



# 2018 PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Adopted April 25, 2018

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# SECTION I - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

Chesterfield’s parks and recreation is moving the county forward as an outstanding place to live, work, and play. Parks are a cornerstone for community viability, an attraction to businesses and the development community, and an essential component for healthy living. The relationship between community parks and recreation services, economic development, and quality of life are intertwined with the county’s planning and conservation of natural resources.

This parks and recreation master plan examines current conditions of parks, facilities, programs, and operational procedures. The needs analysis informs planners and administrators about where to focus attention and future growth to serve the citizens. It enables decision makers to prioritize resources and make decisions for new facilities and rehabilitation projects, programs, and services in a manner that is fiscally responsible, environmentally sound and responsive to citizen needs.

Principals guiding the needs analysis are rooted in sustainability and include conservation, health and wellness, and access to opportunities. These three pillars provide an appropriate context when considering the value of existing and proposed improvements to parks and programs.

### Mission Statement

*To enhance the quality of life for citizens and visitors through First Choice recreation opportunities, experiences, and partnerships.*

### Vision Statement

*To become the First Choice destination for quality parks, facilities, sites, and programs.*



**Conservation**—Parks are critical in the role of preserving natural resources that economically benefit communities. The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department (CCPRD) is a leader for protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and providing education and programming that helps the County engage in conservation practices.



**Health and Wellness**—CCPRD leads the County in improving the overall health and wellness of its citizens, and in combating the challenges of obesity and physical inactivity.



**Access to Opportunities**—Chesterfield places a high priority on parks and recreation access for all citizens.

## GOALS OF THE PLAN

**1** Evaluate community needs

**2** Align needs with existing resources

**3** Identify improvements required to accommodate current and future needs

**4** Meet CAPRA national accreditation standards

# Existing Conditions

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- **The population of Chesterfield is increasing and aging**, which may have an effect on demands on program needs and park amenities.
- **Ethnic diversity is increasing in the County**, shifting needs for facilities and programs.
- **Chesterfield County is an affluent locality, but median household income is decreasing.** The department may realize an increasing need for public facilities and programs rather than private facilities.

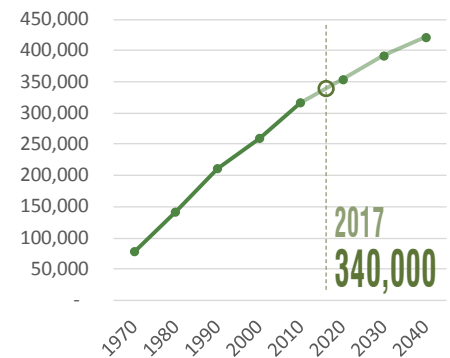
## DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

- **Rural and suburban areas of the County continue to develop and become increasingly urban.** A new style of urban park is required to meet this change in development.
- **New development is expanding into western Chesterfield where there are fewer park facilities.** New parks will need to be developed to support the population growth. Explore potential opportunities to work with the development community for new neighborhood parks and trails.

## RECREATION TRENDS

- **Park visitation in Chesterfield is increasing at a faster rate than population growth.** The most popular parks are mixed use parks with passive activities like trails and active uses like sports fields.
- **The popularity of fitness sports is increasing while popularity of team sports is decreasing.** This decrease reflects a shift from municipal-sponsored leagues to private leagues as well as an increase in informal pick-up games.
- **Participation in outdoor sports and fitness sports have the greatest levels of multi-generational participation.**
- **Active Adults (aged 55+) prefer passive outdoor activities like nature observation, hiking, canoeing, and kayaking.** These activities require minimum facilities or development. As Chesterfield's population ages, there will be increased demand for these amenities.

## CHESTERFIELD COUNTY POPULATION 1970-2040



**27%** EXPECTED ADDITIONAL  
POPULATION  
GROWTH BY 2040

**34%** OF THE POPULATION  
WILL BE OVER THE  
AGE OF 55 BY 2040

YEAR THE POPULATION  
OF YOUTH PEAKED: **2015**

**DENSITY IS INCREASING:**

MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING  
PERMITS COMPRISE **33%** OF TOTAL  
REQUESTS

**6 MILLION** VISITORS TO  
CHESTERFIELD  
PARKS IN 2017

**POPULARITY OF PARKS IS GROWING:**  
over the same time period

**PARK VISITATION  
GREW BY: 101%**

**COUNTY POPULATION  
GREW BY: 30%**



# Findings and Conclusions

## OPERATIONS

- **Equipment and facility lifecycle maintenance and replacement.** Performing routine maintenance and replacement based on manufacturer’s guidelines results in lower costs. A database of all park facility lifecycles would simplify scheduling and maintenance budgeting.
- **Successful, cooperative partnerships between the Parks and Recreation Department and other County departments streamline tasks and improve community services**
- **ADA access for park facilities and recreational programming needs to be evaluated.** Comprehensive analysis of current conditions leads to recommendations to meet ADA compliance.
- **The Department needs to plan for long-term environmental sustainability.** A study analyzing current practices and proposing recommendations is needed.

## CHESTERFIELD PARKS (56 PARKS & 11 ATHLETIC SITES)

**TOTAL PARK LAND 3,640 ac.**  
(owned, leased, partnership)

↳ of this, ~1,700 ac., or 33%, is conservation area

↳ of this, ~1,900 ac., or 36%, is by appointment only

**TOTAL PARK LAND 3,640 ac.**  
**AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE:**

↳ of this, ~1,300 ac., or 36%, is special purpose park

**AVAILABLE NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY, AND REGIONAL PARK LAND: 2,559 ac.**  
↳ (7.5 ac./ 1,000 ppl)

## PARKLAND

- **Chesterfield County has a diverse park system.** Approximately 5,100 acres is owned, leased or developed in partnership with other organizations. Development restrictions in conservation areas and at historic sites limits the potential for active recreation on these sites. These sites provide other passive opportunities including visiting historic sites, walking for pleasure and even water access.
- **Parks should be aligned with population areas and development patterns. An additional 1,472 acres of regional, community, and neighborhood parks are needed.** New parks, use of school sites and special purpose parks, and partnerships with private development all help meet recreation needs. Development patterns will guide the location, size, service area and character of new parks.
- **Improvements are needed in existing parks.** Many parks have aging amenities and need restrooms and area lighting. A parks assessment survey is needed to identify improvements.
- **Chesterfield County has a wide variety of special purpose parks.** The County operates historic sites, cultural resources, recreational complexes and conservation areas. Special purpose parks have individualized requirements for maintenance, operations and park use.

**RECOMMENDED MINIMUM: 9 ac. / 1,000 ppl**

deficiency **now:** ..... **501 ac.**

deficiency in **2023:** ..... **726 ac.**

deficiency in **2040:** ..... **1,239 ac.**

## PARK AMENITIES

- **Greater diversity and flexibility of amenities is needed within the park system.** Chesterfield County has an extensive park system, but many of the parks offer the same amenities. By diversifying park amenities by varying picnic shelter sizes, trail types, and playgrounds and by increasing differences in proposed parks, the County will broaden services for a wider scope of visitors.
- **There is a shortfall of indoor recreation space.** There are three 5,000 sf recreation centers, which is 20,000 sf short of indoor recreation space needed to support current programming.
- **Citizens support additional recreational trails.** Park trails connecting to the County's bikeways and trails network are needed.
- **The County has few water access points compared to its total water frontage.** The James River, Appomattox River, and Lake Chesdin have limited access. Additional boating and fishing sites and water access are needed along Chesterfield's waterways.
- **Additional sports and unstructured fields are needed.** Increasing the flexibility of existing fields through multi-sport striping will help meet existing needs. Additional fields and play areas are also needed for league play, unstructured sports groups, and tournament use.
- **As the County builds its brand as a sports tournament destination, a full set of amenities will be required.** Facilities, like stadiums, all-weather field surfacing, and facility amenities will offer a more complete marketing package for sports tournaments.
- **Historic and cultural sites are a valuable resource, with untapped potential.** Chesterfield County operates 14 historic sites drawing tourism, promoting economic development, providing educational resources and contributing to community character. Investment in, promotion of, and sensitive development surrounding these sites enhances their value.



*The Appomattox River Greenway Trail in Colonial Heights is an example of a multi-use trail in the region*



# Recommendations

The needs assessment and plan recommendations are in part based on Levels of Service analysis (LOS) for the county parks and recreation system. The Levels of Service analysis determines how well the existing Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation system is meeting the needs of County residents.

Recommendations were based on:

- public and staff input,
- consultant evaluation, and
- components of the needs assessment (demographics trends, recreation trends, and customized parks and recreation Level of Service standards).

Recommendations focus on:

- improvements to existing parks and facilities
- recommendations for new parks and facilities
- program improvements
- operations and management improvements

## RESULTING PRIORITIES

Public perception and satisfaction relate to how well existing facilities and quality of service are meeting the needs of the citizens. Priorities are recommended based on public survey results, unmet needs analysis, and departmental input.

The community holds the quality of department staff, programs, and facilities in high regard. The department aims to maintain this high level of satisfaction and community service by:

- maintaining the quality and relevancy of programs and facilities
- aligning priorities with community needs, trends, and existing recourses
- meeting current and future needs

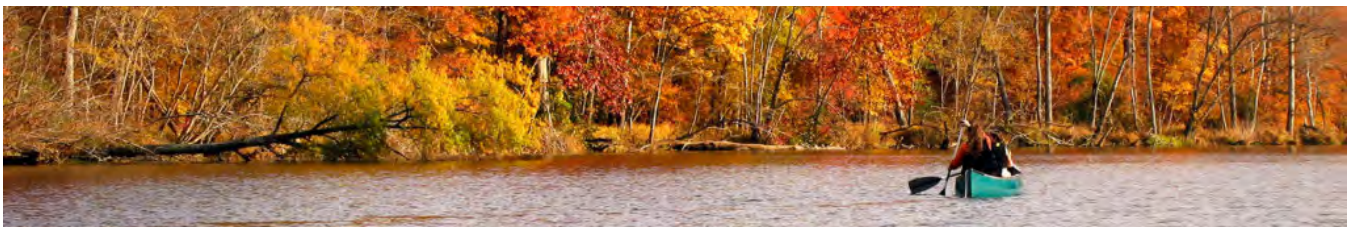
### Recommended System Wide Priorities

FACILITIES	PROGRAMS	OPERATIONS
repairs & improvements trail network expansion water access sports tourism indoor recreation community recreation	core programs tracking lifecycles health and wellness active adult programming cost recovery marketing and promotion	track material/amenity lifecycles budget for maintenance/ replacement integrate objectives with other departments sustainability

## PROGRAMS

A program assessment is needed to analyze and plan for existing and future needs. This analysis should assess demographics, trends, program popularity, marketing, and outreach.

- **Perform a programs assessment:** Analyze current program offerings, partnerships, funding, and revenue strategies to address current and projected needs.
- **Align program offerings with current demographics and plan for projected demographic shifts.** The 55+ population is projected to increase over the next 20 years while the number of children is expected to decrease. Ethnic and cultural diversity will continue to increase.
- **Introduce new programs, as a best practice, to replace underperforming programs** so that 80 percent of programs are increasing in attendance.
- **Expand marketing and promotion of programs** including historic sites, sports leagues, and fitness programs.



*Align programs with County demographics as the County ages over the next decade*

## OPERATIONS

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation manages a variety of park sites, facilities, programs, historical and natural resources. Recommendations reflecting an efficiency in operation include:

- **Develop an inclusionary and ADA accessible plan** to identify shortcomings and address standards for park and facility design, program management, and operational practices.
- **Develop an environmental sustainability report** to analyze current practices and make recommendations for long-term environmental sustainability practices.
- **Continue to standardize major systems** to make replacement of parts and maintenance tasks more efficient.
- **Create a database of maintenance and lifecycle repairs** to increase maintenance efficiency and assist budget preparation.
- **Coordinate with related County departments** to streamline maintenance tasks and services.
- **Explore new materials and methods** may reduce maintenance cost, frequency, or operating cost.

## PARKS AND FACILITIES

Chesterfield County enjoys a well-developed parks and open space system. Maintaining and improving these resources should be a priority along with addressing shortfalls with additional park facilities and enhancements. Based on the Level of Service evaluation and citizens' interest, the following are improvements in order of priority.

- **Repair and improve existing facilities.** Focus on improving the existing system before expanding park facilities. Conduct a conditions assessment of all parks and facilities to establish priorities.
- **Develop facilities at existing undeveloped parks and acquire new neighborhood, community, and regional parkland.** Initiate park development to meet Chesterfield's population needs and growth in tourism.
- **Evaluate and identify the need for indoor recreation centers. Consider the shared use of school facilities.** The County should develop approximately 20,000 sf indoor recreation space.
- **Construct additional trails and bikeways.** Focus on linkages between existing trails, destinations, and residential areas. Plan to develop 40 miles of new recreational trails by 2040.
- **Increase diversity and flexibility of park offerings by diversifying the types and sizes of amenities.** Playgrounds, picnic shelters, trails, and athletic fields could be used in multiple ways to serve a wider audience.
- **Increase water access.** Prepare a water access needs assessment and feasibility study to evaluate the need for water playgrounds and natural water bodies for outdoor recreation.
- **Dedicate resources to historic sites.** The County should implement recreation resource support in a manner sensitive to the context of the site.
- **Continue to conserve significant ecological areas, especially along water bodies.** Use land management tools that protect open space in developing and rural areas.

## ORDER OF PRIORITY FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS AND FACILITIES



# Implementation Plan

## ACTION PRIORITIES

Public interest in the implementation plan recommendations is reflected in the action priorities. The public contributed through:

- an open public opinion survey – completed by over 1,300 citizens
- input from Blueprint Chesterfield
- partner group input meetings – user group input and assessment

Priorities were determined by overlaying findings from these public input initiatives with the Level of Service needs assessment. Recommendations address how the parks and recreation system will meet community needs. Where the public expressed immediate concerns, funding could be prioritized. Project recommendations requiring more resources and planning will need in-depth consideration, long-range planning, and compilation of funding sources. On-going maintenance is conducted on an as-needed basis or scheduled periodically as funds are available.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME

*Moving Forward...* The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County recommends the Department reevaluate the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan every five years. Reevaluation will accommodate changes in development, population, and trends important to parks and recreation facilities and programming. Planning for parks and recreation is aligned with the Comprehensive Plan in three priority focus areas shown to the right.

Priorities should be reviewed every year to reflect budgets, staffing levels, new policies, trends, park use, and citizens' needs. As opportunities arise to implement recommendations priorities may shift. The implementation plan is summarized in Chapter V.

## Conclusion

Parks and recreation initiatives continue to support a high quality of life for all citizens. Chesterfield County is delivering a diverse parks and recreation system that is well used by the public. The County is in a great position to become a recreation destination. The addition of new parks in growth areas and underserved areas, improving existing parks, continued collaboration with the school system and with development partners supports parks' growth and accommodates changes in population due to development. The priorities and guidelines in this plan serve as the framework for implementation. Plan implementation aligns with the Department's needs, County Administration, and Board of Supervisors work plans.

## PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

- 1

neighborhood and community parks  
recreation center  
trails  
water access
- 2

dog park  
environmental education center  
fishing areas  
picnic areas  
playground  
rectangular fields  
regional parks  
sprayground
- 3

court sports (ex: basketball, volleyball)  
park acreage  
specialty sports (ex: archery, disc golf)

Short Term	complete in the NEXT 5 YEARS (by 2023)
Long Term	complete in the NEXT 5-20 YEARS (by 2040)
On- Going	continue existing efforts, as new issues arise, as resources become available

## SECTION II - PLAN OVERVIEW

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### Introduction

**The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides guidance to the Parks and Recreation Department in meeting recreational needs.** This document is a continuation of previous long-term planning efforts which began with the 1974 Open Space Plan and are supported by the 2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a directive outlined in the Public Facilities Plan section of the County Comprehensive Plan.** “Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County” was adopted in 2012. This plan outlines the broader needs for recreation in the County and provides general guidance for acquisition of new parkland and development of facilities. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan expands upon this planning effort and provides more detailed recommendations for parkland acquisition and facility development. The plan also makes recommendations for recreational programming, renovations, and operational changes.

### Plan Goals

- ▶ Develop strategies for the provision of safe and accessible public facilities for users of all ages and abilities.
- ▶ Expand standards and policies to ensure that current and future facilities are appropriately maintained.
- ▶ Implement operational procedures and outreach to provide a consistently high level of service.
- ▶ Plan for appropriate facilities and programs to serve current and projected population levels.
- ▶ Encourage involvement of the public and parks and recreation stakeholders as new strategies are implemented and new facilities and programs are developed.
- ▶ Encourage stewardship of park lands.
- ▶ Protect unique and sensitive environmental lands while offering opportunities for public enjoyment and education.
- ▶ Protect historical or culturally significant lands while offering opportunities for public enjoyment and education.
- ▶ Promote the County as a destination for recreation tourism by leveraging sports facilities, history, and other recreational assets.
- ▶ Support the county strategic plan goals by providing quality facilities and program.



# SECTION III - DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

## Department Profile

The Parks and Recreation Department is organized into two divisions, recreation and parks. Each is supported by administration and finance. Working together these teams support the Department’s mission and vision.

Mission Statement	Vision Statement
<i>To enhance the quality of life for citizens and visitors through First Choice recreation opportunities, experiences, and partnerships.</i>	<i>To become the First Choice destination for quality parks, facilities, sites, and programs.</i>

### RECREATION DIVISION

Recreational programming and services are managed by three sections of the Recreation Division. In addition to management of recreation programming, the division handles finance and automation, human resources, marketing, promotion and media relations, customer service, facility reservations and management of the Fairgrounds. The Recreation Division offered 1,261 programs in FY17, serving over 289,000 citizens.

#### Athletics/Sports Tourism

The Athletics section offers sports classes and camps and is responsible for facility supervision, athletic field and school site scheduling. The athletic section promotes sports tourism by advertising the world-class facilities, fields, tournaments, and events. In addition, over 70 cosponsored associations and leagues participate in Chesterfield’s Athletics programming and use some athletic sites based on lease agreements.



*Chesterfield sponsors youth and adults athletic leagues*

#### Outdoor Recreation

Chesterfield’s outdoor programs are regionally recognized for their excellence and affordability. The Outdoor Recreation section provides outdoor adventure, instruction, environmental education, camps, trips, and special events. The section manages the Rockwood Nature Center and the Chesterfield Challenge Course and provides programs in department-managed conservation areas.



*Chesterfield Challenge Course*

## **Community Recreation**

The Community Recreation Section manages senior adult programs, specialized classes, therapeutic recreation, history programs, trips and special events. In addition, several facilities are managed including the Chesterfield Fairgrounds, three community buildings (Ettrick, Bensley and Stonebridge), four historical buildings (Chesterfield Museum and Historical Jail, Trinity Church, and Magnolia Grange), and three satellite senior centers (Huguenot Baptist Church, Chesterfield Baptist Church, and Episcopal Church of our Saviour). Programs include summer camps, classes, workshops, special events, tours and trips. Community Recreation works with several outside organizations including recreation co-sponsored groups AIM USA, Chesterfield Community Band, Chesterfield County Choral Society, Ruff House Dog Park, Sophistocats Ballroom Dancing, X-Zone Skate Park, Special Olympics, Miracle League of Richmond, Chesterfield Pickleball Club and the Chesterfield Historical Society, Eppington Foundation, Falling Creek Foundation, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Chester Community Association.

## **Finance**

The Finance Section is responsible for the Department's financial management, including budgeting, purchasing, accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, fixed assets, and multi-year financial planning. Finance staff develop, negotiate and administer leases, contracts, easements, agreements, Memorandum of Agreements, and license agreements.

## **PARKS DIVISION**

The Parks Division is divided into two main functional areas: operations, and planning and construction services.

### **Parks Operations**

Working closely with Planning and Construction Services and Athletic Scheduling, the Parks Operation Section maintains over 7,100 acres. This section consists of seven maintenance teams located at park sites throughout the County and a two-person trail crew. The maintenance teams provide full grounds/facility services for 77 parks and school athletic facilities, 13 libraries and other facilities. Through contract with the School Board, the Parks Operations Section is also responsible for grounds maintenance at 70 schools. The operations division also maintains the historic sites and facilities which require specialized maintenance. System-wide support is provided with assistance of the Sheriff's workforce. Parks operations maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS).

### **Planning and Construction Services**

The responsibilities of this section include site acquisition, zoning, plans development, permitting, construction administration and associated analysis in support of park facility development. The section also handles major maintenance projects and reviews zoning cases and development plans to ensure zoning condition compliance. Planning and construction services prepares maps and graphics for departmental and public use. Planning functions for the section include development of master plans for individual sites. Long-range planning includes the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan and other countywide planning efforts including Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County and Special Area Plans.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION (PRAC)**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) is a citizen appointed commission engaging community advocates with the Parks and Recreation Department. The PRAC includes two representatives from each magisterial district and one from the School Board. The County Board of Supervisors appoints members to the PRAC for four-year terms. The Commission meets monthly to hear concerns, discuss issues and provide input about parks and recreation services and operations.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH FOUNDATIONS**

The Department works with several foundations building planning management, and programming partnerships with Chesterfield Parks and Recreation. The foundations supported include:

### **The Eppington Foundation**

Eppington Plantation is a historic Chesterfield County home built circa 1768 by Frances Eppes VI, the brother-in-law of Thomas Jefferson. The Eppington Foundation was formed in 1991. Its mission is to preserve, restore, and reconstruct Eppington and to educate the public as to its historical, cultural, agricultural, and architectural significance. The Foundation also raises funds to pay for projects such as repairs, paint analysis, and rebuilding the school house and kitchen. The Eppington Foundation is a tax-exempt non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.



### **Falling Creek Ironworks Park Foundation**

Falling Creek Ironworks Park is a County park supported by a foundation. The foundation's mission is to promote the study of the history and industrial heritage of the area; to work for the conservation and archaeological exploration of the site; and to teach the community about its history. The Foundation hosts educational events, and commissions archaeological research and conservation on the site. The foundation coordinates with the Parks Department on the development of the site.





### **Chesterfield Historical Society**

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia (CHSV) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) established in 1981. Throughout the years CHSV has been a vital entity in the preservation of Chesterfield's historic sites. It is operated by volunteers, including an all-volunteer Board of Directors. The society is funded by membership dues, donations, and grants. The society operates the County Museum, the Historic 1849 Jail, Magnolia Grange House Museum, and a public research library. Their mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote Chesterfield County's unique past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.



### **Henricus Foundation**

The mission of The Henricus Foundation is to provide educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities through preservation, reconstruction, and interpretation of early Virginia history beginning with 16th century Virginia Indians and the 1611 Citie of Henricus at Henricus Historical Park. The Henricus Foundation operates the Henricus Historical Park living history museum in partnership with the counties of Chesterfield and Henrico.



