

Theme 11: Recreation

Mission

Similar to the arts, recreational amenities rank high on the list of contributors to a community's quality of life. Parks and greenways will be integrated throughout the Town and into the County within walking distance of every Planning Sector. Within minutes of leaving their homes, children and families will be able to access the system to walk or ride to traditional recreational facilities such as ball fields and courts, and to non-traditional activities such as hiking/biking and nature trails. We will foster the private and public development of these recreational resources through new public-private partnerships. These partnerships will explore development of these opportunities where they do not presently exist and enhancement of them where they do.

Hazel Sedwick Park



Background

The Town of Orange maintains three parks in Town; Taylor Park and Hazel Sedwick Park in Main Street, and Belleview Park. Other than these parks in Town, recreational services are provided by the County. These services include:

- Field and court sports, including youth football, basketball, and soccer.
- Dix Memorial Pool in Gordonsville
- Sport parks in each district of the county
- Before and after school daycare programs
- Hornets Sports Center at the Orange County High School.
- Library services at the Sedwick Building

Pressure on the Town to increase recreational services will likely increase in the coming years as the Town learns to market its Quality of Life to small and medium information and technology companies in Northern Virginia (see Theme 1: Economy).

Goal R1: Quantify existing and planned recreation quality of life.

Action R1.1: Adopt recreational Levels of Service (LOS).

Analysis: The town's zoning approval process would be aided through the identification of levels of service for public facilities and services.

Indicator R1.1.1:

Recreation LOS

Benchmark R1.1.1:

Town Council Approval of Recreation LOS standards

Progress R1.1.1:



Responsible Party R1.1.1:

Town Planner
Planning Commission
Town Council
Town Attorney
2007-2008

Implementation R1.1.1:

Goal R2: Provide recreational amenities within walking distance for every child and adult in Town.

Action R2.1: Identify areas not currently served by park within ¼ mile of home.

Analysis: ¼ mile is a generally accepted walking distance found in planning literature and studies. Contained in this Plan is a Recreation Opportunities

Concept Map that shows existing recreational areas and other areas that may be redeveloped or developed that have sufficient acreage to be a potential candidate for development of a field or play area. Locations of these areas are approximate and may be better located on another portion of the parcel or on another parcel(s) entirely. It should be noted that these areas are not a "future land use" category.

Indicator R2.1.1:
Benchmark R2.1.1:

Town Park planning study
Completion of study

Progress R2.1.1:



Responsible Party R2.1.1:
Implementation R2.1.1:

Town Planner
2007-2008-2008

Action R2.2: Build parks within ¼ mile of every home in town as identified in Town park study.

Indicator R2.2.1:
Benchmark R2.2.1:

Parks constructed
1 park constructed

Progress R2.2.1:



Responsible Party R2.2.1:
Implementation R2.2.1:

Town Planner
2009-2011

Goal R3: Make Orange a bicycle-friendly community.

Action R3.1: Create a town bike plan (see Theme 4: Transportation).

Action R3.2: Construct bike lanes (see Theme 4: Transportation).

Action R3.3: Create bike parking throughout town.

Indicator R3.3.1:
Benchmark R3.3.1:

Bike racks
Racks constructed at key areas of town

Progress R3.3.1:



Responsible Party R3.3.1:
Implementation R3.3.1:

Town Planner
Public Works Superintendent
2007-2008

Goal R4: Create active outdoor recreational opportunities.

Action R4.1: Complete greenbelt joint feasibility study.

Analysis: "Greenbelts" are boundaries surrounding a town or city that provides recreational opportunity for hiking and biking and serves as a long-term boundary between urban and rural land uses. Proposed in this Plan is a cooperative Town-County greenbelt to serve residents in the western portion of the county and along its length might intersect a future camping area (such as Walnut Creek, developed by Albemarle County, south of Charlottesville) and a future wellness center (see below). It is anticipated that the greenbelt would be constructed in phases identified in the Feasibility Study. Cost and funding sources would also be included in the study. Figures 25 and 26 below show "concept" alignments for the greenbelt as a light green line.

