



**COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND  
RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
HOLDEN BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA  
SEPTEMBER 2021**







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### **Holden Beach Board of Commissioners**

**J. Alan Holden, Mayor**  
**Gerald Brown, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Pat Kwiatkowski, Commissioner**  
**Brian Murdock, Commissioner**  
**Rick Smith, Commissioner**  
**Mike Sullivan, Commissioner**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Holden Beach provides public recreation to its citizens as a means of supporting a high quality of life. The Parks and Recreation Department is primarily funded by occupancy taxes and seeks grant assistance when possible.



Studies have shown that quality of life issues are very important to residents and visitors. Lively programs and events can also have a major impact on community development. The goals for recreation, as ascertained by the Cape Fear Council of Governments 2019 Land Use Plan for the Town of Holden Beach, are to, “maximize public access to the beaches and public trust waters of the Town of Holden Beach and maximize recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.”

To fulfill this goal, the Town recognizes the importance of *planning* as a means of improving recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors. As a result, the Town of Holden Beach Board of Commissioners hired McGill Associates, PA (McGill) to assist with the creation of an updated 10-year comprehensive recreation master plan – to include all existing and future park facilities and grounds.

The Town of Holden Beach Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan 2021-2031 provides the framework for guiding the Town of Holden Beach Board and staff. The framework for this master plan is based upon conducting an inventory of the existing park system, recording site observations, and evaluating public comments made at community input sessions. The assessment of existing park facilities, or lack thereof, will identify the immediate needs in the community and predict future needs.

Another purpose of the master plan is to analyze and recommend the addition or renovation of parks, programs, and recreational facilities. It also prioritizes certain projects, such as recommended park upgrades or possible expansion, by taking into consideration the identification of user population and the development of recreation standards. The master plan is action-oriented and will provide the Town of Holden Beach with a practical guide for the enhancement of its facilities and programs for the next ten (10) years.

In preparing the Town’s Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a steering committee made of Town planning and recreation staff members was created to help guide the McGill team in the development of the public survey and master plan goals and recommendations. A key objective in the development of the master plan was the solicitation of community input. This

Town of Holden Beach Parks & Recreation  
2021 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan



feedback identifies additional needs for Town residents, such as renovation, construction, property acquisition, development, and operational policies, for now and in the future. Community input, along with the comparison to state and national standards are the initial steps in the master plan process.

State and national standards were used as a guide to support the recommendations made for the Town of Holden Beach's recreation facilities. Using these standard guidelines, McGill developed a plan which applied specifically to the resident and non-resident users of the Town's recreation facilities.

The master plan emphasizes practical and more desirable improvements to the existing recreation system, including parks and recreational facilities. It is not designed to be exclusive but rather to enhance recreational opportunities in the community. It is intended to maintain the type of venue in the Town of Holden Beach that fosters community spirit, activism, and bonding between local citizens.

A study of the demographic profile of Town residents is a key factor in making specific and accurate recommendations.

Not only does the master plan make recommendations for a 10-year period (2021-2031), but it also suggests how the identified objectives might be achieved. Opportunities for grants, partnerships, and outside funding are recommended as aids in the establishment of a capital improvement plan and an operating budget.

The master plan focuses on providing the Town with an accurate, usable guide for decision-making as the Town begins to implement projects, such as:

- Renovating existing facilities currently owned by the Town of Holden Beach
- Exploring the possibilities for developing new facilities
- Developing facilities and programming for future parks and greenways
- Updating policy and ordinances to meet community needs and desires

It is commonly accepted that physical activity through recreation and park use improves one's overall mental and physical health. Availability of recreation resources is a factor that influences an individual's physical activity behavior. (Availability of Recreation Resources and Physical Activity in Adults, Am J Public Health. 2007 March; 97(3): 493-499.) Due to the fact that the Town of Holden Beach is an island, the majority of the Town's recreation facilities and amenities are centrally located.

Different strategies to mitigate the issue of recreation availability may entail new developments, including a basic set of recreation amenities for new residents, as





well as investing in a trail network that provides safe pedestrian access to park facilities.

Extensive research demonstrates the positive economic impact of recreation, parks, and tourism on local economies. The Town of Holden Beach is currently attracting new residents and tourists eager to experience the quality of life it provides. The Town can leverage its many natural, historic, and recreational resources, and continue to develop its amenities by improving public spaces, park facilities, programming, and events. Recommendations in Section 4 present achievable actions that support the Town's goals and ability to serve its residents.

The Town of Holden Beach Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan is divided into five major component sections:

- Section 1 – Population Trends and Projections
- Section 2 – Existing Programs, Parks, and Recreation Facilities
- Section 3 – Recreation Needs Assessment
- Section 4 – Goals and Recommendations
- Section 5 – Funding and Action Implementation Plan

### **Recreation Needs Assessment – Preference Exercises**

The community input sessions included a preference exercise that allowed participants (tourists, visitors and local residents) to share their top preferred amenities for the recreation system. Overall, the preference exercise results indicate little difference between the top preferred choices between locals and tourists. To reiterate:

#### **Top 7 amenities for locals were:**

1. Canoe/kayak launch (35 votes)
2. Natural surface trails (34 votes)
3. Bike path (30 votes)
4. Fishing dock (25 votes)
5. Accessible play features (19 votes)
6. Dog park (18 votes)
7. Boardwalk (17 votes)

#### **Top 7 preferred amenities for tourists:**

1. Natural surface trails (55 votes)
2. Restroom building (53 votes)
3. Fishing dock (49 votes)
4. Canoe/kayak launch (35 votes)
5. Dog park (31 votes)
6. Bike path (30 votes)
7. Accessible play features (29 votes)



Both groups polled preferred similar recreation amenities except for 2 items. The tourist group listed a preference for restrooms. This is an understandable desire considering many tourists are day trippers or not sleeping over via on-island lodging. The local's top 7 list differed from the tourists in that they included a boardwalk amenity.

## **Focus Group Interviews**

A complete list of focus group major themes and/or topics mentioned by each group can be found in Appendix D. Seven different groups of participants were interviewed via a virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams' meeting platform. Each meeting lasted approximately one hour. Participants were encouraged to share their opinions and feelings about the future of Holden Beach Parks and Facilities. We are deeply appreciative for the time and effort given to the town by these citizens.

The top seven items mentioned by these groups are in order of number of times mentioned:

- a. Programs/classes
- b. Bike path/lane
- c. Trails
- d. Dog park
- e. Launches
- f. Fishing
- g. Tennis, pickleball, fitness (equal mentions)

## **Facility Improvements Recommendations**

Site visits and information provided by Town staff were used to access and make recommendations for needed improvements. The following lists contain recommendations for improvements to existing facilities within the Town's recreation system:

### **Bridgeview Park**

- Ongoing maintenance
- Design a small area plan to tie together Bridgeview Park, public restroom building, and Jordan Boulevard Pavilion via an attractive linear park/multi-use trail
- Add separate fishing platform/wildlife observation deck
- Assess basketball backboard hoops for needed repairs
- Add shade and additional seating near basketball court





### Jordan Boulevard Pavilion

- Update parking area (repave)
- Create annual plan to assess gazebo/shelter for needed maintenance/repairs
- Add accessible connection path with Bridgeview Park
- Improve ADA accessibility



### Sailfish Drive Park

- Provide accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Construct covered picnic/gathering space (gazebo, shelter structure, etc.)
- Add educational signage about local history or natural resources of Holden Beach
- Add additional picnic facilities (furnishings and shade)
- Delineate parking spaces
- Add restroom facilities (waterless restroom)
- Improve ADA accessibility



### 796 Ocean Boulevard

- Consider reuse of this structure as a community recreation resource
- Bathhouse (restrooms/showers)
- Classroom or exhibit space
- Rentable meeting space (with kitchen)
- Improve parking layout
- Improve accessibility ADA



### Sand Dollar Park

- Add picnic tables and bench swings to the east side of the park
- Add an educational kiosk discussing natural heritage
- Add wayfinding trail signage to connect to existing trails on adjacent property to the east



### Halstead Park

- Improve/repair existing pier and fishing platform to meet ADA accessibility
- Consider adding fish cleaning station to fishing platform
- Develop accessible canoe/kayak launch off existing pier 30' back from highwater mark
- Add educational signage
- Evaluate the parking layout for a more efficient design
- Evaluate the facility for code compliance



### Holden Beach Pocket Park

- Ongoing maintenance
- Consider revolving sculpture display (partner with area artists)
- Improve ADA accessibility



### Holden Beach Fit Trail

- Update equipment and provide instructive/usage signage
- Improve ADA accessibility by paving stations with pervious concrete

### Olden Holden Bike Route

- Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on the potential for separate bike lane on Ocean Boulevard and/or sidewalk widening to accommodate increasing population of users
- Improve ADA accessibility



### Beach Access Sites

- Develop highly visible signage noting available public parking locations
- Market beach access sites via widely available brochure maps
- Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on the potential for high visibility pedestrian crosswalks, where appropriate





- Consider beach access matting where needed for ADA access
- Add waterless restroom facility at McCray Street parking area
- Add waterless restroom facility at end of Ocean Boulevard E. right-of-way
- Add doggy-bag stations at all access sites

## **Future Park Development Considerations**

Section 4 of this document will describe recommended future park development. The areas discussed include:

- Holden Beach Pier (future community park)
- Street Right-of-Way ICWW Access Points (future)
- Scotch Bonnet Park (future community park)
- Sandspur Waterway Walk (future boardwalk/trail)
- Possible locations for a dog park

In Section 4.5 the need for typical recreation amenities are assessed and recommendations are discussed for the following:

- Baseball/Softball
- Adult/Youth Basketball
- Multipurpose Fields for Football, Soccer, and Lacrosse
- Tennis Courts
- Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Horseshoes and other small game courts
- Picnic Shelters and Tables
- Playground Activities
- Outdoor Performance Area
- Walking /Hiking Trails and Bikeways

## **Staffing And Maintenance Recommendations**

Section 4.6 discusses staffing needs and provides recommendations. The Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department's structure consists of one full-time employee. Maintaining adequate staffing for parks and recreation facilities and programs will be necessary to foster a good quality of life for Town residents and prospective businesses that may seek to relocate to the Town of Holden Beach. The existing and proposed staffing levels for the Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department are as follows:



### **Existing Staffing Levels:**

#### **Full-time Positions**

- Parks and Recreation Director (1)

#### **Part-time/Seasonal Positions**

- To assist director in scheduled events (ex. summer day camps, Tide Dye Tees, etc.)

### **Proposed Additional Staffing Positions**

#### **Full-time Positions**

- As needed, per scale of additional park facilities to be constructed
- Consider additional full-time maintenance technician

#### **Part-time/Seasonal Positions**

- To assist director in scheduled events (ex. summer day camps, Tide Dye Tees, etc.)

### **Maintenance Staffing Recommendations**

Staffing for maintenance is dependent on the levels of service the Town wishes to provide to each facility. The Town should consider creating a maintenance plan which includes details of number of hours and level of service for each maintenance task (mowing, repairs etc.). These plans are documented in the NRPA, Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) standards and are recommended to be reviewed for a future maintenance plan for the Town.

### **Projects For Development**

The park system for the Town of Holden Beach should continue to grow and respond to changes in Town demographics. Future planned facilities should be implemented incrementally to provide for these changes. Section 4.7 provides a list of recommended projects divided into those recommended for implementation within the first five years after plan adoption (2021-2026) and those for the second five-year period (2027-2031). The prioritization of projects should consider available funding, and political will to implement.

The main categories of projects include:

- Needed improvements to existing Town of Holden Beach-owned facilities
- Development of planned facilities to meet the *current* needs of recreation for Town residents
- Development of planned facilities to meet the *future* needs of recreation for Town residents



## **Project Tasks List**

### **2021-2026**

- *Paved path connecting with Jordan Boulevard Pavilion (Bridgeview)*
- *Add shade and additional seating near basketball court (Bridgeview)*
- *Update parking area (repave) (Jordan Boulevard Pavilion)*
- *Add accessible connection path with Bridgeview Park (Jordan Boulevard Pavilion)*
- *Provide accessible canoe/kayak launch (Sailfish)*
- *Construct covered picnic/gathering space (gazebo, shelter structure, etc.) (Sailfish)*
- *Delineate parking spaces (Sailfish)*
- *Add restroom facilities (waterless restroom) (Sailfish)*
- *Where feasible, design and construct waterless restroom facilities at suitable beach access sites*
- *Conduct site master plan study (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Design/construct dog park (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Develop trails with educational signage that link to the ICWW and adjacent Drew Griffin Environmental Research Facility (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Provide shade, seating, and picnicking facilities (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Develop parking along Scotch Bonnet Drive (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Improve/repair existing pier and fishing platform (Halstead)*
- *Consider adding fish cleaning station to fishing platform (Halstead)*
- *Develop accessible canoe/kayak launch off existing pier 30' back from highwater mark (Halstead)*
- *Delineate parking spaces (Halstead)*
- *Conduct study of parking layout to gain useable park space (Halstead)*
- *Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on potential for separate bike lane on Ocean Boulevard and/or sidewalk widening to accommodate increasing population of users (Olden Holden)*
- *Create and install Town-branded wayfinding and directional signage for all recreation facilities*
- *Install highly visible signage noting available public parking locations near beach access sites*
- *Market beach access sites via widely available brochure maps*
- *Add high visibility crosswalks for all beach access sites*



## **2027-2031**

- *Add separate fishing platform/wildlife observation deck (Bridgeview)*
- *Add educational signage about local history or natural resources of Holden Beach (Sailfish)*
- *Add additional picnic facilities (furnishings, shade) (Sailfish)*
- *Update equipment and provide instructive/usage signage (Fit Trail)*
- *Add educational signage (Halstead)*
- *Assess and develop ICWW water access points at northern terminus points of Town owned roads*
- *Identify location for (2) new community parks; develop master plans, secure funding, and implement parks*

## **Future**

- *Procure and develop master planning for Holden Beach Pier*
- *Conduct master plan for Holden Beach linear park/multi-purpose path connecting Holden Beach's Town Hall and other recreation facilities near the Holden Beach Bridge*

## **Funding & Implementation**

Section 5 of this master plan discusses funding and implementation of the recommended projects.





## **SECTION 1 POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS**

### **1.1 TOWN HISTORY**

The area surrounding the Town of Holden Beach began to see development before the Revolutionary War as a land for agricultural uses. The proximity to Lockwood Folly River also made the area a desirable location for transportation purposes. Holden Beach is a narrow coastal barrier island that was originally purchased by Benjamin Holden in 1756, along with four mainland tracts. The Holden family utilized the island for fishing and cattle grazing.

During the Civil War, the inlet on the east side of the island leading to Lockwood Folly River was a dangerous place for ships and several blockade runners resulting in ships running aground and sinking in 1864. The remains of one ship, the CSS Bendigo, can still be seen during low tide — creating an artificial reef for aquatic life.

While the Holden family-maintained ownership of the island, a commercial fishery was started, as well as the beginning ideas of the Holden Beach Resort. A bridge was initially built in 1925, however with the construction of the Intracoastal Waterway, it was destroyed. A public ferry was negotiated for and became operable in 1934. In the 1940's, when land and an oceanfront house could be purchased for \$600, development began to occur on the island for permanent residents, second homeowners, and as a vacation destination.

### **1.2 LOCAL SETTING**

The Town of Holden Beach, known as the Family Beach, is located midway between the popular and commercialized coastal cities of Wilmington, NC and Myrtle Beach, SC. However, as a small coastal barrier island, it exudes the feeling of a quaint beach town. With over eight miles of clean, sandy beaches and a year-round moderate temperature, Holden Beach is a place that many visitors choose to experience a unique, quiet, family-oriented atmosphere. The small downtown area on the island is considered by many as a reason to keep coming back year after year.

Boating, fishing, hiking, and shell hunting on the island are very popular activities. Golfing is another popular activity and there are over 125 superb golf courses located within close proximity of the island. The island is also a sea turtle habitat and during the hatching season (May – October) visitors can witness one of



nature's most interesting pleasures — watching hundreds of small sea turtles boil out of the sand and march to the ocean.

Holden Beach, with its small coastal island feel, provides both residents and visitors a wholesome family-oriented atmosphere that also offers access to a beautiful coastal setting. This environment, along with the natural setting, provides great opportunities for multiple forms of recreational activities that will improve the community's quality of life.

### 1.3 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information for the Town of Holden Beach has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community. It also serves as a tool to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning age and gender are important factors in determining the needs for recreation in the community. The table below contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Holden Beach, as ascertained by the 2019 North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM) estimates.

**Table 1.1: NC OSBM, 2019 Estimates**

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>AGE</b>		
Under 5 years	10	1.5%
5 to 17 years	75	11.1%
18 to 64 years	364	53.9%
65 years and over	226	33.5%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>RACE</b>		
White	557	96.8%
Black or African American	5	0.9%
Other	13	2.3%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: ([https://linc.osbm.nc.gov/pages/municipal-estimates-by-municipality/?refine.area\\_name=Holden%20Beach](https://linc.osbm.nc.gov/pages/municipal-estimates-by-municipality/?refine.area_name=Holden%20Beach))

In 2000, the population of the Town of Holden Beach, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 787. However, possibly a reflection of the economic downturn that occurred in 2008–2010, the Town population in 2010 had dropped to 575, a decrease of 26.9%. Since that time, there has been an increase, according to the NC OSBM, back to 675 residents, showing a growth of 17.4% from 2010 to 2019. This is a trend that will likely continue as more and more individuals are attracted to the coastal lifestyle and the opportunities that it provides.



When planning recreation, it is important to consider the impact of vacationers, visitors, and temporary residents visiting the community on a seasonal basis. Typically, the seasonal population has the greatest impact on services and resources from the end of May to the beginning of November. Populations in beach municipalities can vary throughout a given year. Determining how the seasonal population impacts a town can be difficult due to the range of factors that must be considered in estimating the peak population. In addition, population (year-round) figures established by the NC state demographer and the US Census Bureau do not account for the seasonal population. This requires figures to be estimated based upon best available data. Based on 2015 NC OSBM housing data there were 2,382 available housing units. Of these 2,382, there are 978 that are occupied year-round. Based on this information the total housing available for vacation rentals is 1,404. According to the Cape Fear Council of Governments 2019 Land Use Plan for the Town, the approximate estimated peak seasonal population grows to around 20,000+. While the permanent residents of the Town of Holden Beach are the key members to plan for, it is also important to understand that the seasonal population plays a big role in how the park facilities are used and any necessary recommendations must account for this large group of people.

## **1.4 TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

Population projections can vary widely due to intervening factors such as the strength of the economy, availability of jobs, and housing prices. Population projections identify potential challenges and needs that may confront the community in the future.

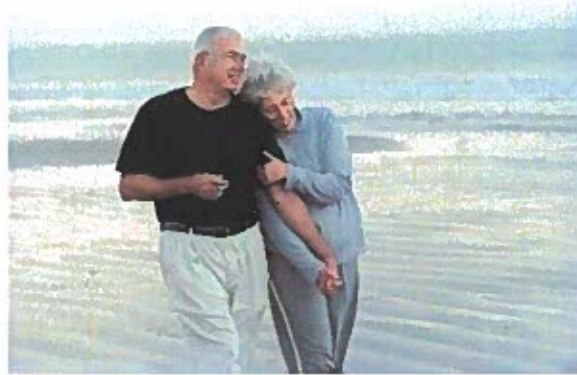
County population projections are provided by the NC OSBM; however, municipal population projections are not. The NC State Demographer's population components of change estimate that Brunswick County's population will increase from migration into the County. Components of change from natural growth, births and deaths, will have a minor change in the County's population decline, however the increase will be far greater than the decrease. It is also assumed that this trend of population change will be the same for Holden Beach.

According to the NC OSBM, in 2020, the permanent population of Brunswick County was projected to be 147,644 people, whereas in 2030, the permanent population is expected to be 180,776 people. This is an increase of about 33,132 people or 22.4%. If the same percentage increase was applied to the 2019 NC OSBM estimate population of 675 for Holden Beach, the estimated increase for 2030 would be 826. The future population will be limited by the availability of land and the pace and type of future development.



## 1.5 STATE POPULATION TRENDS

According to the North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2020–2025, senior citizens comprise the fastest growing age group. The senior population is expected to have significant impacts throughout society because of income levels, population, and unique needs. The NC OSBM projects that by the year 2030, one in five North Carolinians will be 65 years old and older.



**More senior adults are seeking active lifestyles as part of their daily routines.**

This growing segment of our society is a significant user of recreational programming and facilities. The Town's Parks and Recreation Department will have to increase the number and type of activities and facilities to effectively serve this population, both now and in the future. To meet the demands of residents and visitors, the Town will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities, as well as offer more types of recreational programs as the population changes.

**- END OF SECTION -**



## SECTION 2 EXISTING PROGRAMS, PARKS, AND FACILITIES

### 2.1 FACILITY INVENTORY



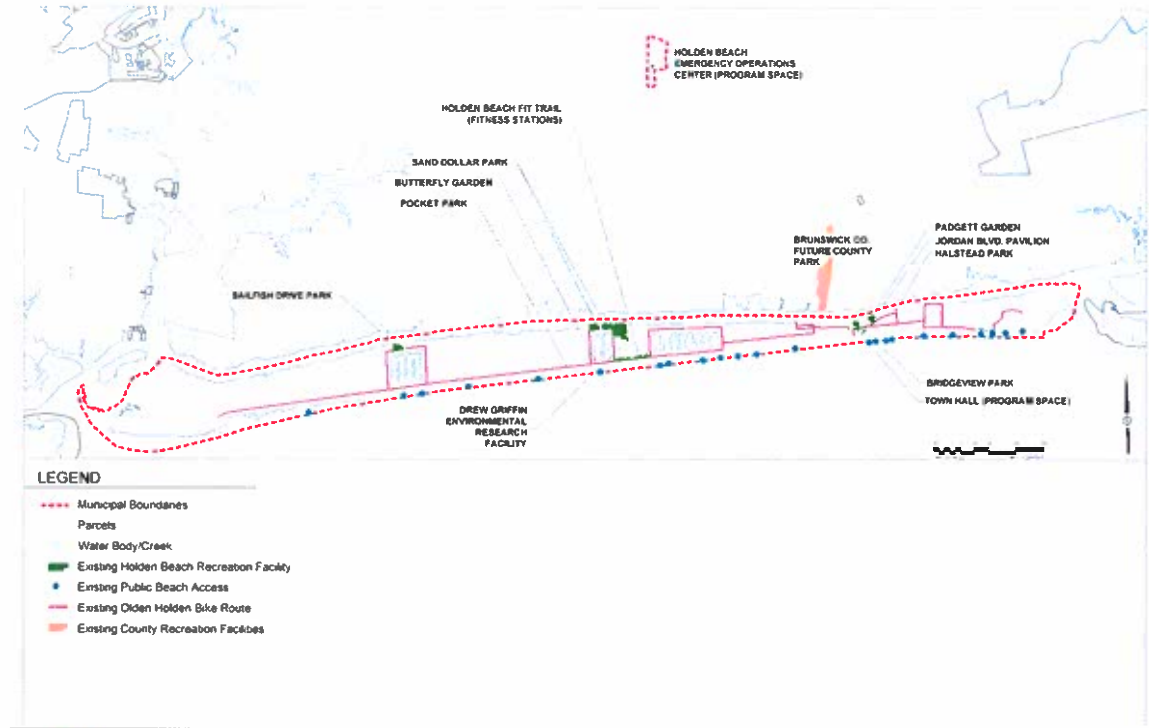
**Bridgeview Park offers a mix of recreation amenities in a central location.**

This section will look at all the facilities currently offered to fully understand the recreational opportunities that the Town of Holden Beach has access to. These recreational facilities derive from many different sources, including the following:

- Town-owned parks and other recreational facilities
- Privately-owned facilities
- County-owned facilities
- Other local municipalities
- Schools

As of the writing of this plan a brief analysis of the Town's recreation facilities was performed noting any visible improvements needed for each facility. The necessary improvements to existing facilities can be found in Section 4. This method of study served as a guide for the Town in its efforts to develop a plan for present and future needs.

The Town of Holden Beach residents and visitors have many of their recreation needs met through the facility offerings currently owned by the Town. In addition to the facilities owned by the Town, recreational opportunities are provided by private facilities, county parks, and the surrounding communities.



**EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP**  
 TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA  
 MAY 2021

**Map 2.1: Existing Conditions Map (See Appendix A for larger map)**

## Recreation Facilities Owned and Operated by the Town of Holden Beach

### Parks

#### Bridgeview Park

Bridgeview Park is a great recreational facility for residents and visitors on the island. The park is located adjacent to the Town Hall and is along the sound side of the island along the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW). It provides access to a basketball court that is also striped with (2) pickleball courts. Additionally, there are open green space, a splash pad area, a picnic shelter, a playground area with shade sails, and bocce courts. Visitors can also access the water for nature observation and canoe/kayaking on the dock with (2) canoe/kayak launches, and a boat dock that can be leased for short stays on the island for a nominal fee by transient boaters with boats that are greater than 26' long. Registered users have access to restrooms/showers and laundry facilities.





### **Jordan Boulevard Pavilion**

Jordan Boulevard Pavilion is the island's oldest park and is a great place for water access. The park is located on the western side of the bridge that connects to the mainland along the sound side of the island. It provides visitors access to open space, a fishing dock with a shelter, a large picnic pavilion, public Wi-Fi, and nature observation. Tai Chi classes have been offered periodically at this location. Adjacent to the Jordan Boulevard Pavilion is a motorized boating access location (launch). The boat launch is under the Holden Beach Bridge on the ICWW and allows boaters and anglers access to the water from the island.



### **Emergency Operations Center**

This Town-owned facility is in Brunswick County, just a few miles off the island of Holden Beach, and is zoned under the jurisdiction of the Town of Holden Beach. This facility houses the Town's emergency operations and vehicle fleet and contains a training room with an occupancy load of 40 people and a kitchen. This space is primarily used for recreation programming (classes, meetings, etc.)

### **Sailfish Drive Park**

Sailfish Park is a small passive park located on the western end of the island along the sound side of the island. The park provides visitors access to open space, a fishing dock, picnic tables, nature observation, and a sand beach with ICWW (water) access.



### **Sand Dollar Park**

Sand Dollar Park is a passive park located at the end of Sand Dollar Drive. The park is predominantly coastal marshland along the ICWW. It provides visitors access to open space and a nature observation. Its natural setting also provides a great habitat for coastal flora and fauna. This location also offers water entry to the ICWW with an informal canoe/kayak launch.



### **Halstead Park**

Halstead Park is a small passive park located to the east of the bridge along the sound side of the island. The park provides visitors access to a fishing dock, a picnic shelter, and seating. This is one of the of many destinations along the Olden Holden Bike Route and provides cyclists bike racks to park and take in the environment.



### **Holden Beach Pocket Park**

Holden Beach Pocket Park is a small passive park located midway on the island along Ocean Boulevard. This mini park offers visitors access to a beautifully landscaped location for seating and nature observation. It is also a space to take a break while walking along the sidewalk or cycling the Olden Holden Bike Route.



### **Special Use Facilities**

#### **Holden Beach Fit Trail (Fitness Stations)**

Holden Beach provides a unique recreational amenity to promote the health and well-being of residents and visitors. Along the sidewalk on Ocean Boulevard between Scotch Bonnet Drive and Greensboro Street, the Town has provided (9) fitness stations. By providing this amenity, it shows the desire to provide the quality of life that the people desire in a creative way where land is scarce.







### **Padgett Garden**

The Town has partnered with the Holden Beach Beautification Club to provide well-landscaped areas that enhance the quality of the island, as well as furnish spaces that people can find respite while exploring the Town. Padgett Garden is located at the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Holden Beach Road as



you cross the bridge and enter Holden Beach. The garden provides a short walking path, seating, and shade structures that are surrounded by lush landscaping, statuary, and a water feature with memorial stones.

### **796 Ocean Boulevard**

The Town owns a home adjacent to a sewer lift station at 796 Ocean Boulevard. This property has views of the marsh and ocean. The home has two bedrooms and a half bath on the top floor, and two bedrooms and a full bath, living room, and kitchen on the bottom floor. Ample parking is available with additional space for parking along Ocean Boulevard. For possible uses see page 38.

### **Butterfly Garden at Holden Beach Fire Station**

The Town has partnered with the Holden Beach Beautification Club to provide well-landscaped areas that enhance the quality of the island, as well as furnish spaces that people can find respite while exploring the Town. The Butterfly Garden is located along the back of the Holden Beach Fire Station. It offers a picnic table and seating to people who visit this quaint garden.

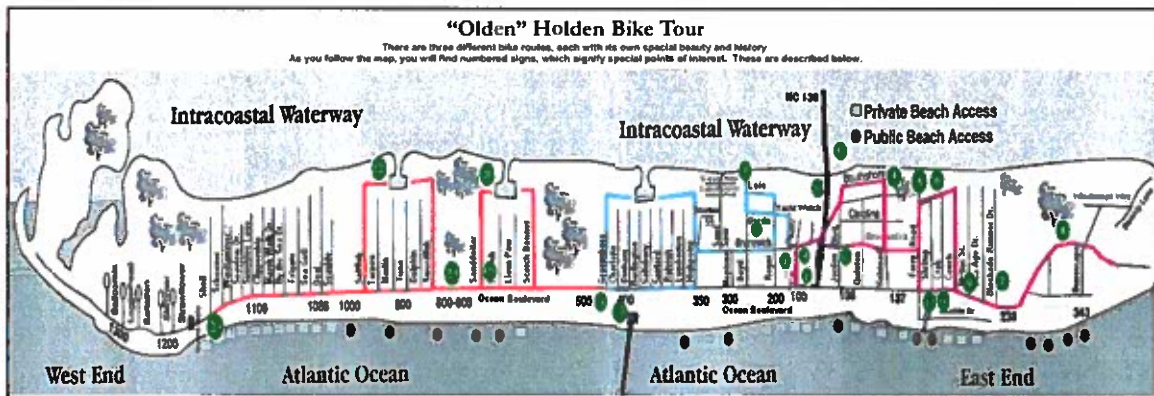




## Bicycle Routes

### Olden Holden Bike Route

The Olden Holden Bike Route is a traverse of the island that explores the local history and allows users to experience the natural beauty of this coastal region. This bike route has three different segments that can either be used individually or linked together to provide approximately 20 miles of island biking. The Olden Holden Bike Route also hits all the recreational facilities that Holden Beach offers.



Map 2.2: Olden Holden Bike Route Map (See Appendix A for larger map)

### Beach/Water Access Sites

Holden Beach is a barrier island along the Atlantic Ocean and as such has over 8 miles of beautiful beaches and is bordered to the north by the ICWW. The Town provides 23 public beach access points to allow visitors the opportunity to enjoy the public beaches. Each of these places have different levels of access. While some of them provide parking, restrooms, and showers, others provide only a boardwalk or cut through the dunes to allow visitors beach/water access. Below is a list of known public beach access sites (available parking opportunities noted):

1. East End of McCray Street (parking available with two handicap spaces)
2. End of Avenue D (317 OBE) (parking available adjacent to path)
3. End of Dunescape Drive (neighborhood access with no public parking)
4. End of Avenue B (parking available adjacent to path)
5. End of Avenue A (parking available adjacent to path)
6. End of Ferry Road (parking available adjacent to path, shower provided)
7. 220 Ocean Boulevard East (parking available with public beach access)
8. Adjacent to 124 OBE (parking available on side street)
9. Quinton Street Handicapped (112 OBE) (parking, handicapped ramp, gazebo, shower provided)
10. End of Jordan Boulevard (parking and public restrooms available)



11. Between Jordan Boulevard and the bridge access ramp (showers provided and ramp to beach, drop off space, 15-minute parking only)
12. Adjacent to 301 Ocean Boulevard West (limited parking on Neptune Street)
13. Adjacent to 329 Ocean Boulevard West (limited parking on Neptune Street)
14. Adjacent to 357 Ocean Boulevard West (limited parking on High Point Street)
15. Adjacent to 389 Ocean Boulevard West (limited parking on Fayetteville Street)
16. Pier Area (2) (parking in pier lot)
17. Adjacent to 567 Ocean Boulevard West (limited parking on Starfish Street — handicapped parking available)
18. Adjacent to 679 Ocean Boulevard West (neighborhood access with no public parking)
19. Adjacent to 800 Ocean Boulevard West (parking across the street on north side of road)
20. Adjacent to 885 Ocean Boulevard West (parking on Swordfish Drive)
21. Adjacent to 917 Ocean Boulevard West (parking on Marlin Drive)
22. Adjacent to 1017 Ocean Boulevard West (neighborhood access with no public parking)
23. End of Deal Drive (no public parking)

### **Private Facilities Near Holden Beach**

#### **Magic Mountain Fun Park**

3396 Holden Beach Road SW  
Supply, NC 28462

- (3) Adult water slides
- (2) Kids' water slides

#### **Treasure Island Miniature Golf**

3445 Holden Beach Road SW  
Supply, NC 28462

- 18-hole miniature golf
- Arcade room

#### **Holden Beach Fishing Pier**

441 Ocean Boulevard W  
Holden Beach, NC 28462

- Fishing
- Nature observation



### **Holden Beach Watersports**

3238 Pompano Street SW  
Supply, NC 28462

- Jet ski rentals
- Fishing charters

### **The Swamp Park Zip Line and ATV Center**

5550 Watts Road SW  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC

- Zipline tours
- Aerial adventure park
- Guided ATV tours
- Swamp boat eco-tours

### **Fantasy Isle**

3354 Holden Beach Road SW  
Holden Beach, NC 28462

- 18-hole miniature golf

### **Boomers Rentals**

3468 Holden Beach Road SW  
Supply, NC 28462

- Sporting good rentals
- Outdoor item rentals

### **Beach Fun Rentals**

132 Ocean Boulevard W  
Holden Beach, NC 28462

- Sporting good rentals
- Outdoor item rentals
- Kayak rentals
- Bike rentals

### **Green Swamp Preserve**

673 Green Swamp Road NW  
Supply, NC 28462

- Nature observation
- Hiking



## **Local Golf Courses**

**Lockwood Folly Country Club**  
19 Clubhouse Drive SW  
Supply, NC 28462

**Rivers Edge Golf Club and Plantation**  
2000 Arnold Palmer Drive  
Shallotte, NC 28470

**Carolina National Golf Club**  
1643 Goley Hewett Road SE  
Bolivia, NC 28422



**The Links at Brick Landing**  
1882 Goose Creek Road SW  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

**Tiger's Eye Golf Links**  
360 Ocean Ridge Parkway SW  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

**Thistle Golf Club**  
1815 Olde Thistle Club Drive  
Sunset Beach, NC 28468

**Sandpiper Bay Golf & Country Club**  
800 N Sandpiper Club Drive  
Sunset Beach, NC 28468

**Sea Trail Golf Resort & Convention Center**  
75 Clubhouse Road  
Sunset Beach, NC 28468

**Panther's Run Golf Links**  
351 Ocean Ridge Parkway SW  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC

**Oyster Bay Golf Links**  
614 Lakeshore Drive  
Sunset Beach, NC 28468

**Leopard's Chase**  
6330 Castlebrook Way SW  
Sunset Beach, NC 28468



**Ocean Ridge Plantation**

53 Ocean Ridge Parkway SW  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

**Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course at South Harbour**

4188 Vanessa Drive SE  
Southport, NC 28461

**Oak Island Golf Club**

928 Caswell Beach Road  
Caswell Beach, NC 28465

**The Pearl Golf Course**

1300 Pearl Boulevard SW  
Calabash, NC 28467

**Carolina Shores Golf & Country Club**

99 Carolina Shores Drive  
Calabash, NC 28467

**Brunswick Plantation & Golf Links**

330 S Middleton Drive NW  
Calabash, NC 28467

**Parks Owned and Operated by Other Government Entities**

**County Parks**

**Waterfront Park (future)**

35 Referendum Drive NE  
Bolivia, NC 28422

Waterfront Park is a passive park located in the southern part of Brunswick County directly across the sound from Holden Beach. This park will allow visitors access to natural surface trails, paved walking and biking paths, nature observation, a fishing dock, and a canoe/kayak launch.

**Ocean Isle Beach Park**

6483 Old Georgetown Road  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

Ocean Isle Beach Park is a large district park that provides visitors with access to multiple forms of active recreation. The park is located on the





mainland side of Ocean Isle Beach in the southern portion of Brunswick County. The amenities found at Ocean Isle Beach Park are (2) playgrounds, (8) tennis courts, (6) pickleball courts, a walking trail with fitness stations, a dog park, (2) basketball courts, restrooms, an amphitheater, a multipurpose field, and (3) picnic shelters.

**Shalotte District Park**  
5550 Main Street  
Shalotte, NC 28459

Shalotte District Park is in the southern part of Brunswick County in the Town of Shalotte. This park provides visitors access to (4) baseball/softball fields with batting cages, (2) multipurpose fields, a basketball court, a picnic shelter, (2) tennis courts, and a playground.

**Lockwood Folly Park**  
430 Green Swamp Road NW  
Supply, NC 28462

Lockwood Folly District Park is a 20-acre district park located near the community of Supply in South Central Brunswick County. The park allows visitors access to a community center, (4) baseball/softball fields, a multipurpose field with concessions, (3) picnic shelters, (2) tennis courts, a basketball court, and a playground.

**Smithville District Park**  
8392 River Road SE  
Southport, NC 28461

Smithville District Park is located in the southeastern part of Brunswick County. This park provides visitors access to (5) baseball/softball fields with concessions and restrooms, a large, open multipurpose field, a basketball court, (4) pickleball courts, (8) tennis courts, a picnic shelter, and a playground.

**Dutchman Creek Park**  
4750 Fish Factory Road SE  
Southport, NC 28461

Dutchman Creek Park is located on the waterfront of Dutchman Creek in Southport. The park offers visitors access to the water for fishing and boating, as well as a playground, picnicking, and open space.



## **State Parks**

### **Fort Fisher State Recreation Area**

1000 Loggerhead Road  
Kure Beach, NC 28449

- Beach access
- Hiking trails
- Nature observation
- Fishing
- Four-wheel drive beach access
- Swimming
- Picnicking

### **North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher**

900 Loggerhead Road  
Kure Beach, NC 28449

- Marine Life Education and Exhibits

### **Carolina Beach State Park**

1010 State Park Road  
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

- Beach access
- Hiking trails
- Nature observation
- Fishing
- Boat access
- Swimming
- Picnicking





## **Public Schools near the Town of Holden Beach**

Brunswick County school recreation facilities are also made available for use by the public. While none of the County schools are located on the Island, the public schools that are within proximity to the Town have recreation facilities typical of most schools: playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, gymnasiums, etc.



