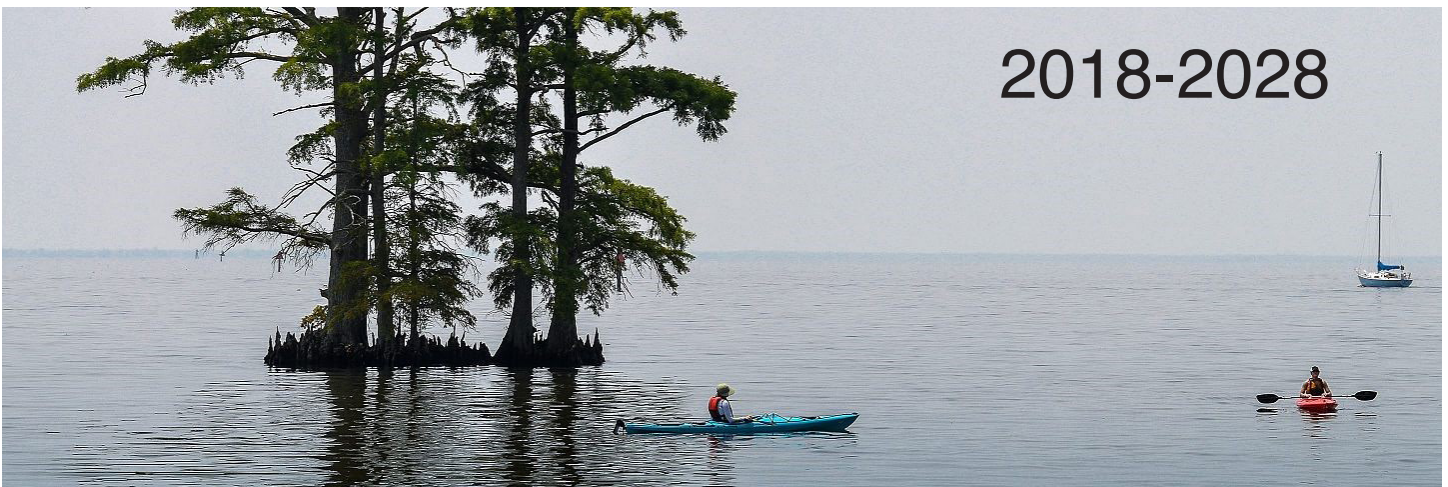


BERTIE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN



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December 19, 2018

To the Citizens, Families and taxpayers of Bertie County,

Bertie County’s Comprehensive Recreation Plan is a product of the governing body’s vision, citizen input and community survey information providing for the continued improvement of recreation programming, facilities and future resource allocation. This engagement was initially approved by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners in August of 2016, just weeks before the devastating flood events of Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew. Production of this report and its schedule was impacted significantly, while the enthusiasm and leadership of the Board of Commissioners has remained strong and committed to purposeful planning.

Recreation programming and services for youth in Bertie County began with volunteer support, fundraising and leadership in local communities such as the Blue Jay Recreation Committee’s efforts dating to the mid-1960s. Recreational activities and facilities were often shouldered by churches and private organizations throughout Bertie County. Competitive athletics and physical education comprised the majority of recreation opportunities for Bertie youth through both public and private schools for many decades across the County.

Bertie County’s first recreation plan in 2003, provided a framework for the Board of Commissioners to leverage outside resources as evidenced by the \$500,000 grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for construction of the multi-sport recreation facility in Windsor, NC. Today this facility supports hundreds of local youth in sporting events and provides a regional venue for competitive athletic tournaments.

The 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Plan for Bertie County continues to build on this framework, examines a wide array of existing facilities for potential recreational programming, while highlighting the suggestions, comments and desires of local residents throughout the County. Focus group participants prioritized recreation parks and facilities most needed in Bertie County as swimming pools, walking trails, fitness center, gymnasium, bike paths, outdoor basketball courts, playgrounds, soccer fields, and public water access. Citizen input resulted in this “top ten” list providing a new set of goals for the County’s future planning and recreational programming.

The Board of Commissioners is committed to improving the quality of life for all Bertie County citizens and recognizes the importance of recreational activities to promote health and wellness. Likewise, the governing body supports conserving our natural resources and connecting children to nature, as evidenced by the County’s investment in the “Tall Glass of Water” project, by acquiring a 137-acre tract of land, with the goal of providing public access to the beach and waterfront recreational opportunities afforded by the pristine waters of the Albemarle Sound.

Most importantly, programming through the lens of social equity, to ensure that all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreational facilities is a top priority for the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. To this end, the Board has identified community recreation programming as a key priority. One example is the grant funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to construct a one-half mile, eight-foot-wide paved walking trail and the Blue Jay Recreation Center’s new indoor basketball courts in the Indian Woods community, serving citizens living outside of a local municipal service area. To further this strategy, the Board has strengthened strategic partnerships with Cooperative Extension’s 4-H clubs, the YMCA of Bertie County and the Board of Education to provide recreational activities at school facilities and County parks.

In September 2016 the Board of Commissioners celebrated the opening of a \$300,000 grant funded park expansion to provide handicap accessible playground equipment and inclusive facilities for children and families at the County’s recreation complex in Windsor. The County provided local funds to add water features and drinking fountains with support from the County’s Water Department and Maintenance staff.

The planned development for the Tall Glass of Water project will open many new recreational opportunities, and be enhanced with educational field studies and outdoor environmental learning for students in the Bertie County public schools, as envisioned by the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

Culminating this initiative is an educational curriculum being crafted by local teachers and the NCLOW project, providing a teaching guide for understanding where we live, surrounded by natural water resources and geographical features unique to this section of the United States east coast.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the fact that the NCLOW project entitled, “From the Rivers to the Sound” was jointly funded and supported by the Town of Windsor and Bertie County. In any examination of natural resources and recreational assets, it is easy to segue to the topic of eco-tourism and activities that attract visitors. The Town of Windsor has provided significant leadership in developing the Cashie River paddle trail and amenities—including the tree houses for camping and family outings. Bertie County is excited and committed to have partnerships with each of our eight municipalities, and we will continue to explore joint recreational programming and grant support for new projects.

Preparing this report could not have been possible without the leadership team identified on the cover of this publication. It is often said that “many hands make for light work” and the team effort exhibited by our citizens and staff members greatly assisted with the heavy lifting for this project. Our team also included a “free agent” enlisted through the joint programming of the NC Association County Commissioners and ICMA, by Ms. Dominique Walker who is serving Bertie County as a “management fellow” and has been a significant contributor for this project. Ms. Walker prepared the addendum report for the inventory of existing facilities in Bertie County and provided a SWOT analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each of the highlighted potential recreational programming sites.

This plan provides a road map of continued opportunities to improve the health and quality of life for Bertie County citizens of all ages. Today we begin the next leg of this journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Sauer
Bertie County Manager



“The planned development for the Tall Glass of Water project will open many new recreational opportunities....”

Donna Mizelle, Bertie County Recreation Dept. Director



“Bertie County is excited and committed to engage with each of our eight municipalities to explore joint recreational programming and grantsmanship opportunities. Recent efforts in support of the Town of Windsor’s Cashie River Treehouse Village offer increased water-based recreational opportunities while promoting our county’s beautiful and bountiful natural resources.”

Scott Sauer,
Bertie County Manager



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Plan for Bertie County was developed with the assistance of many individuals. We would especially like to thank all the residents of Bertie County for the public input. Special acknowledgements and appreciation are given to the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, the Bertie County Recreation Department, and the Recreation Advisory Partners.

Bertie County Board of Commissioners & County Manager

Ronald "Ron" Wesson	District I	Windsor 1 & Windsor 2
Stewart White	District II	Merry Hill & Whites
Tammy A. Lee	District III	Colerain 1 & 2 & Mitchells 1 & 2
John Trent	District IV	Roxobel & Woodville
Ernestine Byrd-Bazemore	District V	Snakebite & Indian Woods
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PURPOSE, GOALS & OBEJCTIVES

Purpose

Under the leadership of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners and the Bertie County Recreation Department, an effort to update the Bertie County Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan was initiated. The goal of the plan was to identify the key role parks and recreation play in the health and well-being of the community, as well as gauge community support. The current plan documents the needs that residents and park and recreation professionals feel are important related to public park and recreation programs, facilities, and grounds in the next 5 – 10 years.

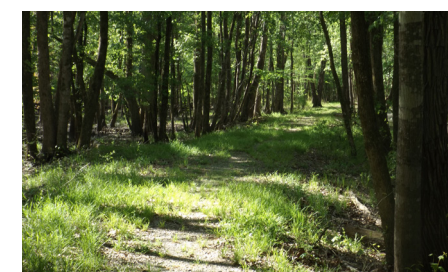
Goals

The plan provides a) a total evaluation of the services and facilities offered by the Bertie County Recreation Department, and b) recommendations and suggestions on how they can better serve the needs of the County.

Objectives

The objectives of the plan are to document, evaluate and analyze the following:

- Background and history of Bertie County
- History and growth of Bertie County Recreation
- Natural and physical resources of Bertie County
- Socio-demographic characteristics of Bertie County residents
- Projected population growth and residential growth patterns
- Current demand for parks and recreation facilities and programs
- Quality, quantity and diversity of the existing recreational opportunities
- Accessibility of the county facilities for people with disabilities
- Recommendations for the future



SCOPE OF THE PLAN & PLANNING AREA

Scope of the Plan

The scope of the plan focuses on the recreation opportunities and parks provided by Bertie County and the Bertie County Recreation Department; it also provides a critique as to the quantity and quality of the facilities and services offered by the County. The plan took into account the recreation programs and parks provided by other public agencies, quasi-public organizations (schools), private non-profit organizations (e.g., 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts), and private/commercial organizations (e.g., country clubs, wellness centers). However, the plan did not evaluate those opportunities because the public accessibility was limited.

Planning Area

Bertie County is one of the least densely populated counties in North Carolina, ranked 94th out of 100 counties for Population Density, or 7th lowest, in the state. The 2010 Census has Bertie County listed as 16th in land area. The County consists of 699.27 square miles in land and 42 square miles is water. One of the largest counties in North Carolina, Bertie County is home to approximately 20,874 people. The County includes the eight incorporated townships of Askewville, Aulander, Colerain, Kelford, Lewiston-Woodville, Powellville, Roxobel and Windsor. The county seat and largest town is Windsor, where Vidant Bertie Hospital and local government operations are located. The economy is based largely on agriculture, with primary crops including corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton; however, manufacturing is Bertie County's largest industry. Several small and large manufacturing firms operate in the county. Two key manufacturing firms are the Perdue Chicken processing plant located in Lewiston-Woodville and Avoca, a botanical extracting company in Merry Hill (Bertie County Government: <http://www.co.bertie.nc.us/>).

Perdue Farms Poultry

The Perdue-Lewiston poultry processing plant is one of the County's largest employers and a major contributor to the Roanoke-Chowan area. Since opening in 1976, the Lewiston plant has expanded its facilities several times and grown to more than 2,000 associates and it is supported by 275 contract farmers. In addition to the employment opportunities, the company and its employees play an integral role in the community, providing support for a variety of community-based organizations and initiatives. For instance, they provide school supplies to the children in Bertie County and partner with Bertie County YMCA to enhance youth development and recreation programs for youth in the County. Perdue Farms, in keeping with their commitment to improve the quality of life in the communities in which it operates, started the first first-ever wellness center which provides healthcare to its employees at the Lewiston facility.

Avoca, Inc.

Avoca, Inc. is one of Bertie County's largest employers. Located a few miles from the Albermarle Sound in Merry Hill, Avoca develops and manufactures botanical extraction products and provides extraction services. The company contracts with farmers to grow clary sage and also processes krill oil for omega-3 fatty acids. Northeastern North Carolina is the only place in the United States where the crop clary sage grows is grown on this scale. The Town of Windsor organizes a Sage Festival each spring in May.

Recent Collaborative Projects and Initiatives

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners has adopted several strategic initiatives focused on improving quality of life and community-based recreation including a focus on adventure tourism and public water access. Additionally, a number of multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships complement Board efforts (Appendix A. Bertie County Press Release: Land Purchase Secures Eco-tourism and Recreation Initiative, 2015).

North Carolina Land of Water (NCLOW)

Collaborative efforts between Bertie County and the Town of Windsor have been pivotal in addressing recovery efforts resulting from natural disasters and the challenges of being one of the state's most economically distressed or Tier 1 counties (North Carolina Department of Commerce, 2018). Recent efforts involve a multi-jurisdictional partnership with NCLOW to increase the community awareness and regional interest in the pristine waters available for sailing, kayaking, fishing and field study for science

studies for students of all ages. In partnership with the Town and NCLOW, the strategic vision of the Bertie County Commissioners is taking shape and moving in a forward direction (<http://www.nclandofwater.org>).

The North Carolina Land of Water (NCLOW) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support sustainable regional economic development initiatives that 1) contribute to long-term sustainable economic development based on the natural resources and cultural history of the region, 2) integrate the diverse areas of the Inner and Outer Banks regions for their mutual benefit, and 3) enhance the quality of life of its residents. The program is "dependent upon the successful integration of the region's human culture and history, natural resources and societal needs." The focus area for NC LOW is represented by counties constituting the state's "Inner Banks", of which Bertie County has been referred to by the chair of NCLOW, Dr. Stanley R. Riggs, as the "Bertie Water Crescent."

Bertie County Schools

Bertie County Schools have a longstanding tradition of working with partners to ensure County residents have opportunities and access to recreation. Limited resources, both financial and human, emphasize the need for collaborative efforts. Ongoing partnerships with organizations such as the Bertie County Recreation Department and the YMCA have, and continue to, provide the community with access to a variety of afterschool and summer programs and facilities including school playgrounds, parks, and walking trails.

With the support of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, Bertie County Schools and the Partnership for the Sounds were able allow students to participate in science based field experiences to enhance classroom curriculum (Appendix B. Roanoke Chowan News Herald article-Educators Push for Environmental Programs, 2016). Research supports the value of hands on learning experiences and shows a relationship between success and incorporating fun in learning modules. The Sound to Sea program offered in the Outer Banks provides a model for Bertie County to implement programs to increase awareness of the human community and introduce students and teachers to a variety of habitats to enhance classroom learning. Efforts related to outdoor recreation position Bertie County for environmental education facilities such as Sound to Sea. Both private and public schools in Bertie County would benefit by fostering appreciation of the natural resources and outdoor recreation at an early age (Appendix C. Bertie Ledger Advance article-Bertie County Schools Suggest New Program, 2016).

Developing paddle trails and access to natural resources has been a trend in Bertie County as evidenced by the town of Windsor's construction of multiple waterway access sites, and establishing treehouse/camping platforms along the Cashie River. Efforts in Bertie County have received a great deal of attention and complement state level efforts to build the outdoor recreation economy in North Carolina. Outdoor recreation can provide students with future career opportunities in the growing outdoor industry and attract more young people to the region (Appendix D. Daily Reflector article-State Seeking Growth of Outdoor Recreation Industry, 2018). Engaging young people in school will not only foster an appreciation of the natural and wildlife resources, it can be incorporated into curriculum to increase student connection and learning. They can be part of efforts to create an outdoor recreation economy to address changes in rural communities and creating interest for activities such as hunting, fishing, bird watching and eco-tourism activities including hiking and canoeing.



Blue Jay Recreation Park

The Blue Jay Recreation Park was established in the 1960s by local residents and volunteer leaders in the “Indian Woods” community of Bertie County, a remote unincorporated area nineteen miles outside the city limits of Windsor, NC. Community leaders formed the Blue Jay Recreation Committee, a nonprofit organization, to oversee the operation and development of the park.

In partnership with the County, improvements at the Blue Jay Recreation Park were initiated in 2016 beginning with a 30-year lease of the property to Bertie County and a commitment to initiate capital project funding and grant activity within the first five years. County appropriations covered the first project components including demolition of an old building, installation of security fencing, and parking lot/driveway improvements.

In 2017 a grant application was submitted to Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and \$150,000 was awarded. Bidding for the walking trail yielded a construction cost of less than \$50,000 as opposed to the project estimate of \$100,000. This cost savings, plus the State appropriation (\$80,000) secured by Senator Erica Smith, allowed the project design to include a 7,000 square foot community building/indoor recreation facility and expanding the original project scope for a small concession building and restrooms. Completed in May 2018, Blue Jay Recreation Park improvements include: Walking trail (paved 2,028 feet) with lighting; a new parking lot and fencing; and an indoor recreation facility—with covered picnic shelter (Appendix E: Bertie County Press Release-KBR Grant for Blue Jay Recreation Park, 2018).



The Tall Glass of Water

The vision of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners is to make Bertie County an attractive location for visitors, business investment, and to increase public recreation access for all citizens. In 2015 the Bertie County Board of Commissioners took the first major step in bringing their vision to fruition by securing the “Inner Banks” as a public access recreation area, referred to locally as the “Tall Drink of Water” project (Appendix F: Bertie County Press Release- Tall Drink of Water, 2016).

Bertie County invested local funds coupled with a state grant of \$500,000 and purchased 137 acres, including nearly one-half mile of pristine waterfront. In turn, the County wrote a letter of support for the NC Coastal Land Trust’s successful application to receive a grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund as part of the purchase cost for the Salmon Creek nature area. The NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) received a grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) in the amount of \$1.2 million for the acquisition of nearly 1,000 acres as part of the future Salmon Creek Recreation area (Appendix G: Coastal Review-Trust Buys Land Possibly Tied to Lost Colony, 2018). The land is located at the confluence of the Albemarle Sound and Salmon Creek, in the easternmost part of Bertie County. Additionally, in 2017 the Coastal Land Trust also received \$850,000 from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). The NC PARTF provided the \$500,000 grant to Bertie County for acquisition of the land along the Albemarle Sound (Appendix H: Roanoke Chowan News Herald-Soothing Water, 2016).

Bertie County’s support for CWMTF’s effort to conserve natural resources along the banks of the Albemarle Sounds and Salmon Creek provides the foundation of financial support to create the Salmon Creek recreation area and a future state park.



North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund

The NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund’s support builds upon archeological activity at Site X near Salmon Creek, which is rich in Native American artifacts and has been identified as the possible landing site for the famous “Lost Colony.” The preservation of land linked to their disappearance could enable future researchers to shed new light on the historic riddle (Appendix I: Charlotte Observer-Lost Colony Clues Found on Land to Become NC Natural Area, 2017).

In addition to being the place where historians now believe some of the colonists resettled, the land in rural Bertie County has been home to the Native American Village of Mettaquem and to the plantation of Governor Thomas Pollock, who served two stints as governor in the early 1700s. The land, which includes 3.5 miles along Salmon Creek, is important ecologically, with flood plain forests of cypress-gum swamp and bottomland hardwood forest.

Momentum from the county’s public access recreation area, in conjunction with the historical significance of Site X, dovetails with the NC General Assembly’s designation of the land as the Salmon Creek recreation area and its potential development as a state park facility. The cultural and historical significance of Site X provides another valuable asset enhancing ecotourism and adventure opportunities in the County.



BERTIE COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Bertie County Recreation Department provides recreation facilities and programs for citizens of the county. Established in 2001, the Bertie County Recreation Department is committed to: “provide recreational activities for all citizens of the county. The goal of the Recreation Department is to provide a safe and fun environment for all sports and leisure activities; and to increase the quality of life for Bertie County citizens.”

The Bertie County Recreation Department currently has a staff of three who maintain and operate the park and recreation activities, programs, and facilities throughout the County system. Programs and activities include recreation opportunities for seniors as well as youth. Programs for youth include tackle football, T-ball, coach-pitch baseball, baseball, softball, and soccer. During the summer additional activities and programs are offered. Senior programs are available for residents 55 and older and include exercise classes and access to facilities, field trips, and nutrition.

In 2003 a recreation complex was opened to meet the growing recreation needs of the community. The Bertie County Recreation Complex, funded with support of a \$500,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant, was constructed and dedicated on October 6, 2006. Recently an inclusive playground was added in the tot lot playground area beside the soccer and baseball fields and picnic area. The County was awarded a \$300,000 grant by Trillium Health Resources for adaptive playground equipment in 2016. The County added local funds to the project to include water facilities including drinking fountains, water spraying devices and splashpad features. The complex consists of a baseball field, softball field, football field, soccer field, a universally accessible playground area, concession building with ADA accessible restrooms and picnic shelter, maintenance building, and parking area. The recreation facility provides a model for universal accessibility and is maintained and operated by Bertie County Recreation Department.

In November of 2015 the Bertie County Board of Commissioners took action to acquire 137 acres of land on the Albemarle Sound to secure public water access for recreation and tourism opportunities. Providing public access to the County’s eastern boundary waters of the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound allows Bertie County to build upon efforts by the Town of Windsor along the Cashie River.

In partnership with the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, the Bertie County Recreation Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life and encouraging healthy lifestyles for the citizens and visitors of Bertie County by providing a variety of leisure, educational, sports, and recreational programs; maintaining system of parks and facilities; and acquiring land for preservation, open space, and park development (Bertie County Government, 2018).



ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Cultural Resources

Located in the northeastern part of North Carolina, Bertie County originated in 1722 when the state legislature decided to divide the county from Chowan. Bertie has a distinct advantage over other counties in the region because of its rich soil sustained by the rivers along and within its borders. The Cashie, Chowan, and Roanoke Rivers bolstered the agricultural economy of Bertie since the first Native Americans inhabited the land. The Tuscarora, a tribal branch of the northern Iroquois, were the initial tribe in present-day Bertie. In the middle of the seventeenth century, English explorers and hunters traversed the land in search of fur goods, trade opportunities with the Native Americans, and open land for future settlers. The influx of the white traders and trappers provoked the Tuscarora which eventually led to the Tuscarora War (1711-1713).

Bertie County is named in honor of James and Henry Bertie, two of the first Lord Proprietors of North Carolina. Nathaniel Batts, the county’s first white resident, and possibly the first white resident in what became North Carolina, lived near Salmon Creek in 1655. In 1653, George Yeadley commissioned Batts to explore the Albemarle Sound region for fertile farm land. Batts searched the region for a year, and his survey of the land eventually led to a land agreement between Yeadley and Chief Kiscatanewh of the Pasquotank. Given a large tract of land in present-day Bertie County, Yeadley agreed to build Chief Kiscatanewh an English-style house. In addition, Yeadley constructed a house for Batts in 1655, and the small twenty-foot square house served as a dwelling place for Batts during the fur-trading season. After being overrun by the Tuscarora in 1667, Batts moved away from Bertie; however, the house continued to function as a fur-trading post during the next fifty years.

Bertie’s seat of government, Windsor, was incorporated in 1766, and the town is named after Windsor Castle, a seasonal house occupied by the British monarchy. Other communities and townships in Bertie include Askewville, Aulander, Colerain, Kelford, Lewiston-Woodville, Powellsville, Roxobel, and Indian Woods. Indian Woods, a large expanse of land in southwestern section of Bertie, was once a reservation for the tribe that aided the English settlers during the Tuscarora War. The Northern Tuscarora, led by Chief Blount inhabited Indian Woods in 1717, but in 1828 the remaining Indians moved away to South Carolina and Virginia; they bequeathed their rights to Indian Woods to Bertie County.

Historic Sites

Bertie County is home to numerous historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places (2016) including private homes, churches, buildings, and maritime and military sites (Table 1). Of special note are the Historic Hope Plantation, the King-Bazemore House (1763), Sans Souci Ferry, and Windsor Castle (1858).



Table 1. National Register of Historic Places Bertie County Sites

NAME	LOCATION
Ashland	Ashland area
Bertie County Courthouse	Windsor
Bertie Memorial Hospital	Windsor
Elmwood (Watson Marfre House)	Windsor area
Elmwood	Merry Hill area
Historic Hope Plantation	Windsor area
Jordan House	Windsor area
King House	Windsor
King Freeman Speight House	Republican area
Liberty Hall	Grabtown area
Oaklana	Roxobel area
Pineview (Browne House)	Roxobel area
Rhodes Site (Archaeological site near Hamilton)	Bertie County
Rosefield	Windsor
Scotch Hall	Merry Hill area
St. Francis Methodist Church	Lewiston
William H. Lee House	Lewiston area
Windsor Historic District	Windsor
Woodbourne	Roxobel area
Woodville Historic District	Lewiston-Woodville

Source: National Register of Historic Places <https://www.nps.gov/nr/research/>

Historic Hope Plantation

Built in the early 1800s, the Historic Hope Plantation is the restored home of former North Carolina Governor and Bertie County native David Stone (1770-1818). Restored in the 1960s, Historic Hope Plantation exemplifies Jeffersonian architecture which was widely popular during the Federal era. The plantation complex offers unique insights into the late 18th and 19th century rural life in eastern North Carolina. The Hope Mansion is a stunning example of a combination of Federal and Georgian architecture. The mansion is meticulously furnished with extensive collection of original period pieces.



Hope Plantation Trails

The Hope Plantation trails are a series of 8 loops that wind through the 29-acre Hope Forest and the 18 acres of plantation grounds. They vary in length from 1,213 feet to 2,798 feet but can be combined into a trail that is over 8,000 feet long. Trails through the forest are covered with packed gravel and are accessible after a heavy rain. Hope Forest is mixed pine and hardwood forest that is typical of eastern North Carolina. Some of the more common trees in the forest are loblolly pine, white oak, water oak, swamp chestnut oak, red maple, river birch, holly, and dogwood. There is also a diversity of other small trees, flowering plants, and ferns in the understory. Signs are located along the trails that describe many of the most common trees and plants. In addition to plants, there is a diversity of wildlife in the forest and on plantation grounds, including many species of birds, deer, bears, squirrels, foxes, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, snakes, butterflies and various other invertebrates. Benches and picnic tables are located along the trails.

King-Bazemore House

The 1763 King-Bazemore House is a fine example of vernacular architecture. It is one of the few remaining examples in North Carolina of mid-18th century “hall and parlor” design. The home has been restored and furnished based on the 1778 inventory of owner, William King. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, The King-Bazemore House, also known as King House, is a historic plantation house located near Windsor. The one and half story structure was built in 1763 is a frame dwelling with brick ends. It has a gambrel roof and features two interior T-stack end chimneys and is one of only two known gambrel roofed dwellings with brick ends in North Carolina.

Sans Souci Ferry

Operated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation since the 1930s, Sans Souci Ferry is one of the last two-car inland ferries in the state. Guided by a cable stretched across the Cashie River, the ride gives passengers a sense of nature at its best. The ferry crossing saves about 20 miles for locals who want to get to the other side of the Cashie River and can be utilized by travelers as a shortcut to the Outer Banks.



Windsor Castle

Constructed by Patrick H. Winston, Jr., Windsor Castle (1858) is the birthplace for several prominent Winston children. George T. Winston, served as president for three prominent institutions of higher education: University of North Carolina (1891 to 1896), North Carolina State University (1899 to 1908), and the University of Texas. Francis Winston performed several duties to the state as an attorney, judge, and lieutenant governor (1905-1909) and Robert W. Winston worked as a judge, public speaker, and author of several biographies.

Additional Historic/Cultural Assets

Site X

The area referred to as “Site X” is located near Salmon Creek, which is rich in Native American artifacts and has been identified as the possible landing site for the famous “Lost Colony.” The 16th century English colonists who vanished after being left in the New World have piqued popular imagination and intrigued historians for centuries. The preservation of land linked to their disappearance could enable future researchers to shed new light on the historic riddle.



England’s ill-fated first settlement in North American was established on Roanoke Island in 1587 led by explorer John White. Upon White’s return to the settlement from a supply trip to England, none of the colonist remained. White knew of a plan to move into what is now mainland North Carolina. The only clues he found regarding the other two dozen colonist’s fate were the word “CROATOAN” carved into a post and “CRO” lettered on a tree trunk implying the colonists moved south with Native Americans on Hatteras Island. After the 2012 discovery of a fort drawn by White placed it in present day Bertie County on a map of Virginia and North Carolina. Archaeologists now believe that some colonist found their way to Bertie County.

In addition to being the place where historians now believe some of the colonists resettled, the land in rural Bertie County has been home to the Native American Village of Mettaquem and to the plantation of Governor Thomas Pollock, who served two stints as governor in the early 1700s. The land, which includes 3.5 miles along Salmon Creek, is important ecologically, with flood plain forests of cypress-gum swamp and bottomland hardwood forest.

Hoggard’s Mill

Hoggard’s Mill was established in 1736 by James Castellaw and was eventually purchased by William Hoggard in 1800 and has been owned by the same family since 1928. There were two mills on the property including a water powered grist mill and a water powered saw mill as well as a covered bridge. The county seat was located here from 1722 to 1769 and the first courthouse, public warehouses, jail and other various commercial buildings were also located here, making this a historically significant property. An abundance of flora and fauna exist on the property which stretches over approximately 2 miles, starting from the Hoggard Mill Pond going up stream of Hoggard Mill Creek. Located 2 hours from Raleigh, Richmond, and the Outer Banks, this property exhibits great potential for increasing tourism focusing on the unique natural and cultural heritage of the region.

Educational Institutions

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Bertie County has nine public schools managed by Bertie County’s School District serving 2,546 students with four of the nine schools located in Windsor, the county seat and the largest town in the county. There are three private/charter schools located in the county. All Bertie County Schools are listed in Table 2 according to school type and location (Bertie County Schools, 2018).

Table 2. Bertie County Schools Public & Private

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Bertie County Board of Education		
Aulander Elementary School	2515 NC-305	Aulander
Colerain Elementary School	202 N. Academy St.	Colerain
West Bertie Elementary School	3734 Governors Rd.	Kelford
Askewville Preschool	121 Askewville Rd.	Windsor
Bertie Early College High School	819 Governors Rd.	Windsor
Bertie High School	716 US HWY 13 N	Windsor
Bertie Middle School	652 US HWY 13 N	Windsor
Windsor Elementary School	104 Cooper Hill Rd.	Windsor
Bertie STEM High School	716 US HWY 13 N	Windsor
Private/Charter Schools		
Lawrence Academy	148 Avoca Farm Rd.	Merry Hill
Bethel Assembly Christian Academy	105 Askewville Bryant St.	Windsor
Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy	118 -B County Farm Rd.	Windsor

Source: Bertie County Schools, 2017; Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2017.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The institutions that provide education and resources to the region are provided (Table 3). While there are no four-year colleges or universities physically located in Bertie County, Martin Community College does operate a satellite campus located in Windsor.

Table 3. Institutions of Higher Education in Proximity of Bertie County

SCHOOL NAME	LOCATION
Chowan University	Murfreesboro
Martin Community College-Bertie Campus	Windsor
Martin Community College-Williamston Campus	Williamston
Roanoke Chowan Community College	Ahoskie
College of the Albemarle-Elizabeth City Campus	Elizabeth City
College of the Albemarle-Dare County Campus	Manteo
College of the Albemarle-Roanoke Island Campus	Manteo
College of the Albemarle-Edenton-Chowan Campus	Edenton
Regional Aviation & Technical Training Center	Barco
East Carolina University	Greenville
Martin Community College-Bertie Campus	Windsor
Martin Community College-Williamston Campus	Williamston

Source: Bertie County Schools, 2017; Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2017.

Faith-based Institutions

There are over 100 faith-based institutions located in Bertie County (Table 4). Most of the churches identified in 2018 provide recreation activities and in some cases recreation facilities. Activities included: cookouts, picnics, special events such as Christmas and Easter dramas, sports teams, vacation bible school, and trips. Facilities included: ball field(s), open areas, gyms, meeting rooms, various outdoor courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

Table 4. Faith Based Institutions in Bertie County

INSTITUTION NAME	LOCATION
All God's Children United Methodist	Aulander
Ashland Missionary Baptist Church	Merry Hill
Askewville Assembly of God	Windsor
Askewville Bethel Assembly of God, Inc.	Windsor
Aulander Baptist Church	Aulander
Aulander First Baptist Church	Aulander
Beacon Light Baptist	Windsor
Beautiful Zion Baptist	Lewiston
Bethany Baptist Church	Colerain
Capeharts Baptist Church	Merry Hill
Cashie Baptist Church	Windsor
Catholic Community of Bertie County	Windsor
Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
Center Grove Baptist Church	Ahoskie
Charity Temple of Holiness Church	Aulander
Church of God for All People	Windsor
Colerain Baptist	Colerain
Colerain United Methodist Church	Colerain
Connaritsa Baptist Church	Aulander
Conoconary Baptist Church	Aulander
Crossroad Rescue Mission	Windsor
Ebenezer Assembly of God	Aulander
Edgewood Baptist Church	Windsor
Emmanuel Full Gospel	Windsor
Eveninglight Church of God	Windsor
First Baptist Missionary Church of Colerain	Colerain
First Baptist Church of Kelford	Kelford
First Baptist Church of Lewiston Woodville, Inc.	Lewiston-Woodville
First Baptist Missionary Church of Powellsville	Powellsville
Free Temple Revival Center	Windsor
Grace Episcopal Church	Woodville
Greater Bazemore Temple	Windsor
Greater Harvest Fellowship	Aulander
Greater Wynns Grove Baptist Church	Colerain
Green Cross	Windsor
Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
Kelford Baptist Church	Kelford
Kingdom Hall Jehovah Witness	Windsor
Lewiston Assembly of God	Lewiston-Woodville
Luella Baptist	Kelford
Mars Hill Baptist Church	Colerain
Merry Hill Baptist Church	Merry Hill
Metropolitan Interdenominational Church of God	Aulander
Millennium Pentecostal Holiness Baptist	Aulander

Mills Branch Missionary Baptist	Aulander
Mount Herman Missionary Baptist Church	Aulander
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
New Beginning Christian Center	Windsor
New Holly Grove	Colerain
Oxley Hill Baptist	Merry Hill
Perrytown Assembly of God	Colerain
Peterson Chapel Baptist Church	Windsor
Peterson Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
Piney Wood Chapel	Ahoskie
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Aulander
Pleasant Oak Missionary	Windsor
Powellsville Baptist Church	Powellsville
Powellsville United Methodist Church	Powellsville
Power House Ministries	Lewiston-Woodville
Real Life Ministries	Windsor
Refreshing Center Church of God in Christ	Windsor
Rhema Word Deliverance	Colerain
Riverside Baptist Church	Merry Hill
Ross Baptist Church	Windsor
Roundtree Temple of Praise	Ahoskie
Sandy Branch Missionary Baptist Church	Roxobel
Sandy Point Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
Sandy Run Baptist Church	Roxobel
Siloam Baptist Church	Windsor
Spring Hill Baptist Church	Lewiston-Woodville
St. Elmo Baptist Church	Windsor
St. Francis Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
St. James Church of Christ	Windsor
St. John Second Baptist Church	Ahoskie
St. Luke's Holiness Church	Lewiston-Woodville
St. Luke's Missionary Baptist	Windsor
St. Mark's Baptist Church	Colerain
St. Matthew's Baptist	Windsor
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church	Windsor
St. Thomas Episcopal Church	Windsor
Tabernacle Church of Deliverance	Windsor
Trueway Holiness Church of God in Christ	Windsor
United Outreach Ministries	Windsor
Victory Temple Church of God in Christ	Windsor
Wakelon Baptist Church	Colerain
Weeping Mary Baptist Church	Lewiston-Woodville
Windsor Assembly of God Church	Windsor
Windsor Pentecostal Holiness Church	Windsor
Windsor United Methodist Church	Windsor
Woodville Plain Missionary Baptist	Lewiston-Woodville
World Harvest Christian Center	Windsor
Zion Bethlehem Baptist Church	Windsor
Zion Grove Baptist	Aulander
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church	Colerain

Source: [Association of Religion Data Archives](#), collected by Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies; Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2017.

Transportation

Air

Located in Greenville, NC, Pitt–Greenville Airport (PGV) is a public airport located two miles north of the central business district of Greenville, North Carolina and East Carolina University and 40 miles from Windsor, the county seat. Two international airports are in close proximity; Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is 110 miles away and Norfolk International Airport (ORF) is 85 miles. Tri-County Airport (ASJ) is a public use airport located on Highway 561 in Aulander and serves Bertie, Hertford, and Northampton counties. The Tri-County Airport is being expanded to include a new terminal building. In some communities, flying small aircraft is a popular recreational activity offering potential for Bertie County.

Bus

Carolina Trailways serves the County via a terminal located in Windsor.

Freight and Parcel

Most national trucking and parcel services service the County including Fed Ex, UPS and Airborne Express.

Highways

Highways that are the major routes to and from Bertie County include: Interstate 95 is 50 miles west of the County and US Highway 13 and 17 run through the center of Bertie County. These roads provide a direct connection with US 64, which leads to the Outer Banks going east and Raleigh going west. US Highway 11 connects the County to Southern Virginia to the North and Greenville to the South (North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2018).

Public Transportation

Choanoke Public Transportation Authority (CPTA) is a community transportation program dedicated to meet the transportation needs of Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, and Northampton County’s citizens. CPTA provides local services Monday through Friday for trips to human service agencies, medical appointments, community colleges, child care centers, dialysis, individual shopping trips, older American nutrition sites, and many other destinations. CPTA is funded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division and is a member of the North Carolina Public Transportation Association, Inc. The mission of the Choanoke Public Transportation Authority is “to provide for a safe, adequate and convenient public transportation system for the counties creating the authority and for its immediate environs, through the granting of franchises, ownership and leasing of terminals, buses and other transportation facilities and equipment, and otherwise through the exercise of the powers and duties conferred upon it.”

Railroads

The North Carolina & Virginia Railroad operates 52 miles of tracks from Boykins, Virginia to Ahoskie and Tunis, serving businesses in the Northeastern North Carolina counties of Northampton, Bertie, and Hertford. The North Carolina & Virginia Railroad connects with CSX Transportation at Boykins.

The railroad began operations after its parent company purchased the line from CSX Transportation in 1987. The North Carolina & Virginia is part of Genesee and Wyoming. The railroad carries over 20,000 carloads per year of commodities produced from twelve local industries. Such products include plate steel, scrap metal, peanuts, forest and agriculture products, industrial chemicals, and grain.

Libraries

There are three public libraries that serve the people of Bertie County and are located in Windsor, Aulander, and Winton (Table 5). Lawrence Memorial Public Library in downtown Windsor was closed as a result of Hurricane Matthew and plans for relocation and reopening are currently underway. Headquartered in Winton, the Albemarle Regional Library (ARLNC) serves Bertie, Gates, Hertford and Northampton counties

Table 5. Bertie County Libraries

NAME	ADDRESS	LOCATION
Lawrence Memorial Public Library	204 Dundee St.	Windsor
Bertie County Public Library	111 US HWY 13 Bypass	Windsor
Sallie Harrell Jenkins Memorial Library	302 Broad St.	Aulander
Albemarle Regional Library	303 Tryon St.	Winton

Source: Albemarle Regional Library: <http://www.arlnc.org/librarydirectory/bertie.htm>

Arts

Bertie County supports many different types of arts in the community. Incorporated in 1987, the Bertie County Arts Council (BCAC) is dedicated to bringing the arts to Bertie County. The mission of the BCAC is “to promote and encourage the development and advancement of the arts in Bertie County; to cultivate an appreciation of the arts; to promote and encourage education of the arts; to promote funding and coordination of arts activities county-wide; and to cooperate with neighboring arts councils and local organizations in the advancement of the arts.”

BCAC encourages appreciation of arts and provides a public facility where artists can showcase their artistry and receive support. In addition, BCAC fosters partnerships that enhance arts and culture in the region. The BCAC & Gallery works to create an environment where the arts thrive, bring joy, and enrich the cultural experience to the community. Numerous cultural arts opportunities are available to the residents of Bertie County and visitors alike including art and music. A variety of special events and classes are offered throughout the year such as the Holiday Show Open House, Little Art – A Really Big Show, and book signings by local authors (Bertie County Arts Council, 2018).

Festivals and Events

Bertie County offers a variety of events, many focused on the historic and cultural connection to agriculture and the Cashie River. Other events highlight the rich history of the region and the plentiful arts offerings. There are many festivals and events held in Bertie County, with themes of music, farming, art, the blueways. A sample of events in Bertie County is provided below (Table 6). A full listing of events and activities is available on the Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce website and is updated frequently (Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2018).

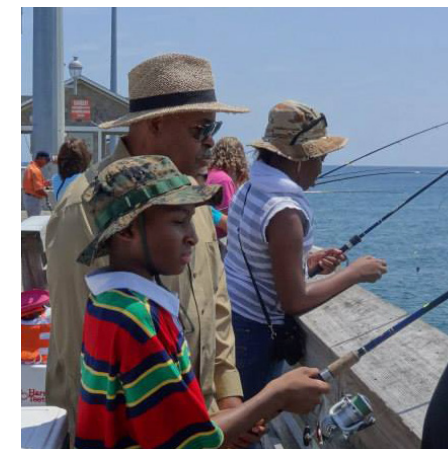


Table 6. Bertie County Events

EVENT	DATE/MONTH	LOCATION
Shad Festival Spring Windsor	Spring	Windsor
Bream Fishing Tournament	Spring	Windsor
The Tee & Sea “Classic Event”	Spring	Windsor
Sage Festival	Summer	Windsor
Annual 3 rd of July Celebration	Summer	Windsor
Cashie River Festival	Summer	Windsor
Blues, Brews & BBQ	Fall	Windsor
Halloween Spooktacular 5K and Fun Walk	Fall	Windsor
Ghost Walk	Fall	Windsor
National Hunting & Fishing Day USFWS	Fall	Windsor
Owl Prow	Winter	Windsor
Hoggard Christmas Lights	Winter	Windsor
Christmas Parade	Winter	Windsor
Mistletoe Ramble	Winter	Windsor
Christmas at Hope Plantation	Winter	Windsor
Caroling and Lighting of Tree in Windsor	Winter	Windsor
Wreaths Across America Edgewood Cem.	Winter	Windsor
New Year’s Eve Peanut Drop	Winter	Windsor

Source: Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2018

EVENT	MONTH	FREQUENCY
Black History Celebration	Feb.	3rd Tue.
Farmers Appreciation Dinner	Mar.	3rd Tue.
Hope Ball	Apr.	Once every 2yrs.
Tee & Sea Golf	May	1st full week May, Thu. /Fri.
The Sage Festival	May	1st weekend after Memorial Day
Harvest Day Hope Plantation	Sep.	
Peanut Festival	Oct.	1st Sat.
Halloween Spooktacular 5K and Fun Walk	Fall	Sat. closest to Halloween
Blues Brew & BBQ	Nov.	1st Sat.
First Responders Dinner	Nov.	2nd Tue.
Christmas Parade	Dec.	1st Thu.
Christmas Carriage Rides	Dec.	1st two weeks

Source: Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2017

Farmers Markets

There are two farmer’s markets in the county. Perry’s Product is located in Colerain and is open from March through December. Windsor Super Farmer’s Market, located in Windsor, is open year round. The Windsor Super Farmer’s Market pavilion was designed and built in 2011 by a group of high school students and was featured in *Architectural Record* and on NPR’s *The Story* with Dick Gordon.

Media

The major source of news for Bertie County is dispersed by newspapers, radio stations, Greenville NC TV stations, and magazines. Local newspapers and magazines include *The Bertie Ledger* and *Roanoke-Chowan News Herald*. National and regional newspapers that offer home delivery include: Raleigh News & Observer, New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today. Local Television stations include: WNCT-Channel 9, WITN-Channel 7, and WCTI-Channel 12. One radio station is based in Bertie County, WBTE. Additional radio stations available include: Dixie 105.7, Beach 104, WRHD - 103.7 FM Thunder Country, WQDK-99.3 FM Ahoskie, WRCS-970 AM Ahoskie, WSAZ-Murfreesboro, WDRP-98.9, WGAI-560 AM Elizabeth City (Bertie County Government, 2018). Recent efforts by the County include expanding use of social media and improving broadband coverage.

