

“2026 – 2031 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN”

**FOR THE
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA**



“A Family-Friendly Beach Community with a Small-Town Atmosphere”



**TOWN OF OAK ISLAND MAYOR
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND STAFF
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DR. JAMES H. HERSTINE, Ph.D., PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UNC WILMINGTON, CONSULTANT**

Formally adopted by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on December 1, 2025
Formally adopted by the Town of Oak Island Town Council **on**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department staff would like to thank the citizens, Town elected officials, Town staff, Town volunteers, and all members of the Town of Oak Island community who participated in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process. Your dedication and commitment to your community are a testament to the high quality of life that is present in the Town of Oak Island. Special thanks are due to the following:

Town of Oak Island Mayor and Town Council

Elizabeth White—Mayor
John Bach—Mayor Pro Tempore
Terri Cartner—Councilmember
Bob Ciullo—Councilmember
Bill Craft—Councilmember
Mark Martin—Councilmember

Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Paul DuBay—Chairman
Carrie Lenzen—Vice-Chairman
Gail Burr—Member
Mark Dolak—Member
Bill Millard—Member
Jewelean Mustard—Member
John Schalding—Member

Town of Oak Island Town Administration

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Assistant Town Manager—Kent Jackson
Mike Emory—Communications Manager
Heather O'Brien—Recreation Director
Ryan Gordon—Program Supervisor
Jacob Hyle—Recreation Program Supervisor
Emily Kincer—Recreation Center Supervisor
John Henry Lafferty—Recreation Center Assistant
Gini Sargese—801 Ocean/Pier Complex Manager
Trish Beatini—Pier Coordinator
Sue Kaiser—Lead Community Resource Center Assistant
Lisa Blanton—Community Resource Center Assistant

Interested and Engaged Citizens of the Community

Special thanks to all the citizens who participated in the public meetings, public forums, interviews, and focus group session and to those who responded to the needs assessment survey. The dedication, commitment, and feedback from these individuals energized and guided the master plan process.



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**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER
PLAN—“WHY” AND “WHAT”
REASONS AND PURPOSES FOR UPDATING THE PARKS,
RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**

- ✚ ASSESS, ANALYZE, AND EVALUATE THE STATUS OF THE CURRENT PROVISION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**
- ✚ STIMULATE AN OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR COMMUNITY PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**
- ✚ ESTABLISH A PLAN OF ACTION FOR FUTURE GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**
- ✚ SATISFY THE “NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION” REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

THE FINAL PRODUCT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN PROCESS IS NOT A FINANCIAL DOCUMENT BUT A LIVING PLANNING DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDES THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT A VIABLE BLUEPRINT AND PLAN OF ACTION TO GUIDE THE FUTURE ORDERLY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE DELIVERY SYSTEM!

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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QUICK SUMMARY OF MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The comprehensive **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan** is a lengthy and detailed document. This section of the document is designed to give a quick and unencumbered summary of the Master Plan Recommendations and Implementation Plan.

LAND ACQUISITION RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) **Acquire land necessary for completion of the Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System**
- 2) **Acquire land necessary for completion of the Town of Oak Island Recreation Center**
- 3) **Acquire land necessary for completion of the Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System**
- 4) **Acquire land necessary for the completion of a Neighborhood Park at the west end of the island**
- 5) **Acquire land necessary for the completion of a Community Park on the mainland**



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FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Adopt the “Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)” and implement its recommendations
- 2) Adopt the “Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)” by HH Architecture and implement its recommendations
- 3) Hire a Consulting Firm to develop a “Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan,” adopt the plan upon completion, and implement its recommendations
- 4) Ensure ADA and UD compliance for all Town programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks
- 5) Install appropriate facility, area, and park Identification and Directional Signage
- 6) Replace all rolling trash and recycling receptacles with permanent trash and recycling receptacles at all Town facilities, areas, and parks
- 7) Upgrade, Expand, Improve, and Modernize existing facilities, areas, and parks

PROGRAM, SERVICE, EVENT, AND ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS 2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Provide Biking, Walking, Running, and Hiking Opportunities
- 2) Provide Gardening Opportunities
- 3) Provide Pickleball Clinics and Leagues for Youth and Adults
- 4) Provide Cooking Opportunities
- 5) Provide Birding Opportunities
- 6) Provide Line Dancing Opportunities
- 7) Provide Fitness Programs for Kids
- 8) Provide Tennis Clinics and Leagues for Youth and Adults

POLICY AND PROCEDURE RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Maintain Parks and Recreation Department Structure
- 2) Adopt the “Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”
- 3) Adopt the “Recreation & Community Centers Study” by HH Architecture
- 4) Establish a Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force
- 5) Expand and Enhance Partnerships
- 6) American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance
- 7) Town Street End Assessments
- 8) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Composition

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- 9) **Establish a Facilities, Areas, and Parks Identification and Clarification Committee**
- 10) **Expand and Enhance Publicity, Communication, and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities**
- 11) **Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards (CPSI)**

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) **Parks Maintenance Specialists**
- 2) **Building Maintenance Specialists**
- 3) **Education Director**
- 4) **Rentals, Events, and Special Programs Coordinator**
- 5) **Splash Pad Supervisors**
- 6) **Administrative Assistant/Office Manager**
- 7) **Oak Island Par 3 Golf Supervisor**

LAND ACQUISITION IMPLEMENTATION

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) **Acquire land necessary for completion of the [Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System](#)**
- 2) **Acquire land necessary for completion of the [Town of Oak Island Recreation Center](#)**
- 3) **Acquire land necessary for completion of the [Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System](#)**

LAND ACQUISITION IMPLEMENTATION

2030 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) **Acquire land necessary for a [West End Neighborhood Park](#)**
- 2) **Acquire land necessary for a [Mainland Community Park](#)**
- 3) **Acquire land adjacent and contiguous to the [Middleton Park Complex](#), [Bill Smith Park](#), and the [Recreation Center](#)**
- 4) **Acquire land adjacent and contiguous to any Town-owned, operated, and maintained [Facilities, Areas, and Parks](#), [Oceanfront Public Access Sites](#), and [Estuarine and Soundside Public Access Sites](#)**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Adopt the “Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”
- 2) Adopt the “Recreation and Community Centers Study (2025)” by HH Architecture
- 3) Hire a Consulting Firm to develop a “Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement Plan” and adopt the Plan upon completion
- 4) Ensure ADA and UD Compliance for all Town programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks
- 5) Replace all rolling trash and recycling receptacles with permanent trash and recycling receptacles
- 6) Install proper Identification and Directional Signage for all Town facilities, areas, and parks
- 7) Install Wi-Fi capability in appropriate Town facilities, areas, and parks
- 8) Assess Town street ends to determine feasibility to be converted into public amenities

FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

2028 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Upgrade, expand, and modernize existing Town Parks and Recreation Department Facilities, Areas, and Parks—10th Place West Gazebo, 30th Place West Dock, 46th Street Cabana, 57th Place West Boat Ramps, 78th Street Crab Dock, 801 Ocean Event Center, Barbee Walking Trail, Bill Smith Park, Commissioner’s Observatory Park, Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street, Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street, Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street, Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E, Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E, Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E, Hannon A. Templeton Park, Heron Lookout Park, Kevin Bell Skatepark, “Little” Davis Canal Floating Dock, May Moore Park, Middleton Park Complex, NE 55th Street Boat Ramps, NW 3rd Street Steps/Stairs, Oak Island Community Center, Oak Island Fishing Pier, Oak Island Nature Center, Oak Island Ocean Education Center, Oak Island Par 3 Golf, Oak Island Recreation Center, SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee, Shipwreck Park, Shuster Fishing Tee, The Point, Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch, Veterans Memorial Park, and Yaupon Park

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Biking, Walking, Running, and Hiking Opportunities—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 2) Gardening Opportunities—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 3) Pickleball Clinics and Leagues for Youth and Adult—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 4) Cooking Opportunities—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 5) Birding Opportunities—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 6) Line Dancing Opportunities—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 7) Fitness Programs for Kids—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly
- 8) Tennis Clinics and Leagues for Youth and Adults—begin in 2026 – 2027 FY and continue yearly

POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATION IMPLEMENTATION

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department Structure—continue in perpetuity

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- 2) Town of Oak Island Bicycle Transportation Network and System—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year if not adopted during 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year
- 3) Recreation & Community Centers Study by HH Architecture—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year if not adopted during 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year
- 4) Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force—Spring 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year

The Town of **Oak Island**

NORTH CAROLINA



- 5) Enhanced, Expanded, and Improved Partnerships—begin in 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year and continue in perpetuity
- 6) American with Disabilities Act (AD) Compliance—begin in 2026 – 2027 Fiscal and continue in perpetuity

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- 7) **Town Street End Assessments—begin in 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year and continue in perpetuity**



- 8) **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Composition—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year**
9) **Facilities, Areas, and Parks Identification and Clarification Committee—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year**



- 10) **Publicity, Communication, and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks—2026 – 2027 or 2027 – 2028 Fiscal Years**
11) **Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards (CPSI)—2027 – 2028 Fiscal Year and continue every two (2) years in perpetuity**

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATION IMPLEMENTATION

2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

- 1) **Parks Superintendent—2025 – 2026 or 2026 – 2027 FY**
- 2) **Parks Maintenance Specialists—2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027 FY**
- 3) **Building Maintenance Specialists—2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027 FY**
- 4) **Education Director—2026 – 2027 FY**
- 5) **Rentals, Events, and Special Programs Coordinator—2026 – 2027 FY**
- 6) **Splash Pad Supervisors—2026 – 2027 FY**
- 7) **Administrative Assistant/Office Manager—2027 – 2028 FY**
- 8) **Oak Island Par 3 Golf Supervisor—2028 – 2029 FY**



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OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process is a vital component of any local government operation. The purpose of the master plan is to 1) Assess, analyze, and evaluate the status of the provision of local community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. 2) Stimulate an open public discussion of present and future needs for community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. 3) Establish a plan of action for the future growth, development and implementation of community parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. The product of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process is a living document that provides the Town of Oak Island a viable blueprint and plan of action to guide the future orderly growth and development of the community's comprehensive parks, recreation, and open space delivery system. This section of the comprehensive **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan** contains a brief synopsis of the community characteristics of the Town of Oak Island, a clear and concise description of the public input portion of the planning process, and a summary of the master plan recommendations.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Community Location/General Characteristics/History

The Town of Oak Island is a seaside beach town located in Brunswick County in the southeastern corner of North Carolina and is the largest beach community in North Carolina. The Town encompasses nearly twenty (20) square miles and offers ten 910 miles of beachfront. The Town is separated from the mainland by the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) and is located about 34 miles from the City of Wilmington, North Carolina. The major portion of the Town is on Oak Island (formerly Long Beach) which it shares with Caswell Beach. The Town of Oak Island was founded in 1999 as a result of the consolidation of the Town of Long Beach and the Town of Yaupon Beach. Oak Island's main industry is tourism. Per the 2023 OSBM estimate, the Town had a permanent population of 9,712. The Town's average summer population ranges from estimates of 40,000 – 60,000 individuals. The Town of Oak Island is a part of the Myrtle Beach Metropolitan Area.



Oak Island, upon which most of the Town of Oak Island sits, has been inhabited since the early 19th century when Fort Caswell was constructed on its east end in 1838. Fort Caswell was the first area of Oak Island to have a permanent population. In 1936, the AIWW was completed. This made Oak Island a true island as the AIWW construction deepened portions of the Elizabeth River, severing the island from the mainland. The island of Oak Island developed slowly, but by the late 1930s it began attracting people from nearby Southport with fox hunting popular in the areas along the AIWW.

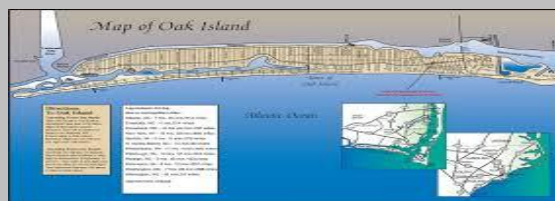
Ernest Felder Middleton, a timber exporter from Charleston, South Carolina, bought land on Oak Island in 1938. Middleton, along with his partners in Carolina Lands, Inc. began development of the area on Oak Island known as Long Beach. By 1939, Long Beach was officially open to the public. At this time, the town had a pavilion, a canteen with a dining room, and 20 bathhouses. Early visitors enjoyed orchestras and dances at the pavilion every Saturday night. During this time, Carolina Lands also finished construction on some roads and offered the first oceanfront lots for sale. By 1940, Long Beach had about 40 cottages. These early years saw a short building boom on the island, but during World War Two, construction came to a halt as building materials were scarce, and activity was hampered by dim-out restrictions. By 1944, construction had returned

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

to normal. Hurricane Hazel struck Oak Island in 1954 leaving only five (5) buildings standing on the west end of the island. The island recovered quickly however, and the towns of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach were incorporated in 1955. The Town of Oak Island was officially founded in 1999 as a result of the previously mentioned consolidation of the Town of Long Beach and the Town of Yaupon Beach.

The permanent, year-round population determined by the 2020 US Decennial Census was 8,396 (**Appendix A**). This figure represents approximately a 22% increase (1,825 Individuals) in population from 2000 to 2020. Current census estimates project the Town of Oak Island will continue to experience permanent, year-round population growth into the future. In addition, the influx of day-trippers, summer residents, and tourists can increase the actual population of the Town of Oak Island to over 50,000 individuals on most spring and summer weekends as well as some summer weekdays.

The 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate of the median age of the residents of Oak Island of 60.7 years is slightly higher than Brunswick County, which is 57.6, and significantly higher than the State of North Carolina, which is 39.4 years. The 2023 ACS estimated median household income of \$85,513 in Oak Island is higher than Brunswick County at \$76,221 and higher than the State of North Carolina, which is \$70,804. According to the 2023 ACS estimated education levels approximately ninety-six percent (96%) of the population of the Town of Oak Island possesses a high school diploma or greater compared to 93% for Brunswick County, 91% for the State of North Carolina, and 90% nationally.



2019 - 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates—POPULATION

The permanent, year-round population is listed as 8,396 in the 2020 Decennial Census (**Appendix A**). This is an increase of approximately 12% or 1,028 residents over the listed population in 2015 (7,368), an increase of approximately 19% or 1,613 residents over the listed population in 2010 (6,783), and an increase of approximately 22% or 1,825 residents over the listed population in 2000 (6,571). The 2023 Estimated Population is 9,712 residents. On any summer weekend the actual population of the town increases by an additional 40,000 – 60,000 individuals. Based on the actual population growth rate between 2000 and 2020, one can assume and estimate that the 2030 permanent, year-round population of the Town of Oak Island will be approximately 12,000 individuals.

2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates— AGES

According to the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates approximately seven hundred and fifty-six (756) individuals or 8.8% of the population are under the age of 20; four thousand five hundred and ninety-nine (4,599) individuals or 53.7% of the population are between the ages of 20 to 64; and three thousand two hundred and nine (3,209) individuals or 37.4% of the population of the Town of Oak Island are over the age of 64. (**Appendix C**)

2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates— MEDIAN AGE

The 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates Median Age of the residents of the Town of Oak Island of 60.7 years is higher than the National median age of 39.2 years; higher than the State of North Carolina which is 39.4 years; higher than Brunswick County which is 57.6 years; higher than the Town of Caswell Beach which is 58.5 years; higher than the City of Boiling Spring Lakes which is 47.5 years; but lower than the City of Southport which is 61.4 years (**Appendix D**).



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2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates— MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

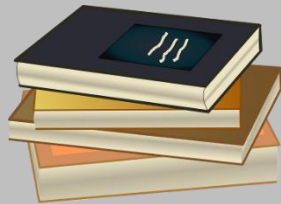
Based on the 2020 US Decennial Census and the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates the Median Household Income of \$85,513 in the Town of Oak Island is higher than Brunswick County, which is \$76,221; higher than the City of Boiling Spring Lakes, which is \$57,969; higher than the City of Southport which is \$78,287; higher than the State of North Carolina, which is \$70,804; and, higher than the national median household income of \$74,755; but lower than the Town of Caswell Beach, which is \$121,125. **(Appendix F)**



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2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates— EDUCATION ATTAINMENT LEVELS

According to the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates Education Levels approximately 96% of the population of the Town of Oak Island possess at least a high school diploma or equivalent degree compared to 95.7% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 99.4% for the Town of Cashwell Beach; 93.3% for the City of Southport; 93.5% for Brunswick County; 90.5% for the State of North Carolina; and 89.6% Nationally. The ACS 2022 5-Year Update reports that 40.8% of the population of the Town of Oak Island possess a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 13.7% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 55.8% for the Town of Casewell Beach; 33.3% for the City of Southport; 35.0% for Brunswick County; 36.8% for the State of North Carolina; and 35.6% Nationally. **(Appendix G)**



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**Town of Oak Island, NC
Comprehensive CAMA Land Use
Plan Update 2025—PERMANENT
AND SEASONAL
POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

Coastal communities such as Oak Island must not only consider the permanent, year-round population when addressing current and future needs but must also consider seasonal swings in community size due to tourism and part-time residents. These seasonal swings due to tourism and the part-time residents can and do affect the demand for parks, recreation, and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. (Appendix B)

***PERMANENT AND SEASONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS
BASED ON THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND, NC
COMPREHENSIVE CAMA LAND USE PLAN UPDATE 2025***

YEAR	PERMANENT POPULATION PROJECTIONS (2025 – 2055)	SEASONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS (2025 – 2055)
2025	9,974	46,624
2030	11,746	54,907
2035	12,833	59,989
2040	13,920	65,070
2045	14,956	69,913
2050	15,993	74,760
2055	17,880	83,582

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Public Input

A significant amount of time and effort were expended identifying the expressed desires, needs, and interests of the citizens of the Town of Oak Island for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. To this end, the citizens of the Town of Oak Island participated directly, tangibly, and actively in the process in the following manner:

- One (1) formal information gathering session was held with the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (October 7, 2024) and one (1) formal information gathering session was held with the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department Staff (October 14, 2024) specifically to discuss and provide input into the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process



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- Four (4) interviews were conducted with key parks, recreation and open space stakeholders—Ms. Mariah Brazil, Ms. Amanda Kelly, Mr. Darly Mennen, and Ms. donna Mooneyham



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- Seven (7) key parks, recreation and open space stakeholders were identified and participated in a Focus Group discussion on March 12, 2025—Ms. Jacki Ball, Ms. Stehanie Boggs, Ms. Jo Craven, Mr. Phil Dudley, Ms. Luann Dummer, Mr. Pete Grendze, and Ms. Maxine McCullar



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- Three (3) Public Forum Sessions were facilitated—May 27 at 2 pm, May 27 at 5 pm, and May 29, 2025 at 9 am (**Appendix H, I, and J**)



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- A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Community Needs Assessment Survey was administered through the Town of Oak Island (**Appendix L**)



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Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department Contact Form

- ❖ Submission Date: June 12, 2025
- ❖ Brief description of reason for contacting the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department
 - Suggestion that the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department consider installing one (1) or (2) Outdoor Cement Ping Pong tables at the Oak Island Recreation Center that can be outside 24/7 all year long



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**Pertinent Public Information from Session with
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

- ❖ The Town needs to acquire land for a new Recreation Center, contiguous to existing parks and recreation facilities, for general parks and recreation purposes, and for the conservation of natural resources
- ❖ The Recreation Department needs to offer additional programs, services, events, and activities for teens and pre-teens



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- ❖ The Town needs a new and comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center
- ❖ The Town needs to plan, construct, operate, and maintain a safe, practical, and comprehensive Non-Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Transportation Network and System
- ❖ There needs to be a general emphasis and focus on American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and Universal Design criteria at all public access sites



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- ❖ The Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board need to work closely with the Oak Island Friends of Parks



- ❖ The Recreation Department needs a full-time Parks Supervisor and a full-time Education Director

Pertinent Public Information from Session with Town Staff

- ❖ The Town needs to acquire land in the downtown area for a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center
- ❖ The Town needs land for additional kayak launches



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- ❖ The Department needs to provide additional kayaking events, year-round concerts, and programming options for the young and the elderly
- ❖ The Town needs a large Senior Citizen Facility
- ❖ The existing Outdoor Stage needs improvements to make it more functional during inclement weather
- ❖ There is a need for a fully staffed Aquatics Facility
- ❖ There is a need for Sand Volleyball Courts



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- ❖ The Department needs to develop comprehensive rental policies



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- ❖ The Department needs to develop comprehensive Contract Agreements for all Vendors at outdoor events and for Bands hired to perform at concerts and other events
- ❖ If the Town is going to develop a new, comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center, the appropriate additional staff must also be hired
- ❖ The Department needs additional staff for Special Projects, the Splash Pad, Trash Collection, the Par Three Golf Course, and to monitor and supervise the rental of Department facilities, areas, and parks
- ❖ The Department needs to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Pertinent Public Information from Interview Sessions

- ❖ Land needs to be acquired for more green spaces with parks and trails
- ❖ The Town should create a non-profit parks, recreation, and open space foundations for fund raising purposes and work more closely with the “Oak Island Friends of Parks” foundation
- ❖ The Town needs offer more programs and services for pre-teens and teens and in the evenings to accommodate those who work during the day
- ❖ The Town needs to construct and operate a community swimming pool



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- ❖ The Town needs to replace the existing Recreation Center with a more robust, comprehensive, multi-purpose, Recreation Center with a gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, classroom space, exercise space, and an aerobics room
- ❖ The Town needs to provide additional boat launching ramps, kayak launching facilities, public piers, and indoor public restroom facilities



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- ❖ The Town needs to provide and operate an enlarged and improved Senior Center/Community Center
- ❖ The Town needs to provide a beachfront park
- ❖ The Department needs to do a better job of marketing, advertising, and publicizing its programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks



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- ❖ The Department needs additional full-time and part-time parks and recreation staff
- ❖ The current Recreation Department needs to be restructured as a Parks and Recreation Department

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Pertinent Public Information from Focus Group Session

- ❖ The Town needs a new, expanded, comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center with an indoor pool, gymnasium, fitness rooms, weight rooms, cardio rooms, sports court, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, an indoor walking path/track, storage space, meeting space, and office space



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- ❖ The Town needs to restructure the existing Recreation Department into a Parks and Recreation Department with its own maintenance staff
- ❖ The Town needs to provide additional water access facilities on the AIWW



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- ❖ The existing Town Administrative Facilities in Middleton Park need to be removed and a new, comprehensive site master plan for Middleton Park prepared
- ❖ The restructured Parks and Recreation Department will need additional full-time professional staff
- ❖ The Department needs to provide additional programs, services, events, and activities specifically for youth and teens



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- ❖ The communication, marketing, and advertising efforts must be improved and expanded to include a Town QR Code System



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- ❖ The Town needs to provide and operate additional “off-island” facilities, areas, and parks
- ❖ The Town needs to provide, operate, and maintain a West End Walkover and Town Park

Pertinent Public Information from the Public Forum Sessions—Three (3)

Public Forum Sessions were Conducted with a Total of Thirteen (13)

Individuals in Attendance

- ❖ The Town needs bike lanes that are safe and functional
- ❖ The Town needs to provide facilities, areas, and parks that overlook the ocean, AIWW, and the marshes
- ❖ The Town needs to provide, operate, and maintain a new, improved, enlarged, and enhanced Recreation Center and then convert the existing Recreation Center into a new, improved and expanded Community Center
- ❖ Additional public restroom facilities need to be provided and maintained throughout the Town and especially at The Point on the west end of the island
- ❖ The current Recreation Department needs to be restructured into a Parks and Recreation Department with its own full-time maintenance staff
- ❖ The Town needs to provide increased, improved, multi-functional, and user-friendly communication, marketing, and publicity of programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks
- ❖ Some of the programs, services, events, and activities offered at the Recreation Center need to be provided after normal working hours
- ❖ The Town needs to construct and operate an Aquatic Center with an indoor pool and an outdoor pool
- ❖ The existing Community Center needs to be expanded and improved
- ❖ There needs to be increased coordination and cooperation between the Town of Oak Island and the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the Brunswick County School System, and other private and public organizations
- ❖ Shade Sails need to be installed at all Town facilities, areas, and parks
- ❖ The Town must ensure that all programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks are ADA compliant and follow Universal Design Standards and Guidelines
- ❖ The Town needs to acquire land on the mainland for parks, recreation and open space purposes
- ❖ The Town must ensure there is strong coordination between the soon to be updated CAMA Land-Use Plan Update, the soon to be completed Recreation Center Feasibility Study, and the Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Pertinent Public Input Information from Needs Assessment Survey

Eight hundred and fifty-one (851) individuals responded to the Town of Oak Island Needs Assessment Survey. Of these 851 respondents, approximately seventy percent (70%) or 591 individuals stated they were a “Full-Time/Permanent Resident; property owner; and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes.” An additional twenty-two percent (22%) or one hundred and eighty-six (186) individuals identified themselves as a “Part-Time Resident; property owner; and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes.” Two percent (2%) or twenty-one (21) individuals identified themselves as a “Full-Time/Permanent Resident; rent/lease my place of residence.” One percent (1%) or nine (9) individuals identified themselves as “Part-Time Resident; rent/lease my place of residence.” Two percent (2%) or nineteen (19) individuals identified themselves as “Local Tourist; live within 2-hour drive.” One percent (1%) or seven (7) individuals identified themselves as “Tourist; live outside a 2-hour drive.” And two percent (2%) or fifteen (15) individuals identified themselves as “Other.”

- ❖ The survey asked, “In your opinion, what are the ten (10) most important **NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities** the Town of Oak Island needs to provide in the future? (**PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO TEN CHOICES**),” the top responses in priority order are: **Biking Opportunities (11.4%), Gardening Programs (10.8%), Pickleball Clinics (9.3%), Cooking Classes (8.2%), Adult Pickleball Leagues (8.2%), Hiking Opportunities (7.8%), and Birding Clinics/Classes (7.1%) (Q10) (Appendices Q and R)**
- ❖ Approximately 84% of the respondents stated “Yes” when asked, “Would you support funding these **NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities** identified in **Q10** if they were fully funded through reasonable and consistent user fees?” (**Q11**)
- ❖ The survey asked, “If you or any members of your household **visited or used any of the facilities, areas, and parks listed in Q12**, please provide feedback on what you would like to see improved at each specific facility, area, and park” the top responses for each facility, area, and park are: (**Q13) (Appendices S and T)**
 - **Barbee Walking Trail**
 - Extend the Trail all the way to the beach
 - Plant additional trees along the Trail
 - **Bill Smith Park**
 - Expand the Disc Golf course to 18 holes
 - Clean up the Salty Dog Park and install water spickets
 - Add pickleball courts
 - Make the Salty Dog Park ADA compliant

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [Commissioner's Observation Park](#)
 - No comments
- [Davis Canal Floating Docks](#)
 - Install another kayak launch
- [Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover](#)
 - Install dog waste stations
 - Repair the Crossover
- [Hannon A. Templeton Park](#)
 - Repair the swings
 - Maintain and improve the dog park—expand the fenced area
- [Heron Lookout Park](#)
 - Install a trash receptacle
- [Kevin Bell Skatepark](#)
 - No comments
- ["Little" Davis Canal Floating Dock](#)
 - Keep litter cleaned up
- [May Moore Park](#)
 - Install pedestrian friendly trash receptacles
 - Install a public restroom facility
 - Dredge around the dock
 - Install new swings
- [Middleton Park Complex](#)
 - Improve the sound acoustics at the amphitheater
 - Install a public restroom facility near the splash pad
 - Keep the splash pad open until 7 or 8 and until the end of September
 - Add grassy areas and shade
 - Upgrade the playground equipment
 - Install a webcam focused on the pickleball courts to allow potential users to check the status of the courts (wet, dry, busy, not busy, etc.)
 - Install additional handicap parking spaces
 - Install dog waste stations throughout the park
 - Move the Town Operations facilities off-island and then develop a master plan for the best uses of the entire park
 - Install adult outdoor fitness stations

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [NE 55th Street Boat Ramps](#)
 - Repair the launch access
 - Improve the parking
- [Oak Island Community Center](#)
 - Remove the concrete corn hole boards
 - Improve parking for seniors
 - Expand or replace the facility
 - Rehab the restrooms in the facility
- [Oak Island Fishing Pier](#)
 - Install additional handicapped parking spaces
- [Oak Island Nature Center](#)
 - Center needs more informational displays, education for kids and adults, and more exhibits
 - Update and enhance the facility
 - Dredge around the floating dock
- [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#)
 - Update and enhance the facility
 - Add new displays
- [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#)
 - Maintain the tees, tee boxes, fairways, sand traps, and greens better
 - Add an 18-hole Disc Golf Course
 - Fix or sell the course
 - Increase the number of golf lessons
- [Oak Island Recreation Center](#)
 - Need to replace, enlarge and improve the facility and add an indoor swimming pool and walking track—a complete makeover and overhaul—a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive recreation facility
 - Spruce up the outdoor areas, particularly the swings and basketball court
 - Replace damaged and broken equipment in a timely manner
 - Continue to accommodate the Quilters Guild
- [Register Park Fishing Pier](#)
 - Pier needs maintenance
- [SW 5th Street Floating Docks](#)
 - Repair the docks or remove them

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [Shuster Fishing Tee](#)
 - Repair the tee and add parking
- [The Point](#)
 - Add parking and access
 - Stop development at The Point
 - Install public restroom facilities—not disgusting port-o-lets
- [Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch](#)
 - Repair the bridges
- [Veterans Memorial Park](#)
 - Install a kayak/canoe launch
 - Install a doggie bag station
 - Install walkway lighting
 - Install a children’s playground similar to Ocean Isle Beach
 - Extend the fishing pier
 - Install public restroom facilities—not disgusting port-o-lets
- [Yaupon Park](#)
 - No comments
- [10th Place West Gazebo](#)
 - Install a public restroom facility
- [30th Place West Dock](#)
 - Dredge the dock area as it is unusable at this time
- [46th Street Cabana Observation Deck](#)
 - Update and enhance the public restroom/changing facility—make it more modern and easier to keep clean
 - Keep the restroom/changing facility open year-round
 - Find a way to allow access to the deck for individuals with disabilities
- [57th Place West Access Boat Ramps](#)
 - Increase and improve the available parking
 - Repair the boat launch
- [78th Street Crab Dock](#)
 - No comments
- [801 Ocean Event Center](#)
 - Convert the Center into a bar/restaurant and allow catering
 - Sell the Center as it is underutilized
 - Install a walkway leading front the facility to the beach

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

➤ General Comments

- Town needs more and better parking at all of the facilities, areas, and parks
- Install additional benches in the shade along Davis Canal
- Town needs public restrooms that are modernized and cleaner and more of them—keep restrooms open 24/7
- All facilities, areas, and parks need better identification and signage
- Provide additional kayak launches
- Provide additional boat ramps
- Need age and gender appropriate youth coaching
- Install designated dog waste stations in all parks
- Install dog watering locations at the dog parks
- Improve and increase the marketing, advertising, and communication for all facilities, areas, and parks
- Ensure that all facilities, areas, and parks are ADA compliant
- Install crosswalks
- Install additional mobi mats to the beach
- Install sidewalks along Fish Factory Road
- Sponsor a “Rainbow Memorial Bridge”
- Provide additional trails, walking, and biking paths
- Construct a kayak launch at 19th/20th Street walkway
- Install additional shade areas with seating at the playgrounds
- Open the splash pad prior to 10
- Provide ICW access points on W Yacht Drive (NW 3rd Street and NE 11th Street)
- Conduct an ADA accessibility audit of all facilities, areas, and parks
- Establish a kayak trail on Davis Canal
- Install a public restroom facility at 25th E Beach Drive
- Install access stairs at the NE 4th Street Intracoastal access
- 39th Place West launch site is unusable at low tide—extend the concrete pad
- Install additional mobi mats down to the oceanfront beach area
- The only real issue on the island is NO CROSSWALKS so one can safely cross OAK ISLAND DRIVE AND BEACH DRIVE



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ The survey asked, “In your opinion, what are the ten (10) most important **NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks** the Town of Oak Island needs to provide in the future (These new and/or additional recreational facilities, areas, and parks will require a capital investment by the Town of Oak Island)? **(PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO TEN)**,” the top ten (10) responses in priority order are: **Crosswalks for Pedestrians (66%), Public Restrooms (53%), On-Street Bike Lanes (48%), Sidewalks/Pedestrian Lanes (44%), Hiking Trails/Paths (42%), Indoor Swimming Pool (39%), Greenways (39%), Indoor Recreation Facility (31%), Open and Natural Spaces (29%), and Outdoor Swimming Pool (29%) (Q14)**
- ❖ The survey asked, “Which of these funding sources would you support to pay for these **NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks**? **(PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**,” the responses were: **34% Grants; 26% Private Sources, 22% General Obligation Bond Referendum, 10% Property Tax Increase, and 4% Other (Q15)**



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- ❖ The most important accomplishments regarding **transforming the Town of Oak Island into a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly Town** are **Bicycle Lanes (68%), More Crosswalks & Signage (67%), Multi-Use Paths (51%), New Sidewalks (46%) (Q16)**
- ❖ The survey asked, “Have you experienced any **recurring issues within the Town of Oak Island regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety** that need to be addressed? **(PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**,” the top five (5) responses are: **Lack of Sidewalks and Pedestrian Lanes (59%), Lack of Bicycle Lanes (55%), Driving at Night (39%), Lack of Signage for Pedestrians (30%), and Those on Bicycles Need Lights or Bells (29%) (Q17)**
- ❖ Approximately **88%** of the respondents agree that the **VARIETY of programs, services, events, and activities** offered by the Town of Oak Island is appropriate **(Q18)**

VARIETY

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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Approximately **88%** of the respondents agree that the **QUALITY of programs, services, events, and activities** offered by the Town of Oak Island is appropriate (Q19)



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- ❖ Approximately **77%** of the respondents are satisfied with the **QUALITY of the facilities, areas, and parks** provided by the Town of Oak Island (Q20)
- ❖ Approximately **50%** of the respondents believe the Town of Oak Island is **bike friendly/a safe place to bike** (Q21)



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- ❖ Approximately **53%** of the respondents believe the Town of Oak Island is **pedestrian friendly/a safe place to walk** (Q22)



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- ❖ Approximately **59%** of the respondents believe the Town of Oak Island is **an accessible place for persons with disabilities and other special needs** (Q23)



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- ❖ Approximately **70%** of the respondents believe the **existing facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet the needs of the members of my household** (Q24)
- ❖ Approximately **76%** of the respondents believe the **existing programs, services, events, and activities provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet the needs of the members of my household** (Q25)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Approximately **84%** of the respondents believe it is important that the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department **provides new and/or improved recreational facilities, areas, and parks in the future (Q26)**
- ❖ Approximately **90%** of the respondents gave the Town an **overall grade of “Average,” “Good,” or “Excellent”** when asked whether the programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet your needs and the needs of the members of your household (Q27)



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- ❖ The survey asked, **“What would it take to raise your rating to the previous question (Q27) to at least “Good”,** the top responses are the need:
 - ✓ **For Improved Infrastructure for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Including Sidewalks, Bike Paths, Crosswalks, Lighted Pedestrian Crossings, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, and Regular Maintenance to Provide Bikers and Walkers a Safe Experience**
 - ✓ **For a New, Expanded, Modern, Multi-Function, Multi-Purpose, and Comprehensive Indoor Recreation Facility**
 - ✓ **For Additional Public Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities at Access Sites and Town Facilities, Areas, and Parks that are ADA Accessible/Compliant, and Available 24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week—the Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities Should also Include a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station**



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- ✓ **For a Swimming Pool**
- ✓ **For all Town Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks to be ADA Accessible/Compliant and Conform to Universal Design Standards and Guidelines (Q28) (Appendix X)**



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ The survey asked, “If you could tell the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department **ONE thing, they need to do better recreationally, or ONE recreational facility, area, or park they need to add,** it would be,” the top responses are the need:

- ✓ **For a New, Expanded, Modern, Multi-Function, Multi-Purpose, and Comprehensive Indoor Recreation Facility**



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- ✓ **For Improved Infrastructure for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Including Sidewalks, Bike Paths, Crosswalks, Lighted Pedestrian Crossings, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, and Regular Maintenance to Provide Bikers and Walkers a Safe Experience**



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- ✓ **For a Swimming Pool**
- ✓ **For Additional Public Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities at Access Sites and Town Facilities, Areas, and Parks that are ADA Accessible/Compliant, and Available 24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week—the Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities Should also Include a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station**
- ✓ **For Additional Water Access and Small Boat and Kayak Launches**
- ✓ **For the Recreation Department to Provide Additional Programs, Services, Events, and Activities Before 9:00 AM and After 5:00 PM in Order to Accommodate Working Individuals**
- ✓ **For All Town Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks to be ADA Accessible/Compliant and Conform to Universal Design Standards and Guidelines (Q33) (Appendix Z)**



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- ❖ The survey asked, “Please state any additional improvements/enhancements to current Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department recreational programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks that would improve/enhance your overall parks and recreation experience,” the top responses are the need:
- ✓ For Improved Infrastructure for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Including Sidewalks, Bike Paths, Crosswalks, Lighted Pedestrian Crossings, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, and Regular Maintenance to Provide Bikers and Walkers a Safe Experience
 - ✓ For a New, Expanded, Modern, Multi-Function, Multi-Purpose, and Comprehensive Indoor Recreation Facility
 - ✓ For a Swimming Pool
 - ✓ For Additional Public Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities at Access Sites and Town Facilities, Areas, and Parks that are ADA Accessible/Compliant, and Available 24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week—the Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities Should also Include a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station
 - ✓ For the Recreation Department to Provide Additional Programs, Services, Events, and Activities Before 9:00 AM and After 5:00 PM in Order to Accommodate Working Individuals
 - ✓ For Additional Greenspace, Open Space, and Parks
 - ✓ For Additional Water Access and Small Boat and Kayak Launches (Q34) (Appendix AA)



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NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Summary of Master Plan Recommendations

The comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* outlines the existing and anticipated parks, recreation, and open space needs for the Town of Oak Island. The Master Plan primarily focuses on the issues and challenges of Land Acquisition; Facility, Area, and Park Development; Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development; Policy and Procedure Considerations; and Personnel Considerations.

