

SITE ASSESSMENTS

IN THIS CHAPTER

- Data Sources
- Estimates + Projections
- Tapestry Segmentation
- Trends in Parks and Recreation





The purpose of the facilities inventory assessment is to determine how well the Town of Apex Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) Department is meeting the needs of town residents and visitors with its parks, open space, and facilities. These findings will contribute in determining the overall level of service findings for the town and establish the vision for the future parks and recreation system.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the basic definition of Level of Service (LOS) is expressed as an allocation mechanism for the delivery of park and recreation facilities. By understanding the current level of service for parks and recreation facilities within the town, a community can better understand how and if residents have equal opportunity to basic parks and recreation services. To do this, the team evaluated the facilities that exist utilizing the community values identified in the planning process. These values are unique to the Town and provide the lens for which each park was assessed. This process helps determine if the parks and the amenities within them are meeting the goals and vision for Parks, Recreation, Greenways, and Open Space for the Town of Apex.

Each Park was evaluated using the common themes and criteria to understand if it is falling below the goals for the town (**N**= needs improvement - 50% or less of the criteria were observed), meeting the goals for the town (**S**= Satisfactory - Approximately 50% of the criteria were observed), or performing above expectations (**C**= Commendable - 75% or more of the criteria were observed). All of the criteria below helped determine how a park is performing to meet the needs and expectations of Apex community.
Recreation Offerings For "All" Residents.

RECREATION OFFERINGS FOR "ALL" RESIDENTS

Providing access to quality parks and recreation resources for all is an important part of the Departmental mission. The parks were examined to see if they met the following criteria:

- › Is there wifi in the park?
- › Is there accessible seating?
- › Is there power and/or charging stations?
- › Are the amenities open to the general public?
- › Are reservations systems and information solely online?
- › Is there a fee based facility?
- › Is information communicated in the park as well as online?
- › Is the park in a socially vulnerable area?
- › What is the overall park quality?
- › Do the amenities look well maintained?
- › Does the park feel welcoming for all ages and abilities?
- › Do the amenities support use by multiple age groups?

◀ Figure 3.1 - Elevate Course



Connectivity

Ensuring the community is connected and allows users to easily access a park or facility has been identified as a key value for the community. This part of the assessment evaluated connectivity within the park, to and from the park, and what resources are available that allow users to use alternative transportation. The greenways evaluation section of this report will go into greater detail regarding the overall town-wide greenway system. This portion of the assessment examined:

- › Is there nearby transit?
- › Is there a community greenway connection to the park and are there contiguous sidewalks to connect to park entrances?
- › Are there proposed greenway connections?
- › Is the park internally connected?
- › Can you get from amenity to amenity within large and small parks?
- › Is the surface and width accessible?
- › Do you know where you are in the park and/or Apex?
- › Do you know how long it might take you to walk a trail?

Operations Efficiency

The town has identified Operations Efficiency as a component to park health and community values. In order to determine if a park addressed this value the following criteria were used during the assessment:

- › What percentage of the park requires active maintenance?
- › How much of the park is programmed space?
- › Does the Park allow for rental or vendor use?
- › Does the Park use volunteers?
- › Does this Park use contract services for Maintenance?
- › Are environmentally sustainable practices used in this park, such as, organic landscape maintenance, storm water capturing, and recycling bins for park patrons?



Figure 3.2 - Disc Golf at the Nature Park

Sense of Community

The town has identified creating a sense of community in its parks and civic spaces as a core value. In order to determine if a park or facility is serving the town in this way the following criteria were evaluated:

- › Does the park promote social interaction?
- › Does the Park contain opportunities for Passive and/or Active Recreation?
- › Is there a balance of sun and shade?
- › What is the noise level? Are there opportunities for both quiet and engaged spaces?
- › Is there an opportunity for seating?
- › Does the park allow users to connect with Nature and the features within the park?
- › Can the user quantify their experience in time or distance?

Environmental Stewardship

Sustainability is a goal for the town, whether it be through programming, material use, facility development, or site plan layout, each of these factors contribute to the overall users ability to experience nature and the overall sustainability of the park. Each of the following factors were evaluated:

- › Are there park features in a floodprone area?
- › Are features placed and designed to endure natural impact?
- › Is there green infrastructure present? (pavement, lighting, solar, stormwater, etc.)
- › Is there a feature that requires consistent maintenance?
- › Are there opportunities to reduce land management?
- › Have maintenance practices been evaluated for impact?
- › Are there any furnishings or site features that respond to overall goal of achieving environmental sustainability such as benches sourced from sustainable materials, recycling and composting options?
- › What does the landscape look like and is there a focus on native, drought tolerant vegetation?

Unique to Apex

The Town of Apex wants to ensure its park users have the opportunity to experience new and engaging opportunities in their parks and civic spaces. Creating opportunities that are not repetitive and are unique to Apex is a core value. This can be done through unique programming, unusual material use, unique facility development, or unique site plan layout. Each of these factors contribute to the overall users ability to experience something that is unique to Apex. Each of the following factors were evaluated:

- › Are there park features present that are only provided in this park?
- › Are features something that celebrate the town?
- › Is there an experience that a user can get in Apex and not nearby?
- › Does the feature highlight what makes Apex different?



OVERALL PARK LOCATIONS

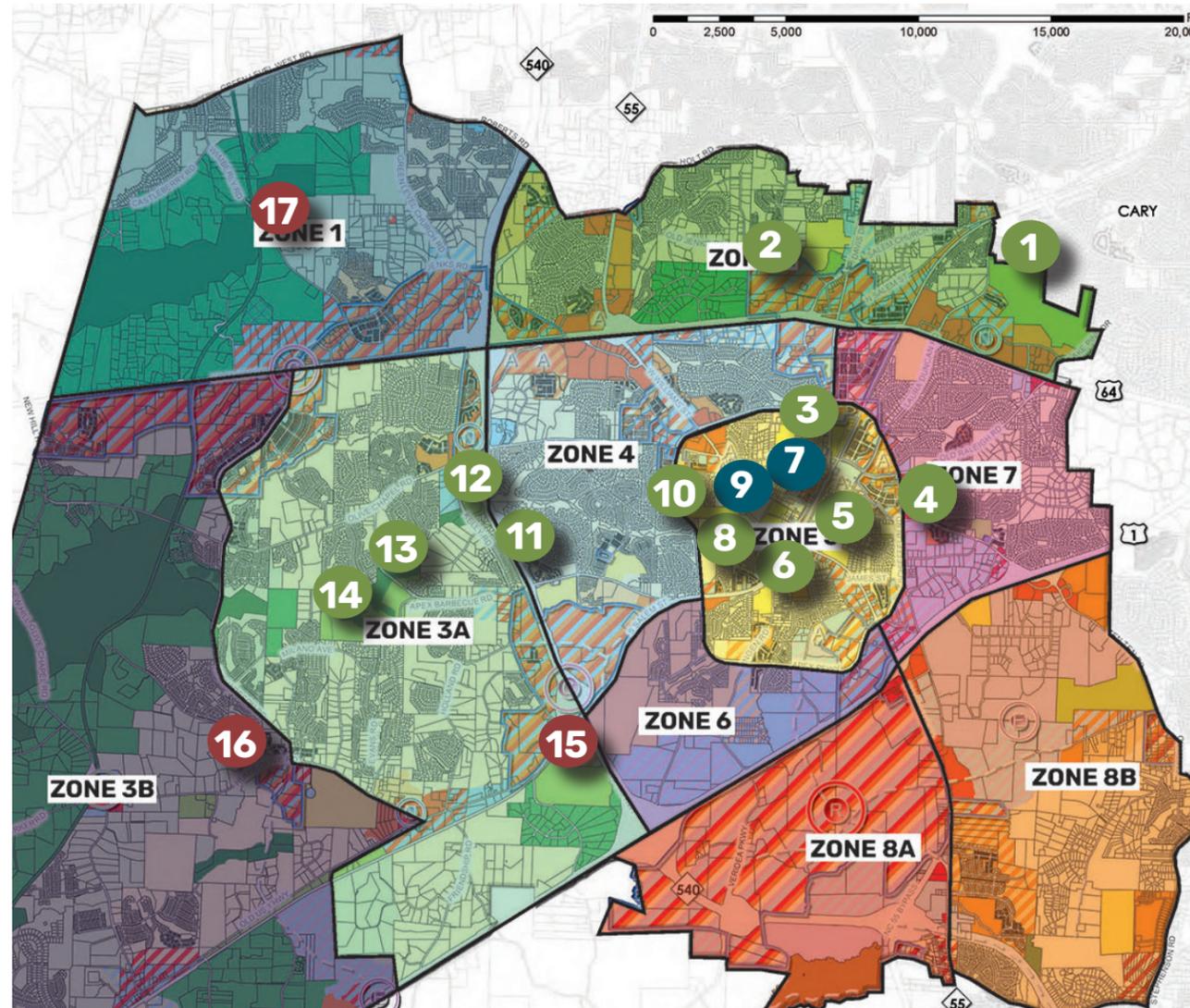


Figure 3.3 - Existing and Future Parks and Facilities

Existing Parks

- 1 Apex Community Park
- 2 Salem Pond Park
- 3 Hunter Street Park
- 4 Seagroves Farm Neighborhood Park
- 5 Clairmont Park
- 6 Sue Helton Memorial Park
- 7 John Brown Community Center, Apex Senior Center, Town Hall Complex
- 8 West Street Park
- 9 Halle Cultural Arts Center

Existing Parks (cont.)

- 11 Jaycee Park
- 12 Kelly Glenn
- 13 Kelly Road Park
- 14 Seymour Park Athletic Fields
- 15 Apex Nature Park

Future Parks

- 16 Future Pleasant Park
- 17 Future Olive Farm Park
- 18 Future Wimberly Road Park

APEX FACILITIES OVERVIEW

The Town of Apex has 12 park sites within its system, three indoor facilities, and three undeveloped “future park sites”. These total 629 acres of parkland. Of this total acreage, 67.57 acres are considered “future” parks. The Town of Apex also has 4 joint use facilities within its system, all in partnership with Wake County School systems. There are two elementary schools, and two middle schools within the system sharing facilities.

The existing 629 acres in the system contain approximately 311 developed acres, 117 acres of future park land, and 181 conservation acres. It is important to note, much of the underdeveloped acreage contains water, wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes, leaving only 141.90 acres that would be considered developable. In further breaking down the 141.90 acres, a large portion is not easily accessed, or currently serves as un-programmed space within a park unit. This illustrates the very high demand and impact on existing park amenities within each park unit.

The Town of Apex has 81,986 square feet of indoor recreation space that houses the Apex Community Center, Halle Cultural Arts Center, and the Apex Senior Center.

Town parks contain over 25.9 miles of greenway trails, with 4 miles of natural surface and 2.9 miles of paved trails being located within the park units, providing links to the larger town wide greenways system.

The town also contains several facilities unique to Apex, approximately 13, which are highlighted in the individual park unity inventory sheets.