Economy

In the late 16th century, fortune-hunters sailed up the Albemarle Sound, as it turned to the north and became what is now known as the Chowan River. These explorers recognized the meeting point of rich land and natural harbor - present-day Bertie County, North Carolina - as a place of opportunity (Bertie County Economic Development, 2018). Today, business owners are rediscovering the natural and commercial resources of Bertie County as the ideal site for pursuing their own fortunes. The placid waters and gently rolling shorelines may suggest relaxation, but they’re actually a gateway to a bustling economy that’s at the center of the mid-Atlantic and southeast.

Within 500 miles of Bertie County, you’ll find 101 million consumers. In less than a half-day’s drive, you’ll be at the doorstep of several of the nation’s busiest deep-water ports. Within the county boundaries, hundreds of thousands of acres of verdant, productive land can be found. And while Bertie County may never seem to be crowded, nearly a quarter-million skilled workers live within an hour of Bertie businesses.

In 2015, the median annual income was \$30,027 for households in Bertie County, NC, which is less than the median annual income in the U.S. The average male’s salary was \$10,808 more than the average female’s salary and Black or African American is the most likely racial or ethnic group to be impoverished. On average, wages are distributed more evenly in Bertie County, NC than they are nationally.

From 2014 to 2015 employment grew at a rate of 0.56%, from 7,118 employees to 7,158 employees in Bertie County. The most common employment sectors for those who live in Bertie County, NC are Manufacturing, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting.

Agriculture plays a key role in the lives of Bertie County citizens as a result of the fertile uplands and lowlands, with some large swamps called pocosins that are ideal for agriculture. The primary crops for Bertie County are cotton, tobacco, peanuts, corn, sage, and soybeans. In addition, the timber industry is key to the area, especially Windsor and the surrounding area. Livestock and the growing poultry industry, which focuses on broiler production, are major contributors to Bertie County’s agriculture base. A large chicken processing plant, a textile plant, and a furniture plant add to the area’s income. Tourism—a large force in the state’s economy—is growing in Bertie County, as well. The Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce and Bertie County Economic Development Department work together to attract new business into the area. Festivals and annual events sponsored by the Chamber, the Bertie County Arts Council and other groups help attract local residents and area visitors.

Cultural Resources Summary

Bertie County is located in the northeastern part of North Carolina and originated in 1722 when the state legislature decided to divide the county from Chowan. Bertie has a distinct advantage over other counties in the region because of its rich soil sustained by the rivers along and within its borders. The Cashie, Chowan, and Roanoke Rivers bolstered the agricultural economy of Bertie since the first Native Americans inhabited the land. Bertie County comprises a total area of 741 square miles, of which 699 square miles is land and 42 square miles is water. One of the largest counties in North Carolina, Bertie County is home to approximately 20,874 people. The County includes the eight incorporated townships of Askewville, Aulander, Colerain, Kelford, Lewiston-Woodville, Powellsville, Roxobel and Windsor, the county seat and largest town. The economy is based largely on agriculture, with primary crops including corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton.

Bertie County is home to numerous historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places (2016) including private homes, churches, buildings, and maritime and military sites. Bertie County offers a variety of events, many focused on the historic and cultural connection to agriculture and the Cashie River. Other events highlight the rich history of the region and the plentiful arts offerings. The natural resources of Bertie County make it a great place for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural and Physical Resources

This section provides a description of the natural resources of Bertie County. These resources include climate, geology, topography, water resources, fauna, flora and unique natural resources.

Climate

Bertie County has a fairly mild year-round climate with an average low in January of 30F and an average high of 89F in July. Bertie County receives an average of 47 inches of rain per year compared with the US average of 39; snowfall is 2 inches. The average US city gets 26 inches of snow per year. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 76. On average, there are 211 sunny days per year and Sperling's comfort index for Bertie County is a 63 out of 100, where a higher score indicates a more comfortable year-around climate. The US average for the comfort index is 54 (the index is based on the total number of days annually within the comfort range of 70-80 degrees, and we also applied a penalty for days of excessive humidity). The County elevation is above sea level and is prone to heavy rain events and occasional hurricanes.

Geology/Topography

Bertie County is a land of topographic and water diversity. The northern portion is a high terrace (45 to 80 feet above sea level) where the towns of Roxobel, Kelford, Lewiston-Woodville, Aulander, Powellsville and Askewville are located. This high terrace also forms the interstream divide between the south-flowing drainage system of Bertie County and the north-flowing drainage that dominates Hertford County. This west-east oriented upper terrace has been truncated on the east forming a long stretch of north-south, high shoreline bluffs along the Chowan River.

Water Resources

In Bertie County, there are 11,814 acres of coastal waters. These include the Upper Albemarle Sound that lies between US 17 and NC 308. There are 13,175 acres of joint waters in Bertie County. These include the Chowan River from Hertford County south, the Cashie River, and the Roanoke River. The remainder of the waters in Bertie County are inland waters.

Parts of two river basins are found in Bertie County: the Chowan River Basin and the Roanoke River Basin. The Chowan River begins in Virginia where the Nottoway, Blackwater, and Meherrin Rivers originate. The Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers merge at the Virginia/North Carolina border to form the Chowan River. The Meherrin River joins the Chowan soon thereafter. The Chowan River flows fifty miles through five North Carolina counties before emptying into the Albemarle Sound at Edenton.

The Roanoke River Basin begins in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and flows through several Virginia and North Carolina counties before entering Bertie County. The Roanoke River empties into the Albemarle Sound at the junction of Bertie, Martin, and Washington counties.



Water

Bertie County is water-bound by a complex system of different kinds of drainage systems encircling three sides of the county and dissecting it through the interior. The great Roanoke River forms the entire western and southern boundary, while the estuarine waters of Albemarle Sound and Batchelor Bay embrace the southeastern boundary, and the embayed estuary of the Chowan River form the entire eastern boundary. The interior of Bertie County is dominated by the dendritic valley of the Cashie River and its upstream tributary network and downstream inputs from Roquist and Wading Place creeks. The basic controls of this complex waterscape and encased landscape system that determine the extreme differences in the water bodies and land surfaces include the following:

- 1) Climatic conditions past and present: including the storm dynamics, and rainfall input;
- 2) Downstream level of the sea and continuity of the barrier islands;
- 3) Underlying geologic framework and inherited paleo-drainage topography;
- 4) The human systems of modification and control.

The Cashie River system is a world-class, black-water tributary drainage that lies totally within the boundaries of one county. Its headwaters are in the pocosin swamplands on the uplands of the Wicomoco Terrace. Then the river is incised through the intermediate Talbot Terrace, the lower paleo-braid plains, and into the primary floodplain of the Roanoke River just before it empties into the estuarine waters of Albemarle Sound. Windsor occupies a unique position at the intersection where the riverine component of the Cashie River drops below mean sea level and becomes a drowned-river estuary that is influenced by the hydrodynamics of the Atlantic Ocean and Albemarle Sound. An additional complicating factor is the ongoing rise of sea level which has risen at least 1.5 to 2 feet since the colonists sailed the lower portions of the Cashie River in the early 1700s. This factor, along with the dynamics of a storm dominated coastal system, is partially responsible for the apparent increased frequency and severity of flooding events in Windsor.

Soils

The Soil Conservation Service, now known as the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), has prepared a soil survey of Bertie County. The soil survey is used to determine which soils present developmental limitations due to wetness or high shrink-swell potential. According to the survey, there are 39 different soil types in Bertie County. Only seven of these soil types are considered to have slight or moderate limitations for septic systems.

The soil survey is for planning purposes and is not completed at the detailed scale needed for permit decisions. Based on the soil survey, the Soils Septic Limits Map available in the Bertie County Planning Department provides a general soils map of the planning area. Because the map is for general planning purposes only, all determinations of septic suitability must be made by onsite investigation by a licensed soil scientist or county environmental systems health specialist. In general, the soils in the planning jurisdiction have limitations for many uses due to poor drainage, seasonably high water tables, or permeability problems.

Countywide, approximately 99% of the soils in Bertie County have moderate to severe limitations for conventional onsite soil absorption waste treatment systems (septic systems). Based on the soils attribute table compiled by the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation and provided to the County by the NC Division of Coastal Management for use in the planning process, 1.2% of soils have slight limits, 7.6% have moderate limits, and 91.2% have severe limits for septic systems. In general, all soils are shown as having at least "slight" limits for septic systems.

Soils with slight limitations for septic systems are primarily located in the southern portion of Bertie County. Soils with moderate limitations for septic systems are primarily scattered throughout the southern and western portions of the County, with some being located in the northeast section. The extent of soils suitable for development is important due to the continuing development of the County and the absence of centralized sewer systems in most areas. Planned development densities in areas without central sewer service must consider soil suitability for septic systems or alternative systems must be developed for use in these areas.

Summary

Bertie County was formed in 1722 from Chowan County. The county seat is Windsor. Bertie lies in the eastern region of North Carolina and has warm summers and cool winters making this community a typical coastal plain region. The average rainfall is 47 inches. The area is prone to heavy rain events and an occasional hurricane. The land is unstable, migratory landform. The drainage is very poor, with moderate to moderately rapid permeability.

There are 20 endangered, threatened, significantly rare or special concern plants and animals in the Bertie County area. There are 69 cited water resources. These waters are suitable for such recreation as fishing, boating, hunting, and wildlife observation. The area includes unique natural resources including the USFWS - Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge and the rivers which offer important recreation benefits.

Population Analysis

Bertie County Demographic Data

The first step in understanding the park and recreational needs of a community is to develop an understanding of the people that live there. In this section, a review of Bertie County's population and demographics, as well as changes occurring in the area is provided.

The county was created in 1722 as Bertie Precinct and gained county status in 1739. This mostly rural county depended on the agricultural economy well into the 20th century. In the 21st century, developers have referred to it as being within the "Inner Banks" region, which is increasingly attracting retirees and buyers of second homes, because of excellent access to water and the natural and scenic beauty of the landscape.

Bertie County is a county located in the northeast area of the U.S. state of North Carolina and is one of the physically largest counties in North Carolina, spanning 741 square miles; five percent of its area is covered by water. Established in 1660, Bertie County was originally part of Albemarle County; however, in 1670, Chowan County, including Bertie Precinct, was cut from Albemarle County. Bertie Precinct was finally given status of county in 1722 when it separated from Chowan County. Initially, Bertie County was comprised of present Bertie County, Tyrrell County, Edgecombe County, Northampton County, and Hertford County. By 1780, Bertie County had been divided to resemble its current shape.

The county seat for Bertie County is Windsor, which was established in 1766 and made county seat in 1774. The County includes the eight incorporated townships; Askewville, Aulander, Colerain, Kelford, Lewiston-Woodville, Powellsville, Roxobel, and Windsor.

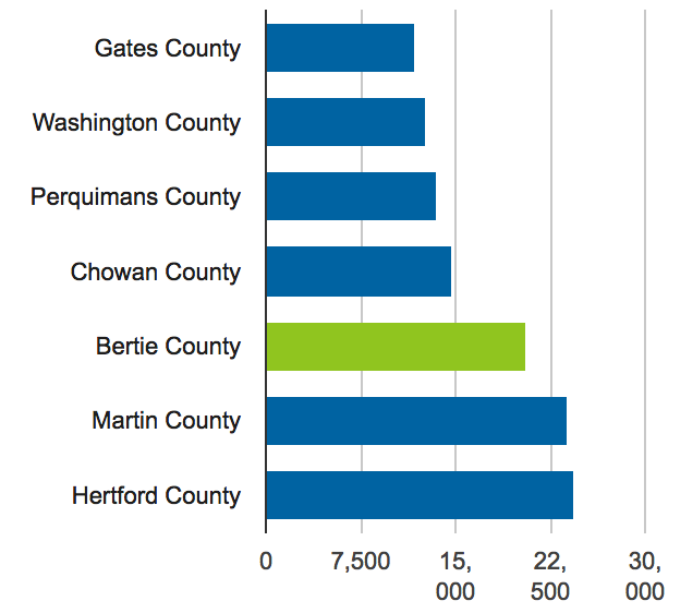
Agriculture plays a key role in the lives of Bertie County citizens. The fertile uplands and lowlands, with some large swamps called pocosins, are ideal for agriculture. The primary crops for Bertie County are cotton, tobacco, peanuts, corn, sage, and soybeans. In addition, the timber industry is key to the area, especially Windsor and the surrounding area. Livestock and the growing poultry industry, which focuses on broiler production, are major contributors to Bertie County's agriculture base. A large chicken processing plant, a textile plant, and a furniture plant add to the area's income. Tourism—a large force in the state's economy—is growing in Bertie County, as well. The Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce and Bertie County Economic Development Department are working to bring new business into the area. Festivals and annual events sponsored by the Chamber, the Bertie County Arts Council and other groups, attract local residents and visitors to the area.

Current population projections suggest the County's population will decrease slightly over the next ten years. Identifying future population changes and understanding the demographic make-up of the population in the future is key to projecting park and recreational needs.

Population

According to the most recent demographic data available from the U.S. Census Bureau (2016), the population of Bertie is 20,518, making it the third largest of counties in the area. The county with the largest population in the area, Hertford County, is 18.8% larger with a population of 24,368. From 2010-2015 the population in Bertie County has declined by 764 or 4% (Figure 1).

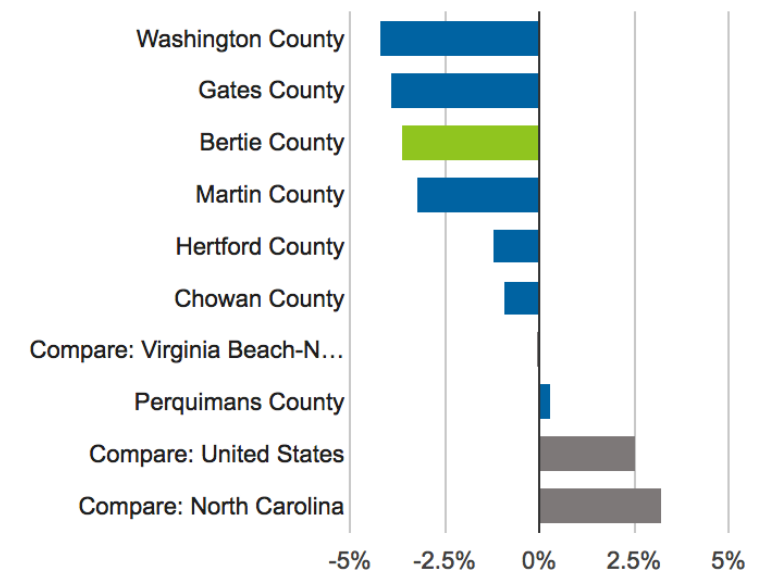
Figure 1. Population Data for Bertie County, NC and the Area 2015



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

From 2010-2015 the population percent change for Bertie County compared with other areas shows Bertie County ranks fifth in population change with a -3.6% change (Figure 2). Measured against the state of North Carolina's population change of 3.2%, Bertie County is 10.5% larger.

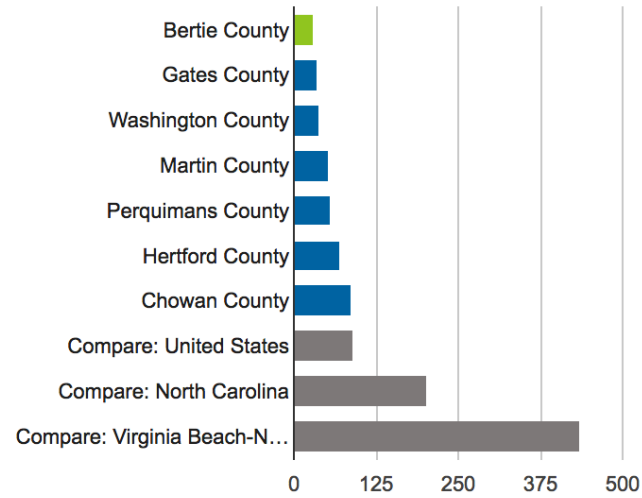
Figure 2. Population Percent Change



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

In terms of population density, Bertie County has 29 people per square mile, the smallest density when compared to other counties in the area (Figure 3). In the state of North Carolina, Bertie County ranks 12th in the top 15 most densely populated counties. Compared to area counties, the next highest population density is Gates County which is 17.4% larger with population density of 34 people per square mile. Chowan County has the highest population density in the area, with 85 people per square mile or approximately 2.9 times bigger.

Figure 3. People Per Square Mile

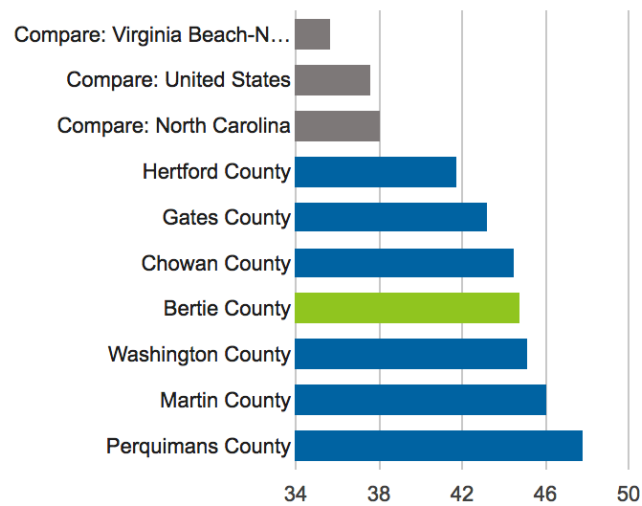


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Age

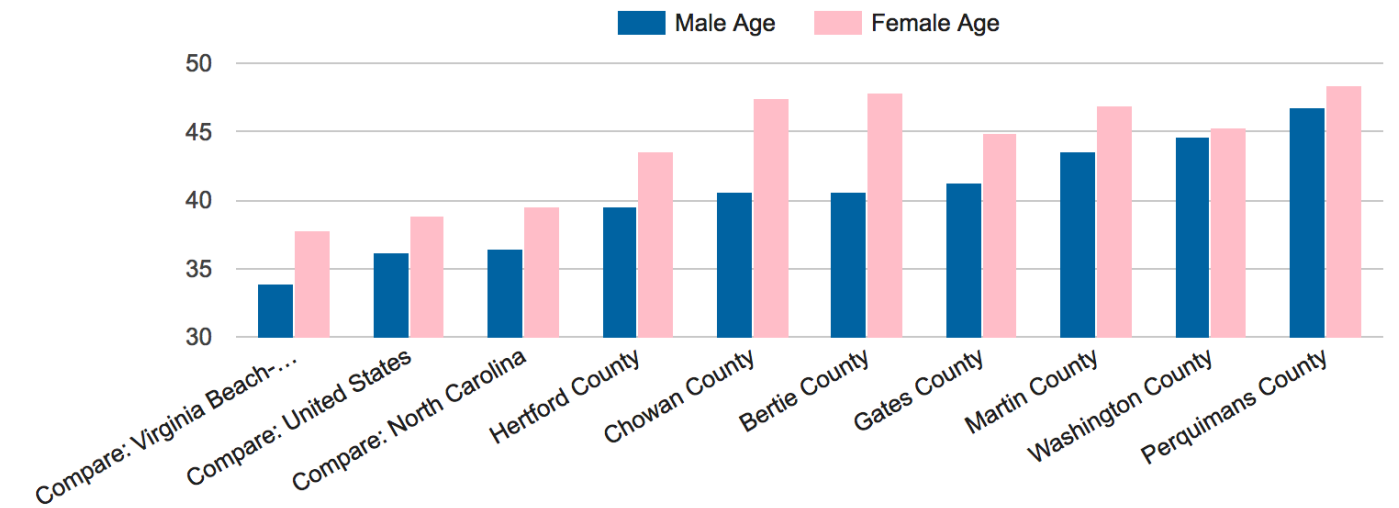
The median age of the people in Bertie County is 44.8, which is fourth in overall median age of all people in area counties (Figure 4). The county with the highest overall median age is Perquimans County with an age of 47.8, 6.7% larger than Bertie County. Comparing the median age of men versus women, Bertie County illustrates median age of men is about 17.7% smaller than median age of women (Figure 5). An examination of age by generation shows in Bertie County 42.1% of people are 50 and over and 22.2% are less than 20 years of age (Figure 6).

Figure 4. Median Age



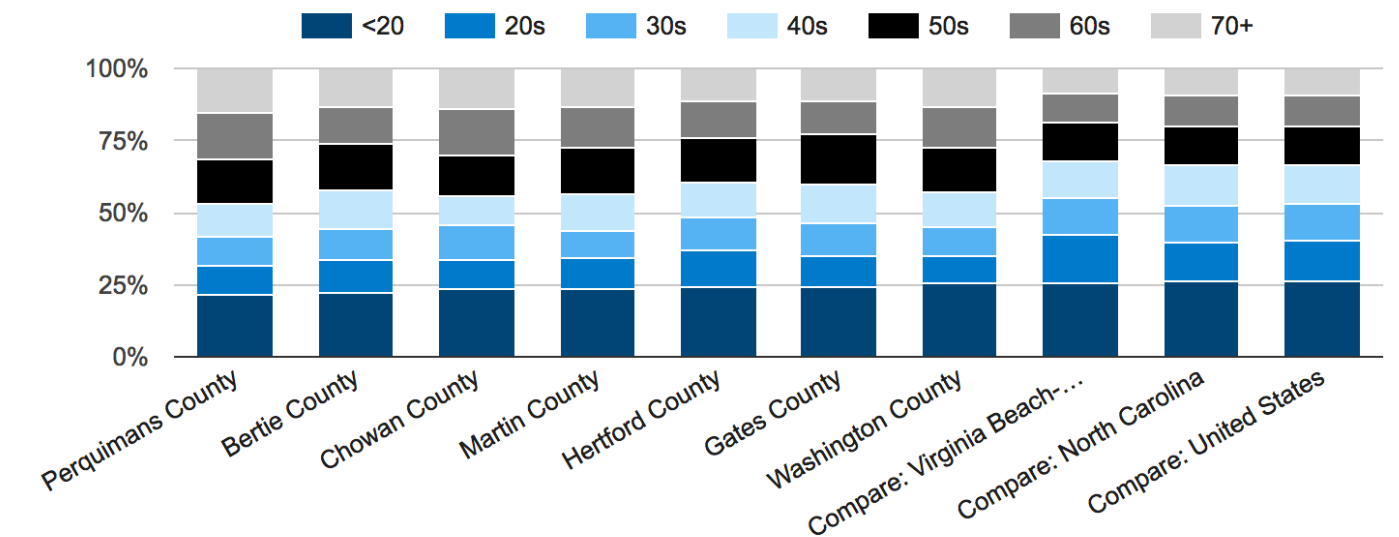
Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Figure 5. Median Age by Gender



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Figure 6. Age by Generation

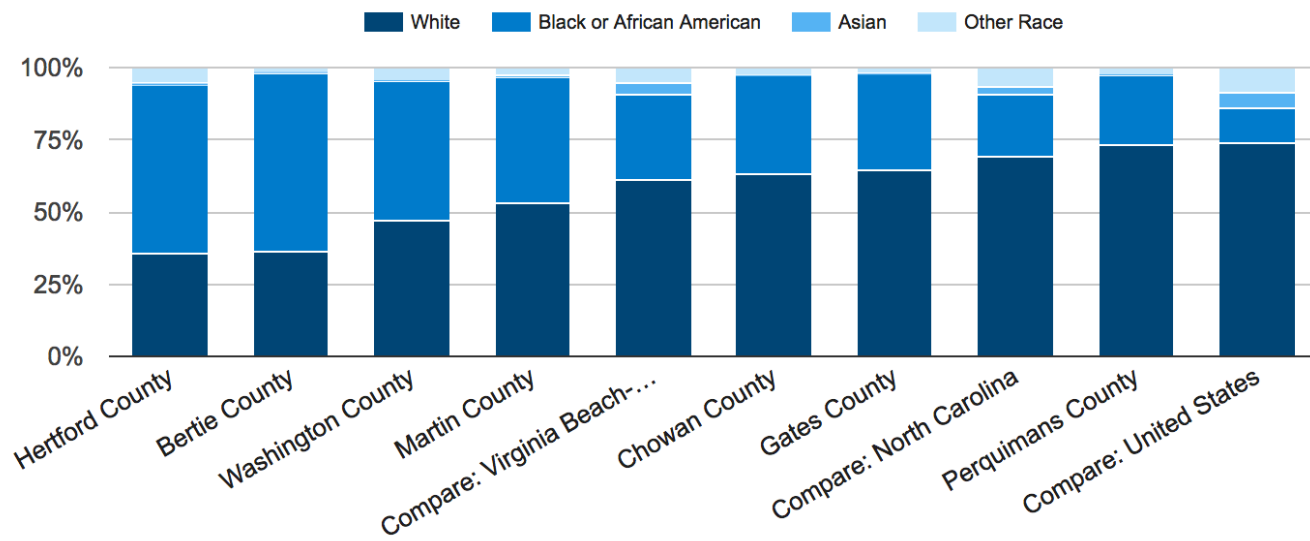


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Racial Makeup

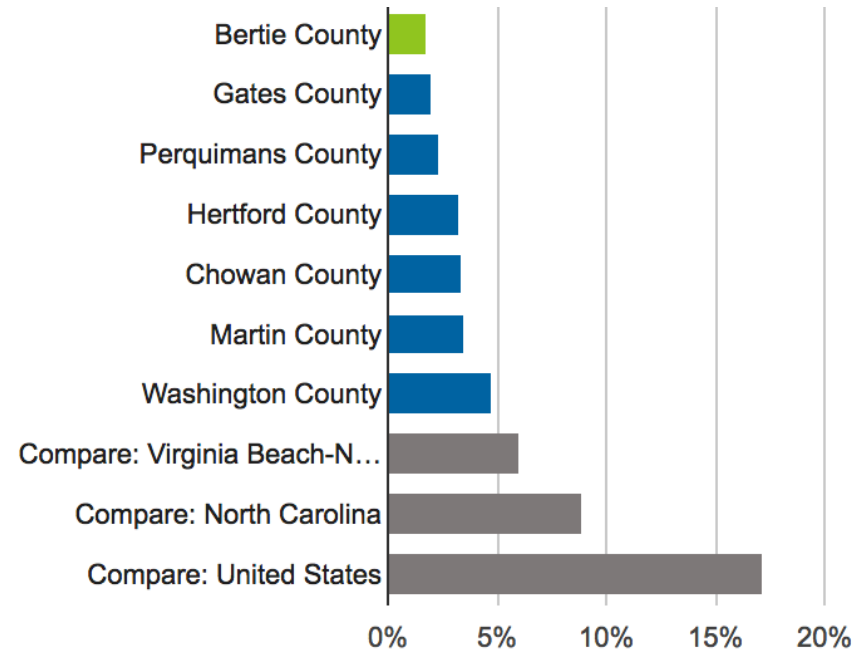
With regard to racial makeup, Bertie County has the largest proportion of people who are Black or African American at 62.0% of the total population and is ranked first when compared with other regional counties (Figure 7). As shown in Figure 8, 1.7% of Bertie County's population are Hispanic or Latino which is the 4th smallest of people who are Hispanic or Latino of all other counties in the area.

Figure 7. Racial Makeup



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

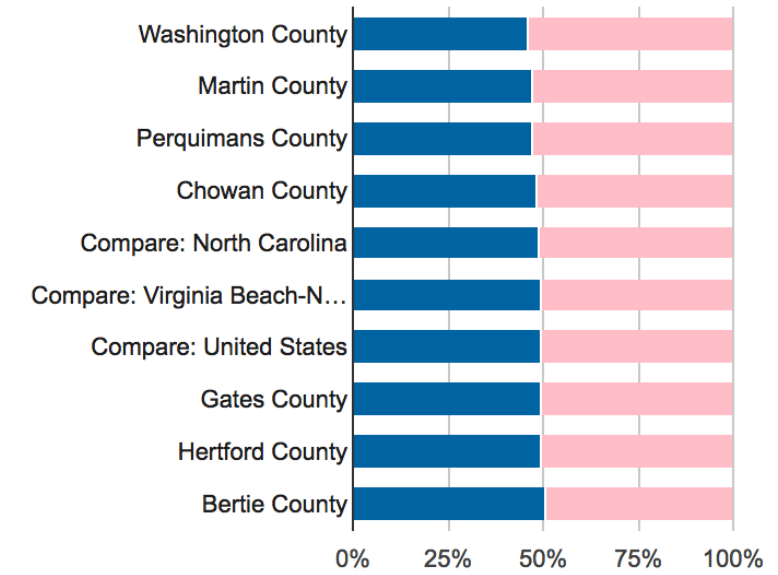
Figure 8. Hispanic Population



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

A comparison of the ratio of the population of men to women shows the total male population measures only about 3.4% larger than total female population (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Ratio of Men and Women

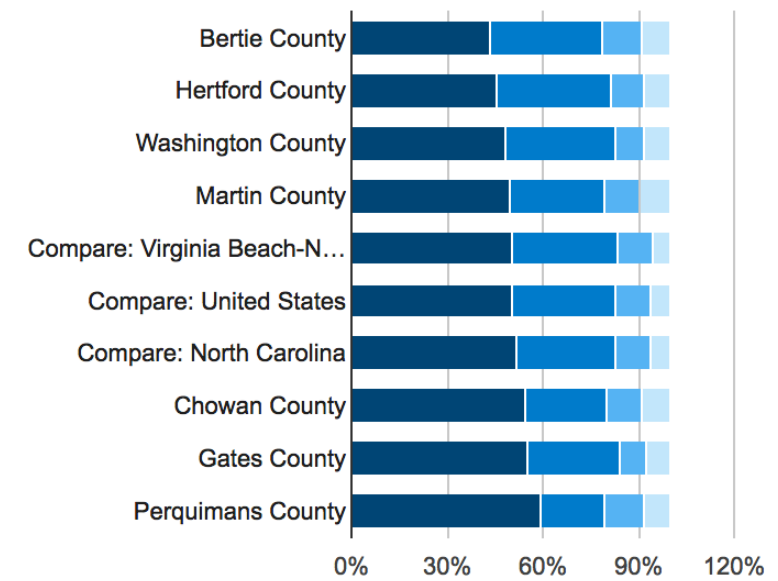


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Marital Status

In terms of marriage, Bertie County shows one of the largest proportions of people who have never married at 35%, ranked number two with Hertford County being the only larger county (36%). Second, Bertie County has the largest proportion of total percent of people divorced at 12% of the total, ranked number one (Figure 10). The average family size in Bertie County is 3.4, which is the largest of all counties in the area.

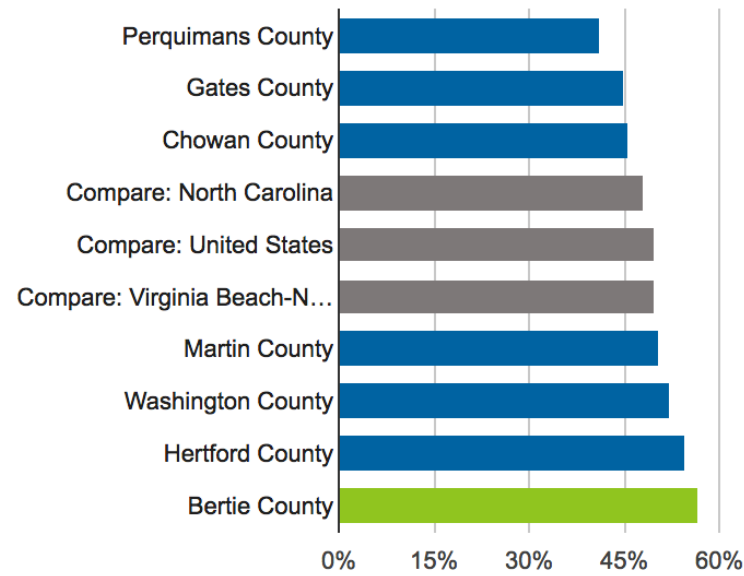
Figure 10. Marital Status



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Bertie County indicates it has 57% percent of people who are single for any reason which is more than all other counties in the area (Figure 11). Comparing percent of people who are single for any reason to the United States average of 50%, Bertie County is 13.8% larger. Also, measured against the state of North Carolina, percent of people who are single for any reason of 48%, Bertie County is 17.9% larger.

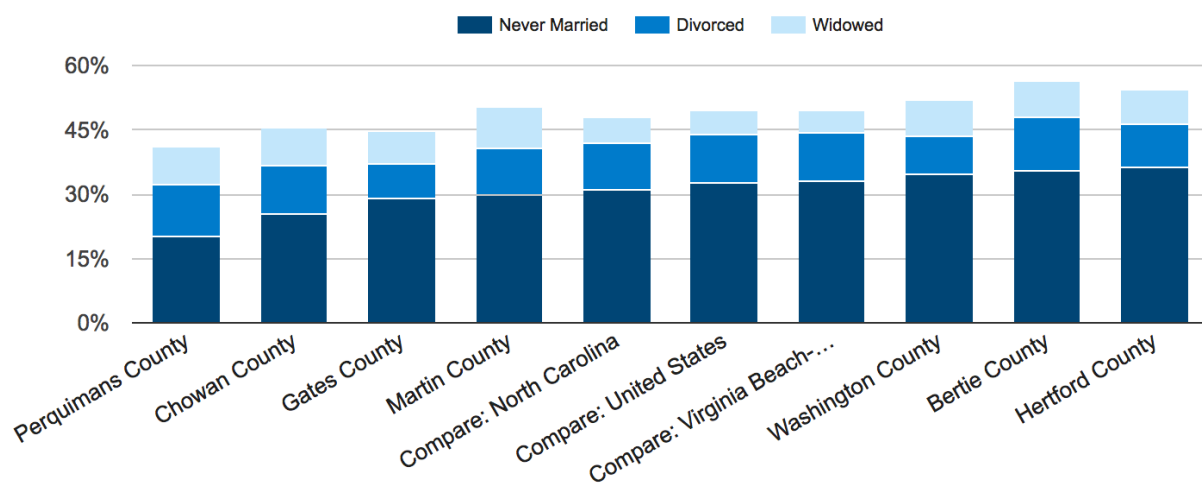
Figure 11. Total Single People



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Single people in each area broken down by never married, divorced, and widowed (Figure 12). Bertie County shows it has 35% percent of people never married which is the 2nd most of all the counties in the area. The county with the highest percent of people never married in the area is Hertford County with a percent never married of 36% is only slightly larger. Comparing percent of people never married percent of people divorced percent of people widowed to the United States average of 33%, Bertie County is 7.6% larger.

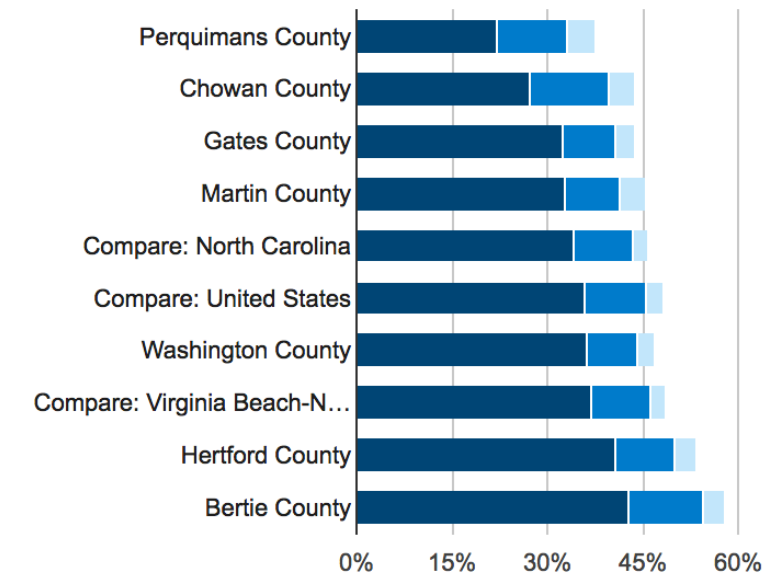
Figure 12. Single People by Reason



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

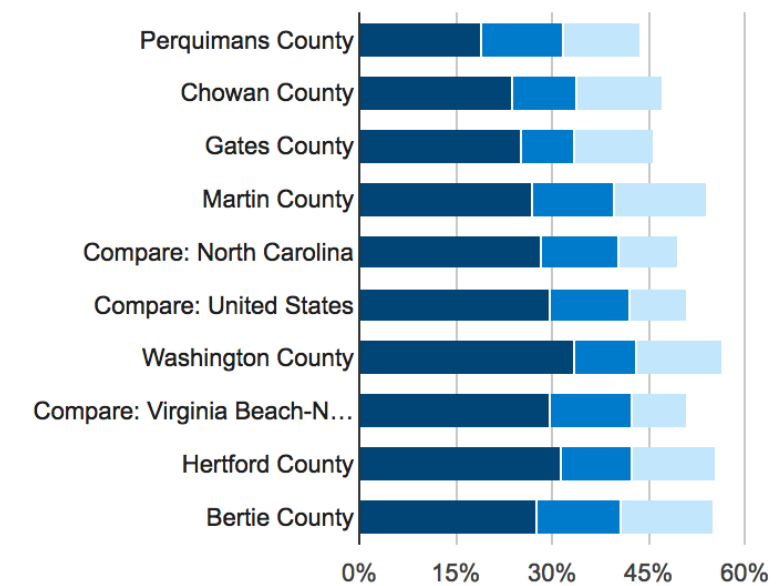
Bertie County shows it has 43% percent of men who have never been married which is the largest of all counties in the area (Figure 13). Comparing percent of men who have never been married, percent of men who are divorced, and percent of men who are widowed to the United States average of 36%, Bertie County is 19.0% larger. Also, compared with the state of North Carolina, percent of men who have never been married, percent of men who are divorced, and percent of men who are widowed of 34%, Bertie County is 26.2% larger. In terms of single women in each area, Bertie County has the largest proportion of percent of women who are divorced at 13% of the total and is ranked first (Figure 14).

Figure 13. Single Men



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

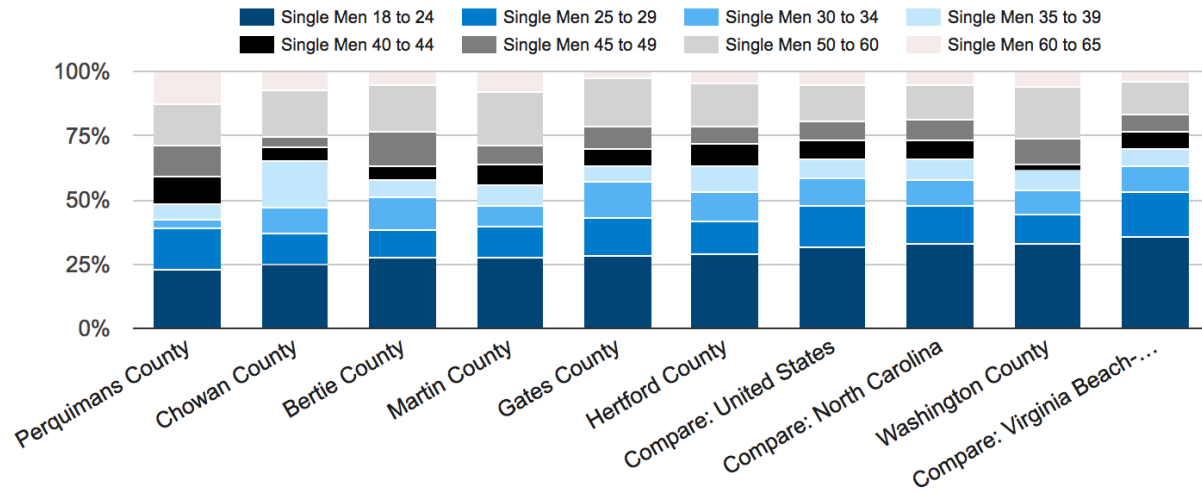
Figure 14. Single Women



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

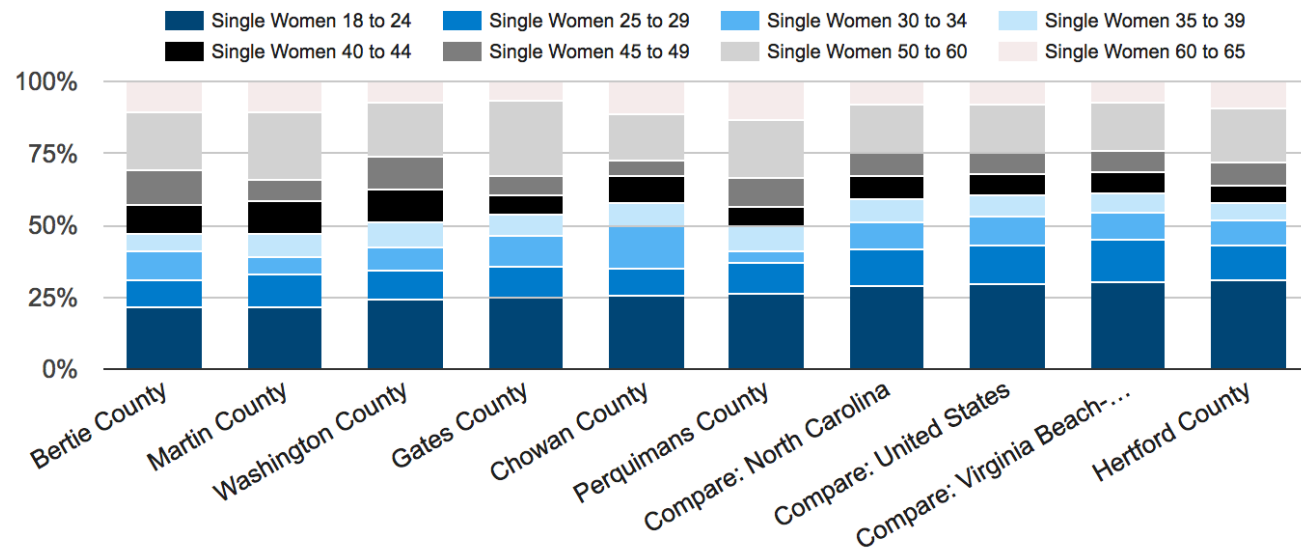
Comparison of single men between the age of 18 and 65 in the area shows Bertie County has one of the largest proportions of percent of single men in the 30 to 34 group at 13% of the total, ranked second (Figure 15). The only larger county being Gates County with 14% of the population in the same age group. In terms of single women, the largest group is the 18 to 24 group with 21% of the population, followed closely by the 50 to 60 age group with 20% (Figure 16).

Figure 15. Single Men by Age Group



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Figure 16. Single Women by Age Group

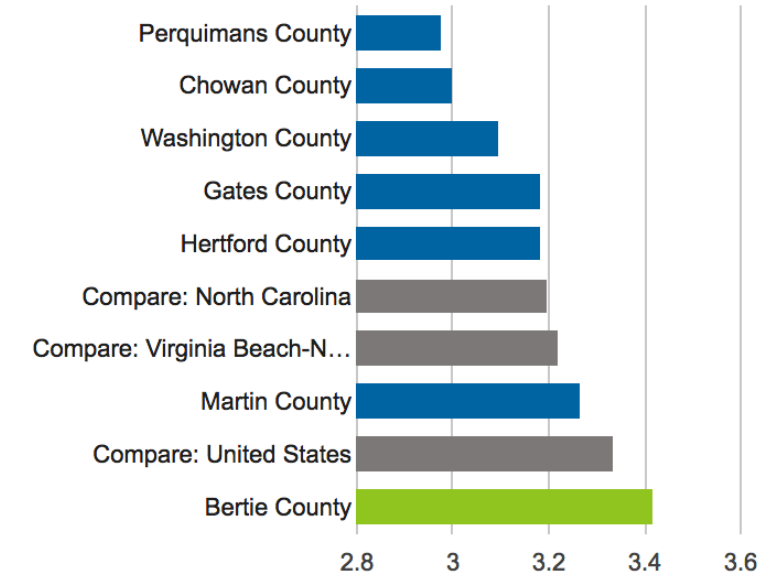


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Family and Household Size

The average size of a typical family in Bertie County is 3.4 which is the largest average family size of all the other counties in the area (Figure 17). Martin county has the next highest average family size in the group with a size of 3.25.