This document recognizes and acknowledges it would be extremely advantageous and fortuitous for the Town of Oak Island to acquire additional land for parks, recreation, and open space purposes anywhere within the Town planning jurisdiction, particularly on the mainland. Therefore, the acquisition of land should be a high priority for the Town of Oak Island.

✚ Land Acquisition—2026 – 2031

The Town of Oak Island should pursue the acquisition of.....

- 1) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of the **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System** as identified in the adopted *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”*
- 2) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** and as identified in the adopted *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture
- 3) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe and functional **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System** as identified in the proposed *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”*
- 4) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Neighborhood Park at the west end of the island**
- 5) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Community Park** on the mainland
- 6) Land adjacent and contiguous to the **Middleton Park Complex**
- 7) Land adjacent and contiguous to **Bill Smith Park**
- 8) Land adjacent and contiguous to the **Oak Island Recreation Center**
- 9) Land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Facilities, Areas, and Parks**
- 10) Land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Oceanfront Beach and Estuarine and Soundside Public Access Sites**

✚ Land Acquisition—Beyond 2031

The Town of Oak Island should pursue the acquisition of.....

- 1) Land appropriate and suitable for the continued construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of the **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System** particularly along NC 211, Long Beach Road, Fish Factory Road SE, Oak Island Drive, Yacht Drive, Holly Drive, Pelican Drive, Dolphin Drive, and Beach Drive and as identified in the adopted *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”*, if not acquired by 2031
- 2) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** as identified in the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture, if not acquired by 2031
- 3) Land appropriate and suitable for the continued construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe and functional **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System** as identified in the proposed *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan,”* if not acquired by 2031
- 4) Land offering the possibility of public access and related amenities to the oceanfront beach, sounds, estuarine waters, and marshes in and surrounding the Town of Oak Island
- 5) Land offering specific advantages for general parks, recreation, and open space purposes for the Town of Oak Island
- 6) Land suitable for greenways and blueways in and around the Town of Oak Island
- 7) Land adjacent to and contiguous to any and all existing Town of Oak Island facilities, areas and parks

LAND ACQUISITION BEYOND 2031



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

In terms of **facility, area, and park development**, recommendations include:

Facility, Area, and Park Development—2026 – 2031

- 1) Adopt the *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”* upon its completion and implement the document’s recommendations regarding the expansion, improvement, construction, and installation of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System**
- 2) Adopt the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture upon its completion and implement the document’s recommendations regarding a new or renovated comprehensive **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center and Town of Oak Island Community Center**
- 3) Hire a Consulting Firm to develop a *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”* to determine the optimal **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System** of sidewalks, foot paths, and crosswalks to be implemented within the Town planning jurisdiction; adopt the *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”* upon its completion; and implement the *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”* recommendations
- 4) Replace all rolling trash and recycling receptacles with permanent trash and recycling receptacles at all Town facilities, areas, and parks
- 5) Upgrade, Expand, Improve, and Modernize existing facilities, areas, and parks:

FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

10th PLACE WEST GAZEBO

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach
 - ❖ Install a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across W Beach Drive at 10th Place W to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

30TH PLACE WEST DOCK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge under the Floating Dock—currently the Dock is unusable during low tide
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock
 - ❖ Repair/Replace the Access Ramp leading from the Pier to the Floating Dock—the Ramp is in extremely poor condition

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
- ❖ Remove the Monofilament String on the Pier
- ❖ Install a Monofilament Recycling Bin at the end of the Pier
- ❖ Remove the Rotting Netting at the water end of the parking area and as one enters the Pier—THIS IS A DANGEROUS TRIPPING HAZARD

46TH STREET CABANA

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Repair, update, and renovate the public restroom facility and keep the public restroom facility open 24/7, year-round
 - ❖ Update, repair, and renovate the Cabana itself—some of the wood is in bad shape and in need of repair or replacement. May require demolition and rebuild
 - ❖ Install a Shading Device over the existing Observation Deck
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Cabana Linked to the Town’s Website

57TH PLACE WEST BOAT RAMP

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Boat Ramps at low tide to make certain there is enough water to launch a boat at low tide. If there is not enough water to launch a boat a low tide, apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge the bottom around the Boat Ramps
 - ❖ Inspect the Boat Ramps for wear and tear and repair or replace as necessary
 - ❖ Because of limited parking at the facility, the Boat Ramps are difficult and dangerous to use—the Town should consider selling the Boat Ramps to a private enterprise or acquiring land need the Boat Ramps for additional public parking

78TH STREET CRAB DOCK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Dock
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Pier

801 OCEAN EVENT CENTER

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across Ocean Drive at Womble Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

BARBEE WALKING TRAIL

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Extend Barbee Walking Trail from E Oak Island Drive all the way to Ocean Drive and Yaupon Park
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Swing Bench in Shipwreck Park where the north end of the Park intersects with the south end of the Trail
 - ❖ Install several benches in strategic locations along the Trail from May Moore Park to Yaupon Park
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at Barbee Boulevard to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across Ocean Drive at Barbee Boulevard to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

BILL SMITH PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage
 - ❖ Expand the 9-Hole Disc Golf Course to an 18-Hole Disc Golf Course
 - ❖ Install a proper source of Fresh Water at the Salty Dog Park
 - ❖ Install a Handicap Accessible Mat at the entrance into Salty Dog Park
 - ❖ Construct a Handicap Accessible Walkway from the entrance into Salty Dog Park to a seating area within Salty Dog Park
 - ❖ Install several Activity Structures in both the Large Dog Park and the Small Dog Park
 - ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged sections of the Fence around Salty Dog Park
 - ❖ Mark one (1) of the Parking Spaces into Salty Dog Park as Handicapped Parking
 - ❖ Construct an Outdoor Amphitheater in the open space/green space between the Salty Dog Park and the parking lot for the Pier/Floating Dock/Picnic Shelter
 - ❖ Install two (2) Handicap Accessible Playgrounds in the open space/green space south of the pond—one for 2-5 year-olds and one for 5-12 year olds

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Install permanent Trash and Recycling Receptacles in strategic locations throughout the Park—eliminate the rolling receptacles
- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged Scoreboards
- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged/missing Bench Swing along the walking path through the Disc Golf section next to Fish Factory Road
- ❖ Install a Monofilament Recycling Bin on the Pier
- ❖ Place a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Pier
- ❖ Install additional Swing Benches overlooking the water near the Pier
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website

COMMISSIONER’S OBSERVATORY DECK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach
 - ❖ Install Raised Seating under the Covered Shade Structure/Gazebo to allow users to see over the dunes
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at McGlamery Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website

DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCK—SE 9th Street

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and replace rotten and moldy/algae covered wood, as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 9th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCK—SE 20th Street

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 20th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCK—SW 5th Street

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 5th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

DAVIS CANAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 9th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

DAVIS CANAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 20th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility entrance

DAVIS CANAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 31st Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, and Remove Sand as needed
 - ❖ Install a Water Proof Plastic Boardwalk over the sections of the Pedestrian Crossover that currently go over the bare ground

HANNON A. TEMPLETON PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Improve the two (2) Pedestrian Entrances into the Park off E Oak Island Drive
 - ❖ Repair and repaint the damaged Park Sign
 - ❖ Inspect the swings in the Park and repair and replace as necessary

- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at NE 41st Street and NE 42nd Street to provide safe pedestrian access
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

HERON LOOKOUT PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Place a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the two (2) Swings
 - ❖ Install a Bike Rack in a strategic location within the Park
 - ❖ Install a Floating Dock with a Kayak Launch Amenity off the bulkhead
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

KEVIN BELL SKATEPARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Picnic Shelter where the existing Picnic Table is located and place the Picnic Table under the Picnic Shelter
 - ❖ Replace the existing Porta-Johns with a permanent Public Restroom

"LITTLE" DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCK—9th Place E

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge under the Floating Dock
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock

MAY MOORE PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Bike Rack in a strategic location near the entrance to the Park
 - ❖ Install two (2) additional Bench Swings along the waterside edge of the Park
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock
 - ❖ Install a Picnic Shelter on the existing concrete slab that includes the existing Handicap Accessible Picnic Table
 - ❖ Install a Public Restroom Facility to accommodate bikers on Yacht Drive and Elizabeth Drive
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, and Remove Sand as needed
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park

- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website

 **MIDDLETON PARK COMPLEX**

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a “Senior Playground” in the area of the Park Complex presently occupied by the concrete Cornhole Boards
 - ❖ Install a Tennis Practice Backboard at each of the two (2) existing Tennis Courts
 - ❖ Install additional Fitness Stations in strategic locations along the Fitness Path
 - ❖ Install Shade Sails directly over the existing Splash Pad
 - ❖ Install Shade Sails directly over the Pirate Ship Playground
 - ❖ Plant Shade Trees in strategic locations along the Fitness Path
 - ❖ Repair the Backstop at the Baseball/Softball Field or eliminate the Baseball/Softball Field completely
 - ❖ Install Dog Waste Bag Dispensers at strategic locations within the Park Complex
 - ❖ Construct a permanent Public Restroom Facility with a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station in the area presently occupied by the Porta-Johns near the Amphitheater
 - ❖ Install Watering Stations in strategic locations throughout the Park Complex
 - ❖ Increase the size of the Dance Floor in front of the Amphitheater
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park Complex
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Beach Drive at SE 49th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park Complex
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park Complex
 - ❖ Install a live Web-Cam over the Pickleball Courts linked to the Town’s Website
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Complex Linked to the Town’s Website

 **NE 55TH STREET BOAT RAMPS**

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ The facility is showing signs of age and wear and tear and needs to be inspected to determine its viability—it is possible that the Boat Ramps and the Floating Dock need repairs or replacement (Floating Dock is missing many of the docking cleats and the Boat Ramps have cracked and potholed concrete)

- ❖ Post a sign at the parking lot stating **“PARKING FOR TRAIERED VEHICLES ONLY”**

 [NW 3rd STREET STEPS/STAIRS](#)

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary

 [OAK ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER](#)

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ The Oak Island Community Center is a wonderful facility, but it needs to be enlarged
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Oak Island Community Center
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Oak Island Community Center Linked to the Town’s Website

 [OAK ISLAND FISHING PIER](#)

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Repair the storm damage to the Pier
 - ❖ Hire an architect to determine the feasibility of revamping and remodeling the entire Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex Linked to the Town’s Website

 [OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER](#)

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ The facility presently includes the Oak Island Nature Center, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park amenities—for clarification purposes, the entire Complex should be renamed the “Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex”
 - ❖ All current signage should be removed and replaced with “Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex”
 - ❖ Special individual identification signage should be assigned to the Oak Island Nature Center, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, the Oak

Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park

- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER BUILDING

- ❖ The handicap accessible ramp leading into the Oak Island Nature Center building is in disrepair and sections of it need to be repaired or replaced
- ❖ The entrance to the handicap accessible ramp is blocked by a 3 inch lip which would keep a wheelchair from entering the ramp—this lip must be removed
- ❖ The Displays in the Oak Island Nature Center Building need to be updated and revised on a regular basis—this could be accomplished with the assistance of the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Board

DOT KELLY BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND WALKWAY/TRAIL SYSTEM

- ❖ Immediately replace the existing natural and slate rock walkways/trails with an American with Disabilities (ADA) and Universal Design (UD) approved surfacing

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER PIER AND FLOATING DOCK

- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock are starting to show their age and wear and tear—the wooden structure should be inspected and any and all damaged wood repaired or replaced
- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock should be inspected on a regular basis and any damaged wood repaired/replaced as necessary
- ❖ The ramp leading from the Oak Island Nature Center Pier to the Floating Dock has some damage and some of the wood on the ramp is in need of repairs/replacement
- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Floating Dock is in need of repairs
- ❖ Inspect the Floating Dock at low tide to make certain there is enough water under the Dock at low tide. If there is not enough water, apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge the bottom around the Floating Dock
- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock

MALCOLM REGISTER MINI-PARK

- ❖ Inspect the Fishing Pier and make any repairs and replacement as needed

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Replace the existing benches with views of the marsh and estuarine waters with Bench Swings with shade covers
- ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Fishing Pier

OAK ISLAND OCEAN EDUCATION CENTER

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Relocate the Oak Island Ocean Education Center to a Town-owned and operated facility
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage at the current location until the new location is secured
 - ❖ The Displays in the Oak Island Ocean Education Center need to be updated and revised on a regular basis—this could be accomplished with the assistance of the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Board

OAK ISLAND PAR 3 GOLF

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Replace and/or Repair all of the Course Greens
 - ❖ Install Bottles of Sand at each of the Course Tee Boxes
 - ❖ Inspect and repair the existing Irrigation System
 - ❖ Replace and/or Repair the Putting Green
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Oak Island Par 3 Golf

OAK ISLAND RECREATION CENTER

- ◆ Recommendation is:
 - ❖ Adopt the *“Recreation Center Needs Assessment and Facility Feasibility and Evaluation Study (2025)”* and follow the document’s recommendations regarding a new or renovated comprehensive Town of Oak Island Recreation Center

SW 6th STREET PIER AND FISHING TEE

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Install a Floating Dock with a Kayak Launch Facility off the Pier and Fishing Tee

SHIPWRECK PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Swing Bench facing south at the north end of Shipwreck Park

SHUSTER FISHING TEE

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage
 - ❖ Install a set of Steps/Stairs off the bulkhead to the sand/beach area along the bulkhead
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Add Off-Road Parking to the site in the sandy area leading up to the Fishing Pier
 - ❖ Remove the Chain Link Fencing

THE POINT

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Permanent Public Restroom Facility that is handicapped accessible
 - ❖ Investigate methods for Increasing Public Parking at the site

TIDALWAVES KAYAK & CANOE LAUNCH

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Kayak/Canoe Launch Amenity off the Bulkhead
 - ❖ Install a Permanent Public Restroom Facility that is handicapped accessible
 - ❖ Extend the Shade Roof over the entire length of the Pier but make it 2-3 feet higher to allow overhead line casting
 - ❖ Install a Doggie Waste Bag Dispenser in a strategic location
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park

YAUPON PARK

- ◆ Recommendations are:
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach
 - ❖ Install a Small Permanent Public Restroom Facility
 - ❖ Install a Shade Cover over the Picnic Table and Swing Bench

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Facility, Area, and Park Development—Beyond 2031

- 1) The continued expansion, improvement, construction, and installation of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and useable **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System**, based upon the “*Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)*”, if not completed by 2031



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- 2) The continued planning, design, and construction of a **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** based upon the “*Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)*” by HH Architecture, if not completed by 2031



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- 3) The continued planning, design, and construction of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System** of sidewalks, foot paths, and crosswalks based upon the “*Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan,*” if not completed by 2031
- 4) The continued upgrading, expansion, improvement, and modernization of existing Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Department in terms of program, service, event, and activity development include:

+ Program, Service, Event, Camp, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031

- 1) Provide appropriate **Biking, Walking, Running, and Hiking** opportunities, experiences, programs, services, events, activities, and special collaborations within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction and in collaboration with the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Southport, and the Town of St. James
- 2) Provide appropriate **Gardening** programs, services, events, activities, special events, and special collaborations
- 3) Provide appropriate **Pickleball Clinics and Pickleball Leagues** for Youth and Adults



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- 4) Provide appropriate **Cooking** classes, programs, services, events, activities, special events and special collaborations
- 5) Provide appropriate **Birding** classes, clinics, programs, services, events, activities, special events, and special collaborations



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- 6) Provide appropriate **Line Dancing** classes, programs, services, events, activities, special events, and special collaborations
- 7) Provide appropriate **Fitness Programs for Kids**
- 8) Provide appropriate **Tennis Clinics and Tennis Leagues** for Youths and Adults



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✚ Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—Beyond 2031

There are two (2) identified program, service, event, and activity needs and recommendations “Beyond 2031”:

- 1) Once the new and improved comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable sidewalk, crosswalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and **Pedestrian and Bicycle Movement Systems** that allow for safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle movement in and around all areas of the Town of Oak Island is developed and open for operation based upon the *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”* and the *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”*, the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department will need to continue to program the movement systems appropriately



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- 2) Once the **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** is completed based on the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture, the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department will need to program it and operate it appropriately



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***PROGRAM, SERVICE,
EVENT, AND ACTIVITY
DEVELOPMENT***

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* discusses several policy and procedure changes affecting the delivery of parks, recreation and open space programs and services to Town residents.

Policy and Procedure Considerations presented in the Master Plan include:

Policy and Procedure Considerations—2026 – 2031

1) Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department Structure

Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department

2) Bicycle Transportation Network and System

3) Recreation & Community Centers Study by HH Architecture

4) Establish a Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force

5) Enhanced, Expanded, and Improved Partnerships



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6) American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance

7) Town Street End Assessments

8) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Composition

9) Facilities, Areas, and Parks Identification and Clarification Committee

10) Publicity, Communication, and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks



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11) Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards (CPSI)



POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

Personnel Considerations—2026 – 2031

Due to the uncertainty of many issues related to the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department, an accurate and complete assessment of the personnel requirements for the Department is difficult at best. Having stated this, there are certain personnel additions that can be safely anticipated such as:

- 1) The Department currently needs full-time **Parks Maintenance Specialists**
- 2) The Department currently needs full-time **Building Maintenance Specialists**
- 3) The Department currently needs a full-time **Education Director**
- 4) The Department currently needs a full-time **Rentals, Events, and Special Programs Coordinator**
- 5) The Department currently needs additional **Splash Pad Supervisors** to supervise the use of the Splash Pad
- 6) The Department currently needs a full-time **Administrative Assistant/Office Manager**
- 7) The Department currently needs a full-time **Oak Island Par 3 Golf Supervisor**
- 8) The Department will need additional **Programming and Maintenance staff** once the **Pedestrian and Bike Transportation Network and Systems** are established
- 9) The Department will need additional **Programming and Maintenance staff** once the new **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** is established

Personnel Considerations—Beyond 2031

There is no practical way to predict the personnel requirements for parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks Beyond 2031 at this time. The future need for parks and recreation full-time staff, part-time staff, seasonal employees, contract instructors, and student interns will be dependent upon how much the Town of Oak Island expands its current parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks in the future.

Personnel Considerations

RECOMMENDATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Acquisition of land** appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of the sidewalk, bicycle, and walking **Pedestrian and Bicycle Movement Systems**
- **Acquisition of land** appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Multi-Functional, Multi-Purpose, Comprehensive Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** and as identified in the “Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)” by HH Architecture
- **Adoption of the “Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”**
- **Adoption of the “Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”** by HH Architecture
- **The hiring of a Consulting Firm to prepare a “Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”**
- **Improvements to the 10th Place West Gazebo, the 30th Place West Dock, the 46th Street Gazebo, the 57th Place West Ramp, and the 78th Street Crab Dock, the Barbee Walking Trail, Bill Smith Park, the Commissioner’s Observatory Park, Davis Canal Floating Docks at SE 9th Street, SE 20th Street, and SW 5th Street, Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers at SE 9th Street and 9th Place E, SE 20th Street and 19th Place E, and SE 31st Street and 29th Place E, Hannon A. Templeton Park, Heron Lookout Park, Kevin Bell Skatepark, “Little” Davis Canal Floating Dock at 9th Place E, May Moore Park, the Middleton Park Complex, NE 55th Street Boar Ramp, NW 3rd Street Steps/Stairs, Oak Island Community Center, Oak Island Fishing Pier, Oak Island Nature Center, Oak Island Ocean Education Center, Oak Island Par 3 Golf, Oak Island Recreation Center, SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee, Shipwreck Park, Shuster Fishing Tee, The Point, Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch, Veterans Memorial Park, and Yaupon Park**
- **Provision of additional recreation programs, services, events, and activities to include Biking Opportunities, Gardening, Pickleball Clinics and Leagues, Cooking, Birding, Line Dancing, Fitness Programs for Kids, and Tennis Clinics and Leagues**
- **Maintaining a Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department in perpetuity**
- **Establishing a Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force**
- **Establishing ADA Accessibility Compliance**
- **Changing the Composition of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**
- **Improving Publicity, Communication, and Marketing of Parks and Recreation Department Programs, Services, Events, and Activities**



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CHAPTER ONE:

BENEFITS AND

TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

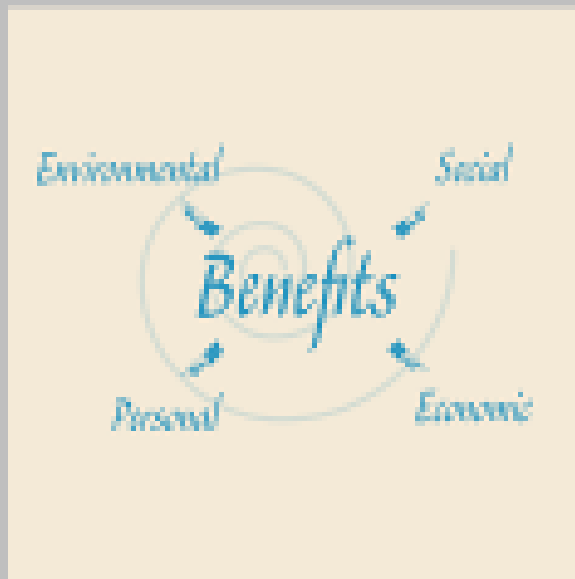
Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Parks, recreation, and open space are valuable commodities for any community. A diversified, well-rounded, and responsive parks and recreation department provides many benefits to the residents and visitors to a city. As presented in the 1995 National Recreation and Park Association publication—Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines—the four (4) categories of benefits are personal, economic, social, and environmental. Each of these benefits is essential to the overall health, well-being, and quality of life within a community.

- ✚ **Personal Benefits** of a comprehensive leisure service delivery system include a) Opportunities for relaxation, rest and revitalization b) A full and meaningful life c) Good health d) Stress management e) Reduced risk for heart disease, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, and cancer f) An improved immune system g) Positive self-esteem and self-image h) A balanced life i) Alternatives to self-destructive behavior and negative life style choices j) Achieving full potential k) Gaining life satisfaction l) Human development m) Positive life-style choices and n) Improved quality of life.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ✚ **Economic Benefits** of a comprehensive leisure service delivery system include a) Preventative health care b) A productive work force c) Big economic returns on small investments d) Business relocation and expansion e) Increased property values f) Reduction in high-cost vandalism and criminal activity g) Tourism growth and h) Environmental investments that pay for themselves.
- ✚ **Social Benefits** of a comprehensive leisure service delivery system include a) Building strong communities b) Reducing alienation, loneliness, and criminal and anti-social behaviors c) Promoting ethnic and cultural harmony d) Building strong families and strengthening family bonds e) Increasing opportunity for community involvement f) Opportunities to interact with fellow community members and strengthen their sense of community g) Shared management and ownership of resources and h) Providing a foundation for community pride.
- ✚ **Environmental Benefits** of a comprehensive leisure service delivery system include a) Environmental health b) Environmental protection and rehabilitation c) Provision of natural buffers and habitats d) Increased biodiversity, surface and groundwater protection and flood and fire prevention e) Net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions f) Environmental education g) Sense of environmental responsibility and h) Environmental investment by increasing property values and insurance for a continuing healthy environmental future.



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BENEFITS

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2023—Current Funding Trends—Revenues & Expenditures—*2023 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry*—<https://recmanagement.com/articles/153713/our-2023-report-state-managed-recreation-industry>

- ✚ The shutdowns associated with the pandemic had a major impact on revenues for recreation, sports, and fitness facilities. The year 2020 showed the most dramatic effect, with 64.9% of respondents reporting that their revenues declined from 2019. But 2021 and 2022 also showed a lingering impact, as 26.7% of respondents in 2021 and 21% in 2022 reported declining revenues.
- ✚ Following sharp declines in 2020, though, the year 2021 also saw revenues rise for more than half (51.7%) of the respondents, and in 2022, nearly half (49.7%) of respondents saw their revenues rise.
- ✚ In 2022, respondents reported an average operating expense of \$2,798.00. The highest reported number was \$131,761,000 and the median was just \$700,000.
- ✚ Respondents from the South Atlantic region predicted the sharpest increase to their average operating expenditures from 2022 to 2024, with a rise of 39.4% to an average of \$3,992,000.
- ✚ Respondents from YMCA's and Recreation Centers projected the steepest increase to their average operating costs from 2022 to 2024.
- ✚ When it comes to cost recovery, respondents are relatively equally divided among categories, with around a fifth (1/5) reporting that they earn back 0 to 20%, 21% to 40%, or 41% to 60% of their revenues. Nearly a quarter (24.7%) said they earn back between 61% and 80% of their costs via revenues. And 12.7% said they earn back between 81% and 100% of their costs via revenues.
- ✚ The most common method respondents relied on to improve their margins was to increase fees (51.5%).

2023—Current Facility Trends—Facilities & Construction Plans—*2023 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry*—<https://recmanagement.com/articles/153713/our-2023-report-state-managed-recreation-industry>

- ✚ Respondents' flagship or main facilities have been trending older. In 2013, when first asked about the age of their flagship facilities, respondents stated the average age was 27.5 years. In 2023, respondents' flagship facilities averaged 43.7 years, up from 37.3 in 2022.
- ✚ More than half of respondents (50.9%) said their flagship facility was at least 41 years old, with most of those—34.8% of all respondents—reporting that their main facility is at least 50 years old. Just 9.2% of respondents said their flagship facility had been around for 10 years or less. Some 18.2% have flagship facilities that are 21 to 30 years old, and 8.2% have flagship facilities that are 31 to 40 years old.

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- ✚ In 2023, some 46.9% of respondents said they had plans for renovations at their existing facilities, down from 53.1% in 2022, and 48.7% in 2021. Another 29.3% were planning additions at their facilities, up slightly from 29.1%, and 26.9% were planning new construction, down from 29.5% in 2022.
- ✚ The average budget planned for construction for respondents in 2023 was \$8,563,000, but some of the highest-cost projects pulled that number upward. The median amount planned for construction in 2023 is \$1,000,000.
- ✚ The top planned features for all facility types include:

FEATURE
SPLASH PLAY AREA
PARK SHELTERS
PLAYGROUNDS
SYNTHETIC TURF SPORTS FIELDS
PARK RESTROOM STRUCTURES
OUTDOOR SPORTS COURTS
DOG PARKS
WALKING/HIKING TRAILS
FITNESS TRAILS/OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT
BIKE TRAILS
CLASSROOMS AND MEETING SPACE

- 1) **Splash Play Areas (21.1% of respondents with plans to add features planned to add splash play areas)**



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- 2) **Park Shelters (18.9%)**
- 3) **Playgrounds (17.8%)**



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- 4) **Synthetic Turf Sports Fields (17.6%)**
- 5) **Park Restroom Structures (17.4%)**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

6) Outdoor Sports Courts (15.1%)

7) Dog Parks (13.2%)



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8) Walking/Hiking Trails (12.9%)

9) Fitness Trails and Outdoor Fitness Equipment (12.7%)



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10) Bike Trails (12.5%)

11) Classrooms and Meeting Rooms (12.5%)

2023—Current Programming Trends—2023 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry—

<https://recmanagement.com/articles/153713/our-2023-report-state-managed-recreation-industry>

✚ The top ten (10) most commonly offered programs include:

PROGRAM
HOLIDAY EVENTS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS
DAY CAMPS AND SUMMER CAMPS
FITNESS PROGRAMS
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
GROUP EXERCISE PROGRAMS
YOUTH SPORTS TEAMS
MIND-BODY BALANCE PROGRAMS (YOGA/TAI CHI)
ARTS AND CRAFTS
PROGRAMS FOR ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS
SWIMMING PROGRAMS
SPORTS TOURNAMENTS AND RACES

1) Holiday Events and other Special Events (69.1% of respondents host holiday activities and special events)



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2) Day Camps and Summer Camps (56%)

3) Fitness Programs (55.3%)



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4) Educational Programs (55%)



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5) Group Exercise Programs (53.5%)



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6) Youth Sports Teams (52.4%)



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7) Mind-Body Balance Programs Like Yoga or Tai Chi (45.4%)



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8) Arts and Crafts (43.6%)



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9) Programs for Activity Older Adults (42.7%)



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10) Swimming Programs Such as Learn-to-Swim or Swim Teams (40.3%)



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11) Sports Tournaments and Races (39.6%)

- Program types that experienced growth of three (3) or more percentage points from 2022 to 2023 include:

- 1) Holiday Events and Other Special Events (up 11.9% from 2022)
- 2) Trips (up 9.3%)
- 3) Individual Sports Activities Like Running Clubs or Swim Clubs (up 5.6%)



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- 4) Water Sports Such as Canoeing or Kayaking (up 5.6%)
- 5) Programming for Active Older Adults (up 4.8%)
- 6) Festivals and Concerts (up 4.3%)
- 7) Educational Programs (up 3.8%)
- 8) Daycare or Preschool Programs (up 3.2%)

- Respondents from Parks and Recreation Departments were most likely to offer holiday events and other special events, arts and crafts programs, programs for active older adults, sport training like golf or tennis lessons, and festivals and concerts.

- Recreation Center respondents were more likely than others to provide performing arts programs like theater and music

- The top ten (10) more commonly planned program additions in 2023 were:

- 1) Educational Programs (24.8%, down from 25.9% in 2022)
- 2) Mind-Body Balance Programs (23.3%, down from 29.9%)
- 3) Teen Programming (23.3%, up from 21.9%)

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4) Environmental Education (22.2%, up from 20.95)



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5) Group Exercise Programs (22%, down from 27.9%)

6) Fitness Programs (20.3%, down from 27.9%)

7) Arts and Crafts 19.2%, down from 21.9%)

8) Programs for Active Older Adults (19%, down from 19.4%)

9) Special Needs Programs (18.8%, up from 17.4%)



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10) Adult Sports Teams (18.35, down from 19.95)

- ✚ More than half of respondents from Recreation Centers, YMCAs' and Parks and Recreation Departments said they had plans to add programs over the next three (3) years

- ✚ When asked about various initiatives their organizations engage in these ten (10) responses were the most common:

1) Wellness Initiatives (45.7%, down from 47.5% in 2022)



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2) Inclusion Initiatives for Those with Physical Disabilities (39.7%, no change)

3) Inclusion Initiatives for Those with Developmental Disabilities (35%, virtually unchanged from 35.4%)

4) Outreach to Economically Disadvantaged Populations (34.3%, down from 39.7%)

5) Outreach to Underserved Populations (32.95, down from 41.4%)

6) Programs to Connect People with Nature (30.5%, up from 28.9%)



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- 7) Outreach to Minority Populations (30.2%, down from 35.7%)
- 8) Disaster Recovery Assistance (24.5%, up from 8.7%)
- 9) Initiatives to Reduce Hunger and Improve Nutrition (21.65, up from 18.8%)
- 10) Resource Conservation and Green Initiatives (20.3%, down from 25.1%)

2023—Staffing Is Still Top Industry Challenge—2023 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry—<https://recmanagement.com/articles/153713/our-2023-report-state-managed-recreation-industry>

- ✚ Finding ways to do more with less, stretching budget dollars to ensure facilities are up-to-date, and meeting the needs of their members or visitors, is always the top challenge facing recreation sports and fitness facilities.
- ✚ But over the past two (2) years, a related issue—staffing troubles—has dominated the list of top industry challenges. While slightly fewer respondents named staffing their top challenge in 2023 than in 2022, it was still the biggest issue. Some 60% of respondents in 2023 said staffing was a top industry challenge, down from 63.2% in 2022.
- ✚ After staffing, equipment and facility maintenance was the next most common concern, with 49.1% calling it a top issue. This is down just slightly from 50.15 in 2022. It was followed by safety and risk management (25.2%, down from 28.6%); marketing and increasing participation (21.7%, down from 36.4%); and creating new and innovative programming (17.2%, down from 23.9%).



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STAFFING CHALLENGES



CHAPTER TWO: INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is: (1) to identify, analyze and define the parks, recreation and open space expressed desires, interests and needs of the citizens of the Town of Oak Island. (2) to provide a living document with an endorsed, practical, and comprehensive plan of action for meeting the immediate, short-term, long-range parks, recreation, and open space needs, interests and expressed desires for programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks in the Town of Oak Island.

The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department traditionally provides its residents and visitors a wide variety and diversity of recreational and leisure opportunities and experiences. Opportunities and experiences for leisure fulfillment and enjoyment provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department presently include: **1) Gym Memberships, 2) Weekly Fitness Programs, 3) Island Activities for All Ages, 4) Markets, Festival, Concerts, and Special Events, 5) Excursions, 6) Rentals: Picnic Shelter and Facility, 7) Rentals: Kayak and Wheelchairs, 8) Athletic Clubs, 9) Neighborhood and Community Parks, 10) Recreation Facilities, 11) Estuarine Water Access Facilities, and 12) Oceanfront Beach Access Facilities.**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Purpose and Scope of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

The purpose of the comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is to assess and evaluate the recreation and leisure needs, goals, objectives, and priorities of the citizens, elected officials, appointed officials, and staff of the Town of Oak Island. The comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is intended to serve as a comprehensive, practical planning document and procedural guide for public policy decisions pertaining to the quantity, quality, location, and scope of parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. The Master Plan also provides recommendations regarding the administration, acquisition, development, and operation of these parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks.

The organization of the twelve (12) sections of the comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is:

1. Quick Summary of Master Plan Recommendations and Implementation Plan
2. Overview and Highlights of the Master Plan Process and Recommendations
3. Chapter One: Benefits and Trends in Parks and Recreation
4. Chapter Two: Introduction
5. Chapter Three: Master Plan Vision, Goals and Objectives
6. Chapter Four: Town of Oak Island Characteristics and Demographics
7. Chapter Five: Inventory of Existing Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks
8. Chapter Six: Assessment of the Town of Oak Island Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Summary of Public Input
9. Chapter Seven: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Standards and Benchmarks
10. Chapter Eight: Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations
11. Chapter Nine: Implementation Plan
12. Appendices

The existing jurisdiction of the Town of Oak Island delimited the scope of the comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan***. However, the analysis recognized the fact that residents of the Town of Oak Island are also residents of Brunswick County. As a result, the parks, recreation and open space needs and resources outside the immediate municipal limits of the Town of Oak Island factored into the analysis process in recognition of the fact that individuals' recreation and leisure involvement patterns and preferences are not normally restricted and limited by municipal and/or county lines, boundaries, and jurisdictions.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department](#)

[Overview and Responsibilities](#)

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural, and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities. The Department provides a variety of athletic, programs, festivals, special events, and classes for all ages and abilities. The Parks and Recreation Department park spaces or public amenities, including picnic shelters, sports fields, playgrounds, or even buildings/rooms can be reserved for public use. The Parks and Recreation Department is physically housed in the Oak Island Recreation Center, located at 3003 E Oak Island Drive. The Parks and Recreation Department telephone number is 910-278-5518.

Hours of operation are:

- **Monday – Thursday: 5:30 am – 7:00 pm**
- **Fridays: 5:30 am – 6:00 pm**
- **Saturdays: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**
- **Sundays: CLOSED**

Present opportunities and experiences for leisure fulfillment and enjoyment provided by the Town of Oak Island currently include but are not limited to **1) Gym Memberships, 2) Weekly Fitness Programs, 3) Island Activities for All Ages, 4) Markets, Festival, Concerts, and Special Events, 5) Excursions, 6) Rentals: Picnic Shelter and Facility, 7) Rentals: Kayak and Wheelchairs, 8) Athletic Clubs, 9) Neighborhood and Community Parks, 10) Recreation Facilities, 11) Estuarine Water Access Facilities, and 12) Oceanfront Beach Access Facilities.**

A complete listing of all fitness classes, recreation programs, social clubs, athletic leagues, and more activities coordinated by the Parks and Recreation Department can be found on the dedicated webpage at OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS.

A complete listing and calendar of all upcoming special events and activities open to the public can be found on the **Events & Activities** page at OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS.

OVERVIEW



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Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

General Powers and Duties

The **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** meets on the first Monday of each month at 4:00 PM in the Community Center, located at 4701 E Oak Island Drive (Middleton Park).

The **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** shall serve as an advisory board to the Town Council. It shall be the duty of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to:

- 1) Serve as an advisory board for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Town Council
- 2) Suggest policies and make recommendations concerning recreation programs, plans, and facilities to the Parks and Recreation Director, the Town Manager and the Town Council
- 3) Serve as a link between the Parks and Recreation Director, the Town Manager, the Town Council and the citizens of the community on matters in the leisure services area
- 4) Consult with and advise the Parks and Recreation Director, the Town Manager and the Town Council in matters affecting recreation policies, programs, finances, and the acquisition and disposal of lands and properties related to the total community recreation program, and to its long-range projected program for recreation
- 5) Make recommendations to the Public Works Department concerning tree planting or beautification projects for public parks and recreation facilities
- 6) Conduct an annual review and update of the ten-year parks and recreation master plan to present to Town Council

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Previous Community Studies and Assessments

Consultation with and examination of the following previous community studies and assessments occurred during the preparation of the ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan***:

- ✓ **2006 Oak Island BikePed Plan**

- ✓ **Town of Oak Island: Comprehensive Land Use Plan—January 10, 2017**
<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/456/637205045692430000>

- ✓ **2021 NC 211 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study, August 2021**
<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1999/638400436052830000>

- ✓ **Town of Oak Island Community Survey 2023**
<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1999/638400436052830000>

- ✓ **Town of Oak Island, NC 2020 – 2025 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**
<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/682/637937403154361623>

- ✓ **Brunswick County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan—2022 – 2032**
<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/174/Appendix-E---Parks-and-Recreation-Master-Plan-PDF?bidId=>



- ✓ **2024 Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/TPBCTP/Brunswick%20County/Brunswick%20County%20CTP%20Document.pdf>

- ✓ **Town of Oak Island, NC Comprehensive CAMA Land Use Plan Update 2025**
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc.VA6C2:7ce57b7c-8721-4c8c-9609-21a6080f3bac>



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CHAPTER THREE:

MASTER PLAN VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES THROUGH RECREATION DREAMING

Contained within this chapter of the comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* are the overall vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the planning process and the master plan itself. It is with this stated vision, mission, and these overall goals, and objectives in mind that the planning process was conducted and the structure of the master plan itself designed and formulated.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

A clear, concise, and dynamic vision and mission of the future and statements of concrete goals, and objectives based upon that vision and mission are important elements of a comprehensive and successful Master Plan. The vision and mission statements provide the target to be achieved. Goals and objectives provide structure, guidance, and direction in the formulation of a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. In addition, clear and concise goals and objectives assist in the definition of overall public policy, and aid in decision-making during the planning, development, and implementation phases of the Master Plan process. However, a progressive and successful parks, recreation and open space delivery system for the Town of Oak Island will require a long-term commitment, adequate funding by the Town of Oak Island, and coordinated action by all stakeholders in order to achieve these goals and objectives. This long-term commitment and coordinated action must be coupled with an effective program of overall citizen involvement in and support for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks.

