

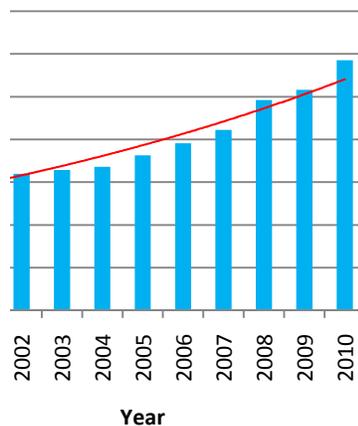


PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE (MASTER PLAN EXCERPT)

I. INTRODUCTION

When figures are released for April 1, 2010 (Census Day), the Town of Knightdale expects to virtually double in size both in terms of population and land area since the last decennial census in 2000. As of January 1, 2010; the Town estimates its own population to be 11,705 and has grown at a rate of 7.2% per year (Figure 1.1). This growth follows a population increase of 216% during the previous decade (1990-2000). In addition, the area of the Town has more than doubled from approximately 1,670 acres or 2.6 square miles in 2000 to approximately 4,000 acres or 6.2 square miles in 2010. Despite this growth over the last 20 years, the corresponding growth of the Town’s public parks and recreation facilities and programs languished until the construction and opening of the Knightdale Community Park & Recreation Center at 101 Lawson Ridge Road in 2004.

Figure 1.1: Town of Knightdale Estimates of Total Population Each January 1: 2000-2010



Prior to 2004, the Town’s public facilities consisted of an aging outdoor pool and clubhouse—formerly the Green Pines Community Swim Club, two (2) tennis courts, a playground at the 4-acre Harper Park in Old Town, and a walking trail through the 8-acre Environmental Park behind Town Hall. During those days, the Town relied heavily on county, school system and private facilities to carry out its recreation programs and activities.

The Knightdale Community Park & Recreation Center, which is attached to Forestville Road Elementary School and developed as a joint project with the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), added the following to Knightdale's inventory of recreation spaces:

- two (2) multi-purpose fields,
- four (4) classrooms (one of which serves as an arts and crafts room),
- kitchen,
- restrooms,
- two (2) ball fields,
- gymnasium (shared jointly with the school), and
- two (2) additional ball fields (shared jointly with the school).

Along with the new facilities at the Community Park & Recreation Center came the introduction of new recreation programs. These programs have included:

- pottery classes,
- pre-school activities,
- self-improvement classes (yoga, self-defense, nutritional support, aerobics),
- cheerleading,
- hip-hop dance, and
- "Senior Movie" days.

Parks and Recreation staff were also able to expand or improve service delivery of other programs such as adult and youth basketball, youth baseball, softball, adult softball and adult kickball by eliminating some of the scheduling conflicts and the rental fees associated with the use of non-Town facilities.

In anticipation of the Community Park & Recreation Center, the Town last chose to update its Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2002. At that time, a separate Open Space and Greenway Plan had also been developed as a result of a cooperative venture between Wake County and its municipalities. Both plans were incorporated into the Town's Comprehensive Plan that was ultimately adopted on July 3, 2003.

Today, in 2010, the Town is on the cusp of several new opportunities to significantly expand its public park facilities and recreation programs. These opportunities include a flagship park and community center in the vicinity of Old Town, improvements to park land adjacent to the Timber Ridge subdivision and the first public greenway along Mingo Creek.



While the 2003 plan aimed to propel the Town and its leaders to begin thinking about parks and recreation in a more consistent, coordinated and comprehensive manner, the purpose of this plan update is to produce the objectives and specific measurable action items that will help accomplish the ultimate goal of Knightdale being known as an active, engaged community with a variety of recreation activities, programs and facilities.

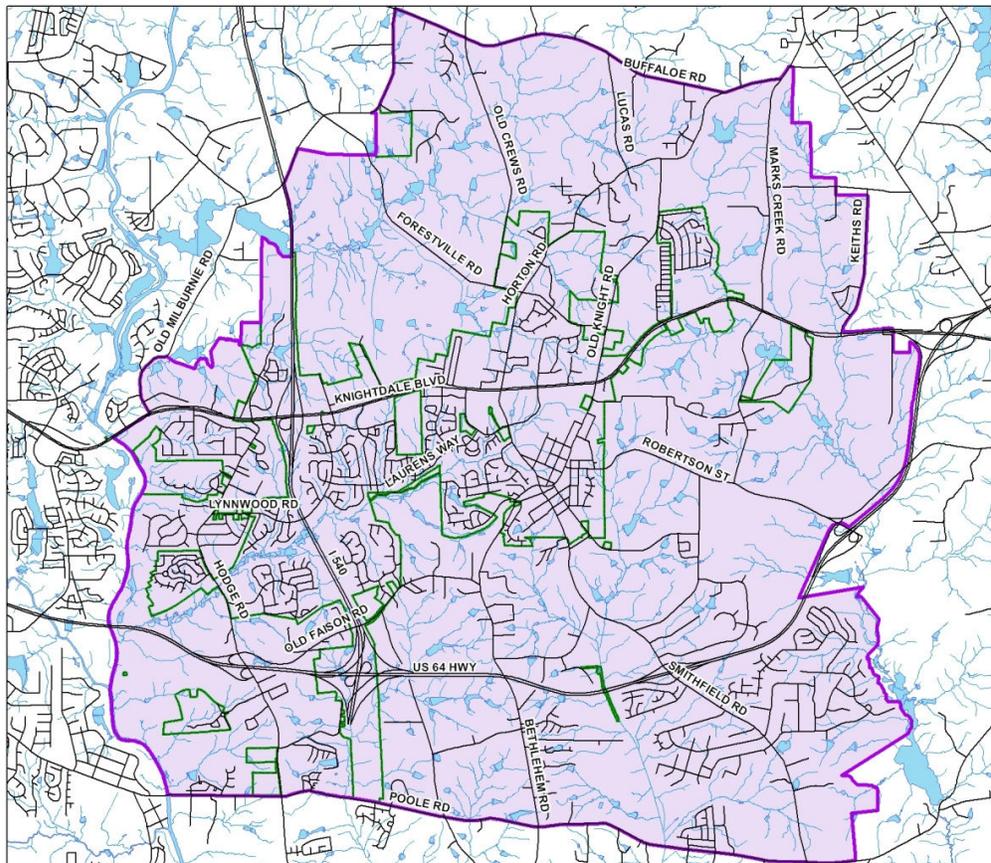
To formulate this plan, the Town underwent a participatory process, led by the Town's Senior Planner for Long-Range planning who acted in the capacity of a consultant. The community input and review process was held according to the following timeline:

- April 22, 2009 – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) introduced to previous master plan and examples from other nearby towns.
- July 22, 2009 – PRAB idea gathering session and review of plan objectives.
- August 18, 2009 – Public Open House in the Town Council Chambers.
- August 26, 2009 – PRAB benchmarking exercise.
- September 2009 – PRAB reviews existing action items and proposes new efforts using space set up at *myplaninput.com*.
- October 7, 2009 - PRAB mapping exercise.
- February 8, 2010 – Public Open House in the Town Hall Lobby.
- February 24, 2010 – PRAB reviewed draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Map and plan introduction.
- March 17, 2010 – PRAB reviews draft supply and demand analysis.
- May 19, 2010 – Draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Map presented to Town Council.
- May 26, 2010 – PRAB reviews draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Map presented to Town Council
- November 17, 2010 – PRAB reviews and endorses new draft Knightdale Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.
- December 15, 2010 – Final Public Open House in the Town Hall Lobby.

II. SERVICE AREA FEATURES

During 2005 and 2006, the Town of Knightdale conducted future boundary discussions with the Town of Wendell (to the east) and the City of Raleigh (to the north, south and west). Both discussions ultimately led to the adoption of an Annexation Line of Agreement which delineates the boundary between the respective jurisdictions for a period of 25 years. At the same time, the Town also worked with the Wake County Planning Department to ensure that the county's "urban service area" boundaries for each municipality were also amended to reflect the adopted agreement lines. Consequently, the Town of Knightdale has a definitive geographical service area of approximately 28.5 square miles for which it may focus its planning efforts (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Town of Knightdale Corporate Limits (Green) and Urban Service Area (Purple)



Panther Rock – A known favorite spot for local bouldering enthusiasts.



A. Natural Landscape

The Town's physical service area is influenced heavily by the fact that it sits on top of the Rolesville batholith – a large emplacement of granite rock at the edge of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the largest of its kind in the southern Appalachians. The Rolesville batholith covers over 2,000 square kilometers, and it stretches from central Franklin County through eastern Wake County to northern Johnston County. Over time, other layers of earth erode, leaving the harder rock exposed. Perhaps the most famous exposed batholith formation in the United States is the Half Dome at Yosemite National Park in California. The particular age and characteristics of the Rolesville batholith have resulted in the topography of Knightdale as it exists today – an area of rolling plains, wide shallow creeks and occasional rock outcroppings such as “Panther Rock” where granite has pushed through to the surface or where the topsoil has eroded away. This topography presents many unique opportunities to construct facilities that complement and make natural use of the rise and fall of the land, but it also can complicate efforts to construct facilities that require more extensive grading.

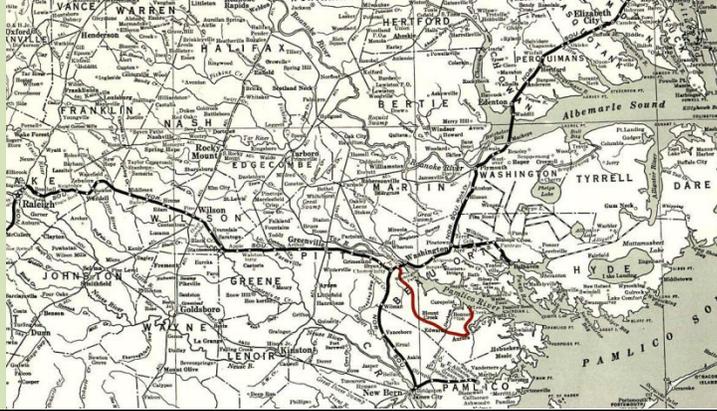
From a geographic standpoint, the operations of the Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department is influenced by the fact that the Town is not a central city; rather, it is a small but growing suburb of a larger urban center – Raleigh/Cary – of which Raleigh is also the state capital. As such, the City of Raleigh and the Town of Cary are home to many of the area's facilities that attract users from a larger regional service area that includes Knightdale. Examples of such facilities include the Koka Booth Amphitheater in Cary and the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh. Consequently, the Town of Knightdale focuses the majority of its parks and recreation efforts on those programs and facilities that pull from the local geographic vicinity (including some of the smaller suburbs and rural areas to the east) and not on those that would compete with neighboring services and venues offered in the larger urban center. Due to this proximity, the Town also enjoys a number of opportunities to “piggyback” programs and facilities that complement and link up with larger regional efforts – a benefit that towns of similar size in rural areas do not enjoy.



Half Dome – Yosemite Nat'l Park



The Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown Raleigh attracts attendees from the larger Raleigh-Cary urban area – including Knightdale.



Norfolk-Southern Railway connecting Raleigh via Knightdale to the ports of Bayboro, New Bern, Washington, Belhaven, Plymouth, Edenton, Hertford and Elizabeth City.

B. Cultural Landmarks

The early history of the Knightdale area was dominated by the Hinton family, who received some of the first land grants given within the present Wake County boundary. At one time, the family had seven (7) family homes in the Knightdale vicinity. Three (3) of these homes survive today, and two (2) of them have become local historic landmarks through the efforts of Hinton family heirs – Beaver Dam and Midway.

Beaver Dam was built in a prominent location at the northern terminus of Smithfield Road at Forestville Road, commanding a position that signified the importance of the Hinton family in the area. Today, the terminus of Smithfield Road has been realigned with nearby Horton Road, but the view traveling along North Smithfield Road remains the same. The house was restored in 2005 to serve temporarily as a living quarters for the owners while Midway, their primary residence, was being relocated. Currently, the home is the main office for a family consulting business and the ground floor has been opened to the Town as meeting space for special events.

Meanwhile, the Midway house was strategically located along the road to Raleigh (today known as Knightdale Boulevard) approximately “midway” between Beaver Dam and another of the Hinton homes along the Neuse River. Recently, the Hinton family heirs and owner-occupants moved Midway to a location further north along the northern branch of Beaver Dam Creek off of Amethyst Ridge Drive in the Lewis Farms Subdivision. The house is still positioned on original Hinton family land and has retained its status as both a local historic landmark and a listed property on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, Raleigh was looking to establish a railroad connection to Atlantic ports. Many of the local farmers hoped that the new rail line would pass through their vicinity before crossing the Neuse River into Raleigh. Finally, in 1904, Henry Haywood Knight and his wife sold a strip of farmland along their southern boundary to the Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company for one dollar. Needham Jones and his wife also sold a strip of land along the northern border of their adjacent property for the same amount. The railroad provided freight and passenger service, and facilitated the incorporation of the community that would come to bear Knight’s name. The Knight family home is the third local historic landmark in Knightdale and sits near the western terminus of McKnight Drive.



The Beaver Dam house immediately north of the intersection of Forestville and Smithfield roads.



Other potential historic resources include the Jones family home which still stands along Smithfield Road approximately 1,000 feet north of its intersection with Old Ferrell Road; the third Hinton family home called "The Oaks" located off of Clifton Road; the two-story N.G. House Store at the corner of Main Street and First Avenue; and several homes in Old Town Knightdale.

C. Demographics

Demographic data and calculated estimates show that Knightdale's working-age population continues to shrink as a percentage of the overall population. While the overall number of working-age residents is still increasing, other age groups are growing more quickly and making up a larger share of the total population. These groups include young children between the ages of 0 and 4, and retired adults aged 65 or older. After a decade of high growth, the growth rate for school-age children appears to have leveled off and is now growing at a rate nearly consistent with the overall growth of the Town, thereby keeping its share of the Town's total population fairly constant.

