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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

# BELMONT 2019 PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN (Update Through Year 2029)



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CITY OF BELMONT  
2019  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN  
THROUGH THE YEAR 2029

**For  
Belmont, NC**



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# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

Since the early 1900's, the Belmont Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD) has had a solid history of providing leisure opportunities in the community. Today, the Department is recognized by residents for providing a strong and diverse set of programs, events, and facilities. A prime example is Stowe Park for its appeal to all ages and its hosting of special events such as the Garibaldi Festival, Movies in the Park, and other seasonal or holiday events. Additionally, with City staff support, the department has committed to improving and maintaining amenities that provide positive "quality of life impacts" for the community.

City leaders recognized the increased demand for recreational opportunities and the importance that residents place on their availability by authorizing the preparation of the 2003-2013 - Belmont Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan completed in 2003. In 2018, growing demand for an indoor recreation space prompted the City to investigate the cost of constructing and operating its own recreation facility to accommodate community needs. The 2018 Recreation Facility Feasibility Study (2018 Study) identified 11 findings classified in three (3) main categories addressing 1. Community Needs, 2. Facility Program & Features, and 3. Finances. The "Findings" of the 2018 Study developed five (5) recommendations, the first being to "Create a New Parks & Recreation Master Plan."

Understanding the need to update that plan, the City authorized the 2019-2029 Belmont Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan Update. The Master Plan is based upon a review of the entire community, an analysis of the existing park system, the identification of user needs with considerable public input, the development of recreation standards, and an adherence to stated recommendations and proposals. This update provides documentation of perceived needs expressed during a public input process that included public meetings, steering committee meetings, focus group/stakeholder meetings, and a survey distributed to residents via hard-copy. The survey was also made available for three (3) months on-line via SurveyMonkey. Existing assets, facilities, and programs were analyzed for both current and future potential demand. The update also includes proposals and recommendations for developing and improving park facilities and provides a plan of action for implementing these recommendations. The objective of the Master Plan Update is to produce a plan that acts as a framework for the City to identify present and future local issues and needs, evaluate options, and prioritize courses of action to meet the projected needs through the year 2029.

Statistics indicate the City's population will continue to grow moderately, placing additional burden on the existing park system. Meeting increased demand for additional recreation programs and facilities will be an ever-increasing challenge. Coupled with the fact that some facilities have outlived their design intent and need to be replaced, renovated, and/or expanded, the Department must be proactive in meeting the future needs of the community. A well-defined master plan is an important part of the process.

## Master Plan Purpose & Process

The City selected Woolpert to evaluate existing park facilities and develop new strategies for meeting future recreation needs as similarly presented in the 2003-2013 Plan. The 2019-2029 Comprehensive Park & Recreation Master Plan Update is presented in a "***modified Executive Summary Report***" format that outlines major findings and/or recommendations and provides additional direction or action plan steps for implementation of the recommendations.



The objective of the overall planning process is to provide Belmont with an accurate, usable plan to guide its' growth with action steps and decisions concerning the improvement and development of park facilities through the year 2029.

The major components of the report outlined below identify the approach used for identifying and meeting the recreational needs of the community.

The plan report consists of six major components as follows:

1. Introduction and Master Plan Purpose & Process
2. Review of Demographic Information (update of population information)
3. Inventory of Existing Recreation Facilities & Programs
4. Community Needs Assessment
5. Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations
6. Action Plan Implementation

The general purpose of the plan is to formulate recommendations for the growing recreational needs of the City and be a usable and accurate tool for guiding actions and decisions concerning the following areas:

- Future recreation role for the City
- Park facility renovations and development (indoor or outdoor)
- Public open space and greenway needs
- Possible land acquisitions, public open spaces or natural assets
- Cooperative efforts and/ or partnerships in providing for recreation needs

## Review of Demographic Information & Physical Factors

Demographic information for Belmont is briefly reviewed below to gain an understanding of unique characteristics within the community, and to identify factors that may influence recreation and park planning. The current and projected factors relevant to the City are presented in "bullet form" under two categories— ***recreational-related dynamics and demographics*** and ***physical factors***. Recreational-related demographics include a composite of the population, population projections, growth trends, economic factors, and land-use patterns. Physical factors which may have an impact on recreational facilities includes headings such as topography, highways and roads, physical barriers, watersheds, flood plains, easements, rights-of-ways, and utility corridors.

### Recreational-Related Growth Dynamics and Demographics

#### Population

- Information concerning the demographic makeup of the area population such as age, gender, and income play a role in determining recreational needs and demands for the community.
- Population projections for this plan were obtained from 2010 US Census, and 2017/18 North Carolina Office of State Budget & Management (OSBM)—Demographic Branch Planning certified estimates.
- In general, Belmont should experience population growth through the planning period because of its geographic location and the economic influences of the North Carolina Piedmont that occur from the Charlotte metropolitan area.
- Using NC-OSBM estimates the City's estimated population for 2019 is 11,817
- The annual population growth rate for the City between 2010 and 2019 is 1.78%. This annual rate is higher than projected for the overall population of the State (.951%) and Gaston County (.815%).



- The rate of annual growth (1.78%) can be attributed to increased housing starts at subdivisions and infill development of the Cities core.
- The City, like most urban areas of the North/Mid-Atlantic States, the Carolinas and the United States, is becoming older and more culturally diverse. For example, median age estimated for the State in 2016 was at 38.3, whereas Gaston County was 39.2 and Belmont was 40.1.
- By 2030, OSBM projects that one in five North Carolinians will be at least 65 years old, and by 2035 there will be more older adults (ages 65+) than children (ages less than 18)

**Population projections for the City through the year 2029 are as follows:**

**TABLE 1-1  
POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

Location	2010	2019	% Growth 2010-19	2020	% Growth 2019-20	2025	% Growth 2020-2025	2029	% Growth 2025-2029
Belmont	10,076 <sup>1</sup>	<b>11,817<sup>3</sup></b>	17.28%	<b>12,030 <sup>3</sup></b>	1.18%	<b>13,236<sup>4</sup></b>	10.02%	<b>14,300<sup>5</sup></b>	8.04%
Gaston Co.	206,240 <sup>1</sup>	223,671 <sup>2</sup>	8.45%	224,998 <sup>2</sup>	.6%	232,160 <sup>2</sup>	3.18%	239,854 <sup>2</sup>	3.31%
State	9,575,746 <sup>1</sup>	10,524,548 <sup>2</sup>	9.91%	10,647,005 <sup>2</sup>	1.16%	11,248,928 <sup>2</sup>	5.65%	11,728,282 <sup>2</sup>	4.26%

<sup>1</sup> Source: 2010 US Census,

<sup>2</sup> Source: NC-Office of State Budget & Management (OSBM) Certified Population Estimates for Counties & Municipalities, County Projected Annual Populations, Totals, July 2010-July 2019 and July 2020-July 2029 (Dec. 2018 update)  
(Note: 2010-2019 Average annual growth City = 1.78% & County = .905%)

<sup>3</sup> Source: Woolpert population projection based on a 1.78% avg. annual growth rate (2010-2019)

<sup>4</sup> Source: Woolpert population projection based on a 1.95 % average annual growth rate (2020-2025)

<sup>5</sup> Source: Woolpert population projection based on a 1.95% average annual growth rate (2025-2029)

### Economy / Living

- Belmont's Median Household Income: estimated for 2016 was \$66,338; well ahead of the overall State at \$50,584. *(source: city data)*
- Belmont's Median House or Condo Value: estimated for 2016 was \$169,634 compared to the overall State at \$165,400 *source: city data*
- Home ownership for Belmont in 2016 was an estimated ±67%. *(source: city data)*
- Avg. Commute time for Belmont residents is 21.6 min (87.7% drove alone). *(source: city data)*

### Land Use

- Existing land use is defined in general terms by land use categories that are listed under various Zoning Districts within the City's Zoning Ordinance. The base map used for the plan depicts three major land uses as Industrial, Commercial, and Residential.
- Most of the commercial development, mainly retail, is located at Wilkinson Blvd. (US29/74) & I-85. Industry and manufacturing are located along rail corridors or close to interstate access in the north part of the town and near the City's downtown core along the river.
- Most growth will continue to occur along accessible utilities and roads. Historically, this has occurred south and slightly north of the City. However, more infill projects are being proposed within the City core and along the Catawba River district, areas that were historically industrial or commercial.



- Residential growth is projected to continue at developments south of the city and within the more central City along the Catawba River. Additionally, residential developments along the South Fork River peninsula will also continue to increase.

## Physical Factors

### Physical Setting/Factors

- There are physical barriers that contribute to controlling the growth of the City.
  - The Catawba River to the east and South Fork River to the west
  - Abutting Cities of Cramerton, Gastonia and McAdenville to the west, Mt. Holly to the north.
  - The South Carolina border, to the south near Lake Wylie.
  - I-85 and Wilkinson Blvd (US29-US74), both create manmade barriers that divide the City north—south.
  - Rail lines running along the Catawba River and thru the City are manmade barriers that divide the town north—south. The rail lines also limit access to the Catawba River to the east. Their effect on urban growth has been limited but they have been very disruptive to pedestrian connectivity.

### Transportation

- Interstate I-85, along with Wilkinson Blvd. (US29/74), NC-273 and NC-279 provide highway service. In addition, an extensive secondary road system connects all areas of the City.

## Inventory of Existing Recreation Facilities and Programs

- The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department provides organized programs for enjoyment by the citizens of Belmont. Programs include leisure classes, workshops, instructional classes, trips, athletic leagues, and special events for citizens of all ages (a list of programs is provided below).
- Instructional classes conducted by the Department are fitness and athletic related, however there are also many offerings related to special event programming and holiday celebrations. In addition, the Department offers a variety of field trip programs for youth summer camps and seniors.

### Youth Programs

- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Martial Arts
- Summer Camps

### Adult Programs

- Dance
- Martial Arts

### Senior Programs

- GAD Abouts
- Line Dance
- Senior Stretch

### Special Events/ Program

- |                         |                      |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Arbor Day Celebration | ▪ Garibaldi Festival | ▪ Red, White & Belmont |
| ▪ BooFest               | ▪ Festival of Trees  | ▪ Christmas Village    |
| ▪ Easter Egg Hunt       | ▪ Movies in the Park |                        |

The City has the following facilities and/or open space properties:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ J. Paul Ford Center                   | ▪ Ebb Gantt Park/Soccer Complex (8.1 ac)       |
| ▪ Stowe Park (8.7 ac)                   | ▪ Crescent Park/Frady Field (4.1 ac, leased)   |
| ▪ Reid Park (8.2 ac)                    | ▪ Linford Park (2.4 ac)                        |
| ▪ Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park (7.1 ac) | ▪ Linford Gazebo (0.25 ac)                     |
| ▪ Davis Park (14.6 ac)                  | ▪ Rocky Branch Park (40 ac. 27City +13 leased) |





- Rodden Field (6.11 ac)
- Gaither Property (30 ac, vacant)
- McLean Property (10 ac, vacant)
- Skate Park Property (0.5 ac, vacant)

The “Existing Facilities Map” or base map used for presenting the plan proposals depicts all Existing Park & Recreation Facilities. Facility use and condition statements are provided below for sites visited during a single day tour. Additionally, Table 2-1 is provided at the end of this section listing each site and their offered facilities.

- **J. Paul Ford Center:** (Special Use Facility)  
This facility houses the department offices and provides space for exercise and dance classes in addition to being used for senior activities through the Gad-Abouts Club.
  - Facility is very dated and due for an upgrade
  - City has plans to perform an evaluation for its re-use
  - Needs ADA upgrade
  - Parking area needs barrier adjacent to the rail spur (future greenway trail)
- **Stowe Park:** (Community Park)  
The City’s central or premier park is located on 8.7 acres along Main Street in downtown Belmont. The facility is well maintained, and many special events occur at the park. The historical park provides ample shaded seating areas, play equipment areas, picnic facilities and amphitheater space that is planned to receive a new covered stage. The park also includes a walking trail with exercise stations, restrooms, a decorative fountain and a veterans memorial seating area.
  - Most used facility in the system, well maintained and programmed
  - Multipurpose field near the middle school offers some potential development space
  - Existing amphitheater area to receive a covered stage
  - Play equipment is in good condition but will need to be updated during the planning period
  - Restroom facilities are slightly removed from use areas
- **Reid Park:** (Neighborhood Park)  
The 8.2-acre park is located in the Reid Neighborhood along Sacco Street at the former site of Reid High School. Facilities include baseball fields, picnicking space, parking, playground, community garden, basketball court and a walking path/trail.
  - Park is well maintained, and the basketball court was upgraded recently
  - Lower baseball/multipurpose field is difficult to access
  - Noticeable needs are for a restroom facility, drinking fountains and improved walkway access
- **Kevin Loftin Park:** (Community Park)  
The park is located on Catawba Street along the Catawba River at Abbey Creek near Wilkinson Blvd. (US29/74). The park offers picnic facilities at a larger group shelter and 2 small shelters. Additionally, there is parking, a play area, a restroom building and river access for fishing and boating. The boat ramp has associated parking and tie-up docks. Walkways with benches/seating and observation points connect all the use areas of the park.
  - The park is well maintained, and the facilities offered are in excellent condition
  - When developed, Abbey Creek greenway will be extended to the park
  - There is limited space for future development and associated parking
  - Proximity to the proposed new City offices might allow for added programming
  - Play equipment is in good condition (might need upgrades at the end of the planning period)
- **Davis Park** (Neighborhood Park)  
Located in north Belmont on Park Drive the 14.6-acre site includes a mix of active and passive recreation offerings. Active recreation includes five (5) lighted tennis courts, (2) half courts with practice walls, and a lighted multipurpose field used for youth baseball, football and soccer. The multipurpose field includes a restroom concession building with a press box and associated parking. The passive recreation area includes picnic tables, and a play area with horseshoe pits.



- The park is well maintained, and the facilities offered are in good condition
- Tennis courts are to receive new lighting and the half -courts might become pickle ball courts
- The restroom concession building is dated and could use an upgrade. Spectator seating also could be improved
- **Ebb Gant Park (Special Use Facility- Sports Park)**  
Located on Brook Street this 8.1-acre site includes 2-lighted soccer/multi-purpose fields used for league play, associated parking, a picnic shelter and restroom building. A walkway surrounds the fields and connects to the City walks in the area. There are a mix of active and passive recreation offerings.
  - The park is well maintained, and the facilities offered are in excellent condition
  - Most noticeable need is for improved walkway access to surrounding uses (possibly connect with Crescent Park and Rodden Field)
- **Crescent Park/Frady Field (Neighborhood Park, leased)**  
Located on 6th Street and bordering Catawba Street the 4.1 ac, leased site provides a baseball/softball field, spectator seating, a basketball court, play area, walking trail/path, benches/seating areas and associated parking.
  - The park is well maintained, and the facilities offered are in very good condition
  - Most noticeable need is for minor field equipment repairs, a restroom facility, a picnic shelter and additional walks to connect use areas
- **Linford Park (Neighborhood Park)**  
Located in North Belmont on Cason Street between Pleasant Street and Burton Street. The 2.4 ac site includes a seating area with benches, walking trail and a small basketball court. The site is part of a storm drainage area that provides open space for the surrounding homes. The City does an annual Easter egg hunt at this site.
  - The park is well maintained, however the offered facilities are limited
  - The site would benefit the neighborhood if it was to offer a playground and picnic shelter
- **Linford Gazebo (Mini Park)**  
Located in north Belmont on ±0.25 acres with access from Sierra Drive and Burton Street. The site offers a small gazebo with picnicking accommodations.
  - The park is well maintained; however the offered amenities could be improved by adding landscape plantings, walks, and a possible small piece of play equipment
- **Rocky Branch Park (Community Park)**  
This park located off Sacco Street is 40-acres (27-acres City owned + 13-acres leased) and offers a series of off-road biking trails, a small parking area and porta-john toilets.
  - The park needs more permanent support facilities such as a restroom, picnic shelters and improved parking
  - There is great potential for this site to connect with future greenways, nearby parks, schools and neighborhoods to become a strong community park asset
- **Rodden Field (Sports Field/Neighborhood Park)**  
This park/athletic field is located on Vine Street. The 6.11 ac site has a lighted and fenced softball/multipurpose field.
  - The park is in poor condition primarily due to the collapse of wooden light poles
  - The most needed repair and renovations to the site are to repair the lighting, fencing and field drainage
  - Adding amenities would make the park more appealing to neighboring users. Improvements such as adding a restroom/picnic building, play equipment, improved parking and shade trees



## Recreation Standards and Community Needs Assessment

The recreation needs of Belmont have been ascertained through public comment, an inventory of existing land and facilities, interviews with recreation user groups, an informal survey, and a review of typical and generally accepted park, recreation, and open space standards. Department staff was also involved during the process to solicit input from their perspective. The national standards are a useful guide in determining minimum requirements; however, Belmont must establish its own standards in consideration of the needs expressed and the City's economic, administrative, operational, and maintenance capabilities.

Completing a thorough needs assessment is a critical step in revising the goals and objectives of any future recreation plans. The assessment can also support decisions relating to the allocation of resources for developing programs or facilities by providing information required to support strategies for allocation implementation. Community needs for recreation programs and park facilities were determined by using four assessment techniques that included the following:

- Review of recreation standards for parkland acreage and facilities.
- Community input from public forums/workshops (current Master Plan Update).
- Focus group interviews with several groups, organizations, and individuals representing various interests.
- Community input from the 2019 survey made available via the Survey Monkey Website

### Community Input

The public involvement process was formatted into three major efforts as follows:

- Focus Group Meetings held at Ford Center and the Belmont Police station on February 14, 2019.
- Public Workshops held at March 28, 2019 & May 29, 2019. (*See Appendix B*)
  - The March 28th meeting was to inform the public of the findings from the "Online Survey and Focus Group /Stakeholder meetings while using a "group planning exercise: to solicit additional input on recreation needs and priorities for the comprehensive plan.
  - The May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting was to present the preliminary recommendations and solicit additional public input on recreational needs and overall plan proposals.
- Survey Questions were made available thru Survey Monkey and hard-copies were made available at City offices.