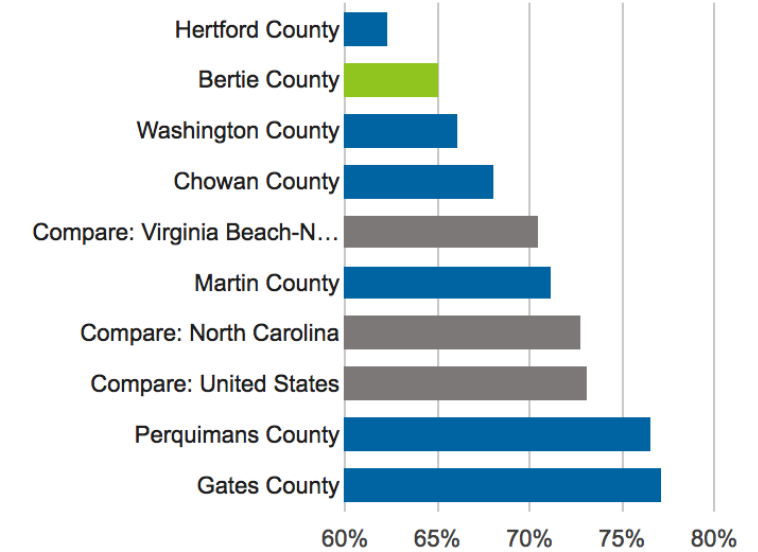
Figure 17. Average Family Size



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

The ratio of families to total households is provided below (Figure 18). Bertie County has 65% of people who are in a family which is the sixth smallest percent of people who are in a family of all the counties in the area. Gates County has the highest percent of people who are in a family, 16.6% larger than Bertie County.

Figure 18. Ratio of Families to Total Households

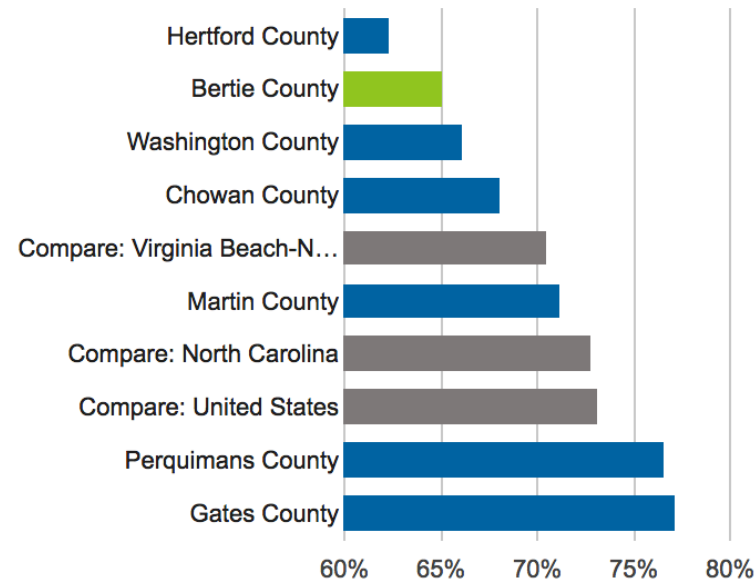


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Looking at husband and wife headed families as a percent of all families, in Bertie County 65% percent of people are in a husband and wife family or sixth in percent of people out of 10 total in the area (Figure 19). The county with the highest percent of people in a husband and wife family is Gates County with 77%, which is 18.6% larger than Bertie County.

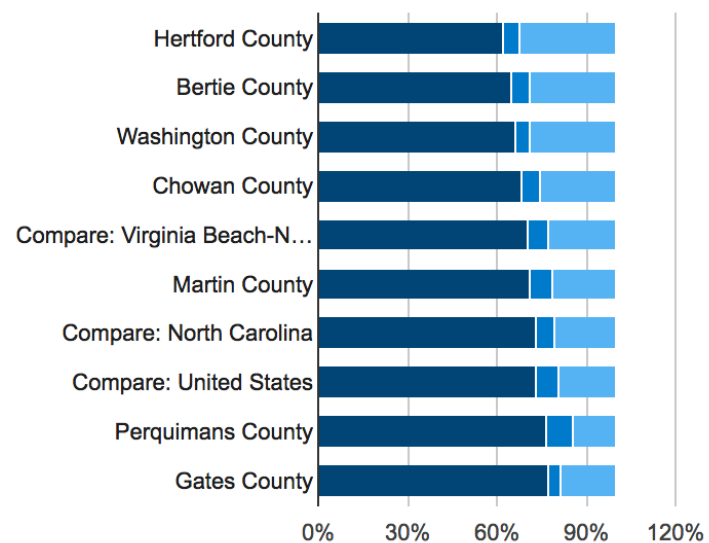
Bertie County has one of the largest proportions of percent of families with female head of household at 29.1% of the total and is ranked third in the area (Figure 20). Only Hertford County (32.3%) and Washington County (29.4%) are larger.

Figure 19. Percent Families with Husband and Wife Headed Families



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Figure 20. Ratio of Male to Female Head of Household

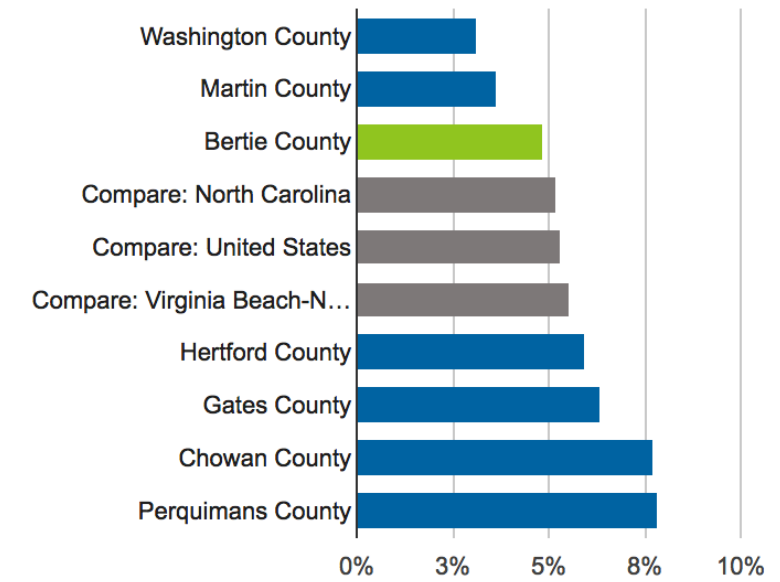


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

MOTHERS AND BABIES

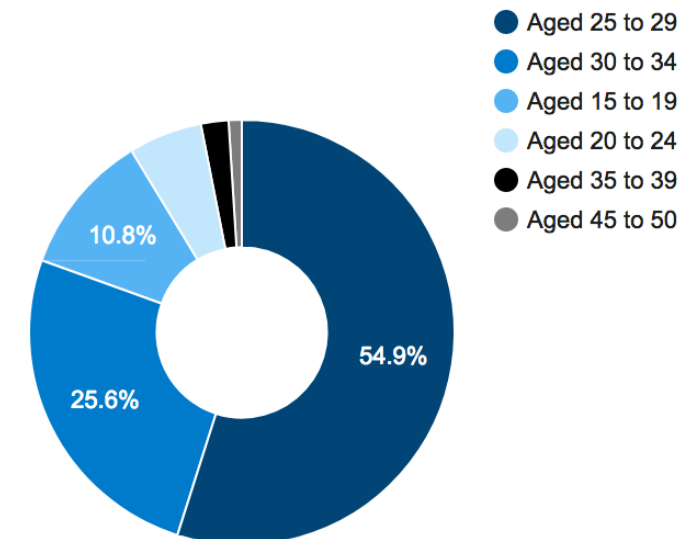
In Bertie County 4.8% percent of women aged 15 to 50 gave birth in the last 12 months which is fifth highest in percent of women who gave birth out of 10 total counties in the area (Figure 21). The county with the highest percent of women who gave birth in the area is Perquimans County with a birth rate of 7.8%, which is 62.3% larger than Bertie County. The breakdown of the mother's age for all births show Bertie County ranks first with the largest proportion of percent of births to mothers aged 25 to 29 at 55% of the total (Figure 22).

Figure 21. Percent of Women Who Gave Birth in Bertie County, NC



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

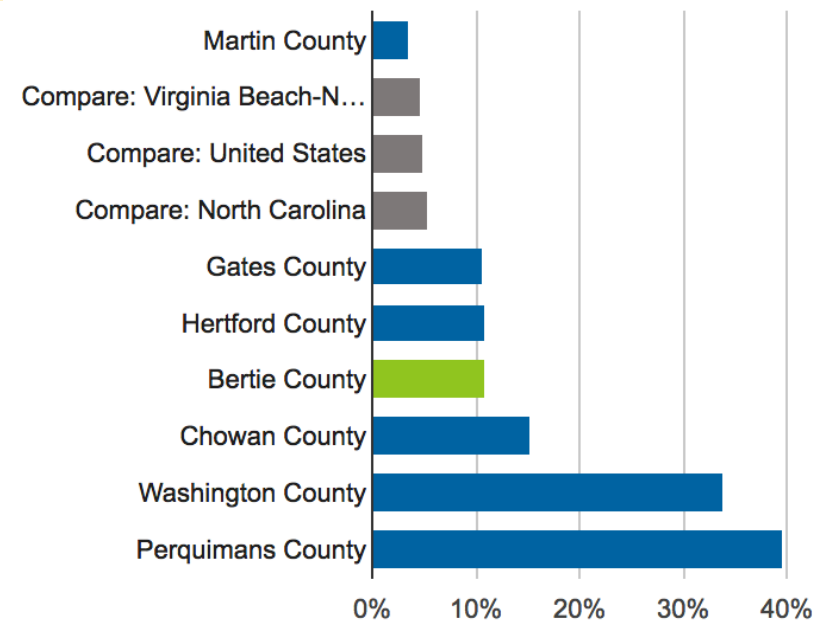
Figure 22. Mothers Age at Birth in Bertie County, NC



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Bertie County has 11% teenager (women between the ages of 15 and 19) birth rate which is fourth out of 10 total counties in the area (Figure 23). The county with the highest teenager birth rate in the area is Perquimans County with a percent of births to teenager of 40% is approximately 3.7 times bigger.

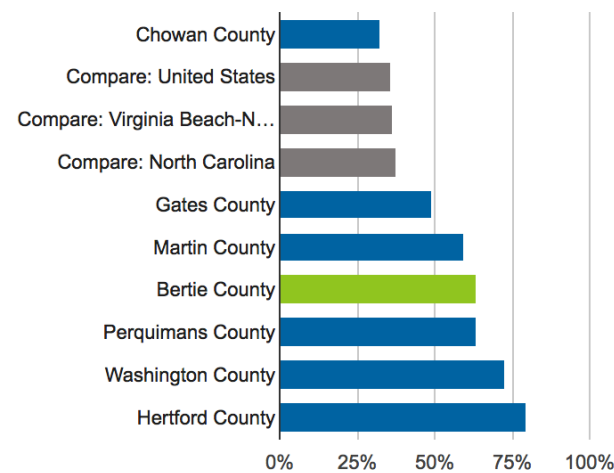
Figure 23. Teen Birth Rate



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

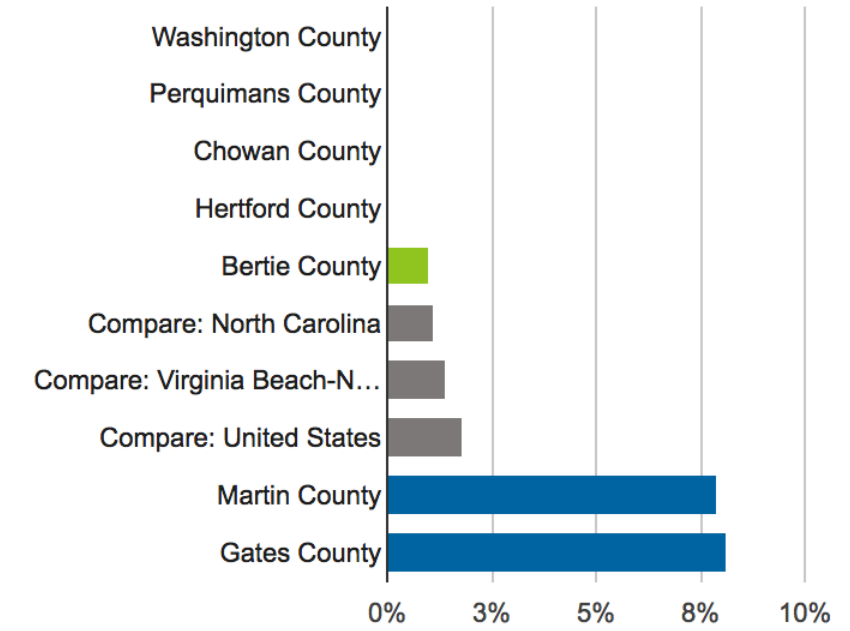
Of all births in Bertie County in the last 12 months, 63% were unmarried women which is the fourth in percent of unwed women who have given birth out of 10 total counties in the area (Figure 24). The county with the highest percent of unwed women who have given birth in the area is Hertford County with an unwed mother birth rate of 80%, which is 26.1% larger than Bertie County. In Bertie County 1.0% percent of unwed women who have given birth are on public assistance, which is the third most of all other counties in the area. The county with the highest percent of unwed women who have given birth and are on public assistance in the area is Gates County with 8.1% (Figure 25).

Figure 24. Unwed Mothers as Percent of All Births



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

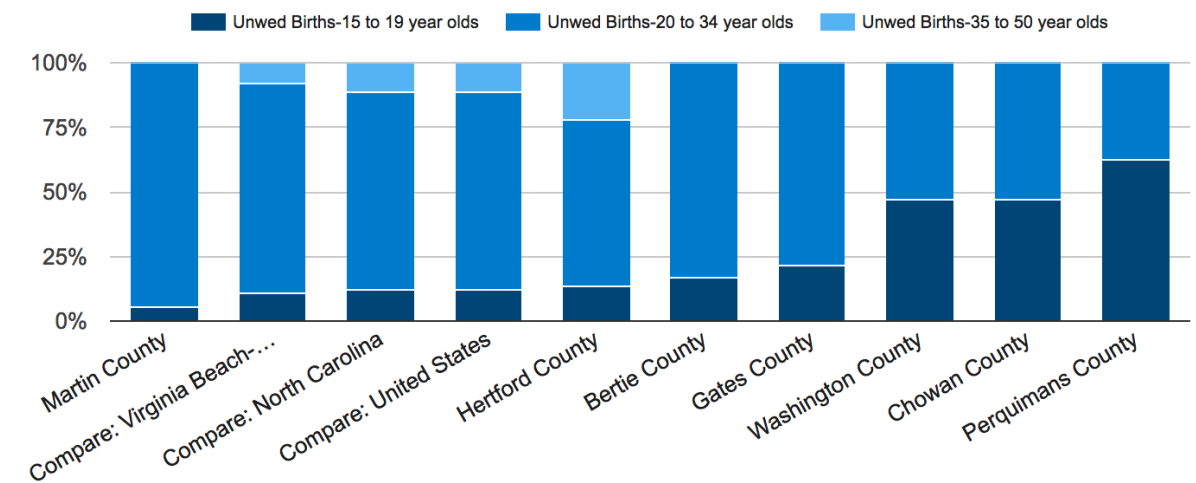
Figure 25. Unwed Mothers on Public Assistance



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Unwed mothers who have given birth in the last 12 months are broken down by age group (Figure 26). Ranked second, Bertie has one of the largest proportions of percent of unwed births to mothers aged 20 to 34 years old at 82.9% of the total. The only larger county being Martin County with 94.3%. Bertie County has Black unwed birth rate less than most other counties in the area at 89.8% of the total, ranked third last in the group.

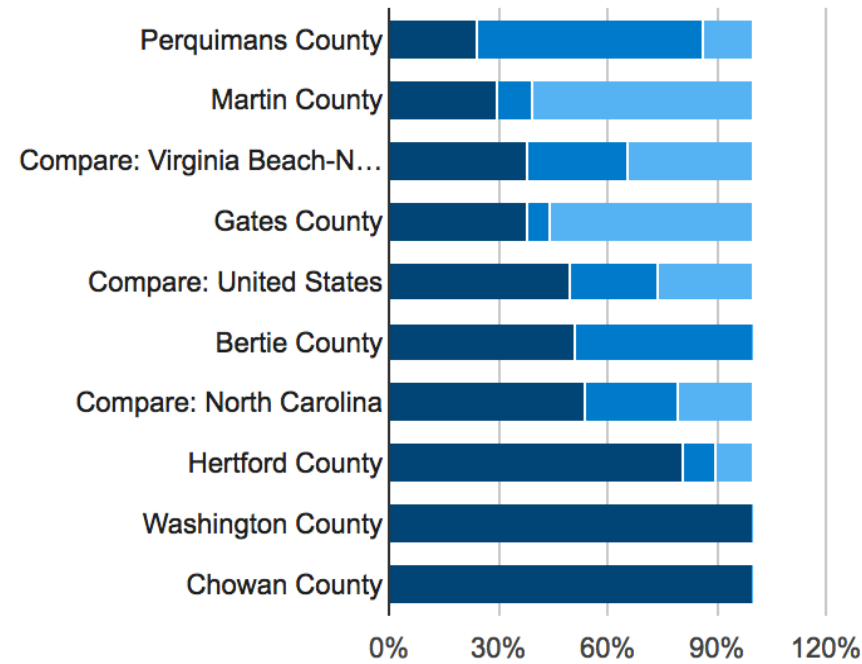
Figure 26. Unwed Mothers by Age Group



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

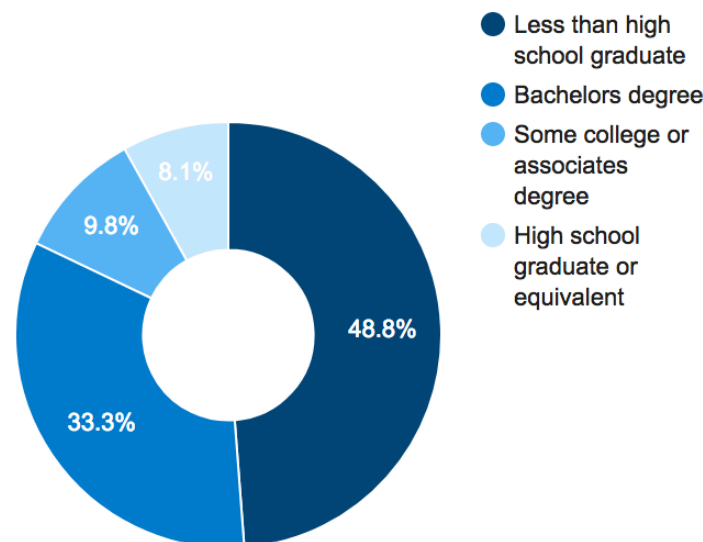
In terms of unwed mothers who have given birth in the last 12 months broken down by poverty level, Bertie County has one of the largest proportions of percent of unwed births to mother living between 100% and 199% of the poverty level at 48.8% of the total and is ranked second (Figure 27). The only larger county being Perquimans County with 62.4%. The largest proportion of percent of unwed mothers with less than high school education is 49% of the total and is ranked first. Second, it has the largest proportion of percent of unwed mothers with a bachelor's degree at 33% of the total and is ranked first (Figure 28).

Figure 27. Unwed Mothers by Poverty Level



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Figure 28. Unwed Births and Education Level

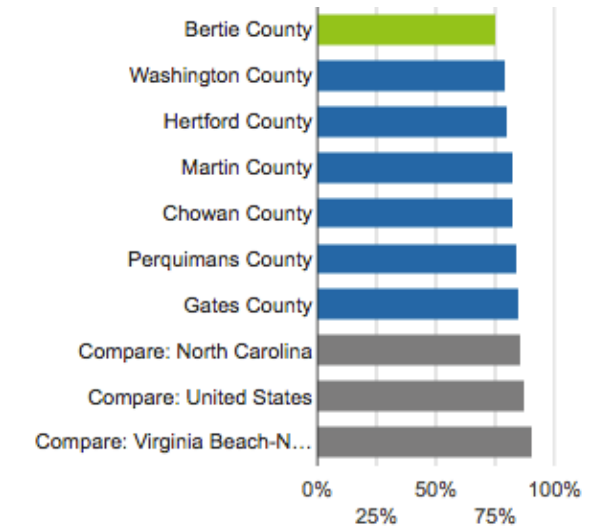


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Education

This section of charts contains Education data using the latest 2016 American Community Survey data. Figure 29 shows the number of people age 25 years or older who have graduated from high school or completed the GED or equivalent credential. Bertie County illustrates it has 75% percent high school graduates or better which is the 4th smallest percent high school graduates or better of all the other counties in the area. The county with the highest percent high school graduates or better in the area is Gates County with a high school graduates of 85% is 12.3% larger.

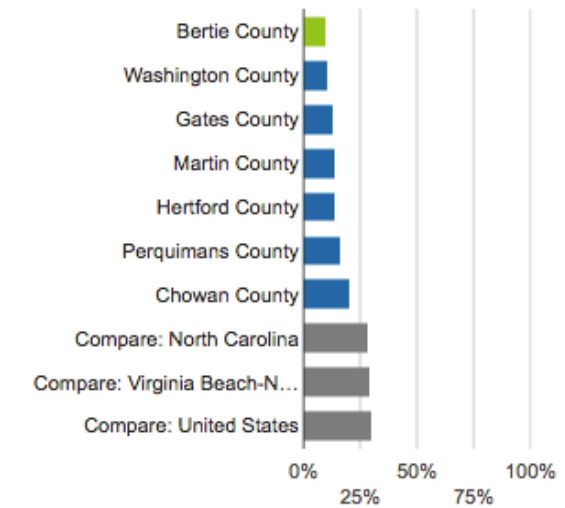
Figure 29. At Least a High School Education



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

The number of people aged 25 years or older who have graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree is shown in Figure 30. Bertie County shows it has 10% percent with a bachelor's degree or higher which is the 4th smallest percent with a bachelor's degree or higher of all the other counties in the area. The county with the highest percent with a bachelor's degree or higher in the area is Chowan County with a percent with a bachelor's degree of 20% measures about twice as large.

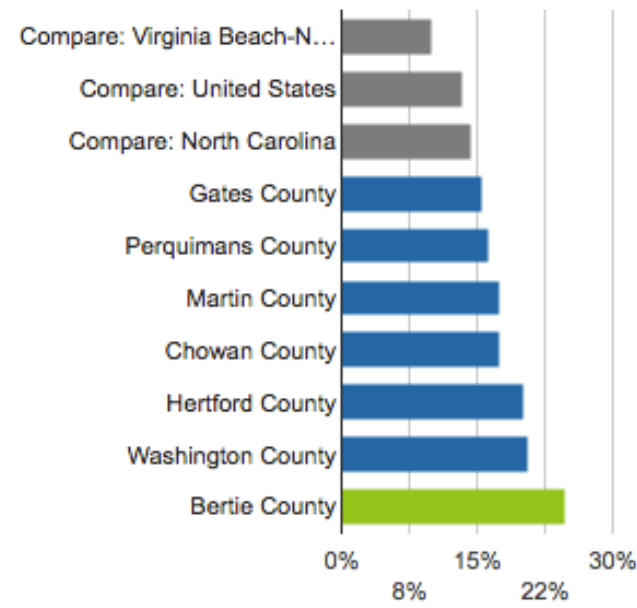
Figure 30. Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

In Bertie County 25% of the of people aged 25 years or older either have no schooling or dropped out of school before completing high school which is more than all other counties in the area (Figure 31).

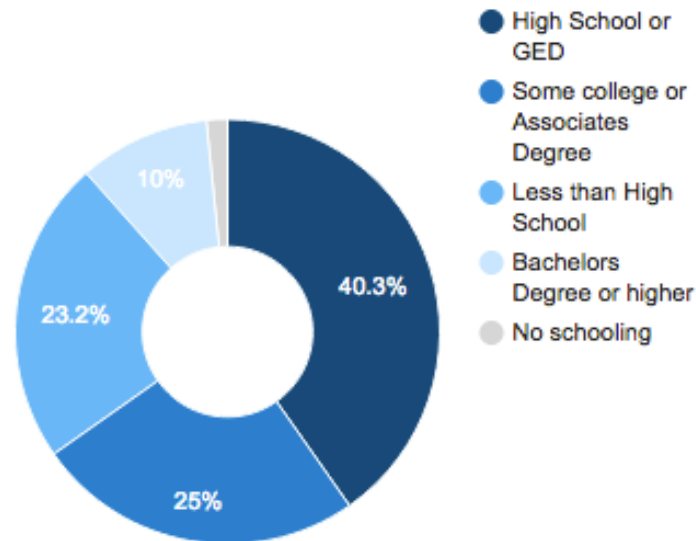
Figure 31. School Drop Out Rates



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

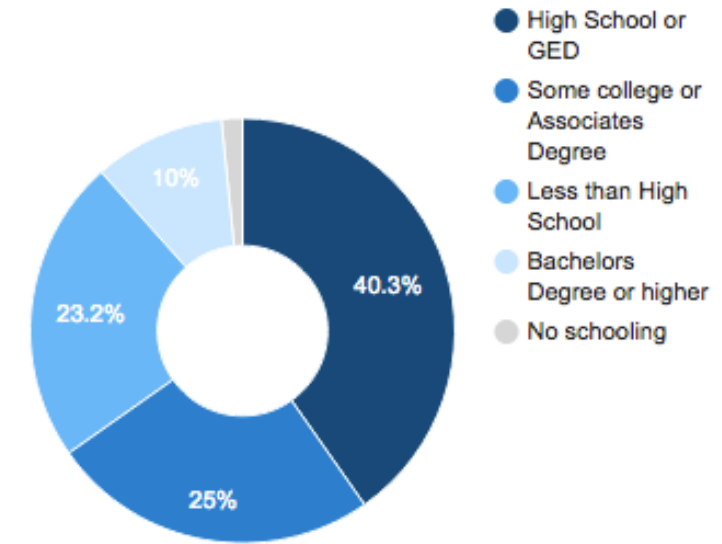
Bertie County has the largest proportion of percent of people with less than a high school education at 25% (Figure 32). However, in terms of higher education Bertie County is ranked second, with one of the largest proportions of percent of people with a Bachelor's degree at 44% (Figure 33). Perquimans County is the only larger county with 47%.

Figure 32. Education Attainment Breakdown



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Figure 33. Higher Education Attainment

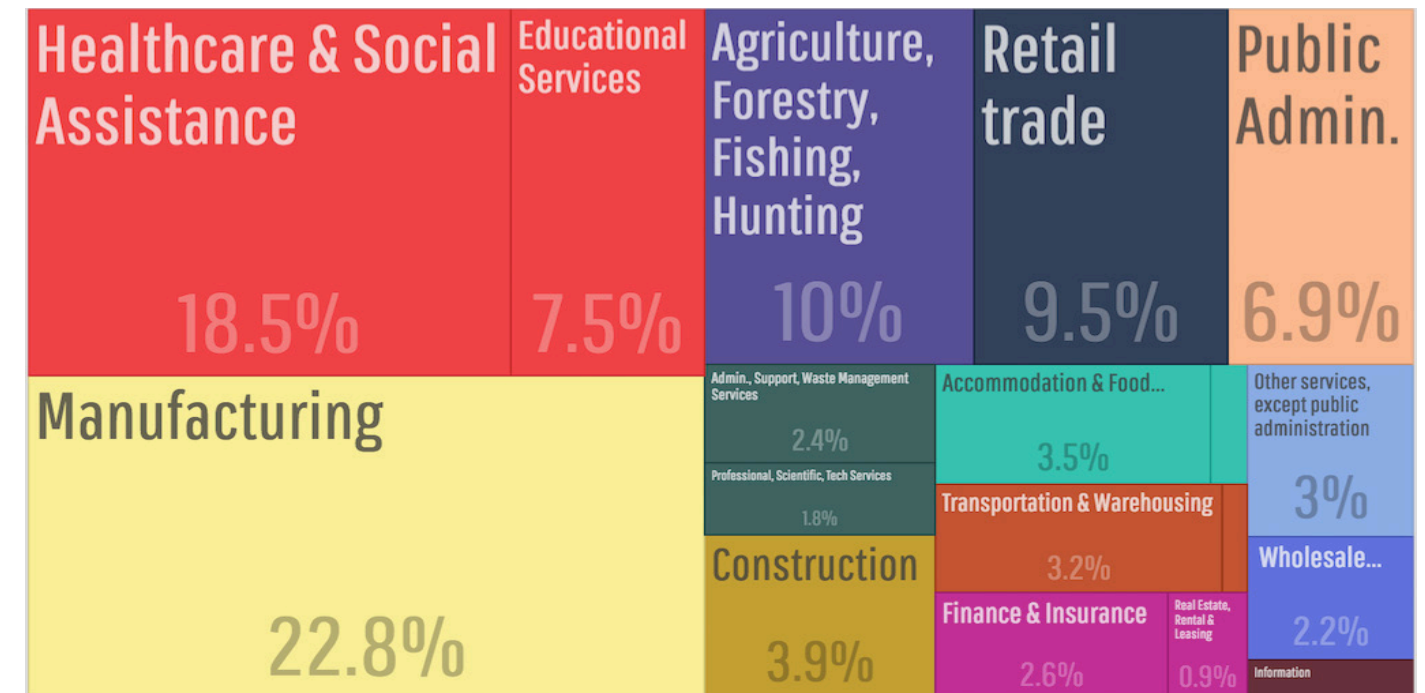


Source: 2016 American Community Survey

Employment

Employment in Bertie County, NC has been growing at a rate of 0.56%, from 7,118 employees in 2014 to 7,158 employees in 2015. The most common sectors, by number of people living in Bertie County, NC, are Educational Services and Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining. The following figure shows the share breakdown of the primary industries for residents of Bertie County (Figure 34).

Figure 34. Employment by Industry in Bertie County



Source: DataUSA/U.S. Census Bureau

Health

The 2016 unadjusted death rate for Bertie County is 1,213.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. This rate places Bertie County higher than the statewide 2016 death rate of 891.9 deaths per 100,000 persons by 322 deaths per 100,000 persons. When examining death rates in Bertie County from 2012-2016, diseases of the heart and cancer drastically lead the causes of death with a death rate of 252.9 and 250 deaths per 100,000 persons, respectfully. With the next leading cause of death being diabetes mellitus with a rate of 93.5 deaths per 100,000 persons. These two leading causes of death in Bertie County are also the leading causes of death statewide. The top 10 leading causes of death in Bertie County compared to the statewide leading causes of deaths and their respective death rates are provided (Table 7).

The leading causes of death in Bertie County include:

1. Diseases of the Heart
2. Cancer
3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. Cerebrovascular Disease
5. Alzheimer’s Disease
6. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
7. Hypertension
8. Unintentional Injuries
9. Motor Vehicle Injuries
10. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, & Nephrosis

Table 7. Leading Cause of Deaths in Bertie County, 2012-2016

Causes of Death	Bertie County		North Carolina	
	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
All causes	--	1206.5	--	1027.2
Heart disease	1	252.9	2	202.5
Cancer	2	250.0	1	218.7
Diabetes mellitus	3	93.5	8	29.9
Cerebrovascular disease	4	65.9	4	52.4
Alzheimer’s Disease	5	60.0	5	49.8
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	6	54.1	not a leading cause of death	
Hypertension	7	37.4	not a leading cause of death	
Unintentional Injuries	8	28.5	6	37.0
Motor vehicle injuries	9	26.6	not a leading cause of death	
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	10	24.6	7	35.0

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2017

Minorities had a higher leading cause of death in all categories, except cancer and respiratory diseases with diabetes displaying the highest disparity ratio (Table 8). The leading cause of death for minorities was heart diseases at 178.7 deaths per 100,000 persons, followed closely by cancer at 162.2 deaths per 100,000 persons. Although diabetes ranked the lowest cause of death for whites, diabetes was the third leading cause of death for minorities with 80.1 deaths per 100,000 persons. Cerebrovascular disease had the lowest disparity ratio with only 1.1 deaths per 100,000 persons difference between whites and minorities.

Table 8. Leading Cause of Deaths in Bertie County, 2012-2016

Causes	Whites	Minorities	Disparity Ratio
All causes	829.3	876.1	1.1
Cancer	188.0	162.2	0.9
Heart Disease	165.2	178.7	1.1
Cerebrovascular disease	45.7	44.6	1.0
Respiratory Diseases	50.3	26.7	0.5
Diabetes	36.4	80.1	2.2

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2017

Up to 2015, statewide infant mortality has been increasing after a decrease in infant mortality from 2012 to 2013. 2016 showed another decrease in infant mortality across the state. Bertie County shows similar fluctuations in mortality rates when compared to the state. Bertie County displayed a decrease from 2012 to 2013, and an increase to 2015 followed by a decrease in 2016. Similarities can also be observed between statewide infant deaths and Bertie County infant deaths when examining the disparity in numbers of white infant deaths and minority infant deaths. Statewide, minorities show a higher number of infant mortalities which is similar to the infant deaths in Bertie County (Table 9).

Table 9. Infant Mortality in Bertie County and North Carolina

Bertie County			
Year	White Infant Deaths	Minority Infant Deaths	Total Deaths
2016.....	1	2	3
2015.....	0	4	4
2014.....	0	2	2
2013.....	0	2	2
2012.....	0	3	3

North Carolina			
Year	White Infant Deaths	Minority Infant Deaths	Total Deaths
2016.....	335	538	873
2015.....	385	499	884
2014.....	345	515	860
2013.....	366	466	832
2012.....	369	514	883

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2017

The live birth rates for Bertie County show minor variation relative to the statewide birth rates (Table 10). Overall, Bertie County birth rates increased from 8.7 births per 1,000 women in 2012 to 9.4 births per 1,000 women in 2016. Although there is an overall rise in birth rates in Bertie County, the yearly birth rates are quite variable compared to the consistent range of statewide birth rates.

Table 10. Live Birth Rates in Bertie County and North Carolina

Year	Bertie County Live Births	NC Live Births
2016.....	9.4	12.0
2015.....	8.4	12.0
2014.....	8.2	12.2
2013.....	9.1	12.1
2012.....	8.7	12.3

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2017

Crime

The purpose of this section is to provide a view of crime statistics in Bertie County from 2012 to 2016. All statistics were collected from North Carolina’s State Bureau of Investigation’s Annual Reports and are representative of offense rates per 100,000 persons per county.

The crime level in Bertie County has had numerous shifts between 2012 and 2016. The index crime rate for 2012 was 1,995.0 per 100,000 persons. The index crime rate in 2016 was 1,919.7 per 100,00 persons. Although this does not equate to a large change in overall crime from 2012 to 2016, index crime rates for 2013 and 2014 were 2,457.6 and 2,438.4 per 100,000 persons, respectfully. This indicates a large increase in crime rates in 2013 and 2014 with a decrease again in 2015 and even further decrease in 2016. The largest group of crimes reported was within property with 1,719.7 crimes reported per 100,000 persons followed by burglary. Table 11 illustrates the rates in Bertie County crime rates per 100,000 persons between 2012 and 2016 for various crimes. Crime rates in Bertie County vary greatly between 2012 and 2016 with property crimes providing the least variability. When compared to 2016 statewide crime rates, Bertie County places lower in majority of crimes reported (Table 12).

Table 11. Crimes in Bertie County, 2012-2016

Year	Index Rate	Violent Rate	Property Rate	Murder Rate	Rape Rate	Robbery Rate	Assault Rate	Burglary Rate
2016	1,919.7	200.0	1,719.7	45.0	25	20.0	110.0	704.9
2015	2,285.3	129.4	2,155.8	-	14.9	19.9	94.6	985.8
2014	2,438.4	134.6	2,303.8	5.0	15.0	29.9	84.8	1,156.9
2013	2,457.6	178.0	2,279.6	-	-	14.8	163.2	904.9
2012	1,995.0	157.2	1,837.7	-	9.8	39.3	108.1	604.4

Source: North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, 2016

Table 12. Crime Rates in Bertie County 2012 – 2016

Bertie County Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	State
Murder	-	-	5.0	-	45.0	6.9
Rape	9.8	-	15.0	14.9	25.0	21.1
Robbery	39.3	14.8	29.9	19.9	20.0	95.9
Aggravated Assault	108.1	163.2	84.8	94.6	110.0	251.0
Violent Crime	157.2	178.0	134.8	129.4	200.0	374.9
Burglary	604.4	904.9	1,156.9	985.8	704.9	721.6
Larceny	1,179.3	1,280.7	1,072.1	1,075.4	919.9	1,904.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	54.1	94.0	74.8	94.6	95.0	153.3
Property Crime	1837.7	2,279.6	2,303.8	2,155.8	1,719.7	2,779.7

Per 100,000 Persons

Source: North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, 2016

Health and Crime Summary

In 2016, Bertie County, at 1213.9 deaths per 100,000 persons, displays a higher death rate when compared to the statewide death rate at 891.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. Converse to the statewide leading causes of death, heart disease is the leading cause of death in Bertie County followed by cancer. Deaths caused by diabetes is significantly higher in Bertie County with 93.5 deaths per 100,000 persons than statewide diabetes deaths at 29.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. This differences places diabetes as the third most leading cause of death in Bertie County; however, the eighth most leading cause of death in the state.

Infant mortality in Bertie County shows similar variation displayed statewide. After higher infant mortalities in 2012, a decrease in infant mortality is displayed in 2013 and 2014. This was followed by a small increase in infant mortality in 2015 and by a decrease in 2016 returning infant mortality to similar rates displayed during 2013 and 2014. Also, like statewide statistics, minority infant mortality rates are higher than white infant mortality rates in Bertie County. Live births in Bertie County are consistently lower than statewide live birth rates between 2012 and 2016.

The crime levels in Bertie County display significant variability between years from 2012 and 2016. Crime in 2016 show the highest levels of crime reported per 100,000 persons in Bertie County when examined per offense. Index crime rates have decreased in a broad aspect from 2012 and 2016; from 1,995.0 crimes reported per 100,000 persons in 2012 to 1,919.7 crimes reported per 100,000 persons in 2016. However, this overall decrease is also accompanied by drastic increases in index crime rates in 2013 and 2014, as well as an increase in murder rates from 2012 to 2016 which is significantly higher than statewide murder rates. Although there are some aspects of crime that display an increase over time per 100,000 persons, 9 out of 10 offenses examined in Bertie County display lower than statewide rates in 2016.

INVENTORY ANALYSIS

This section provides an inventory of all recreation programs, facilities, and parks in Bertie County. The plan took into account the recreation programs and parks provided by other public agencies, quasi-public organizations (schools), private non-profit organizations (e.g., 4-H clubs and Boy/Girl Scouts), and private/commercial organizations (e.g., country clubs, riding stables, wellness centers). However, the plan did not evaluate those opportunities because the public accessibility was limited.

Park departments are better able to determine issues that are important to the development of a park with an understanding of how each park functions within the community. These issues include the following:

- Reasons people come to a particular park.
- The activities they engage in.
- Frequency and duration of use.
- Types of design elements that support these activities.
- Management and maintenance procedures, policies and regulations.

A comprehensive recreation system comprises of a variety of park types ranging from regional parks to neighborhood parks. Park category guidelines have been developed by park agencies to aid in the identification of the role a park plays in the community. To establish appropriate categories for county parks, Bertie County Recreation Department used a combination of guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association, the North Carolina Department of Recreation’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Easley, Ross & Ledford, 2008) and various other publications of park planning guidelines.

The Department established the following six categories of parks:

1. Neighborhood Parks
2. Community Parks
3. Regional Parks
4. Special Purpose Parks
5. Natural Resource Areas
6. Greenbelts/Greenways/Trails

Listed below are definitions for each of the park categories. Following the definitions is a list classifying Bertie County's parks by their respective category. Recognizing that many parks meet needs consistent with multiple categories, the Department has selected the category that represents the primary function of each park.

- 1. Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks provide easily accessible, low intensity recreational areas for unscheduled use, visual relief from congestion, scenic value, and buffering between adjacent land uses. Primary users are within walking distance (½ plus/minus mile radius). Ease of non-motorized access is a primary consideration. Typically, a neighborhood park is about 6-8 acres in size and consists of a playground, picnic shelter or picnic area, basketball court, open space play/practice fields, and a perimeter exercise trail. In some cases, neighborhood parks may be smaller than 6-8 acres, but in order to be classified as a neighborhood park with recreational amenities, the recommended minimum size is 1-3 acres. Whenever possible, neighborhood parks should be located adjacent to elementary or intermediate schools to maximize cooperative use of recreation facilities. Since it is designed to service those within walking distance, features such as parking areas, scheduled athletic fields, or restroom facilities may not exist or be limited. Trail connections to contiguous park lands or greenways may exist where feasible. Examples include mini-parks serving residential areas, playgrounds, sports field complexes and combination playgrounds/sports fields/passive natural areas (Easley, Ross & Ledford, p. III-3, Table 3.2).
- 2. Community Parks:** Community parks provide a variety of individual and organized recreation activities conveniently located for short-term visits. Community parks may be located in residential neighborhoods and suburban areas. Community parks may also be located adjacent to elementary or intermediates schools to maximize cooperative use of recreation facilities. In mixed-use developments, proximity to retail/office areas is desirable for cooperative use of parking and minimal impact on residences. Access should be via secondary roads where possible. Parking is provided on site or on a shared location with an appropriate adjoining development. The service area for community parks generally extends up to 3 miles. The park size typically will be 15-100 acres, serving several neighborhoods. Facility development may include reservable picnic shelters, court facilities (tennis, basketball and/or volleyball), playground, swimming pools, spraygrounds, garden plots, fitness stations, athletic fields, amphitheater (average 50-150 capacity), trails, and adequate parking. Courts and athletic fields may be lighted or unlighted. On-site parking is required for community parks with pools, reservable shelters or athletic field development. Restroom facilities may exist on sites with reservable shelters, pools, and scheduled athletic fields. Area provides 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 and may include a swimming pool or be in conjunction with a school and the typical size is 10-20 acres. Examples include large park/school complexes; recreation center/pool/sports field and court complexes; and community center/park complexes (Easley, Ross & Ledford, p. III-3, Table 3.2).
- 3. Regional/State Parks:** Regional parks provide a diversity of recreational opportunities in both natural settings and intensely developed indoor or outdoor facilities that can accommodate large numbers of people without significant deterioration of the recreation experience. 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 (Easley, Ross & Ledford, p. III-3, Table 3.2). Proximity to major highways or arterial roads is highly desirable in order to accommodate relatively large volumes of traffic at peak times; access via public transit and trails/greenbelts also should be planned wherever feasible. Sensitive environmental areas and cultural resource sites may be managed as natural or cultural resource sub-units of these parks. Depending on the density of surrounding communities and normal traffic constraints, the service area generally extends up to 5 miles. Depending on site characteristics, regional parks may combine large complexes of intensely developed facilities with extensive natural areas. The extent of development will depend on topography, the extent of environmentally sensitive land, and the amount of developable acreage. Lighted facilities and extended hours of operation are the norm. Development may include, but is not limited to, informal picnic areas, reservable picnic pavilions for scheduled use, playgrounds, tot lots,

court facilities, lighted athletic fields, running track, restroom/concession buildings, garden plots, indoor or outdoor equestrian facilities, indoor recreation center, indoor or outdoor entertainment features, amphitheater (average 150-500 capacity), 9-18 hole golf course, miniature golf, golf driving range (lighted), visitor center and interpretive exhibits, walking trails and bridle paths, and parking. In some cases, overnight camping may be allowed.

