

CHAPTER 9: RECREATION, PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

The county recognizes the importance of recreation, open space and access to cultural resources to the quality of life for the residents and businesses in the county. This chapter identifies the county's current inventory of parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and historic cultural resources, a needs assessment, and policies for future decisions regarding these amenities. In 1999, the Board of Supervisors adopted the *Update 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*. This Comprehensive Plan includes much of the information developed in that plan.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Walking, picnicking and other leisure pursuits are long established American pastimes, while more structured recreational activities such as softball, golf, soccer, tennis, and similar activities continue to increase in popularity. The enjoyment these activities provide for residents of all ages has become a county priority, in addition to being important to quality of life.

Parks and recreation opportunities are now considered integral community features. The economic, conservation, social and psychological benefits derived from park, recreation and leisure opportunities, while difficult to quantify, are increasingly important as development increases and pace of life quickens.

Mission Statement and Division History

The Division of Recreation and Parks exists to enhance the quality of life and to foster a sense of well-being and community for the citizens of Henrico County. This is accomplished through management of resources and by facilitating leisure services and recreational opportunities in safe and well maintained environments.

Henrico County has a long history of providing park, recreation and leisure opportunities to its citizens. Beginning in 1934, the county organized summer recreation programs at three local schools. During World War II, summer recreation programs were organized and administered under the Henrico County Welfare Board. The Division of Recreation and Parks was created in 1969. Bond referenda in 1977, 1989, 2000 and 2005 have enabled the Division to build a sound foundation through the construction of numerous parks and recreation facilities.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The *Update 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1999 after a two (2) year planning process. As part of that process, a needs assessment survey of county residents was undertaken. Some of the key findings of the survey were:

- Two-thirds of county households use the parks system; however, use tends to be localized with most households using parks in their own or adjacent neighborhoods.
- The average Henrico household makes thirteen (13) park visits annually, travels an average of twelve (12) minutes, and takes three (3) household members.
- Jogging/walking trails are cited by nearly one-half of park users as the most attractive feature of the particular parks they visit.
- Overall satisfaction with selected park attributes is high among those who use parks.
- One (1) in seven (7) Henrico households can name a park they would like to visit but have not, primarily due to lack of time or because the park is too far away.
- One (1) in ten (10) Henrico households say the parks could be more appealing if the county provided more information, though more than one-half of households have no suggestions to make the parks more appealing, indicating a high level of satisfaction with the parks as they are now.
- Nearly one-half say they would use Henrico parks and facilities more if they were located closer to their homes.
- One (1) in five (5) county households has used a school facility for a recreational program or activity.
- Households with children are more likely to participate in many recreational activities.
- Time constraints limit the participation in recreational activities of many Henrico households.
- The majority of participants drive a car to get to parks and programs.
- One-third of all households belong to a private recreational association, and in Tuckahoe and Three Chopt, the ratio is as high as one-half.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT

Among the needs assessment's key findings are: people are not getting enough information about recreational resources available to them; people feel parks are too far from home – one of the principal constraints to park use appears to be the distance to the parks; and one-fifth of county residents use recreational facilities at schools located in their communities. Overall, the park system appears to be offering the facilities and programs desired.

EXISTING HENRICO COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

The facilities that make up the Henrico County recreation and parks system are shown in **Tables RP-1** through **RP-10**. The Park Facilities Map illustrates the location of the various park facilities. Like many localities, Henrico County has traditionally relied on

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the dual use of some school facilities to provide additional park, recreation, and leisure opportunities. School-based facilities are also included in the facilities inventory and are shown on the School-Based Facilities Map.

Park and Facilities Classification System

The following parks, recreation and open space classification system is currently used for recreation and park planning efforts in Henrico County. In this system, facilities are classified as *neighborhood parks*, *community parks*, *county parks*, *specialty facilities*, *athletic facilities*, or *school-based facilities*. The optimum acreage presented for each of these types of facilities is based on generally accepted national standards.

TABLE RP-1: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITIES

	Neighborhood Parks														
	Bethlehem Park	Cheswick Park	Dunncroft / Castle Point Park	Hidden Creek Park	Highland Gardens Park	Highland Springs Park	Holladay Park	Robinson Park	Roslyn Hills Park	Short Pump Park	Springfield Park	Virginia Randolph Recreation Area	Westham Park	Westwood Park	Woodman Park
Acres Existing / Undeveloped	1	25	56	32	1.1	26	15	91	22	49	6	11	2	2	5
Recreation Center	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	U	U	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.
Nature Center				1								1			
Historic Site / Museum															
Picnic Area	1	2	1	2				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Picnic Shelter		3	1	3				1		1	1	1			
Restrooms		1	1	1				1		1	1	1			
Parking		Y	Y	Y				Y		Y	Y	Y			Y
Play Equipment	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Open Play Area		1	1	1					1						
Bike Path		1									1				
Exercise Trail		1													
Nature Trail		1	2	1											
Fishing															
Concession										1		1			
Baseball / Softball								1		2	1	1			1
Soccer / Football			1							1		2			
Basketball								1				2			
Tennis				2				2				2			

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TABLE RP-2: COMMUNITY AND COUNTY PARKS

	Community Parks										County Parks						
	Deep Bottom Park	Echo Lake Park	Gill Dale Park	Greenwood Park	Osborne Park	Pouncey Tract Park	RF&P Park	Three Lakes Park	Tuckahoe Creek Park	Twin Hickory Park	Crump Park	Deep Run Park	Dorey Park	Four Mile Creek Park	Meadowview Park	New Market Park	Vawter Street Park
Acres	86	54	76	88	26	23	53	119	241	49	149	165	400	327	591	219	237
Existing / Undeveloped	E.	E.	U	U	E.	E.	E.	E.	U	E.	E.	E.	E.	U	U	U	E.
Recreation Center										1		1	1				
Nature Center								1				1					
Historic Site / Museum	1										1	1					
Picnic Area	2	1			2	2		3			2	6	8				1
Picnic Shelter	2	1			2	2	3	2			2	7	10				1
Restrooms	1	1			2	1	4	1			2	3	3				1
Parking	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y				Y
Play Equipment		Y			Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y				Y
Open Play Area		1			1	1		1			1	1	2				
Bike Path												1	2				
Exercise Trail												1	1				1
Nature Trail		1			3	1	2	3			1	4	4				1
Fishing	Y	Y			Y			Y			Y	Y	Y				
Concession						1	4						3				
Baseball / Softball						1	7						8				
Soccer / Football						2	2					3	6				
Basketball												1					
Tennis							1						3				

PARK FACILITIES MAP

TABLE RP-3: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Address	Notes/Additional Amenities
Bethlehem Park	3300 Webb Road	
Cheswick Park	1700 Forest Avenue	horseshoe pit (1)
Dunncroft / Castle Point Park	4901 Francistown Road	disk golf course
Hidden Creek Park	2415 Brockway Lane	Shuttle Challenger Memorial
Highland Gardens Park	3800 Patrick Avenue	
Highland Springs Park	no address	future park
Holladay Park	7200 Galaxie Road	future park, no current master plan
Robinson Park	214 Westover Avenue	
Roslyn Hills Park	195 Roslyn Hills Drive	
Short Pump Park	3401 Pump Road	Deep Run School Historic Site (1902), trail
Springfield Park	4600 Springfield Road	
Virginia Randolph Recreation Area	2175 Mountain Road	
Westham Park	7906 Dogwood Road	
Westwood Park	5906 Keystone Road	
Woodman Park	1700 Navion Street	

Neighborhood Park Classification

Neighborhood parks typically range in size from three (3) to twenty (20) acres, and provide a mix of active and passive uses. They can include bodies of water, wooded areas for nature study, picnic shelters, grills, open play areas, jogging or exercise trails, court games, play apparatus and other amenities. Support facilities such as restrooms and parking should be provided.