### Focus Group Meetings

Focus Group/Stakeholder meetings were arranged to solicit input on recreational needs and discuss park and recreation issues. The meetings were held February 14, 2019 at the Ford Center and the Belmont Police Department offices. Seven (7) separate meetings were held with individuals, groups or organizations that represent approximately 1,000 people in the community.

Groups that attended the meetings included City staff, church leaders, athletic organizers, historical site representatives, health and senior group representatives, mountain bike trail representatives, Gaston County Park and Recreation Department staff, Gaston County Travel and Tourism staff, and environmental group representatives. Groups or individuals that could not attend the meetings sent their completed Focus Group Questionnaires identifying needs for the study. (*See Appendix A*)

Each group focused on discussing their own special needs and interests, but members also contributed comments as individuals concerning issues or needs that might be important to the entire community. During the sessions, each representative was asked to identify pressing or critical issues pertaining to recreational services, programs, and facilities provided in the area.

The following list summarizes the most common needs as brought forward at the focus group meetings:



- Partnerships are key to any future improvements and the following Partners were discussed:
  - Local Churches
  - Gaston County Parks and Recreation
  - Gaston County Travel & Tourism
  - YMCA
  - Gaston Gators Aquatics
  - Athletic directors at schools
- Needs:
  - Need an indoor gym/ recreation center to accommodate multigenerational programming
  - Improve City wide pedestrian connectivity (use trails & sidewalks; possibly make them multi- purpose for walking, biking, jogging)
  - Restroom facilities are needed at parks (Reid, Rodden, Rocky Branch mentioned)
  - Play areas at some parks need to be improved and expanded to accommodate varied age groups
  - Water/Drinking Fountains are needed at sites (many locations use hydrant type faucets)
  - Improve the Ford Center or “Re-purpose it”; Seniors understand the limitations, but they want/need better accommodations (tables, fridge/kitchen, coffee)
  - Improve disabled access at parks and programs (Ford Center seniors’ example)
  - Downtown space for Arts
  - Partner w/ churches, county parks, schools, & sports clubs to provide more facilities & services
  - Develop a swim facility or at least a splash park
  - Teen programs and a facility for them is needed to “get them off the street”
  - Funding can come from bonds and fees (as long as fees are adjusted, or income based to not prohibit low-income users)

*(See Appendix A for notes from the Focus Group Meetings)*

## Public/Community Workshop Meetings

A community workshop occurred on March 28, 2019 at Gaston College Kimbrell Campus Classroom Building (KCC) from 6:30pm - 8:30 pm to solicit input for the Comprehensive Master Plan Update. The intent of the meeting was to have participants break into groups in a “roundtable setting” to provide recommendations and need statements concerning facilities, programs and funding of recreation.

The Comprehensive Master Plan exercise at the March 28, 2019 consisted of the following instructions:

- *Work in roundtable discussion groups.*
- *Appoint a ‘note taker’ and ‘spokesperson’ for each group.*
- *Begin by documenting all thoughts regarding the needs for parks and recreation facilities. Discuss the needs for new sites, new facilities, and existing parks (15-20 minutes).*
- *Each group will then prioritize your top 5 need statements. Be as specific as possible regarding the park, facility type, generalized location, new development, or renovation, etc. (15 minutes).*
- *Finally, provide ideas for funding or implementing your top 5 need statements. Be as specific as possible and consider some of the following: donations, partnerships, grants, foundations, general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, non-tax generated revenue from user fees and charges, additional tax set aside for park development, etc. (10 minutes).*
- *Be prepared to present your ideas to the rest of the audience.*

A single group of eight were put together at the meeting and the results of their input are documented with meeting minutes/notes provided in the Appendix of this report. The summary provided below is for brevity purposes however it was taken directly from the work sheet used at the meeting.

*(See Appendix B for Workshop Meeting Document Information)*



**The lists summarize all the activities and facility needs brought forward at the March workshop concerning the Comprehensive Plan and the groups prioritization of their “Top -5 Need Statements”:**

- **Park and Recreation Needs**
  - Dog park – enclosed/fenced
  - Greenway – South Fork river side
  - Recreation Center w/ kitchen
  - Abbey Creek greenway
  - Rail-Trail greenway
  - Path Connections (parks w/paths)
  - More river access
  - Rentable kayaks + paddle boards
  - Development of South Point area property (City’s Gaither Road site)
  - Mountain bike trails
  - Disc golf
  - More sidewalks - Connections
  - ¼-mile walking track w/supportive surface
  - Storytellers convention (for all ages)
  - Plant/seed sale/swap event (possible partnership opportunity w/ club or venders)
  - Public art in parks (statues at Loftin)
  - Rides at festivals-older children
  - Adult classes
  - Awareness-walking tour
  - Food festival- (food truck events)
  - More Events
  - Bike Lanes
- **“Top -5 Need Statements”:**
  - Connectivity – Greenways, sidewalks, bike lanes and trails
  - Dog park – ideally connected to greenway; provide activity space and shade with support facilities like water, benches and trash/waste receptacles
  - Recreation Center – gym and class/meeting space for sports, wellness, and physical training that encompasses multi-age programming (infants to elderly). Would like a walking track, more adult and teen programming.
  - River/Water access
  - Plan for park maintenance & improvements
- **The following list summarizes implementation and funding ideas brought forward at the workshop:**
  - General Fund- tax dollars
  - Partnerships (public/private, school/park, city/county etc.)
  - Sponsorship Partnerships – corporate, health/wellness, local businesses
  - Designated funding mechanisms – pay- X for items locally (example use of plastic bags)
  - User-fees to offset cost (use sliding scale that’s income based)
  - Grants
  - Fundraising event or programs
  - Bonds (learn from the past use effectively & timely)



## Survey Data Review

An informal online survey, made available thru Survey Monkey, allowed residents to respond to questions concerning recreation needs for the City thru 2029. Responses were entered from February 4, 2019 thru April 15, 2019. A total of 262 surveys were completed. *(See Appendix C for Survey Questions)*

### General Highlights of the 2019 Survey:

The following information summarizes a few major findings from the survey concerning facility needs, existing facility conditions, land acquisition, future park development, and park funding.

- 63% of respondents are women (Q1)
- Median age of respondents is 43 (Q2)
- **Top-3 Regularly Participated Activities (Q5)**
  - 1) Walking/Jogging 2). Festivals / Special Events 3) Hiking (swimming, playgrounds & reading close 4th)
- **Most often Participated Activities (Q6)**
  - 1) Walk/Run/Hike 2) Playgrounds 3) Fitness/Exercise/Wt. Train
- 76% of residents are aware of BPRD programs(Q7)
- 42% rate programs offered by BPRD as Good to Excellent (Q7a)
- 88% of respondents used facilities or programs (Q7-Q8)
- Special events & festivals are highly regarded *(from comments)*
- Stowe is most visited park (64), followed by Davis, Ebb Gantt & Kevin Loftin Riverfront (Q8A)
- 66% rate the overall physical condition of all the parks as Good to Excellent (Q8b)
- **Most used other Providers for programs & facilities (Q9)**
  - 1) State Parks (51%) 2) Churches (47%) 3) YMCA/YWCA (37%)
- **Most used Belmont facility types (Q11)**
  - 1) Walking trails 2) Playgrounds 3) Multi-Purpose Fields 4) Picnic Facilities
- Over 96% think parks enhance property value (Q12)
- **Program or facilities that are “Important but not available” (Q13)**
  - 1) Open pool/swim (48%) 2) Open Gym (36%) 3) Swim Instruction (29%) 4). Wildlife Educ. (27%)
- **Most needed facility types (Available but not meeting my needs) (Q13)**
  - 1) Walk/Jog/Run Paths 2) Water Access & Amphitheater 3) Sitting Areas & Open Space/Greenspace
- **Most needed types not listed (those noted were listed) (Q15)**
  - 1) Swim or Splash Pad 2) Greenways 3) Indoor Recreation Facility/Center
- 44% feel their area has adequate facilities & programs, but 36% feel their area does not (Q16)
- Swimming was the most often mentioned activity not offered and the reason for not participating (Q17)
- 61% of the respondents are members of the Y or Fitness/Health Club (Q18)
- 98% feel P&R is an important or very important contributor to Quality of Life in Belmont (Q20)
- 89% think funding is important or very important in the next 10-yrs., (Q21)
- **Preferences for funding park improvements (top-three) (Q22)**
  - 1) Corporate sponsors/partnerships (37%) 2) Bond Referendum (24%) 3) No Opinion (19%)
- 44% feel Funding P&R should come mainly from taxes with little from user fees (Q23)
- 42% feel Maintaining Parks should come mainly from taxes w/ little from user fees (Q24)
- Over 63% would “Somewhat” or “Strongly” support a 1/8 or 1/4 cent sales tax to fund recreation facilities (possible TIF) (Q25)
- **Feel it’s “Very Important” or “Somewhat important “to improve these EXISTING park facilities (Q26)**
  - 1) Develop greenways & improve pedestrian travel to/from parks (91%)
  - 2) Walking, jogging and bicycle trails (89.7%) 3) Expand existing parks & open space (81.3%)
- **Feel it’s “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important “to develop these NEW park facilities (Q27)**
  - 1) Multi-purpose trails (91%)
  - 2) Acquire land for future park development (86.3%) 3) Expand existing parks & open space (81.3%)





## State and National Assessments

The President's Commission on Americans Outdoor (started in 1985), National Sporting Goods Association (1997-2011), and the United States Forest Service (1997-2005) has conducted surveys designed to determine trends for recreational activities on the national level. Additionally, since 1989, the State of North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides information on trends affecting recreation within the state. This data was updated in 2015 for the latest plan "NCORP 2015 thru 2020".

The importance of reviewing these surveys is to identify trends in participation for specific recreational activities or facilities. A brief review of the afore-mentioned surveys indicates there are common activities that people found popular and they should be taken into consideration when developing new parks or programs.

- **Common activities from the surveys:** The following 10 activities were found within the top 15-activities of the four surveys:
  - Walking (for pleasure or exercise)
  - Swimming (pool or non-pool)
  - Biking
  - Attending sporting events
  - Playing sports
  - Picnicking
  - Visiting natural sites (for scenery, sightseeing, "viewing activities" etc.)
  - Exercise/Workout at club/center
  - Fishing
  - Boating
- **Activities that appear to be gaining in popularity:** The trend identification is based on an activity's participation rate growing faster than the population growth rate (>.95%)
  - Hiking/backpacking
  - Yoga & Aerobic Exercising
  - Running/ Jogging
  - Lacrosse
  - Tennis
  - Skiing
  - Attend outdoor concert and plays
  - Exercise w/Equipment
  - Exercise Walking
  - Kayaking
  - Target shooting
  - Attend sports event

## Park Classifications and Land Requirements

- The Master Plan preparation process included reviewing standards developed by organizations such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), and master plans for cities of similar size. In addition, specific characteristics such as local natural resources, economic conditions, land use availability, cultural preferences and community needs contributed to the formation of the City of Belmont's park standards.
- The naming classifications for the plan follow those typically found in most communities. They are Regional Park, District Park, Community Park, Neighborhood Park, Mini Park, Greenway/Linear Park, and Unique/Specialized Area.
- The recommended standards for classifying parks and their land area requirements are described below and itemized in Table 3-1—Park Classification and Land Area Requirements. *(Table 3-1 is attached at the end of this Executive Summary)*



## Park Classification Descriptions:

- **Regional Park** – Typically,  $\pm 1,000$  Acres, a 1 hr. service radius ( $\pm 40$ – $60$  miles), serves  $\pm 50,000$ – $100,000$  people, and acreage is determined at 10-Acres per 1,000 people (*typical state/federal obligation*).
- **District Park** – Typically,  $\pm 100$ – $200$ + Acres, an 8–10-mile service radius (15–20 min. commute), serves 20,000–50,000 people, and acreage is determined at 5-7 Acres per 1,000 people (*typical county obligation*).
- **Community Park** – Typically 40+ Acres (15-20 min.), has a 2-2.5 mi. service radius, serves 10,000–15,000 people, and acreage is determined at 5-Acres per 1,000 people (*typical municipal or county obligation*).
- **Neighborhood Park** – Typically  $\pm 5$ –10 Acres, has a 1/2 –1 mile service radius, serves 1,000-5,000 people, acreage is determined at 2.5 - 5 Acres per 1,000 people (*typical municipal obligation*).
- **Mini Park** – Typically  $\pm .25$ –1.0 Acres, has a 1/4 – 1/2 mile service radius, serves adjacent/special users, acreage is determined at .25 Acres per 1,000 people (*typical municipal obligation*).
- **Special Use & Unique Areas** – No Std.
- **Linear Parks / Greenway Trails** – Standards Vary, typical range is .2–.4 miles per 1,000 people no acreage

## Evaluation of Parkland Needs

The minimum parkland requirement (in acres) for the total population of the City of Belmont is provided in Table 3-2 — **Total Park Sites and Acreage Requirements** (*See Table 3-2 attached at the end of the Executive Summary*). The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of parkland per 1,000 population) established for each park classification. Additional acreage needed by the end of the planning period (2029) is summarized by park type as follows:

- **2029 TOTAL PARK ACREAGE IDENTIFIED BY STANDARDS: (SEE TABLE 3-2)**  
(*Note: Figures shown (ac or sites) do not account for existing sites*)
  - Regional Parks: 143 acres for the City or 1 site available to City residents  
(4 sites available w/over 10,000 acres)
  - District Parks: 72 acres or approx. 1 park for the total population of the city  
(3 sites available w/over 400 acres)
  - Community Parks: 42 acres for the total population or approx. 1-total park  
(3 sites available w/42 acres)
  - Neighborhood Parks: 36 acres for the total population or approx. 4-5 total parks  
(3 sites available w/7 acres)
  - Mini -Parks – 7 acres for the total population or a minimum of 7 total sites/parks  
(6 sites available w/3 acres)

### **Land/Acreage Needs for 2029 (when accounting for existing park site acreage)**

- Regional Park Land — Existing sites and acres provide adequate service to Belmont
- District Park Land — Existing sites and acres provide adequate service to Belmont
- Community Park Land — Existing sites and acres provide minimal service  
(need facilities to the south)
- Neighborhood Park Land — Need 29 acres at 2/3 sites  
(Stds. identify total requirement of 36 ac w/7 ac existing)
- Mini-Park Land — Existing sites & acres provide service, use dedication & partnership groups for additional sites

### **Individual Facility Needs (fields, courts, amenities)**

- Multipurpose Fields (stds. ID 1, might better serve community with 2-4)
- Shelters (stds. ID 0, public input suggests more)
- Play Areas (stds. ID 1, might better serve community with 2-4, all new parks should have one)
- Rec Center/Community Center (stds. ID 1)
- Neighborhood Center (stds. ID 1, renovate Ford?)
- Greenway Multi Use Trails (stds. ID 4 miles total)





## Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations

- The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) is known for its dedicated staff and the variety of recreational offerings it provides to the community. The Department will be challenged to provide new and improved facilities to accommodate growth and help maintain “Quality of Life” measures that make Belmont a desirable place to reside.
- As identified in previous sections of the report, it is a foregone conclusion the City’s population will continue growing faster to the south. This growth will place additional burden on the existing facilities within the City.
- Public input brought forward during the planning process suggests that the citizen's interest and demand for “quality leisure services” will only increase as time passes, and they have stated a need for more facilities to be developed.
- Additionally, citizens expect local government to be a major provider of recreational services at a price that will accommodate as many people as possible.
- To present a realistic plan for meeting the recreational needs of the future, Woolpert developed “preliminary” master plan recommendations that were evaluated with BPRD staff on how well it addresses Belmont’s needs. Upon this review, the preliminary recommendations were presented and reviewed with the Park & Recreation Advisory Committee (aka. Park Advisory Committee) on May 1, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to refine the report findings and to move forward with a “Pre-final” presentation at a Public Workshop on May 29, 2019 and “Final” presentation to City Council on Aug/Sep 2019 for review and approval.
- **Recommendations have been divided into the following categories:**
  - Roles of Providers
  - Partnership Opportunities
  - Park Proposals and Recommendations
  - Facility Proposals and Recommendations

### Roles of Recreation Providers

Meeting all the recreational needs of the community will require a joint effort between the various government agencies and the private sector. **No one group can be held solely responsible for providing all the programs and facilities for the community.** Recreation providers include Federal Agencies, the State of North Carolina, Gaston County, other towns and municipalities in Gaston County, the School System, and the Private Sector. The Private sector includes commercial recreation providers, the corporate community, and developers. The following recommendations describe roles for each recreational provider during the planning period with the understanding of the following premise:

The Master Plan is based on the premise that the City will be responsible for developing and maintaining future park and recreation facilities for use by all City residents. Facility and parkland needs were identified for the plan based on the anticipated 2029 population of 14,300. To meet these increased needs, increased partnerships with the County and other providers will be critical.

#### **Belmont**

- Concentrate on providing neighborhood parks, community parks, and special facilities  
Special Facilities include: rec./community center, sports parks, pool/splash park, dog parks, and multi-purpose trails/greenway (ped, bike, connections).
- Continue to improve and maintain existing facilities operated by the Department (Stowe, Reid, Davis, Kevin Loftin, Ebb Gantt, etc.).



- 
- Continue to implement pedestrian connections to existing and proposed parks; The City has plans for implementing projects through the pedestrian master plan.
  - Partnering with other agencies/groups to develop special facilities in the community.

