

STAFF REPORT

Town of Apex Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways and Open Space Map Amendment

May 9, 2023 Town Council Meeting



In 2021, The Town of Apex, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources staff began an update to the Parks, Recreation, Greenways and Open Space (PRGOS) Master Plan. Included in the recommendation of the newly-titled Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways and Open Space (Master Plan) is the identification of Parkland and Indoor Recreation Facility search areas. These areas are amendments to the current Master Plan Map. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider adoption of the proposed map amendments. The proposed map is available for viewing online at: <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/42989>

The Master Plan serves as the guide for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource (PRCR) Department for the 10-year planning horizon. The Master Plan Map amendments would remove the existing Land Acquisition areas identified in the 2014 Master Plan Map, as amended, and add two new categories for the identification and acquisition of property for future parks and indoor recreation facilities. The Master Plan Map amendments are proposed to address shifts in demographics, growth patterns, and recreation trends; contextualize these trends for the Town; and provide a visionary guide for the future. The Master Plan Map amendments identify locations that will transform recreation for Apex residents and visitors through 2033. The amendments will inform enhancements to current parks and recreation services and guide investments in new initiatives. The Master Plan Map does not require a schedule for implementation nor does it set aside funding for the recommendations.

The planning process for the Master Plan began in late 2021 with data collection and analysis of existing park conditions as well as assessing the demand for parkland and facility space. The process included establishing goals; developing guiding principles and recommendations; determining a level of service for parkland, open space areas and indoor facility space; and developing an implementation plan. The Master Plan update was guided by Town staff; Apex residents; Town Council; the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission (Advisory Commission); County staff; and adjacent municipality staff, among others.

The Apex community was engaged through social media posts, signage, direct mail invitations, the project webpage, along with numerous opportunities for public input. As a result, seven areas were identified as Parkland Search Areas for Acquisition and four areas were identified for Indoor Recreation Facilities.

List of Proposed Amendments

1. Remove all five areas designated as Land Acquisition Areas.
2. Add seven areas notated as Parkland Search Area for Acquisition.
 - a. Area generally located adjacent and east of the future Wimberly Road parkland, east of Green Level Church Road, north of Jenks Road and south of White Oak Creek.
 - b. Area generally located south of Hwy 64, crossing the American Tobacco Trail and Olive Chapel Road, east of the Wake-Chatham County line.
 - c. Area generally located at the intersection of Humie Olive Road and New Hill Olive Chapel Road, west of the future Olive Farm Park.
 - d. Area generally located along the Old US 1 Hwy/CSX Rail Corridor and south to US Hwy 1, east of New Hill Holleman Road and west of Friendship Road.
 - e. Area generally located within the Veridea Sustainable Development (SD) Plan south of US Hwy 1, east of NC 540, west of Hwy 55.
 - f. Area generally located northwest of the future Felton Grove High School, southeast of Lufkin Road Middle School, and south of Ten Ten Road.

