

**6.8 INDOOR
AND
OUTDOOR
AQUATIC
FACILITY
ANALYSIS**

A lane pool, otherwise referred to as a competition pool, has a length of 25 or 50 meters and can be used for competitive swimming events. Such pools may also have supporting interactive play features. Gwinnett County has 6 indoor lane pools, three of which are operated by the County (Bogan Park, Collins Hill, and Mountain Park). Local YMCAs and private enterprise provide the remaining three indoor lane pools (note: dimensions and amenities at these facilities may vary from the design standards of County pools). Although there may be additional privately-operated indoor lane pools in Gwinnett, agreements for public or community group usage do not exist and, therefore, these facilities are not included in the Plan's inventory. Map 6-6 illustrates the location of indoor aquatic facilities in Gwinnett County using a 4-mile service radius.

Half of Gwinnett County's indoor lane pools are located in RPA C. RPA E is completely void of any indoor lane pools (or leisure pools for that matter), and significant gaps also exist in RPAs A and D.

A leisure pool, often referred to as a family aquatics center, serves the aquatic needs of the entire community. Leisure pools contain interactive play features, but are not used for competitive swimming events.

There are 2 indoor leisure pools in Gwinnett County, one at Bogan Park and one under design at Bethesda Park. The service area for indoor leisure pools is larger than that of indoor competition pools. As such, the only gap is in the eastern portion of the County; anticipated population growth in this area should substantiate the need for an indoor leisure pool in the future.

As indicated in the trends section of this report, swimming is one of the most popular recreational activities and is one that is enjoyed by all ages. As such, there is considerable demand for swimming facilities, especially indoor aquatic centers that can be used year-round. Public consultation undertaken for this Plan identified a great deal of demand for an indoor competition pool in the western portion of the County. In response, the County has recently acquired a site (currently referred to as the West District Pool Site) for an indoor lane pool that is recommended in this Master Plan.

INDOOR LANE POOLS		RPA
Robert D. Fowler Family YMCA		A
Mountain Park Aquatic Center		B
Collins Hill Aquatic Center		C
J.M. Tull/Gwinnett Family YMCA		C
Swim Atlanta - Lawrenceville		C
Bogan Park		D
Total		6

Plan Area	Supply #	Indoor Lane Pools (per capita)	Demand #	D-S #
A	1	136,028	1.7	0.7
B	1	114,069	1.4	0.4
C	3	50,067	1.9	(1.1)
D	1	90,124	1.1	0.1
E	0	0:98,025	1.2	1.2
Total - 2000	6	98,075	7.4	1.4
Standard		80,000		
Total - 2003	6	112,714	8.5	2.5
Total - 2005	6	121,017	9.1	3.1
Total - 2010	6	140,323	10.5	4.5

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).



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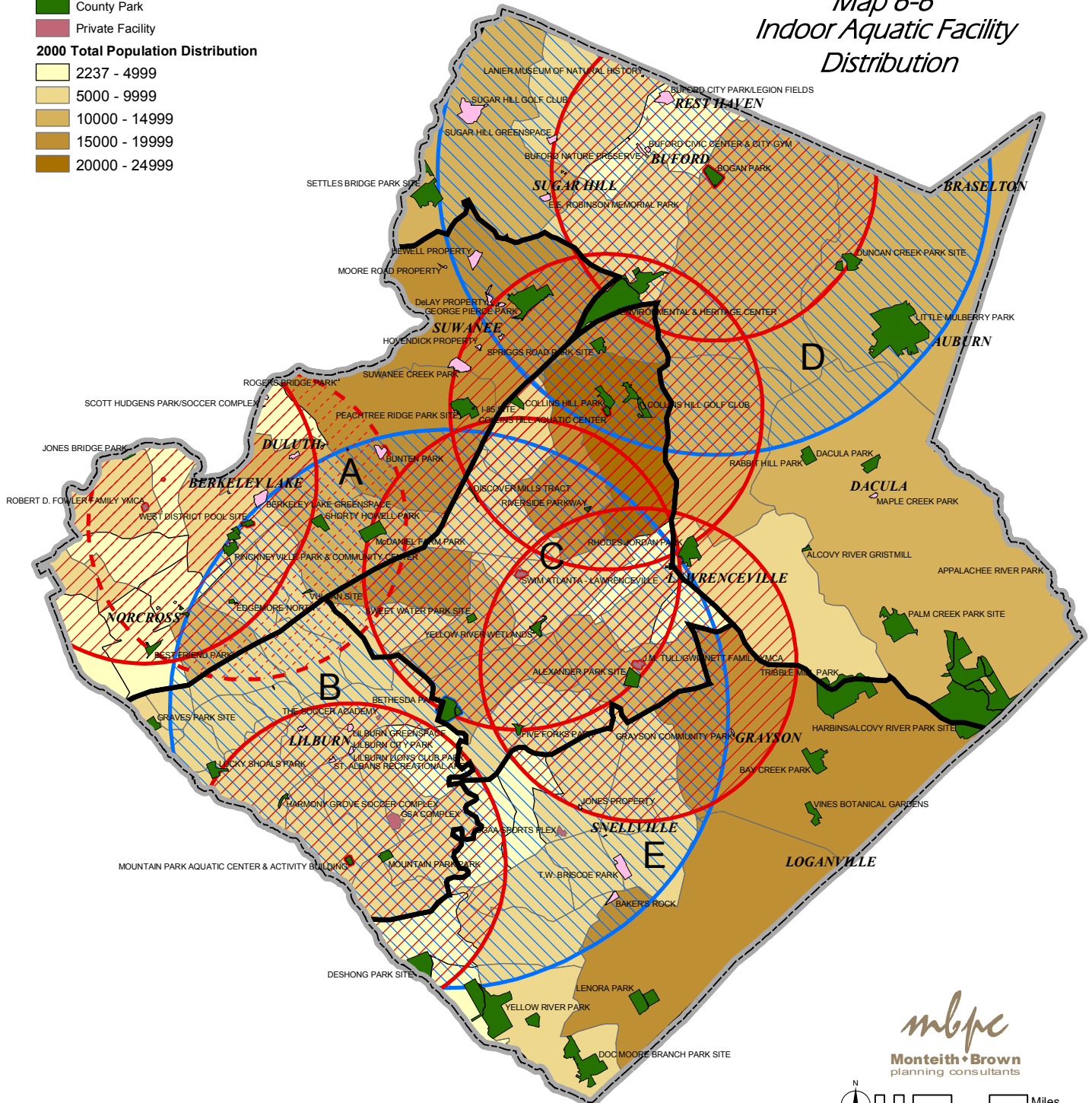
Map 6-6 Indoor Aquatic Facility Distribution