#### **Federal & State:**

- Remain the major providers of Regional Parks (*Service is Adequate thru the Planning Period*).
- Federal responsibility includes the protection, preservation, conservation and management of public lands. The U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Interior manage sites in North Carolina that are used for recreational activities and will be maintained past 2029.
  - National/Fed Sites = Kings Mt. National Military Park;  
NC State Parks = Crowder's Mountain, South Mountains, Lake Norman State Park;  
SC State Parks = Kings Mountain
- The State of North Carolina will continue to assist communities in acquiring land for parks, developing new parks, and renovating existing parks through the North Carolina PARTF grant program. Additionally, the State oversees other grant programs such as ISTEAA (TEA2)1, CDBG, Clean Water Management Trust Fund, NCDOT-Bikeways Program, and NCDOT-Enhancement Project Funding.

#### **Gaston County:**

- Main provider of District Parks (*Service is Adequate thru the Planning Period*).
- Provide, develop and maintain Neighborhood, Community, District, and Regional Parks along with Special Facilities as provided at George Poston Park, South Fork Park, Catawba Heights Park, and North Belmont Park. The County will also continue to provide river access to local blue line trails and trail access points to the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT).
- The county also aids with community recreation sites as needed (through joint agreements with other agencies and schools, North Belmont is an example).

#### **Other Towns/Municipalities:**

- Like Belmont they will continue to support recreation by providing local funding that concentrates on providing neighborhood parks, community parks, and special facilities. (Gastonia, Mt Holly, Cramerton, McAdenville)
- Expand sites where possible for use primarily by their residents.
- Collaborate on possible joint ventures with area providers (park sites & programs).

#### **Schools**

- Be a formal partner in providing recreation thru joint use agreements with the department.
- Look at developing facilities jointly with the department.
- Private schools might be future partners for development of facilities.

#### **Quasi-Public:**

- Historically have provided recreation where/when public sector cannot.
- Find ways to partner with YMCA, Belmont Abbey College, Gaston Aquatics/Gators and other clubs.

#### **Private Sector:**

- Provide commercial for-profit recreation where/when public sector cannot.
- Find ways to partner on providing recreation.
- Support the public sector through gifts and donations.
- Dedication of open space & parkland through the development should allow for "payment in lieu of dedication" for when the land does not fit the Department's desired use or planning objectives.



## Partnership Opportunities

The Parks and Recreation Department has some existing partnerships in place with various entities in the community to provide special events, arts programs, and support of individual facilities. This Master Plan will need the support of the entire community. Increased use of partnerships will create more options for all involved parties while allowing the City to extend limited funding for delivering services to more people.

### Partnership Issues

- A partnership agreement is essential to demonstrate the commitment of each party and identify the resources each party will contribute to the community. Regardless of which party (or combination) contributes to acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, or other resources, a goal is to track these contributions for the life of the project to strive for a 50% - 50% cost sharing benefit.
- Negotiations for contributions should focus on demonstrating the advantages and disadvantages of each partner's participation. Key issues to be incorporated into the agreement are included in the Appendix.

### Immediate Partnership Considerations

All types of partnerships can be formed with local public, quasi-public, or private entities. Belmont has potential partnership opportunities in the following areas:

- Private sector service contracts
- Neighborhood partnerships
- Church partnerships
- Non-for-profit program development
- School partnerships
- Hospital /Healthcare partnerships (CaroMont, Atrium, Novant)
- Trail partnerships (CTC-region)
- Gaston County partnership

Partnerships identified during the Needs Assessment focus group meetings and public workshops included the following:

- Athletic Associations /Clubs (Gaston Gators, Y-teams, Gaston soccer. Etc.)
- Gaston County Travel and Tourism
- Arts Council
- Gaston County Parks & Recreation (GCPRD)
- Gaston County Schools

## Park Proposals and Recommendations

As previously stated, the City of Belmont should focus on developing, and operating community, neighborhood and special use parks, along with greenways and open space protection. The "Community Needs Assessment of Recreation and Facilities" identified the existing and future parks needed in the City. An overall summary of the park proposals and recommendations can be found below. Costs for the proposals are provided in Table 5-1 "Capital Improvement/Development Program" and they are presented graphically on the "Master Plan Proposals Map" (Exhibit-1). *(Both documents are attached at the end of this Executive Summary report)*

- New park sites have been located to best serve the planning area. Regardless of the sites identified in the plan, the City should be prepared to adjust and adapt locations based on market conditions and availability of land. To be cost efficient the Department must act quickly to secure land as soon as it becomes available. This may require that parks or facilities be sited in different locations than originally proposed. The Department will then have to analyze the overall suitability of the new site or facility to determine if its development capabilities or use can overcome its location.



- Additionally, the Department must analyze how a new facility will affect the use or need for existing facilities. The worst-case scenario is for the Department to be forced to close, sell, or otherwise dispose of existing sites to provide better service and facilities. Use of a land trust or parks foundation would help if a scenario for disposal arose.

### **REGIONAL PARKS**

- Existing parks within the area provide enough land and facilities (NC State Parks = Crowder's Mt. and Lake Norman; & SC State Parks = Kings Mt.; National Site = Kings Mt. National Military Park)
- County or other Facilities with Regional Presence = Mecklenburg Co. Whitewater Ctr., Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
- Renovations under the NC state park system should improve service.
  - City should support State initiatives for funding state parks and programs (PARTF)
  - The City can partner with State and Federal Agencies / Land Holders on developing potential projects such as trails and preservation space in the area
    - Connections to Thread Trail with Fed. locations might qualify easier for funding
    - Whitewater & Botanical garden sites supported via tourism funds (aka accommodations tax)
- Support efforts of City of Gastonia & Gaston County on open space preservation and conservation via joint efforts with Catawba Land Conservancy, Carolina Thread Trail and possibly Stowe Foundation.

### **DISTRICT PARKS** *(aka community & regional parks by GCP&R)*

- Recreation land standards identify Belmont's share or access to District Park land is 72-acres by 2029.
- Currently park acreage is adequate for access by City residents. There is over 400 acres of District parkland offered between George Poston Park, South Fork Park and North Belmont Park. All within  $\pm 15$  minutes travel time of Belmont.

### **COMMUNITY PARKS:**

- Community parks provide space for active recreation such as sports fields, possible future indoor facilities/courts and special uses.
- Acreage standards indicate that by 2029 Belmont needs only one additional acre of Community Parkland, however services need to be reinforced by providing a single facility south of City center.
  - Create community active recreation with the development of the New Middle School site south of town. Could use funding identified for Gaither Rd. project (CIP# - RD-2007-07)
  - Use the Gaither site for a community park that offers more passive recreation (picnic facilities, shelters, and possible future neighborhood meeting space as part of South Fork Area Plan)
  - Make improvements at existing sites such as Rocky Branch Park, Stowe & Kevin Loftin Park *(see Facility Improvement Program)*

### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

- Recommend two (2) additional park sites by 2029 (should look south and north).
  - Develop the McLean property as Seven Oaks Park (Neighborhood site w/Trail Head for Seven Oaks Trail (CIP# - RD-2013-40)
  - Develop a park along the South Fork River as indicated by the South Fork Area Plan (use funding from CIP# - RD-2010-12 & RD-2010-13)
  - Make Improvements at existing park sites such as Reid, Davis & Crescent *(see Facility Improvement Program)*



- Renovate and add facilities to the Rodden Field site to make it more appealing to neighboring users. Improvements include new sports lighting for multi-purpose field use, adding a restroom/picnic building, play equipment, improved parking and shade trees. Investigate creating a walk/paved trail connection to Ebb Gant Park.

### **MINI PARKS**

- Purchasing sites is not recommended; the Department should be open to using sites made available through the development process, neighborhood groups, and defaulted tax parcels, etc.
- Use existing undeveloped sites where available and other public property to attain sites (library, school, police, utility, main street, etc.)
- To acquire space for sites, partner with Downtown businesses, neighborhood groups & associations.

### **SPECIAL FACILITIES**

#### **Greenway/Bikeway:**

- Move forward with Abbey Creek Greenway (CIP# - RD-2012-23)
- Move forward with Ph 1 & Ph 2 plans for Rail Trail Project (RD-2011-20) (Greenway/ CTT trail from Main Street to north of Belmont Abbey)
- Move forward with multi-purpose/modal streetscape along Wilkinson Blvd (bikes, pedestrians & vehicles as part of City transportation plan)
- Use the McLean property, as described above for a neighborhood park site & trailhead for Seven Oaks Trail
- Develop multipurpose trails thru Rocky Branch Park to connect with City
- Use TEA-21, NC-Trail Fund, Bikeway Funds available through NCDOT. Possibly can be done in cooperation with Clean Water Fund, sewer expansions, and FEMA monies

#### **Recreation Center/ Community Center:** (CIP# - RD-2003-02)

- Community has expressed a need for a multigenerational recreation center
- Previous studies verify the need
- Location shown is adjacent to the New City Hall Site (*might better serve the area if a more central downtown site can be acquired*)

#### **Ford Center (existing facility improvement?):**

- Will require major renovations and maintenance repairs
- Not sure what re-purpose of the site will accomplish (possible dance/exercise studio?)
- Need to have guardrail at parking edge

#### **Arts & Education (theater, gallery, meeting space):**

- Create & partner w/ Gaston College & Belmont Abbey programs to get art in the parks
- Can Arts programs be entertained at Ford Center site? Or at the old City Hall site?

#### **Pools/Splash Pad:** (CIP# - RD-2017-46)

- Strong sentiment for splash/spray park — locate it at Kevin Loftin Park or New City Hall/Recreation Center site

#### **Dog Park:**

- Use City public works property at the water treatment plant located off Catawba Street. The wooded area that is part of a 2-3-acre parcel at the intersection of North 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street offers a good location with shade and space for potential parking

#### **Water Access (Blueway Trail Access):**

- Blueway Trail Access (BWA) at Abbey Point
- BWA at Row Club site (CIP #RD-2018-47)
- BWA Seven Trail access point as part of Neighborhood park shown in the South Fork Area Plan (Waterfront Park)



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**FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM:** *(Existing facility enhancements identified in City's CIP)*

- RD-2012-24 - Stowe Park - Sidewalks Replacement
- RD-2015-41 - Stowe Park - Pavilion
- RD-2019-50 - Stowe Park - Embankment Enhancement
- RD-2019-48 - Davis & Stowe Parks - Playground Equipment
- RD-2019-51 - Stowe Park - Restroom Update
- RD-2013-29 - Davis Park - Picnic Shelter
- RD-2013-32 - Reid Park - Picnic Shelter
- RD-2017-46 - Linford Park - Playground Equipment
- RD-2017-46 - Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park - Splash Pad
- RD-2013-37 - Bleacher/Access Improvements – (Frady, Reid, Rodden, Davis, Belmont Central & Stowe)
- RD-2013-35 - Replace improve Ball Field Lights – (Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks)
- RD-2017-45 - Kevin Loftin Park - Boat Landing Restroom Building
- RD-2019-49 - Ebb Gantt Park - Soccer Field Turf
- RD-2013-34 - Reid Park - ADA Access to Lower Field
- RD-2013-33 - Reid Park - Restroom Building
- RD-2010-14 - Rodden Field - Restroom Building
- RD-2013-39 - Recreation Multi-Passenger Bus (Program Rec)
- RD-2010-09 - Rocky Branch Park - Phase 2 - Picnic Shelters & Restrooms
- RD-2016-42 - Crescent Park - Restroom Building

### Priorities for Development

The most frequently mentioned facility needs from the Needs Assessment, focus group meetings, public meetings and workshops were as listed below. These items along with staff and Advisory Committee input provided direction for prioritizing the proposed recommendations as presented above and shown on the Capital Development Program (Table 5-1). Additionally, an Advisory Committee meeting was held July 24, 2019 to confirm the comprehensive plan priorities:

- Improve and build upon existing sites
- Develop multipurpose pedestrian walks/ trails and connect pedestrian walks to parks and use areas
- Develop a multigenerational recreation center
- Develop more water access points
- Expand and promote more program offerings at a new recreation center/gym
- Develop a community park facility
- Improve disabled access at parks and programs. All playgrounds should be “accessible”
- Develop a swim facility or splash park

Proposals have been noted below for the planning period years 2019 thru 2025 and beyond 2025. Table 5-1, “Capital Improvement Program” reflects these priorities and shows cost for the proposals. The prioritization was influenced by the evaluation of existing facilities; the community needs assessment; and the financial ability of the town to implement an overall capital improvement plan.

### **Year 2019/20**

- Stowe Park - Embankment Enhancement
- Stowe Park - Sidewalks Replacement
- Stowe Park - Pavilion
- Davis Park - Playground Equipment
- Stowe Parks - Playground Equipment





- Recreation / Civic Center and Gymnasium (Planning & Design)
- Install Cameras at Parks/City sites
- South - Community Park planning

### **Year 2020/21**

- Stowe Park - Restroom Update
- Davis Park - Picnic Shelter
- Reid Park - Picnic Shelter
- Linford Park - Playground Equipment
- Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park - Splash Pad
- Bleachers – (choose 2-Frady, Reid, Rodden, Davis, Belmont Central & Stowe Parks)
- Ball Field Lights – (Choose site from Stowe, Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks)
- Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park - Boat Landing Restroom
- Recreation / Civic Center and Gymnasium (Bid & Construction start)
- Dog Park at City water treatment property (Design & Bid)
- Rowing Club Center Improvements
- Install Cameras at Parks/City sites
- Ford Center Rehabilitation Study/ Recommendations

### **Year 2021/22**

- Gantt Park - Soccer Field Turf
- Reid Park - ADA Access to Lower Field
- Crescent Park - Restroom Building
- Recreation / Civic Center and Gymnasium (Construction complete)
- Purchase Recreation Multi-Passenger Bus for summer camp & senior field trips
- Rail Trail Ph1 Design & Construction
- Abbey Creek Greenway Ph.1 Design-Bid
- Dog Park Construction – Phase1
- Bleachers – (choose 2-Frady, Reid, Rodden, Davis, Belmont Central & Stowe Parks)
- Ball Field Lights – (Choose site from Stowe, Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks)
- Gant Soccer turf project (Design & Bid)
- Ford Center Rehabilitation (preliminary work for upgrades)

### **Year 2022/23**

- Reid Park - Restroom Building
- Rodden Field - Restroom Building
- Rocky Branch Park - Phase 2 - Picnic Shelters & Restrooms (Ph-1)
- Abbey Creek Greenway Ph.1 Construction/implementation
- Skate Park Design & Construction
- Bleachers – (choose 2-Frady, Reid, Rodden, Davis, Belmont Central & Stowe Parks)
- Ball Field Lights – (Choose site from Stowe, Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks)
- Gant Soccer turf project (Construction)

### **Year 2023/24**

- Bleachers – (choose 2-Frady, Reid, Rodden, Davis, Belmont Central & Stowe Parks)
- Ball Field Lights – (Choose site from Stowe, Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks)
- Crescent Park - Restroom Building
- Sports Complex at Gaither Road Property or school joint site-Design & Construction start
- Seven Oaks Park (Design + Construction)



- Rocky Branch Park - Phase 2 - Picnic Shelters & Restrooms (Completed)
- Southeast Belmont Area Mini Park (Design)
- Southwest Belmont Area Mini Park (Design)

### Year 2024/25

- Sports Complex at Gaither Road Property or school joint site (Construction complete)
- Abbey Point Blueway Trail Access (BWA)- Design + Construction
- Ball Field Lights – (Choose site from Stowe, Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks)
- River Access Point - Seven Oaks Trail (Ph1-Design & Construct -at South Fork Area Plan park)
- Ford Center Rehabilitation (Ph-1 Construction)
- Abbey Creek Greenway Ph.2 Construction/implementation

### Years 2025/29?

- Ford Center Rehabilitation (Ph-2 Construction)
- River Access Point - Seven Oaks Trail (Ph2-Design & Construct -at South Fork Area Plan park)

## ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Action Plan Implementation is designed to provide a framework or strategy for the City to follow when executing the proposals and recommendations to enhance its parks and recreation system. The action plan is formatted to agree with the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Program process (CIP). Improvements for the planning period have been identified for individual funding years 2020 thru-2025 (FY20/21 to FY24/25), and for a 4-year period "2025-2029" (FY25/26-28/29), and "Beyond 2029". This is designed to give the City a realistic approach to finance and implement the proposals and recommendations of the Master Plan. Additionally, the Planning Department can use the plan to address land development strategies for different areas of the City with regards to recreational land-use objectives.

### Capital Development Program

The capital improvement program for the acquisition, renovation, and development of parks for the planning period was prepared with input from staff. Projects noted in Table 5-1 that are in the City's 5-year CIP are referenced by a City's designated project ID-number (RD-20XX-XX). All the proposed costs are shown in 2019-dollar values. Table 5-1 "Capital Development Program" shows the capital improvement costs through the year 2029 and beyond as described above. *(Table 5-1 is attached at the end of this Executive Summary)*

- The Capital Improvement/Development Program is summarized below into the following components

### Summary of Capital Improvement/Development Cost \* All costs are in Current (2019) dollars

IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION/CATEGORY	Total Capital Improvements 2021 - 2029
- Existing Parks & Facilities Improvements (FY19/20 –5Yr CIP)	\$4,627,000
- New Parks/Facilities Improvements (FY19/20 –5Yr CIP)	\$19,793,000
- Miscellaneous Projects (FY19/20 –5Yr CIP)	\$246,000
- Master Plan Recommended Projects (not in FY19/20 –5Yr CIP)	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 26,666,000</b>





Additionally, Table 5-1 “Capital Improvements Program” reflects the proposals and recommendations as outlined in this Master Plan Update. Please note that no costs have been extended beyond the year 2029. This may need to occur to account for financing that changes during the planning period.

