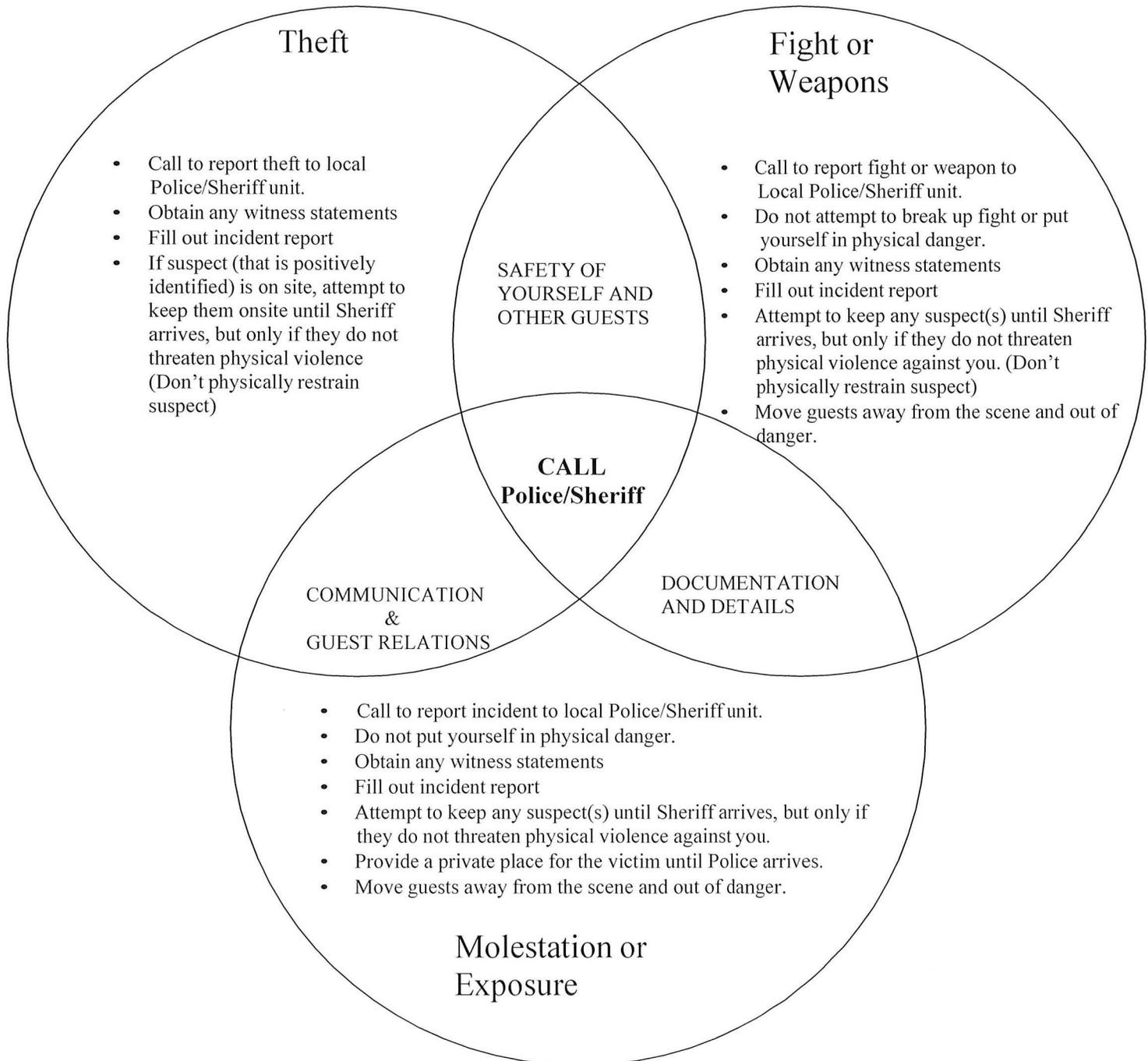


Emergency Action Plan
Child Related Emergency



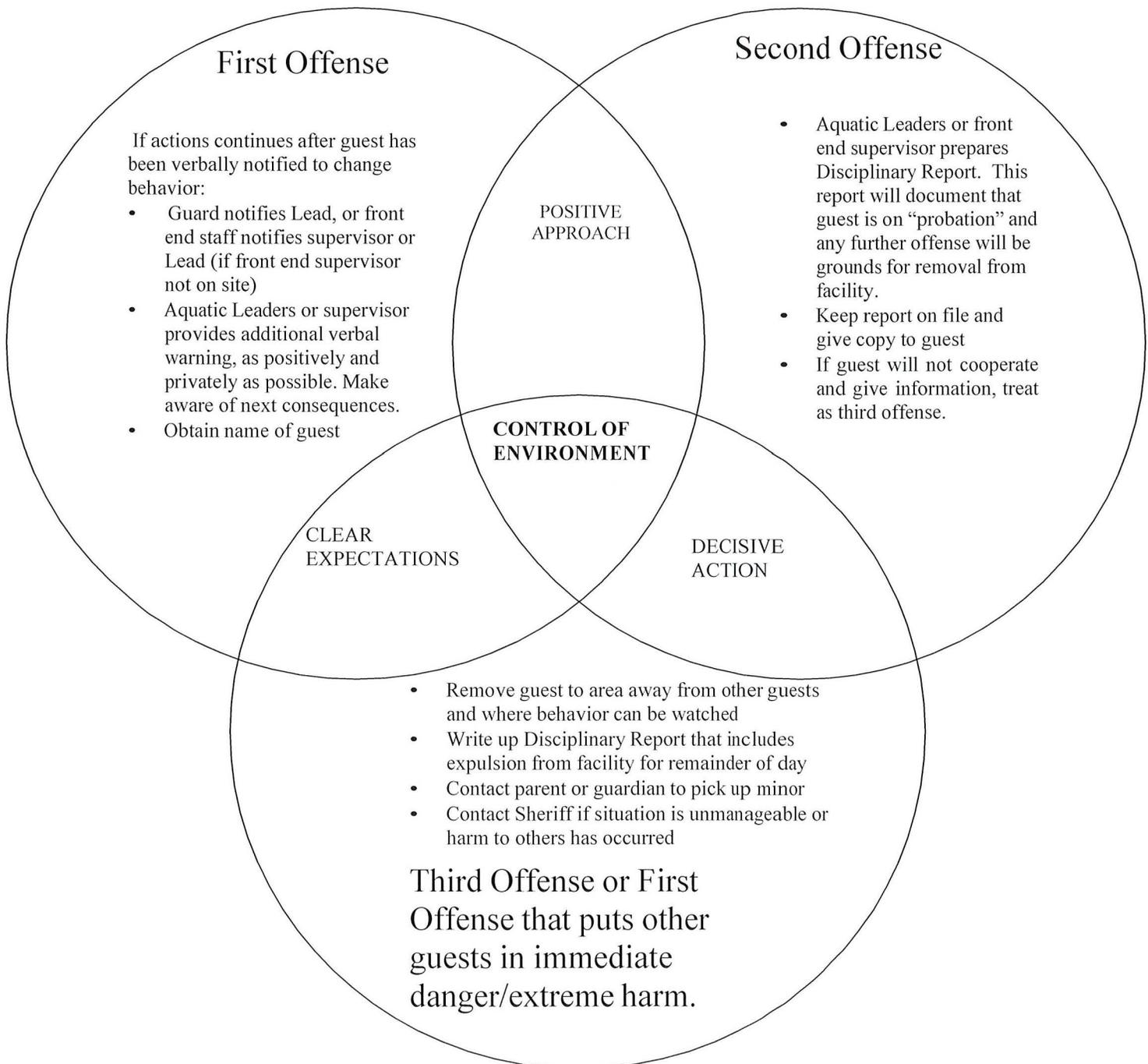
Emergency Action Plan

Procedures for Criminal Activity



Emergency Action Plan

Disciplinary Policy



Facility Evacuation Plan

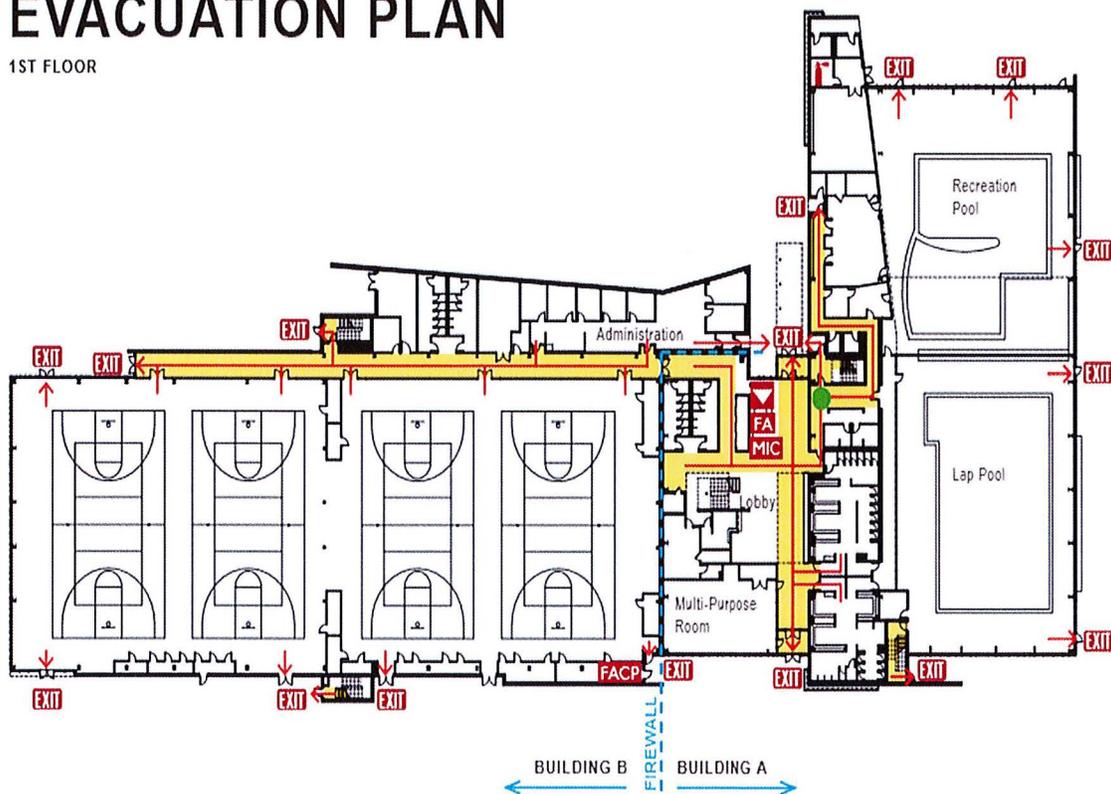
If evacuation is necessary (as defined by EAP's), a lifeguard is responsible for clearing the pool by giving one long whistle blast. They will then direct people out of the emergency exit doors closest to the side of the Natatorium and move to the meeting point where they will await further instruction over the radio from leadership staff.

If the emergency exit doors are not accessible or are unsafe, they will evacuate via the locker rooms and out the back of the building. They will meet at the same meeting point.

Assembly points for the aquatics space will be in the playground in warmer months and in fire department for winter months.

EVACUATION PLAN

1ST FLOOR



LEGEND

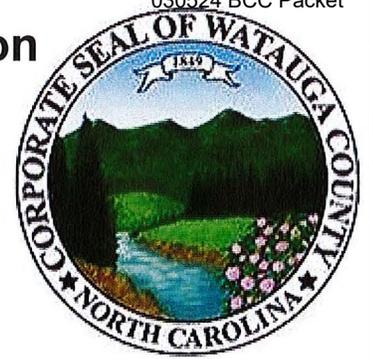
● You Are Here	Fire Extinguisher
Accessible Egress Route	Fire Alarm Annunciator
Exit	Fire Alarm Control Panel
Primary Exit Route	Microphone
Fire Alarm Pull Station	



Watauga County Parks & Recreation

231 Complex Drive Boone, NC

828.264.9511



The items stated in this document have been reviewed and accepted. The undersigned users will abide by these guidelines.

Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

AGENDA ITEM 7:**PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS*****B. Proposed Addition of Recreation Commission Member and Appointments*****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Denny Norris, Watauga Recreation Commission Director, will request the Board approve the members put forth by the Commission for appointment. Further, Mr. Norris will request the Board approve the addition of one more member to their Board. The new member would be at-large.

Should the Board wish to approve the recommended members, including the additional member, a motion would be required to waive the 1st reading and adopt the members as presented.

Memo



To: Watauga County Board of Commissioners

From: Keron Poteat, Parks and Recreation Director

cc: Deron Geouque, County Manager

Date: 2/28/24

Re: Parks and Recreation Commission Appointments

The Recreation Commission has voted on and approved the following individuals for service to the commission:

Name	School	Term Beginning	Term Expiration
Elin Reuben	Mabel	2024	2027
Chad Hicks	Cove Creek	2024	2027

Name	At-Large Area	Term Beginning	Term Expiration
Rachel Laney	Town of Boone	2024	2027

All are in good standing and recommended by community members. We ask that the Board of Commissioners approve these individuals for the Recreation Commission Advisory Board.

AGENDA ITEM 8:**SHERIFF'S OFFICE REQUEST FOR FY 2023-2024 MOBILE RADIO AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT PURCHASE****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Major Kelly Redmon is requesting the Board approve the purchase of eight (8) dual band car radios in the amount of \$37,360 from Two Way Radio of Carolina, Inc. In addition, approval is requested for the purchase of eight (8) vehicle upfits in the amount of \$43,504.64 from Dana Safety Supply on the NC Sheriff's Contract. Adequate funds are available in the FY 2023-2024 budget to cover the requested expenses.

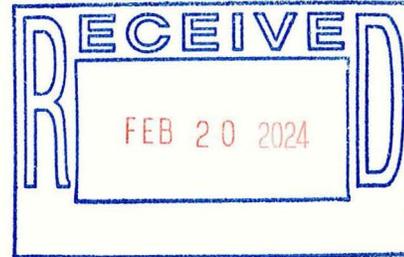
Board approval is required to accept the bids from Two Way Radio of Carolina, Inc. in the amount of \$37,360 and Dana Safety Supply in the amount of \$43,504.64.



WATAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

184 HODGES GAP ROAD
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28607
(828) 264-3761 • FAX (828) 263-5345

LEN D. HAGAMAN, JR.
SHERIFF



February 19, 2024, 2023

To: Deron Geouque- Watauga County Manager

From: Major Kelly Redmon

Ref: FY 23-24 Mobile Radio and emergency equipment purchase approval

The Watauga County Sheriff's Office Request Board approval for the purchase of 8 dual band car radios for the FY 23-24FY from Two Way Radio of Carolina, Inc.

The radio pricing is on state contract. Eight (8) radios will come from the 23-24 FY budget a cost of \$37,360

Additionally, approval is requested for the purchase of emergency equipment to upfit the approved vehicles. This includes, all lights, sirens, speakers consoles, computer stands, partitions, push bumpers, as well as residual connectors, and assembly pieces; from Dana Safety Supply on the NC Sheriff's Contract. The cost for eight (8) vehicle upfits is \$43504.64

The funds for this purchase are available in the 23-24 FY Sheriff's budget.

Sales Quote

DANA SAFETY SUPPLY, INC
4809 KOGER BLVD
GREENSBORO, NC 27407

Telephone: 800-845-0405

Sales Quote No.	520027-A
Customer No.	WATAU

Bill To

WATAUGA CO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 184 HODGES GAP ROAD
 BOONE, NC 28607

Ship To

WATAUGA CO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
 184 Hodges Gap Rd
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Contact:
Telephone: 828-264-3761
E-mail: tyler.honeycutt@watgov.org

Contact: MAJOR KELLY REDMON
Telephone: 828-265-7607
E-mail: Kelly.Redmon@watgov.org

Quote Date	Ship Via	F.O.B.	Customer PO Number	Payment Method	
02/12/24	GROUND SHIPMENT	PPAY & ADD TO INVOICE		NET30	
Entered By		Salesperson	Ordered By	Resale Number	
Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON		
Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	N	INFO VEHICLE INFORMATION 2024 DODGE DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO 2023 DODGE DURANGO	0.0000	0.00
8	8	Y	EVP WEC EMERGENCY VEHICLE PRODUCTS NCSA #190 Warehouse: GBKO EVP PACKAGE INCLUDES: NC SHERIFF'S CONTRACT # 190 a. Whelen - Inner Edge XP Front Full-Width Interior LED System with 2 LED Takedown Lights PT# IX44UFZ b. Whelen - Rear Full-Width Interior LED System PT# DP603300 c. Whelen - Four IONS Instead the VTX-609 d. Whelen - 295SLSA6 WHELEN integrated siren and light controller with PA e. Whelen - SA315P Speaker f. Whelen - SAK54 Speaker Bracket	1,600.1000	12,800.80
8	8	N	IX44UFZ-BB WEC INNER EDGE XLP 10LT 13 DURANGO B/B Warehouse: GBKO WHELEN SEE ATTACHED WIZARD --- ***** INCLUDED IN EVP	0.0000	0.00

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Print Time	03:15:29 AM
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Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	N	DP6AAABBB WEC DOMINATOR PLUS 3 BLUE 3 AMBER Warehouse: GBKO WHELEN INCLUDED IN EVP	0.0000	0.00
8	8	N	DBKT4 WEC L-ANGLE MTG BRACKET KIT FOR DOMINATOR (2 BRKTS) Warehouse: GBKO INCLUDED IN EVP SPEC # 190 USED TO MOUNT THE DP603300	0.0000	0.00
32	32	N	WEC-IONB Whelen ION W/Universal Mount - Blue Warehouse: GBKO WHELEN INCLUDED IN EVP	0.0000	0.00
8	8	N	WEC-295SLSA6 Whelen 100/200W Scan-Lock Self-Contained Siren/Switch Warehouse: GBKO	0.0000	0.00
8	8	N	SA315U WEC SPEAKER, NYLON COMPOSITE Warehouse: GBKO	0.0000	0.00

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Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON	

Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	N	SAK54 WEC SA315P SPEAKER BRACKET - 2013+ DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO	0.0000	0.00
16	16	Y	INCLUDED IN EVP SPEC # 190 WEC-IONB Whelen ION W/Universal Mount - Blue Warehouse: GBKO WHELEN ION BLUE	86.4800	1,383.68
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D C-VS-2300-DUR HAV 23" CONSOLE, 2021+ DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO HAVIST O INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT BRACKETS: (1) C-EB30-APR-1P (1) C-EB40-WS2-1P (1) (1) AND WHATEVER OTHER FILLER PLATES NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE INSTALLATION ***** NC STATE CONTRACT 680D	326.4300	2,611.44

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Entered By		Salesperson	Ordered By	Resale Number
Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON	

Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	Y	C-ARM-103 HAV FLIP-UP ARMREST, ATTACHES TO CONSOLE Warehouse: GBKO HAVIS ARMREST	101.5600	812.48
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D CUP2-1001 HAV Self-Adjusting Double Cup Holder Warehouse: GBKO HAVIS CUPHOLDER	37.3900	299.12
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D PKG-PSM-145 HAVIS DURANGO/CHEROKEE COMPUTER BASE PACKAGE Warehouse: GBKO HAVIS VEHICLE YEAR, MAKE, & MODEL ---2022 DURANGO ***** NC STATE CONTRACT 680D	296.8600	2,374.88

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Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON		
Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	Y	C-ADP-101 HAV MULTI MANUFACTURER LAPTOP ADAPTER PLATE Warehouse: GBKO HAVIS ADAPTER	37.9400	303.52
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D 7160-0250 GJ NOTEPAD-5 UNIVERSAL COMPUTER CRADLE Warehouse: GBKO GAMBER JOHNSON WILL ADJUST FOR COMPUTERS WITH THE FOLLOWING: WIDTH - 10.62 TO 16.5 INCHES THICKNESS - UP TO 1.50 INCHES DEPTH - 9.00 TO 12.38 INCHES *****	298.6800	2,389.44
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D WK0514DUR11 SMC VERTICAL STEEL BAR WINDOW BARRIERS 2011+ DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO SETINA VEHICLE YEAR - 2021 DURANGO ***** NC STATE CONTRACT 680D	211.8800	1,695.04

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Entered By		Salesperson	Ordered By	Resale Number
Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON	

Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	Y	PK0123DUR112ND SMC 12VS VINYL CTD EXP MTL CARGO BARRIER 2011+ DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO SETINA VEHICLE YEAR - 2021 DURANGO *****	398.6400	3,189.12
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D 1K0574DUR11 SMC 6-VS SPT COATED POLY PARTITION 2011+ DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO VEHICLE - 2023 DURANGO DURANGO SPT PARTITION FOR VEHICLES WITH STOCK OEM REAR SEATS *****	797.9200	6,383.36
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D GK10271UHKSVS SMC SINGLE T RAIL MT UNIV XL, H/C KEY OVERRIDE Warehouse: GBKO ATTACH COMPLETED GUN LOCK ORDER FORM TO ORDER ***** SETINA NC STATE CONTRACT 680D	250.5200	2,004.16

Print Date	02/20/24
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Entered By		Salesperson	Ordered By	Resale Number
Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON	

Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	Y	GK0726 SMC 10 SEC DELAY TIMER W/SWITCH Warehouse: GBKO SETINA GUN LOCK TIMER (NOW SOLD SEPARATE MUST HAVE IF NOT USING A SMART SIREN)	31.5600	252.48
8	8	Y	NC STATE CONTRACT 680D 75456 SLI STINGER DS HL W/12VDC CHGR (NMH BATTERY) Warehouse: GBKO STREAMLIGHT 640 LUMEN LIGHT OUTPUT *****	110.0000	880.00
8	8	Y	14.0434 ABLE2 Multi-Port Accessory Box with USB Warehouse: GBKO	35.2500	282.00
8	8	Y	5202-2L61 GOR PUSH BUMPER LR SERIES DODGE DURANGO Warehouse: GBKO GO RHINO LR Series Push Bumper - Steel, Semi-Gloss Black - 2-Light - Whelen ION NC SHERIFF'S CONTRACT SPEC # 10	380.1300	3,041.04

Print Date	02/20/24
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02/12/24	GROUND SHIPMENT	PPAY & ADD TO INVOICE		NET30	
Entered By		Salesperson	Ordered By	Resale Number	
Dempsey Owens		Dempsey Owens - Greensboro	MAOR KELLY REDMON		
Order Quantity	Approve Quantity	Tax	Item Number / Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
8	8	Y	5202WHDT GOR HEAVY DUTY WRAPAROUND BRUSH GUARDS Warehouse: GBKO GO RHINO Heavy Duty Wraparound Brush Guards - Steel, Semi-Gloss Black NC SHERIFF'S CONTRACT SPEC # 10 ***FREIGHT WILL BE ADDED TO THE INVOICE*** Approved By: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Approve All Items & Quantities Quote Good for 30 Days	350.2600	2,802.08

Print Date	02/20/24
Print Time	03:15:29 AM
Page No.	8

Subtotal	43,504.64
Freight	0.00
6.750 % Sales Tax	2,936.56
Order Total	46,441.20

Printed By: Dempsey Owens

KENWOOD



P25 Public Safety Grade Communications
For Law Enforcement

Watauga County Sherriff

Subscriber Overview





704-372-3444
TWOWAYRADIO.ORG
 2016 WEST MOREHEAD, ST. CHARLOTTE, NC 28208



WATAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT

1/23/2024

Attn: Major Kelly Redmon
 184 Hodges Gap Rd
 Boone, NC 28607
 828-265-7607



<u>QTY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EACH</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	NC Convenience Contract 725-G Pricing		
	EF Johnson VM7000 Dual Band VHF/700/800Mhz Rem Mnt Mobile Radio Includes: Bluetooth, Ignition Sense Cable (Qty 2), Speakers (Qty 2), Mounting Hardware, Mobile Microphone, and 3 Year Warranty.	MSRP \$ 6242.00	
8	Final Total Pricing After Discounts	\$ 3,790.00	\$ 30,320.00

15% Pricing Increase announced for April 1, 2023. Pricing good through March 30, 2023

Includes: Analog FM, P25 CAI AMBE+2, 1024 Channels, Analog Conventional, P25 Conventional, P25 Phase 1 Trunking, P25 Phase 2 TDMA (VIPER Mandate) Multi Key DES-OFB Encryption, ADP Compatible Encryption, True Voice Noise Cancellation, and VIKING Vault Perpetual Software.

