Horry County

Parks and Open Space Plan

Horry County
SOUTH CAROLINA
Committed to Excellence

July 1, 2017 DRAFT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY iii
INTRODUCTION 1
Purpose and Guiding Principles of Plan 2
Benefits of Parks and Open Space 4
History and Planning Context 5
Planning Process 7
EXISTING CONDITIONS & NEED 10
Growth Trends 13
Parks and Recreation 14
Open Space 21
Funding Mechanisms 25
SWOT Analysis 32
ACTION PLAN 33
Goals and Implementation Strategies 34
Priority Parks & Open Space Lands 42
APPENDIX I: PARK DEFINITIONS 56
APPENDIX II: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUMMARY 57
APPENDIX III: RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 60
District 1 60
District 2 62
District 3 64
District 4 66
District 5 67
District 6 68
District 7 69
District 8 70
District 9 71
District 10 72
District 11 73
REFERENCES 74

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Horry County would also like to thank former Parks and Open Space Board members for their role in the development of this plan, including Bobby Page, Jerome Randall, Carolyn Raines-Harbin, and Nancy Seeds.

Conservation Partners

American Rivers
The Nature Conservancy
Pee Dee Land Trust
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
South Carolina Forestry Commission
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Horry County has a wealth of active and passive recreation opportunities to offer its residents and visitors, including 31 parks, 3 recreation centers, 2 community centers, 27 boat landings, and 22 beach accesses. In addition, there are approximately 53,000 acres of public and privately protected lands for wildlife protection and outdoor recreation within the County.

The Parks and Open Space Board, as charged by ordinance, developed a Parks and Open Space Plan in 2008 to guide future land acquisition for park development and open space conservation. This document is an update to that plan. It identifies recreation facility needs through 2040. It also identifies environmentally sensitive lands to be targeted for preservation through land acquisition, conservation easements, wetland mitigation, and neighborhood open space.

The plan identifies capital projects to meet the recreational needs of existing and future populations, provides guidance on areas in which to expand open space acquisition, and provides recommendations on how to meet programming, maintenance, and funding needs. Projections of need are based upon an analysis of current facilities, community input, historic development patterns, and projected growth. This plan focuses primarily on the need to provide multi-purpose, multi-generational facilities so that people of all ages and athletic abilities can enjoy the same recreational space. Residents identified the need to upgrade and expand existing recreational facilities, improve their safety and maintenance, and increase and provide a variety of programming options. The public also desired additional access to natural lands and waterways through the development of trails and both motorized and non-motorized boating access.

Image 1: Playground at Loris Nature Park

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HORRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

3 REGIONAL PARKS
3 RECREATION CENTERS
2 COMMUNITY CENTERS
19 COMMUNITY PARKS
9 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
27 BOAT LANDINGS
22 BEACH ACCESSES
26 PLAYGROUNDS
13.5 MILES OF TRAILS
56 FIELDS
30 OUTDOOR COURTS
2 DISC GOLF COURSE

594 ACRES OF PARKS

2 ACRES OF PARK SPACE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

Based on County park acreage and 2016 unincorporated population

53,393 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

including 28,862 acres of protected floodplain

160 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

Based on countywide open space acreage and 2016 total County population

HORRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL STATISTICS

$ 4.6 M AVG OPERATING BUDGET
$ 500 K AVG CAPITAL BUDGET
1.7 MILLAGE RATE (PROPERTY TAX)
30 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING
8 MAINTENANCE STAFF
45 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES
45 SEASONAL EMPLOYEES
30 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
18,000 ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
200 NON-ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
1,000 AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPANTS

In summary, this plan calls for $110.5 million in recreation capital improvements by 2040. While this is the cost to implement the plan in its entirety, Horry County Council may opt to implement just a portion of the capital investments defined in the Action Plan. The plan identifies the need for the development of 4 regional parks, 2 recreation centers, 2 community centers, 7 community parks, 5 neighborhood parks, 1 boat landing, and 4 soft landings, estimated at $60.3 million. The plan also identifies the need to expand and improve existing recreation facilities, estimated at $50.2 million.

Beyond basic recreation facilities, this plan recognizes the community desire for an aquatic center and ice rink; however, the Parks and Open Space Board does not recommend these projects at this time because of the associated cost to develop and maintain them. The County should conduct a feasibility analysis for each facility. It should also determine if there are other organizations, agencies, or private investors willing to partner with or develop on their own. At this time, the County cannot commit to these projects until further study is pursued.

To meet these needs and promote a high quality of life for our residents, Horry County must be committed to investing in the long-term maintenance and future development of recreational amenities and the expansion of open space. Because the initial parks and recreation plan grossly underestimated population growth in Horry County, there is already a gap in facilities and personnel. In addition, significant natural resources have been developed at a much greater pace than anticipated, fragmenting habitat and wildlife corridors. The combination of these two factors stresses the importance of expanding the County's parks and open space network. While Horry County Parks and Recreation Department serves as the primary entity in which to implement this plan, the County will rely upon local jurisdictions, conservation partners, and private enterprise to meet some of the facility and programming needs of our residents. If implemented in full, this plan will meet the needs of Horry County residents through 2040.

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NEW PROJECTS

4 REGIONAL PARKS
2 RECREATION CENTERS
2 COMMUNITY CENTERS
7 COMMUNITY PARKS
5 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
1 BOAT LANDING
4 SOFT LANDINGS

EXPANSION OF EXISTING RECREATION CENTERS, ADDING SWIM AND SPLASH FACILITIES, MORE FIELDS, PLAYGROUNDS, WALKING TRAILS, AND FACILITY RENOVATIONS

TOP 5 MOST DESIRED FACILITIES

1 MULTI-PURPOSE PARKS
2 ICE RINK
3 TRAILS
4 AQUATIC FACILTIIES
5 OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGE

Based on Horry County Health & Recreation Needs Assessment conducted by Coastal Carolina University

400 NEW PARK ACRES

= 2 - 3 ACRES OF PARK SPACE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS BY 2040

Based on proposed County park acreage and 2040 projected population

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS IN MILLIONS BY 2040

$50.2 + 60.2 =

Expansions New Parks

$110.5

Total Estimate

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

expanded in floodplain

INCREASED ACCESS TO WATERWAYS & TRAILS

INTRODUCTION

In early 2015, the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board initiated the update to the Parks and Open Space Plan. The goal of the update was to provide guidance on maintaining and expanding quality parks, open spaces, and programming to meet the emotional, mental, and physical recreational needs of the citizens in unincorporated areas of Horry County.

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan was developed with a great deal of input from the community, current recreation facility users, and local conservation partners. Public input was gathered through a county-wide health and recreational needs survey that obtained insight from over 900 county residents, representing all areas of the County and demographics. Focus groups were also held to better refine the recreational needs of different areas of the County. In addition, a conservation-based focus group was held to identify the location of sensitive lands and primary habitat corridors that would be appropriate for land conservation or low intensity development.

Staff concurrently conducted an inventory of all County recreation facilities to identify amenities available at each site, along with their condition. The public input results and inventory identified the existing needs and desires of Horry County residents. Combined with development trends and projected growth, staff was able to identify where there are gaps in recreation and where significant natural resources and habitats are most likely to be developed in the near future. Beyond facilities, this plan addresses programming, marketing, and funding to ensure that actions are taken to meet parks and open space needs into the future and maintain a high quality of life for Horry County residents.

The goals, implementation strategies, and proposed projects identified in this plan were developed with input from the public, neighboring parks and recreation departments, Horry County Parks and Recreation, and public and private conservation organizations. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board and Planning Commission, and was then approved by Horry County Council on **TBD DATE**, 2017 by Ordinance ___-17. This document should be used by the County when developing and upgrading recreation facilities, reviewing rezoning requests and new development, and when seeking locations for wetland mitigation and open space acquisition.

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PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF PLAN

This plan was developed to provide comprehensive guidance on how to provide adequate recreational facilities and preservation of open space as our County rapidly grows. The plan supports principles of green infrastructure by interconnecting existing and new recreational facilities into the natural landscape of the County. Ultimately, this plan has two distinct objectives:

- Improve the health and quality of life of all Horry County residents by increasing availability and access to recreational facilities and the great outdoors; and
- Maintain and protect the ecological biodiversity, floodplain, and watershed function of Horry County's natural landscape.

These objectives are directly tied to the role of the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board.

Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

The Horry County Parks & Open Space Board was established in 2000 to provide the county with guidance on land acquisition to help meet parks and open space needs. This plan is intended to support the Parks and Open Space Board's purpose and duties to promote:

- The preservation and connectivity of open space, scenic areas and vistas, greenways, squares, or village greens;
- The protection and conservation of environmental or natural resources;
- The expansion of quality open space for a wide range of recreational opportunities;
- Tourism emphasizing open space, recreational sites, and natural resources of Horry County;
- Education, awareness, and research relating to environmental and natural resources; and
- The coordination of activities with other local and regional organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies active regarding the preservation of open space, recreational sites, and natural resources.

The Parks & Open Space Board is also responsible for developing and maintaining a Parks and Open Space Inventory and list of properties to consider for acquisition. This plan is intended to provide that guidance. While the Board provides guidance on parks and open space, the implementation of this plan will strongly rely upon the support of Horry County Council, Horry County Parks and Recreation, public and private partnerships, and federal, state and private conservation organizations.

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Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure can be defined as a network of natural lands, such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, and waterways, that work together to preserve habitat, minimize stormwater runoff and flooding, protect water quality, and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. Establishing an interconnected green infrastructure network relies on both landscape scale planning and site level design. Preserving an effective green infrastructure network will rely upon:

(1) Conserving large areas of significant habitat and areas adjacent to existing conservation lands;
(2) Siting future parks along waterways, beaches, and other natural areas;
(3) Protecting wetlands, floodplains, and woodlands within neighborhood open space; and
(4) Establishing linear connections between conservation areas, parks, and neighborhoods.

This plan identifies the significant habitat hubs and wildlife corridors that exist throughout the County in order to inform future land conservation efforts, siting of future parks, and the set aside of neighborhood open space.

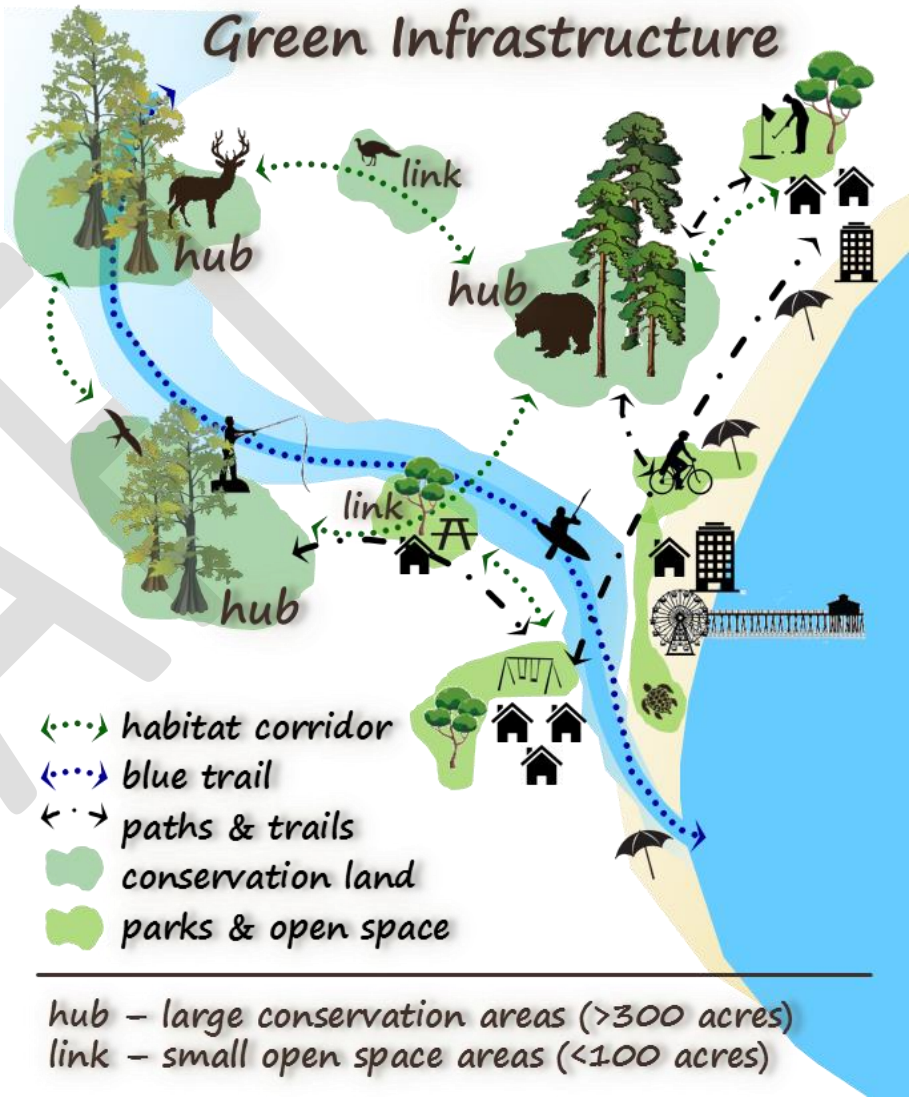

Figure 1: Green Infrastructure Conceptual Diagram

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BENEFITS OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Parks and open space provide a variety of health, economic, and environmental benefits. By providing quality recreation facilities and preserving open space, Horry County will be ensuring a high quality of life for existing and future residents and visitors.

Healthy Lifestyles

The availability of parks and access to natural spaces has proven to have a positive influence on physical and mental health. Rates of obesity have increased nationwide since the 1970s, and there is growing evidence that community design can impact health. Walkable communities with access to recreational facilities and open spaces consistently relates to higher activity levels for adults and youth (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2010). Scenic views and leisure activities also provide restorative and mental health benefits (Lothian, 2010). Horry County adult obesity rates exceed state and national trends, reconfirming the need to provide recreation opportunities throughout the County and for a variety of athletic abilities. While the beach is the most commonly used recreational amenity in the County, it cannot be expected to meet the physical and mental health needs of all Horry County residents.

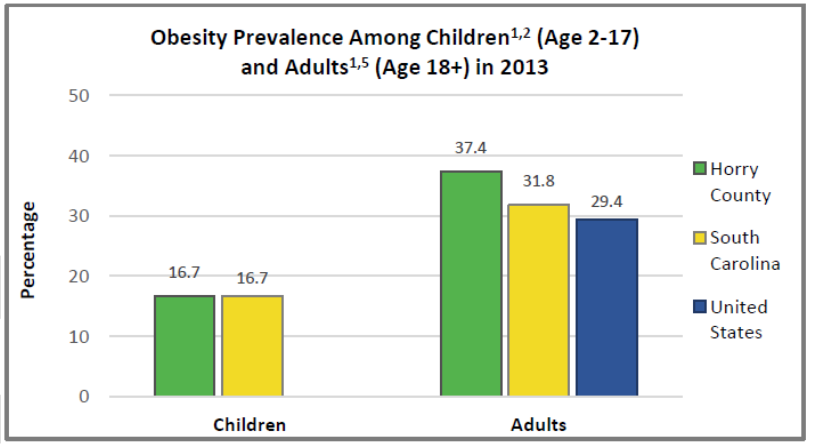

Figure 2: Obesity Prevalence in Horry County (2013) SCDHEC.

Economic Growth

The prime economic base for the County depends on the beach and golf industry. Approximately 14 million people visit the Grand Strand each year, accounting for 31.4 percent of the State's total domestic traveler spending (HC, 2012). Horry County also leads the State in second home ownership, making up forty percent of the State's second homes. While many people vacation or spend part of the year in Horry County, the year-round population continues to increase. Over the last 15 years, Horry County has increased by more than a 100,000 permanent residents. These numbers are only expected to escalate, as population is projected to grow to 423,270 by 2040.

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Simply living near natural or recreational spaces, like the beach, area waterways, parks or trails, has the potential to result in higher property values, marketability, and faster sales. Additionally, access to recreation is often considered by companies seeking to expand or relocate to a new region. While Horry County will always serve as a tourist destination, providing a variety of recreational opportunities in close proximity to residential areas has the ability to attract higher wage industries while also resulting in quality growth.

Environmental Functions

The inherent benefits of open space protection include, but are not limited to, water quality protection, flood hazard reduction, and habitat protection. These benefits result in cost savings to the County and to residents, as open space protection can reduce the cost to filter drinking water and stormwater, minimize flood damage, and reduce flood insurance rates. Open space protection, especially if done in a comprehensive manner that targets large areas for conservation, minimizes habitat fragmentation; thus protecting areas that are large enough to sustain wildlife populations, which also provides passive recreational opportunities for bird watchers, hunters, paddlers, fishermen, hikers, mountain bikers, and others.

HISTORY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

The Horry County Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1997 to meet the immediate and long-term recreation needs of County residents. In 1999, County Council adopted the *Horry County Recreation Needs Assessment for 1999-2009*. This plan revealed that the County's active and passive recreational facilities had not caught up with the rapid growth of the region; and it identified areas where new facilities should be developed. In close succession, County Council established the Parks & Open Space Board and the Open Space Fund in 2000 to support natural resource and open space preservation. In 2001, the County established Fund 90 to provide dedicated millage to support recreation capital improvements, land acquisition, and staffing of the Parks and Recreation Department.

While the Parks and Recreation Department has developed many of the recreational facilities recommended within the Recreation Needs Assessment, this initial plan underestimated population growth by nearly 100,000 people, resulting in gaps in recreational facilities throughout the County. The County has since developed the *Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan* (2008). While this plan provided a strong analysis of conservation needs, it did not address recreational needs and opportunities.

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Figure 3: History, Planning, & Funding Context

This plan serves as an update of both the initial *Recreation Needs Assessment* and the previous *Parks and Open Space Plan*. It was developed as a comprehensive guide to acquire, develop, and expand recreation and open space conservation. It also provides programming, maintenance, and funding recommendations to ensure that our recreational facilities meet the needs of our growing population.

Related Planning Efforts

This plan reflects a number of recommendations made within previously adopted county plans and regulations. It also supports recommendations made within the SC Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014). The following is a brief description of these locally adopted plans and regulations.

❖ **Envision 2025**

The Horry County Comprehensive Plan, *Envision 2025*, addresses broad recreation and conservation needs in Horry County. Detailed information on the county's unique natural resources are included in Envision 2025.

❖ **East Coast Greenway Master Plan**

In 2003, the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments developed a master plan for Horry and Georgetown counties that identifies routing and construction guidelines for the East Coast Greenway (ECG), which is a multi-purpose trail that runs from Maine to the Florida Keys.

❖ **Horry County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

The *Horry County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* was adopted in 2012 and includes recommendations for the Carolina Forest Community. It was amended in 2016 to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian needs for the Burgess Community. It will continue to be expanded on to encompass bicycle and pedestrian needs throughout unincorporated Horry County.

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❖ **Horry County Beachfront Management Plan**

In 2013, Horry County updated its *Beachfront Management Plan*, as required by South Carolina's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (SC-OCRM), to identify measures to protect wildlife and ensure public accessibility to the beach. This plan is required in order to receive financial assistance from the state for beach renourishment and beach access improvements.

❖ **Area and Neighborhood Plans**

Horry County has multiple Area and Neighborhood Plans to guide quality growth, such as the *Bennett Loop Revitalization Plan, Burgess Area Plan*, Little River Neighborhood Plan, and *Racepath Revitalization Plan*. These plans typically address recreation and/or natural resource protection.

❖ **Zoning and Land Development Regulations**

Horry County has a number of zoning districts that require dedicated open space for recreation and natural resource protection, as does the County's *Land Development Regulations* for all major subdivisions. If the open space is not provided within a proposed subdivision, the developer has the option to pay a fee-in-lieu to the County or participate in an open space mitigation bank. While these avenues exist, only one development has opted for the fee-in-lieu option since 2001.

PLANNING PROCESS

In January 2015, the Horry County Parks & Recreation and Planning & Zoning and Departments, along with the Parks and Open Space Board, initiated the rewrite of the Parks and Open Space Plan.

Public Input

Horry County partnered with Coastal Carolina University's Swain Scholars Program to develop and administer the "Recreational Needs Assessment" survey in early 2015. This in-depth survey was completed by over 900 residents and included representation from all geographic areas of the county. Staff analyzed results by zipcode and by age of respondents to ensure that facility recommendations in this plan coincided with siting of future facilities and improvements. The most desired types of facilities did not vary by area of the County and were only slightly different based upon age group.

