



## 04 | Inventory Assessment

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## Inventory Assessment

Recreation is a necessary part of any community to provide places to play, opportunities to improve health and wellness, and to conserve and protect natural resources. This section will look at the typical parks and recreation facilities in a community. An inventory of all the facilities offered is also provided to understand the recreational opportunities that the City of Albemarle has full access to. These recreational facilities are derived from many different sources, including the following:

### Examples of parks inventoried and included in service consideration:

- Publicly owned local, state, and national parks; trails; and open space
- County / municipal or school facilities with joint-use or interlocal agreements
- Privately owned parks that are managed for full public use
- Cemeteries maintained by the parks and recreation

### Privately owned parks that are managed for full public use:

- Parks in gated communities
- Private golf courses
- School or municipal facilities with joint-use agreements
  - The County Parks and Recreation is not the primary facility manager
- Zoos, museums, professional sports stadiums

## Types of Parks and Recreation Facilities

A comprehensive park system comprises various park types ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to larger parks with athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers, and open spaces. This type of park reflects the facility's scale and the diverse patrons' differing recreational preferences. Park models are guidelines for fulfilling communities' future recreational needs. Only some of these types of parks are the responsibility of the local government; several agencies (federal, state, county, other local municipalities, and private organizations) also provide recreational opportunities. To further understand the City's role in providing recreation services to its citizens, it is necessary to understand the elements of a comprehensive park system.



Crowders Mountain State Park | Source: North Carolina State Parks

## Regional Parks

Per NRPA resources, regional parks are typically very large sites. Morrow Mountain State Park is an example of a regional park that provides recreational open space and historical education opportunities for its patrons. Regional parks preserve the unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found there, such as diverse land formations, vegetation, and wildlife. Most regional parks have environmental centers, campsites, nature trails, observation decks, picnic areas, and open fields for non-structured activities, such as frisbee throwing or kite flying, are generally found there.

Specific standards/criteria for developing regional parks are as follows:

