

# WARREN COUNTY



## *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this master plan is to provide the governing body and citizens of Warren County with a summary of current recreation facilities/activities and recommendations for meeting the future needs of the citizens of Warren County.

Included in this master plan will be the following information:

- History
- Demographics
- Physical and biological resources
- Survey's results – school and county-wide
- Inventory of existing recreation facilities
- Future development in the four quadrants of the County

The Mission of the Parks & Recreation Department is to develop and promote an effective and feasible program to assure adequate recreation for the total community. The completion of this master plan and the successful application for a PARTF grant will be a big step towards meeting this goal.

## **HISTORY OF WARREN COUNTY**

The origins of Warren County can be traced back to well before the Revolutionary War, even before the initial settling of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. Native American Indians, the Tuscarora, populated this area prior to the first incursions of white explorers who came to the North Carolina region. One of the first known settlers to what would eventually become Warren County, was William Duke in 1735. Warren County was originally known as Bute County, in honor of John Stuart, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bute, former Prime Minister and Lord of the Treasury.

As the result of the Revolutionary War in the late 1770's, the name of Bute was frowned upon as Lord Bute was the Prime Minister of England. In 1779, the North Carolina Assembly passed a bill to divide the county in half. The northern half was named after Dr. Joseph Warren, who had been killed at Bunker Hill and became known as Warren County. The southern half was named Franklin County, in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

The economy of Warren County would prosper with the tobacco and cotton industries and also the attraction of the three major hot springs to the aristocracy from all over the coast. Jones White Sulphur Springs Hotel was located along what is now US-401, around 1810. It was here that Annie Carter Lee, daughter of General Robert E. Lee, stayed with her family during the War between the States. Shocco Springs Hotel was established in 1815 and Panacea Springs Resort (near Littleton) was established in the 1850's. In 1840, rail service was established through the county and by 1860 Warren County was the richest county in North Carolina.

Yet as prosperity increased, once again so to did the clouds of war, as the country wrestled with the issue of slavery. North Carolina seceded and became one of the Confederate States. Present-day Ridgeway was, during the Civil War, Camp Beauregard, a large training facility for Confederate troops. Major Orren Randolph Smith, a Warren native, designed the original Stars and Bars flag and present day Fort Bragg is named for Confederate General Braxton Bragg, also a Warren County native.

Warren County lost a lot of its prosperity after the Civil War. Mansions became dilapidated, the hot springs resorts began to close and there was a decline in the agricultural economy. After many years, Warren County would regain some of its prosperity as it would experience resurgence in the agricultural and textile industries. As a result of Warren County's prosperity in the early 1800's, there are now many historic homes in Warrenton (the County Seat) as well as numerous sites throughout the county.

Within the County are two historic districts and twenty-one historic sites listed on the National Register as of July 1, 2003. They included:

1. Mary Ann Browne House – Vaughan 1986
2. Buck Spring Plantation (also known as Nathaniel Macon House) – Vaughan 1970
3. Chapel of the Good Shepherd – Ridgeway 1977
4. Cherry Hill – Inez 1974
5. Coleman-White House – Warrenton 1973

6. Dalkeith – Arcola 1974
7. Green Duke House – Manson 1974
8. Elgin – Warrenton 1973
9. William J. Hawkins House – Ridgeway 1978
10. Hebron Methodist Church – Oakville 1984
11. Lake O’Woods – Inez 1979
12. Little Manor – Littleton 1973
13. Person’s Ordinary – Littleton 1973
14. Reedy Rill – Warrenton 1974
15. Shady Oaks – Warrenton 1976
16. Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuilding – Littleton 2000
17. Sledge-Hayley House – Warrenton 1980
18. Mansfield Thornton House – Warrenton 1977
19. Tusculum – Arcola 1974
20. Warren County Fire Tower – Liberia 2000
21. John Watson House – Warrenton 1990
22. Warrenton Historic District – Warrenton 1976
23. Buxton Place District – Inez 1993

In 1978, thousands of gallons of PCB-contaminated oil were illegally dumped along 210 miles of highway in 14 North Carolina counties, including Warren. State officials chose a site near the Afton community in the southwestern portion of the county for construction of a landfill to hold the contaminated soil.

Numerous protests were held in the early 1980’s as local leaders spoke out against what was deemed a political decision to build the PCB Landfill in Warren, a low-income, mostly minority county. National civil rights leaders joined in efforts to keep the landfill from locating here, as protests led from one arrest to another as demonstrators who sought justice placed their bodies in the path of trucks sent here for construction.

In 1982, then – Gov. Jim Hunt made a commitment to the people of Warren County that if appropriate and feasible technology became available, the state would explore detoxification of the landfill.

In 1994, a grassroots effort on the part of local leaders led to the formation of a PCB Working Group, including state representation, to study the feasibility of detoxification. Base Catalyzed Decomposition was chosen as the most appropriate technology and was approved. Funding from state and federal sources led to the detoxification project moving forward. Site preparation work was completed in December 2001 and soil treatment should be completed by October of 2003.

Warren County is made up of three incorporated towns and is composed of twelve townships.

### **WARRENTON**

The town of Warrenton (county seat) was established in 1779, when 100 acres of land were purchased from Thomas Christmas and William Christmas.

Beautiful houses began to be built as centerpieces of the large plantations, and in time, townhouses that were jewels were erected. Many of these houses are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The town's population, by 1800, was 238. The Federal Census had the population listed at 700. By 1922, the number was 813. Currently the population is 811. It is truly remarkable that during more than 200 years, the population has remained so stable.

### **NORLINA**

It is only natural that Norlina would use the symbol of a locomotive on its town seal as the very existence of its community was the result of the Raleigh & Gaston and Seaboard & Roanoke Railroads.

In 1837, Norlina was called the Ridgeway Junction and the expanding railroad found it necessary to stop in this area for refueling and goods. In the 1860's, Norlina became known as the "Woodyard" and in the 1870's, the railroads merged to form the Seaboard & Raleigh Railroad.

This area now known throughout the South as the "Junction" grew from a small crossroads supplying roadside meals to a thriving community. In 1900, the Seaboard Air Line Railway was established through a series of mergers and acquisitions. The Seaboard Railway quickly grew from 1,110 miles to over 4,680 miles. During this period, the Junction exploded with growth and the Rail & Train Depot was established and a historic hotel and restaurant was built to supply the traveling public with a clean bed and bath. This historic hotel is now known as the Landmark.

No one really knows how the name "Norlina" came about. It was either the influence of the railroad to shorten the name North Carolina or a decision of the local citizens. In 1913, a group of local citizens made the town one square mile with the Depot used as the direct center of these boundaries. A petition was sent to the North Carolina General Assembly for charter and the town of Norlina was incorporated.

Norlina is the largest town in Warren County with a population of 1,107.

### **MACON**

Macon was known as the Macon Depot in the early 1800's. The post office was established in 1839 and in the 1880's, the town became known as Macon. The name was changed in honor of Nathaniel Macon, a prominent county native who had three terms as Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives and a U. S. Senator from 1815-1828.

