



KIWANIS PARK MASTER PLAN

RUTHERFORDTON, NC » WINTER 2019

DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORTH CAROLINA PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND STANDARDS

KIWANIS PARK

RUTHERFORDTON, NC

KIWANIS PARK MASTER PLAN

CREATED FOR TOWN OF RUTHERFORDTON & RUTHERFORD COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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KIWANIS PARK

RUTHERFORDTON, NC

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Kiwanis Park Master Plan serves as a guide for the redevelopment of Kiwanis Park in Rutherfordton, NC. This project is result of a partnership between the Town of Rutherfordton and the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority (RCTDA), which recognizes the park as key asset along the Purple Martin Greenway and Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. This chapter examines the project background and outlines plan goals, process, and organization.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- 01 GENERAL PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 02 PROJECT GOALS
- 03 PLANNING PROCESS
- 04 PLAN ORGANIZATION





MAP 1 KIWANIS PARK LOCATION

Kiwanis Park is located just north of Rutherfordton's historic Main Street. The park serves as a gateway to those entering town from the north along Highway 221.



Background

The Town of Rutherfordton has a population of approximately 4,213 and is located in central Rutherford County for which it serves as the county seat. Rutherfordton is located along Highway 221 and Cleghorn Creek, a major tributary of the Broad River, extends parallel to Main Street to the east. Kiwanis Park is located just north of Rutherfordton's Main Street and is bisected by Cleghorn Creek.

Kiwanis Park is approximately four acres in size and was donated to the Town of Rutherfordton by the Kiwanis Club of Rutherfordton in the mid-90s. Subsequently, the town provided basic clean up efforts to establish a passive park and green. Local churches, boy scouts, and citizens seeking a downtown green frequently use the park. With the future development of the Purple Martin Greenway, which is planned along Cleghorn Creek, local leaders and community stakeholders seek to reimagine the park, its uses, and how it can further support downtown revitalization efforts and trail development goals of the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority (RCTDA).

The RCTDA's capital infrastructure master plan, Rutherford Bound, calls for extensive greenway and trail development throughout its identified Main Street Tourism Region, which includes Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Forest City. Kiwanis Park is identified within the plan as a priority for redevelopment. This park is situated along the Purple Martin Greenway, which will connect to the 13.5-mile Thermal Belt Rail Trail and ultimately to more than 40 miles of planned greenways through the county. A major objective of the RCTDA is to facilitate asset development, such as Kiwanis Park, along existing and planned greenway corridors. For this reason, the RCTDA assisted with funding for this planning study and is committed to its implementation.

“The RCTDA's capital infrastructure master plan, Rutherford Bound, calls for extensive greenway and trail development throughout its identified Main Street Tourism Region, which includes Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Forest City. Kiwanis Park is identified within the plan as a priority for redevelopment.”



PROJECT GOALS

This plan meets requirements of the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in anticipation that the Town of Rutherfordton will obtain grant assistance to realize the vision described herein.

- 1. Quality of Life.** *Improve quality of life for Rutherfordton residents by improving recreation assets, expanding recreation programming opportunities, and by establishing a refuge in downtown Rutherfordton to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors;*
- 2. Tourism Development & Economic Impact:** *Develop Kiwanis Park into a destination asset along the Purple Martin Greenway, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, and the county's ever-expanding trail network;*
- 3. Poised for Grant Funding:** *Adhere to planning guidelines required by the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to ensure grant competitiveness. PARTF provides grants to help create public parks throughout the state.*



EXHIBIT: 1

PLANNING PROCESS TIMELINE

PHASE 1 /// DECEMBER–JANUARY 2018

Project Launch & Direction Setting

- » Kick-off Meeting
- » Discussion with Local Leaders



PHASE 2 /// JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2018

Stakeholder Engagement & Initial Concepts

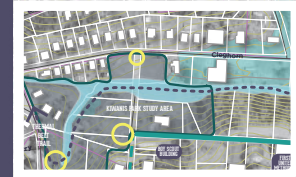
- » Project Oversight Committee Meeting
- » Draft Concepts



PHASE 3 /// FEBRUARY–MAY 2018

Analysis & Public Engagement

- » Council Workshop
- » Public Meeting



PHASE 4 /// MAY–JUNE 2018

Analysis & Public Engagement

- » Public Meeting
- » Council Presentation
- » Final Plan



KIWANIS PARK

RUTHERFORDTON, NC

2 CHAPTER

SITE ANALYSIS AND DESIGN DETERMINANTS



2 Site Analysis and Design Determinants

This chapter examines existing conditions within and surrounding Kiwanis Park that influence the park planning process and outcomes. First, the Kiwanis Park context is assessed, including its relationship to Main Street, Highway 221, nearby waterways, and other surrounding features. Secondly, the park’s natural features, assets, and constraints are highlighted. Lastly, a description is provided of existing built features located on or near the property. Collectively, these elements establish an objective perspective of Kiwanis Park and create a framework from which the Kiwanis Park Steering Committee can provide plan direction.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- 01 STUDY AREA CONTEXT
- 02 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- 03 BUILT ENVIRONMENT





Early in the planning process the consultant team, staff, and steering committee discuss opportunities and constraints that will influence plan development.

Study Area Context

Kiwanis Park is located on the northern end of Rutherfordton's downtown. The property is bounded by Cleghorn Creek on the east, Green Street on the north, Main Street on the west, and Toms Street on the south.

The park is located along the planned Purple Martin Greenway, which will connect to the Thermal Belt Rail Trail approximately 0.71 miles to the north. Five churches, several downtown businesses, and private homes surround the property. A local Boy Scout hut is located to the southwest and the county planning department is located to the southeast, both fronting Toms Street.

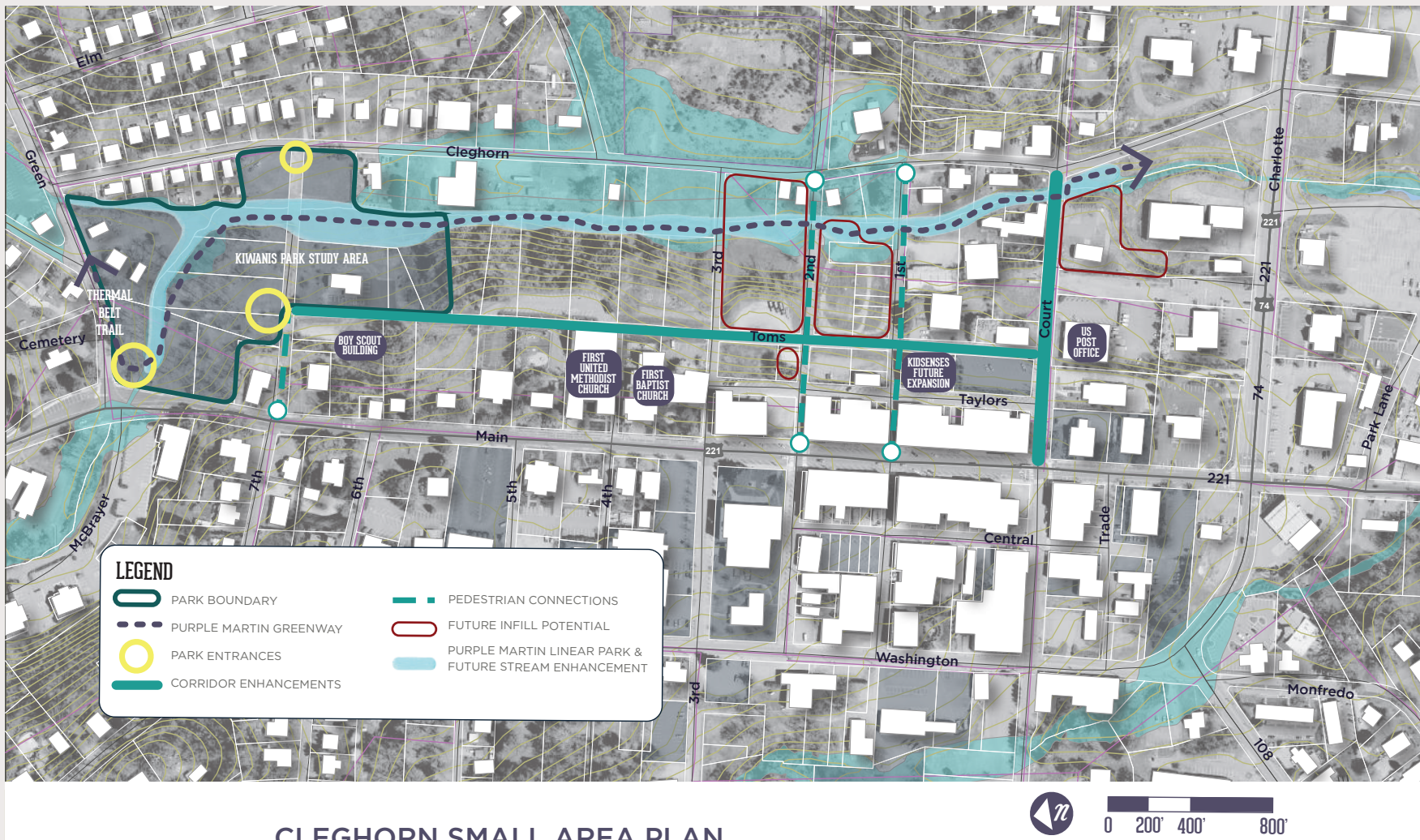


The local Boy Scout hut is located adjacent to Kiwanis Park.