It is also important to note the distribution of the park units. Six of the ten zones do not contain park units, two of those zones contain purchased land for future park units, and one of these zones has an approved development with future park land dedication.

|  PARKLAND |  TRAILS |  INDOOR FACILITY SPACE |  SIGNATURE PARK FACILITIES |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>629 acres Total parkland</p> <p>331 ac- developed parkland 117 ac- future parkland 181 ac- conservation land</p> <p>12 parks</p> <p>1 50+ acre lake</p> <p>2 parks with ponds</p> | <p>25.9 Total miles of greenway trails (8-10ft wide asphalt, concrete, boardwalk/bridges)</p> <p>19+ miles of natural surface trails</p> <p>4 miles of new greenway segments in development</p> <p>33+ Future Greenway Miles</p> | <p>111,173 sq. ft. of indoor facility space</p> <p>86,294 sq. ft. of indoor recreation space</p> <p>1 Community Center (2 gyms & 4 classrooms)</p> <p>1 Cultural Arts Center (auditorium, gallery & classroom)</p> <p>1 Senior Center (5 classrooms, 4 meeting rooms & rental space for 400+)</p> | <p>13 unique facilities</p> <p>4 lighted turf fields 2 dog parks 1 Elevate fitness course 1 Kidstowne community-built playground 1 disc golf course 1 roller hockey court 1 skate plaza 1 outdoor performance venue 1 public art walk</p> |

Figure 3.4 - Existing Parks and Facilities (Data from 2022)



APEX FACILITIES OVERVIEW

| Park Name & Address <small>(*denotes a lighted facility)</small> | Acreeage | Hours of Operation | Zone | Indoor Bldg. s.f. | Baseball / Softball Fields | Batting Cages | Soccer Fields | Multi-purpose Synthetic Turf Field | Open Play Area | Outdoor Basketball Courts | Tennis Courts | Pickleball Courts | Roller Hockey Court | Skate Plaza | Sand Volleyball Courts | Disc Golf | Natural Trails (miles) | Paved Trails (miles) | Greenway Trailhead | Cross Country Course | Fishing (Permit required) | Small Craft Boating | Playgrounds | Fitness Course | Splash Pad | Picnic Shelters | Shelter Rentals | Multi-purpose Rental Spaces | Classrooms | Gymnasiums | Performance Space | Amphitheater | Restrooms | Dog Park | |
|---|----------|--|------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|--|
| APEX COMMUNITY PARK ATHLETIC FIELD ENTRANCE 2200 Laura Duncan Road | 160 | 6:30am- 10pm | 2 | | 3* | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | 6* | | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | 217 | | | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 3 | | |
| LAKE PINE ENTRANCE 1808 Lake Pine Drive | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| APEX NATURE PARK & SEYMORE ATHLETIC FIELDS 2600 Evans Road | 160 | 6:30am- 10pm | 3a | | | | | 2* | | 1 | 5* | 4 | | | 2 | 18 holes | 3 | 3 | future | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | |
| JOHN M. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER 53 Hunter Street (part of Town Hall Complex) | 11.47 | Monday thru Friday, 8am - 9pm Saturday, 9am - 6pm Sunday, 1pm - 6pm (Closed Sundays Jun-Aug) | 5 | 44,147 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 | 2 | | | | ✓ | | |
| APEX SENIOR CENTER 63 Hunter Street (part of Town Hall Complex) | | Monday thru Friday, 8am - 5pm | 5 | 28,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 11 | | 1 | | | ✓ | | |
| HALLE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER 237 N. Salem Street | 0.16 | Monday - Friday: 9 am - 6 pm Saturday: 9 am - 1 pm Closed Sunday (Open additional hours for programmed rentals) | 5 | 14,147 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 3 | | 1 | | | ✓ | | |
| HUNTER STREET PARK 1250 Ambergate Station | 12 | 6:30am- 10pm | 5 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 0.5 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| JAYCEE PARK 451 NC Highway 55 / West Williams Street | 23 | 6:30am- 10pm | 5 | | 1* | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| KELLY ROAD PARK 1609 Kelly Road | 25 | 6:30am- 10pm | 3a | | 1* | | | | | 1 | 1* | 4 | | | | | | | 0.5 | future | | | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| SALEM POND PARK 6112 Old Jenks Road | 12 | 6:30am- 10pm | 2 | | | | | 1* | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| CLAIRMONT PARK 801 E. Chatham Street | 1.5 | Sunrise- 9pm | 5 | | | | | | ✓ | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| KELLY GLEN 1701 Kelly Glen Lane | 2 | Sunrise - Sunset | 3a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| SEAGROVES FARM PARK 201 Parkfield Drive | 11 | 6:30 AM – 9:00 PM | 7 | | | | | | | .5 | | | | | | | | | 0.4 | | ✓ | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| SUE HELTON MEMORIAL PARK 703 Matney Lane | 0.25 | Sunrise - Sunset | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | gazebo | | | | | | | | | | |
| WEST STREET PARK 108 West Street | 1.3 | Sunrise - Sunset | 5 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| PLEASANT PARK 3400 Pleasant Park Rd. | 92 | Phase I: Currently under construction | 3a | | | | | 6* | 1 | 2 | 4* | 6 | | | 1 | | | | | 5k | | | ✓ | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 3 | |
| | | Phase II: Future | 3a | | 4* | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | |
| Future OLIVE FARM PARK 3020 & 3024 Olive Farm Road | 21.73 | Land acquisition | 3b | | FUTURE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Future WIMBERLY ROAD PARK | 45.84 | Land acquisition | 1 | | FUTURE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



APEX COMMUNITY PARK

| | |
|---|--|
| ADDRESS: PARK ENTRANCE: 2200 LAURA DUNCAN ROAD, CARY, NC 27511 | LAKE ENTRANCE: 1808 LAKE PINE DRIVE CARY, NC 27511 |
|---|--|

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Zone: 2 | Size: 160 acres | Estimated Developed Acreage: 66.7 Acres | Hours: 6:30am to 10pm |
|------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY | HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Ball Fields | 3 | Playground | 2 |
| Batting Cages | 2 | Restroom | 3 |
| Soccer Fields | 1 | Nature Trails | 2 miles paved, 1 mile natural walking trail |
| Boating (small craft) | | Picnic Areas | 1 |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 3 | Fishing Dock | 1 |
| Tennis Courts | 6 | Roller Hockey Court | 1 |
| Fitness Course | 2 | Picnic Shelters | 2 |
| Basketball Courts | 3 | | |



Connectivity to sidewalk or greenway

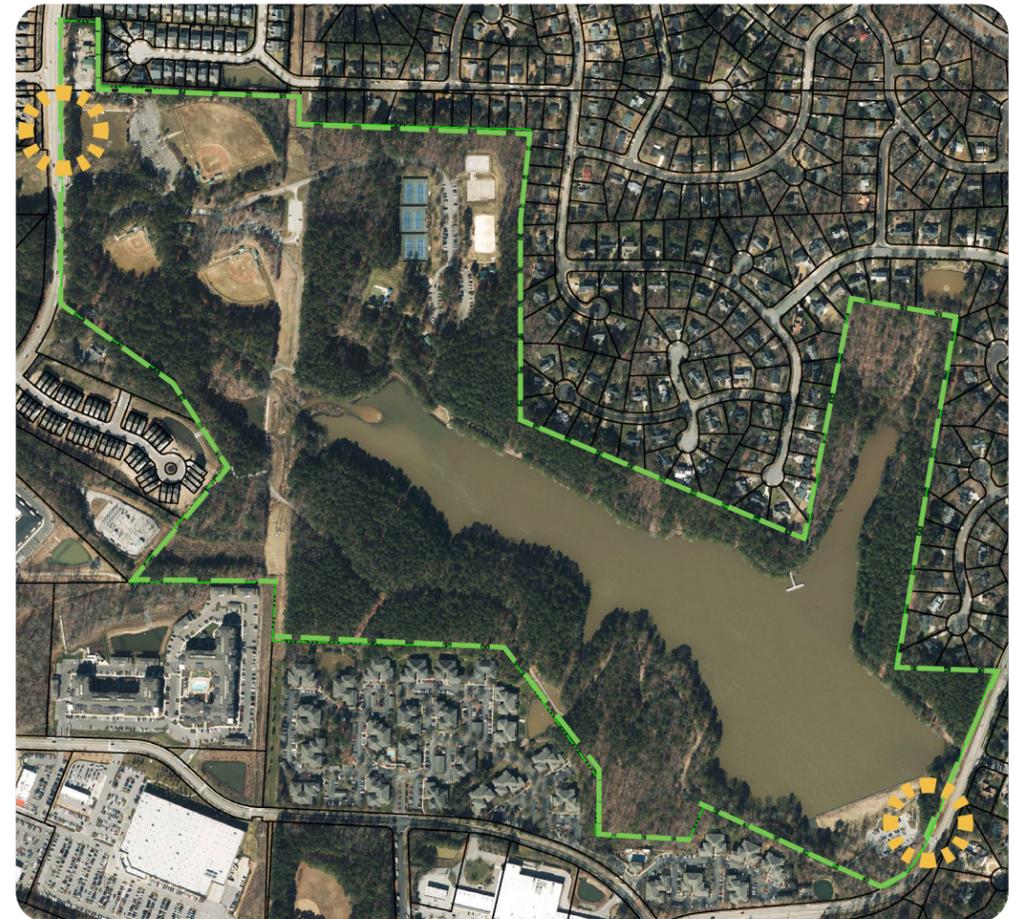


Figure 3.6 - Aerial of Apex Community Park



APEX COMMUNITY PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

This park has community access, intergenerational features, passive and active components. Most of the overall park information is found online. Access could be improved by streamlining communication within the park, and by providing community access to wifi and power. The park could expand water safety education and access by providing a boathouse, rentals, and lessons. This park is located in an area of low social vulnerability. Park updates are needed to comply with recommendations in the ADA Compliance Assessment completed in 2021 including: ADA Parking, accessible route widths, slopes and surfacing to each amenity, consideration to reach range in all site furnishing placement, and all restrooms.

Connectivity

There are a variety of trail types: paved, natural, fitness, and biking. Additionally, it connects to the local bus system and community greenway. Park connectivity could be improved with more internal connections, pedestrian wayfinding, and streamlined communication at key park kiosk locations. Improved internal trail and sidewalk connectivity could enhance overall user access to each park feature.

Environmental Stewardship

The park requires significant maintenance due to its size. The landscape contains a mix of native wooded natural areas with non-native planting in designated areas such as parking lots. Opportunities exist for solar, LED, alternative pavement, and green stormwater infrastructure with future facilities. Additionally, this park serves as a wonderful opportunity for environmental education.

Operations Efficiency

This is a larger park and requires a higher level of maintenance. While maintenance facilities are on site, there is not room for expansion and it appears to be at capacity. The park does not require permanent staff on-site, but the various programs offered do require staff when programs are running. This park can benefit from volunteer groups, partner programs, and vendors on site.

Sense of Community

Apex Community Park has a balance of developed and undeveloped park space, and active and passive recreation amenities. These amenities provide an opportunity for community engagement and social interaction. Without a central point of arrival, it is difficult to assess park extents and time and distance to access park amenities unless you are familiar with the park. This park has two fitness courses, including the new Elevate fitness course, and a wide variety of health and wellness opportunities such as play areas, sports fields, views and vistas of the lake, and natural areas accessible by trails.

Unique to Apex: Roller Hockey and Elevate Fitness Course

Opportunities

Apex Community Park trail surrounds a wonderful water resource which could provide greater recreational opportunities to boating. Improved access to this resource would provide a unique recreation opportunity. This site serves as a central location for camps. Covered space and facilities to support camps would improve access to expand programs. Many existing features need upgrading, such as the tennis courts, batting cages, playgrounds, more seating, and streamlined signage to improve overall user experience. Trail width, connections, and surface improvements would improve user experience.

APEX COMMUNITY PARK (CONT.)