- 4. Special Purpose Parks:** Special purpose parks include parks that provide the community with a unique purpose. Examples include parks or sub-units of parks that are designated as a natural, historical, or cultural resource or parks with a singular purpose - such as a park that only hosts a community recreation center. Some special purpose parks may be managed under joint public/private partnerships or public/quasi-public partnerships. These parks may be located as independent sites or as a sub-unit within other types of park lands. Depending on the specific location, a variety of access modes may be available - from walk-in to public transit. Parking should be provided for the majority of users. The service area is city-wide and the size will vary. Another unit of special purpose parks are parks that protect, preserve, and recognize significant historical or cultural features. These properties may meet the eligibility requirements for the National Register of Historic Places Criteria or a specific "public significance criteria" as designated by a local heritage/cultural resource organization. To the extent that they do not adversely impact the cultural resources themselves, portions of the sites may be developed with demonstration areas, interpretive structures and/visitor centers, trails, informal picnicking areas, restrooms and parking. Other facilities which could be developed as special purpose areas include golf courses; driving ranges; aquatic parks; equestrian facilities; horticulture centers and gardens; ice rinks; recreation centers; archery and shooting ranges; field houses or stadiums for major sporting events; and multiple, simultaneous tournament-level athletic complexes.
- 5. Natural Resource/Wilderness Areas:** Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. These natural areas can come in the form of natural drainage ways, creeks, wetlands, river greenway areas, habitat protection areas, steep hillsides, significant tree clusters or plant materials, or where the preservation of an open space area provides a visual relief from the images of the built and urbanized environment.

Since the emphasis is upon the protection of the resource, facility development should be limited to those that support the natural resource. Typically, these facilities include interpretive centers, restrooms, outdoor classrooms, trails, vehicular access, and parking lots. Active recreation facilities, such as organized playing fields, are discouraged. They should only be accommodated if the park is large enough and there is adequate separation between the activity area and the natural resource. At all times, the central philosophy is deference to the natural resource over human needs.
- 6. Greenbelts/Greenways/Trails:** Greenbelts preserve large contiguous natural areas for riparian habitat, water quality protection, and aesthetic values. Greenbelts also protect multiple-use greenways and natural open space in more urbanized areas of the city for recreation, aesthetic values, water quality protection, and non-motorized transportation routes between major destination points. Management plans should give total consideration to the resources and allow public use only as compatible with resource protection. Greenways are located in suburban and urban centers and built-out areas of the city. Access is primarily by "trailheads" with parking lots strategically located along greenbelt routes. There may also be lateral connecting trails that tie neighborhoods, parks, and other public/private areas to the greenbelt. The service area is city-wide. Development within the greenbelt may include interpretive facilities and structures (exhibits, signage, hiking, biking and equestrian trails) that do not adversely impact riparian habitat, water quality, or aesthetic values. Wherever possible, trails should be located near the periphery of the corridor. Multiple-use trails can support more intense trail development to facilitate higher levels of transportation and recreational use. In addition to trails - seating areas, small picnic and open play areas, landscaping and interpretive structures also may be developed - provided they also do not adversely impact ecological functions.

Park and Recreation Facilities

Identified below are the park and recreation facilities located in Bertie County including those not operated by the Bertie County Recreation Department (Table 13). The above classifications were used to compare the parks with state standards. A comprehensive recreation system comprises of a variety of park types ranging from regional parks to neighborhood parks and park category guidelines provided above can guide decision making regarding areas for growth in Bertie County (Appendix J. Recreation Asset Inventory Profiles and GIS Maps).

Table 13. Bertie County Parks and Recreation Inventory

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Bertie County Public Recreation		
Bertie County Arts Council	124 S. King St.	Windsor
Bertie County Recreation Department	101 School St.	Windsor
Bertie County Parks & Recreation Complex	1538 S. King St.	Windsor
Council on Aging Center	103 W. School St.	Windsor
Bertie County YMCA	1102 N. King St.	Windsor
Private/Semi-Private Facilities		
Scotch Hall Preserve	105 Scotch Hall Ct.	Merry Hill
Cashie Golf & Country Club	132 Country Club Rd.	Windsor
State/Federal Facilities		
Historic Hope Plantation	132 Hope House Rd.	Windsor
Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge	114 W. Water St.	Windsor
Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service	104 Dundee St.	Windsor
Educational Institutions		
Bertie County Board of Education		
Aulander Elementary School	2515 NC-305	Aulander
Colerain Elementary School	202 N. Academy St.	Colerain
West Bertie Elementary School	3734 Governors Rd.	Kelford
Askewville Preschool	121 Askewville Rd.	Windsor
Bertie Early College High School	819 Governors Rd.	Windsor
Bertie High School	716 US HWY 13 N	Windsor
Bertie Middle School	652 US HWY 13 N	Windsor
Windsor Elementary School	104 Cooper Hill Rd.	Windsor
Bertie STEM High School	716 US HWY 13 N	Windsor
Private/Charter Schools		
Lawrence Academy	148 Avoca Farm Rd.	Merry Hill
Bethel Assembly Christian Academy	105 Askewville Bryant St.	Windsor
Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy	118 -B County Farm Rd.	Windsor

MUNICIPALITIES/COMMUNITIES	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Town of Windsor		
Cashie River Boating Access Area	314 Sutton Dr.	Windsor
Cashie River Treehouse Village	402 Elm St.	Windsor
Cashie Wetland Walk and Canoe Trail	102 York St.	Windsor
Davis Ball Park	Roscoe St.	Windsor
Livermon Park & Mini Zoo	102 York St.	Windsor
Roanoke/Cashie River Center & Boardwalk	112 W. Water St.	Windsor
Riverside Park (Rotary Club Park)	508 S. King St.	Windsor
Williford Park	507 S. King St.	Windsor
Cashie River Campground	402 Elm St.	Windsor
Cashie River Disc Golf Course	Elm St.	Windsor
Windsor Tennis Courts	201 S. Queen St.	Windsor
Windsor Craftsman & Farmers Museum	203 E. Granville St.	Windsor
Windsor Super Farmers Market	314 Sutton Dr.	Windsor
Others		
Aulander Elem. School Joseph Acree Gym	2515 NC-305	Aulander
Aulander Community Bldg. Tennis Courts	118 Commerce St.	Aulander
Blue Jay Park - Indian Woods Community	1653 Indian Woods Rd.	Windsor
John A. Drew Field of Dreams Memorial Park	Rice Ave. and E. Elm St.	Aulander
Colerain Senior Center	106 W. Academy St.	Colerain
Kelford Community Park	Church St.	Kelford
Boating & Fishing Access Areas		
NC Wildlife Resource Commission Access		
Cashie River (formerly Elm Street)	400 Elm St.	Windsor
Sans Souci Ferry	Woodard Rd. & San Souci Rd.	Windsor
Lewiston-Woodville	838 Weeping Merry Rd.	Lewiston-Woodville
Municipality Access		
Cashie Wetland Walk & Canoe Trail	102 York St.	Windsor
Hoggards Mill Road Small Boat Launch Site	134 Hoggard Mill Rd.	Windsor
Queen Street Fishing Pier and Public Access	Queen St.	Windsor

Public Recreation Facilities and Programs

The Bertie County Arts Council, the Bertie County Recreation Department, the Bertie County Council on the Aging, and the Bertie County YMCA provide recreation services to residents throughout Bertie County and often coordinate efforts to maximize resources and to reach the greatest number of users (Table 14). Details about the various programs, facilities and services offered for each organization is provided.

Table 14. Public Parks and Recreation

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Bertie County Arts Council	124 S. King St.	Windsor
Bertie County Recreation Department	101 School St.	Windsor
Bertie County Parks & Recreation Complex	1538 S. King St.	Windsor
Council on Aging Center	103 W. School St.	Windsor
Bertie County YMCA	1102 N. King St.	Windsor

Source: Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2018.

Bertie County Arts Council & The Gallery: Created in 1987, the Bertie County Arts Council is committed to fostering the arts in Bertie County through promotion, funding, and education. The Gallery is a specialty shop operated by the Bertie County Arts Council which offers a selection of fine art and photography as well as an array of handmade items by 80 local and regional artists. Vibrant works in all mediums are displayed in the restored and beautifully decorated downtown arts building. Original artwork is always on exhibit with the works changing frequently as special art shows are held throughout the year.



Bertie County Recreation Department: The Bertie County Parks and Recreation Department was established in October of 2001 and was the first recreational department created for Bertie County. The Bertie County Parks and Recreation Department provides access to recreation facilities and programs for citizens of the county. Programs and activities are offered to seniors as well as youth. Programs for youth include tackle football, T-ball, coach-pitch baseball, baseball, softball, and soccer. During summer, additional activities and programs are offered. Senior programs are available for residents 55 and older and include exercise classes and access to facilities, field trips, and nutrition.



Bertie County Parks & Recreation Complex: The Bertie County Parks and Recreation Complex spans over 38 acres and consists of a baseball field, softball field, football field, soccer field, universally accessible playground area, ADA accessible restrooms/concession building, picnic shelters, maintenance building, and parking area.



Bertie County Council on Aging Center: The Bertie County Council on Aging serves all Bertie County Senior citizens, aged 60 or older, and their spouses. Bertie County is home to roughly 3,947 older adults. More than 31% of other county's seniors are at or below the poverty level. Bertie County is a rural county with a minority senior population of a 2,027 (51%). Through the Council's programs serve between 400-500 seniors and their family caregivers during a year. Programs include: congregate nutrition, home delivered meals, transportation, in home respite, wellness and exercise, and health services.



Bertie County YMCA: The Bertie County YMCA was founded in 1991. It is the nation's smallest YMCA, but for over two decades it has provided a recreational basketball league for residents in rural Eastern North Carolina. Although it is the smallest YMCA, it is noteworthy that there are less than thirty YMCA facilities in the entire state. The fact that Bertie County has one of the few YMCA facilities, and the only one in the southeast U.S. without any debt, speaks to the quality of leadership in this community. The YMCA is dedicated to helping people enrich their lives physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually, and to helping them grow as responsible members of the community in which they live. The YMCA Facility offers a variety of cardio machines, weight resistance machines, and free weight space and equipment. Exercise classes are offered in Aerobics, Pilates, Toning, and 4 levels of Yoga. It is the focus of the YMCA to provide safe, affordable health and fitness activities for adults and children. The YMCA is available to all individuals regardless of ability to pay a membership fee or program fee. The Bertie County YMCA is an independent corporation which operates under the guideline of the YMCA USA.



Private/Semi-Private Facilities

Presently, two private/semi-private recreation facilities are available in Bertie County; Cashie Golf and Country Club in Windsor, and Scotch Hall Preserve located in Merry Hill (Table 15). In January 2018, the privately owned and operated Davis Ballpark, located on York Street in downtown Windsor, was transferred to the Town of Windsor. To date, Davis Ballpark has been home to The Cashie Youth League. Details for the current private/semi-private facilities are provided.

Table 15. Private/Semi-Private Facilities

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Cashie Golf & Country Club	132 Country Club Rd.	Windsor
Scotch Hall Preserve	105 Scotch Hall Ct.	Merry Hill

Source: Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2018.

Cashie Golf & Country Club: A beautiful wooded golf course with 9 holes, carts, club house and swimming pool, somewhat open course has fairways that are tree lined. There are no water hazards or rough on the course. The average-sized greens are slightly sloped and have medium speed.



Scotch Hall Preserve: Scotch Hall Preserve is a coastal gated golf resort-style community located in Merry Hill featuring a world class Arnold Palmer Signature golf course, resort-style swim pavilion, marina, kayaking ponds, and fishing. The Salmon Creek Water Sports facility offers JetSki, boat, paddleboard, and canoe rentals. Scotch Hall has private docks with three miles of bulkheads, providing easy access to the Albemarle Sound.



State and Federal Recreation Sites

Bertie County is fortunate to be home to a number of state and federal recreation sites (Table 16). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge headquarters is located on the Cashie River in Windsor and the county Cooperative Extension Service office is located in Windsor. Descriptions of the four State and Federal Recreation Sites are provided.

Table 16. State and Federal Recreation Sites

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service	104 Dundee St.	Windsor
Historic Hope Plantation	132 Hope House Rd.	Windsor
NCWRC Bertie County Game Lands	3790 Acres Open to Public	Bertie County
Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge	114 W. Water St.	Windsor

Bertie County Center Cooperative Extension Service: The Bertie County Center of North Carolina’s Cooperative Extension Service partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of residents. Agriculture plays a key role in the lives of Bertie County citizens. Cooperative Extension Service 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the state. Hundreds of thousands of young people learn the skills to succeed through 4-H educational programs and camps. The Bertie County Center 4-H Summer Fun Program offers the youth a variety of programs focused on hands-on learning experiences.

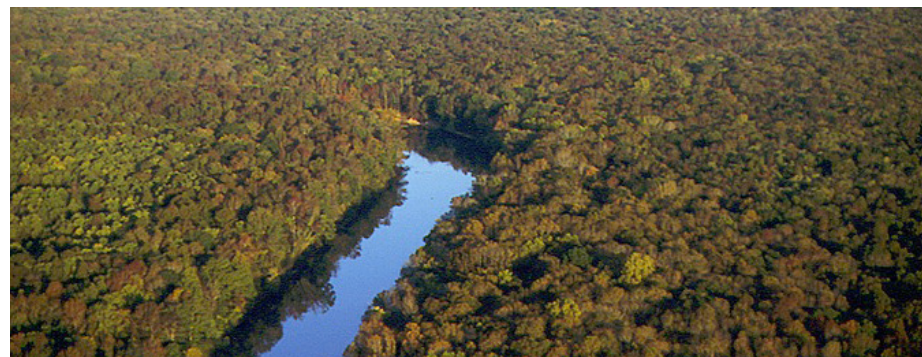
Historic Hope Plantation: Historic Hope Plantation, restored home of former North Carolina Governor David Stone (1770-1818) is located four miles west of Windsor, NC. The plantation complex offers unique insights into the late 18th- and 19th-century rural life in eastern North Carolina and the South. Both homes are on the National Register of Historic Places and are administered by the Historic Hope Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Hope Plantation and managed by a paid staff and board of directors. The site is open to the public and guided tours are offered daily. The centerpiece of the plantation is the c. 1803 Hope Mansion, Governor Stone’s stunning example of an academic architectural combination of Federal and Georgian architecture. Restored and opened to the public since 1972, the mansion is meticulously furnished with an extensive collection of original period pieces. The 1763 King-Bazemore House represents a fine example of vernacular architecture. It is one of the few remaining examples in North Carolina of mid-eighteenth century “hall and parlor” design. The home has been restored and furnished based on the 1778 inventory of owner, William King.



NCWRC Bertie County Game Lands: The NC Wildlife Resources Commission Bertie County Game Lands are a 6 day per week area and comprise 3,790 acres open to the public in Bertie County. Primary Species are: bear, deer, fox, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, warm water fishes, and waterfowl.



Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge: Bertie County is fortunate to be home to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge which is part of the largest, least disturbed bottomland hardwood systems remaining in the eastern United States. Established in 1989, the refuge is home to animals such as deer, otter, beaver, muskrat, and black bear, as well as more than 191 species of migrating birds. Informal trail systems are open to the public for hiking and bird watching, including the Charles Kuralt Trail which opened in spring 2000. Some of the trails and refuge are only accessible by boat. Hunting is by special permit only. Refuge is closed to public during permitted hunts for safety reasons. Special wildlife observation areas along US Hwy 13/17 are available seasonally. Special fishing regulations apply in selected tributaries within the refuge boundaries. Fishing is permitted in the Roanoke River proper. The Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge partners with the community to provide unique educational opportunities to the public.



Quasi-Public Recreation and Park Opportunities

The Bertie County Recreation Department partners with Bertie County Schools and the communities to offer access to school playgrounds, parks, and walking trails to residents of the county during non-school hours and weekends. The gymnasiums have heat and are well maintained for facility users. The joint use works well without a contract between the school and county. Available locations include:

- Aulander Elementary School - Aulander
- West Bertie Elementary School – Kelford
- Colerain Elementary School – Colerain
- Windsor Elementary School - Windsor

Colerain Elementary School – Colerain. The only public elementary school in Colerain. Located on 14.18 acres in northeast Bertie County, Colerain Elementary consists of a main schoolhouse with a playground containing swings and other play equipment behind the schoolhouse. Majority of the property is not developed as of the time of this plan.

Askewville Preschool – Windsor. Askewville Preschool is a public preschool located in Windsor. The property consists of a main schoolhouse with a detached gym accessed via covered walkway. Behind the main structure is a playground including swings, small paved sidewalks, and free play areas for students.

Bertie High School – Windsor. Located across from the original Bertie High School, this school, built in 2013, is home to the public high school in Bertie County. Although most of the recreation facilities utilized by a traditional high school have not been developed as of this plan, the 46-acre property does contain an auditorium and gymnasium accessible from within the school building.

Other Municipal/Community Recreation Sites

Below is a summary of the municipal and community recreation sites in Bertie County (Table 17). As shown, the majority of facilities/sites are located in Windsor with three sites in Aulander, one in Colerain, and one in Kelford. Additional information for each of the recreation sites in provided.

Table 17. Municipal/Community Recreation Sites

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Town of Windsor		
Cashie River Campground/Treehouse Village	402 Elm St.	Windsor
Cashie Wetland Walk and Canoe Trail	102 York St.	Windsor
Davis Ball Park	Roscoe St.	Windsor
Livermon Park & Mini Zoo	102 York St.	Windsor
Roanoke/Cashie River Center & Boardwalk	112 W. Water St.	Windsor
Riverside Park (Rotary Club Park)	508 S. King St.	Windsor
Williford Park	507 S. King St.	Windsor
Cashie River Campground	402 Elm St.	Windsor
Cashie River Disc Golf Course	Elm St.	Windsor
Windsor Tennis Courts	201 S. Queen St.	Windsor
Windsor Craftsman & Farmers Museum	203 E. Granville St.	Windsor
Windsor Super Farmer's Market	314 Sutton Dr.	Windsor

Others		
Aulander Elem. School Joseph Acree Gym	2515 NC-305	Aulander
Aulander Community Bldg. Tennis Courts	118 Commerce St.	Aulander
Blue Jay Park - Indian Woods Community	1653 Indian Woods Rd.	Windsor
John A. Drew Field of Dreams Memorial Park	Rice Ave. and E. Elm St.	Aulander
Colerain Senior Center	106 W. Academy St.	Colerain
Kelford Community Park	Church St.	Kelford

WINDSOR

Blue Jay Recreation Park - Indian Woods Community: The Blue Jay Recreation Park was established in the 1960s by local residents and volunteer leaders in the Indian Woods community of Bertie County. A non-profit organization, the Blue Jay Recreation Committee, oversees operations and development of the park which is located in unincorporated area nineteen miles outside Windsor’s city limits. The park consists of two open play fields, a fenced backstop and sheltered stands, two paved courts, and two playgrounds. Improvements completed in May 2018 include: a walking trail (paved 2,028 feet) with lighting; new parking lot and fencing; and an indoor recreation facility with a covered picnic shelter.



Cashie River Campground & Treehouse Village: The Town of Windsor owns and operates the Cashie River Campground and Treehouse Village, located adjacent to the NCWRC Cashie River Boating Access Area (BAA) at the end of Elm Street. Phase I construction of the treehouses was featured on The DIY Network’s show *The Treehouse Guys*. Phase II construction, offering an additional 250 linear feet of riverfront walkway and two more treehouses, was completed late Fall 2018.



The Campground offers fifteen camp sites with electricity, water, and sewer hookups. The campground caters mostly to recreational vehicle campers, but offers spots for tent campers as well. A newly constructed comfort station offers ADAAG compatible bathrooms and showers as well as washer and dryer amenities. A pavilion complete with ADAAG compatible picnic tables, grills, and receptacles supplements the Campground’s amenities.

Cashie River Disc Golf Course: Windsor’s newest park is a disc golf course located between Elm and Maple Street; adjacent the Cashie River Campground & Treehouse Village. The site offers 9 holes of disc golf spanning across a beautiful stretch of land with a combination of wooded and open terrains. All amenities are offered free to the public.



Cashie Wetlands Walk and Canoe Trail: The Cashie Wetlands Walk offers visitors a trip into in a natural wetlands environment with cypress trees and other swampland flora. The Wetlands Walk entrance is located on York Street adjacent to Livermon Park and Mini Zoo. The Cashie Wetlands Walk has a 1,800 foot ADAAG compatible walkway to the Cashie River and features a fishing pier at its end. The trees and shrubs in the Walk are labeled for identification. An observation deck allows views of several different species of endangered waterfowl as well as other swampland animals in their natural habitats. A historic One Room School House is on site for interpretation.



Davis Ball Park: Located on York Street in downtown Windsor, ownership of this previously private ball park was transferred to the Town of Windsor in early 2018 and will continue to be home to the Cashie Youth League.



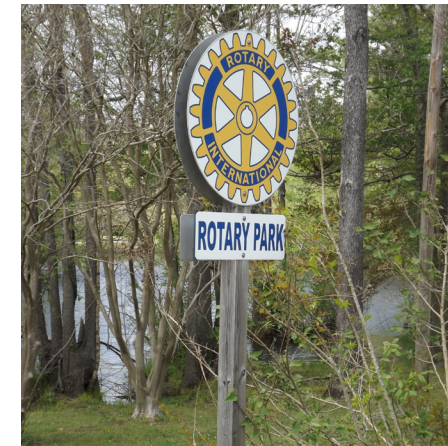
Livermon Park & Mini Zoo: Livermon Park and Mini Zoo spans approximately ten acres and is connected to the Cashie Wetland Walk and Canoe Trail. The facility is owned and operated by the town of Windsor and is free to visitors. The Mini Zoo includes buffaloes, llamas, peacocks, alpacas, long horn sheep, ostriches, emus and other animals available for viewing. The recreation area offers picnic shelters, a restroom, basketball court, and children's playground area.



Roanoke/Cashie River Center & Boardwalk: Opened in 2000, the Roanoke Cashie River Center has a primary exhibits building, exhibit outbuildings on the grounds, and a boardwalk/boat ramp along the river available to the public at no charge. Serving as an outdoor classroom, it is available for educational opportunities or events. Both cultural and recreational opportunities are available to visitors of this site. The facility hosts social functions, weddings, and other events and can accommodate 50 people for seated indoor events and over 3,000 people for indoor/outdoor receptions. The site spans approximately 7.5 acres and includes water access to the Cashie River for both motorized and non-motorized recreational users.



Riverside Park (Rotary Club Park): This one-acre park is primarily a passive open space area available to the public. It is a very popular destination for shad anglers. The park is only accessible via King Street and currently no parking spaces are available. The park will continue to be a recreational opportunity, primarily for residents to access by foot or bicycle. The property was the site of the original wooden bridge that crossed the Cashie River to bring commerce and visitors to the town.



Williford Park: Williford Park is located on the Cashie River across the street from Riverside Park (formerly Rotary Club Park), on what was formally the location of a gas station. It too is a very popular destination in the Spring for shad anglers. The Park offers a boat launch, fresh water, benches, bike rack, and gazebo. All amenities are offered free to the public.



Windsor Tennis Courts: The Sutton Drive Tennis Courts are located on the corner of Nichols Street and Sutton Drive, behind the Windsor Community Building. The courts were rebuilt in 2008 and were resurfaced in July 2013. The site is regularly utilized by Lawrence Academy Tennis Team and The Windsor Tennis Moms.



Windsor Craftsman & Farmers' Museum: Open Thursday through Saturday from 10am to 3pm, the Windsor Craftsman & Farmers' Museum is located in historic Downtown Windsor and features a wide variety of antique tools and farming implements on display. Museum Curator, Mr. Harvey Jackson, is eager to educate guests on the way things were made "way back then." The museum's founder, Mr. Harry Thompson, was Windsor's favorite historian and story-teller.

Windsor Super Farmer's Market: Open seasonally, the Windsor Super Farmer's Market is the only farmer's market pavilion in Bertie County designed and built by high school students. The market was featured in Architectural Record and on NPR's The Story with Dick Gordon, and according to Project H it has helped create two new businesses and fifteen new jobs since opening in October 2011.

OTHER MUNICIPALITIES/COMMUNITIES

Aulander Elementary School Joseph Acree Gym. The YMCA contracts with Bertie County Schools to utilize school facilities to accommodate the basketball program. Children from all parts of Bertie County who cannot travel to Windsor for practice and games use the Joseph Acree Gym.

Aulander Community Building: The Bertie County Council on the Aging offers variety of classes and programs to seniors at the Aulander Community Building. Currently seniors are offered a Congregate Nutrition program which provides a catered meal that assures 1/3 of the daily recommended dietary allowances. Meals are offered Monday through Friday and the site is open from 9am to 1pm to. A nutrition site manager is present to coordinate activities and distribute meals. Recreation, educational programs and social time are available for patrons.



John A. Drew Field of Dreams Memorial Park: The John A. Drew Field of Dream Memorial Park is operated and maintained by the Aulander Community with the support of the Aulander Ruritan Club, a nonprofit community service organization. The Aulander Youth League offers Coach Pitch (boys and girls aged 5-8) and baseball for boys aged 9-13, and softball for girls aged 9-13.



Colerain Senior Center: The purpose of the Senior Center is to be a focal point where Seniors can come for services and activities which enhance their dignity, support their independence and encourage involvement in and with the community. The Senior Center also serves as a source of information on aging services and activities, and provides opportunities for volunteerism for Seniors and others alike. The Bertie County Council on the Aging offers variety of classes and programs to seniors at the Colerain Senior Center. Senior citizens are currently offered health, wellness, and exercise classes. Colerain holds classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Several arts and crafts classes are held in the fall, winter and spring. In addition, a Congregate Nutrition program is offered Monday through Friday. This program provides a catered meal that assures 1/3 of the daily recommended dietary allowances. The site is open from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm and recreation, educational programs and "time to chat" are available for the patrons to enjoy. A nutrition site manager is present to coordinate activities and distribute meals.



Kelford Community Park: In partnership with the Bertie County Recreation Department, the Kelford Community Park offers a playground and walking trails for community use during non-school hours and weekends from sunrise to sunset, and after-school hours from 4:00 pm till sunset.



Fishing and Boating Access

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission provides free Boating Access Areas (BAA) to over 100 different bodies of water in North Carolina. With more than 300,000 registered vessels in North Carolina, boating is one of the state's most popular activities year-round.

To date, Bertie County has five publicly accessible boating access points throughout the county. These boat launches range from town to state owned and maintained points. Public access locations allow for motorized boat launch of all sizes and some have additional facilities for picnicking, camping and bath houses. Other boat ramps are primitive and the grounds lack public restroom facilities or other amenities. The geographic spread throughout the county allow boaters to access various waterways for recreational activity of all types. Each boat ramp has unique and identifying features, such as accessibility, picnic areas, parking, restroom, camping and fishing options (Table 18). Descriptions of the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and Municipal Access areas are provided.

Table 18. Boating and Fishing Access

FACILITY	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
NC Wildlife Resource Commission Access		
Cashie River (formerly Elm Street)	400 Elm St.	Windsor
Sans Souci Ferry	Woodard Rd. & San Souci Rd.	Windsor
Lewiston-Woodville	838 Weeping Merry Rd.	Lewiston-Woodville
Municipality Access		
Cashie Wetland Walk & Canoe Trail	102 York St.	Windsor
Hoggards Mill Road Small Boat Launch Site	134 Hoggard Mill Rd.	Windsor
Queen Street Fishing Pier and Public Access	Queen St.	Windsor

Source: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

NC WILDLIFE RESOURCE COMMISSION ACCESS

Cashie River (formerly Elm Street) Campground Boat and Kayak Launch: Located adjacent to Windsor’s Cashie River Campground and Treehouse Village is the NCWRC Cashie River Boating Access Area. There is a comfort station that includes ADAAG compatible bathrooms and showers as well as washer and dryer.



Sans Souci Ferry: Located 13 miles downstream from Windsor, Sans Souci Ferry is one of the last two-car inland ferries in the state, guided by a cable stretched across the Cashie River. The free scenic crossing gives visitors a sense of nature at its best and saves about 20 miles for locals who want to travel across the Cashie River.



Lewiston-Woodville: From the junction of NC 11/42 and NC 308 in Lewiston-Woodville, travel on NC 11/42 (Lewiston Rd.) south 1.8 miles, turn right on Weeping Mary Rd. (SR 1128). Travel four miles to the entrance on the right. This Universal access includes: paved walkway, dock rails, fishing pier, 19 - paved boat trailer spaces and 7 - paved single-vehicle spaces.



MUNICIPAL BOATING ACCESS

Cashie River Canoe/Kayak Launch at Roanoke Cashie River Center: Located on the grounds of the Roanoke Cashie River Center, this ADAAG compatible small boat launch transfer station offers non-motorized boat access to the Cashie River. Access is available to the public at no charge.



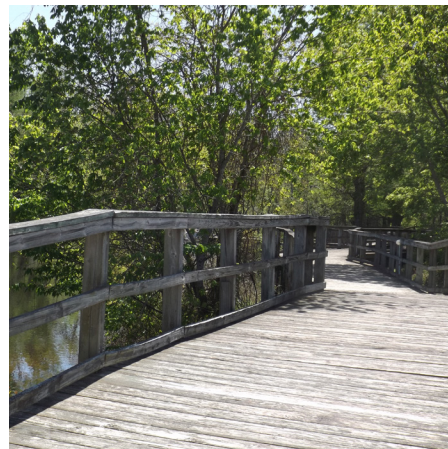
Cashie Wetland Walk & Canoe Trail: The Cashie Wetlands Walk has an 1,800 foot handicapped accessible walkway to the Cashie River and features a fishing pier at its end.



Hoggard's Mill Road Small Boat Launch Transfer Station: Completed in December 2014, this site offers vehicular parking, an ADAAG compatible fishing pier, and an ADAAG compatible small boat launch transfer station for access to the Cashie River. It represents the upper most navigable portion of the Cashie River and serves as the starting point for the 5 mile blueway trail that takes one through downtown Windsor, past the Roanoke Cashie River Center and on to the Cashie River Campground and Treehouse Village...a perfect day's paddle excursion!



Queen Street Fishing Pier and Public Access: In 2015, the Town of Windsor partnered with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to construct a new Cashie River public access and fishing pier. The ADAAG compatible access offers passive recreational fishing opportunities via a 10-foot-wide by 90-foot-long fishing pier. ADAAG compatible parking and access complete this site's amenities.



Comparisons of Park Management

Area Standards

All public recreation facilities in the planning area were classified using the 2009-2013 North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan (NC DENR, 2008). Comparisons were then made between Bertie County and: (1) state standards and (2) six other similarly situated counties located throughout North Carolina; the 2016 population (37,573) was used for comparison (US Census Bureau, 2012). It should be noted that although Bertie County provides a variety of recreation opportunities outside of county-managed facilities, to best compare Bertie County with similarly situated county data and state standards, only county managed facilities are being compared.

FACILITY COMPARISONS

A comparison of Bertie County managed recreation facilities to NCDENR (2008) state standards is provided (Table 19). Bertie County displayed current deficiencies in baseball fields, soccer fields, softball fields, swimming pools, and tennis courts. Community Centers, defined to encompass senior centers, meet the minimum state recommendation. Again, facilities within this comparison are strictly limited to Bertie County supported recreation facilities.

Table 19. Comparison of Bertie County Facilities with State Standards (NCDENR, 2008)

FACILITIES	GOAL (PER POPULATION)	CURRENT FACILITIES	OVERAGES & DEFICIENCIES
Baseball Fields	1 Field / 8,000	4	-1
Community Centers	1 Center / 14,000	3	0
Soccer Fields	1 Field / 6,000	2	-5
Softball Fields	1 Field / 4,000	6	-3
Swimming Pools	1 Pool / 14,000	0	-3
Tennis Courts	1 Court / 1,200	5	-26

Comparisons of Bertie County Facilities with Other Counties

Six counties in North Carolina were identified as comparable to Bertie County in demographic structure, population, and geographic location. These counties include Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Martin, Perquimans, and Washington County. To further understand the comprehensive nature of Bertie County parks and recreation, current Bertie County facilities were compared with public facilities within these similarly situated counties. A comparison of Bertie County facilities to the six similarly situated counties by category as specified by the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP, 2015) is provided (Table 20).

Table 20. Comparison of Bertie County Facilities with Similar Counties

COUNTY	ATHLETIC FIELD		PICNIC SHELTER		PLAYGROUND	
	#	Citizens Per	#	Citizens Per	#	Citizens Per
Bertie	12	1,728	2	10,367	2	10,367
Chowan	13	1,148	2	7,460	6	2,487
Gates	10	1,143	1	11,430	1	11,430
Hertford	9	2,716	7	3,492	8	3,056
Martin	15	1,574	3	7,869	7	3,372
Perquimans	12	1,181	4	3,544	6	2,363
Washington	6	2,132	N/A	N/A	1	12,792

COUNTY	ATHLETIC COURT		TRAIL MILE		LOCAL PARK ACRE	
	#	Citizens Per	#	Citizens Per	#	Citizens Per
Bertie	4	5,184	N/A	N/A	27	768
Chowan	24	622	20	746	50	298
Gates	9	1,270	26	434	10	1,163
Hertford	7	3,492	2	11,640	230	106
Martin	14	1,686	2.5	9,443	96	245
Perquimans	8	1,772	2	7,088	26	545
Washington	2	6,396	19.1	668	33	388

Source: SCORP, 2015.

Through the comparison of Bertie County with the six similar counties, Bertie County is relatively lower in rank on these six categories (SCORP, 2015). Bertie County displayed the second highest citizen per picnic shelter and athletic court behind Gates and Washington respectively. Bertie County displayed the third highest citizen per athletic field, and playground behind Hertford and Washington, and Washington and Gates, respectively. It should be noted that there has been recent development in multiple aspects of these categories since the inventory taken in 2015.

Comparison Summary

When compared to state minimum recommendations for facilities, Bertie County meets the recommendation for community centers, but does not provide enough tennis courts, soccer fields, softball fields, swimming pools, nor baseball fields for the population. Furthermore, when compared to other counties with similar geographic localities and relatively similar demographic structure, Bertie County is ranked at least third for citizens per facility in four out of the six categories measured in SCORP (2015). A higher rank in these categories indicates less availability of facility per citizen. Again, it should be noted that facility data analyzed is strictly focused on Bertie County managed facilities, and county comparisons relied heavily on data collected for SCORP (2015). In addition, Bertie County, to improve recreation quality, has made improvements since the SCORP inventory.

DIVERSITY OF PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Accessibility

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In his speech, he said, "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down." One of the most important civil rights law to be enacted since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. In the broadest sense, ADA requires that state and local governments be accessible to people with disabilities.

Accessibility for individuals with disabilities was determined using 2005 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) criteria (Adaptive Environments Center Inc., 1995). For Bertie County, the ADA criteria were adapted to address the move towards universal accessibility.

Recreation facilities/sites where the Bertie County Recreation Department offers programs were assessed using the Accessibility Assessment (Table 21). The checklist consisted of 40 items. Each criterion was graded and given either a **yes** (1 point) or **no** (0 points), and if accessibility criteria did not apply the item noted as not applicable (noted with a *). Score categories were as follows: a score of 21-40 was considered "accessible with limitations"; 21-40 was "partially accessible" and a score of 0-6 was considered poorly accessible.

Table 21. Items Assess for Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

CATEGORY	ITEM
Parking	Are parking spaces available for individuals with disabilities?
	Are parking spaces near the building entrance?
	Are parking spaces easily accessible from the parking lot to the entrance by a level or ramped path at least 4 feet wide and free of obstruction?
Route	Is the surface of the route firm, stable, and slip-resistant, under all weather conditions?
	Are walks leading to the facility level or nearly so?
	Are the curb cuts at crosswalks?
	Is there a minimum 80" of unobstructed vertical passage space?
Entrance	Is at least one primary entrance usable to individuals who use wheelchairs?
	Do all doorways have a clear opening of at least 32 inches?
	Are doors operated by a single effort?
	Is the door light enough for a person with a disability to open it?
	Are sharp inclines or abrupt changes in level avoided at thresholds?
Ramps	Are ramps provided where there are stairs?
	Do ramps conform to standard of no more than 1:12 slope?
	Do ramps have non-slip surfaces with a 32-inch handrail on at least one side?
	Are ramps a minimum of 60" in width?
Elevators	Are guest elevators accessible and usable by people with physical disabilities?
	Are all elevator controls 48 inches or less from the floor?
	Are tactile identifications located beside elevator opening buttons?
Bathrooms	Do all bathrooms doors provide a minimum of 32 inches of clear opening?
	Is the bathroom floor the same level as the floor outside the bathroom?
	Does the bathroom contain a floor clearance area at 5 feet by 5 feet to permit a person in a wheelchair sufficient turning space?
	Is there at least one bathroom stall usable by a person who uses a wheelchair?
	Are sinks, mirrors, and dispensers usable by people in wheelchairs?
	Are there handrails in the toilet and shower area?
	Is there sufficient turning space and maneuvering in the bath for a wheelchair?
	Are hanging rods for clothing located within 48 inches of the floor?
	Are changing benches available?
Telephones	Are there conveniently located public phones 48 inches or less from the floor?
	Do public telephones have volume control devices?
	Are TTY's (text telephone) available?

Miscellaneous	Are water fountains available and do they have a clearance of 28 inches?
	Are tables convertible to wheelchair use with floor clearance of 28 inches?
	Is the meeting space accessible and usable by persons with disabilities?
	Are all common areas accessible to all people?
	Is help available for those who might need assistance?
	What is the general attitude of personnel towards persons with disabilities?
Pedestrians with visual impairments	Are other UA specific amenities available, (ex. fire rings, grills, picnic tables)
	Are any UA directional or informational signage on-site
	Are any raised tactile surfaces used as detectable warnings on-site in appropriate places, (ex. slope changes for ADAAG accessible ramps)

Sources: Adaptive Environments Center Inc. (1995); NC State University School of Universal Design (1997). Score each item with 0=no, 1=yes, or *= not applicable. Score categories: 21-40=accessible with limitations; 21-40=partially accessible; and 0-6=poorly accessible.

A summary of the results for the individual items of each of the facilities/sites where the Bertie County Recreation Department offers programs is provided with a score for each site/facility (Appendix K. Bertie County Park & Recreation ADA Accessibility Assessment Score Summary, 2018).

Summary

Using the ADA Accessibility Checklist, it was determined that a majority of the Bertie County Recreation Department facilities were accessible with limitations. The Bertie County Parks & Recreation Complex, with a universally accessible playground and ADA accessible restrooms is an excellent example for future recreation development. Although the facility is small in size, the Bertie County YMCA is at the higher end of accessibility.

Two areas of real concern are the offices for the Bertie County Recreation Department which share space with the Council on the Aging Center. As the “face” of the Bertie County Recreation Department, it is essential that the department sets the standard for accessibility. Considering the population being served by the Council on Aging Center, accessibility is key to meeting the needs of the individuals utilizing the programs and services. The Bertie County Recreation Department and the Council on the Aging Center were assessed as only partially accessible and closer to the limited accessibility range. In moving forward, emphasis on these two facilities should be placed to emphasize the importance of recreation in improving the quality of life for all residents of Bertie County.

Limited resources make it necessary for the Bertie County Recreation Department to collaborate with a variety of recreation service providers. Bertie County Schools is an important partner to ensure recreation access thorough Bertie County. Improving accessibility at schools is an important step in providing recreation access to the community. Thus, comments related to the assessment conducted at schools in Bertie County are provided (Table 22).

Table 22. Site Specific Accessibility Comments

SITE	COMMENT
Askewville Preschool	No handicap parking spaces nor handicap appropriate surfacing on parking lot. No crosswalks for any pedestrians. Stairs but no ramp to the stage within the common area. No automatic or assisted doors.
Aulander Elementary	Although the front ramp does provide a means to access the main entrance, it does not provide adequate space, slope, or guarding to allow safe access to building. Furthermore, moveable objects obstruct direct access to ramp. Parking lot has one designated handicap parking space, however, no room exists for vehicles with ramps. No crosswalks are available for any pedestrians including handicap designated areas. No automatic or assisted doors.
Colerain Elementary	Thresholds on some passages obstruct disabled access. Handicap spots are available; however, there are some minor obstructions and uneven ground from handicap lot to main entrance. Crosswalks for any pedestrians do not exist, including handicap areas. No automatic or assisted doors.
West Bertie Elementary	Some walkways, aside from the main entrance approach, are uneven and obstructed. Handicap parking spots do not allow room for vehicles with ramps. No automatic or assisted doors.
Windsor Elementary	Thresholds on doorways obstruct disabled access. No automatic or assisted doors. Bathroom railings are broken and not accessible. No crosswalks from the parking lot to the main entrance for any pedestrian, including from the handicap parking spots.
Bertie Middle School	Crosswalks are present, and handicap parking is accessible and spacious; however, the existing crosswalks do not lead to the main entrance of the building.
Bertie Early College	Thresholds on doors are obstructing disabled accessibility, especially when accessing the gym.
Bertie High & STEM	Building is well accessible beyond the front doors. The building is equipped with automatic doors in three locations, but for security purposes, these handicap buttons have been disabled.
Lawrence Academy	Some outdoor common areas are located on concrete pads that do not have walkways nor ramps to access these lifted areas. Furthermore, aspects of the campus are not accessible due to the lack of appropriate ramps where steps exist. There is one ramp on the campus; however, it does not have appropriate railings nor slip resistant material.

All recreation facilities and sites should consider general suggestions to improve access:

- Fully paved parking lots;
- Large and appropriately marked handicap parking spaces;
- Appropriate crosswalks for all pedestrian parking, especially for handicap spaces directly to curb cuts;
- Install (or utilize already installed) automatic/assisted door systems on main entrances to buildings located relatively close to curb cuts and crosswalks;
- Replace older door thresholds with ease of access arrival and departure points that minimize obstruction;
- Readily inspect bathrooms for accessibility concerns due to wear and tear. Install accessible equipment in bathrooms that do not have basic accessible toilet, faucet, and soap dispensers.

Although suggestions like those listed above can make a tremendous difference in improving accessibility for everyone, accessibility is more than physical access, such as adding a ramp where steps exist. It requires looking at how programs, services, and activities are delivered. A paradigm shift is taking place

which is moving from ADA accessible to Universal Accessibility. Universal Design will be the new standard for public facilities including parks. The principles of universal design and inclusion are important factors for achieving personal wellness and building healthy communities (Appendix L. Principles of Universal Design and Inclusion, 1997). Among people with disabilities, recreation and active leisure pursuits are vital for rehabilitation from illness or injury, prevention of disease, longevity and improved quality of life. A focus on universal design and practical accessibility solutions help to create inclusive recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. Understanding the preferences and needs of people with disabilities is important in facility design and program planning program. Federal accessibility standards for buildings and facilities can be applied to the design and construction of recreation facilities, visitor centers and even outdoor areas for recreation.

Conditions of Existing Recreation and Park Facilities

The conditions of public recreation and parks managed by the Bertie County Recreation Department were evaluated based on maintenance, vandalism, user impact on vegetation, and soil limitations.