Kiwanis Park is located on the northern end of Rutherfordton's downtown.





KIWANIS PARK CONTEXT

Kiwanis Park anchors the northern end of Rutherfordton's downtown core area. The property is bounded by Cleghorn Creek on the east, Green Street on the north, Main Street on the west, and Toms Street on the south.



RELATIONSHIP TO DOWNTOWN RUTHERFORDTON

Kiwanis Park establishes the northern border of the downtown core.

The park borders three roads that extend south into the downtown: Main Street (Hwy. 221), Toms Street, and Cleghorn Street. Green Street borders the park to the north. After NCDOT completes the Highway 221 bypass, new opportunities will emerge to further connect downtown and Kiwanis Park.

PURPLE MARTIN GREENWAY AND OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Approximately three miles of the Purple Martin Greenway along Cleghorn Creek are now complete. The town is currently working to secure final trail easements that would provide a north extension into downtown and ultimately connect Kiwanis Park. The downtown portion of the Purple Martin Greenway, which includes Kiwanis Park, is

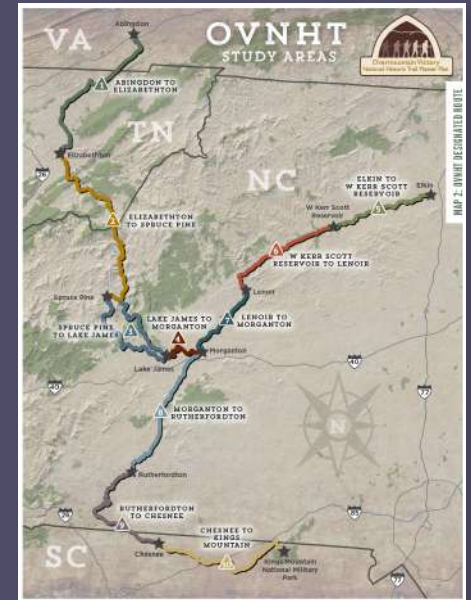
within the US Park Service's Overmountain Victory National Historic Corridor. US National Park representatives are working throughout North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and South Carolina to implement the 440-mile Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) that celebrates the 1780 patriot march and defeat of the British at the Battle of Kings Mountain.



Main Street Park, downtown Rutherfordton, NC.

EXHIBIT: 2 RUTHERFORD COUNTY OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

NPS OVNHT Study Areas 8 and 9 unite in downtown Rutherfordton. These two study areas are two of the five remaining areas yet to have NPS OVNHT master plans. Rutherfordton and its partners should work to develop official NPS master plans, which will expand opportunities for grant funding.



Natural Environment

TOPOGRAPHY

The property's topography is flat to moderately sloped with elevations ranging from 900' – 920'. Flat to gentle slope areas are located in the east and north east sections of the park. Moderate slopes exist on the park's property near the intersection of Green St. and HWY 221; along the park's boundary on Cleghorn St.; and in the southwest corner of the property.



Kiwanis Park has gentle slopes and is one of the more flat areas within downtown Rutherfordton.

SOILS, VEGETATION, & SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The park property consists of two main soil types: Madison clay loam and Udorthents. Madison clay loam is mainly located on the western half of the property, with a small portion along the northeast border; Udorthents is located on the eastern half of the property.

One of the park's signature features is a mature deciduous tree canopy throughout the core green and along the unnamed tributary. Tree species found at Kiwanis Park include northern hardwoods such as hickory, oak, maple, willow, tulip poplar and evergreens including magnolia and holly. There are some invasive honey suckle located along the stream banks.

There are no identified Significant Natural Communities on the park property.

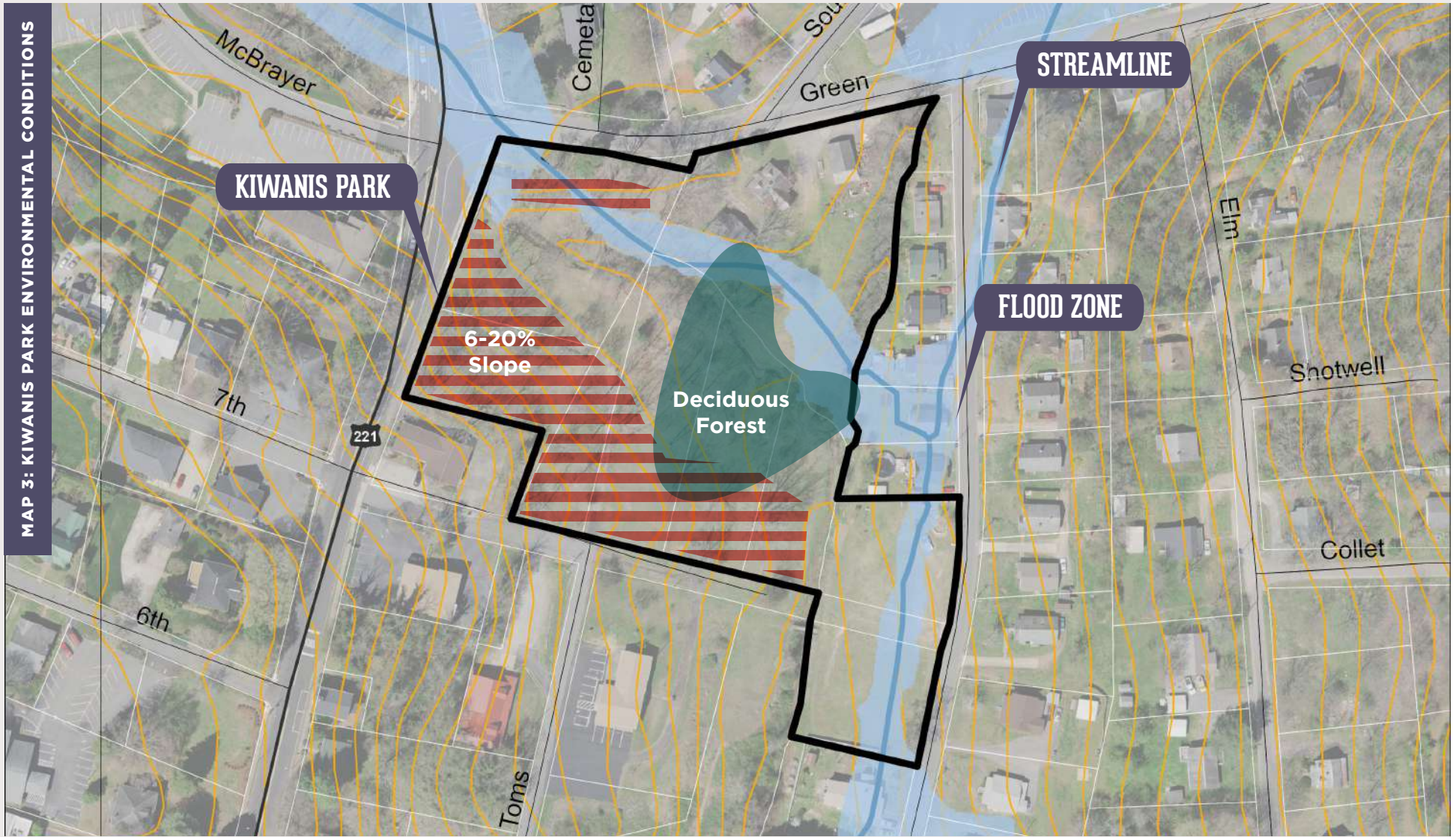
HYDROLOGY & WETLANDS

Two creeks run through the park property: Cleghorn Creek and an unnamed tributary. Cleghorn Creek runs south through the eastern portion of the park. The unnamed tributary runs southeast along the northeastern property boundary into Cleghorn Creek.