Vision Statements are the anchor point of any strategic plan such as a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. They are a road map indicating both what the organization wants to become and guiding transformational initiatives by setting a defined direction for the organization's growth. Vision Statements are aspiration descriptions of what an organization would like to achieve or accomplish in the future. Vision Statement are intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action.

In anticipation of the creation of a new 5-year plan, the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board took on the challenge of envisioning what the future of Parks and Recreation should look like. This was done through a process called Recreation Dreaming. The challenge was to envision parks and recreation at four focus levels: individual, community, systems, and advisory. The Recreation Dreaming process is summarized as follows:



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ **INDIVIDUAL FOCUS**—Paint a picture of individuals participating in leisure services that lead them to experience and grow in physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

➤ **VISION #1**—Residents of and visitors to Oak Island of all age groups are experiencing improved physical, mental, and emotional well-being by actively participating in a comprehensive leisure service delivery system.

They are:

- ✓ Relaxed
- ✓ Rested
- ✓ Revitalized
- ✓ See meaning to their life
- ✓ Physically fit



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- ✓ Managing stress
- ✓ Reducing risk for heart disease, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, and cancer
- ✓ Have a positive self-esteem and self-image
- ✓ Living a balanced life
- ✓ Pursuing alternatives to self-destructive behavior and negative lifestyle choices
- ✓ Achieving full potential
- ✓ Gaining life satisfaction
- ✓ Making positive life-style choices
- ✓ Improving their quality of life
- ✓ Reducing any alienation, loneliness, and criminal and anti-social behaviors
- ✓ Pursuing ethnic and cultural harmony
- ✓ Increasing their community involvement by interacting with fellow community members and strengthen their sense of community
- ✓ Continually learning through a wide variety community educational activities
- ✓ Developing a sense of environmental responsibility
- ✓ Pursuing a hobby



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ **COMMUNITY FOCUS**—Paint a picture of a vibrant community and well-stewarded environment where residents and visitors of all ages, cultures, and abilities are participating in leisure activities that lead them to experience physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

➤ **VISION #2**—Residents of and visitors to Oak Island are experiencing improved all-around well-being by actively participating in a comprehensive leisure services delivery system functioning optimally in the following seven key areas:

✓ Physical



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✓ Social



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✓ Educational



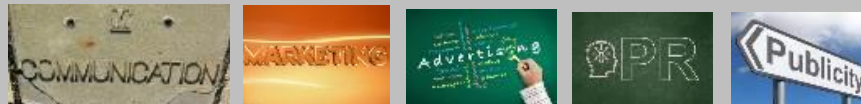
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✓ Environmental



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✓ Communication



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✓ Financial



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✓ Organizational



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Based on these two (2) Visions, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board adopted the following mission statement:

Mission Statement: “To enhance the lives of all Oak Island residents and visitors by actively engaging them in a robust, comprehensive leisure services delivery system that continuously promotes holistic well-being and enjoyment within the community.”

✚ **SYSTEM & OPERATIONAL FOCUS**—Paint a picture of a robust, comprehensive leisure services delivery system, that continuously promotes holistic well-being and enjoyment within the community.

➤ **VISION-DRIVEN SYSTEM**

- ✓ Visionary oversight of parks programming reunited with oversight of recreation
 - ❖ Separate programming from upkeep and maintenance which would remain with Public Works
 - ❖ Programming of Bill Smith Park to be included with wastewater oversight remaining with Wastewater Department
- ✓ Continuous future thinking
- ✓ Proactive oversight
- ✓ Facilities and programs that are inclusive for those less capable on a multitude of levels

➤ **EXCELLENT FACILITIES**

- ✓ First class recreation center built for the multi-generational needs of the future
- ✓ Bigger community center with multi-functional capabilities and rooms
- ✓ Safe bike and walking lanes on city streets
- ✓ Dedicated bike paths



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- ✓ Dedicated walking trails
- ✓ More parks with interactive recreational opportunities
- ✓ More beach access points equipped for people with disabilities or mobility challenges (Mobi-mats or equivalent)



- ✓ Outdoor workout facilities

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- ✓ Indoor walking track



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- ✓ Expanded bathroom facilities
- ✓ Beach volleyball courts (including one at Middleton Park)



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➤ PROGRAMS

- ✓ Continuation and growth of current programs, concerts, and events
- ✓ Wide variety of youth and adult games

❖ Softball



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❖ Basketball

❖ Volleyball



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❖ Pickleball



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❖ Kickball



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❖ Flag football



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❖ Soccer



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❖ Tennis



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❖ Horseshoes



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❖ Disc golf



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- ✓ Wide variety of educational programs
- ✓ Proactive health and well-being programs beyond just recreation
- ✓ Hobbies and crafts



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➤ **PERSONNEL**

- ✓ Continuation and growth of current staff; additional staff to consider beyond current staff
 - ❖ Education director
 - ❖ Park supervisor

➤ **ADEQUATE BUDGET ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO ADDRESS ALL OF THE ABOVE**



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- ✚ **ADVISORY BOARD FOCUS**—Paint a picture of an optimally functioning recreation advisory board that serves as a liaison between the community and town government to guide the implementation of a robust, comprehensive leisure services delivery system, that continuously promotes holistic well-being and enjoyment within the community.

- **VISION**—Adopted from Municipal Code

- ✓ The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is composed of eight permanent residents to the town, one of which shall be a youth representative.

SEVEN PLUS ONE

- ✓ The Board has the following duties and functions:
 1. Serve as an Advisory Board for the Recreation Department and the Town Council.



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2. Suggest policies and make recommendations concerning recreation programs, plans, and facilities to the Recreation Director, the Town Manager and the Town Council.



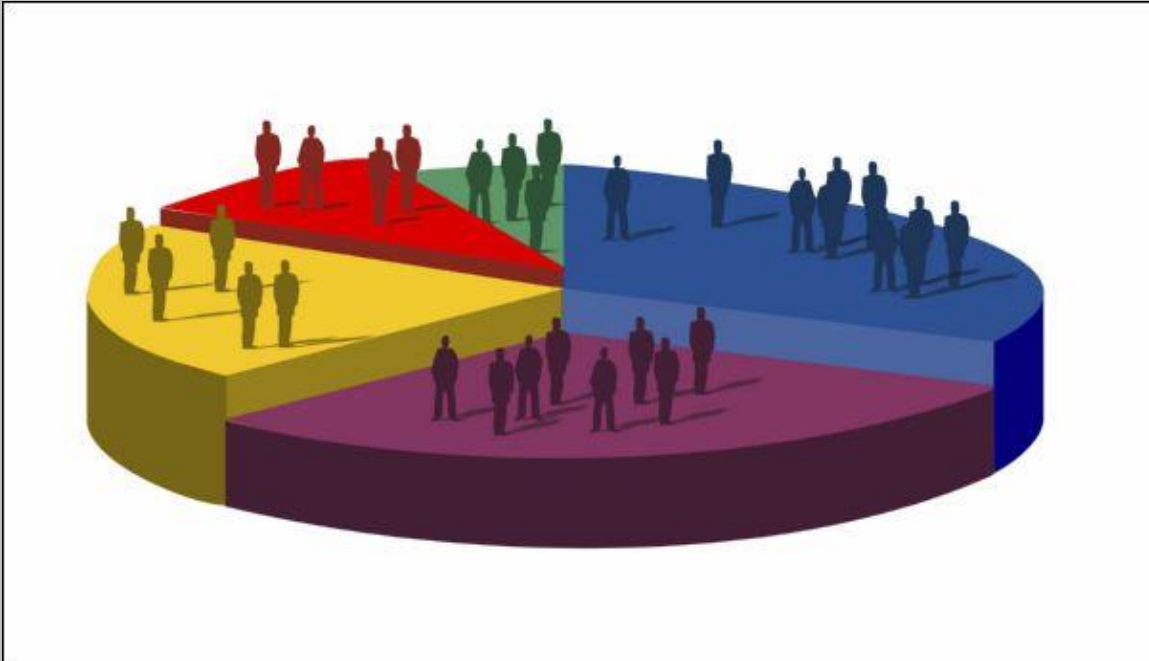
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3. Serve as a link between the Recreation Director, the Town Manager, the Town Council and the citizens of the community on matters in the leisure services area.



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4. Consult with and advise the Recreation Director, the Town Manager and the Town Council in matters affecting recreation policies, programs, finances, and the acquisition and disposal of lands and properties related to the total community recreation program, and to its long-range projected program for recreation.
5. Make recommendations to the Public Works Department concerning tree planting or beautification projects for public parks and recreation facilities.
6. Conduct an annual review and update of the five-year parks and recreation master plan to present to Town Council.



CHAPTER FOUR:

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND

CHARACTERISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Location/Geography/Natural Resources

It is beyond the scope of this study to describe in great detail all of the specific physical, economic, cultural, social, and geographical characteristics of the Town of Oak Island. It is important, however, to set forth in brief form those characteristics that have significant implications for meeting parks, recreation and open space needs and interests in the Town of Oak Island.

The Town of Oak Island was incorporated in 1999 when the Towns of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach joined together to form the Town of Oak Island. Situated on the southern end of North Carolina's picturesque coastline, the Town of Oak Island encompasses nearly 20 square miles and offers 10 miles of beachfront. The island itself is marked by the Atlantic Ocean to the south and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

(AIWW) to the north. As one of North Carolina’s only barrier islands that face directly south, beachgoers can enjoy magnificent views of both sunrise and sunset over the ocean, all from the same stretch of sand. Experiencing these awe-inspiring views are no challenge as the Town provides over 100 free public accesses to the beach and the AIWW. The Town of Oak Island offers more accessibility to the beach than any other coastal North Carolina Town.

According to the 2020 Decennial Census and the 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, there are approximately 4,304 total households in the Town of Oak Island, and a total population of 8,396 residents. However, in the peak summer season, the population can increase to approximately 40,000 – 60,000 residents and visitors.

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025, the most popular activity for North Carolina residents was visiting a beach or lake, with 69% participating. Walking for pleasure or exercise and visiting parks or historic sites are activities for 61% and 60% of respondents, respectively. Over half of all respondents participated in hiking on trails (59%) and freshwater fishing (58%). Other activities that have at least half of respondents participating are viewing scenery, fishing from a boat, nature viewing and swimming. Respondents were asked to describe their motivations for participating in outdoor recreation activities. The most popular answers were, being outdoors (93%), followed by having fun (87%) and relaxing (78%). Respondents also wanted to be closer to nature and spend time with family and friends.

The largest employers in and around the Town of Oak Island include the Brunswick County Board of Education, Progress Energy Service Company, the County of Brunswick, Wal-Mart Associates, Inc., Food Lion, Brunswick Novant Medical Center, Brunswick County Community College, Lowes Food Stores, Inc., Doshier Memorial Hospital, Liberty Healthcare Group LLC, Troon Golf LLC, McAndersons Inc., and the United States Department of Defense. Brunswick County and the Town of Oak Island’s diverse economies are based primarily upon tourism, service industries, and retail trade.



According to the 2023 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates for the working population of the Town of Oak Island, 55.8% were employed as private company workers; 10.5% were self-employed in own incorporated business workers; 4.7% were employed as private not-for-profit wage and salary workers; 19.7% were employed as

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

local, state, and federal government workers; and 9.2% were self-employed as own not incorporated business workers and unpaid family workers.

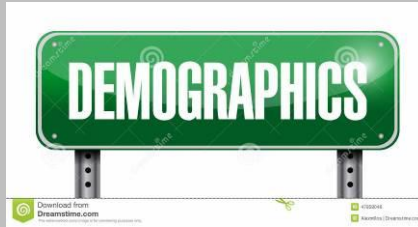


According to the 2023 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates for the civilian population of the Town of Oak Island 16 years and over, 14.7% were employed in Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance; 14.3% were employed in Professional, Scientific, and Management, and Administration and Waste Management Services; 13.5% were employed in Finance and Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing; 10.7% were employed in Construction; 10.7% were employed in Public Administration; 10.4% were employed in Retail Trade; 8.9% were employed in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, and Accommodation and Food Services; 7.2% were employed in Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities; 4.3% were employed in Manufacturing; and, 3.4% were employed in Other Services, Except Public Administration.



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General Demographics



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According to the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, the total population of the Town of Oak Island was 9,712 individuals (**Appendix A**). According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, there were 245 Total Households. And according to the 2020 Decennial Census, there were 9,910 Total Housing Units. The Median Household Income according to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates was \$85,513 compared to \$70,804 for the State of North Carolina (**Appendix F**); the Employment Rate was 46.1% compared to 59.2% for the State of North Carolina; and 9.7% of the population was below the poverty rate compared to 12.8% for the State of North Carolina. According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 43% of the population had a Bachelor's Degree or higher compared to 36.8% for the State of North Carolina (**Appendix G**). According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates the median age in the Town of Oak Island was 61.5 and the median age for the State of North Carolina was 39.4 (**Appendix D**). According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 11.5% of the Town of Oak Island population was under the age of 25; 23.1% were between the ages of 25 - 54; 28% were between the ages of 55 -64; and 37.5% were 65 years and older (**Appendix C**). The majority of the Town of Oak Island population was white (93%) (**Appendix E**) and approximately 14.3% had some type of disability compared to 13.6% for the State of North Carolina.

Source:

[Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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Population Age Groups

According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Update, approximately 6.4% of the population of the Town of Oak Island was under 15 years old; 5.1% of the population was 15 to 24 years old; 6.4% of the population was 25 to 39 years old; 16.7% was of the population was 40 to 54 years old; 13.1% of the population was 55 to 59 years old; 14.3% of the population was 60 to 64 years old; 25.0% of the population was 65 to 74 years old; 10.8% of the population was 75 to 84 years old; and, only 1.7% of the population were 85 years and over (**Appendix C**). The median age of the population of the Town of Oak Island was 60.7 years old compared to 39.4 for the State of North Carolina (**Appendix D**).

Source: [Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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Housing

According to the 2020 Decennial Census, the Town of Oak Island included 9,910 total housing units and of these 9,910 total housing units, 4,237 or approximately 43% were occupied housing units and 5,673 or 57% were vacant housing units. According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2,581 or approximately 26% of the 9,910 total housing units were owner occupied.

Source: [Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Ethnicity/Racial Composition

According to the 2020 Decennial Census, the Race and Ethnicity breakdown for the Town of Oak Island was 7,816 individuals or approximately 93% White; 357 or approximately 4% Two or More Races; 146 or approximately 2% Hispanic or Latino; 77 individuals or 1% Black or African American (Non-Hispanic); 57 or 1% Some Other Race; 1% Asian; 37 or approximately .4% American Indian and Alaska Native; 5 or approximately .06% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. **(Appendix E).**

Source: [Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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Income Characteristics

According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the median household income in the Town of Oak Island was \$85,513 compared to \$76,221 for Brunswick County and \$70,804 for the State of North Carolina **(Appendix F)**. Only 9.7% of the Town of Oak Island population are below the poverty line compared to 12.8% for the State of North Carolina.

Sources: [Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

[Brunswick County, NC - Census Bureau Search](#)



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Educational Level Attainment

According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates for the Town of Oak Island population 25 years and older, 22% of the population had a High School or equivalent degree compared to 27.7% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 9.9% for the Town of Caswell Beach; 22.6% for the City of Southport; 27.1% for Brunswick County; and 24.4% for the State of North Carolina. 22% had Some College, but No Degree compared to 32.6% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 23.5% for the Town of Caswell Beach; 28.3% for the City of Southport; 18.9% for Brunswick County; and 19.2% for the State of North Carolina. 11.6% had an Associate’s Degree compared to 21.7% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 10.2% for the Town of Caswell Beach; 9.1% for the City of Southport; 12.5% for Brunswick County; and 10.1% for the State of North Carolina. 24.8% had a Bachelor’s Degree compared to 10.4% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 26.9% for the Town of Caswell Beach; 21.9% for the City of Southport; 22.8% for Brunswick County; and 23.0% for the State of North Carolina. 16.0% had a Graduate/Professional Degree compared to 3.3% for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes; 28.9% for the Town of Caswell Beach; 11.4% for the City of Southport; 12.2% for Brunswick County; and 13.8% for the State of North Carolina. **(Appendix G).**

Sources:

[Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

[Surf City town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

[United States - Census Bureau Profile](#)

[North Topsail Beach town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

[Brunswick County, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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Populations Projection

The Town of Oak Island has experienced steady growth in recent years, driven by its appeal as a coastal community. Factors contributing to population growth include Increased interest in coastal living, development of residential properties, and tourism and seasonal residents. World Population Review estimates that the Town of Oak Island is currently growing at a rate of 3.38% annually and projects the Town of Oak Island population will be 10,143 by 2025.

Source: www.worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/north-carolina/oak-island



CHAPTER FIVE:

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

This chapter provides an inventory of existing leisure and recreational programs, services, events, facilities, areas, and parks in and around the Town of Oak Island. The inventory includes the programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks operated by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department. And it includes significant additional programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks owned and operated by other public, private, commercial, and non-profit organizations and agencies in and around the Town of Oak Island. Only those programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks provided by non-Town of Oak Island entities that could impact the comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** are included in this inventory.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation provides a variety of facilities and services that contribute significantly toward the community’s overall quality of life. Programs, services, events and activities provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation include but are not limited to: **1) Gym Memberships, 2) Weekly Fitness Programs, 3) Island Activities for All Ages, 4) Markets, Festival, Concerts, and Special Events, 5) Excursions, 6) Rentals: Picnic Shelter and Facility, 7) Rentals: Kayak and Wheelchairs, 8) Athletic Clubs, 9) Neighborhood and Community Parks, 10) Recreation Facilities, 11) Estuarine Water Access Facilities, and 12) Oceanfront Beach Access Facilities.**

The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department manages, operates, and maintains thirty-seven (37) facilities, areas, and parks. These include:

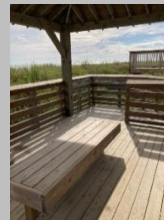
[Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department](#) [“Facilities, Areas, and Parks”](#)

[10th Place West Gazebo](#)

- ◆ **Location—10th Place W (South Street End and W Beach Drive)**
- ◆ **Current Amenities**
 - **Beach Access**



- **Gazebo with a Bench**



- **Mobility Assistance Ramp**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Bike Rack**



- **Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area**



- **Trash and Recycling Receptacles**



- **Parking**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[30th Place West Dock—0.2 Acres](#)

- ◆ Location—30th Place West (North Street End)
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Pier with Ramp to a Floating Dock



- Floating Dock



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Fishing Area
- Bait Area
- Parking



- Trash and Recycling Receptacles



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

46th Street Cabana Observation Deck

- ◆ Location—4601 E Beach Drive
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Public Restrooms/Changing Facility/Cabana



- Observation Deck



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Mobility Assistance Ramps and Handicapped Accessible Boardwalk**



- **Outdoor Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station**



- **Viewing Platform**
- **Beach Access with Mobi Mats**



- **Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area**
- **Handicapped Parking (6 Spaces)**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

57th Place West Boat Ramps

- ◆ Location—57th Place West (North Street End)
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Boat Ramps (2)



- Floating Dock/Walkway



- Vehicle and Trailer Parking



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

78th Street Crab Dock—0.2 Acres

- ◆ Location—7703 E Yacht Drive (North Street End of NE 78th Street)
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Small Fishing, Crabbing, and Bait Tee with a Bench



- Picnic Table



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Trash Receptacle



- Doggie Bag Waste Dispenser
- Unmarked Limited Parking



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

801 Ocean Event Center

- ◆ Location—801 Ocean Drive
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Outdoor Patio
 - Banquet Room
 - Beach Access with Mobi-Mat
 - Main Dressing Room
 - Conference Room/Secondary Dressing Room



Barbee Walking Trail

- ◆ Location—400 Barbee Boulevard
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Paved Walking Trail connecting May Moore Park and Shipwreck Park



Shipwreck Park End



May Moore Park End

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Bill Smith Park—32 Acres

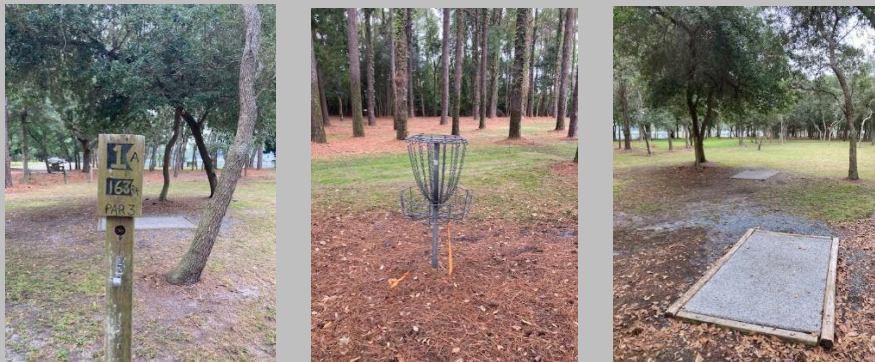
- ◆ Location—4410 Fish Factory Road
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Lighted Baseball/Softball Fields (4) with Scoreboards



- Football/Soccer Field with Scoreboard



- 9-Hole Disc Golf Course



- Fishing Pier with Floating Dock with Kayak Launch



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Salty Dog Park
 - a. Fenced-In Off-Lease Areas—One for Small Dogs and One for Large Dogs
 - b. Dog Waste Cleanup Bag Dispensers



- c. Sitting Benches (13)



- d. Salty Dog Park Memorial



- e. Watering Stations



- f. Shade Areas

- Walking Trail/Path



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Benches and Swing Benches (10)



- Restroom/Concession Facility



- Picnic Shelter with Picnic Tables (4) and Grills (2)



- Picnic Tables (10)
- Pond



- Serenity Oak



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Maintenance Facility



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Rolling Trash Receptacles**



- **Parking—Mainly Unmarked or in a Grass Area**



- a. **Handicapped Parking Spaces (14)**



- **Large Greenspace/Open Grass Areas (2)**



Near Salty Dog Park



Near Pond

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

+ *Commissioner's Observatory Park—0.3 Acres*

- ◆ **Location—113 McGlamery Street at Ocean Drive**
- ◆ **Current Amenities**
 - **Beach Access**



- **Covered Shade Structure with Mobility Assistance Access Ramp and Swing**



- **Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Facility**



- **Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street

◆ Location—SE 9th Street off E Oak Island Drive

◆ Current Amenities

- Parking and Entrance



- Floating Dock



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Fishing, Crabbing, and Bait Area

✚ Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street

◆ Location—SE 20th Street off E Oak Island Drive

◆ Current Amenities

- Parking and Trash and Recycling Receptacles (2)



- Floating Dock



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Fishing, Crabbing, and Bait Area

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street

- ◆ Location—SW 5th Street off W Oak Island Drive
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Pier



- Floating Dock



- Trash Receptacle



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Fishing, Crabbing, and Bait Area
- Parking and Entrance



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E

◆ Location—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E

◆ Current Amenities

- Boardwalk



From SE 9th Street to 9th Place E



From 9th Place E to Se 9th Street

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Benches



- Trash Receptacles (4)



9th Place E



SE 9th Street

- Parking—SE 9th Street

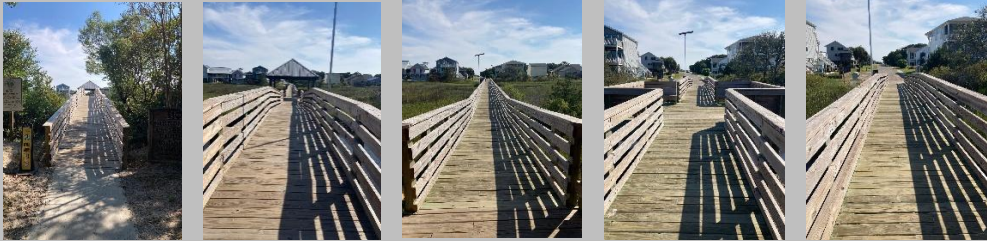


- Marshlands Habitat Viewing Trail
- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Areas
- Fishing Areas

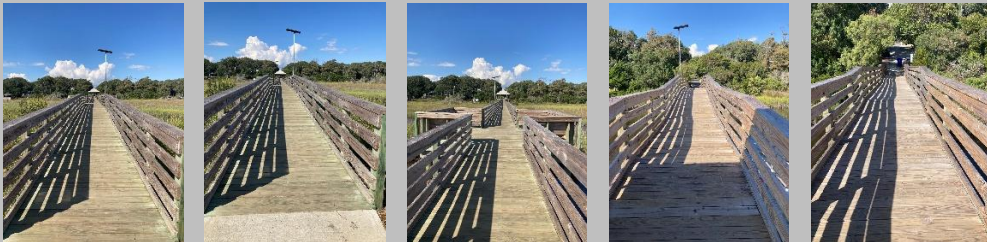
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E

- ◆ Location—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Crossover/Boardwalk and Marshlands Habitat Viewing Areas and Nature and Wildlife Viewing Areas



From SE 20th Street to 19th Place E



From 19th Place E to SE 20th Street

- Gazebo



- Benches



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Trash and Recycling Receptacles**



SE 20th Street



19th Place E

- **Parking**



SE 20th Street Side of the Crossover



19th Place East Side of the Crossover

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E

◆ Location—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E

● Current Amenities



From SE 31st Street to 29th Place E



From 29th Place E to SE 31st Street

● Trash and Recycling Receptacles



SE 31st Street 29th Place E

● Parking



SE 31st Street 29th Place E

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Hannon A. Templeton Park—12 Acres

◆ Location—4106 E Oak Island Drive (E Oak Island Drive and 41st Street)

◆ Current Amenities

- Pedestrian Entrances (4)



- Fenced-In Off-Lease Areas (Dog Park)



- a. Separate Areas for Large and Small and Medium Sized Dogs



- b. Benches and Chairs



- c. Watering Stations



d. Dog Waste Cleanup Bag Dispenser



- Shade Areas
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Rainbow Bridge



- Swings and Benches
- Picnic Tables (4)



- Porta Johns (2) on Concrete Slab



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[Heron Lookout Park—0.18 Acres](#)

- ◆ **Location—151 SE 40th Street at Davis Canal**
- ◆ **Current Amenities**
 - **Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area**
 - **Fishing Area**



- **Bait Site**
- **Swings**



- **Trash Receptacle**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Kevin Bell Skatepark—0.2 Acres

- ◆ Location—SE 49th Street (4901 East Beach Drive)
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Bike Rack



- Picnic Table



- Porta Johns



- Watering Station, Trash and Recycling Receptacles



- Various Apparatus for Skateboarding



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

"Little" Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E

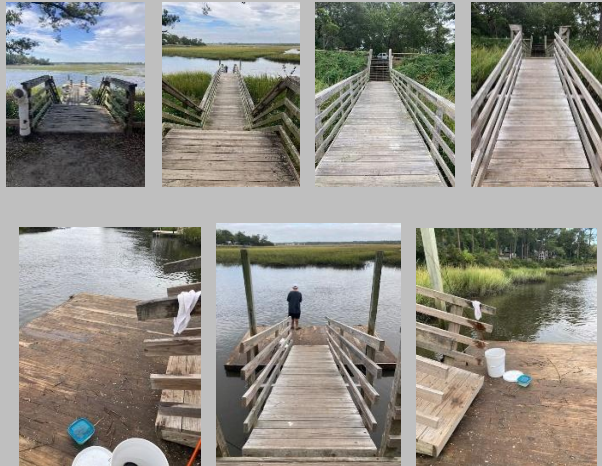
- ◆ Location—9th Place East
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Floating Dock



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Fishing, Crabbing, and Bait Casting Area

May Moore Park—0.4 Acres

- ◆ Location—Barbee Boulevard at 840 Elizabeth Drive
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Pier, Floating Dock, Kayak Launch and Monofilament Bin



- Wind Phone



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Swings (2) and Benches**



- **Picnic Tables**



- **Concrete Slab with Handicap Accessible Picnic Table**



- **Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area**
- **Fishing Area**
- **Rolling Trash and Recycle Receptacles**
- **Gravel Parking Spaces (3)**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Middleton Park Complex—25 Acres

- ◆ **Location—** 4610 E Dolphin Drive (Off Oak Island Drive and SE 48th and Dolphin Drive at SE 46th Street) (Behind Town Hall)

- ◆ **Current Amenities**

- **Splashpad—**Open Daily from 10 :00 AM to 6:00 PM from Late May to Late September with Free Admission. Splashpad Rentals are available for Private Events, every evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at a cost of \$100 per hour



- **Pirate Ship Playground—**Open Daily from Sunrise to Sunset



- **Playground—**Open Daily from Sunrise to Sunset



- **Lighted Tennis Courts (2)**



- **Tennis Ball Recycling Bin**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Lighted Pickleball Courts (12)**



- **Lighted Basketball Court**



- **Lighted Softball/Baseball Field**



- **Intramural Sports Field/Soccer Field**



- **Cornhole Boards (2 Sets)**



- **Horseshoe Pits (4)**
- **Benches (12)**
- **Swings**
- **Trash Receptacles**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Farmer's and Artisan's Market Field**
- **Wash-Off/Rinse Off-Station**



- **Watering Station**



- **Picnic Shelter**



- **Picnic Tables (6)**
- **Grill**
- **Open Space/Greenspace**



- **Little Free Library**
- **Bike Racks (2)**
- **Bleachers (3)**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Oak Island Community Center**



- **Restrooms and Port-a-Johns (2)**



- **Outdoor Amphitheater**



- **Outdoor Movie Screen**
- **Paved Walking Trail encompassing the entire lower portion of the Complex with trail signage noting up to 3 mile/5 kilometer lap distances and four (4) fitness stations**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Shade Sails**



- **Kevin Bell Skatepark**
- **Beach Access Across the Street**
- **Parking**



- **NE 55th Street Boat Ramps**

- ◆ **Location—NE 55th Street (North Street End)**
- ◆ **Current Amenities**
 - **Boat Ramps (2)**



- **Floating Dock/Walkway**



- **Vehicle and Trailer Parking Spaces (27)**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

NW 3rd Street Steps/Stairs

- ◆ Location—NW 3rd Street
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Steps Leading to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline



- Unmarked Parking



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Oak Island Community Center

- ◆ Location—102 SE 47th Street (beside the Town Hall)
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Kitchen



- Small Office Space
- Restroom



- Large Open Space With
 - a. Pool Table, Card Table and Craft Table



- b. Puzzle Table



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

c. Dining Space with Tables (9)



- d. Chairs (60+)
- e. TV Screens
- f. Bingo Machine
- g. Rocking Chairs
- h. Piano and Stationary Bike



i. Exercise Space



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Oak Island Fishing Pier

- ◆ Location—705 Ocean Drive
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Fish Cleaning Stations (2)



- Benches (53), Trash Receptacles (15) and Cigarette Disposal Bins (12)



- Handicapped Access Railing
- Picnic Table
- Restroom
- Monofilament Recycling Bins



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Porous Platform



- Water Pumps (2)



- Beach Access

- Parking



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Oak Island Nature Center

◆ Location—5202 E Yacht Drive (North Street End of NE 52nd Street)

◆ Current Amenities

- Nature Center Building with Access Ramp



- Pier with Floating Dock



- Dot Kelly Memorial Butterfly Garden



- Kiosk



- Walking Trails

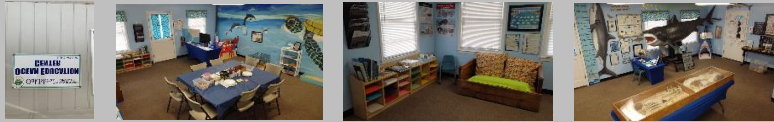


- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Parking

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#)

- ◆ Location—4700 E Oak Island Drive, Suite C (across from Town Hall)
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Classroom Space
 - Restroom Facility



[Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course—30 Acres](#)

- ◆ Location—4188 Vanessa Drive in South Harbour Village
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - 18-hole Par 3 Golf Course



- Pro Shop
- Putting Green



- Clubhouse
- Maintenance Area



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Oak Island Recreation Center—Approximately 9,760 Square Feet

- ◆ **Location—3003 E Oak Island Drive**
- ◆ **Current Amenities**
 - **Multi-Purpose Rooms of Various Sizes (3)**
 - **Weight Room**



- **Cardio Room**



- **Game Rooms**
- **Offices (3)**
- **Restrooms**



- **Showers**
- **Lockers**
- **Kitchen**



- **Storage Rooms (3)**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Unlit Outdoor Basketball Court**



- **Outdoor Swings**



- **Climbing Apparatus**



- **Outdoor Bike Rack**



- **Outdoor Picnic Table and Bench**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **An unmarked Outdoor Shuffleboard Court**



- **Water Fountain**



- **Nature Trail with Observation Decks/Environmental Overlook Trail**
- **Greenspace/Open Space**



- **Concrete Slab**



- **Parking for approximately 50 vehicles**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Register Park—10 Acres

◆ Location—NE 52nd Street (North Street End)

◆ Current Amenities

- Fishing Pier



- Benches



- Picnic Shelter with Picnic Table



SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee

◆ Location—SW 6th Street off W Oak Island Drive

◆ Current Amenities

- Pier with Fishing Tee and Benches



- Trash Receptacle and Dog Waste Bag Dispenser



- Gravel Parking Area—three (3) handicap spaces



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Shipwreck Park

◆ Location—400 Barbee Boulevard

◆ Current Amenities

- Historical Shipwreck



- Informational Signage



Shuster Fishing Tee—2 Acres

◆ Location—End of West Oak Street Drive and SW Yacht Drive

◆ Current Amenities

- Pier and Fishing Dock



- Wildlife Viewing
- Parking (3)

The Point—10.5 Acres

◆ Location—Farthest West End of W Beach Drive or End of Kings Lynn Drive

◆ Current Amenities

- Beach Access with Mobi-Mat



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Beach Access without Mobi-Mat**



- **Bike Rack**



- **Trash and Recycling Receptacles**



- **Rinse-Off/Wash-Off Station**



- **Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area**
- **Fishing Area**
- **Environmental Education Signage**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Tidalwaves Kayak and Canoe Launch—0.5 Acres

- ◆ Location—SE 31st Street at Davis Canal (Behind Recreation Center)

- ◆ Current Amenities

- Floating Dock with Kayak Launch



- Kayak Rental Station/Storage Facility/Maintenance Facility



- Nature and Wildlife Viewing Area
- Trash Receptacle
- Covered Picnic Table



- Bird Watching Trail



- Parking (17 and 1 Handicap)



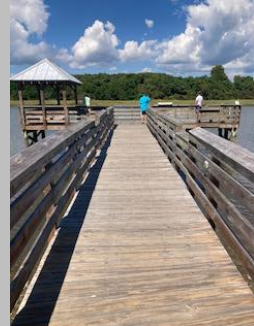
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Veterans Memorial Park—8 Acres

◆ Location—14th NE and Yacht Drive (1408 E Yacht Drive)

◆ Current Amenities

- Boardwalk, Pier, Fishing Tee, and Monofilament Recycling Bin



- Fish Cleaning Stations



- Swings (3) and Benches (10)



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Handicapped Access Railing**
- **Water View Boardwalk**
- **Picnic Shelter with Two (2) Picnic Tables**



- **Bike Rack**



- **Trash and Recycling Receptacles**
- **Watering Station**



- **Doggie Bag Waste Dispenser**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Butterfly Garden**



- **Armed Services Memorial Brick Wall**



- **Port-a-John (1)**



- **Graveled Parking Area (19 Non-Handicap and 2 Handicap)**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Yaupon Park—0.4 Acres

- ◆ Location—101 Barbee Boulevard at Ocean Drive
- ◆ Current Amenities
 - Beach Access



- Swing



- Picnic Table



- Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Porta-John and Trash Receptacles**



- **Bike Rack**



- **Parking (1 Handicap and 2 Non-Handicap)**



- **Lighted Pedestrian Crossing Across Ocean Drive**



FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department *“Programs, Services, Events, Activities, and Special Collaborations”*

- ◆ Active Senior Yoga
- ◆ Art History Classes
- ◆ Athletic Clubs
- ◆ Barre Combo at the Beach
- ◆ Beach Day
- ◆ Book Club



- ◆ Breakfast with Santa
- ◆ Chess Club
- ◆ Christmas Bingo
- ◆ Christmas Crafts
- ◆ Christmas Sweater Contest
- ◆ Christmas Tree Lighting
- ◆ Concert Series
- ◆ Crochet Classes
- ◆ Drawing Classes
- ◆ Egg Hunts
- ◆ Fishing Classes
- ◆ Holiday Fresh Flower Arrangement Class



- ◆ Holiday Market
- ◆ Introduction to Art Classes
- ◆ Kayak Rentals
- ◆ Kayak Trips



- ◆ Kids Craft Classes
- ◆ Kite Fest
- ◆ Knitting Classes
- ◆ Line Dancing Club
- ◆ Mardi Gras Special Event

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ Mature Aerobics
- ◆ Monday Markets
- ◆ Movie Night
- ◆ Oak Island Fishing Derby
- ◆ Off Island Excursions



- ◆ Pier Yoga
- ◆ Qigong
- ◆ Recreation Center Summer Camps
- ◆ Sailing Summer Camp
- ◆ Seafood Festival
- ◆ September Craft Class



- ◆ Silk Floral Arrangement Class
- ◆ Silver Sneakers Fitness Classes
- ◆ Snow Ball Dance
- ◆ Spooktackular
- ◆ Sports Summer Camp
- ◆ Spring Fling Special Event
- ◆ Surf Fishing Seminars
- ◆ Total Body Blast
- ◆ Trunk-or-Treat Vendor



- ◆ Walking Club
- ◆ Wreath Silk Floral Arrangement Class
- ◆ Yoga Classes



PROGRAMS, SERVICES, SPECIAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS

Relevant Public, Private, Commercial, Non-Profit, and Church Recreational Parks, Recreation and Open Space Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks

- ◆ ***Angry Pelican Charters***



- ◆ ***Anomaly Charters***
- ◆ ***Bald Head Woods Coastal Reserve***
- ◆ ***Better Beach Rentals***
- ◆ ***Blackbeard Scuba***
- ◆ ***Boats & Boots Kayak Adventures***
- ◆ ***Brunswick Air Tours***
- ◆ ***Brunswick County Bowling Center***
- ◆ ***Brunswick County Botanical Garden***
- ◆ ***Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks***



- ◆ ***Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc./The Brunswick Center at Southport***
- ◆ ***Cape Fear Adventure Company***
- ◆ ***Cape Fear Blue Marlin Tournament***
- ◆ ***Cape Fear Fitness***
- ◆ ***Cape Fear Water Sports***
- ◆ ***Cape Fear Yoga and Wellness Center***
- ◆ ***Captain Smiley Fishing Charters***
- ◆ ***Carolina Watersports***
- ◆ ***Catherine Anne Boat Rental and Charter***
- ◆ ***City of Boiling Spring Lakes Parks and Recreation Department Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks***
- ◆ ***City of Southport Programs, Services, Events, Camps, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks***
- ◆ ***Cool Running Charters***

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ *CrossFit Southport Health Club*
- ◆ *Dosher Hospital/Progress Energy Gymnasium*
- ◆ *Dosher Fitness*
- ◆ *Eagle Point Golf Club*
- ◆ *Ev-Henwood Nature Preserve*
- ◆ *Fort Caswell*
- ◆ *Fort Johnson-Southport Museum and Visitors Center*
- ◆ *Fugitive Charter Boat*
- ◆ *Greenhills Golf Club*
- ◆ *High Tide Helicopters*
- ◆ *Impulsive Charters*
- ◆ *Ingram Planetarium*
- ◆ *Kayak Carolina*
- ◆ *Keystone Copters*
- ◆ *Lighthouse Watersports*
- ◆ *Long Beach Paddle Company*
- ◆ *Mahanaim Adventures*
- ◆ *Morningstar Marinas*
- ◆ *Muscleworx Fitness Center*
- ◆ *Mr. Beach Rentals*



- ◆ *North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell*



- ◆ *North Carolina Boat Rentals*
- ◆ *North Carolina Fourth of July Festival*
- ◆ *North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport*
- ◆ *North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Public Boat Ramps*



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ *Oak Island Fishing Charters*
- ◆ *Oak Island Fitness*
- ◆ *Oak Island Golf Club*
- ◆ *Oak Island Jungle Golf*
- ◆ *Oak Island Kayak Rentals*
- ◆ *Oak Island Lighthouse*



- ◆ *Oak Island Paddleboard Rentals*
- ◆ *Oak Island Senior Center*
- ◆ *Oak Island Water Sports Rentals*
- ◆ *Ocean Crest Fishing Pier*



- ◆ *Paddle North Carolina*
- ◆ *Orton Plantation*



- ◆ *Reeling Pelican Fishing Charters*
- ◆ *Skydive Coastal Carolina*
- ◆ *South Brunswick High School Facilities and Areas*
- ◆ *South Harbor Village Marina*



- ◆ *Southport Marina*
- ◆ *Southport Boat Rentals*
- ◆ *Southport Marine Mart*

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ *Southport Paddle and Sail*
- ◆ *St James Plantation Beach Club*
- ◆ *The Adventure Kayak Company*



- ◆ *The Expedition Organization*
- ◆ *The Players Club at St. James*
- ◆ *The Sail Shop*
- ◆ *The Oak Island Experience*



- ◆ *The Reserve Golf Club at St. James*
- ◆ *Town of Leland Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks*
- ◆ *Wilmington Nir Family YMCA*



- ◆ *YWCA Lower Cape Fear*

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

- ◆ *Yakworks Kayak*



*Town of Oak Island Public Beach Access Sites
with Handicap Access and Mobi-Mats*

+ Keziah Street

+ 705 Ocean Drive (Pier Complex)



+ SE 74th Street

+ SE 55th Street

+ SE 46th Street



+ SE 40th Street

+ 19th Place East

+ 10th Place West



+ 27th Place West

+ 57th Place West

+ The Point



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Sites



NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

- + **Local Facilities/Access Sites**—often are simply dune crossovers with little or no associated parking and no other facilities; provide litter receptacles.
- + **Neighborhood Facilities/Access Sites**—generally have fewer parking spaces than regional sites and do not have facilities such as showers or restroom facilities; provide dune crossovers and litter receptacles.
- + **Regional Facilities/Access Sites**—generally the largest of the access sites; usually these sites have ample parking, dune crossovers and litter receptacles, and, they often have other facilities such as restrooms, showers, and picnic tables.
- + **Urban Waterfront Facilities/Access Sites**—generally located on estuarine waters in urbanized areas and vary greatly in the amount of parking and facilities provided
 - ◆ **Oak Island**—The Town of Oak Island has 67 designated North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Sites which provide access to the beach and sound.

