



Effingham County

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2022



Effingham
County
Georgia

POND

July 6, 2023





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Purpose of the Plan Update

Purpose of the Plan Update:

In January of 2015, Effingham County adopted a 15-year Comprehensive Recreation and Parks Plan to “ensure that the County’s facilities continue to meet the residents needs over the next 15 years.”. In the intervening, nearly 8 years since that plan was adopted, the county has achieved a number of the recommendations, the most significant being the development of a “New Centralized Park”, that being the first phase of the Clarence E Morgan Recreational Complex and Gym. Additional improvements at the 119 Recreation Complex and Sand Hill were also achieved.

In the time since adoption of the 2015 plan, the County has seen rapid population growth, on par with what was forecasted in the plan. This growth has been concentrated in the southern portions of the county, adding pressure for more facilities to be implemented. The world also experienced the Covid19 pandemic that sent waves of change through organized recreation programs and how people view and use parks. The recreation programs participation levels have rebounded to near or better than pre-pandemic numbers, and demand remains high for quality parks, recreation facilities, and programs, to maintain Effingham County as an attractive place to live and work. Parks remain important to the overall health and wellbeing of the residents of Effingham County, and they are an important factor in the attractiveness of the County to potential new residents.

This purpose of this 2022 plan update is to provide new recommendations to continue the momentum of parks and recreation offerings in the County. The planning team looked at each existing park for ongoing maintenance and capital improvement needs, engaged the citizens of Effingham County to understand the needs and wants of the residents as it relates to parks, recreation facilities, and programs, and benchmarked the county against NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) data for jurisdictions of similar size. Combined, this data informs the recommendations presented in this master plan update.

Parks are important to people. NRPA released their 2022 Engagement with Parks Report which provides useful insight on the perception of parks within the American public. Key findings of the report include:

- 275 million people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year, that’s better than 80% of the US population.
- Nearly three in four U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space, or recreation center within walking distance of their homes; nearly 20% of the US population live in rural areas.
- 84 percent U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live
- Nine in 10 people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local government.
- Nearly three in four people agree that equity should in an *extremely or very important* goal for their local park and recreation agency.

The report goes into depth and the data can be drilled down to a number of demographic qualifiers. There is a lot of consistency in the data across the different regions of the United States and across the various demographics. Readers of this Effingham County Parks and Recreation Master Plan update should also consider reading the NRPA 2022 Engagement with Parks Report for additional detail. The report can be found online:

<https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/engagement/>

The intent of this plan is to be transparent and concise, so that the process leading to the recommendations is clear and the recommendations are logical and easily identified for implementation in the next 10 years.



Other Relevant Plans Summary

Other Relevant Plans Summary:

Planning is a constant process where other county or regional plans are developed and may have some relationship to one another. For this project the County's 2020-2040 Joint Comprehensive Plan, the County's 2021 Transportation Master Plan, the 2022–2026 Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and the previous 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan were reviewed. The following summarizes items related to parks and recreation in each of the County non-parks and recreation plans and the SCORP. Generally, the plans are in concurrence with one another and supportive of similar concepts and goals.

2020-2040 Effingham County Joint Comprehensive Plan:

- Identified need to invest in infrastructure that improves quality of life for residents (sidewalks, street lighting, parks, etc.).
- Land use goals included: Support and expand the network of pedestrian and bicycle path connections to residential areas, public parks, natural features, surrounding communities and recreation facilities.
- General Recommendations included:
 - Expand and improve greenspace and parkland by providing requirements for areas to be set aside for active and passive recreation when new (private) development occurs.
 - Re-use the Atlas Sand property as a water resource and recreation area.
 - The Cities of Guyton, Springfield, and Rincon each have general recommendations and goals for expanding greenspace and parkland, and accommodating the community's recreational needs, including a recommendation for collaboration between Guyton and Springfield for a joint parks project.
 - Improve planning and communication efforts with adjacent communities and pursue opportunities for joint decision-making with regard to recreational services, public facilities, and other cultural amenities.
 - Work with Effingham County and the City of Springfield on developing a greenway and interconnecting bike and pedestrian paths. (This cross-references with recommendations in the 2021 Effingham County Transportation Master Plan.)

The SWOT analysis for the 2020-2040 Joint Comp Plan identified the following as relates to parks and recreation:

Effingham County:

- Strength: Active recreation facilities and programs
- Weakness: Direct access to nature and passive recreation
- Opportunities: Market recreational facilities (park complex)
- Atlas water reservoir

Guyton:

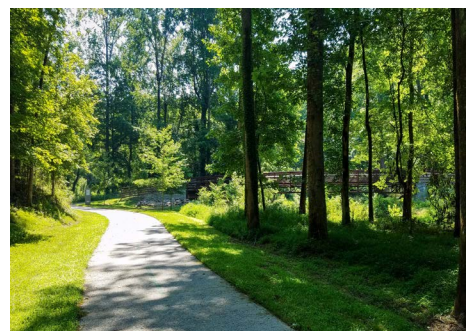
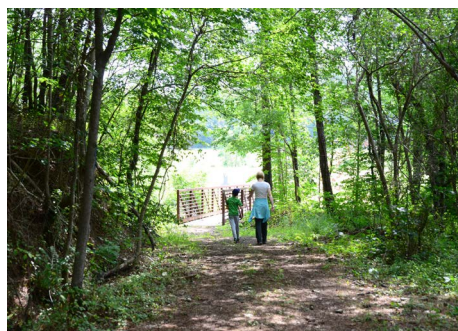
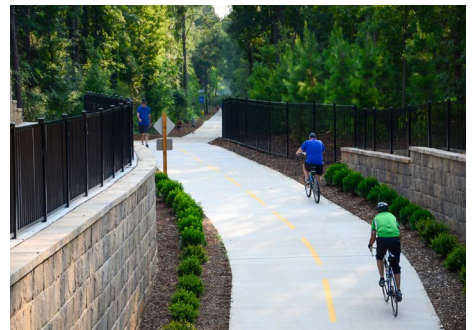
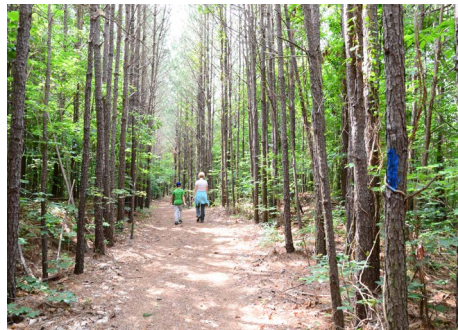
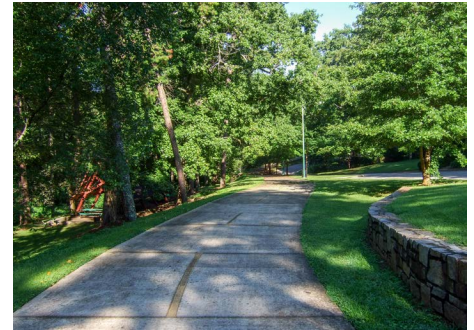
- Strength: Walking Trails; proximity to natural resources
- Weakness: Lack of recreation/sports
- Opportunities: Trail from Guyton to Springfield; Greenway and US Bike Route 1



Springfield:

- Strength: Greenspace/Streetscape; Recreation Complex
- Weakness: Connectivity / pedestrian connections
- Opportunities: Ebenezer Trail Development

Rincon: no parks and recreation specific SWOTs were noted



Active Recreation Facilities and Programs

Access to Nature and Passive Recreation

Multi-use Trails



The following is the proposed work program from the 2020-2040 Joint Comp Plan, for Recreation in Effingham County 2020-2024:

Brief Description	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Status
Construct new gym at CEM Recreation Complex on HWY 21, phase I	2020-2024	County	\$4.2 million	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Construct CEM Recreation Complex on HWY 21, phase II & III	2020-2024	County	\$10 million	SPLOST	IN PROGRESS
Remodel gym at Central Learning	2020	County	\$65,000	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Construct Sand Hill playground	2020	County	\$37,000	SPLOST	???
Construct Sand Hill batting cages	2020	County	\$25,000	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Purchase soccer goals for Sand Hill	2020	County	\$7,000	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Purchase pitching machines (6) for Sand Hill	2020	County	\$10,000	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Construct McCall Rd batting cages	2020	County	\$25,000	SPLOST	PARK COMPLETELY RENOVATED
Evaluate Atlas Mine site for reservoir; Planning	2020	County	\$500,000	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Atlas Mine site reclamation; additional land purchase as needed	2020-2024	County	TBD	SPLOST	COMPLETE
Review/revise ordinances as necessary to ensure recreation areas accommodate community needs, e.g. dog park	2020-2024	County	TBD	General Fund	???



2021 Effingham County Transportation Master Plan:

- Minimal Feedback from residents regarding Bicycle or Pedestrian needs and commonly comments or citizen rankings placed a lower priority on bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Plan does recommend key countywide bicycle and pedestrian facilities connecting the Cities of Guyton, Springfield, and Rincon, improving quality of life and providing alternative ways to move around the county.
- 5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities projects were recommended including multi-use trails which provide recreational services.

2022–2026 Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):

The 2022–2026 Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as Georgia’s five-year comprehensive plan for outdoor recreation. The mission of the plan is to provide a roadmap for policymakers, practitioners, and citizens as they make important decisions about the future of outdoor recreation and conservation in Georgia. Priority opportunities and challenges were identified through the SCORP planning processes, including an assessment of the supply and demand of recreation resources and facilities. This plan is crafted for two primary reasons: to fulfill Georgia law mandating the development of a state policy on outdoor recreation in Georgia (Georgia Code 12-3-1); and to keep Georgia eligible to receive and disseminate federal Land and Water Conservation Funds to government recreation agencies for acquisition of park lands or the development and rehabilitation of outdoor recreation facilities.

The 2022-2026 SCORP can be found here for detailed review: <https://gastateparks.org/SCORP>

The SCORP Demand Summary stated the following:

The surveys illuminated several interesting items about Georgians’ demand for outdoor recreation. The vast majority of survey respondents visit outdoor recreation areas here in Georgia. While the individuals in the focused surveys have unique experiences, they generally enjoy being outdoors and indicate that they engage in outdoor recreation for similar reasons to those in the statewide survey. People participate in outdoor recreation for a variety of reasons, but more than half cite fun, relaxation, to be with family and friends, health, and experiencing nature as important to them. Demand for outdoor recreation has increased since 2016, and the types of activities that people are engaging with have changed. Hiking, camping, and biking have all become more popular.

There are challenges facing parks and outdoor recreation areas. These include challenges with crowding, safety, parking, accessibility, and restrooms, though this year’s survey suggests significant progress made towards alleviating some of these challenges. There remains broad public support for increased public funding for outdoor recreation. Georgians love being engaged in the outdoors, and local, state, and federal facilities provide invaluable spaces for their outdoor recreation needs.



The plan identified four pillars of outdoor recreation:

1. Conserve natural resources.
2. Enhance economic vitality.
3. Promote health, fitness, and livability of communities.
4. Improve awareness, accessibility, and inclusion.

These pillars have an overarching correlation to the community feedback received throughout the Effingham County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update planning process.

2015 Effingham County 15-Year Comprehensive Recreation and Parks Plan

The 2015 plan was created to identify parks and recreation needs within the County's purview and to make recommendations for addressing those needs. Though it was stated as a 15 year plan, and just short of 8 years have elapsed since the adoption of the plan, much of the plan recommendations have been achieved and it is advisable to update plans such as this on an approximately 5-year basis to ensure the goals are being met and adjustments are made to continue success for the County with regard to providing parks and recreations facilities and programs.

The 2015 plan identified four guiding principles by which the parks and recreation system improvements should be measured, including safety, accessibility, sustainability, and appropriateness. These guiding principles provide long term value to the County and its citizens when fully integrated into capital improvements within the park system.

Specific recommendations of the plan included:

1. A general and overarching recommendation for adding trails, bicycle paths, multi-use trails, and sidewalks to improve mobility and increased recreational opportunity in the county. No specific projects were identified.
2. It was recommended that a branding and wayfinding sign system for the park system be developed and implemented. This item has not yet been completed and remains a valid recommendation.
3. Section 5.3 recommended renovations and improvements to some of the existing park facilities in the County., including the 119 Rec Complex, Sand Hill, the Central Gym, and Ulmer Park. Some but not all of these recommendations were completed. Ulmer Park was deferred as the City of Springfield is taking over the park and leading redevelopment of the park.
4. Section 5.4 recommended the development of a "new centralized park" which came to be the Clarence E Morgan Complex (CEM). To date the first phase of the park and the gym have come to reality. Future phases are still to come.



Population growth in Effingham County

Population growth in Effingham County:

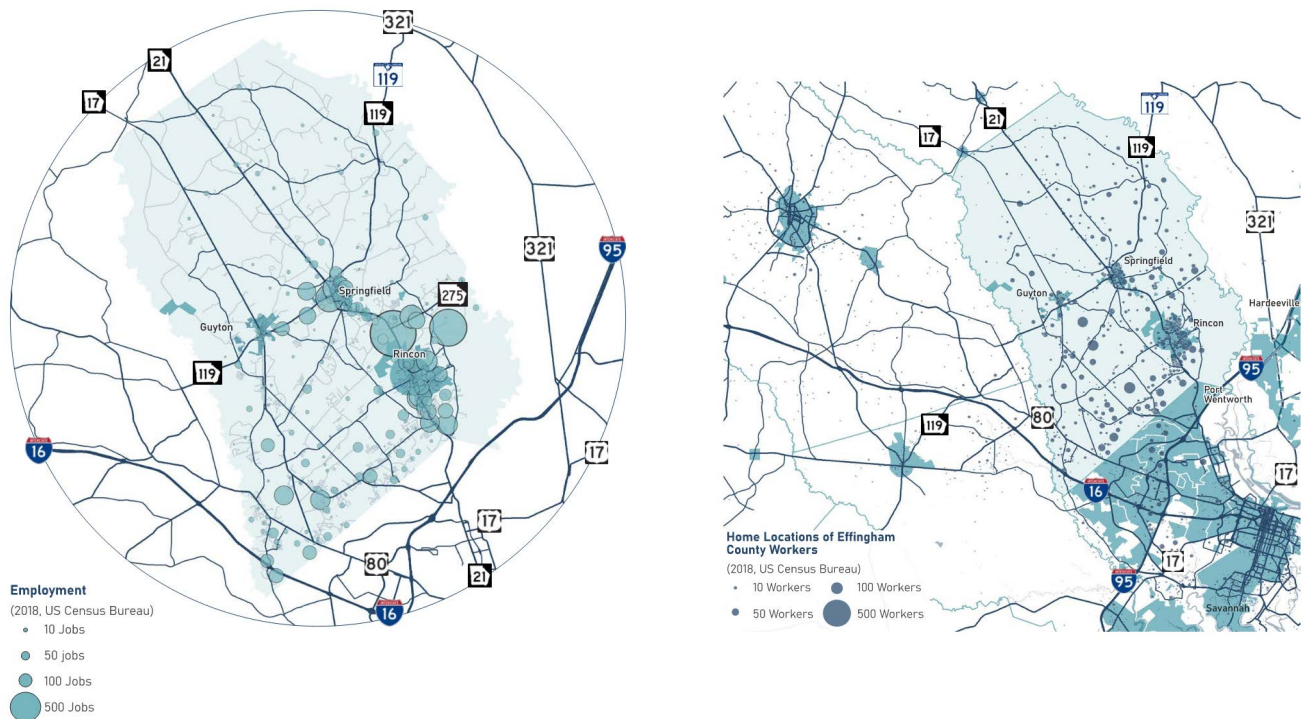
While the previous plan was completed in 2014 and finalized in January of 2015, the population data utilized at the time, estimated the County's population in 2013 to be approximately 54,500 residents, and projected the 2025 population to reach over 71,300 residents.

This current plan update has the benefit of the recent 2020 census data which resulted in the following estimates and forecasts:

	2020 Census	2025 Forecast	2030 Forecast	2035 Forecast
Effingham County	64,769	71,397	77,515	83,945

Forecasted growth is on track with that which was predicted in the 2015 plan. At this pace, there will be a nearly 20% increase in the number of residents in Effingham County between 2020 and 2030. A 20% increase in people means that existing public facilities and services will be in greater demand, and additional facilities and services will be needed to continue to meet the needs of the growing population in the next 10 years and beyond. The census data anticipates a continued upward trajectory of population growth for decades to come.

The current population distribution by age can be seen in Figure 1. Population distribution can show important trends such as aging population and loss of younger residents or exodus of the older generations and a younger base population. These trends also help to inform the recreational needs of a community of people.



Employment and Housing densities within Effingham County.



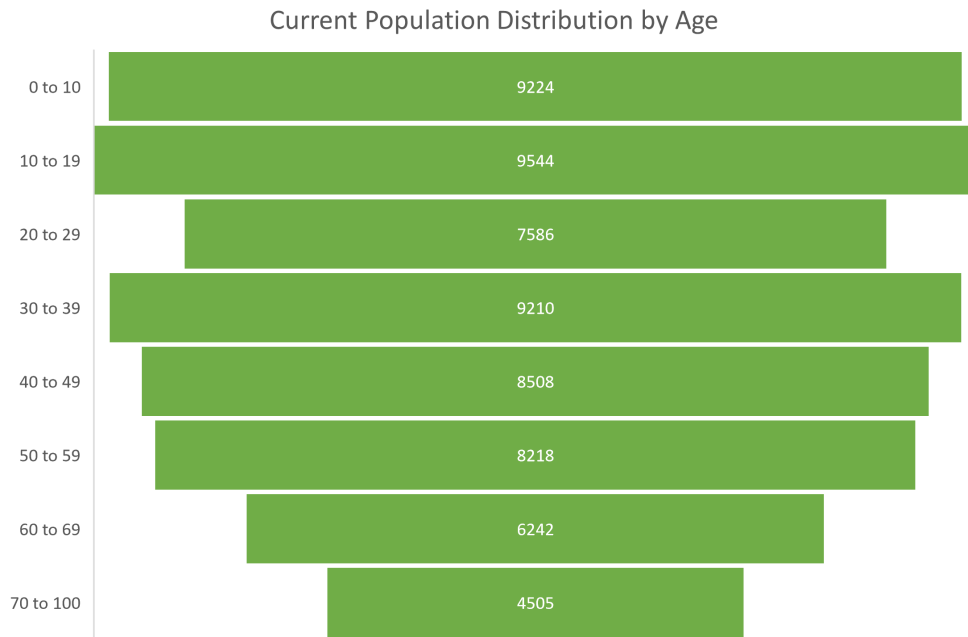


Figure 1 - Current population Distribution by Age

In comparison the 2030 projected population distribution by age is shown in Figure 2. The notable difference is the county is projected to have more older resident of retirement age and beyond, while the distribution of younger age groups only reduces by 1 to 3% to compensate for the growing older resident population.

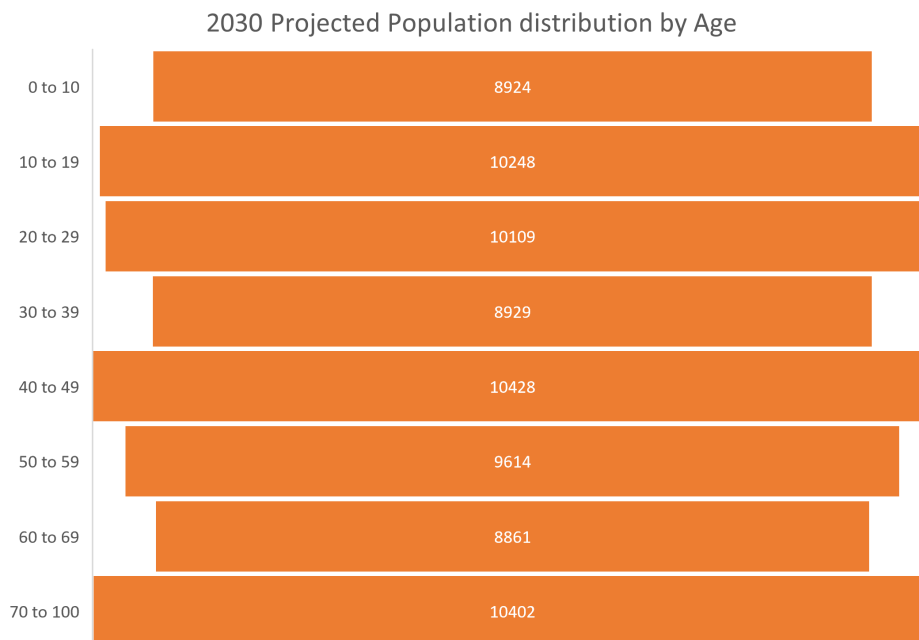


Figure 2 - 2030 Projected Population Distribution by Age



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Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment:

As was stated in the 2015 plan, The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) was formed in 1965 and continues to serve as the leading advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation, and conservation. In 1983 the NRPA and its Director of Research, Roger A. Lancaster, first published the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. The publication became the standard for park and recreation planning throughout the country. While it served a purpose and guided planners and parks professionals for a couple of decades, it was last updated in the late 1990s and a new, more equitable benchmarking practice has evolved through NRPA.

NRPA now collects data from jurisdictions about their staffing, facilities, programs, and budgets. This information is collected via voluntary surveys and the data is entered into the NRPA's Park Metrics database which is the most comprehensive source of data and insights for park and recreation agencies. The database was launched in 2009 and continues to improve with additional data being provided annually by agencies around the country. NRPA also issues an annual Agency Performance Review Report that updates the data and trends in the metrics.

The database allows parks and recreation departments, agencies, and consultants to benchmark comparable jurisdictions by size, rather than national averages that would skew results from the very smallest to the very biggest of city and county parks departments. The data is grouped into 5 major categories:

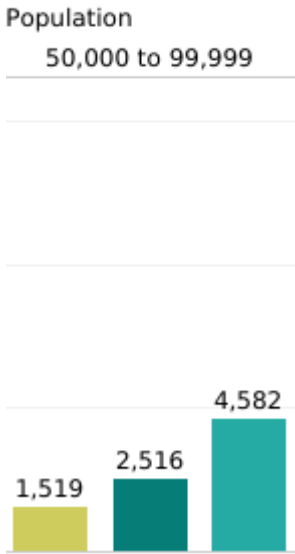
- Jurisdictions less than 20,000 residents
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 100,000 to 250,000
- Greater than 250,000 residents

At more than 65,000 residents in 2022, Effingham County falls squarely in the 50,000 to 99,999 population range for benchmarking purposes. Based on population we can assess how Effingham County compares on several categories. These are data points for comparison, there are no hard and fast answers. Collectively this data is used to help guide the County on future capital improvements, land acquisition for additional parks, programming, staffing and budgeting.

NRPA examines the quantity of parks within a jurisdiction in two ways – Residents per Park and Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents. In the table that follows, we can see how Effingham County currently compares within the jurisdiction population range. It should be noted, we also looked at the numbers to include facilities in the City of Rincon, as they are parks and acres of parkland that residents of Effingham County have access to. If we were to ignore Rincon's parks, we would skew the true offerings available to all residents. It is appropriate to consider the results of Effingham alone and in concert with Rincon.



Residents per Park

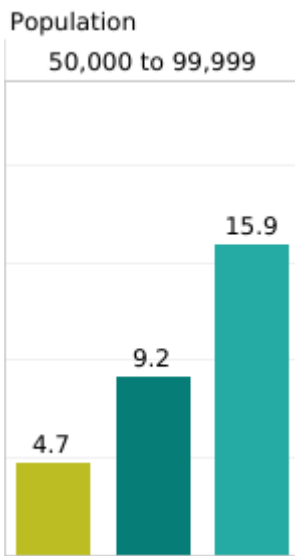


Based on a 2020 population of approximately 65,000 residents, Effingham County alone has a ratio of 4,063 residents per park (16 total parks currently). Adding the 6 Rincon Park sites the number eases to 2,955 residents per park.

By 2030 if the Atlas site is the only park added, the County ratio will be 4,559 residents per park based on a projected population of more than 77,000 residents. Including the Rincon parks, the ratio eases to 3,370 residents per park.

These numbers trend toward the high average. Ideally the county would like to trend toward the median of approximately 2,500 residents per park. For reference the median number of residents per park for jurisdictions with population of 100-250k is 3,170. Collectively the County, including Rincon facilities, is hovering around the median ratio, especially when population growth is taken into account.

Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents



Effingham Co. currently offers 355 acres of parks, open to the public. When the Atlas site opens as a passive park, that number will increase to 669 acres. When the City of Rincon parks acreage is included, the number of acres further increases to 747 acres.

Therefore based on 2020 population there are 6.60 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the County, and once the Atlas site opens the number will jump to 11.50 acres per 1000 residents.

This puts the county reasonably in median standing currently and as relates to 2030 population projections. For reference the acres of land per 1000 residents is nearly identical for jurisdictions with population of 100-250k at 4.6/8.9/16.3ac respectively.



In summary, the County is within the range when compared to the offerings of jurisdictions with similar populations. However, the County has a desire to remain an attractive destination for new residents, and based on population projections, it is recommended the County continue to add parks and parkland acreage to maintain at least the median offerings.

NRPA provides data on the prevalence of recreation facilities and the number of residents per facility, again broken down by the same jurisdictional population categories as noted previously. While every type of recreation facility is not represented in the NRPA data, the major, and commonly expected facilities are present. Table 1 that follows provides detail of the facilities offered by Effingham County, as well as those offered in the City of Rincon, and the benchmark comparison is calculated to show where the county meets the median, is deficient, or shows a surplus of facilities based on this benchmarking data. Again, these are not the answers alone. Recreational programming demand is a key component of determining what Effingham County's actual needs are for specific facilities.



Well maintained athletic complexes that provide a range of field sizes and support the full age ranges from youth through adult leagues are important assets for Parks and Recreation Departments to maintain a quality level of service.

For example, looking solely at Effingham County youth baseball/softball programs, the total count of baseball/softball fields in the county is 22. However, we know that the lights at Pineora do not currently work and fields are not viable for evening practices and games. The same can be said for the Meldrim field, and the Clyo Community Park field is strictly used as a community field without programming. That reduces the number of available fields to 16. Also looking at the mix of field sizes in the County there are currently 8 functional 200-250' fields and 8 functional 300' fields.

The reasonable carrying capacity of any one field is approximately 96 players. One field can be scheduled for 2 practices per day 4 days a week, plus 4 two-hour games on a Saturday or Sunday and 8 one-hour practices on the Saturday or Sunday when games are not played, and this leaves one day per week available for make-up games. This is a typical maximum programming of field time.

With 1032 players in the spring 2022 baseball/softball season in County recreation leagues alone, 11 fields are needed to support the approximately 86 teams across all age groups. There are an additional 25 travel league baseball and softball teams vying for field time, which adds 4 more fields to the needs to support all teams.



The county has 16 functional fields and current demand indicates 15 fields are needed. Due to the lack of rectangular rec fields for soccer, lacrosse, and football, there is competition for space as many baseball outfields are used for soccer in the fall season. As soccer and baseball both grow in popularity and both continue to have spring and fall leagues, demand for field space that is functional in all seasons, as well as day and night (meaning lights are imperative) will only increase as population increases.

Soccer is in demand as can be seen from the participation numbers in both recreation and travel leagues in the county, as well as responses from the community survey. Recent recreation program soccer participation data shows that there were over 600 children playing rec soccer in Effingham County, and more than 80 teams in need of field time. There were at least 13 other travel program soccer teams also seeking field time in County parks. Like baseball and softball, field demand can be calculated for soccer in a similar manner.

The older the age group the larger the field needed for games and practice. The younger the age group, the fewer players per team, and the less time needed for practices and game times. These number work together because not all field demands are created equal.

Soccer field dimensions are variable, so for every age group there is a range of size that is acceptable. Without proper facilities teams can be forced to play on sub-standard sized fields. The following are typical field sizes needed for soccer by age groups:

Age	Yards	Feet
6U	25-30 x 15-20	75-90 x 45-60
8U	30-40 x 20-25	90-120 x 60-75
10U	60-70 x 40-50	180-210 x 120-150
12U	80-100 x 40-55	240-300 x 120-165
14U	100-110 x 50-60	300-330 x 150-180

Examining the field dimensions in Table 2, we can understand that 12U and 14U teams essentially need the surface area of a “full size” field for practice and games. Younger age groups utilize field space with much greater efficiency. A typical full-size field can be divided into two 10U fields or four 8U fields. A regulation full-size field can be divided into as many as nine 6U or younger fields, and demand for field time is less at each age group.



Based on the number and mix of teams most recently active in the County recreational soccer program, and maximizing field space the County's current recreational soccer program needs could be met with 3 regulation full-size fields. Adding in demand from 13 additional travel programs and future population and therefore anticipated program growth, more fields are certainly needed to reduce maximum pressure on field usage and to allow for program growth. Lighted fields are necessary to maximize field availability for all teams and age groups. We must also take into account football and lacrosse needs for these same rectangle athletic fields. Ultimate, originally known as Ultimate Frisbee, is also a growing sport that uses rectangle athletic fields. Effingham County needs additional rectangle athletic fields to be able to accommodate the many growing sports programs that require such spaces.

Baseball, Softball, and Soccer, are the 3 sports that demand the most field space and time in Effingham County. In reviewing the benchmarking data in Table 1 general deficiencies and surpluses of recreation facilities can be seen, as simple comparisons to other similar sized jurisdictions. When compared to actual recreation program participation and facility demands a truer expression of deficiency or surplus is realized. Looking in further detail it can also be seen that in comparison to other jurisdictions of similar population size, the county is considered deficient in outdoor basketball courts, pickleball courts, aquatic centers or pools, skateparks, nature centers, and walking trails. These facilities also appeared in the community survey as facilities in demand, so the benchmark data and the community data support one another in identifying the need to add such facilities to Effingham county parks.

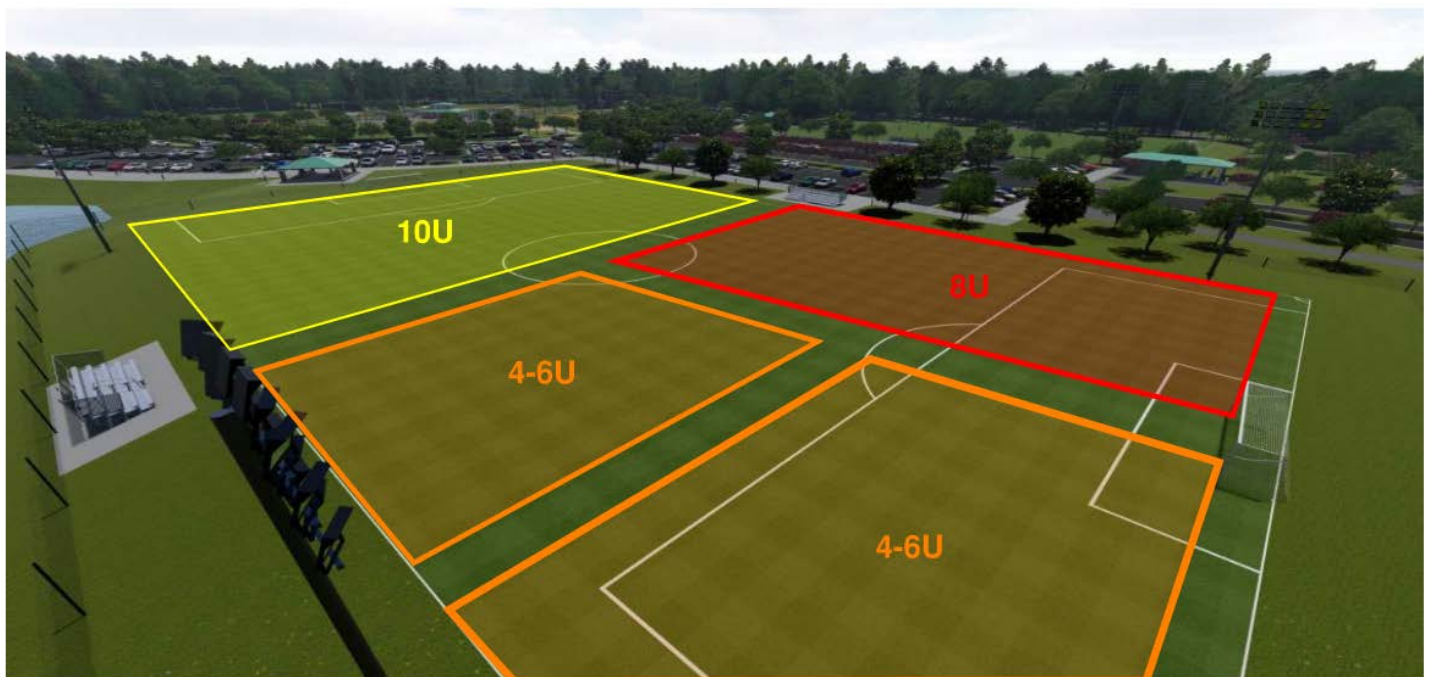


Figure 3: Full-size soccer fields that support play of older children and adults can easily be subdivided into many smaller fields for young age play.

	Units	CEM	119 Rec Complex	Sandhill	Pineora	Tommy Long	Long Bridge	Abercorn	Tuckasee King	Steel Bridge	Meldrim Park	Meldrim Field
Baseball 200+	ea	4	1	1	2							
Baseball 300+	ea	2	2	4	2							1
Baseball Stadium	ea	1										
Youth Baseball General	ea	7	3	5	4							1
Playground	ea	2	1	2	2				1		1	
Walking Trail	mi	0.57	0.49		0.5							
Gym / Rec Center	ea	1	1									
Rectangle Sport Field	ea		1	2								
Basketball court (outdoor)	ea			1							1	
Off-leash dog park	ea				1							
Tennis Court	ea										1	
Pickleball Courts	ea											
Community Center	ea											
Multi-purpose synthetic rect field	ea											
Community Garden	ea											
Rect. Fields dedicated to soccer	ea											
Aquatics Center	ea											
Swimming Pool	ea											
Skate Park	ea											
Nature Center	ea											
Restrooms	ea	6	2	4	2	2	2		2		2	2
Concession Stand	ea	1	1	1	1						1	1
Pavilions	ea	2	1	4	2				1	1	1	
Batting Cages	ea	4	1	2	2							1
Parking												
Maintenance Bldg	ea	1	1	1								
Boat Ramp	ea					1	1	1	1	1		
Fishing Dock	ea								1			
Picninc Grove	ea										1	
Lake / Pond	ea											
Plaza	ea											
Memorial	ea											
Acres of land	ac	113	19.28	69.83	61.43	10.25	2.12	0.39	18.11	2.15	1.35	4.13

Table 1: This matrix represents the total quantity of recreation facilities in Effingham County, and compares the county's offerings to the benchmark data of similar jurisdictions in the 50,000 to 99,999 population bracket. Surplus or deficiency are relative compared to benchmark data, but actual surplus and deficiency depend on actual county recreation demands as described previously in this document. Rincon data is also added to see how the data changes when these facilities are included in the calculations.



Values in this column represent the average population per one facility, based on NRPA benchmark data.

McCall Park	Baker Clyo Lake	Central Gym	Veterans Park	Atlas Site	COUNTY TOTAL	Rincon Total	EffCo and Rincon	NRPA Benchmark, 1 per XXXX residents	How Effingham compares based on 2020 pop. (65k)	Effingham Co. Defficiency based on 2030 pop (77.5k)	How EffCo+Rincon compares based on 2020 pop. (65k)	EffCo+Rincon Defficiency based on 2030 pop (77.5k)	
1	1				10	10	20	9892	3.4	2.2	13.4	12.2	
					11	2	13	21162	7.9	7.3	9.9	9.3	
					1	0	1	62944	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	
1	1				22	12	34	9892	15.4	14.2	27.4	26.2	
1	1				11	3	14	3807	-6.1	-9.4	-3.1	-6.4	
0.3		0.97			2.83	0	2.83	14	-11.2	-11.2	-4640.0	-5532.9	
			1		3	0	3	40817	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.1	
1					4	2	6	12505	-1.2	-2.2	0.8	-0.2	
1	1				4	2	6	8477	-3.7	-5.1	-1.7	-3.1	
1					2	0	2	56084	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	
		6			7	5	12	6413	-3.1	-5.1	1.9	-0.1	
					0	0	0	12000	-5.4	-6.5	-5.4	-6.5	
	1				1	1	2	44933	-0.4	-0.7	0.6	0.3	
					0	0	0	34104	-1.9	-2.3	-1.9	-2.3	
					0	0	0	49351	-1.3	-1.6	-1.3	-1.6	
					0	0	0	12228	-5.3	-6.3	-5.3	-6.3	
					0	0	0	60495	-1.1	-1.3	-1.1	-1.3	
					0	0	0	40264	-1.6	-1.9	-1.6	-1.9	
					0	0	0	65000	-1.0	-1.2	-1.0	-1.2	
					0	0	0	72210	-0.9	-1.1	-0.9	-1.1	
2	2	2			30	2	32						
					6	1	7						
1	1	2		1	17	2	19						
					10	8	18						
					0	0	0						
					3	0	3						
		1			6	0	6						
					1	0	1						
					1	0	1						
		1		1	2	0	2						
				1	1	0	1						
				1	1	1	2						
5.6	8	30.8	0	8.59	314.3	669.33	77.85	747.18	9.2	10.30	8.64	11.50	9.64

Data for deficiency or surplus is not calculated because NRPA does not currently quantify data for these particular facilities in parks. The information is shown for informational purposes related to Effingham County Parks.