Legend

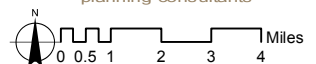
- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Indoor Competition Pool
- 4mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Indoor Competition Pool
- 7mi Radius - Existing/Funded Indoor Leisure Pool
- City Park
- County Park
- Private Facility

2000 Total Population Distribution

- 2237 - 4999
- 5000 - 9999
- 10000 - 14999
- 15000 - 19999
- 20000 - 24999



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Provision standards of one indoor lane pool per 80,000 people and one indoor leisure pool per 200,000 population have been proposed. The application of these standards yields a need for nearly 3 additional indoor lane pools and 2 more indoor leisure pools.

INDOOR LEISURE POOLS		RPA
Bethesda Park		C
Bogan Park		D
Total		2

Plan Area	Supply #	Indoor Leisure Pools (per capita)	Demand #	D-S #
A	0	0:136,028	0.7	0.7
B	0	0:114,069	0.6	0.6
C	1	150,202	0.8	(0.2)
D	1	90,124	0.5	(0.5)
E	0	0:98,025	0.5	0.5
Total - 2000	2	294,224	2.9	0.9
Standard		200,000		
Total - 2003	2	338,142	3.4	1.4
Total - 2005	2	363,052	3.6	1.6
Total - 2010	2	420,969	4.2	2.2

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).

Given the considerable capital and operating costs associated with indoor aquatic facilities, a less aggressive approach to indoor aquatic facility development is recommended. Specifically, the County should place a greater emphasis on addressing distribution issues than meeting the recommended provision standards. As evidenced during the public consultation process, the most pressing short term need is the development of an indoor competition pool at the West District Pool Site. RPAs E and D (the southern half) do not have the same geographic accessibility to indoor pools as do the other areas of the County. As such, future population growth will require Gwinnett County to acquire and/or identify land in the eastern portion of the County to accommodate an indoor competition pool and an indoor family aquatic center.

One of the goals established by the Citizen Steering Committee was to consider the feasibility and cost/benefit of developing certain higher-level competition facilities, such as a 50-meter indoor pool capable of hosting state and national meets. It is recommended that the County investigate the feasibility of developing an Olympic-size 50-meter pool with appropriate spectator capacity at the West District Pool Site at the time that this site is master planned.

There are considerably more outdoor aquatic facilities in the County than there are indoor venues. Not including pools provided by subdivisions or fitness/country clubs, there are a total of 16 outdoor lane pools in the County that are either publicly accessible or that operate under an agreement with local swim organizations (only 1 is operated by the County, that being at Dacula Park). The location of outdoor aquatic facilities operated by the County and its cities is shown on Map 6-7.

Given the large number of outdoor lane pools that are available in private residential settings and clubs, the overall supply and distribution of outdoor lane pools is not a key concern for this Master Plan as it appears that the demand for this type of facility is adequately being met by the current inventory.

Plan Area	Supply #	Outdoor Lane Pools (per capita)	Demand #	D-S #
A	4	34,007	1.7	(2.3)
B	1	114,069	1.4	0.4
C	4	37,551	1.9	(2.1)
D	2	45,062	1.1	(0.9)
E	5	19,605	1.2	(3.8)
Total - 2000	16	36,778	7.4	(8.6)
Standard		80,000		
Total - 2003	16	42,268	8.5	(7.5)
Total - 2005	16	45,381	9.1	(6.9)
Total - 2010	16	52,621	10.5	(5.5)

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).

Nationwide, very few recreation departments are developing new outdoor lane pools, choosing instead to build leisure pools that have significantly greater summertime appeal, especially for children and teenagers.

There is one outdoor leisure pool in each recreation planning area, with facilities in Best Friend, Collins Hill, Lenora (currently under design), Mountain Park Aquatic, and Rhodes Jordan Parks. There are a total of 5 such facilities in Gwinnett, all of which are operated by the County. With a recommended provision standard of one outdoor

OUTDOOR LEISURE POOLS		RPA
Best Friend Park		A
Mountain Park Aquatic Center		B
Collins Hill Park		C
Rhodes Jordan Park		D
Lenora Park		E
Total	5	

Plan Area	Supply #	Outdoor Leisure Pools (per capita)	Demand #	D-S #
A	1	136,028	1.7	0.7
B	1	114,069	1.4	0.4
C	1	150,202	1.9	0.9
D	1	90,124	1.1	0.1
E	1	98,025	1.2	0.2
Total - 2000	5	117,690	7.4	2.4
Standard		80,000		
Total - 2003	5	135,257	8.5	3.5
Total - 2005	5	145,221	9.1	4.1
Total - 2010	5	168,387	10.5	5.5

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).

leisure pool per 80,000 population, there is a need for four additional outdoor aquatic centers. New leisure pools are proposed for all RPAs except for C. Anticipated locations for new outdoor pools include the West District Pool Site, a new site in RPA B (preferably in the Meadowcreek area), Duncan Creek Park Site (subject to the findings of the Park Master Plan), and Bay Creek Park.