### **The Mid-Lothian Mines and Rail Roads Foundation**

The mission of the Mid-Lothian Mines and Rail Roads Foundation is to provide educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities through the preservation, reconstruction, and interpretation of the historic coal mining and railroad sites in and around the Village of Midlothian. The existing Mid-Lothian Mines Park is operated by the County's Parks and Recreation Department.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS

School grounds and facilities are an extension of the park system made available to the Department through a shared use agreement with the School Board. Public use is primarily at elementary and middle schools. Indoor and outdoor sports facilities and recreation program space is coordinated through a reservation system. The 2018-2019 new school start times shift the high schools to a later schedule and the middle schools to an earlier schedule.

This schedule may impact the shared-use agreement by increasing evening use of lighted fields by school teams and limiting evening recreation uses.

Chesterfield County co-sponsors four youth basketball leagues with a total of 6,000 players. Practices and games are scheduled in elementary and middle school gyms. There are inadequate and unevenly distributed gym facilities to meet the needs of these leagues.

## OTHER SHARED USE FACILITIES AND AGREEMENTS

The Department encourages joint facility use agreements to provide access to recreation programming and extend the county's facilities in underserved areas.

### Examples of joint facility use include:

- use of churches for senior centers
- co-location of the Stonebridge Recreation Center with the Richmond Volleyball Club
- cooperative programming at Chesterfield County Libraries
- facility management and use of the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds

### Other agreements involving shared use of facilities include the:

- county's historical foundations
- Miracle League Field
- promotion of sports tourism by Richmond Regional Tourism



*Robious Middle School is one of the sites for the shared-use agreement*



## ECONOMIC & TAX-BASE BENEFITS OF PARKS AND LAND CONSERVATION

When planning for future needs and placing value on local lands, the fiscal and economic advantages of open space and parks is important to local economies.

### Five key community benefits of parks and open space include:

- Reducing taxes on residents by preserving open space in areas where additional development would require an expansion public services and infrastructure
- Improving property values by including parks and open space adjacent to existing and planned development
- Attracting business investment with high quality of life provided by parks and open space
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and public health by providing recreation opportunities to the community

(Based on the *Land Trust Alliance, October 2011*)

## FUNDING

The department is funded through two budgets. The operating budget covers staffing, programs, events, materials and equipment, and general service needs. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) provides for all capital or major maintenance projects exceeding \$100,000. Budgets are developed for a 5-year planning period. The Board of Supervisors appropriates/approves the current year expenditures and adopts future years in-concept. The current operating budget is \$10.6 million. The CIP for park improvements is \$2.75 million for FY17 and \$2.22 million for FY18 and in aggregate \$14.02 million for FY18-22. The CIP for all departmental projects is in aggregate \$29.19 million for FY18-22. Supplemental funding is derived from state and federal grants, typically for park acquisition and development. Operation is supplemented by fees and charges for programs, services, and facility rental.

### FY 18-22 CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

TOTAL: \$29,188,000

#### Option 1

48%	park system infrastructure improvements	\$	14,020,000
39%	new facilities	\$	11,418,000
7%	parkland acquisitions	\$	2,150,000
4%	access to undeveloped sites	\$	1,100,000
2%	historic partnerships	\$	500,000
		\$	29,188,000

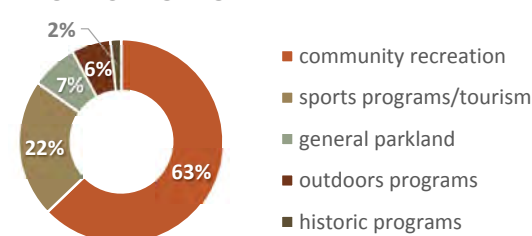
#### FY 18-22 CIP - OPTION 1



#### Option 2

63%	community recreation	\$	18,338,000
22%	sports programs/tourism	\$	6,400,000
7%	general parkland	\$	2,150,000
6%	outdoors programs	\$	1,800,000
2%	historic programs	\$	500,000
		\$	29,188,000

#### FY 18-22 CIP - OPTION 2



# Parks and Facilities

The Chesterfield County park system consists of 57 park sites and 11 athletic complexes, totaling 5,100 acres. Of these park sites, 14 are undeveloped. These parks provide green space and enable the county to meet future recreation needs.

There are currently 224 athletic fields, 194 courts, and over 40 miles of trails managed for public use. These include shared-use facilities at school sites. Approximately 60 percent of the County's parkland is forested open space.

Chesterfield's parks have seen tremendous growth in park visits over the last 15 years. Park visits totaled 6.4 million in 2017, a 100 percent increase from 3.2 million in 2000. This growth is attributed to a growing population and the diverse recreation opportunities (Figure III-1, Figure III-2 and Figure III-3).

## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Park sites are classified into five categories differentiated by size, service radius and types of recreational use. Forty percent of park and school sites are considered developed or managed for athletics. This leaves 60 percent of the County's parkland as wooded. Most regional and community parks include some or in some cases a majority of wooded landscapes.



*Rockwood Park is one of the five regional parks in Chesterfield County*

## Regional Parks

*100 acres or greater, 5 mile service radius, 15 minute drive time, provide 4 ac./1,000 people*

Regional parks are large tracts that offer a variety of active and passive recreation. These parks function as destination parks and serve a larger geographic area. There are six regional park sites in the County. Most regional parks include more open space and wooded lands than neighborhood or community parks. One of these sites, Horner Park, is currently under development. Facilities could include athletic fields, recreation centers, restrooms, concessions, court games, playgrounds, picnic shelters, walking/biking trails, boating/fishing access points, and sports facilities adjacent to athletic fields (Figure III-1).

## Community Parks

*21-99 acres or greater, 3 mile service radius, 10 minute drive time, provide 3 ac./1,000 people*

Community parks may be stand-alone sites or located at schools. Community parks offer different types of recreational facilities. Community parks focus on meeting the recreational needs by providing multiple facilities and accommodating group activities. Several community parks are athletics focused, while others offer a mix of active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities including therapeutic playgrounds.

There are 16 community park sites in the County, three are undeveloped. Stratton Park, pictured on the right, is currently an athletic site with two synthetic turf soccer fields. Future development of this site will add passive recreational facilities such as trails and picnic areas (Figure III-2).



*Mary B. Stratton Park currently has two soccer fields*

## Neighborhood Parks

*5-20 acres or greater, 1.5 mile service radius, 5 minute drive time, provide 2 ac./1,000 people*

Neighborhood parks serve as extensions of the surrounding neighborhood. They are designed for both active and passive recreation activities geared to all age groups and physical abilities. Neighborhood parks offer a variety of recreational facilities. Park design should create a “sense of place” that enhances neighborhood and community identity. These parks may be stand-alone sites or located at schools. General recreational amenities found at these parks may also be located on special purpose parks.

There are 15 neighborhood parks in the County. Clarendon Park, shown here, is an example of a neighborhood park where residents have convenient walking or biking access to recreational facilities (Figure III-1).



*Clarendon Park*





*Henricus Historical Park is a living history museum which includes a re-creation of the 1611 Citie of Henricus*

## **Urban Parks**

*0.5-5 acres or greater, 1.5 mile service radius, no drive time or acreage standards*

Urban parks serve areas where larger park acreage is difficult to acquire and where smaller parks enhance existing or planned development. Urban parks do not replace the need for neighborhood parks. These parks may provide greenspace and linkages within mixed land use areas.

There are currently no urban parks in the County, but urbanizing areas like Bon Air, Northern Jefferson Davis, and Chester would be appropriate locations.

## **Special Purpose Parks**

*No acreage or service radius standard*

Special purpose parks center around unique environmental, cultural, historical, or recreational features. They offer passive recreational facilities such as trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, water access for boating or fishing, special events areas, and interpretive/educational opportunities. For example, the Henricus Historical Park is a living history museum showcasing early Virginia history. Some special purpose parks are comprised of specialty active recreation areas. For example, River City Sportsplex is a sports tournament facility. Special purpose parks may include neighborhood or community park amenities.

Conservation areas are special purpose parks to preserve dedicated environmental or historical resources. Some conservation areas have conservation easements or other restrictions to limit future development. Neighborhood, community, and regional parks may also have conservation easements or development restrictions. For example, Atkins Acres Park, which is a 122-acre undeveloped community park, has conservation easements along the stream that limit park uses.

As the county continues to develop, future parks may be acquired and developed strictly for open space and not contain publicly accessed facilities. Conservation may be a tool in developing areas of the county to preserve green space. In rural areas, land conservation may help preserve the farms and silviculture, a defining part of the county's heritage and landscape.

There are 30 special purpose parks in the County, eight of which are undeveloped.

## Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

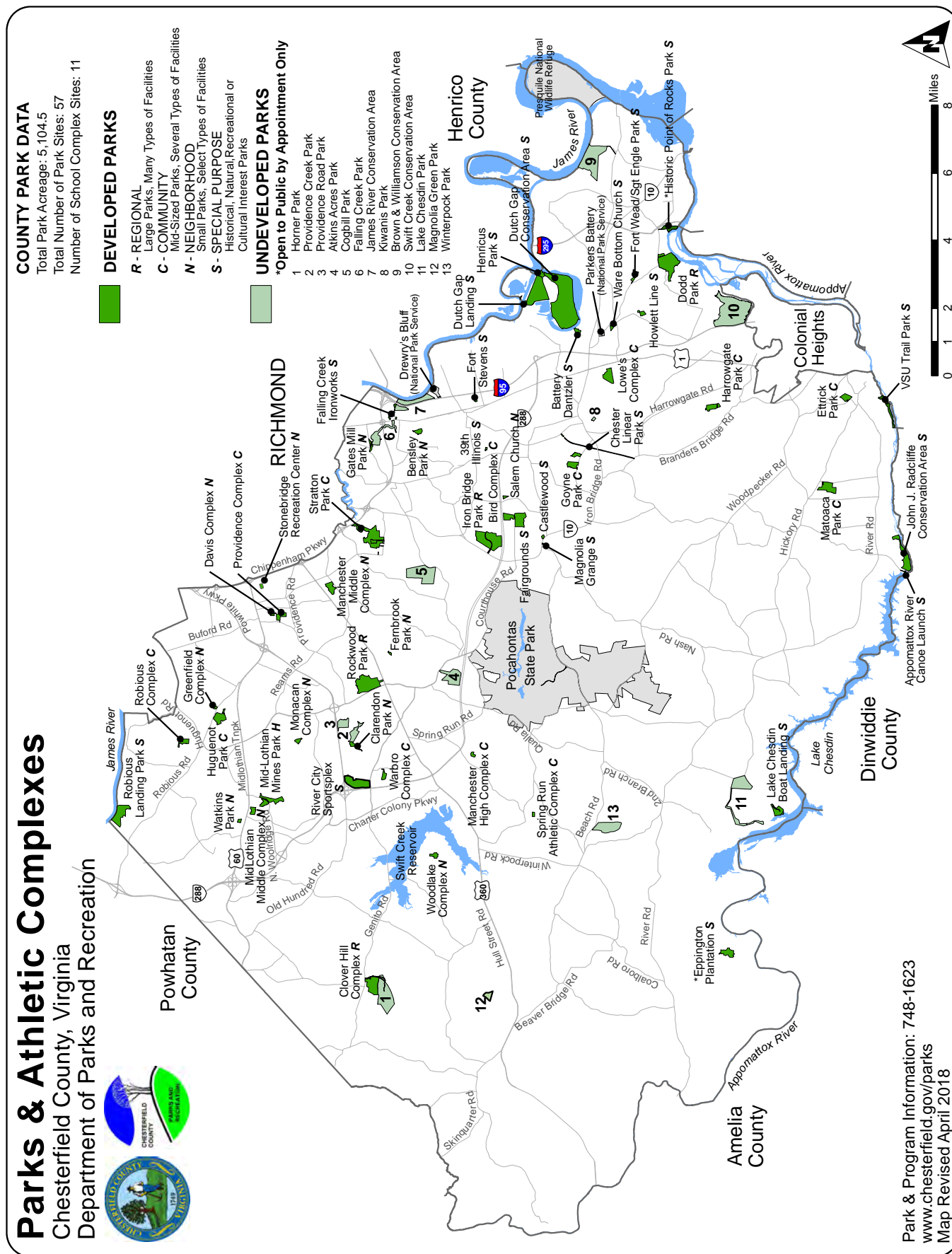




Figure III-2 Parks and Athletic Facilities

Park and Athletic Facilities																																											
KEY		■ facility	💡 lighted facility	R=group shelter reservations accepted										A=visitation by appointment only										L=leased site										S=school grounds									
		limited access	facility acreage	picnic shelter	picnic area	playground	trails (fitness trail denoted with *)	historical	fishing	river access	restrooms	concession	baseball/softball	football	soccer (accommodates other uses also)	disc golf	lacrosse/field hockey	tennis	pickleball	basketball	volleyball	horseshoes	special features and addresses																				
Appomattox River Canoe Launch			2	■		■			■	■													21501 Chesdin Road South Chesterfield, VA 23803																				
Appomattox River Trail Etrick/VSU Trail Head			47			■			■	■													3801 Main Street South Chesterfield, VA 23803																				
Atkins Acres Park	A		122																				5450 Courthouse Rd. Chesterfield, VA 23832																				
Battery Dantzler			16			■		■															1820 Battery Dantzler Road Chester, VA 23836																				
Bensley Park			17	■	■	■	■				■	■	■	■				■				■	Community Building 2900 Drewry's Bluff Road North Chesterfield, VA 23237																				
Bird Athletic Complex	S		30	■	■	■					■	■	💡					💡					Disabled children's baseball field 10401 Courthouse Road Chesterfield, VA 23832																				
Brown & Williamson Conservation Area	A		265																				2800 Bermuda Hundred Road Chester, VA 23836																				
Castlewood	A		4					■															10201 Iron Bridge Road Chesterfield, VA 23832																				
Chester Linear Park			12			■																	11801 Womack Road Chesterfield, VA 23831																				
Clarendon Park			15			■																	2428 Brookforest Road Midlothian, VA 23112																				
Clover Hill Athletic Complex			100								■	■	💡	💡	■								17701 Genito Road Moseley, VA 23120																				
Cogbill Park	A		212																				6700 Cogbill Road Chesterfield, VA 23832																				
Davis Athletic Complex	S		14										■		■								415 S. Providence Road North Chesterfield, VA 23235																				
Dutch Gap Boat Landing			1						■	■													441 Coxendale Road Chester, VA 23836																				
Dutch Gap Conservation Area			796	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■												341 Henricus Park Road Chester, VA 23836																				
Eppington Plantation	A		44					■															14602 Eppes Falls Road Chesterfield, VA 23838																				
Etrick Park			28	R	■	■	■				■	■	💡	💡				💡	💡	💡	■	■	Community Building 20821 Woodpecker Road Etrick, VA 23803																				
Falling Creek Ironworks			9			■	■	■	■	■													2046 Marina Drive North Chesterfield, VA 23234																				
Falling Creek Linear Park	A		89																				6200 Jefferson Davis Hwy North Chesterfield, VA 23234																				
Fernbrook Park			4	■	■	■																	9270 Chatham Grove Lane North Chesterfield, VA 23236																				
Fort Stevens			2			■	■																8900 Pams Avenue North Chesterfield, VA 23237																				
Fort Wead			1			■	■																1107 Greyledge Boulevard Chester, VA 23836																				
Gates Mill Park			12			■	■																3000 Cogbill Road North Chesterfield, VA 23234																				
Goyne Park			49	R	■	■	■				■	■	💡	💡	■			💡	💡				5300 Ecoff Road Chester, VA 23831																				
Greenfield Athletic Complex	S		5			■									■								10751 Savoy Road North Chesterfield, VA 23235																				
Harrowgate Park			35	R	■	■	■*				■	■	💡	💡				💡		💡	■	■	4000 Cougar Trail Chester, VA 23831																				
Harry G. Daniel Park at Iron Bridge			187	R	■	■	■				■	■	💡	💡	💡			💡		💡	■	■	Handball / Racquetball Courts 6600 White Pine Road Chesterfield, VA 23237																				
Henricus Historical Park			23		■	■	■	■	■	■	■												Visitors Center / Gift Shop 251 Henricus Road Chester, VA 23831																				
Historic Point of Rocks Park	A		29			■	■																1005 Enon Church Road Chester, VA 23836																				
Howlett Line			13			■	■																14100 Howlett Line Drive South Chesterfield, VA 23834																				
Huguenot Park			57	R	■	■	■*				■				■			💡		💡	■	■	Azalea Garden 10901 Robious Road North Chesterfield, VA 23235																				
Irvin G. Horner Park	A		217																				4351 Moseley Road Moseley, VA 23120																				
James River Conservation Area	A		108						■	■													1820 Marina Drive North Chesterfield, VA 23234																				

# Park and Athletic Facilities

**KEY** ■ facility    ⚡ lighted facility    R=group shelter reservations accepted    A=visitation by appointment only  
L=leased site    S=school grounds

	limited access	facility acreage	picnic shelter	picnic area	playground	trails (fitness trail denoted with *)	historical	fishing	river access	restrooms	concession	baseball/softball	football	soccer (accommodates other uses also)	disc golf	lacrosse/field hockey	tennis	basketball	volleyball	horseshoes	special features and addresses
John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area		97			■			■	■												21501 Chesdin Road South Chesterfield, VA 23803
Kiwanis Park	A	5																			12321 Richmond Street Chester, VA 23831
Lake Chesdin Boat Landing		43		■				■	■												Boat Slide & Fishing Pier 21900 Lake Chesdin Parkway Chesterfield, VA 23838
Lake Chesdin Park	A	171																			14800 N. Ivey Mill Road Chesterfield, VA 23838
Lowes Soccer Complex	L	57												■							2651 Weir Place Chester, VA 23831
Magnolia Grange	A	1					■														10020 Iron Bridge Road Chesterfield, VA 23832
Manchester High Complex	S	9								■	■	⚡									12501 Bailey Bridge Road Midlothian, VA 23112
Manchester Middle Complex	S	31								■	■	⚡	⚡	⚡			⚡				7401 Hull Street Road North Chesterfield, VA 23235
Mary B. Stratton Park		167											⚡	⚡		⚡					Synthetic Turf Fields 5201 Ridgedale Parkway North Chesterfield, VA 23234
Matoaca Park		69	■	■	■	■				■	■	⚡	⚡				⚡	⚡		■	19900 Holloway Avenue Matoaca, VA 23803
Mid-Lothian Mines		44				■	■														13301 N. Woolridge Road Midlothian, VA 23114
Midlothian Middle Complex	S	19								■	■	⚡	⚡	⚡			⚡	■	■		13501 Midlothian Turnpike Midlothian, VA 23113
Monacan Athletic Complex	S	12								■				■							11501 Smoketree Drive Richmond, VA 23236
Providence Athletic Complex	S	23								■	■	⚡	⚡	■			■				900 Starlight Lane North Chesterfield, VA 23235
Providence Creek Park	A	55																			2451 Providence Creek Road North Chesterfield, VA 23236
Providence Road Park	A	49																			11000 W. Providence Road North Chesterfield, VA 23236
R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks		176	R	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	⚡	⚡	■			⚡	⚡	■	■	Floating Boardwalk 201 Enon Church Road Chester, VA 23836
River City Sportsplex		115								■	■		⚡			⚡					13030 Genito Road Midlothian, VA 23112
Robious Athletic Complex	S	28								■	■	⚡	⚡	⚡							2801 Robious Crossing Drive Midlothian, VA 23113
Robious Landing Park		102	R	■	■	■		■	■	■									■		Boat Slide 3800 James River Road Midlothian, VA 23113
Rockwood Park		171	R	■	■	■*				■	■	⚡					⚡	⚡	■	■	Nature Center, Dog Park, Archery 3401 Courthouse Road North Chesterfield, VA 23236
Salem Church Mini Park		4				■															5200 Lockberry Ridge Drive North Chesterfield, VA 23237
Sgt. Engle Park		12				■	■														13920 Tobacco Bay Place Chester, VA 23836
Swift Creek Conservation Area	A	447																			16210 Continental Boulevard South Chesterfield, VA 23834
Warbro Athletic Complex	L	17								■	■	⚡									3204 Warbro Road Midlothian, VA 23112
Ware Bottom Church Battlefield	A	10				■	■														1600 Old Bermuda Hundred Road Chester, VA 23836
Watkins Annex Park		6				■				■		⚡	⚡					⚡			13801 Westfield Road Midlothian, VA 23113
Winterpock Park	R	241																			13451 Beach Road Chesterfield, VA 23838
Woodlake Athletic Complex	S	16		■						■	■			■							5700 Woodlake Village Parkway Midlothian, VA 23112
39th Illinois Park		2				■	■														8913 Proctors Run Court North Chesterfield, VA 23237

Source: Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation, 2018



## Figure III-3: Park System Sites and Acreage

TABLE 1.1 - PARK SYSTEM SITES AND ACREAGE

2.26.2018<sup>a</sup>

PARK LAND BY CATEGORY	2018
<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b> # OF SITES: 6	
Appomattox River Hill Athletic Complex	99.8
G. Daniel Park at Iron Bridge <sup>1</sup>	186.6
Richard Dodd Park at Point of Rocks	176.1
Wood Park	171.4
Rock / Rt. 380 West Area	240.5
W. Horner Park	216.6
<b>TOTAL REGIONAL PARK ACREAGE</b>	<b>1,091.0</b>

<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b> # OF SITES: 12	
St. Soccer Complex	56.9
Rock Complex	34.8
K Park	28.3
Acres Park	122.0
E Park <sup>2</sup>	33.1
Wgate Park	35.0
ica Park	68.9
Chesdin Park	110.0
enot Park	56.7
B. Stratton Park	15.1
olia Green Park	26.8
ence Road Park	49.1
Community Parks at Schools *	46
nd parkland providing community use	166
Community Parks within Special Purpose Parks	171
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY PARK ACREAGE</b>	<b>1,020.1</b>

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b> # OF SITES: 7	
ey Park	17.0
ndon Park	14.6
rook Park	3.5
er Pocket Park (P)	0.1
Mill Park	12.3
i Church Mini Park	3.5
ns Annex Park	6.1
Neighborhood Parks at Schools*	367.1
Neighborhood Parks within Special Purpose Parks	23.9
<b>TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACREAGE</b>	<b>448.3</b>

<b>SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS</b> # OF SITES: 30	
Illinois Park	2.1
J. Radcliffe Appomattox River Conservation Area	97.4
ry Danzler (P)	16.3
y & Williamson Conservation Area (P)	264.8
Wood	4.4
er Linear Park	12.4
il Park	212.1
i Gap Boat Landing	0.7
i Gap Conservation Area	795.9
gton Plantation (P)	43.7
ounds	77.8
g Creek Ironworks (P)	8.6
y Creek Linear Park	82.9
itevens (P)	2.1
Veard (P)	12.6
cus Historical Park (P)	16.4
ric Point of Rocks Park	30.0
att Line (P)	13.2
s River Conservation Area	107.9
is park	5.4
Chesdin Boat Landing	43.4
Chesdin Linear Park	60.6
olia Grange	1.1
othian Mines Park (P)	43.3
ence Creek Linear Park	54.5
City Sportsplex	115.0
us Landing Park	101.6
ngles Park	11.8
Creek Conservation Area	447.2
Bottom Church Civil War Park (P)	10.2
nd parkland providing special purpose use	71

<b>PARK LAND SHARED WITH SCHOOLS</b> 2018	
<b>SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEXES</b>	
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AT SCHOOLS</b> # OF SITES: 7	
Greenfield Athletic Complex	4.5
Davis Complex	14.3
Manchester M.S. Complex	30.6
Midlothian M.S. Complex	18.7
Monacan H.S. Complex	12.4
Spring Run Athletic Facility	6.0
Woodlake Complex at Clover Hill E.S.	16.0
Other school-park acreage (53 sites)	723.5

<b>TOTAL SCHOOL COMPLEX ACREAGE</b>	<b>825.9</b>
<b>*NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS SHARE</b>	<b>367.1</b>

<b>COMMUNITY PARKS AT SCHOOLS</b> # OF SITES: 4	
Bird Complex	32.6
Manchester H.S. Complex	8.9
Providence M.S. Complex	22.9
Robious Complex	28.3

<b>TOTAL SCHOOL COMPLEX ACREAGE</b>	<b>92.8</b>
<b>*COMMUNITY PARKS SHARE <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>46</b>

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PARKS SITES</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>NUMBER OF SCHOOL COMPLEX SITES</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SITES</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES</b>	<b>121</b>

<b>PARK ACREAGE PER POPULATION</b>	
Population Estimate	340,000
<b>TOTAL PARK ACREAGE*</b>	<b>5,131.1</b>
Acres per thousand	15.1
<b>TOTAL PARK AND SCHOOL SHARED ACREAGE</b>	<b>5,544.4</b>
Acres per thousand	16.3
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE**</b>	<b>3,839.6</b>
Acres per thousand	10.7
<b>TOTAL w/o SPECIAL PURPOSE*</b>	<b>2,559.4</b>
Acres per thousand	7.5

<b>LEASED/SHARED PARKS</b> # OF SITES: 4	
Appomattox River Canoe Launch [sp]	2.2
Appomattox River Trail - VSU/Ettrick Trail Head [sp]	47.8
Mary B. Stratton Park [c]	166.5
Midlothian Mines Park - Headstock [sp]	21.0
<b>TOTAL LEASED/SHARED ACREAGE</b>	<b>237.5</b>

(P)= Partnership Unbold text=Undeveloped *Italics*=Athletic Complex

<sup>1</sup> excludes airport reserved & First Tee acre:

<sup>2</sup> excludes Goynes Disc Golf acres (shared use)

<sup>3</sup> includes Goynes Disc Golf at 47% acreage

\* includes percentage of school shared use acres (park land equivalent): 47% elementary acreage, 42% middle & high acreage

\*\* excludes undeveloped sites shown in non-bold typeface and includes 100% of school shared use acreage

All acreages based on Chesterfield County & Parks GIS

<b>CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2017 ARE SHADED</b>	
State owned Pocohantas Park	7691

ISSUE DATE: 2.26.2018

## SECTION IV - PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

### Reflection on 2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

#### 2002 PLAN OVERVIEW

In 2002 the Department of Parks and Recreation worked with the public, consultants, County staff, and key stakeholders to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The process involved public meetings, surveys, demographic analysis, a facility needs assessment, and departmental feedback. Out of these findings, the team identified four main ideas:

- Take care of what we have.
- Increase system diversity.
- Protect natural systems and historic resources.
- Utilize public and private partnerships.

