

## **Chapter 4G**

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES PLAN- PARKS AND RECREATION**



## PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (The Plan) combines leisure and recreational objectives with the suitable locations necessary to provide a broad-based recreation and open space programs. Parks and recreation facilities provide visual relief from concrete and pavement, make surroundings more habitable, and preserve and protect natural and historical resources. These facilities provide varying recreational opportunities for people of all ages, income levels, ethnic groups and physical abilities. As Spotsylvania County continues to grow, the significance of parks and recreation planning, including land acquisition and development increases. This Chapter provides detailed standards, criteria and policies for provision of recreation facilities.

The County's Department of Parks and Recreation (The Department) is responsible for maintaining all County operated parks and community centers. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for youth and adult sports and facilities within the County. The Department is responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating sports programs. This includes volunteer coach recruitment and background checks; contracting and scheduling officials; facility scheduling; maintenance, requisitioning, inventory, and distribution of equipment for each sport; supervision of sport activities; advertisement of program offering; certification of youth coaches; scheduling regular season play and tournaments; and scheduling field use for private groups. A summary of Fiscal Year 2018 Field/ Gym Rentals through the Department has been provided for reference below (See Table 1):

**Table 1: Fiscal Year '18 Spotsylvania Parks and Recreation  
Field and Gym Reservation through the Department\***

Sport	Games	Practices	TOTAL
Football	31	95	126
Basketball	65	217	282
Soccer	344	274	618
Baseball/ Softball	1,630	2,365	3,995
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>5,021</b>
*FY '18 rental activities include school fields and gyms.			

This data can be updated to track Parks and Recreation field/gym rentals activities over time. Due to the Covid outbreak there was a significant downturn in activities during months that are typically of heaviest use for sports facilities. Covid significantly impacted fiscal year 2020 resulting in atypical results during that time. As of now the impacts of Covid are not expected



to be suggestive of a long term trend. Continued monitor of field activities going forward will help establish clearer trend lines for demand.

Due to the popularity of organized sports teams, the Department has identified a need for additional playing and practice fields. Future park development in the County will be aimed at meeting these, and other identified level of service-based needs.

The Department is responsible for training, directing, and supervising approximately 175 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees and over 2,794 volunteers. The parks maintenance staff manages and maintains parks, recreational areas and facilities to assure safe, healthy, and attractive passive and active leisure activities. The staff also prepares school and other athletic fields for recreation and sports programs.

The Department continues to strengthen its cooperative relationship with the school system in the design, development, use, and maintenance of school recreational facilities. This relationship is critical in the overall delivery of parks and recreation facilities County-wide and includes recreational land of 92 acres at elementary schools, approximately 57 acres at middle schools and 31 acres at the high school level. Elementary and middle schools make up the majority of the school recreation space consistently available for after school community use. High school use is limited dependent upon the time of year and amenity. 8 acres are also available at John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center.

For more information about the County Parks and Recreation Department including facilities, activities, and programs, the Department publishes an annual report that can be found [HERE](#).

### **Existing Facilities**

In order to achieve the long range goals of the Department, it is necessary to review the inventory of current parklands and facilities to determine acceptable level of service standards and to then establish a strategic plan for the identification of new facilities as the County grows.

In 2020, 535.5 acres of accessible County parkland is operated by the Department. The County also owns a future District Park size 65-acre site known as the Hilldrup Tract that is not presently developed or accessible as a usable park. Within the planning period, staff expects additional public access parks acreage to be made accessible at Keswick Park (36 Acres Community Park site and amenities) and the Fortunes Landing fifteen (15) acre Special Use Park fronting the Ni Reservoir. These new park acres, when activated, will add an additional 131 acres to the inventory for a total parkland inventory of 651.5 acres.

Additionally, it is estimated that there are approximately 188 acres of School Board shared use recreational space that is programmed by the Department for community use at elementary, middle, and high school sites. This figure also includes the John J Wright Educational and Cultural Center.



The Department also operates the County's community centers. These centers, in addition to the available spaces within the County libraries, offer a valuable resource to the County population in the provision of events and meeting space. It is important that provision of these spaces continue to serve the variety of needs of County residents.

As a complement to County Parks managed facilities, Spotsylvania County is fortunate to have the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield Parks encompassing 5,800 acres within the County to serve some of the passive recreation needs. Lake Anna, a 13,000-acre man-made lake, is one of Spotsylvania's most valuable recreational resources. Water skiing, boating and swimming attracts thousands of visitors to its shores. Anglers can take advantage of the more than 33 species of fish found in its stocked waters. Lake Anna State Park with its 2,810 acres is a focal point of Lake Anna. More than 9,900 acres of the County's current land uses are public parklands. The State and Federal parks, however, are not controlled by the County and their missions and offerings are not identical to those of the County's and, therefore, cannot provide some of the recreational opportunities sought by residents.

### **Activation Type**

Parks may have distinctly different intended uses and character. Park activation for different user groups tends to be identified as either for passive recreation (passive parks) or active recreation (active parks). Some parks may have a combination of both active and passive offerings. The character of active and passive parks is summarized below:

### **Passive Parks**

A passive park is an outdoor area, or portion of an outdoor area that is used for passive recreational activities, such as pedestrian activities, hiking, and jogging, or serves as an historical, cultural, ecological, or archeological attraction for exploration, education, interpretation. A passive park does not include organized competitive activities, except events for uses allowable within a passive park. Generally, a passive park is maintained in a natural state, except for minimal clearing for paths, trails, sitting area, walkways or auxiliary structures. In urban settings, passive parks may have more hardscape (walking paths, sitting walls, etc.), open lawn, and landscaped areas that may be used for informal group activities. Examples of passive park features may include: trails or walkways for hiking, walking, horseback riding, bicycling; informal areas used for concerts, areas for photography, nature studies, educational studies, or fishing; ecological areas and nature interpretive programs; nature centers; ornamental gardens or landscapes; historical markers, public arts installations or civic monuments; scenic overlooks; and picnic areas that may include but are not limited to shelters, grilling areas, and restrooms.



## Active Parks

An active park refers to any outdoor area that includes the following facilities or facility types: athletic fields; sports complexes, buildings or structures for recreational activities; concessions; community gardens; courses or courts; ball fields; children's play area, dog play area, swimming area, or a bike path. Active parks may allow for uses such as organized team sports; or serve as a cultural, historical or archeological attraction that is open to the public.

## Classification

There are six main classifications of parks located within the County, including District Parks, Community Parks, Special Use Parks (incl. Trails/ Linear Parks), County Schools shared use recreational space, Neighborhood Parks, and Other Parks (ex. State & National Parks). These classifications have been described and inventoried below (Table 2):

**Table 2: Existing Public Park & Recreation Areas**

Park	Classification	Active	Passive	Total Acres
Hilldrup (Tract)* - <i>presently undeveloped</i>	District Park	-	-	65*
Loriella Park	District Park	61	147	208
Patriot Park	District Park	40	91	131
Keswick Park*	Community Park	-	-	36*
Artritt Park	Community Park	14	12.5	26.5
Chewning Park	Community Park	7.5	2.5	10
Cosner Park	Community Park	9	2	11
Harrison Road Park	Community Park	10	12	22
Lee Hill Park	Community Park	6.5	13.5	20
Legion Fields/Marshall Center	Community Park	22	2	24
Marshall Park	Community Park	14	11	25
Mary Lee Carter Park	Community Park	4.0	0.5	4.5
Hunting Run Recreation Area	Special Use Park	20	0	20
Ni River Recreation Area	Special Use Park	1	4	5
Belmont Park	Special Use Park	0	23	23
Fortunes Landing*	Special Use Park	-	-	15*
Virginia Central Trail	Trails/ Linear Parks	2	3.5	5.5
<b>TOTAL COUNTY PARK ACREAGE</b>		<b>217.5</b>	<b>324.5</b>	<b>535.5*</b>
*Keswick, Fortune's Landing and Hilldrup not included in Total Acres calculation. Keswick and Fortune's Landing Parks are expected within the planning period but have not yet been completed or open for public access as of Comprehensive Plan adoption. The Hilldrup Tract is the site of a future but not yet open public park site. When developed and accessible, Total Acres will be 651.5.				