### Key Sources of Capital Funding:

- General Fund Allocations
- General Obligation Bonds
- Limited Option or Special Use Tax
- Revenue Bonds
- Park Foundation
- General Foundations
- Federal and State Assistance
- Payments In Lieu of Dedication
- Grants/Contributions and Partnerships

### Staff Needs

- The Park and Recreation Department's structure and number of personnel appear consistent with other similar sized municipal departments.
- The planning team reviewed the structure of municipalities with similar populations as Belmont estimated for 2029 population. Park facilities and the associated programming that will occur at these sites will need staff to accomplish their mission and purpose. The added staff proposed will primarily be located at the proposed Recreation Center/Gym to assist with the oversight of the center and if co-located at the center, the proposed splash pad/park.
- Seven (8) additional positions are identified for the planning period on the “Proposed Organizational Chart”. The personnel fit into classifications described below and fit into the current structure of the department. An approximate year of hire is include based on the progress of facility development identified by the recommendations and the Capital Development Program (Table 5-1):

#### New Position Additions Include:

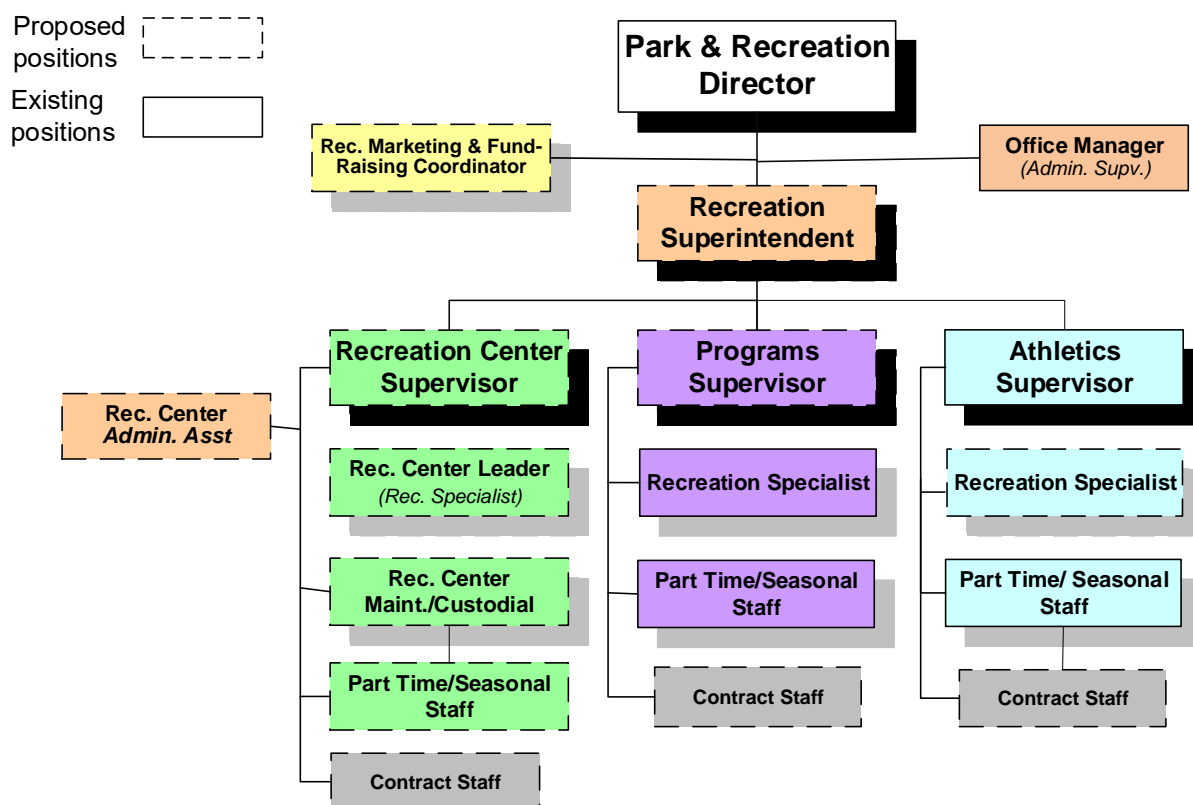
- Recreation Superintendent (1)- full time position to provide oversight and coordination of all park & recreation operations with program, athletics and center supervisors. (2025)
- Recreation Center Administrative Assistant (1) – part time position to provide oversight of the center’s administrative tasks on a will-call basis. (2021-2022)
- Recreation Marketing & Fund-Raising Coordinator - (1) – a fulltime position to facilitate marketing, fund raising and grant applications for park and recreation related programs and activities. (2021-2022)

#### Existing Position Additions Include:

- Recreation Center Rec. Supervisor (1) – full time position to provide direct oversight of center activities, operations and programs, including administrative tasks for the center. (2021-2022)
- Programs Supervisor (1) – full time position to provide direct oversight of all program offerings and provide coordination between program staff and facility staff/rec. specialist. (2023-2024)
- Rec. Center-Recreation Specialist (1) – full time position to support the center supervisor in providing center activities and programs including minor administrative tasks. (2022-2023)
- Athletics Rec. Specialist (1) – part time position for assisting the athletics supervisor with minor administrative tasks during peak seasonal offerings on a will-call basis. (2023-2024)
- Rec Center Maintenance Technician (s) (1) – part time position to provide custodial and maintenance support for the center. (2021-2022)



## Proposed BPRD Organization Chart.



## Operating Budgets

- Proposed operating budgets for facilities identified in the master plan should include costs for staffing, operations, and general maintenance. Operation budgets from previous plans and various recreation departments from around the state were used in support of the following information. The exact operating cost will be dependent on the final design of each site on a case-by-case scenario. However, general ranges for Annual Operating Cost are provided below for the type of facilities recommended in the plan.
- Special Use Facilities, as recommended in the Master Plan, can generate considerable revenues. The table below identifies potential recovery costs for facilities proposed in the plan. National trends for cities of similar or larger size demonstrate special facilities of this type can be 100% self-supporting, or in other words, generate revenue to cover 100% of their operating cost.

### Summary of Operation and Revenues for Special-Use Facilities

Special-Use Facility	Annual Expenses	Annual Revenues	Cost Recovery
Rec. Center (small 20,000 -30,000 Sf.)	\$80,000-\$100,000	\$16,000-\$30,000	20%-30%
Pool / Splash Complex	\$40,000-\$100,000	\$4,000-\$20,000	10%-20%
Sports Complex (6-8 fields min. w/support amenities)	\$400,000-\$600,000	\$200,000-\$360,000	50%-60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$490,000-\$800,000</b>	<b>\$214,000-\$410,000</b>	<b>43% - 51%</b>



## Earned Income Opportunities and Key Funding Opportunities

Developing earned income opportunities to supplement the Departments operating budget will be a challenge for the department during the planning period. Developing a recreation center and a splash pad complex provides the department an opportunity to expand on revenue returned to the City. Even though funds are directly returned to the general fund, the Department has averaged returning 25% on the total budget over the past few years or approximately \$125,000 annually. However, the existing funding sources will not be able to keep up with the expanded operations and additional facilities unless more dollars become available through a combination of sources. To help evaluate the options; a listing of earned income and funding sources are provided below.

### Revenue Plan

Upon adoption of the Master Plan, the City needs to continue with establishing a revenue plan. A revenue plan incorporates all available funding resources in a community, prioritizes them, and puts each option into a funding strategy. In a revenue plan, the following funding alternatives are evaluated for their appropriate use in funding capital improvements and programs.

- **General Tax Revenues** - General tax revenues traditionally provide the principle source of funds for general operations and maintenance of a municipal recreation and park system. Based on FY18/19 and 19/20 projections for property valuation figures, a 1¢ increase in the current property tax rate (.51/\$100) would generate between \$1.75 million to \$2.0 million over the 10-year planning period. (Assumes 2%-2.5% min annual growth of tax base)
- **Revenue Bonds** - Revenue bonds have become a popular funding method for financing high use specialty facilities like golf courses, recreation centers, aquatic centers, ice rinks, tennis centers, and athletic complexes for softball and soccer.
- **Limited Option or Special Use Tax** - Limited option or special use taxes can be established in various ways. A municipality can establish the tax by determining the source such as property valuation, real estate transfer taxes, or sales tax. A local governing body can approve a tax that is identified or earmarked from property valuation without legislative action; however, other sources may require state approval. The proposal will require legislative approval if it is structured on sales tax or tax transfers earmarked for a project need. The idea behind a special tax is that the tax is identified or limited for a *special purpose* or *project(s)* and the duration can also be limited to accomplish the proposed project.
- **Parks Foundation** – A Parks foundation can assist the City in acquiring land, developing facilities, sponsoring programs, and buying equipment for the Department through membership dues, individual gifts, grants, long-term endowments, or trusts (land or estate).
- **General Foundations** - Foundation funds should be sought for both development and construction of facilities as well as providing programs. They should include general-purpose foundations that have relatively few restrictions, special program foundations for specific activities, and corporate foundations with few limitations, typically from local sources. (Refer to those listed in Section-5 of the plan)
- **Federal/State Assistance** - Federal funding sources necessary to help finance the Master Plan have historically been available from the U.S. Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Funds distributed by LWCF to the states for local program financing has been severely minimized the past few years, but it may return to former levels depending on legislative approval. Potential funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program is also available given certain conditions. State funding is available from the NC-PARTF Grant Program.



- **Fees and Charges** - There are three different types of consumptive services provided by parks and recreation agencies that must be identified and priced accordingly. A public service is a service that has high public benefit (equal benefit to everyone), should be free, and supported by taxes. The second type of service is a merit service, which provides some public benefit. The person receiving the service benefits more from the service than a general taxpayer benefits and should pay an equitable share of the cost to receive the service. The third type of service is a private benefit service. This type of service benefits the user totally and not the general taxpayer. Therefore, the user should pay the total cost to receive the service. The City's current policies on fees generally conform to this process.

A crucial strategy to accomplish the goals of this plan is to price services based on the value and benefits received by the participants beyond those of all taxpayers. Increasing participation at facilities and programs will increase revenue opportunities. A good time to price services to their value and benefits is after new facilities are constructed or when facilities have been renovated. A revised revenue strategy for user fees/charges does not require a quantum leap to "market value pricing". A slightly enhanced program of increasing fees based on renovated or new facilities will create more capacity opportunities and revenues for the growing population of the Town.

## Alternative Funding / Revenue Sources

The following information identifies examples of alternative funding sources. The Town should evaluate the sources when preparing a revenue plan for implementing the master plan recommendations.

- |  |                            |                                 |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Hospitality Tax  | • Interlocal Agreements    | • Catering Permits and Service  |
| • Capital Projects Sales Tax                                       | • Private Concessionaires  | • Friends Associations /        |
| • Corporate Sponsorships   | • Land Trust               | "Friends of the Park"           |
| • Partnerships   | • Naming Rights            | • Advertising Sales             |
| • Foundation/Gifts   | • Cell Towers              | • Easements                     |
| • Intermodal Transportation & Efficiency Act (Former ISTE = TEA21) | • Private Developers       | • Irrevocable Remainder Trusts  |
| • Federal or State Grants  | • Licensing Rights         | • Life Estates                  |
| • Recreation Service Fees  | • Capital Improvement Fees | • Permits (Special Use Permits) |
|  | • Merchandising Sales      |                                 |
|  | • Concession Management    |                                 |



**Table 2-1  
City of Belmont  
Existing Park & Recreation Facilities**

	Davis Park	Reid Park	Stowe Park	Crescent Park (Leased)	Linford Park	Kevin Loftin Park	J Paul Ford Center	Rocky Branch Park	Rodden Ballfield	Gantt Soccer	Gaither Prop.	McLean/ Stowe Prop.	Totals
2013 Park Type	NP	NP	MP	MP	MP	MP	SP	SP	AP	AP	UL	UL	
2019 Park Type	NP	NP	CP	NP	NP	CP	SP	CP	NP	SP	UL	UL	
Acres	14.6	8.98	8.66	4.1	2.62	7	0.65	27.24	6.11	8	30	10	125.34
<b>Fields</b>													
Multipurpose	0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0				1
Adult Softball	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	1				2
Youth Baseball	1*	2	0	0		0	0	0	0				3
Youth Softball	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1				1
Football	1*	0	0	0		0	0	0	0				1
Soccer	1*	0	0	0		0	0	0	0				1
<b>Outdoor Courts</b>													
Basketball	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0				3
Tennis	5	0	0	0		0	0	0	0				5
<b>Outdoor Area</b>													
Picnic Shelters	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	1			7
Playground Area	1	1	1	1		1	0	0	0	1			6
Walking Trail (mi)	0	0.25	0.2	0.125			0	4	0				4.575
Canoe Launch	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0				1
Boat Launch	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0				1
<b>Indoor Facilities/Special Use</b>													
Community Center	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0				1

NP = Neighborhood Parks      AP = Athletic Park Use Athletic

CP = Community Park      SP = Special Use

MP = Mini Park



**Table 3-1**  
**City of Belmont**  
**Park Classification and Land Area Requirements**  
 (Standards for Belmont)

Park Type Standard	Acres/1000 Population	Acres	Population Served	Service Area
<b>Regional Park</b>				
National	10	1000	Sev. Communities	1 hr. drive
State	20	1000	Sev. Communities	1 hr. drive
Recommended	10	150-1000	100,000	50-60 mi. radius
<b>District Park</b>				
National	5-10	200	Sev. Communities	1/2 hr. drive
State	10	75-200	Sev. Communities	15-20 mi. radius
Recommended	5	100+	10-20,000	City = 1-2.5- mi. Co. = 8-10 mi rad. (20 min drive)
<b>Community Park</b>				
National	5-8	25+	Several Neighs.	1-2 mile radius
State	8	25+	20,000	1-3 mile radius
Recommended	2-5	15-50	5 – 15,000	1-2 mile radius
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>				
National	1-2	15+	5,000	¼-½ mile
State	2	6-8	4,000	¼-½ mile
Recommended	2	5-10	5,000	½ - mile
<b>Mini Park</b>				
National	.25	1	Adjacent Neigh.	¼ mile
State	-	-	500-2,500	-
Recommended	.25	.25-1	Adjacent Neigh.	¼-½ mile
<b>Special -Use or Linear Park</b>				
National	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
State	30	Varies	Varies	Varies
Recommended	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies



Table 3-2  
City of Belmont  
Total Park Sites and Acreage Requirements

PARK TYPE						
	2019 <i>Population</i> <b>11,817</b>	2020 <b>12,030</b>	2025 <b>13,236</b>	2029 <b>14,300</b>	Existing	2029 Need
<b>Regional Parks **</b>						
(10 Ac/1000) +1000 Acre Parks	118	120	132	143	10,000 +	0
<i>Sites</i>	1	1	0	0	4	0
<b>District Parks **</b>						
(50 Ac/1000) +/-200 Acre Parks	59	60	66	72	410	0
<i>Sites</i>	1	1	1	1-2	3	0
<b>Community Parks</b>						
2-5Ac typ. (3Ac/1000) 45-75 Acre Parks (75ac)	35	36	40	43	42	1
<i>Sites</i>	1	1	1	1	3	1
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>						
(2.50 Ac/1000) +/-5-15 Acre Parks (7 ac avg.)	30	30	33	36	7	29
<i>Sites</i>	4-6	4	5	5	3	2-3
<b>Mini-Parks</b>						
(.5 Ac/1000) .5 -1.0 Acre Parks (.1 ac avg)	6	6	7	7	3	4
<i>Sites</i>	6	6	7	7	6	1
<b>Special Use Parks</b>						
(No Standard Acreage)	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	n/a
					3	
<b>Linear Parks / Greenway Trails</b>						
(.4 mile/1000) <i>Miles</i>	5	5	5	6	0.0	6

\*\* The acreage shown for Regional & District parks denotes Belmont's share of access to these type of park whether provided by municipal, county, state or other governmental body

Regional Parks: (5- sites) = Lake Norman State Park (+30,000 ac.), Crowders Mt. (+2,100 ac.), Kings Mt., (+2,000 ac.), National Whitewater Center (+200 ac), South Mountains State Park (20,000 ac.)

District Parks: (3 sites) = George Poston Park (+345 ac.), South Fork Park (+44 ac.), North Belmont Park (+21 ac.)

Community Parks: (3 sites) = Kevin Lofton Riverfront Park (7.0 ac.), Stowe Park (8.0 ac.), Rocky Branch Park (27.24 ac.)

Neighborhood Parks: Davis Park (14.6 ac.), Reid Park (9.0 ac), Crescent Park (leased- 4.1 ac.)

Mini-Parks Sites: (-3-sites) Linford Park Gazebo (.25), Linford Park (2.4 ac.), Main St. **Seating Areas** (1.0 ac.)

Special Use Sites: (-sites) = Ebb Gantt Park (8.0 ac.), J. Paul Ford Center (.65 ac.)

Linear Parks /Greenways Trails: County Undeveloped =?? City Proposed???

Walking Tracks/paths = Ebb Gantt Park, Kevin Lofton Riverfront Park, Reid Park, Stowe Park, Middle School Site (total 4 mi). City Posted Health Walks (5mi total?)