From these ideas and findings, the team developed the following goals and objectives:

- Acquire park land in advance of growth areas to support new regional, community, neighborhood, and special purpose parks.
- Develop recreation centers.
- Renovate and replace aging facilities.
- Address the changing athletic facility needs.
- Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

##### Take Care of What We Have

Funding increased for maintenance and facility replacements. Many improvements have been system wide. Funding from the 2004 Bond Referendum and subsequent Capital Improvement Programs allowed for specific major athletic complex upgrades and renovations:

*Rockwood Park, Huguenot Park, Bird Complex, Daniel CBC Baseball, Robious Complex, Manchester Complex, Midlothian Middle Complex, and Manchester Middle Complex.*

In 2016, the Department created a trails crew, a two-person team to provide dedicated maintenance and renovation to the expanded parks trail system. Park operations was reorganized in 2006 to combine school and park maintenance into a unified team. This reorganization expanded satellite districts from four to six reducing drive time and increasing efficiencies.



*The baseball diamonds at Bird Complex were built as part of the 2004 Bond Referendum*

## Increase System Diversity

### *Additional Unique Facilities*

Several recreational facilities were added including: Rockwood Dog Park and Pickleball Center, Goyne Park Disc Golf Course, and Robious Landing Park rowing boathouse and launch dock. The Department partnered with Manchester YMCA and X-Zone to open a skateboard park.

### *Inclusive Facilities*

The Department has also been increasing the inventory of facilities that are inclusive for all abilities. The County added two universal access playgrounds for children with disabilities, “A Playground for Katie and Friends” at Huguenot Park and the Boundless Playground at Bird Athletic Complex. The County also added Miracle Field baseball field, designed and managed for special needs children.

### *Athletic Facilities*

The Department supported the addition of lacrosse and field hockey sports leagues and clubs. Synthetic surface sports fields were added at Stratton Park and River City Sportsplex.

### *Trail System*

The trail system was expanded to include three types of user experiences: Paved and stone dust surface trails were added to compliment natural surface trails typically found throughout the park system. It is now a departmental standard that parks include all three types of trails. Working with the Planning Department, Parks and Recreation assisted in creation of a county-wide bikeways and trails plan as part of Moving Forward – The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County.

### *Historic Interpretation*

Historic interpretation time periods were expanded to include the mining era at Mid-Lothian Mines Park. An understanding of the role of the Civil War in Chesterfield has been strengthened with new interpretation at four Civil War sites. The Henricus Foundation’s Henricus Historical Park recreates four hundred years of history through interpretation and education programming.

### *Programming*

Multi-generational events such as Movie Night, Kite Day, expanded programming for 4th of July and at Henricus and Midlothian Mines Parks, and the Pocahontas State Park Concert Series increase program diversity. Senior programming was expanded through use of church space rentals.



*The development of “Katie’s Universal Playground” at Huguenot Park was one of the accomplished goals of the 2002 plan*



## **Protect Natural Systems and Historic Resources**

Special purpose parks have expanded greatly to protect and interpret some of the unique natural environments and historic areas of Chesterfield County. Over 900 acres of natural areas have been acquired, most by donation or through grants. These areas include Swift Creek Conservation Area, James River Conservation Area, Radcliffe Conservation Area, Historic Point of Rocks, Atkins Acres Park, and Robious Landing. Portions of other parks in the system have been given conservation status. Recorded conservation easements were placed on Swift Creek, Atkins Acres Park, Battery Dantzler, James River Conservation Area, and Historic Point of Rocks (see Figure IV-1).

Several historical sites highlighting Civil War history were added to the system. They include Historic Point of Rocks on the Appomattox River and James River Conservation Area on the James River. These sites showcase naval engagements and union field hospital stories. Two other sites related to Civil War history were also added: Sergeant Engle's and 38th Illinois parks. These sites are significant for battle engagements of the Bermuda Hundred campaign. The new Kiwanis Park site showcases the early history of Chester and Pleasant View School House and the African American educational experience. The Department also expanded Howlett Line, Battery Dantzler, and Falling Creek Ironworks parks. In addition to these sites, the Department added another 62 acres of special purpose parks.

## **Utilize Public and Private Partnerships**

The Parks and Recreation Department continued its strong relationships with historical foundations and Chesterfield Historic Society of Virginia to deliver programming, special events, and new facilities. The Henricus Foundation provides educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities through preservation, reconstruction, and

interpretation of early Virginia history, beginning with 16th century indigenous peoples and the 1611 Citie of Henricus through to the Civil War. Mid-Lothian Mines and Railroad Foundation was created to support the Mid-Lothian Mines Park and Midlothian Village industrial story.

The Department worked with area churches to expand program spaces for seniors to expand number and diversity of activities. The Department continued regional partnerships with private organizations such as Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), James River Advisory Council (JRAC), and Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) and in the Richmond and Crater Planning districts.

The Department maintained a strong relationship with co-sponsored athletic and other private recreation groups to provide for 10 sports and other recreation activities. A new collaboration with Sports Backers, allowed the Department to create new events in the County such as Henricus Dauber Dash and Tacky Lights Run. The partnership with Sports Backers supports tourism, health and wellness and the Chesterfield Bikeways and Trails Plan.

In 2011 the Department began collaborating with Richmond Regional Tourism to promote sports events within the County, particularly at the River City Sportsplex 12-field synthetic turf complex. This partnership was solidified when the County purchased the facility in 2016.

Richmond Volleyball includes a 45,000sf indoor facility operated as a public-private partnership. This facility is a destination tournament facility offering community recreation in partnership with Chesterfield Parks and Recreation.

Parks and Recreation also partners with the county's Planning, Transportation, General Services, and Environmental Engineering departments. These intra-governmental partnerships leverage resources to meet common goals and objectives

# COUNTY RESOURCES

Chesterfield County is home to many unique natural, historical and cultural resources. Each provide diversity in recreational opportunities. The Department preserves and enhances public appreciation through education and enjoyment of the resources.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The County is situated between two major waterways – the James and Appomattox rivers. The James River forms part of the northern and northeastern county boundary and the Appomattox River and Lake Chesdin define much of the southern boundary. Two major tributaries, Swift Creek and Falling Creek, run through the County and feed the two rivers. With the exception of Swift Creek and Falling Creek, reservoirs which are privately owned, the County has parks fronting its waterways. The parks on the James and Appomattox rivers provide boating, fishing, nature observation, and water-based programs.

Centrally located in the County is the 8,115 acre Pocahontas State Park, the largest state park in Virginia. This park includes an aquatic center, visitor center, campgrounds, shelters, meeting spaces, amphitheater, over 54 miles of trails, and a 225 acre lake along Swift Creek available for fishing and non-motorized boating.



*The 810-acre Dutch Gap Conservation Area surrounds Henricus Historical Park and features diverse woodlands, wetlands, and the old meandering channel of the James River. The area is host to a walking trail, paddle trail, boat launch, and observation blind.*

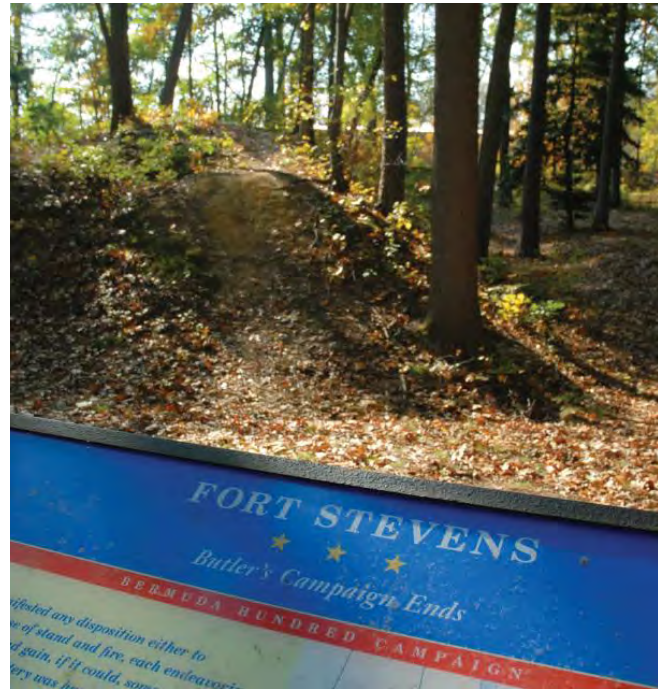
## HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The history of Chesterfield County features many names, places, and events that have shaped the cultural and physical landscape. The diversity of stories stemming from these historic resources provide opportunities for education, tourism, and unique recreational experiences.

Henricus Historical Park includes a re-creation of the 1611 Citie of Henricus, site of the second successful English settlement in the New World. Henricus offers pre-Colonial English and Native American living history experiences in addition to Civil War programs.

Other historical points of interest include Eppington Plantation built circa 1768, the earliest commercially mined coal in North America preserved at Mid-Lothian Mines and Railroad Park, the earliest iron furnace in the New World at the 1619 Ironworks on Falling Creek, the historic Village of Bon Air which was established as a resort town in the late 1880's, and the Village of Ettrick which was established as a Mill town with flourishing textile mills and home to one of the earliest African American colleges in the country with Virginia State University. The County courthouse area includes the Chesterfield County Museum, Historic 1892 Jail, the 1822 Magnolia Grange Museum House, Castlewood and the 1917 Courthouse.

The County also manages numerous Civil War sites interpreting the 1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign of the American Civil War. The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia (CHS) leases a number of historic structures from Chesterfield County and offers interpretation and public access. CHS is committed to working with the County to identify and preserve Chesterfield's rich heritage.



*Fort Stevens was part of the defenses of Richmond and hosted the largest battle of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign*

There are 14 county-operated interpretive historic sites in Chesterfield County. Historic sites are integrated into the park system. They serve the larger system and provide unique interpretive experiences by:

- Providing recreational programs
- Serving as neighborhood and community parks
- Providing unique learning opportunities for school groups and county visitors





# Recreation Trends

## Key Findings

- Park use and attendance is increasing
- Popularity of fitness sports is increasing while popularity of team sports is decreasing
- Participation in outdoor sports and fitness sports have the greatest levels of participation across all generations
- Active Adults (aged 55+) prefer passive outdoor activities
- Marketing and promotion of activities, services, and facilities must keep pace

## NATIONAL AND STATE TRENDS

The following national sports participation data is derived from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association's 2017 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report. This information provides a baseline for the County to plan for shifts in recreational preferences, but the County should give preference to local activity data. Nationally, the percentage of inactive people has averaged approximately 28 percent since 2011. The percentage of people age 6 and up who participate at least once a week in a high calorie burning activity was 42 percent in 2016. The three activity categories with the most participation nationally for the past five years include fitness sports, individual sports, and outdoor sports.

Nationally, fitness sports saw the greatest increase in all around participation over the last 5 years, averaging 4 percent participation growth in swimming for fitness, high intensity interval training, barre, and tai chi. Individual sports are the third most popular sports category, with 35 percent of individuals participating in activities like trail running, triathlons, and adventure racing. Many team sports have shown low to moderate growth, with football, basketball, and outdoor soccer declining. Of the team sports, nationally, basketball is still the most popular. Cardio tennis and pickleball are two racket sports rapidly gaining in popularity.

Outdoor sports and fitness sports have the greatest participation across all generations. Team sports had the greatest variation in popularity; 57 percent of those aged 17 and under were involved, while only 6 percent of the Baby Boomer generation (those aged 53-74) were involved. Outdoor activities also saw high increases in participation, particularly stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, and rock climbing. The sports activities that most interest those over age 55 are camping, bicycling, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, fishing, and swimming for fitness. Most of these are passive outdoor activities in natural areas. The population of Chesterfield County is projected to be more than one-third active older adults by 2040, so the parks and recreation department needs to shift focus to this age group. Chesterfield County currently has many natural areas and should continue to maintain and develop these areas with amenities that match the preferences of this age group.

## TOP 10 OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

### IN THE RICHMOND REGION, BY PARTICIPATION

walking for pleasure.....	73%
visiting natural areas.....	68%
visiting parks (local, state, & national).....	66%
driving for pleasure.....	61%
sunbathing/relaxing on a beach .....	54%
swimming in outdoor pool.....	52%
viewing the water.....	45%
outdoor festivals (music festivals, etc.).....	40%
swimming at beach/lake/river (open water).....	39%
visiting gardens/arborescences.....	38%

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey



The most popular activity in 2016 across all generations was walking for fitness, perhaps because of its low barrier to entry for equipment cost and ability level. Visiting parks and natural areas, driving for pleasure, swimming, and attending outdoor festivals are also very popular activities. Regionally popular outdoor recreation activities are summarized in the chart on the previous page. The most needed outdoor recreation amenities in the Richmond region are identified in the chart to the right.

## MOST NEEDED OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES IN THE RICHMOND REGION

natural areas.....	52%
historic areas.....	42%
trails.....	42%
water access .....	40%
scenic drives (driving for pleasure).....	28%
playing fields, sports, and golf facilities.....	25%

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey

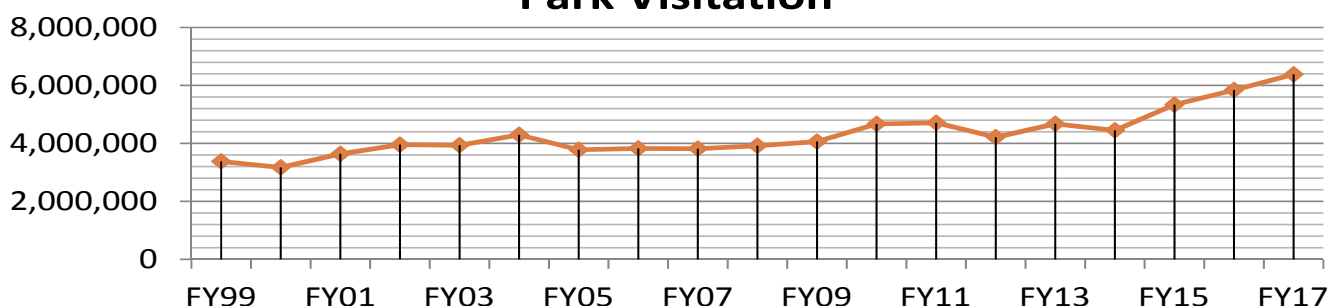
## LOCAL TRENDS

Since 1999, park attendance has steadily increased in Chesterfield. Current data indicates that there were over 6 million park visits in 2017. This increase is due to the growing population within the County, diversity of park sites, and increased programs. Growth in public relations and social media promotes parks. Park visits are increasing at a faster rate than population growth, which indicates the value and interest citizens have in the outdoors. From 2000 to 2017, there has been a 101 percent increase in park attendance. Over the same time period, the county's population increased by 30 percent. The average annual increase over these three years was 13 percent, compared with an annual average of 2 percent in the 15 years prior [Note: Park visits are counted by recording vehicles entries into the park. Two persons are assigned to each vehicle for estimation purposes. For example, if you came and went 3 times during your stay at the park for your daughter's softball games, 6 visits would be counted.]

The County also examined park attendance by category of park visited. Mixed use parks like Rockwood Park feature both active and passive recreation, athletic parks like Clover Hill Athletic Complex predominately include sports fields, and passive parks like Dutch Gap Conservation Area offer natural space and passive activities. All park types have increased attendance since 2000, but mixed use parks have the highest use.

The County also tracks trends in athletic participation. Countywide, adult sports participation is in decline, though adult softball has seen a long-term participation increase of 100 percent between 2006 and 2016 based on County-collected participation data. The overall decline may be due, in part, to the 2010 elimination of all County offered adult athletic programs. The County should continue to monitor participation rates to track trends.

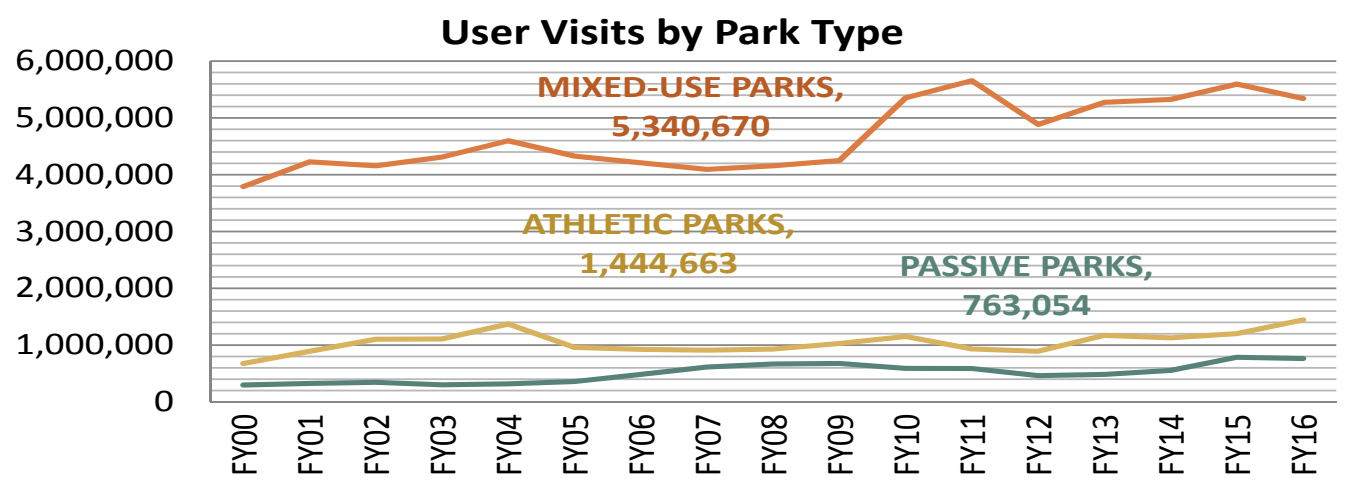
## Park Visitation



Data from: Chesterfield County Planning Department

Youth participation in County-sponsored organized athletics has also decreased. Many sports are transitioning to travel or all-star teams in lieu of traditional leagues. These groups typically rent fields for practices rather than being assigned fields by the Department. This may be partly attributed to the difficulty that existing co-sponsored groups are experiencing with securing volunteer coaches and administrators to operate the youth leagues. Participation in softball, cheerleading, lacrosse, baseball, football, field hockey, and volleyball is declining. Soccer and basketball have increasing participation levels. Chesterfield County does not need to increase the quantity of these fields and could consider converting some to higher priority uses. Chesterfield will need to continue to provide rectangular fields for soccer, as participation in co-sponsored athletic group is rising and demand for rental fields is rising.

Sports leagues are most popular among youth. As county demographics and population change so will need to assess the level of organized sports programs and sports.



Data from: Chesterfield County Planning Department



Rockwood Park is a mixed-use park offering a diverse set of amenities, including playgrounds, ballfields, picnic shelters, and a nature center

# County Demographics

Over the past two decades, the County has experienced substantial population and demographic changes. The aging baby boomer generation and increase in empty nester households has been a factor in a steady increase of older population and little change in youth population.

