

**CLAIBORNE COUNTY
REGIONAL TEN-YEAR
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

ADDENDUM 1

JULY, 2021



February 2018

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>Letter from the Mayor</u> | 1 |
| <u>Introduction</u> | 3 |
| <u>Master Plan Update process</u> | 4 |
| <u>Master Plan Section Updates</u> | 5 |
| <u>Section 4 – Public Input</u> | 5 |
| <u>Section 5 – Needs Assessment</u> | 13 |
| <u>Section 6 – Concept Plan</u> | 13 |
| <u>Section 7 – Five-Year Budget Plan</u> | 16 |
| <u>Section 8 – Recommendations</u> | 16 |
| <u>Attachment A: Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan</u> | |
| <u>Attachment B: Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet</u> | |

Town of Cumberland Gap

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Dear Residents, Business Owners, and Visitors,

It is my honor to present to you the updated Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This document represents our collective vision for parks and recreation and is the product of public surveys, interviews, stakeholder workshops, and a public hearing where we listened to you. The update was completed after a careful review of the original Plan. Although the original Plan was only completed in 2018, land use changes, including the continued expansion of Lincoln Memorial University, and the availability of strategic properties justified this update.

This plan update sets the course for future parks and recreation development in the Town of Cumberland Gap to ensure its parks and recreation goals are being met. Because of the strong role that parks and trails play in our Town and region, the plan will also ensure those parks and trails play a continued role in our growth and development as a community.

The success of this plan will provide the basis for furthering the interests of our town as expressed through surveys and public workshops over the years, and ensure we use the resources at our disposal to protect our natural and historic assets, while taking advantage of the miles of trails and hundreds of acres of parkland surrounding our community.

We look forward to working with you to implement the recommended improvements in this plan to benefit the town, and surrounding region.

Sincerely,



Neal Pucciarelli, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2-2021

**A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE
CLAIBORNE COUNTY REGIONAL TEN-YEAR
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Town of Cumberland Gap partnered with Claiborne County, the Town of New Tazewell, the Town of Tazewell, and the City of Harrogate to generate a Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland Gap has experienced substantial land use changes over the three years since the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed; and

WHEREAS, due to these land use changes and changing priorities for residents in Cumberland Gap, the Town led a process to update the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, each Mayors of the three Town/Cities and County were notified of the update, which would only address needs assessments and recommendations that apply to Cumberland Gap, and would not replace any of the original recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Town afforded the public several opportunities to provide input into the planning process including public surveys, stakeholder workshops, and a public hearing held in conjunction with a regular Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting,

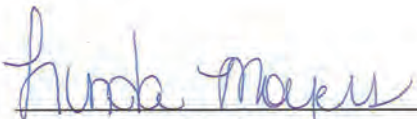
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cumberland Gap Board of Mayor and Aldermen as follows,

THAT, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen does hereby adopt the Updated Claiborne County 10-Year Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

READ AND ADOPTED this 6th day of July, 2021.



Neal Pucciarelli, Mayor



Linda Moyers, City Recorder

Introduction

This document is an addendum to the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which was originally adopted by the Cumberland Gap Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2018. This Addendum document was adopted by the Cumberland Gap Board of Mayor and Aldermen on July 6, 2021, to address land use changes in the Town.

The Addendum is a selective update to the 2018 Claiborne County Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan (“2018 Plan”). This update was drafted for the Town’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen, with the assistance of the Guardians of the Gap, and a steering committee of stakeholders representing a variety of community interests.

This Plan should not be reviewed as replacing the earlier document. The 2018 Plan was comprehensive in its scope and much of it, particularly in its analysis and recommendations, remains valid. Rather, this document updates sections of the earlier plan, namely the needs analysis, and, where appropriate, amends the original recommendations. The update also considers the Cumberland Gap Master Plan and Trailhead Development Plan, adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in October of 2019. While the Master Plan and Trailhead Development Plan concurred with many of the recommendations of the 2018 Plan, it also provided additional insights. Therefore, where relevant, the recommendations of the Master Plan and Trailhead Development Plan have been incorporated into this document.

As the 2018 Plan is still a relevant guiding document, this update was drafted and presented as an addendum. The chapters and sections of the 2018 Plan that are updated are presented in this addendum.



Master Plan Update process

Several steps were taken to ensure this plan update is comprehensive and provides strategic and thoughtful opportunities for the Town's future. The first step in the process was to review the original Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to assess what has been completed or changed, and what sections may need to be updated to accommodate land use changes and other changes in the community.

All parties involved in the development of the original plan were notified that this update was being generated. An email was sent to Harrogate, Tazewell, New Tazewell, and Claiborne County, explaining the reason for the update. These communities were given an opportunity to request update their respective portions of the Plan as well. Additional updates were not requested from the other Claiborne County communities. Therefore, the only portions of the Plan updated are those applying to the Town of Cumberland Gap itself.

The Town then embarked on a public outreach process. A steering committee was established, representing individuals from the Town government, business owners, and the community at large. A public survey was developed, advertised, and distributed. The survey included questions regarding resident's parks and recreation needs and preferences, as well as their vision for the future. Over 100 survey responses were collected. The steering committee then met to discuss findings from the survey, and potential park development scenarios.

With further input from steering committee members and the Mayor of Cumberland Gap, a concept drawing and cost estimates were generated for the development of the Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead facilities. An addendum documenting updated sections to the original plan was written, and both the concept plan and addendum were presented at a public hearing.

The updated Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Town's Board of Mayor and Aldermen on July 6, 2021.

Master Plan Section Updates

Section 4 – Public Input

Section 4 of the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan documents the public process carried out in 2017 to develop the original plan. All input received from the surveys, public workshops, and stakeholder interviews for the original plan remain valid.

During the development of this Plan Update, the Town collected additional surveys, held stakeholder meetings, held public hearings, and ultimately adopted the update by Resolution. This section describes the findings of the public engagement carried out during the development of this update.

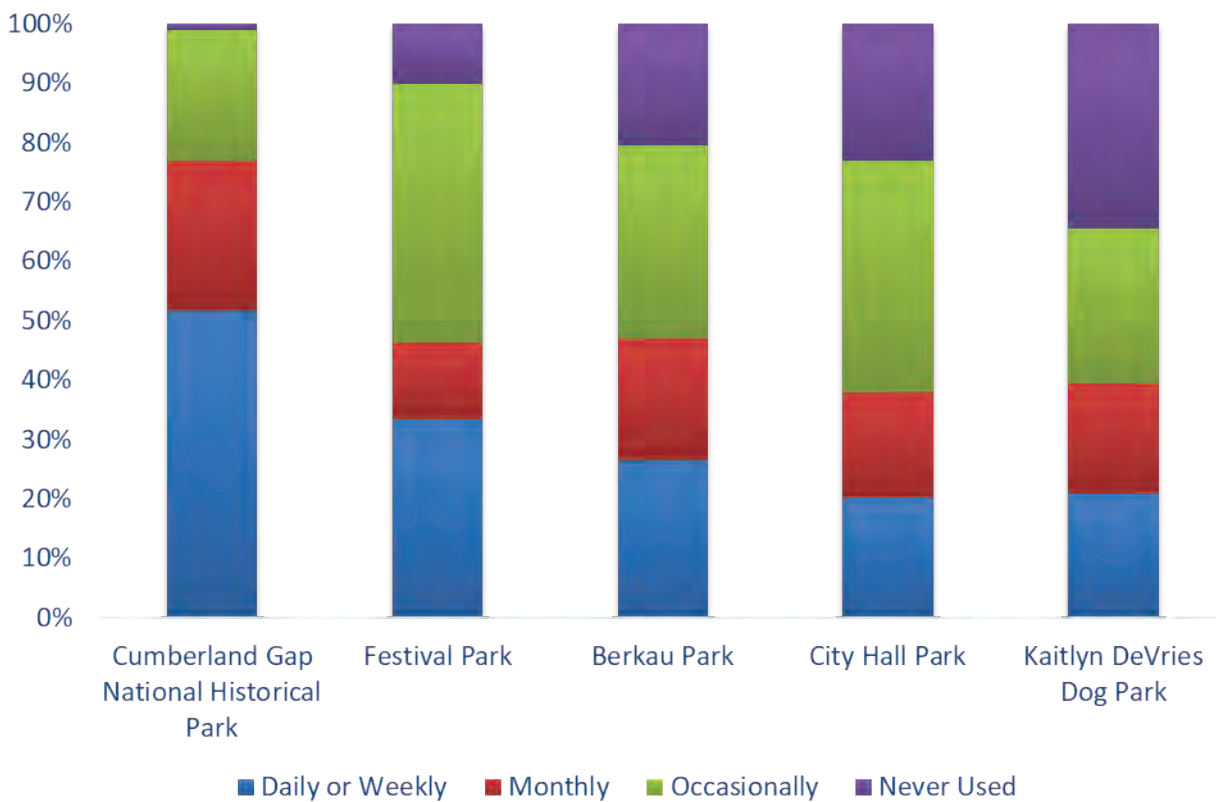
Public Survey

A public survey was generated to gather public input on existing and future recreational programs and facilities in Cumberland Gap. The survey contained 20 questions, some of which were multiple-choice, and several of which were open-ended. 15 questions focused on existing and needed parks and recreation facilities and programs. To compare survey results with other areas in the State, participants were asked 5 classification questions about age, ethnicity, and home ownership.

To encourage participation, and build awareness of the project, the surveys were promoted through social media, the Town website, and through word of mouth. The survey questionnaire was publicly available online for about 50 days between March 2021 and May 2021. Collectively, over 100 survey responses were collected. The following sections highlight results from those surveys.

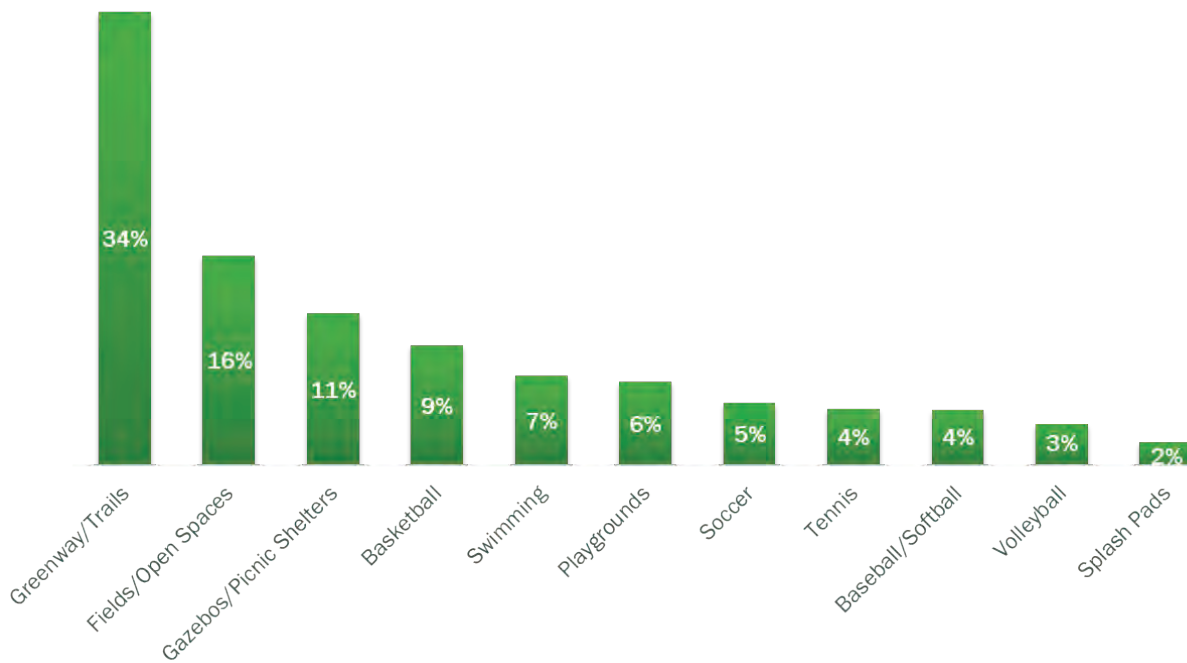
Parks and Recreation Site Visits

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (CGNHP), with its many trails and amenities, is visited more than any of the parks in the area. While this park is not provided directly by Cumberland Gap, the Town does contain several access points to the CGNHP trail system, making it an important waypoint for trail users, both in Cumberland Gap and throughout the region. Among the parks provided by Cumberland Gap, most (90%) reported they visited the Festival Park in downtown Cumberland Gap at least occasionally. Over half of respondents also reported that they used the other parks provided in Town at least occasionally, including Berkau Park (79%), City Hall Park (77%), and Kaitlyn DeVries Dog Park (65%).



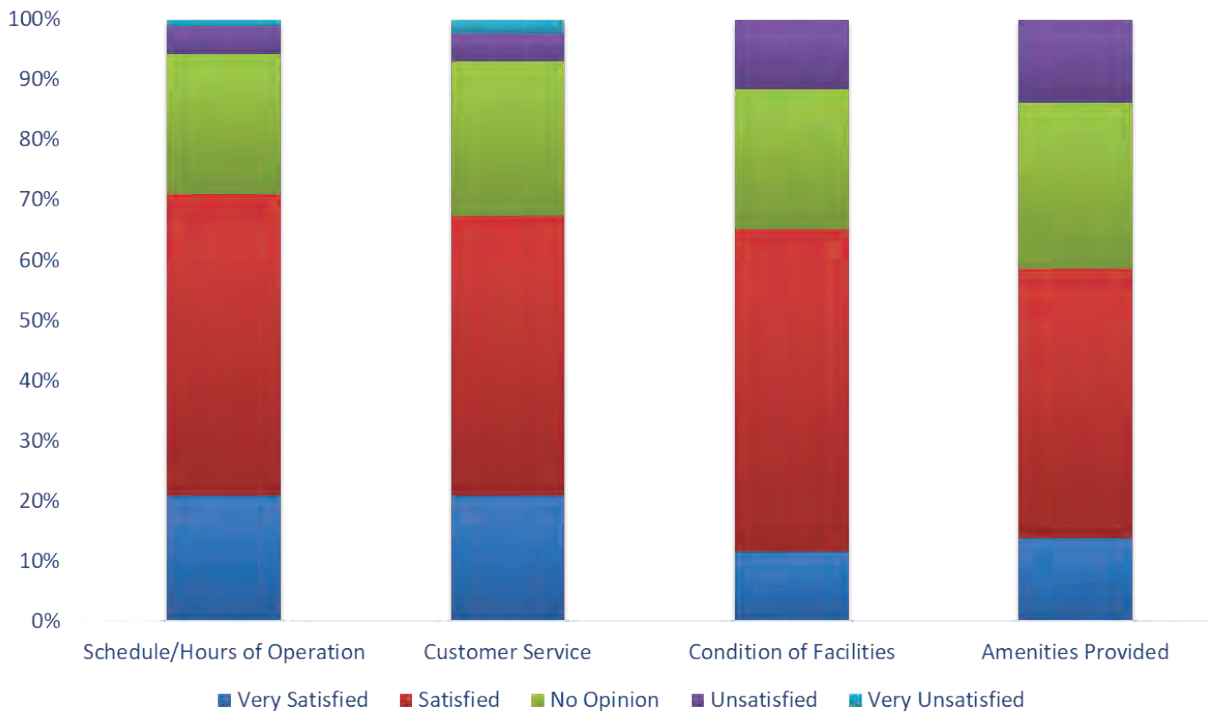
Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

Among parks and recreation activities, use of greenways and trails was by far the most frequently reported activity (34%). This was followed by use of fields and open spaces (16%), and gazebos and picnic shelters (11%). Overall, splash pads, volleyball, baseball/softball, and tennis were among the least frequently reported activities.



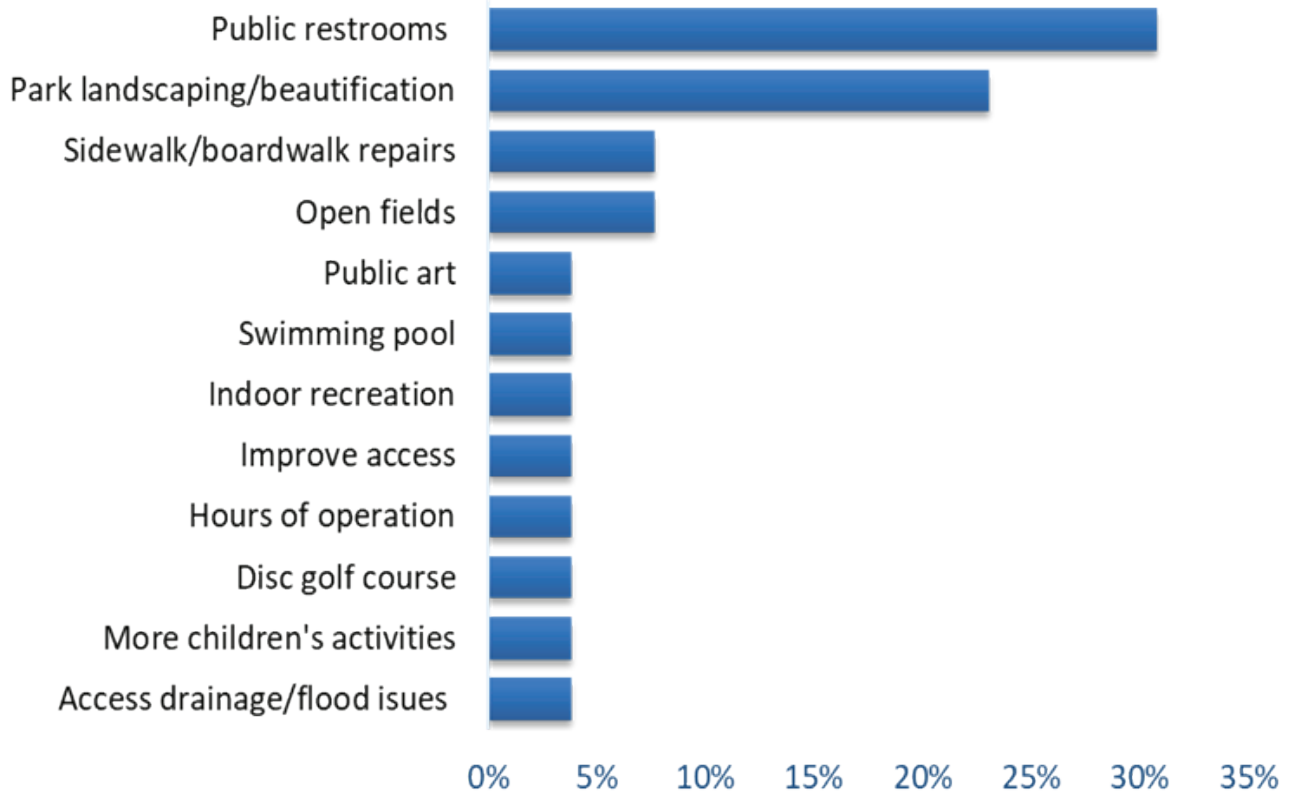
Satisfaction with Existing Facilities

Survey respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with existing parks and recreation programs and facilities currently provided in Cumberland Gap, on a scale of “Very Satisfied” to “Very Unsatisfied”. Respondents indicated they were most satisfied with the schedule and hours, as well as customer service at parks and recreation facilities and were least satisfied with existing amenities and the condition of facilities.



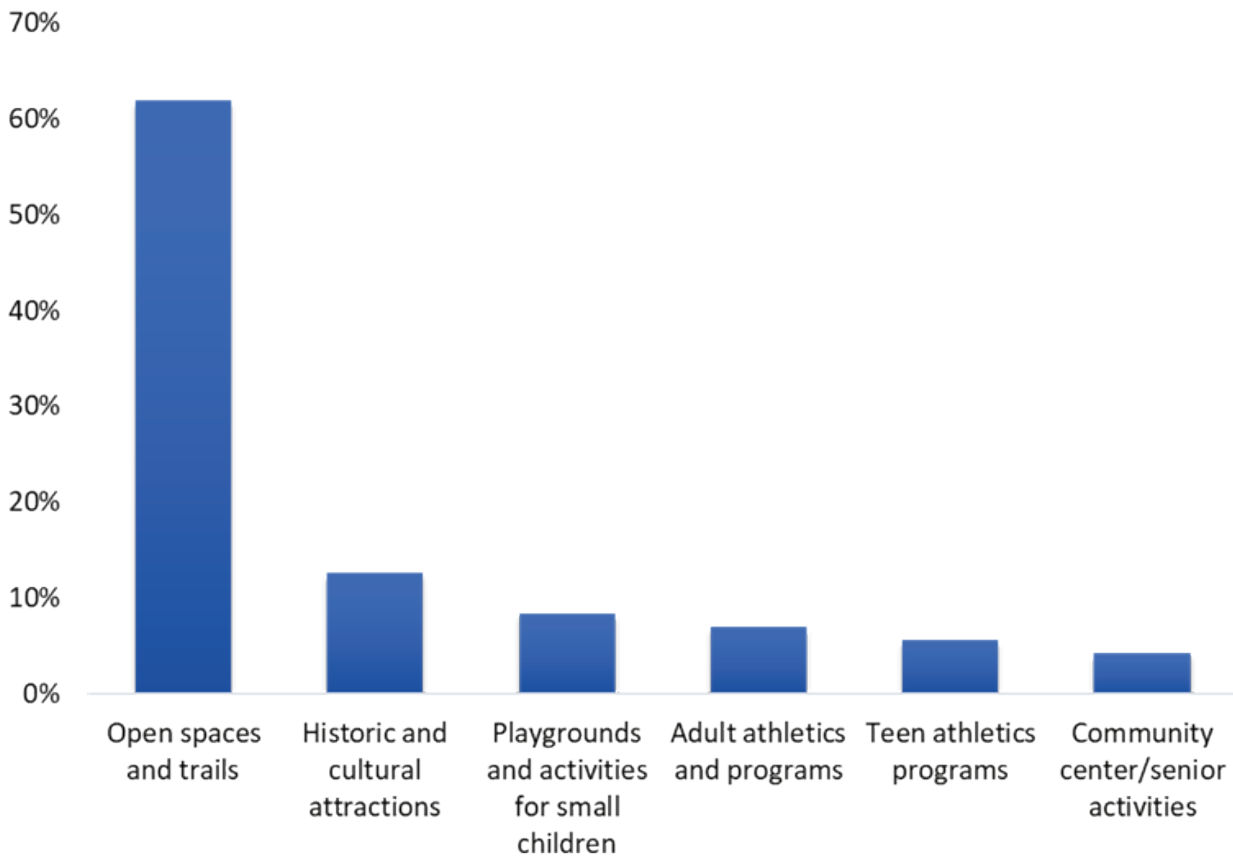
Suggestions for Improved Parks and Recreation Facilities

Survey Respondents were asked to provide suggestions for improvements to parks and recreation in Cumberland Gap. Responses varied greatly, but in general, they fell into a few major categories. The provision of public restrooms, and general park landscaping/beautification were the most common suggestions, followed by improvements to sidewalks and boardwalks, and more open fields.