Maintenance

Standards for evaluating park maintenance included everyday upkeep (lawn care, irrigation, and plant care), litter control, and aesthetics (landscaping). Maintenance was rated on a scale of 1-3, as shown in Table 34.

1. *Poor* – no maintenance for everyday upkeep, litter control and/or aesthetics.
2. *Fair* – maintenance was not adequate and improvement is needed.
3. *Good* – maintenance was provided for everyday upkeep, litter control, aesthetics.

Vandalism

Vandalism is defined as the intentional destruction of a facility. Examples include broken windows, graffiti, broken signs, dumped garbage, etc. Vandalism was rated on a scale of 1-3 as shown in Table 34.

1. *High* – the facility contained obvious destruction.
2. *Moderate* – facility contained noticeable visible destruction, but did not detract from the aesthetics of the area.
3. *None* – no or only minor visible signs of destruction.

USER IMPACT ON VEGETATION

User impact referred to the amount of recreation that has occurred on a site and the impact it has had on site vegetation (worn path on grass, cut trees, dead or dying vegetation). User impact on vegetation was rated on a scale of 1-3 as shown in Table 34.

1. *Severe* – no vegetation existed or existing vegetation was dead or dying
2. *Moderate* – existing vegetation showed minor signs of visitor impact
3. *None* – existing vegetation had no sign of impact

Soil Limitations

Soil was defined as the capacity of soil to withstand a specific recreation use or development (USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 2005). Limitations were rated on a scale of 1-3 as shown in Table 23.

1. *Very Limited* – soil properties are unfavorable and limitations can be offset by intensive maintenance, limited use, or by combination of these measures such as costly soil reclamation or special design.
2. *Somewhat Limited* – limitations can be overcome or alleviated by planning design, or special maintenance.
3. *Not Limited* – soil properties are generally favorable and that limitations are minor and easily overcome.

Table 23. Conditions Existing Recreation Sites Managed Bertie County Recreation Department

Sites	Maintenance	Vandalism	User Impact	Soil Limitation
Bertie County Parks & Rec. Complex	3	2	2	3
Aulander Elementary School	3	2	2	3
West Bertie Elementary School	3	2	2	3
Colerain Elementary School	3	2	2	3
Windsor Elementary School	3	2	2	3

Key: Maintenance (1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good); Vandalism (1 = high, 2 = moderate, 3 = none); User Impact (1 = severe, 2 = moderate, 3 = none); Soil Limitation (1 = very limited, 2 = somewhat limited, 3 = not limited)

Park Conditions Summary

Overall, park conditions (e.g., maintenance, user impact and vandalism) were evaluated as moderate (e.g., well-kept parks, low vandalism, and moderate user impact). Soils in the five sites were not limited and are generally favorable with minor limitations that are easily overcome. It should be noted that even if soils have limitations, they may still be used for recreation though development and maintenance costs will be higher.

SOCIETAL TRENDS IMPACTING RECREATION

Overview

On any given day, someone is being positively affected through parks and recreation – whether they are taking a walk on a trail or fitness class at the community center, getting a nutritious meal or just reaping the benefits of clean air and water because of preserved open space. The overarching goal for parks and recreation agencies is to improve the quality of the community. Planning for the leisure needs of a community is influenced not only by analyzing citizens past and current participation in leisure activities, but by anticipating their future needs. Recreation trends are influenced by a continuous change in marketing, demographics, technology, education, and economics. Understanding influences that lead to future trends provides a gateway for embracing change and the opportunities presented.

The purpose of this section is to identify societal trends that impact recreation and leisure programming and facility needs for residents of Bertie County. If national and local trends are not identified in a timely fashion, potential revenue resources, as well as enhanced services to citizens, could be overlooked. When comparing national trends with those occurring locally, further analysis is required to inform decision making.

The methodology used to identify trends consisted of a review of leading industry journals and publications; consumer purchasing patterns; state and national recreational participation patterns; presentations at conferences, seminars and workshops; and review of online blogs and information obtained via Google Alerts. The National Recreation and Park Association, American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration, Active Living Research publications, and internet list serves were instrumental in providing valuable information from recreational practitioners in other geographic locations. Recreation trends were discussed during focus group meetings, as well as ongoing communication with Department staff.

Trend identification is divided into three sub-sections:

- National Trends
- Policy and Management Trends
- Parks and Recreation Facility and Program Trends

Our nation is one of constant evolution. Today, the United States is more diverse, featuring more people with different backgrounds, unique needs and distinctive desires than ever before. For park and recreation agencies, these changes represent both a challenge and an opportunity as they have had to evolve to ensure that all members of their communities benefit from their vast holdings of open spaces, recreation facilities and service offerings

National Trends

Population trends - There are several population trends that are changing the way people experience daily life. In 2017 the Pew Research Center identified key demographic trends that will shape the recreation needs of communities.

Millennials are the United States' largest living generation - In 2016, there were an estimated 79.8 million Millennials (ages 18 to 35 in that year) compared with 74.1 million Baby Boomers (ages 52 to 70). The Millennial population is expected to continue growing until 2036. Millennials characteristically differ from previous generations in that they are slow to accept tradition, more likely to live with parents, and less likely to get married, own a home, or have children. In fact, for all adults, marriage has declined and living with an unmarried partner has significantly increased (Pew Research, 2017). Implications for park organizations include relying on social media for reaching the group and catering to ethnic populations.

One area of rapidly growing interest is serving the expanding population of older adults - According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 13% percent of the U.S. population was at least 65 years old in 2010. Just five years later, this percentage had risen to 14.9%, representing 47.8 million older adults. Looking toward the future, forecasts indicate that the size of this cohort will expand greatly in the coming years. The Census Bureau anticipates that the 65-plus population will swell by nearly 38% between 2015 and 2025 to 65.9 million. This group will grow to 82.3 million by 2040, at which time older adults will represent 21.7% of the total U.S. population, and will be larger than the percentage of the population under the age of 18.

Parks were designed to bring together people of all ages, abilities, genders, races, and ethnicities in the community. As park and recreation agencies have reinvented themselves to meet the needs and desires of aging Baby Boomers, they have continued to provide wellness, exercise, and leisure activities that support healthy aging in our communities, including traditional activities such as educational and arts and crafts programs, adult day programs, meal programs, fitness classes like group exercise and swimming, transportation assistance, and social and volunteer opportunities. They have also established partnerships with other organizations that serve older adults in order to fill the gaps in needed community services.

Americans' lives at home are changing - Following a decades-long trend, just half of U.S. adults were married in 2015, down from 70% in 1950. As marriage has declined, the number in cohabiting relationships (living with an unmarried partner) rose 29% between 2007 and 2016, from 14 million to 18 million. The increase was especially large among those ages 50 and older: 75% in the same period. The "gray divorce" rate – divorces among those 50 and older – roughly doubled between 1990 and 2015.

Also, a record number of Americans (nearly 61 million in 2014) were living in multigenerational households, that is, households that include two or more adult generations or grandparents and grandchildren. Growing racial and ethnic diversity in the U.S. helps explain some of the rise in multigenerational living. The Asian and Hispanic populations overall are growing more rapidly than the white population, and those groups are more likely than whites to live in multigenerational family households.

Along with diversity changes, the United States admitted 84,995 refugees in 2016, with 3,342 settling in North Carolina. The largest group of refugees originated from the Democratic Republic of Congo (16,370); with six percent of refugees from Congo settling in North Carolina (Radford & Connor, 2016).

The 2010 Census reports a population of 21,282 in Bertie County, North Carolina. The highest percentage of residents are between ages of 45 and 59, and the majority of residents are African American (62.5%) (United States Census Bureau, 2010). Bertie County, along with the majority of eastern North Carolina counties, will experience population loss from 2010 to 2035 with population declines in all generations (Tippett, 2016).

Implications for park organizations include creating facilities and programs to cater to the changing population and increasing diversity. African Americans are the most underrepresented population in national parks. To increase diversity, the National Park Service (NPS) suggests raising park awareness for diverse racial and ethnic populations, and including programming relevant and interesting to multiple cultures (Taylor, Grandjean, & Gramann, 2011). Similar strategies should be considered in state, regional, and local park and recreation facilities.

Physical activity trends - To obtain optimal health benefits, the United States Human and Health Services (HHS) recommends at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day for youth and at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week for adults. However, only 20% of adults and 5 to 40% of children, depending on age, are meeting these physical activity guidelines (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013; National Physical Activity Plan, 2016). Additionally, obesity rates and poor nutrition remain high for both children and adults in the United States. The obesity prevalence is about 36% for adults and 17% for youth (Ogden, Carroll, Fryar, & Flegal, 2015).

Moreover, children are not receiving enough opportunity for fitness during the school day (American Heart Association, 2016), making physical activity in parks and recreation crucial for increasing the number of youth meeting the 60-minute recommendation. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has adopted the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) Standards and is working with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to promote and assist in implementing the standards at various park and recreation sites (NRPA, n.d.).

Policy and Management Trends

Combined-built-environment features - In May 2017, the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommended park and recreation facilities increase physical activity participation by combining transportation systems (e.g. walking and bicycle pathways) with land-use design (e.g. proximity to stores, parks, work). To support this recommendation, the Task Force completed a systematic review of 90 studies, revealing that these combined-built-environment features usually increase overall transportation and recreational physical activity (Banner, 2017).

Proximity of facilities - People are also more likely to attend parks and recreational opportunities close to home. However, Bertie County has a lower availability of parks, trails, and playgrounds per resident in comparison to a majority of other North Carolina counties (NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2015). Increasing proximity and availability of recreational facilities may increase participation.

Inclusivity and Accessibility - An estimated 28 million people with disabilities visit national parks every year (National Park Service (NPS), 2014). However, many national, state, and local parks are lacking accessible visitor centers, sidewalks, trails, campgrounds, beaches, and overall opportunities for people with disabilities and functional limitations. Furthermore, many volunteers and employees are not trained properly to best serve visitors with disabilities. Training staff, improving facilities, and increasing public knowledge of inclusive and accessible opportunities can help provide better services to people with disabilities (NPS, 2014).

Additionally, though accessibility is an important regulation, it may not provide all children with crucial benefits of play. It is also important to incorporate a universal design that promotes inclusivity via sensory-stimulating activities that are appropriate for all developmental ages and abilities (Recreation Management, 2014).

Parks & Recreation Facility and Program Trends

Fitness Trends - According to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) *Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2017*, the top three fitness trends are wearable technology (e.g. activity trackers, smart watches, heart rate monitors), followed by body weight training, and high-intensity interval training. The entire top 20 trends are provided (Table 24).

Table 24. Fitness Trends for 2017

1. Wearable technology
2. Exercise / weight loss programs
3. Body weight training
4. Fitness programs for older adults
5. High-intensity interval training
6. Functional fitness
7. Educated, certified, and experienced fitness professionals
8. Outdoor activities
9. Strength training
10. Group personal training
11. Group training
12. Wellness coaching
13. Exercise is Medicine®
14. Worksite health promotion
15. Yoga
16. Smartphone exercise apps
17. Personal training
18. Outcome measurements
19. Exercise / weight loss programs
20. Circuit training

Source: American College of Sports Medicine Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends 2017

Body weight training remains popular due to its cost efficiency and use of minimal equipment, while HIIT popularity lies in its high level of workout with minimal time commitment. Previously popular trends of Zumba, Pilates, and indoor cycling did not appear in the top 20 trends and continue to decrease in popularity. Worker incentive program, sport specific training, and programs specifically for overweight and obese children also dropped out of the top 20 trends (Thompson, 2017).

Outdoor Recreation Trends - Outdoor recreation is a large part of the United States economy, producing millions of jobs and billions in annual spending (American Recreation Coalition (ARC), 2016). Specifically, state park attendance continues to grow, with over 750 million people visiting state parks in 2015 (ARC, 2016). Enthusiasm for the outdoors keeps growing. In fact, 145 million people participate in outdoor recreation each year, which is higher than the number of people attending professional football, basketball, baseball, and hockey games (Outdoor Industry Association, 2017). Furthermore, for Americans, interest in outdoor recreation usually surpasses interest in sport, fitness, and other leisure activities (Outdoor Foundation, 2017). Some of the more popular outdoor activities include:

Running, jogging, and trail running. In 2016, running, jogging, and trail running were the most popular outdoor activities (Outdoor Foundation, 2017).

Fishing. Fishing is one of the most popular activities for adults over 25, surpassed only by running in popularity. Fishing tends to be social and spontaneous, with the majority of people engaging in freshwater fishing (ARC, 2016).

Bicycling. Bicycling is the second most popular outdoor activity for youth and young adults in the United States (Outdoor Foundation, 2017). BMX biking in particular had the largest growth in participants of all outdoor activities between 2015 and 2016 (Outdoor Foundation, 2017).

Camping. Camping continues to be an affordable and popular recreational pursuit in the United States; amount of people camping increased 4.5% in 2016. Diversity of people camping is also increasing, with more engagement from African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Hispanics (ARC, 2016).

Boating. Boat sales and boating use continue to rise with increased economic spending and consumer confidence (ARC, 2016).

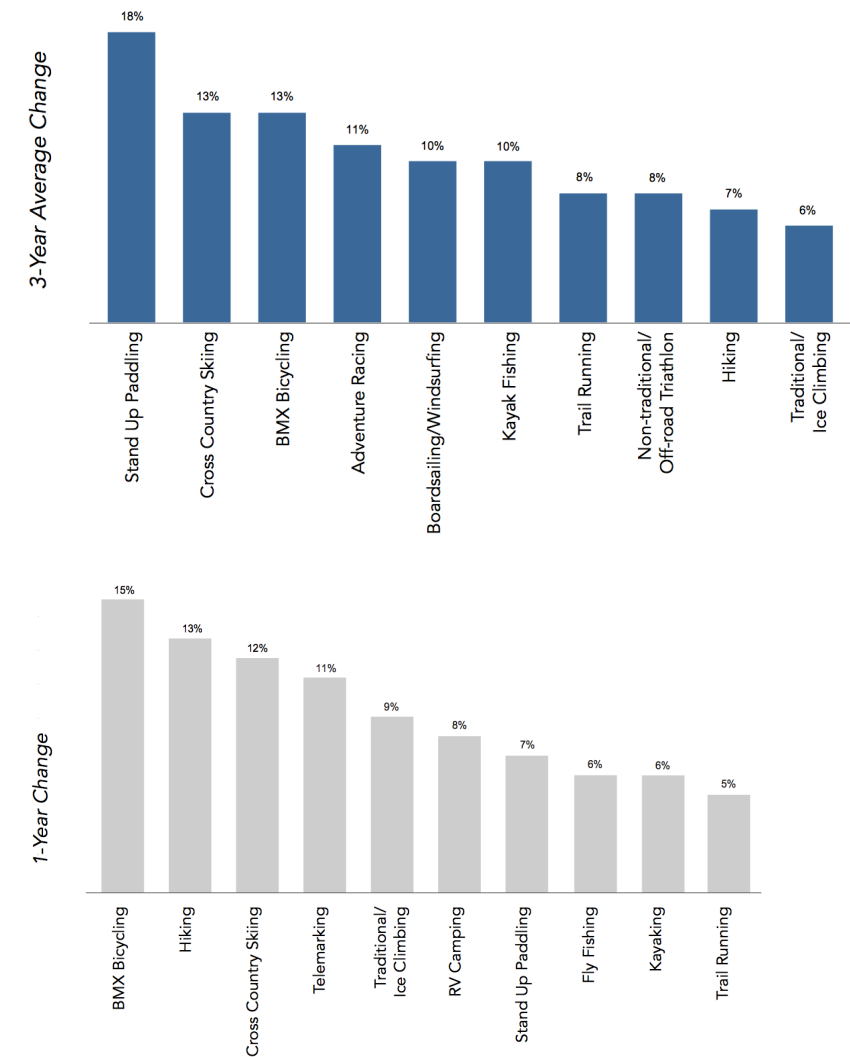
Outdoor adventure sports. The outdoor adventure sports exhibiting the most growth and popularity include “stand-up paddleboarding instruction, cabin rentals, interpretive trips, environmental education, and paddlesports” (ARC, 2016, par. 37). In the past three years, participation for paddleboarding specifically increased by about 18% (Outdoor Foundation, 2017).

Outdoor applications. Outdoor applications, or “apps”, are becoming a more popular venue for experiencing and navigating parks (ARC, 2016). Apps are replacing guidebooks and giving visitors a means to access descriptions, trail maps, photographs, and trip planning tools for various parks and locations (Louis, 2016).

There are also many benefits to investing in outdoor recreation. Research shows that outdoor recreation creates jobs, reduces crime, improves educational outcomes, and lowers health care costs by increasing overall health and well-being (Outdoor Industry Association, 2017). When considering what outdoor recreation to invest, it is important to consider outdoor trends that have grown in popularity. The top trending activities with the most growth over a one-year and three-year period for ages six and above is provided (Figure 35).

Figure 35: Top trending outdoor activities in the United States (ages 6+)

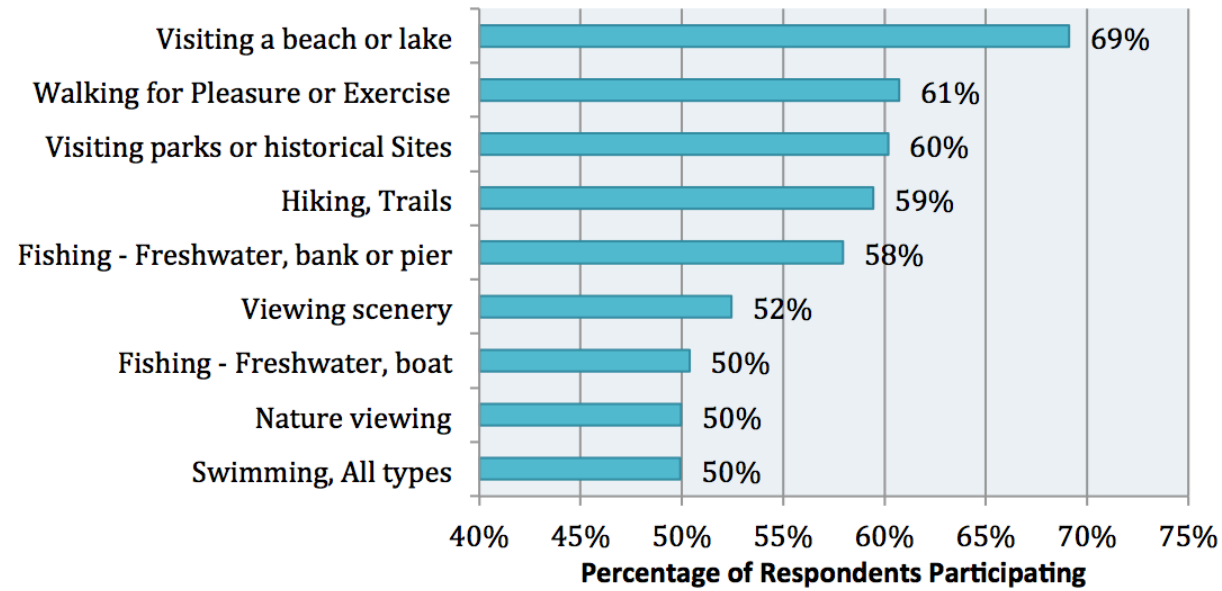
Top Outdoor Activities for Growth



Source: Outdoor Industry Foundation, 2017.

North Carolina has an abundance of water supply and access, especially on the coastal areas of eastern North Carolina. Therefore, the most popular outdoor recreation activities in North Carolina include multiple water-related activities (see Figure 36).

Figure 36. Top trending outdoor activities in North Carolina



Source: NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2015.

Aquatic Play Areas - In addition to outdoor aquatic recreation, splash pads remain a popular addition to local parks. In fact, from 2013 to 2016, facilities have shown more interest in developing aquatic play areas than dry playgrounds. The design of splash pads offers children opportunities for physical development, sensory stimulation, family engagement, and opportunities for all ages and abilities. Furthermore, water recirculation allows extended play without unnecessary waste of resources (Hamelin, 2016).

Like splash pads, waterparks are also applying more hands-on, interactive play in their design. Popular aquatic features include faster rides with possible opportunities for competition, as well as non-traditional additions like climbing walls, aqua courses, and zip lines. Themed waterparks have also increased in popularity. Themes help increase engagement and customer experience (Vence, 2014).

Conclusion

The growth of organized recreation, parks, leisure service organizations facilities and programs to meet the needs of the recreating public has been well documented. Despite this dramatic growth and development of the Recreation and Park movement, there continue to be emerging issues and trends that need to be taken into account from a personal, community, and societal perspective. Current trends provide a guide to future plans for recreation and park development in Bertie County. Population trends indicate need to adapt programming and facilities for increasing in Millennials, diverse cultures, and changing familial structures. Recreation and fitness demonstrate popularity of running, biking, fishing, and aquatic-related parks and recreation, all of which are possible additions to Bertie County parks.

PUBLIC INPUT ANALYSIS

When developing a needs analysis, it is not enough to simply review changes in population and demographics, it is also important to understand the community’s desire for park and recreation facilities, activities and programs. This planning effort incorporated several initiatives to assist the planning team in better understanding community preferences. These initiatives included:

- **Staff and Volunteer Focus Groups:** The planning team met with with Recreation Department staff and gathered information from volunteers to discuss facilities, programs, and operations.
- **Advisory Partners Focus Groups:** Three focus groups held with the Recreation Advisory Partners to discuss facilities, programs, and operation.
- **Public Meetings:** Four public meetings were held to allow citizens to comment on recreation and park needs.
- **Site Visit:** The planning team organized a field trip for the Board of Commissioners, the Bertie County Recreation Department staff and Recreation Advisory Partners, and interested stakeholders to visit a multi-use facility and to discuss how the project was planned and financed.
- **Community Survey:** A community survey and stakeholder interviews were conducted as part of this planning effort.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Interviews were held with over over a dozen local stakeholders to learn more about recreation and park facility and programming needs.

Through these efforts, considerable insight was gained regarding the community’s desires for park and recreation programs and facilities. This section discusses the information gathered in preparation for the development of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation System-wide Plan.

Bertie County Recreation Department Staff & Volunteers

Bertie County Recreation Department staff members and volunteers are uniquely qualified to provide insight related to the needs of the community as well as improvements and future development of park and recreation programs and facilities in Bertie County. Their input is vital to creating a road map for the future. From the fall of 2016 through fall 2017, meetings, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews were conducted with staff and volunteers. The following are brief notes from the discussions between East Carolina University staff and the Department staff and volunteers.

Staff:

- Donna H. Mizelle (Director)
- Emily Jernigan (Recreation Program Assistant)
- Brent Jones (Recreation Activities Program Specialist)

Volunteers:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Casey Byrum | Earl Hoggard | Michelle White |
| Amy Castello | Jonathan Huddleston | Jessica Cowan |
| Crystal Etheridge | Russell Jinnette | Kristin Warren |
| Wendy Ferebee | Ebony Murphy | Lisa Biggs |
| Charlton Godwin | Nina Northcott | Leslie Beachboard |
| Heather Paspas | Michelle Perry | Braxton Jernigan |
| Allison Hoggard | Bobby Strother | Al Pierce |

Staff and Volunteer Discussion Notes

1. Including those not provided by the Bertie County Recreation Department, what recreation opportunities are currently available in your community?

- Private owned ball park Davis Park
- YMCA basketball Private park summer baseball
- I live in the Merry Hill community and the only recreation opportunity provided to the public here is the basketball court at JP Law. There are private opportunities such as swimming and boating in the Sound. The recreation fields in Windsor are only a 15-minute drive and there are many opportunities available there.
- Activities at the YMCA (basketball, exercise classes, weights, etc.)
- Baseball at Davis Park
- There is a small but active YMCA; in addition to the Bertie County Recreational Department's little league baseball and other sports programs, there is another little league baseball program run independently in the county; and there are numerous outdoor activities such as canoeing and kayaking offered through several sources throughout the county.

2. Including those not provided by the Bertie County Recreation Department, what recreation opportunities are currently available in your community?

- Greenville for batting cages and for ice-skating rink.
- Fields (soccer, baseball, softball, open space for activities, sand volleyball).
- Basketball.
- Walking trail.
- Disc Golf.
- School based (Youth program) – volleyball, basketball.
- Summer Camps (volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf).
- Nature walks.
- Other gyms offer yoga and organized classes.
- Churches offer Zumba.
- Rivers offer: fishing, boating, paddle boarding.
- Churches and public events.
- Community Runs.
- Livermon Zoo and Mini Park.
- Treehouses on the river.
- 4-H offers summer camps for kids.
- Senior Trips with the Council on Aging.
- School activities and programs.
- Festivals and events.

3. What are some areas of competition for recreation programs and facilities in the community?

- Private park summer baseball.
- The Davis ball park is competition, but that does not appear to be seriously affecting the County baseball programs.
- Baseball, YMCA basketball, Bertie Recreation department sports.
- The only one I'm aware of is the other little league baseball program run by the town of Windsor. But I have very little knowledge in general of all the recreation programs and facilities available in the county, so there are likely others I don't know about.
- Greenville for batting cages and for ice-skating rink.
- The Vidant Wellness Center in Ahoskie is much larger and nicer than the YMCA in Windsor. If I am going to pay for a membership, I want a nice facility and lots of programs to choose from.

- Edenton for nice facility at the Toning Mill with sauna room and flat screen televisions to watch while working out.
- Other gyms offer yoga and organized classes for all ages.
- Churches offer Zumba.
- Fitness Connection in Greenville has a water slide for kids during summer.

4. What would you like to see in the community in the future?

- Increase in the number of participants at older ages to have more teams
- Many people would like to see an outdoor basketball court at the recreation center. I would like a pool so children and youth can learn how to swim.
- Community swimming pool (membership fee required), upgraded fitness facility (more treadmills and other equipment than currently in place at the YMCA), bike trail.
- Increased eco-tourism and outdoor related activities offered by the County.
- A multi-use community center.
- Indoor multiplex sports complex.
- More walking trails with outside exercise stations.
- A community recreation building.
- Public pool.
- Access point to swim in river.
- Office space.
- ADA accessible gym and workout room for seniors.
- Better office space for recreation department.
- Shared space with organizations we currently partner with would allow us to share staff and office resources; Cooperative Extension Services and YMCA.
- More tennis courts for tennis and offer pickleball.
- Tennis courts to accommodate tennis for youth.

5. What recreation opportunities do visitors use?

- Youth Sports Recreation Complex Playground Senior Center Exercise Equipment and Programs.
- Seniors use the exercise programs through the recreation dept. The youth have programs from the recreation department and the local YMCA to use. Visitors may also use The Hope Plantation walking trails.
- Weight room, playground, complex for rental.
- Playground, fields.
- They appear to be using all of the available programs.
- Various sports (baseball at Davis Park, etc.)
- Livermon Park and Zoo.
- Kayak launches on the Cashie.
- Other than Bertie County Recreation Department and YMCA activities I'm not sure. Most of the recreational opportunities residents and visitors use are related to outdoor activities, but most of those are not related to County supported programs.
- The County should expand outdoor offerings and partner with communities to offer and promote programs for boating skills, introduction to kayaking/ paddleboarding classes would help bring people in from other areas.
- Adding more camping and recreational trails for ATV and motorbikes would attract outsiders. Many ATV trails are located on private land and people would travel from other places to use trails if they were made available to the public.

6. Do you have any concerns or suggestions for current offerings?

- Need more adult activities.
- County needs to improve on providing more recreational stability to bring or involve more people in our programs. Need a new recreation building.
- A basketball court would be great.
- When the financing is available we need basketball courts and a swimming pool.

- The county recreation department has done a great job with limited resources.
- Sand volleyball courts would be nice.
- Need public pool and lighted tennis and volleyball courts.
- Need public transportation for kids
- Placement of facilities is crucial to efficient utilization.

7. Additional ideas or comments related to recreation facilities and programs in your community.

- Great program with limited access to buildings.
- No indoor area for kids to play.
- More open gym time in schools in towns other than Windsor.
- Add splashpads to help get kids used to water and encourage swim lessons.
- Teach high school students how to guide kayak tours.

Staff and Volunteer Input Summary

The Bertie County Recreation Department staff and volunteers identified current programs, athletic leagues and community/civic organization that utilize county recreation resources. Programs sponsored and implemented by the community generally focused on physical activity for seniors, camps, and youth activities. The county also offers athletic leagues for youth focusing on activities like soccer, t-ball, coach-pitch baseball, baseball, softball, and tackle football. The staff expressed the need for additional programs to be implemented in order to reach certain populations that are currently underserved. Additional program means increased staffing levels to run programs as well as equipment, vehicles and improvements to existing facilities. An increased usage of school facilities and and additional collaboration and coordination with the YMCA and Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service was viewed as effective use of resources. Better communication and partnerships with public, nonprofit and private entities within Bertie County was emphasized. Last, the staff expressed a need for a central building to include office space, program rooms and a gymnasium as well as adequate storage space.

Staff and volunteers both called attention to the fact that more outdoor recreation opportunities are needed in the County. Participated indicated a new to expand outdoor offerings and partner with communities to offer and promote programs for boating skills, introduction to kayaking/ paddleboarding classes for the community and as a means of attracting visitors to the community. Increased trail opportunities including walking and exercise trails, paddle trails and ATV and motorbike trails would be attractive to residents and visitors alike.

Bertie County Recreation Advisory Partners Committee

In fall 2016 at group of community leaders from each district and individuals representing youth and senior populations were identified by the Board of Commissioners and the Bertie County Recreation Department Director and they were invited to decision regarding improvements and future development of park and recreation programs and facilities in Bertie County. The first meeting of the “Recreation Advisory Partners” was held Thursday, October 6, 2016 from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Heritage House Restaurant in Windsor and follow-up meetings and one-on-one interviews were held from January to October 2017. The Recreation Advisory Partners input is vital to creating a road map for the future of Bertie County. The following provides a summary of the priorities identified by the committee.

Recreation Advisory Partners:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Clara Blanchard | 1. Shane Tripp | 1. Billy Barrow |
| 2. Val Cordon | 2. Tonyetta Williams | 2. Stewart White |
| 3. Kim Cooper | 3. Casey Owens | 3. Barbara Alexander |
| 4. Monica Lassiter | 4. Tiera Beale | 4. Denise Davis |
| 5. Anthony Ward | 5. Whitney Watson | |

Recreation Advisory Partners Discussion Notes

1. Including those not provided by the Bertie County Recreation Department, what recreation opportunities are currently available in your community?

- Local 5K runs and races.
- The Roanoke Cashie River Center and the Roanoke River Wildlife Refuge are awesome attractions for our community.
- Kayak access at the River Center and the treehouses and campground in Windsor.
- Baseball and Basketball.
- Tennis.
- Walking trails.
- Blue Jays Park in the Spring Hill Community.
- Classes for seniors.
- Youth football
- Community education.
- Walking around the track for exercise.
- Exercise classes.
- 4H Camp programs.
- Meal program for seniors.
- Disc golf course, although it is only a 9-hole course.
- Summer camps.
- YMCA
- Cashie Wetland Walk and Canoe Trail.
- Aulander Community Building and Tennis courts.
- Colerain Senior Center
- YMCA Annual Mental Health Awareness walk.
- Community Day in Lewiston, NC.
- Senior activities including senior games.
- Windsor Tennis courts.
- Cashie River Campground.
- Kelford Community Park.
- Acree Gymnasium.
- Blue Jay Park.
- Senior activities exercises
- Flag Football and soccer.
- Davis Park
- Livermon Zoo and Park
- Hope Plantations Walking Trails.

2. What would you like to see in the community in the future?

- Motorized boat ramp.
- A recreation building and senior center in one location.
- More programs and facilities in African American communities
- Need more accessibility to recreation in outlying communities.
- A visitor center with restrooms.
- Need more unity in the community.
- Need more leadership – the same people step up to help all the time and more of the work should be shared.
- Work on attracting tourists by offering free concerts and events to attract people.
- Merryhill to receive funding.
- Need a more welcoming environment for all races.
- Change has happened for the bad.
- Need for coaches. Less children are able to participate.
- Need transportation for teams.
- More volunteers.
- Need ONE facility.
- Activities for every age group.
- More volunteers to help run programs; parent involvement.
- Lack of volunteers, especially coaches.
- More coordination and collaboration between competing groups.
- Need good support system for organized programs and management of facilities.
- The Bertie County Parks & Recreation Complex needs trails to encourage healthy lifestyles; include exercise stations along the trail and make sure lighted so people feel safe to walk at night.
- Complex need trails.
- Programs for seniors. Some seniors are turned away because facilities are not large enough to accommodate everyone. If someone shows up they should not be turned away.
- Need outdoor recreation equipment.
- Stratifying and competing for some groups.
- More activities for youth.

3. What are some areas of competition for recreation programs and facilities in the community?

- Programs and facilities available in Ahoskie, Edenton, Greenville, and Williamston.
- Nicer YMCA's elsewhere.
- Batting cages in Winterville, NC.
- The beach.
- Non-county supported sports programs.
- Travel ball.
- ECU sport camps in the summer
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout Camps.

4. What would you like to see in the community in the future?

- Find ways to change apathy into action.
- Park and recreation facilities in Kelford/Roxobel.
- Pee Wee Football.
- Amphitheatre.
- Walking Trails.
- Water access.
- Community Center.
- Recreation brings together people. For example, the investment in Blue Jay Park brings the community together. More places where groups can come together to enjoy the parks or activities.
- Need facilities.
- Leadership to move forward.
- Enhance life of Bertie County residents.
- Summer events, concerts can help improve the sense of community.
- Stop the bickering on Windsor.
- Transparent of “want me there” - breakdown of barriers.
- The number of older adults is 82% in the county and 87% of people who live in Bertie County suffer from high blood pressure. Helping the community make health choices is essential. The YMCA has 200 members. Need to increase use, but facilities need to be expanded and improved – very limited resources.
- The youth need less idle time – idle time leads to crime.
- YMCA membership is \$30 per month, but it is difficult to compete with larger facilities with more programs and services.

5. What recreational opportunities do visitors use?

- The Roanoke Cashie River Center and the Roanoke River Wildlife Refuge.
- Kayak access at Hoggard's Mill Bridge, the Riverwalk and the River Center.
- Youth baseball, basketball and soccer.
- Walking trails.
- Classes for seniors.
- Youth sports.
- Community education.
- Exercise classes.
- 4H Camp programs.
- Meal program for seniors.
- Disc golf course, although it is only a 9-hole course.
- Summer camps.
- YMCA Annual Mental Health Awareness walk.
- Hope Plantations tours.
- Senior group exercise classes.
- Flag Football and soccer.
- Livermon Mini-Park and Zoo.

Recreation Partners Advisory Committee Input Summary

The Recreation Partners Advisory committee identified current programs, athletic leagues and community/civic organizations that utilize county recreation resources. Programs sponsored and implemented by the community generally focused on physical activity for youth, camps, and senior programs. The county also offers athletic leagues for youth focusing on activities like soccer, baseball and softball, and football. Overwhelming consensus among the advisory committee was the need for additional recreation department staff and need for volunteers. Demand for programs exceeds availability of programs and many populations are currently underserved. Additional resources and capitalizing on partnerships is essential to meeting demand. Enhancing partnerships and coordinating efforts among schools (public and private), the Bertie County YMCA, and Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service are necessary to maximize limited resources. Better communication and partnerships with public, nonprofit and private entities within Bertie County was emphasized. The advisory committee agreed that a single multiuse facility with shared office space among the the YMCA, Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service, and the Bertie County Recreation Department would allow the entities to cross utilize resources and maximize programs available to the community.

As a whole, the advisory committee suggested the need for more recreation opportunities that encourage social cohesion and build a sense of pride among the community. Improving the quality of life for all residents of Bertie County should be the priority and ideas suggested to help build sense of community included a multiuse recreation and health facility as well as satellite facilities located in outlying areas to meet the needs of underserved populations. As stated by an advisory partner, “Some seniors are turned away because facilities are not large enough to accommodate everyone. If someone shows up they should not be turned away!” Finally, the advisory committee emphasized the need for increased trail opportunities including walking and exercise trails, paddle trails and outdoor concert venues. These trails should be inter-connected as a means of bringing people together. Related to outdoor concert venues, an advisory partner stated, “an amphitheater or venue for outside entertainment and concerts could be used by locals and visitors and bring the community together to celebrate.”

Recreation Facility Site Visit

In October 2016 a site visit was arranged to the Currituck Community Park located in Barco, NC (Appendix D. Daily Advance Article: Currituck Community Park Site Visit). The Currituck Community park is an outstanding example of public/private partnership for the greater good of the community. The site is currently home to the Currituck Family YMCA, the Currituck County Parks and Recreation Department, a Sentara healthcare therapy facility, the Currituck County Senior Center, the Currituck Cooperative Extension Center and the College of Albemarle’s Regional Aviation and Technical Training Center (Appendix E. Daily Advance Article: Currituck to Dedicate Ballfields at Community Park). Currituck Community Park continues to adapt to the needs of the community with a new baseball and softball facility opened in May 2017 and an animal shelter was recently added (See Currituck Community Park Information video: <https://vimeo.com/254675828>).

The purpose of the site visit was to learn how Currituck County planned and funded the site by harnessing the power of collaborative partnerships to provide programs and services to the community. Representatives from key stakeholder groups in Bertie County were invited on the site visit. Participants included: the Bertie County YMCA, Bertie County Center Cooperative Extension Services; the Bertie County Council on Aging; the Bertie County Recreation Department; the Bertie County Board of Commissioners; and individuals representing the interests of both youth and senior populations.

The site visit include a comprehensive tour of the facility followed by an in-depth discussion with Currituck County government officials and community leaders involved in the planning and development of the Currituck Community Park.

Recreation Facility Site Visit Summary

Following the site visit an in-depth discussion with the participants from Bertie County was conducted and overwhelming consensus was that the Currituck Community Park provides a model for Bertie County to guide future recreation planning and development.

2017 and the committee fully agreed that the Currituck County site illustrates how collaboration and a shared vision can come together to create a multi-use facility for education, care for animals, recreation and a commerce park for future economic development. In Bertie County, infrastructure to prepare a workforce, educate families, and provide for recreation that can enhance the community and foster opportunities for agricultural, education, and many other enterprises.

Public Meetings

In fall 2016 through spring 2017 public meetings were held throughout the county to gather resident input regarding improvements and future development of parks and recreation in Bertie County. Public meetings were scheduled in Aulander, Indian Woods/Windsor, Colerain, Lewiston-Woodville, and Windsor. Public meetings were advertised in the local newspapers and promoted via social media outlets, and town and county websites. Due to the massive flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew, the public meeting schedule for October 13, 2016 at the Blue Jay Fire Department in Indian Woods/Windsor was cancelled to allow the residents to focus their attention on their families and communities. The Indian Woods/Windsor community members were encouraged to attend the meeting in Windsor held at the Council on Aging.

Thursday, October 6th – Aulander Community Building, Aulander, NC
Thursday, October 13th – Blue Jay Fire Department, Windsor, NC
Thursday, October 20th – Colerain Senior Center, Colerain, NC
Thursday, October 27th – Lewiston Perdue Farms, Lewiston-Woodville, NC
Thursday, November 3rd – (Windsor) Bertie County Council on Aging, Windsor, NC

Discussion Notes from Public Meetings

Aulander Public Meeting

Current recreation:

- In Aulander, the current baseball field has limited facilities; having to turn children away.
- Children coming from four different counties.
- Ruritan sponsors 17 underprivileged ball players (10 teams).
- The community has enough volunteer -coaches willing to coach, but the problem is that the facilities are not sufficient to meet the need.
- Many volunteers, umpires are the only paid people.
- 200 X 200 adjacent to ball park (proposed)
 - Extra room to play
 - More games, less children on a team
 - More age groups
- Currently a walking trail adjacent, want to expand (quarter mile)
- Town owns this facility, ran by Ruritan Club
- No ADA bathrooms

Non-ball field issues:

- Tennis courts, refinished but doesn’t get used a lot.
- Need more programs in gym, require funds. Church leagues?
- More senior programs; corn-hole tournament.
- Sewing, quilting, crafts.
- COMMUNICATION needed throughout the community.
- Facebook is used but no website.
- “Inner circle”
- Newspaper ads.

- Posters at the town hall or post office (hot spot in town).
- Need safety on walking trail (ball field).
- New light posts.
- Need for “legit” playground equipment, inclusive.
- Splash pad would be a great addition.
- Need more budgeting
- Are and reading programs are needed for non-athletic citizens.
- Picnic area and pavilions needed.
 - A small amphitheater would be nice as well as an inside walking track for use during bad weather.
- Temperature of gym, needs fixing.
- Need more leadership to take over for retiring leaders.
- Pickle ball for seniors.
- Transportation is needed to support recreation programs.

Existing Recreation Facilities:

- John Asa Drew, Jr. Field of Dreams Memorial Park – ballfields, walking trail, restrooms, concession stand; ADAAG compatibility for restrooms and parking questionable.
- Joseph Acree Gymnasium.
- Aulander Community Building Tennis Courts.
- Local citizens helped upgrade ballpark.
- Limited facilities create turn away of kids and limit participation.
- Kids come from ALL around; age 12-14.
- Focuses on fundamentals, family atmosphere.
- Certified umpires.
- Winning is not the most important thing.
- All inclusive, ADAAG, autistic, under privilege.
- Interest creates 140-160 kids.
- No lack of volunteers for coaching, no shortage of sponsors, low fees.
- Volunteers maintain, town assists with lights and mowing.

Needs

- Need a 200 x 200 field adjacent current field for Little League, girls’ softball.
- Build new concession stand and new ADAAG restrooms, parking, new and upgraded lighting, new poles
- 2-Tennis courts behind Community Center, need tennis lessons from
- Need YMCA to open gym 2-3 days each week
- Could have b-ball league @ gym, discussions with Casey at YMCA are on-going to begin a new league
- Better communication needed – a soon to be retired participant commented on lack of knowledge regarding Aulander Recreation activities.
- More programs for Senior Citizens.
- Horseshoes, corn hole tournament, shuffleboard, craft classes (knitting and crochet).
- Council on Aging – nutrition program conducted some Senior Programs.

- Transportation concerns for Senior Citizens to travel to Windsor P&R, YMCA programs.
- Budgeting – agreement by Council for recreation; community spirit for Xmas Parade and Xmas Lighting.

Communications

- Town has Facebook and is setting up website in near future, newspaper may be best, church bulletins.
- \$\$\$ & Open Communications, can do anything.
- Legitimate playground upgrades.
- Splash pad.
- Flag football.
- Soccer.
- Small amphitheater.
- Cooperation with Millennium community, although across county line in Hertford County.

Aulander Public Meeting Summary

The current state of recreation in Aulander is largely influenced by the expertise and interests of local citizens. Participants noted the forefront of these interests are baseball and softball programs. Primarily staffed through volunteer service, the community has wide support for these programs but finds limitations in the current facilities. Beyond serving Aulander citizens, participants recognized Aulander as a central recreation hub for Lewiston-Woodville and Roxobel communities. This increased demands furthers the impact of the current facilities’ limitations. Updates to facilities include expanding current facilities to meet demand, expanding walking trails to incorporate lighting and exercise stations and updating facilities to accessibility standards.

Beyond facility demands, participants indicated a need to expand recreation programming to include senior citizen activities, non-athletic recreation, and non-baseball/softball sport leagues. Aulander is largely dependent on the Bertie County Recreation Department and the Bertie County YMCA for activities beyond the ballfield recreation programs, and staff and resource limitations make services on a reliable basis difficult.