Macon is the smallest of the county's three incorporated towns with a population of 115.

## **TOWNSHIPS**

Warren County is composed of twelve (12) townships. The twelve townships are listed below. More information on the townships will come in the population section.

1. Fishing Creek
2. Fork
3. Hawtree
4. Judkins
5. Nutbush
6. River
7. Roanoke
8. Sandy Creek
9. Shocco
10. Sixpound
11. Smith Creek
12. Warrenton

## **LOCATION**

Warren County is located in the Northeastern Piedmont section of North Carolina. The county is bound by the state of Virginia to the north with Northampton and Halifax counties to the east. The counties of Nash and Franklin are to the south and southeast and to the west is Vance County. Norlina is Warren County's largest town and Warrenton is the county seat.

In relation to major cities within North Carolina and on the East Coast, Warren County is 55 miles from Raleigh, 58 miles from Durham, 99 miles from Richmond, 205 miles from Washington, D.C., and is approximately halfway between New York and Florida. Interstate 85 intersects the County in the north/northwest area, providing major highway access for commercial and commuter travel. The nearest major international airport is in Raleigh (Raleigh-Durham International), 60 miles to the south and there is a spur of the CSX rail line from Vance County.

Warren County encompasses 443.38 square miles with 428.62 square miles of land (96.67%) and 14.76 square miles of water (3.33%). The major surface of waters includes Lake Gaston, Kerr Lake and an extensive system of creeks and streams that are inclusive of the Roanoke River Basin and Tar-Pamlico River Basin.

## **CHURCHES & SCHOOLS**

There are 110 churches in Warren County. There are 17 different faiths with Baptists being the major denomination.

The education of Warren County is provided through four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school and one alternative school. There is one private school in

the county. Table 1 reveals that in 2003, the county had an estimated 3,135 students in grades k-12.

Table 1: School Enrollment

2003 Enrollment K – 8	2,120
2003 Enrollment 9 – 12	1,015

There is a satellite branch of Vance-Granville Community College located in Warrenton.

### TRANSPORTATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Transportation resources in Warren County are excellent as U. S. Highway 158 and U. S. Highway 1 provides east to west travel. I-85 and U. S. Highway 401 provides north and south travel. I-85 goes through the northwest portion of the county with I-95 just 17 miles from the Warren County line. Table 2 shows the accessibility to major arteries areas.

Table 2: Accessibility

Nearest Major City	Raleigh (58 miles)
Nearest Major Airport	Raleigh-Durham (60 miles)
Nearest Interstate (besides I-85)	I-95 (17 miles)

### ECONOMY

The economic structure of Warren County centers around five major sources of revenue including government, manufacturing, service, retail and agriculture. These five major revenue sources provided over 88% of the workforce in Warren County (see table 3). The travel and tourism industry – driven largely by traffic to Lake Gaston, Kerr Lake and historic Warrenton – was not clearly identified in table 3. However, in 2001, travel and tourism generated an economic impact of 15.81 million.

The primary manufactures for Warren County are: Cochrane Furniture and Glen Raven Mills. Government provides the largest workforce.

Table 3: Workforce by Industry

	Workforce		Average Weekly Earnings	
	Number	Percent	County	State
Government:	1,412	33.8%	<b>\$513.61</b>	\$622.30
Manufacturing:	830	19.9%	<b>\$439.12</b>	\$716.21
Service:	754	18.1%	<b>\$420.06</b>	\$580.23
Retail Trade:	448	10.7%	<b>\$282.77</b>	\$336.64
Agriculture:	251	6.0%	<b>\$382.93</b>	\$416.35
Construction:	248	5.9%	<b>\$369.46</b>	\$598.43
T/C/PU:*	126	3.0%	<b>\$476.57</b>	\$775.01
F/I/RE: **	71	1.7%	<b>\$445.99</b>	\$907.31

Wholesale Trade:	33	0.8%	<b>\$404.67</b>	\$783.87
Total Workforce:	4,173	100%		

\*T/C/PU: Transportation/Communications/Public Utilities  
 \*\*F/I/RE: Finance/Insurance/Real Estate

As shown in Table 4, the July 2003 unemployment rate of the county was higher than that of the state and nation. In addition, the per capita and household incomes of Warren County were significantly lower than that of the state and nation.

Table 4: Unemployment and Income

County Unemployment Rate	9.6%	July 2003
State Unemployment Rate	6.6%	July 2003
Nation Unemployment Rate	6.2%	July 2003
County Per Capita Income	\$16,779	2000 Census
State Per Capita Income	\$20,307	2000 Census
Nation Per Capita Income	\$22,199	2000 Census

### SUMMARY

Warren County has maintained its historical heritage, while the economy of the county has been struggling. The closing of Carolina Sportswear (later Hampton Industry) and Peck Manufacturing has been major losses to the county. These industries were the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> largest manufacturers in the county. On the positive side, a manufacturer of sheet metal product, B & W Machine recently relocated to Warren County. It is anticipated that the company will have 40-50 employees within the next few years. Also, Inland and Atlantic General Packaging recently expanded their operation, bringing on additional employees.

The per capita personal income (based on the 2000 Census) is \$16,779, which ranks Warren County 99<sup>th</sup> out of the state's 100 counties. The median family income is 33,000 and rank Warren County 97<sup>th</sup> in the state.

In an effort to extend service to its citizenry and provide infrastructure for future development, the county continues with construction of its water system, with work on the final district underway. The county also has adopted a county wide Land-Use Plan.

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF WARREN COUNTY

This section is a description of the demographic characteristics for Warren County. Most of this data was gathered from the 2000 United States Census.

### Population

Warren County experienced a 15.7% increase in its population from 1990 until 2000. The estimates projected for 2010 also shows an increase in the population for Warren County (Table 5). The growth rate for the county is slightly lower than the State's rate.

Table 5: Population Projection

Year	Warren County		North Carolina	
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1990	17,265		6,632,448	+ 11.3
2000	19,972	+ 15.7	8,049,313	+ 17.6
2010	22,431	+ 12.3	9,468,787	+ 14.9

### Age and Sex Distribution

The median age of the population in Warren County is 39.3. This median age is slightly higher than the median age for the State, which is 35.3. The older population is further reflected in the age distribution Table 6 where 28.1% of the population is 55 and older compared to 21% for the State.

Table 6: Age Distribution

Age	Warren County		North Carolina	
	Population	%	Population	%
Under 5	1,125	5.6	539,509	6.7
5 to 9	1,399	7.0	562,553	7.0
10 to 14	1,373	6.9	551,367	6.8
15 to 19	1,305	6.5	539,931	6.7
20 to 24	1,171	5.9	577,508	7.2
25 to 34	2,187	11.0	1,213,415	15.1
35 to 44	3,120	15.6	1,287,120	16.0
45 to 54	2,673	13.4	1,085,150	13.5
55 to 59	1,025	5.1	400,207	5.0
60 to 64	1,123	5.6	323,505	4.0
65 to 74	1,980	9.9	533,777	6.6
75 to 84	1,115	5.6	329,810	4.1
85 & over	376	1.9	105,461	1.3
Total	19,972	100	8,048,313	100

The sex distribution for the county is about the same as the State as seen in Table 7.

