

SECTION 6: Facilities Inventory and Analysis

6.1 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

Using information in the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a point of departure, the County's parks and facility inventory was updated. The inventory data has been integral to identifying service gaps and projecting facility and parkland needs.

The detailed inventory includes all parks and facilities owned and/or operated by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, the cities completely or partly within Gwinnett County, and Federal property (C.O.E. and N.P.S.). There are no State-owned parks in Gwinnett County. **The inventory data includes all existing parks, facilities that are currently under construction or under design, and projects that are expected to be under construction by December 31, 2007.**

The scope of this project did not allow for a review of the private recreation facility inventory; however, it is acknowledged that these play a significant role in providing leisure opportunities in many of Gwinnett County's communities.

An electronic database was created to house and manipulate the inventory data. The database assisted in the analysis of overall parkland and facility supply through the creation of summary data and distribution mapping. The database will also allow the County to monitor and update park inventory data, as well as integrate parcel-specific information into their GIS system.

Tables 6-1 to 6-5 provide a brief summary of facilities contained with County parks, local city parks, and federal park sites.

Table 6-1: Totals of County, City, and Federal Parks and Facilities in Gwinnett County

Acreage:	acres	Indoor Facilities:	#	Outdoor Facilities:	#
County Parks		Indoor Lane Pools	4	Baseball/ Softball Fields	134
Community Parks	2,928	Indoor Leisure Pools	2	Soccer Fields	44
Passive Community Parks	503	Community Centers	6	Football Fields	19
Open Space Parks	4,798	Activity Buildings	8	Playground areas	97
Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks	46	Gymnasiums	8	Outdoor Lane Pools	2
Special Purpose Parks	59	Senior Recreation Centers	4	Outdoor Leisure Pools	6
Linear Parks				Outdoor Tennis Courts	87
Greenspace	223			Basketball Courts	28
Other	414			Outdoor Volleyball Courts	25
Subtotal - County Parks	8,971			Skate Parks	5
City Parks	1,312			Roller Hockey Rinks	1
Federal Parks	1,665			Dog Parks	4
Total - All Parks	11,948				

Table 6-2: County Parks in Gwinnett County, 2007

Park Name	Acreage	RPA	Indoor Facilities						Outdoor Facilities									
			Indoor Lane Pool	Indoor Leisure Pool	Community Center	Activity Building	Gymnasiums	Senior Center	Baseball/Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields*	Playground areas	Outdoor Lane Pool	Outdoor Leisure Pool	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Outdoor Volleyball	Skate Parks
Alcovy River Corridor #1	13.9	D																
Alcovy River Corridor #2	11.7	E																
Alcovy River Greenspace (Dixion Property)	36.6	D																
Alexander Park Site	91.1	C																
Appalachee River Park	7.6	D																
Bay Creek Park	153.8	E							8		D	4						
Beaver Ruin Greenspace	17.2	A																
Beaver Ruin Park Site	57.9	A																
Best Friend Park	43.4	A					1		2	O	2		yes	17	2			
Bethesda Park	158.7	C		yes				yes	10	4	D	2						
Bogon Park	83.1	D	yes	yes	yes		1		7	O	2				2	6		
Camp Creek Greenspace (Hovis Property)	30.7	B																
Cemetery Field Park	6.0	A									D							
Centerville Park Site	60.7	E																
Club Drive Park	25.1	C													1			
Collins Hill Aquatic Center	18.3	C	yes															
Collins Hill Golf Club (leased)	138.8	C																
Collins Hill Park	77.1	C							7	O	3		2	2	1			
Dacula Park	75.9	D			yes				7	D	2	yes	4		1			
DeShong Park	208.2	E									2			2	1			
Discover Mills Tract	8.2	C																
Doc Moore Branch Park Site	350.0	E										D	2		3.5	3		
Duncan Creek Park	109.7	D																
Edgemore North	10.2	A																
Environmental & Heritage Center	233.1	D																
Freemans Mill Park	11.9	D																
George Pierce Park	304.0	A			yes			yes	10	5	D	1		2				
Graves Park	70.2	B										2		2	1			
Gwinnett County Historic Courthouse	1.7	C																
Gwinnett County History Museum	0.4	C																
Harbins Community Park Site	497.9	D																
Harbins Park	1,403.9	D									2							
Harbins to Palm Creek Connector Trail	3.2	D																
Harmony Grove Soccer Complex	17.8	B							3									
Highway 29/Lilburn Community Park Site	67.0	B																
Holcomb Bridge Park Site	11.6	A									1							
Hospital Site	32.1	C																
Ivy Creek Greenway	n/a	A																
Janes Bridge Park	29.7	A				yes			3		1				1			
Lanier Community Park Site	66.0	D																
Lee Tract Park Site	21.0	B																
Lenora Park	178.4	E					1	6		D	2	yes						
Lillian Webb Field	3.4	A							1					0.5				
Lion's Club Park	32.0	B							4	O								
Little Mulberry Park	889.7	D									2							
Lucky Shoals Park	68.3	B			yes				5	O	1		2	2				
McDaniel Farm Park	133.6	A																
Mountain Park Aquatic Center	18.4	B	yes			yes							yes					
Mountain Park Park	43.5	B							7	O	4		6		1	1		
Mountainview Community Park Site	88.5	D																
Palm Creek Park Site	294.4	D																
Peachtree Ridge Park Site	155.7	A							4	2	D	4		2				
Pendergrast Greenspace	22.6	C																
Pinckneyville Park & Community Center	108.9	A			yes				7	5		10			1			
Rabbit Hill Park	93.2	D								6								
Rhodes Jordan Park	162.3	D				yes	1		7	O	3	yes	8					
Riverbend Park Site	48.3	B																
Riverside Parkway Greenspace	8.7	C																
Rock Springs Park	113.6	C									D	1		6				
Ronald Reagan Park	25.0	C									3			1	1			
Settles Bridge Park	268.1	D																
Shorty Howell Park	66.9	A				yes			7	D	7							
Singleton Road Activity Building	1.6	B				yes												
South Gwinnett Park	23.1	E							10	D								
Sweet Water Park Site	25.4	C									2		2	1	1			
Tribble Mill Park	718.2	E									2							
Vecorna Tract	68.2	E																
Vines Gardens	90.1	E																
Vulcan Site (leased)	10.0	A																
West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center	22.5	A	1										1					
Yellow River Park	566.1	E									2							
Yellow River Post Office	5.1	C																
Yellow River Wetlands	52.1	C																
Subtotal	8,971.0		3	2	5	5	4	2	109	28	18	69	1	4	49	21	16	3

* Football Fields - "D" means Dedicated, "O" means Overlay

Table 6-3: City Parks in Gwinnett County, 2007

Park Name	Acreage	RPA	Indoor Facilities							Outdoor Facilities							City	
			Indoor Lane Pool	Indoor Leisure Pool	Community Center	Activity Building	Gymnasiums	Senior Center	Baseball/Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields*	Playground Areas	Outdoor Lane Pool	Outdoor Leisure Pool	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Outdoor Volleyball	
Austin Garner	49.0	D																Sugar Hill
Baggett Park	24.0	C																Lawrenceville
Baker's Rock	28.5	E																Shellville
Bartow Jenkins	4.6	C																Lawrenceville
Berkeley Lake Children's Park	1.9	A										2						Berkeley Lake
Berkeley Lake Nature Preserve	63.1	A																Berkeley Lake
Betty Mauldin Park	0.3	A																Norcross
Bona Allen Park Site	16.0	D																Buford
Braselton Riverwalk	n/a	D																Braselton
Buford City Park/Legion Fields	70.6	D							10	1		2			12	1		Buford
Buford Civic Center & City Gym	8.8	D					1				D							Buford
Buford Greenspace #1	2.7	D																Buford
Buford Greenspace #2	100.0	D																Buford
Buford Greenspace #3	10.0	D																Buford
Buford Greenspace #4	10.0	D																Buford
Buford Nature Preserve	16.6	D																Buford
Buford Town Green	1.0	D																Buford
Bunten Park	45.0	A		yes		1		4	2		2			4				Duluth
Camp Creek Greenway	n/a	B																Lilburn
Church Street Park	2.5	A										1			1			Duluth
City Hall / Shadowbrook Green	1.3	A																Suwanee
City Hall Park	0.5	A										1						Suwanee
Craig Drive Park	10.7	A																Duluth
DeLay Property/Playtown Suwanee	25.4	A										2						Suwanee
Duluth Greenspace	7.8	A																Duluth
Duluth Greenspace	20.8	A																Duluth
Duluth Town Green	2.1	A		yes														Duluth
EE Robinson Memorial Park	34.0	D						2	1		2			4	1	2		Sugar Hill
Grace Harris Park	0.7	D																Buford
Grayson Community Park	3.4	E										2						Grayson
Grayson Senior Center	0.8	E				yes												Grayson
Hovendick Property	8.7	A																Suwanee
Jhinson Dean Park	4.1	A						4										Norcross
Lawrenceville Future Park	31.9	C																Lawrenceville
Lawrenceville Park West	9.5	C												3				Lawrenceville
Library Ste	2.8	A																Suwanee
Lilburn City Park	9.1	B									2			4	1	1		Lilburn
Lilburn Greenspace	13.7	B																Lilburn
Louise Cooper Park	0.5	C																Lawrenceville
Main Street Park	0.5	A												1				Suwanee
Maple Creek Park	16.6	D									1							Dacula
Martin Farm Road Park	11.4	A																Suwanee
Moore Road / Rivermore	1.9	A																Suwanee
Moore Road Property/River Club	4.8	A																Suwanee
Oak Park	4.7	E																Shellville
Rogers Bridge Park	12.5	A													2			Duluth
Rossie Brundage Park	3.2	A						1			1				1			Norcross
S Wayne Odum Senior Center	2.0	E		yes														Shellville
Scott Hudgens Park/Soccer Complex	60.0	A							4									Duluth
Sims Lake/Hewell Property	61.7	A																Suwanee
South Point Park	n/a	A																Norcross
St. Albans Recreational Area	10.0	B																Lilburn
Sterling Trace Park	12.3	A																Lilburn
Sugar Hill Community Center	1.3	D		yes														Sugar Hill
Sugar Hill Golf Club	167.3	D																Sugar Hill
Sugar Hill Greenspace #1	25.0	D																Sugar Hill
Sugar Hill Greenspace #2	3.0	D																Sugar Hill
Sugar Hill Greenspace #3	9.0	D																Sugar Hill
Sugar Hill Greenspace #4	11.0	D																Sugar Hill
Sugar Hill Town Green	0.8	D																Sugar Hill
Swanee Creek Greenway	88.6	A																Suwanee
Swanee Creek Park	85.4	A										3						Suwanee
Swanee Town Center Park	10.1	A																Suwanee
T.W. Briscoe Park	34.4	E		yes				1	6		2	yes		8	2	3		Shellville
Taylor Memorial Park	2.4	A										1						Duluth
The Farm	7.0	A																Suwanee
Thrasher Park	2.2	A										1			1			Norcross
W.P. Jones Mem. Park & Tennis Complex	20.0	A										1			4			Duluth
Subtotal	1,311.6		0	0	1	3	2	2	22	14	1	26	1	0	40	8	8	0

* Football Fields - "D" means Dedicated, "O" means Overlay

Table 6-4: Significant Private Facilities in Gwinnett County (current as of 2004)

Park Name	RPA	Indoor Facilities						Outdoor Facilities						State Parks	Type		
		Indoor Lane Pool	Indoor Leisure Pool	Community Center	Activity Building	Gymnasiums	Senior Center	Baseball/Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields ^a	Playground areas	Outdoor Lane Pool	Outdoor Leisure Pool	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts		
A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club	A			yes		1			1	1						Rec Center	
Atlanta Golf Center	B															Golf Center	
Atlanta Ice Forum	A															Ice Arena	
Bear's Best	D															Golf Course	
Beaver Run Creek	A															Open Space	
Berkeley Hills Country Club	A										yes		8			Golf Course	
Brookside Swimming & Tennis Inc.	E										yes		2			Tennis Club	
Buford Senior/Human Services Center	D						yes									Senior Center	
Buford Youth Community Center	D					1					yes					Community Center	
Calloway-Garner Cemetery	D															Open Space	
Castlebrook Subdivision	C															Open Space	
Cedar Lake Golf Course	E															Golf Course	
Centerville Community Center	E			yes												Community Center	
Chateau Elan - The Legends	D															Golf Course	
Chateau Elan Golf Club - The Chateau	D															Golf Course	
Chateau Elan Golf Club - The Woodlands	D															Golf Course	
Chattahoochee Event Center	A													2		Event Site	
Collins Hill Athletic Club	C										yes		16			Fitness Center	
Collins Hill Golf Club	C										yes					Golf Course	
Davis Flip Center	D															Gymnastics	
Drowning Creek	D															Open Space	
Flat Rock Driving Range	E															Golf Center	
Flowers Crossing Woodlot	C															Open Space	
Four Seasons Racquet Club	E										yes		8			Tennis Club	
Four Winds Community Center	E										yes		4			Tennis Club	
GA Gymnastics Academy - Lawrenceville	C															Gymnastics	
GA Gymnastics Academy - Suwanee	C															Gymnastics	
GSA Complex	B								11							Sports Complex	
Gwinnett Civic & Cultural Center	A															Cultural Center	
Gwinnett County Fairgrounds	C															Fairgrounds	
Gwinnett Gymnastics Center	B															Gymnastics	
Gwinnett Sports Center	A			3												Sports Complex	
Hamilton Mill Golf Course	D															Golf Course	
Hanarry Swim & Racquet Club	B										yes		4			Tennis Club	
Heritage Golf Club	B															Golf Course	
JM. Tull/Gwinnett Family YMCA	C	yes	yes	2			4	1	yes		4	1				Rec Center	
Lawrenceville Boys & Girls Club	C	yes	yes	1	3			1			2					Rec Center	
Lawrenceville Golf Center	C															Golf Center	
Lawrenceville Senior Center	D				yes											Senior Center	
Little Tykes Academy	A									yes						Day Care	
Magnolia Racquet Club	D											4				Tennis Club	
Mary Kistner Nature Center	E															Open Space	
Norcross Senior Center	B				yes											Senior Center	
Northwoods Country Club	C										yes		4			Golf Course	
Oak Park on The River	A															Open Space	
Peachtree Family Golf Center	A															Golf Center	
Pugh's Creek in Flowers Crossing	E															Open Space	
Racquet Club of The South	A										yes		18			Tennis Club	
Robert D. Fowler Family YMCA	A	yes	yes	2												Rec Center	
SE Side of Arc Way on Bromolow Creek	B															Open Space	
Simpsonwood Conference Center	A										yes	2	1			Retreat Center	
Singleton Creek in Northmont	A															Open Space	
Sugar Hill Golf Club	D															Golf Course	
Summit Chase Country Club	E										yes		12			Golf Course	
Suwanee Sports Academy	A				7											Sports Complex	
Sweetwater Creek	C															Open Space	
Swim Atlanta - Lawrenceville	C	yes														Swim Club	
The Hooch Golf Club	A															Golf Course	
The Soccer Academy	B							2								Sports Complex	
The Trophy Club at Apalachee	D															Golf Course	
The Trophy Club of Gwinnett	E												4			Golf Course	
TPC at Sugarloaf	A															Golf Course	
Tucker Golf Range	B															Golf Center	
Westchester Commons	C															Open Space	
Total		3	0	5	0	17	3	3	18	0	3	14	0	92	1	3	0

Source: Gwinnett County Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2004)

Table 6-5: Federal Parks in Gwinnett County, 2007

Park Name	Acreage	RPA
Abbotts Bridge South Unit	112.5	A
Bowman's Island Unit	637.6	D
Corps of Engineers Parks	298.0	D
McGinnis Ferry - CRNRA	202.0	A
Medlock Bridge Unit	42.5	A
Orrs Ferry	185.8	D
Settles Bridge Unit	41.7	D
Suwanee Creek Unit	144.9	A
Subtotal	1,664.9	

6.2 OVERVIEW TO PARK AND FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The facility and park categories that have been assessed in this CIP include:

- parkland (by type);
- greenways;
- soccer complexes;
- baseball/softball complexes;
- community centers, activity buildings, senior recreation centers, and gymnasiums (collectively referred to as recreation centers);
- indoor lane (competition) pools and leisure pools (family aquatic centers);
- outdoor lane (competition) pools and leisure pools (family aquatic centers);
- football fields;
- tennis complexes;
- teen facilities (outdoor basketball courts, skate parks, volleyball courts, and roller hockey rinks)
- dog parks; and
- playgrounds.

Items such as cultural/heritage assets, internal trail systems, pavilions, and site infrastructure – for instance – are not assessed, although their development is captured by the items identified in the Capital Improvement Projects tables, either directly or implicitly.

The identification of a community's recreation needs is a complex, highly-important, and somewhat imprecise exercise in the development of a system-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan. For this CIP, park and facility needs have been assessed based on:

- (1) overall supply per capita (provision standards);
- (2) distribution (radii mapping); and
- (3) other factors such as
 - alignment with the goals and strategies established for this Capital Improvement Plan Update;
 - expressed public input;
 - socio-demographic trends and participation patterns; and
 - park-specific information that needs to be brought forward based on usage patterns or simply recognition of opportunities that were not known or available at the time the park was master planned.

The provision standards and service radii used in this CIP were established in the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These standards have been modified only

to allow for the exclusion of “private” facilities, which were not part of the inventory requirements for the CIP. The standards have not been reassessed for their validity; this will be a primary goal of the County’s next Comprehensive Master Plan Update.

The provision standards (from the 2004 Master Plan and their equivalencies in this CIP) are aggressive and are more indicative of ideal service levels, rather than ones that can be attained within the next few years in Gwinnett. As such, application of many provision standards suggest that the County is greatly under-supplied, which may not be the case when compared to past service levels or other jurisdictions. To interpret the standards, all demand factors must be considered in their totality, recognizing that there may be several barriers that will keep them from being fully achieved.

Table 6-6: Park and Facility Provision Standards

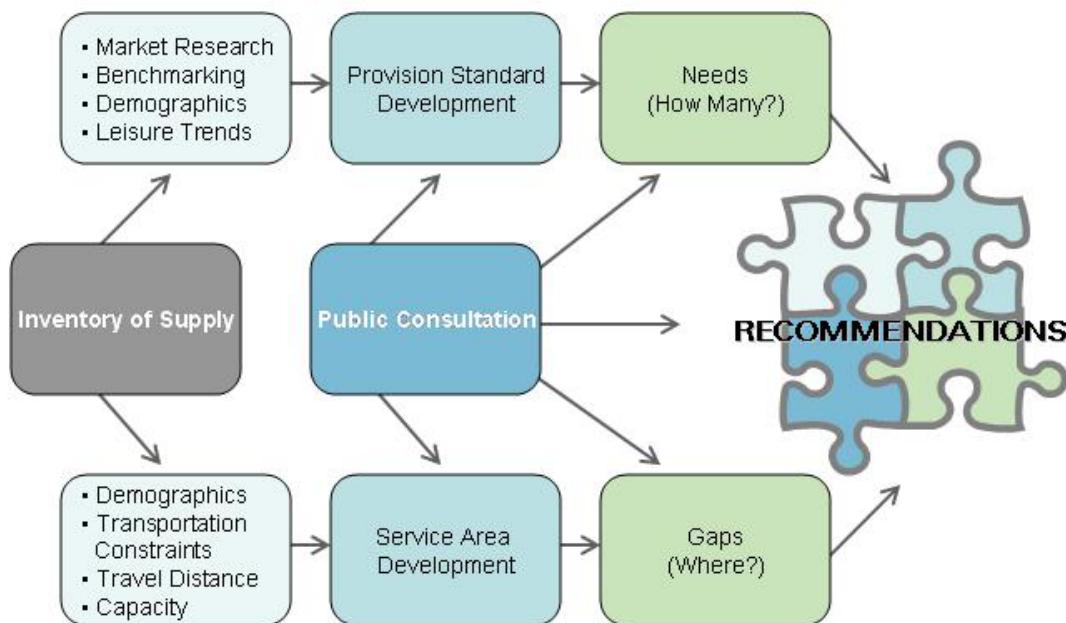
Facility / Park Type	Standards from 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan	Equivalency when Removing Private Facilities
PARKLAND		
Parkland - County, City, Federal	20 acres per 1,000 population	20 acres per 1,000 population
- Parkland - County only (all)	15 acres per 1,000 population	15 acres per 1,000 population
- County Parkland (Community & Passive Community)	7 acres per 1,000 population	7 acres per 1,000 population
- County Parkland (Open Space)	7 acres per 1,000 population	7 acres per 1,000 population
- County Parkland (Other)	1 acre per 1,000 population	1 acre per 1,000 population
AQUATICS		
Indoor Competition Pools	1 per 80,000 population	1 per 160,000 population
Indoor Leisure/Family Pools	1 per 200,000 population	1 per 200,000 population
Outdoor Lane/Competition Pools	1 per 80,000 population	1 per 640,000 population
Outdoor Leisure/Family Pools	1 per 80,000 population	1 per 80,000 population
INDOOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES		
Community Centers (CC)	1 per 100,000 population	1 per 100,000 population
Activity Buildings (AB)	1 per 50,000 population	1 per 50,000 population
Senior Recreation Centers (SRC)	1 per 75,000 population	1 per 150,000 population
Gymnasiums	1 per 20,000 population	1 per 75,000 population
OUTDOOR PARK FACILITIES		
Baseball / Softball Diamonds	1 per 5,000 population	1 per 5,600 population
Soccer Fields	1 per 6,000 population	1 per 8,700 population
Football Fields	1 per 35,000 population	1 per 37,000 population
Tennis Courts	1 per 4,000 population	1 per 7,500 population
Basketball Courts	1 per 10,000 population	1 per 10,500 population
Sand Volleyball Courts	1 per 30,000 population	1 per 35,000 population
Playgrounds	1 per 750 children ages 0-9	1 per 750 children ages 0-9
Skate Parks	1 per 5,000 youth ages 10-19	1 per 17,500 youth ages 10-19

Identifying the total number of each facility type required in Gwinnett County as a whole and by recreation planning area through the use of provision standards is only the first step in analyzing facility needs. The distribution of facilities is equally important, as it is essential that the facilities be located close to the people that use them – 50% of those surveyed for the 2002 Needs Assessment indicated that they would use a county park more often if one were located closer to their home.

To assess distribution, mapping was prepared illustrating the location of existing facilities in relation to overall population density. The service areas established in the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan have been applied to each facility and park in the inventory to help identify areas that may be under-supplied.

The following schematic (Figure 6-1) graphically illustrates the relationship of the inputs and outputs in the determination of park and facility needs.

Figure 6-1: Determining Park and Facility Needs



The inventory of parks and facilities are examined in detail according to facility type in the following pages. The recommendations identified in this section are not intended to imply any level of importance or timing. They are conceptual only and are intended to be a point of departure for discussions on future capital improvement projects. The recommendations are not "adopted" revisions to existing park master plans, nor are they binding on future master plans. Priorities for each topic were established with the assistance of the Recreation Authority and County staff and are described in Section 7.

6.2.1 Key Goals of this Plan

As indicated in Section 1, a set of goals was developed by the Recreation Authority in order to guide the development of the capital improvement recommendations. These goals, presented in priority order below, are reiterated in this section to provide a point of reference for the following analysis.