The North Carolina Community Schools Act (G.S. 115C Art 13) was passed to allow “greater community use of public-school facilities.” Since school facilities represent an investment of the citizenry for the education of students and for the general benefit of the community and its citizens, their proper use and enjoyment shall be encouraged and permitted when such does not interfere with school activities.

The public schools serving Holden Beach include:

**Virginia Williamson Elementary**  
1020 Zion Hill Road SE  
Bolivia, NC 28422

**Supply Elementary School**  
51 Benton Road SE  
Supply, NC 28462

**Cedar Grove Middle**  
750 Grove Trail SW  
Supply, NC 28462

**Shalotte Middle School**  
227 Village Road SW  
Shalotte, NC 28470

**West Brunswick High School**  
550 Whiteville Road NW  
Shalotte, NC 28470



## **Town of Holden Beach Recreation Programs/Events**



The Town hosts multiple programs throughout the year to celebrate holidays and local events. These programs provide the opportunity for the community and visitors to the area to enjoy various recreational, cultural, and social events.

The annual events that provide community building and enjoyment are as follows:

- Tree Lighting
- Santa Calling/Letters
- Breakfast with Santa
- Sandy Paws
- Nighttime Easter Egg Hunt
- Boo at the Beach
- Turkey Trot
- Valentine Family Dance

The Town also hosts events and activities seasonally, monthly, and weekly. These events are typically smaller in scale and provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in recreational and social activities.

- Summer day camps
- Yoga
- Bridge
- Rummikub
- Pickleball clinics
- Pickleball tournaments
- Ice cream socials



- Luncheons
- Various races

### **Tide Dye Tuesdays**

Tide Dye Tuesday is a popular event that is typically held on Tuesdays in June through August at the Holden Beach Pavilion. Participants can purchase a t-shirt and the Town provides supplies so they can make their own colorful tie-dyed garment.

Other cultural events that the Town hosts intermittently throughout the year are Shag classes, Tai Chi classes, and art classes. The Town also has a concert series where various musicians are highlighted. These concerts are currently held at the Jordan Boulevard Pavilion.



**The Holden Beach Beautification Club has created aesthetically pleasing spaces in various areas of the island.**

**- END OF SECTION -**





## Section 3 Recreation Needs Assessment

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION



The degree of need for parks, recreation, and open space is most directly influenced by the expectations of the Town of Holden Beach residents, relating strictly to the quality of life to which they aspire. This master plan addresses, as its first priority, the parks and recreation facility needs envisioned by the residents and visitors of the Town of Holden Beach.

Section 2 of this master plan inventories the Town's existing programs, parks, and facilities, as well as lists the recreation facilities available at local schools, other public municipalities, and private recreation facilities near the Town. It also looks at county parks within proximity to Town. This detailed inventory includes the facilities which are available within each park to create a better understanding of the existing recreational opportunities within the Town. The demographic and population trends (found in Section 1 of this master plan) provide information needed to understand the expected growth of the Town in the future. This master plan will be used as a guide for improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Community input and recreation standards are primarily used when determining adequate park types and numbers of facilities needed for the Town. This master plan compares standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), an independent, non-profit professional organization for park/recreation departments nationwide as guidance when making long range recreation planning recommendations. NRPA recognizes the uniqueness of



communities and their recreation departments. Therefore, currently the NRPA recommends recreation providers seek public input and use community desires and needs to determine the types and quantities of future recreation facilities.

Recreational standards are guidelines, *not requirements*, for use by communities in estimating the demand for parks and recreation in their given geographic areas. To assure that the Town's Parks and Recreation Master Plan contains distinctiveness, yet versatility, input was sought from its integral components: the project steering committee, Town staff, Town Board of Commissioners, and citizen representatives.

### **3.2 TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

A comprehensive park system is made up of a variety of park types ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to larger parks with athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers, and open space. The type of park reflects the differing recreational preferences of diverse users. Park models are used as guidelines for fulfilling the future recreational needs of communities. Not all these types of parks are the responsibility of the Town government; several agencies (federal, state, county, and other local municipalities) play roles in providing recreational opportunities as well. To further understand the Town's role in providing recreation services to its citizens, it is necessary to understand the elements of a comprehensive park system. These types of parks and recreation facilities may or may not be included in comprehensive park systems. Examples of typical park types are described in more detail in Appendix G. The typical park types are:

- Regional parks
- District parks
- Community parks
- Neighborhood parks
- Mini parks
- Linear parks/greenways
- Special use facilities
- Open space

Holden Beach is an island with limited available land for development. Currently the Town provides neighborhood and mini parks, as well as natural open space (beach strand, marsh areas, etc.). Linear parks and boardwalks are future park types which could be developed for Holden Beach residents.



### 3.3 PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT



## TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH PARKS & RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS



The methodology used in establishing the Town's Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan should always include citizen input. In order to ensure a successful study, it is vital that the public users of recreational facilities be able to share their issues, needs, and desires.

#### **Community Involvement**

To facilitate public input two (2) community input sessions were conducted during the master plan process. These public input opportunities were held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. These sessions, along with the community survey, were advertised by the Town on their website and via recreation department social media. The promotion of the public input opportunities and survey was also made available through project information cards that were distributed to individuals by the project team and word of mouth. Approximately 181 individuals participated in the community input sessions. April 2<sup>nd</sup> saw approximately 33 tourist participants and 63 local participants. April 3<sup>rd</sup> included approximately 73 tourist participants and 12 local participants.

The community input sessions were held over the Easter Weekend on Good Friday and the following Saturday. The information shared included mapping and visual preference exercises, as well as open dialog and question/answer opportunities. At both events, written notes were used to record participant comments and opinions. A visual preference survey of various park amenities gave participants the opportunity to vote for the amenities they felt would be good additions to the Town's park system. Each participant was limited to two favorites. To help delineate between locals and tourists a different colored marker was used to show what participants desired. A large map provided participants with the existing locations of each of the recreation system's facilities and other destinations, such as private facilities and schools. Participants were



asked to provide insight into where potential new recreation facilities might be located. These boards gave everyone an opportunity to share their opinions and thoughts in creating a list of hopeful changes to the existing recreation system. This was a crucial step to ensure that attendees were able to be heard, voice their concerns, and receive clarification.

## **Results of First Input Session - Friday, April 2, 2021**

The first community input session was held on Good Friday at two different times throughout the day. Approximately 93 participants engaged in open conversation related to their opinions on the state of the existing recreation system, including facilities and programs, as well as their concerns and questions. The dominant participants at this public event were locals.

Common concerns that were addressed included:

- Need for bike lanes to improve biking opportunities
- Desire for more public water access for fishing and canoe/kayak launch
- Desire for natural surface trails

Participants were asked to choose two amenities from a Visual Preference Survey that they would most like to see offered by Holden Beach's Parks and Recreation System. They were each asked what amenities they would like to see provided. A mark was placed next to the images that best correlated with their preferred amenities. Locals and tourists were given different colored markers to gain an understanding of what was desired by each individual group. The locals want bike paths (30 votes) and natural surface trails (28 votes). The tourists would like to see natural surface trails (15 votes) and more canoe/kayak launches (14 votes). The Visual Preference Board for community input session 1 is in Appendix B.

## **Results of Second Input Session — Saturday, April 3, 2021**

The second community input session was held at various local parks and beach access points across the island. Approximately 88 participants engaged in open conversation related to their opinions on the state of the existing recreation system including facilities and programs, as well as their concerns and questions. Most of the participants for this community input event were tourists.

Common concerns from the second public input session were similar to the first community input session which included:

- Restrooms
- Additional fishing docks
- Additional natural surface trails
- Dog park





Participants were asked to choose two amenities from a Visual Preference Survey that they would most like to see offered by Holden Beach's Parks and Recreation System. They were each asked what amenities they would like to see provided. A mark was placed next to the images that best correlated with their preferred amenities. Locals and tourists were given different colored markers to gain an understanding of what was desired by each individual group. The locals want natural surface trails (6 votes), restroom buildings (5 votes), and bike paths (4 votes). The tourists would like to see restroom buildings (47 votes), fishing docks (40 votes), and more natural surface trails (40 votes). The Visual Preference Board for community input session 2 can be found in Appendix B.



Overall, the combined participation from the 2 community input sessions for the visual preference exercise resulted in different top 10 preferences. The amenities listed below represent the desires of the locals, starting with the most desired amenity.

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Bike paths               | 6) Dog park         |
| 2) Natural surface trails   | 7) Boardwalk        |
| 3) Fishing dock             | 8) Community center |
| 4) Canoe/kayak launch       | 9) Tennis           |
| 5) Accessible play features | 10) Boat ramp       |

The following amenities represent the desires of the tourists, starting with the most desired amenity.

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Natural surface trails | 6) Bike path                |
| 2) Restroom buildings     | 7) Pickleball               |
| 3) Fishing dock           | 8) Accessible play features |
| 4) Canoe/kayak launch     | 9) Boardwalk                |
| 5) Dog park               | 10) Picnic shelter          |



Overall, the preference exercise results indicate little difference between the top preferred choices between locals and tourists. To reiterate, the top 7 amenities for locals were:

1. Canoe/kayak launch (35 votes)
2. Natural surface trails (34 votes)
3. Bike path (30 votes)
4. Fishing dock (25 votes)
5. Accessible play features (19 votes)
6. Dog park (18 votes)
7. Boardwalk (17 votes)

Top 7 preferred amenities for tourists:

1. Natural surface trails (55 votes)
2. Restroom building (53 votes)
3. Fishing dock (49 votes)
4. Canoe/kayak launch (35 votes)
5. Dog park (31 votes)
6. Bike path (30 votes)
7. Accessible play features (29 votes)

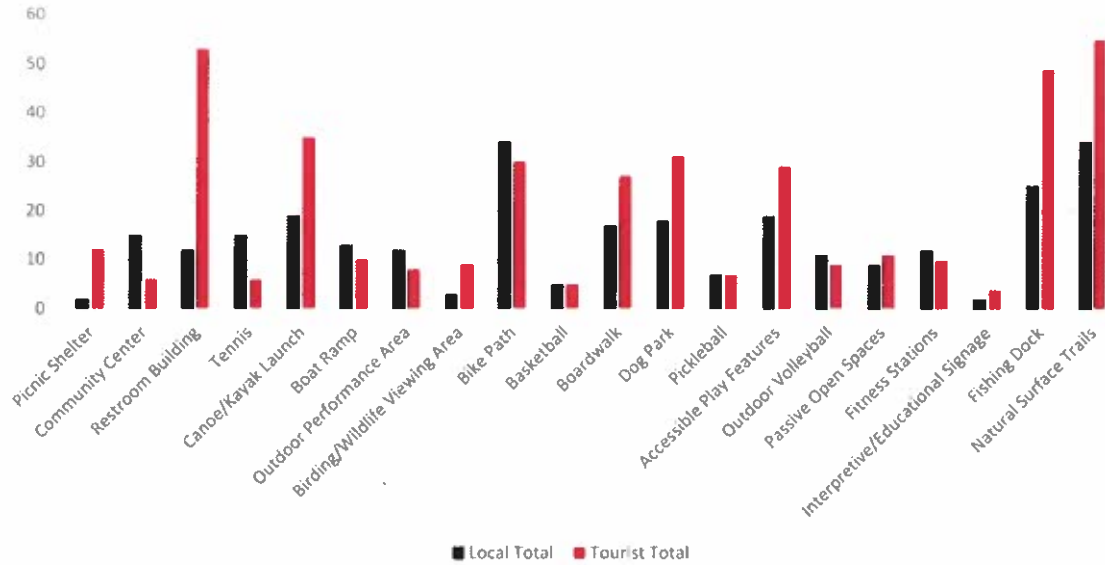
Both groups polled preferred similar recreation amenities except for 2 items. The tourist group listed a preference for restrooms. This is an understandable desire considering many tourists are day trippers or not sleeping over via on-island lodging. The local's top 7 list differed from the tourists in that they included a boardwalk amenity.

The following images are a compilation of the results from both community input sessions. The amenities that the locals desire are marked in **black** and those that the tourists would like to see are marked in **red**.

# Town of Holden Beach Parks & Recreation 2021 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan



## Holden Beach Visual Preference Results



 2 Local, 12 Tourist	 15 Local, 6 Tourist	 12 Local, 53 Tourist	 15 Local, 6 Tourist
 19 Local, 35 Tourist	 13 Local, 10 Tourist	 12 Local, 8 Tourist	 3 Local, 9 Tourist
 34 Local, 30 Tourist	 5 Local, 5 Tourist	 17 Local, 27 Tourist	 18 Local, 31 Tourist
 7 Local, 7 Tourist	 19 Local, 29 Tourist	 11 Local, 9 Tourist	 9 Local, 11 Tourist
 12 Local, 10 Tourist	 2 Local, 4 Tourist	 25 Local, 49 Tourist	 34 Local, 55 Tourist



## **FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS**

As part of the planning and community input collected for this study, meetings were conducted March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Seven groups comprised of 52 private citizens were interviewed in broad groupings. The groups were:

The Steering Committee (3.3.21)  
Realtors (3.8.21)  
“Hodgepodge” – General Citizens (3.9.21)  
Retirees (3.8.21)  
Families (3.10.21)  
Landscaping and Arts (3.5.21)  
Water Based Recreation and Exercise Enthusiasts (3.9.21)

A complete list of focus groups’ major themes and/or topics mentioned by each group can be found in Appendix D.

These focus groups met virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. These meetings encouraged participants to share their opinions and feelings about the future of Holden Beach Parks and Facilities. The information shared is indicative of the desires and/or concerns of group participants. The time and effort given to the Town by these citizens was critical in discovering the needs of the variety of people that live in and visit Holden Beach.

Overall, there was a shared belief that recreation is a valuable part of the quality of life for residents and visitors to the Island and that those activities enhanced the natural coastal amenities of Holden Beach. Water access, accessibility, and walking/biking paths were of great interest between all the groups interviewed. Enhancement of existing amenities and the expansion/development of new amenities was also supported.

The analysis of the comments provided indicated the following items as major themes (in order of most to least popular mentioned):

- a. Programs/classes
- b. Bike path/lane
- c. Trails
- d. Dog park
- e. Launches
- f. Fishing
- g. Tennis, pickleball, fitness (equally mentioned)



## **Community Survey**

The active participation of residents in the Town of Holden Beach was crucial in developing a master plan that reflects the true needs of the Town. With this in mind, community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. A survey was created as a tool to gather information from the

general public concerning the existing and future needs of the Town Park and Recreation System. A project marketing card was developed to encourage awareness of the project and provide both a web address to the community survey, as well as a QR code for use via smartphone/mobile devices to connect to the online survey and provide their input.

Help Improve Recreation in Holden Beach!

## **Community Survey**

Please visit the link or use the QR code below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HoldenBeachRecreationSurvey>

This effort will help inform the Town of Holden Beach's planning efforts for Parks and Recreation in the community. Thanks for your participation!



To gather additional public input and reach the broadest cross section of Town residents, a printed version of the master plan surveys was made available at the town meetings. See Appendix C for complete survey questions and results.

The surveys provided for data collection from all persons in the household of the survey respondent. The return rate for the survey was excellent based on 358 surveys accessed to 358 completed surveys. The surveys represented 609 individuals (data per household size). These results included both the survey handouts collected at public events and the online survey responses. The survey data collected was a representative cross section of the Town of Holden Beach in terms of age and household size.

The surveys were designed to elicit answers on resident's needs and desires for recreation opportunities. It included a section where respondents rated their use of existing facilities both within and outside town limits. The survey instructed respondents to rank the programs and facilities in order of importance to their household and to list the facilities they would like to see added to the park and recreation system.

## **Conclusions**

As the Town of Holden Beach strives to continue providing quality parks and recreation facilities, they will need to understand what kinds of facilities and programming the community desires. Additionally, they should analyze how to obtain funding to pay for such amenities. The input provided by the community at



the public input sessions and via survey responses indicated a desire to strengthen the recreational offerings through updates and new amenities. Some of these included adding trails and biking opportunities throughout the island, construction of a dog park, and water access via canoe/kayak launches and fishing docks. Other amenities to consider are traditional games such as horseshoe, cornhole, and bocce.

### 3.4 EVALUATION OF PARK LAND NEEDS

When comparing a park system to national standards, one method is to examine the total acreage of the park system. The NRPA Park land guidelines (in acres) for the total service population of the Town of Holden Beach are provided in the following table. Population figures in this analysis are estimated at 675. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per population of 1,000) pre-established for each classification of park.

**Table 3.1 Town of Holden Beach Owned Parks**

TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	
Bridgeview Park (Community)	1.4 acres
Jordan Boulevard Pavilion (Community)	1.4 acres
Sand Dollar Park (Neighborhood)	4.3 acres
Sailfish Park (Mini)	2 acres
Halstead Park (Mini)	0.14 acres
Holden Beach Pocket Park (Mini)	0.11 acres
Holden Beach Fit Trail (Special Use)	0.65 acres
Padgett Garden (Special Use)	0.2 acres
Butterfly Garden at Fire Station (Special Use)	0.05 acres
(23) Beach Access Sites (Special Use)	15 acres
<b>TOTAL TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH PARK ACREAGE</b>	<b>25.25 acres</b>

The Town of Holden Beach’s existing recreational facilities have been designed for a smaller population base and include a mix of active and passive recreation facilities. Regional and district park resources provided by state and county systems that are within proximity to the Town can serve the public. Due to the limited resource of land and the influx of people during the busy season, the Town needs to consider how to creatively provide the necessary recreational amenities.



**Table 3.2 Town Of Holden Beach Park Types Park Acreage By Classification**

TYPE OF PARK	Existing** Town of Holden Beach Acreage	Recommended for 2021 Population 675	Recommended for 2031 Population 826*
<b>REGIONAL PARK (NPS &amp; NC)</b> 1,000 acres or 10 acres/1,000 persons	NA	NA	NA
<b>DISTRICT PARK</b> 200 acres or 5 acres/1,000 persons	NA	NA	NA
<b>COMMUNITY PARK</b> 20-30 acres or 2.5 acres/1,000 persons	2.8 acres	1.7 acres	2.07 acres
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</b> 7-15 acres or 2 acres/1,000 persons	4.3 acres	1.35 acres	1.65 acres
<b>MINI PARK</b> 1-2 acres or 0.5 acres/1,000 persons	2.25 Acres	.34 acres	.41 acres

\*Figure represents Town Population Projections \*\*See Chart 3.5-1 for individual park acreage.

Based on the information contained in Table 3.2, the Town of Holden Beach meets the national standard guidelines for three of the listed park categories, such as neighborhood and mini park acreage needs. It should be noted that regional and district parks are not typically an amenity provided by small- or medium-sized municipalities. However, expansion of the system with future park facilities, trails, and programs will need to be considered to provide improved recreational access to residents and visitors.



**Bridgeview Park Tennis/Basketball Courts are lighted for evening use.**



### 3.5 EVALUATION OF FACILITY NEEDS

Level of service standards were established based upon information gathered from the NRPA's *Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Topline Participation (SFIA) Report, 2019 Physical Activity Council's Overview Report on U.S. Participation*, and historical evidence from professional experience. Recommendations based upon these standards have been compiled in Table 3.3 in order to assess the current and projected future (up to 10 years) facility needs for recreation facilities in Holden Beach.

**Table 3.3: Existing and Projected Demand for Public Facilities**

Facility	Recommended Standards	Existing Facilities*	2021 Recommended per Population	2031 Recommended per Population
Town of Holden Beach owned facilities*			Population: 675	Projected Population: 826
<b>Courts</b>				
Basketball	1/5,000	1	1	1
Tennis	1/2,000	0	1	1
Volleyball	1/5,000	1	1	1
Pickleball	1/5,000	2	1	1
Horseshoes/Bocce	1/2,000	1	1	1
<b>Outdoor Areas</b>				
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	3	1	1
Playground	1/2,500	1	1	1
Amphitheater	1/20,000	0	0	0
<b>Other Activities</b>				
Walking Trails	0.25 mi./1,000	.35 miles	.17 miles	.21 miles
<b>Specialized</b>				
Splash Pad	1/5,000	1	1	1
Dog Park	1/5,000	0	1	1
<b>Water Access</b>				
Shoreline	0.2 mi./1,000	8 miles	.14 miles	.17 miles
Fishing Piers/Docks	1/5,000	4	1	1

\*Existing Facilities include only the facilities owned by Town of Holden Beach Parks & Recreation.



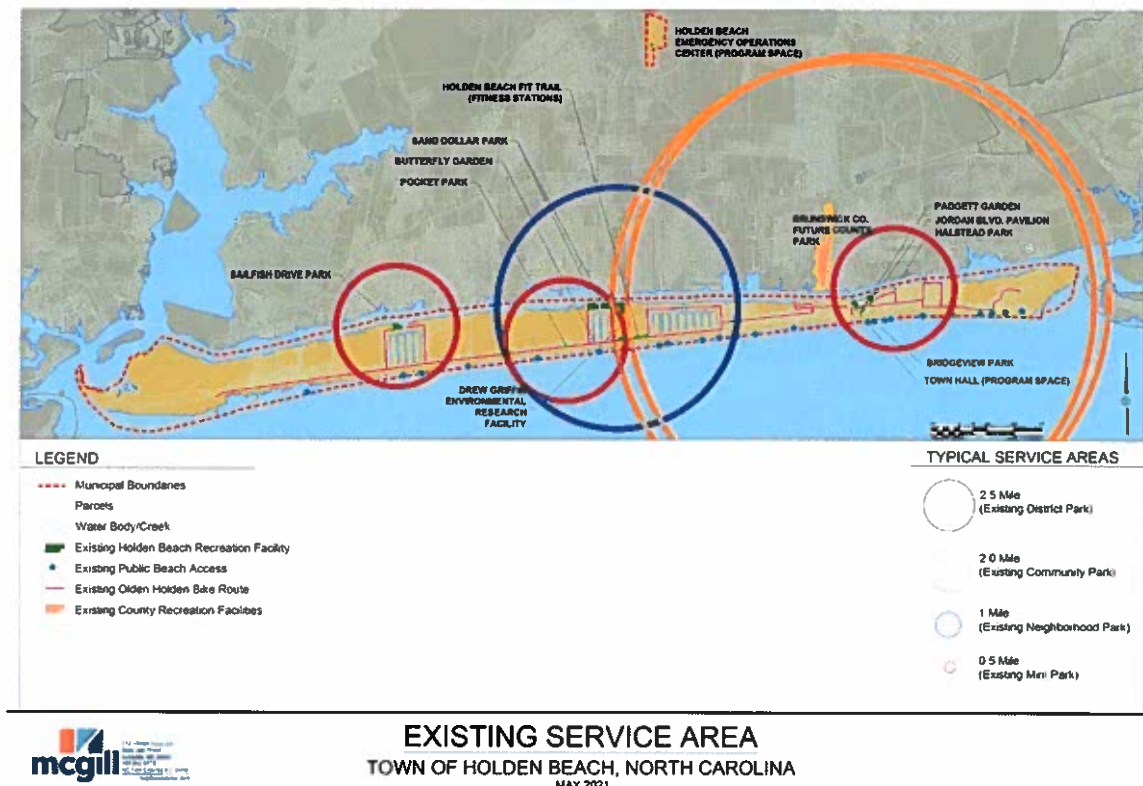
Town of Holden Beach Parks & Recreation  
2021 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Table 3.3 depicts the results of the current and future recreational facility needs assessment based on level of service standards. The charts do not consider community input, which is a primary guide for the development of the master plan.

Based on the information contained in Table 3.3, the Town of Holden Beach meets many of the recommended standard guidelines for many of the typical recreational facilities for their permanent population. In a few categories, the number of existing facilities exceed the level of service recommendations. Keep in mind that the standards do not consider tourist population, which is a large part of Holden Beach’s seasonal population. Because of the limited size of the island and the scarcity of available land the Town relies on recreational facilities on the mainland for traditional activities. For this reason, some of the facilities listed above may not be needed for implementation. As future growth occurs, facility needs should be reevaluated.

To better understand not only what recreation resources a community has but how accessible those facilities and programs may be to the general population, this study looked at typical service areas. Typical service areas for each type of recreation facility were previously discussed in this section. Map 3.1 (see Appendix A for larger version) illustrates what portions of the community lie within or near the typical recreation service areas. Populations typically affected include children and seniors that do not drive. Both user groups generally have greater leisure time and can directly benefit from access to parks and recreation facilities.



EXISTING SERVICE AREA  
TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 2021

Map 3.1: Existing Service Area (See larger map in Appendix A)



Solutions to improving recreation in Holden Beach include not only providing facilities and amenities that residents desire and need, but also considering where such facilities and amenities should be located. Existing recreation service areas illustrated above indicate that the island is well served, however the necessary amenities are lacking. Planning for future parks and recreation system expansion should consider developing additional amenities at the existing parks. As new residential and large commercial developments are planned, the Town should take an active role in working with developers on what types of recreation amenities should be provided per the Town's Unified Development Ordinance requirements.

The Town of Holden Beach Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan considers community workshops, recreation survey findings, projected demand, service area analysis, and Town Staff input as the primary guides in prescribing the current and future recommendations for the Town's parks and recreation development. The following section (Goals and Recommendations) describes those recommendations in more detail.

**- END OF SECTION -**



## SECTION 4 GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

This master plan serves as a map for the future development of recreation facilities for the Town of Holden Beach. The plan incorporates recommendations to accomplish the objectives set forth by the Town Board of Commissioners, the steering committee, and community members. See Appendix H for recommendations. These recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Role of the Town of Holden Beach
- Roles of Other Recreation Providers
- Park Proposals and Recommendations
- Facility Proposals and Recommendations
- Staffing and Maintenance Recommendations
- Priorities for Development

### 4.2 ROLE OF THE TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH

The goal of the Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department is to provide places of recreation and beauty that fulfill the needs of the residents who call Holden Beach home and provide an atmosphere that visitors will remember and have the desire to come back year after year. To fulfill this goal it will take work, dedication, and funding to maintain the recreational facilities that are currently owned and operated by the Town of Holden Beach, as well as expand the network of parks and recreation opportunities to meet the needs and desires of residents, visitors, and tourists.



*Padgett Garden Water Feature*



To avoid overextending the staff, the Town needs to investigate partnerships with other recreation providers and community groups. Current partnerships need to continue, and the possibility of new partnerships need to be explored.

A large factor to consider is the growing population of tourists visiting the island. The Town's Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments should work together to assess and formulate future strategies to improve and maintain the level of service required for the future of Holden Beach.

## **4.3 ROLES OF OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS**

### **Public Sector**

#### **Brunswick County**

As a barrier island located within Brunswick County, Holden Beach plays an active role in providing tourism and recreational opportunities to both County and Town residents. As the demands for the future of recreational facilities continues to increase, the Town should coordinate future planning efforts with County recreation departments to identify recreation programming, facility expansion, and potential partnerships.

#### **Other Local Municipalities**

Oak Island and Ocean Isle Beach, neighboring islands, also have limited available land for parks and programming. Due to the nature of island life, these communities should coordinate facility options and programming needs that will alleviate the pressure that comes from limited land and a high tourism industry. Shared resources and facilities, as well as clearly defined roles related to programming will be critical to avoid offering duplicate or competing services. The Town should also seek partnerships with nearby communities on the mainland, such as Shallotte, to provide recreational programming that is not feasible on an island, such as field-based athletics.

### **Private Developers**

Private developers are an important asset to the Town in providing resources and opportunities for the Town's recreation system. Private developers can assist the Town by the dedication, construction, and/or reservation of future park sites, open space, and/or greenway corridors during the overall development process.



## 4.4 PARK PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Existing Facility Recommendations

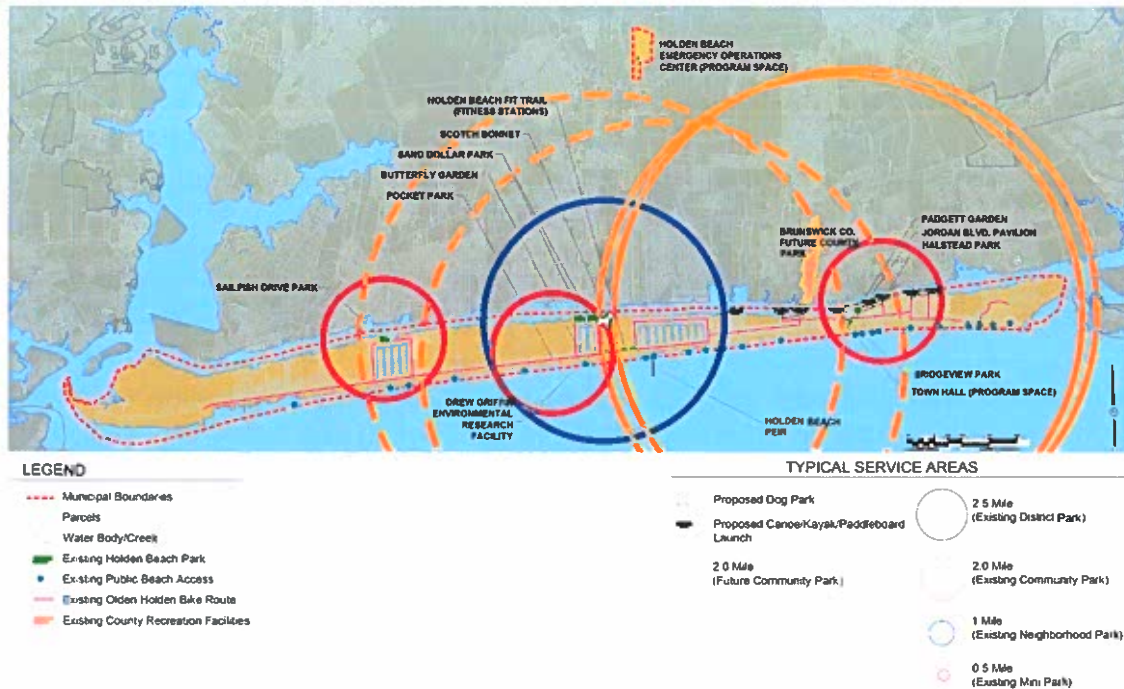
Understanding the needs and desires of the Town and the community members is essential before making recommendations to the existing park system and expansion possibilities. Community workshops, Town staff discussions, and the recreation survey were integral in helping identify the primary interests and concerns of Town residents.

Geographic equity of park access is also an important consideration to provide short-distance access and service to all Holden Beach residents. An analysis of recreation service areas can be used to make land acquisition recommendations for both current and future needs (see Section 3). Future park site acquisitions should be balanced and proportional to service populations in all areas of Town.

The Existing Service Area map in the preceding section clearly demonstrates where park inequities are occurring. The Town still has opportunities it should pursue via future land acquisition and park development. Map 4.1 shows possible park projects aimed at meeting future (2031) recreation demand. After assessing the desires from public input, reviewing the needs from the Town, and evaluating the existing service areas, this plan proposes two additional (new) community parks located centrally on the island. The park proposals can offer passive recreational opportunities that promote the goal to provide the quality of life that both residents and visitors are seeking.



This plan also recommends that the Town consider development of a dog park at Scotch Bonnet Park. Providing a space for four-legged furry family members to run around is essential for their health and well-being. The map also proposes possible locations for canoe/kayak launches. Such an amenity will generate additional water access along the intercoastal waterway for fishing and boating.



**PROPOSED SERVICE AREA**  
TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 2021

**Map 4.1 Proposed Service Areas (See Appendix A for larger map)**

In Section 3, specific facility needs were identified for the Town of Holden Beach by both the recreation guidelines and the community input process. Subsequently, Section 4 summarizes the Town’s needs for their existing facilities and makes recommendations for activities to be considered in the future development of their park system. The following list contains recommendations for improvements to existing facilities within the Town recreation system:

**Bridgeview Park**

- Implement ongoing maintenance
- Design a small area plan to tie together Bridgeview Park, public restroom building, and Jordan Boulevard Pavilion via an attractive linear park/multi-use trail
- Add separate fishing platform/wildlife observation deck
- Assess basketball backboard hoops for needed repairs
- Add shade and additional seating near basketball court





### Jordan Boulevard Pavilion

- Update parking area (repave)
- Create annual plan to assess gazebo/shelter for needed maintenance/repairs
- Add accessible connection path with Bridgeview Park
- Improve ADA accessibility



### Sailfish Drive Park

- Provide accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Construct covered picnic/gathering space (gazebo, shelter structure, etc.)
- Add educational signage about local history or natural resources of Holden Beach
- Add additional picnic facilities (furnishings and shade)
- Delineate parking spaces
- Add restroom facilities (waterless restroom)
- Improve ADA accessibility



### 796 Ocean Boulevard

- Consider reuse of this structure as a community recreation resource
- Bathhouse (restrooms/showers)
- Classroom or exhibit space
- Rentable meeting space (with kitchen)
- Improve parking layout
- Improve accessibility ADA



### Sand Dollar Park

- Add picnic tables and bench swings to the east side of the park
- Add an educational kiosk discussing natural heritage
- Add wayfinding trail signage to connect to existing trails on adjacent property to the east



### Halstead Park

- Improve/repair existing pier and fishing platform to meet ADA accessibility
- Consider adding fish cleaning station to fishing platform
- Develop accessible canoe/kayak launch off existing pier 30' back from highwater mark
- Add educational signage
- Evaluate the parking layout for a more efficient design
- Evaluate the facility for code compliance



### Holden Beach Pocket Park

- Implement ongoing maintenance
- Consider revolving sculpture display (partner with area artists)
- Improve ADA accessibility



### Holden Beach Fit Trail

- Update equipment and provide instructive/usage signage
- Improve ADA accessibility by paving stations with pervious concrete

### Olden Holden Bike Route

- Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on the potential for separate bike lane on Ocean Boulevard and/or sidewalk widening to accommodate increasing population of users
- Improve ADA accessibility



### Beach Access Sites

- Develop highly visible signage noting available public parking locations
- Market beach access sites via widely available brochure maps
- Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on the potential for high visibility pedestrian crosswalks, where appropriate
- Consider beach access matting where needed for ADA access
- Add waterless restroom facility at McCray Street parking area
- Add waterless restroom facility at end of Ocean Boulevard E. right-of-way
- Add doggy-bag stations at all access sites





*Example of waterless restroom*

## **Future Park Development Considerations**

The following list contains recommendations for improvements to future /proposed facilities within the Town of Holden Beach recreation system.

### **Holden Beach Pier (Future Community Park)**

This study has identified public desires for additional recreation amenities, as well as convenient access to the beach strand. The pier is currently a privately owned property that is one of the largest open spaces on the island. Public procurement of the existing Holden Beach Pier would provide



the Town with a large space to develop public recreation amenities needed to meet the growing demands of residents and visitors. In order to provide a quality facility to the public, the Town will need to conduct studies to assess the necessary repairs so that the pier is up to code. A site master plan will also need to be created to gather community input and determine the improvements that will best suit the needs and desires of the Town and community.

### **Street Right-of-Way ICWW Access Points (Future)**

Northern terminus points of some Town-owned streets could be improved to provide public access to the ICWW for water sports (canoe/kayak, fishing, wildlife observation, etc.) Each location would present unique conditions and design challenges; thus, each project would need careful planning and design.





Improvements may be as simple as signage and a small wooden or natural path to the water while other locations might support pervious parking spaces or other more substantial amenities. The Town would need to verify the permitting requirements needed prior to making any improvements. Potential areas identified for public water access improvements include:

- Boyd Street
- Roger Street
- Davis Street
- Sand Spur Lane (at Sand Dune Lane)
- Quinton Street SW (privately owned)
- Ferry Road (at Canal Drive) — offers potential for small parking area
- Conch Street

### **Scotch Bonnet Park (Future Community Park)**

The existing Scotch Bonnet site (18.6 acres) was recently used as a dredge spoils site. Prior to this use the Town had developed minimal recreation uses such as a dog park. It is recommended that the Town conduct a site master plan to explore the redevelopment of this location for recreation purposes again. This future community park would be able to meet the public demand for a dog park. It is recommended that site improvements include natural surface walking trails with educational signage that link to the ICWW and the adjacent Drew Griffin Environmental Research Facility, canoe/kayak access to the ICWW, a picnic shelter, and bench seating.

Other design considerations should include benches, shade structures, and parking. Parking could be installed along Scotch Bonnet Drive. It will be important to address accessibility of all amenities and connectivity to the Ocean Boulevard pedestrian path.

The Town owns the adjacent parcel to the east of the Scotch Bonnet site. These trails could host a disc golf course, as well as wildlife observation opportunities. Extending natural surface trails to this parcel is recommended. Such an extension could become part of a more expansive trail network that connects the areas between Heron Landing Way and Greensboro Street.

### **Sandspur Waterway Walk (Future Boardwalk/Trail)**

As mentioned above, the Town of Holden Beach should consider the development of a trail along the ICWW that would connect from Swordfish Drive to Greensboro Street. Such a trail would link up several spoil sites on the island, the Scotch Bonnet site, and the Drew Griffin Environmental Research area and would connect to the existing Olden Holden Bike Route. Such a trail network would need to be planned and constructed in multiple phases and require careful design and permitting. The Sandspur Waterway Walk would become a much-



loved destination for walkers and could serve as a desirable recreational resource for the community.



*Proposed trail route from Swordfish Drive to Greensboro Street. See larger version in Appendix A*

### **Possible Locations for Future Dog Park**

As part of the Town's 2021 Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan needs analysis, the Town of Holden Beach has requested that optional locations be explored for siting a future dog park. Historically, the Town dog park was on Scotch Bonnet Drive but was eventually closed and used as a dredge spoil site. The site has recovered from this use and could be redeveloped for recreational uses that may also include a dog park. This site and seven other locations are being recommended for further analysis by the Town (see options below). Aerial images shown are from the Brunswick County GIS online mapping site and show areas outlined in blue that offer possible useable space and areas in red to indicate potential fenced areas. All options would require more intensive investigation to determine final suitability.