**Table 3-3  
City of Belmont  
Stands for Individual Facilities**

Facility	National Standard/ 1000 pop.	State Standard/ 1000 pop.	Recommended Standard/ 1000 pop.
<b>Play Fields</b>			
Adult Baseball	1/20,000 N/A	1/15,000 N/A	1/20,000
Baseball/Softball	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/5,000
Football/Soccer			1/5,000
<b>Courts</b>			
Basketball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/ 5,000
Tennis	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/2,000
Volleyball	1/5,000	1/5,000 N/A	1/5,000
Racquetball	1/10,000	N/A	1/10,000
Shuffleboard	1/ 2,000	N/A	1/ 5,000
Horseshoe	N/A		1/ 2,000
<b>Outdoor Areas</b>			
Picnic Tables	1/125	N/A	1/500
Picnic Shelters	1/ 2000 N/A	N/A	1/ 5,000
Playground Activities		1/1,000	1/1,000
Trails	1/region		
- Hiking/Nature	1/region	.4 mile/1,000	.4 mile/1,000
Fitness/Jogging Tracks	1/ 20,000	.2 mile/1,000	.2 mile/1,000
Archery/Shooting Area	1/50,000	1/ 20,000	1/ 20,000
Camping	N/A	1/50,000	1/50,000
Amphitheater	1/ 20,000	2.5sites/1,000	2.5sites/1,000
		N/A	1/20,000
<b>Specialized</b>			
Recreation Center w/gym	1/25,000	N/A	1/25,000
Recreation Center w/o gym	1/10,000	N/A	1/10,000
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1/20,000 N/A	1/20,000
Competition Pool	1/75,000	N/A	1/75,000
Gymnasiums	1/ 20,000	N/A	1/ 20,000
Auditoriums	1/ 20,000	1/25,000	1/ 20,000
Golf Course	1/25,000	1 mile/1,000	1/25,000
Bicycling	1 mile/2,000		1 mile/2,000
Canoeing		.2 mile/1,000	
- Stream Mileage	N/A	1/10 miles	.2 mile/1,000
- Access points	N/A		1/10 miles





Table 3-4  
City of Belmont  
Individual Facilities Needs Analysis

FACILITY TYPE			YEAR AND POPULATION					
Planning Area Population			2019 11,817	2020 12,030	2025 13,236	2029 14,300	Existing	2029 Need
Fields								
Adult Baseball (90 ft bases) <sup>1</sup>	1/	25,000	0	0	1	1	2	0
Youth Baseball (stand alone)std)		5,000	2	2	3	3	3	0
Softball (stand alone)std)		5,000	2	2	3	3	4	0
Baseball/Softball (jt std.) <sup>2</sup>	1/	2,500	5	5	5	6	6	0
Football (stand alone)	1/	15,000	1	1		1	0	1
Soccer/Multi-Use (shared/athletic field)	1/	4,000	3	3	1	4	3	1
Courts								
Basketball (Indoor & Outdoor)	1/	5,000	2	2	3	3	3	0
Tennis (lighted)	1/	5,000	2	2	3	3	3	0
Volleyball	1/	5,000	2	2	3	3	0	3
Racquetball	1/	10,000	1	1	1	1	0	1
Shuffleboard	1/	10,000	1	1	1	1	0	1
Horseshoe	1/	2,000	6	6	7	7	1	6
Outdoor Areas								
Picnic Shelters	1/	2,500	5	5	5	6	7	0
Playground Areas	1/	2,000	6	6	7	7	6	1
Greenway Trails (miles)								
-Walking/Fitness/Jogging	1/	2,500	5	5	5	6	2	4
Tracks/ Walking Areas	1/	20,000	1	1	1	1	2	0
Archery/Shooting Area	1/	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amphitheater/Outdoor Stage	1/	20,000	1	1	1	1	1	0
Specialized								
Rec./Community Center w/gym	1/	25,000	0	0	1	1	0	1
Rec. Neighborhood Center w/o gym	1/	10,000	1	1	1	1	1	0
Swimming Pool (25m/25yd)	1/	20,000	1	1	1	1	0	1
Swimming Pool (50m)	1/	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golf Course	1/	25,000	0	0	1	1	0	1
Bicycling route <sup>2</sup>	1/	2,000	6	6	7	7	7	0
Canoeing								
- Stream Miles	1/	5,000	2	2	3	3	5	0
- Access points	1/	5	0	0	1	1	3	0

<sup>1</sup> Includes High School Sites (Sturart Cramer & South Point)

<sup>2</sup> Includes Existing Fields at Davis, Reid & Rodden

<sup>3</sup> Bicycle routes include signed routes along roadways



<div>TABLE 5-1 <sup>1</sup></div> <div>CITY OF BELMONT PARKS &amp; RECREATION DEPARTMENT</div> <div>CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</div>															
CIP ID No.	Capital Improvement Description/Expense Name	Project Type	Park Typ	Priority	Current 2019 Value	Funding Source	Existing FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26 to FY 28/29	Beyond 2029	Total Cost with Financing
<b>2019/20 5-YR CIP EXISTING PARKS &amp; FACILITIES IMROVEMENTS</b>															
RD-2019-50	Stowe Park - Embankment Enhancement	Exist Pk Imp	Community	2	\$ 79,000	General Fund	\$79,000								\$ 79,000
RD-2012-24	Stowe Park - Sidewalks Replacement	Exist Pk Imp	Community	3	\$ 311,000	General Fund	\$311,000								\$ 311,000
RD-2015-41	Stowe Park - Pavilion	Exist Pk Imp	Community	4	\$ 248,000	General Fund	\$248,000								\$ 248,000
RD-2019-48	DavisPark - Playground Equipment	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	6	\$ 40,000	General Fund	\$40,000								\$ 40,000
RD-2019-48	Stowe Parks - Playground Equipment	Exist Pk Imp	Community	6	\$ 40,000	General Fund	\$40,000								\$ 40,000
RD-2019-51	Stowe Park - Restroom Update	Exist Pk Imp	Community	8	\$ 288,000	General Fund		\$294,000							\$ 294,000
RD-2013-29	Davis Park - Picnic Shelter	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	9	\$ 80,000	General Fund		\$82,000							\$ 82,000
RD-2013-32	Reid Park - Picnic Shelter	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	10	\$ 32,000	General Fund		\$33,000							\$ 33,000
RD-2019-52	Linford Park - Playground Equipment	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	11	\$ 100,000	General Fund		\$102,000							\$ 102,000
RD-2017-46	Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park - Splash Pad	Exist Pk Imp	Community	12	\$ 230,000	General Fund		\$235,000							\$ 235,000
RD-2013-37	Bleachers - Frady, Reid, Rodden, Davis, Belmont Central &	Exist Pk Imp	SP	13	\$ 63,000	General Fund		\$16,000	\$16,250	\$16,500	\$17,000				\$ 65,750
RD-2013-35	Ball Field Lights - Stowe, Frady, Rodden, Davis & Reid Parks	Exist Pk Imp	SP	14	\$ 1,138,000	Loan - 5 Year Term		\$290,250	\$278,640	\$267,030	\$255,420	\$243,810			\$1,335,150
RD-2017-45	Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park - Boat Landing Restroom Building	Exist Pk Imp	Community	15	\$ 138,000	General Fund		\$141,000							\$ 141,000
RD-2019-49	Gantt Park - Soccer Field Turf	Exist Pk Imp	SP	17	\$ 1,050,000	Loan 'S Year Term			\$268,000	\$257,280	\$246,560	\$235,840			\$ 1,007,680
RD-2013-34	Reid Park - ADA Access to Lower Field	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	20	\$ 125,000	General Fund			\$130,000						\$130,000
RD-2013-33	Reid Park - Restroom Building	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	21	\$ 102,000	General Fund				\$108,000					\$ 108,000
RD-2010-14	Rodden Field - Restroom Building	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	22	\$ 106,000	General Fund				\$113,000					\$ 113,000
RD-2010-09	Rocky Branch Park - Phase 2 - Picnic Shelters & Restrooms	Exist Pk Imp	Community	23	\$ 351,000	Loan - 5 Year Term				\$93,250	\$89,870	\$246,180			\$ 429,300
RD-2016-42	Crescent Park - Restroom Building	Exist Pk Imp	Neighborhood	25	\$ 106,000	General Fund					\$115,000				\$ 115,000
<b>EXISTING Parks/Facilities Improvements Total</b>					<b>\$4,627,000</b>		<b>\$718,000</b>	<b>\$1,193,250</b>	<b>\$692,890</b>	<b>\$855,060</b>	<b>\$723,850</b>	<b>\$725,830</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 4,908,880</b>
<b>2019/20 5-YR CIP NEW PARKS &amp; FACILITIES OR IMPROVEMENTS</b>															
RD-2007-07	Sports Complex at Gaither Road Property	NEW CP	Community	29	\$ 6,705,000	Loan - 5 Year Term	planning	planning			\$1,814,500	\$6,532,200			\$ 8,346,700
RD-2013-40	Seven Oaks Park	NEW NP	Neighborhood	26	\$ 1,707,000	Loan - 5 Year Term					\$462,000	\$1,663,200			\$ 2,125,200
RD-2010-12	Southeast Belmont Area Mini Park	NEW NP	Neighborhood	27	\$ 421,000	Loan - 5 Year Term					\$114,000	\$410,400			\$ 524,400
RD-2010-13	Southwest Belmont Area Mini Park	NEW NP	Neighborhood	28	\$ 421,000	Loan - 5 Year Term					\$114,000	\$410,400			\$ 524,400
RD-2003-02	Recreation / Civic Center and Gymnasium	NEW SP	SP	5	\$ 7,841,000	Loan - 5 Year Term	\$1,960,250	\$1,881,840	\$1,803,430	\$1,725,020	\$1,646,610				\$ 9,017,150
RD-2018-47	Rowing Club Center Improvements	NEW SP	SP	7	\$ 46,000	General Fund		\$47,000							\$ 47,000
RD-2012-23	Abbey Creek Greenway	NEW SP	SP	19	\$ 867,000	Loan - 5 Year Term			\$225,500	\$216,480	\$207,460	\$387,860			\$ 1,037,300
RD-2006-06	Skate Park	NEW SP	SP	24	\$ 228,000	General Fund				\$245,000					\$ 245,000
RD-2011-20	Rail Trail	NEW SP	SP	18	\$ 1,557,000	Grant & General Fund			\$1,620,000						\$ 1,620,000
<b>NEW Parks/Facilities Total</b>					<b>\$ 19,793,000</b>		<b>\$ 1,960,250</b>	<b>\$ 1,928,840</b>	<b>\$ 3,648,930</b>	<b>\$ 2,186,500</b>	<b>\$ 4,358,570</b>	<b>\$ 9,404,060</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 23,487,150</b>
<b>2019/20 5-YR CIP MISC. IMPROVEMENTS</b>															
RD-2019-53	Security Cameras for City Parks and Facilities	Other	Other	1	\$ 96,000	General Fund	\$48,000	\$49,000							\$ 97,000
RD-2013-39	Recreation Multi-Passenger Bus	Other	Other	16	\$ 150,000	Loan - 3 Year Term			\$172,700	\$57,567	\$54,950				\$ 172,700
<b>MISC. Improvements Total</b>					<b>\$ 246,000</b>		<b>\$ 48,000</b>	<b>\$ 49,000</b>	<b>\$ 172,700</b>	<b>\$ 57,567</b>	<b>\$ 54,950</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 269,700</b>
<b>MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDED PROJECTS/ IMPROVEMENTS (not referenced in 2019/20 City 5- yr CIP)</b>															
	Dog Park at City water treatment property	NEW SP	SP	(n/a)	\$ 175,000	(n/a)		\$25,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000					\$ 175,000
	River Access Point - Abbey Point Blueway Trail Access (BWA)	NEW SP	SP	(n/a)	\$ 150,000	(n/a)					\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000			\$ 150,000
	River Access Point- Seven Oaks Trail at future South ForkArea	NEW SP	SP	(n/a)	\$ 250,000	(n/a)						\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000		\$ 250,000
	Davis Tennis Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	Exist NP	Neighborhood	(n/a)	\$ 50,000	(n/a)					\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000
	Rocky Branch Park Greenway Trail Development	Exist CP	Community	n/a	\$ 250,000	(n/a)							\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000
	Ford Center Rehabilitation Study/ Recommendations	Exist SP	SP	(n/a)	\$ 25,000	(n/a)		\$25,000							\$ 25,000
	Ford Center Rehabilitataion	Exist SP	SP	(n/a)	\$ 1,100,000	(n/a)			\$ 100,000			\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,100,000
<b>Master Plan Improvements Total</b>					<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>	<b>\$ 625,000</b>	<b>\$ 950,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Total "ALL" Capital Improvements</b>							Existing FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26 to 28/29	Beyond 2029	
							<b>\$ 2,726,250</b>	<b>\$ 3,221,090</b>	<b>\$ 4,689,520</b>	<b>\$ 3,174,127</b>	<b>\$ 5,262,370</b>	<b>\$ 10,754,890</b>	<b>\$ 950,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 30,665,730</b>

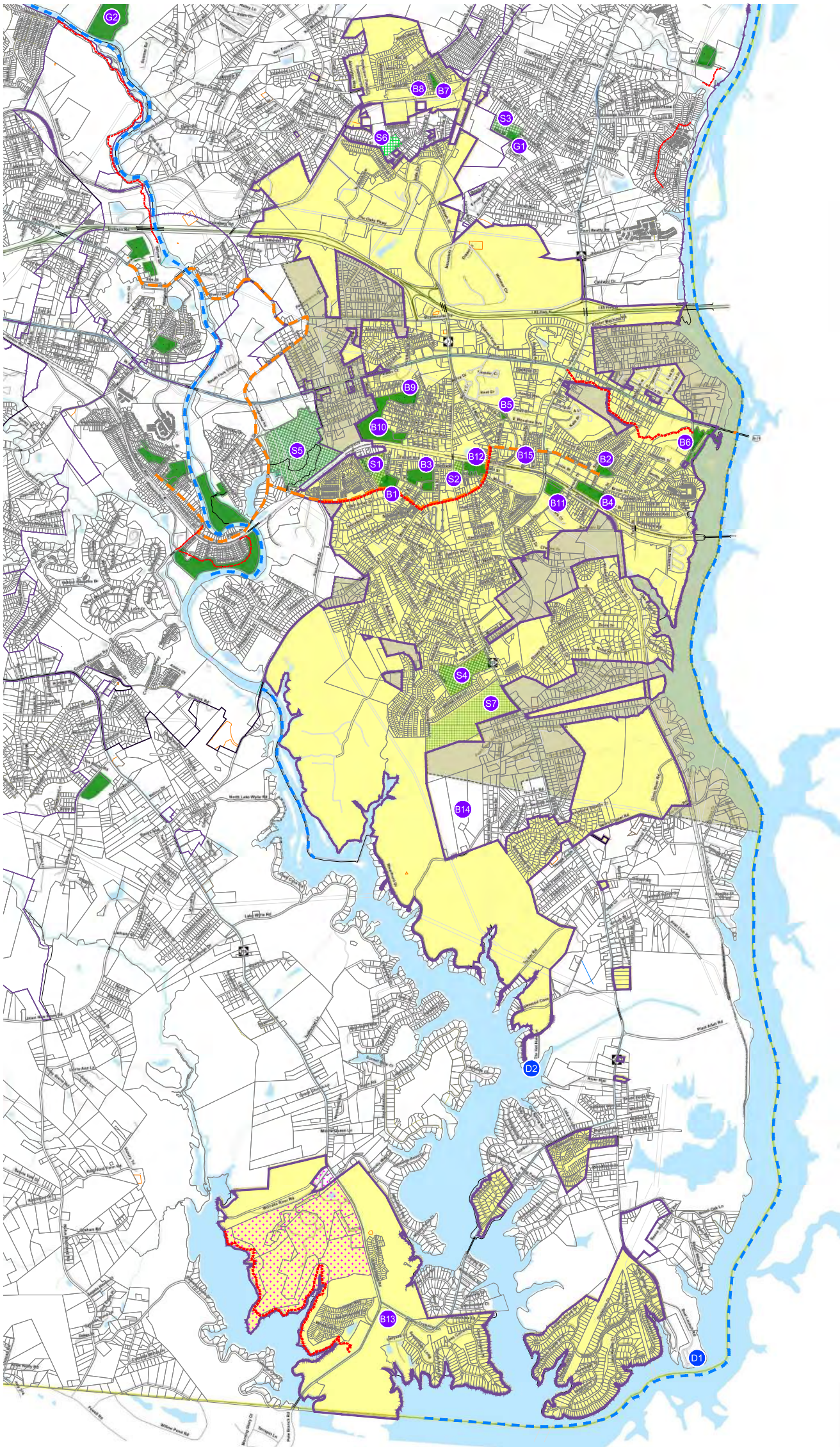
1. Current 2019 Value represents the cost in 2019 dollars and excludes financing costs and inflation.