## **District Parks**

District Parks are large parks usually greater than fifty acres in size. They contain the most extensive facilities of the County parks system. These types of parks tend to be the most popular of County Parks and Recreation managed parks due to their size, location, and ability to attract organized recreational activities such as league sports, and abundance of recreational facilities. District Parks are generally located in urbanized areas and offer a variety of facilities such as: swimming pools, amphitheaters and recreation centers. District Parks serve a larger area of the County and offer facilities that people are willing to travel further to use. The service area for a District Park is usually within a twenty-minute drive or about six to twelve miles, depending on the urbanization of the area. District Parks should be located near major collector roads in order to provide greater access to them. The park should also be accessible by pedestrians and bicycles. Spotsylvania County currently has three District Parks, they are identified in the table above. However, only two of these parks are developed (Patriot and Loriella). The Hilldrup tract is sixty-five (65) acres in size and currently undeveloped.

## **Community Parks**

Community Parks are recreational areas containing four to fifty acres that provide a wide range of activities (varying based on size). Community Parks generally include: tennis courts, playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, multi-purpose fields, basketball and picnic areas. The service area for community parks is a ten-minute drive or approximately two to six miles, depending upon where the park is located and the degree of urbanization. There are eight Community Parks currently located within Spotsylvania County. A ninth is expected within the planning period with the future opening of the 36-acre Keswick Park. Due to location, limited size and recreational amenities offered, the smaller Community Parks may not and have tended not to attract as much interest among County residents as the larger Community and District Parks.

## **Special Use Parks**

Special Use Parks have a county-wide service area and provide unique activities such as boating & fishing areas, dog parks, water parks, skateboard parks, golf courses, linear trail systems, community centers, and other facilities that are usually not found in other County parks. There are three Special Use Parks within the County with a fourth expected within the planning period at Fortune's Landing. Belmont is currently an undeveloped Special Use/ Community Park. Both Hunting Run Recreation Area and Ni River Recreational Area offer boat rentals, boat ramps, and fishing areas. The County is lacking in many of the more niche facilities that can be offered through Special Use Parks and these underserved needs should be taken into account when planning for development. The Motts Run Reservoir would also be considered a Special Use Park; however, operated by the City of Fredericksburg, the facility has not been included in calculations.





**Image 1: Hunting Run Recreational Area**

The County also manages a roughly 2-mile-long section of the Virginia Central Trail at present, classified as Trails/ Linear Park. Trails/ Linear Park areas are specialized areas within the County that are established to protect and preserve natural areas and cultural corridors, linking Spotsylvania County residents with recreational areas. By utilizing natural areas, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, along utility easements, and greenways along waterways, the Parks Department could provide low cost trails that provide both recreation and non-motorized transportation. Linear Parks can be any length, and include picnic areas, historic areas, and trails.



**Image 2: Virginia Central Trail**

### **County Schools Shared Use Recreational Space**

County Schools Shared Use Recreational Space provide additional recreational areas within Spotsylvania County and are jointly operated and maintained by the School System and Parks and Recreation Department. Such Shared Use Recreational Spaces are similar to Community Parks in the activities they provide such as: tennis courts, gymnasiums, athletic fields, playgrounds, and basketball courts. The service area is two to six miles or a ten-minute driving area. While the Spotsylvania County School Board's primary mission is providing the education of children, an inherent part of the education system is physical fitness. The School Board provides gymnasiums, playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts located on school grounds. Also designating schools as Community Use Parks, allows for additional passive and active recreational area for County residents. The County Schools Shared Use Recreational Space range in size as shown in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Existing County Schools Shared Use Recreational Space**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Active Acreage</b>
Battlefield Elementary School	60	3.5
Berkeley Elementary School	17	4
Brock Road Elementary School	24.3	6.3
Cedar Forest Elementary School	55	7
Chancellor Elementary School	12	4.1
Courthouse Road Elementary School	30	3
Courtland Elementary School	(*)	7.5
Harrison Road Elementary School	(*)	3
Lee Hill Elementary School	21.4	4
Livingston Elementary School	15.1	4.1
Parkside Elementary School	26.8	7.8
Riverview Elementary School	29.8	7
Robert E. Lee Elementary School	14.1	4.1
Salem Elementary School	19.5	4.5
Smith Station Elementary School	24.9	10.9
Spotswood Elementary School	19.2	4.2
Wilderness Elementary School	104	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>473.1</b>	<b>92</b>

<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Active Acreage</b>
Battlefield Middle School	(*)	3.5
Chancellor Middle School	(*)	8
Freedom Middle School	76.7	10
Ni River Middle School	(*)	10
Post Oak Middle School	(*)	4
Thornburg Middle School	(*)	8.5
Spotsylvania Middle School	34	12.5
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>56.5</b>

<b>High Schools</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Active Acreage</b>
Chancellor High School	94.1	5
Courtland High School	100	7
Massaponax High School	105.4	8
Riverbend High School	90.3	5
Spotsylvania High School	250	6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>639.8</b>	<b>31</b>

<b>Other</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Active Acreage</b>
John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center	19.6	8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>8</b>





Note the (\*) above represents schools that share land (total acreage). Active acreage has been separated out by school within the larger “complex” when multiple schools are on a single campus.

### **Non-County Operated Parks**

Summaries for Parks within Spotsylvania County including Neighborhood Parks and Other Public and Private Parks described below are not owned by the County and are not operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation. These areas provide varying levels of recreational opportunities and access to County citizens are considered contributing and complementary to County-wide Parks and Recreation goals.

In 2008-2009 during the development of the 2009 Parks and Open Space Element within the 2008 Comprehensive Plan (Parks and Open Space Element added via Comprehensive Plan Amendment) a concept was presented that would have reduced the satisfactory County level of service (LOS) standard for park acres and facilities to 75% of standard; a 25% reduction cognizant of non-County owned Parks and Recreation type facilities. When the subject was discussed at the Parks and Recreation Commission on October 16, 2008, the Parks and Recreation Commission had supported the reduced standard.

The 75% of standard concept was ultimately not supported by the Board of Supervisors and a 100% of standard including County schools shared use recreational spaces (open to public use) was adopted at public hearing on March 10, 2009. There were a number of reasons why the LOS discount was not supported including: (1) not all outside facilities could be considered open to all County residents (limited to paying members or residents of a specific community or HOA); (2) purpose and management of outside facilities may have focus that deviates from that of a public park; (3) standard was adopted as a County Parks and Recreation services standard and should not be discounted by outside resources. Further discount essentially diminishes the quality and quantity of County Parks and/or their facilities.

Since 2009, the 100% LOS standard including the schools shared use recreational spaces was subsequently reviewed with the Comprehensive Plan Public Facilities Advisory Groups and carried forward with the adoption of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan and it remains today in the current iteration of the Comprehensive Plan.