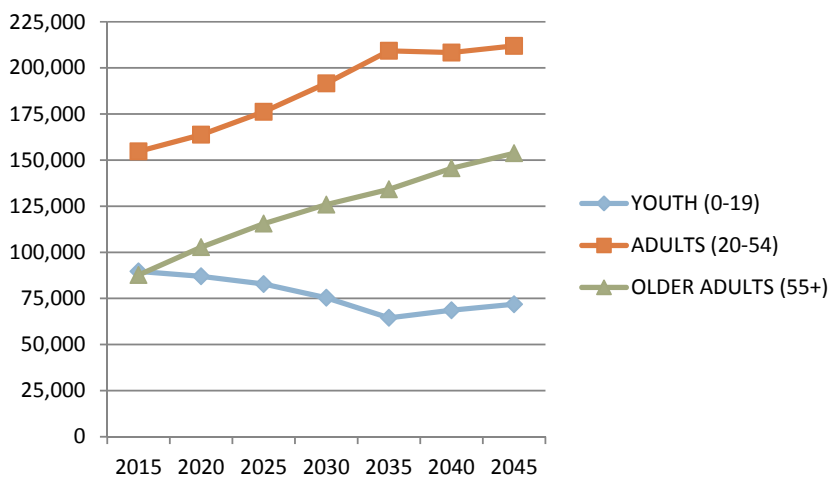
## Key Findings

- Population is increasing and aging
- Ethnic diversity is increasing
- Land use is transforming from rural to suburban and urban
- Citizens are generally affluent, but income is decreasing
- Residents are well educated

## POPULATION AND AGE

Total County population for 2017 is estimated at 340,000; an increase of approximately 30 percent since the year 2000. The population is expected to grow by another 27 percent by 2040, to a total of 422,463 people. Population projections indicate those older than 55 are the fastest growing segment of the population. The 19 and under age group reached its peak in 2015, and will slowly decline in both percentage of the population and actual numbers. The current age distribution is approximately 25 percent youth, 50 percent adult, and 25 percent older adults (55+). By 2040 it is projected to shift to approximately 15 percent youth, 50 percent adult, and 35 percent older adult. The increase in older average population, which will affect programing and park amenities.

**Projected Population for Chesterfield County by Age Groups 2015-2045**



*Created by: Chesterfield County Planning Department, December 2015*

TOTAL POPULATION HAS GROWN BY  
**30%** SINCE THE YEAR **2000**

POPULATION IS EXPECTED  
TO GROW ANOTHER  
**27%** BY **2040**

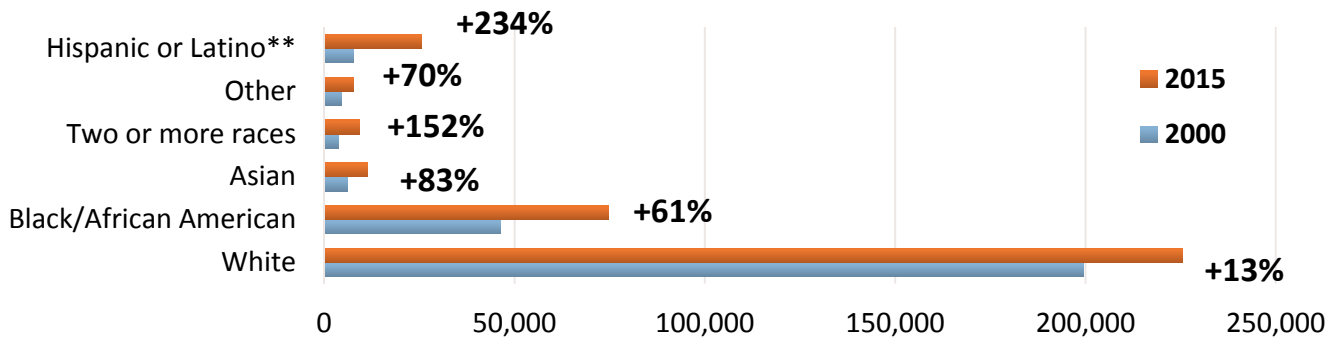
**34%** OF THE POPULATION WILL BE OVER  
THE AGE OF 55 BY THE YEAR **2040**

YOUTH POPULATION  
PEAKED IN **2015**

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

Chesterfield County is also experiencing a change in racial and ethnic makeup. In general, minority populations are increasing more rapidly than the white population. In 2010, whites accounted for 75 percent of the population, compared with 69 percent in 2015. These changes are creating a more ethnically and culturally diverse community.

### Race and Ethnicity Trends



Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, U.S. Census

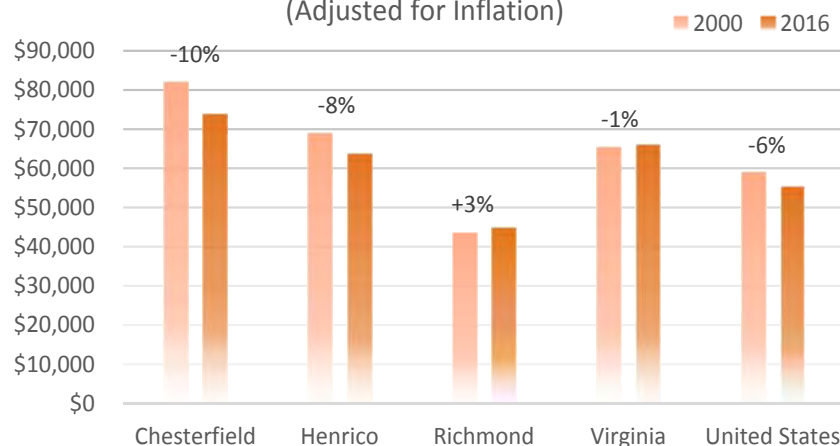
## INCOME AND POVERTY

Chesterfield County's 2016 median household income was \$73,869. While this exceeds regional household income, the county has realized a 10 percent decline in median household income since 2000. As median income falls, the department may find more people using public facilities. It should be noted that income increased by 1.7 percent over 2015, when median income was \$72,609. This may indicate a shifting trend.

Suburban poverty is rising across the region, state and nation. While the County has a relatively low poverty rate, the number of individuals in poverty is growing. Since 2000, there has been a 28 percent increase in the number of people in poverty.

### MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS

(Adjusted for Inflation)



Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, U.S. Census

### CHANGE IN POVERTY LEVEL 2000-2016

**CHESTERFIELD +28%,**  
CURRENT RATE 7.4% (24,600)

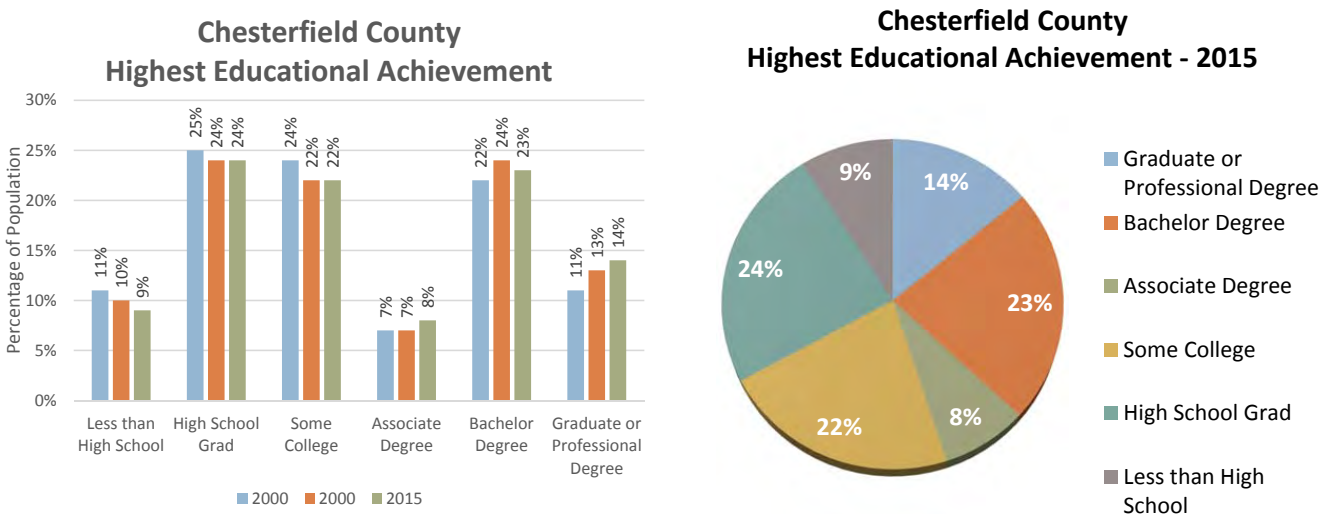
**HENRICO +23%,**  
CURRENT RATE 10.6% (34,100)

**RICHMOND +10%,**  
CURRENT RATE 25.4% (55,100)

**VIRGINIA +17%,**  
CURRENT RATE 11.4% (947,400)

# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Only 9 percent of the county’s population does not have a high school education. Examining U.S. Census data from 2000 and 2010 shows a trend that Chesterfield is becoming a more highly educated locality. Between 2000 and 2015, the percentage of people without a high school degree dropped from 11 percent to 9 percent. During the same time period, the percentage of people with a bachelor’s or graduate degree increased from 33 percent to 37 percent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2015 36 percent of people aged 25 and older had a bachelors or advanced degree and 30 percent of those in the Country have that level of degree. This makes Chesterfield more highly educated than most other parts of the state and the country.



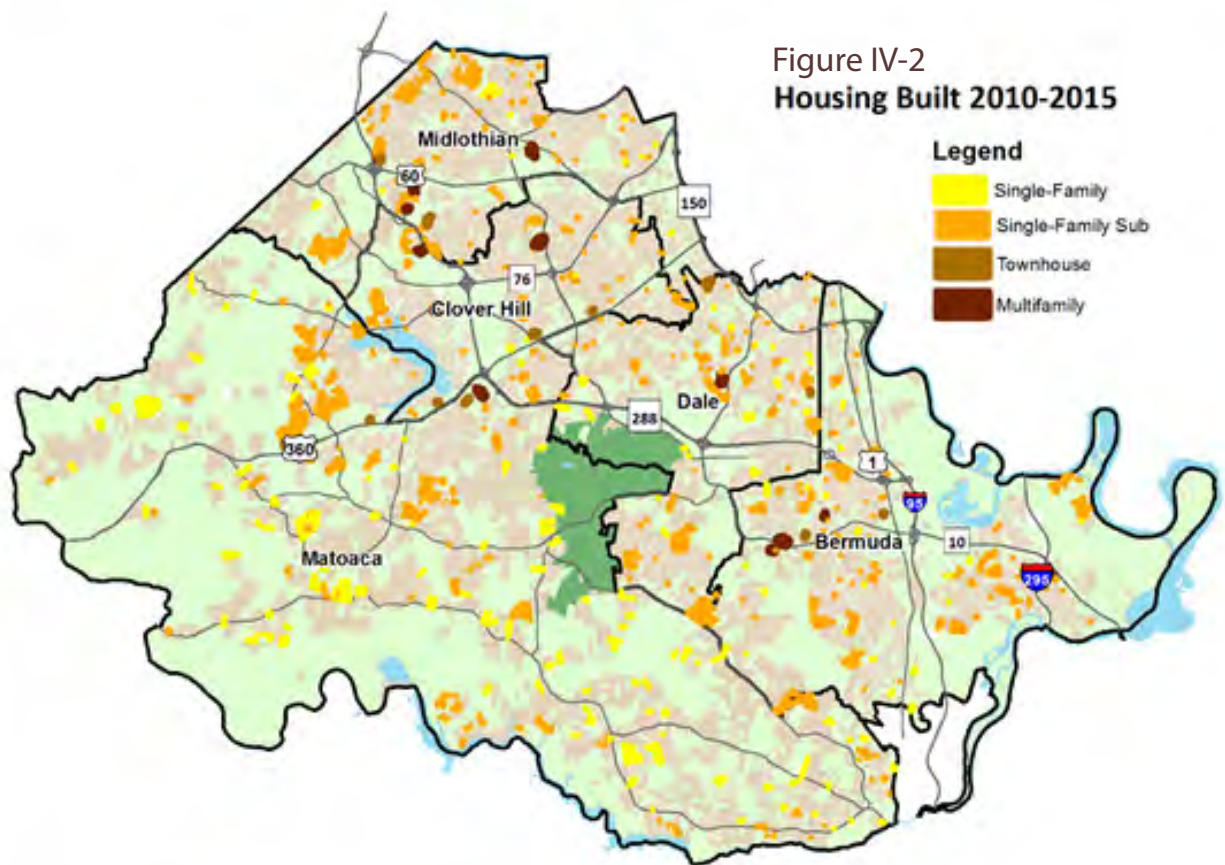
Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5 year estimates and American Community Survey 2010 and 2000 U.S. Census.

# RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

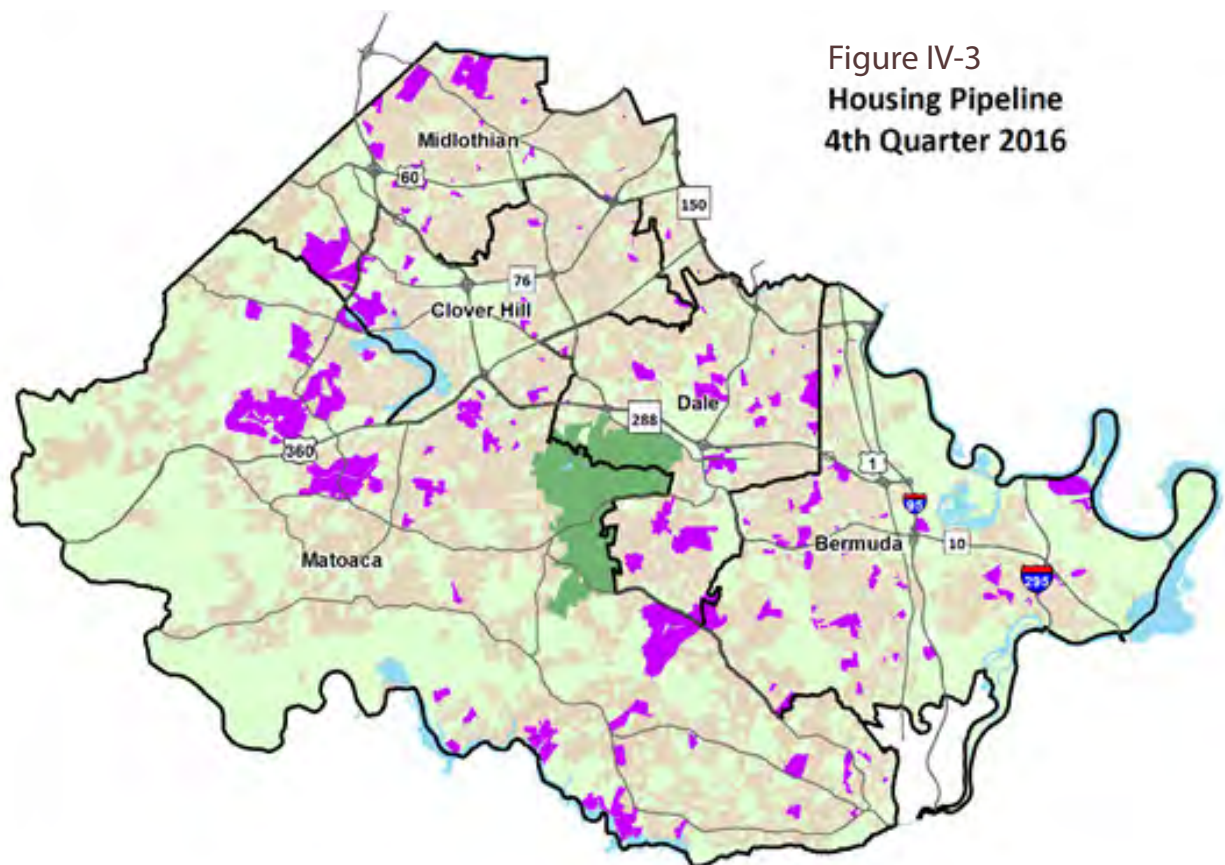
Since the 1970s, Chesterfield County has transformed from a rural county to a suburban county. Today the County is urbanizing. Residential construction was at its peak in the mid-1980s and spiked again in the 2000s. The 2008 recession resulted in a decline in development. Increased numbers of building permits from 2002 to 2016 is largely responsible for Chesterfield’s transition to more densely populated, urban communities.

Housing growth has occurred throughout the County, with subdivision growth concentrated between Midlothian Turnpike and Hull Street Road. Higher density house growth has mainly occurred inside the Route 288 corridor and within the Chester area. In 2016, there are over 200 active housing projects. These projects are projected to add over 16,000 housing units. Nearly half of these development sites are in the Matoaca district, 17 percent in Bermuda and Midlothian, 15 percent in Dale, and 8 percent in Clover Hill. New parks and trails connected to planned subdivisions will be needed in southern and western Chesterfield to support population growth (Figure IV-3).





*Created by: Chesterfield County Planning Department, December 2015*



*Created by: Chesterfield County Planning Department, December 2015*

# PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

## Key Findings

- Priorities are for bikeways and trails and water access.
- There is a high need for indoor recreation space
- Family programs and special events are the most requested programs
- High public satisfaction reported for park maintenance, customer service, programs, and wildlife and natural areas

Between 2014 and 2016 the County sponsored four community engagement sessions to gather value and needs input for parks and recreation. A meta-analysis of these surveys, community workshops, and stakeholder meetings identifies recurring themes in the public’s comments. The analysis ranks the comments using quantitative comparisons to identify priorities for master plan recommendations. The Public Input Summary Report is included in Appendix B.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### Methodology

The highest rated priorities for park and recreation facilities, programs and organizational management were based on the 2014 Public Opinion Survey, Blueprint Chesterfield, and the master plan public forum meetings. This public input reflects the interest areas and needs of the public and identifies where the public places high value on parks and recreation. Priorities are cross referenced between surveys to identify frequency of interest in activities. Priority themes common throughout the surveyed citizen groups are identified below.

### PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN ALL THREE SURVEYS



BIKEWAYS/  
TRAILS



WATER ACCESS



COMMUNITY/  
SENIOR CENTER



PROGRAMS

#### PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN TWO SURVEYS

- CONNECTIVITY
- ADDITIONAL PARKS/  
ACQUIRING LAND
- POOL OR WATER PARK
- PARK MAINTENANCE
- ADDITIONAL EVENTS
- GOOD CUSTOMER  
SERVICE

#### PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN ONE SURVEY

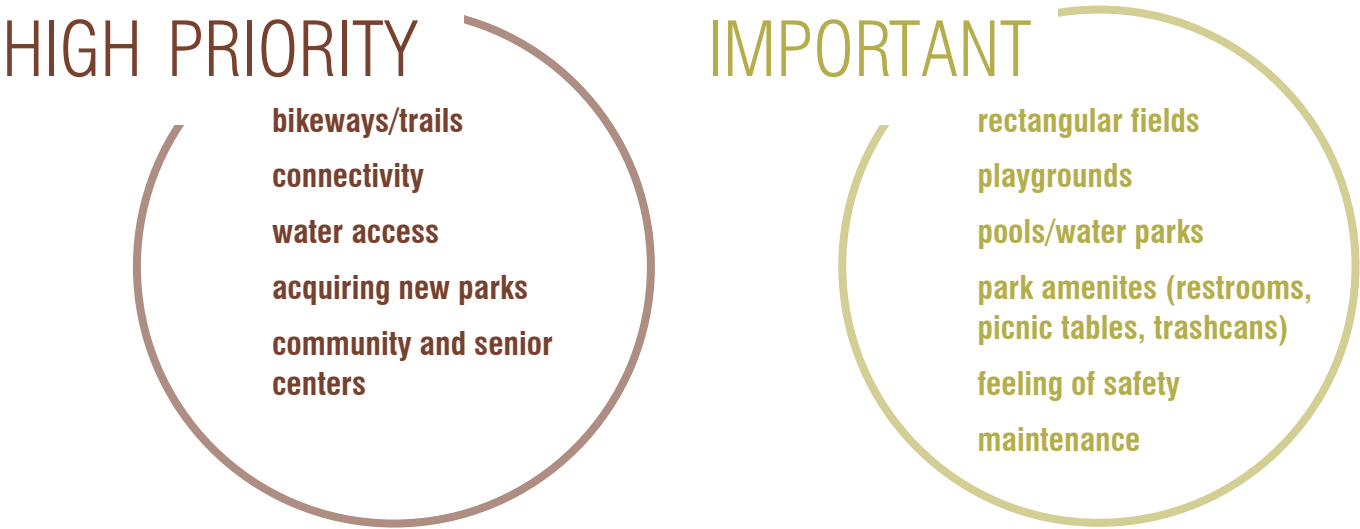
- ADDITIONAL  
RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- PLAYGROUNDS
- BATHROOMS
- PARK AMENITIES
- SAFETY
- ADDITIONAL  
ADVERTISING
- SCHEDULING OF  
SCHOOL FIELDS

**PRIORITIZATION THEMES**

The identified priorities for the parks and recreation department can be clustered into three categories: park facilities, programs, and department management.

**Park and Facility Priorities**

Park planning and facility construction were identified as the highest priority areas for facility improvements by the public surveys. Specific items identified are as follows:



**Operational Management Priorities**

Customer service was listed as a priority in two of the community surveys and advertising and school field scheduling were listed as priorities in one of the three surveys. As a category, the management of the Parks and Recreation department had the lowest immediacy rating, with no priorities ranking in all three surveys. This perception may be in part due to the favorable perception citizens have toward parks as well maintained and managed county assets.



*program priority rating*

## Program Priorities

Two of the program priorities identified by the surveys are special events and programs. Sub-categories that were identified or mentioned in the three surveys include teen programs, senior programs, and life skill classes. The support and expansion of programs should be evaluated based on type, availability, and location. A program lifecycle and cost recovery analysis would provide valuable information.

## Strengths of the Parks to Continue

Several identified priorities have high public satisfaction values. Being listed as a top priority does not mean a subject area is failing, just that people value it. It is important that parks continue high quality of service and investigate ways to meet public need. For example, people surveyed said that they like the programs offered and that they want additional programs. The programs should be tailored for the social and economic demographics of each region of the county. Public priorities citizens identified as having high performance ratings include: park maintenance, customer service, programs, and wildlife and natural areas.

STRENGTHS OF THE PARKS  
AND RECREATION SYSTEM:

P A R K  
MAINTENANCE  
CUSTOMER  
SERVICE  
PROGRAMS  
WILDLIFE AND  
NATURE AREAS



# Facility Assessment

## PARK LAND

Key Findings

Chesterfield County has:

- diversity of parkland
- shortfall of regional parks
- shortfall of neighborhood and community parks
- urbanizing areas in need of urban parks
- need for existing parks improvements
- wide variety of special purpose parks

There are 5,100 acres of parkland in the Chesterfield Parks system, either directly owned, leased, or in partnership. The Virginia Outdoors Plan recommends 9 acres/1,000 people of neighborhood, community, and regional parks. In 2018, approximately 500 acres are needed to meet the plan goal. Due to development and public access restrictions on some land and designation as special use parks, not all of Chesterfield’s park land counts towards this acreage standard. The Chesterfield County 2040 shortfall of parkland is projected to be 1,240 acres.

CHESTERFIELD PARKS (56 PARKS & 11 ATHLETIC SITES)		
TOTAL PARK LAND: (owned, leased, partnership)	5,131 ac.	
↳ of this, ~1,700 ac., or 33%, is conservation area		
↳ of this, ~1,900 ac., or 36%, is by appointment only		
TOTAL PARK LAND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE:	3,640 ac	
↳ of this, ~1,300 ac., or 36%, is special purpose park		
AVAILABLE NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY, AND REGIONAL PARK LAND:	2,559 ac.	(7.5 ac./ 1,000 ppl)
RECOMMENDED MINIMUM:	3,060 ac.	
↳ a shortfall of 501 ac. (9 ac./ 1,000 ppl)		

### Regional Parks

Regional parks are 100 acres and larger. The target acreage for regional parks is identified in the *Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County* is based on the Virginia Outdoors Plan standard of 4 acres/1,000 people. To meet projected needs, approximately 270 acres should be acquired.