It also included six focus groups in differing areas of the County totaling over 50 participants, including representation from sports leagues, sportsmen, equestrians, seniors, handicapped users, public and private conservation organizations, representation from neighboring jurisdictions, chambers of commerce, and eco-tourism, sports tourism, and other recreation-based businesses. County Parks and Recreation Department staff

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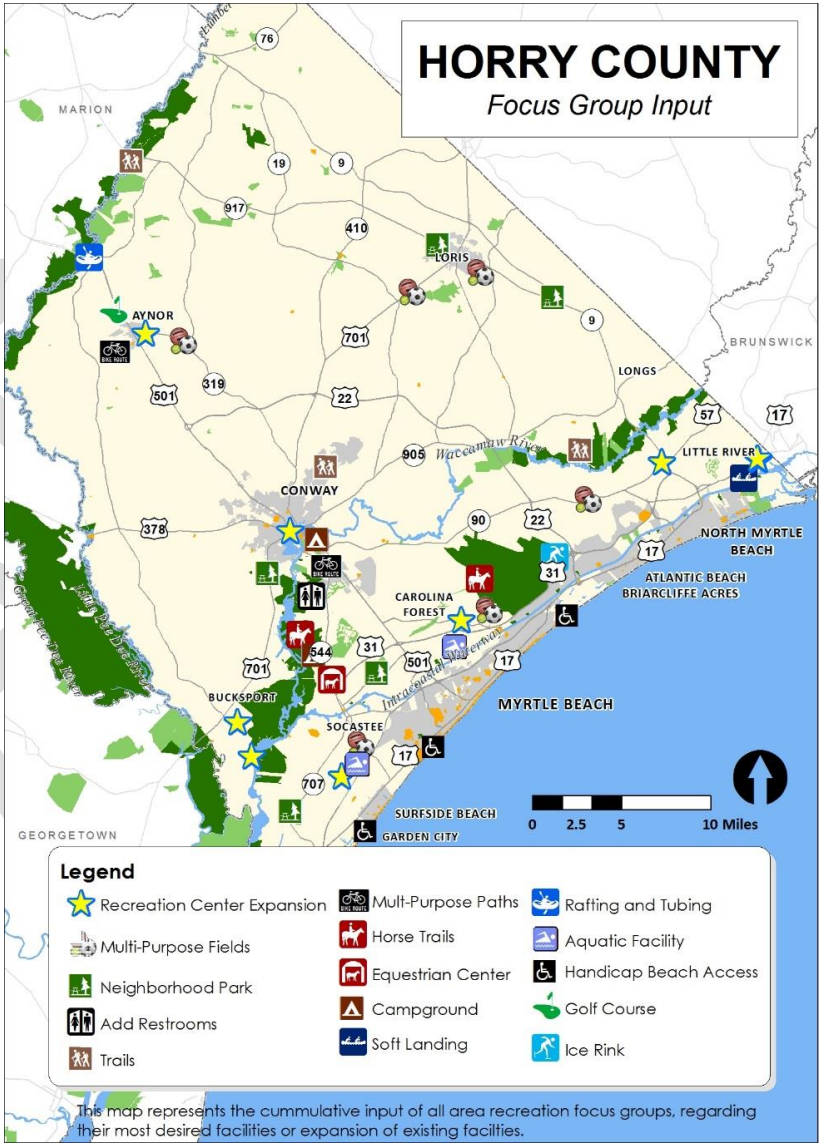
and Parks and Open Space Board members also attended to obtain input from the community and provide their insight on existing operations and needs.

During the focus groups, participants engaged in activities and discussion to identify recreation capital improvement and programming needs. Participants identified their most desired new facility or existing facility improvement. A summary map of all focus group participant input is shown to the right. Participants also provided staff with a breakdown of how they would prefer future recreation funding be spent on capital improvements, most of which outline a diversification of capital expenditures to meet a variety of recreational needs.

One other focus group was held, including representation from federal, state, and private conservation organizations. They provided specific insight on important areas for land conservation. The input provided during all of the focus groups enhanced the input provided in the county-wide survey. It helped better define the needs for specific areas of the County.



Map 1: Summary of Focus Group Input

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Parks and Open Space Inventory

Concurrently with obtaining community input, staff inventoried the condition and amenities at all county-owned and maintained recreational facilities. Staff also obtained information on all municipal recreation facilities and conservation properties located throughout the county. This inventory resulted in the development of the *Horry County Parks and Open Space Inventory*, which the Parks and Open Space Board approved in 2016 and is responsible for maintaining.

Needs Assessment

Baseline data collected through public input and the *Parks and Open Space Inventory* was compared alongside population growth, historic and future development trends, and land availability to identify goals and implementation strategies, priority recreation and conservation areas, and capital improvement projects that are outlined within the Action Plan of this document.

Adoption

The Plan obtained a recommendation for approval by the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board and Horry County Planning Commission. It was formerly adopted by County Council on _____, **2017.** Public comment was obtained by each reviewing governmental body.

To ensure that Plan remains up to date, the Parks and Open Space Board should revisit the plan every 5 years. A complete plan rewrite should be completed by 2040, or sooner, to reflect changes in population growth, development trends, funding, and community needs.

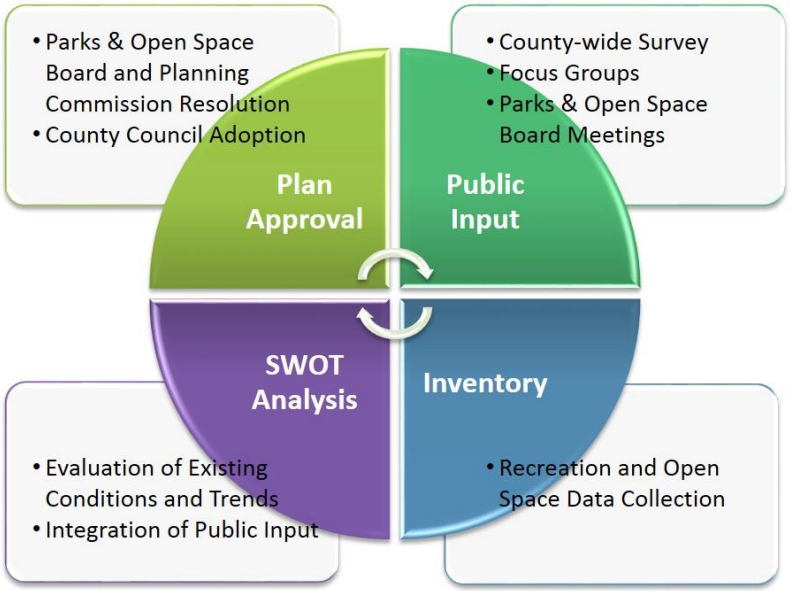

Figure 4: Continual Planning Process Diagram

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EXISTING CONDITIONS & NEED

Horry County maintains nearly 80 recreational facilities on 594 acres of land, including 31 parks with 3 recreation centers and 2 community centers. Facilities range in size from large, regional facilities of approximately 100 acres in size to small ¼ acre neighborhood parks. Most County parks are 5 to 10 acres in size, containing ballfields, picnic shelters, and playground equipment. In all, Horry County Parks and Recreation provides 39 baseball/softball fields, 17 multi-purpose fields, 26 playgrounds, 13.5 miles of trails, 15 tennis courts, 13 outdoor basketball courts, 2 sand volleyball courts, and 2 disc golf courses.

In addition, Horry County Parks and Recreation maintains 27 of the 35 public boat landings along the Intracoastal Waterway and the Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber, and Waccamaw Rivers. Most landings have docks, multiple ramps, and sandy areas for paddling access. Horry County Public Works also maintains 22 beach accesses and unincorporated beachfront in the County.

In addition to facilities, Horry County Parks and Recreation is responsible for sports leagues, camps, classes, and special events, most of which are operated out of recreation and community centers. Parks and Recreation also capitalizes on area waterways and nature preserves through its outdoor recreation programming. In all, there are 30 full-time staff with Horry County Parks and Recreation, 8 of which are responsible for maintaining all recreation centers, parks and landings. The Department also employs 45 part-time and 45 seasonal, part-time staff, most of which staff recreation and community centers.

Beyond what Horry County Parks and Recreation offers, Horry County residents also benefit from the recreational facilities available in Conway, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, and Surfside Beach. Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach serve as sports tourism destinations for league tournaments through facilities like the North Myrtle Beach Sports Complex, Grand Park at Market Common, and the Myrtle Beach Sports Complex. Residents also benefit from facilities like Myrtle Beach State Park, Myrtle Beach Boardwalk, Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area, Conway Riverwalk and Riverfront Park.

The *Horry County Parks and Open Space Inventory* (2016) details all of the recreation facilities and conservation lands in Horry County. This section of the plan synthesizes facility information gathered during the development of the *Inventory* with public input and historic development trends to identify existing and future parks and open space needs.

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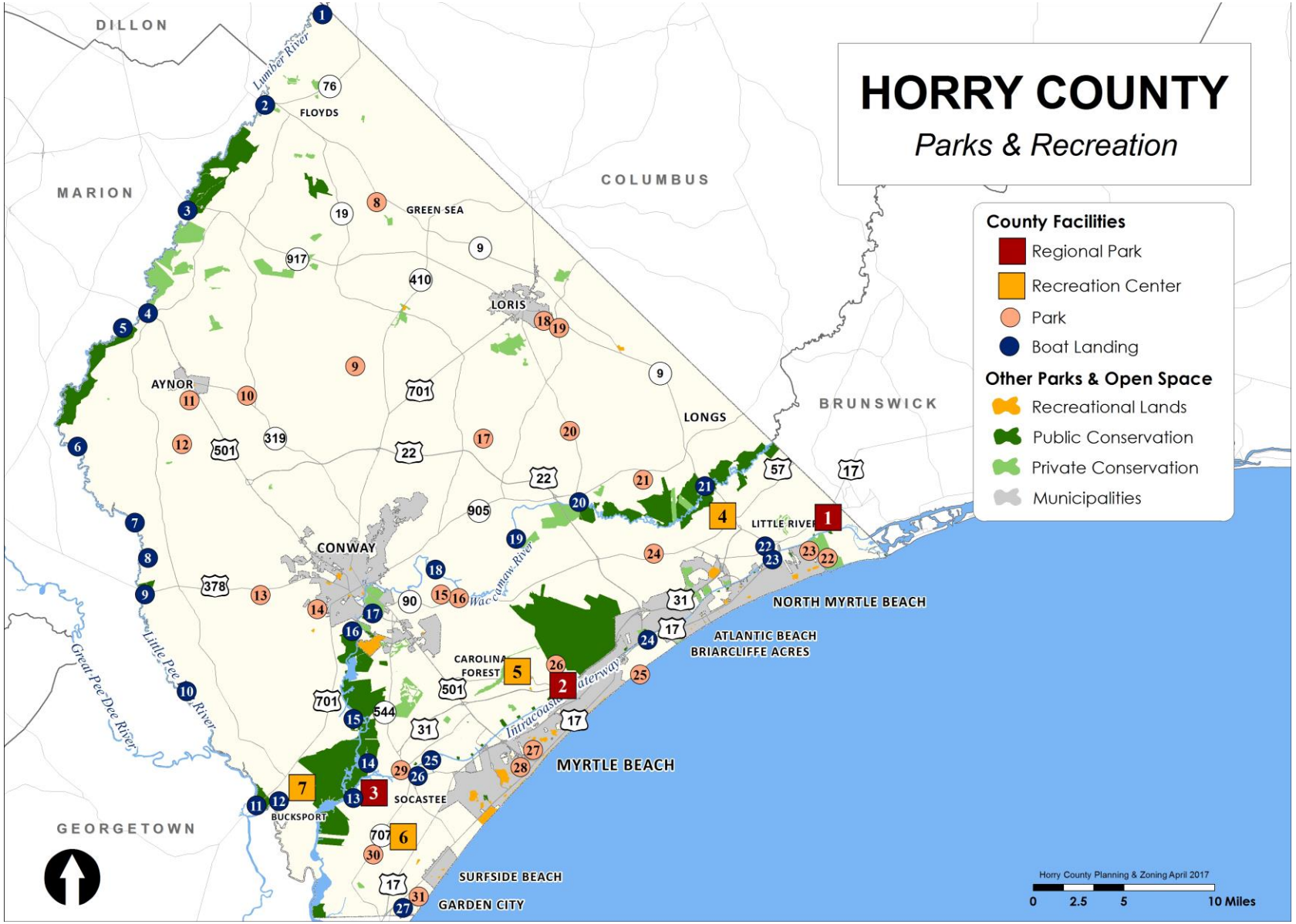

Map 2: Horry County Parks & Recreation Facilities

Parks

1. Vereen Memorial Gardens
2. Bike and Run Park
3. Socastee Recreation Park
4. North Strand Park
5. Carolina Forest Recreation Center
6. South Strand Recreation Center
7. James Frazier Community Center
8. Green Sea Floyds Ballfields
9. Bayboro Park
10. Michael Morris Graham Park
11. Aynor Athletic Complex
12. Dog Bluff Park
13. Pee Dee Park
14. Sandridge Park
15. McNeil Park
16. Waccamaw Park
17. Mt. Vernon Tennis Courts
18. Heinford Field
19. Loris Nature Park
20. White Oak Park
21. Simpson Creek Park
22. Frink Park
23. Little River Neck Park
24. Poplar Park
25. Hibben Memorial Park
26. International Drive Ballfields
27. Racepath Park
28. New Town Park
29. Socastee Landing & Park
30. Burgess Park
31. Sam Cox Park

Boat Landings

1. Causey Landing
2. Ricefield Cove Landing
3. Sandy Bluff Landing
4. Galivants Ferry Landing
5. Huggins Landing
6. Gunters Lake Landing
7. Hughes Landing
8. Jordan Lake Landing
9. Pitts Landing
10. Punch Bowl Landing
11. Yauhannah Landing
12. Port Harrelson Landing
13. Enterprise Landing
14. Peachtree Landing
15. Bucksville Landing
16. Pitch Landing
17. Billy Witherspoon Landing
18. Lee's Landing
19. Reaves Ferry Landing
20. Danny Knight Landing
21. Chris Anderson Landing
22. T. Craig Campbell Landing
23. Johnny Causey Landing
24. Peter Vaught Sr Landing
25. Rosewood Landing
26. Socastee Landing and Park
27. Stanley Drive Landing

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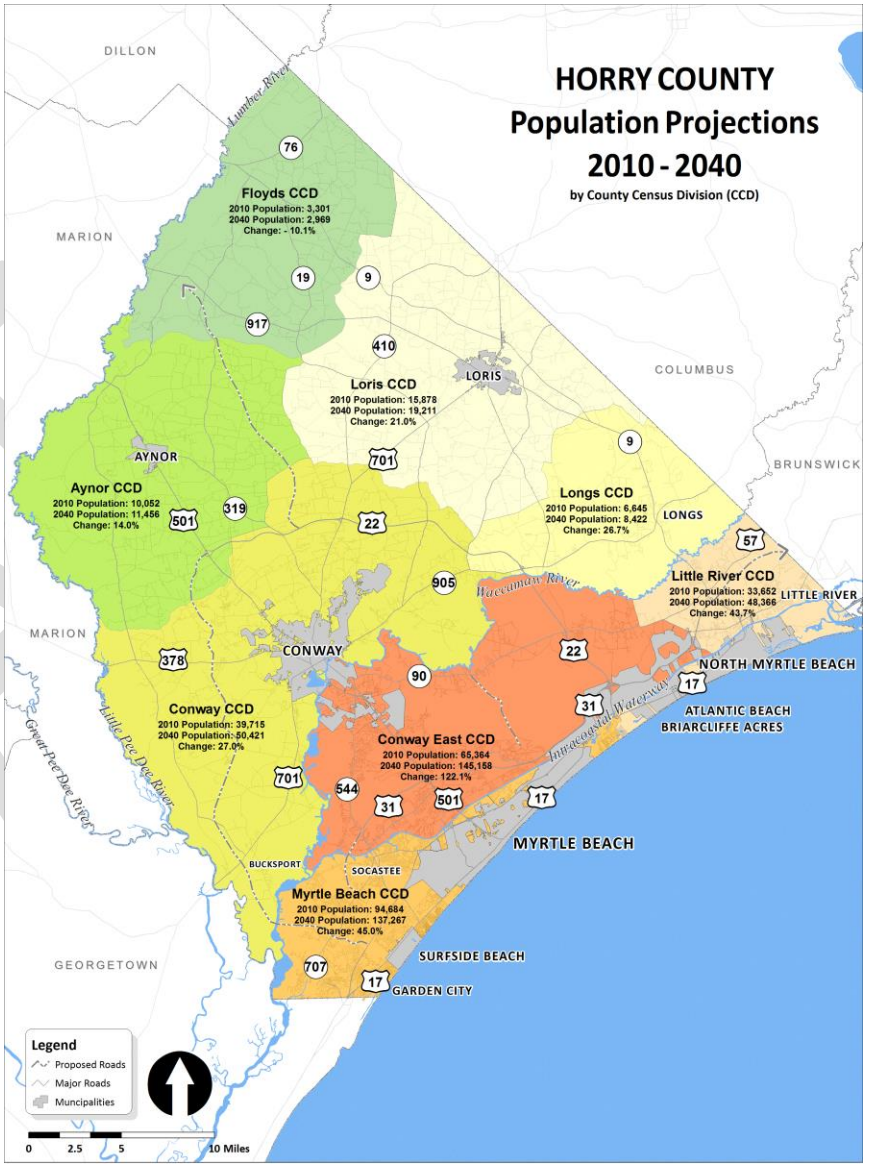
GROWTH TRENDS

Horry County's population has drastically increased, growing over 100,000 since 2000. More than 100,000 additional people are anticipated to move to Horry County by 2040. Carolina Forest and surrounding areas along Highways 501 and 544 are experiencing the greatest rate of development. Little River and the South Strand are also seeing an increase in development, including growth in senior populations and second homes. Recreation must catch up and keep pace with development in these growth areas but not at the expense of slower growing, rural communities.

Table 1: Population Projections

CCD	2010	2020	2030	2040	Growth (2010-2040)	% Growth (2010-2040)
Aynor	10,052	10,475	11,067	11,456	+1,404	14.0
Conway	39,715	42,905	46,631	50,421	+10,706	27.0
Conway East	65,364	92,715	119,113	145,158	+79,794	122.1
Floyds Crossroads	3,301	3,130	3,006	2,969	-161	-4.8
Longs	6,645	7,171	7,789	8,422	+1,777	26.7
Loris	15,878	16,815	17,994	19,211	+3,333	21.0
Little River	33,652	38,352	43,340	48,366	+14,714	43.7
Myrtle Beach	94,684	108,333	122,757	137,267	+42,583	44.9
Population Totals	**269,291**	**319,896**	**371,697**	**423,270**	**+153,979**	**57.2**

Population Projections provided by the SC Budget and Control Board and the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments



Map 3: Population Projections

PARKS AND RECREATION

While Horry County offers a number of recreation facilities, there remains a number of factors that limit use of these facilities and participation in programming. In order to address these concerns, this portion of the plan will identify existing demand for recreation facilities, identify where there is already a lack of basic recreation facilities, maintenance and safety concerns, an overview of programming and marketing needs, and a summary and assessment of funding mechanisms to support facility and program expansion.

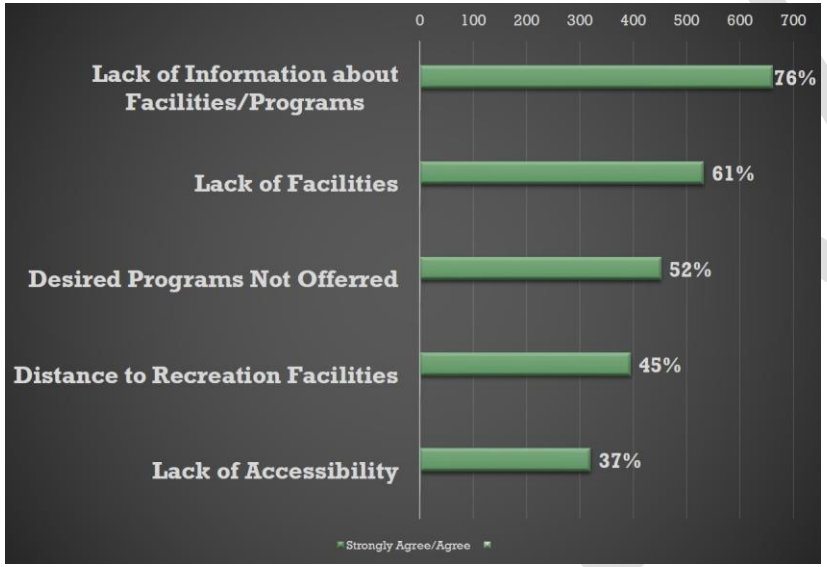


Figure 5: Top Reasons Limiting Recreation Use and Participation in Horry County (Survey Results)

Facility Demand

The county-wide *Recreational Needs Assessment* Survey and focus groups revealed that existing residents are seeking parks that offer a variety of recreational options for both young and old and provide options for people with varying physical capabilities. The community conveyed that parks should be within close proximity to their residence and should include walking trails, playground equipment, picnic areas, access to natural areas or waterways, and active components, such as fields and outdoor courts. Residents want multi-use facilities that cater to the recreational needs of their entire family, including grandparents, parents, and children, and can offer outdoor gathering space for family reunions and special events.