There are no identified wetlands within the property boundaries.



Opportunities for stream bank repair exists along both Cleghorn Creek and the unnamed tributary within park boundaries. Repairing the eroding stream bank can help manage water quality and create safer creek access points. Stream bank repair also opens up potential grant funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF).



KIWANIS PARK: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

4' CONTOUR INTERVAL



Built Environment

Kiwanis Park has limited development and few structures. This section describes the existing built environment, facilities, and public access areas.

EXISTING STRUCTURES

SIGNAGE PLAZA AND FENCE

The signage and entrance plaza is located at the corner of Main Street (Hwy. 221) and Green Street.

This corner is a major gateway to downtown Rutherfordton, but also serves as the park entrance and includes a Kiwanis Park sign. A decorative metal fence is located behind the sign and plaza and extends south along Main Street.



BRIDGES

The park features two small bridges. The primary bridge extends over the unnamed tributary and provides access to the core park area from the primary north entrance plaza located on Green Street. The second bridge extends over Cleghorn Creek, providing access between Cleghorn Street and the core park area. Both bridges are in fair condition and will need to be assessed in relationship to the stream restoration project underway for the unnamed tributary and Cleghorn Creek; the enhancement plan could require longer bridges to span a wider floodplain.



KID TRACKS SCAVENGER HUNT MAIN STREET SAFARI

Kiwanis Park is part of the Rutherfordton Historic Main Street TRACK trail, which is a .5-mile walk that features historic landmarks dating back to the Revolutionary War. The TRACK trail sign is located on the north entrance of the park near Green Street.



The TRACK trail sign is located on the north entrance of the park near Green Street.

SWINGS & PICNIC TABLES

An old swing set is located near the confluence of the unnamed tributary and Cleghorn Creek. There are several clusters of picnic tables, mostly located on the west side of the park under the tree canopy and near the unnamed tributary.

EXISTING BUILDINGS

One commercial and two residential buildings are located in the park's northeast corner along Greene Street.



The project steering committee expressed the need to remove the old swing set located at the park.

UTILITIES

A municipal sewer line runs along the unnamed tributary. Two manholes can be observed on either side of the bridge near Green Street. Any future restroom facility can be accommodated with public water and sewer infrastructure.



A municipal sewer line runs along the unnamed tributary.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARKING

There are three public access points to Kiwanis Park, including Green Street; Toms Street; and Cleghorn Street. Green Street provides the park's only formal parking area, which includes approximately five on-street parking spaces. Informal parking is provided for on Toms Street, which serves as a major entrance for pedestrians entering the park from downtown. Cleghorn Street provides public access, but there are no formal parking areas or trails.



Informal parking is provided for on Toms Street, which serves as a major entrance for pedestrians entering the park from downtown.



3 CHAPTER

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DRAFT PLAN



3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & DRAFT PLAN

This chapter outlines citizen input obtained throughout the planning process, which was led by a council-appointed Steering Committee. The final park master plan was guided by the insight of this diverse community group, combined with the results of a town-wide recreation needs survey and a public planning workshop. This chapter provides a concise overview of the recreation survey, steering committee meetings, and the public workshop. This chapter includes two early plan concepts and the draft plan presented at the public workshop.

IN THIS CHAPTER

01 RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY

02 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND DRAFT PLAN



RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY & RELATION TO EXISTING FACILITIES

NEEDS SURVEY

The Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, on behalf of the Town of Rutherfordton, administered a parks and recreation needs survey in fall 2017. The survey examined community recreation needs and wants for the entire town. 653 surveys were completed, and the Kiwanis Park Steering Committee used this information to guide decision-making. The survey's top four activities of interest as identified by Rutherfordton citizens align with key priorities for Kiwanis Park. The complete survey is found in Appendix A.

The Recreation Needs Survey and steering committee meetings unveiled a clear vision for Kiwanis Park: create an exceptional downtown passive park with open space, trails, picnicking, and places for kids to explore.

EXISTING FACILITIES

Kiwanis Park will diversify Rutherfordton's recreation offerings and complement Crestview Park, the Town's large, active recreation facility. Crestview provides for softball, baseball, basketball, and other recreation amenities. Crestview Park and Kiwanis Park will be connected via Cleghorn Creek and the Purple Martin Greenway.

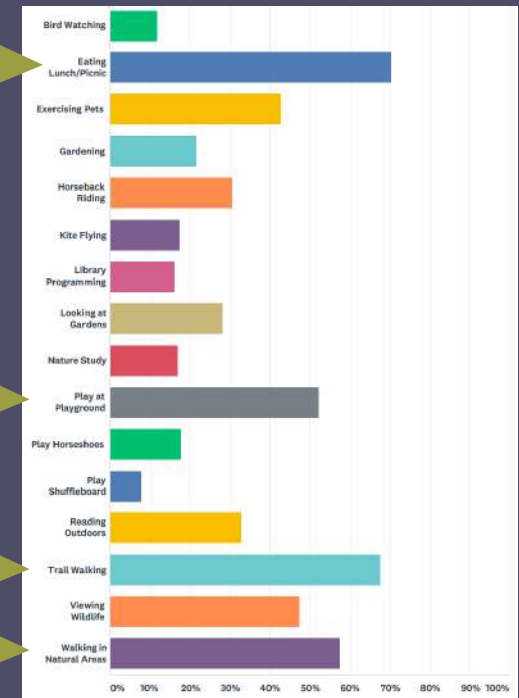


Crestview Park provides for softball, baseball, basketball, and other major recreation offerings. Kiwanis Park will diversify Rutherfordton's recreation offerings, providing for a downtown passive park facility.

EXHIBIT: 3 PRIMARY RECREATION NEEDS

Q: WHICH LEISURE ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INTERESTED IN? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWERED: 627 SKIPPED: 38



Kiwanis Park provides for the top four activities of interest among Rutherfordton citizens.

- 441 Votes: Eating lunch/ Picnicking
- 424 Votes: Trail Walking
- 360 Votes: Walking in Natural Areas
- 327 Votes: Play at Playground



Public Meetings and Draft Plan

The section provides an overview of three major public engagement meetings. Two meetings were conducted alongside the Council-appointed Project Oversight Committee (POC). The first meeting (December 2017) was a general direction-setting meeting in which the POC brainstormed park opportunities. During the second meeting (February 2018), the consultant team presented to the POC two preliminary draft park concepts; the POC then provided clear direction for the final master plan. The final public workshop (March 2018) was advertised to the public. During this meeting the consultant team presented the online survey findings, an overview of the two previous POC meetings, presented a draft master plan, and gleaned final citizen comments to create the final plan. This section provides an overview of each of these three meetings.

MEETING #1: DIRECTION SETTING WITH PROJECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE /// DECEMBER 6, 2017

The consultant team hosted a direction-setting meeting with the POC on December 6, 2017. The purpose of this meeting was to glean an understanding of key opportunities and constraints associated with Kiwanis Park. The meeting was facilitated using a “focused conversation” methodology and included three primary question categories: park history; existing facilities; and future programming.

EXHIBIT: 4

DIRECTION-SETTING MEETING SUMMARY

PARK HISTORY

- » Once an unbuildable piece of property with unsafe ledge along sidewalk.
- » Donated by former teacher and another family to Kiwanis in 80s for a park.
- » Kiwanis donated it to the Town in late 80s/early 90s because it was overgrown.
- » Town cleaned up, graded, and added fencing, creating a family-oriented passive space.
- » Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have helped make improvements over time and currently use the space to recreate.