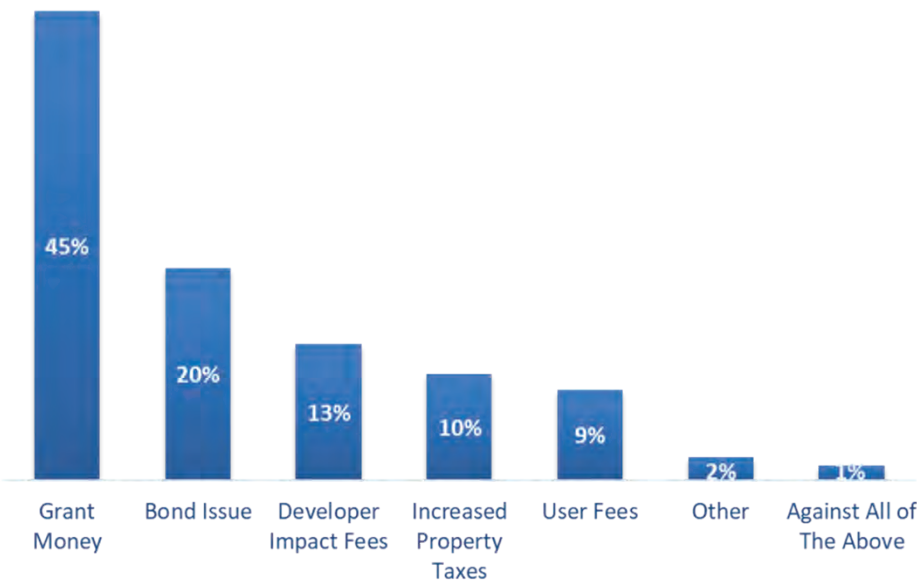
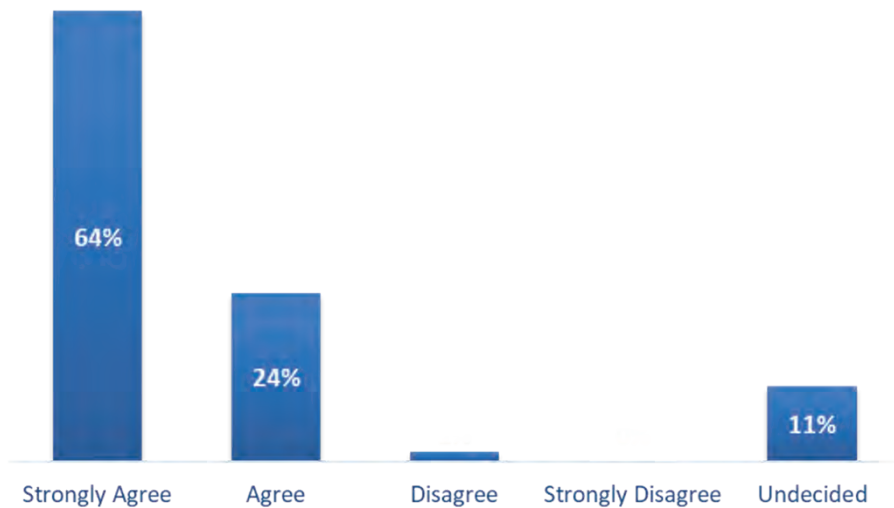
Parks and Recreation Priorities

When asked to select their highest priority for parks and recreation, nearly two thirds of respondents (62%) reported that open spaces and trails were their top priority, while 13% reported historic and cultural attractions were their top priority, and 8% reported that playgrounds and activities for small children were their top priority.



Support for Improved Parks and Recreation

Overall, there is considerable support for funding improved parks and recreation in Cumberland Gap. 88% of survey respondents reported that they either “agree” or “strongly agree” that additional funding should be provided for parks and recreation improvements in Cumberland Gap. When asked which sources of funding should be used to fund parks and recreation improvements, 45% thought grant funding should be allocated, while 1 in 5 (20%) indicated that bonds should be issued to fund improvements. A smaller portion of respondents indicated that developer impact fees (13%), increased property taxes (10%), and user impact fees (9%) should be used to fund parks and recreation improvements. Only 1% reported being against all forms of funding parks and recreation improvements.



Stakeholder Workshop

A stakeholder workshop was held in May of 2021 to review the findings from the public survey, discuss the impact of land use changes on Cumberland Gap, identify priorities for future parks and recreation developments, and brainstorm park design elements. The committee of stakeholders was selected to represent leadership within the Town, associations, and businesses. The workshop was held by video conference.

After reviewing the survey findings and discussing the importance of trails and greenways to the current and future parks and recreation system in Cumberland Gap, attendees discussed ways in which the Town could support the use of trails. The importance of new and ongoing community events was also examined. The stakeholder group considered a property located in the heart of downtown that had become available during the development of the Cumberland Gap Master Plan¹. Discussion turned to use of this parcel to support trail access with trailhead facilities, including parking, public restrooms, and gathering areas, as well as ongoing special events. The stakeholder workshop concluded with general support for an update to the Claiborne County Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include the potential acquisition and development of the site to support trails and special events in Town.

Public Hearing

A public hearing for the Plan update was held prior to a regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The meeting was held in-person and was drop in format, so residents could arrive as their schedules allowed and review information for the update to the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The hearing included a display of concepts for a new Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead area in the heart of downtown on the land mentioned above. A copy of the original Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for participants to review. Key updates, including recommendations and cost estimates were summarized. The sign-in sheet for the public hearing is included as Attachment B.

Plan Adoption

The Plan update was presented to the Cumberland Gap Board of Mayor and Aldermen at their regular monthly meeting on July 6th, 2021. The meeting was advertised and open to the public with opportunities for community comments.

1 <http://www.townofcumberlandgap.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FINAL-Cumberland-Gap-Master-Plan-and-Trailhead-Plan.pdf>

Section 5 – Needs Assessment

Public Input Priorities

The public process carried out by Cumberland Gap during the update to the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Plan resulted in findings that align well with the findings of the original plan. Major themes from the public process for the update include:

- Improve/expand trails and greenways for walking, running, and biking
- Provide more opportunities for boating and fishing
- Improve/expand biking routes
- Provide more festivals and music events

Prioritization of Needs

The update to the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Plan includes a mixed methods approach to prioritizing the needs of the community. The mixed-methods approach combines the findings of the surveys, stakeholder meetings, and interviews, along with a review of secondhand data to find common themes. Secondary data refers to all other sources reviewed during the planning process, including demographic and economic data, previous related planning studies, as well as regional and national trends.

All the original priorities in the Claiborne County Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan remain relevant. This Addendum includes additional priorities to add to the original Plan. The added priorities are as follows:

Cumberland Gap

Short-Term (1-2 Years)

- Acquire property located at 520 Colwyn Street
- Develop Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead Facilities, including:
 - Parking
 - Restroom
 - Common areas
 - Gazebo

Mid-Term (1-2 Years)

- Further develop recreational facilities at the Cumberland Gap Commons

Section 6 – Concept Plan

A concept plan provides a graphical depiction of improvements to new or existing parks. Based on the findings of the Needs Assessment, a concept plan was generated to illustrate the desired amenities planned for the Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead. This section also includes an opinion of probable costs for those improvements.

Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead

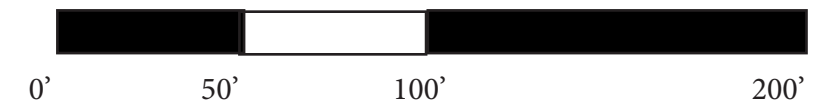
In the short-term, the Town intends to acquire the property at 520 Colwyn Street to develop the Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead facilities, including parking, a public restroom, accessible paths, and common areas.



CUMBERLAND GAP COMMONS TRAILHEAD

Conceptual Plan Diagram

Claiborne County Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update, June 2021



Community Development Partners, LLC



Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Cumberland Gap Commons

22-Jan-20

Note: All costs include material and labor

| Phase 1 Elements | Total Est. | Notes |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Purchase Property | \$ 250,000 | |
| Parking | \$ 30,000 | |
| ADA Parking | \$ 5,000 | |
| ADA Ramp | \$ 5,000 | |
| Gazebo | \$ 35,000 | |
| Bathrooms | \$ 75,000 | |
| Pavers | \$ 100,000 | |
| All 6 stalls | \$ 50,000 | |
| Shrubbery against wall | \$ 20,000 | |
| Donated trees | \$ - | |
| | | |
| Subtotal | \$ 570,000 | |
| 10% General Conditions | \$ 57,000 | |
| 15% Soft Costs | \$ 85,500 | |
| 20% Contingency | \$ 114,000 | |
| 10% Site Prep | \$ 57,000 | |
| | | |
| TOTAL | \$ 883,500 | |

**OPINION OF PROBABLE COSTS FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATION ONLY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

- 1 This conceptual cost opinion is for planning purposes only and the data needs to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary by the general contractor to determine the final construction budget

Section 7 – Five-Year Budget Plan

A five-year budget plan evaluates revenues, expenses, and desired capital improvements and creates a strategy for achieving the community’s goals. Cumberland Gap relies heavily upon future grant funding when developing strategies for implementing recommendations of the Plan. To develop a five-year budget, the Town closely examined its reserves, fund balances, as well as their other financial obligations when considering local matching fund requirements.

Cumberland Gap uses capital from its reserves, and a combination of in-kind labor and equipment as match for grants. The Town put in a pre-application for a Recreational Educations Services (RES) grant in November of 2020, and, after completing this plan update, intends to put in a full application for a 2020 RES grant to acquire a property at 520 Colwyn Street in downtown Cumberland Gap, and develop a series of trailhead facilities, including a parking area, public restrooms, ADA accessible circulation, and a gathering area. Given the scope of this project, the Town will likely need a few years to rebalance its savings before pursuing another grant application. If completed in time, the Town may consider pursuing a 2024 or 2026 RES grant to develop further recreational amenities at this site or other parks in Town. The Town’s five-year budget priorities are therefore as follows:

- Submit a 2020 RES grant pre-application and full application to acquire the property at 520 Colwyn Street, and develop trailhead facilities, including parking, public restrooms, ADA compliant circulation, and gathering areas.
- Submit a 2024 or 2026 RES grant application to fund further improvements at the Cumberland Gap Commons and other parks in the Town of Cumberland Gap.

NOTE: This strategy is conceptual and for planning purposes only. It does not in any way commit or obligate the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to any future funding decisions or amounts.

Section 8 – Recommendations

All recommendations in the original Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan remain relevant. The following recommendations are provided in addition to the recommendations in the original plan.

Cumberland Gap

Recommendation #1 – Acquire Property at 520 Colwyn Street

The property at 520 Colwyn Street that has become available is in a strategic location for connecting to local and regional trails, as well as the many amenities downtown Cumberland Gap has to offer. The importance of this property was considered in the Cumberland Gap Master Plan.

Recommendation #2 – Develop Cumberland Gap Commons Trailhead Facilities

Cumberland Gap has targeted the property at 520 Colwyn Street for developing trailhead facilities to support trail users who visit or pass through Cumberland Gap to embark on the many trails surrounding and even passing through the Town. Developing trailhead facilities can play a role in the Town’s efforts to brand itself as a trail town and attract new residents and visitors.

Attachment A:
Claiborne County
Regional Ten-Year
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan



**Regional Ten-Year
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan**

February 2018

Table of Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 | General Benefits of Parks and Recreation | 1 |
| 1.2 | Plan Origin and Planning Process | 2 |
| 1.3 | Parks and Recreation in Claiborne County | 3 |
| 1.4 | Other Planning Studies Consulted | 5 |
| 2 | Executive Summary | 6 |
| | Physical Improvements | 6 |
| | Programming, Organizational, and Long-Term Maintenance: | 7 |
| 3 | Existing Conditions | 8 |
| 3.1 | Demographics | 8 |
| | Cumberland Gap | 8 |
| | Harrogate | 9 |
| | New Tazewell | 10 |
| | Tazewell | 11 |
| 3.2 | Regional Context | 12 |
| 3.3 | Existing Park and Recreation Facilities | 14 |
| 3.4 | Programs and Community Events | 20 |
| | Recreational Programs | 20 |
| | Community Events | 20 |
| 3.5 | Administration, Budgeting, and Management | 21 |
| | Cumberland Gap | 21 |
| | Harrogate | 22 |
| | Tazewell | 22 |
| | New Tazewell | 23 |
| | Region-Wide Budget | 24 |
| 4 | Public Input | 25 |
| 4.1 | Citizen Survey Results | 25 |
| | Parks and Recreation Site Usage | 25 |
| | Satisfaction with Existing Facilities | 25 |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| | Desired Improvements to the Parks and Recreation System..... | 25 |
| | Support for Actions to Improve the Parks and Recreation System..... | 25 |
| | Programming | 25 |
| 4.2 | Community Meeting Feedback..... | 26 |
| 5 | Needs Assessment | 28 |
| 5.1 | Existing Conditions Assessment..... | 28 |
| | Cumberland Gap..... | 28 |
| | Harrogate | 32 |
| | New Tazewell | 34 |
| | Tazewell..... | 41 |
| 5.2 | National Metrics..... | 43 |
| | Cumberland Gap..... | 43 |
| | Harrogate | 43 |
| | New Tazewell | 44 |
| | Tazewell..... | 44 |
| 5.3 | Community Comparison | 45 |
| | Town of Cumberland Gap | 45 |
| | City of Harrogate..... | 46 |
| | Town of New Tazewell..... | 48 |
| | Town of Tazewell | 49 |
| | Findings | 50 |
| 5.4 | Public Input Priorities..... | 50 |
| | Findings | 51 |
| 5.5 | Prioritization of Needs | 51 |
| | Cumberland Gap..... | 51 |
| | Harrogate — New Sports Facility..... | 52 |
| | New Tazewell — C.W. Gose Park..... | 52 |
| | Tazewell — Municipal Park | 53 |
| 6 | Concept Plan | 54 |
| | Cumberland Gap — Multiple Park Improvements..... | 54 |
| | Harrogate — Sports Park Improvements | 54 |
| | New Tazewell — C.W. Gose Park Improvements | 54 |
| | Tazewell — Municipal Park Improvements..... | 54 |
| 6.1 | Kaitlyn Devries Memorial Dog Park Concept Plan | 55 |
| 6.2 | Kaitlyn Devries Memorial Dog Park Cost Estimates | 56 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 6.3 | Festival Park Concept Plan | 57 |
| 6.4 | Festival Park Cost Estimates..... | 58 |
| 6.5 | City Hall Park Concept Plan | 59 |
| 6.6 | Cumberland Gap City Hall Park Cost Estimates | 60 |
| 6.7 | Harrogate Sport Complex Concept Plan | 61 |
| 6.8 | Harrogate Sport Complex Cost Estimates..... | 62 |
| 6.9 | C.W. Gose Municipal Park Concept Plan..... | 64 |
| 6.10 | C.W. Gose Municipal Park Cost Estimates | 65 |
| 6.11 | Tazewell Municipal Park Concept Plan | 67 |
| 6.12 | Tazewell Municipal Park Cost Estimates..... | 68 |
| 7 | Five-Year Budget Plan | 70 |
| | Cumberland Gap..... | 70 |
| | Harrogate | 71 |
| | New Tazewell | 71 |
| | Tazewell..... | 71 |
| 8 | Recommendations | 73 |
| 8.1 | Existing and Future Facilities..... | 73 |
| | Cumberland Gap | 73 |
| | Harrogate | 74 |
| | New Tazewell | 74 |
| | Tazewell..... | 75 |
| | Countywide | 75 |
| 9 | Programming, Organizational, and O&M..... | 76 |
| 9.1 | Existing and Future Facilities..... | 76 |
| | Cumberland Gap | 76 |
| | Harrogate | 76 |
| | New Tazewell | 77 |
| | Countywide | 77 |
| 9.2 | Programming, Organizational, and O&M..... | 78 |

Appendix A: Parks and Recreation Budgets

Appendix B: Claiborne County Parks and Recreation Survey

Appendix C: Notifications and Sign-in Sheets

Appendix D: White Paper

Appendix E: On-site Checklists

Acknowledgements

Jackie Daniels, County Mayor

Neil Pucciarelli, Cumberland Gap Mayor Linda Fultz, Harrogate Mayor

Jerry Beeler, New Tazewell Mayor

Bill Fannon, Tazewell Mayor

Special Thanks to the following for their efforts and contributions:

Tammy Hopper, County Mayor's Office

Linda Moyers, Cumberland Gap City Recorder

Debra England, Harrogate City Recorder

Linda Stilson, New Tazewell City Recorder

Robin Ruiz, Tazewell City Recorder

1 Introduction

1.1 General Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Parks play an important role in any community. They serve as places to gather, relax, compete, play, stroll, and learn. Research shows that contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health. Additionally, physical exercise has been proven to increase health and to reduce the risk of diseases. Physical activity also relieves anxiety, improves mood, and enhances psychological well-being.

Evidence indicates when people have access to parks, they exercise more; therefore, without accessible parks and open space, people are less likely to exercise regularly. **City, suburb, and county residents all should be provided park space close-to-home.** As baby boomers grow into retirement years and the life expectancy of all generations continues to increase, the requirement for parks and recreation space that meets the needs of seniors will increase. The preservation of natural areas will become more and more important as development continues to sprawl throughout the countryside,

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee ranks forty-fourth among the fifty states in overall health, as reported by America’s Health Rankings. According to the Population Health Institute, Claiborne County ranks seventy-seventh among Tennessee’s ninety-five counties for health factors. With these statistics in mind, planning for parks and recreation can be particularly important to promoting healthy lifestyles in Claiborne County.

“Just as water, sewer, and public safety are considered essential public services, parks are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to economic and environmental well-being of a community and region.

There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.”

National Recreation and Park Association,
Why Parks and Recreation are Essential Public Services



Child at play

1.2 Plan Origin and Planning Process

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is the state agency responsible for promoting state and local partnerships to deliver parks and recreation opportunities across Tennessee. It is also the lead state agency for implementing the goals of *Tennessee 2020*, the ten-year plan of Tennessee's parks, people, and landscapes. This plan outlines many initiatives to ensure that all Tennessee citizens have access to nearby park and recreation opportunities that are essential to the well-being of every resident.

The State recognizes that only local parks and recreation departments can deliver critically important opportunities to add recreation into the daily life of residents where it is most needed. However, local providers are continually challenged to keep pace with the growing demand, especially in communities located in Tennessee's most economically distressed counties.

With this dilemma in mind, the State created a new funding opportunity in 2017 for communities that are in distressed counties, and those cities and counties that have participated in TDEC's Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP) to receive Parks Master Planning Grants. The funding was made available to cities, counties, city/county partnerships, and multi-county partnerships. Claiborne County successfully applied for the grant on behalf of the cities of Harrogate, New Tazewell, Tazewell, and the town of Cumberland Gap. Each local government provided their portion of the twenty percent match to fund a \$60,000 master planning project. Concurrently, during the summer of 2017, TDEC issued a Request for Qualifications for Park Master Plan Consulting Services. The department prequalified consultants and/or teams of consultants and provided the list to grantees for their selection. Claiborne County selected the team of Community Development Partners, LLC (CDP), Brown Pearman Russell, LLC (BPR), and CRJA-IBI Group to provide professional services during the development and final adoption of the *Claiborne County Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

The planning process began on August 29, 2017, with a kickoff meeting held with county, city, and town officials at the Claiborne County Courthouse. Over the following months, site visits were conducted to document existing conditions at all the existing park and recreation facilities within Claiborne County. The preparation of the master plan utilized an open planning process to gain public input and consensus on the results. Surveys were developed to gather community input on existing facilities and priorities for future improvements and new developments. The surveys were distributed in paper format at various public locations, such as the Claiborne County



Iron Furnace

Courthouse, town halls, and city halls. They could also be filled out online. The surveys were available in October and November of 2017. In the end, 175 surveys were submitted, and the results were tabulated. Public workshops were held in November of 2017 to present the survey results, the information collected on existing parks and recreation facilities in Claiborne County, and to gain input on recreation needs and priorities from the public. A public meeting was held again in January of 2018 to present and gain input on the draft plan.

Between September 2017 and January 2018, the planning team studied existing conditions, analyzed trends and projections, collected public feedback, and developed financial strategies for plan implementation. The following bullets summarize the steps taken by the planning team during this time:

- Collected and evaluated information related to the inventory of existing Claiborne County park and recreational facilities
- Collected and evaluated information regarding existing recreational programs and facilities provided by other groups such as public, voluntary and community facilities, including schools
- Identified and evaluated expectant life and replacement costs for existing facilities
- Identified and evaluated the adequacy of facility programs and uses, and the potential for expansion
- Collected and evaluated information related to past and projected changes in the county and each city or town's population and demographics
- Compared existing recreation land and facilities to those offered by similar sized communities across the state and nation. Using these comparisons, prepared a summary of current parks and recreation shortfalls and future needs
- Gathered public input on parks and recreational needs through public opinion surveys, public meetings, and interviews
- Prepared recommendations for refurbishment and expansion of existing facilities, as well as for new facilities and programs
- Prepared recommendations for capital improvements for the short term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), and long term (6-10 years)

1.3 Parks and Recreation in Claiborne County

Claiborne County is in northeastern Tennessee, bordering Kentucky and southwestern Virginia to the north. The U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 estimated population is 31,757 and ranks 48th among Tennessee's 95 counties. The county's total area is 442 square miles, of which 7.0 square miles is water. Major waterways are the Powell River and Norris Lake. The county seat is the city of Tazewell. There are three other incorporated communities in the county — the city of New Tazewell, just south of and adjoining the city of Tazewell, the city of Harrogate, and the town of Cumberland Gap. Both Harrogate and Cumberland Gap are in the northern sector of the county and adjoin the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park along the state border of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. Claiborne County is a rural area comprised of fertile farmland and gently rolling terrain. The economy is agricultural, with some manufacturing along its main north/south thoroughfare – US Highway 25E. Claiborne County is also the home of Lincoln Memorial University which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs to a rapidly growing campus of nearly 5,000 students.