***Preamble to Goals:** Gwinnett County will strive to provide for the diverse needs of all age groups including the growing segment of older adults. A balanced approach to the provision of parkland and recreational opportunities will continue to be sought by acquiring and developing both structured and unstructured, active and passive parkland and recreational facilities. The County will coordinate its efforts with other agencies, departments, cities, and boards to maximize project funding and benefits to local residents. Cooperation and partnerships will be sought to maximize improvements, help revitalize under-served communities, and enhance safety.*

1. GREENWAYS

Work toward achieving pedestrian and bicycle linkage or connectivity between parks and other points of interest such as schools, libraries, institutional land uses, and commercial nodes. Work with the DOT to encourage the construction of sidewalks and/or the paving of wider shoulders to assist in the development of a “linked Gwinnett”, wherever feasible and where full trail development is not reasonably achievable.

2. PARKLAND ACQUISITION – Under-serviced areas

Proceed with the acquisition of parkland in under-serviced areas.

3. PARKLAND ACQUISITION – Developing areas

Continue with the acquisition of parkland in developing areas.

4. PARK DEVELOPMENT – Existing parks and sites

Complete the construction of planned phases of development within existing parks and undeveloped sites.

5. PARK REDEVELOPMENT

Renovate and/or redevelop existing parks and recreation facilities on an as-needed basis, in keeping with identified local needs.

6. COST OF OPERATIONS

Continue to calculate the cost of operations for CIP facilities to assure affordability of operating facilities within budget (or to identify shortfalls for budgeting consideration), while ensuring the sustained quality to the parks and facilities inventory.

6.3 PARKLAND ANALYSIS

6.3.1 Parkland - Inventory

The public consultation sessions revealed a wide range of input and opinions regarding the provision of parkland in the County – the absolute importance of parks to the community was a consistent message conveyed by the public. Gwinnett citizens recognize that the County is a leader in parks and open space provision and design.

County Park Type	Acreage
Community Park	2,929
Passive Community Park	503
Open Space Park	4,798
Other (Special Purpose Neighborhood, Special Purpose, Greenspace, Other)	741
Total – County parkland	8,971
City Parks	1,312
Federal Parks	1,665
Total – County, City & Federal parkland	11,948

Totals may not add due to rounding

The County currently owns and/or leases 8,971 acres of parkland at 73 sites. When city and federal parks sites are accounted for, this figure increases to 11,948 acres (approximately 4.3% of the County's land base). In relation to parkland, Gwinnett County is clearly the most significant landowner in the area with over three-quarters of publicly accessible park supplies. The data in the adjacent table includes all land owned by the Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation Division, including both developed and undeveloped parks and greenspace lands.

In the four years since the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared, approximately 815 acres of additional County parkland has been acquired, as well as 500 acres of City/Federal parkland. This is roughly equivalent to a 10% increase, the majority of which has been in the form of Community Parks.

In establishing priorities for capital projects, it will be important to keep in mind the undeveloped park sites that the County has yet to master plan, as these will provide opportunities to accommodate new recreation facilities:

Community Parks

- Harbins Community Park Site (D)
- Highway 29/Lilburn Community Park Site (B) *Note: The County has reserved a phase one development budget in the current SPLOST for this park, so it will be a priority.*
- Mountain View Park Site (D)
- Lanier Community Park Site (D)

Passive Community Parks

- Lee Tract Park Site (B)
- Riverbend Park Site (B)
- Vecoma Tract (E)

Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks

- Beaver Ruin Park Site (A)

Open Space Parks

- Centerville Park Site (E)
- Doc Moore Park Site (E)
- Palm Creek Park Site (D)
- Vines Gardens (E)
- Yellow River Post Office (C)

6.3.2 Parkland - Provision Standards

Provision standards of 15 acres of County-owned parkland per 1,000 residents and 20 acres of publicly-accessible parkland (including parks owned by other governmental agencies) per 1,000 residents were established in the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan. Based on these standards, the County is currently under-supplied, with year 2007 ratios of 11.6 acres and 15.4 acres per 1,000 population, respectively. Projected population growth will only continue to exacerbate this deficiency.

Based on a standard of 15 acres of County-owned parkland per 1,000 population, Gwinnett County has a current deficit of 2,674 acres. When other parkland providers are considered, this deficit grows to 3,579 acres (based on a standard of 20 acres per 1,000 population), approximately 905 acres of which is encouraged to be supplied from other levels of government (i.e., federal, state, local) or affiliated conservation agencies. Forecasted population growth leave the County with little choice but to continue to acquire and construct new parks and to complete construction of master planned facilities at existing parks. **It is recommended that Gwinnett County continue to support and work with other parkland providers in order to increase the overall supply and to ensure that parks are being acquired in the areas where they are most needed.**

As illustrated in the following charts, the County, along with its cities and federal providers, are not meeting the standards established in the 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

ALL PARKLAND (county, city, federal)			Standard:	20.0 acres per 1000 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2007 Demand (acres)	2007 Gap (acres)	2013 Demand (acres)	2013 Gap (acres)
A	2,064	12.4	3,320	1,256	3,744	1,680
B	452	3.6	2,485	2,033	2,547	2,095
C	875	4.9	3,601	2,727	3,903	3,029
D	6,055	36.3	3,336	-2,720	4,140	-1,915
E	2,502	18.0	2,785	283	3,161	659
Total	11,948	15.4	15,527	3,579	17,495	5,547

ALL COUNTY-OWNED PARKLAND			Standard:	15.0 acres per 1000 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2007 Demand (acres)	2007 Gap (acres)	2013 Demand (acres)	2013 Gap (acres)
A	981	5.9	2,490	1,509	2,808	1,827
B	419	3.4	1,864	1,445	1,910	1,491
C	804	4.5	2,701	1,897	2,927	2,123
D	4,339	26.0	2,502	-1,837	3,105	-1,234
E	2,429	17.4	2,089	-340	2,371	-58
Total	8,971	11.6	11,645	2,674	13,121	4,150

There are substantial deficiencies in County-owned parkland. Recreation Planning Area C – followed closely by Areas A and B – is the least well-served of the five recreation planning areas in terms of overall parkland. This issue was reinforced during the public consultation process.

The provision standard for County-owned parkland indicates a current overall need for 2,674 acres, all of which is required in Recreation Planning Areas A, B, and C. In actuality, the parkland deficiencies in three planning areas add up to 4,851 acres, which is more than half of the County's current supply. Not only are these areas the most deficient in parkland and open

space, they are also the most densely developed areas of the County and, as a result, are the most land poor.

The preceding “All County-Owned Parkland” chart illustrates the aggregate total of County parkland by park type. Recreation Planning Area D, in large part due to the size of Harbins Park, contains nearly half of Gwinnett County's parkland. In terms of overall parkland, RPAs D and E are very well supplied.

The following charts indicate the provision shortage by park type. Deficits exist in all County parkland categories, although the deficit is most acute for Community Parks and Passive Community Parks. The County is currently achieving 77% of its total parkland provision standard. Community and Passive Community Parks are substantially under-provided, with a 63% provision achievement. 89% of the provision standard for Open Space Parks has been achieved – most of these parks are large parcels that are intended to remain largely in their natural state. Despite having significant acreage in Open Space Parks, RPAs B and C do not have any such parks, while RPA A has only one (although there are numerous Federal open space parks located in the area).

COMMUNITY & PASSIVE COMMUNITY PARKS			Standard: 7.0 acres per 1000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2007 Demand (acres)	2007 Gap (acres)	2013 Demand (acres)	2013 Gap (acres)
A	766	4.6	1,162	396	1,310	544
B	348	2.8	870	522	891	544
C	509	2.8	1,260	751	1,366	857
D	1,176	7.1	1,167	-9	1,449	273
E	632	4.5	975	343	1,106	475
Total	3,431	4.4	5,434	2,003	6,123	2,692

OPEN SPACE PARKS			Standard: 7.0 acres per 1000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2007 Demand (acres)	2007 Gap (acres)	2013 Demand (acres)	2013 Gap (acres)
A	145	0.9	1,162	1,017	1,310	1,165
B	0	0.0	870	870	891	891
C	0	0.0	1,260	1,260	1,366	1,366
D	2,868	17.2	1,167	-1,701	1,449	-1,419
E	1,785	12.8	975	-810	1,106	-679
Total	4,798	6.2	5,434	636	6,123	1,325

OTHER PARKLAND*			Standard: 1.0 acres per 1000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2007 Demand (acres)	2007 Gap (acres)	2013 Demand (acres)	2013 Gap (acres)
A	69	0.4	166	97	187	118
B	71	0.6	124	53	127	56
C	295	1.6	180	-115	195	-100
D	294	1.8	167	-128	207	-87
E	12	0.1	139	128	158	146
Total	741	1.0	776	35	875	133

* special purpose neighborhood, special purpose, linear, greenspace, other

Given the need for additional parkland in all areas, and especially RPAs A, B, and C, the County should work to expand existing parks through both the acquisition of adjacent parcels and new landholdings. Although expansion of existing parks will assist in addressing some of the under-supply in recreation planning areas A, B, and C, a significant deficit will remain. Unfortunately, it is not achievable for the County to acquire over 1,000 acres of parkland in each of RPAs A, B, and C. This amount of available land simply does not exist, nor would it be economically feasible to acquire already developed land in large quantities, remove existing structures and redevelop the sites as parkland.

Furthermore, the cost of land is rising as supply becomes scarcer; this is especially true in the under-served areas. Lilburn, for example, is under-served, but the community is mostly built-out, meaning there is a lack of available land for parks. The County is currently in the process of assembling a site for a Community Park along Highway 29 in this area. In these under-serviced areas, consideration will need to be given to smaller park parcel sizes.

Nevertheless, current and projected development and intensification patterns indicate that the demand for parks and recreation facilities in these areas will only continue to worsen. As the outlying County areas become more urbanized, there will not only be a need for the development of additional park facilities in these areas, but there will continue to be a need to meet the changing and intensifying needs of existing urban areas. Although extensive land has been assembled over the years and past Master Plans have recommended substantial parkland improvements, additional efforts are required to meet ever-growing public demand and to mitigate overuse of existing infrastructure. Aggressive, immediate and continuous action is required to address this matter.

In terms of parkland acquisition and expansion, the County should place a high priority on RPAs A, B, and C. The "Special Purpose Neighborhood Park" classification was created in 2004 to specifically to address recreation facility needs in these planning areas, all three of which are relatively densely populated and have a very limited supply of land. Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks are smaller than Community and Passive Community Parks, yet they are intended to contain active recreational activity areas with an emphasis on serving youth and those living within a close proximity. Available sites with parkland potential need to be identified, including sites containing under-utilized or vacant commercial structures. The acquisition and redevelopment of abandoned commercial sites presents an excellent opportunity for the County to not only provide parkland to under-served areas, but also to assist in revitalizing and improving the overall quality of life of such areas. The creation of a number of Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) in Gwinnett County offers an appropriate medium through which vacant commercial sites can be transformed into new park sites and integrated into broader revitalization efforts.

At the same time that increasing demands are being placed on parkland in RPAs A, B, and C, population growth will continue in other areas of the County. RPAs D and E are the least densely developed areas of the County and present the most feasible options for parkland acquisition due to a greater availability of land. In short, the County is in a position where providing parkland in the areas most in need is a challenging and costly option, whereas parkland acquisition is a more feasible and likely option in areas with lesser needs. In order to provide an appropriate supply of parkland, a balanced approach to acquisition is required that is predicated largely on opportunity. Additional parkland should be acquired in all recreation planning areas, with priorities being placed on addressing deficiencies in under-served areas and expanding existing park sites.

This Plan recommends that the County strive to acquire an additional 100 to 450 acres for parks and open space purposes in each RPA over the next four years, for a total of 1,050 acres. Although the acquisition of 1,050 acres does not fully address future (or even current) deficiencies, it is felt that this requirement strikes an appropriate balance between demand, equity, and reality.

In terms of the type of parkland required, the public meeting questionnaire provides some direction in this regard. The results indicate the top priorities to be: acquiring more land for open space (71%); developing more linear parks/greenways (56%); acquiring more parkland for active use (59%); and expanding existing parks (54%). The County's aging and ethnically diverse population also suggests a growing demand for unstructured open space and spontaneous recreation (as opposed to traditionally-structured recreation).

Across the County, 400 acres of Open Space Parks are proposed for acquisition, while the remaining 650 acres should be some mixture of Community Parks, Passive Community Parks, and Special Neighborhood Parks. Linear Parks (greenways) are not included in these calculations, but should be pursued aggressively (see Section 6.4).

The County is under-supplied with Community and Passive Community Parks in all RPAs, most notably RPAs B and C. The provision of Open Space Parks is more favorable, bolstered by the large park sites in RPAs D and E. RPAs A, B, and C are, however, deficient in Open Space Parks. As such, acquisition in RPAs A, B, and C should contain a mixture of Community/Passive Community Parks and Open Space Parks (as well as Special Purpose Neighborhood Park in areas where Community/Passive Community Parks development is not possible), while acquisition in RPAs D and E should be predominantly limited to Community Parks.

6.3.3 Parkland - Service Gaps

As mentioned, recreation planning areas A, B, and C are the most deficient with regard to overall parkland acreage. The second level of the analysis, however, requires an examination of the geographic "gap" areas that are not adequately served with parkland.

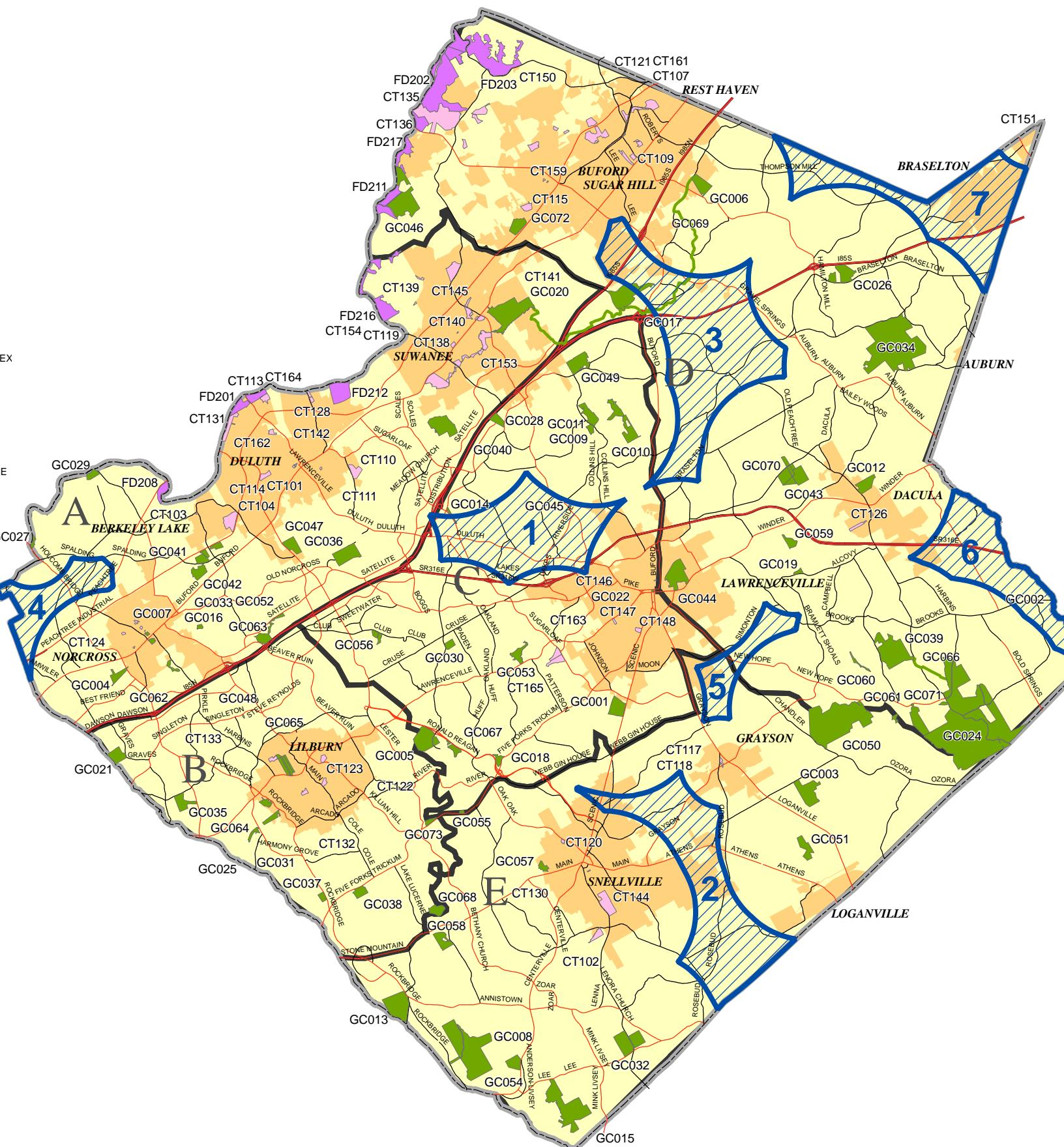
In terms of distribution and access to parkland, **Map 6-1** illustrates the 7 geographic gap areas in the County (numbered in order of priority, with 1 being the greatest need). To determine the parkland gap areas, all County (not including "green space" or "other" parks), city and federal park sites were mapped and service radii of 2 miles for parks over 20 acres and 1 mile for parks under 20 acres were applied to the park boundaries. All RPAs with the exception of area B have gaps. The most prominent void is located in RPA C, followed by gaps in E, D, and then A. Despite having an adequate overall supply of parkland, RPA D has three geographic areas that are not located within 1-2 miles of an existing park or park site.



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

MAP 6-1 Gap Analysis of Publicly Accessible Parkland



Legend

- City Park
- County Park
- Federal Park
- Gaps
- Recreation Planning Area

COUNTY PARKS

- GC001 ALEXANDER PARK SITE
- GC002 APPALACHEE RIVER PARK GREENSPACE
- GC003 BAY CREEK PARK
- GC004 BEST FRIEND PARK
- GC005 BETHELEDA PARK
- GC006 BOGAN PARK
- GC007 CEMETERY FIELD PARK
- GC008 CENTERVILLE PARK SITE
- GC009 COLLINS HILL AQUATIC CENTER
- GC010 COLLINS HILL GOLF CLUB
- GC011 COLLINS HILL PARK
- GC012 DACULA PARK
- GC013 DESHONG PARK
- GC014 DISCOVER MILLS TRACT
- GC015 DOC MOORE BRANCH PARK SITE
- GC016 EDGEMORE NORTH
- GC017 GWINNETT ENVIRONMENTAL & HERITAGE CENTER
- GC018 RONALD REAGAN PARK
- GC019 FREEMAN'S MILL PARK
- GC020 GEORGE PIERCE PARK
- GC021 GRAVES PARK
- GC022 GWINNETT COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
- GC023 GWINNETT HISTORY MUSEUM
- GC024 HARBINS PARK
- GC025 HARMONY GROVE SOCCER COMPLEX
- GC026 DUNCAN CREEK PARK
- GC027 HOLCOMB BRIDGE PARK
- GC028 HOSPITAL (I-85) SITE
- GC029 JONES BRIDGE PARK
- GC030 SWEET WATER PARK
- GC031 LION'S CLUB PARK
- GC032 LENORA PARK
- GC033 LILLIAN WEBB FIELD
- GC034 LITTLE MULBERRY PARK
- GC035 LUCKY SHOALS PARK
- GC036 MCDANIEL FARM PARK
- GC037 MOUNTAIN PARK AQUATIC CENTER & ACTIVITY BUILDING
- GC038 MOUNTAIN PARK PARK
- GC039 PALM CREEK PARK SITE
- GC040 PEACHTREE RIDGE PARK
- GC041 WEST GWINNETT PARK & AQUATIC CENTER
- GC042 PINCKNEYVILLE PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER
- GC043 RABBIT HILL PARK
- GC044 RHODES JORDAN PARK
- GC045 RIVERSIDE PARKWAY GREENSPACE
- GC046 SETTLES BRIDGE PARK
- GC047 SHORTY HOWELL PARK
- GC048 SINGLETON ROAD ACTIVITY BUILDING
- GC049 ROCK SPRINGS PARK
- GC050 TRIBBLE MILL PARK
- GC051 VINES BOTANICAL GARDENS
- GC052 VULCAN SITE
- GC053 YELLOW RIVER WETLANDS
- GC054 YELLOW RIVER PARK
- GC055 YELLOW RIVER POST OFFICE
- GC056 CLUB DRIVE PARK
- GC057 SOUTH GWINNETT PARK
- GC058 VECOMA TRACT
- GC059 ALCOVY RIVER GREENSPACE (DIXON PROPERTY)
- GC060 ALCOVY RIVER CORRIDOR #1
- GC061 ALCOVY RIVER CORRIDOR #2
- GC062 BEAVER RUIN GREENSPACE
- GC063 BEAVER RUIN PARK SITE
- GC064 CAMP CREEK GREENSPACE (HOVIS PROPERTY)
- GC065 HIGHWAY 29/LILBURN COMMUNITY PARK SITE
- GC066 PENDERGRASS GREENSPACE
- GC067 RIVERBEND PARK SITE
- GC068 IVY CREEK GREENWAY
- GC069 MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK SITE
- GC070 HARBINS COMMUNITY PARK SITE
- GC071 LANIER COMMUNITY PARK SITE
- GC073 LEE TRACT PARK SITE

FEDERAL PARKS

- FD201 ABBOTS BRIDGE SOUTH UNIT
- FD202 BOWMAN'S ISLAND UNIT
- FD203 CORPS OF ENGINEERS PARKS
- FD208 MEDLOCK BRIDGE UNIT
- FD211 SETTLES BRIDGE UNIT
- FD212 SUWANEE CREEK UNIT
- FD216 MCGINNIS FERRY - CRNA
- FD217 ORRS FERRY - CRNA

When acquiring parkland, it is recommended that the County have regard to the gaps on **Map 6-1**, as well as the location of new school clusters (see discussion below). Additional consideration should also be given to expanding existing parks and acquiring new ones in areas where significant population growth and intensification is expected to occur, such as along the I-85, I-985, and Georgia Highway 316 corridors into the northeast and eastern-most portions of the County.

Between 2009 and 2014, five new school clusters will be established, creating the need for new Community Parks to serve them. At present, Community Park Sites exist for the three high schools being built in 2009/10, these will be located at Harbins Community Park Site, Lanier Community Park Site, and Mountain View Park Site (in combination with Rabbit Hill Park). However, two school clusters will be established in 2013-2014, and both require the development of appropriate Community Parks.