Cross Streets	GPS	Parking Spaces	Showers	Other
¼ mile north of Caswell Beach Rd. & Ocean Greens Ln.	33° 53'49.44" N 78° 03'13.11" W	50	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wooden walkways •Portable toilets
Ocean Dr. & McGlamery St. Commissioners Park	33° 54'10.44" N 78° 04'31.30" W	10	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sand path •Shaded observation deck
Ocean Dr. & Mercer St.	33° 54'12.59" N 78° 04'39.41" W	5	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sand path •Observation deck
Ocean Dr. & Norton St.	33° 54'12.98" N 78° 04'43.63" W	4 at access 5 along Norton	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sand path
Ocean Dr. & Trott St.	33° 54'13.83" N 78° 04'47.69" W	5 at access 24 at lot along Trott	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sand path
Ocean Dr. & Keziah St.	33° 54'14.68" N 78° 04'51.45" W	10 at access 4 at lot along Keziah	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sand path

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Ocean Dr. & Barbee Blvd. Yaupon Park	33° 54'16.31" N 78° 04'58.52" W	4 at access 50 at lot along Barbee Blvd	No	•Sand path
Ocean Dr. & Sherrill Ave.	33° 54'17.18" N 78° 05'02.78" W	11 at access	No	•Sand path
Ocean Dr. & Crowell St.	33° 54'17.98" N 78° 05'06.43" W	4 at access 4 at lot along Crowell St.	No	•Sand path
Ocean Dr. & SE 79th St.	33° 54'18.77" N 78° 05'10.02" W	4 at access	No	•Sand path
East Beach Dr. & SE 78th St.	33° 54'20.08" N 78° 05'13.38" W	7 at access	No	•Sand path
East Beach Dr. & SE 77th St.	33° 54'20.69" N 78° 05'17.09" W	8 at access	No	•Sand path
East Beach Dr. & SE 76th St.	33° 54'21.38" N 78° 05'20.49" W	5 at access	No	•Sand path
East Beach Dr. & SE 75th St.	33° 54'22.43" N 78° 05'24.11" W	8 at access	No	•Sand path
East Beach Dr. & SE 74th St.	33° 54'22.88" N 78° 05'27.64" W	8 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 73rd St. 950' south on 73rd	33° 54'22.88" N 78° 05'27.64" W	2 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 72nd St. 970' south on 72nd	33° 54'24.23" N 78° 05'35.69" W	20 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 71st St. 1000' south on 71 st	33° 54'24.97" N 78° 05'39.18" W	17 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 70th St. 1000' south on 70th	33° 54'25.60" N 78° 05'42.66" W	7 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 69th St. 1075' south on 69th	33° 54'26.20" N 78° 05'46.14" W	6 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 67th St. ¼ mile south on 67th	33° 54'26.34" N 78° 05'53.40" W	12 at access	No	•Sand path

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 64th St. ¼ mile south on 64th	33° 54'28.08" N 78° 06'03.89" W	11 at access	No	•Sand path
Closest intersection; E Oak Island Dr. & SE 63rd St. ¼ mile south on 63rd	33° 54'29.30" N 78° 06'08.97" W	14 along 63rd	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 58th St.	33° 54'31.24" N 78° 06'24.78" W	3 at access	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 55th St.	33° 54'32.67" N 78° 06'34.31" W	4 at access 3 along 55th	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 52nd St.	33° 54'34.11" N 78° 06'43.64" W	10 at access 4 along 52nd	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 49th St.	33° 54'35.51" N 78° 06'52.95" W	14 at access also at Middleton Park	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 46th St. Cabana Park	33° 54'36.75" N 78° 07'00.82" W 33° 54'38.49" N 78° 06'57.71" W (Parking)	8 along 46th also at Middleton Park	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 43rd St.	33° 54'38.49" N 78° 07'11.64" W	6 at access 7 along 43rd	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & SE 40th St.	33° 54'39.78" N 78° 07'21.12" W	6 at access	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 37th Place E.	33° 54'40.86" N 78° 07'30.52" W	12 at access 22 along 37th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 35th Place E.	33° 54'42.11" N 78° 07'39.84" W	4 at access 22 along 35th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 32nd Place E.	33° 54'43.24" N 78° 07'49.26" W	8 at access 12 along 32nd Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 29th Place E.	33° 54'44.41" N 78° 07'58.68" W	12 along 29th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 26th Place E.	33° 54'45.91" N 78° 08'07.98" W	4 along 26th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 25th Place E.	33° 54'46.69" N 78° 08'12.45" W	5 at access 6 along 25th Place	No	•Sand path

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

E Beach Dr. & 22nd Place E.	33° 54'47.53" N 78° 08'21.67" W	11 along 22nd Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 19th Place E.	33° 54'48.32" N 78° 08'31.34" W	4 at access 11 along 19th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 16th Place E.	33° 54'49.36" N 78° 08'31.34" W	10 at access 11 along 16th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 14th Place E.	33° 54'49.61" N 78° 08'52.36" W	5 at access 22 along 14th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 11th Place E.	33° 54'50.02" N 78° 09'01.95" W	3 at access 11 along 11th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 9th Place E.	33° 54'50.62" N 78° 09'11.52" W	5 at access 11 along 9th Place	No	•San path
E Beach Dr. & 6th Place E.	33° 54'51.23" N 78° 09'20.92" W	4 at access 24 along 6th Place	No	•Sand path
E Beach Dr. & 3rd Place E.	33° 54'51.79" N 78° 09'30.47" W	5 at access 18 along 3rd Place	No	•Sand path
W. Beach Dr. & S. Middleton Ave.	33° 54'52.07" N 78° 09'39.81" W	No	No	•Sand path •Bike racks
W Beach Dr. & 2nd Place W.	33° 54'52.39" N 78° 09'49.38" W	5 at access 22 along 2nd Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 5th Place W.	33° 54'52.71" N 78° 09'58.97" W	6 at access 11 along 5th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 7th Place W.	33° 54'52.92" N 78° 10'08.41" W	6 at access 11 along 7th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 10th Place W.	33° 54'53.06" N 78° 10'17.91" W	6 at access 22 along 10th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 13th Place W.	33° 54'53.28" N 78° 10'27.50" W	4 at access 22 along 13th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 17th Place W.	33° 54'53.28" N 78° 10'37.02" W	4 at access 13 along 17th Place	No	•Sand path

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

W Beach Dr. & 20th Place W.	33° 54'53.21" N 78° 10'46.51" W	4 at access 5 along 20th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 23rd Place W.	33° 54'53.05" N 78° 10'55.97" W	5 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 25th Place W.	33° 54'52.95" N 78° 11'05.28" W	4 along 25th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 27th Place W.	33° 54'52.92" N 78° 11'14.97" W	6 at access 3 along 27th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 30th Place W.	33° 54'52.65" N 78° 11'24.50" W	6 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 33rd Place W.	33° 54'52.51" N 78° 11'34.00" W	10 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 36th Place W.	33° 54'52.32" N 78° 11'43.51" W	6 at access 4 along 36th Place	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 39th Place W.	33° 54'52.13" N 78° 11'52.93" W	6 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 42nd Place W.	33° 54'51.93" N 78° 12'02.36" W	6 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 48th Place W.	33° 54'51.54" N 78° 12'21.44" W	8 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 51st Place W.	33° 54'51.22" N 78° 12'30.96" W	12 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 54th Place W.	33° 54'50.86" N 78° 12'40.47" W	15 at access	No	•Sand path
W Beach Dr. & 57th Place W.	33° 54'50.49" N 78° 12'49.91" W	10 at access	No	•Wooden walkway
W Beach Dr. & 60th Place W.	33° 54'50.16" N 78° 12'59.34" W	No	No	•Wooden walkway
W Beach Dr. & 69th Place W. "The Point"	33° 54'48.95" N 78° 13'40.65" W	30	No	•Sand paths
Closest intersection; Kings Lynn Dr. & 69th Place W. 1/3 of a mile S. or W. on Kings Lynn from above	33° 54'56.60" N 78° 13'54.58" W	35	No	•Sand paths

Source: www.salfchef.com/catch_fish/NC/Brunswick/oak_island_beach_accesses.html

General Boating Access Locations and Paddle Trails

◆ ***Brunswick County***

- ◆ ***Brunswick Nature Park***
- ◆ ***Bald Head Island Marina, 1 Marina Wynd, Bald Head Island***
- ◆ ***Bricklanding Road Boating Access***
- ◆ ***Davis Creek***
- ◆ ***Deep Point Marina, 1301 Ferry Road SE, Southport***
- ◆ ***Holden Beach Marina, 3238 Pompano Street SE, Supple***
- ◆ ***Holden Beach Ramp, 0 Jordan Boulevard, Holden Beach***
- ◆ ***Marina at St. James Plantation, 4006 St. James Drive, Southport***
- ◆ ***Morningstar Marina, 606 W West Street, Southport***
- ◆ ***Oak Island Ramp, 4950 Fish Factory Road SE, Southport***
- ◆ ***Ocean Isle Beach Boat Ramp, 67 Causeway Drive, Ocean Isle Beach***
- ◆ ***South Harbour Village Marina, 4909 Fish Factory Road, Oak Island***
- ◆ ***Sunset Beach Boating Access, 101 Sunset Boulevard N, Sunset Beach***
- ◆ ***Sunset Harbor Boat Ramp, 356 River View Drive SE, Bolivia***

◆ ***City of Wilmington***

- **Dram Tree Park**
- **Greenfield Lake Park**



◆ ***New Hanover County***

- **River Road Park**
- **Smith Creek Park**
- **Snow's Cut Boat Access**
- **Trails End Park**
- **Wrightsville Beach Boat Access**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

◆ *North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Boat Ramps*

- Castle Hayne
- Hampstead Boating Access Area
- Holly Shelter
- Oak Island Ramp



◆ *Town of Belville*

◆ *Belville Town Park*



◆ *Town of Leland*

◆ *Sturgeon Creek Park*



◆ *Town of Navassa*

◆ *Davis Creek Estuarine Water Access, Davis Creek Drive*





CHAPTER SIX:

**ASSESSMENT OF THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS,
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT**

A ***Needs Assessment*** is defined as a systematic exploration of the “***way things are***” and the “***way they should be.***” A typical Needs Assessment is a four-step process:

1. Perform a “Gap” Analysis to determine the “Need”—identify the “***current state of affairs***” and the “***desired state of affairs.***” The difference is the “***gap***” or “***need***”
2. Identify priorities and importance
3. Identify causes of problems, threats and/or opportunities
4. Identify solutions and make recommendations

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Chapter Four of the master plan document (Inventory of Existing Programs, Services, Events, Areas, Facilities, and Parks) gives us a noticeably clear and understandable picture of the **“way things are”** and the **“current state of affairs.”** Chapter Six, this chapter, provides the information collected from all sources pertinent and important to the delivery of parks, recreation and open space programs and services in the Town of Oak Island area in relation to the **“way things should be”** and the **“desired state of affairs”** and identifies priorities and importance. Chapter Seven (Parks, Recreation and Open Space Standards) identifies the **“gap”** or **“need.”** Chapter Eight (Master Plan Proposals and Recommendations) completes the Needs Assessment process by stating the **“solutions”** and **“recommendations.”**

[Consultant Inspection, Analysis, and Evaluation of Existing Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department “Facilities, Areas, and Parks”](#)

Each of the Town of Oak Island parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities was inspected, analyzed and evaluated to assess its current disposition and status. The results were then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final comprehensive **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.**

- [10th Place West Gazebo Assessment](#)—The **10th Place West Gazebo** off **W Beach Drive** provides an excellent handicap access (Mobi-Mat) to the oceanfront beach and a handicap accessible viewing area for wildlife and nature observation. However, the view is somewhat blocked by the height of the dune in front of the Gazebo. There is no public restroom facility. All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facility are rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There are only two (2) parking spaces and both are handicap spaces. There is room to increase the number of marked parking spaces. The facility is accessible via foot, bike, or vehicle. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.**



- ✚ **30th Place West Dock Assessment**—The **Floating Dock** located on **Montgomery Slough at the end of 30th Place West** provides adequate parking and an excellent location for launching a kayak, canoe, or standup paddleboard or crabbing, fishing, or bait casting off the floating dock, but not at low tide. The dock normally sits in mud when the tide is low. The wooden pier has a lot of weathered boards. All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facility are rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.



- ✚ **46th Street Cabana Assessment**—The **46th Street Cabana** is strategically located across the street from the Middleton Park Complex and provides excellent handicap parking and handicap access (Mobi-Mat) to the oceanfront beach however, the Cabana building proper is not in good condition. The bathrooms/changing rooms are small, cramped, dark, dingy, and aging and in need of repair or replacement. There is a wonderful Observation Deck, but it is not accessible to most persons with a disability. All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facility are rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.



- ✚ **57th Place West Boat Ramps Assessment**—The **57th Place West Boat Ramp** provides a significant location for launching boats off Oak Island. However, the **Boat Ramp** is definitely showing its age and wear and tear. Except for limited and inadequate parking, there are no other Town amenities at the facility. The limited and inadequate parking restricts the full use of the facility. The facility is surrounded by the “Bluewater Point Marina” and the “Lonerider Hideout at Oak Island.” There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.



- ✚ **78th Street Crab Dock Assessment**—*The 78th Street Crab Dock is a small but picturesque water access facility at the north end of NE 78th Street. There is very limited unmarked parking off NE 78th Street and the wooden structure is showing signs of age and wear and tear. All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facility are rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ **801 Ocean Event Center Assessment**—*The 801 Ocean Event Center offers unparalleled views of the Atlantic Ocean, making it the perfect backdrop for any celebration. It is Oak Island’s only dedicated event venue which specializes in hosting a wide range of events including weddings, corporate gatherings, birthday and anniversary celebrations, business retreats, and everything in between. The venue offers a 1,750 square-foot banquet room and other flexible event space including an outdoor patio, access to the oceanfront beach with a Mobi-Mat, main dressing area, and a conference room/secondary dressing area. Table and chair setup is included in the rental fee and audio-visual services are available for all occasions. The venue’s open-vendor policy allows users to bring their favorite caterer, decorator, or vendor to customize the event to the renter’s liking. In addition to the main event stage, the venue offers a beautiful patio area and the option for beachside wedding ceremonies. The facility is currently being renovated. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ **Barbee Walking Trail Assessment**—The **Barbee Walking Trail** is a one (1) block long paved walking trail between the two lanes of Barbee Boulevard and runs from E Oak Island Drive (Shipwreck Park) to Elizabeth Drive (May Moore Park). The trail is approximately three (3) feet wide and meanders down the center of a grassy and treed area between the two (2) one-way sections of Barbee Boulevard. The trail is relatively short but shaded with no benches or other amenities along its length. The trail should be extended the full length of Barbee Boulevard to its intersection with E Beach Drive at Yaupon Park. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.



- ✚ **Bill Smith Park Assessment**—**Bill Smith Park** is the premier athletic and outdoor recreation facility for the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department. There are baseball/softball fields, a soccer/football field, a 9-hole disc golf, a fishing pier and floating dock with a kayak launch, two (2) open play fields/greenspaces, a walking trail/path, and the **Salty Dog Park**. Several of the ballfield scoreboards have been damaged and are in need of repair or replacement. There is very limited signage within the interior of the Park. All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the Park are the rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). One of the bench swings has been damaged and is not functional. There is no shade over any portion of the fishing pier. The Park is also home to the Oak Island Loggerheads Baseball Team and the Serenity Oak. As such, the Park is heavily utilized for sports, water activities and access, walkers, nature enthusiasts, dog enthusiasts, and family and community events and activities. There is limited marked parking (14 of which are handicapped spaces) but a large parking grass field. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park other than at the entrance to the Park off Fish Factory Road.



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- + [Commissioner's Observatory Park Assessment](#)—*The Commissioner's Observatory Park provides non-handicap access to the oceanfront beach and an accessible nature and wildlife viewing platform. There is also a very convenient wash-off/rinse-off station but limited public parking. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park.*



- + [Davis Canal Floating Docks—SE 9th Street Assessment](#)—*The SE 9th Street Floating Dock entrance is immediately adjacent to the entrance to the SE 9th Street Crossover. The dock provides excellent access to the Davis Canal for kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards. There are no marked parking spaces. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- + [Davis Canal Floating Docks—SE 20th Street Assessment](#)—*The SE 20th Street Floating Dock provides excellent access to Davis Canal for kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ [Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street Assessment](#)—*The SW 5th Street Floating Dock provides excellent access to Davis Canal for launching kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards and for fishing, crabbing, and bait casting. There is no marked parking for the facility. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ [Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E Assessment](#)—*The SE 9th Street and 9th Place E Crossovers provide an excellent path over the marsh from SE 9th Street to 9th Place E. There are two (2) benches along the crossover near the 9th Place E entrance to the crossover. The wood on the crossovers shows some age and wear and tear, but nothing significant. There is signage on the Crossover which appears not to be followed requesting that users of the Crossover **“In consideration of walkway users, please do not fish, crab, bait cast, use golf carts, ride motorbikes or bicycles on the walkway.”** All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facilities are the rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility at either end of the Crossover.*



Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E Assessment—The SE 20th Street and 19th Place E Crossovers provide a necessary and vital pedestrian connection between the sections of the island separated by the Davis Canal, marsh wetlands, and the “Little” Davis Canal. The Crossover is primarily constructed of wood and does show some signs of age and wear and tear. The Crossover is approximately 4 feet wide and provides a shaded Gazebo area on the SE 20th Street side of the Crossover that is a positive element. There are public parking spaces provided at each end of the Crossover. There is signage on the Crossover which appears not to be followed requesting that users of the Crossover **“In consideration of walkway users, please do not fish, crab, bait cast, use golf carts, ride motorbikes or bicycles on the walkway.”** All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facilities are the rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility at either end of the Crossover.



Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E Assessment—The SE 31st Street and 29th Place E Crossovers provide a necessary and vital pedestrian connection between the sections of the island separated by the Davis Canal, marsh wetlands, and the “Little” Davis Canal. The SE 31st Street end of the Crossover is adjacent to the Tidalwaves Kayak and Canoe Launch. The Crossover is primarily constructed of wood however there are two (2) sections of the Crossover that are comprised of dirt and natural material. The wood is starting to show signs of age and wear and tear. The dirt and natural material sections are difficult to traverse went wet. There are public parking spaces provided at each end of the Crossover. There is signage on the Crossover which appears not to be followed requesting that users of the Crossover **“In consideration of walkway users, please do not fish, crab, bait cast, use golf carts, ride motorbikes or bicycles on the walkway.”** All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facilities are the rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility at either end of the Crossover.

- ✚ **Hannon A. Templeton Park Assessment**—The *Hannon A. Templeton Park* is a shaded passive park adjacent to and north of E Oak Island Drive with pedestrian entrances off E Oak Island Drive (2), NE 42nd Street, and NE 41st Street. The Park is primarily utilized by individuals interested in exercising their dog in the Dog Park and by those individuals seeking a place of quiet solitude. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park.



- ✚ **Heron Lookout Park Assessment**—The *Heron Lookout Park* is rather small but provides an extremely aesthetically appealing location to view the area estuarine waters, marsh, nature, and wildlife. There is limited parking, but the Park is easily assessable by foot and bicycle. The swings are totally exposed to the sun and elements. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park.



- ✚ **Kevin Bell Skatepark Assessment**—The *Kevin Bell Skatepark* is located at SE 49th Street and E Dolphin Drive, beside the Oak Island Water Rescue Station. The Skatepark first opened in April of 2000 and was damaged during Hurricane Isaias in August 2020. The current facility reopened in March 2023. The Skatepark provides recreation opportunities for skateboards, in-line skates, and BMX style bikes (pegs not allowed). There is no directional signage to the facility.



- ✚ **“Little” Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E Assessment**—*The 9th Place E Floating Dock provides excellent access to “Little” Davis Canal at mid and high tides but not low tide for launching kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards and for fishing, crabbing, and bait casting. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ **May Moore Park Assessment**—*May Moore Park is a true Neighborhood Park that provides a lovely and shaded area for both active and passive recreational opportunities and experiences. There is adequate parking for a small neighborhood park (3 Gravel Spaces) and one of the picnic tables is handicap accessible. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park.*



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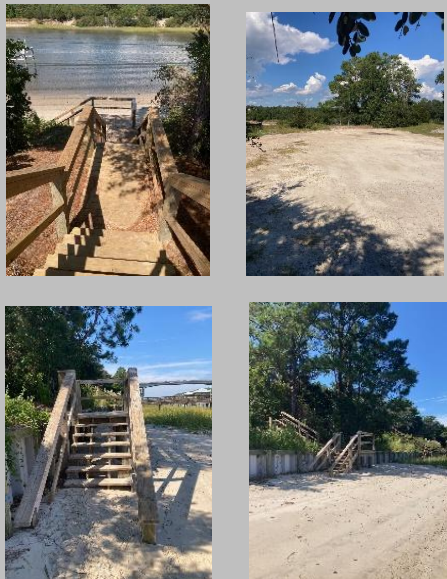
✚ **Middleton Park Complex Assessment**—The **Middleton Park Complex** along with **Bill Smith Park** is considered the flagship entity in the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department delivery system. The Park Complex provides outstanding opportunities for both active and passive recreational opportunities and experiences. However, a negative aspect of the Park Complex is its co-location with the Town of Oak Island Town Hall and the Town of Oak Island Maintenance Building. The co-location with these other Town of Oak Island Facilities makes the Middleton Park Complex seem less like a true Park Complex and more like a part of an Industrial Park. Parking is a problem at the Park Complex during large attendance events. There is truly little shade area within the Park Complex especially near the athletic amenities such as the tennis courts, the pickleball courts, the ballfield, the intramural field, the fitness trail, and the splash pad. However, some improvements to the current design and layout of the Park Complex will improve and enhance the Park Complex’s functionality and its capability of meeting the recreational needs and interests of the citizens of the Town of Oak Island. All of the trash and recycling receptacles within the facilities are the rolling receptacles (there are no permanent trash or recycling receptacles). There is limited identification signage for the Park Complex and no directional signage to the Park Complex.



- ✚ [NE 55th Street Boat Ramps Assessment](#)—*The NE 55th Street Boat Ramps provide a valuable and necessary water access to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW). However, the Boat Ramps and the Floating Dock are showing signs of their age and normal wear and tear. The Floating Dock is missing several boat cleats, and the two (2) Boat Ramps have numerous cracks and bumps in them. There is a large parking facility (27 spaces) in close proximity to the Boat Ramps. However, many of the parking spaces are normally occupied by individuals who have not launched a vessel but are rather guests on a fishing charter. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ [NW 3rd Street Steps/Stairs Assessment](#)—*The Steps/Stairs leading to the AIWW at NW 3rd Street provide a one of a kind access to the sandy beach along the AIWW at any tide but high tide. The Steps/Stairs appear in excellent condition. There is a large natural area leading from the entrance off W Yacht Drive to the Steps/Stairs that could be converted into a marked parking area with some amenities such as a gazebo, a restroom, and a swing bench or two. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



✚ [Oak Island Community Center Assessment](#)—The [Oak Island Community Center](#) is located at 102 SE 47th Street (beside the Town Hall). The hours of normal operation are Monday – Thursday from 10:00 am – 2 pm; Fridays: Meals and Trips (contact the Center for specific times). The Center is a congregate nutrition program and senior center where individuals 60 and over can come to enjoy a well-balanced hot nutritional meal. The Community Center features a Senior Nutritional Lunch, Seniors Exercise Classes, Seniors On The Go; and other Special Events. There is no charge for an individual to receive the meal or to participate in the social/recreation activities. The Center building itself is basically an open room which accommodates a variety of social/recreation activities such as checkers, pool, cards, Rummikub, puzzles, cards, bingo, and other crafts. The facility is well maintained but is rather small for all the events and activities offered. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.

✚ [Oak Island Fishing Pier Assessment](#)—The [Oak Island Fishing Pier](#) is North Carolina’s highest pier! The Pier is part of the OKI Pier Complex, joined by the Pier House (tackle & bait store), a restaurant, a coffee shop, and the 801 Ocean Event Center. Acquired by the Town in 2009, the Pier bears the distinction of being the first municipal owned pier in the state of North Carolina. The Pier stands at 27 feet high and 880 feet long and provides 30 King fishing stations, handicap accessible portions, and a unique “grated” center section, which allows for sea water to pass through during waves of large storms, preventing floor boards from being pushed up. The Oak Island Fishing Pier is open every day of the year with specific hours of operation varying depending on the season (the hours are longer in the spring and summer months). In addition to fishing passes, the Pier House offers frozen bait, fishing tackle, sundries, snacks, ice cream, soft drinks, beer, and wine. Shirts, sunglasses and other souvenirs are also available. Free 2-hour parking is available in the Pier House/Restaurant parking lot. Swimming or any other recreational activity within 250 feet of the Pier is prohibited. Surfing within 350 feet of the Pier is also prohibited. Unfortunately, sections of the Pier are in need of repair and the Pier House itself is in very poor condition. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.

+ **Oak Island Nature Center Assessment**—The **Oak Island Nature Center** itself is operated on a volunteer basis and is located adjacent to the **Malcolm Register Park**, at the north end of NE 52nd Street. In reality, the two (2) facilities should be treated and operated as one. There are multiple entrances into the facility off W Yacht Drive and NE 52nd Street. There is marked, paved parking for the facility on NE 52nd Street. The hours of operation are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Nature Center itself is a seasonal conservation facility and is open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day during which time daily programs covering a wide variety of topics on marine life and the natural world in the area and is free to visit. The Oak Island Nature Center features the Nature Center Building itself, a fishing tee with a floating dock, a kiosk, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden and a disjointed system of non-handicap accessible pathways and trails. The Nature Center building is nestled at a height of 11 feet up in the trees, right in the middle of the forest and is surrounded by 120 feet of wraparound handicap accessible ramps and viewing platforms that provides visitors with views of the forest and the AIWW. The handicap accessible ramp is in very poor condition. In fact, it is almost impossible to access the ramp at its entrance due to the fact that there is a three (3) inch lip from the ground to the ramp. The signage for the Nature Center is very confusing as there are multiple signs stating different names (Memorial Waterway Park, Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, and Nature Center).



And unfortunately the fact that the Nature Center is co-located with the Malcolm Register Park with its pier and picnic shelter and co-located with the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden with its natural and slate rock pathways and displays makes for a very confusing situation for visitors. There is no consistent identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.

- ✦ **Oak Island Ocean Education Center Assessment**—The *Oak Island Ocean Education Center's* hours of operation are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Ocean Education Center is a seasonal conservation facility staffed by the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department and dedicated volunteers. The Center is open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day during which time daily programs covering a wide variety of topics on marine life and the natural world in the area are offered and the Ocean Education Center is free to visit. The Center offers a public place to learn about all the nautical neighbors living around Oak Island including sea turtles, crabs, dolphin, and other sea creatures and holds various youth programs during the summer. The building which houses the Oak Island Ocean Education Center is owned and maintained by Doshier Hospital. This presents maintenance problems for the Ocean Education Center. For example, a restroom within the Ocean Education Center has been inoperable for over a year. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.
- ✦ **Oak Island Par 3 Golf Assessment**—The *Oak Island Par 3 Golf* is located at 4188 Vanessa Drive and is open daily during the Spring/Summer from 8:00 am – 6 pm and during the Fall/Winter from 8:00 am – 5 pm. The Par 3 Golf is open to the public with No Tee Times and No Memberships required. The course is designed with a layout that all skill levels can enjoy. The grasses on the course are in poor condition and need to be renovated and improved. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.



- ✚ **Oak Island Recreation Center Assessment**—*The Oak Island Recreation Center is located at 3003 E Oak Island Drive and is an extremely vital component to the overall park and recreation delivery system for the Town of Oak Island and is still heavily utilized by residents. However, the facility is old, outdated, to small, and in need of significant maintenance, repairs, and enhancement in order to accommodate the existing demands and needs of its users. The existing Oak Island Recreation Center facility should be replaced by a new and comprehensive, multi-purpose recreation and fitness complex. Until the new indoor facility is constructed and operating there are several recommendations that can be achieved that will improve the effectiveness of the existing facility. There is no directional signage to the facility.*
- ✚ **Register Park Fishing Pier Assessment**—*Register Park is co-located with the Oak Island Nature Center. In reality, the two (2) facilities should be treated and operated as one. The Park is small but well maintained and provides valuable water access to the AIWW. The fishing pier is in need of some repair and enhancements. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*
- ✚ **SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee Assessment**—*The SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee provides a functional access to the Davis Canal for fishing and crabbing purposes. The facility also provides an excellent location for nature and wildlife observation. The Pier and Fishing Tee are starting to show signs of age and wear and tear. Recently repairs have been made to the wooden structure. There is open space for parking including three (3) handicap parking spaces. There is a rolling trash receptacle but no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*
- ✚ **Shipwreck Park Assessment**—*Shipwreck Park is a memorial to the three mast, 400 ton, 138 foot long schooner the Mary E Morris, which sank during a hurricane on September 13, 1983 about 7 miles south of the City of Southport. Its wreckage was found exposed by Hurricane Dennis in 1999 on the beach between 10th and 13th Place West. Shipwreck Park contains the surviving remnants of the wreckage and serves as an exhibit to the ship's memory. There are no amenities at the Park other than the shipwreck itself. There is a location at the north end of the Park where a swing should be placed to provide visitors a comfortable location to overlook the wreckage. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park.*

- ✚ **Shuster Fishing Tee Assessment**—*The **Shuster Fishing Pier** provides wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities to the estuarine waters at the west end of the island. There is steel fencing at the entrance to the pier along the bulkhead which appears to perform no function other than to serve as a locked gate to keep people off the pier. There is no step/stairs from the bulkhead to the sandy beach area at the base of the bulkhead. The pier is totally exposed to the sun. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



- ✚ **The Point Assessment**—*The **Point** provides the western most oceanfront beach access facility and site on Oak Island and as such provides excellent access to the oceanfront beach for swimming, surfing, walking, shelling, fishing, kite flying, and sunbathing. The Mobi-Mat accommodates persons with disabilities in accessing the oceanfront beach. There is paid public parking (approximately 38 spaces) at The Point proper and another eight (8) paid public parking spaces in close proximity to The Point. There is no identification signage for The Point and no directional signage to The Point.*
- ✚ **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch Assessment**—*The **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch** provides an outstanding location to launch kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards and provides a location for fishing, crabbing, and bait casting. The Launch has plenty of parking (approximately 18 spaces). The Launch and other amenities at the site are in particularly good condition and appearance. There is no identification signage for the facility and no directional signage to the facility.*



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- ✚ **Veterans Memorial Park Assessment**—*Veterans Memorial Park is one of the town’s newest park resources and provides outstanding views of and access to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW). The Park is in excellent shape but there are some improvements and additions that can be added to increase the functionality of the Park. Only eighteen memorial bricks are needed to complete the brick memorial. The Butterfly Garden and the Watering Station are great amenities to the Park. There is no directional signage to the Park.*



- ✚ **Yaupon Park Assessment**—*Yaupon Park provides a valuable developed oceanfront beach access site and facility. However, there is no Mobi-Mat to enhance handicap accessibility to the oceanfront beach. There is a valuable Wash-Off/Rinse-Off station. The Park can be accessed via bike, foot, or motorized vehicle. There is a lighted pedestrian crossover across Ocean Drive into the Park. There is no shade within the Park. There is no identification signage for the Park and no directional signage to the Park.*



FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

Consultant Inspection, Analysis, and Evaluation of Existing Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department “Programs, Services, Events, Activities, and Special Collaborations”

The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department presently sponsors and supports an impressive range and variety of general recreation programs, services, special events, activities, and special collaborations. There appears to be the opinion that the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department generally offers an acceptable and agreeable variety, quality, and level of programs, services, events, activities, and special collaborations with several exceptions.