Table7: Sex Distribution

Sex	Warren County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%
Male	9,757	48.9	3,942,695	49.0
Female	10,215	51.1	4,106,618	51.0

**Race**

As shown in Table 8, Warren County has a significantly higher percentage of African Americans (54.5) as compared to North Carolina (21.6) and conversely a significantly lower population of Caucasians.

Table 8: Race Distribution

Race	Warren County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%
African Americans	10,882	54.5	1,737,545	21.6
Caucasians	7,769	38.9	5,804,656	72.1
American Indian & Alaska Native	957	4.8	99,551	1.2
Asian	26	0.1	113,689	1.4
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	5	0.0	3,983	0.0
Other Race	157	0.8	186,629	2.3
Two or more Races (multi-racial)	176	0.9	103,260	1.3
Total	19,972	100	8,049,313	100

**Households**

As shown in Table 9, Warren County has a slightly higher percentage of family households (71.3) than North Carolina (68.9). Warren County has a higher percentage of female householders without husbands present (16.6) than North Carolina (12.5) while the non-family household was lower in Warren County (28.7) as compared to North Carolina (31.1).

Table 9: Households

Household Type	Warren County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%
Family Households	5,503	71.3	2,158,869	68.9
Married Couple Family	3,872	50.2	1,645,346	52.5
Female Householder, no husband present	1,282	16.6	389,997	12.5
Non family Households	2,212	28.7	976,144	31.9

**SUMMARY**

Warren County's population increased 15.7% from 1990 to 2000. The population is projected to have a 12.3% increase from 2000 to 2010. Recreational sites are needed to meet the growth of the county's population. The median age of the population in Warren County is 39.3. This is slightly higher than the median age for the State, which is 35.3. There is a higher percentage of females than males in the county and also a higher percentage of African American than Caucasians. Warren County has a slightly higher percentage of family households (71.3) than North Carolina (68.9) and a lower percentage of non-family households in Warren County (28.7) than North Carolina (31.1).

## **PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The following sections will describe the natural resources of Warren County. These resources include climate, geology, topography, soils, fauna, flora and water.

### **Climate**

Warren County has four distinct and picturesque seasons, but is mild enough to allow for almost year round outdoor enjoyment. The county's average annual temperature is 59 degrees F. and average minimum temperature is 48 degrees F. The average date of the last occurrence in spring of a temperature as low as 32 degrees F. is April 11<sup>th</sup>, and the average date of the first frost is October 25<sup>th</sup>. The average length of freeze-free growing season is 197 days. Warren County receives an average annual rainfall of 48.5 inches. On the average, July has the largest amount of rain and October has the least amount of rain during the year. The average annual amount of snowfall is seven inches.

### **Geology**

Warren County's geological plains consist of tertiary and cretaceous. There is an abundance of intrusive and metamorphic rocks especially in the western portion of the county. The Tertiary consists of Terrace deposits and upland sediment (Tt) and Yorktown formation and Duplin formation, undivided (Tpy). The Cretaceous consists of Black Creek formation (Kb), Middendorf formation (Km) and Cape Fear formation (Kc).

### **Topography**

The topography of Warren County is typical of the Northeastern Piedmont. Gently rolling fields and broad bottomlands are crosshatched with ancient streams. Warren County has an average elevation of 400 feet above sea level.

### **Soils**

There are eleven different soil types (table 10) in Warren County. Cecil and Appling are the two most dominate soils in the county. Development for recreational use on these soils would have only a slight to moderate limitation.

Table 10: Soil and Drainage

<b>Soil</b>	<b>Drainage</b>
1. Cecil	Well-Drained
2. Appling	Well-Drained
3. Vance	Well-Drained
4. Helena	Moderately Drained
5. Wehadkee	Poorly Drained
6. Pacolet	Well-Drained
7. Chewacia	Moderately Drained
8. Wedowee	Well-Drained
9. Wake	Excessively Drained
10. Louisburg	Well-Drained
11. Saw	Moderately Drained

## Fauna and Flora

Warren County contains a diversity of animals and plants. Twenty seven animals and plants, which are threatened, endangered, significantly rare, or of special concern are identified in table 11. The county status lists provided by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program tally the elements of natural diversity known to occur in Warren County. The Wildlife Resources Commission and the Natural Heritage Program determine species status.

Table 11: Threatened and Endangered Animals and Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status	Federal Status
	<b>Bird</b>		
Bachman's Sparrow	Aimophila aestivalis	SC	FSC
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	T	LT
	<b>Amphibian</b>		
Neuse River Waterdog	Necturus lewisi	SC	-
	<b>Fish</b>		
Roanoke Bass	Ambloplites cavifrons	SR	-
Least Brook Lamprey	Lampetra aepyptera	T	-
Pinewoods Shiner	Lythrurus matutinus	SR	FSC
	<b>Mollusk</b>		
Dwarf Wedgemussel	Alasmidonta heterodon	E	E
Triangle Floater	Alasmidonta undulate	T	-
Yellow Lance	Elliptio lanceolata	E	FSC
Tar River Spiny mussel	Elliptio steinstansana	E	E
Atlantic Pigtoe	Fusconaia masoni	E	FSC
Eastern Lampmussel	Lampsilis radiate radiate	T	-
Notched Rainbow	Villosa constricta	SC	-
	<b>Crustacean</b>		
N. C. Spiny Crayfish	Orconectes carolinensis	SC	-
	<b>Insect</b>		
Mottled Duskywing	Erynnis martialia	SR	-
	<b>Vascular Plant</b>		
Cypress Knee Sedge	Carex decomposita	SR-T	-
Rigid Sedge	Carex tetanica	SR-P	-
Water Purslane	Didiplis diandra	SR-P	-
Pink Thoroughwort	Eupatorium incarnatum	SR-P	-
Carolina Birdfoot-trefoil	Lotus helleri	SR-T	FSC
Glade Wild Quinine	Parthenium auriculatum	SR-T	-
Purple Fringeless Orchid	Platanthera peramoena	SR-P	-
Veined Skullcap	Scutellaria nervosa	SR-P	-
Appalachian Goldenbanner	Thermopsis mollis sensu stricto	SR-P	-
	<b>Natural Community</b>		
-	Piedmont/Low Mountain Alluvial Forest	-	-
-	Piedmont/Mountain Bottomland Forest	-	-
-	Piedmont/Mountain Swamp Forest	-	-

Key:

Code	State Status	Definition
E	Endangered	Any native or once native species of wild animal, or plant whose continued existence is competent of the State's fauna & flora is determined in jeopardy of endangered.
T	Threatened	Any native or once native species of wild animal, or plant which is likely to become a species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of the county.
SC	Special Concern	Any species which has not been listed by the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission of Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species, but which exists in numbers and has been determined a Significantly Rare or peripheral species.
SR	Significantly Rare	Any native or once native species of wild animal, or plant that requires monitoring but which may be adopted under the provisions of Article 25 of Chapter 113 of the National Protection Agency.