As one of the leading providers of age-specific recreational programming in the area, it is important for the Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department to understand which age groups are increasing or decreasing as a percentage of the overall population and how quickly those increases or decreases are occurring. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentages of young and school-age children grew while the percentage of working-age and retired adults declined. During that time period, Knightdale's trends (*shaded green*) were on average 2.4 times greater (*shaded orange*) than the same trends exhibited across the whole county (*shaded yellow*) as exhibited in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2: Age Cohorts as a Percentage of Total Population, 1990-2000

	Wake County			Knightdale			Rate of Change Comparison
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	
Young Children (0-4)	7.13%	7.19%	0.06%	9.24%	9.42%	0.18%	3.0x
School-age Children (5-19)	19.35%	20.77%	1.42%	11.41%	14.40%	2.99%	2.1x
Working-age Adults (20-64)	65.68%	64.65%	-1.03%	64.33%	61.56%	-2.77%	2.7x
Retired Adults (65+)	7.84%	7.39%	-0.45%	5.89%	5.09%	-0.80%	1.8x
							Ave = 2.4x

From 2000 to 2008, the percentages of young children and retirees has grown in Wake County while the increase in the percentages of school-age children has slowed and the percentage of working-age adults has continued to drop as shown in



Figure 2.3. At this time, Knightdale is not scheduled to receive more current data from the U.S. Census Bureau until early 2011. However, the Bureau’s annual American Community Survey has produced more recent data for Wake County. Keeping the past trends and relationships in mind from Figure 2.2, the Town may hypothesize that its demographics from 2000-2008 have exceeded the county changes at an average rate of 2.4 times and resulting in the estimated make up of Knightdale’s populace (*shaded blue*) as shown below.

Figure 2.3: Age Cohorts as a Percentage of Total Population, 2000-2008

	Wake County			Knightdale			Applied Rate of Change Differential
	2000	2008	% Change	2000	Est. 2008	Est. % Change	
Young Children (0-4)	7.19%	7.93%	0.74%	9.42%	11.20%	1.78%	2.4x
School-age Children (5-19)	20.77%	20.91%	0.14%	14.40%	14.74%	0.34%	2.4x
Working-age Adults (20-64)	64.65%	63.43%	-1.22%	61.56%	58.63%	-2.93%	2.4x
Retired Adults (65+)	7.39%	7.73%	0.34%	5.09%	5.91%	0.82%	2.4x

Nevertheless, working-age adults continue to be the largest cohort in terms of raw numbers and should thus remain a strong focus in the park design process and planning for recreation programming. While the percentage rate of growth in the number of school-age children has scaled back in recent years, the surge in the number of young children would indicate that this slowing trend may reverse itself in the next five (5) years as these young children mature. Therefore, children’s recreational needs should continue to be at the forefront of the short-term planning process, particularly those in the lower half of the school-age children group’s age bracket. Finally, these trends suggest that the local cohort of retirees is beginning to grow and play a larger role in Knightdale’s demographics. Park and recreation planners should keep this in mind as they look to expand the Town’s programming and recreational opportunities.

In addition to age, other demographic factors that may influence the parks and recreation planning process include race and ethnicity, educational attainment, disability status and gender. These statistics from Census 2000 are summarized in Figure 2.4.

Knightdale Then & Now:

Age	% 1990	% 2008
0-4	9.24%	11.20%
5-19	11.41%	14.74%
20-64	64.33%	58.63%
65+	5.89%	5.91%

Age	# 1990	# 2008
0-4	174	1,126
5-19	215	1,483
20-64	1,212	5,897
65+	111	594
All	1,884	10,058

Figure 2.4: Miscellaneous Town of Knightdale Demographic Statistics, Census 2000

Race & Ethnicity		Education (Over 25 yrs. Old)		Disability Status		Gender	
White	67.86%	< 9th	3.41%	All Disabled	11.78%	Male	46.71%
Black	26.84%	9th-12th	4.87%			Female	53.29%
Asian	1.46%	HS Diploma	22.01%	All School-Age	5.86%		
Other	3.84%	Some College	27.17%				
		Associate	8.89%	All Working-Age	13.93%		
Hispanic	3.69%	Bachelor	25.71%				
		Graduate	7.95%	All Retirees	50.25%		



III. GUIDANCE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town of Knightdale Town Council's **vision** is to:

"Promote wellness through healthy and active neighborhoods and businesses".

By choosing words like "wellness", "healthy" and "active", the Town Council has tied its vision closely to the **mission** of the Parks and Recreation Department which is to:

"Enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County by providing an experienced staff to plan, implement and manage a wide variety of both passive and active leisure opportunities."

In a further statement of **purpose**, the Parks and Recreation Department also indicates that they:

"...will strive to provide a system of parks, greenways, recreation facilities and open space areas which will assure quality recreation opportunities for present and future citizens of Knightdale and Eastern Wake County".

Utilizing the preceding statements as guidance, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has established its overarching **goal** for Knightdale as:

"Being an active, engaged community."

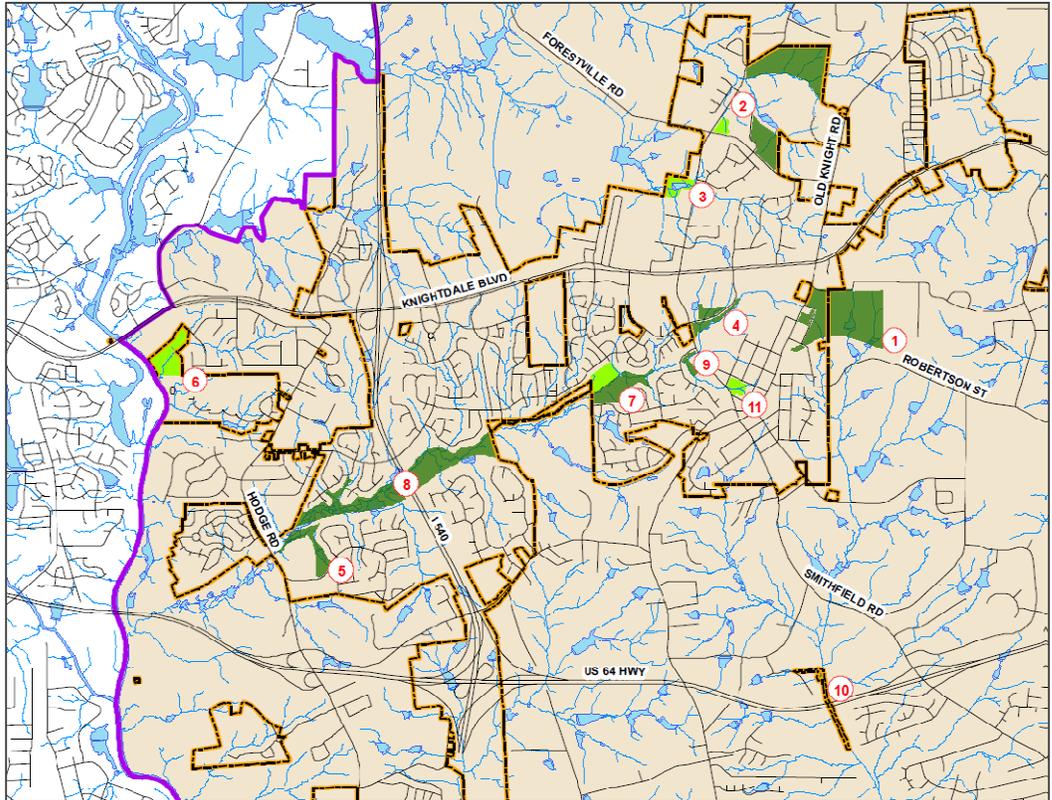
In support of that overarching goal, the Advisory Board has also established the following **objectives** for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

1. Develop a wide variety of both passive and active recreation programming reflective of the interests of Knightdale's citizens;
2. Create and maintain a varied and accessible system of facilities that support the programming needs of the citizens of Knightdale;
3. Coordinate programs and planning efforts with other area public and private parks, recreation and open space providers;
4. Promote stewardship and sustainability of the Town's natural resources, cultural landmarks and existing park lands;
5. Encourage public involvement in parks and recreation planning processes; and
6. Identify and prioritize the use of financial resources.

IV. SUPPLY ANALYSIS

The Town of Knightdale currently owns and manages 41.7 acres of park land as well as another 231.6 acres of open space as identified in "Figure 4.1". These areas are further described in the following paragraphs along with recreational property the Town rents and facilities the Town owns or manages.

Figure 4.1: Town Owned and Managed Land - Parks (Light Green); Open Space (Dark Green)





A. Town of Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department

1. Future Central Community Park and Center

In 2010, the Town of Knightdale purchased approximately 68.2 acres of land along with some intervening unopened public right-of-way near Old Town Knightdale from former Mayor William A. Wilder, Jr. for a future community center and park. Currently, most of the acreage is open fields and forest, and preliminary plans call for a mix of developed park land (community center, skate park, playground) and managed open spaces (multi-purpose fields, dog park, campground, amphitheater, trails).

2. Knightdale Recreation Center and Community Park – 101 Lawson Ridge Rd.

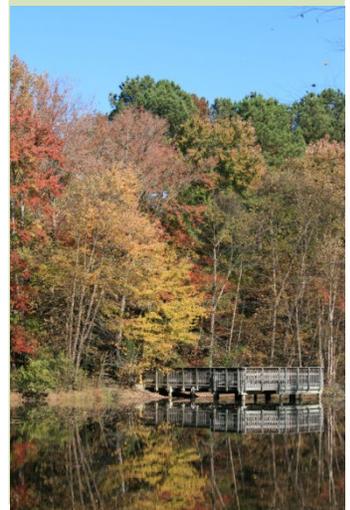
Currently, the Knightdale Recreation Center and Community Park is the Town's flagship recreation facility. Developed in partnership with the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), the entire site covers 162.0 acres. Of that acreage 59.7 acres (37%) is owned by the Town, and the remaining 102.3 acres (63%) is owned by WCPSS. The Town's property features a soccer field and 56.7 acres of open space. The Town pays a maintenance fee for use of the recreation center space and the adjacent gymnasium at Forestville Road Elementary School, but in return provides maintenance for a second soccer field on the elementary school property. The Town is also responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the greenway and ball fields which are jointly used by Knightdale High School.

3. Knightdale Environmental Park – Behind 946 & 950 Steeple Square Ct.

With entrances from Town Hall and the East Wake Regional Library, the Knightdale Environmental Park offers a circuitous paved walking trail and boardwalk around a pond along with benches, overlooks, public art and two (2) picnic shelters.

4. McKnight Drive Open Space

In 2001, the Town acquired two (2) tracts of land along McKnight Drive from Lowe's Home Improvement. The first tract is 4.1 acres and houses the store's stormwater pond. The landscape around the pond is maintained by Lowe's and features several benches for passersby. The second tract comprises 4.9 acres along the upper reaches of Mingo Creek across McKnight Drive from the first tract. Apart from a future greenway trail, the second tract will be maintained in its natural state.





5. Mingo Creek Subdivision Open Space

In 1999, the Town acquired 12.4 acres of open space along the southern bank of Mingo Creek. Today, the property stretches around the eastern and northern sides of Hodge Road Elementary School. Apart from possible plans to site a future fire station/public safety substation on the portion of the property fronting Mingo Bluff Boulevard, the majority of this site will be maintained in its natural state.

6. Knightdale Pool and Clubhouse – 202 Milburnie Rd.

In 1998, the Town of Knightdale purchased the 18.3 acre site of the former Green Pines Recreation Center from the Green Pines Homeowners' Association. The site features an outdoor swimming pool, clubhouse, restrooms and on-site parking. When under private ownership, the site also had a usable tennis court, outdoor basketball court, volleyball court and disc golf course; however, these facilities are no longer maintained. A large portion of the site lies within the Neuse River floodway and/or floodplain, thereby limiting the scope of future plans and improvements.

7. Mingo Creek Park – 100 Parkside Commons Dr.

Mingo Creek Park is located on the 8.2-acre site of the Town's former sewage lagoon. With the lagoon having been filled and capped, the park is also located adjacent to two (2) other Town-owned parcels for possible future expansion. Presently, the park features two (2) half-court basketball goals and a mulched walking trail. The original park plan calls for a playground, paved walking trail, two (2) additional half-court basketball goals, limited parking and a road connection across Mingo Creek linking the park with the adjacent Town-owned 16.6 acres of open space.

8. Planter's Walk Open Space

In 1994, the Town acquired 60.1 acres behind the Planter's Walk Subdivision along Mingo Creek. This open space is planned to house a significant portion of the Mingo Creek Greenway.

9. Carrington Woods Open Space

In 1991, the Town acquired 2.7 acres of open space at the entrance to the Carrington Woods Subdivision. A significant portion of the site is dedicated to a sanitary sewer easement. The land may also serve as an important link for the



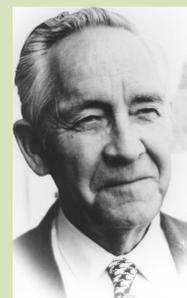
future Mingo Creek Greenway, but will otherwise be maintained in its natural state.

10. Breckenridge Open Space

In 1990, the Town of Knightdale acquired its first 5.9 acres of open space from the Akland family for a future greenway along Poplar Creek. Today, this land has been bisected by the US 64-264 Bypass and comprises 5.1 acres, the northern portion on which is located adjacent to the Breckenridge Subdivision.

11. Harper Park – 209 Main St.

The Town's first park is located in the heart of Old Town Knightdale and is named for Mayor Eugene F. Harper, the longest serving mayor in Knightdale's history. At five (5) acres in size, this neighborhood park contains two (2) tennis courts, a playground, picnic areas, public restrooms and indoor space for the Town's after school programs. The main building on the property is also the home of the Knightdale Chamber of Commerce. A park redevelopment plan completed in 2009 calls for the addition of walking trails and a small amphitheater along with improvements to parking, stormwater collection, fencing and lighting.

