

TOWN OF MT. PLEASANT



INTRODUCTION

The Livable Community Blueprint for Cabarrus County provides a comprehensive study of parks, recreation and bike and pedestrian routes across the county. Cabarrus County, similar to many other counties across North Carolina, provides public recreation on both a county and municipal level. This study takes into consideration all the recreation providers within the county, but recognizes that it is critical to look at how the municipalities operate together, as well as on an individual basis. This will insure that all the recreation providers work together so that all residents have access to quality recreation parks, facilities and programs regardless of where they live in the county.

For the purposes of this study, the overall county area has been broken down into six subdistricts or planning areas. Within this report a detailed analysis of each subdistrict has been provided that includes an inventory of existing public, quasi-public and private recreation facilities, recommendations for new park development and bike and pedestrian routes, and associated costs for new development. This chapter serves to focus specifically on recreation in the Town of Mt. Pleasant.

In the 1830's Mt. Pleasant developed as a small village along a trade route between Salisbury and South Carolina. Its name reflects the town's picturesque location on a ridge between Adams Creek and Little Buffalo Creek. It was the location for the Western Carolina Male Academy that was founded in 1853 then renamed the North Carolina College in 1859. Much of the economy of the town was based on the mill industry. The Town of Mt. Pleasant is located in the northeast part of Cabarrus County and is included in Subdistrict 3 of this study.

While all the recreation in the county impact one another with their existing parks and trails, development projects, and delivery of services, it is the County Recreation Department that most impacts the Town of Mt. Pleasant. In recent years the county has made several significant changes in the way they operate. They have reduced the number and variety of program offerings for county residents and they have decided to focus on the development of larger community, district and regional parks. This leaves municipalities with the task of programming parks and community centers as well as capital development of mini parks, neighborhood parks, and civic parks.

The Town of Mt. Pleasant has an established Recreation Commission, however, does not have a recreation department. The Commission has helped guide recreation development in this active recreation community. There is a large contingent of volunteers in Mt. Pleasant, which runs the youth athletic programs as well as mobilizes volunteers to upgrade or construct facilities at existing recreation sites.

RECREATION SUMMARY

EXISTING CITY PARKS

A detailed inventory of all the parks and facilities in the Mt. Pleasant area has been compiled. These include public, quasi-public, school parks, private subdivisions and clubs. A comprehensive listing of this inventory is located in **Appendix B** of this report. The Town of Mt. Pleasant owns and/or operates the following public park:

Town of Mt. Pleasant
Existing Public Parks
SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS
McAllister Park

It should also be noted that there are three school parks in Mt. Pleasant, which are located at the Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Middle and High schools.

PARK UPGRADES

The Town of Mt. Pleasant has a very active group of young athletes as well as enthusiastic volunteers. They have made improvements to the school facilities to provide expanded opportunities for these recreation participants.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Four public workshops were conducted at the beginning of this study in various locations around Cabarrus County to give community residents an opportunity to voice their opinions on the topic of recreation in the area.

As part of the workshop, participants were asked to fill out a written questionnaire. A portion of the survey asked individuals to indicate how important they felt it was to have certain parks and facilities developed within the community. The remainder of the survey asked numerous open-ended questions concerning parks and recreation. These results can be found in the countywide summary section of this report and in Appendix H-1.

A second series of workshops were held in six locations between March 7 and March 20, 2001 to present the preliminary findings of the study. The Town of Mt. Pleasant workshop was held on March 7th. More information about the findings can be found in Appendix H-2.

Additional public input was solicited with a random mail-out survey. The detailed results of the survey can be found in Chapter 8: Mail-Out Survey.

Additional public input was solicited with a random mail-out survey. The detailed results of the survey can be found in Chapter 8: Mail-Out Survey.

The Town of Mt. Pleasant also mailed out a written survey in January of 2001 to solicit input on public recreation. Out of 600 surveys 149 were returned. One Hundred and One (101) versus 42 respondents support the purchase of land and the construction of a park. Eighty-four (84) versus 61 respondents support a 1% property tax increase for the sole purpose to purchase land for park development and maintenance. Additional information can be found in the detailed analysis of the survey, which is available from the Town of Mt. Pleasant.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

PARK AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

The following are recommendations for new parks and facilities that should be built in the Town of Mt. Pleasant. For additional information see: Subdistrict 1 and 2 Chapters - Park and Facility Recommendations.

Town of Mt. Pleasant – Proposed Public Parks	
Intermediate	
1 Community Park	In Mt. Pleasant
Long Term	
1 Civic Park	At Town Hall

There are additional facilities that are also recommended. Refer to the Subdistrict 3 chapter for additional information.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SYSTEMS

The important corridors for bicyclists and pedestrians for the Town of Mount Pleasant are the on-road bicycle routes identified with the assistance of NCDOT. These provide designated bicycle routes that connect through the county to adjacent counties.

Sidewalk improvement projects should be of utmost importance to the Town. This study did not evaluate the current sidewalk conditions. The Town should ensure that sidewalks are adequate and safe to connect along Main Street, Lee Street, Hwy. 73 and Hwy. 49. An additional connection should be made from McAllister Park to the Library.

Refer to Subdistrict 3 chapter for additional routes in the outlying areas from town.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The relatively small population of the town of Mt. Pleasant limits the number and size of parks proposed; however, this master plan has several recommendations for the area.

The county is undertaking park development projects that are not within the Mt. Pleasant town limits, but will definitely be convenient to town residents. In order to enhance the quality of recreation in Mt. Pleasant, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration.

- Continue to work with the schools to enhance recreation opportunities on school sites for both school and community recreation participants.
- Establish standards for development to ensure that park improvements are of a high quality.
- Develop a Community Park to provide a centralized park for youth athletics and family activities.
- Recognize that since the population of the area is not as large as some of the other municipalities, that it may be necessary to travel a bit further to some recreation facilities.
- Encourage new developments to incorporate sidewalks and off-road facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Encourage all new utility and street projects to incorporate a bike and pedestrian element.
- Ensure all future NCDOT road projects and improvements provide for bike lanes, and that road conditions better facilitate bicycle transportation.