There are currently six regional parks in Chesterfield County, including Irvin G. Horner Park, now under development and Winterpock/Route 360 West Area was just recently acquired. Regional parkland is 1,091 acres, approximately 1,360 acres below the stated 2017 target level.

The population is expected to grow over the next 20 years, rising from 340,000 in 2017 to 422,500 in 2040. Western Chesterfield is expected to increase in residential density, and existing regional parks are limited in this area. To continue to provide the desired level of service, by 2040 the County will need an additional 600 acres of regional parkland (Appendix A & Appendix C).

REGIONAL PARKS (6 TOTAL SITES)	
regional parkland available:	1,091 ac.
additional parkland needed by 2023:	369 ac.
recommended amount: 4 ac./1,000 ppl.	

Regional parks should align with population areas and development patterns to ensure the entire County has reasonable access to parks. Existing parks are clustered in northern and eastern Chesterfield, leaving the western and southern areas underserved. The County should consider future growth patterns when identifying additional parkland to ensure that the park system supports the growing population.

COMMUNITY PARKS		(16 TOTAL SITES)
community parkland available:	1,020 ac.	recommended amount:
additional parkland needed by 2023:	75 ac.	3 ac./1,000 ppl.

### Community Parks

There are 16 community park sites in Chesterfield County: 12 operated by the Parks and Recreation department and 4 school campuses that have dual function. Four of the parks, Atkins Acres Park, Lake Chesdin Park, Providence Road Park, and Magnolia Green Park have not yet been developed. The school acreage is counted at 47 percent for elementary schools and 42 percent for middle and high schools to account for the time when school is in session and the campus is unavailable for public use. Community recreation use at special purpose parks is also included in this total. The total community park acreage of 1,020 meets the level of service standard. The need for additional community parks as identified in this level of service analysis is supported by the public’s demand for additional community parks. The target acreage is identified in *Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County* is based upon the Virginia Outdoors Plan standard of 3 acres/1,000 people (Appendix A).

By enhancing the amenities at existing parks, the County will be able to meet part of the need without acquiring additional land. Portions of special purpose parks, like James River Conservation Area, Cogbill Park, Falling Creek Linear Park, and River City Sportsplex, should be developed to serve as community parks.

The County’s population is expected to grow to 422,500 people by 2040. To maintain the desired level of service, the County should have 1,266 acres, an increase of 246 acres.

Community parks should serve population areas and planned development so the entire County has access to the parks. Existing community parks are clustered in the northern and eastern sections of the County north of Route 288 and along the I-95 corridor. This leaves the western and southern areas in need of community parks. Additionally, the County should consider future growth patterns to ensure that the park system has the capacity to support the growing population of Chesterfield County (Appendix C).



Goyne Park playground and playfield

Neighborhood Parks

Chesterfield County has 7 neighborhood park sites and 8 shared use neighborhood parks located in special purpose parks or located at schools. In total, there are 448 acres of neighborhood parkland, meeting two-thirds of the neighborhood park need.

Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County recommends 2 acres/1,000 people for neighborhood parks, a Virginia Outdoors Plan standard. According to this standard, the County should have 680 acres of parkland. This means there is a neighborhood park shortfall of 232 acres (Appendix A). The need for additional neighborhood parks is also reflected in public surveys where respondents identified an unmet need for small local parks. Tools for gaining neighborhood parks may be explored during the zoning review process.

This shortfall can be addressed by a combination of:

- acquiring land
- developing special use parks with neighborhood park level amenities
- considering new school design with indoor and outdoor shared use facilities
- partnering with the development community

Four special purpose parks, Robious Landing Park, Falling Creek Ironworks Park, Henricus Historical Park, and Historic Point of Rocks Park include neighborhood park amenities. A fifth, Kiwanis Park should be developed as a neighborhood park.

The County should plan for additional parks as the county’s population increases and development expands (see Appendix C). The population is expected to grow from 340,000 in 2017 to 422,500 in 2040, which would necessitate an addition of 396 acres of neighborhood parkland. Neighborhood parks are clustered in the northern area of the County, mostly within the beltway of Rt. 288. Existing population centers along the I-95 corridor and other residential pockets throughout the County are underserved, especially in the western part of the County.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (15 TOTAL SITES)		
neighborhood parkland available:	448 ac.	recommended amount: 2 ac./1,000 ppl.
additional parkland needed by 2023:	282 ac.	



Neighborhood parks feature amenities like playgrounds, picnic areas, and trails



## Urban Parks

High-density development in the County is creating suitable conditions for urban parks. The Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County outlines general guidelines for urban parks: typically 0.5-5 acres and located in high density areas where larger park acreage is difficult to acquire. Urban parks serve a wider range of users than the other park types. Users may include pedestrians in commercial areas, office workers in surrounding buildings, special event attendees, and residents of nearby communities. Urban park design is site specific and reflects the park context.

## Special Purpose Parks

Chesterfield County manages 30 special purpose parks, eight are currently undeveloped. Excepting the 195 acres dedicated to neighborhood or community park use, the total area of these parks is 2,572 acres, 1,604 acres of which is publicly available. These parks center around unique environmental, cultural, or historical features with the primary purpose of the site being to preserve these resources. Development or improvement of those sites must be compatible with the resource base. The type of park amenities and its proximity to residential areas may enable it to function as a neighborhood or community park like Robious Landing Park and Historic Point of Rocks Park. Due to the special nature of these parks, there is no standard for these parks based on population or service area. Special purpose parks make unique features available to the public.

## Improvements to Parks

Diversity in recreational opportunities is the first step in creating a quality park system. The second, ongoing step is to manage and maintain parks to provide a high level of service. There is a need for improved lighting at many of the existing park facilities. There is also insufficient permanent restroom facilities to meet public demand. Parking should be included in the initial construction phase new park facilities. As the diversity of Chesterfield County increases, there is a need for consistent, multi-lingual signage. The Department lacks a parks assessment survey which specifically addresses the needs of each park.

### Needed Park Improvements:

- lighting
- restrooms
- parking
- multi-lingual signage



*Urban parks are set in high-density development areas and serve a variety of users*



## ATHLETIC FIELDS

### Key Findings

- Rectangular Fields: Additional capacity needed
- Diamond Fields: Increased flexibility of fields use
- Sports tournament sites: additional facilities and amenities needed
- Athletic facilities maintenance: need for increased attention
- Unstructured use and free play are important park uses

There are currently 74 rectangular fields at park and school sites that meet the standards for co-sponsored group use. Twenty-six of these fields are for football. Of the remaining 48 multi-use fields, 19 are lighted. Additional rectangular fields could be added to the schedule roster if they received turf and facility improvements. There are 66 ball fields that meet the standards for rentable fields, 10 are lighted.

River City Sportsplex, located at Genito Road and Route 288, is comprised of 12 synthetic turf rectangular fields. This facility, along with Clover Hill Athletic Complex, hosts several national events such as the Champion Cup and Capital Cup lacrosse tournaments. In fiscal year 2017, sports tourism brought in approximately \$38.6 million to the County. The seven rectangular fields at Clover Hill Athletic Complex are primarily used for tournaments.

Private resources include Ukrop Park, offering two synthetic turf fields and six grass fields. Hensley Park includes six grass fields. These facilities are owned and operated by the Richmond Kickers Youth Soccer Club. While the Parks and Recreation Department has no scheduling at these sites, the facilities are important resources for the County and assist in addressing local recreational demand and help make Chesterfield a sports tourism destination.

### Field Assignments - The Activity Period System

Field assignments for co-sponsored groups are handled through the Activity Period (AP) system, where leagues are provided a certain number of field use slots depending on their roster totals. AP availability is based on the amount of time each field is available for use. A lighted rectangular field, has about two times the capacity of an unlighted field; therefore, it generates two times the AP weeknight practice time. For soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, baseball, and softball this demand is determined through AP system data. For football, the total number of teams influence field needs.



*Fields are scheduled based on Activity Periods*

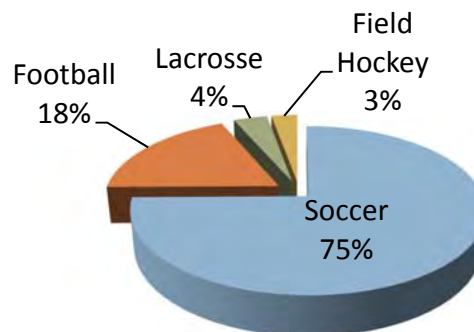
## Rectangular Fields

The shortfall of rectangular fields is compounded by inefficiencies in the existing field scheduling. Review of AP system data indicates a current need for 15 additional AP, or one new unlighted field, to meet current practice time standards for soccer. Review of field rental indicates an additional four lighted fields are required to meet rental demand along with nine unlighted soccer fields. To meet level of service standards for football, a home field is needed for each group. Based on existing football groups there is a shortfall of four fields. This may be due to the location of fields in areas away from the most need. Review of rectangular field reservation data, along with site observations, indicates additional field needs for adult groups and unstructured uses.

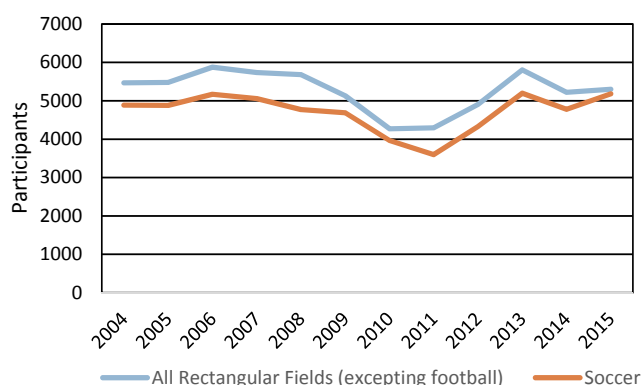
## Diamond Fields

Review of AP system data indicates that practice time standards for baseball and softball are currently being met. Review of diamond field reservation data indicates that demand for tournament and adult group use is being met with current facilities, but needs may grow as the population increases. Some football groups are utilizing diamond outfields for practice spaces. If additional rectangular fields are provided to accommodate these groups, capacity would be added to help meet future demands for diamond fields. The demand by different sports teams for diamond fields can be accommodated within one facility by installing portable pitching mounds. This means that the field can be used for either baseball or softball with multiple base distances, and a variety of needs can be met with a single field. Additional fields may also be required to meet the demand of rental groups outside of the AP measurement method, especially in the western part of the County.

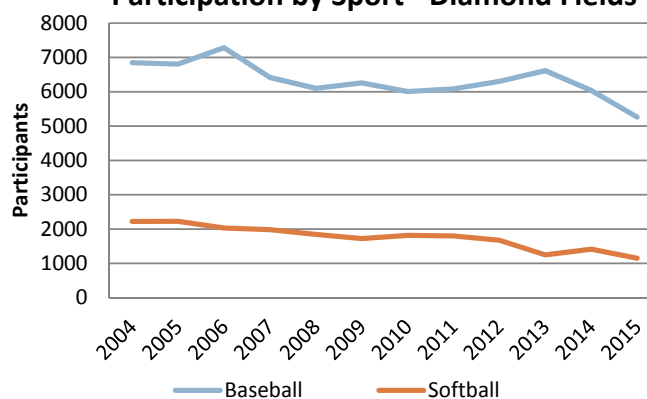
**Organized Youth Athletics  
2015 Participation by Sport - Rectangular Fields**



**Organized Youth Athletics  
Participation by Sport - Rectangular Fields**



**Organized Youth Athletics  
Participation by Sport - Diamond Fields**



*Created by: Chesterfield County Planning Department,  
December 2015*

## Organized Youth Athletics – Rectangular Fields

There was a decline in youth athletics participation for all sports after the 2008 recession, but participation has been increasing as the economy improves. Youth soccer accounts for the greatest use of rectangular fields with over 5,000 participants in the fall of 2015. Participation in youth football programs totaled 2,700 for the same time period. Substantially lower participation is recorded for lacrosse and field hockey. Participation numbers in lacrosse and field hockey have remained generally flat over the past 10 years except for a slight increase in soccer and decrease in football participants.

## Organized Youth Athletics – Diamond Fields

Youth baseball accounts for the majority of diamond field use, with roughly 5,300 participants in 2015 compared to about 1,200 for softball. There has been a decline in the number of baseball and softball participants over the past 10 years.

## Other Uses

In addition to organized youth athletics, there are other significant factors influencing field demand:

- Tournament use: Tournaments account for a significant portion of weekend field use. This use is handled through the field reservation system. Facilities for sports tournaments differ from those for general recreation. Traditionally, parks were built with one field for each sport; sports tournaments require several fields accommodating one sport. River City Sportsplex and Clover Hill Athletic Complex were constructed to host tournaments and contain many fields of the same type. Tournaments also need stadium facilities for playoff games, which the County currently does not offer. Surrounding counties are marketing themselves as sports tournament destinations, so Chesterfield County faces competition in drawing groups.
- Adult non-cosponsored group use: There are many adult groups that reserve fields on weeknights and weekends for play.
- Youth non-cosponsored group use: There has been a recent increase in the number of youth groups under the Amateur Athletic Union(AAU) umbrella which are not cosponsored and are therefore not assigned field use through the AP system. This has resulted in an increase in field reservation demand
- Unstructured use: There is an increasing demand for open space available to the community for informal play. Youth athletics utilize the majority of fields and deter general public use. Open space provides opportunities for unstructured play and for families and citizens not involved in youth athletics to use the parks.

Due to heavy use of rectangular fields for cosponsored group practice, there are few resources remaining to accommodate other users. For diamond fields, the decline in participation in youth programs has been countered by an increase in field reservations for tournaments and non- cosponsored group use.

## COURT GAMES

### Key Findings

- Rising pickleball participation
- Reduced tennis participation
- Static interest in handball, futsal, racquetball, basketball, and volleyball

#### Tennis, Pickleball, Handball, and Futsal

Handball or racquetball court use has remained constant, making the two county courts adequate to meet the needs. The popularity of tennis has declined leaving courts that are not used. Futsal, a sport similar to soccer played 5-on-5 on a hard court, is growing in popularity. It could be possible to convert some underutilized tennis courts into futsal courts.

Pickleball, a sport similar to tennis but played at lower speeds, is rising in popularity, especially among older active adults. The increase in pickleball could be met partially by restriping courts for both tennis and pickleball. It is also possible to convert the surplus tennis courts into pickleball courts. Pickleball is a social sport, so facilities should be clustered in groups of 6-8 courts. The Department recently partnered with the Pickleball Group of Chesterfield to renovate three tennis courts at Rockwood Park into an eight-court pickleball facility. Additional pickleball courts may be needed to serve the growing number of participants.

#### Basketball

While popularity of basketball is dropping, it is still by far the most popular court sport. The County should continue to support and maintain basketball courts, especially as part of urban, neighborhood, and community parks. Based on public input, five additional courts will be planned at newly developed parks. Consideration should be given to providing lighting at existing and new facilities to increase the court use.

#### Volleyball

Outdoor volleyball has limited popularity as a sport, so the County's inventory of 21 courts is close to the 2017 target of 23. Most of the volleyball courts in the County are located near rentable picnic shelters to serve as part of the casual recreation experience. Only two of the volleyball courts, those located in Harry G. Daniel Park, are developed to league quality standards. The County should consider developing two additional league-quality volleyball courts at Harry G. Daniel Park.



*Popularity of pickleball is rising among all age groups*



## TRAILS

### Key Findings

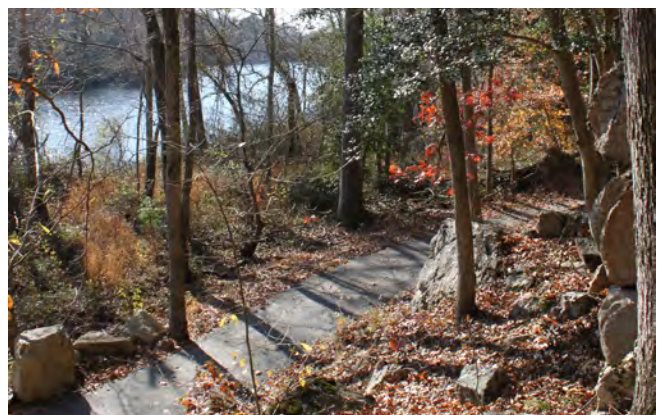
- Need for trail connectivity
- Need for a variety of trail types within parks
- Large subdivisions and Pocahontas State Park provide trails for their residents
- Promote trail networks by partnering with regional organizations

The development of a strong internal trails system and cooperation with regional trail systems that pass through the County will enhance Chesterfield County as a tourism destination. Trails attract both new residents looking for an active lifestyle and tourists from the area and Eastern Seaboard looking for an adventure in a beautiful place. Trails constructed during subdivision development help meet trail needs for homeowners. Large subdivisions, like Brandermill and Woodlake, as well as Pocahontas State Park offer residents and paying park visitors opportunities to use these trails. While not available to the public at large, these private and state park trails help address overall trail capacity in the county and provide opportunities to connect to the countywide trails network.

Chesterfield County is committed to providing trails for recreation. The County has trails for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists. Trails offer an opportunity to create greenways, preserve open space, and protect sensitive environmental corridors along rivers and wildlife habitats. The Department currently operates 28 miles of trails of 7 foot width or greater, and 13 miles of trails of 6 foot width or less. Hiking and multi-use trails are integrated into existing parks like the Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Trails are also the defining element of special use parks like Chester Linear Park. The County does not have designated equestrian or mountain biking trails. Public interest for trails is very high, especially as a means of connectivity.

The Department partners with private and non-profit organizations to build and enhance trail amenities. Salisbury Garden Club worked with parks and recreation to create a one-half mile tree identification trail at Robious Landing Park. The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists also partnered with the County to construct 1.25 miles of new trails at Radcliffe Conservation Area. Joining with local groups for trail construction, enhancement and maintenance helps meet the public's need for trails.

The County supports trail development by partnering with regional organizations. The East Coast Greenway is a developing 3,000 mile trail system connecting major cities in a continuous route from Canada to Key West. Thirty miles of an on- and off-road bike route through Chesterfield County will become part of the East Coast Greenway. In a separate project, the non-profit Friends of the Lower Appomattox River's (FOLAR) masterplan includes a multi-use trail along 23 miles of the Lower Appomattox River including parts of Chesterfield County.



*Trail in the Radcliffe Conservation Area*

## WATER ACCESS

### Key Findings

- Need for motorized boat ramps
- Need for non-motorized boat launches
- Need to include fishing access with boat launch sites
- Need for a water trails and public access plan for the Appomattox and James rivers

Chesterfield is bordered by two major rivers, the Appomattox and the James, and includes Lake Chesdin and the Swift Creek and Falling Creek reservoirs. The County has limited public access to the water. There is only one park with a motorized-boat ramp: Dutch Gap Conservation area which has a double ramp on the James River. This site receives heavy use and is overcrowded. There are non-motorized boat launches (canoe/kayak) on the James River at Robious Landing Park, on Lake Chesdin at the Lake Chesdin Boat Landing, and on the

Appomattox River at Radcliffe Conservation Area. Fishing access is available at each of these boat access sites. There is no public fishing or boating access to the Swift Creek and Falling Creek reservoirs. Both the James and Appomattox rivers could be navigated as blueway paddle trails. Based on the water resources and potential opportunities, water access and destination tourism related to the county's water resources is under developed. Marketing and infrastructure is needed to support this blueway and water trail recreation.

## PLAYGROUNDS

### Key Findings

- Need for playgrounds may decline
- Diversity of existing play spaces is limited
- Therapeutic playgrounds are needed to address populations with special needs
- Need for universal play apparatus in parks

There is currently no data available on number of playground visitors, observations and public input establish playgrounds as valuable and in high demand. There are 13 park sites with playground equipment along with 38 elementary schools, which also serve as community recreational resources when school is not in session. The county has 56 playgrounds and the need to build additional playgrounds. Decreasing numbers of youth will slow the expanding need for playgrounds by 2040.

There is limited diversity of the types of playgrounds offered in the County. Most playgrounds provide equipment for ages 2-12. Public interest is expanding to encompass play areas less "equipment" dependent, like earthworks and nature play. There is also interest in equipment that serves a diversity of ages and is universally accessible. Two universal playgrounds, Katie's Playground at Huguenot Park and Miracle Field at Byrd Athletic Complex, are models for continued universal accessibility.

## PICNIC SHELTERS

### Key Findings

- Need picnic shelters in some areas of the County
- Locating picnic shelters within the park is key
- Need enclosed picnic pavilions

There are 30 picnic shelters in Chesterfield’s park system, 22 are available or rental. These shelters typically feature grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits and volleyball areas. County shelters are open-sided, which limits their use and rental capacity. Most shelters accommodate 75 people, which limits some events and large reunions. The Department has seen increases in shelter use due to increasing population and very little increase in number of facilities. Shelter reservation data indicates certain

shelters receive much more use than others. Shelters located centrally near playgrounds, restrooms, parking lots, and other park amenities receive significantly more use than those located in more secluded or periphery locations. Shelters are unevenly distributed throughout the County. Some populated areas, mainly west of Route 288 in the Hull Street Road and Genito Road areas, are without convenient access to shelter rental sites.

## HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

### Key Findings

- Historic sites are an important tourism resource
- Historic sites are an important educational resource
- Historic sites require additional maintenance resources
- The variety and quantity of historic sites and their associated viewsheds are an asset to the County

Chesterfield County manages 14 interpretive historical sites. They include colonial sites like Henricus Historical Park, which includes a re-creation of the 1611 Citie of Henricus, site of the second successful English settlement in the New World; Civil War battle sites like Fort Stevens and Fort Wead; industrial sites like Falling Creek Ironworks Park and Mid-Lothian Coal Mines Park; and historical buildings like Castlewood, Magnolia Grange, and Eppington Plantation. Some of these facilities like, the Henricus Historical Park, are destinations offering educational venues and entertainment not normally found at the local level.

Control of viewsheds and buffers around these sites is equally important to the preservation and quality visitor experience by mitigating contrasting development and other adjacent detrimental operations. Viewshed and buffer easements and acquisition of adjacent property should be considered as development patterns dictate.

When considering the maintenance cycle of park facilities, the unique construction of historic sites requires renovations and replacement at a higher cost and with more frequency than other park facilities. The quantity, diversity, and quality of the historic sites contributes to Chesterfield’s character making it a desirable place to live, play, and visit.

## PROTECTED OPEN SPACE, NATURE OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

### Key Findings

- The County has contiguous natural areas providing wildlife habitat and opportunities for outdoor recreation
- The County encompasses two distinct geologic regions, the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. There is only one nature center, located in the Piedmont
- Chesterfield was the first jurisdiction to place a conservation easement on county owned land
- County owned conservation areas could provide additional natural area access
- The value of land protection includes setting, character, and viewsheds that add to the visitor experiences
- Parks and land conservation strengthens the county's tax base and provides economic benefits.