Overall, participants recognized an improvement in multiple aspects of recreation in Aulander including upgrading current facilities and new facility construction to meet current demands, increased recreation programming outside of baseball/softball programming, and better communication of current and future programming.

Lewiston-Woodville Public Meeting

- Need a walking trail at the Bertie County Recreation Complex.
- Bertie County does not offer adult programs through the Recreation Department.
- Limited resources.
- Bertie acts as separate YMCA, from from Hampton Roads. The Bertie County YMCA is very small and needs better facilities to attract youth and families from all over Bertie County.
- Kate B Reynolds “Healthy Places” Program.
- Joint use Agreement between Schools and P&R for multi-use buildings
- Most Bertie elementary schools have some kind of walking trails, but very basic and not marked or ADAAG compatible.
- Create and promoted not only safe routes to school, but safe routes to parks like the park in Lewiston.
- Partner with the strong faith communities to open up facilities to public use. For example, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church on HWY 45 in Colerain has a Faithful Family’s Program.

- Health Ministries Grant for such community wellness.
- Transportation consortium to expand services considering the size of Bertie County.
- Organized programs, splash pads, walking trails, and safe environment for everyone.
- Increase access to vegetables; pop-up markets, food truck, fruits and vegetable
- Partner with the Health Department and Cooperative Extension Services to offer vouchers/coupons/ food stamps to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. Maybe even have a travelling farmers market to increase access to fresh food.
- Have pop up vegetable stands at the parks to encourage people to visit the park and eat healthy.
- Many facilities are not friendly to person with disabilities.
- Lewiston is a walkable community, but not enough recreation actually located in Lewiston.
- Pedestrian and bike trails are needed all over Bertie County.
- Chowan County uses the country club pool for swim lessons. There is a pool dome in Wilson.
- Healthy places NC and KB Reynolds have money. Chowan County received a capital improvement grant for trails, Bertie could do the same.
- Walking trails need to be ADA accessible and all elementary schools and churches should be connected. Churches can open their facilities to the public as a part of their mission to serve the community.
- Need to engage the community more.
- More water and passive recreation opportunities.
- Organized programs need to be offered but without transportation people have no way to get there.
- Add water feature like fountains and splash pads to all the parks at the schools and in the communities to encourage children to get comfortable with water.
- Work with parents to find out what can be done to encourage involvement
- Swim lessons offered at schools. Build pools at the schools and they can be multi-use – school swim teams and during school hours seniors could use the pools for exercise. Partner with local businesses to offer kayak lessons or guide training programs. Bertie County has tons of water, we need to embrace the water and make sure our kids are safe and that means making sure they can swim. Work with the schools to add lessons to the curriculum might be a way to get more interest (kids more willing to try things).
- If places are not aesthetically pleasing or do not feel safe, people do not want to visit. People will get in their car and go someplace nicer.
- Bertie County Schools need to get active with Active Living and Healthy Living programs. Other schools have been very successful, but Bertie has not been as active as other schools. Important to get buy-in from administration so that they can encourage teacher and student involvement. Teachers cannot be the only group supporting the efforts – support from administration is key. Education program needed.
- Make the parks look fun – kids will want to go there! Partner with schools to make programs to encourage stewardship of the parks by the students.
- Worksite wellness programs are another way to get the community active and involved. Businesses can encourage employee participation by offering incentives. Like kids being active helps them do well in school, being active can help employees take less days off work and be more productive.

Lewiston-Woodville Public Meeting Summary

The public meeting in Lewiston-Woodville revolved around the theme of active living and health eating. Participants identified Lewiston-Woodville as a “walkable community” but emphasized the lack of current recreation opportunities within the community. A need for accessible, engaging, and organized recreation programming was identified. Furthermore, participants indicated a need for passive recreation and water recreation, as well as making Bertie County a connected county with the expansion of pedestrian and bike trails in future park development.

Participants noted the need for administration-supported recreation partnerships that would provide recreation programming and activities in the community. Collaboration efforts identified by the community include schools, faith-based institutions, and businesses with the recently renovated EJ Hayes School in Williamston, NC as an example of collaborative possibilities. Facilities similar to EJ Hayes could provide numerous benefits to community health including disaster shelters, nutrition sites, and healthcare services as well as economic support through business incubation and job training.

Overall, Lewiston-Woodville citizens identified a need for recreation in the community that emphasizes healthy living and active lifestyles. Participants identified partnerships with local entities that is supported by the local administration as a primary method to provide these opportunities.

Windsor Public Meeting

- NC Cooperative Extension needs a new building that is flood free.
- Ag, 4h, sewing camp, back pack lunch, nutrition based different from recreation.
- Go out to the county communities, so they do not have to transportation issues.
- Take recreation out to the public (e.g., schools, volunteers, coaching).
- Sheriff’s office, seniors, to help man community centers.
- Agreement with Board of Education, but the problem is commitment from Town Administration to own the management.
- Sustainable of grants or programs to increase recreation programs, Golden Leaf for example, student instructors on-sight for summer camps – longevity funding is non-existent.
- Existing recreation YMCA, NC Cooperative Extension, Senior Centers.
- Need a Boys and girls Club – Kate B. Reynolds.
- Access to the Country Club - \$200/year for open summer use.
- Community Action Grant with Leah Mayo.
- Amphitheatre, multi-use, nature trail, camping RV, destination site, Dual role of having citizen activities to own it and use it.
- Bertie County has the largest and oldest senior population and it is the fastest growing population in NE Region.
- Public Transportation – citizens have never grownup with such services, hard for them to get used to.
- Under -subscribed, perhaps promote thru Faith-based communities – 217 churches, consortium of volunteers from churches for recreation programs.
- Identify walking programs for group collaboration – funded from Heart Disease.
- Community-based recreation has no ownership from communities.
- Bertie needs a central recreation facility where all residents an come together.

Windsor Public Meeting Summary

The Windsor public meeting revolved around incorporating the community in recreation planning. Participants identified the need for recreation opportunities that were placed in communities to minimize transportation as a limitation of recreation usage and increasing public ownership in recreation. Participants recognized a demand for recreation programming, specifically programming for seniors, and identified promotion as an inhibiting factor for recreation participation. Employing faith-based institutions as a promotion opportunity was identified as a remedy for this limitation. A large limitation identified by participants is the need for consistent and sustainable resources. Participants noted the path for improved recreation includes obtaining grants and utilizing citizens in recreation to best sustain recreation opportunities.

Overall, Windsor identified the need for community ownership in the community's recreation opportunities and taking recreation opportunities into the community. As public transportation services are relatively new, transportation has been identified as a limitation of recreation participation as well as the need for programming promotion. Participants identified consistent resources as a main contributor to improving recreation in the community.

Special note: Participation in the public meetings was impacted by Hurricane Matthew and while the input received at the public meetings was robust, it was determined that interviews with community stakeholder's representative from the five districts were conducted to insure results were reflective of needs in communities throughout Bertie County.

Community Stakeholder Interviews

Community interviews were conducted with individuals or groups from each of the five districts in Bertie County. The interests of youth senior populations, as well as local small business owners, and local and state organizations (e.g., Bertie-Windsor Chamber of Commerce; Bertie County Center Cooperative Extension Service, NC Wildlife Resource Commission, NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission) were represented. Key quotes derived from the community interviews have been included throughout the report.

Overall, representatives from each of the districts stressed the need to improve and expand current recreation programs and facilities. The need to increase access to recreation for youth and seniors was emphasized specifically in Aulander, Lewiston-Woodville, Colerain, and Powellsville. There was support for a state of the art multi-use facility; however, access to satellite facilities in outlying areas should complement such a facility. Renovation or repurposing of existing buildings in outlying communities was proposed. Examples:

Aulander:

"Unlike some communities, we have great community support and volunteer coaches; however, our facilities do not meet demand and we have to turn kids away and we have kids coming from other counties."

"There are not enough programs and only a limited number of days are available for recreation programs. People should be able to access programs more often. I think a walking track with lights around the ball fields is a good way to have many different uses in one location bringing the community together – young and old."

"I am about ready to retire, but I find it hard to find information about recreation in our community. I think we need to have add a splash pad and walking trail near so I can exercise and enjoy spending time with my grandchildren."

Colerain:

"We have had to turn seniors away who have come out to take the exercise classes offered twice a week. Not only do we need more people to teach classes so we can offer classes more often, the building is not large enough to meet demand. It is our duty to help seniors live healthy lives."

"A shared facility could provide meals for low-income families and provide healthcare services and exercise programs for seniors."

Powellsville:

"We need a facility in Powellsville for seniors. Having access to recreation activities and exercise programs should be available to all the communities, not just Windsor. Existing buildings could be used for recreation programs and activities for the many seniors in the area who are often home alone."

"A pool in our community could be used by seniors during the day for water exercise and by the schools in the afternoon and evening to teach our kids how to swim. Kids should not be afraid of the water."

"Partnering with schools or the recreation department is a great way to offer programs in smaller communities."

Lewiston-Woodville:

"If historical John B. Bond Elementary School could be refurbished and used as a community outreach, recreation, and entertainment center to enhance the viability of the entire Lewiston-Woodville township, then a major milestone will be accomplished. The building and the grounds are conducive to be renovated and serve multi purposes."

"A facility with accommodations suitable for senior Citizen activities, exercise programs, youth basketball, and walking trails and picnic areas would do a great deal for building the community and provide activities for families to bond."

Windsor:

"Having access to public swimming pools for swimming and kayak or paddleboarding lessons would help get more residents out on the river. How can we expect people to visit our beautiful river if we don't practice what we preach?"

"One facility with a library and exercise equipment and programs and activities for youth and senior citizens would be a good way to close some of the gaps between different groups in our community."

Community Survey

Purpose and Method

The focus of this project was to collect public opinions of Bertie County residents regarding parks and recreation services and facilities. The input collected will be used for an updated parks and recreation plan for the County.

East Carolina University Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies prepared and administered an on-line survey to a random sample of Bertie County residents. The survey was also administered in hard copy format at various stakeholders throughout the County. Responses received from the online and hard copy surveys were subsequently combined to create an overall sample of responses. In sum, responses received from the online and hard copy surveys resulted in a total of 328 participants. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix F. Recreation Survey Instrument.

In addition to the survey, focus groups and stakeholder interviews were conducted to obtain supplementary information from Bertie County residents regarding their feelings and attitudes toward parks and recreation within the County. Following the focus groups and stakeholder interviews, participants' responses were analyzed and categorized into main points and key direct quotes. A total of 35 Bertie County residents participated in the focus groups and interviews.

Study Limitations

One potential limitation to all public opinion research is error derived from not receiving responses from all individuals within a given population. The only approach to eliminate this error is to increase the size of the sample, which is often not a feasible solution for many studies. This particular survey was completed by 328 Bertie County residents and in turn, was subjected to a sampling error of approximately $\pm 5\%$. That is, if 60% of participants respond in a certain way on a particular question, it can be expected that somewhere between 55% and 65% of individuals in the entire population would respond in a similar way.

Results Overview

The following Results Overview details key findings derived from participants’ responses:

Analysis of survey demographics indicated that the sample consisted primarily of women with at least a bachelor’s degree and an annual household income of greater than \$50,000. Additionally, the majority of participants were White and between the ages of 40 and 65.

Analysis of focus groups demographics indicated that the majority of focus group participants were female (79%), Black or African American (52%), and between the ages of 40 and 59 (50%). Furthermore, the majority of focus group participants indicated having at least some college experience (64%), a total household income greater than \$35,000 (64%), and children (64%). Finally, the majority of the focus group participants (57%) were residents of either Windsor or Lewiston-Woodville and a large majority (93%) had lived in Bertie County for more than 20 years.

Survey participants indicated receiving most of their information regarding Bertie County Recreation via newspapers, word of mouth, and Facebook. However, word of mouth was listed as the primary source of information.

Focus group participants were also asked how Bertie County can best keep citizens informed about parks and recreation facilities and activities. Participants indicated that all sources of media would be effective; however, a comprehensive recreation website in tandem with social media was specifically discussed, as many participants stated that “Facebook would be effective.” Participants also suggested that “churches” would be a good location to provide information about parks and recreation allowing it to spread via “word of mouth.” One resident proposed increased partnership with churches; “Bertie County is blessed to have many places of worship and more recreation programs can be offered if the towns work with churches, especially in towns in smaller areas.”

When considering options for future developments in Bertie County, participants viewed new parks and the renovation of current parks as essential priorities. Specifically, participants who advocated for new parks suggested that a fitness center, a gymnasium, walking trails, and swimming pools with playgrounds and splashpads would all be beneficial additions.

Participants viewed teenagers (ages 13-17) and children (ages 6-12) as the age groups that most needed additional programs and activities. However, a general need for more activities in all groups was also indicated with special attention to programs and activities for the senior population. Finally, it was noted that the desire for more recreational opportunities may be the result of both a legitimate absence of certain activities, as well as a lack of awareness of the opportunities currently available to Bertie County residents.

Key quotes derived from the focus groups have been included throughout the report and the focus group questions can be found in Appendix G. Focus Group Questions.

Survey Sample Characteristics

Gender

The majority of respondents in the sample (59 %) were women (Table 25).

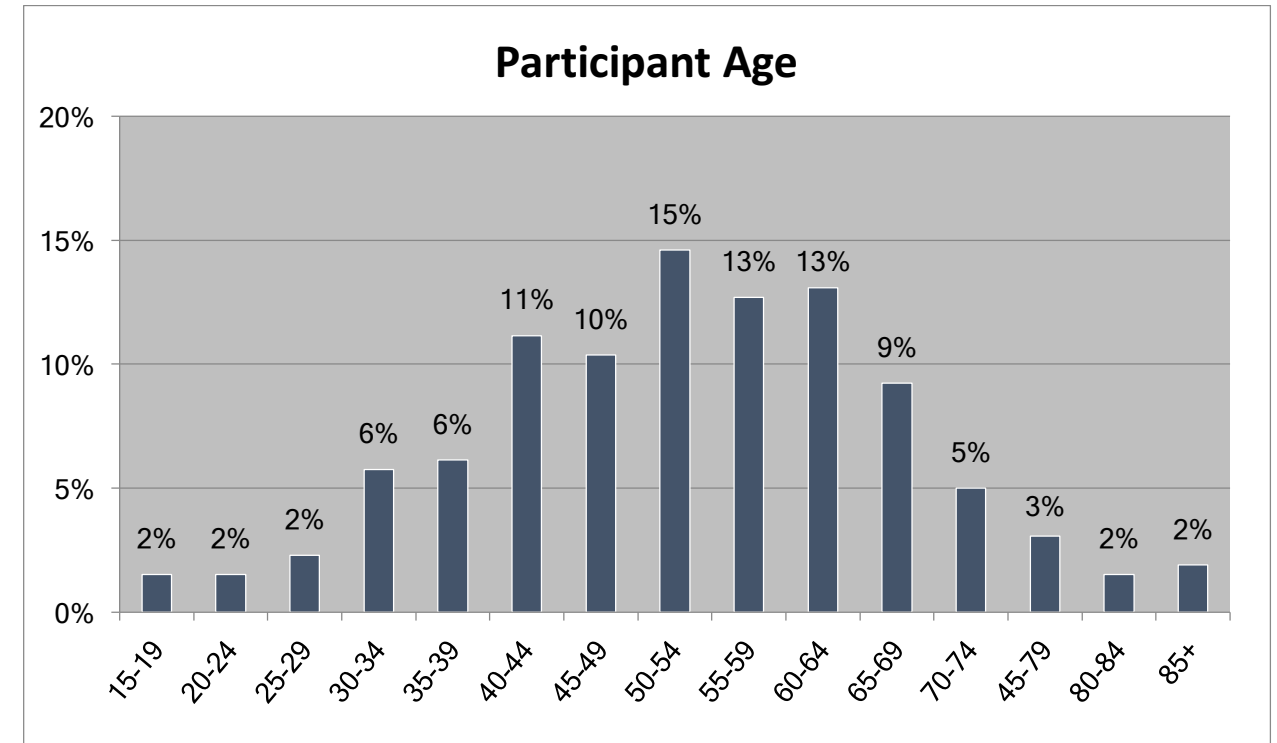
Table 25. Gender

Facility	Percentage
Male	40.7% (127)
Female	59.3% (185)

Age

As shown in Figure 37, the largest portion of participants were between the ages of 50 and 54 (15%). However, approximately 10% of the participants were found within each of the age categories ranging from 40 to 69.

Figure 37. Participant Age



Race

The largest portion of participants were White (70%), followed by those who indicated being Black or African American (19%). No other races were represented in the survey (Table 26).

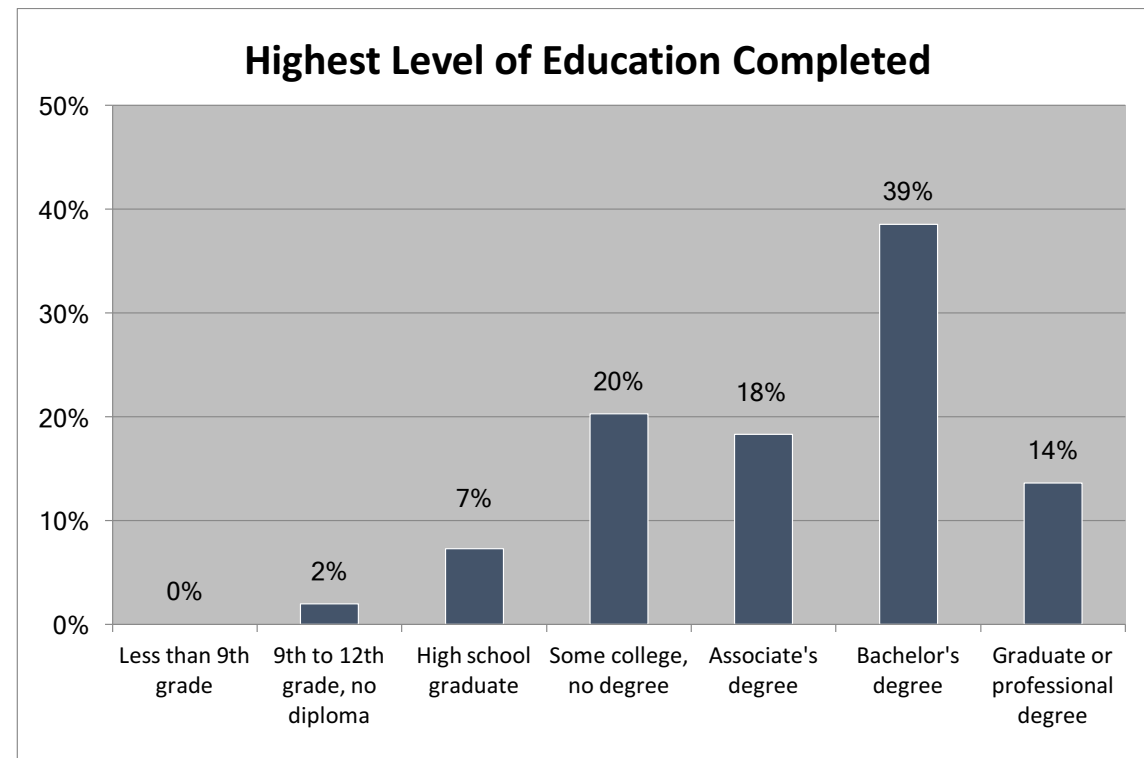
Table 26. Race

	PERCENTAGE
White	70.4% (n=231)
Black or African American	18.6% (n=61)
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0% (n=0)
Asian	0.0%(n=0)
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0% (n=0)
Other	0.9% (n=3)

Education

The majority of participants (91%) indicated having at least some college education (Figure 38). Specifically, 20% attended college but did not receive a degree, 18% received an associate’s degree, 39% received a bachelor’s degree, and 14% received a graduate or professional degree.

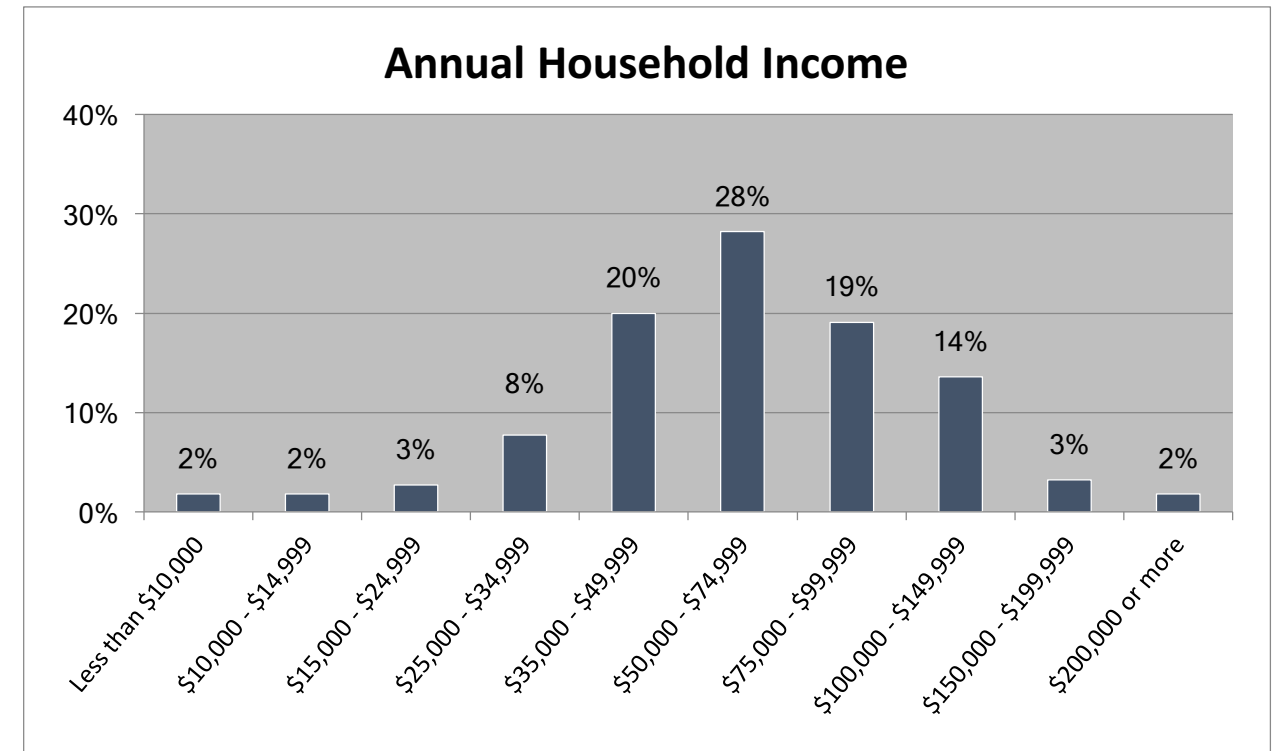
Figure 38. Highest Level of Education Completed



Income

The largest portion of participants (28%) reported an annual household income between \$50,000 and \$74,999 (Figure 39). Following, nearly equivalent portions of participants reported an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999 (20%) and \$75,000 to \$99,999 (19%).

Figure 39. Annual Household Income



Recreational Opportunities Bertie County

Participants were asked to report indoor and outdoor activities and facilities that were most desired in order to address the current needs in Bertie County. Participants reported such activities and facilities in a variety of ways. First, participants freely indicated the activities and facilities that they feel are most needed in order to benefit the entire County. Next, participants selected specific activities and locations where improvements are needed using a predefined list. Following, participants indicated specific age groups that are in greater need of increased recreational opportunities, as well as the particular types of programs and activities that are needed. Finally, participants reported the type of recreational opportunities that were needed for each age group throughout Bertie County.

Participants reported the desired activities and facilities that were seen as beneficial to Bertie County as a whole. Listed below are the most frequently reported responses.

Indoor

- Gym/Fitness centers (69)
- Pools (67)
- Basketball courts (38)
- Bowling (35)
- Recreation centers (35)
- Gymnasiums (33)
- Movie theater (28)
- Track (13)
- Volleyball courts (13)
- Skate parks (12)

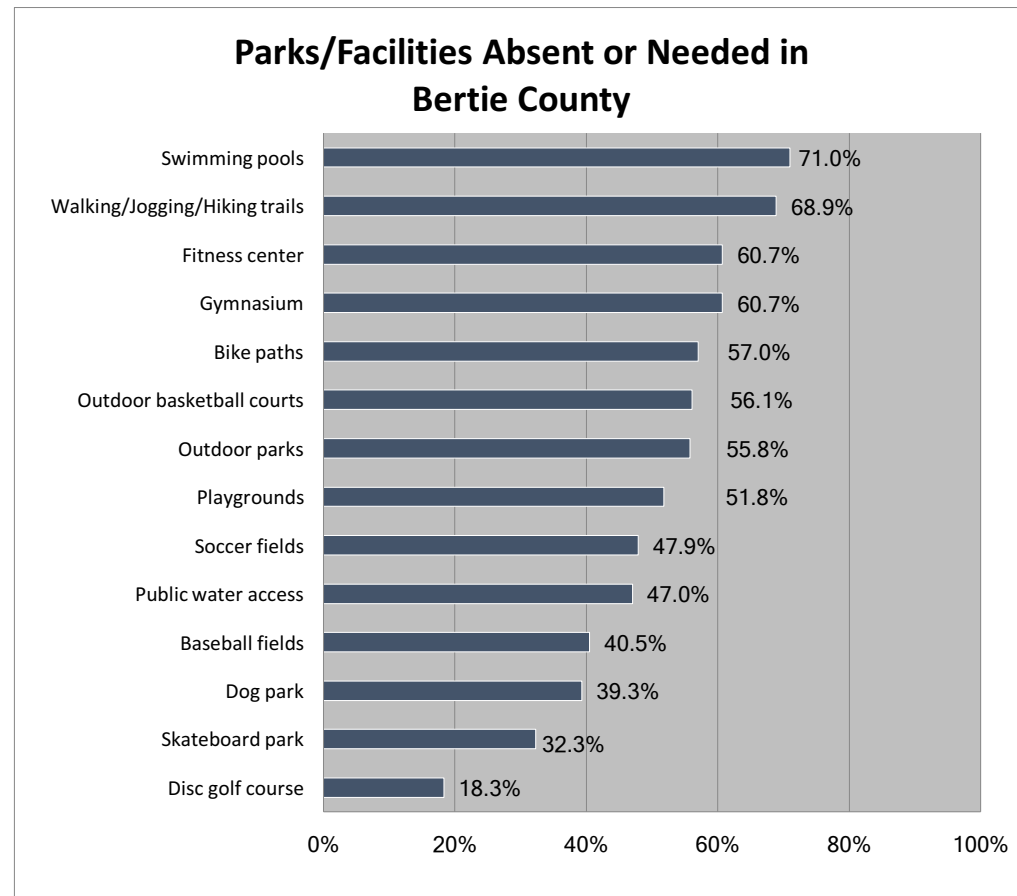
Outdoor

- Walking/Jogging/Bike trails (111)
- Basketball courts (57)
- Swimming pools (53)
- Soccer fields (42)
- Playgrounds (40)
- Baseball (37)
- Outdoor parks (33)
- Water access (30)
- Dog parks (29)
- Water park (28)

Focus group participants were also asked to report their opinions regarding parks, facilities, and programs that they would like to see offered, built, or renovated. Participants stated that they would like to see more organized sports such as “softball, baseball, and football.” Furthermore, participants indicated interest in indoor facilities, such as a multi-use sports complex that could be used as a fitness facility, as well as an “emergency shelter.” Finally, participants expressed interest in a variety of outdoor facilities and activities such as “pools, splash pads, and walking trails connecting schools and parks throughout the County.”

Next, participants were provided with a list of various parks and facilities and were asked to indicate if the parks and facilities are absent or needed in Bertie County (Figure 40). Parks and facilities indicated as such by over half of participants included swimming pools (71%), walking trails (69%), a fitness center (61%), a gymnasium (61%), bike paths (57%), outdoor basketball courts (56%), outdoor parks (56%), and playgrounds (52%). The least needed parks and facilities included a disc golf course (18%) and a skateboard park (32%).

Figure 40. Parks and Facilities Absent or Needed in Bertie County



As mentioned above, the five most absent or needed parks and facilities are swimming pools, walking trails, a fitness center, a gymnasium, and bike paths. Participants were asked to specify the County locations where they feel these parks and facilities are most needed. The responses were consistent across all parks and facilities, as five locations were repeatedly reported (i.e., Aulander, Colerain, Kelford, Lewiston-Woodville, and Windsor).

These consistent responses may be the result of multiple contributing factors. First, the specified locations may have been listed as areas of need due to their populations, which are larger in comparison to other areas of the county. Second, it may be possible that these locations are seen as central locations in which people are willing to travel to in order to use various parks and facilities. Finally, it is noteworthy that although five locations were consistently indicated as areas of need, a general need was reported for every location in Bertie County (Table 27).

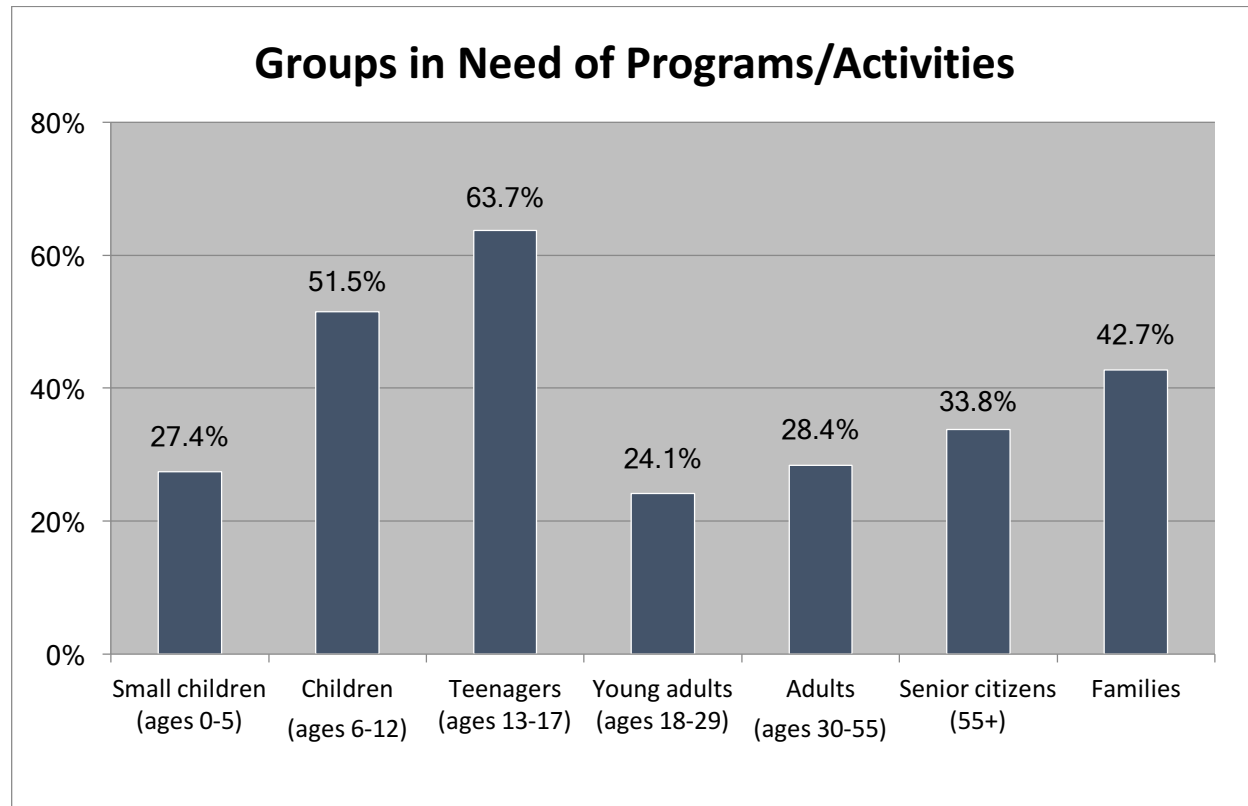
Table 27. Locations Parks and Facilities Are Most Needed

PARK/FACILITY	LOCATION	PERCENTAGE
Swimming pools 71%	Windsor	22.9% (n=75)
	Aulander	18.0% (n=59)
	Lewiston-Woodville	14.0% (n=46)
	Colerain	12.8% (n=42)
	Kelford	11.3% (n=37)
Walking/Jogging/ Hiking trails 69%	Windsor	24.4% (n=80)
	Aulander	17.7% (n=58)
	Lewiston-Woodville	15.9% (n=52)
	Colerain	14.3% (n=47)
	Kelford	11.9% (n=39)
Fitness center 61%	Windsor	18.6% (n=61)
	Aulander	15.5% (n=51)
	Lewiston-Woodville	12.8% (n=42)
	Colerain	10.4% (n=34)
	Kelford	7.9% (n=26)
Gymnasium 61%	Windsor	18.3% (n=60)
	Aulander	14.9% (n=49)
	Lewiston-Woodville	13.1% (n=43)
	Colerain	11.6% (n=38)
	Kelford	8.2% (n=27)
Bike paths 57%	Windsor	19.5% (n=64)
	Aulander	14.9% (n=49)
	Lewiston-Woodville	14.0% (n=46)
	Colerain	12.2% (n=40)
	Kelford	10.4% (n=34)

Recreational Opportunities: Age Groups

Participants indicated the specific age groups that are in need of additional programs and activities in Bertie County. The two age groups that were viewed as most in need of greater recreational opportunities included teenagers (ages 13-17; 64%) and children (ages 6-12; 52%) (see Figure 41). Following, participants also indicated that programs and activities were needed for families (43%) and senior citizens (ages 55+; 34%).

Figure 41. Groups in Need of Programs/Activities



Similarly, focus group participants indicated age groups that are in need of a variety of programs and activities. Participants expressed the need for more programs and facilities for senior citizens, such as “art programs”, “classes”, and “shuffleboard.” Additionally, participants stated that a fitness facility or “weight room” would be beneficial to all age groups. Lastly, focus group participants expressed the importance of “making sure that no kids are left out” by creating inclusive programming that will be of interest to all youth in the County.



Programs and Activities for Age Groups

Next, participants indicated the specific types of programs and activities that are needed for each age group. Overall, a greater need for all activities was reported across all age groups.

For small children (ages 0-5), the largest portions of participants indicated that more sports (21%), nature/ exploration (21%), summer camp (20%) and exercise (20%) programs and activities are needed (Figure 42). The smallest portion of participants (16%) indicated a need for social programs and activities.

Figure 42. Types of Programs/Activities for Small Children

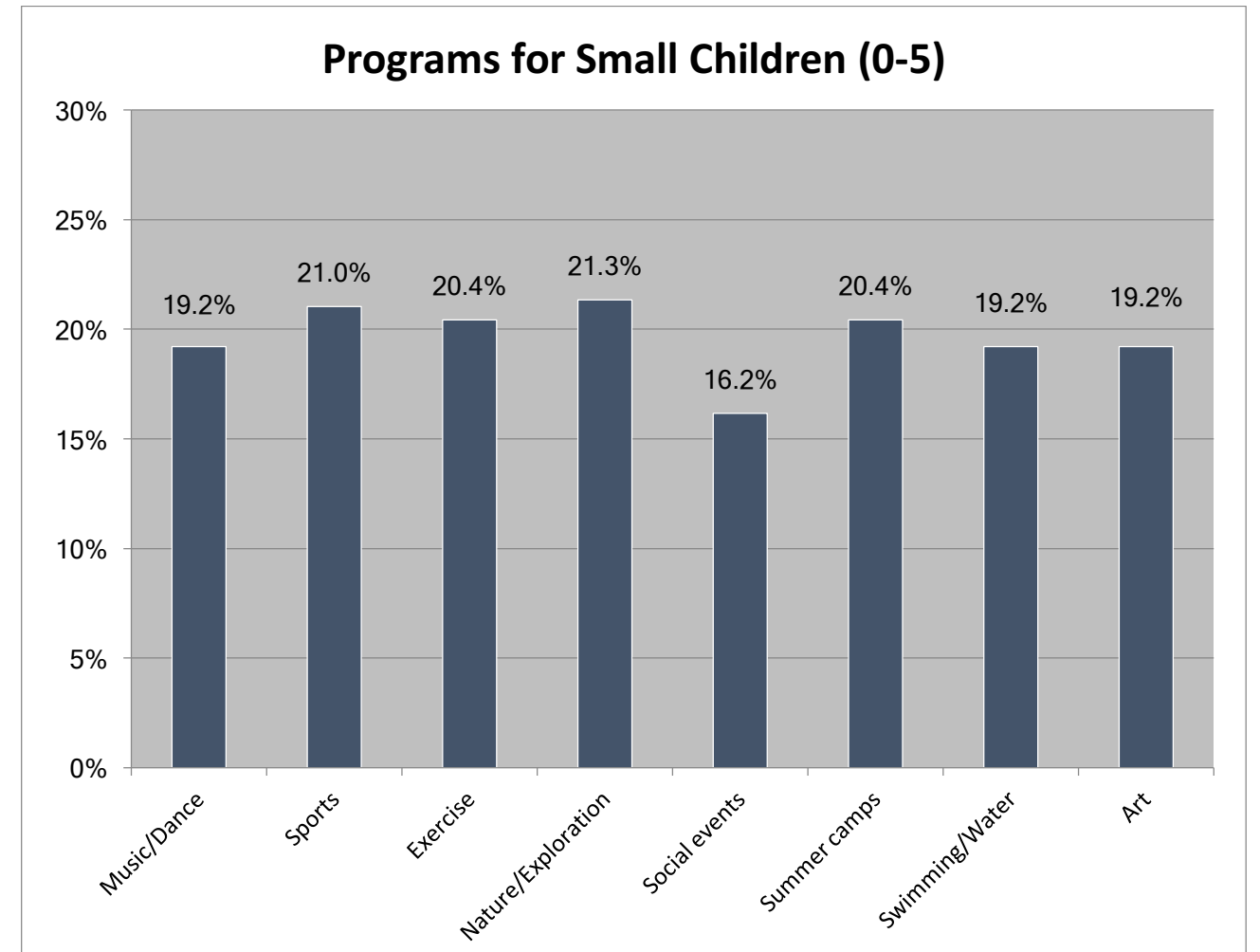
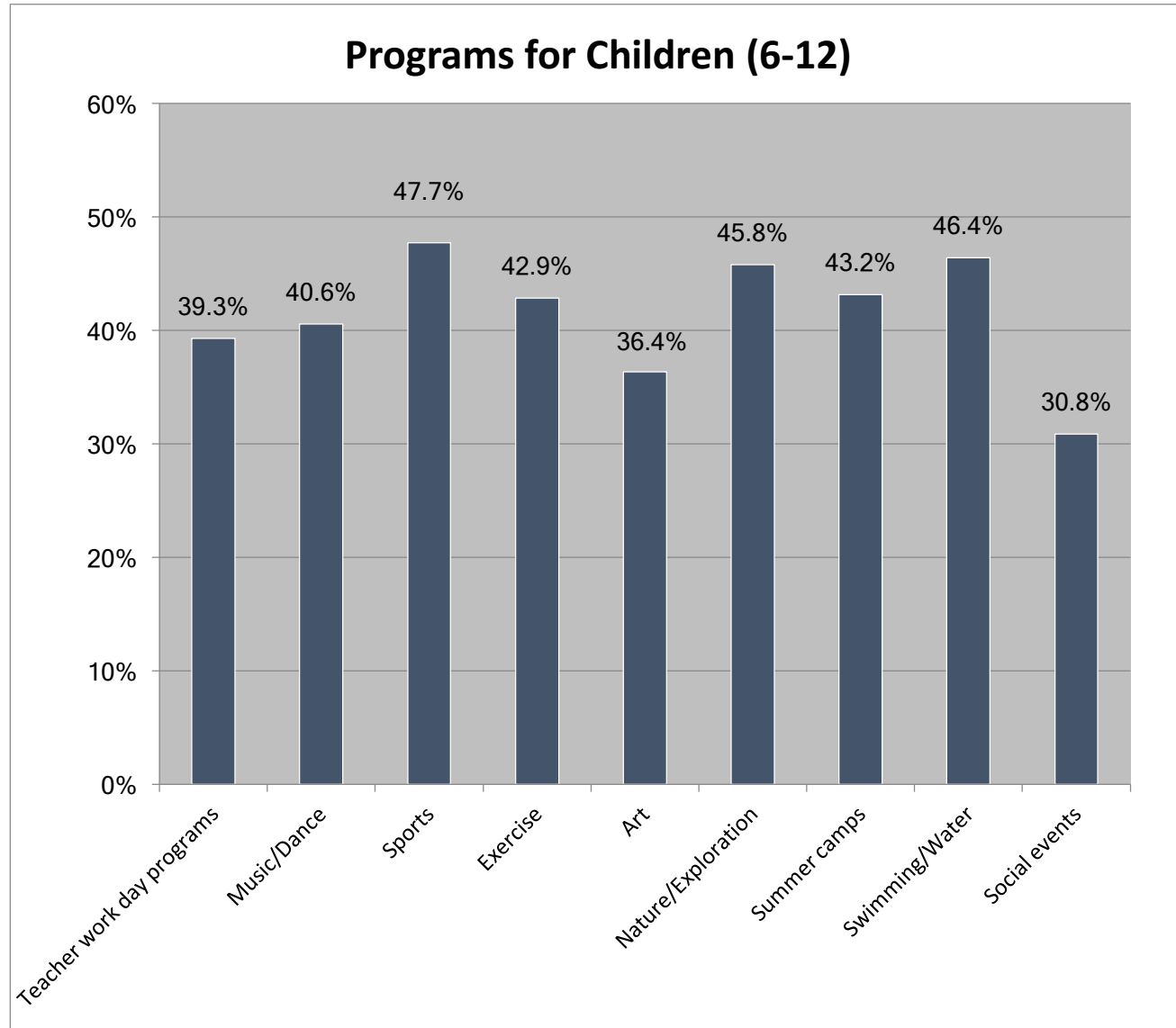
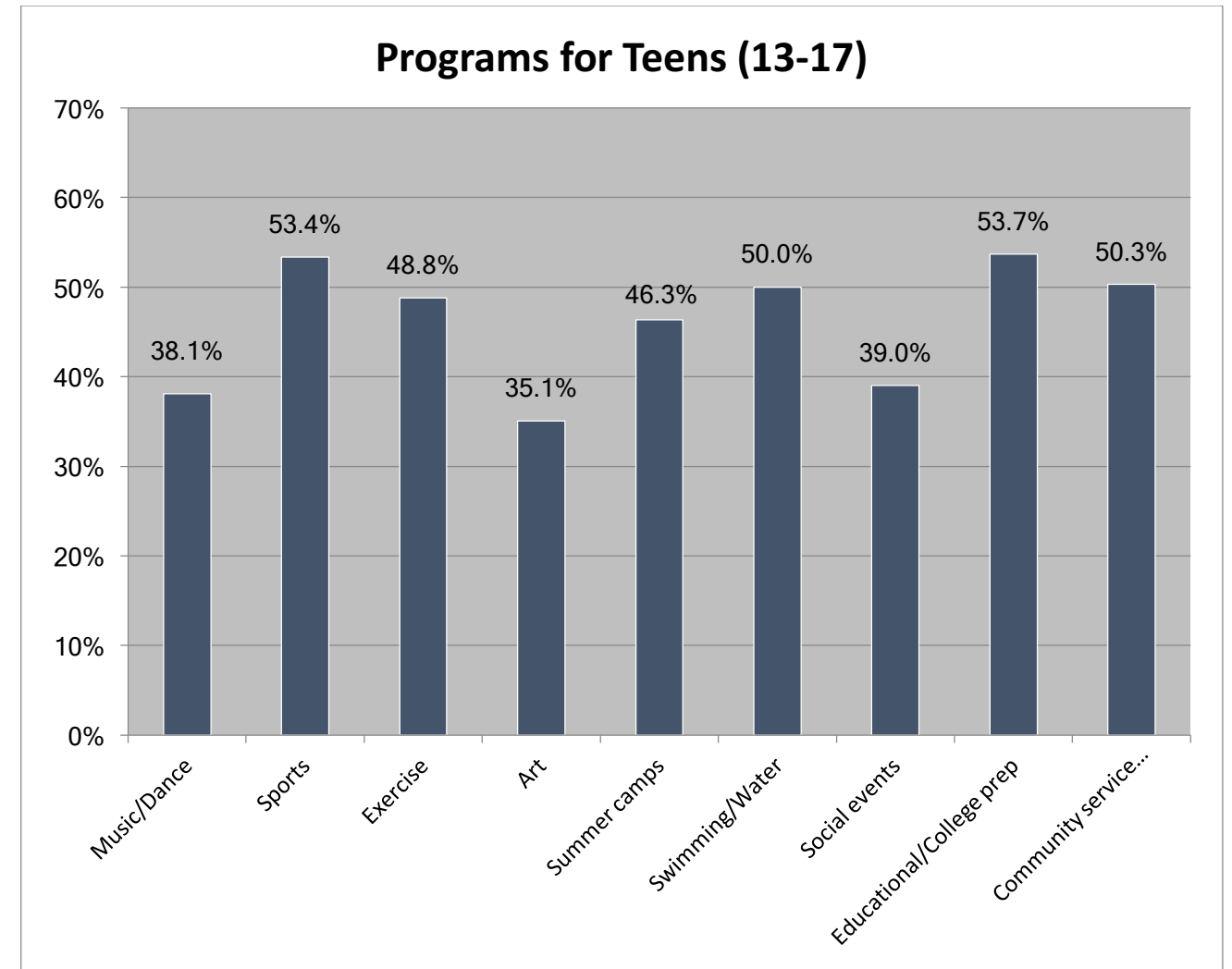


Figure 43. Types of Programs/Activities for Children



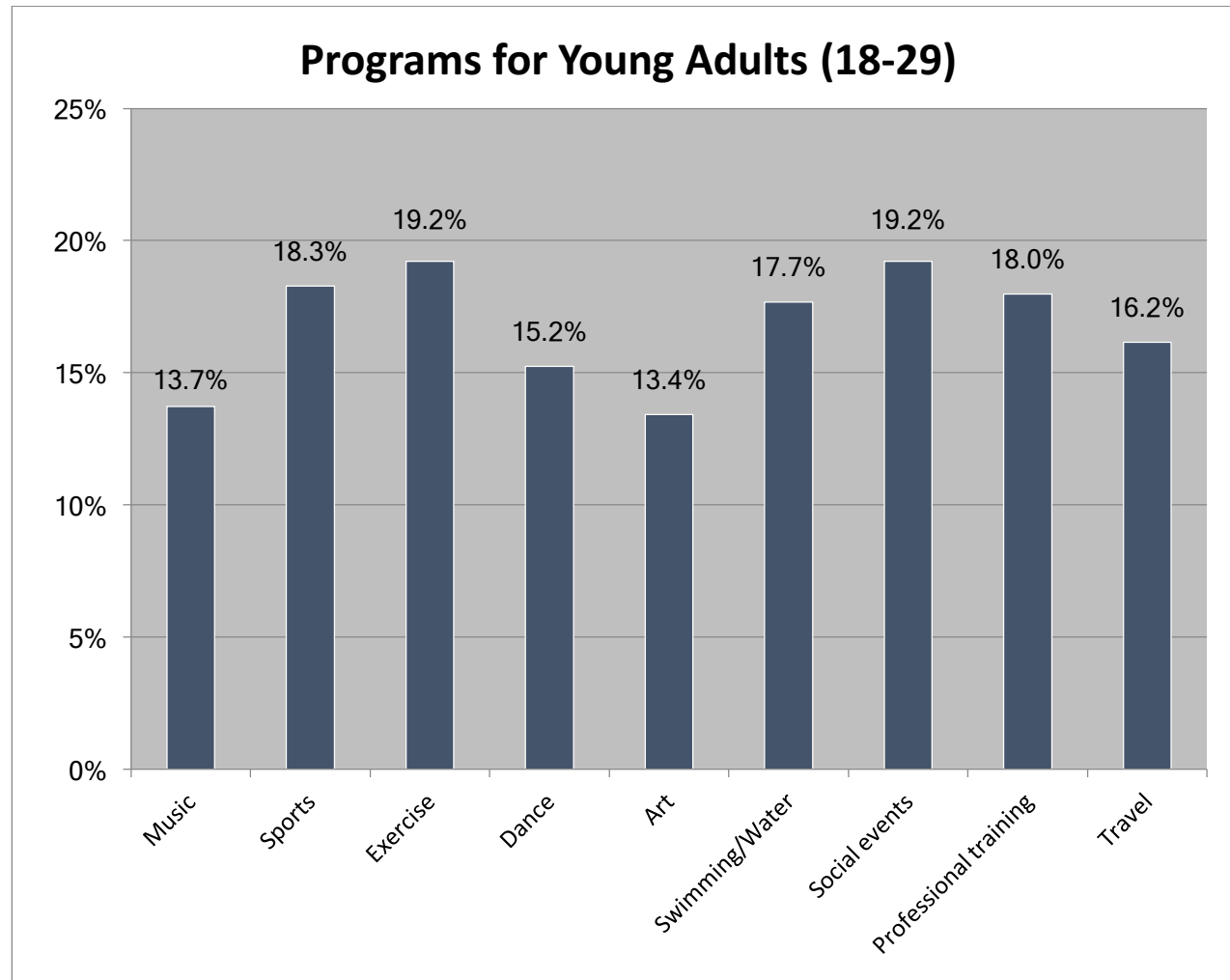
As shown in Figure 43, for children (ages 6-12), the largest portions of participants indicated that more sports (48%), nature/exploration (46%), and swimming/water (46%) programs and activities are needed. The smallest portions of participants indicated a need for social (31%) and art (36%) programs and activities.