Figure 25: North Greenbelt

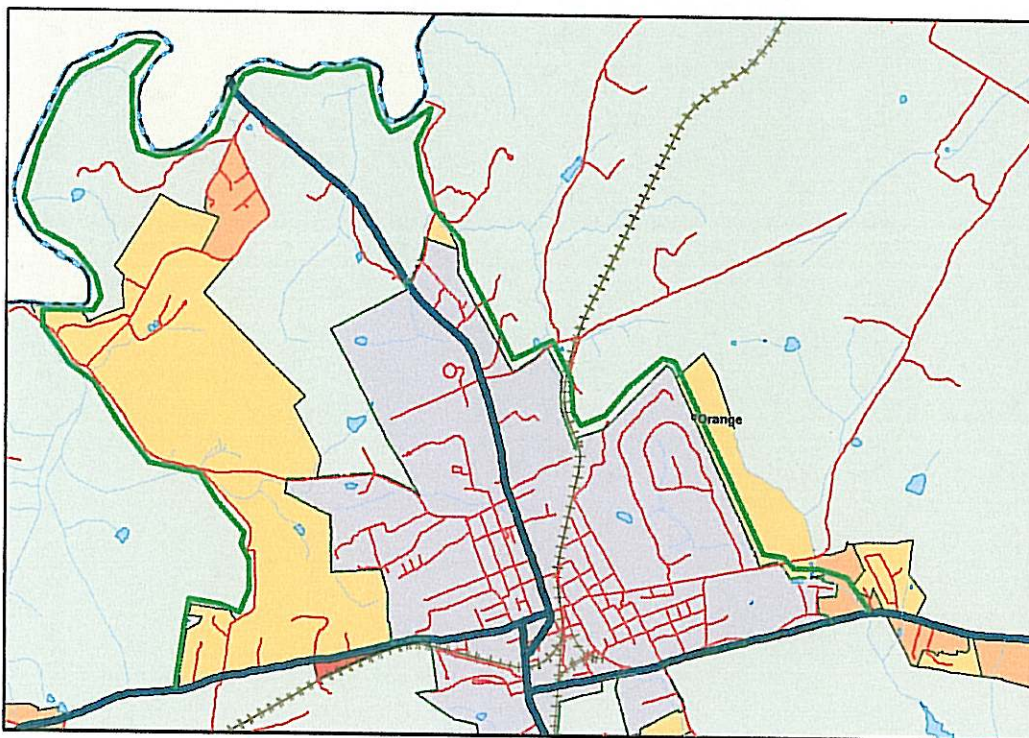
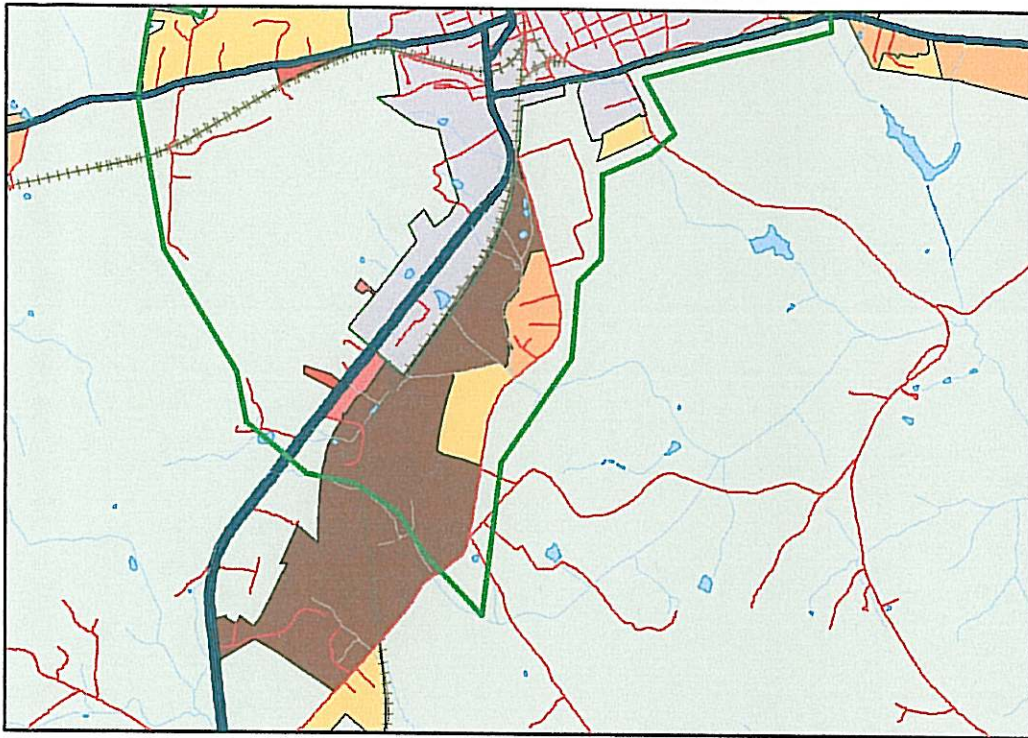