Figure 3.7 - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.8 - Apex Community Park Lake



Figure 3.9 - Multiple Signs at Apex Community Park

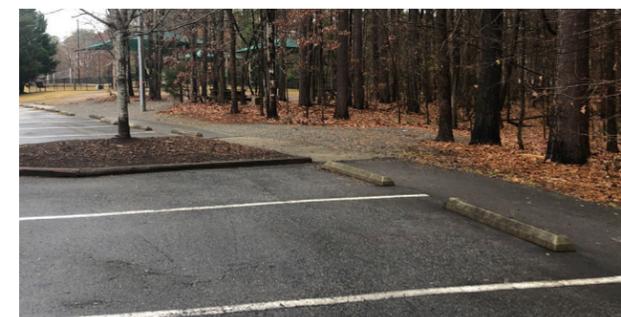


Figure 3.10 - Parking Area at Apex Community Park



Figure 3.11- Improve accessibility to furnishings

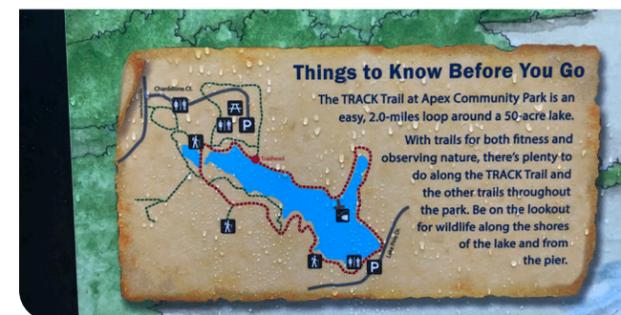


Figure 3.12 - Informative signage at Apex Community Park



Figure 3.13 - Informative Signage at Apex Community Park

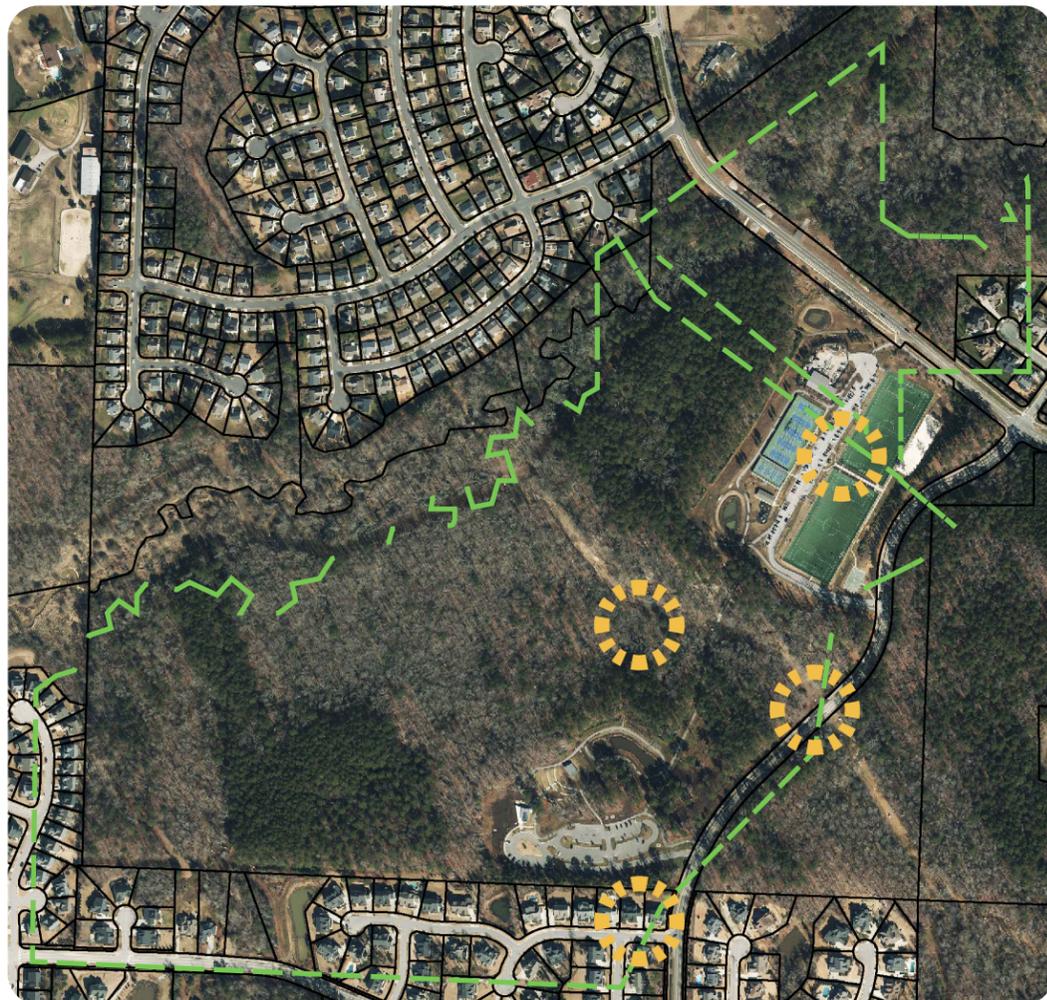


APEX NATURE PARK & SEYMOUR ATHLETIC FIELDS

ADDRESS:
2600 EVANS ROAD, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 3A Size: 160 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 67.4 Acres

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY | HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| Lighted Multipurpose Fields | 2 | Picnic Shelters | 2 |
| Amphitheater | 1 | Multi-Age Playground | 1 |
| Disc Golf Course | 1 | Restrooms | 2 |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 2 | Multi-Use Trails 2 miles paved, 3 miles natural walking trails | 4 |
| Lighted Tennis Courts | 5 | | |
| Dog Park | 1 | Jr. Tennis/Pickleball | 4 |



Connectivity to sidewalk or greenway

Figure 3.14 - Aerial of Apex Nature Park & Seymour Athletic Fields

APEX NATURE PARK & SEYMOUR ATHLETIC FIELDS (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

The nature portion of the park is open to all for most hours and the active portion is accessed predominantly by reservation. While reservations are posted within the park, they are conducted online and via phone reducing accessibility to those without technology. There is no public wifi or power present which could also serve the community. This park is located in an area of low/medium social vulnerability. Streamlining signage and park communication will improve park access. There is no transit or direct greenway link to access these parks at this time.

Greenways + Connectivity

This site is connected to the surrounding neighborhoods via sidewalk connections, the Evans Road Multi-use trail, has connection opportunities for future expansion west to the ATT, and is connected to the east to the Beaver Creek Greenway trail. The pedestrian crosswalk located at Evans Road and Apex Barbeque Road is not signalized. The site is not connected via bus or transit. It has a variety of trail types including: paved, natural surface, and concrete. The park has two distinct entrances to two very different park amenities. It is recommended the two areas should be separated by name and address on the website to match the park so those attending events (either sports or the nature park) know where to go. The vehicular circulation and allocation on the Seymour Athletic side appears to be under serving programmed space. If each programmed feature on the east side is in full use, there is not enough parking. Additionally, one point of ingress and egress makes circulation challenging at peak times.

Environmental Stewardship

The park site was designed to minimize impact and locate park development out of the floodplain. The park has many environmental education opportunities including: stormwater control measures, minimal site grading and natural erosion control measures, preservation of existing vegetation, tree canopy, and incorporated LEED components such as solar on the nature park restroom. The undeveloped portion of this site largely falls in the floodplain or is wetland. There is opportunity for education and incorporation of sustainable practices on future features, expansion, or changes.

Operations Efficiency

These sites individually require significant facility, amenity and grounds maintenance, and house a maintenance building/yard that appears to be at capacity with no evident space for expansion. The site does not require direct on-site staff, but programs and events will require staff be present and attentive. The maintenance area for this site needs to be expanded, and most likely relocated.

Sense of Community

The combination of these two sites provides a wonderful opportunity for both active and passive recreation experiences. Users have access to sun, shade, social interaction, and passive recreation. The two sites are connected via trail but are predominantly separate. Kiosk information and in-park communication could help link the two. It is important to keep them identified individually by address for athletic events and tournaments, to avoid confusion about event location.

Unique to Apex

Dog park, disc golf, and outdoor performance venue



APEX NATURE PARK & SEYMOUR ATHLETIC FIELDS (CONT.)

Opportunities

There is an opportunity to expand user access and programs by upgrading features present including the future education center, the amphitheater, dog park, improvements to tennis (shade), and wayfinding. These parks are linked by name online. Referencing them as separate facilities would improve communication. By offering “first come first serve times” on fields and courts for non-organized groups, different users may have improved access. Parking is a challenge on the Seymour side, relocation of the maintenance area would allow for parking and circulation improvements. This site has an opportunity to serve as a trail head due to the several trails that can and will connect to the park unit. By offering additional trail features, including a map kiosk for trails, phone numbers, and connection to the Nature Park portion, would better link the overall greenway system and trails. The Nature Park can serve as a central location for education by adding support facilities and expanding and improving the amphitheater area. There is opportunity for rental, volunteers, partnerships, and vendors.

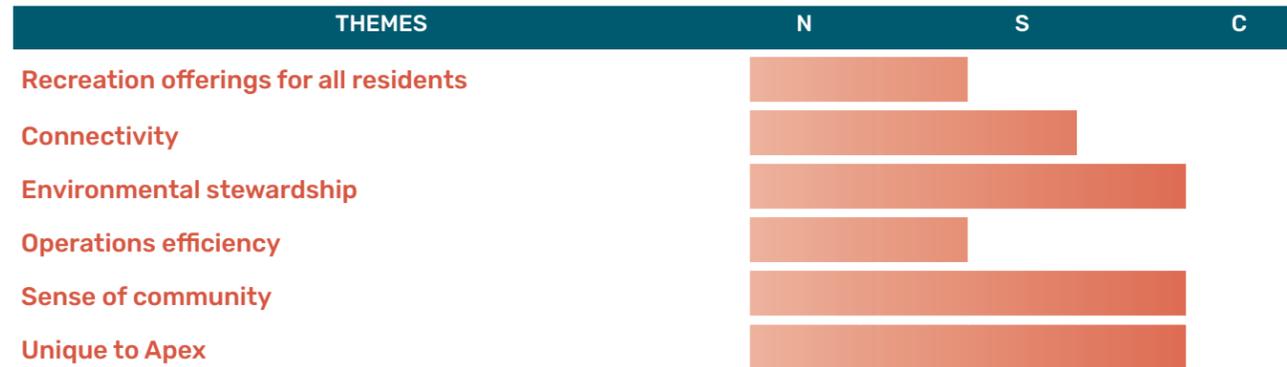


Figure 3.15-Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.16 - Apex Nature Park Amphitheater



Figure 3.17 - Turn around & Maintenance area at Athletic Fields



Figure 3.18 - Opportunity for improved nature trail and signs



Figure 3.19 - Seating at Tennis Courts

CLAIRMONT PARK

ADDRESS:
PARK ENTRANCE:
801 EAST CHATHAM STREET, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 5 Size: 1.5 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 0.4 Acres Hours: Sunrise to 9pm

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Playground Ages 5-12 | 1 |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Basketball Courts | 1 |
| Grill | 1 |



Figure 3.20 - Aerial of Clairmont Park



CLAIRMONT PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

There is not public wi-fi available to park patrons or a power source or charging station within the park. The hours the park is open to the public is listed within the park and information regarding the park is communicated within the park and online. The park is not accessible, but many of the features across age groups are inclusive, culturally relevant and welcoming. Partial use of facilities is available for general use, while some features have dedicated use times. The overall aesthetic of the park is satisfactory. All neighborhood parks in zone 5 need upgrades to access and amenities within the park. Park improvements listed in the ADA Compliance Assessment should be included in any upgrades made. This park is located in an area of high social vulnerability and listed as high priority in the ADA Compliance Assessment.

Connectivity

There is no public transit or greenway connectivity to the park. There is a sidewalk connection in the park that allows you to get from the street parking to the park features, but it is not accessible. There is no indicator identifying where you are in Apex or connectivity to other locations from the park.

Environmental Stewardship

There are no features in the park located in flood-prone areas, but features have been designed to endure natural impact. There is no green infrastructure present on site. All of the park features require consistent maintenance, including but not limited to lawn mowing and trash waste stations. The park does not educate users on sustainable actions within the park, but it does protect community natural resources such as the creek. There are opportunities to reduce land management. The park does not promote recycling.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the park requires maintenance but on site staff is not required. This park does not allow for rental use. The park utilizes volunteers to some capacity. Contract services for maintenance, non-profit partners and dedicated staff implementing sustainable practices have not been evaluated.