INCLUDED

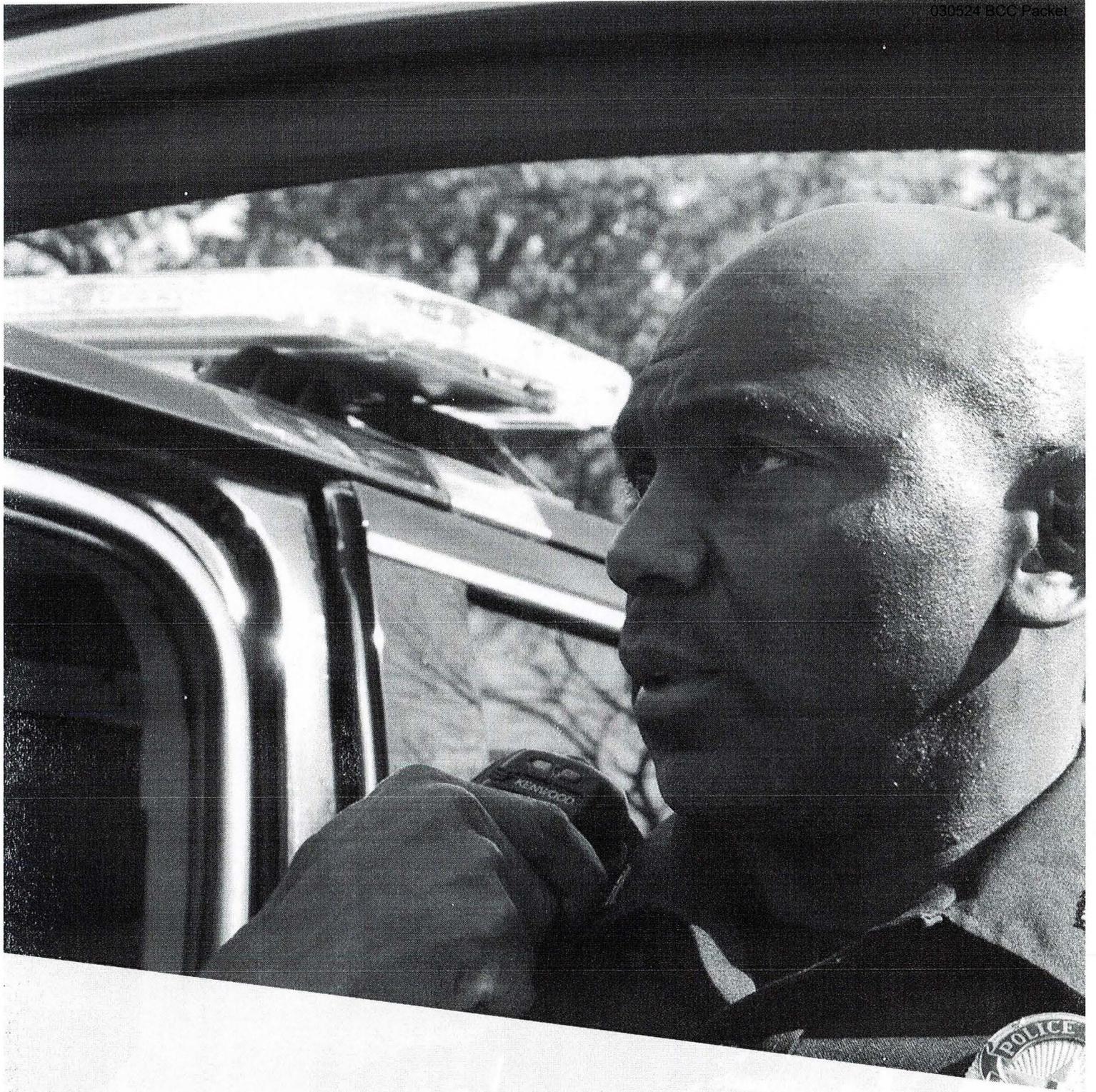
OPTIONS

8	Replace Standard Deck with VHF Hi Power, 100 Watt Mobile Deck	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,000.00
8	add Multi-Key AES Encryption (for FBI, ICE, DHS Joint Operations)	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,400.00
	KCH-21 Hand Held Controller Option	\$ 350.00	
8	QW-152 VHF 1/4 Wave Mobile Antenna, NMO Mnt, Connector	\$ 40.00	\$320.00
8	QW-8063 800 MHz Mobile Antenna, NMO Mnt, Connector	\$ 40.00	\$320.00
8	Programming Labor TWRC Remote Mount On-Site Installation	FREE	FREE
		\$ 295.00	



Equipment Total	\$ 37,360.00
Tax (6.75%):	\$2,521.80

Total Equipment Cost: \$ 39,881.80



Making Safe, **Simple.**TM

VM7000

VHF (with High Power and Low Band High Power options)
 UHF-Low - UHF-High - 700/800 MHz
 Analog - P25 Phase 1 & 2 - Viking16

With the VM7000 All-Band Multi-Deck Mobile, you can simultaneously receive and display up to four bands so you never miss a call. The "select" and "unselect" speakers give you the option for audio control similar to a dispatch console. KENWOOD Viking® is the industry's only mobile platform providing TrueVoice™ noise cancellation.

Features

- Mixed protocol operation (P25 Phase 1 & 2 Trunking, P25 Conventional, Viking16, FM Analog)
- 1024 channels (2048 and 4096 options)
- Mixed protocol zones
- P25 Authentication (Link Layer Authentication)
- P25 IP packet data
- P25 GPS data (built in GPS)
- MDC-1200 & GE-Star signaling
- P25 Conventional vote scan
- Single or Dual Remote Mount configuration
- External speaker
- Over-the-Internet-Programming (OTIP)
- Encryption
 - ARC4™ software encryption; compatible with Motorola ADP™
 - DES-OFB
 - AES-256 (FIPS 140-2) Single and Multi-Key
 - Over-the-Air-Rekeying (OTAR)
 - VK5000 or Motorola KVL3000/KVL4000 Keyloaders
- WiFi
- Instant Recording/Replay (IRR)
- Voice Recording

Refer to the Viking VM7000 operating manual for detailed requirements & conditions for proper GPS operation.

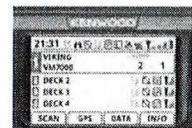
Accessories

Complete line of accessories including microphones, speakers & antennas.
 Download the accessory catalog at
www.efjohnson.com/products/accessories.



Enhanced Control Head

- Larger display - 2.75" (36 x 60 mm)
- Resolution of 400 x 240 pixels
- Viewing angle of 140°
- Multi-color LCD + TX/RX (green/red) LEDs
- D-Pad & more PF keys, dedicated emergency key & channel/volume control knobs
- Replaceable A/B/C button labels
- User selectable themes (8 themes available)
- Day & night display options



Day + High Contrast



Night + High Contrast

Compatible With P25 Systems²

- ATLAS® P25 Phase 1 and Phase 2 System
- Motorola Astro® 25 - P25 Phase 1 & Phase 2
- Harris VIDA® - P25 Phase 1 & Phase 2
- Airbus (formerly Cassidian) VESTA™ Radio - P25 Phase 1 & Phase 2

We combine P25 design expertise with recognized quality & reliability along with advanced technology to make KENWOOD Viking radios simple to use & maintain.



Perpetual Software Licensing

Add quality to your radio by selecting the license that works for your next hardware purchase - you own the software forever, and your license is portable across all our radios. Visit www.efjohnson.com to manage with our cloud-based license - Vault!



Armada® Fleet Management

Join other users in a group when using our cloud-based software to manage your radios & mobile devices. It's a cloud-based solution that Over-the-Air-Programming (OTAP) & Over-the-Internet-Programming (OTIP)



TrueVoice™ Noise Cancellation

Software-based noise cancellation automatically filters out background noise and interference to make it easier to hear. Works in analog & digital mode and with any accessory.

VM7000 Mobile Specifications

General		VHF Low Band (110W) ²	VHF (110W)	VHF	UHF	700/800 MHz
Frequency Range		39-50 MHz	136-174 MHz	136-174 MHz	Type 1: 450-520 MHz Type 2: 380-470 MHz	RX: 762-776, 851-870 MHz TX: 762-776, 792-806, 806-825, 851-870 MHz
Max. Channels Per Radio		1024 (2048 and 4096 options)				
Number of Zones		255				
Max. Channels Per Zone		255				
Channel Spacing	Analog	12.5/15/20/25/30* kHz			12.5/25* kHz	12.5/25 kHz
	Digital	Not applicable			12.5 kHz	
Power Supply		13.4 V DC ±15 %			13.6 V DC ±15 %	
Current Drain	Standby	1.3 A			1.2 A	
	RX	3.3 A			3.0 A	
	TX	28 A			14 A	
Operating Temperature		-22 °F to +140 °F (-30 °C to +60 °C)				
Frequency Stability		±10 ppm			±1.5 ppm	
Dimensions (W x H x D) RF Deck + Front Head Unit (not including KCH-20RV)		7.01 x 2.56 x 13.84 in. (178 x 65 x 351.5 mm)			6.73 x 1.89 x 7.24 in. (171 x 48 x 184 mm)	
Weight - RF Deck + Front Head Unit (not including KCH-20RV)		12.1 lbs (5.5 kg)			3.31 lbs (1.5 kg)	
Receiver		VM7630H	VM7730H	VM7730	VM7830	VM7930
Sensitivity	P25 Digital (5% BER)	Not applicable			-119 dBm (0.25 µV)	
	Analog (12 dB SINAD)				-119 dBm (0.25 µV)	
Selectivity	P25 Digital	Not applicable			60 dB	
	Analog @ 12.5 kHz				60 dB	
	Analog @ 25 kHz				75 dB	
Intermodulation					80 dB	
Spurious Rejection					85 dB	
Audio Distortion		3%			2%	
Audio Output Power		12 W/4 Ω (External Audio Output)			4 W/4 Ω (Remote Control Head: 3 W/4 Ω)	
Transmitter		VM7630H	VM7730H	VM7730	VM7830	VM7930
RF Power Output Power		25W-110W			5W/50W	5W/45W - (Type 1: 450-485 MHz) 5W/40W - (Type 1: 485-520 MHz) 5W/40W - (Type 2: 380-470 MHz)
Spurious Emission		-80 dB			-73 dB	-75 dB
FM Hum & Noise	Analog @ 12.5 kHz				45 dB	
	Analog @ 25 kHz				50 dB	
Audio Distortion					2%	
Emission Designator		VM7730H/7730/7830: 16K0F3E, 11K0F3E, 8K10F1E, 8K10F1D, 8K10F1W VM7930: 16K0F3E, 14K0F3E, 11K0F3E, 8K10F1E, 8K10F1D, 8K10F1W				

Mil Standard	810C	810D	810E	810F	810G
Low Pressure	5001/ I	500.2/ I, II	500.3/ I, II	500.4/ I, II	500.5/ I, II
High Temperature	5011/ I, II	501.2/ I, II	501.3/ I, II	501.4/ I, II	501.5/ I, II
Low Temperature	5021/ I	502.2/ I, II	502.3/ I, II	502.4/ I, II	502.5/ I, II
Temp. Shock	5031/ I	503.2/ I	503.3/ I	503.4/ I, II	503.5/ I
Solar Radiation	5051/ I	505.2/ I	505.3/ I	505.4/ I	505.5/ I
Rain	5061/ I, II	506.2/ I, II	506.3/ I, II	506.4/ I, III	506.5/ I, III

Mil Standard	810C	810D	810E	810F	810G
Humidity	5071/ I, II	507.2/ II, III	507.3/ II, III	507.4	507.5/ II
Salt Fog	5091/ I	509.2/ I	509.3/ I	509.4	509.5
Dust	5101/ I	510.2/ I	510.3/ I	510.4/ I, III	510.5/ I
Vibration	514.2/ VIII, X	514.3/ I	514.4/ I	514.5/ I	514.6/ I
Shock	516.2/ I, V	516.3/ I, V	516.4/ I, V	516.5/ I, V	516.6/ I, V