Figure 26: South Greenbelt



Indicator R4.1.1:
Benchmark R4.1.1:

Greenbelt feasibility study
Completion of study

Progress R4.1.1:



Responsible Party R4.1.1:

Town Planner
County Planning Director
Business Community Members
Non-profit organizations
2007-2008

Implementation R4.1.1:

Action R4.2: Build greenbelt.

Indicator R4.2.1:
Benchmark R4.2.1:

Miles of greenbelt constructed
20% completed

Progress R4.2.1:



Responsible Party R4.2.1:

Town of Orange

Implementation R4.2.1:

Orange County
Business Community Members
Non-profit organizations
2011 and beyond

Goal R5: Create “village greens” within new developments.

Analysis:

Space for sitting or strolling does not have to take a lot of room. The incorporation of small village greens, traditionally found in England, can add beauty and comfort to new residential projects. Such greens should be encouraged as an amenity in addition to current recreational requirements in the Town’s PUD ordinance.

Village Green



<http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/heartofengland/greens.htm>

Action R5.1: Amend zoning ordinance to encourage developers to construct village greens within new residential development projects.

Indicator R5.1.1:

Village green

Benchmark R5.1.1:

3 greens constructed

Progress R5.1.1:



Responsible Party R5.1.1: Town Planner
Planning Commission
Town Council
Developers
Implementation R5.1.1: 2007-2008

Goal R6: Facilitate “wellness” services for Town and County residents.

Action R6.1: Complete public-private feasibility study to determine long-range comprehensive wellness needs.

Analysis: Wellness facilities such as Atlantic Coast Athletic Club (ACAC) in Charlottesville, provide multiple benefits to the residents and businesses of a community. A wellness complex could serve the following functions:

- Indoor/outdoor Olympic swimming complex
- Fields and courts
- Training and sports medical facilities
- Hub for active and passive recreation, including hiking, biking, and birding

Indicator R6.1.1: Wellness Feasibility study
Benchmark R6.1.1: Completion of study

Progress R6.1.1:



Responsible Party R6.1.1: Business Community
Town of Orange
Orange County
Non-profit Organizations
Developers
Implementation R6.1.1: 2007-2008

Goal R7: Ensure adequate active recreational space for children and adult soccer, football, baseball and other court-field sports.

Action R7.1: Create a joint Town-County organized sport recreation study.

Analysis:

A study is needed to consider the field and court recreation needs of new residents that will soon be moving into the Town.

Indicator R7.1.1: Recreation Study
Benchmark R7.1.1: Completion of study

Progress R7.1.1:



Responsible Party R7.1.1: Town Planner
County Planning Director
County Director of Parks and Recreation
Implementation R7.1.1: 2007-2008

Action R7.2: Construct adequate courts and sport fields.

Indicator R7.2.1: Sport fields
Benchmark R7.2.1: 20% of fields in study constructed

Progress R7.2.1:



Responsible Party R7.2.1: Town Planner
County Planning Director
County Director of Parks and
Recreation
Developers
Implementation R7.2.1: 2009-2011

Goal R8: Create expanded recreational opportunities for citizens and businesses in the Town and County.