Beyond neighborhood and community parks, both urban and rural communities desired the development of nature trails, improved access to waterways, and increased programming at existing recreation facilities. There was also a strong desire for improved handicapped accessibility at parks and beach accesses, beyond providing handicap parking.

Rural communities indicated a need for basic recreational amenities, including community recreation centers and

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additional ballfields. They also had a stronger interest in capitalizing on their natural surroundings, as they desired hiking and ATV trails, camping areas, retreat center, and guided paddling programs along area rivers. Equestrian trails were also desired in these areas.

Consistently throughout the County, residents desired the expansion of existing recreation and community centers. Ballfield users also consistently expressed the need for field lighting to allow for night time play, thus allowing for additional leagues and tournament play without having to construct new fields. Passive recreation opportunities were also consistently recommended, including picnic areas, scenic views, and unprogrammed open space.

Beyond typical park and recreation facilities, residents expressed a strong interest in the development of an ice rink, nature trails, an aquatic facility, and an outdoor shooting range. The interest in an ice rink did not vary based on where people reside within the County or their age. An outdoor shooting range was most desired by those in rural parts of the County, while an aquatic facility was most desired by people living in Burgess and Carolina Forest.

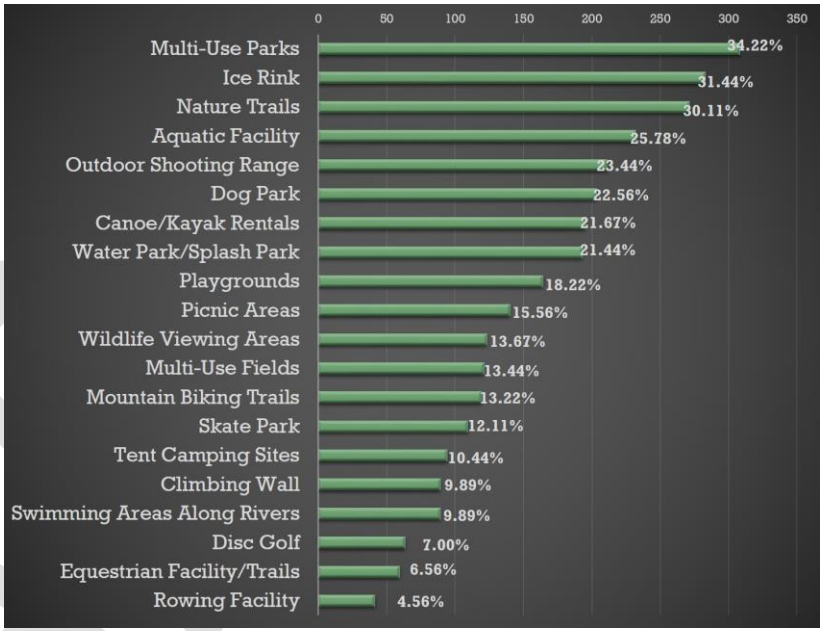

Figure 6: Most Desired Recreational Facilities (Survey Results)

While a Retreat and Equestrian Center was not specifically called out among residents, survey and focus group input identified a demand for nature and equestrian trails, wildlife viewing areas, and camping. In addition, previous studies have identified that Horry County could benefit from the development of an equestrian and agricultural facility. If such facilities were combined, the County could ensure it were used year-round and could generate revenue. The Solid Waste Authority Site would be a good location for such a facility.

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Facility Gaps

A mapping analysis was conducted to determine where there are existing gaps in the County's existing parks and open space network. Public input and an analysis of existing facility conditions were incorporated into this analysis to determine where renovation and expansion of existing facilities will help meet future needs. In all, this plan calls for the development of 2 new recreation centers, 2 community centers, 7 community parks, 5 neighborhood parks, 1 boat landing, and 4 soft landings. The analysis was based upon recreation centers being within 3 miles of urban and suburban residents and within 5 miles of rural residents. Neighborhood parks should be located within ¼ mile to 1 mile of residents in urban/suburban communities, and community parks within 3 miles of residents.

Through this analysis, there is a clear need for the development of community and neighborhood parks, especially in older, established portions of the County like Burgess, Garden City, Forestbrook, Little River, Myrtle Ridge, and unincorporated Surfside. The land for future parks should be acquired in the near future, as land is quickly being developed east of the Waccamaw River. In addition, many neighborhood and community parks are in need of expansion, as they are already undersized for the population that they serve.

Figure 7: Model Community Park, Credit: Jim Leggitt

Model Community Park Cost Estimate	
Playground	100,000
Picnic Area	80,000
Multi-Purpose Path (Paved)	100,000
Multi-Purpose Field & Lighting	400,000
Baseball Fields (2) & Lighting	800,000
Outdoor Courts	75,000
Concessions, Restrooms, & Water Fountains	100,000
Site Furnishings (picnic tables, benches, bleachers, receptacles, etc)	20,000
Beautification	25,000
Lighting	25,000
Parking (Paved)	100,000
Signage	5,000
Land Acquisition (10+ acres)	400,000
Total Estimate	$2,230,000

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Similarly, North Strand Park, Carolina Forest Recreation Center, James Frazier Community Center, and the South Strand Recreation Center are in need of expansion, as they are all currently operating over capacity. Residents have a high demand for these expansions, especially in suburban communities like Burgess and Carolina Forest. Most need building expansions, while others need outdoor field and amenity expansions. Expansion of existing recreation centers is necessary to meet the needs of existing populations. Additional land should also be set aside or acquired to allow for expansion into the future.

Additionally, Aynor and Loris are in need of recreation centers that will meet both the needs of municipal residents and those in surrounding unincorporated areas. Green Sea Floyds and Forestbrook could benefit from the development of community centers, which are smaller in size than recreation centers. Such facilities could be developed in conjunction with existing parks, much like the CB Berry Community Center operates in conjunction with Vereen Memorial Gardens.

The County should consider incorporating pools or splash areas into recreation and community centers, as public pools are limited to aquatic facilities in Myrtle and North Myrtle Beach or neighborhood pools in subdivisions. The lack of public pools and swim lessons for residents in unincorporated Horry County is concerning because of the sheer number of waterbodies present throughout the County.

Beyond parks, there is a need for at least one new boat landing along the Intracoastal Waterway, as there is currently a fifteen (15) mile gap in public boating access between Socastee and Arcadian Shores. There is also a need for soft boat launches throughout the County to cater to paddlers and swimmers, minimizing user conflicts with motorized boaters. At the beach, public access has been maximized, but there remains a need for additional public parking in proximity to the access points.

The facility recommendations within this plan are intended to close the gap in facilities, but there may be instances when unanticipated population growth may merit more facilities or amenities than identified within this plan. Filling these recreational gaps are not the only recreational improvements that need to be considered, as numerous upgrades and expansions are needed within existing facilities. These upgrades are detailed within the Action Plan.

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Maintenance & Safety

There are a number of consistent needs across all county recreation facilities, especially in regards to facility maintenance, safety, accessibility, and identification. These needs include, but are not limited to:

- Regular mowing and facility beautification.
- Field lighting, fence repairs, scoreboard and bleacher replacement.
- Resurfacing of outdoor courts.
- Addition of water fountains and restrooms where feasible.
- Improved waste management, availability of recycling, and litter reduction.
- Improved safety and sense of safety through lighting, security cameras, and emergency call boxes.
- Improved and consistent directional and entrance signage.

All new facilities and facility upgrades should ensure handicap accessibility by providing handicapped parking, restrooms, signage and amenities, such as wheelchair accessible picnic tables, water fountains, and playground equipment. Other considerations that are valuable to physically handicapped users and all other users include, but are not limited to, soft playground surfaces, paved walking paths that meet ADA accessible guidelines, and shaded sitting areas.

Sports and Athletic Fields	Neighborhood Parks
1. Restroom and/or water fountain availability and maintenance 2. Emergency call boxes 3. Lighted athletic fields for night time play 4. Covered areas for spectators to watch games 5. Surveillance cameras	1. Restroom and/or water fountain availability and maintenance 2. Emergency call boxes 3. Lighting for night time play and exercise 4. Increased police patrol 5. Surveillance cameras
Water-Based Recreation	**Trails**
1. Restroom, shower and/or water fountain availability and maintenance 2. Emergency call boxes 3. Designated swimming areas 4. Increased police patrol 5. Availability of canoe and kayak rentals	1. Restroom and/or water fountain availability and maintenance 2 Emergency call boxes 3 Trail maintenance (e.g. surface repair, weeds, etc.) 4 Increased police patrol 5 Improved waste management & litter pick up

Figure 8: Top 5 Recommended Improvements by Facility Type

Athletics and Programming

Athletics make up a large portion of the programming that the county offers, accounting for approximately 18,000 annual recreational users. This includes participants involved in leagues organized by the County, in addition to those provided by athletic associations like the Aynor and Pee Dee Athletic Associations. Recreation leagues are primarily available for youth and typically cost $35 - $55 to participate, usually including equipment and a uniform. Horry County Parks and Recreation is dedicated to ensuring the affordability of its leagues to ensure equitable access for all participants.

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Image 2: Youth Basketball is Popular

In addition to leagues, the County allows other organizations to offer leagues or use County facilities for tournaments. While the County currently charges a fee to use its facilities, there is no cancellation policy or fee. Tournament use has increased in recent years, as the County provides fields when tournaments exceed the capacity of Myrtle and North Myrtle Beach facilities. There is a large competition for field space, as most fields are not properly lit for night games. By doing so, more teams could compete on high demand days.

Beyond organized sports, Horry County Parks and Recreation offers a variety of classes, programming, and special events. The number of classes or programs that are offered are based upon facility availability and funding. These classes are typically offered by private instructors, who are paid regardless if the class fills up. Classes are reserved according to teacher availability as opposed to the times when the target user group would prefer to participate. Fifty-two (52) percent of survey responses indicated that the programs and classes that they want are not offered. Respondents also indicated that the best times to offer programs are on the weekends and on weekday evenings (5 – 11 pm). Reponses did vary by age with 20-29 year olds preferring weekday evenings from 5 – 11 pm and seniors preferring weekday afternoons from 12 – 5 pm.

Image 3: Classes Available at Recreation Centers

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County recreation centers also offer afterschool and summer camps, which have extensive waiting lists. Program participants are being turned away, as existing facilities do not have the capacity. This indicates that either Horry County Parks or Recreation offers much lower costs than Horry County Schools and private entities and/or there is a need for expanded space and availability across all entities.

Outside of regular programming, residents indicated a desire for more outdoor recreational programming, such as kayaking and canoeing, birding, trail hikes, and photography. In addition, expanding holiday events, scavenger hunts, movie nights, field days, and races has the ability to generate revenue to support programming, while also helping to build a sense of community among residents.

While the county strives to keep league and program costs down, there is a great need to revisit program offerings, schedules and fees to ensure the needs of end users are being met. To support programming needs, the Parks and Recreation Department should expand sponsorship and advertising opportunities, in addition to developing franchise agreements for private enterprise to offer programming when the County does not have the capability to dedicate staffing.

Marketing

While Horry County Parks and Recreation has a great deal of facilities and offers a variety of leagues and programs, 76 percent of survey respondents indicated a lack of knowledge about existing facilities and programs. Over 60 percent indicated that they currently learn about programs by word of mouth, while most, regardless of age, would prefer to receive information via the internet, email, or newsletter, followed by social media.

Horry County Parks and Recreation is already working to address these concerns by improving its website to convey the location of all facilities in addition to providing information on beaches, water trails, and trails. The website also includes the ability for people to register for programs and events online. Improving the Horry County Parks and Recreation website is just one avenue to improve citizens' knowledge of the variety of facilities and programs that Horry County Parks and Recreation has to offer. Recreation centers also have their own facebook pages to announce events, which are also regularly posted in community newspapers. Other avenues to consider should be the development of a professionally

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produced quarterly newsletter and the creation of a Parks and Recreation list-serv. Publications and event announcements will require a dedicated staff member with training in social and print media. It should also been done in coordination with the Horry County Public Information Office to ensure events are widely advertised to local news media.

Beyond advertising, establishing a consistent brand can also increase public awareness of what Horry County Parks and Recreation offers. Branding includes consistent facility signage, logos, and even the consistent use of one or two colors in playground equipment, staff apparel, and league uniforms. Improving visual recognition of County facilities and even sports leagues will help the County stand out among municipal parks and recreation departments.

OPEN SPACE

Horry County depends on a number of conservation partners and homeowners associations in order to preserve and maintain critical habitats and natural open space. Approximately 53,000 acres or 6.8 percent of Horry County is preserved as conservation land through both public and private entities. US Fish and Wildlife and SC Department of Natural Resources own the majority of these lands, many of which were established through wetland mitigation from major road projects. The Nature Conservancy often holds title to these lands until they are transferred over to state or federal agencies. Other organizations that have preserved lands in Horry County include the US Department of Agriculture, Pee Dee Land Trust, North American Land Trust, Wildlife Action, Historic Ricefields Association, and Horry County Conservation Foundation.

Image 4: Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area Owned by US Fish and Wildlife Service

Horry County Government also owns protected lands, mainly in the form of flood mitigation, dredge spoil, and donated properties. Horry County typically does not seek ownership of open space properties, as these lands need

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to be managed based upon the wildlife they are intended to support. Instead, the County works in conjunction with conservation partners to assist them with identifying and acquiring lands for preservation.

While there are numerous conservation properties in the county, they are often protected in a piecemeal fashion as each organization has their own missions to support, such as farmland or wetland protection. Their acquisitions also depend on land availability and willing sellers. This plan attempts to identify where there are conservation gaps to help these organizations by identifying target areas for future acquisitions.

Neighborhood Open Space

Horry County's Land Development Regulations require 500 ft^2 per residential unit within all major subdivisions. Open space may consist of wetlands, floodplains, vegetated buffers, woodlands, large stormwater ponds, and active recreational areas, such as neighborhood pools, playgrounds, and trails. These areas are required to be platted and managed by the homeowners' association and are intended to be maintained as open space in perpetuity. The initial intent of requiring neighborhood open space was to provide recreation within close proximity to the residents it serves without overly burdening Horry County Parks and Recreation to provide all recreation facilities. These requirements also helps preserve wetlands and wetland buffers, as the US Army Corps of Engineers does not protect all types of wetlands and adjacent uplands.

Image 5: Example of Neighborhood Open Space

To date, only one development has utilized the fee in lieu of open space that is available for all developers. Only $19,920 has been paid into the Open Space Fund since it was established in 2001. The County has not evaluated the quality of the open space and recreation that is being provided or how these areas may or may not integrate into the greater green infrastructure network of the

DRAFT

county. In recent years, there has been an increase in the tax sale of neighborhood open space, leaving many of these properties threatened by development or resulting in an individual unknowingly purchasing land that is deed restricted.

There is a need to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the open space requirements within the Horry County Land Development Regulations to ensure they are being applied as intended and to ensure the quality of the open space dedicated in major subdivisions.

Critical Linkages in Green Infrastructure Network

Future development and road construction has the greatest likelihood to fragment habitats and sever critical habitat corridors. Staff met with representatives from public and private conservation organizations to obtain input about significant habitats and wildlife corridors to consider for future protection. Participants discussed wetlands, forestlands, and floodplains and their interconnectivity throughout the County. The following were considered high priority to improve connectivity and expand the open space network in Horry County:

- Highway 90 Corridor: The wetlands and habitat corridors that are bisected by the roadway. The habitat corridors link wildlife from Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve to the Waccamaw River.
- Hog Inlet and Waites Island: This area has significant historical and ecological significance and is one of the last undeveloped shorelines in the Grand Strand. Much of this area also has flood insurance restrictions as well, making it problematic if new development were to occur.
- Lake Busbee: This man-made lake has become a fixture in the community but requires water level management since the closing of the Santee Cooper Grainger Plant. Preservation of the lake and areas along the Waccamaw River were identified of high level importance for wildlife, water quality, flood control, and recreation.
- Conway to Coastal Trail: Developing an interconnected trail system from the City of Conway to Coastal Carolina University and Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area was identified as high priority, as it would increase mobility across the Waccamaw River and improve access to nature.
- Improved Access to Open Space: By improving signage to and within SC Department of Natural Resource Heritage Preserves and other public lands, it will improve opportunities for people to access nature and existing trail systems.

DRAFT

- Floodplain Preservation: Conservation partners and the County will benefit from preserving land within the floodplain. Not only will it protect flood storage, it will help decrease flood insurance premiums through the Community Rating System.
- Wetland Mitigation: Coordinate with SC Department of Transportation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control to redirect wetland mitigation back to Horry County and the watershed in which wetland impacts occur.
- Conservation Design: Participants also discussed opportunities increase conservation through development regulations and zoning.

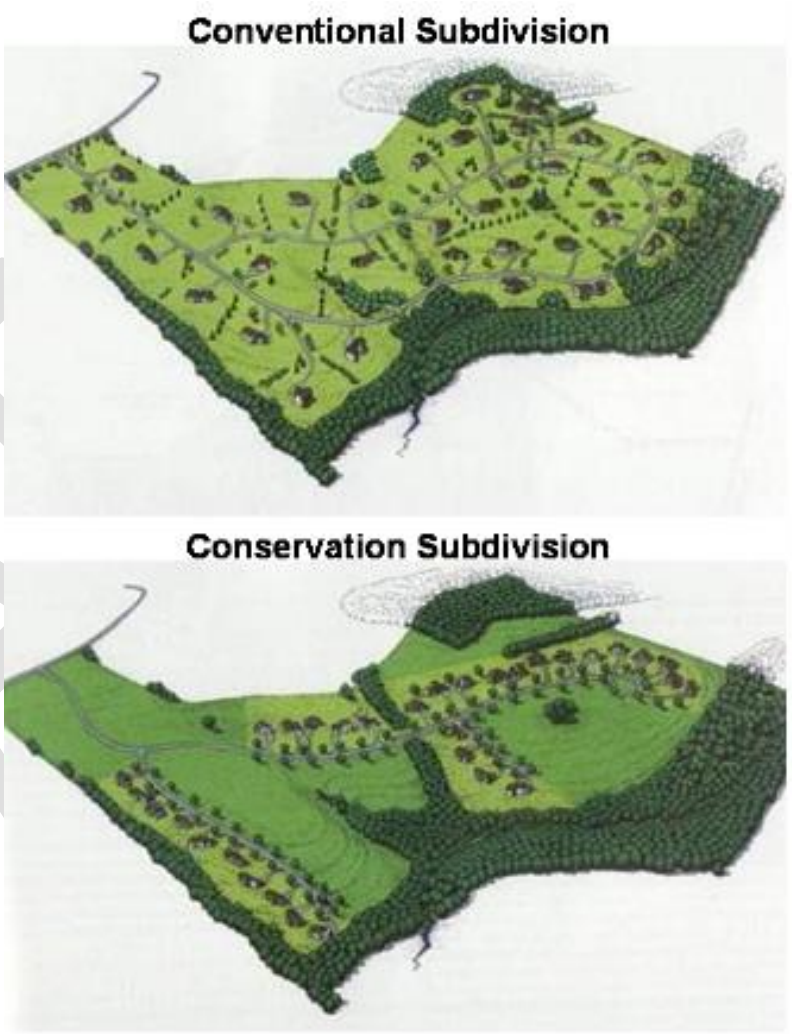

Figure 9: Example of Conservation Design, Source: Randall Arendt

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FUNDING MECHANISMS

Horry County Parks and Recreation Department is funded through a variety of avenues. Parks and Recreation operations, maintenance and programming is funded through dedicated millage and supplemented by user fees. Additionally, the County utilizes Sunday Liquor Sales revenues and grants to support capital improvement projects. While Horry County currently does not set aside funding for conservation, there are a number of federal, state, and private partners that the County works with to fulfill these needs.

County Recreation Fund

The County Recreation Fund, also known as Fund 90, was established on July 1, 2001. Prior to that, the Recreation Program was financially supported through the General Fund. County Council established a separate millage to ensure that a commitment to recreation was maintained into the future. Since the establishment of Fund 90, the Parks and Recreation Department's operational budget has remained relatively flat. The property tax rate for the County Recreation Fund only recently decreased from 2.3 mills to 1.7 mills. While this change in millage may appear to be a decrease in funding, 0.5 mils was moved to another fund to cover debt services to construct South Strand, Carolina Forest, and North Strand Recreation Centers.