### Acres / Population Ratio

10 acres per 1,000 persons

### Service Area

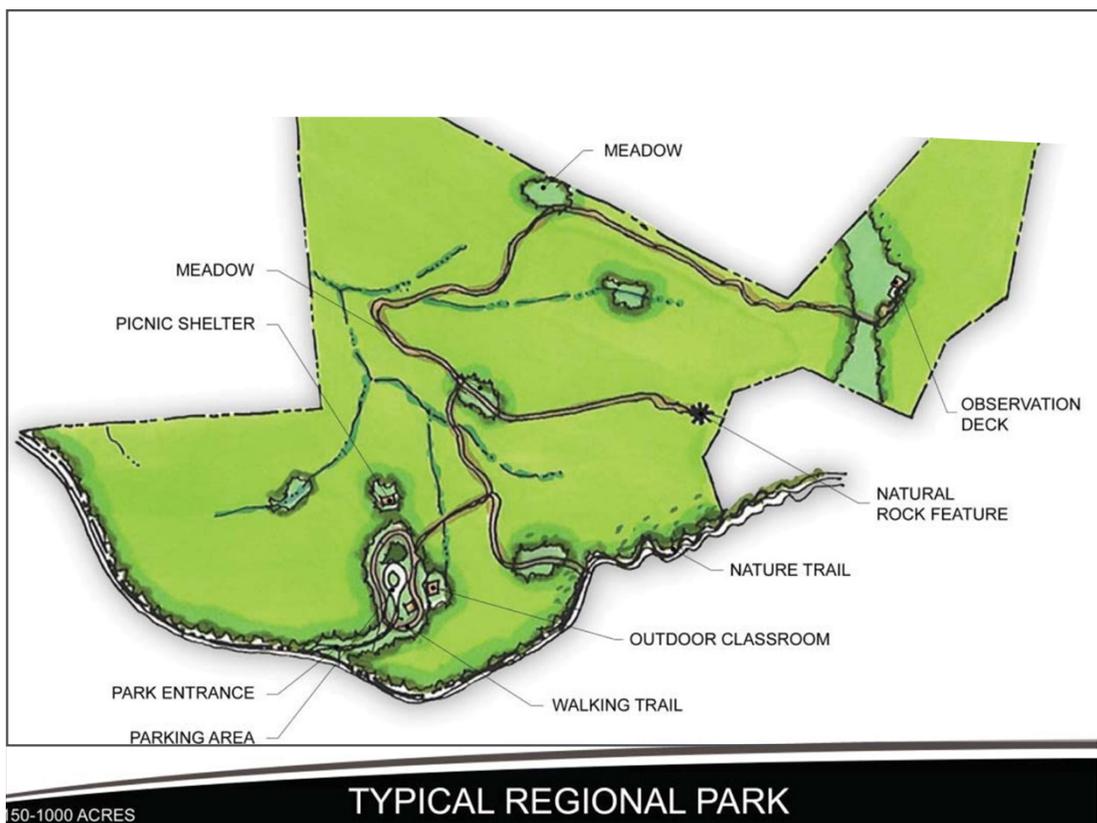
Region wide

### Desirable Range

150 – 1,000 + acres with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in community parks.)

### Typical Facilities

- Environmental center
- Caretaker's house
- Equestrian center
- Primitive camping
- Group camping
- Recreational vehicle camping
- Nature trails
- Observation deck
- Picnic shelters and grills
- Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
- Boating
- Parking
- Fishing piers
- Boat docks
- Restrooms
- Vending
- Swimming



## District Parks

District parks function as the major source of active recreation for several neighborhoods within a community. District parks are intensely developed, offering a multitude of facilities to serve their intended geographic user area, and activities are balanced between active and passive recreation. District parks are typically developed to accommodate athletic league sporting events and tournament competitions. Passive recreation opportunities, such as walking for pleasure, wildlife observation, and picnicking, are found in undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers. District parks present great opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation.

Sites for district parks should be relatively level to alleviate excessive grading. When possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily as passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should be an important consideration when choosing sites. Developing district parks is typically the responsibility of county or municipal agencies.

Specific standards / criteria for developing district parks are as follows:

### Acreage / Population Ratio

5 acres per 1,000 persons

### Service Area

1 to 2 ½-mile radius

### Desirable Range

75 – 200 acres

### Typical Facilities

- Playgrounds
- Full- or half-size basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Baseball / softball / multipurpose field
- Soccer / football field
- Soccer practice field (movable goals)
- Tennis courts (lighted)
- Nature trails
- Picnic tables with grill (with or without shelter)
- Restrooms / concessions
- Benches or bench swings
- Parking / service yard
- 50% of the site remains undeveloped
- Tennis courts (lighted)

### Alternate Facilities\*

- Tennis center
- Amphitheater
- Observation decks
- Fishing piers / boating / boat dock
- Recreation center

\* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted



## Typical District Park



Town Creek Park: A district park in Brunswick County

## Community Parks

Community parks focus on meeting community-based recreational needs and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Compared to district parks, community parks have a smaller range of recreation facilities. They may host athletic league sports events and provide passive recreation. Fifty percent of the community park property should be developed for only passive recreation, with these relatively undisturbed areas serving as buffers around the park and / or acting as buffers between active facilities.

Community park sites should have varying topography and vegetation, and several different tree species should be present in forested areas. Community parks should contain cleared areas to locate active recreational facilities. At least one natural water feature (lake, river, or creek) is desirable in community parks. The land acquired for use as a community park should be contiguous in nature and strategically located to serve all users within the designated community. The development of community parks typically falls within the realm of municipal responsibilities.

\*Park type acreage varies based on site limitations and amenity types

Specific standards / criteria for developing community parks are as follows:

### Acreage / Population Ratio

2 – 5 acres per 1,000 persons

### Service Area

1 to 2-mile radius

### Desirable Range

15 – 50 acres

### Typical Facilities

- Playgrounds
- Full-size or half-size basketball courts
- Swimming pool
- Tennis / volleyball courts
- Soccer / multipurpose fields
- Baseball / softball fields
- Nature trails
- Restrooms / concessions
- Benches or bench swings
- Parking
- Picnic tables / shelter (with or without grills)
- 50% of the site to remain undeveloped

### Alternate Facilities\*

- Recreation center
- Natural water features
- Disc golf
- Amphitheater
- Observation decks
- Pickleball

\* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted



## Typical Community Park (15 – 50 Acres)

15-50 ACRES

TYPICAL COMMUNITY PARK



Example of a community park | Source: Town of Harrisburg, NC

## Nighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient recreation source and serve as the social focus point of neighborhoods. Usually located within walking distance of the service area, neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for all age groups. The smaller size of neighborhood parks, as compared to those previously mentioned, requires intense development. 50% of each site should remain undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent property owners.