Median AC / 1000 res	AC / 1000 res	AC / 1000 res	AC / 1000 res	AC / 1000 res
9.2	10.30	8.64	11.50	9.64
Excluding Atlas:	5.46	4.58	6.66	5.59

NRPA Acreage	Value
Low	4.7
Median	9.2
High	15.9

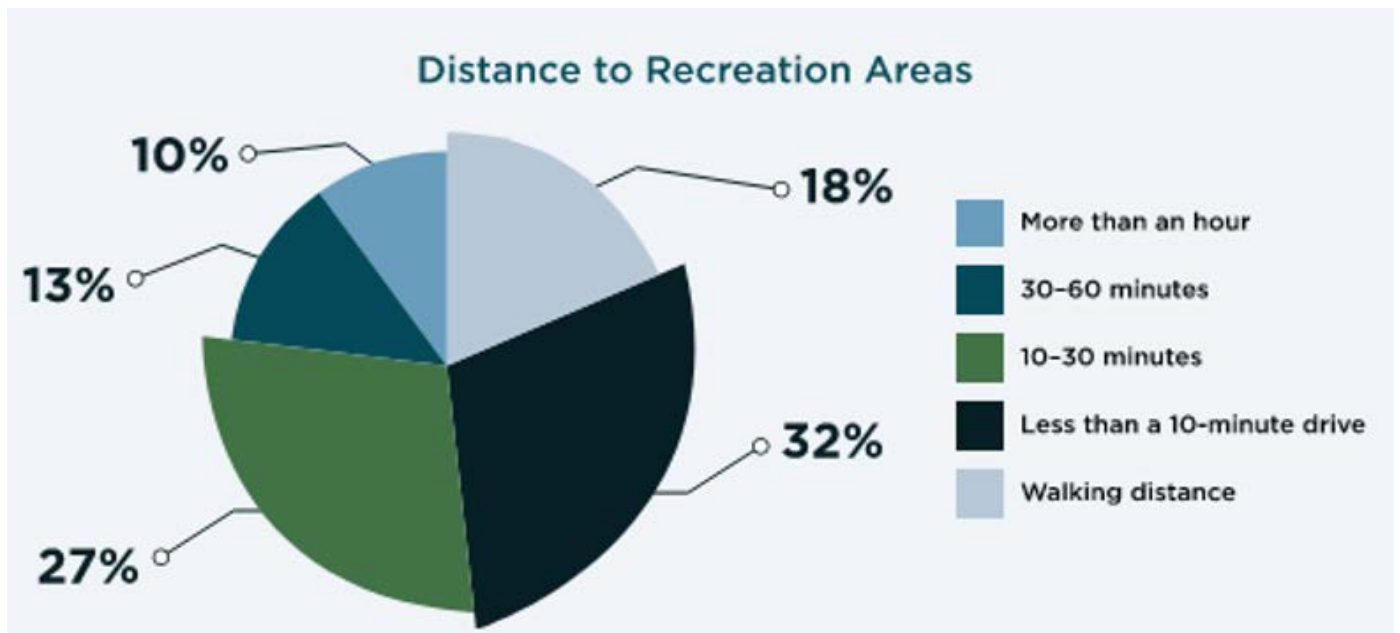
Once the Atlas Site opens to the public, the park acreage per 1000 residents in the county will be at or above the comparable median value for jurisdictions of similar size. The County should continue to add park acreage, especially passive parkland to stay ahead of the median value / provide more benefit to County residents.



Gap Analysis

Gap Analysis:

The location of parks in the county in relationship to where people live, and work is an important consideration. As a county grows denser, without forethought and action, viable park land gets developed into homes and businesses, if it is not bought and preserved for future development, or otherwise required to be provided by developers as a condition of their land development approvals. Rural counties are different than urban cities when it comes to considering access to parks. A common refrain is “everyone should be within a 10-minute walk of a park, greenspace, rec center, or recreational trail”. This makes a lot of sense in denser cities but is less viable on a countywide scale. As a Point of reference, the pie chart below shows the distance to recreation areas for respondents to the 2022-2026 Georgia SCORP Recreation Survey. While 50% of respondents statewide indicated they are living between walking distance and a 10 minute drive, the other 50% of respondents are further, to much further, due to distance or traffic congestion.



Source: 2022-2026 Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

When considering the accessibility of parks and gaps in service on a countywide scale, we look for even distribution of parks and the facilities offered. Parks should be reasonably accessible by car, bike, or foot, within the population centers in the county. While it may never be a perfect distribution the county should seek to build parks spread throughout the county and predict where future growth will demand parkland and facilities.



Parks and recreation programming are local. While there are similarities across different cities and counties of comparable size and location, the variety in parks and recreation programs is extensive from city to city, or county to county, and certainly from region to region.

There are numerous metrics by which parks can be measured in terms of providing a level of service to the communities they serve. At the most basic, there is a desire to ensure everyone has reasonable access to a park from their home. Since 2017 the Trust for Public Land (TPL) has promoted the 10-Minute Walk Program, whose mission is “Everyone in U.S. cities should have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk of their home.” With actions implemented in concert with land development, this goal is reasonably achievable, because more than 80% of the US population lives in urban areas, however we know it’s not fully achievable for the 20% of the population that live in rural areas.

In years past, park classifications have often referenced service radii that indicate the typical draw of residents to a particular type of park. For example, ‘Neighborhood Parks’ have often been prescribed a ½ to 1 mile service radius, and ‘Community Parks’ a 1-to-3-mile service radius. As parks grow in size and complexity the radius grows or becomes described in terms of drive time rather than physical distance.

In Effingham County the park inventory ranges from specialty sites such as the boat landings to large recreation complexes (CEM, Sand Hill) to a few smaller Community Parks (Meldrim, McCall, Baker Lake). Neighborhood parks are lacking or exist as community greenspaces within private developments and are not inventoried as a county resource. Most of the County parks are by their very nature not within walking distance of many county residents and are by default driving destinations.

For Effingham County we can consider community access to the various parks based on the distances people will drive to use a particular park’s amenities. Most people will reasonably drive 5 to 15 minutes to any park that meets some recreational need, be it open space for kids to play, a playground, a place to walk or recreation programming. The 5-to-15-minute drive easily translates into less than a mile to possibly as far as 10 miles that people are willing to drive to enjoy a park.

When recreational programs are added to the mix, parents become more willing to drive 15 to 30 minutes or more to get to the complexes that provide the proper facilities for competitive organized sports. This translated into people regularly driving 5 to 25 or more miles to a park with the facilities and programs they need.

People will drive even greater distances to use boat ramps, but these parks in Effingham County offer little more than water access, so to represent their coverage of the community in terms of a service area radius provides a skewed look at the actual service area of a particular park.



For the purposes of delineating service area of the County's parks the following classifications and service radii are used, to give a general view of access to parks and recreation programs in the county:

Park	Classification	Service Radius	Drive Time
Clarence E Morgan Complex	Regional Park	5-25 miles	15-30 min
Sand Hill Complex	Regional Park	5-25 miles	
Pineora	Community Park	0-10 miles	5-15 min
119 Complex	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Baker Lake	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Meldrim Community Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Meldrim Ball Field	Community Park	0-10 miles	
McCall Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Veterans Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Clyo Community Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Tuckasee King Landing	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Tommy Long Landing	Special Facility	Varies	Varies
Long Bridge Landing	Special Facility	Varies	
Abercorn Landing	Special Facility	Varies	
Steel Bridge Landing	Special Facility	Varies	

The above list represents just the County provided parks. The City of Rincon and Springfield have additional parks of their own that provide access to county residents.

Park	Classification	Service Radius	Drive Time
Macomber Park Complex	Regional Park	5-25 miles	
Freedom Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Giles Community Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Patriots Park	Community Park	0-10 miles	
Ulmer Park	Neighborhood Park	0-1 mile	<5 min or walk
Veterans Park	Neighborhood Park	0-1 mile	
Highland-Guyton Park	Neighborhood Park	0-1 mile	
Guyton Old School Park	Neighborhood Park	0-1 mile	
Vernon Hinely Center	Special Facility	Varies	



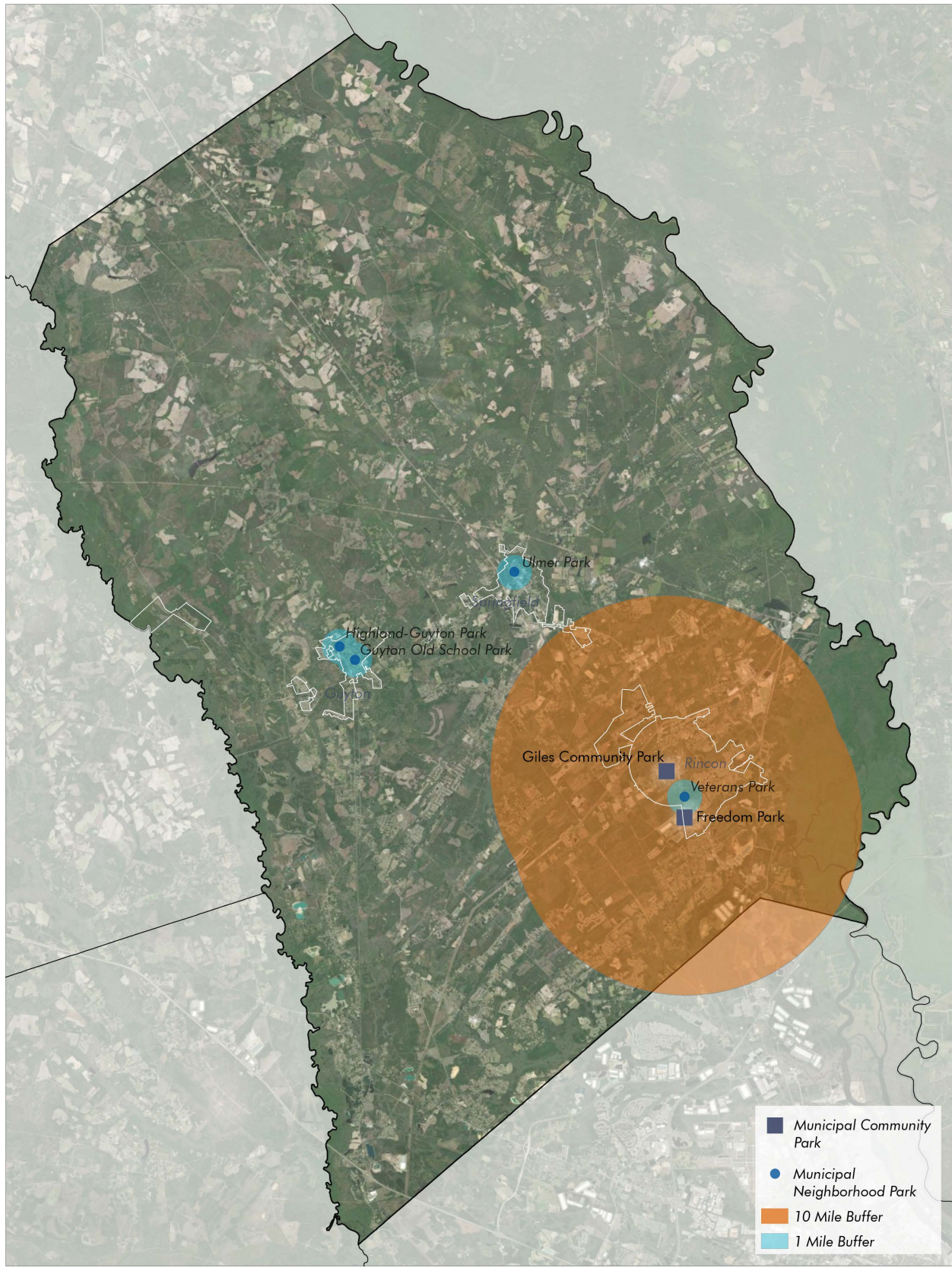


Figure 4: Service Area map for non-county owned Neighborhood and Community Parks and Specialty facilities.



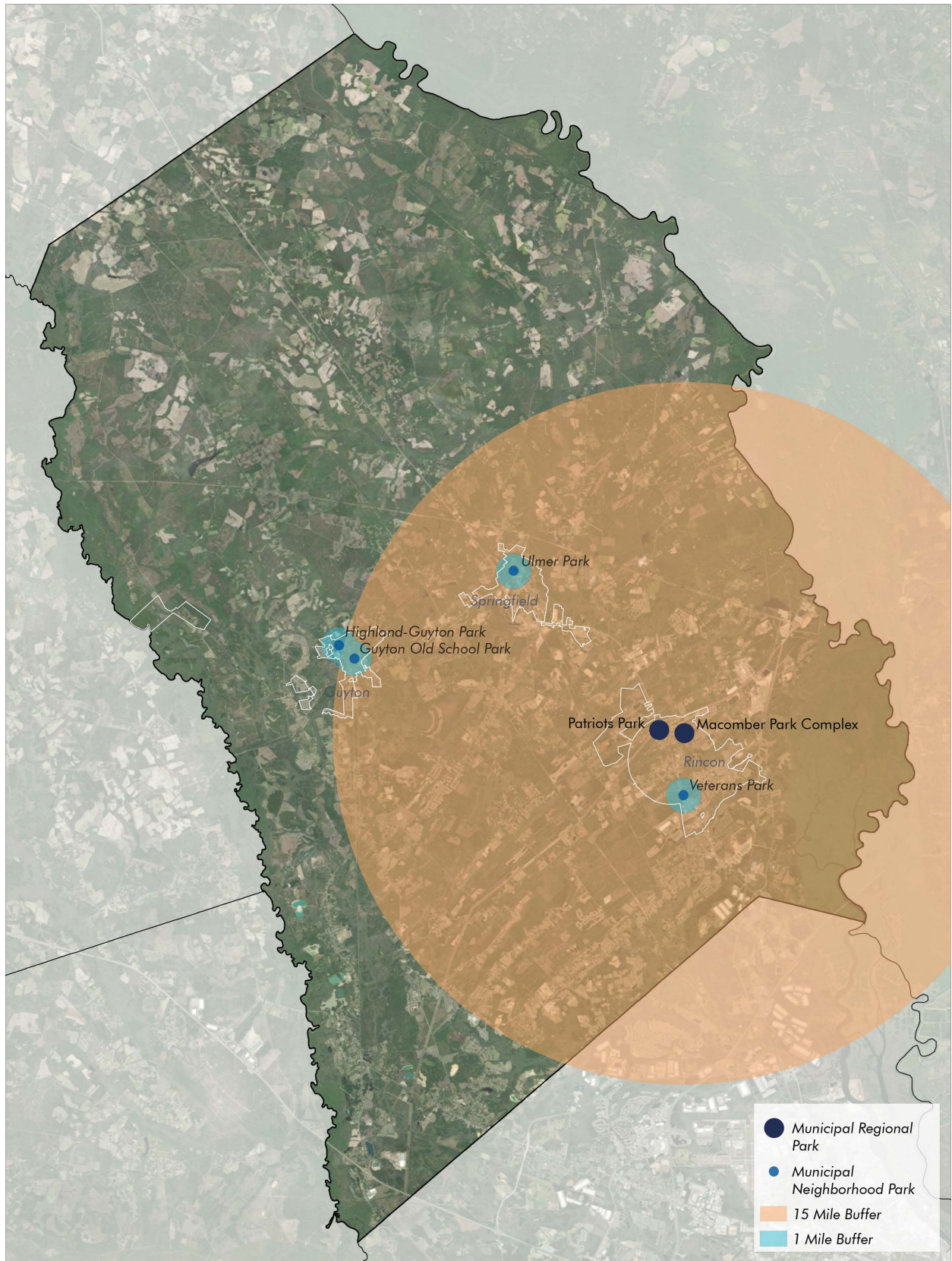


Figure 5: Service Area map for non-county owned Regional Parks and Specialty facilities.

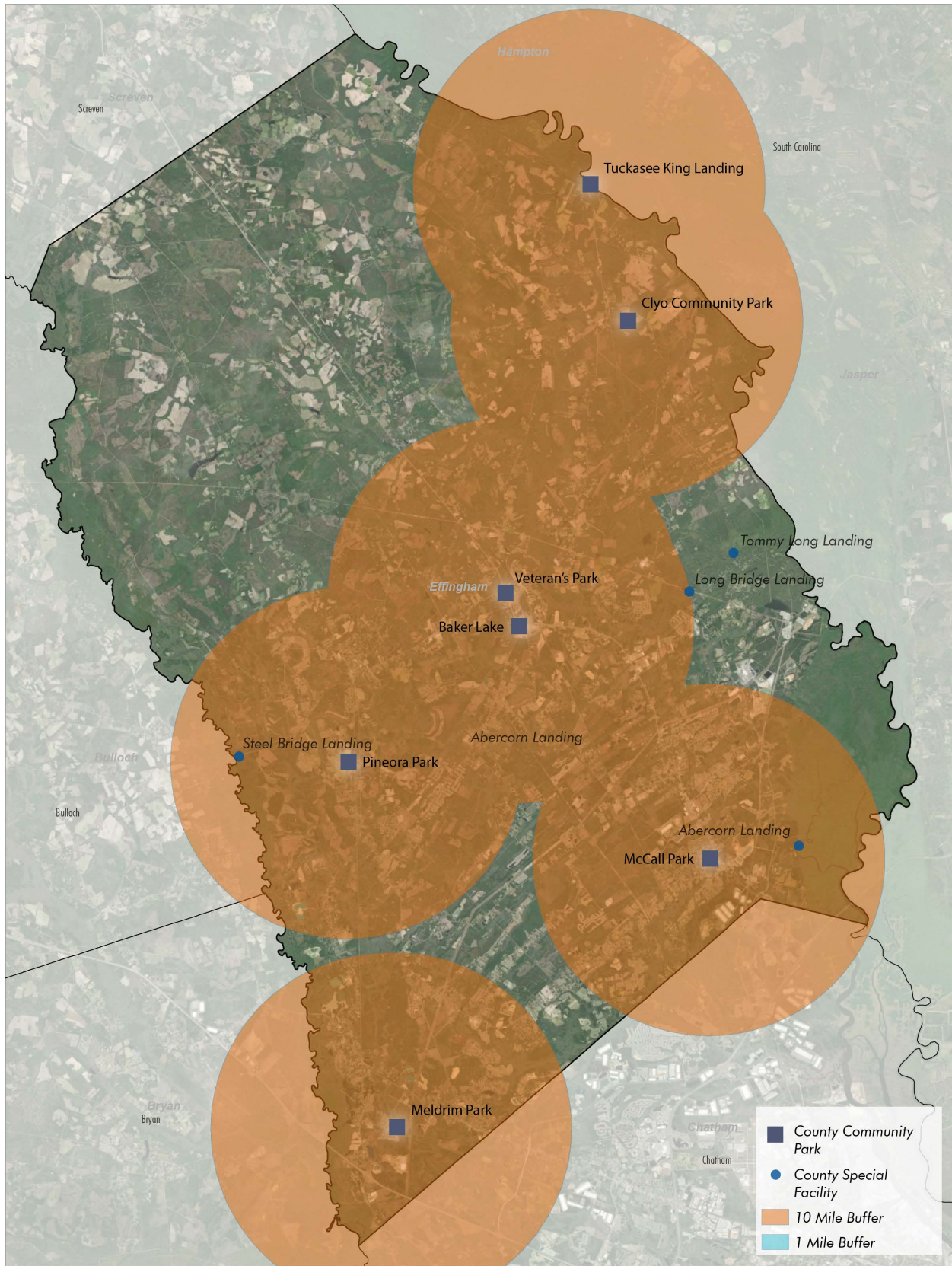


Figure 6: Service Area map for Effingham County owned Neighborhood and Community Parks and Specialty facilities.



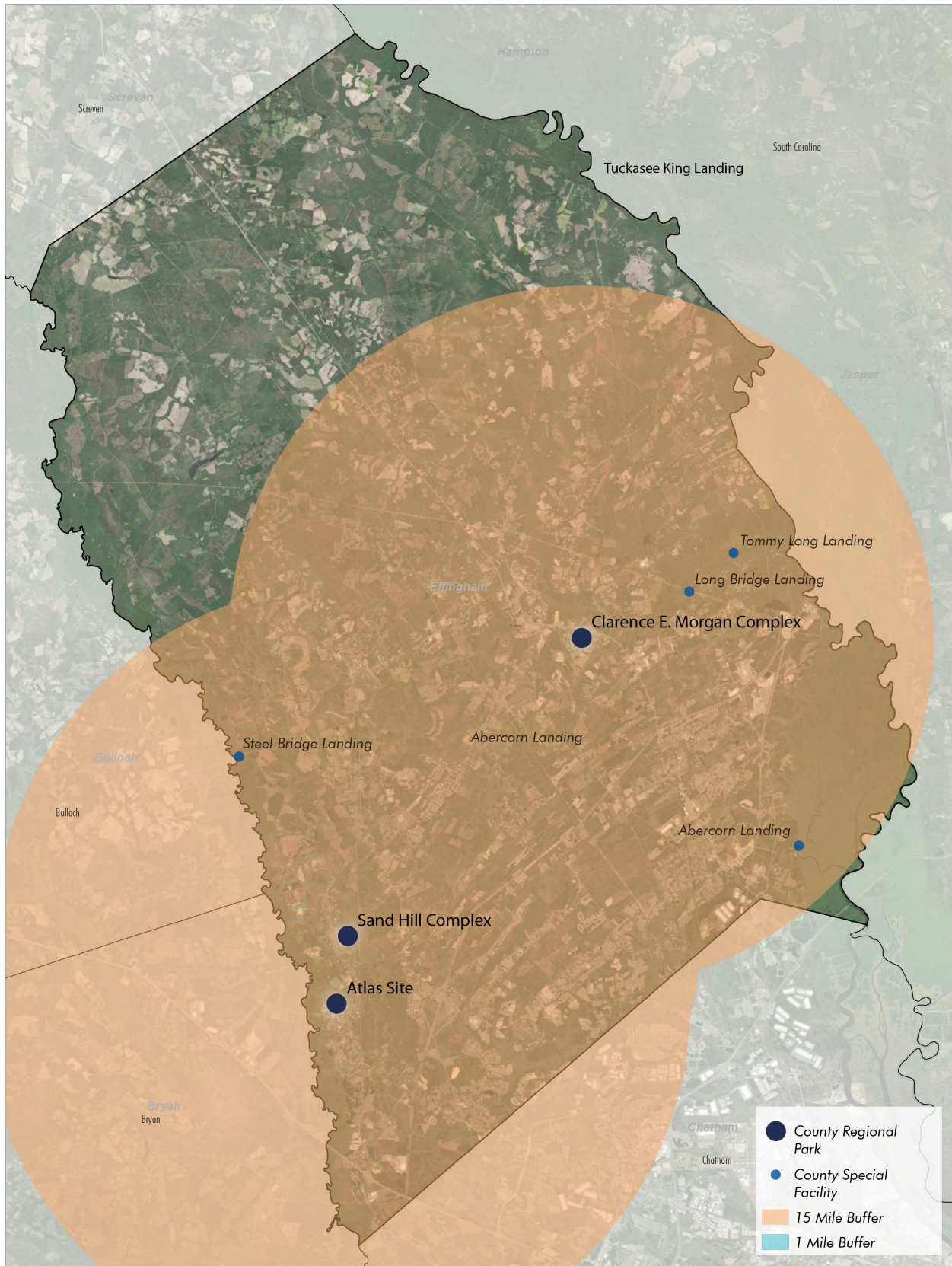


Figure 7: Service Area map for Effingham County owned Regional Parks and Specialty facilities.

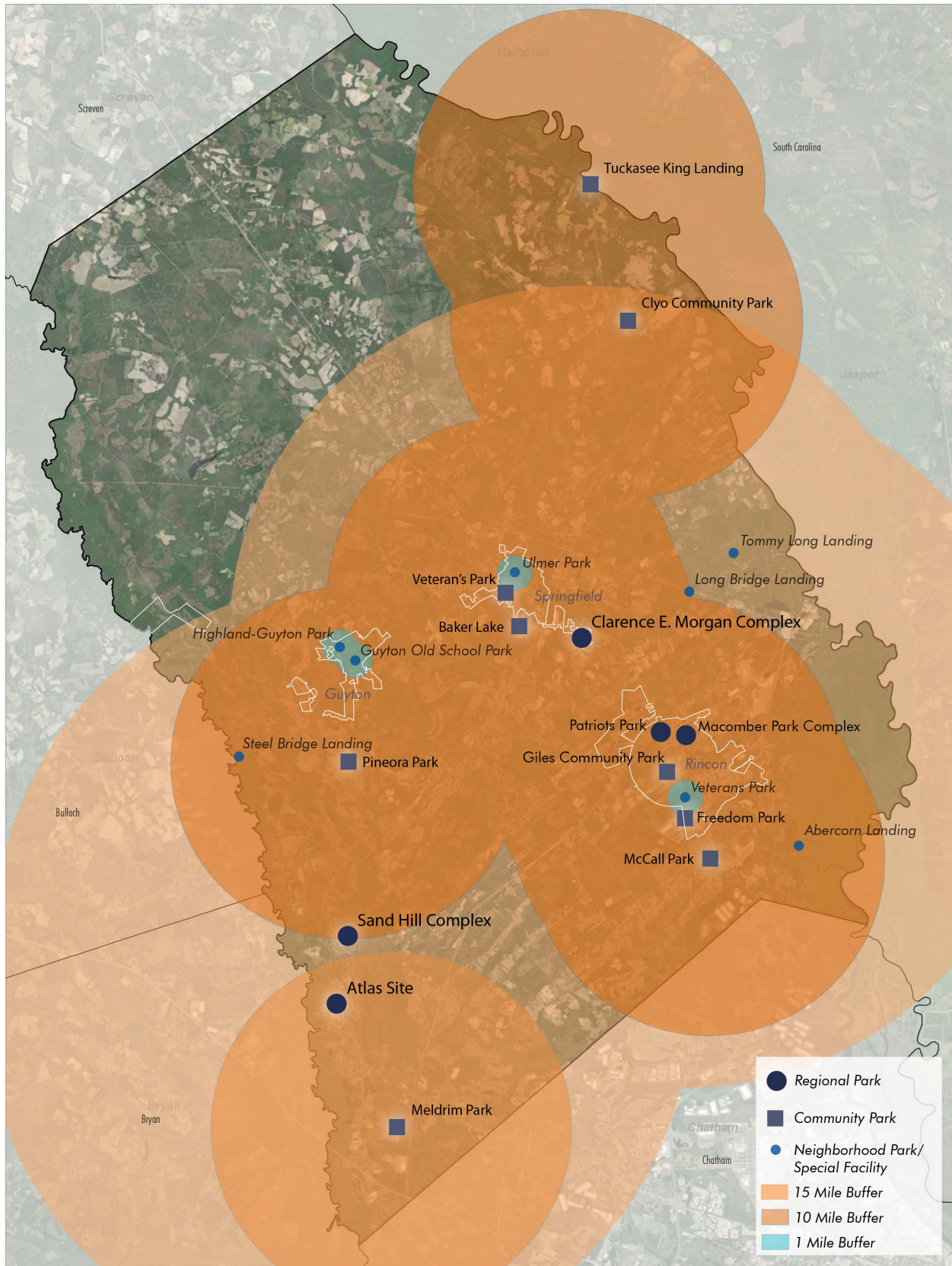


Figure 8: Combined Service Area map for Effingham County and non-county owned parks and recreation facilities.



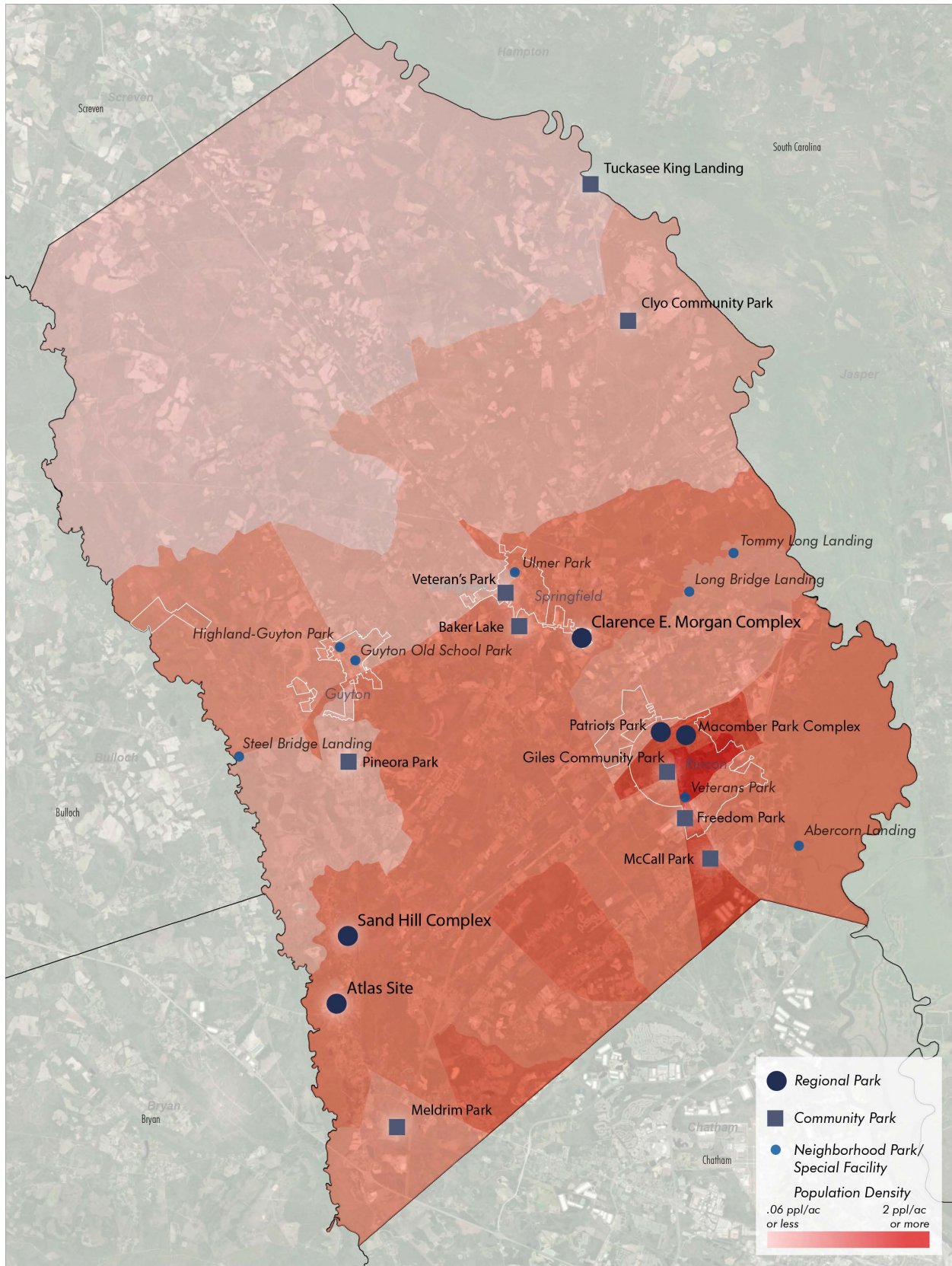


Figure 9: This map correlates the proximity of parks and recreation facilities to population density within the county. It confirms that parks are located in areas of higher population concentration, however the county should seek opportunities to add parkland in the growing southern region of the county to create more equal distribution of facilities. Private greenspaces in communities are not included.



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Existing Parks and Facilities

Existing Parks and Facilities

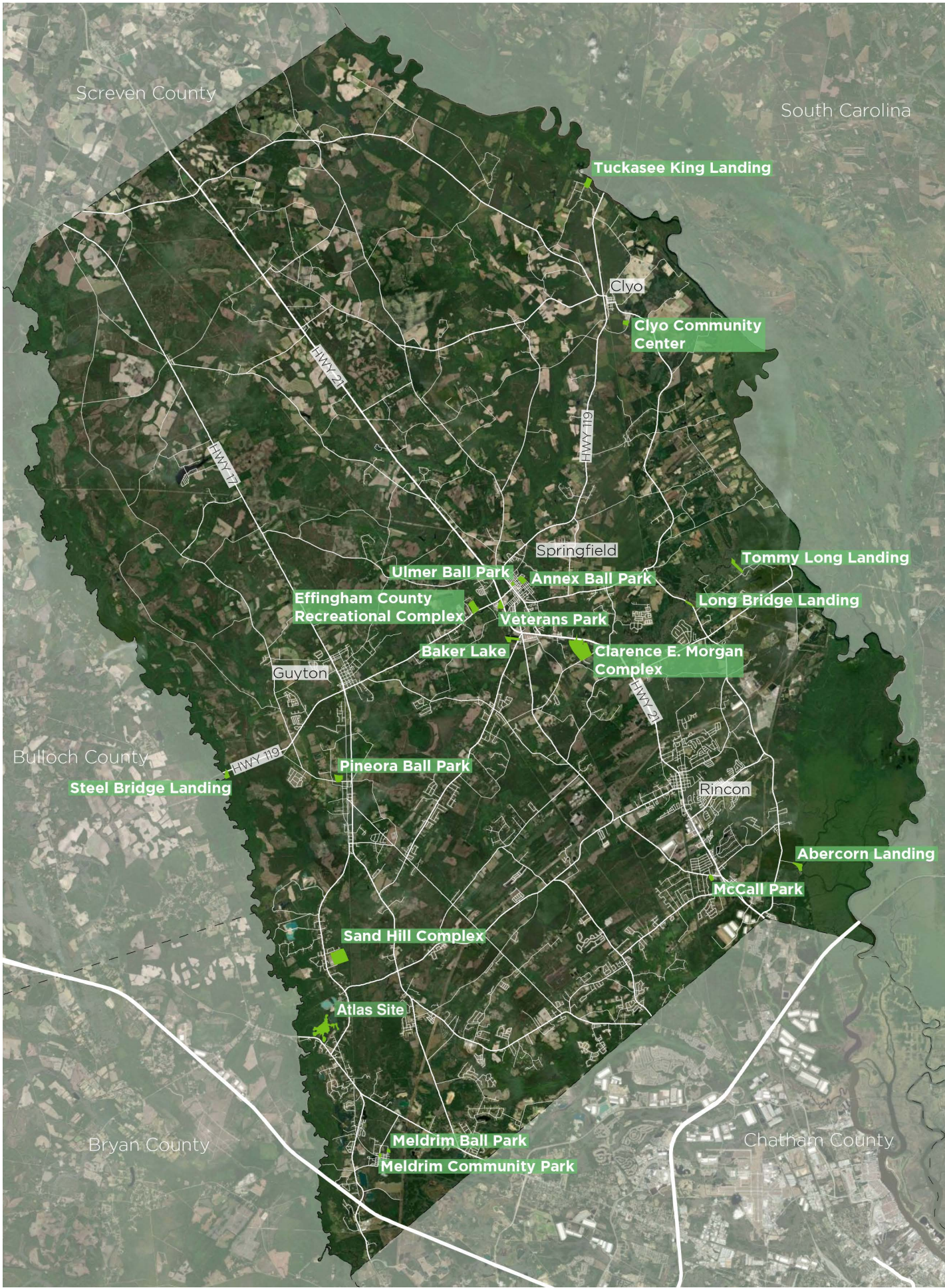
The 16 parks identified are the shown on the map to the right, and listed below.

- Abercorn Landing
- Baker Lake Park
- Clarence E. Morgan Complex
- Clyo Community Center
- Effingham County Rec Center
- Long Bridge Landing
- McCall Park
- Meldrim Ball Park
- Pineora Park
- Lawton Park
- Sand Hill Complex
- Steel Bridge Landing
- Tommy Long Landing
- Tuckasee King Landing
- Veterans park
- Central Gym

Land Holdings

- Atlas Sand Mine Site- future park





Screven County

South Carolina

Tuckasee King Landing

Clyo

Clyo Community Center

Springfield

Tommy Long Landing

Ulmer Ball Park

Annex Ball Park

Long Bridge Landing

Effingham County Recreational Complex

Veterans Park

Clarence E. Morgan Complex

Baker Lake

Guyton

Bulloch County

Steel Bridge Landing

Pineora Ball Park

Rincon

Abercorn Landing

McCall Park

Sand Hill Complex

Atlas Site

Bulloch County

Bryan County

Meldrim Ball Park

Chatham County

Meldrim Community Park



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Existing Site and Parks Information

Abercorn Landing



Address

Abercorn Landing Rd, GA 31326

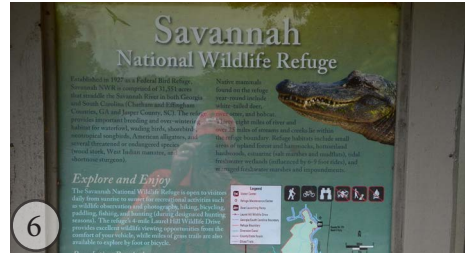


Site information

Abercorn Landing is located on the west side of the county. This site is primarily used for its river access and boat ramp launch and reload area.

