City of Trinity
Parks & Recreation
Master Plan

2025

DRAFT ONLY

# Acknowledgments

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*A special thank you to all of the participants
who took their personal time feedback and input
during the planning process.*

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# 1

# Introduction

# History

The City of Trinity boasts a rich history that dates back to its founding in the early 19th century. Named after Trinity College, which later became Duke University, the city was established in 1838 and quickly became a hub of education and culture. Its development is largely contributed by the college and the influx of students and faculty. Today Trinity has evolved from a small college community into a to a City that blends its history with modern enhancements in a manner that preserves its small-town feel.

# Purpose

The Trinity Parks System Master Plan is a comprehensive long-term planning initiative designed to guide the city's park and recreation development over the next decade. This plan considers existing conditions, including insights from previous planning efforts and extensive community engagement, to create a framework for setting future goals for parks and recreation opportunities in the City. Simultaneous to the creation of this system-wide plan, the City of Trinity undertook the development of the Community Park Master Plan, which is referenced within this document. Together, these planning efforts provide the City with recommended site-specific and community-wide infrastructure, policy, and programming enhancements.

# Process

The Trinity Parks System Master Plan was developed through an interactive process of data layering, beginning with an overview of the existing recreation offerings in and around the City of Trinity, analysis of public needs and priorities, formation of a long-range vision, and lastly a strategic plan for implementation. Community engagement served as the backbone of the process, and stakeholders helped develop and review plan findings and recommendations.

| Existing Conditions & Previous Plan Review | → | Community Engagement & Needs Identification | → | Recommendations & Implementation | → |

# 2

# Existing Conditions

# Previous Planning Efforts

The City of Trinity Parks System Master Plan is informed by previous adopted plans and studies related to parks, transportation, and land use. These plans provide insight into the City's priorities, as well as local and regional trends that may influence growth and demographics. Parks are an integral part of creating successful communities and successful system plans work in tandem with land use and transportation planning at both a local and regional scale. To build upon a continuing narrative of planning, studying, and implementing in the City of Trinity, prime importance was placed on the analysis of previous planning documents.

A listing of influencing plans include:

» City of Trinity Comprehensive System-wide Parks and Recreation Plan (2010)

» Trinity-Uwharrie Greenway (2019)

» High Point MPO Bike Plan (2019)

» Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Map (2020)

» City of Trinity Zoning Ordinance (UDO) (2022)

» Vision Trinity, Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2023)

# City of Trinity Comprehensive System-wide Parks and Recreation Plan (2010)

The 2010 plan was created in response to previous efforts put towards establishing increased recreational opportunities within the City. While the plan put forward a future projects list as a result of a needs and analysis assessment, a main focus was to ensure ongoing recreational efforts in neighboring jurisdictions are not being duplicated. The plan focused on three primary recommendations which included:



1. Construct a park in the city center.

2. Develop natural trails, walkways, and greenways connecting key areas, such as Trinity's K-12 schools, Archdale's recreation sites, the proposed Trinity City-Center Park (Trinity City Park), and other locations throughout Trinity.

3. Compile a city-wide inventory of recreational facilities and services.
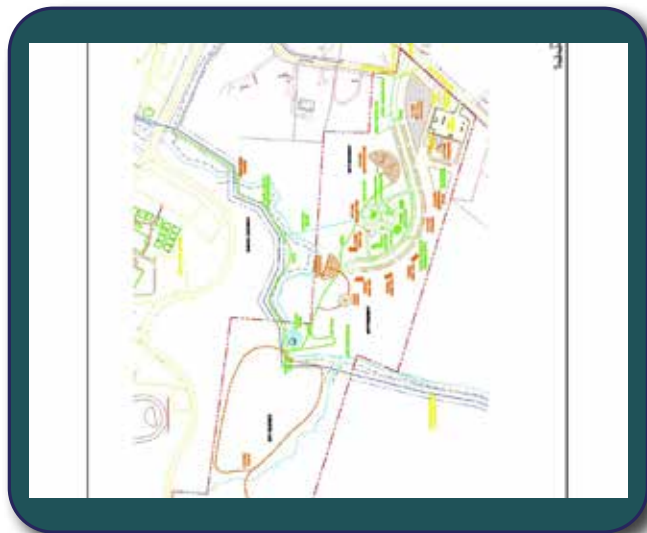
This system plan and the City-Center Park leverages ideas and inputs from the 2010 plan while using up-to-date community engagement to determine ideas and goals from over a decade ago that are still relevant today to help form recommendations not only in this plan, but specific enhancements that contribute to the design of the Community Park. This planning effort specifically seeks to forward the design and construction of the park in addition to strategically expanding the City's trail network.

# Trinity-Uwharrie Greenway (2019)

The Trinity-Uwharrie Greenway is a project resulting from a collaborative effort between the Randolph County School System and the City of Trinity. This partnership aims to establish the first public trail system within the city, significantly enhancing the recreational infrastructure and providing new opportunities for community engagement. In 2019, the City applied for funding through the recreational Trails Program Grant and has yet to receive money for trail development.

The Greenway is proposed to be developed in three distinct phases:

Phase 1: This phase features approximately 0.5 miles of trail along an existing nature path proposed to be maintained by agricultural classes at Trinity High School. It includes a designated trailhead, making it easily accessible to the public and offering a seamless connection to the school's educational programs.

Phase 2: Phase 2 forms a loop around the football stadium and soccer/practice fields at Trinity High School. It also runs along Mendenhall Road Extension, providing a safe and scenic route for walkers, joggers, and cyclists. This phase enhances the connectivity between the school's athletic facilities and the broader community, encouraging active lifestyles and outdoor activities.

Phase 3: This final phase runs parallel to the Uwharrie River, just south of Trinity High School, between NC Highway 62 and Surrett Drive. Notably, it will also pass behind the City-Center Park site, offering residents direct access to the greenway system from within the park. This integration with City-Center Park is a strategic enhancement, making the Greenway a central feature of the city's recreational landscape.

These phases of the Greenway are designed to foster a deeper connection between residents and the natural

**Trinity-Uwharrie Greenway Map**

Greenway By Phase: 1 — 2 — 3

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Trailhead - Parking | 5 Bathing Rock | 8 Trinity College Bell | — Streams |
| 2 Trinity HS Football Field | 6 Baptism Pool | 9 Trinity Grill | |
| 3 Trinity HS Soccer Field | 7 Trinity Baseball Fields | 10 Trinity College Mural | Parcels |
| 4 Trinity High School | | | |

environment, promoting outdoor recreation and cultural appreciation. The project is part of a comprehensive plan to link various parts of the city, creating a cohesive network of trails that cater to diverse recreational interests.

In addition to these planned phases, this plan explores additional trail segments, building upon the City's partnership with Randolph County Schools and upon previous planning efforts to create a more extensive and interconnected greenway system. Phase 1 of the project is directly intertwined with the City Center Park master plan, and represents an opportunity to begin building a network of trails and amenities. While internal connectivity within the City is the initial priority, this plan seeks to ultimately extend multi-modal connectivity to neighboring municipalities. The ultimate goal is to provide a comprehensive recreational space that supports health, well-being, and community interaction for all residents and visitors.

## High Point MPO Bike Plan (2019)

The 2019 plan serves as a comprehensive guide to improve and expand bicycling infrastructure and opportunities within the High Point Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) service area, comprised of several Piedmont Triad municipalities including the City of Trinity. Several recommendations within the plan aim to improve the safety, connectivity, and accessibility of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure within Trinity while also looking at the broader regional network. More specifically, the plan suggests connecting Trinity its neighboring municipality, Archdale, through previously established greenway easements along Rockford Drive.

Additionally, utilizing an existing greenway that connects the NC Highway 62 corridor with Trinity High School is recommended. The proposed interconnectivity between Trinity and Archdale can be further realized via trail improvements within the site master plan, helping bridge north-south connections between the two communities.

## High Point MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan Map (2020)

The 2020 CTP Map reflects community consensus on transportation needs required to support anticipated growth. Multimodal in nature, the plan not only considers future highway needs, but also public transportation, rail, greenway, and bicycle facilities needed to accommodate future growth. The 2020 map outlines several proposed greenways within the City that have been analyzed throughout this planning effort in an effort to determine how they may tie into the established regional network, bringing forward complete greenway segments in the nearer future. This can be accomplished through the implementation of policy recommendations that strategically focus on greenway development in areas identified on the CTP map. Infrastructure recommendations presented within this plan will largely feature the development of the City-Center Park, which will serve as a centralized location for trail expansion in Trinity. Future transportation infrastructure may be developed from this centralized location and connect to neighboring municipalities, like the Town of Archdale.
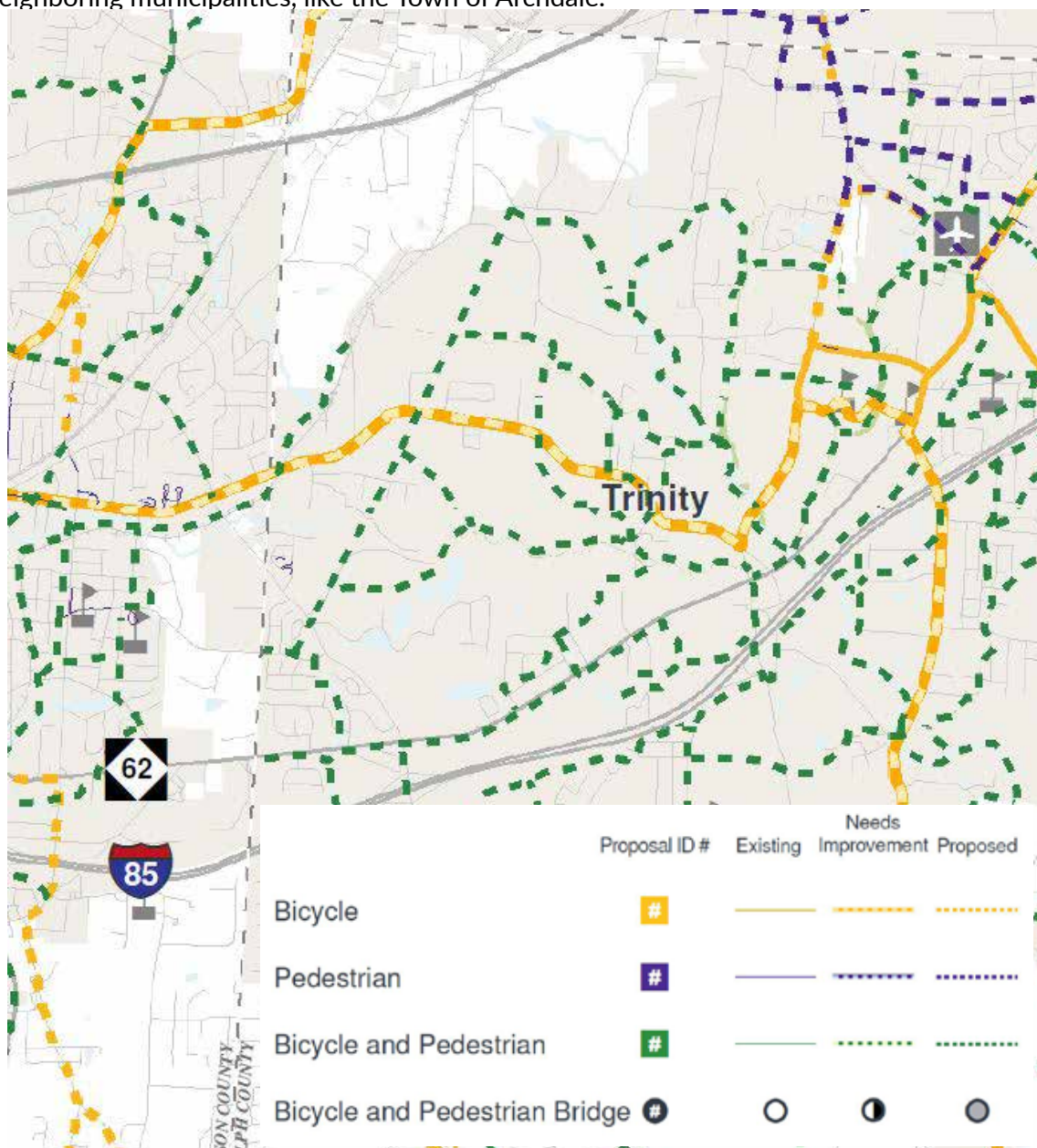
# City of Trinity Zoning Ordinance 2022

The City's Zoning Ordinance provides the regulations for development which closely relate to parks, recreation, and greenways. More specifically, in certain zoning districts (R-12, R-10, RM, and RM-U), at least 20% of the total land area must be designated as open space, excluding private yards, vehicular use areas, and floodways, and featuring amenities like parks, trails, recreation areas, urban plazas, and natural areas, all of which must be accessible and evenly distributed within 1,500 feet of all lots through publicly accessible pathways. These provisions for open spaces within new developments are intended to provide recreational opportunities while also preserving natural areas within the City. Notably, the City's ordinance does not include alternatives to open space requirements, such as fee-in-lieu options or developer-provided infrastructure, which could facilitate City-planned recreational amenities being developed alongside new housing growth. Policy recommendations included in this plan look closely at ways to strengthen recreational regulations for new developments to build upon accessible and well-maintained outdoor spaces for Trinity residents and visitors alike.

# Vision Trinity, 2023 Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The city's current comprehensive plan outlines a long-term planning strategy for the City of Trinity. The plan aims to guide Trinity's growth and development over the next 20 years. Input from the public, stakeholders and local staff are incorporated into this plan as a way of establishing a holistic look into Trinity's future. The plan specifically highlights recreation and open space needs through an analysis of existing park infrastructure and community health. Additionally, the plan puts forward several goals and associated policies that focus on meeting recreational needs for a growing population.



Those most closely related to parks and recreation enhancements include the following:

» Investigate grant funding opportunities for the acquisition and development for active recreation, and open space for passive recreation and preservation.