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Millage	2.3	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Revenues	5.11 M	5.17 M	4.67 M	4.34 M	4.40 M	4.61 M

As Horry County Parks and Recreation facilities have grown, there are more properties to maintain and more programs available to the public. As recreation opportunities expand, additional funding will be necessary to keep pace with facility usage and demand. The Department currently has 30 full-time staff members, 45 part-time employees, and 45 part-time, seasonal positions. Of the 30 full time employees, 8 are maintenance staff that are responsible for maintaining all County recreation facilities. If funding cannot support staffing levels, there will be fewer people to provide programming and meet routine and emergency maintenance needs.

Cost allocation which pays for maintenance and custodial services provided by other county departments has steadily increased with the development of new facilities, growing from 12 percent of the Parks and Recreation Department's budget in 2010 to 17 percent in 2015; further constricting the Parks and Recreation Department's operational budget. Routine maintenance and grounds keeping needs should be taken into

DRAFT

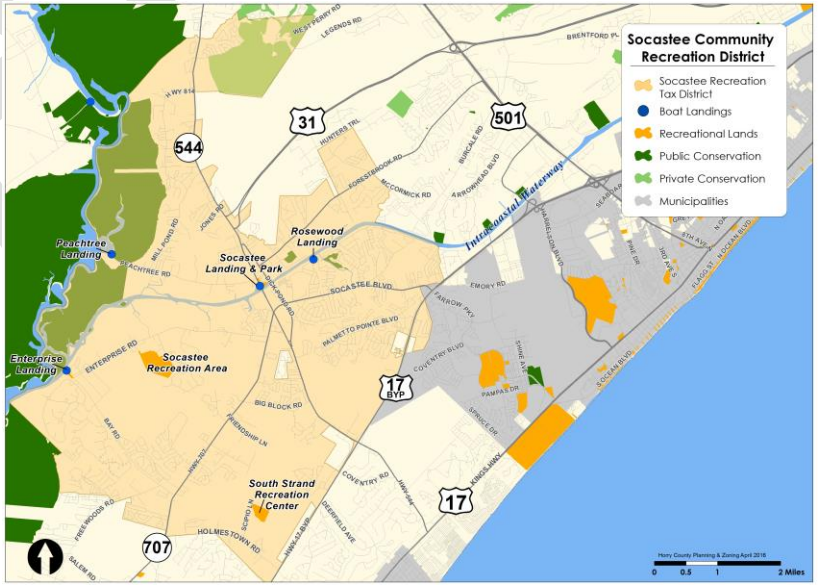
consideration prior to the construction of any new facilities to determine impacts to the annual budget. They should also be taken into consideration when determining assigned maintenance coverage areas and as facility improvements and enhancements are prioritized.

Capital Improvements

Each year, the County adopts a Capital Improvements Budget which is intended to coincide with the County's Priority Investment Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Funding to support recreational capital improvements are derived from Sunday Liquor Sales Taxes. In a typical year, approximately $500,000 is available for land acquisition and capital improvements. Funding for boat landing and ramp improvements are typically funded through SC Department of Natural Resources with fishing license revenue. In addition, grant funding is available from the state to conduct at least one boat ramp renovation. Because many recreation facilities are reaching 20 years in age or greater, Capital Improvement Funds are going towards both new facilities and the renovations of existing facilities. The County will need to identify additional funding streams to support future capital improvements.

Community Recreation Special Tax District

State law allows for the establishment of special tax districts dedicated towards capital improvements, maintenance, and operations of recreation facilities within the district. Such a district can be established via petition or referendum in areas of the County with fewer than 50,000 residents. The Socastee Community Recreation Fund (Fund 33) is the only recreation tax district in Horry County. The Socastee Recreation Fund was established in 1995 to financially support the development of Socastee Recreation Park. County Council is in the process of dissolving the recreation district as it no longer allows for additional debt and existing debts have been paid off.



Map 4: Socastee Recreation Tax District

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County Council Recreation Funds

Every year, each County Council Member is allocated $20,000 to disperse at their discretion for the recreational needs in their districts or the county as a whole. Funding is often allocated for programming, athletics, and special events being provided by non-profits, schools, and other outside organizations. At times, these funds are directed back to the Horry County Parks and Recreation Department to assist with their programming and special event needs. Non-profit organizations may submit an application through the Administration Division or through their County Council Member. Council Members have the option to accrue funds over the duration of their service and dedicate large sums towards an individual project.

Parks and Open Space Fund

In 2000, Horry County's Land Development Regulations established a means for developers to pay a fee in lieu of required open space for major developments. The funds from this account are to be distributed by the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board for park development and open space preservation. The first fee in lieu of onsite open space was paid into the account in 2017, totaling $19,920. Until this year, all developers have been able to meet their open space requirements within new major residential subdivisions. The County is currently updating the Land Development Regulations to reduce the fee in lieu of option to make it more feasible for developers to consider. While very little money has been paid into the fund, the establishment of mitigation options has allowed the Board to accept the donation of land for the development of Huger Park and Stalvey Creek Boardwalk. In addition, this board has pursued grant funding to support recreation.

Grants

Horry County Parks and Recreation has secured a number of grants to support capital improvement costs, especially for facilities in rural and low-to-moderate income communities. Grant funds have also supported the development of trails and neighborhood parks. Some such grants include Community Development Block Grants, Recreational Trails Program Grants, Parks and Recreation Development Program, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. While these funding sources have assisted with capital costs, grants are not a reliable funding source for capital improvements, as they are often capped at $200,000 or less and cannot meet the needs of most major projects. In addition, the County remains responsible for their daily upkeep and long-term maintenance, which should be accounted for through the County's Recreation Fund.

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Partnerships

The County's parks and open space network relies heavily upon partners and volunteers. Area municipalities are strong partners, as they allow non-residents to use their facilities and participate in their programs, although often at a higher rate than their residents. Horry County Parks and Recreation should not compete with the established tourism niche within these communities. Instead, it should springboard off of their success by filling other recreational niches that are appropriate in rural areas, like an outdoor shooting range or equestrian center. In addition, Horry County Parks and Recreation should also serve as a partner with cities and businesses to fulfill high cost, yet high demand facilities, such as an ice rink or aquatic center.

Horry County Schools has been a vital partner, especially in rural areas of the County, by jointly sharing recreational facilities with area residents. Horry County Parks and Recreation should continue to coordinate with Horry County Schools to maintain the facilities that we currently jointly provide. Future partnerships will be limited as most new school facilities do not have additional land to accommodate public recreation areas, nor does Horry County Schools keep all of its facilities unlocked and accessible to the public during non-school hours because of the security challenges that it presents.

There are a number of organizations in the area that partner with Horry County Parks and Recreation to offer programs and tournaments. Pee Dee and Aynor Athletic Associations are two primary providers for baseball in Horry County. Coast FA and local YMCAs also offer soccer. There are also a number of running and mountain biking organizations that utilize the Horry County Bike and Run Park for races and special events. In return, they often provide volunteer hours to expand and maintain the trail system. Without these organizations, Horry County would not be able to provide the level of athletic programming to meet the needs of current residents. Maintaining existing and fostering new partnerships will be necessary to provide the level of programming and athletics that this community desires.

The County also relies upon conservation entities, such as US Fish and Wildlife, SC Department of Natural Resources, US Department of Agriculture, the Nature Conservancy, Pee Dee Land Trust and other area non-profit conservation organizations to acquire and manage conservation lands. While these lands are often tax exempt, US Fish and Wildlife provides the County with a

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fee in lieu of taxes ranging from $20,000 - 40,000 each year. These funds have the ability to be redirected towards improving outdoor recreation amenities adjacent to the Refuge, whether through trail development or boat landing enhancements. Horry County can also partner with these organizations to ensure that wetland mitigation associated with local road projects is redirected to land conservation in our own County. Coordination can also occur to target land conservation in the floodzone, which will help lower flood insurance through the County's participation in the Community Rating System.

Fiscal Outlook

Horry County Parks and Recreation has grown immensely since it was established in 1997. The Parks and Recreation Department has grown in the number of facilities it maintains, and with that, there is an increased need for staffing to support programming and maintenance. Compared to other communities of Horry County's size, Horry County Parks and Recreation offers a great number of amenities with fewer resources.

Since its establishment, Horry County Parks and Recreation Department has seen flat levels of funding, even with the addition of new parks and recreation centers and extensive growth in recreational programs and athletic leagues. This has stymied facility maintenance, completion of parks, and availability of programs and sports leagues. It has also limited the Department's capability to provide much desired recreation centers in rural areas of the county. While there is a strong desire for sports tourism facilities, including an aquatic center and an ice rink, additional funding mechanisms will be necessary to viably offer to residents and cater to non-residents.

Millage Comparison	
Lexington County	12.31
Richland County	8.2
Spartanburg County	5.0
Greenville County	4.5
Charleston County	4.0
Horry County	1.7

While Horry County's Recreation budget has changed very little over the last 20 years, the Recreation Department's staffing and operational costs have increased. Unless the operating budget is increased, the County will not be able to maintain its existing facilities and recreational programs, let alone, expand its facilities to meet the needs of future growth. Without expanding funding, limited recreation will result in a lower quality of

DRAFT

life for our residents. If additional funding is not addressed in the near future, the increase in land value and consumption of land for development may result in land not being available for future recreation facilities, especially east of the Waccamaw River.

Based upon the results of the county-wide survey, there is general support for a small tax increase and diversion of General Fund dollars. This was consistent throughout most of the County. Interest in a special tax district had the greatest support in the Carolina Forest area. Prior to moving forward with any funding changes, there will be a need to educate the public on the varying revenue streams and potential restrictions on their use for capital improvements versus ongoing maintenance expenses.

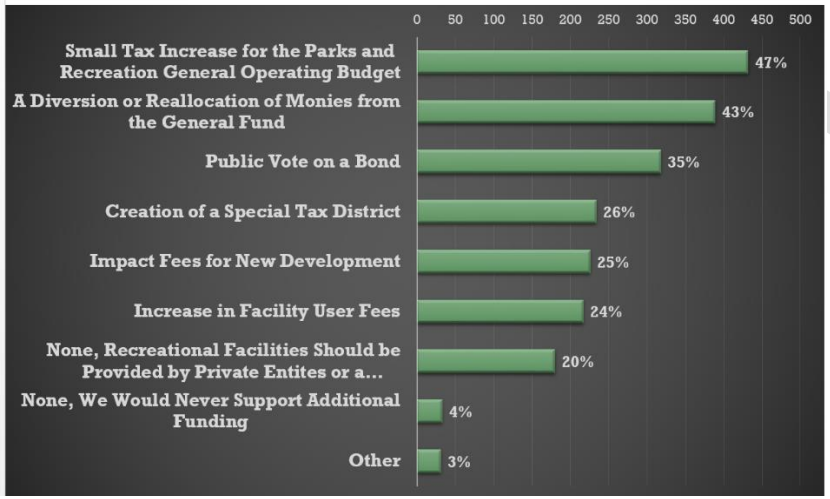

Figure 10: Level of Support for Various Funding Methods

In the short term, the County has the option to consider redirecting General Fund dollars to support merit based raises. It could also find another avenue to pay for the outstanding bonds on the South Strand, Carolina Forest, and North Strand Recreation Centers. That millage could then be redirected back to the Parks and Recreation Department for operations.

In the mid-term, Horry County should consider a small tax increase in the Recreation Fund's millage to improve staffing levels and ensure comparable salaries with area municipalities. The County may also consider developing new recreation tax districts in Burgess and Carolina Forest, where there is the greatest demand for recreational improvements and the greatest support for such a district. Another option would be to consider establishing impact fees to cover projected capital improvement costs. Such a fee would be accompanied with new residential construction and could only equate to the prorata portion of the cost to construct new or expand existing recreation facilities. Impact fees could not be back charged to existing development.

For new facility development, the County may also consider a sales tax referendum. A referendum could support improvements and expansion of existing facilities,

DRAFT

the development of new parks, and construction of major recreational investments, like an outdoor shooting range and equestrian center or even an aquatic center and ice rink. It could also support open space acquisition to preserve the natural character of Horry County. Similar sales tax referendums exist in other parts of the state, often with transportation sales tax referendums. Business partnerships should also be considered in the development of high cost facilities, as the Parks and Recreation Department would have to expand staffing even further to manage and maintain such facilities.

The County should revisit the Parks and Recreation Department's fiscal outlook every year to ensure it can provide quality programs and services to the community. Without additional funding, staffing needs will not be met, even if no new facilities are developed or expansions pursued. Without additional funding, quality of life will be compromised for County residents.

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SWOT ANALYSIS

Community input and an evaluation of existing County Parks and Recreation facilities informed the development of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis. A SWOT analysis sheds light not only on the positive elements of a community, but also on the negatives. If not addressed, the weakness and threats could have both direct and indirect consequences on the quality of life of our residents. The analysis revealed a strong desire to expand and provide quality parks and open spaces. Establishing a reliable funding source for capital improvements and staffing serves as the greatest gap in meeting existing and future recreational needs. Increased public and private partnerships also serves as a clear opportunity to provide quality parks and open spaces.

STRENGTHS (CURRENT)

- Engaged residents with high demand for additional recreational facilities, programming, and leagues.
- Abundance of public beach and waterway access points.
- Existing recreation facilities have room to grow.
- Federal designation of the Waccamaw River Blue Trail.
- Strong recreation partnership with Horry County Schools.
- Strong public and private land conservation partnerships.

WEAKNESSES (CURRENT)

- Deteriorating recreation facilities and equipment.
- Perception of unsafe facilities.
- Litter and waste management.
- Lack of handicap accessibility.
- Lack of indoor space to grow recreation programming.
- Understaffed Parks and Recreation Department.
- Residents unaware of recreation facility locations and offerings.
- Parks and open space funding not competitive with similar counties.

OPPORTUNITIES (FUTURE)

- Linking recreation, natural spaces, and neighborhoods.
- Increased open space conservation to protect habitat connectivity.
- Signage, branding, and web-based information about recreational facilities.
- Sponsorships and franchise agreements of county facilities.
- Increased public-private partnerships.
- Diversified and dedicated funding mechanisms.
- Improved land development regulations and incentives to protect contiguous natural systems.

THREATS (FUTURE)

- Liability associated with deteriorating infrastructure.
- Increasing travel time and lack of multi-modal access facilities.
- Limited land availability east of the Waccamaw River.
- Potential loss of new industry if County cannot provide the recreational amenities and open space their employees seek.
- Poor physical and mental health of residents.
- Loss of access to natural areas as development increases.
- Long-term funding for recreation and conservation.

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ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan provides a summary of the recommendations of this study and highlights the major opportunities and challenges that were identified through the planning process. This plan is intended to serve as guide to provide high quality recreation services and conservation of scenic views, habitat corridors, and unique natural resource lands.

There are two sections to this Action Plan. The first section includes planning goals and implementation strategies, which should be used to guide future park and open space acquisition, facility expansion and maintenance, program development and marketing. The second section identifies priority acquisition areas for new recreational facilities and natural resource conservation, including detailed information on proposed recreation projects. A summary of cost estimates and facilities by Council District can be found in the appendices. Capital improvement projects are not prioritized, as there implementation will depend on available funding, availability of land, and support of County Council.

From land acquisition to daily maintenance, the Horry County Recreation Department needs to attain a positive, consistent, and recognizable presence in the community. Marketing will play a major role in ensuring the success of the initiatives outlined in this plan, from securing partners and sponsorships to ensuring residents are aware of the location and programs available at County facilities. Success will also rely upon broadening involvement of volunteers, expanding programming and maintenance staff, and staff development. These are just a few of the areas that are addressed in the goals and implementation strategies of this Action Plan.

The County alone cannot be expected to fulfill all of the recreation and open space conservation needs identified within this plan. Effective implementation will require partnerships between public, private and corporate entities. It will also require continued partnership with area conservation groups, like the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, Myrtle Beach State Park, SC Department of Natural Resources, and area non-profits.

In order to ensure the Action Plan remains relevant and reflects the needs of the community, the County should continually monitor shifts in user patterns, demographics, and recreation trends. It should also monitor availability of land and availability of financial resources. As such, the goals and priorities of this plan should continually be re-examined to ensure they reflect the evolving needs of the County.

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GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Numerous challenges and opportunities were identified through community input, analysis of existing recreation trends, and assessment of existing recreation facilities and conservation lands. The following goals and strategies address the overarching needs of the community and their desire for quality recreation and open space.

ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT

A prime concern of any parks and recreation department is land acquisition. Horry, like many other counties, does not own the necessary open space to support their growing population with adequate and accessible recreation facilities. While Horry County's rich landscape provides an opportunity to intertwine natural areas into urban and suburban communities through trails, bikeways, blueways, and open space, there also remains a need for traditional neighborhood parks in many parts of the county. In addition, community input has identified the desire for specialty facilities, like additional recreation centers, aquatic centers, an ice rink, and an outdoor shooting range. The following goals and implementation strategies should be considered to ensure that future parks and open space meet the needs of the community and are integrated into the county's natural landscape.

GOALS

- Provide multi-use, family oriented recreational amenities which are suitable for all age groups and activity levels.
- Ensure equitable access to active and passive recreation opportunities.
- Conserve environmentally sensitive lands for habitat protection and the enjoyment of future generations.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Provide multi-use, family oriented amenities which are suitable for all age groups and activity levels.

- Develop new and expand existing recreation centers to provide a suite of recreation options for all user groups to enjoy.
- Incorporate multiple recreational elements, i.e. basketball courts, fields, playground, picnic area, and a walking trail, into the development and expansion of neighborhood parks.
- Strategically incorporate specialty interests, like dog parks, skate parks, and mountain biking, ATV, and equestrian trails, into community parks.
- Expand rural boat landings where feasible to incorporate additional recreational amenities, such

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as picnic shelters, docks, trails, boardwalks, fire rings, and campsites.

- Improve beach accesses to include shower towers, benches, bike racks, interpretive signage, and improved handicap accessibility.
- Meet recreation center and neighborhood park needs prior to developing specialty facilities that only provide one use or cater to a limited segment of the population.
- Include facility user-group input to develop master plans for new or expanding facilities.
- Consider acquiring properties adjacent to existing parks to allow for future expansion.
- Update land acquisition and capital improvement priorities every five years.
- Coordinate land acquisition efforts with Planning & Zoning to ensure adequate facilities are available in future growth areas.
- Coordinate with area municipalities on an ongoing basis to maintain the Recreation Inventory and assist with the siting and development of future recreational facilities.

Ensure equitable access to active and passive recreational opportunities.

- Prioritize new recreation or community center development in rural areas where there is a gap in services compared to other parts of the county.
- Locate new neighborhood parks within reasonable travel distances of intended users.
- Acquire land for future recreation facilities as soon as possible, especially for new facilities east of the Waccamaw River.
- Develop shared-use facilities in conjunction with other public facilities if land is available.
- Coordinate with federal and state agencies and conservation organizations to expand passive recreation opportunities on existing conservation land by providing walking trails, wildlife viewing areas, picnic sites, fishing docks, boardwalks, interpretive signage, and eco-learning experiences.
- Develop a *Blueways Plan* and *Greenways Master Plan* to identify existing and potential trail systems for paddlers, cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians.
- Acquire land and/or easements for greenway and trail development to link residential areas to existing and proposed recreation facilities and conservation lands.

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Conserve environmentally sensitive lands for habitat protection and the enjoyment of future generations.

- Actively support SC Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, and area partners to protect lands between already preserved tracts of land.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the county's Land Development Regulations to protect sensitive habitats and significant wildlife corridors through its open space requirements.
- Coordinate with SC Department of Transportation, SC Department of Natural Resources, and others on the siting of future wetland mitigation banks to ensure they are located within the priority conservation areas defined within this plan.
- Ensure that all land donations to the county for parks and open space are approved by the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board and fall within the priority recreation and conservation areas of this plan.
- Incorporate Priority Conservation Areas into the County's Future Land Use Map.
- Incentivize preservation of large, contiguous areas of natural vegetation and wetlands within the priority acquisition areas, especially when adjacent to protected and/or sensitive habitats.
- Incorporate low impact design techniques into future park design.

MAINTENANCE & SAFETY

In order to maintain public support and trust, existing parks and facilities need to be maintained and upgraded to ensure users have high quality and safe experiences. Maintenance and safety must be consistent across all Horry County Parks and Recreation facilities. While such improvements are expensive, they are critical to protect the equipment life, reduce liabilities, and minimize long-term costs.