Specific standards / criteria for developing neighborhood parks are as follows:

### Service Area

¾- to 1-mile radius to serve walking

### Acreage / Population Ratio

2 acres per 1,000 persons

### Desirable Range

7 – 15 acres



Neighborhood Park

### Typical Facilities

- Softball or baseball field
- Multipurpose field
- Half-size basketball courts
- Picnic shelter with grills
- Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
- Benches or bench swings
- Playground
- 50% of the site to remain undeveloped

### Alternate Facilities\*

- Nature trails
- Tennis / pickleball courts

\* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



## Typical Neighborhood Park (7 - 15 Acres)

15 ACRES

TYPICAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

## Mini-parks

Mini-parks are small places typically located in urban areas or associated with residential or institutional developments. These facilities can bring communities together with events, promote local history, or be a source of beauty. The mini-park should provide very limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. They are typically located within walking distance of the area served.

Specific standards / criteria for developing mini-parks are as follows:

### Service Area

¼- to ½-mile radius to serve walking

### Acreage / Population Ratio

½ acre per 1,000 persons

### Desirable Range

One acre or more

### Typical Facilities

- Half-size basketball courts
- Picnic tables with grills (not under shelter)
- Benches or bench swings
- Open play area playground

### Alternate Facilities\*

- Nature trails
- Tennis / pickleball courts

\*Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



Example of a mini park



## Typical Mini-park

## Linear Parks and Greenways

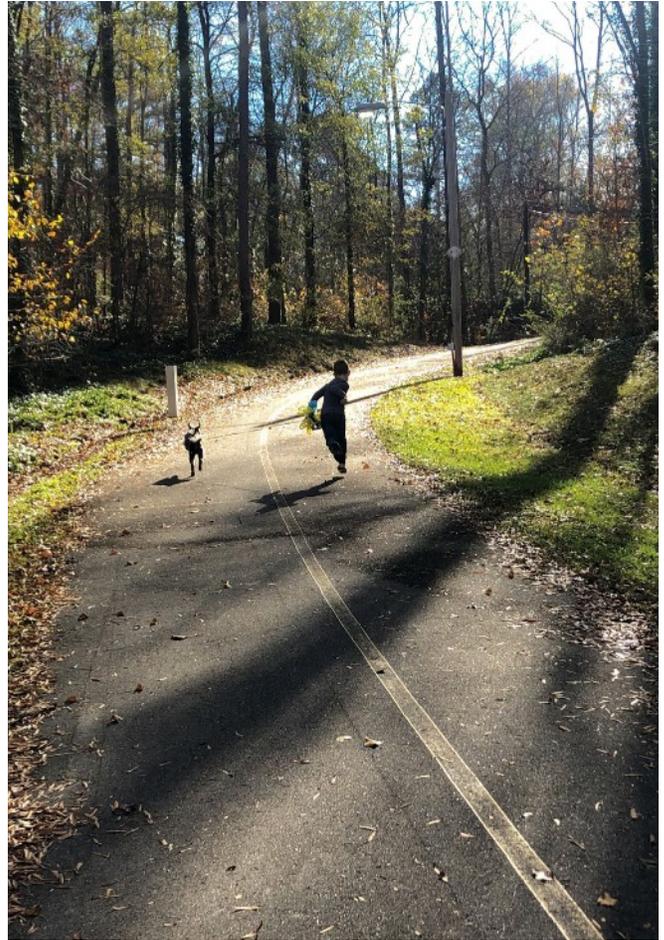
Linear parks and greenways are areas developed for various modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, walking, and running. Linear parks are developed for several reasons:

- To connect existing recreational facilities
- To facilitate public rights-of-way
- To connect destination points
- For scenic views and leisure touring

The length and size of linear parks vary, depending on their intended use, the terrain of the parkland, and the distance between entities to be connected, such as parks, schools, cultural / historical resources, residential areas, and businesses. These linear parks are often developed within a large land area designated for protecting and managing the natural environment, with recreation opportunities as a secondary objective.

## Unique or Special-Use Facilities

Unique or special-use facilities exist to enhance or utilize a unique artificial or natural feature. These can be civic spaces, parkways, historical sites, sites of archaeological significance, swimming pools, conservation easements, floodplains, etc. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this park category. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource, while providing optimum use, is considered desirable.



