

# 2017 gwinnett county parks + recreation capital improvement plan update

april 2017



gwinnett county  
department of community services



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**gwinnettcounty**  
**parks & recreation**

## **2017 parks + recreation capital improvement plan update**

**April 2017**

prepared by:  
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*with assistance from*

**Perez Planning + Design, LLC and Lose & Associates, Inc.**

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## acknowledgments

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Tommy Hunter, District 3 Commissioner  
John Heard, District 4 Commissioner

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# Section 1 : executive summary + introduction

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# section 1: executive summary + introduction

## 1.1 – Purpose of the Plan

Gwinnett County, with a U.S. Census Bureau 2015 population estimate of 898,450 residents, is an increasingly dynamic and diverse community that continues to attract new residents and investment. The County's award-winning parks system provides a significant contribution to the community's high quality of life. As residents continue to demand more and better recreational opportunities, efforts must be made to expand and improve the range of parks and leisure facilities that the County provides.

The 2016 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is an update to the County's 2013 Capital Improvement Plan, which in turn was an update to the 2007 Capital Improvement Plan and 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. As the economic climate continues to improve, considerable progress has been made since the completion of the 2013 CIP update—the County has acquired over 370 acres of park land, including the 227 acre Simpsonwood Park and is in the process of implementing approximately \$26.8 million worth of park improvements and renovations to address the needs and priorities of County residents. Proactively addressing the changing needs of residents has been a characteristic of the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Department since its inception, and this Plan will assist the County in maintaining this legacy.

### The 2016 Capital Improvement Plan accomplishes the following:

- Evaluates the current status of the County's ability to provide service based upon its enhanced array of capital facilities;
- Analyzes service gaps and needs within the County due to changes in population and distribution of existing and planned facilities; and
- Proposes a refined Capital Program for 2016-2022.

The Gwinnett County Recreation Authority developed this plan with assistance from Lose & Associates and Perez Planning + Design, from here on identified as the Consultant Team.

## 1.2 – Scope of the Plan

The Capital Improvement Plan will guide the development and expansion of parks, greenways, and recreation facilities in Gwinnett County for the period inclusive of 2017-2022. The full range of parks and facilities that fall under the broad definition of "leisure" or "recreation" (e.g., community centers, gymnasiums, soccer fields, aquatics, cultural space, playgrounds, nature trails, etc.) are addressed in this Plan.

Recreation park services and programs are outside the scope of this study.

## 1.3 – Impetus for the Plan

Parks play a vital role in the quality of life in Gwinnett County. A number of factors have necessitated an update of the previous Capital Improvement Plan:

- The vote for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program was extended in November 2016 and offers potential for the County Commission to approve parks and recreation projects as part of the SPLOST program.
- The County's population continues to grow and is also aging and becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. Between 2010 to 2015, the County gained over 90,000 residents, representing a total increase in growth of approximately 11% (from 808,304 people to 898,450).
- The County's growth rate requires that sufficient park land be acquired before it is lost to development.
- The 2013 Capital Improvement Plan guided investments from 2013-2016, and is in need of an update.
- Gwinnett County has acquired over 350 acres of park land since the 2013 Update.
- Leisure trends continue to shift and new

approaches to recreation planning are emerging. For instance, there continues to be a growing demand for unstructured and self-scheduled forms of recreation, such as trails and multi-purpose green spaces.

- The “bar has been raised” through previous efforts, and residents have greater expectations for parks and recreation services.
- There is a need to coordinate the Capital Improvement Plan with other recent initiatives.
- The County has a history of proactively addressing its parks and recreation needs and planning for the future in a forward-thinking, fiscally responsible manner.

The County has succeeded in responding to many of these challenges. This Capital Improvement Plan builds upon this momentum and refocuses the County’s future efforts through a review and assessment of recreation needs and priorities.

## 1.4– Summary of Planning Process

Beginning August 2015, the Planning Process was completed in three phases:

- **Phase I** – Analysis of Previous Planning Work and Existing Conditions
- **Phase II** – Public Input Meetings
- **Phase III** – Capital Project Recommendations

Phase I of the planning process included a Kick-Off Workshop with Gwinnett County Staff and the Consultant Team to confirm the Plan’s purpose and goals. Following the workshop, the Consultant Team received and reviewed information from the County regarding completed capital projects list and parkland acquisition since the previous 2013 Capital Improvement Plan Update to incorporate into the 2016 CIP update.

Phase I also included an update of all County park acreage, park types, primary facilities and a Service Area Gap Analysis of 13 key facility types. An update of City sports fields was also conducted and can be found in Section 4: Facilities Inventory.

Phase II focused on engaging the public and collecting input through the Recreation Authority, County Staff interviews, public workshops, and a county-wide statistically valid telephone survey. In Phase III, the Consultant Team worked closely with County Staff and used findings from previous phases to establish a recommended list of CIP projects and update project implementation costs. This plan is the cumulative effort of all three phases.

## 1.5 – Public Input Process

Public input was a critical component of the 2016 Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Plan CIP Update. One of the most important steps of the process was input and participation from the Recreation Authority. The Recreation Authority is a County Commission-appointed body of county residents tasked with providing citizen-based input on a variety of projects proposed by Gwinnett County’s Parks and Recreation Division. The Recreation Authority is comprised of nine members, two appointed by each District Commissioner, and one appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. The Recreation Authority was consulted at key points during the planning process. Each meeting had a different topic area, such as review of findings from planning efforts, or review of findings from previous studies.

In addition to engaging the Recreation Authority, Gwinnett County hosted five public meetings at locations throughout the county during the 2015 Fall season: Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center, Centerville Community Recreation Center, Bethesda Senior Center, Bogan Community Center, and the George Pierce Park Community Center. More than 180 members of the public participated.

A county-wide statistically valid telephone survey was also conducted by the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University. The survey was designed to obtain input from residents related to the County’s park and recreation facilities and their opinions on a number of issues related to the future development of the park system. A total of

1,118 residents were randomly surveyed throughout the County, and results were received at the 95% confidence level with a margin of error of +/- 3%.

Findings from the public input process can be found in Section 3: Public Input Process.

## 1.6 – Plan Goals and Priority Recommendations

Based on input from the Recreation Authority, five plan goals were developed to guide the 2016 CIP Update recommendations:

- Complete Planned Park Development and Renovate Existing Parks**

Complete the construction of planned development phases within existing parks and undeveloped sites and provide major renovations as needed in existing parks based on the researched desires of residents.

- Pedestrian Connectivity**

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.

- Balanced Acquisition + Development of Parks**

Maintain a balanced approach to the continued acquisition and development of both passive and active park land to the greatest extent possible based on the researched desires of residents.

- Parks for all Ages**

Provide for the needs of all age groups in the County, e.g. aging populations, adults, teenagers, and children. This should include both structured

and unstructured recreational opportunities based on the researched desires of residents.

- Park Land Acquisition**

Proceed with the acquisition of park land in under-serviced areas.

The 2016 CIP Update process identified over 30 individual projects within five project types for an estimated cost of \$130 million to complete. A complete list of projects is included in Section 7: Recommended CIP, page 111.

## 1.7 – Recreation Planning Areas

Gwinnett County is divided administratively into five Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs) pictured in Map 1.7a. These RPAs form the basis of analysis in updating the County’s Capital Improvement Plan.

Project Type	Total Estimated Cost
Greenways	\$15 million
Renovations	\$34.7 million
Park Expansions	\$56.3 million
New Park Construction	\$16.6 million
Land	\$8 million
<b>\$130.6 million</b>	

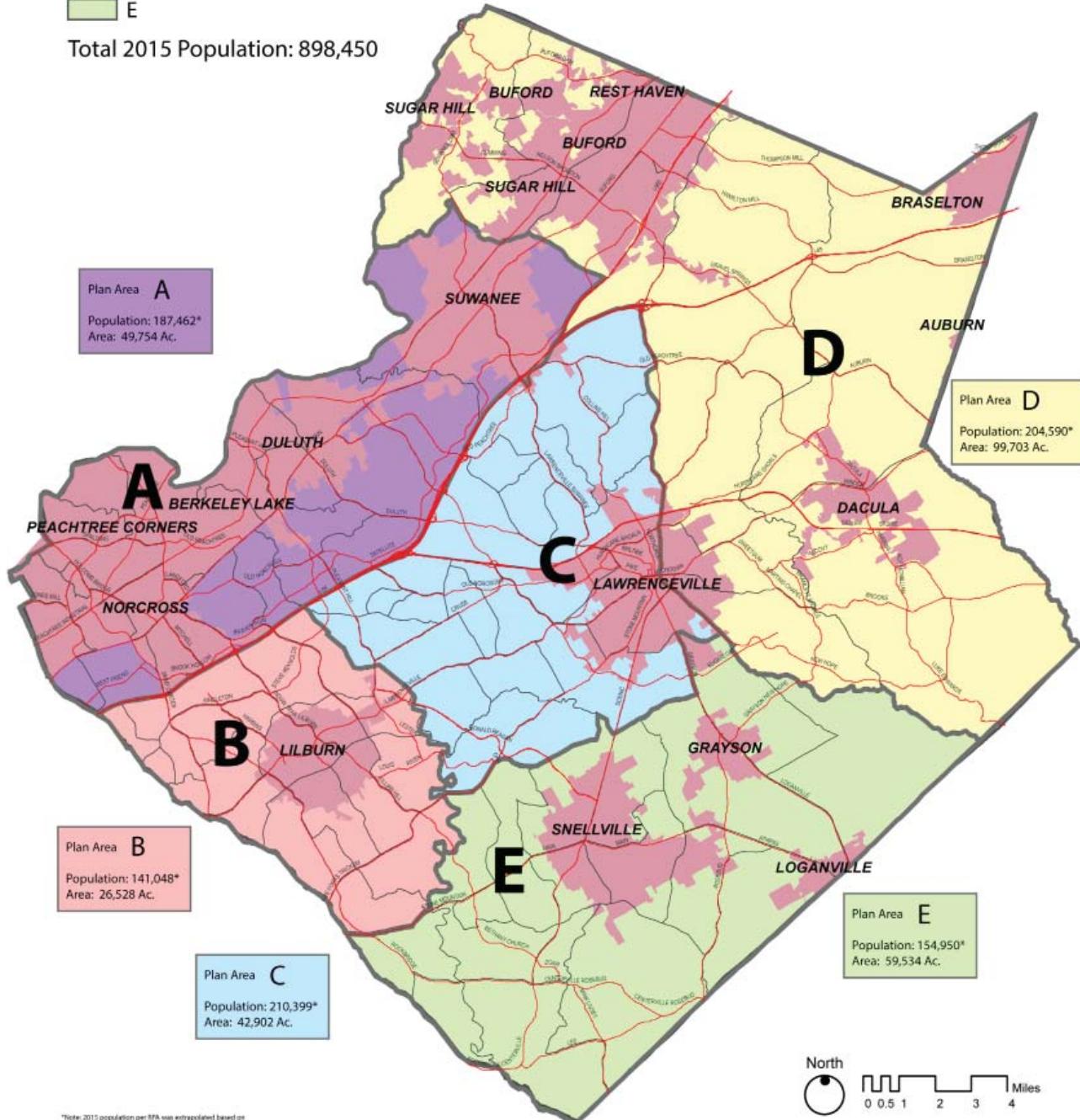
Map 1.7a Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs)

Legend

Recreation Planning Area

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Total 2015 Population: 898,450



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# Section 2: demographics

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## section 2: demographics

### 2.1 – Demographic Analysis

Understanding the existing and projected demographics of the County is a critical step in understanding the current and future recreational and social needs of the community. This section examines population patterns and projections in the County and concludes with summary findings from the analysis.

#### Total Population (2002 – 2015)

Gwinnett County has experienced significant growth since 2002. Over a 13 year period, the County gained approximately 250,000 residents, representing a 40% increase in population. The pace of growth has slowed slightly since 2005 however, and since 2010, has

hovered between 2% to 3% year to year. From 2010 to 2015, the County gained over 90,000 residents, representing a total increase in growth of approximately 11% (from 808,304 people to 898,450). Figure 2.1a below charts this growth.

#### Total Population by Planning Area (2000-2015)

Although all parts of the County have grown since 2000, the five Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs) have grown at different rates. Figure 2.1b illustrates the different patterns of growth in each RPA between 2000 and 2015, while Map 2.1a illustrates these patterns between 2010 and 2015.

While RPA D has witnessed the largest amount of growth of the five RPAs since 2000 (more than doubling in size), since 2010, RPA A has grown the most at the most significant rate (gaining 22,153

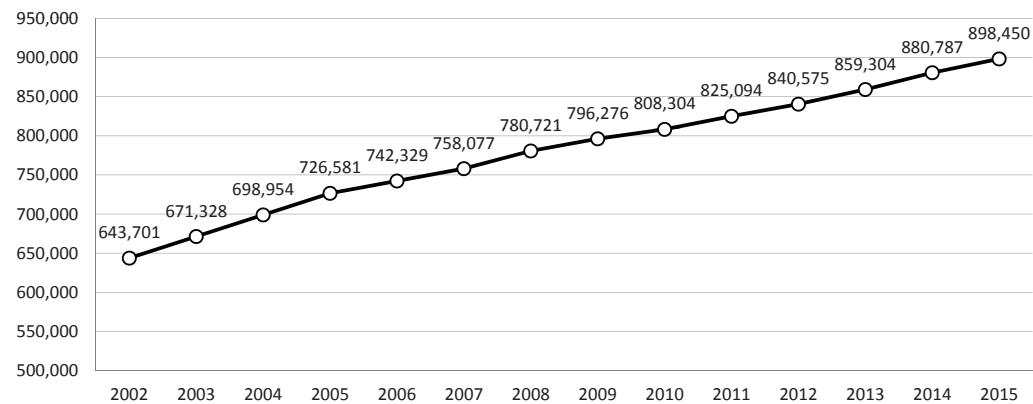


Figure 2.1a Gwinnett County Population 2002-2015

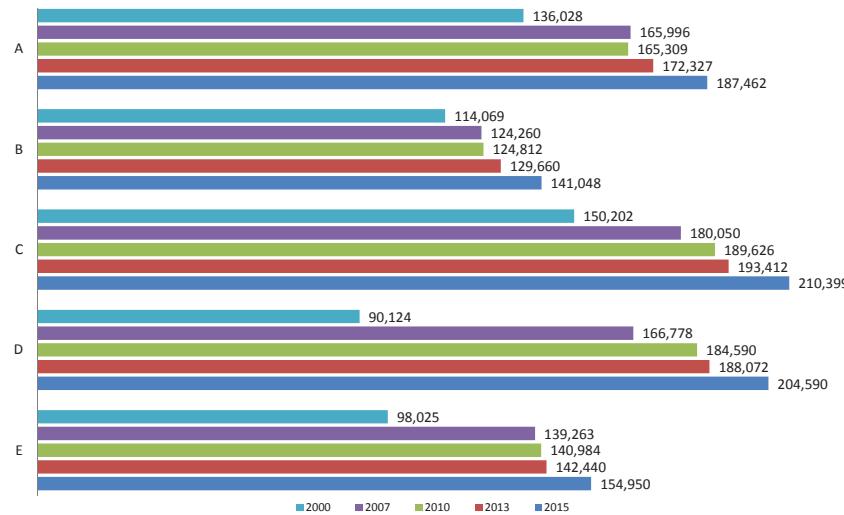


Figure 2.1b Population by Planning Area 2000 - 2015



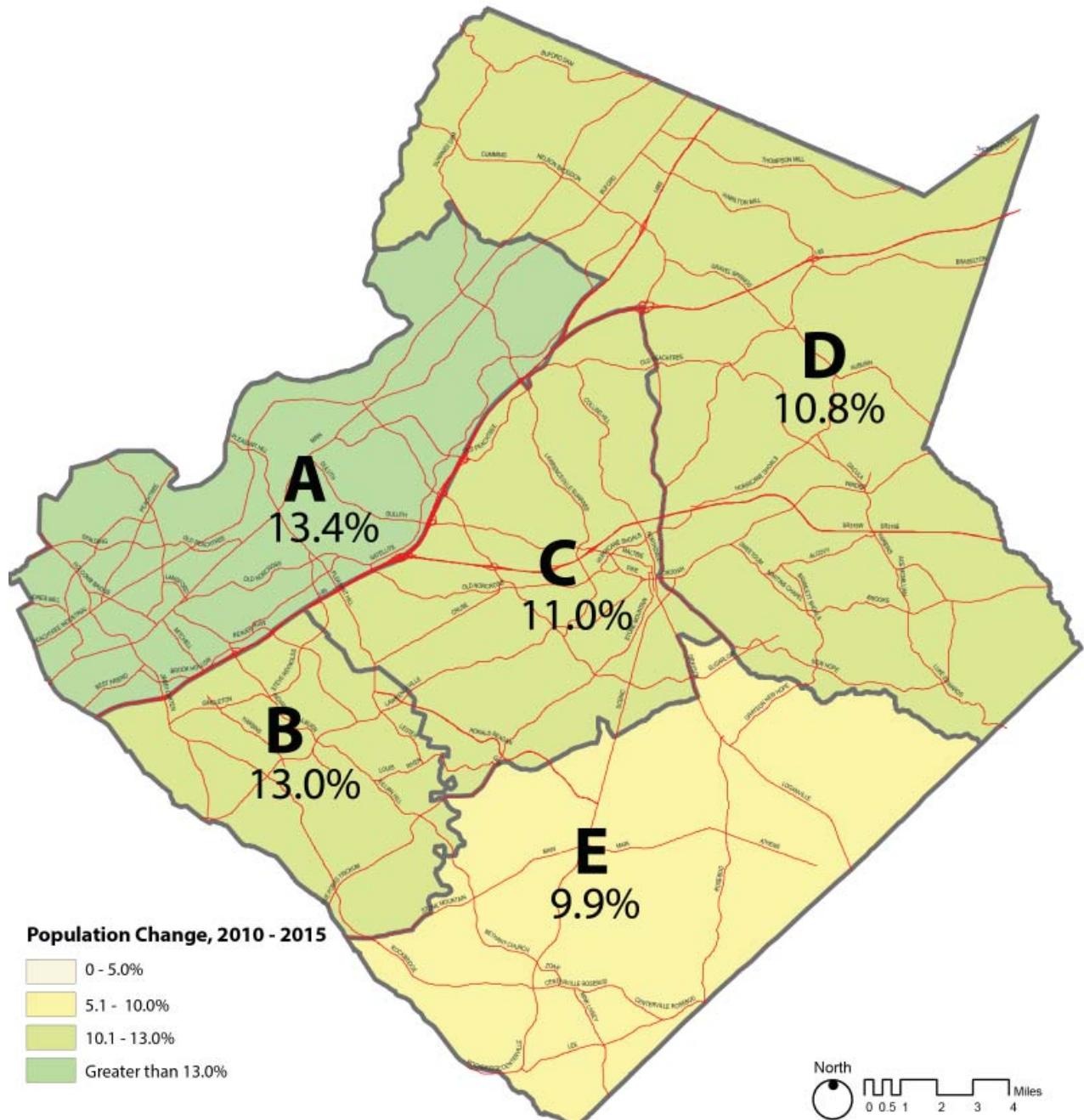
**Map 2.1a Population Change per Recreation Planning Area (2010 - 2015)**

Population Per Recreation Planning Area between 2010 - 2015				
Recreation Planning Area	2010 Population	2015 Population	Net Population	Percentage Change
A	165,309	187,462	22,153	13.4%
B	124,812	141,048	16,236	13.0%
C	189,626	210,399	20,773	11.0%
D	184,590	204,590	20,000	10.8%
E	140,984	154,950	13,966	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>805,321</b>	<b>898,450</b>	<b>93,129</b>	<b>11.6%</b>

residents, representing 13.4% growth). RPAs B, C and D also grew significantly, gaining approximately 11-13% population since 2010. RPA E grew the least, yet still increased in terms of population by nearly 10% over the same five year period.

### Population Density

Gwinnett County is a predominantly suburban county with relatively low population densities. Map 2.1b

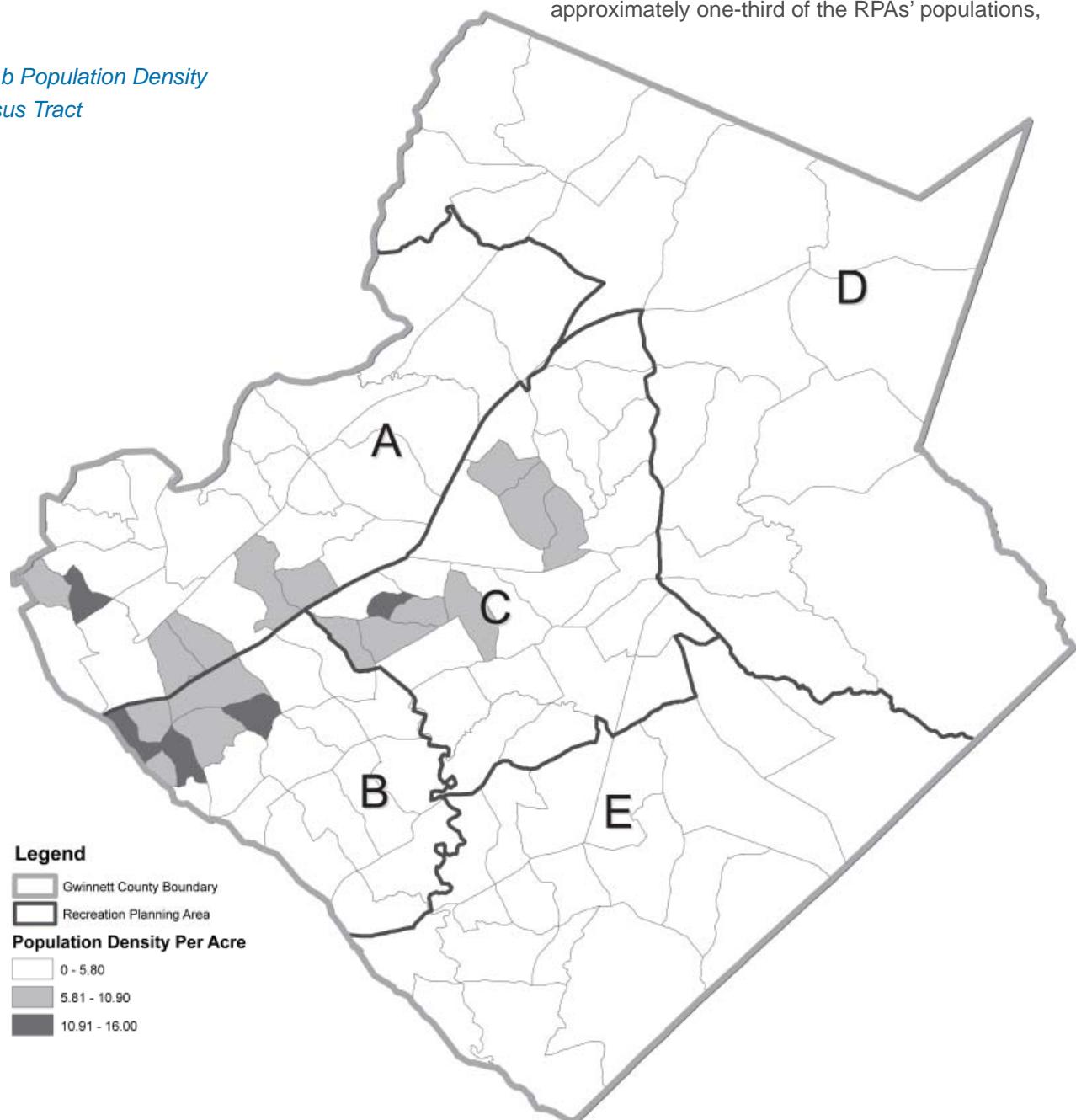


illustrates county population densities per Census Tract. While most of the county has a population density below 5.8 people per acre, specific Census Tracts within RPAs A, B, and C have higher population densities. Sixteen Census Tracts have densities between 5.81 and 10.90 people per acre and five have densities between 10.91 and 16.00 people per acre.

## Age Composition by Recreation Planning Area (2010 and 2013)

Overall age groups were measured by RPAs for both 2010 (Figure 2.1c) and 2013 (Figure 2.1d). This data was not available for 2015. In 2010, middle-aged adults (35-54 years) represented the largest proportion of residents across all RPAs, accounting for 31.7% of the County's population. In general, children and teenagers (aged 0-9 and 10-19 years) comprised approximately one-third of the RPAs' populations,

*Map 2.1b Population Density by Census Tract*



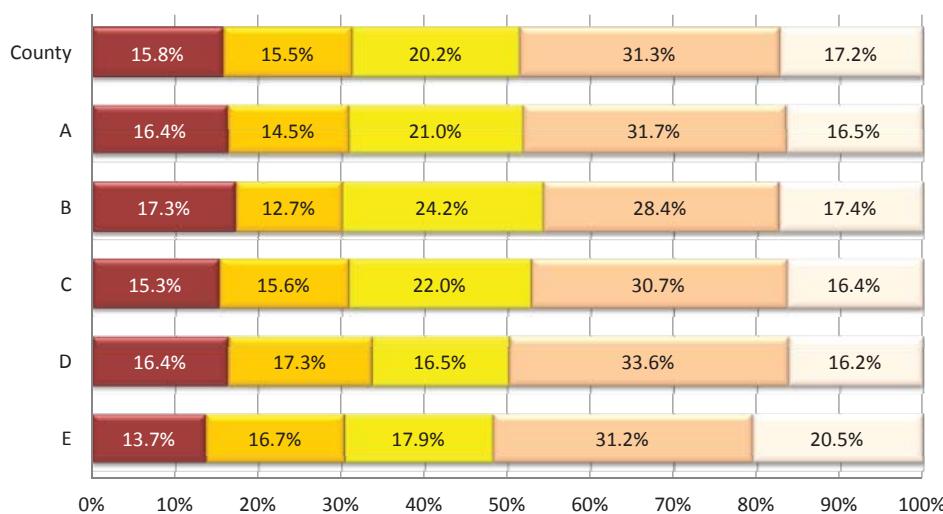
while adults (aged 20-34 and 35-54) comprised approximately half. Older adults, aged 55 and over, accounted for 16.3% of the population. Variability between RPAs was greatest in the age group 20-34 (ranging from 16.5% of the population in RPA E to 24.5% of the population in RPA B) and least between the younger groups (ages 0-9 and 10-19).

As in 2010, variability between RPAs was greatest in the age group 20-34 in 2013 (ranging from 16.5% of the population in RPA D to 24.2% of the population in RPA B). The overall trend of children and teenagers representing approximately one-third of the overall population, adults one-half, and older adults comprising the remainder of the whole continued as well in 2013. However, all RPAs witnessed an increase in

older adults (aged 55 and over), with RPAs B and C increasing most (over 1% each). At the same time, RPA E's younger population (0-9) decreased at a marked rate, as did RPA E's 10-19 population. Although middle-aged adults (35-54 years) continued to represent the largest proportion of residents across all RPAs (31.3% of the population), adult populations decreased somewhat universally, though at different rates. Figure 2.1e illustrates these trends, which are consistent with the increase in the County's Median Age from 33.6 in 2010 to 34.5 in 2015 according to the US Census.



*Figure 2.1c Age Composition by RPA in 2010*



*Figure 2.1d Age Composition by RPA in 2013*

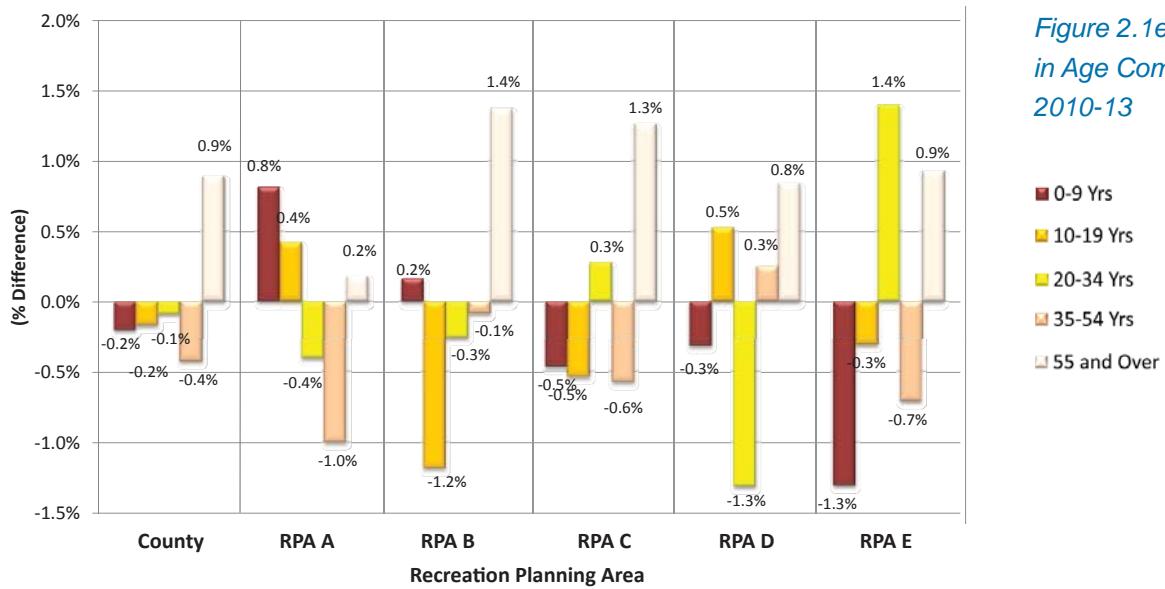


Figure 2.1e Percentage Change in Age Composition by RPA, 2010-13

- 0-9 Yrs
- 10-19 Yrs
- 20-34 Yrs
- 35-54 Yrs
- 55 and Over

### Program Participation Update 2002-2015

Figure 2.1f illustrates Gwinnett County partner youth athletic association participation in various sports programs between the years 2002 and 2015. Despite growth in population, participation in most sports programs appear to decline between 2008 and 2015, except for soccer and lacrosse. The highest

participation numbers are in baseball, which has also seen the largest changes from year to year, in terms of both increases and decreases in participation. In 2014, soccer's popularity eclipsed baseball, but dropped to almost equal baseball 2015. Over the longer term, participation in roller hockey and cheerleading have remained somewhat constant.