- US Fish & Wildlife Service / Savannah National Wildlife Refuge willing to partner on dock
- Brackish water/ tidal water levels
- Recently repaved road & parking circle (no parking lot)
- Information kiosk/ signs and waste receptacles present on site

Existing conditions photos



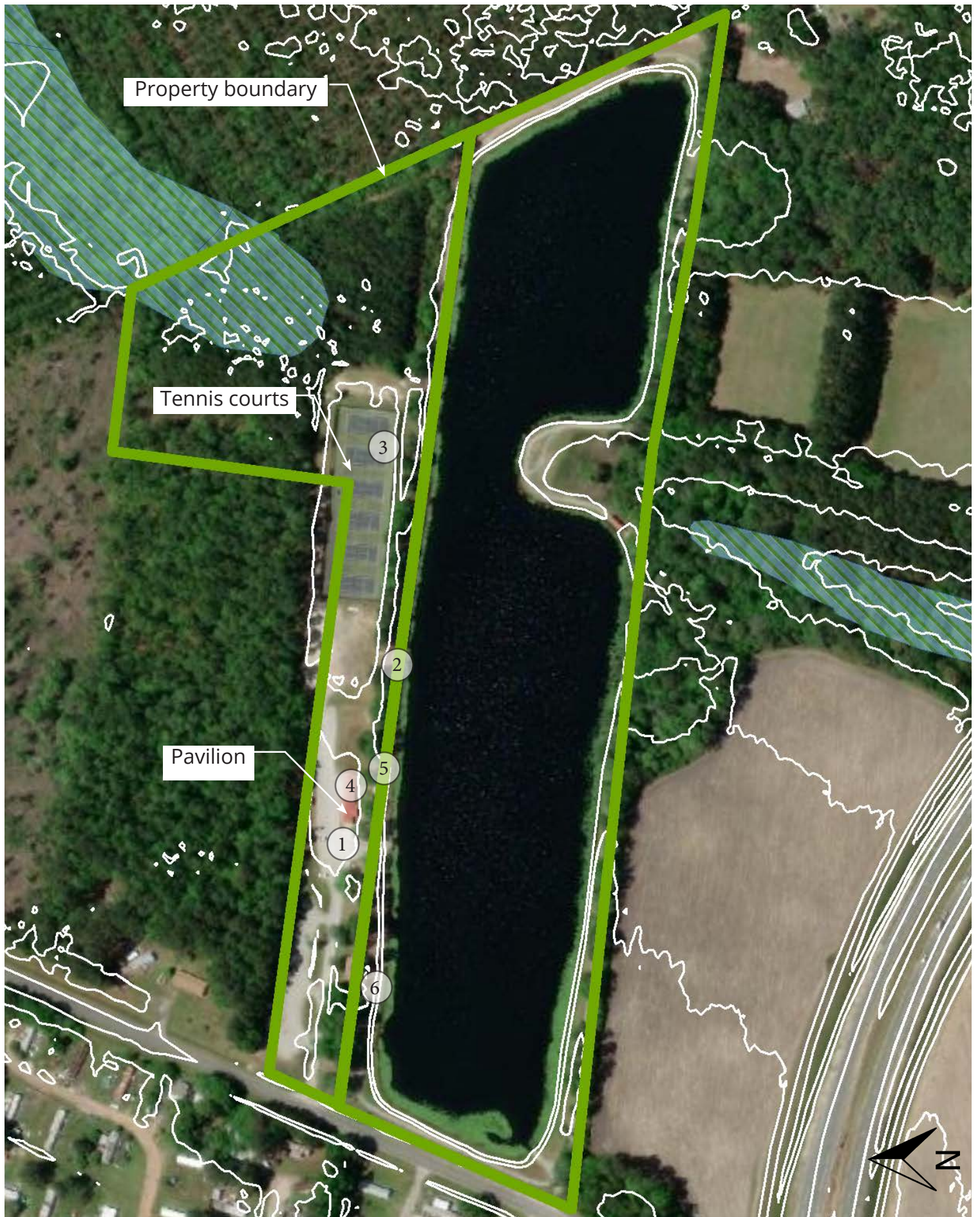
2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Baker Lake Park

Address
224 Courthouse Road, Springfield, GA 31329

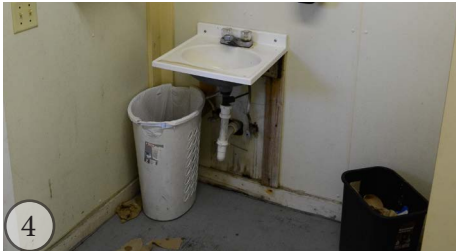


Site information

Baker Lake Park is located in the center of the county. This is a popular park known for its sizable lake, tennis courts, playground and walking trail. This park has opportunities for enhancements.

- Unpaved parking area with no lights
- Popular walking trail
- Existing tennis courts with potential to convert some to pickle-ball or setup for tennis and pickle-ball
- Mens restroom has been updated
- Women's restroom needs updating or replace restroom entirely

Existing conditions photos



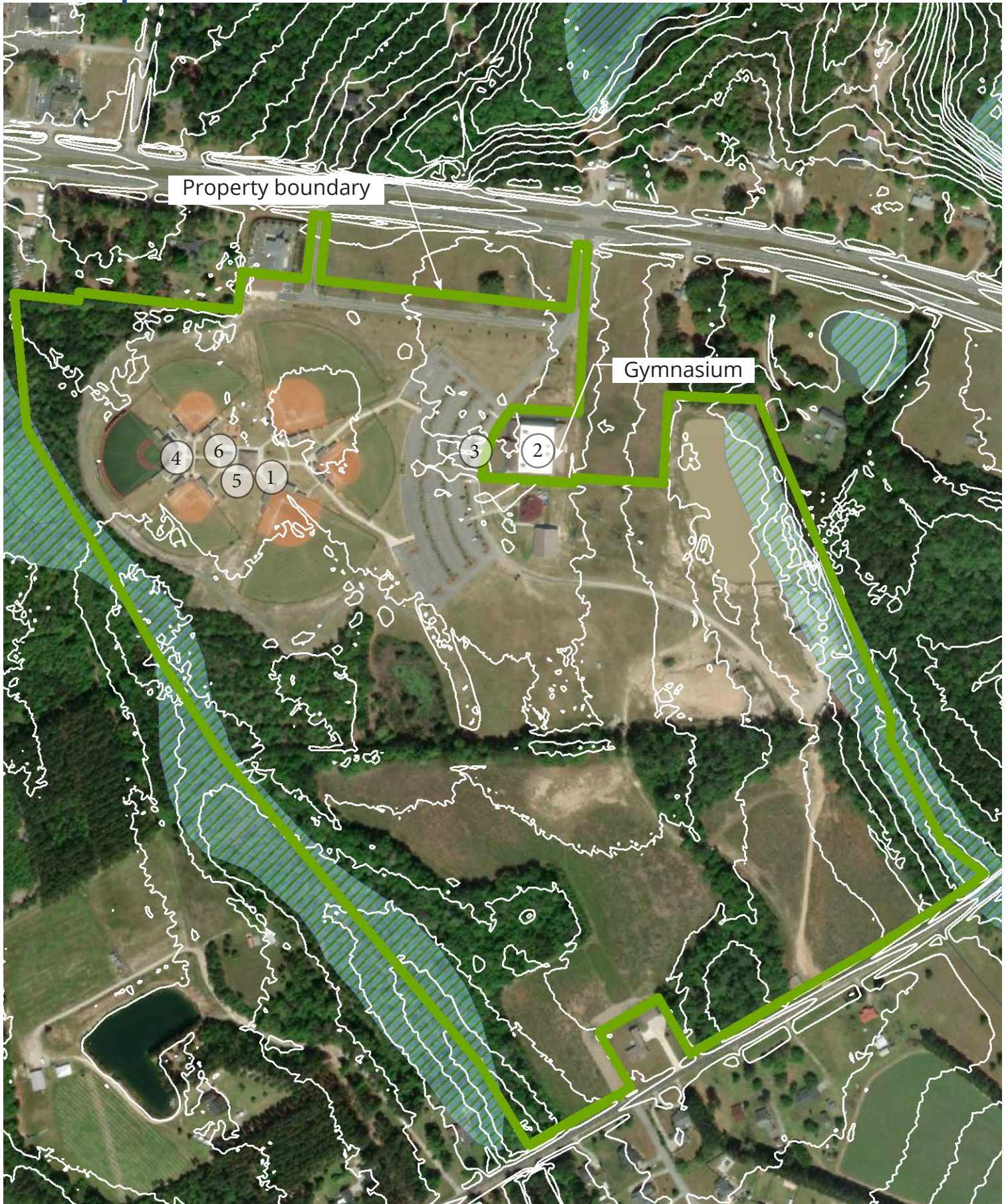
2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Clarence E Morgan Complex

Address
1750 GA-21 S, Springfield, GA 31329

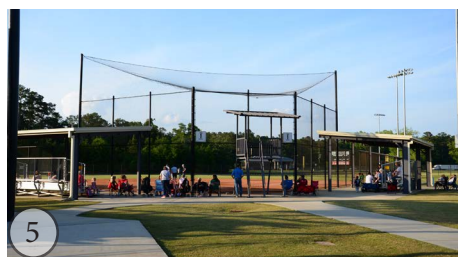


Site information

Clarence E Morgan complex is located in the middle of the county. This is the newest park in the County. Thus far, only the first phase of the overall master plan has been implemented. Per the Clarence E Morgan facility master plan, future phases consist of parking lot extension, secondary turf baseball field, additional baseball fields, 2 multi-use turf rec fields, and a RV campground site.

- 5 baseball fields, gymnasium/ rec center
- 1 turf baseball field (the Josh Reddick Field) Designed for ADA accessibility, and competition level
- Host tournaments and games for baseball, basketball and volleyball
- Concessions and restrooms are in good condition
- Batting cages and playground on site

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- 6' wide stone dust walking trail
- Dog park
- Splash pad
- Skate park
- Community center with large meeting hall and kitchen, and 4 smaller meeting rooms
- Formalize parking areas with edging and gravel pavement
- Upgrade one rectangular field to a multi-use synthetic turf field
- Upgrade one or more baseball fields to synthetic turf



Clyo Community Center

Address
545 Fair St, Clyo, GA 31303



Site information

Clyo Community Center is located in the northern part of the county. This park provides a baseball field, basketball court, playground, and a community building available to be rented out. Amenities on site are in need of upgrades.

- Rented on average 1x per month (\$300 per day)
- Building mostly used for county voting
- Not used by rec or travel ball
- Church groups use the site the most
- Lights for field don't work
- Basketball courts need upgrading/ repairs
- Bathrooms need upgrades/ repairs
- There are problems with the septic

Existing conditions photos



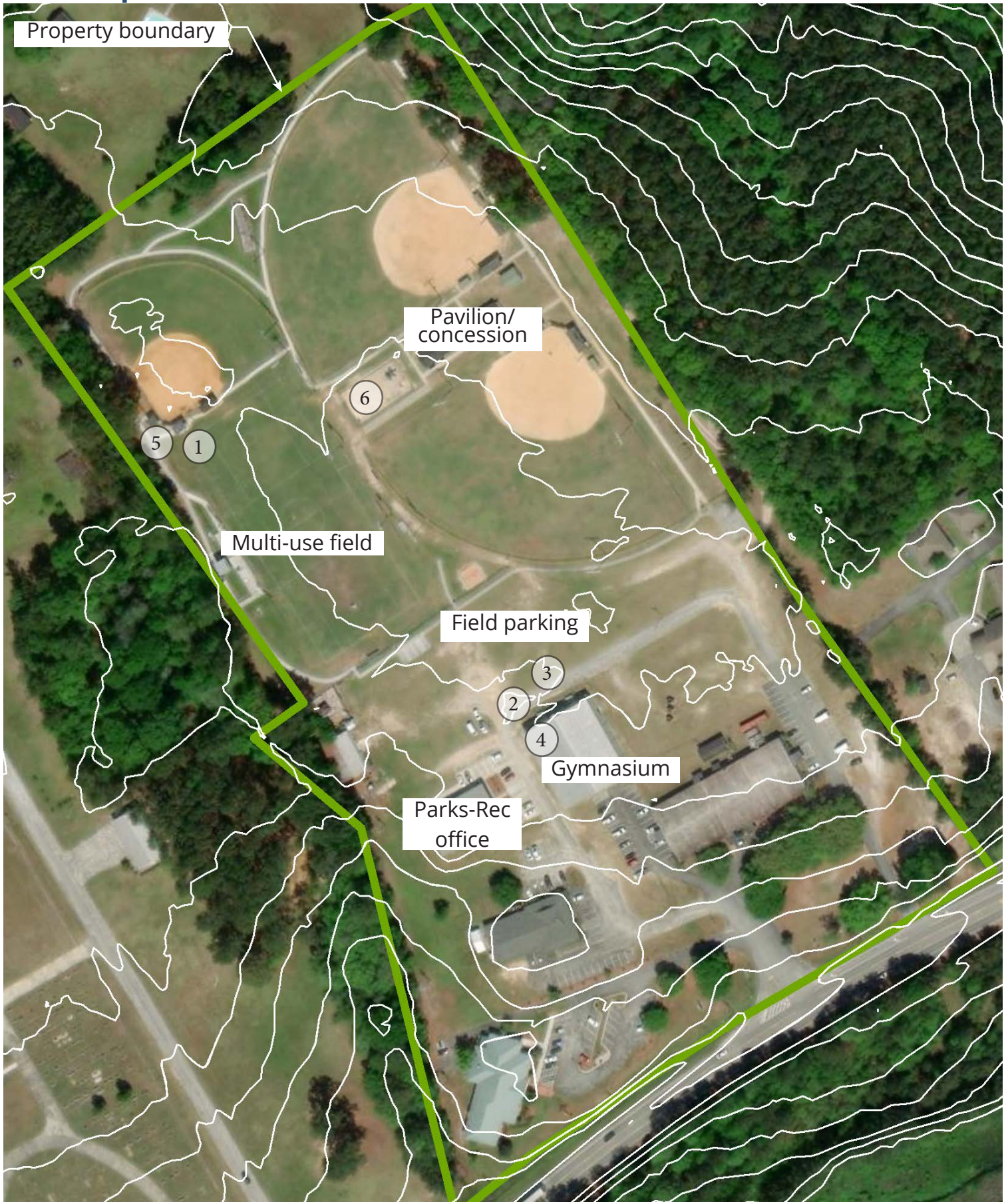
2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Effingham County Rec Complex

Address
808 Hwy. 119 S. Springfield, GA 31329



Site information

Effingham County Rec Center is located in the center of the county. This park is current location of the Parks and Rec dept. office. This site is mainly utilized as practice fields fro baseball as well as soccer fields during the fall. This park has opportunities for enhancements/ renovations.

- New playground structures needed
- Parking and lights are the main issue for site (parking is unorganized and most lights need replacement)
- Football press box needs renovations/ replaced
- Baseball bleacher roofs have been removed but not replaced
- Football scoreboard is the only one that works
- Goal post have not been replaced in decades
- Restrooms have been recently renovated
- Remove baseball scoreboards (do not work)
- Only field in the county with LED lights (new Musco lights)
- Site has concession/ pavilion/ coaches' office
- Gym/ indoor basketball court needs AC upgrades (gym used to be used as a roller skate arena)

Existing conditions photos



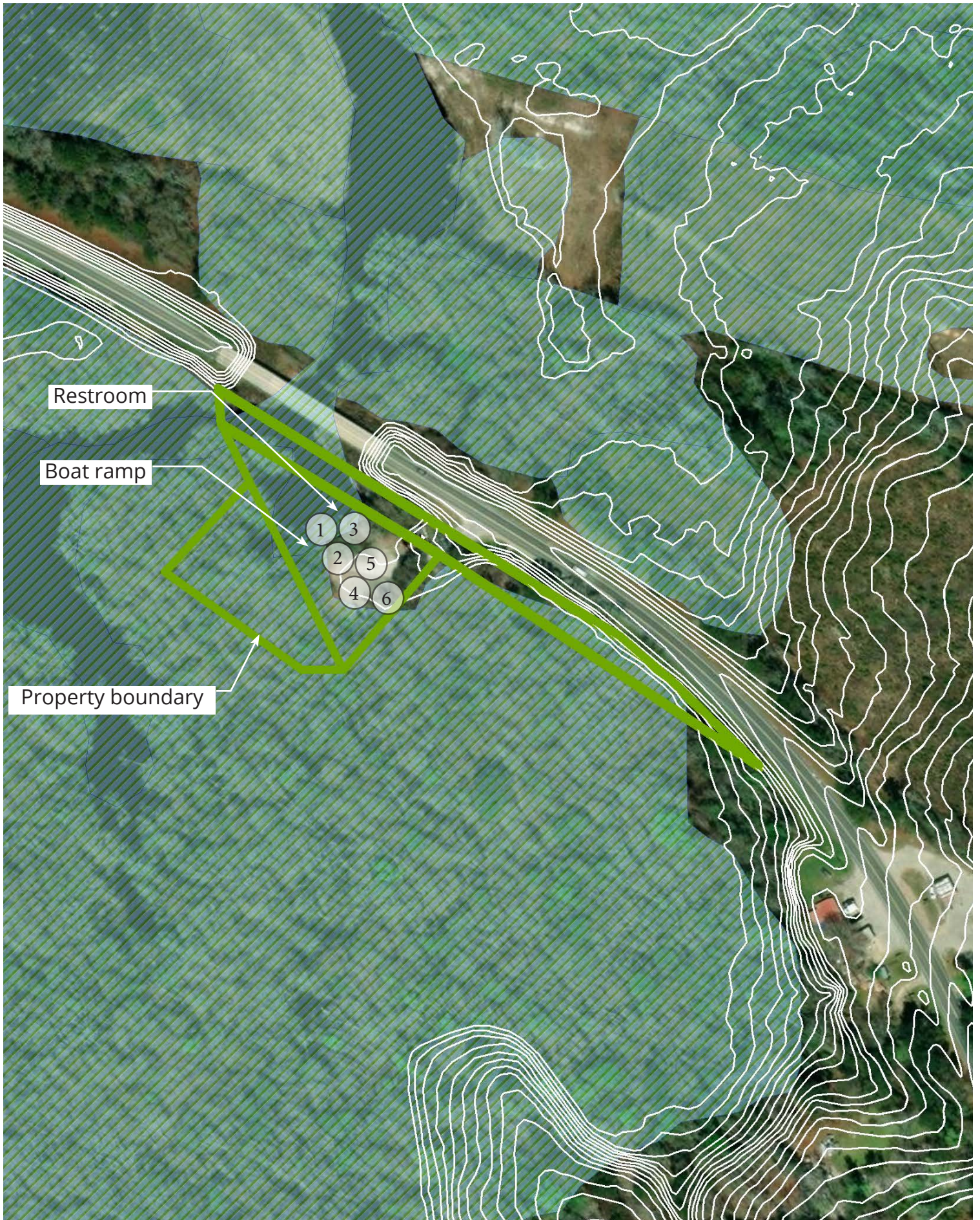
2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Renovate restrooms/ concession building
- Renovate existing gym/ expand and include additional court



Long Bridge Landing

Address
Long Bridge Rd Springfield, GA 31329



Site information

Long Bridge Landing is located in the middle of the county. This site is utilized for its boat ramp.

- Outfitters drop off canoe and kayakers
- Vault restrooms
- Boat ramp
- Undefined parking

Existing conditions photos



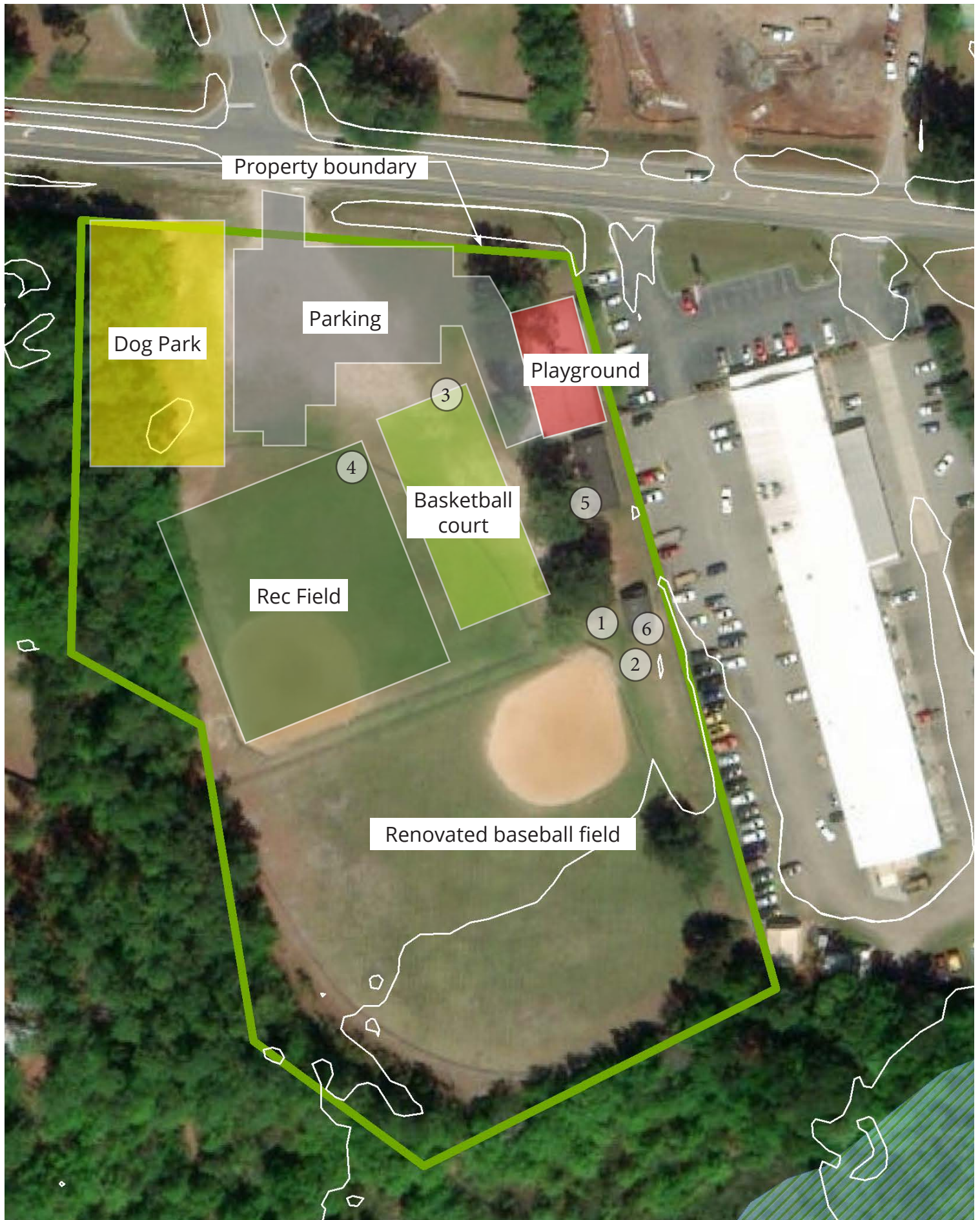
2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



McCall Park

Address
5450 McCall Rd Rincon, GA 31326



Site information

McCall Park is located on the lower east side of the county. This park is newly upgraded. Renovations include new parking lot, dog park, multi-use field, basketball court, restroom, and renovated baseball field.

- Used as practice baseball field
- Multi use rec field
- Two wells on site, no city sewer or water
 - Irrigation
 - Drinking (chlorinated)
- Dog park
- Picnic pavilion

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Meldrim Ball Park



Address

2nd St Guyton, GA 31312



Site information

Meldrim Ball Park is located on the south end of the county. This park is primarily used as a practice baseball field. This park has opportunities for enhancements/ renovations.

- Combat baseball team uses the baseball field
- County maintains site
- Electric and water are turned off
- Dilapidated concession/ storage building
- Small covered viewing/ seating area behind home plate
- Small unpaved, undefined parking area
- Batting cage in poor condition

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Meldrim Community Park

Address
Meldrim Rd Guyton, GA 31312



Site information

Meldrim Community Park is located on the south end of the county. This park offers a playground, basketball and tennis court, and picnic areas. This park has opportunities for enhancements/ renovations.

- \$1 100 year lease to Meldrim Civic Club
- Parks and Rec picks up trash
- No maintenance, electric, water
- Well might be broken
- A mix of out dated and newer playground elements
- Basketball and tennis court on site (tennis court of substandard quality, tree overgrowing court, tennis net is currently a chain-link fence)
- Pavilion and restrooms on site

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Pineora Park/ Lawton Park

Address
310 Honey Ridge Rd, Guyton GA, 31312

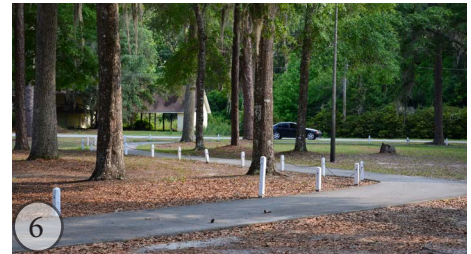


Site information

Pineora Park/ Lawton Park is located in the mid-west part of the county. This park is mainly used as practice fields for open teams. This park has opportunities for enhancements/ renovations.

- Lights don't work on large fields
- Most lights work on small field
- Restrooms need upgrades
- Need storage and restrooms
- Concession option no longer needed
- One field has been turned into dog park
- Undefined, unpaved parking areas
- Picnic pavilions and minimal paved walking trails
- Undeveloped parcels that can be enhanced with walking/ biking trails

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Sand Hill Complex

Address
300 Stagecoach Ave, Guyton GA, 31312



Site information

Sand Hill Complex is located in the lower west side of the county. This site is primarily used for rec baseball.

- Experience vandalism outside of fields, mostly bikes/ trucks doing turns in grass
- Baseball fields are in good shape
- Musco lights on site
- Soccer field lights need to be replaced in 4-5 years
- Soccer field needs restrooms/ concession
- Soccer is operated by another organization
- A/c is broken in press box
- Concession stand needs upgrades

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Repair septic system
- Add netting to backstops for (5) baseball/softball fields
- Replace dirt infields and irrigation on (5) baseball/softball fields
- Install (3) new lighted and covered batting cages
- Install new 30' x 50' maintenance building
- Widen concrete plaza around the scoring tower to 30'
- Install new landscaping and signage
- Enlarge women's restroom into existing storage room(s) to add 3-4 new stalls



Steel Bridge Landing



Address

4220-5999 GA-119, Guyton GA 31312



Site information

Steel Bridge Landing is located on the west est of the county boarder. This site is primarily used for its river access and boat ramp launch and reload area, as well as recreational swimming/ fishing.

- Parking is narrow
- Boat ramp
- Popular swimming hole/ beach
- Adjacent rental housing and park blend together making the distinction of public versus private land uncertain for visitors
- Existing picnic pavilion near road.

Existing conditions photos



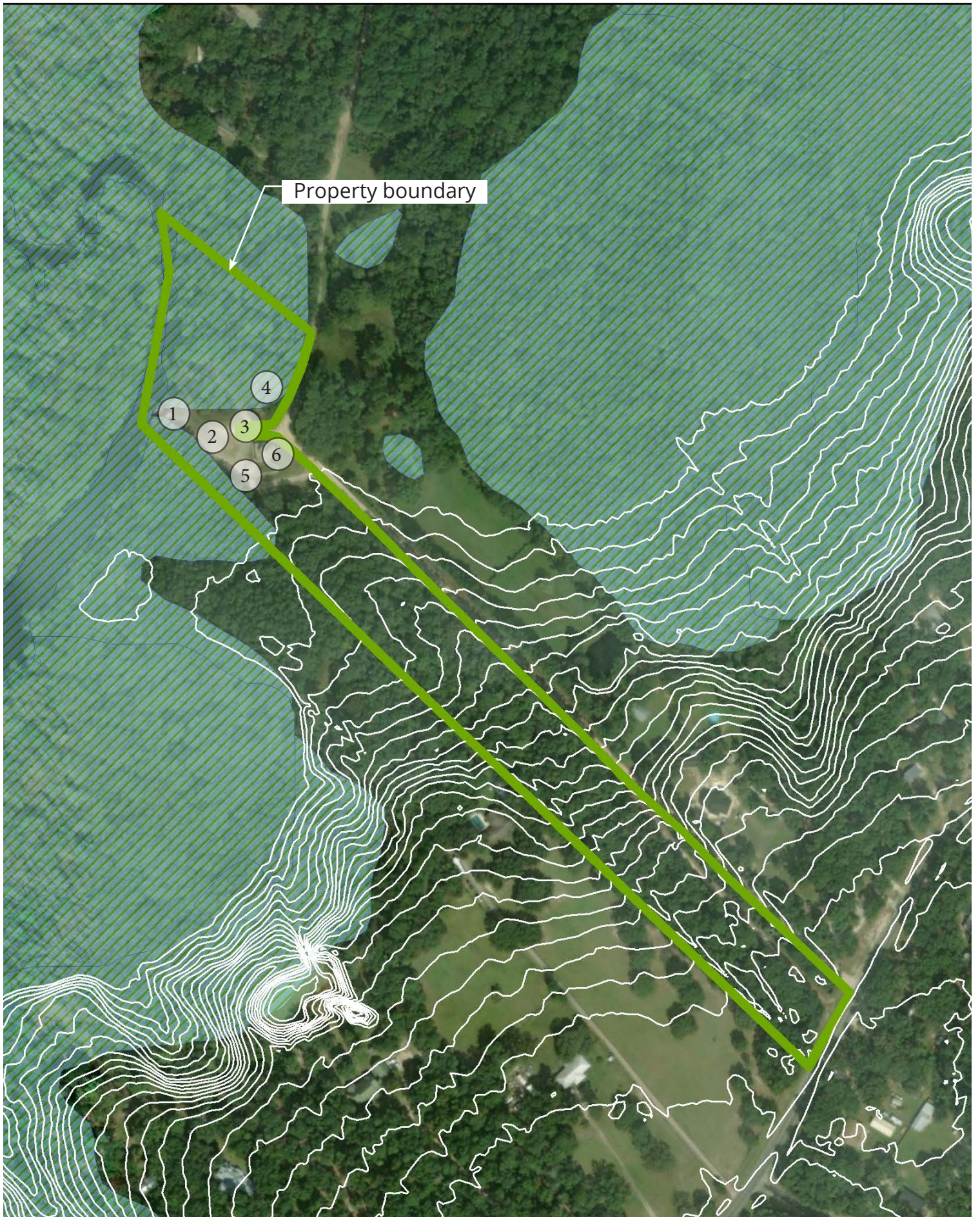
2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Tommy Long Landing

Address
158 Tommy Long Rd, Rincon, GA 31326

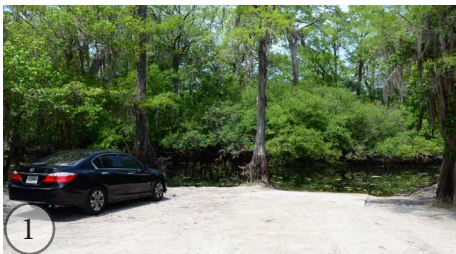


Site information

Tommy Long Landing is located on the mid-east part of the county. This site is primarily used for its river access and boat ramp launch and reload area.

- Very small boat ramp (usually underwater)
- In partnership with Georgia DNR
- Can easily paddle to Long Bridge Park
- Slab around elevated restrooms is cracking/ needs repairs
- Large unpaved/ ill-defined parking area

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

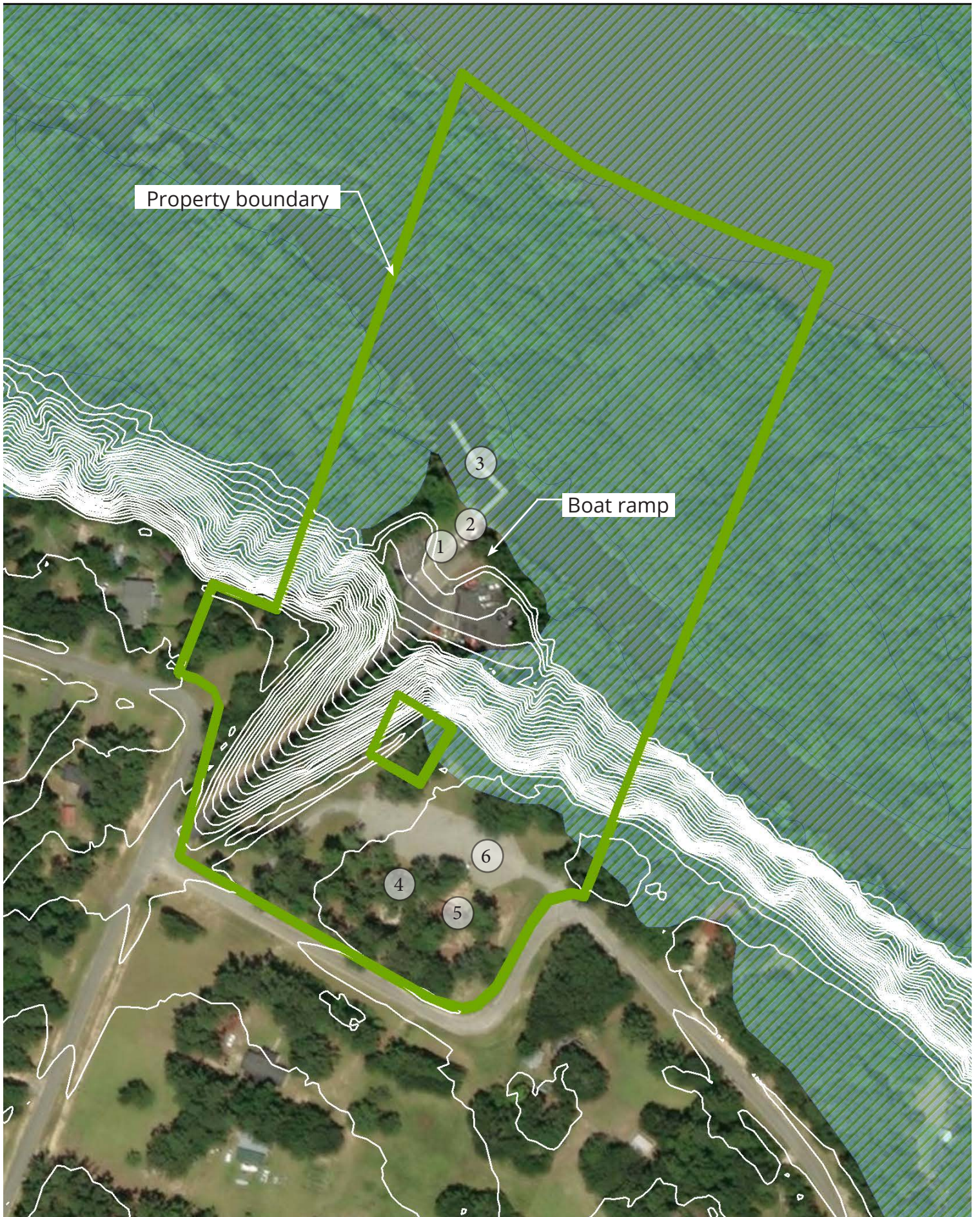
- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Tuckasee King Landing

Address

372 Morgan Cemetery Rd, Cloy GA, 31303



Site information

Tuckasee King Landing is located on the northeast border of the county. This site is primarily used for its river access and boat ramp launch and reload area.

- Bass club runs an annual event at this park
- Large paved parking area for cars and boat trailers (site rarely reaches capacity for parking needs)
- Boat ramp
- Restrooms,
- Playground
- Parking
- Pavilion, shady upland picnic/ passive park area
- Wooden stairs from upper parking create shortcut to lower parking/ dock/ boat ramp

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Provide ADA-compliant playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Veterans Park



Address

W First St, Springfield GA, 31329

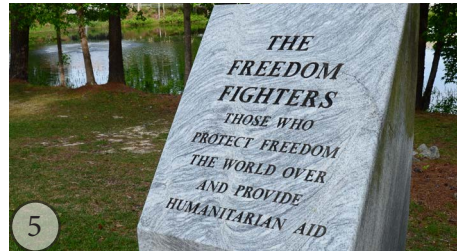


Site information

Veterans Park is located in the center of the county. This park is a memorial park for fallen veterans. This park has natural wooded surroundings, open lawns, paved walkways, pond/ water fountain memorial features, and well maintained appearance make this a popular park for visitors.

- Eternal flame previously damaged (needs to be replaced with new/ better design)
- Benches
- Pavilions
- Small paved parking area
- Paved walkways/ plaza
- Small pond surrounded by open woodland
- Steep slope along road
- No trail/ sidewalk from hospital to entrance of park
- A few sections of the memorial wall have damages
- Potential for trail loop around park and potential boardwalk through the woodland area for nature path

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

- Install entry signage and add directional signage as needed
- Improve maintenance of park
- Multi-use path/ trail system throughout park, and allow connectivity to other nearby parks



Atlas Site

Address
Shady Oaks Dr, GA, 31312



Site information

The Atlas site is a former sand mine that the county has acquired and intends to develop as a park. The total land area of the property is over 360 acres, of which more than 130 acres is open water, and more than 100 acres floodplain/wetlands/swamp. The property is currently accessed from Shady Oaks Road. Upon entering the property, more than 50 acres of land, a mix of open fields, and forested land is available for recreation programming and needs. The property is an ideal location to develop a passive park that will help the county meet these needs in providing access to nature, hiking trails, and other passive recreation activities.