As a result, the Parks described below are acknowledged and valued but historically have not been included within Parks and Recreation acreage or facilities inventories used to calculate County LOS standard surpluses or deficits to determine whether additional facilities are warranted.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

The County historically has not developed nor maintained any Neighborhood Parks as many such parks exist through neighborhood homeowner's associations in subdivisions that offer such amenities. Neighborhoods associated with Lee's Hill, Summerfield, and Fawn Lake are some



examples. The County acknowledges that homeowner's association recreational amenities such as tennis courts, pools, gyms, tot lots, and golf courses provide valuable resources to County citizens within the developments in which they reside and can meet the recreational needs of some in the community. However, such Parks are not widely accessible for public access and such facilities can be limited in their offerings depending on the development scale and resources. Being privately managed, the County historically has not tracked and has no management role with Neighborhood Parks and their recreational facilities.

## **Other Public and Private Parks**

### **National Parks:**

Spotsylvania County has four significant American Civil War Battlefield Parks as well as the standalone Salem Church historic battlefield site (part of the Battle of Chancellorsville) managed by the National Park Service encompassing over 6,200 acres within the County to meet some of its passive recreational needs. With easements the total land area expands to over 7,200 acres. The four national battlefields represent not only a segment of cultural resources, but substantial passive recreational land and open space area, within the County. A current inventory of the National Park Service managed land area within Spotsylvania County and their interpretive trails has been compiled in Table 4 below:

**Table 4: National Parks Inventory**

<b>National Military Parks</b>	<b>Total Acreage Owned</b>	<b>Passive Acreage Owned</b>	<b>Total Acreage (With Easements)</b>	<b>Interpretive Trails (Miles)</b>
Chancellorsville Battlefield	1,840.3	1,840.3	2,712.4	6.8
Fredericksburg Battlefield	1,230.4	1,230.4	1,341.3	5.6
Spotsylvania Battlefield	1,327.8	1,327.8	1,394.9	5.9
Wilderness Battlefield	1,810.1	1,810.1	1,846.6	3.9
Salem Church	3.2	3.2	3.2	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6,211.8</b>	<b>6,211.8</b>	<b>7,298.4</b>	<b>22.2</b>

### **Additional Public Access Protected Civil War Battlefield Lands:**

Additional Civil War battlefield lands have been preserved by the Civil War Trust as well as the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. The Civil War Trust manages an additional 415.91 acres of preserved, publicly accessible lands traversed by 5.52 miles of interpretive trails (3.64 miles at Chancellorsville and 1.88 miles at Slaughter Pen Farm (part of the Fredericksburg Battlefield) off Tidewater Trail in the northeast of the County.

As of 2020, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has 461 acres in ownership with an additional 8.63 acres in easement. Easement acreage is not readily open for public access except by organized tour or with granted permission of landowners. Harris Farm (1.74 acres) and Pelham's



Corner (4.5 acres) are always open to the public and include interpretive wayside exhibits, monument at Harris Farm, and a cannon at the Pelham's site. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust stress that the remaining acreage is not generally open to the public except for special tours operated by the CVBT, NPS, or others with permission. CVBT manages no interpretive trails.

#### **State Parks:**

Lake Anna is a 13,000-acre manmade lake and is a valuable recreational resource. Fishing, camping, water skiing, boating, and swimming in Lake Anna and 2,810-acre Lake Anna State Park attracts thousands of visitors to the area. Anglers can take advantage of the more than 33 species of fish found in its stocked waters. An inventory of Lake Anna State Park amenities has been compiled in Table 5 below. This information is provided in the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation 2017 inventory of outdoor recreation facilities. Lake Anna State Park also offers Cabin and Campground rentals.

**Table 5: State Parks Inventory**

<b>State Parks</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Active Acreage</b>	<b>Lake Fishing Acres</b>	<b>Beach Acres</b>	<b>Boat Accesses</b>	<b>Hiking Trail (Miles)</b>	<b>Horse Trail (Miles)</b>
Lake Anna State Park	2,810	60	13,000	2	3	15	5

#### **Privately Operated Recreational Facilities:**

There are a number of privately operated recreational facilities within Spotsylvania County. The County acknowledges their presence and services offered to members of the community. A variety of private gyms and fitness centers are available for membership-based health and fitness offering opportunities including but not limited to: weightlifting; running/ track; weight loss and/or cardio training; yoga; indoor pools, organized instructor led exercise, etc. One such facility, the Rappahannock Area YMCA is located adjacent to the County's Patriot Park. The Virginia Youth Soccer Association and Fredericksburg Football Club (FFC) (formerly known as Fredericksburg Area Soccer Association (FASA)) operate a large outdoor soccer complex in the New Post Area of the County, hosting large tournaments. The Fredericksburg Field House offers indoor turf fields for organized sports. An 18-hole golf course, tennis, pool, fitness/ gym is offered at the Fredericksburg Country Club for members. A private disc golf course is offered at The Blockhouse Disc Golf and Country Club off Block House Road. Private camping is offered at the KOA Campground off Guinea Station Road, and the Indian Acres Club of Thornburg off Morris Road.

#### **Meeting Spaces at Community Centers and Public Libraries**

The following facilities (Table 6) are owned and operated by the County or are maintained in part by the County through mutual agreement. Information is provided for planning purposes. Utilization data is included in the Parks & Recreation annual report (Accessible Online [HERE](#)).



Meeting spaces are used for a variety of functions ranging from parties and celebrations to strategic planning meetings for members of the local business community. In recognizing the variety of users of the space, it is important to recognize the different needs that they may have for the space. The most important identified needs are the availability of kitchen facilities for the celebratory type uses of the facilities, and the provision of internet access for the business-related uses of the spaces.

**Table 6: Existing Meeting Spaces at Community Centers and Public Libraries**

Facility	Internet Access	Kitchen	Meeting Space Size (sf)	Total Acreage	Active Acreage
Berkeley Community Center	Yes	Yes	1,560	5	2
Chancellor Community Center	No	Yes	1,230	1	1
Cosner Park/Lee Hill Community Center*	Yes	Yes	2,080	-	-
Todds Tavern Community Center	No	Yes	928	2	2
Marshall Center Auditorium	No	No	5,000	N/A	N/A
Marshall Center Activity Room A**	No	No	1,080	N/A	N/A
Marshall Center Activity Room B**	No	No	1,080	N/A	N/A
Marshall Center Activity Room C**	No	No	1,080	N/A	N/A
Marshall Center Activity Room D**	No	No	936	N/A	N/A
Salem Church Library	Yes	2/6 rooms have access	1,932	N/A	N/A
Senior Center at Marshall Center- Main Lounge**	Yes	Yes	3,819	4	3
Snow Library	Yes	No	1,147	N/A	N/A
Library at Spotsylvania Towne Center	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL COUNTY MEETING SPACE</b>	-	-	<b>21,872</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

\*Cosner Park/ Lee Hill Community Center acreage reported separately as part of Cosner Park total acreage in Existing Parks and Recreation Areas Table.

\*\* Marshall Center meeting spaces can accommodate multiple user groups simultaneously. However, kitchen space is limited to the Senior Center- Main Lounge.