Table 6-7: New School Clusters in Gwinnett County, 2007-2014

New Cluster/High School	Location / RPA	Year Opening	Community Parks
Grayson / Dacula Cluster (Archer HS)	2255 New Hope Road (RPA D, near RPA E)	2009	Harbins Community Park Site
Mill Creek / Collins Hill / Dacula (Mountainview HS)	2351 Sunny Hill Road (RPA D, near RPA C)	2009	Mountain View Park Site (in combination with Rabbit Hill Park)
Lanier Cluster HS	918 Buford Highway (RPA D, near RPA A)	2010	Lanier Community Park Site
Berkmar / Central Gwinnett HS	1335 Old Norcross Rd (RPA C)	2013/14	tbd
Upper Mill Creek HS	location tbd (RPA D)	2013/14	tbd

6.3.4 Parkland - Recommendations

The following are the recommendations related to the acquisition of parkland. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

- Acquire one Community Park Site and initiate phase 1 development in each RPA C and D to serve the two new school clusters to be established in 2013/14.
- Acquire land to mitigate shortages in areas with inadequate parkland supplies. This can be accommodated through new land assembly or expansion of existing parks. Areas with lower than average parkland supplies include RPAs A, B, and C (all of which are not meeting the targets set for structured and unstructured parkland). Additional parkland will also be needed to serve RPAs D and E toward the end of the planning period. Specifically, the County should endeavor to:
 - acquire up to 50 acres of structured and/or unstructured parkland (Community Parks, Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks) in RPA A toward resolving the priority geographic gap area and achieving the following goals: 1 splash pad, 6 basketball courts.

- acquire up to 100 acres of Open Space parkland in RPA A for expansion of nature, multi-use, equestrian, and/or mountain biking trails, as well as playground/pavilion complexes and similar amenities.
- acquire up to 100 acres of structured and/or unstructured parkland (Community Parks, Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks) in RPA B toward achieving the following goals: 4 informal play fields, 1 splash pad, 6 basketball courts, 14 playgrounds.
- acquire up to 100 acres of Open Space parkland in RPA B for expansion of nature, multi-use, equestrian, and/or mountain biking trails, as well as playground/pavilion complexes and similar amenities.
- acquire up to 250 acres of structured and/or unstructured parkland (Community Parks, Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks) in RPA C toward resolving the priority geographic gap area and achieving the following goals: 12 soccer fields, 1 splash pad, 8 tennis courts, 8 basketball courts, 24 playgrounds.
- acquire up to 200 acres of Open Space parkland in RPA C for expansion of nature, multi-use, equestrian, and/or mountain biking trails, as well as playground/pavilion complexes and similar amenities.
- acquire up to 150 acres of structured and/or unstructured parkland (Community Parks, Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks) in RPA D toward resolving the 3-4 priority geographic gap areas and achieving the following goals: 1 outdoor family aquatics complex, 8 basketball courts, 13 playgrounds.
- acquire up to 100 acres of structured and/or unstructured parkland (Community Parks, Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks) in RPA E toward resolving the 1-2 priority geographic gap areas and achieving the following goals: 8 soccer fields, 6 tennis courts, 8 basketball courts, 6 playgrounds.

6.4 GREENWAY ANALYSIS

In keeping with the need for access and flexibility within the County's park system, a greenway system is required to complement and link public spaces. Previous County planning documents have identified in great detail the benefits of acquiring and/or protecting greenway corridors. The number one priority for the community and the Recreation Authority was the creation of linkages and connectivity between communities and public spaces. Linear greenway systems are ideal for trails for recreational use, non-motorized transportation, and linking a community together.

Greenways are linear corridors of greenspace, typically linking parks or other civic destinations. They contain routes for recreational walking, running, and cycling, and are generally off-road and paved (12 feet wide).

At present, there are two existing greenways available in the County: (1) the 3.6 mile Suwanee Creek Greenway that was developed by the City of Suwanee; and the 1.5 mile Camp Creek Greenway recently opened by the City of Lilburn.

There are a number of greenway projects under development, including:

- *Ivy Creek Greenway* - Phase 1 Section 1 (Suwanee Creek Greenway to Westbrook Road) - 1.77 miles
- *Ivy Creek Greenway* - Phase 1 Section 2 (Westbrook Road to I-985 Underpass) - 1.37 miles
- *Ivy Creek Greenway* - Phase 1, part of Section 3 (I-985 Underpass to EHC) - less than 2.53 miles
- *Ivy Creek Greenway* - Phase 1, Sections 4 and 5 (EHC to Buford Drive) – 0.88 miles

In addition, engineering and design and/or land acquisition is also currently underway for the following greenways:

- *Harbins/Tribble Greenway* - Sections 1 and 2 (Harbins Park Phase 1 Path to Tribble Mill Park Boundary)
- *Harbins/Palm* - Section 2 (Phillips Property Boundary to Palm Creek Park Boundary)
- *Ronald Reagan Parkway* (Bethesda Park to Ronald Reagan Park Boundary)
- *Ivy Creek Greenway* - Phase 2 (Gravel Springs Road to Bogan Park)
- *Centerville Hwy/Yellow River* (Centerville Hwy Tract to Dekalb County Line)
- *Camp Creek Extension* (Camp Creek Greenway Terminus to Harmony Grove Park) - 1.06 miles

Trails, as opposed to Greenways, include multi-use (paved) and nature (unpaved) trail systems *within* County parks. There are multiple opportunities for trail utilization in Gwinnett County. Dozens of existing County parks contain multi-use trails and/or nature/walking trails. This type of trail has become a staple of park design for all major park types. Most trail systems are built in planned phases. Currently, 19 Gwinnett County parks have planned (but unfunded) trail phases.

Map 6-2 depicts the locations of existing trails, and the existing and funded greenways.

Public consultation revealed a very strong interest in trail and greenway development. Residents expressed the desire to connect County parks through greenways, sidewalks, and bike lanes. In fact, greenways and bike lanes were identified as the highest priorities through the questionnaire.

In addition to trails or greenways, another opportunity for Gwinnett County to expand accessibility is to combine pathway opportunities with Department of Transportation works. The construction of strategically located sidewalks or the creation of wider paved shoulders along roadways creates significant links in addressing the desire of Gwinnett residents to enhance connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

The 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was fully supportive of, and consistent with, the findings of the 2002 Open Space and Greenway Master Plan. In particular, one of the goals of the Gwinnett County Open Space and Greenway Master Plan (2002) was to increase connectivity via a system of greenways. Both Master Plans agree that “the County should consider establishing greenways in locations providing the greatest connectivity between existing greenspaces and where they can serve as useful transportation corridors”. To this end, the Open Space and Greenway Master Plan recommended that the County consider

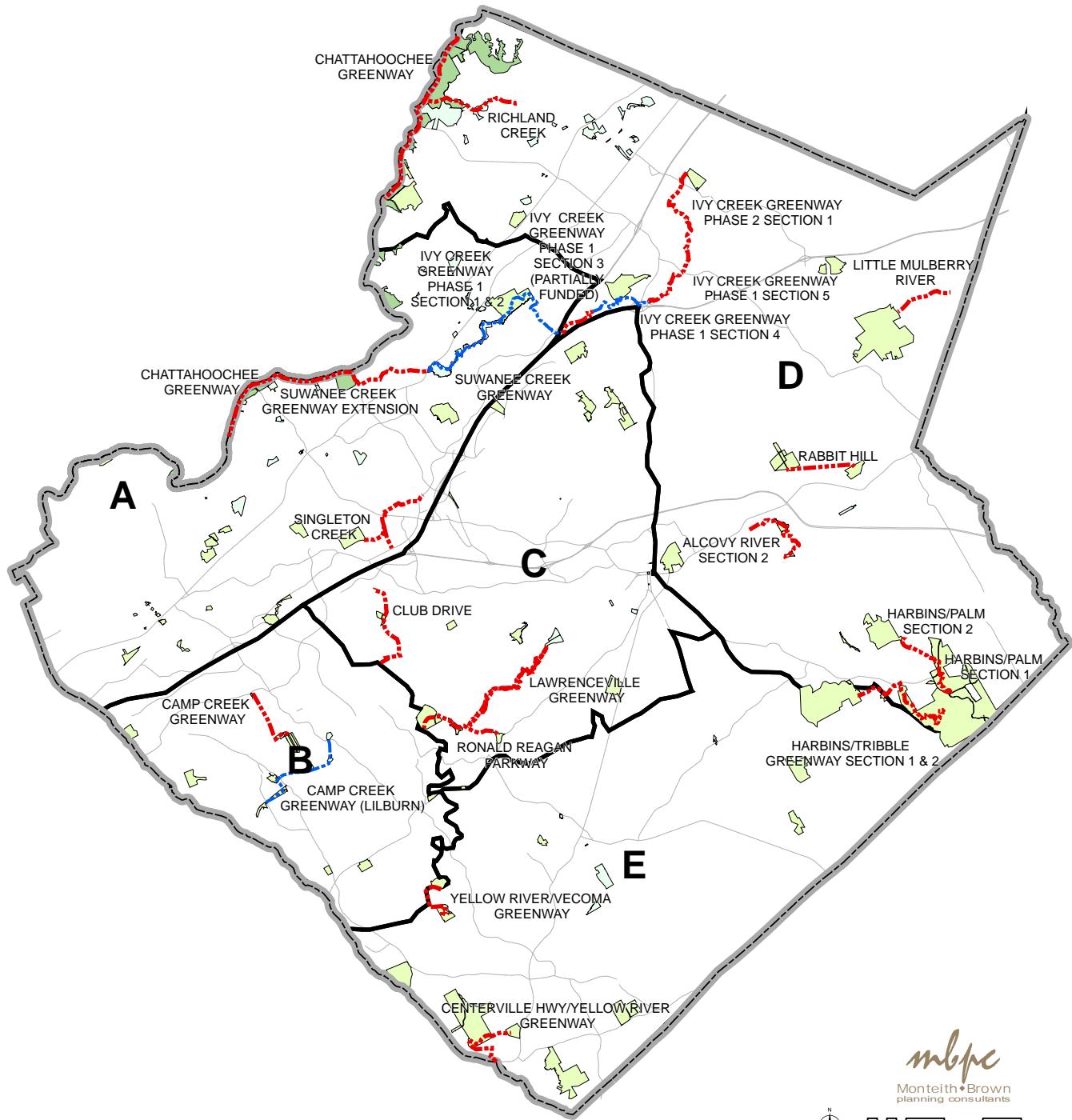
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GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-2 Greenway Distribution



mbpc
Monteith Brown
planning consultants



negotiating multi-purpose easements that combine greenway public access rights with sewer and access easements.

The 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan developed a definition of a “Linear Park” (synonymous with greenways) to be added to the County’s park classification system in order to advance the implementation of the Open Space and Greenway Master Plan. The provision standard established for Linear Parks was to provide a greenway within 2 miles of any location in the County. However, the challenges associated with land assembly make the development of greenways a time-consuming process, and there is still much work to be done to achieve this standard. Significant segments of other potential trail corridors have been acquired by the County over the last few years; however, greenway development cannot begin until all land is assembled. A continued focus on land acquisition is required. It has been discovered that the establishment of greenways is more challenging than acquiring new parks, but is no less important. Recreation that utilizes greenways, including walking and active transportation, are significant desires of the local community.

Proposed greenway projects are generally spread throughout the entire County, although the most significant projects (Ivy Creek Greenway and the Harbins/ Tribble Mill/ Palm Creek Greenway) are primarily located in RPA D. Smaller projects exist in the other RPAs; however, it is evident that there are fewer opportunities for greenway development in the western (more established) portion of the County. In response, the Gwinnett Department of Transportation is pursuing some off-road, multi-use trails, which run parallel to roads, in some of these locations.

In addition to trails for walking, running, and cycling, the County also offers separate trail systems for both equestrian riding and mountain biking. These two recreational activities have proved to be very popular in the County. The outward expansion of development in Gwinnett has diminished the supply of land for horseback riding, creating a demand for equestrian trails. This was a significant point raised at multiple public meetings. Completion of equestrian trails is planned for both Harbins Park and Little Mulberry Park, but these projects are not fully funded through the current SPLOST program.

The demand for more mountain biking trails was evident throughout the questionnaire, along with the quality and condition of certain mountain biking trails throughout the County (especially at Tribble Mill Park). Phase 1 of Harbins Park, which is funded under the current SPLOST program, includes the development of a mountain biking trail system.

The popularity of greenways and trails in Gwinnett means that the County will have to pay special attention to provision standards and quality. The existing Greenway Master Plan was prepared in 2002 and requires updating in order to provide the most relevant information and recommendations. Greater coordination between the Department of Transportation and the Parks & Recreation Division is recommended to encourage the provision of off-road greenways and on-road bike lanes. The County must emphasize land acquisition for greenways, and identify priority projects for construction where appropriate easements exist. Finally, it is recommended that the County acquire, design, and/or construct the greenway projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan tables.

With the establishment of greenways as one of the highest priorities, there is greater urgency in ensuring that the right greenways are acquired and developed. To this end, the Greenway Master Plan should be updated in order to create a clear vision of issues, constraints and opportunities that may exist within these corridors.

The following are the recommendations related to greenways. Recommendations are listed RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" – Greenway Recommendations

- Chattahoochee Greenway Section 2 COE's (CRNRA Suwanee Creek Unit to CRNRA Abbotts Bridge Park) - Acquisition to Construction (4.26 miles)
- Singleton Creek Greenway (McDaniel Farm Park to Gwinnett Arena) - Acquisition to Construction (2.47 miles)
- Suwanee Creek Greenway Extension 1 (Suwanee Creek Park to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard) - Acquisition to Construction (1.12 miles)
- Suwanee Creek Greenway Extension 2 (PIB to Chattahoochee River) - Acquisition to Construction (1.31 miles)
- Ivy Creek Greenway Phase 1 Section 3 (Completion of route from I-985 underpass to Environment and Heritage Center; Subsections 5 and 6) - Construction (<2.53 miles)

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Greenway Recommendations

- Camp Creek Greenway (Hwy 29 Park Site to Singleton Road Activity Bldg.) - Acquisition to Construction (1.71 miles)
- Yellow River/Vecom Greenway (Vecoma Park Site to Riverbend Park Site) - Acquisition to Construction (1.30 miles)

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Greenway Recommendations

- Club Drive Greenway (Sweetwater MS to Club Drive Park) - Acquisition to Construction (1.12 miles)
- Lawrenceville Greenway (Lawrenceville Future Park Site to Ronald Reagan Parkway Greenway) - Acquisition to Construction (4.00 miles)
- Ronald Reagan Parkway Greenway (Bethesda Park to Ronald Reagan Park) - Engineering/Design, Construction (1.83 miles)

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Greenway Recommendations

- Alcovy River Greenway Section 2 (Freemans Mill Park to Rock House Road) - Acquisition to Construction (2.54 miles)
- Chattahoochee Greenway Section 1 (COE's Bowman Unit to Settles Bridge Park) - Acquisition to Construction (5.00 miles)
- Harbins/Palm Section 1 (Harbins Park at Indian Shoals Road Parking Lot to Phillips Property Boundary) - Engineering/Design, Construction (1.46 miles)
- Harbins/Palm Section 2 (Phillips Property Boundary to Palm Creek Park Boundary) - Additional Acquisition, Engineering/Design, Construction (1.12 miles)
- Harbins/Tribble Greenway Section 1 (Harbins Park Phase 1 Path to Harbins/Edwards Boundary) - Construction (1.54 miles)
- Harbins/Tribble Greenway Section 2 - Construction (2.28 miles)
- Ivy Creek Greenway Phase 1 Section 5 Road-side Path Alternative + Trailhead (Buford Drive at Mall of Georgia Blvd to Mall of Georgia Drive at Woodward Crossing Road) - Engineering/Design, Construction (1.23 miles)
- Ivy Creek Greenway Phase 2 Section 1 (Gravel Springs Road to Bogan Park) - Engineering/Design, Construction (3.30 miles)
- Ivy Creek Phases 1 & 2 - balance of land acquisition (P1/S5 - 1.23 miles; P2/S1 - 3.30 miles)

- Little Mulberry River Greenway (Little Mulberry park to Mount Moriah Road) - Acquisition to Construction (1.55 miles)
- Rabbit Hill Greenway (Rabbit Hill Park to Dacula Park) - Acquisition to Construction (1.80 miles)
- Richland Creek Greenway (Chattahoochee Greenway to Sycamore Road) - Acquisition to Construction (2.67 miles)

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Greenway Recommendations

- Centerville Hwy/Yellow River Greenway (Centerville Hwy Tract to Yellow River) - Additional Acquisition, Engineering/Design, Construction (2.33 miles)

6.5 SOCCER COMPLEX ANALYSIS

There are a total of 44 soccer fields in the County, 30 of which are provided by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, and 14 by local cities. In addition, there were 18 soccer fields provided by the not-for-profit and private sectors as of 2004; 11 of these are provided at the GSA Complex near Mountain Park in Recreation Planning Area B.

SOCCER FIELDS	Provider	#	Area
George Pierce Park	county	5	A
Jones Bridge Park	county	3	A
Pinckneyville Park & Community Center	county	5	A
Peachtree Ridge Park	county	2	A
West Gwinnett Park and Aquatic Center	county	2	A
Bunten Park	city	2	A
Scott Hudgens Park/Soccer Complex	city	4	A
Harmony Grove Soccer Complex	county	3	B
Bethesda Park	county	4	C
Rabbit Hill Park	county	6	D
Buford City Park/Legion Fields	city	1	D
E.E. Robinson Memorial Park	city	1	D
T.W. Briscoe Park	city	6	E
Total		44	

Map 6-3 illustrates the locations of soccer complexes (sites with two or more fields) in the County. A 2-mile radius has been applied to each park in order to demonstrate a reasonable service area for this facility. The application of this park radius indicates that there are gaps in soccer field distribution in all RPAs.

The growth of soccer in the United States has been well documented. In terms of overall participation, soccer registration has rivaled and even surpassed that of baseball in many jurisdictions. Not only are youth soccer participation rates increasing, but so too is demand for adult soccer opportunities. Soccer is now established as a mainstream recreational sport in America, meaning that a new generation of adults will have grown up playing the sport. This new popularity combined with an aging population and the sport's appeal with newcomers to the country means that the need to accommodate adult soccer will be a major driver of demand in the future.

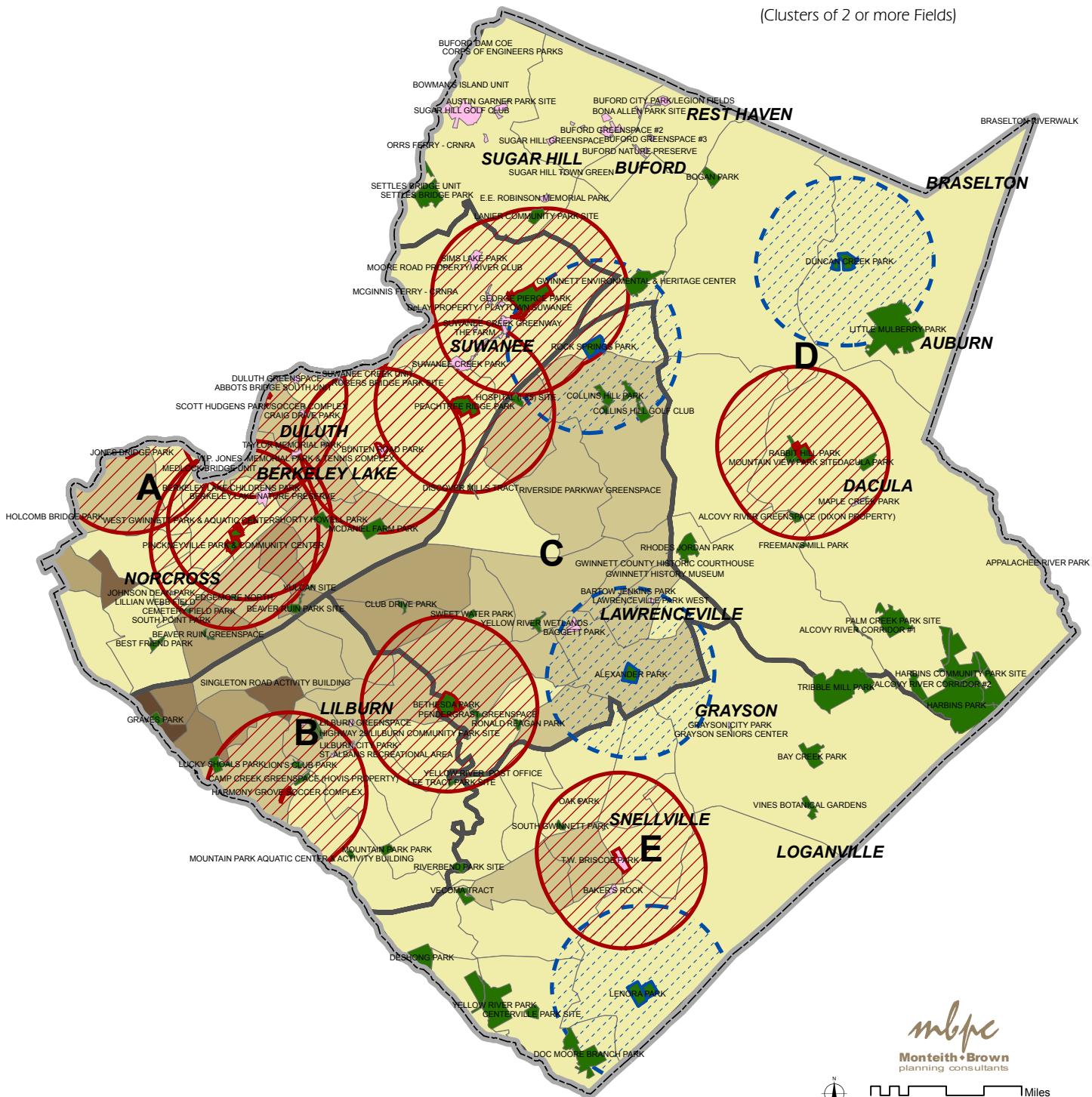
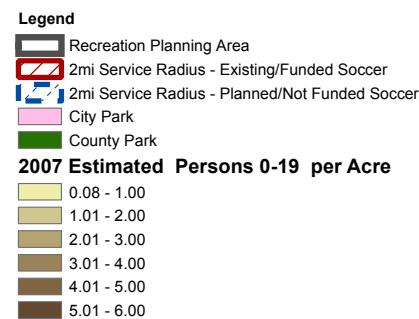
In Gwinnett County, participation in organized soccer does not appear to have changed much in recent years; however, the sport's growing popularity has been reflected in previous surveys and it is quite possible that the under-supply of fields is hindering participation. In 2006, organized youth soccer in Gwinnett County attracted approximately 13,500 participants, which is about 4,500 less than baseball but 8,000 more than football. In comparison, there are 44 existing soccer fields, 134 ball diamonds, and 19 football fields. Strong participation rates continue amongst children and teens, and participation among ethnic communities, particularly



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Map 6-3 Soccer Field Distribution (Clusters of 2 or more Fields)



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0 0.5 1 2 3 4

the Hispanic community, is expected to remain strong. Further participation is expected from Gwinnett County adults and older adults, with a greater representation from female participants.

In addition to the increase in structured soccer teams, there is a rise in the demand for unstructured soccer opportunities. Unstructured or unscheduled non-league soccer activities result in over-utilization of the fields and often conflicts with scheduled field usage. The result of soccer's intense growth in Gwinnett in recent years is a severe lack of fields for both organized and unorganized play. As a result of this growth, existing fields are used very heavily and are not able to receive adequate rest and maintenance, further impacting on the County's ability to meet soccer needs.

Usage and participation patterns suggest the need for additional opportunities for unstructured pick-up soccer opportunities (i.e., informal play fields or unlocked and unallocated soccer fields), as well as improvements and expansions to existing soccer complexes. Informal playfields now exist at several parks, including Ronald Reagan Park, Graves Park, Sweet Water Park, Best Friend Park, DeShong Park, and Peachtree Ridge Park. These open spaces can be used for unstructured activities and sports.