These exceptions are the provision of:

- + **Biking Opportunities**
- + **Hiking Opportunities**
- + **Kayaking Events**



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- + **Year-Round Concerts**
- + **Programs, Tournaments, and Trips Involving:**
 - **Gardening Programs**
 - **Adult Fitness and Exercise Programs Before 8 am, After 5 pm, and on the Weekends**
 - **Fitness Programs for Kids**
 - **Recreational Activities for Teens and Pre-Teens**
 - **Recreational Activities for the Young and the Elderly**
- + **Classes, Clinics, and Leagues in:**
 - **Pickleball Clinics**
 - **Adult Pickleball Leagues**
 - **Youth Pickleball League**
 - **Cooking Classes**
 - **Birding Clinics/Classes**
 - **Line Dancing Classes**
 - **Tennis Clinics**

Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Session With the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A formal informational session was held with members of the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on October 7, 2024, to receive input regarding the parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities for the Town of Oak Island. This input from the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

A summary of the information generated, discussed, and collected at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is anonymously recorded in a non-priority listing below:

❖ **RECORDED COMMENTS**

❖ **LAND ACQUISITION**

- ◆ **The Town needs to acquire land for general parks and recreation purposes and for conservation of natural resources such as Maritime Forests**



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- ◆ **The Town needs land for a new and comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center**
- ◆ **The Town needs to acquire land that becomes available that is contiguous to existing parks and recreation facilities**



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❖ **PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES**

- ◆ **Additional programs, services, events, and activities need to be provided for teens and pre-teens**



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❖ FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

- ◆ The Town needs to plan, construct, operate, and maintain a safe, practical, and comprehensive Non-Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Transportation Network and System between and connecting public facilities, areas, parks, residential areas, commercial areas, and service areas within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction and connecting the Town of Oak Island to the Town of Cashwell Beach and the City of Southport. This system and network would include sidewalks, marked pedestrian crossings, pedestrian crosswalks, user education and enlightenment, biking paths, walking trails, hiking trails, greenways and other pedestrian and non-vehicular corridors



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- ◆ The Town needs a new and comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center

❖ POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ There needs to be a general focus on ADA compliance and Universal Design criteria at all public access sites
- ◆ The Town needs to do a better job of promoting all areas of Oak Island that are ADA accessible and Universal Design compliant
- ◆ The Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board need to work closely with the Oak Island Friends of Parks



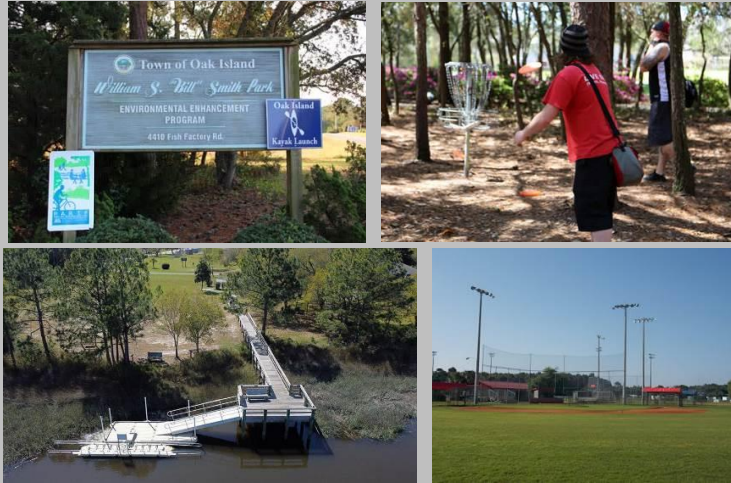
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ The Department needs a full-time Parks Supervisor
- ◆ The Department needs a full-time Education Director
- ◆ The Department needs additional staff in general

❖ GENERAL COMMENTS

- ◆ The Town needs to better utilize William “Bill” Smith Park



- ◆ The parking at the existing Recreation Center is inadequate at times and this needs to be correct when the new Recreation Center is constructed and operating
- ◆ The Town needs a general parking garage

Key comments and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board session on October 7, 2024, in a non-priority order are the need to:

- ❖ Acquire additional land for parks, recreation and open space purposes
- ❖ Develop and operate a safe, practical, and comprehensive Non-Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Transportation Network and System
- ❖ Offer additional programs, services, events, and activities for Teens and Pre-Teens
- ❖ Construct and operate a new, comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center
- ❖ Provide ADA and Universal Design compliant parks and facilities



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- ❖ Employ additional Recreation Department staff

**Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Needs and Priorities—Session With the Town of Oak Island
Parks and Recreation Department Town Staff**

A formal informational session was held with members of the Town Parks and Recreation Department Staff on October 14, 2024, to receive input regarding the parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities for the Town of Oak Island. This input from the Parks and Recreation Department Staff was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

A summary of the information most generated, discussed, and collected at the Parks and Recreation Department Staff meeting is anonymously recorded in a non-priority listing below:

❖ **RECORDED COMMENTS**

❖ **LAND ACQUISITION**

- ◆ Need to acquire land near the other downtown Town Administrative Buildings on which to build a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center
- ◆ Town should acquire land upon which it could move the existing Pickleball Courts at Middleton Park
- ◆ Need land for additional kayak launch facilities

❖ **PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES**

- ◆ Would be able to provide additional fitness programs and summer camps if there were a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center
- ◆ Need to provide additional kayaking events and rentals
- ◆ Need to provide options for the young and the old
- ◆ Should provide concerts year-round

❖ **FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**

- ◆ Need a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center
- ◆ Need additional Kayak Launch Facilities
- ◆ The Town needs to develop and operate a Two-Level Parking Deck
- ◆ The Town should move the existing Pickleball Courts at Middleton Park to another piece of property and replace the Pickleball Courts with Public Parking

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ Need a large facility for Senior Citizens—possibly construct a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center in the central downtown area and remodel and convert the existing Recreation Center into a Senior Center with multiple classrooms
- ◆ The existing Outdoor Stage needs improvements to make it more functional during inclement weather
- ◆ Need to construct an Outdoor Amphitheater at Bill Smith Park
- ◆ Need an Aquatic Facility but not without additional pertinent staff to go with it
- ◆ Need Sand Volleyball Courts but not on the Beach Face itself
- ❖ **POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS**
 - ◆ Should develop comprehensive rental policies for all rentals such as rentals of the Shelters, the Recreation Center, and the Splash Pad
 - ◆ Need to develop a comprehensive Contract Agreement for all Vendors at outdoor events
 - ◆ Need to develop a comprehensive Contract Agreement for all Events, especially when Bands are hired for the events
 - ◆ Should provide alcoholic beverages at the Par Three Golf Course
- ❖ **PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS**
 - ◆ Have to have additional staff if there is to be a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center
 - ◆ Need additional Staff for Special Projects and Trash Collection
 - ◆ Need additional Staff to supervise the use of the Splash Pad
 - ◆ Need a full-time Administrative Assistant/Office Manager
 - ◆ Need a part-time Staff person assigned to the Par Three Golf Course
 - ◆ Need additional staff just to monitor and supervise the rental of Department facilities, areas, and parks
- ❖ **GENERAL COMMENTS**
 - ◆ Parking is a huge issue at the Recreation Center and the Community Center
 - ◆ Only build an Aquatics Facility if additional Aquatics Staff are also provided

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Key comments and recommendations from the Town Parks and Recreation Department Town Staff session on October 14, 2024, in a non-priority order are the need to:

- ❖ **Acquire land for a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center near the existing Town Administrative Complex**
- ❖ **Provide additional kayaking events and rentals**
- ❖ **Provide additional fitness programs and summer camps if there were a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center**
- ❖ **Develop and operate a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center**
- ❖ **Develop and operate a Two-Level Parking Deck**
- ❖ **Construct and operate a large facility for Senior Citizens—possibly construct a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center in the central downtown area and remodel and convert the existing Recreation Center into a Senior Center with multiple classrooms**
- ❖ **Construct and operate an Outdoor Amphitheater at Bill Smith Park**



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- ❖ **Develop an Aquatic Facility but not without additional pertinent staff to go with it**
- ❖ **Construct and operate Sand Volleyball Courts but not on the Beach Face itself**
- ❖ **Develop comprehensive rental policies for all rentals such as rentals of the Shelters, the Recreation Center, and the Splash Pad**
- ❖ **Develop comprehensive Contract Agreements for all Vendors at outdoor events, for Contract Agreement for all Events, especially when Bands are hired for the events**



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- ❖ **Employ additional staff if there is to be a new, improved, multi-purpose Recreation Center**
- ❖ **Employ additional Staff for Special Projects, to supervise the use of the Splash Pad, and for Trash Collection**
- ❖ **Employ a full-time Administrative Assistant/Office Manager**

**Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Needs and Priorities—Public Forum Meeting Sessions (3)**

Direct community and citizen input was generated and received at Public Forum Meeting Sessions conducted on May 27, 2025 at 2 pm and at 5 pm, and May 29, 2025 at 9 am. The May 27, 2025 session was held at the Town of Oak Island Community Center with four (4) individuals in attendance. The second May 27, 2025 session was also held at the Town of Oak Island Community Center with two (2) individuals in attendance. The May 29, 2025 session was held at the Town of Oak Island Recreation Center with seven (7) individuals in attendance. The information received at these sessions was utilized to provide an understanding and assessment of the specific expressed parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities of the citizens of the Town of Oak Island. This input was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan***.

Dr. Herstine lead the sessions and gave the attendees a brief summary of his background and experience and then asked the attendees to follow a few general guidelines. First, think big, think “outside the box” and do not think about the price tag for any comment presented. Second, keep the discussion positive—present ideas regarding what is wanted and needed rather than complaining about something that did or did not happen.

Dr. Herstine led the public sessions by asking the following questions:

- 1) How do you feel about/what is your opinion of the Town’s current parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks?
- 2) How do you feel about the way the existing Town parks, recreation and open space facilities, areas and parks are maintained?
- 3) How do you feel about the way the existing Town parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks are supervised?
- 4) Are there specific parks, recreation, and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and that you would like to see the Town provide that it is not currently providing?
- 5) Where would you like to see the new parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks of the Town provided?
- 6) How should the Town pay for any new parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks?
- 7) Are there any additional questions or comments?

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Here is an anonymous summary of the information generated, discussed, and collected at the Public Forum Meeting Sessions in a non-priority listing:

MAY 27, 2025 at 2 pm SESSION (4 Individuals in Attendance): (Appendix H)

❖ RECORDED COMMENTS

❖ LAND ACQUISITION

- ◆ No comments offered

❖ PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ The concerts at Middleton Park are great but there is a major need for additional parking and seating space for the spectators
- ◆ The programs offered at the Recreation Center need more flexible hours and more space in which to participate in the programs
- ◆ The Recreation Department needs to offer out-of-town nature-related trips
- ◆ The Vendor Sponsored events are well done but there is not enough available parking for the participants
- ◆ The Recreation Department needs to provide tennis lessons, tennis clinics, and tennis leagues
- ◆ The Town needs to provide additional educational programs for adults
- ◆ The Recreation Department should be providing water aerobics classes and dance classes
- ◆ The Recreation Department should be providing year-round indoor concerts with participant dancing
- ◆ The Recreation Department needs to provide additional out-of-town trips and educational programs and events
- ◆ There needs to be additional Town sponsored community events

❖ FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

- ◆ The Town needs to provide bicycle lanes that are safe for users
- ◆ The existing kayak launches are good
- ◆ The outdoor basketball court at the Recreation Center is in extremely poor condition and needs to be repaired and improved
- ◆ The pickleball courts are great

- ◆ The Town needs to provide additional tennis courts
 - ◆ The Town needs to provide more park facilities for kids
 - ◆ The Town needs to provide more facilities, areas, and parks at the west end of the island
 - ◆ The Town needs an indoor pool and an outdoor pool
 - ◆ The current Recreation Center must be expanded and additional rooms and space added
 - ◆ The Town needs a multi-purpose, multi-functional, comprehensive Recreation Center facility
 - ◆ The Town needs additional sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks
 - ◆ The Town needs dedicated golf cart lanes
 - ◆ The Town needs to operate facilities, areas, and parks that overlook the ocean, AIWW, and the marshes
 - ◆ The Recreation Center needs an improved and updated restroom
 - ◆ The Town needs to provide more public restroom facilities throughout the Town and especially at The Point at the west end of the island
 - ◆ The Recreation Department needs to be returned to a Parks and Recreation Department with its own full-time maintenance staff
- ❖ **POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS**
- ◆ The Recreation Department needs increased, improved, and multi-functional communication, marketing, and publicity of programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks that is user-friendly
 - ◆ The Town should provide special rates and benefits for full-time residents like a free day fishing at the pier
 - ◆ The Town needs to focus more on year-round residents and less on tourists by providing trips and concerts year-round
 - ◆ The Town needs to provide separate and dedicated golf cart parking so the golf carts will not park in automobile parking spaces

❖ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ The Recreation Department needs its own full-time, permanent maintenance staff

❖ GENERAL COMMENTS

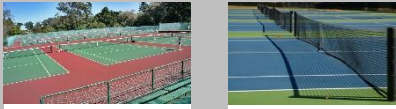
- ◆ Overall communication and publicity of the Recreation Department programs, services, events, and activities have improved but the Recreation Center facility has extremely limited space
- ◆ The Recreation Center facility needs to be better maintained and cleaned
- ◆ The Community Center is always kept clean and well maintained
- ◆ The pedestrian walkovers are great but there needs to be more available parking and need walkovers on both sides of the streets
- ◆ The Recreation Department provides too many programs for kids and not enough programs for adults
- ◆ All new Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks should be built for multi-use and multi-function
- ◆ There are cornhole pits and horseshoe pits at the Community Center but there are not cornhole bags or horseshoes
- ◆ The Recreation Center needs ceiling fans in the Exercise Room, hooks for hanging up clothing, and additional storage space for the exercise equipment
- ◆ There is not enough parking at the Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks
- ◆ The Town needs additional handicapped parking at all Town facilities, areas, and parks
- ◆ The Town needs handicapped accessible beach mats at more beach access sites
- ◆ The vehicular speed limit on all Town roads needs to be reduced to no more than 35 miles per hour as 45 miles per hours is too fast
- ◆ Bill Smith Park is underutilized and needs improved walking paths

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- ◆ The Town has too many underutilized facilities such as the Par 3 Golf Course and the 801 Ocean Event Center
- ◆ The Town needs to provide improved landscaping at all Town facilities, areas, and parks

Key comments and recommendations from the May 27, 2025 at 2 pm Public Forum Meeting Session in a non-priority order are the need to:

- ❖ Provide additional participant parking for events at Middleton Park and the Recreation Center
- ❖ Offer additional Town-sponsored community events, and out-of-town nature-oriented and educational trips
- ❖ Provide bike lanes that are safe and functional
- ❖ Provide dedicated golf cart lanes
- ❖ Provide additional tennis courts and offer tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues



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- ❖ Improve, enlarge, and enhance the existing Recreation Center
- ❖ Provide facilities, areas, and parks that overlook the ocean, AIWW, and the marshes
- ❖ Provide additional public restroom facilities throughout the Town and especially at The Point on the west end



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- ❖ Restructure the Recreation Department into a Parks and Recreation Department with its own full-time maintenance staff
- ❖ Provide increased, improved, multi-functional, and user-friendly communication, marketing, and publicity of programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks



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- ❖ Focus more on permanent, year-round, full-time residents to include special benefits such as a free day fishing at the Pier

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

MAY 27, 2025 at 5 pm SESSION (2 Individuals in Attendance): (Appendix I)

❖ RECORDED COMMENTS

❖ LAND ACQUISITION

- ◆ No comments offered

❖ PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ The hours at the Splash Pad need to be extended during the days of operation and the season needs to be extended later into the Fall
- ◆ There needs to be additional picnic tables at the Town's areas and parks, particularly at The Pirates Park
- ◆ The Recreation Department offers a good variety of programs, services, events, and activities
- ◆ Additional programs, services, events, and activities need to be offered after normal working hours at the Recreation Center to accommodate working individuals
- ◆ The Recreation Department offers a good variety of summer programs and camps but needs to be able to serve more participants
- ◆ The Line Dance Club is great!



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❖ FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

- ◆ The public restroom at the Cabana needs to be improved and remodeled
- ◆ The Town needs an Aquatic Center with an Indoor Pool and an Outdoor Pool
- ◆ The Town needs a Youth Center for kids
- ◆ There needs to be additional public restroom facilities at the Town's areas and parks, such as The Pirates Park
- ◆ The Community Center is too small and needs to be expanded with more rooms for activities and events

❖ POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ The Town and the Recreation Department need to find a way to work closely with the Brunswick County School System
- ◆ The Town and the Recreation Department needs to cooperate more with other private and public organizations such as community groups and organizations

❖ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ The staff at the Community Center are fantastic, creative, and wonderful

❖ GENERAL COMMENTS

- ◆ Portable Electric Signs like those used by the Police Department needs to be set up at both bridges to improve the marketing and publicity of Recreation Department programs, services, events, and activities



- ◆ A Town newsletter needs to be included in the Town utility bills to also improve the marketing and publicity of Recreation Department programs, services, events, and activities
- ◆ The Town needs to install Shade Sails at locations, facilities, and areas needing shade from the sun
- ◆ The parking at the Community Center is inadequate—it should not be gravel and there needs to be additional handicapped parking spaces
- ◆ The Recreation Department needs to improve its marketing, publicity, and communication—electronic and digital signs are not highly effective
- ◆ The Town needs to do more for people with special needs
- ◆ The Town needs to ensure that all programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks are ADA compliant and follow Universal Design Standards and Guidelines
- ◆ The Beach Wheelchairs are great but there needs to be a fee to use them, so individuals do not abuse and misuse the chairs

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Key comments and recommendations from the May 27, 2025 at 5 pm Public Forum Meeting Session in a non-priority order are the need to:

- ❖ Extend the hours of operation at the Splash Pad—have additional daily hours and extend the days of operation later into the Fall
- ❖ Offer programs, services, events, and activities at the Recreation Center after normal working hours to accommodate working individuals
- ❖ Offer additional summer camps and programs to accommodate more participants
- ❖ Construct and operate an Aquatic Center with an indoor pool and an outdoor pool
- ❖ Construct and operate a Youth Center for kids
- ❖ Construct, operate, and maintain additional public restroom facilities throughout the Town



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- ❖ Expand and improve the Community Center
- ❖ Increase cooperation between the Town and the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the Brunswick County School System and other private and public organizations
- ❖ Improve and expand the Town’s communication, marketing, and publicity of programs, services, events, and activities
- ❖ Install Shade Sails at all Town facilities, areas, and parks needing shade from the sun



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- ❖ Improve the public parking at the Community Center—the existing gravel parking is inadequate for persons with disabilities and the elderly and there should be additional marked handicapped parking spaces
- ❖ Ensure that all programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks are ADA compliant and follow Universal Design Standards and Guidelines

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

MAY 29, 2025 SESSION (7 Individuals in Attendance): (Appendix J)

❖ **RECORDED COMMENTS**

❖ **LAND ACQUISITION**

- ◆ Town needs to acquire land for parks, recreation and open space on the mainland and not just on the island

❖ **PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES**

- ◆ Need cardio and Zumba classes at the Recreation Center
- ◆ The Silver Sneakers program is excellent because it gives seniors an opportunity to exercise and socialize

❖ **FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**

- ◆ The amenities at Middleton Park are fantastic
- ◆ The Pickleball Courts and the Basketball Court at Middleton Park are great and used all the time
- ◆ The Basketball Court at the Recreation Center is in extremely poor condition
- ◆ The Recreation Center is in extremely poor condition and needs improvements, enhancements, and updating as well as more square footage
- ◆ The Town needs an updated, multi-functional, and multi-purpose Recreation Center to replace the existing Recreation Center which is outdated and too small
- ◆ The Town needs a swimming pool which can accommodate lap swimming, open swim, swimming classes, and water aerobics with a removable bubble which would allow year-round swimming
- ◆ Convert the existing Recreation Center into a Community Center and build the new Recreation Center where the current Community Center and Public Works facility are located
- ◆ The Town needs to move forward with the plans for a formal Greenway and Bike Lanes

❖ **POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS**

- ◆ The new swimming pool needs to be a joint venture between the Town of Oak Island, the City of Southport, Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, and the Brunswick County School System with assistance from the YMCA

- ◆ There needs to be strong coordination between the creation of the new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the Recreation Center Feasibility Study, and the CAMA Land Use Plan
- ◆ The Town needs to consider adding a Recreation and Open Space Ordinance to its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) which requires developers within the Town's planning jurisdiction to provide recreation amenities or a cash payment in lieu of recreation amenities for all new development
- ◆ The Town needs make certain that all Town programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and in harmony with Universal Design Standards and Recommendations

❖ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ No comments offered

❖ GENERAL COMMENTS

- ◆ The Town offers excellent opportunities for access to the oceanfront beach
- ◆ Parking on the island is a major concerns but giving the residents' parking permits has helped to address the problem
- ◆ Tourist parking is still a major concern that needs to be addressed
- ◆ The Town has been discussing the need for a new, improved, and expanded Recreation Center for an exceedingly long time now and it is time to stop talking about the new Recreation Center and build it
- ◆ The existing Public Works facility needs to be moved out of the Middleton Park area immediately
- ◆ The Town should build a new, improved, and expanded Recreation Center and incorporate Town administrative offices on an upper floor
- ◆ The Town needs to bring the existing Recreation Center up to code
- ◆ Parking at the existing Recreation Center is a major problem most of the time

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- ◆ The Town needs a Greenway System and a Sidewalk System that are safe and functional
- ◆ Any Pedestrian Crosswalks that are constructed need to function with flashing lights to protect the pedestrians



- ◆ The Town cannot overlook the fact that there is a lot of current and planned development within the Town limits on the mainland and the Town needs to focus on developing parks, recreation and open space facilities, areas, and parks on the mainland

Key comments and recommendations from the May 29, 2025

Public Forum Meeting Session in a non-priority order are the need to:

- ❖ Acquire land for parks, recreation and open space purposes on the mainland
- ❖ Improve, enhance, and update the existing Recreation Center
- ❖ Construct and operate an updated, multi-functional, and multi-purpose Recreation Center with a swimming pool
- ❖ Convert the existing Recreation Center into a Community Center
- ❖ Provide a formal Greenway System, Sidewalk System, and dedicated Bike Lanes
- ❖ Construct and operate a new Aquatic Center facility as a joint venture between the Town of Oak Island, the City of Southport, the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Brunswick County School System
- ❖ Ensure there is strong coordination between the soon to be updated CAMA Land-Use Plan, the soon to be completed Recreation Center Feasibility Study, and the Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
- ❖ Ensure all Town offerings and facilities are ADA compliant and consistent with Universal Design Standards and Guidelines

Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Interview Sessions with Key Stakeholders (4)

A purposive and deliberate sample of Town of Oak Island stakeholders was selected, and each individual was interviewed regarding his/her opinions concerning parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities. Those interviewed were Ms. Mariah Brazil, Ms. Amanda Kelly, Mr. Daryl Mennen, and Ms. donna Mooneyham.

The interviewees were individually asked to address the following questions:

1. How is the Parks and Recreation Department doing now? Address programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, parks, structure, accessibility, and even maintenance—good and bad points.
2. What should the Parks and Recreation Department be focusing on in the future? Address programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, parks, structure, accessibility and even maintenance—good and bad points. What is your vision for the department for the next 5-years? Where do we need more parks, facilities and open space? What types of programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas and parks should the department offer?
3. If you were the crown monarchy for a day, had absolute authority to accomplish anything you wanted and had all the money available that you needed, what would be the five (5) things you would like to see the city doing in terms of parks, recreation and open space that it is either not doing now or could be doing better in terms of programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas and parks?
4. Is there anything else you would like to add?



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The input from the Interview Sessions was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

Here is an anonymous summary of the information generated, discussed, and collected during the Interview sessions in a non-priority listing:

❖ RECORDED COMMENTS

❖ LAND ACQUISITION

- ◆ The Town needs to provide more green spaces with parks and trails

❖ PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ The current summer and fall outdoor concerts are a huge success and well attended
- ◆ The youth programs are great as offered
- ◆ The Farmers' Market is an outstanding program
- ◆ The Department needs to offer more sports for kids such as volleyball
- ◆ There is a general need for additional youth programs of all types
- ◆ Enjoy the free concerts in the Park but there needs to be some shady area
- ◆ The Department needs to offer more exercise programs for all ages and not just for seniors
- ◆ The Town should consider providing lifeguards for the oceanfront beach



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- ◆ The Department focuses heavily on fitness and yoga classes but truly little on year-round activities such as arts and crafts programs and activities
- ◆ The Department needs to offer additional summer camps as there are not enough currently offered
- ◆ There are not enough programs for young children—need more programs for young kids
- ◆ Need more programs and activities for teens

- ◆ The Department needs to provide more than just fitness and yoga experiences and opportunities
- ◆ Love the “Sunsets on Summer” programs
- ◆ The Department needs to offer more programs and services in the evenings such as fitness and exercise classes so working adults can attend
- ◆ The Department need to provide outside fitness and yoga programs, services, events, and activities
- ◆ The summer and fall concerts are well attended, as is Beach Day
- ◆ It seems the primary marketing strategy utilized by the Department for new residents is “word-of-mouth”

❖ FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

- ◆ The Town truly needs a community swimming pool
- ◆ The existing Recreation Center is inadequate and needs to be replaced with a more robust, comprehensive, multi-purpose, recreation center with a gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, classroom space, exercise space, and an aerobics room
- ◆ The Town needs to provide walking trails but not through the woods for safety reasons and security
- ◆ The Town needs to provide additional boat launching ramps and public piers
- ◆ Thrilled with the recent sidewalk repairs and improvements but believe the yellow bumps at the intersections are a trip and fall hazard for walkers and bikers
- ◆ The Town needs to install sidewalks on Dolphin, Pelican, and Beach Drive
- ◆ The Department needs an indoor, year-round Aquatics Facility which does not necessarily actually have to be on the island
- ◆ Middleton Park is an outstanding recreational facility
- ◆ The Town needs to provide additional kayak launching facilities
- ◆ Like the walkways over the marsh but would like to see more walkways over the marsh
- ◆ The Department needs a facility that provides programs, services, events, and activities for seniors and teenagers

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- ◆ The Town is missing a great opportunity for environmental education and needs to construct a walkway along the marsh
- ◆ The Town needs to construct and operate an indoor community pool which could be a joint project between Oak Island, Southport, and Caswell Beach
- ◆ The Town needs to construct and maintain additional community public Restroom Facilities
- ◆ The Department needs recreation space where you can offer multiple activities
- ◆ The Town needs to provide a scenic crossover at the west end of 6th Street
- ◆ The Town needs additional indoor public restroom facilities



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- ◆ The Town needs to provide additional amenities west of 6th Street
- ◆ The Accessible Areas on the island for ocean viewing are not really accessible for ocean viewing and the Mobi mats end over the dunes in sand making them ineffective for accessing the oceanfront beach area
- ◆ The viewing deck at the cabana is inaccessible for many because of the steps leading to it



- ◆ The 10 W Beach access has a ramp which ends in deep sand making it difficult to maneuver to oceanfront beach area

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- ◆ The Town needs more public restroom facilities in strategic locations throughout Town and not just around SE 46th Street from the City Hall to the Cabana area
- ◆ The Town needs to keep the public restroom facilities open year-round
- ◆ There are a lot of senior citizens in the Town and the Oak Island Resource Center, also known as the Senior Center, is not adequate to accommodate all of the programs, services, and activities that should be provided for these senior citizens
- ◆ The Town needs a new, multi-purpose, comprehensive Recreation Center with a 2 pools or a pool and a separate aquatics and exercise center—1 pool could be a regular pool, with a few lanes always roped off for lap lanes. The other pool should be a heated therapeutic pool, for providing aquatic exercise, aquatic arthritis classes, and for all residents to soak old, tired, and arthritic joints in warm water



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- ◆ The Recreation Center exercise and weightlifting rooms are always crowded and need to be expanded
- ◆ The Recreation Center meeting and exercise rooms need to be enlarged



- ◆ The Oak Island Pier is only accessible while open
- ◆ Oak Island needs a beachfront park in the general area of Middleton Park with multiple activities, bathrooms, rinsing showers, lifeguards, volleyball courts, cornhole courts, horseshoe courts, bocce ball courts, an office to rent the equipment for these, plus beach chairs, umbrellas, and other beach supplies—paid parking could be higher at this park to cover the expenses to operate the park

❖ POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ The Town should consider the creation of a non-profit parks, recreation, and open space foundation for fund raising purposes
- ◆ The Department should have the Recreation Center open 24/7 by installing a “swipe card system”
- ◆ The Department needs to work more closely with the “Oak Island Friends of Parks” non-profit foundation
- ◆ Not sure it was a good decision a few years ago to change the name of the Department from Park and Recreation Department to Recreation Department and placing the maintenance of the parks under the Public Works Department—makes the coordination of the administrative duties and the maintenance duties more difficult
- ◆ Believe the Oak Island Fishing Pier and the 801 Events Center should be directly under the full management and operation of the Recreation Department
- ◆ The Department in particular and the Town in general need to work more closely with the Non-Profit “Oak Island Friends of Parks” Foundation

❖ PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ The Department employees never seem to be available when one calls the Department—calls always go directly to voicemail
- ◆ The Department staff is inadequate—there needs to be additional full-time Parks and Recreation staff
- ◆ The Department needs more staff and resources
- ◆ The Town needs a full-time Marketing and Publicity staff member
- ◆ The Town needs to return to providing lifeguards at the oceanfront beach

❖ GENERAL COMMENTS

- ◆ There are no recreation amenities on the west end of the island and this needs to be corrected
- ◆ The Department needs to provide experiences and opportunities for the renters as well as the full-time residents

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- ◆ The personal floatation vests provided at the boat ramps and piers are great assets
- ◆ The upgrades of the pickleball courts are fantastic
- ◆ The Department does a phenomenal job
- ◆ The availability of the kayaks for personal use is an excellent idea, but it would be nice to expand the usage and have some fishing kayaks to take out
- ◆ The Department could do a better job of advertising, marketing, and communicating the availability of parks and recreation programs, services, events, and activities



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- ◆ Yacht Drive is not pedestrian friendly and is dangerous for walking and biking
- ◆ Communication from the Department could be better—need more publicity regarding programs and less reliance on Social Media and more use of Brochures
- ◆ The weather QR Code needs to be updated more frequently
- ◆ The communication that comes from the Recreation Department needs to be improved
- ◆ The Town does a nice job of providing large-scale community activities such as the Farmers’ Market and the Parades
- ◆ The Department makes too many what appear to be random decisions
- ◆ The promotion of Recreation Department programs is extremely helter-skelter and often too late to benefit the programs
- ◆ The Department does a poor job of marketing and communicating what is offered to the public
- ◆ The Department needs to do a better job of developing leadership within its staff—need to hire leaders and train leadership while holding the staff accountable

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- ◆ The Department needs to do a better job of marketing its facilities, areas, and parks
- ◆ The Department has great resources, but the management of these resources seems to be hit and miss or privately provided
- ◆ The Department needs to develop backup plans for outdoor programs, services, events, and activities that are impacted by the weather
- ◆ There is generally poor communication and poor coordination within the Department
- ◆ The Department has experienced some functional disability over the past couple of years and hopefully the new Town Manager will “right the ship” and move the Town and Recreation Department forward
- ◆ The Town should consider and initiate paid parking to increase revenues for the Town and the Recreation Department



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- ◆ The individual who runs the Oak Island Resource Center, Sue Kaiser, has years of experience and really cares for the seniors but she could do a lot more with some additional room and staff
- ◆ Parking is a problem everywhere in Town but especially at the Senior Center
- ◆ There needs to be reserved parking near the Senior Center for individuals with mobility issues but unable to obtain a handicapped parking placard
- ◆ The beach nourishment project increased the height of the sand dunes making it difficult or impossible to view the oceanfront from many of the viewing areas
- ◆ All of the Town’s facilities need to be evaluated for compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Universal Design guidelines and requirements

**Key comments and recommendations from the Interview Sessions
in a non-priority order are the need to:**

- ❖ Acquire additional land for green spaces with parks and trails



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- ❖ Offer more programs and services for pre-teens and teens such as sports leagues, exercise and fitness classes, arts and crafts, and summer camps
- ❖ Offer more programs and services in the evenings to accommodate those who work during the day
- ❖ Construct and operate a community swimming pool
- ❖ Replace the existing Recreation Center with a more robust, comprehensive, multi-purpose, recreation center with a gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, classroom space, exercise space, and an aerobics room
- ❖ Provide additional boat launching ramps, kayak launching facilities, and public piers
- ❖ Provide additional indoor public restroom facilities and keep them open year-round



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- ❖ Provide additional amenities west of 6th Street
- ❖ Provide and operate an enlarged and improved Senior Center
- ❖ Provide a beachfront park in the general area of Middleton Park with multiple activities, bathrooms, rinsing showers, lifeguards, volleyball courts, cornhole courts, horseshoe courts, bocce ball courts, an office to rent the equipment for these, plus beach chairs, umbrellas, and other beach supplies
- ❖ Work more closely with the Oak Island Friends of Parks
- ❖ Restructure the Recreation Department as a Parks and Recreation Department
- ❖ Hire additional full-time and part-time recreation staff
- ❖ Do a better job of marketing, advertising, and publicizing the Department

INTERVIEWS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Focus Group Session

A Focus Group of seven (7) Town of Oak Island stakeholders (Ms. Jacki Ball, Ms. Stehanie Boggs, Ms. Jo Craven, Mr. Phil Dudley, Ms. Luann Dummer, Mr. Pete Grendze, and Ms. Maxine McCullar) was formed from a purposive and deliberate sample of Town of Oak Island resident stakeholders. The Focus Group members met on March 12, 2025, at 4:00 pm in the Town of Oak Island Recreation Center Salt Marsh Meeting Room and were led by Dr. Jim Herstine, Ph.D. The Focus Group members were collectively asked to address the following questions:

- 1) What do you think are the best/most successful programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks currently offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department?



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- 2) What new programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks would you like to see the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department offer in the future (think in terms of the next 5 years)?



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- 3) What do you think are the major obstacles confronting the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department in the future?



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- 4) How should the Town of Oak Island pay for these additional programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas and parks?



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- 5) What do you think are the 10 most important issues in terms of programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department must address in the future? (A copy of the Focus Group Discussion Guide is attached as **Appendix K**)



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The input from the Focus Group Session was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final comprehensive ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan***.

Here is an anonymous summary of the information generated, discussed and collected at the Focus Group Session in a non-priority listing:

❖ RECORDED COMMENTS

❖ BEST/MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY OFFERED BY THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND

- ◆ Concert Series
- ◆ Market



- ◆ 1st of July Festival
- ◆ All Festivals and Parades
- ◆ Summer Camps
- ◆ Sports Activities
- ◆ Fitness Classes
- ◆ There is a wide variety of Program Offerings—Something for Everyone
- ◆ Staff is Great
- ◆ Events give Town a Sense of Community



❖ BEST/MOST SUCCESSFUL FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS OFFERED BY THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND

- ◆ Water Access Sites
- ◆ Skate Park
- ◆ Bill Smith Park/Disc Golf Course
- ◆ Kayak Launches are Great but need Updating
- ◆ Splash Pad

❖ NEW LAND ACQUISITION OVER THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS

- ◆ Need land for Bike Paths, Walking Paths, and Running Paths
- ◆ Need land for a Park on the West End of the Island

❖ NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS

- ◆ The Baseball Program at Bill Smith Park needs to continue to expand and grow
- ◆ More Youth Sports Events need to be offered at Bill Smith Park
- ◆ The Town needs a Birding Club
- ◆ Need Outdoor Activities for smaller kids
- ◆ Need Physically Challenging Activities for children ages 8-12
- ◆ Need Outdoor Activities for Toddlers
- ◆ Need a Pars/Fitness Course
- ◆ Need more Pickleball Leagues and Clinics
- ◆ Need additional Adult Sports Offerings
- ◆ Need an expanded Town of Oak Island Youth Sports Program
- ◆ Need Evening Activities for Adults
- ◆ Need to provide Adult Trips Out of Town Weekend and Overnight Trips
- ◆ Need a Teen Club
- ◆ Need to offer a Tutoring Program

❖ NEW FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS OVER THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS

- ◆ Bill Smith Park is underutilized
- ◆ The Town needs a new and expanded comprehensive, multi-purpose Recreation Center with a pool, gymnasium, fitness rooms, weight rooms, cardio rooms, sports court, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, an indoor walking path/track, storage space, meeting space, and office space
- ◆ Need Bike, Walking, and Running Paths
- ◆ Need additional Kayak Launch Facilities along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW)
- ◆ Need to better utilized the Street Ends along the AIWW
- ◆ Need a Pedestrian Walkover at the West End of the island
- ◆ Need additional Pickleball Courts that are shaded by trees, have night lighting, and seating for spectators
- ◆ Need to Update the Par 3 Golf Course

- ◆ Davis Canal needs to be dredged
- ◆ Need to develop and operate Off-Island Recreation Facilities and Parks
- ◆ Need an Observation Deck at the Point that is American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and meets Universal Design standards
- ◆ Need a Pedestrian Trail along Davis Canal
- ◆ Needs a comprehensive Greenway System
- ◆ The Town should acknowledge its Heritage Trees with a Heritage Trail
- ◆ There is inadequate parking at the Town Parks and Recreation Facilities—need more public parking at these Parks and Facilities
- ◆ The Pier on 85th Street needs repair
- ❖ **NEW POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS OVER THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS**
 - ◆ Need a Site Master Plan for Middleton Park
 - ◆ The Recreation Department needs to be restructured as a Parks and Recreation Department with its own Maintenance Staff
 - ◆ Need to install a QR Code at all Town facilities that is user friendly and gives complete and up-to-date information regarding all Recreation Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks
 - ◆ There needs to be better communication between the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department and the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department
 - ◆ The Town Operations Facility needs to move out of Middleton Park, and that vacated space needs to be utilized to expand Middleton Park
- ❖ **NEW PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS OVER THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS**
 - ◆ The Recreation Department needs its own Maintenance Staff
 - ◆ The Recreation Department needs to utilize more Student Interns

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ GENERAL COMMENTS

- ◆ There are no Parks on the west end of the island and there needs to be
- ◆ The Town needs to remain Dog Friendly
- ◆ The Town as a whole and the Recreation Department in particular needs to improve its Communication, Marketing, and Advertising of Programs, Services, Events, and Activities— Town Residents are not well informed and need to be better informed
- ◆ All of the Recreation Department Facilities, Areas, and Parks could be better upkeep and maintenance

❖ POTENTIAL METHODS FOR FUNDING THE NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREA, AND PARKS

- ◆ Town Employee who is a Full-Time Grant Writer
- ◆ Corporate Sponsors



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- ◆ Philanthropy
- ◆ Fund-Raising
- ◆ Donations and Gifts
- ◆ Work closely with the “Oak Island Friends of Parks Foundation”
- ◆ Educate the Residents of the Town of Oak Island
- ◆ Sell Oak Island Recreation Department “Swag”
- ◆ Special Property Tax for Recreation
- ◆ Special Recreation Tax
- ◆ Special Tourism Tax
- ◆ Issue a General Obligation Bond
- ◆ Increase the portion of the Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) that is distributed to the Recreation Department



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- ◆ Incorporate and Increase the Non-Resident Fees
- ◆ Institute a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee for Developments

❖ MAJOR OBSTACLES TO ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Increased Population Growth
- ◆ Beach Maintenance difficulties
- ◆ Lack of available Green Space
- ◆ Environmental Concerns
- ◆ Lack of Funds in the General Budget
- ◆ Insurance Rates
- ◆ Traffic Issues
- ◆ Growth Off the Island Proper
- ◆ Affordable Housing
- ◆ Lack of Public Transportation
- ◆ Graying/Aging of the Population
- ◆ Tensions between Young and Older Residents
- ◆ An Influx of Young Families
- ◆ Over-Development of the Island
- ◆ Resident Buy-In
- ◆ Tensions between Residents and Tourists



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❖ TEN (10) MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN TERMS OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND MUST ADDRESS IN THE FUTURE

- 1) A New and Expanded Comprehensive, Multi-Purpose Recreation Center with an indoor pool, gymnasium, fitness rooms, weight rooms, cardio rooms, sports court, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, an indoor walking path/track, storage space, meeting space, and office space
- 2) Restructure the existing Recreation Department into a Parks and Recreation Department with its own Maintenance Staff

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- 3) The Provision of Additional Water Access Facilities on the AIWW to include Kayak, Canoe, and Small Boat Launching Facilities
- 4) The Preservation and Inclusion of Open Space, Greenspace, Tree Canopy, Walking, Hiking and Biking Paths
- 5) Removal of the Existing Town Administrative Facilities in Middleton Park and the Preparation of a New, Comprehensive Site Master Plan for Middleton Park
- 6) The Hiring of Additional Full-Time Staff in order to Expand Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks
- 7) The Provision of Specific New Programs, Services, Events, and Activities for Youth and Teens
- 8) Improvement and Expansion of all Communication, Marketing, and Advertising Endeavors including a Town QR Code System
- 9) The Provision and Operation of Additional “Off Island” Facilities, Areas, and Parks
- 10) The Provision and Operation of a West End Walkover and Town Park



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FOCUS GROUP

Community and Citizen Input on Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs and Priorities—Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

A survey instrument entitled “*Town of Oak Island Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessment*” was developed and administered by the Town of Oak Island (Appendix L). The survey instrument opened with the following: **The Town of Oak Island Town Council, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Town of Oak Island staff are committed to sustaining and enhancing the overall quality of life for the citizens of The Town of Oak Island. The provision and operation of public parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks are important components of the Town’s immediate and long-range planning efforts. We need your input and assistance to complete this needs assessment survey! Information gathered through this survey will be used to create the Town’s comprehensive 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions.**

Survey will CLOSE on June 30, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping us sustain and improve our services!