EXISTING FACILITIES

- » 3.7 Acres
- » Unnamed tributary and Cleghorn Creek confluence
- » Mostly blank canvas
- » Kids Track Trail
- » Mature tree canopy
- » “Tired” playground
- » Picnic tables scattered throughout
- » No clear parking
- » Entrance plaza on corner

FUTURE PROGRAMMING & FACILITY OPPORTUNITIES

- » Open play
- » Creek side play
- » Movies in park
- » Natural playground
- » Bathrooms
- » Large shelter (could provide for live music too)
- » Better parking
- » Purple Martin Greenway will bisect park
- » Consider a dog park
- » Celebrate the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail



MEETING #2: PRELIMINARY PLAN PRESENTATION WITH PROJECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE /// DECEMBER 6, 2017

Based on information gleaned from the first meeting and an in-depth site analysis, the consultant team presented two preliminary draft plans to the POC. The consultant's objective was to generate ideation among the POC by presenting two concepts with a range of plan options. The ultimate goal was to establish consensus among the diverse group pertaining to park facilities and locations.

After nearly two hours, the POC reached consensus. Points of agreement included the following:

- 1 a central open green that removed a limited number of trees;**
- 2 an experiential playground;**
- 3 a single large shelter;**
- 4 4-5 smaller shelters;**
- 5 a paved walking path;**
- 6 a trailhead parking area for the Purple Martin Greenway; and**
- 7 a new entrance plaza.**

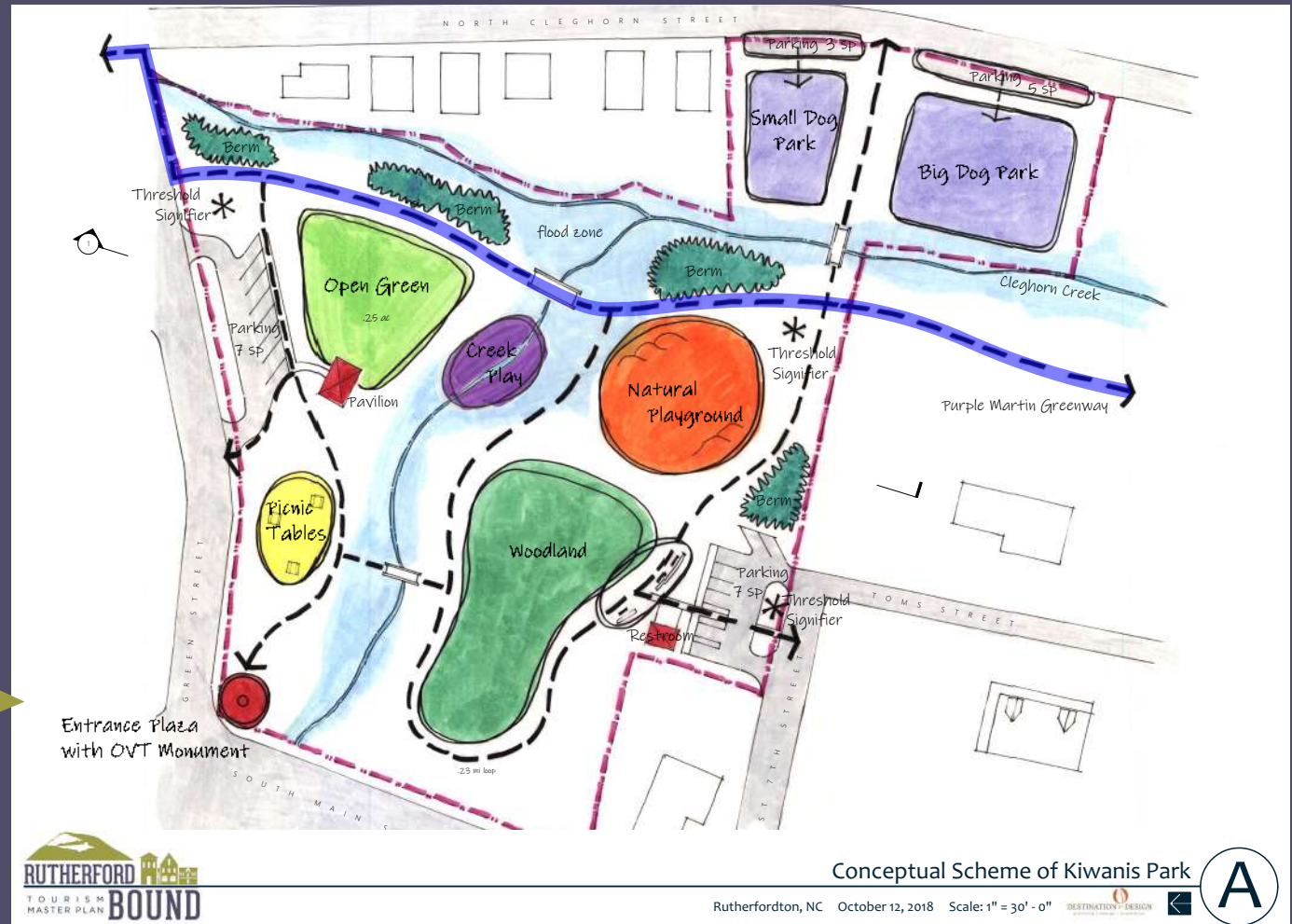
The final bathroom location was the only area in which there was not consensus; the consultant team agreed to present two options at the forthcoming public workshop (see highlights of next section).



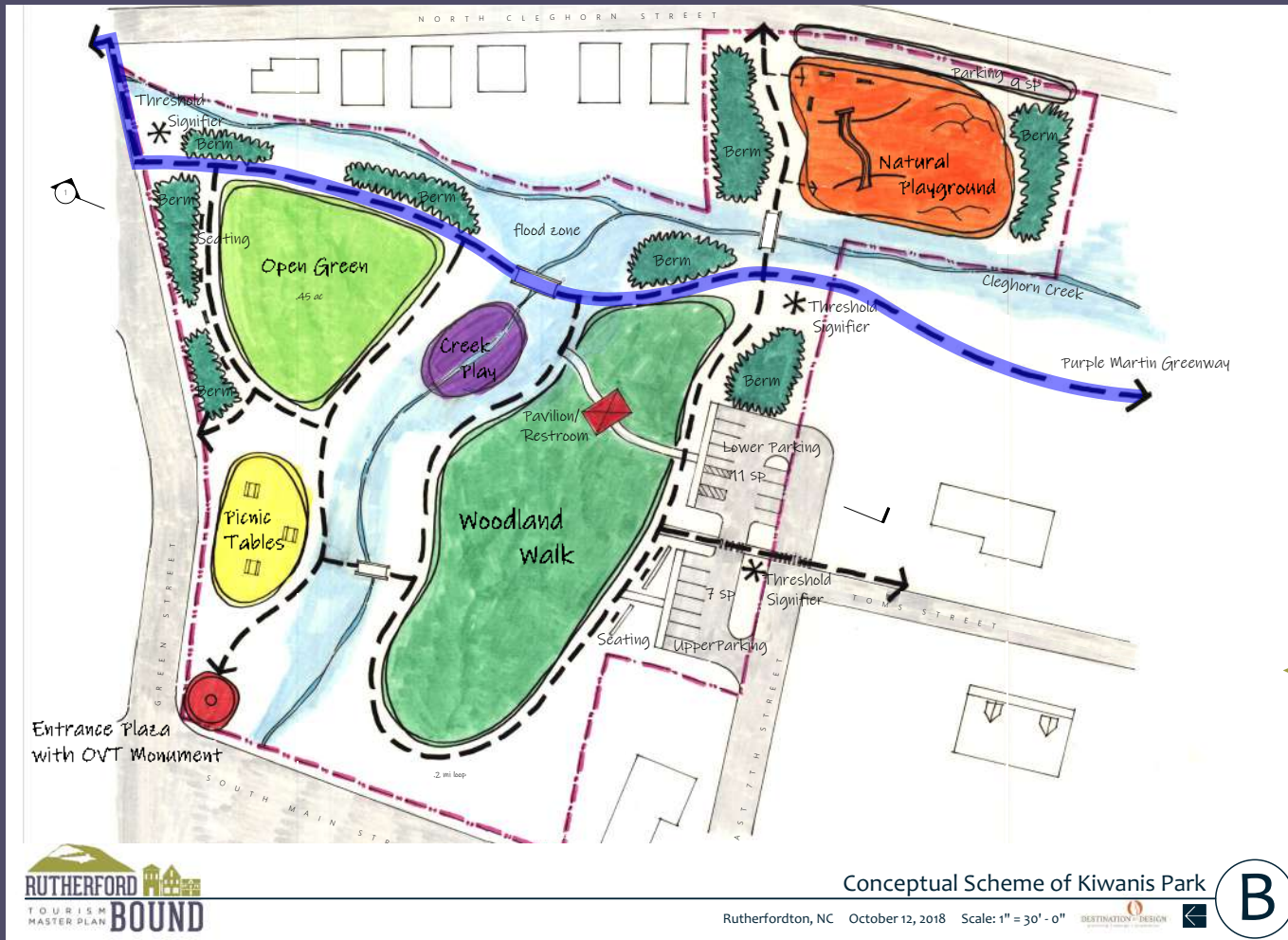
Doug Barrick, Rutherfordton Town Manager, leads a discussion among the Project Oversight Committee.