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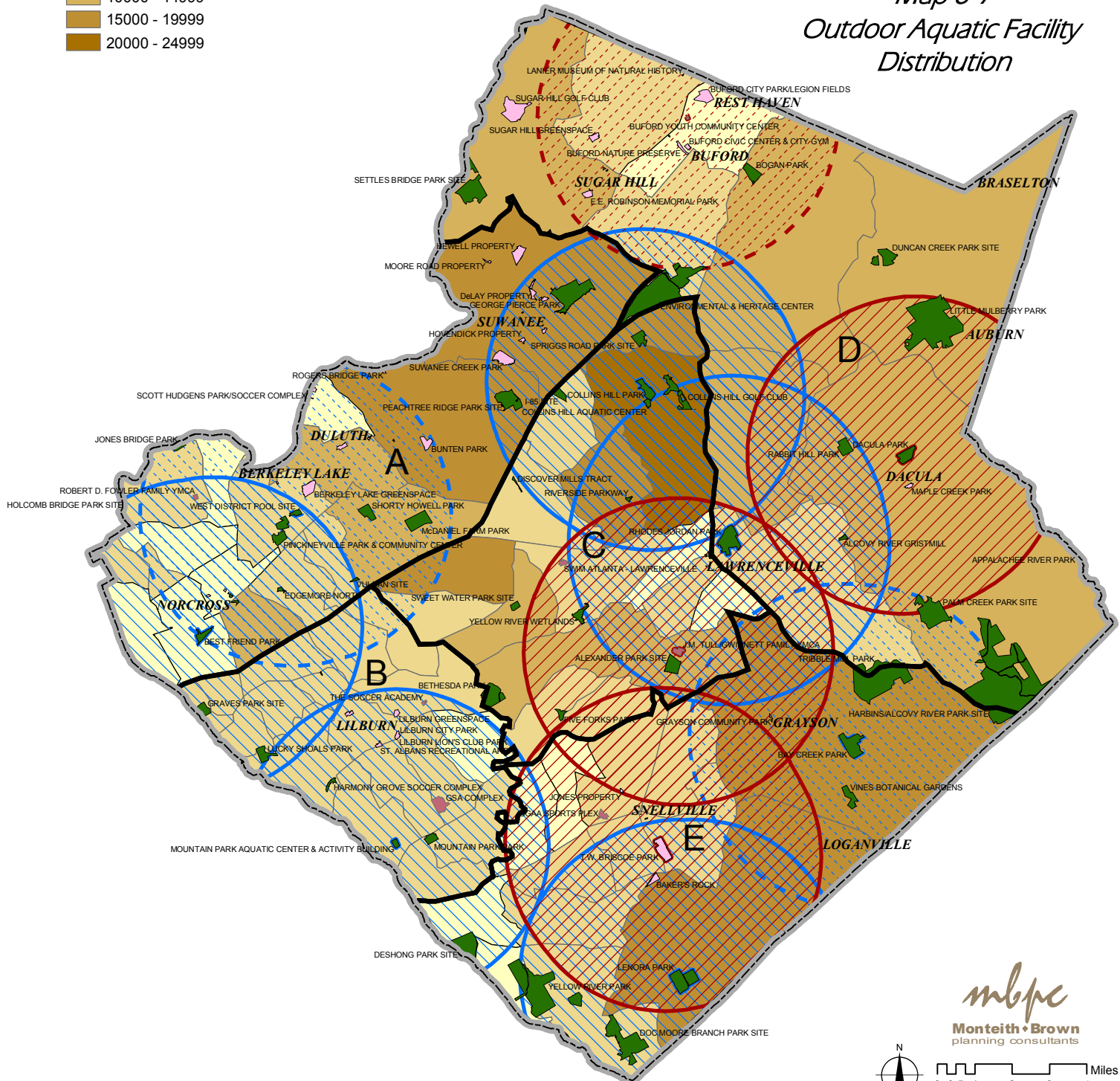
Map 6-7 Outdoor Aquatic Facility Distribution

Legend

- Recreation Planning Area
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Outdoor Competition Pool
- 4mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Outdoor Competition Pool
- 4mi Radius - Existing/Funded Outdoor Leisure Pool
- 4mi Radius - Planned/Not Funded Outdoor Leisure Pool
- City Park
- County Park
- Private Facility

2000 Total Population Distribution

- 2237 - 4999
- 5000 - 9999
- 10000 - 14999
- 15000 - 19999
- 20000 - 24999



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

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

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

Because splash pads are an untested commodity in Gwinnett County, a provision standard has not been created in this Master Plan. Service levels experienced in other municipalities, however, are often close to 1 splash pad per 5,000 children ages 0 to 14. This standard would not be appropriate for Gwinnett County, however, due to the considerable supply of indoor and outdoor leisure pools and the sheer size of the County, which does not allow for neighborhood-level parks or the development of splash pads within walking or cycling distance of most residential areas. Because splash pads share many of the same recreational attributes as playground equipment (e.g., children are the target market, they are free of charge, they do not require adult supervision, etc.), it is appropriate to develop splash pads in densely populated, family-oriented, and lower-income areas that do not have reasonable access to an indoor or outdoor family aquatics center. In this light, a test cases for splash pads is recommended – either at Graves Park Site or Lucky Shoals Park, both of which are in high need areas that are deficient in terms of aquatic facilities.