Key:

Code	Federal Status	Definition
E	Endangered	A species in danger or extinction throughout all or a significant portion of the county.
LT	Threatened	A species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
FSC	Federal Species of Concern	Formerly defined as a species under concern for which there is insufficient information to support listing.

### Water Resources

Warren County consists of 443.38 square miles in total area, with 14.76 square miles covered by surface water (3.4%). The surface water resources include the two large water bodies – Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston. Included in these figures are the numerous streams and creeks that are spread throughout the County. Kerr Lake is the source of the County's public water supply. The majority of Kerr Lake is located in Vance County, with a small part, the upper Northeast, situated in the most Northwest point of Warren County. Lake Gaston is located in the Northeast portion of Warren County. Lake Gaston serves as a primary recreation point in this area.

There are two river basins that divide Warren County, the Roanoke River Basin and the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. The Roanoke River Basin includes both Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston. The map on the following page illustrates the location of Warren County within the two river basins. There are 70 water resources in Warren County that originate from these two basins. These water sources are rivers and creeks that are used for fishing, boating (motor and non-motor), hunting and swimming. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality classified the quality of each body of water in the table 12.

Table 12: Water Resources

<b>Water Source</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Basin</b>
Nutbush Creek	B	Roanoke
Mill Creek	B	Roanoke
Dix Branch	B	Roanoke
Keats Branch	C	Roanoke
Smith Creek	C	Roanoke
Cabin Branch	C	Roanoke
Newmans Creek	C	Roanoke
Ellington Branch	C	Roanoke
Blue Mud Creek	C	Roanoke
Malones Creek	C	Roanoke
West Branch Malones Creek	C	Roanoke
Terrapin Creek	C	Roanoke
Reedy Branch	C	Roanoke
Hawtree Creek	C	Roanoke
Sawmill Creek	C	Roanoke
Rocky Branch	C	Roanoke
Hawtree Creek Arm	B	Roanoke
Coleman Branch	C	Roanoke
Roanoke River	WS-V, B	Roanoke
Sixpound Creek	C	Roanoke
Jordan Creek	C	Roanoke
Lyons Creek	C	Roanoke
Hubquarter Creek	C	Roanoke
Little Hubquarter Creek	C	Roanoke
Mill Creek	C	Roanoke
Big Stonehouse Creek	C	Roanoke
Little Stonehouse Creek	C	Roanoke
West Littleton Branch	C	Roanoke
Bagley Academy Branch	C	Roanoke
Roanoke River	WS-IV, B	Roanoke
Sandy Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Wells Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Fishing Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Matthew Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Long Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Rocky Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Owens Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Phoebes Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Horse Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Bridle Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Richneck Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Possumquarter Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Black Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico

Wolfpit Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Mill Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Gum Pond Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Buffalo Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Long Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Reedy Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Gunters Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Bobs Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Hogpen Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Maple Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Fishing Creek	WS-V;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Shocco Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Buzzard Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Lees Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Buffalo Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Horsepen Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Cabin Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Little Shocco Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Little Fishing Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Walkers Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Downtins Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Big Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Bens Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Enon Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Reedy Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Bobbitts Branch	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico
Porter Creek	C;NSW	Tar-Pamlico

Key:

Class	Definition
B	Waters used for primary recreation and other uses suitable for Class C. Primary recreational activities include swimming, skin diving, water skiing, and similar uses involving human body contact with water where such activities take place in an organized manner or on a frequent basis.
C	Waters protected for secondary recreation, fishing, wildlife, fish and aquatic life propagation and survival, agriculture and other uses suitable for Class C. Secondary recreation includes wading, boating, and other uses involving human body contact with water where such activities take place in an infrequent, unorganized, or incidental manner.
WS-IV	Waters used as sources of potable water where a WS-I, II, or III classification is not feasible. These waters are also protected for Class C uses.
WS-V	Waters protected as water supplies which are generally upstream and draining to Class WS-IV waters or waters used by industry to supply their employees with drinking water or as waters formerly used as water supply. These waters are also protected for Class C uses.
NSW	Supplemental classification intended for waters needing additional nutrient management due to their being subject to excessive growth of microscopic or macroscopic vegetation.

## **SUMMARY**

Warren County has four distinct seasons but is mild enough to allow for almost year round outdoor enjoyment. Warren County receives an average annual rainfall of 48.5 inches. Warren County has an average elevation of 400 feet above sea level. There are eleven different soil types in the county with only a slight to moderate limitation on the development of land for recreational use.

There are twenty-seven endangered, threatened, significantly rare, or special concern plants and animals in Warren County. Warren County consists of 443.38 square miles in total area, with 14.76 square miles covered by surface water. These surface water resources included Kerr Lake, Lake Gaston and numerous streams and creeks. There are two river basins that divide Warren County, the Roanoke River Basin and the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. These areas are suitable for such recreational activities as fishing, boating, hunting and swimming.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**

The purpose of making the public aware of the master plan is to receive their preferences for recreational activities and facilities. Citizens’ involvement plays an important role in the development of this master plan. The purpose of obtaining public input was to determine: (1) utilization of current recreation activities by residents, (2) residents’ satisfaction with existing recreation opportunities and (3) additional recreation opportunities residents would like.

Fliers and interviews with the three area newspapers assisted in the public awareness of the task on hand. Public input was gathered through the following means: (1) four community meetings held in each quadrant of the county on the following dates: Tuesday, September 23rd, Monday, September 29th, Tuesday, September 30th and Monday, October 6th, (2) presentations given at the Jaycees meeting on Thursday, October 2nd and the Lions Club meeting on Thursday, October 9th, (3) presentations given at the Warren County Board of Commissioners’ work session on Wednesday, September 17th, Town Board meeting of Norlina on Monday, October 6th, the Town Board meeting of Macon on Tuesday, October 7th and the Town Board meeting of Warrenton on Monday, October 13th, (4) county-wide distribution of survey (ex. four elementary schools, churches, library, civic clubs and other county offices), (5) surveys conducted at Middle School and High School. The list below illustrates how surveys were distributed and returned.

	<b><u>Distributed</u></b>	<b><u>Returned</u></b>
1. High School	333	292
2. Middle School	475	334
3. Elementary School & other means	2,600	1,248
Total:	3,408	1,874

The overall response rate to the survey was 55 percent.

**Public Meetings**

There were four community meetings held in the four quadrants of the county to receive input from the citizens to determine their needs and desires for recreation (flier attached). Listed below are comments from the attendees:

1. A centrally-located facility is needed to meet the needs of county residents of all ages.
2. A facility such as this could help bring all segments of the community together.
3. Walking track is needed.
4. This facility would provide a way to garner community support to invest in this facility to provide a sense of ownership and avoid a “give me” attitude.
5. There is need for something in our area of the county.