The county also enjoys a robust and growing tourism-based economy. The area has many assets that draw outdoor enthusiasts to the county. Norris Lake and the Powell River attract thousands of boaters, fishermen, and those just looking to swim, camp, and enjoy East Tennessee's distinct seasons and temperate climate. The Cumberland Trail State Park, which stretches north to south through the state, terminates at Cumberland Gap in the national historic park and will provide approximately seventy miles of trails for strollers, hikers, bike riders, and horseback enthusiasts¹. The Claiborne County Tourism Commission recently provided support in designating the Powell River as a blueway trail to improve access onto the river for fishing and boating. A map of access points along the 114-mile stretch of waterway is now available online².

Cumberland Gap is a small-town bordering both the eastern tip of Kentucky and the southwestern tip of Virginia. It is surrounded by the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, the first great gateway pass traveled by pioneers seeking a route across the Appalachians to the west. The town's area is only .3 square miles with a 2016 estimated population of 494 citizens. It is a federally designated, national historic district. The town hosts a few facilities owned and operated by nearby Lincoln Memorial University (LMU). The quaint downtown is home to several shops and restaurants frequented by locals, tourists, and LMU students.

Although small in area, the town of Cumberland Gap has a variety of parks and recreation assets. “The Gap” is the location of two trailheads to the trail system in the national park — the Iron Furnace Trailhead and the Daniel Boone Visitor Information Center. The Iron Furnace Trailhead is the northern terminus of the Cumberland Trail State Park. A paved pathway serves as a walking/biking trail from the town, south to Harrogate and to LMU’s campus (approximately two miles). The town boasts of four separate park areas, each less than one-half acre but within easy walking distance from anywhere in town. The Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park, constructed by LMU students, provides a parking area for the adjacent Gap to LMU trail. Festival Park is nestled downtown between storefronts and Colwyn Avenue. It has an elevated stage with audience seating and is the showplace for downtown events and festivals. Russell Berkau Memorial Park, on the edge of town, also features a stage and seating, a pavilion, and restrooms. This park is the site for productions sponsored by LMU’s theatre department and for several annual events. Additionally, there is a playground and a basketball court in the front yard of the town’s city hall.

Harrogate is located just south of Cumberland Gap along US Highway 25E. The city has always been known as “Harrogate,” but did not incorporate as a city until 1992³. Harrogate is the largest of Claiborne County’s four municipalities with an area of 7.6 square miles and a 2016 estimated population of 4,388 citizens. Lincoln Memorial University (LMU), a private four-year liberal arts college, is located in the city. As of late 2017, LMU’s combined undergraduate and postgraduate population numbered 4,770 students, and its combined academic administrative staff totaled over 400 personnel⁴.

In 1995, the city of Harrogate and LMU entered into a 15-year lease agreement for 20 acres of land to be developed into a city park. The agreement expired at the end of 2010 and was not renewed. Portions of this park have been redeveloped for use by LMU, but there are amenities still available to the general public. These amenities include a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, multi-age playground equipment, a pavilion, an ADA accessible restroom and walking paths, and a splashpad. The park, located on State Route 63 close to the LMU campus, has adequate ADA compliant parking.

Since the end of 2010, Harrogate has purchased 16 acres for the development of a new park on Pigeon Forge Road. The City is currently in the process of developing the facility. The rough grading is in place for a future soccer field, a baseball field; a playground area, and parking. ADA compliant parking and a concession/restroom building have been constructed. Finished grading and turf seeding for the soccer field will occur this spring (2018). The City has plans to complete most of the parks amenities in the next five years and to finish construction of the park within the ten-year planning period.

New Tazewell, the southernmost municipality in Claiborne County, is located along US Highway 255. The town encompasses 5.3 square miles, with an estimated 2016 population of 2,767 citizens⁵. New Tazewell was founded in the 1880s as a result of the railroad between Knoxville and Cumberland Gap’s decision to locate a depot two miles west of Tazewell. The town of New Tazewell was incorporated in 1954 and is governed by a mayor and board of aldermen. A parks and recreation advisory board assists the town with decision concerning the town’s only park, the 14-acre C.W. Gose Municipal Park.

The C.W. Gose Park is the most popular park facility in the county, due in part to the fact that it is the location of the only public pool in Claiborne County. The park’s main entrance is on State Route 33, and there is a secondary entrance on Snodgrass Road. The park is laid out in an “L”-shaped configuration with a parking area near each entrance and one in the middle of the park to provide parking close to all amenities. The pool is located near the main entrance. A large, regulation ballfield is in the middle of the park. The Snodgrass Road entrance provides easy accessibility to a large parking lot and family recreation facilities such as basketball courts, tennis courts, restrooms, and concessions near the large baseball and T-ball field, picnic pavilions, and playgrounds. A pathway

meanders through the family activity area to a stage on the rear of the large ballfield's outfield. The outfield doubles as an audience area for the stage. There is another ballfield and pavilion near the pool along with a pool house/lockers/restroom/concession building. The park is maintained by the town's four full-time street department employees and two seasonal part-time employees. Downtown has two passive parks of less than one acre each with benches.

Tazewell is the county seat of Claiborne County and the location of the county courthouse. Located along highway US 25E in the middle of the county. The town was chosen as the county seat in 1804, three years after the creation of Claiborne County (Holt, *Claiborne County*, 1012). Tazewell is 4.4 square miles in area with a 2016 estimated population of 2,281 citizens⁵. The town has a mayor and council form of local government. The mayor appoints members to the park and recreation committee with affirmation of the city council.

Tazewell Municipal Park, the town's one recreational park, covers almost eighteen acres and is located on Richardson Street, just a few blocks west of State Route 33. The rectangular site opens from the entrance to a large parking area. Most amenities are situated at the end of the parking area. These include a pavilion with several picnic tables, a gazebo, a playground, a basketball court, a tennis court, and a restroom/concession building. There is also one baseball/softball field at the far end of the park. Also, a paved walking trail wraps along the outer perimeter of the park and around the parking area. At nearly one mile in length, the trail is the park's most popular feature.

There is also a gently sloping bank just east of the parking area, a perfect location for a future amphitheater and stage. The park is maintained by the public works department. The town also has two passive, pocket parks, each on vacant downtown lots of less than one acre. Rose Park on Hardin Street has a pavilion and picnic table. Cardwell Park on Main Street has granite benches.

1.4 Other Planning Studies Consulted

Several other planning studies have provided guidance and insight during the planning process. The documents and efforts were valuable tools during the development of the Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan include:

- *Norris Reservoir Land Management Plan*, September 2001, Tennessee Valley Authority
- *Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan*, 2015, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
- *Tennessee State Parks Business and Management Plan*, March 2013, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- *Tennessee 2020, Vision for Parks, People, and Landscapes, Status Review and Update*, 2015 – 2020, November 2016, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- *Great Eastern Trail Concept Plan*, October 2009, Great Eastern Trail Association
- *Tennessee 2020, Vision for Parks, People, and Landscapes*, 2009, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, July 2010, U.S. National Park Service

2 Executive Summary

Claiborne County has historically valued and utilized its natural assets to further recreational opportunities for its residents. Construction of the Cumberland Trail began in the 1960s, with the ambitious goal of providing a path from the Cumberland Gap Historical Park on the Virginia/Tennessee border to the Tennessee River Gorge on the Tennessee/Alabama/Georgia border. This trail has already had 221 miles constructed, and when complete, it will travel more than fifteen miles through Claiborne County. The 24,500-acre Cumberland Gap National Historical Park on the northern end of the county provides many events throughout the year and has almost seventy miles of hiking trails that are well used by the county's residents and visitors alike. The scenic Powell River flows 114 miles through northeastern Tennessee and is one of two rivers feeding the Norris Reservoir. The Powell River Tourism Committee of the Claiborne County Tourism Commission is endeavoring to create a Powell River blueway trail that provides adequate access points for fishing and paddling along the river's length. The shores of Norris Lake lie along the southern edge of Claiborne County, providing access to a variety of boating, fishing, and camping activities that are enjoyed by both residents and visitors from outside the region.

In 2017, Claiborne County was awarded a Parks and Recreation Master Plan Grant and hired a consulting team to assist its communities with the development of a ten-year parks and recreation master plan. Since the summer, the County and consulting team have taken a systematic approach to evaluating parks in the county and its cities and to developing strategies ensuring that their park and recreation assets continue to play a vital role in their future. The ultimate goal is to create a plan that will guide Claiborne County, the towns of Cumberland Gap, New Tazewell, and Tazewell, and the city of Harrogate in prioritizing future needs, improvements to existing facilities and programs, and financing strategies to maintain and improve their park and recreation resources.

An extensive public input process was initiated in the early stages of the plan. As part of this input process, a community-wide survey was undertaken; two public input workshops were conducted to discuss results of the survey and to gather more input; and interviews were conducted with stakeholders, civic organizations, and the local government's staffs. Comparisons to other similarly-sized communities in Tennessee and across the nation were conducted. The information from these steps in the planning process became the basis for a needs assessment to determine existing and future needs at the parks. The assessment included a prioritization of improvements to be made in the short term, medium term, and long term within the next ten years. The plan elements were then graphically depicted in draft concept plans for city and town parks. These draft concept plans were presented to the public at a draft plan presentation meeting, and participants were asked for their input on the suggested elements of the plans. Once these suggested elements in the draft plans had been confirmed, the consulting team determined probable costs associated with these plan elements. An analysis was made of each government's financial capability to fund the planned improvements, and strategies were developed for how to best utilize existing resources, grant opportunities, and long-term debt. An evaluation was also made of existing programs, organizational structure, and management capabilities. All these elements were examined and culminated in the final recommendations of the plan.

The recommendations of this plan have the overall goal of maintaining and improving parks and recreational facilities within Claiborne County to provide leisure time and active recreation for the county and its cities. The recommendations provided are for both physical improvements and organizational, management, and long-term maintenance improvements. The recommendations can be grouped into two categories:

Physical Improvements

- All parks and recreation facilities in the communities should become ADA compliant in the next ten years.

- Additional trails for walking and biking were a priority need expressed by citizens during the planning process. The cities should continue to explore potential trail corridors throughout the county with a particular focus on connections between parks and schools.
- Boating and fishing were also key priorities presented by citizens during the planning process. The county and cities should support efforts such as the Powell River Blueway Trail Project that provide improved access points and visibility to the Powell River.
- If each community installs or constructs improvements as indicated in the ten-year plans, each city's parks will be at capacity for providing new amenities. Each community should consider either expansion of existing facilities or creating new park locations in the future.

Programming, Organizational, and Long-Term Maintenance:

- The County should consider developing a countywide 501(c)(3) organization such as a *Sports Foundation* that could represent all entities in the county and provide an organizational structure to pursue funding, donations, and fundraising for projects throughout the county.
- The jurisdictions should consider formalizing their internal parks and recreation, and their capacity for delivering parks and recreation services to the public. The State is encouraging the use of two tools by communities to achieve this goal. The first is the benchmarking process in which a community undergoes a self-evaluation of organizational structure, parks and recreation management, and the delivery of quality recreational services developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and endorsed by the State of Tennessee. The second is the utilization of joint-use agreements – documents that formalize the shared use of recreational resources and ensure long-term access to park and recreational assets. More information on the benchmarking process is available on the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's website⁶ and a template for joint-use agreements is available on the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association website.⁷
- As more park and recreation amenities are installed and constructed, local government should keep pace with increased operation and maintenance budgetary needs to ensure investments are adequately maintained and parks will continue to be inviting and safe for the public.

3 Existing Conditions

3.1 Demographics

The demographics of an area have an impact on the use of park and recreation facilities and the need for new or changing facilities in the future. For example, if a population is aging, a plan for park and recreation improvements should provide for the needs of an older population. Presented below are population trends and projections, age and education, employment and income, and housing characteristics for Cumberland Gap, Harrogate, New Tazewell, and Tazewell. Unless otherwise indicated, all demographic information presented below was collected from the U.S. Census⁸.

Cumberland Gap

The 2016 estimated population of the town of Cumberland Gap was 385 citizens. The town covers an area of 0.3 square miles. Therefore, the population density is 1,283 persons per square mile. The population is comprised of an estimated 84% Caucasian, 5% African American, 0% Native American, 7% Asian, 0% from other races, and 1% two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race comprise 3% of the population⁸.

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population of Cumberland Gap increased 93% from 199 to 385. Over the same eight years, estimated statewide population grew by 4%, and the estimated nationwide population grew by 6%. According to researchers at the University of Tennessee, over the ten-year period from 2016 through 2025, the population of Cumberland Gap is projected to decrease by 39% to a population of 2339⁹. Over the same period, the statewide population is projected to grow by 9%, and the national population is projected to grow by 5%⁸.

Between 2007 and 2016, the estimated median age in Cumberland Gap decreased from 39 to 26. Estimated statewide and nationwide median age in 2016 was 38 years⁸.

| Cumberland Gap Population and Age | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|
| | Cumberland Gap | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Population growth, 2009–2016 | 93% | 4% | 6% |
| % Population growth, 2016–2025 | -39% | 9% | 5% |
| Estimated median age (2016) | 26 yrs. | 38 yrs. | 38 yrs. |

A large majority (93%) of the adult population in Cumberland Gap aged 25 and older had at least a high school education. In addition, the portion of those who have at least an associate degree in Cumberland Gap (74%) is higher than the portion who have at least an associate degree statewide (53%) or nationally (59%). Between 2009 and 2016, employment decreased by about 27% in Cumberland Gap. Over the same period, employment decreased by about 2% both statewide and nationwide. Estimated household incomes in Cumberland Gap decreased slightly between 2009 and 2016 (-1.3%). Over this same period, statewide and nationwide household incomes grew by an estimated 8%⁸.

| Cumberland Gap Education, Employment, and Income | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|------|
| | Cumberland Gap | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Obtained associate degree or higher | 73% | 53% | 59% |
| Employment change 2009-2016 | -27% | -2% | -2% |
| Household income change 2009-2016 | -1.3% | 8% | 8% |

Median home values in Cumberland Gap increased by an estimated \$48,000 over the last eight years, while statewide, median home values increased by \$17,500. New home construction in Cumberland Gap has been at a moderate rate of five (5) new houses per year over the last eight years⁸. The current administration has not indicated a desire for any annexations within the foreseeable future.

Harrogate

The estimated population of the city of Harrogate in 2016 was 4,364. Harrogate covers an area of 7.6 square miles. Therefore, the population density is 574 persons per square mile. The population is comprised of an estimated 92% Caucasian, 4% African American, 0% Native American, 2% Asian, 0% from other races, and 1% two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race comprise 1% of the population⁸.

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population of Harrogate increased 10% from 3,963 to 4,364. Over the same eight-years, estimated statewide population grew by 4%, and the estimated nationwide population grew by 6%. According to researchers at the University of Tennessee, over the ten-year period from 2016 through 2025, the population of Harrogate is projected to increase by another 1% to a population of 4,386⁹. Over the same period, the statewide population is projected to grow by 9%, and the national population is projected to grow by 5%. Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated median age in Harrogate decreased from 44 to 41. Estimated statewide and nationwide median age in 2016 was 38 years⁸.

| Harrogate Population and Age | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | Harrogate | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Population growth, 2009–2016 | 10% | 4% | 6% |
| % Population growth, 2016–2025 | 1% | 9% | 5% |
| Estimated median age (2016) | 41 yrs. | 38 yrs. | 38 yrs. |

A large majority (88%) of the adult population in Harrogate aged 25 and older had at least a high school education. However, the portion of those who have at least an associate degree in Harrogate (33%) is lower than the portion who have at least an associate degree statewide (53%), or nationally (59%). Between 2009 and 2016, employment decreased by about 3% in Harrogate. Over the same period, employment decreased by about 2% statewide and nationwide. Household incomes in Harrogate grew faster than they did at the statewide level, increasing an estimated 19% between 2009 and 2016. Over this same period, statewide and nationwide household incomes grew by an estimated 8%⁸.

| Harrogate Education, Employment, and Income | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------|
| | Harrogate | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Obtained associate degree or higher | 34% | 53% | 59% |
| Employment change 2009-2016 | -3% | -2% | -2% |
| Household income change 2009-2016 | 19% | 8% | 8% |

New Tazewell

The estimated population of the city of New Tazewell in 2016 was 2,789. New Tazewell covers an area of 5.3 square miles. Therefore, the population density is 526 persons per square mile. The population is comprised of an estimated 90% Caucasian, 1% African American, 0.4% Native American, 0% Asian, 0% from other races, and 7% two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race comprise 1% of the population⁸.

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population of New Tazewell decreased 2% from 2,859 to 2,789. Over the same eight years, estimated statewide population grew by 4%, and the estimated nationwide population grew by 6%. According to researchers at the University of Tennessee, over the ten-year period from 2016 through 2025, the population of New Tazewell is projected to increase by 5% to a population of 2,607⁹. Over the same period, the statewide population is projected to grow by 9%, and the national population is projected to grow by 5%. Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated median age in New Tazewell increased from 47 to 52 years of age. Estimated statewide and nationwide median age in 2016 was 38 years⁸.

| New Tazewell Population and Age | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | New Tazewell | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Population growth, 2009–2016 | -2% | 4% | 6% |
| % Population growth, 2016–2025 | 16% | 9% | 5% |
| Estimated median age (2016) | 52 yrs. | 38 yrs. | 38 yrs. |

A large majority (67%) of the adult population in New Tazewell aged 25 and older had at least a high school education. However, the portion of those who have at least an associate degree in New Tazewell (12%) is lower than the portion who have at least an associate degree statewide (53%), or nationally (59%). Between 2009 and 2016, employment decreased by about 14% in New Tazewell. Over the same period, employment decreased by about 2% statewide. Household incomes in New Tazewell decreased by 29% between 2009 and 2016, compared to the nationwide and statewide growth of 8% over that same period⁸.

| New Tazewell Education, Employment, and Income | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|------|
| | Harrogate | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Obtained associate degree or higher | 12% | 53% | 59% |
| Employment change 2009-2016 | -14% | -2% | -2% |
| Household income change 2009-2016 | -29% | 8% | 8% |

Median home values in New Tazewell increased by an estimated \$4,600 over the last eight years, while statewide, median home values increased by \$17,500. The housing stock in New Tazewell decreased at a rate of nine units per year over the last eight years⁸. The current administration has not indicated a desire for any annexations within the foreseeable future.

Tazewell

The estimated population of the city of Tazewell in 2016 was 2,069. Tazewell covers an area of 4.4 square miles. Therefore, the population density is 470 persons per square mile. The population is comprised of an estimated 96% Caucasian, 2% African American, 0.2% Native American, 0% Asian, 0% from other races, and 1% two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race comprise 0.5% of the population⁸.

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population of Tazewell decreased 6% from 2,198 to 2,069. Over the same eight-years, estimated statewide population grew by 4%, and the estimated nationwide population grew by 6%. According to researchers at the University of Tennessee, over the ten-year period from 2016 through 2025, the population of Tazewell is projected to increase by 9% to a population of 2,247⁹. Over the same period, the statewide population is projected to grow by 9%, and the national population is projected to grow by 5%.

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated median age in Tazewell increased from 41 to 43 years of age. Estimated statewide and nationwide median age in 2016 was 38 years⁸.

| Tazewell Population and Age | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | New Tazewell | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Population growth, 2009–2016 | -2% | 4% | 6% |
| % Population growth, 2016–2025 | 16% | 9% | 5% |
| Estimated median age (2016) | 52 yrs. | 38 yrs. | 38 yrs. |

A large majority (76%) of the adult population in Tazewell aged 25 and older had at least a high school education. However, the portion of those who have at least an associate degree in Tazewell (17%) is lower than the portion who have at least an associate degree statewide (53%), or nationally (59%). Between 2009 and 2016, employment decreased by about 1% in Tazewell. Over the same period, employment decreased by about 2% statewide.

Household incomes in Tazewell increased by an estimated 32% between 2009 and 2016, compared to the nationwide and statewide growth of 8% over that same period⁸.

| Tazewell Education, Employment, and Income | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|------|
| | Harrogate | Tennessee | U.S. |
| % Obtained associate degree or higher | 17% | 53% | 59% |
| Employment change 2009-2016 | -1% | -2% | -2% |
| Household income change 2009-2016 | 32% | 8% | 8% |

Median home values in Tazewell increased by an estimated \$3,700 over the last eight years, while statewide, median home values increased by \$17,500. The housing stock in Tazewell decreased at a rate of 22 units per year

over the last eight years. The current administration has not indicated a desire for any annexations within the foreseeable future⁸.

3.2 Regional Context

Located in northeastern Tennessee, Claiborne County is on the Kentucky and Virginia border. The county's municipalities are connected by US Route 25E and State Route 33. The town of Cumberland Gap and the city of Harrogate are located north of the Powell River that bisects the county, flowing from east to west. The towns of New Tazewell and Tazewell are adjoining communities that are located south of the river. Of the estimated 31,757 persons living in Claiborne County, approximately one third (31.2%) or 9,930 citizens reside in the four cities. There are many outdoor recreation assets within, adjacent to, or only a short distance from Claiborne County.

Portions of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park lie within the county or just north of it in southeastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia. The Cumberland Trail State Park's northernmost trailhead is in the town of Cumberland Gap. The county's two waterways, the Powell River and Norris Lake, are popular attractions for boaters, canoers, kayakers, and fishermen.



Big Ridge State Park is located less than ten miles south of the county and provides numerous assets for

outdoor enjoyment and one of eastern Tennessee's most visited lakes. The Cumberland Gap National Historical Park was authorized by Congress in 1940 to commemorate the story of the nation's first gateway to the west. The park presently includes 24,531 acres. Almost 70 miles of hiking trails wind through deciduous forest at distances ranging from a quarter-mile loop trail

to the 21-mile long Ridge Trail.

The Daniel Boone Visitor Information Center is located at the edge of the historic town of Cumberland Gap. The park's attractions include campfire programs, hikes, walks, horseback trails, and tours of Gap Cave and early pioneer settlements¹. A question asked in the community-wide survey during the planning process was "Other than city and county parks in Claiborne County, what other parks and recreation activities does your family do in our region?" The most common response was hiking/walking in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.



The Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail, designated as a state park in 1998, is Tennessee’s first linear park, traversing eleven counties through Tennessee, and once completed, will travel 282 miles from Cumberland Gap State Park to the Tennessee River Gorge. This trail can be accessed at its junction with thirteen major parks and wilderness areas, including Cove Lake State Park.

Construction of this trail began in the 1960s. Of the 210+ miles of the trail have been completed, three miles run through Claiborne County. The Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation created to acquire funding, to build, and to promote the trail, hosts many volunteer events throughout the year.

Overnight wilderness camping is allowed along the length of the park, although some trailheads require permits for overnight parking. The Cumberland Trail will also form a link in the Great Eastern Trail currently being developed from Alabama to New York to take pressure off the Appalachian Trail¹⁰.