FIGURE RP-1: CONCEPTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITIES DIAGRAM

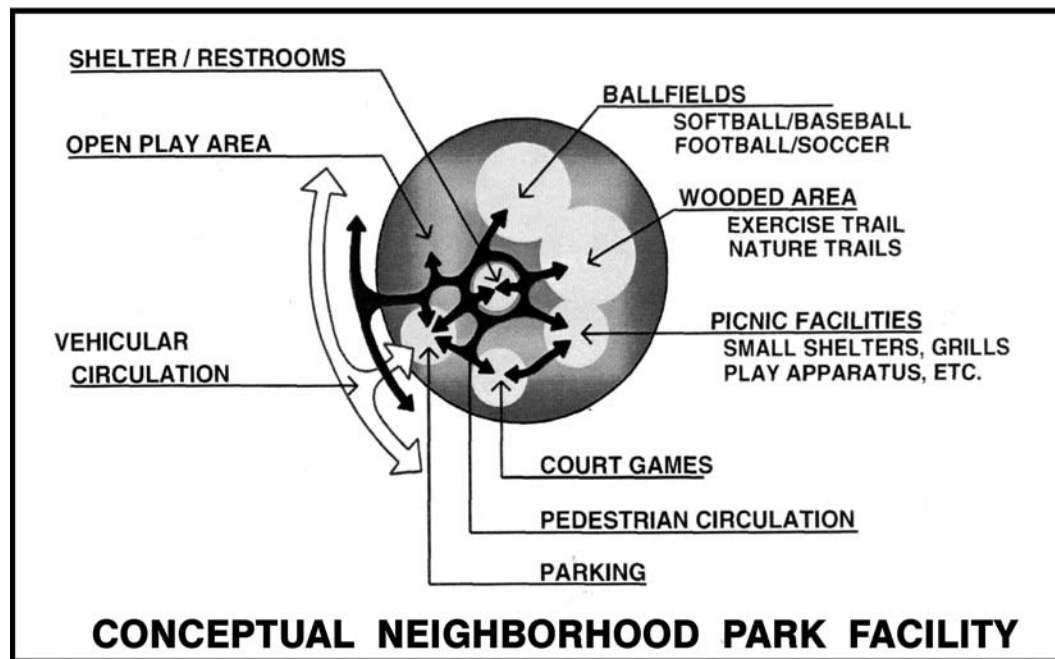


TABLE RP-4: COMMUNITY PARK LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Address	Notes/Additional Amenities
Deep Bottom Park	9525 Deep Bottom Road	boat landing, canoe launch, trail
Echo Lake Park	5701 Springfield Road	bridge/dam, fishing pier
Gill Dale Park	7160 Gill Dale Road	
Greenwood Park	11225 Greenwood Road	
Osborne Park	9530 Osborne Turnpike	fishing pier, river overlooks
Pouncey Tract Park	4751 Pouncey Tract Road	sand volleyball courts (3)
RF&P Park	3400 Mountain Road	stadium, restored train cars
Three Lakes Park	400 Sausiluta Drive	fishing pier
Tuckahoe Creek Park	no address	future park, no current master plan
Twin Hickory Park	5007 Twin Hickory Road	

Community Park Classification

Typically ranging in size from twenty (20) to one-hundred (100) acres, community parks are intended to provide both active and passive recreation uses. Picnic facilities, play apparatus, fishing facilities, nature trails, bicycle paths, hiking trails and scenic open spaces are available for the passive user. Court games and ball fields serve the more active user. Support facilities are also provided.