## Summary

The attendance at these meetings ranged from four attendees at Longbridge Fire Dept. to twelve at Afton Fire Dept. The general consensus at these meetings was the need for a centrally-located complex. This was a definite need with the loss of the John Graham Ball Field. There was also an expressed need for some type of recreational facilities in the various parts of the county. A majority of the people voiced a concern that there was nothing in their area and that some type of playground area or mini-park should be established in various areas of the county.

## Surveys

### Warren County Middle School Survey:

1. Do you or members of your household use programs and/or facilities offered by Warren County Parks & Recreation?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	167	50.0
No	167	50.0

Fifty percent of the respondents have use facilities or programs offered by Warren County Parks & Recreation Dept. while fifty percent have not used facilities or programs.

2. Which of the following facilities do you or members of your household use?

Recreation Facilities	Frequency
John Graham Gym	85
John Graham Ball Field	78
Soul City Pool	78
Soul City Basketball Courts	66
Middle School Fields	62
Armory Ball Field	40
Soul City Tennis Courts	9
None of the above	137

John Graham Gym, John Graham Ball Field and Soul City Pool were the facilities most frequently used in Warren County.

3. Which best describes your feelings on the following: “The existing recreational programs and facilities are adequate to meet my needs.”

	Frequency
Strongly agree	49
Agree	96
Disagree	21
Strongly disagree	22
No opinion	124

One hundred and twenty-four respondents did not have an opinion while ninety-six respondents agreed the existing recreational programs and facilities are adequate to meet needs. A response from one of the teachers at the Middle School was she did not think they understood the question.

4. Are there any programs or facilities you or members of your household would like to participate in that are not currently provided by Warren County. Listed below are the top five answers.
  1. Swimming
  2. Basketball
  3. YMCA-type facility
  4. Volleyball
  5. Track
  
5. Which best describes the need for new or improved recreational facilities/programs within Warren County?

	Frequency	Percent
Very Important	121	36.0
Somewhat Important	113	34.0
Not Important	29	9.0
No Opinion	71	21.0

Seventy percent of the respondents thought that it was very important or somewhat important for new or improved recreational facilities in the county.

6. From which of the following do you get your information regarding recreational programs offered by Warren County.

	Frequency
Local newspapers	128
School flyers	117
Community flyers	35
Word of Mouth	108

The local newspaper and school flyers play an important role in obtaining information about the recreational programs. Word of mouth also plays an important role in obtaining information about recreational programs in Warren County.

7. How often do you participate in recreational activities?

	Frequency
Rarely	145
Only on weekends	58
A couple times a week	60

Once a day	42
------------	----

There is a need to have a recreational complex and to offer more programs by the evidence of the passiveness of the middle school youths.

8. Which of the following activities do you, or members of your household, participate in.

Activities	Frequency
Basketball	171
Football	129
Walking	117
Fishing	117
Swimming	113
Jogging/Running	86
Baseball	81
Bicycling	80
Hunting	68
Arts & Crafts	63
Volleyball	61
Softball	54
Camping	39
Horseshoes	38
Horseback Riding	34
Soccer	30
Picnicking	28
Tennis	27
Skateboard	23
Karate	20
Daycamps	19
Water Skiing	19
Golf	15
Aerobics	9
Yoga	8
Shuffleboard	6
Canoeing	6

Basketball, Football, Walking and Fishing are the most popular activities that the respondents participated in.

9. What five recreation activities do you or members of your family participate in most frequently? Listed below are the five most popular activities.

1. Basketball
2. Football
3. Walking
4. Swimming
5. Fishing

10. Has anyone in your household participated in a Warren County Parks and Recreation program or used a facility within the last year?

Frequency	
Yes	97
No	193

The majority of the respondents have not participated in the county recreation program.

11. Would you support tax dollars being spent to provide new recreation facilities or programs?

Frequency	
Yes	138
No	157

It was not likely that the students in this grade level understood exactly what extent that tax dollars are used.

12. Do you use any school or private facilities for recreation?

The majority of the respondents said they used the middle school facilities.

13. Your age:

Years	Frequency
1-10	3
11-15	288
16-20	9

14. Sex:

Gender	Frequency
Male	163
Female	128

15. How long have you resided in Warren County?

Years	Frequency
0-1	44
1-5	74
More than 5 years	65
Lifetime	112

Over 50% of the youths have lived in the county more than five years.

### Middle School Survey Summary

The John Graham Ball Field was one of the top three facilities that the middle school youths have used or are using at the present. The loss of this facility makes it a top priority in obtaining a complex. Seventy percent of the respondents thought it was somewhat or very important for new recreational facilities in Warren County. Basketball, Football and Walking are the most popular recreational activities.

#### Warren County High School Survey:

1. Do you or members of your household use programs and/or facilities offered by Warren County Parks and Recreation?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	151	52%
No	141	48%

A slightly higher percentage of respondents have used the facilities or programs offered by Warren County Parks & Recreation Dept.

2. Which of the following facilities do you or members of your household use:

Recreation Facilities	Frequency
John Graham Gym	103
Soul City Basketball Courts	101
Soul City Pool	90
John Graham Ball Field	65
Middle School Ball Field	54
Armory Ball Field	37
None of the above	125

3. Which best describes your feelings on the following: “The existing recreational programs and facilities are adequate to meet my needs.”

	Frequency
Strongly agree	38
Agree	45
Disagree	32
Strongly disagree	110
No opinion	66

Over thirty-eight percent of the respondents strongly disagree that the existing recreational programs and facilities are adequate to meet their needs.

4. Are there any programs or facilities you or members of your household would like to participate in that are not currently provided by Warren County. Listed below are the top five answers:

1. Indoor pool
2. Volleyball
3. YMCA-type facility
4. Basketball
5. Parks

5. Which best describes your need for new or improved recreational facilities/programs within Warren County:

	Frequency	Percent
Very Important	163	56.0
Somewhat Important	73	25.0
Not Important	15	5.0
No opinion	41	14.0

Eighty-one percent of the respondents thought that it was very important or somewhat important for new or improved recreational facilities in the county.

6. From which of the following do you get your information regarding recreational programs offered by Warren County:

	Frequency
Local newspaper	115
School flyers	74
Community flyers	31
Word of mouth	152

Local newspaper and word of mouth plays the most important role in obtaining information regarding recreation programs offered in Warren County.

7. How often do you participate in recreational activities?

	Frequency
Rarely	135
Only on weekends	52
A couple times a week	62
Once a day	30

The responses from the Middle School and the High School's surveys indicate the need for today's youths to be more physical active. The addition of centrally-located complex would help play a role in today's youths to undertake some type of physical activity.