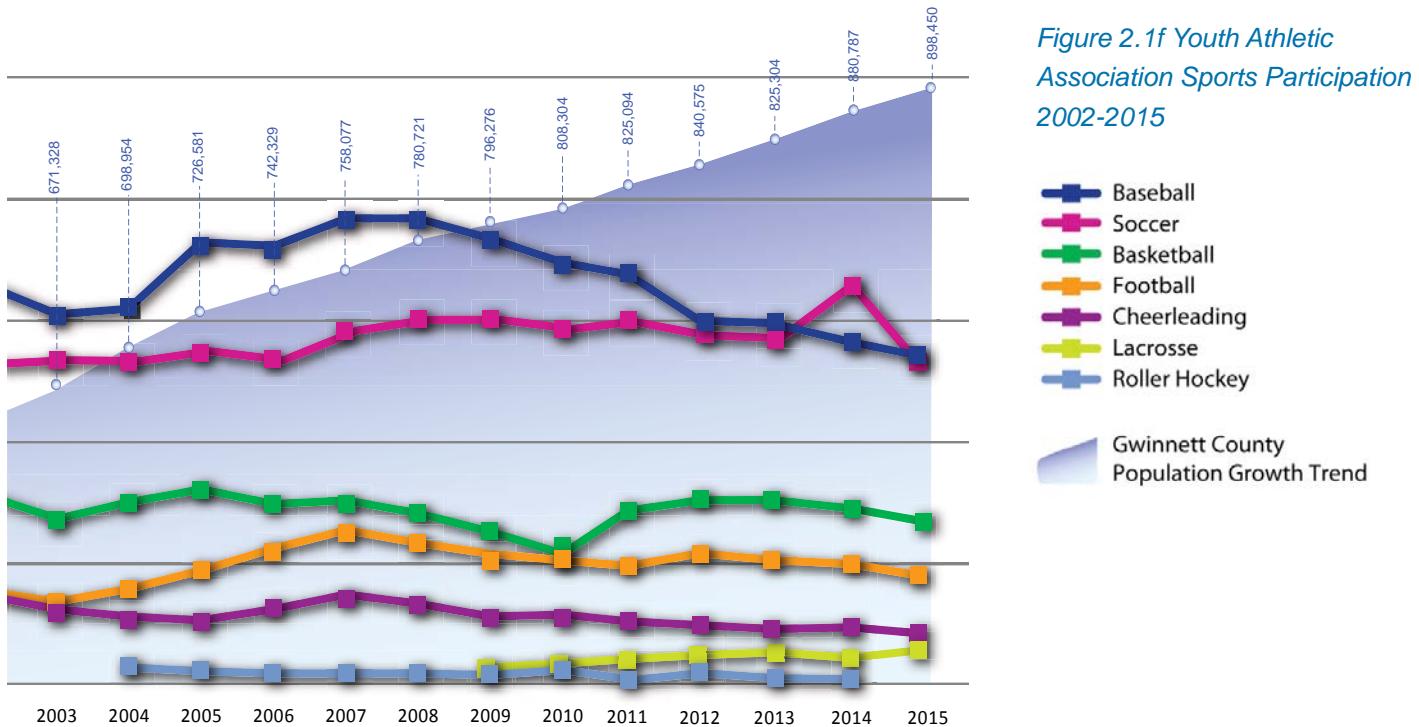


Figure 2.1f Youth Athletic Association Sports Participation 2002-2015

- Baseball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Football
- Cheerleading
- Lacrosse
- Roller Hockey

Gwinnett County Population Growth Trend

## 2.2 – Summary of Demographic Findings

Gwinnett County has experienced rapid growth since 2000. With a larger population comes increased demands on parks and recreation facilities, both in terms of the need for additional park space and upkeep of existing facilities. The greatest population changes between 2010 and 2015 have occurred in RPAs A and B, which have grown substantially in recent years, although growth has been strong in the other RPAs as well. Areas with the greatest increases in growth are most likely the parts of Gwinnett County that will need additional parks facilities to meet resident demand for recreation services.

Not only has the population grown, but the composition of Gwinnett County residents is changing. From 2010 to 2015, there has been a slight increase in the size of the older adult population, and a general decrease in younger populations. A notable increase of older adults has occurred in RPAs B and C. These shifts in population have an important implication for providing recreation facilities: it underscores the need for developing flexible park spaces than can adapt to changing populations. In the short term, Gwinnett County should focus on developing more facilities and/or programs for older adults in RPAs B and C, and middle-aged adults (who still represent the largest proportion of the population) county-wide.

Nationwide, recreation trends have shown an increased interest in self-directed activities. This is mirrored in Gwinnett County's declining youth baseball participation rates and relatively flat participation rates for other sports. This decrease or absence of growth may be a result of changing recreation trends. Regardless of the cause, this trend also emphasizes the need for more flexible programming of parks, such as the transitioning of specific sports fields to multi-purpose fields. Conversely, interest in soccer and lacrosse has increased since 2013. A re-examination of provision of these facilities and programs is merited.

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# Section 3: public *input* process

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## section 3: public input process

### 3.1 – Overview

Public input was a critical component of the 2016 Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Plan CIP Update (2016 CIP Update). This process consisted of the following core public engagement techniques:

- Recreation Authority Meetings
- Review of the 2012 Statistically Valid Telephone Survey
- Public Input Meetings
- Parks and Recreation Managerial and Supervisory Staff Survey Findings

Comprised of nine members appointed by County Commissioners, the Recreation Authority provided valuable citizen input and direction for the 2016 CIP Update. The Recreation Authority was consulted in key phases of the planning process. Their role included reviewing and providing insight and direction on findings presented by the Planning Team.

A County-wide statistically valid telephone survey was conducted by the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University in the summer of 2012. The survey was designed to obtain input from residents related to the County's park and recreation facilities and their opinions on a number of issues related to future development of the park system. A total of 1,118 residents were randomly surveyed throughout the County, and results were received at the 95 percent confidence level with a margin of error of +/- 3 percent. This represents a very high accuracy standard for statistically valid leisure telephone surveys.

Five public input meetings were also held throughout the County to provide residents with an opportunity to participate in the 2016 CIP Update. Over 180 residents participated in these meetings and not only shared

their recreational, social, and cultural desires, needs and priorities, but also openly expressed their issues and concerns associated with the County's parks and recreation system.

### 3.2 – Recreation Authority Meeting Findings

The Recreation Authority is a County Commission-appointed body of county residents. This body is tasked with providing community-based input on a variety of projects proposed by Gwinnett County's Parks and Recreation Division. The Recreation Authority's involvement was a critical element in reviewing findings and providing insight and direction for the 2016 CIP Update. These meetings were held at the following times and locations:

- December 10, 2015 - 3:00pm | Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
- Thursday October 13, 2016 | Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
- Thursday December 8, 2016 | Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

A critical step in any CIP process is identifying the goals and objectives that will guide the identification of capital improvement projects. In 2013, the Planning Team worked collaboratively with the Recreation Authority to develop a series of CIP Update Goals. These goals were still deemed to be appropriate for the 2016 CIP Update by the Planning Team. These goals are:

- **Complete Planned Park Development and Renovate Existing Parks**  
Complete the construction of planned development phases within existing parks and undeveloped sites and provide major renovations as needed in existing parks based on the researched desires of residents.
- **Pedestrian Connectivity**  
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.

- **Balanced Acquisition + Development of Parks**

Maintain a balanced approach to the continued acquisition and development of both passive and active park land to the greatest extent possible based on the researched desires of residents.

- **Parks for all Ages**

Provide for the needs of all age groups in the county, e.g. aging populations, adults, teenagers and children. This should include both structured and unstructured recreational opportunities based on the researched desires of residents.

- **Park Land Acquisition**

Proceed with the acquisition of park land in under-serviced areas.

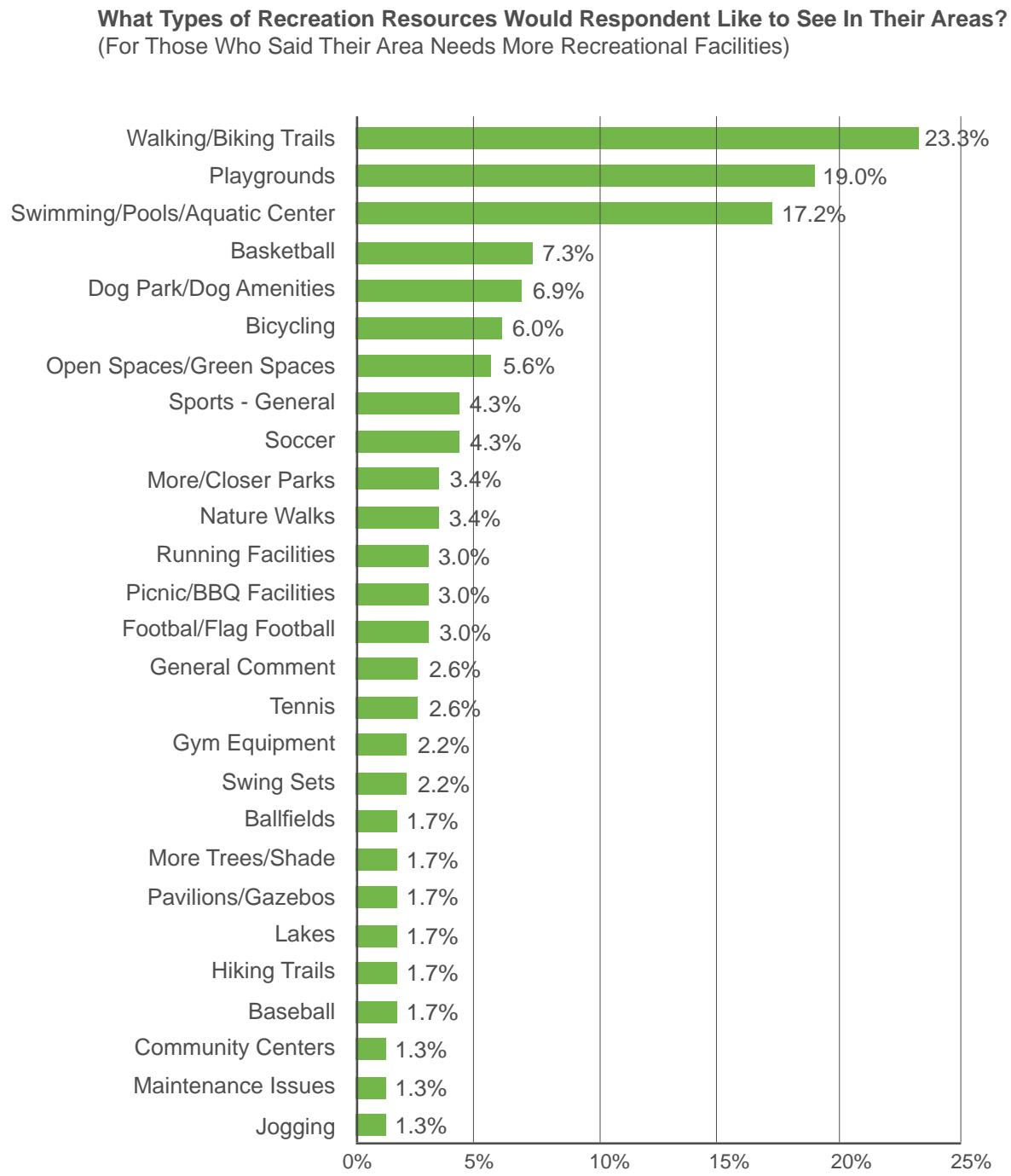
### 3.3 – 2012 Statistically Valid Needs Assessment Telephone Survey

In the summer of 2012, the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University completed a statistically valid County-wide parks and recreation needs assessment telephone survey. The survey was designed to obtain input from residents related to the County’s park and recreation facilities and their opinions on a number of issues related to the future development of the park system. A total of 1,118 residents were randomly surveyed throughout the County, including 873 randomly-selected adults with landline telephones and 245 adults on cell phones. The surveys were conducted between July and early September of 2012. After the data was collected, the Institute weighted the

data by survey mode (landline vs. cellphone), age, gender, race, education and ethnicity (Hispanic/non-Hispanic) to ensure that the sample respondents match Gwinnett adults as closely as possible on these key demographic characteristics. The margin of error for county-wide results was  $\pm 3$  percent at the 95 percent confidence interval. This represents a very high accuracy standard for statistically valid telephone surveys. Following are key findings from the telephone survey:

- 85 percent of respondents used County recreational facilities.
- 76 percent of respondents believe that there are enough recreation facilities in their area, while 21 percent said they need more recreational facilities. Map 3.3a illustrates the percentage of respondents in each Gwinnett County zip code that said they need more recreational facilities. The majority of these respondents were located in the southwest portion of the county.
- Walking facilities, playgrounds, and swimming pools/aquatic centers received the highest rankings for recreational resources that respondents would like to see in their areas. Figure 3.3a lists all the responses.
- At 48.8 percent, walking was the most frequent recreation activity in which respondents engage. At 15.5 percent, Playgrounds and at 10.6 percent, Activities with Children and Grandchildren followed.
- 79 percent of respondents generally support SPLOST as a means for generating revenue for park improvements, 14 percent do not support it, and 7 percent responded that they don’t know.
- 71 percent would support an extension of SPLOST in 2013 to fund park development, 17 percent disapprove, 7 percent responded that they don’t know, and 5 percent would support a SPLOST extension if certain conditions were applied. Map

*Figure 3.3a Statistically Valid Needs Assessment Telephone Survey - Types of Recreation Resources Respondents Noted That They Would Like to See In Their Areas*

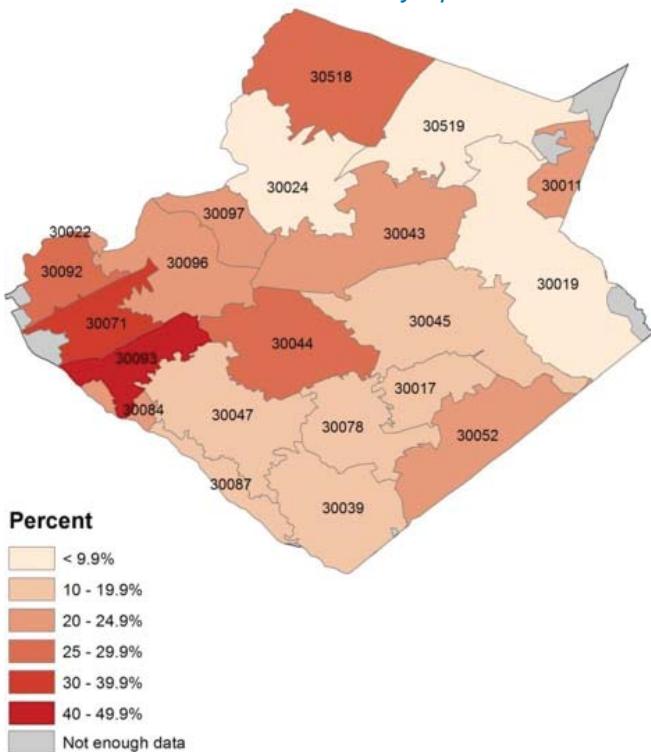


Source: A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University

3.3b illustrates percentage of respondents per each Gwinnett County zip code who would approve of SPLOST renewal in 2013.

- 61 percent of respondents said that the County should concentrate on renovating or improving existing parks, 19 percent said the County should concentrate on building new facilities, 16 percent said the County should concentrate on renovating, improving, or building new facilities, and 4 percent said they don't know. Map 3.3c illustrates the percentage of respondents in each Gwinnett County zip code that believe the County should focus on building new facilities. The majority of these respondents were located in the southwest portion of the county.
- Adult respondents said that playgrounds, bicycling, basketball, swimming, walking, swings, and soccer were listed as children's favorite recreation activities.

### *Map 3.3a Percent respondents who believe their area needs more recreation facilities by zip code*



Source: A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University

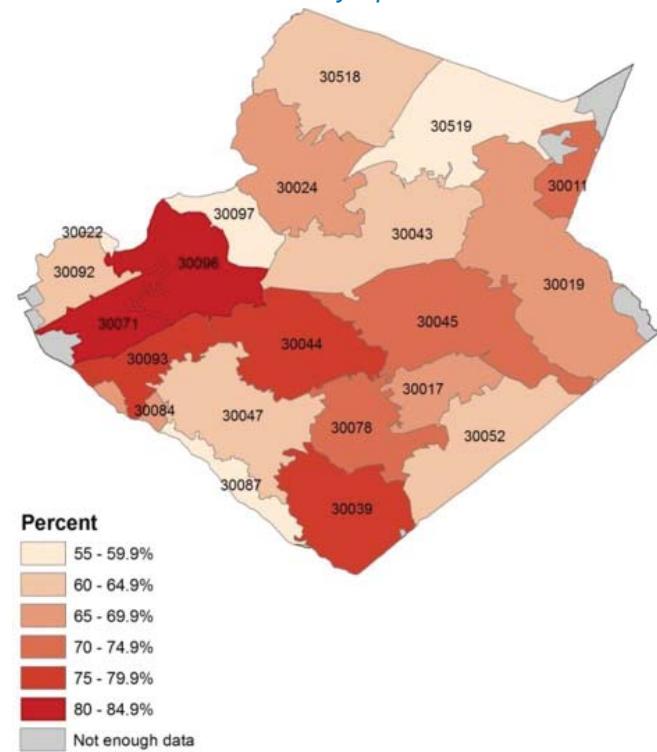
- Lenora, Alexander, Bogan, Tribble Mill, Bethesda, and Rhodes Jordan Parks were the most visited parks.

### 3.4 – Public Input Meeting Findings

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Staff facilitated five public input meetings in October of 2015. Following is a list of the date, location, and number of attendees for each of the meetings:

- October 1, 2015 – Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center (19 attendees)
- October 8, 2015 – Centerville Community Recreation Center (36 attendees)
- October 15, 2015 – Bethesda Senior Center (42 attendees)
- October 15, 2015 – Bogan Community Center (33 attendees)
- October 29, 2015 – George Pierce Park Community Center (50 attendees)

*Map 3.3b Percent respondents who would support SPLOST renewal in 2013 by zip code*



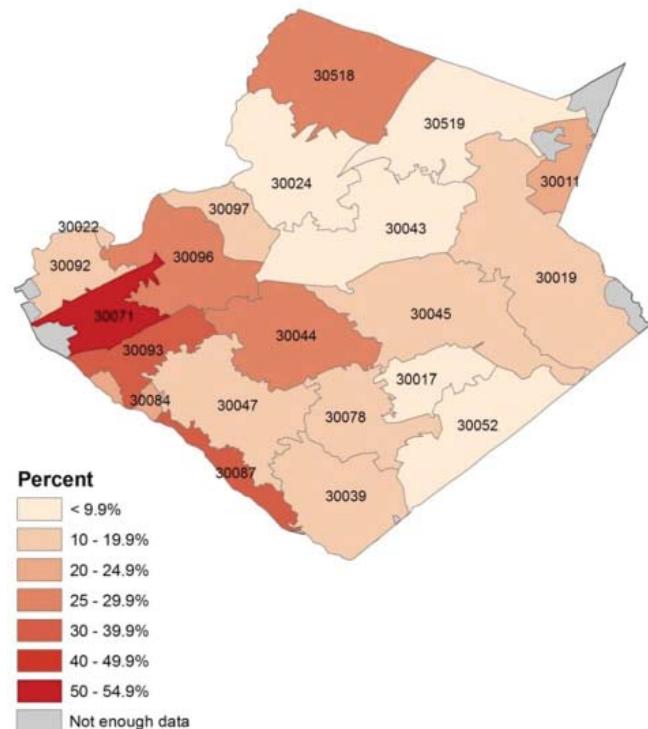
Source: A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University

The purpose of these meetings was to provide the general public with an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding parks, natural areas, recreation facilities, and program needs and priorities in their area. Additionally, attendees were asked to openly discuss any issues and concerns associated with the County's parks and recreation system.

Public input meeting attendees were asked three questions:

1. What types of parks, natural areas, recreational facilities or programs would you and/or your family members wish to see provided near your community?
2. From the parks, natural areas, recreational facilities or programs that you identified in Question 1, please list those that are most important to you and/or your family in the spaces provided below in

*Map 3.3c Percent respondents who believe County should focus on building new facilities by zip code*



Source: A.J. Burruiss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University

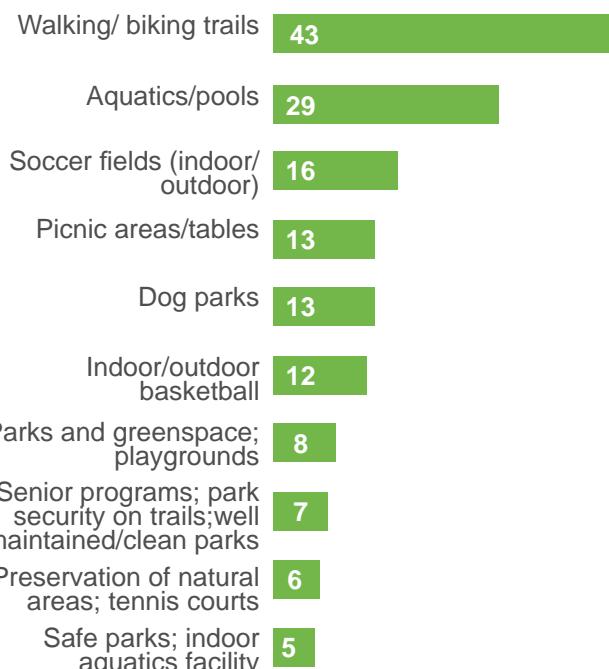
order of priority, 1 having the highest priority and 5 having the least priority.

3. Do you and/or your family have any specific areas of concern related to parks, greenspaces, or recreation facilities near your community that you wish the County to be mindful of while completing this update?

Public input meeting attendees identified many different types of needs and priorities in these meetings. Figure 3.4a illustrates the top ten parks, natural areas, recreational facilities or programs residents in all five public meetings wished to see provided near their communities the most.

When residents were asked to prioritize these needs, specific facilities emerged as the top priorities. Figure 3.4b illustrates these findings. Walking/biking trails and aquatics/pools emerged as the top priorities in four

**Map 3.4a Parks, natural areas, recreational facilities or programs residents wish to see provided near their communities the most**



of the five public workshops. These two priorities are also consistent with the top priority findings identified in the statistically valid needs assessment telephone survey. Other park system wide priorities identified by attendees included parks and greenspaces, picnic areas/tables, tennis, adult softball, indoor/outdoor basketball courts, and playgrounds.

Park specific needs also emerged as priorities in the public workshops. In Meeting 1 for example, attendees identified maintaining Simpsonwood Park passive as their first top priority. In Meeting 4, attendees identified a variety of improvements to Dacula Park as their top priorities. These included artificial turf and ADA access improvements, baseball field improvements, concession and picnic area improvements, and baseball field irrigation improvements.



*Public Input Meeting at Bethesda Park Senior Center*

*Figure 3.4b Top Public Input Meeting Priorities Matrix*

Public Input Meetings	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
<b>Meeting 1:</b> Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center	Maintain Simpsonwood Passive	Walking/Biking Trails	Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity	n/a	n/a
<b>Meeting 2:</b> Centerville Community Recreation Center	Walking/Biking Trails	Parks and Greenspace	Walking/Biking Trails	Tennis	Aquatics Center/ Pool Dog Parks
<b>Meeting 3:</b> Bethesda Senior Center	Adult Softball	Walking/Biking Trails	Indoor Walking Trails	n/a	n/a
<b>Meeting 4:</b> Bogan Community Center	Dacula Football Field Improvements- Artificial Turf and Improved ADA Access	Dacula Football Field Improvements- Artificial Turf and Improved ADA Access	Dacula Baseball Field Improvements	Cover Picnic/ Concession Area in Dacula Park	Dacula Park Baseball Field Irrigation Improvements
<b>Meeting 5:</b> George Pierce Park Community Center	Aquatics/Pool	Aquatics/Pool	Walking/Biking Trails	Indoor/Outdoor Basketball Playgrounds	n/a

■ Statistically Valid Survey Priorities

Lastly, respondents were encouraged to identify specific areas of concern related to parks, green spaces, or recreation facilities near their community that they wished the County would be mindful of while completing the 2016 CIP Update. Respondents submitted over 150 comments. Although the topics were wide-ranging, some themes emerged:

- **Improved Safety and Security.** A number of comments addressed concerns over safety and security. Some attendees mentioned the desire to see more lighting, cameras, and police patrols in parks and trails during the evening hours. Many of these attendees expressed a desire to use the trails in the morning before work or in the evening after work. However, during the winter months, they are unable to use the trails because there is no lighting.
- **Upgrade and Enhance Existing Facilities.** Many attendees noted that while overall the County is doing a great job with the County's parks, certain park areas, facilities, and amenities are in need of repairs, enhancements, or renovations. These included improvements related to ADA access, play fields, restrooms, and playgrounds.
- **More “Things to Do”.** A number of comments were related to providing more “things to do” in parks such as programs, activities, facilities, and amenities. Specific requests included more senior activities, indoor recreation space, indoor meeting space, picnic areas, soccer fields, playgrounds, and trails.
- **More Passive Greenspace.** Multiple residents mentioned the desire to see more passive greenspace, especially considering the amount of development that the County is experiencing. They would like to see more natural areas preserved and maintained that are accessible by trails.

## Summary of Findings

Across the five public input meetings, there was a strong showing of both cross-cutting needs and special interests. Below is a summary of both types of needs.

### Cross-Cutting Needs

- More walking and biking trails/bike and pedestrian connectivity
- Aquatic facilities/pools
- More park amenities and facilities such as dog parks, playgrounds, and picnic tables
- Improved sense of safety in parks and trails
- Upgrade, enhance, and renovate existing park facilities and amenities
- More passive greenspace

### Special Interests

- Dacula football and baseball field improvements, concession and picnic area improvements, artificial turf field, ADA access improvements
- Improved access to senior centers and programs
- Indoor aquatics facility on the east side of the County



Public Input Meeting at Bogan Community Center

## 3.5 – Parks and Recreation Managerial and Supervisory Staff Survey Findings

During the 2013 CIP Update, the public input process also included a Parks and Recreation Managerial and Supervisory Staff survey questionnaire. Similar to the exercise completed with the Recreation Authority, the survey was designed to obtain staff input regarding appropriate goals that should guide the capital project prioritization process. The purpose of this survey was to compare findings from the Recreational Authority to those from staff.

Following are the five primary goals that staff felt should guide the 2013 CIP Update which are deemed appropriate for the 2016 CIP Update:

- Maintain adequate parks and recreation staffing to keep up with the growing demands and facilities.
- 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.
- Continue to maintain and renovate existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Complete the construction of planned phases of development within existing parks.
- Renovate and/or redevelop existing parks and recreation facilities on an as-needed basis, in keeping with identified local needs.

Similar to the Recreation Authority, Staff felt that renovating existing parks and facilities and completing the construction of planned phases of development within existing parks based on identified needs were critical goals that should guide the 2013 CIP Update. In fact, three of Staff's five identified goals address this theme. The other two goals differed from those identified by the Recreation Authority. These goals will also guide the 2016 CIP Update.

## 3.6 – Summary of Public Input Process Findings

The public input process administered through the various public input techniques of the 2016 CIP Update process combined with the findings from the 2013 CIP Update process deemed relevant provided valuable information. Findings from both these processes will inform the selection of parks and recreation capital improvement projects for the next six years. The Recreation Authority set the stage early in the planning process by identifying five key goals that should direct the 2013 CIP Update process, which were also used for the 2016 CIP update. These included:

1. Complete Planned Park Development and Renovate Existing Parks
2. Pedestrian Connectivity
3. Balanced Acquisition + Development of Parks
4. Parks for all Ages
5. Park Land Acquisition

Most of staff's CIP goal recommendations also supported these goals. While the findings from the statistically valid survey and the public workshops were consistent with the these goals, they also provided specific needs.

Figure 3.6a provides a summary of the top ranking actions and facility needs based on the findings from the statistically valid survey. **This technique receives the most weight since it is the only impartial, objective, and statistically representative technique of the County population's desires and needs.** The findings from the statistically valid survey are then cross-referenced with the findings from the public workshops and the project goals from the Recreation Authority and Staff Input. The more a specific need is identified in the other public input methods, the better confirmation that there is a need.

Findings from the Park Land Acquisition Update and the Gap Analysis will be added to this matrix in subsequent sections to confirm the need for these actions and facilities.

Figure 3.6a Summary of County-wide Priority Needs from Public Input Findings

**Matrix Legend**

- Identified Priority Need in Statistically Valid Telephone Survey
- Identified Need
- Need that is Consistent with Recreation Authority and Staff Input Goals

Priority Ranking	Priority Needs	Needs Assessment Techniques									
		Statistically Valid Telephone Survey		Public Workshop		Recreation Authority Goals			Staff Input Goals		
<b>Actions</b>											
1	Improve/expand existing facilities	●	●	●					●	●	●
2	Build new facilities	●	●			●					
<b>Facilities</b>											
1	Walking/running facilities	●	●		●		●				●
2	Playgrounds	●	●				●				●
	Swimming/pools/aquatic center	●	●				●				●
3	Basketball	●	●				●				●
	Dog park/dog amenities	●	●				●				●
	Bicycling	●	●		●		●				●
	Soccer	●	●				●				●
	Open spaces/green space	●	●				●				●
	Sports - general	●	●				●				●
	More/closer parks	●	●		●		●				●
	Nature walks	●	●		●		●				●
	Running facilities	●	●		●		●				●
	Picnic/BBQ facilities	●	●				●				●
	Football/flag football	●	●				●				●

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# Section 4: facilities inventory

play \* live \* learn

## section 4: facilities inventory

At the core of understanding existing and future needs and priorities is establishing a reliable inventory of parks and recreation facilities. The Planning Team, in collaboration with Gwinnett County Parks Staff, updated the County's parks and facility inventory using the information from the 2013 CIP as a starting point.

The updated parks and facilities inventory included all of the parks and facilities owned and operated by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, as well as athletic fields located in cities within Gwinnett County. Gwinnett County does not contain any State-owned parks. While Gwinnett County does contain Federal lands, updated inventory of these lands were not included in this update.

### 4.1 – Park Typology

Gwinnett County park facilities are classified into five types:

- Community Parks
- Passive Community Parks
- Open Space Parks
- Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks
- Cultural Resource Parks.

Following are descriptions of each of these park types.

#### Community Parks



**Dacula Community Park | Community Park**

Community Parks are the centerpiece of Gwinnett County's park system. They contain a diverse range of active, passive, team and individual recreation opportunities for all ages. Community Parks are designed to accommodate a large number of users (and vehicles) and intense usage at peak times. New Community Park development should address both the active and passive recreation needs of the area. Larger parks (greater than 100 acres) should be designed such that at least one-third of the acreage is dedicated for passive recreation and preserved open space. The degree of development within smaller parks should be determined on a case-by-case basis, but may exceed 67 percent for active recreation.

#### COMMUNITY PARKS

<i>Facility Types</i>	One or more organized sports field complex (with lighting and sufficient parking), indoor recreation facilities (community centers, aquatic centers, senior centers, gymnasiums), outdoor aquatic facilities, tennis complex, basketball complex, roller hockey rink, passive recreation amenities.
<i>Size</i>	Existing range: 18 - 497 acres Recommended: 100 - 200 acres
<i>Service Area</i>	Community level to County-wide (approx. 25,000+ people)
<i>Recommended Provision Level</i>	7 acres per 1,000 residents (including Passive Community Parks)

## Passive Community Parks



Graves Park | Passive Community Park

Passive Community Parks offer a smaller-scale alternative to Community Parks in areas that are underserved, densely populated, and land poor. They offer a defined complement of facilities to Community Parks with a blend of general and passive recreation opportunities, but do not have the large sports fields complexes or community facilities requiring hundreds of parking spaces (e.g. community centers, aquatic complexes). Approximately 25 to 33 percent of a Passive Community Park may be developed with impermeable surfaces. Passive Community Parks should provide both pedestrian access and vehicular access to the site. In this regard, they should be located on major roadways and be designed to connect to a County-wide greenway network.

### PASSIVE COMMUNITY PARKS

Facility Types	Playgrounds, picnic areas and pavilions, nature trails, paved multi-purpose trails, accessible public open space (meadow or woodland), lakes/ponds, tennis, basketball, sand volleyball courts (single or paired), open play lawns, outdoor seniors activities, splash ground, skate park, disc golf course, dog park, irrigated turf fields for informal non-organized sport and free play (unlit).
Size	Existing range: 25 to 208 acres Recommended: 20 to 100 acres
Service Area	Several neighborhoods
Recommended Provision Level	7 acres per 1,000 residents (together with Community Parks)

## Open Space Parks



Little Mulberry Park | Open Space Park

Open Space Parks are generally large parcels of mostly undeveloped land that embody natural, scenic and cultural values, resources and landscapes. These parks provide passive, non-programmed recreation opportunities in a managed environment.

In order to serve a dual purpose of open space preservation and protection, Open Space Parks are typically developed with only minimal amenities needed to provide public access for low-intensity and dispersed recreation. Open Space Parks are designed for a maximum of 10 to 15 percent impervious surface converge. Where possible, Open Space Parks should be located along and/or connected to the greenway system.

### OPEN SPACE PARKS

Facility Types	Passive recreation amenities (see Passive Community Park), mountain biking trails, equestrian trails, boardwalks, special event facilities, interpretive elements, specialized facilities that complement the surrounding landscape and cultural / natural resources.
Size	Existing Range: 133 to 1,301.78 acres Recommended: Dependent on opportunity but typically 200+ acres
Service Area	County-wide
Recommended Provision Level	7 acres per 1,000 residents

## Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks



Club Drive Park | Special Purpose Neighborhood Park

Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve dense populated areas that:

- are deficient in park and recreation opportunities,
- do not contain tracts of land large enough for the development of a Passive Community Park, or
- wish to develop more active recreational uses than permitted by the Passive Community Park.

Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks will generally be 5 to 20 acres and may be developed on vacant commercial or industrial sites in cases where more suitable options may not exist. Ideally they should be within close proximity to high density residential areas. Park users will be encouraged to walk to these parks, thereby limiting the amount of on-site parking needed.

SPECIAL PURPOSE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	
Facility Types	Informal play field (soccer, baseball, etc), open play area, game court area, playground, walking/jogging path, picnic and conversation areas, small picnic pavilion, passive areas
Size	existing range: 21 to 25 acres recommended: 5 to 20 acres
Service Area	several neighborhoods (approximately 5,000 people)
Existing Supply	46 acres at 2 sites; 0.06 acres per 1,000 residents
Recommended Provision Level	not applicable

Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks can generally contain active and passive recreational areas. This park type serves various age groups with emphasis on youth and should be tailored to fit the existing and anticipated characteristics of the surrounding population. Limited non-organized sport group activities are encouraged.

## Cultural Resource Parks



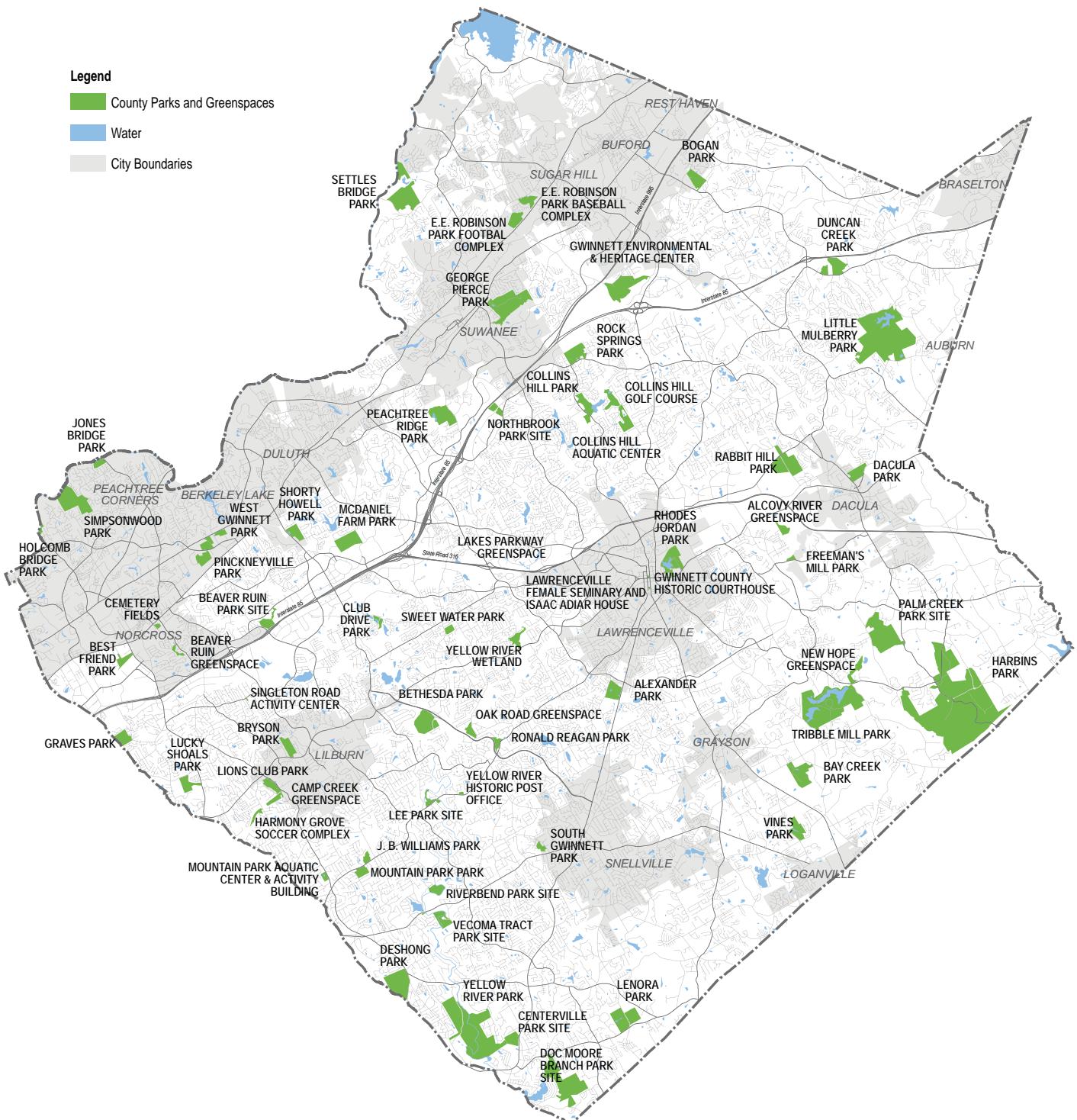
Yellow River Post Office Park | Cultural Resource Park

Cultural Resource Parks are site-specific and serve to protect and celebrate historically and culturally significant sites, objects, landscapes, or structures. They are not driven by a set of typical facility standards or service areas.

## 4.2 – 2017 Parks + Facilities Inventory

The following pages contain a map of County-owned parks in Gwinnett County and an updated parks and facilities inventory.

Map 4.2a County-owned Parks in Gwinnett County



2017 CIP Gwinnett County Parks Inventory Update					Indoor Facilities					Outdoor Facilities									
Park Name	PIN	Acreage	RPA	Park Type	Indoor Lane Pools w/ Restrooms	Indoor Leisure Pools w/ Restrooms	Community Centers	Activity Buildings	Roller Hockey Rinks w/ Restrooms	Gymnasiums	Senior Centers	Artificial Turf Multi-Purpose Fields	Basketball Full Courts	Basketball Half Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitches	Disc Golf Courses	Dog Parks	Soccer Fields
Alexander Park	5085 008 5085 693	91.097	C	Passive Community Park													1		
Bay Creek Park	5165 010 5188 001	153.836	E	Community Park								1		2	7				
Best Friend Park	6244 064	43.38	A	Community Park						1			2		2				
Bethesda Park/ Gwinnett Senior Center	6130A206 6127 001	158.677	C	Community Park	1	1					1	1	2		10			4	
Bogart Park	7225 161	83.109	B	Community Park	1	1	1			1			2		7				
Cemetery Field Park	6243 008	6	A	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park								1							
Club Drive Park	6181 052 6180 029	25.103	C	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park										2					
Collins Hill Park	7108 001 7108 025 7108 007	95.3223	C	Community Park	1								1	2	7				
Dacula Park	5307 038 5302A050 5302A049	75.8598	D	Community Park				1							7				
DeShong Park	6043 002	208.2468	E	Passive Community Park										2					
Duncan Creek Park	3002 036 3002 380	109.6576	D	Community Park								1	2	3					
E.E. Robinson Park Baseball Complex		50.00	D	Community Park									2		7				
E.E. Robinson Park Football Complex	7274 123	66.64	D	Community Park								1							
Environmental & Heritage Center	7188 017 7190 005 7175 037 7188 020	233.0579	D	Open Space Park															
Freemans Mill Park	5237 002	11.8895	D	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park															
George Pierce Park	7234 004 7235 120 7212 065	303.9619	A	Community Park		1				1	1	1	2		9			4	
Graves Park	6193 001	70.162	B	Passive Community Park													1		
Gwinnett County Historic Courthouse	5146A064	1.65	C	Cultural Resource Park			1												



2017 CIP Gwinnett County Parks Inventory Update					Indoor Facilities				Outdoor Facilities										
Park Name	PIN	Acreage	RPA	Park Type	Indoor Lane Pools w/ Restrooms	Indoor Leisure Pools w/ Restrooms	Community Centers	Activity Buildings	Roller Hockey Rinks w/ Restrooms	Gymnasiums	Senior Centers	Artificial Turf Multi-Purpose Fields	Basketball Full Courts	Basketball Half Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitches	Disc Golf Courses	Dog Parks	Soccer Fields
Lawrenceville Female Seminary & Isaac Adair House (Gwinnett County History Museum)	5147 161	2.6	C	Cultural Resource Park															
Harbins Community Park	5284 002	669.5822	D	Community Park								1		7		1			
Harbins Park	5262 003 5285 001 5285 002	1290.3278	D	Open Space Park															
Harmony Grove Park	6119 010	17.8187	B	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park													3		
Bryson Park (Highway 29/ Lilburn Community Park Site)	6147 024	79.297	B	Community Park								1	1	2				2	
Holcomb Bridge Park	6335 003	11.63	A	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park															
J.B. Williams Park	6093 004	25.878	B	Community Park										1		1			
Jones Bridge Park	6348 003	29.65	A	Community Park			1										3		
Lenora Park	4319 001 4319 028	178.3964	E	Community Park						1				6	1	1			
Lion's Club Park	6137 008 6137 007 6137 177 6137 184 6137 001 6137 193	51.5027	B	Future Community Park										5					
Little Mulberry Park	2002 001	891.7216	D	Open Space Park												1			
Lucky Shoals Park	6165 110	68.25	B	Community Park		1				1			2		5				
McDaniel Farm Park	6233 009	133.604	A	Open Space Park													1		
Mountain Park Aquatic Center	6095 024	18.43	B	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	1		1												
Mountain Park Park	6080 005	43.53	B	Community Park										6					
Peachtree Ridge Park	7166 058	155.6999	A	Community Park							1	2		3			2		
Pinckneyville Park & Community Center	6270 046 6269 095 6269 101 (Portion) 6269 003	108.9032	A	Community Park		1								7		1	5		
Rabbit Hill Park	7017 007B 5272 022 5272 008	198.151	D	Community Park							1	2	2	7		1	8		



2017 CIP Gwinnett County Parks Inventory Update					Indoor Facilities					Outdoor Facilities									
Park Name	PIN	Acreage	RPA	Park Type	Indoor Lane Pools w/ Restrooms	Indoor Leisure Pools w/ Restrooms	Community Centers	Activity Buildings	Roller Hockey Rinks w/ Restrooms	Gymnasiums	Senior Centers	Artificial Turf Multi-Purpose Fields	Basketball Full Courts	Basketball Half Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitches	Disc Golf Courses	Dog Parks	Soccer Fields
Rhodes Jordan Park	5175 035 5175 036 5175 033 5175 031 5175 095 5175 020 5175 031A 5175 013	162.3316	D	Community Park	1	1			2		7							3	
Rock Springs Park	7149 010A	120.7098	C	Community Park														1	3
Ronald Reagan Park	5012 006	27.84	C	Passive Community Park								2						1	
Settles Bridge Park	7317 001 7342 012 7342 003 (State Owned)	268.1389	D	Open Space Park								2						1	
Shorty Howell Park	6261 003	66.9225	A	Community Park			1							7					
Singleton Road Activity Building	6187 146	1.586	B	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park			1												
South Gwinnett Park	5007 023	23.11	E	Community Park				2			1			6					
Sweet Water Park	7002 337	25.3632	C	Passive Community Park									2						
Tribble Mill Park	5198 004	718.217	E	Open Space Park															
Vines Park	5158 004	79.3	E	Passive Community Park															
West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center	6268 053	22.519	A	Community Park	2														
Yellow River Park	6023 004 6027 002 6023 139	706.1007	E	Open Space Park															
Yellow River Post Office	6088 002	5.116	C	Cultural Resource Park															
Simpsonwood Park		222.733	A	Open Space Park															
Fort Daniel Archaeological Park Site	R3001 074	4.37		Cultural Resource Park															
Strickland Green Space		1.999																	
<b>Totals</b>					6	2	6	5	2	5	2	11	24	23	121	0	3	9	37



City Parks in Gwinnett Athletic Facilities Inventory Update			Outdoor Facilities												
City	Park Name	RPA	Artificial Turf Fields	Basketball Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitches	Disc Golf Courses	Football Fields*	Playground Areas	Outdoor Lane Pools	Outdoor Leisure Pools	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	Skate Parks	Soccer Fields
Berkeley Lake	Berkeley Lake Children's Park	A							2						
Berkeley Lake	Berkeley Lake Nature Preserve	A													
Braselton	Braselton Riverwalk	D													
Buford	Bona Allen Park Site	D													
Buford	Buford City Park/Legion Fields	D	1	10					2			12			1
Buford	Buford Civic Center & City Gym	D						D							
Buford	Buford Greenspace #1	D													
Buford	Buford Greenspace #2	D													
Buford	Buford Greenspace #3	D													
Buford	Buford Greenspace #4	D													
Buford	Buford Nature Preserve	D													
Buford	Buford Town Green	D													
Buford	Grace Harris Park	D													
Dacula	Maple Creek Park	D								1					
Duluth	Bunten Park	A		4					2			4			2
Duluth	Church Street Park	A	1							1					
Duluth	Craig Drive Park	A													
Duluth	Duluth Greenspace	A													
Duluth	Duluth Greenspace	A													
Duluth	Duluth Town Green	A													
Duluth	Rogers Bridge Park	A											2		
Duluth	Scott Hudgens Park/Soccer Complex	A													4
Duluth	Taylor Memorial Park	A								1					
Duluth	W.P. Jones Mem. Park & Tennis Complex	A								1		4			
Grayson	Grayson Community Park	E							2						
Grayson	Grayson Senior Center	E													
Lawrenceville	Baggett Park	C													
Lawrenceville	Bartow Jenkins	C													
Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville Future Park	C													
Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville Park West	C											3		
Lawrenceville	Louise Cooper Park	C													
Lilburn	Camp Creek Greenway	B													
Lilburn	Lilburn City Park	B	1							2			4	1	
Lilburn	Lilburn Greenspace	B													

City	Park Name	RPA	Outdoor Facilities												
			Artificial Turf Fields	Basketball Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitches	Disc Golf Courses	Football Fields*	Playground Areas	Outdoor Lane Pools	Outdoor Leisure Pools	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	Skate Parks	Soccer Fields
Lilburn	St. Albans Recreational Area	B													
Lilburn	Sterling Trace Park	A													
Norcross	Betty Mauldin Park	A													
Norcross	Johnson Dean Park	A													
Norcross	Rossie Brundage Park	A	1	1					1						
Norcross	South Point Park	A													
Norcross	Thrasher Park	A							1						
Snellville	Baker's Rock	E													
Snellville	Oak Park	E													
Snellville	S. Wayne Odum Senior Center	E													
Snellville	T.W. Briscoe Park	E	2	1				2	yes		8	3		6	
Sugar Hill	Austin Garner	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Community Center	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Golf Club	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Greenspace #1	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Greenspace #2	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Greenspace #3	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Greenspace #4	D													
Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Town Green	D													
Suwanee	City Hall / Shadowbrook Green	A													
Suwanee	City Hall Park	A							1						
Suwanee	DeLay Property/Playtown Suwanee	A							2						
Suwanee	Hovendick Property	A													
Suwanee	Library Site	A													
Suwanee	Main Street Park	A	1												
Suwanee	Martin Farm Road Park	A													
Suwanee	Moore Road / Rivermore	A													
Suwanee	Moore Road Property/River Club	A													
Suwanee	Sims Lake/Hewell Property	A													
Suwanee	Suwanee Creek Greenway	A													
Suwanee	Suwanee Creek Park	A							3						
Suwanee	Suwanee Town Center Park	A													
Suwanee	The Farm	A													
<b>Totals</b>			0	8	18	0	0	1	26	1	0	39	8	0	14

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# Section 5: 2017 park land acquisition analysis

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## section 5: 2017 park land acquisition analysis

Boasting one of the best park systems in Georgia and in the Southeastern United States, Gwinnett County's award-winning parks and year-round leisure activity offerings are integral to Gwinnett County's high quality of life. Critical to sustaining this high quality of life is ensuring that the County plans for a sustainable park land base that meets the environmental, social, and economic needs of existing and future residents.

To this end, the Planning Team worked closely with Gwinnett County Staff to update the portion of the 2013 Update addressing park land needs. Many of the 2013 CIP Update park land gap assessments used acres per capita comparisons based on 2010 Census demographic data for the County's five Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs) to determine relative park land acquisition needs. This update re-examines the anticipated needs of the five RPAs based on 2015 Census demographic data to facilitate the re-analysis of park land acreage per capita ratios and inform the update of the County's relative park land acquisition needs.

This section begins with an inventory of park land in the county, followed by a per capita and gap analysis of County park land. Additionally, it includes per capita and park land gap analyses for the different types of park land. The section concludes with park land acquisition recommendations.

### 5.1 Total Park Land Acreage Analysis

With a total of 9,669.17 acres, Gwinnett County has an extensive system of park land. Figure 5.1a reflects the County's inventory per park type as of August 2015. Several new parks have been added to the inventory since the 2013 CIP; these acquisitions are shown in Figure 5.1b, also per park type.

Figure 5.1c shows all the county-owned park land. When the County's park land provision rate of 15 acres per 1,000 residents for just county park land is applied,

there is a need for an additional 3,807.57 acres of park land in the county. The surplus still continues in RPA D and E while RPAs A, B, and C remain short of park land; RPA C has the most severe shortage, in terms of acreage. RPA B has the greatest shortage in terms of acres per 1,000 population. The County should continue striving to address park land needs in underserved areas.

### 5.2 Park Land Acreage Analysis by Type

Although total park land acreage is helpful to examine, the type of park land acreage available is also important. Gwinnett County classifies park land into the following six park land types:

- County Open Space
- County Youth Athletic Complexes with access limitations governed by agreements with specific Private Athletic Associations
- General Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources
- Greenway Corridors

Two of these park land types, County Open Space and Cultural Resources, are also County facility types, as discussed in pages 39 and 40 of Section 4: Facilities Inventory. It is important to note that park types can contain multiple other park land types. For example, a County Open Space park type may also contain County Youth Athletic Complexes. Map 5.2a illustrates this concept.

Depicted in Map 5.2a is an aerial photograph of Bay Creek Park, a Community Park in Gwinnett County. Within Bay Creek, there are 31.95 acres of Open Space and 83.146 acres of General Recreation. Additionally, there are 13.50 acres of Youth Football-Lacrosse and 21.41 acres of Youth Baseball-Softball, both subsets of Youth Athletic Complexes. As each of the six park land types are analyzed in the subsequent pages, this concept of different park land acreage types within County park types will be noted. Following are park land analyses for each of the six park land types.

Figure 5.1a Gwinnett County Inventory By Park Type

County Park Type	Acreage
Community Park	4,396.07
Passive Community Park	650.29
Open Space Park	3,956.79
Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	162.81
Cultural Resource Park	9.37
Other	493.84
<b>TOTAL COUNTY PARK LAND</b>	<b>9,669.17</b>

Figure 5.1b County Parks Acreage Acquired Since 2013

County Park Type	Acres Acquired Since 2007
Community Park	7.25
Passive Community Park	2.82
Open Space Park	348.16
Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	0.00
Cultural Resource Park	0.00
Other	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>358.23</b>

Figure 5.1c County-Owned Park Land

ALL COUNTY-OWNED PARK LAND				
Standard: 15.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	1,190.96	6.35	2,811.93	<b>-1,620.97</b>
B	574.89	4.08	2,115.72	<b>-1,540.83</b>
C	886.34	4.21	3,155.99	<b>-2,269.64</b>
D	4,461.61	21.81	3,068.85	1,392.76
E	2,556.26	16.50	2,324.25	232.01
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,669.17</b>	<b>10.76</b>	<b>13,476.74</b>	<b>-3,806.67</b>

## 5.3 Open Space Parks

Open Space Parks are increasingly popular amongst residents as they not only protect and conserve natural areas, but also provide some level of public usage - particularly for unstructured and self-scheduled forms of recreation such as walking, hiking, riding, or nature enjoyment.

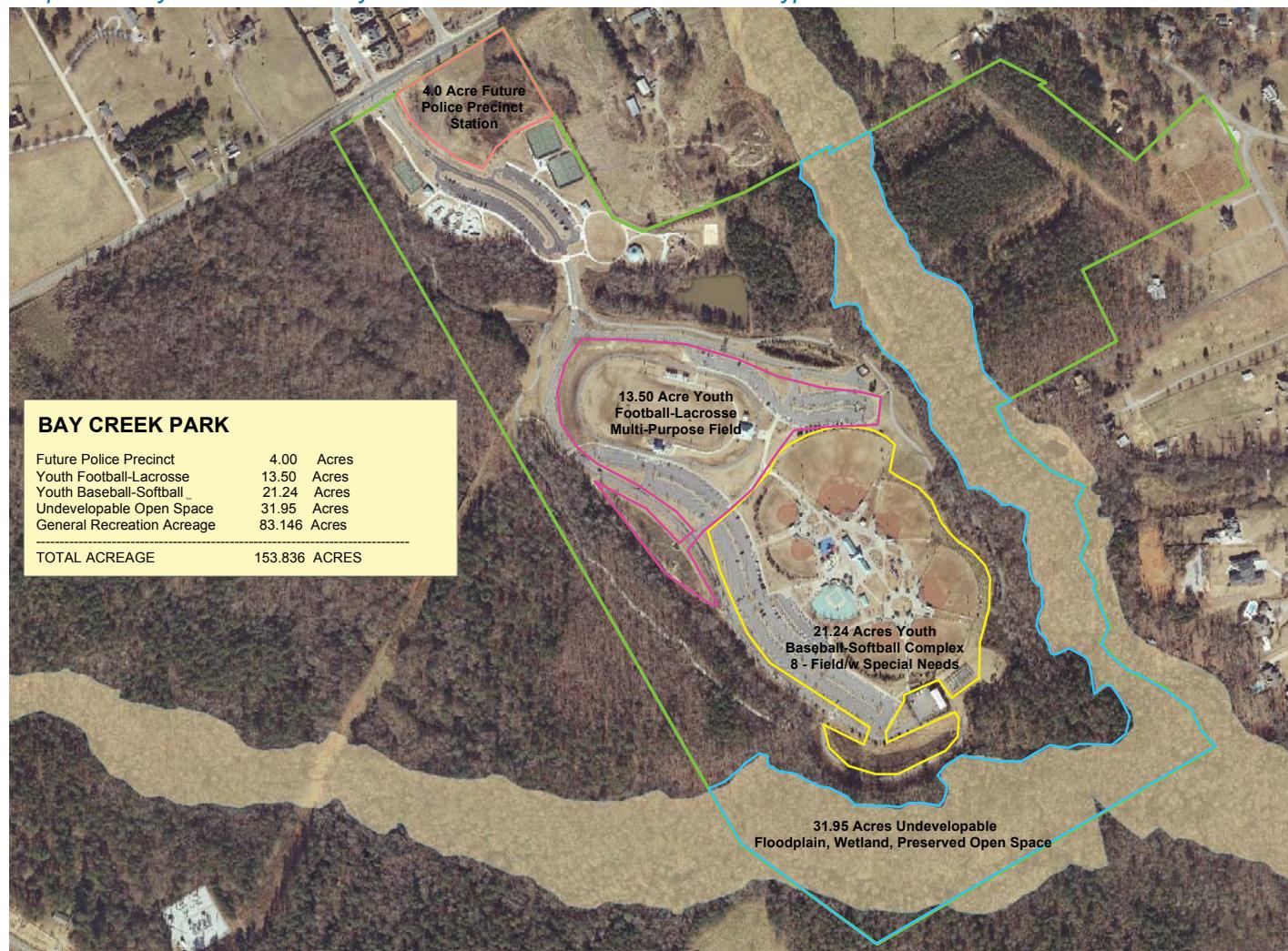
Open Space Park (Undevelopable Preserved Open Space) acreage is also found within Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks.

As shown in Figure 5.3a, the County has a total of

1,930.2 acres of Open Space Parks open to the public. If the county standard of 7.0 acres per 1,000 residents is applied, there is a county-wide need for 4,358.9 acres of Open Space Park. Using this method of accounting, all RPAs, except RPA D, have shortfalls of close to 1,000 acres each.

If Open Space Parks that are not yet developed are counted, the county-wide deficiency falls to 2,363.9 acres (Figure 5.3b). If Open Space Parks found in other types of parks are counted, the deficiency is only 343.23 acres (Figure 5.3c). RPAs A, B, and C still have significant shortages. The County should seek significant Open Space park land acquisition in these areas.

*Map 5.2a Bay Creek Community Park Aerial with Different Park Land Types Noted*



A Gap Analysis was also conducted for Open Space Parks. A 1.25-mile service radius per 100 acres of park land standard was used for the analysis. Map 5.3a illustrates the locations of the gaps based on the analysis of the same Open Space Park scenarios analyzed in Figures 5.3a through 5.3c. As shown in this map, residents of RPAs C, D, and E have the greatest

access to undevelopable, preserved open space land as well as existing open space parks. Residents of RPAs A and B have the least access to these spaces.

*Figure 5.3a Open Space Parks Open to the Public*

OPEN SPACE PARKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC				
Standard: 7.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	346.87	1.85	1,312.23	<b>-965.37</b>
B	0.00	0.00	987.34	<b>-987.34</b>
C	0.00	0.00	1,472.79	<b>-1,472.79</b>
D	1,370.82	6.70	1,432.13	-61.31
E	1,470.42	9.49	1,084.65	<b>385.77</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,188.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6,289.1</b>	<b>-3,101.0</b>

*Figure 5.3b Open Space Parks Open to the Public + Not Open to the Public*

OPEN SPACE PARKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC				
Standard: 7.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	404.78	2.16	1,312.23	<b>-907.46</b>
B	0.00	0.00	987.34	<b>-987.34</b>
C	0.00	0.00	1,472.79	<b>-1,472.79</b>
D	1,699.65	8.31	1,432.13	267.52
E	1,820.79	11.75	1,084.65	736.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,925.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6,289.1</b>	<b>-2,363.9</b>

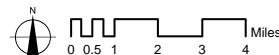
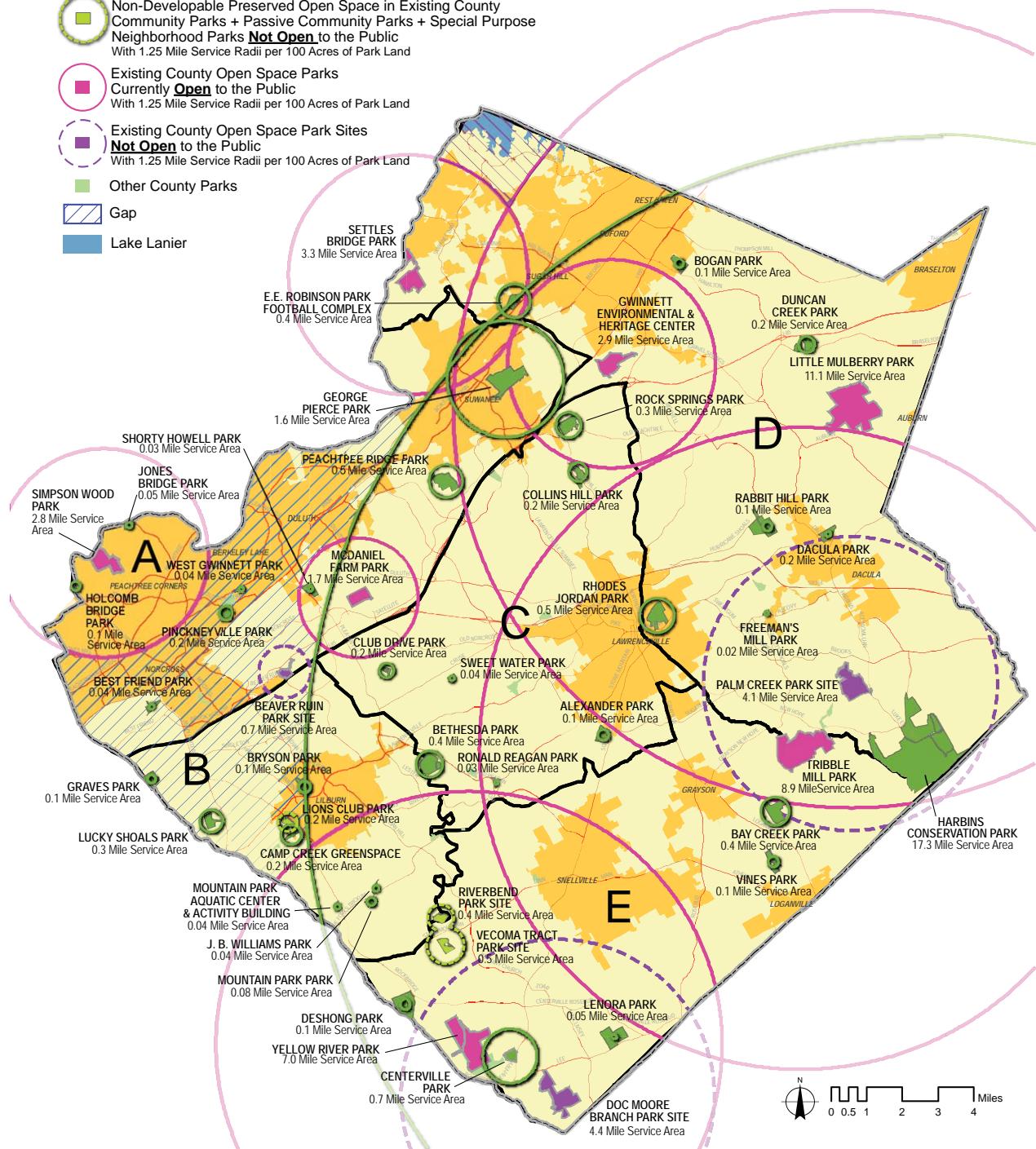
*Figure 5.3c Open Space Parks Open to the Public + Not Open to the Public + Undevelopable Preserved Open Space in Parks (Open + Not Open to the Public)*

OPEN SPACE PARKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + UNDEVELOPABLE PRESERVED OPEN SPACE IN PARKS OPEN + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC				
Standard: 7.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	620.07	3.31	1,312.23	<b>-692.17</b>
B	131.46	0.93	987.34	<b>-855.88</b>
C	113.01	0.54	1,472.79	<b>-1,359.78</b>
D	3,162.03	15.46	1,432.13	1,729.90
E	1,919.34	12.39	1,084.65	834.69
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,945.91</b>	<b>6.62</b>	<b>6,289.14</b>	<b>-343.23</b>

**Map 5.3a Gap Analysis for Existing County Open Space Parks + Non-Developable Preserved Open Space in Parks Currently Open and Not Open to the Public**

## Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- Non-Developable Preserved Open Space in Existing County Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently **Open** to the Public With 1.25 Mile Service Radii per 100 Acres of Park Land
- Non-Developable Preserved Open Space in Existing County Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks **Not Open** to the Public With 1.25 Mile Service Radii per 100 Acres of Park Land
- Existing County Open Space Parks Currently **Open** to the Public With 1.25 Mile Service Radii per 100 Acres of Park Land
- Existing County Open Space Park Sites **Not Open** to the Public With 1.25 Mile Service Radii per 100 Acres of Park Land
- Other County Parks
- Gap
- Lake Lanier



## 5.4 County Youth Athletic Complexes

Through the years, Gwinnett County has developed an impressive, state-of-the-art system of Youth Athletic Complexes. Second to none in the Southeastern United States, this system has led to the development of many star professional and Olympic athletes. The system is comprised of two types of athletic complexes found in the County's Community Parks: Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complexes and Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complexes.

County Youth Athletic Complexes are planned in close coordination with the County's high school geographical attendance zones known as "clusters." The County currently has 19 high school clusters. In the past, the Gwinnett County Parks Department has striven to provide a corresponding Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex and a Football/Lacrosse

Youth Athletic Complex for each Gwinnett County High School Cluster. Additionally, Gwinnett County has adopted facility standards for both types of Youth Athletics Complexes. Figures 5.4a and 5.4b illustrate and list these standards.

The park land analysis for Youth Athletic Complexes focused on identifying high school clusters that lack a corresponding Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex and Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex. Additionally, the analysis identified existing Youth Athletic Complexes that do not meet the County's facility standards. The following pages analyze park land needs for both types of Youth Athletic Complexes based on these standards.