Chesterfield County manages five conservation areas totaling approximately 1,725 acres, more than a third of the County's park land. These conservation areas are a valuable resource for programming and recreation, as well as providing important ecological functions. The James River Conservation Area, the Swift Creek Conservation Area, and the Brown and Williamson Conservation Area are undeveloped and only available by appointment. The Dutch Gap and Radcliffe conservation areas together provide 897 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and water to explore by using trails, boardwalks, and paddle trails. A diversity assortment of guided programs and activities are provided at both of these conservation sites.

Several other parks include conservation easements with limited access. For example, Atkins Acres Park is an undeveloped community park that has conservation easements along its creek frontage.

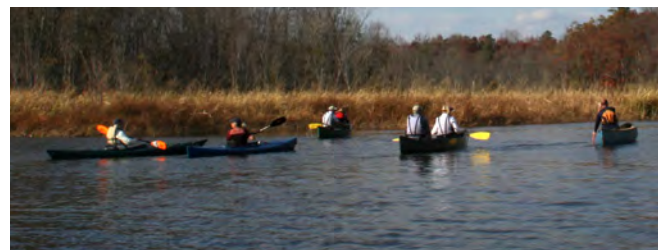
#### Chesterfield Conservation Areas:

- Dutch Gap Conservation Area
- James River Conservation Area
- Brown and Williamson Conservation Area
- Radcliffe Conservation Area
- Swift Creek Conservation Area

Control of viewsheds and buffers around these sites is equally important to the preservation and quality visitor experience. Viewsheds may be planted and sites oriented to mitigate adjacent development. Easement buffers and acquisition of adjacent property should be considered if development patterns encroach on parkland and impact views.

Chesterfield County encompasses two geologic regions. The Piedmont is characterized by rolling hills and upland hardwood forests. The Coastal Plain has flatter topography and offers wide water bodies with wetlands vegetation and freshwater tidal marshes.

Rockwood Nature Center at Rockwood Park is the only County-operated nature center in Chesterfield County. It offers nature programs and group activities for all ages. Rockwood is open daily for walk-in visitors to explore the exhibits and interact with park naturalists. While Rockwood Nature Center showcases the Piedmont ecology, Chesterfield County lacks a nature center to interpret the ecology of the Coastal Plain.



*Swift Creek Conservation Area*



## OPEN PLAY FIELDS

### Key Findings

- Need open play fields not in the park system
- Need for expanded use of athletic fields

There is an increasing public demand for spaces open to unstructured play. Open-play, non-athletic fields are generally not in the park system. Athletic fields maintained at a level III status are designated as open play fields and general practice space. Athletic fields provide additional opportunity for outdoor play when leagues and schools do not use the fields, but these fields are limited. An open play field does not need to be sized or striped for any sport, but would be level, well-drained, and large enough to accommodate a variety of pickup games.



*Open play areas can be used for a variety of activities*

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Key Findings

- Special sports facilities (disc golf and archery) are not geographically distributed to meet needs
- Demand for additional dog parks

The County manages one disc golf course at Goyne Park and one archery range at Rockwood Park. The demand for additional facilities of these types is low, but participation in and number of programs is steadily increasing, particularly for archery. An additional facility of each type would increase the accessibility of the facilities to the entire County. An additional archery range is planned at Horner Park to serve the western portion of the county. A disc golf course in the central or western Chesterfield would increase facility diversity and attract younger park users.

The County currently operates one dog park at Rockwood Park and is constructing a second one at Goyne Park. The Rockwood facility is heavily used and there is a high public interest for additional dog parks to be geographically distributed across the County.



*Goyne Disc Golf Course*

## INDOOR FACILITIES

### Key Findings

- Areas of the County are underserved by recreation centers and gymnasiums
- Uneven distribution of gymnasiums compared to youth population
- Need for a comprehensive shared-use agreement between Parks and Recreation and Chesterfield County Public Schools
- Need for additional space to hold extended summer camp programs

Parks and Recreation provides indoor programming space in a variety of locations including county owned and community centers. Additionally, there is a shared-use agreement with the public schools for gym space and summer programs along with leased church space for programming. The continuation of shared use agreements will expand access to recreation opportunities, promote partnerships, increase access to recreation, and help meet growing citizen interest in healthy living. Much of the indoor space used by the Department is not owned or controlled by the County. Of the 231,600 sf of space used by the Department, 216,600 sf, or 93 percent is owned or controlled by an outside group. This limits the ability to schedule the space and modify it to fit programming needs. Currently there is a shortfall of indoor facility space. The Virginia Outdoors Plan recommends indoor facilities at a level of 0.75 sf/person. The County currently provides 0.68 sf/person, a deficit of approximately 24,000 sf greater use of school facilities is the most cost effective option to meet many of the departments program current and future needs (Appendix A).

### Recreation Centers

The County operates three 5,000 sf recreation centers, the Bensley Recreation Center in Bensley Park and the Mayes-Colbert Ettrick Recreation Center in Ettrick Park. A third 5,000 sf recreation center is located at Stonebridge. The amenities in each facility include a warming kitchen, meeting room, game room, and multipurpose rooms. Programs held include classes, workshops, fitness programs, and special events. The recreation centers are available for rent. The Stonebridge Center is within the same complex as the Richmond Volleyball Club's facility (RVC). The County will have shared access to RVC's indoor volleyball courts. The three recreation centers are in the south and northeastern areas of the County, leaving much of the County under served. The size of the recreation centers limits the type of programs that can be offered. Increasing the facility size to 10,000 sf would greatly

enhance programing and event rental capacity. The existing facilities function as sole community centers, rather than as recreation centers, and would need to be expanded to offer recreation center amenities, basketball court, fitness/weight exercise room, or indoor walking track. There is strong public interest for additional indoor recreation centers. The County does not operate indoor athletic or recreation areas. The development of a recreation center would enable enhanced scheduling and programming for indoor activities.



*Bensley Recreation Center*

## Shared Use School Facilities

Chesterfield County co-sponsors four youth basketball leagues with a total of 6,000 players scheduling practices and games in elementary and middle school gyms. There are inadequate and unevenly distributed gym facilities. School gyms are also used by the Department for summer programs. Summer programming is limited to a four-week period during summer break. Additional indoor recreation and gym space is needed to fully meet programming needs. Recreation space to provide facilities for public use could be designed into new schools. The County should consider a recreation module to include community based indoor recreation opportunities in key areas.

New schools proposed in the County's growth areas will help address recreational needs through a shared use program. Double gyms constructed to accommodate two practice teams or two younger groups on each court will increase indoor gym capacity. Renovated or replaced elementary and middle schools should include double gyms to increase shared use recreation opportunities. The addition of a shared-use agreement is needed to address the use of outdoor athletic facilities, gyms and classrooms in elementary, middle and high schools for indoor and outdoor sports and recreation programs.



*Basketball leagues schedule school gymnasiums*



*Summer camp is based out of elementary schools*

## Leased Facilities and Shared Use Agreements

Chesterfield Parks and Recreation currently holds exercise classes and other older active adult programming at two churches: Huguenot Road Baptist Church and Chesterfield Baptist Church. The Stonebridge Community Center, located within the Richmond Volleyball Club facility, is a public-private, shared use facility. This partnership with Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation boosts sports tourism and provides an indoor recreation center for residents and visitors.



*Wreath making class at Huguenot Road Baptist Church*



## Key Findings

- State and federal parks provide additional amenities
- Consider private facilities in the service area of proposed parks

### State and Federal Parks

Chesterfield County is fortunate to have Pocahontas State Park, the largest state park in Virginia, centrally located in the county. The park was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and is 8,115 acres with three lakes covering 256 acres. The park offers a diverse set of amenities, including boating, picnicking, camping cabins, 54-plus miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, and nature and history programs. The park includes the only public aquatic center in Chesterfield. The park also has a 2,000-seat amphitheater and many rentable picnic shelters. There is a fee to access the park.

The Presquile National Wildlife Refuge is a 1,329 acre island refuge on the James River. The refuge was originally established in 1952 for migratory birds. It continues to provide important wetland habitat along the tidal James. The refuge supports biodiversity and offers a small education center. Public access to the site is restricted through an advance registration system making the facility available by appointment. The County partners with USFWS to provide walking tours of the island.

The National Park Service operates two sites in Chesterfield County: Parker's Battery and Drewry's Bluff National Battlefield Park. Open to the public, both are Civil War military sites with intact fortifications and interpretive walking trails.

The presence of these state and federal resources increases opportunities for tourism and gives citizens convenient access to additional resources that enhance the county's park resources. Level of Service standards factor in facilities found at these sites. The department hosts community recreation programs at these sites with these partner agencies. User fees or required registration is required to access to these state and federal park lands and additional fees are required for certain facilities. Their presence in Chesterfield County gives citizens convenient access to additional resources and enhances the network of park and natural spaces in the County.



*Amphitheater at Pocahontas State Park*



*Drewry's Bluff National Battlefield Park*



## Private Facilities

There is a growing number of private facilities that offer recreation in Chesterfield. From going to the gym, to golfing, to rock climbing, to karate, residents have numerous private recreation options. Businesses, like American Family Fitness, Gold's Gym, Swim RVA, and the YMCA, offer recreation facilities including pools, fitness and weight rooms, basketball courts, and fitness classes. Many neighborhood associations offer some of these same recreational options to residents. These private facilities require fees for membership or use.

Recreation amenities serving residential communities should be considered when county facilities are developed at nearby parks. Development partnerships with the County could leverage resources for new parks and facilities. There are also non-profit specialty recreation providers that augment county resources, such as the greater Richmond ARC's Camp Baker. This is a barrier free special needs facility located in Central Chesterfield near Pocahontas State Park. Camp support facilities include a dining hall, amphitheater, and a 62-bed lodge.



*Swim RVA's pool complex serves a variety of recreation, competition, and learn-to-swim needs*



*Swift Creek YMCA offers a variety of fitness amenities and programs to its members*



*Members of private clubs, like Salisbury Country Club, have access to specialty facilities and events*

## FACILITY RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE

### Key Findings

- Delaying routine maintenance increases replacement costs
- Expect to replace a high number of park facilities within the next five years
- Invest in quality or innovative materials will save on future maintenance costs

The park system's current inventory, exclusive of land, is valued at \$190,000,000. A majority of the park system was constructed over 25 years ago. The typical lifecycle replacement is 20-30 years, which means that a large percentage of repairs and replacement will need to be made within the next five years. Typically, approximately 2 percent of the aggregate value of the parks system needs renovation/replacement on an annual basis. This represents \$3,800,000 per year. Annual maintenance funding has not reached this level for several years, so the recommended lifecycle repairs and renovations have not been made. Delaying major renovations and repairs compounds the degeneration of the facility, necessitating complete replacement rather than repair.

Many of the County's athletic facilities were constructed in the 70s and 80s, which means normal lifecycle repairs are clustered rather than distributed through the 20-30 year lifecycle. This has produced a backlog of system replacements for athletic lighting and athletic fields and courts. The Department has synthetic turf fields at two athletic sites. Synthetic turf requires minimal maintenance; however, it will need to be replaced every 8 – 10 years.



*The CBC baseball complex at Harry G. Daniel Park at Ironbridge was recently renovated*



# Programs Assessment

## Key Findings

- The Department co-sponsors athletics; private groups manage schedules and overall organizations while the Department provides facilities and maintenance
- Most program costs are covered by registration fees
- Sports tourism drives economic growth
- Programs showcase natural and historic resources
- Programs support a diverse range of citizen interests, ages, cultures and abilities

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department offered 1,281 individual programs (non-sports leagues) in fiscal year 2017. These programs included summer camps, fitness classes, nature classes, hiking, kayaking, special events, trips, arts and crafts, seminars, and historical classes. Individual programs account for 14,619 registrations. Sports leagues offered by the Department include basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, football, pickleball, tennis, cheerleading, wrestling, field hockey, lacrosse and volleyball. Participant numbers in sports leagues were at 32,496 for fiscal year 2017(see Appendix D).

## ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Department offers a variety of athletic programs for youth and adults including individual sports, clinics, camps and classes. The athletic section is also responsible for all field rentals for league, public, travel, tournament, and sports tourism. Sports leagues and several other programs are operated through athletic and recreational co-sponsored groups. These private groups operate their own programs including overall organization, registrations and scheduling of games, practices, events, and meetings. The county provides field and facility space, field maintenance, facility supervision, and tracks necessary permits.



*Girls field hockey*

## PROGRAM FUNDING

The Department's operating budget funds recreation staffing, programs, events, materials, equipment, and general service needs. Most program costs are covered by registration fees. Registration fees are based on the following criteria:

- Determine the class costs including instructor's fee, materials, supplies and other associated costs.
- Determine the minimum number of participants for the class to operate.
- Divide the total class costs by the minimum number of participants. The administrative percentage will be determined annually. The administrative fee and plus the participant fee determine the class fee.
- Make adjustments based on market conditions or special circumstances as approved by the Director.
- Pay contractual instructors based on a per class or per person basis.

## PROGRAM PROMOTION METHODS:

print and online program guide

website

flyers

brochures

email blasts

public service announcements

social media

paid advertisements

There are two exceptions to these criteria. When special events participation numbers are uncertain and there is a need to operate the event at low cost or as a free event. If program costs exceed what the targeted population can support.



*Chesterfield program costs are usually covered by registration fees, though some special events, like concerts, are free to the public*



## CORE PROGRAM AREAS

The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department 2022 Strategic Action Plan complements the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by providing long term goals to identify trends and major needs and issues that require long range strategies. Core program areas are listed below and include definitions and objectives for each including staff, program resources, facilities, and availability of space.

### Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation provides opportunities for quality outdoor-based experiences and access to natural settings. These opportunities for youth, adults, families and special populations provide enjoyable firsthand nature-oriented experiences. This outdoor recreation programming develops lifetime appreciation of the outdoors.

#### *Objectives*

- To provide programs and experiences that are accessible to all ages and abilities so that citizens' needs are met and resources are protected
- To provide exciting, challenging seasonal outdoor programs and outings
- To teach principles of safety; to acquaint participants with hazards involved with challenging activities
- To highlight historic and natural areas along trails and in parks through programming

### Sports and Athletics

Sports and athletics provide indoor and outdoor instructional, recreational and competitive sports through classes, leagues, camps, and events for all ages, abilities and skill levels. Sports programs are offered by co-sponsored athletic associations, leagues, and non-profit groups operating programs. The Department provides assistance to maintain sports facilities.

#### *Objectives*

- To offer diverse types of sports at multiple levels
- To teach foundational game concepts for diverse ages and abilities
- To promote teamwork, enhance communication skills, relationships and good sportsmanship

## Sports Tourism

Sports tourism hosts a variety of sporting events to attract visitors to Chesterfield County. While promoting safe yet competitive and diverse recreational play, it is also an economic driver for growth.

### *Objectives*

- To continuously maintain and improve county-owned facilities making them more attractive to sports tourism
- To cultivate relationships with tourism partners
- To find unique ways to assist and promote sports tourism events
- To ensure there is buy-in and support from within Chesterfield County for sports tourism

## Therapeutic Recreation

Therapeutic recreation provides a variety of specialized inclusive recreational and educational activities for individuals with intellectual, physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities.

### *Objectives*

- To provide programs that enhance health, self-esteem, independence, and well-being through recreational and educational activities
- To provide programs and experiences that are accessible to all ages and abilities so that all citizens' needs are met
- To provide assistance as needed so that all programs and experiences are accessible and inclusive to all abilities

## History

History programming provides management of historic parks, museums, and other historic sites while offering programs, camps, and living history interpretation.

### *Objectives*

- To create awareness of historical facilities and sites through educational and recreational programs
- To increase the knowledge of past and present resources through community activities

## Older Adults (50+)

Older adult programming provides programs for people age 50 years and older through recreation, education, and social and cultural awareness.

### *Objectives*

- To provide programs and outings for participants to increase social opportunities and physical fitness
- To provide opportunities for social interaction and reduce isolation
- To provide new and relevant educational opportunities improving insight and broadening perspectives
- To explore a partnership with Camp Baker

## Special Events

Special events provide fun, interactive recreational and educational community events for all ages, interests, and experiences.

### *Objectives*

- To increase exposure to new and safe recreational, educational and cultural experiences
- To encourage family and community engagement while promoting Chesterfield County facilities and amenities

## Health and Wellness

Health and wellness programming enhances healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities by including group fitness, classes, camps, special events, wellness workshops, and health seminars.

### *Objectives*

- To promote healthy lifestyle choices expanding participants knowledge of active living and health
- To increase physical fitness, well-being and healthy behaviors throughout participants lifespan

## Special Interest

Special Interest programming provides youth and adult classes, programs, camps, events, workshops, and seminars covering a wide range of topics including drawing, painting, crafts, dance, gymnastics, archery, science, history, nature, archaeology, cooking, and technology.

### *Objectives*

- To increase the knowledge and skills in specific topic areas
- To offer diverse programs with multiple skills levels expanding participants' interests
- To offer programs so all community needs are met

## IDENTIFIED CONCERNS

### Aging Demographic

According to the County's demographics, population projections indicate that the over 55 group will be the fastest growing segment of the population. Empty nester households will also be a major factor in the future of the county, with youth population slowly declining. The department should look into offering more programs and facilities that appeal to older active adults.

### Need for a Program Assessment

A programs assessment and analysis should be completed. This assessment will identify types of programs, program gaps, county-wide program issues, program popularity, assessment of generations served, and revenue generation. Data collected will help identify strengths and weaknesses to determine future programming needs.



*Chesterfield County offered 1,281 programs in 2017, both directly and in partnership. The Chesterfield Golden Arrows Archers Club is one of these partnering organizations*



# Operations Assessment

Key Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Satellite offices provide efficient service delivery</li><li>• Public expectations for maintenance are rising</li><li>• High frequency of use leads to faster deterioration</li><li>• Expectations for maintenance at the public schools are rising</li><li>• There are maintenance staffing shortages and high turnover</li><li>• Park Maintenance standards are not being consistently met</li><li>• Park equipment has not been replaced based on lifecycle standards</li><li>• Maintenance of athletic facilities has been reduced</li></ul>
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The Park Operations Division provides comprehensive grounds maintenance services to parks, schools, and libraries. External customers include athletic leagues, co-sponsored groups, and school organizations. In addition, the division provides services to internal customers including the Recreation Division, School System, County Administration, and Emergency Services. Parks and Recreation staff performed an informal review and analysis of the Park Operations Division.

## MAINTENANCE TASKS

Park Operations provides maintenance and upkeep to 80 parks and facilities and 70 public schools, mowing over 7,100 acres of turf at parks and 26,000 acres at schools. The range of facilities maintained is diverse, including 230 athletic fields, more than 12 acres of landscape beds, over 200 hard courts, 165 playgrounds, and 42 miles of trails. Core tasks include mowing and landscape maintenance, minor utility maintenance, litter pickup, park facility cleaning, athletic field marking, major repairs, and coordination with schools during events. Secondary tasks include snow removal and assistance during Department-sponsored special events like the Fourth of July and the James River Advisory Council James River Clean-Up. Annually, there are 6.3 million park visits and 630,000 trail uses. Maintenance is essential to maintain the standard of excellence of Chesterfield parks.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

Maintenance services involves 67 full-time and 16 part-time seasonal employees working from seven satellite facilities. This system delivers effective and efficient service delivery. Work zone geography can be easily adjusted to maintain equity in workload. Park operations works with co-sponsored athletic leagues providing baseball, softball, football, and soccer programs by coordinating volunteer grounds maintenance, special events, and tournaments. The Division regularly works with Eagle Scouts, churches, and other community service groups on special projects to enhance the park system. Deferred lifecycle replacement of maintenance equipment and work vehicles challenges the Division. There has been a reduction in the annual capital equipment budget by approximately 50 percent since 2009.

## Staffing

Park maintenance operation staffing has been slow to recover from 2009 reductions in staff resources. The Division's size has been reduced over the last 15 years. In 2002, the staff to park ratio was one to one. The current staff ratio is three-fourths to one. This affects the ability of work groups to deliver services that meet or exceed maintenance standards. Low compensation and high workload demands has led to principal maintenance worker positions experiencing a 20 percent or greater annual turnover. Maintenance positions also have high absenteeism due to stress of workload under constant short staff conditions.

The shortage of staff and high turnover rates results in a poorer quality of work that does not meet county standards. Staff shortages and a reduction in staff results in the maintenance team focusing on the core responsibilities of grass mowing, litter control, restrooms, and athletic fields. These core activities have increased from 50 percent of the teams' effort to 75 percent. Game day maintenance of Class I, II, III athletic fields have been reduced. Support for adult athletics has been outsourced. Grounds maintenance services have become more reactive than pro-active. There are limited resources for maintenance of general park areas resulting in a failure to meet maintenance standards.

## Expectations of maintenance

Staffing shortages and stationary budgets are compounded further by higher frequency of use and rising expectations of the public and the school system. The overall condition of park sites, school grounds, athletic fields have deteriorated due to increase in use and temporary classroom relocations. The level of facility maintenance has increased over the years. The Department continues discussions to shorten mowing frequency. Work schedules and performance of tasks has been challenging at school sites due to long standards of learning testing periods, multiple events during work hours, and "pop-up" gardens and other PTA projects on grounds which restrict work times and fragment mowing and general grounds maintenance activities.



*Chesterfield applies its resources through volunteer recruitment, like for trail cleanup events*

# SECTION V - RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

## Priorities

### FACILITIES

Chesterfield County enjoys an extensive and varied parks and open space. Maintaining and improving the parks system should be a priority along with meeting existing shortfalls in service and future growth needs. Citizen preferences for repairs and improvements are prioritized below:

- Repair and improve existing amenities.
- Construct additional trails and bikeways, focusing on linkages between existing trails, destinations, and residential areas. Support development of regional trail networks like the FOLAR Trail and the East Coast Greenway bike route.
- Develop additional neighborhood parks, community parks, facilities, and trails in underserved areas, and explore opportunities to work with the development community.
- Provide additional water access including public access for powered and non-powered water craft along with swimming, fishing access, and water viewing opportunities.
- Provide public recreational water based play.
- Construct additional playgrounds.
- Develop recreational centers, expand school gymnasiums and explore larger facilities providing indoor athletics and fitness.

### Order of Repairs and Improvements

1. *Safety: tripping hazards, broken railings, standing water, broken play equipment, surfacing*
2. *Code: ADA, ingress/egress, lighting, fire*
3. *Deferred Maintenance: paint, equipment repairs*
4. *Obsolescence/Replacements: obsolete non-standard/ non code compliant amenities, features*
5. *Park Improvements: to address program needs, current use, and add value*

PROGRAMS

A detailed assessment needs to be developed to analyze current program offerings to ensure that the recreational programs are meeting current and planning for future needs. The Department should:

- Prioritize and focus funds and staff resources on core programs.
- Eliminate programs which have declined to 20 percent or less of the overall programming.
- Annually introduce new programs.
- Align age targets of program offerings with current demographics by increasing program offerings for citizens over age 55.
- Focus cost recovery on non-core programs to achieve higher cost recovery.

OPERATIONS

Chesterfield County has a comprehensive system of park sites, facilities, programs, and historical and natural resources. Efficiency in operation is a primary goal. Specific priorities to reach this include:

- Track facility lifecycles and perform scheduled maintenance.
- Budget for lifecycle maintenance and improvements to keep existing facilities in optimum condition.
- Collaborate with other County departments and partners to integrate operations and objectives.
- Develop a sustainability plan.