The Powell River flows from east to west across Claiborne County before feeding into the Norris Reservoir. The 114 miles of the river in northeastern Tennessee are popular among paddlers and fishermen

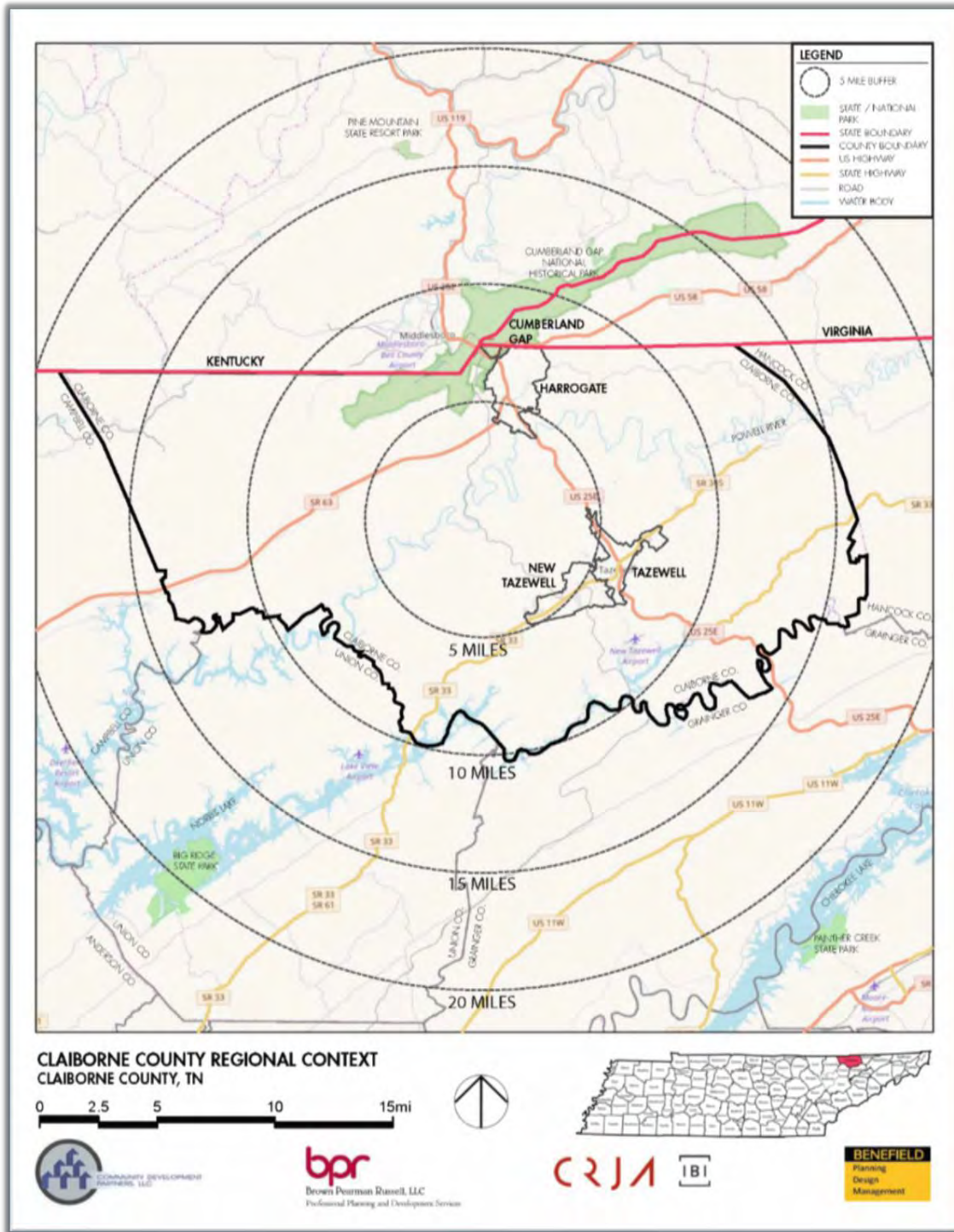
alike. The Powell River and the nearby Clinch River are the two largest free flowing rivers in Tennessee, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has described the Powell River as “one of the most biologically diverse rivers in the temperate climate anywhere in the world.” One can paddle for miles without seeing any dwellings and often, not even other paddlers¹¹.

Norris Lake is the closest and most popular body of water in the area. The lake contains over twenty marinas which provide a variety of amenities and recreational opportunities, including campsites, ski boats, fishing boats, pontoon boats, as well as party barge and jet ski rentals. Restaurants overlooking the lake provide accommodations for these parties and special events throughout the year¹².

Big Ridge State Park, less than ten miles southwest of Claiborne County, was one of the parks developed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), as a demonstration project along TVA lakeshores. Big Ridge contains more than fifteen miles of hiking trails, ranging from easy to very rugged. The park also provides fifty campsites on or near the shore of Norris Lake that can accommodate RVs, trailers, and tent campers. It also has available eighteen screened-in bunkhouses.

Backcountry camping the park is allowed with a permit. In addition to hiking and camping, the park offers lake swimming areas, volleyball courts, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, a basketball court, and a softball field. The Bluegrass at Big Ridge music festival – a celebration of Appalachian music, art, craft, and cuisine – has taken place at the park for more than thirty years¹³.

Figure 3.1 Regional Context



3.3 Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

This section contains an inventory and description of the existing public recreation facilities in Claiborne County. The following tables provide a listing of the facilities in county along with the acreage for each facility and the total

acreage for parks and recreation facilities in the county. Figure 3.2 shows the locations of the existing facilities in Claiborne County.

| Town of Cumberland Gap Parks | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|
| Location | Acreage | Facilities |
| Festival Park | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elevated stage • seating |
| Kaitlyn Devries Memorial Dog Park | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large dog area • small dog area • pavilion • scattered benches |
| Recreation at City Hall | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swing set • basketball court |
| Russell Berkau Memorial Park | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elevated state • pavilion with grills and seating • restrooms • benches |



View from Cumberland Gap Overlook

| City of Harrogate Parks | | |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| Location | Acreage | Facilities |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|--|
| Harrogate Sports Park | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restroom/concessions/seating building • ADA parking • soccer field (under construction) • playground (under construction) • small ballfield (under construction) • large ballfield (under construction) |
|-----------------------|----|--|



Harrogate Sports Park Playground



Harrogate Sports Park Path



Harrogate Sports Park Picnic Pavilion

| Town of New Tazewell Parks | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Location | Acreage | Facilities |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|--|
| C.W. Gose Park | 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor pool • pool house/lockers/restroom/concessions building • large ballfield • small ballfield • T-ballfield • basketball court • tennis court • restrooms/concessions at ballfields • picnic pavilions • playgrounds • stage • paved walking path |
| Veterans Memorial Park | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seating • memorial walk |
| Gas Station Restoration | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restored historic gas/filling station |

C.W. Gose Park Pool

C.W. Gose Park Playground



Town of Tazewell Parks

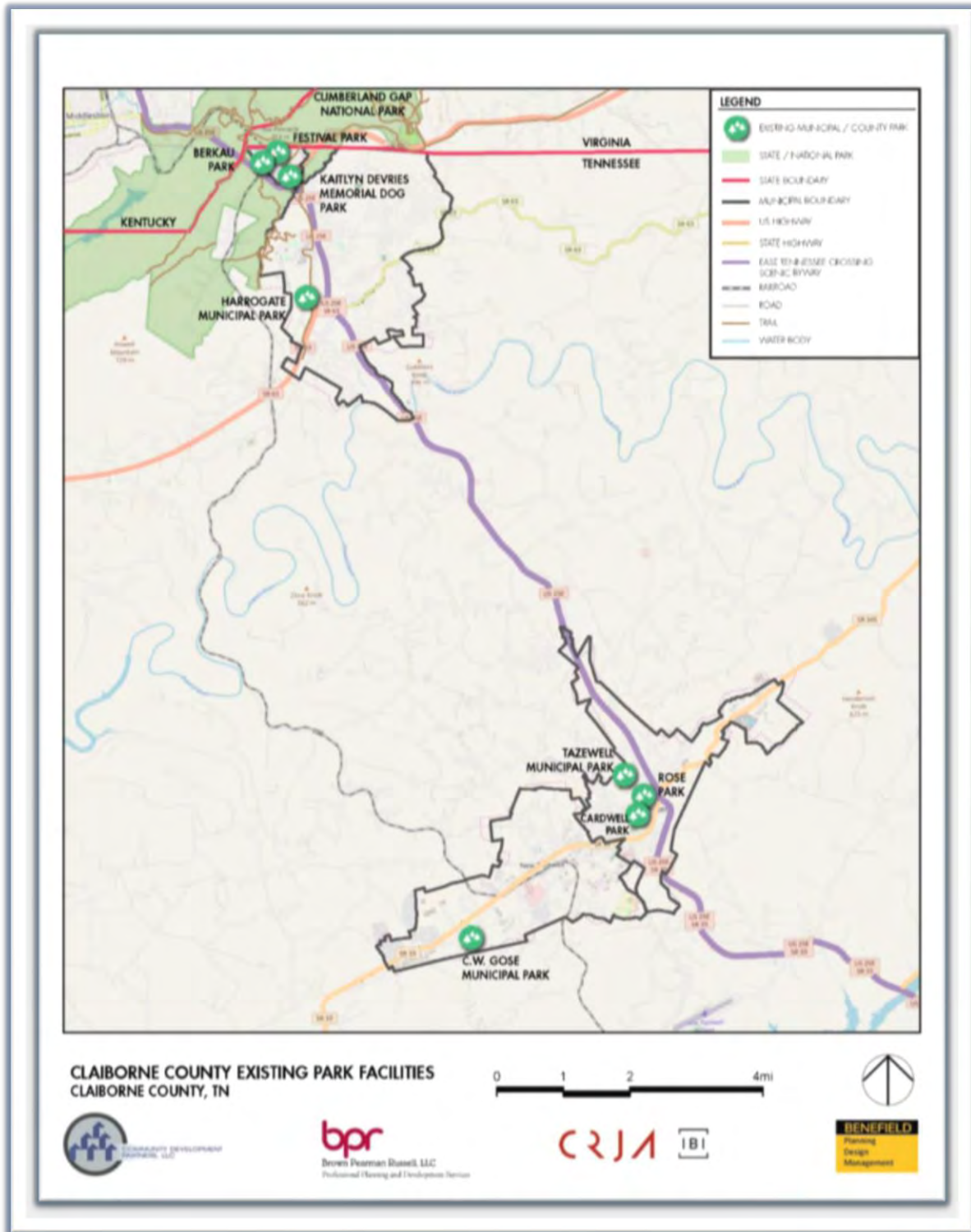
| Location | Acreage | Facilities |
|----------|---------|------------|
|----------|---------|------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|
| Tazewell Municipal Park | 17.73 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 picnic tables located at the pavilion • gazebo with built-in table* • 2 bleachers for ballfield • 1 small alumni bleachers • playground equipment* • basketball goals and posts • 16 granite benches* • Playground • basketball court* • tennis court* • baseball/softball field • walking trail |
| Rose Park | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pavilion • picnic table |
| Cardwell Park | <1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • granite benches • 10 rows of aluminum benches |



Rose Park

Figure 3.2 Public Facilities



3.4 Programs and Community Events

Parks, recreation facilities, programs and community events are key factors in strengthening community image and creating a sense of place. The following is a comprehensive list of the programs and events offered in Claiborne County:

Recreational Programs

- Tennessee District 6 Little League Baseball and Softball
- AYSO Region 551 Soccer
- AYSO Coed Adult Soccer

Tennessee District 6 Little League Baseball and Softball covers all of East Tennessee, bringing together teams from Scott, Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Union, Knox, Blount, Monroe, and McMinn Counties. The organization hosts softball and baseball teams for ages seven through twelve, as well as senior baseball and softball leagues.

Tournaments are played at Claiborne County High School in Tazewell, at C.W. Gose Park in New Tazewell, and at LMU's ballfields in Harrogate, as well as several other locations outside of the county.¹⁴

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 551 is a youth soccer organization that has provided organized league play in the tri-state area where Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia meet for over thirty years. Games are played in Middlesboro, KY and at the Heritage Christian Academy in New Tazewell. AYSO also provides adult coed soccer leagues in the tri-state area, open to anyone aged eighteen and older. In 2017, games were held at the Heritage Christian Academy in New Tazewell.¹⁵

Community Events

Community events are held across the region and throughout the year in Claiborne County. A number of these special events – particularly the sports events and music festivals – draw in visitors from outside the county and the state.

The communities in Claiborne County hold many events through the year, including:

- The White Lightning Trail Festival in Cumberland Gap in June
- Genealogy Jamboree in Cumberland Gap
- Duck Race in October to raise money for the Cumberland Gap Fire Dept. and Servolution Health Services
- Civil War reenactments in downtown Cumberland Gap in April
- Med-Wars, a hands-on wilderness medicine adventure race
- Harrogate's Labor Day celebration at Harrogate City Park
- The Powell River Kayak & Canoe Regatta in April
- Glow Run 5K in New Tazewell in October
- Harvest Fest in New Tazewell in October
- Annual Chili Cook-off at Tazewell Municipal Park in September
- The Claiborne County Fair at the Jaycees Fairgrounds in Tazewell

The White Lightning Trail Festival is a celebration of folk life and Appalachian culture held in venues across Cumberland Gap annually in June. The festival includes a beauty pageant, a car show, a 5K walk/run and a quilt show.

The Powell River Kayak & Canoe Regatta is a twelve-mile race that drew over eighty participants from across the country in 2017, competing in nine different events. The events begin at the Well-being Retreat Center in Tazewell and end at Riverside Boat Rentals in Harrogate¹⁶.

Harvest Fest in New Tazewell is hosted by Claiborne County Tourism, and brings together arts and crafts, food vendors, live entertainment, costume contests, and more to the streets of New Tazewell in October.

Events at the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Lincoln Memorial University (LMU), and Walters State Community College also provide activities and draw visitors throughout the year.

3.5 Administration, Budgeting, and Management

Cumberland Gap

Administration

The town of Cumberland Gap is administered by a board comprised of a mayor and six aldermen. The Board is responsible for all policies and procedures relating to parks and recreation in Cumberland Gap. The Board allocates funding for parks in the form of a recreation appropriation every year that pays for wages, repairs, maintenance, and park development.

Budgeting

In 2017, towns with similar-sized populations to Cumberland Gap (1,000 or less) spent a median of \$23 per capita on operations and maintenance (O&M) of parks and recreation. The budget for parks and recreation in Cumberland Gap was examined to make a meaningful comparison with this figure. In 2015, Cumberland Gap spent \$5,809 on parks and recreation O&M. Over the last three years, Cumberland Gap’s budget for parks and recreation increased 10%. In 2017, Cumberland Gap spent \$6,409 on O&M for its parks and recreation, representing a budget of \$17 per capita.

| Cumberland Gap Parks and Recreation Operations and Maintenance | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Recreation Budget | \$ 3,485 | \$ 4,462% | \$ 3,384 |
| Highways & Streets — Repairs & Maintenance (20%) | \$ 2,324 | \$ 2,531 | \$ 3,025 |
| Parks and Recreation O&M Budget | \$ 5,809 | \$ 6,893 | \$ 6,409 |

Management

In Cumberland Gap, operational activities of parks and recreational facilities are carried out by seasonal, part-time Town employees and the repairs and maintenance personnel of the Town’s Highways and Streets Department, who spend about 20% of their time on regular park maintenance activities.

Harrogate

Administration

Administration of the city of Harrogate is the responsibility of a board comprised of a mayor and three aldermen. The City has a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that includes one representative from Lincoln Memorial University (LMU), four citizen representatives and a representative from the City's board. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets monthly to review all recreational facilities and activities and provide recommendations to the City's board on policies and procedures related to parks and recreation.

Budgeting

In 2017, communities of a similar size to Harrogate (5,000 or less) spent a median of \$23 per capita on O&M of parks and recreation. In 2015, Harrogate spent \$78,654 on parks and recreation O&M. Over the last three years, Harrogate's budget for O&M of its parks and recreation increased 39%. In 2017, the City spent \$109,345 on parks and recreation O&M, representing an operating budget of \$25 per capita.

| Harrogate Parks and Recreation Operations and Maintenance | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| City Parks and Recreation | \$ 35,053 | \$ 36,455 | \$ 58,182 |
| Maintenance Salaries | \$ 43,602 | \$ 56,094 | \$ 51,163 |
| Parks and Recreation O&M Budget | \$ 78,654 | \$ 92,548 | \$ 109,345 |

Management

In Harrogate, management of parks and recreation is carried out under the authority of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the direction of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Three employees from the city's General Maintenance Department utilize 20% of their time for year-round operations and maintenance (O&M) of the city's parks and recreation. During the baseball/softball season, one of the three employees works full time to manage the city's parks and recreation programs and facilities.

Tazewell

Administration

The town of Tazewell is administered by a board comprised of a mayor and six aldermen. The town has a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board comprised of five board members elected from Tazewell's resident population. A town employee is appointed as a non-voting secretary to keep minutes for the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board produces policies and budgets for all parks and recreation facilities and activities in Tazewell. All policies, funding, and expenditures are presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, who retain the right to overrule any final decisions on parks and recreation in Tazewell.

Budgeting

In 2017, towns with similar sized populations to Tazewell (5,000 or less) spent a median of \$23 per capita on operations and maintenance (O&M) of parks and recreation. The budget for parks and recreation in Tazewell was

examined to make a meaningful comparison with this figure. In 2015, Tazewell spent \$102,829 on O&M of parks and recreation facilities. Between 2015 and 2017, the town’s budget for parks and recreation O&M decreased 8%. In 2017, Tazewell spent \$95,030 on parks and recreation O&M, representing an operating budget of \$46 per capita.

| Tazewell Parks and Recreation Operations and Maintenance | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Parks, Health, Education & Welfare | \$ 81,842 | \$ 77,618 | \$ 73,701 |
| Public Works Department Labor (25%) | \$ 20,987 | \$ 21,136 | \$ 21,329 |
| Parks and Recreation O&M Budget | \$ 102,829 | \$ 98,754 | \$ 95,030 |

Management

In the city of Tazewell, management of parks and recreation is carried out under the authority of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and direction of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Employees from the town’s Public Works Department utilize an estimated 25% of their time on year-round operations and maintenance (O&M) of the city’s parks and recreation programs and facilities.

New Tazewell

Administration

The town of New Tazewell is administered by a board comprised of a mayor and six aldermen. The town’s Recreation Advisory Board is comprised of five board members elected from New Tazewell’s resident population. The Recreation Advisory Board meets quarterly to study and discuss matters relating to the development, maintenance and use of recreation facilities and make recommendations to the New Tazewell Board of Mayor and Aldermen on these matters.

Budgeting

In 2017, towns with similar sized populations to New Tazewell (5,000 or less) spent a median of \$23 per capita on operations and maintenance (O&M) of parks and recreation. The budget for parks and recreation in New Tazewell was examined to make a meaningful comparison with this figure. In 2015, New Tazewell spent \$97,429 for O&M of parks and recreation facilities. Between 2015 and 2017, the town’s budget for parks and recreation O&M increased 14%. In 2017, New Tazewell budgeted \$134,150 on parks and recreation O&M, representing an operating budget of \$48 per capita.

| New Tazewell Parks and Recreation Operations and Maintenance | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Parks and Recreation O&M Budget | \$ 97,429 | \$ 80,2291 | \$ 134,150 |

Management

In the town of New Tazewell, management of facilities is overseen by city staff under the oversight of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, as budgeted in the Parks and Pools budget.

Region-Wide Budget

Many of the park and recreation facilities in Claiborne County are shared among the residents of the four communities, as well as the residents of unincorporated areas. To understand the full budget for O&M in the county, the combined budgets for parks and recreation in Cumberland Gap, Harrogate, New Tazewell and Tazewell for the last three years were also examined. In 2015, the four jurisdictions spent a combined \$284,721 on parks and recreation O&M. Over the last three years, the combined budget for parks and recreation in the four counties increased 21%. In 2017, the four jurisdictions budgeted \$344,934 for parks and recreation O&M, representing an operating budget of \$11 per capita. While the combined budget for parks and recreation O&M in Claiborne County is considerably lower than the median for similar sized communities in Tennessee (40,000 or less), the budgets evaluated do not consider the resources spent by the State and Federal government to fund parks in the county, such as the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park or the Cumberland Trail Scenic Trail State Park.

| Parks and Recreation Operation and Management Costs | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | O&M per Capita Cost | O&M per Capita Cost in Similar Communities |
| Cumberland Gap | \$ 5,809 | \$ 6,893 | \$ 6,409 | \$ 17 | \$ 23 |
| Harrogate | \$ 78,654 | \$ 92,548 | \$ 109,345 | \$ 25 | \$ 23 |
| Tazewell | \$ 102,829 | \$ 98,754 | \$ 95,030 | \$ 46 | \$ 23 |
| New Tazewell | \$ 97,429 | \$ 80,291 | \$ 134,150 | \$ 48 | \$ 23 |
| Combined Jurisdictions | \$ 284,721 | \$ 278,487 | \$ 344,934 | \$ 11 | \$ 115 |

4 Public Input

4.1 Citizen Survey Results

In October and November 2017, a public survey was posted online and in various public locations to collect public feedback for the *Claiborne County Parks and Recreation Ten-Year Master Plan*. The survey asked respondents about existing parks and recreation facilities and activities. The survey also asked questions regarding preferences for future facilities and programs. Collectively, over 175 responses were received to the survey. The following is a list of major survey findings:

Parks and Recreation Site Usage

Of the parks and recreation facilities in Claiborne County, the sites that survey respondents reported using most often are C.W. Gose Municipal Park (31%), Berkau Park (27%), Tazewell Municipal Park (13%), and Cumberland Gap Town Hall Park/Festival Park facilities (12%).

Satisfaction with Existing Facilities

Of the survey participants, the majority reported that they were either *satisfied* or *very satisfied* (56%) with the existing parks and recreation facilities and activities in Claiborne County, and most respondents thought the parks and recreation facilities were accessible to all citizens no matter their age, race, religion, national origin, or physical ability.

Desired Improvements to the Parks and Recreation System

Respondents were asked to prioritize facilities and activities they would like to see provided by Parks and Recreation. The highest priorities were playgrounds and activities for small children (38%), open spaces and trails (21%), and teen athletics programs (16%).

Support for Actions to Improve the Parks and Recreation System

Respondents expressed their support for increasing financial methods to expand parks and recreation in Claiborne County, with about 60% indicating they either strongly agree or agree with the increasing funding, and only about 10% saying they either disagree or strongly disagree with increasing funding. The most desired funding sources were grant money, parks and recreation bond issue, and developer impact fees.