» Investigate opportunities to acquire property for the development of a multi-use community center catering to all ages. Uses could include City hall activities, community meetings, and other uses catering to the community as a whole.

» Encourage new subdivisions to provide connections to proposed greenways and trails.

» Consider a fee in lieu program whereby development that requires recreational facilities may contribute to the City parks and recreation fund.

Policy, facility and program recommendations in this plan work to directly move forward recommendations from the 2023 with modification as a result from up to date community perspectives gathered through engagement events as part of this planning process. While the plan makes direct recommendations for future park development, a detailed examination of the City's development ordinance also provides insights into expanding private recreation development and alternatives. This plan contains a "playbook" of external funding opportunities that may be reviewed and utilized by City staff during project selection and infrastructure planning.

# 3

# Demographics

# Demographics

To focus the needs that this Master Plan should address, understanding population and demographic makeup is critical. The first step in analyzing the community's demographics and population is to identify trends in historic data and understand future projections. Although this data is static in nature, analysis will allow the City to make more informed decisions based on trends that may impact the delivery of services over the next 10 years. The following population estimates are based on figures provided by the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), the U.S. Census Bureau and American Community Survey.

Three decades ago, the City of Trinity had approximately 5,469 residents. Since then, the City has grown to a population of 7,006 as reported by the 2020 US Census. With this amount of growth, parks and recreation needs have changed and will continue to do so as the population not only increases but diversifies. Three main categories have been analyzed: **population growth**, **population characteristics**, and **housing characteristics**. The following sections highlight significant findings.

## Population Growth

Between 1990 and 2020, the City of Trinity has witnessed an approximate 28% increase in population. Population change from 1990 to 2000 reflected a 22.3% increase, then declined by 1.1% from 2000 to 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, the City's population increased again by 5.9%. On a regional scale, Randolph County has experienced similar population growth trends as the City. In 1990, the County's population was 81,306, climbing by 50% to 121,965 in 2000. Similar to Trinity, the County experienced less growth between 2000 and 2010, but not by much as the County population still increased by 38.5% to 169,878. As of 2020, Randolph County has a population of 215,999, a 27.9% increase from 2010.



According to the anticipated growth rate for Randolph County provided by the North Carolina Office of the State Budget Manager (OBSM), the City of Trinity's population is projected to reach 7,460 by 2035. With this expected increase, it becomes crucial to strategically plan for recreational development in Trinity. The System Overview section of this plan includes benchmarking to offer recommendations on the number of facilities that a community with a population similar to Trinity's current size should have, as well as the projected number of facilities needed as the population grows.
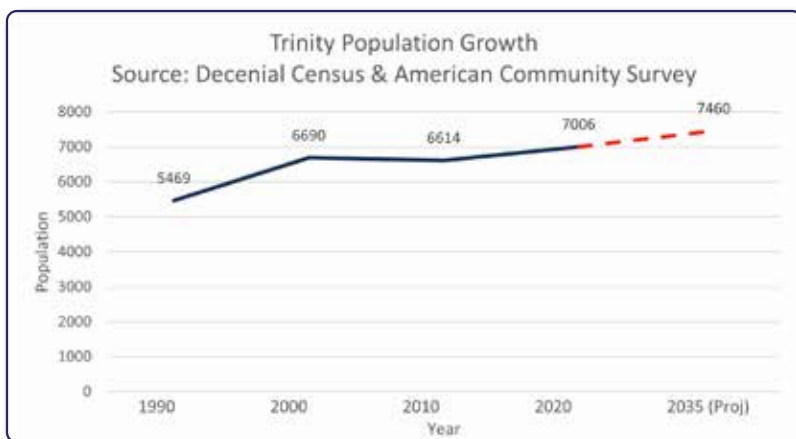
> *While the growth rate of Randolph County was projected to remain steady, it should be noted that Trinity has approximately 1,300 housing units approved for development. With an average household size of 2.62 members in 2022, this equates to a population increase of approximately 3,400 people, almost 50% increase in the City's current population. Recommendations within this plan have been developed to establish a foundation of parks and recreation that can grow organically as housing is constructed.*

## Population Characteristics

While total population and growth can help to determine park and greenway trail level of service goals, population characteristics can help to define what type of facilities will serve the community best. The following population characteristics present a snapshot of population trends with data pulled from 2012 and 2022. This research, among other factors, will help determine needs for parks and facilities.

## Race and Ethnicity

In 2012, the white population accounted for 94.2% of the City's total population. The remaining race distribution in 2012 was the black/African American population at 3.5%, followed by the Asian population accounting for 0.5%, leaving the remaining 1.8% made up by American Indians, pacific islander or native Hawaiian, and other races. The Hispanic Latino ethnicity accounted for 2.2% of the total population in 2012. As of 2022, race distribution is similar to that in 2012, with the most noticeable decrease being the white population by 8.5%. The Asian population has grown by 2.5%. The Hispanic/Latino ethnicity now accounts for 6% of the total population.
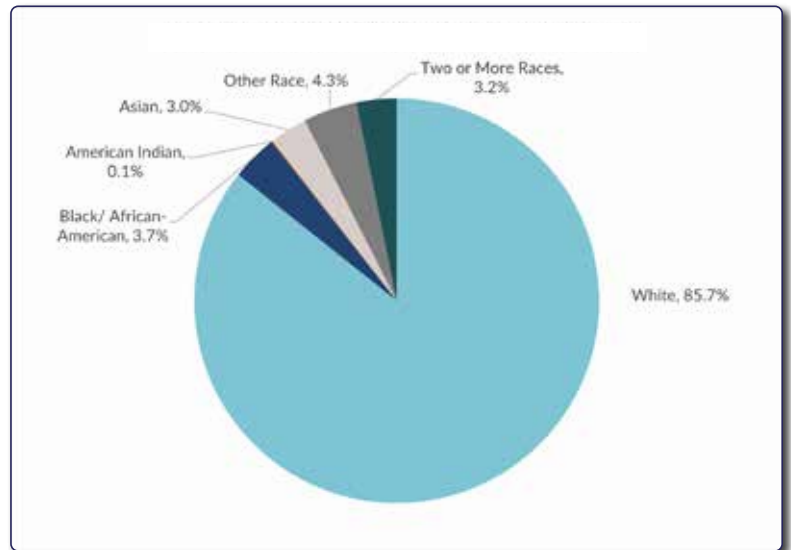


## Age

Age data was pulled from 2012 and 2022 to identify trends in age cohorts. The median age in Trinity in 2022 was 42.2, nearly 4 years younger than that in 2012. The largest age cohort in the City is that of the 65-74 years old age group which accounts for 18.2% of the population, followed by the 25-34 years old cohort which makes up 14% of population. This reflects a very balanced age distribution and slightly aging population.
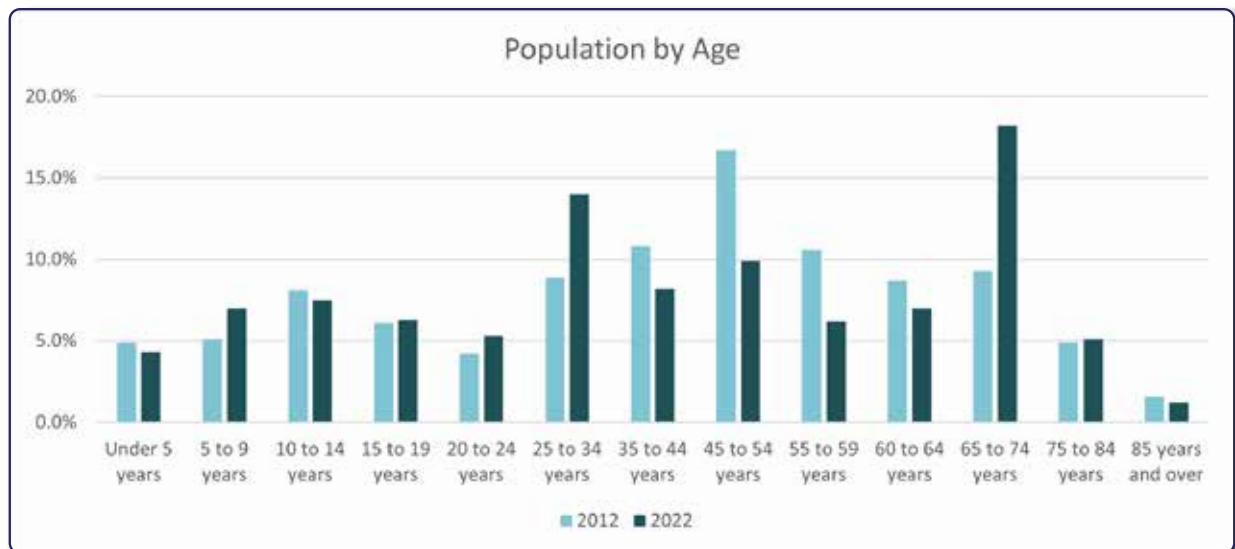


## Gender

Populations seldom see drastic changes in gender. In 2022, the American Community Survey indicated that 50.6% of Trinity residents were women, a 2.2% increase from 2012.
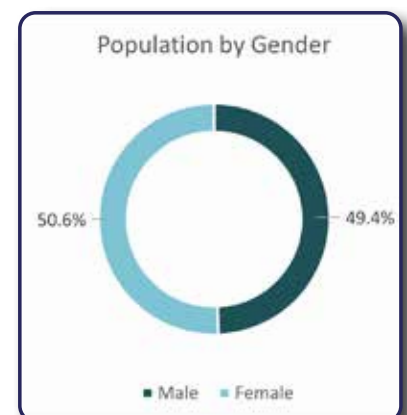
## Income

Trinity residents experienced a significant increase in median household income between 2012 and 2022. Median income in 2022 was $70,368, illustrating a $25,256 rise in income from 2012 and representing a 56% overall increase in a decade. The $100,000 to $149,000 income bracket experienced the largest increase between 2012 and 2022, growing to 12.4% of the total population. The second highest increase was in the $150,000-$200,000 income bracket which grew by 8% between 2012 and 2022. Households earning between $100,000 and $149,999 make up 22% of Trinity's population followed by the 50,000-$74,99 bracket accounting for 16.7%. These figures hint at a somewhat balanced and higher household income distribution within the City. Increased household incomes can also indicate more willingness to pay for private recreation opportunities and/or increased willingness to support municipal recreation expansion.

**2012 Median Income**
**$45,112**
**2022 Median Income**
**$70,368**

## Educational Attainment

The chart shows that between 2012 and 2022, the educational attainment in Trinity, NC has shifted. In 2022, a larger portion of the population falls into the "Some college, no degree" category compared to 2012, indicating increased participation in higher education. However, the percentage of high school graduates has remained relatively stable, while more residents hold advanced degrees (Bachelor's, or higher) in 2022 compared to 2012. These trends suggest progress in post-secondary education.

**Educational Attainment**

## Method of Commute

Between 2012 and 2022 the City experienced two large shifts in the way its residents commute or don't commute to work. Solo commuters declined by 12.7% between 2012 and 2022, which may be attributed to the increase in the teleworking population by 10.4%. Other methods of commute remained largely unchanged. The increase of teleworking from 0.6% in 2012 to 11.0% in 2022 may indicate more flexibility for employees to choose where they live. This in turn increases the importance of a community's amenities and culture, as future residents may be less interested in local employment needs.
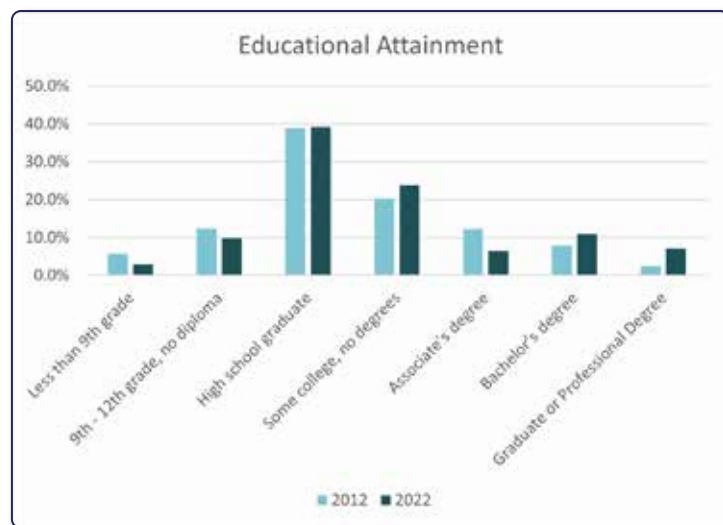
## Housing Characteristics

Of the City's 2,909 total households, 77.8% were owner occupied while 22.2% were renter-occupied and 8% were vacant as of 2022. These 2022 figures reflect a 7.6% increase in renter occupied units and a 7.6% decrease in owner occupied units. The average household and family size increased between 2012 and 2022. The average size grew from 2.48 to 2.62 people in a decade while the family size also grew from 2.91 to 3.15. Nearly 27.7% of households in 2022 had at least one child under the age of 18 and 13% of households were occupied by a person 65 years or older who lived alone. This reflects a decrease in households with a person under the age of 18 by 5.4 percent between 2012 and 2022 and an increase in households occupied by a person over the age of 65 by 4.3%.



## Key Takeways

Key demographic takeaways for the City of Trinity highlight significant trends shaping the community's future. The city is experiencing a linear population growth trajectory, with a diversifying population and an increasing presence of younger families. Educational attainment levels have risen, coupled with a growth in teleworking, potentially driving residents to use private recreation options and/or support expanded City services. Perhaps most notable is the substantial spike in household incomes, underscoring an economic shift that positions the city for enhanced opportunities in development and community investment.

# 4

# System Overview

# System Overview

The City of Trinity's parks network, while currently limited in the number of facilities, includes the centrally located Trinity Community Park. This park, which is operated by the Friends of Trinity organization, serves as a focal point for the community, featuring amenities such as welcome signage, landscaped areas, and improved pathways. The park also houses a gazebo adorned with art created by local citizens and offers covered seating areas for visitors.