A provision standard of one soccer field per 8,700 population has been established for Gwinnett County. Despite the growing need for additional soccer fields, only 4 new fields have been developed since the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared. Many communities strive for a ratio of one soccer field for every 80-100 registered participants.

SOCCER FIELDS			Standard:	1 per 8,700 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	23	7,217	19.1	-3.9	21.5	-1.5
B	3	41,420	14.3	11.3	14.6	11.6
C	4	45,013	20.7	16.7	22.4	18.4
D	8	20,847	19.2	11.2	23.8	15.8
E	6	23,211	16.0	10.0	18.2	12.2
Total*	44	17,644	89.2	45.2	100.5	56.5

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 18 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

Based on a provision standard of 1 soccer field per 8,700 population, the County currently has a deficit of 45 fields, requiring a doubling of the existing supply in order to meet today's needs. The County is currently achieving 49% of its soccer field provision standard. In order to meet the demand for soccer fields, a total of 56 fields will need to be developed by 2013.

With the exception of Recreation Planning Area A, all RPAs desperately require additional soccer fields. The GSA Complex (11 fields) is located in RPA B, meaning that this area is not as deficient as the numbers would suggest; however, it remains an area that is not adequately serviced with soccer fields. Both RPAs A and B are believed to have the largest concentrations of Hispanic residents, which suggests that they may require more fields per capita than more homogeneous communities. Recreation Planning Areas C, D, and E are also under-supplied with fields. By 2013, between 12 and 18 additional fields will be required within each RPA to meet the provision standard.

Several of these gaps will be at least partially addressed through the development of planned Community Parks in RPAs B and D. It is strongly recommended that soccer complexes be contained in each of these parks, with the exception of Mountain View Community Park, which

is adjacent to the soccer complex at Rabbit Hill Park. Requests from Community Focus Group sessions indicate that the development of fields should be placed in areas with higher concentrations of ethnic groups. RPAs A, B, and C are the most ethnically diverse areas of the County, and will require stronger soccer representation.

At present, five park master plans contain a total of 14 unfunded soccer/multi-purpose fields. This number is not sufficient to address the deficiency of 56 fields by 2013 as identified by this CIP.

In addition, a master plan update is currently underway for Rhodes Jordan Park that is likely to include the development of a soccer complex (two to three full sized fields). Future master planning efforts for the Highway 29/ Lilburn Community Park Site and the Mountain View Park Site (in combination with Rabbit Hill Park), among others, present future opportunities for soccer field development.

The following are the recommendations related to soccer complexes. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Soccer Complex Recommendations

West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of 1 multi-purpose field
-------------------------------------	---

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Soccer Complex Recommendations

Highway 29/Lilburn Community Park Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan for multi-field complexes in the future park site
Entire RPA B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In addition to any planned projects, establish up to 4 informal play fields

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Soccer Complex Recommendations

Rock Springs Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of 3 fields
Alexander Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of 2 fields
Entire RPA C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish up to 12 fields in addition to planned projects

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Soccer Complex Recommendations

Rhodes Jordan Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop soccer fields through revisions in master plan
Rabbit Hill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand the soccer complex in conjunction with the development of the Mountain View Community Park Site
Harbins Community Park Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan for multi-field complexes in the future Harbins Community Park site
Duncan Creek Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of 4 fields

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Soccer Complex Recommendations

Lenora Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of 4 fields
Entire RPA D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish up to 8 fields in addition to planned projects

6.6 BASEBALL / SOFTBALL COMPLEX ANALYSIS

Gwinnett County's Parks and Recreation Division provides 109 baseball/softball diamonds, 8 of which are allocated to adults. Cities provide 25 ball diamonds, bringing the total to 134. The distribution of baseball/softball complexes (containing 3 or more fields) is illustrated on **Map 6-4** using a 2-mile service radius. Since the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared, 20 new ball diamonds have been developed (an increase of 18%).

BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELDS	Provider	#	Area
Best Friend Park	county	2	A
George Pierce Park	county	10	A
Lillian Webb Field	county	1	A
Pinckneyville Park & Community Center	county	7	A
Shorty Howell Park	county	7	A
Bunten Park	city	4	A
Rossie Brundage Park	city	1	A
Johnson Dean Park	city	4	A
Peachtree Ridge Park	county	4	A
Lucky Shoals Park	county	5	B
Mountain Park Park	county	7	B
Lion's Club Park	county	4	B
Bethesda Park	county	10	C
Collins Hill Park	county	7	C
Lawrenceville Park West	city	3	C
Bogart Park	county	7	D
Dacula Park	county	7	D
Rhodes Jordan Park	county	7	D
Buford City Park/Legion Fields	city	10	D
E.E. Robinson Memorial Park	city	2	D
South Gwinnett Park	county	10	E
Bay Creek Park	county	8	E
Lenora Park	county	6	E
T.W. Briscoe Park	city	1	E
	Total	134	

Baseball and softball have the highest participation levels amongst team sports in Gwinnett County. The spring baseball and softball sessions, which attract the largest number of participants registered a 13% increase between 2002 and 2006, regaining levels seen in the 1990s. Despite this data, many national studies have indicated that participation rates in ball is shrinking, suggesting that Gwinnett County should experience declining participation rates in baseball and softball in the coming years.

Demand for adult – and especially senior – ball opportunities remains strong in the County.

Although Gwinnett's population profile is quite youthful, it is aging, which could translate into greater demand for adult softball opportunities in the long-term.

Considering the participation rates and ball field supply in Gwinnett County, a provision standard of one ball diamond per 5,600 population was recommended in the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan. Gwinnett County is currently achieving 97% of this standard and requires 5 additional fields and 16 more by 2013, for a total of 156 ball fields.

BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELDS			Standard:	1 per 5,600 population	
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand
A	40	4,150	29.6	-10.4	33.4
B	16	7,766	22.2	6.2	22.7
C	20	9,003	32.2	12.2	34.8
D	33	5,054	29.8	-3.2	37.0
E	25	5,571	24.9	-0.1	28.2
Total*	134	5,794	138.6	4.6	156.2
*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 3 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.					

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 3 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.



Legend

Recreation Planning Area

2mi Service Radius - Existing Baseball / Softball

City Park

County Park

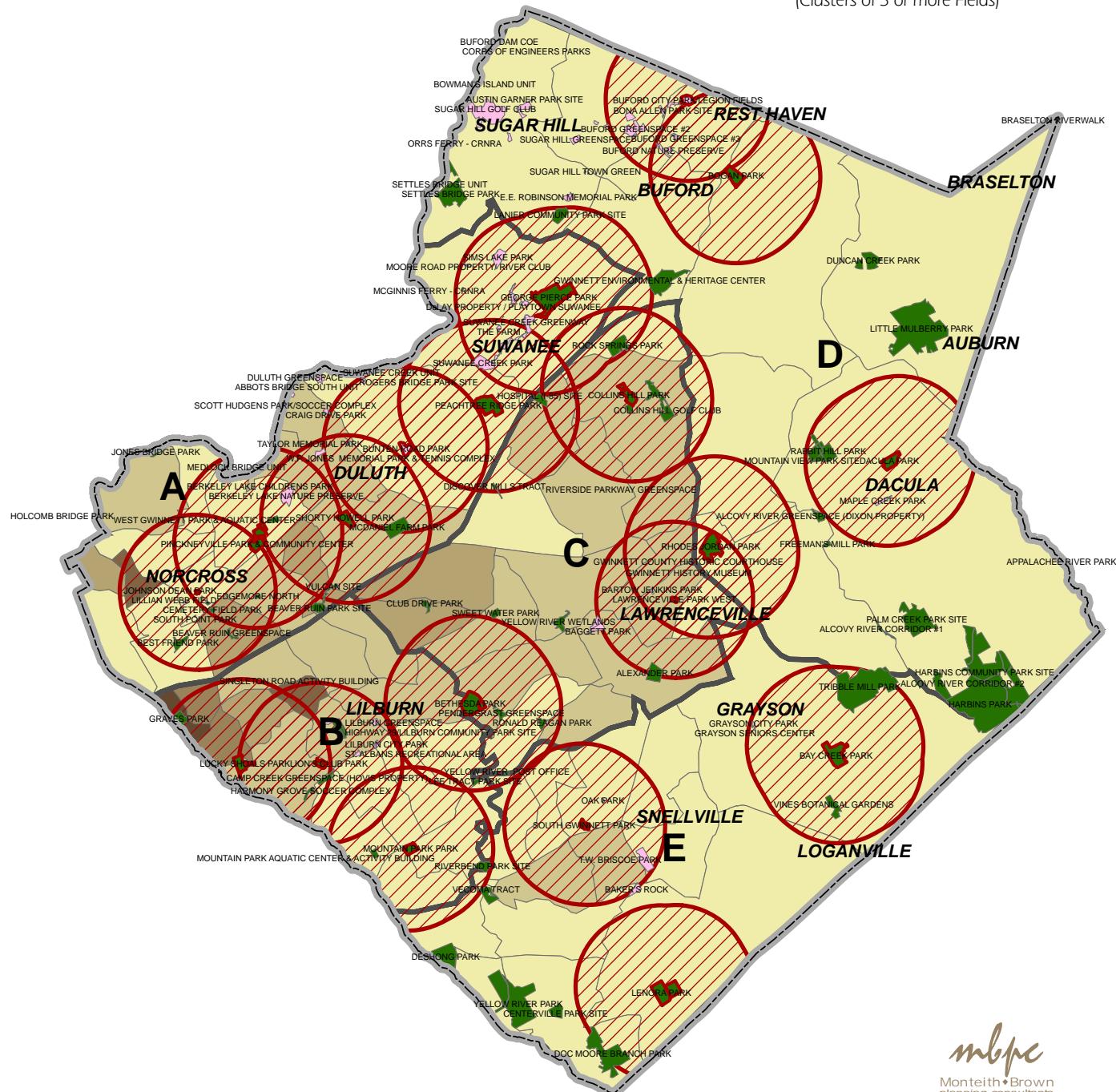
2007 Estimated Persons 0-19 per Acre

Population Density Range
0.08 - 1.00
1.01 - 2.00
2.01 - 3.00
3.01 - 4.00
4.01 - 5.00
5.01 - 6.00

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Map 6-4 Baseball Diamond Distribution (Clusters of 3 or more Fields)



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The largest gaps in distribution exist in RPAs C and D, although the overall supply in D is adequate. Land acquisition for a future Community Park in RPA C will be required to resolve this matter, likely in combination with the development of a new school cluster in 2013/14.

There is potential for the new Harbins, Mountain View, and Lanier Community Park Sites to meet ball diamond needs through to 2013. Each of these three locations could provide up to 7 fields, thereby creating a demand and supply equilibrium. This provision would then free up the new Highway 29/Lilburn Community Park Site for under-supplied facilities, such as soccer fields. The Highway 29/Lilburn area already has access to ball diamonds at the nearby Lucky Shoals Park and Lions Club Park. While ball diamonds have been an integral part of the community park template in the past, unless diamonds are required for a school feeder program, alternative designs should be considered.

Limited construction of ball diamonds in other RPAs is also recommended in order to alleviate system-wide deficiencies and to serve the needs of future populations. Participation data indicates that there has been recent growth in adult baseball/softball demand and demographic projections and trends suggest that adult ball demand will continue to increase. Conversion of some youth diamonds into adult fields may also be required over the long-term to satisfy increasing adult softball needs.

The following are the recommendations related to baseball and softball complexes. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Baseball/Softball Complex Recommendations

Lenora Park	• Proceed with planned development of 1 ball diamond
South Gwinnett Park	• Proceed with planned removal of 3 diamonds

6.7 COMMUNITY CENTER, ACTIVITY BUILDING, SENIOR RECREATION CENTER & GYMNASIUM ANALYSIS

Gwinnett County provides three distinct types of recreation centers: community centers, activity buildings and senior recreation centers. Each facility type differs in its size, facilities, operation, and provision levels.

Community Centers

COMMUNITY CENTERS	Provider	Area
George Pierce Park	county	A
Pinckneyville Park & Community Center	county	A
Bunten Park	city	A
Lucky Shoals Park	county	B
Bogan Park	county	D
Rhodes Jordan Park	county	D
Total		6

Community centers are staffed full-time and generally include multiple programmable spaces such as a gymnasium, indoor aquatic facility, dedicated arts space, teen rooms, meeting rooms, etc. Gwinnett's Parks and Recreation Division provides five community centers, while one community center is provided by the City of Duluth. Since the 2004 Master Plan, a new community center has been developed at George Pierce Park. It is noted that Gwinnett County is also home to two YMCAs, two Boys and Girls Clubs, and a community center provided by the County's Health and Human Services Department. These

Community centers are staffed full-time and generally include multiple programmable spaces such as a gymnasium, indoor aquatic facility, dedicated arts space, teen rooms, meeting rooms, etc. Gwinnett's Parks and Recreation Division provides five community centers, while one community center is provided by the City of Duluth. Since the 2004 Master Plan, a new community center has been developed at George Pierce Park. It is noted that Gwinnett County is also home to two YMCAs, two Boys and Girls Clubs, and a community center provided by the County's Health and Human Services Department. These

locations offer similar programs and services but have not been counted in the overall supply of community centers.

The location and distribution of community centers is illustrated on **Map 6-5**. Half of the community centers in Gwinnett are located in RPA A, while RPA C does not have any such facilities. However, the distribution of existing and planned community centers and activity buildings is excellent – using a service radius of 4 miles, there are no significant gap areas. RPAs C and E are currently under-serviced for community centers, but both contain planned facilities. At present, six park master plans in Gwinnett County identify 3 unfunded potential community centers; the locations include Bay Creek Park and Lenora Park in RPA E and Bethesda Park in RPA C.

Community centers provide for a wide range of recreation activities, serving the full age and ability spectrum of residents (preschool to seniors). The combination of multiple uses and activities at one location provides cross-programming opportunities, which partially addresses the “shortage of time issue” that many Gwinnettians face. Multi-purpose community centers also allow for a number of service agencies to be co-located, thereby creating “one-stop shopping” opportunities. Due to their ability to serve multiple user groups, community centers are prominent and essential facilities that provide focal points for both recreation and social interaction. These facilities, therefore, can play an important role in achieving other local objectives, including community safety, urban revitalization, etc.

Large, high quality, multi-purpose and multi-generational community centers are generally preferred over single purpose, stand alone facilities. Combining indoor aquatic centers, arts facilities, gymnasiums, teen centers, meeting space, libraries, parks, sports fields and similar facilities on one site is a desirable approach because it creates greater financial economies of scale and allows for a much higher level of customer service. This strategy has been achieved to some degree through the Health and Human Services Department's "service centers", as well as through parks and facilities such as the Pinckneyville "cluster" (community/arts center, park, and soccer complex), Bogan Park (park, indoor aquatic facility, community center), Mountain Park "cluster" (park, indoor aquatic facility, activity building), and Bethesda Park (senior center, park, indoor aquatic facility), to name a few. "Clustering", which refers to the location of multiple recreation facilities and spaces within a close proximity of each other (such as Pinckneyville and Mountain Park), can be a viable option to locating multiple facilities on one site in situations where one large parcel of land capable of accommodating all facilities is not available. It is imperative, however, that the various recreation areas be connected by trails and/or pathways so that pedestrian may easily travel between them.

Input from public meetings helped to identify short-comings or requests for facilities located in community centers. Issues included the provision of badminton courts (or at least gymnasium floors marked for courts) and the provision of more community space (such as gym space and exercise equipment at Bethesda Park). There is also demand for additional art centers and related programming.



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

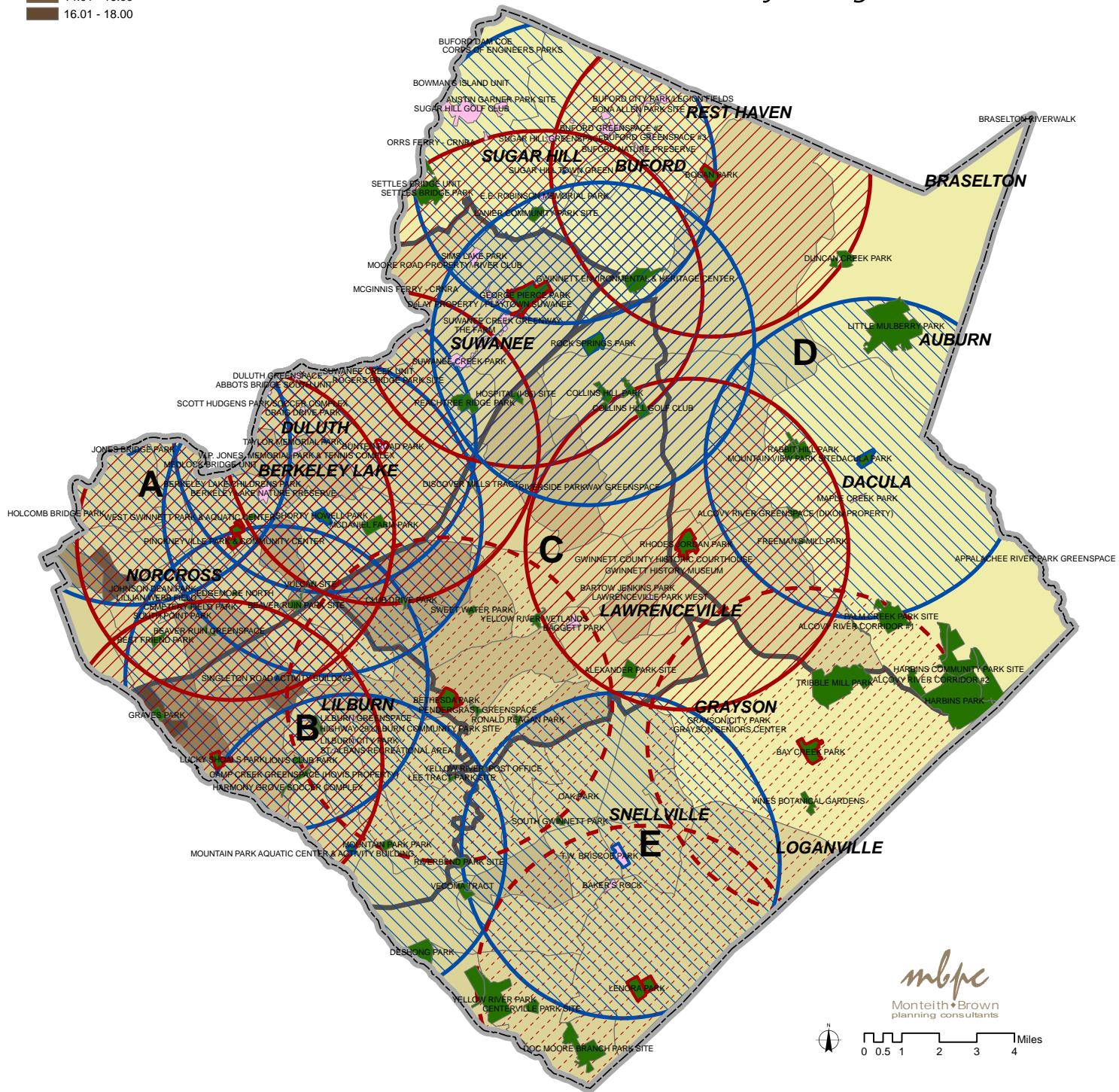
Map 6-5 Community Center & Activity Building Distribution

Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Community Center
- 4mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Community Center
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Activity Building
- 4mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Activity Building
- City Park
- County park

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

1.00 - 2.00
2.01 - 4.00
4.01 - 6.00
6.01 - 8.00
8.01 - 10.00
10.01 - 12.00
12.01 - 14.00
14.01 - 16.00
16.01 - 18.00



COMMUNITY CENTERS			Standard:	1 per 100,000 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	3	55,332	1.7	-1.3	1.9	-1.1
B	1	124,260	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.3
C	0	0:180,050	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0
D	2	83,389	1.7	-0.3	2.1	0.1
E	0	0:139,263	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6
Total*	6	129,392	7.8	1.8	8.7	2.7

In order to provide accessible community centers, a provision standard of 1 community center per 100,000 population was established for Gwinnett County. This standard indicates the County is currently achieving 77% of its community center provision, and is presently under-supplied by 2 community centers. By 2013, there will be a need for a total of 9 community centers in Gwinnett County.

It is recommended that the County develop more community centers to provide adequate service provision standards. Potential locations include Lucky Shoals or Dacula Park. The construction of a community center at Dacula Park would be accomplished through a major addition to the existing activity building. RPAs C and E are currently under-serviced for community centers, but both contain planned facilities.

Not all community centers are created equal; however, it is the intention that the recommended centers be generally similar to the size and scale of existing facilities within Gwinnett. The size and components of the recommended facilities should be confirmed through a community and site-specific study prior to their design and construction. Consideration should be given to accommodating dedicated teen space in every community center.

Lastly, from a population which is both aging and ethnically diverse will come a greater emphasis on the arts and cultural dimension. Community centers need to be viewed as flexible spaces capable of accommodating of basketball, music, pilates and arts programs, as well as cards or computer classes, etc.

Activity Buildings

Activity buildings, unlike community centers, are not staffed on a full-time basis and are typically smaller in size and offer fewer amenities than most community centers. Gwinnett County maintains five activity buildings located at Jones Bridge Park, Shorty Howell Park, Mountain Park Aquatic Center/Activity Building, Singleton Road, and Dacula Park. Three of Gwinnett's cities (Duluth, Sugar Hill and Snellville) provide three more activity buildings for a total of 8 activity buildings in the County. No activity buildings have been developed in Gwinnett County since the preparation of the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan.

ACTIVITY BUILDINGS	Provider	Area
Jones Bridge Park	county	A
Shorty Howell Park	county	A
Duluth Town Green	city	A
Mountain Park Aquatic Center	county	B
Singleton Road Activity Building	county	B
Dacula Park	county	D
Sugar Hill Community Center	city	D
T.W. Briscoe Park	city	E
Total	8	

Map 6-5 illustrates the location of existing and proposed activity buildings in the County. The distribution of existing and planned activity buildings is excellent – using a service radius of 4 miles, there are no significant gap areas. Currently, the central area of the County, RPA C, does not contain any activity

buildings. However, there is presently an unfunded activity building (combined with a gymnasium) planned for RPA C in the Rock Springs Park Master Plan. Since activity buildings are essentially a smaller version of a community center only with more limited hours and usage, the existence of community centers in an area void of an activity building would partially offset the deficit. It is for this reason that community centers and activity buildings are shown on the same map in this report.

ACTIVITY BUILDINGS			Standard:	1 per 50,000 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	3	55,332	3.3	0.3	3.7	0.7
B	2	62,131	2.5	0.5	2.5	0.5
C	0	0:180,050	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.9
D	2	83,389	3.3	1.3	4.1	2.1
E	1	139,263	2.8	1.8	3.2	2.2
Total	8	97,044	15.5	7.5	17.5	9.5

A provision standard of one activity building per 50,000 residents has been proposed through the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan. This translates into a current deficiency of seven activity buildings, growing to a deficiency of 9 activity buildings by 2013. The County is currently achieving 52% of its activity building provision standard. It is recommended that the Dacula Park activity building that is scheduled to be redesigned be enlarged such that it will be classified as a community center. However, given the degree of new community center construction planned, it is reasonable to reduce the total number of required activity buildings. The provision standard for activity buildings appears to be quite aggressive given the movement away from these unstaffed program and rental locations. Where opportunities exist, it is recommended that the County remove activity buildings from the County's inventory over time. The removal of activity buildings will depend on the localized demand, or the provisions of other community opportunities, such as community centers or gymnasiums. One candidate for removal is the Good Age Building at Jones Bridge Park, which shares a service area with several other community facilities and is on land that could be put to better use within the park.