FIGURE RP-2: CONCEPTUAL COMMUNITY PARK FACILITIES DIAGRAM

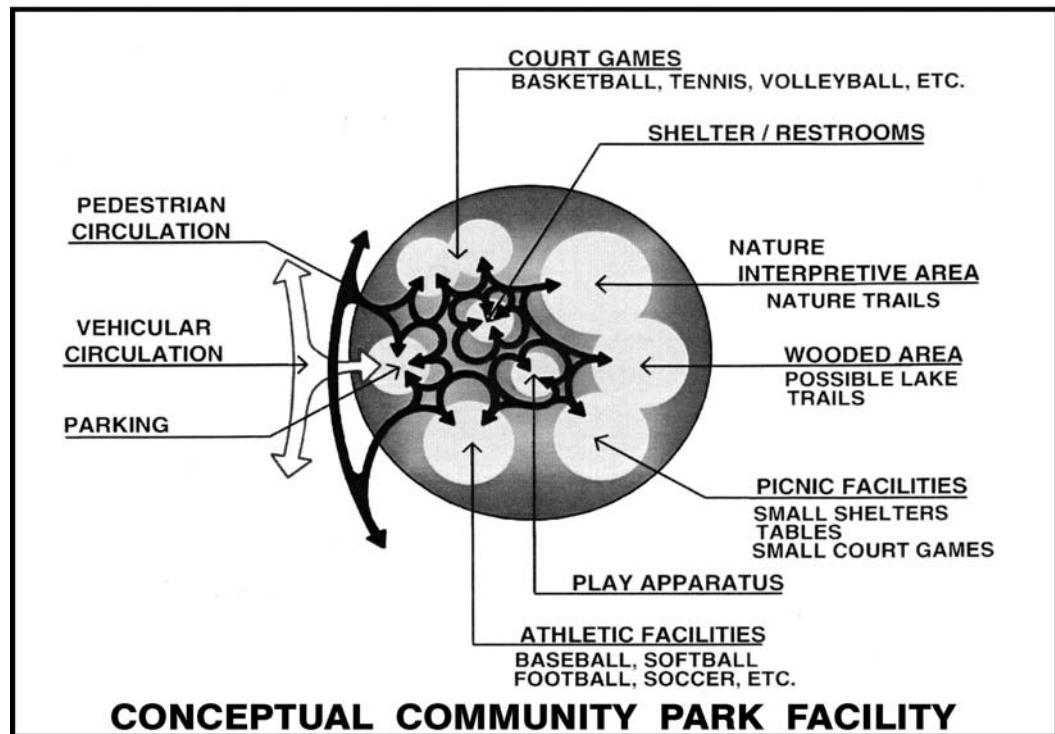


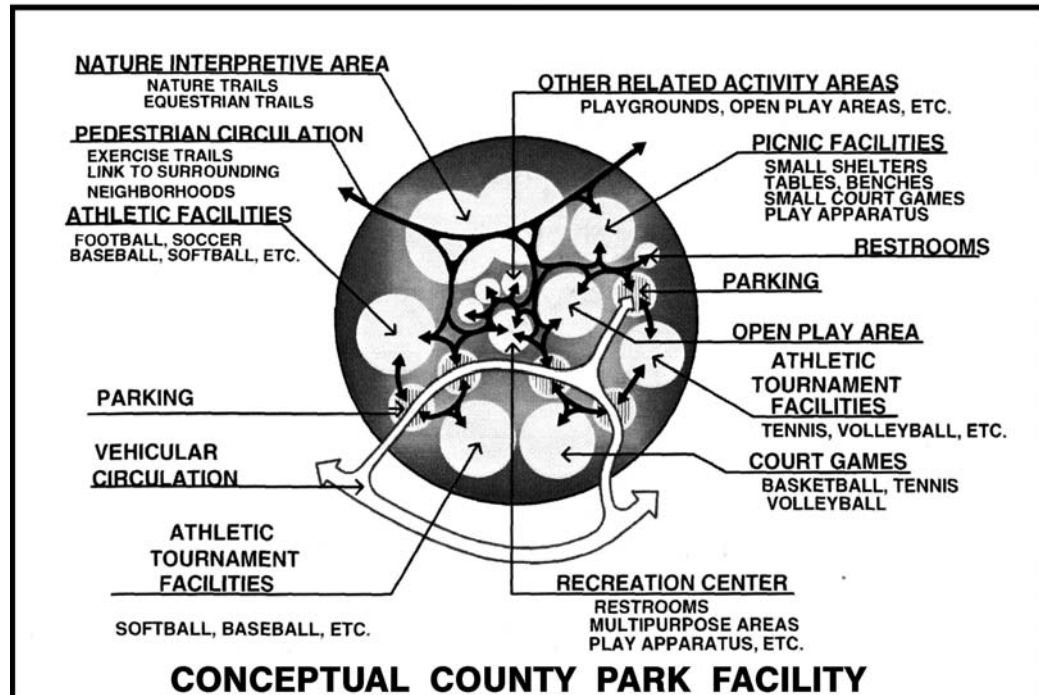
TABLE RP-5: COUNTY PARK LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Address	Notes/Additional Amenities
Crump Park	3400 Mountain Road	19th Century farm/museum, horseshoe pits (3)
Deep Run Park	9900 Ridgefield Parkway	
Dorey Park	2999 Darbytown Road	horse arena/trails, disc golf
Four Mile Creek Park	8250 New Market Heights Lane	
Meadowview Park	4001 Clarendon Road	
New Market Park	3301 New Market Road	
Vawter Street Park	4501 Vawter Avenue	

County Park Classification

County parks are in excess of one-hundred (100) acres and intended to offer a wide variety of active and passive recreational facilities. County parks include tournament quality facilities accommodating organized recreational programs and events, a recreation or nature center, water-related activities, picnic facilities, open play areas, play apparatus and more. Support facilities such as restrooms, concessions, and ample parking are provided. County parks are developed to serve a wide audience and are not tailored for use by a specific group.

FIGURE RP-3: CONCEPTUAL COUNTY PARK FACILITIES DIAGRAM



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TABLE RP-6: SPECIALTY FACILITY LOCATIONS

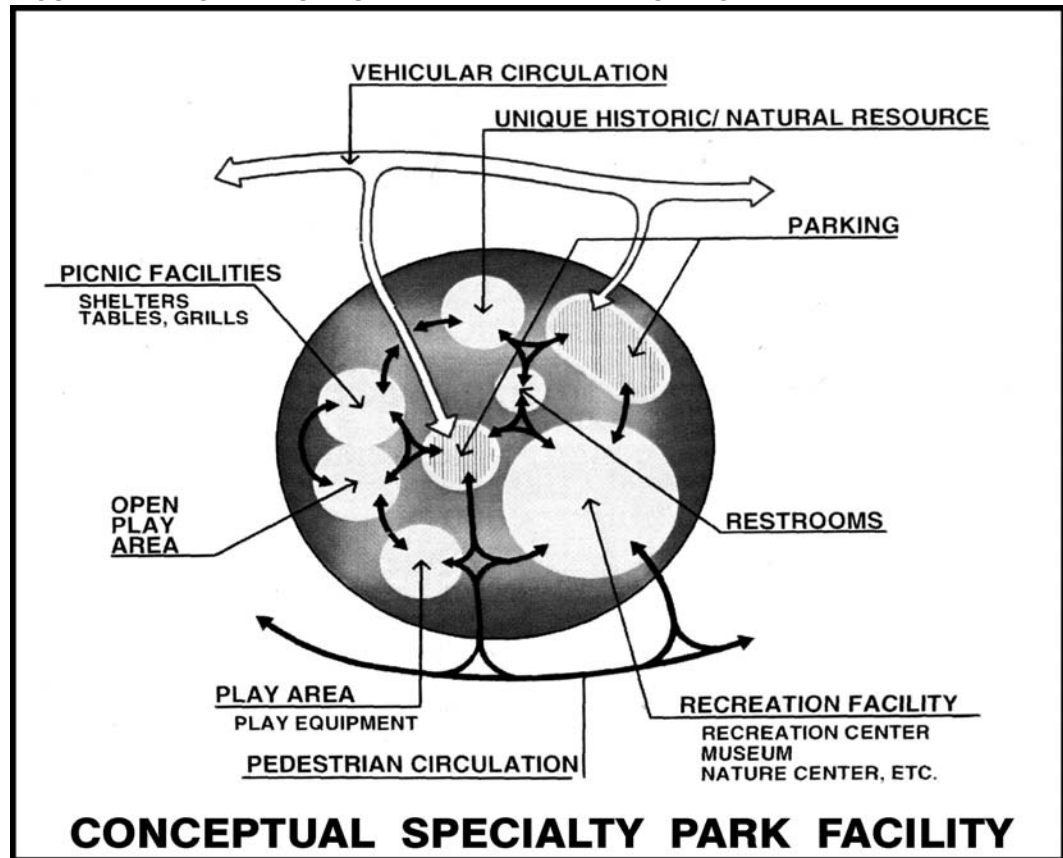
Facility Name	Size*	Address	Notes/Additional Amenities
Antioch School Community Center	2	5650 Elko Road	1,281 sf. community center
Belmont Recreation Center	17,872 sf.	1600 Hilliard Road	17,872 sf.
Clarke-Palmore House	10.3	904 McCoul Street	1,348 sf.
Confederate Hills Recreation Center	5.4	302 Lee Avenue	8,691 sf., croquet, shuffleboard
Courtney Road Service Station	0.3	3401 Mountain Road	restored 1940s service station
Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen	6	2880 Mountain Road	theatre, gallery, restaurant, 33, 892 sf.
Deep Bottom Boat Landing	2.4	9525 Deep Bottom Road	
Deep Run Recreation Center	22,674 sf.	9910 Ridgefield Parkway	22,674 sf.
Dorey Park Recreation Center	12,278 sf.	2999 Darbytown Road	12,378 sf.
Eastern Henrico Recreation Center	17.8	1440 N. Laburnum Avenue	
Elko Community Center	4.3	6216 White Oak Road	Henrico owns 4.261 acres, Windsor Club owns adjacent 1.462 acres
Forest Lodge	1.2	2940 Mountain Road	restored tower and columns
Henrico Theatre	1.8	305 E. Nine Mile Road	
Henricus Historical Park	0.5	251 Henricus Park Road	nature trail and reconstructed 1611 settlement located in Chesterfield Co.
Hidden Creek Recreation Center	2,403 sf.	2415 Brockway Lane	2,403 sf.
Highland Springs Community Center	0.7	16 S. Ivy Avenue	1,200 sf.
Hunton Community Center	4.5	11690 Old Washington Highway	owned by Hunton Civic & Rec. Association, the fields are managed by the County
Meadow Farm Museum	4,960 sf.	3400 Mountain Road	4,960 sf., 19th Century farm/museum, farm animals
Nuckols Farm	3.2	3501 Gayton Hills Lane	
Osborne Boat Landing	8.2	9590 Osborne Turnpike	owned by the State, managed by Henrico Recreation and Parks
Sandston Community Center	5,528 sf.	11 J.B. Finley Street	
Spring Park Historic Site	2.8	2000 Park Street	interpretive signs
Three Lakes Nature Center	7,067 sf.	501 Sausiluta Drive	7,067 sf., nature center including 50,000 gallon aquarium
Twin Hickory Recreation Center	2,030 sf.	5007 Twin Hickory Road	2,030 sf., opened 2005
Varina Community Center	1,683 sf.	8081 Recreation Road	1,683 sf.
Walkerton Tavern	26.1	2892 Mountain Road	restored 1825 historic tavern

*Acres or Building Square Feet

Specialty Facility Classification

Specialty facilities vary in acreage and are intended to offer a variety of recreational opportunities in conjunction with a specialized program need or a unique resource. These facilities include high quality facilities accommodating organized or non-organized activities, recreation programs and events, and interpretive facilities, as well as support facilities such as roadways, parking, picnic facilities, open play areas, restrooms and play apparatus.