GOALS

- Ensure all county recreation facilities are maintained to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.
- Reduce litter and instill stewardship at Horry County recreation facilities to protect the county's natural landscape and ensure a positive experience for its users.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Ensure all county recreation facilities are maintained to provide safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

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- Develop a Recreational Maintenance Plan to project the short-term and long-term maintenance needs of existing and planned facilities.
- Develop and adhere to park and facility maintenance standards. Institute regular safety audits to ensure safety and compliance with standards.
- Renovate aging park facilities to provide high quality public recreation venues.
- Ensure that playgrounds, parks, and other recreational spaces meet the latest National Safety Guidelines and ADA accessibility regulations.
- Ensure that playgrounds and other facilities for small children incorporate fencing and safety matting.
- Provide outdoor lighting at all county recreation facilities. Utilize solar lighting where necessary and feasible.
- Ensure that ballfields are appropriately lit for evening play.
- Install security cameras and emergency call boxes where the greatest need exists. Consider solar power where electricity is not accessible.
- Ensure rule signage and park signs are installed at all County recreation facilities.
- Install bathrooms and water fountains where demand, accessibility and space allows.
- Consider elements of *Safety through Environmental Design* to ensure landscaping, fencing, and lighting is managed in a way to minimize criminal activity.
- Develop and implement a *Feral Hog Management Plan* for Vereen Memorial Gardens to protect park users and minimize damage to the natural environment.

Reduce litter and instill stewardship at Horry County recreation facilities to protect the county's natural landscape.

- Provide waste and recycling receptacles at county beach accesses, parks, and landings.
- Instill 'pack in, pack out' principles at rural county recreation facilities.
- Provide for and manage fishing line recycling at county boat landings, fishing areas, and beach accesses.
- Prohibit smoking at county recreation facilities to reduce health risks and abundance of cigarette litter.
- Update county code to enact steeper fines and community service requirements for graffiti, littering, and illegal dumping.
- Utilize recreation facilities to educate residents and visitors about the impacts of litter.

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- Engage area businesses, churches, and community groups to lead and support litter reduction and beautification initiatives.
- Designate one day each year for volunteers and county staff to beautify recreation facilities through landscaping, painting, and litter and graffiti removal.

PROGRAMMING & MARKETING

Providing quality programs is one of the core responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Department. Programming ranges from leagues and tournaments to community events and one-time classes. Cultural programs, trends and alternative recreation activities must also be supported. Horry County Parks and Recreation must make a concerted effort to provide for and maximize its diverse offerings. In addition, targeted efforts must be made to improve community knowledge and visibility of recreational facilities and offerings.

GOALS

- Provide well-orchestrated recreation programs focusing on quality of service.
- Ensure recreation and leisure activities are available for all age groups and interests.
- Develop a marketing strategy to inform residents of available recreation opportunities.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Provide well-orchestrated recreation programs focusing on quality of service and the needs of the community.

- Develop and maintain a *Programming Needs Assessment* for each community recreation center to inform recreation managers of the programming needs of the communities they serve.
- Continually evaluate the quality and the demand of programs and special events to inform necessary improvements.
- Ensure adequate staffing is available to meet the year-round and seasonal fluctuations in programming demands.
- Utilize volunteers and non-profit organizations to assist with programming demands and needs.
- Schedule recreation programs at times convenient to targeted intended users.
- Market programs, leagues, and special events through multiple avenues to reach intended users.
- Continue to provide and maintain the Horry County Recreation Online Registration website.

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Ensure recreation and leisure activities are available for all age groups and interests.

- Provide and manage a variety of sports leagues for youth and adults.
- Coordinate with Horry County Schools to provide after school programs and summer camps that incorporate educational milestones.
- Continue to develop new programs and training, such as dance, theater, music, crafts, outdoor and nature-based programs, and first aid and babysitter training.
- Continue to develop new programs for seniors, especially in areas where senior centers are not available.
- Expand competitive event offerings, such as races, mud runs, and various types of sport tournaments.
- Explore the development of franchise agreements at boat landings and beaches for the rental of non-motorized boats, fishing equipment, and guided tours.
- Expand holiday and seasonal events at county recreation centers.
- Continue to build a sense of community by providing meeting locations for local residents and organizations.

Develop a marketing strategy to inform residents of available recreation opportunities.

- Improve user recognition of Horry County Parks and Recreation facilities by branding park entrance signs, website, brochures, staff uniforms and other outreach materials.
- Update the Horry County Parks and Recreation website to include maps and descriptions of all county-maintained recreational facilities.
- Improve roadside signage to navigate to county recreational facilities.
- Name new recreation facilities based upon their geographic location to maintain a sense of place and ensure the community can easily locate them based upon their name.
- Install electronic messages boards at recreation centers to easily share upcoming programs, classes, and events.
- Inform people of programs and facilities by using e-newsletters and other forms of mass communication.
- Ensure staff is trained in various ways to market recreational opportunities.
- Incorporate the Waccamaw River Blue Trail logo and information about the nationally designated blueway at all landings along the Waccamaw River.

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- Ensure the East Coast Greenway is clearly marked and that map kiosks, rest stations, and trailheads are incorporated into County recreation facilities that are located along its route.
- Utilize County recreation centers to display maps and informational materials about other county recreational facilities and programs, in addition to providing advertising materials for area fishing, hunting, paddling, and eco-tour guide businesses.

FUNDING

Parks and Recreation funding has remained flat over the course of the last decade, while the number of facilities and programs have increased to keep up with growing demand. While the majority of recommendations within the Recreation Needs Assessment 1999-2009 were executed, the needs assessment underestimated present day population by nearly 100,000 people, leaving much to be desired for programming and the size and amenities of facilities that were constructed. If funding continues to remain flat, needed facilities will remain underdeveloped and staffing will not support maintenance and programming needs.

GOALS

- Identify means to construct and expand recreational facilities and amenities.
- Establish long-term and supplemental funding sources to meet facility maintenance and programming needs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Identify means to construct and expand recreational facilities and amenities.

- Develop a capital improvements and maintenance plan to identify and prioritize facility improvements tied to specific time frames.
- Consider a county-wide sales tax referendum to construct new and improve existing recreational facilities, trails, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities in unincorporated Horry County.
- Continue to incorporate recreational facility development and improvements into the Horry County Capital Improvements Plan.
- Hire support staff within the Parks and Recreation Department to actively apply for and manage grant projects to develop, expand and enhance recreational facilities.

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- Increase open space requirements within the Land Development Regulations to increase recreation opportunities and passive open space within new developments.
- Coordinate with area developers and businesses on the donation of land to support future recreational facilities.
- Explore the use of accommodations taxes to assist with the development of new or upgrades to existing facilities that will be frequented by tourists, such as an equestrian and retreat center, ice rink, and ballfields.
- Consider long-term lease agreements on county land for the development of privately run aquatic facilities, ice rink, outdoor shooting range, equestrian and retreat center, or other facilities that are costly to build and manage, but are expressly identified by this plan.

Establish long-term and supplemental funding sources to meet facility maintenance and programming needs.

- In the short-term, consider a county-wide property tax increase to support immediate and on-going facility maintenance and programming needs.
- Establish Recreational Tax Districts, via referendum, in areas where recreational needs exceed or are projected to exceed the services and facilities that are currently being provided.
- Consider a tiered user fee structure for activities and facilities to ensure equal access for all county residents.
- Establish sponsorship tiers to support a variety of programming needs, in addition to the development of facility amenities. Recognize sponsors through plaques, newsletters, field banners, and/or the Parks and Recreation website.
- Expand outdoor recreational programming by establishing a franchise agreement program for canoe, kayak, and paddleboard companies to operate from designated county-maintained boat landings.
- Expand and consistently provide a combination of art, music, dance, aerobics, pilates, and other classroom based programs by offering recreational space rentals for qualified providers.
- Establish a consistent parking fee for all county-maintained beach accesses to support maintenance and improvements at these sites.

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PRIORITY PARKS & OPEN SPACE LANDS

The following information is intended to inform future land acquisition for parks and recreation facilities and open space preservation. While these priorities are intended to inform future land acquisition for parks and open space, Horry County Government is not the sole entity responsible for fulfilling the land acquisition and recreation facility development projects identified within this plan. Horry County is dependent upon a variety of conservation, recreation, institutional, and business partners to establish and maintain this green infrastructure network.

PRIORITY RECREATION AREAS

A mapping analysis was conducted to determine the most appropriate areas for the siting of new recreational facilities. The first step included a gap analysis to determine areas of the County that currently lack recreation facilities. A service area analysis was completed for each park type, including neighborhood and community parks, recreation centers, and regional recreation areas. Boating and waterfront access needs were determined based upon a reasonable paddling distance between access points. In addition, staff incorporated public input from the Horry County Recreational Needs Assessment Survey and focus groups. Growth trends, historically underserved communities, and areas of the county that were developed prior to the county's Subdivision Open Space Requirements were also incorporated. Proximity to other community amenities, transportation and walkable access, and availability of land were also considered. The map on the following page identifies sites for new recreation facilities to be considered for development by 2040.

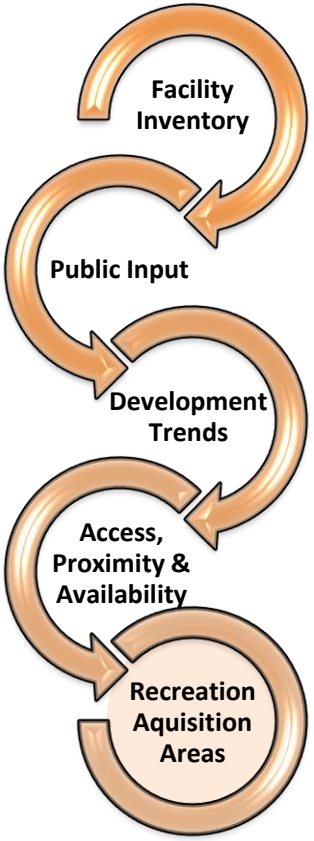

Figure 11: Process to Identify Recreation Facility Needs

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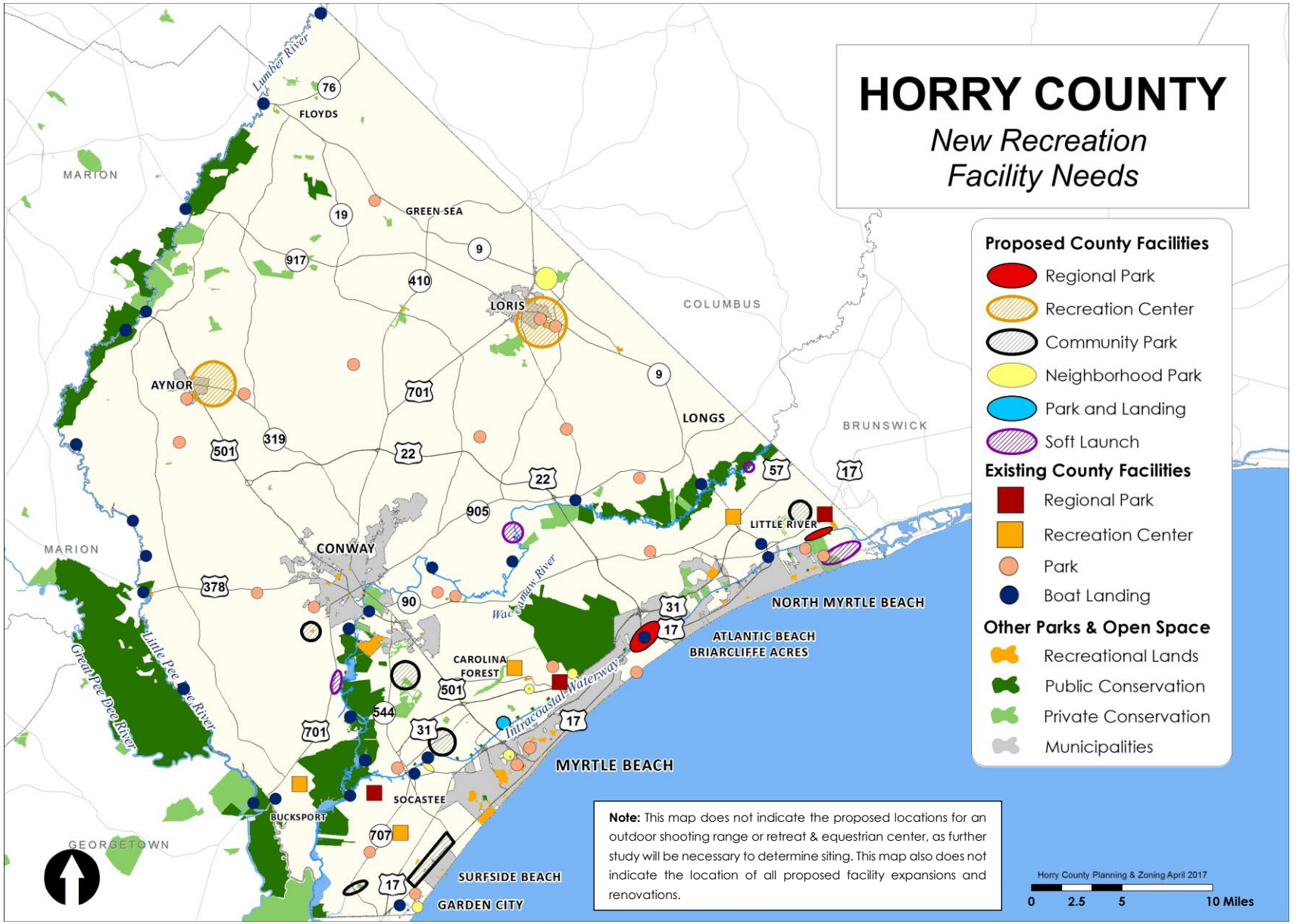

Map 5: Recreation Needs

Regional Recreation Facilities

Carolina Forest Bike & Run Park - Acquire additional land for parking and additional trails. Add an obstacle and ropes course, outdoor workout equipment along trails, and picnic areas. [EXPANSION]

Little River Waterfront Park - Develop a waterfront park with a public boardwalk, dock and fishing area. Connect to and upgrade existing dock system in corporation with property and business owners. Provide canoe/kayak access, if feasible. [NEW]

Outdoor Shooting Range - Construct outdoor shooting range, including areas for sporting clays, archery, paintball, or other complimentary uses. Develop with assistance from SC Department of Natural Resources and consider contracting out management of facility. Locate in an undeveloped area of the County to minimize impact to residents, but ensure easy access to major transportation routes. [NEW]

Peter Vaught Sr Park & Landing - Expand landing to include a park under the Hwy 22 bridge within the SCDOT Right of Way. Amenities to include trails, fishing piers, playgrounds, picnic areas, outdoor fitness equipment, public art displays, restrooms, and extensive beautification. [EXPANSION]

Retreat & Equestrian Center - Develop an equestrian center to attract a growing tourism niche. Facility should include an arena, barn and stables, and equestrian trails. In addition, a conference center and cabins should built to accommodate event participants, group retreats, and summer camps. Facility may also be used for livestock and agricultural shows, farmers markets, festivals and fairs. Consider public and private partnerships to develop and manage the facility. [NEW]

Socastee Recreation Park - Expand fields to attract large tournaments, add a dog park, expand trail network, sign disc golf course, and display maps of property to improve user navigability. Consider adding a community center with gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, kitchen and offices if demand increases for such uses. Add directional signage from Hwy 707 and Bay Rd. [EXPANSION]

Vereen Memorial Gardens & CB Berry Community Center - Expand CB Berry to include additional classroom and meeting space. Add outdoor picnic areas and an amphitheater. Add trail maps and mile markers for park trails, in addition to educational signage about the Olde

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Kings Highway, native plants and wildlife. Add a map kiosk for the East Coast Greenway at the front of the facility, as this is an ECG trailhead. Add restrooms, water fountains, and soft landing (if feasible) near the waterfront. [RENOVATION & UPGRADES]

Recreation Centers

Aynor Recreation Center - Partner with the Town of Aynor to develop a community recreation center, including a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, weight and exercise room, kitchen, offices, and storage. Outdoor amenities to include a multi-purpose field, playground, outdoor courts, picnic area, splash area or swimming pool, and walking trail. Land already acquired by the Town of Aynor. [NEW]

Carolina Forest Recreation Center - Expand Carolina Forest Recreation Center to include an auxiliary gym and weight room, additional multi-purpose rooms, and storage. Acquire additional land to add soccer and multi-purpose fields, outdoor courts, splash area, trails, and restrooms. Construct a large picnic shelter that can accommodate the Farmers Market and community events. If space permits, consider adding an indoor, community pool for programming, training, local swim meets, and unprogrammed swim time. Consider adding a dog play area and skate park. [EXPANSION]

James Frazier Community Center - Renovate and expand classroom space, install a splash area or swimming pool, add additional basketball courts, and plant a community garden. Upgrade playground equipment, picnic area, and bleachers. [RENOVATION & UPGRADES]

Loris Recreation Center - Partner with the City of Loris to develop a community recreation center, including a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, weight and exercise room, kitchen, offices, and storage. Outdoor amenities to include multi-purpose fields, splash area and swimming pool, playground, outdoor courts, picnic area, and walking trails. Consider siting near existing recreational facilities. [NEW]

North Strand Park - Expand North Strand Park to include an auxiliary gym and weight room. Consider the development of a swimming pool or splash area. Expand fields as necessary, in cooperation with the Solid Waste Authority. Improve parking and restroom access for field users. Add picnic shelters and shaded viewing areas for spectators. Improve signage. Consider adding an indoor, community pool for programming, training, local swim meets, and unprogrammed swim time. [RENOVATION & UPGRADES]

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South Strand Recreation Center - Add an auxiliary gym, weight room, additional multipurpose rooms, and storage. Expand fields and provide lighting for night games and tournaments. Add shaded seating area for spectators. Add a veteran's memorial to commemorate veteran's from the Burgess Community. If space permits, consider adding an indoor, community pool for programming, training, local swim meets, and unprogrammed swim time. [EXPANSION]

Community Parks

Bayboro Park - Replace playground equipment, improve ballfield, replace scoreboard, add picnic tables, resurface basketball court, replace tennis court with another basketball court, and replace bleachers. Add park entrance sign, lighting throughout, trash receptacles, and water fountains. [RENOVATION]

Brooksville Park - Develop a neighborhood park off of Hwy 111, west of Hwy 17. Include a playground, picnic area, basketball courts, and walking trails. Incorporate a ballfield if space permits. [NEW]

Collins Creek Park - Develop a park near Hwy 707 and Collins Creek. The linear park should provide parking, picnic area, and trail information. The trail will mainly consist of a 10 ft wide boardwalk along Collins Creek. Trail development will require property or easement acquisition. [NEW]

Forestbrook Park - Develop a community park near the Socastee Greenway. Incorporate fields, outdoor courts, picnic areas, playground, and walking trails. Construct a community center as a secondary phase. [NEW]

Green Sea Floyds Park - Add a multipurpose room and kitchen to Green Sea Floyds Library to allow for community gatherings and recreational programming. Integrate a walking trail around the ballfields and school. Add picnic areas, playground equipment, and water fountains where feasible. Coordinate improvements with Horry County Schools as they own most of the underlying property. [RENOVATION & UPGRADES]

Greenwood Park - Property was donated to the County in the late 1960s, but never developed. Complete a wetland delineation of property. If development is suitable, build a playground, basketball courts, baseball fields, picnic area, and walking trail. If wetlands dominate property, consider selling it and developing a neighborhood park off of Hwy 701, between Pitch Landing Rd and Bucksville. [NEW]

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Loris Nature Park - Renovate amphitheater. Install park sign and directional signage. Install map of disc golf course. Add interpretive signage about plants and wildlife.