*Figure 5.4a Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex*



+18.0 Acres

7 fields - 60 parking spaces per field

7 batting cages - 5 parking spaces per batting cage

**Total Parking - 455**

*Figure 5.4b Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex*



+8.5 Acres

1 field - 350 parking spaces per field

**Total Parking - 350**

Figure 5.4c Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex Data per High School Cluster

HIGH SCHOOL CLUSTER	PARK	FIELDS	BATTING CAGES	PARKING	ACREAGE
Archer High School	HARBINS COMMUNITY PARK	7	7	420	26.71
Berkmar High School	LIONS CLUB PARK	5	5	350	17.74
Brookwood High School	BETHESDA PARK	7	6	423	17.50
Central Gwinnett High School	RHODES JORDAN PARK	6	7	384	13.95
Discovery High School					
Collins Hill High School	COLLINS HILL PARK	7	7	405	18.95
Dacula High School	DACULA PARK	7	6	431	19.60
Duluth High School	SHORTY HOWELL PARK	7	6	420	17.07
Grayson High School	BAY CREEK PARK	8	7	534	21.24
Lanier High School	E.E. ROBINSON PARK BASEBALL COMPLEX	7	7	537	49.47
Meadowcreek High School	LUCKY SHOALS PARK	5	4	215	13.71
Mill Creek High School	BOGAN PARK SITE	7	5	482	21.65
Mountain View High School	RABBIT HILL PARK	7	7	420	18.70
Norcross High School	PINCKNEYVILLE PARK	7	2	456	15.99
North Gwinnett High School	GEORGE PIERCE PARK	7	5	327	20.92
Parkview High School	MOUNTAIN PARK PARK	6	6	458	11.70
	J.B. WILLIAMS PARK	1	1	63	4.10
Peachtree Ridge High School	PEACHTREE RIDGE PARK	4	4	300	11.14
Shiloh High School	LENORA PARK	7	7	430	14.83
South Gwinnett High School	SOUTH GWINNETT PARK	7	7	281	14.43

 Significant shortage of facilities per County standards

 Moderate shortage of facilities per County standards

 Some shortage of facilities per County standards

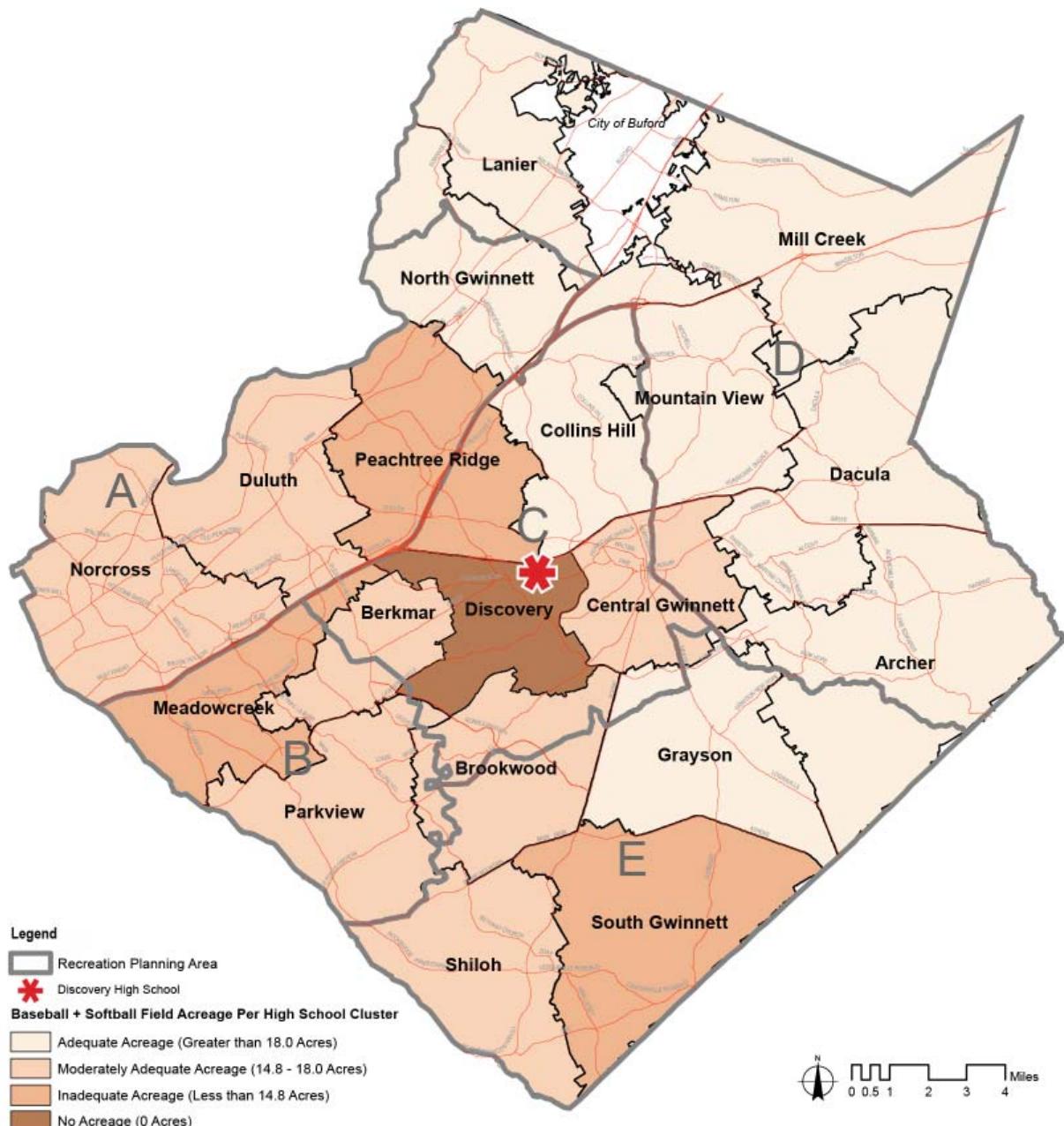
## Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complexes

Figure 5.4c lists Baseball/Softball Youth Complexes per high school cluster and the number of facilities found in each. Map 5.4a illustrates acreage gaps per the County's Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex acreage standards.

As noted in Figure 5.4c, the new Discovery High School Cluster does not have a corresponding Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex and will need park land to accommodate one in the future.

The Peachtree Ridge, Meadowcreek, and South Gwinnett High School Clusters do not meet the County's standards for facilities.

Map 5.4a County Youth Athletic Complex Baseball/Softball Acreage Gap Analysis



\*Note: Parkview High School Cluster is shown as Moderately Adequate due to overlay field issues in Mountain Park

Figure 5.4d Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex Data per High School Cluster

HIGH SCHOOL CLUSTER	PARK	FIELDS	PARKING	ACREAGE
Archer High School	HARBINS COMMUNITY PARK	1	365	17.49
Berkmar High School	BRYSON PARK	1	200	9.00
Brookwood High School	BETHESDA PARK	1	181	9.26
Central Gwinnett High School	RHODES JORDAN PARK	1	296	7.58
Discovery High School				
Collins Hill High School	ROCK SPRING PARK	1	350	13.05
Dacula High School	DACULA PARK	1	259	5.00
Duluth High School	SHORTY HOWELL PARK	1	148	7.24
Grayson High School	BAY CREEK PARK	1	232	13.50
Lanier High School	E.E. ROBINSON PARK FOOTBALL COMPLEX	1	350	14.00
Meadowcreek High School	BRYSON PARK	1	200	9.00
Mill Creek High School	DUNCAN CREEK PARK	1	363	12.40
Mountain View High School	RABBIT HILL PARK	1	320	11.08
Norcross High School	CEMETERY FIELD	1	49	6.00
North Gwinnett High School*	GEORGE PIERCE PARK	1	233	8.50
Parkview High School**	MOUNTAIN PARK PARK	1	469	18.06
	J.B. WILLIAMS SITE			11.50
Peachtree Ridge High School	PEACHTREE RIDGE PARK	1	350	9.82
Shiloh High School	LENORA PARK	1	354	12.01
South Gwinnett High School	SOUTH GWINNETT PARK	1	167	4.47

Significant shortage of facilities per County standards

Moderate shortage of facilities per County standards

Some shortage of facilities per County standards

\*Note: Parking for football in George Pierce Park is provided by parking from two baseball fields during football season.

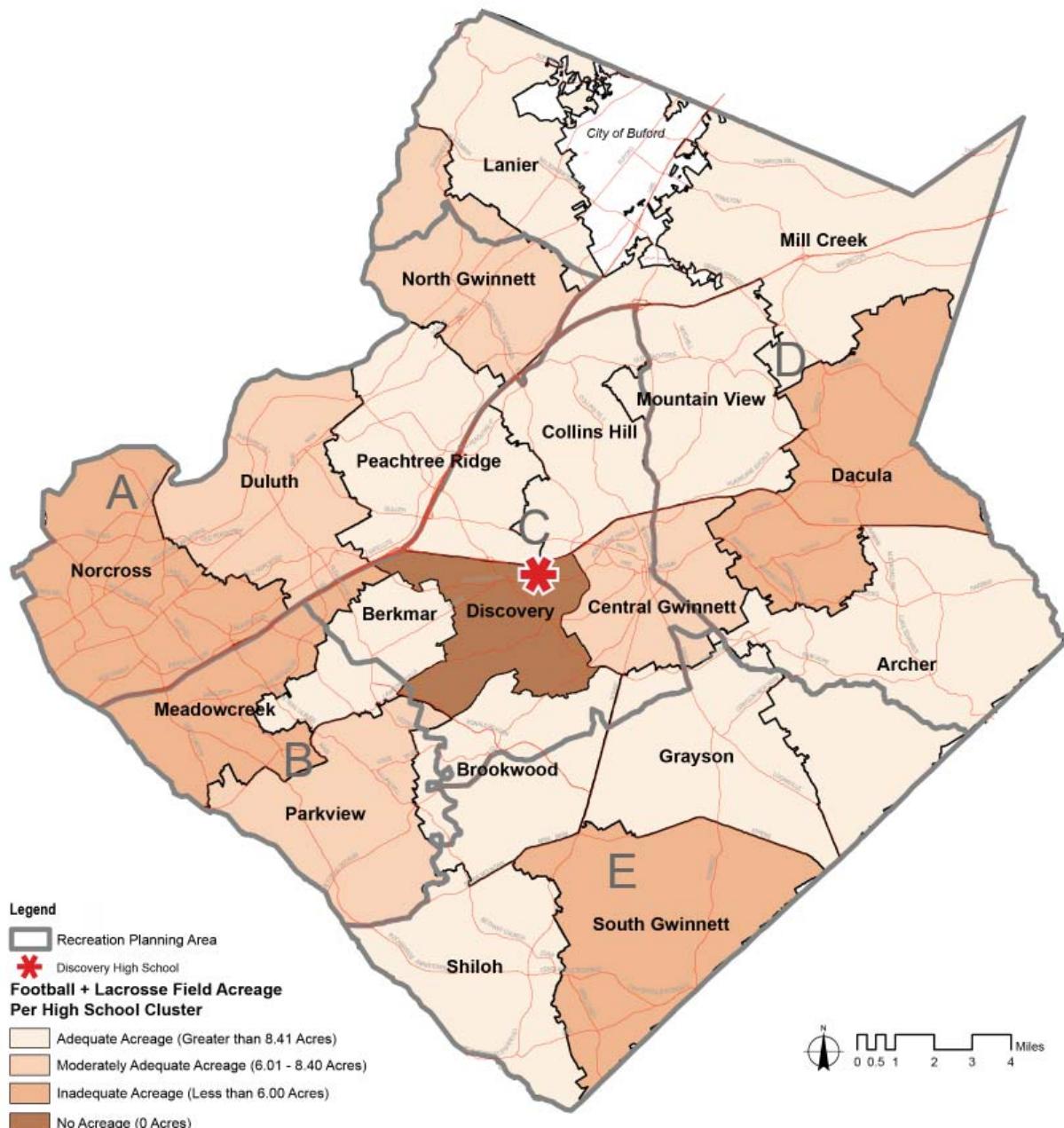
\*\*Note: Parkview High School Cluster is shown as Moderately Adequate due to overlay field issues in Mountain Park.

## Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complexes

Figure 5.4d lists Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complexes per high school cluster and the number of facilities found in each. Map 5.4b illustrates acreage gaps per the County's Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complexes acreage standards.

As noted in Figure 5.4d, the new Discovery High School Cluster does not have a corresponding Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex.. The Dacula and South Gwinnett High School Clusters do not meet the County's standards for facilities.

Map 5.4b Gap Analysis of County Football/Lacrosse County Youth Athletic Complexes



\*Note: Parkview High School Cluster is shown as Moderately Adequate due to overlay field issues in Mountain Park

## 5.5 County Soccer Complexes

Soccer fields are an important recreation facility for Gwinnett County residents across many age groups. To gauge how well the County is meeting resident needs for soccer, the existing inventory was tested against a standard of 1 acre of Soccer Complex per 1,000 people. This standard was derived from a measure of 1 field per every 6,000 residents, where one soccer field equals approximately 6.4 acres. Note that this is not just field space, but also parking, concessions/restroom areas, buffer space, and other associated amenities. Figure 5.5a is an illustrative view of a standardized Gwinnett County Soccer Complex.

Figures 5.5b through 5.5e contain calculations regarding the existing provision levels of Soccer Complex facilities by RPA. Map 5.5a illustrates where gaps currently exist in the county based on a 2-mile service area and a 0.24 per capita Soccer Complex provision gradation.

Compared to the standard of 1 acre of Soccer Complex per 1,000 residents, there is a need for 719 additional acres (Figure 5.5b). If Soccer Complexes that are not currently open to the public are included, this deficiency falls to 658.6 acres (Figure 5.5c); if rental facilities and City facilities are included, the deficiency falls to 557.99 acres (Figure 5.5d). Unlike other facility types, there is a need for Soccer Complexes in every RPA throughout Gwinnett County, with RPA C having the most severe

Figure 5.5a Typical County Soccer Complex



shortage. As noted in Map 5.5a, residents in RPAs E, B and C have the poorest access to Soccer Complexes. Park land acquisition, park reconfiguration, and conversion of existing underutilized facilities to expand usage should be considered.

Figure 5.5b Existing County Soccer Complexes Open to the Public

### EXISTING COUNTY SOCCER COMPLEXES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Standard: 1.0 acres per 1,000 population

Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	59.57	0.32	187.46	-127.89
B	9.96	0.07	141.05	-131.09
C	31.14	0.15	210.40	-179.26
D	78.78	0.39	204.59	-125.81
E	0.00	0.00	154.95	-154.95
<b>Totals</b>	<b>179.45</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>898.45</b>	<b>-719.00</b>

Figure 5.5c Existing County Soccer Complexes Open to the Public + Not Open to the Public

EXISTING COUNTY SOCCER COMPLEXES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC				
Standard: 1.0 acres per 1,000 population				
Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	59.57	0.32	187.46	-127.89
B	9.96	0.07	141.05	-131.09
C	31.14	0.15	210.40	-179.26
D	123.50	0.60	204.59	-81.09
E	15.68	0.10	154.95	-139.27
<b>Totals</b>	<b>239.85</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>898.45</b>	<b>-658.60</b>

Figure 5.5d Existing County Soccer Complexes Open to the Public + Not Open to the Public + Rental Soccer Complexes + City Soccer Complexes

EXISTING COUNTY SOCCER COMPLEXES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + RENTAL SOCCER COMPLEXES + CITY SOCCER COMPLEXES				
Standard: 1.0 acres per 1,000 population				
Plan Area	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	95.82	0.51	187.46	-91.64
B	27.78	0.20	141.05	-113.27
C	31.14	0.15	210.40	-179.26
D	154.94	0.76	204.59	-49.65
E	30.78	0.20	154.95	-124.17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>340.46</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>898.45</b>	<b>-557.99</b>

Figure 5.5e Soccer Complex Acreage Per Capita by RPA

PER CAPITA (ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION) OF SOCCER COMPLEX ACREAGE PER RECREATION PLANNING AREA							
Standard: 1.0 acre per 1,000 population							
RPA	2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	2015 County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	2015 City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage
A	59.57	3.32	32.93	0.32	0.34	0.49	0.51
B	9.96	17.82	0.00	0.07	0.20	0.07	0.20
C	31.14	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
D	123.50	15.05	16.39	0.60	0.68	0.68	0.76
E	15.68	0.00	15.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>239.85</b>	<b>36.19</b>	<b>64.42</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.38</b>

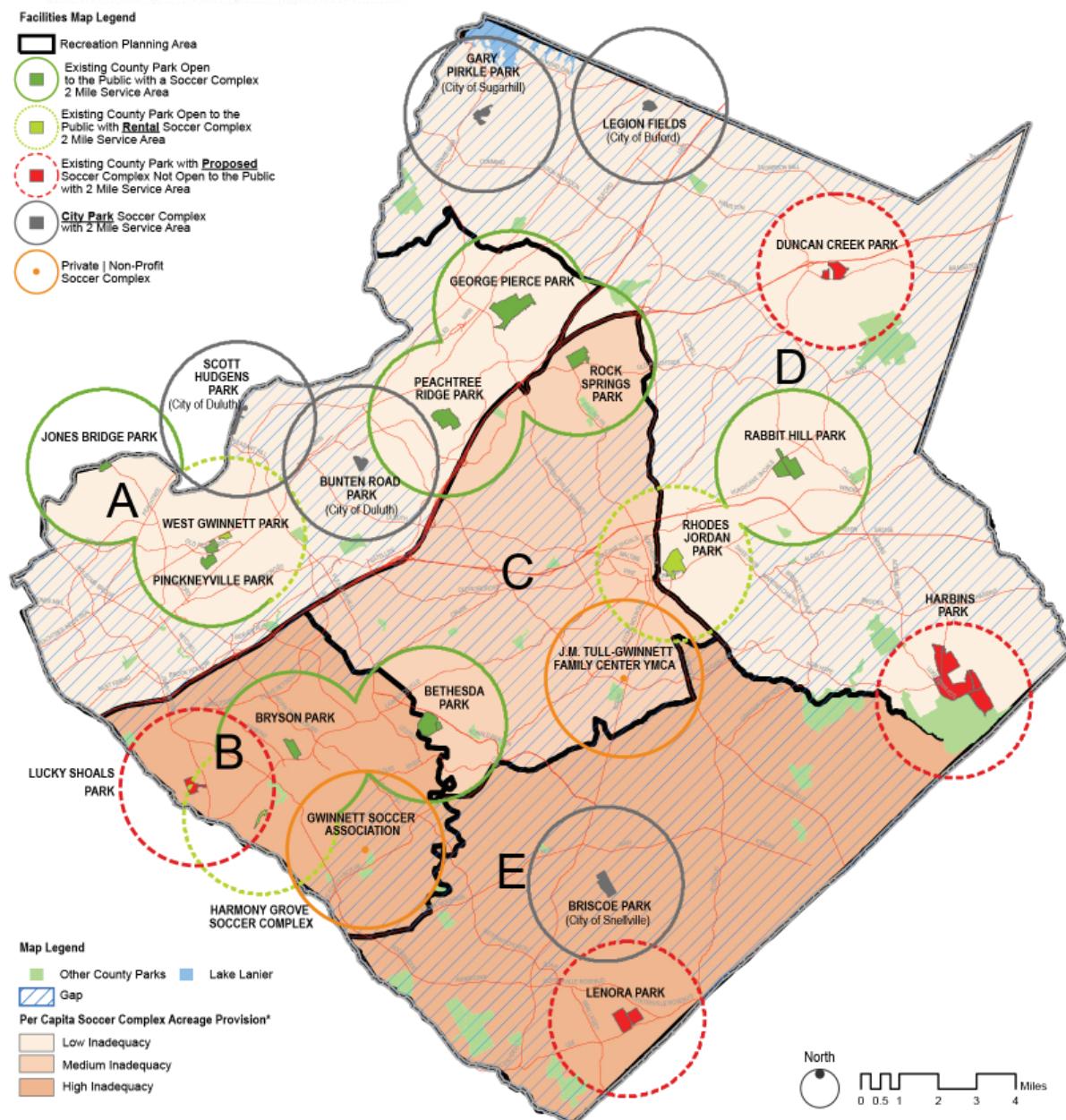
## Map 5.5a County Soccer Complex Gap Analysis

PER CAPITA (ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION) OF SOCCER COMPLEX ACREAGE PER RECREATION PLANNING AREA							
Standard: 1.0 Acre per 1,000 Population							
Recreation Planning Area	2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	2015 County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	2015 City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)*	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage
A	59.57	3.32	32.93	0.32	0.34	0.49	0.51
B	9.96	17.82	0.00	0.07	0.20	0.07	0.20
C	31.14	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
D	123.50	15.05	16.39	0.60	0.68	0.68	0.76
E	15.68	0.00	15.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20
Total	239.85	36.19	64.42	0.27	0.31	0.34	0.38

\*Note: Basis for Per Capita Soccer Complex Acreage Provision Gradation.

## Facilities Map Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- Existing County Park Open to the Public with a Soccer Complex 2 Mile Service Area
- Existing County Park Open to the Public with **Rental** Soccer Complex 2 Mile Service Area
- Existing County Park with **Proposed** Soccer Complex Not Open to the Public with 2 Mile Service Area
- City Park Soccer Complex with 2 Mile Service Area
- Private | Non-Profit Soccer Complex



## 5.6 General Recreation Land

General Recreation acreage is developable park land that can accommodate the construction of a varied range of multi-generational park amenities that do not require paid membership in a particular league or association. This type of acreage is found in Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks.

It is important to note that while the acreage standard for General Recreation land is 7.0 acres per 1,000 residents, acquisition of land to meet the standard should hinge on the recreation trends of the community's demographics. Areas with higher concentrations of younger people should focus on the acquisition of General Recreation acreage, whereas

areas with higher concentrations of older people should focus on the acquisition of Open Space Park acreage.

Figures 5.6a and 5.6b show the changes in the County's inventory of General Recreation Land between 2007 and 2015. The County's supply of General Recreation land in Passive Community Parks and Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks remained constant in RPAs A, D, and E from 2010 and grew in RPAs B and C (Figure 5.6a). Likewise, as shown in Figure 5.6b, General Recreation land acreage remained constant from 2010 for some RPAs (A and E) and increased in RPAs B and D. RPA C lost General Recreation acreage in Community Parks.

*Figure 5.6a General Recreation Acreage from Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently Open to the Public*

GENERAL RECREATION ACREAGE FROM PASSIVE COMMUNITY PARKS + SPECIAL PURPOSE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS CURRENTLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC			
Standard: N/A			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	2010 Supply (acres)	2015 Supply (acres)
A	0.00	3.13	3.13
B	61.37	95.54	120.63
C	50.63	50.63	111.26
D	0.00	8.21	8.21
E	197.24	259.67	259.67
<b>Totals</b>	<b>309.24</b>	<b>417.18</b>	<b>502.90</b>

*Figure 5.6b General Recreation Acreage from Community Parks Currently Open to the Public*

GENERAL RECREATION ACREAGE FROM COMMUNITY PARKS CURRENTLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC			
Standard: N/A			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	2010 Supply (acres)	2015 Supply (acres)
A	349.58	366.65	366.65
B	78.26	46.59	184.66
C	257.27	257.27	186.18
D	279.81	362.36	852.98
E	297.54	214.99	214.99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,262.46</b>	<b>1,247.86</b>	<b>1,805.46</b>

**Figure 5.6c Supply of General Recreation Acreage From Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently Open and Not Open to the Public**

GENERAL RECREATION ACREAGE FROM PASSIVE COMMUNITY PARKS + SPECIAL PURPOSE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS CURRENTLY OPEN + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC			
Standard: N/A			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	2010 Supply (acres)	2015 Supply (acres)
A	57.92	3.13	3.13
B	109.06	153.83	168.32
C	50.63	125.00	185.63
D	0.00	8.21	8.21
E	223.73	286.16	286.16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>441.34</b>	<b>576.33</b>	<b>651.45</b>

**Figure 5.6d Supply of General Recreation Acreage From Community Parks Currently Open and Not Open to the Public**

GENERAL RECREATION ACREAGE FROM COMMUNITY PARKS CURRENTLY OPEN + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC			
Standard: N/A			
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	2010 Supply (acres)	2015 Supply (acres)
A	349.58	366.65	366.65
B	78.26	124.75	184.66
C	257.27	257.27	186.18
D	809.65	880.55	852.98
E	297.54	214.99	214.99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,792.30</b>	<b>1,844.21</b>	<b>1,805.46</b>

**Figure 5.6e Supply of General Recreation Acreage From Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently Open and Not Open to the Public and General Recreation Acreage From Community Parks Currently Open and Not Open to the Public**

GENERAL RECREATION ACREAGE FROM PASSIVE COMMUNITY PARKS + SPECIAL PURPOSE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS CURRENTLY OPEN + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND GENERAL RECREATION ACREAGE FROM COMMUNITY PARKS CURRENTLY OPEN + NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC												
Plan Area	2007 Supply (acres)	2007 Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2007 Demand (acres)	2007 Gap (acres)	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)	2015 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2015 Demand (acres)	2015 Gap (acres)
A	407.50	2.45	1,161.97	<b>-754.47</b>	369.78	2.24	1,157.16	<b>-787.38</b>	369.78	1.97	1,312.23	<b>-942.45</b>
B	187.32	1.51	869.82	<b>-682.50</b>	278.58	2.23	873.68	<b>-595.11</b>	352.98	2.50	987.34	<b>-634.36</b>
C	307.90	1.71	1,260.35	<b>-952.45</b>	382.27	2.02	1,327.38	<b>-945.11</b>	371.81	1.77	1,472.79	<b>-1,100.98</b>
D	809.65	4.85	1,167.45	<b>-357.79</b>	888.76	4.81	1,292.13	<b>-403.37</b>	861.19	4.21	1,432.13	<b>-570.94</b>
E	521.27	3.74	974.84	<b>-453.58</b>	501.15	3.55	986.89	<b>-485.74</b>	501.15	3.23	1,084.65	<b>-583.50</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,233.64</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>5,434.43</b>	<b>-3,200.79</b>	<b>2,420.54</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>5,637.25</b>	<b>-3,216.71</b>	<b>2,456.91</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>6,289.14</b>	<b>-3,832.23</b>

Figures 5.6c through 5.6e show what happens to the supply of General Recreation acreage when land not currently open to the public is included. When these lands are included, only RPAs B and C increased in acreage from 2010 in Passive Community Parks and Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks. In Community Parks, RPAs C and D lost acreage, RPA B gained, and RPAs A and E remained constant. As noted in Figure 5.6e, when calculated against a standard of 7.0 acres per 1,000 residents, all RPAs have a deficit of General Recreation acreage, and RPA C has the most severe shortage.

A Gap Analysis was also conducted for General Recreation park land. A 1-mile service radius for parks under 20 acres and 2-mile service area for parks over 20 acres was used for the analysis. Map 5.6a on the following page illustrates the locations of the gaps based on the following scenarios:

- General Recreation in Existing County Community Parks Currently Open to the Public (with a Playground)
- General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently Open to the Public

Based on this analysis, residents of RPAs E, C, and D have the least access to General Recreation acreage. It is recommended that the County should seek significant General Recreation park land acquisition in identified service gap regions. Land acquisition could be leveraged with previous active recreation needs of high school clusters to meet general recreation acreage in RPA C.

Map 5.6a Gap Analysis for General Recreation Acreage

 General Recreation in Existing County Community Parks, Currently Open to the Public with a Playground  
 - 1 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreage Under 20 Acres  
 - 2 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreage Over 20 Acres

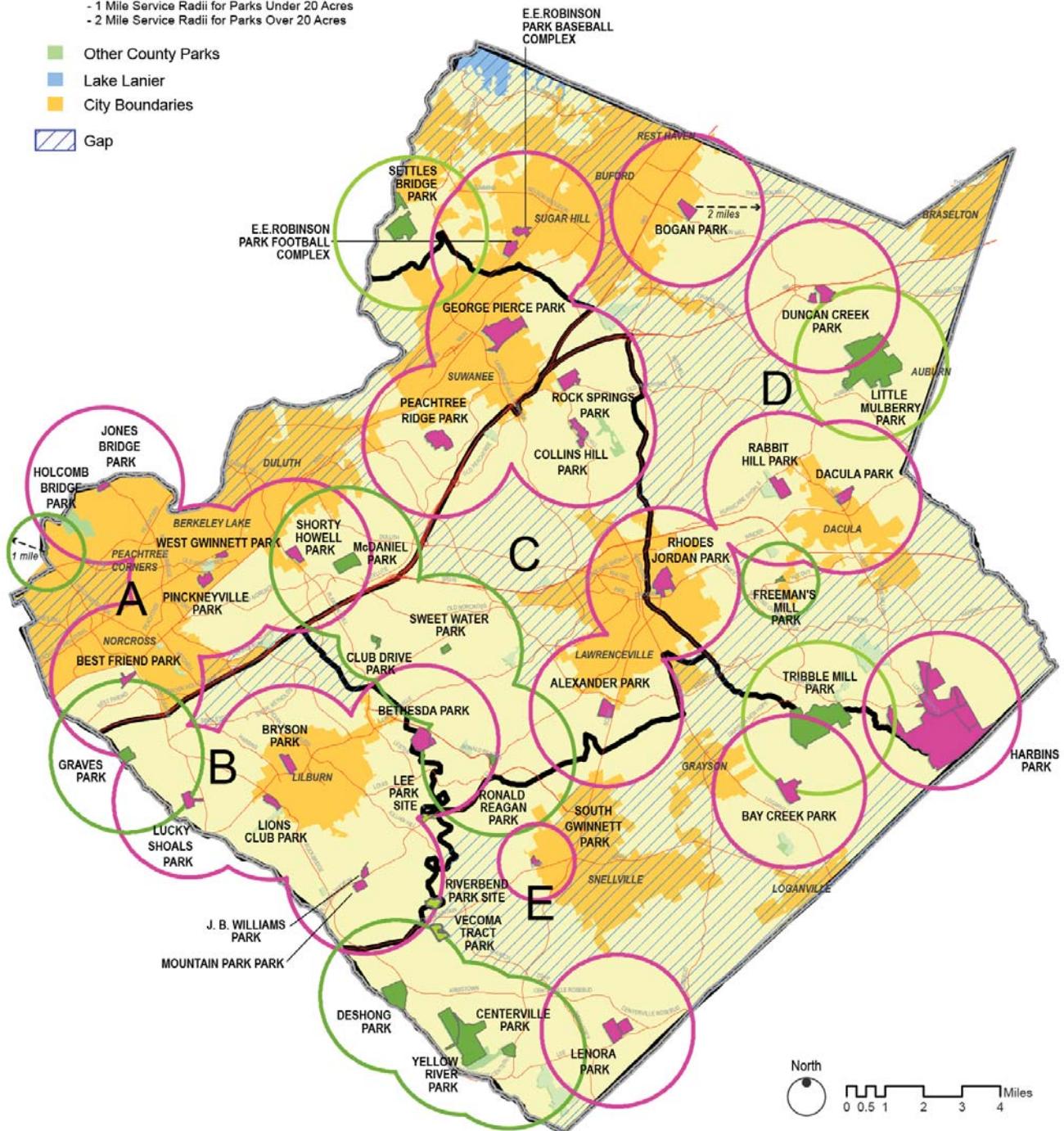
 General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently Open to the Public with a Playground + Select Open Space Parks  
 - 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres  
 - 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres

 Other County Parks

 Lake Lanier

 City Boundaries

 Gap



## General Recreation in Dense Residential Areas

A gap analysis of walkable General Recreation park land in dense residential areas within Gwinnett County was also conducted. Dense areas are defined as Census Tracts with a population density greater than 5.81 people per acre. Map 5.6a identifies these areas along with the existing and future Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and Passive Community Parks that are located in and within 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile, and 1-mile buffers of these Census Tracts. Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and Passive Community Parks are the only County park types considered in this analysis, as these park types were specifically established to offer a small-scale, general recreation alternative to Community Parks in areas that are underserved, densely populated, and land poor.