8. Which of the following activities do you, or members of your household, participate in?

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Basketball	190
Football	150
Walking	130
Swimming	119
Fishing	105
Jogging/Running	98
Baseball	94
Softball	78
Hunting	67
Volleyball	65
Arts & Crafts	64
Horseshoes	49
Bicycling	41
Tennis	34
Picnicking	31
Horseback Riding	31
Soccer	25
Camping	24
Karate	22
Day Camps	18
Water Skiing	15
Skateboard	13
Aerobics	11
Golf	9
Yoga	7
Canoeing	6
Shuffleboard	3

Basketball, Football, Walking, Swimming and Fishing are the most popular activities that the respondents participated in.

9. What five recreation activities do you or members of your family participate in most frequently? Listed below are the five most frequently activities that the respondents participate:

1. Basketball
2. Football
3. Walking
4. Swimming
5. Baseball

10. Has anyone in your household participated in a Warren County Parks and Recreation program or used a facility within the last year?

<b>Frequency</b>	
Yes	155
No	126

The high school respondents has participated or used a county recreation facility at a much greater rate than the middle school respondents.

11. Would you support tax dollars being spent to provide new recreation facilities or programs?

<b>Frequency</b>	
Yes	200
No	81

The respondents at the high school level favor tax dollars being spent to provide new recreation facilities at a much greater rate than the middle school respondents.

12. Do you use any school or private facilities for recreation?

Very few gave an answer for this question, but those that responded listed the school facilities.

13. Your age:

<b>Years</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
11-15	119
16-20	159
21-30	3

14. Sex:

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Male	152
Female	121

15. How long have you resided in Warren County:

<b>Years</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
0-1	21
1-5	45
More than 5 years	71
Lifetime	141

Over 70% of the respondents have lived in the county for more than five years.

### Warren County High School Survey Summary

Eighty-one percent of the high school respondents thought that it was very important or somewhat important for new or improved recreational facilities in the county. Basketball, football, walking, swimming and fishing are the most popular activities that the respondents participated in. Over 70% of the respondents have lived in the county for more than five years.

### County-Wide Survey

It was determined that a county-wide survey was needed in order to do a recreation master plan. These surveys were distributed through churches, civic clubs, county offices, four elementary schools, library and the four communities meeting.

County-Wide survey's results:

1. Do you or members of your household use programs and/or facilities offered by Warren County Parks and Recreation?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	724	58.0
No	524	42.0

Fifty-eight percent of the respondents have used facilities or programs offered by Warren County Parks & Recreation Dept.

2. Which of the following facilities do you or members of your household use:

Recreation Facilities	Frequency
John Graham Ball Field	348
John Graham Gym	261
Armory Ball Field	246
Soul City Pool	182
Middle School Fields	148
Soul City Basketball Courts	87
Soul City Tennis Courts	41
None of the above	276

The John Graham Ball Field and Gym were the most popular facilities use by the respondents. The loss of the John Graham Ball Field makes it all the more important to fulfill this need with a centrally-located complex.

3. Which best describes your feelings on the following: “The existing recreational programs and facilities are adequate to meet my needs”

	<b>Frequency</b>
Strongly agree	162
Agree	276
Disagree	285
Strongly disagree	187
No opinion	274

Forty percent of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree that the existing recreational programs and facilities are adequate to meet their needs. Thirty-seven percent agree that they meet their needs and twenty-three percent did not have an opinion.

4. Are there any programs or facilities you or members of your household would like to participate in that are not currently provided by Warren County. Listed below are the top five:

1. Parks and playground areas
2. Walking track
3. Aerobics
4. Volleyball
5. Swimming lessons

5. Which best describes your need for new or improved recreational facilities/ programs within Warren County:

	<b>Frequency</b>
Very Important	786
Somewhat Important	274
Not Important	24
No Opinion	137

There was an overwhelmingly response (87%) that there is a need for new recreational facilities in Warren County. There was only two percent that thought it was not important.

6. From which of the following do you get your information regarding recreational programs offered by Warren County:

	<b>Frequency</b>
Local newspaper	599
School flyers	661
Community flyers	149
Word of mouth	486

The local newspaper and school flyers are the two main sources the Recreation Dept. has in getting out information on upcoming activities. In a rural county such as Warren County, the word of mouth source also plays a big role.

7. How often do you participate in recreational activities:

	<b>Frequency</b>
Rarely	491
Only on weekends	152
A couple times a week	422
Once a day	84

In this day and time with the hustle and bustle of everyday activities, it is too bad that forty-three percent of the respondents rarely participate in recreational activities. The lack of recreational facilities in Warren County might play a role in this lack of participation.

8. Which of the following activities do you, or members of your household, participate in:

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Walking	455
Fishing	316
Basketball	276
Swimming	253
Baseball	197
Softball	193
Picnicking	186
Bicycling	174
Football	163
Arts & Crafts	163
Jogging/Running	132
Hunting	126
Soccer	118
Volleyball	117
Camping	107
Aerobics	91
Day Camps	86
Horseshoes	76
Horseback Riding	72
Karate	64
Tennis	54
Skateboard	52
Golf	49
Water Skiing	28
Yoga	22
Canoeing	13
Shuffleboard	11

Walking, fishing, basketball, swimming and baseball were the activities most participated in according to the respondents.

9. What five recreation activities do you or members of your family participate in most frequently. Listed below are the top five activities:

1. Walking
2. Basketball
3. Baseball
4. Fishing
5. Football

10. Has anyone in your household participated in a Warren County Parks and Recreation program or used a facility within the last year:

<b>Frequency</b>	
Yes	636
No	549

There was a slightly higher percentage (54%) of respondents that have participated in a Warren County Parks & Recreation program or used a facility than have not participated (46%).

11. Would you support tax dollars being spent to provide new recreation facilities or programs:

<b>Frequency</b>	
Yes	960
No	124

The majority of the respondents (89%) were in favor of using tax dollars to provide new recreation facilities. Eleven percent was not in favor of using tax dollars.

12. Do you use any school or private facilities for recreation?

All the answers for this question were the same facilities listed in question two.

13. Your age:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
1-10	24
11-15	50
16-20	33
21-30	265
31-40	387
41-50	253
51-65	106
66 & up	56

14. Sex:

Gender	Frequency
Male	346
Female	810

15. How long have you resided in Warren County:

Years	Frequency
0-1	54
1-5	162
More than 5 years	406
Lifetime	532

Eighty-one percent of the respondents have lived in Warren County for more than five years.

16. In your household, how many people are there in the age groups listed below (including yourself):

Age	Frequency
Children 14 & under	1344
Youth 15-20	287
Young Adult 21-34	668
Adults 35-65	894
Seniors over 65	189

Forty percent of the people living in the household were under the age of fourteen, while another twenty-eight percent was between the ages of 15-34. There is an ever growing need to provide recreational opportunities for all ages but especially the youth and young adults in this county.