Existing conditions photos



2015 Master Plan Recommendations

There were no 2015 plan recommendations for the site.



Public Input

Public Input:

A countywide survey was conducted to gather input from the community. This survey is not considered a statistically valid survey, rather a sample of more than 600 individuals who voluntarily responded to the survey providing valuable insight into the collective mind of the community. Full results can be found in the appendix; the following is a summary of the key data points that resulted from the survey. This information coupled with the benchmarking data from NRPA metrics, recreational program participation data, input from the Parks and Recreation leadership, and input from the Steering Committee collectively leads to the parks and recreation recommendations that follow.

Respondents ranged in age from 10 and under to over 70 years old. While the survey did receive responses from all age groups, the majority of respondents were between the ages of 31 and 50 years old.

The survey tells us that based on the responses the two most visited parks that the County owns are Clarence E Morgan and Sand Hill. Baker Lake ranked third with over 200 respondents noting it as a park they frequently use. The Effingham 119 Rec Complex also had 200 respondents indicate it as a frequently visited park.



52% of respondents indicated they visit one or more of the county parks on a weekly basis, another 25% visit the parks at least monthly.

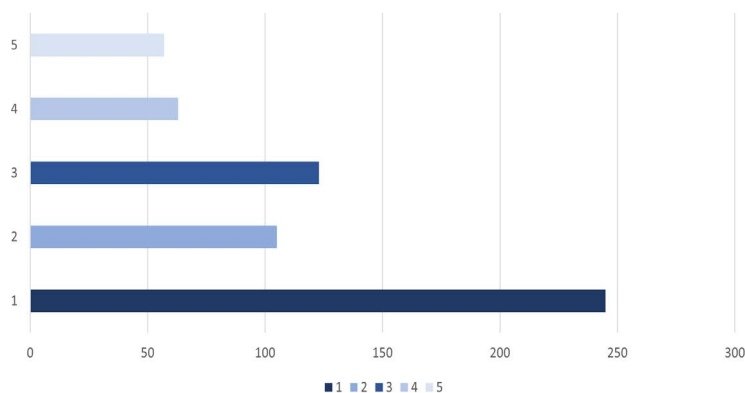
The survey asked respondents to indicate their preference for the need of different types of facilities in the county, Table 3 shows the basic breakdown of responses. These results reflect the personal opinions of the respondents. While many of the preferences support other data gleaned in this process, some of the results are incongruent with actual recreation trends.

Strong/needed	Strong neutral	Lean not needed	Strong not needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splashpads/spraygrounds • Swimming pools • Restrooms • Paved multi-use trails • Playgrounds • Soccer fields • Unpaved walking trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor facilities/gyms • Pavilions • Passive greenspaces • Community Centers • Fitness & exercise facilities • Basketball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaved biking trails • River access • Art/cultural facilities • Tennis courts • Batting cages • Football fields • Skate park • off-leash dog park • Lacrosse fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disc-golf • Baseball fields • Art installation • Pickleball courts

Table 2 - Survey respondent preferences for recreational facilities

For example, a Disc Golf Course appears as a strong 'not needed' result. However, we know disc golf is a popular sport and low impact facility to implement. It is also more of a niche sport so we can expect the majority of respondents to either not play, or possibly know little to nothing about the sport, so the default answer to those individuals is 'not needed'. Disc Golf is an example of a recreational facility that survey alone would suggest is unnecessary, but other industry knowledge supports the inclusion of Disc golf within a park system, to provide residents a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Disc golf course**

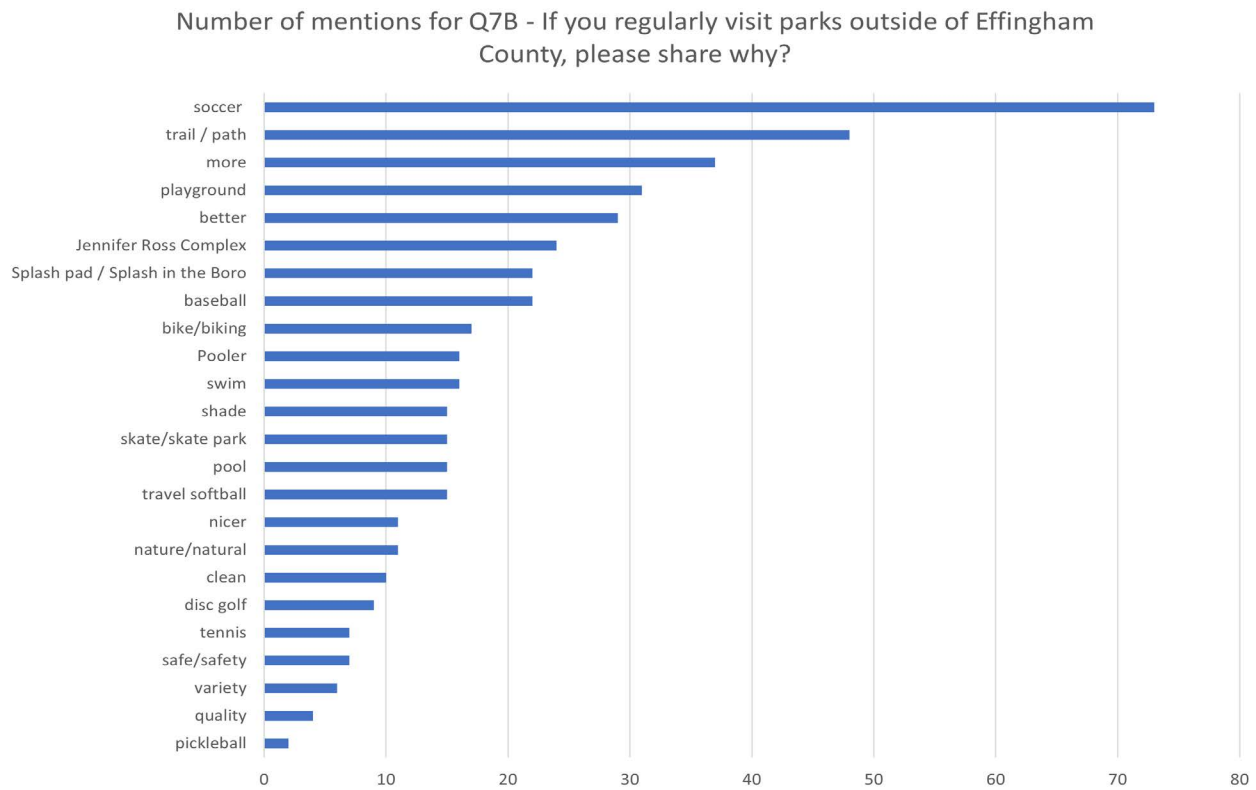


Similar to asking survey respondents to rank their perceived need for a particular type of recreational facility, the survey also asked respondents what facilities they wished the County offered or provided. The top 4 most mentioned facilities were 1. Pools, 2. Trails/paths, 3. Splashpads, and 4. Soccer facilities. Pools and splashpads do not exist in the County's inventory of recreational facilities. Trails are limited. NRPA benchmarking data indicates the County could provide these facilities to be on par with other similar sized jurisdictions. Soccer fields are limited in the county, and based on program participation, existing field counts and community preference, the data supports the need for more rectangle athletic fields that can be used for soccer, football, lacrosse, ultimate, etc.

The survey asked respondents to assign a numerical rating of their overall satisfaction with County park facilities. The single highest number of responses assigned a 75% satisfaction rate. While more people in total assigned a rating lower than 75, the majority of respondents assigned a rating of 60 or better. Simply put, the public is generally satisfied with the park system facilities, but there's a strong indicator of room for improvement to meet their needs and expectations.



63% of respondents indicated they use park and recreation facilities outside of Effingham County to meet their recreational needs. Soccer was the number one reason people use facilities outside of the county. Again, this response is supported by the various data points collected throughout this planning process, including the pervalence of travel soccer teams. Of the top five mentions for reasons why people seek recreational options outside of Effingham County, trails / paths and playgrounds were the 2nd and 4th most mentioned. The 3rd and 5th most mentioned comments were variations on the notion that “more” and “better” facilities are offered outside of Effingham County, and this is what drew respondents to travel outside to meet their needs.

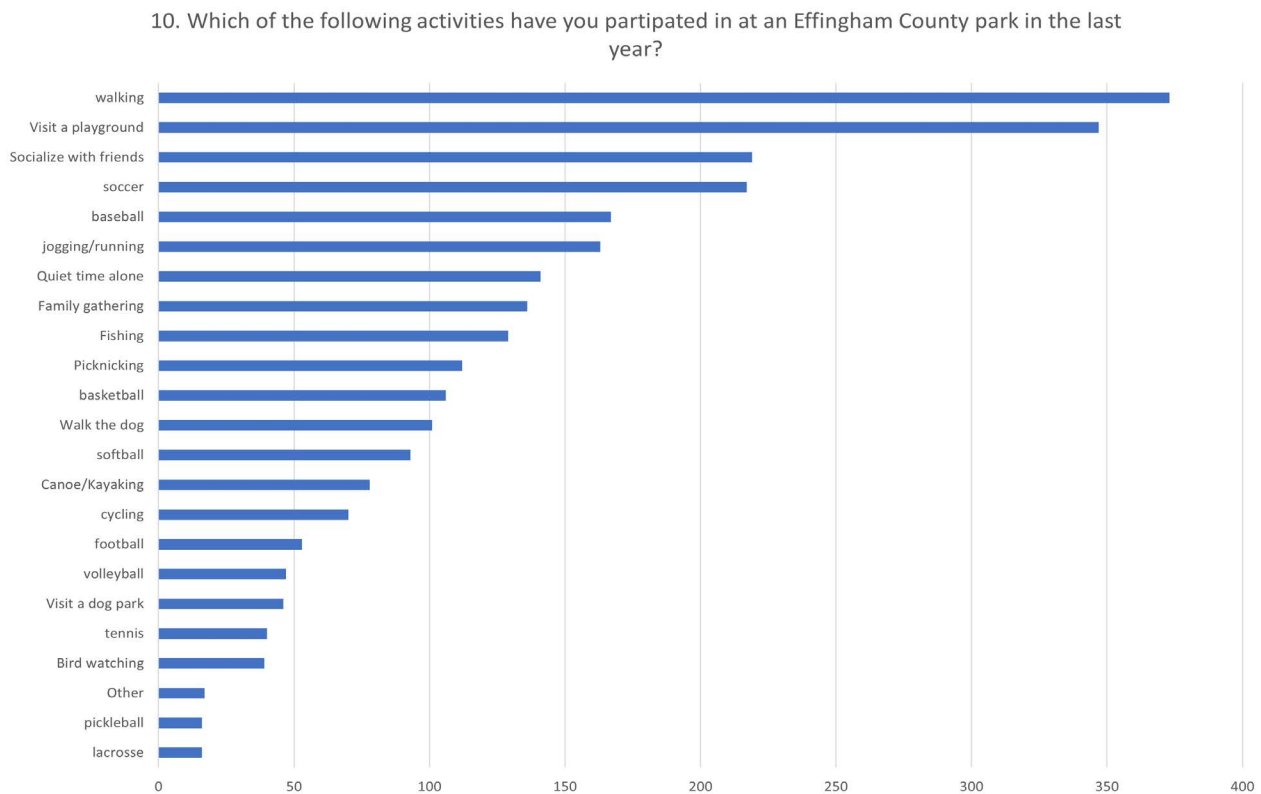


When asked about program participation, the top 3 responses were 1. Soccer, 2. Baseball. 3. Basketball, which matches the top 3 programs in terms of participation numbers, though baseball is the program with the highest county recreational league participation, followed by soccer, then basketball. This would indicate there was a slight skew toward respondents with a preference for soccer. 23% of total responses indicated soccer participation while 18% indicated baseball; this is only a 5% difference, within a reasonable margin of correlation to actual participation rates in the county.



When asked which programs respondents wished the County offered, 'swimming programs' was by far the number one mentioned. Soccer came in at number 2, however the County already offers soccer programs. This could indicate a desire for expansion of the existing program. Rounding out the top 5 mentions for programs were programs for adults/older residents, Tennis, and Art/Cultural programming.

The survey asked respondents to indicate activities they have participated in, in an Effingham County park in the last year. Walking and visiting a playground were the top 2 responses with more than 50% of respondents indicating each. Socializing with friends, soccer, and baseball rounded out the top 5.



Finally, the survey asked respondents to assign a numerical value to their overall satisfaction with county recreation programs. Again, much like the satisfaction with facilities, the single highest response was a 75. Still there were respondents that indicated lower levels of satisfaction, but the majority of respondents ranked their satisfaction as 60 or higher. While the distribution of responses are similar, more people indicated a higher level of satisfaction with programs than with facilities.



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Park Improvements and Recommendations

Recommendations/Priorities

The following pages represent the recommend conceptual improvements at the existing County-owned park and recreation properties. These plans are based upon the data collected and community input. The following recommendations are notable priorities the County should make in the near term through implementation or planning for implementation with the next SPLOST or other funding opportunities, including public partnerships with the many businesses and industries moving into the county that wish to have modern and quality amenities to attract a quality workforce.



Example Synthetic Turf Football Field

Rectangle athletic fields – Effingham County currently has 3 lighted fields, two at Sand Hill and one at the 119 complex. A minimum of three are needed at maximum utilization just to serve the current recreation program needs for soccer. The County should prioritize construction of lighted rectangle fields – a minimum of three in the near term, at Sand Hill and/or CEM to begin to provide more capacity for field demands across all sports that utilize these fields.

Effingham County lacks a comparable number of playgrounds when compared to other jurisdictions of similar size. The County should install playgrounds and find opportunities near concentrations of residential development to create small pocket parks and/or require new residential and mixed-use developments to provide public greenspace and playgrounds.

The County has a significant lack of walking trails in parks - paved or soft surface, both are lacking. The County should prioritize installing paved walking trails in larger parks and advance the development of the Atlas site into a passive park to quickly provide access to passive space / nature and walking trails.



Baseball/softball fields are currently at capacity with little buffer. Upgrades at Pineora Park will bring 4 fields online and immediately provide additional capacity in the near term. Adding future phases of fields at CEM will provide growth to keep up with growing population and rec program as well as travel ball demands.

Outdoor basketball courts are lacking when compared to jurisdictions of comparable populations. While basketball courts may be desired by some and equally undesirable to others, they are in fact a common and sought after recreational amenity that should be prioritized for adding to the County's parks, where shown.



The County should add a skate park or plaza within the park system. This plan recommends adding a skate park within the Sand Hill complex. Skate parks are common among good parks programs that provide a range of services and facilities to meet the needs of a diverse population.



Pickleball is growing in popularity and can be dual purposed with tennis courts. Data shows the County should consider adding both tennis and pickleball courts to serve a growing and diverse population seeking these racket sports.

Effingham County does not currently provide a swimming pool, aquatics center, nor a splashpad. As time goes by the deficiency based on population will only increase. While a pool or aquatics center is a significant investment, one such facility should be provided, as is common among cities and counties of similar population size. The county can explore partnerships with organizations such as the YMCA to provide a facility for recreational and competitive swimming. A splashpad could be implemented as a near term recreational water-play amenity, however the county would benefit from a swim facility to serve the growing population.

The County should continue to add park acreage to keep up with population growth and to stay ahead of the median value while striving to achieve the high acres per 1000 residents value in Table 1 on pages 21 and 22. To reach the high value for park acres per 1000 residents by 2030, the cities and county collectively need to add more than 400 acres of new parkland that is accessible to county residents. Passive / natural parkland should be prioritized to meet community needs.



Park improvements & recommendations:

Abercorn Landing:

The following improvements are recommend:

- A small pavilion that will accommodate at least 2 picnic tables
- A playground / play area: swings, climbing structure(s) in a natural aesthetic.
- Restroom
- Paved parking area to accommodate 6-10 vehicles and boat trailers.
- Additional land acquisition or access to add trails through partnership with USFW and the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge
- Add dock(s)



Long Bridge Landing:

The following improvements are recommend:

- Renovate the existing restroom facilities
- Landscape Maintenance to improve visibility/ promote safety within the site
- Improve the parking ares to include parking stalls for vehicles and trailers
- Widen and improve existing boat ramp
- Study addition of acceleration lane leaving property



Steel Bridge Landing:

The following improvements are recommend:

- Provide restroom facilities
- Renovate the existing pavilion; add second pavilion
- Add a fishing dock
- Design improvements to separate / buffer the residential properties from the county park land
- Study opportunity for additional land to expand park amenities



Park improvements & recommendations:

Tommy Long Landing:



The following improvements are recommend:

- Renovate the restrooms and repair the elevated platform around the restroom buildings
- Ad one or more pavilions with picnic tables
- Make boat ramp / put-in improvements to better serve trailer and canoe/kayak launch.
- Develop plan for more organized parking
- All improvements must consider flooding

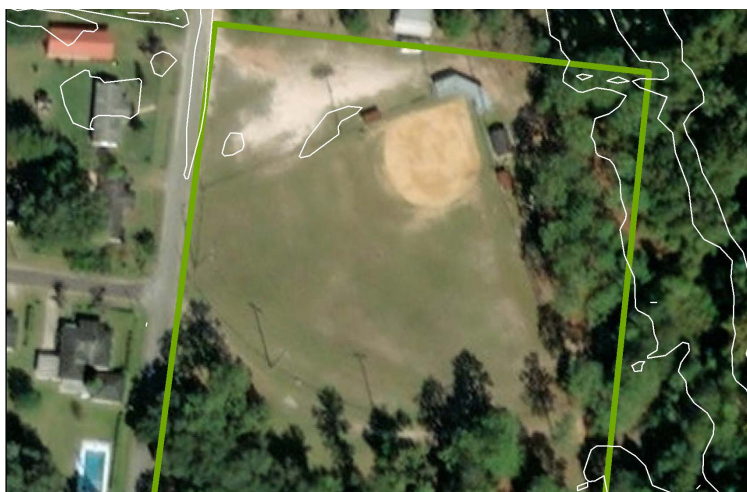
Tuckassee Landing:



The following improvements are recommend:

- Renovate the restrooms
- Replace playground with new equipment
- Add an overlook off of the upper parking lot / include interpretive signs about birds / bird watching

Meldrim Ball Park:



The following improvements are recommend:

- Remove the concessions building
- remove the field lights
- convert field to a community baseball / softball field for free play
- Repair / refurbish covered spectator area behind home plate.
- Maintain fences to protect field.
- Gravel the parking lot, add wheel stops to organized parking.



Cost Estimate

Abercorn Landing					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	EA	Pavilion (20' SQ metal frame and metal roof)	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	EA	Playground (approx 40x30 use zone; plus mulch surface)	1.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
	EA	Restroom (pre fab, 2 toilet rooms)	1.00		\$110,000.00
	SF	Paved Parking (6" GAB base, 2" asphalt)	3,500.00	\$6.00	\$21,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$19,635.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$46,200.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/Profit/ Bonds/Insurance			\$57,750.00
		Subtotal			\$354,585.00

Long Bridge Landing					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	SF	Renovate Existing Rest Rooms	200.00	\$65.00	\$13,000.00
	EA	Site/Landscape Maintenance Improvements	1.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	SF	Parking Improvements	6,500.00	\$6.00	\$39,000.00
	SF	Widen boat ramp	1,500.00	\$20.00	\$30,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$13,800.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$21,160.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/Profit/ Bonds/Insurance			\$23,000.00
		Subtotal			\$149,960.00

Steel Bridge Landing					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	EA	Restroom (pre fab, 2 toilet rooms)	1.00		\$110,000.00
	EA	Renovate or Replace Existing Pavilion	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	EA	Add new Pavilion	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	LF	Buffer adjacent property	300.00	\$100.00	\$30,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$20,000.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$44,000.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/Profit/ Bonds/Insurance			\$50,000.00
		Subtotal			\$314,000.00



Tommy Long Landing					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	EA	Renovate Restrooms / repair platform	1.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	EA	Pavilion	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	EA	Improve boat ramp / kayak launch	1.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$21,750.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$33,350.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$36,250.00
		Subtotal			\$236,350.00

Tuckasee King Landing					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	SF	Renovate Restrooms	150.00	\$65.00	\$9,750.00
	EA	Playground (approx 40x30 use zone; plus mulch surface)	1.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
	EA	Add overlook + interpretive signage	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$16,462.50
		Contingency (20%)			\$25,242.50
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$27,437.50
		Subtotal			\$178,892.50

Meldrim Ball Field					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	LS	Demo Concession bldg; field lights	1.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
	EA	Refurbish spectator area	1.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	SF	Gravel the parking lot	12,000.00	\$3.50	\$42,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$8,000.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$13,000.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$14,250.00
		Subtotal			\$92,250.00



Baker Lake Park- *proposed concept*



Park improvements & recommendations

In the Fall of 2022 Effingham County proceeded with a project to make improvements at Baker Lake Park, as follows:

- Paving and possible extension of the parking area, including improving drainage for the parking area as needed, including ditching and/or piping.
- Resurfacing/repairing the sidewalk around Baker's Pond, with asphalt and concrete options
- Addition/construction of two pickleball courts next to the current tennis courts
- Addition/Construction of a dock for fishing/kayaking
- Upgrading the boat launch area
- Renovation of the bathrooms and gazebo area, including fixtures, wall surfaces, electrical, and door hardware for remote access.
- Evaluation of the current well and septic. Add chlorination to the well for potable use. Investigate the feasibility of connection to City of Springfield water and sewer and needed extensions.
- Coordination with Parks and Landscapes staff for planning the reconstruction and upgrade of the playground equipment and safety (rubberized) surface.

Additional future recommendations include:

- Paving and possible extension of the parking area, including improving drainage for the parking area as needed, including ditching and/or piping.
- Resurfacing/repairing the sidewalk around Baker's Pond, with asphalt and concrete options
- Addition/Construction of two pickleball courts next to the current tennis courts
- Addition/Construction of a dock for fishing/kayaking
- Updating the boat launch area
- Renovation of the bathrooms and gazebo area, including fixtures, wall surfaces, electrical, and door hardware for remote access.
- Evaluation of the current well and septic. Add chlorination to the well for portable use. Investigate the feasibility of connection of City of Springfield water and sewer and needed extensions.
- Planning for the reconstruction and upgrade of the playground equipment and safety (rubber) surface.
- Plant additional trees to provide shade along trails and to shade paved areas/reduce heat island impacts from pavements.
- Add native landscape plantings to reduce areas of lawn, resulting in lower maintenance and to provide biotic benefit.



Clarence E Morgan Complex- *proposed concept*



Park improvements & recommendations

The CEM complex is the newest and arguably most popular park in the county, and thus far only the first phase of development have been completed. The future phase(s) of the CEM complex provide opportunity for the county to add the types of facilities necessary to keep up with population growth and program demand for organized sports, especially those that require rectangular athletic fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse.

In the Fall of 2022 the County proceeded with a project to complete a major addition to the Gym at CEM. The proposed addition of the building is for the use by the Recreation Department for staff offices (relocating from the 119 site) and Effingham Emergency Management Agency. The addition is proposed to have a slab foundation, masonry construction and flat roof. A multi-purpose room will serve as the Emergency Operations Center, complete with restrooms, showers, and sleeping quarters.

The following improvements are recommended in future phases of development at CEM.

- Seven multipurpose athletic fields - minimum 3 made of synthetic turf, all lighted.
- Three 250' baseball/softball fields
- One 330' baseball/softball fields
- Three 150' T-ball fields
- Concessions and restrooms to support the additional rectangular and baseball/softball fields
- Accessible parking lot close to Reddick Stadium
- Additional covered batting cages with timer lights
- Add light timers to existing batting cages
- Additional pavilions and picnic areas - large pavilion by multi-purpose fields can double as farmers market pavilion as well as server large soccer, etc., tournaments
- Large equipment storage building / expand park maintenance facility
- Information boards / kiosks and wayfinding signage throughout the park
- RV overnight camping area for tournament attendees (6-10 spaces) that doubles as an event space and food truck pads
- Indoor and/or outdoor pool
- Splashpad
- Add minimum 2 full-size outdoor basketball courts
- Add fenced, off-leash dog park, separate spaces for large and small dogs
- Paved walking trails with measured distances
- Enhance edges of existing pond, add boardwalk/overlook/dock
- Add a one-way road through phase 2 expansion, provide pods of head-in, angled parking; keep cars on pavement by design/capture stormwater runoff for water quality/irrigation
- Picnic pavillions with grills and tables
- Plant additional trees to provide shade along trails and to shade paved areas/reduce heat island impacts from pavements.
- Add native landscape plantings to reduce areas of lawn; this will result in lower maintenance needs and provide biotic benefit.

CEM Gym:

- Reception area inside gymnasium for hosting open gym sessions
- Add locker room doors
- Add Sounds dampeners inside gymnasium



Clarence E Morgan Complex

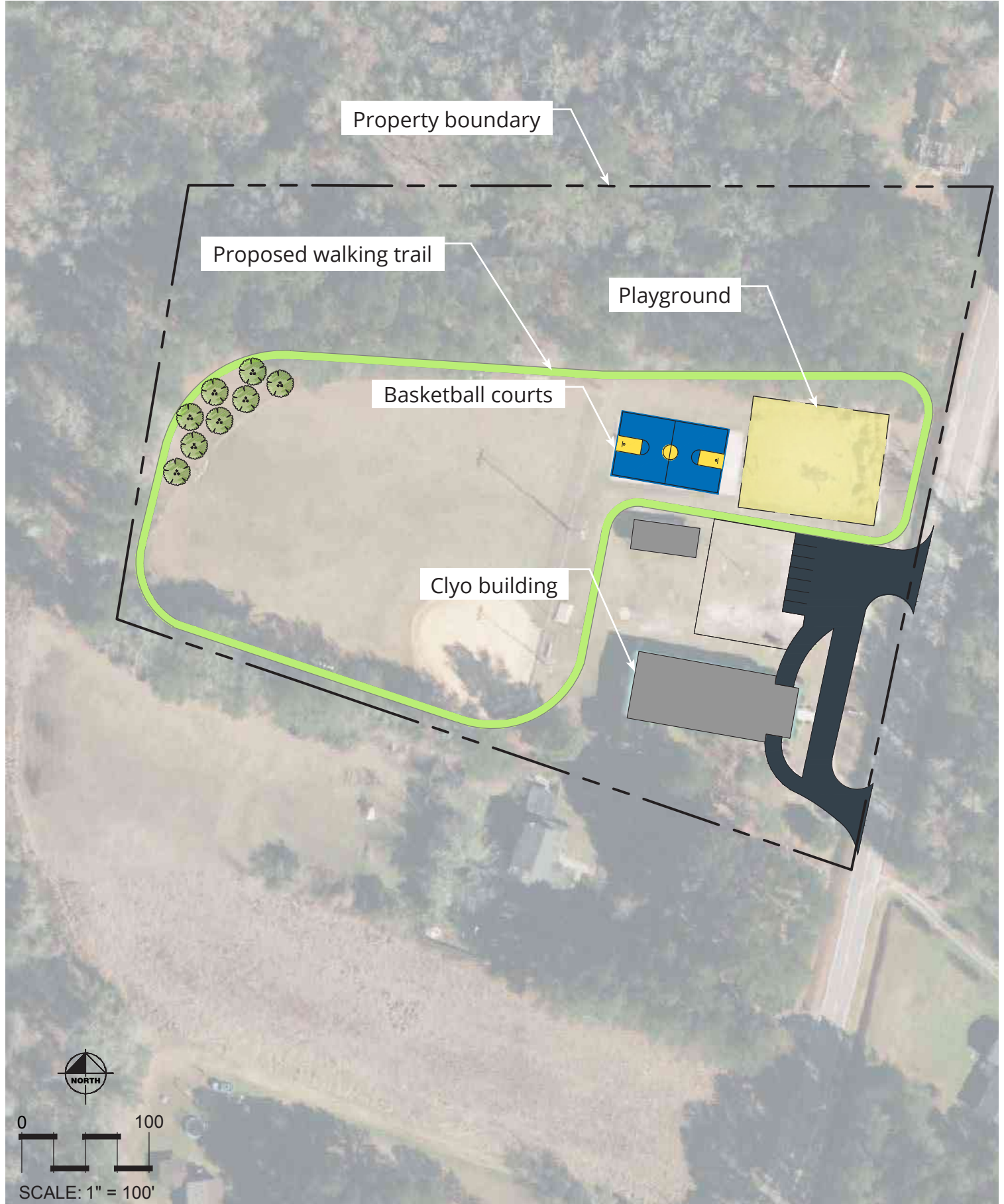
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	EA	Multi-purpose rectangle athletic fields (turf grass)	4.00	\$300,000.00	\$1,200,000.00
	EA	Multi-purpose rectangle athletic fields (Synthetic turf)	3.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
	EA	150' Baseball Fields (skinned clay infield, grass outfield, irrigated)	3.00	\$150,000.00	\$450,000.00
	EA	250' Baseball Fields (skinned clay infield, grass outfield, irrigated)	3.00	\$200,000.00	\$600,000.00
	EA	300' Baseball Fields (skinned clay infield, grass outfield, irrigated)	1.00	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
	EA	Sports Field Lighting	13.00	\$200,000.00	\$2,600,000.00
	SF	Baseball complex plaza	95,000.00	\$6.00	\$570,000.00
	EA	Outdoor Basketball courts	2.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
	SF	Paved Parking / Park roads	300,000.00	\$12.00	\$3,600,000.00
	SF	Concession / Restroom Building	3,000.00	\$300.00	\$900,000.00
	EA	Reddick Stadium accessible Parking	26,000.00	\$12.00	\$312,000.00
	EA	Covered Batting Cages	1.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
	EA	Pavilions (50' diameter)	1.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
	EA	Pavilions (30' diameter)	9.00	\$60,000.00	\$540,000.00
	EA	Storage building	3,000.00	\$150.00	\$450,000.00
	LS	RV / Food Truck Sites and Event Area	1.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
	SF	Aquatic complex	25,000.00	\$500.00	\$12,500,000.00
	EA	Splashpad	1.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
	LF	Paved walking trails	7,500.00	\$60.00	\$450,000.00
	LS	Dog Park	1.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
	LS	Pond Enhancements	1.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	LS	CEM Gym improvements	1.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
	LS	Wayfinding	1.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$2,919,200.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$6,422,240.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$7,298,000.00
		Subtotal			\$45,831,440.00



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Clyo Community Center- *proposed concept*



SCALE: 1" = 100'



Park improvements & recommendations

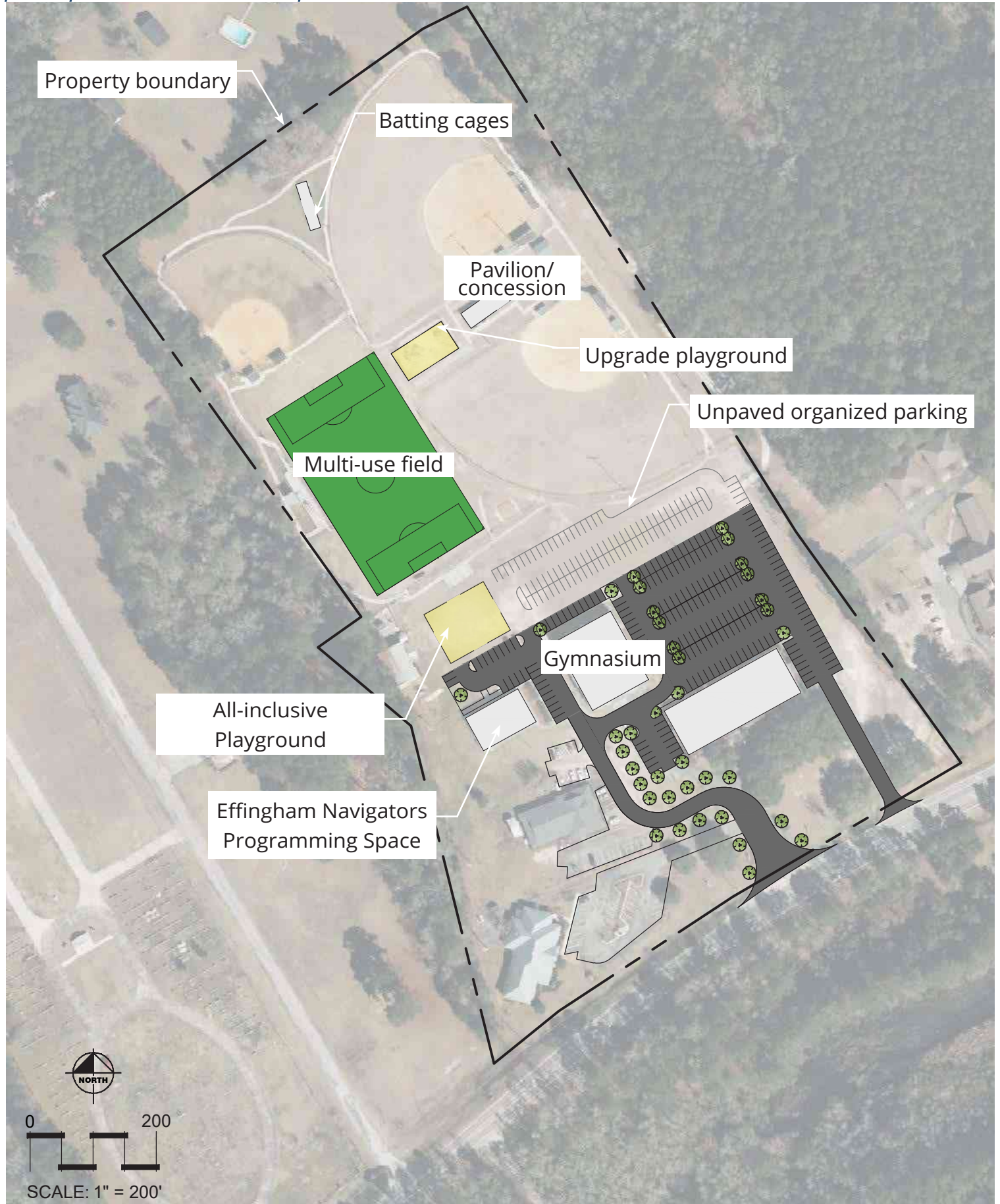
The Clio Community Center and Park serves the surrounding Clio community, but is in need of improvements to be on par with the quality of similar facilities throughout the county. Basic organization of the parking area and replacement and/or refurbishment of the existing basketball courts, playground, and park pavilion will greatly improve the experience of visiting the park.

- Maintain baseball/softball field as a community field for pick-up games
- Modify fence lines of the ball field to accommodate a walking trail loop around the perimeter of the park.
- Upgrade all field fencing to Black Vinyl Coated fence.
- Repair doors to exterior restrooms.
- Update / renovate building interiors as needed
- Upgrade / renovate bathrooms both interior to community center and those accessible from the exterior
- Upgrade playground with new play structures / elements
- Renovate pavilion/ picnic areas
- Restore basketball court / upgrade hoops

Clio Community Center					
		Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	LF	Modify Ball field fence lines	400.00	\$15.00	\$6,000.00
	LF	Paved walking trails	1,600.00	\$45.00	\$72,000.00
	SF	Repair restrooms	200.00	\$40.00	\$8,000.00
	SF	Building updates / renovations	1,000.00	\$60.00	\$60,000.00
	EA	Playground	1.00		\$120,000.00
	EA	Picnic Pavilion renovation (new roof, electrical, paint, physical repairs, picnic tables)	1.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	SF	Renovate basketball court	5,000.00	\$4.00	\$20,000.00
	SF	Parking lot pavement	11,500.00	\$6.00	\$69,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$33,750.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$81,750.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/Profit/Bonds/ Insurance			\$93,750.00
		Subtotal			\$584,250.00



Effingham County Rec Complex- *proposed concept*



Park improvements & recommendations

The Effingham County 119 Rec Complex shares land with other county administration and services buildings including a library, Health Dept. and County Annex services. The park is in the rear half of the complex, and aside from a small sign at the front of the property on 119, the park is not obvious to the first time visitor. In addition to the recommended improvements within the park and the parking improvements that will serve all visitors to the county buildings, improvements should be made to enhance the arrival experience for park visitors.