Michael Morris Graham Park - Develop additional ballfields, playground, and parking. [UPGRADES]

Myrtle Ridge Park - Develop a park near Myrtle Ridge Rd and Hwy 544. Include a playground, picnic area, basketball courts, and walking trails. Incorporate a ballfield or disc golf course, if space permits. [NEW]

Pee Dee Park - Acquire adjacent land for ballfields, basketball courts, and parking. Add entrance sign and replace missing directional sign. [EXPANSION]

Poplar Park - Acquire additional land and expand fields, add a small community building, replace playground equipment and missing directional sign. Beautify with landscaping. [EXPANSION]

River Oaks Park - Develop a boat landing, incorporating trails, picnic area, and fishing dock. Consider a County-owned dredge spoil basin located on River Oaks Drive in Carolina Forest. Utilize uplands for trails, playground, and possibly a disc golf course. [NEW]

Sandridge Park - Establish a joint recreation facility with the City of Conway, as they own an open space parcel that abuts the park. Add water fountains, directional signage, entrance sign, formal parking area, and walking path around pond. Improve ballfield and basketball courts. Condemn dilapidated structure on adjacent property to improve park safety. [RENOVATION]

Simpson Creek Park - Renovate basketball courts and expand playground. Replace volleyball net or replace with additional picnic shelter. Add directional and park entrance signs and water fountains. Plant canopy trees. [RENOVATION]

Surfside Park - Develop a neighborhood park in unincorporated area near Surfside Beach. Depending upon land availability, incorporate outdoor courts, picnic areas, playground, and walking trails. [NEW]

White Oak Park - Add basketball courts, directional signage, and additional picnic tables and trash receptacles. Upgrade playground equipment and improve baseball field. Plant canopy trees. [RENOVATION]

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Neighborhood Parks

Bennett Loop Park - Develop a new park to including playground equipment and basketball courts. Partner with area churches on land acquisition. [NEW]

Frink Park - Replace dock and extend to provide access for fishing. Remove tree stump, add landscaping, and improve sitting and picnic area. Add directional and park sign. [RENOVATION]

Garden City Beach Park - Develop a park at the beach, incorporating sand volleyball, playground equipment, picnic shelters, and public gathering areas for special events. Other amenities are dependent upon whether a new facility is located on the beachfront or inlet. [NEW]

Huger Park - Develop Revolutionary War Memorial with protection of the historic live oaks. Add a picnic area and incorporate interpretive signage throughout park. Connect park to Carolina Forest Recreation Center with a trail. Property owned by Horry County, and site design completed. [NEW]

Lewis Ocean Bay Trailhead– Develop a parking area for the East Coast Greenway on the southern end of Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve near Town Center in Carolina Forest. [NEW]

Mt. Vernon Community Center - Partner with community group to add a playground, picnic area, and convert tennis courts to basketball courts. Sign facility so community is aware it is for public use. [RENOVATION]

Racepath Park - Acquire land or extend lease for existing park. Expand playground and covered picnic area. Refurbish basketball courts. Remove baseball field and develop as open play area. Improve access to park.

Stalvey Creek Boardwalk - Develop a boardwalk along Stalvey Creek in Socastee, connecting to the Intracoastal Waterway. Property already owned by County. Acquisition needed for small parking area. [NEW]

Boat Landings

Danny Knight Landing - Consider purchasing property adjacent to landing, on opposite side of bridge, to establish a designated swimming area, separated from the landing. Ensure expansion would meet restrictions of the Ducks Unlimited easement of the property under consideration. Add solar lighting. [EXPANSION]

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Hootersville Soft Launch – Repurpose an unmaintained County landing into a soft launch for paddling access. If existing site is no longer feasible, consider the purchase of land off of Caines Landing Road. [NEW]

Little River Soft Launch - Establish a new soft landing to the Little River community, as there currently are no sites to access from besides Cherry Grove. Consider partnering with Coastal Carolina University or purchasing a small area of land off of Little River Neck Rd to obtain access to tidal creeks. [NEW]

Peachtree Landing - Partner with Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge to build a boardwalk along the waterfront for fishing and wildlife viewing. Consider purchasing adjacent property to expand parking area. Add rumble strips and reflectors to inform drivers that the road ends in water. [EXPANSION]

Pitts Landing - Install picnic shelter, tables, fire rings, and pedestal grills. Consider establishing formal campsites. If camping not developed, fence off areas around the landing to minimize liabilities or donate to SC Department of Natural Resources. [UPGRADES]

Reaves Ferry Landing - Add picnic area, pedestal grills, and fire rings. Install barricades and landscaping to limit public access under bridge. Acquire land on adjacent property to develop a formal hiking trail along the riverbank. [UPGRADES]

Ricefield Cove Landing - Acquire additional land adjacent to ramp for expanded parking. Add picnic shelter, pedestal grills, and waste receptacles. [EXPANSION]

Toddville Soft Launch – Acquire property to reestablish a former public boat launch site off of Hwy 701 and Waccamaw Bend Drive. Establish launch site for paddlers and unmotorized boats. Access should also accommodate fishing and swimming. [NEW]

Worthams Ferry Soft Launch - Acquire property to reestablish a former public boat launch site off of Hwy 111 and Worthams Landing Shortcut. Establish launch site for paddlers and unmotorized boats.

Waccamaw River Blue Trail Signage - Add Waccamaw River Blue Trail signage along Waccamaw River and at landings. Install directional and entrance signage where it is missing.

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General Boat Ramp Improvements - Ramp replacements, add picnic tables, fire rings, landscaping, decks and floating docks, and trails where space permits. Upgrade waste receptacles and add fishing line recycling.

Beach Accesses

Improvements to beach accesses shall be guided by the Horry County Comprehensive Beach Management Plan. The County shall continue to upgrade beach accesses to ensure parking areas and dune walkovers are handicap accessible. In addition, beach wheelchairs and matting will be added where siting is feasible. The County will also continue to install shower towers, bike racks, and interpretive signage about the natural environment. Most importantly, the County will work to increase public parking where space permits.

Trails & Greenways

The County will continue to develop sidewalks, multi-purpose paths, and trails, as identified within the Horry County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the GSATS Long Range Transportation Plan. The County shall seek partnerships with SC Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife to construct and incorporate clearly marked hiking and equestrian trails into existing conservation lands, where allowable.

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PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

Priority conservation acquisition areas were identified through an iterative process. First, all existing public and private conservation properties and easements were identified and mapped. County landcover data was then utilized to identify areas with wetlands and forestlands. For this analysis, Carolina Bays and bottomland hardwood forests were targeted for conservation because of their significant habitat. After mapping significant habitats, conservation partners, including representatives from the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Forestry Commission, American Rivers, Winyah Rivers Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the City of Conway, participated in a focus group to identify areas that would be valuable to add to the existing conservation network. Focus group attendees and subject matter experts confirmed the location of key habitat corridors, hubs, and linkages. These areas were transcribed and included in the Priority Conservation Areas Map on the following page.

While the map details these priority areas, it does not rank them, as conservation efforts are voluntary and depend on willing property owners. While there are some minor developments within these priority conservation areas, most are undeveloped and do not have development plans in place. If development is pursued in these areas, the County may encourage open space dedication or encourage low density zoning. Identifying conservation priorities will also help leverage funding for conservation partners, target areas for wetland mitigation banks, and even help reduce local flood insurance rates through the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.

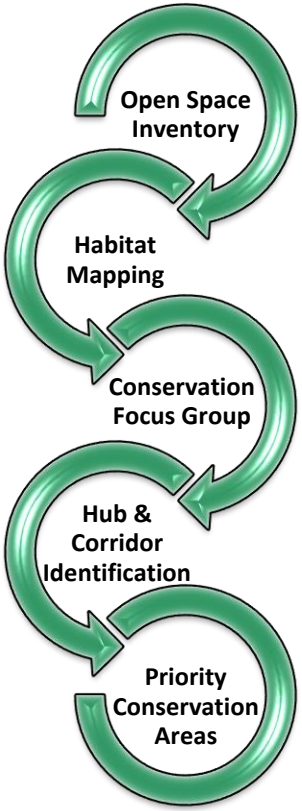

Figure 12: Conservation Mapping Process

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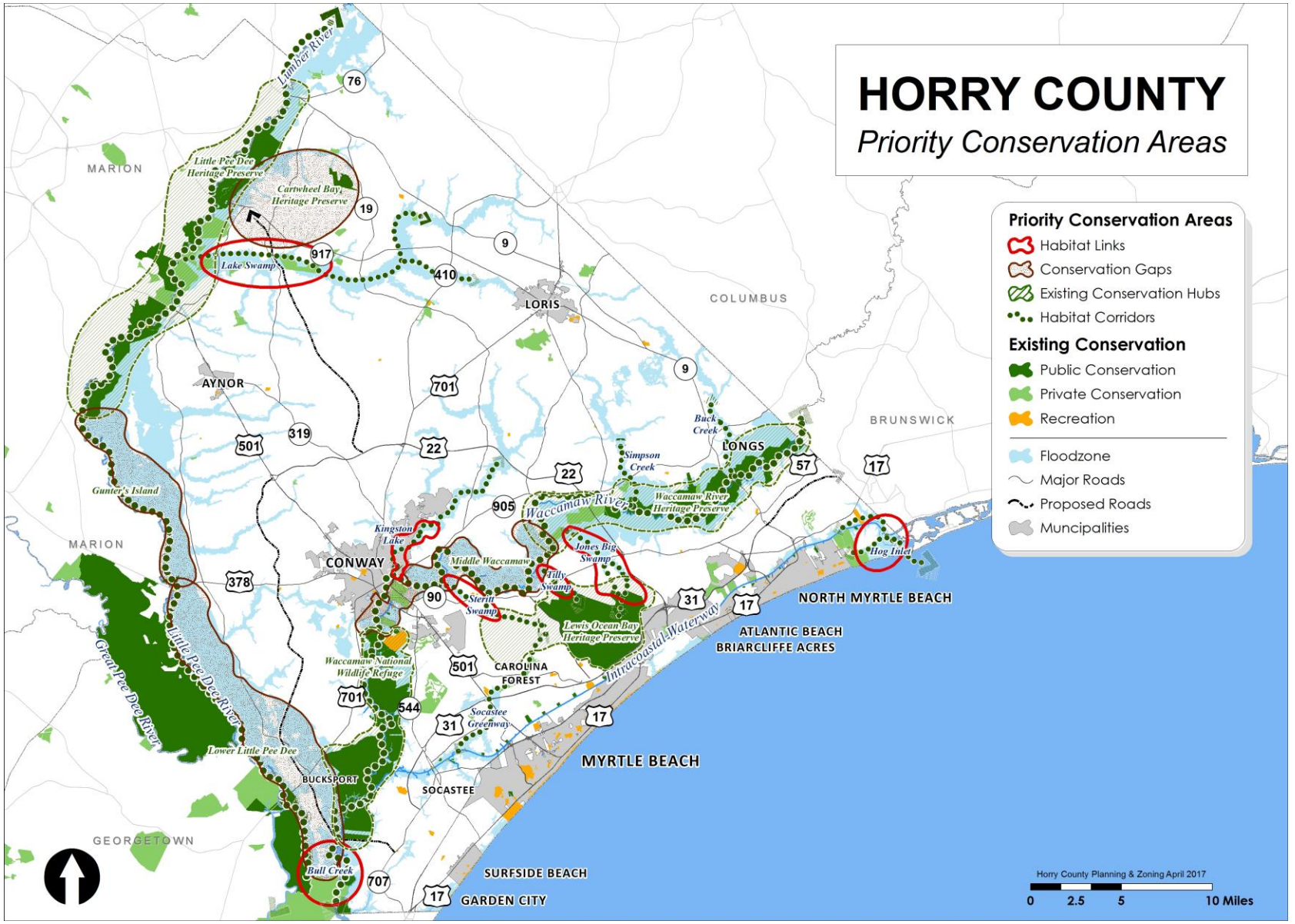

Map 6: Priority Conservation Areas

Habitat Corridors

Beachfront - The entire beachfront serves as a significant habitat sea turtles, a resting location for migratory birds, and home to a variety of other wildlife. Because of development intensity along the beach, conservation is limited. Public education serves as a primary means to protect this resource.

Hog Inlet - Hog Inlet links the Intracoastal Waterway and Little River to the Atlantic Ocean. This area is the last remaining, undeveloped beachfront and tidal marsh in Horry County. (moderate development likelihood)

Lumber and Little Pee Dee Rivers - The Lumber and Little Pee Dee Rivers their adjacent uplands all serve as significant habitat corridors within Horry County, linking waters as far north as Virginia down to Winyah Bay in Georgetown County. Lake Swamp serves as a corridor to link upland habitats. (long-range development potential)

Socastee Greenway - Socastee Greenway is a wetland corridor that links Lewis Ocean Bay to the Intracoastal Waterway. The Socastee Greenway is already surrounded by development or proposed development. (Imminent development likelihood)

Waccamaw River - The Waccamaw River and its adjacent uplands serve as a significant habitat corridor within Horry County, linking to Lake Waccamaw in North Carolina. Steritt, Tilly, Jones Big Swamps and Buck, Simpson, and Bull Creeks all link surrounding upland areas to the Waccamaw River. (Imminent to Long-range depending upon location.)

Conservation Hubs

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve - Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve protects a number of large, intact Carolina Bays, which provide habitat for the black bear and exotic plants, like the venus flytrap and the pitcher plant. Development already exists along the southern end of the Heritage Preserve. (Imminent development around existing protected lands)

Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve - The Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve includes the northern reaches of the Little Pee Dee River and southern reach of the Lumber River in Horry County. Habitat includes bottomland hardwood forests. (long-range development potential)

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Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge - The Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge includes lower portions of the Waccamaw River in Horry and Georgetown Counties. The Refuge serves as the most northern habitat for the swallow-tailed kite and other significant wildlife. The Refuge also includes Cox Ferry Recreation Area, which provides paddling, mountain biking, and hiking opportunities near Coastal Carolina University and the City of Conway. Development potential is great along the Hwy 544 and 707 corridors which follow the Waccamaw River. (Imminent to moderate development)

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve - Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve includes a conglomeration of state and private conservation efforts targeted to protect the upper extent of the blackwater river and the surrounding swamps. (Imminent development likelihood)

Conservation Gaps

Cartwheel Bay - Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve is surrounded by a number of intact or nearly intact Carolina Bays intermixed with active farmland. These bays are in close proximity to the Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve and Lake Swamp. (long-range development potential)

Gunter's Island - Gunter's Island consists of bottomland hardwood forest along the Little Pee Dee River. There are just a few landholders in this area, consisting mainly of timber operations. (long-range development potential)

Lower Little Pee Dee River - Lower Little Pee Dee River is located between Hwy 378 and Bull Creek. This area is part of the Pee Dee River Scenic River, but to date, conservation initiatives have not been pursued in this portion of the river. (long-range development potential)

Middle Waccamaw - The Waccamaw River is designated as a national blue trail through the National Parks Service. In addition, the river has a great deal of conservation north of Hwy 22 and south of Hwy 501. The Middle Waccamaw River has not been targeted for conservation, despite the fact that it provides multiple points of connection to Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. (Imminent development likelihood)

Habitat Links

Bull Creek - Bull Creek is the junction of the Little Pee Dee, Great Pee Dee, Waccamaw River, and Intracoastal Waterway. This area serves as nesting grounds for the American Swallow-Tailed Kite. The majority of the

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remaining land is owned by Grand Strand Water and Sewer and The May Company. Development threat will remain low until the Southern Evacuation Lifeline (SELL) is constructed through this area. (long-range development potential)

Steritt, Tilly, and Jones Big Swamps - Steritt Swamp, Tilly Swamp, and Jones Big Swamp all serve as critical habitat corridors that link Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve with the Waccamaw River. These swamps are all bisected by Highway 90, an area that is expected to experience increased development in the near future. (imminent development likelihood)

Hog Inlet (Waites Island) - Hog Inlet is the northern most point of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in South Carolina and serves as the County's only navigable waterway that directly links to the Atlantic Ocean. This area provides spawning grounds for marine wildlife and includes historically significant properties that are linked with Native American settlements and a Civil War encampment. While the majority of the undeveloped land in this area falls within the Coastal Barrier Resource System and cannot obtain a federally backed mortgage because flood insurance is not allowed nor the use of federal funds for infrastructure. (moderate development likelihood)

Kingston Lake – Kingston Lake is a branch of the Waccamaw River that extends north through the City of Conway. This area is a high hazard flood area and also serves a habitat link miles upstream. (imminent development likelihood)

Lake Swamp - Lake Swamp serves as a major link between the Little Pee Dee River and upstream conservation, Carolina Bays, and land historically farmed for tobacco and cotton. Habitat and wildlife corridors may be impacted by the development of I-73, which is anticipated to traverse Lake Swamp. (long-range development potential)

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APPENDIX I: PARK DEFINITIONS

CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SIZE CRITERIA
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 mile – 1 mile, typically in urban and suburban areas	½ acre to 5 acres
Community Parks	Community Parks are larger than neighborhood parks and typically incorporate space for fields, outdoor courts, playgrounds, and passive recreation. They can also include community centers to ensure residents have formal gathering space.	½ to 1 mile – urban 3 miles - rural	5 to 20 acres
Recreation Center/ Sports Complex	Recreation Centers should include a gymnasium, classroom, and meeting space. They should also incorporate athletic fields for tournaments, outdoor courts, playgrounds, and passive areas for walking and picnicking.	Strategically located to meet needs of most number of residents	20 to 100 acres
Regional Park	Regional recreation facilities cater to a large area and large population. These facilities are often associated with natural landscapes and passive recreation, but can also include active features like fields.	None	100 to 1,000 acres
Conservation Areas	Lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and passive use.	Based upon resource location	Variable
Boat Landing	Boat landings can include a variety of amenities, including boat ramps, soft landings, docks, boardwalks, and picnic areas.	Recommended every 4 miles for paddlers	Varies based on type of landing and amenities
Beach Access	Beach access sites should include parking for cars, handicapped users, golf carts, and cyclists. Amenities to include dune walkovers, beach wheelchairs, shower towers and benches.	Every ½ mile minimum	A typical street end
Greenway	Greenways are multi-purpose paths, typically 8 to 10 feet wide and constructed of asphalt, coquina, or other hard base. Greenways are intended to travel through natural areas and are separated from roadways.	Natural Areas	8 to 10 feet wide

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APPENDIX II: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the capital improvement projects proposed within this plan. It includes the cost estimate, acreage for land acquisition, and potential grant funding opportunities. The cost estimates were prepared based upon industry standards, as well as the historic cost of developing similar facilities in Horry County. The projects are listed by facility type and not in order of priority, as project implementation will be dependent upon availability of funding and land. A detailed description of each project is outlined in the Action Plan of this document.

Regional Recreation Facilities	Costs	Acquisition	District	Grants
Carolina Forest Bike and Run Park	$ 1,865,000	20	2	RTP, PARD
Little River Waterfront Park [NEW]	$ 7,525,000	15	1	BIG, CAIG, PARD
Outdoor Shooting Range [NEW]	$ 2,000,000	50	TBD	SCDNR
Peter Vaught Sr Park & Landing	$ 3,220,000	15	2	CAIG, PARD
Retreat & Equestrian Center [NEW]	$ 11,532,500	100	TBD	
Socastee Recreation Park	$ 9,112,500	50	6	CDBG, PARD
Vereen Memorial Gardens & CB Berry Community Center	$ 3,105,000	n/a	1	PARD
Total	$ 38,360,000	250 Acres		

All regional recreation facilities should be eligible for the use of Accommodations Taxes and Utility Fees.

Recreation Centers	Costs	Acquisition	District	Grants
Aynor Recreation Center [NEW]	$ 7,465,000	n/a	11	PARD
Carolina Forest Recreation Center	$ 9,950,000	15	2	PARD
James Frazier Community Center	$ 730,000	n/a	7	CDBG, LWCF, PARD
Loris Recreation Center [NEW]	$ 9,195,000	20	9	CDBG, PARD
North Strand Park	$ 5,670,000	n/a	9	CDBG, PARD
South Strand Recreation Center	$ 6,150,000	10	4 & 5	PARD
Total	$ 39,160,000	45 Acres		

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Community Parks		Costs	Acquisition	District	Grants
Bayboro Park	$	255,000	n/a	10	LWCF, PARD
Brooksville Park [NEW]	$	2,135,000	10	1	PARD
Collins Creek Park [NEW]	$	2,182,500	25	4 or 5	PARD, RTP
Forestbrook Park [NEW]	$	5,515,000	20	4, 6 or 8	PARD
Green Sea Floyds Park	$	2,090,000	3	10	CDBG
Greenwood Park [NEW]	$	1,300,000	n/a	7	PARD
Loris Nature Park	$	56,300	n/a	9	CDBG, PARD
Michael Morris Graham Park	$	3,185,000	n/a	11	PARD
Myrtle Ridge Park [NEW]	$	1,140,000	20	8	PARD
Pee Dee Park	$	1,355,000	5	11	LWCF, PARD
Poplar Park	$	1,730,000	5	9	PARD
River Oaks Park [NEW]	$	1,120,000	n/a	3	PARD, RTP, WSFRP
Sandridge Park	$	270,000	n/a	7	CDBG, LWCF, PARD
Simpson Creek Park	$	440,500	n/a	9	PARD
Surfside Park [NEW]	$	1,327,500	10	4 or 5	CDBG, PARD
White Oak Park	$	165,500	n/a	10	PARD
Total	$	24,267,300	98 Acres		

Neighborhood Parks		Costs	Acquisition	District	Grants
Bennett Loop Park [NEW]	$	180,500	0.25	9	CDBG
Frink Park	$	152,000	n/a	1	CAIG
Garden City Beach Park [NEW]	$	1,445,000	0.5	5	CAIG, PARD
Huger Park [NEW]	$	400,000	n/a	2	PARD
Lewis Ocean Bay Trailhead [NEW]	$	692,500	0.5	2	RTP, GSATS
Mt. Vernon Tennis Courts	$	155,000	n/a	10	LWCF, PARD
Racepath Park	$	245,000	n/a	3	CDBG, PARD
Stalvey Creek Boardwalk [NEW]	$	1,560,000	5	6	CDBG, PARD
Total	$	4,830,000	6.25 Acres		

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Boat Landings		Costs	Acquisition	District	Grants
Danny Knight Landing	$	205,000	3	9	WSFRP
Hootersville Soft Launch [NEW]	$	52,500	0.25	9	WSFRP
Little River Soft Launch [NEW]	$	122,500	0.5	1	CAG, WSFRP
Peachtree Landing	$	487,500	1	6	WSFRP
Pitts Landing	$	87,500	n/a	11	WSFRP
Reaves Ferry Landing	$	220,000	5	10	WSFRP
Ricefield Cove Landing	$	107,500	2	10	CDBG, WSFRP
Toddville Soft Launch [NEW]	$	62,500	0.5	7	CDBG, WSFRP
Worthams Ferry Soft Launch [NEW]	$	75,000	0.5	1	WSFRP
Waccamaw River Blue Trail Signage	$	75,000	n/a		RTP
General Boat Ramp Needs	$	2,425,000	n/a		WSFRP
Total	$	3,920,000	12.75 Acres		

The following are some of the funding sources available to the County:

- BIG - Boating Infrastructure Grant (http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/big/)
- CAIG - Coastal Access Improvement Grant (http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Water/CoastalManagement/CoastalZoneManagement/CoastalPlanning/)
- CDBG - Community Development Block Grant (http://www.horrycounty.org/Departments/CDBG.aspx)
- LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund (https://www.scprt.com/grants)
- PARD - Parks and Recreation Development Funds (https://www.scprt.com/grants)
- RTP - Recreational Trails Grant (https://www.scprt.com/grants)
- WSFRP - Wildllife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/)

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APPENDIX III: RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

Note: An Equestrian Center and Outdoor Shooting Range Have Not Been Sited.