FIGURE RP-4: CONCEPTUAL SPECIAL PARK FACILITIES DIAGRAM



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TABLE RP-7: SPECIALTY FACILITIES

	Existing / Undeveloped	Recreation Center	Historic Site / Museum	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Parking	Play Equipment	Fishing	Boat Landing	Concession	Baseball / Softball	Soccer / Football	Basketball	Tennis
Antioch School Community Center	E.	1			1	1	Y								
Belmont Recreation Center	E.	1				1	Y								
Clarke-Palmore House	U														
Confederate Hills Recreation Center	E.	1			1	2	Y								4
Courtney Road Service Station	E.		1				Y								
Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen	E.	1				2	Y								
Deep Bottom Boat Landing	E.					1	Y		Y	1					
Deep Run Recreation Center	E.	1				2	Y							1	
Dorey Park Recreation Center	E.	1				2	Y								
Eastern Henrico Recreation Center	U														
Elko Community Center	E.							Y				1		1	2
Forest Lodge	E.		1												
Henrico Theatre	E.					2	1								
Henricus Historical Park	E.		1	1	1	1	Y		Y	1					
Hidden Creek Recreation Center	E.	1				1	Y								
Highland Springs Community Center	E.	1				1	Y								
Hunton Civic Association	E.				1	1	Y	Y			1	2		1	
Meadow Farm Museum	E.		1			1	Y								
Nuckols Farm	U														
Osborne Boat Landing	E.						Y		Y	1					
Sandston Community Center	E.	1				1	Y								
Spring Park Historic Site	E.		1				Y								
Three Lakes Nature Center	E.					1	Y								
Twin Hickory Recreation Center	E.	1				1	Y	Y							
Varina Community Center	E.	1				1	Y								
Walkerton Tavern	E.	1				2									

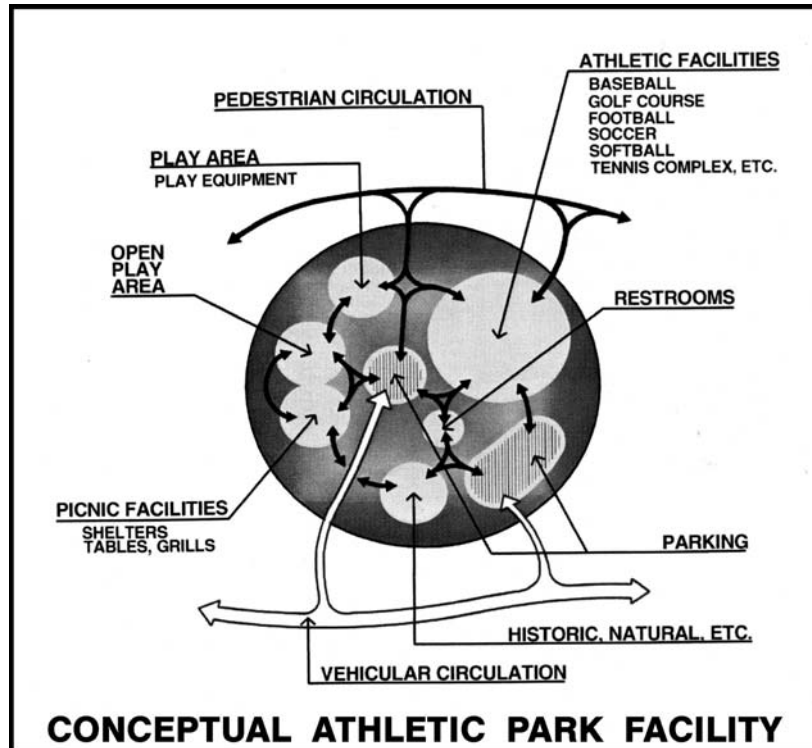
TABLE RP-8: ATHLETIC FACILITY LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Size	Address	Notes/Additional Amenities
Belmont Golf Course	129.6	1600 Hilliard Road	
Central Gardens Recreation Area	16.7	2210 Cleary Road	
Glen Allen Softball Complex	34.3	2175 Mountain Road	softball tournament facilities
Glen Echo Recreation Area	15.8	3808 Nine Mile Road	
Glen Lea Recreation Area	13.4	4501 Vawter Avenue	
Highland Springs Recreation Area	9	300 E. Read Street	
Klehr Field	18.8	8000 Diane Lane	
Lakeside Club Road (Lakeside Little League)	11.3	6000 Club Road	
Laurel Recreation Area	10.4	10301 Hungary Spring Road	skate park
Sandston Recreation Area	5.1	11 J.B. Finley Street	
Varina Recreation Area	20.6	8081 Recreation Road	

Athletic Facility Classification

These facilities vary in size and are intended to offer a variety of primarily active recreational opportunities. Athletic facilities could include high quality facilities accommodating organized and non-organized athletics for a variety of age groups, recreational programs or events. Support facilities include roadways, parking, picnic facilities, open play areas, concessions, restrooms and play apparatus.

FIGURE RP-5: CONCEPTUAL ATHLETIC FACILITIES DIAGRAM



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TABLE RP-9: ATHLETIC FACILITIES