Additionally, Map 5.6a illustrates the degree of adequacy that these Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and Passive Community Parks serve the General Recreation park land needs of the existing population. Parks that contain a playground, multi-purpose field, pavilion, and sports court, such as a tennis court or basketball court, are considered adequate because they provide a basic array of General Recreation opportunities. Best Friend Park, Club Drive Park, and Sweet Water Park all contain adequate facilities. Holcomb Bridge Park is considered to be "somewhat adequate" because it does not contain a multi-purpose field or sports court but does contain a playground and pavilion. These parks are also shown with 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile, and 1-mile service radii to depict potential walking distances. Singleton Road Activity Center and Cemetery Field Park on the other hand, are considered to be inadequate. Singleton Road Activity Center only contains a building and Cemetery Field Park contains an artificial turf multi-purpose field, concession building, and press box that are typically not available for General Recreation use.

This analysis illustrates that there are limited opportunities for General Recreation in the County's most densely populated areas. The number of Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and Passive Community

Parks is insufficient to provide residents with an acceptable level of access to General Recreation park land.

Acquiring park land in these dense areas is challenging due to the built out nature and the relatively high cost of the limited undeveloped land in these areas compared to other areas in the County. Many of these areas are also home to some of the oldest neighborhoods in Gwinnett County, predominantly comprised of minority populations with limited mobility choices. Furthermore, sidewalk infrastructure in these areas is limited making walking to parks challenging, which is explored in the following analysis.

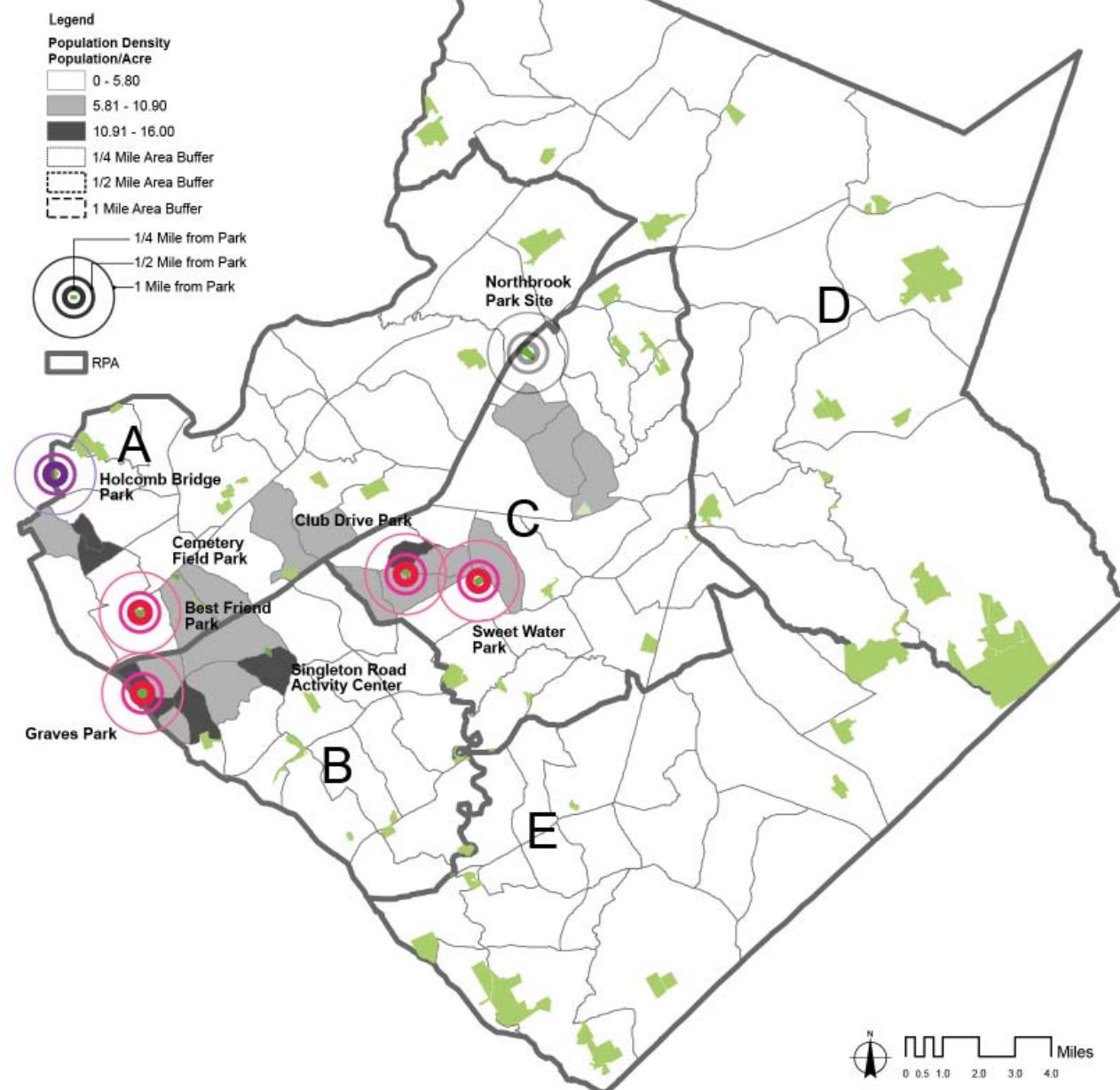
## Pedestrian Accessibility of Increased Density Areas to Special Purpose Parks + Passive Community Parks

Map 5.6b takes a closer look at the county's most dense areas and explores, in more detail, pedestrian accessibility for existing and future Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and Passive Community Parks. To provide a more realistic analysis of pedestrian accessibility to park land in these areas, a walking shed analysis was conducted that uses the existing street grid instead of the standard "as the crow flies" service radius. Pedestrian accessibility analysis was conducted for 1/4-mile (5 minute walk), 1/2-mile (10 minute walk), and 1-mile (20 minute walk) walking sheds. Both the service radii and pedestrian accessibility sheds are shown for all these distances in Map 5.6c.

The analysis demonstrates that while an area may appear to have good pedestrian accessibility to park land when using a standard "as the crow flies" service radius, it may actually have poor pedestrian accessibility when analyzed using the street grid and park entry locations, which is how residents would actually walk to the park (assuming that the streets analyzed have sidewalks and safe street crossing locations, which some may not). As shown in Map 5.6c, this poor pedestrian accessibility is evident for all of the Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and

**Map 5.6b Special Purpose Neighborhood Park + Passive Community Parks Serving Communities with Increased Density**

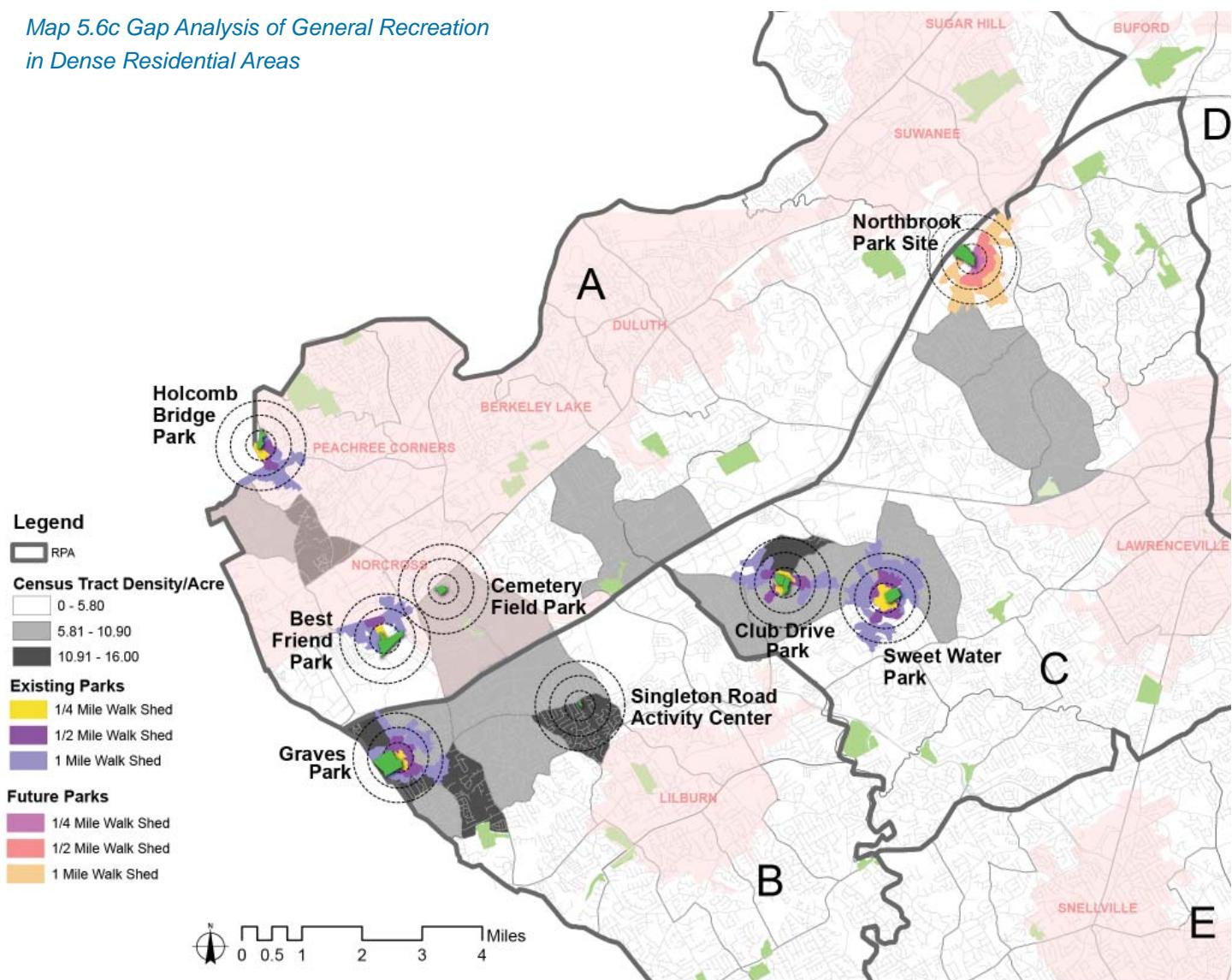
SPECIAL PURPOSE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS + PASSIVE COMMUNITY PARKS - DEGREES OF ADEQUACY FOR SERVING EXISTING POPULATIONS IN NEED			
Symbol	Measure	Park	Facilities
●	Provides <b>adequate</b> facilities to meet current population needs	Best Friend Park	Playground, multi-purpose field, tennis, pavilions, basketball, multi-purpose trail, baseball/softball, pool, gym
		Club Drive Park	Playground, multi-purpose field, tennis, pavilions
		Graves Park	Playground, multi-purpose field, tennis, pavilions
		Sweet Water Park	Playground, multi-purpose field, tennis, pavilions
●	Provides <b>somewhat adequate</b> facilities to meet current population needs	Holcomb Bridge Park	Playground, pavilion
●	Provides <b>inadequate</b> facilities to meet current population needs	Singleton Road Activity Center	Activity building
		Cemetery Field Park	Artificial Turf Multi-Purpose Field
○	Future Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	Lakes Parkway Park Site	Undeveloped
○		Northbrook Park Site	Undeveloped



Passive Community Parks analyzed. For example, Club Drive Park exhibits good potential for pedestrian accessibility when analyzed using the standard "as the crow flies" service radii. But when analyzed using park entry locations and the street grid, another story emerges. The areas in yellow, purple, and blue that represent 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile, and 1-mile pedestrian accessibility sheds, respectively, are the only areas that are, in actuality, accessible within the specified travel distances. This is particularly important to note for populations that have limited access to vehicles and rely heavily on walking and public transportation to complete daily tasks.

*Map 5.6c Gap Analysis of General Recreation in Dense Residential Areas*

One way to increase accessibility without acquiring additional park land is to expand a park's reach through improved connections. Figures 5.6c and 5.6d illustrate a conceptual framework of how to accomplish this at Sweet Water Park using improved pedestrian crossings and an expanded system of pathways along linear corridors such as streams, creeks, and utility corridors to reach farther into the neighborhood. These are projects that the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Division can work with the County's Department of Transportation and Department of Water Resources to implement.



Maps 5.6d and 5.6e Opportunities to Enhance Park Access In Dense Areas: Sweet Water Park



## 5.7 Cultural Resources

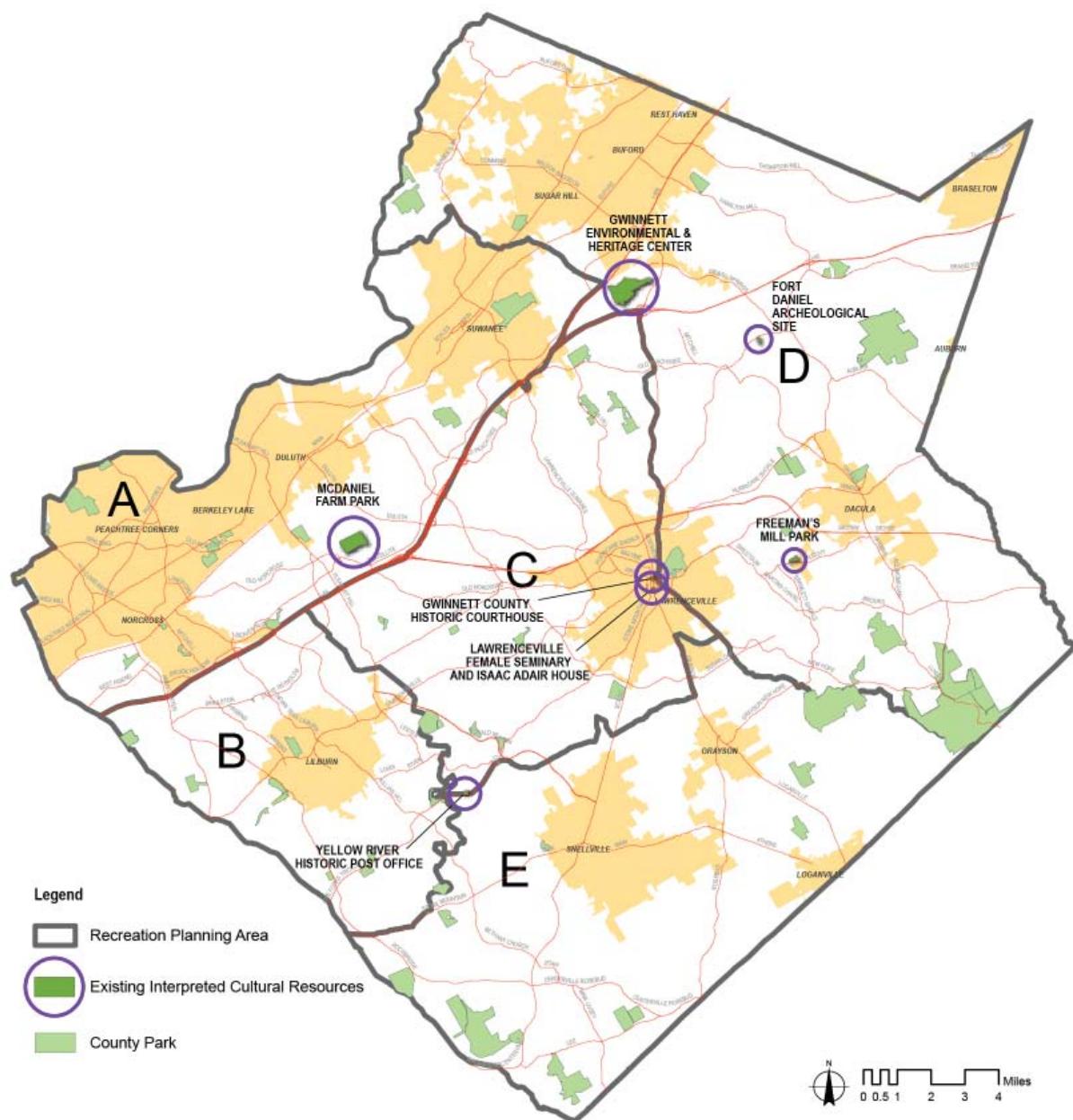
Cultural Resources are site-specific. Rather than having a set standard of typical facilities and service areas, each resource is unique and serves to protect and celebrate historically and culturally significant sites, objects, landscapes, and structures. Gwinnett County currently has seven interpretive Cultural Resources.

Map 5.7a illustrates the locations of each. As the County continues to purchase park land, land with unique cultural resources should be considered and weighed for acquisition.

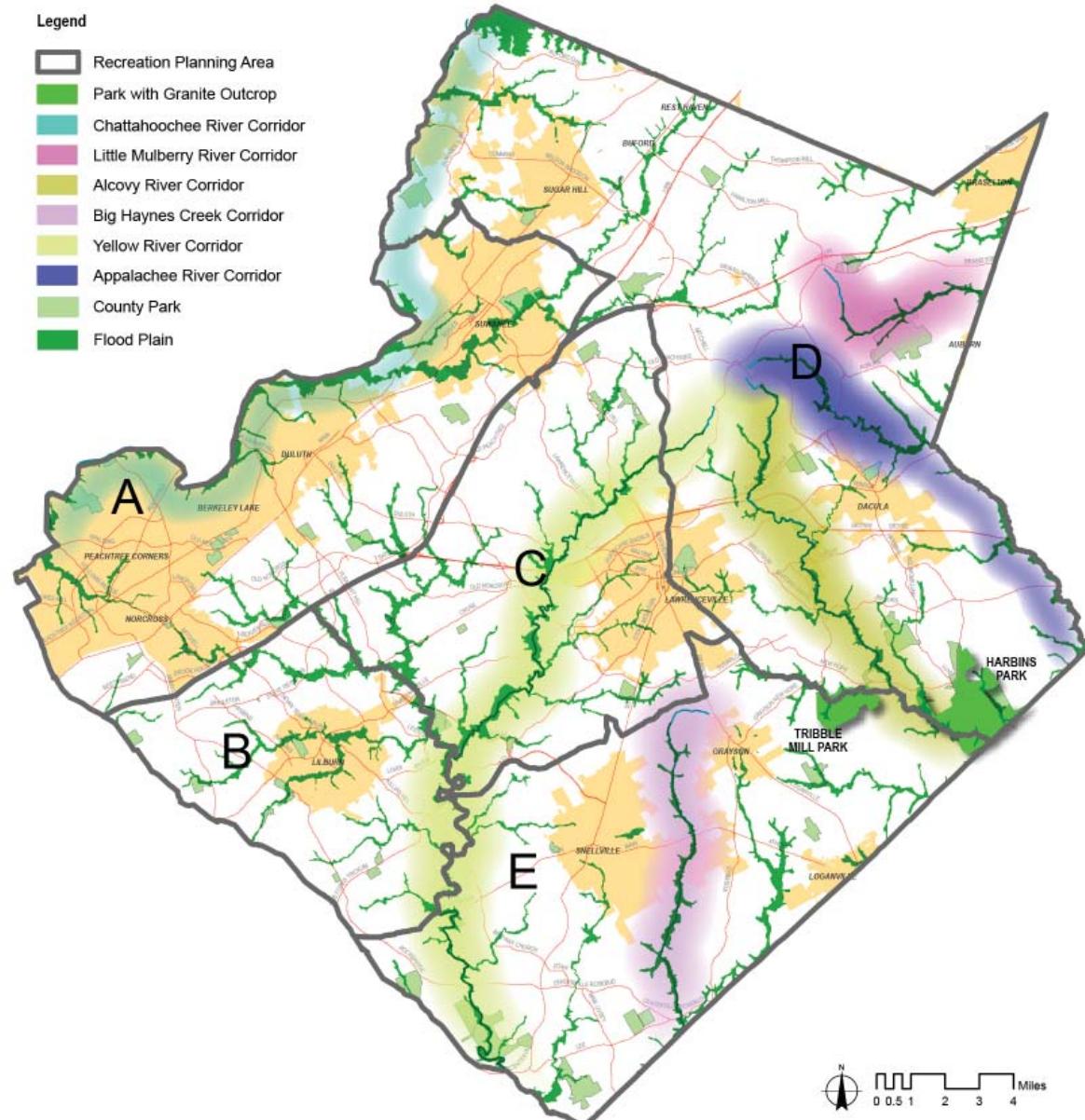
## 5.8 Natural Resources

Similar to Cultural Resources, Natural Resources are also site specific. Natural Resources are unique and serve to protect and celebrate environmentally significant areas such as environmentally sensitive landscapes, ecosystems, water bodies, and the like. Examples of unique natural resources that the County should continue to protect and preserve include granite outcrops like those found in Harbins Park and Tribble Mill Park. Map 5.8a identifies existing natural resources.

Map 5.7a Existing Interpreted Cultural Resources



Map 5.8a Natural Resources



Map 5.9b Park Land + Open Space Park Land Need

## 5.9 Park Land Acquisition Summary Findings

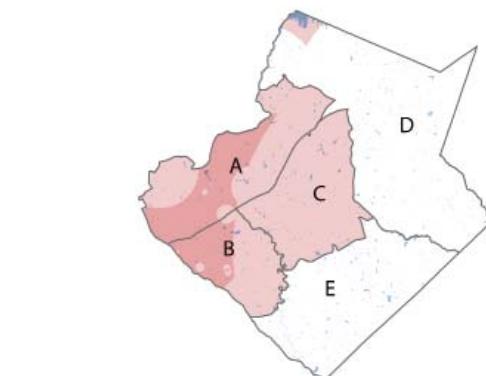
Ensuring that the County plans for a sustainable park land base that meets the environmental, social, and economic needs of existing and future residents is critical to the County's high quality of life. To this end, the park land acquisition analysis used the County's per capita and gap analysis targets for the following five park types to determine relative park land acquisition needs:

- Park Land
- County Open Space
- County Soccer Complex Land
- General Recreation Land
- County Youth Athletic Complex Land

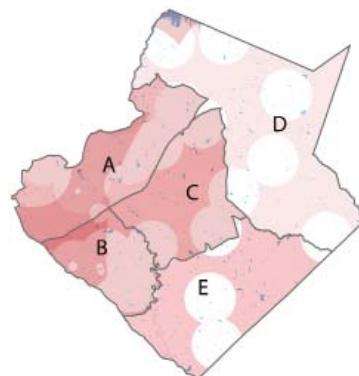
Maps 5.9a - 5.9e illustrate the areas in the County where park land is most needed based on the per capita and gap park land analyses conducted. The darker the color, the higher the need. As illustrated in Map 5.9e, each of the RPAs have clusters where land for all five park types are needed.

Figure 5.9a integrates the findings from the park land acquisition analysis into the summary of county-wide priority needs. These new findings confirm the need for all the previously identified priority actions and facility needs.

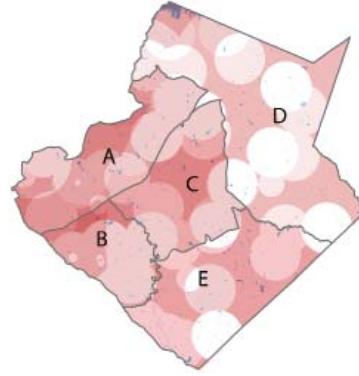
Map 5.9a Park Land Need



Map 5.9c Park Land + Open Space Park Land + Soccer Park Land Need



Map 5.9d Park Land + Open Space Park Land + Soccer Park Land + General Recreation Park Land Need



Map 5.9e Park Land + Open Space Park Land + Soccer Park Land + General Recreation Park Land + Youth Athletic Complex Park Land Need

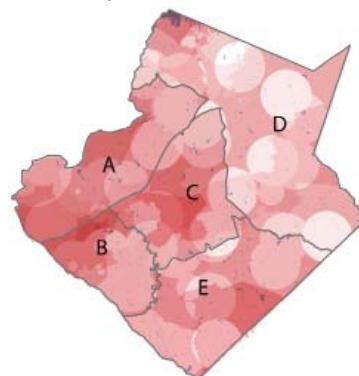


Figure 5.9a Summary of County-wide Priority Needs from Public Input Findings and Park Land Acquisition Analysis

**Matrix Legend**

- Identified Priority Need in Statistically Valid Telephone Survey
- Identified Need
- Need that is Consistent with Recreation Authority and Staff Input Goals

Priority Ranking	Priority Needs	Needs Assessment Techniques													
		Statistically Valid Telephone Survey			Public Workshop			Public Land Acquisition Analysis			Recreation Authority Goals			Staff Input Goals	
Actions															
1	Improve/expand existing facilities	●	●	●	●						●		●	●	●
2	Build new facilities	●	●	●				●							
Facilities															
1	Walking/running facilities	●	●	●			●		●					●	
2	Playgrounds	●	●	●					●					●	
	Swimming/pools/aquatic center	●	●	●					●					●	
3	Basketball	●	●	●					●					●	
	Dog park/dog amenities	●	●	●					●					●	
	Bicycling	●	●	●			●		●					●	
	Soccer	●	●	●					●					●	
	Open spaces/green space	●	●	●					●					●	
	Sports - general	●	●	●					●					●	
	More/closer parks	●	●	●				●	●	●				●	
	Nature walks	●	●	●			●		●					●	
	Running facilities	●	●	●			●		●					●	
	Picnic/BBQ facilities	●	●	●					●					●	
	Football/flag football	●	●	●					●					●	

## 5.10 Park Land Acquisition Recommendations

Based on the analysis conducted, following are a series of park land acquisition recommendations.

### Open Space Parks

- RPAs A and B show a service gap in excess of 650 acres, while RPA C shows a service gap in excess of 1,000 acres. The 2007 CIP states that "Open Space Parks should typically be over 200 acres." Understanding constraints associated with acquiring land within a post-suburban landscape, the County should seek significant Open Space Park land acquisition in the identified service gap region as close to the desired acreage size as possible. See Map 5.10a for recommended park land acquisition areas.
- Land acquisition with active recreation needs of high school clusters should be taken advantage of to meet open space acreage needs in RPA C.
- Previously completed individual park site master plans and studies recommend acquisition of adjacent properties, if such come available, to preserve sensitive natural resources and critical viewsheds or to rationalize park boundaries. Such recommendations were made for key parcels adjacent to Tribble Mill, Harbins, Centerville Highway, and Little Mulberry parks.

## Youth Athletic Complexes

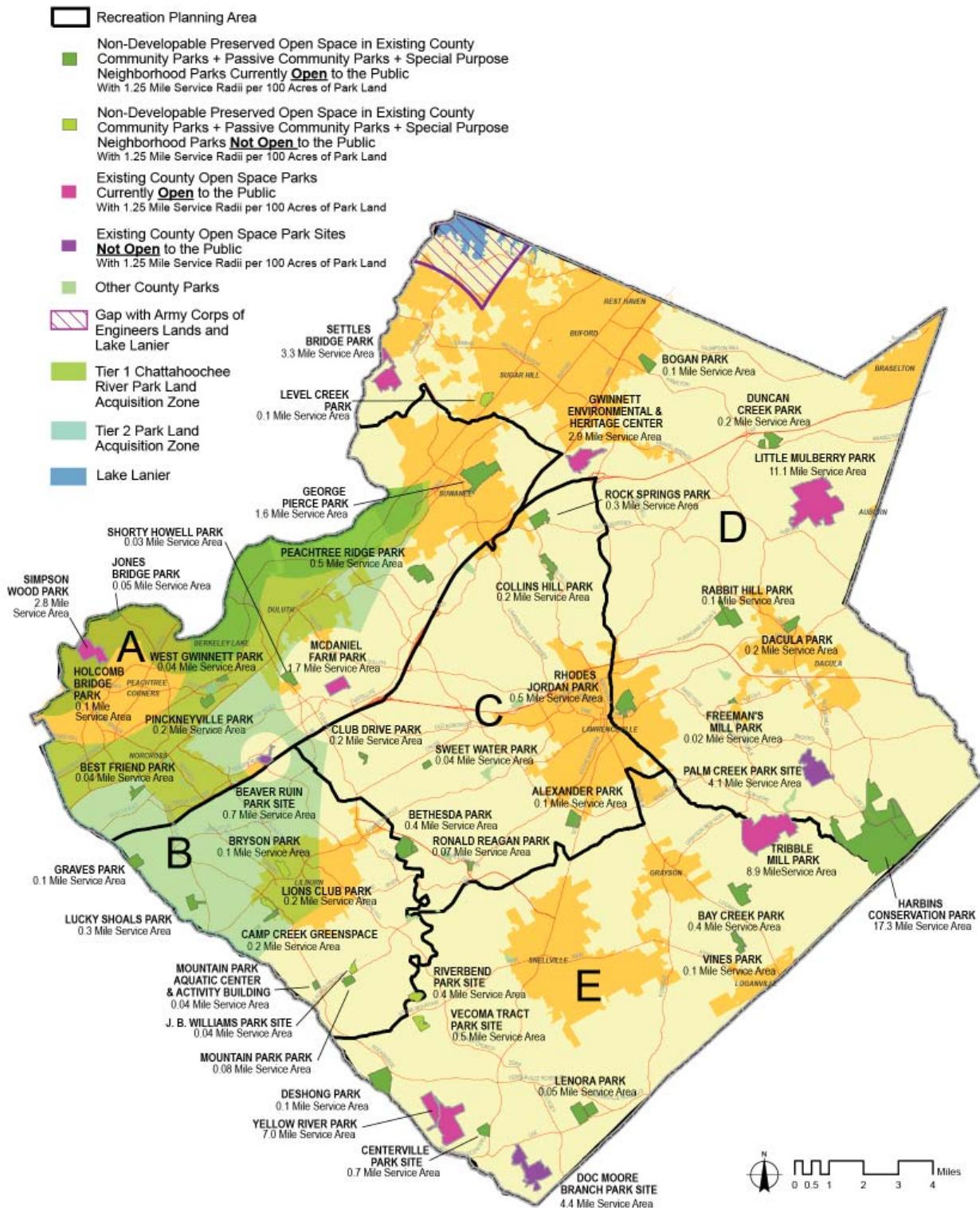
- Acquire a minimum of 98 developable acres for Youth Athletic Complexes to fill gaps in service and bring existing facilities up to the County's standard for adequate acreage provisions. Following is the breakdown per Youth Sports Complex type and high school cluster of the recommended acreage:

### Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complexes

- Acquire a minimum of 38 net developable acres (26 acres for a baseball/softball Youth Athletic Complex, 12 acres for a multi-purpose football-lacrosse Complex, and a minimum of 10 net developable contiguous acres for youth soccer) to serve the proposed Discovery High School Cluster. If sufficient continuous land is not found, multiple parcels for sister parks should be acquired.
- Expand Lucky Shoals Park by a minimum of 13 net developable acres: 5 acres for a baseball-softball Youth Athletic Complex and 8 acres for a multi-purpose football-lacrosse complex from adjacent property or nearby parcel to serve the Meadowcreek High School Cluster.
- To expand a baseball-softball Youth Athletic Complex to serve the Peachtree Ridge High School Cluster, capture a minimum of 7 net developable acres within Peachtree Ridge Park programmed for other uses. Purchase land in the zone for a new Passive Community Park to accommodate displaced programmed elements.
- Acquire a minimum of 8 net developable acres for parking in South Gwinnett Park. Seek additional land to augment General Recreation acreage within the park.

Map 5.10a Open Space Park Gaps + Recommend Park Land Acquisition Areas

### Legend



## Multi-Purpose Football | Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex

- Acquire a minimum of 38 net developable acres (26 acres for a baseball/softball Youth Athletic Complex, 12 acres for a multi-purpose football/lacrosse Complex, and a minimum of 10 net developable contiguous acres for youth soccer) to serve the proposed Discovery High School Cluster. If sufficient continuous land is not found, multiple parcels for sister parks should be acquired.
- Expand Lucky Shoals Park by a minimum of 13 net developable acres (8 acres for a multi-purpose football-lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex and 5 acres for baseball-softball Youth Athletic Complex from adjacent property or nearby parcel) to serve the Meadowcreek High School Cluster.
- Acquire a minimum of 8 net developable acres for parking in South Gwinnett Park. Seek additional acreage to augment General Recreation land within the park.
- Seek a minimum of 2 net developable acres along Mitchell Road frontage to expand parking in Cemetery Field to serve the Norcross High School Cluster.
- Presently, there are no facilities specifically assigned to serve Buford High School. The City of Buford's Legion Field contains a baseball-softball Youth Athletic Complex, but no multi-purpose football-lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex. Additionally, the area immediately east of Buford is one of the zones that might receive a new high school cluster.
- Purchase a minimum of 10 net developable acres near Bogan Park to accommodate a multi-purpose football-lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex. The multi-purpose football-lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex

near Bogan Park can serve youth in both the City of Buford and the potential new high school cluster, especially if artificial turf is used.

