

# 2013 gwinnett county parks + recreation capital improvements plan update

september 2013



gwinnett county  
department of community services

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## **2013 parks + recreation capital improvements plan update**

**September 2013**

prepared by:  
**the gwinnett county department of community services**

*with assistance from*

**AECOM**



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# acknowledgments

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Tommy Hunter, District 3 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 2012 population estimate of 842,046 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 2013 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is an update to the County's 2007 Capital Improvement Plan and 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Despite the difficult economic climate, considerable progress has been made since these plans were developed—the County has acquired 303.43 acres of park land and renovated existing parks to keep pace with the growing demands of its population. 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 2013 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 2013-2018.

The Gwinnett County Recreation Authority developed this plan with assistance from AECOM.

### 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 2013-2018. 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 and parks 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 expected vote for the next Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program is in November 2013 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 at a rapid pace, and is also aging and becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. Between 2005 and 2010, the County's population grew by 10.8 percent (78,740 new residents).
- The County's high growth rate requires that sufficient parkland be acquired before it is lost to development.
- The 2007 Capital Improvement Plan guided investments from 2009-2012, and is in need of an update.
- Gwinnett County has acquired over 300 acres of parkland since the 2007 Update.
- Leisure trends are shifting and new approaches to recreation planning are emerging. For instance, there is growing demand for unstructured and self-scheduled forms of recreation, such as trails and multi-purpose green spaces. There are also partnership opportunities with non-traditional partners such as Business Institutions.

- 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 2012, 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 and AECOM staff to confirm the Plan’s purpose and goals. Following the workshop, AECOM received and reviewed information from the County regarding the following existing documents for incorporation into the 2013 update:

- Goals and objectives from the 2000, 2004, and 2007 comprehensive planning efforts for review and consideration.
- Data from the 2010 Park Land Acquisition Analysis Update Report with its land acquisition recommendations.
- Capital recommendations of the 2012 Greenways Master Plan Update.
- Findings of the 2012 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey along with findings from surveys and minutes.
- Completed capital projects list from the various capital programs completed by the County over the last 12 years.

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, public workshops, a county-wide statistically valid telephone survey, and interviews with Business Partner Institutions. In Phase III, AECOM worked closely with County Staff and used findings from previous phases to establish a recommended list of CIP projects.

This plan is the cumulative effort of all three phases.

## 1.5 – Public Input Process

Public input was a critical component of the 2013 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. During the planning process, the Recreation Authority was consulted six times. Each meeting had a different topic area, such as discussion of capital improvement goals and prioritization, 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: Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center, Centerville Community Center, Dacula Activity Building, Bethesda Park Senior Center, and the George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center. A total of 88 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 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%.

The 2013 update also includes input from stakeholders, including Gwinnett County staff, and representatives from local Business Partner Institutions.

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 2013 CIP 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 parkland 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.

- Parkland Acquisition**

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

The 2013 CIP update process identified 72 individual projects within five project types for an estimated cost of \$250.5 million to complete. A complete list of projects is included in Section 7: Recommended CIP, page 107.

Project Type	Total Estimated Cost
County-wide System Rehabilitation	\$18.6 million
Existing Park Renovations and Developments	\$115.9 million
Development of New Parks	\$40.9 million
Greenways	\$47.4 million
Open Space and Parkland Acquisition	\$16 million
Gwinnett Environment and Heritage Center (GEHC) Capital Projects and Historical/Cultural Asset	\$11.7 million
<b>\$250.5 million</b>	

## 1.7 – Recreation Planning Areas

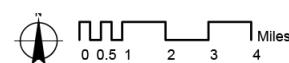
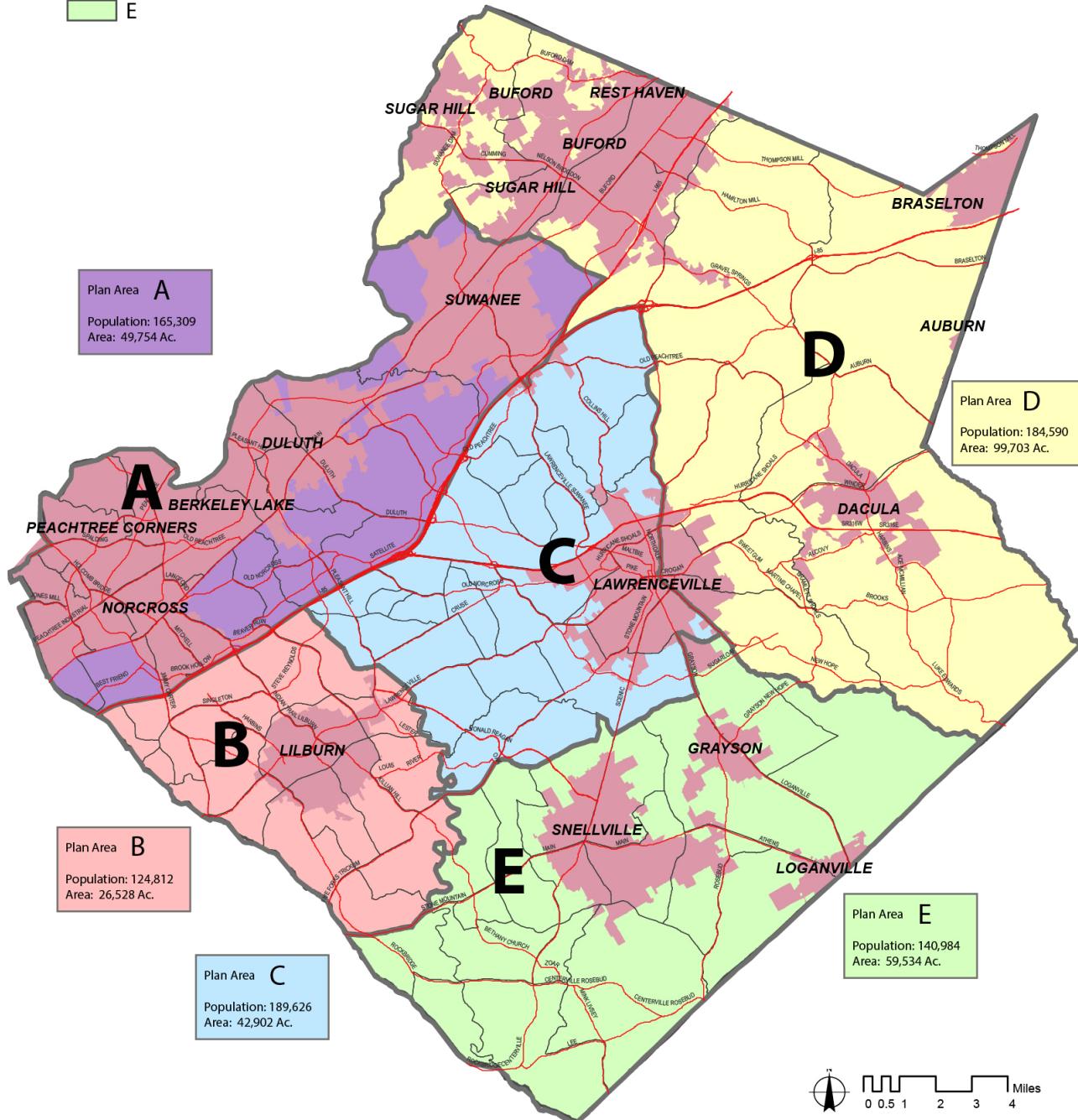
Gwinnett County is divided administratively into five Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs) pictured in Map 1.7a. These RPAs form the basis of analysis in updating the County's Capital Improvements Plan.

Map 1.7a Recreation Planning Areas (RPAs)

Legend

Recreation Planning Area

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E



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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 (1970 – 2010)

Gwinnett County has experienced tremendous growth in the past four decades. In 1970, the County's population was 72,349. Growth occurred at a modest rate until the 1980s, when the population jumped from 166,808 in 1980 to 352,910 in 1990—more than

doubling in size. This rapid pace of growth continued into the 1990s and 2000s, with an especially large influx of residents between 1995 and 2005. Figure 2.1a below charts Gwinnett County's growth between 1970 and 2010. As of the 2010 Census, the County had 805,321 residents.

#### Total Population by Planning Area (2000-2010)

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 2010 while Map 2.1a illustrates these patterns between 2007 and 2010.

RPA D has witnessed the largest amount of growth of the five. In 2000, it was the least populous with 90,124 residents, but by 2010 had grown to 184,590 residents,

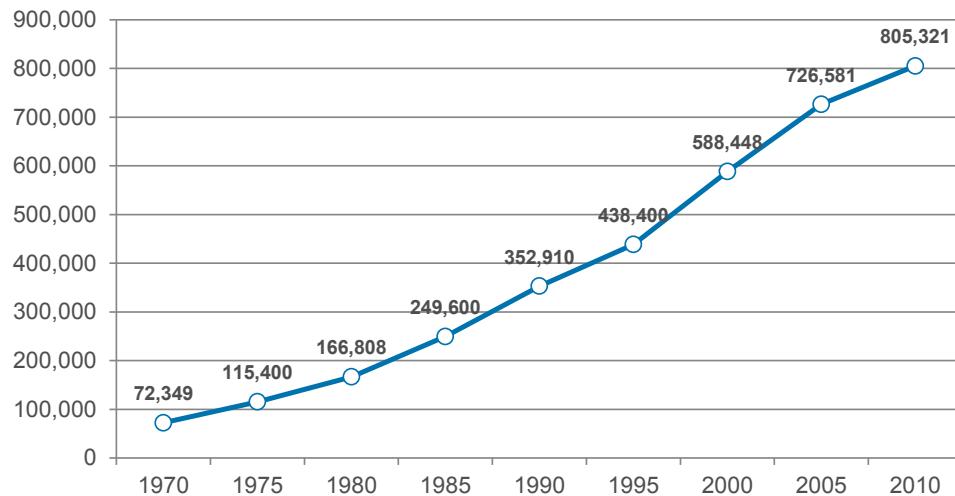
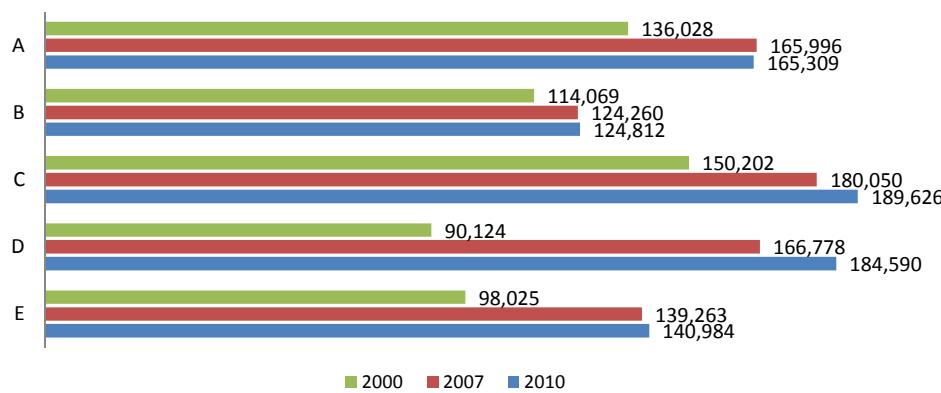


Figure 2.1a Population  
1970-2010

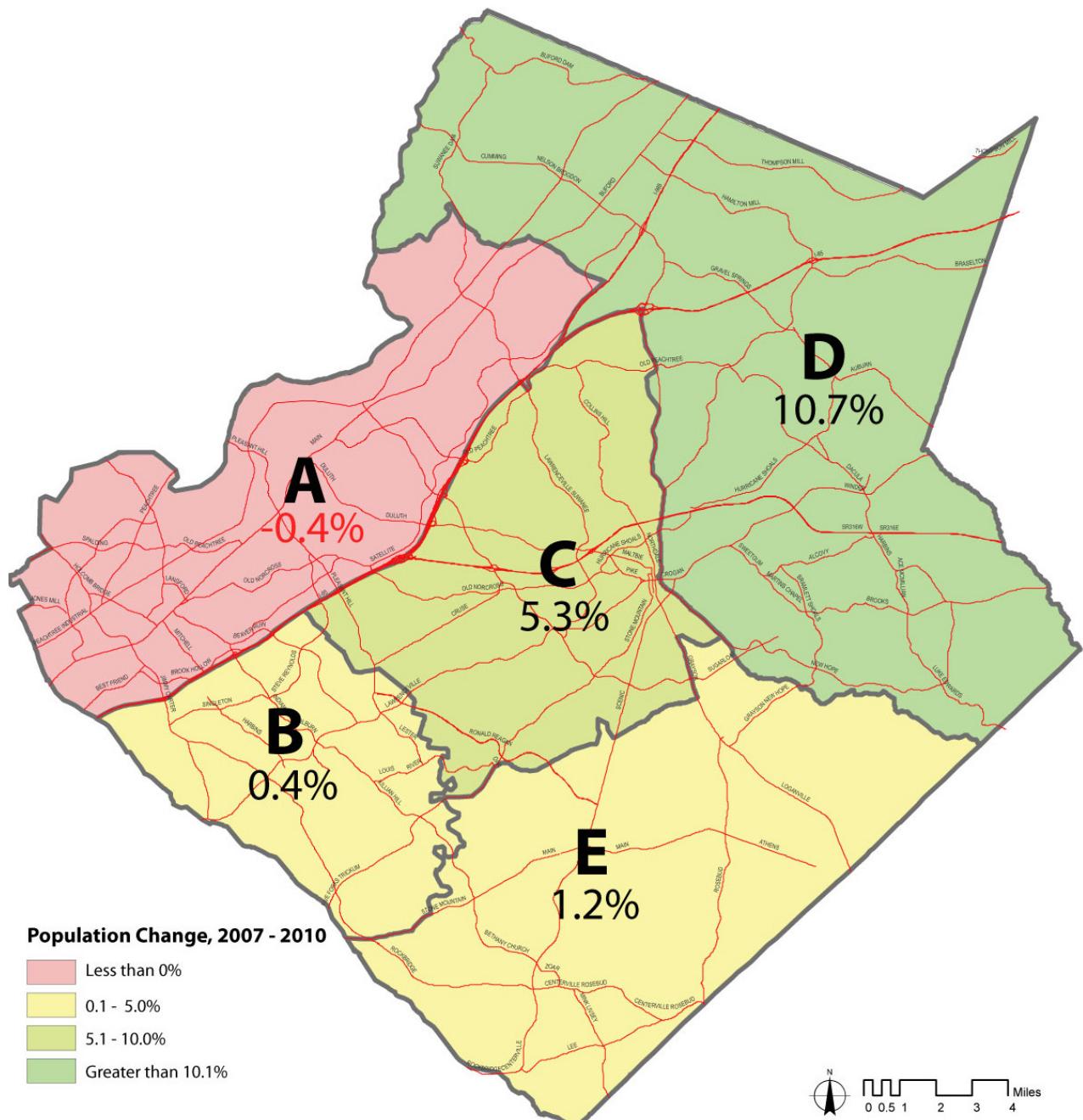
Figure 2.1b Population by  
Planning Area 2000 - 2010



### *Map 2.1a Population Change per Recreation Planning Area (2007 - 2010)*

Population Change Per Recreation Planning Area between 2007 - 2010				
Recreation Planning Area	2007 Population	2010 Population	Net Population	Percentage Change
A	165,996	165,309	-687	-0.4%
B	124,260	124,812	552	0.4%
C	180,050	189,626	9,576	5.3%
D	166,778	184,590	17,812	10.7%
E	139,263	140,984	1,721	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>776,347</b>	<b>805,321</b>	<b>28,974</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

to become the second-most populous. RPA E has also experienced substantial growth. Of the five planning areas, RPA B has remained the most constant, with a moderate rate of growth of 9.4 percent between 2000 and 2010. The only RPA to lose population was RPA A between 2005 and 2010, with a small loss of 687 residents.



## Population Density

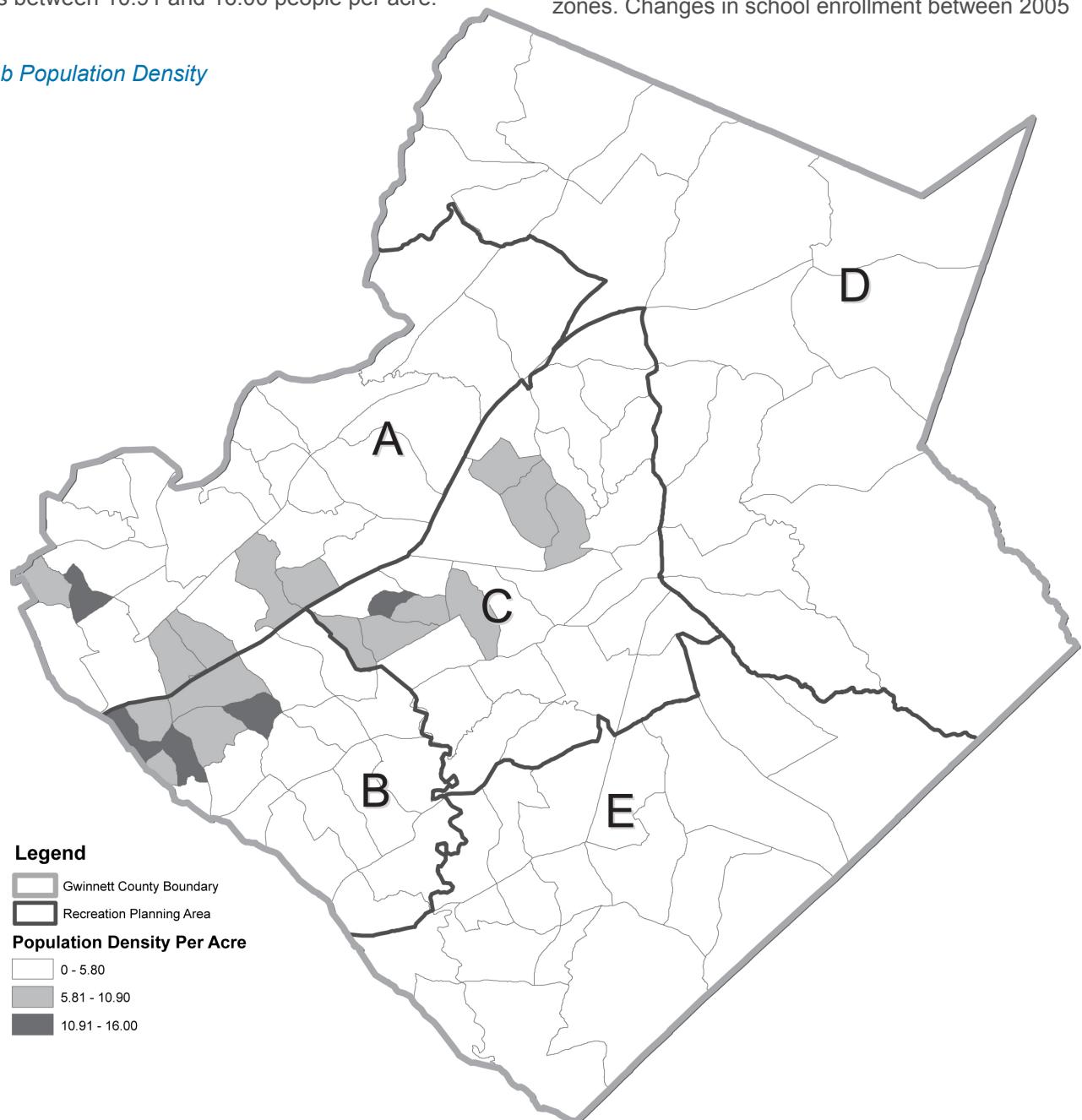
Gwinnett County is a predominantly suburban County with relatively low population densities. Map 2.1b illustrates county population densities per Census Tract. While most of the County has a population density below 5.8 people per acre, specific Census Tracts within RPAs A, B, and C have higher population 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.

## High School Cluster Attendance Change

### (2005 – 2010)

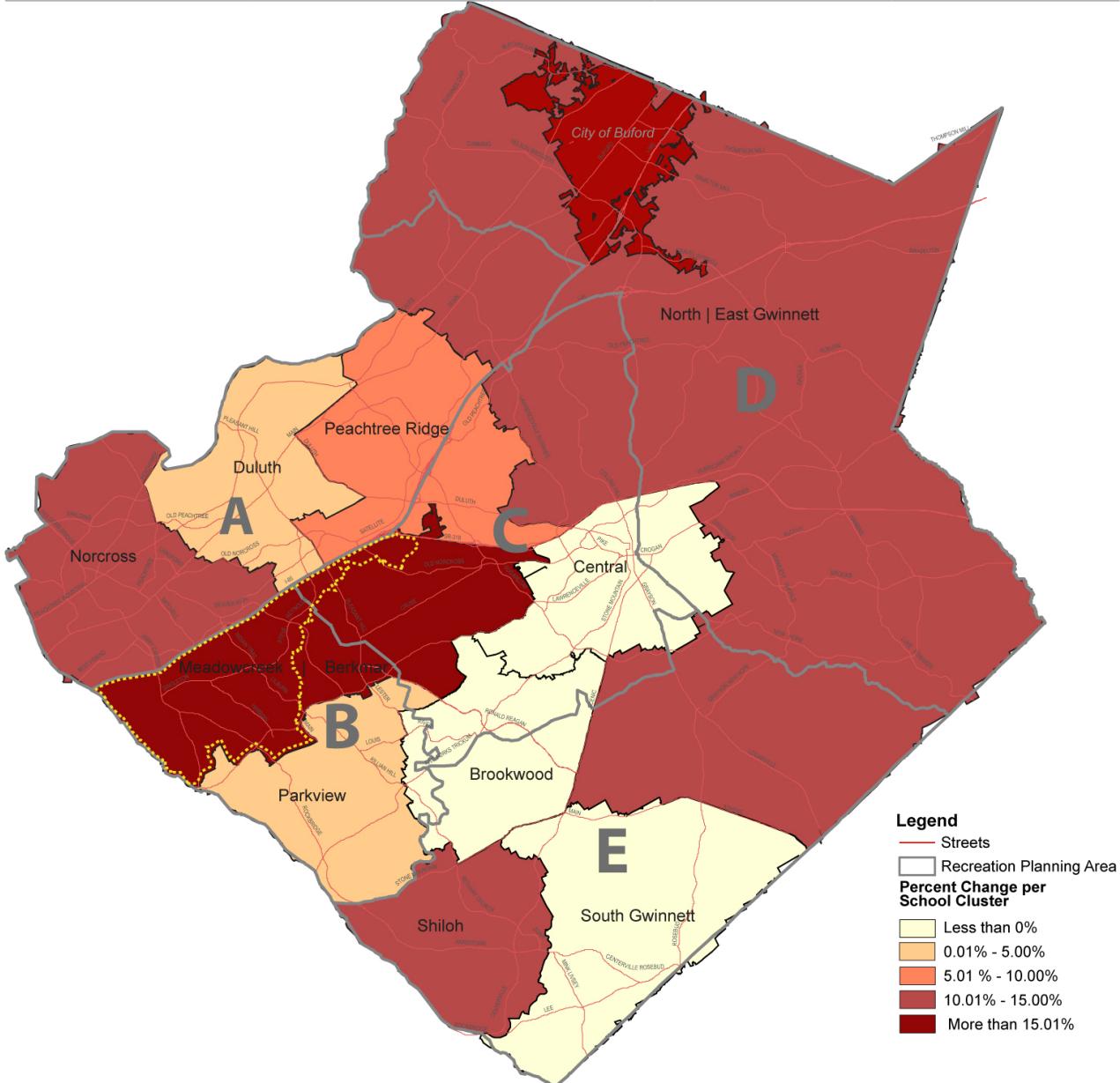
Of particular importance to recreation planning is understanding changes in age groups. Gwinnett County is divided into eighteen High School Clusters (The new Berkmar-Central High School now under construction will provide the base for the nineteenth cluster when it opens). High School Clusters are Gwinnett County's high school geographical attendance zones. Changes in school enrollment between 2005

*Map 2.1b Population Density*



Map 2.1c Elementary School Attendance Changes 2005-2010

High School Cluster	2005 Elementary School Attendance	2010 Elementary School Attendance	Net Change in Elementary School Attendance	Percent Change
Brookwood	3,779	3,642	-137	-3.63%
Central	5,190	4,829	-361	-6.96%
Duluth	3,772	3,840	68	1.80%
Meadowcreek Berkmar	12,461	14,368	1,907	15.30%
Norcross	5,159	5,830	671	13.01%
Parkview	3,148	3,250	102	3.24%
Peachtree Ridge	4,038	4,303	265	6.56%
Shiloh	2,871	3,286	415	14.45%
South Gwinnett	4,309	4,086	-223	-5.18%
North   East Gwinnett	24,200	27,176	2,976	12.30%
City of Buford	1,135	1,547	412	36.30%



and 2010 are shown in Map 2.1c, on the previous page. Two High School Clusters—Meadowcreek and Berkmar—had elementary school enrollment increases of more than 15 percent between 2005 and 2010. Both of these clusters are in RPAs B and C. The next highest rates of enrollment growth came in the City of Buford, followed by Shiloh, Norcross and North I East Gwinnett High School Clusters. Duluth and Parkview remained fairly constant, whereas Central, Brookwood, and South Gwinnett's enrollments decreased.

### Age Composition by Recreation Planning Area (2007 and 2010)

In addition to school enrollment, overall age groups were also measured by RPAs for both 2007 (Figure 2.1c) and 2010 (Figure 2.1d). In 2007, some age

groups did not vary much between RPAs. This was the case for 10-19 year-olds and 35-54 year-olds. Variability was greatest in young adults (20-34 years) and older adults (55 years and over). The RPA most different from the rest of the County was RPA D, which had a significantly higher percentage of young adults and a smaller proportion of older adults. It is important to note that RPA D is different due to the reduction in the percentage of 20-34 year-olds, which dropped from 25.5 percent to 17.8 percent. This decrease was associated with the post economic crisis reduction in household formation and the many “pipe farm” abandoned subdivisions in RPA D. A similar situation, but to a lesser degree, is observed in RPA E.

By 2010, some of these percentages shifted. County-

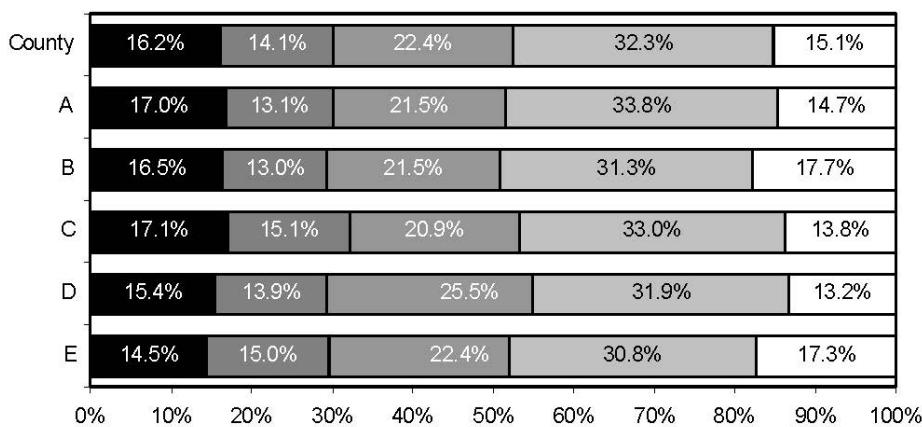


Figure 2.1c Age Composition by RPA (2007 Estimates)

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



Figure 2.1d Age Composition by RPA in 2010

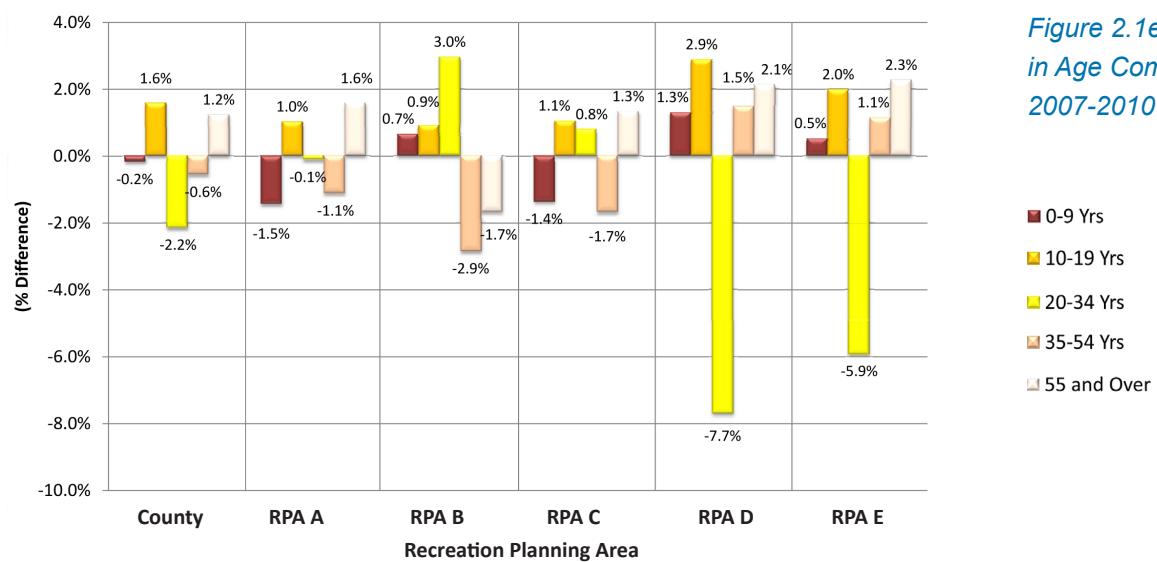
- 0-9 Yrs
- 10-19 Yrs
- 20-34 Yrs
- 35-54 Yrs
- 55 and Over

wide, the percentage of young adults decreased, whereas the percentage of older adults increased. Greater disparities between RPAs are seen in the percentage of older children (aged 10-19 years) and middle-aged adults (35-54 years). Individual RPAs also experienced changes since 2007. RPA E witnessed an increase in older adults and substantial decrease in young adults. RPA D also saw a drop in its percentage of young adults, and an increase percentages of

children. RPAs A, B, and C remained largely consistent in age distribution between 2007 and 2010 (Figure 2.1e).