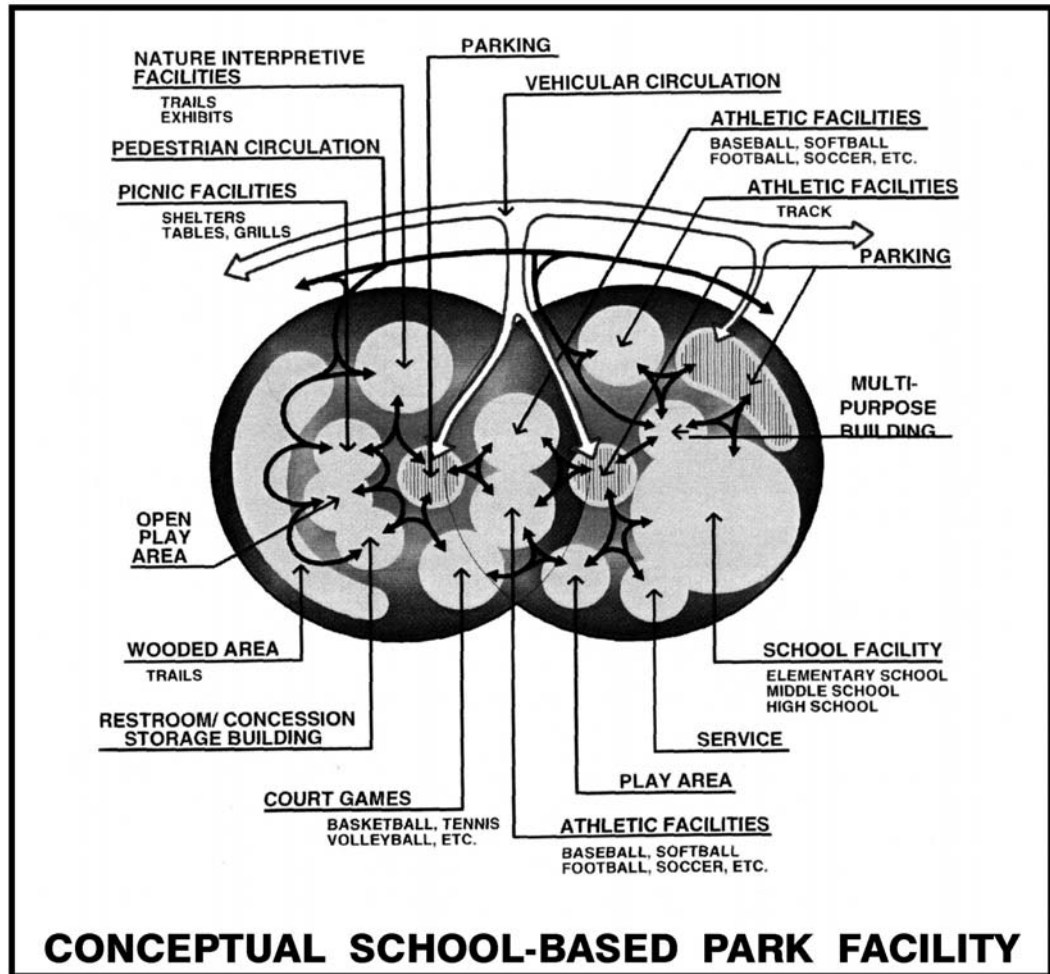
	Belmont Golf Course	Central Gardens Recreation Area	Glen Allen Softball Complex	Glen Echo Recreation Area	Glen Lea Recreation Area	Highland Springs Recreation Area	Klehr Field	Lakeside Club Road (Lakeside Little League)	Laurel Recreation Area	Sandston Recreation Area	Varina Recreation Area
Existing / Undeveloped	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.	E.
Recreation Center						1				1	1
Historic Site / Museum											
Picnic Area			2			2	1	1	1	1	1
Picnic Shelter			2			1	1		1	1	1
Restrooms	2		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Parking	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Play Equipment		Y		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Fishing											
Boat Landing											
Concession	2		1		1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Baseball / Softball		1	4	1	2	4	4	4	1	2	6
Soccer / Football					1	1	2		2		1
Basketball		2		2						2	
Tennis	8									2	

SPECIALTY AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAP

School-Based Facilities

These facilities vary in acreage and are intended to offer a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities in conjunction with elementary, middle and high school facilities. These sites include high-quality facilities accommodating organized and non-organized athletics, recreational programs and events, interpretive facilities, and support facilities such as parking, picnic facilities, open play areas, restrooms, concessions and play apparatus.

FIGURE RP-6: CONCEPTUAL SCHOOL-BASED PARK FACILITIES



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TABLE RP-10: SCHOOL-BASED FACILITIES AND LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Acres	Address	Existing / Undeveloped	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Parking	Play Equipment	Concession	Baseball / Softball	Soccer / Football	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gym / Multi-Purpose
Adams Elementary	16.0	600 S. Laburnum Avenue	E			Y	Y				2		1	
Ashe Elementary	18.4	1001 Cedar Fork Road	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Baker Elementary	15.0	6651 Willson Road	E			Y	Y				1		1	1
Brookland Middle	30.8	9200 Lydell Drive	E			Y			2	3	4	4	1	2
Byrd Middle	51.6	9400 Quioccasin Road	E			Y			2	2	3	4	1	3
Carver Elementary	15.4	1801 Lauderdale Drive	E			Y	Y		1	1	2		1	
Chamberlayne Elementary	12.3	8200 St. Charles Road	E			Y	Y		1	1			1	1
Colonial Trail Elementary	23.8	12101 Bacova Drive	E			Y	Y						1	1
Crestview Elementary	12.6	1901 Charles Street	E			Y	Y		1	1	2		1	1
Davis Elementary	16.1	8801 Nettlewood Drive	E			Y	Y		1	1	2		1	1
Deep Run High	60.3	4801 Twin Hickory Road	E			Y			2	3	2	6	1	2
Donahoe Elementary	19.5	1801 Graves Road	E			Y	Y		1	1	2		1	1
Dumbarton Elementary	18.7	9000 Hungary Spring Road	E	2	1	Y	Y	1	3	1	1		1	
Elko Middle	70.0	5901 Elko Road	U			Y			2	1	2	4	1	1
Echo Lake Elementary	21.5	5200 Francistown Road	E.			Y	Y			1			1	1
Fair Oaks Elementary	16.8	201 Jennings Road	E			Y	Y		1		1		1	1
Fairfield Middle	39.8	5121 Nine Mile Road	E			Y			2	2	2	4	1	1
Freeman High	35.9	8701 Three Chopt Road	E			Y		1	2	1	3	6	1	2
Gayton Elementary	18.4	12481 Church Road	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Glen Allen Elementary	20.0	11101 Mill Road	E			Y	Y		1				1	1
Glen Lea Elementary	9.9	3909 Austin Avenue	E			Y	Y	1	1		1		1	1
Godwin High	77.1	2101 Pump Road	E			Y		1	3	2	2	6	1	2
Greenwood Elementary	22.3	10960 Greenwood Road	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Harvie Elementary	19.4	3401 Harvie Road	E			Y	Y						1	1
Henrico High	37.6	302 Azalea Avenue	E			Y		1	2	2		6	1	1
Hermitage High	73.2	8301 Hungary Spring Road	E			Y		1	3	3	4	8	1	2
Highland Springs Elementary	22.5	600 W. Pleasant Street	E			Y	Y		1		1		1	

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TABLE RP-10: SCHOOL-BASED FACILITIES AND LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Acres	Address	Existing / Undeveloped	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Parking	Play Equipment	Concession	Baseball / Softball	Soccer / Football	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gym / Multi-Purpose
Highland Springs High	38.5	15 S. Oak Avenue	E			Y		2	2	2	1	6	1	2
Holladay Elementary	18.0	7300 Galaxie Road	E			Y	Y			2	2		1	
Hungary Creek Middle	40.0	4909 Francistown Road	E			Y			2	1	2	4	1	1
Johnson Elementary	15.8	5600 Bethlehem Road	E			Y	Y	1	3	1	2		1	1
Laburnum Elementary	23.9	500 Meriwether Avenue	E			Y	Y		1		3		1	1
Lakeside Elementary	9.4	6700 Cedar Croft Street	E			Y	Y		2	1	3	2	2	
Longan Elementary	14.7	9200 Mapleview Avenue	E			Y	Y		1	1	3		1	1
Longdale Elementary	11.7	9500 Norfolk Street	E			Y	Y						1	1
Maybeury Elementary	12.6	901 Maybeury Drive	E			Y	Y		1	1	1		1	1
Mehfoud Elementary	9.7	8320 Buffin Road	E			Y	Y		1	1	1		1	1
Montrose Elementary	11.8	2820 Williamsburg Road	E			Y	Y		2		2		1	1
Moody Middle	20.	7800 Woodman Road	E			Y			2	1	2	4	1	1
Mount Vernon Middle	4.8	7850 Carousel Lane	E			Y								1
New Bridge Elementary & Middle	9.7	5915 Nine Mile Road	E			Y	Y						1	1
Nuckols Farm Elementary	15.7	12351 Graham Meadows Drive	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Pemberton Elementary	9.7	1400 Pemberton Road	E			Y	Y		1	1	1		1	1
Pinchbeck Elementary	13.8	1225 Gaskins Road	E			Y	Y			1	1		1	1
Pocahontas Middle	27.7	12000 Three Chopt Road	E			Y			2	1	2	4	1	1
Randolph Community High	16.3	2204 Mountain Road	E			Y								1
Ratcliffe Elementary	13.4	2901 Thalen Street	E			Y	Y		1		1	3	1	1
Ridge Elementary	10.2	8910 Three Chopt Road	E			Y	Y		1		1		1	1
River's Edge Elementary	20.5	11600 Holman Ridge Road	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Rolfe Middle	35.0	6901 Messer Road	E			Y			3	2	2	4	1	2
Sandston Elementary	4.7	7 Naglee Avenue	E			Y	Y						1	1
Seven Pines Elementary	14.4	301 Beulah Road	E			Y	Y	1	2	1	2		1	1
Shady Grove Elementary	19.3	12200 Wyndham Lake Drive	E			Y	Y			1			1	1

