

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES: PARKS AND RECREATION

# 8-7

This section provides current information regarding the Town's parks and recreation resources. This review concentrates on land and facilities available to the general public. The information here does not include recreational facilities provided by the University of North Carolina, private clubs, private developments (apartment facilities, subdivision amenities, etc.), and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System, since those facilities are restricted as to their use.

A key component of the Town's recreation plans has been development of a greenway system. In 1993, the Chapel Hill Greenways Commission adopted the following language to describe Town "greenways":

*Networks of natural spaces that provide corridors connecting areas such as neighborhoods, parks, and schools. These passageways typically include trails for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles. They are a link to nature for the enjoyment of the community.*

This definition describes greenways as linear natural areas that sometimes may be suitable for the inclusion of trails. It is an important distinction to note, however, that some greenway areas in Chapel Hill may not be suitable for trail development and may find their "highest and best use" by remaining as undeveloped open space, and

providing the community with valuable buffers, environmental preserves or wildlife corridors.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2002, the Town adopted a new Master Plan for Parks and Recreation facilities needs and improvements. Since 2002 the Town has acquired 150 acres of additional parkland.
- The Town owns approximately 360 acres of park land of which 150 acres are developed.
- The Town anticipates opening the 70 acre Southern Community Park and the Homestead Park Aquatics Center after the summer of 2006.
- In May 1998, the Town adopted a Greenways Comprehensive Master Plan to provide a foundation for making planning decisions related to the continued preservation of the Town's greenway corridors.
- Current land holdings within the greenway open space system total over 716.5 acres which currently includes 11.5 miles of recreational trails.
- In 2003, 1 mile of trail was completed and 85.75 acres of open space were acquired.

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**Table 1: Inventory of Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities**

	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size of Facility</b>	<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Athletic Fields</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>Swimming Pools</b>	<b>Recreation Centers</b>
Burlington Park	Ephesus Church Rd.	5 acres	0	1	0	0	0
Cedar Falls Park	Weaver Dairy Rd.	64 acres	6	4	0	0	0
Chapel Hill Community Center and Park	South Estes Drive	6 acres	0	0	1	1	1
Ephesus Park	Adjacent to Ephesus Elem. School	12 acres	6	0	0	0	0
Gomains Park	Sykes Street	25' x 100'	0	0	0	0	0
Hargraves Community Center	W. Roberson St.	10 acres	3	1	1	1	1
Homestead Park	N. Park Dr off Homestead Dr.	64 acres	0	4 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
Jones Park	Holland Road	10 acres	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln Center Gym	Merrit Mill Road	NA	0	0	0	0	0
Meadowmont Park		69 acres	0	2 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0
North Forest Hills Park	Collums Drive	10 acres	0	0	0	0	0
Oakwood Park	Adjacent to Glen Lennox Apts.	2 acres	1	1	0	0	0
Phillips Park	Estes Drive	1 acre	4	0	0	0	0
Umstead Park	Umstead Road	16 acres	1	1	1	0	0
Westwood Park	Dogwood Drive	1 acre	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Homestead Park has a batting cage facility

<sup>2</sup> Available after Summer 2004.

**Table 1 (Continued): Inventory of Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities**

	<b>Gyms</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Nature Trails</b>	<b>Paved Trails</b>	<b>Picnic Areas</b>	<b>Play Equipment</b>	<b>Skate Park</b>
Burlington Park	0	0	0	0	yes	yes	no
Cedar Falls Park	0	0	1	0	yes	yes	no
Chapel Hill Community Center and Park	1	2	1	1	yes	yes	no
Ephesus Park	0	0	2	0	yes	no	no
Gomains Park	0	0	0	0	yes	yes	no
Hargraves Community Center	1	2	0	0	yes	yes	no
Homestead Park	0	1	0	0	yes	yes	yes
Jones Park	0	0	1	0	yes	yes	no
Lincoln Center Gym	1	1	0	0	no	no	no
Meadowmont Park <sup>2</sup>	1	0	1		yes <sup>2</sup>	no	no
North Forest Hills Park	0	1	1	0	yes	yes	no
Oakwood Park	0	0	0	0	yes	yes	no
Phillips Park	0	0	0	0	no	no	no
Umstead Park	0	1	1	0	yes	yes	no
Westwood Park	0	0	0	0	yes	yes	no

Source: Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department

<sup>2</sup>Available after Summer 2004.

**Table 2: Chapel Hill Trails**

	<b>Connections</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Surface</b>
Bolin Creek	Airport Road/Bolinwood Drive/Elizabeth Street/Community Center Park	1.5 miles	10' Paved Asphalt
Fan Branch	Culbreth Road to Scroggs School	1.2 miles	10' Paved Asphalt
Lower Booker Creek	Franklin Street to Booker creek Rd. Adjacent neighborhoods to Eastgate Shopping Center and Linear Park	0.85 miles	10' Paved Concrete
Meadowmont	Highway 54 to Meadowmont Park	1.0 miles	10' Paved Asphalt
<b>Total Paved Trails</b>		<b>4.55 miles</b>	
Battle Branch	Community Center Park to UNC campus	1.5 miles	Natural
Cedar Falls	Weaver Dairy Road to Honeysuckle Road	1.0 miles (loop)	Natural
Dry Creek	East Chapel Hill High School to Perry Creek Rd.	0.75 miles	Natural
Jones Park	Along creek, park located east of S. Columbia St & north of Purefoy Rd	0.25 miles	Natural
North Forest Hills Park	Trail around perimeter of Park. Located 3miles north of the downtown east of Airport Rd, off Collums Dr.	0.5 miles	Natural
Pritchard Park	Trail around perimeter of Park & Public Library Estes Dr.	1.0 miles	Natural
Southern Community Park	Loop trail South of Scroggs Elem. Southern Village	1.5 miles	Natural
Tanyard Branch	Northside Neighborhood to Umstead Park	0.4 miles	Natural
<b>Total Natural Trails</b>		<b>6.9 miles</b>	
<b>Total Trail Mileage</b>		<b>11.45 miles</b>	

Source: Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department