Action R8.1: Create a Comprehensive Recreational Facility in the area around Orange County High School and Chatter Island.

Analysis:

The Orange County Parks and Recreation Department has been considering the construction of an indoor public pool for several years. The pool is needed to serve students in the Orange County Public School system. In addition, the track at the high school is a substandard facility, in need of extensive renovation, including a modern rubberized surface, and fence. There is also a need for a skateboarding facility somewhere in Town. Skateboarding has become the largest club at the high school. The Town and County should also work together to find a recreational use for Chatter Island and integrate the use through walking and hiking trails to sports facilities at the high school.

Indicator R8.1.1: School Board, Board of Supervisors,
and Town Council consideration of
Facilities Concept
Benchmark R8.1.1: Resolutions to approve concept

Progress R8.1.1:



Responsible Party R8.1.1:

Town Planner
Town Manager
County Administrator
Director of Parks and Recreation
Businesses
Citizens
2006

Implementation R8.1.1:

Indicator R8.1.2: Recreation Master Plan
Benchmark R8.1.2: Approval of Master Plan by Town,
County, and School Board

Progress R8.1.2:



Responsible Party R8.1.2:

Town Planner
Town Manager
County Administrator
Businesses
Citizens
2007-2008

Implementation R8.1.2:

Indicator R8.1.3: New Recreational Facilities
Benchmark R8.1.3: Construction of Facilities

Progress R8.1.3:



Responsible Party R8.1.3:

Town Planner
Town Manager
County Administrator
Businesses
Citizens
2009-2011

Implementation R8.1.3:

Goal R9: Create public access to the Rapidan River.

Analysis:

There is no "official" access point to the Rapidan River near the Town. At a spring, 2006 meeting on development impacts to streams in the Town, Planning Commission Chairman Harry Hopkins noted:

People today are disconnected to rivers. In my time, everyone went to the river to swim and fish. Who goes today? You can't get to it. The Rapidan has become a forgotten asset to most Town residents, for anything other than drinking water.

Action R9.1: Identify recreational access points around the Town of Orange to the Rapidan River.

Indicator R9.1.1:	Public access points.
Benchmark R9.1.1:	Points identified.
Progress R9.1.1:	
Responsible Party R9.1.1:	Town Planner Town Director of Public Works Orange County Planner Orange County Recreation Director Grymes School Woodberry Forest School Orange County High School Local civic groups
Implementation R9.1.1:	2007-2008

Action R9.2: Construct recreation access points to the Rapidan River.

Indicator R9.2.1:	Public access points.
Benchmark R9.2.1:	Access points constructed.
Progress R9.2.1:	
Responsible Party R9.2.1:	Town Planner Town Director of Public Works Orange County Planner Orange County Recreation Director Grymes School Woodberry Forest School

Orange County Public Schools
Local civic groups
Implementation R9.2.1: 2009-2011

Goal R10: Link Woodberry Forest and Grymes School to Town of Orange.

Analysis:

There is no official trail system that links Woodberry Forest and Grymes School to the Town.

Action R10.1: Identify trail system corridors to connect schools with Town.

Indicator R10.1.1: Trail corridors
Benchmark R10.1.1: Corridors identified
Progress R10.1.1: 
Responsible Party R10.1.1: Town Planner
Town Director of Public Works
Orange County Planner
Orange County Recreation Director
Grymes School
Woodberry Forest School
Orange County Public Schools
Local civic groups
Implementation R10.1.1: 2009-2011

Action R10.2: Construct trail corridors to connect schools with Town.

Indicator R10.2.1: Trail corridors
Benchmark R10.2.1: Corridors constructed
Progress R10.2.1: 
Responsible Party R10.2.1: Town Planner
Town Director of Public Works
Orange County Planner
Orange County Recreation Director
Grymes School
Woodberry Forest School
Orange County Public Schools
Local civic groups
Implementation R10.2.1: 2009-2011

Goal R11: Encourage construction of public, rather than private recreational facilities in new development.

Future Recreation Map

Future Recreation Concept Map