Recommended System Wide Priorities

FACILITIES	PROGRAMS	OPERATIONS
repairs & improvements trail network expansion water access sports tourism indoor recreation community recreation	core programs tracking lifecycles health and wellness active adult programming cost recovery marketing and promotion	track material/amenity lifecycles budget for maintenance/ replacement integrate objectives with other departments sustainability





# Park Land

## ***Identified Concerns:***

- *Shortfall of neighborhood, community, and regional park acreage*
- *Uneven distribution of parkland relative to residential areas*
- *High density development areas require an urban park model*

## **Improve Access to Neighborhood and Community Parks**

Neighborhood and community parks should be developed to the level and with the amenities recommended in *Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County*. Chesterfield County has an existing 232 acre shortfall of neighborhood and community parks. If additional parks are not added, the 2023 shortfall will increase to 357 acres and in 2040 the shortfall will reach 642 acres.

When existing park system service zones are compared with underserved population areas, additional parks facilities are needed (Figures V-1 to V-2 and Appendix C). Priority for park development should first be in underserved areas. Alternatively, neighborhood parks could be developed to adjoin public schools. By improving and in some cases expanding existing school sites the immediate deficit in neighborhood parks could be met. By working with Chesterfield County Public Schools on new school or redeveloped existing school plans, a model for a neighborhood park to serve both school and surrounding community could be developed as a pilot project. An example of this type of development is proposed as part of the Bon Air Special Area Plan for Bon Air Elementary School.

A special use park can function as either as a neighborhood or community park if it includes smaller park amenities and is located near a residential area. Based on the special purpose parks located at Robious Landing Park, Kiwanis Park, Falling Creek Ironworks Park, Henricus Historical Park, and Historic Point of Rocks Park, 24 acres have been identified to serve surrounding neighborhoods. Additional park acreage for five community parks has been identified: James River Conservation Area, Cogbill Park, Falling Creek Linear Park, and the River City Sportsplex. In these special purpose parks, 171 acres has been identified for potential community parks.



*Historic Point of Rocks park is a special use park with amenities that allow it to function as a neighborhood park, like trails*

- Construct community parks already in the system: Atkins Acres Park, Magnolia Green, and Providence Road Park (198-acres).
- Acquire and develop additional park acres to meet deficits. Priority should be given to the sites identified as proposed park locations in *Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County*.
- Work with developers to incorporate parks into residential development and infill mixed-use projects.
- Incorporate appropriate neighborhood and community park elements into existing special purpose and regional parks. This will expand this park acreage without the need for land acquisition.
- Additional neighborhood and community park sites are needed (Figures V-1 and V-2). These neighborhood parks are generally located in areas with existing underserved residential populations or in areas planned for increased population density. The County should explore expanding indoor and outdoor recreation at school sites.
- Plan park locations in areas designated for increased residential density.

Figure V-1

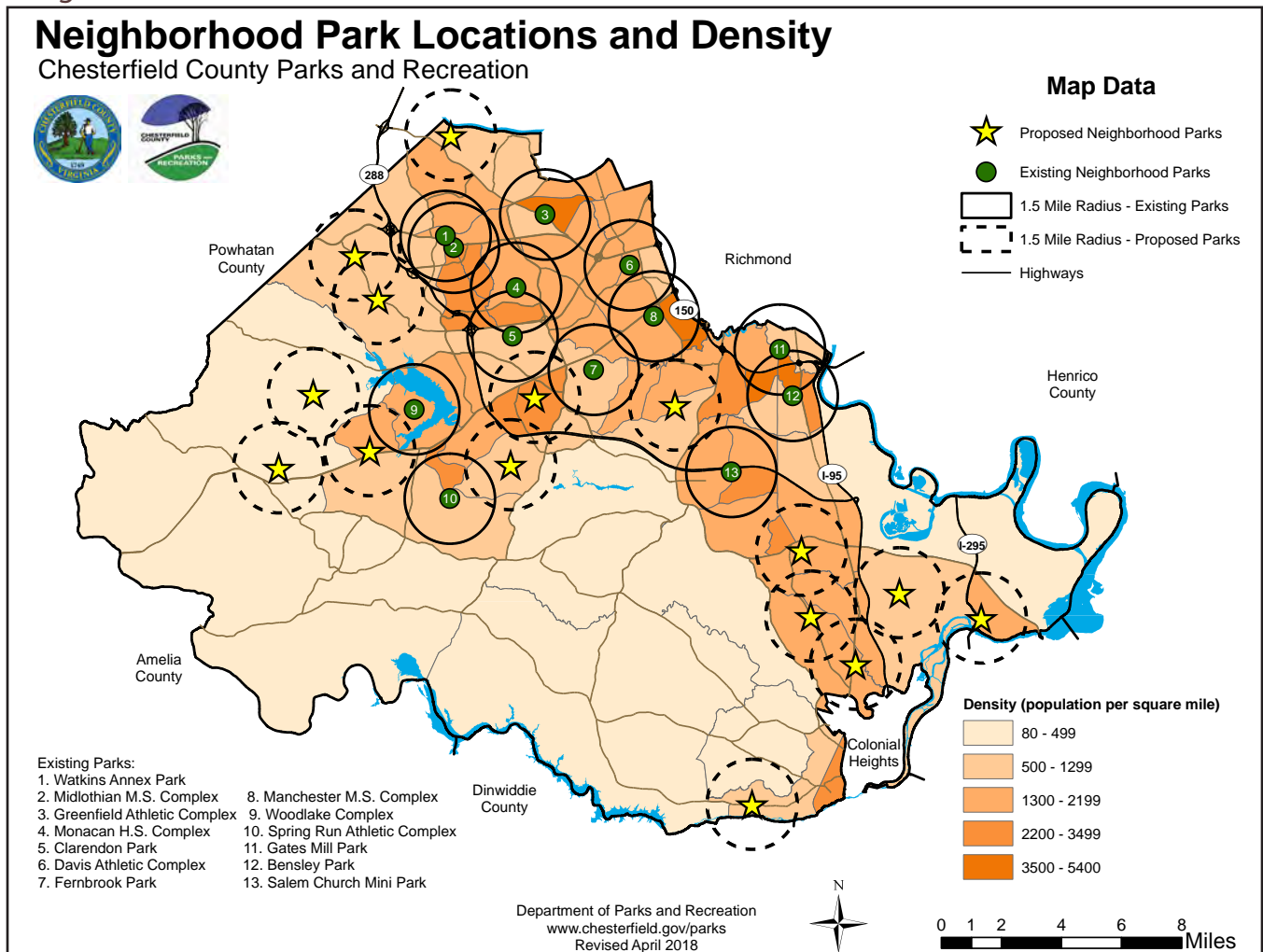


Figure V-1: Neighborhood Park Locations and Population Density

- Identify special purpose parks with potential to serve as neighborhood and community parks.

Neighborhood park use within special purpose:

- Robious Landing Park
- Kiwanis Park
- Falling Creek Ironworks
- Henricus Historical Park
- Historic Point of Rocks Park

Community park use within special purpose:

- James River Conservation Area
- Cogbill Park
- Falling Creek Linear Park
- James River Conservation Area
- River City Sportsplex

Figure V-2

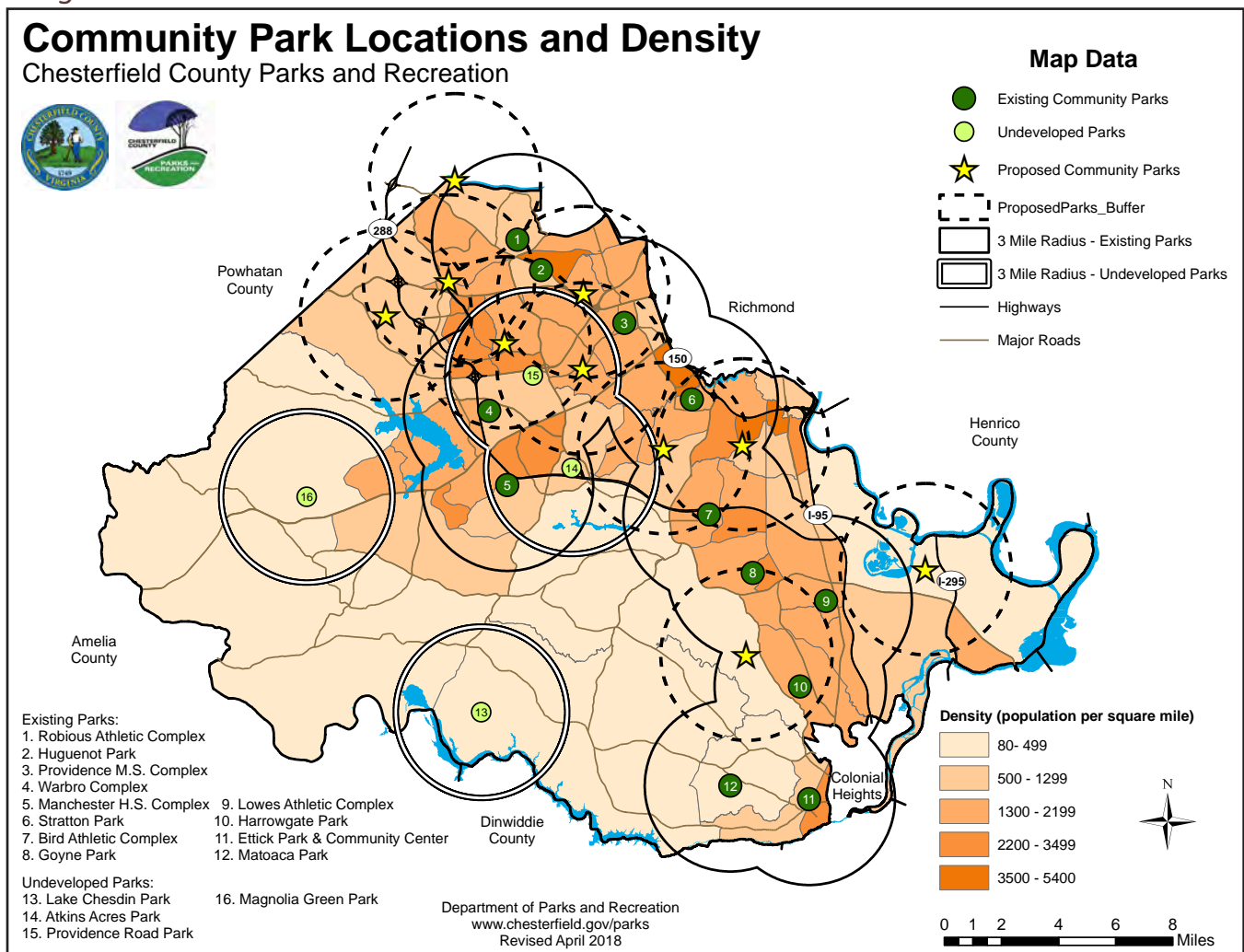


Figure V-2: Community Park Locations and Population Density

## Improve access to regional parks

Different areas of the county are served based on the development pattern and according to recreation needs. Currently, there is a 269 acre shortfall of regional parks. Based on population projections, this is anticipated to grow to 369 acres by 2023 and 597-acres by 2040.

*Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County* identifies three potential regional park sites. If developed, these parks will adequately distribute park access throughout the County.

- To meet the targeted need for 2023 regional parks, acquire and develop an additional 369 acres. Priority should be given to the sites identified in the comprehensive plan.
- Continue development of the Irvin G. Horner Park site and start development of the Winterpock-Route 360 Park.

Figure V-3

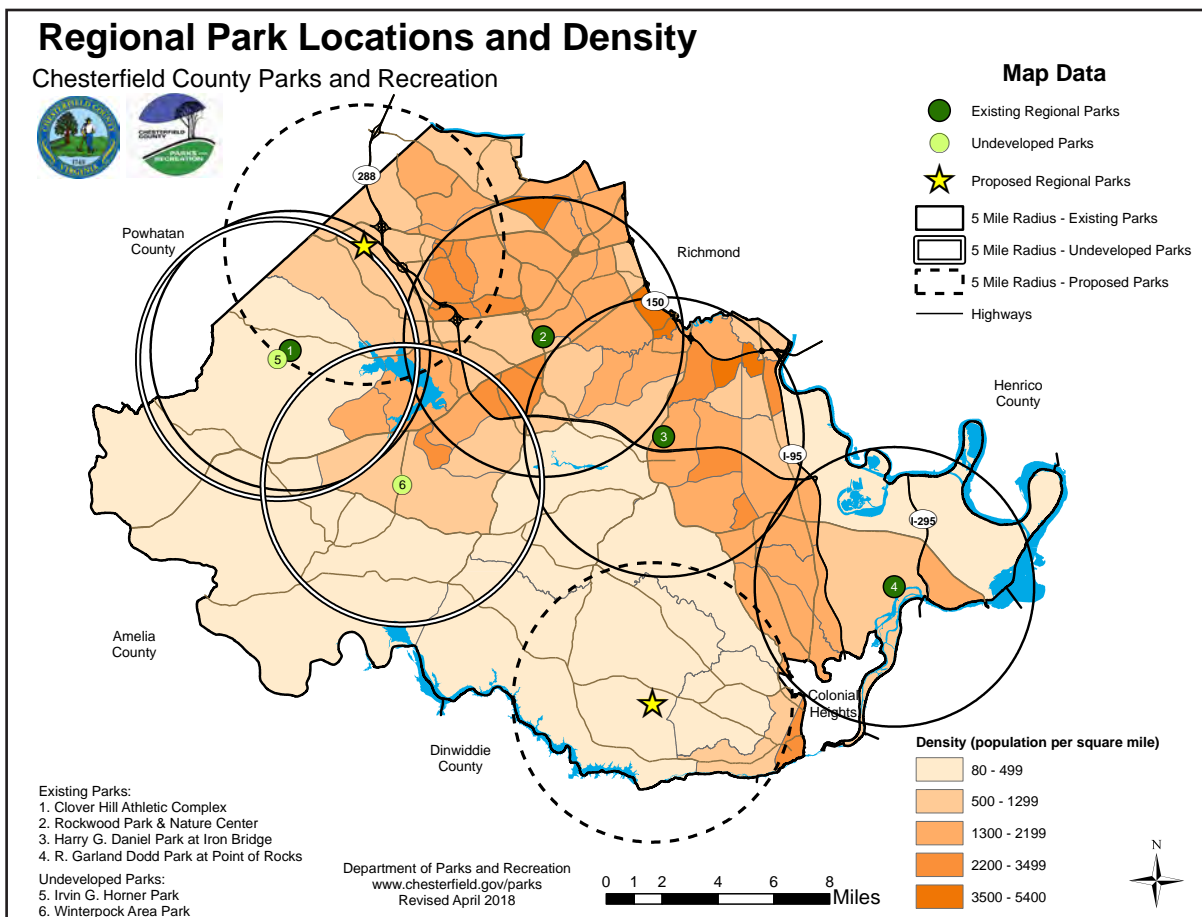


Figure V-3: Regional Park Locations and Population Density

## Construct urban style parks

As Chesterfield continues to develop urban pockets of high density and mix-use infill, urban parks should be planned and developed. Urban parks are 0.5 to 5-acres in size and serve residents, office workers, and retail areas. A demonstration urban park should be developed in regions designated as mixed-use by *Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield* or in one of the special area plans.



# Facilities

## RENOVATIONS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

### ***Identified concerns:***

- *Lack of standard amenities at parks*
- *Need for park maintenance and improvement*
- *Need to prepare a conditions assessment and improvement plan for existing parks*
- *Need to preserve and enhance historic sites*

Recommendations for renovations to the existing parks are based on a list of improvements and renovations for each park site. A separate inventory and report should be developed to identify and plan for park renovations.

### **Implement consistent core amenities in all parks**

Consistency in park development and amenities provides cohesive park identity. Each park should be evaluated every 5-10 years to ensure that the facilities and amenities are serving citizen needs. Underutilized facilities should be repurposed.

#### **All parks should include these core amenities:**

- Soft surface walking (6' width or less) or multi-use (7' width or greater) path
- Hard surface accessible vehicular routes
- Open grass play area
- Accessibility to principle facilities
- Special use or amenity that makes the park unique to the County

#### **Community and regional parks should also include:**

- Picnic shelters near activity areas
- Playgrounds with age grouped apparatuses and universally accessible features
- Diamond and rectangular athletic fields
- Court games



*All parks should contain standard core amenities as well as a special use that sets it apart, like the historic ruins at Midlothian Mines Park*

### **Continue maintenance program**

Systematically follow the park maintenance schedule to address needs. Update the maintenance schedule to include new facilities.

### **Prioritize facilities for improvement**

Focus on facilities:

- not in serviceable condition or have safety issues
- heavily used
- requiring frequent maintenance to retain serviceable condition
- addressing gaps in recreation service

### **Conduct an evaluation of all parks and facilities**

Conduct an evaluation of all parks and facilities in the system to include:

- site visits to all locations
- inventory of existing amenities
- inventory of necessary repairs and maintenance
- recommendations for improvement

Field development in parks that serve low-income or historically under-served areas should be a priority.

### **Identify potential amenities to be repurposed**

Consider repurposing existing underutilized amenities to meet emerging needs. For example, since participation in tennis is dropping and there is growing interest in pickleball and futsal, explore the potential to convert some tennis courts to futsal and pickleball courts. Likewise, surplus ball fields can be converted to open play areas for non-league, public use.

### **Manage historic sites to enhance recreation opportunities**

Identify improvements and enhancements to historical sites to enrich the visitor experience and maintain the historic integrity. Explore viewshed and buffer easements and acquisition of adjacent property as development patterns dictate. Control of viewsheds and buffers around these sites is equally important to the preservation and quality visitor experience by mitigating contrasting development and other adjacent detrimental operations.



*Investing in and appropriate development of historic sites like Eppington will enrich Chesterfield County*

## NEW FACILITIES

### *Identified concerns:*

- *Shortfall of indoor recreation space*
- *Need for recreational use trails*
- *High public interest in additional playgrounds*
- *Limited public water access points*
- *Interest in recreational water access or water play facilities*
- *Need to diversity amenities*
- *Need for universal accessibility of park facilities*
- *Need for dog parks*
- *Need for picnic shelters in high use areas*
- *Need for a new nature center to interpret the Coastal Plain*
- *Need for a variety of athletic fields and recreational amenities as identified in the level of service analysis and public interest surveys.*

This Plan examines the county parks system and identifies broad improvement areas. A detailed inventory and analysis of each park site with specific recommendations is needed.

### **Construct recreation centers**

Based on the level of service analysis and public feedback, additional recreation centers are needed to serve all generations. The County currently operates three 5,000 sf recreation centers that provide warming kitchens, activity rooms, and meeting rooms. The existing standard 5,000 sf recreation center limits the amenities offered. Future recreation centers should be increased in size to a 10,000 sf to provide a wider range of indoor recreation amenities. Opportunities to develop shared use facilities at schools should be explored. Centrally located 20,000 sf recreation centers should be developed to be geographically distributed to meet County needs and should include indoor fitness facilities, exercise rooms, and athletic courts.

### **Provide indoor recreation space**

While recreation centers may provide some indoor recreation space, indoor recreation is primarily provided by private sector, non-profit recreation providers and partnerships with Chesterfield County Public Schools. An extension of the school partnership would improve indoor recreation service. New schools will address growth areas and help meet recreation needs. Constructing slightly larger gyms, [double gyms] to accommodate two teams for practice and younger age groups for games would double the indoor recreation capacity. Renovated or replaced elementary and middle schools should be built with double gyms.



*Ettrick Park Recreation Center*



### **Plan for additional recreation centers**

As population increases, citizens will need additional recreation centers. Long range planning for the development of recreation centers should consider community need, especially in growth areas.

### **Improve linkages to adjacent neighborhoods**

People who live near a park should have the opportunity to walk or bike to the park. These park connections create a sense of community and increase healthy living opportunities. A connectivity plan identifying links between parks, residential, and business areas is needed.

### **Develop and expand multiuse path systems**

Walking and biking trails are important to citizens and a priority in the *Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield*. Walking and biking trails within park boundaries should connect with trails in the surrounding communities. Partnerships with regional efforts to develop trail systems, like the Friends of the Lower Appomattox Trails and the East Coast Greenway.

### **Address walking/hiking trail needs**

Construct new or expand existing hiking trail networks in parks with trails outside the park. Loop trails should be part of each park. Neighborhood trails may serve residential communities and connect to destinations like schools, parks, commercial, and retail areas. Partner with Chesterfield Planning Department to encourage trail development as part of subdivision planning.

Trails are to be developed in a hierarchical system:

- Paved trail: A 8'-10' wide accessible asphalt multi-use trail may link developed areas of the park with the community. Paved trails may provide recreation opportunities and also be part of the transportation network.
- Stone dust trail: A 8'-10' wide accessible stone dust surfaced trail may be used for recreation in the park.
- Explorer trail: A 2'-5' wide packed earth trail may provide access through natural areas.

The ratio of these trail types in the park system should be 1:1:0.5.

The types of trail mileage at each park depends on park acreage, topography, park purpose and existing development. A guideline should be 4 miles of trails at regional parks, 2-3 miles at community parks and 0.5 - 1 mile at neighborhood parks.



*Appomattox VSU Trail*



## Develop additional water access and blueways

Identify and develop additional water access along the Appomattox and James rivers to provide small scale public boat ramps, non-motorized boat launches, swimming areas, and fishing piers. The overcrowded Dutch Gap Landing boat launch should be redeveloped to increase efficiency and capacity. One additional motorized boat launch and two non-motorized boat launches are planned on the James River. Two non-motorized boat launches are planned on the Appomattox River, doubling the existing capacity. Fishing is planned at all the new boat launch sites. Swimming near non-motorized boat launches should be evaluated.

## Investigate the development of recreational open water swimming facilities

Lake Chesdin is a 3,100 acre reservoir bordering southwest Chesterfield. The Parks and Recreation Department manages a 60 acre linear park along the Lake Chesdin. The shoreline should be evaluated for beach access. There is also the possibility of developing swimming along the James River. Open water swimming must consider underwater conditions, currents and water quality. Operating lake or river swimming area would be a cost effective and accelerated method to address the immediate need for public swimming. A study should be conducted to address the need and feasibility of expanding natural water body use within the County.

## Address recreational water play needs

Spraygrounds do not address all of the needs encompassed in recreational aquatics. They are outdoor seasonal amenities, primarily for youth. They do not meet the needs for swimming education, fitness, or therapy. These needs can only be met by a pool. The County needs to consider this when conducting the recreational aquatics feasibility study.

## Develop a county blueways plan

The County should develop a master plan for water trails or “blueways”. The plan should identify:

- water trail routes and access points
- policies for improvement of water quality and navigability,
- additional access points
- easements and properties to acquire
- methods for promotion and blueways marketing



*Swift Creek Conservation Area potential water trail*



*Typical sprayground*

### **Construct additional playgrounds**

There is a high interest in playgrounds. The current inventory of playgrounds is below the existing and future target level of service. Playgrounds may be integrated into the new neighborhood and community parks as well as included in park expansions. Themed playgrounds would diversity experiences. Playgrounds should be designed for inclusive and universally accessible play. As playgrounds are replaced, universal access play apparatus should be added .