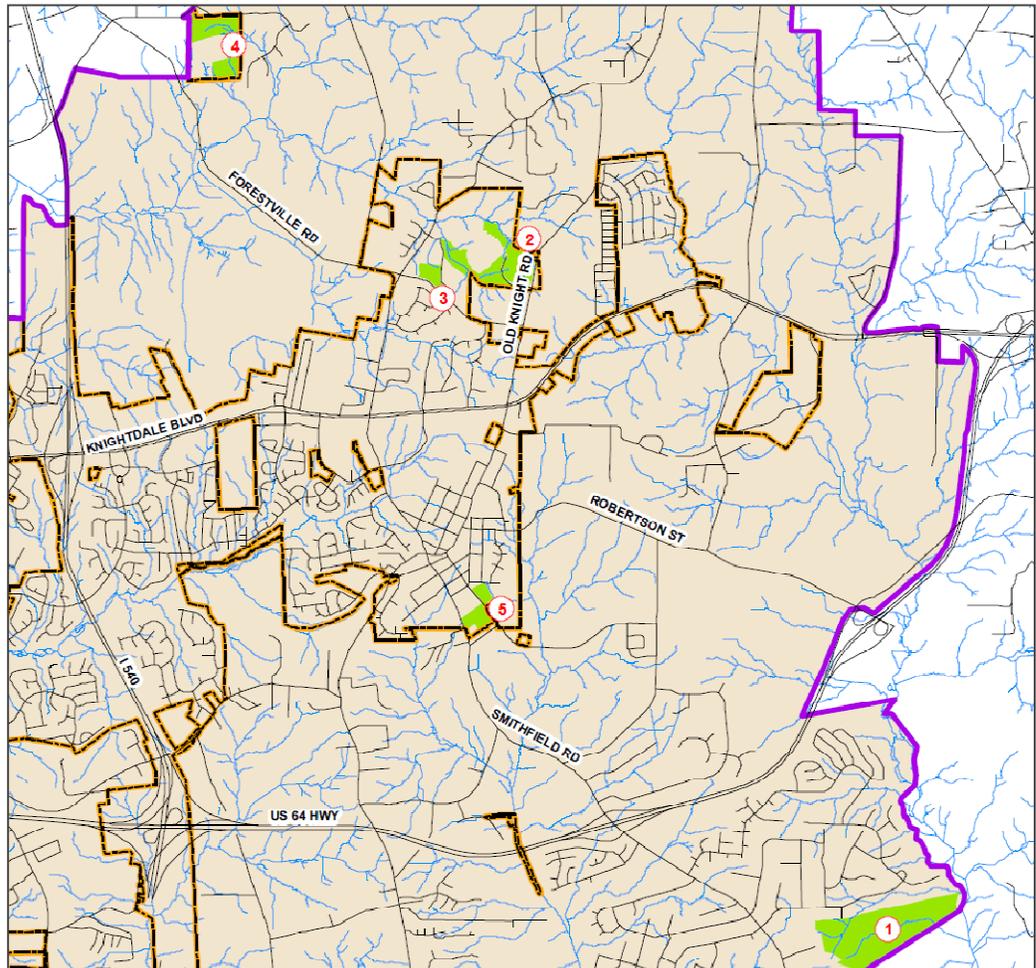


Eugene Field Harper served as the Mayor of Knightdale for a total of 25 years over a 27-year period:

- 1) 1949 – 1962
- 2) 1964 – 1976

B. County Park and Recreation Areas

Figure 4.2: County Owned and Managed Park and Recreation Land





1. Poor Boy Farms Open Space – off South Smithfield Rd.

In conjunction with the Triangle Land Conservancy, Wake County was able to secure 91.8 acres of open space between Poor Boy Farm Road and Lake Myra in the southeastern part of the Town's Urban Service Area as shown above. Long-range plans for this land, known tentatively as the western tract of Lake Myra County Park, include passive recreation uses such as multi-use trails, a natural amphitheater, open play spaces and a shelter with bathrooms

2. Knightdale Community Park – Knightdale High School, 100 Bryan Chalk Ln.

As stated in the previous section A1, Knightdale Community Park was developed from a joint effort between the Town and WCPSS. The High School property includes four (4) ball fields and a greenway. While WCPSS owns this property, the Town is responsible for the ongoing maintenance.

3. Knightdale Recreation Center – Forestville Road Elementary School, 7125 Forestville Rd.

As also stated in the previous section A1, the Knightdale Recreation Center was developed from a joint effort between the Town and WCPSS. The Elementary School property includes a recreation center (2 classrooms, meeting room, kitchen, bathrooms and office space), joint use of the adjacent gymnasium and a soccer field. While WCPSS retains ownership of the property, the Town pays a maintenance fee to WCPSS for use of the center and gymnasium and performs the ongoing maintenance of the soccer field.

4. East Wake Middle School Ball Fields – 2700 Old Milburnie Rd.

Through a joint use agreement, the Town has access to the two (2) ball fields at East Wake Middle School.

5. Knightdale Elementary School Ball Fields – 109 Ridge St.

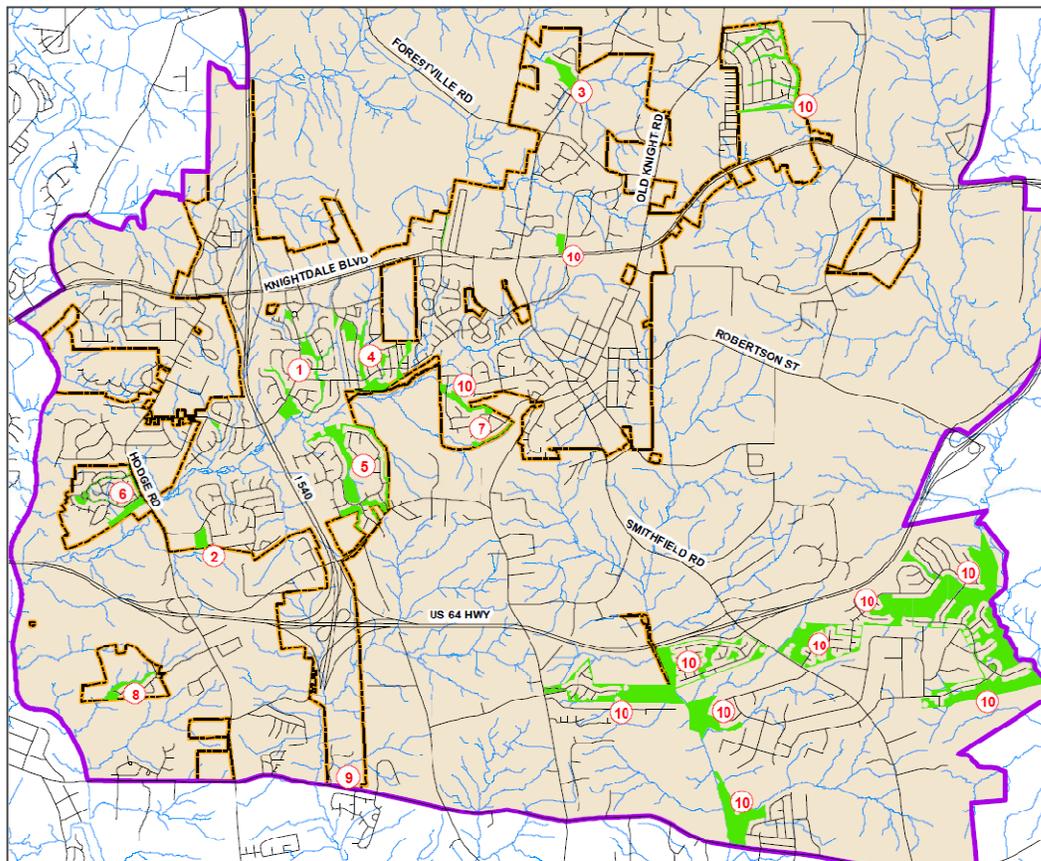
Through a joint use agreement, the Town has access to the three (3) ball fields at Knightdale Elementary School.



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

C. Private Park and Recreation Areas

Figure 4.3: Private Recreation Land and Open Space



As part of the residential development process, the Town of Knightdale has long had a policy on the private provision of recreational amenities. Recreational open space provided by developers must be planned and improved, accessible and usable by persons living in the immediate vicinity. Furthermore, only when the provision of recreational open space is physically impractical due to unusual topographic conditions is a developer able to choose to pay a fee-in-lieu to the Town for use in the general provision of recreation programs and facilities across the Town. While not necessarily available to the entire population of Knightdale, each private recreation space does serve a significant number of residents, thereby reducing



some demand on Town funded recreation services. These figures are not included in any counts within this plan and do not apply to the benchmarks established for the Town. Following, is a brief summary of the private park and recreation spaces around Knightdale.

1. Planter's Walk Homeowners Association

The Planter's Walk HOA currently maintains:

- approximately 2,450 linear feet (0.45 miles) of hard surface trails,
- two (2) playgrounds,
- one (1) sand volleyball court,
- one (1) horseshoe pit,
- 6.7 acres of unimproved open space, and
- a community swimming pool with clubhouse, wading pool and shelter.

2. Mingo Creek Homeowners Association

The Mingo Creek HOA currently maintains:

- approximately 1,300 linear feet (0.25 miles) of hard surface trails,
- two (2) gazebos,
- three (3) playgrounds,
- one (1) multi-sport fields, and
- a community swimming pool with clubhouse.

Approved plans call for two (2) more playgrounds, three (3) more multi-sport fields and another 0.2 miles of hard surface trails.

3. Villages at Beaver Dam Homeowners Association

Approved plans call for:

- approximately 2,000 linear feet (0.4 miles) of hard surface trails.

4. Widewaters Homeowners Association

The Widewaters HOA currently maintains:

- approximately 3,700 linear feet (0.7 miles) of hard surface trails,
- one (1) playground,
- 10.9 acres of unimproved open space, and
- a community swimming pool with clubhouse.



5. Churchill Homeowners Association

The Churchill HOA currently maintains:

- approximately 6,000 linear feet (1.15 miles) of hard surface trails,
- two (2) playgrounds,
- one (1) multi-sport field,
- 9.2 acres of unimproved open space, and
- a community swimming pool with changing rooms and splash pool.

Approved plans call for the addition of a third playground and open space.

6. Princeton Manor Homeowners Association

The Princeton Manor HOA currently maintains:

- approximately 3,000 linear feet (0.6 miles) of hard surface trails,
- two (2) playgrounds,
- 3.1 acres of unimproved open space, and
- a community swimming pool with changing rooms, wading pool and picnic shelters.

7. Brookfield Station Homeowners Association

The Brookfield Station HOA currently maintains:

- approximately 1,600 linear feet (0.3 miles) of hard surface trails,
- one (1) playground, and
- 0.15 acres of unimproved open space.

Approved plans call for the addition of another playground and 0.3 miles of hard surface trails.

8. Cheswick Homeowners Association

Approved plans call for:

- approximately 1,700 linear feet (0.3 miles) of hard surface trails,
- one (1) playground, and
- a community swimming pool with clubhouse.

9. Poplar Creek Village Homeowners Association

Approved plans call for:

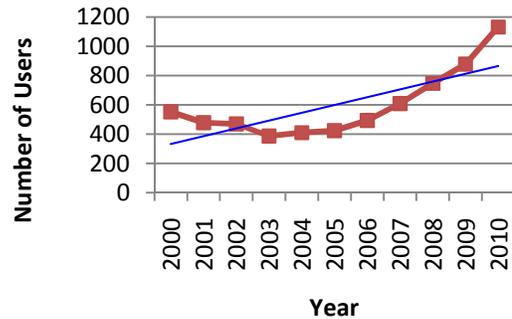
- approximately 3,100 linear feet (0.6 miles) of hard surface trails,
- approximately 3,600 linear feet (0.7 miles) of natural surface trails, and
- a community swimming pool with clubhouse.



10. Miscellaneous Private Open Space

- Emerald Pointe Subdivision – 16.5 acres of unimproved open space.
- Lewis Landing Subdivision – 4.5 acres of unimproved open space.
- Maplewood Subdivision – 2.9 acres of unimproved open space.
- Rutledge Landing Subdivision – 26.2 acres of unimproved open space, a portion of which is a possible corridor for the Poplar Creek Greenway.
- Ashley Hills North Subdivision – 20.6 acres of unimproved open space, a portion of which is a possible corridor for the Poplar Creek Greenway.
- Cottonwood Subdivision – 34.2 acres of unimproved open space, a portion of which is a possible corridor for the Poplar Creek Greenway.
- Baywood Forest Subdivision – 24.6 acres of unimproved open space, a portion of which is a possible corridor for the Poplar Creek Greenway.
- Covington Cross Subdivision – 23.9 acres of unimproved open space.
- Bishop Pointe Subdivision – 16.4 acres of unimproved open space.
- Amber Ridge Subdivision – 42.1 acres of unimproved open space.
- Amber Acres North Subdivision – 84.1 acres of unimproved open space.

Total Yearly Ball Field Users



V. DEMAND ANALYSIS

A. Program Participation Trends

In 2009, the Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department purchased new software to track registrations, manage facilities and schedule leagues. Prior to this, recreation data was limited and lacked detail. Consequently, only general participation trends for the largest programs are available for analysis at this time.

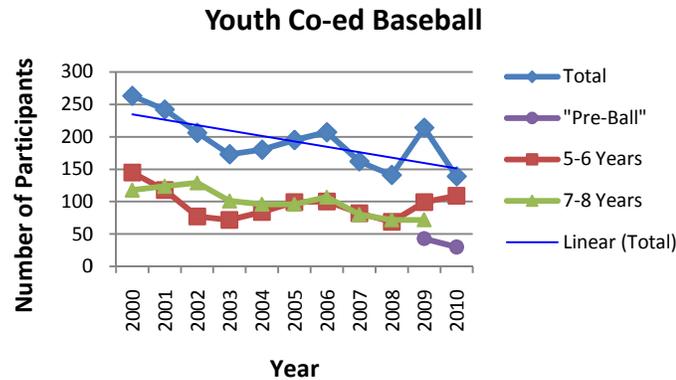
1. Ball Field Sports

Baseball and softball have been staple athletic programs of the Parks & Recreation Department since its inception and participation in the early part of the decade was fairly constant between 400 and 500 children. Between 2000 and 2006, the Town grew by 31%, while participation actually declined slightly by -11%. One could hypothesize that the program appears to have hit its maximum capability to satisfy demand due to the constraint of the number of fields and no new fields being added during this period.