### **County Parks Facilities Inventory**

The Spotsylvania County Parks Facilities Inventory quantifies the number of facilities located County-wide. The facility inventory is a useful tool to review not only existing facilities available but those needed in the future considering LOS Standards based on population. Currently, there are no County operated public golf courses, indoor pools or recreational centers, roller skating rink, skateboard park, dog parks, racquetball courts, equestrian trails, or volleyball courts. These are more specialized or niche facilities that should be considered based on demand when opening a new park facility or adding to existing parks as funding is available. The Inventory sheets on the following pages (Exhibit 1) summarize Parks facilities available at County Parks and Community Centers.



## Exhibit 1: Facilities Inventory

Parks and Recreation Facilities (9-24-18) Revised 1-8-21

### Artritt Park

- 1- Small Multi-Purpose Field
- 2- Small Diamonds
- 1 Picnic Shelter (10 Tables)
- Pond
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area (4 random tables)

### Berkeley Community Center

- Meeting Room
- Kitchen
- Restrooms

### Chancellor Community Center

- Meeting Room
- Kitchen
- Restrooms
- Tennis/ Pickle Ball Court

### Chewning Park

- 2- Small Diamonds
- Picnic Area (1 random table)
- 1 Picnic Shelter (6 Tables)
- Playground
- Restrooms

### Cosner Park

- 2- Small Diamonds
- 2-Basketball Outdoor Courts
- 1- Large Multi-Purpose Field
- Playground
- 2-Lighted Tennis/ Pickle Ball Courts
- Picnic Area (1 random table)

### Harrison Road Park

- 1 Large Diamond
- 2- Small Multi-Purpose Field
- Playground
- Picnic Area (1 random table)
- Trail 2.1 Miles (see Virginia Central Trail)

### Virginia Central Trail

- Trails 1.2 & .9 Miles

### Hunting Run Recreation Area (March-October)

- Boat Rental/ Check –In Station
- Boat Launch Area w/ dock
- Fishing
- Fishing Pier
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area (9 random tables)

### Lee Hill Community Center

- Meeting Room
- Restrooms
- Adjoining Picnic Shelter (11 Tables)

### Lee Hill Park

- 2- Small Diamonds -1-Lighted

### Legion Complex

- Track
- 2- Multi-Purpose Fields, 1 Lighted
- 1-Small Diamond Lighted
- 1-Large Diamond Lighted
- Restrooms

### Loriella Park

- 2- Small Diamonds, 1 Lighted
- Pond
- 1 Large Diamond Lighted
- Trail 2.9 miles
- 4- Multi-Purpose Field, 1 Lighted
- Playground
- Outdoor Swimming Pool/ Bath House /Concession Stand (May- Sept.)
- 4-Lighted Tennis Courts
- Multi-Purp./ Basketball Court
- Disc Golf Course 18 Holes
- 2-Picnic Shelters (9/9 Tables)
- 3- Restrooms
- Open Play Area
- Picnic Area (5 random tables)

### Marshall Center / Auditorium

- 5 Meeting Rooms
- Kitchen
- Restrooms
- Gymnasium
- Auditorium

### Marshall Park

- 2- Small Diamonds, 1 Lighted
- 2- Basketball Outdoor Courts Lighted
- 1- Small Multi-Purpose Field – Lighted (Fall only)
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area (2 random tables)
- Open Play Area

### Mary Lee Carter Park

- Multi-Purpose Field
- Trail .2 Miles
- Playground
- Picnic Area (1 random table)

### Ni River Recreation Area (March-October)

- Picnic Area (3 random tables)
- Picnic Shelter (12 tables)
- Restrooms
- Boat Rental/ Check –In Station
- Boat Launch Area
- Fishing

### Patriot Park

- 2- Small Diamonds, Lighted
- 4- Large Diamonds, 2 Lighted
- 2-Basketball Courts
- Trail 3.1 Miles,
- 6-Multi-Purpose Fields, 2 Lighted
- Amphitheater
- 3-Restrooms
- Picnic Area (6 random tables)
- Playground

### Todd's Tavern Community Center

- Meeting Room
- Kitchen
- Restrooms



# Spotsylvania County School Facilities-

## Elementary Schools

### Battlefield Elementary -

- 2 Small Multipurpose Fields
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Berkeley Elementary-

- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Brock Road Elementary -

- 1 Small Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Cedar Forest Elementary -

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Chancellor Elementary

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- 2 Playgrounds
- Gym
- Outdoor Basketball

### Courthouse Road Elementary -

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Courtland Elementary -

- 1 Small Multipurpose Field
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Harrison Road Elementary

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Gym

### Parkside Elementary -

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Robert E. Lee Elementary

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball

### Riverview Elementary -

- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Gym

### Salem Elementary -

- 2 Small Multipurpose Fields
- Playground
- Gym

### Smith Station Elementary -

- 1 Small Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym

### Spotswood Elementary-

- Playground
- Gym

### Lee Hill Elementary -

- 1 Small Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Gym

### Livingston Elementary-

- Playground
- Gym

### Wilderness Elementary -

- 1 Small Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Outdoor Basketball
- Gym



## Middle Schools

### Battlefield Middle -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- 1 Track
- Gym

### Chancellor Middle -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 2 Large Multipurpose Fields
- Gym

### Freedom Middle -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 1 Large Diamond
- 3 Large Multipurpose Fields
- 1 Track
- Gym

### Ni River Middle -

- 2 Small Diamonds
- 2 Large Multipurpose Fields
- 1 Track
- Gym

### Post Oak Middle -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Gym

### Spotsylvania Middle -

- 2 Small Diamonds
- 1 Large Diamond
- 2 Small Multipurpose Field
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Gym

### Thornburg Middle -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 2 Small Multipurpose Fields
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- 1 Track
- Gym

### John J Wright Educational & Cultural Center -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 1 Large Multipurpose Field
- Playground
- Gym





## High Schools

### Chancellor High -

- 1 Small Diamond
- 1 Large Diamond -Lighted
- 3 Large Multipurpose Fields -1 Lighted
- Track- Lighted
- 6 Tennis Courts

### Massaponax High -

- 2 Small Diamonds – 1 Lighted
- 2 Large Diamonds – 1 Lighted
- 4 Large Multipurpose Fields -1 Lighted
- Track- Lighted
- 6 Tennis Courts

### Courtland High -

- 1 Small Diamond -Lighted
- 1 Large Diamond - Lighted
- 3 Large Multipurpose Fields -1 Lighted
- Track- Lighted
- 6 Tennis Courts
- 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts

### Riverbend High -

- 2 Small Diamonds – 1 Lighted
- 2 Large Diamonds– 1 Lighted
- 4 Large Multipurpose Fields -1 Lighted
- Track- Lighted
- 6 Tennis Courts

### Spotsylvania High -

- 2 Small Diamonds – 1 Lighted
- 2 Large Diamonds – 1 Lighted
- 3 Large Multipurpose Fields -1 Artificial Turf Lighted, 1 Lighted
- Track- Lighted
- 6 Tennis Courts

## **County Parks Facilities Maintenance**

Park amenities vary in age and condition. The Spotsylvania County Parks and Recreation Department recently updated a comprehensive list of parks facilities, documenting their age, condition, and estimated replacement timeline. These types of facility maintenance inventories ensure amenities are inspected and kept in good repair and/or replaced if need be. Continued tracking of Parks Facilities to monitor age and condition is warranted into the future in the interest of protecting public investments and ensuring operability.