### **Increase public availability of school parks**

There are opportunities to work with Chesterfield County Public Schools to develop school campuses with clearly defined and secured “school” and “public” recreation areas. Appropriately designed recreation on school grounds may be used when school is in session. A stronger partnership between schools and parks would provide the opportunity to address the need for community recreation without the requiring additional parkland.

### **Construct additional picnic shelters**

Additional picnic shelters should be constructed in parks mainly west of Route 288 in the Hull Street Road and Genito Road areas. New shelters should be easily accessible to restrooms, parking, and recreation areas. Existing shelters should be evaluated to assess the need for supporting amenities. As picnic shelter structures and amenities reach the end of their lifespan, their location should be evaluated. The County should explore the need for large and enclosed picnic shelters to provide event rental options for large groups. Large picnic facilities will require focused site planning to accommodate parking and support amenities.



*Hammocks are universal play equipment*

### **Create additional pickleball playing courts**

The immediate need for pickleball courts is being addressed by converting a cluster of tennis courts into 6-8 pickleball courts and dual striping 3-6 tennis courts. Clusters of 6-8 pickleball courts should be centrally located, while dual striped courts may be dispersed throughout the park system.

### **Construct additional dog parks**

Public survey indicates strong interest in fenced dog parks. These parks can be located in existing parks or incorporated into the program plan for new parks. Three dog parks are recommended:

- in the western area
- in the northern area
- in the southern and eastern areas

### **Construct a new nature center in the Coastal Plain region**

Chesterfield County lies within two distinct geographical regions. Only the Piedmont region is interpreted at the Rockwood Park Nature Center. A second nature center should be constructed in the coastal plain to interpret the geology and ecology of that region including tidal swamps, marshes, and exposed sediment bluffs. Brown and Williamson, Swift Creek Conservation Area or Dutch Gap Conservation Area could be appropriate places to locate a nature center.

### **Provide the equivalency of nine new unlighted rectangular fields**

Review of the Activity Period (AP) system and private rentals indicates that nine unlighted fields are needed to meet the practice and game requirements of the soccer league. One lighted field is equivalent to two unlighted fields. Constructing new unlighted and lighted fields and/or installing lights on existing fields, or a combination of both will meet the rectangular field needs. Turf and irrigation improvements that expand scheduled use along with the conversion of natural turf to synthetic turf will also address this shortfall.

### **Construct two additional league-quality outdoor volleyball courts**

Construct two additional league standard, outdoor volleyball courts to double the available league-quality courts.

### **Provide additional outdoor basketball courts**

Based on the level of service analysis, five additional basketball courts are needed. As new community and neighborhood parks are constructed, basketball courts can be included. Expansion of current park sites in high use areas should be considered first.

### **Construct an additional disc golf course**

Construct an additional disc golf course in the central or western part of the county. The new disc golf course should provide an alternative playing experience to the open fairways of the Goyne course in the eastern part of the county. The new location should offer an intermediate to advanced level course and include open fields, woodlands, elevation changes, and water hazards.



*Golden Arrow Archery Club at Rockwood Park*

### **Replace Rockwood archery range**

Demand for archery is increasing and a new county facility is needed. The Department should continue plans to construct an archery facility at Horner Park with a FITA style target up to 90 meters and a field archery course for general shooters. Facilities at Rockwood Park should be phased out.

### **Upgrade existing sports facilities as destination-quality sports tournament centers**

The Department should upgrade existing sports facilities at select parks to provide multi-field tournament style facilities. Synthetic turf and multi-field striping will accommodate greater flexibility of sports and uses especially heavier use by many types of sports.

### **Construct stadium facilities for rectangular and ball fields**

The County is a successful sports tournament destination. However, growth in this area may be hampered due to the lack of a stadium facility for Virginia High School League (VHSL) regional and state playoff events. The county should explore partnerships to construct stadium facilities at a location or locations near existing sports tournament facilities. Partner with the public schools to improve existing stadium fields by installing all-weather, synthetic turf is an efficient use of existing infrastructure.



# Programs

## ***Identified concerns:***

- *Need for types, locations and quantities of programs to reflect shifting demographics*
- *Need information about current program operations*
- *Need to track programming statistics to enhance service delivery*

## **Perform program assessment**

Develop a programs assessment and recommendations report to analyze the current program offerings, partnerships, funding, and revenue strategies. This report will provide an analysis of programs in underserved areas and make recommendations to meet recreation program needs.

## **Evaluate programming for those ages 19 and under and ages 55+**

Biannually review age distributions for recreation programming to ensure equitable access. Implement different programming for active older adults: those ages 55-74 and those over 75. Evaluate program offerings for children and teens based on projected decline in the youth population. Develop pilot programs to test service areas reaching the county's changing demographics.

## **Track program lifecycles**

Track program lifecycles annually to ensure there are a decreasing number of programs in the saturated and declining stages while ensuring an increase in new programs in the introduction stage. Eliminate or reposition the lowest 5 percent of programs not well attended. Establish a performance metric to reposition or eliminate programs that remain in decline for two years.

## **Track cost recovery performance**

Track cost recovery performance using core programs. Identify cost recovery targets for each program area and for events.



*Chair fitness classes is one of the 55+ programs currently offered by the Department*



# Operations

## ***Identified concerns:***

- *Need for increased efficiency in park maintenance*
- *Need for continued coordination between departments*
- *Address principal maintenance worker staffing levels*
- *Evaluate inconsistent ADA access and inclusive park design*
- *Plan for long term sustainable management practices*

### **Develop a database of maintenance and lifecycle repairs**

Develop a database of system facilities including lifecycle maintenance schedules to increase maintenance efficiency and assist in budget preparation.

### **Explore new materials and methods**

Reduce maintenance cost, frequency, and labor as well as operating costs by switching materials or procedures. The Department should explore and adopt new technologies, materials, and procedural innovations to improve service delivery.

### **Continue standardization of systems**

Continue to rely on standardized systems for effective replacement and maintenance tasks, including lighting, irrigation, HVAC, and fixtures for buildings and sites.

### **Efficient procurement**

Utilize time savings and cost-effective methods for procurement of system components and services.

### **Continue coordination with other County departments**

Coordinate efforts with other departments to streamline maintenance services supporting maintenance and operational needs.

### **Schedule replacement of critical maintenance equipment**

Complete a lifecycle analysis of maintenance vehicles and equipment (trucks, tractors, zero-turn mowers, utility cars). Develop a business model to support scheduled replacement of critical maintenance equipment and non-fleet vehicles.



*Maintenance workers at Huguenot Soccer Field*

### **Update park maintenance standards**

Review current standards and resources to align tasks with resources and identify additional resources.

### **Invest in a software program to track maintenance operations cost**

Work with Chesterfield County IT Department to develop or purchase software for efficiently tracking maintenance operation costs by facility and tasks – labor, equipment, materials, and contractual assistance.

### **Invest in a new field scheduling software program**

Install a new scheduling software program for fields.

### **Explore methods to reduce principal maintenance worker turnover rates**

Enhance compensation for principal maintenance worker positions to reduce turnover rates. Consider updating and enhancing the career development program, reclassifying positions and position compression increases.

### **Increase maintenance worker staff levels**

Develop a business case to support additional staffing. Target a 1:1 staff facility ratio. Update the Principle Maintenance Worker Career Development Plan.

### **Develop an Inclusionary and ADA Access Action Plan**

Develop an ADA access action plan to guide systemwide implementation of inclusionary practices. This plan will identify and address existing shortcomings and recommend additional standards for park and facility design, program management and operational practices.

### **Develop an environmental sustainability report for the Department**

The Department manages over 5,100 acres of land including environmentally valuable resources. The operation, maintenance and programming of park land and facilities is environmentally significant. Develop an environmental sustainability report analyzing current operations and recommending department-wide, long-term sustainable practices. A principle asset of this report will be completion of a Forest Management Plan in partnership with the Department of Forestry.



*Field conditioning at Bird Athletic Complex*

# Implementation Plan

## Action Priorities

Action Priorities are determined by overlaying findings from public input and the level of service needs assessment with recommendations for sustaining the parks and recreation system. The findings and recommendations are categorized into the following implementation phases:

Short term priorities – Immediate priorities needed to meet a 5 year target.

Long term priorities – Projects projected for a 5 to 20 year completion to meet the county’s growing and changing population. Long term priorities may depend on land acquisition, future planning along with larger funding amounts.

On-going priorities – Ongoing implementation is identified as needed or periodically scheduled based on seasonal, annual or other cycles. Some ongoing projects are accomplished when funds become available.

Priorities were divided into the following categories:

- **Short-term – Complete within the next 5 years (by 2023)**

- **Long-Term – Complete within the next 5-20 years (by 2040)**

- **On-going – Complete as on-going effort, as issues arise, or as land or funding are available**

Priorities, especially short-term priorities should be reviewed every year to reflect budgets, staffing levels, new policies, usage trends, and citizen feedback. Priorities may shift if opportunities arise to implement recommendations sooner than listed in this plan. To track and stay on top of changing priorities and needs, the *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan* should be updated every five years. The master plan revision process should be coordinated with the update of the *Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County*, specifically the Public Facilities Plan.

Public Interests	
Type of Facility	Priority
Community Park	HIGH NEED
Managed Park Lands (R, C, N)	
Motorized Boat Ramp	
Non-Motorized Boat Ramp	
Neighborhood Park	
Recreation Center	
Trails (7' width and over)	
Trails (6' width and under)	
Water Playground	
Dog Parks	MODERATE NEED
Environmental Education Center	
Fishing Access	
Football Fields	
General Play Fields	
Picnic Areas/Shelters	
Playgrounds	
Rectangular Fields	
Regional Park	
Archery Range	SOME NEED
Ball Fields	
Basketball Courts	
Disc Golf Course	
Handball/Racketball Courts	
Outdoor Pickleball Courts	
Outdoor Volleyball	
Park Acreage (Increase)	
Tennis Courts	

## Short-term (within 5 years)

### **Parkland**

- Construct community recreational amenities at undeveloped parks (Winterpock/Route 360 West Area Park and Atkins Acres Park)
- Add community or neighborhood park amenities to the following special purpose parks: Cogbill Park, Falling Creek Ironworks Park, Henricus Historical Park and Brown and Williamson, Swift Creek Conservation Area, and James River Conservation Area.
- Plan a new school as a model dual use neighborhood park and school campus.
- Pursue the acquisition of an additional community or regional park as proposed in the *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan*.
- Partnering with the development community, explore development of a demonstration urban park that features best practices.

### **Existing Facilities**

- Implement appropriate components of existing historic site master plans in partnership with foundations.
- Evaluate all parks and facilities for improvement to recommend repairs and maintenance.
- Plan consistent, core amenities in all parks and implement improvements.
- Prioritize improvements, giving precedence to facilities that:
  - are not in serviceable condition and/or have safety issues,
  - are used extensively,
  - require more frequent regular maintenance to maintain in serviceable condition, or
  - address gaps in recreation service.

### **New Facilities**

- Develop additional recreation centers to serve the Midlothian and Matoaca districts. The centers may be stand-alone or co-located with schools or other organizations.
- Develop a model connectivity plan to address best practices and identify how to link residential areas to the parks using sidewalks, trails or bike paths.
- Partner with and support regional trail efforts like the Appomattox River Trail and the East Coast Greenway.
- Develop 10 miles of new recreational trails. An additional 9 miles of paved or stone dust trails and one mile of explorer trails will maintain the preferred ratio of paved, stone dust, and explorer trails.
- Prepare a water access and Blueways Master Plan.
- Develop a feasibility study for a water playground at a centralized location.
- Prepare a feasibility study for a lake and river swimming and recreation area.
- Provide three dog parks to serve the western area, northern area and southeast area near Ettrick.
- Construct five additional picnic areas with shelters in high-use areas.
- Convert tennis courts to pickleball courts in a central location. Use dual striping on tennis courts at other parks.
- Provide an additional equivalency of nine new unlighted rectangular fields.



## Short-term (within 5 years)

### Programs

- Develop a programs assessment and recommendations report to analyze current program offerings and make recommendations addressing current and future needs.
- Develop pilot programs to investigate and test program funding.

### Operations

- Create a database of maintenance and lifecycle repairs for all parks.
- Develop a systemwide ADA and inclusionary access plan.
- Develop a sustainability report and recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Invest in a software program to track maintenance operations costs.
- Invest in new field scheduling software program.
- Update park maintenance standards.
- Complete a lifecycle analysis of maintenance equipment and develop a business case to support scheduled replacement of critical equipment.
- Update the Principal Maintenance Worker Career Development Plan.
- Create position specific career development strategies for staff.
- Identify professional development opportunities for staff.

## Long-term (5-20 years)

### Parkland

- Pursue acquisition and/or development of an additional 396 acres for neighborhood parks. Priority should be given to proposed park locations in the *Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County* along with underserved needs identified in this plan, including Matoaca, the I-95 corridor between Route 288 and Colonial Heights, and west of Swift Creek Reservoir and Route 288.
- Pursue acquisition and/or development of an additional 246 acres for community parks. Priority should be given to the sites identified as proposed park locations in the *Moving Forward... The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County* along with underserved needs identified in this plan, including north of Route 288, to the west and north of Swift Creek Reservoir, near I-295, and south of Chester.
- Pursue acquisition and/or development of 597 acres for regional parks. Priority should be given to the sites identified in the *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan* including build out of Irvin G. Horner Park.
- Pursue acquisition and development of two additional regional parks, as located on the *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan*.
- Develop urban parks in high-density, residential and multiuse areas.

## Long-term (5-20 years)

### New Facilities

- Develop an additional 20,000 sf of public indoor recreation space in areas centrally located to high population areas.
- Develop a distributed array of 10,000-40,000 sf recreation centers around the County to serve areas forecast for development or densification.
- Work closely with other departments to support the Comprehensive Master Plan's goal to provide 262 miles of shared use paths. Some shared use trails may be located within parks. A linear park could also support the County trails initiatives.
- Trails should be included in all new parks, with a guideline of 4 miles in regional parks, 2-3 miles at community parks and ½ to 1 mile at neighborhood parks.
- Increase public availability of school parks by designing them to be used concurrently by the public and students. Develop a set of guidelines and best practices including security analysis for existing and new shared use programming and development.
- Construct a new nature center in the Coastal Plain region of the County
- Construct two additional league-quality outdoor volleyball courts
- Construct an additional disc golf course
- Construct an additional archery range

## On-Going

### Parkland

- Work with developers to incorporate park space into new residential and mixed-use developments.

### Existing Facilities

- Plan for equipment replacement.
- Track amenity/material lifecycles.
- Undertake periodic surveys to keep track of trends.
- Incorporate sustainability into all levels of park/facility management.

### New Facilities

- Continue average annual construction of new trails in the County parks to 2.2 miles. Maintain the system-wide ratio of paved:stone dust:explorer trails to 1:1:1½.

### Operations

- Continue with the standardization of major systems.
- Utilize time savings and cost-effective methods for procurement.
- Continue coordination with other County departments to streamline and aggregate related tasks.
- Work toward CAPRA accreditation.
- Explore new materials and methods.

The Department should use this plan to guide park system improvements. The *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan* helps focus on priorities to maintain excellence throughout the Chesterfield County parks and recreation system.

## Funding: Capital, Maintenance, and Operating

The Department receives funding in two county budgets: [1] Capital Improvement Program [CIP] - for parkland acquisition, major maintenance, and construction and [2] General Government Operating Budget for staffing and general operations. Both budgets are presented annually as Five-Year Plans: Fiscal Year One is appropriated and the remaining four years are approved in concept by the Board of Supervisors.

### CAPITAL

Park construction, major maintenance, and acquisition to the park system is managed by the Planning and Construction Services Division. Funding requests will be presented and considered during the annual Capital Improvement Program Five Year Budget, which is a public process and incorporates input from county administration, the Board of Supervisors and citizen input. It is estimated that funding needs to implement core CIP recommendations for the short term and ongoing recommendations would cost approximately \$44 million for FY19-23. This figure, based on detailed analysis, represents total cost including design, acquisition, and construction.

#### Recommended Budget FY2019 – FY2023

Capital Improvement Program

<b>MAJOR MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2023</b>	<b>FY2019-</b>
<b>23</b>						
Park Major Maintenance	2,700,000	2,950,000	3,050,000	3,100,000	3,200,000	<b>15,000,000</b>
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>						
Bensley Park	256,000	-	-	-	-	<b>\$256,000</b>
Clover Hill	800,000	2,450,000	-	-	-	<b>3,250,000</b>
Conservation Areas	-	500,000	650,000	500,000	-	<b>1,650,000</b>
High School Synthetic Turf	-	-	1,890,000	-	1,890,000	<b>3,780,000</b>
Historic Site Funds	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	<b>500,000</b>
Lowes Sports Complex	450,000	-	-	-	-	<b>450,000</b>
Parks Development	-	-	-	-	4,000,000	<b>4,000,000</b>
River City Sportsplex	-	350,000	390,000	3,400,000	3,425,000	<b>7,565,000</b>
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,606,000</b>	<b>3,400,000</b>	<b>3,030,000</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>9,415,000</b>	<b>21,451,000</b>
<b>REVITALIZATION</b>						
Beulah/Parks -Recreation	276,000	7,000,000	534,000	-	-	<b>7,810,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION</b>						<b>44,261,000</b>
<b>REVITALIZATION - SHARED SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECTS</b>						
Future Land Acquisition	1,000,000	1,600,000	1,000,000	1,135,000	1,000,000	<b>5,735,000</b>
Referendum Projects		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	<b>8,000,000</b>

The strategy used in programming, planning, and implementing projects accomplishes phased renovations or replacements of older existing facilities and associated infrastructure while balancing the development of new facilities, parks, and parkland acquisition. Previous five-year plans focused predominately on major maintenance. The current five-year plan FY18-22 allocates 70 percent of the CIP budget to projects for renovation or replacement of existing park infrastructure with 30 percent devoted to new park infrastructure, parkland, and facilities.

The recommended CIP budget for FY19-FY23 is a balanced plan with recommendations for new infrastructure and new park development to meet needs for a larger population and growth within the county. The balance between renovation and new park development will be variable in each future budget cycle because it is affected by multiple project timelines and the pace of land development within the county. All projects and initiatives included in this plan must be prioritized in context with the Department's overall need as well as the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors' priorities and work plan. Projects will be defined in terms of scope, cost, and operational impacts before being included for potential funding within the Capital Improvement Program.

Property acquisition projects are the exception. Because of the opportunistic nature of property acquisition, an annual funding source is necessary. This approach has worked well in the past and contributed to the great success in meeting most of the 2002 Plan goals for the department. The recommended budget for FY19-23 CIP includes a broad category of funding, which includes a countywide future land acquisition account to address this need. Use of this fund will allow for the Department of Parks & Recreation to diligently pursue plan goals. These goals include providing adequate and geographically spaced parkland for all residents, especially to future residents in and around the growth areas and to acquire unique natural, recreational, and historical and cultural sites.

The Department will leverage department funding by collaborating with other county and school agencies to develop CIP projects that span across agencies to accomplish multiple outcomes. The recommended budget for FY19-23 CIP includes a broad category of funding, which includes school site revitalization accounts to supporting *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan* recommendations. The budget also includes, under the transportation category, opportunities to collaborate on pedestrian and bicycle needs within and connecting to the park system.



*Public meeting to plan for Cogbill Community Park*





*Dutch Gap Relic River Boardwalk, made possible with a grant from the National Park Service*

Many of the future projects and initiatives identified may not be funded within current CIP and operational funding levels. The Department has enjoyed success in obtaining supplemental non-county funding. The Department will continue this effort of funding including the following potential sources:

### **Grants, local, private, state, and federal agencies**

- DCR -Recreational Trails Program
- DCR – Land and Water Conservation Fund
- DCR – Virginia Land Conservation Fund
- NPS – Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trail Fund
- NPS – Battlefield Protection Program
- VDOT – Grants programs
- DGIF – Boating Facilities Program
- NRPA – Various industry collaborative grants
- CDBG – Local share allocations
- FLAP – Federal Lands Assistance Program
- NFWF - Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Grant Program

### **Public-Private Partnerships**

- Non-Profits – Cameron Foundation
- Non- Profits- HistoriCorps grant program
- Henricus Foundation
- Eppington Foundation
- Falling Creek Ironworks Foundation
- Mid-Lothian Mines and Railroads Foundation
- Dominion Energy Foundation
- Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions Grant Program

This *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan* also recommends renovation and repurposing of existing parks, as well as new park acquisitions, new facilities at existing parks and new park development through the year 2040. These recommendations will increase capacity and help grow and revitalize the park system.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance of the park system is managed by the Parks Division. Funding for plan recommendations will be considered as part of the annual General Government Five Year Operating Budget. These new budgets are presented as additional funding requests in a public process incorporating input from County Administration, the Board of Supervisors, and citizens. Pilot projects for new initiatives are recommended to test program or service delivery effectiveness without a long-term commitment for funding.

## OPERATING

Programs and events, operated within the park system and in partnership with other sites, agencies, and organizations are managed by the Recreation Division. Funding for plan recommendations, if required, will be considered during the annual General Government Five Year Operating Budget. These new budgets are presented as Additional Funding Requests in a public process incorporating input from county administration, the Board of Supervisors, and citizens. Pilot projects for new initiatives are recommended, where effectiveness of program or service delivery can be tested for long term results, without commitment to continued funding.

The Department will also explore and rely on alternative funding strategies to leverage county funding for departmental operations. These sources will be appropriately matched to the [1] the scale and complexity of the funding need, [2] the mission and objectives of the funding partner and [3] restrictions or other legal requirements of the funding source.

### Fees

- User fees/charges (fees charged to use an amenity or service)
- Ticket sales/admissions (fees charged for admission to a special event)
- Permits (fee-based permits provided to use park property for financial gain)
- Reservations (fees charged to reserve public property for a specific timeframe)
- Equipment rentals (fees charged to rent tables, chairs, tents and similar items)
- Concession management (funds obtained from retail sales)
- Private management (contracting with private entities to run a public facility resulting in financial savings and possibly additional percentage of income)

### Donations

- Foundations/gifts (funding from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations)
- Private donations (donations of funds, land, facilities, or other items)
- Friends' associations (special interest groups raising funds for a purpose)

### Partnerships

- Partnerships (joint funding with shared risks, assets, and management)
- Special fundraisers (luncheons, brick sales, or other events that trade donations for a good or service)

### Sponsorships

- Corporate sponsorships (corporate investment in amenities and/or events)
- Naming rights (funding obtained from allowing private businesses to place their name on a public facility)

### Trusts

- Irrevocable remainder trusts (individuals leave portion of wealth as a trust fund to be used by an agency)
- Land trusts (trusts set up to secure funding for land acquisitions)

### Volunteers

- Volunteers (unpaid workers donating time and effort)
- Crowdfunding (Internet-based funding provided by large amounts of people supplying smaller donation sums.)