

CHAPTER VI: RECREATION ELEMENT

Introduction

In February 1996, the Aumsville City Council adopted a 10-year park improvement plan that includes an inventory of existing park facilities and identifies future park needs and improvements through the year 2005 (see **City of Aumsville Park Facilities and Improvements Plan**). Although not a component of the Aumsville Comprehensive Plan, the 10-year park plan is designed to provide a guide for the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities inside the Aumsville urban growth boundary (UGB) through the year 2005. In February 1996 the City Council also adopted a Systems Development Charge (SDC) to help pay for identified park needs and improvements (see **Resolution No. 5-96**).

The Recreation element of the city's comprehensive plan update builds upon the needs and standards identified in the 10-year plan by providing a planning blueprint and policy direction for the provision of recreational opportunities for Aumsville residents until 2015 (20 years).

Recreational and Park Classifications

Recreational Classification System

Resource and Activity-Based Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities are frequently classified as resource-based or activity-based. Resource-based facilities are centered around particular natural resources which may provide opportunities for picnicking, hiking, hunting, water sports, fishing or simply enjoying nature. Activity-based facilities are developed for the enjoyment of particular activities such as basketball, baseball/softball, or football, recreational programs such as aerobics and painting, senior citizen activities, and spectator sports. The distinction between these two types is not clear-cut since many resource-based sites often contain activity-based facilities.

Passive and Active Recreation

Recreation encompasses a range of activities that can be categorized as either active or passive. Active recreational opportunities involve the user as an active participant, such as baseball, golf, and aerobics. On the other hand, passive recreational opportunities are pursued in a more leisurely manner or primarily as a spectator, which include nature walks, fishing, and picnicking. Activities such as hiking and bicycling can be either active or passive depending upon the amount of effort expended.

Park Classification System

Parks and recreational areas can be classified according to various systems. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) set their own guidelines regarding park classification, whereas local governments may set their own classifications and standards.

The following is a general description of park classifications based, in part, on the NRPA guidelines.

Mini-Park

A mini-park is usually less than one acre in size and serves the population of a sub-neighborhood and generally serves a radius of less than 1/4 mile. Access is usually by walking or bicycling. Mini-parks generally contain landscaping, playground equipment, and monuments and are often used to create small "pockets" or "infills" for low impact recreational activities.

Neighborhood Park

A park containing from less than 1 acre and up to 15 acres which serves the population of an entire neighborhood. Access is by walking or bicycling and serves a maximum radius of 1/4 mile. Neighborhood parks generally contain more facilities than mini-parks and may include a mixture of various facilities, both resource and activity based.

Community Park

A park that serves the population of an entire city and may be reached by walking, bicycling or driving. Community parks contain a wide variety of resource and activity based facilities which offer the opportunity to participate in a wide array of activities within a particular area. The service radius is about 1/2 to three miles.

Regional Park

Regional parks are very large parks of several hundred to several thousand acres. They usually have regionally significant natural resource areas for hiking, camping, boating, wildlife observation, horseback riding, and other resource-based activities. Regional parks generally serve an area within a one hour drive.

Linear Parks

Linear parks are special parks developed along natural or manmade corridors for recreational modes of travel such as horseback riding trails, bicycle trails, hiking trails, and canoe trails. They have no standard size or service area. Some may be intended for local users while others may offer unique scenic or cultural features that attract users from a wide area.

Special Use Facilities

Include facilities that are specialized for a particular use and do not fit the typical definition of a park. Examples are boat ramps, golf courses, target ranges, and historic or archeological sites. They have no standard size or service area.

Conservation Area

Conservation areas are protected areas that are intended to preserve unique natural or cultural amenities. Conservation is the primary objective but limited recreational use may also be incorporated.

Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

The Aumsville park system consists of three parks which include a total of 10.5 acres. The playgrounds and recreation equipment of the Aumsville Elementary School are currently available to the public and add approximately nine acres of play area and open space, but are not included in the recreational facilities inventory. The school also provides space for community meeting and sporting events. The city's community building is available for community meetings and events. **Table 6.1** presents an inventory of city-maintained recreational facilities by location, type, designation, and size.

Table 6.1: Inventory of Recreational Facilities, 1995

Name/Location/Facilities	Park Type/ Designation	Approximate Acres
Porter-Boone Park Mill Creek Road & 11th Street * 8 belt swing set * 1 slide * 1 merry-go-round * 8 picnic tables * 3 BBQ stands * 6,500 sq. ft. multi-use basketball and tennis court * 3 aluminum benches * concrete bandstand/platform * potable water	Community Park/ Activity-based	5.0
Mill Creek Park South of Mill Creek Road * 2 covered picnic shelters w/concrete pads and handicapped access sidewalks * 5 picnic tables * 1 sand volleyball court * 1 softball field w/ fence * 2 horseshoe pits	Community Park/ Activity-based	4.5
Wildwood Park 5th Street * 2 belt swing set * 1 slide * 1 merry-go-round * 2 spring toys * 1 teeter totter * 1 jungle gym	Mini-Park/ Activity-based	1.0
TOTAL		10.5

Source: City of Aumsville Park Facilities and Improvements Plan, February, 1996.