Senior Recreation Centers

Senior recreation centers very much resemble community centers (and are connected to community centers in some instances), however, they are intended for the sole use of Gwinnett's senior citizen population (age 55 plus). The Parks and Recreation Division operates two senior recreation centers - one at Bethesda Park, which contains several multi-purpose meeting rooms, and rooms for arts and crafts, games, computers and conferences. A new senior recreation center has been constructed since the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, "Prime Timers Point" at George Pierce Park. Local cities (Grayson and Snellville) provide two senior centers, bringing the County-wide total to 4 senior centers. This total does not include the 3 senior centers managed by the County's Health and Human Services Department, which have a greater focus on social services.

SENIOR RECREATION CENTERS	Provider	Area
George Pierce Park	county	A
Bethesda Park	county	C
Grayson Senior Center	city	E
S. Wayne Odum Senior Center	city	E
	Total	4

The geographic distribution of senior centers is shown on **Map 6-6**; a 4-mile radius has been placed around each facility to illustrate a reasonable distance to travel to such a center. RPAs D and B do

not have any such facilities at present, although RPA B is well served by the Bethesda Park Seniors Center.

Demographic trends and population projections highlight the dramatic increase in persons 55 years of age or older in the next 25 years. As a whole, the County's mean age increased from 30.5 years to 32.5 years between 1990 and 2000. Significant population growth is anticipated in the 55-plus age group, which is expected to increase by 136% between 2000 and 2010. This aging of the population, along with the other trends affecting seniors (e.g., early retirements, higher incomes for many seniors, greater fitness levels amongst seniors due to active living, etc.) has significant ramifications on the provision and delivery of recreation facilities and services.

SENIOR RECREATION CENTERS			Standard: 1 per 150,000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	1	165,996	1.1	0.1	1.2	0.2
B	0	0:124,260	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
C	1	180,050	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.3
D	0	0:166,778	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4
E	2	69,632	0.9	-1.1	1.1	-0.9
Total*	4	194,088	5.2	1.2	5.8	1.8

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 3 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

With this in mind, a provision standard of one senior recreation center per 150,000 population was proposed through the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan. Because Gwinnett has an increasing percentage of older adults and seniors, consideration should be given to modifying this provision standard (or linking it to the 55 and over population) within the next five to ten years in order to better reflect the needs of the citizenry. The needs analysis indicates that the County remains short of the senior recreation center provision standard by one facility. By 2013, a total of 6 facilities should be provided.

The aging of the population will create a strong demand for dedicated seniors' space, likely to a greater degree than the per capita provision standard suggests. Recreation Planning Areas B and E have slightly larger senior population (55 years of age or older), although all areas will have a large demographic shift in the near future.

Although RPA B is deficient in total supply, the Bethesda Park Senior Center in RPA C is located close enough to RPA B to provide for adequate accessibility. RPA D is under-serviced, and will require the development of a senior recreation center in order to meet the provision standard and alleviate gaps in distribution. Based on geographic distribution, it is recommended that the County develop a senior recreation center in the Mountain View / Dacula area of RPA D.



Legend

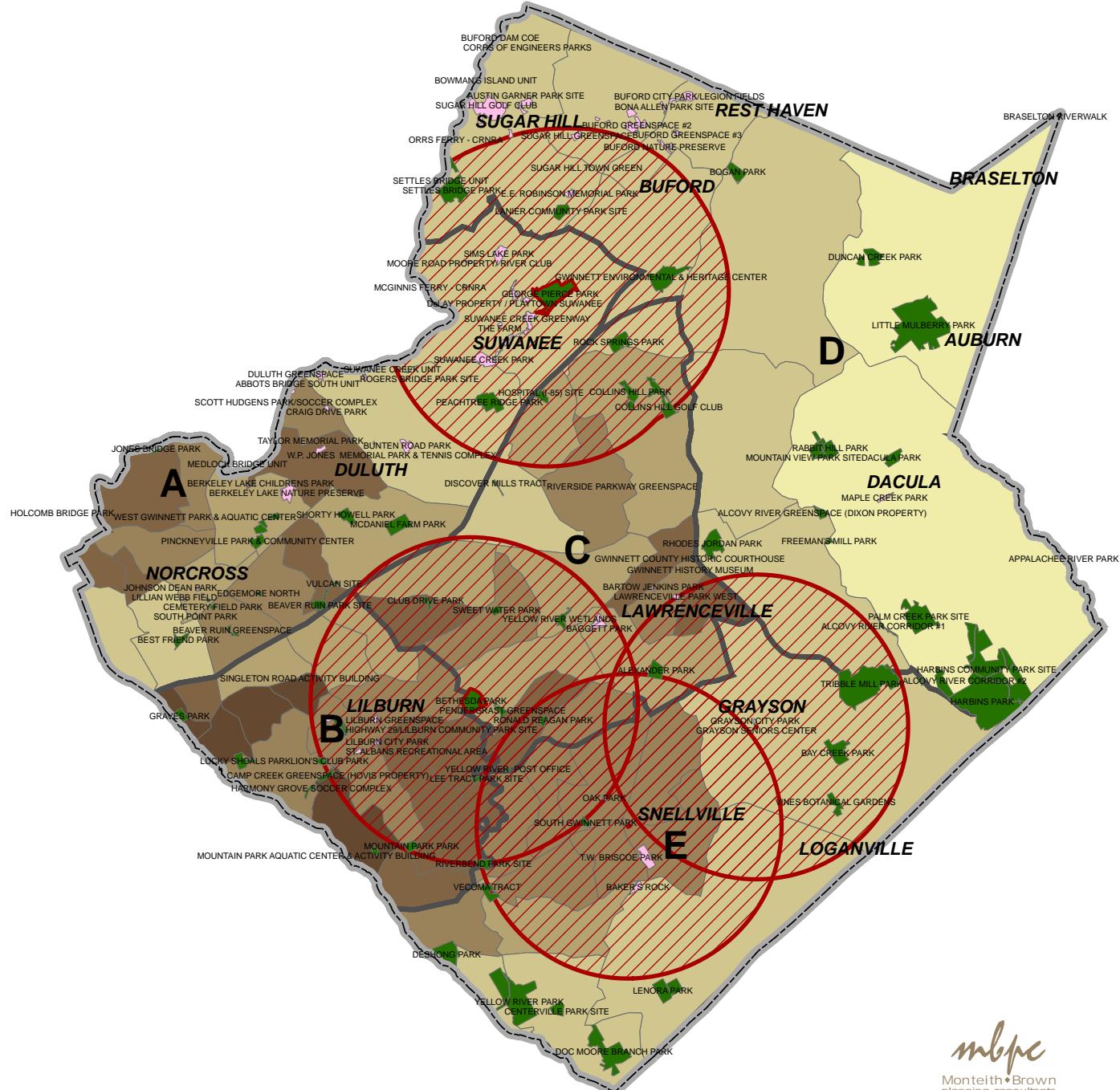
- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Service Radius - Existing/Planned Seniors Center (Parks and Recreation)
- City Parks
- County Parks

2007 Estimated Persons 55+ per Acre

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-6 Seniors Center Distribution



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Senior recreation centers need not be stand-alone structures, rather it is recommended that senior centers developed by the County take the form of dedicated space within a community center. There are many reasons for such an approach, the most obvious being related to greater efficiencies (both operational and functional) achieved through the sharing of space and resources. For example, gymnasiums and pools are multi-functional spaces that can be used for structured and unstructured programs for all age groups. Considering that the use of such facilities would be the greatest during daytime hours for seniors and during nighttime and weekend hours for children, teens and adults, it would make sense to co-locate senior centers and community centers under the same roof. Concerns over safety as a result of the integration of age groups can be alleviated through proper design and the creation of dedicated space for seniors (e.g., arts/crafts room, games room, kitchen, lounge, etc. could be made off-limits to those that are not members of the senior center. This is the type of development that has been constructed at George Pierce Park, through the addition of a "senior suite" to the community center.

Gymnasiums

GYMNASIUMS		Provider	#	Area
Best Friend Park		county	1	A
Bunten Park		city	1	A
Lucky Shoals		county	2	B
Bogan Park		county	1	D
Rhodes Jordan Park		county	1	D
Buford Civic Center & City Gym		city	1	D
Lenora Park		county	1	E
		Total	8	

Gymnasiums are typically operated as either stand-alone facilities or as components of community centers. The County operates six gymnasiums at Best Friend, Bogan, Lenora, and Rhodes Jordan Parks, and two at Lucky Shoals

Park. An addition two gymnasiums are operated by the cities of Duluth and Buford. The gymnasiums located at Lucky Shoals Park were developed following the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Aside from schools, which the County has an agreement with for the use of gymnasiums, private enterprise and not-for-profit agencies provide the majority of the gymnasium inventory in Gwinnett (17 gymnasiums, including 7 at the Suwanee Sports Academy). The location of gymnasiums (not including those in schools), is heavily skewed to RPA A, which contains 15 of the 23 public, not-for-profit, and private gymnasiums (see **Map 6-7**).

At present, there are five park master plans containing a total of 5 unfunded gymnasiums. Many of these gymnasiums have been combined with another community building to provide greater efficiency.

GYMNASIUMS			Standard:	1 per 75,000 population	
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand
A	2	82,998	2.2	0.2	2.5
B	2	62,130	1.7	-0.3	1.7
C	0	0:180,050	2.4	2.4	2.6
D	3	55,593	2.2	-0.8	2.8
E	1	139,263	1.9	0.9	2.1
Total*	8	97,043	10.4	2.4	11.7
					3.7

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 17 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Gymnasium
- 4mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Gymnasium
- City Park
- County Park

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

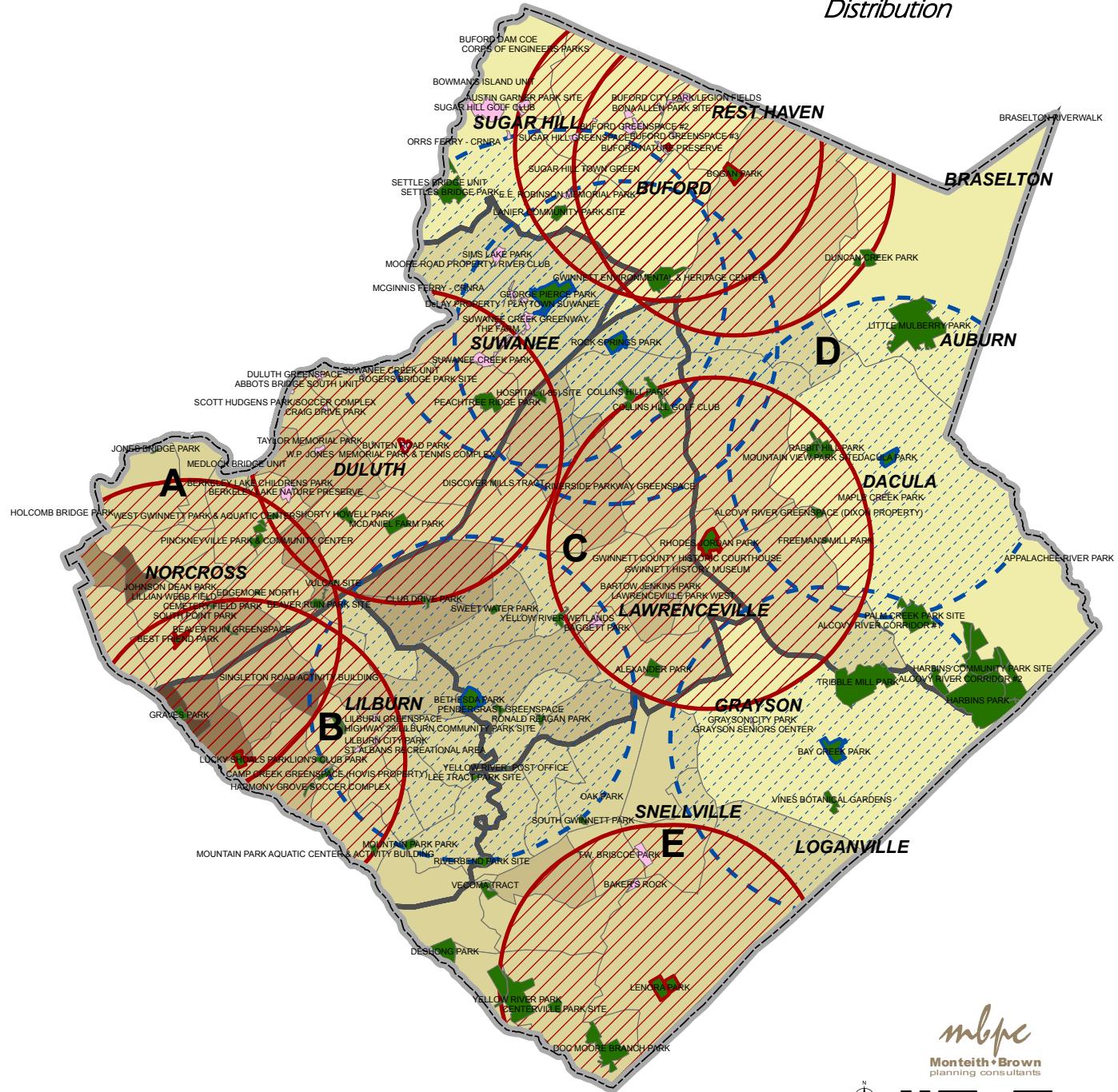
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GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-7 Gymnasium Distribution



A provision standard of one gymnasium (county or city) per 75,000 population is recommended, translating into a need for a current total of 10 gymnasiums. Based on the established provision standard, the County is under-supplied by 2 gymnasiums. By 2013 the County will require a total of 12 gymnasiums, 4 more than the current provision.

In particular, the supply of gymnasiums in RPAs B and D is not sufficient to meet the needs of the current population. However, there are five planned (but unfunded) facilities currently noted in Gwinnett County park master plans. These new gymnasiums would allow the County to achieve the desired standard.

Recommendations – Community Centers, Activity Buildings, Senior Recreation Centers, and Gymnasiums

The following are the recommendations related to community centers, activity buildings, senior recreation centers, and gymnasiums. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Recreation Center Recommendations

George Pierce Park	• Develop planned gymnasium
Jones Bridge Park	• Removal of unnecessary Activity Building (Good Age Building) for better use of park space

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Recreation Center Recommendations

Bethesda Park	• Develop planned community center & gymnasium
Rock Springs Park	• Develop planned activity building & gymnasium

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Recreation Center Recommendations

Dacula Park	• Develop planned gymnasium
Dacula/Mountain View area	• Develop a new seniors recreation center

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Recreation Center Recommendations

Bay Creek Park	• Develop planned community center and gymnasium
Lenora Park	• Develop planned community center

6.8 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY ANALYSIS

Swimming continues to be a popular activity amongst all age groups. In the 2002 Needs Assessment, it was identified that swimming is the most popular activity amongst children under the age of 13. Opportunities for swimming in Gwinnett County exist at indoor lane/competition pools, outdoor lane pools, indoor leisure/family aquatic pools, and outdoor leisure/family aquatic pools.

Indoor Pools

INDOOR LANE POOLS	Provider	Area
West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center	county	A
Mountain Park Aquatic Center	county	B
Collins Hill Aquatic Center	county	C
Bogon Park	county	D
	Total	4

A lane pool (also referred to as a competition pool) has a length of 25 meters by 25 yards and can be used for competitive swimming events. The Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation department operates 4 indoor lane pools.

In 2004, 3 indoor lane pools were also identified as being provided by local YMCAs and private enterprise (note: dimensions and amenities at these facilities may vary from the design standards of County pools). Although there may be additional privately-operated indoor lane pools in Gwinnett, agreements for public or community group usage do not exist and, therefore, these facilities are not included in the Plan's inventory.

A new indoor lane/competition pool has been developed at West Gwinnett Aquatic since the preparation of the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan in response to the demand from residents on the western side of the County.

Gwinnett County's indoor lane pools are fairly evenly distributed amongst the RPAs, with the exception of RPA E. Area E is completely void of any indoor lane pools (or indoor leisure pools for that matter), and significant gaps also exist within RPA D.

There was substantial public input regarding Gwinnett County's aquatic facilities. One issue that arose was the demand for earlier swim times (which is a management issue outside of the scope of this study). Much of the public input surrounding Gwinnett County's aquatic facilities concerned the need for a competitive indoor swimming pool. This could possibly be a 50-meter pool, capable of hosting the County's semi-annual swim meets, and other state and national swim competitions. Such a pool could also meet the competition needs of other agencies (such as Georgia Gwinnett College or private swim schools), opening the door to the possibility of a partnership. The matter of developing a 50-meter Olympic size pool and indoor spectator venue for other sports was also raised by the Gwinnett Sports Council.

INDOOR LANE POOLS			Standard:	1 per 160,000 population	
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand
A	1	165,996	1.0	0.0	1.2
B	1	124,260	0.8	-0.2	0.8
C	1	180,050	1.1	0.1	1.2
D	1	166,778	1.0	0.0	1.3
E	0	0:139,263	0.9	0.9	1.0
Total*	4	194,087	4.9	0.9	5.5
					1.5

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 3 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Indoor Competition Pool
- 7mi Radius - Existing/Funded Indoor Leisure Pool

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

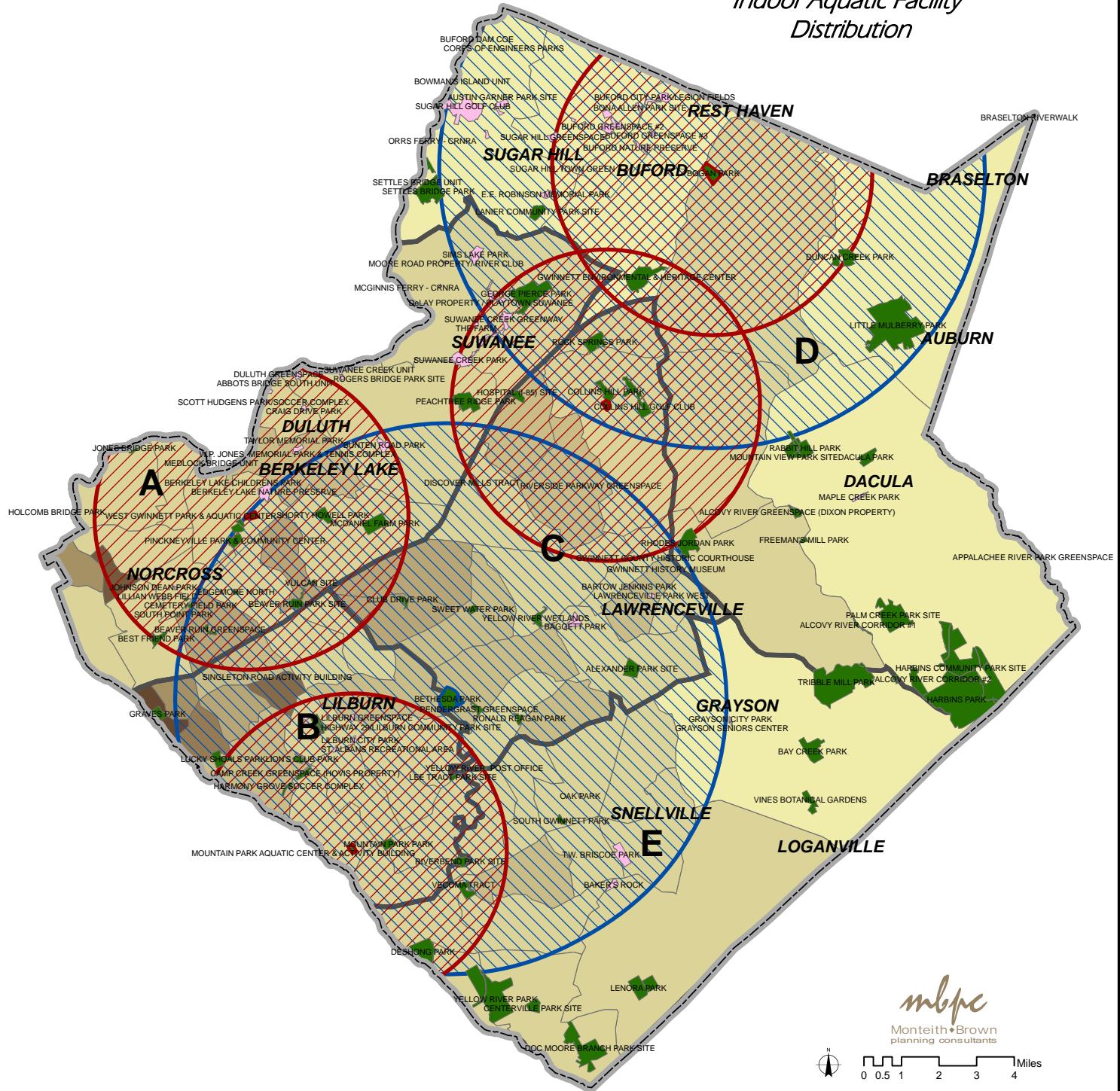
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6.01 - 8.00
8.01 - 10.00
10.01 - 12.00
12.01 - 14.00
14.01 - 16.00
16.01 - 18.00
■ City Park
■ County Park



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-8 Indoor Aquatic Facility Distribution



mbpc

Monteith + Brown
planning consultants

N
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Based on a provision standard of 1 indoor lane pool per 160,000 population, the County is presently under-supplied by 1 indoor lane/competition pool. The County is currently achieving 82% of its indoor lane pool provision standard. Based on this standard, an additional indoor lane pool can be justified during the upcoming planning period. An ideal location for an indoor competition pool would be in RPA E, where it could serve the local community, but also simultaneously serve South Gwinnett High School in Snellville, Grayson High School in Grayson, and the new Harbins-area High School under construction near Tribble Mill Park. It is suggested that the facility could be constructed in the Grayson Area (which is near Grayson High School and between the other two schools) by expansion of either Vines Gardens or Bay Creek Park.

With regard to the development of a 50-meter indoor pool as requested by some stakeholders, we believe that the core mandate of the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Department should be on introductory and community-level athletics and recreational endeavors. This is not to say that the County should not become involved in the provision of facilities that serve a broader market (i.e., an indoor 50-meter pool), just that the Parks & Recreation Department should not be the lead agency of such projects; this would be better left to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Gwinnett Sports Council, the Georgia Gwinnett College, or similar agency charged with generating local economic activity or a larger area of interest. Furthermore, given that Gwinnett County currently has four indoor lane pools, two indoor leisure pools, two outdoor lane pools and six outdoor leisure pools, and given there is only a gap in the eastern portion of the County, a 50-meter competition venue may be beyond the needs of the County. The County's level of involvement in such a project should be determined through future study and be based on a partnership model that provides adequate public access while limiting the County's exposure to financial risk.