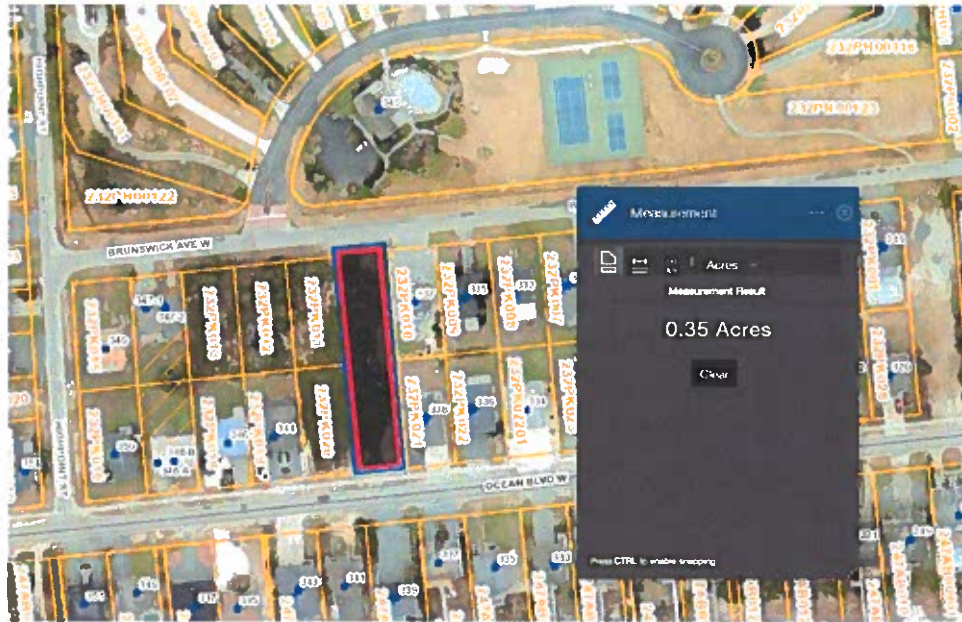
The Town currently has two areas of right-of-way land, which are designated as transportation corridors, between Ocean Boulevard W and Brunswick Avenue W. Each of these parcels are one-third of an acre and would provide the opportunity for a small dog park. These areas also afford the possibility for on-street parking and are centrally located on the island. See images of these sites on the next page.



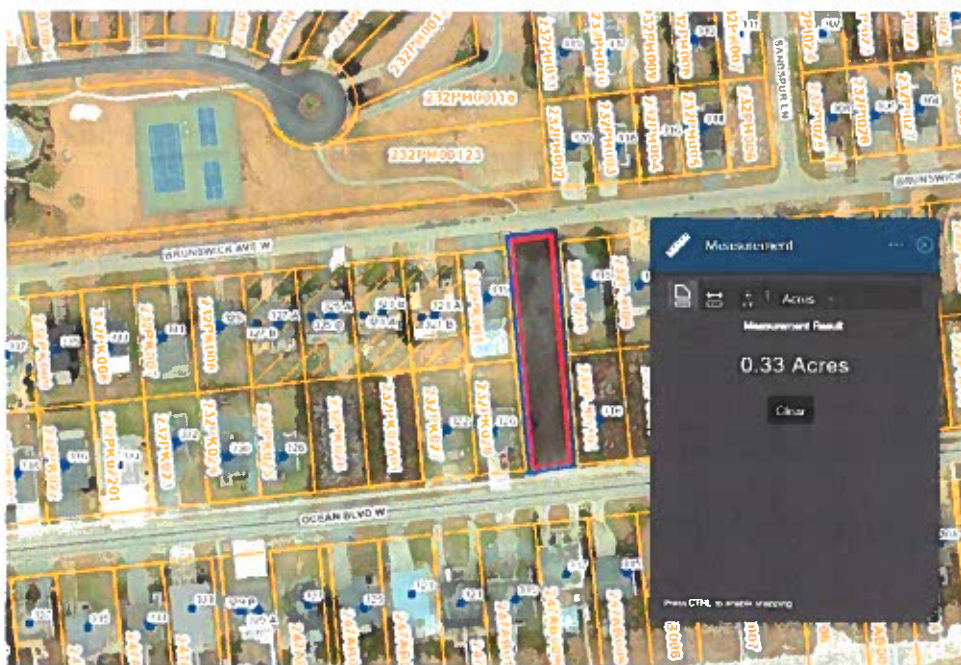
*Dog parks are popular social gathering spaces.*



**Right-of-Way between Ocean Boulevard and Brunswick Avenue West**



**Adjacent to parcel numbers 232PK011 AND 232PK020  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD DOES NOT SUPPORT A DOG PARK IN THIS  
AREA BASED ON SIZE AND LOCATION.**



**Adjacent to parcel numbers 232PK001 AND 232PK028  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD DOES NOT SUPPORT A DOG PARK IN THIS  
AREA BASED ON SIZE AND LOCATION.**



**Scotch Bonnet Drive (parcel number: 231MC001 – 20.92 acres)**

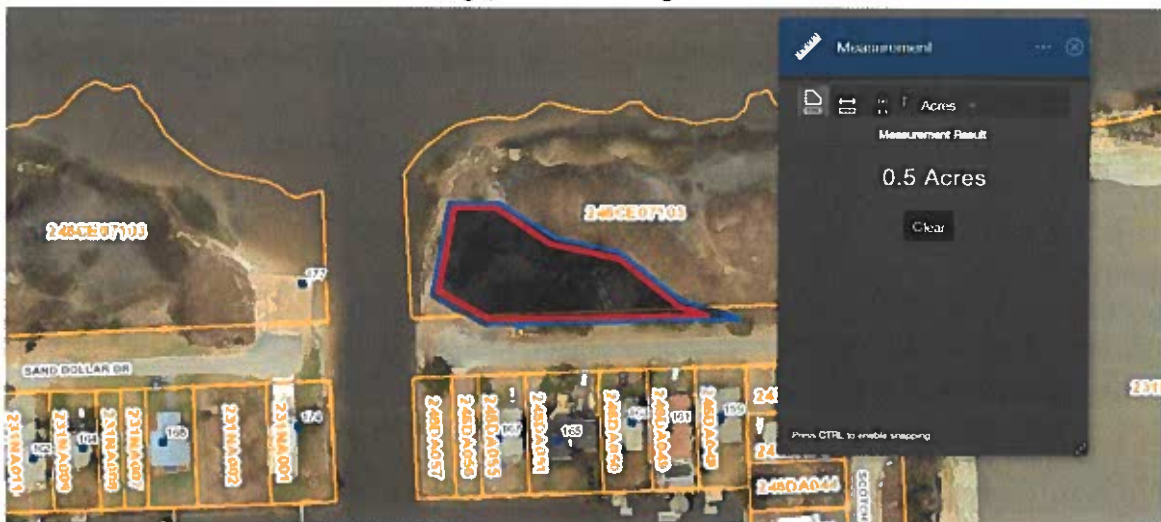
It is suggested that **1.5 acres** of this space be used to develop 2 separate fenced (small and large) dog park areas.

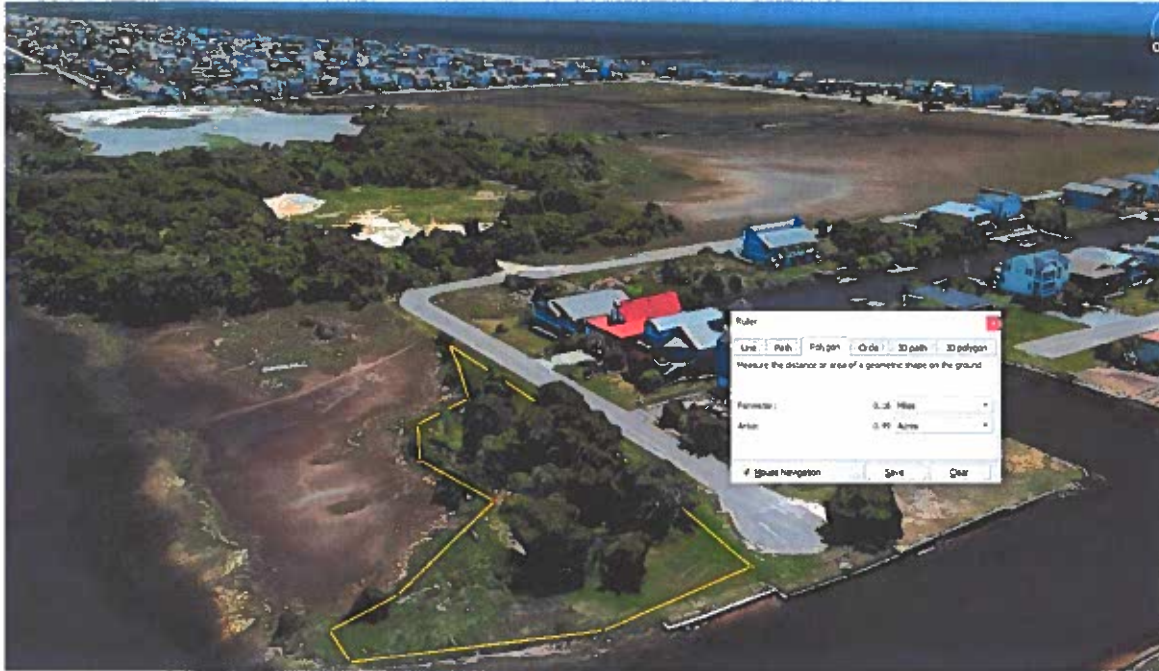


1.5 acres could provide for separate small and large dog areas.

**Scotch Bonnet Drive (parcel number: 246CE07103 – 4.34-acres)**

This 4.35-acre site is a mix of marsh and drier land. Approximately 0.5 acres could be fenced for use as a dog park. Parking could be on the street.





*This area offers the opportunity for on-street parking and has established trees for shade.*

## 4.5 FACILITY PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In Section 4.5, specific facility needs were identified for the Town of Holden Beach by the community input process and the recreation guidelines set forth. This section follows up on these needs and provides facility recommendations for the Town's existing and proposed park sites. These facilities will provide users with multiple recreation opportunities within the park system.

### **Baseball/Softball**

The Town currently has no adult/youth baseball fields. Due to the limited availability of land and the general population being seniors, it is not recommended to incorporate this type of recreational facility on the island. The Town should partner with local municipalities or the County on the mainland to provide access to this type of facility.

### **Adult/Youth Basketball**

The Town currently has one basketball court. Based on the recommended guidelines the Town meets the requirements. The Town should consider partnering with local municipalities or the County on the mainland to provide access to more basketball courts for programming purposes if desired.

### **Multipurpose Fields for Football, Soccer, and Lacrosse**



The Town currently has no multipurpose fields. Due to the limited availability of land and the general population being seniors, it is not recommended to incorporate this type of recreational facility on the island. The Town should partner with local municipalities or the County on the mainland to provide access to this type of facility.

### **Tennis Courts**

According to park standards, the Town currently provides no tennis courts. Based on the recommended guidelines the Town should develop one new court by 2031. The Town should consider reaching out to the owner of the private tennis court at the corner of Sunshine Drive and Ocean Boulevard regarding a possible partnership that would make this amenity available to the public.

### **Pickleball Courts**

According to the existing park facility inventory, the Town of Holden Beach currently provides two striped pickleball courts on the basketball court at Bridgeview Park. Based on the recommended guidelines, the Town meets the current need. The potential partnership between the owner of the private tennis court at the corner of Sunshine Drive and Ocean Boulevard and the Town could lead to the dual use of that court, striped to accommodate both tennis and pickleball.

### **Volleyball Courts**

According to the existing park facility inventory, the Town currently provides no volleyball courts to residents. Based on the recommended guidelines, the Town should consider adding at least one volleyball court to meet the current demand for volleyball courts.

### **Horseshoes and Other Small Game Courts**

According to the existing park facility inventory, the Town of Holden Beach currently provides one bocce ball court. Based on the recommended guidelines the Town meets the needs for traditional game courts such as horseshoe pits, bocce ball, and cornhole.

Other small game courts to consider include concrete cornhole courts and four square. The Town should consider the popularity of these easy to implement and maintain amenities despite current demand as reflected in the public survey.

### **Picnic Shelters and Tables**



A July 2019 article in the NRPA states that “gathering with family and friends at the park for games, picnics, or barbecues” ranked as one of the top three outdoor recreation activities in America.

The Town currently has three dedicated picnic shelters with tables at various facilities on the island. According to recommended guidelines, the Town meets the needs of the current recommendations for its population size. The Town also provides four picnic tables that are uncovered at Sailfish Park.

### **Playground Activities**

According to recreation standards established in this document, the Town meets the minimum recommended requirements for playground equipment by providing one playground. According to the results of the public input sessions and the community survey, it is recommended that the current Town Park playground equipment be updated to include more accessible features and multi-generational capabilities. In general, playground equipment should be accessible to all ages and physical abilities.

Playgrounds should be considered an essential amenity for all future neighborhood park development projects.

### **Outdoor Performance Area**

Opportunities for cultural and performing arts is an important facet of any well-rounded recreation program. It also adds to the quality of life of those fortunate enough to have access to related facilities and programming.

The Town currently uses the Jordan Boulevard Pavilion as a facility for outdoor performances. Based on community input, it is recommended that the Town construct a separate dedicated space for outdoor events, such as concerts, movies, and other productions that is not so close to the bridge and provides visitors with a more enjoyable experience.

### **Walking /Hiking Trails and Bikeways**

Currently, the Town provides 0.35 miles of natural surface trails for walking as well as a 20-mile bike route that traverses the island. Community input clearly showed a desire for additional trails and biking opportunities. With future trail expansion, it is recommended that all trails include 0.25-mile distance



*Natural surface trails are less expensive than asphalt paving and provide users with a pleasant walking experience.*



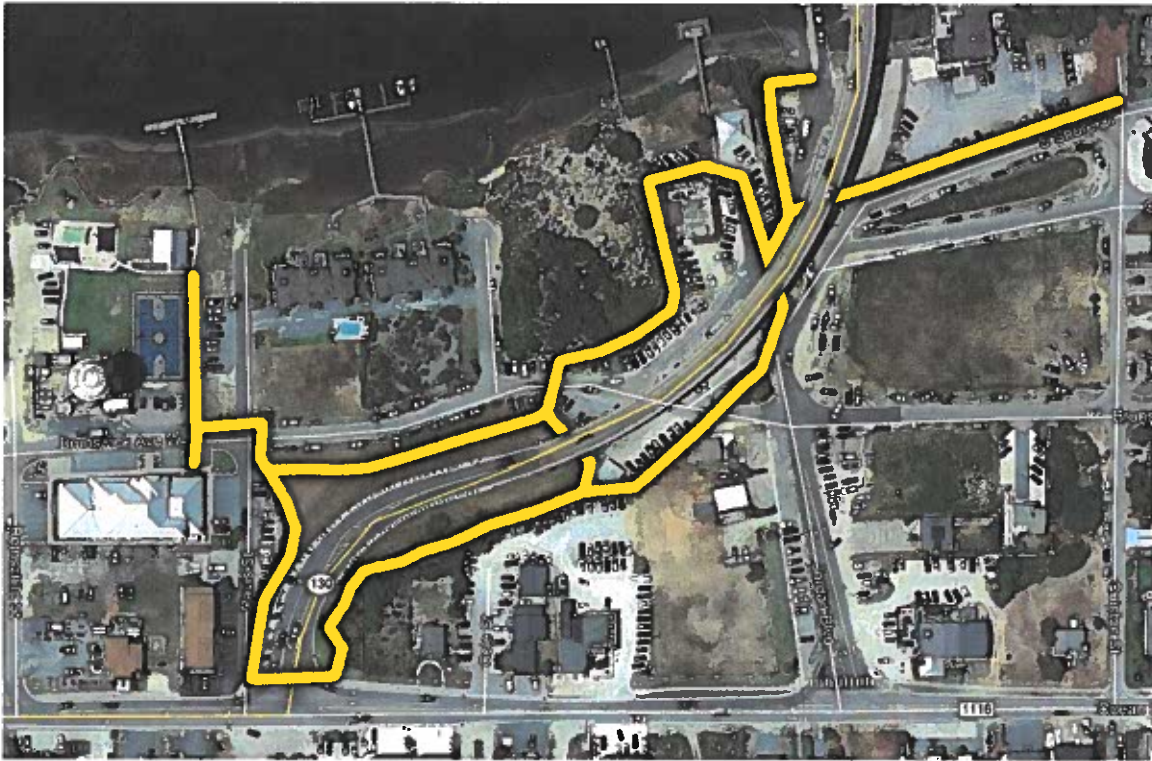


markers and informational signage that promote the trails' use for reaching fitness goals.

The Town should also consider connecting park facilities, residences, and popular destination spots with sidewalks, as needed.

A highly recommended goal for the Town to pursue is to create a small area plan to develop a linear park/multi-purpose path connecting the Holden Beach Town Hall, Bridgeview Park, the public restroom building, Jordan Boulevard Pavilion, boat ramp, Padgett Garden. This effort would create a safer more cohesive public space under and around the Holden Beach bridge and could become an attractive destination for residents and visitors. Existing efforts to link Padgett Garden with the public restroom building could be expanded as the first of a multi-phased approach to the project.

The Town should seek to develop a master plan exploring design options, materials, opinions of costs, and other due diligence required to complete this small area plan.



*Proposed route of Holden Beach linear park small area plan. See larger image in Appendix A*

## **PROGRAMS/EVENTS RECOMMENDATIONS**

The existing town recreation programs, activities and events are listed in section two. This plan recommends that these programs continue but periodically be evaluated based on participation levels and costs. It is important to provide



programs that patrons have interest in and that support the Town's overall recreation goals.

## **4.6 STAFFING AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

This master plan covers a planning period of 10 years. The facilities to be implemented during that time as part of the recommendations may require some level of additional staffing and additional funding for facility operation and maintenance. Consideration of these budgetary impacts should be made prior to facility implementation.

Multiple factors may come to influence what the future staffing needs of the Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department will encompass. Those may include population growth, available tax dollars, capital improvement plans, and development of tourism efforts.

The Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department's structure consists of one full-time employee. Maintaining adequate staffing for parks and recreation facilities and programs will be necessary to foster a good quality of life for Town residents and prospective businesses that may seek to relocate to the Town of Holden Beach. The existing and proposed staffing levels for the Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department are as follows:

### **Existing Staffing Levels:**

#### **Full-time Positions**

- Parks and Recreation Director (1)

#### **Part-time/Seasonal Positions**

- As needed as events are scheduled and scope of event is developed

### **Proposed Additional Staffing Positions**

#### **Full-time Positions**

- As needed, per scale of additional park facilities to be constructed
- Consider additional full-time maintenance technician

#### **Part-time/Seasonal Positions**

- As needed to properly staff programming events

### **Maintenance Staffing Recommendations**

Staffing for maintenance is dependent on the levels of service the Town wishes to provide to each facility. The Town should consider creating a maintenance plan which includes details of number of hours and level of service for each maintenance task (mowing, repairs etc.). These plans are documented in the



NRPA, Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) standards and are recommended to be reviewed for a future maintenance plan for the Town.

## **4.7 PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

### **Projects Methodology**

The park system for the Town of Holden Beach should continue to grow and respond to changes in Town demographics. Future planned facilities should be implemented incrementally to provide for these changes. This section describes how the recommended facilities for the Town are prioritized. The following factors guided the prioritization of individual segments of the master plan and were derived from input and desires specified by the residents of Holden Beach:

- Needed improvements to existing Town of Holden Beach owned facilities
- Development of planned facilities to meet the *current* needs of recreation for Town residents
- Development of planned facilities to meet the *future* needs of recreation for Town residents

### **Projects for Consideration**

The park facility project list is an essential tool that provides the Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department with a breakdown of projects to consider. Given the magnitude of the budgets for improvements to existing parks and for new park and greenway facilities, prioritization of these needs is important and the purview of Town officials and staff. The following is a list of projects based upon the needs assessment process:

### **Project Tasks**

#### **2021-2026**

- *Paved path connecting with Jordan Boulevard Pavilion (Bridgeview)*
- *Add shade and additional seating near basketball court (Bridgeview)*
- *Update parking area (repave) (Jordan Boulevard Pavilion)*
- *Add accessible connection path with Bridgeview Park (Jordan Boulevard Pavilion)*
- *Provide accessible canoe/kayak launch (Sailfish)*
- *Construct covered picnic/gathering space (gazebo, shelter structure, etc.) (Sailfish)*
- *Delineate parking spaces (Sailfish)*
- *Add restroom facilities (waterless restroom) (Sailfish)*



- *Design and construct waterless restroom facilities at suitable beach access sites where feasible*
- *Conduct site master plan study (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Design/construct dog park (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Develop trails with educational signage that link to the ICWW and adjacent Drew Griffin Environmental Research Facility (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Provide shade, seating, and picnic facilities (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Develop parking along Scotch Bonnet Drive (Scotch Bonnet)*
- *Improve/repair existing pier and fishing platform (Halstead)*
- *Add fish cleaning station to fishing platform (Halstead)*
- *Develop accessible canoe/kayak launch off existing pier 30' back from highwater mark (Halstead)*
- *Delineate parking spaces (Halstead)*
- *Conduct study of parking layout to gain useable park space (Halstead)*
- *Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on potential for separate bike lane on Ocean Boulevard and/or sidewalk widening to accommodate increasing population of users (Olden Holden)*
- *Create and install Town-branded wayfinding and directional signage for all recreation facilities*
- *Install highly visible signage noting available public parking locations near beach access sites*
- *Market beach access sites via widely available brochure maps*
- *Add high visibility crosswalks for all beach access sites*

## **2027-2031**

- *Add separate fishing platform/wildlife observation deck (Bridgeview)*
- *Add educational signage about local history or natural resources of Holden Beach (Sailfish)*
- *Add additional picnic facilities (furnishings, shade) (Sailfish)*
- *Update equipment and provide instructive/usage signage (Fit Trail)*
- *Add educational signage (Halstead)*
- *Assess and develop ICWW water access points at northern terminus points of Town owned roads*
- *Identify location for (2) new community parks; develop master plans, secure funding, and implement parks*

## **Future**

- *Procure and develop master planning for Holden Beach Pier*
- *Conduct master plan for Holden Beach linear park/multi-purpose path connecting Holden Beach's Town Hall and other recreation facilities near the Holden Beach Bridge*
- *Begin due diligence and planning for the Sandspur Waterway Walk*



**- END OF SECTION -**





## **SECTION 5 FUNDING AND ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This section describes how the Town of Holden Beach can implement a safe, convenient, and usable parks and recreation system through the execution of its established goals in the Town's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The strategy for achieving goals involves the recommended park and recreation facilities/programs discussed in Section 4. Section 5 exhibits strategies and opportunities, key implementation steps and policies, necessary staffing, and methods for developing facilities. Together, these sections form the implementation program.

The results of the Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2021–2031 are based on the following discovery methods: (1) a review of the study area that is within the Town limits, (2) an analysis of the existing parks and facilities, (3) community input, and (4) recreation standards that have been generically developed for local governments. The master plan is designed to be action-oriented and to serve as a tool in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the Town.

### **5.2 ANTICIPATED FUTURE (10-YEAR) RECREATIONAL PROJECT LIST**

A recreation capital improvement program for the development of park facilities is designed to encompass, at a minimum, a 10-year period of the comprehensive parks and recreation master plan. To assist the Town in determining those needs, this study provides a list of anticipated recreation projects based on plan recommendations. The proposed recreational project list provides costs based on recent (2019–2021) material/labor costs. The provided opinion of probable costs includes assumed general expenditures, such as site preparation, building structures, access, site utilities, parking, and specific recreation improvements. The list provided also includes estimates for planning or design fees.

The proposed Anticipated Future Recreational Project List will cover a 10-year period and serve to set recreation expenses for each fiscal year for implementation of specific projects. The opinions of cost are preliminary in nature and are for planning purposes only. As the time approaches to consider the recommended improvements, it will be necessary to receive up to date opinions of cost.

The total anticipated 10-year recreation project cost of \$6,830,500 represents the proposed, cumulative figure to be spent for parks and recreation development,



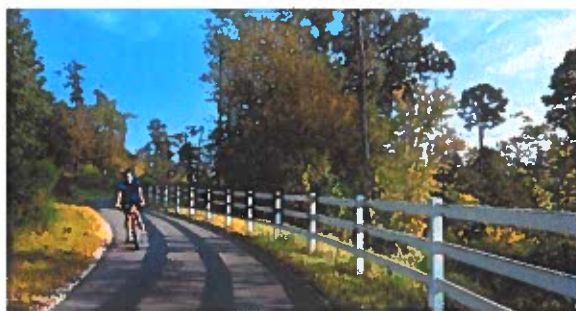
improvements, and renovations by the year 2031. See Appendix D for a detailed breakdown of estimated costs. The total figure does not consider an inflation rate over the 10-year period through the year 2031.

### **5.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

Studies have shown that economies are impacted *positively* where bicycle and pedestrian tourism is fostered and promoted, and where investments are made in bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The number of people who feel comfortable walking or riding bicycles is a measure of the quality of life in that area.

#### **Multi-Use Trails**

Multi-use trails are extremely popular amenities for vacationing bicyclists and pedestrians. Tourists and visitors to the area often return to communities that provide places which are safely removed from busy roads for walking and bicycling. Multi-use trails offer scenic recreation, which is suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities. Many times, lodging is in close proximity to popular trails, thereby increasing



**Greenways are both a recreational and transportation asset.**

occupancy for the owner. For residents in these locales, investments in trails and greenways can increase property values and improve the overall livability of a community, as well as attracting, retaining, and expanding tourism and the associated revenues. In a coastal setting, boardwalks and marsh walks provide access to areas that are otherwise unsuitable for human interaction.

Multi-use trails having vegetated buffers located adjacent to waterways act as filters to clean the water, trapping nonpoint source pollutants. These pollutants, including sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gas, and other chemicals, are transported into streams, rivers, and/or lakes by stormwater when rain events occur.

#### **Trail Development**

The ongoing construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is proving to be a wise economic investment for the communities through which they pass. The Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department should annually assess and include funding towards the maintenance of popular trails/sidewalk paths to





preserve the value that they contribute to the community. Trails and pathways have a positive effect on nearby property values with homebuyers and business owners realizing the effect that such facilities bring to a community. Real estate agents and homebuyers alike are recognizing the benefits of properties located near trails. Both locally and nationally, the construction of trails has proven to be a cost-effective use of public funds. Multi-use trails allow more visitors and residents to replace automobile trips with non-motorized trips, thereby moving the citizenry closer to achieving public health objectives, including increased opportunities for physical exercise.



**Property values increase where trails have been developed.**

To develop the necessary bicycle and pedestrian trail facilities, the Town should seek to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan with the assistance of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

## **Parks**

Research has substantiated the direct relationship between economic growth and the existence of parks and open space in communities and municipalities around the country. This growth includes increased property values in residential, urban, and industrial communities, as well as the increased revenue from tourists.

## **Increased Property Value**

The real estate market consistently demonstrates that residents throughout the country are willing to invest larger amounts of money in properties that are located close to parks and open space areas than they would for homes that do not offer these types of amenities. The higher values of these homes produce higher property taxes in the affected area. In some instances, additional property taxes are sufficient to recoup the annual debt charges on bonds, which were originally used to finance park acquisition and development.

Studies have shown that property values typically increase when parks or outdoor facilities, such as outdoor festivals, movies, and restaurants, are in the immediate locale. Studies also indicate that commercial asking rents near park property exceed rents in surrounding submarkets.



## **Tourism**

A park becomes the signature attraction for a community or municipality and it is often used as a marketing tool to attract residents, tourists, conventions, and businesses. Parks have the ability to shape the identity of the area and give residents a sense of pride.

Organized events held in public parks, such as art festivals, athletic events, food festivals, concerts, and plays often bring substantial positive economic impacts to their communities by filling hotel rooms and restaurants and bringing customers to other local business enterprises. The Town should entertain providing additional concerts and festivals to ensure that they are able to provide the desired events to the community throughout the year.

## **5.4 OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES**

### **Funding**

Identification of sufficient funding is a crucial element that is required to implement the master plan. The *North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* is a guide by which funding sources for park and recreation facilities may be identified. Funding for future projects will be a key issue that will need to be addressed in the upcoming years if governments continue to provide basic minimum services.

To meet the existing and future needs of the Town of Holden Beach, the goals and objectives that are identified in the master plan should be seriously considered for implementation. The Town will need to reevaluate their annual budget for the Holden Beach Parks and Recreation Department based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, and operations/maintenance costs.

### **Dedicated Source of Local Funding**

In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the programs listed above, the Town of Holden Beach should evaluate the existing departmental budget and funding for capital improvements to include the following:

- Property/sales tax
- Bonds
- Fee in-lieu of contributions
- User fees/registration fees



## **Property/Sales Tax Revenues**

General tax revenues traditionally provide sources for general operations and maintenance of park systems for local governments. Parks and recreation development is scheduled along with health, public safety, utilities, in regular budgets established by the Town. Assessed valuation of real and personal property tax and sales tax provides the framework for the major portion of the tax base for the Town. Currently the Town funds their parks and recreation expenditures via the occupancy tax.

Traditionally, ad valorem tax revenue has been the primary source of funding for the park and recreation enhancement of properties/facilities owned by local governments. Recreational opportunities are considered a public service and often are a standard line item on general fund budgets. Creative financial opportunities are possible; however, ad valorem taxes will continue to be the major revenue source to support the system. As such, communities often vote to raise their local tax rate temporarily in support of their park and recreation systems.

## **General Obligation Bonds**

Many communities issue bonds, typically approved by shareholders, to finance site development and land acquisition costs. The State of North Carolina grants local governments the authority to borrow funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds. The amount is not to exceed the cost of acquisition or improvement of park and recreation facilities. Total bond capacities for local governments are limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of the assessed property valuation. Since the issuance of bonds relies on the support of the voting population, the implementation of awareness programs is essential prior to a referendum vote.

General Obligation Bonds are the preferred financing approach of the North Carolina Local Government Commission and the general securities market because these instruments are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer. That simply means that the bonds represent an encumbrance against the property tax base of the issuing jurisdiction and therefore offer the best available security to the bond holder. The State of North Carolina gives the issuance of bonds not to exceed the total cost of improvements (including land acquisition). In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, the Town may consider continuing to use General Obligation Bonds to develop new facilities. Total bonding capacities for local government is limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

The following are key factors to consider before using this financing instrument:

- In North Carolina, the issuance of General Obligation Bonds requires a referendum of the voters within the issuing jurisdiction.



- The term of the debt may be extended to 20–30 years.
- The debt is publicly sold, so there are costs associated with the sale. These costs generally total 3% to 5% of the total bond principal. The issuance costs offset the lower interest rate and, therefore, this instrument becomes more attractive as the size of the issuance increases and the issuance costs are spread over the larger debt. It has been found that this financing option becomes financially superior as the debt principal exceeds \$10–\$12 million.
- Generally, prepayment of the debt cannot be accomplished until reaching a call date. This usually is around 75% of debt retirement.

Failure of the General Obligation Bond to be ratified by referendum could mean that the Town could not go forward with an alternative approach to financing without substantially changing the scope of the project.

### **User Fees/Registration Fees**

Communities throughout the nation employ a wide variety of user fees for public use of recreational programs and services within their recreation departments. The amount of the fee is usually determined by a portion of the recreation costs needed for improvements and operations. These user fees are typically levied for special facilities, such as water parks and golf courses; however, they can also be charged for the use of trails and ball fields. The Town of Holden Beach should continue to generate revenue by charging user fees for use of facilities such as picnic shelters in order to cover operation and administrative costs. In addition, the Town should continue to have a separate fee rate structure for residents and non-residents. As the park system continues to develop, the Town should examine their fee structure to identify opportunities for additional revenue. The current user fees appear to be fair and reasonable for a majority of the Town residents and non-residents. Elected officials should determine the fees and charges based on departmental input; the fees should not be so high that persons of modest income would ultimately be denied the use of park facilities.

### **Other sources of funding**

#### **Funding/Acquisition Sources**

Implementing the recommendations of this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan will require a combination of funding sources that include local, state, federal, and private money. This section provides a listing of the most commonly used funds for park and greenway facility projects in North Carolina. Fortunately, the benefits of protected greenways and parks are many and varied. This allows programs in the Town to access money earmarked for a variety of purposes including water quality, hazard mitigation, recreation, air quality, alternative transportation, wildlife protection, community health, and tourism. Competition is always stiff for state and federal funds. It becomes imperative that local governments work together to create multi-jurisdictional partnerships and to



develop their own local sources of funding. These sources can then be used to leverage outside assistance. The long-term success of this plan will almost certainly depend on the dedication of local revenue stream for park and greenway projects.

It is important that the Town of Holden Beach fully evaluates its available options and develops a funding strategy that can meet community needs, maximize local resources, improve quality of life, and leverage outside funding. Financing will be needed to administer the continued planning and implementation process, acquire parcels or easements, and manage and maintain facilities. Further research into these programs is recommended to determine requirements for specific grants.

McGill advises the Town to pursue a variety of funding options. Below is a list of park and greenway funding opportunities that are typically sought by communities. Creative planning and consistent monitoring of funding options will likely produce new opportunities not listed below.

## Grants

State and federal agencies offer numerous grants to assist municipalities in the financing of their parks and recreation projects. This source of funding should definitely be investigated and pursued by the Town for present and future park and recreation improvements. In addition to the ones most applicable to the Town, others can be found in Appendix F.

### **North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF):**

PARTF was established for local governments and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation in 1994 as a funding source for the development and/or improvement of parks and recreation facilities, and for the purpose of land acquisition. A state-funded program, PARTF matches monies spent by municipalities on parks and recreation, with each sharing 50% of the cost. The maximum matching fund amount provided by PARTF is \$500,000. Contact the Recreational Resources Service for additional information at (919) 515-7118.





### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):**

A federally funded program, LWCF, was established for local and state governments in 1965 as a funding source for outdoor recreational development and land acquisition. LWCF monies are derived from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily offshore oil and gas leases, and surplus federal land sales. Acquisition and development grants may be used for a wide variety of outdoor projects, such as town parks, tennis courts, bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, and support facilities (roads, water supply, et cetera.) Facility design must be basic rather than elaborate and must remain accessible to the general public. No more than 50% of the project cost may be federally funded by LWCF, although all or part of the project sponsor's matching share may be obtained from certain other federal assistance programs.



### **Coastal Management Beach & Waterfront Access Program (CAMA)**

The Division of Coastal Management (DCM) has notified local governments in the 20-county coastal area that grant funding is available for Public Beach and Waterfront Access projects for the upcoming 2021–2022 fiscal year.

DCM awards about \$1 million a year in matching grants to local governments for projects to improve pedestrian access to the state's beaches and waterways. Local governments may use access grants to construct low-cost public access facilities, including parking areas, restrooms, dune crossovers and piers. Projects range in size from small, local access areas to regional access sites with amenities, such as large parking lots, bathrooms, and picnic shelters.

Towns and counties may also use the grants to replace aging access facilities, help acquire land for access sites, or to revitalize urban waterfronts. Funding for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program comes from the North Carolina PARTF.



### **Recreation Trails Program (RTP)**

RTP is a \$1.5-million federal grant program designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized vehicle recreational trail use. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration.



RTP is a reimbursement grant program. Funds must be spent and then reimbursed upon completion of deliverables. Eligible applicants must be a state, federal, or local government agency or qualified non-profit organization. All applications are reviewed by the North Carolina Trails Committee and recommendations are made to the Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Secretary makes the final determination on grant awards.

**RTP distributes funds equally among states.**

### **Environmental Enhancement Grant Program (EEG)**

The objective of the EEG program is to fund projects that address environmental needs of North Carolina specifically to protect water quality as well as conserve natural areas. To be eligible, applicants must be a non-profit organization or government entity. The types of grants included are land acquisitions and easements; construction, remediation, and restoration; and research, planning, and education. The maximum award available is \$500,000 and must be completed in 3 years from the date of a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding.

### **North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF)**

Created in 1996 by the North Carolina General Assembly and previously referred to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), NCLWF grants monies to local governments, state agencies, and not-for-profit conservation groups. The money is to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution issues. NCLWF will fund projects that contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits. There is no match required by local municipalities; however, the suggestion of a match is highly recommended.

### **Contributions**

The solicitation of contributions is an acceptable method of fundraising for recreation departments. These donations, typically in the form of land, cash, labor,



and materials, could be solicited to assist the Town of Holden Beach with its enhancement program. Corporations, civic organizations, individuals, and other groups generally donate to a specific park project; however, donations may also be solicited for multiple project improvements or additions. The National Recreation and Park Association recommend the use of private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt foundations as a means of accepting and administering private gifts to a public park system.

## **Park Foundations**

Foundations are another source of financing by making direct contributions within communities, states, or the nation. These types of funds are usually described as special program foundations, general-purpose foundations, or corporate foundations. Foundations can provide the needed resources to support park projects. Foundations generally have very few restrictions and/or limitations and are typically received from local entities. A list of appropriate foundations can be found at <http://candid.org>.

## **Partnerships**

To implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive master plan, the Town of Holden Beach should expand their partnership agreements with other public agencies and private-sector organizations. There are many different types of partnerships that can be formed to achieve the goals established by the Town. In fact, many local governments throughout the nation are utilizing partnerships with public and private-sector interests to accomplish community goals.

Listed below are the various types of partnerships that the Town should consider in its efforts for the improvement and addition of parks and recreational facilities:

- Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are municipally owned
- Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities
- Development partnerships to purchase land and/or build facilities
- Management partnerships to maintain properties and/or facilities





To implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive master plan, the Town should expand their partnership agreements with other public agencies and private-sector organizations. The Town should evaluate forming additional partnerships which address the needs of a comprehensive park system. Direct requests should be made to meet potential partners, inviting them to evaluate the possible benefits of partnering. This step should be made to generate interest and agreement prior to solidifying any responsibilities for each participating party.



Private-sector partnerships can be beneficial to municipalities. Developers can use private funds to develop facilities on municipal property and lease it to the Town long term. Over a period, the developer returns a portion of the revenue to the Town and at the end of the lease the facility is turned over to public ownership. This type of arrangement would typically be a large capital investment for a special use facility.

## **Land Acquisition and Development**

### **Life Estate**

A life estate is a gift, whereby a donor retains the land during his/her lifetime and relinquishes title of the property after his/her death. In return, the owner (or family) is relieved of property tax for the given land.

### **Local Gifts**

Donations of land, money, labor, and construction can have significant impact on the acquisition and development of park property. The solicitation of local gifts is highly recommended and should be organized thoroughly, with the utilization of very specific strategic methods. This often-untapped source of obtaining funds requires the contacting of potential donors, such as individuals, institutions, foundations, and service clubs.



### **Easement**

An easement is the most common type of less-than-fee interest in land. An easement seeks to compensate the property owner for the right to use his/her land in some way or to compensate for the loss of his/her privileges to use the land. Generally, the landowner may still use the land and therefore, continues to generate property tax revenue for the Town.



### **Fee Simple Purchase**

Fee simple purchase is the most common method used to acquire municipal property for park facilities. Although it has the advantage of simplifying justification to the general public, fee simple purchase is the most difficult method to pursue due to limited monetary resources.

### **Fee Simple with Lease-back or Resale**

This method allows local governments to acquire land by fee simple purchase yet allows them to either sell or lease the property to prospective users with restrictions that will preserve the land from future development. The fee simple with lease-back or resale method of development commonly results from situations in which landowners, who have lost considerable monetary amounts in property value, determine that it is more economical to sell the land to the Town (with a lease-back option) than to keep it.