DISTRICT 1

County Facilities

Brooksville Park [NEW]
T. Craig Campbell Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Johnny Causey Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Frink Park [RENOVATION]
Little River Neck Park
Little River Soft Launch [NEW]
Little River Waterfront Park [NEW]
Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens/ CB Berry Community Center [RENOVATION & UPGRADES]

Atlantic Beach Facilities

Community Center
Basketball Court
3 Beach Accesses

North Myrtle Beach Facilities

Central Park
Cherry Grove Park & Landing
Bryan Floyd Community Center
Edge Drive Pocket Park
Heritage Shores Nature Park
Hill Street Park
McLean Park
North Myrtle Beach Landing
North Myrtle Beach Aquatic and Fitness Center
Ocean Park
Russell Burgess Coastal Preserve
Yow Park
41st Ave Pocket Park
168 Beach Accesses

Private Recreation

Cherry Grove Fishing Pier

Protected Lands

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve
Waites Island – The Nature Conservancy
County-Owned Dredge Spoil Basins
River Hills Golf Course – North American Land Trust

Priority Conservation Areas

Hog Inlet
Waccamaw River
Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve

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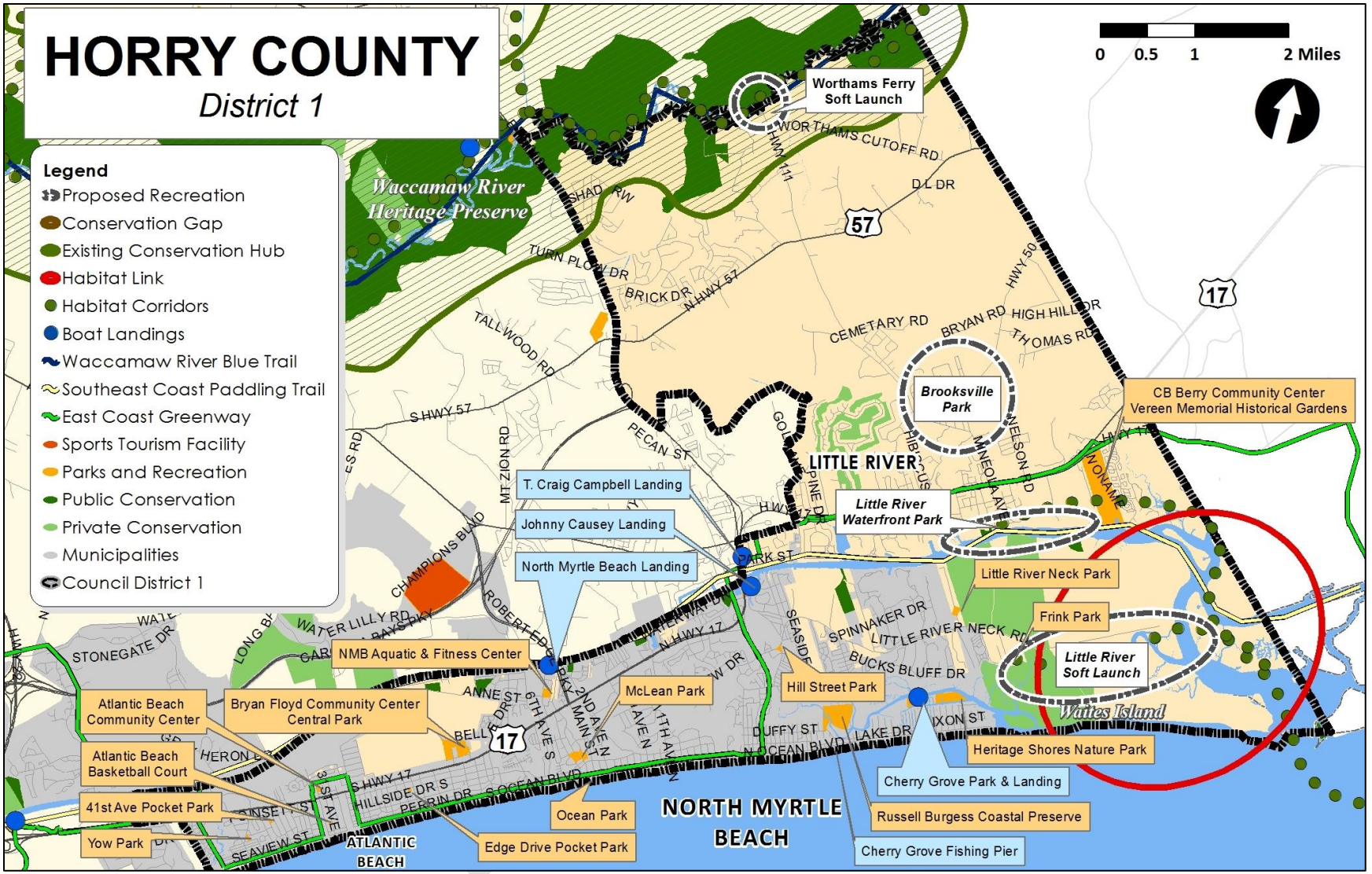

Map 7: District 1

DISTRICT 2

County Facilities

Carolina Forest Recreation Center [EXPANSION]
Carolina Forest Bike and Run Park [EXPANSION]
Hibben Memorial Park (Beach Access)
Huger Park [NEW]
International Drive Ballfields
Lewis Ocean Bay Trailhead [NEW]
Peter Vaught Sr Landing (17/22 Landing) [EXPANSION]
4 Beach Accesses – Maison Drive, Cottage Beach Ct, North Edgerton and South Edgerton Dr

Myrtle Beach Facilities

Archibald Rutledge Park
Barc Parc North
Gray Park
HB Springs Park
Ocean Forest Memorial Park
McLeod Park
McMillian Park
Settlers Point Park
Women's Park
46 beach accesses

Briarcliffe Acres Facilities

1 beach access (private)

Private Recreation

Claire Epps Recreation Venter (YMCA)
Apache Pier

Protected Lands

Briarcliffe Acres Beachfront – North American Land Trust
County-Owned Dredge Spoil Basins
Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve (SCDNR)
River Hills Golf Course – North American Land Trust
Socastee Greenway – Wildlife Action

Priority Conservation Areas

Tilly Swamp
Jones Big Swamp
Socastee Greenway
Lewis Ocean Bay

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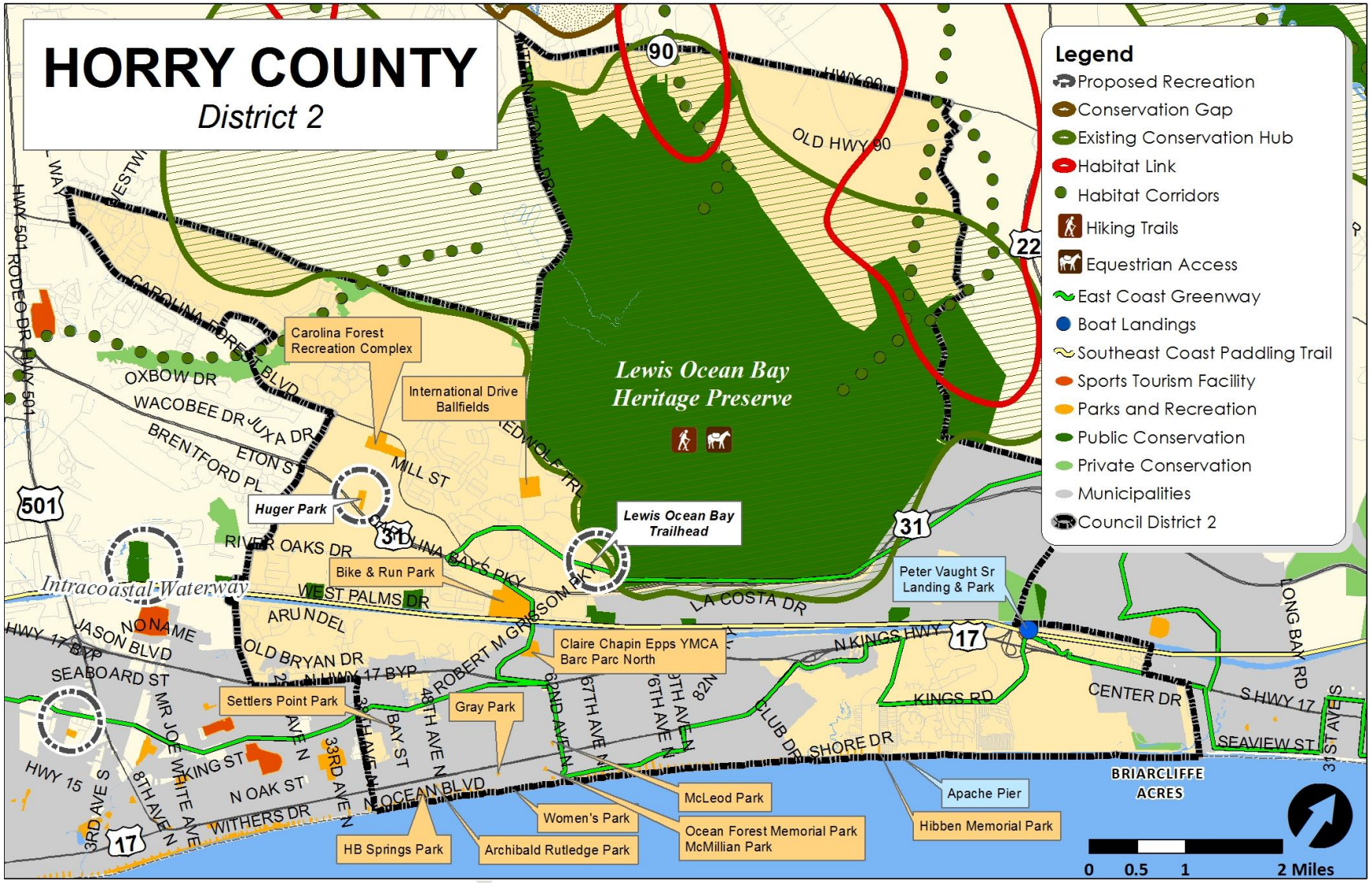

Map 8: District 2

DISTRICT 3

County Facilities

New Town Park
Nash Street Beach Access
Racepath Park [RENOVATION OR RELOCATION]
River Oaks Park [NEW]

Myrtle Beach Facilities

Anderson Park
Balsam Street Park
Bent Oaks Park
Bratcher Park
Breakers Park
Cameron Park
Chapin Park
Doug Shaw Stadium
Futrell Park
Hurl Rock Park
Lyons Cove Park
Mary C. Canty Recreation Center
Midway Park
Miracle League Field
Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Pier
Myrtle Beach Sports Complex
Myrtle Beach Tennis Center
Nance Plaza
Ned Donkle Complex
Pepper Geddings Recreation Center
Plyer Park
Pinner Place Park
Stuart Square Park
Withers Swash Park
Boardwalk
Virginia Marshall Park
Warbird Park
Whispering Pines Golf Course
Withers Swash Park
92 Beach Accesses

Private Recreation

Springmaid Pier
2nd Ave Pier
14th Ave Pier
Pelicans Ticketreturn Stadium (Public-Private Partnership)
The Ripken Experience

Protected Lands

County-Owned Dredge Spoil Basins
Myrtle Beach State Park & Pier

Priority Conservation Areas

Socastee Greenway

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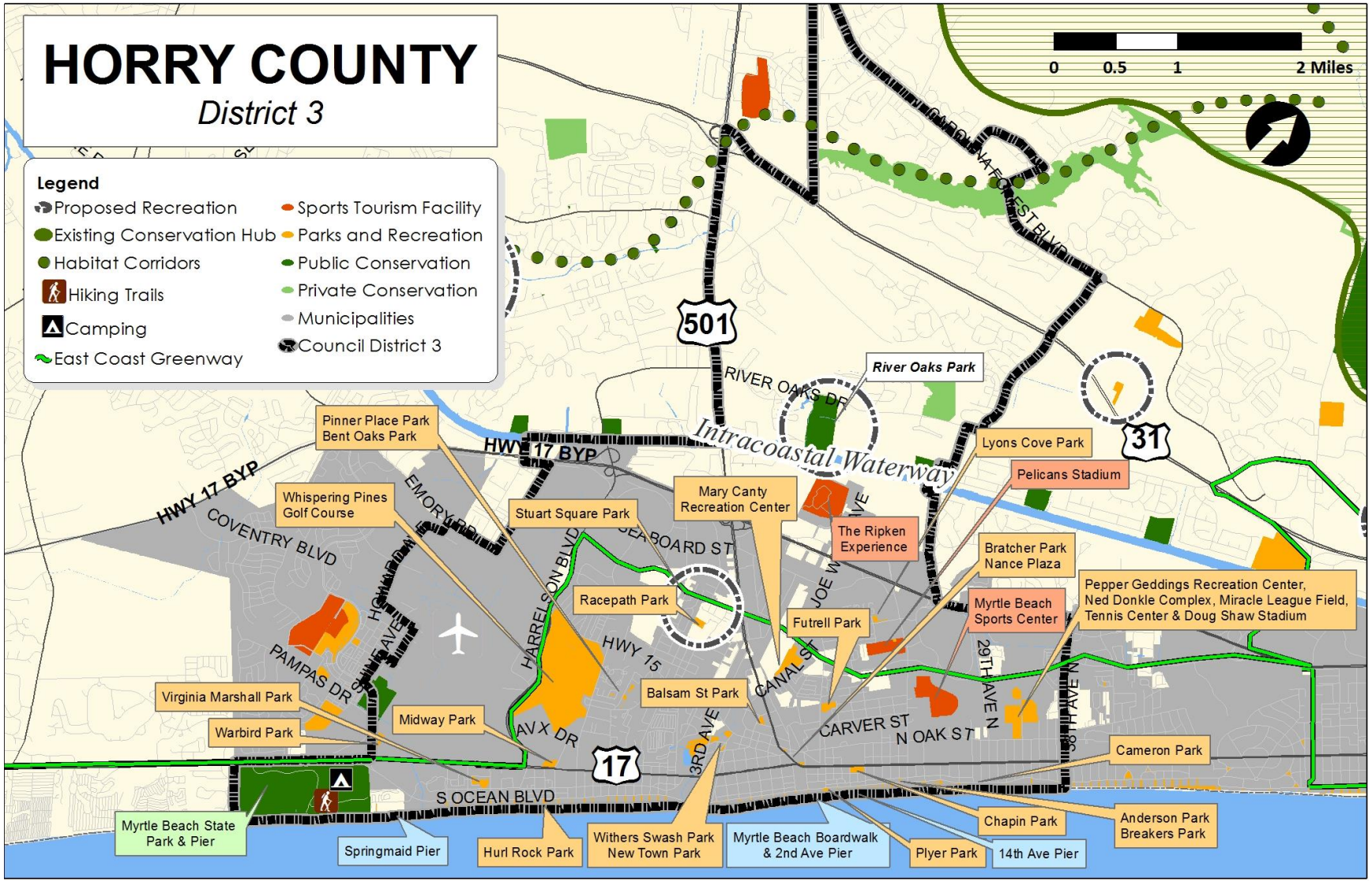

Map 9: District 3

DISTRICT 4

County Facilities

Collins Creek Park [NEW][1]

Enterprise Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]

Forestbrook Park [NEW][2]

South Strand Recreation Center [EXPANSION]

Surfside Park [NEW][1]

[1] District 4 OR 5 [2] District 4, 6 OR 8

Myrtle Beach Facilities

Barc Parc South

Base Recreation Center

Crabtree Memorial Gymnasium

Grand Park

Linear Park

Savannah's Playground

Valor Park

Protected Lands

County-Owned Dredge Spoil Basins

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)

Priority Conservation Areas

Waccamaw River

Bull Creek

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge

Map 10: District 4

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DISTRICT 5

County Facilities

Burgess Park

Collins Creek Park [NEW][1]

Garden City Park [NEW]

Sam Cox Park

South Strand Recreation Center [EXPANSION]

Stanley Drive Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]

Surfside Park [NEW][1]

16 Beach Accesses – Cedar Ave, Holly Ave, Azalea Ave, Magnolia Ave, Yaupon Ave, Pine Ave, Oak Ave, Cypress Ave, Anglers Dr, Holiday Dr, Sunset Dr, Rainbow Dr, Seabreeze Dr, Calhoun Dr, Woodland Dr, and Hawes Ave

[1] District 4 OR 5

Surfside Beach Facilities

All Children's Park

Bark Park, Fuller Park, & Veteran's Memorial Park

Huckabee Recreation Complex

Martin Park

Surfside Pier

32 Beach Accesses

Protected Lands

Nature Conservancy Easement

Map 11: District 5

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DISTRICT 6

County Facilities

Forestbrook Park [NEW][1]
Peachtree Landing [EXPANSION]
Rosewood Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Socastee Landing & Park [RAMP RENOVATION]
Socastee Recreation Park [EXPANSION]
Stalvey Creek Boardwalk [NEW]

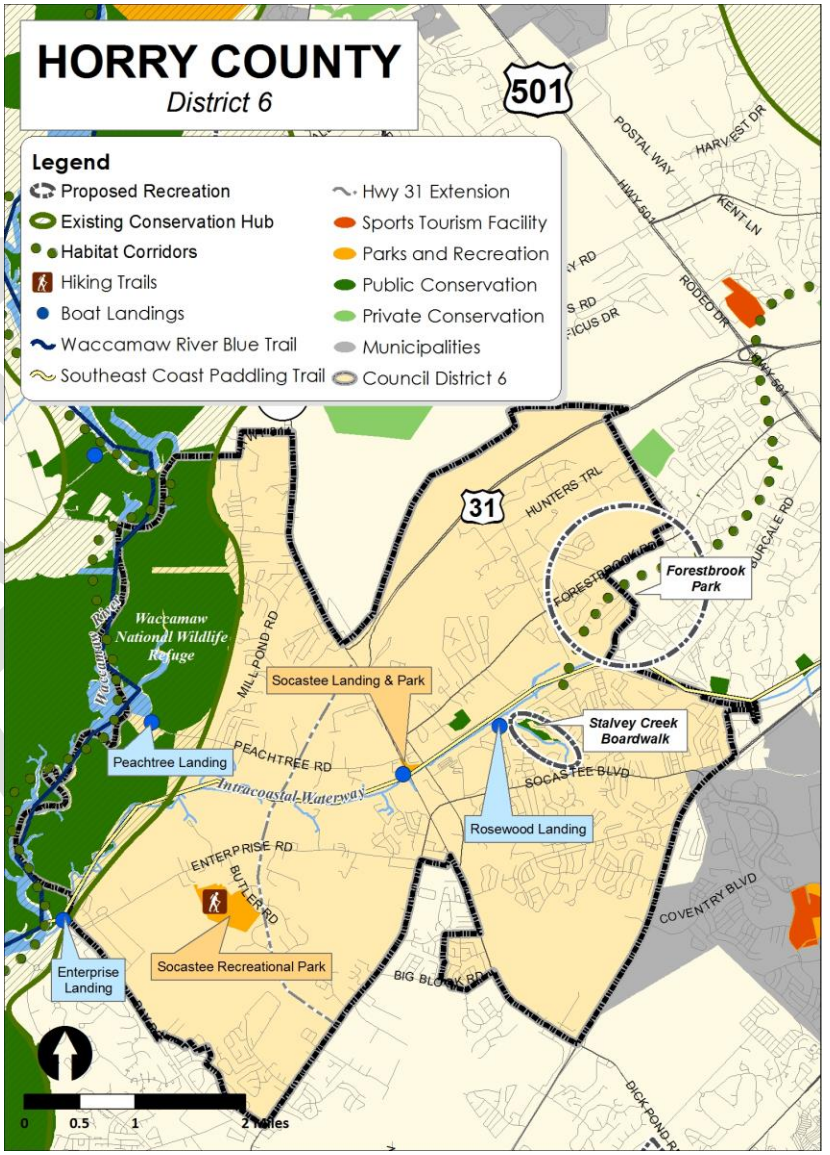
[1] District 4, 6 OR 8

Protected Lands

County-Owned Dredge Spoil Basins
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)