The following are the recommendations related to indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. Recommendations are listed alphabetically by RPA and are not in priority order. The priority and capital cost of each recommendation is provided in Section 8.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| West District Pool Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a 25-meter indoor competition/lane pool OR build a 50-meter pool with diving well, spectator area, etc. to serve as a tournament venue• Develop an indoor warm water instructional/therapeutics pool• Build an outdoor family aquatics center |
|-------------------------|---|

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Graves Park Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a splash playground (if not here at Lucky Shoals Park, but not both) |
| Lucky Shoals Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redevelop park to accommodate a splash playground (if not here at Graves Park Site, but not both) |

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Collins Hill Aquatic Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct outdoor restrooms and a changing area for the existing outdoor pool |
|-----------------------------|---|

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Rhodes Jordan Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add a second slide to the existing pool |
|--------------------|---|

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Aquatic Facility Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Bay Creek Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an outdoor family aquatics center |
| Land - New Acquisition | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquire site for an indoor competition/lane pool to serve the eastern portion of the County (RPA E and the southern half of RPA D); consideration should also be given to acquiring sufficient land for an indoor family aquatics center |

6.9 TENNIS COMPLEX ANALYSIS

There are approximately 170 tennis courts within the County, excluding those at schools, fitness clubs, country clubs, subdivisions, and private residences. Of these 170 courts, 43 are operated by Gwinnett County

and 35 are provided by local cities; the remainder are supplied by private enterprise and not-for-profit agencies. Map 6-8 illustrates the distribution of tennis complexes (defined as clusters of 4 or more courts) provided by the County and local cities with a 2-mile service radius applied.

By applying a 2-mile radius to each tennis complex, a number of service gaps appear throughout the County, especially in RPAs C, D, and E. However, when other non-government courts are accounted for in the provision standard analysis, it becomes evident that there is an ample supply of tennis courts in Gwinnett. A provision standard of one tennis court per 4,000 population is recommended.

Tennis courts, however, are not unlike other recreational facilities such as playgrounds and basketball courts in that they are a feature that should be supplied in nearly every community park. As such, even though an assessment of needs indicates that the current supply of tennis courts is sufficient, the development of new parks and redevelopment of existing ones dictates that additional tennis courts be considered. As a lower level priority, this Master Plan recommends that tennis courts be developed as part of Duncan Creek Park and Spriggs Road Park Sites and as part of the redevelopment/expansion of George Pierce, Dacula, Bay Creek, Rhodes Jordan Park and Lenora Parks. In the event that parkland is acquired in the Meadowcreek area, tennis courts should also be considered for this community.

Plan Area	Supply #	Tennis Courts (per capita)	Demand #	D-S #
A	54	2,519	34.0	(20.0)
B	18	6,337	28.5	10.5
C	30	5,007	37.6	7.6
D	30	3,004	22.5	(7.5)
E	38	2,580	24.5	(13.5)
Total - 2000	170	3,461	147.1	(22.9)
Standard		4,000		
Total - 2003	170	3,978	169.1	(0.9)
Total - 2005	170	4,271	181.5	11.5
Total - 2010	170	4,953	210.5	40.5

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).



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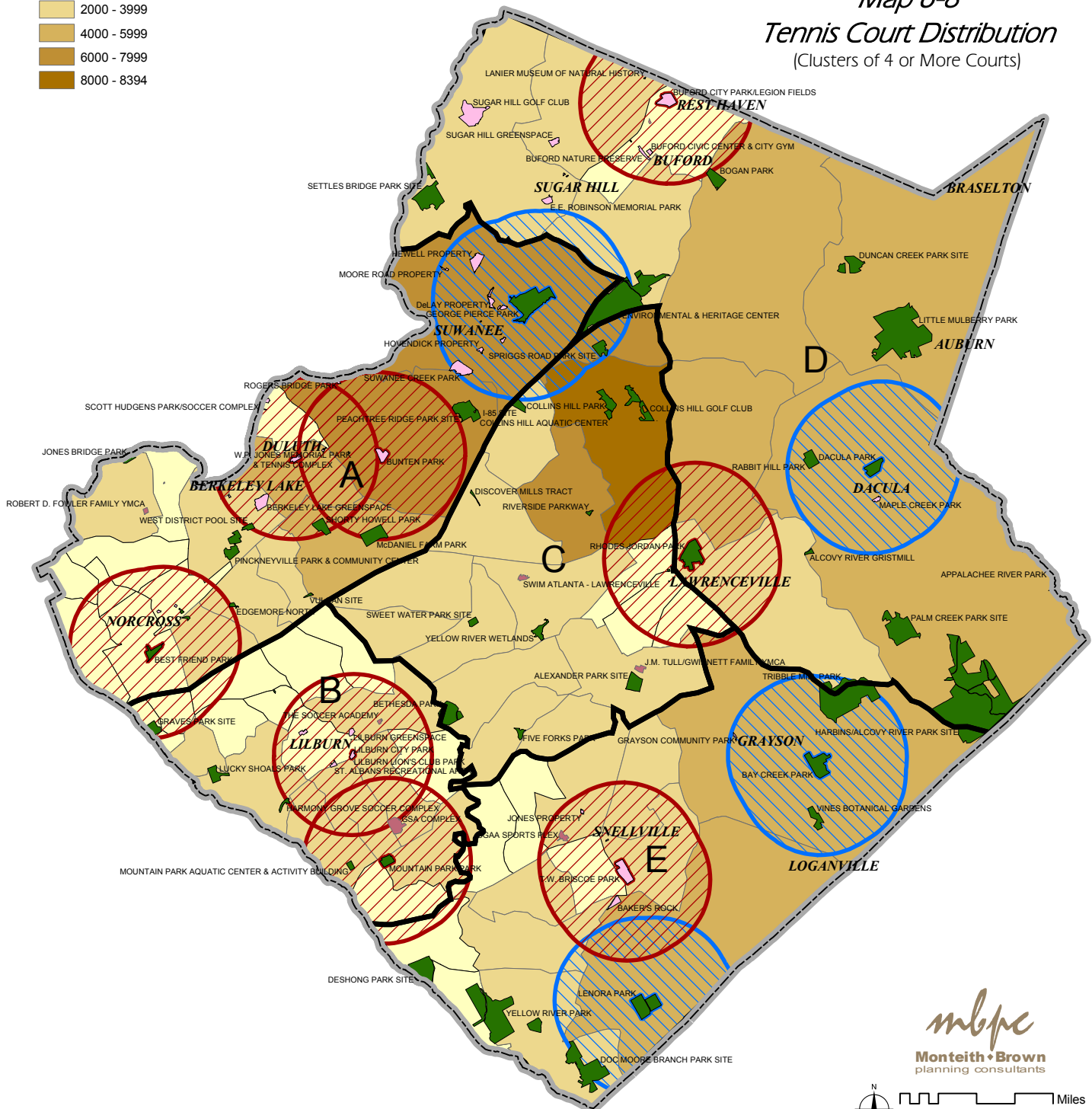
Map 6-8 *Tennis Court Distribution* (Clusters of 4 or More Courts)