- Renovate concession building
- Repair / replace dugout roofs
- Upgrade pavilion and picnic area
- Upgrade batting cage, add roof and timer operated lights
- Add wayfinding internal to park
- Upgrade remaining fields to new LED sports field lighting
- Upgrade gymnasium lighting
- Refresh the multi-use athletic field sod
- Renovate and upgrade multi-use field scoreboard/scorers' booth
- Pave and organize parking lot, remove horseshoe driveway, maintain secondary driveway entrance/exit
- Reorient main entrance of gymnasium to face main parking lot
- Renovate gymnasium bathrooms
- Relocate equipment storage room
- Upgrade playground structures at primary playground location - add shade sails for shade and protective cover from foul balls
- All-inclusive ADA accessible playground
- Replace small playground with sensory garden/play space
- Relocate Parks and Recreation offices to CEM Complex / CEM gym addition; re-purpose former Parks offices for new county purpose.
- Rename the park



119 Effingham Co. Rec Complex

	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	SF	Renovate Concession Building	1,400.00	\$60.00	\$84,000.00
	SF	Replace Dugout Roofs	2,400.00	\$10.00	\$24,000.00
	SF	Pavilion/Picnic upgrades	1,200.00	\$30.00	\$36,000.00
	EA	Batting Cage upgrades, addition	3.00	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00
	LS	Park Wayfinding	1.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
	EA	Upgrade remaining field lights to LED	3.00		\$600,000.00
	LS	Upgrade gymnasium lighting	1.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	SF	Convert multi-use field to synthetic turf	80,000.00	\$14.00	\$1,120,000.00
	LS	Renovate Scorer's box / new scoreboard	1.00	\$65.00	\$30,000.00
	SF	Paved parking		\$12.00	\$1,200,000.00
	SF	Organized overflow parking	55,000.00	\$1.00	\$55,000.00
	LS	Gym renovations	1.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
	EA	Playground upgrades	1.00		\$150,000.00
	EA	All-inclusive Playground	1.00		\$400,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$344,900.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$838,780.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$862,250.00
		Subtotal			\$5,894,930.00



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Meldrim Community Park- *proposed concept*



Park improvements & recommendations

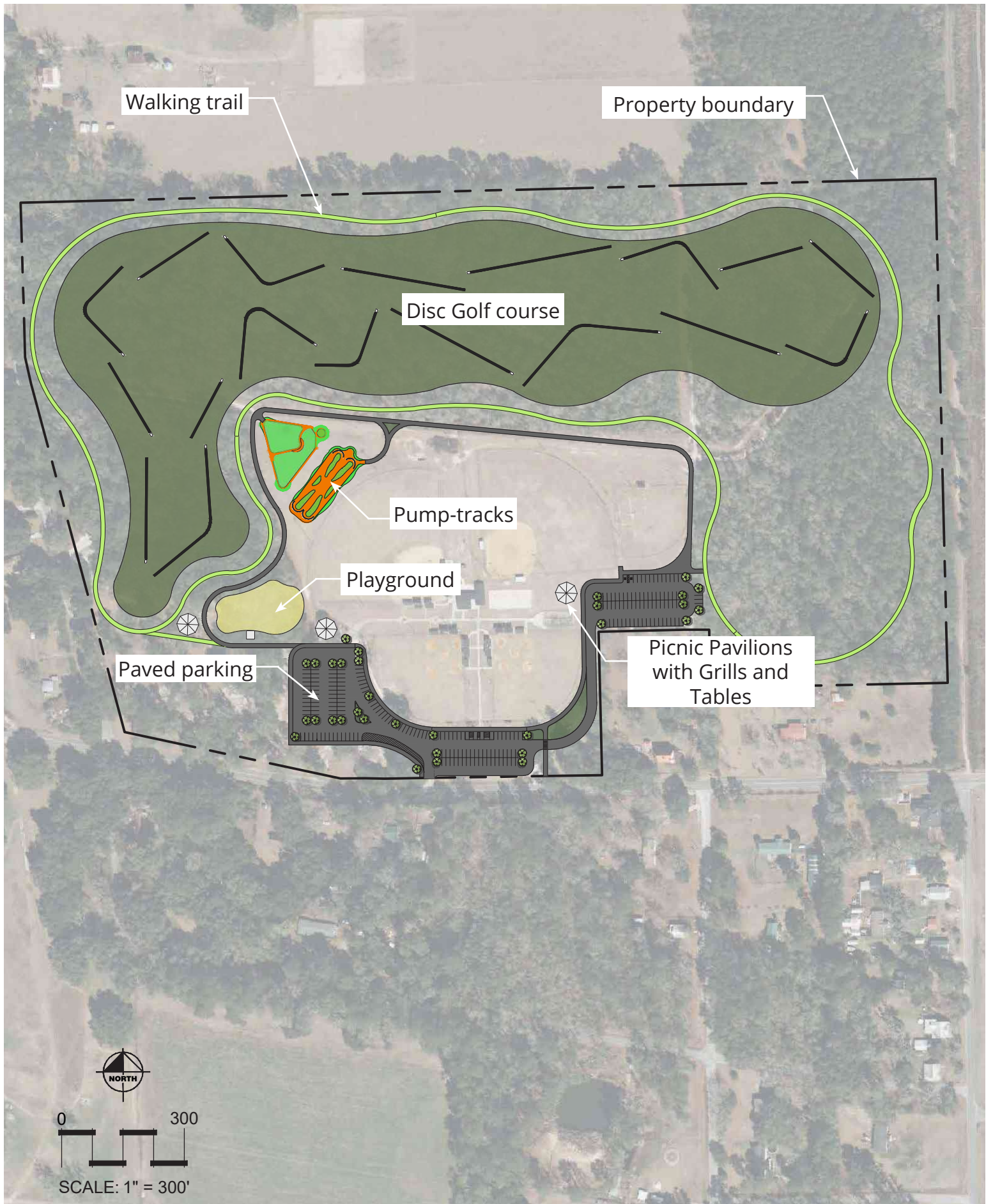
Meldrim Community Park needs included addressing deferred maintenance and upgrades to existing park amenities to provide nearby residents and visitors facilities of equal quality to the rest of the county parks. With the addition of more trees to provide shade and mix the age of existing trees to ensure tree canopy increases over time combined with the recommend improvements Meldrim Park will provide continued recreation service and value to the local community.

- Upgrade playground - replace dated equipment with new equipment and safety surfaces that meet current standards for fall height and fall zones.
- Renovate restroom building and make accessible to the public on daily basis
- Renovated and upgrade pavilion and picnic areas
- Restore tennis court to modern standards - stripe for tennis and pickle ball; trim tree branched hanging over court to accommodate game play
- Restore basketball court, size appropriately for full court play or develop two distinct half courts.
- Add trees throughout park to increase and diversify species and age of tree canopy to ensure natural shade within the park.

Meldrim Community Park					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	LS	Playground upgrades	1.00		\$140,000.00
	SF	Renovate restroom building	1,000.00	\$65.00	\$65,000.00
	SF	Renovate pavilion / picnic area	2,000.00	\$10.00	\$20,000.00
	SF	New Tennis court	7,200.00	\$8.50	\$61,200.00
	SF	Renovate basketball court	4,500.00	\$6.00	\$27,000.00
	LF	Loop Pathway	1,200.00	\$50.00	\$60,000.00
	LS	Landscape improvements	1.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$47,184.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$88,076.80
		Construction Mobilization/Over-head/Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$98,300.00
		Subtotal			\$626,760.80



Pineora Park/ Lawton Park- *proposed concept*



Park improvements & recommendations

Pineora Park is much larger than it appears based on the currently developed and accessible land. Immediately to the west is Lawton Park which provides shaded walking paths and picnic areas and shelter. To the north and east are additional undeveloped wooded county owned parcels. The northern parcel is nearly 20 acres and the eastern parcel is over 16 acres. This additional land is prime opportunity for the county to provide more walking trails and a disc golf course, while other open areas in the park can be utilized to provide playgrounds and pump tracks for cyclists and skateboarders. While the county may currently have enough baseball fields to meet needs and growth within the baseball and softball programs, some fields aren't fully viable because they lack functioning lights. Improvements here at Pineora will make these fields viable for upwards of 400 youth baseball or softball players and reduce pressure on other fields within the park system. This park also includes a popular dog park.

- Upgrade lighting on the existing baseball fields - these field will then be available for use for rec leagues or travel ball rentals for practices and games.
- Renovate restrooms
- Renovate pavilion and picnic areas
- Add 18-hole disc golf course in the undeveloped parcels or throughout the entire park.
- Add walking trail around park that connects to Lawton park trail
- Add storage building
- Pave and organize parking areas, which will be imperative once fields are viable for practices and games.
- Add a new large playground that provides access and challenges for kids of all abilities.
- Enhance the dog park with additional amenities.
- Add new restroom to serve trailhead/disc golf/playground
- Renovate the ball field dugouts
- Upgrade the ball field irrigation system
- Add beginner and intermediate/advanced skill pump tracks
- Picnic pavillions with grills and tables

Pineora Park					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	EA	Upgrade lighting on 4 baseball fields to LED	4.00	\$200,000.00	\$800,000.00
	SF	Renovate restrooms	1,200.00	\$65.00	\$78,000.00
	SF	Renovate pavilion/picnic areas	1,000.00	\$20.00	\$20,000.00
	EA	Add 18 hole disc golf course	1.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	LF	Add paved walking trail around park	3,500.00	\$45.00	\$157,500.00
	LF	Add Hiking / biking Trail around park	7,000.00	\$8.00	\$56,000.00
	SF	Add storage building	2,000.00	\$150.00	\$300,000.00
	SF	Pave and organize parking areas	135,000.00	\$12.00	\$1,620,000.00
	LS	Add new large playground	1.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
	LS	Add Trailhead / Playground restroom	1.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
	LS	Dog park enhancements	1.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	EA	Pump Tracks	2.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00
	EA	Pavilions (30' diameter)	9.00	\$60,000.00	\$540,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$377,650.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$938,830.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/Profit/ Bonds/Insurance			\$944,125.00
		Subtotal			\$6,577,105.00



Sand Hill Complex- *proposed concept*



Proposed soccer fields
(210, x 340')
2 synthetic turf

Proposed walking trail

Proposed fishing dock

Drone helipad

Playground

Airstrip

Paved parking

Control tower

Unpaved overflow parking

Gymnasium

Batting cages

Pavilion

Proposed pickleball and tennis courts

Skate Park

Maintenance Building

Proposed basketball courts



0 300

SCALE: 1" = 300'



Park improvements & recommendations

The Sand Hill Complex provides ample opportunity to significantly increase the amount of available rectangular multi-use athletic fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse in Effingham County, and in the southern portion of the county where demand will remain strong due to increased development and new residents. The park can accommodate at least 5 full size rectangle fields of at least 210 x 340 feet which can further be subdivided for younger age groups providing greater flexibility for peewee football and youth soccer.

Parking can be organized in the park to provide ample primary and overflow parking to accommodate the busiest of days in the park when all fields are operating at high demand. Sand Hill is a good location on existing County property, in an existing county park to add another gym or rec center similar to the gym at CEM, in order to provide these same services to residents in the southern portion of the county.

- Organize parking areas into primary paved and overflow; unpaved lots to accommodate a range of parking demands in the renovated park
- Rearrange and add multi-use fields to provide playing surfaces for soccer, football, lacrosse, ultimate, etc.
- Recommend making at least 2 fields synthetic turf with a goal of converting all to synthetic turf over time.
- Add restroom facility to serve expanded rectangle athletic fields.
- Expand and cover batting cages, include timer lights
- Two court gymnasium w/ concession, reception and staff offices
- Paved loop walking trail to circumnavigate the park with measured distances
- Renovate concession within the baseball complex
- Information boards / kiosks and wayfinding signage throughout the park
- Baseball clubhouse / Scorers room renovations / AC repairs
- Add pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts
- Add Pavilions
- Upgrade playground
- Repave entry road and add roundabout to help with traffic flow / parent staging for adjacent elementary school pick-up and drop-off
- Reshape and enhance the edges of the pond with native landscape; add/or overlook(s)
- Upgrade and expand the irrigation system to accommodate new fields
- Create new RC airfield strip; add Drone helipad; add pavilion and "Control Tower" for RC field; Add RC care race course.
- Light all soccer/multi-use fields; lighting controls to be inside an enclosed building/electrical room.
- Replace ball field fences with black vinyl coated chain link
- Parks Maintenance Facility
- Plant additional trees to provide shade along trails and to shade paved areas/reduce heat island impacts from pavements.
- Add native landscape plantings to reduce areas of lawn; this will result in lower maintenance needs and provide biotic benefit.



Sand Hill Complex

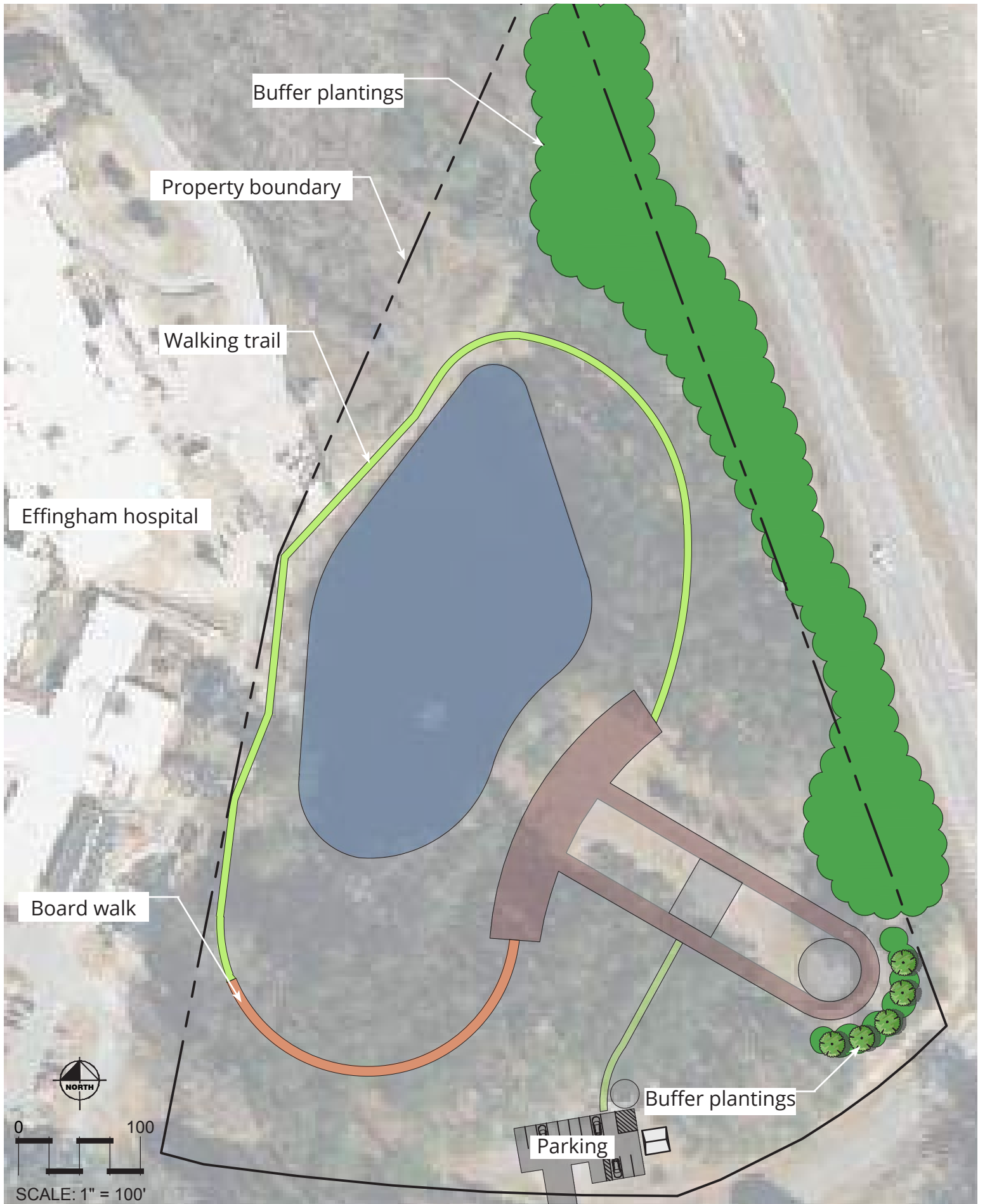
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	SF	Paved Parking	180,000.00	\$12.00	\$2,160,000.00
	EA	Multi-use rectangle athletic fields - grass	3.00	\$300,000.00	\$900,000.00
	EA	Synthetic turf Multi-use rectangle athletic fields	2.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00
	SF	Restroom /Concession bldg for soccer fields	2,000.00	\$300.00	\$600,000.00
	EA	Lights for soccer fields	5.00	\$200,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
	LS	Expand and cover batting cages	1.00	\$160,000.00	\$160,000.00
	SF	Recreation Center	25,000.00	\$425.00	\$10,625,000.00
	LF	Paved Loop walking trail	10,560.00	\$45.00	\$475,200.00
	SF	Renovated baseball concessions / restrooms / clubhouse	2,500.00	\$65.00	\$162,500.00
	LS	Wayfinding	1.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
	LS	RC Airstrip improvements	1.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
	SF	Pickleball courts	10,000.00	\$8.50	\$85,000.00
	SF	Tennis Court	7,200.00	\$8.50	\$61,200.00
	SF	Basketball court	4,500.00	\$6.00	\$27,000.00
	SF	Skate Park	20,000.00	\$55.00	\$1,100,000.00
	EA	Pavilions (50' diameter)	3.00	\$90,000.00	\$270,000.00
	EA	Pavilions (30' diameter)	7.00	\$40,000.00	\$280,000.00
	LS	Upgrade playground	1.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
	LS	Pond Enhancements	1.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	LS	Parks maintainance facility	1.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$2,021,590.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$4,512,498.00
		Construction Mobilization/Over-head/Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$5,053,975.00
		Subtotal			\$32,128,963.00



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Veterans Park- *proposed concept*



Park improvements & recommendations

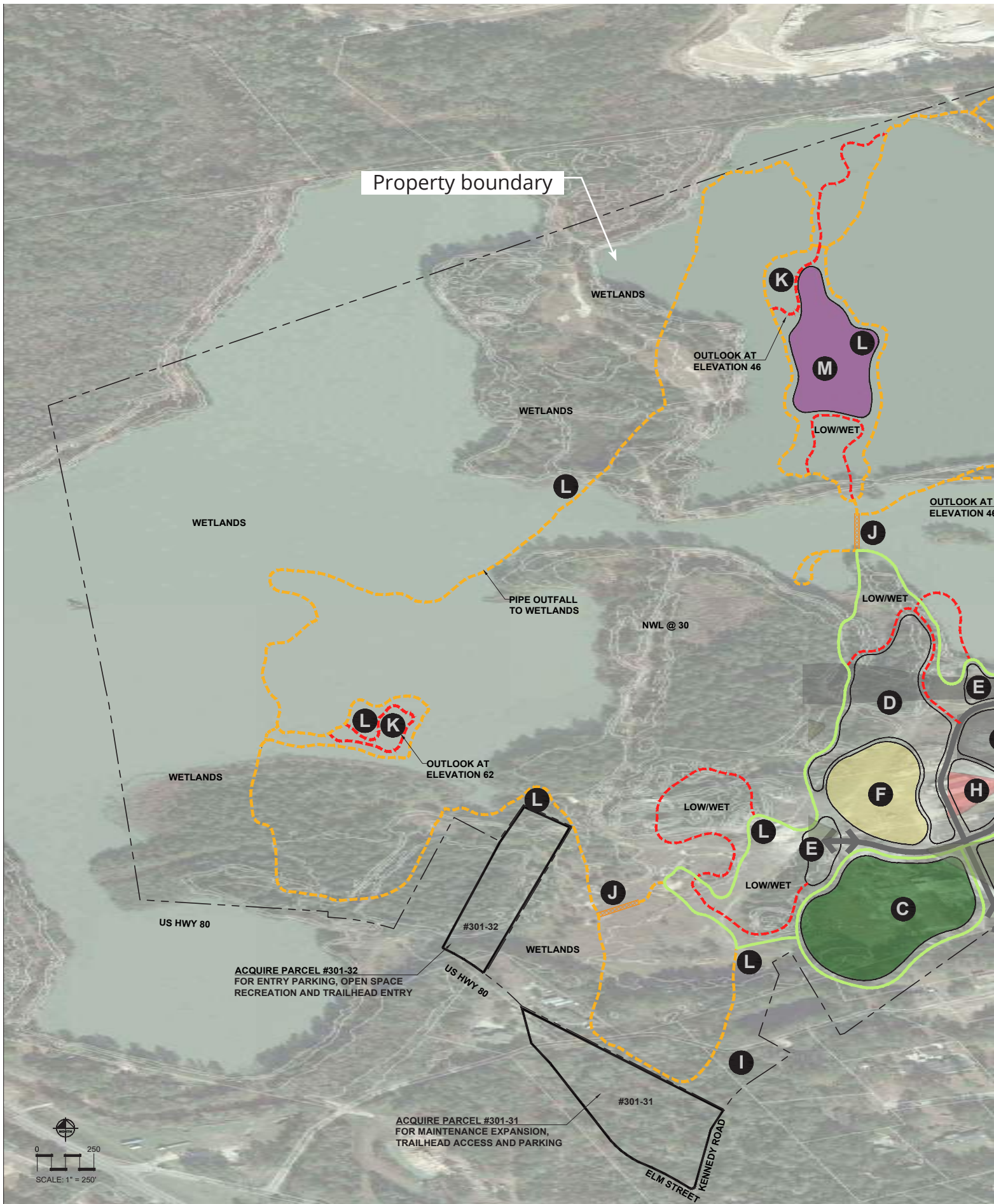
Veteran's Park is a place of respite and contemplation for visitors of the memorials within the park, but it also serves the same purpose for visitors and patients of the adjacent hospital, however currently ease of access to the park for hospital visitors and patients is lacking. A few basic improvements would make the park much more accessible and enhance the experience for all visitors. The County is currently in the process of adding a standalone restroom at the existing parking lot.

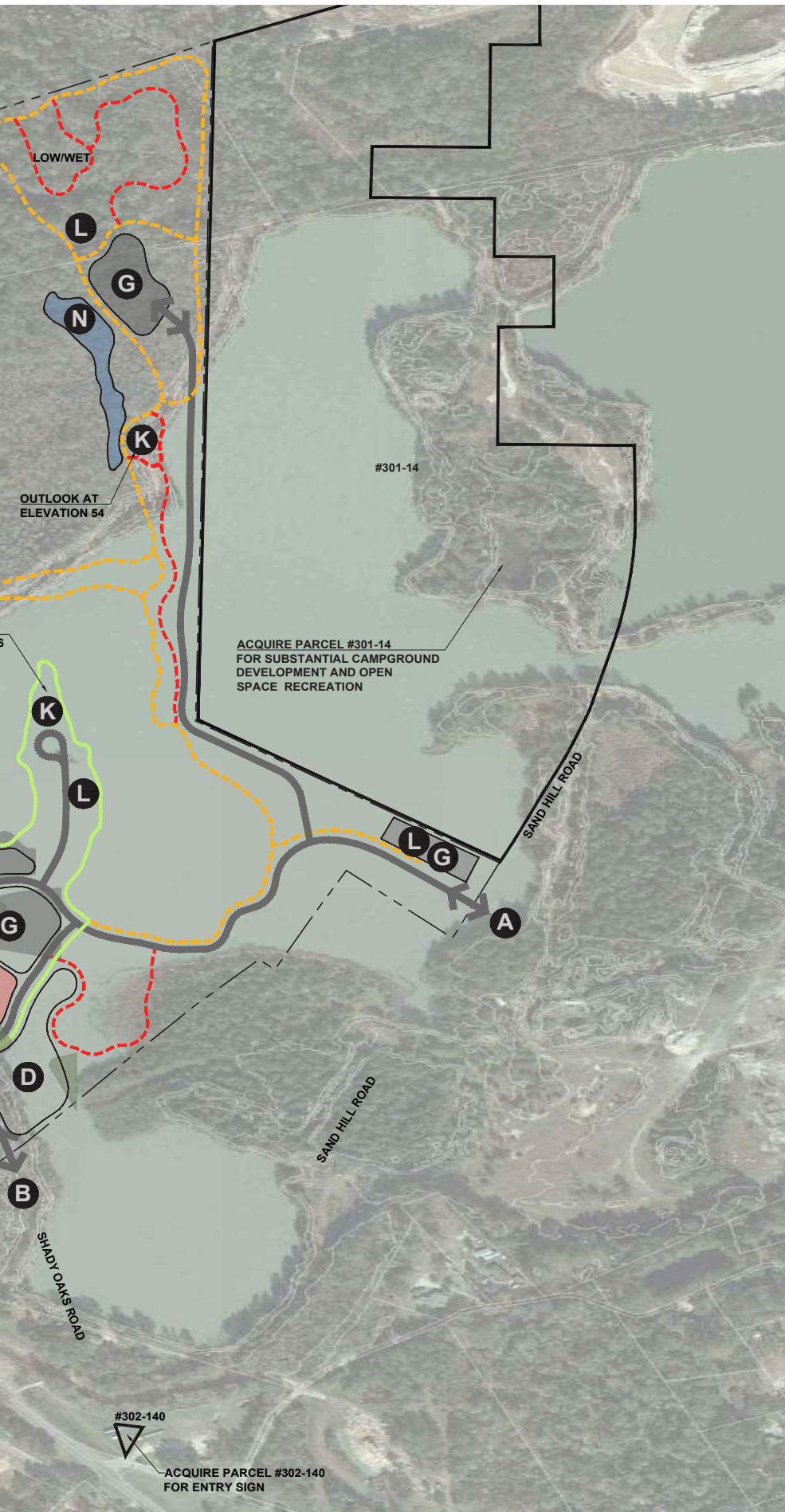
- Install a paved loop trail around the park pond, the trail shall be universally accessible and connect logically to the hospital campus to provide access to hospital patients and visitors.
- Address maintenance needs throughout the park - damaged or broken memorial walls and pavements should be a high priority
- Add buffer plantings at the end of the memorial wall / SE corner of the park to enclose the park and provide visual separation from vehicles on the road above. Additional understory plantings of native shrubs and understory trees should be added along the eastern boundary of the park to help enclose the park and add visual buffer to the vehicular activity along Hwy 21.

Veteran's Park					
	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	LF	Paved loop trail	1,000.00	\$45.00	\$45,000.00
	LF	Boardwalk on Loop Trail	300.00	\$200.00	\$60,000.00
	LS	Address maintenance needs in park	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	LS	Add buffer plantings	1.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$15,000.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$33,000.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$37,500.00
		Subtotal			\$235,500.00




Atlas Site- *proposed concept*








LEGEND





- A** SAND HILL ROAD ENTRY WITH GATED ENTRY AND RANGER STATION
- B** SHADY OAKS ROAD ENTRY WITH GATED ENTRY AND RANGER STATION
- C** OPEN SPACE / RECREATION
299,336 S.F. (6.8 AC.)
- D** DISC GOLF COURSE (ROUTING TBD)
325,954 S.F. (7.4 AC.)
- E** BOAT LAUNCH/TRAILER PARKING
62,554 S.F. (1.4 AC.)
- F** NATURE THEMED PLAYGROUND
150,284 S.F. (3.4 AC.)
- G** PARKING
173,816 S.F. (3.9 AC.)
- H** GROUP SHELTER/PAVILION
58,272 S.F. (1.3 AC.)
- I** MAINTENANCE
- J** TWO MULTI-USE BRIDGE CROSSINGS
(15'X190'), (15'X160') FINAL SIZE TBD.
- K** OUTLOOKS AT ELEVATIONS 62,46,46, & 54
- L** PICNIC /SHELTER/RESTROOM
- M** 40 PRIMITIVE CAMPING TENT SITES
173,690 S.F. (3.9 AC.)
- N** BEACH AREA
52,341 S.F. (1.2 AC.)

 MAIN ROAD ACCESS
7,309 L.F. (1.3 MILES)

SITE FEATURES

-  10' PAVED MULTI-USE TRAIL (HIKE-BIKE-RUN) WITH SELECTIVE CLEARING TO VIEWS OF LAKE
9,146 L.F. (1.73 MILES)
-  10' UN-PAVED MULTI-USE TRAIL (HIKE-BIKE-RUN) WITH SELECTIVE CLEARING TO VIEWS OF LAKE
23,268 L.F. (4.4 MILES)
-  4' NATURAL SURFACE HIKING TRAIL
11,128 L.F. (2.1 MILES)

POTENTIAL PARCEL ACQUISITION

-  #302-140 (5,343 S.F.)
ENTRY SIGNAGE/WAYFINDING
-  #301-14 (71.87 AC.)
SUBSTANTIAL CAMPGROUND DEVELOPMENT AND OPEN SPACE RECREATION
-  #301-31 (5.2 AC.)
MAINTENANCE, TRAILHEAD ACCESS AND PARKING
-  #301-32 (3.8 AC.)
PARKING, OPEN SPACE RECREATION AND TRAILHEAD ENTRY

Atlas Site

	Units	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
	LF	Sand Hill Road improvements for entry	400.00	\$135.00	\$54,000.00
	LF	2-lane pave park roads	7,500.00	\$300.00	\$2,250,000.00
	EA	Gated Entry / Ranger Station	1.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
	SF	Parking Lots		\$6.00	\$840,000.00
	SF	Boat Trailer parking		\$6.00	\$720,000.00
	EA	Boat launch	2.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
	SF	Open play field		\$1.50	\$300,000.00
	EA	Add new large playground	1.00		\$300,000.00
	EA	Add disc golf course	1.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	LF	Paved multi-use trails	9000.00	\$60.00	\$540,000.00
	LF	Un-paved multi-use trails	25,000.00	\$8.00	\$200,000.00
	LF	4' Natural surface hiking trail	7,000.00	\$8.00	\$56,000.00
	LF	Boardwalk	4,000.00	\$350.00	\$1,400,000.00
	EA	Pedestrian Bridges	2.00		\$300,000.00
	EA	Overlook towers/structures	4.00	\$30,000.00	\$120,000.00
	LS	Wayfinding and interpretive signage	1.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
	LS	Furnishings: benches, trash cans, bench swings, bike racks	1.00		\$100,000.00
	EA	Picnic Shelters	9.00	\$20,000.00	\$180,000.00
	EA	Group Shelter	1.00		\$200,000.00
	LS	Primitive Campground	1.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	LS	Beach Area	1.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
	EA	Restroom Building	2.00		\$500,000.00
	EA	Maintenance facility	1.00		\$200,000.00
		Design and Engineering			\$533,100.00
		Contingency (20%)			\$1,794,820.00
		Construction Mobilization/Overhead/ Profit/Bonds/Insurance			\$1,332,750.00
		Subtotal			\$12,101,670.00



Park improvements & recommendations

At 360 acres, the Atlas site is an ideal location for Effingham County to provide a large passive park to fulfill the needs gap for trails, nature and passive green spaces identified in the park system offerings. The proposed conceptual design for the Atlas Site includes miles of walking trails, a nature center, playground and access to nature, water access, boat launches, open spaces and other passive park amenities. The park fills a need and is in the southern portion of the county where growth is residential concentrated. The park provides the opportunity for the county to offer overnight camping in the form of RV and tent sites, a possible revenue generating park service. Adjacent parcels of land should be explored for improving/adding multiple access points to the site for both function and safety as well as potential for expanding the park to offer more amenities, or to preserve more land in passive park form.

- Shady Oaks Road shall be a secondary entrance or maintenance only access point to the park.
- Add gated entries with ranger stations to manage access to the property; primary entrance off of Shady Oaks Road.
- Organize parking areas into primary paved and overflow; create parking for boat launches and trailers.
- Create an open space lawns for unprogrammed recreational use; create open meadows to enhance wildlife and maintain openness of areas of the park.
- Disc golf course
- Nature themed playground.
- Picnic shelters
- Restrooms
- Group shelter / pavilion
- Bridges to allow trails to easily circumnavigate the site and provide options for movement within the site- bridges should support small maintenance vehicles.
- Outlook / overlook platforms and towers are key vantage points around the property for land and wildlife viewing
- Primitive camping tent sites
- Beach area – on the eastern shore of the lakes, as note din the plan, there is an area that could be developed as a beach-like edge to the water. Swimming policy to be determined.
- Paved and un-paved multi-use trails circumnavigate the park with selective clearing to views of the lakes.
- Boardwalks through some wetland areas to provide access to all the different habitats present on site
- Employ a trail blazing system as well as park wayfinding signage and educational signage
- Add native landscape plantings / avoid developing areas of manicured lawn; this will result in lower maintenance and provide biotic benefit.



Staffing and Budget

Staffing and Budget:

The NRPA Park Metrics also provide insight into the staffing and budget of parks and recreation departments, by the same jurisdiction population breakdowns. Again, Effingham County falls within the 50,000 to 99,999 population bracket and all of the following data points are based on this unless otherwise noted.

The following compares Effingham County's parks staffing (Full time Equivalent (FTE)) to similarly sized jurisdictions:

	Jurisdiction Population 50,000 to 99,999 FTE	Effingham County FTE
Low Quartile	38.7	29.9
Median	64.1	
Upper Quartile	117.3	
	Number of FTE Staff per 10,000 residents	
Low Quartile	5.3	4.6
Median	9.6	
Upper Quartile	14.4	

Effingham County Parks and Recreation are supported by full time staff in both the Parks and Landscape Department as well as the Recreation Department. Both departments also benefit from part time labor. Parks and Landscape have the equivalent of 10.9 full time employees (FTE) while Recreation benefits from 19 FTE. In total between the two departments, the county can count 29.9 FTE as providing service to Parks and Recreation annually. These numbers put the County in the low quartile as compared to jurisdictions of similar size. It is reasonable to expect both departments could benefit from an increase in full and/or part time employees to meet their needs. As parks and recreation grow in the county through adding more parks, more facilities, and more programs, or as programs simply increase in size due to growing population, there will be a need to continually add more staff resources to support and maintain the parks and programs in the county.



The following compares Effingham County's parks and recreation funding to similarly sized jurisdictions:

	Jurisdiction Population 50,000 to 99,999	Effingham County	
	Annual Operating Expenditures	Effingham County 2023 Budget	
Low Quartile	\$4.33M	Recreation & Sports Management:	\$1.794M
Median	\$7.33M	Parks and Landscapes:	\$0.808M
Upper Quartile	\$11.82M	SPLOST Recreation:	\$1.638M
		Subtotal:	\$4.240M
		Additional SPLOST appropriations:	\$5.979M
		Total 2023:	\$10.219M
	Operating Expenditures per Capita	Effingham Expenditures per Capita	
Low Quartile	\$61	at \$4.24M	= \$62
Median	\$104	at \$10.22M	= \$150
Upper Quartile	\$180		



For all Parks and Recreation agencies nationally, more than 60% of operating expenditures are funded by General Fund Tax Support, while another 23% comes from Earned/Generated Revenue. The remaining 16% of funding comes from dedicated levies, other dedicated taxes, grants, sponsorships, or other unspecified sources. The percentage breakdown by funding source is extremely stable across all jurisdictional populations, with only minor variation.

Across all Parks and Recreation agencies, nationally, 56% of capital expenditures are aimed at renovation projects. 30% goes towards new development, 7% towards land acquisition, and the balance to other unspecified expenses.

Effingham County expenditures are on par with jurisdictions of similar population size when taking into account annual operating expenditures and expenditures per capita. SPLOST is an important part of ensuring the County is spending at a comparable level. Without SPLOST the County's expenditures would very likely remain below the average of the lower quartile without another source of funding to replace some or all of SPLOST.