As indicated in the trends section of this report, swimming is one of the most popular recreational activities and is one that is enjoyed by all ages. As such, there is considerable demand for swimming facilities, especially indoor aquatic centers that can be used year-round. Public consultation undertaken for this Plan identified a great deal of demand for an indoor competition pool. 38% of public meeting questionnaire respondents stated that an indoor aquatic center should be a high priority for the County.

The other indoor pool facility to be considered for Gwinnett County is the provision of leisure pools. A leisure pool (also referred to as a family aquatics center) serves the aquatic needs of the entire community. Leisure pools contain interactive play features, but are not used for competitive swimming events. There are 2 indoor leisure pools in Gwinnett County, one at

INDOOR LEISURE POOLS	Provider	Area
Bethesda Park	county	C
Bogan Park	county	D
Total	2	

Bogan Park and one under design at Bethesda Park. The service area for indoor leisure pools is larger than that of indoor competition pools.

Map 6-8 identifies the locations of leisure pools in Gwinnett County, and the 7 mile radius that the pools serve. The only gap is in the eastern portion of the County; anticipated population growth in this area should substantiate the need for an indoor leisure pool in the future.

INDOOR LEISURE POOLS			Standard:	1 per 200,000 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	0	0:165,996	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
B	0	0:124,260	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
C	1	180,050	0.9	-0.1	1.0	0.0
D	1	166,778	0.8	-0.2	1.0	0.0
E	0	0:139,263	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Total	2	388,174	3.9	1.9	4.4	2.4

Considering the established provision standard of 1 indoor leisure pool per 200,000 population, the County is presently under-supplied by 2 leisure pools. This is equivalent to the County achieving 52% of its indoor leisure pool provision standard. The provision standard for indoor leisure pools appears to be quite aggressive given usage levels at existing facilities.

Given the considerable capital and operating costs associated with indoor leisure/family aquatic pools, a less aggressive approach to facility development is recommended. Specifically, the County should place a greater emphasis on addressing distribution issues than meeting the recommended provision standard.

As evidenced during the public consultation process, the most pressing need is the development of an indoor competition pool in RPA E, which has limited geographic accessibility to indoor pools as compared to other areas of the County. As such, future population growth will determine when it will be necessary for Gwinnett County to acquire and/or identify land in the eastern portion of the County to accommodate an indoor leisure pool.

Outdoor Pools

OUTDOOR LANE POOLS		Provider	Area
Dacula Park		county	D
T.W. Briscoe Park		city	E
		Total	2

There are considerably more outdoor aquatic facilities in the County than there are indoor venues. The 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan identified 14 outdoor

lane pools provided by private groups, not including the large number of outdoor pools in local subdivisions. There are two public outdoor lane pools in the County – one operated by Gwinnett County at Dacula Park and one city-operated pool at T.W. Briscoe Park. The location of outdoor aquatic facilities operated by the County and its cities is shown on **Map 6-9**.

OUTDOOR LANE POOLS			Standard:	1 per 640,000 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	0	0:165,996	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
B	0	0:124,260	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
C	0	0:180,050	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
D	1	166,778	0.3	-0.7	0.3	-0.7
E	1	139,263	0.2	-0.8	0.2	-0.8
Total*	2	388,174	1.2	-0.8	1.4	-0.6

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 14 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

Based on provision standards of 1 outdoor lane pool per 640,000, the County has an adequate supply of outdoor lane pools (they are currently achieving 167% of its outdoor lane pool provision standard). Given the large number of outdoor lane pools that are available in private

residential settings and clubs, the overall supply and distribution of outdoor lane pools is not a key concern for this Capital Improvement Plan as it appears that the demand for this type of facility is adequately being met by the current inventory. Nationwide, very few recreation departments are developing new outdoor lane pools, choosing instead to build leisure pools that have significantly greater summertime appeal, especially for children and teenagers.

The County's outdoor competition/lane pool is located at Dacula Park. The design of this pool type is not terribly appealing, particularly if an indoor competition pool is available for swim clubs and outdoor leisure pools are available for casual users. The County should consider removing the outdated pool at Dacula Park in favor of an outdoor family aquatic complex. On the existing Dacula Park site, alternatives should be considered for new recreation and park uses, such as the development of teen facilities.

OUTDOOR LEISURE POOLS		Provider	Area
Best Friend Park		county	A
West Gwinnett and Aquatic Center		county	A
Mountain Park Aquatic Center		county	B
Collins Hill Park		county	C
Rhodes Jordan Park		county	D
Lenora Park		county	E
	Total		6

There is one outdoor leisure pool/family aquatic complex in each recreation planning area, with facilities in Collins Hill Park, Lenora Park, Mountain Park Aquatic, Rhodes Jordan Park, and 2 outdoor leisure pools in RPA A at Best Friend Park and West Gwinnett Aquatic Center. There are a total of 6 such facilities in Gwinnett, all of which are operated by the County. **Map 6-9** demonstrates the location and 4-mile service radius of the outdoor pool facilities.

Since the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan, a new outdoor leisure pool has been developed at West Gwinnett Aquatics Center. There are 2 additional outdoor leisure pools intended for the County as part of park master plans; new facilities are planned for Peachtree Ridge Park in RPA A and Bay Creek Park in RPA E.

OUTDOOR LEISURE POOLS			Standard: 1 per 80,000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	2	82,998	2.1	0.1	2.3	0.3
B	1	124,260	1.6	0.6	1.6	0.6
C	1	180,050	2.3	1.3	2.4	1.4
D	1	166,778	2.1	1.1	2.6	1.6
E	1	139,263	1.7	0.7	2.0	1.0
Total	6	129,391	9.7	3.7	10.9	4.9

With an established provision standard of one outdoor leisure pool per 80,000 population, the County is presently under-supplied by 4 outdoor leisure pools, and is achieving only 62% of its outdoor leisure pool provision standard. The largest service gaps appear in RPAs C and D. The western portion of RPA D does not have access to an outdoor family aquatics complex; however, the indoor aquatics center at Bogan Park provides adequate service to this gap area. The southern portion of RPA C is also lacking access to an outdoor family aquatics complex; however, the indoor aquatics center at Bethesda Park provides adequate service to this gap area.



Legend

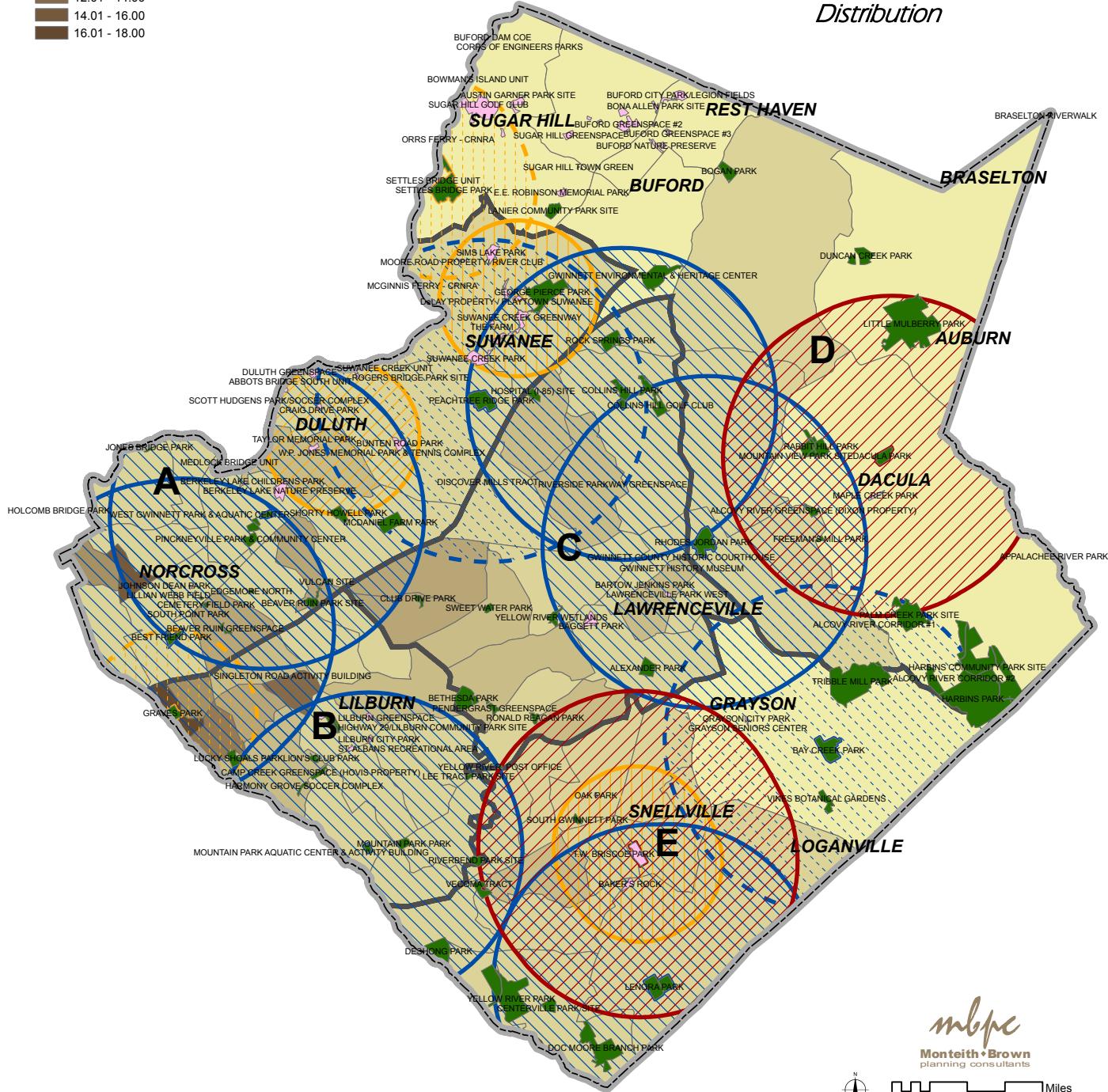
- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Outdoor Competition Pool
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Outdoor Leisure Pool
- 4mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Outdoor Leisure Pool
- 2mi Radius - Existing/Funded Splash Grounds
- 2mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Splash Grounds
- City Park
- County Park

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-9 Outdoor Aquatic Facility Distribution



mbpc
Monteith • Brown



The eastern sector of the County lacks sufficient access to both an outdoor family aquatics complex and an indoor competition pool. The development of a combination indoor/outdoor facility would serve the local community and the three nearby high schools. It is suggested that the facility could be constructed in the Grayson Area by expansion of Vines Gardens, Bay Creek Park, or a new site. The outdoor family aquatics proposed for Bay Creek Park should not proceed if the indoor/outdoor pool complex is developed on another site.

An additional outdoor family aquatic complex should be considered for Mountain View Community Park Site, in RPA D. This new facility, in conjunction with the development of an indoor/outdoor pool facility in the east, would allow the County to remove the antiquated outdoor lane pool at Dacula Park.

Lastly, the newest type of aquatic facilities is a splash pad, which is also referred to as a splashground or spray pad. Splash pads are an outdoor aquatic facility that is comprised of a series of interactive water play features, such as spouts, jets, water walls, fountains, water guns/cannons, water buckets, etc. Unlike wading pools, splash pads contain no standing or pooled water and typically use recirculated water. The splash pad is a relatively new aquatic feature that is rapidly gaining popularity in other areas of North America. The core user of such facilities is children ages 2 to 14; however, splash pads can also be entertaining for all members of the family. The size and number of features per splash pad can vary tremendously, depending on the community that it is intended to serve.

There are generally three reasons that children are attracted to water: (1) to cool off from the summer heat; (2) to enjoy a fun water experience; and (3) to partake in a social atmosphere. As such, the design of a splash pad facility should incorporate a variety of fun water spray devices to diversify the experience, provide benches, picnic tables and shaded areas to assist in the social atmosphere, and include traditional play equipment that provides a sense of security for each of the various age groups (i.e., tots and older children). By providing fun, yet simple designs and sprayers, the County can minimize the need for supervision and increase both the safety and security of younger children.

Unlike an outdoor leisure pool, a splash pad allows children to do more than just splash – they can run, jump, climb, and swing all in a water setting. Older children enjoy the interactive aspect of waterplay, while smaller children enjoy the ground sprayers. If the spray facility is located near either an indoor or outdoor pool, older children can also benefit from an even greater aquatic experience.

Currently the County does not provide any such facilities, although some of the splash pad's features have been duplicated in outdoor leisure pools and there are some similar facilities operated by local cities. There are two splash grounds master planned for Graves Park and Settles Bridge Park. The locations for the proposed splash grounds are shown on **Map 6-9**, along with the 2-mile radius for which the facilities provide service. Various cities in Gwinnett County currently provide outdoor splash pads including those at Playtown Suwanee (Suwanee), Taylor Memorial Park (Duluth), and T.W. Briscoe (Snellville).

The County requires splash pad facilities to provide greater outdoor water play opportunities for residents. However, since splash pads are an untested commodity in Gwinnett County, a provision standard has not been created in this Capital Improvement Plan. Service levels experienced in other municipalities, however, are often close to 1 splash pad per 5,000 children ages 0 to 14. This standard would not be appropriate for Gwinnett County due to the considerable supply of indoor and outdoor leisure pools and the sheer size of the County, which

does not allow for neighborhood-level parks or the development of splash pads within walking or cycling distance of most residential areas. Because splash pads share many of the same recreational attributes as playground equipment (e.g., children are the target market, they are free of charge, they do not require adult supervision, etc.), it is appropriate to develop splash pads in densely populated, family-oriented, and lower-income areas that lack adequate access to outdoor family aquatics centers, as well as those communities where access to affordable leisure services is a high priority. Opportunities should be sought to establish an additional splash ground in each RPAs A, B, and C in order to mitigate outdoor aquatic gaps and/or provide affordable summertime opportunities in these areas.

The following are the recommendations related to indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

Peachtree Ridge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of outdoor family aquatics center
Settles Bridge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of splash pad
To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan new splash pad

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

Graves Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of splash pad
To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan new splash pad

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan new splash pad
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Recreation Planning Area "D" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

Dacula Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replace antiquated outdoor lane pool by providing an alternative outdoor pool (leisure) at another site. New parks or recreation use for Dacula Park site.
Mountain View Park Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an outdoor leisure pool to replace Dacula Park lane outdoor pool.
Settles Bridge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build planned splash pad

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

Grayson Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a combined indoor competition pool and outdoor family aquatics complex. Potential sites include Bay Creek Park, Vines Gardens, or a new site.
Bay Creek Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceed with planned development of outdoor family aquatics center unless an indoor/outdoor pool complex is developed in the area.

6.9 TENNIS COMPLEX ANALYSIS

Gwinnett County and local cities provide and operate 87 tennis courts. The 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan identified 92 tennis courts provided by the public sector, not including the large number of courts in local subdivisions. **Map 6-10** illustrates the distribution of

tennis complexes (defined as clusters of 4 or more courts) provided by the County and local cities with a 2-mile service radius applied.

TENNIS COURTS		Provider	#	Area
Best Friend Park		county	17	A
W.P. Jones Memorial Park & Tennis Complex		city	4	A
Bunten Park		city	4	A
Thrasher Park		city	1	A
Graves Park		county	2	B
Lucky Shoals Park		county	2	B
Mountain Park Park		county	6	B
Lilburn City Park		city	4	B
Collins Hill Park		county	2	C
Sweet Water Park Site		county	2	C
Rock Springs Park		city	6	C
Lawrenceville Park West		county	3	C
Dacula Park		county	4	D
Rhodes Jordan Park		county	8	D
Buford City Park/Legion Fields		city	12	D
E.E. Robinson Memorial Park		city	2	D
T.W. Briscoe Park		county	8	E
Total		87		

By applying a 2-mile radius to each tennis complex, a number of gaps in geographic service distribution appear throughout the County, especially in RPAs C, D, and E. However, the existence of private providers may help to mitigate this lack of access to some degree.

Since the preparation of the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan was prepared, 9 new tennis courts have been developed in Gwinnett County, an increase of 12%.

There are presently six master plans containing a total of 32 unfunded tennis courts. These courts are primarily proposed for RPAs A and D.

There was little feedback from the community regarding the need for or improvements to tennis facilities. One suggestion put forward was the idea to purchase Stone Mountain Tennis Center and redevelop it as an indoor multi-use sports venue. Similar to the proposal for a 50-meter indoor competition pool, we do not feel that such a facility should be a core service of the Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation Division and should not be a capital priority for the Department.

Tennis courts are not unlike other recreational facilities such as playgrounds, skate parks, and basketball courts in that they are considered a community-level facility, meaning that distribution is paramount. For this reason, tennis courts are typically a standard feature in Community Parks and, where geographic gaps or inadequate supplies exist, it is recommended that this practice continue. As such, even though an assessment of needs indicates that the current supply of tennis courts is sufficient, the development of new parks and redevelopment of existing ones dictates that additional tennis courts be considered.

TENNIS COURTS			Standard:	1 per 7,500 population	
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand
A	26	6,384	22.1	-3.9	25.0
B	14	8,876	16.6	2.6	17.0
C	13	13,850	24.0	11.0	26.0
D	26	6,415	22.2	-3.8	27.6
E	8	17,408	18.6	10.6	21.1
Total*	87	8,924	103.5	16.5	116.6
					29.6

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 92 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-10

Tennis Court Distribution

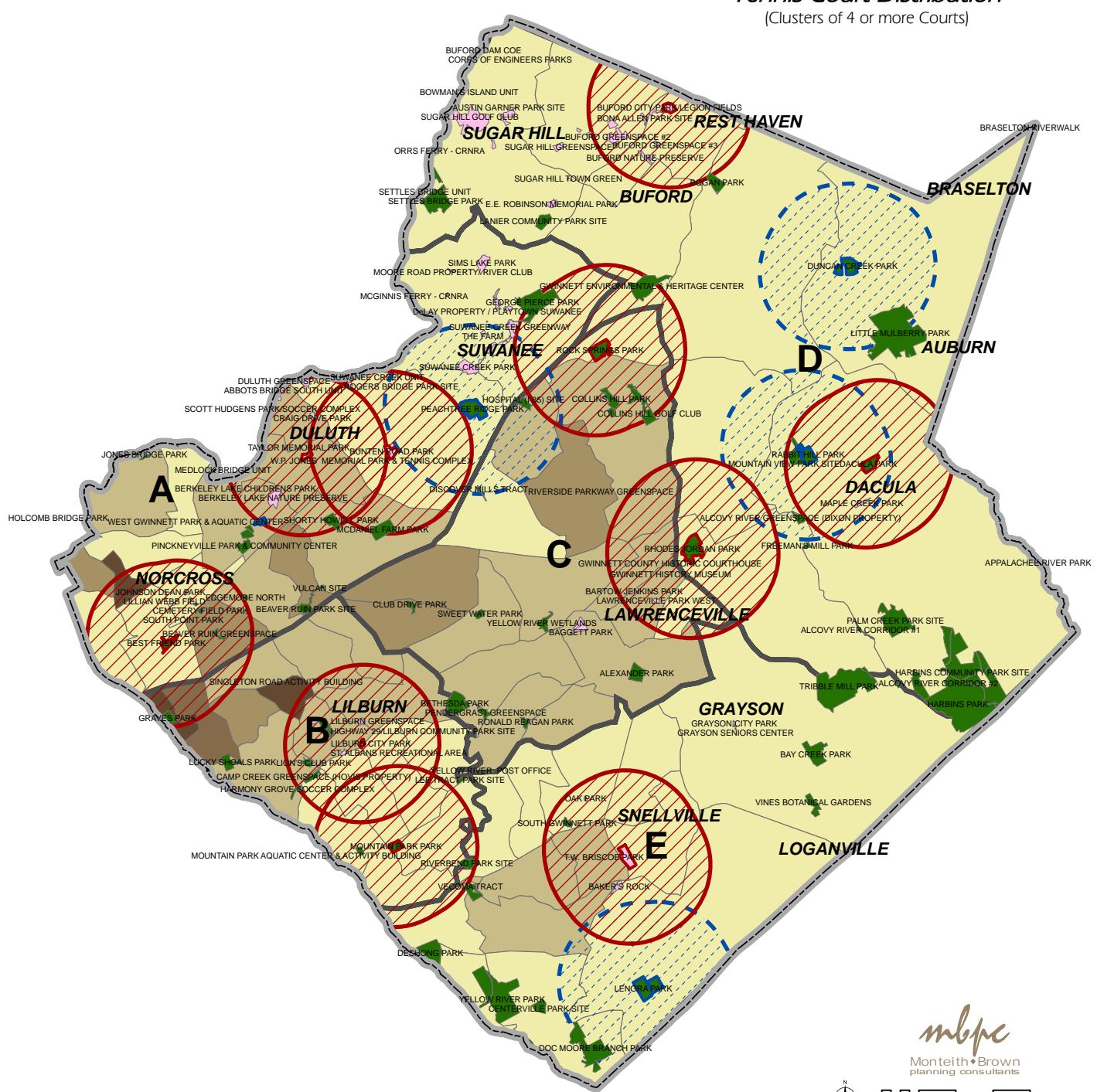
(Clusters of 4 or more Courts)

Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 2mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Tennis
- 2mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Tennis
- City Park
- County Park

2007 Estimated Persons 35-54 per Acre

- 0.08 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 3.00
- 3.01 - 4.00
- 4.01 - 5.05



mbpc
Monteith Brown
planning consultants

N
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

With a provision standard of one tennis court per 7,500 population, the County is presently under-supplied by 16 courts. By 2013 the County will need 30 additional courts. The County is currently achieving 84% of its tennis court provision standard. The areas with the lowest per capita supplies are RPAs C and D, although these areas also have higher than average private tennis court inventories.

Some issues exist concerning current proposed tennis courts. Despite having an adequate per capita supply, there are presently 20 tennis courts being proposed in RPA D. Bogan Park has 10 planned tennis courts, which should be replaced with other recreation facilities needed in this area, such as a dog park, additional picnic facilities, etc.

RPA C has both a low geographic distribution and low per capita supplies. There are currently no planned tennis facilities to be developed in RPA C. RPA E is also lacking the necessary court provision. In order to provide the recommended standard of 1 tennis court per 7,500 population, and to provide courts at a community-level, opportunities to establish new tennis courts in both RPA C and E should be considered.

The following are the recommendations related to tennis complexes. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center	• Proceed with planned development of 2 tennis courts
Peachtree Ridge Park	• Proceed with planned development of 6 tennis courts

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

Entire RPA C	• Establish up to 8 additional tennis courts
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Recreation Planning Area "D" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

Rabbit Hill Park	• Proceed with planned development of 4 tennis courts
Duncan Creek Park	• Proceed with planned development of 6 tennis courts
Bogan Park	• Replace the proposed 10 tennis courts with other recreation facilities needed in the area

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

Lenora Park	• Proceed with planned development of 4 tennis courts
Entire RPA E	• Establish up to 6 additional tennis courts

6.10 FOOTBALL FIELD ANALYSIS

The Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Division, along with one local city, provide a total of 19 football fields. Fields are also provided at schools to serve the needs of student programs. Since the preparation of the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 4 new

football fields have been developed – an increase of 21%. There are presently no unfunded football fields identified in existing park master plans.