Sense of Community

The park contains both passive and active recreation opportunities and there is an abundance of shade throughout the park. The park is quiet as it is in a residential setting. Seating opportunities are not present. The park allows for users to connect with nature and promotes social interaction.

Unique to Apex: n/a

Opportunities

The site provides quality access to open space in a residential neighborhood. There is an opportunity to improve walking and seating, but the park site itself provides health and wellness access with unprogrammed open space. There is also an opportunity for stormwater education and/or park feature improvements across or near the creek. Internal park connectivity and seating needs to be improved to better access the park and meet ADA Compliance Assessment recommendations.

CLAIRMONT PARK (CONT.)

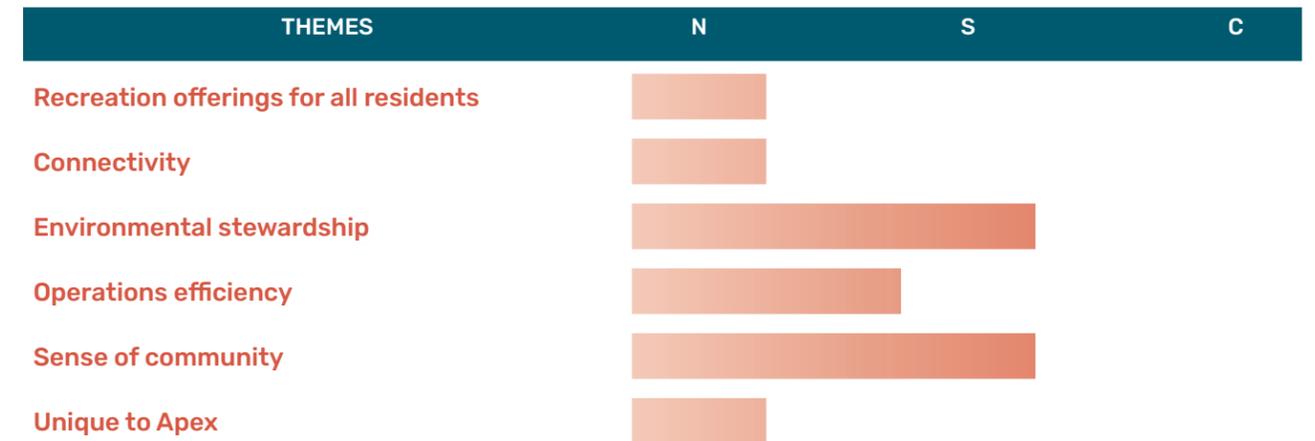


Figure 3.21 - Opportunity to connect use areas with sidewalk or trail



Figure 3.22 - Opportunity to connect use areas with sidewalk or trail



HUNTER STREET PARK

ADDRESS:
1250 AMBERGATE STATION, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 5 Size: 12 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 10.6 Acres Hours: 6:30am to 10pm

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Softball/ Baseball Fields | 1 |
| Batting Cages | 2 |
| Turf Maintenance Fields | 1 |
| Skate Plaza | 1 |
| Multi-Age Playground | 1 |
| Restroom | 1 |
| Paved Walking Trail | 0.5 miles paved trail |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Dog Park | 1 |

 Connectivity to sidewalk or greenway

 Bus Stop

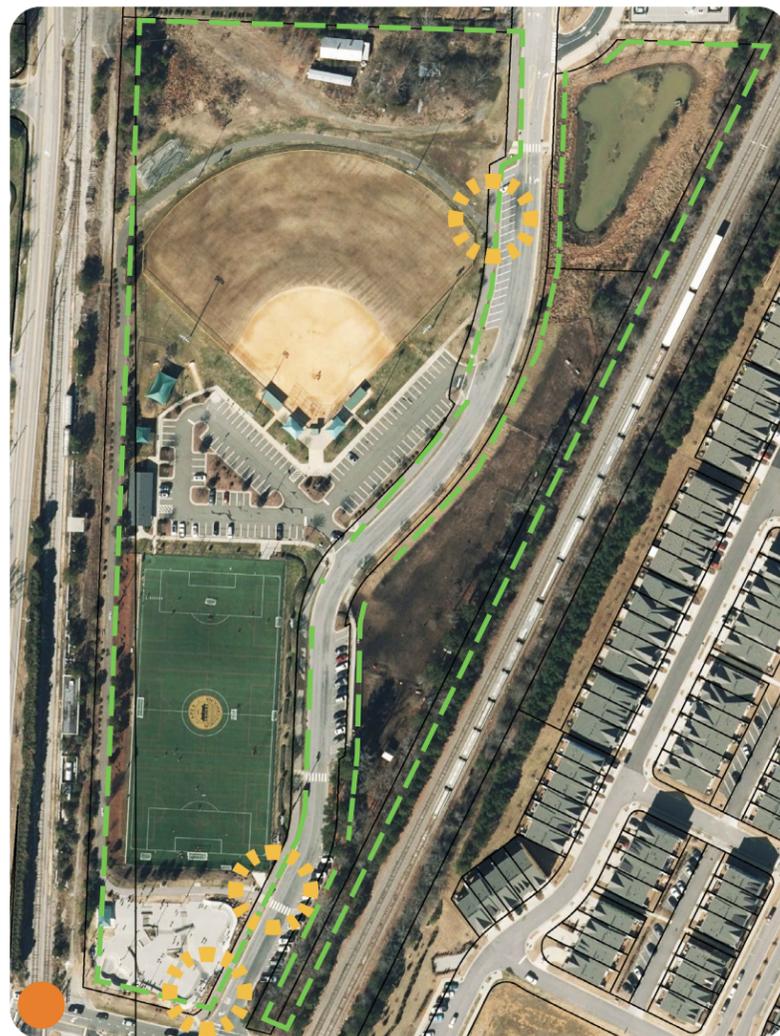


Figure 3.23 - Aerial of Hunter Street Park

HUNTER STREET PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

The park site contains a combination of fee and reservation based features. Users can access the playground, skate park, and walking trail without fees or reservations, and the dog park, and athletic fields require fees and/or reservations which are conducted online. In park communication regarding reservations and/or expanded hours to the fee and reservation based features could improve user access to this centrally located park. Additionally, non-reservable amenities such as seating, picnic tables, benches, and fitness stations can offer improved access without reservation. This park is located in an area of medium social vulnerability.

Connectivity

The site sits in the core of Downtown Apex and is connected via an accessible sidewalk and located in a walkable distance to residential areas, transit, and a multi-use trail. As the site to the east develops, inclusion of a controlled intersection at Grand Central Station and Hunter Street with a trail connection to town complex could improve access and expand connectivity.

Environmental Stewardship

The site requires a high level of maintenance with a high percentage of developed acreage (88%). It incorporates LED lighting with opportunity for solar charging.

Operations Efficiency

The entire site is built upon and requires a high level of maintenance. Once the future bike track is added, there will be no unprogrammed acreage available for users. While the athletic fields are synthetic, they still require maintenance, as do all facilities present on site. This site presents opportunities for volunteers, partnerships, and vendors.

Sense of Community

Hunter street park is a predominantly active park with opportunities for passive recreation at the dog park and 0.5 mile walking trail. The site offers a combination of reservation (athletic fields) and open use (Skate park, dog park, and trail). The diversity of amenities promote multi-generational use.

Unique to Apex: Lighted turf field, skate plaza, dog park, public art, and future bike track

Opportunities

There is an opportunity to improve pedestrian connection to the Town Hall complex. Stormwater improvements have recently been made to the dog park area. Native and drought tolerant vegetation could be added to the site to improve site maintenance and increase shade. Equity could be improved on this site for non-reservable /fee days or hours and access to power and/or wifi. Public art in this space is a unique element for all user groups and could be expanded in this area and town hall complex. Having additional seating and picnicking, and potentially spray misters would also improve user experience.



HUNTER STREET PARK (CONT.)



Figure 3.24 - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.25 - Access to bike racks



Figure 3.26 - Access to shade at the skate park

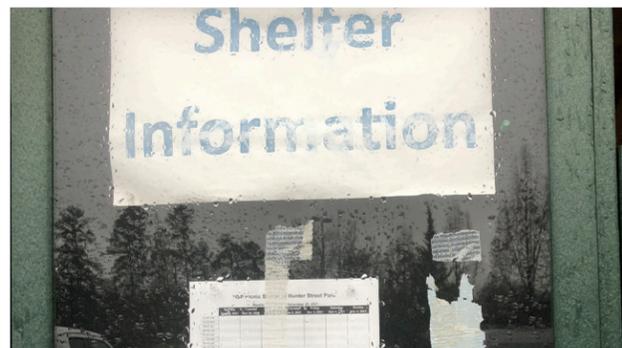


Figure 3.27 - Opportunity to include more park information



Figure 3.28 - Dog park access is fee based online



Figure 3.29 - In park communication for playground users



Figure 3.30 - Transit and walkway across RR tracks and street

JAYCEE PARK

ADDRESS:
451 NC HIGHWAY 55/WEST WILLIAMS STREET APEX, NC 27511

Zone: 5 Size: 23 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 7.6 Acres Hours: 6:30am to 10pm

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Softball Fields | 1 |
| Soccer Fields | 2 |
| Batting Cages | 1 |
| Playground with Shade | 1 |
| Future Trail Head | 1 |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Restroom | 1 |

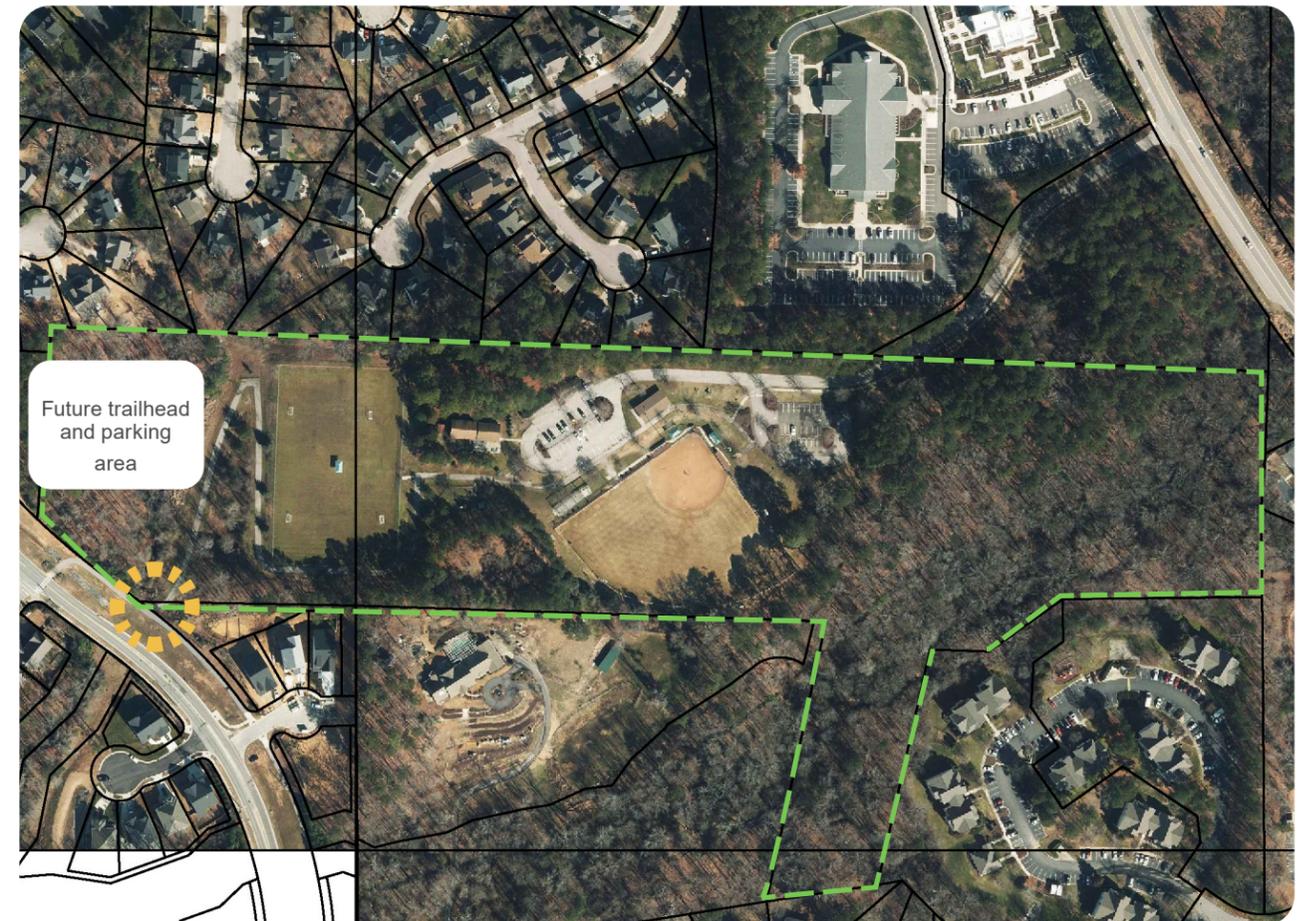
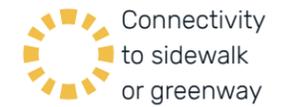


Figure 3.31 - Aerial of Jaycee Park



JAYCEE PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

This site appears to have open access to most features. The fields can be reserved and information on site should be present on times available and how to reserve. Access improvements are needed to the restroom, parking, site furnishings, and routes. Adding Wifi and power as a community resource would also improve use and access. This park is located in an area of high social vulnerability.