Linear parks and greenways offer recreation and connectivity



Climbing is a popular recreation activity

## Public Open Space

While adopting population-based standards for parkland and facilities is realistic and appropriate, it is not realistic to establish open space standards. The more reasonable method of establishing appropriate standards for open space is to determine the criteria necessary to protect significant natural areas contained therein.

Public open space is defined as any land acquired to be kept primarily undeveloped and used for non-programmed activities. The functions of open space include:

- Preservation of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
- Protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)

- Protection of communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
- Protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
- Protection of approach and take-off areas near airports (clear zones)
- Protection of undeveloped land (landfills)
- Protection of areas aesthetically pleasing for a corridor (viewsheds)

While these areas are some of the more common open spaces, many others exist. Albemarle has access to state and county recreational areas that provide visitors access to open space at Morrow Mountain State Park, and Lake Norman State Park and the Uwharrie National Forest offer natural open space and wildlife observation opportunities.



Lake Norman State Park | Credit: North Carolina State Parks

# Inventory Assessment

## Albemarle Soccer Complex

Neighborhood Park | 2 acres

100 College Drive, Albemarle, NC

This is the only park in the system with soccer fields and is only informally designed as a park. By way of a joint use agreement, Albemarle Parks and Recreation maintains and programs the soccer fields on the Stanly Community College campus. Parking is limited and so scheduling games / events is critical for space.

This park can generally only be driven to. While there are residential properties, businesses, Stanly Community College, and National Guard Facilities all within a walking distance, there are no established trails to or within these park areas.

There are no known grant restrictions on the property.

Site amenities:

- 3 soccer fields



## City Lake Park

District Park | 140 acres

815 Concord Road, Albemarle, NC

This park site has potential to be a district park; however, the current site development makes it more in line with a community park that is focused on passive recreation. With over 100 species of birds, the site is ecologically rich, which is a draw for visitors. There are currently some areas that are not well-lit, which we will improve by adding lighting. We will also add security cameras to ensure park safety.

There are residential properties and businesses close to the park; however, there is no pedestrian infrastructure linking these areas to the park.

The site received PARTF funding in 2004, so some infrastructure is not eligible for PARTF funding until 2029. These items include: the trail, boat dock, picnic shelter, amphitheater, picnic areas, and signage.

Site amenities:

- 2 boat docks
- 3 picnic shelters
- Amphitheater
- Multi-use trail
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Kayak rental kiosk
- Fishing area
- Bathrooms
- Playground



City Lake Park

## Hearne Park

Mini Park | .5 acres

443 South First Street, Albemarle, NC

This park provides quiet, green open space in Albemarle’s historic downtown. While small, it provides an enjoyable place to enjoy nature and is enjoyed by many during lunchtime. Currently, this site experiences vandalism, needs accessibility improvements, has poor lighting, and is frequented by those experiencing homelessness.

Residential properties, businesses, and government facilities are within walking distance of the site and routes to the park are available.

No known grant funds have been used on the site.

## Niven Center

Special Use | 2 acres

1816 East Main Street, Albemarle, NC

Formerly an Army Reserve Base, this space was transformed into a community center through the federal Lands to Parks program, which is overseen by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. It was last renovated in 2013.

The parks and recreation department was making good use of the facility; however, the design was not conducive for recreational purposes. Specifically, the training and multi-purpose rooms are in the same area as the administrative offices, which could be distracting for staff and confusing for program participants. The large parking area is generally under-utilized due to the facility not being originally designed as a recreation center.

The Niven Community Center now hosts the Stanly County Senior Center’s congregate nutrition site and Homes for Hope, which is a local nonprofit dedicated to providing transitional housing to help motivated individuals move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The center is near residential properties, businesses, East Albemarle Elementary School, and Albemarle Middle School, but there are limited dedicated walking routes to the site, which makes driving a necessity.

Site amenities:

- Training room (100+ person capacity)
- Multi-purpose room
- Administrative offices



Under-utilized parking area at the Niven Center

## Don Montgomery / Optimist Park

Neighborhood Park | 21 acres

500 US-52, Albemarle, NC

This park site is loved by many. Home to the Albemarle Diamond Youth Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Albemarle High school Baseball and the Uwharrie Wampus Cats (a collegiate wood bat summer baseball league), it is the baseball center of the City.