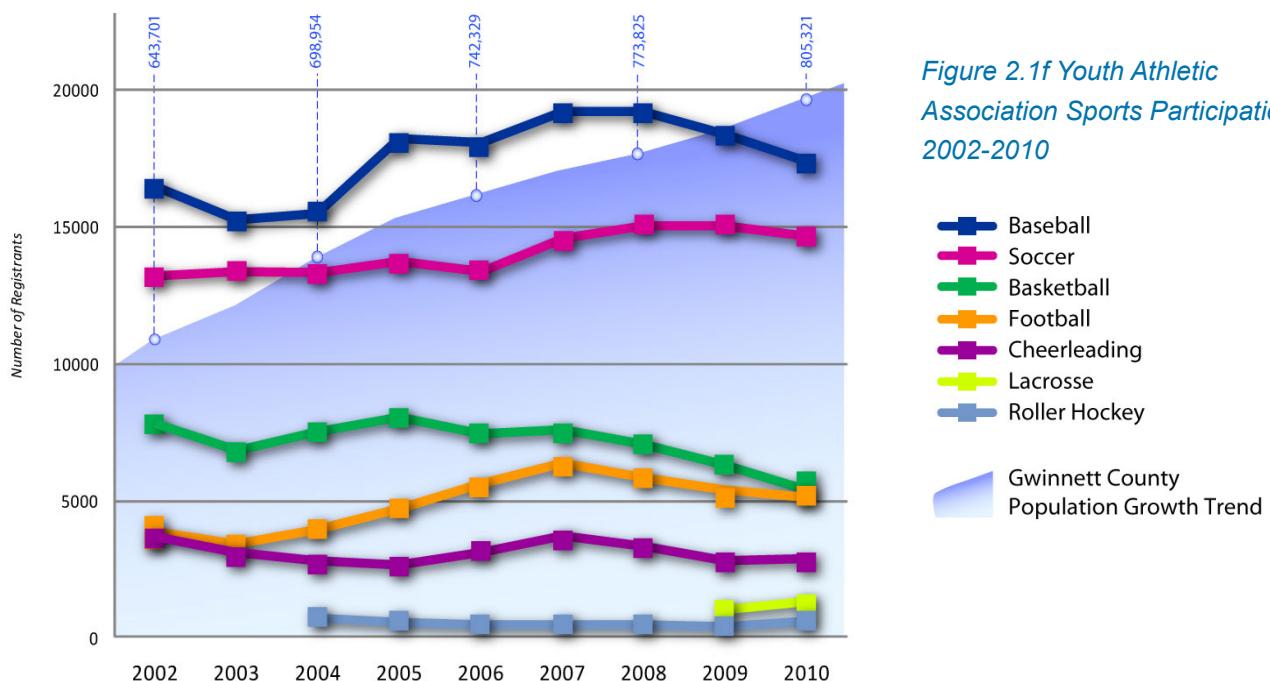
### Program Participation Update 2002-2010

Figure 2.1f below illustrates youth participation in various sports programs between 2002 and 2010. Despite growth in population, participation in most sports programs declined between 2008 and 2010.



**Figure 2.1e Percentage Change in Age Composition by RPA, 2007-2010**

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



**Figure 2.1f Youth Athletic Association Sports Participation 2002-2010**

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

■ Gwinnett County Population Growth Trend

Over the longer term, some programs, such as soccer, football, and lacrosse, have seen modest growth. Participation in roller hockey and cheerleading have remained somewhat constant. 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.

trend also emphasizes the need for more flexible programming of parks such as the transitioning of specific sports fields to multi-purpose fields.

## 2.2 – Summary of Demographic Findings

Gwinnett County has experienced consistent, rapid growth since the 1970s. With a larger population comes increased demands on parks and recreation facilities, both in terms of the need for additional parks space and upkeep of existing facilities. The greatest population changes between 2000 and 2010 have occurred in RPAs C, D, and E, which have grown substantially in recent years. These areas 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. Over recent years, there has been an increase in the size of the teenage and adult population, and a decrease in young adults. A notable increase of young children 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 for young children in RPAs B and C, and teens and older adults County-wide.

Nation-wide, recreation trends have shown an increased interest in self-directed activities. This is mirrored in Gwinnett County's declining youth sports participation rates. This decrease may be a result of changing recreation trends, but could also be explained by the tough economic conditions of recent years and families having less discretionary income to spend on organized leisure. Regardless of the cause, this

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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 2013 Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Plan CIP Update (2013 CIP Update). This process consisted of the following core public engagement techniques:

- Recreation Authority Meetings
- Statistically Valid Telephone Survey
- Public Input Meetings
- Parks and Recreation Managerial and Supervisory Staff Survey
- Business Partner Institution Meetings

Comprised of nine members appointed by County Commissioners, the Recreation Authority provided valuable citizen input and direction for the 2013 CIP Update. The Recreation Authority was consulted six times in key phases of the planning process. Their role included establishing the CIP goals that should drive the 2013 CIP Update and reviewing and providing insight and direction on findings presented by AECOM.

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 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 scheduled throughout the County to provide residents with an opportunity to participate in the 2013 CIP Update. Over 80 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.

The public input process also included a Parks and Recreation Managerial and Supervisory Staff survey questionnaire, specifically designed to obtain staff insight into the public's parks and recreation desires, needs, challenges, and opportunities. Staff's daily work and interaction with the general public related to parks and recreation provides invaluable information regarding the recreational needs and desire of the County.

Lastly, the public input process included meetings with Business Partner Institutions to understand how future park capital programs can further business development goals. The following pages provide additional information and findings for each of these techniques. This section culminates with key summary findings of the Public Input Process. Additional information regarding surveys and meetings can be found in the Appendix.

### 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 setting the goals and objectives of the 2013 CIP Update. These meetings were held at the following times and locations:

- August 9, 2012 - 3:00pm | Shorty Howell Park Activity Building
- November 14, 2012 - 3:00pm | Dacula Park Activity Building
- December 13, 2012 - 3:00 pm | Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

- February 7, 2013 - 3:00 pm | Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
- March 14, 2013 - 3:00 pm | George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
- May 9, 2013 - 3:00 pm | Bethesda Park Senior Center

A critical step in completing the 2013 CIP Update was identifying the goals and objectives that would guide the identification of capital improvement projects.

The Recreation Authority's role included establishing the CIP goals that should drive the 2013 CIP Update and reviewing and providing insight and direction on findings presented by AECOM. AECOM worked with the Recreation Authority and County Staff to develop a series of assignments and exercises to identify and prioritize the 2013 CIP Update goals. Based on the results from these exercises, AECOM proposed the following 2013 CIP Update goals:

- **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 parkland 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.

- **Parkland Acquisition**

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

The Recreation Authority approved these goals, but rather than prioritizing them, they agreed that all the goals should be considered priorities. Meeting Minutes from the all the Recreation Authority Meetings can be found in the Appendix.

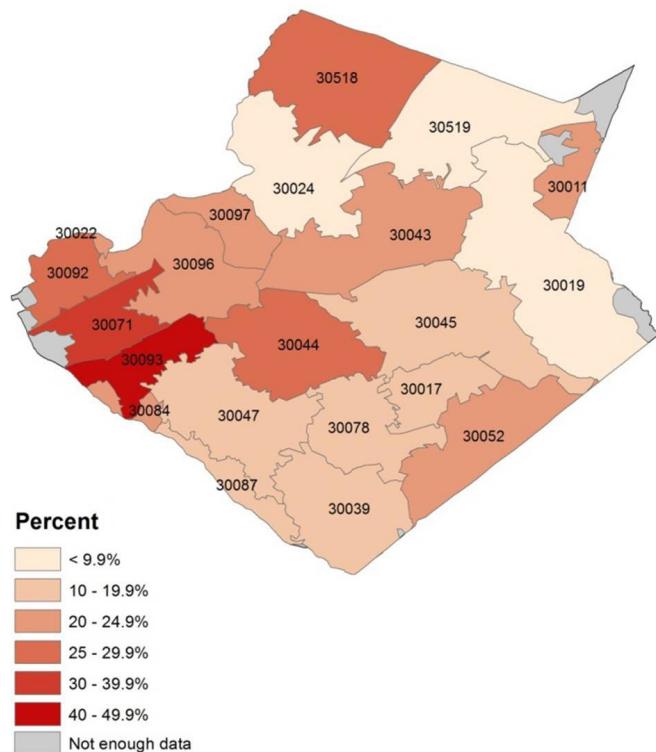
### **3.3 – 2012 Statistically Valid Needs Assessment Telephone Survey**

In the summer of 2012, the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University completed a County-wide parks and recreation statistically valid 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 were 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.

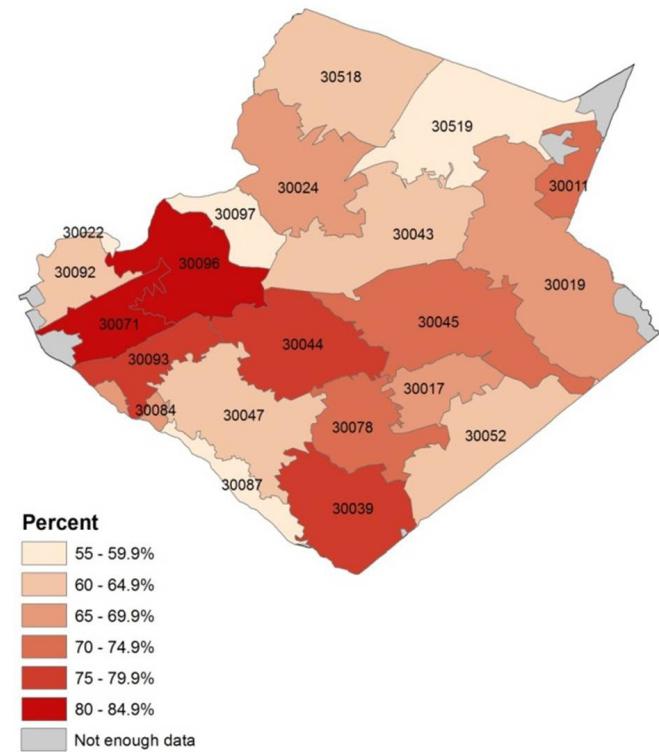
*Map 3.3a Percent respondents who believe their area needs more recreation facilities*



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

- 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. Map 3.3b illustrates percentage of respondents per each Gwinnett County zip code that approve SPLOST for revenue generation.
- 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.
- 61 percent of respondents said that the County should concentrate on renovating or improving

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

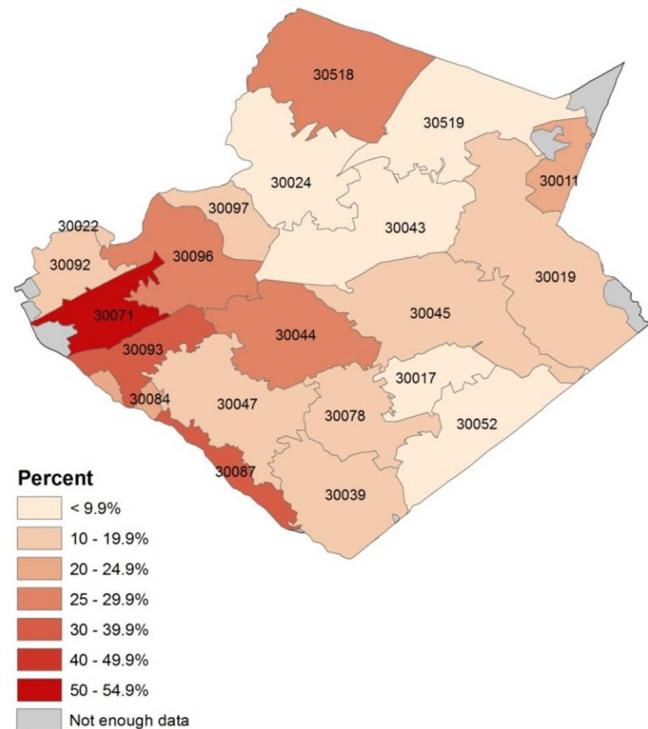


source: A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University

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

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



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

The complete findings of the statistically valid survey can be found in the Appendix.

### 3.4 – Public Input Meeting Findings

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Staff facilitated five public input meetings in October of 2012. Following is a list of the date, time, location, and number of attendees for each of the meetings:

- October 1, 2012 – 7:30 pm | Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center (4 attendees)
- October 9, 2012 – 7:30 pm | Centerville Community Center (8 attendees)
- October 11, 2012 – 7:30 pm | Dacula Activity Building (36 attendees)
- October 16, 2012 – 2:00 pm | Bethesda Park Senior Center (19 attendees)
- October 22, 2012 – 7:30 pm | George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center (21 attendees)

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 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, however, illustrates the needs that were consistently identified in each of the five public input meetings as priorities.

As demonstrated in Figure 3.4a, improving and maintaining existing facilities, walking/hiking trails, biking/multi-purpose trials, equestrian trails, and aquatic centers were consistent needs that emerged during



*Public Input Meeting at Bethesda Park Senior Center*

*Figure 3.4a Top Five Public Input Meeting Priorities Matrix*

Public Input Meetings	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
<b>Public Input Meeting 1:</b> Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center	Handball	Improve + Maintain Existing Facilities	Walking/Hiking Trails	n/a	n/a
<b>Public Input Meeting 2:</b> Centerville Community Center Meeting	Improve + Maintain Existing Facilities	Biking/Multi- Purpose Trail	Indoor Competition Pool	Aquatics Center	Springboard Diving
		Soccer/ Football Field	Disc Golf		Basketball Courts
			Neighborhood Parks		Senior Programs/ Services
<b>Public Input Meeting 3:</b> Dacula Activity Building	Dacula Park Improvements	Equestrian Trails/ Facilities	Biking/Multi- Purpose Trails	Improve + Maintain Existing Facilities	Walking/ Hiking Trails
<b>Public Input Meeting 4:</b> Bethesda Park Senior Center	Skate Park	Walking/ Hiking Trails	Improve + Maintain Existing Facilities	Nature Parks	Baseball Fields
		Aquatics Center	Dog Park		Senior Center
					Pickleball Courts
<b>Public Input Meeting 5:</b> George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center	Hockey Rink	Walking/ Hiking Trails	Equestrian Trails/Facilities	BMX Facilities	Aquatics Center

all the public input meetings. A complete listing of responses can be found in the Appendix.

Additionally, 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 be mindful of while completing the 2013 CIP Update. Respondents submitted a total of 105 comments. Although the topics were wide-ranging, some themes emerged:

- **Need to Maintain Existing Facilities.** This was the most common type of comment directly related to concerns regarding conditions at existing park facilities. Others requested improvements to existing parks, such as additional trails, lighting, or fields.
- **Enhance and Enlarge Trail System.** Gwinnett residents use the trail system, they and want to see it grow. This appears to be true for all types of trail users: hikers, walkers, mountain-bikers, and equestrians.
- **Need Improved Safety.** A number of comments addressed concerns over safety. Some mentioned break-ins at cars parked at trail heads, while others suggested increased police patrols and better lighting.
- **Desire for Additional Park Space.** Multiple residents mentioned the opportunity to buy the approximately 130 acres of green space owned by CISCO. Other respondents did not mention specific sites, but communicated a need for more green space in certain parts of the county.

A complete listing of responses can be found in the Appendix.

## Summary of Findings

Across the five public input meetings, there was a strong showing of both special interests and cross-

cutting needs. Below is a summary of both types of needs.

### Cross-Cutting Needs

- Maintenance and improvements at existing parks
- Interconnected network of trails (both paved and unpaved)
- Aquatic facilities, either through new facilities or more flexible hours of operation
- Improved sense of safety at parks
- Sports fields (particularly soccer/football)

### Special Interests

- Dacula Park improvements
- Additional/improved equestrian trails and facilities
- Skate park
- Hockey / In-line skating rinks
- Improved access to senior centers and programs
- Acquisition of "The Range"/CISCO property

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

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



Public Input Meeting at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center

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:

- 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.

### 3.6– Business Partner Institution Meeting Findings

More and more, Business Partner Institutions nationwide are playing an important role in the planning, design, implementation, operations, and maintenance of parks. This is predominantly due to the overwhelming data that has emerged during the last decades regarding the influence parks have in furthering business development goals for commercial and mixed-use, commercial-residential areas. As part of the public input process, AECOM met with the following Business Partner Institutions regarding how

future park capital programs can further their business development goals:

- Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District
- Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District
- Lilburn Community Improvement District
- Evermore Community Improvement District

Each of these Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) were asked three key questions:

1. What are your organization's business development goals?
2. How can future park capital programs further your organization's business development goals?
3. With the understanding that the revenues for Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation are capped at 1 mill, how can your organization and the Gwinnett Parks collaborate?

All of the CIDs explained that their purpose is to help attract businesses and increase the overall tax base of properties within their Districts. To achieve this, the CIDs collaborate with partner agencies such as municipalities, local and state organizations, and private entities to fund, initiate, and implement a variety of studies and projects. These range from transportation infrastructure improvements, streetscape beautifications, pedestrian improvements, branding, and safety.

Most of the CIDs agreed that park capital programs were an important economic development tool for their Districts and for creating a sense of place. All of the CIDs, however, agreed that capital programs in the form of greenways or multi-use trails were critical to making their Districts more walkable and improving pedestrian connectivity to the surrounding community and area parks. Some even noted these as central to their economic development strategies.

Lastly, all of the CIDs expressed interest in partnering with the Gwinnett County's Department of Community Services Parks and Recreation to implement appropriate CIP projects. However, only two of the Institutions welcomed the opportunity to not only

partner to help implement the projects, but also partner to maintain them. They felt that this type of partnership would expedite their economic development goals.

Examples of these types of partnerships between Business Partner Institutions and local governments have emerged all across the country in recent decades. Example cities include Washington, D.C.; New York City, New York; St. Paul, Minnesota; Houston, Texas; and to a certain degree, in Atlanta, Georgia. Given that Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation maintenance and operations funds are capped at 1 mill, partnering with these Institutions would assist the County and these Business Partner Institutions in implementing mutually beneficial projects. Meeting Minutes for all the Business Institution meetings can be found in the Appendix.

### 3.7 – Summary of Public Input Process Findings

The public input process administered through the various public input techniques of the 2013 CIP Update provided valuable information. Findings from this process will inform the selection of parks and recreation capital improvement projects for the next five years.

*Figure 3.7a – Emerging Themes from the Public Input Process*

Emerging Themes	Recreation Authority 2013 CIP Update Goals	Statistically Valid Needs Assessment Telephone Survey	Public Input Meetings	Parks and Recreation Managerial and Supervisory Staff	Business Partner Institution Meetings
Maintenance, renovation, and improvement at existing parks	●	●	●	●	
Interconnected network of trails (both paved and unpaved)	●	●	●	●	●
Activities for all ages (i.e. children, teens, adults, and seniors)	●	●	●	●	
Access to aquatic facilities, either through new facilities or more flexible hours of operation	●	●	●	●	
Sports fields (soccer/football)	●	●	●	●	
Improved safety in parks			●		
Additional park space	●		●	●	●

The Recreation Authority set the stage early in the planning process by identifying five key goals that should direct the 2013 CIP Update process. 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. Parkland Acquisition

Most of staff's CIP Goal recommendations also supported these goals. Additionally, findings from various other public input techniques were also consistent with these goals. Figure 3.7a identifies the themes that emerged during the public input process and identifies which public input techniques confirmed these themes.

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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. AECOM in collaboration with Gwinnett County Parks Staff updated the County's parks and facility inventory using the information from the 2007 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, rollerblade 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

<b>Facility Types</b>	Playgrounds, picnic areas and pavilions, nature trails, paved multi-purpose trails, accessible public open space (meadow or woodland), lakes/ponds, tennis, basketball, and 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).
<b>Size</b>	Existing range: 25 to 208 acres Recommended: 20 to 100 acres
<b>Service Area</b>	Several neighborhoods
<b>Recommended Provision Level</b>	7 acres per 1,000 residents (together with Community Parks)

## Open Space Parks



Little Mulberry Park | Open Space Park

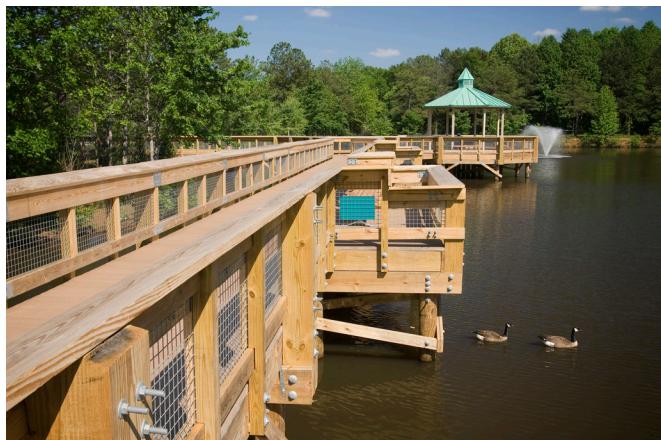
Open Space Parks are generally large parcels of mostly undeveloped land that embody natural, scenic and cultural values, resources and landscapes. These parks provide passive, non-programmed recreation opportunities in a managed environment.

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 coverage. Where possible, Open Space Parks should be located along and/or connected to the greenway system.

### OPEN SPACE PARKS

<b>Facility Types</b>	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.
<b>Size</b>	Existing Range: 133 to 1,301.78 acres Recommended: Dependent on opportunity but typically 200+ acres
<b>Service Area</b>	County-wide
<b>Recommended Provision Level</b>	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



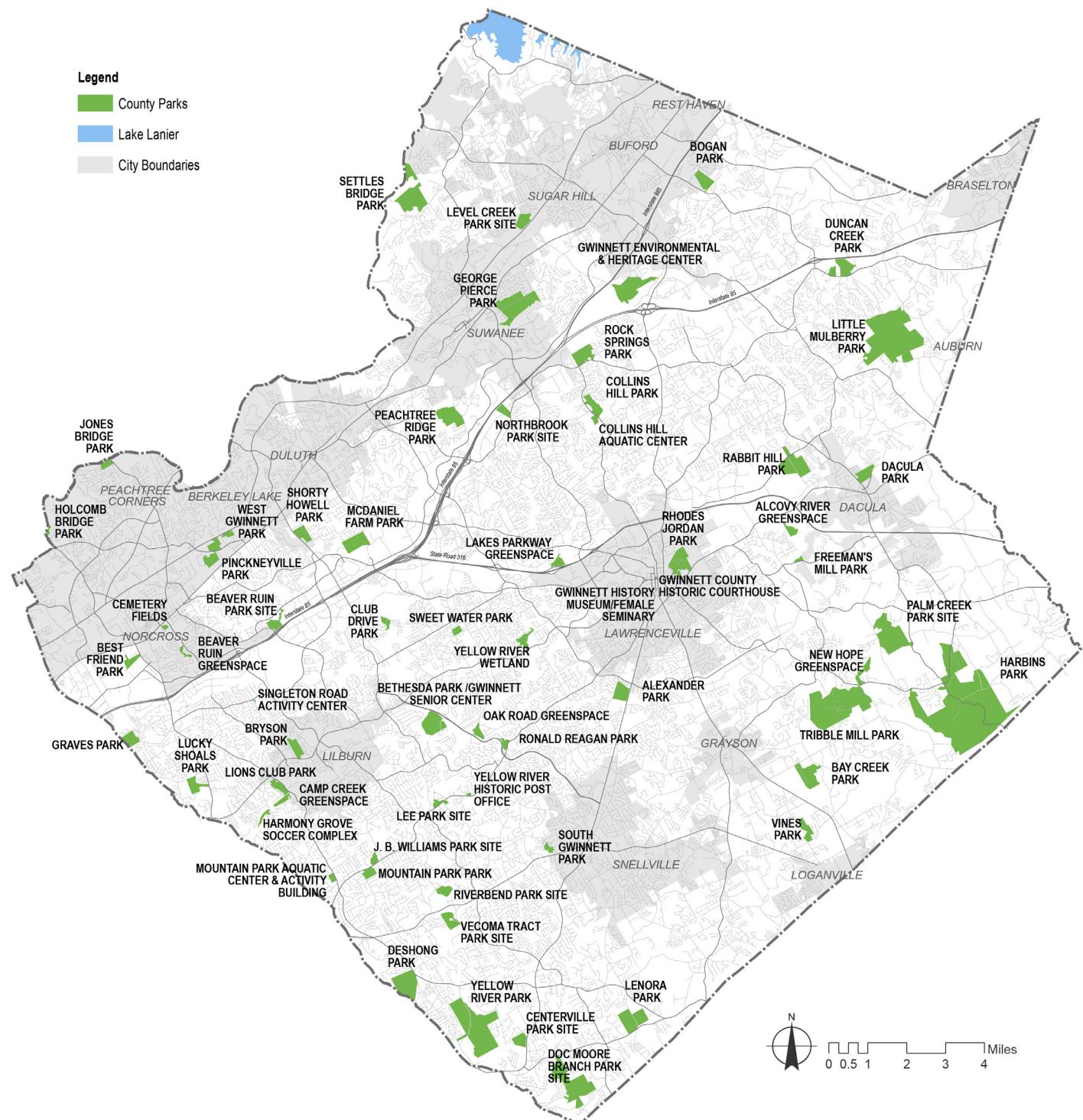
Yellow River Post Office Park | Cultural Resource Park

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 – 2013 Parks + Facilities Inventory

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

Map 4.2a Parks in Gwinnett County



2013 CIP Gwinnett County Parks Inventory Update					Indoor Facilities			Outdoor Facilities											
Park Name	PIN	Acreage	RPA	Park Type	Indoor Lane Pool	Indoor Leisure Pool	Community Center	Activity Building	Rollerblade	Hockey Rink	Gymnasiums	Senior Center	Artificial Turf Fields	Basketball Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	Cricket Pitch	Disc Golf Courses	Dog Park	Soccer Fields
Alexander Park	5085 008 5085 693	91.097	C	Community Park															
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/ Bethesda Senior Center	6130A206 6127 001	158.677	C	Community Park	1	1					1	2	10				4		
Bogon Park	7225 161	83.109	B	Community Park	1	1	1			1		2	7						
Bryson Park (Highway 29/Lilburn Community Park Site)	6147 024	79.297	B	Community Park							1	3					2		
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							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	5						
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	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													
Gwinnett County History Museum	5147 161	1.1	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		
Holcomb Bridge Park	6335 003	11.63	A	Special Purpose Neighborhood Park															
J.B. Williams Park	6093 004	25.878	B	Future Community Park												1	1		
Jones Bridge Park	6348 003	29.65	A	Community Park			1										3		
Level Creek Park	7274 123	66.64	D	Future Community Park								1							
Lenora Park	4319 001 4319 028	178.3964	E	Community Park							1		6		1	1			

Football Fields*	Picnic Pavilions & Shelters	Playground Areas	Outdoor Leisure Pool	Outdoor Lane Pool	Outdoor Rollerblade Rinks	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	Restroom Buildings	Skate Parks	Trails - Equestrian (Miles)	Trails - Paved (Miles)	Trails - Unpaved (Miles)	Comfort Station	Concession	Miracle Field	Multi Purpose Field	Tennis Building	Rollerblade Hockey Rink	Pressbox	Interactive Fountain	Open Play Area	Splash Stream	Historic Structures	Museum	Pond, Lake or Big Marshes	Maintenance Compound	River		
3	1							1		2.3	1.1	1													1	1			
2	3			4	1	2	1			1.7		4	2	1	1											1			
1	2	1		17		1				1.8		2	1		1											1			
2	3					2				1.8		7	5	1											1	1			
2	3					6	2			2			1												1	1			
2	2					2				1			2	1							1	1				1			
						1							1	1	1														
3	1					2				0.33		1													1	1			
1	3					1	1			1	0.6	3	2												1	1			
1	1	2	1	4	1	1				2.2		3	2												1	1			
3	2					1	1			1.5		1												1					
1	1					3	1	1				3	2	1												1			
3										1.4	4														2	1			
1	1							1		0.5		1													1	1			
4	1							1		3.9	2	5	4	1											1	1			
1	1					2	1	1		1.3		1												3		1			
1								1				1														1			
																										3	1		
4	2									2.12					1										1	2			
1	1							1	7.7	3.2	4.8	1														1			
1	1							1		0.25	1																1		
3	1									0.75																1			
2	1							1	1			2	1												1				
3	1					6		2		1.13	1.5		1	1	1	1								1	2				
1	2	1						3		1.9	1.3	3	2	1										3					

2013 CIP Gwinnett County Parks Inventory Update					Indoor Facilities					Outdoor Facilities										
Park Name		PIN	Acreage	RPA	Park Type	Indoor Lane Pool	Indoor Leisure Pool	Community Center	Activity Building	Rollerblade	Hockey Rink	Gymnasiums	Senior Center	Artificial Turf Fields	Basketball Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitch	Disc Golf Courses	Dog Park	Soccer Fields
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																
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											7					
Peachtree Ridge Park	7166 058	155.6999	A	Community Park									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	4	7		1	8		
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	113.4628	C	Community Park																
Ronald Reagan Park	5012 006	25.018	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							7					
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	566.1007	E	Open Space Park															
Yellow River Post Office	6088 002	5.116	C	Cultural Resource Park																
<b>Subtotals</b>						6	2	6	5	2	5	2	8	40.5	119	0	3	8	34	



City Parks in Gwinnett Athletic Facilities Inventory Update			Outdoor Facilities												
City	Park Name	RPA	Artificial Turf Fields	Basketball Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitch	Disc Golf Courses	Football Fields*	Playground areas	Outdoor Lane Pool	Outdoor Leisure Pool	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 Parks in Gwinnett - Athletic Facilities Inventory Update			Outdoor Facilities												
City	Park Name	RPA	Artificial Turf Fields	Basketball Courts	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Cricket Pitch	Disc Golf Courses	Football Fields*	Playground areas	Outdoor Lane Pool	Outdoor Leisure Pool	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			4										
Norcross	Rossie Brundage Park	A	1	1					1						
Norcross	South Point Park	A													
Norcross	Thrasher Park	A							1			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	E.E. Robinson Memorial Park	D	1	2				2			4	2	1		
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>Subtotal</b>			8	22			1	26	1	0	40	8	0	14	

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# Section 5: 2010 park land acquisition analysis

play \* live \* learn

## section 5: 2012 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, AECOM worked closely with Gwinnett County staff to update the portion of the 2007 Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (07 CIP) addressing park land needs. Many of the 07 CIP park land gap assessments used acres per capita comparisons based on 2000 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 2010 Census demographic data and school attendance 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 gap park land analysis for the five different types of park land available in the county. The section concludes with park land acquisition recommendations. The data included in this section was taken from the report titled "2012 Park Land Acquisition Analysis Update Report – August 31, 2011".