Connectivity

The site is connected to the Beaver Creek Greenway and currently serves as a trail head and terminus. The site could connect into downtown via improved sidewalk or multi-use trail connections via the Peakway, Williams Street, and/or Hunter Street. Additional trailhead amenities at this location or future development area could expand access and improve user experience such as picnicking, bottle filling stations, bike repair, transit connections, and communication of where downtown is from the park.

Environmental Stewardship

The site is developed outside of the flood-prone areas and is surrounded by a wooded buffer area and adjacent streams. This protects developed areas from future natural impacts. As features are added or updated, sustainable practices should be incorporated such as pervious pavement, solar, LED, and environmental education.

Operations Efficiency

This park requires a high level of maintenance with the athletic fields. There are no full time staff required on site but for maintenance and programs, staff is required. Partnerships already exist with this park (the Boy Scouts) and opportunities exist for volunteers and vendors as well.

Sense of Community

This park site has a good balance of active and passive recreation, sun/shade, and social interaction opportunities. The inclusion of an in-park trail and sidewalk loop could improve the use of this park.

Unique to Apex: Future Trail head

Opportunities

The site connects to the community Beaver Creek Greenway but the kiosk is set into the site with no overall map. In park communication, expanded access to play, an internal park loop and trail head, and connections to Williams Street would improve access and visibility to this park. The site currently serves as a trail head for the major community greenway, Beaver Creek Greenway, but does not offer support facilities typically found at a trail head: bike repair, transit, regional greenway and community map, improved bathrooms, water filling stations, and information on access to food and non-reservable picnic areas. All of these items would improve visibility and access.

JAYCEE PARK (CONT.)

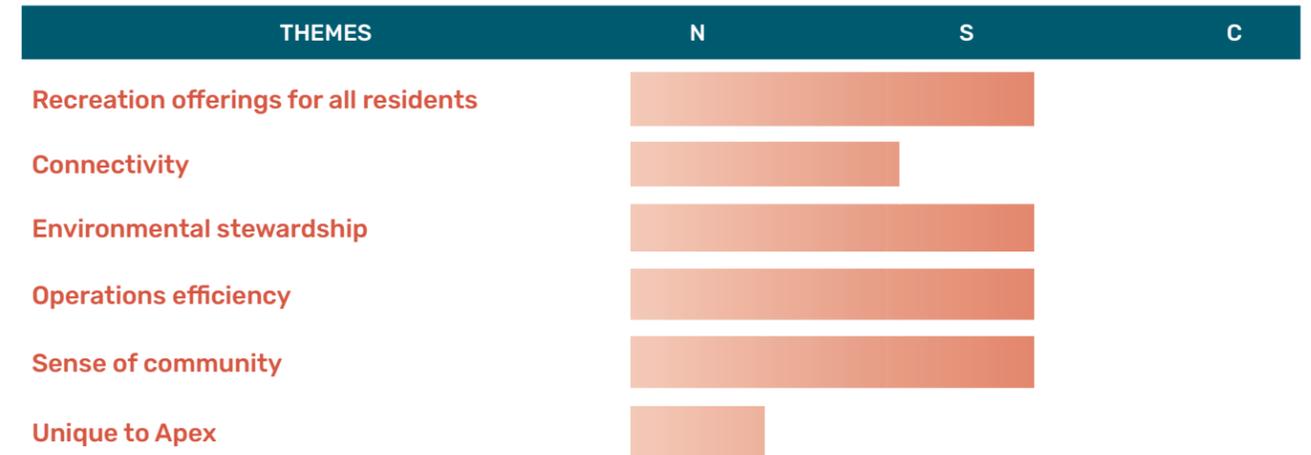


Figure 3.32- Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.33 - Shelter + Restroom Building



Figure 3.34 - Play Area



Figure 3.35 - Beaver Creek Greenway Connection



Figure 3.36 - Baseball Field



KELLY GLEN

ADDRESS:
1701 KELLY GLEN LANE, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 3A Size: 2 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 0.35 Acres Hours: Sunrise to Sunset (year round)

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Playground | 1 |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Grill | 1 |

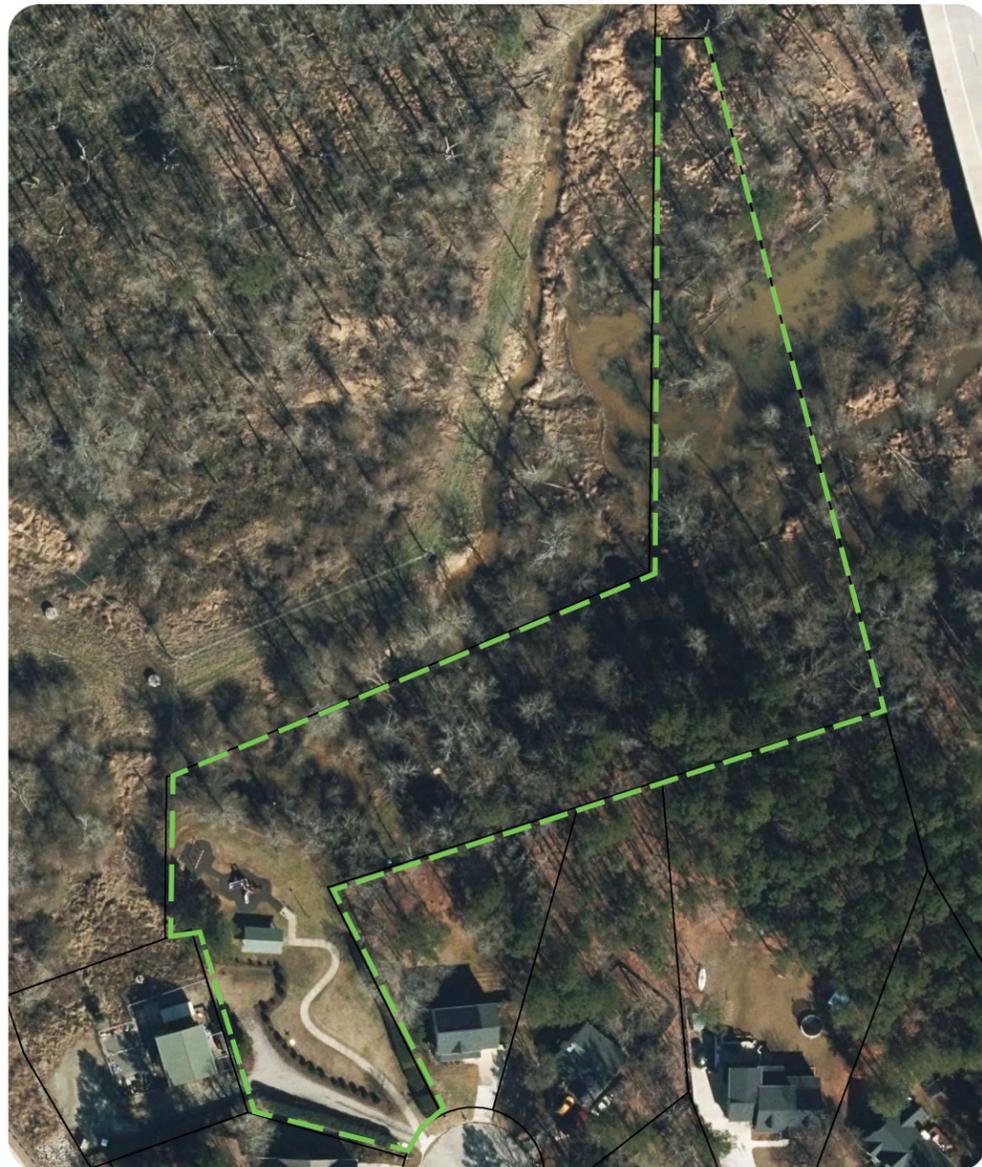


Figure 3.37 - Aerial of Kelly Glen

KELLY GLEN (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

There is not public wi-fi available to park patrons or a power source or charging station within the park. The hours the park is open to the public is listed within the park and information regarding the park is communicated within the park and online. This park is tucked in a neighborhood and serves that immediate community only. This park is located in an area of high social vulnerability.

Connectivity

There is no public transit or greenway connectivity to the park, nor is there a sidewalk or parking. There is a sidewalk connection in the park from the roadway. There is no indicator identifying where you are in Apex or connectivity to other locations from the park. The features within the park are accessible, but the park itself is not connected to the larger system. ADA Compliance Assessment recommends site upgrades for connectivity and compliance.

Environmental Stewardship

There are features in the park located near flood-prone areas, but features have been located to reduce natural impact. There is no green infrastructure present on site. Park features require consistent maintenance and the playground equipment has been in place for over 10 years. The park does not educate users on sustainable actions within the park, but it does protect community natural resources.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the park requires maintenance but on site staff is not required. This park does allow for rental use.

Sense of Community

The park contains passive recreation opportunities and there is a balance of sun and shade throughout the park. Seating opportunities are limited and not all picnic tables are accessible. The park allows for users to connect with nature and promotes social interaction.

Unique to Apex: - n/a

Opportunities

The park could provide floodplain education and upgrades in play opportunities and/or equipment. This park is accessed by walking only (no parking) and needs to follow recommendations in the ADA Compliance Assessment. Maintenance needs could be reduced in this park by decreasing the mowing areas, and transitioning lawn to a meadow or natural landscape. Additionally, some of the programmed spaces could be transitioned to natural areas over time.