Encryption Options	
Supported Encryption	AES, DES-OFB, ARC4
Encryption Key/ Radio	126 Common Key Reference (CKR), 126 Physical Identifier, (PID), Compatible w/ Motorola Key Variable Loader
Encryption Frame Re-sync Interval	P25 CA1 360 MSEC
Encryption Keying	External Key Loader, OTAR
Mode	OFB-Output Feedback
Encryption Type	Digital
Key Erasure	Keyboard Command
Standards	FIPS 46-3, FIPS 81, FIPS 140-2, FIPS 197

International Protection Standard

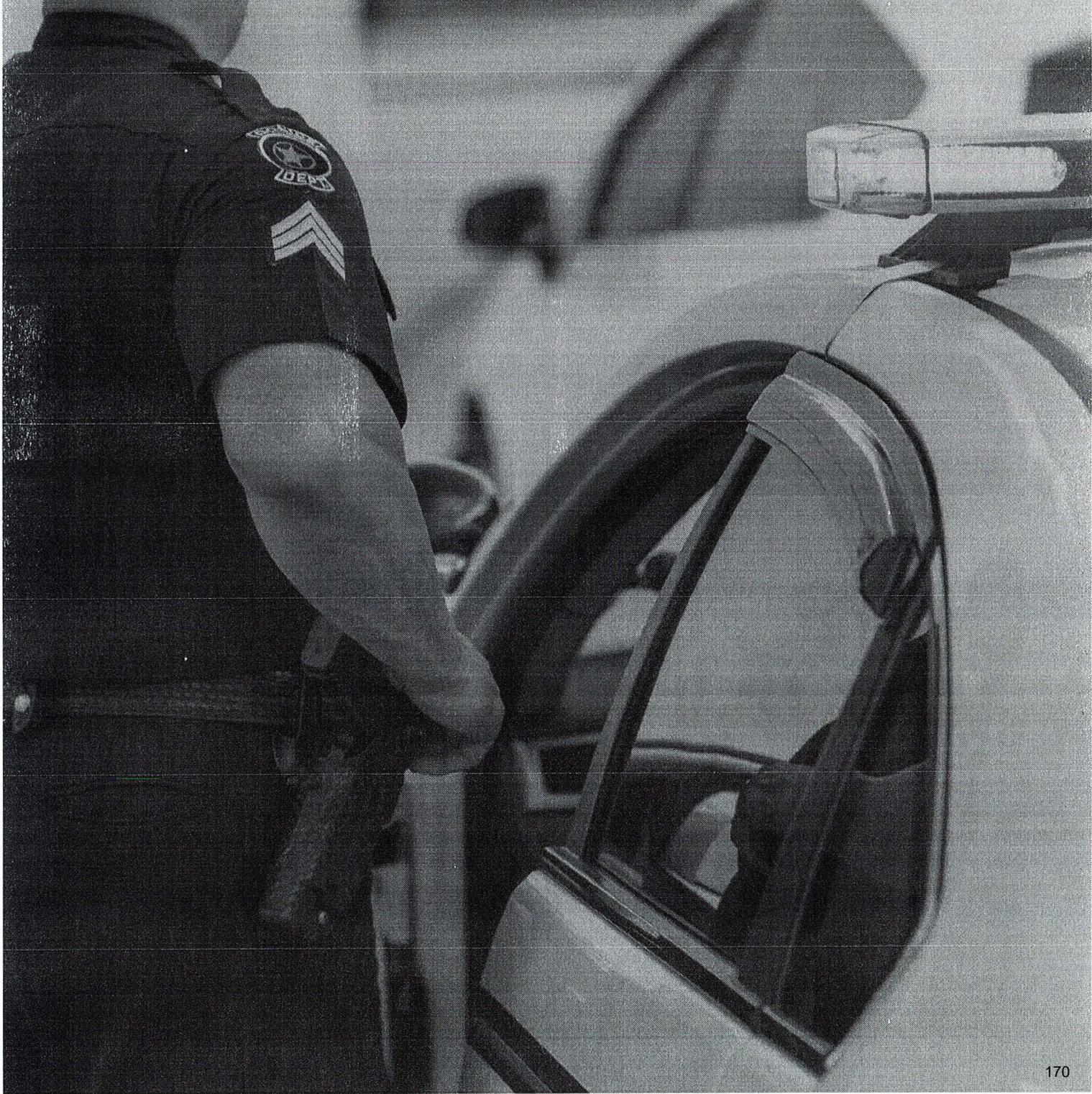
Dust & Water IP54, IP55¹
¹IP54: RF Deck and microphone only. IP55: Back panel only, resistor for the mobile case.

²25/30 kHz in VHF/UHF Bands are not included in the models sold in the USA or US territories. Analog measurements made per TIA 603 and specifications shown are typical.
³VHF Low Band High Power is analog mode only, multi-deck configuration only

All specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check the website for the latest version.
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EF Johnson Technologies, Inc.
 a JVCENWOOD Company
 14400 Apple Valley Blvd., Suite 100
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 Phone: 800.428.2871 • ejohnson@efj.com

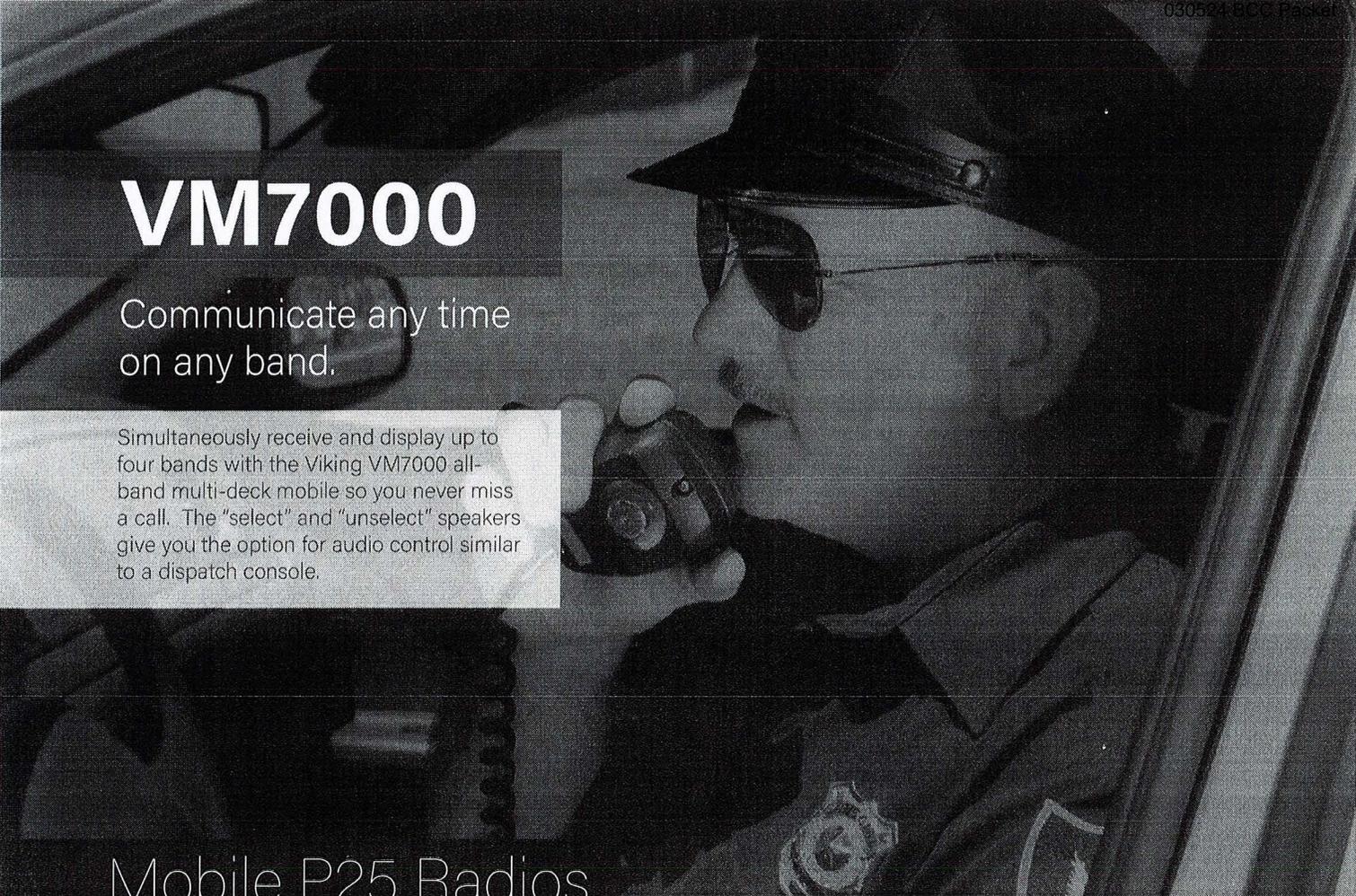
"Every day, law enforcement officers go above the call of duty to protect their communities. Whether on foot or a vehicle pursuit, KENWOOD Viking P25 radios provide the lifeline officers need in the moments that matter most."



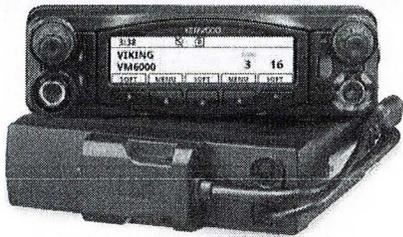
VM7000

Communicate any time on any band.

