

Planning Commission, Decision Memorandum  
Horry County, South Carolina

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Date: February 4, 2021  
From: Planning and Zoning  
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation  
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner  
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner  
Regarding: Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan

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**ISSUE:**

Should the Horry County Planning Commission recommend adoption of the Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan as an amendment to the Horry County Comprehensive Plan, IMAGINE 2040?

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

Adoption of the Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan as an amendment to the Horry County Comprehensive Plan, IMAGINE 2040.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board recommended adoption of the revised Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan on November 12, 2020. Staff recommends adoption.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board, Planning & Zoning staff, and Parks & Recreation staff have been working since March 2019 to update the Parks and Open Space Plan that was drafted in 2017. The Planning Commission recommended adoption of the Plan on December 7, 2017; however, the Plan needed revisions as the IMAGINE 2040 Plan was developed. The Parks and Open Space Board decided to make revisions and send back to Planning Commission prior to moving the Plan forward to County Council for their consideration. The Plan was developed to serve as comprehensive guide to acquire, develop, and expand areas of open space, significant environmental and natural resources, and recreational sites, as required of the Board in County Ordinance Chapter 15, Article VII, Section 15-125. The Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan was originally adopted in 2009 and focused primarily on natural resource protection. Recreational needs were last addressed in the Horry County Recreational Needs Assessment 1999-2009.

**ANALYSIS:**

The development of this Plan relied heavily on the results of a countywide recreational needs assessment, six regional recreation focus groups, one conservation focus group, and public input gathered through multiple means for multiple Plans and countywide studies. Recommendations were also based upon an assessment of existing recreational facilities, population trends, growth patterns, and identification of available properties. The Plan provides a variety of recommendations to meet the recreational needs of Horry County residents. It also identifies areas for open space preservation, including waterfronts, wetlands, and forestlands. The draft of the Parks and Open Space Plan is proposed to be adopted as an amendment to the Horry County Comprehensive Plan and can be accessed at:

<https://www.horrycounty.org/Portals/0/Docs/boards/Parks/DRAFT%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Space%20Plan.pdf>