

Apex Acquires New Parkland

Over 92 acres in southwest Apex will be home to the town's next park. Named for the land owners, Pleasant Park will open up a new area for recreational opportunities in Apex.

"We're looking forward to the concept of using elements of this future park as an economic development tool," said Mayor Bill Sutton. "Athletic fields will be designed to bring tournaments and other events to Apex, increasing tourism dollars in town."

Additional athletic field space will also allow more citizens to participate in Town sponsored high-demand youth and adult athletic programs such as soccer, baseball and softball. In addition, expanded facilities will allow the town more flexibility in working with Apex-oriented private groups seeking rental space to accommodate their programs.

"The acquisition of this land addresses a major goal of the parks and recreation master plan to locate significant recreational facilities in southwest area of Apex, where much of our growth is taking place," noted Town Manager Bruce Radford.

In the next few weeks, the town will begin to solicit design companies who would create a conceptual plan for the park. Other elements considered for the space could be a shelter and picnic area, playground, and natural trails. It could also be home to Apex's first water feature in the form of a splash pad or spray ground.

Funds to purchase the 92 acres came from existing recreation funds, combined with a loan from The Conservation Fund, a group whose mission is to help cities and private groups acquire open space for environmental protection and economic vitality.

"The Town of Apex has been recognized nationally as an exceptional place to live, and its commitment to providing its residents with parks and green space contributes to its appeal and high quality of life," said David Proper, North Carolina Urban Program Coordinator for The Conservation Fund. "We're thrilled to help the town take advantage of a rare opportunity to acquire a property of this size for future recreational enjoyment."

Town staff hopes to attain funding for the planning phase in next year's budget. With the additional 92 acres, Apex now owns, maintains and programs 526 acres of park land.