### 5.1 Total Park Land Acreage Analysis

With a total of 9,283.11 acres, Gwinnett County has an extensive system of park land. Figure 5.1a reflects the County's inventory per park type as of August 2011. Several new parks have been added to the inventory since the 07 CIP; these acquisitions are shown in Figure 5.1b, also per park type.

Gwinnett County is just one of the few providers of park land in the county. Federal lands and fifteen incorporated cities within the county also provide park land. When all public providers are considered (county, cities, and federal), there are 12,259 acres of parks. Figure 5.1c illustrates this for both the whole county and per Recreation Planning Area (RPA). This translates to a provision rate of 15.22 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. When the County's park land provision standard of 20 acres per 1,000 residents for all park land (county, city, and federal) is applied, there is a need for an additional 3,846.81 acres of park land in Gwinnett County. This need for park land varies by RPA. For example, RPA D has a surplus of parks acreage (+2,458.92 acres) but RPAs A, B, and C all need hundreds of acres to meet the standard. RPA E has a comparatively small deficiency of 317.09 acres.

This geographically varied need for park land continues when only county park land is analyzed. Figure 5.1d 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

**Figure 5.1a Gwinnett County Inventory By Park Type**

County Park Type	Acreage
Community Park	3,199.70
Passive Community Park	586.94
Open Space Park	4,898.29
Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	160.83
Cultural Resource Park	8.57
Other	428.78
<b>TOTAL COUNTY PARK LAND</b>	<b>9,283.11</b>

**Figure 5.1b County Parks Acreage Acquired Since 2007**

County Park Type	Acres Acquired Since 2007
Community Park	108.35
Passive Community Park	11.07
Open Space Park	36.48
Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	8.27
Cultural Resource Park	0.00
Other	139.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>303.43</b>

a need for an additional 2,796.71 acres of park land in the county. The surplus still continues in RPA D while RPAs A, B, and C remain short of park land; RPA C has the most severe shortage.

## 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
  - Youth Baseball Softball
  - Youth Football-Lacrosse
- County Soccer Complexes
- General Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources

Two of these park land types are also a County park type. County Open Space and Cultural Resources are both County park types as discussed in pages 39 and 40 of Section 4: Facilities Inventory. It is important to note that these two park land types, and the rest of the County park land types, can also be found within other County park types. 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 5.1c All Park Land in Gwinnett County

ALL PARK LAND (County, City, Federal)				
Standard: 20.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	2,040.24	12.34	3,306.18	<b>-1,265.94</b>
B	623.78	5.00	2,496.24	<b>-1,872.47</b>
C	942.29	4.97	3,792.52	<b>-2,850.24</b>
D	6,150.72	33.32	3,691.80	2,458.92
E	2,502.59	17.75	2,819.68	<b>-317.09</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,259.61</b>	<b>15.22</b>	<b>16,106.42</b>	<b>-3,846.81</b>

Figure 5.1d County-Owned Park Land

ALL COUNTY-OWNED PARK LAND				
Standard: 15.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	957.34	5.79	2,479.64	<b>-1,522.29</b>
B	590.98	4.73	1,872.18	<b>-1,281.21</b>
C	871.79	4.60	2,844.39	<b>-1,972.61</b>
D	4,434.22	24.02	2,768.85	1,665.37
E	2,428.79	17.23	2,114.76	314.03
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,283.11</b>	<b>11.53</b>	<b>12,079.82</b>	<b>-2,796.71</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.

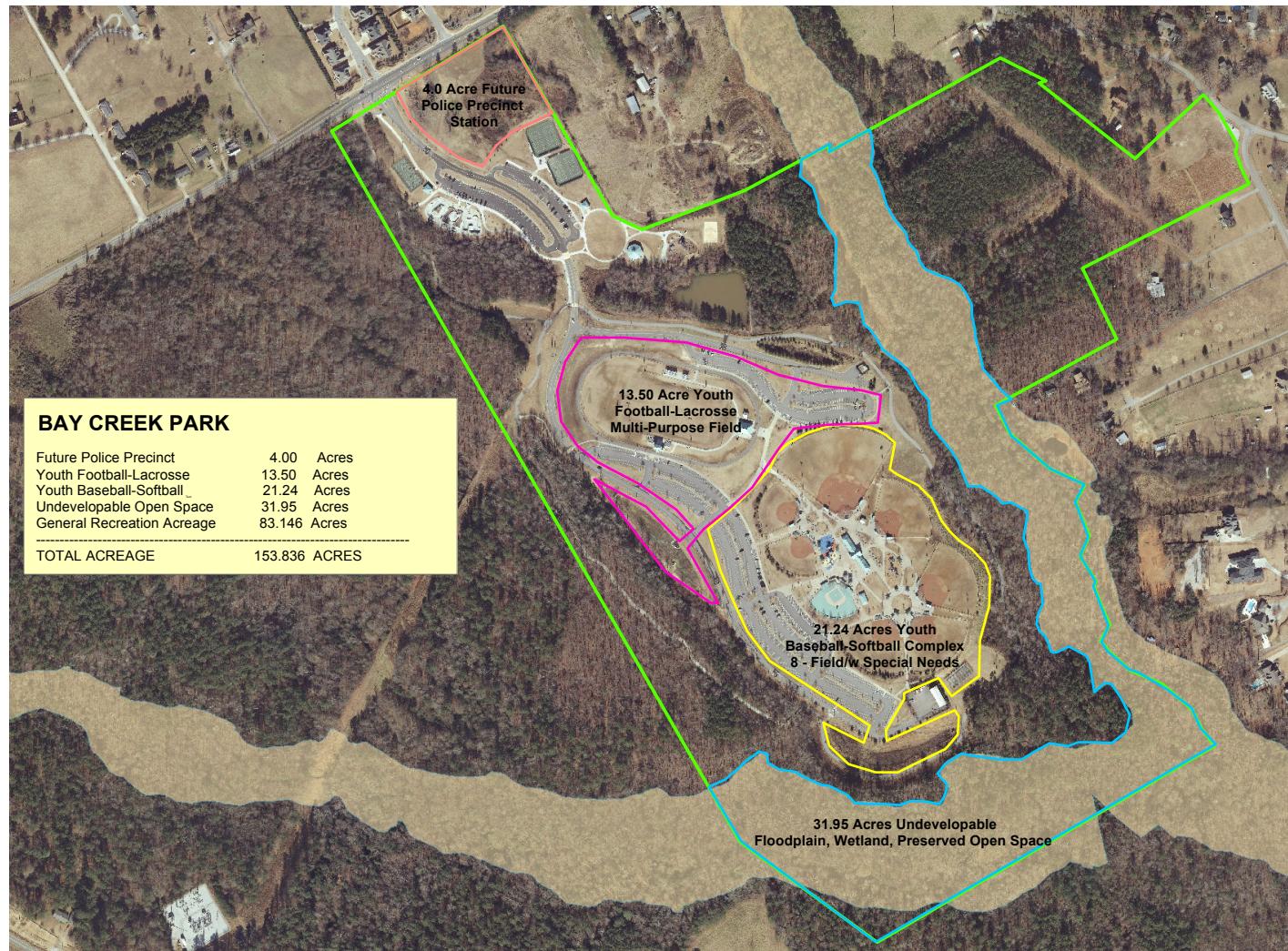
Open Space Park (Undevelopable Preserved Open Space) acreage is also found within Passive Community Parks, Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks.

As shown in Figure 5.3a, the County has a total of 4,068.9 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 1,568.3 acres of Open Space Park. RPAs A, B, and C are particularly in need, but both D and E have surpluses.

If Open Space Parks that are not yet developed are counted, the county-wide deficiency falls to 763 acres (Figure 5.3b). If Open Space Parks found in other types of parks are counted, the deficiency is only 43.12 acres (Figure 5.3c). RPAs A, B, and C still have significant shortages.

A Gap Analysis was also conducted for Open Space

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



Parks. A 1.25 mile service radius per 100 acres of park land standard was used for the analysis. Maps 5.3a through 5.3c illustrate 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 noted in these maps, residents of RPAs C, D, and

E have access to undevelopable, preserved open space land. Residents of RPAs A and B have very little access to undevelopable, preserved open space land, but with RPA A residents have the least access.

*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	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	124.13	0.75	1,157.16	-1,033.03
B	0.00	0.00	873.68	-873.68
C	0.00	0.00	1,327.38	-1,327.38
D	2,660.49	14.41	1,292.13	1,368.36
E	1,284.32	9.11	986.89	297.43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,068.90</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5,651.30</b>	<b>-1,568.30</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	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	184.04	1.10	1,157.16	-975.12
B	7.52	0.06	873.68	-866.16
C	0.00	0.00	1,327.38	-1,327.38
D	2,989.32	16.19	1,292.13	1,697.19
E	1,695.36	12.03	986.89	708.47
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,874.20</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5,651.30</b>	<b>-763.00</b>

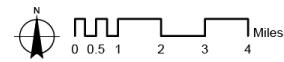
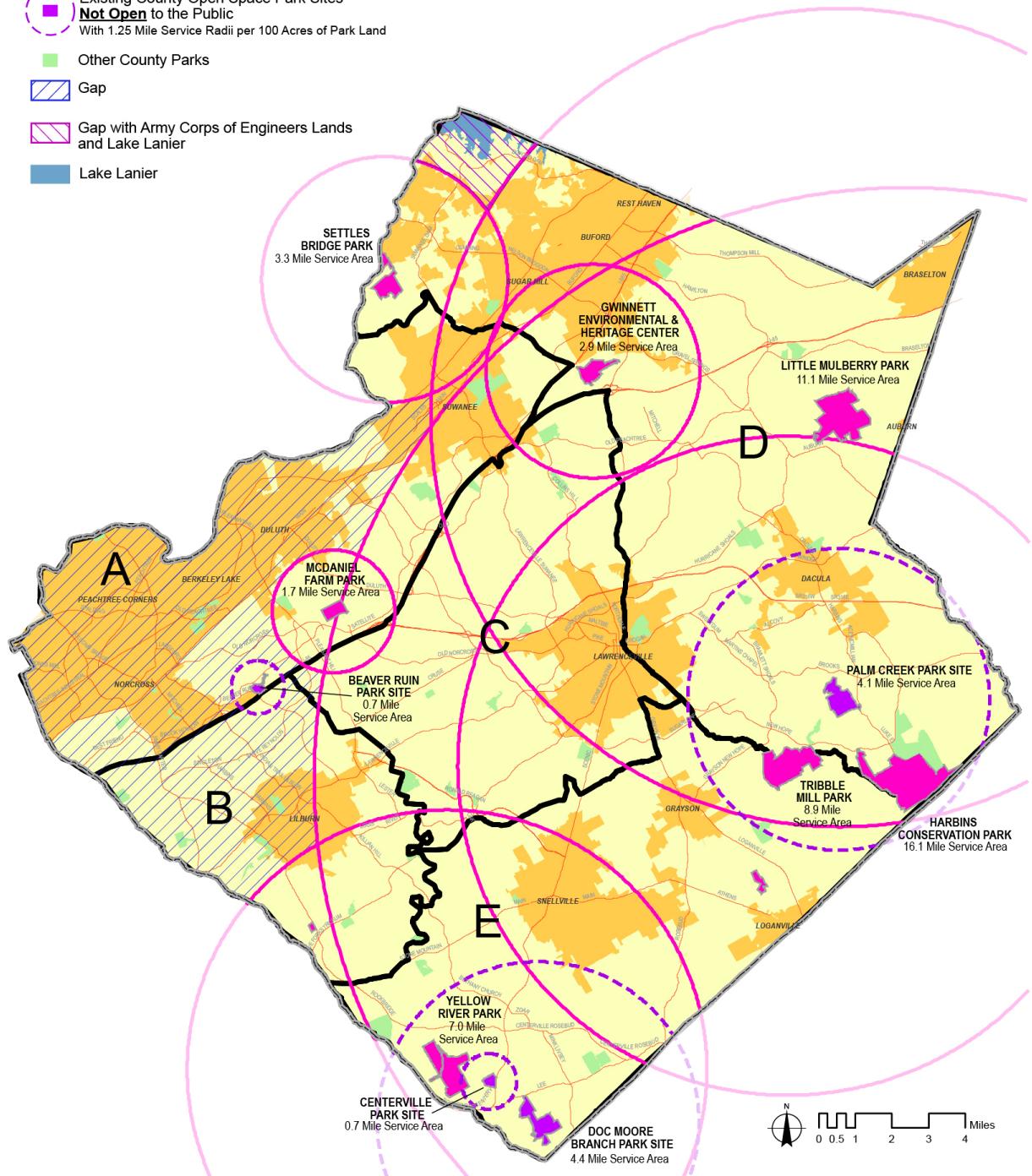
*Figure 5.3c Open Space Parks Open to the Public + Not Open to the Public + Undevelopable Preserved Open Space in Parks (Open + Not Open to the Public)*

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	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	386.19	2.34	1,157.16	-770.97
B	138.98	1.11	873.68	-734.70
C	113.01	0.60	1,327.38	-1,214.37
D	3,162.03	17.13	1,292.13	1,869.90
E	1,793.91	12.72	986.89	807.02
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,594.12</b>	<b>6.93</b>	<b>5,651.30</b>	<b>-43.12</b>

## Map 5.3a Gap Analysis of Existing County Open Space Parks Open and Not Open to the Public

## Legend

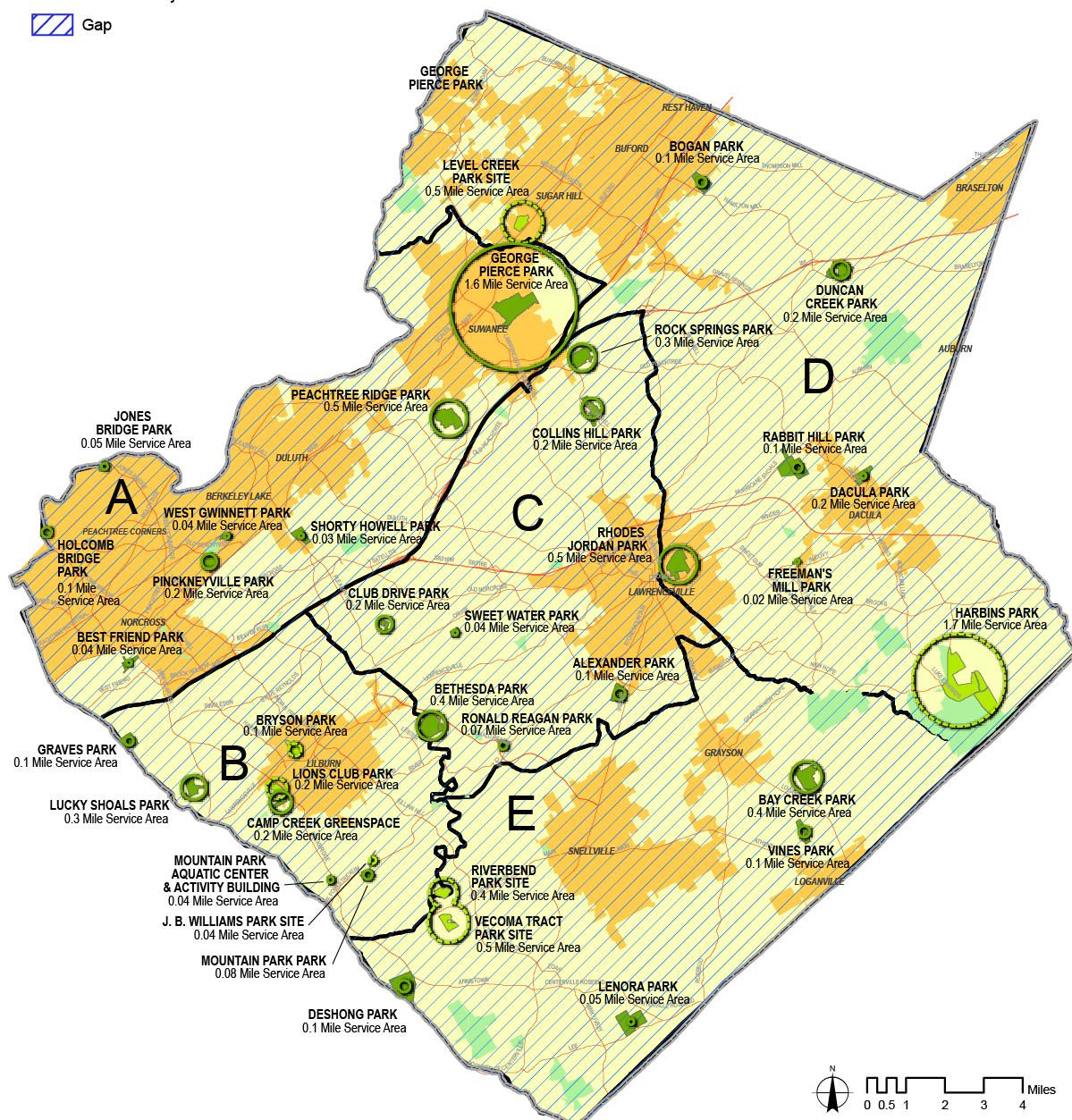
- Recreation Planning Area
- Existing County Open Space Parks  
Currently Open to the Public  
With 1.25 Mile Service Radii per 100 Acres of Park Land
- Existing County Open Space Park Sites  
**Not Open** to the Public  
With 1.25 Mile Service Radii per 100 Acres of Park Land
- Other County Parks
- Gap
- Gap with Army Corps of Engineers Lands and Lake Lanier
- Lake Lanier



**Map 5.3b Gap Analysis for Non-Developable Preserved Open Space in Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks 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
- Other County Parks
- Gap



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

## Legend

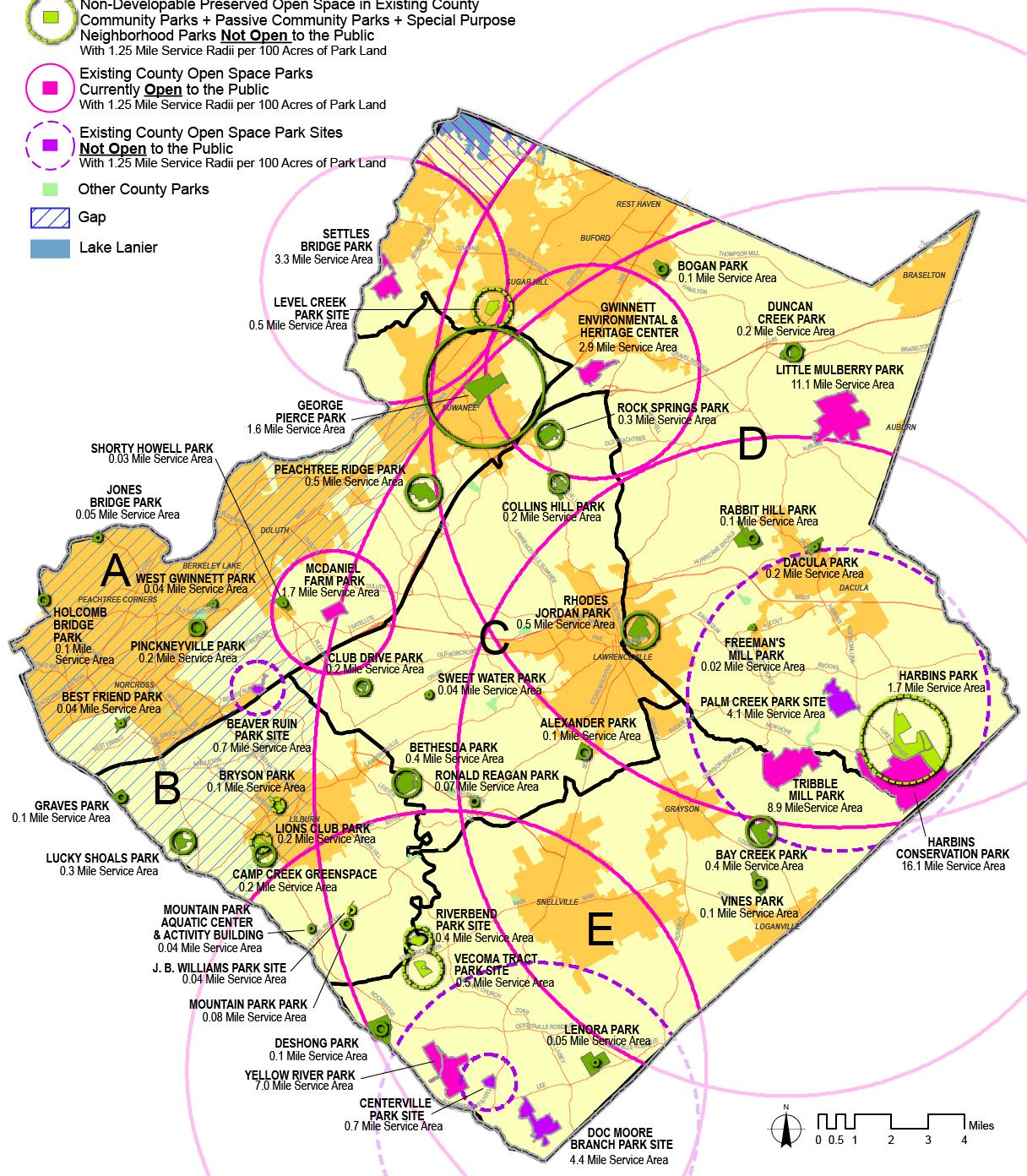
**Recreation Planning Area**

- 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 eighteen high school clusters (The new Berkmar-Central High School, now under construction, will provide the base for the nineteenth cluster when it opens). 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

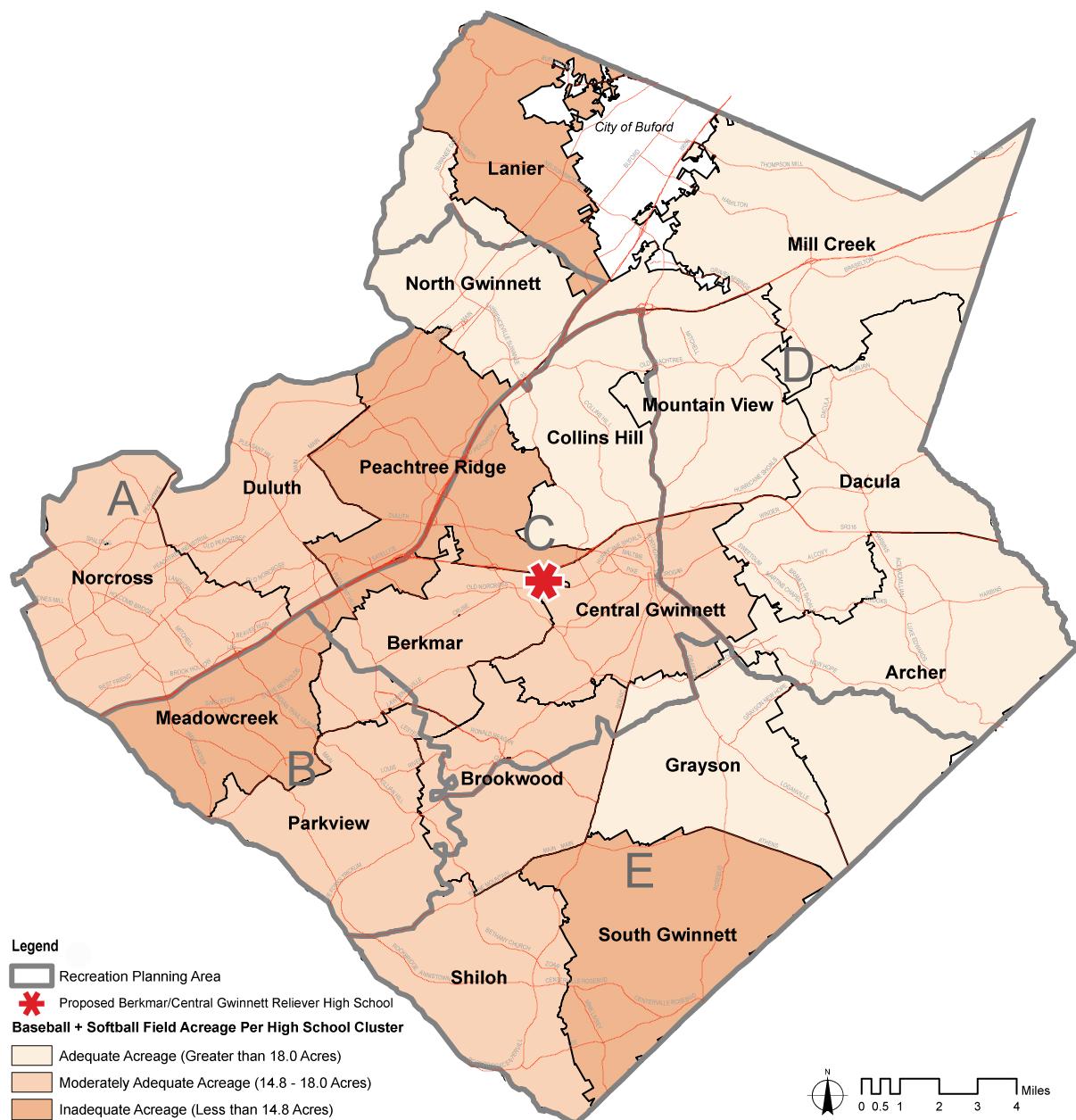
HIGH SCHOOL CLUSTER	PARK	FIELDS	BATTING CAGES	PARKING	ACREAGE
Archer High School	HARBINS COMMUNITY PARK	7	7	420	26.31
Berkmar High School	LIONS CLUB PARK	5	5	350	15.15
Brookwood High School	BETHESDA PARK	7	6	423	17.50
Central Gwinnett High School	RHODES JORDAN PARK	6	7	384	13.95
Proposed Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Reliever 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	LEVEL CREEK PARK				20.00
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	14.5
	JB WILLIAMS PARK	1	1	60	4.44
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	7	7	281	14.43

### Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complexes

Figure 5.4c lists Baseball/Softball Youth Complexes per high school clusters 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 proposed new Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Reliever High School Cluster does not have a corresponding Baseball/Softball Youth Athletic Complex. Additionally, the Lanier High School cluster, while containing sufficient undeveloped acreage, currently lacks a Baseball-Softball Youth Athletic Complex. The Peachtree Ridge, Meadowcreek, and South Gwinnett High School Clusters do not meet the County's standards for facilities. And lastly, the Parkview High School Cluster has an overlay field issue.

### 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
Proposed Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Reliever 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	LEVEL CREEK PARK			20.00
Meadowcreek High School				
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	7.00
Parkview High School**	MOUNTAIN PARK PARK	1	164	8.33
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	1	167	4.47

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

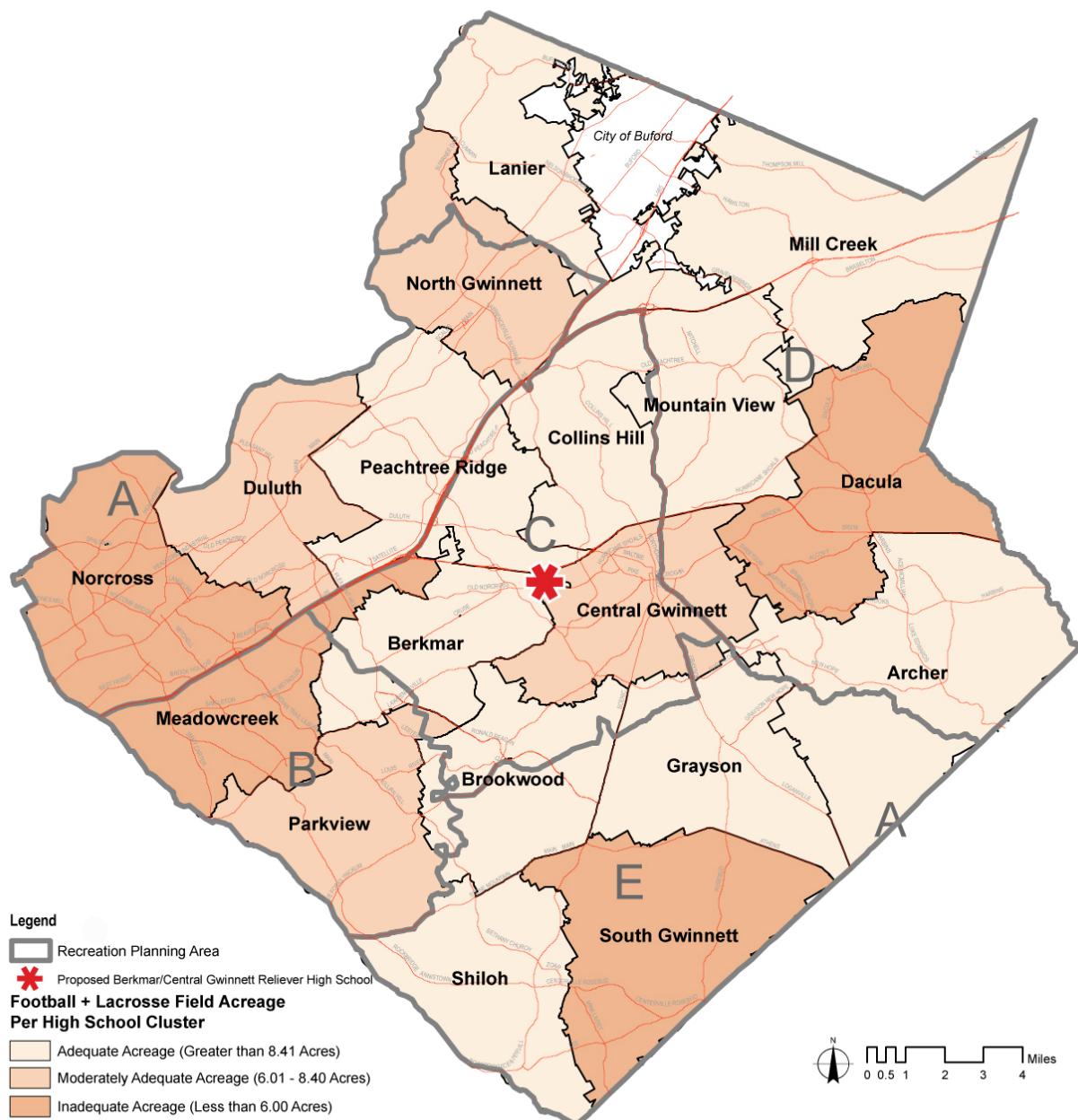
\*\*Note: Parkview High School Cluster is shown as Moderately Adequate due to overlay field issues in Mountain Park.

## Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complexes

Figure 5.4d list 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 proposed new Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Reliever High School Cluster does not have a corresponding Football/Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex. Additionally, the Lanier High School and Meadow Creek High School Cluster currently lacks a 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



## 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 680.55 additional acres (Figure 5.5b). If Soccer Complexes that are not current open to the public are included, this deficiency falls to 609.84 acres (Figure 5.5c); if rental facilities and City facilities are included, the deficiency falls to 509.23 acres (Figure 5.5d). Unlike other facility types, there is a need for Soccer Complexes in every

Figure 5.5a Typical County Soccer Complex



RPA throughout Gwinnett County, with RPA E having the most severe shortage (only counting County facilities). As noted in Map 5.5a, residents in RPAs C and E have the poorest access to Soccer Complexes.

Figure 5.5b Existing County Soccer Complexes Open to the Public

EXISTING COUNTY PARKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH SOCCER COMPLEX				
Standard: 1.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	59.57	0.36	165.31	-105.74
B	0.00	0.00	124.81	-124.81
C	31.14	0.16	189.63	-158.49
D	34.06	0.18	184.59	-150.53
E	0.00	0.00	140.98	-140.98
<b>Totals</b>	<b>124.77</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>807.33</b>	<b>-680.55</b>

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

EXISTING COUNTY PARKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH SOCCER COMPLEX + EXISTING COUNTY PARKS WITH SOCCER COMPLEX NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC				
Standard: 1.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	59.57	0.36	165.31	-105.74
B	9.96	0.08	124.81	-114.85
C	31.14	0.16	189.63	-158.49
D	79.13	0.43	184.59	-105.46
E	15.68	0.11	140.98	-125.30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>195.48</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>807.33</b>	<b>-609.84</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 PARKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH SOCCER COMPLEX + EXISTING COUNTY PARKS WITH SOCCER COMPLEX NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC + RENTAL SOCCER COMPLEX + CITY PARK SOCCER COMPLEX				
Standard: 1.0 acres per 1,000				
Plan Area	2010 Supply (acres)	Provision Rate (acres per 1,000)	2010 Demand (acres)	2010 Gap (acres)
A	95.82	0.58	165.31	-69.43
B	27.78	0.22	124.81	-97.03
C	31.14	0.16	189.63	-158.49
D	110.57	0.60	184.59	-74.02
E	30.78	0.22	140.98	-110.20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>296.09</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>807.33</b>	<b>-509.23</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							
RPA	2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public.)	2010 County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	2010 City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage + City Parks Soccer Complex Acreage
A	59.57	3.32	32.93	0.36	0.38	0.56	0.58
B	9.96	17.82	0.00	0.08	0.22	0.08	0.22
C	31.14	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
D	79.13	15.05	16.39	0.43	0.51	0.52	0.60
E	15.68	0.00	15.10	0.11	0.11	0.22	0.22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>195.48</b>	<b>36.19</b>	<b>64.42</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.37</b>

## Map 5.5a County Soccer Complex Gap Analysis

PER CAPITA (ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION) OF SOCCER COMPLEX ACREAGE PER RECREATION PLANNING AREA							
Recreation Planning Area	2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	2010 County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	2010 City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)*	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 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	0.36	0.38	0.56	0.58
B	9.96	17.82	0.00	0.08	0.22	0.08	0.22
C	31.14	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
D	79.13	15.05	16.39	0.43	0.51	0.52	0.60
E	15.68	0.00	15.10	0.11	0.11	0.22	0.22
Total	195.48	36.19	64.42	0.24	0.29	0.32	0.37

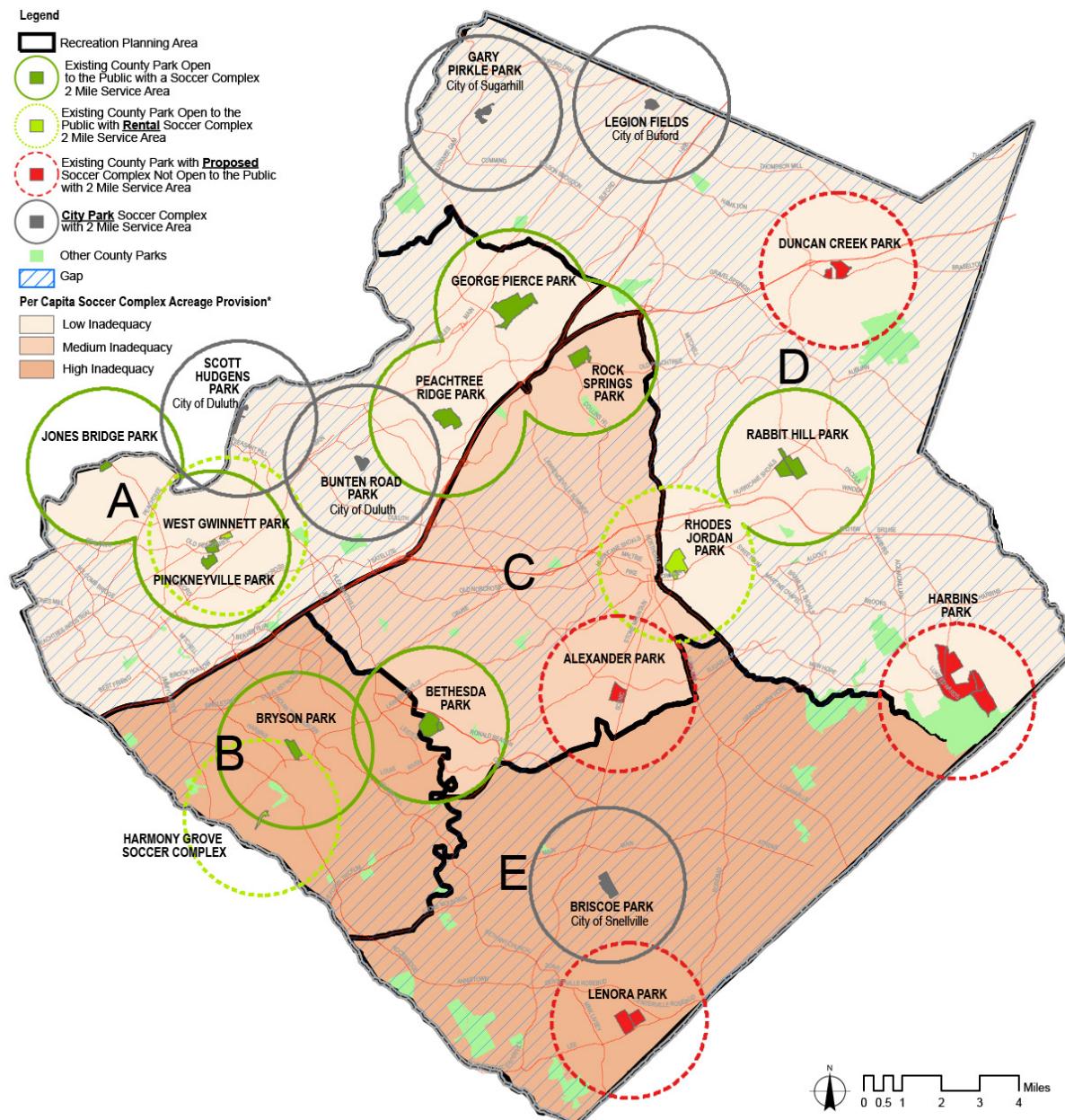
\*Note: Basis for Per Capita Soccer Complex Acreage Provision Gradation.

## 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
- Other County Parks
- Gap

## Per Capita Soccer Complex Acreage Provision\*

- Low Inadequacy
- Medium Inadequacy
- High Inadequacy



## 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 2010. The County's supply of General Recreation land grew in Passive Community Parks and Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks; each RPA experienced growth in this category. However, General Recreation land acreage decreased in Community Parks, but differed by RPA. For example, RPA A and RPA D saw a growth in acreage, RPA C remained the same, and RPA B and E lost General Recreation acreage in Community Parks.

Figures 5.6c through 5.6e show what happens to the supply if General Recreation acreage not currently

*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)
	A	0.00	3.13
	B	61.37	95.54
	C	50.63	50.63
	D	0.00	8.21
	E	197.24	259.67
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>309.24</b>	<b>417.18</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)
	A	349.58	366.65
	B	78.26	46.59
	C	257.27	257.27
	D	279.81	362.36
	E	297.54	214.99
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,262.46</b>	<b>1,247.86</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)
A	57.92	3.13
B	109.06	153.83
C	50.63	125.00
D	0.00	8.21
E	223.73	286.16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>441.34</b>	<b>576.33</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)
A	349.58	366.65
B	78.26	124.75
C	257.27	257.27
D	809.65	880.55
E	297.54	214.99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,792.30</b>	<b>1,844.21</b>

*Figure 5.6e 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: 7.0 acres per 1,000 residents								
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)
A	407.50	2.45	1,161.97	<b>-754.47</b>	369.78	2.24	1,157.16	<b>-787.38</b>
B	187.32	1.51	869.82	<b>-682.50</b>	278.58	2.23	873.68	<b>-595.11</b>
C	307.90	1.71	1,260.35	<b>-952.45</b>	382.27	2.02	1,327.38	<b>-945.11</b>
D	809.65	4.85	1,167.45	<b>-357.79</b>	888.76	4.81	1,292.13	<b>-403.37</b>
E	521.27	3.74	974.84	<b>-453.58</b>	501.15	3.55	986.89	<b>-485.74</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>

open to the public is included. When these lands are included, the supply from 2007 to 2010 grew overall, but unevenly among the RPAs. 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. Maps 5.6a through 5.6d in the subsequent pages illustrate the locations of the gaps based on the following scenarios:

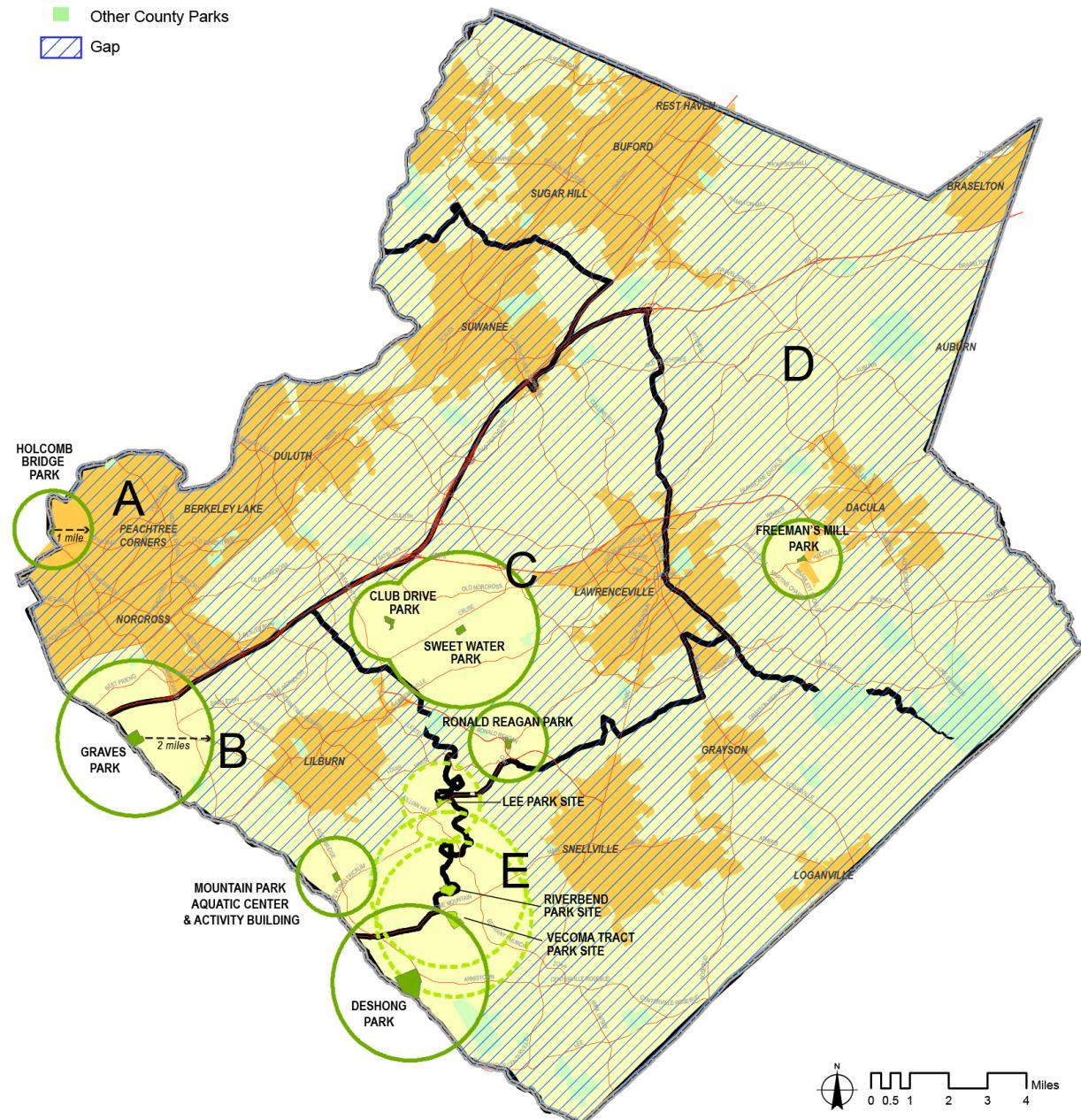
- General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Passive Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public
- General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Community Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public
- General Recreation in Existing County Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public
- General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks + Select Open Space Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public

Based on this analysis, residents of RPAs E and C have the least access to General Recreation acreage.

**Map 5.6a Gap Analysis for General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Passive Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Open and Not Open to the Public.**

## Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, Currently **Open** to the Public with a Playground
  - 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres
  - 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres
- General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks **Not Open** to the Public
  - 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres
  - 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres
- Other County Parks
- Gap



*Map 5.6b Gap Analysis for General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Community Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public*

**Legend**

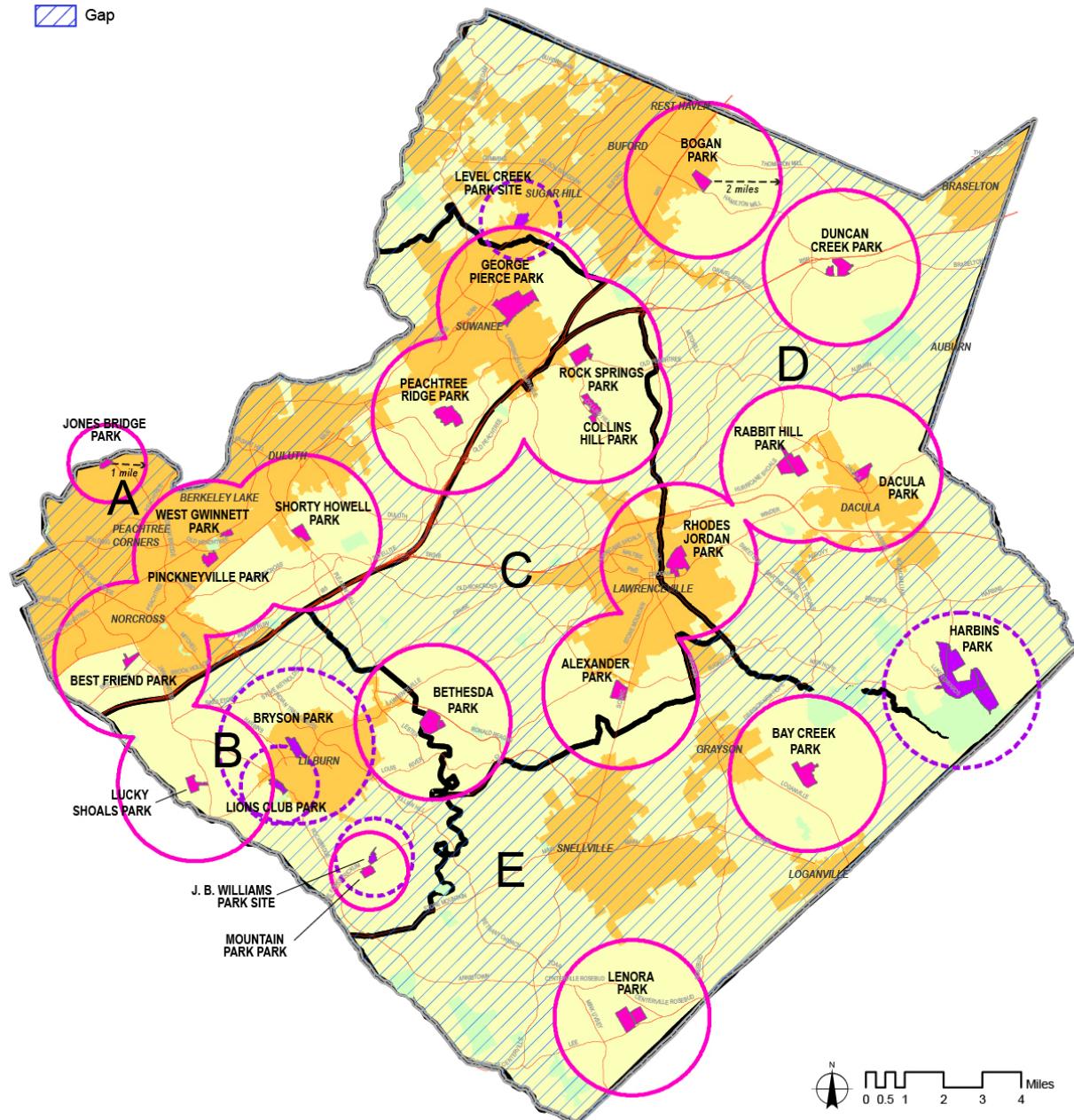
 Recreation Planning Area

 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 Community Parks, Not 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

 Other County Parks

 Gap



**Map 5.6c Gap Analysis for General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public**

**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 Agreage Under 20 Acres  
 - 2 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreage Over 20 Acres

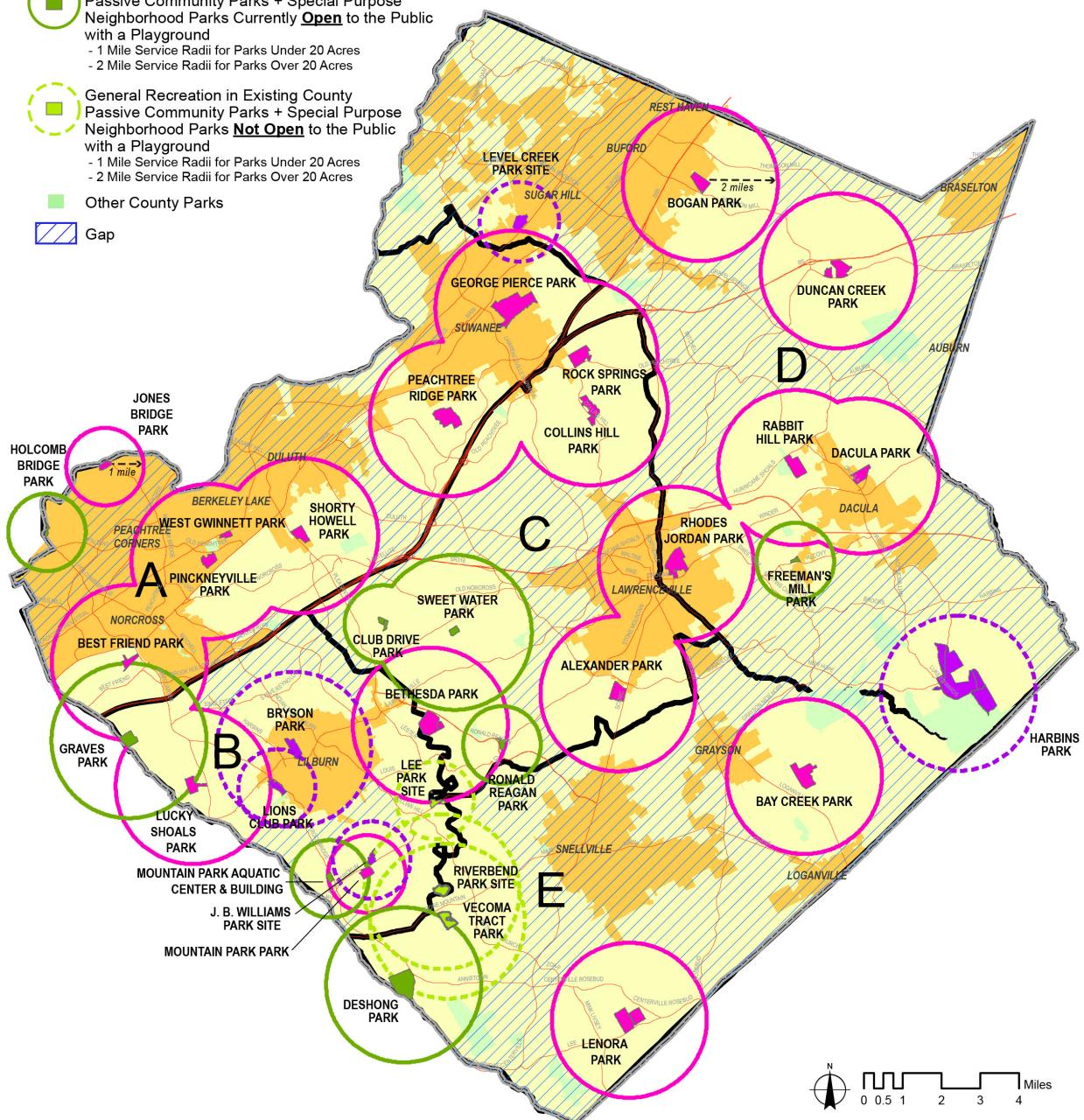
 General Recreation in Existing County Community Parks, Currently **Not Open** to the Public with a Proposed Playground  
 - 1 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreage Under 20 Acres  
 - 2 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreage Over 20 Acres

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

 General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks **Not Open** to the Public with a Playground  
 - 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres  
 - 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres

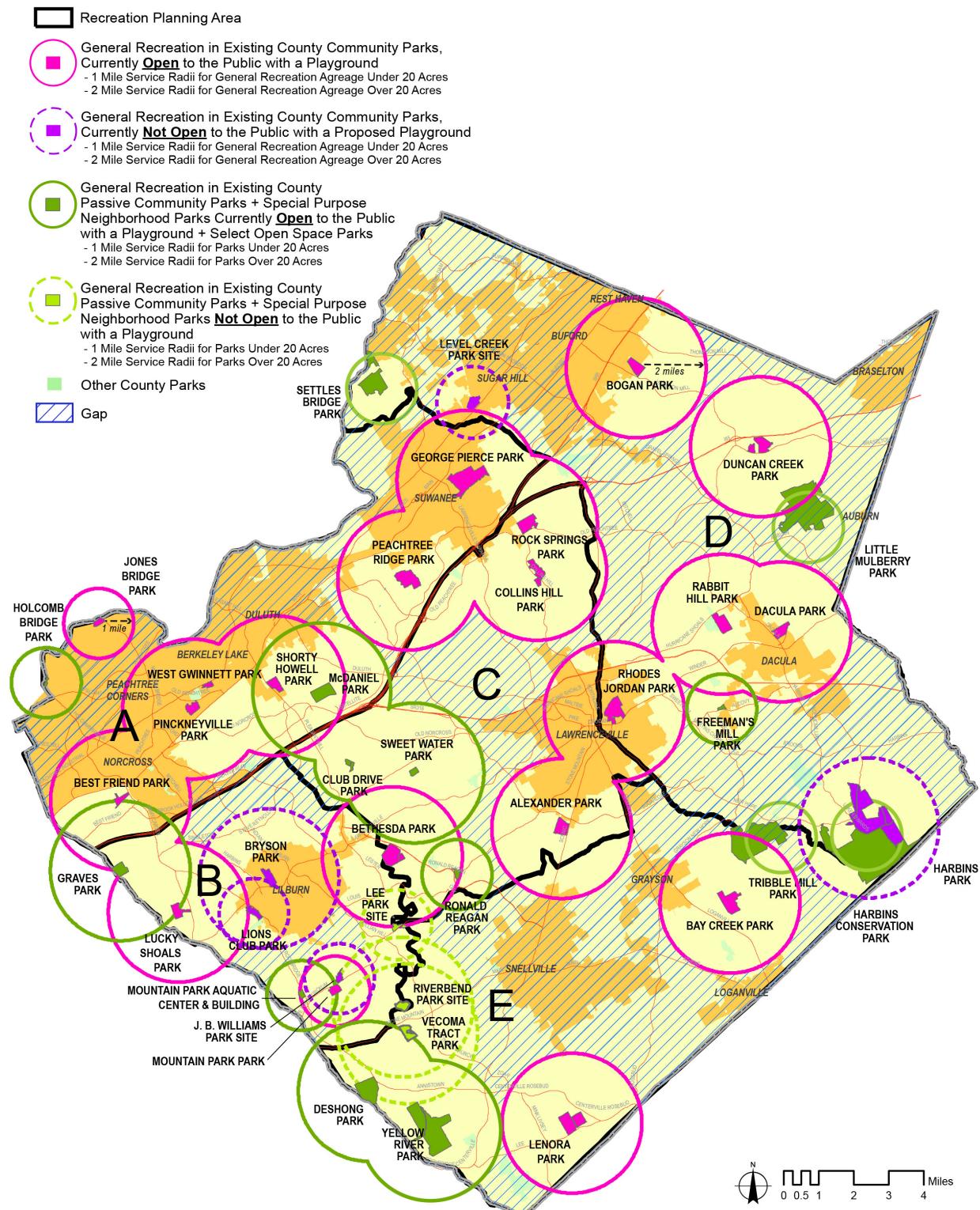
 Other County Parks

 Gap



Map 5.6d Gap Analysis for General Recreation Acreage in Existing County Community Parks + Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks + Select Open Space Parks, Open and Not Open to the Public

Legend



## 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 5.6e identifies these areas and the existing and future Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and Passive Community Parks that are located in and within a 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile, and 1-mile buffer of these Census Tracts, located along the I-85 corridor. 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 5.6e 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 on the other hand, only contains an activity building and is, therefore, considered to be inadequate.

This analysis notes 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.

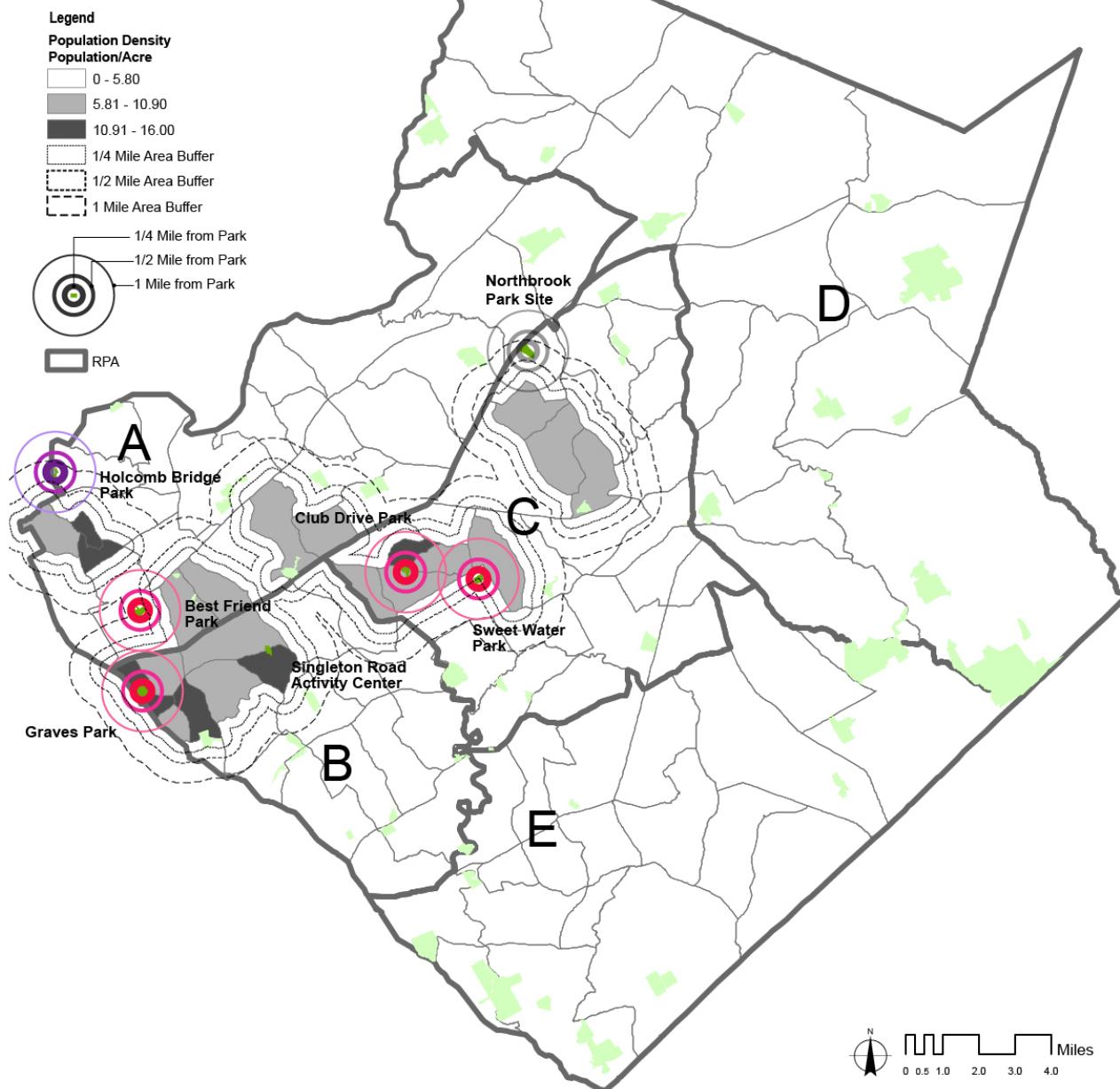
## Pedestrian Accessibility of Increased Density Areas to Special Purpose Parks + Passive Community Parks

Map 5.6f on page 74 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 a 1/4-mile (5 minute walk), 1/2-mile (10 minute walk), and 1-mile (20 minute walk) walking shed. Both the service radii and pedestrian accessibility sheds are shown for all these distances in Map 5.6f.