# existing facilities

05.01.2019



## Map Key

### CITY OF BELMONT PARKS (B)

- B1 Belmont Central Elem. Field
- B2 Crescent Park / Dwight Frady Fields
- B3 Davis Park
- B4 Ebb Gantt Park
- B5 J. Paul Ford Center
- B6 Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park
- B7 Linford Park
- B8 Linford Gazebo
- B9 Reid Park
- B10 Rocky Branch Park
- B11 Rodden Ballfield
- B12 Stowe Park
- B13 McLean Property (Vacant)
- B14 Gaither Road Property (Vacant)
- B15 Skater Property (Vacant)

### GASTON COUNTY PARKS (G)

- G1 Park at Catawba Heights
- G2 South Fork River Park

### GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS (S)

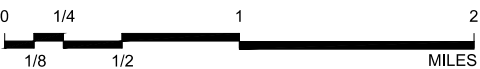
- S1 Belmont Central Elementary
- S2 Belmont Middle
- S3 Catawba Heights Elementary
- S4 South Point High
- S5 Stuart W. Cramer High
- S6 North Belmont Elementary
- S7 Belmont Middle Relocation

### DUKE ACCESS POINTS (D)

- D1 Allen Fishing Access Area
- D2 South Point Access Area

## Legend

- B# City of Belmont Recreation & Parks Facilities
- G# Gaston County Park
- S# Gaston County Schools
- D# Duke Water Access Points
- Belmont Planning Area
- Schools
- Recreation and Parks
- Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens
- ETJ Overlay
- NCDOT Bike Routes
- Ex. Greenway Trails
- Ex. Blueway
- Municipalities
- Major Roads
- Water Features



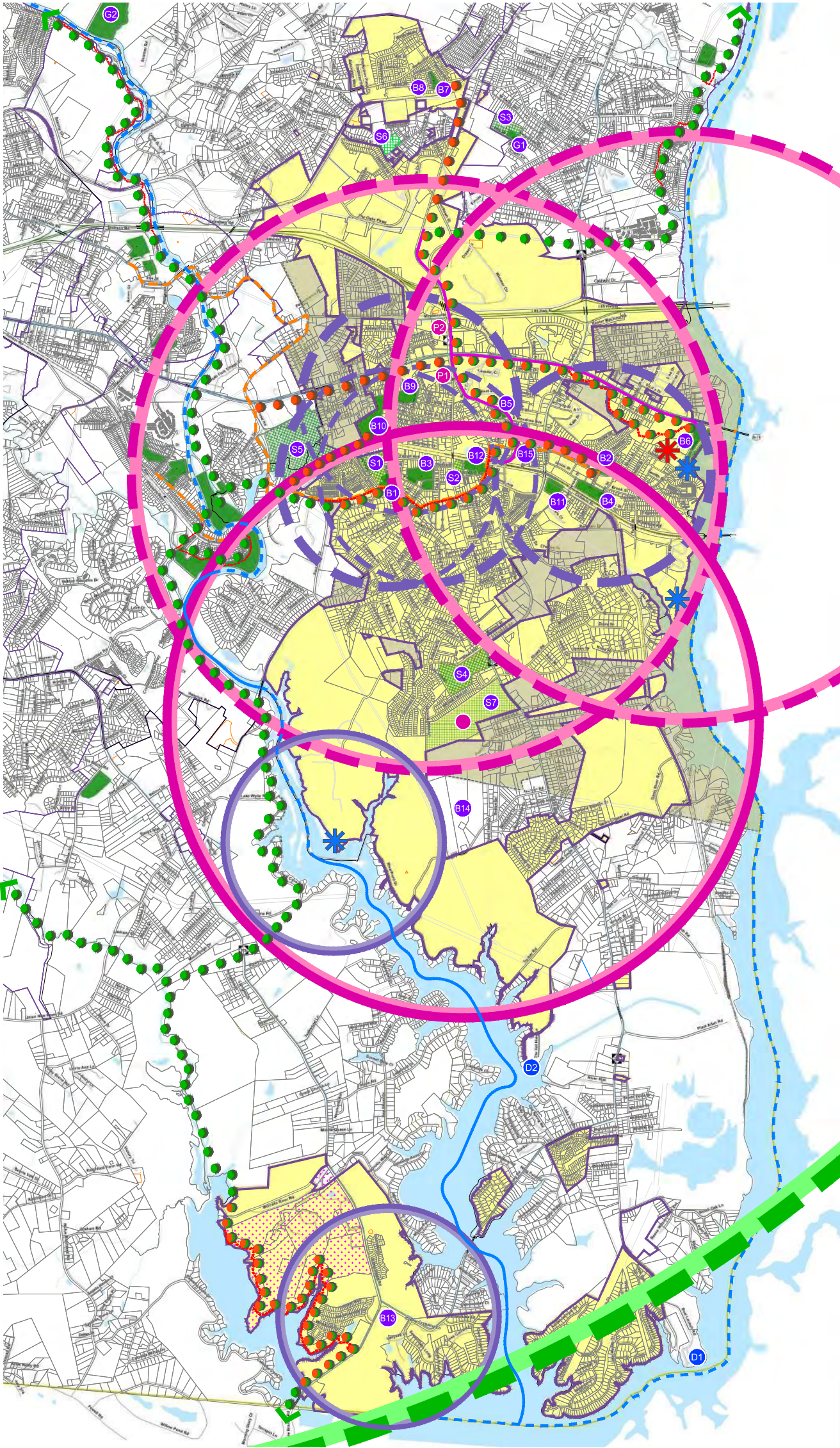






# plan proposals

05.2019



## Map Key

### CITY OF BELMONT PARKS (B)

- B1 Belmont Central Elem. Field
- B2 Crescent Park / Dwight Frady Fields
- B3 Davis Park
- B4 Ebb Gantt Park
- B5 J. Paul Ford Center
- B6 Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park
- B7 Linford Park
- B8 Linford Gazebo
- B9 Reid Park
- B10 Rocky Branch Park
- B11 Rodden Ballfield
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- B14 Gaither Road Property (Vacant)
- B15 Skater Property (Vacant)

### GASTON COUNTY PARKS (G)

- G1 Park at Catawba Heights
- G2 South Fork River Park

### GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS (S)

- S1 Belmont Central Elementary
- S2 Belmont Middle
- S3 Catawba Heights Elementary
- S4 South Point High
- S5 Stuart W. Cramer High
- S6 North Belmont Elementary
- S7 Belmont Middle Relocation

### DUKE ACCESS POINTS (D)

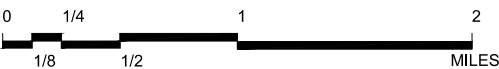
- D1 Allen Fishing Access Area
- D2 South Point Access Area

## Legend

- B# City of Belmont Recreation & Parks Facilities
- G# Gaston County Park
- S# Gaston County Schools
- D# Duke Water Access Points
- P# Prop. Streetscape Projects
- Belmont Planning Area
- Schools
- Recreation and Parks
- Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens
- ETJ Overlay
- NCDOT Bike Routes
- Ex. Greenway Trails
- Prop. Streetscape Projects
- Ex. Blueway
- Prop. Blueway
- Ex. Neighborhood Park (3/4 mile radius)
- Prop. Neighborhood Park (3/4 mile radius)
- Ex. Community Park (2 mile radius)
- Prop. Community Park (2 mile radius)
- George Poston Park & South Fork River Park - Ex. District Parks (8-10 mile radius)
- Prop. Recreation Center
- Prop. Water Access at Blueway Trail (Row Club, Abbey Development & South Area Plan)
- Carolina Thread Trail (CTT)
- Belmont Multi-Use Greenway Trail
- Belmont / CTT Joint Multi-Use Greenway
- Municipalities
- Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) Overlay
- Major Roads
- Water Features

## Recommendations

- Individual Park Improvements
- Recreation Center
- Joint Park at School
- Use of Gaither Property
- Use of McLean Property at Seven Oaks Trailhead (CTT)
- Greenway / Blueway
- Water Access at Row Club
- Water Access at Abbey Development
- Water Access at South Area Plan
- Splash Pad at Lofton Park or Recreation Center / City Hall









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## APPENDIX A



## **FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS:**

### **Location at Belmont P& R Dept Office /Ford Center**

(37 E Woodrow Ave, Belmont, NC 28012)

Impromptu Mtg                      9:00 AM  
(for couple people who can't attend other times)

### **Location at Belmont Police Department**

Departments Heads    10:00 AM  
Seniors Adults        10:00 AM

Public Recreation    11:00 AM  
Chamber                11:00 AM

Minorities              1:00 PM  
Arts                      1:00 PM  
School                   1:00 PM

Trails                    4:15 PM  
Environmental        4:15 PM



# Focus Meeting Agenda:

- **INTRODUCTIONS: (2min)**
  - City of Belmont Representatives:
  - Woolpert team:
  
- **MASTER PLAN PURPOSE AND PROCESS: (5min use it with time to fill out questionnaire if needed)**
  - Master Plan Facts *(10 year Plan, Working with steering Committee, see fact sheet)*
  - Master Plan Schedule (6month look to finish July/Aug)
  
- **OPEN DISCUSSION CONCERNING RECREATIONAL NEEDS FOR THE CITY: (30-35 min + Questionnaire)**
  
- **WRAP-UP /NEXT STEPS: (5min)**
  - Look for the Survey *(link should be posted on City's site to Link with Survey Monkey)*
  - Look for 1<sup>st</sup> Public meeting late March

# Focus Group Questionnaire

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**Belmont, NC**

***Comprehensive Park & Recreation Master Plan***

Feb. 14, 2019

The City of Belmont is updating its 10-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan that guides decisions made by the Belmont Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD). Your comments are important to this process and we are interested in your opinions on where you think BPRD should be in the next 10-years.

**Group/Assoc.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of People Representing** \_\_\_\_\_  
(if Not Applicable please enter N/A)

1. Are you familiar with the Parks and Recreation Department in Belmont? If yes, what is your overall impression of the parks or facilities you are familiar with?

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2. Does your organization have a present relationship with the BPRD? What is the current relationship? What is the expected future relationship?

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3. What facilities/programs does your organization currently use? Who is providing them? Are these facilities adequate?

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4. What are the strengths of the BPRD that we need to build on over the next ten years?

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5. Conversely, what are the major weaknesses that need to be addressed through the Master Plan?

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6. Are there any areas of the City that you feel are not served adequately by parks? By recreation facilities? By programs? If so, where?

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7. What types of parks are most needed in Belmont? (circle)

- Neighborhood Parks (5 – 15 acres in size)
- Community Parks (15 – 50 acres in size)
- Mini Parks (1-acre or less)
- Open Space (developed, undeveloped, both)
- Greenways/Trails (biking, walking/jogging, both)
- Sp. Park/ Facilities (sports park, interpretive areas etc.)

8. What park components/amenities need to be dealt with the most within the current system as it applies to:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- District/Regional Parks
- Other?
- Greenways/Trails?
- Sports Field ?
- Sports Courts?

9. What parks, recreation facilities or programs have you experienced or participated in over the last couple years? What is your opinion about the quality of these services?

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10. What type of recreation facilities are needed most in Belmont? (i.e., sports fields or courts, dog park, recreation center, skate park, pools golf, etc.)

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11. Are there recreation programs that need to be created based on new needs of the residents? What types of recreation services are needed and for whom?

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12. What existing park or recreation facilities need the most improvement? Are there amenities that need to be added or removed?

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13. What partnerships need to be initiated, strengthened or expanded in the City as it applies to working with the Parks and Recreation Department in delivery of parks, recreation facilities and programs?

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14. How do you think the community rates the value they receive from P&R Department services and facilities for the tax dollars they pay?

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15. How would you suggest we fund future recreational facilities and program needs? (i.e., general fund, bonds, user fees, mandatory dedication of land, etc.)

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16. Do you think the Park and Recreation Department provides economic impact? If so, in what way could their efforts be enhanced to increase their economic contribution to the community?

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17. How do you perceive the Parks and Recreation Department's efforts in marketing and promoting the services provided? What areas need improvement?

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18. Are there any policies associated with the parks and recreation system that need updating?

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19. If you could change one thing in parks and recreation in the next five to ten years what would it be?

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20. What is your vision for parks and recreation, in the next five to ten years?

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21. Please write any Additional Comments and Suggestions below or on the back of this page:

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (continued):**

[illegible]

# Focus Group Meetings

## Sign-In Sheet

Belmont Parks & Recreation

Comprehensive Master Plan Update

WOOLPERT PROJECT NO.

Various times February 14, 2019 (9:00am, 10:00am 1:00pm, 4:15pm)



WOOLPERT  
ARCHITECTURE | ENGINEERING | GEOSPATIAL

MTG TIME	NAME	AFFILIATION OR DEPT.	PHONE	EMAIL
10 AM	1. Cathy Southworth	Grad-Abouts Seniors	704-689-9779	CathySouthworth@ghw.com
	2. Phillips Hayes	Grad-Abouts Seniors	704 641 - 7267	Phayes100carolina.rr.com
	3. Laverne Partlow	Health Dept	704-862-6134	laverne.partlow@gaston.gov
11 PM	4. Ellen Fenters	Gaston County P+R	704-922-2165	ellen.fenters@gaston.gov
	5. Cathy Hart	Gaston County P+R	704-922-2162	cathy.hart@gaston.gov
	6. Brandon Black	Gaston County Travel & Tourism	704-829-2239	brandon.black@gaston.gov
	7. MIKE APPELATE	GASTON COUNTY P+R	704-813-0144	michael.appelete@gaston.gov
1 PM	8. Amy Kossard	Belmont Design Comm	903 550-8885	AMY.KOSSARD@YAHOO.COM
	9. Carey Galbreath	Belmont Middle School	803-487-5166	Cegalbreath@gaston.k12.nc.us
	10. Kent Hyde	South Point High School	704-675-6347	WKhude@gaston.k12.nc.us
	11. OSCAR REID	Reid Community	704 674 7604	Oscar.Reid@yahoo.com
	12. Patricia Franks	Reid Community	704-576-8367	pbfranks@bellsouth.net
	13. Rev. Jennifer Foxenberry	Reid Community	(704) 572-6358	Kennethfoxenberry81@gmail.com
	14. Claudia Ghannini - Toole	Holy Angels Inc	704 560 5717	claudia.ghannini@bac.edu
	15. Jennifer Foxenberry	enviro sust. Board	704-649-4691	jennh725@gmail.com
	16. John B. Holmes	Reid Community PHS	704-596-3515	john72@bellsouth.net
	17. T. Toole	Holy Angels Inc.	704 648-8484	tttoole@holyanimals.org
	18.			
	19.			

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# Focus Group Meetings

## Sign-In Sheet

Belmont Parks & Recreation  
Comprehensive Master Plan Update  
WOOLPERT PROJECT NO.

Various times February 14, 2019 (9:00am, 10:00am 1:00pm, 4:15pm)

MTG TIME	NAME	AFFILIATION OR DEPT.	PHONE	EMAIL
9AM	1. Darryl McClure	City of Gastonia	704-430-7514	darryl.mclure@gastonia.nc.gov
9AM	2. Trent McCallister	Belmont Resident	704-619-8053	trentmcallister@icloud.com
<del>10AM</del>	<del>3. Mary Lima</del>	Local Basketball Coach		
10AM	4. Mary Lima	Gaston County Family YMCA	704-822-9622 ext 272	mlima@gastonymca.org
10AM	5. Chuck Flournoy	City of Belmont	704-825-0512	ckflournoy@cityofbelmont.org
10-11AM	6. Shelley DeHart	City of Belmont	704-901-2065	sdehart@cityofbelmont.org
10AM	7. Corky Falls	City of Belmont	980-240-7427	cfalls@cityofbelmont.org
10AM	8. Allen Buchanan	City of Belmont Police	704-214-2820	abuchanan@cityofbelmont.org
11AM	9. Kathy Hutchinson	Gastonia Astros	704-825-1232	khutchinson@gastonia Astros.com
	10. Britton Lazor	Gaston Aquatics	704-215-3750	gastonaquatics@gmail.com
	11. Bre Haeger	CaroMont Health	704-834-4049	bre.haeger@CaroMontHealth.org
	12. Ted Hall	Masterpass Area Chamber	704-825-5327	Ted.hall@masterpassarea.chamber.com
4:15pm	13. Danielle Clark	Enviro Sustainability	518-598-2862	dclark@hartthickman.com
4:00pm	14. Bruce Eaker	Torheel Trailblazers	704-236-4650	bruceeaker@aol.com
	15.			
	16.			
	17.			
	18.			
	19.			



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## APPENDIX B



# Public Workshop Agenda

## Belmont Parks & Recreation Department Comprehensive Master Plan

March 28, 2019 6:30 -8:15 pm @ Gaston College Kimbrell Campus



- **Welcome / Introductions/ Meeting Purpose**

**Zip Stowe Detwiler**

*Director, Belmont Parks & Recreation Department*

***Steering Committee Members:***

*Leeanna London*

*Claudina Ghianni-Toole*

*Jaime Emerson*

*Emily Wilson*

*Bre Hager*

*Dan Underwood*

*Marc Seelinger*

*Brett Bumeter*

**Carl Armanini** - Woolpert Inc. Park Planner Project Manager

**Katie Thayer** - Woolpert Inc. Park Planner Deputy Project Manager

- **Project Presentation (Woolpert)**

- **Master Plan Process & Schedule**

- Master Plan Approach / Methodology

- **Schedule**

- **Review of Current Survey-& Focus Group Findings**

- **Format for Public Input Work Sessions**

- **Comprehensive Master Plan - Group Exercise**

- **Next Steps**

- **ADJOURN**

- **Any Additional Community Input / Comments**

- **Email to the contacts below**

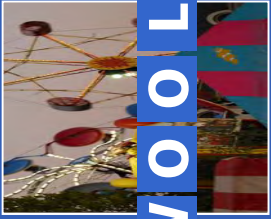
Contacts:	
Carl Armanini, RLA, ASLA <b>Woolpert, Inc.</b> 8731 Red Oak Blvd., Suite 101 Charlotte, NC 28217 (704) 525-3020 <a href="mailto:carl.armanini@woolpert.com">carl.armanini@woolpert.com</a>	Zip Stowe, Director <b>Belmont Parks &amp; Recreation</b> P.O. Box 249 Belmont, NC 28134 704.825-8191 <a href="mailto:zstowe@cityofbelmont.org">zstowe@cityofbelmont.org</a>
Please visit the City and/or Department Website for plan updates: <a href="https://www.cityofbelmont.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=123">https://www.cityofbelmont.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=123</a> <a href="https://www.cityofbelmont.org/151/Parks-Recreation">https://www.cityofbelmont.org/151/Parks-Recreation</a>	

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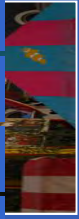
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## W O O L P E R T



# Format for Public Input Work Session: (Group Exercise)



- Work in roundtable discussion groups
- Appoint a 'note taker' and 'spokesperson' for each group
- Begin documenting **all thoughts** regarding recreation needs (**facilities/programs**). Discuss the needs for new sites and facilities and also existing parks (**15-20 minutes**).
- Each group then prioritizes their top 5 need statements for the City. Be as specific as possible regarding the park, greenway, facility type, generalized location, new, renovation, etc. (**15 minutes**).
- Finally, provide ideas for funding or implementing your top 5 need statements. Be as specific as possible & consider some of the following: donations, partnerships, grants, foundations, general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, non-tax generated revenue from user fees & charges, additional tax set aside for park development, etc. (**10 minutes**).
- Present your ideas to the rest of the groups



# Community Workshop

## Belmont Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan (10 Year Plan)

### Parks & Recreation Needs

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| . Dog park - enclosed fence                              | . More sidewalks - connections  |
| . Greenway - South Fork side                             | . 1/4 mile walking track w/ supportive surface                              |
| . Recreation center w/ kitchen                           | . Storytellers convention - <sup>Fun for</sup> all ages                     |
| . Abbey Creek greenway                                   | . Plant sale / swap <sup>seed</sup> <sup>opportunity</sup> for partnerships |
| . Rail-trail greenway                                    | . Public art in parks <sup>(statues at Kern Loftin circles)</sup>           |
| . Connections - <sup>parks</sup> w/ paths                | . Rides at festivals - older children                                       |
| . More river access                                      | . Adult classes   |
| . Rentable kayaks + paddleboards                         | . Awareness - walking tour  |
| . South Point Road city property <sup>(Gaither Rd)</sup> | . Food festival - food trucks   |
| . Mountain bike trails                                   | . Events  |
| . Disc golf  | . Bike lanes  |

### Top 5 Needs Statements

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| . Connectivity - <sup>Greenway</sup> sidewalks   | . River access         |
| . Dog park <sup>connected to greenway ideal</sup> <sup>w/ water benches</sup> <sup>agility</sup>                       | . Plan for maintenance |
| . Rec Center <sup>adult programs</sup> <sup>walking track</sup> <sup>events</sup> <sup>classes</sup> <sup>sports</sup> |                        |
|  |                        |

### Funding or Implementation Ideas

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| . General fund - tax dollars - <sup>must see results/ action</sup>                     | . Bonds <sup>learn from past</sup> <sup>use effectively, timely</sup> |
| . Sponsorships <sup>Partnerships - Healthcare</sup>                                    |   |
| . Designated funding <sup>pay for X (plastic bags)</sup> <sup>\$ to community</sup>    |   |
| . User fees - <sup>sliding scale</sup> <sup>offset costs</sup> <sup>income based</sup> |   |
| . Grants   |   |
| . Fundraising  |   |



# Public Workshop

## Sign-In Sheet

Belmont Parks & Recreation  
Comprehensive Master Plan Update  
WOOLPERT PROJECT NO.