By 2007, the Department knew anecdotally that there was a pent up demand for adult athletic programs. With the opening of the Community Park and Recreation Center and the addition of its four (4) ball fields, the Town began to expand its programming. First, co-ed adult softball was introduced in the Spring of 2007, followed by co-ed adult

kickball in the Fall of 2007. Most recently, men's softball was introduced in the Spring of 2010. Overall demand has continued to rise as evidenced by the chart above, with participation having grown 129% between 2006 and 2010. New adult programs appear to be catching on and creating further demand while the demand for youth programs may have indeed reached its height without the further influence of some outside stimulus. More detailed analysis of individual programs follows.



a. Youth Baseball/Softball

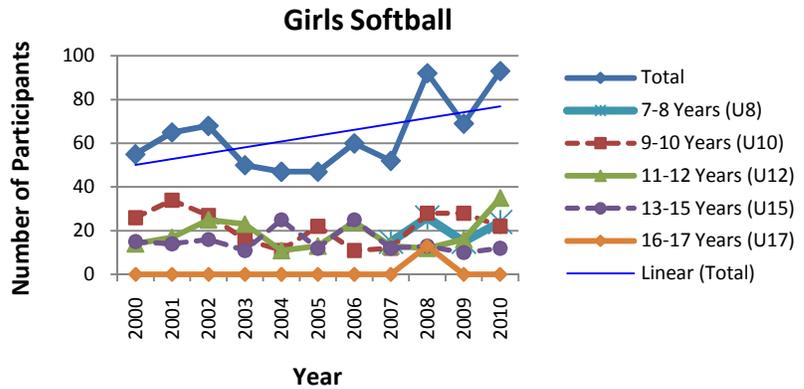
i. Co-ed Baseball (Ages 8 and Under)

At its inception, co-ed youth baseball was programmed for elementary school children ages 5 to 8. Specific leagues were broken down into two (2) age brackets: 5 to 6 years of age (U6), and 7 to 8 years of age (U8). Between 2000 and 2008, participation fell from over 250 children to just under 150 children; nearly a decline of -50%. Participation since then has been a seesaw, but this is likely due to re-programming.

The Town appears to have hypothesized that by the time children reached the age of 7, basic ball skills had been achieved, allowing girls to focus on the specific skills of softball while boys further developed their skills in baseball. This is first evidenced by the introduction of U8 girls softball in 2007. It is further evidenced by the discontinuation of U8 co-ed baseball after the 2009 season and the subsequent introduction of U8 boys baseball in 2010.

The same year that U8 co-ed baseball league was phased out, the Department introduced "Pre-Ball" for kids under the age of 5 in an effort to help prepare younger children for the U6 co-ed league. This year of overlap pushed total participation above 200 children for the first time since 2006. A successful first year of nearly 50 Pre-Ball'ers helped to push demand up in 2010 for the U6 co-ed league which reached its highest rate of participation since 2001.

Pre-Ball numbers declined in its second year, a pattern not typical of new programs which often spark an expanded interest after the initial word gets out. Also, the overall negative trend line exhibited in the graph above may be a sign of falling demand. However, demand did increase steadily between 2003 and 2006. The migration of girls to U8 girls softball in 2007 along with 2007-2009 recession are possible factors that muddy the analysis from that point forward. Either way, the Department may consider expanding its advertising efforts to help increase demand for subsequent years and should closely monitor the trends moving forward now that the overall co-ed program has completed its shift from U8/U6 leagues to U6/Pre-Ball leagues. Conservatively, the Town can bank on the consistency of the U6 league and expect an average of just over 100 players or eight (8) teams over the coming decade.



ii. Girls Softball

From 2000 to 2006, the demand for the girls softball program roughly mirrored that of the co-ed baseball program where average participation rates between 2003 and 2006 were lower than the average rates between 2000 and 2002. Since 2006, participation rates have seesawed up and down but in an overall upward direction, whereas the co-ed program has remained steady at best.

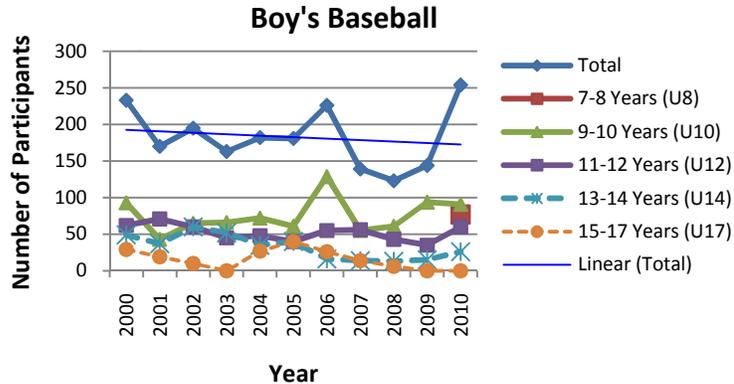
One might conclude that the addition of the U8 league in 2007 has been responsible for the increasing demand; however, the trend line for U8 has remained level since it was introduced. The older age groups (U15 and U17) have also remained fairly static with the U17 league having only drafted an entire team during the 2008 season. A closer analysis reveals that the increase in demand that the Town has recently witnessed stems from the U10 and U12 leagues. Participation in U10 has remained above 20 since fielding only 12 players in 2007, while participation in U12 reached its highest level of the entire decade in 2010 at 35 players.



Between 2000 and 2010, the Town’s population is estimated to have grown by 91%. Meanwhile, the straight line trend for girls softball shows a growth in demand of approximately 56% during that same period. As alluded to previously; however, some of that growth rate—perhaps up to

half—is due to the addition of the 5th age group (U8). Regardless of the figures used, overall demand lags population growth, leading officials to speculate if modified business practices such as expanded marketing may discover any untapped demand.

Given the preceding analysis, program demand for girls softball may be conservatively expected to increase 30% (roughly half of the 56% growth between 2000 and 2010) over the next decade, bringing the total number of annual players to 102 or around eight (8) teams.



iii. Boys Baseball

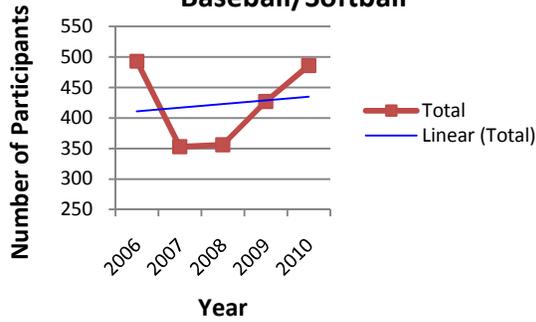
After experiencing three (3) years of substandard participation, the total number of baseball players in 2010 surged past 250 for the first time in the last decade. This surge was fueled in part by completing the transfer of the U8 league over from the co-ed program along with modest one-year gains in the U12 and U14 leagues.

When combined with the fairly static preceding seven (7) years between 2000 and 2006, the straight line trend for boys baseball is fairly flat, hovering around 180 players or approximately 12 teams. Of particular concern to Town staff may be the low demand for the U14 and U17 leagues. In fact, the U17 league's demand has been so low over the past two (2) years that the Town has failed to register enough players for a team. 2010 also represented the first time since 2005 that the U14 league fielded enough players for two (2) teams as opposed to just one (1).

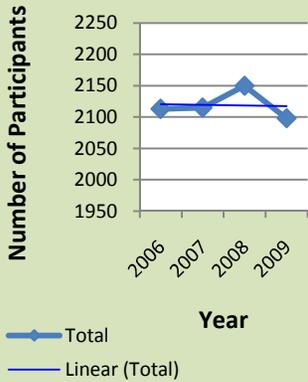
In reviewing the graph above, there is some evidence that a significant number of players stay with the program and age up through the leagues which suggests that the quality of the program is good. When this is true, for example, one would expect to see an increase in registrations for U14 two years following a similar increase in U12. Where such a pattern is strongest is between U10 and U12. If the player spike in U10 for 2006 is removed, the rise and fall of participation rates in the two (2) leagues mirror each other – when one rises, the other falls, and vice versa. For the U17 league, a participant curve existed between 2004 and 2007 that roughly matches a curve three (3) years earlier in the U14 league between 2001 and 2004.

While player retention is a positive indicator, the flatness in overall long-term demand should be studied further since the Town's population has nearly doubled during that same time. In fact, the number of U10 and U12 players is the same in 2010 as it was back in 2000, while the number of U14 and U17 players has actually fallen. On the other hand, the short-term demand trend (2008-2010) even without the U8 league would suggest upward mobility of approximately 40%. Consequently, a conservative growth in program demand of 15% may be expected over the coming decade to an average of about 19 or 20 teams.

Knightdale Youth Baseball/Softball



Raleigh Youth Baseball/Softball

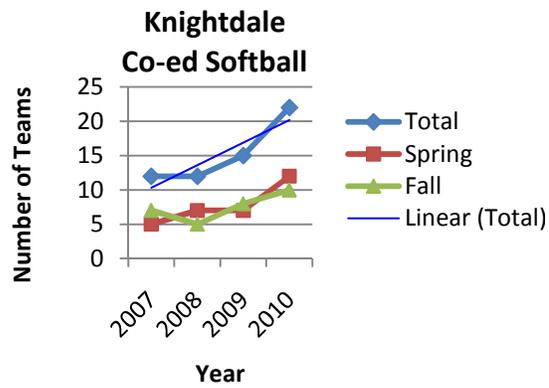
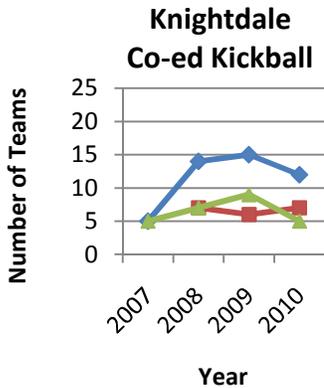


iv. Comparison: City of Raleigh Youth Baseball/Softball

Participation rates with the City of Raleigh’s youth baseball and softball programs would tend to reinforce the short-term trend identified by the general analysis of Knightdale’s programs – relatively flat demand. While demand for Raleigh’s more popular spring leagues has declined slightly, the demand for fall leagues has increased, keeping the annual participation numbers consistent within two (2) to three (3) percentage points.

While the size of Raleigh’s program might appear to overwhelm Knightdale’s efforts, a long history of program provision together with the smaller atmosphere will likely keep baseball and softball going steady in the near future.





b. Adult Softball and Kickball

i. Town of Knightdale

Adult athletic programming was reworked in Knightdale during the 2007 season due to the impending discontinuation of the only previous program - adult men's basketball. The focus shifted to co-ed adult athletics with the first co-ed softball league debuting that spring, followed by the first co-ed kickball league in the fall. Only recently has Knightdale ventured back into adult men's athletics. Men's softball was introduced in 2010, fielding four (4) and five (5) teams in the spring and fall respectively.

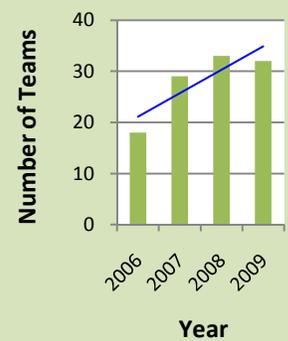
Having established its footing during the 2007 through 2009 seasons, the demand for adult co-ed softball blossomed, pushing the number of teams up 47% in 2010. Overall, the straight line trend shows that demand for the league has doubled in just four (4) years. This kind of growth exceeds that of the Town's population during the same period; consequently, it is unlikely that this rate of growth in demand can be sustained over the next decade.

Finally, co-ed kickball has proved to be a welcome addition to the adult recreation program. Since its introduction in the fall of 2007, co-ed kickball is averaging seven (7) teams per fall or spring league. Without four (4) full years of data, it is difficult to establish a trend. One option may be that demand remains flat, while another may be that it mirrors the success of the co-ed softball program and demand grows in the fourth year. Either way, the demand for adult sports for both male and female players is growing and fueling the larger demand for ball field time and space.

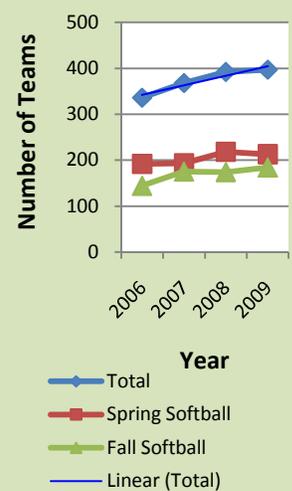
i. Comparison: City of Raleigh

If the City of Raleigh's demand for adult softball and kickball is any reflection of demand throughout the region, it is supportive of Knightdale's individual findings. Participation in Raleigh's adult softball program has been continuously on the rise since 2006, while kickball has enjoyed a steady participation rate, fielding an average of 30 teams per year since 2007.

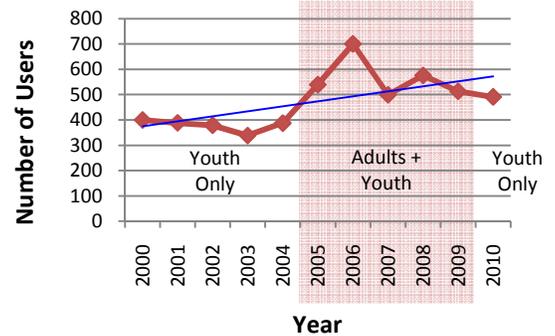
Raleigh Kickball



Raleigh Softball



Total Annual Indoor Court Users



2. Indoor Court Sports

While there are a number of activities and sports that are suitable for indoor courts, basketball has been the staple program for children. Prior to the opening of the Knightdale Recreation Center, the program had to rely on school system gymnasiums. In comparing the early part of the decade to the later part of the decade, the program has tapped into a growing demand at the youth level and has shown an increase of approximately 100 participants from 400 players to 500 players or a growth rate of 25%.

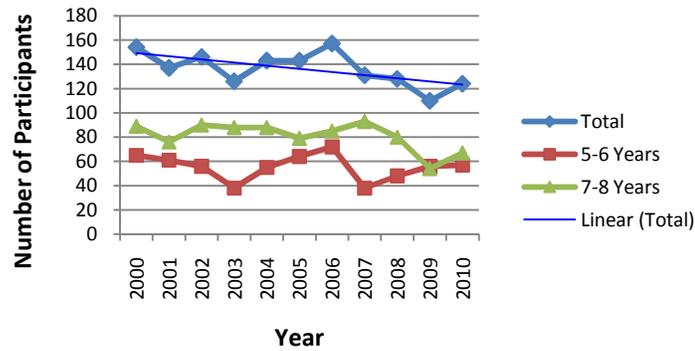


With the opening of the Knightdale Recreation Center, the Town initially ventured into meeting the demand for adult men's basketball. The period encompassing the adult league is shaded red in the graph above. While this league initially proved successful in terms of satisfying the demand, administering an adult league versus a youth league proved to be more challenging than perhaps expected. Ultimately, demand declined to the point where adult leagues in the summer were cancelled in 2007 followed by the cancellation of winter leagues in 2010.