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The survey instrument was distributed electronically via the Town’s webpage and made available as a hard copy to all requesting residents, tourists, and visitors of the Town of Oak Island. A total of 851 individuals responded to the survey instrument. Of these 851 individuals, approximately ninety-two percent (92%) or 777 individuals stated they are “Full-Time Residents or Part-Time Residents; Own My Own Home; and Pay Town of Oak Island property taxes.” The 2020 US Census for the Town of Oak Island lists the population for the Town of Oak Island as 8,396 residents. The 777 individuals completing the survey who stated they resided within the Town of Oak Island town limits and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes represents a response rate of approximately 9.3% compared to the 2020 US Census population figure. This response rate of approximately 9.3% gives the survey results a highly acceptable degree of statistical accuracy and validity. As a result of this statistical accuracy and validity, the survey results provide a solid statistical confirmation of the community’s desires, wants, needs for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks especially when

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also compared with the citizen input from the Advisory Board, Recreation Department staff, individual interviews, Focus Group, and public forum sessions. The data from the survey is remarkably similar and consistent with the data from the Advisory Board, Recreation Department staff, Individual Interviews, Focus Group, and Public Forum Sessions. Therefore, given this comparative confirmation, one can infer that the survey results do provide a solid statistical confirmation of the community’s desires, wants, needs for parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks.

Eight hundred and forty-eight (848) individuals responded to the “**Residence Status**” question with 591 or approximately 70% of the 848 responding “**Full-Time/Permanent Resident; property owner; and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes**”; twenty-one (21) Individuals or approximately 2% responded, “**Full-Time/Permanent Resident; rent/lease my place of residence**”; one hundred and eighty-six (186) individuals or approximately 22% responded, “**Part-Time Resident; property owner; and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes**”; nine (9) individuals or approximately 1% responded “**Part-Time Resident; rent/lease my place of residence**”; nineteen (19) individuals or approximately 2% responded, “**Local Tourist; live within 2-hour drive**”; seven (7) individuals or approximately 1% responded, “**Tourist; live outside a 2-hour drive**”; and fifteen (15) individuals or approximately 2% responded, “**Other.**”

*The “Other” responses to Q1 are listed in **Appendix M.***

RESIDENCE STATUS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
FULL-TIME; PROPERTY OWNER AND PAY TOWN PROPERTY TAXES	591	70%
PART-TIME; PROPERTY OWNER AND PAY TOWN PROPERTY TAXES	186	22%
FULL-TIME; RENT/LEASE MY RESIDENCE	21	2%
TOURIST; LIVE WITHIN A 2-HOUR DRIVE	19	2%
OTHER	15	2%
PART-TIME; RENT/LEASE MY RESIDENCE	9	1%
TOURIST; LIVE OUTSIDE A 2-HOUR DRIVE	7	1%

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Eight hundred and fifty-one (851) individuals responded to the question **“How long have you resided in the Town of Oak Island?”**. Forty (40) individuals or approximately 5% responded **“I am not a full or part-time resident”**; 80 individuals or approximately 9% responded **“less than 2 years”**; 186 individuals or approximately 22% responded **“at least 2 years but less than 5 years”**; 274 individuals or approximately 32% responded **“at least 5 years but less than 10 years”**; and two hundred and seventy-one (271) individuals or approximately 32% responded **“10 years or longer.”**

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
AT LEAST 5 YEARS BUT LESS THAN 10 YEARS	274	32%
10 YEARS OR LONGER	271	32%
AT LEAST 2 YEARS BUT LESS THAN 5 YEARS	186	22%
LESS THAN 2 YEARS	80	9%
I AM NOT A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME RESIDENT	40	5%

Eight hundred and fifty-one (851) individuals responded to the question **“What is your gender?”**. Five hundred and sixty-one (561) individuals or approximately 66% responded **“Female”** and 271 individuals or approximately 32% responded **“Male.”** Nineteen (19) or approximately 2% responded **“I Prefer Not to Answer.”**



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When asked, “**What is your race/ethnicity?**” Eight hundred and fifteen (815) individuals or approximately 96% out of eight hundred and forty-nine individuals responded, “**Caucasian/White.**”

When asked, “**Which of the following best describes your household?**” 851 individuals responded. Sixty-three (63) individuals or approximately 7% responded “**Single with no children/grandchildren at home**”; 6 individuals or approximately 1% responded **Single with children/grandchildren at home**”; 322 individuals or approximately 38% responded “**Couple with no children/grandchildren at home**”; 120 individuals or approximately 14% responded “**Couple with children/grandchildren at home**”; 301 individuals or approximately 35% responded “**Retired with no children/grandchildren at home**”; 30 individuals or approximately 4 % responded “**Retired with children/grandchildren at home**”; and 9 or approximately 1% responded “**Other.**”

*The “Other” responses to Q5 are listed in **Appendix N.***

BEST DESCRIPTION OF HOUSEHOLD	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
COUPLE WITH NO CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN AT HOME	322	38%
RETIRED WITH NO CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN AT HOME	301	35%
COUPLE WITH CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN AT HOME	120	14%
SINGLE WITH NO CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN AT HOME	63	7%
RETIRED WITH CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN AT HOME	30	4%
OTHER	9	1%
SINGLE WITH CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN AT HOME	6	1%

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When asked, “**What is your highest education level attainment?**” 850 individuals responded. Thirty-eight (38) individuals or approximately 4% responded, “**High School or equivalent degree**”; 113 individuals or approximately 13% responded, “**Some college/no degree**”; 88 individuals or approximately 10% responded “**Associates Degree**”; 311 individuals or approximately 37% responded “**Bachelor’s**”; 291 individuals or approximately 34% responded “**Graduate/Professional Degree**”; and 9 individuals or approximately 1% responded “**Other**”.

HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL ATTAINMENT	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
BACHELOR’S DEGREE	311	37%
GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	291	34%
SOME COLLEGE/ NO DEGREE	113	13%
ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE	88	10%
HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENT DEGREE	38	4%
OTHER	9	1%



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✓ INPUT IDENTIFICATION—PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ (Q7) *One hundred and seven (107) individuals or approximately 3% responded “HAVE NOT” when asked, “Have you participated in any programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department during the last 12 months?”*
- ◆ (Q7) *Seven hundred and forty-four (744) individuals responded with a total of four thousand and ninety-two (4,092) responses to the question, “Which of the following recreational programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department have you or any members of your household participated in during the last 12 months? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” A tally reveals the top responses are:*
 - 1) Art History Classes—10 responses
 - 2) Athletic Clubs—61 responses
 - 3) Beach Day—344 responses



- 4) Book Club—27 responses
- 5) Breakfast with Santa—25 responses
- 6) Christmas Bingo—19 responses
- 7) Christmas Crafts—44 responses
- 8) Christmas Sweater Contest—10 responses
- 9) Christmas Tree Lighting—251 responses
- 10) Concert Series—584 responses



- 11) Crochet Classes—11 responses
- 12) Drawing Classes—13 responses
- 13) Egg Hunts—67 responses
- 14) Fishing Classes—65 responses

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15) Holiday Market—394 responses

16) Introduction to Art Classes—14 responses

17) Kayak Rentals—56 responses



18) Kayak Trips—96 responses



19) Kids Craft Classes—15 responses

20) Kite Fest—36 responses

21) Knitting Classes—4 responses

22) Mardi Gras Special Event—348 responses

23) Mature Aerobics—56 responses

24) Monday Markets—395 responses

25) Movie Night—63 responses

26) Oak Island Fishing Derby—23 responses

27) Off Island Excursions—40 responses

28) Recreation Center Summer Camps—28 responses

29) Sailing Summer Camp—12 responses

30) Seafood Festival—205 responses

31) Silver Sneakers Fitness Classes—53 responses

32) Snow Ball Dance—3 responses

33) Spooktacular—84 responses

34) Sports Summer Camp—14 responses

35) Spring Fling Special Event—244 responses

36) Total Body Blast—27 responses

37) Walking Club—26 responses

38) Yoga Classes—11 responses



39) Other Entries—107 responses

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PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES OFFERED	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
<i>CONCERT SERIES</i>	584	79%
<i>MONDAY MARKETS</i>	395	53%
<i>HOLIDAY MARKET</i>	394	53%
<i>MARDI GRAS SPECIAL EVENT</i>	348	47%
<i>BEACH DAY</i>	344	46%
<i>CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING</i>	251	34%
<i>SPRING FLING SPECIAL EVENT</i>	244	33%
<i>SEAFOOD FESTIVAL</i>	205	28%
<i>YOGA CLASSES</i>	111	15%
<i>KAYAK TRIPS</i>	96	12%
<i>SPOOKTACKULAR</i>	84	11%
<i>EGG HUNTS</i>	67	9%
<i>FISHING CLASSES</i>	65	9%
<i>MOVIE NIGHT</i>	63	8%
<i>ATHLETIC CLUBS</i>	61	8%
<i>KAYAK RENTALS</i>	56	8%
<i>MATURE AEROBICS</i>	56	8%
<i>SILVER SNEAKERS FITNESS CLASSES</i>	53	7%
<i>CHRISTMAS CRAFTS</i>	44	6%
<i>OFF ISLAND EXCURSIONS</i>	40	5%
<i>KITE FEST</i>	36	5%
<i>RECREATION CENTER SUMMER CAMPS</i>	28	4%
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	27	4%
<i>TOTAL BODY BLAST</i>	27	4%
<i>WALKING CLUB</i>	26	3%
<i>BREAKFAST WITH SANTA</i>	25	3%
<i>OAK ISLAND FISHING DERBY</i>	23	3%
<i>CHRISTMAS BINGO</i>	19	3%
<i>KIDS CRAFT CLASSES</i>	15	2%
<i>INTRODUCTION TO ART CLASSES</i>	14	2%
<i>DRAWING CLASSES</i>	13	2%
<i>SAILING SUMMER CAMP</i>	12	2%
<i>CROCHET CLASSES</i>	11	1%
<i>ART HISTORY CLASSES</i>	10	1%
<i>CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST</i>	10	1%
<i>KNITTING CLASSES</i>	4	.5%
<i>SNOW BALL DANCE</i>	3	.5%
<i>OTHER</i>	107	14%

The "Other" responses to Q7 are listed in **Appendix O**.

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- ◆ ***(Q8)*** When asked “How frequently have you or any members of your household participated in the programs, services, events, and activities identified in the previous question (Q7) during the last 12 months?” A tally reveals the responses are:

- 1) Have NEVER participated—95 responses
- 2) Rarely participated (1 – 4 Participations)—164 responses
- 3) Sometimes participated (5 – 10 Participations)—265 responses
- 4) Frequently participated (11 – 15 Participations)—179 responses
- 5) Often participated (More than 15 Participations)—148 responses

FREQUENCY OF PARTICIPATION	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
SOMETIMES (5 – 10)	265	31%
FREQUENTLY (11 – 15)	179	21%
RARELY (1 – 4)	164	19%
OFTEN (MORE THAN 15)	148	17%
NEVER	95	11%

- ◆ ***(Q9)*** When asked “If you have never, rarely, or sometimes participated in programs, please explain why (Q8)?” A tally reveals the top responses in priority order are (Appendix P):

- 1) Not Full-Time Resident Therefore Not in Town During Offerings—78 responses



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- 2) Still Working/Not Retired/Most Offerings are During Normal Working Hours Therefore Cannot Participate—40 responses
- 3) Lack of Interest/Nothing of Interest/Not Interest in Offerings—34 responses
- 4) Unaware of Offerings/Not Informed About Offerings/Did Not Know About Offerings—26 responses
- 5) Time Constraints/Am Not Available During Time of Offerings—17 responses
- 6) Health Issues/Medical Reasons/Physical Limitations—14 responses
- 7) Scheduling Difficulties/Scheduling Constraints—13 responses
- 8) Traffic Issues/Parking Issues/Limited Parking—13 responses
- 9) Recreation Center is Outdated/Inadequate/Insufficient—7 responses
- 10) Too Busy/Chill/Do Things on My Own—6 responses

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- ◆ ***(Q10) Ninety-nine (99) individuals or approximately 3% responded “DOES NOT NEED TO PROVIDE” when asked, “In your opinion, what are the most important NEW OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department needs to provide in the future (PLEASE SELECT UP TO 10 CHOICES)?”***
- ◆ ***(Q10) Seven hundred and fifty (750) individuals responded with two thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven (2,897) responses to the question, “In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities the Town of Oak Island needs to provide in the future? (PLEASE SELECT UP TO 10 CHOICES).” A tally reveals the responses are:***

1) Adult Pickleball League—237 responses



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- 2) Adult Soccer League—27 responses**
- 3) Adult Tennis League—59 responses**
- 4) Adult Volleyball League—52 responses**
- 5) Biking Opportunities—330 responses**



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- 6) Birding Clinics/Classes—206 responses**
- 7) Cooking Classes—238 responses**



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- 8) Fitness Programs for Kids—82 responses**
- 9) Gardening Programs—312 responses**



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- 10) Hiking Opportunities—226 responses**

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11) Line Dancing—160 responses



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12) Pickleball Clinics—268 responses



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13) Preschool Programs—56 responses

14) Skateboarding Lessons—45 responses



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15) Tennis Clinics—79 responses

16) Youth Lacrosse League—47 responses



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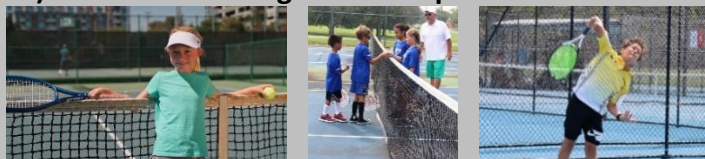
17) Youth Pickleball League—74 responses

18) Youth Soccer League—71 responses



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19) Youth Tennis League—54 responses



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20) Youth Volleyball League—59 responses

21) Other—112 responses

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MOST IMPORTANT NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
<i>BIKING OPPORTUNITIES</i>	330	11.4%
<i>GARDENING PROGRAMS</i>	312	10.84
<i>PICKLEBALL CLINICS</i>	268	9.3%
<i>COOKING CLASSES</i>	238	8.2%
<i>ADULT PICKLEBALL LEAGUE</i>	237	8.2%
<i>HIKING OPPORTUNITIES</i>	226	7.8%
<i>BIRDING CLINICS/CLASSES</i>	206	7.1%
<i>LINE DANCING</i>	160	5.5%
<i>FITNESS PROGRAMS FOR KIDS</i>	82	2.8%
<i>TENNIS CLINICS</i>	79	2.7%
<i>YOUTH PICKLEBALL LEAGUE</i>	74	2.6%
<i>YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE</i>	71	2.5%
<i>ADULT TENNIS LEAGUE</i>	59	2.0%
<i>YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE</i>	59	2.0%
<i>PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS</i>	56	1.9%
<i>YOUTH TENNIS LEAGUE</i>	54	1.9%
<i>ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE</i>	52	1.8%
<i>YOUTH LACROSSE LEAGUE</i>	47	1.6%
<i>SKATEBOARDING LESSONS</i>	45	1.6%
<i>ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE</i>	27	0.9%
OTHER	112	3.9%

These responses indicate Town of Oak Island residents have a desire for new programs, services, events, and activities that provide biking/hiking opportunities, self-improvement opportunities, and sports opportunities. The “Other” responses to Q10 are listed in Appendix Q.

- ◆ ***(Q11) Eight hundred and fifty-one (851) individuals responded to the question, “Would you support funding these NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities identified in the previous question (Q10) if they were funded through reasonable and consistent user fees?” The responses are:***
 - ***84% responded they would support the funding through reasonable and consistent user fees (Yes)—717 responses***
 - ***16% responded they would not support the funding through reasonable and consistent user fees (No)—134 responses***



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These responses provide an excellent window into the funding aspirations of the residents of the Town of Oak Island for any new and/or additional programs, services, events, and activities provided by the town. The 84% affirmative response to funding these new and/or additional programs, services, events, and activities through reasonable and consistent user fees clearly indicates the citizens will support and want new and/or additional programs, services, events, and activities provided these programs, services, events, and activities are offered on a “pay as you go” basis.



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- ◆ ***(Q12) Twelve (12) of the 851 individuals or approximately 2% of the survey participants responded “HAVE NOT VISITED/USED” when asked, “Which of the following Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department recreational facilities, areas, and parks have you or any members of your household visited or used during the last 12 months? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)”***
- ◆ ***(Q12) Eight hundred and thirty-nine (839) individuals responded with six thousand two hundred and eleven (6,211) responses to the question, “Which of the following Town of Oak Island recreational facilities, areas, and parks have you or any members of your household visited or used in the last 12 months? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” Specific responses are:***
 - 21% visited or used the Barbee Walking Trail — 178 responses
 - 45% visited or used Bill Smith Park — 380 responses
 - 6% visited or used the Commissioner’s Observation Park — 51 responses
 - 30% visited or used the Davis Canal Floating Docks — 253 responses
 - 49% visited or used Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover— 410 responses
 - 10% visited or used Heron Lookout Park — 84 responses
 - 12% visited or used Kevin Bell Skate Park (SE 49th Street) — 98 responses
 - 12% visited or used “Little” Davis Canal Floating Dock — 101 responses
 - 22% visited or used May Moore Park — 187 responses
 - 81% visited or used Middleton Park Complex — 677 responses
 - 21% visited or used NE 55th Street Boat Ramps — 176 responses
 - 26% visited or used Oak Island Community Center — 222 responses
 - 51% visited or used Oak Island Fishing Pier — 430 responses
 - 34% visited or used Oak Island Nature Center — 287 responses
 - 14% visited or used Oak Island Ocean Education Center — 115 responses
 - 22% visited or used Oak Island Par 3 Golf — 185 responses
 - 43% visited or used Oak Island Recreation Center — 361 responses
 - 6% visited or used Register Park Fishing Pier — 53 responses
 - 6% visited or used SW 5th Street Floating Docks — 53 responses
 - 3% visited or used Shuster Fishing Tee — 21 responses
 - 11% visited or used Templeton Park (4106 E Oak Island Drive) — 93 responses
 - 62% visited or used The Point (West End of Barbee Drive) — 522 responses
 - 8% visited or used Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch — 64 responses
 - 55% visited or used Veterans Memorial Park — 460 responses
 - 8% visited or used Yaupon Park — 67 responses
 - 6% visited or used 10th Place West Gazebo — 54 responses

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- 7% visited or used 30th Place West Dock – 57 responses
- 21% visited or used 46th Street Cabana Observation Deck — 172 responses
- 9% visited or used 57th Place West Access Boat Ramps — 77 responses
- 10% visited or used 78th Street Crab Dock — 85 responses
- 24% visited or used 801 Ocean Event Center — 200 responses
- 3% visited or used “Other”— 26 responses (See Appendix R)

FACILITIES, AREAS AND PARKS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
MIDDLETON PARK COMPLEX	677	81%
THE POINT (WEST END OF BARBEE DRIVE)	522	62%
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	460	55%
OAK ISLAND FISHING PIER	430	51%
DAVIS CANAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER	410	49%
BILL SMITH PARK	380	45%
OAK ISLAND RECREATION CENTER	361	43%
OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER	287	34%
DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCKS	253	30%
OAK ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER	222	26%
801 OCEAN EVENT CENTER	200	24%
MAY MOORE PARK	187	22%
OAK ISLAND PAR 3 GOLF	185	22%
BARBEE WALKING TRAIL	178	21%
NE 55 TH STREET BOAT RAMPS	176	21%
46 TH STREET CABANA OBSERVATION DECK	172	21%
OAK ISLAND OCEAN EDUCATION CENTER	115	14%
“LITTLE” DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCK	101	12%
KEVIN BELL SKATE PARK (SE 49 TH STREET)	98	12%
TEMPLETON PARK (4106 E OAK ISLAND DRIVE)	93	11%
78 TH STREET CRAB DOCK	85	10%
HERON LOOKOUT PARK	84	10%
57 TH PLACE WEST ACCESS BOAT RAMPS	77	9%
YAUPON PARK	67	8%
TIDALWAVES KAYAK & CANOE LAUNCH	64	8%
30 TH PLACE WEST DOCK	57	7%
10 TH PLACE WEST GAZEBO	54	6%
REGISTER PARK FISHING PIER	53	6%
SW 5 TH STREET FLOATING DOCKS	53	6%
COMMISSIONER’S OBSERVATION PARK	51	6%
SHUSTER FISHING TEE	21	3%
OTHER	26	3%

The “Other” responses to Q12 are listed in **Appendix R**.

- ◆ ***(Q13) Two hundred and eight-seven (287) individuals responded to the question, “If you or any members of your household visited or used any of the facilities, areas, and parks listed in the previous question (Q12), please provide feedback on the SPECIFIC facility and DETAILED features that you would like to see improved.” A tally reveals the specific responses for each facility, area, and park are:***

- ◆ **BARBEE WALKING TRAIL**

- ❖ I would like to see the Barbee Walking Trail extended all the way to the beach. There is such beautiful live oak trees that people could enjoy, and it would provide a safer, shady path for pedestrians all the way to the beach
- ❖ The South end of Barbee Boulevard would look amazing and be more utilized if it had a sidewalk or walking trail down the middle, like the north end does. There used to be one there many years ago. Landscaping in that area would be such an enhancement. Park benches would be a great addition, also
- ❖ Barbee Walking Trail needs more trees – trees keep getting cut but nothing is ever replaced. The shipwreck has probably reached its end
- ❖ Need more trees at Barbee Trail. Several trees removed but no new ones planted
- ❖ When mulch added around trees (Barbee Walking Trail) it is up on trunks causing harm to trees. Crepe myrtles are often cut incorrectly – hurting growth pattern. Would be nice to have a community flower garden along Barbee Trail. Maybe a Friends of the Parks initiative?

- ◆ **BILL SMITH PARK**

- ❖ Expand disc golf to 18 holes
- ❖ Clean up dog park and install water spicket
- ❖ Would like to see the mobi mats or crushed gravel at Bill Smith Park leading from the parking lot to Loggerhead Field to assist with rolling wheel chairs and strollers at the games
- ❖ Salty Dog Park is in need of an access ramp mat upon entry
- ❖ Bill Smith Park looks much improved but could use more professional attention especially as the new baseball team starts

- ❖ Salty Dog Park needs water spigot. Also, could use regular pine cone/pine needle cleanups and would benefit from raking and smoothing to level the ground on a regular basis
- ❖ People with disabilities accessibility
- ❖ The Salty Dog Park in Bill Smith Park is in need of a consistent, maintenance plan and schedule. Improvements for accessibility for citizens with special needs. And a clean water source within each side of the dog park for our pets. For the past many years, the park maintenance has been left up to volunteer efforts. We pay taxes to Oak Island and there has been 2 years of paid parking revenue. When will the town own up to keeping the park maintained?
- ❖ Salty Dog Park and the town overall needs to catch up on ADA accessibility and stop turning a blind eye. Regular maintenance of the Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Handicap access at Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Salty Dog Park in Bill Smith Park desperately needs fresh water access inside the fenced area
- ❖ Build it up to its potential. Add pickleball courts to take the stress off of the Middleton Park courts. This has the benefit of less parking congestion at Town Hall and Public Utilities. Add basketball courts and a playground
- ❖ We have handicap, disabled people who come to park regularly. Put a safe pathway/walkway along fence line for walkers, wheelchairs, and canes. Also, add handicapped parking spots there. Thanks!
- ❖ The Salty Dog Park area seems to get neglected. There are protruding tree roots that are dangerous, excessive pine needles, and pinecones that are never picked up. There is no running water other than the tap by the picnic shelter, etc. A safe concrete walkway for seniors would be a helpful addition as well
- ❖ Better maintenance of the Salty Dog Park including dog waste collection stations, updated benches, disability access, restroom access
- ❖ Would love to see a playground added, bug control added
- ❖ Expand Disc Golf Course to 18 holes or add Disc Golf as permanent option at Par 3 course – low impact, low cost addition

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COMMISSIONER'S OBSERVATION DECK

- ❖ No comments

DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCKS

- ❖ It would also be nice if there were another kayak launch facility at 9th Street E Davis Canal floating dock

DAVIS CANAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER

- ❖ Dog waste stations
- ❖ Needs work – nails stick out and can be tripped over

HANNON A. TEMPLETON PARK

- ❖ Swings are broken and need repaired
- ❖ Dog Park on island could use periodic leaf-blowing/cleanups and would benefit from raking and smoothing to even the ground on a regular basis
- ❖ We visit the dog park on Oak Island Drive 5-7 times a week. We have brought our own chairs because seating is limited. The park desperately needs new pine needles and/or mulch in the fenced areas. Fenced areas need to be expanded

HERON LOOKOUT PARK

- ❖ Trash can at Heron Lookout Park

KEVIN BELL SKATE PARK

- ❖ No comments

"LITTLE" DAVIS CANAL FLOATING DOCK

- ❖ Please try to keep litter (and other items that should not be there, i.e., discarded lumber) cleaned up in and around Davis Canal and "Little" Davis Canal

MAY MOORE PARK

- ❖ May Moore Park needs park-like trash cans – with a small opening for trash rather than the nasty roll cart that you have to touch to use
- ❖ Need pedestrian friendly trash receptacle – roll cart sits by road 24/7 causing a nuisance (obstacle, odor, blowing trash)
- ❖ Need more portable toilets for bicycle riders on Yacht Drive – May Moore Park specifically!
- ❖ Dock at low tide is sitting on the mud
- ❖ Fix the swings
- ❖ New swings

MIDDLETON PARK COMPLEX

- ❖ Better sound acoustics
- ❖ The green Pirate Park needs bathrooms close to the splash pad and the splash pad should be open until 7 or 8 and until the end of September. There should also be more tables and permanent shade. The black entry way is slick and needs attention
- ❖ Middleton Park needs grass and shade trees
- ❖ Make better use of the ballfield at the park
- ❖ Middleton Park is the facility we frequent the most. We love it! However, the parking situation for events needs to be addressed. Our yard backs up to the park and people pull up in our yard and think parking there is acceptable. They ruin our grass. The no parking between signs are not effective to keep people out of our yard
- ❖ New benches for pickleball courts
- ❖ The playground equipment at Middleton Park (next to Town Hall) is in serious need of an upgrade. Equipment is very rusty with metal broken off
- ❖ Middleton Park Complex should have water stations at the courts
- ❖ I would like to have access to a webcam on the pickleball courts to check the status (wet/dry; busy/not busy) etc.
- ❖ Have really loved the lights at the Pickleball courts. Is there a way we can get a sports bottle refill station?
- ❖ Pickleball courts need to be updated especially fences, rusted lights, shadows at night, seating, and shade tents installed
- ❖ The pickleball courts could use some additional work. Lower fences between, pave area. Benches, shade. Bring the two sets together
- ❖ The dance floor at Middleton needs expanding as well as more parking for events. There are never enough spaces
- ❖ More golf cart parking
- ❖ Pickleball cover for waiting area
- ❖ Place shade trees at Middleton Park
- ❖ Fix or get rid of the baseball field
- ❖ More handicapped parking spaces at Middleton Park that can be reasonably navigated by someone in wheelchair, walker or someone who has problems with uneven ground

- ❖ Middleton Park Complex – needs bathrooms on the splash pad side and more permanent shade near the park. More tables in both places. The edging entering the ramp (where the ramp meets the plastic siding) needs to be removed. And the ramps need to be roughed up as they are currently too slick. Both my spouse and my children have slipped on this area
- ❖ Drinking water station at courts
- ❖ Dog waste stations
- ❖ More public restrooms, expand splash pad, and playground equipment
- ❖ Poop stations at Middleton Park
- ❖ Town Operations should be moved off-island and a master plan developed for the best use of the entire park
- ❖ Middleton Park needs restrooms within 40 ft of the park. It is unacceptable how far one has to travel with a child to use the restrooms. Middleton Park also needs a non-skid material added to the playground ramps. People fall daily, yes daily on this park because of the slippery black slopes. It has been brought to Mrs. O’Briens attention repeatedly for years, yet nothing done. The light needs to be repaired over the park also
- ❖ Need nice restrooms
- ❖ Permanent restrooms would be nice
- ❖ These facilities are well maintained. My only minor criticism is if there could be better grass or something that is less dirty in front of the Amphitheater for concerts
- ❖ Fix the lights at the pickleball court closest to ocean!
- ❖ Need rope lights on poles around the dance floor in Middleton Park for the fall Saturday night concerts since it gets dark before the concerts are over
- ❖ Parking is confusing never sure about guests having to pay if you park in open area lot to hike to the center or playground
- ❖ A water fountain near tennis/pickleball would be nice. Consistent restroom availability near courts as well. Should not have to use a porta-let when a restroom is right there
- ❖ Middleton Park is great for walking/running – would love to see something added for adult fitness like an ADULT OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION

NE 55TH STREET BOAT RAMPS

- ❖ The at 55th Street is in much need of repairs to allow for users to safely launch and pickup. LAUNCHES AND DOCKS ARE A SERIOUS RISK FOR INJURY AND LAW SUITS. As busy as Yacht Drive is during peak season, I cannot believe that boaters have to back across a 4-way stop to put in and pick up. This while launch access needs to be redone
- ❖ The boat ramp at 55th Street is in disrepair. There are huge potholes, and the cement drops off drastically – these issues have been progressed from minor to major over the winter
- ❖ Fix the launch ramps and better parking
- ❖ Parking at the NE 55th Street boat ramps needs better parking control. Single vehicles without trailers use the trailer lot and then trailers are forced to park in the R-O-W
- ❖ The dock at 55th Street is in much need of repairs to allow for users to safely launch and pick up. LAUNCHES AND DOCKS ARE A SERIOUS RISK FOR INJURY AND LAW SUITS. As busy as Yacht Drive is during peak season, I cannot believe that boaters have to back across a 4-way stop to put in and pick up. This while launch access needs to be redone
- ❖ The boat ramp at 55th Street is in disrepair. There are huge potholes, and the cement drops off drastically – these issues have been progressed from minor to major over the winter

OAK ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

- ❖ Get rid of the concrete corn hold boards
- ❖ Improved parking for seniors
- ❖ I would like more access to the Community Center than the meals
- ❖ Expand or replace this facility
- ❖ The three restrooms in the Community Center need to be cleaned more often. They also need sprucing up

OAK ISLAND FISHING PIER

- ❖ More handicapped parking spaces
- ❖ Operation north state peer fishing event

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER

- ❖ Nature Center needs more information, education for kids and adults and needs more exhibits

- ❖ The last few years have been GREATLY improved with consistent hours for the Nature Center
 - ❖ Ocean Education and Nature Centers need updating and NEW displays. The majority of these displays are over 20 years old. These are golden opportunities for the Town. The visitors love to bring their kids to learn and do crafts. Perhaps a \$1 fee could be charged per child to help with craft expenses. Would love to see a walkover at SW 5th Street. The west residential has no walkover. This would allow residents to walk or ride a bike to the beach and to enjoy the wetlands
 - ❖ Would love to see the Nature Center used for kids and youth activities throughout the year, not just during summer
 - ❖ Does not seem to have any cohesive organization. Display could be better maintained
 - ❖ Nature Center floating dock at low tide is sitting on the mud
 - ❖ Update signage
- ✚ [OAK ISLAND OCEAN EDUCATION CENTER](#)
- ❖ The Ocean Education Center is old and outdated; the building's doors are swollen and have to kick to open them and then slam to close them. The toilet in the restroom is horrible, stained and obviously incredibly old. This could be a really nice place if it were updated. The Nature Center is the same situation, needs updating
 - ❖ Ocean Education and Nature Centers need updating and NEW displays. The majority of these displays are over 20 years old. These are golden opportunities for the Town. The visitors love to bring their kids to learn and do crafts. Perhaps a \$1 fee could be charged per child to help with craft expenses. Would love to see a walkover at SW 5th Street. The west residential has no walkover. This would allow residents to walk or die a bike to the beach and to enjoy the wetlands
 - ❖ Does not seem to have any cohesive organization. Display could be better maintained.
- ✚ [OAK ISLAND PAR 3 GOLF](#)
- ❖ Par 3 is in horrible condition. Half of the greens and most of the tee boxes look like sand traps. The golf course should require golfers to use tees on the tee boxes and there should be sand, and seed provided so that golfers can repair their divots

- ❖ Add a disc golf course
 - ❖ Love the golf course, although the carts are sometimes low on gas or unavailable
 - ❖ Par 3 golf greens
 - ❖ Par 3 Golf Course Ladies Day is great. Enjoyed short lesson but the greens are terrible. They are laughable. There is no grass
 - ❖ Better fairway maintenance
 - ❖ We just found out about the Par 3 Golf Course and plan to use it this summer
 - ❖ Fix or sell the Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course - My family and I love the Oak Island Golf Course, but it needs cart paths and general equipment at the tee boxes
 - ❖ More golf lessons
 - ❖ Needs consistent maintenance – greens improvement
 - ❖ The last time I played on the Par 3 golf course, it was not in particularly good condition. The greens were especially in bad shape
 - ❖ The Par 3 Golf Course needs significant improvements to the fairways, greens and sand traps. The 4th hole fairway, in particular, is embarrassing. It is a great course, but more attention needs to be paid to the fairways and by all means, put sand in the sand traps. Fundraising efforts can significantly help. Poor planning has resulted in cancellation of previous fundraising events
 - ❖ Expand Disc Golf Course at Bill Smith Park to 18 holes or add disc golf as permanent option on Par 3 – low impact, low cost addition
- ✚ [OAK ISLAND RECREATION CENTER](#)
- ❖ Get broken equipment fixed in a timely manner
 - ❖ Weight room expansion
 - ❖ Oak Island Recreation Cener is really nice but needs to be updated. It is well used and loved and should be updated
 - ❖ Would love to see the fitness equipment updated
 - ❖ Recreation Center needs an upgrade
 - ❖ We need to upgrade the Recreation Center
 - ❖ Tai Chi at the Recreation Center
 - ❖ Recreation Center needs enlarging and updating, or a new facility

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ The Recreation Center could definitely use facelift; more space and more options-updated equipment
- ❖ Would like to see the gym upgraded
- ❖ Recreation Center table tennis, weight lifting for seniors, more workout equipment and classes, indoor pool, indoor Pickleball
- ❖ Large exercise facility
- ❖ The Recreation Center needs a complete overhaul. It is depressing
- ❖ Working electric sign at the Recreation Department
- ❖ The Recreation Center needs to be improved with outdoor spaces updates on basketball and adding a teen zone
- ❖ The Recreation Center needs to be updated. We need more big rooms for group exercise & bathrooms need major overhaul
- ❖ The Oak Island Recreation Center could use updating and more rooms for exercise classes. When quilters use the exercise room, we have to be in a room that is too small
- ❖ We live 5 blocks from the Recreation Center, and my children play basketball there. One of our frustrations is the lack of access to the facilities for teenagers. They actually do not feel invited or welcome to use them
- ❖ An update of the Recreation Center would be greatly appreciated
- ❖ Bathrooms in the Recreation Center
- ❖ At Recreation Center—ADA compliant bathrooms and doors, updated electricity, indoor walking/jogging track. Park should have trash cans that are more eye pleasing than the big plastic bins
- ❖ Recreation Center needs a lot of interior work. Full upgrade and refurbishment
- ❖ Recreation Center Yoga room could use some sprucing up
- ❖ Recreation Center complete overhaul
- ❖ Recreation Center needs new equipment and larger space
- ❖ Deep clean of Oak Island Recreation Center bathrooms. Higher quality of Ping Pong tables
- ❖ STOP WITH THE SURVEYS AND ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING!!!!!! I have lost count on the # of surveys that have been put out on what needs to be done! DO SOMETHING, please! The Cardio and Weight Rooms both need DRASTIC improvement! The ONE new arc trainer-closest to the back door-is ALWAYS in use. It has a

smooth, shorter stride and is easier on joints, etc. the \$\$ spent on stupid blow up and other decorations could be put to much better use by more machines like this one!