The analysis demonstrates is 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 5.6f, this poor pedestrian accessibility is evident for all of the Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks and 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

Map 5.6e 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	Holdcomb Bridge Park	Playground, pavilion
●	Provides <b>inadequate</b> facilities to meet current population needs	Singleton Road Activity Center	Activity building
●	Future Special Purpose Neighborhood Park	Lakes Parkway Park Site	Undeveloped
●		Northbrook Park Site	Undeveloped

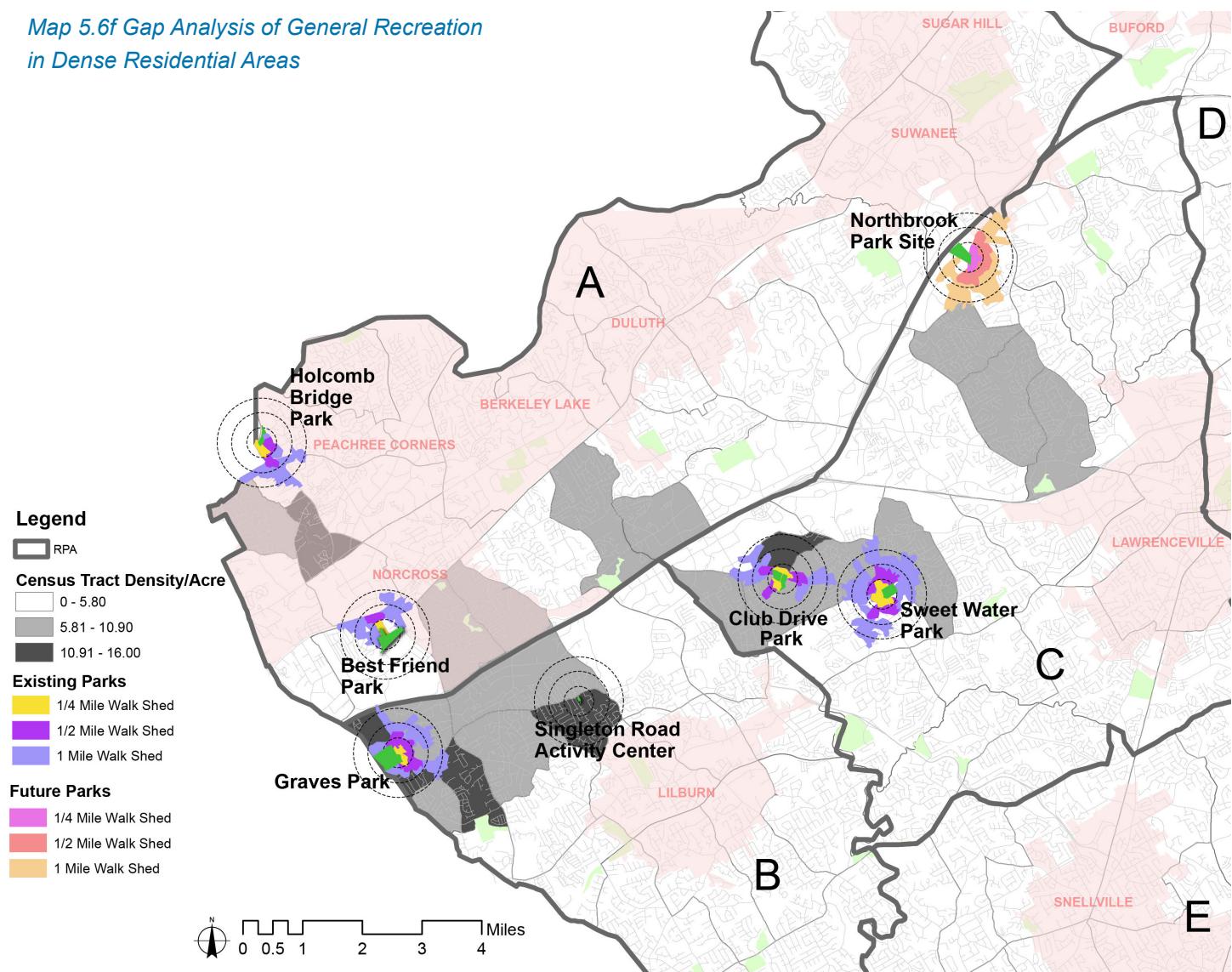


park entry locations and the street grid, another story emerges. The areas in yellow, purple, and blue that represent 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile, and 1-mile pedestrian accessibility sheds, respectively, are the only areas that are in actuality accessible within the specified travel distances. This is particularly important to note for populations that have limited access to vehicles and rely heavily on walking and public transportation to complete daily tasks.

One way to increase accessibility without acquiring additional parkland is to expand a park's reach through improved connections. Figures 5.6g and 5.6h are a

conceptual framework of how to accomplish this at Sweet Water Park using improved pedestrian crossings and an expanded system of pathways along streams, creeks, utility corridors, etc. to reach further into the neighborhood. These are projects that Gwinnett County Department of Parks and Recreation can work with the County's Department of Transportation and Department of Water Resources to implement.

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



Figures 5.6g and 5.6h Opportunities to Enhance Park Access In Dense Areas: Sweet Water Park



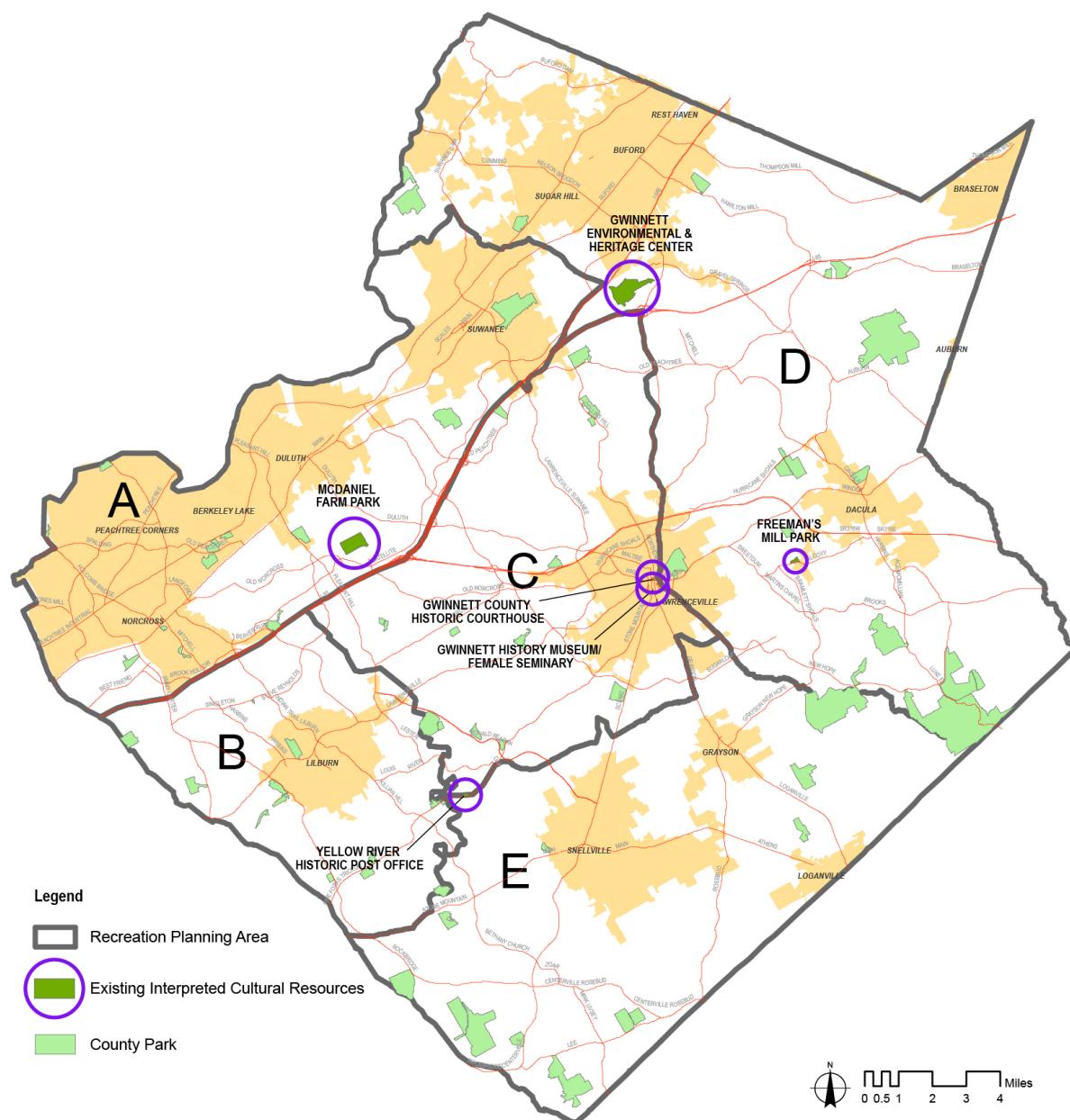
## 5.7 Cultural Resources

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 six interpreted 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.

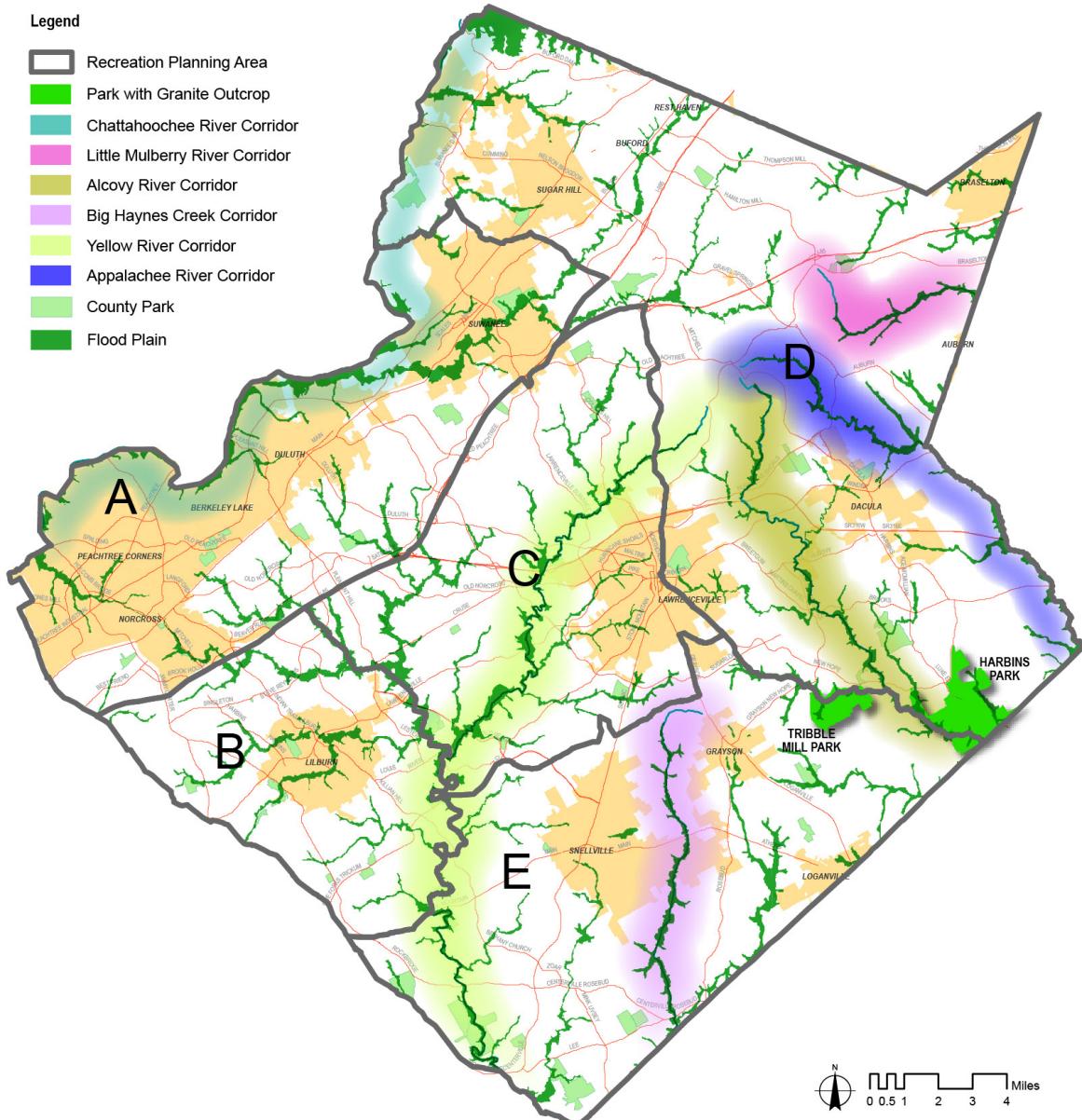
## 5.8 Natural Resources

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



## 5.9 Park Land Acquisition Recommendations

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

### Open Space Parks

- RPAs A and B show 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 5.9a 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

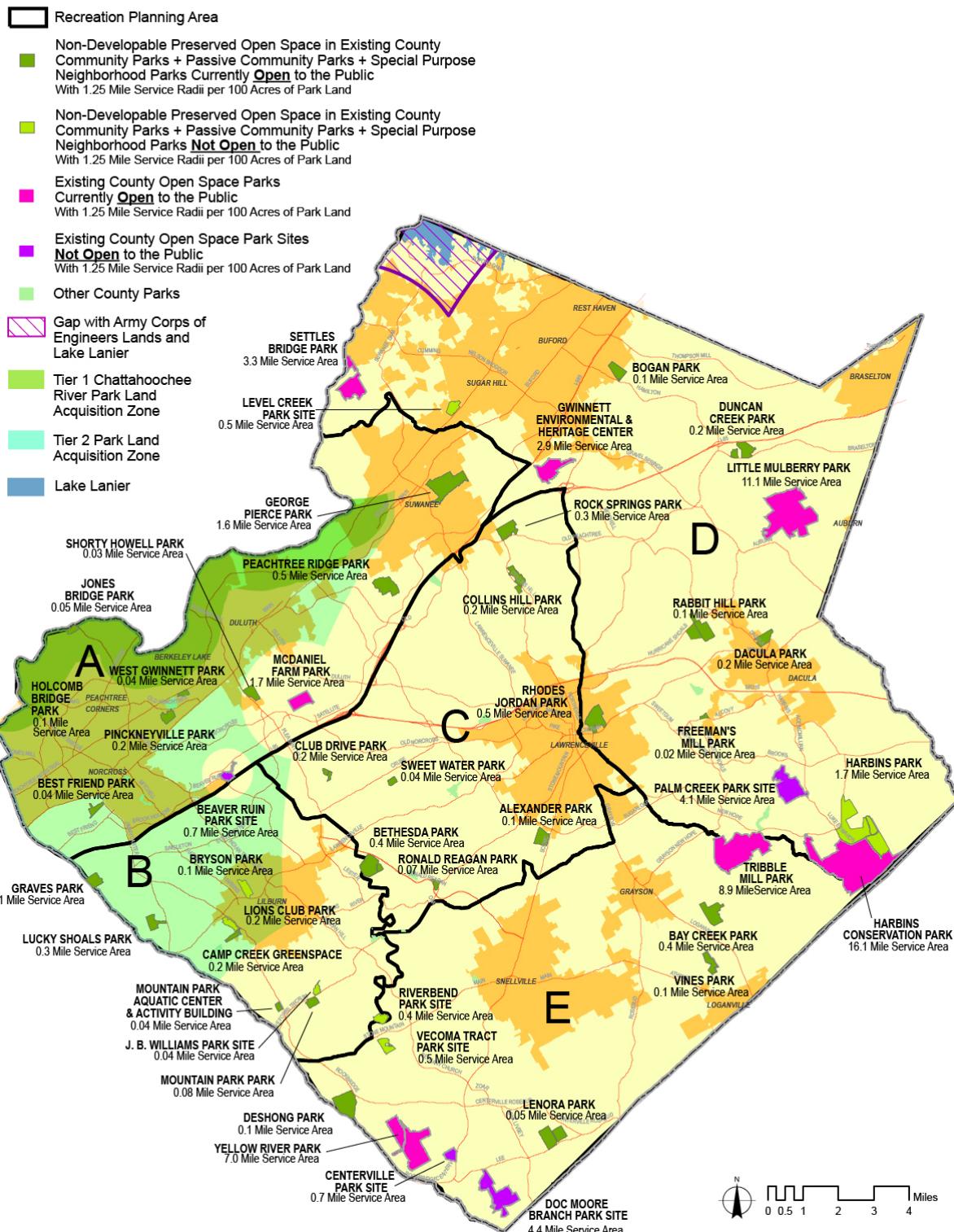
- Acquire a minimum of 98 developable acres for Youth Athletic Complexes to fill gaps in service and bring existing facilities up to the County’s standard for adequate acreage provisions. Following is the breakdown per Youth Sports Complex type and high school cluster of the recommended acreage:

#### 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 Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Reliever High School Cluster. If sufficient continuous land is not found, multiple parcels for sister parks should be acquired.
- Acquire a minimum of 20 net developable acres to serve Lanier High School Cluster.
- 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 5.9a Open Space Park Gaps + Recommend Parkland 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 Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Reliever High School Cluster. If sufficient continuous land is not found, multiple parcels for sister parks should be acquired.
- Accommodate a football-lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex on existing Lanier Park acreage to serve the Lanier High School Cluster.
- 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 solutions that join the existing Dacula Middle School multi-purpose field with the Dacula Park Multi-Purpose Football-Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex field and grade a single larger multi-purpose field at the same elevation to serve the Dacula High School Cluster. Excavating and lowering the elevation of the school field would preserve the relationship to the existing concession building.
- 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 acquiring the large tract adjacent to Bay Creek Park to serve the gap in High Inadequacy area of RPA E (See Map 5.9b).
- Consider reconfiguring Vulcan Quarry Tailings area into soccer fields using artificial turf to serve the High Inadequacy area in RPA B (See Map 5.9b).
- 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 5.9b 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	2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)	2010 County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	2010 City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public)*	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + County Rental Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 County Soccer Complex Acreage (Open to the Public and Not Open to the Public) + City Park Soccer Complex Acreage	Per Capita of 2010 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	0.36	0.38	0.56	0.58
B	9.96	17.82	0.00	0.08	0.22	0.08	0.22
C	31.14	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
D	79.13	15.05	16.39	0.43	0.51	0.52	0.60
E	15.68	0.00	15.10	0.11	0.11	0.22	0.22
Total	195.48	36.19	64.42	0.24	0.29	0.32	0.37

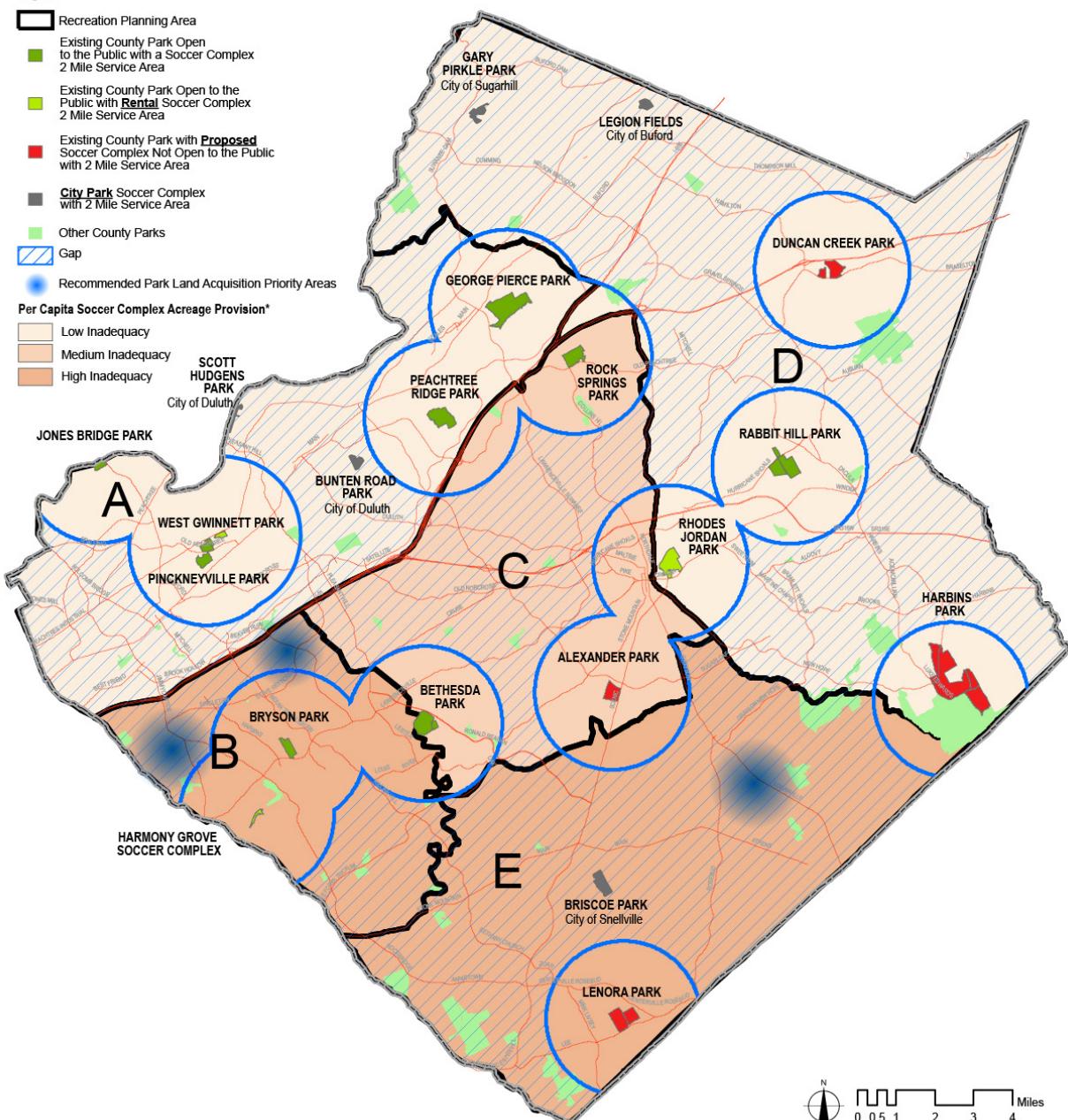
\*Note: Basis for Per Capita Soccer Complex Acreage Provision Gradation.

## 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
- Other County Parks
- Gap
- Recommended Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas

## Per Capita Soccer Complex Acreage Provision\*

- Low Inadequacy
- Medium Inadequacy
- High Inadequacy



## General Recreation Park Land

- RPAs A, B, and C have the most severe shortage of General Recreation acreage, in excess of 2,300 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 5.9c 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 5.8d presents an alternative to purchasing general recreation park land in the Tiered Park Land Acquisition Priorities Areas identified in Map 5.8c. 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.

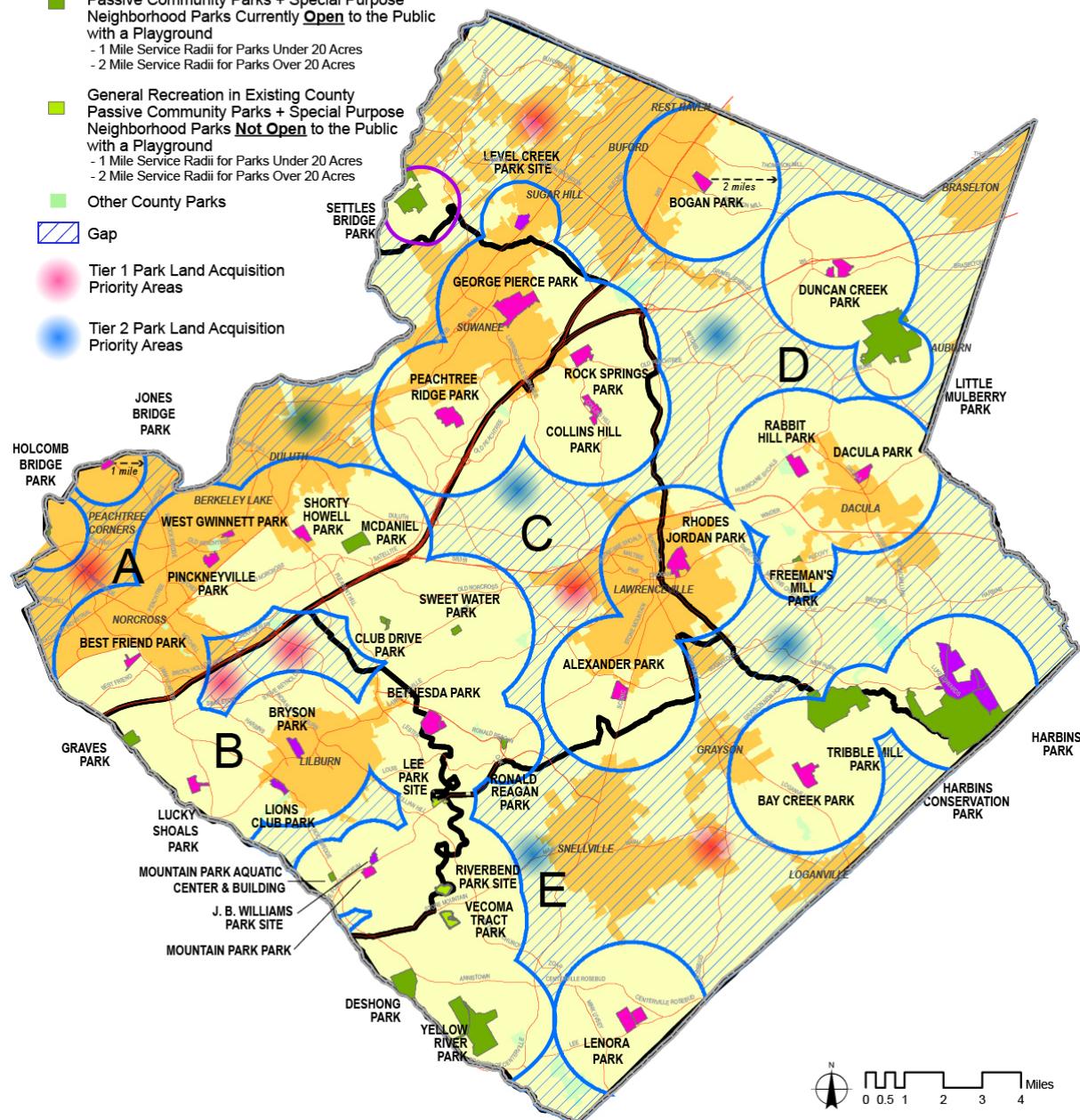
## General Recreation Park Land Acquisition Recommendations in Densely Populated Areas

- 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 5.9e to fill the 2,300 General Recreation acreage gap. Lands acquired should be as close to specified park sizes as possible.