Programming

Over 60% agreed that the following activities and services are important for parks and recreation agencies to provide:

- Positive alternatives to unfavorable behavior
- Attraction for new businesses
- Positive change in personal attitude
- Increase in tourism
- Accessible places to enjoy nature
- Improved quality of life

When asked “Are there any additional activities that members of your household would like to see provided by the cities of Claiborne County?” and “Other than city parks in Claiborne County, what other parks and recreation activities does your family do in our region?”, respondents reported the following activities most often:

- Hiking
- Boating
- Bicycling
- Fishing
- Walking/running
- Festivals and music events
- Roller skating

A complete copy of the survey and a graphic display of survey responses, as well as a list of open ended responses is provided (see Appendix B).

4.2 Community Meeting Feedback

On November sixth and November fourteenth of 2017, public workshops were held at the Claiborne County Courthouse in Tazewell and Harrogate City Hall. There were thirteen participants at the workshop on the sixth and eight participants at the workshop on the fourteenth. Notifications and sign-in sheets are provided (see

Appendix C). At the workshops, the planning team presented a Power Point presentation outlining the purpose of the project, the planning process, the existing facilities that were evaluated, the status of programs and events in the community, and a summary of responses to the community wide survey.

The planning team also asked participants some key questions about existing and future facilities and programs in the county. Responses to these questions were recorded on a flip chart and placed on the walls. Answers to the questions from both meetings are as follows:

| What do you like or dislike about existing park and recreation facilities? | |
|--|--|
| Like | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General quality of parks is good |
| Dislike | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough general maintenance/upkeep • Not enough organized sports – basketball and tennis • New Tazewell park not large enough for senior league • Used to play soccer at LMU — not must travel to Middlesboro, KY to play • Not enough fields • Need more room at C.W. Gose Park |
| What new park and recreation facilities are needed? | |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements and new/expanded fields in New Tazewell • New facilities completed on the 16-acre property in Harrogate • New park in Harrogate • Harrogate Park needs new PA announcing system • Harrogate Park needs improved dugouts • More places for kids to play soccer • Synthetic fields that accommodates all sports • Lighting at C.W. Gose Park softball field |
|--|---|

| What do you like or dislike about existing park and recreation programs? | |
|---|---|
| Like | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little league enrolls 250-300 children • Church/school facilities for basketball • Boy/girl scouting programs • Car show held annually |
| Dislike | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts between little league and concert usage at parks |

| General Feedback | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support grants and fundraisers • C.W. Gose Park in New Tazewell has walking trails but no stage • Existing senior centers are in Tazewell and Harrogate • Annual National Guard Armory picnic at C.W. Gose Park |

After the public workshops, a white paper was sent out to each jurisdiction, describing the input process and public feedback received (see Appendix D).

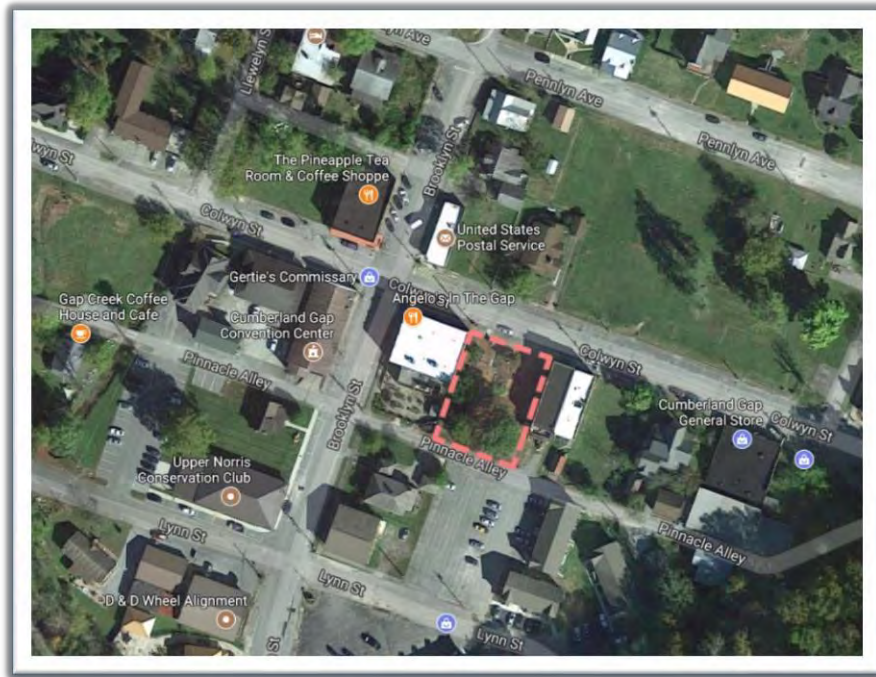
5 Needs Assessment

5.1 Existing Conditions Assessment

Cumberland Gap

Festival Park

Festival Park is in the heart of downtown Cumberland Gap. The park is mainly hardscape and used for and outdoor performances. There is limited shading, ADA accessibility, and seating. The park is situated between two buildings. Old images of the area show a lot more trees and plantings. The existing site would be more inviting with additional landscaping.



Festival Park

INFRASTRUCTURE

Festival Park

The park has one stage that is only two steps above where the spectators sit. The backdrop of the stage is the side brick face of the local pizza shop. All the pavement is brick and wood. The brick is slumped in some areas and bubbling in others. The following recommendations would enhance the park:

- Add more seating.
- Add more trees.
- Fix paving at ramp locations.
- Add more lights in the entire park.

The stage is very small and not that far off the ground. The backdrop has a window in the way and doesn't allow a lot of space for props. There is not much lighting near the stage, making night performances difficult. There could

be space for tiers to the viewing section that would allow for better visibility of the stage. The following recommendations would improve the stage:

- Raise the stage for better visibility.
- Install up lighting on the stage.

ACCESSIBILITY

- The wood is not flush with the brick in the appropriate locations, making the ramps non-ADA accessible.
- There is no ramp onto the stage.
- Provide ADA seating in the pavilion.

To bring the site up to full compliance, the following improvements are needed:

- Fix all ramps.
- Install ADA restroom facilities on or nearby the site.
- Improve connection to Pinnacle Alley.

Kaitlyn DeVries Memorial Dog Park

Kaitlyn DeVries Memorial Dog Park is tucked away on the southeast side of the city. The dog park is separated into two sections based on dog size. The park has an open space for running, obstacles for the dogs to play with, one pavilion for seating, and a few scattered benches. There is a gravel parking lot and no actual ADA path to the park. The park offers doggy bags to pick up litter and has a litter receptacle.



Kaitlyn DeVries Memorial Dog Park

INFRASTRUCTURE

The dog park has one pavilion in the bigger dog section of the park. It is in the middle of the field offering full visibility of the park. There is no paving in the parking lot or inside the park. There is no ADA accessibility. There is no restroom facility on site for dog owners. The following recommendations would enhance the park:

- Provide an ADA path from the parking lot to the pavilion.
- Provide a restroom facility on site.
- Provide a water fountain on site.

The dog park has a few obstacles for the dogs, to run, jump, and chew on. There are a variety of obstacles that are sized appropriately. The following recommendations would enhance the park:

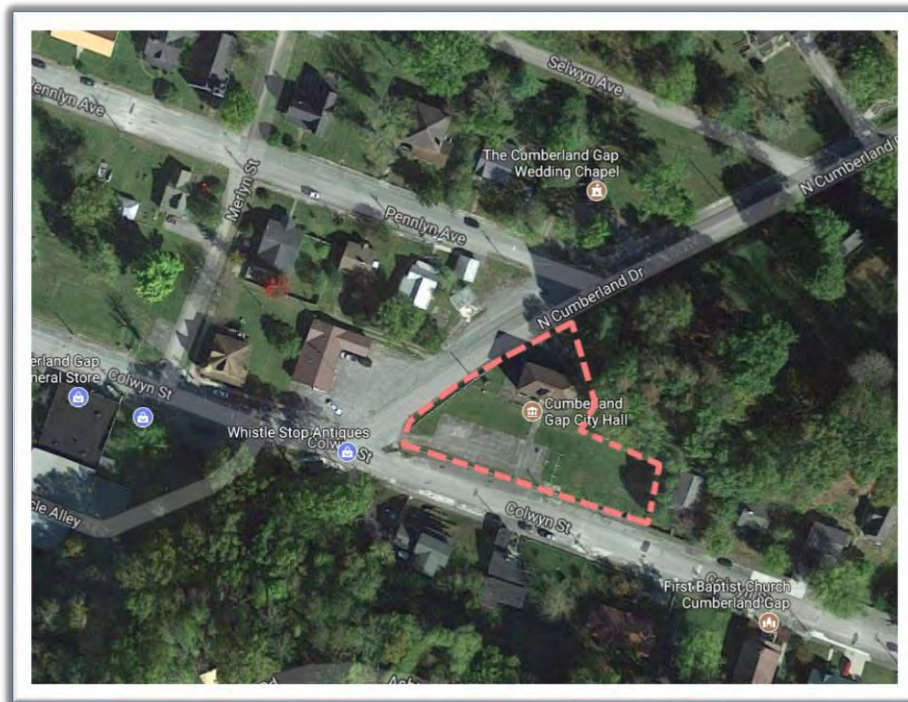
- If there is water available to the site, install a water fountain for pets and owners.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Pave the parking lot.
- Install a paved path from the parking lot to the pavilion inside the dog park.

Recreation at City Hall

The recreation amenities at this location need a major upgrade or replacement. There is a swing set in the grass and one basketball hoop in the middle of the parking lot. There is no sign indicating there is a park, and there is no other equipment.



Recreation at City Hall

INFRASTRUCTURE

The town needs to replace the swing set and the basketball goal. The goal needs to be relocated out of the parking lot to improve safety. The following recommendations would enhance the park:

- Replace swing set.
- Relocate basketball goal.

ACCESSIBILITY

- The basketball court needs to be moved out of the parking lot to improve safety.
- The swing set needs to have the proper surfacing underneath it for accessibility.

- Install ADA swings.

Russell Berkau Memorial Park

Russell Berkau Park is a quaint park that sits right against the Tennessee/Virginia border. The park is nestled quietly in the corner of the town surrounded by trees that give the park a sense of enclosure.



Russell Berkau Memorial Park

INFRASTRUCTURE

The park has a stage that is in good condition. It needs to have minor maintenance and some cleaning. The pavilion allows for grilling and seating. The stage, restrooms, and pavilion all have ADA paths to them, but are not ADA accessible inside the facilities. The lights in the park are falling over and need to be better secured to the ground. The benches are scattered around the park but are not in optimal location. The following recommendations would enhance the park:

- Replace all lights.
- Make all amenities in the park ADA accessible.
- Repair chipped pavement.
- Strategically place the benches around the park.
- There are multiple trees that need to be replanted and/or removed because they are a hazard to pedestrians.

The restroom facility is on the northeast side of the park. The bathrooms need a few repairs. The wood is chipping and rotting, and the restrooms are not ADA accessible. The following recommendations would enhance the restrooms:

- Replace all the wood.
- Make ADA accessible stalls.

The pavilion is located on the southeast side of the park. The grills might need to be replaced. There is no ADA seating which needs to be resolved. The path leading to the pavilion needs repairs to make it ADA compliant. The following recommendations would enhance the trails:

- Replace the grills.
- Repair the path to pavilion.
- Install ADA seating.

The following improvements are needed:

- Install new grills.
- Repair paving for ADA accessibility.
- Improve restroom facilities.
- Install lights in the pavilion and up lighting for the stage.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Install ramp to the stage.
- Make restroom ADA accessible.
- Install accessible seating at the pavilion.
- Repair uneven and cracked sidewalks.

Harrogate

Sports Park Property

The sports park property is tucked away on the east side of the city. The park has not been fully developed. The land has been purchased for the sports fields, and construction has started. The only facility on site is the restroom, concession, and sitting area.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Sports Park Property

As of right now, the park has only one building, which is the restroom/pavilion/concession stand. The building itself and the sidewalk around it are ADA accessible. The sitting area does not have any ADA benches. There is no pavement leading up to the building nor any paved parking spaces within the vicinity of the building. Without knowing the future development of the park, the following recommendations would enhance the park:

- Add pavement for parking.
- Add lights to all the fields.
- Add a playground for children to have a place to play.
- Make sure all the fields are constructed properly.
- All bleachers should have a concrete pad around them, with ADA seating within the bleachers.
- A master plan that sites fields, parking, circulation, and other amenities is needed to evaluate the future planning for this park.

To bring the site up to full compliance, the following improvements are needed:

- Install ADA paths from the concession stand to the bleachers at each of the fields.
- Install ADA parking with an accessible path from the parking to the restroom/concession/pavilion and bleachers.

ACCESSIBILITY

- The park isn't finished; therefore, ADA accessibility cannot be determined at this time.

New Tazewell

C.W. Gose Park

Gose Park is a regional asset that is widely used and clearly loved. The fourteen-acre park boasts an array of offerings rarely seen in comparable communities. Its prominent location on Highway 33, along with the wealth of supported activities ensure that it will continue to be a valuable part of the community's recreational infrastructure for years to come.



C.W. Gose Park

INFRASTRUCTURE

The park is attractive and is generally in good repair. The lawns are stable, and drainage is handled appropriately. Roads and paving appear to be well-built and serviceable. For the most part, the walks are good, but additional accessible walks are needed in some areas. Power is largely distributed underground, and the other are similarly discreet. Despite its presence on a busy thoroughfare, the site is pleasant with shade trees and benches that enable valuable family enjoyment.



Plentiful Parking

The 800 square foot concrete block concession and restroom building meets ADA requirements and should be adequate for some time. Restrooms are in good conditions, though more might be needed to handle the demand when multiple events are occurring simultaneously. While the facility is centrally located, it could be a long walk from activities occurring at the perimeters. Additional facilities could be dispersed to the playgrounds and ballfields when expansion is implemented.



Concession and Restroom Building

ACCESSIBILITY

Numerous efforts have been made to enhance the park for the use of persons with disabilities. Parking spaces are provided, ramps to playgrounds are installed, and most walks meet ADA standards. To augment the work done to date and to bring the facility up to full compliance, the following improvements are needed:

- Paved walks should be installed to the ballfields bleachers.
- Wheelchair space should be installed near adjacent to the bleachers to view games.
- Paved walks at appropriate grades need to be installed to access the playgrounds.
- Accessible playground features should be installed.
- Paved, accessible access should be provided to the basketball court for participation and viewing.

Pool Complex

The pool at C.W. Gose park is an invaluable asset that undoubtedly attracts intense use through the hot summer months. It is generally attractive and well maintained. A few modifications could improve security and enable easier maintenance.

The concrete block structure with metal roof is used to control admittance. It contains changing rooms with restrooms as well as concessions. The pool area was closed at the time of the assessment, so the interior could not be observed. Though well maintained, when renovation is needed, better access control should be considered.

While security of the pool is a serious consideration, the chain link fencing with barbed wire could be upgraded to a better enclosure product, especially in prominent locations like the main entrance to the building. Walks to the pool entrance should be reevaluated to make a more prominent connection to the parking areas.

The splash pad is a valuable asset to younger children and disabled participants. The pool itself and the decking appear to be in excellent condition. Diving boards may want to be removed to protect the operating entity from liability.



Pavilion near the Pool

Replacement should be considered within the ten-year horizon. The 4x4 posts are undersized. The roof structure is beginning to sag.

Baseball Fields

Three ballfields are in use. The fields are sized differently to accommodate an array of leagues ranging from adult baseball to fast-pitch softball and children's T-ball. The fields are in good condition with stable lawns, sturdy fencing, and good amenities. The larger fields include large, electric scoreboards that add a feel of professionalism

to the sport activities. While the fields are in good condition, the following recommendations would enhance them:

- The infields should be regarded and redefined.
- Dugout structures could be renovated to heighten the ceilings.
- Infields should be regraded and redefined.
- Press boxes could be removed and replaced with structures that are sturdier and are ADA accessible.
- Paved walks should be provided along with wheelchair spaces adjacent to the bleachers to enable access by the disabled.



Mid-size Field

Basketball Court

The basketball court is an excellent amenity for unstructured "pick-up" games or children's activities, but it will need to be improved for league play or serious adolescent and adult games. The asphalt surface is in good repair. The painted lines seem to be appropriately measured and placed.



Basketball Court

Tennis Court

The tennis court is an excellent amenity that appears to be in good condition.

Picnic Pavilions

Though custom constructed, the picnic pavilions toward the east a of the park are sturdy, durable, and attractive. They are assets that should be preserved and maintained.



Picnic Pavilion

Playgrounds

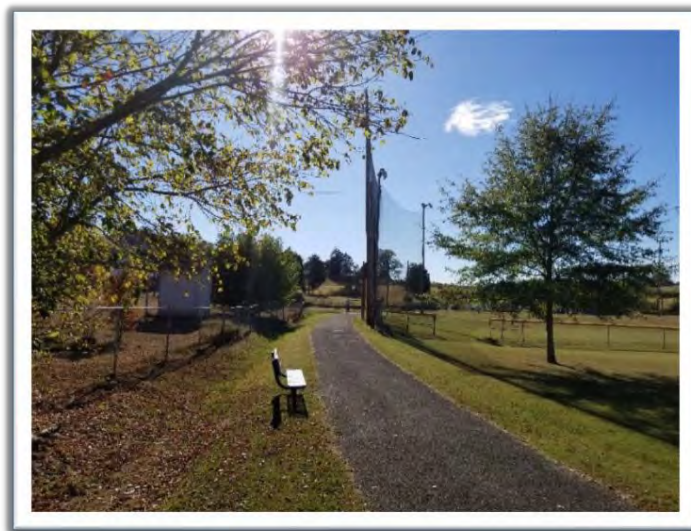
The largest part of the playgrounds are well-built, pre-manufactured structures, suitable for public parks. Accessible parking is provided near the playground, and ramps into the playground are provided, but there are no accessible walks to the playground. There are only a couple of accessible features at the play structures. Picnic benches are not accessible, and the playground surfacing will not accommodate wheelchairs.



Playground

Walking Path and Benches

The path around the park is a valuable amenity that enables walking and jogging. The benches are professionally crafted and creatively used to highlight the companies who have contributed to development and maintenance of the park.



Walking Paths and Benches

Stage

The concept of using the largest ballfield as a performance venue is brilliant. The stage that supports this activity should be removed or renovated due to its dilapidated state and its inaccessibility to the disabled.



Stage

Tazewell

Tazewell Municipal Park

Tazewell Municipal Park is a community asset that is well maintained and frequently used. The ten-acre park offers a one-mile walking trail, one tennis court, one basketball court, one playground, one baseball field, two restrooms, one concession pavilion, two horseshoe pits, and three gazebos.



Festival Park

INFRASTRUCTURE

The mile-long walking trail is in very good condition. The following recommendations would enhance the trail:

- Make the entire walking trail ADA accessible.
- Connect the loop to the playground.

The tennis court is in stable condition. The following recommendations would enhance the court:

- The court needs to be resurfaced.
- Place benches on the inside of the court for players and outside the fence for spectators.
- There should be a connection from the trail to the court.

The basketball court is in good condition. The following recommendation would enhance the court:

- Repair cracks in the asphalt.

The playground is in good condition. The following recommendations would enhance the playground:

- The surfacing needs to be replaced for ADA accessibility.
- Install more ADA equipment.

- Install more ADA swings.
- Install more benches around the playground.
- Install more connections from the trail to the playground.

The baseball field needs substantial upgrades. The following recommendations would enhance the baseball field:

- The city needs to decide whether to keep the field.
- Install aggregate in the infield.
- Regrade the outfield.
- Repair the fence.
- Replace the dugouts.
- Reseed the outfield to establish better turf.

The horseshoe pits are in good condition. The following recommendations would enhance the pits:

- Install seating around the pits.
- Use caps on the spikes while not in play for safety. The restrooms are in good condition.

The concession pavilion is in good condition. The following recommendation would enhance the pavilion:

- Install ADA seating.

The amphitheater is in good condition. The following recommendation would enhance the amphitheater:

- Provide a paved pull-off from the walking trail for ADA accessibility to watch performances in the amphitheater.

The gazebos are in good condition. The following recommendations would enhance the gazebos:

- Install ADA accessible paths to gazebos.
- Install more benches around the walking trail so walker/runners can have a place to sit.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Improve accessibility at the playground.
- Improve the connection between the tennis court and the playground.
- Repair the walking trail to improve accessibility.

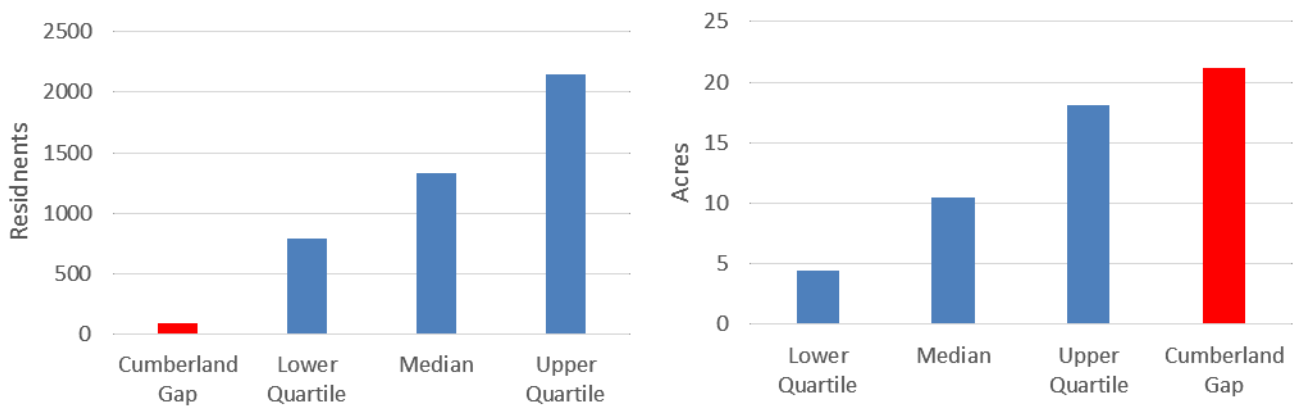
5.2 National Metrics

The 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review, Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks report provides national metrics for parks and recreation. The metrics are presented as median, lower quartile, and upper quartile for number of parks and park acreage for parks and recreation facilities across the United States between 2014 and 2016. The two metrics used to assess Cumberland Gap, Harrogate, New Tazewell, and Tazewell parks and recreation facilities are the median number of residents per park and the median acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Cumberland Gap

Cumberland Gap has four parks dispersed across town, and an estimated population of 385 citizens in 2016. When compared to the median, Cumberland Gap has about 93% fewer residents per park. The median for jurisdictions with 20,000 or fewer people is one park for every 1,331 residents. Cumberland Gap has an estimated 96 residents per park.