Figure 44. Types of Programs/Activities for Teens



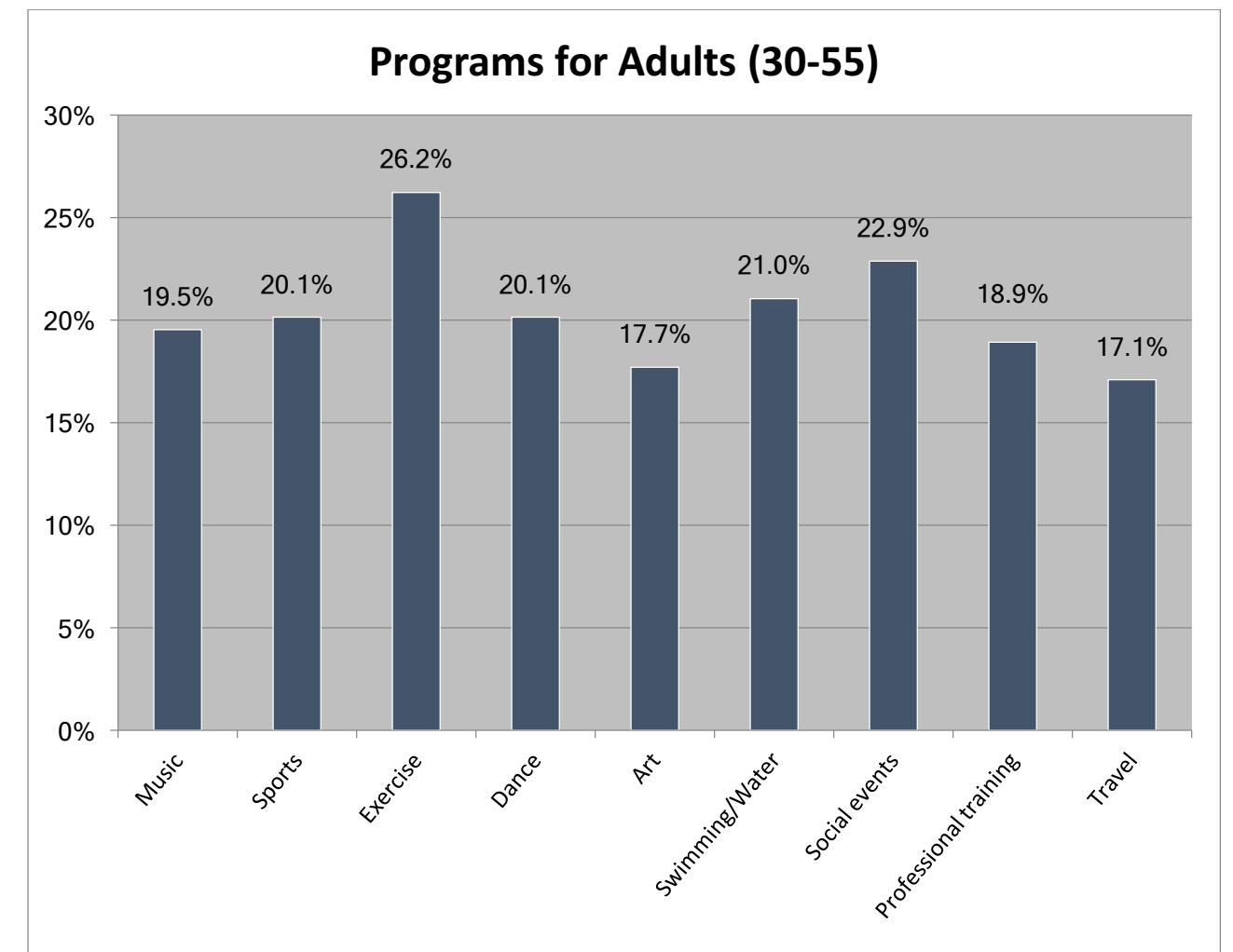
For teenagers (ages 13-17), the largest portions of participants indicated that more educational/college prep (54%), sports (53%), swimming/water (50%), and community service (50%) programs and activities are needed. The smallest portion of participants (35%) indicated a need for art programs and activities (Figure 44).

Figure 45. Types of Programs/Activities for Young Adults



For young adults (ages 18-29), the largest portions of participants indicated that more exercise (19%), social (19%), sports (18%), professional training (18%), and swimming/water (18%) programs and activities are needed (Figure 45). The smallest portions of participants indicated a need for art (13%) and music (14%) programs and activities.

Figure 46. Types of Programs/Activities for Adults



For adults (ages 30-55), the largest portions of participants indicated that more exercise (26%) and social (23%) programs and activities are needed (Figure 46). The smallest portions of participants indicated a need for travel (17%) and art (18%) programs and activities.

Figure 47. Types of Programs/Activities for Seniors

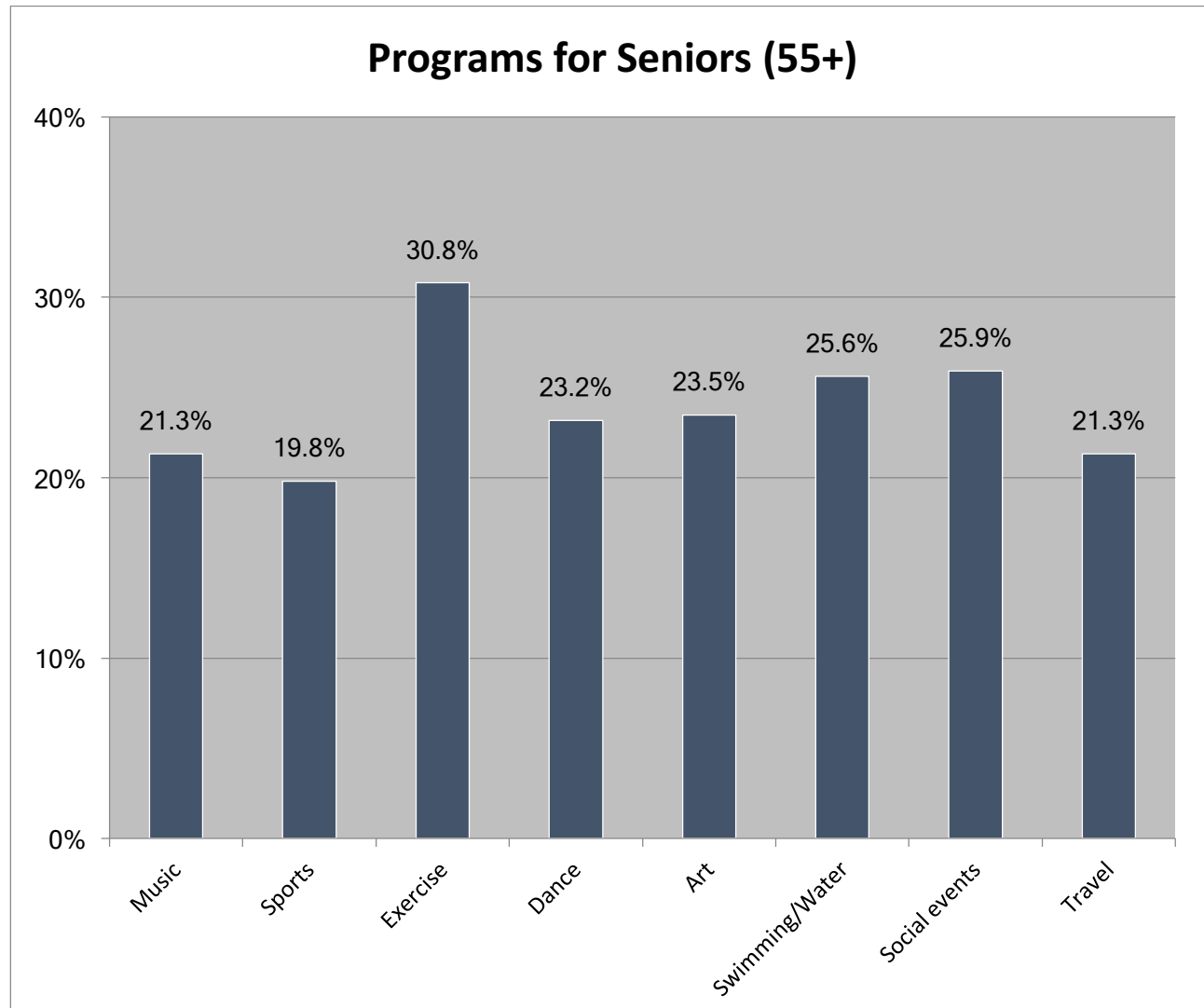
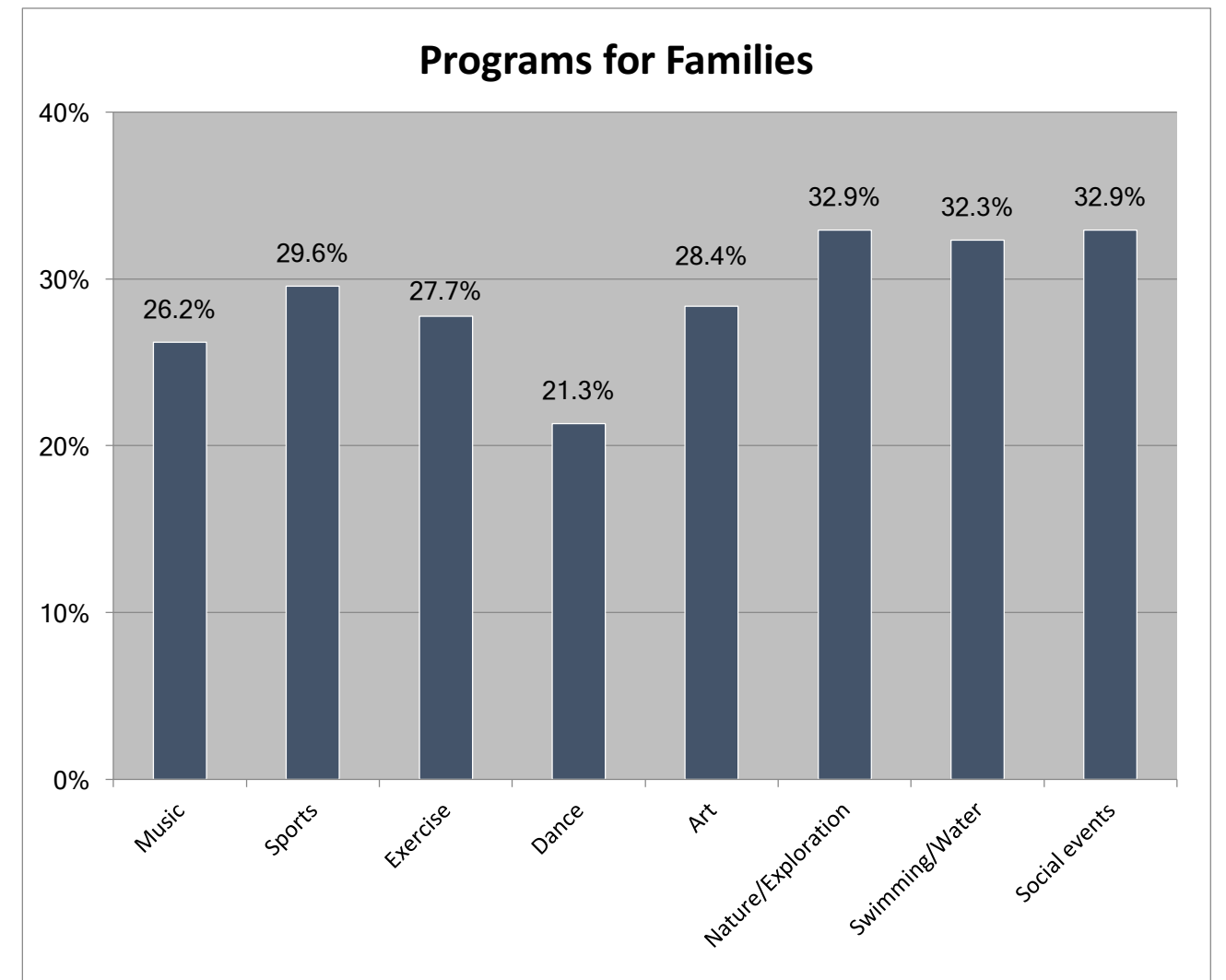


Figure 47 shows that most seniors (ages 55+) indicated Bertie County needed more exercise (31%) and social (26%) programs, as well as swimming/water (26%) programs and activities. The smallest portion of participants (20%) indicated a need for sports programs and activities.

Figure 48. Types of Programs/Activities for Families



For families, the largest portions of participants indicated that more nature/exploration (33%), social (33%), and swimming/water (32%) programs and activities are needed (Figure 48). The smallest portion of participants indicated a need for dance (21%) programs and activities.

County Priorities

Participants were provided a list of five potential improvements to parks and recreation in Bertie County and were asked to prioritize the options. Specifically, participants were prompted to select and rank three of the improvement options as priorities for the Bertie County Recreation Department. The improvement that was viewed as a priority by the largest portion of participants (67%) suggested that the Bertie County Recreation Department build a new recreation center (Table 28). However, building new parks was listed as the first or “top” priority by the largest portion of participants (30%). Finally, the option suggesting the addition of new sports leagues was endorsed as a priority by the smallest portion of participants (21%) and less than ten percent of participants viewed the option as a top priority.

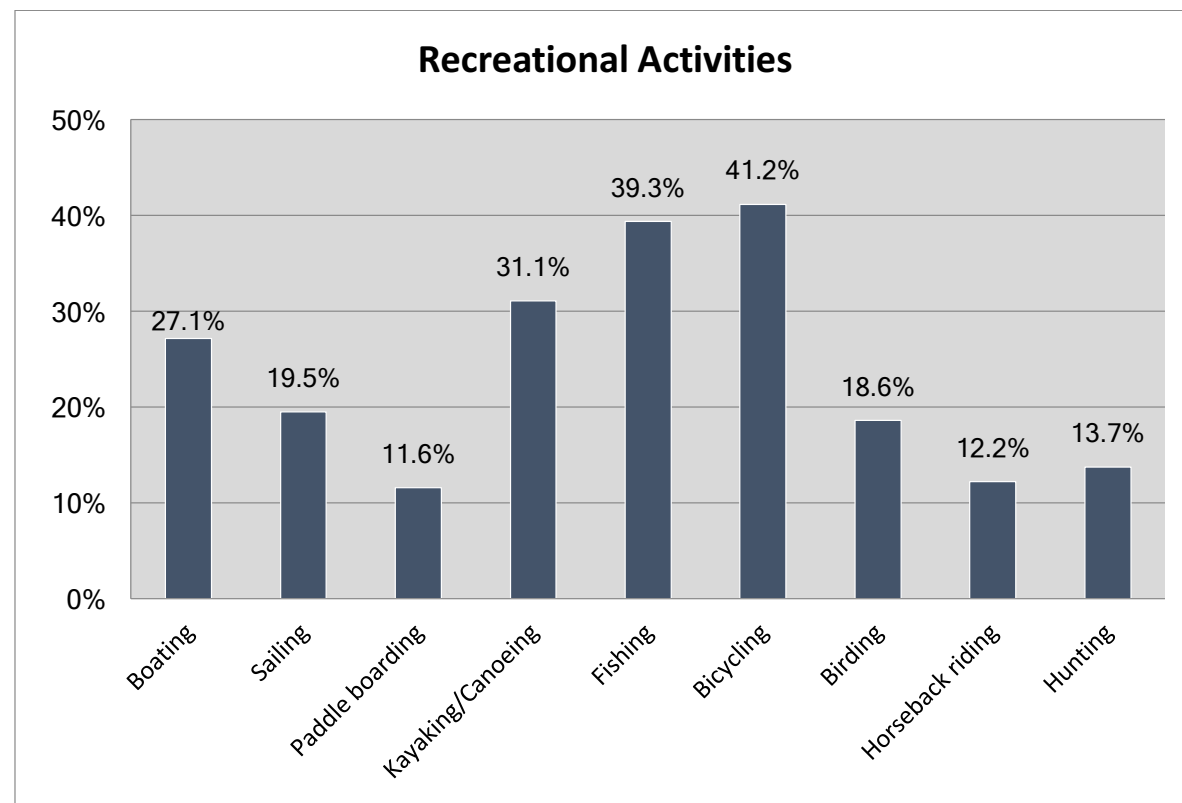
Table 28. Parks and Recreation Improvement Priorities

	Overall	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
New parks	61.9% (n=203)	30.2% (n=99)	15.5% (n=51)	16.2% (n=53)
New recreation center	67.4% (n=221)	20.4% (n=67)	27.7% (n=91)	19.2% (n=63)
Renovation of current parks	61.3% (n=201)	22.0% (n=72)	21.6% (n=71)	17.7% (n=58)
New/Improved programming	56.4% (n=185)	17.1% (n=56)	20.1% (n=66)	19.2% (n=63)
Addition of sports leagues	31.1% (n=102)	8.5% (n=28)	8.2% (n=27)	14.3% (n=47)

Recreational Activities

Participants were provided a list of various outdoor recreational activities and asked if they participate or plan to participate in those activities (Figure 49). The activities that were reported most often were bicycling (4%), fishing (39%), and kayaking/canoeing (31%). The activity that was reported least often was paddle boarding (12%), but that may be due to a lack of awareness of this relatively new activity trend.

Figure 49. Recreational Activities Residents Participate or Plan to Participate



Conclusions on Bertie County Recreation and Parks

Participants were asked to freely respond to the following question: “In what ways can Bertie County better meet the recreational and leisure needs of you and/or your family?” The five most common responses included more programs and activities for all community residents, with an emphasis on youth and seniors, improved communication about programs and facilities, the building of new parks, renovation of existing playgrounds and parks, the creation of trails including walking, biking and paddling, and building a new multi-use recreation center to bring the community together.

Additionally, in response to the question, “If you could tell the Bertie County Recreation Department one thing they need to do to serve citizens better, what would it be?”, participants suggested better advertisement and communication of programs, activities, and facilities, increased water access, and more facilities and activities for youth, seniors and the rest of the general population.

Focus group participants were also asked to provide comments on the strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement for Bertie County Recreation Department. Overall, participants indicated that they were not satisfied with the parks and recreation opportunities in Bertie County. Specifically, participants discussed the general lack of facilities and programs stating that “there are a lot of activities that you have to travel to other counties that are not currently available in Bertie County. Participants also discussed a lack of collaboration with local schools as a weakness, expressing that “the only gyms we have are at the schools and we can’t use those as often as we would like due to limited staff.” Finally, many participants stated that strengths of parks and recreation in Bertie County are that it provides children and teens with “something to do”, “positive mentors”, and “the fundamentals of organized sports” and provides “important social opportunities for seniors as well as healthy meals and day trips.”

FINDINGS

An inventory and assessment of existing facilities was conducted in June 2017. Results of the survey show support for improving existing facilities and expanding recreational opportunities throughout in Bertie County with special attention to parks, walking and biking trails, and water based recreational opportunities including kayak/paddle trails. Public meetings and stakeholder interviews confirmed results of the survey with participants voicing their support for updating existing facilities and expanding recreational opportunities in the parks and outdoor recreation opportunities, especially water-based recreational opportunities and developing trails and connectivity. The results suggest improved access and communication were the top priority for all stakeholders and the key to moving forward is collaboration and building partnerships.

Improve Access

In order to meet the growing needs of its citizens, Bertie County will need to make additions and improvements to its recreational facilities and increase program offerings for all age groups throughout the County. A new multi-use facility in addition to satellite multiuse community recreation centers renovating existing space should be considered. Potential sites for satellite multi-purpose community recreation centers utilizing existing space:

- **The Aulander Community Building and the John A. Drew Field of Dreams Memorial Park.** Located in Aulander, NC.
- **Colerain Senior Center** The facility is located in Colerain, NC.
- **Eastern Carolina Geriatric Associates and Family Care Center.** The facility is located at 105 S. Commerce Street in Powellsville, NC.
- **Northeast Center for Human Development.** Formerly J.B. Bond School, the Northeast Center for Human Development, Lewiston Woodville, NC.

SWOT Analysis of Existing Facilities: Family Wellness Center, Powellsville, NC

- **Bertie County Parks & Recreation Complex.** The Bertie County Parks and Recreation Complex spans over 38 acres and has space for a multiuse facility. Collaborating with Bertie County Council on Aging Center, Bertie County YMCA, and NC Cooperative Extension Bertie Center could maximize human and financial resources by sharing a multiuse facility similar to the camps in Currituck County.

Besides providing recreation activities and programs, the satellite multiuse community centers can meet a variety of services community members have identified as lacking:

- Shelter during disasters; especially for the many residents who live in mobile homes
- Nutrition site for children and seniors
- Small business incubator and job training
- Healthcare services such as flu shots and blood pressure checks
- Event and meeting space rental for the residents and visitors
- Commercial kitchen for mobile food services. Provide services to small business such as Food trucks. Food trucks need access to a commercial kitchen and joint-use agreements would allow for small business training and partnerships with the health department nutrition programs.
- Community garden providing space for community members to come together and learn about growing healthy foods and classes on how to prepare.
- A Lewiston-Woodville resident suggested the recently renovated EJ Hayes School in Williamston, NC as a school converted to a community center.
- Visitors to the multi-use facility in Currituck showed overwhelming interest in exploring a joint-use facility where Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service, the Bertie County YMCA, the Bertie County Council on Aging could join forces and provide a facility to meet a variety of needs and maximize resources.

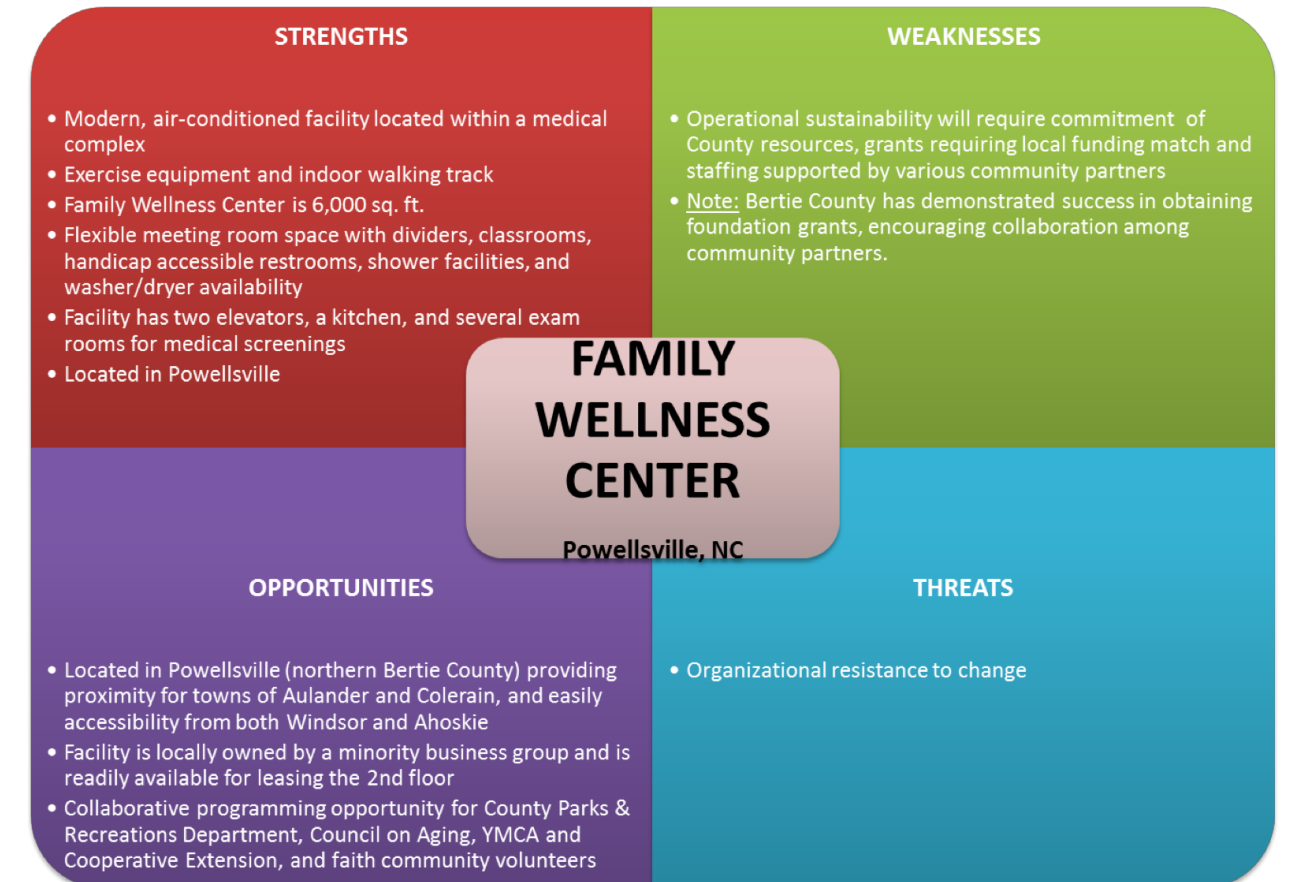
Residents were asked which demographic group or what purpose County recreation facilities should serve. The vast majority of respondents reported a need to provide facilities for youth and seniors. The survey results signal the need for continued water-based recreational opportunities, particularly for children and teens.

SWOT Analysis

An analysis of the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats was conducted by North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Management Fellow, Dominique Walker. Under the supervision of Scott Sauer and Donna Mizelle, a SWOT analysis was conducted on five existing facilities.

1. John B. Bond School in Lewiston-Woodville
2. J.P. Law School in Merry Hill
3. Powellsville Family Wellness Center
4. Place of Possibilities (private school with recreation facilities for after school/weekend use)
5. ATV Park - 99 acres owned by the County (former landfill—now closed) for ATV recreational use

Based on the SWOT analysis matrix, these sites were evaluated and ranked on a continuum of condition, and programming readiness. Capital costs would need to be determined in site specific planning as this SWOT provides a cursory review of sites that can be further explored in a separate plan. The analyses were categorized by the traditional Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats as well as by indicators that included: Environment, Location, Technology, Resources, Demographics, Health and Wellness, and Cultural Significance. The results follow.





SWOT Analysis of Existing Facilities: Place of Possibilities, Aulander, NC



SWOT Analysis of Existing Facilities: John P. Law Elementary School, Merry Hill, NC



STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility is 29,000 sq. ft. • Operating, regulated gymnasium currently in use with electricity • Nine classroom-sized spaces, shower facilities, three to four office spaces, multiple bathrooms, new roof, adequate parking, new playground, outside concrete court • Facility has a kitchen, auditorium, and adequate storage space • Located in Merry Hill (southeast Bertie County) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School building is currently not in operation and needs significant repairs • Facility is located in a remote location in Merry Hill • No electricity in the school building, needs rewiring
<p>JOHN P. LAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Merry Hill, NC</p>	
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility is locally owned by a minority business group • Collaborative programming opportunity for County Parks & Recreation Department, Council on Aging, YMCA and Cooperative Extension, and faith community • Community center and technology "hotspot" for residents • Potential nomination for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future threats of persistent vandalism • Lack of commitment from the local community

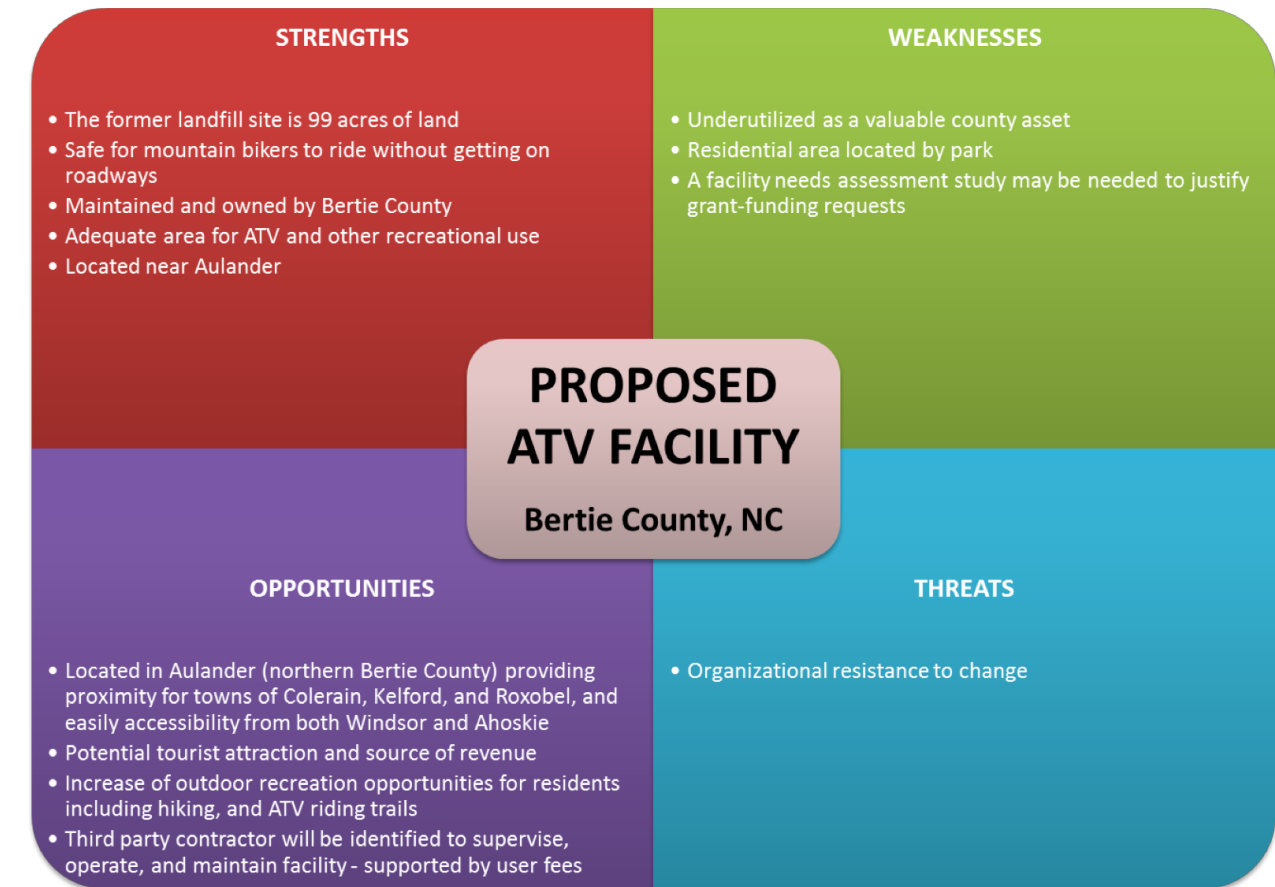


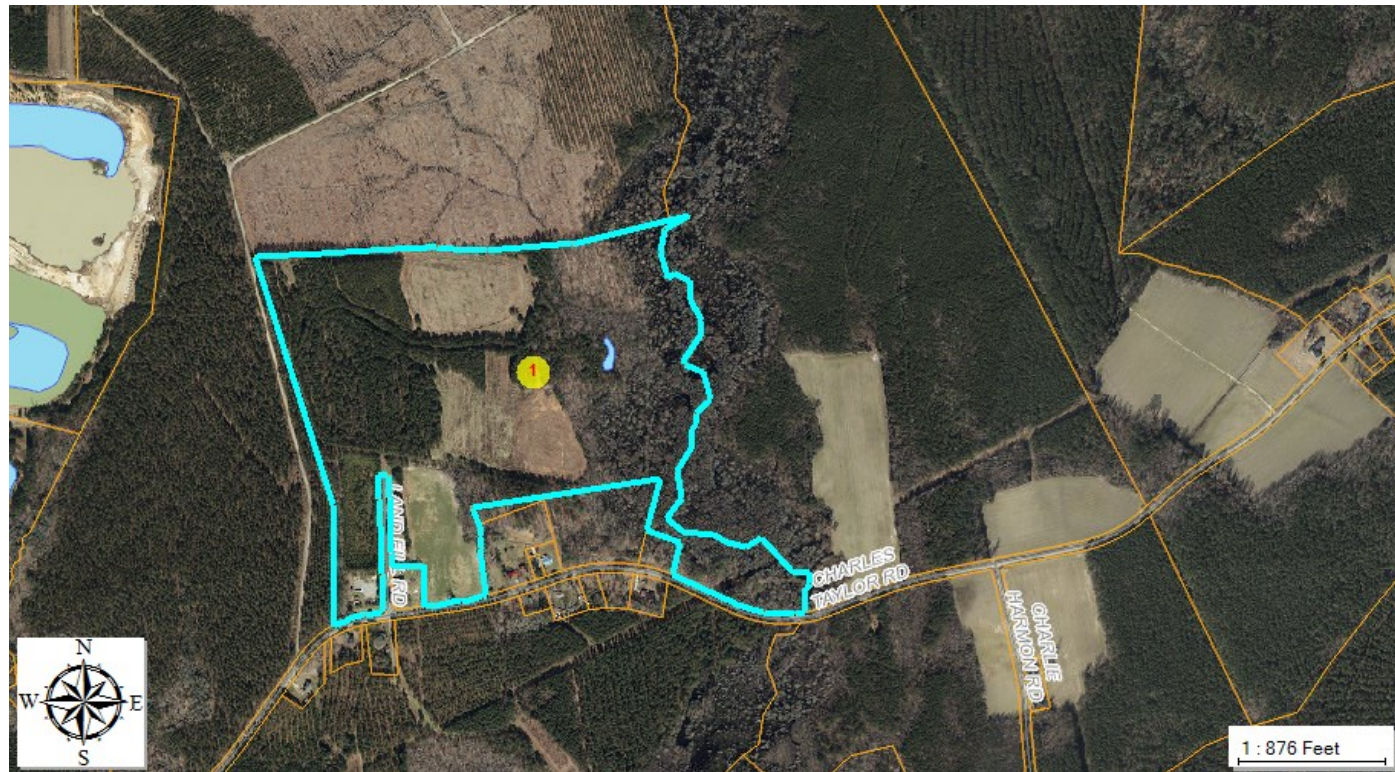


STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community building that currently exists in the Lewiston-Woodville area Located in Lewiston-Woodville (western Bertie County) providing proximity to Roxobel and Kelford communities, and Hwys 11 and 308 Building has five classroom-sized spaces, a full kitchen, concrete basketball court, stage, 3 acres behind the facility, and defined space for recreation programs Equipped with County water and municipal sewer Elementary school is 9,870 sq. ft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School building is currently not in operation and needs considerable and significant repairs Facility is underutilized and has been allowed to deteriorate due to lack of funding and owner resources Capital funding for repairs and renovations is not available at the present time A facility needs assessment study may be required to justify grant-funding requests
<p>JOHN B. BOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Lewiston-Woodville, NC</p>	
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better coordination and increase access to county services Collaborative programming opportunity for County Parks & Recreations Department, Council on Aging, YMCA and Cooperative Extension, faith community, and other community stakeholders Collaborative partnership opportunity for County EMS department for a satellite office Community center and technology "hotspot" for residents Potential nomination for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of commitment from local community



SWOT Analysis of Existing Facilities: Proposed ATV Facility, Bertie County, NC





Improve Communication

The Bertie County Government Facebook has 650 followers. The towns of Windsor and Aulander have the most active Facebook Pages; Windsor has 4,171 followers and Aulander has 828. The Bertie County YMCA has a page on the NC Alliance of YMCA's but not a dedicated website. The YMCA does have a Facebook Page with 568 followers, but at the time of this report, the most recent post was 5 months ago.

Currently, most communities do not have an official Facebook page or other popular social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and Snapchat (Table 29). Developing a brand for the county and creating a website and complementary social media presence that represents all the communities would be worthwhile in raising awareness and increasing participation levels. Creation of a brand should be directed by a steering committee made up of various stakeholder groups in the county including a representative from Bertie County Schools, Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, Destination Windsor, Roanoke River Wildlife Refuge, Bertie County Economic Development, and others.

At present, information for the Bertie County Recreation Department is available on the Bertie County Government website (Table 30). Most parks and recreation department house their information on the county website; however, the information provided should be robust and easy to navigate. A separate brand should be created and messages consistently communicated. Burlington, North Carolina Recreation & Parks Department provides an example of a website that is both user friendly and attractive. While Burlington Recreation & Parks Department information is housed on the Alamance County website, it appears to have a separate presence. In addition, Burlington Recreation & Parks utilizes the following social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Visitors to the website are provided with information on community events, youth programs, athletics, and offers on-line registration for programs. Lastly, Burlington Recreation & Parks also offers the option to sign up for "Notify Me" on their website. This service sends text notifications of upcoming programs and events as well as updates for athletic programs.



Table 29. Social Media and Web Presence of Communities

Location	Website	Facebook	Instagram	Snapchat	Twitter
Askewville	-	-	-	-	-
Aulander	-	X	-	-	-
Colerain	-	-	-	-	-
Kelford	-	-	-	-	-
Lewiston-Woodville	-	-	-	-	-
Merry Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Powellsville	-	-	-	-	-
Roxobel	-	-	-	-	-
Snakebite	-	-	-	-	-
Windsor	X	X	-	-	-

Source: Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2017.

Table 30. Social Media and Web Presence – Recreation Organizations

Organizations	Website	Facebook	Instagram	Snapchat	Twitter
Bertie County Recreation Dept.	County	County	-	-	-
Bertie County YMCA	X	-	-	-	-
Bertie County Center Co-op Ext.	X	-	-	-	-
Bertie County Arts Council	X	-	-	-	-
Council Aging Center	County	-	-	-	-

Source: Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce, 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In communities everywhere, someone is being positively affected through parks and recreation every day; from taking a walk on a trail or fitness class at the community center, getting a nutritious meal or simply reaping the benefits of clean air and water because of preserved open space. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) promotes three values that make parks and recreation essential services to communities:

- Health and Wellness - Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through parks and recreation
- Conservation - Protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and engaging communities in conservation practices.
- Social Equity - Ensuring all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation.