Additionally, the concurrent master plan site will expand recreation opportunities provided by the City and is detailed further throughout this plan. In close proximity to the park is Trinity High School, which expands the available recreational facilities with its tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, gymnasium, football and soccer fields, and outdoor basketball courts. These facilities provide a variety of sports and recreational activities for both students and the wider community. Trinity Elementary and Middle Schools, both located less than half a mile from master plan site, offer playgrounds, a multipurpose field, and outdoor play equipment, a walking track and a baseball field also able to accommodate softball.

The Carl & Linda Grubb YMCA, situated less than one and a half miles from Community Park, offers a private recreational facility that includes an aquatic center, exercise equipment, and a gymnasium. This range of facilities allows the YMCA to accommodate sports such as basketball, volleyball, and soccer, as well as swim lessons and wellness classes.

The Thomasville Aquatic Center is another facility in close proximity of the City of Trinity that residents can travel by vehicle to access a wide range of facilities including an outdoor pool and room rentals with event space. Programs offered at the neighboring facility include senior and youth swimming groups, swim lessons, summer camps, and public swim teams.

Creekside Park is a large and well-maintained public park located in Archdale, North Carolina. It serves as a central hub for outdoor recreation and community activities in the area. The park is known for its scenic environment, which includes wooded areas, walking trails, and open spaces. Sports facilities at the park include baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts and basketball courts. There is also an 18-hole disc golf course at the park, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and walking trails. Archdale also hosts a dog park in Barkdale Park. This facility has two areas for both large and small dogs.

These facilities collectively offer a variety of recreational opportunities within Trinity. Although some of these amenities are privately operated, there is potential for public-private partnerships and joint-use agreements with Randolph County Schools. Such collaborations could expand access to these facilities, benefiting both residents and visitors to Trinity by providing more comprehensive recreational options and promoting community well-being.

# Program Inventory and Analysis

This section will provide an overview of recreational programs available to Trinity residents although not operated by the City. While Trinity does not offer program opportunities, both its public and private neighbors do. As discussed previously in the System Overview section, the Carl and Linda Grubb YMCA operates several facilities within the YMCA site located on Trinidale Road, resulting in several program offerings. These programs range from youth, teen, and adult athletics, including swim, volleyball, soccer, and basketball, along with various specialized programs such as wellness classes and fitness instruction. The Grubb Soccer Complex located on Turnpike Road , as part of the YMCA hosts youth and adult soccer opportunities. East of the City of Trinity lies the City of Archdale, which operates recreational facilities, including Creekside Park which featured 3-miles of trails, an 18-hole disc golf course, four lighted tennis courts, three ball fields, 4 ballfields, sand volleyball, playgrounds, basketball and shelters available for rent.

Between these facilities, the City of Archdale can host youth, teen, adult, and senior programs ranging from conventional sports to childcare and specialty classes that include arts and crafts and fitness. To the west, the City of Thomasville also operates an expansive recreation network. Notably and as previously mentioned in the System Overview section of this plan, the Parks and Recreation Department constructed the Thomasville Aquatics and Community Center which features a swimming pool, splash pad area, water slides, and internal programming opportunities. As a close neighbor, the City of Trinity can focus on building partnerships with these existing recreational offerings, and minimizing redundancy in what the City provides its own residents. As Trinity's City-Center Park moves forward, program opportunities will increase, further diversifying recreational offerings between both the private and public offers the Carl and Linda Grubb YMCA and municipal neighbors.

## Staffing and Operations Analysis

With the addition of a new park, the City of Trinity will need to ensure proper staffing is in place to meet the needs of existing and future residents using its facilities. The City does not currently have a recreation department and will need to strategically evaluate the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members to assist in facilitating and maintaining a new park. FTE positions that are above national benchmarks can represent redundancy of department responsibilities and/or exceptionally high levels of service. Lower FTE's may depict a department with limited manpower or departments that are extraordinarily efficient in serving their communities.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), a City the size of Trinity should have 9.6 FTE's in place to serve recreational needs of its residents. These numbers do not depict reality given the current state of the park land operated by the City. Looking ahead to 2035 when the City's population is estimated to total approximately 7,460, the deficit of FTE's will increase to 10.2.

Currently, the City can be considered to operate very efficient parks and recreation services. City maintenance staff assist with parkland upkeep in addition to their primary responsibilities with the City. It should be noted that the construction of the City-Center Park Site Plan can create operational and programming staff needs. It is anticipated that at least one full-time employee will be located at the site, and future programmers will need to be considered as the community center and any organized athletics are developed.

## Operating Budget

Operational funds are allocated for various needs of the department over the year including employee salaries, professional services, and general maintenance. National benchmarking indicates that agencies of similar size to Trinity have a median operating expenditure of $135.53 per resident. With a population of approximately 7,012 residents according to the American Community Survey, the City of Trinity would have a benchmark median expenditure of $950,336.

The City's 2023-2024 fiscal year budget indicated that the parks and recreation revenues equaled expenditures with an amount of $3,900. This limited budget is largely in part to the City not operating a Parks and Recreation department, nor committing to any significant parks and recreation facilities and upkeep in the past. However, as the public continues to show an interest in expanding park facilities and programming within the City, careful consideration budget will be required to strategically expand facilities, onboard staff and programmers, and consider expanded maintenance requirements within the City.

## Level of Service Analysis (LOS)

The purpose of a Level of Service Analysis (LOS) is to quantify how adequately existing park facilities are serving the needs of residents. LOS in Trinity was based on three factors, including park land acreage, number of facilities, and access to public recreational facilities.  The analysis ultimately helps identify areas of Trinity that are underserved in terms of recreational opportunities.

## Acreage Level of Service

When measuring LOS for existing park land acreage, the total number of public park acres are divided by 1,000 residents currently residing within a community. For communities similar in size to Trinity, the NRPA suggests a median of 12.6 acres of park are provided per 1,000 residents. Based on the current park land totals including the future 31.38-acre City-Center Park, the City had a deficit of 56.8 acres in 2022, and is projected to experience a 62.4 acre deficit in 2035. These deficits reflect a comparison of the City of Trinity to similar sized communities across the United States, but do not reflect required metrics. The assess the acreage of parks to inform future land acquisition and development recommendations.

| Acres of Park Land (acres / 1,000 residents) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | NRPA Benchmark | NRPA (ac.) | Trinity (ac.) | +/- |
| 2022 | 12.6 ac / 1,000 residents | 88.4 | 31.55 | -56.8 acres total |
| 2035 | 12.6 ac / 1,000 residents | 94.0 | 31.55 | -62.4 acres total |

## Facility Level of Service

The second variable used in the LOS analysis was the total number of facilities per population. Like acreage, the NRPA recommends a certain number of facility types for communities of comparable size to Trinity. Given that Trinity does not currently operate any facilities of its own until the City-Center Park moves forward, the City has a deficit of almost every facility type evaluated. However, community engagement drives the recommendations for future facilities, as benchmarking items only reflect what other communities of a similar size are offering residents and visitors.

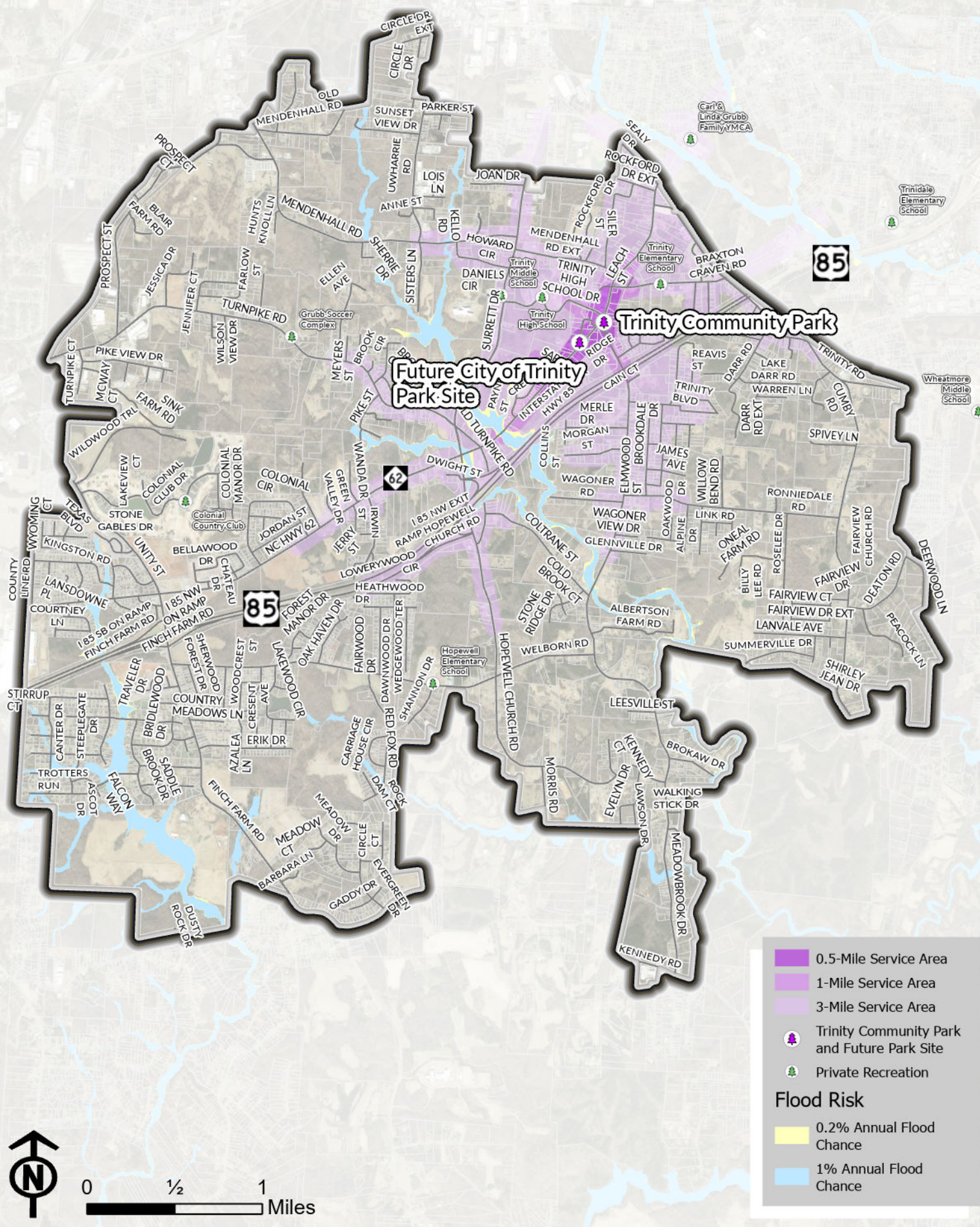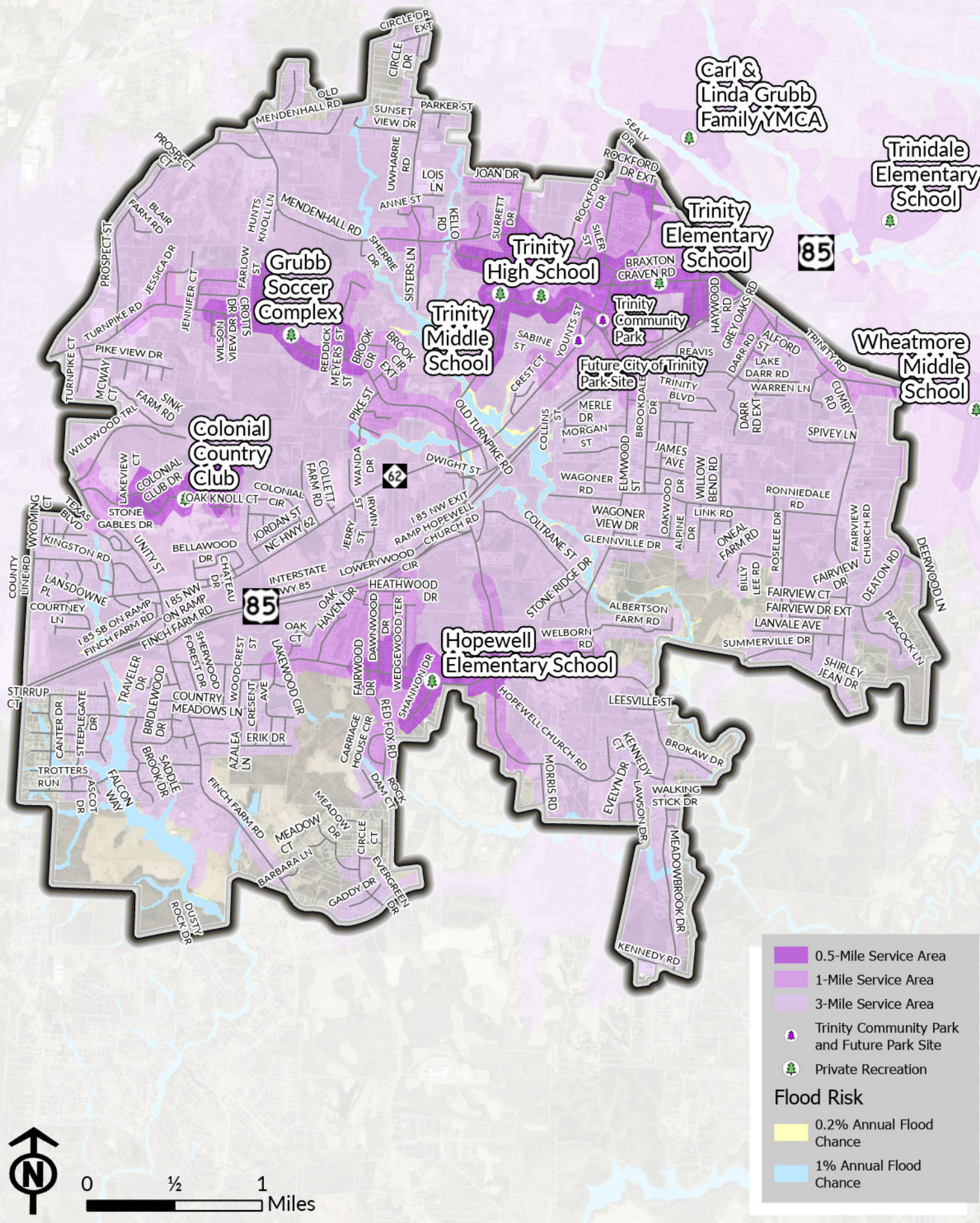| Facility | National Averages (Jurisdictions < 20,000) | 2022 Population (Est. 7,012) | | | |
| | | NRPA | Trinity | Median Number of Residents/Facility (2024 Benchmarks) | +/- |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Playgrounds or play structures | 1 / 1990 | 4 | 0 | 1990 | -4 |
| Diamond fields | 1 / 1833 | 4 | 0 | 1833 | -4 |
| Basketball courts, standalone | 1 / 4366 | 2 | 0 | 4366 | -2 |
| Rectangular fields | 1 / 2493 | 3 | 0 | 2493 | -3 |
| Tennis courts | 1 / 3074 | 2 | 0 | 3074 | -2 |
| Dog parks | 1 / 10327 | 1 | 0 | 10327 | -1 |
| Tot lots | 1 / 5323 | 1 | 0 | 5323 | -1 |
| Community gardens | 1 / 8800 | 1 | 0 | 8800 | -1 |
| Swimming pools | 1 / 9500 | 1 | 0 | 9500 | -1 |
| Skateboard parks | 1 / 11284 | 1 | 0 | 11284 | -1 |
| Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc. | 1 / 5248 | 1 | 0 | 5248 | -1 |
| Pickleball | 1 / 3390 | 2 | 0 | 3390 | -2 |
| Multiuse courts – tennis, pickleball | 1 / 4634 | 2 | 0 | 4634 | -2 |
| 18-hole golf courses | 1 / 9626 | 1 | 0 | 9626 | -1 |
| Driving range stations | 1 / 2122 | 3 | 0 | 2122 | -3 |
| Synthetic rectangular fields | 1 / 11284 | 1 | 0 | 11284 | -1 |
| Volleyball courts, standalone | 1 / 9250 | 1 | 0 | 9250 | -1 |
| Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers | 1 / 12756 | 1 | 0 | 12756 | -1 |
| Fitness zones/Exercise stations | 1 / 8233 | 1 | 0 | 8233 | -1 |
| Disc golf courses | 1 / 11079 | 1 | 0 | 11079 | -1 |
| Ice rinks | 1 / 8015 | 1 | 0 | 8015 | -1 |
| Walking loops/Running tracks | 1 / 5459 | 1 | 0 | 5459 | -1 |
| Nine-hole golf courses | 1 / 17750 | 0 | 0 | 17750 | 0 |
| Overlay fields | 1 / 10584 | 1 | 0 | 10584 | -1 |
| Racquetball/Handball/ Squash courts | 1 / 13350 | 1 | 0 | 13350 | -1 |
| Waterparks | 1 / 17813 | 0 | 0 | 17813 | 0 |
| Miles of Trail | 4.5 miles | 4.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -4.5 |