The following are some comments regarding parks and recreation in Warren County:

1. We need a safe place that our children can run & play (park) and a walking trail or track that is accessible in evening hours.
2. I would love for my children to have nice community parks like I grew up with. A place with swings and slides and large open areas for them to run and play frisby and catch and socialize outside of organized sports.
3. There is a very definite need for more recreational facilities for our youth. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop." Our older people could also use some entertainment facilities rather than travel outside of Warren County.
4. A family park with playgrounds.
5. I hope this survey helps to provide more recreational facilities in Warren County.

### County-Wide Survey Summary

The John Graham Ball Field was the most popular facility used by the respondents. The loss of this field makes it all the more important to be replaced. This field was used for football (Flag & Tackle), soccer and baseball. The construction of a centrally-located, multi-purpose complex would allow for the county recreation dept. to expand its program. There was an overwhelmingly response (87%) that there is a need for new recreational facilities in Warren County. The majority of the respondents (89%) were in favor of using tax dollars to provide new recreation facilities.

## **SCORP**

In SCORP documents prior to 1995, standards were used to describe adequate quantity of public recreational acreage and facilities based on population. Since 1995, the SCORP no longer recommends using standards based on population (such as one tennis court per 2,000 people) to express recreation needs in North Carolina, a position supported by the National Recreation and Park Association. These standards take a cookie-cutter approach that recommends the same services for all counties when in fact each county and community has unique characteristics and preferences. Some of these differences include population density and diversity, roads and transportation, geography, natural resources, state and federal land ownership, and amounts of tourism. No single standard can be accurately applied to all of North Carolina because the state includes areas as diverse as the Charlotte metropolitan area, remote areas of the Appalachian Mountains, large rural areas in the Coastal Plain, and wide beaches of the North Carolina coast. Recreation needs should be determined by the preferences of the people in the market area, the existing recreation resources, levels of tourism, and the characteristics that make the area unique. (SCORP 2003-2008)

Instead of prescribing an appropriate level of recreation services for each county by applying a standard, the SCORP provides information that allows North Carolina counties to be compared to each other according to current recreation resources and county population. The need for recreational facilities and acreage is based on population and thus, counties with the larger populations also need more park acreage and recreational facilities. But on a per capita basis, all counties can be compared. (SCORP 2003-2008).

In the public recreational acreage and facility inventory for the State of North Carolina, Warren County ranks near the bottom or last in many of the categories. All of these categories deal with county residents per unit in 2000. In local park acres, Warren County ranks 98<sup>th</sup> out of 100 counties. In softball fields, playground areas, football fields, soccer fields and volleyball courts, Warren County ranks last in all of these categories. The addition of a centrally-located complex and parks in other areas of the county would pull Warren County out of last place in all of these categories.

## **INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES**

This section will inventory all existing recreation facilities in Warren County. Public schools are an important source for recreational purposes and their facilities will be inventoried as well.

In order to evaluate the public recreation facilities, the 2003-2008 North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (NC SCORP) will be used. The nine classes of recreation facilities and their definitions are listed below.

1. Neighborhood Park: Area for intensive recreation such as field and court games, playground equipment, picnicking and wading pools. 6-8 acres is a typical size. Examples include mini-parks serving residential areas, playgrounds, sports field complexes and combination playgrounds/sports fields/passive natural areas.
2. Community Park: Area providing a wide array of active recreational opportunities including a recreation center building, fields, hard surface courts and picnicking. Natural or landscaped areas are provided for passive recreation. May include a swimming pool or be in conjunction with a school. 10-20 acres is a typical size. Examples include large park/school complexes; recreation center/pool/sports field and court complexes; and community center/park complexes.
3. District/Metro Area Park: Area serving one or more suburban or rural communities. Similar to the Community Park, these areas offer intensive recreation activities and natural environment areas. Typical size is 20-100 acres. Examples include intensively developed county parks, developed public recreation sites at large reservoirs, and state recreation areas.
4. Local Parks: Combines Neighborhood, Community, and District/Metro Area parks classes described above.
5. Regional/State Parks: Area of natural quality for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% developed for recreation. Typical size is 3,000-5,000 acres. Examples include state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, educational state forests and large natural resource-based county parks. Activities include nature study, picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, swimming and various trail uses.
6. Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area: Area for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Certain multiple use management approaches produce natural resource outputs such as timber, agricultural produce and minerals. Examples include state gamelands, multiple use areas of national and state forests, reservoir shoreline buffer lands and Blue Ridge Parkway acreage. Typical size should be sufficient to protect and manage the primary resource while providing secondary recreational uses.

7. Wilderness Area: Area characterized by unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Low interaction between users, and evidence of others is minimal. Motorized use is not permitted. Typical size is 5,000-15,000 acres. Examples are congressionally designated National Wilderness Areas.
8. Historic/Cultural Area: Area that preserves, maintains, and interprets buildings and places of archaeological, historical, or cultural significance. Should be of sufficient size to protect and interpret the resource while providing optimum use. Examples include local, state, and national sites.

### **Public Recreation and Park Facilities in Warren County**

1. Neighborhood Parks
  - Armory Ball Field
2. Community Parks
  - John Graham Center
    - Gym
    - Football Field – no longer in use after 2003
    - Baseball Field – can still be use for T-Ball
  - Soul City Park
    - Pool
    - Two basketball courts
    - Three tennis courts
    - Picnic area
  - Hawkins School
    - Field (Soccer)
  - Warren County Middle School
    - Baseball field
    - Softball field
    - Soccer field
    - Two outdoors basketball courts
  - Warren County High School
    - Two softball fields
    - Baseball field

### **Public Facilities and Special Programs**

1. Wise-Paschall Ruritan Club
  - Softball field use for Church Co-ed Softball

2. Churches – provides a variety of activities for youths and adults
  - Basketball leagues for youth and adults
  - Co-ed Softball leagues
  
3. Civic Clubs – There are numerous of clubs in Warren County. Listed below are some of the ones that have been involved with the Recreation Dept.
  - Rotary Club
  - Lions Club
  - Jaycees
  - 4-H Club
  - Ruritan Club

## **THE FOUR QUADRANTS OF WARREN COUNTY**

Warren County is a large, rural county (443 square miles) and for the purpose of this master plan was divided into four quadrants (Appendix I). The four quadrants will be referred to as the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast. These four regions will be discussed as to what recreational facilities exist and what facilities should be established. Two definite needs that were established from the county-wide surveys were a playground or park area in these different regions and a centrally-located complex in the county.

### **Northeast Region**

Located in the Northeast region is the Town of Macon and Vaughan Elementary School. The proposed Buck Springs Regional Leadership Center is located in this region, as well. Recreational facilities are proposed in phase II of this project. Vaughan Elementary School has a small field and an outdoor basketball court. There is very little playground equipment at this site. The Town of Macon has an open field in front of the old Macon School that is used occasionally for weekend soccer by the Hispanic population. In the upper part of this region is Lake Gaston. This area is popular for water skiing, jet skiing, camping and fishing. A public golf course reopened at Lake Gaston Estates in the fall of 2003.