Simultaneously receive and display up to four bands with the Viking VM7000 all-band multi-deck mobile so you never miss a call. The "select" and "unselect" speakers give you the option for audio control similar to a dispatch console.



Mobile P25 Radios



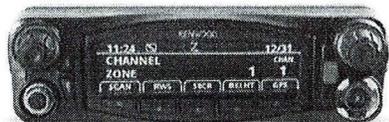
VM6000

The VM6000 remote configuration features the Viking Control Head with a large display and ergonomic knobs to change channels and set volume with ease.



VM5000

With uncompromised quality and performance, the VM5000 has built-in speakers to take the complexities out of mission-critical communications.



VM900

Dual-band and multi-system radio equipped with industry leading audio, color display, public safety ergonomics, and advanced features including Over-the-Internet (OTIP) programming.



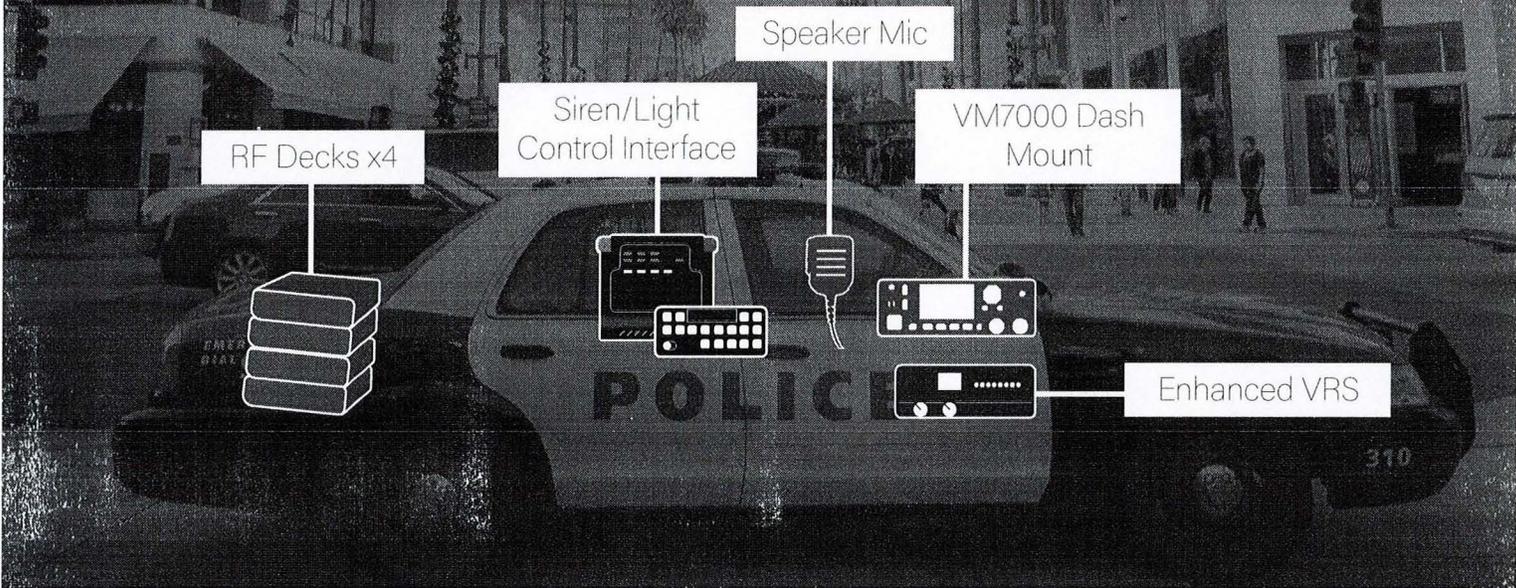
Viking Handheld Control Head

The Viking Handheld Control Head (HHCH) is specifically designed to work with Viking P25 mobile radios and features an intuitive operation similar to the VP5000 and VP6000 portables.

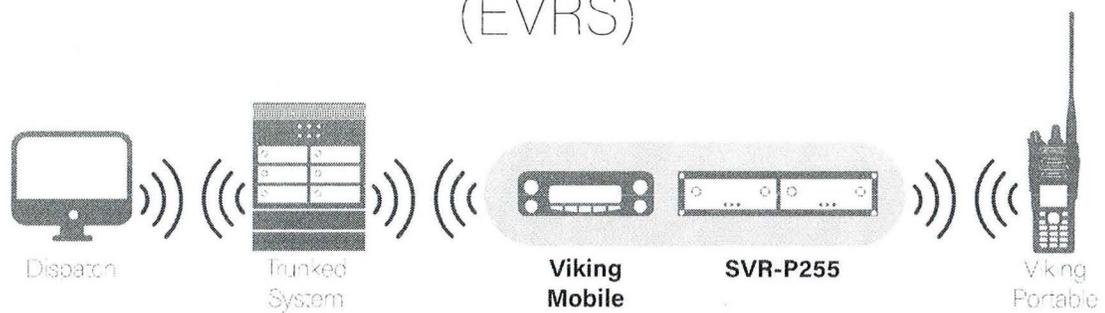
"KENWOOD Viking is the industry's only mobile platform providing TrueVoice noise cancellation and voice enhancement software."

Law Enforcement Vehicle

Features & Accessories



Enhanced Vehicular Repeater Solution (EVRS)



Support By EVRS:

- P25 Voice Call
- Talk Permit Tone
- Busy Indication
- Deny Indication
- Emergency Notification
- Out of Range Indication
- Priority Vehicle Assignment

TrueVoice™

Noise goes in, crystal clear voice comes out.

Standard in every KENWOOD Viking radio, TrueVoice software-based noise cancellation works in analog or digital mode. It makes dual-mic noise cancellation obsolete, works flawlessly with any accessory, and eliminates the need for programming noise profiles.

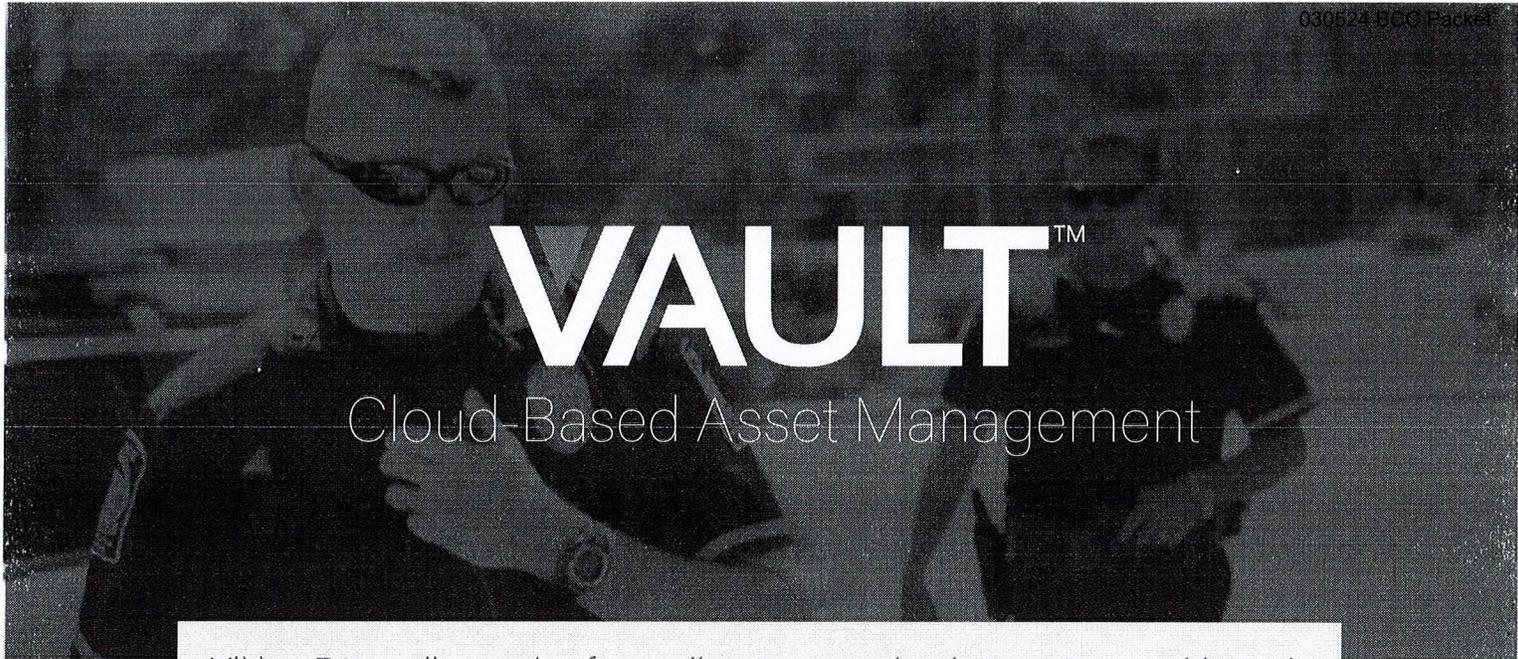


How does TrueVoice work?