# Access Level of Service

Access Level of Service (LOS) is another method used to evaluate how accessible a park is within the overall network. This approach helps the planning team identify gaps in the park system and strategize future connections or park additions. Access LOS is generally measured by distance, expressed in miles or travel time, indicating the effort required for someone to reach a park facility.

The project team assessed both public and private recreation offering access to provide a more comprehensive picture of recreational access. Examining both public and private recreation options is essential because it ensures a holistic understanding of the community's overall recreational access. Public parks are foundational for equitable access, while private facilities can supplement offerings and fill gaps in service, especially in areas underserved by public resources. By considering both types, we can better identify connectivity opportunities, ensure fair distribution of recreational amenities, and plan for a well-rounded parks system that meets the diverse needs of the community.

For this assessment, a distance of 1/2 mile is considered a comfortable walking distance, 1 mile is regarded as a long walk or a short bike ride, and 3 miles corresponds to a bike ride or a brief drive. This framework helped to evaluate how well current and planned facilities serve the community and identify opportunities to enhance access further.

The first map depicts the City's current public park facilities. This map illustrates Trinity Community Park and the future City Center park site providing access across the central and northeastern limits of the City. The second map considers the inclusion of private facilities into the analysis of park access. Gaps identified when including private facilities are present in the southwest and southeast regions of the City.  These maps show that Trinity requires public facilities to ensure equitable access to recreation, however, private facilities can support the overall system by providing accessible recreation opportunities. These maps also illustrate that the largest gaps in the Trinity system are present in the southwestern and southeastern limits.

Public Recreation Access Level of Service

City of Trinity

## Legend

**Map Labels**
- Trinity Community Park
- Future City of Trinity Park Site

**Service Areas**
- 0.5-Mile Service Area
- 1-Mile Service Area
- 3-Mile Service Area
- Trinity Community Park and Future Park Site
- Private Recreation

**Flood Risk**
- 0.2% Annual Flood Chance
- 1% Annual Flood Chance

N

0   ½   1   Miles

# Public & Private Recreation Access Level of Service

## City of Trinity

**Legend:**
- 0.5-Mile Service Area
- 1-Mile Service Area
- 3-Mile Service Area
- Trinity Community Park and Future Park Site
- Private Recreation

### Flood Risk
- 0.2% Annual Flood Chance
- 1% Annual Flood Chance

**Labeled Features:**
- Carl & Linda Grubb Family YMCA
- Trinidale Elementary School
- Trinity Elementary School
- Trinity High School
- Trinity Middle School
- Trinity Community Park
- Future City of Trinity Park Site
- Wheatmore Middle School
- Grubb Soccer Complex
- Colonial Country Club
- Hopewell Elementary School

0   ½   1 Miles

N

# 5

# Community Engagement

# Community Engagement Throughout the Planning Process

Engagement was a cornerstone of developing the City of Trinity Parks and Recreation System Plan and the City-Center Park site. Through collaboration with the community, stakeholders, and a dedicated steering committee, the planning process ensured that public input and local priorities shaped the vision for both the broader parks system and the design of City Center Park. This inclusive approach helped identify key needs, refine design concepts, and establish recommendations that reflect the values and aspirations of Trinity's residents.

## Engagement Event #1

On August 23rd, 2024, a community engagement event took place at Trinity High School during the first football game of the season. The project team set up a booth and interacted with attendees, gathering their input on what they envision for the future 33-acre City park as well as the overall park system. Display boards at the booth posed questions about preferred locations for new parks, desired types of facilities, and the parks they visit outside the city along with reasons for their choices. The most favored facility type was a performance amphitheater, widely supported for its potential to host events like concerts. Basketball courts, greenways, and walking trails were also popular. Many attendees expressed a preference for Creekside Park in Archdale, noting its diverse amenities such as a dog park, tennis, and pickleball courts that cater to all ages. Additionally, feedback on potential park locations within City limits included suggestions for sites just south of the high school, north of the high school off Mendenhall Road Extension, and south of Interstate 85 off Finch Farm Road. The event highlighted the community's active participation and enthusiasm for enhancing local recreational spaces.

## Project Steering Committee

The steering committee played a central role in shaping both the City of Trinity's Parks and Recreation System Plan and the City Center Park Specific Master Plan. Serving as a key advisory body, the committee provided guidance, reviewed project proposals, and ensured that community priorities were integrated into the planning process.

The project team engaged the committee early on by presenting two distinct design concepts for the City Center Park. These concepts incorporated input gathered from public engagement efforts, outlining different approaches to programming and layout. The committee evaluated each alternative, offering feedback and working to identify a single preferred concept that best aligned with the community's vision. Through this process, they helped refine the plan, selecting specific amenities and features to be programmed into the site based on public priorities, such as walking trails, playgrounds, and event spaces.

In addition to focusing on the City Center Park, the steering committee also reviewed broader recommendations for the city's parks and recreation system. This included discussing access and connectivity within the overall network, prioritizing gaps to address, and exploring the possibility of establishing a formal parks and recreation department. By taking a comprehensive view of both individual park design and system-wide needs, the committee ensured the resulting plans would serve the City of Trinity's long-term recreational goals while reflecting the needs and desires of its residents.

## Stakeholder Interviews

A series of stakeholder interviews were conducted with the City's elected officials, Randolph County Schools faculty, and City residents. Hearing feedback from those heavily involved in all aspects of the City helped to understand the current state and desired direction for existing and future facilities and programs.

In summary, the following perspectives were offered during these interviews:

» Prioritize the development of trail and greenway systems that compliment and connect surrounding municipalities.

» Further investigate the feasibility of establishing an amphitheater on the City-owned future park site.

» Strategically invest in recreational facilities based on community needs while also honoring the rich history of Trinity within a future parks system.

## Community Survey

An online community survey was conducted with the goal of accumulating information regarding the appetite and preffered amenities for the future of Trinity parks and recreation. The Online Community Survey comprised of 16 questions for respondents to answer.

A total of 213 respondents completed the online survey and provided an array of answers to recreation and park opportunities they would like available. Several key themes form the survey results stood out, including the following:

» Respondents emphasized the need for enhanced recreational facilities and programs, particularly outdoor adventures, arts programs, town-wide events, youth programming, and special needs accessibility.

» High interest in developing trail systems to connect Trinity with neighboring municipalities, reflecting a regional and community-oriented perspective.

» Most households want new facilities, such as playground, walking loops or trails, and picnic shelters, which can reduce reliance on facilities outside the city.

» Nearly 80% of participants supported establishing a formal Parks and Recreation Department, signaling interest in improved organization and funding.

» There is a desire to honor Trinity's history while developing modern recreational facilities, ensuring a balance between progress and preservation.

» Residents prefer funding improvements primarily through the use of grants (~75% most preferred).

» Green spaces, amphitheaters, and community-driven events were frequently mentioned as priorities for future investments.

The following provides a detailed summary of the responses gathered for each of the 17 questions included in the community survey. These insights reflect the community's preferences, priorities, and perspectives regarding parks, recreation, and future development in the City of Trinity. The results help identify key trends and areas of interest that will guide decision-making for park improvements, program expansion, and strategic investments in recreational facilities.

**Q1. Please indicate your household's top three desired park facilities (such as basketball courts or playgrounds):**
The most preferred facility type is playgrounds, with greenways and walking trails also receiving notable popularity among households.

**Q2: Please indicate your household's top three desired programs for Trinity:**
The top desired program was special events followed by outdoor/adventure programs and youth programming.

**Q3. Would you support the development of additional park facilities within the city?**
Nearly 74% of respondents are in support for additional recreation facilities, with 13% opposed and 13% unsure.

**Q4. Where does your household go for recreation needs?**
Community members frequent parks and facilities outside of Trinity, with Archdale, High Point, and Thomasville referred often. The data suggests a need for local recreational options to reduce reliance on neighboring areas.

**Q5. Would you support the establishment of a City of Trinity Parks and Recreation Department?**
There was a strong majority support (79%) for establishing a City Parks Department. This indicates a community desire for a more structured approach to parks and recreation management.

**Q6. What funding methods do you most support for future recreation and parks?**
About 75% of participants desired the use of grants as a funding mechanism, suggesting a reluctance to take on debt.

**Q7. Please indicate below the amount of additional funding you would support per month, if any, per household, to improve park maintenance and expand recreation programs.**
The majority of respondents (~72%) support some level of funding, with most preferring contributions of $5 or less. This indicates cautious support for funding increases but suggests a need for modest proposals that align with residents' willingness to pay.

**Q8. Have you or your family ever visited the subject property for the future City-Center Park?**
~20% of participants have visited the City Center park site. It is anticipated that awareness of the site will grow as facilities are constructed.

**Q9. If you have visited the site, what sort of activities have you participated in?**
Of those who have visited the future park site, a majority have participated in walking and general exercise.

**Q10. What recreational activities do you feel are most appropriate for the community park site?**
The most desired recreational features for the community park site are playgrounds (about 72%), walking loops (65%), and greenway/trails (60%), highlighting a strong preference for family-friendly and outdoor activity spaces.

**Q11. What sort of events would you like to see at the community park?**
The majority of survey respondents expressed a strong preference for holiday celebrations (nealry 83%), followed by markets (60%) and live music/concerts (63%), as the most desired events at the community park, highlighting a focus on community-centric and festive activities.

## Engagement Event #2

On December 5th, a community engagement event took place at Trinity Middle School during the City's winter holiday celebration. The project team shared preliminary concepts for the City Center park site, asked attendees what elements they would like to see in Trinity's future park. Participants were largely excited about the proposed improvements identified in the plan concepts, and highlighted improvements related to playground visibility, rental space, dog park facilities, and trail development. When asked about a potential community center facility, event participants noted that flexible programming space would be necessary to serve the Trinity community. Feedback from the event continued to inform the refinement of the park concepts into a final master plan. Further details regarding the park concepts may be found in Chapter 6.
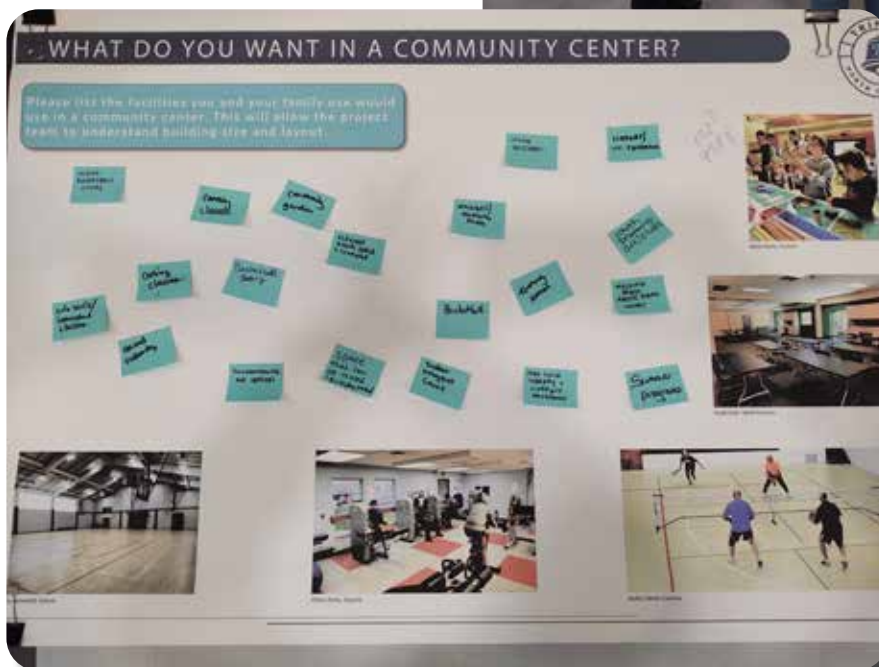
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# 6
# Opportunities

# System Plan Vision & Goals

The City of Trinity Parks and Recreation System Vision was developed through an extensive public engagement process involving multiple workshops, a public survey, and iterative meetings with community stakeholders. The Vision reflects the intent of the Trinity community to create public spaces and opportunities for residents and visitors alike over the next 10-years. The Vision statement and subsequent goals have been developed to identify planning priorities. However, goals may be modified as needs change within the system or other components of the plan are completed.