As previously noted, despite the demise of the adult men's league, the demand for youth leagues is up, although not at a rate commensurate with the overall growth of the Town. While the capacity is available to accommodate at least 700 players as evidenced by the participation levels in 2006, the Town must continue to evaluate how much reliance it requires on school owned sites. Furthermore, while the Town has an ownership interest in the Knightdale Recreation Center, it does not own the Center solely. Programming must continue to be scheduled around the needs of the adjacent Forestville Road Elementary School.

Finally, the introduction of any other programs such as indoor volleyball, dodgeball or badminton, as well as a re-introduction of adult basketball will increase the demand for indoor court space further. Careful planning and consideration must be given to these programs since capital improvement expenses associated with new indoor facilities tend to exceed those of outdoor fields.

Youth Co-ed Basketball



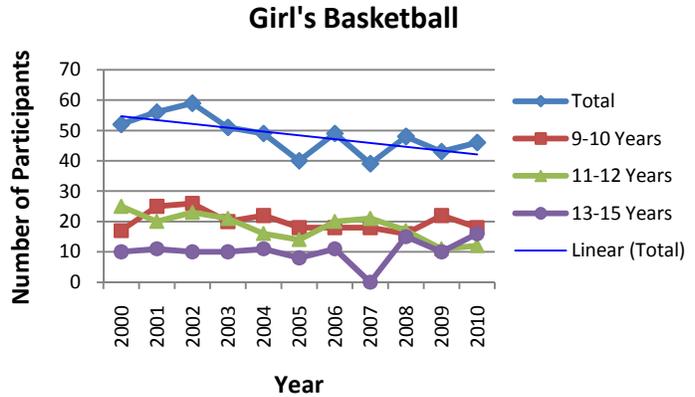
a. Youth Basketball

i. Co-ed Basketball (Ages 8 and Under)

As with youth baseball/softball, the Town set up a co-ed basketball program for elementary school aged children, and it has remained that way to the present time. Specific leagues have been broken down into two (2) age brackets: 5 to 6 years of age (U6), and 7 to 8 years of age (U8). While the first part of the decade saw an average participation rate of about 145 players, the past four (4) years have only drawn an average of about 120 players.

In 2007, the demand and subsequent participation rate took its biggest tumble of the decade. Being a winter program, it is possible that it was negatively impacted by the local conversion that year of three (3) area elementary schools from traditional to year-round calendars. Since then, one (1) of those three (3) schools was converted back to a traditional calendar in 2009. It is possible that local families were caught up in trying to adjust their daily lives to new schedules and simply overlooked the option of introducing their 5 and 6 year olds to basketball as an extracurricular activity. Another possibility is that the nation officially entered a recession in December 2007, and young families may have decided to cut back on extra expenses during a time of initial economic uncertainty.

Either way, program demand appears to be recovering, but not yet to pre-recession levels as the dramatic drop in U6 2007 numbers was reflected in the U8 program numbers the following two (2) years. Demand would also not seem to have been influenced by the Town's population growth over the past decade. If the Town would like to see demand increase, it may wish to study the community attitude towards both the sport and the Knightdale program more closely to determine what steps may need to be taken. However, one positive indicator is that participation rates for the U6 league have risen modestly each year since 2007. This trend may now be influencing the U8 league two (2) years later, as modest growth occurred between 2009 and 2010. Nevertheless, it would appear that without some major influence, program demand will remain relatively flat, likely attracting between 125 and 150 players on average over the next five (5) to 10 years.



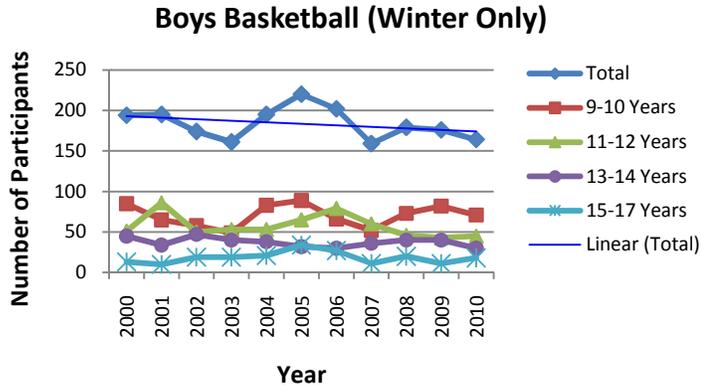
ii. Girls Basketball

The girls basketball program drafts teams in three (3) age groups: 9 and 10 year olds (U10), 11 and 12 year olds (U12) and 13 to 15 year olds (U15). Overall demand has remained fairly constant since 2003, hovering around 45 total players; however, this is on average 10 fewer players than the numbers in the early part of the decade.

Demand for girls basketball reached its high point in 2002 and has bounced back and forth between roughly 40 to 50 participants since 2003. While the U10 and U15 leagues are maintaining their average participation rates, it is the U12 league that has contributed most to the moderately negative trend for this program. While the U12 league participation numbers have cycled up and down every five (5) years, peaking in 2002 and 2007, the peaks and valleys have inched downward.

While the year of 2007 yielded the fewest total participants, it was not markedly lower than the few preceding years and was influenced heavily by the failure to draft teams for the U15 league. Although the long term trend for this program is mildly negative, short term trends look somewhat better. Following 2007's failure, the U15 league has set new participation records in two (2) of the past three (3) years. Meanwhile the U10 league is showing consistency, and the U12 league should be on the upward side of its five (5) year cycle.

Regardless, demand does not appear to be keeping pace with population growth. As with co-ed basketball, program demand is expected to remain relatively flat, likely attracting between 46 and 60 players on average over the next five (5) to 10 years.



iii. Boys Basketball

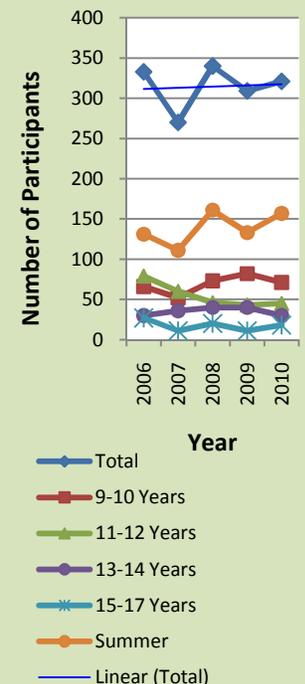
Boys basketball teams are drafted in four (4) age groups between the ages of 9 and 17: U10, U12, U14 and U17. Over the past 10 years, participation has remained fairly strong and steady, averaging between 180 and 190 participants. The lowest participation number again occurred in 2007, and numbers have failed to show significant gains since then, keeping the long-term trend line slightly negative.

Interestingly, the U10 program has cycled up and down every two (2) years since 2001, reaching a high of 89 players and a low of 49 players. If player retention was high, the U12 and U17 leagues would be mirroring the U10 cyclical pattern, while the U14 league pattern would be identical. Since this pattern does not clearly exist, it is difficult to measure the amount of player retention. At best, retention is moderate.

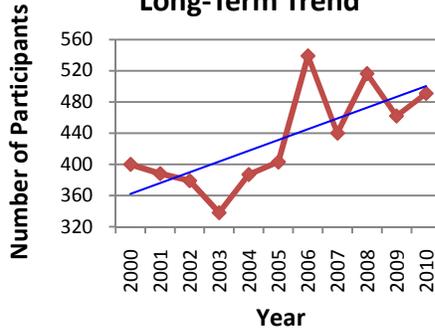
Unlike girls basketball, the short-term trends do not initially appear to show any signs of an upward trend. If anything, the overall numbers are flat. However, the Parks and Recreation Department introduced summer basketball for boys in 2006. It is likely that participation in the summer leagues has lessened some of the demand for the regular winter leagues. When factored in, the introduction of summer leagues has reversed the short-term trend from a negative to a positive one, albeit an ever so slight one.

Nevertheless, summer leagues have added approximately 125 players annually to the entire boys basketball program, demonstrating that an added demand was present and is therefore responsible for most of the gain in approximately 100 annual youth indoor court users between 2000 and 2010 as referenced in subsection (2). However, we cannot determine from this data whether that demand was from children not participating in the winter leagues, or whether the boys in the winter leagues simply desired to play year round. With new tracking software in place, Parks and Recreation personnel should attempt to determine the source of this demand in coming years so that they may make more informed decisions moving forward. Overall, it would appear that the Department may expect between 150 and 200 players in the winter and between 125 and 175 players in the summer in the near future.

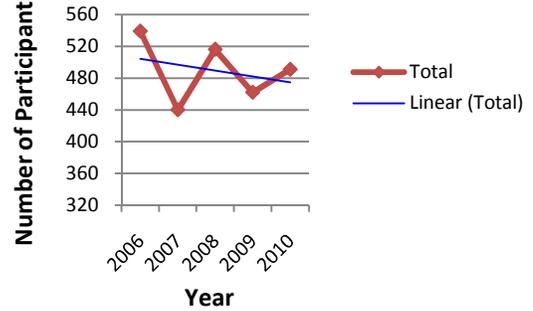
Boys Basketball w/ Summer Leagues



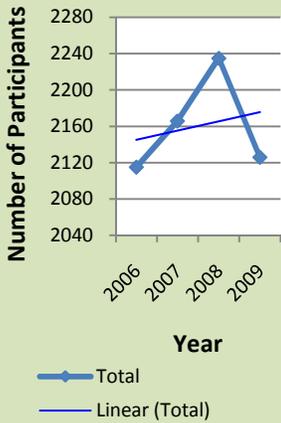
**Knightdale Youth Basketball
Long-Term Trend**



**Knightdale Youth Basketball
Short-Term Trend**



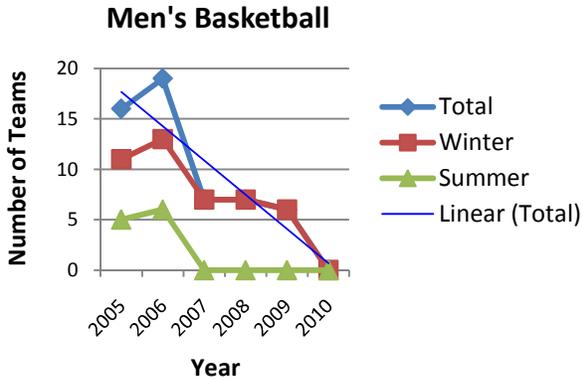
Raleigh Youth Basketball



iv. Comparison: City of Raleigh Youth Basketball

Raleigh’s youth basketball program is a little more than four (4) times the size of Knightdale’s program. When considering the total population of both municipalities (384,116 versus 12,363 respectively), Knightdale’s program is seen in a much stronger position, attracting a higher number of participants relative to its population.

While the short-term trends of each municipality are opposite, both graphs show a propensity for a wide variation in year to year participation rates. Therefore, it is difficult to conclude any findings from comparing the short-term trends of the two municipalities. Moving forward, obtaining additional data from Raleigh may help in this type of analysis. Nonetheless, Knightdale should be encouraged by the positive direction of the long-term trend and the overall strength of the program as evidenced in the preceding paragraph. For the near future, the Town should continue to plan on serving approximately 450 to 550 youth per year.



b. Adult Basketball

i. Town of Knightdale

As mentioned previously, following a successful introduction of men's adult basketball in 2005, the program failed to draft enough players for the 2007 summer league. This failure repeated itself in subsequent years and finally spread to the winter league as well in 2010. Consequently, men's basketball has been discontinued for now and the Town has shifted its adult programming to ball field sports and other activities.

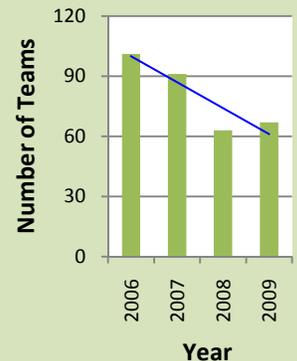
ii. Comparison: City of Raleigh

Men's basketball in the City of Raleigh has suffered a similar decline; however, the overall size of the program has kept the men's leagues afloat. In all, the Raleigh adult basketball leagues shrunk by 33% between 2006 and 2009, which is not an inconsiderable amount. Interestingly, another indoor court sport – adult dodgeball – was introduced in Raleigh for 2006. After an initial boost in popularity for 2007, this program appears to be meeting the same fate as the adult basketball leagues. In just two (2) short years, the adult dodgeball league has lost more than 50% of its teams.

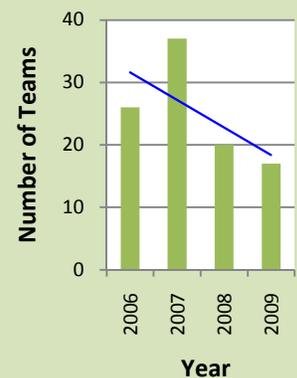
If Raleigh's recent experiences are any indication, it does not appear that the prospects for resurrecting or introducing adult indoor court sports in Knightdale are high. Raleigh's adult basketball program also does not appear to have gained anything from the demise of Knightdale's program which is another bad indicator.

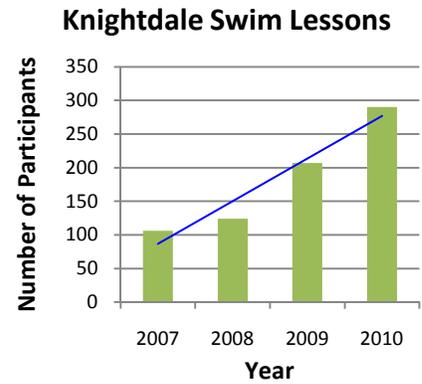
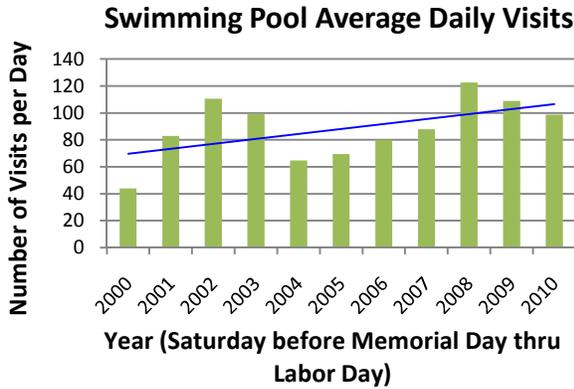
While youth sports include a healthy amount of instruction as children are learning the specifics rules, skills and strategies associated with a particular sport; adult sports are heavily slanted toward competition. Understanding this fundamental difference is important as it often necessitates a different approach to management, programming and refereeing. Since adult programming in Knightdale is young, it is important to examine both the recent failures and successes, identify the lessons learned from both, and apply them to new adult programming moving forward.