Cumberland Gap has more than twice as many acres of park land per 1,000 residents when compared to the median. The median for jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 people is 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents, while Cumberland Gap provides 21.2 acres per 1,000 residents.

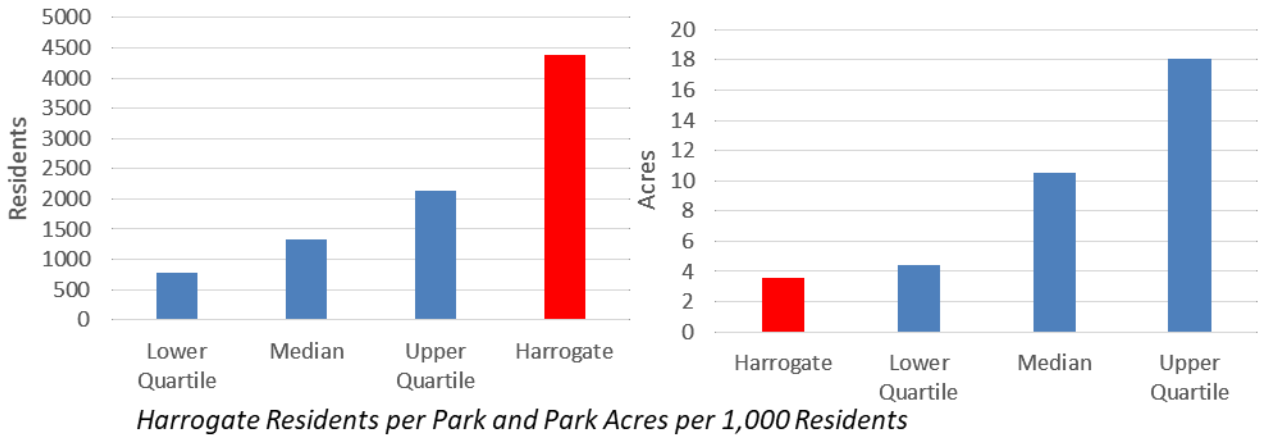


Cumberland Gap Residents per Park and Park Acres per 1,000 Residents

Harrogate

When compared to the median, Harrogate has over three times as many residents per park. The median for jurisdictions with 20,000 or fewer people is one park for every 1,331 residents. Harrogate has an estimated 4,388 residents per park.

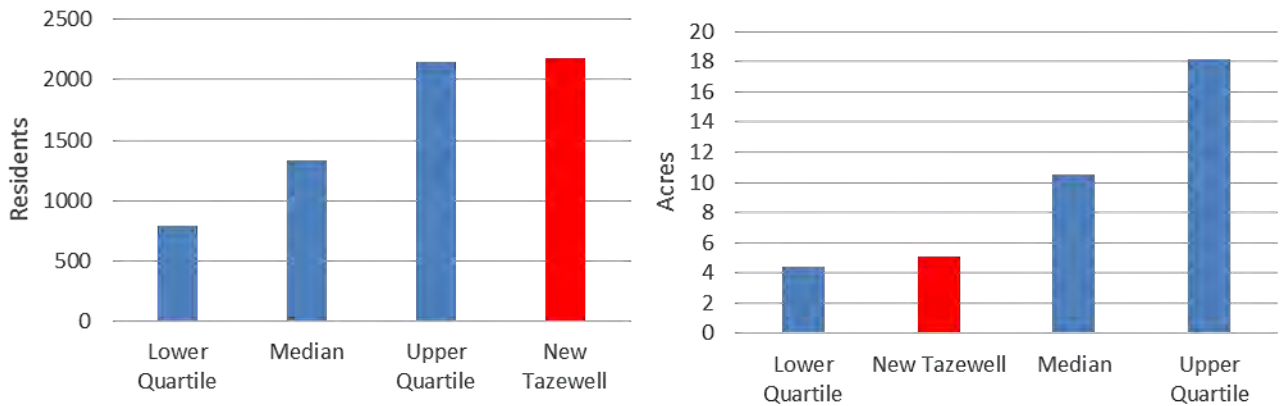
Harrogate has 66% fewer acres of park land per 1,000 residents when compared to the median. The median for jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 people is 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents, while Harrogate currently provides 3.6 acres per 1,000 residents. This figure does not take into consideration the new tract on Forge Ridge Road currently being developed by the City for a new Park.



New Tazewell

When compared to the median, New Tazewell has 64% more residents per park. The median for jurisdictions with 20,000 or fewer people is one park for every 1,331 residents. New Tazewell has an estimated 2,179 residents per park.

New Tazewell has over 50% fewer acres of park land per 1,000 residents when compared to the median. The median for jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 people is 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents, while New Tazewell currently provides 5.1 acres per 1,000 residents.

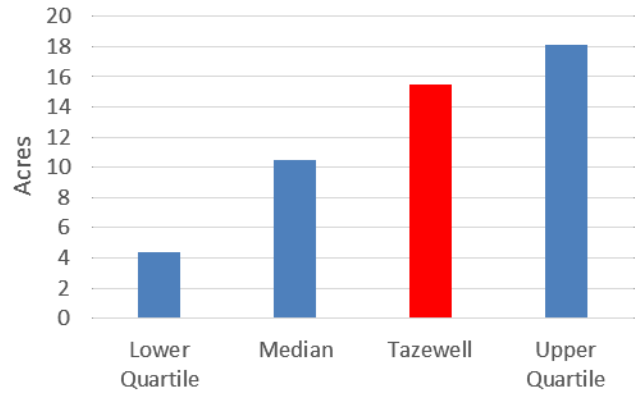
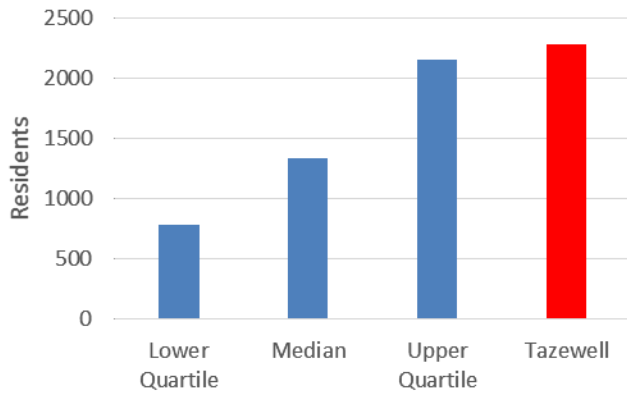


New Tazewell Residents per Park and Park Acres per 1,000 Residents

Tazewell

When compared to the median, Tazewell has 71% more residents per park. The median for jurisdictions with 20,000 or fewer people is one park for every 1,331 residents. Tazewell has an estimated 2,281 residents per park.

Tazewell has about 25% fewer acres of park land per 1,000 residents when compared to the median. The median for jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 people is 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents, while Tazewell currently provides 7.8 acres per 1,000 residents.



Tazewell Residents per Park and Park Acres per 1,000 Residents

5.3 Community Comparison

To understand how well existing parks, programming, and services are meeting the needs of community residents, comparison was made to three similarly sized jurisdictions in Tennessee for each of the four jurisdictions.

Town of Cumberland Gap

All three of the communities used to analyze Cumberland Gap have a population of less than 1,000, the same population thresholds used in the 2011-2012 Tennessee Recreation Services Study (August 2012). All three communities are *rural* in nature (not within a Metropolitan Statistical Area). All three communities are in Tier 3 or Tier 4 counties as classified by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

The three jurisdictions used in this comparative analysis are as follows:

Friendsville

Friendsville is in eastern Tennessee, in Blount County. The community has an area of three square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 823 citizens.

Townsend

Townsend is in eastern Tennessee, in Blount County. The community has an area of two square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 391 citizens.

Parrottsville

Parrottsville is in eastern Tennessee, in Cocke County. The community has an area of 0.7 square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 266 citizens.

The following sections compare demographics, park acreage, and park facilities in these three communities with those in Cumberland Gap:

DEMOGRAPHICS

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population in Cumberland Gap increased 93%. Population growth in Parrottsville was similar, while the populations of Townsend and Friendsville both decreased over this period.

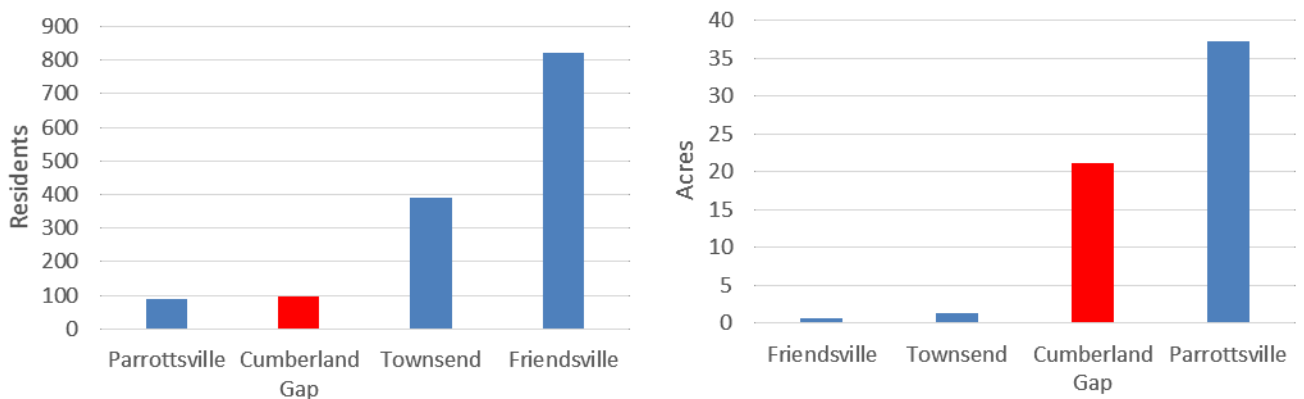
Median age in the three comparison communities was much older than it was in Cumberland Gap, which has become much younger over the last 8 years with a greater number of residents associated with expansion of nearby Lincoln Memorial University.

Cumberland Gap’s population is comprised of 84% white/Caucasian, and 16% minority populations. Friendsville, Townsend, and Parrottsville have a similar racial composition, all of which contained 10% minority populations or less. As a reference, Tennessee is comprised of 78% white/Caucasian, and 22% minority populations.

Estimated home values in Cumberland Gap, which increased significantly between 2009 and 2016, remain higher than those in Parrottsville and Friendsville, and lower than those in Townsend.

PARK FACILITIES

To evaluate Cumberland Gap’s parks in relation to the parks in the three communities described above, the number of residents per park and park acres per 1,000 residents was compared. As discussed in Section 5.2, a



Cumberland Gap Benchmark Community Comparison

similar comparison as was used in the *2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review, Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks* report. Cumberland Gap has fewer residents per park than Townsend and Friendsville and more residents per park than Parrottsville. Cumberland Gap’s 21.2 acres of park land per 1,000 residents was greater than the acres per 1,000 residents seen in Friendsville and Townsend and less than the acres per 1,000 residents in Parrottsville.

City of Harrogate

All three of the communities used to analyze Harrogate have a population between 1,001 and 5,000, the same population thresholds used in the 2011-2012 Tennessee Recreation Services Study (August 2012). All three communities are rural in nature (not within a Metropolitan Statistical Area). All three communities are in Tier 3 or Tier 4 counties as classified by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. All three of the communities were also part of a similar planning process funded by the 2017 Master Planning Grant.

The three jurisdictions used in this comparative analysis are as follows:

Jellico

Jellico is in eastern Tennessee, in Campbell County. The community has an area of six square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,491 citizens.

Oneida

Oneida is in eastern Tennessee, in Scott County. The community has an area of ten square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 3,731 citizens.

Selmer

Selmer is in western Tennessee, in McNairy County. The community has an area of ten square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 4,465 citizens.

The following sections compare demographics, park acreage, and park facilities in these three communities with those in Harrogate:

DEMOGRAPHICS

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population in Harrogate increased 10%. Over the same period, the estimated populations of Jellico, Oneida, and Selmer all decreased slightly.

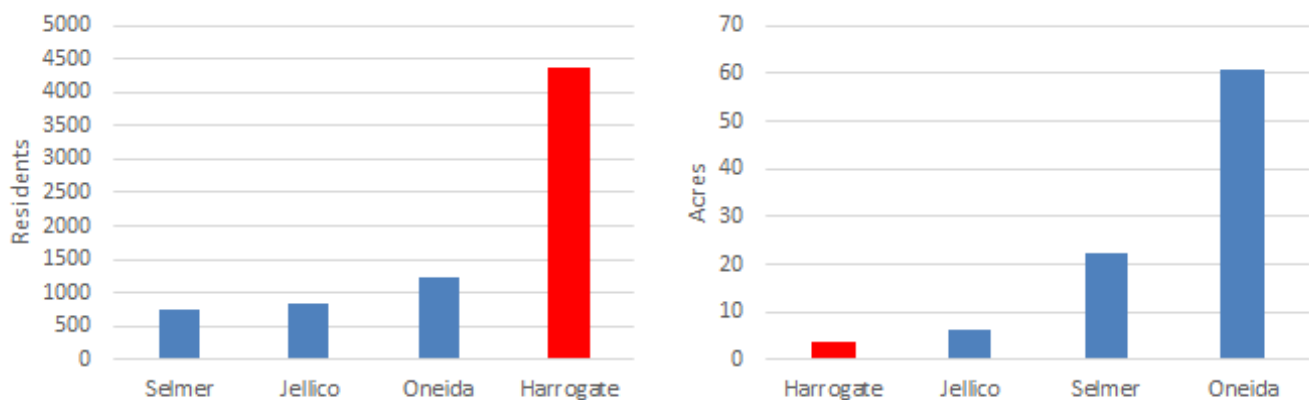
Median age in the three comparison counties remains similar to median age in Harrogate with Jellico remaining somewhat older, and both Selmer and Oneida slightly younger.

Harrogate's population is comprised of 92% white/Caucasian, and 8% minority populations. Jellico, Oneida, and Selmer have a similar racial composition, all of which contained 11% minority populations or less. As a reference, Tennessee overall is comprised of 78% white/Caucasian, and 22% minority populations.

Estimated home values in Harrogate, which increased significantly between 2009 and 2016, remain higher than those in the three comparison communities.

PARK FACILITIES

To evaluate Harrogate's parks in relation to the parks in the three communities described above, the number of residents per park and park acres per 1,000 residents was compared. As discussed in Section 5.2, a similar comparison as was used in the *2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review, Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks* report.



Harrogate Benchmark Community Comparison

Harrogate has a greater number of residents per park than Jellico, Oneida and Selmer. Harrogate's 3.6 acres of park land per 1,000 residents is less than the park acres per 1,000 residents in each of the three comparison communities.

Town of New Tazewell

All three of the communities used to analyze New Tazewell have a population between 1,001 and 5,000, the same population thresholds used in the *2011-2012 Tennessee Recreation Services Study* (August 2012). All three communities are rural in nature (not within a metropolitan statistical area). All three communities are in Tier 3 or Tier 4 counties as classified by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. All three of the communities were also part of a similar planning process funded by the 2017 Master Planning Grant.

The three jurisdictions used in this comparative analysis are as follows:

Adamsville

Adamsville is in western Tennessee, in McNairy County. The community has an area of seven square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,204 citizens.

Caryville

Caryville is in eastern Tennessee, in Campbell County. The community has an area of 5.5 square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,179 citizens.

Jellico

Jellico is in eastern Tennessee, in Campbell County. The community has an area of six square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,236 citizens.

The following sections compare demographics, park acreage, and park facilities in these three communities with those in New Tazewell:

DEMOGRAPHICS

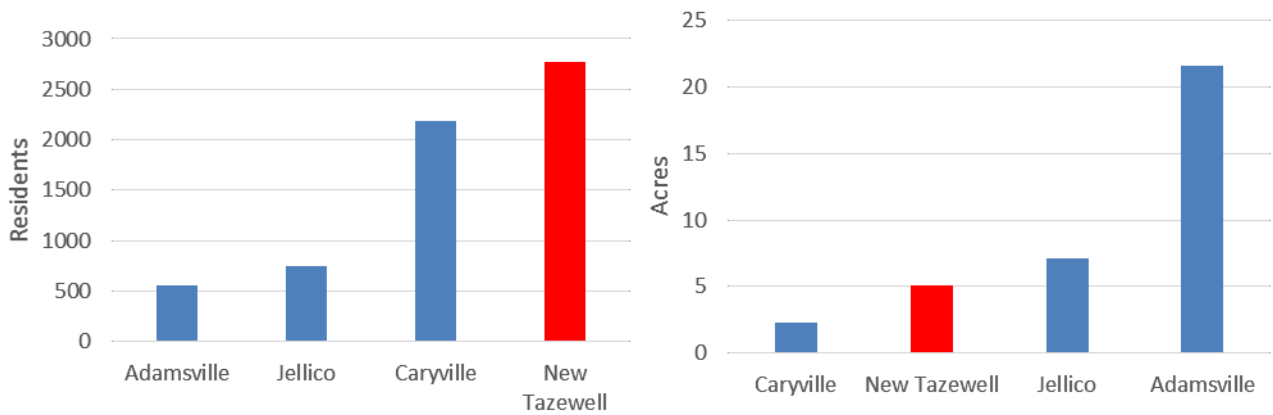
Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population in New Tazewell decreased 2%. Over the same period, the estimated population of Jellico also decreased slightly, while the estimated populations of Adamsville and Caryville increased 10% and 4% respectively. Median age in the three comparison counties remain somewhat younger than they are in New Tazewell.

New Tazewell's population is comprised of 90% white/Caucasian, and 10% minority populations. Adamsville, Caryville, and Jellico have a similar racial composition, all of which contained 10% minority populations or less. As a reference, Tennessee overall is comprised of 78% white/Caucasian, and 22% minority populations.

Estimated home values in New Tazewell, which increased slightly between 2009 and 2016, remain higher than those in Adamsville and Jellico, and slightly lower than those in Caryville.

PARK FACILITIES

To evaluate New Tazewell's parks in relation to the parks in the three communities described above, the number of residents per park and park acres per 1,000 residents was compared. As discussed in Section 5.2, a similar comparison as was used in the *2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review, Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks* report.



New Tazewell Benchmark Community Comparison

New Tazewell has a greater number of residents per park than the three comparison communities. New Tazewell’s 5.1 acres of park land per 1,000 residents is less than the park acres per 1,000 residents in Jellico and Adamsville, and greater than the park acres per 1,000 residents in Caryville.

Town of Tazewell

All three of the communities used to analyze Tazewell have a population between 1,001 and 5,000, the same population thresholds used in the 2011-2012 Tennessee Recreation Services Study (August 2012). All three communities are rural in nature (not within a Metropolitan Statistical Area). All three communities are in Tier 3 or Tier 4 counties as classified by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. All three of the communities were also part of a similar planning process funded by the 2017 Master Planning Grant.

The three jurisdictions used in this comparative analysis are as follows:

Adamsville

Adamsville is in western Tennessee, in McNairy County. The community has an area of seven square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,204 citizens.

Caryville

Caryville is in eastern Tennessee, in Campbell County. The community has an area of 5.5 square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,179 citizens.

Jellico

Jellico is in eastern Tennessee, in Campbell County. The community has an area of six square miles and an estimated 2016 population of 2,236 citizens.

The following sections compare demographics, park acreage, and park facilities in these three communities with those in Tazewell:

DEMOGRAPHICS

Between 2009 and 2016, the estimated population in Tazewell decreased 2%. Over the same period, the estimated population of Jellico also decreased slightly, while the estimated populations of Adamsville and Caryville increased

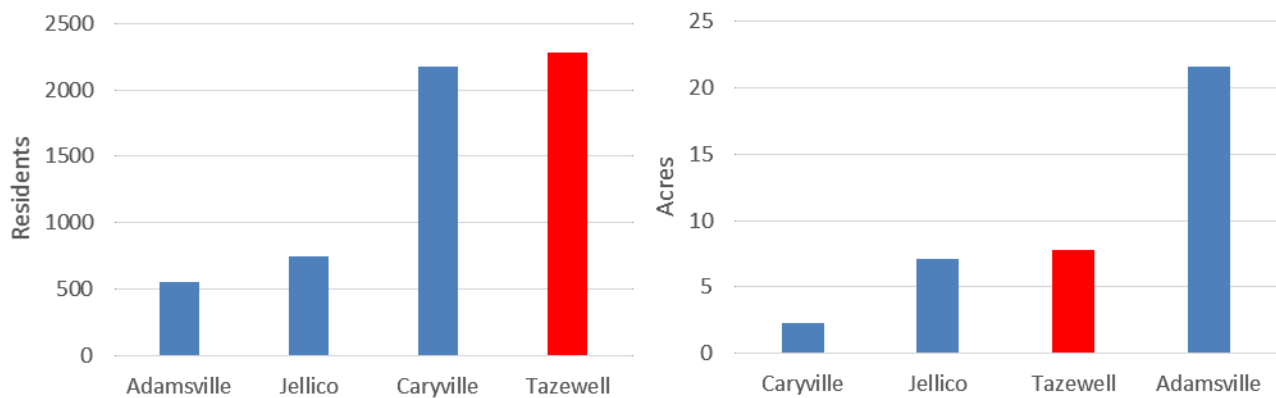
10% and 4% respectively. Median age in the three comparison counties remain somewhat younger than they are in Tazewell.

Tazewell’s population is comprised of 96% white/Caucasian, and 4% minority populations. Adamsville, Caryville, and Jellico have a similar racial composition, all of which contained 10% minority populations or less. As a reference, Tennessee overall is comprised of 78% white/Caucasian, and 22% minority populations.

Estimated home values in Tazewell, which increased slightly between 2009 and 2016, remain higher than those in Adamsville and Jellico, and somewhat lower than those in Caryville.

PARK FACILITIES

To evaluate Tazewell’s parks in relation to the parks in the three communities described above, the number of residents per park and park acres per 1,000 residents was compared. As discussed in Section 5.2, a similar comparison as was used in the *2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review, Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks* report.



Tazewell Benchmark Community Comparison

Tazewell has a greater number of residents per park than the three comparison communities. Tazewell’s 7.8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents is less than the park acres per 1,000 residents in Adamsville, and greater than the park acres per 1,000 residents in Caryville and Jellico.