6:30pm, March 28, 2019 @ Gaston College Kimbrell Campus



WOOLPERT  
ARCHITECTURE | ENGINEERING | GEOSPATIAL

	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	EMAIL
1.	Jennifer Brown	Norus Architects	744-373-3101	
2.	Jayne Emerson		704-560-2218	
3.	Larry Bob Gultowski		704-266-4068	
4.	Darlene Stein	Belmont Park + Rec	304-640-4064	tdstein25901@gmail.com
5.	Melissa Lockamy	Belmont Planning	704-901-2610	
6.	Marc Seelinger	Selective Insurance	919-302-4791	mseeinger.j@gmail.com
7.	AC Warr		704/904-0841	
8.	Amey Bostard	Simply American Dog	503-550-8885	
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

# Public Workshop

## Sign-In Sheet

### Belmont Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan Update

WOOLPERT PROJECT NO.

6:30pm, March 28, 2019 @ Gaston College Kimbrell Campus



WOOLPERT  
ARCHITECTURE | ENGINEERING | GEOSPATIAL

	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	EMAIL
1.	Angela Street		704-813-3737	angelastreet@me.com
2.	Nick Street		704-266-4060	
3.	Bruce Emker		704-236-4650	
4.				
5.				
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# Community Meeting Agenda

## **Belmont Parks & Recreation Department Comprehensive Master Plan- Preliminary Recommendations**

May 29, 2019 6:30 -8:00 pm @ TechWorks



- **Welcome / Introductions/ Meeting Purpose**

**Zip Stowe**

*Director, Belmont Parks & Recreation Department*

**Steering Committee Members:**

*Leeanna London*

*Claudina Ghianni-Toole*

*Jaime Emerson*

*Emily Wilson*

*Bre Hager*

*Dan Underwood*

*Marc Seelinger*

*Brett Bumeter*

**Carl Armanini** - *Woolpert Inc. Park Planner Project Manager*

**Andrew Pack** - *Woolpert Inc. Park Planner Project Director*

- **Presentation (Woolpert)**

**Master Plan Preliminary Proposals & Recommendations**

- **Master Plan Process & Scope of Work**

- **Plan Approach / Methodology**

- **Schedule**

- **Needs Assessment Review**

- Survey Info., Focus Groups, & Standards

- **Preliminary Recommendations**

- Roles - Parks/Facilities

- **Next Steps**

- **ADJOURN**

- **Any Additional Community Input / Comments**

- **Email to the contacts below**

Contacts:	
Carl Armanini, RLA, ASLA <b>Woolpert, Inc.</b> 8731 Red Oak Blvd., Suite 101 Charlotte, NC 28217 (704) 525-3020 <a href="mailto:carl.armanini@woolpert.com">carl.armanini@woolpert.com</a>	Zip Stowe, Director <b>Belmont Parks &amp; Recreation</b> P.O. Box 249 Belmont, NC 28134 704.825-8191 <a href="mailto:zstowe@cityofbelmont.org">zstowe@cityofbelmont.org</a>
Please visit the City and/or Department Website for plan updates: <a href="https://www.cityofbelmont.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=123">https://www.cityofbelmont.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=123</a> <a href="https://www.cityofbelmont.org/151/Parks-Recreation">https://www.cityofbelmont.org/151/Parks-Recreation</a>	

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# Community Meeting

## Sign-In Sheet

Belmont Parks & Recreation

Comprehensive Master Plan Update - PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

WOOLPERT PROJECT NO.

6:30pm, May 29, 2019 @ TechWorks Gaston

NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	EMAIL
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14.			
15.			





# Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan





2019-2029  
(10-Year)

## City of Belmont Parks & Recreation

### Preliminary Recommendations Community Meeting


May 29, 2019





## Welcome & Introductions

- City of Belmont
  - Zip Stowe, P&R Director
  - P&R Staff/City Staff
  - Steering Comm. (Adv. Board) Representatives
- Woolpert
  - Carl Armanini, *Park Planner Project Manager*
  - Andrew Pack, *Project Director*
  - (Katie Thayer, *Deputy Project Manager*)





## Agenda

- Introductions
- Master Plan Process & Scope of Work
  - Plan Approach / Methodology
  - Schedule
- Needs Assessment Review
  - Survey Info., Focus Groups, & Standards
- Preliminary Recommendations
  - Roles
  - Parks/Facilities
  - Next Steps
- Q&A
- Adjourn (8:00-8:15 pm)



## 2019 MP Process & Scope

### • What is a Master Plan?

**Comprehensive** (covers service for the entire City)

- Determining & Identifying essential recreation needs for the people in a community, who they are, where they live, what they want.
- A guide for orderly development of recreation areas, facilities, and programs to meet the needs of a community (whether existing or proposed).
- A practical & flexible approach for immediate & long range action regarding recreation.








## 2019 MP Process & Scope

- **Why It's Needed?**
  - Use resources wisely (maximize use of \$)
  - Assure open space & other recreation will be preserved or provided for a community
  - Attract business, improve Q.O.L.
  - Guide growth and sustainability
- **A Proven 5-Step Approach**
  - **Who are we?** (demographics, population, etc.)
  - **What do we have?** (inventory)
  - **What do we need?** (needs assessment)
  - **What to do?** (recommendations & proposals)
  - **How to do it?** (action plan)
  - ❖ *Allows for continuous evaluation (building block process)*
  - ❖ *Allows for timely input*






## 2019 MP Process & Scope

- **Comprehensive Plan Work Items**
  - Executive Style Summary Report**
    - Start-Up Meeting
    - Revise Demographic Review (Current & Projected Factors) (*Who are we?*)
    - Update Existing Facilities Inventory (*What do we have?*)
    - Updated Community Needs Assessment (standards review, public & focus group input meetings/workshops, survey data) (*What do we need?*)
    - **Proposals & Recommendations** (Draft & Final) (*What to do?*)
    - Provide New Action Implementation Steps (*How to do it?*)








## Schedule

**Month 1 (Jan. - Feb.)**

- Start-up Meeting / Demographics Review
- Survey Development
- Analysis of Existing Park Facilities and Programs

**Months 2 & 3 (Feb-March)**

- Focus Group Meetings (Feb)
- Survey
- **Public Meeting -1 (Mar 28)**

**Month 4-5 (April-May)**





- Draft Proposals & Recommendations
- **Public Meeting #2 (public review of draft proposals)**
- Coordination Meeting/ Info for Budget Meeting

**Month 5 (May-June)**

- Final Recommendations – Action Plan Development

**Month 6 (June-July)**

- Action Plan Review
- Final Presentations (Council Public Mtg)

## Major Findings

**Current / Projected Factors**

**Population:**

- City population growth since 2010 has been slight but steady
- 2010-2019 = 10,076 to 11,817  
Growth Rate = 17.28% or 1.78% annually  
(State = 9.9% & 1.7% County 9.2% & .9%)
- 2019 pop of 11,817 based on 1.8% AGR 2018-19  
(State was 1.18%, County was .93%)
- 2029 Population will likely be 14,300  
(± 1.9% AGR 2020-2029)
- Housing Growth – McLean, Riverfront, Central infill & future South Fork area plan.

**Existing Facilities:**

- Existing Facilities (gen. good condition room for improvement-upgrades)






## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

Focus Group Comments: *(7 mtgs/31 attendees)*

Program & Policy Needs / Ideas:

- Partnerships are key for future improvements. The following Partners were discussed (Churches, Gaston Co. P&R, Gaston Co. Travel & Tourism, YMCA, Gaston Gators Aquatics, Schools-AD)
- Improve formalized school joint use agreement
- Expand special population programming
- Expand arts and education programs
- Funding can come from bonds & fees
- Set Fees to produce returns without stopping people who can't afford (assistance program)








## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

Focus Group Comments: *(continued)*

Facility Needs / Ideas:

- Need a multigenerational rec. center/ gym to accommodate programming (infant to elderly)
- Improve City-wide pedestrian connectivity (trails & sidewalks; make them multi-purpose)
- Add more restroom facilities at parks (Reid, Rodden, Rocky Branch mentioned)
- Improve /expand play areas at some parks (to accommodate varied age groups)
- Water/Drinking Fountains are needed at sites
- Fix the Ford Center or "Re-purpose it"; Improve disabled access at parks & programs
- Develop a swim facility or at least a splash park
- We need teen programs & a facility *(nothing available to "get them off the street")*








## Major Findings





### Needs Assessment

Public Workshop Input: (03/28/19)

- **Top Five needs/priorities:**
  1. Connectivity (greenway, walks / trails / bike),
  2. Dog park
  3. Recreation Center (multigenerational classes, walking track, adult programs, & events)
  4. River Access
  5. Plan for maintenance of the system
- **Funding /Ideas:**

– General Fund	– User fees
– Sponsorships/Partners	– <i>(offset cost, sliding scale)</i>
– Designated funding	– Grants
– Fundraising	– Bonds



## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment


Survey Highlights: (267 Feb-15 thru Apr 15)

**General:**

- 63% of respondents were women
- Median age of respondents is 43
- 88% of residents used facilities

**Most Important Priorities:** (facility type)

- Multi Purpose Trails (92%)
- Acquire land for future development (86%)
- Indoor Rec Center (82%)
- Disabled Access to Play (80%)
- Outdoor Pool/Splash Pad (72%)










## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

Survey Highlights: (continued)

- Sp. Events Festivals are highly regarded
- Stowe is most visited park (64), (followed by Davis, Gantt & Lofton Riverfront)
- **Top 3 Regularly Participated Activities**
  1. Walking/jogging 2. Festivals Sp. Events 3. Hiking
- **Most often Participated Activities**
  1. Walk/Run/Hike 2. Playgrounds 3. Fitness/Exercise/Wt. Train
- 76% of residents aware of BPRD programs
- 41% rate programs good to excellent
- **Most used Belmont facility types**
  1. Walking trails 2. Playgrounds 3. Multi-Purp. Fields 4. Picnic Fac.
- 96% Think parks enhance property value








## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

Survey Highlights: (continued)

- **Most needed faculty types** (exist. not meeting my needs)
  1. Walk/Jog/Run Paths 2. Water Access & Amphitheater
  3. Sitting Areas & Open Space/Greenspace
- **Most needed types not listed?**
  1. Swim or Splash Pad 2. Greenways 3. Indoor Rec. Fac./Ctr.
- 45% feel their area has adequate fac. & programs but 34% feel their area does not
- **98% feel P&R is important contributor to Q.O.L.**
- **89% think funding is important or very important for the next 10-yrs.** (Compared to other priorities)
- 44% feel funding P&R should come mainly from taxes with little from user fees
- 42% feel Maintaining Parks should come mainly from taxes w/ little from user fees
- Over 63% "Somewhat" or "Strongly" support a 1/8 or 1/4 cent sales tax to fund recreation facilities (TIF)








## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

#### Standards Review:

Based on a hierarchy of parks types:

- **Regional Parks** – example is a state park  
Typical state/fed obligation (±1000 Ac., 1hr /40-60 mi. radius)
- **District Parks** – example is South Fork or Poston  
Typical County obligation  
(±100-200 Ac., 8-10 mi. radius, serves 10-20,000)
- **Community Parks** – example is Lofton Park  
Typical Municipal or County obligation  
(±15-75 Ac., 8-10 mi. serv. radius, serves 5,000-10,000)
- **Neighborhood Parks** – example is Reid Park  
Typical Municipal obligation  
(±5-15 Ac., ¾-1 mi. serv. radius, serves 1,000 -5,000)
- **Mini parks** – example is Linford & Main St. Seating  
Typical Municipal obligation  
(±.25-1 Ac., ¼ - ½ mi. serv. radius, serves 1,000 -5,000)
- **Linear Parks/Greenway facilities**  
Typical Municipal & County obligation  
(no acreage std., trails vary .2 - .4 mi. per 1,000 pop. served)
- **Special Use Parks/Facilities** – ex. Ford Ctr. or Gantt  
(use std for facility such as pools, gyms, marinas etc.)










## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

#### Standards Review: *(continued)*

- Park types needs based on a hierarchy of parks service *(on size/service radius/ Ac. per 1000)*
  - **Regional Parks** – adequately provided by state/fed
  - **District Parks** – adequately provided by County
  - **Community Parks** – Town adequately provides acreage *but a community needed to the south*
  - **Neighborhood Parks** – need 29-ac. by 2029 (2-3 new sites)
  - **Mini Parks** – ex. sites & ac. provide service, use dedication & partnership groups to add sites
  - **Linear Parks /Greenway** – need 2-3 miles by 2029







# Major Findings

## Needs Assessment

### Standards Review: (continued)

**Table 3-1**  
**City of Belmont**  
**Park Classification and Land Area Requirements**  
(Standards for Belmont)

Park Type Standard	Acres/1000 Population	Acres	Population Served	Service Area
<b>Regional Park</b>				
National	10	1000	Sev. Communities	1 hr. drive
State	20	1000	Sev. Communities	1 hr. drive
Recommended	10	150-1000	100,000	50-60 mi. radius
<b>District Park</b>				
National	5-10	200	Sev. Communities	1/2 hr. drive
State	10	75-200	Sev. Communities	15-20 mi. radius
Recommended	5	100+	10-20,000	City = 8-2.5 mi. Co. = 8-10 mi rad. (20 min drive)
<b>Community Park</b>				
National	5-8	25+	Several Neighs.	1-2 mile radius
State	8	25+	20,000	1-3 mile radius
Recommended	2-5	15-50	5 - 15,000	1-2 mile radius
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>				
National	1-2	15+	5,000	1/4-1/2 mile
State	2	6-8	4,000	1/4-1/2 mile
Recommended	2	5-10	5,000	1/2 - mile
<b>Mini Park</b>				
National	.25	1	Adjacent Neigh.	1/4 mile
State	-	-	500-2,500	-
Recommended	.25	25-1	Adjacent Neigh.	1/4-1/2 mile
<b>Special-Use or Linear Park</b>				
National	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
State	30	Varies	Varies	Varies
Recommended	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

# Major Findings

## Needs Assessment

### Standards Review: (continued)

**City of Belmont**  
**Total Park Sites and Acreage Requirements**

PARK TYPE	Population	2019 11,817	2020 12,030	2025 13,236	2029 14,300	Existing Sites	2029 Need
<b>Regional Parks **</b> (10 Ac/1000) +1000 Acre Parks		118	120	132	143	10,000 +	0
<b>Sites</b>		1	1	0	0	4	0
<b>District Parks **</b> (5 Ac/1000) +/-200 Acre Parks		59	60	66	72	410	0
<b>Sites</b>		1	1	1	1-2	3	0
<b>Community Parks</b> 2-5Ac typ. (3Ac/1000) 45-75 Acre Parks (75ac)		35	36	40	43	42	1
<b>Sites</b>		1	1	1	1	3	1-2
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b> (2.50 Ac/1000) +/-5-15 Acre Parks (7 ac avg.)		30	30	33	36	7	29
<b>Sites</b>		4-6	4	5	5	2	0-1
<b>Mini-Parks</b> (.5 Ac/1000) .5 -1.0 Acre Parks (.1 ac avg.)		6	6	7	7	3	4
<b>Sites</b>		6	6	7	7	6	0
<b>Special Use Parks</b> (no std. Acreage)		Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	n/a
<b>Linear Parks / Greenway Trails</b> (.4 mile/1000)	<b>Miles</b>	5	5	5	6	5.0	1

\*\* The acreage shown for Regional & District parks denotes Pineville's share for this type of park whether provided by municipal, county, state or other governmental body

**Regional Parks:** (5- sites) = Lake Norman (+30,000 ac.), Crowders Mt. (+2,100 ac.), Kings Mt., (+2,000 ac.), Nat. WhiteWater Center(=+200 ac) South Mts. St. Park (20,000 ac.)