EXHIBIT: 5
ALTERNATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAN CONCEPTS

Concept One features an Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail sculpture at the north entrance plaza. The park is anchored by a large open green north in the northeast corner and a woodland area in the park core. A new parking area along Green St. is shown, but this idea was rejected by the POC.



(ALTERNATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAN CONCEPTS CONTINUED)



Concept Two features a large natural playground along North Cleghorn St.; this idea was ultimately rejected along with the idea of a central restroom and shelter combination. Concept Two was generally less preferred compared to Concept One.



MEETING #3: DRAFT PLAN PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP

/// MARCH 20, 2018

After extensive advertising through the Town's marquee, social media sites, and email lists, approximately thirty (30) citizens attended the Kiwanis Park Master Plan Workshop. The consultant team presented an overview of the complete planning process, including the site analysis and the program and facility "wish list" developed by the Project Oversight Committee (POC). The goal of the meeting was to present a draft master plan and ensure that the POC correctly interpreted the online survey results and general citizen sentiments toward the future Kiwanis Park.



The Kiwanis Park meeting was advertised through social media, email lists, and on the Town's marquee.



The public workshop was attended by approximately 30 citizens and held at the Boy Scout hut located adjacent to the park.



The workshop started with citizens reviewing the draft park master plan and the proposed facilities.



EXHIBIT:6

DRAFT MASTER PLAN



The plan draft presented at the public workshop was the result of specific direction from the Project Oversight Committee. The plan features an open green, large shelter, the Purple Martin Greenway, and an experiential playground. A renewed entrance plaza on the north corner provides an opportunity to display a monument dedicated to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. On the east side of Cleghorn Creek is a dog park, greenway trailhead, and parking area for the park. The draft plan presented at the workshop displayed two restroom options: one is located at the trailhead and the other at the new Toms Street park entrance. Participants at the workshop preferred the bathroom location at Toms Street. This change is reflected in the final plan (next chapter).

MEETING #4: PLAN UPDATE PRESENTATION

/// DECEMBER 5, 2018

In October of 2018, the Town of Rutherfordton acquired a tract of land directly northeast of the existing Kiwanis Park property. This new tract was incorporated into the Kiwanis Park Conceptual Master Plan and presented to the POC on Dec. 5, 2018.

The POC approved the addition of an open green, a northeast entrance plaza and shelter, a “Trail to Victory” council ring, a bridge over the unnamed tributary, and additional walking trails.

The committee agreed to modify the Main Street entrance plaza to allow for new entry signage and a small seating area, but rejecting the proposed OVT sculpture.

Once approved by the POC, the updated plan was presented to Town Council at a public meeting.

EXHIBIT: 7

DECEMBER 2018 PLAN UPDATE



4 CHAPTER

RECOMMENDATIONS



4 RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter features the final Kiwanis Park Master Plan, including a description of all program and physical elements. The overview of plan recommendations is organized according to three sub-planning areas that highlight distinctive areas of the park. Collectively, the Kiwanis Park vision is realized: create an exceptional downtown passive park with open space, trails, picnicking, and places for kids to explore.

IN THIS CHAPTER

01 FINAL MASTER PLAN

02 MASTER PLAN PROGRAM AND

PHYSICAL NEEDS



FINAL MASTER PLAN

PARK FACILITIES AND PRECEDENTS

Kiwanis Park will be a passive park facility anchored by an open green, trails, creek access, and an experiential playground.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND CONCEPT



CREEK PLAY AREA CONCEPT WITH BOULDERS FOR HOPPING



PRAYER SHELTER CONCEPT



EXHIBIT: 8

FINAL KIWANIS PARK MASTER PLAN

The final Kiwanis Park Master Plan celebrates the original spirit of the initial land donation to the Kiwanis and then to the Town of Rutherfordton: create a beautiful and accessible passive park in the heart of downtown Rutherfordton.



EXHIBIT: 9

KIWANIS PARK MASTER PLAN SUB AREAS



The park master plan is organized into three distinct planning sections. The subsequent pages provide an overview of programming and physical needs associated with each section.



MASTER PLAN PROGRAM AND PHYSICAL NEEDS

This section provides an overview of the recommended program and physical needs associated with each of the three planning sections found in the final master plan, including: A) Kiwanis Core; B) Trailhead and Dog Park; and C) Main Street Entrance Plaza.

SECTION A: KIWANIS CORE

The Core planning section serves as the heart of Kiwanis Park, offering key park elements including large open greens, an experiential playground, shelters, and a restroom facility. A brief description of each element is provided.



ENTRANCE PLAZA & PAVILION

An entrance plaza with signage, bike racks, visitor orientation, restrooms, and a pavilion will be located in the northeastern corner of the park.

OPEN SPACE

Two open green spaces are located within the park. These spaces will require some tree removal and a small retaining wall near Toms Street. The central open green is flanked on either side by a large shelter and the experiential playground. The northeast green is flanked on the north by the council ring and entrance plaza with pavilion. Fencing is provided north of the open green along Green St. Vegetative screening is provided along the park's northeastern boundary, to maintain the privacy of nearby homes.

MULTI-USE PATH

The Purple Martin Greenway will traverse the park's eastern boundary. This trail will be paved and 10' wide. A narrower 8' wide paved path is proposed to encircle the open greens and provide access to other park amenities. A bridge will be required to cross the unnamed tributary.

EXPERIENTIAL PLAYGROUND

An experiential playground will be located in the northern section of the park, near the confluence of Cleghorn Creek and the unnamed tributary. This playground will consist of natural play elements that should reflect the natural environment while providing experiential play and learning opportunities.



SECTION A (CONT.)

SHELTERS

A large shelter will be erected in the west edge of the open green. The shelter provide for picnic tables and large groups and serve as a band covering. Two small shelters are proposed within the core: one is located on the north side of Purple Martin Greenway and the other near the experiential playground

TRAIL TO VICTORY COUNCIL RING

The Trail to Victory Council Ring will be located west of the entrance plaza. The council ring will consist of a circular stone seating area, providing a compelling landscape for groups discussions and storytelling programming.

CREEK PLAY AREA

A Creek Play Area is provided along the unnamed tributary. This area will be developed as part of an ongoing stream enhancement project.

SECTION B: TRAILHEAD AND DOG PARK

Section B is located on the east side of the park between Cleghorn Street and Cleghorn Creek. This section is anchored by a major parking area and dog park. A brief description of each element is provided.

DOG PARK

A single dog park is planned east of Cleghorn Creek. Ideally, additional land would be acquired for this facility. However, this small ¼ acre will serve the downtown community well.

PARKING AND SIGNAGE

A single lane parking area offers 15 angled parking spaces along N Cleghorn St. This parking area will not only serve park users, but also those accessing the Purple Martin Greenway.

MULTI-USE PATH & BRIDGE

A multi-use path, serving as a Purple Martin Greenway connector, is provided along the edge of dog park fence. This connector will require a new bridge (approximately 30').



Kiwanis Park will serve as a major trailhead to the Purple Martin Greenway.

SECTION C: MAIN STREET ENTRANCE PLAZA

The Main Street Entrance Plaza will offer both an entry to Kiwanis Park and downtown Rutherfordton. The plaza will feature a Kiwanis Park sign, public area, and a seating area. A brief description of each element is provided.