## Vision Statement

*The City of Trinity will enhance the community's quality of life through strategic investments that establish new recreation opportunities, establish new greenway and trail connections, and support future infrastructure opportunities. The City will work with community and regional partners to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy a diverse array of recreation opportunities regardless of age, race, sex, and creed.*

## Plan Goals

» Develop a centralized park facility that serves as a community gathering space for Trinity residents and visitors.

» Continue engaging residents and visitors to better understand recreation preferences and needs.

» Interconnect the City through a ongoing trail and greenway projects.

» Ensure equitable access to Trinity facilities and programs.

» Identify policy and partnership opportunities to strategically serve the Trinity community and greater region.

## System Plan Recommendations & Implementation

To forward the established plan vision and subsequent goals, the following section identifies the recommendations put forward by the plan.

## Facility Challenges & Opportunities

The primary and most critical recommendation of this plan is to pursue the development of the "City-Center Park" park master plan. This master plan was designed concurrent to the development of the Parks and Recreation System Plan, and was developed based on community input and feedback from Trinity residents and visitors. The master plan, incorporated within this system plan, is designed to create a widely-needed central gathering space for the Trinity community.

This provides the City with a very unique opportunity to clearly define what its parks and recreation offerings look like. Public engagement has identified that many participants regularly go to Creekside Park in Archdale for recreation needs. Creekside Park is unique in that it provides a plethora of recreation opportunities on a singular site. This creates a one-stop-shop for Archdale residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy various facilities, programs, and classes. The City of Trinity would benefit from establishing a similar recreation complex. While carefully reducing redundancy in the offerings of each facility, the City could create a gathering spot for the community members which houses programming, staff offices, various recreation facilities, and works in tandem with the Randolph County School System to support High School athletics.

Furthermore, the System Plan seeks to look beyond the establishment of a municipal complex to determine where smaller, neighborhood-serving facilities could be located in the future. Small-scale parks, containing 2-3 facilities and passive features could support and supplement park access throughout the city. Strategically connecting these park sites to sidewalks and greenways can establish a greater interconnected recreation network within Trinity and beyond to neighboring municipalities.

## Facility Recommendations

### City-Center Park Master Plan

The primary and most critical recommendation of this plan is to pursue the development of the "City Center" park master plan. This master plan was designed concurrent to the development of the Parks and Recreation System Plan, and was developed based on community input and feedback from Trinity residents and visitors. The master plan, incorporated within this system plan, is designed to create a widely-needed central gathering space for the Trinity Community.

Initial park concepts were inspired by New London Memorial Park in New London, North Carolina and Creekside Park in Archdale, North Carolina. These parks provide users with a variety of recreation facilities and programmable spaces, and serve all types of park users. The City of Trinity sought to create, but not emulate, a similar one-stop shop for recreational opportunities. Due to the proximity of the park location



*New London Memorial Park*

to Creekside Park, the master plan concepts were designed to limit the redundancy of facility offerings in an effort to create a more diverse and regionally-serving suite of recreation opportunities. As the first City-owned and operated park, the City Center park would serve as the foundation for future recreation offerings. The site has appropriately been designed so that recreation offerings can be expanded as the City grows.



*Creekside Park*
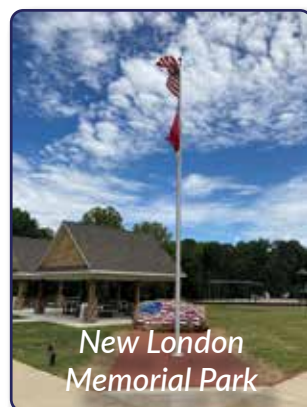
Additionally, portions of the park master plan are within or adjoin Trinity High School property. As noted in policy recommendations below, the strategic location of the park offers opportunities for joint-use of recreation facilities between the City and Randolph County Schools. Discussion with school staff and leadership illuminated the desire to leverage the park site for cross-country training, providing opportunities to enhance partnerships with Randolph County Schools. Furthermore, the natural features and history of the site also create educational opportunities for Trinity High School students.

## Site Analysis

During the planning process the project team gathered mapping data and visited the site to document features that would be considered opportunities and constraints for park development.  This analysis of the site took



*Existing Conditions*



*Existing Conditions*

into consideration the influence of both natural and cultural features.  Natural features included topography and drainage patterns, rock out croppings, vegetation, and an area identified as wetlands.  The northern portion of the park site exhibits steeper slopes, is completely wooded and a stream crosses the site from NE to SW.  Cultural features include existing buildings, parking, easements and utilities as well as historical features such as the "bathing rock" which was an area used by students at Trinity College.  The project team also documented adjacent land uses, opportunities for access and connections, both vehicular and pedestrian. These aspects of the site are illustrated on the following map.



**LEGEND**

TOTAL AREA 33 ACRES

| | |
|---|---|
| PROPERTY LINE | |
| WETLAND | |
| 5-10% SLOPE | |
| 10% SLOPE & ABOVE | |
| STREAM | |
| WATER FLOW | |
| SEWER EASEMENT | |
| TREELINE | |

VEHICULAR ACCESS

HIGH POINT

EXPOSED ROCK

A  POLICE SUB STATION

B  CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

C  MAINTENANCE BUILDING

PARKING LOT

**SITE INVENTORY**

TRINITY PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WithersRavenel

## Concept Alternatives

The following concepts illustrate two alternatives for park development. Program elements illustrated by both concepts reflect the engagement and priorities of the community, staff and the steering committee. While several of the program elements are the same and some similarly located, the overarching differences between the concepts include the overall approach to landscape character, area dedicated to flexible open space, placement of a community center, and the adaptive reuse of the maintenance building.

Those features which are present in both plans and occupy the same space include the configuration of parking, dog park, and relocation of the city's maintenance facility, and the preservation of two existing buildings.

The northern area of the park is also treated similarly in both concepts. On land owned by the school system, the concept plans illustrate a system of trails both paved and accessible as well as natural surface trails. Paved trails connect the park facilities to Trinity High School Drive and the high school campus. The plan identifies three potential locations for future pedestrian crossings. The location of the paved trails utilizes the clearing associated with the utility line that crosses the site and also provides access to the bathing rock. The location of natural trails create walking loops. Trail crossings of the existing stream is limited to two. Both of these are associated with paved trails.

In both concepts, the city's maintenance area is relocated to a portion of the property accessed from Surrett Drive. This site includes about 0.6 acres of the property.

Each concept includes park features which are similar, but they occupy different locations within the park. These features include the following:

### Veterans Memorial

A space for a veterans memorial is illustrated in each concept. In each, the location of the space is different but in both, it is part of the experience entering the park. In Concept A, the space is more intimate and separate from the rest of the park space. In Concept B, the space is associated with the open lawn space. The design of the memorial is not specified by the master plan and should be the subject of a separate design process. While memorial precedents were considered during the process, no formal design recommendation is being made by this plan.

### Community Center

While the specifics of the community center are undefined in terms of size and use, each concept identifies a potential location for a building of this type. Typically, interior spaces would include a gymnasium, office space and rooms for meetings and fitness. The building in Concept A illustrates a footprint of 11,900 sf while Concept B illustrates a footprint of 7,000 sf

### Open Space

Open space refers to open lawn area available for flexible use ranging from a community event to flying a kite. Concept A illustrates an area of approximately 10,910 sf while the area shown in Concept B is 11,900 sf.

## Playgrounds

Playground areas shown on both plans are about the same size and generally located in the same area of the park. The primary difference is that the playground in Concept B has a more direct relationship to the open space than the one in Concept A.  Playground areas are envisioned as accessible and inclusive.

## Picnic Facilities

Picnic facilities include several shelters that are distributed throughout the park as well as areas designated for picnicking that are not undercover.

## Restrooms

Each concept locates an independent restroom facility located in close proximity to the playground area.  These facilities can be prefabricated or designed to meet any architectural requirements.

## Outdoor courts

In Concept A there are two outdoor basketball courts and 2 pickleball courts.  In Concept B basketball courts are envisioned to be inside the community center and six pickleball courts are located where the current maintenance building is.

## Amphitheater

Concept A designates a specific area for an outdoor amphitheater near the designated open space both areas combined can be used for community events, while the amphitheater on its own can accommodate smaller gatherings and educational programs. In concept B there is no amphitheater but indication of a temporary stage that could be brought in for events.

## Existing Maintenance Building

While the existing maintenance building is removed in Concept B, in Concept A it is reinvented as an open air market and recreation building.  This space could be used for farmers markets or other recreational activities.

Concept A

**LEGEND**

- A  EXISTING POLICE SUB STATION
- B  EXISTING CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- C  OPEN AIR MARKET/RECREATION BUILDING
- D  COMMUNITY CENTER
- E  MEMORIAL
- F  PLAYGROUND
- G  COMFORT STATION
- H  SHELTER
- I  FLEXIBLE LAWN
- J  AMPHITHEATER
- K  BASKETBALL COURTS (2)
- L  PICKLEBALL COURTS (2)
- M  PICNIC GROVE
- N  DOG PARK



Concept B

**LEGEND**

- A  EXISTING POLICE SUB STATION
- B  EXISTING CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- C  PICNIC AREA
- D  COMMUNITY CENTER
- E  MEMORIAL
- F  PLAYGROUND
- G  COMFORT STATION
- H  SHELTER
- I  FLEXIBLE LAWN
- J  TEMPORARY STAGE
- K  PICKLEBALL COURT (6)
- L  DOG PARK

# Final Master Plan

Following review of the two concept plan options by the community, town staff, leadership and the project Steering Committee, the project team prepared the final master plan incorporating comments received.

The overall master plan features a revised layout of paved and natural trails connecting the high school to the more active area of the park and including connections to the Bathing Rock and wetlands. The paved trails are aligned with existing topography to be accessible.

The maintenance area for the town currently located on site is relocated to an area accessed from Surrett Drive. This area is approximately 1 acre and development may require a retaining wall.

The active area of the park, near the police substation and existing council chambers building is where most of the proposed improvements are located. Consistent with both concept options the final plan includes a 1 ½ acre dog park on the ridge deep into the site. The master plan also illustrates a future community center near the police substation. Other recommended improvements revolve around a 1/2 acre central open space that can be used for community events as well as free play on a daily basis. Parks elements include a playground, stand-alone restroom facility, picnic area / shelter, two pickleball courts, basketball court and a space for memorial for military veterans. While the design of the memorial is not prescribed, its relationship to the open space allows for gathering during larger ceremonies. All of these facilities are connected by paved walkways including a designated quarter mile walking loop. One of the walkways is wider to allow for access to the open space so that a temporary stage can be set up for events. With the development of the park the parking area will need to be expanded and this is illustrated by the plan.

As previously mentioned in this plan, the New London Park (pictured on the left) served as a key source of inspiration for the design of the future City Center Park. The layout, amenities, and overall aesthetic of New London Park provided valuable insight into how the community could create a central gathering space that is both functional and visually appealing.