Occasionally, this park has been vandalized, which can be corrected with better lighting. Additionally, it is a place that is frequented by people experiencing homelessness.

With a greenway that provides access to the downtown, residential properties, businesses, and the Stanly Learning Academy, the park is well-connected to the City.

The site has 7.94 of its acres protected by Federal LWCF funding (Project 37-00253). This protects the park; however, it generally restricts the site for outdoor recreational usage.

Site amenities:

- Baseball / softball fields (1 for adults, 2 for kids)
- Greenway
- Playground
- Picnic shelter
- Bathrooms

## Strategic Growth

*Albemarle's 2023–2026 strategic plan included a goal of improving community and economic growth opportunities.*

*Within that goal, prioritizing downtown revitalization and beautification was listed. Don Montgomery / Optimist Park and the adjacent, City-owned Wiscassett property are both located in the downtown area and, if improved, would help achieve this goal.*



Don Montgomery / Optimist Park



## Chuck Morehead Memorial Park

Community Park | 65 acres

1910 Northwoods Drive, Albemarle, NC

This park was built in 1985 and is named after a former Albemarle Parks and Recreation director, Charles Y. Morehead. Morehead served in the 13th Airborne Division in Europe during World War II.

There are residential properties and businesses in the area, but there are not good trails, so the park must be driven to.

This park received LWCF (project number 37-00610) and PARTF funding in 2015, which helped the City develop and / or renovate the following: tennis court renovations, swimming pool renovations, shade structure, dog park, sidewalk, trail, walking, basketball court renovations, picnic shelter, corn hole. The park is protected and the PARTF elements must be maintained until 2030.

Site amenities:

- 6 lighted tennis courts
- 2 picnic shelters
- Dog park
- Multi-purpose trail
- Basketball court
- Sand volleyball court
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Swimming pool
- Cornhole
- 2 multi-purpose fields
- Playground
- Bathrooms



Chuck Morehead Memorial Park



Chuck Morehead Memorial Park

## Rock Creek Park

Community Park | 33 acres

100 Rock Creek Drive, Albemarle, NC

In the early 1900's, work completed under the Works Progress Administration perfectly complements the old growth trees and Rock Creek that meanders through the park.

Occasionally, this park has been vandalized, which can be corrected with better lighting. Additionally, it is a place that is frequented by people experiencing homelessness.

Nearby, there are several properties including a church, businesses, and homes, but the trails at the park are not well-connected to these areas.

Site amenities:

- 10 pickleball courts
- Swimming pool
- Softball / baseball field
- Playground
- Walking trail
- Bocce courts
- Ropes course (offered through partnership)
- Picnic shelter
- Restroom / press box



Rock Creek Park

## EE Waddell Center

Neighborhood Park | 8 acres

621 Wall Street, Albemarle, NC

The EE Waddell Center is situated on what was the Kingville High School site, which closed in 1967. It hosts a variety of programs including after-school programming, a remote learning center, and summer camps. Additionally, the facility provides senior programming for fitness and wellness activities as well as bingo and dancing. Thanks to a partnership with the Albemarle Rotary Club, the center's old football field has been transformed into a multi-purpose athletic field, a paved track, and a community garden.

The site is regularly booked for indoor special events and the gymnasium has recently undergone interior renovations. There are cracks on the exterior of the gymnasium building.

While there are residential properties and businesses in the area, there are not good connections for pedestrians, so driving is the best way to access this park. A PARTF grant helped with renovations in 2010.

Site amenities:

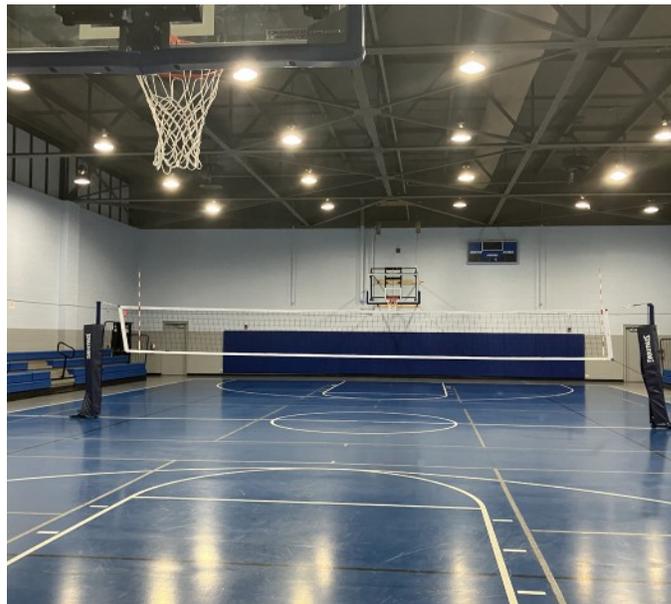
- Banquet room
- Kitchen
- Multi-purpose room
- Full-size gymnasium
- Fitness room
- Weight room
- Playground