ENTRANCE PLAZA

A renewed entrance plaza is proposed in the northwest corner of the park at the intersection of Green Street and Main Street. The plaza will feature improved landscaping and benches along existing sidewalk and fencing.

KIOSK & SIGNAGE

New entry signage and a visitor orientation kiosk will be located at the plaza, providing directional and regulatory information.

SHELTER

A small shelter is planned on the east side of greenway.



A visitor orientation kiosk will provide directional and regulatory information.



5 CHAPTER

IMPLEMENTATION



5 IMPLEMENTATION

Kiwanis Park will be well received among grant-making agencies that support general recreation development, trails and greenways, and water quality and access. All grants will require matching funds, which must come from the Town's general fund, private donors, or the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority. A specific grant procurement strategy will depend on how successfully the Town can secure matching funds. Nevertheless, this chapter establishes priorities for plan implementation, a summary of physical needs, and an associated budget. The final section of this chapter outlines specific grant funding agencies.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- 01 PRIORITIZATION, PHYSICAL NEEDS
SUMMARY, AND BUDGET
- 02 GRANT FUNDING PARTNERS MATRIX



PRIORITIZATION, PHYSICAL NEEDS SUMMARY, AND BUDGET

Each implementation phase reflects the overall organization of the master plan; if Kiwanis Park cannot be developed at once, the park should be phased accordingly: 1) Kiwanis Core; B) Trailhead and Dog Park; and C) Main Street Entrance Plaza.

PHASE 1: KIWANIS CORE

The master plan Core area is the foremost implementation priority. Features of this area include two open greens, an entrance plaza and pavilion, trail, a large shelter, and restroom facilities. These improvements will significantly increase user activity. The table below includes a summary of all physical improvements and their projected cost.



EXHIBIT: 10

PHASE 1: ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

Topographical Survey		LS		\$	8,500.00
Staking		LS		\$	4,500.00
Site Prep: Clearing, Grubbing, Erosion Control		LS		\$	25,000.00
Grading		LS		\$	35,000.00
Directional Signage & Regulatory Signage	5	EA	\$	800.00	\$ 4,000.00
Kiosks (with custom map design)	2	EA	\$	5,500.00	\$ 11,000.00
Landscaping (materials and installation)		LS			\$ 70,000.00
Large Shelter (28x28)	1	EA	\$	20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Visitor Orientation: Restrooms, Bike Rack, Entry Sign, Interpretive Signage		LS			\$ 155,000.00
Park Lighting	9	EA	\$	4,500.00	\$ 40,500.00
Parking Lot	3000	SF	\$	6.00	\$ 18,000.00
Paved Trails	14,144	SF	\$	6.00	\$ 84,864.00
Playground (natural playground elements)		LS			\$ 30,000.00
Retaining Structure	900	SF	\$	30.00	\$ 27,000.00
Small Shelters	2	EA	\$	8,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Stormwater Infrastructure		LS			\$ 7,800.00
OVT Council Ring & Interpretive Exhibit					\$ 23,500.00
Pedestrian Bridge	1	EA	\$	25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 605,664.00
Mobilization (3%)					\$ 18,169.92
Contingency (7%)					\$ 42,396.48
Engineering, Permitting & Design (8%)					\$ 48,453.12
					Phase 1 Total \$ 714,683.52



PHASE 2: TRAILHEAD AND DOG PARK

The Trailhead and Dog Park area will provide for needed parking, particularly after the completion of the Purple Martin Greenway. This master plan area also features a dog park, information kiosk, and a pedestrian bridge over Cleghorn Creek. The table below includes a summary of all physical improvement and their projected cost.



EXHIBIT: 11

PHASE 2: ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

Site Prep: Clearing, Grubbing, Erosion Control		LS		\$	9,000.00
Grading		LS		\$	18,000.00
Dog Park (including fencing, wash station, water fountain, benches, play equipment & signage)		LS		\$	58,000.00
Entry Sign				\$	8,000.00
Parking Lot	7980	SF	\$	6.00	\$ 47,880.00
Pedestrian Bridge	1	EA	\$	25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Subtotal				\$	165,880.00
Mobilization (3%)				\$	4,976.40
Contingency (7%)				\$	11,611.60
Engineering, Permitting & Design (14%)				\$	23,223.20
				Phase 2 Total	\$ 205,691.20



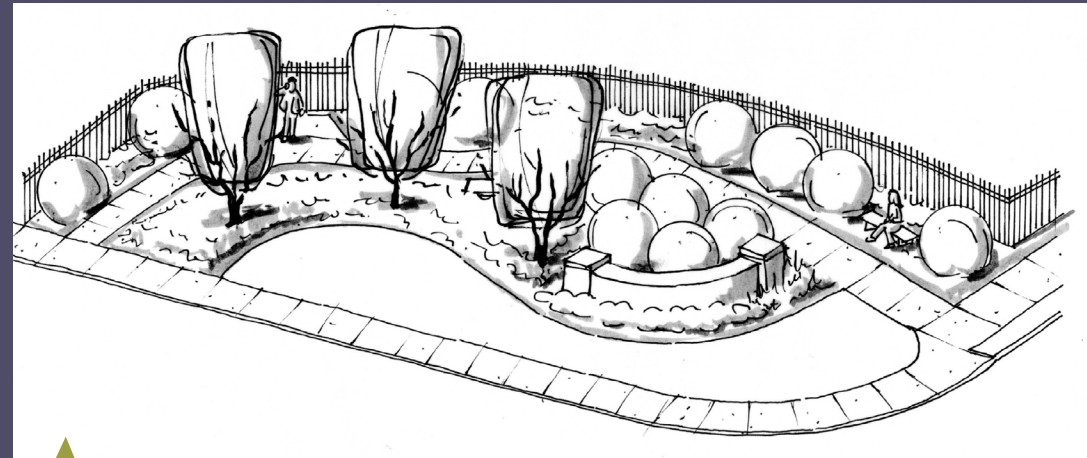
PHASE 3: MAIN STREET ENTRANCE PLAZA

The Main Street Entrance Plaza area provides an opportunity to improve the Highway 221 gateway into downtown Rutherfordton. This plan section will feature a new entry sign, small shelter, benches, and improved landscaping alongside the existing sidewalk and fencing. The table below includes a summary of all physical improvements and their projected cost.



EXHIBIT: 12

MAIN STREET ENTRANCE PLAZA CONCEPT



The Main Street entrance plaza will feature a new entry sign, benches, and improved landscaping.

EXHIBIT: 13

PHASE 3: ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

Site Prep: Clearing, Grubbing, Erosion Control	LS	\$	7,000.00
Grading	LS	\$	10,000.00
Entry Area	LS	\$	45,000.00
Small Seating Area		\$	12,000.00
Small Shelter		\$	8,000.00
Entry Sign		\$	8,000.00
Subtotal		Subtotal	\$ 90,000.00
Mobilization (3%)		\$	2,700.00
Contingency (7%)		\$	6,300.00
Engineering, Permitting & Design (14%)		\$	12,600.00
		Phase 3 Total	\$ 111,600.00



GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GRANT FUNDING

A specific grant procurement strategy will depend on how successfully the Town can secure matching funds. Often, grants can be leveraged “against each other,” creating a matching funds source without the contribution of any local dollars. This document was prepared according to standards development by the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), and this grant source should anchor any grant procurement strategy developed by the Town of Rutherfordton.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town should consider the following as it works to implement the

Kiwanis Park Master Plan:

- 1** Place Kiwanis Park within the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan; this will strengthen your PARTF application;
- 2** If secured, PARTF grants can be implemented over a three (3) year period. To navigate the PARTF grant cycle and obtain a grant contract will take nearly a year; for budgeting purposes, note that fiscal impacts upon the Town can be spread across these four (4) years; and
- 3** Explore using the Town’s current stream enhancement grant for Cleghorn Creek as PARTF matching funds.

GRANT FUNDING

Kiwanis Park will compete well among three (3) grant programs managed by North Carolina: NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund; NC Recreation Trails Program; and NC Water Resources. Also, efforts should be made to secure funding from Rutherford County’s RHI Legacy Foundation. A

summary of these funding sources is provided in the table below.