Findings

Cumberland Gap, Harrogate, New Tazewell, and Tazewell all have similar demographic characteristics to the comparison communities. As with communities across the country, these jurisdictions should ensure that their parks provide accessible amenities for an aging baby boomer population. Cumberland Gap compared well to both national metrics and similar communities in number of residents per park and acres of park per 1,000 residents, while Harrogate, New Tazewell, and Tazewell did not compare as well in comparison to national metrics and similar communities in number of residents per park and acres of park per 1,000 residents.

5.4 Public Input Priorities

Through surveys, public workshops, and interviews, public feedback was gathered regarding an assessment of existing parks and development of future parks and recreation facilities.

Findings

Major themes heard during the public input process are as follows:

- Improve/expand walking and running trails
- Provide more opportunities for boating and fishing
- Improve/expand biking routes
- Provide more festivals and music events

5.5 Prioritization of Needs

The following prioritization of needs correlates directly to the findings of the needs assessment in Section 5.1 through Section 5.4. Overall, the national comparisons to Claiborne County suggest that the county has a need for additional parks. By far, Cumberland Gap surpasses the national average for number and acreage of parks for a town its size. Harrogate will be replacing their park over the next ten years due to a loss of existing park space.

Tazewell has plenty of land available for the next ten years to add additional amenities. Only New Tazewell is contemplating new park acreage through expansion of their existing facility in the foreseeable future. As for Claiborne County as a whole, a comparison to communities of an equal size on a nationwide basis may not be of much relevance, especially when comparing numbers of parks and acreage to the population size (*see Section 5.2*). It is doubtful that the governments of comparable size to Claiborne County poled in the NPRA survey are adjacent to national parks and have a regionally popular lake the size of the Norris Reservoir (33,840 surface acres) on their border. When asked in the community-wide survey what and where the respondent's family participates in parks and recreation activities other than city and county parks, a large majority indicated that they participate in activities at the national park and at Norris Lake. Undoubtedly, if the miles of shoreline along the lake and the 24,000 acres at the national park were added to the park acreage of the county, Claiborne County would far exceed park acreage in comparison to counties of similar size nationwide.

However, when evaluating countywide needs, it is relevant to point out that the survey results do not indicate a need for additional park land. When asked in the survey: "Are there any additional activities your household would like to see provided?", most respondents asked for additional bicycling routes and trails for hiking, walking, and running. Additional space for ballfields and playgrounds is not a prevalent need according to the survey. There is an indication that as more of the Cumberland Trail is constructed and becomes available to the public, the trail will be well utilized.

The following priority list was developed based upon the needs assessment and workshops with local officials. The priorities are grouped according to realistic timeframes and strategies for implementation. Scheduling for improvements include those that will be included in upcoming grant applications and budget cycle or in the short term. Mid-term goals (3-5 years) are envisioned as those practical and realistic in future grant applications.

Improvements for the long-term period (6-10 years) were identified during the planning process, but specific strategies for funding and schedules for development are undermined for any goals beyond five years.

The following are the priorities for the 10 years of the plan for each community:

Cumberland Gap

Short-Term (1-2 years)

- Add benches, shade trees, lighting, and stage renovations to Festival Park

- Provide ADA path and ramp to stage

Mid-Term (3-5 years)

- Replace brick pavers
- Construct ADA compliant restrooms at Festival Park

Long-Term (6-10 years)

- Upgrades to Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park to include ADA walks and parking, pave parking lot, add electrical service and hydration station
- Construct restroom building at the Kaitlyn Devries Doge Park
- Upgrades to City Hall Park to include new ADA playground and resurface basketball court

Harrogate — New Sports Facility

Short-Term (1-2 years)

- Complete soccer field site preparation
- Grade and gravel parking lot
- Install safety fence, shaded trees, and drinking fountain
- Install 12x12' storage shed

Mid-Term (3-5 years)

- Install playground and fitness area
- Pave gravel parking lot
- Construct little league field (include fence, dugout, and seeding)
- Install bleachers, score tower, drinking fountain, entry sign, and shade trees
- Install ADA walks and trails, and remaining paving

Long-Term (6-10 years)

- Construct senior league field (include fence, dugout, and seeding)
- Install bleachers, lighting, soccer field bleachers, shade trees, and drinking fountain
- Install fence around the perimeter

New Tazewell — C.W. Gose Park

Short-Term (1-2 years)

- Demolish stage
- Install surveillance and three sets of bleachers

Mid-Term (3-5 years)

- Install additional ADA walkways, park perimeter fencing, ballfield backstops, and ballfield lighting
- Install area lighting for parking and playgrounds
- Install shade trees and three sets of bleachers

Long-Term (6-10 years)

- Install ballfield fencing, dugouts, drinking fountain, and score towers
- Repave parking and paths

Tazewell — Municipal Park

Short-Term (1-2 years): All Parks

- Construct amphitheater, stage, and lighting
- Renovate ballfield – regrade and reseed
- Install pedestrian lights along walking path, drinking fountains, gazebos, and ADA picnic tables
- Repair tennis court lights

Mid-Term (3-5 years)

- Install additional seating for amphitheater, shade trees, ADA picnic tables
- Install exercise equipment with concrete pads
- Add additional lights along walking path
- Install horseshoe pits, additional gazebos, storage building, and drinking fountains

Long-Term (6-10 years)

- Install additional shade trees, ADA picnic tables & drinking fountains, and additional lights along the walking path
- Install softball field lighting and scoreboard
- Install additional pavilion near basketball court
- Patch and repair trail as needed

6 Concept Plan

A concept plan graphically depicts the placement of plan elements or improvements to new or existing parks. None of the four communities have identified locations for new parks in the next ten years. However, Harrogate is in the process of developing their new Sports Park, and New Tazewell would like to expand the C.W. Gose Park if adjacent land becomes available. Three of the municipalities maintain single recreation parks and concept plans indicating future improvements at Harrogate's Sports Park, New Tazewell's C.W. Gose Park, and Tazewell's Municipal Park are provided in this section. The town of Cumberland Gap owns and operates several parks. Cumberland Gap's three small parks together are less than two acres, so a concept plan for each small park is included in the plan. In addition to the concept plans of future improvements for each park, this section includes statements of probable costs for the improvements over the ten-year duration of the plan. Following is a summary of elements indicated in the concept plans*.

Cumberland Gap — Multiple Park Improvements

The Town's focus for the next five years will be improvements to Festival Park. In the long-term (6-10 years), upgrades will be made to the Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park and the City Hall Park. The Town will maintain the Russell Berkau Park of the next ten years, but no major upgrades or replacements of amenities are expected within the planning period.

Harrogate — Sports Park Improvements

In the short-term (1-2 years), the City will continue development of park improvements with an emphasis on the soccer field. In the mid-term (3-5 years), they hope to construct the little league field and install the playground and fitness equipment. The City projects that it will be able to complete the senior league field and all other proposed improvements within ten years.

New Tazewell — C.W. Gose Park Improvements

The Town would like to expand their park, but only when property owners are willing to sell at a reasonable market-rate price. Until then, the City will continue to make improvements to the existing park by upgrading and enhancing existing amenities and achieving ADA compliance throughout the facility. The City plans to achieve the upgrades indicated in the concept plan over the next ten years.

Tazewell — Municipal Park Improvements

There is ample space at the Municipal Park for additional amenities. There is a naturally sloping area at the eastern edge of the property that is well suited for development of an amphitheater. The ballfield was not well constructed, and the Town would like to rebuild the field in its present location. The Town hopes to undertake the initial phased development of the amphitheater and reconstruct the infield and outfield of the ballfield in the short-term (1-2 years) and to begin the process of enhancing its most popular amenity, the nearly one-mile walking trail. The Town plans to install approximately sixty path lights along the trail in phases over the next years. Also, the Town hopes to install several new amenities over the next ten years that are indicated in the park concept plan.

* **Please note:** Cost estimates include a line item to general conditions. This item is often included on contractor bid forms to include mobilization, permits, etc. This cost assumes that all the improvements indicated in the estimate will be included in a contractor's bid package.



EXISTING SHELTER

ADA WALKING PATH

PAVE PARKING LOT

ADD RESTROOMS,
ELECTRICITY, AND
HYDRATION STATION

Roslyn Ave

KAITLYN DEVRIES DOG PARK
CUMBERLAND GAP, TN 02-12-2018



6.2 Kaitlyn Devries Memorial Dog Park Cost Estimates

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park
February 12, 2018



landscape architects

524 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTE: All costs include materials & labor

| Description | Qty | Unit | Unit Cost | Total |
|---|-------|------|--------------|----------------------|
| Phase One (1-5 years) | | | | |
| ADA accessible walks | 1,800 | s.f. | \$4.00 | \$7,200.00 |
| ADA parking | 1 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Pave parking lot (20 spaces & drive) | 1,650 | s.y. | \$ 20.00 | \$ 33,060.00 |
| Electrical power service | 1 | each | \$ 18,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Hydration station | 1 | each | \$ 5,200.00 | \$ 5,200.00 |
| Restroom buliding | 1 | each | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Phase One Subtotal | | | | \$ 115,060.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 11,506.00 |
| 15% Soft costs (A/E + Administration) | | | | \$ 17,259.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 23,012.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 166,837.00 |

FOR COORDINATION ONLY — NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

- 1 This conceptual cost opinion is for planning purposes only, and the data needs to be reviewed and adjusted, as necessary, by the general contractor to determine the final construction budget.
- 2 The above cost does not include grading or utility installation per the lack of adequate survey information.
- 3 Phasing estimate does not include *Future Development Costs* or other sitewide costs shown in overall estimate



FESTIVAL PARK
 CUMBERLAND GAP, TN 02-12-2018



6.4 Festival Park Cost Estimates

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Festival Park
February 12, 2018



landscape architects

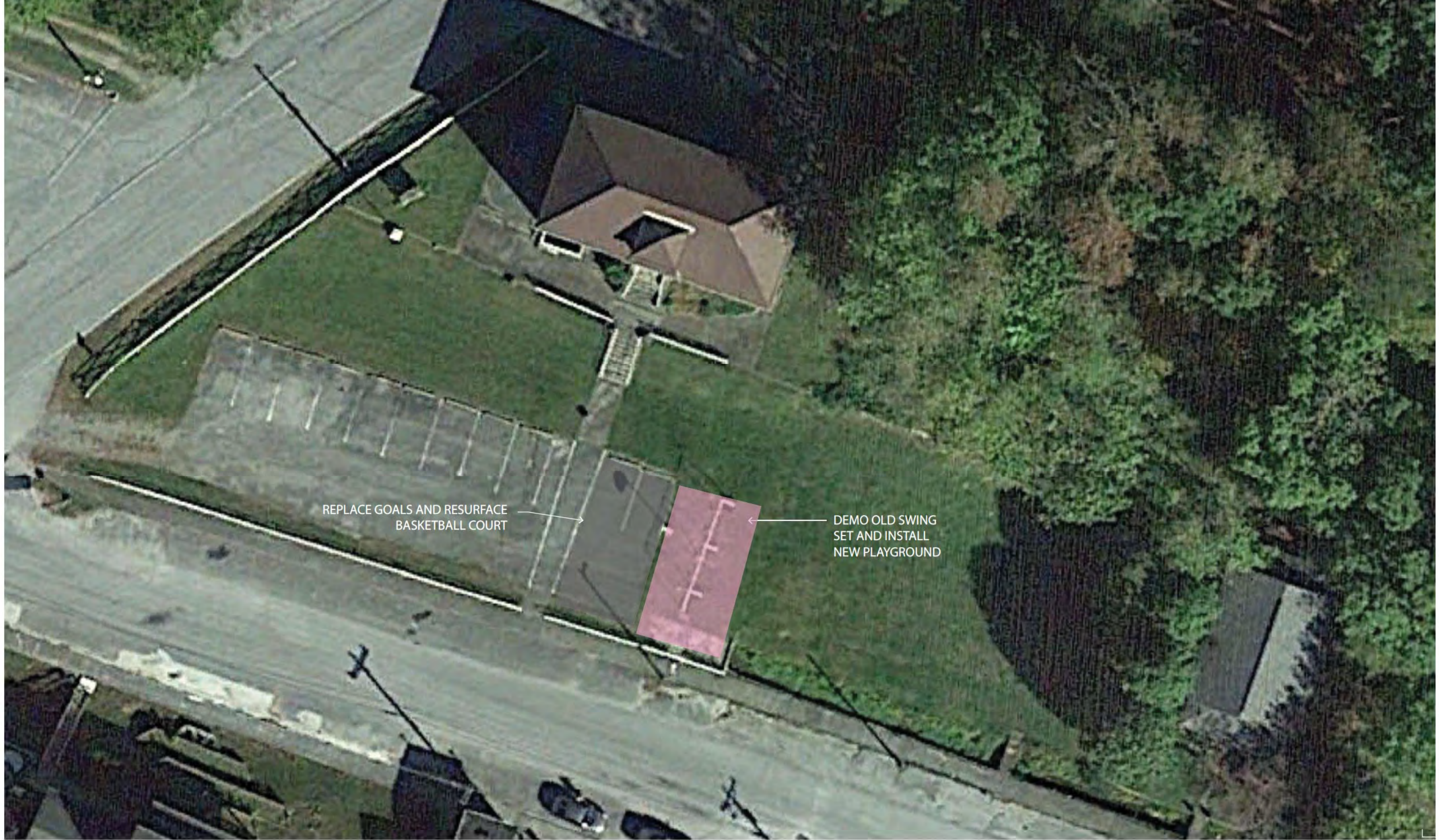
524 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTE: All costs include materials & labor

| Description | Qty | Unit | Unit Cost | Total |
|---|-------|------|--------------|----------------------|
| Phase One (6-10 years) | | | | |
| Benches | 6 | each | \$ 1,800.00 | \$10,800.00 |
| Shade trees | 7 | each | \$ 450.00 | \$ 3,150.00 |
| Lighting | 5 | each | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Renovate stage | 1 | each | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 13,000.00 |
| Signage | 1 | each | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Restrooms | 1 | each | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Replace brick | 5,000 | s.f. | \$ 15.00 | \$ 75,000.00 |
| Phase One Subtotal | | | | \$ 173,450.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 17,345.00 |
| 15% Soft costs (A/E + Administration) | | | | \$ 26,017.50 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 34,690.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 251,502.50 |

FOR COORDINATION ONLY — NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

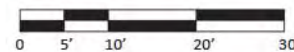
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- 2 The above cost does not include grading or utility installation per the lack of adequate survey information.
- 3 Phasing estimate does not include *Future Development Costs* or other sitewide costs shown in overall estimate



REPLACE GOALS AND RESURFACE
BASKETBALL COURT

DEMO OLD SWING
SET AND INSTALL
NEW PLAYGROUND

CUMBERLAND GAP CITY HALL
CUMBERLAND GAP, TN 02-12-2018



6.6 Cumberland Gap City Hall Park Cost Estimates

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Cumberland Gap City Hall Park
February 12, 2018



landscape architects

524 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTE: All costs include materials & labor

| Description | Qty | Unit | Unit Cost | Total |
|---|-----|------|--------------|---------------------|
| Phase One (6-10 years) | | | | |
| Demolish swings | 1 | each | \$ 1,700.00 | \$ 1,700.00 |
| ADA playground | 1 | each | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Replace goals | 2 | each | \$ 5,500.00 | \$ 11,000.00 |
| Resurface basketball court | 555 | s.y. | \$ 4.00 | \$ 2,220.00 |
| Signage | 1 | each | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Phase One Subtotal | | | | \$ 53,420.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 5,324.00 |
| 15% Soft costs (A/E + Administration) | | | | \$ 8,013.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 10,684.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 77,459.00 |

FOR COORDINATION ONLY — NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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- 2 The above cost does not include grading or utility installation per the lack of adequate survey information.
- 3 Phasing estimate does not include *Future Development Costs* or other sitewide costs shown in overall estimate



HARROGATE SPORTS COMPLEX
HARROGATE, TN 02-12-2018



6.8 Harrogate Sport Complex Cost Estimates

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Harrogate Sports Facility
February 12, 2018



landscape architects

524 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTE: All costs include materials & labor

| Description | Qty | Unit | Unit Cost | Total |
|--|--------|------|--------------|------------------------|
| Phase One | | | | |
| Soccer field site prep | 1 | each | \$13,000.00 | \$ 13,000.00 |
| Grade and gravel parking lot | 45,000 | s.f. | \$2.00 | \$ 90,000.00 |
| Safety fence | 490 | l.f. | \$15.00 | \$ 7,350.00 |
| Shade trees | 30 | each | \$ 200.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Drinking fountain | 1 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Phase One Subtotal | | | | \$ 117,950.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 23,590.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 1,465,752.50 |
| Phase Two | | | | |
| 40x40 playground installation | 1 | each | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Small fitness area installation | 1 | each | \$ 15,250.00 | \$ 15,250.00 |
| Pave gravel parking lot | 5,000 | s.y. | \$ 29.00 | \$ 145,000.00 |
| Little league field (incl. fence, dugout, & seeding) | 1 | each | \$ 70,000.00 | \$ 70,000.00 |
| Little league field bleachers | 2 | each | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 26,000.00 |
| Score tower | 1 | each | \$ 80,000.00 | \$ 80,000.00 |
| ADA walks and trails | 19,000 | s.f. | \$ 4.00 | \$ 76,000.00 |
| Remaining paving | 16,200 | s.f. | \$ 4.00 | \$ 64,800.00 |
| Drinking fountain | 1 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Entry sign | 1 | each | \$ 17,000.00 | \$ 17,000.00 |
| Shade trees | 50 | each | \$ 200.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Phase Two Subtotal | | | | \$ 517,650.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 51,765.00 |
| 15% Soft costs (A/E + Admin.) | | | | \$ 77,647.50 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 103,530.00 |
| Total Cost, including contingency | | | | \$ 750,592.50 |

Phase Three

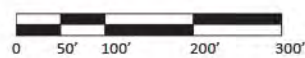
| | | | | |
|--|-------|------|---------------|------------------------|
| 12x12 Storage Shed | 1 | each | \$ 3,600.00 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| Senior league field (incl. fence, dugout & seeding | 1 | ls | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ 75,000.00 |
| Senior league filed bleachers | 2 | | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 26,000.00 |
| Baseball field lighting | 2 | each | \$ 125,000.00 | \$ 250,000.00 |
| Soccer field bleachers | 2 | each | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 26,000.00 |
| Shade trees | 75 | each | \$ 200.00 | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Drinking fountain | 1 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Perimeter fence | 2,260 | l.f. | \$ 15.00 | \$33,900.00 |
| Phase Three Subtotal | | | | \$ 395,600.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 39,560.00 |
| 15% Soft Costs (A/E + Admin.) | | | | \$ 79,120.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 573,620.00 |
| Total for all phases | | | | \$ 1,465,752.50 |

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C.W. GOSE MUNICIPAL PARK
NEW TAZEWell, TN 02-12-2018



6.10 C.W. Gose Municipal Park Cost Estimates

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

C.W. Gose Park
February 12, 2018



landscape architects

524 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTE: All costs include materials & labor

| Description | Qty | Unit | Unit Cost | Total |
|--|--------|------|--------------|----------------------|
| Phase One | | | | |
| Demolish stage | 1 | each | \$ 9,000.00 | \$ 9,000.00 |
| Surveillance | 1 | each | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Phase One Subtotal | | | | \$ 39,000.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 3,900.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 7,800.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 50,700.00 |
| Phase Two | | | | |
| ADA walks | 5,000 | s.f. | \$ 4.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Park perimeter fencing | 4,050 | l.f. | \$ 15.00 | \$ 60,750.00 |
| Ballfield backstops | 3 | each | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Ballfield lighting | 3 each | each | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 90,000.00 |
| Shade trees | 10 | each | \$ 200.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Phase Two Subtotal | | | | \$ 409,750.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 40,975.00 |
| 15% Soft costs (A/E + Admin.) | | | | \$ 61,462.50 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 81,950.00 |
| Total Cost, including contingency | | | | \$ 594,137.50 |
| Phase Three | | | | |
| Fencing | 1,200 | l.f. | \$ 15.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Bleachers | 6 | each | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 78,000.00 |
| Dugouts | 6 | each | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ 48,000.00 |
| Water fountain | 1 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Score towers | 3 | each | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 75,000.00 |
| Repave parking | 7,555 | s.y. | \$ 4.00 | \$ 30,220.00 |
| Repave paths | 472 | s.y. | \$ 4.00 | \$ 1,888.00 |
| Phase Three Subtotal | | | | \$ 252,708.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 25,270.00 |
| 15% Soft Costs (A/E + Admin) | | | | \$ 37,906.20 |

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| 20% Contingency | \$ 50,541.60 |
| Total Cost including contingency | \$ 366,426.60 |
| Total for all phases | \$ 1,011,264.10 |

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- 3 Phasing estimate does not include *Future Development Costs* or other sitewide costs shown in overall estimate



ADD STORAGE BUILDING FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

DOG PARK

ADD SHADE TREES ALONG FULL PATH

ADD PEDESTRIAN LIGHT COLUMNS ALONG FULL PATH

ADD GAZEBOS

RESURFACE PATH WITH RUBBERIZED ADA SURFACE

TERRACED LAWN AMPHITHEATRE, STAGE, AND LIGHTING

ADD CONCRETE PADS AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT FOR FITNESS TRAIL

REGRADE AND RESURFACE FIELD; REPLACE FENCE, LIGHTING, BLEACHERS, DUGOUTS, SCOREBOARD, AND SCORE TOWER

ADD HORSESHOES

ADD GAZEBO

REGRADE AREA AND ADD PAVILION

REPAIR TENNIS COURT LIGHTS

ADD PICNIC TABLES AND SHADE TREES

ADD GAZEBO

TAZEWELL MUNICIPAL PARK
TAZEWELL, TN 02-12-2018



6.12 Tazewell Municipal Park Cost Estimates

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Tazewell Municipal Park
February 12, 2018



524 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTE: All costs include materials & labor

| Description | Qty | Unit | Unit Cost | Total |
|--|-----|------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Phase One (1-2 years) | | | | |
| Amphitheater, stage, and lighting | 1 | l.s. | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 |
| Ballfield renovation seeding & grading | 1 | each | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 11,000.00 |
| Pedestrian lights on walking path | 20 | each | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 54,000.00 |
| Water fountains | 2 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 3,200.00 |
| Gazebos | 2 | each | \$15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| ADA picnic tables | 4 | each | \$ 1,300.00 | \$ 5,200.00 |
| Repair tennis court lights | 1 | each | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Phase One Subtotal | | | | \$ 149,400.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 14,940.00 |
| 15% Soft Costs (A/E + Admin.) | | | | \$ 22,410.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 29,880.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ \$ 216,630.00 |
| Phase Two (3-5 years) | | | | |
| Additional seating for amphitheater | 1 | l.s. | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 |
| Shade trees along path & in picnic area | 20 | each | \$ 200.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| ADA picnic tables | 2 | each | \$ 1,300.00 | \$ 2,600.00 |
| Exercise equipment and concrete pad | 1 | l.s. | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Pedestrian lights on walking path | 20 | each | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 54,000.00 |
| Horseshoe pits | 3 | each | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 2,400.00 |
| Gazebos | 2 | each | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Storage building | 1 | each | 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Water fountains | 2 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 3,200.00 |
| Phase Two Subtotal | | | | \$ 147,200.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 14,720.00 |
| 15% Soft costs (A/E + Admin.) | | | | \$ 22,080.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 29,440.00 |
| Total Cost, including contingency | | | | \$ 213,440.00 |

| Phase Three (6-10 years) | | | | |
|--|--------|------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Shade trees along path and in picnic area | 20 | each | \$ 200.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| ADA picnic tables | 2 | each | \$ 1,300.00 | \$ 2,600.00 |
| Water fountains | 2 | each | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 3,200.00 |
| Pedestrian lights on walking path | 20 | each | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 54,000.00 |
| Softball field lighting | 1 | each | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Softball field scoreboard | 1 | each | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Exercise equipment & concrete pads | 1 | l.s. | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Resurface walking trail w/ rubberized material | 30,500 | s.f. | \$ 15.00 | \$ 457,500.00 |
| Pavilion near basketball and grading | 1 | each | \$ 24,000.00 | \$ 24,000.00 |
| Phase Three Subtotal | | | | \$ 591,300.00 |
| 10% General Conditions | | | | \$ 88,130.00 |
| 15% Soft Costs (A/E + Admin) | | | | \$ 88,695.00 |
| 20% Contingency | | | | \$ 118,260.00 |
| Total Cost including contingency | | | | \$ 857,385.00 |
| Total Project Cost | | | | \$1,287,455.00 |

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7 Five-Year Budget Plan

A five-year budget plan is a planning tool that evaluates revenues, expenses, and desired capital improvements and creates a strategy for achieving the goals of the five-year plan. This section of the plan focuses on the more immediate objectives of the ten-year plan, during the short and mid-term phases of implementation. The improvements in the five-year plan follow directly from the findings of the needs assessment which translates into priorities, and subsequently into a statement of probable costs for the prioritized improvements. Most rural communities, and especially those in distressed counties, rely heavily on grant funding when developing strategies to fund improvements for parks and recreation projects. When considering grants as a major component of a funding strategy over an extended period, there is always the risk that the grants will not be funded and that the goals then be delayed. So, when developing a grant-based strategy, one must always be optimistic that the community competes favorably and “stays on track” with achieving goals over the duration of the plan.