- ❖ The Recreation Center needs to be revamped. The weight and cardio areas are rather depressing to go to
- ❖ We need a modern Recreation Center with an indoor pool for pool aerobics in the winter. And indoor gym with walking track
- ❖ The Recreation Center needs expansion and/or modernization. It is not large enough to support the growing full-time population, and needs a renovation or new building to provide more offerings and equipment for working out
- ❖ Clean the Recreation Center more frequently
- ❖ Recreation Center needs more space for equipment. More floor space for mats
- ❖ The Recreation Center needs to be larger
- ❖ We use the Recreation Center gym 3-4 times a week. Both the weight machine and dumbbell rooms are crowded when 5 or more people are in the room working out. Need more space for equipment and benches. Equipment upgrades have been nice. Bathrooms are like in an old school house and need upgrading
- ❖ Update/renovate, enlarge, more rooms for events/classes, more outdoor spaces
- ❖ The Recreation Center building and equipment are outdated, and it is just depressing
- ❖ Continue allowing quilters to use the Recreation Center including storage of equipment
- ❖ The gym/weight rooms could use more space, in particular the room with the free weights. There is truly little room to put a mat down and stretch. Set up is not ideal with having to go from one side of the Recreation Center to the other to get to all weight lifting equipment. There is plenty of aerobic equipment and it is rarely all in use. I do appreciate what there is, both aerobic and weights and I use them several times a week
- ❖ A new or updated building has been proposed in several forms. Please pick a plan and move forward
- ❖ The Recreation Center needs a better flow with their weight room and updated equipment

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- ❖ Upgrades to the gym equipment to provide more variety across different fitness levels
- ❖ Larger facility for the Recreation Center
- ❖ Update all of the Recreation Center
- ❖ Recreation Center needs a major overhaul. Even needs maintenance right now. Air filters are filthy. Floors need to be mopped
- ❖ Needs overhaul – new center
- ❖ Outdoor areas need sprucing up
- ❖ The Recreation Center could use a refresh
- ❖ Need a larger Recreation Center with a larger workout area
- ❖ Recreational facility needs a pool
- ❖ Would love to see the fitness areas of the Creation Center have more room and some select upgraded equipment
- ❖ Recreation Center needs serious updating/rehab
- ❖ The Fitness Center needs improvement and more space! There is not enough room in the weight room or the free weight area
- ❖ Recreation Center needs to be larger, and the air conditioning/heat needs to function correctly. Mature Aerobics is in the large room, and it is ALWAYS too hot in the room, winter or summer
- ❖ Expand the weight room machine offerings
- ❖ The floors are rarely vacuumed – they are littered with dirt. I have made more than one request to address and am consistently told they are cleaned. They are not!
- ❖ Weight room needs updating
- ❖ Please, please, please improve the equipment and facilities at the Recreation Center. Everything is dated and the restrooms are gross
- ❖ I would like to see space provided for storage to the Oak Island Beach Quilters who are a LONG standing group of 35+ years and who do much good in the surrounding area and are who are excellent ambassadors of our island
- ❖ Bigger workout area with more machines
- ❖ The island needs a bigger Recreation Center. A good temporary improvement would be 24/7 keycard access or extended hours

for the weight and cardio equipment. Working 9-6 it is impossible to get in and use the facility if you are not a retiree. Lap pool!!!!

REGISTER PARK FISHING PIER

- ❖ Pier needs maintenance

SW 5TH STREET FLOATING DOCKS

- ❖ Remove the SW 5th Street dock—it is a nuisance
- ❖ Improve boat launch

SHUSTER FISHING TEE

- ❖ Repair storm damaged Shuster Fishing Tee
- ❖ I would like to know when the pier at the end of the west end will be worked
- ❖ West end fishing pier needs to be fixed and reopened ASAP, please
- ❖ Needs more parking

THE POINT

- ❖ Needs more parking
- ❖ More parking at The Point
- ❖ More parking
- ❖ The parking area at The Point can be particularly challenging when it is at capacity or near capacity and that is just because cars nowadays are larger and sometimes when you go in you do not know if all the parking places are taken or not so when you have to back out it is very cumbersome and dangerous in my opinion
- ❖ Additional parking at The Point
- ❖ Better access to The Point
- ❖ The Point is no longer there—just a bit of shifting sand, sadly
- ❖ Stop development at The Point and more green spaces
- ❖ Need restrooms, not disgusting port-o-lets

TIDALWAVES KAYAK & CANOE LAUNCH

- ❖ The bridges over the canal by the Recreation Center are in need of repair

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

- ❖ A canoe launch area would be really nice
- ❖ Doggie bag station at Veterans Park
- ❖ Walkway lighting at Veteran's Park; children's playground similar to Ocean Isle
- ❖ Extended fishing pier at Veterans Park

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- ❖ Would love a kayak launch
- ❖ Needs a station that dispenses doggie bags
- ❖ Need restrooms, not disgusting port-o-lets
- ❖ Update signage
- ❖ Need a nice restroom
- ❖ The ramp at Veterans Park is really nice. Would like to see the same thing done with the boat ramp
- + [YAUPON PARK](#)
 - ❖ No comments
- + [10TH PLACE WEST GAZEBO](#)
 - ❖ A view of the ocean from 10th West accessible sitting area
 - ❖ Add a toilet
- + [30TH PLACE WEST DOCK](#)
 - ❖ 30th Place Boat Ramp cannot be used at low tide. If you try to launch or take out, you will sink to your knees/thighs in mud
 - ❖ 30th Place West is not usable
 - ❖ Fix the dock, please. It has been almost a year
 - ❖ It would be nice if the dock at 30th Place West was repaired and opened again! I used to love to put in my kayak or SUP from there
- + [46TH STREET CABANA OBSERVATION DECK](#)
 - ❖ Bathrooms need updated
 - ❖ Need bathroom facilities at the Cabana that are updated
 - ❖ Access to the deck at the Cabana via ramp not steps
 - ❖ An update of the Cabana would be greatly appreciated
 - ❖ Cabana needs a total makeover of bathroom and changing rooms. More modern and easier to keep clean
 - ❖ The 46th Street bathrooms need total repair. They are embarrassing
 - ❖ The toilets need help
 - ❖ The Cabana could benefit from a kiosk of sort with brochures about local resources and retail options. There needs to be more public toilets on the island and more helpful information at local retail stores about this. Signs saying no public toilets available are not very tourist friendly
 - ❖ Year-round restrooms

57TH PLACE WEST ACCESS BOAT RAMPS

- ❖ Parking has become extremely limited. The Lone Rider Restaurant has marked parking spaces adjacent to the roadway as “Restaurant Parking Only” when GIS maps show the property does not belong to their parcel. Why does the Town of Oak Island allow them to continue doing this???
- ❖ 57th Street launch is dangerous with boats coming from all directions and little parking. Cars without trailers should not be allowed to park where trailers can fit
- ❖ 57th boat ramp needs improvement
- ❖ 57th street ramp needs upgrading
- ❖ 57th boat ramps need to be redone
- ❖ 57th West Boat Ramp could use more parking
- ❖ Adequate parking
- ❖ Fix the launch ramps and better parking
- ❖ 57th West boat ramps have become basically non-functional due to the town not acquiring any land for parking. Now that private docks have been built only usage is for them or someone that lives close and can take their trailer/vehicle back to their house

78TH STREET CRAB DOCK

- ❖ No comments

801 OCEAN EVENT CENTER

- ❖ Town should make a bar/restaurant and catering hall at the 801 Ocean Event Center
- ❖ I think that the 801 Ocean Event Center is underutilized, and the town should consider selling it
- ❖ Would love to see more events at 801 Ocean Event Center...and is it possible to make a small walkway onto the beach from the center of the building...that would showcase the beautiful building a little more...and perhaps entice folks to dream about hosting weddings there, etc.
- ❖ Restrooms need remodeling

GENERAL COMMENTS

- ❖ Better signage on walkovers
- ❖ I would like to see more benches or places to sit down in the shade along Davis Canal
- ❖ Better condition and larger fishing docks

- ❖ More parking
- ❖ Modernize and cleaner restrooms
- ❖ More access to The Point and the Intracoastal Waterway
- ❖ Natural vegetation buffers; solar street lights or at least shaded for minimal wildlife disturbance. More recycling and waste disposal bins to discourage littering
- ❖ We would have stayed longer at the Monday Market had there been more shade
- ❖ Repair the fishing T and dredge/deepen the boat ramp
- ❖ Provide better vehicle and trailer parking at the boat ramp (currently single vehicles use spaces for trailers forcing trailers to park on the street side
- ❖ All parks need to be better identified with signage
- ❖ You cannot use the Davis Canal stairs at the end of W Oak Island Drive because there is nothing else there
- ❖ Need kayaking launch and take out
- ❖ Kayak launch points need to be trailer friendly
- ❖ Would LOVE more kayak launches
- ❖ Would love to see the availability of age and gender appropriate coaching
- ❖ Permanent boat cleats on the ramp dock
- ❖ Designated spot for dog waste at all locations
- ❖ We need longer walk ramps at the handicap beach access points for people and not on an access that has a hill to negotiate on. Hills are not good handicap individuals
- ❖ More resident parking spaces
- ❖ More handicap Beach Accesses
- ❖ More kayak launches are needed
- ❖ Please keep working on the washed out areas along the Intracoastal. Especially, the fishing pier at the west end
- ❖ Oak Island needs to be more ADA compliant, period! The west end of the island needs ADA compliant beach accesses, too. 57th West is where I go, and it would be easy to make it ADA compliant. I have been trying to get this done for almost 4 years! Please do this now! I might not be alive next year!
- ❖ We need more boat ramps. LOTS of boaters on Oak Island
- ❖ Pickleball courts

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- ❖ More kayak launches
- ❖ Would love more kayak launches!
- ❖ Restrooms
- ❖ The free water access decks and docks are wonderful, frequently bike there and sit for sunsets. Upkeep on those and kayak launches would be amazing
- ❖ Where feasible, it would be nice to have a restroom facility at as many locations as possible. I know there are some at a few locations, and some seating areas if possible if not already in certain locations
- ❖ Water access at the dog park would be nice
- ❖ Public pool
- ❖ More crosswalks
- ❖ Boat ramps are good. Adding more would be good since the ones we have are crowded. Any docks and facilities that provide water access are wonderful. Add more of these. Willing to pay tax dollars to make this happen
- ❖ Please advertise more! I have not heard of many of these
- ❖ They can all do with TLC and walkway maintenance
- ❖ Improvements to beach entrance decks, especially Mercer Street, so all can enjoy the beach!
- ❖ More hand cap accessible/ADA services
- ❖ I have visited many of the parks of Oak Island and note that there is no ADA upgrades to any of the parks. I find it very upsetting that the town has ignored this group of people. I would even think that it may be breaking the law at many of the locations
- ❖ I think the city does a great job of managing and maintaining all parks and facilities!
- ❖ Walking crosswalks
- ❖ The boat ramp has massive holes in the ramps on both sides. The rubber bumpers around side are coming off. The ramps need to be repaired worse than anything on the island
- ❖ Accessibility for persons to see the beach with trying to get over a dune with the mobi mat
- ❖ West end park is in serious need of repair
- ❖ Sidewalks along Fish Factory Road

- ❖ I would like to see the playgrounds have the same base as the park on Ocean Isle, instead of mulch
- ❖ SE 9th Street Walkway—trash pick-up in the marsh. I understand there was a chemical spill/dump into the marsh by the walkway—it has been years, and it appears that it has not be mitigated. Perhaps we can get a grant to clean it up?
- ❖ Maintenance needed at boat ramp. Add parking
- ❖ Need an indoor pool for seniors
- ❖ Would love to see our island sponsor/build a Rainbow Bridge to memorialize pets that have passed. We have so many pet lovers on this island. Would be a great addition
- ❖ Would love more kayak launches
- ❖ Maybe a few more resident parking spots, and those great blue mat covered paths from lot to beach
- ❖ Consistent maintenance of all locations
- ❖ Would like to see easier access to launch kayaks on walkways
- ❖ More parking for all locations
- ❖ I am a member of the Oak Island Beach Quilters and attend weekly. New regulations about storing our equipment has been difficult for this elderly group. This is predominantly an elderly, retirement city and you must not forget the importance of social activities for this age group. We do support youth activities and enjoy watching kids play in the splash pad and using the skateboard park among the many physical activities you sponsor. But the quilters donate many \$\$ to charity also
- ❖ Please continue to allow outside groups (such as the Quilters Guild) to use Oak Island space. Also, please continue to set up tables and chairs because most members of the Quilters Guild are elderly and cannot maneuver such heavy items
- ❖ I come to the Oak Island Recreation Center every Wednesday to create charity quilts for the needy of Brunswick County. We could use more support from the center, allowing us to store our supplies on site. We donate more than 400 quilts and other items per year
- ❖ Would like a few resident parking slots available nearer the 46th Street mobi mats. I am a resident, with a parking permit. I drive myself to access points with mobi masts as I am unable to walk

distances or easily uphill and down the sand dune to lung and ankle problems and appreciate having a bathroom nearby. I see the completely empty handicapped lot in off season and hope 1 or 2 spaces near the Cabana may be dedicated for residents with limited ability

- ❖ Offer more trails, walking, and biking paths; offer beginner pickleball clinics and league play. Swimming pool – would be a great addition
- ❖ All dog parks need improvement—more individual dog areas
- ❖ I would like to see a kayak launch at the 19th/20th Street walkway
- ❖ Repair of west dock damaged during storm
- ❖ Would like to see more floating kayak launches for ease of access
- ❖ Parks are in need of maintenance. Most of grounds need to be taking care. Plants and trees should be pruned and in some cases, replaced. Replace benches boards and/or paint/repair
- ❖ Would love to see additional shaded areas with seating at playgrounds
- ❖ Please open the splash pad prior to 10
- ❖ 6th Street has a larger dock for shared use
- ❖ Need more attractions for children or youth
- ❖ Public restrooms
- ❖ Would like more fitness classes
- ❖ Would just like to see more things to play on at the parks.....and most importantly shade covers over the parks to help prevent children and babies from being burned while playing
- ❖ Generally, would like to see current facilities, areas, and parks maintained and aesthetically improved versus adding more
- ❖ Perhaps better promotion of these spaces. Some I have never heard of before
- ❖ Better information on where these facilities are located
- ❖ ICW access points on W Yacht Drive (NW 3rd Street, NE 11th Street)
- ❖ Smaller pocket parks are great. Increase natural habitat in all parks, where wildlife can have a place
- ❖ Would like to see ongoing trash cleanup of bridge shoulders and debris removal from canal along E Pelican Drive. Discarded trash in these areas is not a welcoming site for homeowners and visitors

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- ❖ Dog water stations and more sitting benches
- ❖ Dock repairs on a consistent basis
- ❖ Dog walking
- ❖ Need a pool
- ❖ More kids activities that get kids involved at different parks, nature center, fishing, watersports, etc.
- ❖ Not enough walking trails, need a multi-use path either on the island or Fish Factory road. Why is there no bike path or walking path from Oak Island Mainland to Southport? Fish Factory Road is dangerous to walk or bike. Was run off the road by belligerent boater in the late afternoon. This is a major safety issue and has been brought before the council members numerous times. It has the potential to be a liability for the town. Bicyclist and pedestrians are not encouraged in this town
- ❖ An ADA accessibility audit of all facilities needs to be completed. This audit should not just focus on the legality of access. It should look closely at how someone with mobility issues can actually get to the various facilities. If you, or your loved one was in a wheelchair could you actually get from your car to the facility. Once there, could you get to an ADA accessible restroom or water fountain???
- ❖ Restrooms need to be available on a 24/7 basis – more resident parking
- ❖ More kayak put-ins and take-outs. Specifically, need kayak launch or exit at SW Yacht Street. It is exceedingly difficult to get in or out at that location if you want to paddle the Davis Canal
- ❖ Some of the crossovers looking rough
- ❖ 31st Street walkover needs repair. Trail on Davis Canal needs to be established. It is a hidden gem used by many with no town help
- ❖ I believe that the boat ramp floating docks need to be maintained. Ramps have pot holes, missing or broken cleats
- ❖ The 5th Place West boat ramp needs repair so people can use it
- ❖ Crossover at water tower needs replacing
- ❖ The canal kayak launches are great. BUT we need a “takeout” so that we do not need to loop back against the current. The end of Yacht Drive would be great. The ICW is TOO busy with boats being operated by crazies!!

- ❖ Honestly, I did not know at least half of these existed
- ❖ Add a toilet at 25th E Beach Drive beach access locations. (Old men walking on the beach need a planned place to pee). Note: there is no place on this survey for me to emphasize that indoor recreation facilities including a possible swimming pool should be for adult Oak Island resident citizens only and should NOT be available to grandchildren, guests, or visitors to use. This is particularly important to me
- ❖ Additional kayak launch points at floating docks and canal/intercoastal accesses
- ❖ Would love to see stairs on the NE 4th Intracoastal access
- ❖ More resident parking
- ❖ Maintenance and upkeep
- ❖ Facilities need to be safe for people with disabilities as well as the retirees who live here
- ❖ The only real issue on the island is NO CROSSWALKS so you could SAFELY cross OAK ISLAND AND BEACH. We need a crosswalk on Oak Island Drive at the marsh crossings on the east side badly so extremely dangerous to cross on both roads and another on at approximately 40th Street E. this should be a MAIN priority and should have been here “yesterday”
- ❖ Lifeguards in beach sections
- ❖ 39th Place West launch is unusable at low tide due to thick mud – extend concrete pad
- ❖ More handicapped mobi mats down to the beach area
- ❖ The dock on West Yacht and Oak Island Drive needs to be repaired. It is not accessible with the sink hole, and the dock is completely destroyed

RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS AT EXISTING FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

The actual responses to Q13 are listed in Appendix S.

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- ◆ ***(Q14) Forty-three (43) of the 851 individuals or approximately 1% of the survey participants responded “TOWN DOES NOT NEED TO PROVIDE” when asked, “In your opinion, select up to ten (10) important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks the Town needs to provide in the future. (NOTE: These will require a capital investment)”***
- ◆ ***(Q14) Eight hundred and eight (808) individuals responded with four thousand four hundred and eighteen (4,418) responses to the survey item, “In your opinion, select up to ten (10) important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks the Town needs to provide in the future. (NOTE: These will require a capital investment)” A tally reveals the responses are:***

1) Crosswalks for Pedestrians—536 responses



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2) Greenways—313 responses

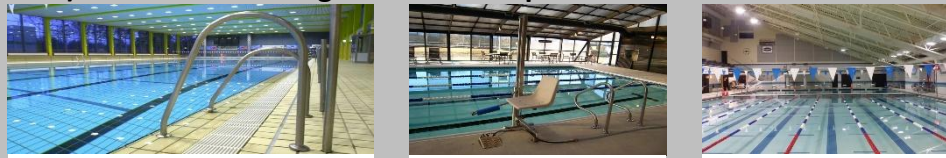
3) Hiking Trails/Paths—340 responses

4) Indoor Recreation Facility—247 responses



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5) Indoor Swimming Pool—314 responses



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6) Kayak Launch Sites—150 responses

7) On-Street Bike Lanes—390 responses



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8) Open and Natural Spaces—237 responses

9) Outdoor Basketball Courts—37 responses

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10) Outdoor Fitness Course—110 responses

11) Outdoor Swimming Pool—236 responses

12) Picnic Shelters—120 responses



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13) Playground Equipment—91 responses



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14) Public Indoor Meeting Space—52 responses

15) Public Restrooms—427 responses



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16) Racquetball Courts—20 responses

17) Sand Volleyball Courts—75 responses



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18) Senior Center—133 responses

19) Sidewalk/Pedestrian Lanes—356 responses



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20) Skate Park—6 responses

21) Small Boat Launch Sites—86 responses

22) Teen Center—60 responses

23) Other—38 responses

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FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
<i>CROSSWALKS FOR PEDESTRIANS</i>	536	66%
<i>PUBLIC RESTROOMS</i>	427	53%
<i>ON-STREET BIKE LANES</i>	390	48%
<i>SIDEWALKS/PEDESTRIAN LANES</i>	356	44%
<i>HIKING TRAILS/PATHS</i>	340	42%
<i>INDOOR SWIMMING POOL</i>	314	39%
<i>GREENWAYS</i>	313	39%
<i>INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY</i>	247	31%
<i>OPEN AND NATURAL SPACES</i>	237	29%
<i>OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL</i>	236	29%
<i>KAYAK LAUNCH SITES</i>	150	19%
<i>SENIOR CENTER</i>	133	16%
<i>PICNIC SHELTERS</i>	120	15%
<i>OUTDOOR FITNESS COURSE</i>	110	14%
<i>PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT</i>	91	11%
<i>SMALL BOAT LAUNCH SITES</i>	86	11%
<i>SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS</i>	75	9%
<i>TEEN CENTER</i>	60	7%
<i>PUBLIC INDOOR MEETING ROOM</i>	52	6%
<i>OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS</i>	37	5%
<i>RACQUETBALL COURTS</i>	20	2%
<i>SKATE PARK</i>	6	1%
OTHER	38	5%

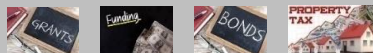
*These responses indicate 99% of the Town of Oak Island residents primarily want recreational facilities, areas, and parks that afford biking, hiking, and walking opportunities and safety, and additional public restrooms and an indoor Recreation Facility with a pool. The “Other” responses to Q14 are listed in **Appendix T**.*

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- ◆ ***(Q15) Sixty-seven (67) of the 851 individuals or approximately 4% of the survey participants responded, “None of these Funding Sources” when asked, “Which of these funding sources would you support to pay for these NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks?”***
- ◆ ***(Q15) Seven hundred and eighty-four (784) individuals responded with one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six (1,886) responses to the question, “Which of these funding sources would you support to pay for these NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” Specific responses are:***
 - **22% responded they would support the funding through a General Obligation Bond Referendum—419 responses**
 - **34% responded they would support the funding through Grants—643 responses**
 - **26% responded they would support the funding through Private Sources—497 responses**
 - **10% responded they would support the funding through a Property Tax Increase—191 responses**
 - **4% responded they would support Other Funding Sources—68 responses**

FUNDING SOURCE	NUMBER OF “YES” RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF “YES” RESPONDENTS
GRANTS	643	34%
PRIVATE SOURCES	497	26%
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM	419	22%
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE	191	10%
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES	68	4%

*The responses to the question regarding funding new and/or additional recreational facilities, areas, and parks provide an excellent window into the funding aspirations of the residents of the Town of Oak Island for any recreational facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island in the future. It is important to note that no option received a positive response of at least 50%. However, Grants at 34%, Private Sources at 26%, and a General Obligation Bond Referendum at 22% each were the favored choices. It is clear that the Town needs to focus on these three (3) funding sources as it builds its parks and recreation program in the future. The “Other” responses to Q15 are found in **Appendix U**.*



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- ◆ ***(Q16) Seventy-two (72) of the 851 individuals or approximately 4% responded “Nothing is Needed/Things are Fine as Is” when asked, “Regarding transforming the Town of Oak Island into a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly Town, what do you think would be the most important accomplishments? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)”***
- ◆ ***(Q16) Seven hundred and seventy-nine (779) individuals responded with one thousand nine hundred and forty-three (1,943) responses to the question, “Regarding transforming the Town of Oak Island into a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly Town, what do you think would be the most important accomplishments? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” A tally reveals the responses are:***
 - 1) Bicycle Lanes—532 responses
 - 2) More Crosswalks & Signage—525 responses
 - 3) Multi-Use Paths—401 responses
 - 4) New Sidewalks—361 responses
 - 5) Other—51 responses

<i>MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS</i>	<i>NUMBER OF “YES” RESPONDENTS</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE OF “YES” RESPONDENTS</i>
<i>BICYCLE LANES</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>68%</i>
<i>MORE CROSSWALKS & SIGNAGE</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>67%</i>
<i>MULTI-USE PATHS</i>	<i>401</i>	<i>51%</i>
<i>NEW SIDEWALKS</i>	<i>361</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>OTHER</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>7%</i>

The Other responses to Q16 are listed in Appendix V.

- ◆ ***(Q17) One hundred and twenty-five (125) of the 851 individuals or approximately 17% responded “HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED ANY RECURRING ISSUES” when asked, “Have you experienced any recurring issues within the Town of Oak Island regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety that need to be addressed? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)”***

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- ◆ ***(Q17) Seven hundred and twenty-six (726) individuals responded with two thousand seven-hundred and thirty-nine (2,739) responses to the question, “Have you experienced any recurring issues within the Town of Oak Island regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety that needs to be addressed? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” A tally reveals the responses are:***

- 1) **Driving at Night is Dangerous due to People Walking Along the Side of the Road—285 responses**
- 2) **Lack of Sidewalks and Pedestrian Lanes Makes it Difficult to Walk—425 responses**
- 3) **Lack of Bike Lanes Makes it Difficult to Bike—400 responses**



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- 4) **Lack of Signage for Bicyclists is a Concern—170 responses**
- 5) **Lack of Signage for Pedestrians is a Concern—217 responses**



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- 6) **Seasonal Traffic Backing Up Behind Bicycles is a Recurring Issue—186 responses**
- 7) **Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Beach Drive—132 responses**
- 8) **Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Dolphin Drive—63 responses**
- 9) **Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Pelican Drive—44 responses**
- 10) **Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Holly Drive—53 responses**
- 11) **Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Oak Island Drive—144 responses**
- 12) **Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Yacht Drive—186 responses**
- 13) **Those on Bicycles Need Lights or Bells to Better Alert Motorists and Pedestrians—210 responses**
- 14) **Other—99 responses**

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RECURRING ISSUE	NUMBER OF "YES" RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF "YES" RESPONDENTS
<i>LACK OF SIDEWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN LANES MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO WALK</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>LACK OF BIKE LANES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO BIKE</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>DRIVING AT NIGHT IS DANGEROUS DUE TO PEOPLE WALKING ALONG THE SIDE OF THE ROAD</i>	<i>285</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>LACK OF SIGNAGE FOR PEDESTRIANS IS A CONCERN</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>THOSE ON BICYCLES NEED LIGHTS OR BELLS TO BETTER ALERT MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>SEASONAL TRAFFIC BACKING UP BEHIND BICYCLISTS IS A RECURRING ISSUE</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED ON YACHT DRIVE</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>LACK OF SIGNAGE FOR BICYCLIST IS A CONCERN</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED ON OAK ISLAND DRIVE</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED ON BEACH DRIVE</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED ON DOLPHIN DRIVE</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED ON HOLLY DRIVE</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED ON PELICAN DRIVE</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>6%</i>
<i>OTHER</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>14%</i>

The Other responses to Q17 are listed in Appendix W.

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Survey respondents were asked to utilize a scale of 1 – 8 to indicate his or her agreement or disagreement with a series of nine (9) statements with “1” indicating “Totally Disagree” and “8” indicating “Totally Agree.”

✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—SATISFACTION WITH VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES**

◆ ***(Q18) Eight hundred and forty (840) individuals responded to the statement “The VARIETY of the programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is appropriate”. The responses are:***

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—6 responses (.7%)
- “2”—9 responses (1%)
- “3”—23 responses (3%)
- “4”—64 responses (8%)
- “5”—127 responses (15%)
- “6”—244 responses (29%)
- “7”—192 responses (23%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—175 responses (21%)

Approximately eighty percent (88%) or 738 of the 840 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a strong positive level of satisfaction with the variety of programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Topsail. Only approximately 12% of the respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction. The weighted average is 6.2.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
6	244	29%
7	192	23%
8	175	21%
5	127	15%
4	64	8%
3	23	3%
2	9	1%
1	6	.7%



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES**

◆ ***(Q19) Eight hundred and thirty-five (835) individuals responded to the statement “The QUALITY of programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is appropriate”. The responses are:***

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—7 responses (1%)
- “2”—7 responses (1%)
- “3”—26 responses (3%)
- “4”—60 responses (7%)
- “5”—112 responses (13%)
- “6”—223 responses (27%)
- “7”—202 responses (24%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—198 responses (24%)

Approximately eighty-eight percent (88%) or 535 of the 835 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a strong positive level of satisfaction with the quality of programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island. Only approximately 12% of the respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction. The weighted average is 6.3.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
6	223	27%
7	202	24%
8	198	24%
5	112	13%
4	60	7%
3	26	3%
2	7	1%
1	7	1%



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF THE FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**

◆ ***(Q20) Eight hundred and thirty-nine (839) individuals responded to the statement “I am satisfied with the QUALITY of facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department”.***

The responses are:

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—23 responses (3%)
- “2”—27 responses (3%)
- “3”—52 responses (6%)
- “4”—92 responses (11%)
- “5”—140 responses (17%)
- “6”—212 responses (25%)
- “7”—156 responses (19%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—137 responses (16%)

Approximately seventy-seven percent (77%) or 645 of the 839 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a positive level of satisfaction with the quality of the facilities, areas and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department. Only approximately 23% of the respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction. The weighted average is 5.7.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
6	212	25%
7	156	19%
5	140	17%
8	137	16%
4	92	11%
3	52	6%
2	27	3%
1	23	3%



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—BIKE FRIENDLY/A SAFE PLACE TO BIKE**

◆ **(Q21)** *Eight hundred and thirty-seven (837) individuals responded to the statement “I believe the Town of Oak Island is bike friendly/a safe place to bike”. The responses are:*

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—94 responses (11%)
- “2”—78 responses (9%)
- “3”—110 responses (13%)
- “4”—137 responses (16%)
- “5”—171 responses (20%)
- “6”—134 responses (16%)
- “7”—57 responses (7%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—56 responses (7%)

Approximately fifty (50%) or only 418 of the 837 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a low level of satisfaction with the ability to bike safely in the Town of Oak Island. The 2 lowest ratings were “7” and “8”. The weighted average is 4.3.



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RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
5	171	20%
4	137	16%
6	134	16%
3	110	13%
1	94	11%
2	78	9%
7	57	7%
8	56	7%



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY/A SAFE PLACE TO WALK**

◆ ***(Q22) Eight hundred and forty-two (842) individuals responded to the statement “I believe the Town of Oak Island is pedestrian friendly/a safe place to walk”. The responses are:***

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—89 responses (11%)
- “2”—83 responses (10%)
- “3”—92 responses (11%)
- “4”—131 responses (16%)
- “5”—147 responses (17%)
- “6”—148 responses (17%)
- “7”—90 responses (11%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—62 responses (7%)

Approximately fifty-three (53%) or 447 of the 842 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a relatively low level of satisfaction with the ability to walk safely in the Town of Oak Island. The weighted average is 4.5.



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RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
6	148	17%
5	147	17%
4	131	16%
3	92	11%
7	90	11%
1	89	11%
2	83	10%
8	62	7%



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—ACCESSIBLE PLACE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS**

◆ ***(Q23) Eight hundred and two (802) individuals responded to the statement “I believe the Town of Oak Island is an accessible place for persons with disabilities and other special needs”. The responses are:***

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—63 responses (8%)
- “2”—68 responses (9%)
- “3”—85 responses (11%)
- “4”—111 responses (14%)
- “5”—157 responses (20%)
- “6”—152 responses (19%)
- “7”—94 responses (12%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—72 responses (9%)

Approximately fifty-nine percent (59%) or 475 of the 802 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a relatively low level of satisfaction with the Town of Oak Island’s accessible for persons with disabilities and other special needs. The weighted average is 4.8.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
5	157	20%
6	152	19%
4	111	14%
7	94	12%
3	85	11%
8	72	9%
2	68	9%
1	63	8%



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—EXISTING FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD**

◆ *(Q24) Eight hundred and forty-five (845) individuals responded to the statement “I believe the existing facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet the needs of the members of my household”. The responses are:*

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—32 responses (4%)
- “2”—51 responses (6%)
- “3”—68 responses (8%)
- “4”—102 responses (12%)
- “5”—136 responses (16%)
- “6”—190 responses (22%)
- “7”—149 responses (18%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—117 responses (14%)

Approximately seventy percent (70%) or 592 of the 845 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a marginally high level of satisfaction with the belief the existing facilities, areas and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island meet the needs of the members of the household. **The weighted average is 5.4.**

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
6	190	22%
7	149	18%
5	136	16%
8	117	14%
4	102	12%
3	68	8%
2	51	6%
1	32	4%



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—EXISTING PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD**

◆ *(Q25) Eight hundred and thirty-nine (839) individuals responded to the statement “I believe the existing programs, services, events, and activities provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet the needs of the members of my household”. The responses are:*

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—20 responses (2%)
- “2”—29 responses (3%)
- “3”—61 responses (7%)
- “4”—93 responses (11%)
- “5”—138 responses (16%)
- “6”—214 responses (26%)
- “7”—158 responses (19%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—126 responses (15%)

Approximately seventy-six percent (76%) or 636 of the 839 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates a relatively high level of satisfaction with the belief the existing programs, services, events and activities provided by the Town of Oak Island meet the needs of the members of the household. The weighted average is 5.6.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
6	214	26%
7	158	19%
5	138	16%
8	126	15%
4	93	11%
3	61	7%
2	29	3%
1	20	2%

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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—IMPORTANCE OF THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PROVIDING NEW AND/OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**

◆ ***(Q26) Eight hundred and thirty-nine (839) individuals responded to the statement “I believe it is important the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department provides new and/or improved recreational facilities, areas, and parks in the future”. The responses are:***

- “1” (Totally Disagree)—29 responses (3%)
- “2”—26 responses (3%)
- “3”—26 responses (3%)
- “4”—56 responses (7%)
- “5”—103 responses (12%)
- “6”—135 responses (16%)
- “7”—168 responses (20%)
- “8” (Totally Agree)—296 responses (35%)

Approximately eighty-four percent (84%) or 702 of the 839 respondents marked either a “5”, “6”, “7” or “8” to the statement which indicates an extremely positive level of satisfaction with the belief it is important the Town of Oak Island provides new and/or improved recreational facilities, areas, and parks. The weighted average is 6.3.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RRESPONDENTS
8	296	35%
7	168	20%
6	135	16%
5	103	12%
4	56	7%
1	29	3%
2	26	2%
3	26	2%



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The Weighted Averages of the responses to these nine (9) statements indicate the residents of the Town of Oak Island **agree** with six (6) of the statements and **disagree** with three (3) of the statements.

AGREE:

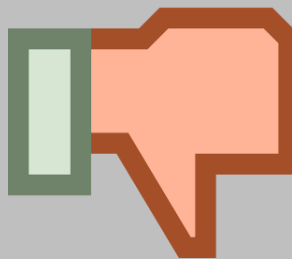
- 1) *The variety of the programs, services, events, and activities offered is appropriate (6.27 Weighted Average) (Q18)*
- 2) *The quality of the programs, services, events, and activities offered is appropriate (6.3 Weighted Average) (Q19)*
- 3) *I am satisfied with the quality of the facilities, areas, and parks provided (5.7 Weighted Average) (Q20)*
- 4) *The existing facilities, areas, and parks meet the needs of the members of my household (5.4 Weighted Average) (Q24)*
- 5) *The existing programs, services, events, and activities meet the needs of the members of my household (5.6 Weighted Average) (Q25)*
- 6) *I believe it is important that the Town of Oak Island provides new and/or additional recreational facilities, areas, and parks (6.3 Weighted Average) (Q26)*



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DISAGREE:

- 1) *I believe the Town of Oak Island is bike friendly/a safe place to bike (4.3 Weighted Average) (Q21)*
- 2) *I believe the Town of Oak Island is pedestrian friendly/a safe place to walk (4.5 Weighted Average) (Q22)*
- 3) *I believe the Town of Oak Island is an accessible place for persons with disabilities and other special needs (4.8 Weighted Average) (Q23)*



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—DEPARTMENTAL OVERALL GRADE FOR WHETHER OR NOT PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS MEET THE RESPONDENTS NEEDS**

◆ ***(Q27) Eight hundred and fifty-one (851) individuals responded to the statement, “Using the scale below, please give the Town an overall grade as to whether the programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks provided meet your needs and the needs of your household. (MARK ONLY ONE).” The responses are:***

- Poor—2%—20 responses
- Fair—8%—69 responses
- Average—24%—208 responses
- Good—52%—441 responses
- Excellent—13%—113 responses

Approximately 90% of the respondents gave the Town of Oak Island an overall grade of “Average”, “Good” or “Excellent” in terms of whether the programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks meet his/her needs and the needs of his/her household. That is an excellent rating from the respondents! Approximately 13% rated the Town “Excellent.” The highest rating was “Good” with approximately 52%. Only approximately 2% of the respondents rated the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department “Poor.” The Town should aim to increase the “Excellent” score to at least 25%. The Weighted Average is 3.7 (A grade of Average Plus).