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TABLE RP-10: SCHOOL-BASED FACILITIES AND LOCATIONS

Facility Name	Acres	Address	Existing / Undeveloped	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Parking	Play Equipment	Concession	Baseball / Softball	Soccer / Football	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gym / Multi-Purpose
Short Pump Elementary	12.7	3425 Pump Road	E			Y	Y				2			1
Short Pump Middle	33.9	4701 Pouncey Tract Road	E			Y			3	2	2	4	1	2
Skipwith Elementary	20.	2401 Skipwith Road	E			Y	Y		1		2		1	1
Springfield Park Elementary	19.1	4301 Fort McHenry Parkway	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Staples Mill High	98.1	10700 Staples Mill Road	U											
Three Chopt Elementary	16.0	1600 Skipwith Road	E			Y	Y			1	3		1	
Trevvett Elementary	14.4	2300 Trevvett Drive	E			Y	Y		2	1	2		1	1
Tuckahoe Elementary	10.2	701 Forest Avenue	E			Y	Y			1	1			1
Tuckahoe Middle	22.7	9000 Three Chopt Road	E			Y			2	1	2	4	1	1
Tucker High	41.8	2910 Parham Road	E			Y		1	2	1	2	7	1	1
Twin Hickory Elementary	19.6	4900 Twin Hickory Lake Drive	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
Varina Elementary	29.8	2551 New Market Road	E			Y	Y		2		1		1	
Varina High	43.2	7053 Messer Road	E			Y		2	2	2	2	7	1	1
Ward Elementary	21.1	3400 Darbytown Road	E			Y	Y			1			1	1
West Area Elementary	29.7	5680 Pouncey Tract Road	U											
West Creek Middle	30.2	600 Concourse Boulevard	U											
Wilder Middle	58.5	6900 Wilkinson Road	E			Y		1	2	6	2	4	1	1

SCHOOL-BASED FACILITY MAP

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Due to increasing land costs and the limited availability of suitable sites, many of the traditional, proximity-based techniques associated with recreation, park and open space planning are no longer appropriate for use in the county. This is an increasingly common occurrence in urbanizing localities, and may be addressed in a variety of ways. Similar localities have instituted higher levels of park programming at existing facilities, increased hours of operation and forged joint development relationships with other jurisdictions and organizations.

For recreation and park planning purposes, Henrico County is divided into three (3) planning areas as shown on the Park Facilities Map. The areas are 1) from the western border to Interstate 95 (Western Area); 2) between Interstate 95 and Interstate 64 (Central Area); and 3) east of Interstate 64 (Eastern Area). These boundaries coincide with those used in preparing Levels of Service (LOS) evaluations for other county services and help provide consistency in identifying surpluses and deficiencies in these services. In order to determine current Levels of Service (LOS), a county-specific acres per capita calculation (total developed acres of existing parks or square footage of existing facilities divided by the total current population) was performed and the following LOS standards were calculated:

TABLE RP-11: PARK FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

TYPE OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD
Neighborhood Parks	0.00007 acres per person
Community Parks (Including Athletic Facilities)	0.00023 acres per person
County Parks	0.0024 acres per person
Recreation Centers	0.29 square feet per person

This methodology is a *needs-based, facilities-driven, and land-measured* approach to recreation and park planning. It focuses on identifying specific *needs* as identified by the client population and after an examination of existing services, determining what *facilities* are required to fill these needs, and measuring the amount of *land* required to provide the identified facilities. Using these LOS standards, surpluses or deficiencies in the acreage of public lands devoted to recreation and park facilities can be quantified and this information can then be used to guide future acquisition and management decisions.

The following section of this chapter addresses the historic resources in the county.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

“In the beginning of September 1611, hee set sail, and arrived where he intended to build a towne. . .within ten or twelve daies he had invironed it with a pale, and in honor of our noble Prince Henry, called it Henrico.”

-The General Histories of Virginia, by Captain John Smith, 1624

Henrico County has a long and storied history. It was in Henrico that John Rolfe, who would marry the Native American princess Pocahontas, first cultivated tobacco and ensured the economic viability of the new Virginia colony. Henrico was also the site of Bacon’s Rebellion, conflicts during the Revolutionary War, and several major battles of the Civil War. As one of the oldest communities in the country, Henrico has abundant historic resources, and part of the Division of Recreation and Parks’ mission is to identify, preserve and interpret the rich history associated with these resources.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HPAC)

The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC), for which the Division provides staff support, was created in February, 1990 and advises the Henrico County Board of Supervisors regarding the identification, interpretation, rehabilitation, protection and preservation of historical and cultural resources located within the county. The Committee meets this charge in the following ways:

- Marketing and distributing historical publications
- Creating and promoting public awareness of historic preservation
- Developing a bureau of volunteer speakers, to share information on Henrico's local history to groups
- Encouraging the public to identify historical sites within the county not currently on the county-maintained inventory
- Providing information to interested citizens on the methods used in the preservation of historic properties
- Developing guidelines for determining the historical significance of county sites
- Promoting the local historical plaque and roadside marker programs
- Celebrating significant historical events for public appreciation
- Recognizing significant historic preservation projects on an annual basis

Historic Preservation and Museum Services Section

The county's Historic Preservation and Museum Services Section assists in these efforts using the following tools:

- The Historic Roadside Marker & Building Plaque Programs promotes awareness of Henrico County events and other historic resources of local significance. Roadside markers feature narratives that recognize an important person, place or event and historic plaques display the construction date of significant historical structures.
- The Division maintains an archive that serves as a repository for manuscripts, personal papers, correspondence, account books, receipts, photographs and video materials. The Sheppard Family papers (1770-1980) are deposited here as well as a collection of materials related to Gabriel's Rebellion and other significant events in local history.
- The *Inventory of Early Architecture* was first produced in 1976 and was updated in 1978, 1993 and 1998. This publication contains descriptions and photographs of more than one-hundred eighty (180) landmarks of interest, dating from the pre-Colonial era to the 1960s. It includes archeological sites, residences, churches and commercial and industrial structures.

CONCLUSION

The Henrico County system of parks, recreation centers, school-based facilities, and historic and cultural spaces provide residents and visitors alike the opportunity to participate in a wide range of leisure and cultural activities. As the county's population continues to increase, greater demands will be placed on the entire system. These demands can be met not only through site acquisition and facility construction, but also through innovative program design, continued joint use of school-facilities where appropriate, continued identification and interpretation of historic and culturally significant places and structures, and coordination with other leisure service providers. Policies and recommendations are presented in the next section of this chapter to provide guidance in the future management of recreation, parks, open space and historic resources in Henrico County.

POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following policies and recommendations are based largely on those developed as part of the *Update 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*. As was recognized in that planning process, they are “intended to be flexible and expandable, evolving and adapting as time goes on and opportunities arise.”