### **Long-term Option**

Long-term options allow municipalities to purchase property over a long period of time. This method is particularly useful because it enables the Town to consider a particular piece of land that may have future value, though it is not currently desired or affordable. Advantages to this method of property acquisition are that the Town can protect the future of the land without purchasing it upfront, the purchase price of the land will not increase, and the Town will have the right to exercise its option. The disadvantage to the Town is that all privileges relinquished by the landowner require compensation in the form of securing the option.

## **5.5 PLAN ADOPTION**

The first step in implementation of the Town of Holden Beach Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan is adoption of the plan by the Town Board. By adopting the master plan, the community is able to help shape larger regional decisions so that they fit within the goals of the plan. The Town also gives itself greater authority in shaping local land use decisions so that they achieve the goals and vision of this plan. In addition, the adoption of this master plan is essential in order to maximize available grant opportunities.

Among the opportunities available to promote the recommendations contained in the master plan is the ability to build upon an already committed and active base of residents, visitors, and enthusiasts in the area. Through their organizations, institutions, publications, and networks, the Town can promote both the improved and new parks and greenway facilities and programs. Second among the opportunities, is the availability of the existing park facilities such as amenities, programs, and existing trails. Though some changes are being suggested in the



short-term and an expanded network is suggested for the long-term, the presence of an existing network provides a strong foundation from which to build. Many Town residents are already accustomed to using the existing park facilities and should become used to seeing new park amenities, programs, signage, and other improvements. Building on their existing awareness of what is available is much easier than building on no awareness.

## **Action Steps**

Upon adoption of this plan, implementation of specific recommendations can begin. Many of these will occur simultaneously and include policy and facility improvement changes. The key steps are:

1. Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address the 10-year and beyond capital improvement program and address the goals of the master plan.
2. Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of this plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities that are proposed.
3. Develop and implement educational and awareness programs, such as public events and promotion of parks awareness by civic and environmental advocacy groups. These programs can be used to announce new park facilities and upcoming projects.
4. Begin working on the recommendations that are listed in the 10-year Anticipated Recreation Projects List. From these opportunities come the framework for an initial implementation strategy. These recommendations include:
  - Aggressively begin to establish potential funding mechanisms for future park expansions. This high priority goal is essential for realizing the proposed recommendations for the future growth and development of Holden Beach's parks and recreation facilities.
  - Use the nucleus of park patrons to expand the awareness of the amenities and programming of the Town of Holden Beach Parks and Recreation System.
  - Expand and modify the existing park system into a comprehensive, multi-use system — distributed so that it better meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities to all and enhances the current park system.
  - Continue making the critical pedestrian and bicycle connections between destination points that will allow for preservation of open space and offer an alternative mode of transportation.

The steps above represent the core of the implementation strategy. As the individual policy recommendations and physical recommendations are addressed, they should each fit within one of these four primary strategies.



- The Town needs to ensure that facility planning is integrated with other regional planning efforts at the state and local levels and with long-range and current land use, transportation, parks, environmental, and community planning. The following are mechanisms to achieve this action step:
  - 1) Expand local capital improvements program for yearly appropriation for greenway and park development
  - 2) Set aside money for future land acquisition, construction, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities
  - 3) Pursue and request pedestrian/bicycle projects to be added to NCDOT TIP
  - 4) Pursue developing and expanding existing and new partnerships
  - 5) Apply for PARTF grants and other related recreation grants for future parks and recreation projects
  - 6) Seek other sources of revenue funding for parks and greenway improvements, such as including local assessment districts and developer exactions
  - 7) Pursue funding from other sources listed in this section

## **5.6 CONCLUSION**

The Town of Holden Beach Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan has laid out a set of strategies for expanding and developing a safe, convenient, and usable park system. The plan has assessed the study area, analyzed the existing facilities, received and analyzed community input, reviewed recreation standards, developed recommendations, and provided strategies for implementing the plan. The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an extensive document to be used in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for the Town of Holden Beach.

**– END OF SECTION –**

# APPENDIX A



HOLDEN BEACH  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS  
CENTER (PROGRAM SPACE)

BF  
FU  
PA

HOLDEN BEACH FIT TRAIL  
(FITNESS STATIONS)

SAND DOLLAR PARK

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

POCKET PARK

SAILFISH DRIVE PARK

DREW GRIFFIN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH  
FACILITY

**LEGEND**

--- Municipal Boundaries

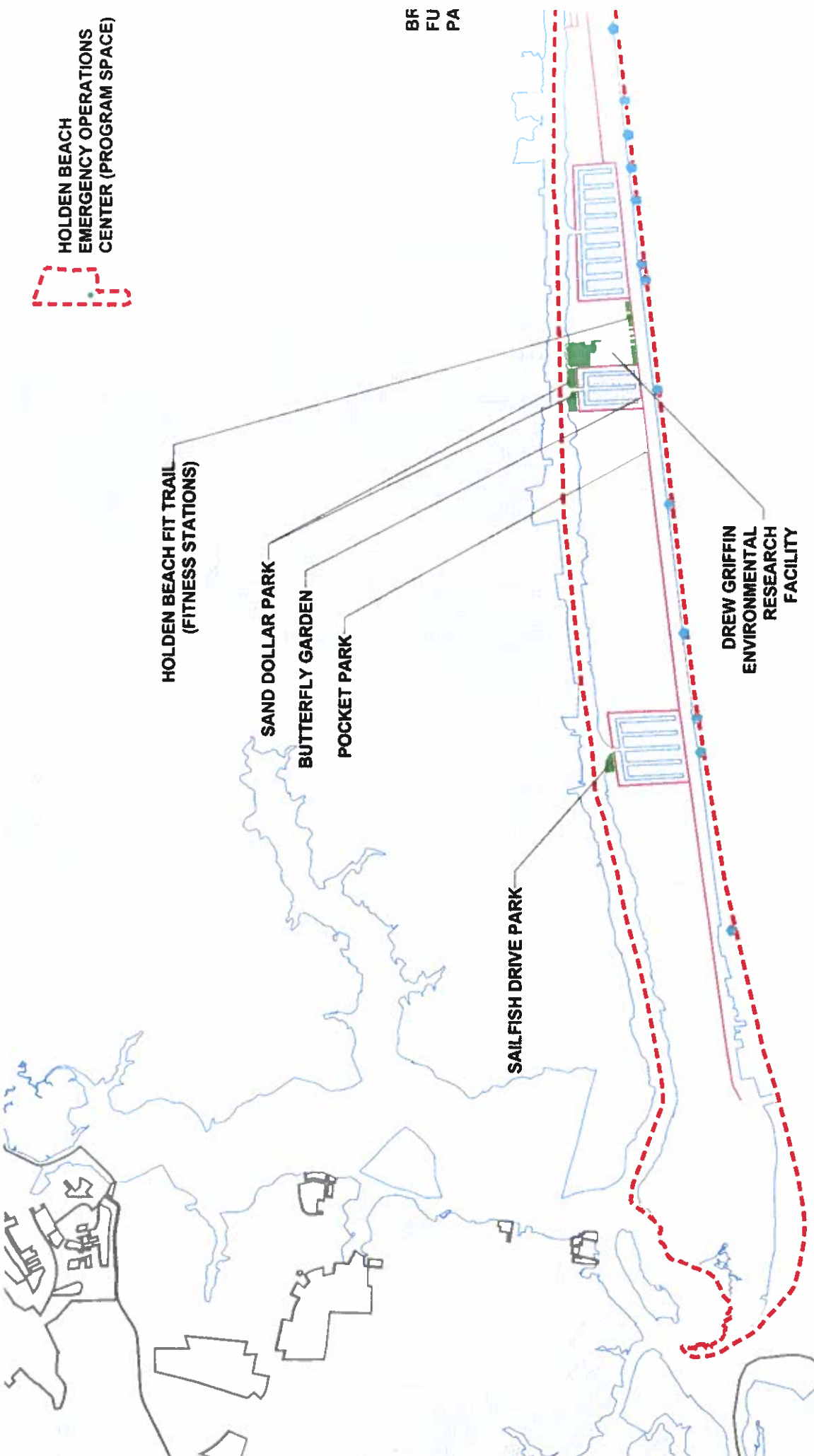
Parcels

Water Body/Creek

Existing Holden Beach Recreation Facility

Existing Public Beach Access

Existing Olden Holden Bike Route







HOLDEN BEACH  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS  
CENTER (PROGRAM SPACE)

BF  
FU  
PA

HOLDEN BEACH FIT TRAIL  
(FITNESS STATIONS)

SAND DOLLAR PARK

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

POCKET PARK

SAILFISH DRIVE PARK

DREW GRIFFIN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH  
FACILITY

**LEGEND**

--- Municipal Boundaries

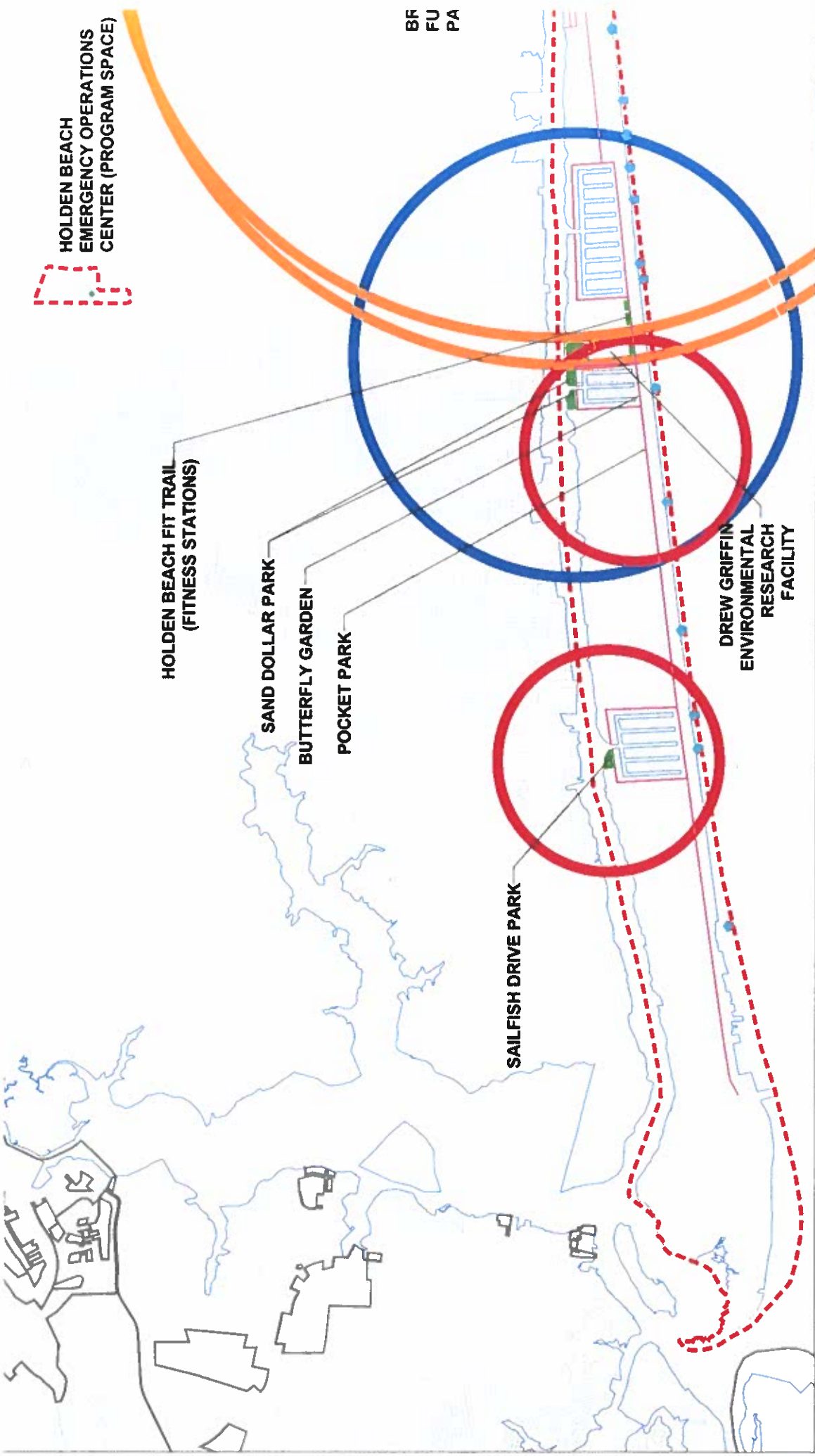
Parcels

Water Body/Creek

Existing Holden Beach Recreation Facility

Existing Public Beach Access

Existing Olden Holden Bike Route



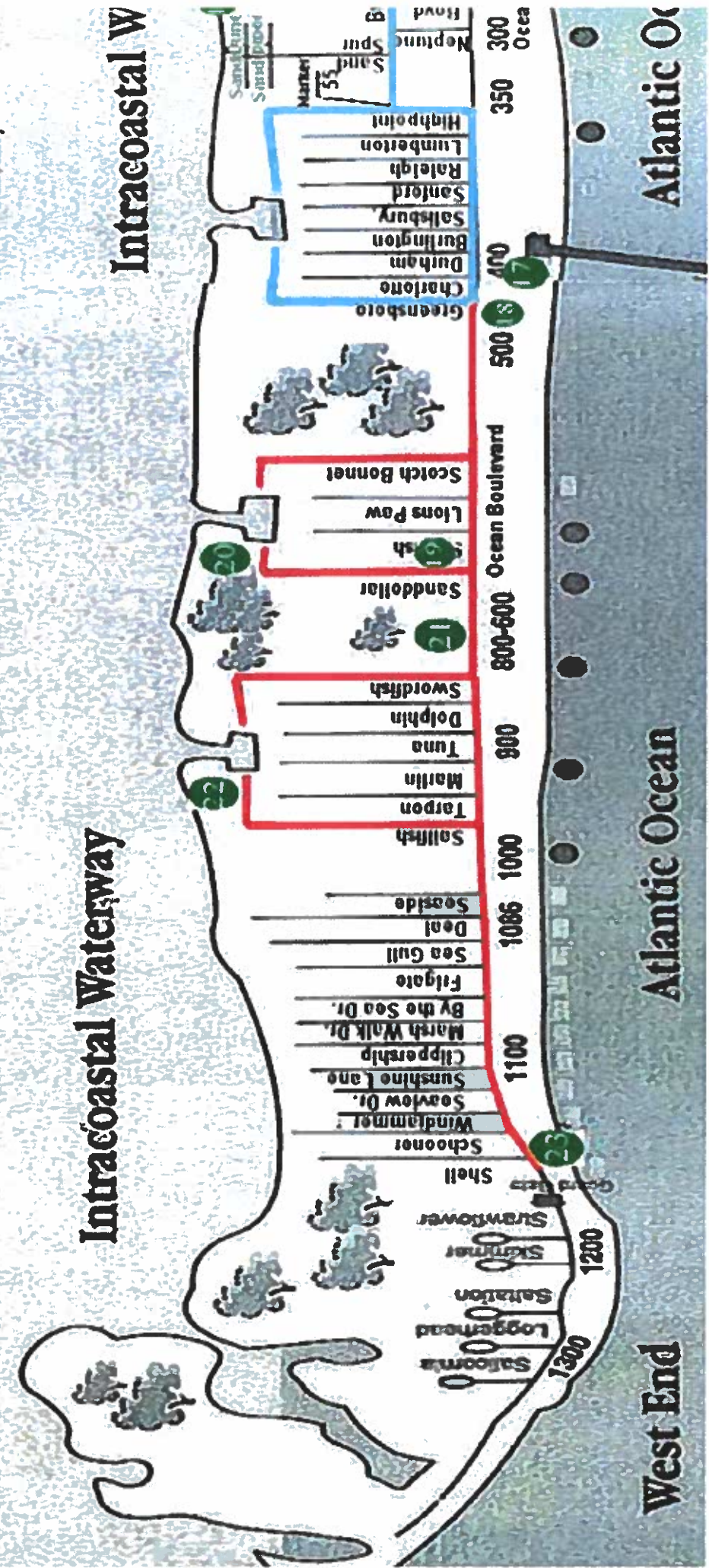






# "Olden" Holden Bike Tour

There are three different bike routes, each with its own special beauty and history. As you follow the map, you will find numbered signs, which signify special points of interest. Try





# APPENDIX B







2

PICNIC SHELTER

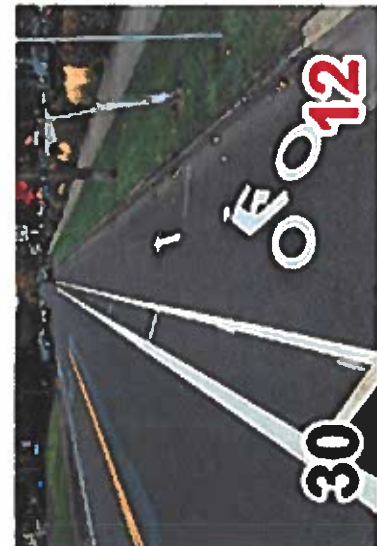
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14

CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH

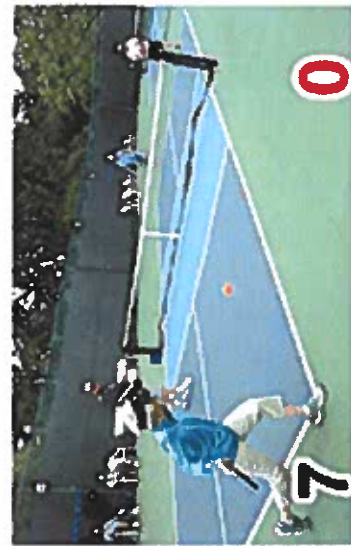
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12

BIKE PATH

30



0

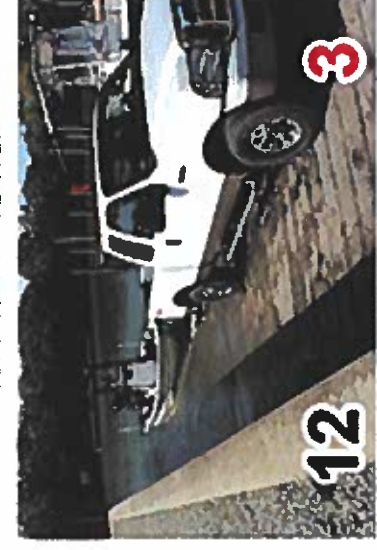
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1

COMMUNITY CENTER

14



3

BOAT RAMP

12



2

BASKETBALL

5



11

17



6

RESTROOM BUILDING

7



3

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE AREA

12



7

BOARDWALK

14



5

11

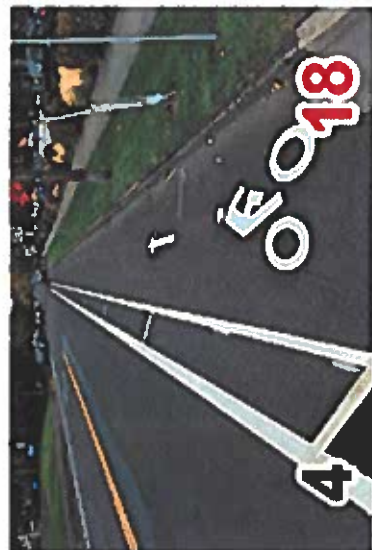




PICNIC SHELTER



CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH



BIKE PATH



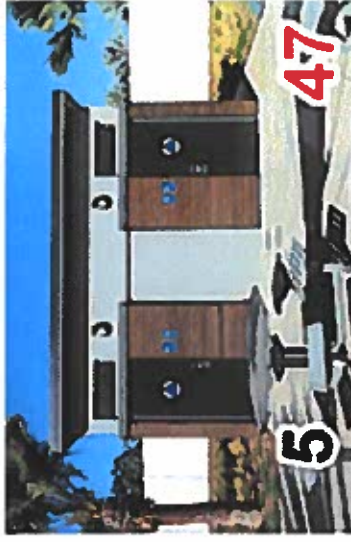
COMMUNITY CENTER



BOAT RAMP



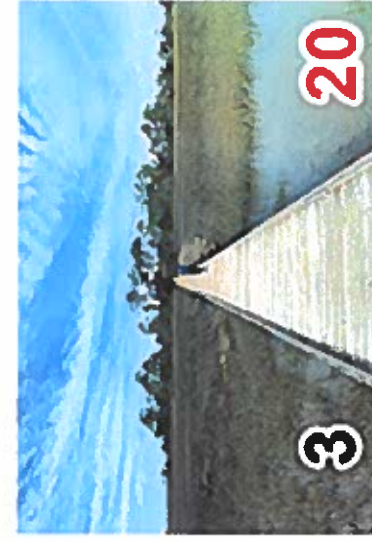
BASKETBALL



RESTROOM BUILDING



OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE AREA



BOARDWALK







12

2

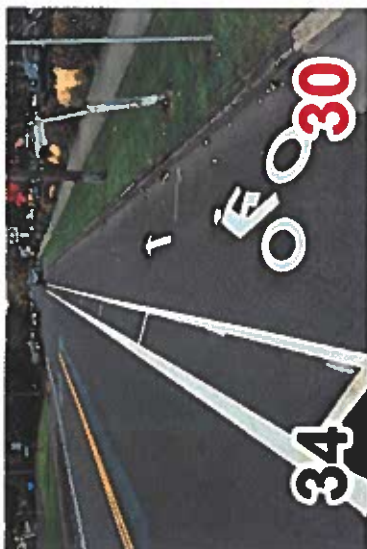
PICNIC SHELTER



35

19

CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH



30

34

BIKE PATH



7

7



6

15

COMMUNITY CENTER



10

13

BOAT RAMP



5

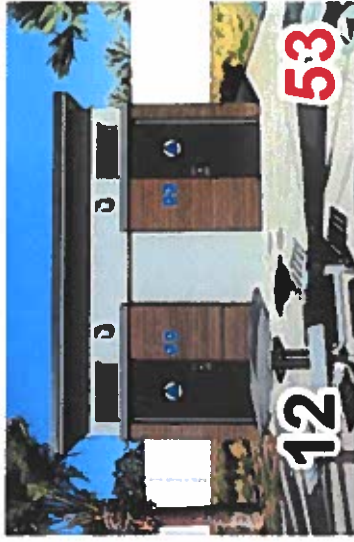
5

BASKETBALL



29

19



53

12

RESTROOM BUILDING



8

12

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE AREA



27

17

BOARDWALK



9

11



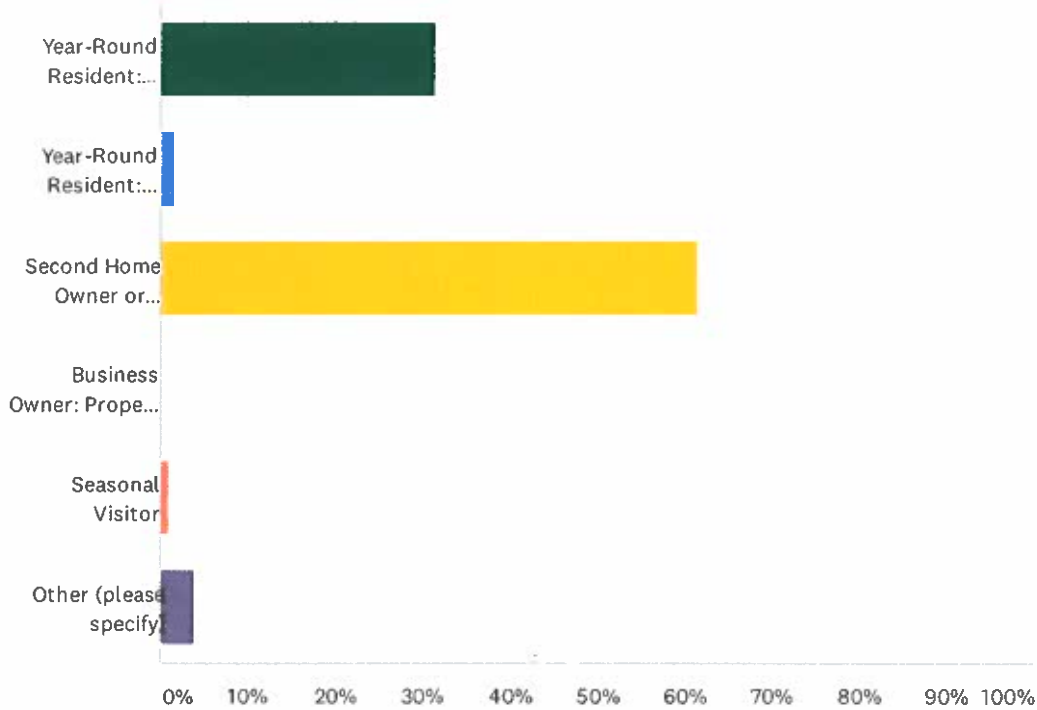
# APPENDIX C





# Q1 Which statements describes your relationship to the Town of Holden Beach?

Answered: 358 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Year-Round Resident: Property Owner	31.56%	113
Year-Round Resident: Renter	1.40%	5
Second Home Owner or Property Owner	61.73%	221
Business Owner: Property Owner	0.28%	1
Seasonal Visitor	1.12%	4
Other (please specify)	3.91%	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>358</b>

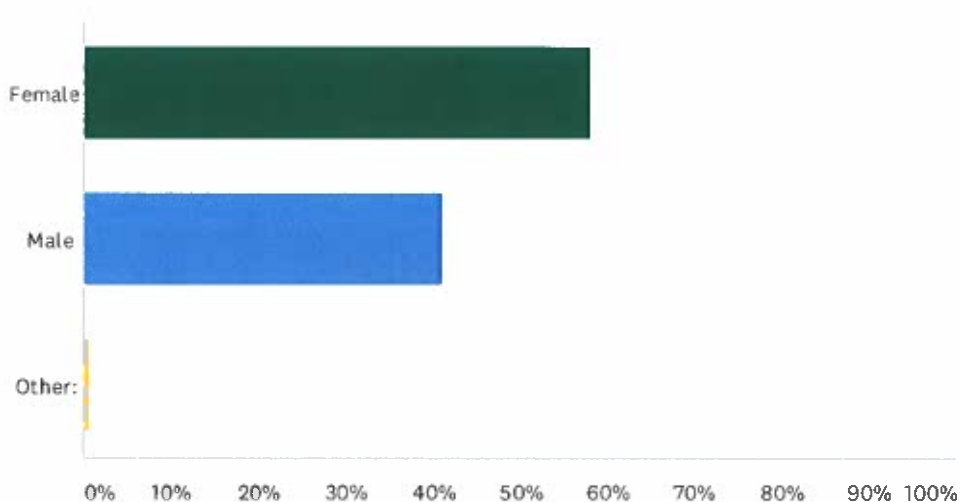
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Owner on mainland	4/1/2021 7:47 PM
2	Frequent visitor - total approximately 9 week per year	4/1/2021 4:39 PM
3	live on the mainland off seashore rd	4/1/2021 4:05 PM
4	9 month resident	3/23/2021 7:45 PM
5	Part time year round home owner	3/18/2021 3:37 PM
6	Live across the bridge; Year Round Resident	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
7	I live in Lakes of Lockwood. About 3 miles away from the island	3/12/2021 8:56 AM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

8	Mainland, off Seashore on waterway	3/11/2021 3:17 PM
9	Property owner who spends 1/2 of the year in Holden	3/9/2021 4:36 PM
10	Year-round mainland resident	3/9/2021 4:29 PM
11	Live in area	3/9/2021 3:13 PM
12	Supply Resident.....Frequents HB Daily	3/9/2021 2:05 PM
13	Yr round across waterway	3/9/2021 12:19 PM
14	Own rental home, various family members use when not rented	3/9/2021 11:38 AM

## Q2 Please provide your gender:

Answered: 356 Skipped: 2



**ANSWER CHOICES**

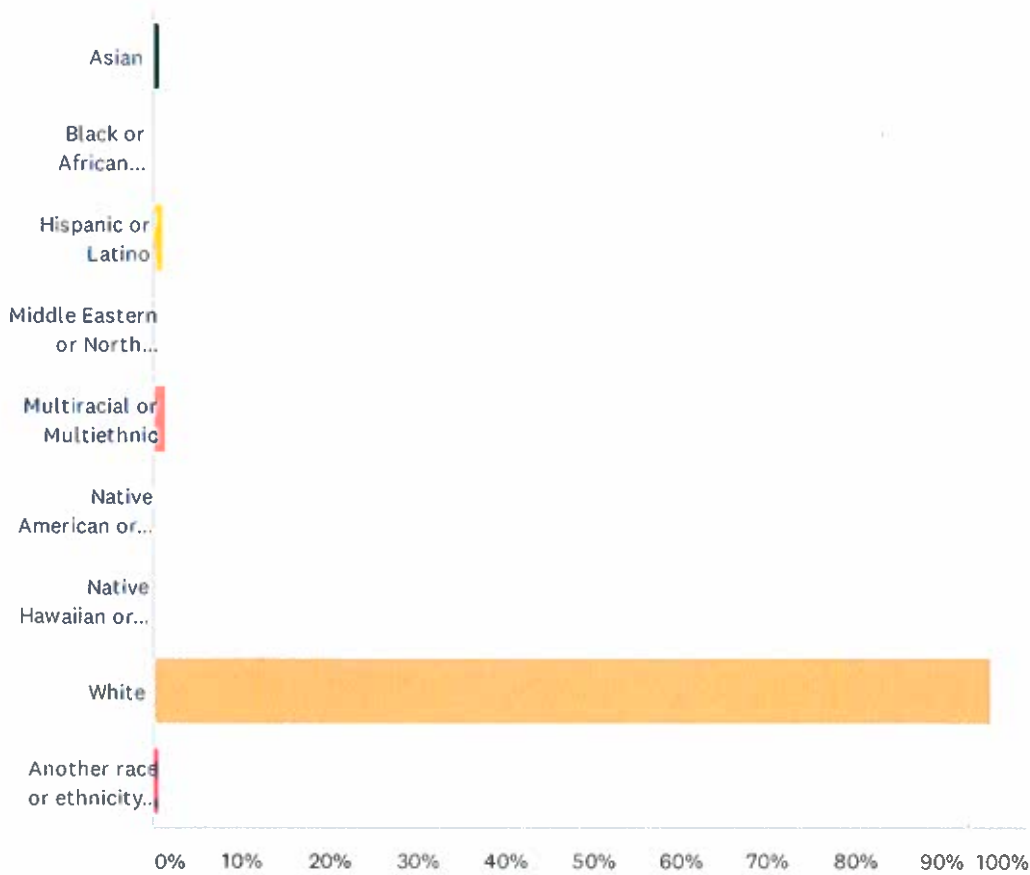
**RESPONSES**

Female	58.15%	207
Male	41.29%	147
Other:	0.56%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>356</b>

#	OTHER:	DATE
1	O	3/9/2021 5:52 PM
2	illegal question	3/9/2021 12:58 PM

### Q3 What is your race or ethnicity?

Answered: 350 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Asian	0.57%	2
Black or African American	0.29%	1
Hispanic or Latino	1.14%	4
Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%	0
Multiracial or Multiethnic	1.43%	5
Native American or Alaska Native	0.29%	1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White	95.71%	335
Another race or ethnicity, please describe below	0.57%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>350</b>

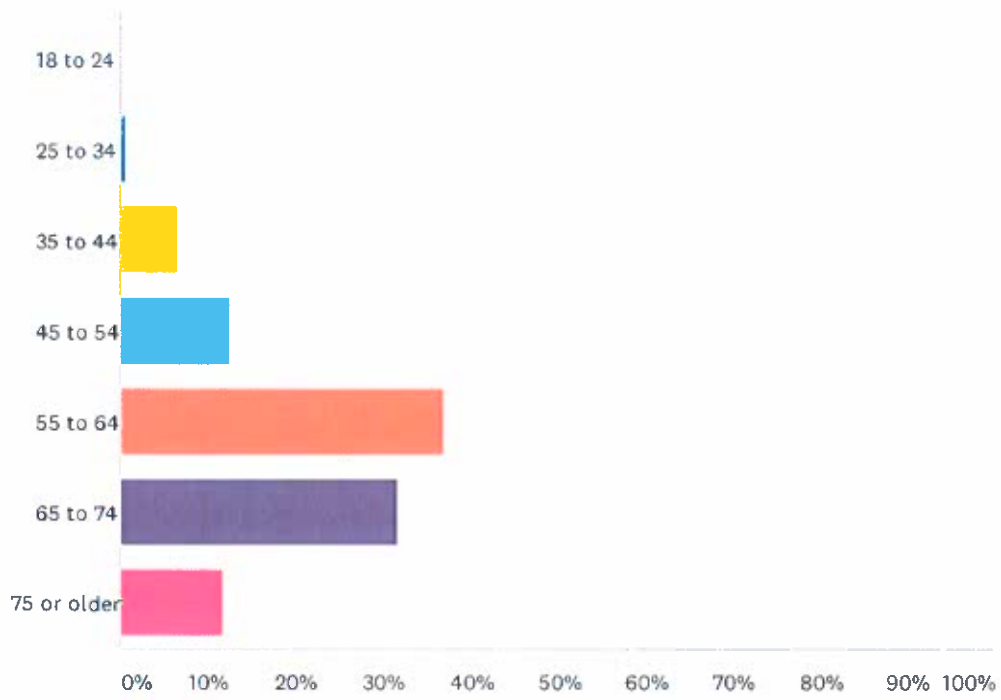
#	SELF-DESCRIBE BELOW:	DATE
1	Hispanic - white	5/7/2021 9:02 AM
2	How about Caucasian	3/18/2021 10:17 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

3	European descent - 1st generation Italian	3/18/2021 3:37 PM
4	Coollest aunt to 4 growing boys	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
5	Nunya	3/9/2021 7:26 PM
6	illegal question	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
7	Irrelevant	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
8	French, German, Irish, Dutch, Swiss, Czech., Belgium, et al.	3/9/2021 12:40 PM

## Q4 What is your age?

Answered: 353 Skipped: 5



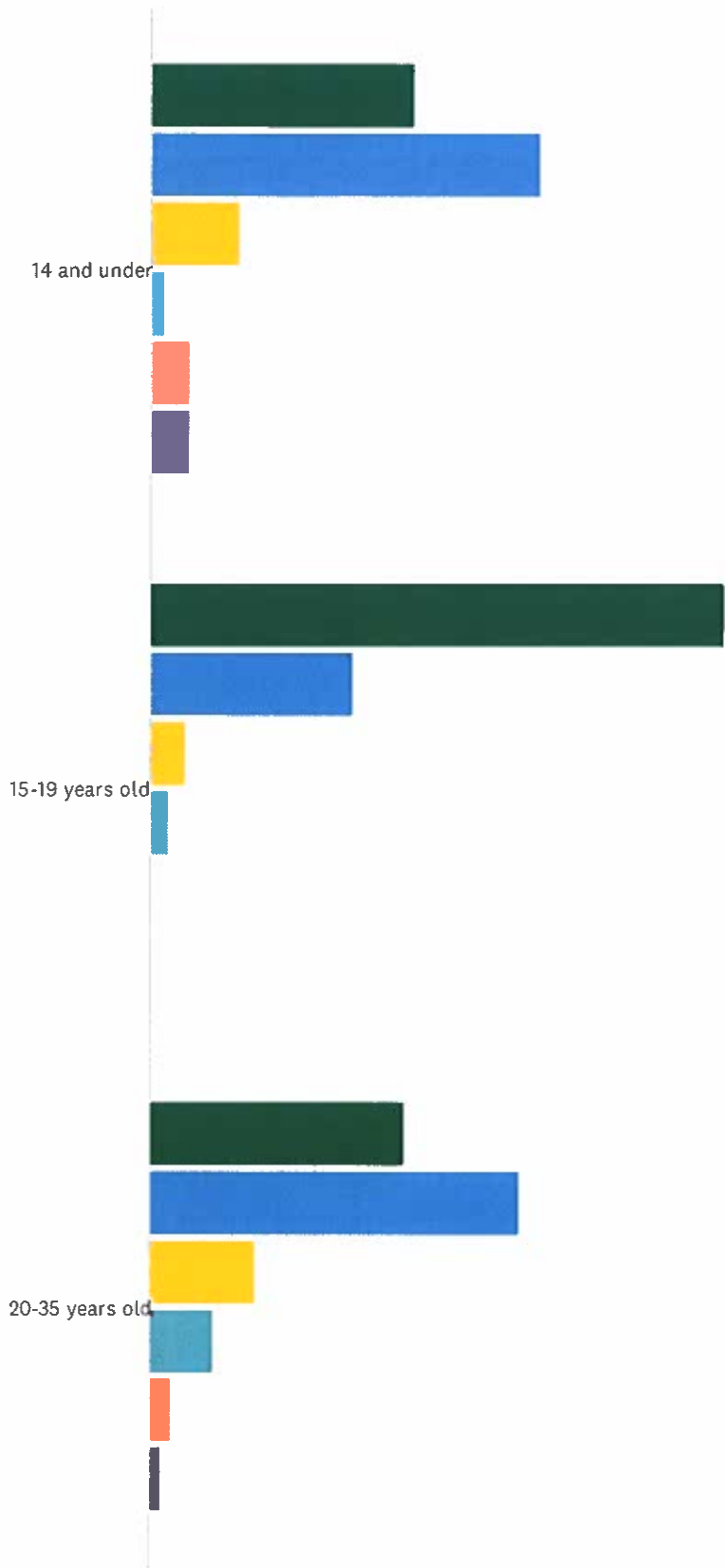
**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