KELLY GLEN (CONT.)

| THEMES | N | S | C |
|--|--------------|---|---|
| Recreation offerings for all residents | [Orange bar] | | |
| Connectivity | [Orange bar] | | |
| Environmental stewardship | [Orange bar] | | |
| Operations efficiency | [Orange bar] | | |
| Sense of community | [Orange bar] | | |
| Unique to Apex | [Orange bar] | | |

Figure 3.38 - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.39 - Apex Nature Park Amphitheater



Figure 3.40 - Shelter



Figure 3.41 - Opportunity for improved nature trail and signs



Figure 3.42 - View from the Street

KELLY ROAD PARK

ADDRESS:
1609 KELLY ROAD, APEX, NC 27502

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Zone: 3A | Size: 25 acres | Estimated Developed Acreage: 6.2 Acres | Hours: 6:30am to 10pm |
|-------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|

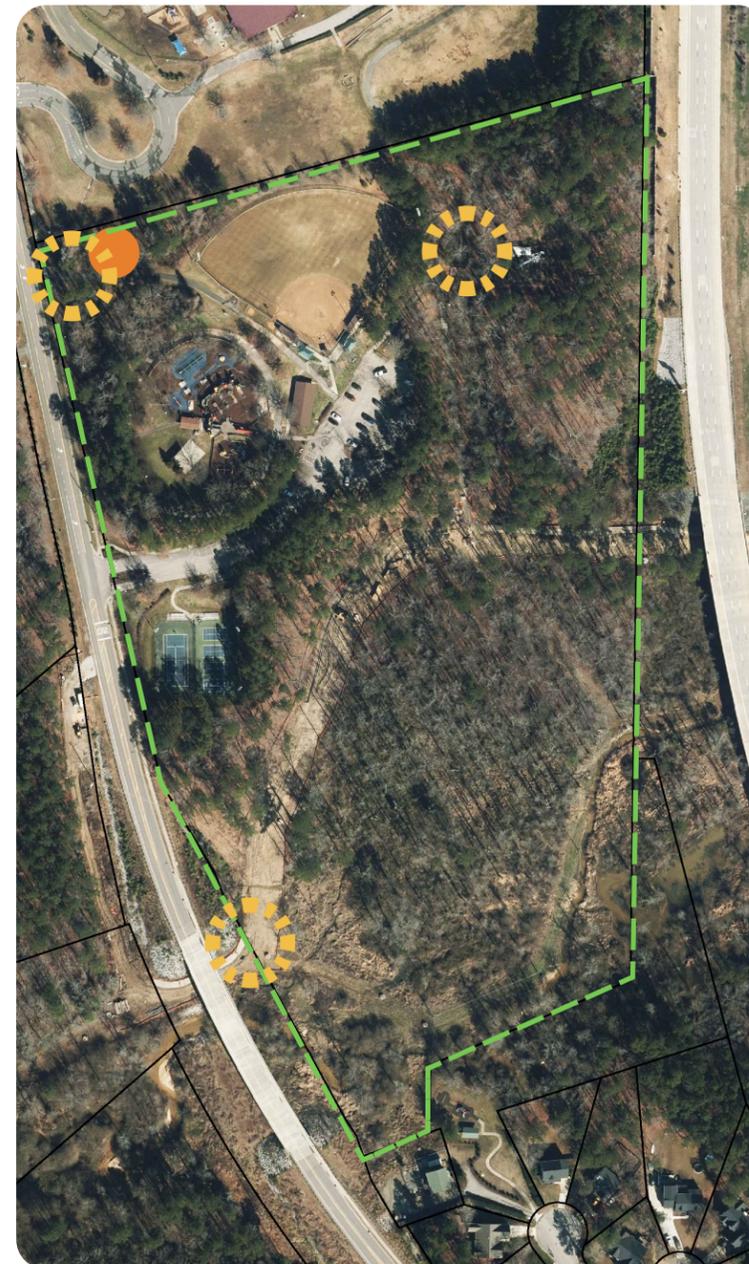
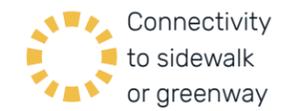


Figure 3.43 - Aerial of Kelly Road Park

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Softball Fields | 1 |
| Tennis Court | 1 |
| Junior Tennis/Pickleball Court | 4 |
| Playground Age 2-5 | 1 |
| Playground Age 5-12 | 1 |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Basketball Court | 1 |
| Trailhead to BC Greenway | 1 |





SALEM POND PARK

ADDRESS:
6112 OLD JENKINS ROAD, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 2 Size: 12 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 6.25 Acres Hours: 6:30am to 10pm

Connectivity to sidewalk or greenway

Opportunity to connect to community

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Multipurpose Turf Field | 1 |
| Paved Walking Trail | 0.5 miles |
| Ponds | 2 |
| Playground | 1 |
| Restroom | 1 |



Figure 3.50 - Aerial of Salem Pond Park

SALEM POND PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

There is no public wi-fi, power, or charging stations available to park patrons. This site could serve as an outdoor study resource due to the proximity to the school. The hours the park is open to the public are not listed within the park and information regarding the park is not clearly communicated within the park, but it is available online. The park is accessible and many of the features across age groups are inclusive, culturally relevant, and welcoming. Portions of the park require sign up for use which is done online (fields) and the remainder of the park is open to the public without reservations. This park is located in an area of low social vulnerability.

Connectivity

There is no public transit or greenway connectivity to the park. There is a sidewalk connection in the park that allows visitors to get from the parking area to the park features and to adjacent commercial space. There is no indicator identifying where you are in Apex or connectivity to other locations from the park. Walking distances are marked on the asphalt multi-use path. There is an opportunity to better connect this park to the school and adjacent neighborhood.

Environmental Stewardship

There are features within the park located out of flood-prone areas to endure natural impact. LED lighting is utilized within the park. There are features that require consistent maintenance, including but not limited to restrooms, dog, trash, and recycling waste stations. The park does not educate users on sustainable actions within the park, but it does protect community natural resources. There are opportunities to reduce land management, including the use of rain gardens. The park does promote recycling. This site could promote more with updated signage and educational measures.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the park requires maintenance but on site staff is not required. This park does allow for rental use of the multi-purpose fields. The usable portion of this park is almost entirely developed.

Sense of Community

The park contains both passive and active recreation opportunities with a balance of sun and shade. Few seating opportunities are present and not all picnic tables are accessible. The park allows for users to connect with nature and promotes social interaction. Park users can quantify their experience in distance as the trail mileage is marked.

Unique to Apex: N/A

Opportunities

This site has a unique resource, the pond and surrounding trail. By improving connections to the adjacent neighborhoods/school, adding seating, fitness stations, and signage it could become a more intergenerational park. The park could improve equity and connectivity by upgrading the trail and its amenities, and by providing wifi, power, and educational components. Maintaining the percentage of open space and not developing further will keep varied recreational resources for improved health and wellness and avoid increases in maintenance needs. There is also a unique opportunity to expand and partner for broader environmental education programs creating a true Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) and parking.



SALEM POND PARK (CONT.)

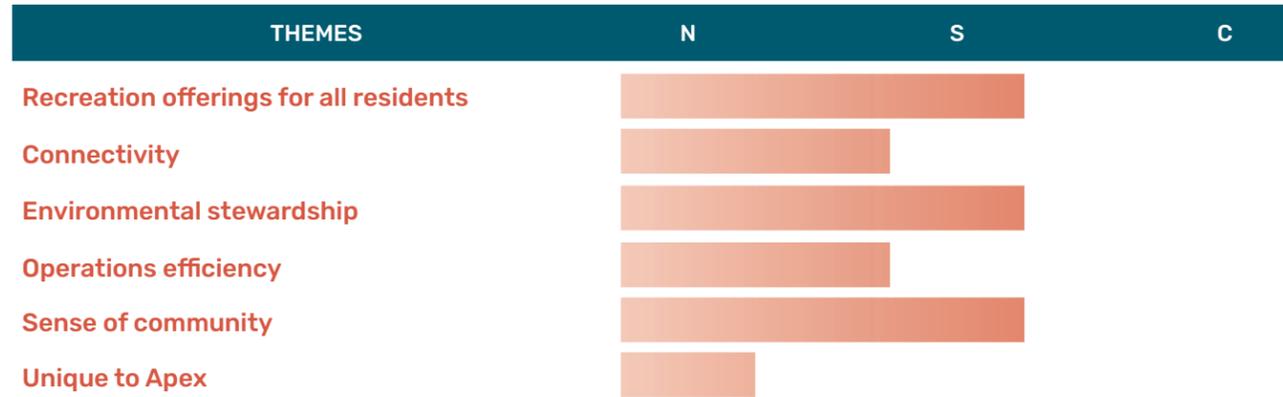


Figure 3.51a - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.51b - Trail Information and distance communicated



Figure 3.52 - Newer accessible playground at Salem Pond Park



Figure 3.53 - Opportunity for improved access to sign & seating



Figure 3.54 - Positive in park communication



Figure 3.55 - Access to nearby commercial area

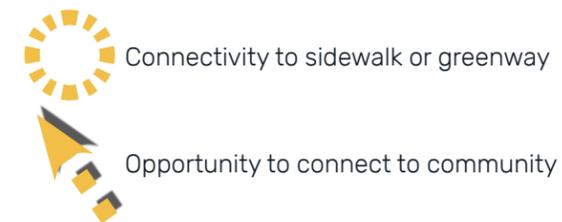


Figure 3.56 - Recycling practices and opportunities at park

SEAGROVES FARM PARK

ADDRESS:
201 PARKFIELD DRIVE, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 7 Size: 11 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 4.25 Acres Hours: 6:30am to 9pm



| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Asphalt Walking Trail | 0.4 miles |
| Pond with Fishing Pier | 1 |
| Shelter/Restroom Facility | 1 |
| Multi-Age Playground | 1 |

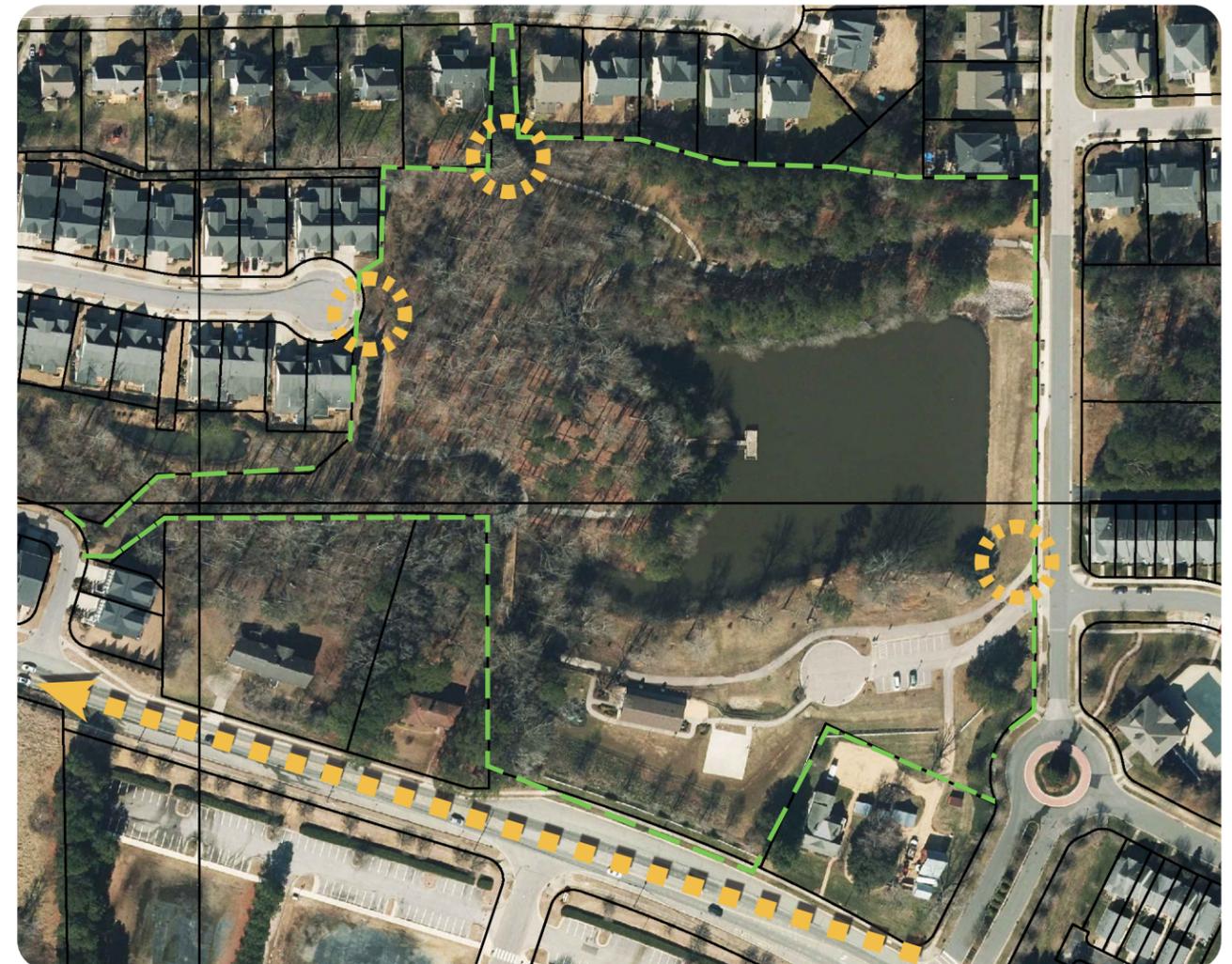


Figure 3.57 - Aerial of Seagraves Park



SEAGROVES FARM PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

There is not public wi-fi available to park patrons but there is a power source within the park. The hours the park is open to the public is listed within the park and information regarding the park is communicated within the park and online. The park is accessible and many of the features are inclusive across age groups, culturally relevant, and welcoming. Partial use of facilities is available for general use, while some features have dedicated use times. This park is located in an area of low social vulnerability.