**District Parks:** (3 sites) = George Poston Park (+345 ac.), South Fork Park (+44 ac.), North Belmont (+21 ac.)

**Community Parks:** (3 sites) = Lofton-Riverfront (7.0 ac.), Stowe Park (8.0 ac.), Rocky Branch Pk. (27.24 ac.)

**Neighborhood Parks:** Davis Pk. (14.6 ac.), Reid Pk. (9.0 ac), Crescent Pk (leased- 4.1 ac.)

**Mini-Parks Sites:** (-3-sites) Linford Gezebo (.25), Linford Pk (2.4 ac.), Main St seating areas (1.0 ac.)

**Special Use Sites:** (-sites) = Ebb Gant (8.0 ac.), J. Paul Ford Center (.65 ac.)

**Linear Parks / Greenway Trails:** County Undeveloped =?? City Proposed???

**Walking Tracks/paths** = Gantt, Lofton, Reid, Stowe, Middle School Site (total 4 mi), City posted Health Walks (5mi total?) (4.0 ac)

**Open/Vacant Land:** Skale Pk Property (.5 ac.), Stowe Property (10.0 ac), Galther Property (30 ac.), Rowing Club Property (4.0 ac)

Note: Acreage shown for Regional & District Parks are based on the population of Belmontx their "share" of access to these type of parks regardless of the provider






## Major Findings

### Needs Assessment

Standards Review: *(continued)*

- Individual Facility Needs *(fields courts etc.)*
  - Multipurpose Fields (stds. ID 1, might better serve community with 2-4)
  - Shelters (stds. ID 0, public input suggests more)
  - Play Areas (stds. ID 1, might better serve community with 2-4, all new parks should have one)
  - Rec Center/Community Center (stds. ID 1)
  - Neighborhood Center (stds. ID 1, renovate Ford)
  - Greenway Multi Use Trails (stds. ID 4mi total)






## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

Belmont's Role:

- Concentrate on providing neighborhood parks, community parks, and special facilities
  - Sp. Fac. include: rec./community center, sports parks, pool/splash park, dog parks, and multi-purpose trails/greenway (ped, bike, connections)
- Continue to improve & maintain existing facilities operated by the Department (Stowe, Reid, Davis, Kevin Lofton, Ebb Gantt, etc.)
- Continue making pedestrian connections to existing & proposed parks. The City has plans to implement projects thru the pedestrian master plan
- Partner with other agencies/groups to develop special facilities in the community








## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

#### Roles of Other Providers:

- Fed & State:
  - Primary providers of Regional Parks
  - Preservation/conservation of land for recreational use
  - Assist community's w/funding (grants for recreation)
- Gaston County:
  - Main provider of District Parks
  - Provides and/or partners w/community sites as needed
- Other Towns/Municipalities:
  - Similar to Belmont's role
  - Collaborate on possible joint ventures
- Quasi-Public & Private
  - Has provided recreation where/when public sector can't
  - Find ways to partner (w/ YMCA, Belmont Univ, Gaston Aquatics/Gators & other clubs or businesses)






## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

#### Parks & Facilities:

- Regional Parks
  - Ex. state parks & regional sites provide land & facilities thru the planning period (Crowders Mt, Kings Mt, US-NWC etc.)
  - City can partner & support State, Fed & Private initiatives (trails, preservation, tourism)
- District Parks
  - Park acreage is adequately accessible by City residents
    - 72 ac. of District parkland is needed
    - Over 400 acres is available at Polson, South Fork & North Belmont
    - All are within ±15 minutes of Belmont






## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

#### Parks & Facilities: *(continued)*

- **Community Parks**
  - Acreage standards show Belmont needing 1-acre of Community Parkland by 2019
  - Providing a single facility/park south of the City center will improve & reinforce access.

**Options:**

- Create community active recreation with the development of the New Middle School site south of town
- Use Gaither land for a “passive” community pk. Offer more passive amenities such as picnic fac., shelters, & future neighborhood meeting space (part of South Fork Area Plan)










## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

#### Parks & Facilities: *(continued)*

- **Neighborhood Parks**
  - Make Improvements at exist. sites such as Reid, Davis & Crescent (*see Fac. Improvement Program*)
  - Add 2 New park sites by 2029
    - Develop the McClean property as Seven Oaks Park (Neighborhood site w/Trail Head)
    - Develop a park along the South Fork River as indicated by the South Fork Area Plan
- **Mini-Parks** - *Do not recommend purchasing sites*
  - Acquire sites thru the development process, from neighborhood groups, or defaulted tax parcels, etc.
  - Use existing undeveloped public sights if available (library, school, police, utility, main street, etc.)
  - Partner with Main Street Merchants

## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

**Parks & Facilities:** *(continued)*

**SPECIAL FACILITIES**

- Greenway/ Bikeway:
  - Develop Abbey Creek Greenway
  - Develop Ph1 & Ph 2 plans of Rail Trail Project (Greenway/ CTT trail - Main St to north of Belmont Abbey)
  - Move forward with multi-purpose/modal streetscape along Wilkinson Blvd (bikes, pedestrians & vehicles)
  - Develop McClean property for Seven Oaks Trail, (neighborhood park & trailhead)
  - Following CTT trail plan for connecting to adjacent towns (decide priorities for connections?)
  - Install as many City ped. plan walkways as possible (connect Downtown w/ recreation areas like parks, schools, shops, natural feature, etc.)
  - Use Grants for development (as best possible)






## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

**SPECIAL FACILITIES:** *(continued)*

- New Recreation Center/Community Center:
  - Community has expressed need for a multigenerational recreation center
  - Previous studies verify the need
  - Location shown is adjacent to the New City Hall Site (more central downtown site if affordable)
- Ford Center Improvements/Renovation:
  - Re-purpose of the site need further study/review (possible dance/exercise studio)
  - Will require major renovation & maintenance repairs
  - Install guardrail at parking edge









## 2019 Recommendations

### Preliminary Recommendations

**SPECIAL FACILITIES:** *(continued)*

- Arts & Education: *(theater, gallery, meeting space)*
  - Create & Partner w/ Gaston College & Belmont Abbey programs to get art in the parks
  - Can Arts programs be entertained at Ford Center site? Or at the old City Hall site?
- Pools/Splash Pad + Dog Park:
  - Strong support for splash/spray park (Kevin Loftin Park or New City Hall/Recreation Center site?)
  - Dog Park - possibly with rework of Rodden Field site (in conjunction with practice field?)
- Water Access (Blueway Trail Access)
  - Blueway Trail Access (BWA) at Abbey Point
  - BWA at Row Club site
  - BWA at Waterfront/N-hood Park per South Fork Area Plan (w/Seven Oaks Trail access)





## Closing

- **Next Steps**
  - Develop Action Plan & Priorities
  - Final Recommendations & Report Development
- Q&A
- Adjourn
- Additional Input/Comments? Email:

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## APPENDIX C



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## Citizens of Belmont:

The City of Belmont would like your input on the parks and recreation facilities in our community. **This survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.** When you are finished, please return your survey to, City Hall or Ford Recreation Center. We greatly appreciate your time.

---

1. Gender of individual filling out this survey? \_\_\_\_ (1) Male \_\_\_\_ (2) Female

2. Age of individual filling out this survey ? \_\_\_\_\_ years

3. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many persons in your household (counting yourself) are:

Under 5 years	_____	15-19 years	_____	35-44 years	_____	65+ years	_____
5-9 years	_____	20-24 years	_____	45-54 years	_____		
10-14 years	_____	25-34 years	_____	55-64 years	_____		

---

5. In which of the following leisure activities and recreation programs do you and others in your household participate regularly? (Check all that apply)

- |                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| ____ (00) After school care        | ____ (20) Football                           | ____ (39) Roller hockey                           |
| ____ (01) Arts/crafts              | ____ (21) Gardening                          | ____ (40) Senior adult programs                   |
| ____ (02) Baseball                 | ____ (22) Golf                               | ____ (41) Skateboarding                           |
| ____ (03) Basketball               | ____ (23) Gymnastics                         | ____ (42) Soccer                                  |
| ____ (04) Before school care       | ____ (24) Hiking                             | ____ (43) Softball                                |
| ____ (05) Biking                   | ____ (25) Hunting                            | ____ (44) Special Needs Recreation                |
| ____ (06) Boating/canoeing         | ____ (26) In-line skating/<br>roller skating | ____ (45) Summer camps                            |
| ____ (07) Bowling                  | ____ (27) Ice-skating                        | ____ (46) Swimming                                |
| ____ (08) BMX racing               | ____ (28) Kayaking                           | ____ (47) Tennis                                  |
| ____ (09) Camping                  | ____ (29) Martial arts                       | ____ (48) Table tennis                            |
| ____ (10) Cultural arts            | ____ (30) Movie theaters                     | ____ (49) Visiting nature preserves               |
| ____ (11) Cross country running    | ____ (31) Open gym                           | ____ (50) Volleyball                              |
| ____ (12) Dance                    | ____ (32) Picnics                            | ____ (51) Walking/jogging                         |
| ____ (13) Day care                 | ____ (33) Preschool                          | ____ (52) Weight training                         |
| ____ (14) Disc golf                | ____ (34) Playgrounds                        | ____ (53) Yoga class                              |
| ____ (15) Drama                    | ____ (35) Putt-Putt Golf                     | ____ (54) Education Classes                       |
| ____ (16) Equestrian/horse         | ____ (36) Racquetball                        | ____ (55) Other _____                             |
| ____ (17) Festivals/special events | ____ (37) Reading                            | ____ (56) Do not participate in<br>any activities |
| ____ (18) Fishing                  | ____ (38) Rock climbing                      |   |
| ____ (19) Fitness/jazzercise       |  |   |

6. Which **FOUR** of the activities and recreation programs listed in Question #5 do you and members of your household participate in the most often? (Please write in the numbers in the space below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> choices by using the numbers from the list in question #5 above.)

Most often (1) \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Most often (2) \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Most often \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Most often (4) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you or other members of your household participated in any recreation programs offered in by Belmont P&R during the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes, (proceed to Question #7a)

\_\_\_\_ (2) No, but I am aware that recreation programs are offered in the City (proceed to Q #8)

\_\_\_\_ (3) No, because I did not know that recreation programs are offered in the City (proceed to Q #9)

---

- 
- 7a. Overall, how would you rate the recreational programs offered by Belmont?
- |                   |              |                    |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| ___ (1) Excellent | ___ (3) Fair | ___ (5) Don't know |
| ___ (2) Good      | ___ (4) Poor |                    |

8. Have you or members of your household visited the J. Paul Ford Recreation Center or City Parks in the past year?

(Park/Facility Sites: Belmont Central Elementary, Stowe, Kevin Loftin Riverfront, Davis, Linford, Ebb Gantt, Frady, Reid, Rocky Branch, Rodden)

- \_\_\_ (1) Yes  
\_\_\_ (2) No

8a. Which park or facility in Belmont do you visit the most often? *(please write in the name and / or the location of the park)*

---

8b. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks/ facilities in Belmont you have visited?

- \_\_\_ (1) Excellent  
\_\_\_ (2) Good  
\_\_\_ (3) Fair (needs some improvements)  
\_\_\_ (4) Poor (need many improvements)  
\_\_\_ (5) Don't know; I have not visited a park in Belmont.

9. From the following list, please check ALL the organizations that you and members of your household use within the Belmont area for recreation and parks programs and facilities.

- \_\_\_ (01) State Parks  
\_\_\_ (02) Churches  
\_\_\_ (03) YMCA/YWCA  
\_\_\_ (04) Private youth sports leagues  
\_\_\_ (05) Private skating rinks, miniature golf  
\_\_\_ (06) Local Schools  
\_\_\_ (07) Neighborhood association / apartment / condominium development  
\_\_\_ (08) Private clubs (golf/tennis, health & fitness)  
\_\_\_ (09) Gaston County facilities  
\_\_\_ (10) Mecklenburg County facilities  
\_\_\_ (11) Other City's/Town's facilities (Cramerton, Gastonia Mt. Holly, please enter location)  
\_\_\_ (12) Other \_\_\_\_\_

10. Which of the following types of park and recreational facilities in Belmont have you and others in your household visited or used during the past 2 years? (Check all that apply)

- \_\_\_ (A) Baseball fields  
\_\_\_ (B) Multi-purpose fields for football/soccer  
\_\_\_ (C) Softball Fields  
\_\_\_ (D) J. Paul Ford Recreation Center  
\_\_\_ (E) Meeting Facility (City Hall or GCC)  
\_\_\_ (F) Walking trails  
\_\_\_ (G) Playgrounds for children  
\_\_\_ (H) Tennis courts  
\_\_\_ (I) Basketball  
\_\_\_ (J) Picnic facilities and shelters  
\_\_\_ (K) Others \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Which of the parks facilities listed above do you and members of your household USE THE MOST OFTEN? [Please write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> choices using the letters from the list in Question #10 above.]

\_\_\_\_\_

Use most often

\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> most often

\_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> most often

\_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> most often

12. Do you think that well maintained parks enhanced the property value of surrounding homes?  
(Check one)  
\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes  
\_\_\_\_ (2) No  
\_\_\_\_ (3) Don't know

**Adequacy of Facilities provided by the City of Belmont:** *In this section, we would like your opinion regarding the adequacy of recreational facilities provided by the City.*

13. Indicate how you perceive the adequacy of the City facilities listed below by placing a ( ☐ ) in the appropriate box.

	Meets My Needs	Available but Inadequate for My Needs	Important But Not Available	Not Interested Do Not Utilize	No Opinion
a. Walking/Jogging/Fitness/Bicycle Paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Playgrounds or Tot Lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Water Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Baseball / Softball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. BMX off Road Mt. Bike trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Volleyball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Picnic Shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Single Family Picnic Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Benches / Sitting areas (people watching space)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Amphitheater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Of the previously mentioned facilities that do not adequately meet your needs, which are most needed in your area?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

15. What type facilities that are not listed above would you like to see added?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Thinking about the area in which you live, do you think that your area has adequate facilities compared to other areas in the City? (Check one)

\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes, we have adequate recreation facilities  
\_\_\_\_ (2) No, we do not have adequate facilities  
\_\_\_\_ (3) Undecided



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### **Adequacy of Recreation Programs offered by the City of Belmont:**

Next, we would like your opinion regarding the adequacy of RECREATION PROGRAMS that are available to you (your child) regardless of where those programs are **Please indicate how you perceive the adequacy of the recreation programs listed below by placing a ( X ) in the appropriate box.**

	Meets My Needs	Available but Inadequate for My Needs	Important But Not Available	Not Interested/ Do Not Utilize	No Opinion
a. Fitness, Mind and Body Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Nature/Environmental Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Outdoor Adventure Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Youth Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Adult Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Arts and Cultural Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Dance / Step Show / Cheerleading Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Summer Day Camp Programs ( )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Open Public Pools / Swim Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. After School Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Outdoor Concert Series	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Special Events/Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Open Gyms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Child Development Activities (tutoring, studybuddy, computer, gaming, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Wildlife Education Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Swimming Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Pre-Kindergarten Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Teen Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s. Adult Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t. Activities for Older Adults /Seniors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u. Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**17. Are there other recreation programs in which you (your child) would like to participate, but cannot for some reason?**

- ☐ No  
☐ Yes                      Program Name/Type\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what is the most important reason why you do not participate? ( "X" only one )

- ☐ Not available  
☐ Too expensive  
☐ Safety Concerns  
☐ Physical limitations (Please specify)  
☐ Other (Please specify)

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**18. To which of the following private recreation facilities do you belong? (“X” all that apply)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness/Health Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Club  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YMCA/YWCA           | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Club  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boys/Girls Club     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church              | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not belong to any private recreation facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swim Club           |   |

**19. Thinking about the area that you live; do you believe that your area has adequate park and recreation programs? ( “X” one)**

- Yes, my area has adequate park and recreation programs availability  
No, my area does not have adequate park and recreation program availability  
Undecided

**20. In your opinion, how important is the contribution of parks and recreation to the quality of life in Belmont? (“X” one)**

- ☐ Very important  
☐ Important  
☐ Moderately Important  
☐ Slightly Important  
☐ Not Important

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**Preferences for Park and Recreation Funding**

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**21. Compared to other priorities for Belmont, how important do you think it is for the City to fund improvements to parks and recreation facilities over the next 10-years?**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Very important     | <input type="checkbox"/> Not important |
| Somewhat important | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know    |

**22. What is your preference in funding park improvements or new recreation and parks facilities?**

- ☐ Bond Referendum  
☐ Corporate sponsor/ Partnerships  
☐ Recreation Fees  
☐ Development Fees  
☐ Other

**23. Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel park and recreation programs and facilities should be funded? (Please select one)**

- ☐ Mostly from tax dollars and some from user fees  
☐ Mostly from user fees and some from tax dollars  
☐ 100% from taxes – no fees should be charged to use recreation facilities and programs  
☐ 100% from user fees  
☐ Don't know

**24. Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel the City should fund maintenance of park and recreation facilities? (Please select one)**

- ☐ Mostly from tax dollars and some from user fees  
☐ Mostly from user fees and some from tax dollars  
☐ 100% from taxes – no fees should be charged  
☐ 100% from user fees  
☐ Don't know

25. There are a variety of ways that the City can finance park and recreation facilities please indicate how you feel about each option listed

	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Don't know
a. Increase facility/program fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Increased non-resident user fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Property tax assessment (defined timeframe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Special event fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. ½-Cent Sales tax (50 cents per \$100 spent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. ¼-Cent Sales Tax (25 cents per \$100 spent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. ⅛-Cent Sales Tax (12.5 cents per \$100 spent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. Several improvements can be made to existing Belmont park facilities. For each improvement, please indicate whether you think it is very important, somewhat important, or not important for the City to address and improve?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know
a. Increase the number of parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Adding gym space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Renovating existing outdoor athletic fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Renovating playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Adding an indoor play park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Adding more picnic areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Adding space to the Ford Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Walking, jogging and bicycle trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Expanding existing parks and open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Adding swimming pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Add other water features such as splash parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Develop greenways & improve pedestrian travel to/from parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Belmont Parks & Recreation may consider developing and maintaining NEW recreation and parks facilities. For each item listed below, please indicate whether you think it is very important, somewhat important, or not important for us to develop

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know
a. Acquire land for future park development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Multipurpose trails (biking/skating/jogging/walking)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Outdoor pools / splash pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Environmental education/nature facility w/interpretive programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Indoor rec-center /gym w/exercise & Sr. Activity Ctr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Handicap accessible playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Extreme sports park (BMX, skateboarding, in-line skating, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Additional athletic fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time.*

For providing any additional written comments, please use a separate piece of paper and staple/clip to this survey.