- 1 Characterize noise frequencies for commonly found noise sources.
- 2 Software extracts human voice from noise source frequencies.
- 3 Transmit only human voice

Perpetual Software Licensing

Purchase perpetual software licenses **once**. When it's time to upgrade to a newer model, your licenses can be **transferred** over to your new radio at no additional cost. You own the software licenses **forever**.



VAULT™

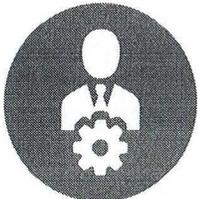
Cloud-Based Asset Management

Viking P25 radios and software licenses are simple to manage with Vault
– your free cloud-based asset management tool.



License Management

Assign, store, and transfer software licenses features in the cloud.



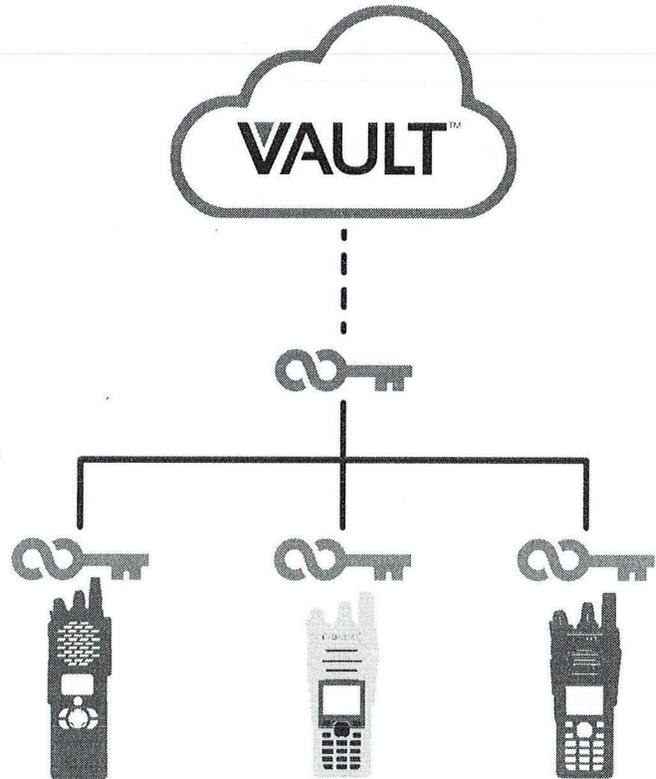
Manage Assets

Keep track and manage the total value of all licenses for any agency account that you manage and create custom tags and groups for the entire radio fleet.



View Dashboard

Quickly access your Vault dashboard to view any pending license transactions.



KENWOOD



bit.ly/makingsafesimple

EF Johnson Technologies, Inc.
a JVCKENWOOD Company

1440 Corporate Drive, Irving, TX 75038-2401
Phone: 800.328.3911 • efjohnson.com

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AGENDA ITEM 9:**EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS*****A. Buckeye Knob Proposal*****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, will request the Board contract with Engineered Tower Solutions (ETS) in the amount of \$16,000 to conduct the required work as noted in the proposal to the tower at Buckeye Knob. ETS is the state contracted tower company for the VIPER system and this is a State-owned tower. Adequate funds have been budgeted in the current fiscal year to cover the expense.

Board action is required to contract with Engineered Tower Solutions (ETS) in the amount of \$16,000.



Watauga County Emergency Services

184 Hodges Gap Rd, Suite D
Boone, NC 28607
Phone 828-264-4235
Fax 828-265-7617



Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

February 26, 2024

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager
Anita Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Subject: Buckeye Tower Quote

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider my request to have Engineered Tower Solutions (ETS) conduct the required work as noted in the proposal to the tower at Buckeye Knob for a total of \$16,000. This work is required as we move forward with the radio infrastructure project to see what changes or upgrades will need to be made to this existing site for the new hardware loading. ETS is the state contracted tower company for the VIPER system and this is a State-owned tower. Funds have been appropriated in the budget for this purpose.

Respectfully,

Will Holt
ES Director



February 26, 2024

Marty Randall
 10-18 Consulting
 828-527-2416
marty.randall@1018consulting.com

Subject: Buckeye

Mr. Randall,

ETS can perform the services listed below for the prices noted:

Item	Price	Turnaround Time
Tower & Foundation Mapping	\$6,000.00	15 business days from NTP
Geotech (consisting of 3 borings)	\$8,500.00	15 business days from NTP
SA	\$1,500.00	5 business days from completion of all field reports
TOTAL FEE =		\$16,000.00

Please feel free to call or email with any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity.

Best Regards,

Casey Wood
 Client Program Manager
Engineered Tower Solutions, PLLC
 315.214.1616
casey.wood@ets-pllc.com

Proposal Accepted by: _____ Date: _____

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AGENDA ITEM 9:

EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

B. Microwave Path Study Proposal

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

Mr. Holt will request the Board approve a contract with Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$84,000 to confirm all microwave paths work for the proposed simulcast system. Adequate funds have been budgeted in the current fiscal year to cover the expense.

Board action is required to approve the contract with Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$84,000.



Watauga County Emergency Services

184 Hodges Gap Rd, Suite D
Boone, NC 28607
Phone 828-264-4235
Fax 828-265-7617



Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

February 26, 2024

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager
Anita Fogle, Clerk to the Board

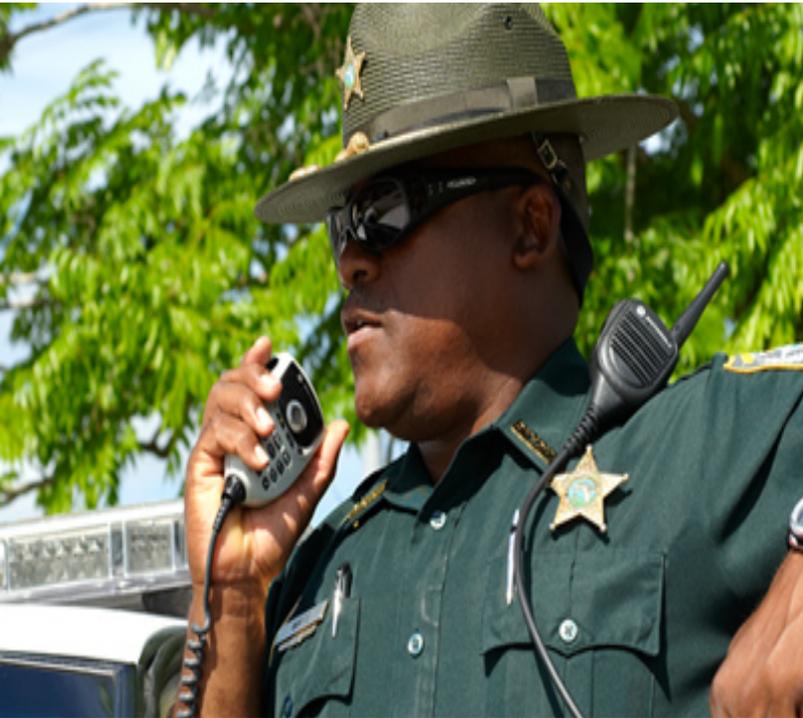
Subject: Microwave Path Study

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider my request to have Motorola Solutions conduct the required work as noted in the proposal to confirm all microwave paths work for the proposed simulcast system for a total of \$84,000. This study includes not only computer modeling but also physical site inspections to validate any potential issues as noted in the modeling. Funds have been appropriated in the budget for this purpose.

Respectfully,

Will Holt
ES Director



WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

02/22/2024

02/22/2024

WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
184 HODGES GAP RD
BOONE, NC 28607

Dear Will Holt,

Motorola Solutions is pleased to present WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES with this quote for quality communications equipment and services. The development of this quote provided us the opportunity to evaluate your requirements and propose a solution to best fulfill your communications needs.

This information is provided to assist you in your evaluation process. Our goal is to provide WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES with the best products and services available in the communications industry. Please direct any questions to Taylor Rawls at Taylor.Rawls@motorolasolutions.com.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide you with premier communications and look forward to your review and feedback regarding this quote.

Sincerely,

Taylor Rawls



QUOTE-2535521

Billing Address:
 WATAUGA COUNTY
 EMERGENCY SERVICES
 184 HODGES GAP RD
 BOONE, NC 28607
 US

Quote Date:02/22/2024
 Expiration Date:05/22/2024
 Quote Created By:
 Taylor Rawls
 Taylor.Rawls@
 motorolasolutions.com

End Customer:
 WATAUGA COUNTY ES
 Will Holt
 Will.Holt@watgov.org

Line #	Item Number	Description	Qty	List Price	Sale Price	Ext. Sale Price
	Product Services					
1	LSV01Q00387A	ASTRO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Path surveys and report (7 paths)	1	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00
Grand Total					\$84,000.00(USD)	

Notes:

- Unless otherwise noted, this quote excludes sales tax or other applicable taxes (such as Goods and Services Tax, sales tax, Value Added Tax and other taxes of a similar nature). Any tax the customer is subject to will be added to invoices.