Connectivity

There is no public transit or greenway connectivity to the park, but there is trail connectivity to the surrounding neighborhood. There is a sidewalk connection in the park that allows you to get from the street parking to the park features and it is accessible. There is no indicator identifying where you are in Apex or connectivity to other locations from the park. Walking distance is indicated on the asphalt and concrete multi-use path.

Environmental Stewardship

Green infrastructure present on site includes stormwater management. All of the park features require maintenance, including but not limited to dog waste stations, restrooms, and lake bank erosion. The park educates users on sustainable actions within the park and it protects community natural resources. There are opportunities to reduce mowing and recycling is promoted within the park.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the park requires maintenance but on site staff is not required. This park does allow for rental use. The park utilizes volunteers to some capacity. There are several signs present to communicate management needs. Streamlining these methods of communication would improve the aesthetic. This is one of the few sites with a balance of developed and undeveloped park acreage. Future improvements should maintain this balance for user satisfaction and to avoid an increase in maintenance demands.

Sense of Community

The park contains passive recreation opportunities and there is a balance sun and shade throughout the park. The park is quiet as it is in a residential setting. Seating opportunities are present, but some of the benches and picnic tables are not accessible. The park allows for users to connect with nature and promotes social interaction. Park users can quantify their experience in distance as the trail mileage is marked.

Unique to Apex: n/a

Opportunities

Expansion of play and improvements to lake access near parking would protect the lake shore. There is an opportunity for more stormwater and wildlife education. This site could be better connected to the overall system via greenway and sidewalk. Improvements at driveways and intersections along Center Street would expand access to this park. Streamlining communication would improve park information.

SEAGROVES FARM PARK (CONT.)

| THEMES | N | S | C |
|--|--|---|---|
| Recreation offerings for all residents | [Bar chart showing scores for N, S, C] | | |
| Connectivity | [Bar chart showing scores for N, S, C] | | |
| Environmental stewardship | [Bar chart showing scores for N, S, C] | | |
| Operations efficiency | [Bar chart showing scores for N, S, C] | | |
| Sense of community | [Bar chart showing scores for N, S, C] | | |
| Unique to Apex | [Bar chart showing scores for N, S, C] | | |

Figure 3.58 - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.59 - Opportunity to provide access to site furnishings



Figure 3.60 - High use area on pond banks



Figure 3.61 - Seagroves Farm Park playground



Figure 3.62 - Fishing line recycling station



Figure 3.63 - Half basketball court



Figure 3.64 - Opportunity to provide tree ID and recognition



SUE HELTON MEMORIAL PARK

ADDRESS:
703 MATNEY LANE, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 5 Size: 0.25 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 0.25 Acres Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Gazebo | 1 |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Grill | 1 |
| Playground | 1 |

 Connectivity to neighborhood improvements needed



 Figure 3.65 - Aerial of Sue Helton Memorial Park

SUE HELTON MEMORIAL PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

There is no public wi-fi available to park patrons and no public power source within the park. The hours the park is open to the public is listed within the park and information regarding the park is communicated within the park and online. The park is only partially accessible and many of the features across age groups are inclusive, culturally relevant, and welcoming. The overall aesthetic of the park is in need of improvement due to the age of many of the features. All neighborhood parks in zone 5 appear to need upgrades. This park is located in an area of high social vulnerability.

Environmental Stewardship

The park is not located in a flood-prone areas and has not been designed to endure natural impact. Green infrastructure is not present on site. All of the park features require maintenance, including but not limited to waste stations and the gazebo.

Connectivity

There is no public transit or greenway connectivity to the park. There is a sidewalk connection in the park that allows you to get from the street parking to the park features, but the overall site is not accessible. There is no indicator identifying where you are in Apex or connectivity to other locations from the park. There is no measurable trail around the park for passive recreation or bike racks for users to park their bikes.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the park requires maintenance but on site staff is not required. This park does allow for rental use. The park utilizes volunteers to some capacity.

Sense of Community

The park contains passive recreation opportunities and there is a balance sun and shade throughout the park. The park is quiet as it is in a residential setting. Seating opportunities are present and most are accessible. The park allows for users to connect with nature and promotes social interaction.

Unique to Apex: n/a

Opportunities

The park has a significant amount of signage for serving as a neighborhood park. Streamlining communication within the park would improve the aesthetic. The playground and gazebo have been in place for over 10 years. Upgrades to the playground and gazebo, sidewalk access and circulation, would improve user experience and help meet ADA Compliance Assessment recommendations.



SUE HELTON MEMORIAL PARK (CONT.)

| THEMES | N | S | C |
|--|--------------|---|---|
| Recreation offerings for all residents | [Orange bar] | | |
| Connectivity | [Orange bar] | | |
| Environmental stewardship | [Orange bar] | | |
| Operations efficiency | [Orange bar] | | |
| Sense of community | [Orange bar] | | |
| Unique to Apex | [Orange bar] | | |

Figure 3.66 - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.67 - Several sign types and information



Figure 3.68 - Accessible seating and opportunity to gather



Figure 3.69 - Community gazebo



Figure 3.70 - opportunity for grilling



Figure 3.71 - Community signage for park dedication



Figure 3.72 - Varied park signs at use areas

WEST STREET PARK

ADDRESS:
201 PARKFIELD DRIVE, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 5 Size: 1.3 acres Estimated Developed Acreage: 0.75 Acres Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- Connectivity to sidewalk or greenway
- Opportunity to connect to community

| HIGHLIGHT OF EXISTING FEATURES | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Picnic Shelter | 1 |
| Grill | 1 |
| Playground Ages 5-12 | 1 |
| Basketball Court | 1 |



Figure 3.73 - Aerial of West Street Park



WEST STREET PARK (CONT.)

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

There is no public wi-fi available to park patrons and no public power source within the park. The hours the park is open to the public is listed within the park and information regarding the park is communicated within the park and online. The park is partially accessible and many of the features are inclusive across age groups, culturally relevant, and welcoming. The overall aesthetic of the park is in need of improvement. All neighborhood parks in zone 5 need upgrades. This park is located in an area of high social vulnerability and is listed as a high priority in the ADA Compliance Assessment.

Connectivity

There is no direct public transit or greenway connectivity to the park. There is a sidewalk connection in the park that allows park visitors to get from the street parking to the park features while there is an accessible path from parking lot to the shelter and play area, the ADA parking surface itself is gravel which can be difficult for mobility assisted devices to maneuver. There is no indicator identifying where you are in Apex or connectivity to other locations from the park.

Environmental Stewardship

The park is not located in a flood-prone area and has been designed to endure natural impact. Green infrastructure is not present on site. All of the park features require consistent maintenance. The park does not educate users on sustainable actions within the park and it partially protects community natural resources. There are no opportunities to reduce land management and recycling is not promoted within the park. There is a steep slope and the site is partially wooded.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the park requires maintenance but on site staff is not required. This park does allow for rental use.

Sense of Community

The park contains passive and active recreation opportunities and there is a balance of sun and shade throughout the park. Traffic noise can be heard while in the park. Minimal seating opportunities are present and none are accessible. The park allows for users to connect with nature and promotes social interaction.

Unique to Apex: The park is located within the only historic African American neighborhood.

Opportunities

The park features have been in place for a long time and upgrades are needed. Inclusion of sustainable practices could be incorporated into future design features. This site is very close to downtown and can connect via sidewalk and Harwood Street. Improvements to crossings and connections would better connect this park to downtown, the overall system, and transit service on Williams Street. Despite the central location, this site could provide better connections via sidewalk and internally to the park features. Natural elements such as the hillside could serve as assets to future park features. Improvements to access and seating would promote intergenerational use.

WEST STREET PARK (CONT.)



Figure 3.74 - Themes Evaluation



Figure 3.75 - Seating at Tennis Courts



Figure 3.76 - Long-view of park with basketball court in background



JOHN M. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER

ADDRESS: 53 HUNTER STREET

Zone: 5 Size: 44,147 SF Hours: M-F 8am to 9pm, Sat. 1pm-6pm, Closed Sundays June through August

Overview

The Apex Community Center is approximately 44,147 square feet and hosts many of the Town of Apex programs. It contains two gymnasiums, offices, storage, game room, kitchen, and classrooms. It is part of the overall town campus and serves as a central hub for community information regarding parks and programming.

A recent Town of Apex Accessibility assessment was completed and outlines specific recommendations regarding amenities within the building to improve overall access.



Figure 3.77 - Parking area



Figure 3.78 - Art installation

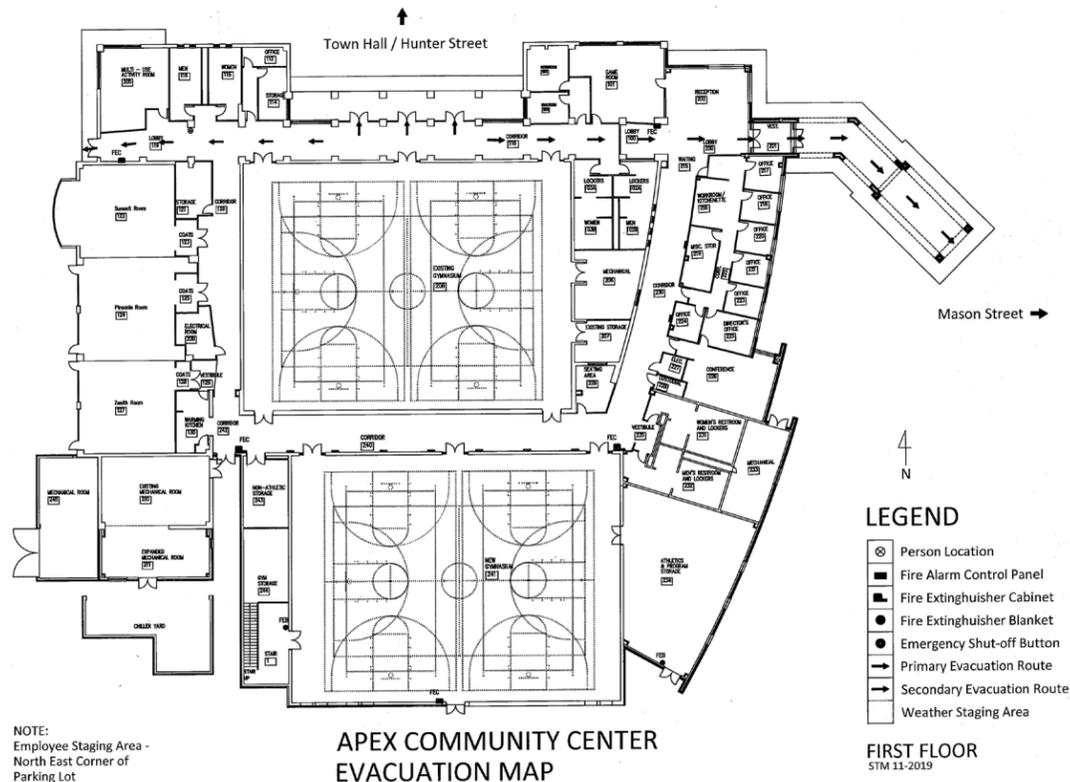


Figure 3.79 - Community Center Floor Plan

APEX SENIOR CENTER

ADDRESS: 62 HUNTER STREET

Zone: 5 Size: 28,000 SF Hours: M-F 8am to 9pm, Sat. 9am-2pm, Closed Sunday

Overview

The Apex Senior center is a two-story, 28,000-square-foot structure containing multi-purpose classrooms, exercise rooms, a fitness room with cardio equipment, an arts and crafts room, and pottery room with kiln. It also features a reception area, catering kitchen, informal activity space, office space for outside agency consultation and programs, and extensive rental space.