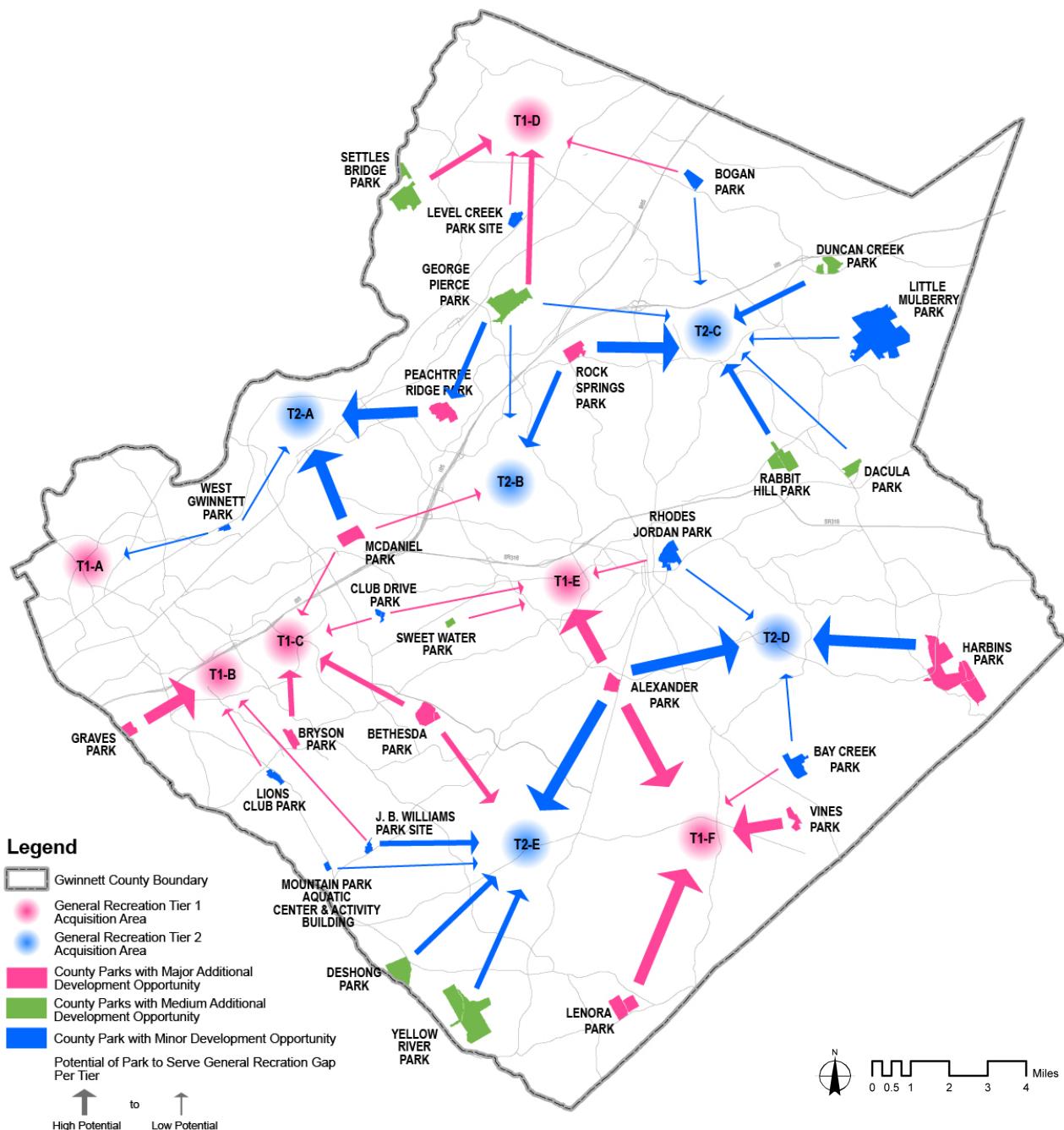
Map 5.9c General Recreation Recommended Acquisition Areas

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 Agreeage Under 20 Acres
  - 2 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreeage Over 20 Acres
- General Recreation in Existing County Community Parks, Currently **Not Open** to the Public with a Proposed Playground
  - 1 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreeage Under 20 Acres
  - 2 Mile Service Radii for General Recreation Agreeage Over 20 Acres
- General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks Currently **Open** to the Public with a Playground
  - 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres
  - 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres
- General Recreation in Existing County Passive Community Parks + Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks **Not Open** to the Public with a Playground
  - 1 Mile Service Radii for Parks Under 20 Acres
  - 2 Mile Service Radii for Parks Over 20 Acres
- Other County Parks
- Gap
- Tier 1 Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas
- Tier 2 Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas



Map 5.9d Tiered Priority Land Acquisition Opportunity Map

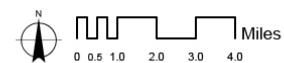
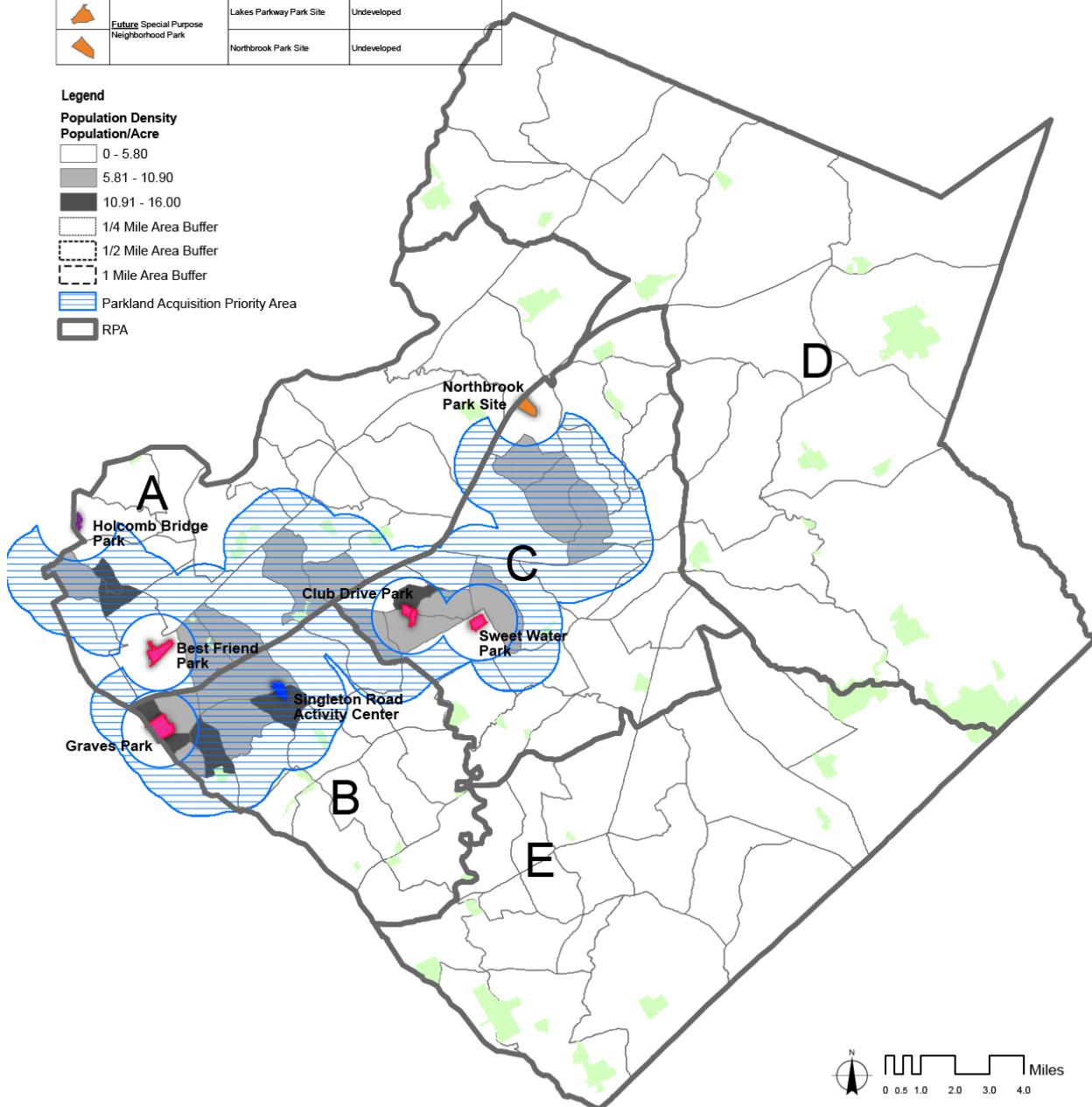


## Map 5.9e Gaps and Recommended Park Land Acquisition Priority Areas in Dense Areas

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

## Legend

Population Density	Population/Acre
■	0 - 5.80
■	5.81 - 10.90
■	10.91 - 16.00
■	1/4 Mile Area Buffer
■	1/2 Mile Area Buffer
■	1 Mile Area Buffer
■	Parkland Acquisition Priority Area
■	RPA



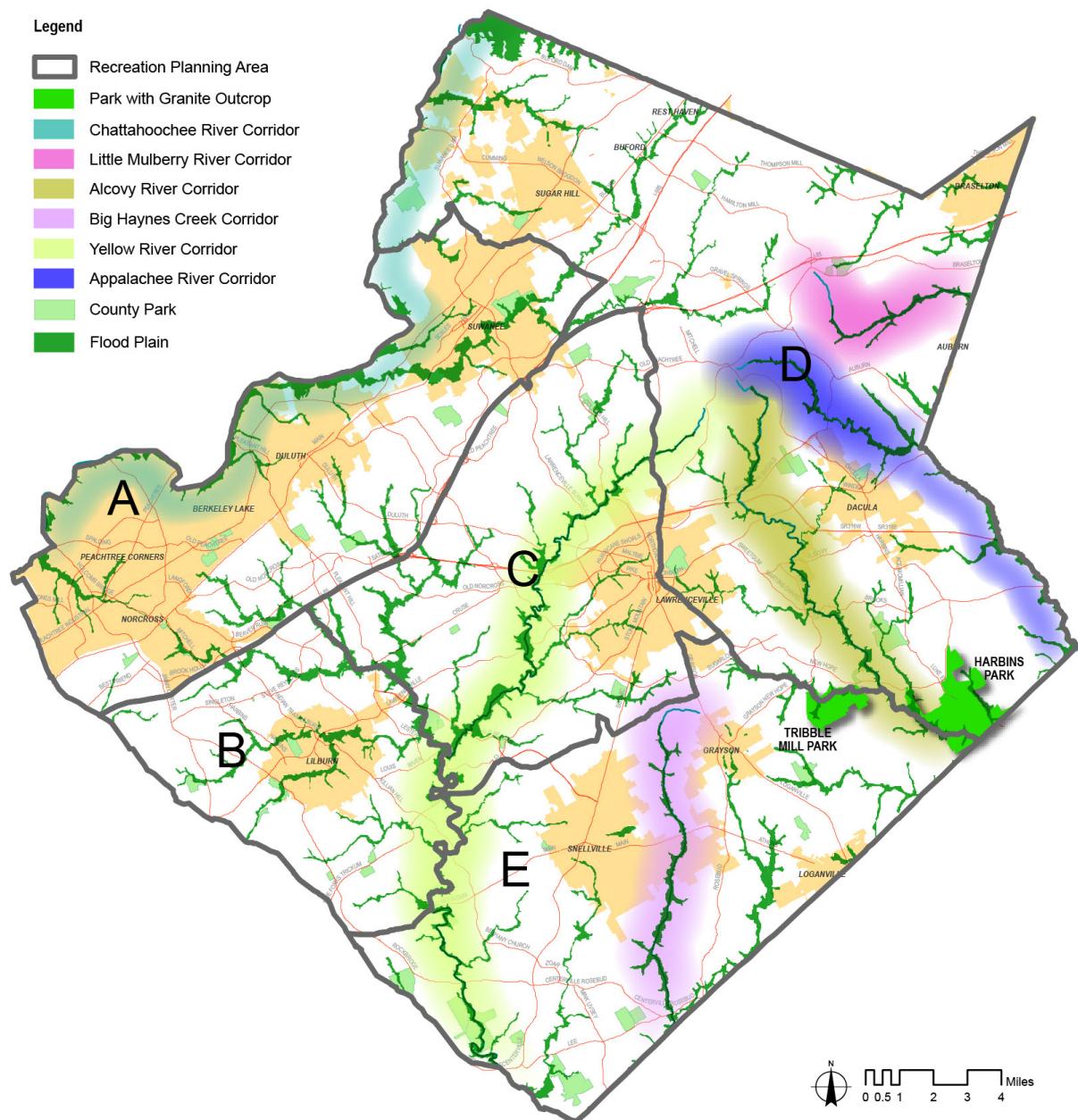
## Natural Resource Parks

- 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 5.9f.
- When evaluating potential acquisition for all park types, the above listed characteristics and natural resource features should have weight in the selection.

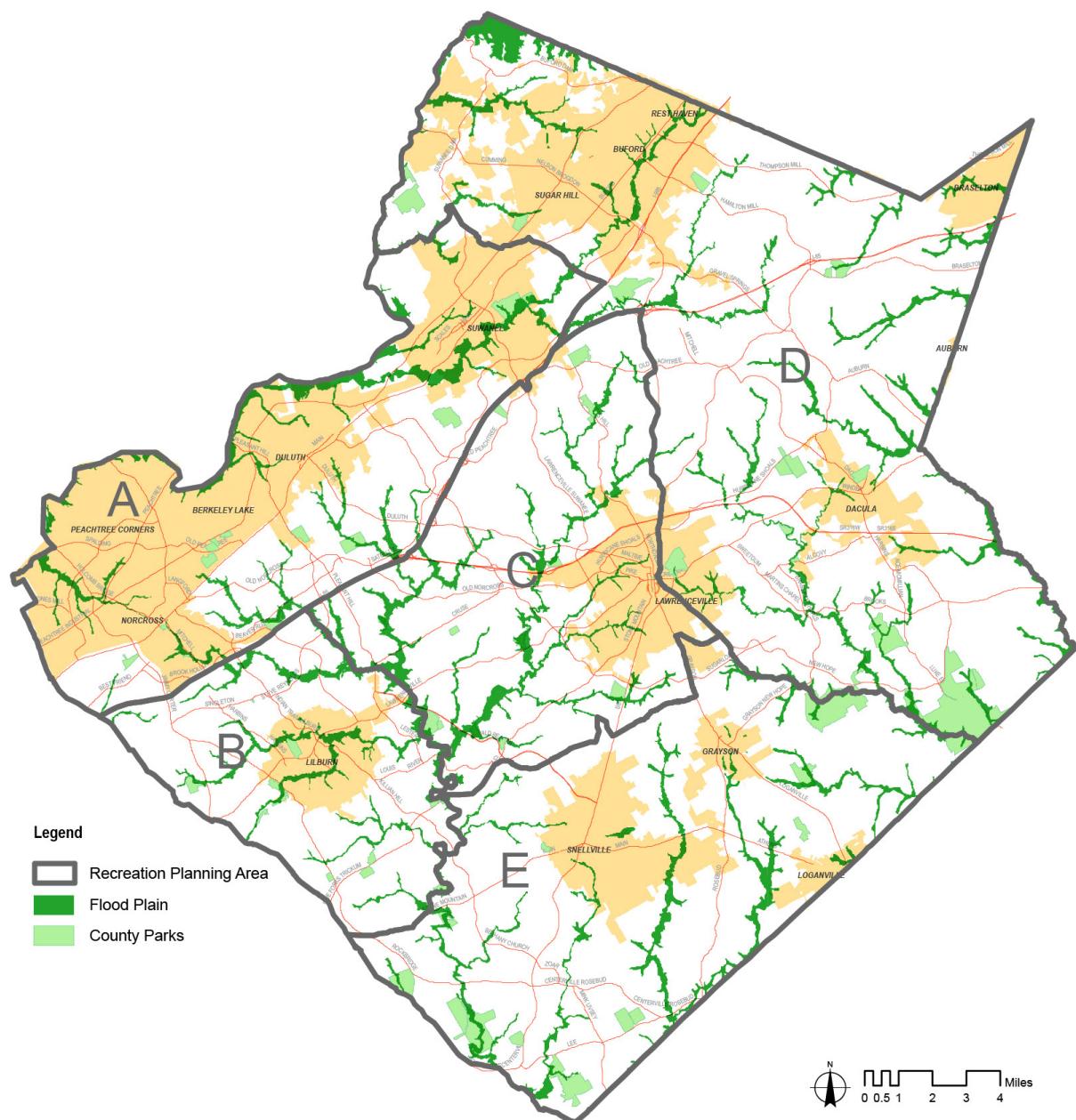
## Flood Plain Recommendations

- Flood plains, shown in Map 5.9g, 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 5.9f Natural Resources*



#### *Map 5.9g Gwinnett County Flood Plain Locations*



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# Section 6: facilities gap analysis

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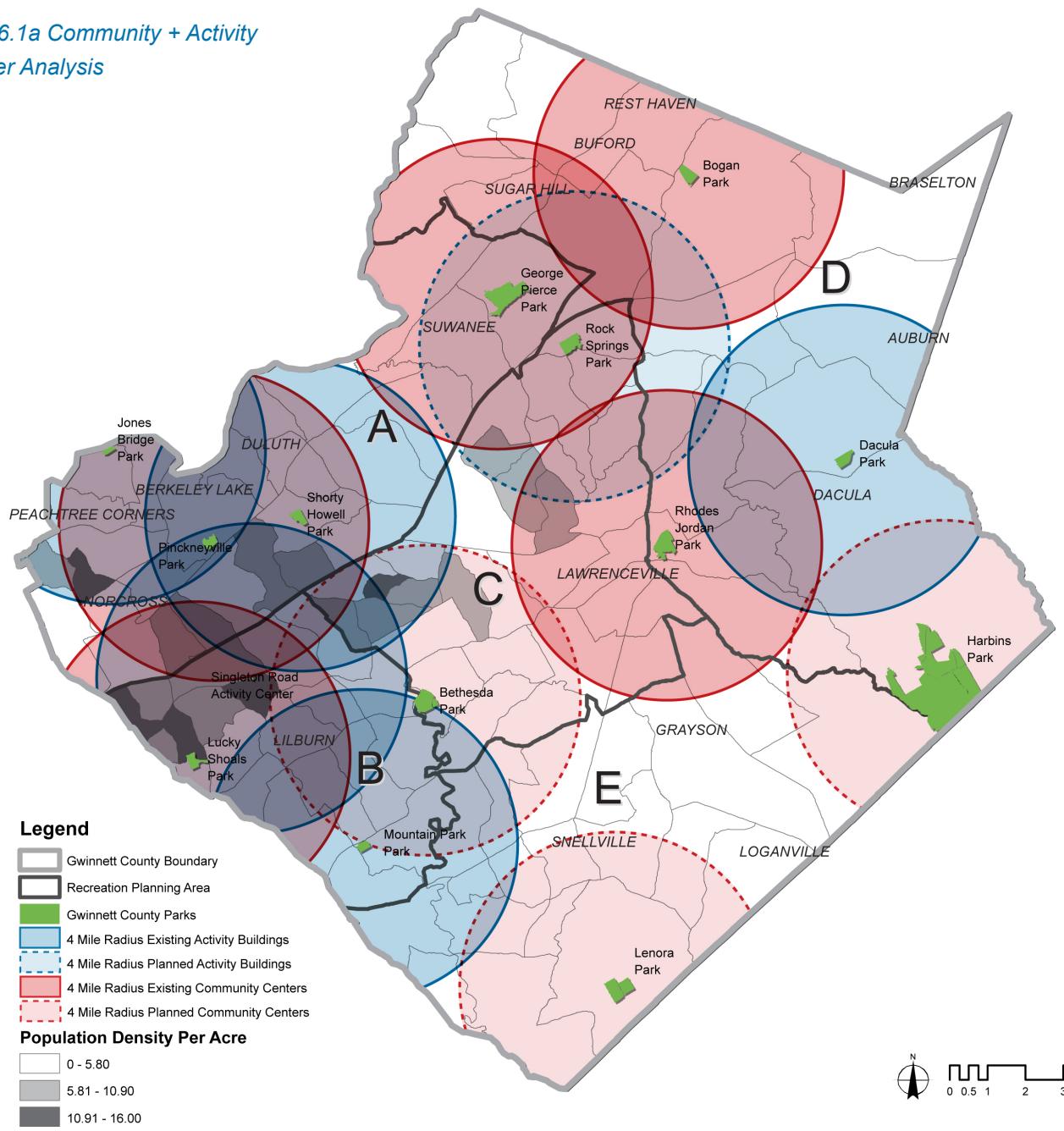
## section 6: facilities gap analysis

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

- Community + Activity Center
- Senior Recreation Center
- Gymnasium

- Indoor Aquatic Facility
- Outdoor Basketball Court
- Skateboard Park
- Roller Rink
- Playground
- Dog Park
- Disc Golf
- Artificial Turf
- Cricket Pitch

*Map 6.1a Community + Activity Center Analysis*

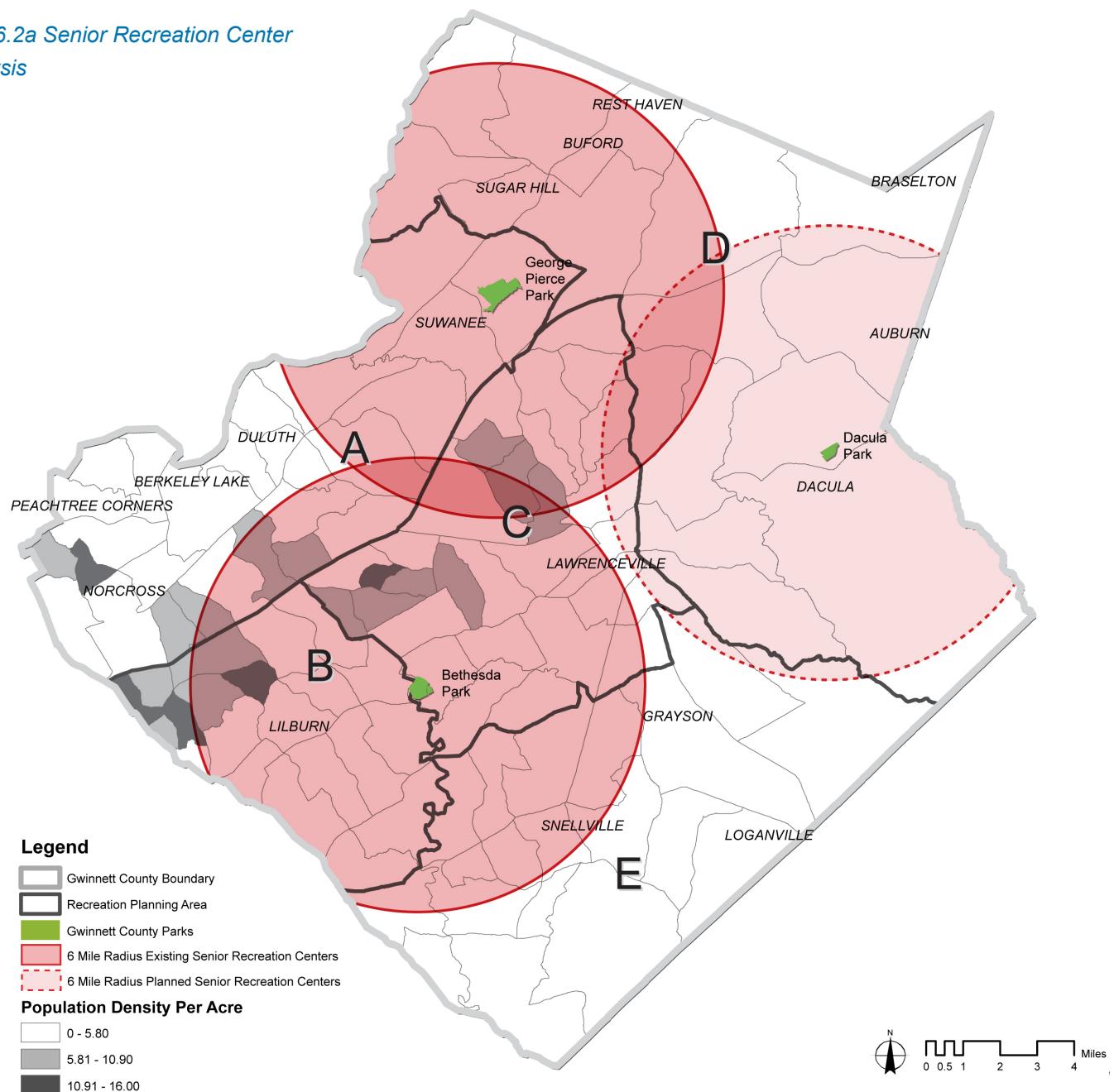


Service gap analysis standards for these facilities were based on standards developed during the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan.

## 6.1 – Community + Activity Center Analysis

Gwinnett County currently has five existing community centers and four existing activity centers. An additional three community centers and one activity center are planned.

*Map 6.2a Senior Recreation Center Analysis*

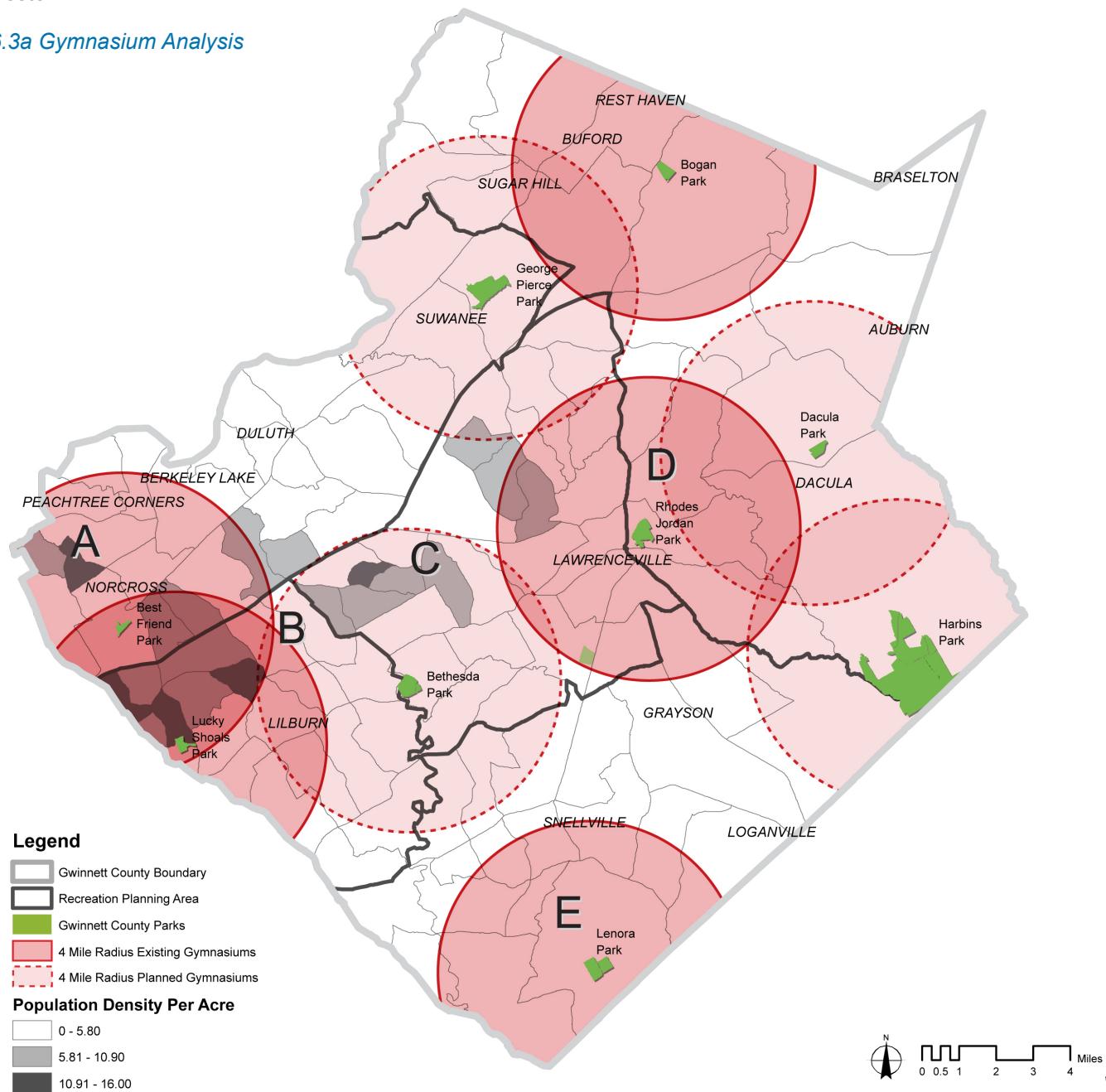


Map 6.1a shows the locations of each existing and planned Community Center and Activity Center in Gwinnett County. To measure access, a radius of four miles was plotted around each facility. The areas in white illustrate areas of the County that are currently outside these four-mile radii, which includes large sections of RPA C and RPA E, and two sections of RPA D.

## 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 Analysis



## 6.3 – Gymnasium Analysis

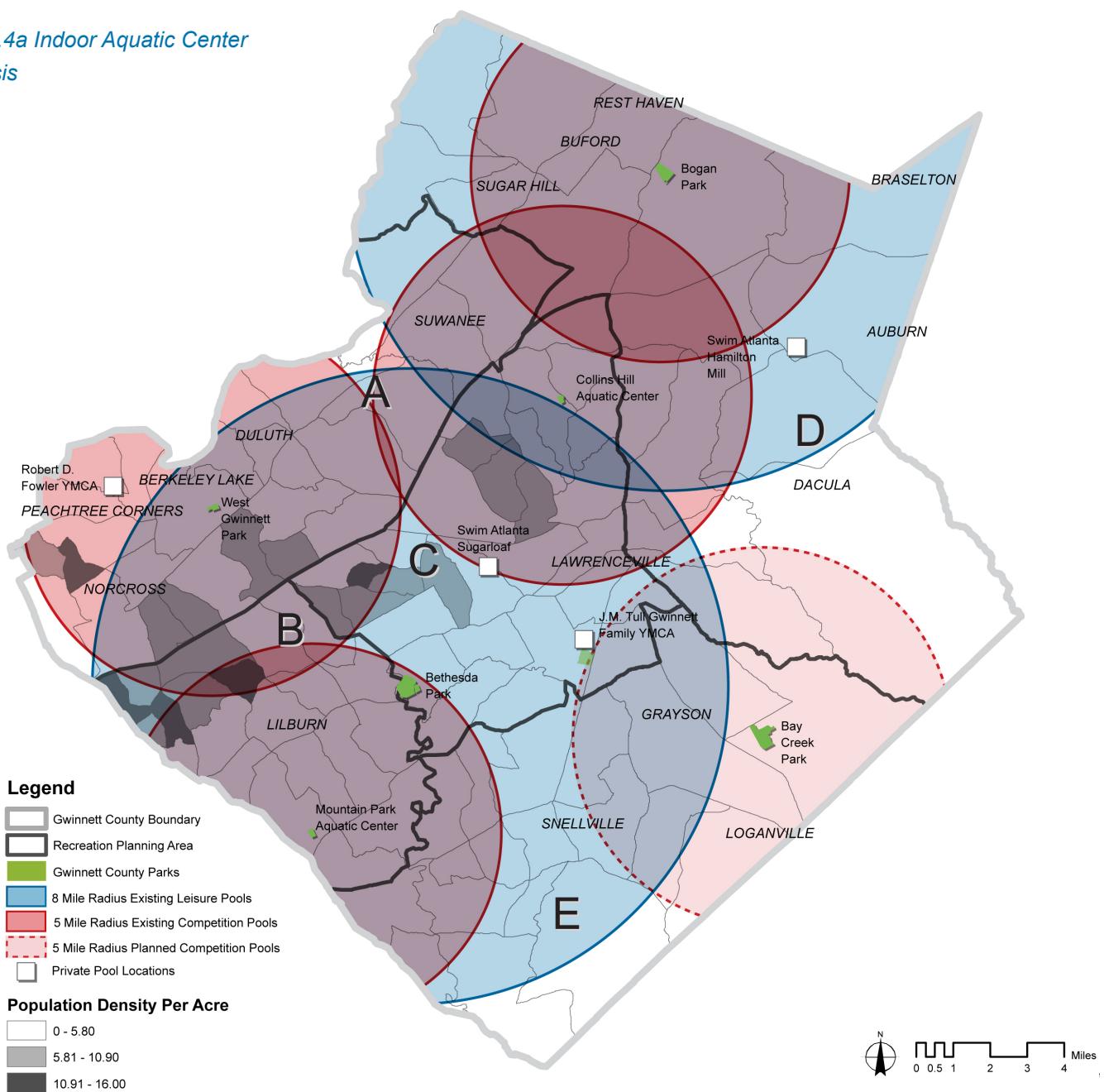
Gwinnett County currently has five existing gyms and four planned gyms. When these facilities are mapped with a four-mile service radius (Map 6.3a), the majority of Gwinnett County is covered. Gaps in access occur in all RPAs, with the largest gaps in RPA A and RPA E.