- Purchase a minimum of 18 net developable acres near Duncan Creek Park for a baseball-softball Youth Athletic Complex. This will help prepare the planning area for a new high school cluster.

## Soccer Complexes

- Consider reconfiguring Vulcan Quarry Tailings area into soccer fields using artificial turf to serve the High Inadequacy area in RPA B (See Map 5.10b).
- Expand Lucky Shoals Park to include a soccer field in addition to the proposed multi-purpose field.
- Consider conversion of baseball fields at Best Friend Park to soccer fields using artificial turf.
- Expand soccer opportunities at West Gwinnett Park.

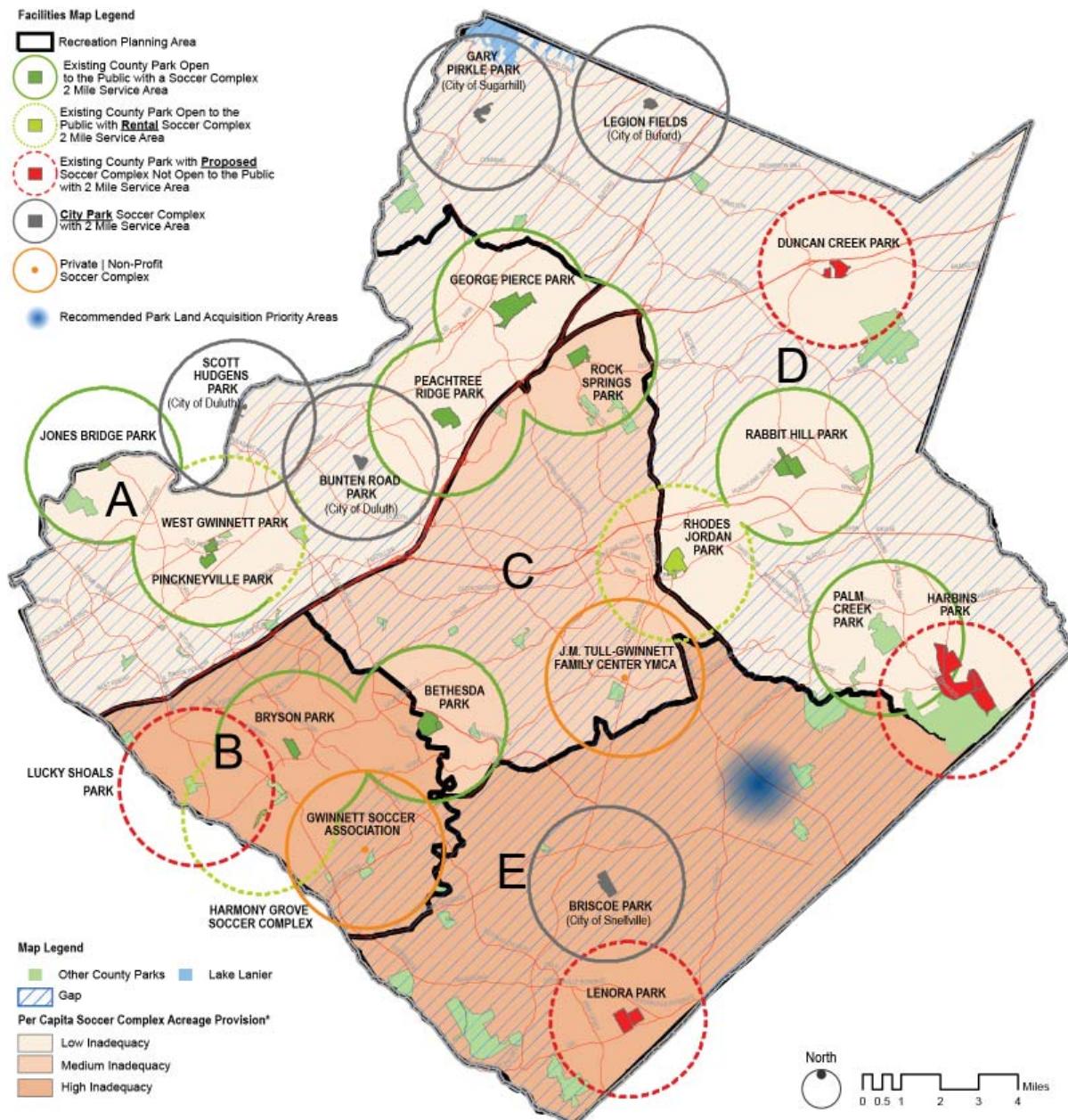
Map 5.10b County Soccer Complex Recommended Acquisition Areas

PER CAPITA (ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION) OF SOCCER COMPLEX ACREAGE PER RECREATION PLANNING AREA							
Standard: 1.0 Acre per 1,000 Population							
Recreation Planning Area	2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	2015 County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	2015 City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)*	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2015 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage
A	59.57	3.32	32.93	0.32	0.34	0.49	0.51
B	9.96	17.82	0.00	0.07	0.20	0.07	0.20
C	31.14	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
D	123.50	15.05	16.39	0.60	0.68	0.68	0.76
E	15.68	0.00	15.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20
Total	239.85	36.19	64.42	0.27	0.31	0.34	0.38

\*Note: Basis for Per Capita Soccer Complex Acreage Provision Gradation.

Facilities Map Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- Existing County Park Open to the Public with a Soccer Complex 2 Mile Service Area
- Existing County Park Open to the Public with **Rental** Soccer Complex 2 Mile Service Area
- Existing County Park with **Proposed** Soccer Complex Not Open to the Public with 2 Mile Service Area
- City Park Soccer Complex with 2 Mile Service Area
- Private | Non-Profit Soccer Complex
- Recommended Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas



## General Recreation Park Land

- RPAs A, B, and C have the most severe shortage of General Recreation acreage, in excess of a combined 2,600 acres. Passive Community Parks are optimal for providing General Recreation opportunities. Based on the 2007 CIP, the size of Passive Community Parks should be 20 acres (10 net developable acres minimum) to 100 acres (30 net developable acres minimum).
- Map 5.10c presents prioritization, with Tier 1 being the highest priority. Park land should be acquired as close to the specified park size as possible.
- Land acquisition with previous active recreation needs of high school clusters should be taken advantage of to meet General Recreation acreage in RPA C.
- Previously completed individual park site master plans recommended acquisition of adjacent properties if such came available to expand general recreation opportunities and to rationalize park boundaries. Such recommendations were made for key parcels adjacent to Collins Hill, Shorty Howell, Alexander, Rock Springs and Bethesda parks.
- Map 5.10d presents an alternative to purchasing General Recreation park land in the Tiered Park Land Acquisition Priorities Areas identified in Map 5.10c. The County should examine existing maintained parks with additional phases of development and explore how the completion of these planned parks might address the park land void in the Tiered Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas.

## General Recreation Park Land Acquisition Recommendations in Densely Populated Areas

- RPAs A, B, and C are the most densely populated areas in the County.
- Per the 2007 CIP, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks are an alternative form of park land for the more densely populated and under-served areas in the county. Recommended park size range is 5 to 20 acres of net developable land.
- Significant park land acquisition for Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks should focus within Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas identified in Map 5.10c to fill the 2,600 General Recreation acreage gap. Lands acquired should be as close to specified park sizes as possible.

### Map 5.10c General Recreation Recommended Acquisition Areas

#### Legend

Recreation Planning Area

General Recreation in Existing County Community Parks, Currently **Open** to the Public with a Playground

- 1 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Acreage Under 20 Acres
- 2 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Acreage Over 20 Acres

General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently **Open** to the Public with a Playground + Select Open Space Parks

- 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres
- 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres

Other County Parks

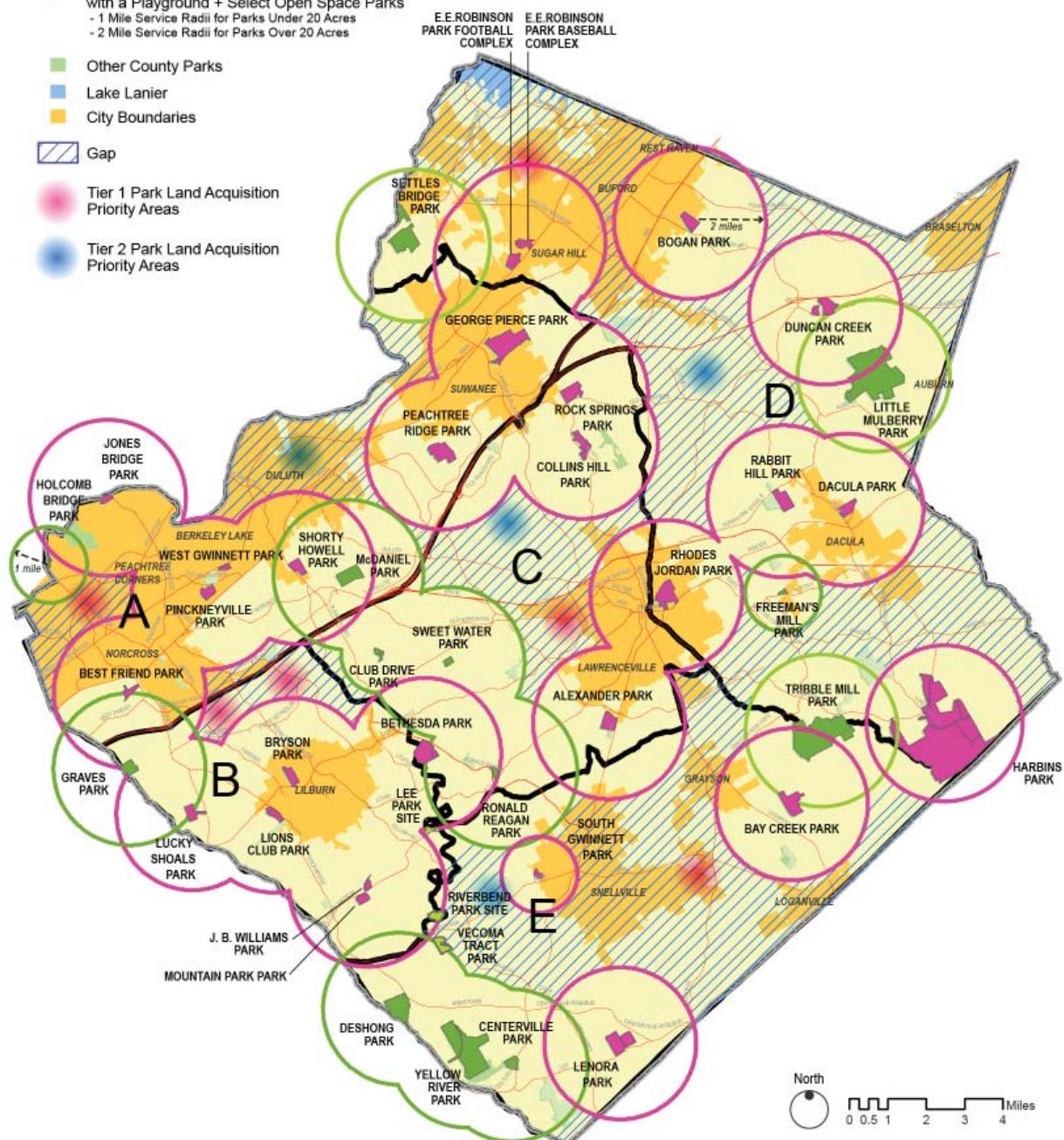
Lake Lanier

City Boundaries

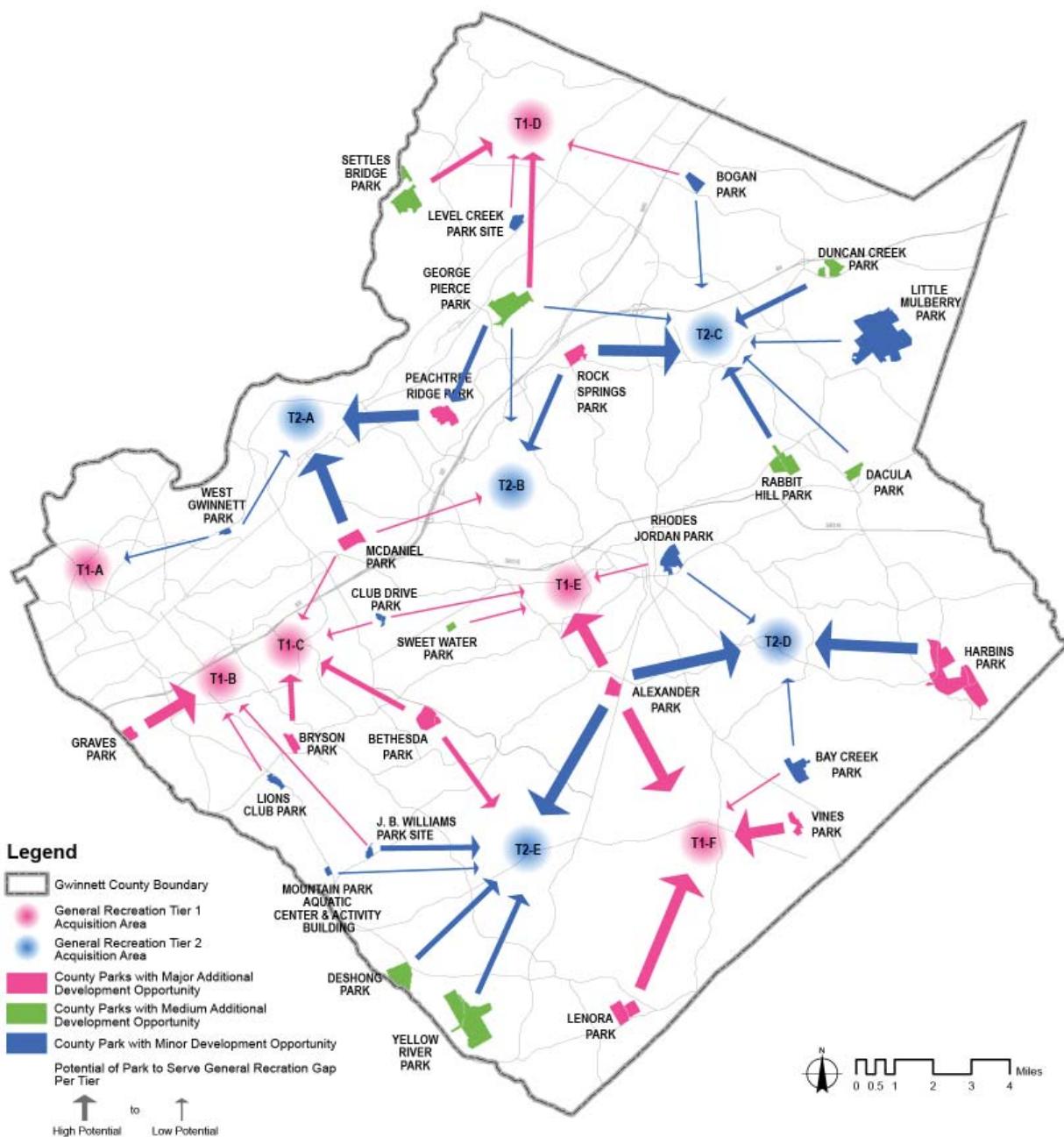
Gap

Tier 1 Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas

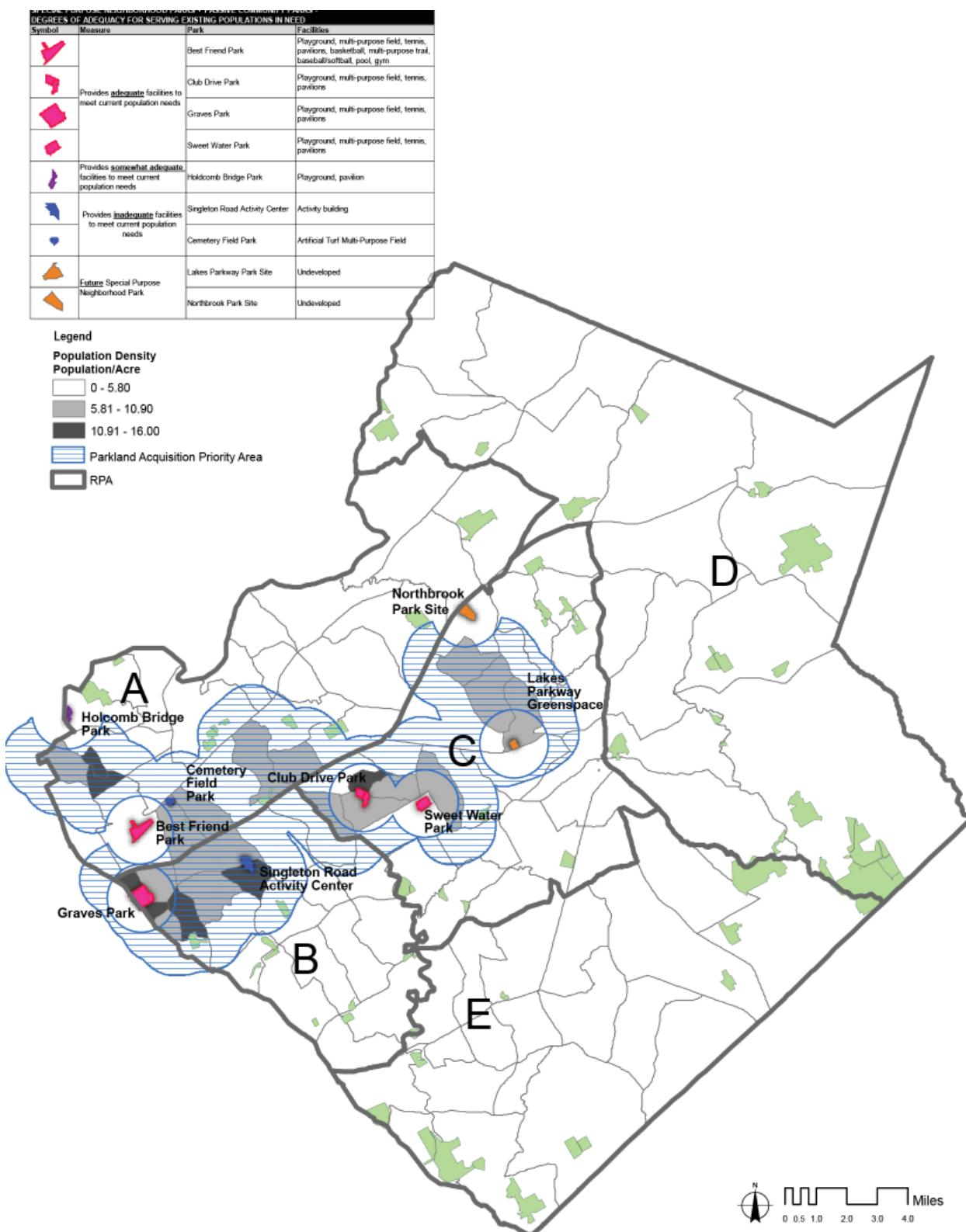
Tier 2 Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas



Map 5.10d Tiered Priority Land Acquisition Opportunity Map



Map 5.10e Gaps and Recommended Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas in Dense Areas



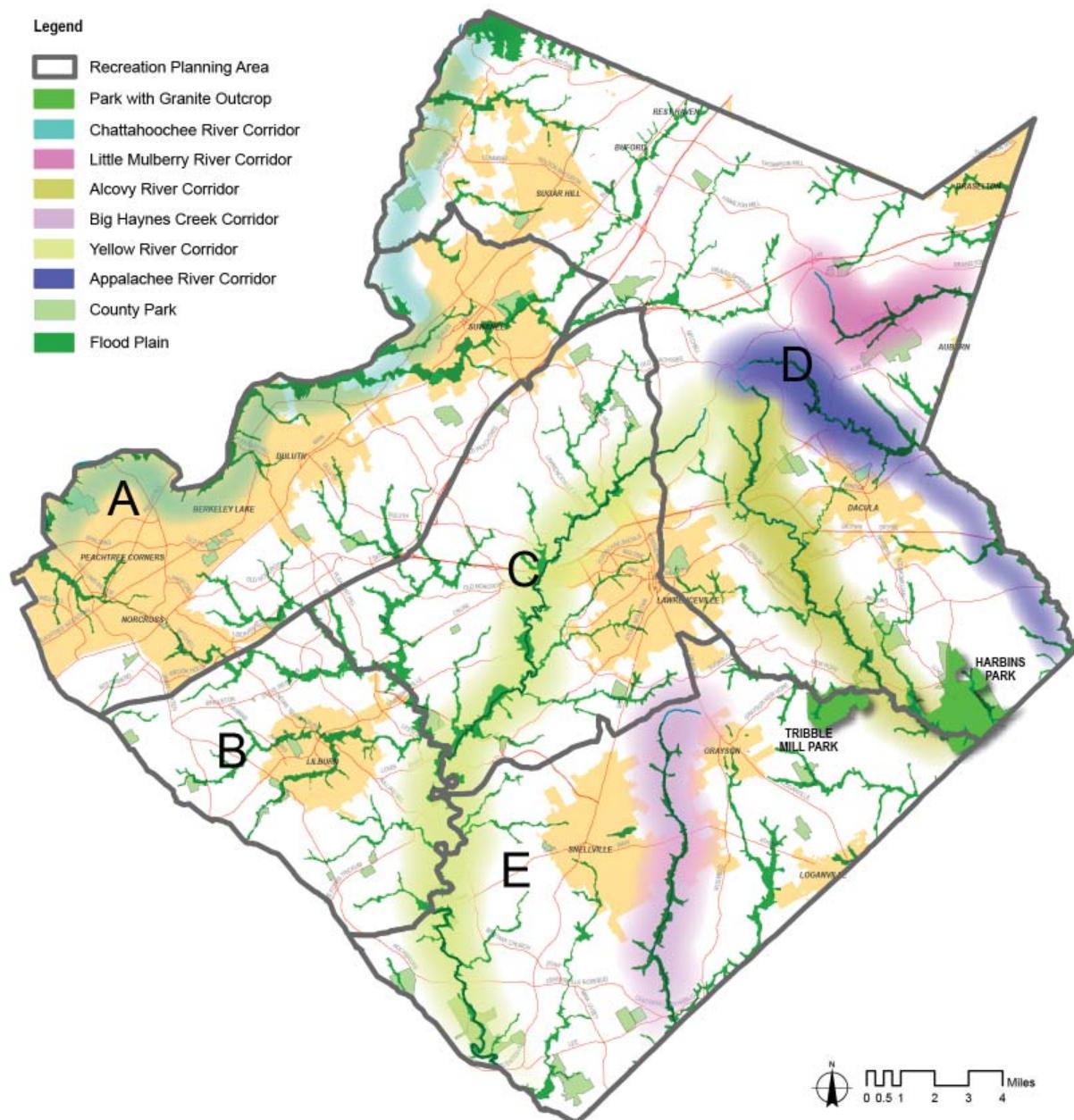
## Natural Resource Parks

- Significant river corridors include:
  - Chattahoochee River
  - Little Mulberry River
  - Alcovy River
  - Big Haynes River
  - Yellow River
  - Appalachee River
- Significant contiguous acreage of older growth hardwood forest, tributary streams on bedrock, and rocky terrain (which possesses far greater botanic and biological complexity because they were less impacted by agriculture) should be acquired. Vegetated granite outcrops should be sought, acquired, and conserved. These Natural Resources are illustrated in Map 5.10f.
- When evaluating potential acquisition for all park types, the above listed characteristics and natural resource features should have weight in the selection.

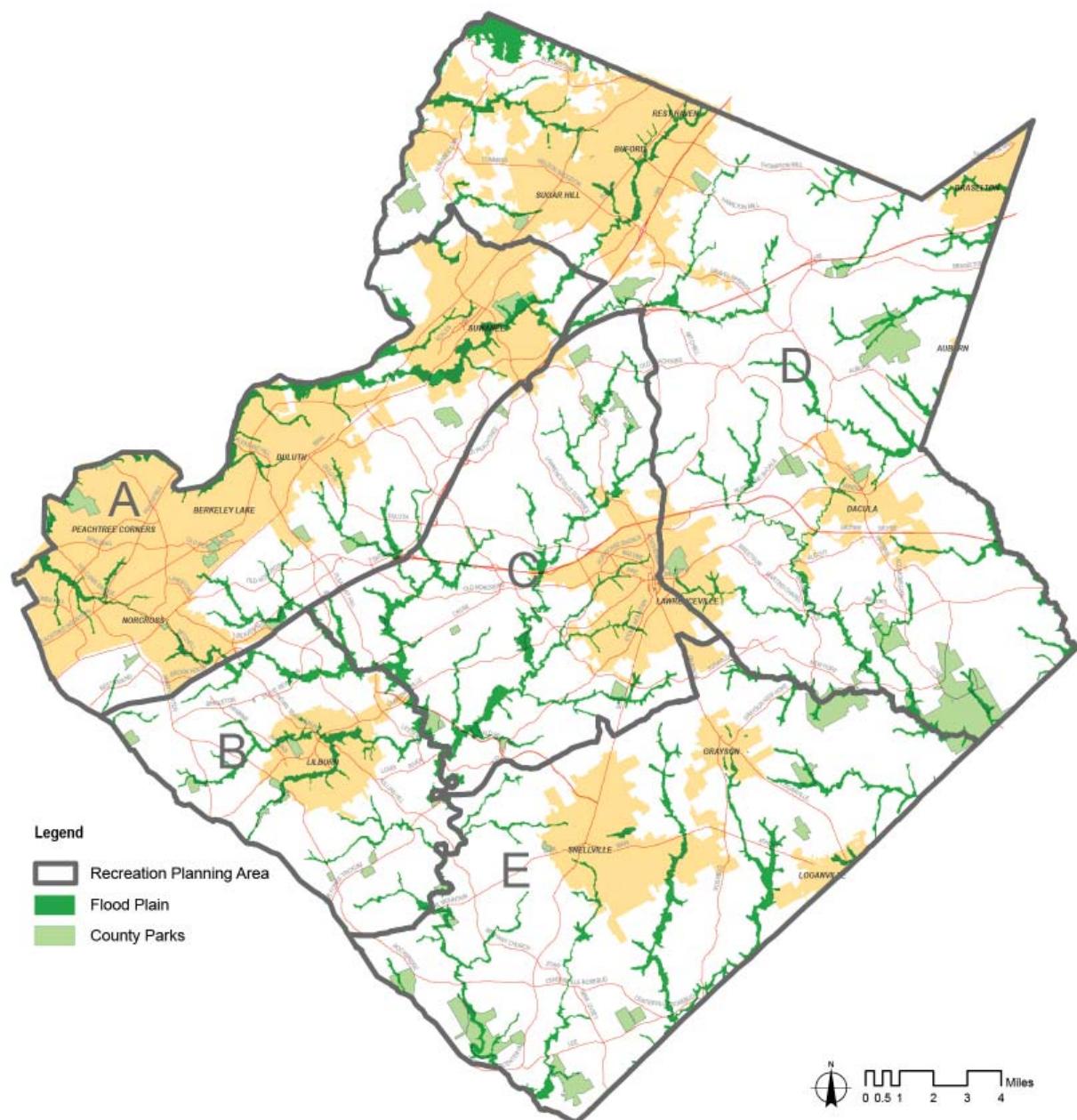
## Flood Plain Recommendations

- Flood plains, shown in Map 5.10g, can play a vital role in achieving multiple benefits and objectives related to parks, recreation, and stormwater management. Flood plains can be used to provide unstructured athletic fields, expand existing parks, fill service gaps of Open Space Park acreage, provide linkages to enhance pedestrian access and connectivity to existing parks, protect natural resources, protect and improve water quality and stream conditions, and reduce flooding in developed areas while leveraging state and federal funding sources.
- Consider working with the County's Department of Water Resources to acquire flood plains in key areas that maximize mutual benefits and help achieve multiple objectives.

Map 5.10f Natural Resources



Map 5.910g Gwinnett County Flood Plain Locations



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# Section 6: facilities gap analysis

play \* live \* learn

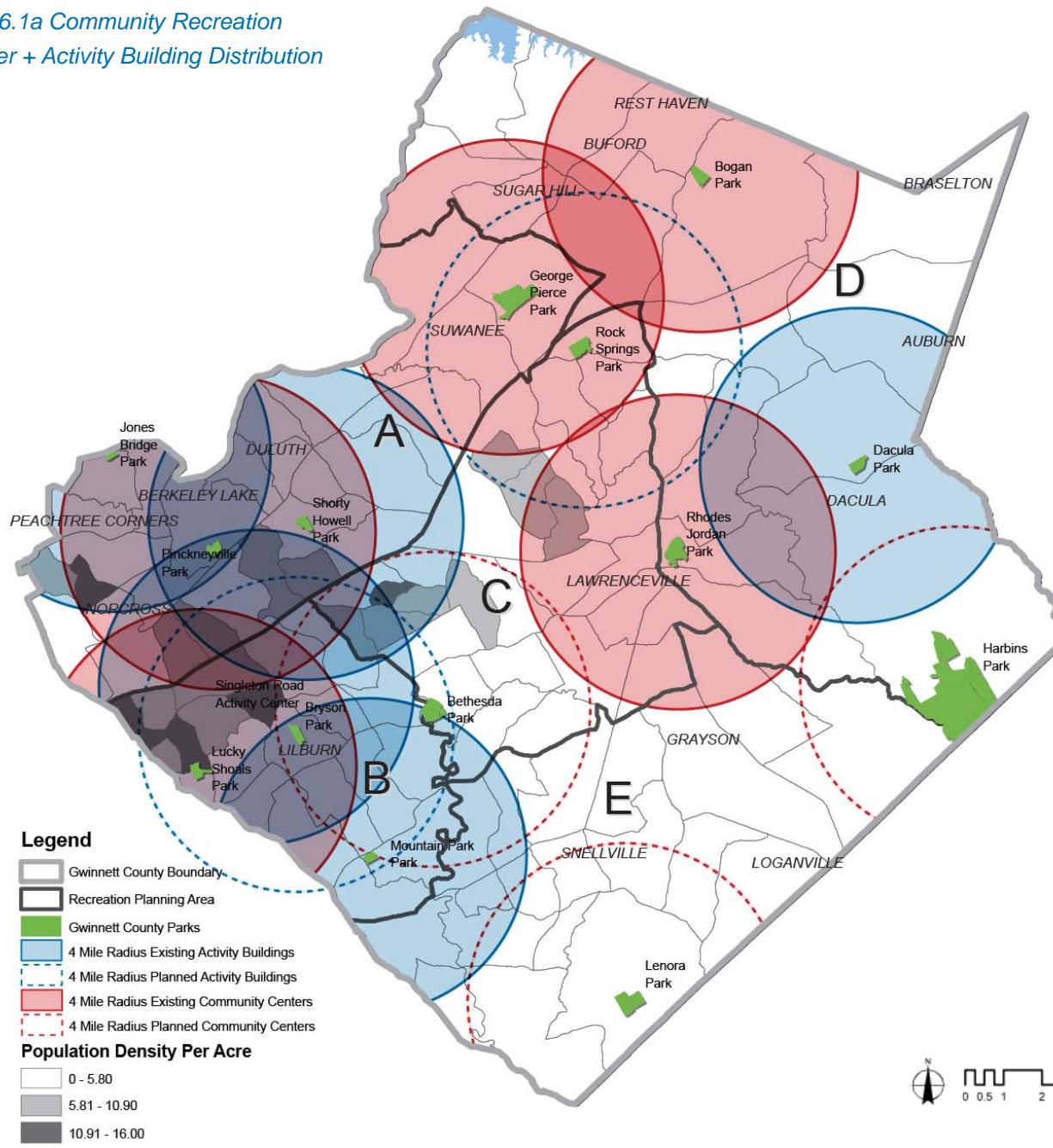
## section 6: facilities gap analysis

Geographic gap analyses were also conducted for specific facilities types. The following pages contain gap analysis for the following types of facilities:

- Community Recreation Center + Activity Building
- Senior Recreation Center
- Gyms

- Indoor Aquatics Center
- Outdoor Aquatics Center
- Outdoor Basketball Courts
- Skate Park
- Roller Hockey Rinks
- Playground
- Dog Parks
- Disc Golf Facilities
- Artificial Turf Fields
- Greenway + Multi-Purpose Trail in Parks

*Map 6.1a Community Recreation Center + Activity Building Distribution*



Service gap analysis standards for these facilities were based on standards developed during the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan.