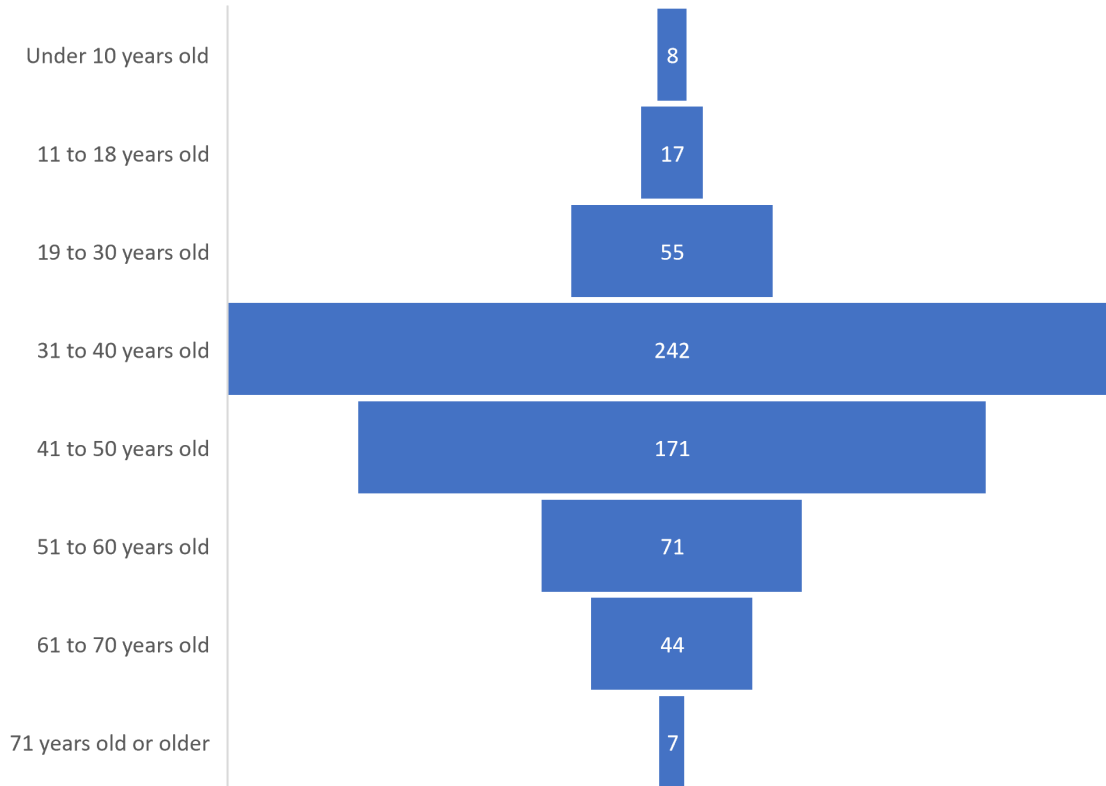


Appendices

Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

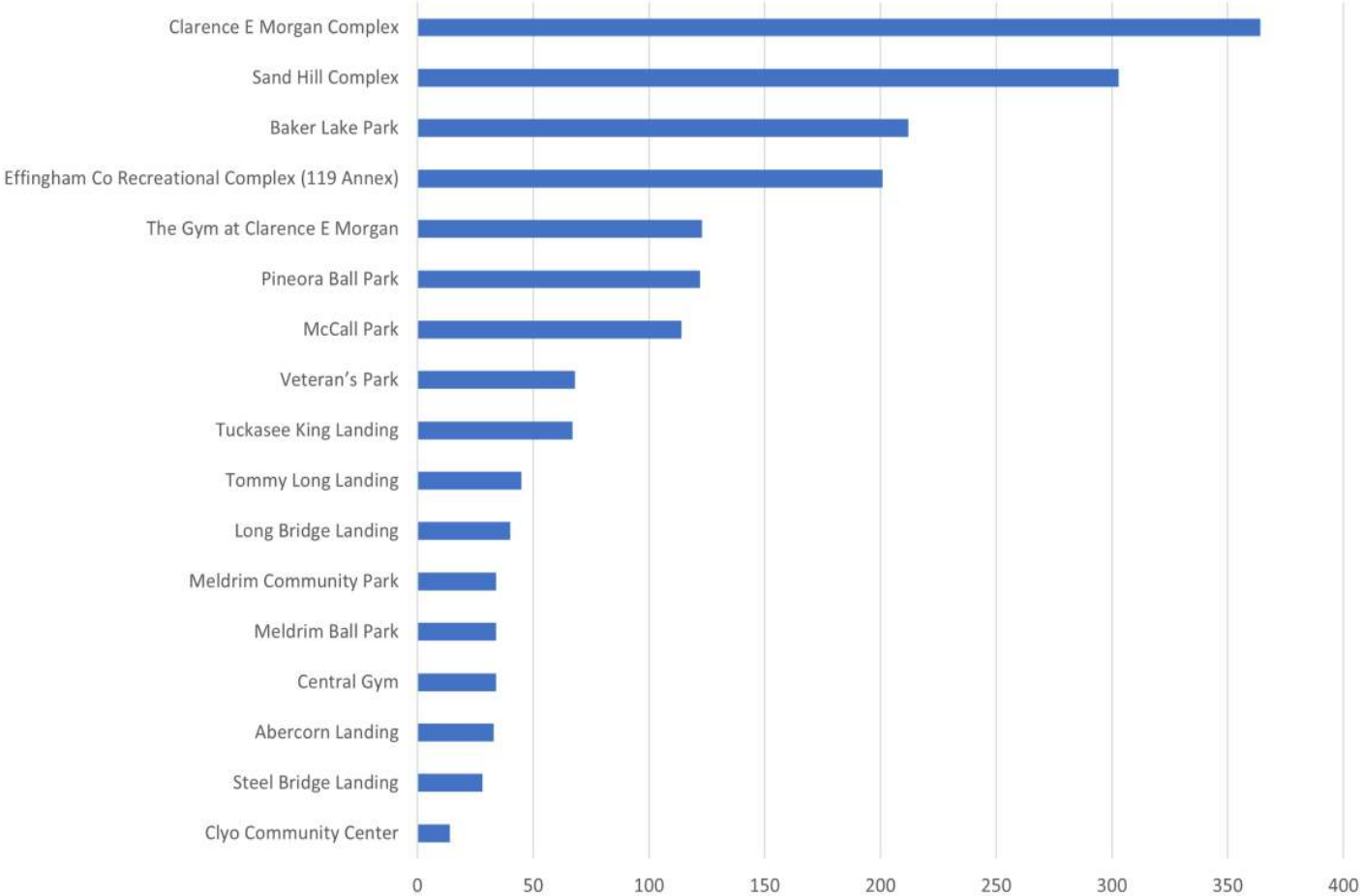
1. Please indicate your age



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

2. Which Effingham County Parks do you use?

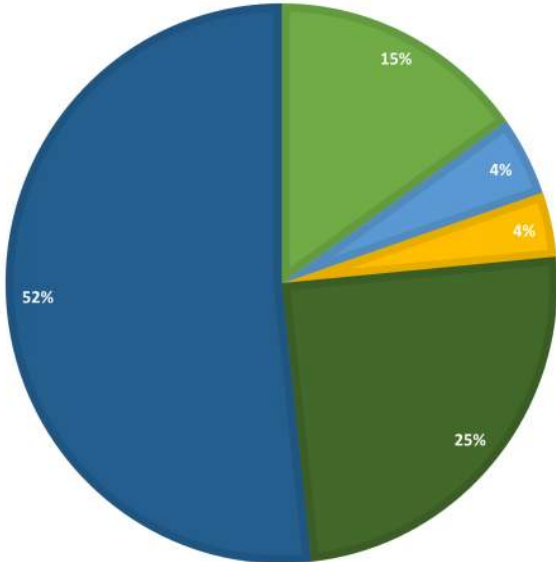


Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

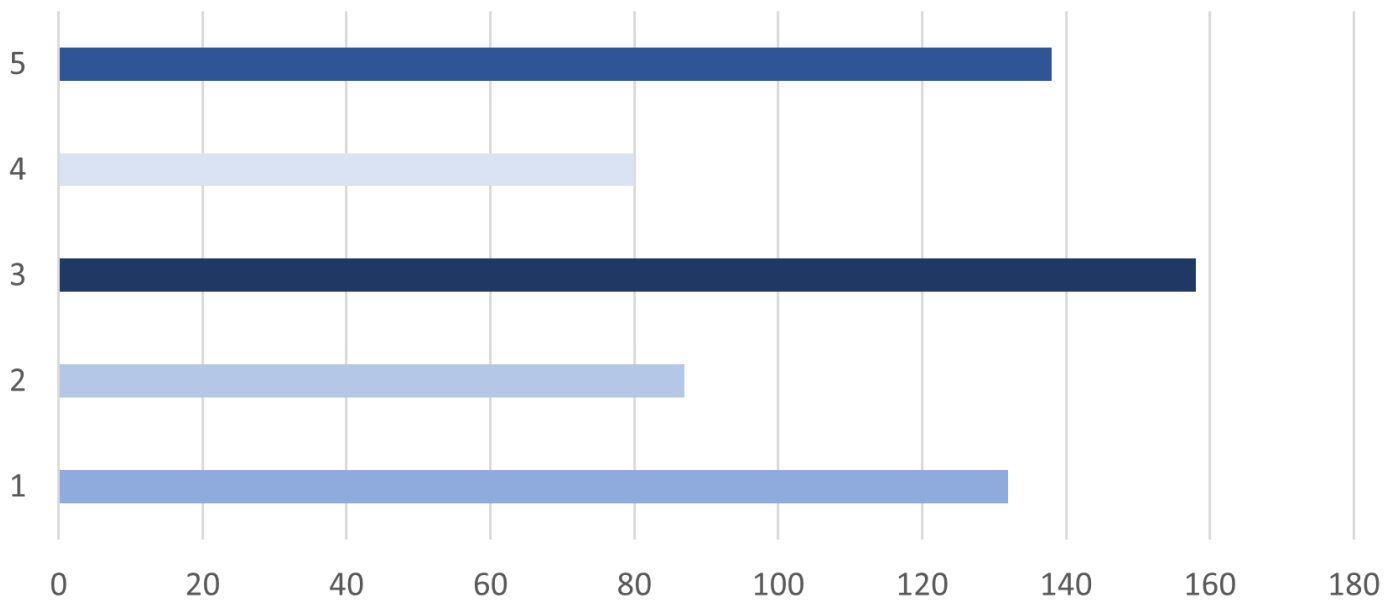
3. HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT ANY PARK FACILITY IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY?

■ A couples times per year ■ Daily ■ I do not visit Effingham County Parks ■ Monthly ■ Weekly



Appendix A
Survey Results Graphics

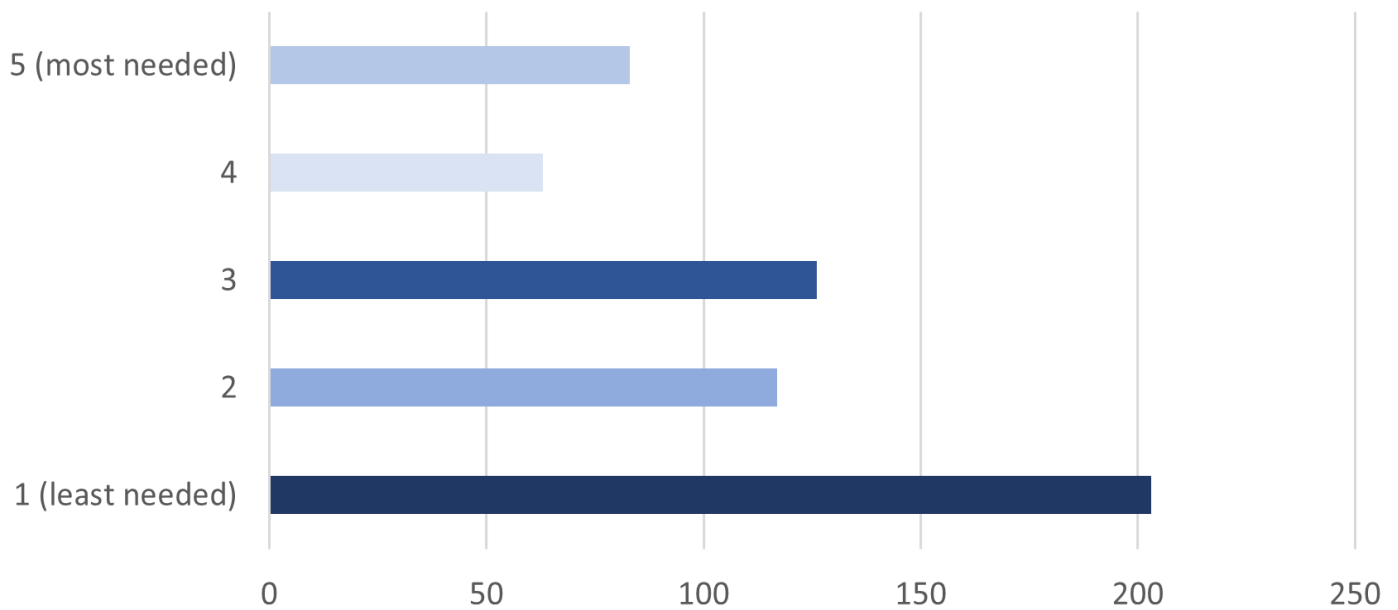
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Passive greenspaces (open lawns, natural areas such as wetlands or woods)**



Appendix A
Survey Results Graphics

4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you:

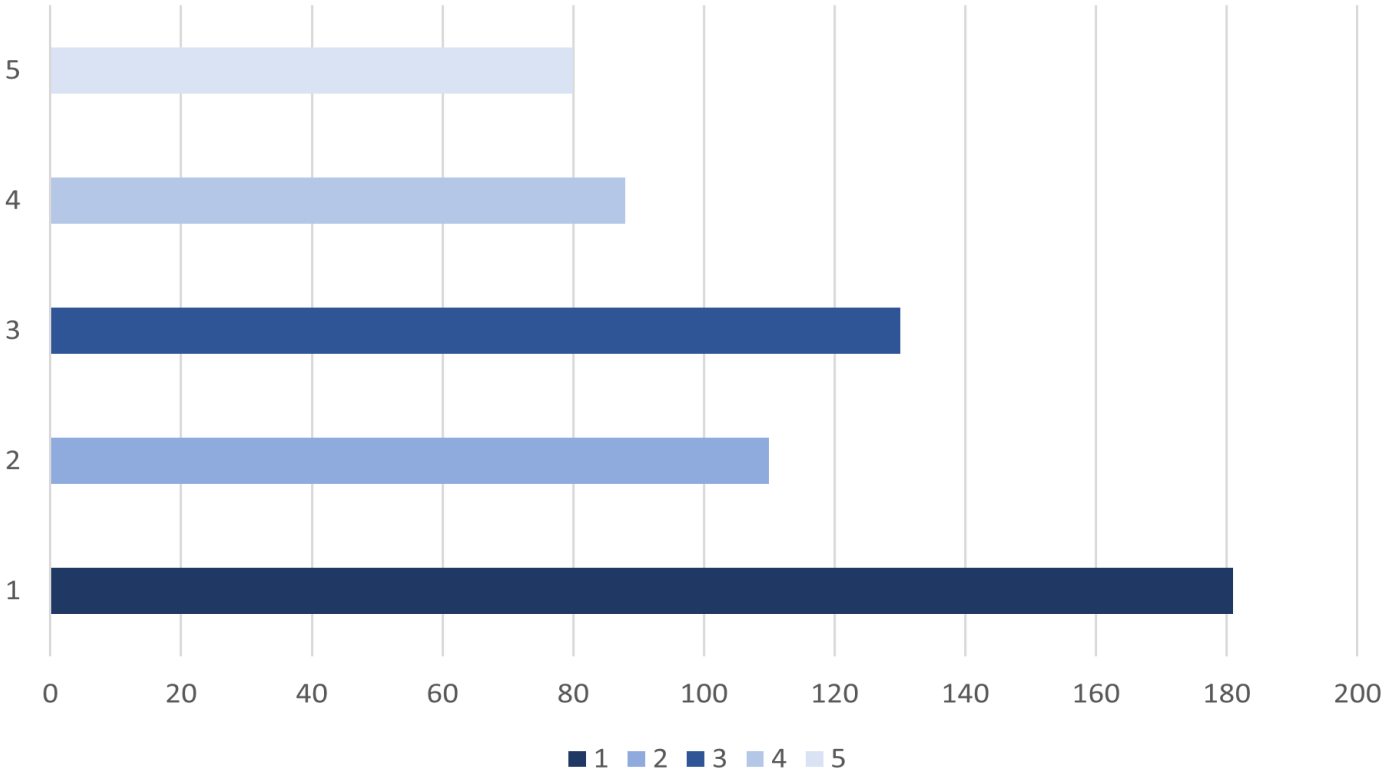
Batting cages



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

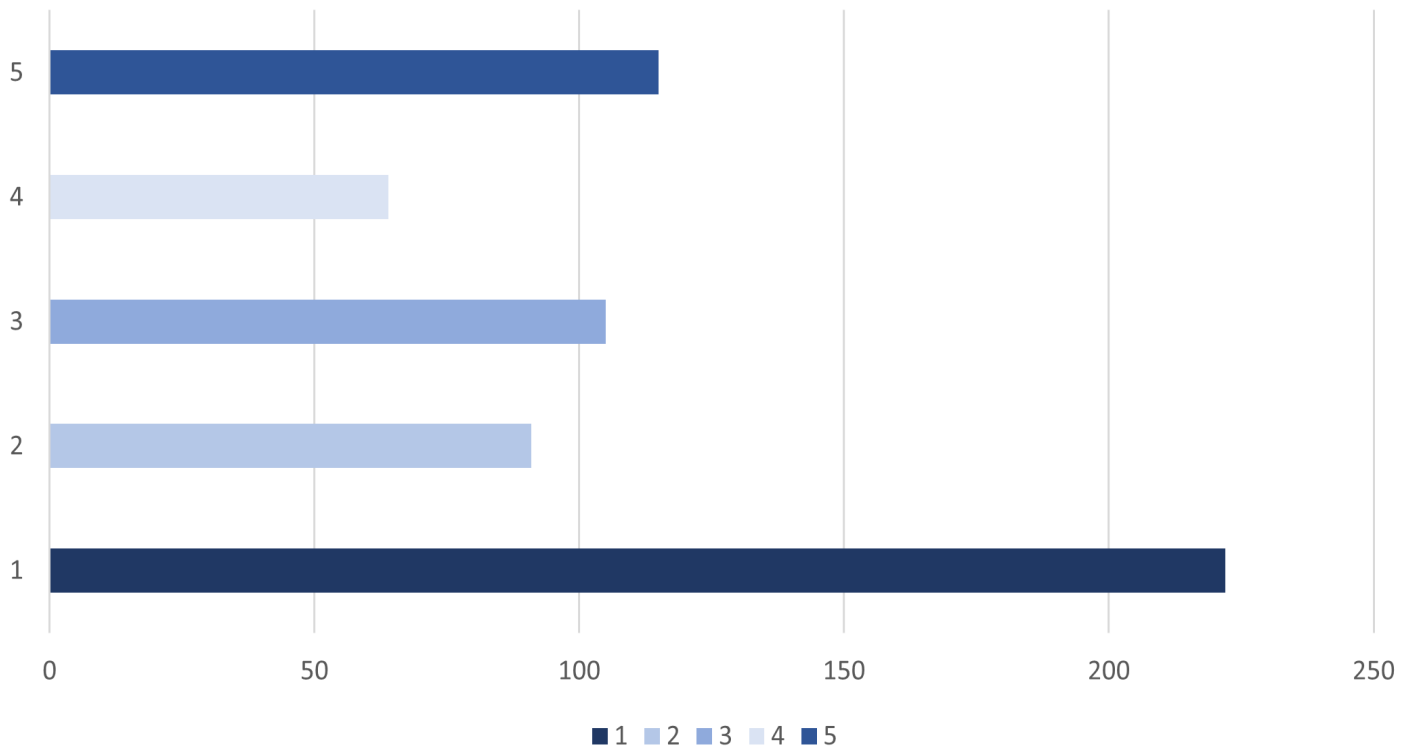
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you:
Art/cultural facilities



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

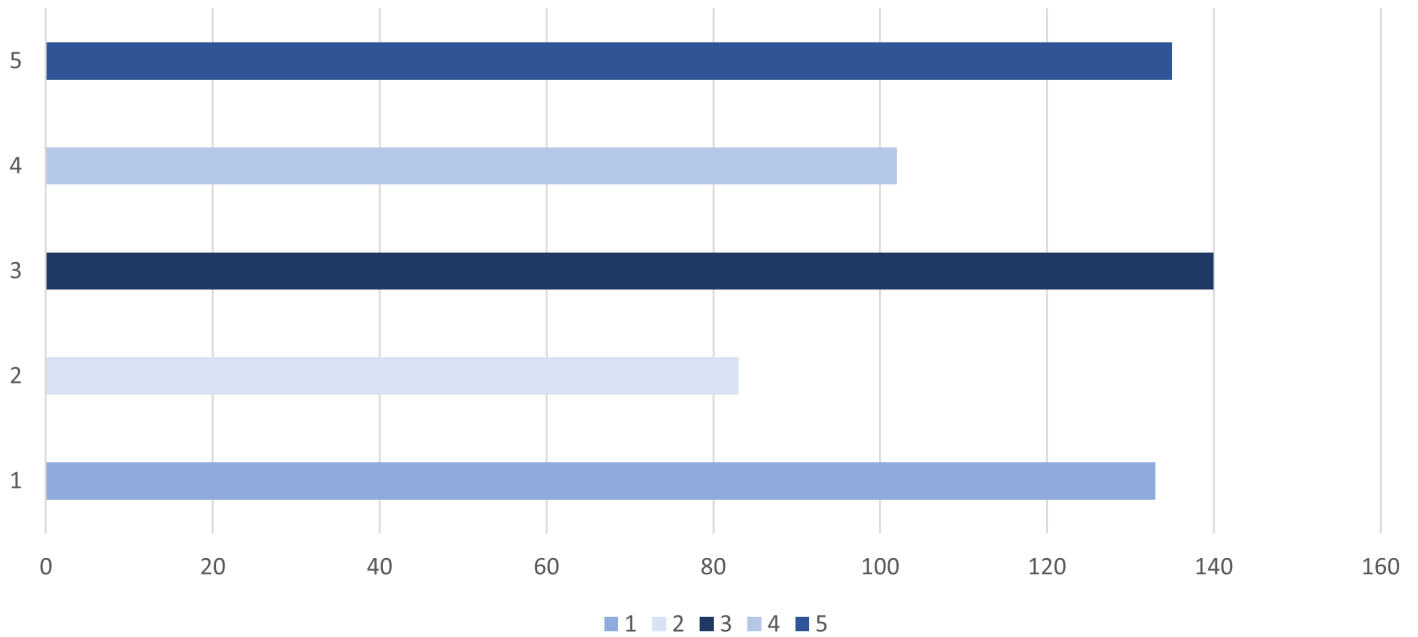
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Off-leash dog parks**



Appendix A

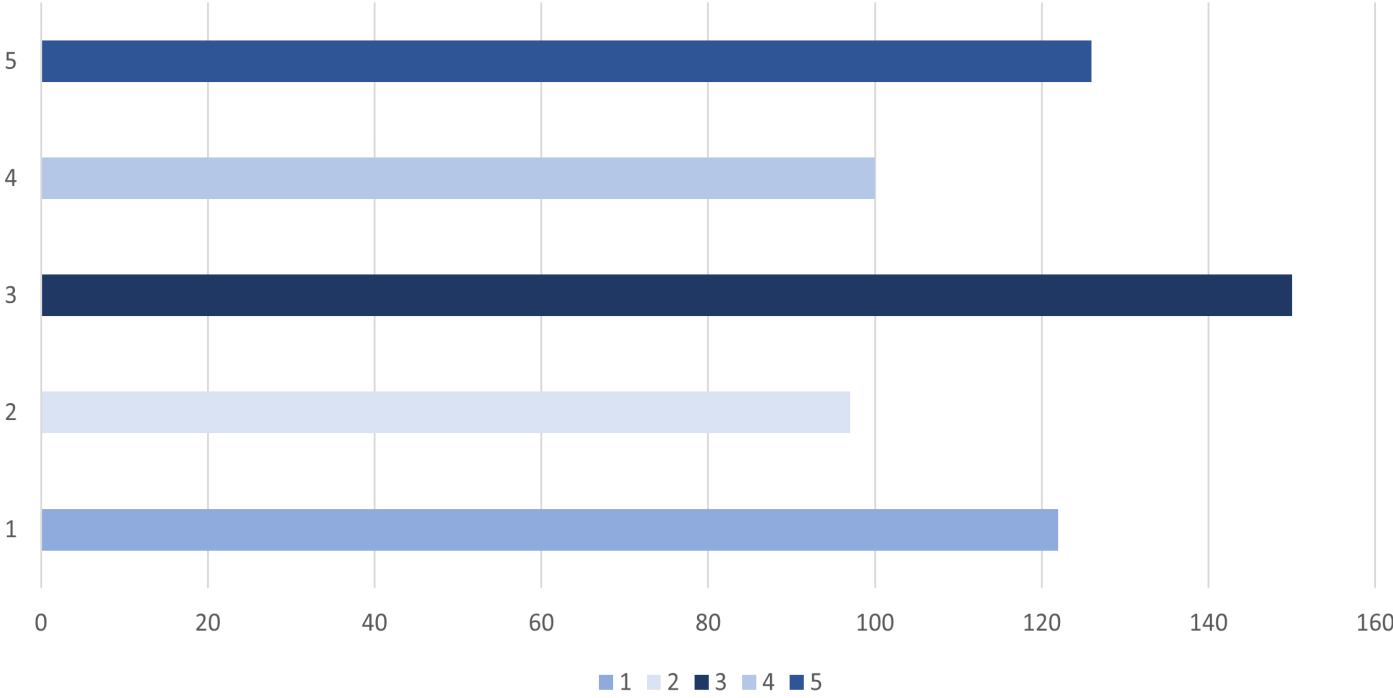
Survey Results Graphics

Q6 - 4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Fitness and exercise facilities**



Appendix A
Survey Results Graphics

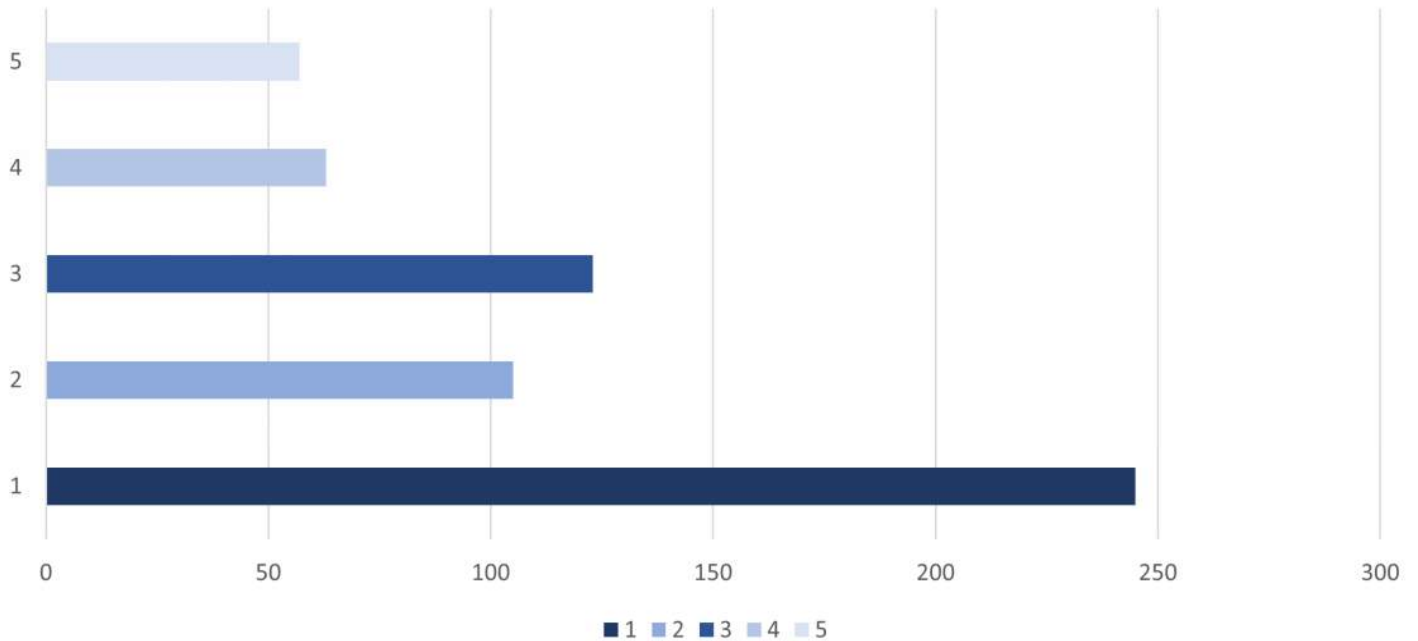
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Community centers/rental facilities**



Appendix A

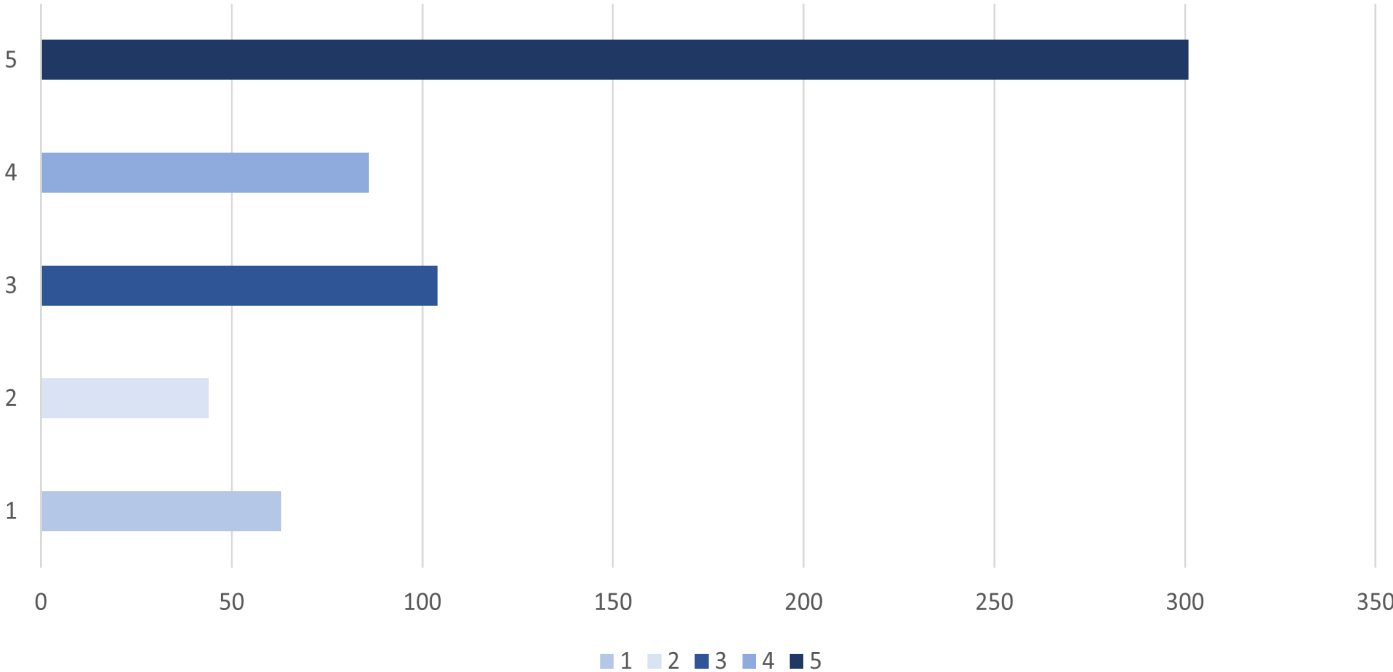
Survey Results Graphics

4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Disc golf course**



Appendix A
Survey Results Graphics

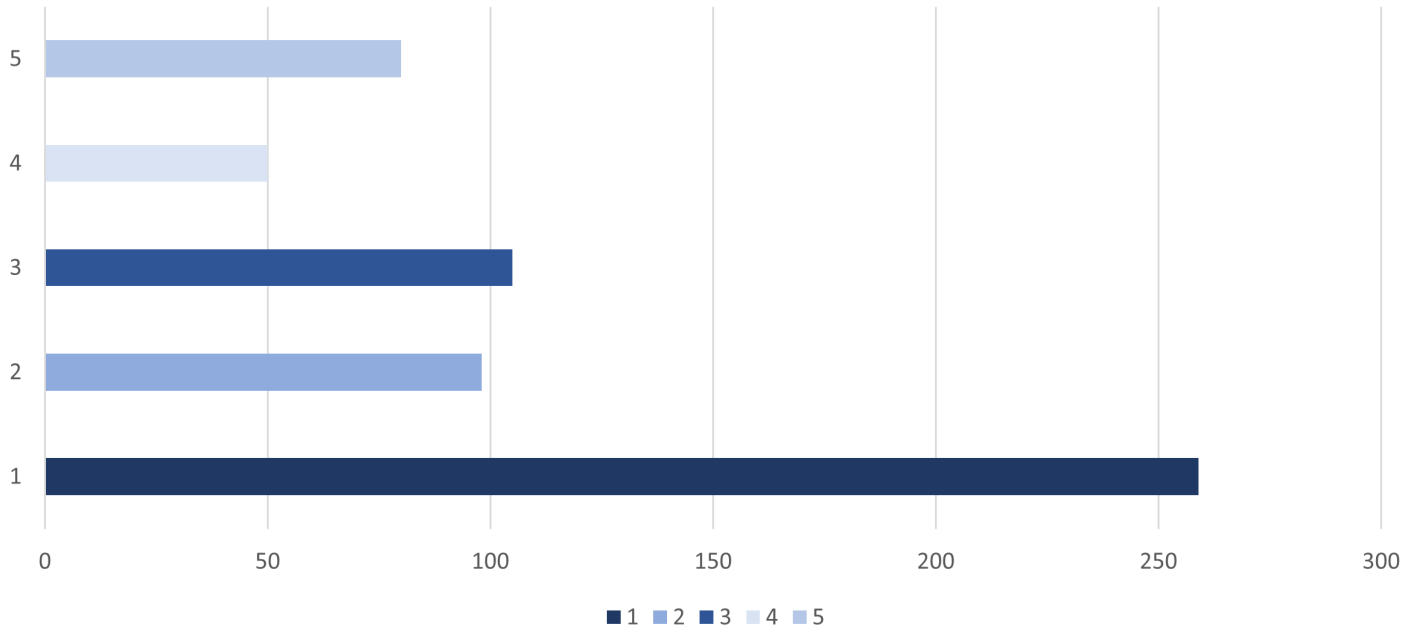
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Splashpads/Spraygrounds**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

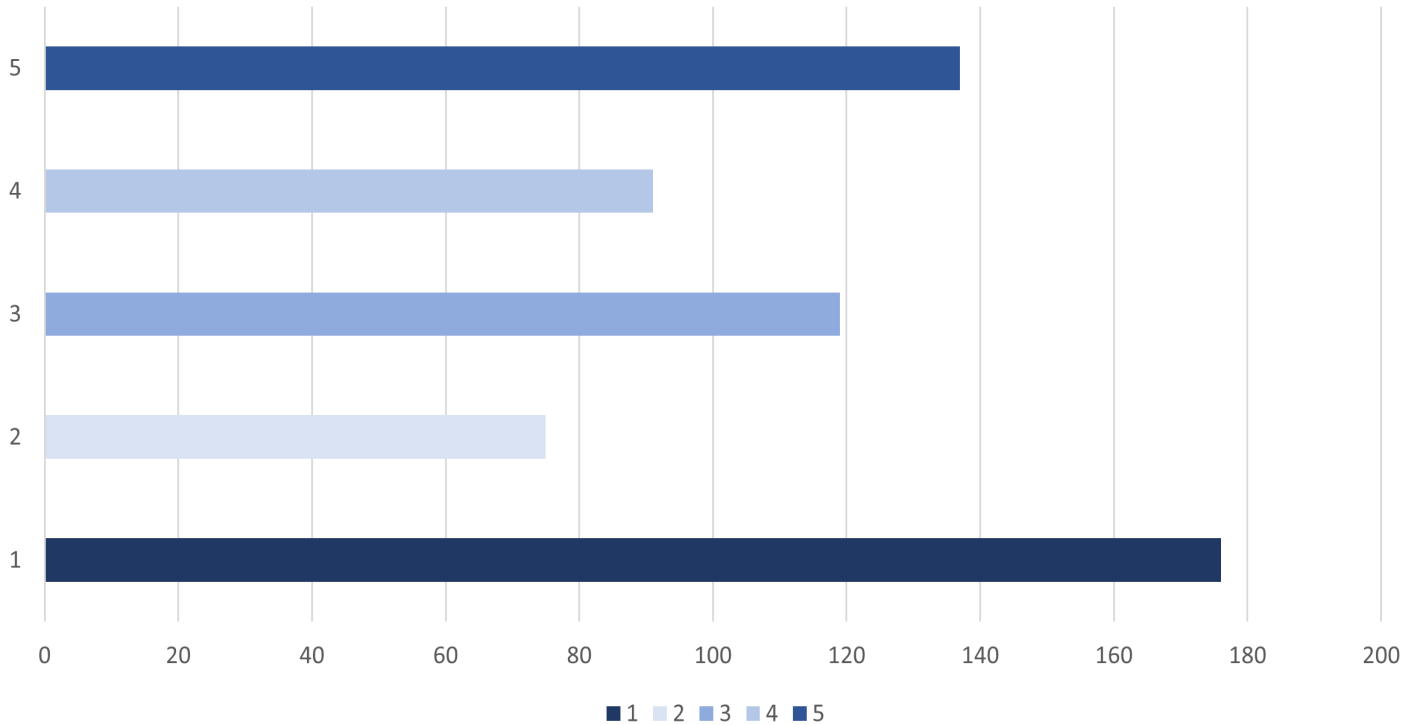
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Baseball fields**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