Raleigh Men's Basketball



Raleigh Dodgeball





3. Swimming Pool Activities

a. Knightdale Pool

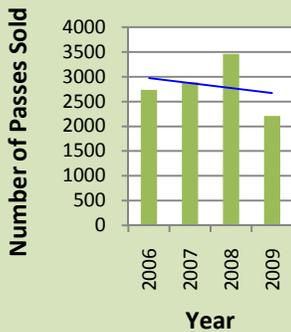
Back in 1998, the Town of Knightdale purchased the former Green Pines Recreation Center and breathed new life into the facility as the Town's outdoor pool and clubhouse. The pool is open annually beginning on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and closing on Labor Day. After reaching a peak of approximately 110 visitors per day in 2002, attendance declined for a couple of years before climbing again to a new peak of 123 visitors per day in 2008. While overall attendance has been cyclical over the past decade, an overall trend in higher attendance is evident. In fact, attendance has risen by approximately 40 people per day since 2000. Whether it's swimming lessons or general outdoor pool recreation, the pool is attracting use despite the relatively remote location at the terminus of a dead end road in the back of a residential subdivision. Given this trend, and Knightdale's warm, humid summer weather, it is expected that the demand for outdoor recreation where one may cool off with some time in a swimming pool will continue to increase.

Knightdale has also offered swim lessons. However, prior to 2007, these lessons were held sporadically depending on the availability of the lifeguards. In 2007, the Department decided to formalize lessons for children and introduced adult lessons in 2010 based on anecdotal evidence that the demand was present. Each summer, the number of swim lessons has exceeded that of the previous year. This would suggest that there continues to be an unmet demand, and it is likely that numbers will continue to climb, albeit gradually slower in the coming years.

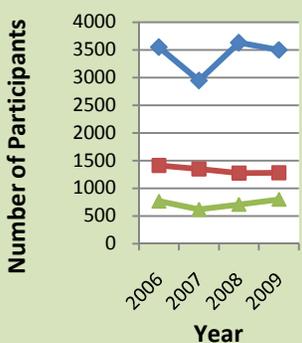
b. Comparison: City of Raleigh Swimming

Although Raleigh's 4-year trend is slightly negative, it mirrors the Knightdale swimming pool attendance from 2006 to 2009; having peaked in 2008. The popularity of swimming in Raleigh has led to the City offering private swim lessons, group swim lessons, lifeguarding classes, parent/child lessons, water aerobics and adult beginner swim lessons. A competitive swim team season is also offered, attracting a season high of 803 participants in 2009. As Knightdale moves forward with the eventual construction of a community center and indoor pool, similar class and expanded lesson offerings should be considered in the development of a comprehensive swim program.

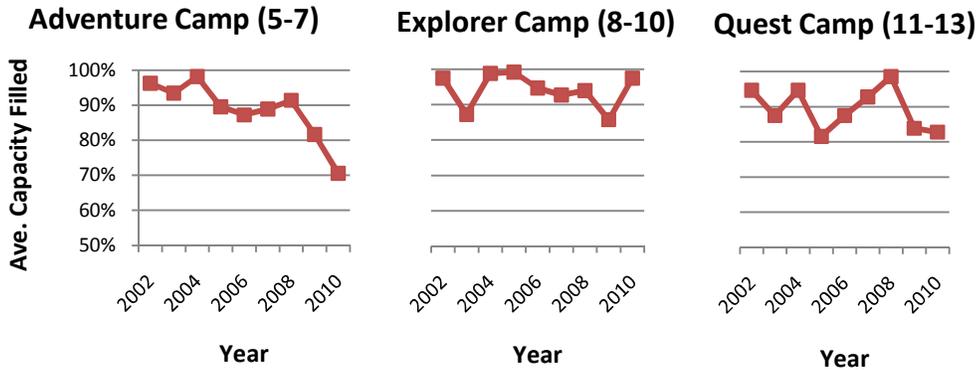
Raleigh Open Swimming



Raleigh Swim Programs



- Swim Lessons
- Water Aerobics
- ▲— Swim Team



4. Other Programs & Activities

a. Summer Camp

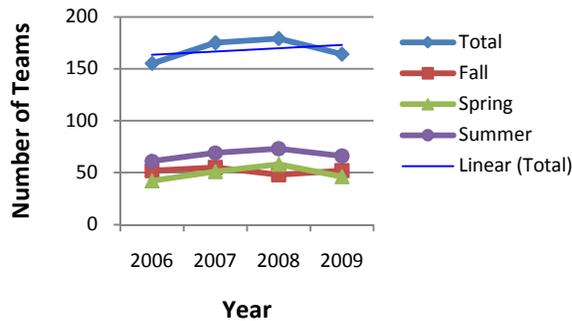
Summer camps have been a staple program of the Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department that offers between 40 and 50 “seats” for three (3) different age brackets: 5-7, 8-10 and 11-13. In 2007, the Town needed to decide how to respond to the introduction of year round schools by the Wake County Public School System. After some careful thought and deliberation, it was decided that new track out camps would be offered for those attending area year round schools, while the successful summer camps would serve as a model for the new track out program and continue to be offered for those attending schools remaining on the traditional calendar.

The graphs above depict the average percentage of capacity filled over the eight (8) week period of each summer camp. During most years, average weekly enrollment falls between 85% and 100% capacity. However, there have been five (5) times that a camp’s enrollment has fallen below 85% capacity, and four (4) of those have been in the most recent two (2) years: Adventure Camp 2009, Adventure Camp 2010, Quest Camp 2009 and Quest Camp 2010. Should this become a more frequent occurrence and extend to the Explorer Camp enrollment figures, the Town will need to determine and analyze the factors contributing to the decline and decide how it will respond.

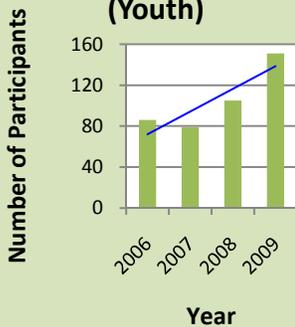
For now, the Town should be pleased with relatively consistent enrollment and note that, even in down years, enrollment for at least one (1) or two (2) weeks of each camp often hits 100% capacity. Furthermore, each week of each camp in 2010 operated in the black, meaning that the Town did not have to subsidize the program at any point. Controlling program expenses in the face of wide variations in weekly attendance and continual changes in school calendars, points to the strong management skills and experience of the Town’s staff in this particular area. A closer analysis of any wait lists or early termination of enrollment periods is warranted to determine if demand is increasing. Apart from that, the Town can certainly count on filling the vast majority of its existing capacity from year to year.



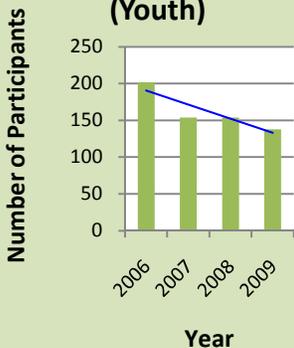
Raleigh Sand Volleyball (Adult)



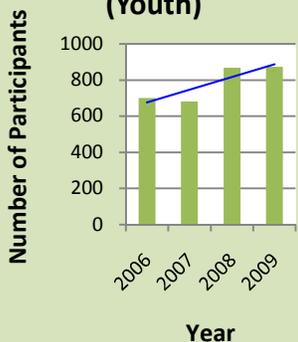
Raleigh Cheer (Youth)



Raleigh Lacrosse (Youth)



Raleigh Football (Youth)



b. Miscellaneous

i. Youth

As Knightdale grows and looks to expand its recreation offerings to area youth, they may consider the success of other area programs. While football start-up costs are high due to the necessary equipment, Raleigh does maintain a strong and growing program. Knightdale may continue to refer football clients to the City of Raleigh, but may want to eventually explore programs for lesser known sports and activities with less expensive start-up costs. Raleigh has had a successful lacrosse program; however, the sport's popularity peaked in 2006 and interest has been declining since then. Therefore, Knightdale would likely not pursue that program unless strong local interest was voiced. In the meantime, Knightdale may want to examine competitive cheerleading as a new program option since its participation rates in Raleigh have doubled between 2007 and 2009. Knightdale has already offered a few classes utilizing multi-purpose rooms at the Knightdale Recreation Center. Given the rise in the notoriety and status of cheerleading at the high school and collegiate levels, enhancement of this class to a regular program should be a strong consideration.

ii. Adult

In addition to re-evaluating adult basketball, the Town may consider introducing indoor or outdoor volleyball since outdoor volleyball has proved to be rather successful in Raleigh. Another option for consideration is continuing to diversify the existing leagues into various groups, whether it be age, gender, season, etc. Whatever route is chosen, the Department should look to build on the lessons learned from both its successes and shortfalls. Finally, while not a short-term priority due to the current lack of demand, the Parks and Recreation Department should be mindful of the growing elderly population and begin planning for more activities and sports suitable for seniors. Whether its horseshoes, bocce or tennis; there are many low-impact sporting opportunities that the Town may consider.



B. Citizen Survey

Not every recreation need can be measured through participation in organized activities. Therefore, it is important to gather data from time to time that examines the general interests and activities of the area citizenry. Most recently, in October of 2008, the Town conducted a town-wide survey on the topics of recreation and quality of life through a company by the name of "Insight Research, Incorporated" (Appendix B). Approximately 4,100 surveys were distributed to citizens and customers of the Town of Knightdale through the postal service with a postage-paid Business Reply envelope included. In all, 936 surveys were returned for a total response rate of 22.8%. It should be noted that the response categories developed for the survey included many popular recreation programs currently offered and also tested a few programs that may be considered unique. While measuring a broad spectrum of interests, the survey should not be considered comprehensive. Consequently, we cannot use the survey results to validate or invalidate the idea that a lacrosse or cheer program may have the same level of interest in Knightdale that it currently has in Raleigh because these specific activities were not surveyed.

Parks and Recreation Department responsibilities are also divided. In the preceding sections, the focus has been on programmed activities; however, the Department is also responsible for overseeing the provision of facilities that residents may decide to use at their leisure. This division of activities was not made evident in the survey. Since many of the activities surveyed are not programmatic in nature, a lower survey response result does not automatically mean that an activity should not be considered for programming as many of the top responses may be leisure activities that do not require the coordination of a structured program within the Parks and Recreation Department.

When asked to choose the five (5) most preferred recreation activities (of a total of eighteen choices) for their household, respondents rated the activities as shown in the side bar. Apart from the bottom three responses [16-18], the rest received a response from at least 100 households surveyed. Such a response rate would tend to suggest that there is a wide variety of recreational interests within the Knightdale community. In fact, the majority of the top six (6) rated activities, apart from swimming, are not associated with sports. The general results would suggest that there is a strong demand for local places to walk and hike, programs that encourage residents to improve their level of fitness, opportunities to expose local families to the arts and trips to visit cultural and historical attractions.

Favorite Recreation Activities

- 1) Walking/Hiking
- 2) Fitness Programs
- 3) Swimming
- 4) Performing Arts
- 5) Arts & Crafts
- 6) Sightseeing

Most Preferred

-
- 7) Basketball
 - 8) Fishing
 - 9) Golf
 - 10) Cycling
 - 11) Football
 - 12) Tennis
-
- 13) Baseball
 - 14) Soccer
 - 15) Camping
 - 16) Bird Watching
 - 17) Volleyball
 - 18) Bocce

Least Preferred

More specifically, the survey broke the responses down by the age of those present in the household. A closer analysis of these breakdowns brings to light some differences in family recreation interests based on the age of the family members living there. (*Differential from Overall Rank in parentheses*)

Figure 5.1: Activity Rank by Age Cohort

Overall Rank	Rank Age <6	Rank Age 6-12	Rank Age 13-17	Rank Age 18-30	Rank Age 31-45	Rank Age 46-55	Rank Age 56-65	Rank Age >65
1) Walk/Hike	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2) Fitness	4 -2	4 -2	3 -1	2	3 -1	3 -1	2	3 -1
3) Swimming	2 +1	2 +1	2 +1	3	2 +1	2 +1	6 -3	6 -3
4) Perf. Arts	3 +1	3 +1	4	4	4	4	3 +1	4
5) Arts/Crafts	5	7 -2	6 -1	9 -4	5	5	5	5
6) Sightseeing	12 -6	14 -8	15 -9	10 -4	9 -3	6	4 +2	2 +4
7) Basketball	7	5 +2	5 +2	5 +2	6 +1	9 -2	9 -2	10 -3
8) Fishing	8	11 -3	8	6 +2	8	7 +1	7 +1	9 -1
9) Golf	14 -5	15 -6	11 -2	7 +2	12 -3	10 -1	12 -3	8 +1
10) Cycling	11 -1	10	8 +2	12 -2	14 -4	7 +3	10	10
11) Football	10 +1	9 +2	12 -1	7 +4	7 +4	12 -1	8 +3	13 -2
12) Tennis	15 -3	12	8 +4	11 +1	13 -1	10 +2	12	16 -4
13) Baseball	9 +4	8 +5	13	12 +1	11 +2	13	14 -1	10 +3
14) Soccer	6 +8	6 +8	7 +7	15 -1	9 +5	15 -1	16 -2	14
15) Camping	13 +2	12 +3	13 +2	14 +1	15	14 +1	14 +1	15
16) Bird Watch	16	17 -1	17 -1	17 -1	17 -1	16	11 +5	7 +9
17) Volleyball	17	16 +1	16 +1	16 +1	16 +1	16 +1	17	17
18) Bocce	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18

Focusing on the activities that rank in the top six (6) for any age cohort (*highlighted in green*), it is interesting to note that **walking and hiking** was consistently ranked as the number one (1) activity, clearly indicating that the provision of spaces for pursuing this activity should be a top priority of the Town. Such spaces may include neighborhood sidewalk networks, greenways that feature multi-purpose trails, measured walking paths through parks, and natural trails through conservation areas.

Although not always a typical component of public parks and recreation programs, **fitness classes** and **performing arts** shows should also be a goal of the Town for its citizens. Never ranked lower than fourth (4th) for any age cohort, the Town may



wish to analyze the opportunities available through private business and non-profit organizations in an effort to identify any gaps that might be filled through public efforts.