## 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 Analysis*

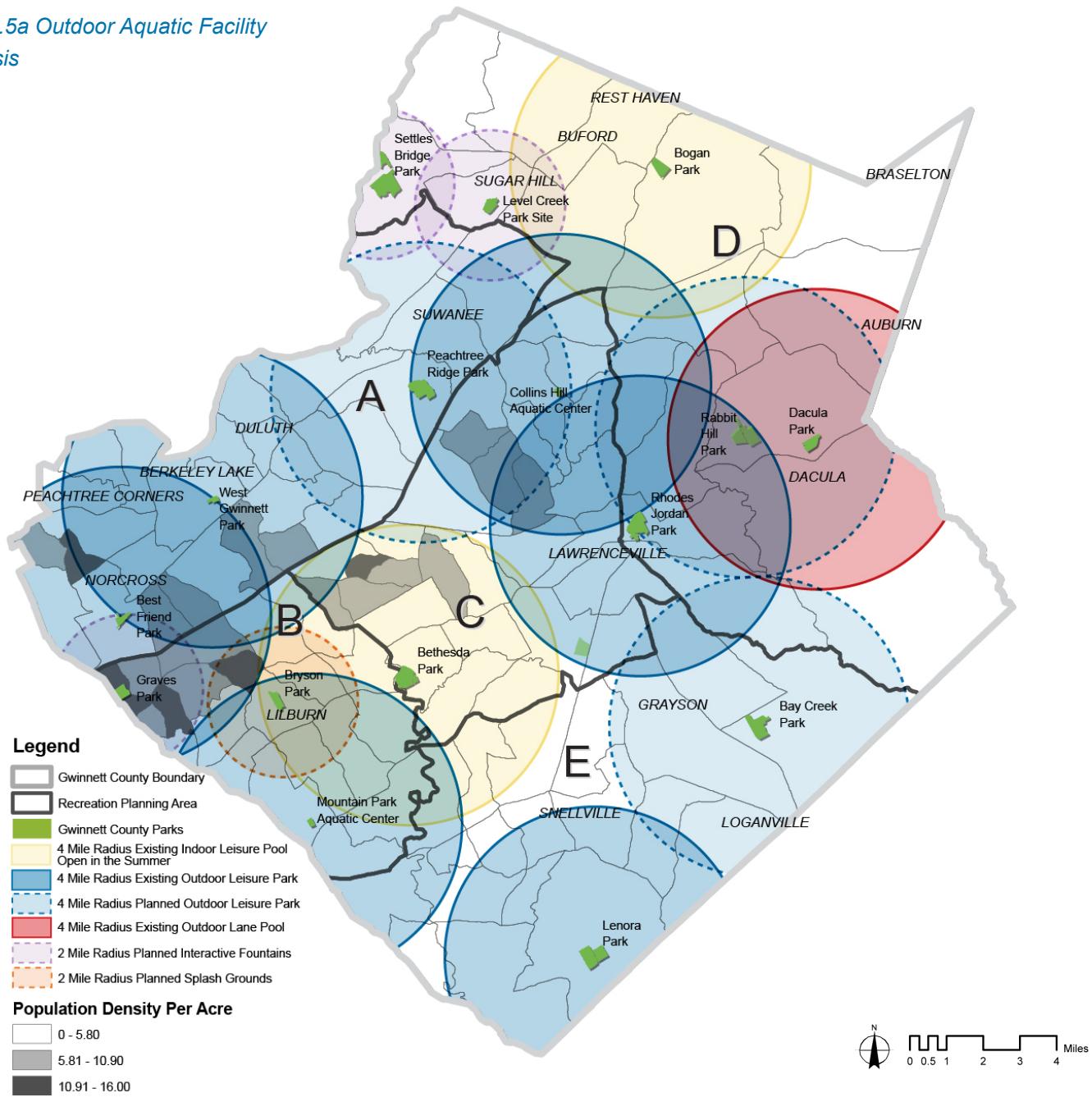


## 6.5 - Outdoor Aquatic Facility Analysis

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, three 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 small section of RPA E.

## *Map 6.5a Outdoor Aquatic Facility Analysis*

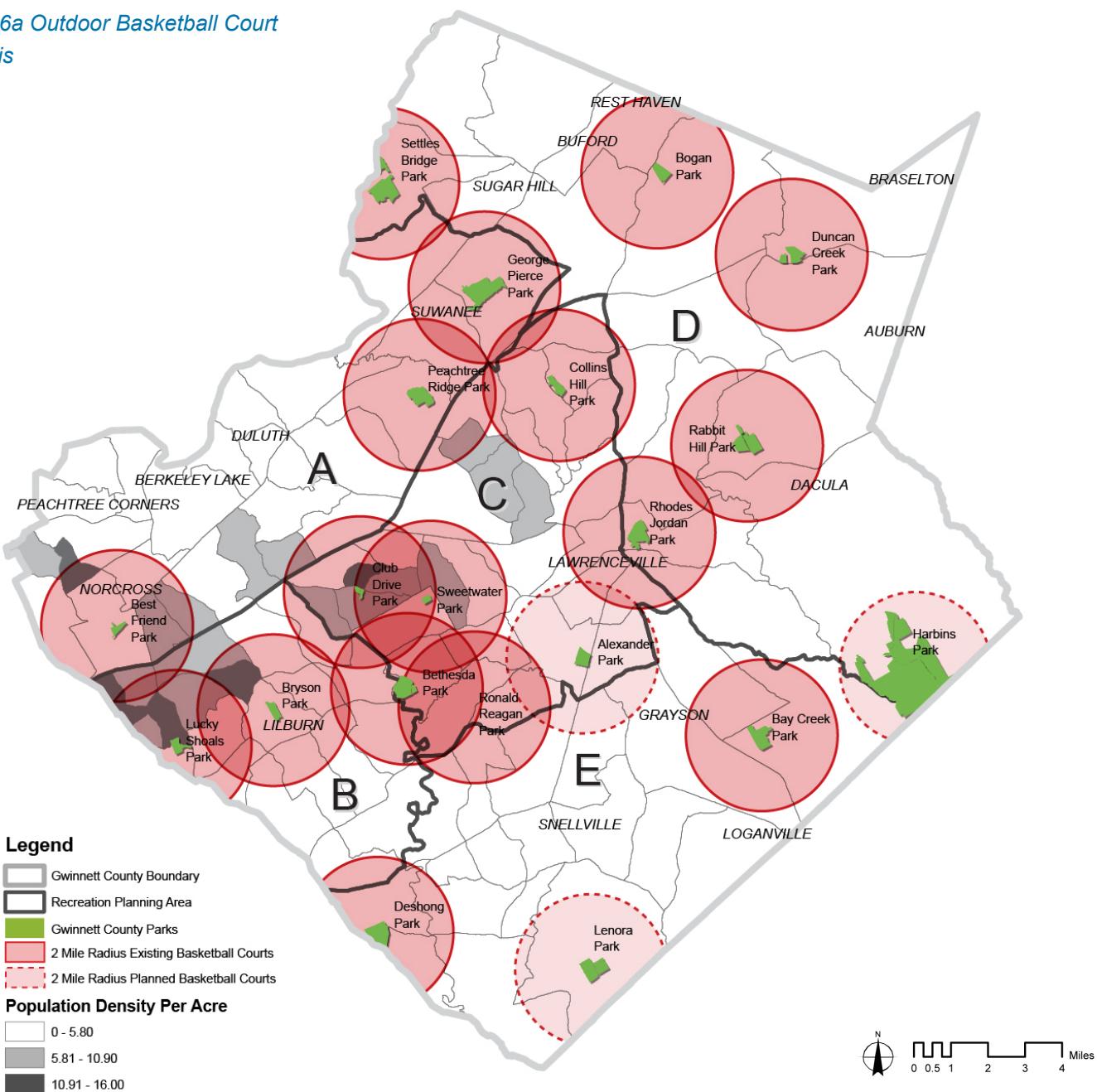


## 6.6 - Outdoor Basketball Court Analysis

Currently, Gwinnett County has 17 outdoor basketball courts and 3 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.

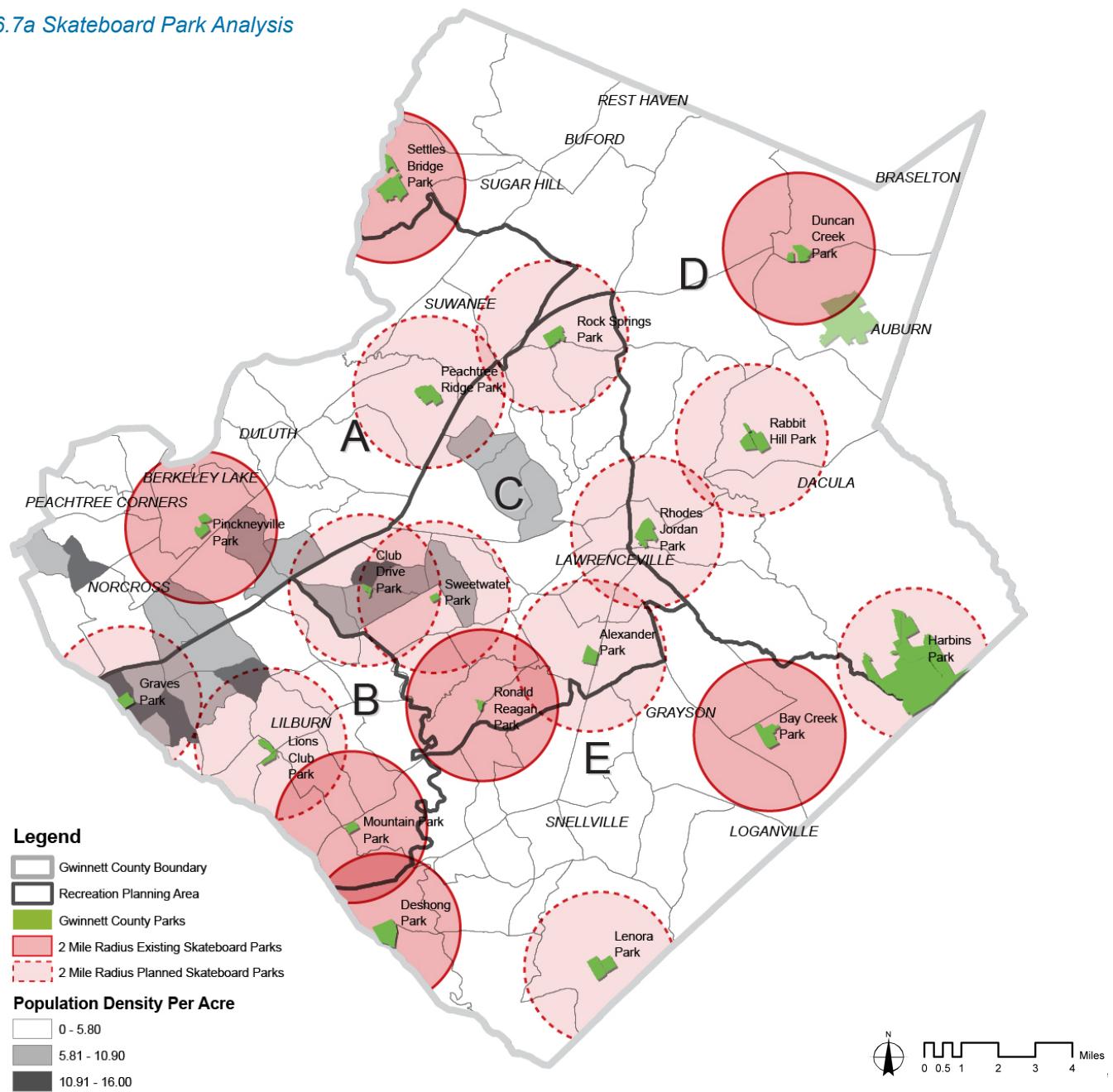
*Map 6.6a Outdoor Basketball Court Analysis*



## 6.7 - Skateboard Park Analysis

Gwinnett County has 7 existing skateboard parks and another 11 planned. Map 6.7a shows each of these facilities with a two-mile service area. Although parts of all five RPAs lack access to a skateboard park, RPAs B and C are generally well-served, but there are large gaps in service in RPAs A, D, and E.

Map 6.7a Skateboard Park Analysis

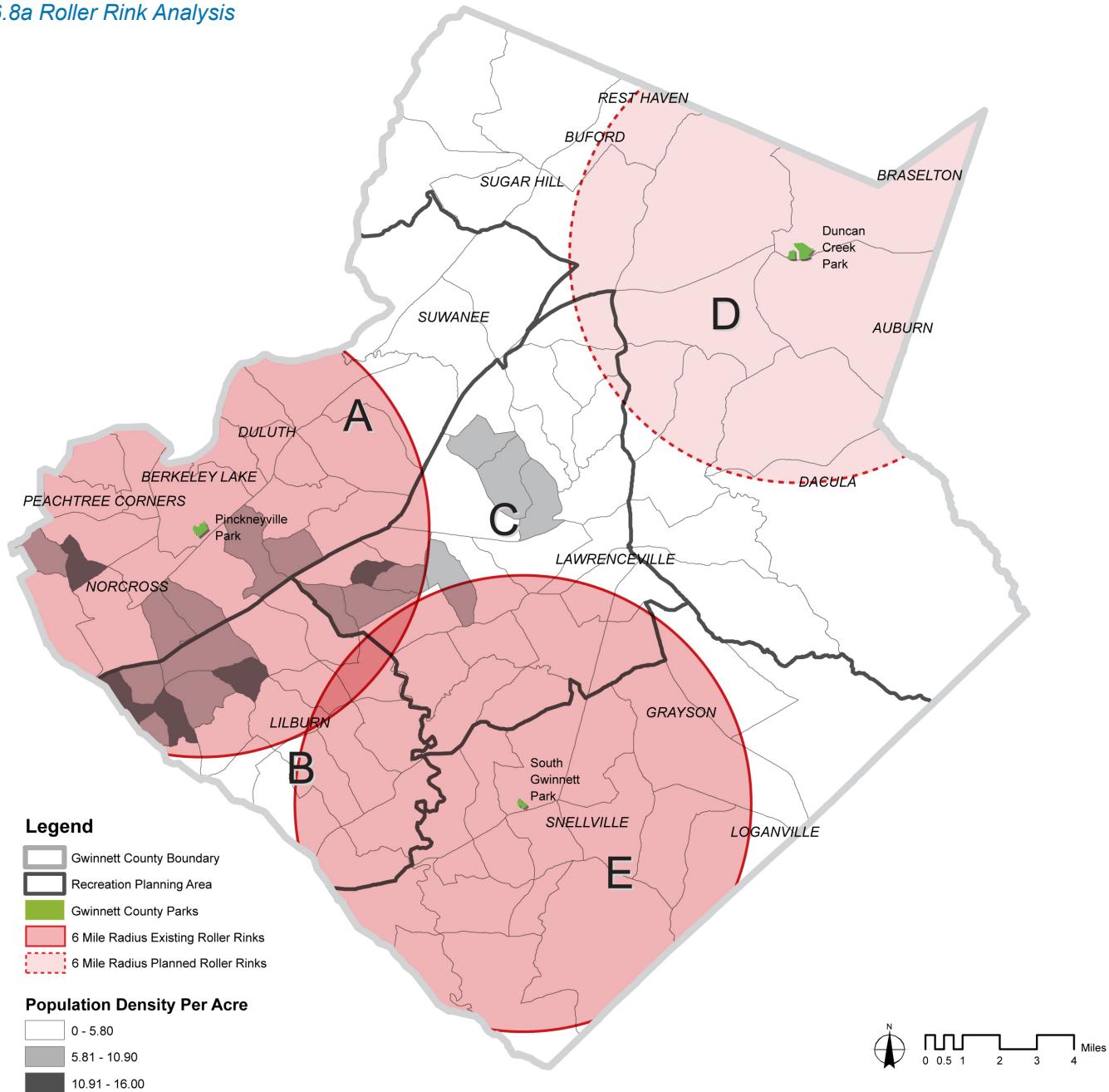


## 6.8 - Roller Rink Analysis

There are two existing roller 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 rink at Duncan Creek Park is completed, about two thirds of Gwinnett County will be served by a roller 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.

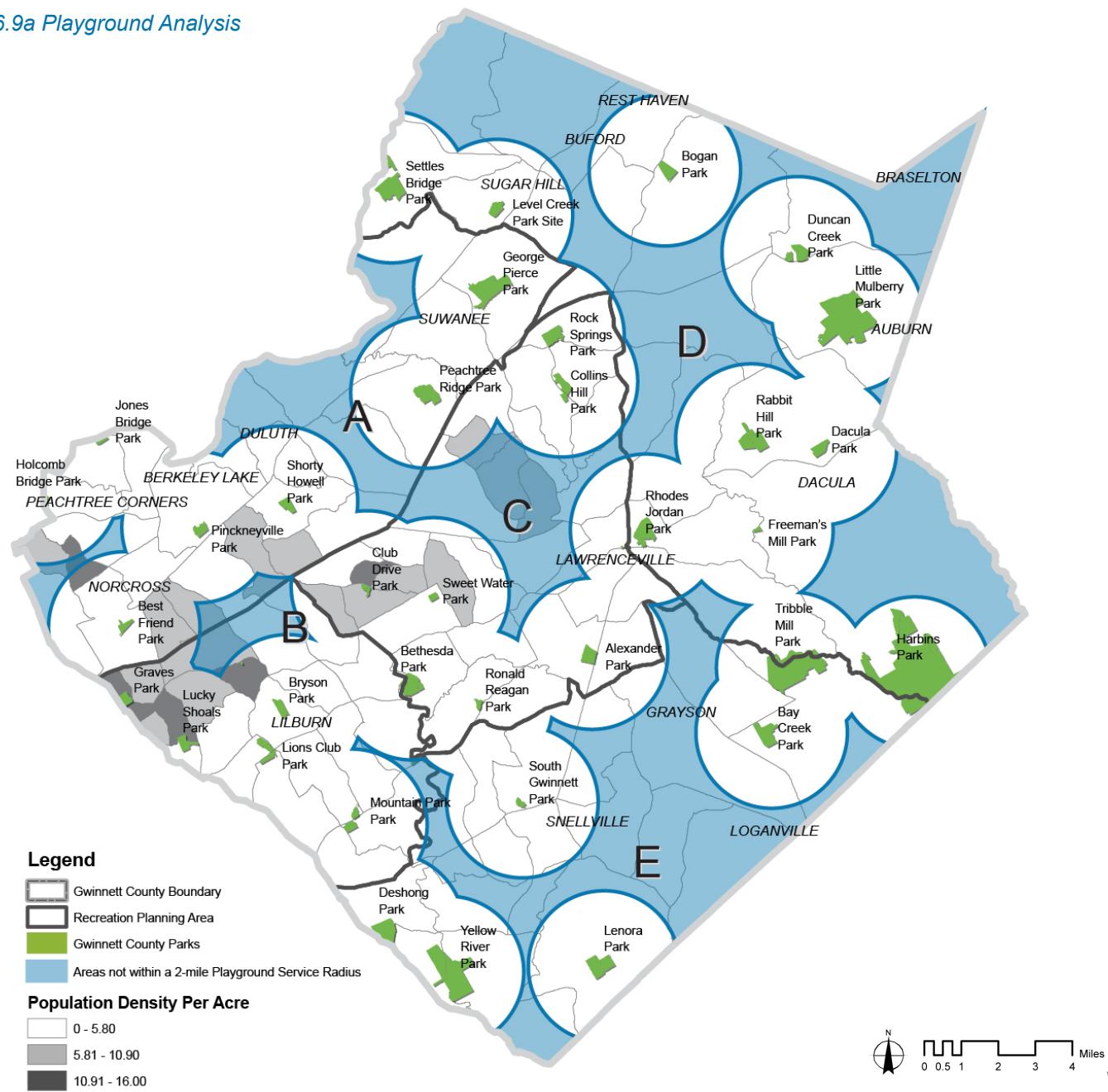
Map 6.8a Roller Rink Analysis



## 6.9 - Playground Analysis

Gwinnett County has 35 existing 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 35 playgrounds are distributed throughout the county, significant gaps in access occur in central RPA E, multiple areas of RPA D, and over half of RPA E.

Map 6.9a Playground Analysis

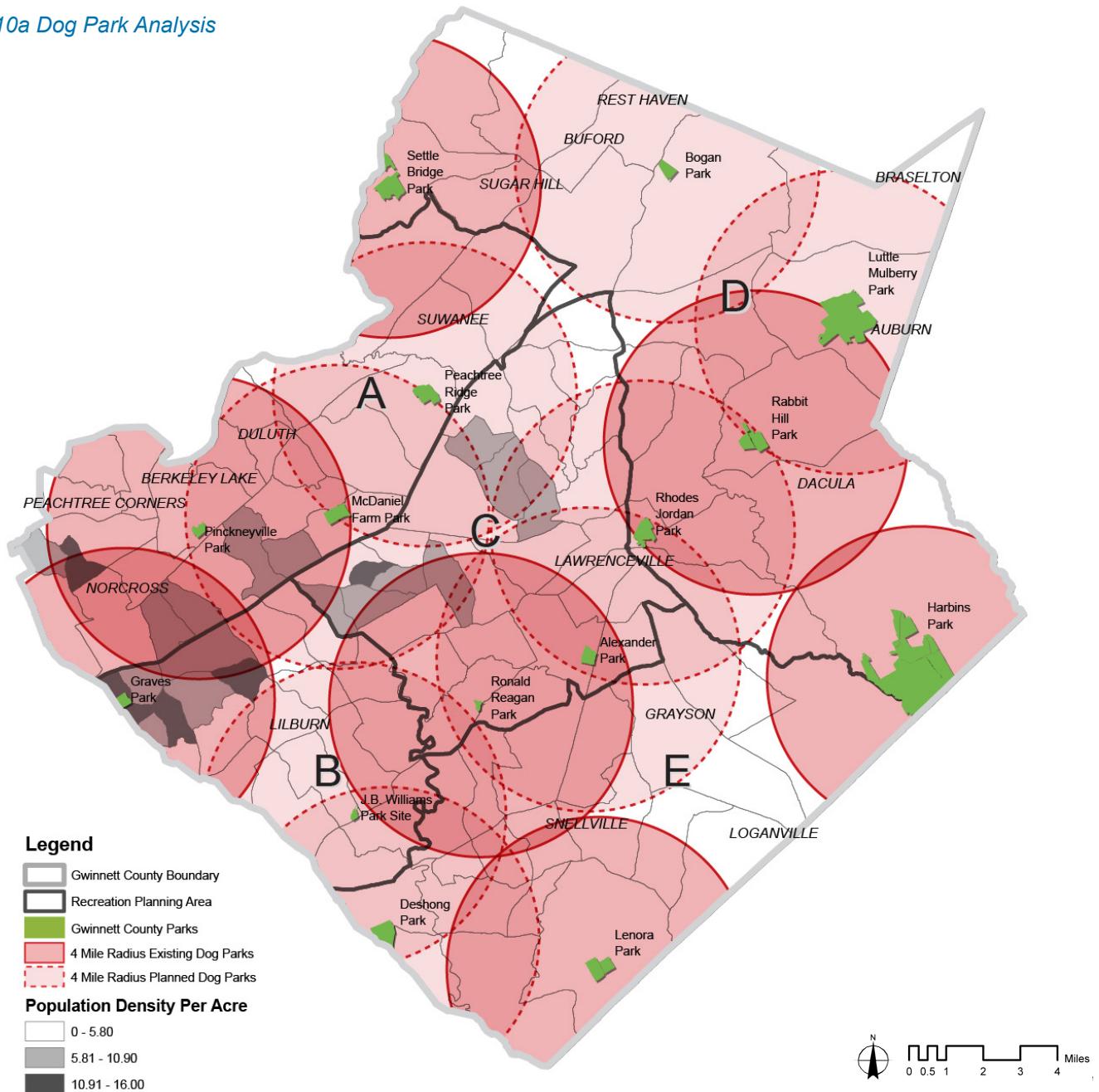


## 6.10 - Dog Park Analysis

Dog parks are an increasingly popular facility at parks across the nation. Currently, Gwinnett County has seven dog parks and another eight 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 C and RPA D.

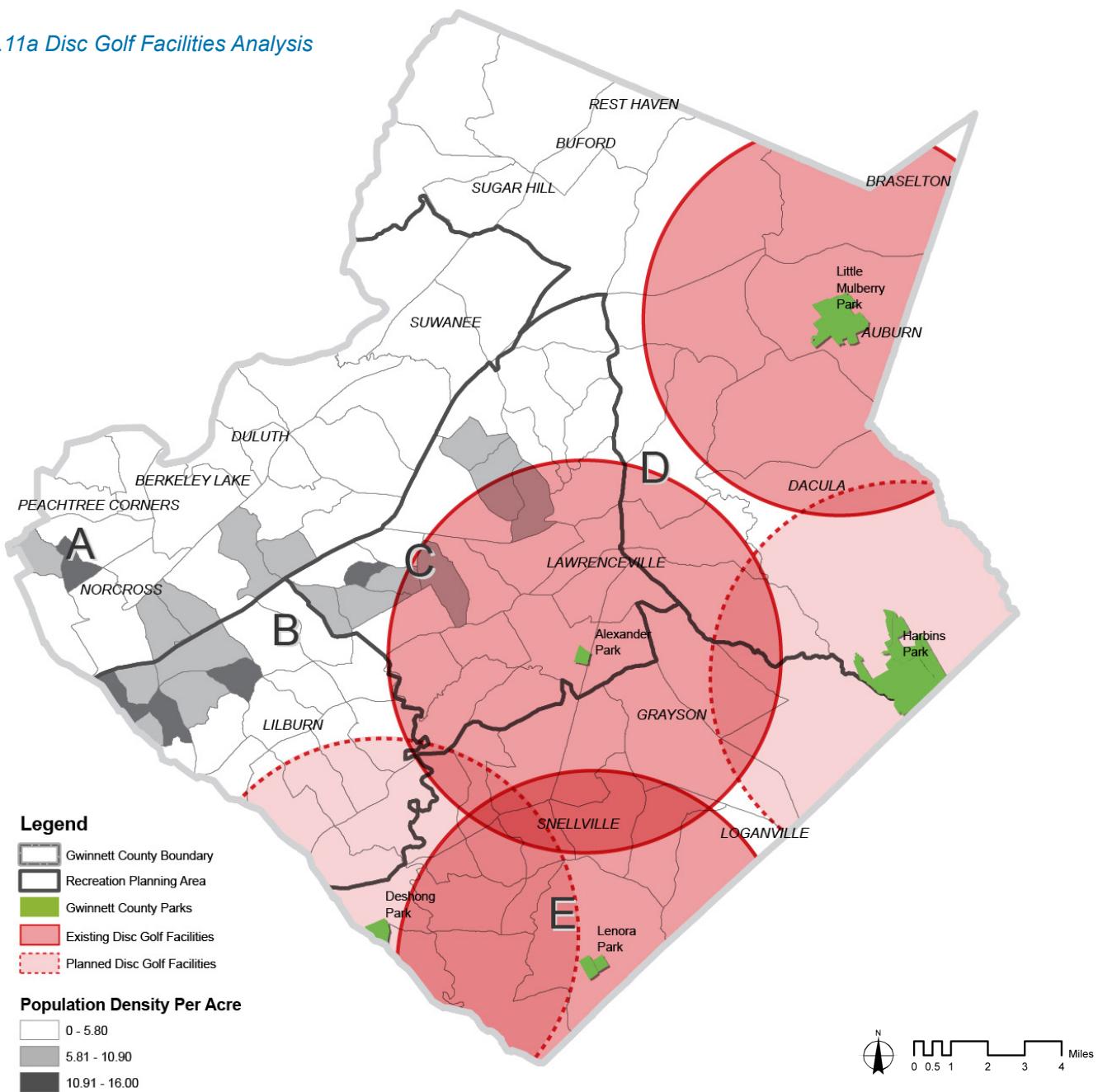
*Map 6.10a Dog Park Analysis*



## 6.11 - Disc Golf Analysis

Gwinnett County currently has three disc golf courses and an additional two planned. Map 6.11a illustrates their locations. Because the existing and planned disc golf courses are all in central or eastern Gwinnett County, the western half of the county lacks access (RPA A, and parts of RPAs B C, and D). RPA E is almost completely served by the existing and planned facilities.