# FINAL MASTER PLAN
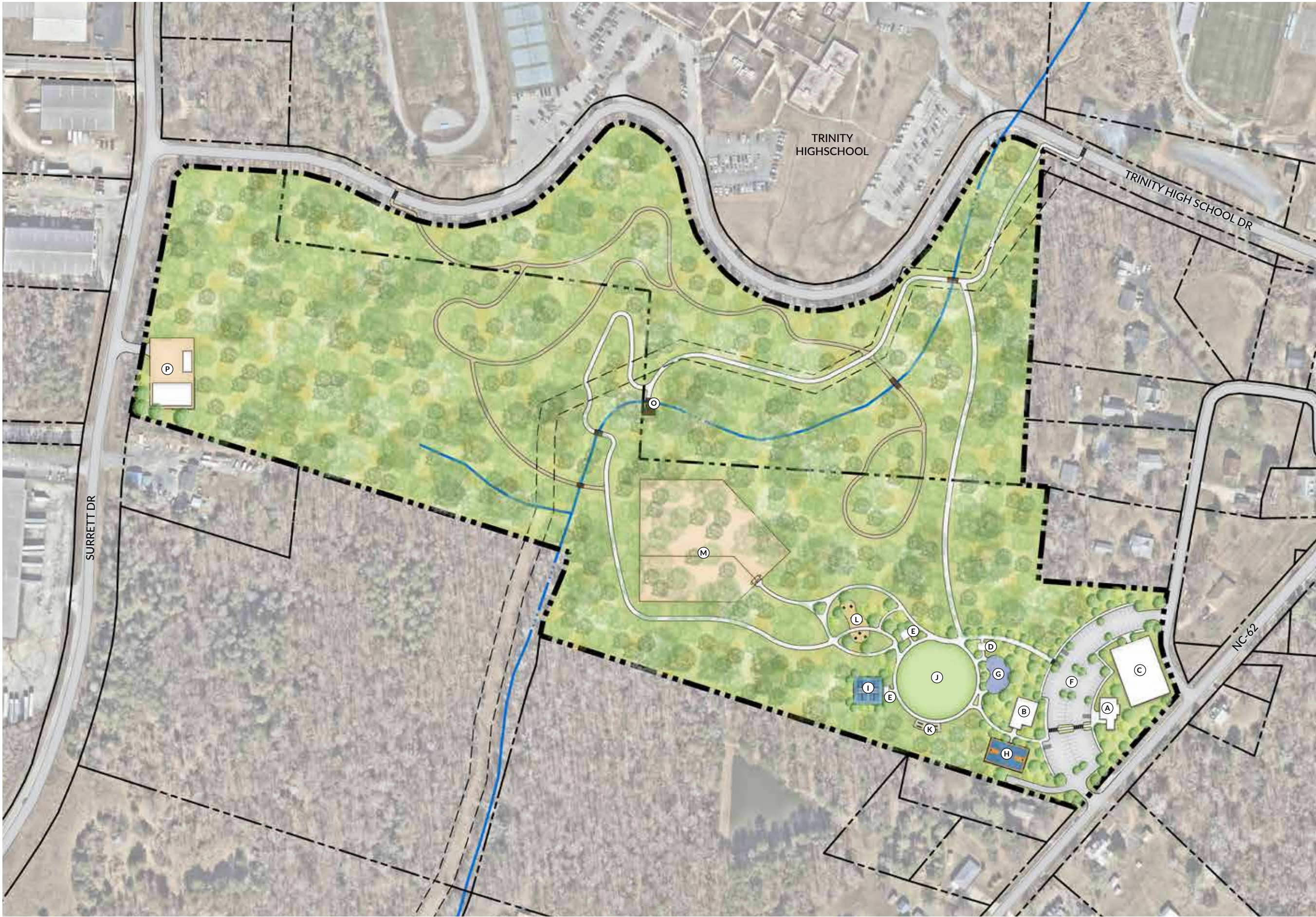
## LEGEND

- ▬▬▬ PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- ▬▬▬ STREAM
- ――― SEWER EASEMENT
- ☐ CONCRETE PATH
- ☐ NATURAL SURFACE PATH
- ☐ ASPHALT PAVING

- (A) EXISTING POLICE SUB STATION
- (B) EXISTING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- (C) COMMUNITY CENTER
- (D) RESTROOMS
- (E) SHELTER
- (F) PARKING LOT (120 SPACES)
- (G) PLAYGROUND
- (H) BASKETBALL COURT (1)
- (I) PICKLEBALL COURTS (2)
- (J) FLEXIBLE LAWN
- (K) MEMORIAL
- (L) PICNIC AREA
- (M) DOG PARK
- (N) PICNIC AREA
- (O) BATHING ROCK
- (P) MAINTENANCE YARD

SCALE: 1" = 100'

0'    50'    100'

DOG PARK

PAVED TRAILS (0.25 MILE)

PICNIC AREA

SHELTER

TEMPORARY STAGE AREA

RESTROOMS

PLAYGROUND

COMMUNITY CENTER

PICKLEBALL COURTS (2)

SHELTER

FLEXIBLE LAWN

MEMORIAL

EXISTING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

EXISTING POLICE SUB STATION

BASKETBALL COURT

NC-62

PARKING LOT (120 SPACES)

SCALE: 1" = 40'
0'    20'    40'
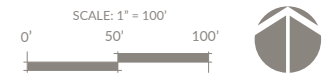
# FINAL MASTER PLAN ENLARGEMENT

## Phase 1 Narrative

The first phase of recommended park improvements include, features that are considered a priority as defined and supported by the community, based on survey results and input at engagement events.

Phase One recommendations consist of walkways including the quarter mile loop, playground, restroom, picnic area / shelter and open space. Phase One would set the stage for the memorial, but the memorial itself is not included. The implementation of phase one improvements will require grading and storm water management as well as utility infrastructure for the restroom. These features are not maintenance intensive and are not dependent on programming. Phase one implementation will require the relocation of the maintenance facility.

It is the Town's intent to submit for grant funding to support the implementation of Phase One.

PAVED TRAILS (0.25 MILE)

PICNIC AREA

SHELTER

TEMPORARY STAGE AREA

RESTROOMS

PLAYGROUND

EXISTING POLICE SUB STATION

EXISTING MAINTENANCE BUILDING

FLEXIBLE LAWN

EXISTING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

EXISTING CASH POINTS ATM

NC-62

SCALE: 1" = 40'
0'    20'    40'

# FINAL MASTER PLAN ENLARGEMENT PHASE 1

## Additional Neighborhood Parks

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) benchmarks, the City has a total park land acreage deficit of 56.8 acres compared to communities of similar size. This deficit includes the future City-Center Park site. Considering this deficit and the communities current lack of facilities, it is recommended the City explore establishing two additional neighborhood park sites. Furthermore, it is recommended that the City look to establish facilities in areas that are currently underserved by public or private recreational offerings. The map on the following page illustrates City-owned parcels of land ranging in acreage which may be feasible sites for consideration for future neighborhood park development. Considering that the Access Level of Service Map illustrated gaps in the City's southeastern and southwestern limits, it is recommended that the City consider land acquisition for future neighborhood parks following development of the City Center park and neighborhood sites.

The concurrent park-specific master plan incorporates a variety of the recommended facilities. Therefore, it is recommended that the city establish two additional playground facilities within future neighborhood parks. Adding these facilities will help bring the City closer to what the National Recreation and Parks Association suggests for a community of the City's size.

As future park sites come online, it is recommended that the City construct permanent restrooms to provide park goers with a better experience as they recreate. Pavilions and shelters are also recommended as they provide common gathering spaces and also potential revenue for the City in terms of rental space that generate funds to be used to improve the park system overtime.

**Potential Future Park Sites (Trinity-Owned Parcels)**

Randolph County Property Identification Numbers (PIN):

1. 6797392393
2. 7707167345
3. 7707850720
4. 7708002277

**City of Trinity**
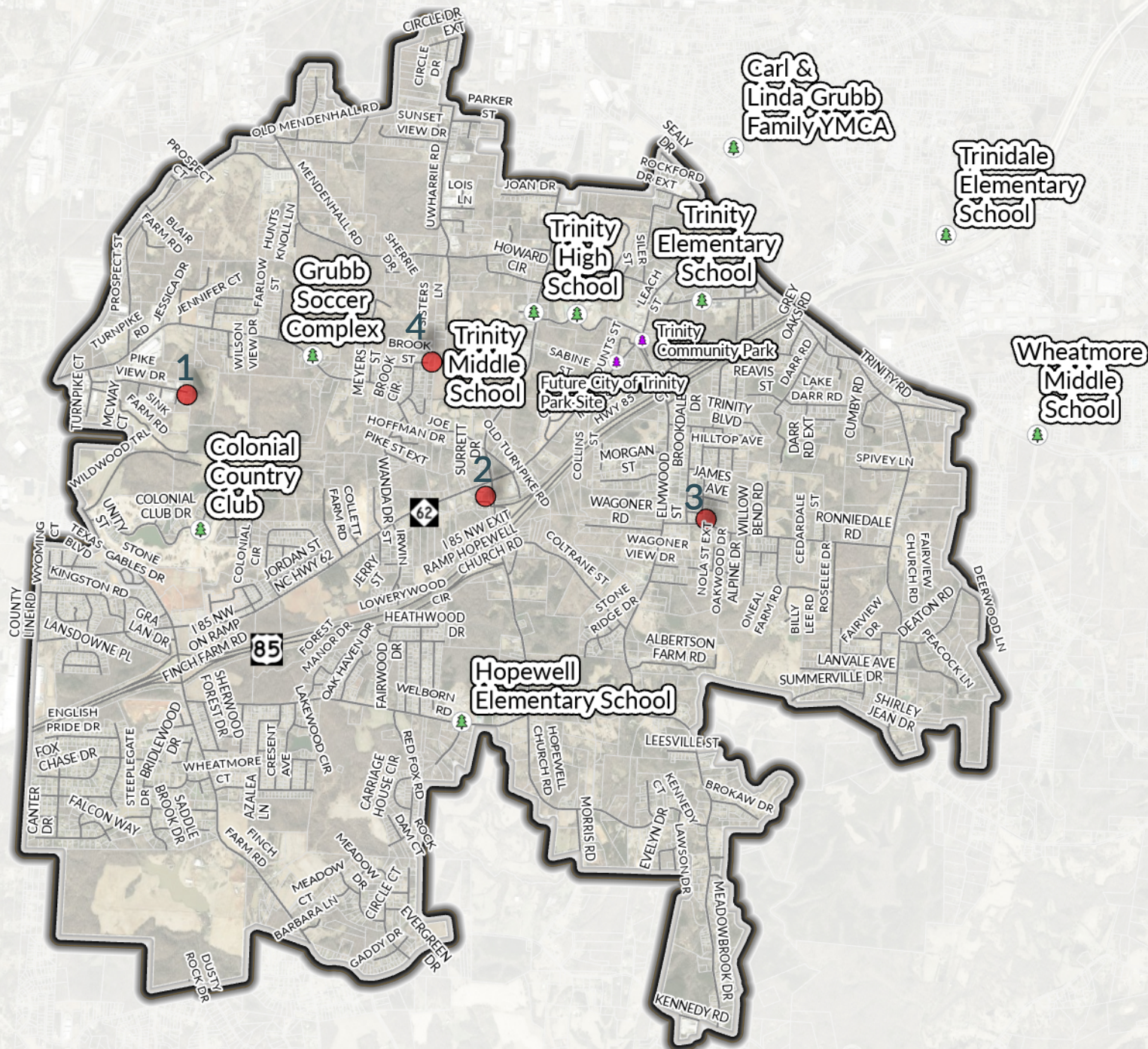
**Legend:**
- Trinity Community Park and Future Park Site
- Private Recreation
- Potential Park Site

N

0    ½    1
Miles

# Trail & Greenway Expansion

Local and regional interconnectivity is an important subsystem to the future of Trinity parks and recreation because it helps expand mobility and accessibility. This boosts the equity of a future park network, allowing users to navigate between parks and amenities without the use of an automobile. Trails and greenway expansion should compliment efforts by surrounding municipalities such as the Cities of Archdale, Thomasville, and High Point, as well as Randolph County. The following considerations address future trail and greenway development in Trinity:

» Conduct a feasibility assessment for the Trinity-Uwharrie Greenway project. By doing so, the City can further identify environmental challenges such as topography and impacts to ecological systems and identify route alternatives. This allows Trinity to build upon prior due-diligence performed and understand aspects such as necessary land acquisition to move trail development forward and become more competitive for grant applications.

» Explore opportunities to link future Trinity greenways and trails with regional or state trails, such as the Carolina Thread Trail which will enhance broader access and use.

# Policy Challenges & Opportunities

As discussed, the City of Trinity is not the sole recreation provider within the municipal limits of the City. Trinity Community Park, owned and operated by the Friends of Trinity non-profit organization, and Randolph County Schools have facilities within City limits. The local YMCA also operates a private soccer complex in Trinity. As Trinity's recreation network is development, it will be important to view these other service providers, not as competition for recreation services, but rather as partners in providing recreation opportunities for Trinity and the region.

Partnerships and policy considerations can activate and incentivize facility use and development at little to no cost to the City's taxpayers. As previously mentioned, the development of the master planned park has catalyzed discussions between the City of Trinity and Randolph County Schools. The joint-use of land and facilities between the City and County can foster further shared resources and facilities. Similarly, ongoing communications with neighboring municipalities, private service providers, and non-profit organizations can help maximize facility diversity and allow for expanded marketing of recreation opportunities at a regional level.

Review of the City's development code may also illuminate opportunities for recreation considerations in residential projects. Many communities across North Carolina heavily leverage their development ordinances to put recreation and open space development responsibility on applicants proposing residential developments. Naturally, residential developments increase recreational demand from the City as more potential park users move to the City. Utilizing development ordinance requirements can shift some of the recreation development and financing onto the developer community.

# Policy Recommendations

## Joint-Use Agreements

Development of the northern portions of the City-Center Park site will require securing a joint land use agreement with Randolph County Schools. Those portions of the site are owned by the schools system, and discussions with school leadership indicates excitement and willingness to support the park expansion. Use of the land may allow organized groups from the school to use the park facilities, such as the cross-country team using the trail network for training, and other educational opportunities may be identified.

As the Joint Land Use Agreement for the City-Center Park site is undertaken and the City begins sharing facilities with Randolph County Schools, staff should consider a joint use agreement for resident use of viable school facilities. In addition to providing more recreation opportunities and an expanded 'footprint' of the overall recreation network, the agreement would ease the immediate burden on the City, and proactively provide room for additional growth at little to no cost to its residents. When engaging with the Randolph County School System regarding a proposed joint use agreement, the City should specify the anticipated amount of organized versus unorganized activities residents desire. This will allow the Trinity to strategically put programs in place, including sports leagues, that can be offered routinely.

## Partnerships

It is recommended that City of Trinity staff work to establish coordinated communications with Thomasville and Archdale. These communications may be used to discuss joint recreation goals, upcoming projects and/or programs, and other strategic considerations for recreation offerings. Establishment of formalized communications between Trinity and its neighbors can help identify project redundancy, create opportunities to jointly market new facilities and programs, and to establish regional recreation goals. Regional coordination would also greatly support the development of interconnected trails and greenways between and throughout these communities. City staff should also consider coordination with the YMCA and the Friends of Trinity organizations for similar purposes. Understanding the goals and trajectories of external organizations will aid Trinity staff in directing future investments in the Trinity system.

# Zoning Ordinance Updates

Upon further investigation through a feasibility study of preferred greenway and trial development, it is recommended the City update its Zoning Ordinance to require construction of new greenway and trail construction or fee in-lieu when new development has an identified pedestrian route on-site.