Any sales transaction following Motorola's quote is based on and subject to the terms and conditions of the valid and executed written contract between Customer and Motorola (the "Underlying Agreement") that authorizes Customer to purchase equipment and/or services or license software (collectively "Products"). If no Underlying Agreement exists between Motorola and Customer, then Motorola's Standard Terms of Use and Motorola's Standard Terms and Conditions of Sales and Supply shall govern the purchase of the Products.
 Motorola Solutions, Inc.: 500 West Monroe, United States - 60661 ~ #: 36-1115800

Formal microwave path surveys are required to determine or verify site coordinates, ground elevation, on-path obstructions (location and height), tower information, and other parameters required to engineer the final design of a radio link. The current and anticipated future path performance impact of on-path and off-path obstructions, such as tree growth evaluated and incorporated into the path design where applicable.

Microwave Path Surveys	INFINITY	CUSTOMER
Provide information to the surveyors to locate the proposed microwave sites.	X	X
Arrange for the path surveyor to access to the proposed microwave sites	X	X
Verify and document site elevations above sea level to an accuracy of within 5-feet and provide a terrain elevation contour map.	X	
Verify and document site longitude and latitude coordinates within 1-second by using Differential Global Positioning Satellites (GPS).	X	
Document the existing tower description and information, including photos of any applicable ASR signs.	X	
Provide general survey observations, comments, and site photos/videos.	X	
Generate tower mapping document as observed from the ground. Tower map does not include exact tower mounted equipment centerlines or equipment model numbers.	X	
Provide site layouts including towers with antennas at proposed center lines.	X	
Prepare a path survey report and submit the report to the customer.	X	

AGENDA ITEM 9:

EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

C. Public Hearing Request for Ordinance Update

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

Mr. Holt will request the Board schedule a public hearing to consider changing the Watauga County Building Code Ordinance as highlighted below:

Section 1-2.1 Fire Code Adopted

*On July 1, 1991, or other date established by the North Carolina Building Code Council, the Standard Fire Prevention Code – 1988 Edition **and all appendices therein** as adopted by the Building Code Council and as amended ...*

A public hearing will need to be scheduled to seek citizen input on the proposed change to the Watauga County Building Code Ordinance.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.



Watauga County Emergency Services

184 Hodges Gap Rd, Suite D
Boone, NC 28607
Phone 828-264-4235
Fax 828-265-7617



Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

February 26, 2024

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager
Jason Walker, Planning Director
Shane Garland, Fire Marshal
Anita Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Subject: Ordinance Update

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider my request to change the Watauga County Building Code Ordinance as highlighted below:

Section 1-2.1 Fire Code Adopted

*On July 1, 1991, or other date established by the North Carolina Building Code Council, the Standard Fire Prevention Code – 1988 Edition **and all appendices therein** as adopted by the Building Code Council and as amended ...*

It is requested that the Board sets a public hearing to receive public comment and approve this change.

Respectfully,

Will Holt
ES Director

AGENDA ITEM 10:

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Budget Amendments

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Deron Geouque, Finance Director, will review budget amendments as included in your packet.

Board approval is requested.



WATAUGA COUNTY
FINANCE OFFICE

814 West King St., Suite 216, Boone, NC 28607 Phone (828) 265-8007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deron T. Geouque, County Manager
FROM: Misty Watson, CPA
SUBJECT: Budget Amendments
DATE: February 23, 2024

The following budget amendment requires the approval of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners. Board approval is requested.

<u>Account #</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
213991	399101	Fund Balance Appropriation		1,686,964
219800	498050	Transfer to VC School Fund	1,686,964	
503980	398121	Transfer from Capital Projects Fund		1,686,964
506120	458000	Capital outlay	1,686,964	
To move remaining Valle Crucis School CIP to the Valle Crucis School Project Fund				
103300	334500	Public Safety OSBM grant		10,650
104310	444000	Service and maitnenance contracts	10,650	
To recognize a grant received from OSBM for Law Enforcement				
505839	384000	Donations		115,000
506120	458000	Capital outlay building	115,000	
To recognize a grant received for the Valle Crucis School				
103991	399100	Fund Balance		8,340,715
109800	498021	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	8,340,715	
213980	398100	Transfer from General Fund		8,340,715
219930	449211	Future County Buildings	8,340,715	
Per Board action taken 2/20/24; to transfer funds to Capital Reserve from unassigned fund balance from the FY 2022 audit.				
104920	463000	General appropriation	52,300	
213991	399101	Fund Balance Appropriation		52,300
219800	498010	Transfer to General Fund	52,300	
103980	398121	Transfer from Capital Projects Fund		52,300

Per Board action taken 12/15/22; to transfer funds from Capital Reserve for EDC funding for the UNC School of Gov't Development Finance Initiative Proposal for affordable/workforce housing

105911	471000	Lottery funds		944,932
105911	470001	Carpet and tile	45,000	
105911	470005	Cafeteria equipment	65,000	
105911	470037	Gym floors	45,000	
105911	470019	Door/Window replacements	20,000	
105911	470043	Roof renovations	100,000	
105911	470041	Pavement resurface	80,000	
105911	470017	Electrical upgrades	489,932	
105911	470066	VOIP installation	100,000	

Per Board action taken 1/16/24; to recognize lottery funds requested and approved.

105911		Central food storage upgrade/renovation	25,000	
105911	470034	Security cameras	25,000	
105911	470029	Roof replacements - GV, PK, HP	2,000,000	
105911	470036	HVAC/sewer pumps	25,000	
105911		Playground updates/renovations	30,000	
		Weight room upgrades	95,000	
105911	470069	1:1 devices	300,000	
103980	398121	Transfer from Capital Projects Fund		2,500,000
213991	399101	Fund Balance Appropriation		2,500,000
219800	498010	Transfer to General Fund	2,500,000	

Per Board action taken 1/16/24; to transfer funds for capital needs from the Capital Reserve for the School System.

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AGENDA ITEM 10:**MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS*****B. Boards and Commissions*****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:*****Tourism Development Authority (TDA)***

Ms. Missy Harrill was appointed in July 2023 to fill an unexpired term on the TDA Board. That term expired at the end of February. The TDA recommends appointing Ms. Harrill, who is willing to continue to serve, to a full three (3) year term. This is a first reading; however, the TDA Board requests the Board consider waiving the second reading and making the appointment at this meeting.



TO: Watauga County Board of Commissioners
Deron Geouque, Watauga County Manager

FROM: Wright Tilley, Executive Director

RE: TDA Board Appointments

DATE: 2/27/2024

In July of 2023, the Watauga County Commissioners appointed Missy Harrill to fill the unexpired term of Jim Neustadt on the TDA board. That original term held by Jim Neustadt is expiring at the end of February.

Missy has been an outstanding board member so far. I am writing to request that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners consider appointing Missy Harrill to a full 3-year term on the TDA board.

This board appointment must be occupied by someone that collects the occupancy tax in Watauga County. Missy meets that requirement through Foscoe Rentals. In fact, they are one of the larger short-term rental management companies collecting occupancy tax in the county.

Thank you for your consideration of this requested appointment to the TDA board.

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions

030524 BCC Packet

If you are a Watauga County resident, at least 18 years old, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete the application below and click on Print Form.
Please sign and mail or fax to:

Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230

Name: Missy Harrill
Home Address: 162 Russell Drive
City: Boone Zip: 28607
Telephone: (H) 828-773-3286 (W) 828-963-7600 (Fax)
Email: missy@foscoecompanies.com
Place of Employment: Foscoe Companies
Job Title: Owner

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Bald Mountain | <input type="radio"/> Stony Fork | <input type="radio"/> Watauga |
| <input type="radio"/> New River | <input type="radio"/> Brushy Fork | <input type="radio"/> Cove Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Beaver Dam | <input type="radio"/> Meat Camp | <input type="radio"/> Shawneehaw |
| <input type="radio"/> Blue Ridge | <input type="radio"/> Blowing Rock | <input type="radio"/> Laurel Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Elk | <input type="radio"/> North Fork | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Boone |

In addition, Please Indicate If You Live In One Of The Following Areas:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Foscoe-Grandfather Community | <input type="radio"/> Valle Crucis Historic District |
| <input type="radio"/> Howards Creek Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Winklers Creek Watershed |
| <input type="radio"/> South Fork New River Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Extraterritorial Area |

We Ask Your Help In Assuring Diversity Of Membership By Age, Gender, And Race, By Answering The Following Questions

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Gender | Ethnic Background | |
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> African American | <input type="radio"/> Hispanic |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Female | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Caucasian | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| | <input type="radio"/> Native American | |

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1. Watauga County Tourism Development Authority
2. Economic Development Commission
- 3.

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

**Work
Experience:**

I have been actively involved in the development, sales and rentals of primarily second homes in Watauga County for the last 25+ years. These experiences give me valuable insight into the tourism industry from multiple perspectives, including: what motivates people to buy, and subsequently rent out, a second home; effective marketing strategies; possible future trends and challenges based on the current second home sales climate; and what do vacation renters say they desire in a rental property (which is sometimes very different from what they actually want).

**Volunteer
Experience:**

**Other
Experience:**

**Other
Comments:**

I enjoyed my first term on the inaugural TDA Board and I would love to be involved once again. Thanks for your consideration!

Signature:



Date:

6-27-23

[Print Form](#)

[Reset Form](#)

AGENDA ITEM 10:

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

C. Announcements

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM 11:

BREAK

AGENDA ITEM 12:

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney/Client Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3)