## **Level of Service Standards for Parks & Recreation Acreage, Facilities, Community Centers and Public Meeting Spaces (Including Public Libraries).**

New development presents demands for County-wide parks and meeting space facilities. Staff notes as of January 1, 2021 the County Approved Development Analysis noted 12,049 approved/enabled residential units that had yet to be constructed from prior rezoning approvals and subdivision activities. There are additional “pipeline” projects actively being considered or under review that could add to this number in time. Additional units are enabled in the form of by-right undeveloped lots scattered throughout the County that may or may not have additional division potential enabled by County Code as well. Considering this, it is important that the County provide both current and future residents adequate recreation services that meet current and future demand according to established LOS. The future demand for parks, open space, and recreation facilities must be measured, and means must be identified for maintaining

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the established County-wide level of service for these important services after new development occurs.

## Standards

**Parkland Acres Per 1,000 Population:** Utilizing an acres per 1,000 population standard for Parks helps to ensure that as the County maintains a consistent LOS objective for parkland growth to serve a growing population.

**Table 7: Land Needs Standards**

<b>Spotsylvania County Comprehensive Land Needs, 100% Standards With Schools</b>									
<b>Year</b>				2020	2020	2030	2030	2040	2040
<b>Population</b>				140,032	140,032	158,025	158,025	177,369	177,369
<b>Park Type</b>		<b>Standard</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>(-) Deficit/</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>(-) Deficit/</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>(-) Deficit/</b>
		<b>(ac/1000)</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
Community	Total*	<b>3</b>	179	420	-241	474	-295	532	-353
Community	Active	<b>1.5</b>	87	210	-123	237	-150	266	-179
District	Total^	<b>7</b>	404	980	-576	1106	-702	1242	-838
District	Active	<b>3.5</b>	101	490	-389	553	-452	621	-520
Special Use**	Total	<b>1.8</b>	68.5	252	-184	284	-216	319	-251
Special Use	Active	<b>0</b>	23	0	23.0	0	23.0	0	23.0
School	Total	<b>0</b>	1243	0	1243	0	1243	0	1243.2
School	Active	<b>0</b>	187.5	0	188	0	188	0	187.5
Community Ctr	Total	<b>0</b>	12	0	12	0	12	0	12.0
Community Ctr	Active	<b>0</b>	8	0	8	0	8	0	8.0
<b>Total w/o Water</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>1907</b>	<b>1652</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1865</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2093</b>	<b>-198</b>
	<b>Active</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>406.5</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>-302</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>-392</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>-488</b>
Recreational Water	Total	6.2	841	868	-27	980	-139	1100	-259
<b>Total w/ Water</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2748</b>	<b>2521</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>2844</b>	<b>-97</b>	<b>3193</b>	<b>-445</b>
Note: Population projections sourced from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. 2020 Population from US Decennial Census									
*Community Parks total acreage includes future Keswick Park acreage expected within planning period.									
^ District Parks total acreage includes Hilldrup tract (presently undeveloped).									
** Special Use Parks total acreage includes Fortune's Landing Park acreage expected within the planning period. Special Use acreage inventory also includes Virginia Central Trail Linear Park acreage.									

Table 7 above shows the parkland needs for all of Spotsylvania County based on 100% County parkland needs LOS standards based on park type or classification. The table acknowledges public access recreational acreage associated with schools as well. Schools related park acreage is not available for general public usage during school hours so they are not as readily available for use as other County parks. Though schools lands are not classified as a specific park classification or type, they do offer a variety of facilities beneficial especially to organized league sports. Recognizing this, the County adopted a 100% LOS standard that factors in schools acreage.



Currently there are 143 acres of Community Parks within Spotsylvania County. This total acreage is expected to increase to 179 acres with the addition of Keswick Park (36 acres) within the planning period. As of 2020, when comparing existing park land to the standard, a deficit of -241 acres existed. Without additional acreage the deficit will continually grow through 2040. District Parks currently total 404 acres. Again when compared with the standard it resulted in a deficit of -576 acres as of 2020. By 2040, without additional District Park Land, the deficit will grow to -838 acres considering population growth. The Special Use Parks comprise 68.5 total acres, resulting in a deficit of -184 acres in 2020, increasing to -251 acres by 2040.

Dismissing particular standards for the various classifications of parks and looking at park related acreage as a whole, if we add the schools and community centers acreage that are complementary to parks and recreation function, as a whole the County fares well in terms of total acres through 2030. Between 2030 and 2040 however a deficit is expected to occur. Active Park acres are where the County is actively running a deficit compared to standard. This deficit is expected to grow over time unless additional active acres are added. Additional park acres in active status are warranted during the planning period. Between 2020 and 2040 the deficit in active park acres is expected to grow from -302 acres to -488 acres if no action is taken. It is good to note that some additional park acres in active status are expected to “come online” with the development of Keswick Park and opportunities at the District Park size Hilldrup Tract in particular.

The County has also established a standard for recreational water acreage that acknowledges recreational opportunities associated with water such as fishing and paddling. Considering recreational water acreage, recreational land needs acreage deficits are removed altogether through 2020 due to acreage associated with recreational water contributing to exceeding standard. However, if no new parkland or recreational water acreage is added between 2020 and 2030, deficits are expected to appear and grow as population increases. The recreational water 841 acres reported in the table above represents County managed reservoirs at Ni Reservoir (411 Acres) and Hunting Run Reservoir (430 Acre). Additional resources exist within the community that are worthy of mention including, but not limited to: Motts Run Reservoir (City of Fredericksburg); Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers; Lake Anna.

**Community Centers standard 1 per 15,000 population:** Utilizing a Community Center per 15,000 population standard ensures that adequate public meeting space will remain available as the County population continues to grow.



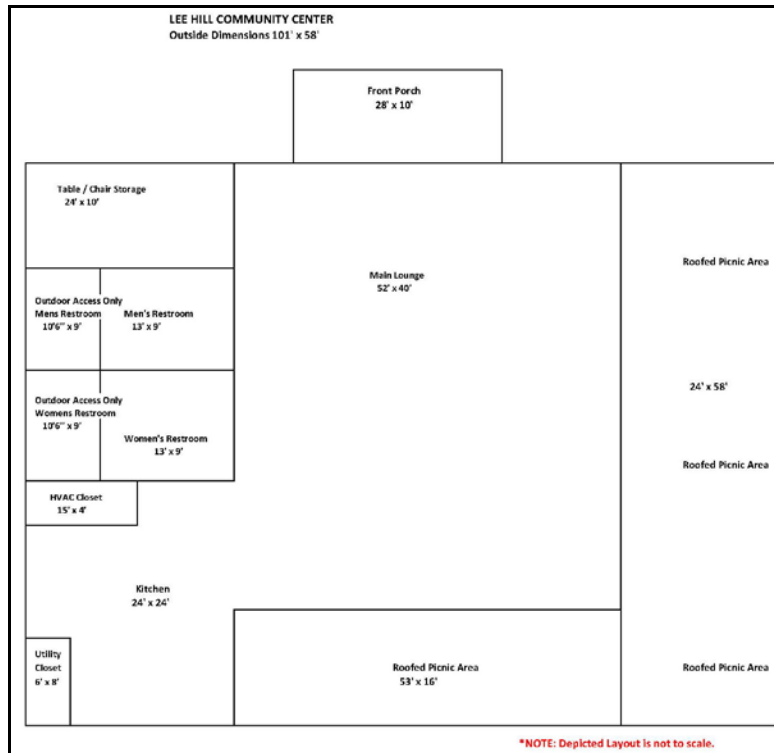
**Table 8: Community Centers Needs**

<b>Spotsylvania County Comprehensive Community Centers Needs</b>									
<b>Year</b>				<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2040</b>
<b>Population</b>				<b>140,032</b>	<b>140,032</b>	<b>158,025</b>	<b>158,025</b>	<b>177,369</b>	<b>177,369</b>
		<b>Standard</b>	Existing	Required	(-) Deficit/ Surplus	Required	(-) Deficit/ Surplus	Required	(-) Deficit/ Surplus
		<b>(1/15,000)</b>	Comm Ctr.*	Comm Ctr.	Sq. Ft.	Sq. Ft.	Sq. Ft.	Sq. Ft.	Sq. Ft.
<b>Community Ctr</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-7</b>
Note: 2020 Population from US Decennial Census. Population projections sourced from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service									
*Community Centers inventory includes: Marshall Center; Berkeley; Chancellor; Lee Hill; Todds Tavern.									