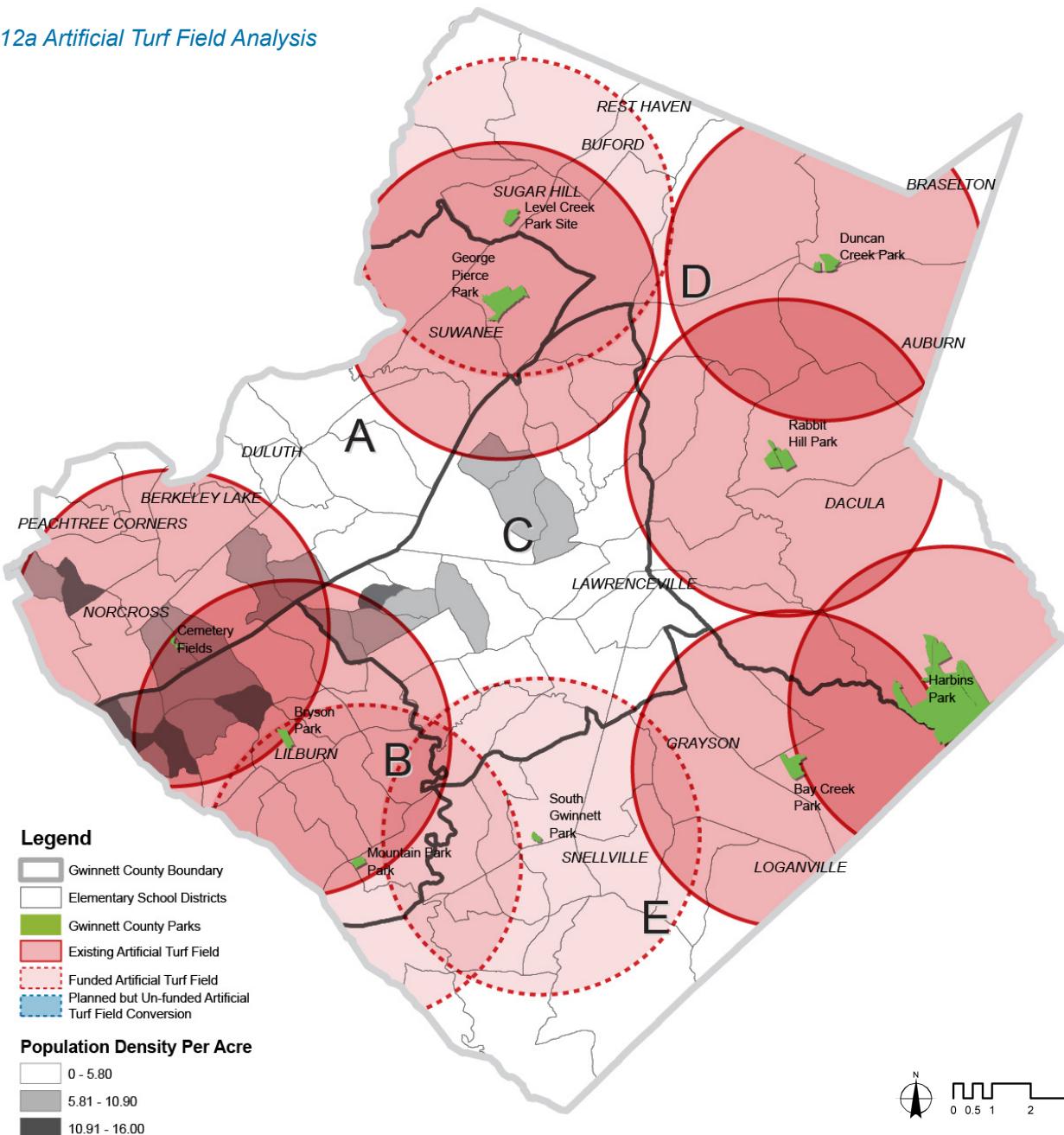
Map 6.11a Disc Golf Facilities Analysis



## 6.12 - Artificial Turf Field Analysis

Fields with artificial turf are an important active recreation facility in Gwinnett County. Currently there are seven artificial turf fields in the county and another three planned. Map 6.12a illustrates their locations. When the additional artificial turf fields are complete, most of RPAs A, B, D, and E will have access, but significant gaps will still be present in RPA C.

Map 6.12a Artificial Turf Field Analysis



## 6.13 - Summary of Facilities Gap Analysis

The gap analysis documents the breadth of the existing and planned park system in Gwinnett County, with special attention to 13 facility types. Figure 6.13a below summarizes existing gaps identified in the analysis. Figure 6.13a also includes summary findings from the park land acquisition update.

When compiled, it is easier to differentiate the needs of the five RPAs. RPA A has one of the greatest needs for all types of parks acreage and most park facilities, but residents have fairly good access to community and activity centers, aquatics facilities, and dog parks. RPA C's gaps are similar: there is a need for all types of parks acreage and most facilities. RPA B has the

best access to facilities among the five areas, but has a need for more parks acreage of all types. RPA D is the only area with a surplus of total parks acreage. In this case, however, the surplus of parks acreage does not translate into widespread access to facilities: of all five areas, RPA D has lowest coverage for facilities types. RPA E likely has a need for additional general recreation acreage, but has a surplus of open space.

Figure 6.13a Summary Gaps in Acreage and Facilities by RPA

RPA	A	B	C	D	E
Total Acreage Deficit / Surplus	-1,265.94	-1,872.47	-2,850.24	2,458.92	-317.09
Open Space Acreage Deficit / Surplus	-975.12	-866.16	-1,327.38	1,697.19	708.47
Baseball   Softball Youth Athletic Complex Acreage*	●	●	●	●	●
Football   Lacrosse Youth Athletic Complex Acreage*	●	●	●	●	●
County Soccer Complex Acreage Deficit / Surplus	-105.74	-114.85	-158.49	-105.46	-125.30
General Recreation Acreage Deficit / Surplus	-787.38	-595.11	-945.11	-403.37	-485.74
Community + Activity Centers	●	●	●	●	●
Senior Centers	●	●	●	●	●
Gymnasiums	●	●	●	●	●
Indoor Aquatics Centers	●	●	●	●	○
Outdoor Aquatic Facilities	●	●	●	●	●
Outdoor Basketball Courts	●	●	●	●	●
Skateboard Park	●	●	●	○	●
Roller Rink	●	●	●	●	●
Playground	●	●	●	●	●
Dog Park	●	●	●	●	●
Disc Golf	○	●	●	●	●
Artificial Turf Field	●	●	●	●	●

\* data obtained from 2010 Gwinnett County Park Land Acquisition Report Update

(Figures include acreage from other providers)

● = mostly or completely served

● = partially served

○ = mostly or completely unserved

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# section 7 : recommended CIP

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## section 7: recommended capital improvement plan (CIP)

The 2013 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, AECOM'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 parkland 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.

- Parkland Acquisition**

Proceed with the acquisition of parkland in under-serviced areas

### 7.1 - Review of Findings

Figure 7.1a provides a summary of the park facility and park land needs in each RPA as identified in the 2010 Gwinnett County Park Land Acquisition Update and the Facilities Gap Analysis.

Figure 7.1a Summary of Park Facility and Park Land Needs per RPA

RPA	Park Facilities and Park Land Above County-Wide Provision Standards		Parks, Facilities, and Park Land <b>Below</b> County-Wide Provision Standards	
	Park Facility	Park Land	Park Facility	Park Land
A	Community + Activity Center Indoor Aquatic Center Outdoor Aquatic Facility Dog Park		Senior Center Gymnasium Outdoor Basketball Court Skateboard Park Roller Rink Playground Disc Golf Artificial Turf Field	Open Space Park Land Organized Sports Field Land General Recreation Acreage (Tier 1 Priority in RPA A)
B	Community + Activity Center Senior Center Gymnasium Indoor Aquatic Center Outdoor Aquatic Facility Roller Rink Dog Park Artificial Turf		Outdoor Basketball Court Skateboard Park Playground Disc Golf	Open Space Park Land Organized Sports Field Land General Recreation Acreage
C	Community + Activity Center Senior Center Gymnasium Indoor Aquatic Center Outdoor Aquatic Facility Dog Park Disc Golf		Outdoor Basketball Court Skateboard Park Roller Rink Playground Artificial Turf Field	Open Space Park Land Organized Sports Field Land General Recreation Acreage
D	Community + Activity Center Senior Center Gymnasium Indoor Aquatic Center Outdoor Aquatic Facility Dog Park Artificial Turf	Open Space Park Land	Outdoor Basketball Court Skateboard Park Roller Rink Playground Disc Golf	Organized Sports Field Land General Recreation Acreage
E	Community + Activity Center Indoor Aquatic Center Outdoor Aquatic Facility Roller Rink Dog Park Disc Golf Artificial Turf	Open Space Park Land	Community + Activity Center Senior Center Gymnasium Outdoor Basketball Court Skateboard Park Playground	Organized Sports Field Land General Recreation Acreage

## 7.2 - 2013 Capital Improvement Plan Project Recommendations

This CIP contains an updated list of project recommendations developed through findings in this planning process. These recommendation are divided into the following types of projects: Greenways, Open Space and Park Land Acquisition, Development of New Parks, and Improvements to Existing Parks.

### Greenways

#### Greenways

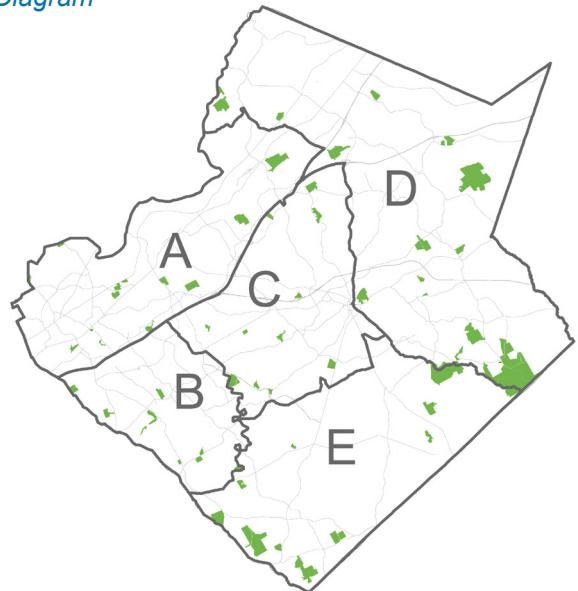
In response to the goal of improving pedestrian connectivity, implementing the County's recent Greenways Plan, and the overwhelming public input about trails, a number of greenways projects are recommended as priority 2013 CIP projects.

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M	CIP Date
Acquisition of high-priority / threatened greenway routes		\$1,500,000	\$0	2007
Greenway gap Acquisition and Development (County-Wide)		\$5,000,000	\$20,000	
Singleton Greenway	Bryson Park to Singleton Road Activity Bldg. - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (2.37 miles)	\$2,300,000	\$14,457	2007
Centerville Hwy/Yellow River Greenway	Centerville Hwy Tract to Yellow River Park - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (2.33 miles)	\$2,800,000	\$13,603	2007
Yellow River Greenway	River Bend Park Site to Vecoma Park site - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (1.50 miles)	\$4,750,000	\$9,150	2007
Sweetwater Creek Greenway	Sweetwater MS to Club Drive Park - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (1.2 miles)	\$2,300,000	\$7,320	2007
Bethesda Greenway	Ronald Reagan Park to Bethesda Park to Camp Creek Greenway - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (5.4 miles)	\$6,600,000	\$32,940	2007
Club Drive Greenway	Sweetwater MS to Club Drive Park - Acquisition to Construction (1.12 miles)	\$2,543,688	Low	2007
Ivy Creek Greenway Phase 1	Remainder of Phase 1 Section 3 at the F.Wayne Hill Water Resources Center - Design/Engineering, Construction (1.66 miles)	\$2,900,000	\$10,126	2007
	George Pierce Park to Phase 1 Section 3 -Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (1.95)	\$2,600,000	\$8,418	
	Pave Ivy Creek Greenway between GEHC and Gravel Springs Road and trailhead - Acquisition to Construction (1.5 miles)	\$3,000,000	\$9,150	
Harbins/Palm Creek Greenway	Harbins Park at Indian Shoals Road Parking Lot to Palm Creek Park Boundary - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (3.78 miles)	\$2,957,484	\$23,058	2007
Harbins/Tribble Greenway	Harbins Park Meadow Loop Trail to Tribble Mill Park - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (4.36 miles)	\$4,900,000	\$26,596	2007
Singleton Creek Greenway	McDaniel Farm Park to Satellite Blvd - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (1.27 miles)	\$2,200,000	\$7,747	2007
Lower Suwanee Creek Greenway	Sewanee Creek Park to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard - Acquisition, Design/Engineering, Construction (1.3 miles)"	\$3,600,000	\$7,930	2007
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$47,407,484</b>	<b>\$190,495</b>	

## Open Space and Park Land Acquisition

As noted in the Gwinnett County Park Land Acquisition Update, 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 the all RPAs will never be fully achieved, the County should strive to address park land needs in under-served areas. Consistent with the Park Land Acquisition Update and the goal established by the Recreation Authority to acquire parkland in under-served areas, following is a list of open space and park land acquisition CIP recommendations.

*Recreation Planning Area Diagram*



## Open Space and Park Land Acquisition

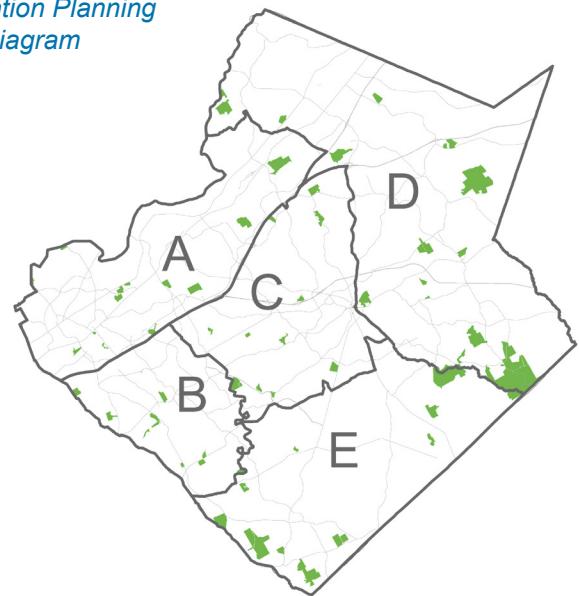
**Project (Tier sites refer to Map 5.9d - Tiered Priority Land Acquisition Opportunity Map on page 85).**

Recreation Planning Area	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
Recreation Planning Area B Passive Park Land   Site Tier 1C	Acquire site for Special Purpose Neighborhood Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$2,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area C Passive Park Land   Site Tier 2B	Acquire site for Passive Community Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$1,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area B Passive Park Land   Site Tier 1B	Acquire site for Special Purpose Neighborhood Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$2,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area D Passive Park Land   Site Tier 2C	Acquire site for Passive Community Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$1,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area A Passive Park Land   Site Tier 2A	Acquire site for Passive Community Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$2,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area A Passive Park Land   Site Tier 1A	Acquire site for Special Purpose Neighborhood Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$2,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area E Passive Park   Site Tier 2E	Acquire site for Special Purpose Neighborhood Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$1,500,000	Low
Recreation Planning Area E Passive Park Land   Site Tier 1F	Acquire site for Passive Community Park to meet goals of 2010 Park Land Acquisition Report	\$1,500,000	Low
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$16,000,000</b>	

## Development of New Parks

Consistent with the goal of maintaining a balanced approach to the continued acquisition and development of both passive and active parkland based on the researched desires of residents, following is a list of recommended developments of new parks in under-served areas.

Recreation Planning Area Diagram



### Development of New Parks

Project	Project Description	Project Description (Tier sites refer to Map 5.9d - Tiered Priority Land Acquisition Opportunity Map on page 85).	Project Total Cost	O&M
Berkmar/Central Gwinnett Active Community Park	Construction of one or two sites to provide community park elements	<b>Recreation Planning Area C deficit.</b> Land Acquisition from 2009 SPLOST - Meets Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site 1E	\$9,645,000	Medium
Lanier Sister Park site	7 field baseball/softball complex with concession/restroom facility, pavilion(s), playground, comfort station, trails (paved and soft-surface) associated parking/landscaping and infrastructure	<b>Recreation Planning Area D deficit.</b> Land Acquisition from 2009 SPLOST - Meets Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site 1D	\$9,645,000	Medium
<b>Recreation Planning Area B or C Deficit</b> Site Tier 1C Passive Park	Development of Special Purpose Neighborhood Park site or Passive Community Park Development, Master Plan and Phase One Development	<b>Recreation Planning Area B or C deficit.</b> Land Acquisition from 2014 SPLOST, Meets Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Tier 1C (East of I-85, Between Norcross and Lilburn)	\$4,145,000	Low
<b>Recreation Planning Area A Deficit</b> Site Tier 1A Passive Park	Passive Community Park Development or Special Purpose Neighborhood Park site, Master Plan and Phase One Development	<b>Recreation Planning Area A deficit.</b> Land Acquisition from 2009 SPLOST - Meets Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site 1A (North of I-85, West of Pleasant Hill Rd.)	\$4,145,000	Low
Lee Park - Phase I Development	Passive Community Park Development, Master Plan and Phase One Development	<b>Recreation Planning Area B deficit.</b> Compensates for not meeting Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site 2E	\$4,145,000	Low
Riverbend Park Site - Phase I	Passive Community Park Development, Master Plan and Phase One Development	<b>Recreation Planning Area B deficit.</b> Compensates for not meeting Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site 2E	\$5,000,000	Low
Palm Creek Park - Phase I	Open Space Park Development, Master Plan and Phase One Development	<b>Recreation Planning Area D deficit.</b> Compensates for not meeting Land Acquisition Goals for General Recreation Service Area Gap Site 2D	\$4,185,000	Low
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$40,910,000</b>

## Improvements to Existing Parks

One of highest priorities of the 2013 CIP is to address the backlog of projects in order to improve and

renovate existing parks. The charts below contain summaries of County-wide system projects and site-specific projects to improve existing parks.

### County-Wide Park System Rehabilitation

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
ADA Improvements (County-Wide)	ADA Audit projects for facilities as well as accessibility projects related to trails/walkways, door entrances, pool access, others.	\$300,000	No
Aquatics Facilities Major Renovations	Pool renovations of HVAC, play structure replacement, re-plastering, etc.	\$2,000,000	No
Athletic Fields Major Renovations (County-Wide)	Renovation of major athletic field components including regrading, irrigation replacement, fencing replacement, turf replacement, and other work.	\$1,875,000	No
Energy Conservation Projects	Energy conservation projects, including "green" initiatives identified in a recent evaluation that will result in reduction of operational costs for Parks & Recreation.	\$1,000,000	No
Fencing - Major Projects & Replacements (County-Wide)	Major fencing, including replacement/renovation projects.	\$375,000	No
General Park Renovations	General park renovations at several of the older county parks are needed to address issues related to age, drainage/erosion, and structural concerns. Hardscaping is recommended for a number of central plaza areas to address these issues, as well as concrete work associated with improved drainage. While a needs assessment needs to be conducted, potential parks include: George Pierce Park baseball/softball complex, Dacula Park baseball/softball and football complex, Rhodes Jordan baseball/softball road drainage, and other prioritized locations.	\$1,050,000	No
Major Lake/Dam Repairs (County-Wide)	Peachtree Ridge (rebuild), Bethesda/Lenora/Dacula/Little Mulberry/ Mountain Park A.C. (de-silt). Lake Luelia lies within the boundaries of Peachtree Ridge Park. The earthen dam shows signs of deterioration and further study is required. In addition, staff would like to evaluate options for fields' irrigation from the lake.	\$2,000,000	No
Park Furnishings and Equipment (County-Wide)	Include: recreation center furniture (tables, chairs, other furniture); outdoor equipment (grills, picnic tables, park benches, basketball/football/soccer goals, bleachers, other outdoor equipment).	\$1,125,000	No
Park Security Projects	Purchase/installation of cameras, outdoor security lighting, alarm replacements, and new key system.	\$1,500,000	No
Playground Equipment Replacement/Renovation (County-Wide)	Playground renovations as indicated by asset management plan.	\$2,250,000	No
Recreation Set-Asides Restoration (County-Wide)	Parks and Recreation has the responsibility of maintaining many recreation set-asides located throughout the County. An evaluation of these sites is needed to assess existing dams and damaged areas in order to prioritize repair and restoration work.	\$1,250,000	No
Resurfacing and Paving of Park Roads, Parking Lots, and Trails (County-Wide)	Need to maintain these capital assets and reduce major capital maintenance.	\$3,475,000	No
Tree Plantings and Reforestation Projects (County-Wide)	The evaluation of individual park needs for tree replacement or reforestation projects. Replacement of maintained grass areas with newly planted forest to reduce maintenance.	\$400,000	No
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$18,600,000</b>	

## Existing Park Renovations and Developments

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M	CIP Date
Alexander Park	Phase II: Completion of original master plan which may include: Hwy 124 entrance along with additional parking, picnic pavilion, dog park.	\$4,423,000	Low	2013
	Phase III: Teen recreation area (skate park, two half-court basketball courts, sand volleyball, plaza and shelter, all lighted with parking); Boardwalk along Pugh Creek (on the southern border of park); Multiple streamsides docks, shelters and other passive use amenities; Architectural pavilion and contemplation area.	\$3,100,000	Low	2007
Best Friend Park Gymnasium Renovation	Extensive renovation including a new roof, indoor ceiling replacement, new gym floor, locker room renovations, and drainage improvements.	\$1,500,000	No	2013
Bethesda Park Improvements	Conversion of the football field to a multi-purpose field with artificial turf and needed trail connections.	\$1,500,000	Low	2013
	Community center with gymnasium; Second half of the multi-purpose trail system and interior sidewalk system.	\$5,170,000	High	2007 & 2004
Bogan Park Improvements	A new water main, renovation of the existing irrigation system and athletic field renovations are needed at Bogan Park due to the current condition of the water system and on-going maintenance issues.	\$350,000	No	2013
Bryson Park - Phase II	Construction of the activity building and splash pad, pavilion-playground complex.	\$5,750,000	High	
Club Drive Park - Phase II	Completion of original master plan which may include: open play area, teen area, trail expansion, shelter, and additional parking.	\$3,485,000	Low	2013
Collins Hill Park Improvements	Improvements to the existing lake front, irrigation from lake and expansion of the playground area of Collins Hill Park are proposed. Lake edge improvements were in the original park master plan. The playground is undersized by current standards. Opportunity to tap the lake for irrigation water.	\$2,584,000	Low	2013
Dacula Park Improvements	Conversion of the football field to a multi-purpose field with artificial turf, general park rehabilitation within the plaza area, drainage improvements, and other.	\$1,374,000	No	2013
	Gymnasium and office additions - change operations to community center with Phase II Interior additions to activity building; Park Road connection. Add senior center wing (\$2M) to community center.	\$5,446,000	High	2007
DeShong Park Landscaping Improvements	Landscaping improvements at DeShong Park are needed to increase the tree canopy and also reduce maintenance.	\$200,000	No	2013
Duncan Creek Park	Phase II: Multi-purpose trail system and soft surface trail network (mulch pathway, boardwalks and shelter), tennis complex (6 courts, restrooms), roller hockey facility, picnic and seniors area (shelters, horseshoe pits, ) and parking.	\$4,309,000	Low	2007
	Phase III: Soccer complex (4 fields, concession/restroom building., tot-lot, parking and vehicular access drive or baseball complex.	\$4,500,000	High	
George Pierce Park Renovations and Improvements	Renovation work to improve the existing adult softball fields at George Pierce Park. In the same area of the park, recommended improvements include a small pavilion/playground area and trailhead.	\$811,000	Low	2013

**Existing Park Renovations and Developments Cont.**

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M	CIP Date
Graves Park Phase II	Prioritized improvements, which may include basketball courts, (or conversion of the tennis courts for basketball) and interactive fountain with plaza and shade structures, small skate park, clay-surface field and soft surface trails.	\$1,717,000	Low	2013
Harbins Community Park Site	Basketball, skate park, volleyball, pavilion-playground complex, two comfort stations.	\$2,800,000	Low	2007
Harmony Grove Park Fencing	Fencing at the soccer complex and also replace existing 4' fencing to improve the safety/security of the park.	\$150,000	No	2013
Jones Bridge Park Renovation	Replacement of the existing picnic pavilions and restroom building. Other improvements may be required.	\$1,000,000	No	2013
Lenora Park Renovations and Improvements	Renovation of the existing central baseball/softball plaza area, replace concession/restroom building; construction of a maintenance compound, and associated renovation work.	\$4,526,000	Low	2013
	Completion of the community center (additions to existing gym. Conversion of grass multipurpose field to artificial turf.	\$2,300,000	High	2007 & 2004
	Teen recreation area (basketball courts, restroom facilities); Volleyball courts (2), pavilion-playground complexes (2), four field soccer-cricket complex, tennis courts, incorporation of a cricket playing area to increase the multi-purpose use of the soccer complex on the eastern portion of the park proposed by the Lenora Park Master Plan. Soccer/cricket = \$4,469,000.	\$6,750,000	Medium	2007 & 2004
Little Mulberry Park Improvements	Trail renovation/expansion, dog park, and other improvements.	\$2,712,000	Low	2013
Lucky Shoals Park Renovation	Establishment of soccer fields at the park, along with other major renovations.	\$1,350,000	No	2013
McDaniel Farm Park	Playground at existing pavilion, pond, trails.	\$2,745,000	Low	2007
Mountain Park Aquatics Center and Activity Building Improvements	Addition of picnic shelters, playground, and restroom building.	\$750,000	Low	2013
Mountain Park Park Renovations	Renovation work to the existing park will be required following the development of nearby JB Williams Park and the anticipated elimination of the overlay field at the park. That park will likely include Fencing work, ball field renovation, and other work.	\$400,000	No	2013
Palm Creek Park Site	Master plan and proceed with Phase I construction.	\$6,000,000	Medium	2007
Peachtree Ridge Park	Conversion of the existing football field into a multi-purpose field with artificial turf and other improvements. Add lighting to existing soccer fields.	\$3,910,000	Low	2013
	Remaining teen facilities (free skate facility, shelter/plaza & volleyball courts), tennis courts (6), dog park, trail system completion, lake overlook, lake fed irrigation system, and fishing dock.	\$4,000,000	Low	2007
Rabbit Hill Park	Skate park and outdoor family aquatics center.	\$5,000,000	High	2007

## Existing Park Renovations and Developments Cont.

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M	CIP Date
Rhodes Jordan Park Football Field Renovations	Conversion of the existing football field into a multi-purpose field with artificial turf. Reconfiguration of the overlay softball field and bleacher space will be required.	\$1,300,000	No	2013
Rock Springs Park	Plaza area (irrigated lawn play area, extensive trellis, circular performance area with integrated seating); and playground/shelter complex, activity building/gym and parking, teen area (skate park, plaza and shelter), multi-purpose trail sub-loop; Great lawn enhancements; Open meadow (3 acres with shelter) and nature trail system.	\$5,250,000	High	2007
Ronald Reagan Park Renovation	Dog Park renovation; and skate park renovation with landscaping at both sites.	\$470,000	No	2013
Settles Bridge Park	Westside meadow area and perimeter multi-purpose trail; Suspension bridge connector (pedestrian/bicycle), Parking lot and connecting vehicular access; splash ground and lawn courts (including shelter and restroom facility), nature trail system with pedestrian bridges (linking county- and state-owned parkland); Nature trail system in north section plus river overlook deck.	\$4,550,000	Low	2007
Shorty Howell Park Football Field Renovation	Conversion of the existing football field into a multi-purpose field with artificial turf.	\$900,000	No	2013
South Gwinnett Park Renovation	Bridge funding for complete renovation of the park.	\$1,144,000	No	2013
Sweet Water Park - Phase II	Skate Park and an interactive fountain, multi-purpose trail expansion, nature trail with benches and picnic tables.	\$1,642,000	Low	2013
Tribble Mill Park Improvements	Two collocated, large picnic pavilions to accommodate large groups.	\$2,865,000	Low	2013
Vines Park	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.	\$6,184,036	Medium	2007
Yellow River Park Trail Renovations	Renovation and new trail construction as well as signage that corresponds to the new trail routing.	\$200,000	No	2013
	Amenity area east of the Yellow River (shelter/playground, lawn area, restroom building, park drive and parking lot) and the pedestrian trail system with two river outlook decks.	\$850,000	Low	2007
		Total \$115,967,036		

**Gwinnett Environment and Heritage Center (GEHC) Capital Projects  
and Historical/Cultural Assets (Min. O&M)**

Project	Project Description	Project Total Cost	O&M
Cooling Tower Replacement (GEHC)	Replace existing cooling tower and control system with new energy-efficient compliant system. Center's existing cooling tower has met its useful life cycle and a new cooling tower unit is required to support museum accreditation for traveling exhibits, collegiate artifacts, contractual events, weddings, special events, reunions, and programming.	\$250,000	No
ADA Compliant Doors for GEHC	Install new electric door(s) system to support the ADA. Currently, all entrance doors to the GEHC do not allow for handicapped and/or citizens with disabilities to enter the Center without assistance.	\$50,000	No
Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center Educator Workroom	Design and construction of a 1,300 sf. teacher workroom with the existing shell space located at the GEHC facility. This interior finish will include 3 modular offices and 5 work stations. Furthermore, this project should include fixtures and furnishings, to support 8 IP phones, a document camera, a projector, a built-in projection screen, a wireless router, and 24 lockers. Additionally, the existing Cisco switch gear system will need to be upgraded to include 15 LAN lines and an overhead security system.	\$350,000	Low
Festival Field Room (GEHC)	Construct a restroom and utilities that are consistent with the green building design standard associated with GEHC sustainable design practices.	\$300,000	Low
LED Lighting Energy Savings Project (GEHC)	Replace all existing incandescent, fluorescent, and compact fluorescent lighting systems with ENERGY STAR and/or EarthCraft green building energy efficient LED lighting systems.	\$50,000	No
GEHC Water Feature Filtration System	Design and build a water filtration system (defender by Neptune-Benson) utilizing granular activated carbon, vermiculite, palletized chemical chlorination, ultraviolet light, and flex tub/membrane media that will allow for a more efficient chemical and treatment delivery system of the water feature located on the GEHC campus. Additionally, this system should include an electronic control and monitoring system capable of allowing presets for chemical delivery, pump control, valve actuation, and treatment monitoring. Furthermore, this system should include a backwash system and supporting piping to safely and efficiently discard backwash and spent media effluent.	\$200,000	Low
Expansion of the GEHC	Building expansion, approximately \$6,000,000.	\$6,000,000	Medium
Freemans Mill Dam Repair and Overlook	Repair Mill Pond dam and provide a scenic overlook.	\$2,138,000	No
Gwinnett County Historic Courthouse Renovation	2014 repair and partial replacement of roof.	\$500,000	No
Historic and Interpretive Signage (County-Wide)	Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation operates and maintains a number of historic properties. Historic interpretative signage at these park sites will inform citizens about County history and provide educational opportunities.	\$100,000	No
		Total	\$11,758,000

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gwinnett county  
department of community services



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