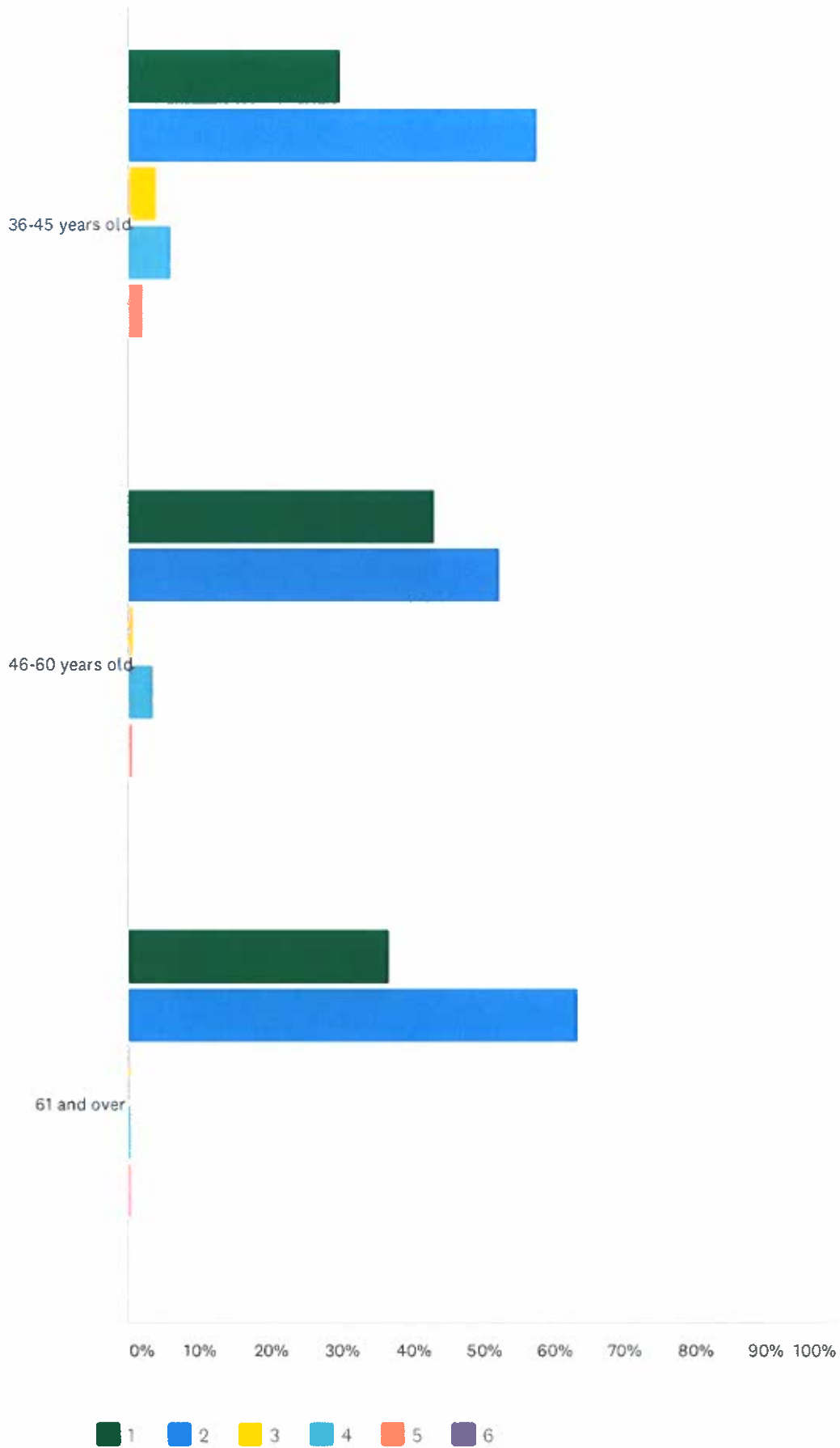
18 to 24	0.00%	0
25 to 34	0.57%	2
35 to 44	6.52%	23
45 to 54	12.46%	44
55 to 64	37.11%	131
65 to 74	31.73%	112
75 or older	11.61%	41
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>353</b>

### Q5 Select the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

Answered: 354 Skipped: 4



# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



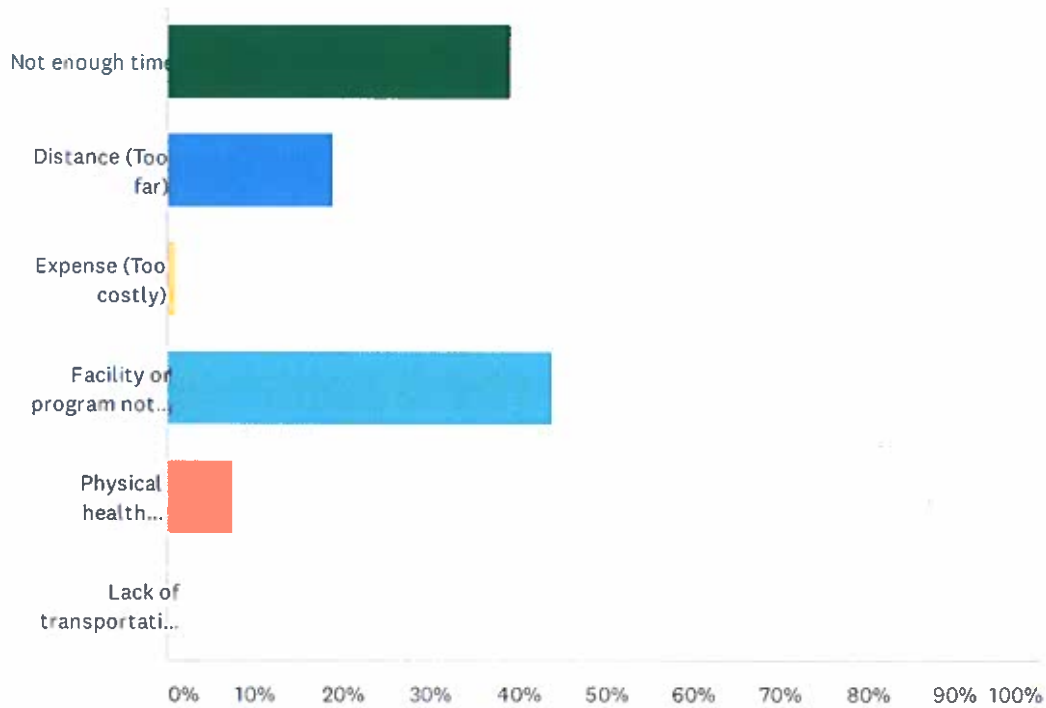


## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
14 and under	31.82% 21	46.97% 31	10.61% 7	1.52% 1	4.55% 3	4.55% 3	66
15-19 years old	69.39% 34	24.49% 12	4.08% 2	2.04% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	49
20-35 years old	30.77% 24	44.87% 35	12.82% 10	7.69% 6	2.56% 2	1.28% 1	78
36-45 years old	30.00% 15	58.00% 29	4.00% 2	6.00% 3	2.00% 1	0.00% 0	50
46-60 years old	43.26% 61	52.48% 74	0.71% 1	3.55% 5	0.71% 1	0.00% 0	141
61 and over	36.89% 83	63.56% 143	0.44% 1	0.44% 1	0.44% 1	0.00% 0	225

## Q6 What is the greatest barrier to your household's regular use of public parks or recreational facilities?

Answered: 252 Skipped: 106



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not enough time	39.29%	99
Distance (Too far)	19.05%	48
Expense (Too costly)	0.79%	2
Facility or program not offered	44.05%	111
Physical health limitations	7.54%	19
Lack of transportation to and from a facility	0.00%	0

Total Respondents: 252

#	OTHER, PLEASE DESCRIBE	DATE
1	There is no longer a dog park at Holden Beach which is why I initially chose this location to live	4/12/2021 2:33 PM
2	We come to see the beach	4/5/2021 2:19 PM
3	Ability to be at HB to take advantage of programs	4/4/2021 9:42 AM
4	Just don't need parks hereThe beach is our park	4/3/2021 8:48 PM
5	Minimal barriers	4/3/2021 2:16 PM
6	no interest in a public park or recreational facilities. we have the beach.	4/3/2021 9:30 AM
7	Unaware of what is available	4/2/2021 9:53 AM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

8	like to see more bike path/Bicycle Trails	4/2/2021 2:20 AM
9	Not a year round resident	4/2/2021 12:40 AM
10	We focus on parks with hiking trails	4/1/2021 11:15 PM
11	no barriers	4/1/2021 10:07 PM
12	None of above	4/1/2021 9:05 PM
13	No real issues with the existing areas	4/1/2021 8:39 PM
14	Only visit parks when our grandchildren visit.	4/1/2021 8:04 PM
15	Unfamiliarity of what is available	4/1/2021 7:58 PM
16	none	4/1/2021 6:44 PM
17	Not adequate	4/1/2021 6:42 PM
18	Covid 19- stupid survey when everything shut down last year??	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
19	Not enough pickle ball courts!	4/1/2021 6:22 PM
20	Need pickleball courts ... indoor/outdoor	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
21	Lack of safe sidewalks/pathways to and from a facility	4/1/2021 5:46 PM
22	Always crowded with people from off the island	4/1/2021 4:59 PM
23	There are no limitations	4/1/2021 4:50 PM
24	No barriers	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
25	The monopoly of some on the basketball and pickle ball counts	4/1/2021 4:31 PM
26	No interest	4/1/2021 4:10 PM
27	Basketball rims were rusted out and would not hold a net.	3/30/2021 11:53 AM
28	No issues	3/23/2021 7:45 PM
29	We like all that is offered. Maybe more sports competitions	3/18/2021 10:17 PM
30	Each time we want to play tennis, the court is being used for basketball. Are there any other courts we could use without going into Shallotte? Would be willing to pay a reasonable hourly fee.	3/18/2021 8:05 PM
31	Use when we want.	3/18/2021 8:00 PM
32	Missing dog park	3/18/2021 2:36 PM
33	Our home and beach is our park & recreation!	3/18/2021 11:21 AM
34	No barriers	3/18/2021 10:18 AM
35	Parking	3/18/2021 10:17 AM
36	not aware of what is available	3/15/2021 7:58 PM
37	Not open! Residents, can go other days than F-S. Needs to be open year round every day. Splash pad included!	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
38	Nearest Dog Park is 10 miles away!	3/15/2021 11:21 AM
39	Lack of bathroom facilities at beach access & Sailfish park	3/12/2021 8:56 AM
40	Knowledge of existing programs/facilities	3/12/2021 6:28 AM
41	none	3/11/2021 11:17 PM
42	None..unless parking fees are implemented.	3/11/2021 3:17 PM
43	They aren't close enough to where I am. We need more	3/10/2021 8:44 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

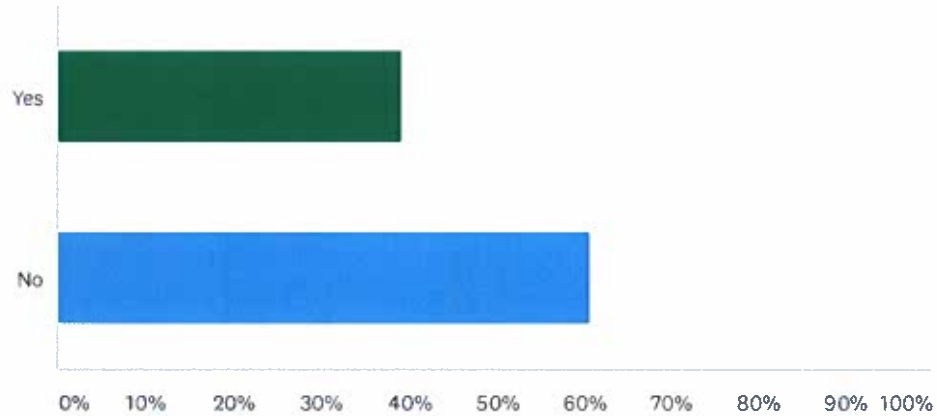
44	need more pickleball courts	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
45	None	3/10/2021 12:13 PM
46	I do not go to parks	3/10/2021 10:37 AM
47	Biggest recreation area is out front THE OCEAN	3/10/2021 10:29 AM
48	Over run by non-residents	3/10/2021 8:28 AM
49	Crowds	3/9/2021 11:12 PM
50	Just don't make use of it enough	3/9/2021 7:59 PM
51	No barriers	3/9/2021 7:32 PM
52	No public facilities I'm interested in	3/9/2021 7:26 PM
53	No real barriers	3/9/2021 5:32 PM
54	Not enough space/availability	3/9/2021 4:48 PM
55	Unaware of available options	3/9/2021 4:23 PM
56	Don't even know where they are!	3/9/2021 4:22 PM
57	None	3/9/2021 4:09 PM
58	Not enough information about services	3/9/2021 3:19 PM
59	Presently Covid	3/9/2021 3:14 PM
60	There's only the area by town hall. Miss the dog park.	3/9/2021 2:57 PM
61	Not aware of what they have to offer, have what we ant right here	3/9/2021 2:39 PM
62	We go to parks / trails a lot!!	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
63	Interest	3/9/2021 2:14 PM
64	access	3/9/2021 2:14 PM
65	Dog Park	3/9/2021 2:05 PM
66	Parks being closed when it wasn't necessary. Many towns kept their parks open during the pandemic. It made to sense to open the tennis and basketball and keep the playground closed.	3/9/2021 1:39 PM
67	None. Use the pickleball courts frequently	3/9/2021 12:56 PM
68	We do not have barriers. Not enough parks.	3/9/2021 12:52 PM
69	None.	3/9/2021 12:45 PM
70	Just too damn old!	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
71	take time from fishing	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
72	None	3/9/2021 12:25 PM
73	No desire. Just like the beach and fishing	3/9/2021 12:11 PM
74	None of the above	3/9/2021 12:00 PM
75	Lack of info on what programs are offered where/when	3/9/2021 11:48 AM
76	limited availability	3/9/2021 11:44 AM
77	N/A	3/9/2021 11:37 AM
78	Covid situations and not sure about safety	3/9/2021 11:36 AM
79	lack of knowledge of them	3/9/2021 11:35 AM
80	none	3/9/2021 11:33 AM
81	no barrier	3/9/2021 11:30 AM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

82	none, i use the ball courts and attend classes	3/9/2021 11:29 AM
83	None	3/9/2021 11:25 AM
84	None	3/9/2021 11:25 AM
85	Too crowded during the summer	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
86	Ada	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
87	Public closures	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
88	None	3/9/2021 11:14 AM
89	Covid	3/7/2021 7:44 AM

## Q7 Within the last year have you traveled out of the Town of Holden Beach to use a recreation facility or program?

Answered: 346 Skipped: 12



**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	39.31%	136
No	60.98%	211
Total Respondents: 346		

#	IF SO, WHAT FACILITY?	DATE
1	gyms, yoga	5/7/2021 9:06 AM
2	Dog Parks	5/7/2021 9:02 AM
3	Dog Parks	5/7/2021 8:57 AM
4	Green swamp preserve, myrtle beach marathon	4/18/2021 7:59 PM
5	Off site gym	4/16/2021 4:31 PM
6	Oak Island for beach Band Concerts	4/15/2021 2:17 AM
7	Covid lol	4/12/2021 2:33 PM
8	Please note in the last year, most things are closed!	4/11/2021 9:43 PM
9	Numerous	4/4/2021 8:50 PM
10	Pickle ball, fitness center at Winding River	4/4/2021 10:41 AM
11	numerous parks including Ocean Isle dog park	4/2/2021 7:02 PM
12	Dog parks in Shallotte and Ocean Isle	4/2/2021 8:14 AM
13	Tennis Courts	4/2/2021 7:59 AM
14	Does not apply	4/2/2021 12:40 AM
15	Tennis Courts at school	4/1/2021 7:05 PM
16	Gym	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
17	Ieland and Ocean Isle	4/1/2021 6:22 PM
18	Ocean Isle Beach Park	4/1/2021 6:16 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

19	Town Creek Park, Founder's Park in Leland	4/1/2021 5:46 PM
20	Pickle ball	4/1/2021 4:59 PM
21	Ocean isle	4/1/2021 4:58 PM
22	Golf courses	4/1/2021 4:50 PM
23	Fort Fisher State Recreation Area	4/1/2021 4:35 PM
24	At primary home location	4/1/2021 4:35 PM
25	sailing on Lake Waccamaw	4/1/2021 4:27 PM
26	Lockwood Folly pickle ball courts	4/1/2021 4:16 PM
27	Brunswick Nature Park	4/1/2021 4:10 PM
28	Park	4/1/2021 4:10 PM
29	Long leaf park,town creek, Greenfield lake	3/23/2021 7:45 PM
30	Lockwood folly park	3/23/2021 5:40 AM
31	Town Creek walking route	3/21/2021 4:07 PM
32	Tennis courts, Gym	3/21/2021 8:09 AM
33	golf course	3/18/2021 10:10 PM
34	Shallotte tennis courts in their park.	3/18/2021 8:05 PM
35	Walking park/ dog park in Shallotte, NC	3/18/2021 5:36 PM
36	Bocce - Charlotte, Kayak - Oyster Harbour	3/18/2021 3:37 PM
37	Winding River and Lockwood Folly	3/18/2021 2:55 PM
38	Covid	3/18/2021 10:17 AM
39	Lockwood Folly Park, Lockwood Folly Country Club, Ocean Isle Park	3/16/2021 11:26 PM
40	Challenge course, pool	3/16/2021 8:46 PM
41	wilmington	3/15/2021 7:58 PM
42	state parks	3/15/2021 2:46 PM
43	Dog Parks! Oak Island, Shallotte, Ocean Isle Beach!	3/15/2021 11:21 AM
44	Dog park in Shallotte	3/14/2021 1:37 PM
45	Tennis at Lockwood folly park	3/13/2021 4:19 PM
46	Beach strand!	3/12/2021 5:46 PM
47	Aquatic Center	3/12/2021 5:21 PM
48	Oak Island Sunset Beach	3/12/2021 8:56 AM
49	Walking trails nearby	3/12/2021 6:28 AM
50	Town Creek & Cedar Grove	3/11/2021 5:59 PM
51	boat ramps, inlet, food	3/11/2021 2:02 AM
52	Tennis courts, golf	3/10/2021 9:03 PM
53	palnet fitness. Parks where I live	3/10/2021 8:44 PM
54	Covid year, so it doesn't apply.	3/10/2021 8:21 PM
55	to play pickleball	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
56	Baseball field	3/10/2021 4:49 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

57	Lockwood folly tennis courts	3/10/2021 1:00 PM
58	BCCC	3/10/2021 12:58 PM
59	Skate park	3/10/2021 9:48 AM
60	LeLand Cultural Art Facility	3/10/2021 9:39 AM
61	Green swamp, Fort Fisher, Heritage Shores Nature Preserve	3/10/2021 8:16 AM
62	Lancerlot Ice Rink	3/9/2021 11:38 PM
63	BCC Pool	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
64	Tennis	3/9/2021 9:08 PM
65	Playground, dock	3/9/2021 8:55 PM
66	CCNC	3/9/2021 8:43 PM
67	BCC Fitness Center	3/9/2021 8:20 PM
68	State park camp ground	3/9/2021 7:59 PM
69	Hiking and biking trails	3/9/2021 7:26 PM
70	Mini golf in Myrtle beach	3/9/2021 7:26 PM
71	Tennis	3/9/2021 5:39 PM
72	Walking trails/Bike trails	3/9/2021 4:37 PM
73	Lockwood Folly	3/9/2021 4:22 PM
74	House of Pickleball	3/9/2021 4:20 PM
75	Numerous and varied - Fayetteville, NC	3/9/2021 3:24 PM
76	Tennis courts	3/9/2021 3:00 PM
77	Dog Park	3/9/2021 3:00 PM
78	We live in Cary and use trails several times a week. At the beach, we walk to pavilion for sunset a lot. We also go to sailfish park.	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
79	St James plantation tennis courts	3/9/2021 2:00 PM
80	Shallotte dog park	3/9/2021 1:45 PM
81	Shallotte Center	3/9/2021 1:17 PM
82	Dog park in Southport/Oak Island	3/9/2021 1:17 PM
83	private info	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
84	Ocean isle and ocean ridge pickleball courts	3/9/2021 12:56 PM
85	high ropes course off the island, north Myrtle	3/9/2021 12:52 PM
86	Brunswick Park	3/9/2021 12:45 PM
87	Oak Island for pickleball	3/9/2021 12:41 PM
88	Tennis courts, golf course	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
89	Orange Theory	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
90	O2 fitness, Doshier gym	3/9/2021 12:28 PM
91	Golf courses	3/9/2021 12:27 PM
92	Driving range in Shallotte	3/9/2021 12:25 PM
93	OIB	3/9/2021 12:19 PM
94	Other County parks and the HOP and the gym at BCC	3/9/2021 11:47 AM

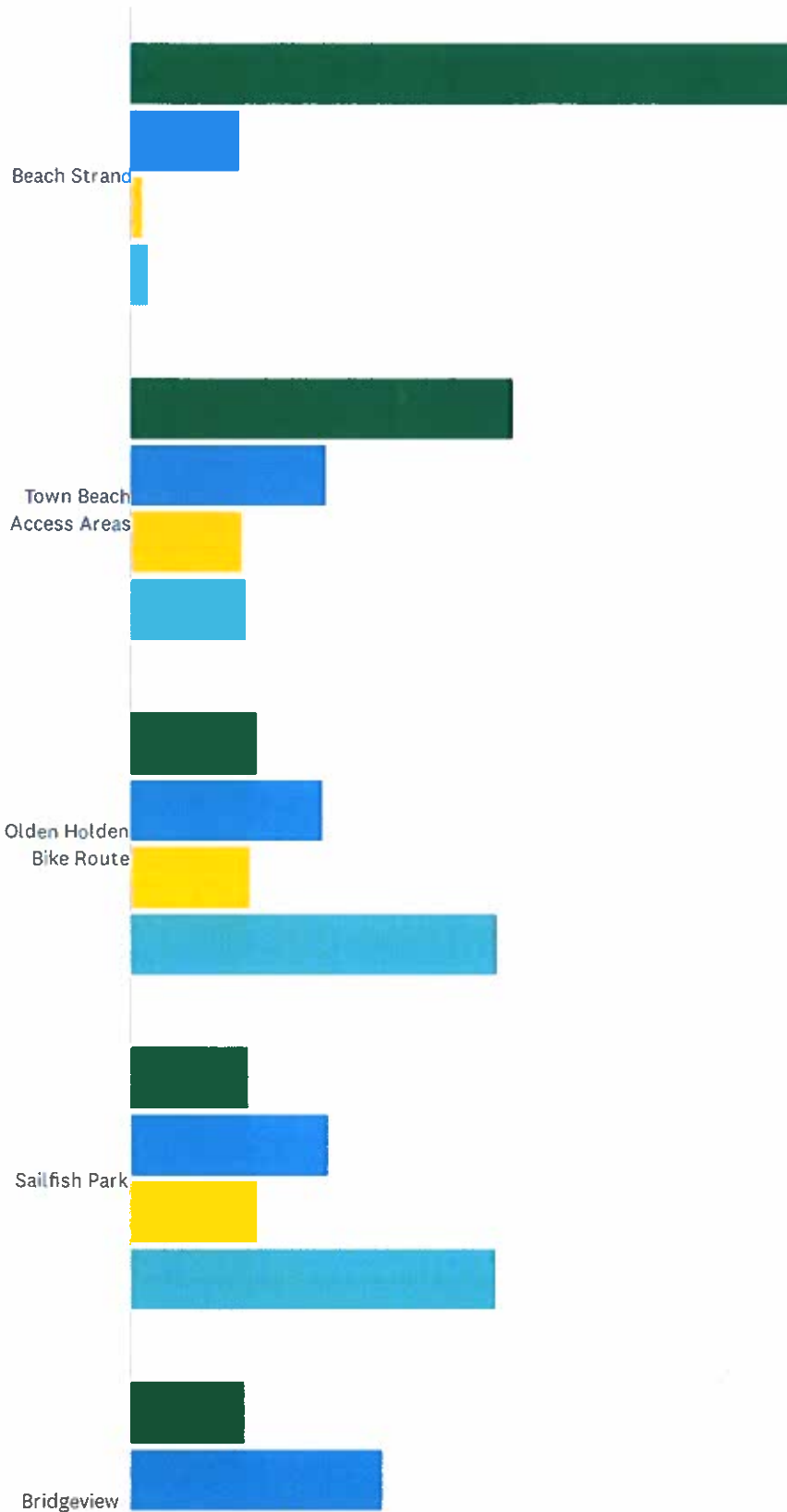


## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

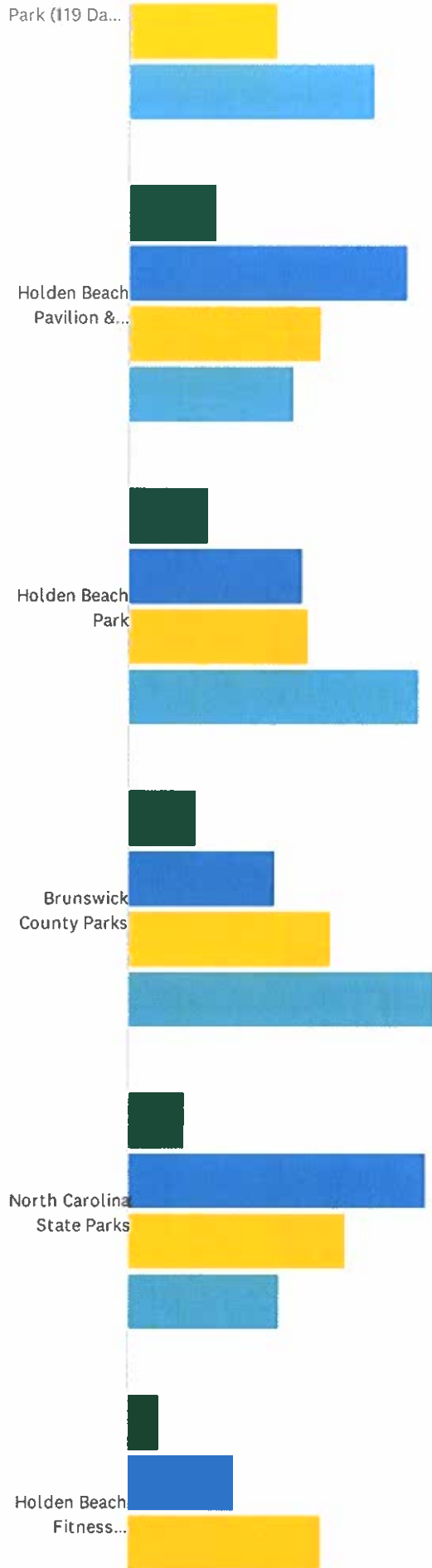
95	Park outside town with track, baseball field, P Lay ground, etc	3/9/2021 11:39 AM
96	pickleball courts and golf courses	3/9/2021 11:29 AM
97	Ocean Isle	3/9/2021 11:28 AM
98	Attractions north myrtle beach	3/9/2021 11:26 AM
99	Community college gym and pool	3/9/2021 11:24 AM
100	Parks in Shallotte and other Brunswick County areas	3/9/2021 11:23 AM
101	Golf, Fishing	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
102	Winding River	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
103	OIB	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
104	Varnamtown Park Playgrounds	3/9/2021 11:17 AM
105	OIB	3/9/2021 11:16 AM

### Q8 Check below how frequently you or others in your household have visited the following facilities in the past year.

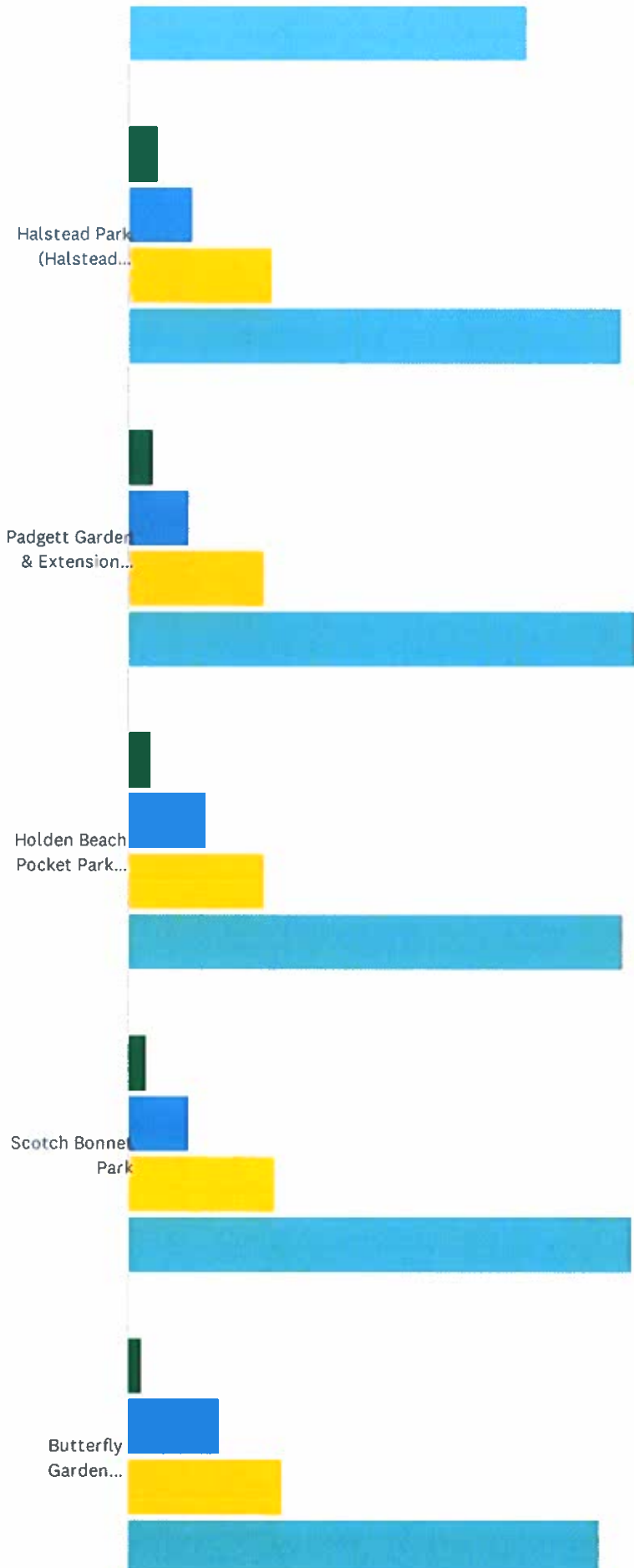
Answered: 354 Skipped: 4



# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



■ Regularly   
 ■ Occasionally   
 ■ Rarely   
 ■ Never

	REGULARLY	OCCASIONALLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Beach Strand	82.71% 287	13.54% 47	1.44% 5	2.31% 8	347	1.23
Town Beach Access Areas	47.34% 160	24.26% 82	13.91% 47	14.50% 49	338	1.96
Olden Holden Bike Route	15.76% 52	23.94% 79	14.85% 49	45.45% 150	330	2.90
Sailfish Park	14.72% 48	24.54% 80	15.64% 51	45.09% 147	326	2.91
Bridgeview Park (119 Davis St.)	14.24% 47	31.21% 103	20.61% 68	33.94% 112	330	2.74
Holden Beach Pavilion & Fishing Pier	11.99% 41	38.60% 132	26.61% 91	22.81% 78	342	2.60
Holden Beach Park	10.80% 35	24.07% 78	25.00% 81	40.12% 130	324	2.94
Brunswick County Parks	9.25% 31	20.30% 68	28.06% 94	42.39% 142	335	3.04
North Carolina State Parks	7.81% 26	41.14% 137	30.03% 100	21.02% 70	333	2.64
Holden Beach Fitness Stations	4.15% 14	14.54% 49	26.71% 90	54.60% 184	337	3.32
Halstead Park (Halstead Street and South Shore Dr. on the Waterway)	3.98% 13	8.87% 29	19.57% 64	67.58% 221	327	3.51
Padgett Garden & Extension (NC130 and Ocean Blvd.)	3.40% 11	8.33% 27	18.52% 60	69.75% 226	324	3.55
Holden Beach Pocket Park (628 Ocean Blvd. West)	3.05% 10	10.67% 35	18.60% 61	67.68% 222	328	3.51
Scotch Bonnet Park	2.48% 8	8.36% 27	20.12% 65	69.04% 223	323	3.56
Butterfly Garden (Starfish Dr. and Ocean Blvd. West)	1.83% 6	12.50% 41	21.04% 69	64.63% 212	328	3.48

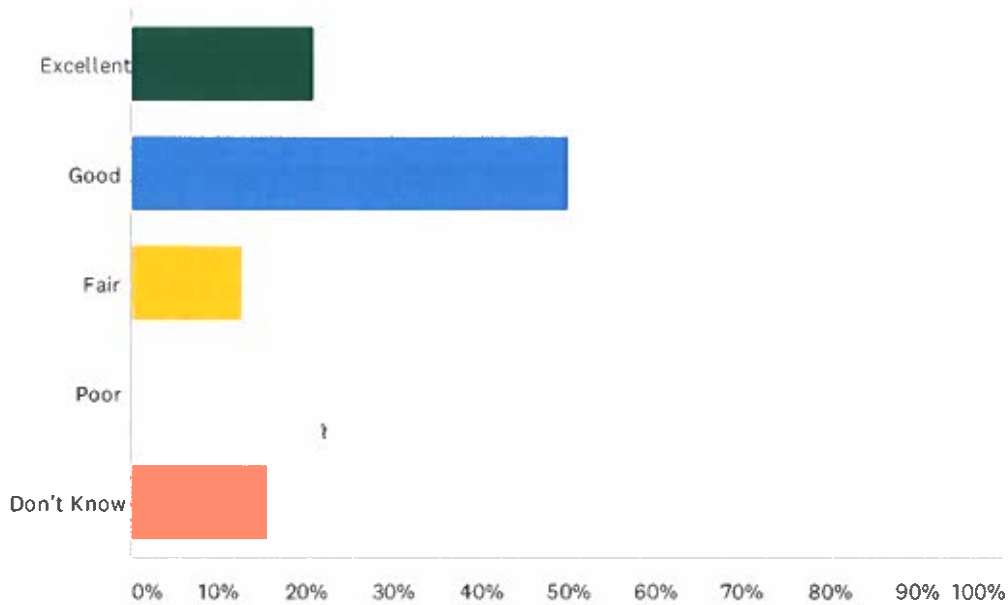
#	OTHER	DATE
1	Dumb questions ? No contact for 1yee	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
2	Due to Covid I have not visited my property since Nov 2019	4/1/2021 6:08 PM
3	I have not heard of most of these parks. Would be interested to visit.	3/18/2021 8:05 PM
4	Do not know where these parks are	3/12/2021 6:28 AM
5	need more pickleball courts	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
6	I had no idea these existed	3/10/2021 12:58 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

7	Is Scotch Bonnet Park the old dog park that is no longer accessible? Bummed about that.	3/10/2021 12:58 PM
8	Didn't know about some of these, like the butterfly garden. I will definitely try to visit this.	3/9/2021 11:12 PM
9	Don't know where some of these are such as Scotch Bonnet park?	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
10	Parks were closed last year.	3/9/2021 1:39 PM
11	East end	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
12	town hall yoga	3/9/2021 11:44 AM
13	didnt know of some of them	3/9/2021 11:31 AM
14	Cedar Grove Elementary Tennis Courts	3/9/2021 11:28 AM

## Q9 Overall, how would you rate the existing Bridgeview Park (119 Davis Street - across from Town Hall)?

Answered: 350 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	20.86%	73
Good	50.29%	176
Fair	12.86%	45
Poor	0.29%	1
Don't Know	15.71%	55
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>350</b>

#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE SPACE BELOW.	DATE
1	More people off island ( non- residents) use facilities	4/3/2021 8:48 PM
2	Need tennis courts	4/2/2021 7:59 AM
3	More playground equipment	4/2/2021 3:21 AM
4	More than we need	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
5	Please add more pickle ball courts	4/1/2021 6:22 PM
6	Multi-use courts are not enough to handle use by all who wish to play. Need separate pickleball courts.	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
7	Great for "off islanders."	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
8	Too many leave trash around the courts	4/1/2021 4:31 PM
9	The lights should be off earlier in the night. Trash should be picked up more often.	4/1/2021 4:27 PM
10	LOVE THE BASKETBALL COURT AND LIGHTING. IT IS A HIGHLIGHT FOR MY KIDS TO	3/30/2021 11:53 AM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

BE ABLE TO USE IT. Basketball rims need to be replaced. they are rusted / won't hold a net / can cut fingers if touched

11	The town needs more protected green space and playgrounds. One small playground is not enough.	3/23/2021 7:45 PM
12	Hope the water will be on the splash pad this summer for children. You	3/18/2021 8:05 PM
13	Need more dedicated pickleball courts	3/18/2021 2:55 PM
14	Spent some time there with grandchildren	3/18/2021 11:21 AM
15	Don't use it. Used to when grands where younger.	3/18/2021 10:53 AM
16	Need designated Pickleball courts	3/18/2021 10:06 AM
17	add bathrooms and tennis courts	3/15/2021 2:46 PM
18	I feel that it needs to be open though out the week and weekend. Also after the weather gets to 70 degrees the splash should stay on every day between hours. There is a sensor or button with a timer. It has been off in the past during the week when residents want to use it then when residents are at work on the weekend it's open for visitors. Just one cool aunt and her nephews option. Thanks for listening	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
19	Good area for children, pickle ball looks fun but courts are usually full	3/14/2021 1:37 PM
20	Again We need porta pots at all facilities from 1 Apr.- 1 Nov.	3/12/2021 8:56 AM
21	Needs more room and sitting areas	3/10/2021 8:44 PM
22	need more pickleball courts	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
23	Sometimes overrun by outsiders	3/10/2021 8:28 AM
24	Limited use for an expanding beach population	3/10/2021 6:10 AM
25	The garbage dump located near the stage area is not very pleasant during concerts	3/9/2021 11:53 PM
26	Great job keeping up the area	3/9/2021 9:08 PM
27	Kayak launch pad is a bit of a walk - not a show stopper but a bit long	3/9/2021 8:20 PM
28	To many non HB residents and renters using the basketball.	3/9/2021 6:47 PM
29	Appears heavily utilized. Have tried to play tennis and couldn't access	3/9/2021 5:39 PM
30	I see many people using it	3/9/2021 4:57 PM
31	Need separate tennis courts	3/9/2021 4:48 PM
32	Well maintained. Would be good to have dedicated pickleball courts	3/9/2021 4:20 PM
33	Keep it open.	3/9/2021 3:24 PM
34	Looks Nice..	3/9/2021 3:15 PM
35	Please add doggie bag dispensers in ALL public areas including all beach access points with signs stating you must clean up after your dog(s) otherwise you will be fined!	3/9/2021 3:14 PM
36	Love the kayak launch	3/9/2021 3:00 PM
37	I'm happy to see others enjoy this facility	3/9/2021 2:22 PM
38	It needs to be open and events being held. Let people choose if they want to attend. Other towns are having outside events.	3/9/2021 1:39 PM
39	paid parking	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
40	I can only say that it looks good. Glad it's there and I see people there frequently.	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
41	I don't have young children and don't play basketball ball or tennis	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
42	How about tennis courts?	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
43	My son will ride his bike to play basketball, but arrives to find courts taken by pickleball. Would	3/9/2021 11:43 AM



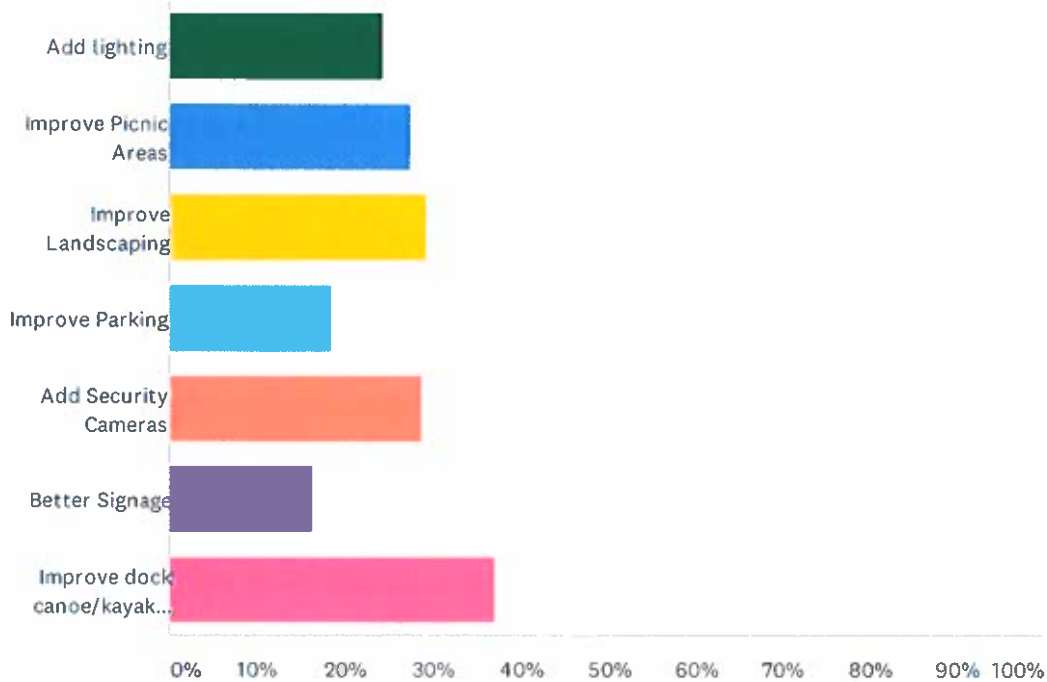
## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

be great to have more courts.

- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 44 | Hasnt been open regularly but we love it when we go! | 3/9/2021 11:37 AM |
| 45 | Too crowded. Mostly used by off island people.       | 3/9/2021 11:19 AM |

## Q10 Check below improvements that could be made to the existing Bridgeview Park (119 Davis Street - across from Town Hall)?

Answered: 225 Skipped: 133



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Add lighting	24.44%	55
Improve Picnic Areas	27.56%	62
Improve Landscaping	29.33%	66
Improve Parking	18.67%	42
Add Security Cameras	28.89%	65
Better Signage	16.44%	37
Improve dock canoe/kayak launch	37.33%	84
Total Respondents: 225		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Block off the Griant Sand Dune Its dangerous	5/7/2021 9:02 AM
2	Block off big sand pile	5/7/2021 8:57 AM
3	Improve Entrance	5/7/2021 8:49 AM
4	More Pickle ball courts needed	4/4/2021 10:41 AM
5	NOTHING!!!!!!!!!! Enough, stop adding stuff!!!!	4/3/2021 8:48 PM
6	Don't know enough to comment	4/2/2021 11:38 AM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

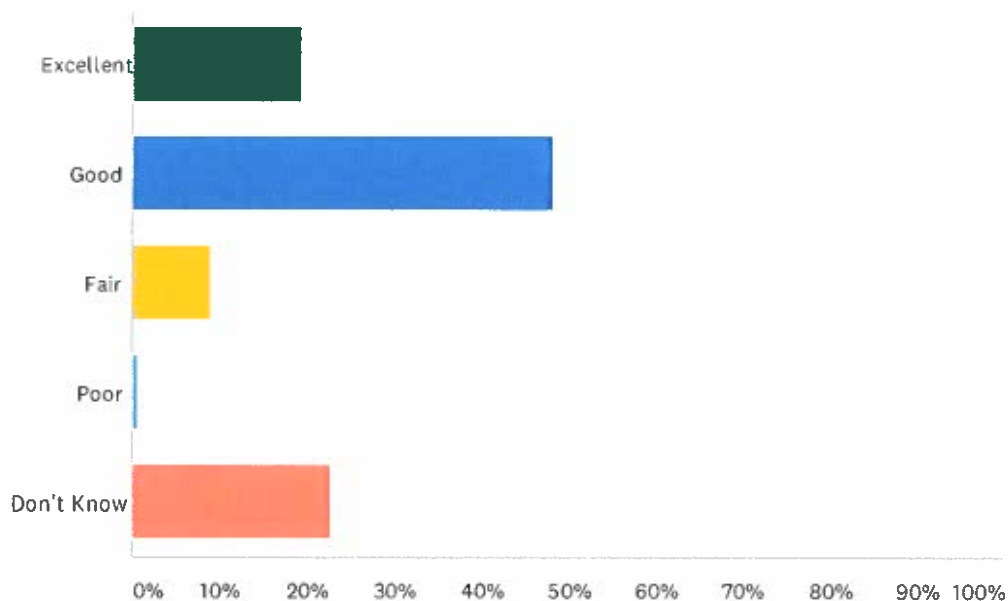
7	Add tennis courts	4/2/2021 7:59 AM
8	Spend no more money	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
9	Need more pickleball courts.	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
10	Add courts or at least have sign ups	4/1/2021 4:59 PM
11	It's fine.	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
12	Maybe this would help with trash	4/1/2021 4:31 PM
13	More trash pick-up.	4/1/2021 4:27 PM
14	NA	4/1/2021 4:10 PM
15	Replace basketball court rims.	3/30/2021 11:53 AM
16	More playground equipment, bigger area	3/23/2021 7:45 PM
17	Have allotted times for tennis and pickle ball.	3/18/2021 8:05 PM
18	Answered above	3/18/2021 2:55 PM
19	More pickle ball courts	3/18/2021 10:33 AM
20	Would like a dedicated tennis court and better sidewalks	3/16/2021 11:26 PM
21	tried to dock but unable to contact	3/15/2021 7:58 PM
22	add bathrooms and tennis courts	3/15/2021 2:46 PM
23	We believe everything is great other than when it's open and when the splash pad (that is on a timer) is off.	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
24	Add to playground	3/13/2021 4:05 PM
25	Porta Pots	3/12/2021 8:56 AM
26	Add water fountain	3/11/2021 5:59 PM
27	Nothing	3/11/2021 6:35 AM
28	Dont know	3/11/2021 2:02 AM
29	More seats	3/10/2021 8:44 PM
30	need more pickleball courts	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
31	No opinion	3/10/2021 4:50 PM
32	Add more basketball courts	3/10/2021 4:49 PM
33	N/A I have never been so cannot speak	3/10/2021 1:00 PM
34	Never been	3/10/2021 10:37 AM
35	Its good.	3/10/2021 9:52 AM
36	Tennis courts	3/10/2021 8:16 AM
37	Need a dedicated pickleball court & security	3/10/2021 6:10 AM
38	Relocate trash storage area	3/9/2021 11:53 PM
39	Don't know enough to comment	3/9/2021 8:43 PM
40	Maybe a place to drop off your kayak and then park	3/9/2021 8:20 PM
41	With the growing popularity of pickleball I'd like to see us construct more pickleball courts for public use on the island	3/9/2021 5:58 PM
42	no comment	3/9/2021 4:57 PM
43	Better trash disposal. Excessive cigarette butts there and often other trash blowing around	3/9/2021 4:29 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

44	Separate pickleball court and basketball court	3/9/2021 4:22 PM
45	Add dedicated Pickleball courts	3/9/2021 4:20 PM
46	additional swings / climbing structures	3/9/2021 3:24 PM
47	Add/improve bbq grills and put doggie bags and signs stating you will be fined if you don't pick up after your pets!	3/9/2021 3:14 PM
48	Add 2 sand volleyball courts	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
49	More equipment for children	3/9/2021 2:14 PM
50	More play structures	3/9/2021 1:48 PM
51	Good!	3/9/2021 1:25 PM
52	paid parking	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
53	Don't allow tennis on court using pb net. Not made for that and it is taking a beating.	3/9/2021 12:56 PM
54	It's good like it is. No lighting. When it gets dark, it's time to go to bed. We are a beach town!	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
55	Would love more pickleball access (often used by basketball players) and more organized options for pickleball. And a tennis court!	3/9/2021 12:41 PM
56	I Don't use the park, nothing of interest to me	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
57	More pickleball courts, or add tennis courts	3/9/2021 12:28 PM
58	Provide better shade. Bring back recycling site.	3/9/2021 11:54 AM
59	It's lovely, another court for basketball would be lovely.	3/9/2021 11:43 AM
60	Open water park	3/9/2021 11:37 AM
61	N/A	3/9/2021 11:37 AM
62	More shade	3/9/2021 11:33 AM
63	Require residents on mainland to purchase a pass to help maintain the park.	3/9/2021 11:26 AM
64	More seating	3/9/2021 11:16 AM
65	Don't know enough to opine.	3/9/2021 11:14 AM

## Q11 Overall, how would you rate the Town playground?

Answered: 352 Skipped: 6



### ANSWER CHOICES

### RESPONSES

Excellent	19.32%	68
Good	48.30%	170
Fair	9.09%	32
Poor	0.57%	2
Don't Know	22.73%	80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>352</b>

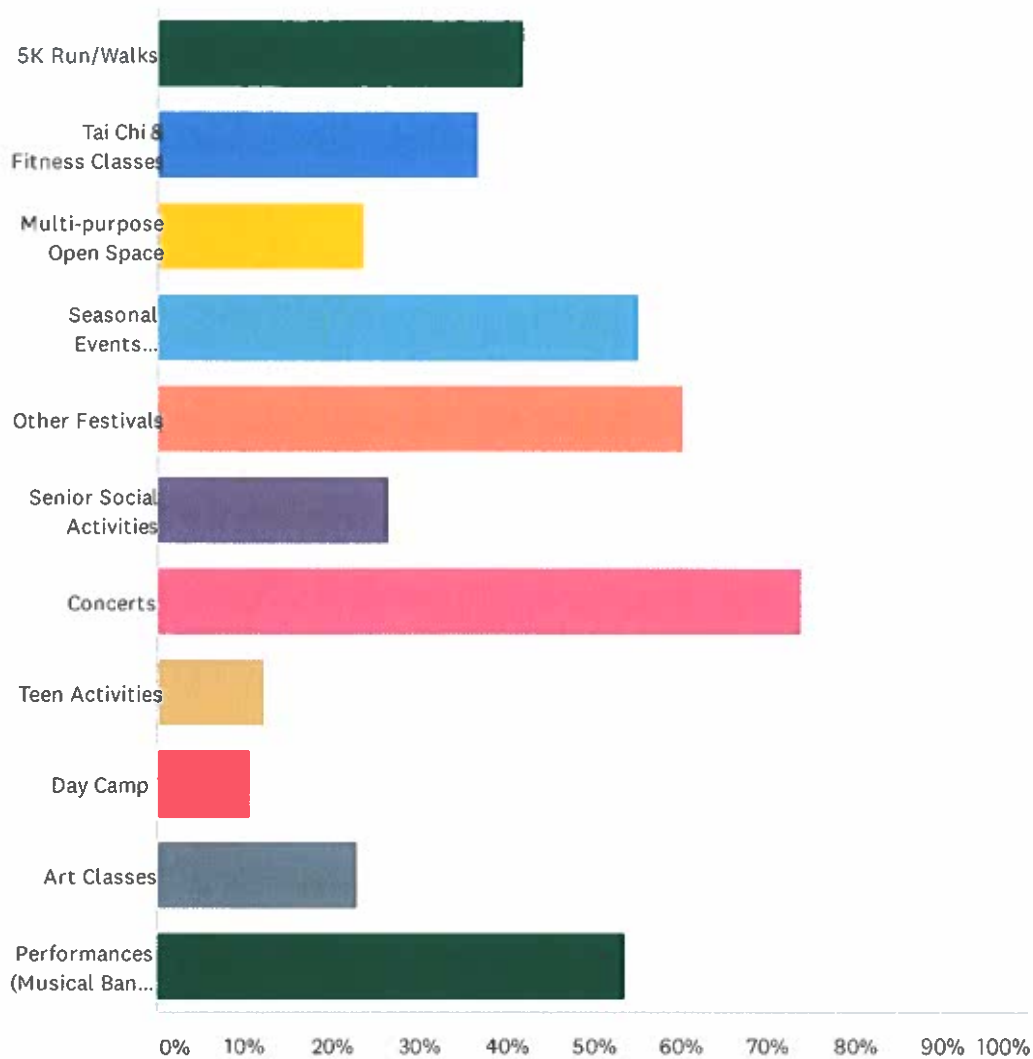
#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE SPACE BELOW.	DATE
1	Haven't been but looks well maintained	4/4/2021 9:42 AM
2	More seating and equipment, sand volleyball court	4/2/2021 3:21 AM
3	People come to the beach, for the beach. Plenty of parks at home.	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
4	I really appreciate it	4/1/2021 4:31 PM
5	More activities not enough for all kids during summer months	3/31/2021 9:30 AM
6	Always nice to have the shade over the playground, love that idea!	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
7	More equipment	3/14/2021 1:37 PM
8	Add to playground	3/13/2021 4:05 PM
9	Additional play equipment would be nice.	3/10/2021 12:58 PM
10	Never been	3/10/2021 10:37 AM
11	More swings	3/10/2021 8:16 AM
12	More swings would be nice. My granddaughter enjoys the park.	3/9/2021 11:12 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

13	I would love for the splash pad to stay on longer. The new splash pad on Ocean Isle stayed on throughout the warm weather and wasn't turned off after labor day.	3/9/2021 4:29 PM
14	Heard it is used more by those not living or staying on the island.	3/9/2021 3:15 PM
15	Add/update bbq grills and put doggy bag dispensers stating you will be fined if you do not pick up after your pets!	3/9/2021 3:14 PM
16	It needs to have more equipment.	3/9/2021 1:39 PM
17	paid parking	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
18	no structured exercise available	3/9/2021 11:44 AM
19	Though it needs a shade covering for the summer and is usually busy when vacationers are numerous	3/9/2021 11:37 AM
20	Never Used	3/9/2021 11:35 AM
21	Playground needs more robust equipment	3/9/2021 11:17 AM

### Q12 In which of the following recreation programs and special events would you or others in your household like to see continued or started?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 27



## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
5K Run/Walks	41.99%	139
Tai Chi & Fitness Classes	36.86%	122
Multi-purpose Open Space	23.56%	78
Seasonal Events (Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Spring/Fall, etc.)	55.29%	183
Other Festivals	60.42%	200
Senior Social Activities	26.59%	88
Concerts	74.02%	245
Teen Activities	12.39%	41
Day Camp	10.57%	35
Art Classes	22.96%	76
Performances (Musical Bands, theatrical/plays, dance)	53.78%	178
Total Respondents: 331		

#	OTHER	DATE
1	Food Trucks/Octoberfest	5/7/2021 9:06 AM
2	Activities for all residents we aren't all seniors: Should be offered in evenings and on weekends to allow those who still work to attend	4/4/2021 8:50 PM
3	None	4/3/2021 8:48 PM
4	Dog park/play area	4/2/2021 8:14 AM
5	bike rides/Bicycle Trails	4/2/2021 2:20 AM
6	Fishing pier access and shopping	4/1/2021 8:39 PM
7	Gentle Yoga, walking club	4/1/2021 6:57 PM
8	Farmers Market	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
9	You come to the beach for the beach.	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
10	Summer Weekly produce, etc.Markets. Continue turtle talks.	3/18/2021 10:17 PM
11	As senior citizens, we don't use it much	3/18/2021 11:21 AM
12	yoga	3/15/2021 7:58 PM
13	Love having crafts and festivals.	3/15/2021 1:32 PM
14	Inlet , pier	3/11/2021 2:02 AM
15	Like the Arts and Crafts Festivals	3/9/2021 11:53 PM
16	Kite day, surf lessons, adult nature programs focused on wildlife in the area	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
17	Tennis or more pickleball courts	3/9/2021 9:08 PM
18	All that we could afford	3/9/2021 8:43 PM
19	Bingo would be a great activity to offer.	3/9/2021 3:27 PM
20	Children's Discovery activities (dolphin watch, turtle talk, etc)	3/9/2021 3:24 PM
21	Pool and jacuzzi for owners and visitors in which you present an ID to enter	3/9/2021 3:14 PM



## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

22	Food truck evenings	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
23	Turtle Talks	3/9/2021 1:48 PM
24	Please open town. We paid taxes last year and no outside events all year. You are still not having outside events.	3/9/2021 1:39 PM
25	open pickleball play and additional courts	3/9/2021 1:18 PM
26	Concerts, performances, dance, tennis, pickle ball	3/9/2021 12:52 PM
27	Yoga.	3/9/2021 12:45 PM
28	Add more fish out in the ocean to catch!	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
29	Tennis	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
30	Tennis courts	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
31	Pickleball league and tournament	3/9/2021 12:19 PM
32	Pickleball social	3/9/2021 11:47 AM
33	yoga class, exercise classes	3/9/2021 11:44 AM
34	N/A	3/9/2021 11:37 AM

## Q13 Please list below, any recreation programs or special events that you would like to see offered within the Town of Holden Beach:

Answered: 96 Skipped: 262

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Octoberfest Weenie Dog Races	5/7/2021 9:06 AM
2	farmers market	5/7/2021 8:57 AM
3	Invite local beach music/ Shag clubs to use pavilion stage for their gatherings/dances/ etc as long as they follow rules and allow public at no charge. Assist them if necessary.	4/15/2021 2:17 AM
4	Repairs to the sidewalks. They are in bad shape in many places. Have fallen tripping over raised areas when jogging or bike wrecks due to missing concrete. Add bike lines to sides of Ocean Blvd	4/10/2021 7:47 PM
5	More places to launch a kayak. Really concerned about encouraging too many day trippers. Certainly don't want the beach to become over-crowded.	4/9/2021 9:23 AM
6	A birding class for local birds.	4/5/2021 3:05 PM
7	Dog Park!!!! Areas of beach strand or dedicated times on strand for dogs to be off leash.	4/4/2021 8:50 PM
8	Cooking classes on seafood	4/4/2021 9:42 AM
9	None	4/3/2021 8:48 PM
10	Entertainment	4/2/2021 12:44 PM
11	Performances other than the outdoor concerts	4/2/2021 11:38 AM
12	Additional runs/walks	4/2/2021 8:44 AM
13	Pickleball classes; shag dance classes; Zumba classes, yoga classes	4/2/2021 8:14 AM
14	Pickleball	4/2/2021 7:42 AM
15	Tai Chi, yoga	4/2/2021 3:21 AM
16	bike rides/Bicycle Trails	4/2/2021 2:20 AM
17	Beach/surf casting fishing tournament	4/1/2021 7:40 PM
18	none	4/1/2021 6:44 PM
19	Fireworks on July 4	4/1/2021 6:42 PM
20	Farmers Market	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
21	Summer movies	4/1/2021 5:23 PM
22	None. There's more than enough to do!	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
23	Music events and concerts, festivals	4/1/2021 4:39 PM
24	Christmas Boat parade	4/1/2021 4:27 PM
25	Yoga!!!! Also, I've never tried pickleball but I run and used to play tennis, so I'd like to try it.	4/1/2021 4:20 PM
26	Local live entertainment organized run/walk events	4/1/2021 4:10 PM
27	5K/10K runs or walks, bicycle rodeo	3/30/2021 7:36 AM
28	Additional fitness classes	3/19/2021 8:11 AM
29	None	3/18/2021 10:10 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

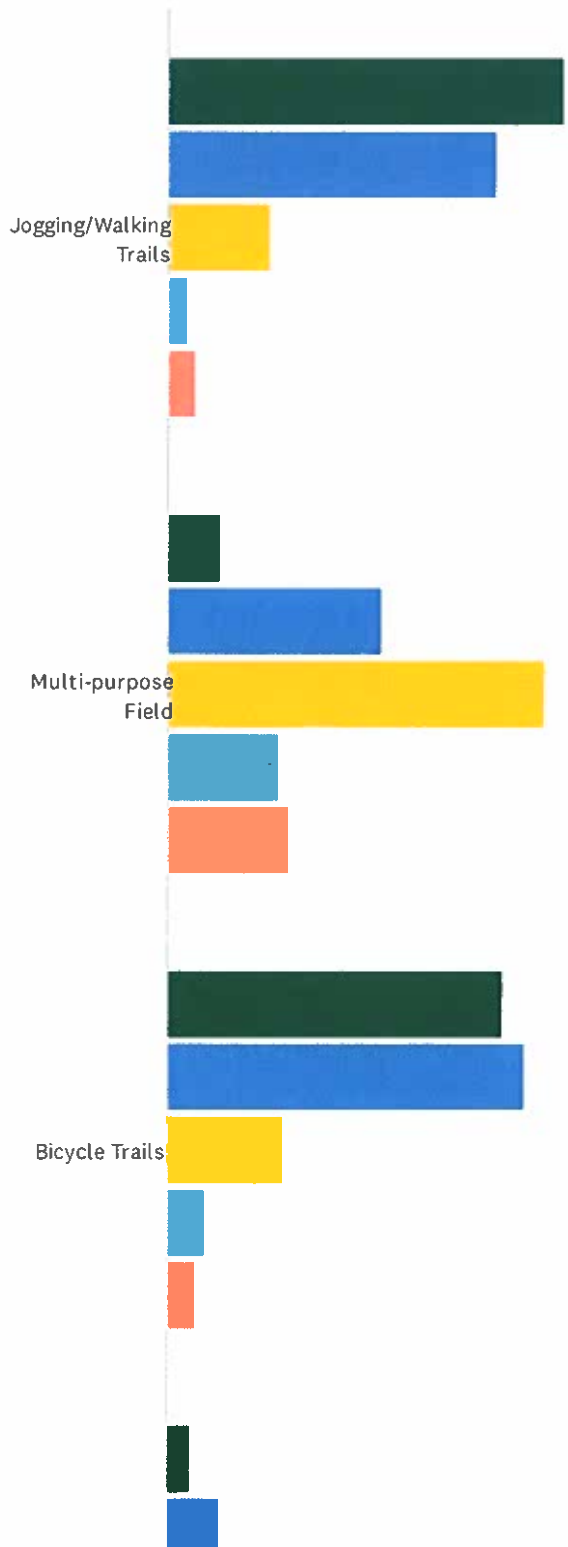
30	quality yoga classes	3/18/2021 6:58 PM
31	Shuffle Board, Badminton set.	3/18/2021 5:36 PM
32	More cooking contests during off-season ( similar to chile contest)- in Nov-March time frame 4th of July Town parade	3/18/2021 3:50 PM
33	Yoga - outdoors	3/18/2021 3:37 PM
34	??	3/18/2021 1:45 PM
35	Surfing/boogie boarding instruction and contests	3/16/2021 11:26 PM
36	Water related activities, e.g. sailing lessons, kayaking tours, env. Ed. Classes, etc.	3/16/2021 8:46 PM
37	tennis league if add courts. pickle ball leagues for all levels	3/15/2021 2:46 PM
38	Dog Park Day! Invite all to bring their furry friends to a meet and greet at Dog Park!	3/15/2021 11:21 AM
39	Running club, organized exercise classes, yoga	3/14/2021 1:37 PM
40	Lead exercise programs	3/12/2021 6:28 AM
41	Boat Parade	3/11/2021 9:35 PM
42	Senior walking group	3/11/2021 3:17 PM
43	Nothing	3/11/2021 6:35 AM
44	Historical speeches/classes about Holden Beach	3/10/2021 8:44 PM
45	pickleball	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
46	Batting cages	3/10/2021 4:49 PM
47	Would LOVE to have tennis courts available!!!	3/10/2021 1:00 PM
48	recreation center with exercise equipment or weight room	3/10/2021 10:48 AM
49	Pier fishing	3/10/2021 10:37 AM
50	Outdoor movies in spring and fall when weather is nice.	3/10/2021 8:16 AM
51	Continue Day at the Docks Festivals	3/10/2021 6:10 AM
52	More craft festivals	3/9/2021 11:53 PM
53	Hopefully continue the spring and fall festivals, and also the special holiday activities for children.	3/9/2021 11:12 PM
54	Less emphasis on catering to local nonresidents. Find activities that residents, renters and property owners enjoy. Events catering to families should be on Saturdays so those who are weekend residents can participate.	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
55	Dog park	3/9/2021 9:08 PM
56	Fishing tournament. Turtle watch festival and events.	3/9/2021 6:23 PM
57	Christmas light flotilla	3/9/2021 5:39 PM
58	Bike lanes	3/9/2021 4:48 PM
59	Yoga	3/9/2021 4:37 PM
60	Running/walking club. Intro to fishing	3/9/2021 4:20 PM
61	Yoga	3/9/2021 3:31 PM
62	I don't feel special recreation events are necessary. Those visiting our beach are there for boating, fishing, the beach.. No indoor facilities are needed. This would only create more issues with off island residents..	3/9/2021 3:15 PM
63	Outdoor movies at the park/beach. Church mass/services on the beach closest to the church's access point. Firework displays on beach during summer and at a minimum, on 4th July weekend. Making sure mini golf is open year round and slides are open during summer.	3/9/2021 3:14 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

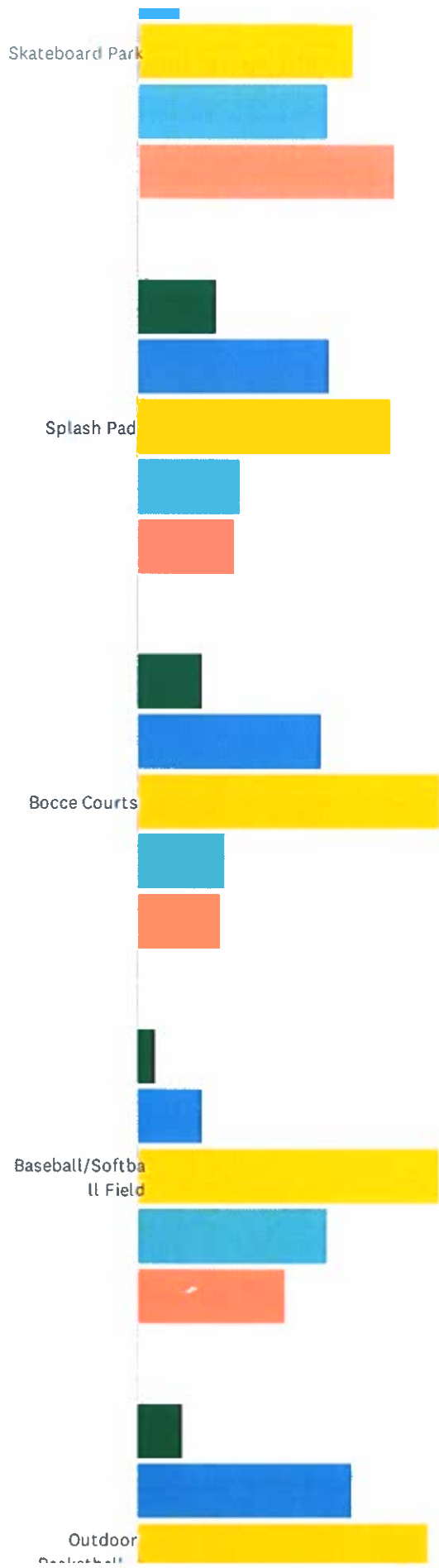
64	More functions like tie dye Tuesday	3/9/2021 3:00 PM
65	beach yoga or pilates	3/9/2021 2:57 PM
66	Educational Seminars - computer, iPhone, iPad, website development, training; also beach strand shell collecting, identification and projects	3/9/2021 2:39 PM
67	Adding some food truck nights; sand volleyball courts; add tennis courts - things families want to do on their week's vacation	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
68	More Half-Full Marathons	3/9/2021 2:05 PM
69	Pickleball tournaments, tennis court availability, area on beach for picnic, or even just benches to see the ocean	3/9/2021 2:00 PM
70	Inside gym	3/9/2021 1:54 PM
71	Knitting and Crocheting groups. Card groups. Book clubs.	3/9/2021 1:53 PM
72	Dog park	3/9/2021 1:45 PM
73	yearly review for residents on Medicare changes	3/9/2021 1:37 PM
74	Tennis and Pickle Ball	3/9/2021 1:36 PM
75	Traffic Safety and control.	3/9/2021 1:25 PM
76	open pickleball play and additional courts	3/9/2021 1:18 PM
77	bring back the Dog Park!	3/9/2021 1:17 PM
78	sunday concerts with paid parking	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
79	Yoga, group exercise, activities for teens, golf outings, walking. Splash pad for teens, adults	3/9/2021 12:52 PM
80	Above	3/9/2021 12:50 PM
81	We are a family beach town; not Ocean Isle	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
82	perhaps parades on the island	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
83	Tennis courts	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
84	Beach yoga Public swimming pool (25m for laps) Kids art using beach elements	3/9/2021 12:25 PM
85	Family style Fishing tournament (low key)	3/9/2021 12:25 PM
86	Pickleball league and tournament	3/9/2021 12:19 PM
87	Pickleball social events	3/9/2021 11:47 AM
88	inside yoga, exercise classes,	3/9/2021 11:44 AM
89	N/A	3/9/2021 11:37 AM
90	none	3/9/2021 11:33 AM
91	concerts, shows, public gatherings like festivals, events etc	3/9/2021 11:31 AM
92	designated pickleball courts and a bike lane on Ocean Blvd	3/9/2021 11:29 AM
93	Bike lanes on Ocean Boulevard	3/9/2021 11:24 AM
94	Half Marathon	3/9/2021 11:20 AM
95	Surf Camp Skate Park Disc Golf	3/9/2021 11:17 AM
96	Festivals	3/9/2021 11:14 AM

Q14 The following is a list of recreation activities/facilities that could be offered at a public park or recreation facility. Rate the importance of each activity from most to least desired. Please consider other members of your household.

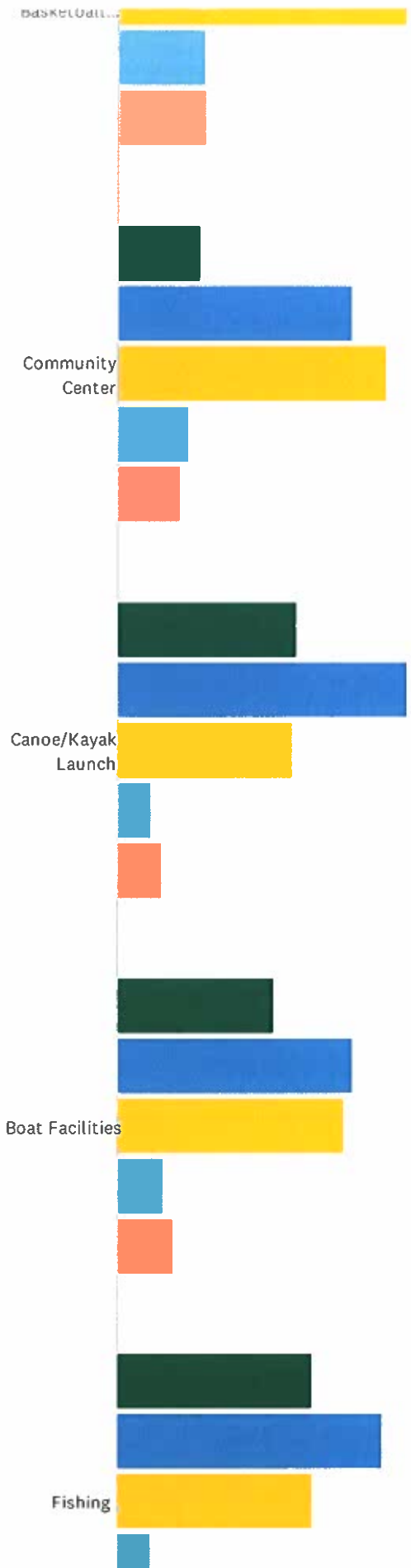
Answered: 354 Skipped: 4



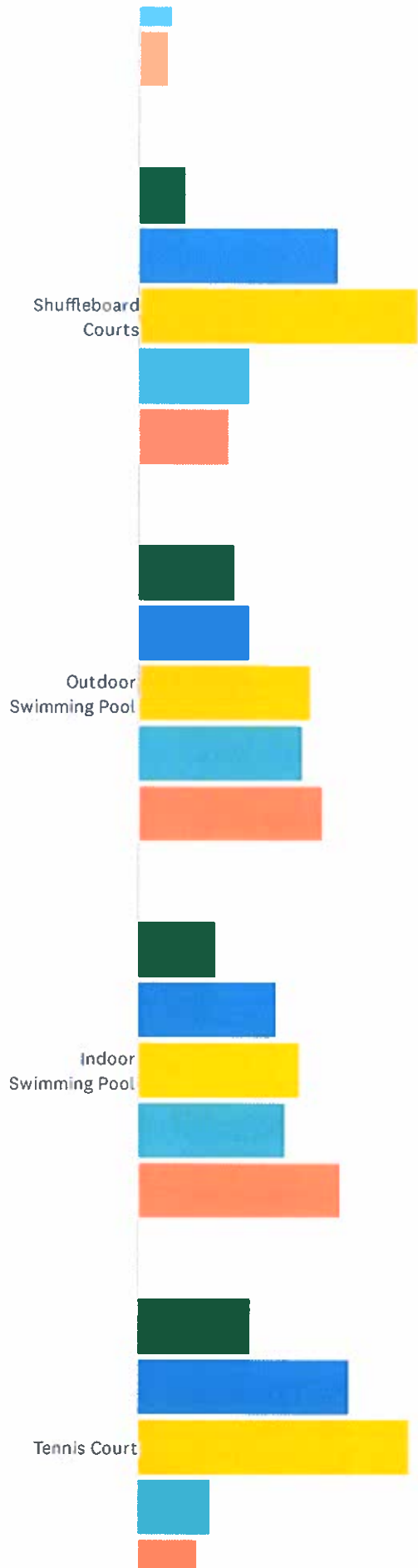
# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



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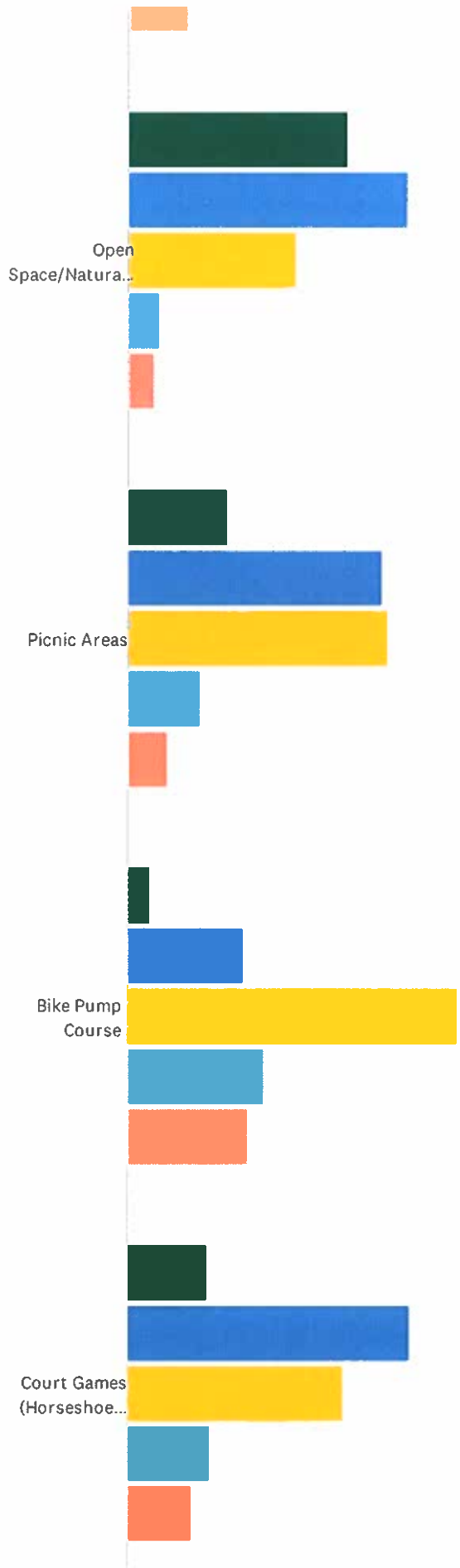


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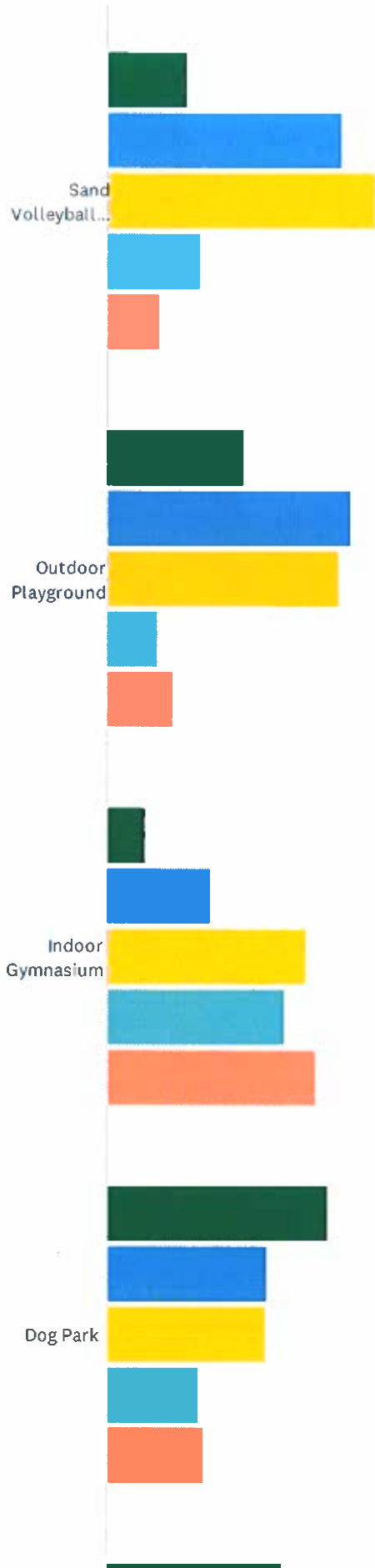