QUALITY OF LIFE

The Division of Recreation and Parks exists to enhance the quality of life and to foster a sense of well-being and community for the citizens of Henrico County. This is accomplished through management of resources and by facilitating leisure services and recreational opportunities in safe and well-maintained environments.

Policies

The policies listed below should be used to guide decisions related to improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to Henrico County.

1. Design and develop a system of parks, natural and historic resources, facilities and programs that meet the needs of a broad array of users.
 - a. Solicit the input of potential users in the planning and development of the parks and open space system.
 - b. Use demographic trends, recreational trends and standards, results of needs assessments, historic and cultural resources protection standards, and other available information to design a system that anticipates and addresses future needs.
 - c. Develop parks, facilities and programs that serve segments of the population with special needs.

SITING AND ACQUISITION

Investment in parks should be undertaken in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Sites should be identified well in advance of need to help ensure the county can make sound decisions regarding the acquisition and construction of new facilities and balance those decisions against competing priorities. Efficiency and cost-effectiveness may require using existing infrastructure more intensively and expanding existing facilities in lieu of constructing or acquiring new parks.

Policies

The policies listed below should be used to guide decisions related to siting and acquisition of recreation and park land.

1. Encourage advance acquisition of land for parks throughout the county, especially in rapidly developing areas.
 - a. Identify areas where additional land is needed to meet the future needs of county residents.

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- b. Determine areas where additional land is available and determine whether available sites are suitable.
 - c. Allocate adequate funding for the acquisition and development of parks, open spaces and natural and historical resources.
 - d. Acquire sites through purchase, donation, lease, or other means as appropriate.
 - e. Conduct and maintain a county-wide comprehensive inventory of natural and historic resources to guide conservation and preservation efforts in the identification and potential acquisition of sites.
2. Phase the development of the park and recreation system to respond to service demand and population growth.
 - a. Develop a standard for acquisition and development of open space and recreational facilities based on national and State standards, demographic trends, recreational trends and standards, the results of needs assessments, historic, cultural, and natural resource protection standards, and citizen input.
 - b. Explore the desirability of accepting land for parks, open space, and possibly other public facilities and infrastructure during the development process.
 - c. Explore mechanisms to encourage the dedication of more and higher quality open space.
 - d. Encourage developers to dedicate parks and open space to the county, provide on-site recreation facilities managed and maintained by neighborhood associations, and/or preserve historic and natural resources through cluster development techniques for the future residents of the community. (See Cluster Subdivision Tool Box in Chapter 6: Community Character, for techniques for open space preservation in cluster subdivisions.)
 3. Actively pursue a wide range of alternative sources of revenue/funding for programs and facilities, such as gifts of land or direct funding for acquisition and development or preservation of open space, parks and recreational facilities and natural and historic resources where they are in the county's best interests.
 - a. Use established criteria to evaluate proposed gifts for park development to determine whether the proposed gifts would complement the existing and planned park system.
 - b. Pursue State and Federal funds, where appropriate, to assist in acquisition and development of parks, natural and historic resources, and open space and recreational facilities.

- c. Explore opportunities for public-private collaboration to provide cultural, arts and recreational facilities.
 - d. Pursue Recreation Access Roadway funds, Community Development Block Grants, Land and Water Conservation Funds, Virginia Trail Funds, and other potential sources of funding to reduce the local cost of acquisition and/or facility construction.
 - e. Explore the feasibility of operating certain facilities and programs on a self-supporting basis, provided these facilities do not compete unfairly with private sector providers.
 - f. Explore additional public/private partnerships to provide cultural, arts and recreational facilities.
4. Seek opportunities to convert undeveloped property or property owned, but no longer used, by county, city, State and Federal governments to parks and recreational use.
 - a. Work with other departments or agencies to determine the feasibility of converting available, publicly-owned property to park or recreational uses as property becomes available.
 - b. Only pursue conversion of properties that would be beneficial to the parks and recreation system or recommended program use.
 5. Seek opportunities to provide open space and recreational uses in conjunction with major public and semi-public facilities.
 - a. Continue to work with Henrico County Schools, other county agencies and public and semi-public organizations to share recreational facilities for planned activities through memoranda of understanding.
 - b. Continue to seek opportunities for joint land acquisition with the Henrico County School Board and other agencies.

BALANCE

Parks, recreational facilities and open space should be geographically distributed throughout the county, located near the population they are intended to serve.

Policies

The policies listed below should be used to promote an equitable balance of parks, recreation facilities, and open space across the county.

1. Use the level of service standards as a means of identifying deficiencies and providing resource-based and school-based facilities throughout the county.
2. Strive to ensure that every household has access to adequate park, recreation and leisure opportunities.

- a. Develop an implementation plan that identifies and prioritizes additional acquisition, development and renovation projects to overcome any perceived shortfalls in levels of service and provide for a balanced system.
- b. Continue to seek appropriate co-location opportunities with the School Board and other county agencies in providing park and open space opportunities close to Residential areas.
- c. Provide recreation center facilities flexible enough to meet the specialized needs of populations to be served.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The quality of recreational facilities has a direct impact on Henrico County's attractiveness for economic development. Amenities such as recreation facilities and cultural opportunities may help the county to continue to attract high quality employers. These amenities also help draw tourists and tourist revenue to the county.

Policies

The following policies should be used to promote economic development through the provision and protection of park, recreation facility, open space provision, and natural and historic resources in the county.

1. Recognize that the primary justification for investing in open space, parks, recreation, and natural and historic resources is to ensure a high quality of life for county residents, but that the availability of these features may also be attractive to visitors and businesses considering visiting or relocating to the county.
 - a. Continue to market the county's open space, parks, recreation, natural and historic resources as attractive amenities to economic development prospects.
 - b. Encourage the private sector to provide certain specialized facilities that may be attractive to some industrial and economic development prospects.
2. Adopt measures to establish the distinctiveness of major transportation corridors that contain open space or historic resources. (See Chapter 7: Planning & Economic Focus Areas for some identified corridors.)
 - a. Explore opportunities for overlay districts and other measures to improve and differentiate the visual appearance of entryways into distinct areas of the county. Such measures could include landscaping, distinct signage, streetscape buffers, impact controls and design standards. Target roadways that serve as the main transportation corridors into and through the county. (An overlay district is a zoning district that applies to a geographic area, usually organized around some physical feature, such as a road.)

- b. Study the appearance and function of other entryways into the county, such as the train station on Staples Mill Road and Richmond International Airport.
3. Increase efforts to actively promote tourism.
 - a. Study ways to increase tourism, such as establishing a museum and/or visitors' center, or joining forces with existing visitor centers in the area, to encourage increased visitation to Henrico attractions.
 - b. Study the feasibility of attracting more regional and national tournaments to Henrico's parks, athletic facilities and golf courses.
 - c. Encourage private development that makes Henrico a destination for tourism and capitalizes on historical and cultural resources in the county.

DESIGN FOR USER SAFETY AND COMPATIBILITY

The users' perceptions of safety or lack of safety in parks may have a direct impact on the parks throughout the county as well as the recreation programs. The real and perceived safety concerns in the parks should be identified and addressed.

The design alone will not guarantee a safe environment. Maintenance, proper scheduling of recreation activities and community involvement are also necessary components of a safe park facility. The viability of a park system is determinant on the use of facilities by county residents. The perception of safety in Henrico County parks is an integral part of the Division of Recreation and Parks.

Policies

The policies listed below should be utilized to provide safe and compatible parks, open space and recreation facilities in Henrico County.