From here, some subtle and not to subtle differences in preferred activities begin to show between age cohorts. **Swimming** is a favorite activity for children and their parents, but not as much for grandparents who have a stronger preference for **sightseeing** trips – an activity in which the interest generally declines the younger you are. **Basketball** is a popular activity for school age children and college-age adults, while **arts and crafts** rank higher for pre-school aged children, adults and seniors. Perhaps the most notable difference is **soccer**. Soccer ranks well among both small and school age children while dropping to the bottom of the ranks among other age groups. The moderate interest of those aged 31-45 is likely influenced by this age group being the parents of those small and school age children. While soccer is not a sport currently offered by the Town, there are private groups that do manage soccer programs. Due to the level of interest among children being significant, the Town should monitor existing programs and look for any existing service provision gaps it may assist with.

Fishing is the final activity to have reached a ranking of six (6) amongst any age cohort. For the most part, fishing has a medium level of interest among all age groups, achieving its highest rank of sixth (6th) among 18-30 year olds. Knightdale has limited surface water resources within its boundaries, so the Town should give special attention to the Neuse River and cooperate with neighboring jurisdictions to promote nearby lakes (Lake Myra, Neusoca Lake, Milburnie Lake and others) as places to enjoy clean water recreation.

VI. NEEDS ANALYSIS

A. Benchmarks

Most estimates for the future build-out of the Town of Knightdale (in 20-30 years) state that the Town will someday be the home of 50,000-75,000 people. In establishing the following benchmarks, the Town has chosen to focus on a population of 50,000 to ensure that the minimum expected parks and recreation needs are planned for.

Figure 6.1: Knightdale Benchmarks Table

Public Facility	Rate per 1,000 Population	Minimum Recommended
Neighborhood Park	2.60 acres	130 acres
Community Park	3.10 acres	155 acres
Specialty Park & Open Space	9.50 acres	475 acres
Neighborhood Rec Center	0.10	5
Community Center	0.04	2
Hard Surface Trails	1.10 miles	55 miles
Natural Surface Trails	0.90 miles	45 miles
Amphitheater Stage	0.10	5
Multifamily Picnic Shelter	0.10	5
Picnic Table	5.00	250
Baseball/Softball Field	0.40	20
Gymnasium	0.05	3
Multi-Sport Field	0.20	10
Outdoor Hoop	0.50	25
Swimming Pool	0.05	3
Tennis Court	0.50	25
Dog Park	0.05	3
Playground	0.50	25
Skate Park	0.02	1



B. Citizen Survey

Each parks and recreation activity takes place in some kind of space, and many of these spaces were surveyed as part of Insight Research, Incorporated's October 2008 survey. When asked to choose the five (5) most preferred recreation facilities (of a total of nineteen choices) for their household, respondents rated the facilities/spaces as follows:

Each of the top 14 facilities and spaces received at least 100 responses (roughly 10% of total responses possible) from citizens, with each of the top six (6) facilities and spaces receiving between 260 and 375 responses. At a minimum, these top 14 facilities and spaces should be considered and planned for as Knightdale grows and moves forward in time. The recent purchase of the approximately 70 acres near Old Town Knightdale will accommodate the need for a central community park and center. Within this park, square footage and acreage devoted to each of the top ten (10) facilities and spaces is planned, thereby increasing the town's inventory to help meet presently unmet demands for related activities.

While the completion of the community park will alleviate many of the top needs, the Town will have to look elsewhere or expand the community park's scope to meet some of the lesser needs. Presently, Knightdale has one (1) privately run golf course. Although this course is meeting the area's present needs, the owners have indicated a strong desire to sell the property for development. If sold, Knightdale will be without a golf course, leaving the closest opportunities at the Hedingham Golf Club, the River Ridge Golf Club and the Wendell Country Club. River access is nearby for canoes in Raleigh's future jurisdiction, but not in Knightdale. With around three (3) miles of riverbank at Knightdale's western edge, opportunities for access abound and should be strongly considered where possible. Public ball fields and tennis courts generally enjoy an amount of use commensurate with the current supply. However, the number of ball fields and courts will need to increase over time at a pace consistent with that of the growing population.

As with activities, the survey broke the responses down by the age of those present in the household. A closer analysis of these breakdowns brings to light some differences in the specific places people prefer to recreate based on the age of the family members living there. *(Differential from Overall Rank in parentheses)*

Favorite Recreation Facilities

- 1) Indoor Pool
- 2) Community Ctr.
- 3) Fitness Center
- 4) Natural Areas
- 5) Hiking Trails
- 6) Playgrounds

Most Preferred

-
- 7) Amphitheater
 - 8) Picnic Areas
 - 9) Bicycle Trails
 - 10) Greenways
 - 11) Golf Course
 - 12) River Access

-
- 13) Ball Fields
 - 14) Tennis Courts
 - 15) Driving Range
 - 16) Camp Sites
 - 17) Soccer Fields
 - 18) Skate Park
 - 19) Horse Trails

Least Preferred

Figure 6.2: Facility Rank by Age Cohort

Overall Rank	Rank Age <6	Rank Age 6-12	Rank Age 13-17	Rank Age 18-30	Rank Age 31-45	Rank Age 46-55	Rank Age 56-65	Rank Age >65
1) Indoor Pool	2 -1	1	1	2 -1	1	1	2 -1	4 -3
2) Comm. Ctr.	3 -1	3 -1	2	4 -2	3 -1	2	1 +1	1 +1
3) Fitness Ctr.	5 -2	4 -1	4 -1	1 +2	4 -1	3	4 -1	3
4) Nat. Areas	4	8 -4	7 -3	3 +1	5 -1	4	3 +1	2 +2
5) Hiking Trls.	7 -2	9 -4	3 +2	5	6 -1	5	5	7 -2
6) Playgrds	1 +5	2 +4	7 -1	6	2 +4	10 -4	9 -3	8 -2
7) Amphthr.	9 -2	10 -3	5 +2	8 -1	7	7	6 +1	6 +1
7) Pic. Areas	6 +1	7	9 -2	6 +1	8 -1	9 -2	7	5 +2
9) Bike Trails	7 +2	6 +3	6 +3	11 -2	9	6 +3	10 -1	10 -1
10) Greenways	11 -1	11 -1	10	9 +1	11 -1	8 +2	8 +2	9 +1
11) Golf Crse.	14 -3	13 -2	13 -2	10 +1	13 -2	11	14 -3	12 -1
12) River Accs.	12	14 -2	13 -1	12	12	13 -1	11 +1	11 +1
13) Ball Fields	10 +3	5 +8	11 +2	13	10 +3	12 +1	12 +1	13
14) Tennis Cts.	17 -3	16 -2	12 +2	14	14	13 +1	13 +1	14
15) Driv. Range	14 +1	17 -2	17 -2	15	16 -1	16 -1	16 -1	14 +1
16) Camp Sites	16	18 -2	18 -2	16	17 -1	15 +1	14 +2	14 +2
17) Soccer Flds	13 +4	12 +5	15 +2	17	14 +3	17	19 -2	17
18) Skate Park	17 +1	15 +3	16 +2	19 -1	18	18	18	19 -1
19) Horse Trls.	19	19	19	18 +1	19	19	16 +3	18 +1

One might expect the interest in facilities and spaces to mirror the previously mentioned interests in activities. For the most part, this is true as evidenced by the list of activities and related facilities or spaces in Figure 6.3. In general, this means nearly all members of households and families not only enjoy spending time in these places, but also enjoy actively recreating within them.

Figure 6.3: Top Common Activity/Facility Relationships

Top 6 Activity	Related Top 6 Facility/Space
Walking/Hiking	Hiking Trails, Natural Areas
Swimming	Indoor Pool
Fitness Programs	Fitness Center, Community Center
Performing Arts	Amphitheater , Community Center
Arts and Crafts	Community Center
Basketball	Community Center



Sightseeing is difficult to associate with a specific facility or space; however, fishing might be associated with river access. In looking at the overall picture, both fishing and river access finished in the middle of the pack, so the agreement between the two (2) sections of the survey would appear to hold true here as well, albeit at a less intensive overall rate of interest.

The biggest discrepancies appear to be between soccer and soccer fields, and between baseball and ball fields. Where soccer had the lowest overall rank for a top six (6) activity, the lowest overall rank for a top six (6) facility or space was ball fields. On the flip side, the highest rank for soccer fields was 12th, and the highest rank for baseball was 8th. While families with young children enjoy having their kids participate in soccer, they appear to not be as happy with the facilities. Meanwhile, ball fields appear to be great places for the family to hang out, but fewer family members actually participate in the sporting activity. Moving forward, the Town might consider what it can do to bring the preference for soccer fields more in line with soccer as an activity. These findings also help support the Town's focus on its baseball/softball programs. Despite the activity itself only ranking 13th, families and households with young children are enjoying the time spent there.

Figure 6.4: Knightdale Supply/Demand Chart for Benchmarked Facilities

Town Facility	Current Supply	Future Need	Balance
Neighborhood Park	20.6 acres	130 acres	109.4 acres
Community Park	74.4 acres	155 acres	80.6 acres
Specialty Park & Open Space	175.6 acres	475 acres	299.4 acres
Neighborhood Rec Center	1	5	4
Community Center	0	2	2
Hard Surface Trails	1.1 miles	55 miles	53.9 miles
Natural Surface Trails	0.2 miles	45 miles	44.8 miles
Amphitheater Stage	0	5	5
Multifamily Picnic Shelter	0	5	5
Picnic Table	16	250	234
Baseball/Softball Field	4	20	16
Gymnasium	1	3	2
Multi-Sport Field	2	10	8
Outdoor Hoop	3	25	22
Swimming Pool	1	3	2
Tennis Court	2	25	23
Dog Park	0	3	3
Playground	3	25	22
Skate Park	0	1	1



VII. MAJOR FUTURE FACILITIES

Using the benchmarks and goals established in Section VI-A, the Town has adopted a master plan map as shown in Figure 7.1 that documents existing major facilities/spaces and identifying areas and corridors where additional facilities and spaces will be needed in the future.

A. Community Parks

Town staff, along with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, estimate that the Town could garner the needed 155 acres in two (2) Community Parks, of which a little over 74 acres has recently been purchased for one such community park. The Community Parks are planned in close proximity to the areas of town in which the highest residential densities are expected – one (1) in the center of town, and one (1) in the southwest quadrant of town.

COMMUNITY PARKS	Acres	Comm. Center	Paved Trails (mi.)	Restrooms	Skate Park	Dog Park	Playground	Multi-Sport Field	Amphitheater	Group Camp Area	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Table
<i>Central</i>	74	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Southwest</i>												

* Planned amenities

Community Parks typically encompass 20-100 acres and often provide amenities such as playgrounds; picnic areas and shelters; multi-purpose trails; open field space for informal sporting activities; an amphitheater; a dog park; and a staffed community center. Additionally, some parks may include amenities such as outdoor courts, a skate park, an indoor pool or dedicated outdoor sport fields.

Community Centers

The accompanying community centers generally provide multi-purpose rooms, performing arts space, indoor sporting venues, kitchens and restrooms.

COMMUNITY CENTERS	Indoor Pool	Gymnasium	Multi-Purpose Room	Racquetball Court	Walking Track	Exercise Room	Locker Room (set)	Art Room	Stage
<i>Central</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Southwest</i>									

* Planned amenities

B. Neighborhood Parks

Town staff, along with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, estimate that the Town could garner the needed 130 acres in nine (9) Neighborhood Parks. The Neighborhood Parks are scattered around the Town to provide smaller scale recreation activities in close proximity to where citizens reside.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	Acres	Picnic Tables	Paved Trails (mi.)	Restrooms	Basketball Hoops	Tennis Courts	Playground	Classrooms	Amphitheater
Environmental Park	9	4	.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harper Park	5	6	*	1	-	2	1	1	*
Mingo Creek Park	8	-	*	-	2/*	-	*	-	-
<i>Old Crews Area</i>									
<i>Old Faison Area</i>									
<i>Oaks Area</i>									
<i>Southern Park</i>									
<i>Southeast Area</i>									
<i>Northeast Park</i>									

* Planned amenities

Neighborhood Parks typically encompass 5-20 acres and often provide amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, walking paths and open field space for informal sporting activities. Additionally, some parks may include amenities such as multi-use trails, surfaced sport courts, neighborhood recreation centers, small amphitheaters, dog parks and restrooms.



Neighborhood Recreation Centers

Two (2) of the preceding Neighborhood Parks are also planned to be coupled with a Neighborhood Recreation Center. As such, the Southern and Northeast parks will likely tend to be closer to 20 acres in overall size. The remaining two (2) Neighborhood Recreation Centers are associated with existing specialty parks. The first existing Neighborhood Recreation Center is located at Forestville Road Elementary School along with accompanying soccer and ball fields, and the space is available for a second center at the existing Knightdale Pool which sits on 18 acres along the Neuse River. In addition to the amenities provided in a Neighborhood Park, a Neighborhood Recreation Center typically provides multi-purpose rooms, kitchen facilities, restrooms and venues for select sporting activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTERS	Gymnasium	Multi-Purpose Rooms	Restrooms	Basketball Hoops	Playground	Picnic Tables	Multi-Sport Field	Swimming Pool	Paved Trails (mi.)	Ball Field
Forestville Road	1	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	.3	4
Pool/Western Area	-	1	1	1	1	6	-	1	-	-
Southeast Area										
Northeast Park										

* Planned amenities

C. Specialty Parks & Open Space/Greenways

Town staff, along with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, estimate that the Town could assemble approximately 150 acres in two (2) specialty parks, which would leave a minimum of 325 acres to be preserved as public open space and greenway corridors. Specialty parks are typically 30 acres or more in size and may draw visitors from beyond Knightdale, depending on the unique characteristics of the individual park. Knightdale’s specialty parks are planned in areas of environmental sensitivity: one (1) near the quarry along Beaverdam Creek, and one (1) along Mark’s Creek near a closed county landfill. The primary purposes of these parks will be to educate citizens about the environment and fulfill specific programmatic needs with field space. Other small, low-impact amenities may include playgrounds, trails (both paved and natural), picnic facilities, campgrounds and outdoor amphitheaters.

SPECIALTY PARKS	Natural Trails (mi.)	Paved Trails (mi.)	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Table	Group Camp Area	Amphitheater	Multi-Sport Field	Playground	Restrooms
<i>Northwest</i>									
<i>Eastern</i>									

Greenways

Greenways are a network of natural corridors that may or may not be improved for human enjoyment with trails of various types. Larger corridors may also serve as protection for waterways and provide needed habitat for wildlife. Many subdivisions within the Knightdale area have dedicated greenway corridors as part of their open space requirements, and some have been improved with five (5) or six (6) foot wide paved walking paths. The corridors identified below are shown in Figure 7.1 and represent those primary corridors that should be considered for improvement with a minimum 10-foot wide multi-purpose paved trail.