### Associated Fees

*Banquet room rental: \$250 for 5 hours; \$25 for each additional hour; \$75 for security deposit; \$75 for cleaning fee*

*Multi-purpose rental: \$75 for 2 hours; \$20 for each additional hour; \$50 for security fee; \$25 for cleaning fee*

*Gymnasium rental: \$50 for 2 hours; \$25 for each additional hour; \$50 for security deposit; \$50 for cleaning fee*



Community space and gymnasium at the EE Waddell Center

## Albemarle Neighborhood Theater

Special Use | 0 acres

219 East North Street, Albemarle, NC

Built in 1900, this historic auditorium has 247 seats and is a vibrant center for arts and entertainment. Formerly the original Central School, the theater was fully renovated in 2018 as part of the City’s Downtown Revitalization Project. The theater has state-of-the-art sound and visual equipment. There is no formal concession area, catering kitchen, or bathroom for the actors. Additionally, it shares space with the senior living and needs accessibility updates. The seating in the facility is outdated and uncomfortable.

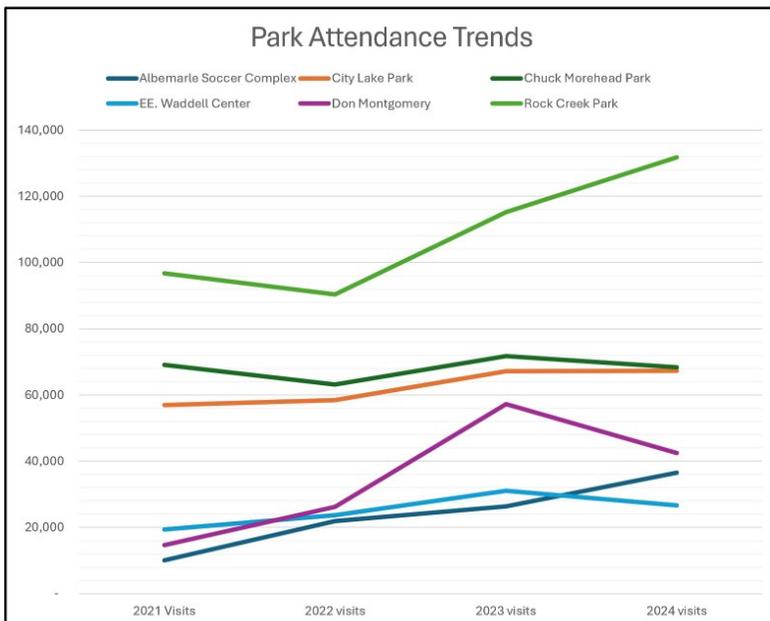
The theater is part of a joint-use agreement with Fitch Irick.

## System Overview

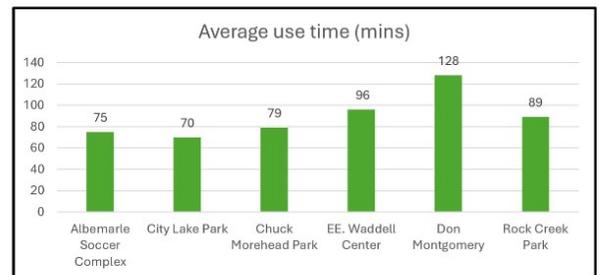
Albemarle is utilizing cell phone data to understand park system usage. This cell phone data does allow access to information about where park users are from and where they travel after their park visit. The data is anonymous. This cutting-edge process allows parks and recreation leadership to surpass the historical practice of staff observing how parks are used. This technological advance allows parks and recreation staff to make more data-driven decisions. Noted below is summary trends analysis from the City’s PlacerAI.