EXHIBIT: 14

POSSIBLE GRANT FUNDING FOR KIWANIS PARK

Partnership Funding Agency	Rutherford Bound Implications	Maximum Amount	Matching Funds Required	Deadlines
NC Water Resources (NCWR) (www.ncwater.org)	River access areas or greenways along rivers	N/A	50%	January 1st and June 1st
Recreation Trails Program (RTP) (ncparks.gov/About/grants/main.php)	All types of trails and greenways	\$100,000.00	25%	February 1st
Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) (ncparks.gov/About/grants/main.php)	All types of parks, trails, and recreation facilities	\$500,000.00	50%	February 1st
RHI Legacy Foundation	Two Major Focus Areas: Active Living and Healthy Eating	N/A	N/A	N/A





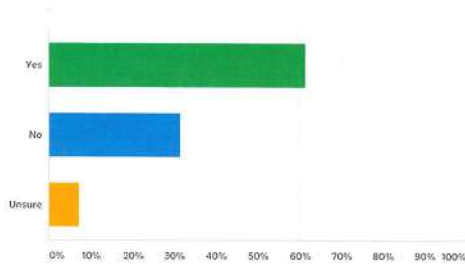
APPENDIX



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (FALL 2017)

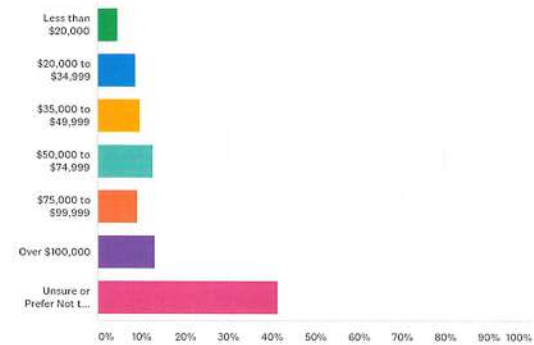
Survey Results

Question 1: Do you live within the Rutherfordton town limits?
Answered: 645 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Yes	61.24%	395
No	31.47%	203
Unsure	7.29%	47
TOTAL		645

Question 2: What was your approximate household income in 2016?
Answered: 635 Skipped: 30



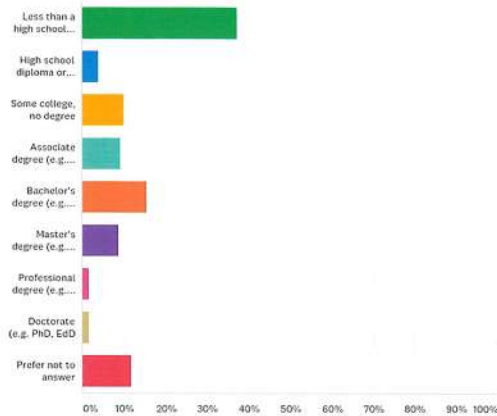
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Less than \$20,000	4.57%	29
\$20,000 to \$34,999	8.82%	56
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9.92%	63
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.76%	81
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9.29%	59
Over \$100,000	13.23%	84
Unsure or Prefer Not to Answer	41.42%	263
TOTAL		635



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Question 3: What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? (if you are currently enrolled in school, please indicate the highest degree you have received).

Answered: 638 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	PERCENTAGE	RESPONSES
Less than a high school diploma	37.15%	237
High school diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED)	4.08%	26
Some college, no degree	10.03%	64
Associate degree (e.g. AA, AS)	9.25%	59
Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BS)	15.52%	99
Master's degree (e.g. MA, MS, MEd)	8.78%	56
Professional degree (e.g. MD, DDS, DVM)	1.72%	11
Doctorate (e.g. PhD, EdD)	1.72%	11
Prefer not to answer	11.76%	75
TOTAL		638

Question 4: For each individual in your household, please indicate their age and gender. Example: Individual 1 [12, Male] Individual 2 [34, Female]

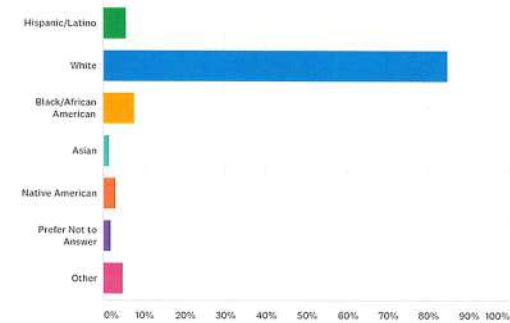
Answered: 620 Skipped: 45

422 respondents live in a household with at least 1 child under the age of 18.

80 respondents live in a household with at least 1 adult age 65 or older.

Question 5: Please indicate your race/ethnicity below:

Answered: 639 Skipped: 26



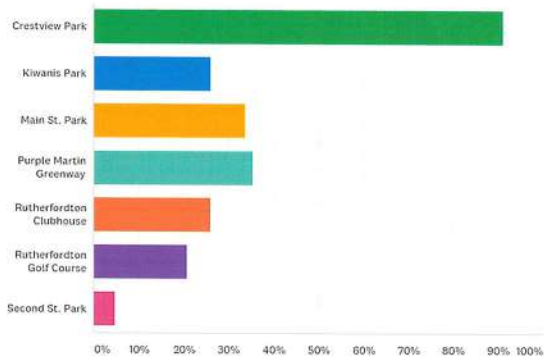
ANSWER CHOICES	PERCENTAGE	RESPONSES
Hispanic/Latino	5.63%	36
White	84.82%	542
Black/African American	7.82%	50
Asian	1.41%	9
Native American	3.13%	20
Prefer Not to Answer	1.88%	12
Other	4.85%	31
Total Respondents: 639		



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Question 6: Which parks have you visited during the past year? (select all that apply)

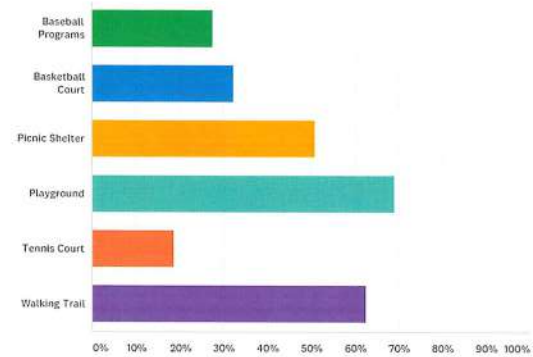
Answered: 615 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Crestview Park	91.06%	560
Kiwanis Park	25.85%	159
Main St. Park	33.66%	207
Purple Martin Greenway	35.45%	218
Rutherfordton Clubhouse	26.02%	160
Rutherfordton Golf Course	20.81%	128
Second St. Park	4.72%	29
Total Respondents: 615		

Question 7: Which Crestview Park amenities have you utilized during the past year? (select none or all that apply)

Answered: 607 Skipped: 58



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball Programs	27.35%	166
Basketball Court	32.29%	196
Picnic Shelter	50.74%	308
Playground	69.03%	419
Tennis Court	18.62%	113
Walking Trail	62.60%	380
Total Respondents: 607		



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Question 8: Please list any recreation facilities that you have visited in the past year that is not listed as an option within question 5 (e.g. church or school playground, private gym)

Answered: 435 Skipped: 230

Top Answers:

Church Recreation Facility:	164
School Recreation Facility:	131
Private Gym:	108
Public Park outside of Rutherfordton:	82

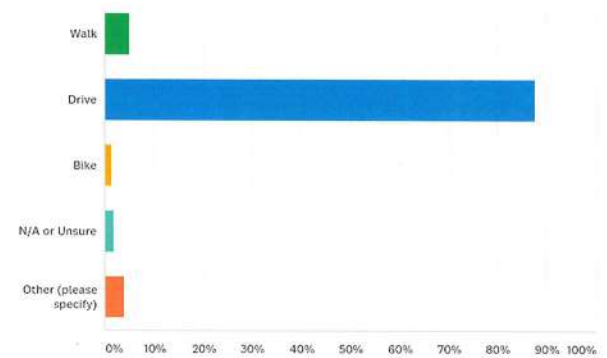
Other Common Answers:

- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Boy Scouts of America
- Forest City Pool
- Isothermal Community College Pool
- Isothermal Community College Soccer Field
- Marion City Parks
- Marion Splash Pad
- RS Central High School Soccer Field
- RS Central High School Softball Field
- Spindale House
- State Parks and associated trails

See Appendix for full answers

Question 9: How do you normally travel to any recreation facility/park location?