GREENWAY CORRIDORS	Paved Trails (mi.)	Associated Corridor Acreage
<i>Mingo Creek – Main (MI – Main)</i>	0.6	4.7
<i>Mingo Creek – Old Town Connector (MI – OTC)</i>		
<i>Beaverdam Creek – Main (B – Main)</i>		
<i>Beaverdam Creek – Mark’s Creek Connector (B – MCC)</i>		
<i>Beaverdam Creek – Buffalo Road Connector (B – BRC)</i>		
<i>Mark’s Creek – Central (MA – Cent)</i>		
<i>Mark’s Creek – West (MA – West)</i>		
<i>Mark’s Creek – East (MA – East)</i>		
<i>Poplar Creek – Main (P – Main)</i>		
<i>Poplar Creek – Lake Myra Connector (P – LMC)</i>		
<i>Poplar Creek – Bethlehem North Connector (P – BNC)</i>		
<i>Clark’s Branch – Main (C – Main)</i>		
<i>Clark’s Branch – Poplar Creek Connector (C – PCC)</i>		

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN



Town of Knightdale
Planning Department
2010

Legend

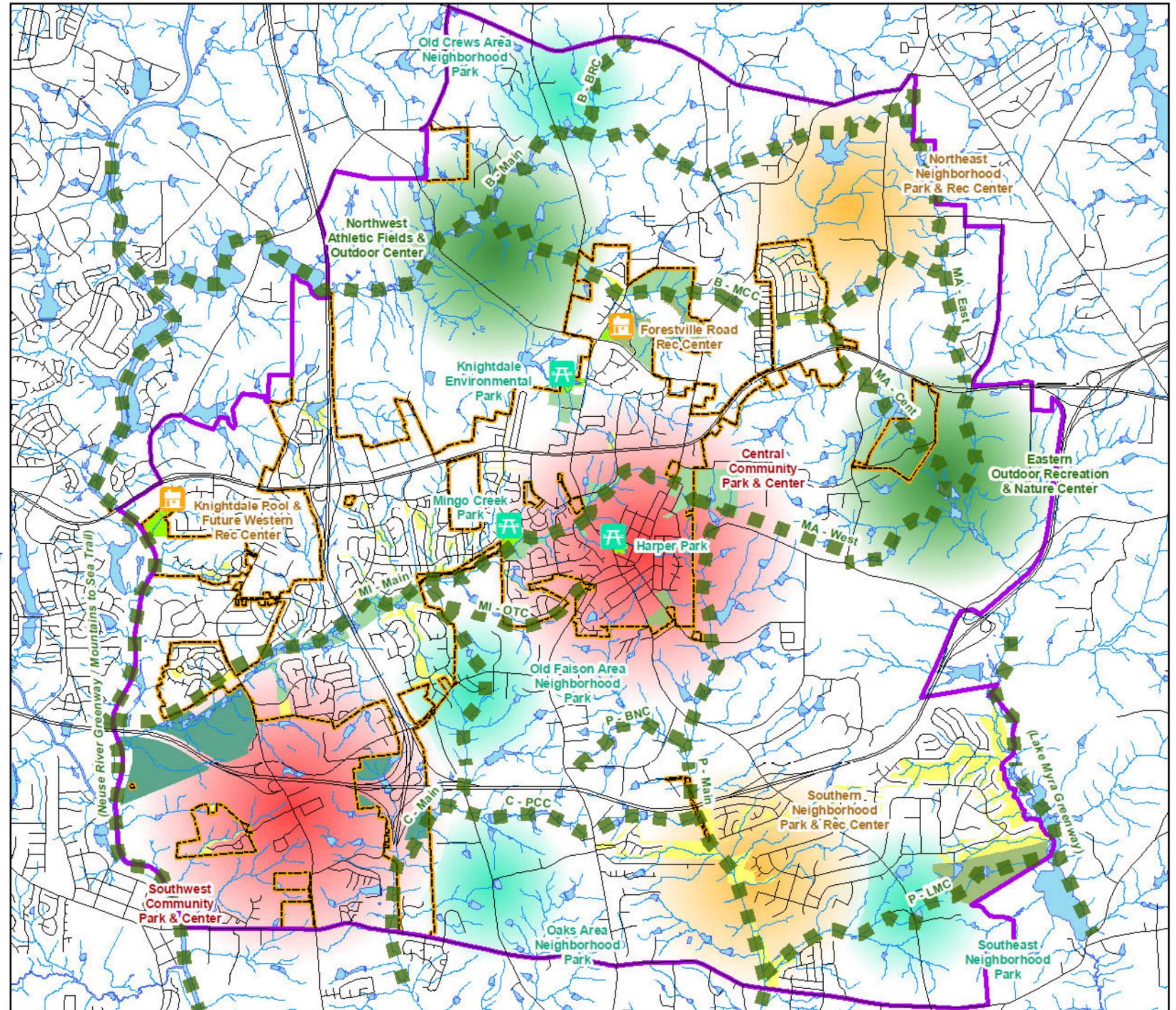
- Streets
- Urban Service Area
- Corporate Limits (2009)
- Surface Waters
- Surface Streams
- Private Recreation Land
- County Recreation Land
- Town Land (Non-Utility)
- Town Parks
- State Open Space
- Future Community Center
- Future Specialty Park
- Future Neighborhood Rec Center
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Greenway Corridors
- Neighborhood Park
- Neighborhood Rec Center



1 inch = 3,400 feet

0 1,700 3,400 6,800 10,200 Feet

FIGURE 7.1





VIII. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Action Items

The following tasks provide a course of action for the Town to implement the preceding Parks and Recreation Master Plan map and the plan's six (6) objectives:

- PR-1. Evaluate and prioritize unmet parks and recreation needs on an annual basis.
- PR-2. Earmark funding for top parks and recreation facility priorities within the Town's Capital Improvement Plan budget.
- PR-3. Amend the Town's Water Allocation Policy to encourage private developers to supply parks and recreation facilities that help the Town meet its needs.
- PR-4. Review recreation and open space plans for compliance with the applicable provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.
- PR-5. Survey the Town's citizens and park users at least every five (5) years to monitor changes of interest in recreation activities.
- PR-6. Establish and maintain personal contacts with Wake County Parks and Recreation, Wake County Public School System, Triangle Land Conservancy, YMCA, and other local and regional parks, recreation and open space providers.
- PR-7. Identify and explore partnership opportunities through personal contacts with local and regional parks, recreation and open space providers.
- PR-8. Review and update the parks and recreation personnel plan/forecast on an annual basis.
- PR-9. Conduct a variety of public outreach programs (public hearings, public meetings, electronic feedback, snail mail campaigns, etc.) for new park projects.
- PR-10. Expand the use of new RecPro software to track more detailed participant data (i.e. wait list numbers and general geographic location).
- PR-11. Continue regular monthly meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

-
- PR-12. Entertain requests from owners for purchases of property for parkland in accordance with the areas identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan map.
 - PR-13. Educate the general public about greenways, focusing on perceived safety issues and overall community benefits.
 - PR-14. Develop and implement a unified signage program for parks and recreation.
 - PR-15. Amend Harper Park Upgrade Plan to add two (2) tennis courts.
 - PR-16. Complete Amended Harper Park Upgrade Plan within 2-5 years.
 - PR-17. Complete Mingo Creek Park Plan Phase 1B and Playground within 2-5 years.
 - PR-18. Complete Mingo Creek Park Plan Phase 2 and Walking Path in 5-7 years.
 - PR-19. Complete Mingo Creek Park Plan Phase 3 in 7-10 years.
 - PR-20. Complete Phase 1 of the Central Community Park & Center within 2-5 years.
 - PR-21. Establish phasing schedule for remaining portions of the Central Community Park & Center within 1-2 years.
 - PR-22. Draft and adopt plan for upgrade of the Knightdale Pool property to the Western Rec Center within 2-5 years.



B. Funding Source Review

Following is a listing of some of the better known funding sources for parks, equipment and recreation programs. It is not meant to be a complete list, but a sampling for the general public to understand the types of funding for which the Town may be eligible to apply. Most funding sources are competitive and therefore not a guaranteed source of funding.

1. Public

a. Town of Knightdale Capital Improvements Program Budget

In addition to the annual budget ordinance, the Town of Knightdale adopts a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) each year. The CIP includes all major capital projects, equipment purchases and major repairs in excess of \$50,000 for the next five (5) years beginning with the current budget year. For each project, the CIP lists the estimated costs, year of completion, and also the funding sources that will be necessary to pay for the project. These funding sources may include grants, loan proceeds, transfers from the Capital Reserve Fund, fund balance appropriation from the General Fund or other revenue sources. The CIP is updated each year to delete completed projects, add new projects or make changes to existing projects.

b. Wake County Partnership Grant Program

The goal of Wake County's Open Space Program is to work in partnership with willing municipalities, nonprofit organizations and individual property owners to protect remaining open space in the county. Municipalities should contact County staff and must complete a project proposal form and provide necessary supplementary materials such as maps and property analysis documentation. The County will provide a 50% funding match to collaboratively pursue land protection outside the 11 priority stream corridors which includes Mark's Creek.

www.wakegov.com/parks/openspace/protection/partnergrant.htm

c. North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the general public. Counties, incorporated municipalities and public authorities, as defined by G.S. 159-7, are eligible applicants. A local government can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application.

www.ncparks.gov





d. North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund

The state's Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) funds projects that (1) enhance or restore degraded waters, (2) protect unpolluted waters, and/or (3) contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits. CWMTF receives a direct appropriation from the General Assembly in order to issue grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems. The 21-member, independent, CWMTF Board of Trustees has full responsibility over the allocation of moneys from the Fund.

www.cwmtf.net

e. Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funds

Only those projects that are listed in one of the following categories are eligible for transportation enhancement funds: Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites (including historic battlefields); Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities); Landscaping and other scenic beautification; Historic preservation; Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals); Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use of the corridors for pedestrian or bicycle trails); Inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising; Archaeological planning and research; Environmental mitigation; and Establishment of transportation museums.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/teas.htm

f. North Carolina Department of Transportation

The NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) and the Transportation Planning Branch created an annual matching grant program – the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative – to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. This program was initiated in January 2004 and is currently administered through NCDOT-DBPT. As of the summer of 2010, a total of \$2,268,818 has been allocated to 92 municipalities through this grant program. Funding for the program comes from an allocation first approved by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2003 in addition to federal funds earmarked specifically for bicycle and pedestrian planning through the





Department's Transportation Planning Branch.
(www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/planning/)

g. NC Trails Program – Federal Recreational Trails Program Grants

The State Trails Program is a section of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. The program originated in 1973 with the North Carolina Trails System Act and is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to river trails and off-highway vehicle trails. Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply for grants for trail construction and maintenance projects, for trail side facilities and land acquisition projects.
(http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/trails_main.php)

h. Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the US Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program is a reimbursable, 50/50 matching grants program to states for conservation and outdoor recreation purposes, and through the states to local governments to address 'close to home' outdoor recreation needs. Grants for a maximum of \$250,000 in LWCF assistance are awarded yearly to county governments, incorporated municipalities, public authorities and federally recognized Indian tribes.
(http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/lwcf_main.php)



2. Private

a. Tony Hawk Foundation (Skatepark Grants)

The Tony Hawk Foundation seeks to foster lasting improvements in society, with an emphasis on supporting and empowering youth. The principal focus of foundation grants is to encourage and facilitate the design, development, construction, and operation of new quality skateboard parks and facilities, located in low-income communities in the United States. Grant awards are between \$1,000 and \$25,000. The foundation may offer technical assistance on design and construction, promotional materials, and other information. The foundation may also facilitate support from vendors,



suppliers, and community leaders. Grants are based on a one-time, single-year award, although they may be paid over more than one year, if appropriate. The foundation does not provide sustaining funds or multi-year grants. (www.tonyhawkfoundation.org)

b. United States Soccer Foundation

As the major charitable arm of soccer in the U.S., the United States Soccer Foundation has invested more than \$48 million in the game, supporting hundreds of projects in every state in the country. The Foundation annually provides grant support to local communities and soccer organizations aimed at achieving the mission to enhance and grow the sport of soccer. The primary focus is providing grants to projects and programs that develop players, coaches, and referees in economically disadvantaged urban areas encompassing populations of 50,000 or more. The Foundation also provides assistance to develop fields, including state-of-the-art synthetic grass surfaces, irrigation and lighting. (www.ussoccerfoundation.org/grants)

c. Dick's Sporting Goods Sponsorships and Donations

Dick Stack, founder of Dick's Sporting Goods, believed that sports play a vital role in teaching children fundamental values like a strong work ethic, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. And he understood that supporting the organizations that make youth sports possible is the best way to promote those values. This year, through its Community Youth Sports Program, Dick's will donate more than 56,000 coach's equipment kits to youth baseball, football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse and hockey organizations across selected markets - reaching over 1.1 million kids. (dickssportinggoods.sponsorport.com)

d. Baseball Tomorrow Fund

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association that was established in 1999 through a \$10 million commitment by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. The mission of BTF is to promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball throughout the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, and the purchase of uniforms and equipment to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. Grants are designed to be sufficiently flexible to enable applicants to address needs unique to their communities. The funds are intended to finance a new





program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment. BTF provides grants to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in both rural and urban communities. BTF awards an average of 40 grants per year totaling more than \$1.5 million annually. The average grant amount is approximately \$40,000. BTF is now funded annually by MLB and the Players Association. (www.baseballtomorrowfund.com)

e. The Kodak American Greenways Program

The program provides small grants to land trusts, watershed organizations, local governments and others seeking to create or enhance greenways in communities throughout America. The program was established in response to the recommendation from the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors that a national network of greenways be created. Since the program's inception in 1989, more than \$800,000 has been granted to nearly 700 organizations in all 50 states. Funded projects typically advance one or more of the following Program goals:

- Catalyzing new greenway projects
- Assisting grassroots greenway organizations
- Leveraging additional money for conservation and greenway development
- Promoting use and enjoyment of greenways

([www.conservationfund.org/kodak awards](http://www.conservationfund.org/kodak_awards))