Below are some key findings about Albemarle’s park usage:

- All parks in the system are seeing increased usage
- EE Waddell, Don Montgomery, and Rock Creek Park are used most frequently
- A significant number of park users are not residents, which supports the concept that Albemarle’s park system is drawing in visitors from surrounding areas
- After spending time at a park, visitors are spending time and money at local businesses



Data based on City of Albemarle’s Placer AI data



Dollar General, McDonald’s, Western Union, Chick-Fila, Exxon, Burtleson Square, Olive Place Center, Northwoods Plaza, Shell, Zaxby’s, Center Pointe Plaza, Cook Out, El Ranchito, Food Lion, Applebee’s, Over 30 businesses positively impacted, Tidal Wave, Burger King, Planet Fitness, Bojangles, Speedway, Palermo’s, YMCA, Family Dollar, Lowes, SONIC Drive-in, Ly Cuisine, JB Fitness, Advanced Auto Parks, Savvy Second Consignment

County	Population	Visitor Spending in 2021	Visitor Spending in 2022	Visitor Spending in 2023	Per Capita Tourism Revenue
Union	257,682	\$1,618,100	\$1,870,500	\$1,985,200	\$7.70
Anson	21,619	\$210,700	\$235,400	\$244,600	\$11.31
Rowan	152,450	\$1,874,700	\$2,094,200	\$2,180,600	\$14.30
Lee	67,308	\$875,600	\$963,100	\$1,045,900	\$15.54
<b>Stanly</b>	<b>64,999</b>	<b>\$924,500</b>	<b>\$1,039,300</b>	<b>\$1,082,400</b>	<b>\$16.65</b>
Wilkes	65,987	\$1,016,500	\$1,088,800	\$1,144,700	\$17.35
Davidson	176,388	\$2,156,700	\$2,909,300	\$2,061,700	\$17.36
Montgomery	25,833	\$512,300	\$528,000	\$550,500	\$21.31
Cabarrus	242,880	\$4,808,000	\$5,667,400	\$6,248,900	\$25.73
Rutherford	64,692	\$2,729,600	\$2,824,200	\$2,898,300	\$44.80
Haywood	63,949	\$3,233,300	\$3,361,300	\$3,501,500	\$54.75

Park visitor analysis

## A System with Aging Infrastructure

Albemarle’s park system is generally well maintained but is suffering from significant use and aging facilities. In short, the park system is being heavily used because it supports resident and non-resident users. Many of the parks within the system have not had any recent renovations. As such, the conditions, accessibility, support facilities, and general appearance are all suffering. Older facilities also take more time and effort to keep maintained. As time goes by, it becomes increasingly difficult to ensure that an aging facility stays attractive, which is a major consideration for potential visitors and businesses.

The park system is also suffering from ad hoc facilities and overuse. Namely, the Albemarle soccer complex is being used for recreation programs, but it was not designed to be a true park. Rather, it is open space that is attempting to meet the need for multi-use fields. Signs of overuse are apparent at the City’s other athletic fields as well, and the decentralization of the City’s athletic fields can be straining for maintenance staff. The EE Waddell Center, which receives significant rentals from both residents and visitors, is a prime opportunity to showcase the City’s recreation facilities. While the gym has received recent renovations, the rentable area of the center shows its age; while it is functional and well maintained, it is not attractive.

## Varying Standards

*When the condition of park facilities is compared to other City-owned facilities, like City Hall or the police department, there is a significant difference. Residents and visitors are more likely to use park facilities, so those should be appropriately maintained.*

## Downtown Walking Routes

There are 11+ miles of pedestrian paths in downtown Albemarle. The path system was implemented in downtown Albemarle in 2021. People can walk or drive to the routes. Routes follow sidewalks through downtown, and there is an active kiosk that uses different color sneakers to denote the routes.

## Other Properties

The City has 3 other park-related properties. These properties have not been included in the service inventory due to the situations noted below.

### Athletic Complex at Albemarle Middle School

In 2002, the City received a PARTF grant to develop a walking trail, tennis courts, and restrooms. PARTF grant regulations state that these facilities should be open for public recreational usage until 2027. Compared to the condition of other facilities, the tennis courts are not in good shape. While it is legally open to the public, the site is functionally and programmatically only used by the middle school.