Answered: 653 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Walk	5.05%	33
Drive	87.60%	572
Bike	1.53%	10
N/A or Unsure	1.84%	12
Other (please specify)	3.98%	26
TOTAL		653

6 comments mentioned school busses or public transit

13 respondents used the "other" section to share that they do some combination of the choices.

1 comment claimed "would bike to all, often, if we had safe bike paths into Rton. Then I would buy stuff."

See Appendix for full answers.



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Question 10: Please share your thoughts on any long-term needs to the existing park facilities in Rutherfordton. (e.g. lighting improvements, equipment, upgrades, parking)

Answered: 490 Skipped: 175

Top Answers:

Equipment Upgrades:	199
Improved Maintenance:	90
Parking Improvements:	72
Lighting Improvements:	69
Security/Safety Needs:	24
Additional Programming:	36

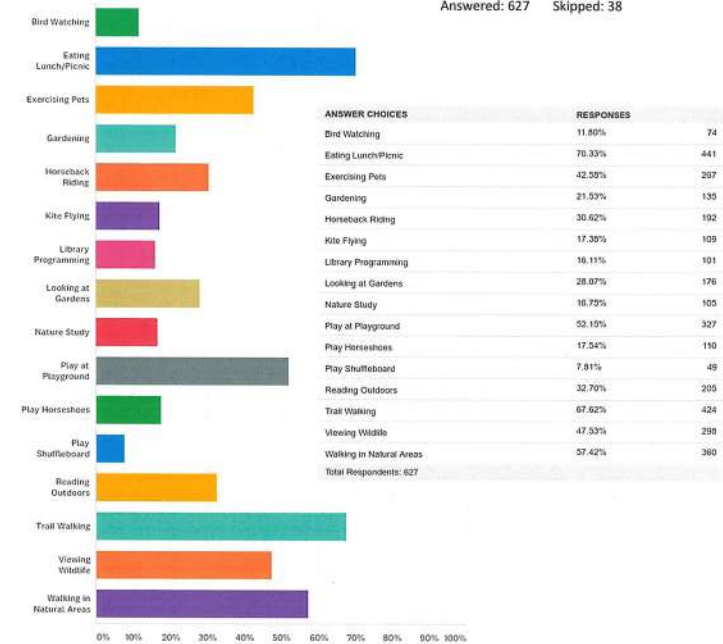
Other Common Answers:

- Additional Picnic Shelters and Crestview Park
- Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park
- Bathrooms along Purple Martin Greenway
- Climbing Wall/Climbing Tree
- Community Pool
- Disc Golf Course
- Distance Markers on Trail
- Dog Park
- Drink Machines/Improved Water Fountains
- Golf Course Upgrades
- Improved Drainage at Ball Fields
- Indoor Walking Trail
- Interactive Exercise and Children's Equipment on Purple Martin Greenway
- More Sidewalks
- Splash Pad/Water Park

See Appendix for full answers

Question 11: Which Leisure activities are you interested in?

Answered: 627 Skipped: 38



Additional Answers

- Biking
- Cornhole
- Dance
- Disc Golf
- Golf
- Hiking
- Running
- Skateboarding
- Swimming
- Visiting Greenways

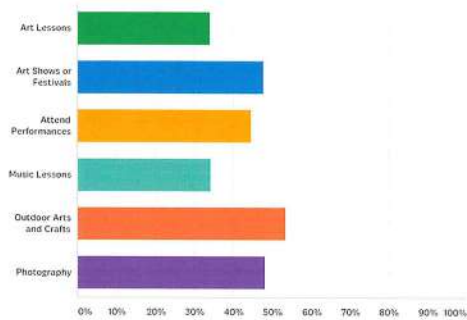
See Appendix for full answers



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Question 12: Which Artistic activities are you interested in?

Answered: 585 Skipped: 80



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Art Lessons	33.85% 198
Art Shows or Festivals	47.69% 279
Attend Performances	44.62% 261
Music Lessons	34.19% 200
Outdoor Arts and Crafts	53.33% 312
Photography	48.21% 282
Total Respondents: 585	

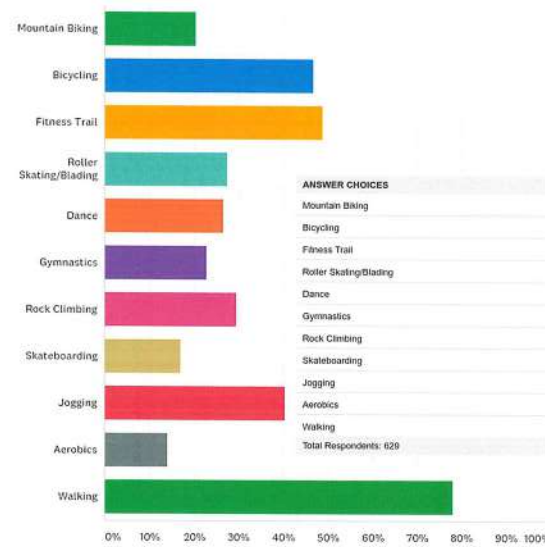
Additional Answers

- Dance
- Knitting
- Painting
- Sewing
- Singing
- Writing
- Video Games

See Appendix for full answers

Question 13: Which Fitness activities are you interested in?

Answered: 629 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Mountain Biking	20.19% 127
Bicycling	46.74% 294
Fitness Trail	48.81% 307
Roller Skating/Blading	27.34% 172
Dance	26.55% 167
Gymnastics	22.89% 144
Rock Climbing	29.57% 186
Skateboarding	17.01% 107
Jogging	46.38% 254
Aerobics	13.99% 89
Walking	78.06% 491
Total Respondents: 629	

Additional Answers

- Bowling
- Challenge Course/Obstacle Course
- Fly Tying
- Hiking
- Running
- Swimming
- Tai Chi
- Walking Dogs
- Weight Lifting
- Yoga

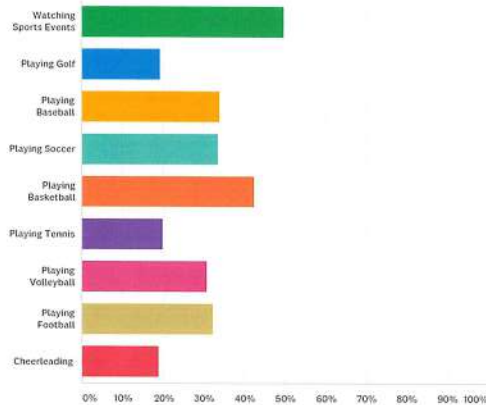
See Appendix for full answers



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Question 14: Which Sports activities are you interested in?

Answered: 576 Skipped: 89



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Watching Sports Events	49.65%	286
Playing Golf	19.27%	111
Playing Baseball	33.85%	195
Playing Soccer	33.51%	193
Playing Basketball	42.53%	245
Playing Tennis	19.79%	114
Playing Volleyball	30.73%	177
Playing Football	32.29%	186
Cheerleading	18.92%	109
Total Respondents: 576		

Additional Answers

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Archery | Curling | Hunting | Softball |
| Badminton | Dance | Kickball | Swimming |
| Bowling | Dodgeball | Lacrosse | Tether Ball |
| Cheerleading | Fishing | Skateboarding | Track |
| Cross Country | Gymnastics | Soccer | Wrestling |

See Appendix for full answers

Question 15: If there are recreational needs the Town of Rutherfordton is currently not meeting, please describe below:

Answered: 347 Skipped: 318

Top Answers:

Equipment Upgrades:	36
More Programming for Youth and Adults:	32
Soccer Field/Programming:	24
Pool:	22
Splash Pad/Water Park:	16
Indoor Facility/Recreation Center:	16
Cleaner Parks:	14
Volleyball Court/Programming:	12
Skateboard Facility:	12
Dog Park:	9

Other Common Answers:

- Climbing Wall
- Connectivity Between Parks
- Fitness League
- Horse Trails
- Indoor "chill spot" for teens
- More Golf Course Involvement
- More Landscaping/Open-space/Scenery
- More Senior-oriented Programming (with transportation)
- More Youth-oriented Programming
- Movie Theater
- Partnerships with other Organizations
- Playground Closer to Downtown
- Sidewalk/Road Improvements

See Appendix for full answers







DESTINATION BY DESIGN