

STAFF REPORT

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

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 Master Plan (PRGOS Master Plan). The PRGOS Master Plan was adopted in 2014. The newly-titled Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways and Open Space (Master Plan) was prepared for the Town by McAdams Co. to span the 2023-2033 timeframe. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider adoption of the proposed Master Plan.

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 conditions. The process included establishing goals, developing guiding principles and recommendations, and developing an action plan. It 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, and the project webpage, along with numerous opportunities for public input including the following:

Type of Event	Number of Events held
Focus Group Meetings	4
Asset Mapping Sessions	3
Visioning Workshops	3
Draft Recommendations Sessions	3
Open Houses	2
Special Events	2
Online Questionnaire Survey	1
Scientific Survey	1
West Street Park Community Engagement	1

The resulting draft Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways and Open Space (Executive Summary and Implementation + Action Plan) is attached for review and consideration.

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Staff Recommendation:

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department staff recommend approval of the proposed Master Plan.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission Recommendation:

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission considered and unanimously recommended approval of the proposed Master Plan at their November 30, 2022 meeting.

Planning Board Input: The Master Plan was presented to the Planning Board as a New Business item during their May 8, 2023 meeting. Any substantial comments and resulting recommended changes will be shared during the staff presentation.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways and Open Space- Executive Summary

Attachment 2 - Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways and Open Space- Implementation + Action Plan