Future Park and Recreational Needs

Aumsville's 10 and 20 year recreational facility needs are based on the comprehensive plan's projected population and city's 10-year park facilities and improvements plan. (see **Table 6.2**).

It should also be noted that many other resource and activity-based recreational facilities and opportunities are available to Aumsville residents that are located outside the city's UGB. State and county maintained parks and recreational areas, national forests, school facilities in neighboring communities, privately owned facilities available for public access, as well as open space areas also provide recreational opportunities. These sites complement those in Aumsville and create a rather large and diverse source for recreation opportunities within a relatively short distance for city residents.

Table 6.2: Park Facility Development Standards and Projected Needs

Type of Park or Recreational Facility	Park Facility Development Standards	Existing Supply (1995)	Park Facility Needs Based on Projected Population		Recommended Improvements
			3,071 by 2005 (10 Years)	4,127 by 2015 (20 Years)	
Community Parks	2.5 acres/1,000 population	2 parks 9.25 acres: Mill Creek Park Porter-Boone Park	2 parks 7.87 acres	10.32 acres	Expand parks along Mill Creek to create trails and natural areas
Neighborhood & Mini Parks	2.5 acres/1,000 population within 1/4 - 1/2 mile radius	1 park 0.3 acres: Wildwood Park	3 parks 7.87 acres	10.32 acres	Add 5-7 acres of new neighborhood parks: *Eastside Neighborhood Park *Westside Neighborhood Park
Natural Areas	up to 5 acres/1,000 population	None	up to 15.75 acres	20.64 acres	Couple natural areas with the Community Parks along Mill Creek or create natural areas along Beaver Creek
Recreational Center	1 center per 5,000-15,000 population	None	1 center	1 center	Develop Recreational Center at Porter-Boone Park

Community Center	1 center per 15,000 population; 1 sq. ft per person	1 center 5,000 sq. ft	1 center 5,000 sq. ft	1 center 5,000 sq. ft	Upgrade kitchen and meeting facilities to better serve community needs
Swimming Pool	1 pool per community up to 16,500 population	None	None	None	Utilize Stayton and Turner pools. Develop Wading Pool in Wildwood Park
Activity Fields	1 per 1,500 population	1	2 to 3	2 to 3	1 @ community park 1 @ each neighborhood park
Little League Baseball	1 field per 1,500 population	1 (Mill Creek Park) 1 (Aumsville Elementary) 4 (Cascade Complex)	3	3	Upgrade field at Mill Creek Park Develop additional fields if demand warrants in new neighborhood park
Playground Softball	1 per 1,500 population coupled with multipurpose activity field	None	2	2	Develop informal softball fields in new neighborhood parks
Adult Softball	1 field per 3,000 population	1 Mill Creek Park	1 to 2	1 to 2	Upgrade Mill Creek Park ballfields
Picnic Shelters	1 small shelter per 5,000 population; 1 large group shelter per 10,000 population	2 small shelters	1 small shelter 1 large shelter	1 small shelter 1 large shelter	Construct 1 large group shelter at Porter-Boone Park

Tennis Courts	1 court per 3,000 population	1	2	1 to 2	None
Outdoor Volleyball (sand pit)	1 per 5,000 population	1	1	1	None
Basketball (1/2 court)	1 per neighborhood park in parks larger than 1 acre in size	None	2	2	Develop 1 at new Westside and Eastside neighborhood parks
Basketball Courts (full court outdoor)	1 per 6,000 population	1 (Porter-Boone Park)	1	1	None
Horseshoe Pits	1 per 2,500 population	2	2	2	None

Source: City of Aumsville Park Facilities and Improvements Plan; adopted by City Council on February, 1996.

Implementation Measures

The 10-year Park Facilities and Improvements Plan identifies the need to develop three new park facilities: 1) Westside Neighborhood Park, 2) Eastside Neighborhood Park, and 3) Water Tower Mini-Park. It is anticipated that the recommended acreage needed for both the Westside and Eastside parks will be dedicated in conjunction with new residential developments. In addition to new park facilities, the city also needs to continue to maintain and upgrade its existing facilities in order to meet the anticipated needs of city residents. Some city parks have not been improved and only serve passive recreational needs. Implementing the improvements recommended in this plan will better provide for the recreational needs of city residents as well as increase their use. The estimated cost for implementing the recommended capital park improvements is **\$927,050**. Based on the identified park development standards and the projected population, the recommended 10-year improvements will also satisfy the projected 2015 population.

In February 1996, the Aumsville City Council adopted a Systems Development Charge (SDC) to help pay for park system improvements. Consequently, implementing the recommended improvements identified in this plan will take place as new development occurs and as funding becomes available to the city. The goals, objectives, and policies developed as part of this element establish the implementation measures for meeting the identified recreational needs during the 20-year planning period.