Presently Spotsylvania County manages 5 community centers. The inventory is expressed in Table 8 above. The County experienced a reduction of two community centers since the last Comprehensive Plan update including the Harrison Road Community Center and Lick Run Community Center. Through the year 2020 based on County standard, a deficit of 4 community centers presently exists. Without additional community centers added to the inventory this deficit is expected to grow to 7 by the year 2040 based on projected population growth. Considering County standards, the Comprehensive Plan is supportive of adding community center(s) to result in deficit reductions and maintain level of service.

The average recommended size for a community center ranges from 3,000 to 3,500 square feet (including meeting spaces, kitchen, bathrooms, etc.) The Spotsylvania Department of Parks and Recreation has identified the Lee Hill Community Center as an example of Community Center design and amenities most in demand at this time. In order to maximize their usefulness and demand, new community centers should consider the Lee Hill Center as a model. A schematic of that center is below for reference (Exhibit 2):





**Exhibit 2: Community Center Model**

**Public Meeting Spaces at Community Centers and Public Libraries standard 200 Square Feet Per 1,000 Population:** Utilizing a square foot per 1,000 population standard for publicly available meeting space ensures that adequate public meeting space will remain available as the County population continues to grow. This is a County standard initially adopted as part of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.

**Table 9: Community Meeting Space Needs**

Spotsylvania County Comprehensive Public Meeting Space Needs at Community Centers and Public Libraries									
Year				2020	2020	2030	2030	2040	2040
Population				140,032	140,032	158,025	158,025	177,369	177,369
		Standard	Existing	Required	(-) Deficit/	Required	(-) Deficit/	Required	(-) Deficit/
		(sqft/1000)	Sq. Ft.*	Sq. Ft.	Surplus	Sq. Ft.	Surplus	Sq. Ft.	Surplus
Community	Total	200	21,872	28006	-6134	31605	-9733	35474	-13602
Note: 2020 Population from US Decennial Census. Population projections sourced from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service									
*Existing Square Footage of Public Meeting Spaces include Spotsylvania County Community Centers and Libraries within County limits.									

Spotsylvania County presently has a public meeting space inventory of 21,872 sq.ft., accounting for the County's current inventory of public access meeting spaces within Community Centers as well as meeting spaces within Public Libraries in the County. The County has a set LOS standard for community meeting spaces of 200 sq ft per 1,000 residents. Considering a 2020 County population of 140,032, in order to meet County LOS the County has warrant for 28,006 sq.ft. of



public meeting space, resulting in a deficit of -6,134 sq.ft. As shown in the table above (Table 9), this deficit will grow as population grows if no additional meeting space is added to the inventory. In the short term, much of the identified deficit may be tied to the recent community center losses. The Harrison Road Community Center had offered an additional 1,748 sq. ft. of public meeting space. That Center was closed to accommodate needed Transportation systems improvements associated with a Route 1 (Jefferson Davis Hwy.) and Harrison Road intersection improvement project. The Lick Run Community Center's closure in November 2018 is the result of the displacement and subsequent relocation of the Spotsylvania County Museum. The Lick Run Community Center resulted in a loss of 1,274 square feet of meeting space. Considering the lost meeting space and Spotsylvania County standard, there is warrant for additional meeting spaces whether they be at a new or expanded community center or in the public libraries. No new meeting space inventory was added with the recent opening of the Library at Spotsylvania Towne Center.

**Parks Facility Standards:** Perhaps more important than the raw parkland acreage needs are standards for recreation facilities to activate the sites for recreational use that have been formulated to plan for recreation needs and serve as a basis for capital planning. Many of these recreational facilities are necessary to create Active Park acres that presently run a LOS deficit expected to grow over time. Pursuit of additional recreational amenities to meet LOS standards complements efforts to reduce active park acres deficits. The goal is to maintain a consistent LOS for the County population consistent with projected growth over time.

The following table shows the recommended County facility standards and their corresponding surpluses or deficits over time considering population estimates and projections. Many were derived from national and state standards and adopted as the County standard in 2009. Considerations for pickleball popularity has resulted in a new standard added as part of this update.

Due to the wide array of potential recreational facilities it is impractical to establish a set LOS standard for all the potential options available, especially "big ticket", specialized or niche facilities. Other more niche amenities have also been accommodated for consideration based on their uniqueness and fit within the community and their projected demand. Demand based parks and recreation planning has become more popular in recent times. For instance, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) now bases many of its recommendations within the Statewide Virginia Outdoors Plan on survey research to gauge demands for new parks facilities.



**Table 10: Amenities Standards**

County Parks Amenities Requirements 100% Standards with Schools								
AMENITY	SPOTS	SYLVANIA	Year 2020	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2030	Year 2040	Year 2040
	STANDARD							
	per residents	Existing	Required	Population	Required	Population	Required	Population
		Facilities	Facilities	140,032	Facilities	158,025	Facilities	177,369
				(-)Deficit/ Surplus		(-)Deficit/ Surplus		(-)Deficit/ Surplus
Baseball/ Softball Field	3,000	50	47	3	53	-3	59	-9
Baseball Lighted Regulation	15,000	9	9	0	11	-2	12	-3
Baseball Lighted Little League	30,000	10	5	5	5	5	6	4
Basketball Court	5,000	45	28	17	32	13	35	10
Basketball Indoor	5,000	25	28	-3	32	-7	35	-10
Basketball Outdoor	10,000	20	14	6	16	4	18	2
Bike/Fitness Trails (miles)	1,000	22.1	140	-118	158	-136	177	-155
Indoor Recreation Center/ with Pool	50,000	0	3	-3	3	-3	4	-4
Playgrounds	5,000	27	28	-1	32	-5	35	-8
Swimming Pool	20,000	1	7	-6	8	-7	9	-8
Tennis	2,000	46	70	-24	79	-33	89	-43
Tennis Lighted Courts	10,000	6	14	-8	16	-10	18	-12
Multipurpose Fields (Football, Field Hockey, Lacrosse & Soccer Fields)	2,000	73	70	3	79	-6	89	-16
Pickleball Courts	15,000	5	9	-4	11	-6	12	-7
Other (Specialized or niche amenities)	Case by Case considering uniqueness and demand							
Note: 2020 Population from US Decennial Census. Population projections sources from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.								

Over the planning period considering the County's adopted LOS standards for parks and recreation, many amenities will see growing deficits as population increases. Within the short term, recreational bike fitness trails and tennis courts comprise the most notable deficits compared to County standard. It is good to note that tennis courts can and have served dual purposes as Pickleball Courts, requiring Pickleball striping so the facility can serve dual purposes.