Legend

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

2000 Population Distribution Ages 35-54

- 768 - 1999
- 2000 - 3999
- 4000 - 5999
- 6000 - 7999
- 8000 - 8394



The following are the recommendations related to tennis complexes. Recommendations are listed alphabetically by RPA and are not in priority order. The priority and capital cost of each recommendation is provided in Section 8.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| George Pierce Park | • Develop four tennis courts with service building |
|--------------------|--|

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire parkland for tennis courts (among other facilities) in the Meadowcreek area |
|------------------------|---|

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Spriggs Road Park Site | • Develop six tennis courts with Mountain Park type service building |
|------------------------|--|

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Dacula Park | • Develop four tennis courts |
| Duncan Creek Park Site | • Develop four tennis courts |
| Rhodes Jordan Park | • Develop two tennis courts with Mountain Park type service building |

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Tennis Complex Recommendations

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Bay Creek Park | • Develop tennis courts |
| Lenora Park | • Develop tennis courts |

**6.10 OUTDOOR
BASKETBALL
COURT
ANALYSIS**

Outdoor basketball courts, and to some extent skate parks, are to teenagers what playgrounds are to children – they are an essential recreational element that should be provided in nearly every park in the County. The recreational needs of youth, with the exception of traditional team sports such as baseball, have been largely neglected in Gwinnett until recently when the Parks and Recreation Division began to construct teen areas in its parks (basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, skate parks, etc.). It is precisely these types of unstructured, low cost activities that teens today are seeking.

Approximately 20.5 basketball courts are provided by the County and local cities (half courts/single baskets are equal to 0.5). This distribution of these courts is illustrated on Map 6-9 (along with the locations of skate parks); a 2-mile service radius has been applied. Not only does the distribution of facilities create numerous service gaps throughout the County, but the overall supply of courts is extremely low for a County with such a youthful



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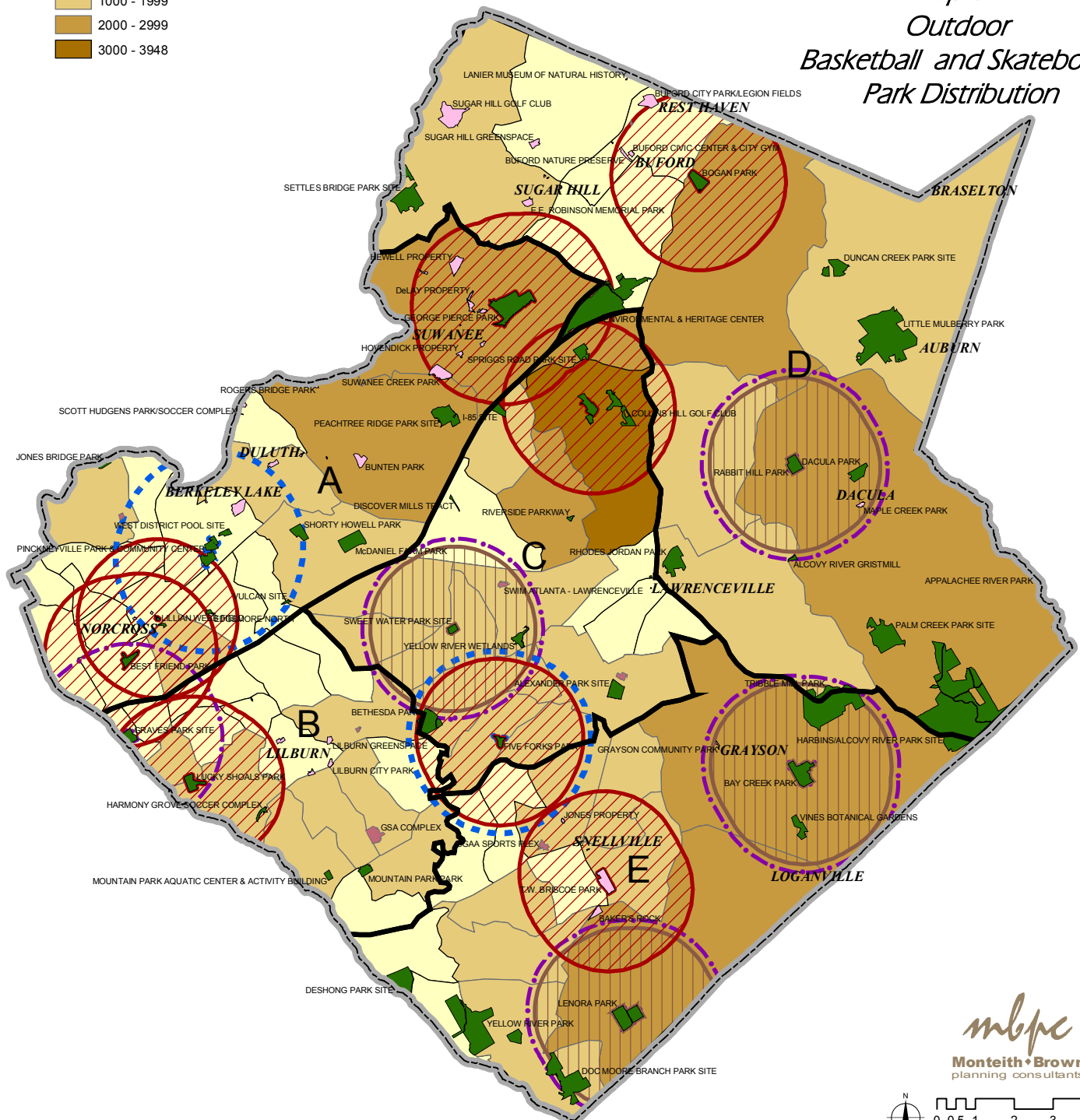
Map 6-9 Outdoor Basketball and Skateboard Park Distribution