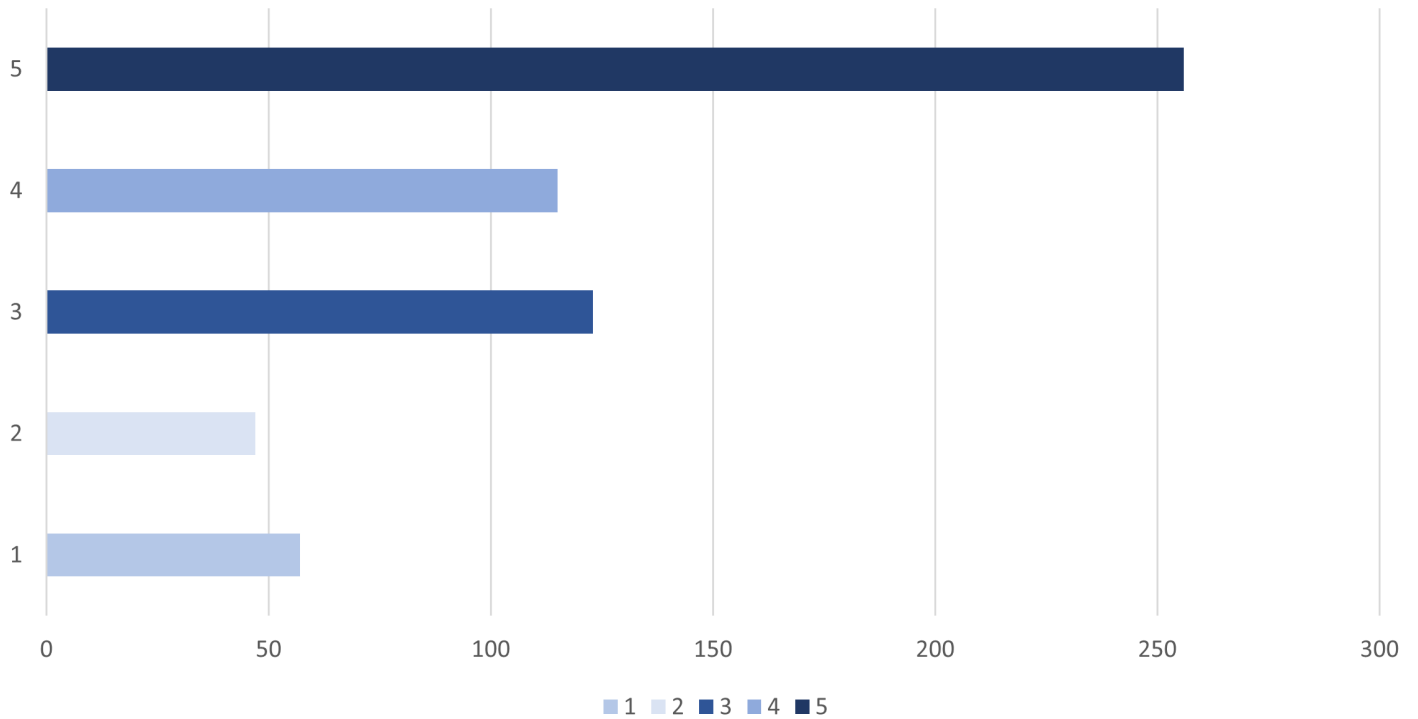
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **River access**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

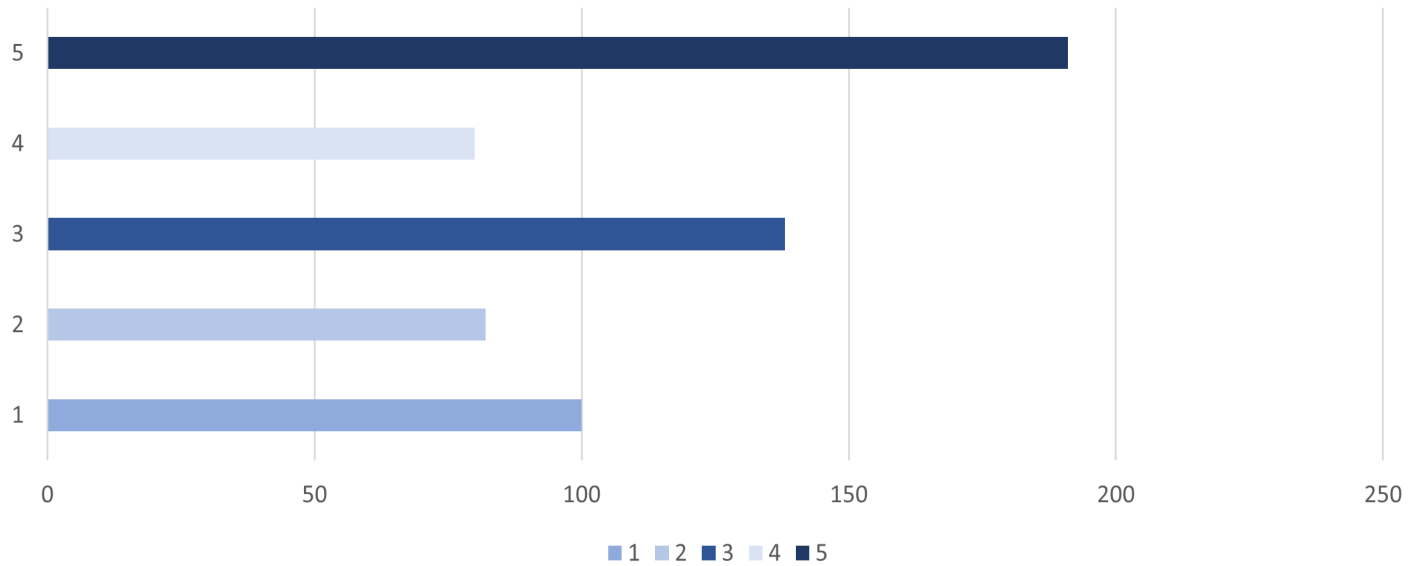
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Paved multi-use trails**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

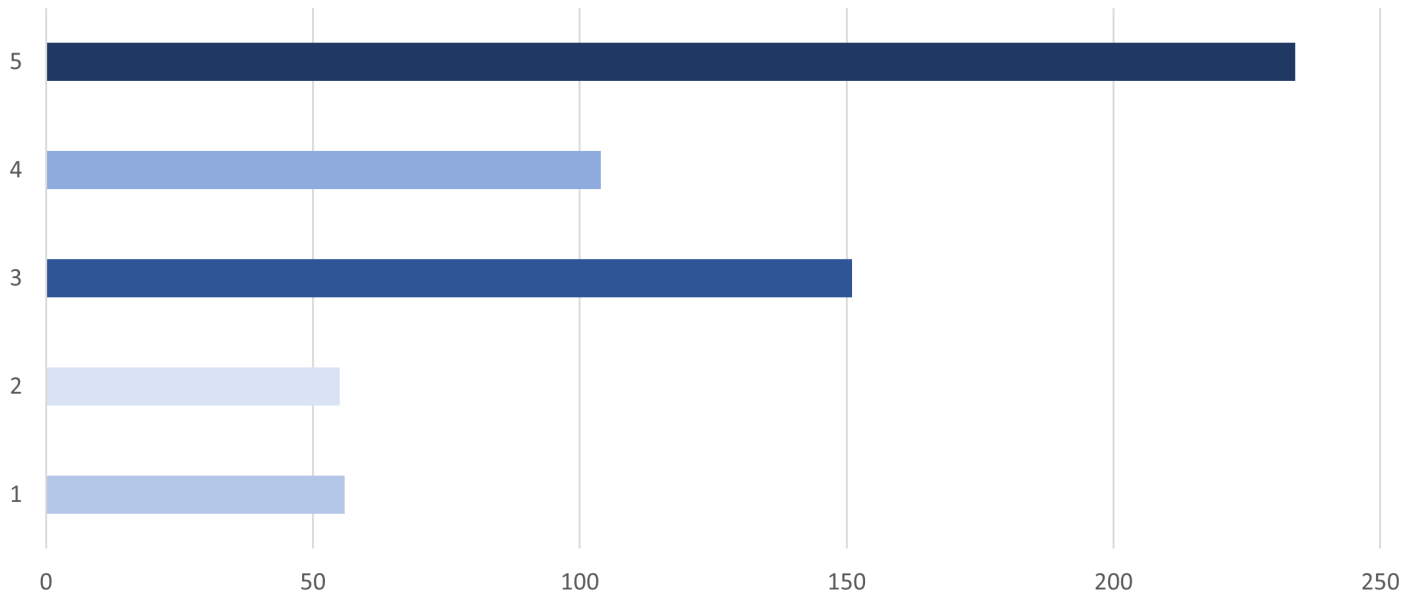
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Soccer fields**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

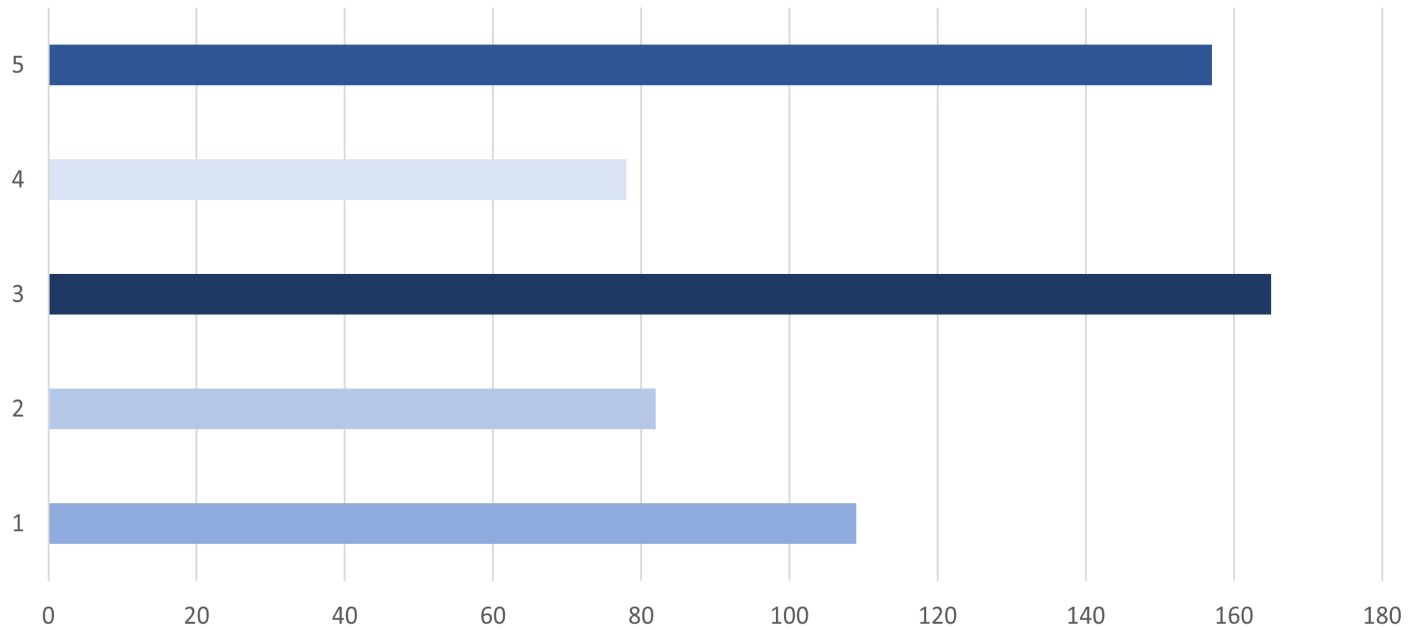
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Playgrounds**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

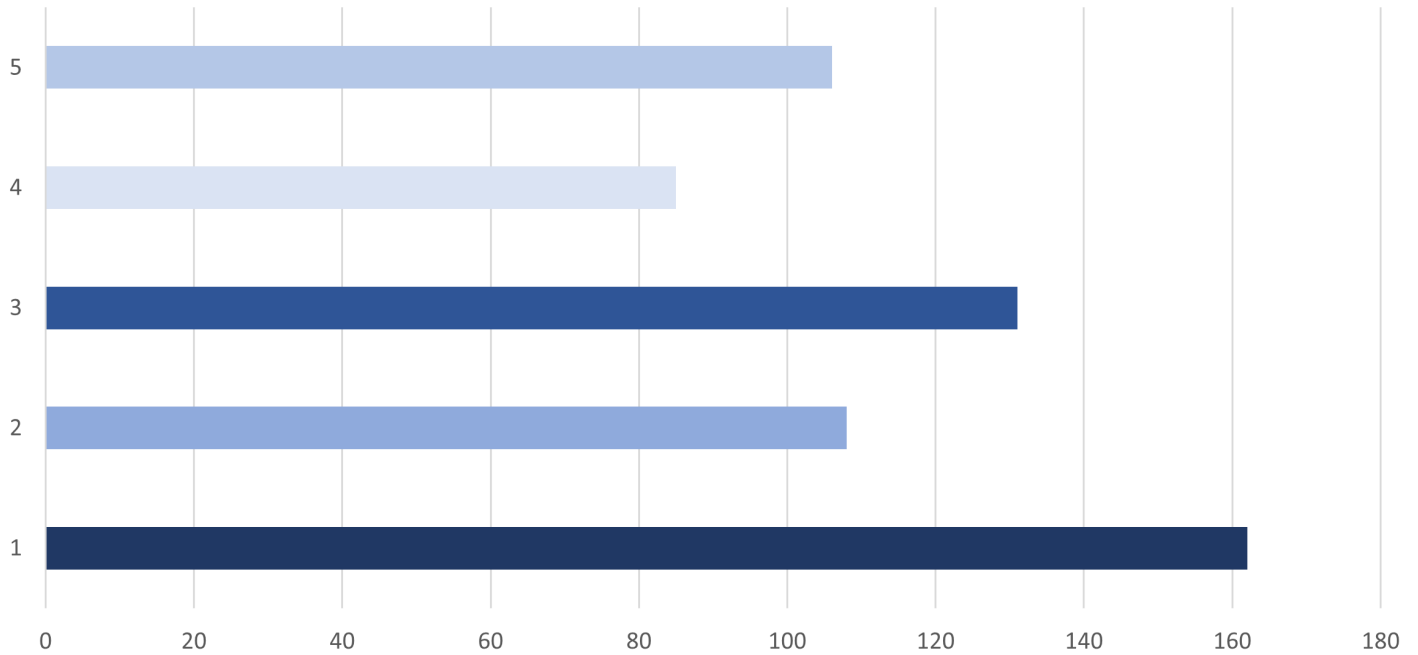
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Indoor facilities/gyms**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

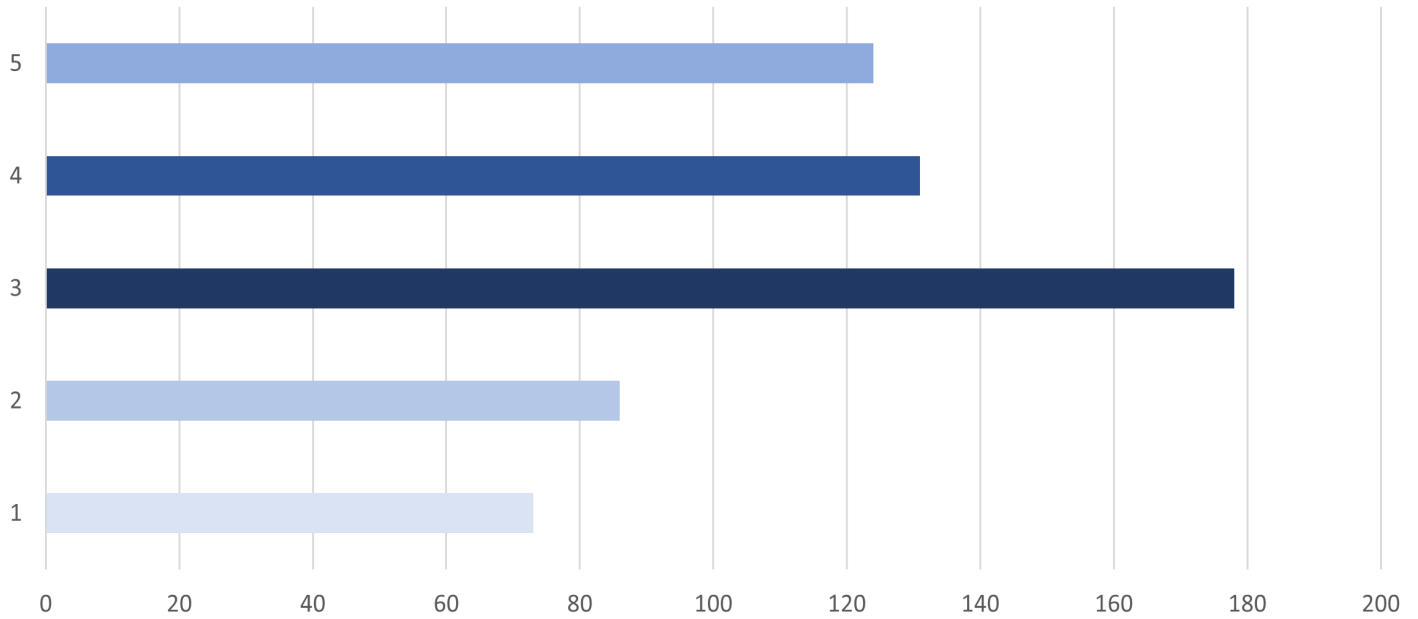
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Unpaved bike trails**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

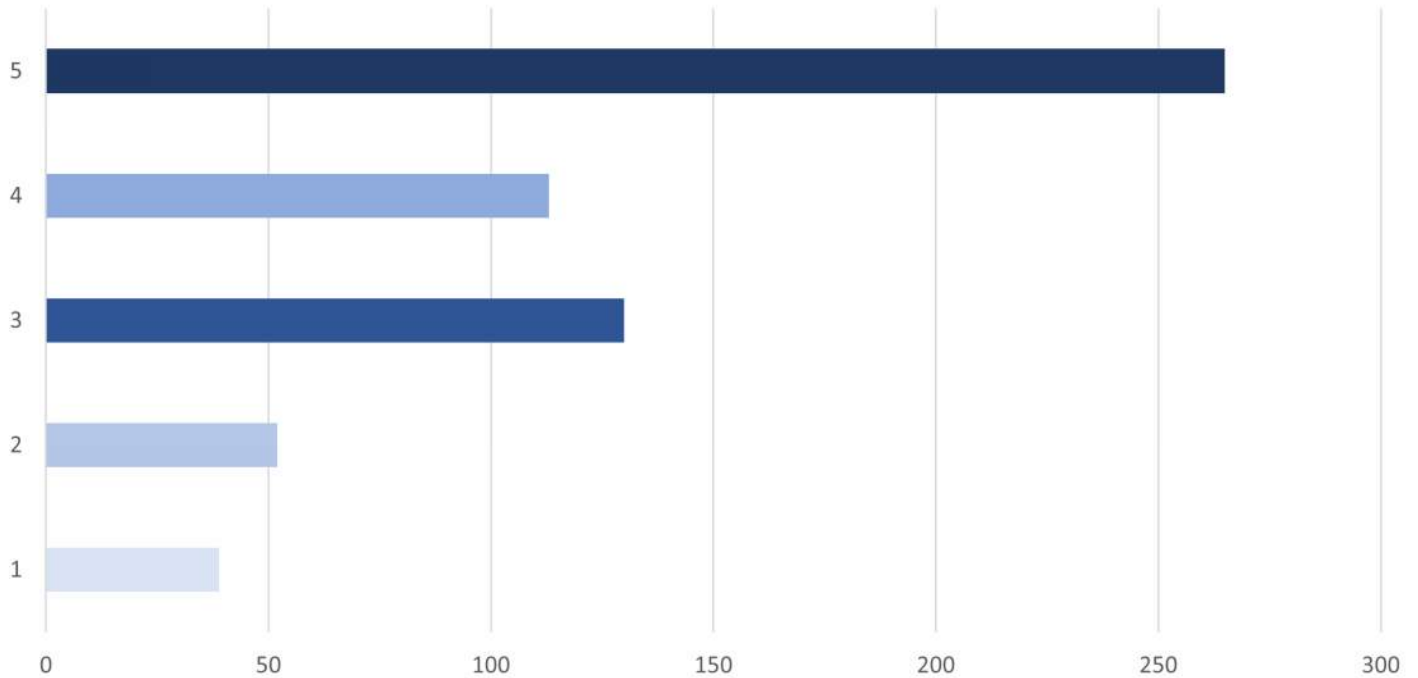
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Pavilions**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

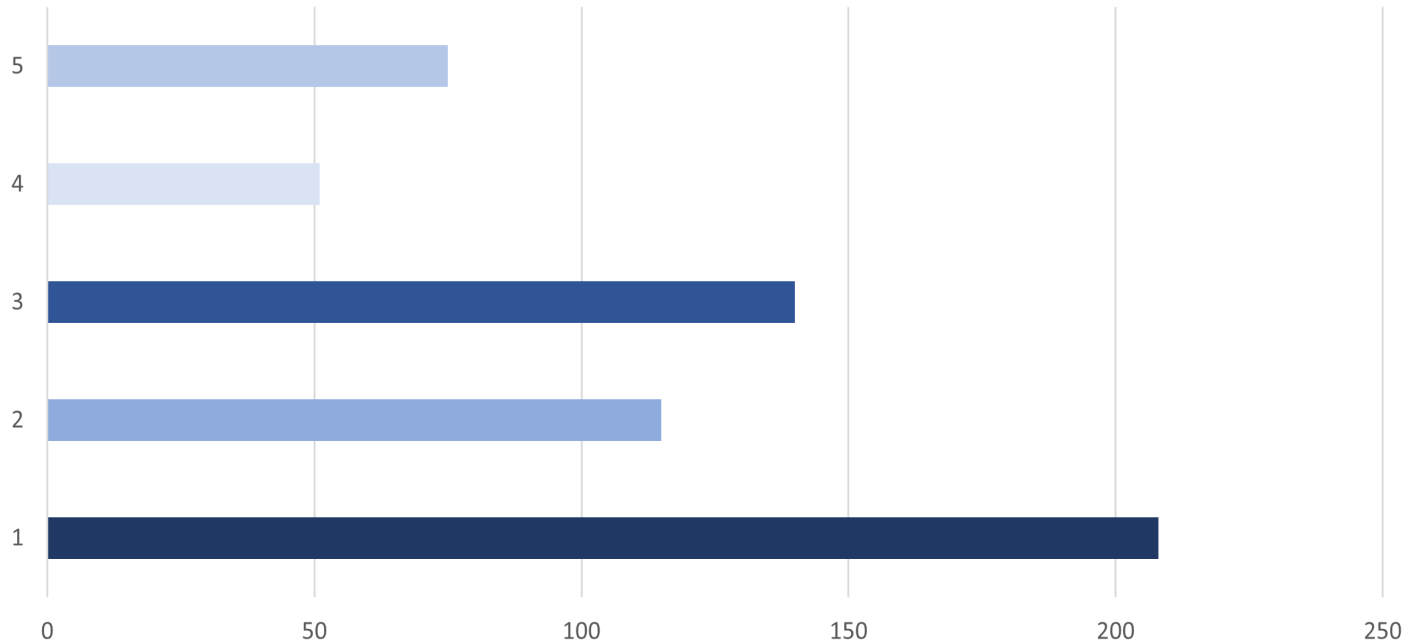
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Restrooms**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

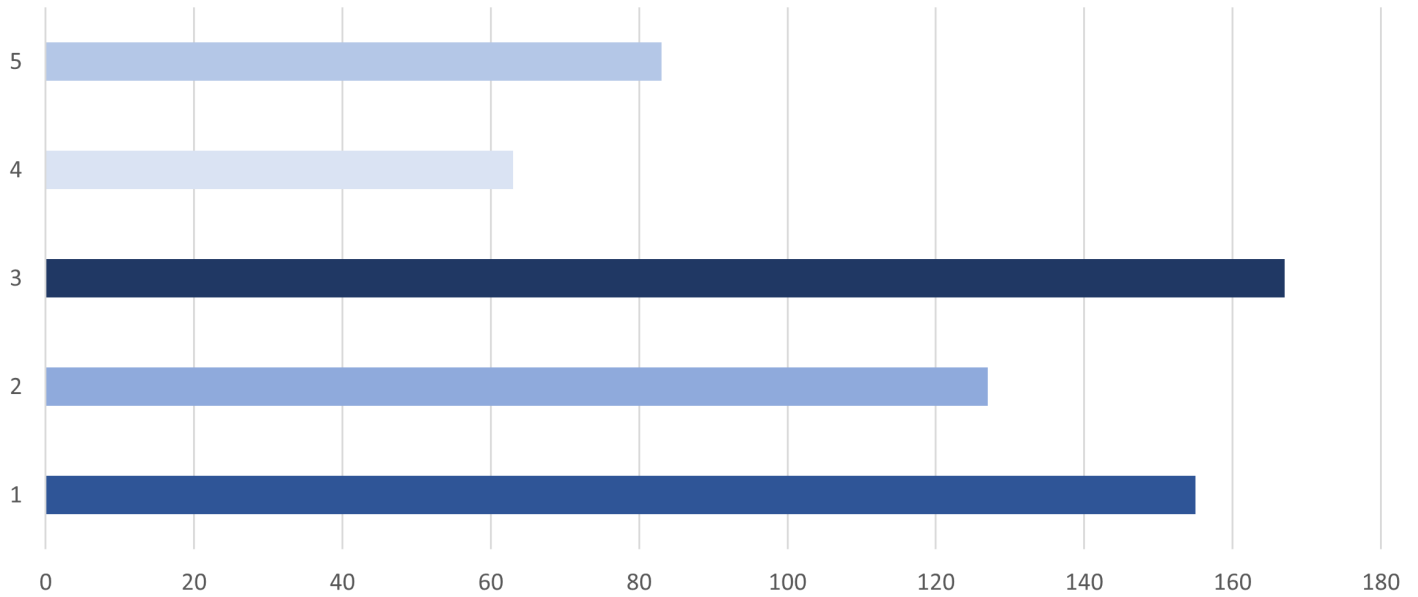
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Football fields**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

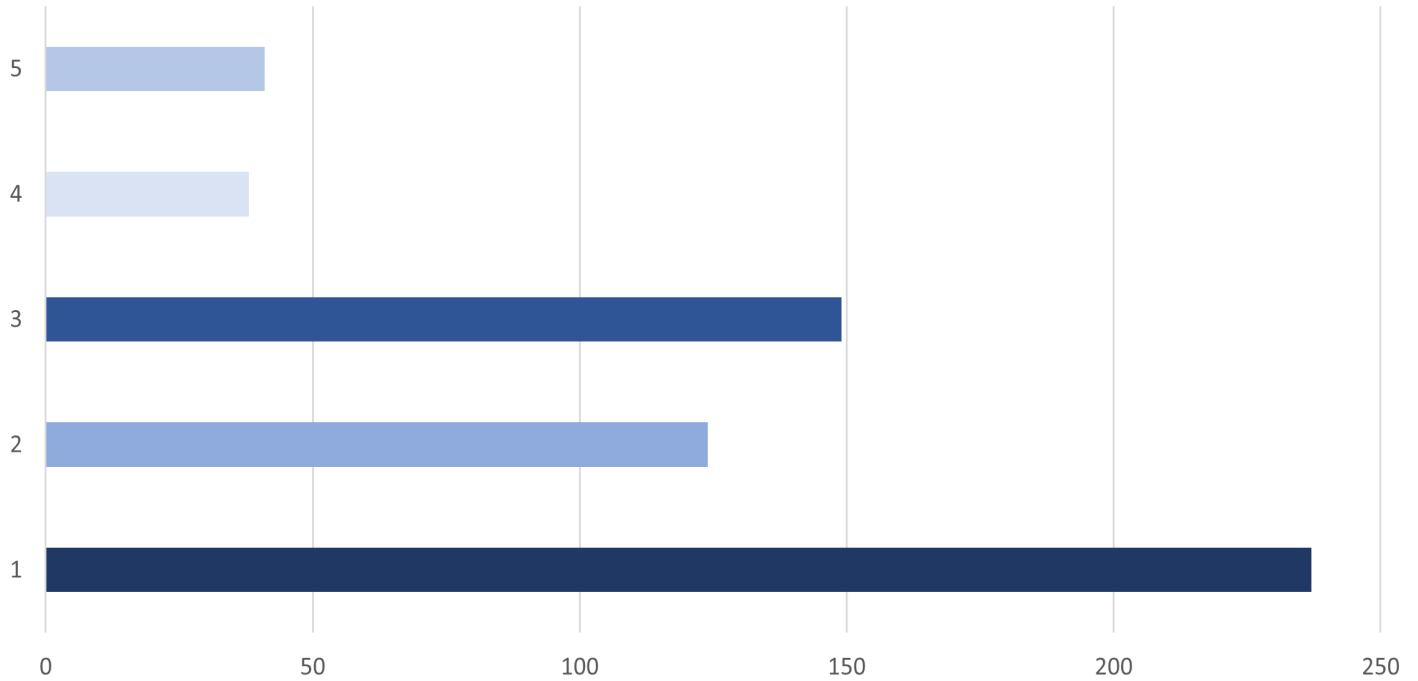
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Basketball courts**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

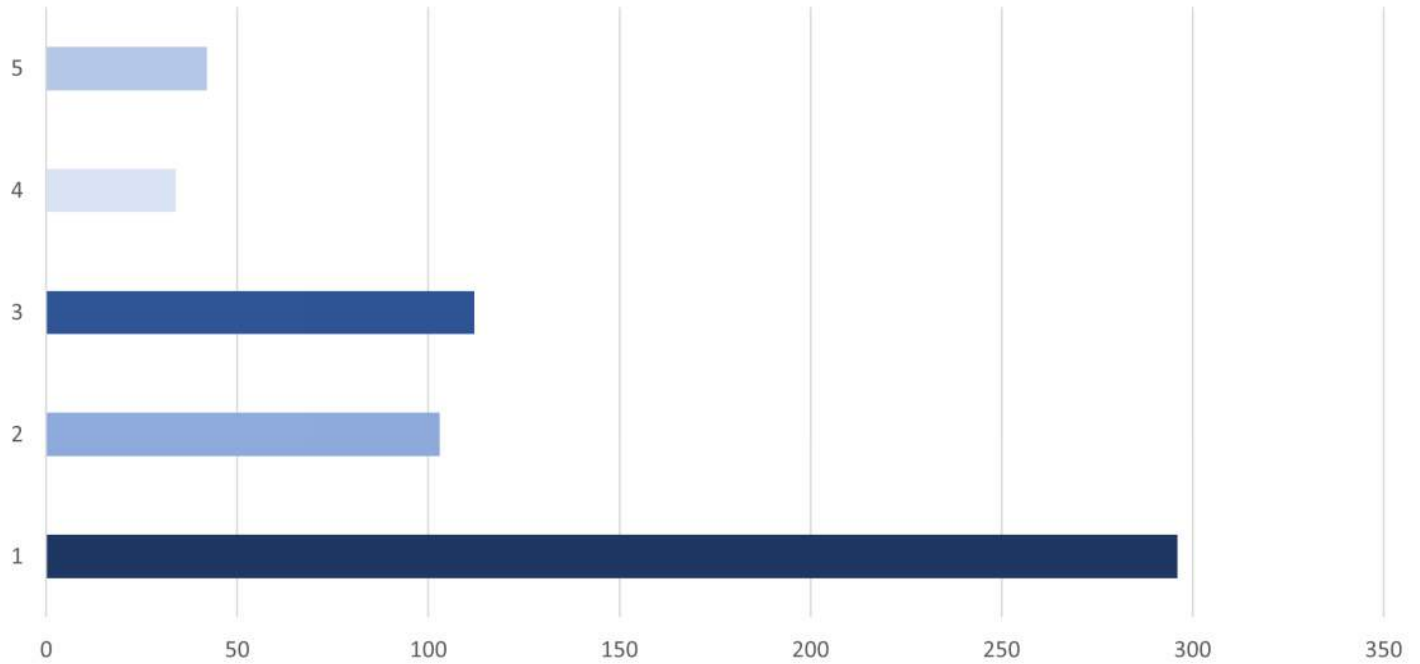
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Lacrosse fields**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

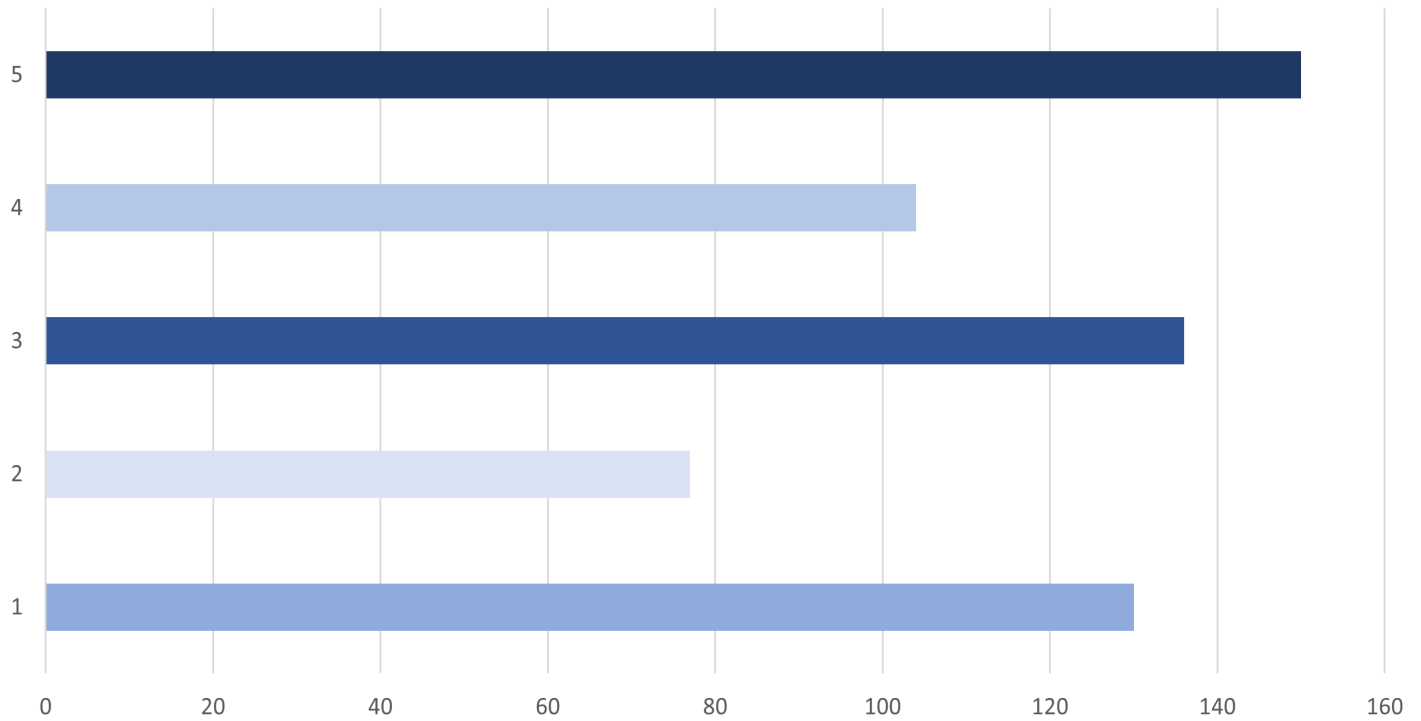
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Pickleball**