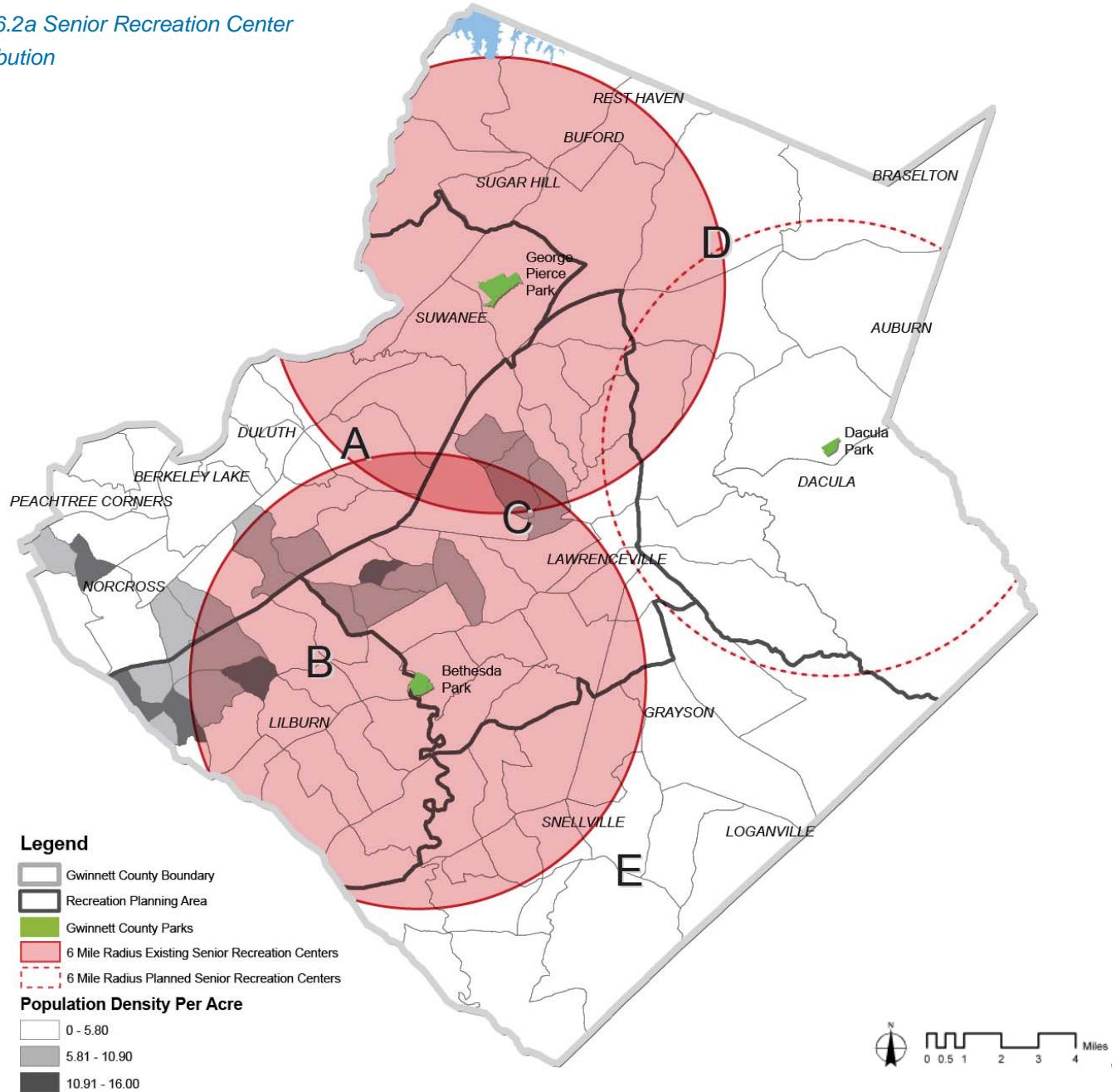
five existing community recreation centers and five existing activity centers. An additional three community centers and two activity centers are planned.

## 6.1 – Community Recreation Center + Activity Center Analysis

Map 6.1a shows the locations of each existing and planned Community Recreation Centers and Activity Centers in Gwinnett County. The County currently has

To measure access, a radius of four miles was plotted around each facility. The areas in white illustrate areas of the County that are currently outside these four-mile radii, which includes large sections of RPA E, one section in RPA C, and two sections of RPA D.

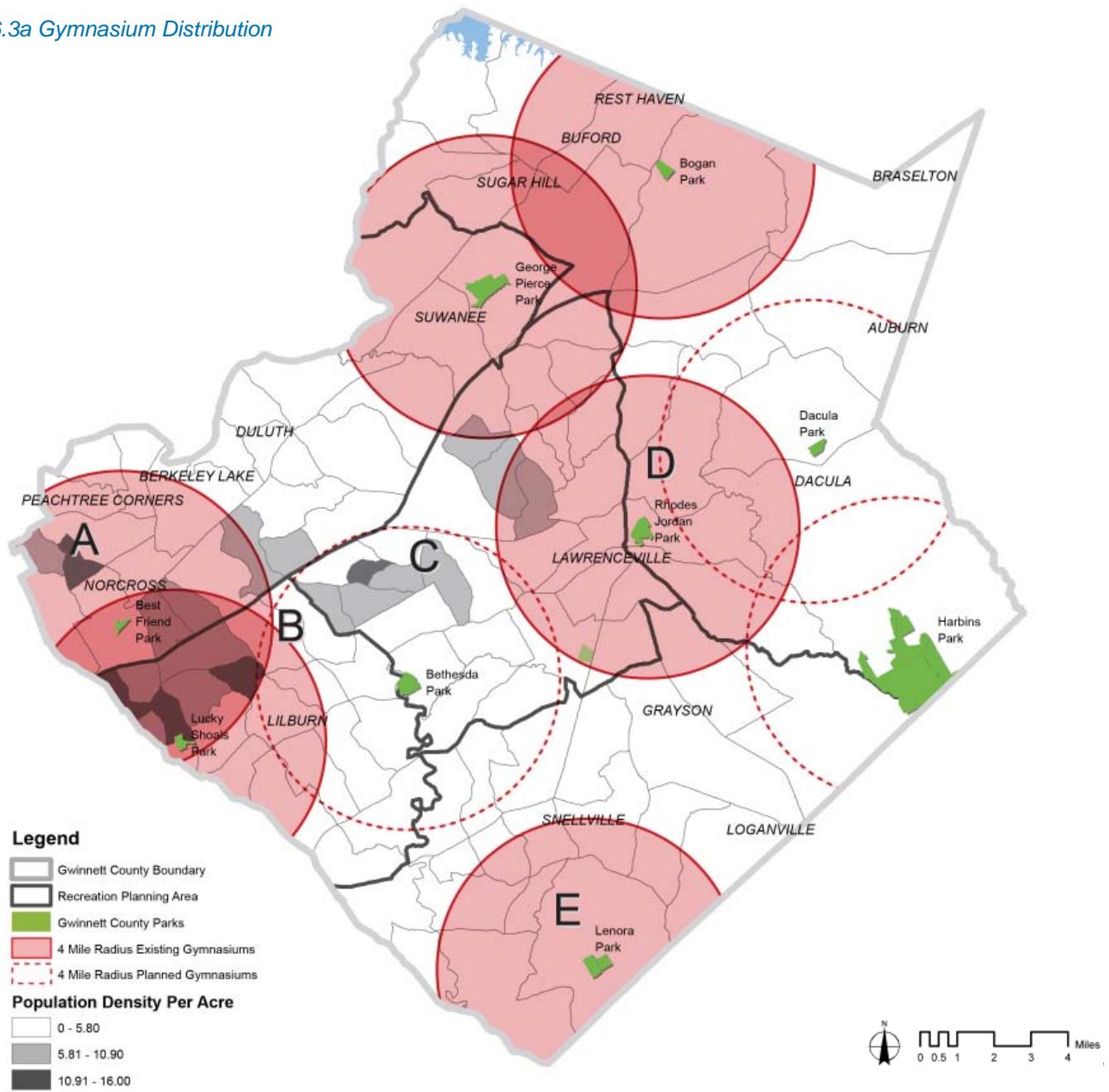
## *Map 6.2a Senior Recreation Center Distribution*



## 6.2 – Senior Recreation Center Analysis

Currently there are two senior centers in Gwinnett County, and one planned. Map 6.2a, on the previous page, shows their locations, each with a six-mile service radius. Because of the senior centers' centralized locations, most areas of Gwinnett County are contained within these six-mile radii; areas that lack access include eastern RPA E, northern RPA D, and western RPA A.

Map 6.3a Gymnasium Distribution



## 6.3 – Gymnasium Analysis

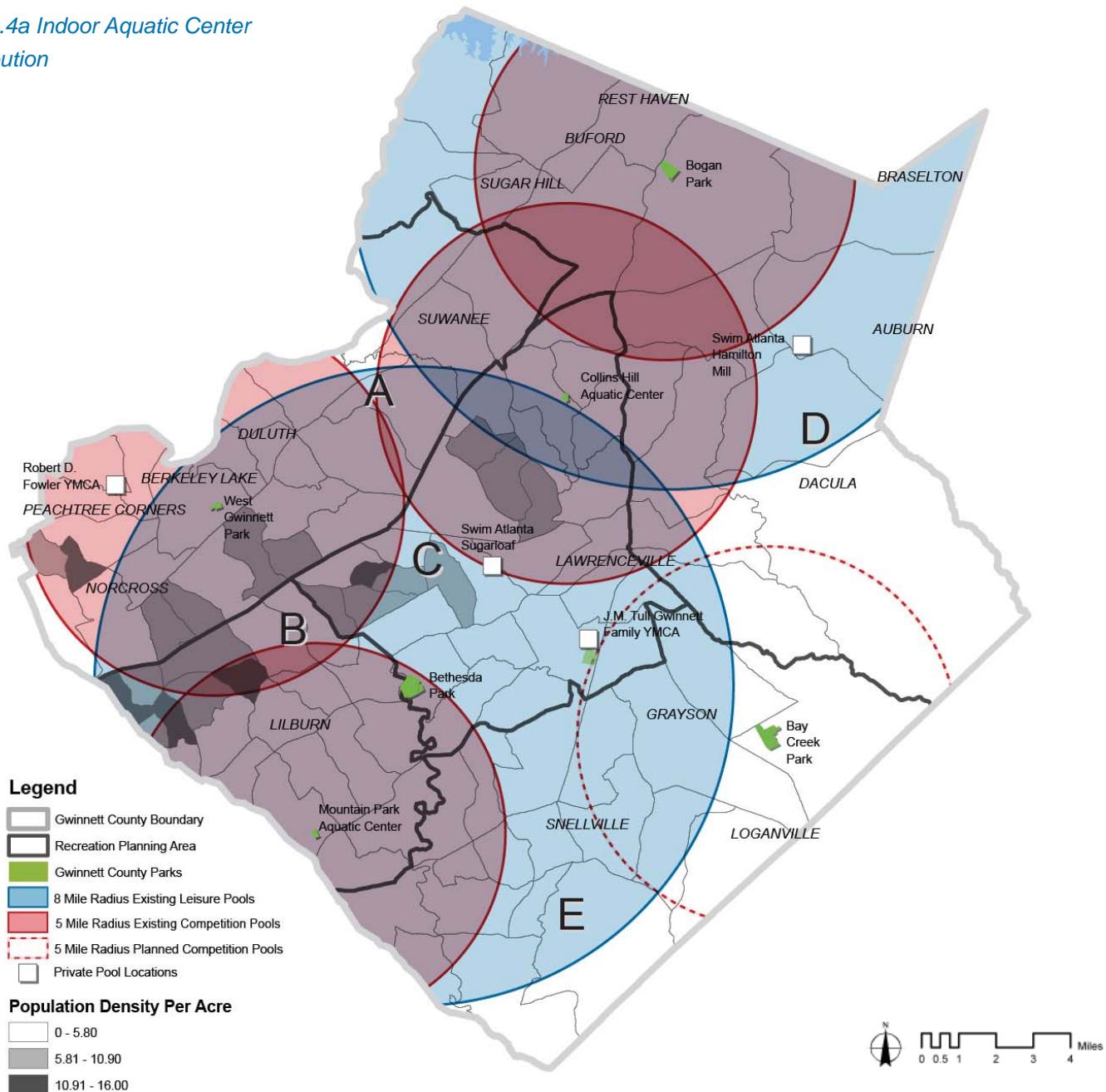
Gwinnett County currently has six existing gyms and three planned gyms. When these facilities are mapped with a four-mile service radius (Map 6.3a), the majority of Gwinnett County is covered. Gaps in access occur in all RPAs, with the largest gaps in RPAs A, D, and E.

## 6.4 – Indoor Aquatic Center Analysis

Gwinnett County has two major types of indoor aquatics facilities: leisure pools and competition pools. Currently there are two existing leisure pools, four existing competition pools, and one planned competition pool. Map 6.4a illustrates the locations of these facilities, including an eight-mile service radius for leisure pools and a five-mile radius for competition

pools. With these radii, almost all of Gwinnett County has access to an indoor aquatic facility, with the exception of the Dacula area in RPA D, and the far southeast corner of RPA E.

*Map 6.4a Indoor Aquatic Center Distribution*

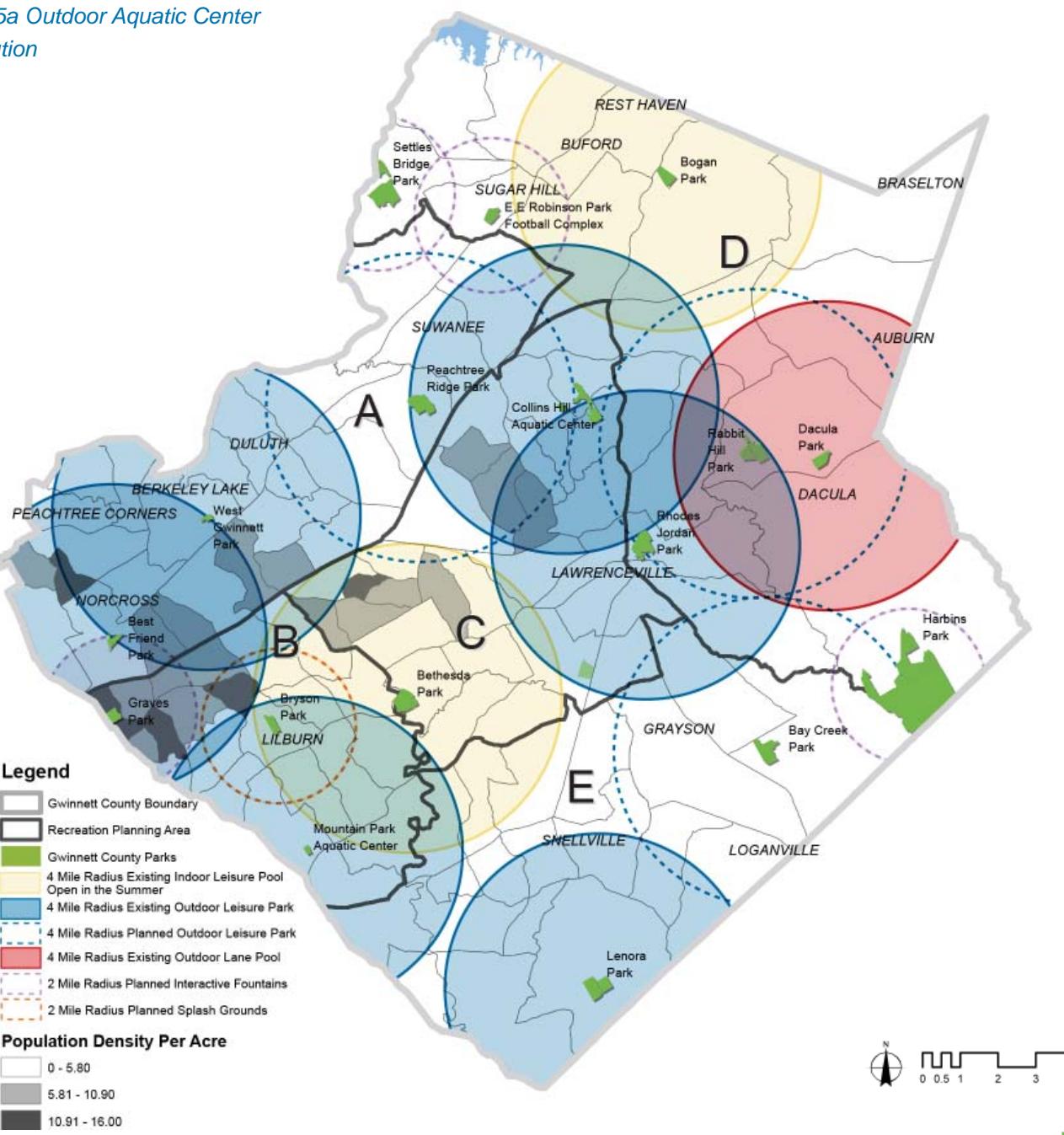


## 6.5 - Outdoor Aquatic Facility Analysis

There are four types of outdoor aquatic facilities that are planned (or already exist) in Gwinnett County: outdoor leisure pools, outdoor lane pools, interactive fountains, and splash grounds. Currently, the County has six existing outdoor leisure pools, three planned outdoor leisure pools, one outdoor lane pool, four planned interactive fountains, and one planned splash

ground. Additionally, the indoor leisure pool facility at Bethesda Park is open in the summer and provides similar facilities to the outdoor leisure pools. Map 6.5a illustrates the locations of all of these facilities with a service radius of four miles for the pools and two miles for the planned interactive fountains and splash ground. Almost all of Gwinnett County is covered by these radii, with the exception of the far corners of RPA D and a section of RPA E.

*Map 6.5a Outdoor Aquatic Center Distribution*

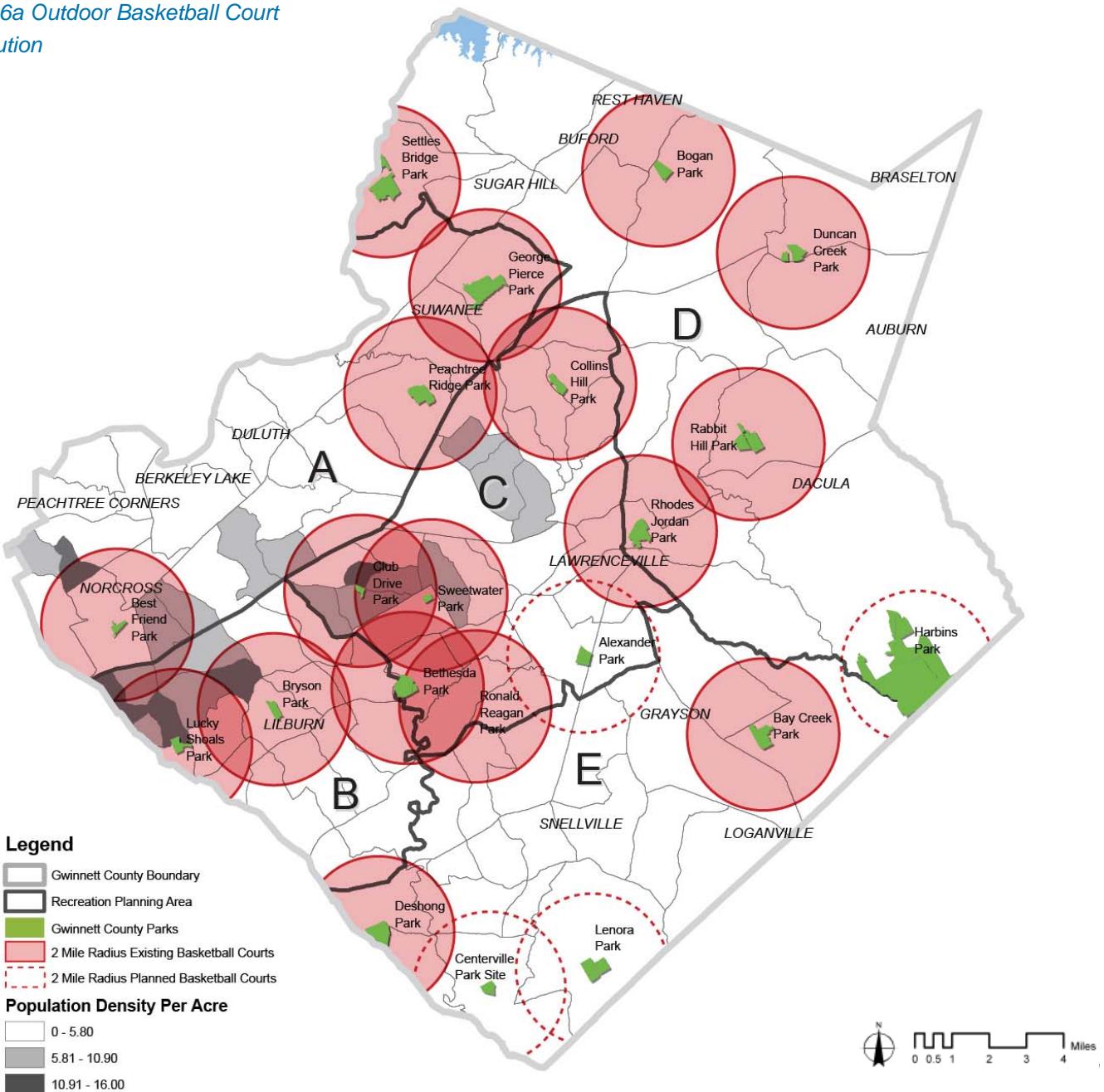


## 6.6 - Outdoor Basketball Court Analysis

Currently, Gwinnett County has 17 parks with outdoor basketball courts and four more planned. Map 6.6a illustrates their locations with a two-mile service radius around each. Because many of the basketball courts are located in RPA C, there is significant overlap in service areas. As a result, parts of RPA C are very

well-served with outdoor basketball courts, but many parts of Gwinnett County lack access, including much of RPAs A, D, and E.

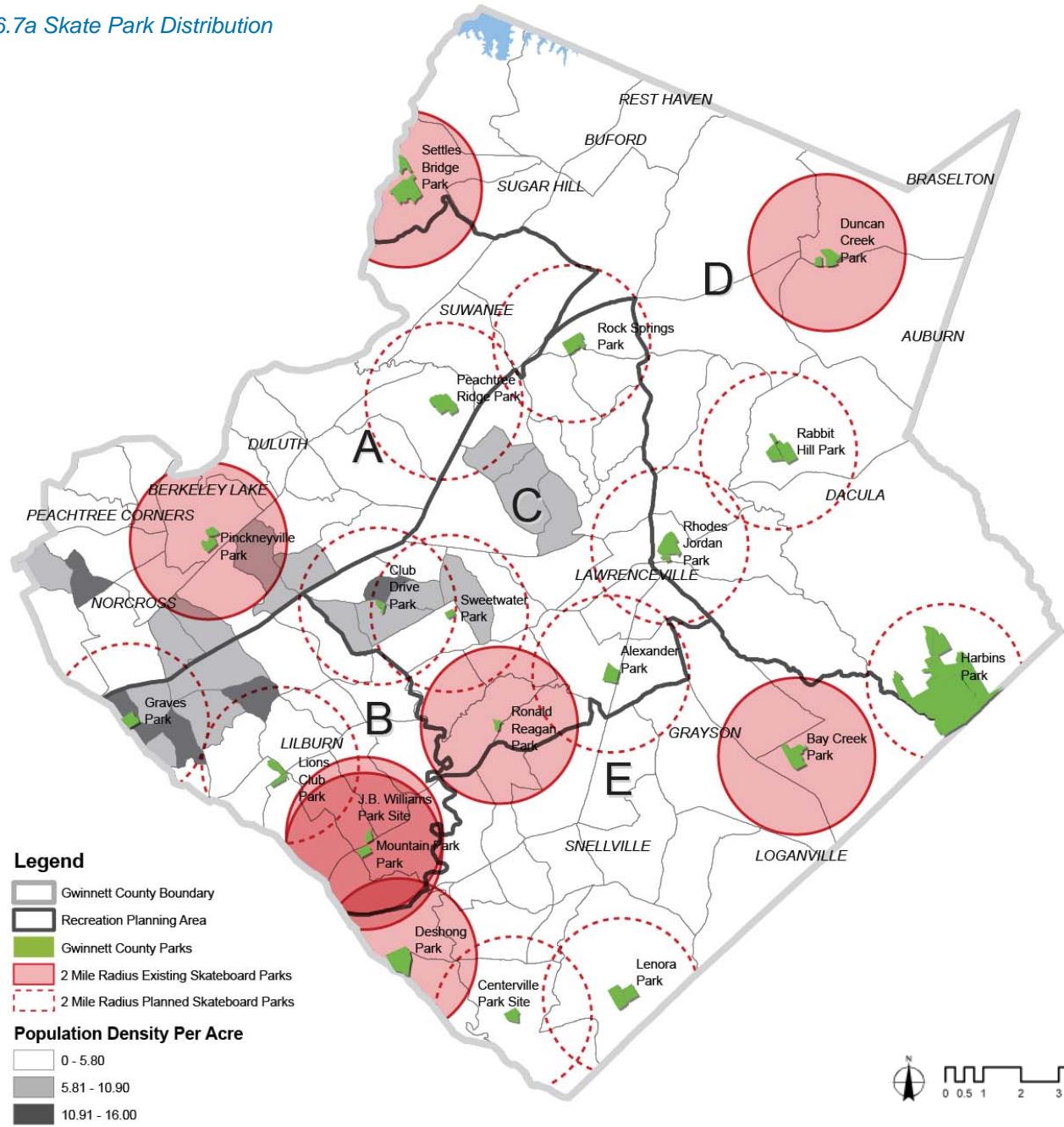
*Map 6.6a Outdoor Basketball Court Distribution*



## 6.7 - Skate Park Analysis

Gwinnett County has eight existing skate parks and another 12 planned. Map 6.7a shows each of these facilities with a two-mile service area. All five RPAs lack access to a skate park, with large gaps in service in RPAs A, D, C, and E.

Map 6.7a Skate Park Distribution

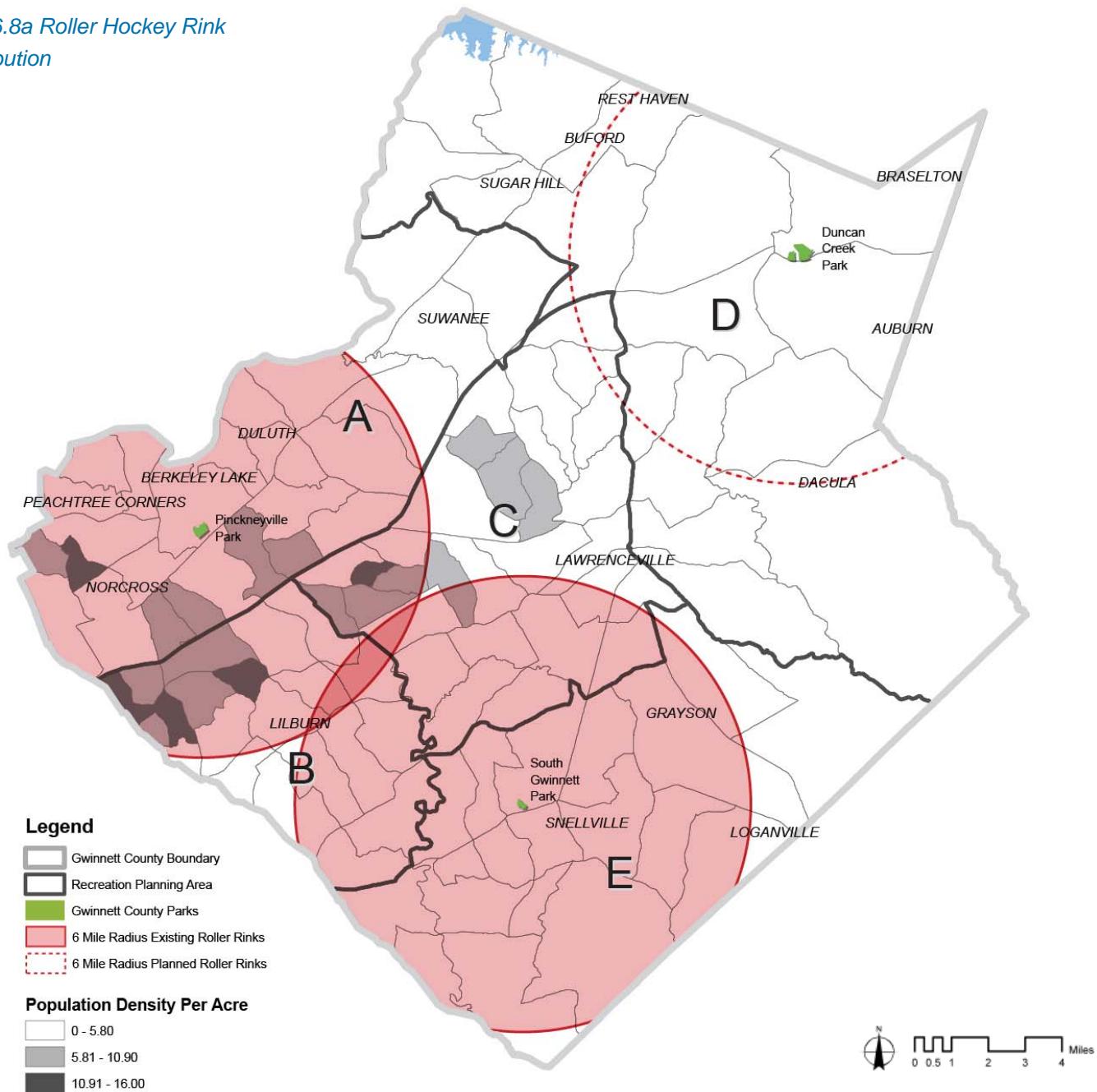


## 6.8 - Roller Hockey Rink Analysis

There are two existing roller hockey rinks in Gwinnett County and one planned. Map 6.8a shows the locations of each with a six-mile service area radius. Once the planned roller hockey rink at Duncan Creek Park is completed, about two-thirds of Gwinnett County will be served by a roller hockey rink. Significant access gaps

are in the northwest portion of the county (RPAs A and D), central RPA C, and most of the southern section of RPA D and northeast RPA E.