FOOTBALL FIELDS	Provider	Area
Best Friend Park	county	A
Cemetery Field Park	county	A
George Pierce Park	county	A
Shorty Howell Park	county	A
Peachtree Ridge Park	county	A
Lucky Shoals Park	county	B
Mountain Park Park	county	B
Lion's Club Park	county	B
Bethesda Park	county	C
Collins Hill Park	county	C
Rock Springs Park	county	C
Bogon Park	county	D
Dacula Park	county	D
Rhodes Jordan Park	county	D
Duncan Creek Park	county	D
Buford Civic Center & City Gym	city	D
South Gwinnett Park	county	E
Bay Creek Park	county	E
Lenora Park	county	E
Total	19	

the approximate 2-mile service that they provide. The geographic distribution of football fields is good, with RPA C and D having the largest gaps. Football fields are most often provided in response to school clusters/athletic associations; therefore, new fields will be needed to supply the five new clusters.

Among Gwinnett County youth, football remains a fairly popular sport. The 2002 Needs Assessment Survey found that football was the 5th most popular sport amongst teens, following basketball, swimming, baseball, and soccer.

During the public consultation process there was little to no input regarding the football in Gwinnett.

Map 6-11 displays the distribution of football fields in the county, and

FOOTBALL FIELDS			Standard: 1 per 37,000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	5	33,199	4.5	-0.5	5.1	0.1
B	3	41,420	3.4	0.4	3.4	0.4
C	3	60,017	4.9	1.9	5.3	2.3
D	5	33,356	4.5	-0.5	5.6	0.6
E	3	46,421	3.8	0.8	4.3	1.3
Total	19	40,860	21.0	2.0	23.6	4.6

Considering the football field supply and demand in Gwinnett County, a provision standard of one football field per 37,000 residents is recommended. This means that there is a demand for 2 additional fields at present and 4-5 fields by 2013. The County is currently achieving 90% of its football field provision standard.

As football fields are community-level facilities, it is recommended that some new community parks be developed with football fields. This is especially true when the community park is intended to serve a school cluster. At present, there are no park-specific recommendations for football field development.

Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 2mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Football Fields
- City Park
- County Park

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

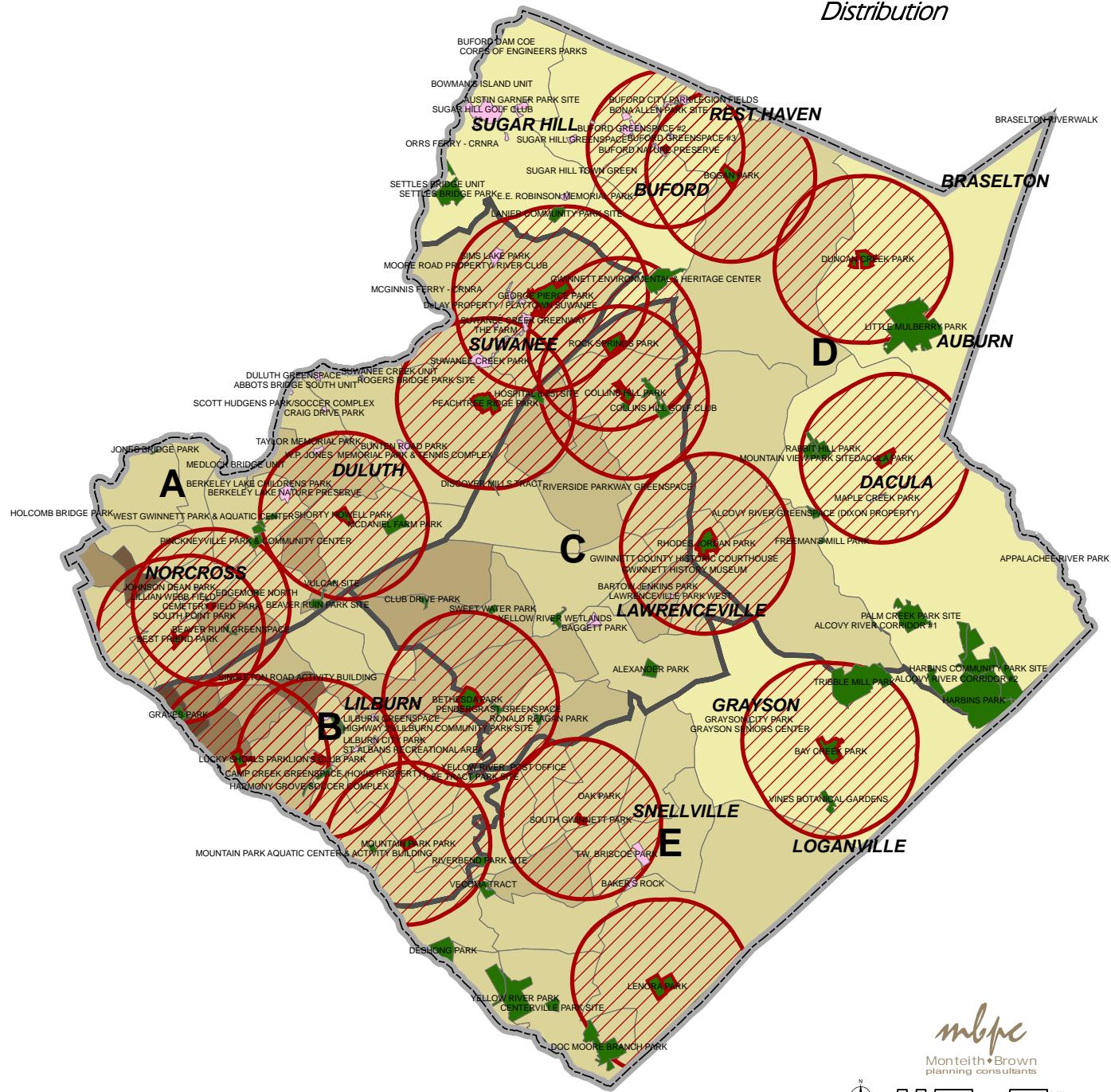
1.00 - 2.00
2.01 - 4.00
4.01 - 6.00
6.01 - 8.00
8.01 - 10.00
10.01 - 12.00
12.01 - 14.00
14.01 - 16.00
16.01 - 18.00



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-11 Football Field Distribution



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0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

6.11 TEEN FACILITY ANALYSIS

Teen-oriented facilities, such as outdoor basketball courts, skate parks, sand volleyball courts, or roller hockey rinks, are to teenagers what playgrounds are to children – they are essential recreational elements that should be provided in every community park in the County as well as other strategic locations. The recreational needs of youth, with the exception of traditional team sports such as baseball, have been largely neglected in Gwinnett until recently when the Parks and Recreation Division began to construct teen areas in its parks. It is precisely these types of unstructured, low cost activities that teens today are seeking.

Currently, gaps in teen facility distribution are evident in RPAs B and D. Planning for teen facilities at the community-level, such as the provision in all new Community Parks, will help to alleviate service gaps in these areas.

Basketball Courts

BASKETBALL COURTS	Provider	#	Area
Best Friend Park	county	2.0	A
George Pierce Park	county	2.0	A
Lillian Webb Field	county	0.5	A
Peachtree Ridge Park	county	2.0	A
Church Street Park	city	1.0	A
Main Street Park	city	1.0	A
Rossie Brundage Park	city	1.0	A
Lucky Shoals Park	county	2.0	B
Lilburn City Park	city	1.0	B
Collins Hill Park	county	2.0	C
Club Drive Park	county	1.0	C
Sweet Water Park Site	county	1.0	C
Ronald Reagan Park	county	1.0	C
Duncan Creek Park	county	3.5	D
Bogart Park	county	2.0	D
Buford City Park/Legion Fields	county	1.0	D
E.E. Robinson Memorial Park	city	1.0	D
DeShong Park	county	1.0	E
T.W. Briscoe Park	city	2.0	E
Total		28.0	

Gwinnett County and local cities provide approximately 28 outdoor basketball courts. Courts are measured in full court equivalents – one half court/single basket is equal to 0.5 full courts. The location and distribution of these courts is illustrated on **Map 6-12**; a 2-mile service radius has been applied. Not only does the distribution of facilities create numerous service gaps throughout the County, but the overall supply of courts is extremely low for a County with such a youthful age profile.

Since the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared, 8.5 new basketball courts have been developed. There are two basketball courts that are funded for construction at Rabbit Hill Park. Further, there are presently three park master plans containing a total of 6 basketball courts.

Basketball continues to increase in popularity amongst Gwinnett County youth. The 2002 Needs Assessment Survey found basketball to be the most popular sport amongst teen 13 to 17, followed by swimming, baseball, soccer, and football.



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-12 Outdoor Basketball Distribution

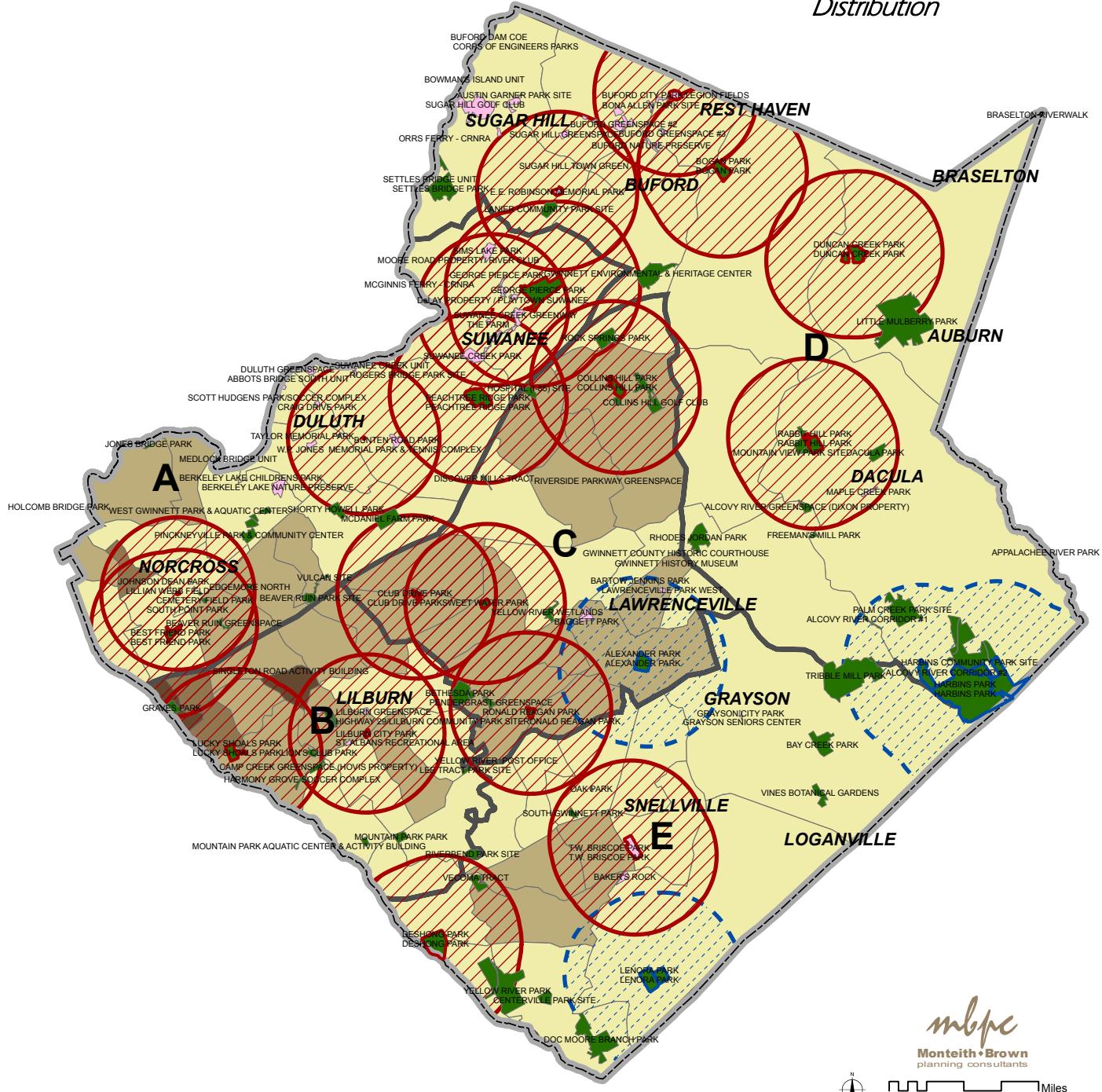
Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 2mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Basketball
- 2mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Basketball

- City Park
- County Park

2007 Estimated Persons 10-19 Per Acre

- 0.14 - 0.50
- 0.51 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 1.50
- 1.51 - 2.00



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0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

BASKETBALL COURTS			Standard:	1 per 10,500 population		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	9.5	17,473	15.8	6.3	17.8	8.3
B	3.0	41,420	11.8	8.8	12.1	9.1
C	5.0	36,010	17.1	12.1	18.6	13.6
D	7.5	22,237	15.9	8.4	19.7	12.2
E	3.0	46,421	13.3	10.3	15.1	12.1
Total*	28.0	27,727	73.9	45.9	83.3	55.3

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 1 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

The County is achieving 39% of its outdoor basketball court standard of 1 court per 10,500 population. There is a current undersupply of 46 full court equivalents, growing to a deficit of 55 courts by 2013. This standard, although consistent with levels attained in many other jurisdictions, is clearly a goal that the County will not achieve overnight, but it is one that would go a long way toward meeting the recreational needs of Gwinnett's youth (among other age groups).

With the application of a 2 mile service radius, it would appear that the County does not have as many gaps as the provision standard suggests. The largest gaps not covered by existing or planned facilities are in RPA E and along the boundary of RPAs C and D.

In addition to the planned projects, the County should seek opportunities to develop basketball courts in all planning areas. In RPAs A and B, up to 6 additional courts should be developed in each area. In RPAs C, D, and E, up to 8 additional courts should be developed in each. It is also suggested that Rhodes Jordan Park, which is currently undergoing a master plan revision, consider the inclusion of basketball courts.

The following are the recommendations related to outdoor basketball courts. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

Entire RPA A

- Develop up to 6 additional courts

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

Entire RPA B

- Develop up to 6 additional courts

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

Alexander Park

- Continue planned construction of 2 half courts

Entire RPA C

- Develop up to 8 additional courts

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

Harbins Park

- Continue planned construction of 2 half courts

Rhodes Jordan Park

- Consider the addition of new basketball courts to the Master Plan revisions

Entire RPA D

- Develop up to 8 additional courts

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

Lenora Park	• Continue planned construction of 2 full courts
Entire RPA E	• Develop up to 8 additional courts

Sand Volleyball Courts

SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS		Provider	#	Area
Jones Bridge Park		county	1	A
Rogers Bridge Park		city	2	A
Pinckneyville Park and Community Center		county	1	A
Graves Park		county	1	B
Lilburn City Park		city	1	B
Mountain Park Park		county	1	B
Collins Hill Park		county	1	C
Sweet Water Park Site		county	1	C
Bogart Park		county	6	D
Dacula Park		county	1	D
Duncan Creek		county	3	D
E.E. Robinson Memorial Park		city	2	D
DeShong Park		county	1	E
T.W. Briscoe Park		city	3	E
Total		25		

Beach volleyball is played on sand courts, which a number of communities are adding to their parks to meet localized demand. The sport can be played in a flexible, non-structured and is low cost, further enhancing its popularity.

Gwinnett County provides 25 sand volleyball courts, 8 of which have been developed since the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan was prepared.

SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS			Standard:	1 per 35,000 population	
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand
A	4	41,499	4.7	0.7	5.3
B	3	41,420	3.6	0.6	3.6
C	2	90,025	5.1	3.1	5.6
D	12	13,898	4.8	-7.2	5.9
E	4	34,816	4.0	0.0	4.5
Total*	25	31,054	22.2	-2.8	25.0
					0.0

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 3 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

Based on a provision standard of 1 volleyball court per 35,000 population, the County has a sufficient supply of sand volleyball courts, and will not require any additional courts until after 2013. The County is currently achieving 113% of its sand volleyball court provision standard. Presently, five master plans contain a total of 9 volleyball courts, which can be pursued (albeit at a lower priority level) based on overall park design principles.

The following are the recommendations related to sand volleyball courts. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Sand Volleyball Court Recommendations

Peachtree Ridge Park	• Proceed with planned development of 2 volleyball courts
Shorty Howell Park	• Proceed with planned development of 2 volleyball courts

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Sand Volleyball Court Recommendations

Alexander Park

- Proceed with planned development of 1 volleyball court

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Sand Volleyball Court Recommendations

Harbins Park

- Proceed with planned development of 2 volleyball courts

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Sand Volleyball Court Recommendations

Lenora Park

- Proceed with planned development of 2 volleyball courts

Skate Parks

Skate parks offer paved areas with specially constructed ramps, quarter pipes, rails, and other structures for skateboarding and freestyle skating and cycling within a controlled environment. These activities are not mere fads that will disappear; rather they are continuing to grow in popularity, particularly amongst older children and teenagers – a demographic that has traditionally been challenging to serve. Furthermore, because skateboarding and similar activities often occur in open public plazas or on private lands, resulting in conflicts with other activities (not to mention vandalism and injuries), skate parks offer an important alternative to this problem.

Gwinnett has five County-operated skate parks at Pinckneyville Park, Mountain Park Park, Ronald Reagan Park, Duncan Creek Park, and DeShong Park. It was noted in the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan that there were five privately-operated indoor parks, all of which charged a usage fee; most of these facilities have since closed.

SKATE PARKS	Provider	Area
Pinckneyville Park & Community Center	county	A
Mountain Park Park	county	B
Ronald Reagan Park	county	C
Duncan Creek Park	county	D
DeShong Park	county	E
Total	5	

Since the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan, 3 additional skate parks have been developed in the County. There is also funding for the construction of skate parks at Rabbit Hill Park (or Mountain View Community Park Site), Settles Bridge Park, and Bay Creek Park in 2008. At present, there are eight park master plans containing unfunded skate parks.

Map 6-13 illustrates the locations of the existing County skate parks along with those parks for which skate parks have been proposed and funded (Rabbit Hill/Mountain View Park, Bay Creek, and Settles Bridge Park).



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

*Map 6-13
Skateboard Park
Distribution*

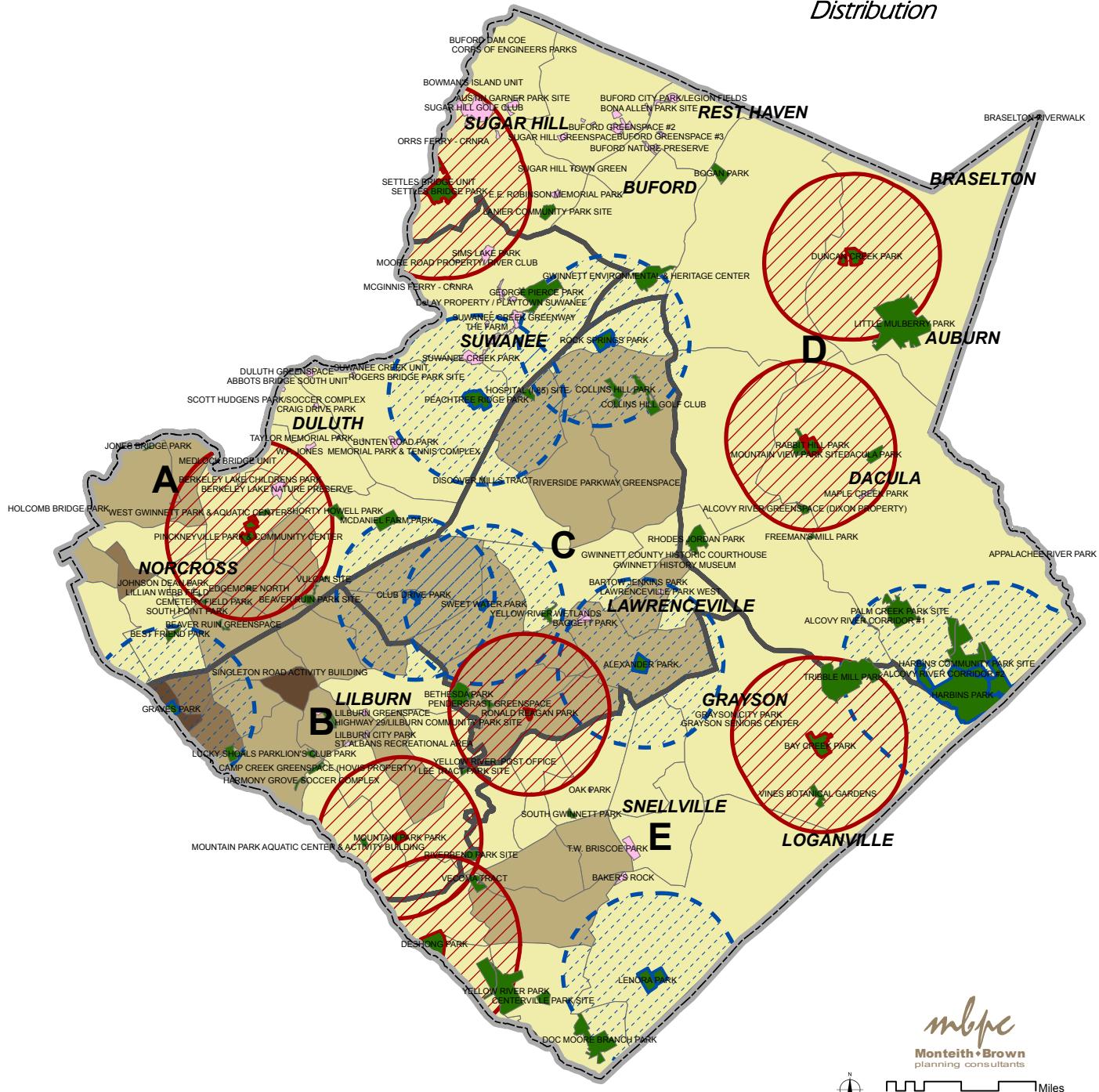
Legend

Legend:

- Recreation Planning Area
- 2mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Skateboard Park
- 2mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Skateboard Park
- City Park
- County Park

2007 Estimated Persons 10-19 Per Acre

Population Density Range
0.14 - 0.50
0.51 - 1.00
1.01 - 1.50
1.51 - 2.00



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SKATE PARKS			Standard: 1 per 17,500 pop. ages 10-19			
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per age 10-19)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	1	21,725	1.2	0.2	1.5	0.5
B	1	16,124	0.9	-0.1	0.9	-0.1
C	1	27,255	1.6	0.6	1.7	0.7
D	1	23,153	1.3	0.3	1.6	0.6
E	1	20,882	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.3
Total	5	21,828	6.2	1.2	7.0	2.0

A provision standard of one skate park per 17,500 youth ages 10-19 has been established. This standard is specifically linked to the teen population because skate parks are predominantly used by this demographic and this approach will provide a more accurate determination of demand as Gwinnett's population ages. In order to achieve the recommended level of service, one additional skate park is required, increasing to 2 parks by the year 2013. The County is currently achieving 80% of its skate park provision standard.