Bicycle and fitness trails include shared use paths such as the Virginia Central Trail that extends from Salem Church Road to Gordon Road presently. School running tracks also qualify and are included within the County's existing inventory identified in the table above. Leavells Road extending from Harrison Road to Hilltop Plaza Way has an expanded sidewalk to accommodate a wider array of users. This path serves several residential developments along the Leavells Road corridor and provides access to Loriella Park. Bicycle and fitness trails also include nature and historical interpretive trails that may be utilized by a host of users for walking, mountain biking,





cross country running, equestrian usage, etc. Staff has acknowledged the presence of other trails through the County including the Ni River Trail by the Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative (presently a nature trail envisioned to be part of the planned Ni River Trail system), historic interpretive trails associated with National Park Service, Civil War Trust, and Central Virginia Battlefields Trust lands, as well as recreational trails at Lake Anna State Park. Lake Anna State Park also includes an equestrian trail system. These trails overwhelmingly provide opportunity for passive recreation in the form of natural surface walking paths limiting potential usage to certain activities. For users that can benefit from interest in natural walking paths, these trails help buffer and/or reduce the lack of availability for such user groups.

Recognizing the need to establish a Comprehensive Trailways Master Plan to address citizen interest and formulate a plan to reduce LOS deficits, Spotsylvania County adopted a Trailways Master Plan in 2011 that included plans for both roadside and off-road greenway trails. In 2011 the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association bestowed the 2011 Outstanding Plan Award-Plan Element upon the Spotsylvania County Trailways Master Plan. The Plan had historically been a standalone document incorporated by reference within the Comprehensive Plan. As a Plan element in the interest of assuring such a plan does not become outdated or inconsiderate of opportunities that may arise from changes elsewhere within other elements of the Comprehensive Plan, staff shifted crucial plan elements into this Comprehensive Plan recognizing its applicability to both Transportation planning (road based) and Parks and Recreation. The Trailways Plan is now located within the Comprehensive Plan and updated accordingly on the same schedule.

## **Recommendations**

The following general, short and long-term recommendations focus on the current and future needs for provision of public parks within Spotsylvania County.

Specific capital projects recommendations are based in the warrants established by County LOS standards and efforts to meet such standards. Decisions concerning adoption of the County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) are guided by the Comprehensive Plan. As per the Code of Virginia, localities must be able to exhibit Comprehensive Plan support for public projects, including new Parks and Recreation facilities. CIP projects must be supported by the Comprehensive Plan by State Code. The Code of Virginia Sect. 15.2-2232 required that improvements be shown in the Comprehensive Plan, specifically identifying the “location, character and extent of each feature shown on the plan.” Sect. 15.2-2232 establishes:

... unless a feature is already shown on the adopted master plan or part thereof or is deemed so under subsection D, no street or connection to an existing street, park or other public area, public building or public structure, public utility facility or public service corporation facility other than a railroad facility or an underground natural gas or underground electric distribution facility of a public utility as defined in subdivision (b) of § [56-265.1](#) within its certificated service territory, whether publicly or privately owned, shall be constructed, established or authorized, unless and until the general location or approximate location, character, and extent thereof has been submitted to





and approved by the commission as being substantially in accord with the adopted comprehensive plan or part thereof.

The purpose of the Public Facilities Element in the Comprehensive Plan (including Parks and Recreation) is to establish County LOS standards and identify specific capacity building projects that help justify CIP inclusion as well as calculation of proffers concerning residential rezoning applications. In the case of Parks and Recreation related proffers they are based solely on necessary capacity expansion projects (based in LOS) identified within the County CIP. Proffer values are determined considering population increases above the by-right potential of a project area resulting from a residential rezoning, and their proportionate per unit, per person share of the cost of the new facility.

The following are general recommendations for the provision of local public park areas. The general location of proposed public park areas should be based on land acquisition needs, service area needs and the population served.

### **General**

1. Spotsylvania County will have sufficient park facilities to meet County Park Standards as well as current and future demand. Provide community, district, and special use parks that meet a 100% level of service standard, including schools.
  - a. Encourage all new schools and community centers to include provisions for public recreational acres, and amenities. Co-location of future schools, community centers, and parks will benefit Spotsylvania County by adding more recreational opportunities and avoiding duplication of recreational facilities.
- Formally adopt a school/park and recreation policy that would include the following:
  - Provide for specific facility standards and designs for all community type use facilities at new school sites.
  - Provide for the Park & Recreation Department's operational & maintenance agreements.
  - Provide for an agreed upon short and long-range plan for the improvement and expansion of community use facilities, where feasible, at existing school sites including use of available school lands.
  - Strive for a County provision to meet the Level of Service Standards for Multi-Purpose Fields and Baseball/Softball Diamonds as these are specifically needed for programmed Parks & Recreation activities.



- b. Protect, maintain, and enhance current parks and open space areas in Spotsylvania County and acquire additional parkland and facilities within the County, consistent with adopted level of service standards.
    - The acquisition of park lands and development of park amenities should occur based on population estimates.
  - c. Provide an annual CIP submission of needed facilities based on adopted standards and replacement schedules.
  - d. Optimize existing parks that are not built out by improving or adding new facilities to enhance efficiencies or reduce known LOS deficits within the planning period.
    - An emphasis should be placed on the current utilization of the parks with installation of artificial lighting to enhance and extend the availability of current athletic fields.
2. Preserve natural areas, parks, open space area, archaeological and architectural sites and cultural resources in Spotsylvania County.
- a. Encourage protection of, access and interpretation of significant cultural or historical resources within new or existing park land.
  - b. Maintain and update a database and/ or mapping project that includes an inventory of all parks, open spaces, nature preserves, onsite historic and cultural sites, park amenities, trail systems.
3. Preserve and expand upon the existing recreational trails network within the County by implementing the Spotsylvania Trailways Master Plan (found in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan) consisting of off-road greenway trails and roadside based trail corridors.
- a. Encourage construction of bicycle lanes and/or paths complementary to recreational trailways plan implementation efforts in conjunction with road widening projects, where appropriate.
4. Consider adding additional specialized or niche recreational amenities that do not warrant a specific level of service standard based on their uniqueness and fit within the community as well as projected demand.
5. Consider additional public/private partnerships or any other joint opportunities in the delivery of park and recreation service delivery like the YMCA/School Board/ County partnership at the Patriot Park District Park.



6. Continue to support the development of privately managed and maintained neighborhood parks and private recreational amenities that will ultimately serve County residents within their particular developments.

### **Short Term**

1. Seek to replace the Harrison Road and Lick Run Community Centers at new locations similarly located to their former ones (approximately within a mile) considerate of nearby populations historically served by those centers respectively, and geo-spacing/facility separation to reduce service area overlap.
2. Seek to locate a new Community Center in the Partlow Area.