Section 12-5: Open Space Requirements in the City's Zoning Ordinance and Section 6-20: Open Space Dedication in the City's Subdivision Ordinance outline the requirements for open space allocation in residential developments. These sections of the code provide that in Zoning Districts R-12, R-10, RM, and RM-U, 20% of total land area shall be dedicated as open space. Open space features are identified by the code and include a variety of options to fulfill the 20% requirement including active recreation facilities, pedestrian amenities, and undisturbed natural vegetation, among others. While these provisions provide a clear requirement for open space, review of Trinity's residential developments indicates that little to no recent development has provided open space facilities in reference to these codes. As such, several ordinance considerations have been included for staff exploration.

» Expand open space requirements to all subdivision developments, regardless of zoning district. Staff may provide additional conditions or exemptions, but expanding the requirements to the broader subdivision development may make the code more applicable.

» Ensure that open space requirements are conveyed to applicants during preliminary conversations.

» Explore incentives for open space development, such as the allowance higher development densities in exchange for active recreation development.

» Align Zoning Ordinance to expand recreational offerings, specifically greenway and trail development. As greenway plans are studied and adopted by the City, it is recommended that staff Zoning Ordinance to required construction of new greenway and trail construction or fee in-lieu when new development has an identified pedestrian route on-site. The following page provides an example of how the zoning ordinance and adopted municipal documents can be merged together to create developer-driven amenities.

## 7.2   GREENWAY STANDARDS

A. **General**
Consistent with adopted Comprehensive Plan and the adopted Surf City Multi-Use Path Map, the Town of Surf City intends to support and promote the provision of greenways in the Town as a portion of the larger pedestrian network. Greenways preserve and create open space, encourage physical fitness, provide alternative means of transportation, create opportunities for outdoor recreation, and provide connectivity between open spaces, schools, cultural sites, neighborhoods, and the beach. Where land is designated as part of the town's adopted greenway system, development shall comply with the town's adopted plans and include the creation of new greenway trails. New development may also provide additional greenways and/or connections to greenways in accordance with the standards of this section.

B. **Applicability**
Greenway requirements of this section are applicable to all properties with frontage onto the Surf City Multi Use Path as identified on the adopted Surf City Multi-Use Path Map.

C. Greenways may be credited against the requirements of Section. 7.1 Open Space and Recreation provided that such greenways are:

1. A part of the Surf City Multi-Use Path.

2. Dedicated to public use and located within a 20' public greenway easement located across HOA-owned/maintained land (easement cannot be located within individual residential lots).

3. Built to meet public greenway standards per the Town of Surf City's Standard Specifications and Standard Details.

D. Residential developments adjacent to planned/existing public greenways shall provide one (1) or more dedicated public greenway connection(s) from a public sidewalk/public multi-use path within the development to the planned/existing public greenway shown on the adopted Surf City Multi-Use Path Map; such greenway connections may be credited against the requirements of Section. 7.1 provided that these greenway connections meet the standards of this Ordinance.



Surf City Multi Use Path - Adopted by Council on June 4, 2024
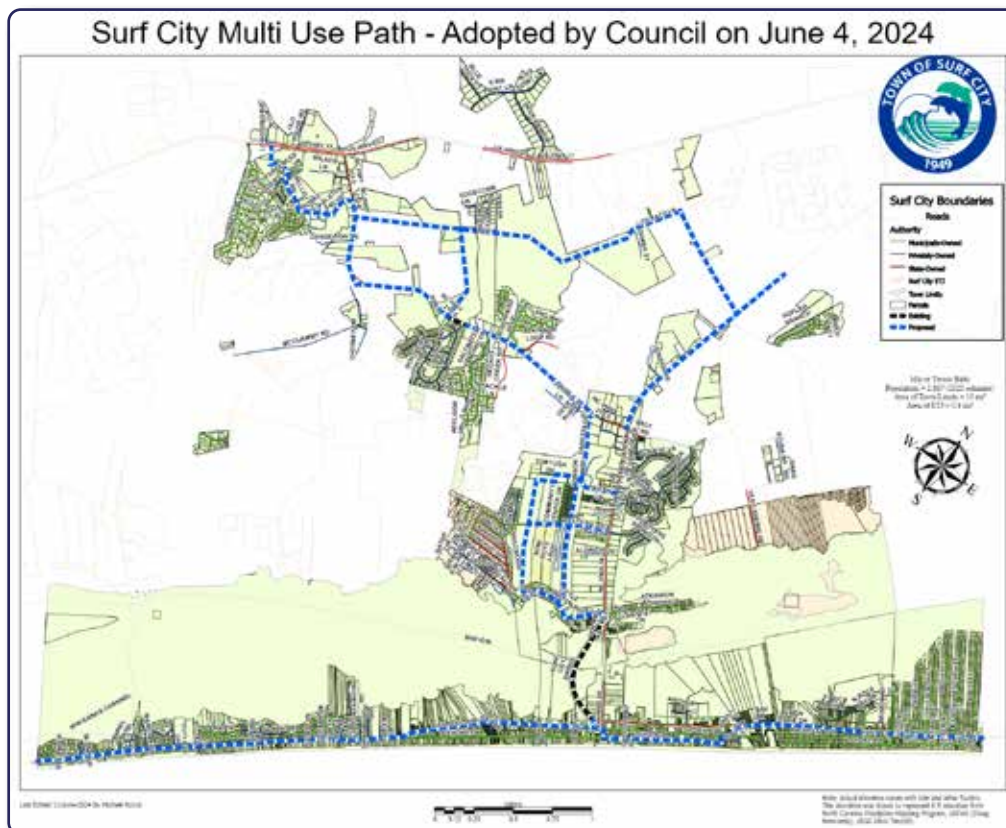
*The above reflects model language from the Town of Surf City that the city can use to move trail development forward as the City continues to experience growth.*

It is also recommended that the Trinity staff explore expansion of these provisions with the City's codes to include options for fee-in-lieu. This mechanism, used throughout North Carolina communities, allows developers to pay an equivalent fee in lieu of providing open space within their projects. That fee may be used by Trinity to expand park facilities, develop programs, and acquire park and trail property for the use of the community.

When a fee is paid in lieu of open space dedication, the amount of such fee for the development or subdivision shall be the product of the total number of dwelling units times the charge per dwelling unit as follows:

» Fees are calculated pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 160D-804 based on the assessed tax value of the property prior to development. Note: all fees-in-lieu are capped at $5,000 per unit. If the calculation results in more than $5,000 per dwelling unit, please recalculate using $5,000 per unit.

» Assessed Tax Value: $ _____ / Number of Acres _____= $_____Value/Acre

## Program Recommendations

As with park facilities, municipal programming is limited due to lack of a recreation department, staffed programmers, and limited space for community programs and events. Currently, residents utilize external programs offered by Thomasville, Archdale, and through private recreation offerings. The City cannot yet provide residents with Trinity-oriented programs and events.

With development of the City-Center Park site and community center, programming interests and identification of programmers can begin to create a Trinity-focused programming suite. Securing a venue for programming and events is the first step in providing opportunities specifically for the Trinity community. Several considerations must be made ahead of facility development to ensure a smooth roll-out of future programs and events.

» As community center begins construction, begin polling stakeholders about programming desires and identify programmers to serve these needs. The City will generate interest and excitement for future offerings during the development stages of the Community Center. At this time, it is recommended that staff work with local and regional partners, including the communities of Thomasville and Archdale, to identify potential programmers. Furthermore, it is recommended that staff release a brief programming survey to Trinity residents to help explain program opportunities and inquire about program interest. This survey in turn will inform initial programming feasibility and investment.

» Develop a fee policy that supports the maintenance and expansion of recreation programming in Trinity. One of the benefits of offering specialized programming to residents is that it can also be used as a source of recreation revenue that helps supplement expenditures related to the "City-Center Park" site. It is recommended that staff and leadership look to neighboring communities to identify and development fee policies and schedules that support program and rental costs while not being cumbersome to the user.

» Work with community partners (YMCA, Randolph County Schools, Archdale, etc.) to understand program offerings to reduce redundancy and to promote partner events and program opportunities within the greater region. As discussed in policy recommendations, on-going coordination with external service providers can greatly benefit the City when it comes to decision making and programming. By working with other program providers, Trinity staff can ensure that Trinity programs are not duplicated by nearby providers, and can help identify future programmers and niche program opportunities. This in turn strengthens the regional recreation offerings of these communities.

## Operational Recommendations

The City of Trinity does not currently have a recreation department. Recreation planning and maintenance is completed by existing staff with diverse responsibilities. Without dedicated park staff, it is difficult to move recreation-specific development forward.

Dedicated staff at the City-Center Park could manage and strategically expand Trinity's recreation development. The Community Center is designed to accommodate office space for City staff in the future. Having a dedicated staff member who is responsible for the management of Trinity's park network can help make measurable progress towards facility and program development.

Based on the above-mentioned findings, it is recommended that the City evaluate hiring of 1 addition FTE to manage maintenance and programming at the City Center park site. This individual would initially be responsible for site maintenance and upkeep, however these responsibilities would continue to grow as the park site is developed. Upon completion of the Community Center, the new hire could be responsible for programming, rental, and park maintenance administration, coordination of future parks projects, and financial reporting for City-Center Park.

## Implementation Considerations

## Phasing

For the phasing recommendations below, four categories of time are used to organize when projects are recommended to be tackled. It should be noted that because the City does not offer recreational opporutnities, a majority of plan recommendations are associated with an "Ongoing" phasing timeframe.

» Ongoing: Projects that begin in the short-term or have already begun, and which are expected to be ongoing throughout all phases of the plan.

» Short-term: Immediate projects to be completed within 1 – 3 years.

» Medium-term: Facility-improvements and network-expanding projects to be completed within 4 – 7 years.

» Long-term: Network-defining projects to be completed within 8 – 10 years.

| Future Facilities | |
|---|---|
| **Project Description** | **Timeframe** |
| Development of City-Center Park | Ongoing |
| Land acquisition for two neighborhood parks | Long-term |
| Development of neighborhood parks (2) with a playgorund, pavillion, and permanent restroom facility. | Long-term |

| Partnerships, Policies, and Communications | |
|---|---|
| **Project Description** | **Timeframe** |
| Establish a joint-use agreement with Randolph County Schools intended for facility sharing. | Short-term |
| Amend Section 12-5 of the Zoning Ordinance to expand open space requirements to all new subdivisions, regardless of zoning districts. | Short-term |
| Align Zoning Ordinance to expand recreational offerings, specifically greenway and trail development. | Short-Term |
| Establish a fee-in-lieu mechanism for open space dedication that can be used to expand recreation offerings within the City. | Short-Term |
| Coordinate with municipal (Cities of Thomasville and Archdale) and private partners (YMCA and Friends of Trinity) to further recreation goals. | Medium-term |

| Operational Recommendations | |
|---|---|
| **Project Description** | **Timeframe** |
| Evaluate hiring of 1 addition FTE to manage maintenance and programming at the City Center Park Site. | Ongoing |

| Programming | |
|---|---|
| **Project Description** | **Timeframe** |
| Coordinate with neighbor municipalities to identify existing programmers and programs to offer in Trinity. | Ongoing |
| Develop a fee policy that supports the maintenance and expansion of recreation programming in Trinity. | Ongoing |
| Work with community partners (YMCA, Randolph County Schools, Archdale, etc.) to understand program offerings to reduce redundancy and to promote partner events and program opportunities within the greater region. | Ongoing |

# Opinion of Probable Cost

Recommendations from this System Plan are largely focused on establishing the City-Center Park, with other recommendations identifying cost-effective ways to enhance recreation offerings. As such, many of the recommendations provided in this System Plan are intended to be conducted by staff or through policy creation. However, opinions of cost have been provided for the recommended neighborhood parks for long-term reference by staff and plan stakeholders. Please see the figures below for anticipated costs associated with activation of a small, neighborhood-serving park facility.

## Future Facilities Opinion of Probable Cost - City of Trinity

Opinion of Probable Cost Provided in 1st Quarter of 2025

| Future Trinity Facilities | Unit | Quantity | Unit Cost | Subtotal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A. General** | | | | |
| 1  Land Acquisition for Two Neighborhood Parks | acre | 2 | $36,000.00 | $72,000 |
| 2  New Playground, Age Inclusive | allowance | 1 | $200,000 | $200,000 |
| 3  Picnic Shelter - Group (12'x24' prefabricated) | allowance | 1 | $40,000.00 | $40,000 |
| 4  Restroom Facility | allowance | 1 | $275,000.00 | $275,000 |
| *Subtotal:* | | | | **$587,000** |

| | | | **Park Subtotal** | **$587,000** |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| 1 | Mobilization and General Conditions (7.5%) | lump sum | 1 | | $44,025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Design/Engineering Services (12%) | lump sum | 1 | | $70,440 |
| 3 | Construction Contingency (30%) | lump sum | 1 | | $176,100 |

| | **TOTAL:** | **$877,565** |
|---|---|---|

Estimates of probable project cost provided above are based on recent project experience and are provided in 2024 dollars. These costs are provided for planning purposes only. Costs associated with land acquisition, facility development, and facility improvements will vary based on numerous ongoing factors. It will be the responsibility of Town Staff to accurately plan and budget for the recommended projects.