Applying a service radius of 2 miles, it would appear that the County could sustain more skate parks than what the provision standard suggests. Skate parks are considered a community-level facility; consequently, geographic distribution is essential. Geographic gaps in service require that additional skate parks be developed in order to provide reasonable access for the majority of Gwinnett children and teenagers. From an accessibility standpoint, there is merit in pursuing all planned (but unfunded) skate parks in order to create more conveniently located facilities. However, gaps will remain in all RPAs, some of which could be resolved through future Community Park development.

In addition to the proposed funded and unfunded skate parks, the development of a skate park should be considered for Rhodes Jordan Park, which is currently undergoing a master plan review. Furthermore, a skate park should be given strong consideration for any parkland acquired in the future, especially in areas with significant densities of teens. All new skate parks should be designed in consultation with children and teenagers.

The following are the recommendations related to skate parks. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Skate Park Recommendations

Peachtree Ridge Park • Develop planned skate park

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Skate Park Recommendations

Graves Park • Develop planned skate park

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Skate Park Recommendations

Alexander Park • Develop planned skate park
 Club Drive Park • Develop planned skate park
 Rock Springs Park • Develop planned skate park
 Sweet Water Park • Develop planned skate park

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Skate Park Recommendations

Harbins Park	• Develop planned skate park
Rhodes Jordan Park	• Consider the addition of a skate park to the Master Plan revisions
Bogan Park	• Redevelop the teen zone

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Skate Park Recommendations

Lenora Park	• Develop planned skate park
-------------	------------------------------

Roller Hockey Rinks

Gwinnett County provides one outdoor roller hockey rink at Pinckneyville Park, and owns two indoor roller hockey rinks at South Gwinnett Park. At present, roller sports rinks that have been planned at Rabbit Hill Park, Bay Creek Park, and Lenora Park. However, these three facilities must be redesigned as covered facilities prior to the finalization of any funding or approval decisions. **Map 6-14** illustrates the location of the existing and proposed rinks.

The need to cover or enclose the existing roller hockey rink at Pinckneyville Park was raised at several public meetings. The primary concern with the Pinckneyville rink is the lack of a protective cover. The uncovered rink exposes its users to severe elements (especially sun), thereby limiting its usefulness. The County will provide a cover for the existing roller rink through funding from the recreation capital fund. Roller rink covers will be incorporated into the designs for all other planned or future roller rink facilities.

Another issue raised from experiences with Pinckneyville Park involves the clustering of teen activities. Rinks have traditionally been planned as part of a "teen area", along with skate parks, basketball courts, and volleyball courts. This combined facility planning could be re-examined, because it has become apparent that clustering teen-type activities is not necessary to produce a successful facility. Roller rinks in particular are able to be located individually.

It is recommended that the Pinckneyville Park roller sports rink be covered in order to offer protection to rink users. Following the construction of a cover, this facility should be used as a pilot program to determine the use of and demand for roller rinks prior to expanding this concept to other parks. A temporary hold should be placed on the development of additional rinks at Bay Creek, Lenora, and Rabbit Hill Parks (all of which are identified in park master plans) until the popularity of the pilot project is determined.



Legend

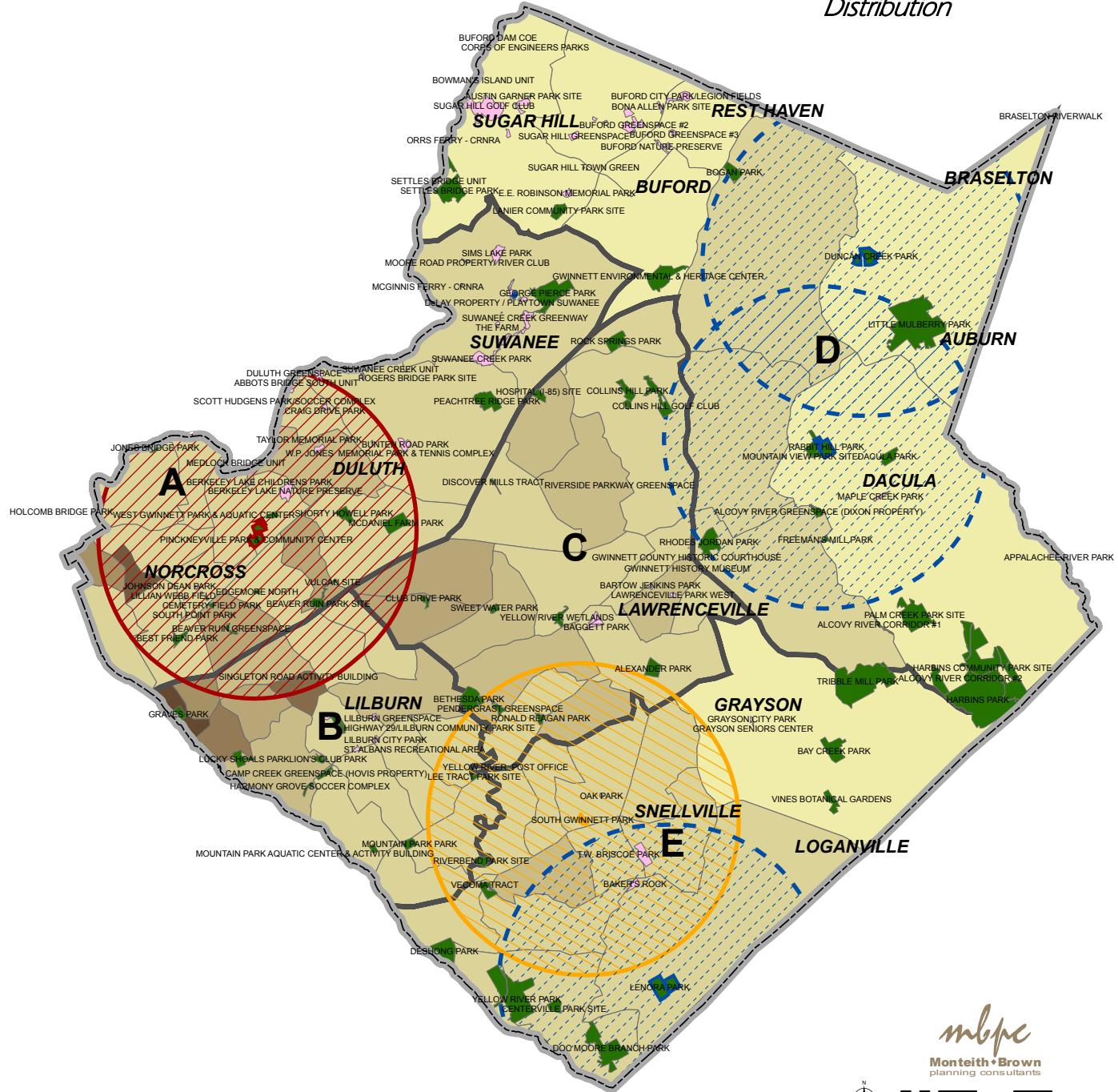
-  Recreation Planning Area
-  4mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Outdoor Roller Rink
-  4mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Outdoor Roller Rink
-  4mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Indoor Roller Rink
-  City park
-  County park

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-14 Roller Rink Distribution



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6.12 PLAYGROUND ANALYSIS

Gwinnett County has a total of 97 playground areas located at 42 sites throughout the county, not including playgrounds at schools or subdivisions. Most parks have more than one playground area due to the large size of the parks and a desire to separate tots from older children. 78 of these playground installations are provided by the County, at 28 different sites. The remainder are provided by local cities. Since the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared, 16 new playgrounds have been developed – a 21% increase. Additional playground/pavilion complexes are to be constructed at Rabbit Hill Park and Bay Creek Park with 2005 SPLOST funds. Schools and the private sector are also key providers of playground equipment and their existence should be considered when planning new park sites. Despite the general aging of the population, there will continue to be additional demand for playgrounds across the entire County.

Map 6-15 illustrates the location of County and city playgrounds; service radii of a half-mile and one-mile have been applied to each playground site.

At present, twelve park master plans contain a total of 12 playgrounds, most in combination with a pavilion or shelter.

Public consultation revealed that participants rate playgrounds as a medium priority. The suggestion was received that the County consider constructing indoor playgrounds to allow children to play out of the heat.

Playgrounds are an essential amenity in every community park and can even be accommodated in many open space parks. With this in mind, it is important that efforts be made to ensure that all children have reasonable access to a playground, whether it be at a park, a school or a residential complex. In denser urban areas, it is typically recommended that playgrounds be provided within a half-mile of all residential neighborhoods so that children can easily walk or cycle; this guideline should also account for the existence of physical barriers such as rivers, rail lines and major roads that are unsafe for pedestrians to cross. Due to Gwinnett's large land base, this approach is not feasible in the County, however, a provision standard of one playground area per 750 children ages 0 to 9 has been established that, if achieved, would significantly increase free play opportunities for children and improve accessibility to play areas. It is recognized that one park may contain multiple playground areas and this standard has been designed to reflect this.

PLAYGROUND AREAS			Standard: 1 per 750 population ages 0-9		
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per age 0-9)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand
A	42	671	37.6	-4.4	40.8
B	9	2,273	27.3	18.3	26.9
C	12	2,570	41.1	29.1	43.6
D	18	1,429	34.3	16.3	41.1
E	16	1,265	27.0	11.0	30.5
Total*	97	1,293	167.3	70.3	182.9
2013 Gap					
85.9					

*The County's 2004 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan also noted 3 facilities provided by the private sector; these should be considered in determining the demand for additional facilities.

Using the recommended standard, the County is currently achieving 58% of playground provision standard, and requires 70 additional playground areas to meet demand. By 2013, the County would require a total addition of 86 playgrounds to the current supply.



Legend

-  Recreation Planning Area
-  1/2mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Playground
-  1mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Playground
-  1/2mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Playground
-  1mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Playground

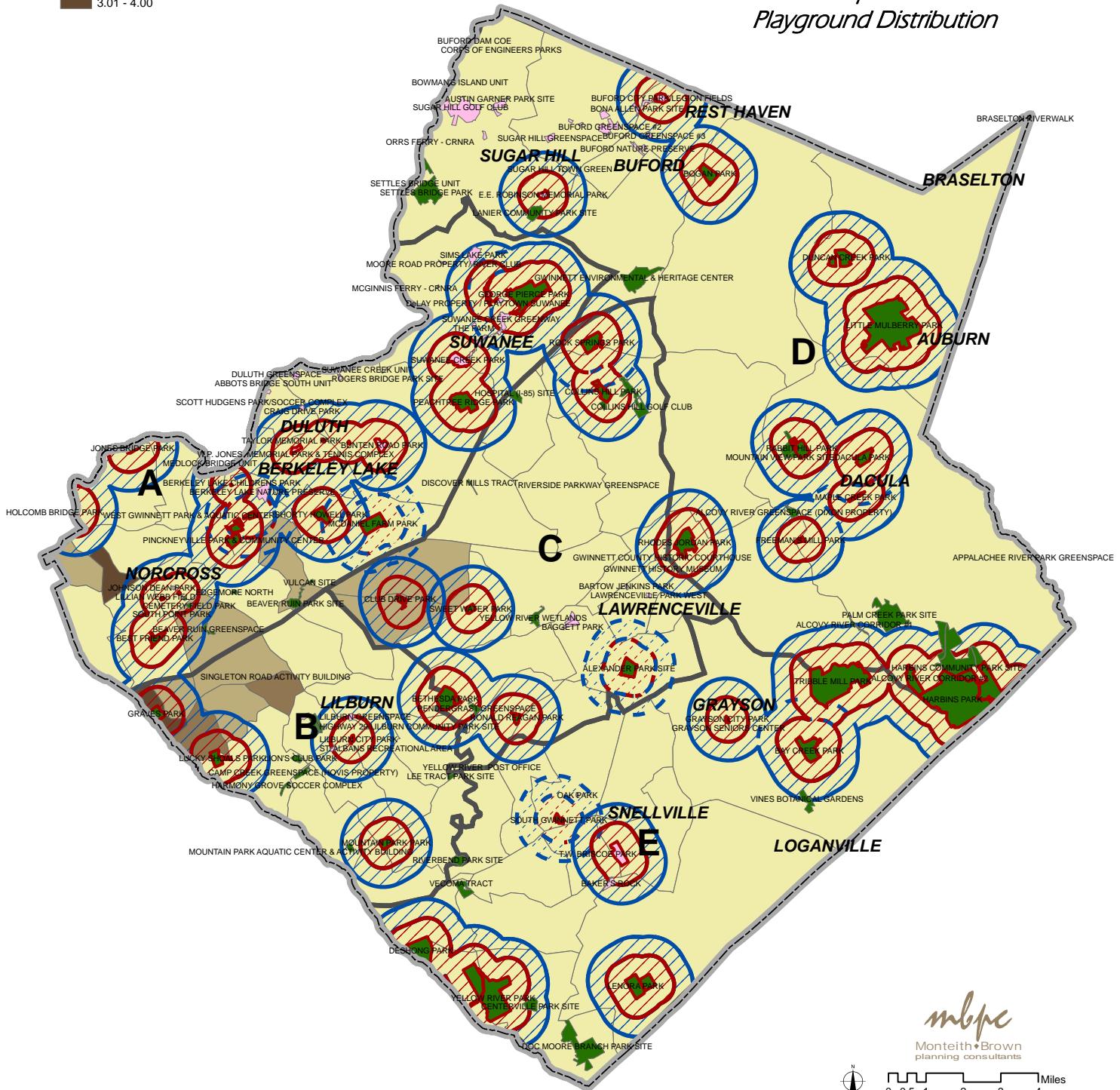
County Park

0.15 - 1.00
1.01 - 2.00
2.01 - 3.00
3.01 - 4.00

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

Map 6-15 Playground Distribution



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planning consultants



Playgrounds provide a relatively small service radius (0.5 to 1.0 mile), reflecting the fact that they are neighborhood-level facilities that are intended to be within walking distance of all residents, especially children. Given the large size of the County, there are a significant number of gap areas in all RPAs with the exception of Area A. Area C is by far the least supplied area when it comes to playgrounds, despite the provision of a new playground at Club Drive Park in 2008 and the planned facility at Alexander Park. Areas B, D, and E are also under-served and will continue to be so despite the construction of planned facilities.

This Capital Improvement Plan recommends the development of up to 57 playground areas in existing and (currently) undeveloped parks. Most playground gaps cannot be resolved without new parkland. It is strongly recommended that future parkland acquisitions, where appropriate, incorporate playgrounds. Park development in all areas – and RPA C in particular – should place an increased emphasis on playground development. In addition to the planned projects, opportunities should be sought to establish up to 14 additional playgrounds in RPA B; up to 24 additional playgrounds in RPA C; up to 13 additional playgrounds in RPA D; and up to 6 additional playgrounds in RPA E. Playground/pavilion complexes should be built as part of the initial phase of park development.

It is also important to note that not all playgrounds need to be provided by the County – local governments should also assume responsibility for providing safe play equipment in all of their active parks. Developers should also be encouraged to construct playgrounds accessible to all local residents (i.e., not within "gated" subdivisions), possibly located between adjacent developments to maximize accessibility.

The following are the recommendations related to playgrounds. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Playground Recommendations

George Pierce Park	• Continue development of planned playground/shelter
McDaniel Farm Park	• Continue development of planned playground/pavilion complex
West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center	• Continue development of planned playground/pavilion complex

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Playground Recommendations

Entire RPA B	• Establish up to 14 additional playgrounds
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Recreation Planning Area "C" - Playground Recommendations

Alexander Park	• Continue development of planned playground/pavilion complex
Entire RPA C	• Establish up to 24 additional playgrounds

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Playground Recommendations

Dacula Park	• Continue development of planned playground/shelter
Duncan Creek Park	• Continue development of planned playground to serve soccer center
Little Mulberry Park	• Continue development of planned playground/pavilion complex

Entire RPA D

- Establish up to 13 additional playgrounds

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Playground Recommendations

Bay Creek Park

- Continue development of planned playground/pavilion complex

DeShong Park

- Continue development of planned playground/shelter

Lenora Park

- Continue development of 2 planned playground/pavilion complexes

South Gwinnett Park

- Continue development of planned playground area

Yellow River Park

- Continue development of planned playground/shelter

Entire RPA E

- Establish up to 6 additional playgrounds.

6.13 DOG PARK ANALYSIS

DOG PARKS	Provider	#	Area
Pinckneyville Park	county	1	A
Graves Park	county	1	B
Ronald Reagan Park	county	1	C
Lenora Park	county	1	E
Total		4	

Gwinnett County has four existing dog parks, located at Pinckneyville Park, Graves Park, Ronald Regan Park, and Lenora Park. **Map 6-16** outlines the existing and planned/not funded dog parks in the County, along with a 4-mile service radius. Currently, there are two planned dog parks – at Settles Bridge Park in RPA B and Rabbit Hill Park in RPA D – that are funded (subject to the construction bids), but have yet to be built. At present, four park master plans contain a total of 4 unfunded dog parks (excluding Little Mulberry Park, which is likely to be funded in 2008).

Dog parks are well suited to larger Community Parks and Open Space Parks that provide adequate space and buffering. These parks are becoming increasingly common as pet owners have long realized the value of running their dogs off-leash for both exercise and socialization benefits, in a safe and enclosed setting. It is not unusual for the design of dog parks to incorporate “pet-friendly” features such as drinking areas, unique terrain, etc.

DOG PARKS			Standard: 1 per 125,000 population			
Plan Area	2007 Supply	Provision Rate (per capita)	2007 Demand	2007 Gap	2013 Demand	2013 Gap
A	1	165,996	1.3	0.3	1.5	0.5
B	1	124,260	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
C	1	180,050	1.4	0.4	1.6	0.6
D	0	0:166,778	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7
E	1	139,263	1.1	0.1	1.3	0.3
Total	4	194,087	6.2	2.2	7.0	3.0

When the 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared, the county did not have any dog parks, and therefore, no provision standard was established. For the purposes of this analysis, a standard of 1 per 125,000 population has been proposed. Based on this standard, the County is currently under-supplied by two dog parks. By 2013, a total of three additional dog parks will be necessary to meet the standard.



Legend

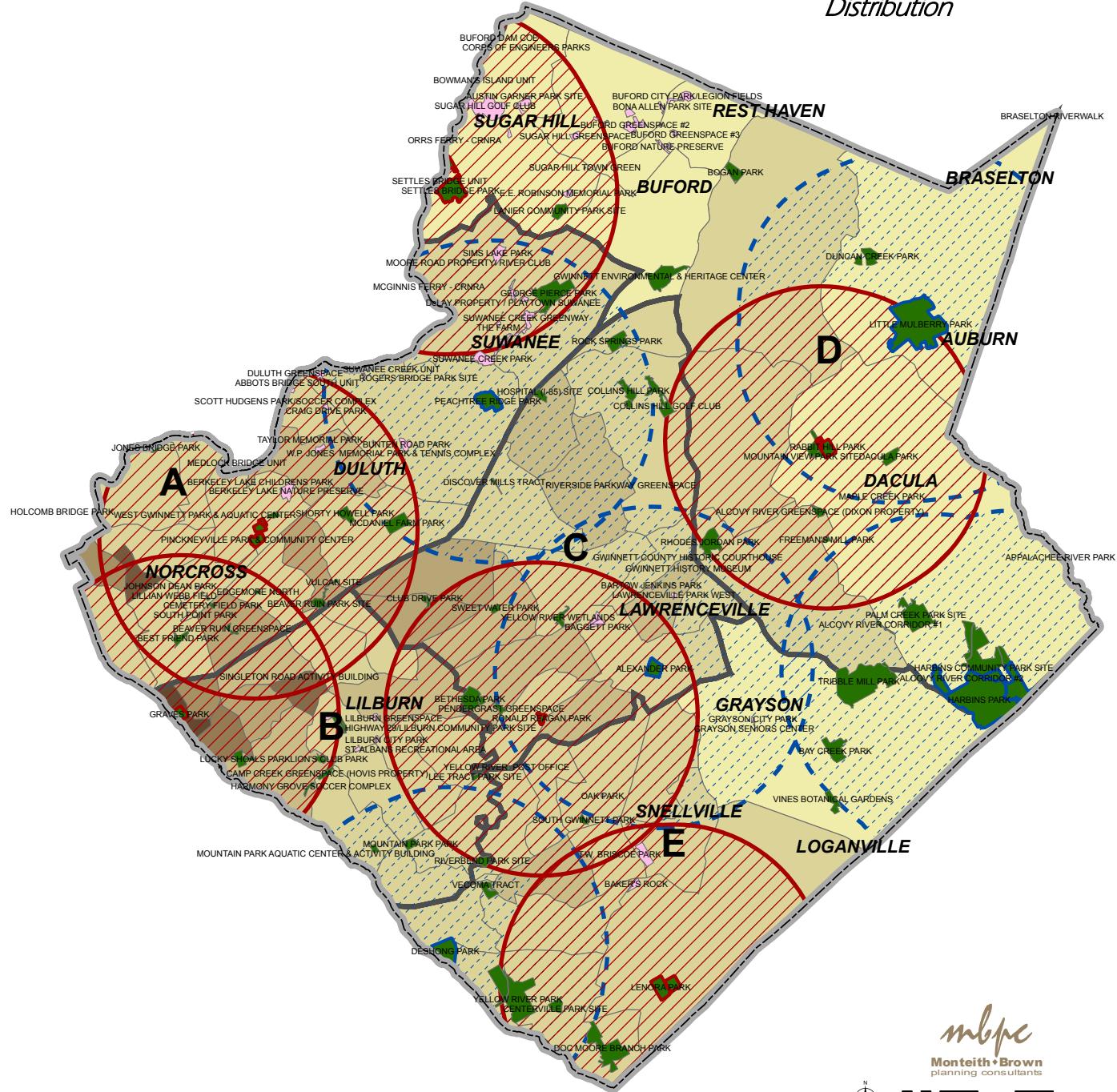
-  Recreation Planning Area
-  4mi Service Radius - Existing/Funded Dog Park
-  4mi Service Radius - Planned/Not Funded Dog Park
-  City Park
-  County Park

2007 Estimated Total Persons per Acre

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (2007 Update)

*Map 6-16
Dog Park
Distribution*



mbpc
Monteith • Brown



The County's existing dog parks have received tremendous positive response. Given this, it is reasonable to consider expansion of dog parks into under-serviced areas. Assuming a service radius of 4 miles, the existing and planned dog parks provide excellent access to all except in certain parts of RPA D.

It is recommended that the development of all planned facilities proceed as intended. Locations for future dog parks should be chosen based on plenty of space and adequate buffering. Park expansions and Master Plan updates at Rhodes Jordan Park and Collins Hill Park may provide opportunities for new dog parks to be developed in the future. Other opportunities to develop dog parks should be considered for Bogan and Collins Hill Parks.

The following are the recommendations related to dog parks. Recommendations are listed by RPA and are not in priority order.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Dog Park Recommendations

Peachtree Ridge Park	• Proceed with planned development of dog park
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Recreation Planning Area "C" - Dog Park Recommendations

Alexander Park	• Proceed with planned development of dog park
Collins Hill Park	• Consider for new dog park development

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Dog Park Recommendations

Bogan Park	• Consider for new dog park development
Little Mulberry Park	• Proceed with planned development of dog park
Rhodes Jordan Park	• Consider for new dog park development
Harbins Park	• Proceed with planned development of dog park

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Dog Park Recommendations

DeShong Park	• Proceed with planned development of dog park
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