### **PROPOSAL:**

The construction of a playground area in the Town of Macon. The Town board is more than willing to provide this site and to work with the county on this construction.

### **Northwest Region**

The Northwest region is the most populated of the four regions. The Town of Norlina and Warrenton is located in this region. Northside Elementary School, Mariam Boyd Elementary School, Warren County Middle School, Warren County High School and Norlina Christian School are located here. Recreational facilities in this region include Wise-Paschall Ruritan Club Ball Field, which is used for church league softball, Warren County Middle School Ball Field, which has been used by the county recreation dept. for soccer and baseball.

Warren County High School, which has two softball and one baseball fields, the Armory Ball Field, which has one little league baseball field, Hawkins School, which has one field that was used for youth (ages 4-5) soccer, and Warren County Senior Center, and the John Graham facility are also located within this region. The John Graham facility consists of the Recreation Dept. Office, gymnasium and ball field. The majority of the ball field was given to the community college for expansion and, hopefully, we can maintain use of the baseball field.

Also located in this region is Soul City Park, which is leased by the county from Soul City Parks and Recreation Association. This park consists of two outdoor basketball courts, three tennis courts, a picnic area and a pool. The basketball and tennis courts were resurfaced two years ago.

**PROPOSAL:**

The construction of playground areas in the following locations:

1. Wise community
2. Town of Norlina
3. Town of Warrenton
4. Soul City Park

The site for the recreational complex is located to the east within this region.

**Southeast Region**

This is the least populated area in the county. Located in this region is the Haliwa-Saponi Charter School, which is also the site for the annual Haliwa-Saponi Pow-Wow. This annual event attracts people from all over the United States. The majority of people live along NC Highway 43 and in the southeastern part of the region. There are no existing recreational facilities in this region.

**PROPOSAL:**

The construction of a mini-park area with playground equipment, picnic tables and ball field. This could be done in partnership with the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, Inc.

**Southwest Region**

This could become one of the fastest growing regions with the outgrowth development of the Raleigh area. Located in this region are South Warren Elementary School and the PCB Landfill. The PCB site will be turned over to the county in 2003-04, and the development of this site for a park could be beneficial for this region. Water, utilities and 62,681 square feet (1.44 acre) of usable concrete surface exists at the site now.

**PROPOSAL:**

The construction of a park area at the PCB site. Playground equipment, picnic table, basketball courts, tennis courts and a walking trail are types of recreational opportunities that could exist at this site.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results of the survey's, comments from the citizens of Warren County at the public meetings and the positive attitude of the governing bodies of the county and towns in Warren County, there is a definite need to improve the recreation opportunities for the citizens of Warren County.

There is a need for a centrally-located recreation complex and playground areas located in the four quadrants of Warren County (Appendix III).

### **Acquisition and Development**

1. Site for applying for PARTF grant for recreation complex. This will need to be done in two phases. The first phase will be for the acquisition and development of some of the facilities at this site. PhaseTwo will be for the completion of this facility. This will take a second PARTF grant application. Based on the survey's results and the SCORP plan, the following facilities will be located at this site:

- Three softball and baseball fields (lighted)
- One football field (lighted)
- One soccer field
- Concession, restrooms and storage building
- Walking track
- Playground area
- Picnic shelter
- Paved parking lot
- Two outdoors basketball courts
- Two tennis courts

This site is currently proposed to be located on Hwy 158 By-pass between Macon and Warren County High School.

2. Construction of playgrounds areas in the following locations:
  - Wise community
  - Town of Warrenton
  - Town of Norlina
  - Town of Macon
  - Soul City Park
3. Construction of park area in the Arcola area with the following facilities at this site
  - Playground area
  - Picnic shelter
  - One ball field
4. The development of a park at the PCB Landfill. The location of over 60,000 square feet of usable concrete surface should be put to good recreational use. The following facilities could be at this site:

- Playground area
  - Picnic shelter (shed is already there)
  - Basketball courts
  - Tennis courts
  - Walking trail
  - Shuffleboard
  - Putt-Putt course
5. With the county take over of the Armory building, this site could help expand the winter programs that could be offers by the Recreation Dept. The inside has been and could be set up for basketball and volleyball use. There is also a need to have a place to walk on the inside during the evening hours.
6. The Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park is located in the Northwest Region of Warren County. This region is the most populated of the four regions of the county. One of the results from the county-wide survey done several years ago was the need of more parks and playground areas in the county. At this time, Warren County was leasing the Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park.

In August of 2008, the Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park was deeded over to Warren County. The county was deeded the property from the Soul City Parks and Recreation Association. The county has been leasing the property for the past twenty years. Significant upgrades are needed to the park. This park consists of 8.05 acres which has two outdoor basketball courts, three tennis courts, a pool, bathhouse and picnic tables and grills.

To provide renovations to the facility, the county will need to make plans to apply for a PARTF grant to help with the renovation of the Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park. Renovations that will need to be made are the resurfacing of the tennis courts, basketball courts and parking lot as well as renovation of the pool. Also the addition of a playground area, picnic area and horseshoes pits will provide additional recreational units to the facility.

## **FUNDING**

There are several sources and/or methods of financing, obtaining resources or reducing costs that should be considered.

A. Grants

1. North Carolina Trails Program
2. Adopt-a-Trail
3. PARTF
4. LWCF (Federal)
5. Z. Smith Reynolds

B. Community Development Block Grant

This program provides for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction or installation of parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities.

C. Partnerships with towns and civic clubs

The cost of installing a playground area would be \$30,000. The town, county and civic organization (ex. Lions Club) would share this cost and the park could be called "Lions Park". The town would provide the land and the county would be in charge of maintenance.

D. Recreation Trust Fund

This fund would be established for capital improvements. Funds from the rental of the Armory building, adding a dollar to the landfill fee, additional fee to water bills and/or building permits are some examples of ways to build this Trust Fund. Regardless of the method, a recreation fund should be established to fund future recreational facilities.

E. Others

There are other examples of funding sources such tax revenue, bonds, contributions and sponsorship (ex. a tree planting program: each person donates a specific dollar amount to purchase and dedicate a tree in the complex).

**REFERENCES**

- Warren County – 2002 – Community Health Assessment
- North Carolina Dept. of Health and Environment, and Natural Resources: 2003 (DEHNR) North Carolina Outdoors Recreation Plan 2003-2008
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- North Carolina Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources. Retrieved from: [www.Ncsparks.net](http://www.Ncsparks.net)
- Warren County 2002 Comprehensive Development Plan (Land Use Plan)
- North Carolina Dept. of Commerce
- North Carolina Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality
- North Carolina Employment Security Commission
- North Carolina Rural Economic Development Commission
- North Carolina State Office of Demographics
- National Register of Historic Places
- East Carolina University – County Master Plans

**APPENDIX**

*Amended December 7, 2009*

**APPENDIX I**

*Amended December 7, 2009*

**APPENDIX II**

**APPENDIX III**

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