It is recommended that each recommended project undergo a detailed feasibility study and cost analysis prior to plan implementation. Factors that could significantly impact actual cost include, but are not limited to:

» Implementation timeframe

» Raw materials and supply chains

» Property values

» Individual project scales

» Changing community needs

## City-Center Park - Phase 1

### City Center Park (Phase 1) Probable Cost - City of Trinity

Opinion of Probable Cost Provided in 1st Quarter of 2025

| | Phase 1 Park Facilities | Unit | Quantity | Unit Cost | Subtotal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Grading | allowance | 1 | $50,000.00 | $50,000 |
| 2 | Erosion Control Measures | allowance | 1 | $15,000.00 | $15,000 |
| 3 | Storm Drainage | allowance | 1 | $15,000.00 | $15,000 |
| 4 | Concrete Walkways | sf | 14,580 | $6.75 | $98,415 |
| 5 | Heavy Duty Concrete (Vehicle Access Way to Flexible Lawn Area) | sf | 4,815 | $9.25 | $44,538 |
| 6 | Restroom Structure | each | 1 | $200,000.00 | $200,000 |
| 7 | Utilities | allowance | 1 | $25,000.00 | $25,000 |
| 8 | Playground Equipment | allowance | 1 | $250,000.00 | $250,000 |
| 9 | Playground Surfacing (mulch) | allowance | 1 | $50,000.00 | $50,000 |
| 10 | Picnic Shelter | each | 1 | $125,000.00 | $125,000 |
| 11 | Picnic Tables | each | 7 | $400.00 | $28,000 |
| 12 | Mulch (General Surfacing) | cy | 31 | $40.00 | $1,240 |
| 13 | Landscape Plants | allowance | 1 | $50,000.00 | $50,000 |
| 14 | Landscape Mulch | allowance | 1 | $1,500.00 | $1,500 |
| 15 | Seeding | sf | 25,000 | $0.75 | $18,750 |
| | Subtotal: | | | | $972,443 |

| | | | | Park Subtotal | $972,443 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | Unit | Quantity | | Subtotal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mobilization and General Conditions (7.5%) | lump sum | 1 | | $72,933 |
| 2 | Design/Engineering Services (12%) | lump sum | 1 | | $116,693 |
| 3 | Construction Contingency (30%) | lump sum | 1 | | $291,733 |

| | | | TOTAL: | $1,453,802 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

# Funding Sources

The following section includes a list and information on potential funding opportunities that City staff may utilize to support the development of facilities and programs. Funding strategies may also include grant-stacking or utilization of multiple grants, identification of project partners/sponsors, or other alternative funding mechanisms as required to pursue project development.

| Land and Water Conservation Fund | |
| --- | --- |
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | NC Division of Parks and Recreation |
| Website | https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/land-and-water-conservation-fund |
| Description | The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects. |
| Project Examples | -   Acquire land for a public park.<br>-   Renovate/replace outdoor recreational or support facilities at existing park sites. |
| Grant Amount | $500,000 |
| Match | At least 50% of the total cost of the project. |
| Application Deadline | Early October |

| Parks and Recreation Trust Fund | |
| --- | --- |
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | NC Division of Parks and Recreation |
| Website | https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund |
| Description | The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PRTF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects. |
| Project Examples | -   Acquire land for a public park.<br>-   Renovate/replace outdoor recreational or support facilities at existing park sites. |
| Grant Amount | $500,000 |
| Match | At least 50% of the total cost of the project. |
| Application Deadline | Early May |

| NC Land and Water Fund | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | NC Land and Water Fund |
| Website | https://nclwf.nc.gov/ |
| Description | The Land and Water Fund improves water quality, sustains ecological diversity, and protects historic sites and military installations by funding projects to acquire land, restore the habitat for fish, wildlife, and other species, and enhance the filtering of stormwater runoff to reduce pollutants from entering water supplies. |
| Project Examples | - Land acquisition.<br>- Restoration projects to enhance or restore degraded waters and to protect downstream natural resources such as drinking water supplies, fisheries, and recreation opportunities.<br>- Stream restoration.<br>- Innovative stormwater.<br>- Enhance or restore degraded waters.<br>- Protect unpolluted waters.<br>- Contribute towards a network of riparian buffers.<br>- Provide buffers around military bases.<br>- Acquire land that represents ecological diversity.<br>- Acquire land for a balanced program of historic properties.<br>- Facilitate innovative efforts in improve stormwater treatment. |
| Grant Amount | No set funding range. |
| Match | No match requirement. However, the percentage of match and the type of match is factored in the application rating system |
| Application Deadline | Early February |

| Clean Water State Revolving Fund | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | Federal |
| Management Agency | EPA – Environmental Protection Agency |
| Website | https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf |
| Description | The Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides funds for wastewater treatment facilities and projects associated with estuary and nonpoint source programs. |
| Project Examples | - Wastewater treatment.<br>- Wastewater collection.<br>- Reclaimed water.<br>- Stormwater Best Management Practices.<br>- Stream restoration.<br>- Energy efficiency at treatment works or collection systems. |
| Grant Amount | $30,000,000, 0% loan, 20-year term |
| Match | n/a |
| Application Deadline | Spring and Fall application funding cycles. |

| Water Source Development Grant Program | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | NCDEQ – Division of Water Infrastructure |
| Website | https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-re-sources-grants/water-resources-development-grant-program |
| Description | The purpose of this program is to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments for seven eligible project types. |
| Project Examples | - General navigation.<br>- Recreational navigation.<br>- Water management.<br>- Stream restoration.<br>- Water-based recreation.<br>- Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality. Incentive Program (EQIP).<br>- Feasibility/Engineering studies. |
| Grant Amount | $200,000, however larger awards may be granted. |
| Match | 50% |
| Application Deadline | Spring |

| Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | US Dept. of Transportation |
| Website | https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/about |
| Description | These grants fund regional and multi-modal transportation projects of regional and local significance. In 2021, the program funded bike and pedestrian projects at the highest level ever and "includes new or improved walking, biking, and rolling access for the disabled, especially access that reverses the disproportional impacts of crashes on people of color. |
| Project Examples | - Trails and greenways.<br>- Bike lanes.<br>- Installation. |
| Grant Amount | No set amounts |
| Match | No match required. |
| Application Deadline | Mid-April |

| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | US Department of Agriculture Forest Service |
| Website | https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest |
| Description | The purpose is to protect forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and provide community benefits such as environmental benefits including clean air, water and wildlife habitat; benefits from forest-based educational programs; benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and recreational benefits secured with public access. |
| Project Examples | - Community outreach.<br>- Land purchases.<br>- Installation. |
| Grant Amount | $20,000 to $50,000 |
| Match | At least 50% of the total cost of the project. |
| Application Deadline | January |

| Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | North Carolina Dept. of Transportation |
| Website | https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Planning-Grant-Initiative.aspx |
| Description | Encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. |
| Project Examples | - Comprehensive Bicycle Plans.<br>- Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan.<br>- Comprehensive Plan Updates. |
| Grant Amount | No set amount |
| Match | Sliding scale based on population (high populations must have higher match). |
| Application Deadline | June |

## Recreational Trails Grant Program

| | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | North Carolina Trails Committee |
| Website | https://trails.nc.gov/trail-grants/apply-grant |
| Description | Grants help fund sustainable, construction ready projects that meet recreational trail needs to provide low infrastructure economic development opportunities through natural resource tourism. |
| Project Examples | - Trail construction and renovation<br>- Land acquisition<br>- Planning, legal and permitting |
| Grant Amount | $10,000 - $100,000 |
| Match | At least 25% of the total cost of the project. |
| Application Deadline | September |

## Community Challenge

| | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) |
| Website | https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2021/2021-challenge/?cmp=EMC-DSM-NLC-LC-HOM-FAM-20210217_LivableCom |
| Description | This program provides funding for projects that create change and opportunity for walking and movement at the community level. |
| Project Examples | - Construction of public spaces and parks.<br>- Increase community engagement.<br>- Programs or services. |
| Grant Amount | No set amounts. |
| Match | At least 25% of the total cost of the project. |
| Application Deadline | April |

## Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund Grant

| | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | Rails-to-Trails Conservancy |
| Website | https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/grants/doppelt/ |
| Description | Support organizations and local governments that are implementing projects to build and improve multi-use trails. |
| Project Examples | - Trails and greenways.<br>- Bike lanes.<br>- Installation. |
| Grant Amount | $5,000 - $8,000 |
| Match | No match required. |
| Application Deadline | Early spring |

| T-Mobile Hometown Grants | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | T-Mobile |
| Website | https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants |
| Description | This program provides funding for projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections. Communities must have less than 50,000 in population to be eligible. This program runs for 5 years. |
| Project Examples | - Park construction.<br>- Site furnishings & beautification efforts.<br>- Public art installation.<br>- Accessibility improvements.<br>- Rebuilding/renovating urban spaces. |
| Grant Amount | Up to $50,000 |
| Match | No match required. |
| Application Deadline | Quarterly |

| Safe Routes to School (Safe Routes to Parks Partnership) | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | Safe Routes Partnership |
| Website | https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/healthy-communities |
| Description | This program provides funding for park access, especially in low-income areas and in communities of color; grants given to nonprofits. |
| Project Examples | - Sidewalk route planning construction.<br>- Park access.<br>- Accessibility improvements. |
| Grant Amount | $12,500 plus technical assistance |
| Match | No match required |
| Application Deadline | December |

| Bloomberg Asphalt Art | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | Bloomberg |
| Website | https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/grants/ |
| Description | Fund visual art interventions on roadways, pedestrian spaces, and public infrastructure in U.S. cities with the goal of improving street and pedestrian safety, revitalizing and activating underutilized public space, and promoting collaboration and civic engagement in local communities. |
| Project Examples | - Improving street and pedestrian safety.<br>- Revitalizing and activating underutilized spaces.<br>- Promoting collaboration and civic engagement. |
| Grant Amount | Up to $2,500 plus technical assistance. |
| Match | No match required. |
| Application Deadline | April |

| Pool Safety Grant Program | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | Consumer Product Safety Commission |
| Website | https://www.poolsafely.gov/grant-program/ |
| Description | These grants provide funds to assist jurisdictions in reducing deaths and injuries from drowning and drain entrapment incidents in pools and spas. |
| Project Examples | - Pool plumbing system reconstruction. |
| Grant Amount | $50,000 - $400,000 |
| Match | No match required. |
| Application Deadline | July |

| Build it with Kaboom! | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | KaBOOM! |
| Website | https://kaboom.org/grants/community-built |
| Description | KaBOOM! Works with communities to design and build playgrounds and play spaces. |
| Project Examples | - Playground equipment including shipping.<br>- Safety surfacing.<br>- Installation. |
| Grant Amount | No set amounts. Grant will provide equipment, safety surfacing, and installation. |
| Match | $8,500 |
| Application Deadline | Accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. |

| Build It Yourself – Community-Built Playgrounds | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | KaBoom! |
| Website | https://www.kaboom.org/grants/build-it-with-kaboom |
| Description | KaBOOM! Works with communities to design and build playgrounds and play spaces. |
| Project Examples | - Playground equipment including shipping. |
| Grant Amount | $15,000 |
| Match | $9,000 - $15,000 with a maximum project cost of $50,000 |
| Application Deadline | Accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. |

| Bark for your Park | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | PetSafe |
| Website | https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com/ |
| Description | The PetSafe Bark for your Park program provides funding to create new dog parks to maintain/improve existing dog parks. |
| Project Examples | - Creation of a new dog park.<br>- Dog Park improvements and maintenance. |
| Grant Amount | $25,000 for new parks; $5,000 for improvements and maintenance of existing parks. |
| Match | None |
| Application Deadline | June |

| Baseball of Tomorrow Fund Youth Development Foundation | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | MLB/MLBPA Youth Development Foundation |
| Website | https://www.mlbplayers.com/ydf |
| Description | MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. It was created to increase participation in and expand access to youth baseball and softball. The Foundation makes grants to organizations in the United States and internationally. |
| Project Examples | - Capital projects include building and renovating fields and practice facilities and installing lighting. Field and lighting capital projects that have most of the funding secured will be prioritized.<br>- Baseball/Softball programs include in-school/after-school baseball/softball programming, equipment and uniforms, umpire fees, player registration fees and practice facility rental fees.<br>- Education initiatives include programs, exhibits and other learning opportunities that use baseball and softball as its primary focus to promote interest and engagement in the game. |
| Grant Amount | No set funding range. |
| Match | No match required. Field and lighting capital projects that have most of the funding secured will be prioritized. |
| Application Deadline | Accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. |

| Community Improvement Grants | |
|---|---|
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | Keep America Beautiful |
| Website | https://kab.org/beautification/community-grants/ |
| Description | Grant recipients are selected based on their potential to collect cans and bottles as well as creating new or expanded access to recycling opportunities in a community. Keep America Beautiful selects recipients based on the merits of their proposal, then works with its vendors to arrange delivery of the bins at no cost to the grant recipients. |
| Project Examples | - Provide recycling access to greater numbers of people.<br>- Provide access in environmentally sensitive areas.<br>- Potential to increase overall recycling participation in a community. |
| Grant Amount | Recipients are granted recycling bins as requested. |
| Match | None |
| Application Deadline | March |

| Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program | |
| --- | --- |
| Level of Funding | Federal |
| Management Agency | USDA |
| Website | https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program |
| Description | Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. |
| Project Examples | Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses including:<br><br>- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities.<br>- Public facilities such as city and town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements.<br>- Community support services such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing.<br>- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment.<br>- Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools.<br>- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment. |
| Grant Amount | No set funding range. |
| Match | None |
| Application Deadline | Accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. |

| People for Bikes | |
| --- | --- |
| Level of Funding | National |
| Management Agency | Triangle Community Foundation |
| Website | https://www.peopleforbikes.org/grants |
| Description | Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. |
| Project Examples | - Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges.<br>- Mountain bike facilities.<br>- Bike parks and pump tracks.<br>- BMX facilities.<br>- End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations and bike storage. |
| Grant Amount | $10,000 |
| Match | No specific match is required but will not consider grant request in which funding would amount to 50% or more of the total project cost. |
| Application Deadline | 2 cycles per year: April and October. |

| Accessibility for Parks Grant | |
| --- | --- |
| Level of Funding | State |
| Management Agency | NC Division of Parks and Recreation |
| Website | https://ncparks.gov/about-us/grants |
| Description | The Accessibility for Parks program provides $10 million for parks and recreation grants that aim to benefit children and veterans with disabilities in North Carolina. |
| Project Examples | The matching grants can be used to build accessible facilities or adapt existing facilities that meet the unique needs of children and veterans with physical and developmental disabilities. A project must be located on a single site. |
| Grant Amount | $500,000 (max) |
| Match | $5 to $1 match |
| Application Deadline | May |

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