There are two commonly utilized grant sources for parks and recreation improvements for Tennessee Communities — the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) and the Recreation Trails Program (RTP). The maximum grant funding is \$500,000 for the LPRF and \$200,000 for the RTP. The local match requirement is 50% for LPRF and 20% for RTP. Both funds are administered by Recreational Educational Services (RES), a division of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). LPRF funds are State generated and can be supplemented with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). RTP funds are generated through Tennessee’s allocation of transportation funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It should be noted that a new source of funding has recently become available through the Tennessee Department of Health, Access to Health through Healthy Active Built Environments grants that can fund trail and recreation facility improvements at a maximum goal level of \$85,000. The Department of Health grants have no match requirement; however, the total statewide pool is small, and there is no guarantee the funds will be available in the future.

Sometimes even small rural communities aspire for larger projects that may require long-term financing. The available means of obtaining long-term financing include the Rural Development Agency (RDA) grant loan program, the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Bond Pool, conventional municipal bonds, and commercial bank loans. RDA loans are often preferred as an option for long-term debt in rural communities. The terms for financing extend up to forty years. At the current interest rate of 4.5%, the annual repayment amount for every \$100,000 of RDA loans would be approximately \$5,400 per year for forty years.

Each of the four local governments in this master plan have heavily relied upon future grant funding when developing strategies for the short-term (the next 2 years) and the mid-term (the next 3 to 5 years) of their overall ten-year plan. When developing five-year budgets, each community closely examined their reserves, fund balances, as well as their financial obligations for other departments within their community when considering local matching fund requirements. The following is a closer examination of each entity’s financial strategy for achieving the short-term and mid-term goals of their ten-year plan.

Cumberland Gap

Cumberland Gap is anticipating submitting a 2018 LPRF application for improvements to begin the process of upgrading the Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park. If funded, they should be able to construct the improvements and close-out documents in plenty of time to compete for LPRF funds in 2020. Their current five-year budget plan is to complete Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park with assistance from LPRF funding. The second and third priorities are upgrades to Festival Park, followed by upgrades to the City Hall Park in the long-term period (6-10 years). The Town would

like to address water, power, and ADA parking and paths improvements in 2018 and the paving and restroom improvements in 2020. In 2022, the town could begin improvements to Festival Park. The Town's current five-year budget plan is therefore:

- In 2018, apply for LPRF grant for 50% of projected project cost of \$46,400.⁰⁰ or \$23,200.⁰⁰
- In 2020, apply for LPRF grant for 50% of projected project cost of \$120,440.⁰⁰ or \$60,220.⁰⁰
- In 2022, apply for LPRF grant in an amount undetermined at this time for upgrades to Festival Park

NOTE: This strategy is conceptual and for planning purposes only. It does not in any way commit or obligate the town of Cumberland Gap to any future funding decisions or amounts.

Harrogate

The city of Harrogate is expecting to undertake Phase I of their ten-year plan with local funds. Phase I consists of improvements that need to take place at the new sports complex that will allow for play on the soccer field as soon as possible, since currently, there is no soccer field available in the county since the previous facility of the former city park was dismantled. The City anticipates applying for an LPRF grant in 2020 for Phase II improvements. It will probably take the remainder of the five years to construct Phase II and close out the grant. The City's current five-year budget plan is therefore:

- Construct Phase I improvements at an estimated cost of \$145,860.⁰⁰ during the next two years (2018-2020) with city funds
- In 2020, apply for an LPRF grant for Phase II improvements (2020-2023) at 50% of projected cost of \$750,600.⁰⁰ or \$375,300.⁰⁰

NOTE: This strategy is conceptual and for planning purposes only. It does not in any way commit or obligate the city of Harrogate to any future funding decisions or amounts.

New Tazewell

New Tazewell is anticipating applying for a 2018 LPRF grant to fund Phase I improvements to C.W. Gose Park. The Town should be able to close out the 2018 grant in time to reapply in 2020 for Phase II improvements that will probably take three years to complete. The Town's current five-year budget plan is therefore: In 2018, apply for an LPRF grant for Phase I improvements (2018-2020) at 50% of the projected cost of \$75,400.⁰⁰ or \$37,700.⁰⁰

- In 2020, apply for an LPRF grant for Phase II improvements (2020-2023) at 50% of the projected cost of
- \$346,200.⁰⁰ or \$173,100.⁰⁰

NOTE: This strategy is conceptual and for planning purposes only. It does not in any way commit or obligate the town of New Tazewell to any future funding decisions or amounts.

Tazewell

Tazewell is expecting to apply for a 2018 LPRF grant for Phase I improvements costs to Tazewell Municipal Park. The Town should be able to close out the 2018 project in time to apply for a LPRF grant for Phase II improvements. Constructing the Phase II improvements will probably take three years through close-out of the project. The Town's current five-year budget is therefore:

- In 2018, apply for an LPRF grant for Phase I improvements (2018-2020) at 50% of the projected cost of
- \$216,630.⁰⁰ or \$108,315.⁰⁰

- In 2020, apply for an LPRF grant for Phase II improvements (2020-2023) at 50% of the projected cost of
- \$213,440.⁰⁰ or \$106,720.⁰⁰

NOTE: This strategy is conceptual and for planning purposes only. It does not in any way commit or obligate the town of Tazewell to any future funding decisions or amounts.

8 Recommendations

The purpose of this study was to objectively review the existing parks and recreation facilities and programs offered to those citizens living in the incorporated area of Claiborne County as well as visitors to the County. It is the overall goal to provide recommendations that will enhance the leisure time and active recreational experiences for present and future residents over the next ten years and beyond. It is in consideration of this overall goal that the following recommendations are offered.

The recommendations in this section have been made for both existing facilities and the development of new facilities. The recommendations are for both physical and nonphysical improvements such as management, organization, operations, and maintenance. The recommendations below are not in any prioritized order, but all should be considered over the next ten years.

8.1 Existing and Future Facilities

Cumberland Gap

RECOMMENDATION #1 — Consider Repurposing Russell Berkau Park

Cumberland Gap currently has four parks: the small playground in front of City Hall, the Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park, and two parks with stages for events. The Festival Park downtown has an elevated stage and seating as does the Russell Berkau Park. The facilities are only a few blocks apart. One would wonder if the town needs two stage and seating facilities. The Town is pursuing funding a study to examine the future use of public lands and infrastructure for an overall downtown redevelopment plan. As part of the planning process, the Town may consider repurposing the park as a children’s playground or other useful facility.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — ADA Compliance at All Parks

None of Cumberland Gap’s four existing parks are ADA compliant. All need ADA parking and paths to each park’s amenities. As the Town pursues grant funding, ADA compliance should be the top priority for improvements to each park.

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Pursue Trail Town Identity

As mentioned earlier, the Town is pursuing grant funds to identify improvements needed to enhance the city’s historic, cultural, and recreational assets as a tool for economic development. The town is the northern trailhead of Tennessee’s Cumberland Trail State Park that will connect the state’s northern and southern boundaries in East Tennessee. Cumberland Gap is also the northern terminus of the East Tennessee Crossing National Scenic Byway. The virtual trail connects historic, cultural, and outdoor landmarks between the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the Smoky Mountains National Park. A walking/biking trail connects the town to the LMU campus. Two trailheads to over seventy miles of trails within the national park are in and adjacent to the town, the Iron Furnace trailhead, and the Daniel Boone Visitor Information Center. Understandably, the Town should promote its identity as a trail town and work closely with the National Park Service to continue fostering their mutually beneficial relationship.

RECOMMENDATION #4 — Pursue Connectivity throughout the Town

During the downtown planning process, the Town should pursue achieving complete walkability and connectivity to all four park locations, parking areas, businesses, and residences. The town is relatively flat, making this

aspiration appear to be very attainable, both to promote livability and as an amenity for attracting businesses and visitors.

Harrogate

RECOMMENDATION #1 — Complete the Harrogate Sports Complex

This plan identifies a strategy to complete the new sports complex on Forge Ridge Road in three phases over the next ten years. The proposed improvements are logically phased for maximum efficiency in construction and costs. The phases are also scheduled to take advantage of funding cycles for available grants. The City should budget accordingly to maximize both funding opportunities and construction phasing.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — Consider Future Park Locations

The City is constructing a new park; however, there will not be space available at the new site to relocate all the amenities at the Route 63, US 2E complex owned by LMU. The City should stay aware of available properties as they are placed on the market for potential new park sites.

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Extend Existing Trail to Cumberland Gap High School

The trail through the city of Harrogate connects to the north with the town of Cumberland Gap's trail section at the former railroad tunnel, then south to a trail overpass that crosses US 25E and continues south on the west side of the highway fronting the LMU campus to the former City Park site. From this point, the path extends through a tunnel underneath State Route 63 along Harrogate Crossing to Harrogate City Hall. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has plans to widen a portion of State Route 63 inside the city of Harrogate. This widening project will extend the path approximately one-third of the distance (1.6 miles) between City Hall and Cumberland Gap High School along State Route 63. TDOT's preliminary plans include extending the trail along the right-of-way during the widening project. The City hopes to build the remaining section that would extend to a connection currently existing just north of the school. The schedule for construction is currently undetermined according to TDOT'S website. The City should stay in communication with TDOT to properly budget the construction of the trail extension.

RECOMMENDATION #4 — Study Possible Trail Extension from City Hall to the New Sports Complex

It is theoretically feasible that a trail could be extended from City Hall to the new sports complex. A feasibility study should be conducted to determine the costs associated with this connection.

New Tazewell

RECOMMENDATION #1 — C.W. Gose Park Expansion

The fourteen-acre C.W. Gose Park will be completely developed if all the improvements on the concept plan are constructed within the next ten years. The Town hopes to expand the existing park in the future. The Town has had communications with the adjacent property owners but has no legal documents currently in place that would ensure the availability of the land when those properties are placed on the market. The Town may want to consider right of first refusal or long-term options on these potential expansion sites.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — Study Connectivity between the Park to the Northern City Limits

The Town might consider a study to extend a bike lane or trail from C.W. Gose Park to downtown New Tazewell. The distance is 1.6 miles. Another possible connection from downtown is a one-mile trail north along State Route 33 to the city limits with the town of Tazewell.

Tazewell

RECOMMENDATION #1 — Complete the Tazewell Municipal Park

If the Town adheres to the schedule outlined in this plan, the Tazewell Municipal Park will be fully developed in ten years. The proposed improvements indicated in the concept plan are phased for maximum efficiency in construction and cost. The phases are also scheduled to take advantage of funding cycles for available grants. The Town should budget accordingly to maximize both funding opportunities and efficiencies in phasing construction.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — Consider Future Park Locations

The Town will maximize the development potential of the existing 17.7-acre Municipal Park once the improvements indicated in the concept plan are constructed. The Town may want to consider expanding the park in the future and explore the possibility of securing adjoining vacant land through a right of first refusal or long-term option. The Town should also stay aware of available properties as they are placed on the market as potential new park sites.

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Study Connectivity between the Park to the Southern City Limits

The Town might consider a study to extend a bike lane or trail from the Municipal Park to State Route 33, then south along the highway to the shared city limits with New Tazewell. This project could coincide with a similar study by New Tazewell and TDOT to provide a non-motorized connection between the town's two parks.

Countywide

RECOMMENDATION — Continue Expanding Access Points Along the Powell River

It has been noted by the Powell River Tourism Committee of the Claiborne County Tourism Commission that there are not enough adequately constructed access points along the Powell River. The County, through the Tourism Commission should continue to work with TVA and other entities to secure and improve additional access points along the river. The Powell River blueway is an important tourist draw that would continue to expand in popularity and therefore, increase revenues to the County.

9 Programming, Organizational, and O&M

9.1 Existing and Future Facilities

Cumberland Gap

RECOMMENDATION #1 — Consider Repurposing Russell Berkau Park

Cumberland Gap currently has four parks: the small playground in front of City Hall, the Kaitlyn Devries Dog Park, and two parks with stages for events. The Festival Park downtown has an elevated stage and seating as does the Russell Berkau Park. The facilities are only a few blocks apart. One would wonder if the town needs two stage and seating facilities. The Town is pursuing funding a study to examine the future use of public lands and infrastructure for an overall downtown redevelopment plan. As part of the planning process, the Town may consider repurposing the park as a children’s playground or other useful facility.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — ADA Compliance at All Parks

None of Cumberland Gap’s four existing parks are ADA compliant. All need ADA parking and paths to each park’s amenities. As the Town pursues grant funding, ADA compliance should be the top priority for improvements to each park.

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Pursue Trail Town Identity

As mentioned earlier, the Town is pursuing grant funds to identify improvements needed to enhance the city’s historic, cultural, and recreational assets as a tool for economic development. The town is the northern trailhead of Tennessee’s Cumberland Trail State Park that will connect the state’s northern and southern boundaries in East Tennessee. Cumberland Gap is also the northern terminus of the East Tennessee Crossing National Scenic Byway. The virtual trail connects historic, cultural, and outdoor landmarks between the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the Smoky Mountains National Park. A walking/biking trail connects the town to the LMU campus. Two trailheads to over seventy miles of trails within the national park are in and adjacent to the town, the Iron Furnace trailhead, and the Daniel Boone Visitor Information Center. Understandably, the Town should promote its identity as a trail town and work closely with the National Park Service to continue fostering their mutually beneficial relationship.

RECOMMENDATION #4 — Pursue Connectivity throughout the Town

During the downtown planning process, the Town should pursue achieving complete walkability and connectivity to all four park locations, parking areas, businesses, and residences. The town is relatively flat, making this aspiration appear to be very attainable, both to promote livability and as an amenity for attracting businesses and visitors.

Harrogate

RECOMMENDATION #1 — Complete the Harrogate Sports Complex

This plan identifies a strategy to complete the new sports complex on Forge Ridge Road in three phases over the next ten years. The proposed improvements are logically phased for maximum efficiency in construction and costs. The phases are also scheduled to take advantage of funding cycles for available grants. The City should budget accordingly to maximize both funding opportunities and construction phasing.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — Consider Future Park Locations

The City is constructing a new park; however, there will not be space available at the new site to relocate all the amenities at the Route 63, US 2E complex owned by LMU. The City should stay aware of available properties as they are placed on the market for potential new park sites.

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Extend Existing Trail to Cumberland Gap High School

The trail through the city of Harrogate connects to the north with the town of Cumberland Gap's trail section at the former railroad tunnel, then south to a trail overpass that crosses US 25E and continues south on the west side of the highway fronting the LMU campus to the former City Park site. From this point, the path extends through a tunnel underneath State Route 63 along Harrogate Crossing to Harrogate City Hall. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has plans to widen a portion of State Route 63 inside the city of Harrogate. This widening project will extend the path approximately one-third of the distance (1.6 miles) between City Hall and Cumberland Gap High School along State Route 63. TDOT's preliminary plans include extending the trail along the right-of-way during the widening project. The City hopes to build the remaining section that would extend to a connection currently existing just north of the school. The schedule for construction is currently undetermined according to TDOT's website. The City should stay in communication with TDOT to properly budget the construction of the trail extension.

RECOMMENDATION #4 — Study Possible Trail Extension from City Hall to the New Sports Complex

It is theoretically feasible that a trail could be extended from City Hall to the new sports complex. A feasibility study should be conducted to determine the costs associated with this connection.

New Tazewell

RECOMMENDATION #1 — C.W. Gose Park Expansion

The fourteen-acre C.W. Gose Park will be completely developed if all the improvements on the concept plan are constructed within the next ten years. The Town hopes to expand the existing park in the future. The Town has had communications with the adjacent property owners but has no legal documents currently in place that would ensure the availability of the land when those properties are placed on the market. The Town may want to consider right of first refusal or long-term options on these potential expansion sites.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — Study Connectivity between the Park to the Northern City Limits

The Town might consider a study to extend a bike lane or trail from C.W. Gose Park to downtown New Tazewell. The distance is 1.6 miles. Another possible connection from downtown is a one-mile trail north along State Route 33 to the city limits with the town of Tazewell.

Countywide

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Continue Expanding Access Points Along the Powell River

It has been noted by the Powell River Tourism Committee of the Claiborne County Tourism Commission that there are not enough adequately constructed access points along the Powell River. The County, through the Tourism Commission should continue to work with TVA and other entities to secure and improve additional access points

along the river. The Powell River blueway is an important tourist draw that would continue to expand in popularity and therefore, increase revenues to the County.

9.2 Programming, Organizational, and O&M

RECOMMENDATION #1 — A Countywide *Parks and Recreation Foundation* Feasibility Study

There is currently a shared contribution for parks and recreation facilities among the cities in Claiborne County. The town of New Tazewell provides the only pool; Tazewell has the nearly one-mile walking trail; Harrogate is building a soccer field; and Cumberland Gap currently has the only dog park. However, this equilibrium appears to be coincidental. The cities should have conversations among themselves as they plan for future facilities. This function could be formalized by way of a countywide parks and recreation committee or foundation that could provide a structure for these discussions. If this “body” were to operate as a 501(c)(3) organization, it could also be effective in fund-raising efforts and sponsorships, especially when seeking contributions from the county’s corporate and manufacturing base. The county and cities may consider creating an exploratory committee to begin the process of discovery and feasibility.

RECOMMENDATION #2 — Formalize Joint-use Agreements

Joint-use agreements are documents that formalize the shared use of recreation areas and facilities. Their purpose is to secure long-term access to shared facilities, such as parks, schools, private facilities, and those owned by other entities. These agreements address the structural elements such as time and place, as well as legal issues such as indemnification and liability. Joint-use agreements should be formalized by following the template and checklists provided in the *Tennessee Recreation Joint Facility Use Agreements* toolkit available on the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association website. While LMU has not renewed a lease with the city of Harrogate for public use of the amenities at the former Harrogate City Park, a joint-use agreement could be renewed annually to formalize the cooperation between the City and LMU to provide facilities for the public.

RECOMMENDATION #3 — Benchmarking

Benchmarking is a tool encouraged by the State and recommended by the National Parks and Recreation Association. Benchmarking sets standards for the organizational structure of local parks and recreation departments. Those standards are structured in different levels or tiers for certification. It is an excellent tool for communities to use in self-evaluating the structure of their organization and delivery of parks and recreation services. The consulting team strongly encourages each community to engage in the benchmarking process and apply for certification. More information about benchmarking is available on the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation website.

RECOMMENDATION #4 — Operation and Maintenance

Each community in the county compares favorably to other governments of comparable size in the country when considering expenditures per capital for operation and maintenance of park and recreation facilities. Most of the existing park facilities in the county are well maintained. However, as more park amenities are installed and constructed over the next ten years, the cities should expect additional costs for manpower and equipment costs to maintain an inviting experience at the community’s parks

Endnotes

¹ www.nps.gov/cuga

² www.powellriverblueway.org

³ www.harrogatetn.com

⁴ www.lmunet.edu

⁵ www.census.gov

⁶ <https://www.tn.gov/environment.html>

⁷ <http://www.trpa.net/content.asp?contentid=4>

⁸ <https://factfinder.census.gov>

⁹ Middleton, Erin J. and Mathew N. Murray, 2009, Population Projections for the State of Tennessee, 2010-2030

¹⁰ <http://www.cumberlandtrail.guide/>

¹¹ www.powellriverblueway.org

¹² www.norrislakemarinas.org

¹³ <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/big-ridge>


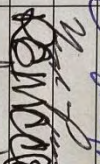
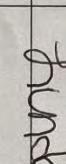
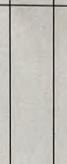

¹⁴ <https://www.eteamz.com/DISTRICT6TN/>

¹⁵ <http://www.ayso551.org>

¹⁶ <http://www.claibornepartnership.com/events>

Attachment B:
Public Hearing
Sign-In Sheet

Public Hearing
 Claiborne County Regional Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update
 Sign In Sheet
 July 6, 2021

| Print Name | Signature | Address | Email |
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