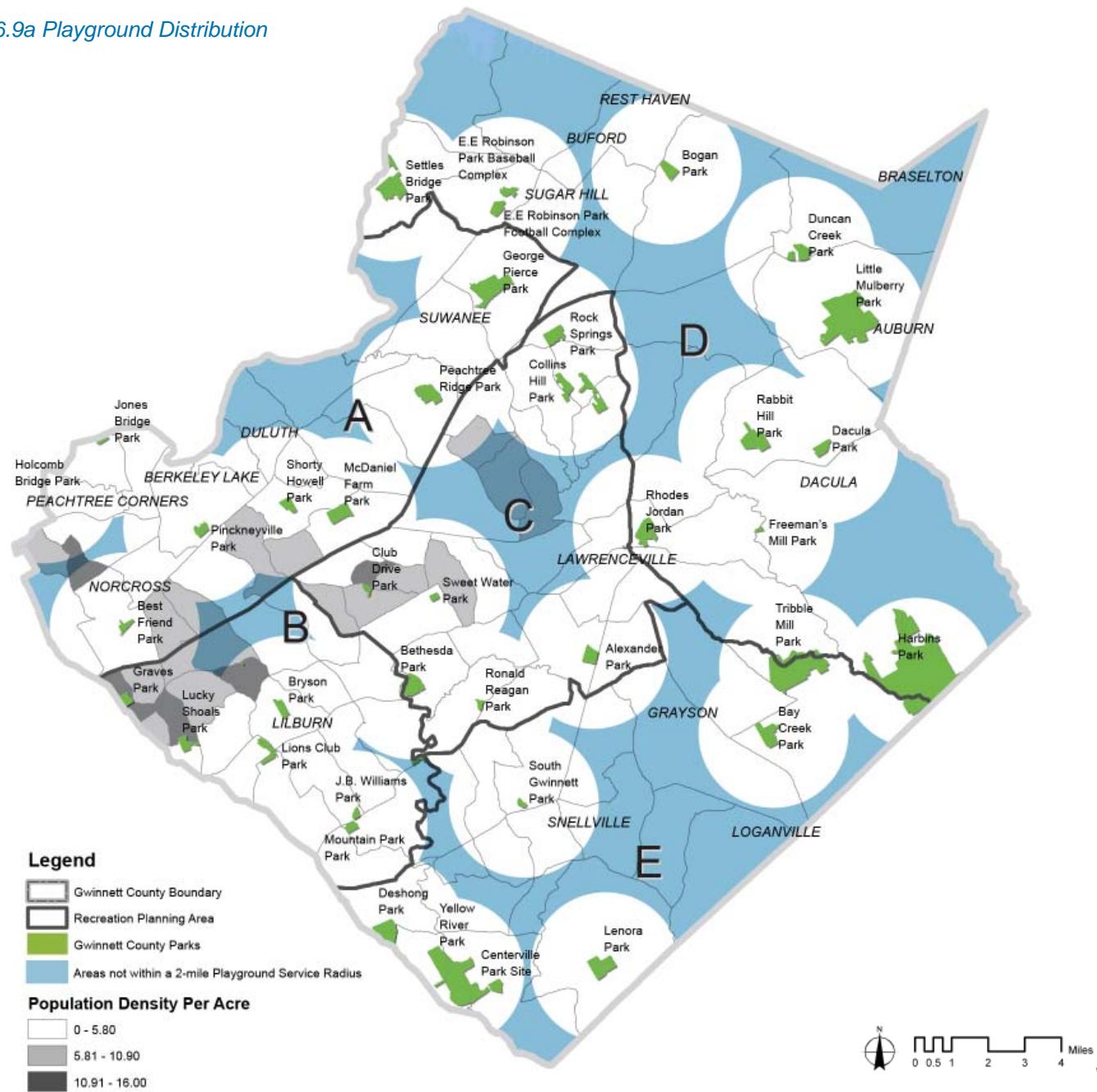
*Map 6.8a Roller Hockey Rink Distribution*



## 6.9 - Playground Analysis

Gwinnett County has 37 existing parks with playgrounds at its parks, shown in Map 6.9a. For each of these parks, a two-mile service area was mapped to determine gaps in service. Although these 36 parks with playgrounds are distributed throughout the County, significant gaps in access occur in central RPA C, multiple areas of RPA D, and over half of RPA E.

Map 6.9a Playground Distribution

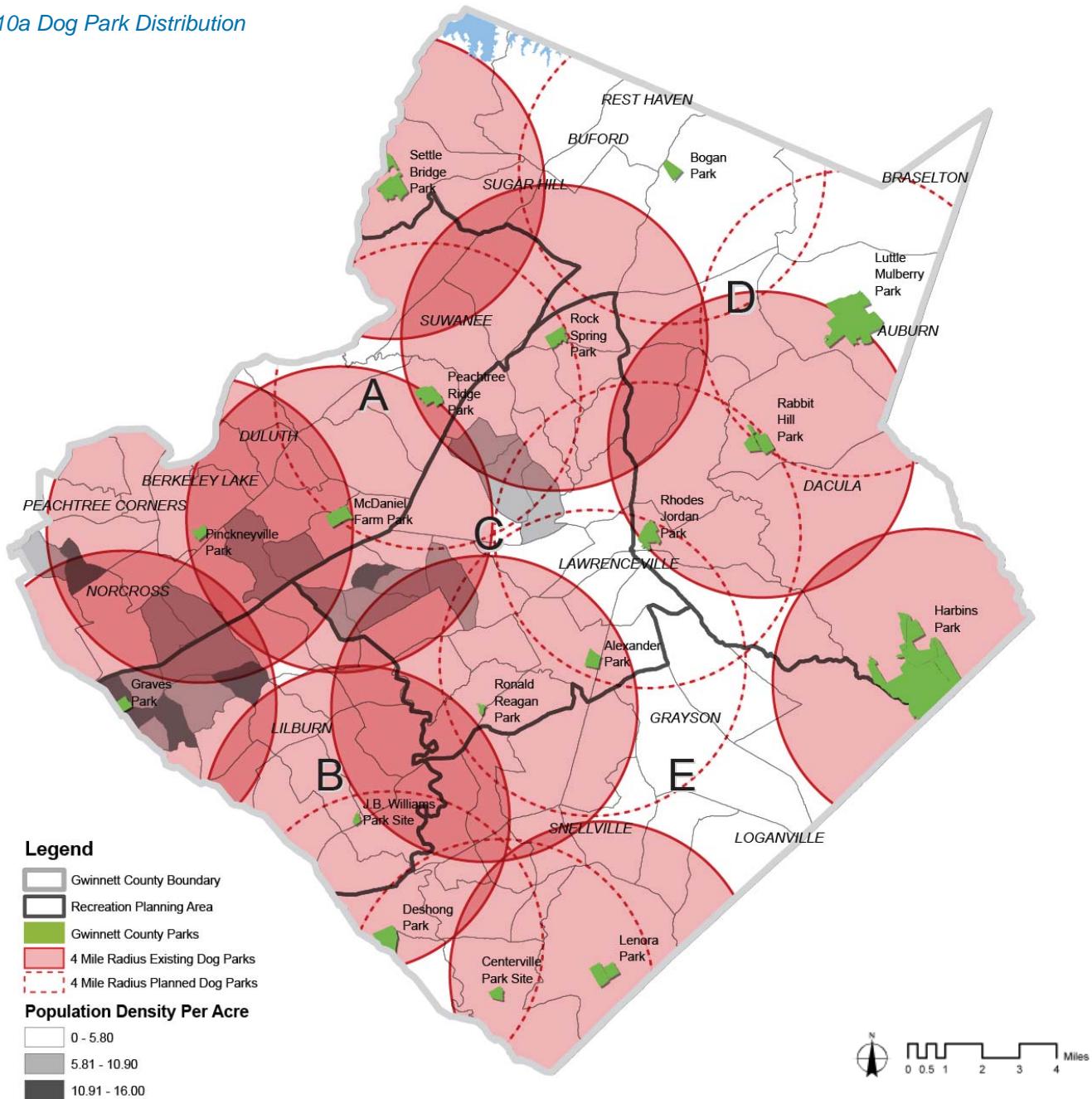


## 6.10 - Dog Park Analysis

Dog parks are an increasingly popular facility at parks across the nation. Currently, Gwinnett County has 10 dog parks and another seven planned. Map 6.10a illustrates the locations, along with a four-mile service area for each. Once the planned facilities are in place, almost all of Gwinnett County will have access to a

dog park facility, with the exception of the area around Loganville in RPA E and a few smaller sections of RPA D.

### *Map 6.10a Dog Park Distribution*

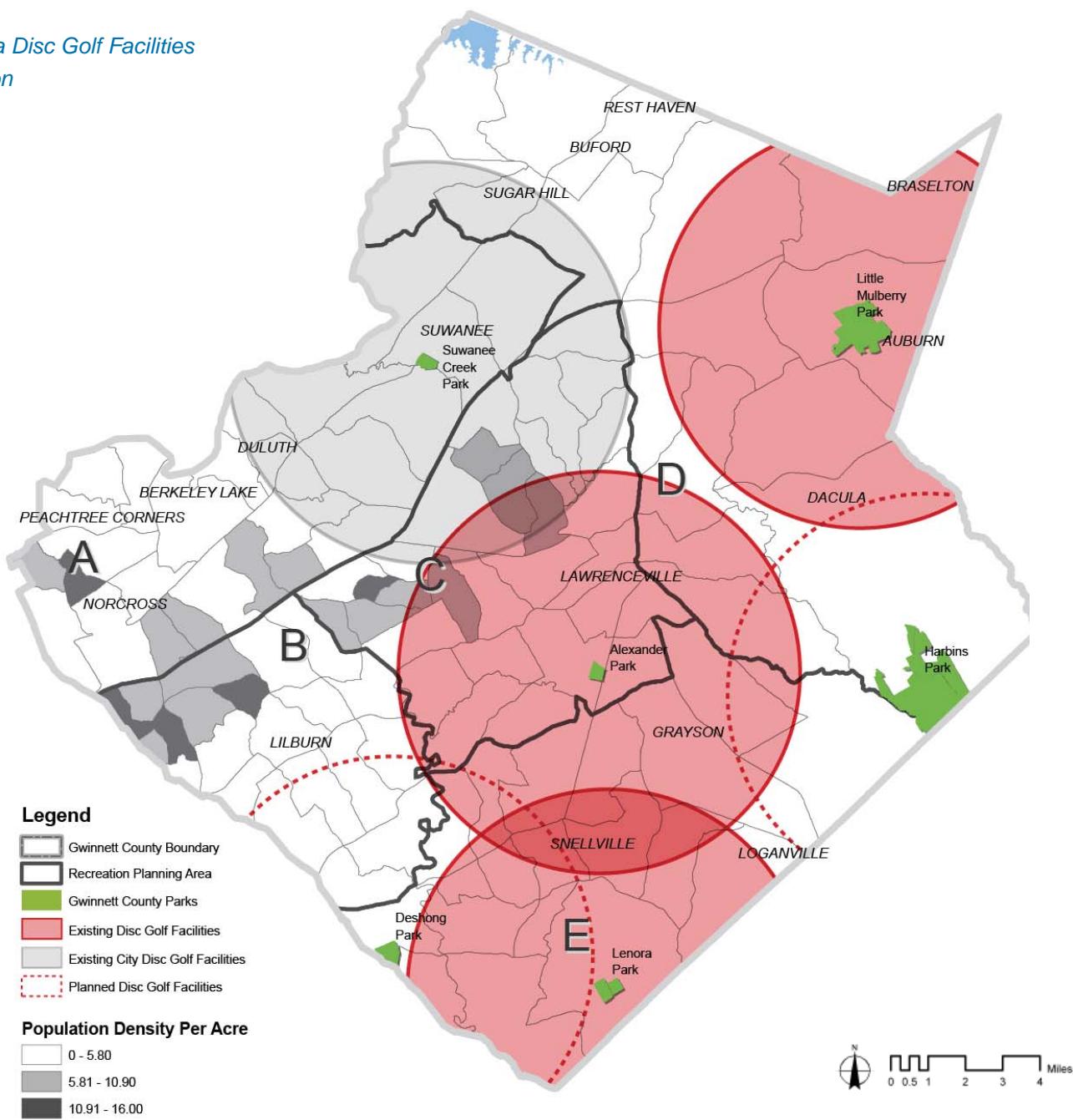


## 6.11 - Disc Golf Analysis

Gwinnett County currently has three disc golf courses and an additional two planned. A City facility also exists in Suwanee. Map 6.11a illustrates their locations. Because most of the existing and planned disc golf courses are in central or eastern Gwinnett County, the southwestern and northwestern sections of the County

lack access (parts of RPAs A, B and D). RPA E is almost completely served by the existing and planned facilities.

**Map 6.11a Disc Golf Facilities Distribution**

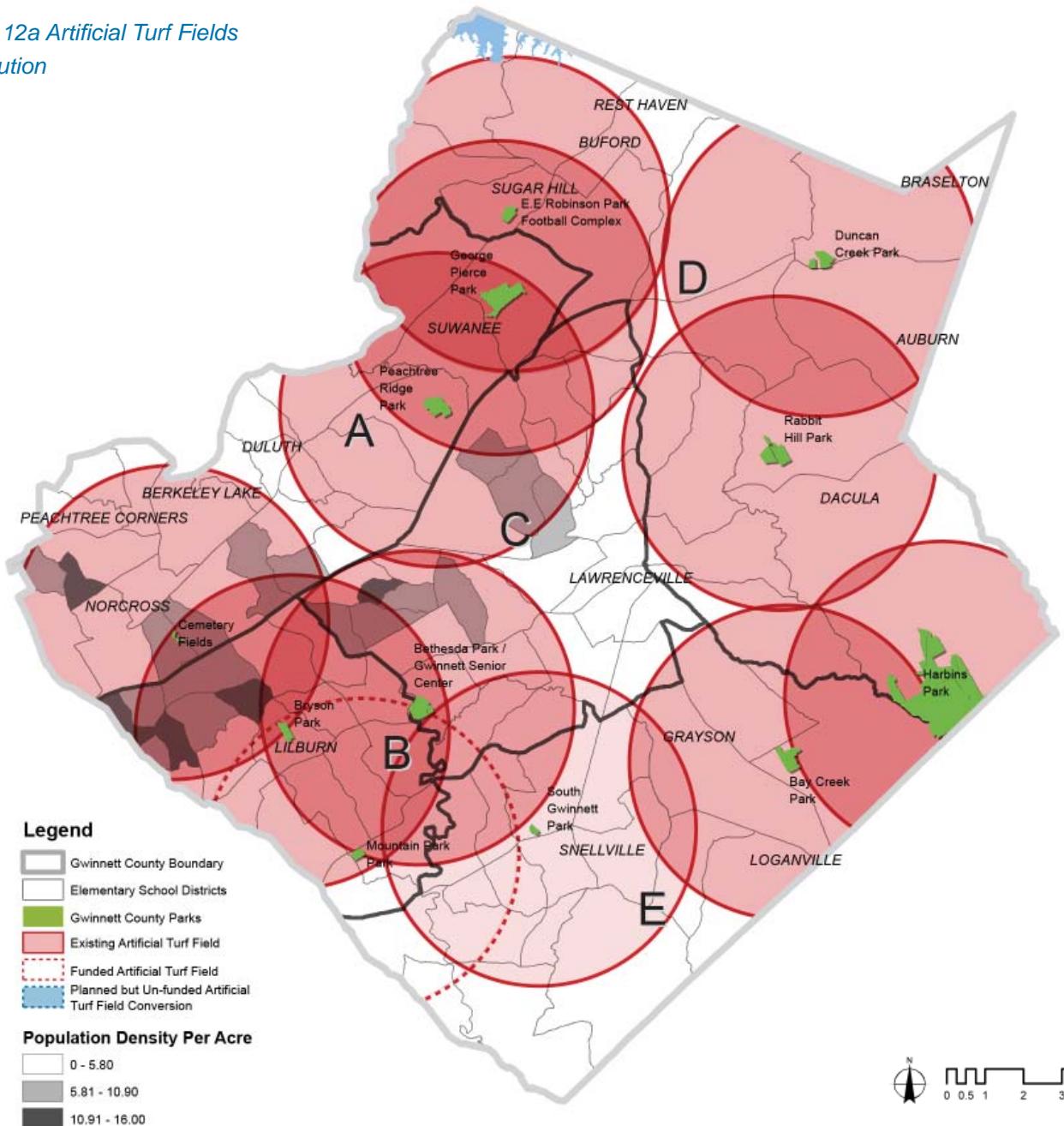


## 6.12 - Artificial Turf Field Analysis

Fields with artificial turf are an important active recreation facility in Gwinnett County. Currently there are 11 artificial turf fields in the county and another one planned. Map 6.12a illustrates their locations. Although approximately three-quarters of the County will have good or excellent access once the proposed facility in

RPA B is completed, gaps in provision will still exist in RPA C (around Lawrenceville) and the southern portion of RPA E.

**Map 6.12a Artificial Turf Fields  
Distribution**

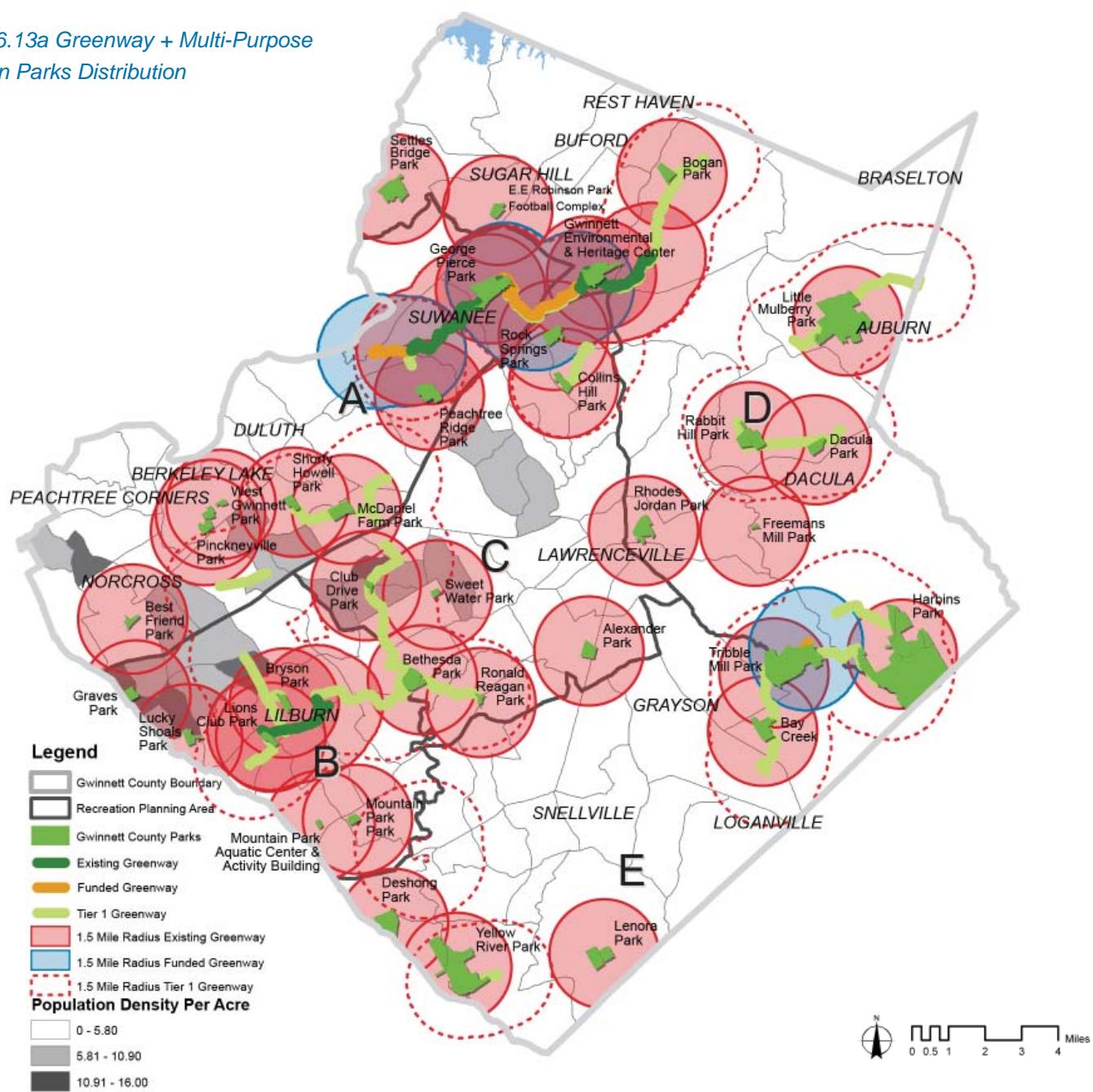


## 6.13 - Greenway + Multi-Purpose Trail in Parks

Greenways and trails emerged as the highest priority need in the public input phase of the 2016 CIP Update. Currently there are 35 parks in the County that provide residents with access to greenways and trails. Three additional parks have funded greenway and trail projects. Map 6.13a illustrates their locations.

While clusters of the County currently have access to greenways and trails, areas within each of the RPAs currently do not have access to greenways and trails including large areas within RPAs C, D, and E.

Map 6.13a Greenway + Multi-Purpose Trail in Parks Distribution



## 6.14 - Summary of Gap Analysis Findings

The gap analysis documents the breadth of the existing and planned park system in Gwinnett County, with special attention to 13 facility types. Figure 6.14a provides a summary of the findings from the gap analysis. Based on this comparison, it appears that most of the County is partially served by all the recreation facilities analyzed, with some RPAs being served more than others. Specific facilities that are mostly or completely unavailable to serve residents in certain RPAs are:

- Community Recreation Center + Activity Building in RPA E
- Roller Hockey Rink in RPA D
- Disc Golf Facility in RPA B

It would be important to compare these gaps to the researched desires of local residents to determine how important it would be for the County to prioritize addressing these gaps. Chapter 7: Recommended CIP will explore this topic in more detail.

*Figure 6.14a Summary Gaps in Facilities by RPA*

Facilities	RPA				
	A	B	C	D	E
Community Recreation Centers + Activity Buildings	■	■	■	■	■
Senior Recreation Centers	■	■	■	■	■
Gymnasiums	■	■	■	■	■
Indoor Aquatics Centers	■	■	■	■	■
Outdoor Aquatics Centers	■	■	■	■	■
Outdoor Basketball Courts	■	■	■	■	■
Skate Parks	■	■	■	■	■
Roller Hockey Rinks	■	■	■	■	■
Playgrounds	■	■	■	■	■
Dog Parks	■	■	■	■	■
Disc Golf Facilities	■	■	■	■	■
Artificial Turf Fields	■	■	■	■	■
Greenways + Multi-Purpose Trails in Parks	■	■	■	■	■

■ = mostly or completely served

■ = partially served

■ = mostly or completely unserved

Figure 6.14b Summary of County-wide Priority Needs from All Needs Assessment Techniques

**Matrix Legend**

- Identified Priority Need in Statistically Valid Telephone Survey
- Identified Need
- Need that is Consistent with Recreation Authority and Staff Input Goals

Priority Ranking	Priority Needs	Needs Assessment Techniques										
		Statistically Valid Telephone Survey	Public Workshop	Public Land Acquisition Analysis	Gap Analysis	Recreation Authority Goals				Staff Input Goals		
<b>Actions</b>												
1	Improve/expand existing facilities	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●
2	Build new facilities	●	●	●	●		●					
<b>Facilities</b>												
1	Walking/running facilities	●	●	●	●		●	●				●
2	Playgrounds	●	●	●	●			●				●
	Swimming/pools/aquatic center	●	●	●	●			●				●
3	Basketball	●	●	●	●			●				●
	Dog park/dog amenities	●	●	●	●			●				●
	Bicycling	●	●	●	●		●	●				●
	Soccer	●	●	●	●			●				●
	Open spaces/green space	●	●	●	●			●				●
	Sports - general	●	●	●	●			●				●
	More/closer parks	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●
	Nature walks	●	●	●	●		●	●				●
	Running facilities	●	●	●	●		●	●				●
	Picnic/BBQ facilities	●	●	●	●			●				●
	Football/flag football	●	●	●	●			●				●

Figure 6.14b on the previous page integrates the findings from the gap analysis into the summary findings of the county-wide priority action and facility needs. These new findings confirm the following county-wide needs:

**Actions:**

- Improve/expand existing facilities
- Build new facilities

**Facilities:**

- The County should prioritize the improvement, enhancement, and construction of the following facilities:

- Walking/Running facilities
- Playgrounds
- Swimming/Pool/Aquatic Centers
- Basketball Courts
- Dog Parks/Dog Amenities
- Bicycling
- Soccer Fields
- Open Spaces/Green Spaces
- Sports - General
- Nature Walks
- Running Facilities
- Picnic/BBQ Facilities
- Football/Flag Football Fields

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# Section 7 : recommended CIP

play \* live \* learn

# section 7: recommended capital improvement plan (CIP)

## 7.1 - Review of Project Goals

The 2016 CIP Update planning process provided a great deal of information related to recreational desires, needs, and priorities of Gwinnett County residents. This section begins to condense all the information gathered into a series of recommendations informed by consultation with the Recreation Authority, the public input process, the facilities and inventory analysis, previously completed plans and reports, the Consultant Team's experience, and the local knowledge, understanding, and expertise of County Staff.

To help set the stage for this section, it is important to return to the project goals established by the Recreation Authority to help identify specific projects that will best meet the needs and vision for Gwinnett County parks. These goals were:

- **Complete Planned Park Development and Renovate Existing Parks**

Complete the construction of planned phases of development within existing parks and undeveloped sites and provide major renovations as needed in existing parks based on the researched desires of residents.

- **Pedestrian Connectivity**

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.

- **Balanced Acquisition + Development of Parks**

Maintain a balanced approach to the continued acquisition and development of both passive and active park land to the greatest extent possible based on the researched desires of residents.

- **Parks for all Ages**

Provide for the needs of all age groups in the County, e.g. aging populations, adults, teenagers and children. This should include both structured and unstructured recreational opportunities based on the researched desires of residents.

- **Park Land Acquisition**

Proceed with the acquisition of park land in under-serviced areas

Additionally, it is important to consider the goals identified by County Staff:

- Maintain adequate parks and recreation staffing to keep up with the growing demands and facilities.
- 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.
- Continue to maintain and renovate existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Complete the construction of planned phases of development within existing parks.
- Renovate and/or redevelop existing parks and recreation facilities on an as-needed basis, in keeping with identified local needs.

## 7.2 - 2016 Capital Improvement Plan Project Recommendations

This CIP contains an updated list of project recommendations developed through the 2016 CIP Update planning process. Consistent with the summary findings of needs, these recommendations are divided into the following types of projects: Greenways, Renovations, Park Expansion, New Park Construction, and Park Land.

### Greenways

In response to the goal of improving pedestrian connectivity and the overwhelming public input about trails, a number of greenways projects are recommended as priority 2016 CIP projects.

#### Greenways

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
Harbins/Palm Creek Greenway	Harbins Park Baseball to Palm Creek Park Site - Acquisition to construction of 1.8 miles of paved trail and design for future equestrian trail.	\$2,340,000	
Ivy Creek Greenway Phase 1	George Pierce Park to Phase 1 Section 3 -Acquisition to construction of 1.4 miles paved trail. Design is funded in previous SPLOST.	\$1,820,000	
Singleton Greenway	Singleton Road Activity Building to Bryson Park to Camp Creek Greenway- Acquisitions to construction of 2.8 miles of paved trail.	\$3,640,000	
Johnson Greenway	Centerville Park Site to Yellow River Park - Design and construction of 2.2 miles of paved trail. Includes bridge crossing the Yellow River to connect trail to parking lots on Juhan Road.	\$2,860,000	
Harbins/Tribble Mill Greenway	Harbins Park Meadow Loop Trail to Tribble Mill Park - Acquisition to Construction of 4.4 miles of paved trail.	\$5,720,000	
(Upper) Sweetwater Creek Greenway	Shorty Howell Park to McDaniel Farm Park - Acquisition to construction of 1.4 miles paved trails to connect to existing park trails.	\$1,560,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,940,000</b>	

## Renovations

One of highest priorities of the 2016 CIP Update was to improve and renovate existing parks. The chart below contains summaries of county-wide system projects and site-specific projects to improve existing parks.

### Renovations

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
County-wide Asset Management Renovation Projects	Renovation of County-wide parks and recreation assets based on Asset Management Assessments	\$25,711,000	
City-Share Projects	Park improvements shared with Gwinnett County Municipalities	\$3,154,230	
Shorty Howell Park Artificial Turf Renovation	Conversion of the existing football field into a multi-purpose field with artificial turf.	\$900,000	Low
Dacula Park Artificial Turf Renovation	Conversion of the football field to a multi-purpose field with artificial turf.	\$1,300,000	Low
Lenora Park Artificial Turf Renovation	Conversion of grass multi-purpose field to artificial turf.	\$900,000	Low
Rhodes Jordan Park Artificial Turf Renovation	Conversion of the existing football field into a multi-purpose field with artificial turf.	\$1,850,000	Low
Rock Springs Park Artificial Turf Renovation	Conversion of the existing football field into a multi-purpose field with artificial turf.	\$900,000	Low
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$34,751,230</b>	

## Park Expansions

Consistent with the goal of completing the construction of planned phases of development within existing parks and County resident's researched desires to expand existing parks as well as build new facilities in under-serviced areas, following is a list of recommended developments of park expansions.

### Park Expansions

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
Dacula Park Gym and Senior Wing Expansion	Gymnasium and office additions - change operations to community center with Phase II Interior additions to activity building; Park Road connection. Add senior center wing to community center.	\$5,760,000	High
Historic Buildings and Properties	Provide funding to restore, recreate or stabilize historic building(s) owned or acquired by the County.	\$5,000,000	
Mountain Park Multi-Purpose Field Conversion Bridge	Bridging Funds for the replacement of the overlay football field with an artificial turf field.	\$1,900,000	
Alexander Park Bridge Project	Bridge Funding For Phase II: Northeast Quadrant developments including extension of park drive to Hwy. 124, parking expansion, dog park, pavilion/playground complex, restroom building, shelters, multi-purpose trail and sidewalk system expansion, utilities and stormwater system improvements, temporary overflow parking, landscaping.	\$2,700,000	Low
GEHC Blue Planet Expansion and Tree House	Renovate / replace existing exhibits to provide fresh content to encourage repeat visits and a more varied curriculum. Provide a "treehouse" of a design that allows visitors of varying ages and abilities the experience of being in the tree canopy in the woods above the GEHC.	\$15,000,000	
*Lenora Park Community Center Expansion	Completion of the community center additions to existing gym.	\$3,700,000	High
*Simpsonwood Park	Natural surface trail rehabilitation and new construction, boardwalks, river overlooks, reforestation, parking area restroom rehabilitation and new construction, multi-use paved trails, pedestrian bridge replacements and new construction, pavilion/playground complex, shelters, picnic facilities, rental pavilions, updated maintenance building, improved park entrance.	\$8,400,000	Low
*Sweet Water Park	Paved multi-use trail extension and dog park, skate park, interactive fountain, and aesthetic enhancements to all structures.	\$850,000	Low
*Vines Park Passive Community Park Construction	Complete the planned Passive Community Park Developments with multi-purpose trail loop, picnic shelters-playground restroom complex, multiple-rental pavilion restroom complex, dog park, volleyball courts, parking, lakeside seating plaza, maintenance compound.	\$6,200,000	Medium
*Palm Creek Park Phase I	Phase 1 Development as per Future Master Plan.	\$6,800,000	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,310,000</b>

\* Tier II project that would be implemented if SPLOST Funds are available.

## New Park Constructors

Consistent with the goal of maintaining a balanced approach to the continued acquisition and development of both passive and active park land based on the researched desires of residents, following is a list of recommended developments of new parks.

### New Park Constructors

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
Beaver Ruin Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	Beaver Ruin Park access drive infrastructure, parking, sand volleyball, restroom, pavilion, and playground.	\$3,750,000	Low
Discovery Cluster Park Development	Construction of one or two sites to provide community park elements.  Recreation Planning Area C deficit. Land Acquisition from 2009 SPLOST - Meets Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site Tier 1E.	\$7,500,000	Medium
*Centerville Park Phase I	Primary infrastructure, paved and un-paved trail systems, pavilion/playground/restroom complex with parking, picnic area, shelters, dog park, teen area, half court basketball courts, outdoor classroom, overlooks to Stone Mountain, interpretive signage system, connection with Yellow River Park including associated pedestrian only trail loop.	\$5,371,088	Low
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$16,621,088</b>

\* Tier II project that would be implemented if SPLOST Funds are available.

## Park Land

As noted in the Gwinnett County Park Land Acquisition Analysis, Gwinnett County continues to be challenged to meet the park land to population ratios in key areas throughout the County. While it is acknowledged that equity within all the RPAs will never be fully achieved, the County should strive to address park land needs in under-serviced areas. Consistent with the Park Land Acquisition Update and the goal established by the Recreation Authority to acquire park land in under-serviced areas, following is a list of open space and park land acquisition CIP recommendations.

### *Park Land*

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
Acquisition of Park Land	Discovery High School Cluster	\$8,000,000	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>

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gwinnett county  
department of community services