Legend

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

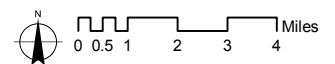
2000 Population Distribution Ages 10-19

- 199 - 999
- 1000 - 1999
- 2000 - 2999
- 3000 - 3948



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age profile. The County has over 25 active parks, yet only 7 contain outdoor basketball courts.

A provision standard of one full outdoor basketball court per 10,000 population has been recommended. This standard, although consistent with levels attained in many other jurisdictions, translates into a need for nearly 50 additional basketball

Plan Area	Supply #	Basketball Courts (per capita)	Demand #	D-S #
A	7.5	18,137	13.6	6.1
B	3.0	38,023	11.4	8.4
C	5.0	30,040	15.0	10.0
D	3.0	30,041	9.0	6.0
E	2.0	49,013	9.8	7.8
Total - 2000	20.5	28,705	58.8	38.3
Standard		10,000		
Total - 2003	20.5	32,989	67.6	47.1
Total - 2005	20.5	35,420	72.6	52.1
Total - 2010	20.5	41,070	84.2	63.7

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).

courts over the next few years! Clearly this is a goal that the county will not achieve overnight, but it is one that would go a long way toward meeting the recreational needs of Gwinnett's youth (among other age groups).

Basketball court development is recommended for a number of existing community parks that currently do not contain any, including Mountain Park, Bethesda, Dacula, Rabbit Hill, Rhodes Jordan, and Lenora Parks. Additional courts are proposed for George Pierce and Bay Creek Parks. It is also expected that new parks, including Peachtree Ridge, Duncan Creek Site, and future acquisitions will be given consideration for the inclusion of outdoor basketball courts.

The following are the recommendations related to outdoor basketball courts. Recommendations are listed alphabetically by RPA and are not in priority order. The priority and capital cost of each recommendation is provided in Section 8.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| George Pierce Park | • Build outdoor basketball courts |
| Peachtree Ridge Park Site | • Build outdoor basketball courts (2) |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire parkland between Duluth and Suwanee for 2 basketball courts |

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Mountain Park Park | • Build basketball courts (land dependent) |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire parkland for basketball courts in the Meadowcreek area |

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Bethesda Park | • Develop basketball courts on the unused adult softball parking area |
| Collins Hill Park | • Replace two basketball courts |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire site(s) for basketball courts (6) |

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Dacula Park | • Build outdoor basketball courts |
| Duncan Creek Park Site | • Build outdoor basketball courts (subject to Park Master Plan) |
| Rabbit Hill Park | • Build outdoor basketball courts |
| Rhodes Jordan Park | • Build outdoor basketball courts |

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Outdoor Basketball Court Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Bay Creek Park | • Build outdoor basketball courts |
| Lenora Park | • Build outdoor basketball courts |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire parkland east and west of Snellville for basketball courts |

6.11 SKATE PARK ANALYSIS

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

Gwinnett has two County-operated skate parks at Pinckneyville Park and Five Forks Park (a mini-skate park that is currently under construction), as well as five privately-operated indoor parks.

Although there are a total of seven skate parks, there are distinct differences between those owned by the County and those provided by the private sector – most notably that the County facilities are free of charge.

Plan Area	Supply #	Skate Parks (per age 10-19)	Demand #	D-S #
A	2	10,732	3.5	1.5
B	0	0:16,212	3.2	3.2
C	2	11,422	4.6	2.6
D	1	12,699	2.5	1.5
E	2	8,455	3.4	1.4
Total - 2000	7	13,470	17.2	10.2
Standard		5,000		
Total - 2003	7	14,256	20.0	13.0
Total - 2005	7	15,561	21.8	14.8
Total - 2010	7	17,600	24.6	17.6

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).

Map 6-9 (see page 135) illustrates the locations of the two existing County skate parks along with the those parks for which skate parks have been proposed through site-specific master plans (Bay Creek, Graves, Lenora, Rabbit Hill, and Sweet Water Parks). Significant service gaps remain throughout the County, especially in RPAs A, B, C, and D.

A provision standard of one skate park per 5,000 youth ages 10-19 has been proposed (public and private facilities combined). This standard is specifically linked to the teen population because skate parks are predominantly used by this demographic and this approach will provide a more accurate determination of demand as Gwinnett's population ages. In order to achieve the recommended level of service, a total of 13 skate parks are required, increasing to nearly 18 parks by the year 2010.