Just as water, sewer, and public safety are considered essential public services, parks are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and a region. Communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, and maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, should have a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.

The values that make parks and recreation essential services are reflected in the recommendations which were made based on public input, projected growth, diversity of recreational opportunities, ADA Accessibility considerations, and existing park conditions. There are four sections:

- I. **Administration**
- II. **Funding**
- III. **Short-Term Goals (2018-2023)**
- IV. **Long-Term Goals (2024-2028)**

I. Administration

1. **Increase Staff** - The Bertie County Parks and Recreation Department should be commended for its accomplishments in providing park and recreation opportunities to the citizens of Bertie County. Input from county residents clearly demonstrates that they were generally satisfied with the parks and recreation programs provided by the Department. A major strength of the Bertie County Parks and Recreation is the staff who have done a great job with limited resources. However, participants agreed that additional staff members and resources are needed to make necessary improvements to programs and facilities.
2. **Improved Facilities and Programs for All Ages** - Bertie County’s base population has decreased. The population of Bertie is 20,518 and has declined by 4% from 2010-2015. The population percent change for Bertie County compared with other areas shows Bertie County ranks fifth in population change with, a -3.6% change. Measured against the state of North Carolina’s population change of 3.2%, Bertie County is 10.5% larger. Public input clearly identified health and wellness as an important reason for participating in public recreation opportunities. The median age of people in Bertie County is 44.8 and comparing the median age of men versus women, Bertie County illustrates median age of men is about 17.7% smaller than median age of women. An examination of age by generation shows that 42.1% of people living in Bertie County are 50 years and older and about half that number (22.2%) are less than 20 years of age. However, residents indicated a desire for more activities for all age groups, with special attention to facilities and programs to meet the needs of children (6-12) and teenagers (13-17). To accomplish this, residents viewed partnerships with schools and renovation and improvements to current parks as essential priorities. Specifically, participants who advocated for the renovation and improvement of current parks suggested that a fitness center, tennis and pickle ball facilities, paddle trails, walking trails with exercise stations, splash pads, and both indoor and outdoor swimming pools, would be beneficial to the community.

3. **Foster Collaborative Efforts** - The Bertie County Parks and Recreation Department should continue to maintain existing relationships with other agencies and increase collaboration with schools. Collaborative efforts provide assistance to the department through use of facilities for recreation programs, funding, cross marketing, and shared responsibilities for program development and events. Local government agencies include, but are not limited to:

- Bertie County Recreation Advisory Partners
- Bertie County Schools (K – 12)
- Bertie County Private Schools (K – 12)
- Bertie County Department of Health
- Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS)
- Bertie County Cooperative Extension Service
- Bertie County Council on Aging
- Windsor -Bertie County Chamber of Commerce
- Town of Windsor
- Town and Township Parks and Recreation Groups and Organizations
- Local Community Colleges and Regional Universities

4. **Implement a Health and Wellness Policy** - Bertie County Parks and Recreation and the Bertie County Schools (public and private), should implement a health and wellness policy. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) supports the Commit to Health campaign. The Commit to Health Campaign supports Healthy Eating Physical Activity (HEPA) standards at local park and recreation sites. The recently released *Healthy Out-of-School Time Wellness Policy and Implementation Guide* provides park and recreation agencies with real-life examples, best practices and steps to help implement a wellness policy and create sustainable changes at various sites. Some programs use policies to define the types of foods that can or can’t be consumed on premises, while others may set the requirement for minimum number of physical activity minutes

during program hours. Many policies also focus on staff wellness to emphasize healthy role-modeling. Use this new tool to create a wellness policy for your healthy out-of-school time site, ensuring program sustainability and generating larger impacts (**Appendix H. Commit to Health Policy Implementation Guide**) and (**Appendix I Healthy Out-of-School Time Assessment**).

5. Implement a Healthy Aging in Parks Campaign - A growing body of research shows that regular physical activity through parks and recreation is an essential component of healthy aging. Regular physical activity improves physical function and provides social and mental health benefits that all contribute to improved quality of life for older adults. In partnership with NRPA, the Healthy Aging in Parks campaign to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of older adults by increasing opportunities for physical activity through parks and recreation. Grants are available to deliver the Walk with Ease (WWE), Active Living Every Day (ALED), and Fit & Strong! (F&S!) arthritis-appropriate evidence-based interventions (AAEBIs). See **Appendix J. Evidence-based Intervention Examples**. These programs:

- a. Help people in your community become and maintain physically active lifestyles
- b. Provide a safe location for physical activity in your service area
- c. Attract new audiences to your agency
- d. Provide opportunities for funding and community partnerships
- e. Increase the probability of reaching adults struggling to become physically active

6. Build Awareness - An important area for improvement is communication and marketing. It is recommended that Bertie County develop a marketing strategy to increase awareness of the recreation programs and facilities available in the county. Survey and focus group results indicated the need to improve communication for existing recreation programs and facilities through all types of media outlets, but with an emphasis on web presence and social media. These efforts would increase user demand and use as well as provide evidence for financial support for improvements and expansion. The proposed marketing strategy should employ traditional marketing strategies as well as social media platforms.

A content analysis of Bertie County and surrounding counties indicated Bertie has a very limited social media presence. The Bertie County Recreation Department does not have their own website or brand. Awareness, participation, and support can be increased dramatically by maintaining quality websites dedicated to providing information on recreation programs and activities as well as opportunities at the county and town levels.

Traditional Marketing Strategies

- Create public service announcements using the NRPA “Parks Build Healthy Communities: Success Stories” model and partner with the local radio and television to highlight successful strategies for building healthy communities through parks and recreation in Bertie County. Link: <http://www.nrpa.org/our-work/parksbuildcommunity/>
- Educate the community about the role Bertie County Parks and Recreation plays in promoting healthier lifestyles. Create a campaign using brochures and posters that focus on the diverse recreation opportunities available and connecting benefits to each. Building community awareness will increase interest and support for recreation and parks in Bertie County.
- Continue to use and expand use of print media including local newspapers.
- Develop a distribution strategy that ensures all schools and churches are included.
- Collaborate with local news to create a segment called “park of the week” or a weekly “recreation round up” providing a list of events.

Social Media Strategies

According to Jim Carroll, speaking at the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Congress about the use of social media by parks and recreation agencies, “the world that we are headed for will be far more interactive...The next generation will expect to interact with us in completely different ways. When we are

thinking recreation and the future, we have to be thinking about interactivity.” Increased use of social media by parks and recreation agencies is pivotal to meet the changing demographic. Applications of social media that could be used to increase awareness and use of recreation programs and facilities in Bertie County include:

- Park and Trail Maps available on smartphones
- Fitness/Walking Trails that provide video or textual instruction on exercises at each station. Users even could select from a variety of workout types—when the information is digital it is much cheaper/easier to change and update.
- Display facility hours/rules for buildings and fields throughout the park.
- Facility rental information overlay—shows availability and allows users to click to rent/reserve a field/facility.
- Ballfields could display schedules of upcoming games and even show summaries of games from earlier in the week.
- Advertise/promote events in the parks.
- In a building: hold phone up to a room entrance to view list of classes/courses offered and schedules.

As stated by Mr. Carroll, “The use of social media catalyzes word of mouth marketing, promotes viral growth and creates opportunities for potential users to discover available recreation programs and facilities. Municipal parks and recreation agencies can benefit greatly from its use. The effective use of social media is today’s reality for municipal parks and recreation organizations but also represents the future.” Communicating effectively and timely is vital (e.g., they want to get a text message or twitter update about a program and register their kid with a couple of clicks on their iPhone).

II. Funding

1. The Bertie County Recreation Department should be commended for its accomplishments in providing park and recreation opportunities to the citizens of Bertie County. Input from county residents clearly demonstrates that they were generally satisfied with the parks and recreation programs provided by the department with the staff noted as a major strength of the department. Building partnerships with schools, Bertie County YMCA, Bertie County Center Cooperative Extension Service, and Council on the Aging were noted as a top priority, and additional staff is necessary to take on new initiatives.
2. Explore state and federal grants for alternative funding opportunities; especially those focused on health and wellness as well as historic and cultural preservation. In addition, private foundation grants. There are several state and federal grants allocated exclusively for recreation and parks. A comprehensive list is provided (see Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding Sources section). Grants cited below have been widely used in North Carolina:

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) - PARTF provides dollar -for -dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the public. It is the primary source of funding to build and renovate facilities in the state parks as well as to buy land for new and existing parks. For more information visit: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/parks-recreation-trust-fund/applicants>

North Carolina Trail Grants - The North Carolina Trails Program is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to river trails and off-highway vehicle trails. Program duties include administration of federal **Recreational Trails Program** grants. These grants help to fund trails and trail-related recreational needs. For information on **Adopt a Trail Grant Program** and **Recreation Trails Program** visit: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/trail-grants>

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the U.S. Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information visit: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/lwcf-grants/grant-recipient-selection>

Connect North Carolina Bond grant program (CNCB) - The Connect NC Bond package, approved in March 2016, included one-time funding of \$3 million for parks and recreation grants to benefit children and/or veterans with disabilities. Local governments, including some public authorities, are eligible to apply for the matching grants. The program is administered through the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation and the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The matching grants can be used to build special facilities or adapt existing facilities that meet the unique needs of children and/or veterans with physical and developmental disabilities. Local governments can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application and must match the grant with at least one dollar of local funds for every four dollars in grant funds. For more information visit: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/CNCB>

Note: The North Carolina Connect North Carolina Bond Grant Program requires facilities used to support programs and services to meet at least the minimum requirements found in 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. See the Accessibility Assessment for information related to the minimum requirements for many park and recreation areas.

Division of Coastal Management (DCM) - A portion of PARTF is the primary funding source for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program. The program, administered by the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grants to local governments throughout North Carolina's twenty coastal counties. To learn more about this program, go to the Division of Coastal Management website: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management>

- Evaluate the current user fee system (e.g., the scope of programs/services for which fees are charged and the fee level). Two approaches for setting fees may be applicable:

Conduct a benefit-cost analysis of each program/service and base fees on costs on past or expected user participation rates.

Create a bundled package for groups or multi-use. Regardless of what approach is used, consideration for low-income populations must be made.

Other funding and/or land and facilities acquisition methods used in North Carolina include but are not limited to the following. It should be noted that these methods maybe used in establishing cooperative relationships with organizations.

- Charitable Contribution—donation of cash, land, supplies, or equipment; gift can be used as a tax benefit by the donor.
- Contractual Agreements—public agency contracts with a private/commercial organization or other public agencies for public use of their recreation facilities at specified times.
- Easement—use of privately owned land in perpetuity at a nominal fee. The owner may mandate limits on development or use.
- Federal/State Surplus Property Transfer—the federal or state government transfers or trades land or buildings to local government.
- Living Will—individual wills capital (e.g., land, building, money, etc.) prior to death, maintain use of the capital object until death, but benefiting from tax benefits while living.

- Mandatory Dedication—developer is required to dedicate a specific amount of land aside for recreation and park purposes; the option of money in lieu of land may be offered.
- Purchase and Leaseback—private developer purchases land for a specific recreation development and then donates it to the public agency. The public agency then leases it back to the developer who assumes responsibility for building, operating, and maintaining the facility. Both public use and private memberships can be made available. After a specified time, the entire operation is turned over to the public agency. The private developer may obtain such incentives as property tax exemption, or free water and utilities.
- Recreation Impact Fee—a fee is charged for each new house constructed.
- Tax Incentives—provide tax incentives to developers for building or providing public recreation facilities as part of their development.
- Transferring/Donating Land—public land is transferred or donated to a developer with obligation to build a specified public recreation facility on part of that land

III. Short Term Goals (2018-2023)

- Updated Site Plans** for each of the parks managed by Bertie County Recreation Department will guide the department for the coming years and at the same time position them to apply for available grants and funding. Updated site plans should include park connectivity (trails) to surrounding areas, walking trails, biking trails, and paddle trails connecting several locations.
- Renovation of current parks** was noted as one of the top three priorities for Bertie County. Adequate maintenance equipment and maintenance staff is a constant and critical issue for parks and recreation agencies. Bertie County should consider and appropriate plan to purchase additional and replace old maintenance equipment within the next three years (by 2020).
- New and improved outdoor facilities** were ranked as a top priority. Stakeholders indicated they were interested in outdoor facilities and activities such as a dog park, pickle ball/tennis courts, beach volleyball, outdoor concerts and movies, and lighted facilities, which represents the priority for more outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Expand outdoor and ecotourism opportunities.** The natural resources of Bertie County make it a great place for outdoor recreation opportunities. Input from the public suggests most residents and visitors alike are most interested in outdoor recreation; however, very few county-supported outdoor recreation programs and facilities exist. Development of nature trails, bike trails, paddle trails, and nature based programs and facilities were suggested by residents. It was suggested that the county partner with the Roanoke River Wildlife Refuge and Roanoke Cashie River Center to provide programs and facilities for outdoor recreation programs. In addition, providing access to the land purchased by the county is a priority since tax dollars paid for the land, residents should have access.
- Additional staffing to assist with program development and improved marketing and communication.** Public input has clearly conveyed the need for more staff and the desire to offer more programs geared toward youth, families, and activities for senior citizens.

IV. Long Term Goals (2024-2028)

- New and improved indoor facilities** were noted as a top priority for Bertie County. Participants indicated they were interested in indoor facilities, such as a multi-use sports complex that could support several sports and offer more gym space. Bertie County is in need of more indoor activities and programs for families and renovation of existing facilities and the addition of a

new community recreation center would better meet the growing needs of the community. A community recreation facility should include the following amenities: a fitness center, walking trails, indoor and outdoor pools, as well as courts and fields to meet the needs of the both youth and senior populations. Programs and activities from the *Top 20 Worldwide Fitness Trends for 2017* that should be offered at the gym include body weight training, high-intensity interval training, education and experienced fitness professionals, strength training, group fitness training, yoga and core training. A new multi-use facility could incorporate amenities that draw users from throughout the county.

2. **Increased water access.** The Bertie County Board of Commissioners took action to acquire 137 acres of land on the Albemarle Sound to secure public water access for recreation and tourism. Quality of life for residents of Bertie County could be increased dramatically by increasing access to water for recreation and tourism. A pseudo-visitor center and education center could provide information about the natural and cultural resources of the county as well as provide a venue to host outdoor performing arts, educational opportunities for natural sciences and history. Such an effort would build upon the strategic business clusters identified by the Board of Commissioners in 2013; Agribusiness, Bio-mass and energy, Adventure Tourism and Waterfront development as areas of focus for the County’s economic development efforts. Capitalizing on the natural and wildlife resources for activities such as hunting, fishing, bird watching and eco-tourism activities such as hiking and canoeing would offer local entrepreneurs the opportunity to create small businesses to support recreation and tourism activities.

Development of a vision for this property should include road access, universally accessible parking, and restrooms as well as picnic facilities should be the first phase. Swimming for children, adventure programming through the Bertie County Center Cooperative Extension Service’s 4-H clubs, hosting corporate outings, family reunions, and church events including river baptisms in the shallow sandy waters on the shoreline. Educational field trips for school children, a vacation spot for local families and hosting visitors from across the State and region are also possible with this investment, which will serve many generations into the future.

3. **Enhance cultural history.** Located near the 137 acres of waterfront property acquired by the county, archaeologists found colonial-era English pottery and signs of a Native American artifacts linked to North Carolina’s fabled Lost Colony. The tract of land, has potential to be a tourist attraction. Considering tourists travel by the thousands to Dare County, home of the outdoor performance of “The Lost Colony” at an outdoor amphitheater on Roanoke Island, Site X could be a key asset for education, recreation, and tourism. The town of Windsor hosted a Lost Colony Festival in April 2016 and more than 300 people attended, underlining the interest and potential for Site X in Bertie County. Work continues, but interest in the story of the Lost Colony and the archeological activity in Bertie County is growing and offers an opportunity to partner with governments on a regional basis to promote eco-tourism, paddle trails for canoeing and kayaking and other attractions for visitors to northeastern North Carolina.
4. **Active living.** Active living is a way of life that integrate physical activity into daily activities. It gives residents the opportunity to be physically active by carrying out activities of daily living – such as walking to school or work, as well as playing in their neighborhood park. Active living requires places people can be active that are safe and convenient, and provide connectivity between destinations (e.g., school and home). Residents of Bertie County identified the need for safe, accessible, usable and attractive places for leisure-time physical activity. Consideration should be given to transportation, land use, and parks and recreation:

Transportation and Land Use

- Consider transportation needs of potentially vulnerable and underserved populations (e.g., older adults, children, persons with disabilities, low-income, residents, rural populations.).

- Call for future development of, or refer to already established design standards and guidelines related to pedestrian, bicycle and transit access that support active transport modes for people of all abilities.
- Build, extend or develop an off-road trail (“greenway”) network for walking and biking that can be sure by people of all abilities.
- Connect existing and proposed resources (e.g., network of trails, greenways, bike paths, bike lands and parks).

Parks and Recreation

- Comply with ADA standards and relevant Guidelines such as the Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas or Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines and incorporate Universal Design.
- Expand, improve or increase the number of public recreation facilities and access to these facilities, especially for underserved populations (e.g., low income residents, older adults, persons with disabilities).
- Pursue joint use agreements to share school recreational facilities, particularly as a way to improve access to recreation to underserved communities.
- Provide a high level of service for parks (e.g., lighting, cleanliness, seating, railings, toilets pathway surfaces, tobacco-free).
- Encourage the incorporation of vegetation or “greening” where appropriate in parks, streets trail and pedestrian facilities.
- Encourage public-private partnerships, for example, by pursuing joint or shared use agreements
- Link to local government programs that support active living (e.g., park and recreation programs, pedestrian-oriented law enforcement strategies, bicycle and pedestrian integration into school curriculum.
- Create, preserve, and maintain open space near development to increase the number of restorative spaces for mental health and environmental benefits

1. **Connectivity.** Connectivity was a priority as from the public input, which showed that access for trails for walking, bicycling, and paddle trails are of interest. According to the Outdoor Industry Foundation, bicycling is the most popular outdoor activity among youth in America (See Societal Trends Impacting Parks and Recreation). Sidewalks and trails leading to existing recreation centers and parks could potentially bring in more community members that may not have transportation. This is also more environmentally friendly than driving to the facility. Focus group participants stated that they would like to see a community where they can safely walk or ride their bikes to school and work.
2. **Land Use:** Future development should be encouraged to set land aside for open space, parks, greenways and trails. Such investments contribute to the aesthetics of the community, increase land values, provide recreation and exercise opportunities for residents, and ultimately improve community health and the quality of life. Continue working with the Bertie County Planning Board as well as individual municipalities to maximize good land use planning practices.
3. **Comprehensive Recreation Plan:** An assessment and evaluation of the current plan should be conducted in 2023 and an update to the Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan should be undertaken in 2028 by a task force of the staff and the Recreation Advisory Partners.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) FINANCING

Grants

Listed below is a summary of grants that are potential capital improvement project funding sources for Bertie County Parks and Recreation. The Department has actively pursued grant funding for capital improvement projects, with the most recent being a \$500,000 NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant for property acquisition to construct future recreational facilities adjacent the Albemarle Sound in the eastern part of the county.

Select grants require matching funds and/or partnership applications with other government agencies. Grant management also requires substantial staff time, which can be a contributing factor in the number and type of grants the Department is able to pursue. When appropriate, the Department plans to continue actively pursuing grant funding as a means to supplement the department's capital improvement budget.

Founded in 1944, **THE NORTH CAROLINA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION (NCRPA)** is the premier nonprofit education and advocacy organization, dedicated to the advancement of the park, recreation and leisure professions in our state. NCRPA empowers park and recreation professionals and citizen board members through educational opportunities that enhance their ability to change lives and impact communities on a daily basis for the citizens of North Carolina.



THE PLAYPRINTS PROGRAM uses stencils created by Fit & Fun Playscapes, to create ground markings of colorful shapes, images and games painted on open pavement. By the Fall of 2016, they will be available for play at 41 parks and recreation locations in NC. NCRPA is proud to be collaborating with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) on this project. PlayPrints is part of BCBSNC's Get Outside North Carolina! (GO NC!) program. GO NC! helps North Carolinians build healthy and active lifestyles through the advancement of greenway systems, increased access to public bicycles and the overall promotion of outdoor physical activity.



KIDS IN PARKS is a nation-wide network of family-friendly outdoor adventures called TRACK Trails. Each TRACK Trail features self-guided brochures and signs that turn your visit into a fun and exciting outdoors experience. The Kids in Parks program does not provide funds to cover the cost of building, installing, or maintaining the actual trail, and no funds will be directly distributed to the site/grantee. Instead, the grant funds will be used to produce and deliver TRACK Trail materials (trailhead sign, brochures,

webpages, etc.) to each partnering site.

There will be 75 TRACK Trails in 50 North Carolina counties by the end of 2014 with the goal of at least one TRACK trail in all 100 counties by the end of 2017. These low cost trails offer families a chance to unplug their children and have them experience nature and a dose of physical activity on a regular basis.

Find a TRACK Trail in North Carolina State Parks below, or search all of North Carolina on the [Kids in Parks](#) website.



NOURISHING NORTH CAROLINA (NNC) is a partnership between Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina and the NC Recreation & Park Association to establish or enhance community gardens in each of North Carolina's 100. The North Carolina Community Garden Partners have joined us in the venture to increase access to and consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables to North Carolina's citizens. <http://www.ncrpa.net>



NATIONAL RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) advances the cause of public parks and recreation for the benefit of all people. Its three priorities focus on 1) *Health and Wellness* to reduce chronic disease and obesity, 2) *Conservation* to preserve open space and wildlife, and 3) *Social Equity* for improving social equity and environmental justice in underserved communities, and making our communities more livable, sustainable and resilient.

NRPA is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds from the Wal-Mart Foundation to support children's health through park and recreation out-of-school time programs. Grants will focus on four main goals:

1. Increase the number of healthy meals children receive through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) during out-of-school times;
2. Provide nutrition literacy to children and families that creates behavior change by teaching the importance of healthy eating;
3. Implement nutrition standards that increase access to healthier foods and support a healthy eating environment; and
4. Implement meal and program efficiencies that increase community sustainability.

THE SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS ACTION FRAMEWORK is intended to provide local governments (park and recreation, planning, transportation and public health) with critical evidence- and practice-based guidance on Safe Routes to Parks best practices that are backed by research and supported by national organizations. The framework is intended to be used as a guide that will engage leaders and community members in an ongoing process to ensure that community policies and practices support safe and equitable access to parks.

Through this call for pilot sites, NRPA is seeking to select ten park and recreation agencies along with their partners, to receive free technical assistance and test the effectiveness of the Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework in implementing sustainable and effective changes that ensure people are safe and feel safe walking to and using their local park. Benefits of being a Pilot Site are:

- I. Free technical assistance from NRPA and Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- II. Peer to peer support and networking opportunities
- III. National visibility through:
 - a. Articles in *Parks and Recreation* magazine, Success Story Database, and partner publications
 - b. Opportunities for presenting at national conferences, including NRPA Annual Conference
 - c. Stories and examples featured in best practice guide <http://www.nrpa.org>

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



The primary objective of the **NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT (NCDCM) PUBLIC BEACH AND COASTAL WATERFRONT ACCESS FUND** grant program is to provide pedestrian access to public beaches and public trust waters in the 20 coastal counties. Grant funds may be used for land acquisition (including "unbuildable" lots) and site improvement projects that are consistent with the state guidelines for public access in the coastal area (15A NCAC 7M .0300)2. Any facility constructed with these grant funds must meet state and federal guidelines for handicap accessibility. <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management>

The purpose of the **NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (NCDWR) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GRANTS** program is to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments throughout the state. Applications for grants are accepted for eight purposes: General Navigation, Recreational Navigation, Water Management, Stream Restoration, Land Acquisition and Facility Development for Water -Based Recreation, NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects and Feasibility/Engineering Studies. There are two grant cycles per fiscal year; the application deadlines are July 1st and January 1st.

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/coastal-management-beach-waterfront-awareness-program/public-access-grant-application-package>



The mission of the **ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM (APNEP)** is to identify, protect, and restore the significant resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system. Initiatives include protection and restoration efforts to improve water quality and habitats, identification of gaps in knowledge of the system, and engagement of the public to make connections between the natural environment and services provided by the system. APNEP has placed an emphasis on assessment and monitoring to gain further knowledge of the system and facilitate adaptive management.

APNEP is a cooperative effort jointly sponsored by the N. C. Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, with financial support provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/apnep/grants>

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

THE NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER STEWARDSHIP - CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND (NCCWMTF)

was created by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1996. The Fund is an independent non-regulatory agency housed in the Division of Land and Water Stewardship in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The intent of the fund is “to focus on the cleanup and prevention of pollution of the State’s surface waters, the establishment of a network of riparian buffers and greenways, and the preservation of property for establishing clean water supplies, the General Assembly believes that the results of these efforts will also be beneficial to wildlife and marine fisheries habitats.”

CWMTF provides grant assistance to conservation non-profits, local governments and state agencies in North Carolina through projects that (1) enhance or restore degraded waters, (2) protect unpolluted waters, and/or (3) contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits, (4) provide buffers around military bases to protect the military mission, (5) acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of North Carolina, and (6) acquire land that contributes to the development of a balanced State program of historic properties. <http://www.cwmtf.net>



NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

awards grant funds primarily from the following sources:

1. The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)
2. The Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
3. The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
4. The Connect North Carolina Bond grant program (CNCB)

THE NORTH CAROLINA PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF) provides dollar -for -dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the public. PARTF is the primary source of funding to build and renovate facilities in the state parks as well as to buy land for new and existing parks.

A portion of PARTF is the primary funding source for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program. The program, administered by the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grants to local governments throughout North Carolina’s twenty coastal counties.

<https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/parks-recreation-trust-fund>

THE NORTH CAROLINA TRAILS PROGRAM is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to river trails and off-highway vehicle trails. Program duties include administration of federal Recreational Trails Program grants. These grants help to fund trails and trail-related recreational needs.

THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) is a federal grant program authorized by Congress in 2012 as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The intent of the RTP is to help fund trails and trail-related recreational needs at the State level. Funding for the RTP comes from federal gas taxes paid on non-highway fuel used in off-highway vehicles, and the program is administered at the Federal level by the Federal Highway Administration.

At the State level, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has assigned that responsibility to the Division of Parks and Recreation and its **NC Trails Program**. The **North Carolina Trails Committee** is a seven-member advisory committee who will review all applications and make recommendations for funding. The Secretary of DNCR has the final approval authority for North Carolina.

Recreational Trails Program Categories and Priorities are as follows:

- Motorized Diverse Use
- Motorized Single Use
- Non-motorized Diverse Use
- Non-motorized Single Use – Canoe/Equestrian/Mountain Bike/Pedestrian

<http://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/trail-grants/recreational-trails-program>

THE RTP SAFETY & EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM is a reimbursement grant program. A grantee must first pay for approved deliverables and will be reimbursed by the State for approved costs. The RTP Educational Grant Program is a matching grant program. It requires a minimum 25% match for every RTP dollar received. The match may be made with cash, in-kind contributions or force labor; all listed matches will be noted in the State Grant Contract and a grantee will be expected to account for all listed matches. All match funding must be expended during the contract period of an awarded RTP Educational Grant.

RTP Educational funds can only be used for the following items or services:

- Payment of speaker/educator fees o Rental of space to provide training or conference opportunities o Transportation to off-site training locations o Electronic copying and/or printing of training materials
- Travel expenses for approved speakers (actual costs of flight or mileage at .34 cents per mile)
- Lodging and per diem for speakers at the current rate allowed for State employees (lodging at \$67.30 per night plus tax and \$37.90 per day for meals)

<http://www.ncparks.gov>

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the U.S. Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Environmental Quality.

The fund was established in 1964 by Congress to create parks and open space, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve habitat and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. The fund is principally supported through receipts from oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. In most years, Congress makes an LWCF appropriation to each state. States receive individual allocations of LWCF grant funds based on a national formula, with state population being the most influential factor.

The National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, administers the program on behalf of the federal government. Authority for the program at the state level is vested in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and the State Liaison Officer (SLO) appointed by the Governor.

To be eligible for LWCF assistance, every state must prepare and regularly update a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). The SCORP includes inventories or assessments of current recreation resources (local, state and federal) within a state, identifies needs and new opportunities for outdoor recreation improvements and sets forth a five-year action agenda to meet the goals identified by its citizens and elected leaders. <http://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/lwcf-grants>

THE CONNECT NC BOND package, approved in March 2016, included one-time funding of \$3 million for parks and recreation grants to benefit children and/or veterans with disabilities. Local governments, including some public authorities, are eligible to apply for the matching grants. The program is administered through the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation and the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

The matching grants can be used to build special facilities or adapt existing facilities that meet the unique needs of children and/or veterans with physical and developmental disabilities. Local governments can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application and must match the grant with at least one dollar of local funds for every four dollars in grant funds. <http://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/CNCB>

THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSISON may be best known for its issuance and law enforcement of fishing, hunting and trapping regulations. However, NCWRC also has an active public education program in collaborative partnership with various governmental and non-profit entities in management and oversight at several Wildlife Education Centers. Their programs also assist private and public property owners in wildlife conservation and habitat management.

NCWRC offers information on recreational boating in North Carolina through the downloadable NC Coastal Boating Guide and they are actively promoting recreational activities on North Carolina's blueways by creating new Water Boating Access Areas within the region. Passive recreational activities are supported through their Land and Water Access Section with creation of new ADAAG compatible fishing piers.

Through these innovative programs, NCWRC offers financial, as well as technical assistance, in promoting and improving recreational opportunities throughout North Carolina. <http://www.ncwildlife.org>

Foundations

In today's grantsmanship rich environment, Foundations offer viable options to supplement financial support for recreational programs and their associated construction. Foundations normally prefer to use their support dollars for leverage in seeking additional funding; therefore, this partnership serves to solidify federal and state grant applications.

The following list of Foundations is by no means all-inclusive as Foundations often adjust their priorities to reflect the changing times associated with recreational activities and healthy life style living needs. Foundations also vary in their serving areas; the Foundations on this list specifically serve statewide and/or specifically northeastern North Carolina. Special emphasis may often times be directed to Tier 1 economically distressed communities, of which Bertie County is included, in accordance with the 2017 North Carolina Commerce designation.

Since Foundations are constantly evolving to address the needs of their clients, it is strongly recommended that a strong rapport be established with the Foundations' Executive Directors for assistance in grant application and project development prior to submittal.



Giving people access to a better life. One community at a time.

WALMART FOUNDATION'S mission is to create opportunities so people can live better. They strive to make a positive impact in the communities they serve

through the grants provided to the thousands of organizations that share this mission or through the inspiring volunteer efforts of Walmart associates. The Walmart Foundation awards funding through its local, state, national and international giving programs.

The Walmart Foundation meets the needs of the under-served by directing charitable giving toward three core areas of focus: **Opportunity**, **Sustainability** and **Community**. <http://giving.walmart.com>

THE REI FOUNDATION provides grants to select nonprofits that care for the outdoor places our customers love. The process begins with our **store teams**, who establish meaningful partnerships with organizations and invite them to apply for funding. REI does not accept unsolicited grant applications. <https://www.rei.com/stewardship/community/non-profit-partnerships-and-grants.html>



LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA FOUNDATION partners with the YMCA of the USA to promote the importance of physical activity after a cancer diagnosis. Survivors participate in free or low cost customized exercise regimens catered to their individual needs from certified fitness instructors. The instructors are trained in cancer survivorship, post-rehabilitation exercise and supportive cancer care. Survivors and often their families receive a membership at the YMCA for the duration of the program. <https://www.livestrong.org>



THE BLUECROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION is an independent, charitable foundation with the mission of improving the health and well-

being of North Carolinians. Their approach to grant making is focused on providing better access to medical and dental care and providing access to healthy, local food and places to be active. Grant making is centered around two defined priority areas – **Health Care** and **Healthy Living** – both of which are designed to change environments, organizations and behaviors to positively impact the health of North Carolina communities and individuals.

HEALTHY LIVING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - PLACES TO BE ACTIVE PROGRAM PRIORITY

Physical activity and active play are essential to being healthy, yet these behaviors depend on environmental supports such as having sidewalks, safe places to bike and accessible playgrounds. We partner organizations to ensure that everyone can access places to be active and play.

NCDOT Walkbike NC

NCDOT launched this project to improve walking and bicycling conditions statewide and develop a vision for the future of bicycling and walking in North Carolina. BCBS assisted in funding a health impact assessment of the plan and efforts to disseminate the plan across the state. WalkBikeNC is North Carolina's first statewide master plan to define a vision, goals and strategies for improving walking and bicycling for residents and visitors. This plan identifies current conditions for walking and bicycling in North Carolina and serves as a guide for state agencies, local governments, and private sector interests to develop a transportation system that safely and efficiently accommodates walking and bicycling.

NC RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION WELLNESS INITIATIVE

BCBS is partnering with the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association to empower parks and recreation agencies in North Carolina to create healthy communities through the development of programs, policies, and infrastructure that support healthy eating and physical activity. This collaborative partnership offers a [toolkit and webinar series](#) to assist parks and recreation agencies and community members across the state to change policies and programs in order to promote healthy eating and physical activity. <http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org>



THE VIDANT HEALTH FOUNDATION COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANTS PROGRAM partners with local non-profit agencies to help individuals in communities across eastern North Carolina to improve their health and quality of life. The Vidant Bertie Hospital Development Council was formed in the fall of 2005 with the mission “to build relationships and help secure financial resources to support the health and wellness services of

Vidant Bertie Hospital” and offers community support by providing the education, skills and tools needed for area residents to live healthier lifestyles. Grants are awarded in Bertie County for programs that focus on Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, and Healthy Lifestyle.

<https://www.vidanthealth.com/communitybenefit>

<https://www.vidantmedicalcenterfoundation.org>



THE KATE B. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST is the legacy of the late Kate Gertrude Bitting Reynolds, who was married to William Neal Reynolds, chairman of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Before her death in 1946, Mrs. Reynolds established the Trust to continue much of the work she had supported during her lifetime. The Trust's mission is to

improve the quality of life and the quality of health for the financially needy of North Carolina.

Opportunities to improve the quality of life and health for North Carolinians remain abundant. The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has a unique mandate and perspective that honors the wishes of Mrs. Reynolds' whereby 75% of the Trust's funding is dedicated to improving health and wellness in North Carolina, and 25% is dedicated to improving the quality of life and supporting basic needs in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

Grants generally fall into two categories:

Operating Program Grants—generally for new programs or the expansion of existing programs and occasionally for short-term “bridge funding” for an existing program when there is a reasonable expectation of the availability of a new source of revenue in the near future.

Capital Projects Grants—generally for construction/renovation projects or for equipment purchases. The work of capital projects is focused almost entirely in Tier One counties.

Grants *usually* are not awarded as the total means of financial support, but preferably in conjunction with other sources of funding. Also, the Trust does not prescribe maximum grant amounts for operating programs. The maximum grant amount for *capital construction* projects is \$150,000. The maximum grant amount for *capital equipment* projects is \$100,000. Exceptions may be made for capital projects that serve an extremely high number of financially needy individuals. <http://www.kbr.org>



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING PROGRAM funds the work of charitable organizations that serve 67 counties within its statewide affiliate network. NCCF affiliates are organized by regions, each with an assigned NCCF regional director who facilitates and supports the board's grantmaking process. The Bertie County area is served under the auspices of the Bertie-Hertford Community Foundation.

Grant decisions are made by the Bertie-Hertford Community Foundation affiliate's board members. These dedicated community leaders are charged with knowing and responding to the needs of the local area through their grantmaking. The community grantmaking program funds a broad range of purposes to meet local needs that includes education, human services, basic needs, arts, historical preservation, health, recreation, youth development, environment and animal welfare.

<http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/bertie-hertford>

THE Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION (ZSR) is an 80-year old private foundation based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. ZSR is committed to improving the quality of life of all North Carolinians and invests in statewide, regional and community-based organizations that are dedicated to building an inclusive, sustainable and vibrant State. The groups that ZSR supports both work to build healthy, robust communities at the local and regional level and engage in education, civic dialogue and advocacy around issues of importance to communities and to North Carolina.

The Foundation focuses on:

- Strengthening and improving **public education**, such as building the leadership capacity of school principals and the instructional capacity of young teachers;
- Supporting **community-based economic development**, particularly through asset building, small business development, sustainable agriculture and affordable housing;
- Encouraging **environmental sustainability and stewardship**, for example through the promotion of energy efficiency, clean energy sources and clean water initiatives;
- **Strengthening democracy** by assuring that public institutions and processes are effective, transparent, accountable, accessible and inclusive; and
- Promoting racial and gender **equity**, a fair criminal justice system and the healthy integration of immigrants into our communities.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation categorizes grants by size and type of use. Requests of up to \$35,000 per year for up to two years are referred to as *small grant* requests, utilizing a streamlined grant application. All other requests are referred to as *strategic grant* requests. *General Operating Support* grants provide unrestricted funds for the organization's overall budget. *Project Support* grant funds are earmarked for a particular activity or project within the organization.

Priorities are given to requests within our stated focus areas; however, the Foundation also wishes to serve as a catalyst for new practices and ideas and respond to challenges and/or opportunities that are unique to North Carolina. For these reasons, the Foundation reserves the right to remain flexible in its grantmaking policies. The Foundation is also interested in building the capacity of nonprofit organizations and the nonprofit sector. <https://www.zsr.org>



LOWE'S CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K-12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with our core business — home improvement.

<https://www.lowes.com>



On January 24, 1950, **THE WEYERHAEUSER FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC.** was incorporated under the provisions of the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act. The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, Inc. is supported and governed by members of the Weyerhaeuser Family. The Foundation is not affiliated with the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

The Trustees will consider grant applications that fall within the bounds of the Foundation's areas of interest; however, the Trustees select for support only those organizations exempt under US tax laws and only support projects and programs which address a prime need and are equipped to make a major contribution under the circumstances existing at the particular time.

The Foundation requests that the areas of interest, restrictions and application process be reviewed carefully before submitting a Letter of Intent. Please see Guidelines for [International Initiative](#), [Children's Initiative](#) or [Sustainable Forest and Communities Initiative](#). <http://www.wfamilyfoundation.org>



THE WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY FOUNDATION supports U.S. and Canadian communities where we have a significant presence or business interest. These communities range from rural to metropolitan, each with unique priorities and needs. Our

employees serve on local advisory committees for our Giving Fund and develop funding priorities within four focus areas to support their particular communities. This provides a strong companywide framework for giving while allowing flexibility to meet unique needs in our different communities.

Through the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund we concentrate the majority of our funding in four focus areas:

- Affordable housing and Shelter
- Education and Youth Development
- Environmental Stewardship
- Human Services, Civic and Cultural Growth

<http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/sustainability/communities/community-investment/giving-fund>

North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives are rooted in the communities they serve, and they are committed to supporting their local communities and members.



THE ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE serves the counties of Hertford, Bertie, Gates, Northampton, Halifax, Chowan, and Perquimans. Though originally organized to

provide light and power to farms, REC has kept pace with changing times and now serves a wide variety of industrial, recreational, educational, community and other interests in addition to farms.

The cooperatives demonstrate their commitment to the community by investing in worthy programs, rural issues and youth-related organizations. These other community-based programs receive about \$2 million in direct support annually and include first-responder organizations, recreation, 4-H, multi-cultural awareness, county fairs and local charities. <http://www.roanokeelectric.com>



The purpose of **GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION** is to fund projects that promise to bring significant economic improvement to the tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, and/or rural communities of North Carolina. Golden LEAF has two programs open to eligible entities seeking grants.

The Open Grants Program places high priority in the areas of agriculture, job creation and retention and workforce preparedness. Other projects that focus on innovative opportunities to support and develop economic strength in tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and/or rural communities are also welcomed. Golden LEAF places priorities on a variety of factors, including Tier 1 criteria set forth by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, which ranks each county based on an assessment of unemployment rate, median household income, population growth, ability to pay, and assessed property value per capita

The Economic Catalyst Cycle is a program that focuses on job creation and/or retention projects associated with business locations or expansions in North Carolina that are at risk without participation from Golden LEAF. Proposals for Economic Catalyst Grants must be coordinated with the NC Department of Commerce and the appropriate regional economic development partnership.

In light of the economic downturn, Golden LEAF will be looking for opportunities to complement and leverage federal and state stimulus programs to increase the impact of its grant making and targeted communities. <http://www.goldenleaf.org>

THE SECU FOUNDATION promotes local and community development by primarily funding high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare and human services. The State Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors has chartered the SECU Foundation to help identify and address community issues that are beyond the normal scope of State Employees' Credit Union. While individual members may not have a large impact; collectively and cooperatively the Foundation can go a long way toward helping solve problems in our neighborhoods, schools and our community at large.

SECU Foundation will fund initial planning and development for projects that have the potential for attracting broad-based local and state partnerships and will be self-sustaining. Project proposals will be initiated through local SECU branch advisory boards and approved by the Foundation board. <https://www.ncsecufoundation.org>



PLAY TOGETHER

ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS Trillium's *Play Together Accessible Playground* grants have provided towns with the ability to build fully accessible, all-inclusive playgrounds for individuals with special needs and physical disabilities. This year, cities throughout eastern North Carolina will open 30 new, all-inclusive playgrounds, thanks to a grant from **TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES**.

Equipment will vary in each playground, and may include a Liberty Swing (accessible while in a wheelchair), Cruise Line, and zip line. Playgrounds will include a rubberized surface to ensure safety for children and adults with mobility challenges, as well as wheelchair accessibility — all accommodations providing an opportunity for individuals of all ages and abilities to play together outside.

Grants Funding for the Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds is a result of savings from operating as a Medicaid 1915 (b)(c) Waiver site. By managing Medicaid funding and services locally, Trillium is able to achieve cost efficiencies that allow them to reinvest savings into programs that increase resources and community engagement opportunities for the individuals and families in areas they serve.

Reinvestment dollars are allocated to award communities for the development of accessible playgrounds that allow young people of all abilities to come together. Each county received a grant amount appropriate for the scope of work and land space allocated for developing or updating a playground. Trillium will continue to provide dollars for park improvements and should be considered as a potential partner for such funding.

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APPENDICES

[\(hyperlink to appendices\)](#)

- A. Bertie County Press Release-Land Purchase Secures Eco-tourism and Recreation Initiative
- B. Roanoke Chowan News Herald-Educators Push for Environmental Programs
- C. Bertie Ledger Advance article-Bertie County Schools Suggest New Program
- D. Daily Reflector-State Seeking Growth of Outdoor Recreation Industry
- E. Bertie County Press Release-KBR Grant for Blue Jay Recreation Park
- F. Bertie County Press Release-Tall Drink of Water
- G. Coastal Review-Trust Buys Land Possibly Tied to Lost Colony
- H. Roanoke Chowan News Herald-Soothing Water
- I. Charlotte Observer-Lost Colony Clues Found on Land to Become NC Natural Area
- J. Recreation Asset Inventory Profiles and GIS Maps
- K. Summary Scores for ADA Assessment
- L. Principles of Universal Design and Inclusion
- M. Daily Advance article-Scanlon Park is a Gold Mine
- N. Daily Advance article-Currituck to Dedicate Ballfields at Community Park
- O. Recreation Survey Instrument
- P. Focus Group Script
- Q. Commit to Health Policy Implementation Guide
- R. Healthy Out-of-School Time Assessment Tool