### Wiscassett Site

This site has the potential to be a central park for the City. It is approximately 10 acres and adjacent to the Don Montgomery / Optimist Park. With flat terrain and location to another park and the greenway make this an ideal site for expansion if the City decides to officially turn the space into a park.

### The Ingram Property

What was formerly the South Albemarle Park is now 23 acres of City-owned land. The site has deteriorated and is no longer a functional park space. It has been for sale for years, but not many investors seem to have taken notice. The property is located across from the new Hampton Inn that is being developed along Highway 24.



PARTF Project at the Athletic Complex at Albemarle Middle School



The Ingram Property

## Other Municipal Offerings and Government Recreation Facilities

### Town of Badin

- West Badin Park: ample playground equipment, open green spaces, and basketball courts
- Badin Recreation Center: baseball / softball field, small playground, and open space for soccer
- Pine Street Park (Holly Place Park): serene natural setting with benches, tables, and a swing set

### City of Locust

- Locust City park: community building, four baseball fields, two soccer fields, football field, two tennis courts, two playgrounds, horseshoes, three picnic shelters, bathrooms, concession stand, gardens, camping spaces, and a dog park

### Town of New London

- New London Park: picnic area and playground

### Town of Norwood

- Darrell Almond Community Park: walking track, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard, gazebo, picnic shelters, and a pond

### Town of Oakboro

- Oakboro District Park: nature trail, football / soccer field, picnic shelters, disc golf course, fitness stations, amphitheater, bathrooms, two ballfields, fishing pond, and horseshoe pits

### Town of Red Cross

- Does not currently have any parks

### Town of Richfield

- Richfield Park: a lake fed by Curl Tail Creek, picnic shelters, an 18-hole disc golf course, baseball and softball fields, and a section of the Falcon Trail

### Town of Stanfield

- Stanfield Barn Park: shelter and community building
- Pete Henkel Park: two ballfields, tennis courts, playground, picnic shelter, and a basketball court
- West Stanly Community Pool: outdoor pool

## County Government Recreation Facilities

Stanly County does not currently offer any parks and recreation facilities or programs.

## State and Federal Recreation Opportunities

### Uwharrie Mountains

The Uwharrie National Forest is contained within the Uwharrie Mountains, and it sits on the eastern banks of the Pee Dee River. Envisioned as North Carolina's version of central park, the Uwharrie offers a natural refuge from the rapidly urbanizing state. Its foothills stretch into Stanly County and offer one of the only public places for off roading in North Carolina. The forest also offers day use equestrian facilities, hunting, camping, and other nature-based activities. These fantastic recreation opportunities are just west of the City and can be used as a day trip. The forest is unique in that, unlike most national parks, there are local governments within its boundaries. Albemarle is the largest municipality within the forest and is closest to the forest headquarters.

### The Lakes

Surrounding Albemarle, there are several lakes with recreation amenities. The two that are closest to Albemarle are Badin Lake and Lake Tilery. Both lakes are fed by the Yadkin-Pee Dee River and are reservoir lakes with similar recreational opportunities, which include: day use areas, private campgrounds fishing access.

## Morrow Mountain State Park

The State of North Carolina manages the recreation at Morrow Mountain, which is located 3.5 miles from Albemarle on the western banks of the Pee Dee River. Morrow Mountain offers access to a public swimming pool, cabins, trails, the Yadkin River, and the Pee Dee Rivers. With so many attractive offerings, Morrow Mountain pulls visitors from many large municipalities in the Piedmont. There are many trails, and it is a destination for those seeking nature.

## Private and Non-profit Recreation Facility Offerings

Private recreation providers, nonprofit organizations, and developers provide limited, alternate resources and opportunities that supplement the City's recreation opportunities. The types of organizations and businesses that provide these opportunities can include private fitness facilities, athletic clubs, recreational guide companies, recreational equipment rental businesses, neighborhood associations, and local nonprofit organizations. Some of the facilities available are as follows:

### Stanly County YMCA

- Aerobics center, chapel, childcare, fitness center, multi-purpose room, handball / racquetball courts, track, outdoor field, pool, sauna, teen center

### Pelicans Snowball and Mini Golf

- Mini golf

### Tillery Tradition Country Club

- Private golf course, pool, club house

### Old North State Club

- Private country club, golf course, racquet sports, marina, fitness facilities, lodging