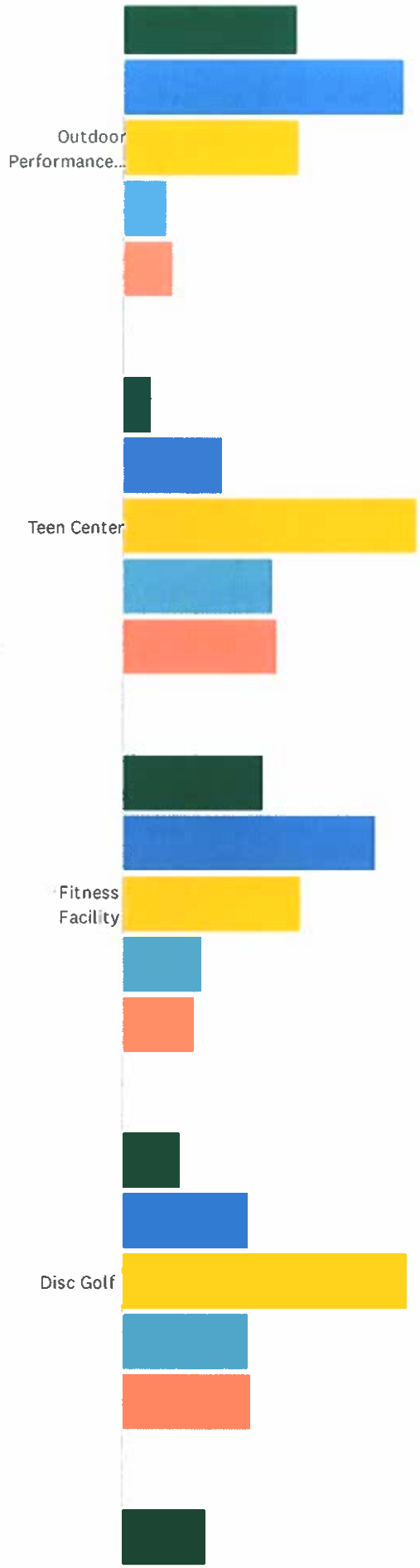
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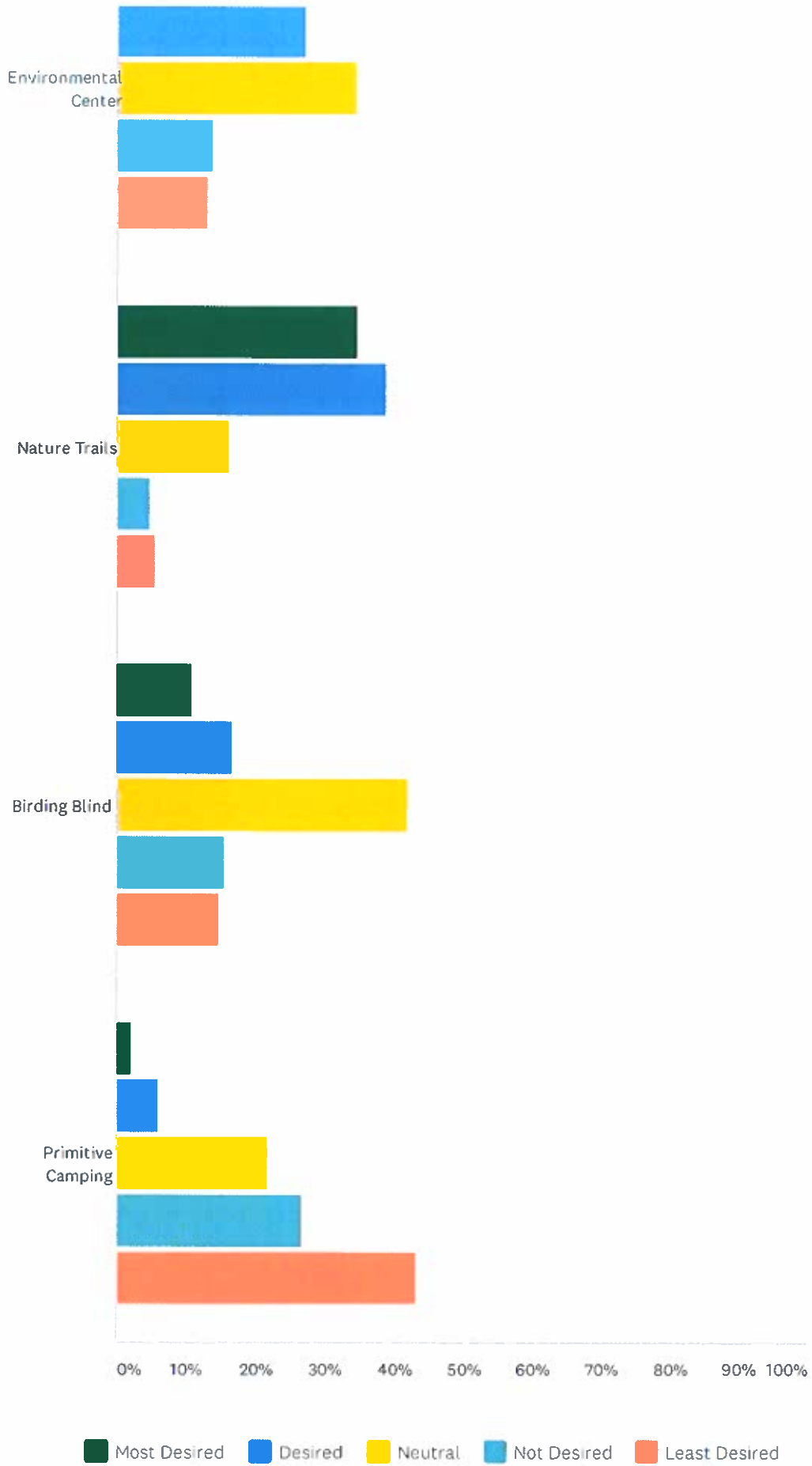
# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey



## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

	MOST DESIRED	DESIRED	NEUTRAL	NOT DESIRED	LEAST DESIRED	TOTAL
Jogging/Walking Trails	45.48% 156	37.61% 129	11.66% 40	2.04% 7	3.21% 11	343
Multi-purpose Field	5.83% 19	24.54% 80	43.25% 141	12.58% 41	13.80% 45	326
Bicycle Trails	38.48% 132	41.11% 141	13.12% 45	4.08% 14	3.21% 11	343
Skateboard Park	2.43% 8	5.78% 19	29.79% 98	26.44% 87	35.56% 117	329
Splash Pad	10.91% 36	26.67% 88	34.85% 115	14.24% 47	13.33% 44	330
Bocce Courts	9.09% 30	25.45% 84	41.82% 138	12.12% 40	11.52% 38	330
Baseball/Softball Field	2.48% 8	9.01% 29	41.61% 134	26.40% 85	20.50% 66	322
Outdoor Basketball Court	6.17% 20	29.63% 96	40.12% 130	12.04% 39	12.04% 39	324
Community Center	11.38% 37	32.62% 106	37.54% 122	9.85% 32	8.62% 28	325
Canoe/Kayak Launch	24.85% 82	40.30% 133	24.24% 80	4.55% 15	6.06% 20	330
Boat Facilities	21.67% 70	32.82% 106	31.58% 102	6.19% 20	7.74% 25	323
Fishing	27.27% 90	36.97% 122	27.27% 90	4.55% 15	3.94% 13	330
Shuffleboard Courts	6.52% 21	27.33% 88	38.51% 124	15.22% 49	12.42% 40	322
Outdoor Swimming Pool	13.13% 44	15.22% 51	23.58% 79	22.69% 76	25.37% 85	335
Indoor Swimming Pool	10.74% 35	19.02% 62	22.09% 72	20.25% 66	27.91% 91	326
Tennis Court	15.41% 51	29.00% 96	37.46% 124	9.97% 33	8.16% 27	331
Open Space/Natural Areas	30.33% 101	38.74% 129	23.12% 77	4.20% 14	3.60% 12	333
Picnic Areas	13.54% 44	35.08% 114	36.00% 117	9.85% 32	5.54% 18	325
Bike Pump Course	2.88% 9	15.97% 50	45.69% 143	18.85% 59	16.61% 52	313
Court Games (Horseshoe Pits, Cornhole, etc.)	10.91% 36	39.09% 129	30.00% 99	11.21% 37	8.79% 29	330
Sand Volleyball Court	10.98% 36	32.32% 106	36.89% 121	12.80% 42	7.01% 23	328
Outdoor Playground	18.89% 61	33.44% 108	31.89% 103	6.81% 22	8.98% 29	323
Indoor Gymnasium	5.28% 17	14.29% 46	27.33% 88	24.53% 79	28.57% 92	322

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

Dog Park	30.42%	21.99%	21.69%	12.65%	13.25%	332
	101	73	72	42	44	
Outdoor Performance Area	24.01%	38.91%	24.32%	5.78%	6.99%	329
	79	128	80	19	23	
Teen Center	3.70%	13.58%	40.74%	20.68%	21.30%	324
	12	44	132	67	69	
Fitness Facility	19.52%	35.14%	24.62%	10.81%	9.91%	333
	65	117	82	36	33	
Disc Golf	7.93%	17.38%	39.63%	17.38%	17.68%	328
	26	57	130	57	58	
Environmental Center	11.42%	27.16%	34.57%	13.89%	12.96%	324
	37	88	112	45	42	
Nature Trails	34.82%	38.99%	16.07%	4.76%	5.36%	336
	117	131	54	16	18	
Birding Blind	10.90%	16.82%	42.06%	15.58%	14.64%	321
	35	54	135	50	47	
Primitive Camping	2.15%	6.13%	21.78%	26.69%	43.25%	326
	7	20	71	87	141	

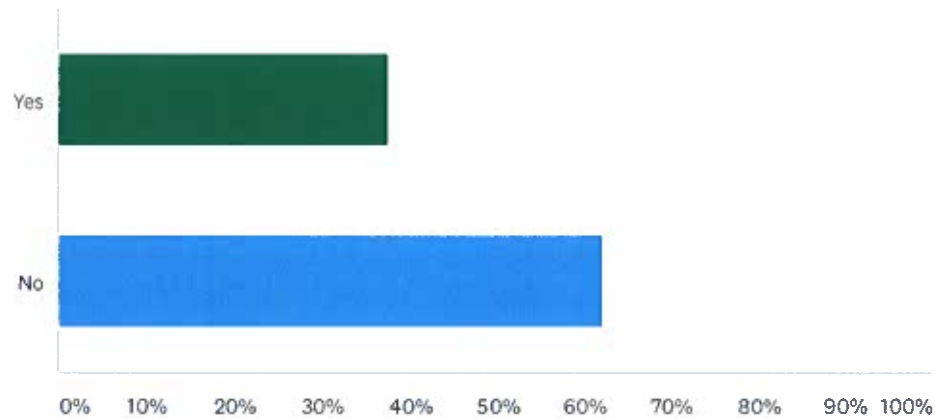
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Mid island boat ramp, boat launch	4/11/2021 9:43 PM
2	Would love to see much of the beach left natural.	4/9/2021 9:23 AM
3	Buy the pier and make that a public area	4/5/2021 2:19 PM
4	Move away from tennis to pickle ball	4/4/2021 10:41 AM
5	I would question the need for a lot of new things to offer. We offer our beautiful Beach. Can't that be enough?	4/2/2021 11:38 AM
6	For the homeless? No thank you	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
7	HB is a small island with limited parking. We cannot be everything for everyone. Growth should be conducive to the area and to those who live here and enjoy it FT. .	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
8	Pickle Ball	3/31/2021 4:07 PM
9	Need a dog park	3/18/2021 10:17 AM
10	There are many unused tennis courts on the island owned by communities. Maybe some fee to use would be beneficial to all	3/14/2021 1:37 PM
11	You need bathroom facilities at all parks if you expect families to use them	3/12/2021 8:56 AM
12	pickleball courts	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
13	Board walk over waterway for crabbing, walking and nature watching	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
14	Tennis/pickleball courts highly desirable	3/9/2021 5:58 PM
15	Campground on beach with hookups	3/9/2021 3:14 PM
16	paid parking	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
17	Note: I checked tennis high as pickleball was not an option. Seems like many more pb players here then tennis.	3/9/2021 12:56 PM
18	We have a great ocean! That's why we are here. Not the above.	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
19	Tennis courts	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
20	Pickleball Courts - Who made this list, how could you leave off?	3/9/2021 12:19 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

21	Conservation areas since the island's natural habitat is being removed by wholesale clearing of lot by lot	3/9/2021 11:54 AM
22	Dedicated Pickleball courts with wind screens	3/9/2021 11:47 AM
23	yoga, exercise classes	3/9/2021 11:44 AM
24	Multiple SandVolleyball Courts	3/9/2021 11:36 AM
25	We really need a dog park especially for summer when beach access is limited	3/9/2021 11:33 AM
26	Dedicated pickleball courts	3/9/2021 11:28 AM
27	We have a huge town hall that could be a community center, but they won't let anyone in.	3/9/2021 11:20 AM

## Q15 Do you use any school or private facilities (YMCA, private fitness clubs) for recreation or leisure activities?

Answered: 346 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.57%	130
No	62.43%	216
Total Respondents: 346		

#	IF SO, WHICH ONES?	DATE
1	Longwave Yoga	5/7/2021 9:06 AM
2	Ymca	4/18/2021 7:59 PM
3	planet fun	4/15/2021 2:17 AM
4	Yoga	4/11/2021 9:43 PM
5	Dosher Fitness	4/10/2021 7:47 PM
6	bcc	4/5/2021 3:05 PM
7	Winding River	4/4/2021 10:41 AM
8	Fitness center, private club	4/3/2021 2:16 PM
9	ymca	4/2/2021 9:36 PM
10	Brunswick Community College Pool	4/2/2021 7:02 PM
11	BCCC	4/2/2021 8:44 AM
12	Cedar Grove middle tennis courts, Shallotte park tennis courts	4/2/2021 7:59 AM
13	ymca	4/2/2021 2:20 AM
14	BCC	4/1/2021 8:04 PM
15	Lifetime	4/1/2021 7:05 PM
16	ywca	4/1/2021 6:42 PM
17	Doshers Gym	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
18	Fitness club in NJ	4/1/2021 6:08 PM



## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

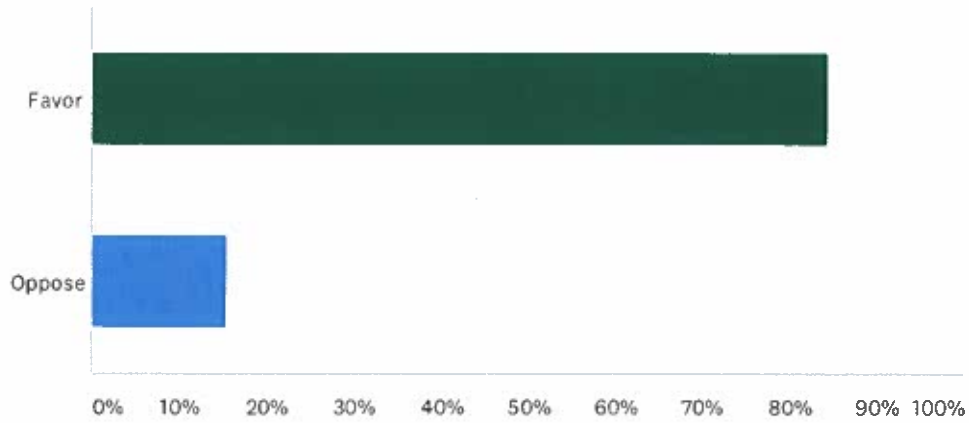
19	Brunswick CC Swimming Pool	4/1/2021 5:23 PM
20	At home.	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
21	private fitness club	4/1/2021 4:39 PM
22	Orenage theory	4/1/2021 4:35 PM
23	YMCA and Fitness Center in High Point	4/1/2021 4:23 PM
24	Brunswick community college	4/1/2021 4:21 PM
25	Lockwood Folly	4/1/2021 4:16 PM
26	YMCA	3/30/2021 11:53 AM
27	BCCC, Winding River	3/30/2021 7:36 AM
28	Winding River fitness center	3/23/2021 5:40 AM
29	YMCA	3/21/2021 8:09 AM
30	Personal Trainer at Core & More in Shallotte	3/19/2021 11:11 AM
31	y sometimes, treadmill other times	3/18/2021 10:17 PM
32	Southampton Racquet Club	3/18/2021 8:05 PM
33	Private gym	3/18/2021 8:00 PM
34	gym	3/18/2021 6:58 PM
35	BCC	3/18/2021 3:50 PM
36	YMCA	3/18/2021 3:37 PM
37	Private clubs	3/18/2021 10:53 AM
38	in Charlotte	3/18/2021 10:33 AM
39	Lockwood Folly Country Club, Ocean Ridge Plantation	3/16/2021 11:26 PM
40	o2	3/15/2021 7:58 PM
41	I would if they were closer. I like organized class offerings	3/14/2021 1:37 PM
42	Burn in Wilmington	3/13/2021 4:05 PM
43	BCC	3/10/2021 9:03 PM
44	planet fitness	3/10/2021 8:44 PM
45	BCC	3/10/2021 8:21 PM
46	Private fitness club	3/10/2021 1:00 PM
47	YMCA, orange theory	3/10/2021 12:58 PM
48	Trust, Shallotte, Dinah E Gore Fitness Center, Bolivia	3/10/2021 12:58 PM
49	Hudson Rec. Center Hudson, NC	3/10/2021 10:48 AM
50	Exercise classes	3/10/2021 10:29 AM
51	YMCA	3/10/2021 9:39 AM
52	Pickleball courts in Ocean Isle	3/10/2021 6:10 AM
53	BCC	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
54	Winding river	3/9/2021 9:08 PM
55	BCC Fitness Center	3/9/2021 8:20 PM
56	Dosher	3/9/2021 7:59 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

57	Development Gym	3/9/2021 7:26 PM
58	Golf, tennis	3/9/2021 5:39 PM
59	private fitness club	3/9/2021 4:39 PM
60	TruFit and Doshers	3/9/2021 4:37 PM
61	Dosher fitness	3/9/2021 4:20 PM
62	Not local	3/9/2021 3:31 PM
63	Planet Fitness	3/9/2021 3:24 PM
64	Senior center	3/9/2021 3:15 PM
65	YMCA	3/9/2021 3:00 PM
66	fitness club, dance studio	3/9/2021 3:00 PM
67	Prestonwood in Cary Nc	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
68	Not local	3/9/2021 2:14 PM
69	Gym	3/9/2021 2:11 PM
70	Cedar Grove Park	3/9/2021 2:05 PM
71	YMCA & Fitness clubs	3/9/2021 1:41 PM
72	YMCA	3/9/2021 1:39 PM
73	Middle school Tennis courts	3/9/2021 1:36 PM
74	BCC Gore Fitness Center	3/9/2021 1:33 PM
75	YMCA - PF	3/9/2021 1:18 PM
76	Dosher	3/9/2021 1:17 PM
77	private info	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
78	Planet fitness	3/9/2021 12:50 PM
79	all the surrounding golf courses	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
80	Raleigh, Cary	3/9/2021 12:40 PM
81	Orange theory	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
82	YMCA	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
83	O2 fitness, Dosher gym	3/9/2021 12:28 PM
84	Ymca	3/9/2021 12:27 PM
85	Fitness club at home	3/9/2021 12:25 PM
86	BCC	3/9/2021 12:19 PM
87	BCC gym	3/9/2021 11:47 AM
88	ymca	3/9/2021 11:36 AM
89	YMCA	3/9/2021 11:26 AM
90	Ymca	3/9/2021 11:25 AM
91	Community College	3/9/2021 11:24 AM
92	Lockwood folly gym	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
93	Winding River	3/9/2021 11:19 AM
94	BCC, Cedar Grove Middle School	3/9/2021 11:17 AM

### Q16 Would you favor or oppose expanding recreational opportunities in Holden Beach?

Answered: 343 Skipped: 15



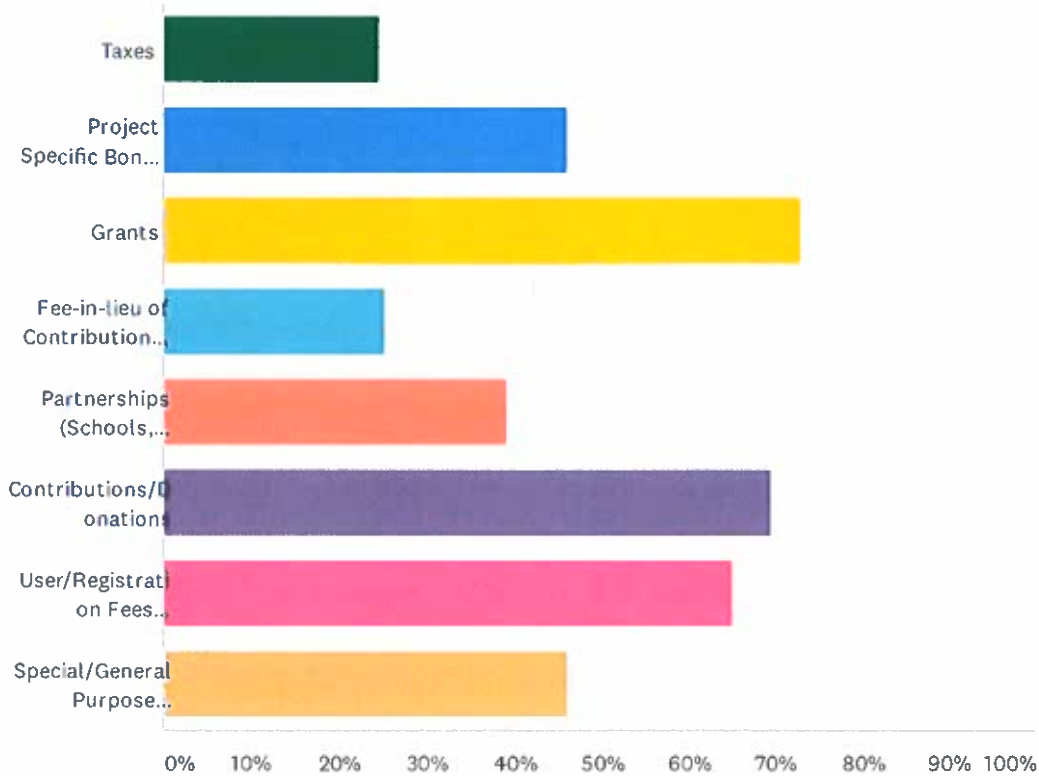
**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Favor	84.55%	290
Oppose	15.45%	53
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>343</b>

**Q17 What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities, and create programs? Check all that apply.**

Answered: 336 Skipped: 22



**ANSWER CHOICES**

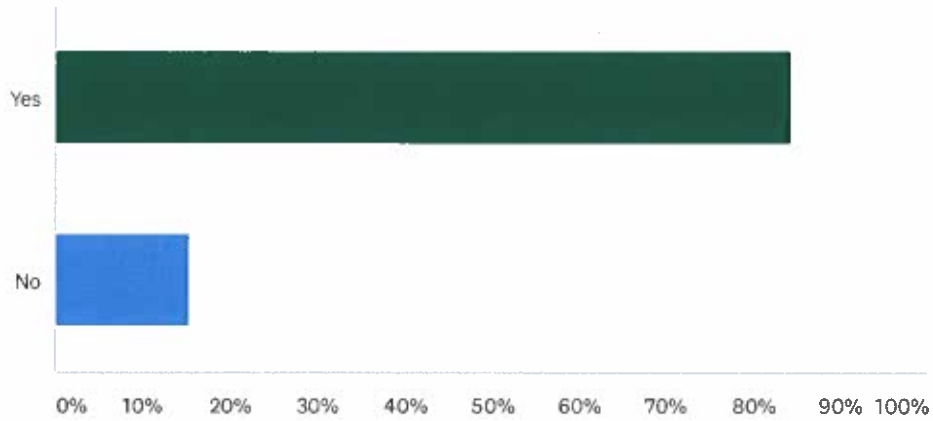
**RESPONSES**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	Count
Taxes	24.70%	83
Project Specific Bond Referendums (example: Future recreational facility)	46.13%	155
Grants	72.92%	245
Fee-in-lieu of Contribution (example: Land from new subdivision)	25.30%	85
Partnerships (Schools, organizations, state or local agencies)	39.29%	132
Contributions/Donations	69.64%	234
User/Registration Fees (Program fees)	65.18%	219
Special/General Purpose Foundations (example: Parks and Recreation Foundation)	46.13%	155

Total Respondents: 336

### Q18 Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or use a special facility?

Answered: 353 Skipped: 5



**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	84.42%	298
No	15.58%	55
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>353</b>

# Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

## Q19 Additional Comments:

Answered: 69 Skipped: 289

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Get paid parking to help fund things	4/11/2021 9:43 PM
2	Repair sidewalks and add bike lanes to sides of Ocean Blvd.	4/10/2021 7:47 PM
3	We need to keep our beach as natural as possible. Utilize areas already there... the pier and the area near the bridge. Is there some way to improve the pier and perhaps make it more attractive. I love the idea of bike trails and walking trails... not sure where they would go. We already have a bike touring trail. Also... let's not encourage big crowds!!	4/9/2021 9:23 AM
4	good work getting this out there!	4/5/2021 3:05 PM
5	There is a lack of public access and parking for the beach and Holden Beach is primarily a beach	4/5/2021 2:19 PM
6	Stop catering to visitors. They will come regardless. By charging for amenities like parking, and actually enforcing it, the visitors who come will be of better quality. AND, parking revenues can be used to pay for some of the parks and recreation programs.	4/4/2021 8:50 PM
7	Stop the build up of facilities until those using them pay the taxes here!!!!	4/3/2021 8:48 PM
8	It is very upsetting that the dog park was taken away. It is one of the simplest things that the town could do to improve our facilities. There is no excuse for a town with this many dogs not to have a proper park, especially as dogs are limited on the beach in the summer, and also because there is a year round leash law. Owners need a place to let their dogs run and exercise. We would gladly pay a usage fee for a well-maintained dog park. We did not have a dog when we moved here a number of years ago, but now that we realize the importance of having an area where dogs can run off leash, I doubt we would have considered moving here without there being a dog park nearby.	4/2/2021 7:02 PM
9	Many women travel to play tennis. Please consider adding lighted tennis courts.	4/2/2021 7:59 AM
10	How can you possibly survey the community at this time? This is crazy	4/1/2021 7:30 PM
11	Expand the questions to 2019! Covid shut everything down	4/1/2021 6:35 PM
12	Due to the limited land options for expansion of programs and facilities, consideration should be taken on how to improve existing ones.	4/1/2021 6:16 PM
13	Please make sure the amenities serve Town residents versus people who live off the island.	4/1/2021 5:23 PM
14	We don't need this. We've got the beach! Use it! It is FREE.	4/1/2021 4:41 PM
15	Referencing question #8, I must say I had NO IDEA there are already this many parks on Holden. I'm not sure how many are even considered or recognized as a "park".	4/1/2021 4:20 PM
16	Pickle Ball	3/31/2021 4:07 PM
17	Sidewalks are crowded, need other bike, walking, running alternatives. Trails, island wide trail other than the beach.	3/30/2021 7:36 AM
18	I prefer to keep Holden as natural and quiet as possible. That's what folks like about it.	3/19/2021 11:11 AM
19	None	3/18/2021 10:10 PM
20	Bicycle trails/lanes important	3/16/2021 8:46 PM
21	We need a dog park back on Holden Beach! It is as important or more so than a bike route adjacent to Ocean Blvd!	3/15/2021 11:21 AM
22	Exercise is important to visitors abs year round owners. It can be hazardous currently with overcrowded sidewalks and bikes using the roads	3/14/2021 1:37 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

23	PAID PARKING for the existing public parking spaces should be used to support recreation projects, along with contributions and user fees. The town should not take on projects to support off island entities such as housing developments and campgrounds. Adequate parking for these entities already exists on land that the town has graciously provided. Additional off island traffic will degrade the quality of life for residents and renters on the island. While the beach is a public beach, the Town should support the residents and property owners, not off island interests.	3/12/2021 5:21 PM
24	We love Sailfish park but without bathroom facilities you really cannot use it much. Could easily build a surround for a porta pot that the neighbors would not find offensive.	3/12/2021 8:56 AM
25	Promotion of existing activities available	3/12/2021 6:28 AM
26	We come to get away from all the things you are wanting at the beach. Like HB because of the lack of commercial stuff. The parks now are used by more people off the Island now then people that own homes and pay taxes for it.	3/11/2021 2:02 AM
27	according to what facilities are offered , I am in hopes if pay to park comes to our beach property owners are offered yearly passes or some sort of break in price I am not a fan of a big price to park to take a walk on the beach I have been a part of for 40 plus years.	3/10/2021 8:44 PM
28	The town needs a dog park. We have leash laws which is great but we need somewhere local our dogs can run off leash and interact with other dogs. Needs to be split between dog appropriate size similar to Shallotte park. Would be great if it could be limited to only property owners even if it was a fee and a code to open gate.	3/10/2021 8:43 PM
29	I have no issue with expanding recreational and park facilities on the island as long as those non-residents and non-property owners using the facilities pay some cost to offset the use. Strongly desire a dog park asap. Some of the questions are moot as the item being asked about (basketball court for example) already exists on the island.	3/10/2021 8:21 PM
30	please add more pickleball courts	3/10/2021 4:57 PM
31	bike lanes on ocean blvd. would be a good addition.	3/10/2021 10:48 AM
32	Holden Beach should buy the Pier for additional parking and Pier fishing It would be beneficial for the town, the community and visitors to the island	3/10/2021 10:37 AM
33	I think the beach is extending itself considering wanting to add a bike lane and parking. Where is the funding coming from and is it going to benefit those who have permanent homes on the island?	3/10/2021 10:29 AM
34	My biggest priority is expanding walking and biking options.	3/10/2021 9:48 AM
35	Holden Beach is a small residential island that cannot be everything to everyone. It can be welcoming without being extravagant. Choose wisely on what would enhance without making us into Myrtle Beach.	3/10/2021 6:10 AM
36	There are much more useful contributions to all instead of spending all that money on garbage and parking issues!	3/10/2021 2:57 AM
37	Having sidewalks, walkable side streets, and the beach, I don't feel a walking trail is really necessary. #16 is hard to answer until things are narrowed down. At this point I am neutral, but that wasn't a choice.	3/9/2021 11:12 PM
38	No new borrowing. Let property owners use the boat dock. Focus on why people come here to live or visit- the beach, ocean and other natural areas.	3/9/2021 10:01 PM
39	When did the actual beach not be entertainment?	3/9/2021 9:13 PM
40	NO TAXES!	3/9/2021 6:47 PM
41	Would love more areas to access inter coastal waterway!	3/9/2021 6:20 PM
42	Park appears well utilized. I'm a runner but don't see necessity for additional paths. Would be interested in basketball courts separated from tennis/pickle ball areas.	3/9/2021 5:39 PM
43	I appreciate the family oriented programs that Holden Beach offers for my kids, however, I try to avoid sugary treats and I would love if these programs revolved more around celebrating and less around handing out candy. I would love to see some natural surface walking/nature trails	3/9/2021 4:29 PM

## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

on the island. I would also love for the splash pad to be turned on earlier and remain on during all the warm months, maybe end of April until end of Oct. I would also love more opportunities for whole family fitness activities like 5ks and fun runs or maybe relays or obstacle courses. Also, more town sponsored outdoor fitness classes for adults or kids.

44	Would like an outdoor venue that isn't next to Wastewater Treatment facility. It stinks so bad during the Sunday night concerts and other events there.	3/9/2021 4:22 PM
45	During the pandemic, having the basketball courts open and the playground closed gave a very negative impression to Holden Beach residents/visitors.	3/9/2021 3:24 PM
46	We would be willing to pay a fee as long as it is affordable. If fees are instituted for recreational and other services it should be of a lesser amount to residents, owners and paying visitors than the open public unless public access is not allowed. Owners could be issued special rec cards and include that for renters' use. If it is lost, it is deactivated and resident/owner/renter pays the replacement card fee! Also, people, as well as workers, should not be able to park on driveways of houses they are not renting out or otherwise providing services for!	3/9/2021 3:14 PM
47	Beach strand is our most valuable asset. We need to get a handle on noncompliance with ordinances. Dogs on beach, dogs off leash, dog poop not picked up, trash, holes unattended, equipment left overnight.	3/9/2021 2:39 PM
48	Green space, bike path along all on ocean blvd, tennis and sand volleyball courts, fitness center - would be great Really like the bald head island club. Private club would be of interest - one that has an tennis courts, outdoor pool, bar and grill, and gym. That can be built with private funds and owners can elect to pay and then give renters club passes. This will increase offerings alongside better / improved community offerings for parks and rec	3/9/2021 2:32 PM
49	PLEASE fix the restrooms that are used by day folks and for the concerts, etc. They need all toilets to work, doors to latch, and a FAN in each room would help in the warmer months. When attending the concerts, I hate to go in there, because of the smell and dirt. I am embarrassed to take guests.	3/9/2021 2:14 PM
50	HB is our home and really enjoy our time over the bridge.....however we do miss the dog park for our fur baby to run around	3/9/2021 2:05 PM
51	Increasing Tax burden is not acceptable. Maintaining another town building is cost prohibitive.	3/9/2021 1:48 PM
52	Nominal fees for live entertainment would be tolerable. Fees for residents/property owners for use of other facilities not so much.	3/9/2021 1:03 PM
53	P A I D P A R K I N G for everybody in public parking areas	3/9/2021 12:58 PM
54	You are in the right track! More activities for teens and adults.	3/9/2021 12:52 PM
55	What difference does it make as to what 'race' the survey taker is?	3/9/2021 12:43 PM
56	Would greatly appreciate a bench at east end at inlet to ICW. Seniors need a place to rest if they walk down there!	3/9/2021 12:38 PM
57	I would like the Town to consider a small park at the intersection of Sand Dune and Sand Spur, similar to the Halstead Park. Town owns lot at that location. Barbara A Lowell 317 Sandpiper	3/9/2021 12:34 PM
58	Preserving wild areas is my most important concern for the island.	3/9/2021 11:54 AM
59	Like the idea of paid parking and usage fees for maintaining parks, beaches, public areas....my town taxes already support this but I think paid parking and other ways to incur money from off island usage of the town areas is beneficial.	3/9/2021 11:36 AM
60	none	3/9/2021 11:33 AM
61	Dog park is essential!!	3/9/2021 11:33 AM
62	I like that you're interested in improving things at the beach but the roads really need some help before all the cars come. I know parking is an issue...maybe buy a vacant lot off Brunswick and make it a parking area....	3/9/2021 11:31 AM
63	I didn't know some of the parks listed even existed. Maybe improve signage on existing parks and/or publish brochures about their availability/rules.	3/9/2021 11:27 AM
64	With the plans for bike trails on OB and free parking being proposed for day trippers, more	3/9/2021 11:26 AM



## Holden Beach Recreation System Survey

recreation facilities will only make HB more crowded. I was never for the Bridgeview Park. People come here for the beach when on vacation.