The Apex Senior Center features several meeting rooms available to rent that can accommodate from 45 to 145 people in each room. Collapsible partitions allow for a function as large as 400 people. All meeting rooms are equipped with audio-visual equipment, tables and chairs.

The building has several environmental features including solar, stormwater features, louvered windows/shading system, and pervious pavement. None of these features were visibly discussed online or within the building.



Figure 3.80 - Senior Center Floor Plan



Figure 3.81 - Rock Swale

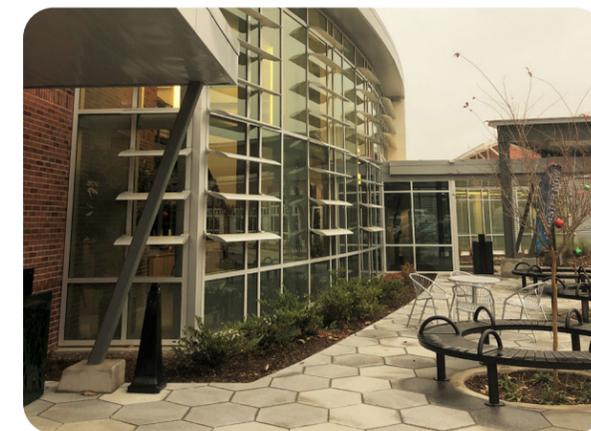


Figure 3.82 - Patio space providing seating options

Opportunity for interpretive and educational signage about the environmental stewardship incorporated into the site and building design



Figure 3.83 - Senior Center Floor Plan



HALLE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

ADDRESS:
237 N. SALEM STREET, APEX, NC 27502

Zone: 5 Size: 14,000 SF Hours: M-F 9am to 6pm, Sat. 9am-1pm, Closed Sunday

Overview

Halle Cultural Arts Center is located in historic downtown and has over 14,000 sf of amenities including a 150 seat theater, three galleries, a kitchen, studio classroom, and dressing room space. It is used for productions, events, and rentals.

A recent Town of Apex Accessibility assessment was completed and outlines specific recommendations regarding amenities within the building to improve overall access. Primarily, improvements are needed to and from parking, and to the entrance of the facility from these routes. These items have not been implemented yet.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Recreation Offerings For All Residents

The Apex Park system has done a good job planning for and evaluating needs of its population. The population growth places demand on the system making it even more important to have a structure in place to provide equitable access to the resources within the system. The town is divided in to park zones. As part of equity we evaluate distribution and quality within the zones. The Town has positively responded to outward growth and is at a point where older centrally located parks (zones 5 and 2 and Kelly Road located in 3A) need to be upgraded in order for these areas to have access to the recreation resources needed. Six of the zones do not contain park units, two of those zones contain purchased land for future park units, and one of these zones has an approved development with future park land dedication.

The inclusion of power, solar charging stations, and wifi within the system could expand user access with improved access to technology. These community resources have come into higher demand with the pandemic so that the community can have access to information, work, and school within public spaces.

Access to undeveloped space is also higher in demand over the last two years due to the pandemic. This, in addition to the high growth Apex has seen, increases the priority on future parkland, and undeveloped park space that is usable. Many of the parks are developed to capacity and may require fee based use or reservations. Opportunity exists system-wide to convey information in park and online so that all users have access to park information. Additionally, there is opportunity to provide "free resident days" for fee based features such as the dog parks, or reservation based fields.

As improvements and upgrades occur it is important to address the demands of inter-generational needs. By providing amenities such as seating, fitness stations, and shade where none currently exists you can expand access to multiple age groups and needs.

Many of the recommendations presented in the ADA Compliance Assessment were located in parks that are considered to have high social vulnerability. These recommendations should be completed as part of the upgrades that occur in these park units and indoor spaces in order to improve overall access to park resources.

Connectivity

Newer parks appear to have improved internal connectivity and connectivity to nearby resources. All older parks are in need of internal and external park trail and sidewalk improvements. Transit routes should be evaluated to include nearby stops to larger park sites where they do not currently exist.

All parks could benefit from improved in park and online communication and wayfinding. Information presented should be universal, accessible, and located for improved user experience. Information should include where you are in the park, where you are regionally, how long a trail is in mileage and time, and what amenities are present. Many of the parks are in need of internal circulation upgrades to meet the needs outlined in the ADA Compliance Assessment report conducted for the Town of Apex.

Environmental Stewardship

Apex has done a ton of preservation of resources and placing developed park amenities out of areas prone to natural impact such as avoiding steep slopes, staying out of floodplains and floodways, and maintaining vegetation. There could be improved environmental practices by using native vegetation in planted areas, following best practices for construction, providing reduced developed parkland in developable areas, and ensuring all future parks follow a thorough master planning process.

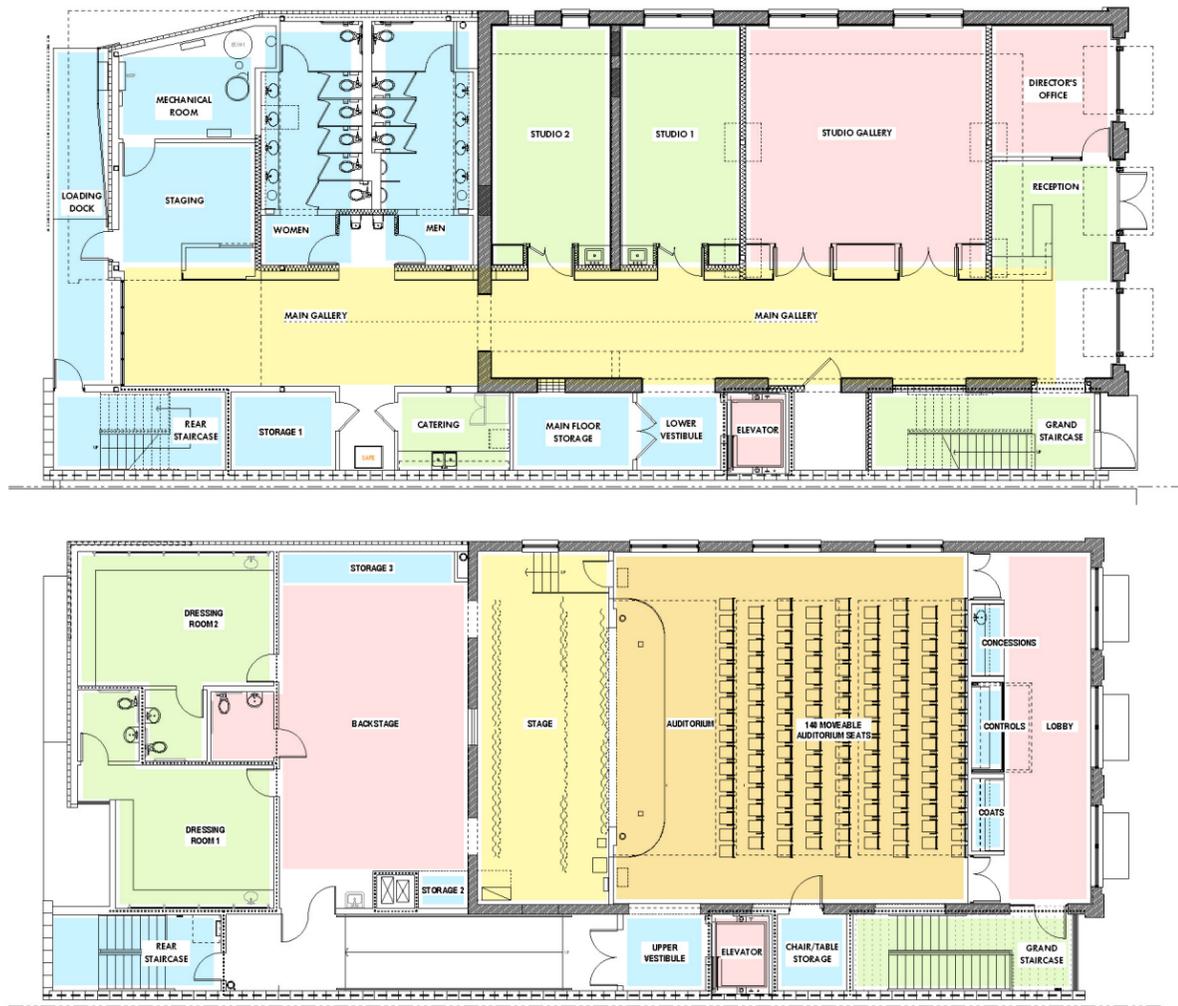


Figure 3.84 - Floor Plans



Where these approaches have been done, Apex should celebrate those practices by using these as opportunities for environmental education. Future park development can include green infrastructure such as pervious pavement, LED lighting, solar, sustainable materials, and stormwater BMP's to help minimize impact and maintenance demand.

Maintenance practices should also incorporate ways to reduce impact as part of their regular evaluation tools management practices.

Operations Efficiency

The majority of the Town Park Sites are built to capacity. The developed versus undeveloped percentage is high. At first glance the undeveloped acreage appears to be balanced, however, in evaluating that acreage, the majority of undeveloped acreages contains wetlands, steep slope, and/or floodplain/floodway. Future park site development can help avoid higher maintenance practices by including a balance of programmed and unprogrammed park space. The developed park acreage contributes to a high level of maintenance needs placing higher demand on staffing that is present creating higher user demand on amenities resulting in wear and overuse. The parks appear to be very well maintained compared to the demand placed upon them. All existing park maintenance sites are at capacity for material and equipment storage and staffing needs.

Sense of Community

Apex has a wide variety of park resources including community buildings, passive parks, active parks, and an active greenway system. Apex's rapid increase in growth is placing high demand on the need for access to these resources. The majority of existing parks are built to capacity, and parks that have been in place for a while are all in need of upgrades. Improving opportunities for internal connectivity, communication of resources (in park and online), and offering varied amenities to existing features such as shade, seating, and fitness can improve user experience, and expand opportunity for use of park sites within the Apex system.

Unique to Apex

One of the guiding principles from community engagement is a desire to provide recreation offerings that are "unique to Apex." This theme not only represents park features unique to Apex, but also features that celebrate Apex's identity. When conducting the site inventory we asked, "Is this park unit providing recreation resources unique to the Town of Apex?", and, if not, "How can we make parks and recreation offerings unique to Apex?" Of the 12 parks/neighborhood parks within the Town, 4 of the parks provide features that are "unique to Apex." As older existing parks are upgraded, and newer parks are brought on line, the goal of providing resources that are "Unique to Apex" needs to be incorporated and planned for.