Priority Conservation Areas

Socastee Greenway
Waccamaw River
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge



Map 12: District 6

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DISTRICT 7

County Facilities

Billy Witherspoon Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Bucksville Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Greenwood Park [NEW]
James Frazier Community Center [RENOVATION & UPGRADES]
Pitch Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Port Harrelson Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Sandridge Park [RENOVATION]
Toddville Soft Landing [NEW]

Conway Facilities

Collins Park
Conway Dog Park
Conway Marina, Riverwalk, Riverfront Park, and Tennis Center
Conway Recreation Complex
Robert Mills Garden
Sherwood Mini-Park
Smith Jones Recreation Complex

Grand Strand Water and Sewer

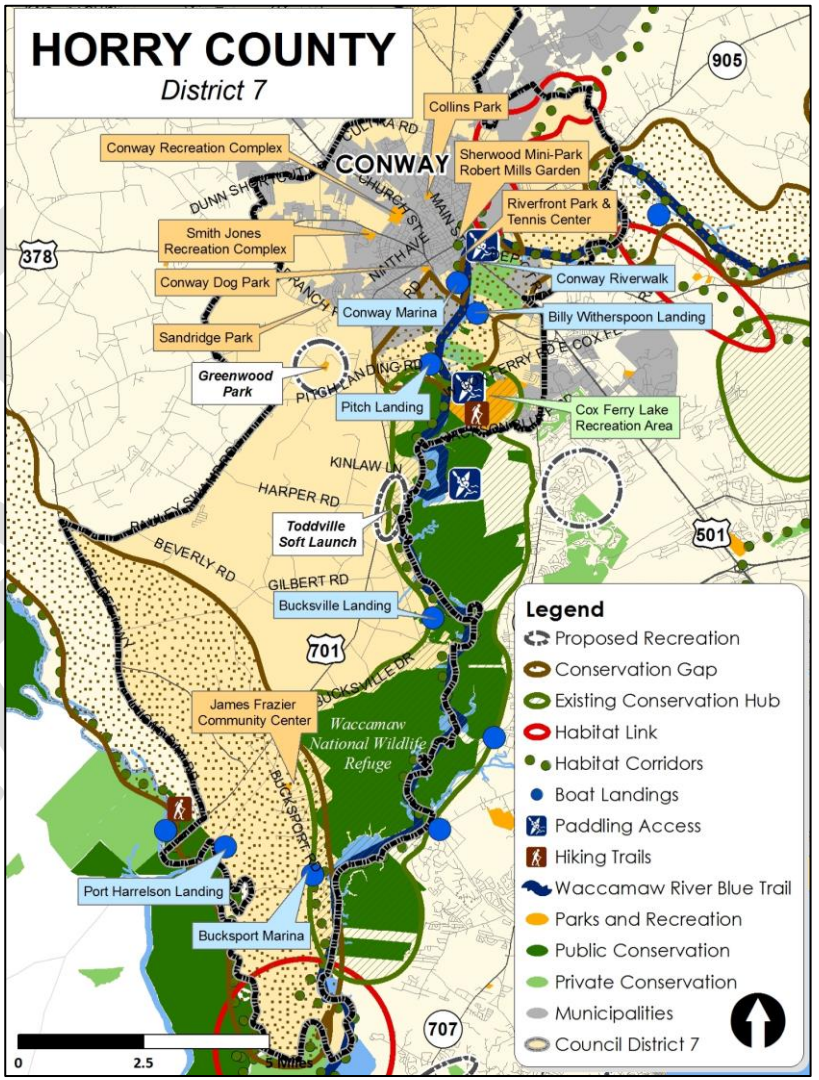
Bucksport Marina (Public Landing)

Protected Lands

Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area and Landing (USFWS)
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)

Priority Conservation Areas

Little Pee Dee & Waccamaw Rivers
Bull Creek and Kingston Lake
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge



Map 13: District 7

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DISTRICT 8

County Facilities

Forestbrook Park [NEW][1]

Myrtle Ridge Park [NEW]

[1] District 4, 6 OR 8

Coastal Carolina University

HTC Center, Brooks Stadium, Softball and Soccer Stadiums, Hackler Golf Course, Tennis Complex, and Williams-Brice PE Center

Private Recreation

Myrtle Beach Speedway

Protected Lands

J. Todd Landing (USFWS)

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)

Historic Ricefields Association Property

The Legends Golf Course – North American Land Trust

The Hackler Course – Coastal Conservation Foundation

Priority Conservation Areas

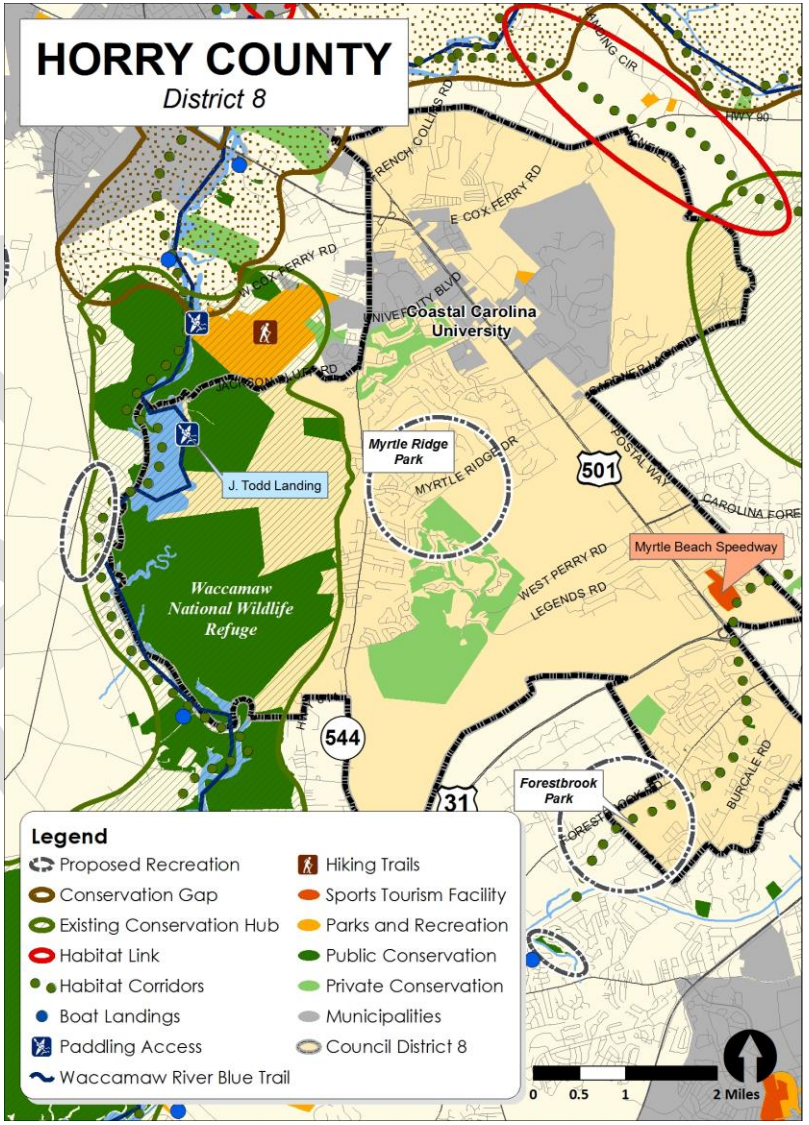
Socastee Greenway

Steritt Swamp

Waccamaw River

Lewis Ocean Bay

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge



Map 14: District 8

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DISTRICT 9

County Facilities

Bennett Loop Park [NEW]

Chris Anderson Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]

Danny Knight Landing (Red Bluff Landing) [EXPANSION]

Heinford Field

Loris Nature Park [UPGRADES]

Loris Recreation Center [NEW]

North Strand Park [RENOVATIONS & UPGRADES]

Poplar Park [EXPANSION]

Simpson Creek Park [RENOVATION]

North Myrtle Beach Facilities

North Myrtle Beach Sports Park & Complex

Loris Facilities

Loris Recreation Department

Natural Lands

Big Savannah Lake Landing (SCDNR)

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve (SCDNR)

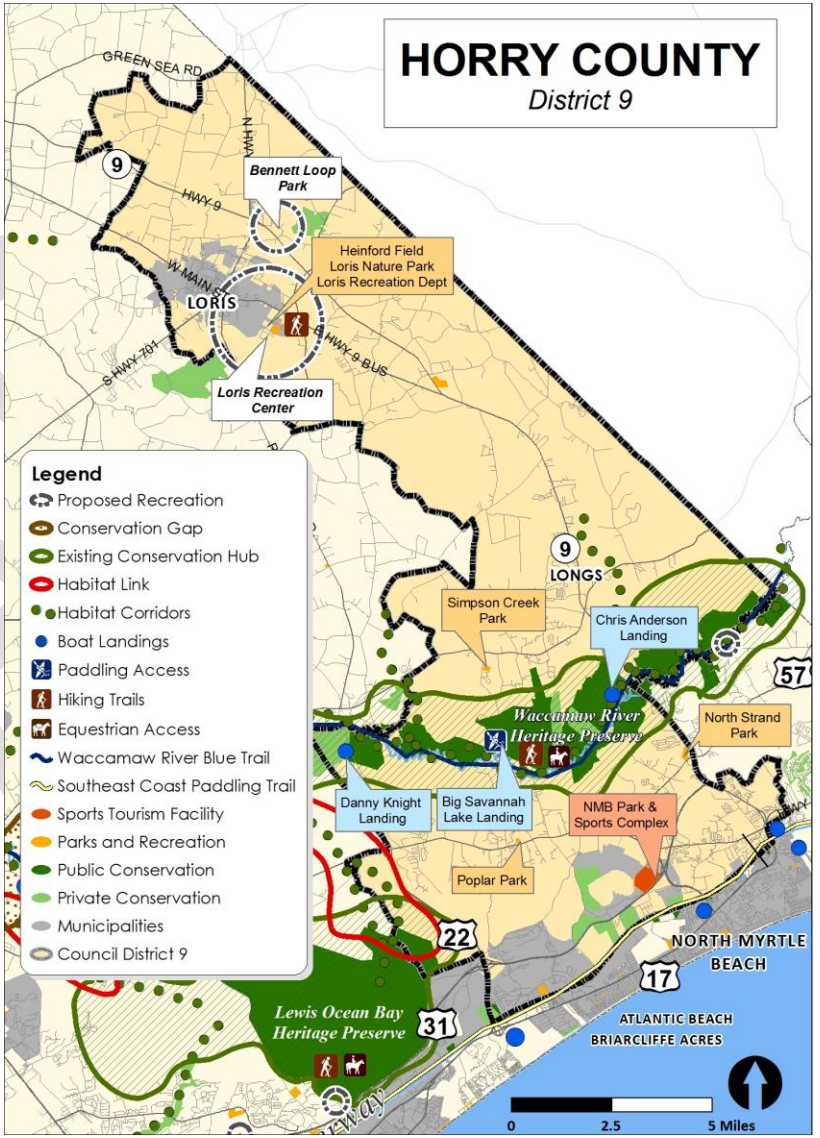
North American Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, USDA NRCS Easements

Priority Conservation Areas

Buck Creek

Jones Big Swamp

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve



Map 15: District 9

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DISTRICT 10

County Facilities

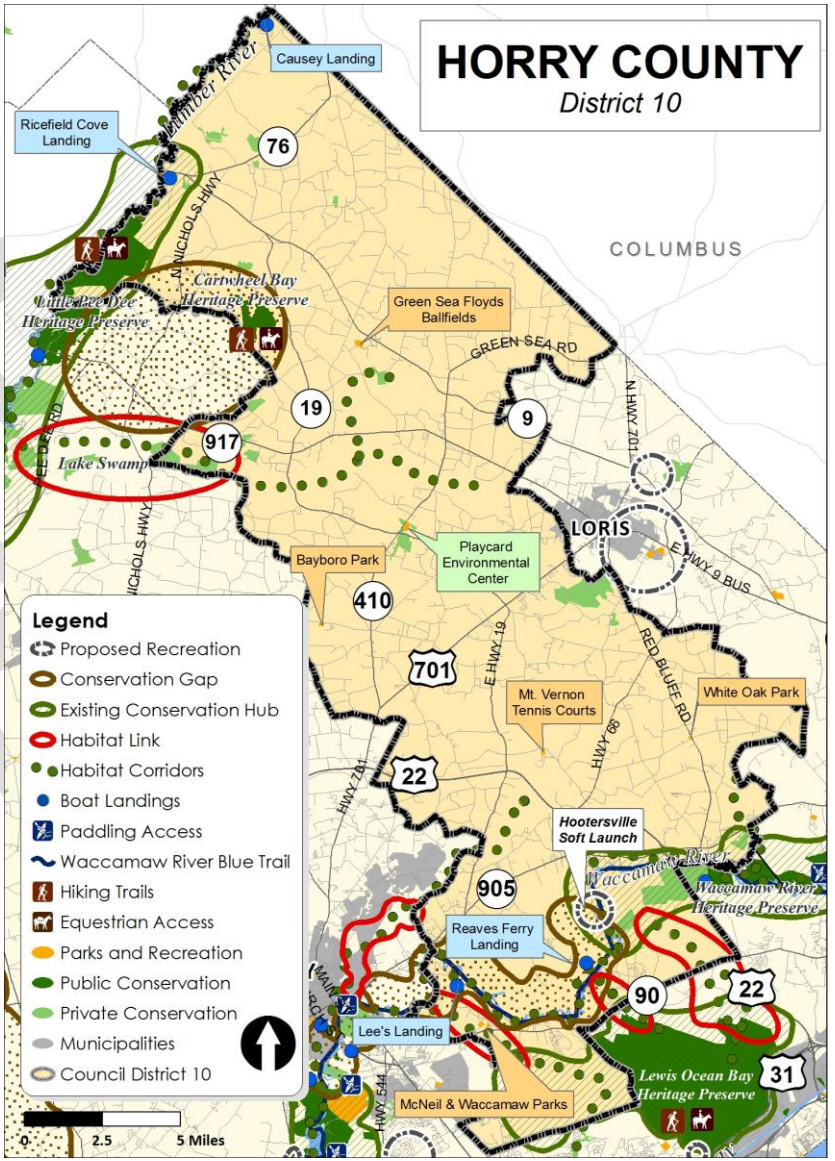
Bayboro Park [RENOVATION]
Causey Landing [RAMP RENOVATION]
Green Sea Floyds Ballfields [EXPANSION]
Hootersville Soft Launch [NEW]
Lee's Landing [RAMP RENOVATIONS]
Mt. Vernon Tennis Courts [RENOVATIONS]
McNeil Park
Ricefield Cove Landing [EXPANSION]
Reaves Ferry Landing [EXPANSION]
Waccamaw Park
White Oak Park [RENOVATIONS]

Protected Lands

Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve (SCDNR)
Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve (SCDNR)
Playcard Environmental Center (Horry County Schools)
Waccamaw Heritage Preserve (SCDNR)
Ducks Unlimited, Horry County Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservancy, and USDA – NRCS Easements

Priority Conservation Areas

Lake Swamp
Steritt Swamp, Tilly Swamp, & Jones Big Swamp
Cartwheel Bay, Lewis Ocean Bay, Little Pee Dee River, and Waccamaw River Heritage Preserves



Map 16: District 10

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DISTRICT 11

County Facilities

Aynor Athletic Complex
Aynor Recreation Center [NEW]
Dog Bluff Park
Michael Morris Graham Park [UPGRADES]
Pee Dee Park [EXPANSION]

Boat Landings [RAMP RENOVATIONS]

Galivants Ferry Landing	Gunters Lake Landing
Huggins Landing	Hughes Landing
Jordan Lake Landing	Pitts Landing
Punch Bowl Landing	Sandy Bluff Landing
Yauhannah Landing	

Aynor Facilities

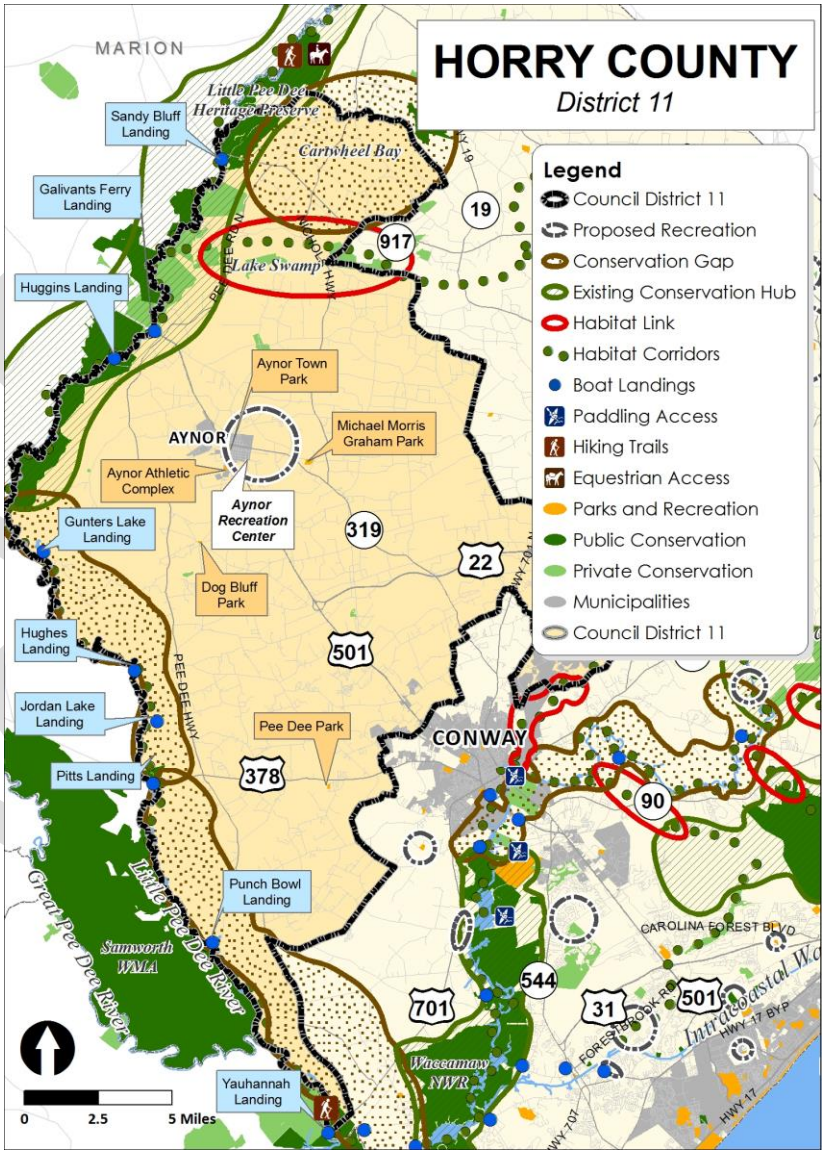
Aynor Town Park

Protected Lands

Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve (SCDNR)
Nature Conservancy, Pee Dee Land Trust, and USDA – NRCS Easements

Priority Conservation Areas

Lake Swamp
Cartwheel Bay, Gunter's Island, and Lower Little Pee Dee
Little Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve



Map 17: District 11

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