### **Long Term**

1. Explore acquisition and/or development of an indoor aquatic recreation center.
2. Develop master plans for the Hilldrup and Belmont Properties.
3. Explore the acquisition of land in the Lee Hill/Massaponax area for a new district park.
4. Continue to implement the County Trailways Plan through various means including Parks and Recreation projects, Transportation Projects, Private Development frontage and amenity improvements, etc. A number of candidate projects have been suggested to expand the trailways network and help address the sizable level of service deficits for such facilities. These candidate projects have been identified due to their location in proximity to heavily populated areas, historic and cultural resources attractions and tourism, and physical location in relation to existing trail systems with the aim of closing “gaps” or extending trails with existing usage. Candidate projects are as follows:
  - Ni River Greenway Trail northward through the Hilldrup Tract District Park generally along the Ni River Corridor to include nearby County owned historic lands associated with Catherine’s Meadow. (Approximately 1 Mile)
  - Deep Run Trailhead (including portion of trail), riverside park, river access, and historic interpretation site at the County owned Franklin’s Crossing site. (Approximately ½ Mile)
  - Ni River Greenway Trail gap between its current terminus and Patriot Park (between Route 1 and Patriot Park). (Approximately ½ Mile)
  - Complete implementation of the Phase I Massaponax Creek Greenway Trail, including necessary bridge crossings, between the Courthouse Road public

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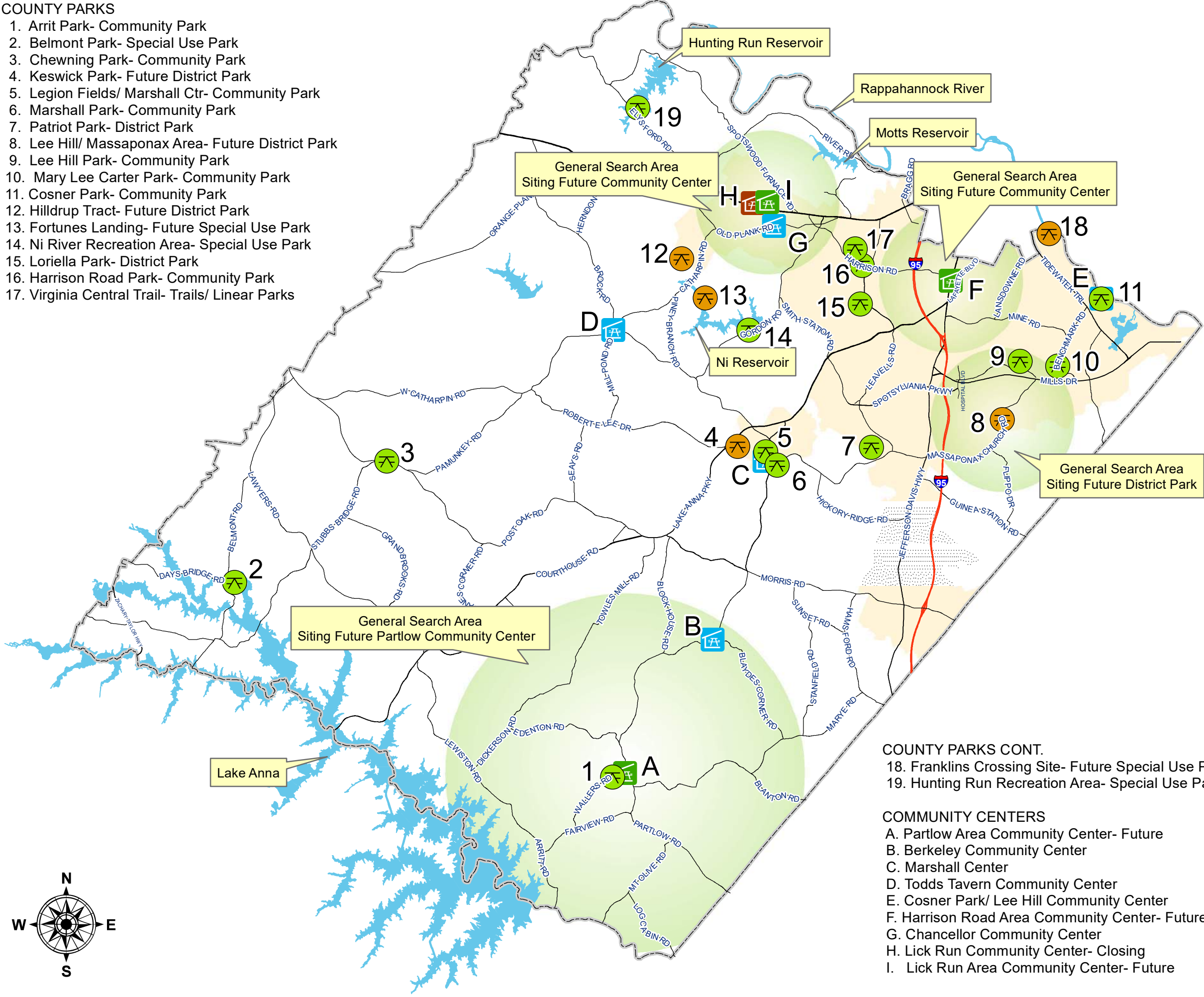
parking area, Loriella Park, and planned Mussel Farm site. (Approximately 1 ¼ Miles)

- Pursue construction of the Virginia Central Greenway Trail and trailhead along the Whitehall/Lakeside Virginia Land Conservation Fund easement extending between Brock Road and Jackson Trail East. (Approximately 2 Miles)
- Ni River Trail to establish a roadside based bicycle and pedestrian friendly connection between the Hilldrup Tract (Future District Park) and future public park at Fortune's Landing fronting the Ni Reservoir.
- Eastward expansion of the Virginia Central Trail by seeking roadside based bicycle and pedestrian improvements between Salem Church Road and the City of Fredericksburg via the Route 1 corridor and Harrison Road widening and Interstate 95 bridge replacement projects.
- Westward expansion of the Virginia Central Trail through Gordon Road, Harrison Road, and Old Plank Road improvement projects.
- Seek roadside bicycle and pedestrian friendly improvements along Tidewater Trail and Benchmark Road to help implement the Deep Run Trail and East Coast Greenway in Spotsylvania County from the Bowman Center to County VRE Station.



COUNTY PARKS

- 1. Arrit Park- Community Park
- 2. Belmont Park- Special Use Park
- 3. Chewing Park- Community Park
- 4. Keswick Park- Future District Park
- 5. Legion Fields/ Marshall Ctr- Community Park
- 6. Marshall Park- Community Park
- 7. Patriot Park- District Park
- 8. Lee Hill/ Massaponax Area- Future District Park
- 9. Lee Hill Park- Community Park
- 10. Mary Lee Carter Park- Community Park
- 11. Cosner Park- Community Park
- 12. Hildrup Tract- Future District Park
- 13. Fortunes Landing- Future Special Use Park
- 14. Ni River Recreation Area- Special Use Park
- 15. Loriella Park- District Park
- 16. Harrison Road Park- Community Park
- 17. Virginia Central Trail- Trails/ Linear Parks



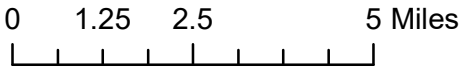
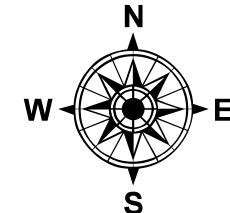
Spotsylvania County  
Parks and Recreation  
Facilities and Needs



Legend

- County Parks**
- Future Park
  - Park
- Community Centers**
- Community Center Closing
  - Community Center
  - Future Community Center\*
  - General Siting Buffer (Future Projects)
  - Primary Development Boundary

- COUNTY PARKS CONT.
- 18. Franklins Crossing Site- Future Special Use Park
  - 19. Hunting Run Recreation Area- Special Use Park
- COMMUNITY CENTERS
- A. Partlow Area Community Center- Future
  - B. Berkeley Community Center
  - C. Marshall Center
  - D. Todds Tavern Community Center
  - E. Cosner Park/ Lee Hill Community Center
  - F. Harrison Road Area Community Center- Future
  - G. Chancellor Community Center
  - H. Lick Run Community Center- Closing
  - I. Lick Run Area Community Center- Future



Map Approved: December 14, 2021