1. Incorporate the concepts and strategies of CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) in existing and proposed park facilities as feasible and desirable. (See Chapter 6: Community Character for a description of CPTED strategies.)
 - a. Continue to use the Crime Prevention Unit within the Division of Police for review and redesign of existing and proposed recreation facilities.
 - b. Undertake safety assessments of the county's parks in coordination with the Division of Police.

2. Adopt practices that encourage safety on an ongoing basis.
 - a. Identify and address concerns and/or safety problems as soon as they occur. This could be accomplished through diligent maintenance of park properties, a speedy cleanup of any vandalized areas or the notification of proper authorities in the case of an emergency.
 - b. Encourage county residents, neighborhoods and businesses located near a park facility to look at parks as their own and take “ownership” of the site or events at or near the site through the Division’s existing Park Watch program.
 - c. Recognize the need for Police and/or County Security to have access to facilities and provide such access. Continue to identify and pursue the use of technology (automated entry systems) to enhance park safety and improve access for the public. Seek additional opportunities for Police, Fire and Emergency Services personnel to become familiar with the location and layout of parks.
 - d. Post the hours of operation and other rules for the park at all access points into park facilities. These access points should also include walkways and bike paths.
 - e. Provide adequate and appropriate lighting for each park facility.
 - f. Coordinate with the Division of Police to assess the safety of potential park-school connections and to identify measures to improve safety.
 - g. Establish design criteria for joint school/park facilities to ensure that park users can get to park areas.
3. Adopt design measures and management practices that help parks and recreation facilities fit into the surrounding community.
 - a. Continue efforts to seek citizen input during the master planning process for new facilities and seek appropriate input during phased development using civic associations, neighborhood watch groups, block associations, special interest user groups and county residents at large.
 - b. Protect both parks and adjacent neighborhoods through deliberate design and use of physical buffers to include landscaping and appropriate fencing as necessary to distinguish park boundaries from adjacent private property.
 - c. Whenever possible, establish legitimate and safe access to park facilities from adjacent neighborhoods. Access design should ensure that park limits are clearly demarcated so park users will not be drawn onto adjacent private property.

- d. When master planning parks, anticipate and minimize possible points of conflict or concern regarding facility lighting, noise and traffic.
4. Continue to maintain parks to a high level of cleanliness and attractiveness in order to encourage use and good stewardship among users and neighbors.
 - a. Ensure sufficient staffing and resources to perform necessary maintenance.
 - b. Use community volunteer organizations to help maintain facilities. Encourage the “adoption” of parks to supplement maintenance efforts.

RESOURCE/HERITAGE PROTECTION

The county continues to recognize the need for the preservation of historic resources and has had a structured system since 1976. Preservation of both natural and historic resources is important for future generations and promotes values that strengthen a community. Often, the preservation of historical sites also assists in natural and environmental protection. Both of these factors are essential to providing a high quality of life for residents and have a direct impact on the county’s attractiveness for economic development. Preserved historic and natural sites have become attractive recreation facilities and provide cultural opportunities to enhance the quality of life in Henrico County.

The protection of historic resources is providing ongoing guidelines and strategies to guard against their loss. The preservation of historic resources is actively saving significant structures and sites. The conservation of historic resources is providing plans defining a version for safekeeping of historic structures or sites before they are damaged or lost.

Policies

The policies listed below should be used to assist in the protection, preservation and conservation of historic resources in the county.

1. Seek funding and other mechanisms to protect and preserve vital resources.
 - a. Protect designated and proposed scenic highways and rivers in order to preserve their special qualities. (See Chapter 7: Planning & Economic Focus Areas for identified corridors.)
 - b. Participate in Federal, State, and local programs that offer grants for the preservation of historic and natural resources. These funds are available for county-wide historical and natural preservation plans, surveys, and historic rehabilitation projects.

- c. Pursue partnerships with organizations like Keep Henrico Beautiful to participate in joint projects to protect resources and enhance communities.
 - d. Acquire appropriate sites as a means to protect both historic and natural resources as they become available.
2. Maintain a sense of historical continuity through the preservation of sites, buildings, structures and objects important to our heritage.
 - a. Promote comprehensive historical and archeological preservation planning in coordination with public facilities, land use, transportation and private development efforts.
 - b. Develop criteria for determining which sites are worthy of protection.
 - c. Develop incentives for preserving historic sites/structures in their original settings.
 - d. Support Federal and State legislation that promotes historic and cultural preservation and development while respecting private property rights.
 - e. Encourage private property owners to nominate noteworthy sites and/or structures to the Virginia and/or National Register of Historic Places. Apply for designation of eligible county-owned sites.
 - f. Seek Federal and State funds to provide public access to historic sites and structures that are open to the public. Encourage developers to provide access to historic sites and structures as part of the development process.
 - g. Encourage owners of property included on the *Virginia Register* to consider the *Virginia Historic Landmark Commission's Historic Easement Program*.
 - h. Adopt standards for the preservation, reuse, and management of county-owned historic resources and sites.
 - i. Continue to assist developers during the planning process through appropriate recommendations for the protection and interpretations of significant historic resources.
 - j. Encourage development of a museum system that could serve as a cultural resource and focal point for community heritage.
 - k. Explore public/private partnerships in the creation and development of a Henrico County museum.
 - l. Regularly update the *Inventory of Early Architecture*.

3. Encourage residents and tourists to visit historic and cultural sites open to the public.
 - a. Highlight historic and cultural resources in the county through tourism promotional literature, direct marketing and advertising.
 - b. Identify potential visitors to historic and cultural resources in the county through citizen and consumer surveys, direct marketing appeals and direct advertising.
 - c. Identify sites and resources protected by other governmental agencies or groups and promote these resources as tourist attractions in promotional literature, direct marketing and advertising.

ACCESSIBILITY

The county has an inventory of over 1,826 acres of developed or partially developed parkland and over 1,600 acres of undeveloped parkland. The primary means of access to these sites is via of automobile; however, to alleviate congestion on county roadways, there may be instances where alternative access is appropriate. Where pedestrian and bicycle access can be provided, getting to the park may be as much a part of the recreational experience as being there.

Closely related, the county possesses many important natural features, most notably the Chickahominy and James Rivers. Better access to these features, through publicly held lands, should continue to be explored. Easements over privately held land are not proposed to provide access.

Policies

The policies listed below should be used to provide accessibility to the various public facilities and natural resources in the county.

1. Establish access to park facilities on lands owned by the county or on lands dedicated specifically for the purpose of bicycle and pedestrian access.
 - a. Undertake an inventory of sidewalks maintained by the county to determine which parks are already served by sidewalks.
 - b. Study the feasibility of requiring the construction of sidewalks within one (1) mile of county parks as adjacent lands are developed.
 - c. Pursue additional public access to the James River and Chickahominy River.
 - d. Ensure a high degree of access within parks for all parks users.

PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

The county recognizes the need for innovative, high quality programming throughout the park system to benefit Henrico residents. The needs assessment reflects citizen opinion and highlights the activities in which they participate. The needs assessment overall indicates a high level of customer satisfaction, yet challenges the Division of Recreation and Parks to ever higher standards of programming.

Policies

The policies listed below should be used to guide the Division of Recreation and Parks in the development of new programs and facilities.

1. Continue to review and assess program offerings and objectives using citizen input, program trends and county population trends to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the entire community. Develop new programs as necessary.
 - a. Develop countywide full service recreation centers to meet the needs of an ever growing and changing population.
 - b. Continue to seek partnerships and cooperative arrangements with private sector and other levels of government to move into new program areas and develop innovative facilities.