65	I think who owns a residence should have a discounted rate if fees should apply.	3/9/2021 11:26 AM
66	We need to concentrate on Nature and activities that spotlight the beauty of the Holden Beach environment! No more parking lots! No more buildings! People who live here need peaceful activities around nature not mor things that demand concrete and stone. Vacationers need to enjoy the nature of the island as well to get away from the rat race of every day life and enjoy the peace and beauty that surrounds them here.	3/9/2021 11:23 AM
67	Businesses should run businesses. Paid fitness and yoga takes away from the professionals paying rent at other locations. The yoga place closed, you can't compete with a town being funded by taxpayers.	3/9/2021 11:20 AM
68	Please help provide more disability access points and mats on the stand and the use of sand wheelchairs.	3/9/2021 11:16 AM
69	Bring back a dog park	3/9/2021 11:16 AM



# APPENDIX D



Town of Holden Beach - Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2021-2031  
10 Year Anticipated Future Recreational Project List

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
		2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
<b>Bridgeview Park</b>						
Install fishing platform/wildlife observation deck	\$50,000					
Add shade and additional seating near Basketball court	\$85,000					
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>					
<b>Jordan Boulevard Pavilion</b>						
Repave parking area	\$150,000			\$150,000		
Improve ADA accessibility	\$5,000	\$5,000				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>					
<b>Sailfish Drive Park</b>						
Provide accessible canoe/kayak launch	\$40,000	\$40,000				
Install covered picnic area	\$50,000		\$50,000			
Add additional picnic facilities	\$20,000					
Add educational signage	\$8,000					
Install waterless restroom facilities	\$129,000		\$129,000			
Improve ADA accessibility	\$3,000	\$3,000				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>					
<b>Halstead Park</b>						
Repair existing pier and fishing platform for ADA accessibility	\$50,000		\$50,000			
Install fish cleaning station to fishing platform	\$7,500	\$7,500				
Install canoe/kayak launch	\$12,500					\$12,500
Add educational signage	\$5,000					
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>					
<b>Holden Beach Pocket Park</b>						
Provide area for revolving art sculpture	\$1,500			\$1,500		
Improve ADA accessibility	\$1,500	\$1,500				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>					
<b>Holden Beach Fit Trail</b>						
Update equipment and provide instruction signage	\$100,000					
Improve ADA accessibility (pervious concrete pad for each station)	\$81,000	\$81,000				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$181,000</b>					
<b>Olden Holden Bike Route</b>						
Improve accessibility and wayfinding	\$75,000			\$75,000		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>					

<b>Scotch Bonnet Park Development</b>											
Install dog park					\$30,000						
Install natural surface trails with educational signage					\$10,000					\$30,000	
Install paved trails					\$30,000						
Install restroom building					\$250,000						\$250,000
Install picnic shelter					\$100,000						
Install site furnishings					\$20,000			\$20,000			
Install disc golf course					\$15,000						
Install parking lot					\$200,000						
Site development					\$300,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$955,000</b>						
<b>796 Ocean Boulevard - Public Building</b>											
Upgrades for use as community recreation resource					\$150,000					\$150,000	
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$150,000</b>						
<b>Future Community Park Development (Holden Beach Pier)</b>											
Future park development*					\$500,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$500,000</b>						
<b>*Does not include land acquisition cost</b>											
<b>Future ICWW Access Points</b>											
Future park development (signage, natural paths to ICWW)					\$60,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$60,000</b>						
<b>Future Linear Park (connect Town Hall to recreational facilities near bridge)</b>											
Future park development					2,000,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$2,000,000</b>						
<b>Future Linear Park (Sandspur Waterway Walk)</b>											
Future park development					\$2,000,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$2,000,000</b>						
<b>Future Dog Park (end of Scotch Bonnet Drive)</b>											
Future park development					\$30,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$30,000</b>						
<b>Future Dog Park (Ocean Blvd/Brunswick R.O.W.)</b>											
Future park development					\$30,000						
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>\$30,000</b>						
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>\$6,830,500</b>			<b>\$253,500</b>	<b>\$290,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$262,500</b>

# APPENDIX E





## **HOLDEN BEACH FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS**

**We met with these focus groups virtually due to Covid restrictions. Each meeting lasted approximately one hour each. Each participant was encouraged to share their opinions and feelings about the future of Holden Beach Parks and Facilities. The notes do not reflect when a topic was discussed more than once. There is no priority in the listing, only taken from minutes taken by the McGill staff in attendance at each meeting. We are deeply appreciative of the time and effort given to the town by these citizens.**

**March 3, 2021**

**Steering Group**

**5 Citizens**

Christy Ferguson – Town Staff

McGill – Mike Norris, Michael Norton, Jim Ford, LuAnn Bryan

- Fishing Docks
- Need playground at west end of town
- Scotch Bonnet – needs to be developed again
- Continue and add to kid's summer camps
- Shell ID, Fish ID classes
- More fitness stations
- Golf putting green
- Waterslide
- Educational Kiosk
- Observation decks
- Canoe/Kayak launches away from motorboats
- Access points
- Dog park
- Community gardens
- Beehives
- Trails

**March 5, 2021**

**Holden Beach Landscape & Arts Focus Group**

**5 citizens**

Christy Ferguson– Town Staff

McGill – Mike Norris and LuAnn Bryan

- Pickleball courts
- Beautify ocean Blvd.
- Beautify entrance with bridge area
- Redo entrance under bridge – beautify, public art
- Walking trails
- Wayfinding signs
- Paint power boxes in front of houses
- Cultural trails
- More equipment in the parks – playground, swings, etc.
- Dedicated bike lane Ocean Blvd to west end
- Improve the sidewalks
- Kayak launch at sailboat park
- More programs for kids
- More adult programs
- Festival/event location and parking
- Yoga
- Beach volleyball
- Intramural league
- Meet up apps for programs in town
- ADA - beach access- mats, boardwalks, ramps
- Dog park
- Community garden
- More fitness facilities
- More restrooms
- Permanent restrooms, not portable
- Permanent outdoor showers
- Parking
- Shuttle or trolley for off island parking for day trippers
- Multi-modal transportation
- Bike lane
- Golf carts – creating safety issues on sidewalks and side streets
- West end – playground, kayak launch, parking, fishing pier

**Monday March 8, 2021**

**Realtor Focus Group**

**6 citizens**

Christy Ferguson- Town Staff

McGill – Mike Norris, Jim Ford, LuAnn Bryan

- Keep quaintness of the town
- Need better sidewalks and bike paths
- Dog park
- Sidewalks
- Bike bath on Ocean Blvd
- Dog Park
- Exercise stations – more
- Possible dog park to be built on County property across the bridge??
- West side needs more parks
- Need more water access at street ends if possible
- Shuttle for day trippers
- Boat ramps – motorized and non-motorized needed
- More beach accesses – never have too many
- Trolley to drop off people at beach access points needed
- Beach volleyball
- Another splash pad and park
- Tennis
- Issues with golf carts
- Purchase Pier property – once in lifetime opportunity
- Public private venture for pier
- Night lighting at crossovers at beach access points for safety at night
- Expand summer day camps
- Expand joint use with other entities
- Use chapel more
- Indoor rec facility with workout and gym
- Better advertising with info to be put in realtors' notebooks at the rental properties
- App on phone for HB
- More restrooms

**Monday March 8, 2021**

**Retirees Group**

**9 citizens**

Christy Ferguson– Town Staff

McGill – Jim Ford and LuAnn Bryan

- Tennis Courts
- Walking trail
- Bike trail
- Dog park
- More adult programs
- Environmental education programs – shell id, fish id, plant id
- Indoor Recreation Center – year around programming
- Pickleball
- Winter adult and kid programs – shag, quilt, games, etc.
- Joint use agreements encouraged
- Scotch bonnet - make a park
- Kayak launch not with motorized boats
- Water access
- More concerts – not just summer months
- More exercise classes different times of day

**Tuesday March 9, 2021**

**Water and Exercise Enthusiasts**

**8 citizens**

Christy Ferguson– Town Staff

McGill – Jim Ford and LuAnn Bryan

- Buy the PIER!
- Kayak launches – need more
- Sail fish park – Potential for launch
- Scotch Bonnet – 9-hole disc golf
- Dog park
- More yoga classes
- Sidewalk improvements
- Nature trail on spoil areas
- Marsh boardwalk
- Bike trails
- Bike lanes on Ocean Blvd
- Wildlife viewing areas
- More classes – SUP, kite surfing, surfing
- Launch on west end needed
- Spoil area near swordfish – nature trails
- Technical classes – use instructors from Community College
- Shell ID, Fish ID classes
- More programs – exercise and movement for children
- Bocci on beach –
- Tennis Courts
- Issues with bikes and road sharing – more signage needed for sure

**Tuesday March 9, 2021**

**Hodgepodge community group**

**8 citizens**

Christy Ferguson – Town Staff

McGill – Jim Ford and LuAnn Bryan

- ADA walkways
- ADA beach wheelchairs for rent from town
- Bike lane on Ocean Blvd
- Pickleball
- Walking trails on spoil areas
- Dog Park
- Golf carts – safety concerns
- Exercise stations
- Pickleball
- Bike lane
- Fitness trails
- Nature trails
- Spoil areas – trails and dog park
- Mats for ADA beach access
- July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks
- Running – unsafe on local streets- need signage for shared road with runners and bikes and vehicles
- Tourist app – rules of HB for them to find easily
- Kayak – need more launches award from motorized boats
- More beach accesses
- Shuttle
- Community garden
- Disc golf
- Water access
- Kayak access
- Fishing access
- Dog park
- Classes with community college
- Jam sessions at the chapel
- More classes – shell, SUP, fish id, fitness classes
- Golf carts – safety issues
- Joint use encouraged
- Tennis
- Pickleball

**March 3, 2021**

**Families Focus Groups**

**12 citizens**

Christy Ferguson – Town Staff

McGill – Jim Ford and LuAnn Bryan

- Dog Park
- West end – playground, bike trails off the road
- Bike trail at Sailfish around top of spoil area
- Scotch Bonnet
- Observation decks
- Nature trail
- Dog park
- Marsh walks
- Observation deck
- Volleyball
- Bike paths
- Multipurpose court – need at least one more
- Tennis court
- Fishing access
- Fishing pier
- Kayak access points
- Geo caching
- Scavenger hunter for tourists
- Disc golf
- Food truck festival
- Touch a truck event
- Classic car cruises
- Kite festival
- Collection list for tourists
- Sailfish park – add launch for kayak
- Another picnic shelters
- Bike pump track
- Water access
- More par course stations
- Bike path
- Dog park
- Classes – SUP, Kite surfing
- Shell ID class
- Jam session – Holden beach band jam
- Fishing access
- More fitness classes at more times
- More kid day camps

- More concerts 0 not just during summer
- Adult day camp
- Shuffleboard
- Bike lanes
- Better signage for shared use of road



# APPENDIX F



## **Federal Aid Construction Funds**

These funds are included in the National Highway System (NHS), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). The funds provide for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities. The primary source of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is STBG Enhancement Funding.

## **The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA)**

The SAFETEA approved by the federal government in 2004, is a primary source for financing bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway projects throughout the country, at both the local and state levels. Providing as much as 80% for development and construction costs, this grant is earmarked for facilities such as sidewalks, rail trails, bike lanes, and greenways. The Enhancement Program (a section of SAFETEA) is used primarily by municipalities since this section focuses on bicycle and pedestrian corridors, environmental mitigation, historic preservation, and scenic byways. 20% matching funds are required by the applying entity and applicants must meet several other criteria as well. Prior to applying for this grant, a thorough engineering assessment should be performed to determine construction costs.

## **Watershed Protection and Flood Protection**

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) assists state and local governments in their operation and maintenance of watersheds whose areas are less than 250,000 square acres. The NRCS provides both financial and technical assistance to eligible projects for the improvement of watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements, and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50% local match for public recreation and fish/wildlife projects.

## **State Construction Funds**

These funds (not including the Highway Trust Fund for Urban Loops and Interchanges) may be used for the construction of sidewalks and bicycle accommodations that are a part of roadway improvement projects.



# APPENDIX G



## Examples of Typical Parks

To better understand the size, and scope of different park types the following examples have been provided:

### **Regional Parks**

Regional parks are typically very large sites and would not be appropriate for Holden Beach due to land constraints. However, on these sites, the unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found there, such as diverse land formation, vegetation, and wildlife, are preserved. Most regional park facilities contain environmental centers, campsites, nature trails, observation decks, and picnic areas. In addition, open fields for non-structured activities, such as frisbee-throwing or kite-flying, are also generally found there.

When land is acquired for the development of regional parks (or the expansion of existing sites), the land should be comprised of the previously mentioned characteristics, and whenever it is possible, accompanied by natural water features, such as lakes, rivers, or creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage used for active recreation. Both the acquisition and the development of regional parks are typically undertaken by a federal or state agency.

**Specific standards/criteria for developing regional parks are as follows:**

**Service area:**

Region-wide

**Acreage/Population Ratio:**

10 acres per 1,000 persons

**Minimum Size:**

150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in Community Parks.)

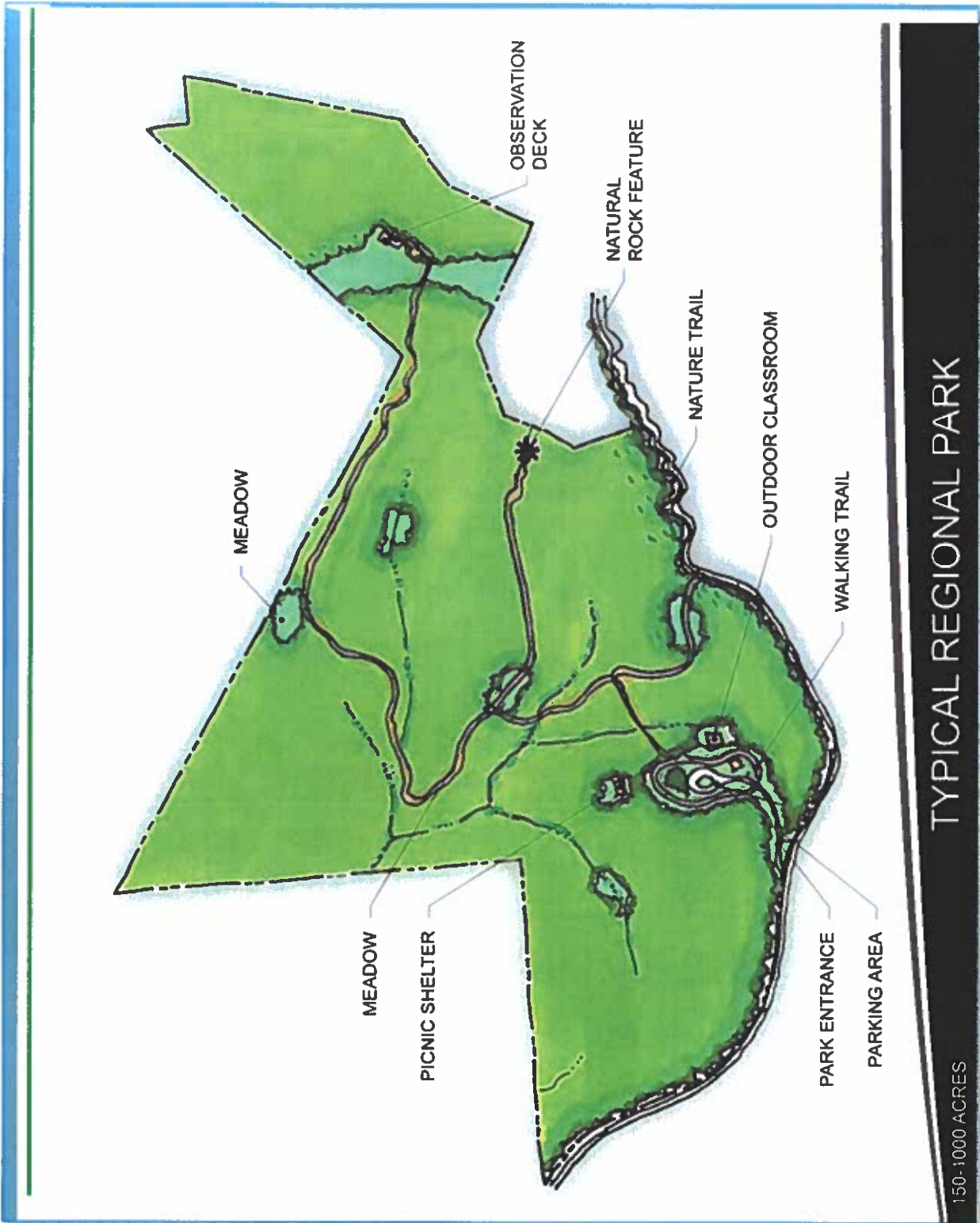


**Carolina Beach State Park**

**Typical Facilities:**

Environmental center	Caretaker's house
Equestrian center	Primitive camping
Group camping	Recreational vehicle camping
Nature trails	Observation deck
Picnic shelters and grills	Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
Boating	Swimming
Parking	Restrooms/vending
Fishing piers/boat docks	

See diagram of a regional park on the next page.



# TYPICAL REGIONAL PARK

150-1000 ACRES



## **District Parks**

A district park functions as the major source of active recreation for several neighborhoods within a community. Brunswick County provides this type of park for residents and visitors of Holden Beach to utilize. District parks are intensely developed, offering a multitude of facilities in order to serve their intended geographic user area. Activities are balanced between active and passive recreation. District Parks are typically developed to accommodate athletic league sporting events and tournament competition. Passive recreation opportunities, such as walking for pleasure, wildlife observation, and picnicking are found in the undisturbed areas — preferably within surrounding buffers. District parks present great opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation.



**Town Creek Park in Winnabow, NC**

Sites for district parks should be relatively level to alleviate excessive grading for the active facilities. When possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily as passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should be an important consideration when choosing sites. The development of district parks is typically the responsibility of county or municipal agencies.

**Specific standards/criteria for developing district parks are as follows:**

### **Service area:**

1 to 2 ½ mile radius

### **Acreage/Population Ratio:**

5 acres per 1,000 persons

### **Desirable Range:**

75-200 acres

### **Desirable Size:**

+100 acres

### **Typical Facilities:**

Playgrounds

Volleyball courts

Soccer/football field

Nature trails

Restrooms/concessions

Parking/service yard

Tennis courts (lighted)

Full- or half-size basketball courts

Baseball/softball/multi-purpose field

Soccer practice field (movable goals)

Picnic tables with grill (with/without shelter)

Benches or bench swings

50% of site remains undeveloped

**\*Alternate Facilities:**

Tennis center            Amphitheatre  
Observation decks      Fishing piers/boating/boat dock  
Recreation center

\* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.

See diagram of a district park on the next page.



# TYPICAL DISTRICT PARK

75-200 ACRES

## **Community Parks**

Community parks focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Compared to district parks, community parks have a smaller range of recreation facilities. They may host athletic league sports events and provide passive recreation. 50% of the community park property should be developed for only passive recreation, with these relatively undisturbed areas serving as buffers around the park and/or acting as buffers between active facilities.

Community park sites should have varying topography and vegetation. A number of different tree species should also be present in forested areas. Community parks should contain cleared areas for the purpose of locating active recreational facilities. At least one natural water feature (lake, river, or creek) is desirable in community parks. The land acquired for use as a community park should be contiguous in nature and strategically located in order to serve all users within the designated community. The development of community parks typically falls within the realm of municipal responsibilities.



**Bridgeview Park is an example of a community park**

**Specific standards/criteria for developing community parks are as follows:**

**Service area:**

1 to 2-mile radius

**Acreage/Population Ratio:**

2-5 acres per 1,000 persons

**Desirable Range:**

15-50 acres

**Desirable Size:**

25 acres

**Typical Facilities:**

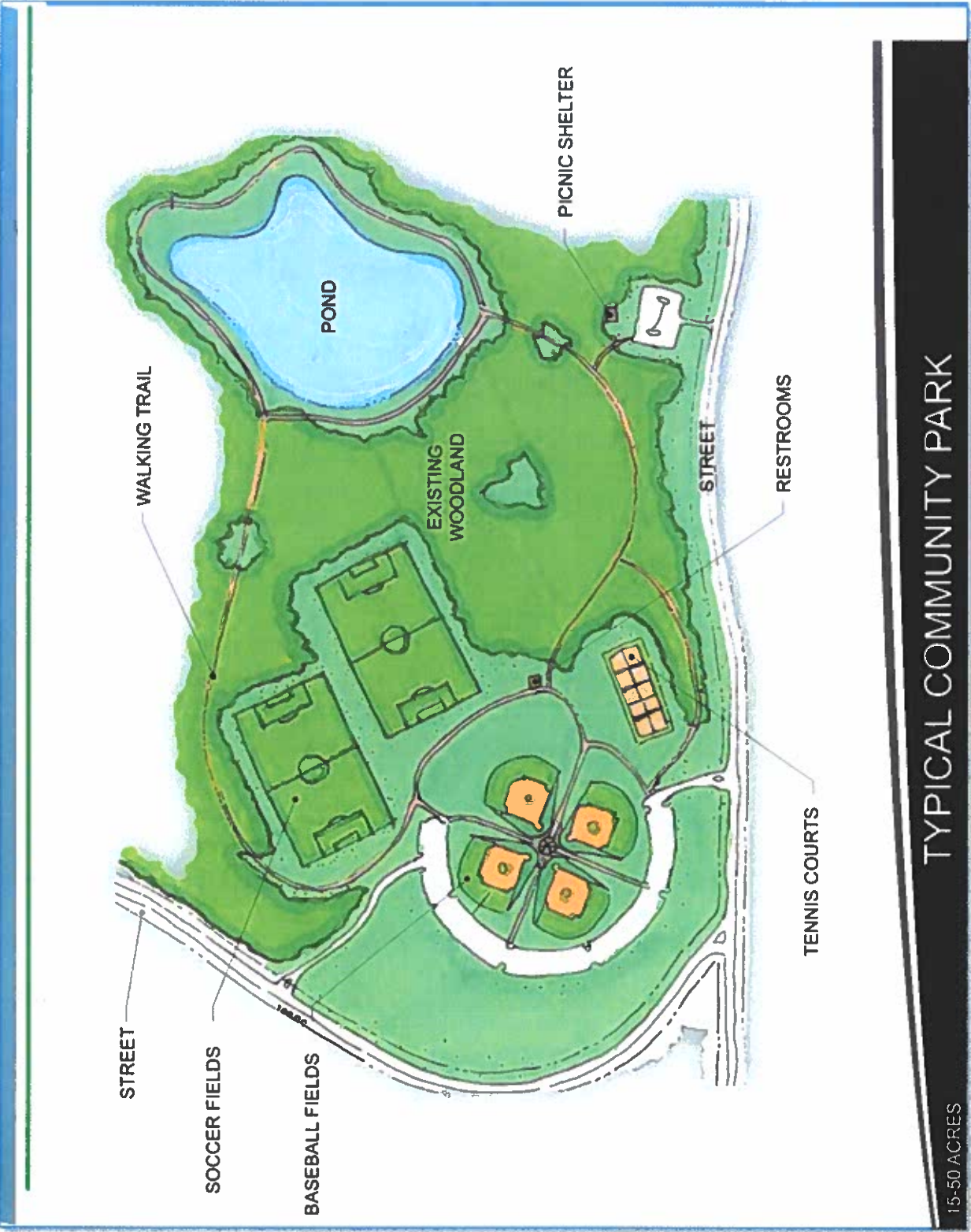
Playgrounds	Full- or half-size basketball courts
Swimming pool	Tennis/volleyball courts
Nature trails	50% of site to remain undeveloped
Restrooms/concessions	Soccer/multi-purpose fields
Baseball/softball fields	Benches or bench swings
Parking	Picnic tables/shelter with/without grills

**\*Alternate Facilities:**

Recreation center	Natural water features
Disc golf	Amphitheatre
Observation decks	

\*Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.

See diagram of a typical community park on the next page.



TYPICAL COMMUNITY PARK

15-50 ACRES

## **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient source of recreation while serving as the social focus point of neighborhoods. Usually located within walking distance of the area serviced, neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that are of interest to all age groups. The smaller size of neighborhood parks, as compared to those previously mentioned, requires intense development with 50% of each site remaining undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent property owners.



Neighborhood parks serve as gathering places

**Specific standards/criteria for neighborhood parks are as follows:**

### **Service area:**

¾ to 1-mile radius to serve walk-in

### **Acreage/Population Ratio:**

2 acres per 1,000 persons

### **Desirable Size:**

7-15 acres

### **Typical Facilities:**

Softball or baseball field	Multi-purpose field
Half basketball courts	50% of site to remain undeveloped
Picnic shelter with grill	Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
Benches or bench swings	Playground

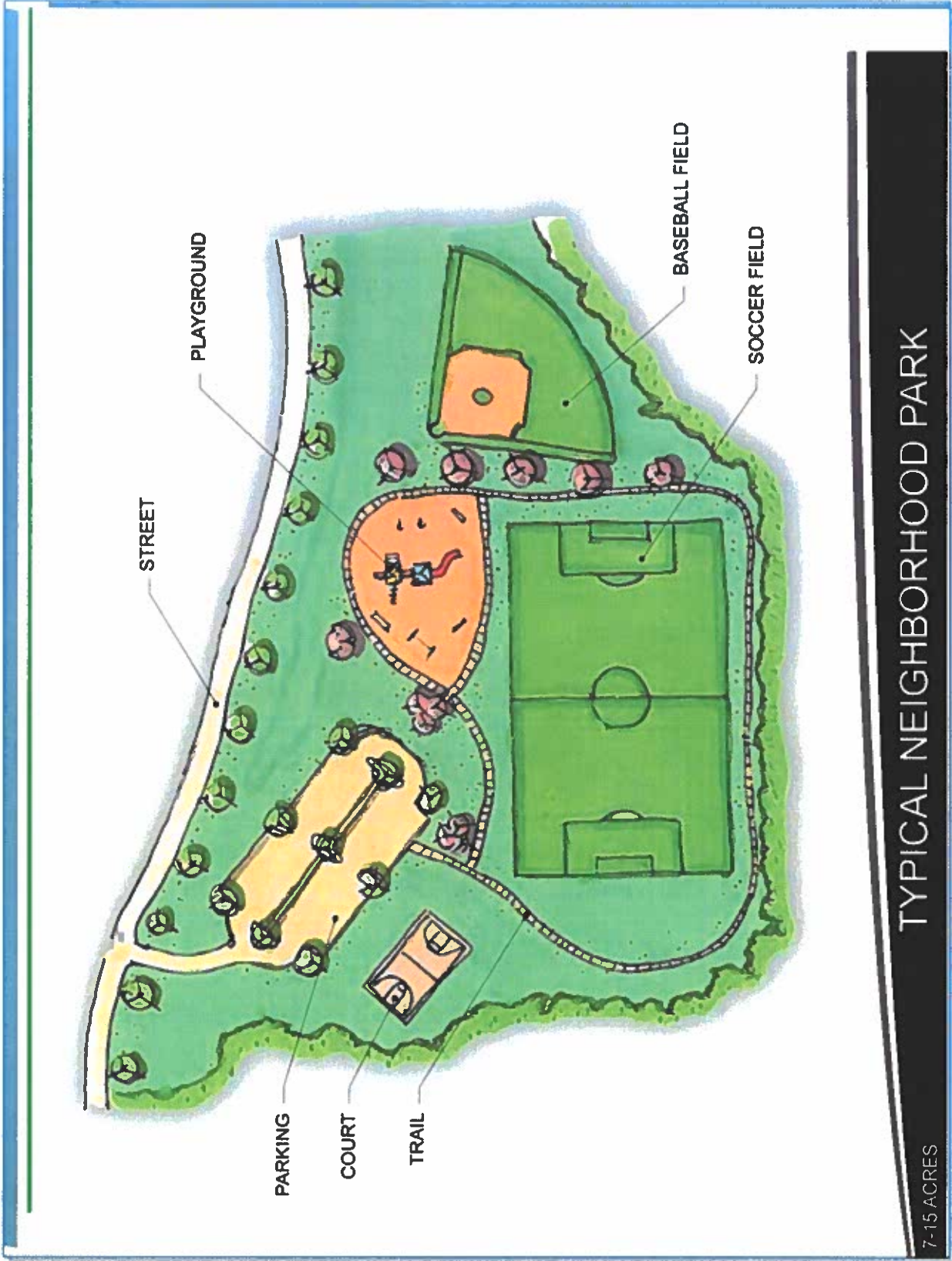
### **\*Alternate Facilities:**

Nature trails

Tennis courts

\*Alternate facilities may be added or substituted

See diagram of a typical neighborhood park on the next page.



TYPICAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

7-15 ACRES



## **Mini Parks**

The function of a mini park is to provide very limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. Mini parks are the smallest classification of parks. They are often provided by school and church playgrounds. These parks are located within walking distance of the area served and they provide limited recreational activities. Their very small size requires intense development and there is little or no buffer between mini parks and adjacent property owners.



**Mini Parks maximize space and provide access to recreation near popular destinations. Halstead Park is a popular mini park in Holden Beach.**

**Specific standards/criteria for mini parks are as follows:**

### **Service area:**

¼ to ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding populations

### **Acreage/Population Ratio:**

0.5 acres per 1,000 persons

### **Desirable Size:**

±1 acre

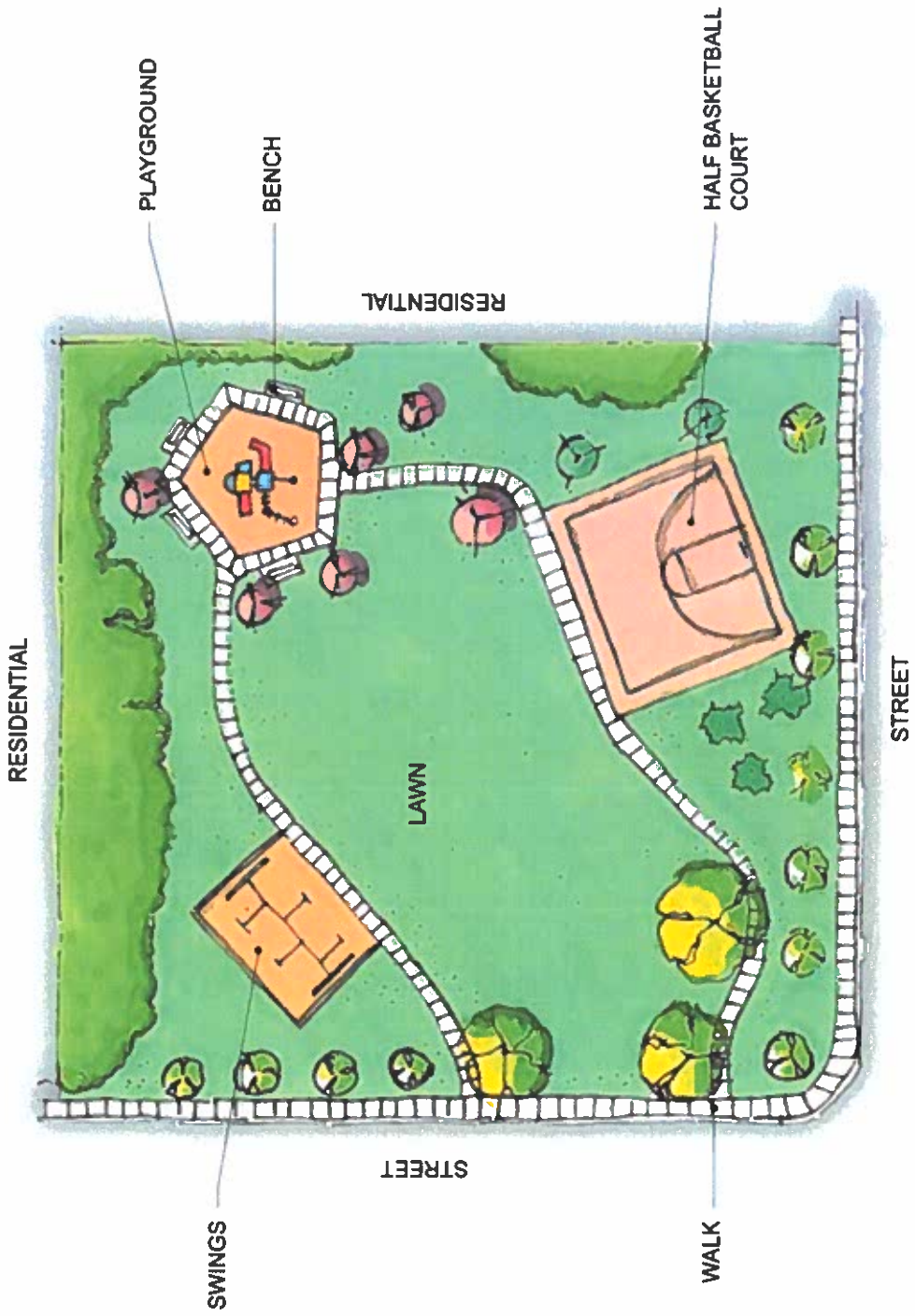
### **Typical Facilities:**

Half basketball courts  
Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)  
Benches or bench swings  
Open play area playground

### **\*Alternate Facilities:**

Nature trails  
Tennis courts  
\*Alternate facilities may be added/substituted.

See diagram of a typical mini park on the next page.



TYPICAL MINI PARK

## **Boardwalk/Marsh walk**

Boardwalks and marsh walks are a type of linear park. Linear parks are areas developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking and biking. Linear parks are developed for several reasons:

- To connect existing recreational facilities
- To facilitate public right-of-ways
- To connect destination points
- To meet public demand

The length and size of linear parks vary considerably, depending on the terrain of the park land and the distance between entities to be connected, such as parks, schools, homes, businesses, and cultural/historical resources. In some cases, a linear park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation opportunities as a secondary objective. Boardwalks and marsh walks provide access to areas for passive recreation that are otherwise inaccessible due to the sensitive nature of the ecosystem.



**Linear parks provide recreation and transportation.**

## **Unique or Special Use Facilities**

The unique or special use facilities are park types that exist for the sole purpose of enhancing or utilizing a special man-made or natural feature. They can include beaches, parkways, historical and archeological significant sites, swimming pools, conservation easements, flood plains, and other amenities that are not typical. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category of park. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource, while providing optimum use, is considered desirable.



**The Holden Beach Fit Trail is a creative way to provide health benefits in an area with limited available land.**

## Open Space



While it is realistic and appropriate to adopt population-based standards for park land and facilities, it is more difficult to establish standards for Town-initiated open space conservation efforts. The Town has a great asset pertaining to open space with the regional benefit of the beach. Due to this resource, the Town becomes a popular destination source for tourists.

Public open space is defined as any land acquired for the purpose of keeping it in a primarily undeveloped state. The functions of open space include:

- Preservation of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
- Protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)
- Protection of communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
- Protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
- Protection of approach and take-off areas near airports (clear zones)
- Protection of undevelopable land (landfills)
- Protection of areas aesthetically pleasing for a corridor (viewshed)

While these areas are some of the more common open spaces, many others exist.

# APPENDIX H



## General Recommendations

General recommendations are designed to provide guidance for the operations, goals, administration, and growth of the Town of Holden Beach. Many of these recommendations depend upon successful collaboration between the Town departments.

### Recommendation #1: Facility and Program Accessibility

*Every park and recreation facility the Town operates should respect and provide the needs of the disabled population through design and programming. All new facilities should be designed to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Upon visual inventory, the Town continues to bring itself into compliance with these regulations at most existing facilities. As new facilities are acquired or developed, priority should be given to the continual upgrading of existing facilities, if any become non-compliant.*

### Recommendation #2: Design and Daily Maintenance

*The facilities owned and operated by the Town should appeal to residents of the Town and visitors to the area. Priority should be given to improving the design of facilities that are architecturally, functionally, and ecologically progressive. Daily maintenance practices should be implemented to improve the cleanliness and longevity of all facilities.*

*Master planning should always be completed for park improvements or new facilities prior to final budgeting and/or design; thereby, making the phasing/development more transitional and of higher quality. Design (and redesign) of all facilities should embrace ecologically responsible elements and methods with the use of native plants for landscaping, the incorporation of wildlife habitats, the incorporation of permeable surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff, where possible, and green building practices for structures.*

### Recommendation #3: Walkable Communities

*The Town should promote land uses and site designs that make walking and bicycling convenient and enjoyable. They should also encourage the inclusion of public greenways or trails in private developments and the establishment of connectivity to and/or between both current and future parks and other public destinations.*

### Recommendation #4: 10 Minute Walk Movement

*The NRPA, Trust for Public Land (TPL), and Urban Land Institute (ULI) have partnered together to promote safe, equitable park access for U.S. citizens. The goal is to provide 100% of people access to a quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk of their homes by 2050. The Town of Holden Beach is encouraged to pledge their support to the 10 Minute Walk Mission. For more information visit [10minutewalk.org](http://10minutewalk.org).*



### **Recommendation #5: Contiguous Property Acquisition**

*When property that is contiguous to existing parks becomes available, all reasonable efforts should be made to acquire the property. The acquisition of contiguous property next to Town parks should be of high priority to the Town of Holden Beach. Efforts should be made immediately to seek first option on all contiguous properties. At the time these options are sought, other possibilities should be presented to the property owner as well. Some property owners may be receptive to conservation easements while retaining the title to the property. Conservation easements will allow the Town the opportunity to use properties for recreation while providing the immediate benefits of preservation. Numerous grant sources can be used for land acquisition. Extreme care should be exercised in choosing the correct process(es) and timing for acquisition to meet the full potential afforded by grants.*

### **Recommendation #6: Multi-Use Trails**

*Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities, which are increasing by bounds. North Carolina's 2020-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) found that 61% of survey participants reported that "walking for pleasure" to be the most common outdoor recreational activity. The plan also found that 59% of survey respondents reported hiking trails to be important.*

*The Town of Holden Beach should encourage coordination and planning for future utility easements with greenway facilities. The easements should be established to allow for the inclusion of recreation facilities where possible. Where new development occurs, the Town should work with the developer to provide rights-of-way or easements for proposed and future trails.*

### **Recommendation #7: Greenway Funding**

*The Town of Holden Beach should consider adding language to its development ordinances concerning a fee in lieu of open space dedication standards and Water Allocation Policy in order to incentivize this option where appropriate, as a means of funding greenways.*



## **Recommendation #8: Bicycle Facilities**

*Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concerns, and the need to increase the health and fitness of the population, a planned network of bike lanes and shared roadways should be developed to support alternative transportation around the island to recreation facilities and other popular destination areas. Future roadway construction within the Town should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing, as well as future park facilities and greenways.*



*In addition, bike racks (offered at potential high-use areas) should be installed at all publicly owned facilities within the Town. The Town should seek to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan with the assistance of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.*

## **Recommendation #9: Wayfinding**

*The Town of Holden Beach should consider utilizing guide pamphlets and aesthetically pleasing, consistent, and Town-themed directional signage and informational kiosks to promote nearby parks and recreation facilities and destinations. Highlighting and mapping the existing park offerings will provide people with the opportunity to locate recreational and other destinations, as well as present a cohesive message to users that they support a high quality of life for its residents.*

## **Recommendation #10: Intergovernmental Cooperation**

*The Town of Holden Beach should seek to coordinate planning efforts with the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department and local municipalities to provide park facilities and programming opportunities. Representatives of the Town and of these agencies should meet periodically to discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the area. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space, and recreation master plan updates for Brunswick County, local municipalities, and adjacent counties. This will also ensure that redundancy in services is prevented and that all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being utilized.*

## **Recommendation #11: Partnership Agreement**

*It is recommended that Town Staff meet with existing and potential partners to determine needs and possible partnership opportunities. These partners can include but not be limited to local chapters of community clubs and organizations, private firms and companies within proximity to the Town, non-profit organizations, and land conservancy organizations. The Town should begin this process by developing an approach to each*

*potential partner to establish an understanding of each entity's needs and, ultimately, result in a partnership agreement. The process will require periodic progress meetings with each partner to facilitate the partnerships goals and objectives. This may entail presentations to the partner's board or committee.*

### **Recommendation #12: Interpretative Signage**

*The Town should consider placing signage that would identify any historic and natural landmarks along pedestrian corridors. This type of signage would not only enhance the pedestrian experience but also provide educational and cultural information to users.*

### **Recommendation #13: Educational and Stewardship Programming**

*The Town of Holden Beach should develop a consistent environmental education program and interpretative facilities at park locations, along future greenway corridors, and for future park development. These programs should include stewardship and community volunteer programs geared to the management of natural areas and wildlife habitats.*



### **Recommendation #14: Green Building**

*It is recommended that the Town implement green building components into the existing and future parks facilities. Green building techniques consist of using building materials and construction practices that reduce environmental impacts which can include greenhouse gases, water pollution, and air pollution, and promote energy efficient building materials/methods. These efforts will improve environmental stewardship for park facilities and educate park users.*



### **Recommendation #15: Acceptance of Fee Simple Land Donation**

*If land is offered to the Town of Holden Beach as donation by fee simple title with no restrictions, the property should be surveyed for natural heritage significance and relationship to existing plans and parks. If the land contains no environmental hazards, restrictive covenants, or restrictive easements, it can be useful and beneficial for the Town to assume ownership. Not all donated land has to be developed into a park in order to be useful. Any land donation to the Town serves a great public need even if it is banked for the future because the development and public needs of the distant future (over 50 years) is unknown. If donated property is properly managed, the revenue and future significance*

*of the property will far exceed its current contribution to the tax base. If the Town chooses not to accept land donation of a particular property, efforts should be made to assist the property owner with contacting an agency that accepts land donations or conservation easements. Land donations (which the Town has no interest in owning) could be donated to the Local Parks Foundation.*

#### **Recommendation #16: Natural and Cultural Heritage Inventory**

*The Town of Holden Beach should encourage the preparation of an Inventory of Significant Natural and Cultural Areas within the Town and planning jurisdiction. The intent of this study would be to identify areas deemed to be significant natural and/or cultural resources, which should be evaluated for consideration of preservation. To aid in this process the Town should refer to existing efforts via the following: <https://www.ncnhp.org/publications/nhp-publications/searchable-list-nhp-publications>*

#### **Recommendation #17: Technology Access**

*As the culture continues to move towards information accessibility, providing access to Wi-Fi connectivity within the parks is an amenity that can elevate the usership of park facilities. The Town should identify the locations within their park facilities to install the necessary equipment that will provide users the ability to access Wi-Fi connectivity.*

#### **Recommendation #18: Programs and Classes**

*To expand recreation programming, the Town should continue to provide recreation classes and programs in appropriate Town parks and facilities. The Town should assess the need to contract future programming offerings out to concessionaires. This could extend the programs offered by non-profits and private recreation providers into future County-owned facilities, which may be more accessible to residents who are not currently served. It also would strive to increase programming options by starting new contract programs and activities in the following service areas: health and fitness, swim safety classes, environmental education/nature-based outdoor recreation/trails, non-sports interest classes, and fine/cultural arts programs.*

#### **Recommendation #19: Tourism Marketing**

*The Town of Holden Beach is a popular family destination for vacationing and day trips to the area. The Town should partner with local real estate and rental agencies to provide informational packets at available rental properties highlighting the recreational opportunities provided on the island. Informational packets should also be made available at local restaurants, shops, and destination places to inform visitors to the Town.*