A total of 12 new skate parks are recommended across all five RPAs. Although 12 new parks, when added to the current inventory of 7, is more than the provision standard requires, geographic gaps in service require that additional skate parks be developed in order to provide reasonable access for the majority of Gwinnett children and teenagers. In addition to the five parks for which skate park development is anticipated (as a result of approved park master plans), skate parks are proposed for George Pierce, Mountain Park, Bethesda, and Rhodes Jordan Parks, as well as Peachtree Ridge and Duncan Creek Parks (subject to the findings of their park master plans). Furthermore, a skate park should be given strong consideration for any parkland acquired in the future, especially in areas with significant densities of teens. All new skate parks should be designed in consultation with children and teenagers.

The following are the recommendations related to skate parks. Recommendations are listed alphabetically by RPA and are not in priority order. The priority and capital cost of each recommendation is provided in Section 8.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Skate Park Recommendations

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| George Pierce Park | • Develop a skate park |
| Peachtree Ridge Park Site | • Develop a skate park |

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Skate Park Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Graves Park Site | • Develop a skate park |
| Mountain Park Park | • Develop a skate park (land dependent) |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire parkland for a skate park in the Meadowcreek area |

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Skate Park Recommendations

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Bethesda Park | • Develop a skate park on the unused adult softball parking area |
| Sweet Water Park Site | • Develop a skate park |

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Skate Park Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Duncan Creek Park Site | • Develop a skate park (subject to Park Master Plan) |
| Rabbit Hill Park | • Develop a skate park |
| Rhodes Jordan Park | • Develop a skate park |

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Skate Park Recommendations

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Bay Creek Park | • Develop a skate park |
| Lenora Park | • Develop a skate park |

6.12 PLAYGROUND ANALYSIS

21 of Gwinnett County's parks contain a total of 58 playground areas (most parks have more than one playground area due to the large size of the parks and a desire to separate tots from older children). In addition to County parks, 14 city parks contain 23 playground areas and 3 not-for-profit recreation centers also offer outdoor play equipment. In total, it is estimated that there are 84 publicly-accessible playgrounds at 38 sites in Gwinnett County, not including playgrounds at schools or subdivisions. Map 6-10 illustrates the location of County and city playgrounds; service radii of a half-mile and one-mile have been applied to each playground site.

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

Using the recommended standard, 51 additional playground areas would be required at present. Fortunately, the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Division is currently undertaking an aggressive park development program that will see approximately ten parks designed or developed in 2003/2004, nearly each of which will contain one or more playground areas. In addition, expansions to numerous existing parks will also be able to accommodate new playground areas. This Master Plan recommends the development of over 20 playground areas in existing and (currently) undeveloped parks. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended



**GWINNETT COUNTY,
GEORGIA**

2004
Comprehensive
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

*Map 6-10
Playground Distribution*

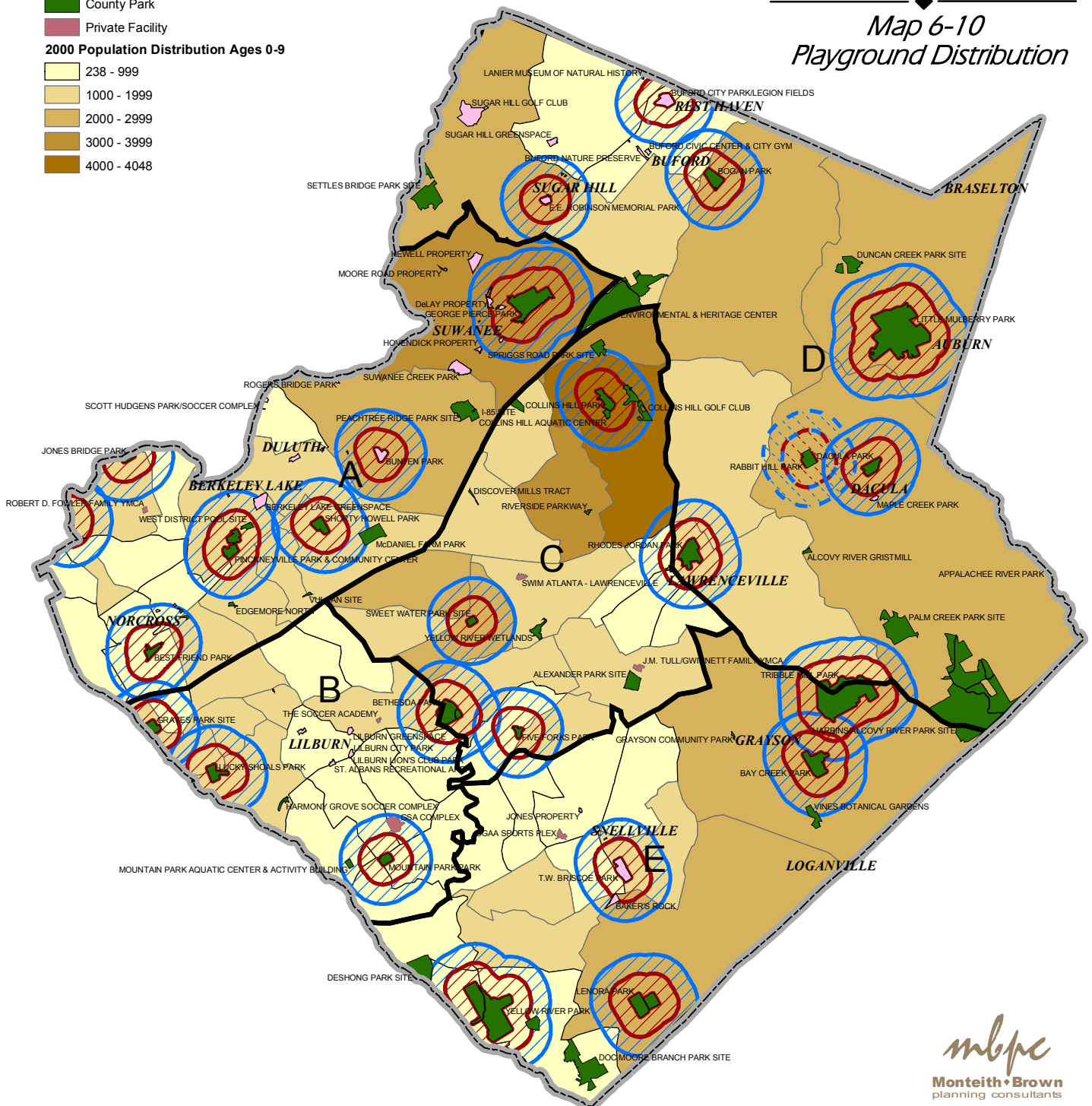
Legend

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

- City Park
- County Park
- Private Facility

2000 Population Distribution Ages 0-9

- 238 - 999
- 1000 - 1999
- 2000 - 2999
- 3000 - 3999
- 4000 - 4048



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

Overall, due to proposed playground development in expanding parks, developing parks, and future County and city parks, it is anticipated that the gap between the current level of service and the provision standard will shrink significantly.

Plan Area	Supply #	Playground Areas (per age 0-9)	Demand #	D-S #
A	36	597	28.6	(7.4)
B	7	2,382	22.2	15.2
C	12	2,176	34.8	22.8
D	13	1,174	20.3	7.3
E	16	924	19.7	3.7
Total - 2000	84	1,123	125.7	41.7
Standard		750		
Total - 2003	84	1,205	135.0	51.0
Total - 2005	84	1,261	141.2	57.2
Total - 2010	84	1,305	146.2	62.2

Note: "D-S" refers to Demand minus Supply, the result of which is the surplus or (deficiency).

The following are the recommendations related to playgrounds. Recommendations are listed alphabetically by RPA and are not in priority order. The priority and capital cost of each recommendation is provided in Section 8.

Recreation Planning Area "A" - Playground Recommendations

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| George Pierce Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playground at the eastern pavilion • Develop playgrounds for both the baseball and soccer complexes |
| Peachtree Ridge Park Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playground |
| Pinckneyville Park & CC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playground at the community center |
| Shorty Howell Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playground (land dependent) |

Recreation Planning Area "B" - Playground Recommendations

- | | |
|--|--|
| Mountain Park Aquatic Center/
Activity Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playground |
| Mountain Park Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playground (may require land acquisition) |
| Land - New Acquisition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire sites for playgrounds, including in the Meadowcreek area |

Recreation Planning Area "C" - Playground Recommendations

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alexander Park Site | • Develop a playground |
| Collins Hill Aquatic Center | • Develop a playground |
| Collins Hill Park | • Expand the lakeside playground |
| Spriggs Road Park Site | • Develop a playground |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire sites for playgrounds |

Recreation Planning Area "D" - Playground Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Dacula Park | • Develop a playground |
| Duncan Creek Park Site | • Develop a playground (subject to Park Master Plan) |
| Alcovy River Gristmill | • Develop a playground |
| Little Mulberry Park | • Develop a playground |
| Rabbit Hill Park | • Develop a playground |

Recreation Planning Area "E" - Playground Recommendations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Bay Creek Park | • Develop a playground (east) |
| | • Develop a playground (west) |
| Centerville Park Site | • Develop a playground |
| DeShong Park Site | • Develop a playground |
| Doc Moore Park Site | • Develop a playground |
| Lenora Park | • Develop a playground (tree farm) |
| | • Develop a playground (northwest) |
| Land - New Acquisition | • Acquire parkland east and west of Snellville for playgrounds |

**6.13 TRAIL &
GREENWAY
ANALYSIS**

The number one goal of this Master Plan, as identified by the Citizen Steering Committee, is to “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”. In short, the development of a greenway system in Gwinnett County is a key priority for this Plan. This emphasis on trails and greenways is supported by the Plan’s public consultation program (including the needs assessment and benchmarking survey), as well as extensive trends research which indicates that activities such as walking, hiking, running, cycling, and in-line skating are all among the most preferred active recreational pursuits both locally and nationwide. Internal park trail systems and greenways that link parks to other destinations provide these types of opportunities.

This 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is fully supportive of, and consistent with, the findings of the Open Space and Greenway Master Plan. In particular, one of the goals of the Gwinnett County Open Space and Greenway Master Plan (2002) was to increase connectivity via a system of greenway trails. Both Master Plans agree that “the County should consider

establishing greenways in locations providing the greatest connectivity between existing greenspaces and where they can serve as useful transportation corridors". To this end, the Open Space and Greenway Master Plan recommended that the County consider negotiating multi-purpose easements that combine greenway public access rights with sewer and access easements. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan has developed a definition of a "Linear Park" to be added to the County's park classification system in order to advance the implementation of the Open Space and Greenway Master Plan. Most importantly, recommendations have been set made for the allocation of significant funds toward the establishment of a greenway system (up to a total of \$40 million depending on the amount of SPLOST funds available).

Key excerpts from the Open Space and Greenway Master Plan, as well as the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Greenways Plan for Gwinnett County (1995) are reproduced in Appendix H.

A provision standard has not been created for trails or greenways because their development is predicated on both opportunity and suitability of the landscape, among numerous other factors. Instead, park master plan documents and public input have been relied upon in order to develop recommendations regarding internal park trail systems. These recommendations are identified in Section 8.