Appendix A

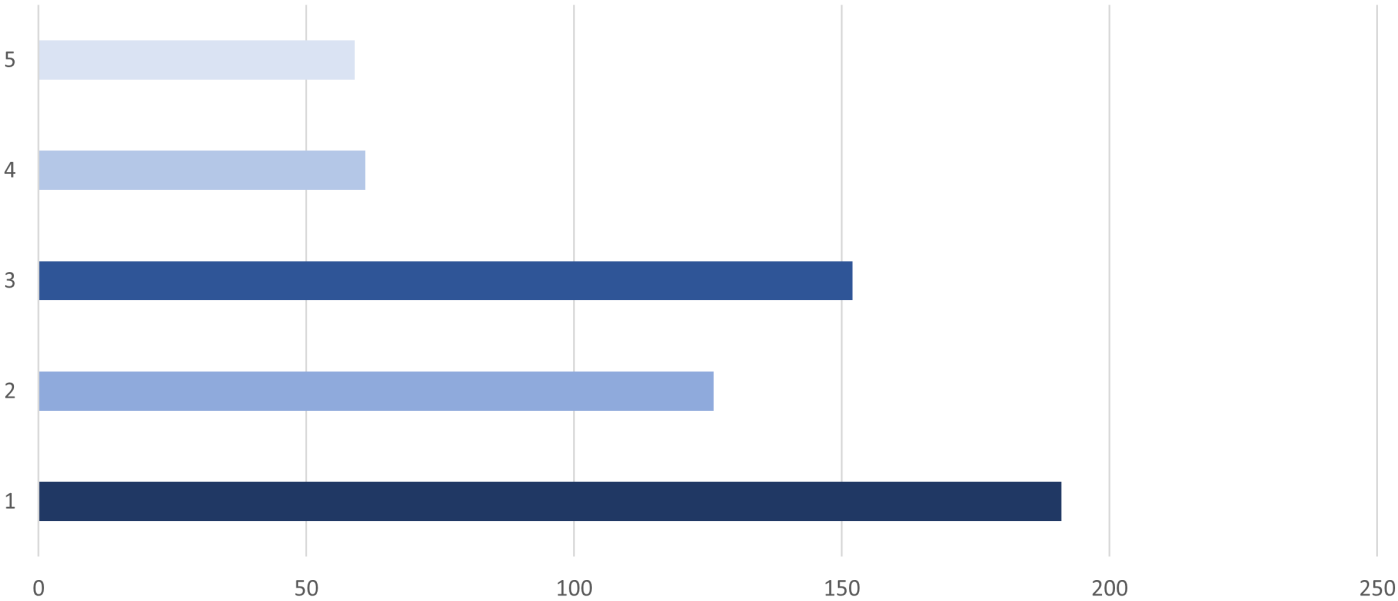
Survey Results Graphics

4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Unpaved walking trails**



Appendix A
Survey Results Graphics

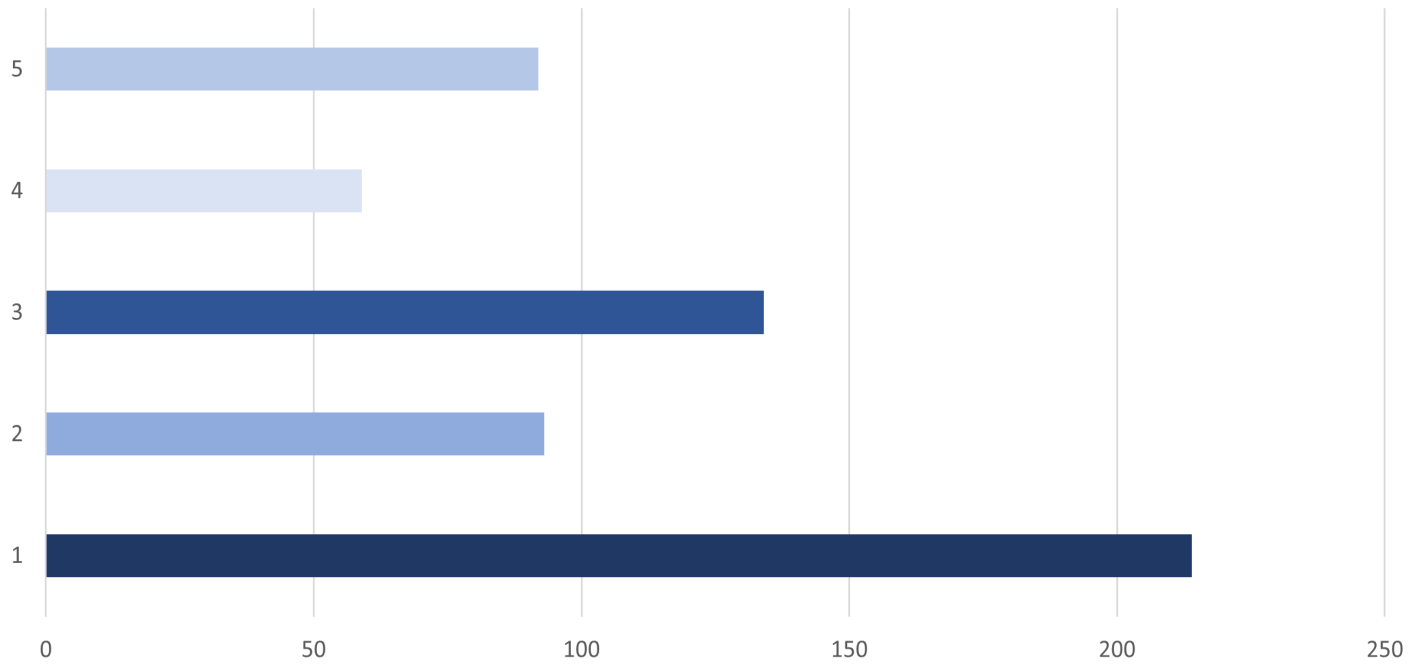
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Tennis courts**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

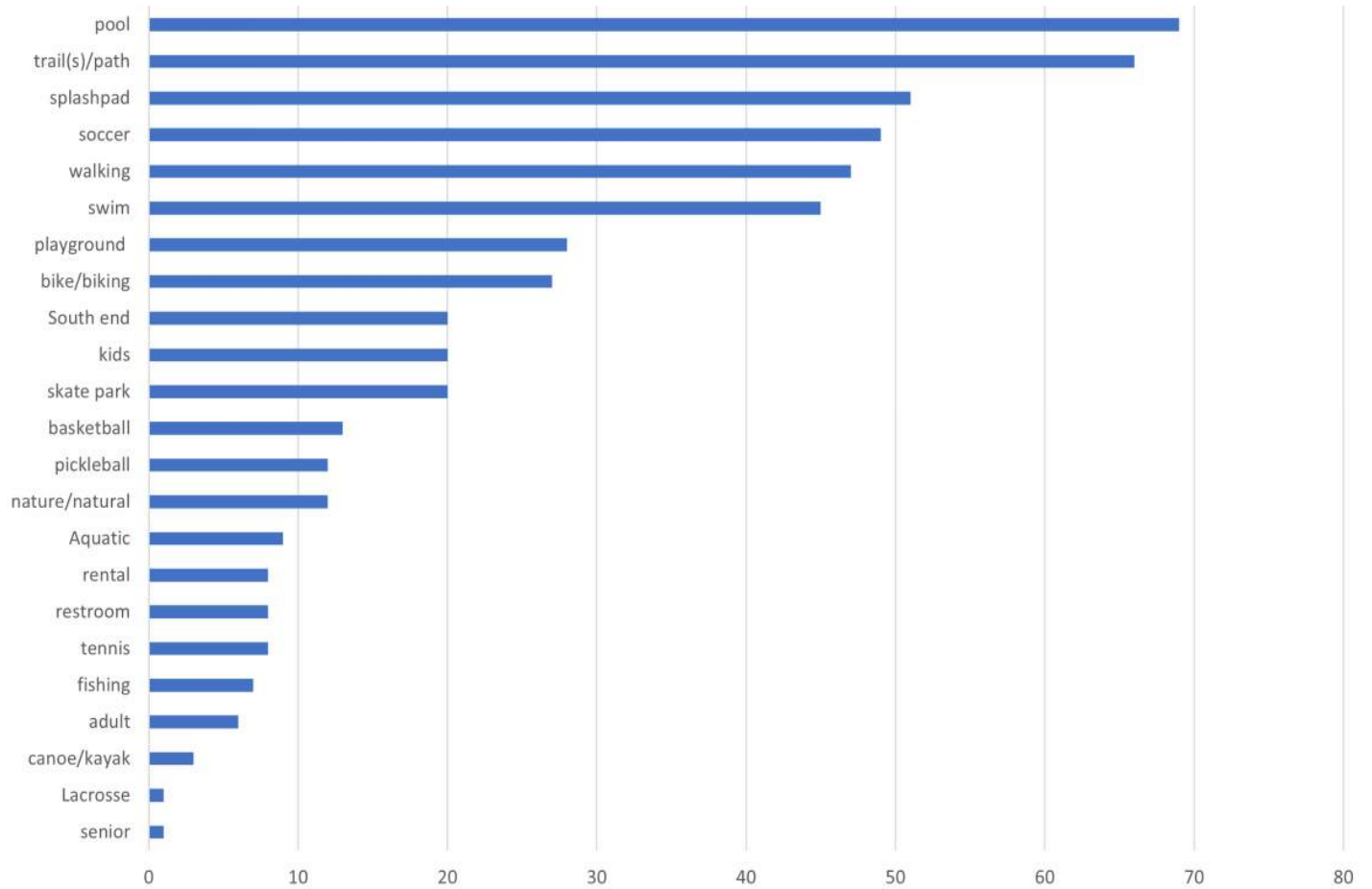
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least needed and 5 being the most needed, please tell us how needed the following recreation facilities are to you: **Skate park**



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

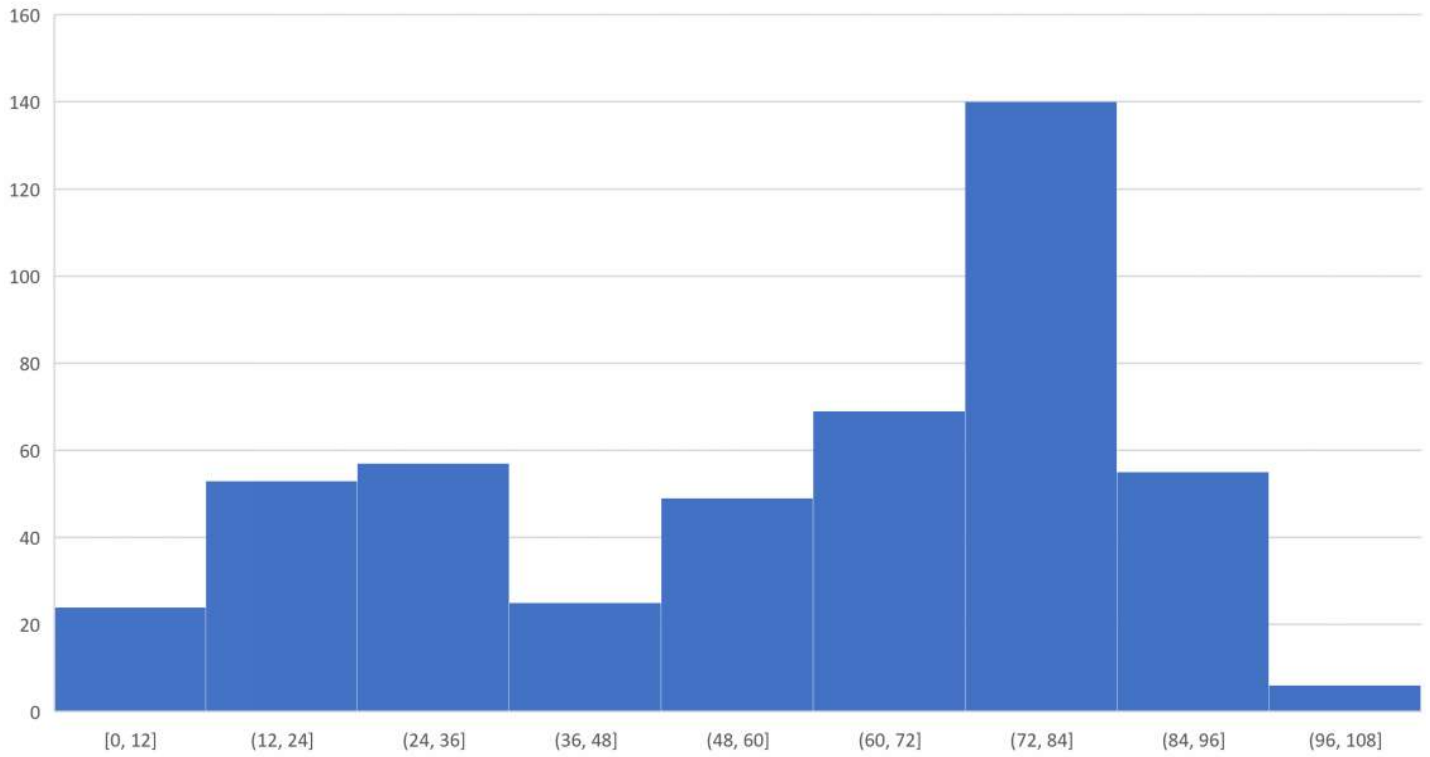
Most mentioned terms for 5. What facilities do you wish Effingham County Recreation and Parks offered or provided that are missing today?



Appendix A

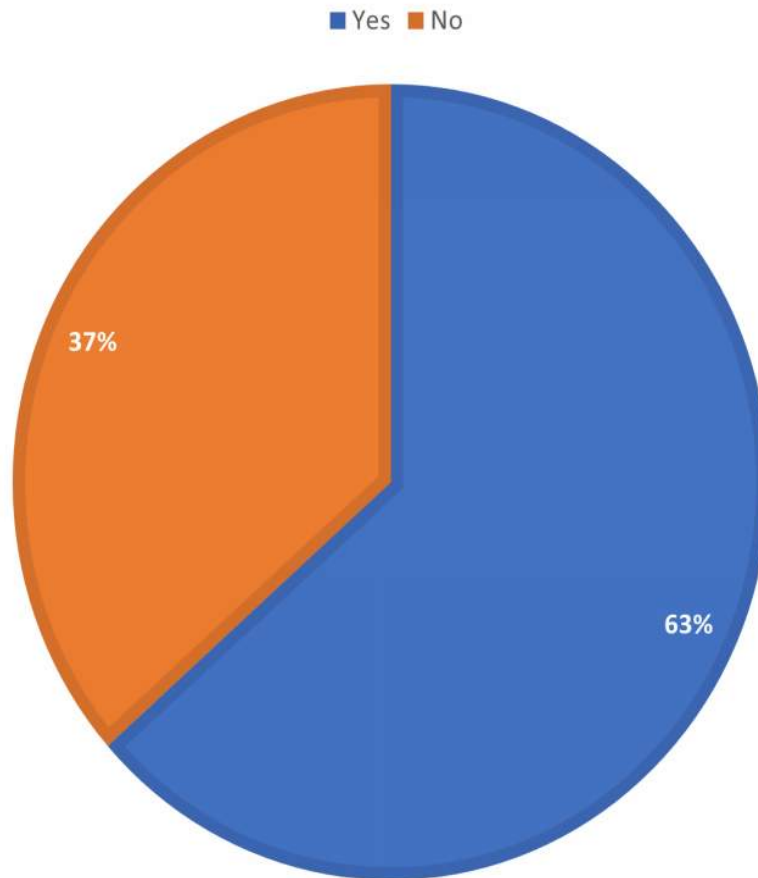
Survey Results Graphics

6. Please use the slider below to rate your overall satisfaction with Effingham County Park facilities.



Appendix A
Survey Results Graphics

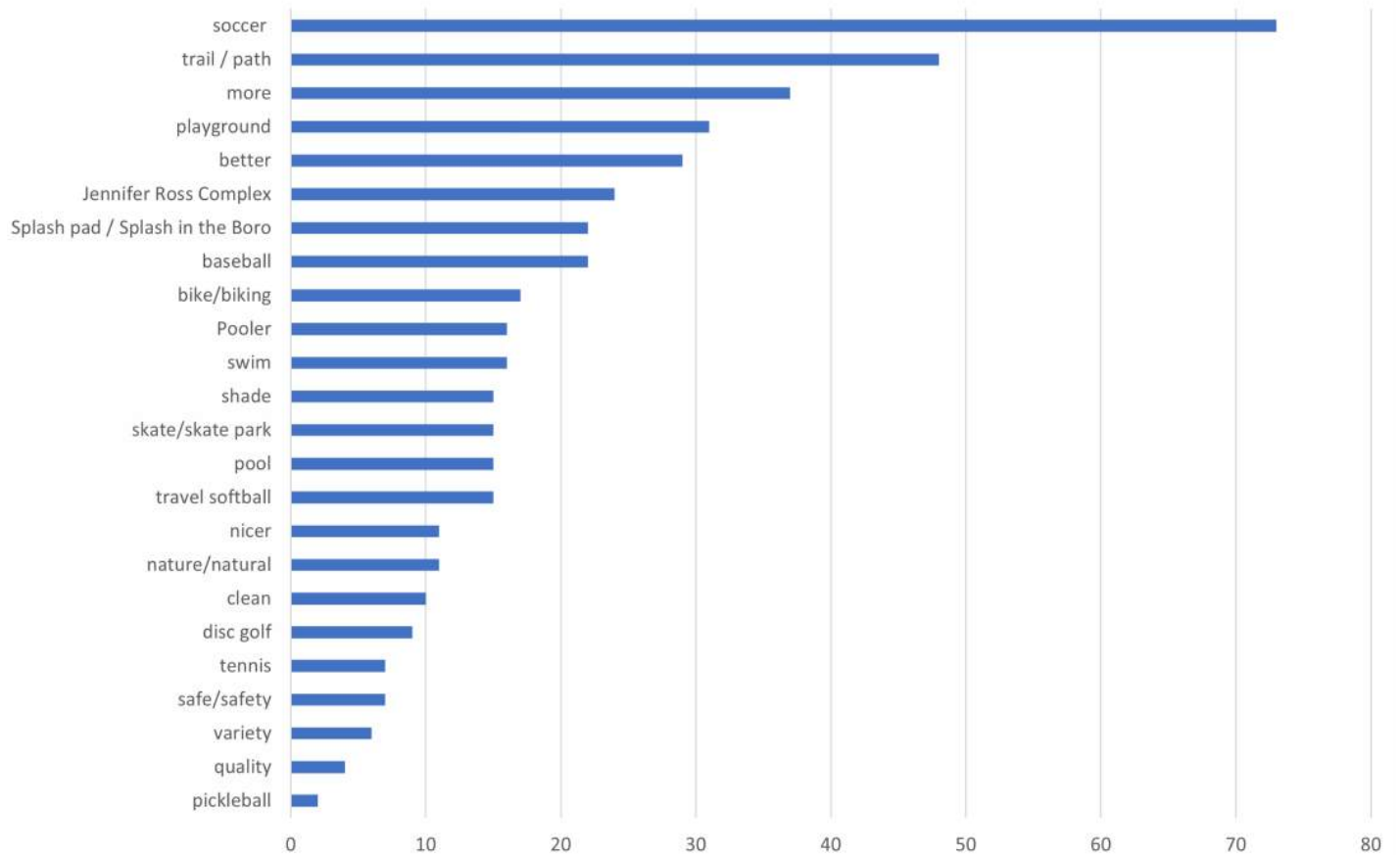
7. DO YOU REGULARLY VISIT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES OUTSIDE OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY?



Appendix A

Survey Results Graphics

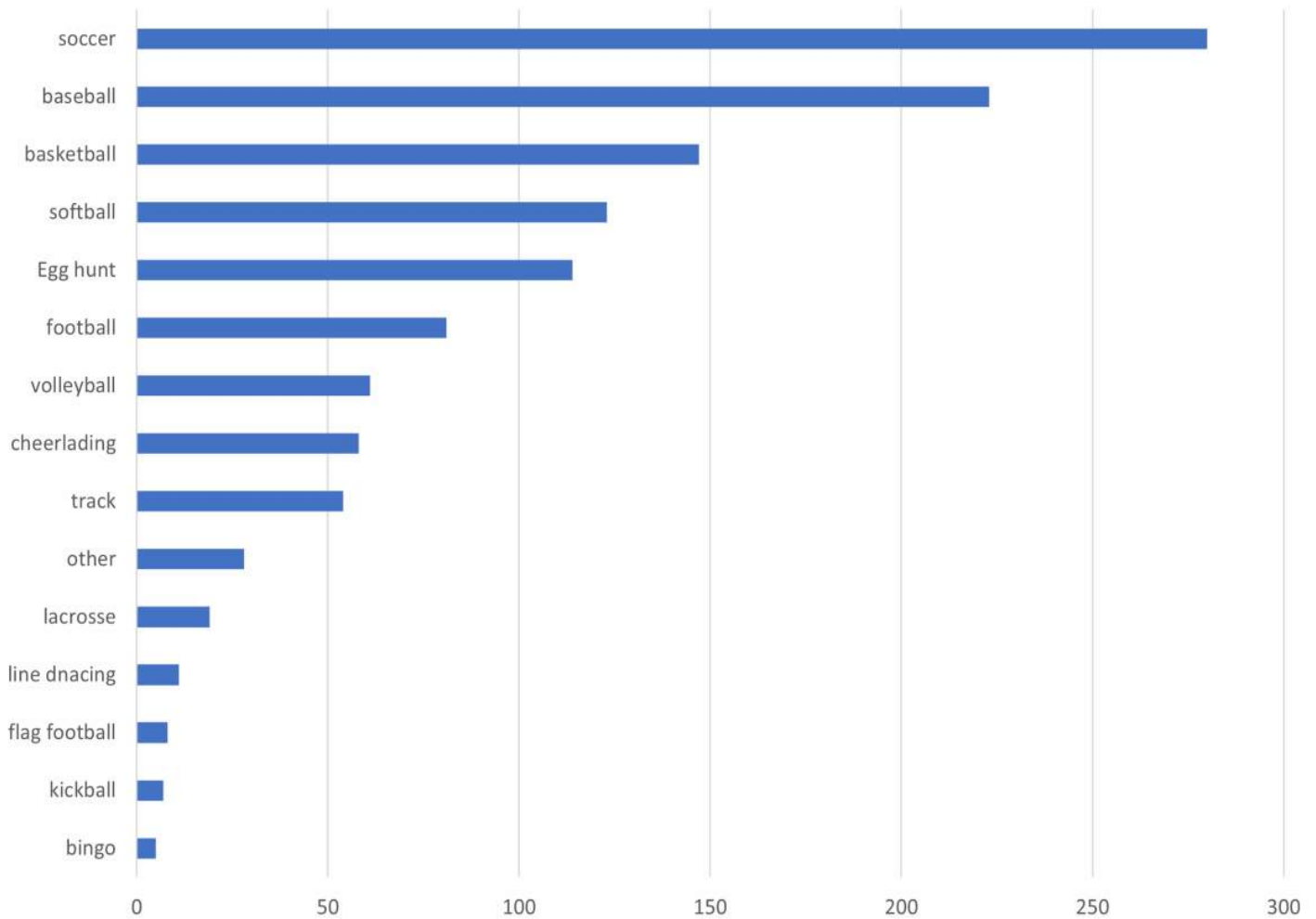
Number of mentions for Q7B - If you regularly visit parks outside of Effingham County, please share why?



Appendix A

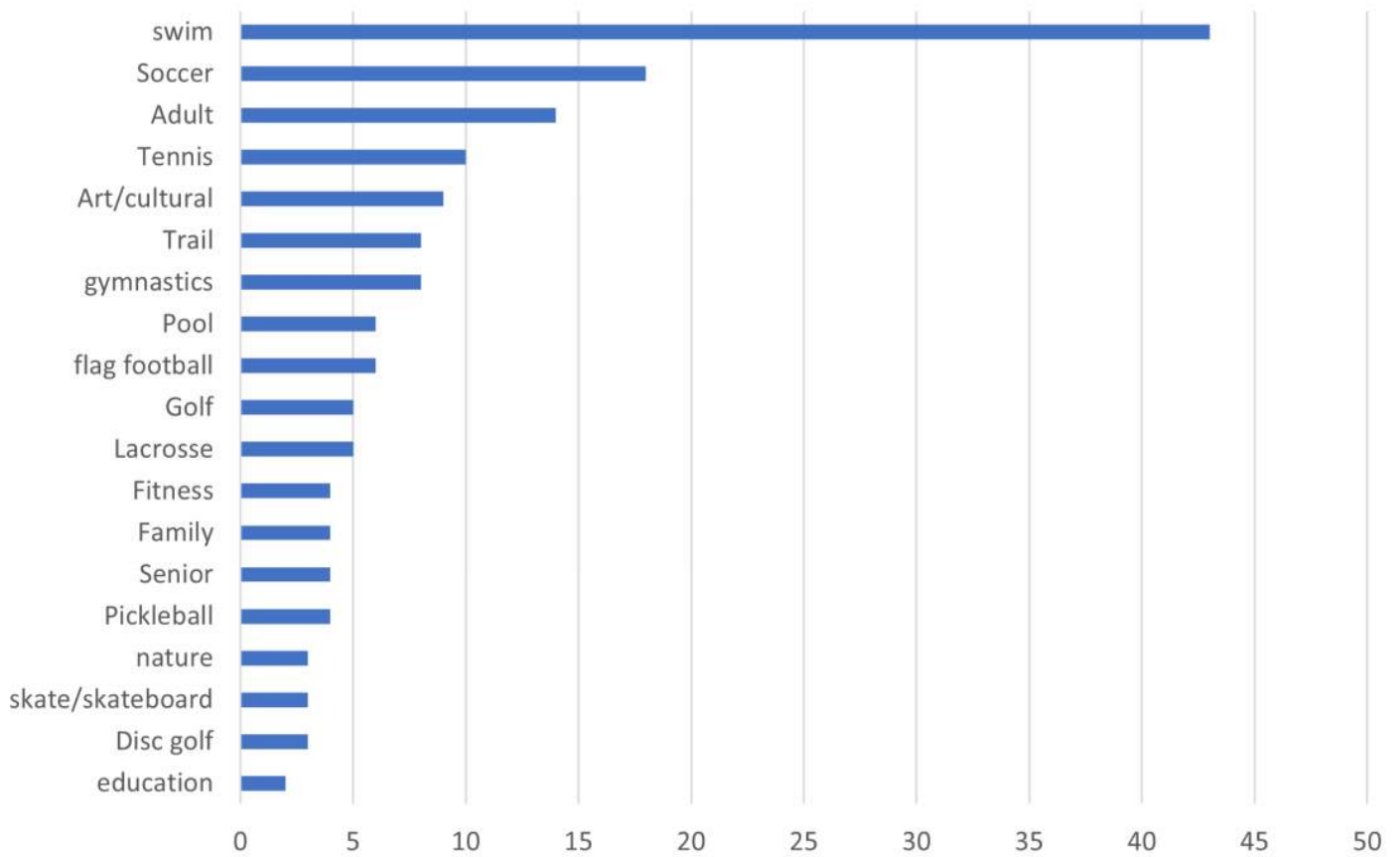
Survey Results Graphics

8. Which of the following Effingham County Recreation programs, leagues, or camps have you participated in during the last five years?



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Survey Results Graphics

Number of mentions for Q9. What other programs do you wish Effingham County Recreation and Parks offered?



Appendix B

Effingham County Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Social Pinpoint Mapping comments

General comments

1. This dot is for the entire map, since dots cannot be placed in the appropriate areas now without examining numerous factors. Dots are needed throughout the county for acquisition of areas to make greenspace, that are connected by greenspace corridors. These should include rivers and creeks, woods, native ecosystems and a mix of environments. They should be in areas experiencing urban and suburban growth as well as other areas and have no to limited development (trails, green parking).
2. At this location everyone needs to be included. Children and adults from 0-150 years old, to include ADA compliance for all disabilities. Using green and organic practices and conservation of the natural fauna when developing the site. Here we should also have cool shaded areas with native plants and other foliage. A walking space and therapeutic gardens. (this particular comment was cut and pasted all over the Social Pinpoint map and will not be repeated in these notes for every instance on the map)
3. Noted on the Savannah River "Some type of safe river access for kayakers."
4. put in a local skatepark! Our kids need recreational spots in the county where they can get out and have fun and get some exercise while at it. Today we are raising indoor kids who sit on their iPads and melt their brains with technology! They need more places to go outside!
5. If you put a skatepark, please make it a true park. Surround the concrete with a large area of greenspace, native plants, trees, and walking trails.
6. The parks we do have, other than Clarence Morgan are not kept up. The playgrounds Are old and the walking areas around bakers pond need a lot of improvement. We need to put money into better play areas and trails. Also, a splash pad would be nice and just more parks in general.
7. Biking trail that allows access to subdivisions & shopping plazas
8. Need a much larger community pool for over 500 houses and more being built. Poor approval from county with this many houses being approved.
9. Could definitely use more designated greenspace in this area. (BlueJay Rd at Hodgeville Rd)
10. This county, based on its size, doesn't have enough recreational areas. More focus is put on Industrial zoning than the well-being of our residence.
11. The fastest growing area in the County needs things down here for residents to do outdoor things at. Common area greenspaces, large pond/lakes for fishing or sailing, ballfields, walking trails, paved trails, bike trails, etc need to be constructed down here. Instead of the County rubber stamping Industrial, how about something we can actually use instead of going to neighboring Counties to use. (noted in the southern most portions of the county)
12. Parks with playgrounds for kids to play and ride bikes, walking trails. We just moved here from NC and there is basically nothing here compared to there.
13. With the influx of people and new housing and apartment developments in this area around hwy 17 and hwy 30, this area will definitely need more retail/groceries stores and a nice public park and pond with walking trails.
14. We need something in the southern tip of the county. I would love yo see greenspace, walking trails, picnic areas, playground, etc. Shady would be great!



Appendix B

Effingham County Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Social Pinpoint Mapping comments

General comments

15. If you expand rec facilities throughout the county, please do it in an environmentally friendly fashion so that it not only helps the environment, but serves people better, too. (le-tree-shaded parking lots, stadium lights that don't stay on when no one is using the facility, greenspace throughout the areas with nature trails and native ecosystems rather than barren green fields surrounded by hot parking lots.

16. Outdoor volleyball nets would be nice for the kids who sign up each year to have the option of being able to practice somewhere on off season

17. Remember when developing new spaces to include all people. This includes people with all disabilities. Please use green structural materials and organic pesticides and fertilizers when developing the site. Create a quiet space for people to practice mindfulness therapy. Develop a walk through meadow garden. And cool spaces for people to cool off. Use conservation strategies and save as many native plants in the area when developing the land as possible.

18. Ulmer Pak has been great for teams to use for practice for years, not to mention that it honors the legacy of Mr. George Upmer.

19. Why not surround all the recreation facilities in the county with true parks - natural areas that contain low maintenance native plants, greenspaces, trees and trails? Would cost much less in maintenance than "facility-based" recreation areas and would be good for people who currently use the recreation areas as well while attracting people who don't play soccer or tennis or football. Oh, yeah, and also good for the environment!



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Effingham County Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Social Pinpoint Mapping comments

Tuckasee King Landing = 0

Tommy Long Landing = 0

Long Bridge Landing = 0

Abercorn Landing = 0

Steel Bridge Landing = 0

Meldrim Park = 0

Meldrim Ball field = 0

Clyo Community center/Park = 1

1. Need more awareness that this park is up here.

McCall Park = 1

1. This would be an ideal place to add more soccer fields, so our kids do not have to travel all the way to Savannah's Jennifer Ross complex. This sport is really taking off and the number of players is exploding.

119 Rec Complex = 2

1. Hopefully you are using organic practices when spraying insecticides, and fertilizers. This will ensure a healthier outcome for our athletes and families. perhaps use the football teams to help get it in order and give each student credits for their labor. (Sweat equity)

2. Football facilities need upgrading/updated. Not enough care/grounds maintenance is being conducted for the football field. If no new fields are going to be built luke rumor states, this football field needs a drastic renovation conducted. With the talent that has been coming to the county and growing up through the programs, more fields need to be constructed.

Veteran's Park = 4

1. When working on the grounds use organic practices for weed control and fertilizer. This will ensure better to the healing process for staff, patients, visitors and families.

2. This would be a great location for some therapeutic gardens. These gardens would be all inclusive for everyone. Accessibility for wheelchairs, stretchers, walkers, the deaf, the blind and persons with cognitive impairments would provide a restful peaceful place outside of the hospital. These would include some pavilions for families to rest and gather while at the hospital.

3. A pollinator garden would be good for not only environmental health, but a good respite for people's physical, emotional, and mental health.

4. In this location, a therapeutic art area would be nice, with peaceful music.



Appendix B

Effingham County Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Social Pinpoint Mapping comments

Baker Lake = 5

1. Could use some more native trees, flowers, and plants here along the path. Maybe install restroom facilities on the north side of walking path for convenience, it's a long way to the bathrooms when you are trekking around the pond on nature calls. Maybe put up a little cottage for art classes, yoga, and ecology and environmental sciences classes. (Using green building techniques and solar.) This would be a great place for a therapeutic garden.
2. Baker Lake has one of the only decent walking trails in the county, but it is not really suited for birdwatching. Effingham County would benefit from having more wooded or wetland trails (similar to Cay Creek in Liberty County). Multi-use trails could be great for birding, biking, jogging, etc.
3. Could a couple of the courts be converted to pickle ball courts? Just remarking court and adding the net.
4. Would love to be able to walk dogs (on leash) here.
5. Would love to have a resource like this on the South end of the county. There is no recreational areas on or near HWY 30. There are a lot of residents on HWY 30 and nowhere safe to walk. I see numerous people walking HWY 30, which is very dangerous.

Pineora Park = 6

1. When doing repairs please consider green techniques and when maintaining the fields organic best practices should be exercised. Could utilize cub scouts, boy scouts, girl scouts and other clubs and even Lowes to get things done.
2. Fields need to be maintained. Clay on the diamonds and holes in outfield repaired. Restroom facilities need repair and lighting system properly fixed, locks cut on power boxes.
3. The bench at the Pineora playground is rusting terribly. It's in an area that can easily cut or injure someone, and if it can't be replaced it need to be removed in the very least.
4. A splash pad or similar attraction would be really nice to have in the summertime! Doesn't require supervision from Lifeguards but it would be a great addition to the county for keeping kids active even in the hot summer months.
5. Why not add nature trails, natural native plant and animal greenspaces? Would be great for everyone and educational for scouts, students, and adults.
6. Adding new walking/biking trails



Appendix B

Effingham County Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Social Pinpoint Mapping comments

Sandhill Park = 9

1. The parking lot at the Sand Hill Complex is terrible and is 10x worse when it rains. Please consider repairing the lot.
2. A rain garden, with sensory gardens and native shade trees. Use the rain drainage to water the foliage in and around the gardens. Need to create more native green spaces, with shade.
3. We are in need of a basketball gym on the south end of the county! A playground would be nice too!
4. Soccer facilities need significant improvements to meet increased demand!!! There is never enough room for all the teams and sport continue to grow faster than any other sport in the area. Parking lot area also needs A LOT of work there!
5. The soccer facilities at Sandhill are outdated and in need of upgrading. This sport has grown tremendously and continues to grow year after year. Our kids have to travel all the way to Jennifer Ross in Savannah to play at quality fields.
6. Wouldn't it be nice to return to a cool car after a 95-degree summer practice or game? Clearly the current parking lot has issues according to the comments. Please consider redoing it green by having a parking lot with large shade trees and a pervious surface where rain goes into the ground instead of becoming polluted run-off.
7. A two-court gym like CEM Gym
8. Soccer improvements at Sand Hill are needed.
9. The expansion of soccer facilities in Effingham County and the Sand Hill Complex is desperately needed. The county is not keeping up with the demand and has the SPLOST funds to do so. Major improvements needed for the sport of soccer. Look at the Jennifer Ross Complex in Savannah for ideas.

Clarence E Morgan Complex = 20

1. Contact the conservation dept for guidance and help. Native plant societies can help you decide what plants should be saved. There is always a work around. The mindfulness area can be used for yoga, tai chi and other restful open air art practices.
2. Perfect location for a skatepark or pump track! If you build it, they will come! If you need sponsors, I can get in touch with friends at Vans and other industry based companies.
3. I would like to see an indoor pool. There are a lot of residents in Effingham County and surrounding areas that have swimmers, but they can only participate in the summer. The closest pools are in Statesboro, Savannah, and Bluffton.
4. The county is overloaded with soccer players without places to play. Every year soccer is played in baseball outfields. Unacceptable for a county this size. Soccer facilities in surrounding areas put Effingham to shame.
5. Where are the "Phase 2" multi-purpose soccer/football fields? I'm still holding my breath that commissioners will spend the SPLOST funds as they promised years before its passing.
6. How about an indoor or outdoor pickle ball court? It's fast becoming a popular game that anyone can play. Also, would like to see a longer "walking trail" than the short trek around the ball fields.



Appendix B

Effingham County Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Social Pinpoint Mapping comments

7. Currently there are no soccer fields at CEM. The number of soccer fields at this location should match the number of baseball fields. The ability to host soccer tournaments here would bring revenue to the county and its businesses. Effingham is not providing for its soccer players, as was originally promised in a “phase 2 design”, but it is also missing out on the ability for the community to capitalize financially.
8. An indoor pool is a must. YMCA 6 weeks swim team is not enough. Lots of Effingham residents are doing the commute to Statesboro, Savannah, and Bluffton to swim all year long with swim teams. Many can't afford all the driving or match the training hours. Not only kids would benefit but water therapy sessions or adult water exercise classes for instance. Build and they will come :-)
9. We have tennis courts at Bakers pond and the YMCA...We could use nice Soccer fields, basketball courts and a community pool. An indoor aquatic center would be super nice and so beneficial for the entire county.
10. Take that same energy, the love for baseball energy, and apply it to new soccer/football fields.
11. Where are the soccer fields shown in the design for phase 2?
12. An Auditorium that can be shared by the schools county-wide. Our children in the arts deserve an actual stage, ample seating for audience and professional sound system to present talent. Working hours on end and performing in a cafeteria with a shotty sound system is disheartening. Allot some money towards the arts, it is much needed.
13. Please!! We need a community pool with lanes to accommodate local swim teams. Chatham is full of school teams and opportunities for young and adult athletes alike. Bryan County is as well. No one likes having to drive to the Aquatic Center 45 minutes away. Plenty of people here to join a community indoor pool. not only will this enhance the physical and mental fitness of our community, it can provide jobs as well. I'd be interested in helping to get this going if needed.
14. A lot of property left undeveloped to just utilize this for baseball and basketball alone. Would like to see multi-purpose fields. Example, football/soccer/lacrosse.
15. And special Olympics training. Therapeutic swimming classes.
16. Our county has a noble reputation in the performing arts sector, and these kids deserve a performing arts facility for their concerts, not a school gym/ lunch room. Not only would this benefit the students, it would benefit the county as a whole by bringing in revenue in many other ways.
17. Volleyball is exploding in the region and county. Some sand courts could provide a fantastic conditioning venue with lower joint stress. Keep it close to water to hose off the sand and hit courts and we could host leagues.
18. Need a community pool
19. Baseball/Basket facilities are top of the line. Parking is better than most if not all other county facilities.
20. Why is this building (CEM gym) locked. It should be open to the public during business hours at least so that our children can get some exercise playing basketball or doing arts and crafts. We could use this space to teach about our environment and the sciences of ecology. Please staff this place.