RATING ON OVERALL QUALITY	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
GOOD	441	52%
AVERAGE	208	24%
EXCELLENT	113	13%
FAIR	69	8%
POOR	20	2%



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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—METHODS FOR RAISING ALL RATINGS TO Q27 TO AT LEAST A “GOOD” RATING**

- ◆ ***(Q28) There were two hundred and seventy-two (272) respondents to the question, “If you answered the previous question with a grade below that of “Good” – what would it take to raise your rating to at least “GOOD?”. The top responses in priority order are the need:***

- 1) **For Improved Infrastructure for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Including Sidewalks, Bike Paths, Crosswalks, Lighted Pedestrian Crossings, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, and Regular Maintenance to Provide Bikers and Walkers a Safe Experience—211 responses**



- 2) **For a New, Expanded, Modern, Multi-Function, Multi-Purpose, and Comprehensive Indoor Recreation Facility—61 responses**
- 3) **For Additional Public Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities at Access Sites and Town Facilities, Areas, and Parks that are ADA Accessible/Compliant, and Available 24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week—the Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities Should also Include a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station—16 responses**
- 4) **For a Swimming Pool—15 responses**
- 5) **For all Town Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks to be ADA Accessible/Compliant and Conform to Universal Design Standards and Guidelines—15 responses**
- 6) **For Additional Water Access and Small Boat and Kayak Launches—7 responses**
- 7) **For the Town to Address the Issue of Golf Carts Utilizing Town Streets, Sidewalks, and Bike Lanes—7 responses**
- 8) **For the Town to Address the Issue of the Speed Limits on all Town Streets and Roads—7 responses**
- 9) **For the Recreation Department to Provide Additional Programs, Services, Events, and Activities Before 9:00 AM and After 5:00 PM in Order to Accommodate Working Individuals—7 responses**

*A full listing of responses to Q28 is included in **Appendix X**.*

The responses to this question provide valuable information regarding methods the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department staff can utilize to raise respondents’ overall ratings as to whether the programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks provided meet their needs.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—BEST METHODS FOR INFORMING INDIVIDUALS ABOUT PROGRAM, SERVICES, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

◆ *(Q29) There were two thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine (2,929) responses from 851 respondents to the statement, “The best method/methods for informing me and the members of my household about upcoming and planned Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department programs, services, events, and activities is/are. (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” The responses are:*

- Brochures/Flyers—5% (133 responses)
- Calendar—6% (172 responses)
- Direct Mail—3% (89 responses)
- Electronic Newsletter—14% (413 responses)
- Email—18% (515 responses)
- Newspaper—4% (115 responses)
- Outdoor Digital Sign—7% (200 responses)
- Phone—.5% (14 responses)
- Social Media—16% (483 responses)
- Text Message—8% (238 responses)
- Town Website/OKInformation—19% (547 responses)
- Other—.4% (9 responses) (See Appendix Y)

COMMUNICATION METHOD	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
TOWN WEBSITE/OKIINFO	547	64%
EMAIL	515	61%
SOCIAL MEDIA	483	57%
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER	413	49%
TEXT MESSAGE	238	28%
OUTDOOR DIGITAL SIGN	200	24%
CALENDAR	172	20%
BROCHURES/FLYERS	133	16%
NEWSPAPER	115	14%
DIRECT MAIL	89	10%
PHONE	14	2%
OTHER	10	1%

The responses to this question provide valuable information regarding methods the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department staff can utilize to communicate information regarding programs, services, events and activities to the residents. The five (5) most popular methods for communicating information as identified by the respondents are 1) Town Website/OKInformation (64%), 2) Email (61%), 3) Social Media (FB/IG) (57%), 4) Electronic Newsletter (49%), and 5) Text Message (28%).

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✓ INPUT IDENTIFICATION—ONE THING NEEDED TO DO BETTER OR ONE FACILITY NEEDED TO ADDED

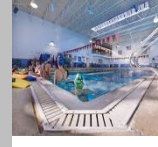
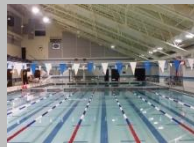
- ◆ ***(Q33) Five hundred and twenty (520) individuals responded to the statement, “If you could tell the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department ONE thing, they need to do better, or ONE recreational facility, area, or park they need to add, it would be”. The top responses in priority order are the need:***

- 1) For a New, Expanded, Modern, Multi-Function, Multi-Purpose, and Comprehensive Indoor Recreation Facility—119 responses
- 2) For Improved Infrastructure for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Including Sidewalks, Bike Paths, Crosswalks, Lighted Pedestrian Crossings, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, and Regular Maintenance to Provide Bikers and Walkers a Safe Experience—110 responses



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- 3) For a Swimming Pool—52 responses



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- 4) For Additional Public Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities at Access Sites and Town Facilities, Areas, and Parks that are ADA Accessible/Compliant, and Available 24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week—the Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities Should also Include a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station—18 responses
- 5) For Additional Water Access and Small Boat and Kayak Launches—14 responses
- 6) For the Recreation Department to Provide Additional Programs, Services, Events, and Activities Before 9:00 AM and After 5:00 PM in Order to Accommodate Working Individuals—10 responses
- 7) For All Town Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks to be ADA Accessible/Compliant and Conform to Universal Design Standards and Guidelines—8 responses
- 8) For the Town to Address the Issue of the Speed Limits on all Town Streets and Roads—7 responses
- 9) For the Town to Provide a “Pet Memorial Rainbow Bridge”—6 responses

A full listing of responses to Q33 is included in Appendix Z.

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✓ **INPUT IDENTIFICATION—ANY ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO CURRENT TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS**

◆ ***(Q34) Three hundred and thirty-one (331) individuals responded to the statement, “Please state any additional improvements/enhancements to current Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks that would improve/enhance your overall parks and recreation experience”. The top responses in priority order are the need:***

- 1) For Improved Infrastructure for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Including Sidewalks, Bike Paths, Crosswalks, Lighted Pedestrian Crossings, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, and Regular Maintenance to Provide Bikers and Walkers a Safe Experience—99 responses
- 2) For a New, Expanded, Modern, Multi-Function, Multi-Purpose, and Comprehensive Indoor Recreation Facility—56 responses
- 3) For a Swimming Pool—34 responses
- 4) For Additional Public Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities at Access Sites and Town Facilities, Areas, and Parks that are ADA Accessible/Compliant, and Available 24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week—the Restroom Facilities/Changing Facilities Should also Include a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station—18 responses
- 5) For the Recreation Department to Provide Additional Programs, Services, Events, and Activities Before 9:00 AM and After 5:00 PM in Order to Accommodate Working Individuals—11 responses
- 6) For Additional Greenspace, Open Space, and Parks—10 responses
- 7) For Additional Water Access and Small Boat and Kayak Launches—9 responses



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- 8) For All Town Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas, and Parks to be ADA Accessible/Compliant and Conform to Universal Design Standards and Guidelines—7 responses
- 9) For the Town to Address the Issue of the Speed Limits on all Town Streets and Roads—7 responses
- 10) For the Town to Provide a “Pet Memorial Rainbow Bridge”—7 responses



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A full listing of responses to Q34 is included in **Appendix AA**.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT COMMENTS

The public input revealed consistent results leading to the establishment of consistent themes throughout the various stages of the process (meetings with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; meetings with the Town staff; the formal public forum sessions; interviews; the focus group session; and the survey. While each stage of the process was not identical to the others and some input stages identified stronger desires, wants and needs for specific programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks than others, the overall direction for future improvements and expansion of the Town of Oak Island was relatively parallel among all phases of the process. The priorities identified through public input were also consistent with the deficiencies and needs noted during the consultant’s analysis, evaluation, and assessment of the Town’s current parks, recreation and open space system. The most consistent themes arising from the entire needs’ assessment process are the need to:

- ✓ **Acquire any and all available land contiguous to existing parks and recreational facilities, areas, and parks**
- ✓ **Acquire any and all available land on the mainland that is suitable for parks and recreation purposes**
- ✓ **Construct a new, improved, and expanded Multi-Purpose, Multi-Functional, Comprehensive, Indoor Recreation Facility**
- ✓ **Provide new programs, services, events, and activities, especially those associated with the out-of-doors and the environment**
- ✓ **Provide a safe, practical, and comprehensive Non-Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Transportation Network and System**
- ✓ **Establish a comprehensive Marketing, Advertising, and Publicity Program for all programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town**
- ✓ **Provide Additional Water Access Facilities for Kayaks, Small Boats, and Pedestrians**
- ✓ **Ensure Appropriate ADA Designated Public Access Sites are in Compliance**

***SUMMARY OF PUBLIC
INPUT COMMENTS***

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS COMMUNITY STUDIES AND ASSESSMENTS

2006 Oak Island BikePed Plan

A review of the **2006 Oak Island BikePed Plan** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

+ BENEFITS OF BICYCLING

- Transportation Benefits
- Increased Health and Fitness Benefits
- Environmental Improvements
- Economic Benefits
- Quality of Life

+ FOCUS OF PLAN

- Focuses on improving and expanding the Town’s infrastructure to support safe, accessible, and efficient walking and biking

+ PLAN KEY OBJECTIVES

- Enhancing safety by addressing traffic concerns
- Improving pedestrian and cyclist access to key areas such as beaches, parks, and commercial zones
- Promoting non-motorized transportation as a sustainable alternative

+ PLAN PROPOSALS

- A network of bike lanes, sidewalks, and multi-use paths that link residential neighborhoods with recreational and commercial destinations
- Emphasizes educating the public on the benefits of walking and biking, encouraging more residents and visitors to use these modes of transportation

+ PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address existing gaps in infrastructure
- Improve signage and crossing points
- Ensure compliance with ADA (American with Disabilities Act) standards

+ IN GENERAL, THE PLAN ALIGNS WITH THE BROADER GOALS OF

- Enhancing quality of life
- Reducing vehicle congestion
- Promoting healthy living through active transportation options

**2006 OAK ISLAND
BIKEPED PLAN**

Town of Oak Island: Comprehensive Land Use Plan—January 10, 2017

A review of the **Town of Oak Island: Comprehensive Land Use Plan—January 10, 2017** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/456/637205045692430000>

✚ BENEFITS OF RECREATION FACILITIES

- The top three (3) assets selected by the survey responders were: beach (an overwhelming 93% selected “beach” as one of the top 3 assets); family atmosphere (54.6%); and established tree canopy (26.3%). Further information was gleaned from the top three (3) issues selected by the responders: sewer debt (with 59.3% selecting it as one of the top 3 issues); beach erosion (52.8%); and appearance of commercial areas (34.8%)
- The assets and issues identified during the survey process point to awareness that protecting the environment – particularly the beach and the tree canopy – and preserving the cultural heritage is critical and that it must be accomplished and funded with a clear plan in place

✚ GOALS

- **Goal 1:** In all decisions/actions, Oak Island will address the impact on its quality of life and maintenance of a “family beach” atmosphere
- **Goal 2:** Oak Island will continuously support and pursue funding options for effective beach renourishment
- **Goal 3:** Oak Island will protect the Town’s tree canopy in all pertinent deliberations
- **Goal 4:** Oak Island will support improvements to its community appearance as an important tool for economic development and neighborhood preservation
- **Goal 5:** Oak Island will consider the fiscal impact on the Town and its citizens in all deliberations
- **Goal 6:** Oak Island will support fiscally responsible expansions of its recreational opportunities
- **Goal 7:** Oak Island will support fiscally responsible increases in its multi-modal transportation opportunities
- **Goal 8:** Oak Island will address, in all deliberations, any negative environmental impact on the Town
- **Goal 9:** Oak Island will support robust enforcement and improve consistency in its code enforcement programs

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Goal 10:** Oak Island will strive to expand economic development within its jurisdiction

EXISTING CONDITIONS—PARKS AND RECREATION

- Current Needs Identified by the Parks and Recreation Staff include:
 - ◆ New Future Park
 - ✓ Playground
 - ✓ Kayak/Canoe Launch
 - ✓ Splash Pad
 - ◆ Recreation Center Expansion
 - ✓ Gymnasium
 - ✓ Fitness Center
 - ✓ Aerobics Room
 - ✓ Office Space
 - ✓ Storage
 - ◆ Greenways/Bike Paths Throughout the Town
 - ◆ Additional Mainland Park Facility
 - ◆ Beach and Marsh as Public Trust Areas

AESTHIC ENHANCEMENTS

- ◆ Many areas of Oak Island have an exceptional aesthetic character and provide an inviting atmosphere for residents, visitors, and tourists. Throughout much of Oak Island, and particularly on the island portion of town, an abundant tree canopy is present, parks are situated within walking distance, with gridded streets lending to walkability. All these elements enhance the human scale features of Oak Island's built environment. The presence of these elements not only creates a more pleasing aesthetic environment but also yields benefits in the form of higher property tax revenues. Investing in public realm improvements that encourage walkability and enhance the visual interest of the built environment are hallmarks of desirable communities across the state
- ◆ Unfortunately, much of the development that has occurred throughout the country over the last sixty years has been tailored to the automobile. In fact, when Oak Island (Long Beach/Yaupon Beach) was just coming of age, so was our fascination with the automobile. As a result, few considerations were given to ensuring the built environment favored walkability. Elements of the automobile scale-built environment can be found in nearly every community in North Carolina and the nation. This form of the built environment is characterized by development that is designed to cater to the automobile. Large signage, expansive off-street parking, and a lack of facilities for alternative forms of transportation are all symptoms of an

automobile oriented built environment. In many communities, prescriptions for improving these areas is through the addition of landscape material, the reduction of parking requirements, and changes to signage requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCEMENT

- ◆ Regulatory requirements can be utilized by a jurisdiction to improve the overall look and feel of the built environment. Many cities and towns require landscape and vegetative improvements to coincide with nonresidential or multi-family development. This is particularly true on high volume commercial corridors. These high-volume commercial corridors are often in need of aesthetic enhancement due to their design to accommodate the automobile. Requirements for off-street parking create vast pavement expanses that diminish the quality of the built environment from both an environmental and aesthetic standpoint. In many communities, the most undesirable locations are commercial corridors. In fact, “Appearance of Commercial Areas” was identified as one of the top three issues in Oak Island
- ◆ Currently, Oak Island does not require landscape material to be installed as non-residential development occurs (except for instances where a parking lot is provided that includes ten or more spaces). A vegetation plan is required but is limited to the replacement and preservation of specimen trees. No requirements are in place that necessitate the installation of trees or vegetation along the street right-of-way line of non-residential development. The street right-of-way line is the primary location from which visitors, residents, and tourists examine the aesthetics of a given community or commercial district. If the town is genuinely interested in improving its visual appeal, particularly in areas of commercial use, then an expanded landscape section should be provided in the proposed Unified Development Ordinance. Specific items and/or considerations to be included as part of an enhanced landscape ordinance are listed below:
 - ✓ Street yard requirements for non-residential and multi-family residential development to include screening options. The primary component of the street yard would be the screening of the parking facility and visual enhancement of the development. Street trees would be included as part of the street yard requirement. See the narrative to the right regarding benefits of street trees for more information
 - ✓ Enhance buffer yard requirements between non-residential and residential development (responsibility of non-residential development). A menu of buffer yard types should be provided as part of the ordinance

- ✓ Plant listing is categorized by shrub and tree sizes. Due to Oak Island's location on the coast, it is important to install plant species that are salt and drought tolerant. Thus, the plant list should also identify salt and drought tolerant species
- ✓ Should the town wish to enhance only the commercial areas, such as Oak Island Drive, Long Beach Road, Middleton Road, and NC 211, then an overlay district can be applied to improve aesthetics in those key areas

TREE PRESERVATION

- ◆ Retaining Oak Island's tree canopy is extremely important to the residents of the town. In fact, the established tree canopy was identified as one of the top three assets that exist in Oak Island. Various mechanisms can be utilized to retain tree canopy on undeveloped lands in with the town's planning jurisdiction. New tree growth can also be encouraged or required through landscape ordinances
- ◆ Oak Island is also a member of Tree City USA and is one of more than 3,400 communities across the USA that earned the designation of being a Tree City USA. Oak Island has been designated as a Tree City USA for 18 years, longer than any other barrier island along the NC coast. The island itself has a larger forested area than any other barrier island in Brunswick County
- ◆ The Tree City USA program has been "greening up" cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees
- ◆ In Oak Island, a "Vegetation Management Program" currently exists within the Town Ordinances. The purpose of the tree and vegetation preservation program is to provide a means to preserve and manage natural areas and specimen trees in the community. The objectives of the program are as follows:
 - ✓ Maintain and enhance property values
 - ✓ Preserve and enhance the visual appearance of the town
 - ✓ Preserve unique and productive coastal habitats
 - ✓ Reduce the impacts of development on the town's stormwater system
 - ✓ Assist the town in preserving and enhancing the quality of its estuarine waters
 - ✓ Help create and protect the protective dune systems
- ◆ A vegetation plan is to be submitted for the issuance of a development or building permit, in which the species and location of all trees are five inches caliper at breast height and greater must be noted

- ◆ Based on the tremendous public support for tree preservation, the ordinance requirement should be refined to provide a more clear and enforceable mechanism for maintaining natural vegetation in Oak Island. The following items are suggested to enhance the “Vegetation Management Program”:
 - ✓ Require tree protection standards for preserved trees
 - ✓ Create a tree removal permit process
 - ✓ Place greater emphasis on tree preservation. Incentivize the preservation of trees through a more stringent replacement schedule
 - ✓ Clarify replacement schedule for removed trees
 - ✓ Define and provide clarity regarding “essential site improvements”
 - ✓ Increase the civil penalty for unauthorized tree removal
 - ✓ Provide a tree replacement species list

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- ◆ Parks and Recreation—the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of updating the parks and recreation master plan. Recommendations for future improvements will be included in the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Needs identified by the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) and recreation department staff are provided below:
 - ✓ New Island Future Park
 - Playground
 - Kayak/Canoe Launch
 - Splash Pad
 - ✓ Recreation Center Expansion
 - Gymnasium
 - Fitness Center
 - Aerobics Room
 - Office Space o Storage
 - ✓ Greenways/bike paths throughout the Town
 - ✓ Additional mainland park facility
 - ✓ Maintain beach and marsh as public trust areas
 - ✓ Provide ICWW access via the NC 133 bridge and the EF Middleton Boulevard bridge

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAVEL

- ◆ Town residents have expressed a desire to increase the availability of non-motorized facilities within the town. As mentioned previously, a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan was created for the town in 2006. Currently, no pedestrian plan exists for the town. However, planning grants are available through NCDOT to create a Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. There is a demonstrated need for pedestrian facility

enhancements within the corporate limits, particularly on the island, including pedestrian control lights. One of the primary concerns identified by the public is the danger associated with crossing Oak Island Drive. No dedicated crossing facilities currently exist for pedestrians. It should be noted that pedestrian countdown signals can be installed only at signalized intersections such as NE 58th and Oak Island Drive. However, to reduce safety concerns and crossing distances, medians can be installed intermittently throughout the business district to allow pedestrians to cross Oak Island Drive in two stages

- ✓ Potential Crossover SS 5th or SW 6th Street
- ✓ Greenway Proposed for South Side of Oak Island Drive
- ✓ Sidewalks Proposed for North Side of Oak Island drive
- ✓ NE 58th Street and Oak Island Drive: High Visibility Crosswalks/Pedestrian Countdown Signal
- ✓ Sidewalks Proposed for North Side of Oak Island Drive
- ✓ Greenway Proposed for South Side of Oak Island Drive

OCEAN AND ESTUARINE ACCESS

- ◆ In 2012, an Ocean and Estuarine Access Plan was prepared to identify additional locations for accessing public trust waters. It should be noted that the plan was accepted by the Town Council but not formally endorsed through adoption. The plan is included as a reference but not as specific recommendation(s). Parking, beach and waterway access, and non-motorized access points were all inventoried as part of the process. Primary access issues and recommendations from the plan are provided below. Area sites should be increased/standardized, and the 2012 plan updated. The updated plan should be prepared using the following recommendations for reference.

- ✓ Access Issues
 - Request NCDOT to permit use of areas
 - Under Swain's Cut Bridge (shoreline and lot)
 - Old bridge roadbed adjacent to State 133
 - Additional parking at NE 55th Street boat ramp
 - No improved water access facility on mainland (Bill Smith Park) – kayak launch/fishing pier
 - Bill Smith Park
 - No signs with hours of use posted on piers, fishing Ts, or walkovers for all recreational areas as required per Town ordinance
 - Identify funding for beach renourishment
 - Accommodations tax
 - Additional ad valorem tax

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Paid parking
- Establish process for increasing access sites
- Selected CAMA Land Use Plan projects
 - Yacht Drive Sidewalk Project (proposed)
 - Walkover west of Middleton (proposed)
- ✓ Recommendations—Ocean Access (OAR)
 - **OAR 1:** It is recommended that the Town provide the necessary funding to maintain in good repair all existing ocean access sites, their associated existing parking facilities, and existing amenities
 - **OAR 2:** As a general management principle, it is further recommended that the Town neither acquire new ocean and estuarine access sites nor expand existing beach facilities unless all existing facilities are in good repair
 - **OAR 3:** It is recommended that the Town temporarily increase from 2% to 3% the amount of revenue received from the 6% Accommodations Tax (Brunswick County receives 1% and Oak Island receives 5%) that is restricted to beach renourishment
 - **OAR 4:** It is recommended that the Town evaluate the cost and benefits of constructing a Cabana at The Point on Town-owned property at the ocean-side access site
 - **OAR 5:** Only six ocean access sites have one or more reserved handicapped parking spaces. It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments reevaluate the number and distribution of ocean access handicapped parking
- ✓ Recommendations—Estuarine Access (EAR)
 - **EAR 1:** It is recommended that demand for capital expenditures for ocean and estuarine access site improvements be determined through:
 - A survey mailed to every household in Oak Island and to non-resident property owners
 - A voter survey/referendum every two years on capital spending that includes cost data for potential improvements in ocean and estuarine access sites
 - **EAR 2:** It is recommended that the construction of walkovers across Davis Canal west of Middleton be withdrawn from the Town’s CAMA Land Use Plan
 - It could impair navigation in the deeper waters of Davis Canal

- It could violate the right of navigational in public trust waters rights
 - Its construction would affect the appurtenant easement rights of property owners along the access street
 - **EAR 3:** It is recommended that when funds become available, a single pier with a floating dock at the unimproved access site in Bill Smith Park be given a high priority for funding
 - **EAR 4:** It is recommended that the Town increase the amount of parking for vehicles with attached trailers in the immediate proximity of the NE 55th Street boat ramp. The limited parking at the site has resulted in underutilization of the boat ramp
 - **EAR 5:** It is recommended that the Town provide the necessary funding to maintain its boat ramps in good repair
 - **EAR 6:** It is recommended that the Waterway Park’s multi-use concept of a small park with a boat ramp be abandoned. A more compatible option is a recreational park with a scenic vista and with an enhanced fishing potential through the ongoing construction of a “living shoreline” using bagged oyster shells and marl
 - **EAR 7:** It is recommended that an agreement with NCDOT be negotiated to allow improvements to the old Oak Island Bridge roadbed adjacent to State Road 133 and Swain’s Cut Bridge so fishermen can access these areas for bait casting, crabbing, and fishing
 - **EAR 8:** It is recommended that the Town comply with its ordinance controlling the hours of use for parks and recreational areas and facilities
- ✓ Recommendations—Ocean Site Selection (OSSR)
- **OSSR 1:** It is recommended that when unbuildable oceanfront lots become available, the Town will follow **the** recommended procedures for acquiring new access sites
 - Establish need for additional access and parking
 - Investigate funding assistance from federal and state sources to determine affordability
 - **OSSR 2.** If an unbuildable oceanfront lot becomes available and is considered for purchase, the loss of the discounted lifetime revenue stream from property taxes will be considered in the cost of acquisition.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ✓ Recommendations—Estuarine Site Selection (ESSR)
 - **ESSR 1:** It is recommended that the Town’s estuarine and ICW access policy give priority to street-end access improvements at locations where adjacent property owners consider the project as an improvement to their quality of life
 - Most property owners along the street-end **should** agree, as increased traffic on their street-end would affect their quality of life and appurtenant easement rights
 - **ESSR 2:** It is recommended the highest priority for selection of estuarine access sites should be State or Town-owned property adjacent to the ICW or creek/waterways
 - Second, in priority are access locations where both property owners at the street-end and residents along the street-end would welcome the building of a pier with floating dock or a fishing T
 - Where property owners do not welcome construction of a pier with floating dock, fishing T, or other structure, the following priorities are recommended when selecting an access site and exercising the power of eminent domain to legally acquire the street-end property:
 - Waterfront lots on street-ends that have vacant lots on both sides of the street
 - Waterfront lots on street-ends that have one vacant lot and one house adjacent to the street end
 - Last in preference and priority, street-ends that have houses on both sides of the street-end
 - **ESSR 3:** When seeking to improve or acquire new public access to ocean, ICW, and estuarine waters:
 - First, establish the need for more improved access sites
 - Identify candidate access sites
 - Determine affordability and adverse consequences if not funded
 - Perform cost-benefit analyses of the proposed candidate projects
 - Rank and order/sort the candidate projects based on their cost effectiveness

- **ESSR 4:** Analyze unimproved candidate estuarine access sites for:
 - Spatial separation to avoid access redundancy
 - Population density (cost effectiveness)
 - Environmental impact
 - Topography (slope) suitability
 - Stormwater runoff and erosion
 - Estuary suitability (right of navigation in public trust waters)
- **ESSR 5:** It is recommended that Fishing Ts that are more suitable for handicap access by their design (as opposed to piers with ramps to floating docks whose slope is subject to the tide) be alternated with piers with floating docks
- **ESSR 6:** To improve the water quality of Public Trust waters, it is recommended that where possible in choosing among candidate access improvement project locations, preference will be given to selecting streets with the most severe stormwater runoff problem and the worst street-end bank erosion so that the improvement can fix the stormwater issues at these sites
- **ESSR 7:** It is recommended that any improvements made to an access site will:
 - Correct and stabilize the existing street erosion along the street
 - Stabilize the bank of the creek or waterway and marsh at the street-end
 - Further the Town's compliance with the requirements of its stormwater permit
- **ESSR 8:** It is recommended that the Town's Stormwater Director maintain a list of ICW and estuarine street-ends and adjacent lots with the most severe erosion. This list will also include a list of street-end access sites where improvements (bulkheads, piers, etc.) contribute to stormwater runoff and erosion problems for public trust waters

HABITAT CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ In consideration of the extensive valuable wildlife habitat areas located in Oak Island's jurisdiction, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission recommends the following considerations for future development:
 - ✓ Crafting conservation development standards or incentives
 - ✓ Density bonuses and other incentives to protect riparian and wetland forest buffers and habitat corridors

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ✓ Establish a 100-foot protection buffer outside of conservation areas on the mainland on each side of perennial streams in order to conserve aquatic life and water quality
- ✓ Require major development (100 parcels or larger) to employ Low Impact Development techniques to treat stormwater onsite using the natural topography and vegetation
- ✓ Utilize the NCWRC Green Growth Toolbox as a guide for future development

MANAGEMENT GOALS, PLANNING OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

◆ PUBLIC ACCESS

- ✓ Management Goal—Maximize public access to the beaches and the public trust waters of the coastal region
- ✓ Planning Objectives—Policies that address access needs and opportunities, with strategies to develop public access and provisions for all segments of the community, including persons with disabilities. Oceanfront communities shall establish access policies for beach areas targeted for nourishment
- ✓ Implementing Actions
 - **I.1** The Town will seek state and federal grants to offset the cost associated with acquiring, rehabilitating, and improving public access
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.2** The Town will maintain traditional public recreational uses of “The Point.” The Point is the westernmost end of Oak Island formed by the Lockwood Folly River, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Eastern Channel
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.3** The Town will pursue programs and funding for **the** maintenance and improvement of publicly owned T-shaped fishing piers
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.4** The Town will provide public beach access and parking that meet the US Army Corps of Engineer standards for participation in beach renourishment projects
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.5** Marina operators within the Town’s jurisdiction **will** be encouraged to participate in Best Practice Operating Programs such as the “Clean Marina” program sponsored by the NC Division of Coastal Management and the NC Marine Trade Services organization and will be required to provide pump-**out** facilities

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.6** The Town encourages the development of new upland marinas and supports the rebuilding of existing marinas if damaged by storms. Upland **marinas are** marinas located on the landward side of an estuarine shoreline, requiring dredging, but no dredging/alteration of wetlands or estuarine habitat and providing flushing by tidal or wind generated water circulation. (For detailed definition, refer to 15A NCAC 7H.0208(b)(5))

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.7** The Town encourages marina operators to apply for grants that may be available to help pay for pump-out facilities or other environmental improvements

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.8** The Town will work in conjunction with state agencies focused on boating access efforts, e.g., North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.9** The Town will investigate mechanisms, programs, and funding to maintain the ocean fishing pier, including UDO provisions that would protect existing uses, and prohibit major change in uses or expansion **Schedule: *High***

- **I.10** The Town and Beach Preservation Society will conduct a “Beach User” survey during a summer season to determine problems and opportunities that may exist based on the experiences of “typical” beachgoers. The survey results will provide the basis for needed changes and improvements to existing and proposed shoreline access sites

Schedule: *High*

- **I.11** The Town will prepare (with or without state and/or federal funding) an Ocean and Estuarine Access Plan to address, at a minimum, the following:
 - Review of the law regarding Appurtenant Easement Rights
 - Provision of a Cost Benefit analysis to prioritize projects on a Need basis
 - Priorities for funding of existing and proposed public access facilities
 - Additional facilities for recreational boating
 - Standards for floating docks, boat ramps, and/or parking areas associated with public access sites

that will address stormwater runoff, water quality, aesthetic concerns, and adequate water depth at low tide

Schedule: High

- **I.12** The Town will develop an ordinance to regulate mooring fields and floating structures. The ordinance should prohibit floating homes, boats, or other watercraft used as a permanent or temporary residence for more than 30 days

Schedule: Medium

- **I.13** The Town will review, evaluate, and improve existing ocean and estuarine waterway access for people with disabilities

Schedule: Medium

- **I.14** The Town will develop a brochure that identifies accessible beach, and estuarine waterway access, and parks for people with disabilities

Schedule: Medium

◆ LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

- ✓ Management Goal—Ensure that development and use of resources, or preservation of land balance protection of natural resources and fragile areas with economic development, avoid risks to public health, safety, and welfare, and are consistent with the capability of the land
- ✓ Planning Objectives—Policies that characterize future land use development patterns and establish mitigation criteria and concepts to minimize conflicts
- ✓ Implementing Actions
 - **I.18** The Town will maintain the zoning of open space areas, such as marshes and other environmentally sensitive lands, and expand where possible. The Town has an Open Space zoning district
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.20** The Town will prepare a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to consolidate all Town land use regulatory documents including the following ordinances: Zoning, Subdivision, Flood, Sedimentation and Erosion Control, Stormwater, and Vegetation Management
Schedule: High
The UDO should provide/accomplish, at a minimum, the following:

- A simpler, more flexible, and more easily administered regulatory document
 - Improvement in and increase of sidewalk requirements
 - Greater clarity for landscaping/tree/screening requirements (increase landscape requirements including: tree protection/preservation, reducing tree damage during construction, replacing trees lost during construction, planting trees on construction sites where trees do not exist, and long-term maintenance of trees); coordination with the NC Forestry Service grant
 - Requirement of bike racks at all multi-family and commercial developments
 - Addition of regulations for food trucks
 - Inclusion of open space zoning district
- ◆ **INFRASTRUCTURE CARRYING CAPACITY**
- ✓ Management Goal—Ensure that public infrastructure systems are appropriately sized, located, and managed so that quality and productivity of AECs and other fragile areas are protected or restored
 - ✓ Planning Objectives—Policies that establish service criteria and ensure improvements minimize impacts to AECs and other fragile areas
 - ✓ Implementing Actions
 - **I.22** The Town will seek Federal, State and County funding for community facilities and infrastructure needs
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.29** The Town will continue to maintain a Capital Reserve Fund which will be based on an annually approved Capital Improvements Plan
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.30** The Town will review and encourage implementation of the 2006 Oak Island Bicycle Transportation Plan and update the plan as NCDOT funding may become available
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.31** As NC Department of Transportation enhancement grants become available, the Town will actively pursue these grant funds for the purpose of establishing or re-establishing bike paths along Town roadways such as

Yacht Drive as well as vegetation along all state-maintained roads

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.32** The Town supports the following roadway improvements which were identified by the CPAC:
 - An access management plan should be created for EF Middleton Boulevard in concert with the Town and NCDOT
 - The speed limit on E. Oak Island Drive should be evaluated. A request should be made to NCDOT to conduct a speed limit study of all state-maintained roads on the island
 - The feasibility of a roundabout at the intersection of Oak Island Drive and NC 133 should be assessed
 - The need for additional crosswalks on all state-maintained roads needs to be assessed

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.35** The Town recognizes the value of water quality maintenance for the protection of its previously described fragile areas and for the provision of clean water for fishing and recreational purposes. The Town will support existing local and state regulations relating to stormwater runoff resulting from development (Stormwater Disposal Policy 15A NCAC 2H.001-.1003)

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.40** For pedestrian safety, the Town will support and request NCDOT to consider the following safety improvements at major intersections and mid-block crossovers:
 - Thermoplastic crosswalk markings
 - Pedestrian countdown signals
 - Mast arm traffic signal pole with underground utilities
 - ADA curb ramps
 - Continue the sidewalk along E. Oak Island Drive from 79th Street to Country Club Drive (NC 133)

Schedule: *High*

- **I.41** The Town will apply to NCDOT for funding to prepare a pedestrian access/transportation plan, including development of a system of sidewalks throughout the community

Schedule: High

- **I.43** The Town was preparing a Parks & Recreation Master Plan concurrently with the preparation of this plan. That plan should address the following:
 - New future park: playground, kayak/canoe launch, splash pad
 - Recreation center expansion: gymnasium, fitness center, aerobics room, office space, storage
 - Greenways/bike paths throughout the Town
 - Additional mainland park facility
 - Maintain beach and marsh as public trust areas
 - Provide ICWW access via the old bridge site.

When adopted, the recreation plan will become functional extension of this plan

Schedule: High

- **I.45** The Town will provide bike racks at all municipal buildings

Schedule: Medium

◆ **WATER QUALITY**

- ✓ Management Goal—Maintain, protect, and where possible, enhance water quality in all coastal wetlands, rivers, streams, and estuaries
- ✓ Planning Objectives—Policies that establish strategies and practices to control nonpoint source pollution and maintain or improve water quality
- ✓ Implementing Actions
 - **I.69** The Town will undertake tree and vegetative enhancement projects on public property
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.72** The Town will support actions to reduce stormwater runoff and associated pollution to all public trust waters (ocean beaches, waterways, and estuaries) from all public areas (such as streets, parking lots, access areas, and ramps) and private properties (impervious surfaces)
Schedule: Continuing, High
 - **I.82** The Town will seek local legislation to regulate personal watercraft operation in the Davis Creek/Montgomery Slough Complex and Eastern Channel
Schedule: Low

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ **LOCAL CONCERNS**—In addition to the CRC Management Topics outlined above, CAMA guidelines also allow for the inclusion of policies to address local areas of concern:
 - ✓ Implementing Actions
 - **I.84** The Town will continue to provide beach wheelchairs for people with disabilities
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.85** The Town will continue to support the educational and stewardship efforts of the Oak Island Parks & Recreation
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.86** The Town will actively pursue NC Department of Transportation Enhancement Grants and other grant opportunities to protect specimen trees and establish and/or re-establish trees along the main corridors of the Town
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.88** The Town will encourage physical activity and wellness
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.89** The Town will provide outlets for physical activity
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.91** The Town will pursue programs and funding for the maintenance and improvement of the ocean fishing piers
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.92** The Town will support non-regulatory actions and/or opportunities for the preservation of the ocean fishing piers
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.93** The Town supports the Brunswick Shoreline Protection, which includes the towns of Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Oak Island, Ocean Isle Beach, and Sunset Beach. The Town will support the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, and will actively participate in the North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association, and the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
Schedule: Continuing
 - **I.95** The Town will use all available resources for the Town’s beach preservation program. The Town will work with state and federal agencies to ensure that

these resources are used in the most effective manner to further the Town's beach preservation goals. Alternative sand sources will be investigated

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.96** The Town will improve enforcement of the beachfront lighting ordinance and make recommendations to minimize impacts to turtle nesting/hatching. The Town will review and update the existing applicable ordinances

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.97** The Town will work to develop an education program for residents and visitors concerning the lighting impact on sea turtles nesting and shore birds

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.102** The Town will support federal, state and county funding for maintenance of inlets, waterways and beaches

Schedule: *Continuing*

- **I.113** The Town will provide routine maintenance of the beach by removal of garbage, trash and debris

Schedule: *Continuing, High*

- **I.116** The Town strongly encourages overall land use and development patterns that support retention of the Oak Island small town character, its existing quality of development, and its family atmosphere, including limited mixed use

Schedule: *Continuing, High*

- **I.117** The Town will inventory open space, actively pursue grants and funding opportunities, develop, and implement a plan to acquire and preserve open space and environmentally fragile areas throughout the Town

Schedule: *Continuing, High*

- **I.118** The Town will continue to update, maintain, and seek additional recreational facilities appropriate to the present and future populations. This includes but is not limited to – recreational buildings, playing fields, tennis courts, pool, golf course, basketball courts, playgrounds, and walking/jogging/biking paths. This task will be reflected/supported in the Town's Recreation Master Plan

Schedule: *High*

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **I.120** The Town mandates development practices that preserve important environmental features, provide a high-quality living environment, address transportation needs, and emphasize compatibility with neighboring residential areas

Schedule: High

- **I.122** The Town will preserve its tree canopy and coordinate with the NC Forestry Service Urban and Community Forestry Program on the preparation of a tree preservation plan and update of its tree preservation requirements in the preparation of the town's UDO

Schedule: High

- I.126 The Town will consider conducting a branding study

Schedule: Medium

The highlights of the recommendations and needs as identified by the Town of Oak Island Comprehensive Land Use Plan—January 10, 2017 in a non-priority order are:

- 1) The top three (3) Town of Oak Island Assets are:
 - a. The Beach
 - b. The Family Atmosphere
 - c. The Established Tree Canopy
- 2) Existing Conditions/Community Facilities—Parks and Recreation—Identified by the Parks and Recreation Department Staff and the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)
 - a. New Island Future Park
 - i. Playground
 - ii. Kayak/Canoe Launch
 - iii. Splash Pad
 - b. Recreation Center Expansion
 - i. Gymnasium
 - ii. Fitness Center
 - iii. Aerobics Room
 - iv. Office Space
 - v. Storage
 - c. Greenways/Bike Paths Throughout the Town
 - d. Additional Mainland Park Facility
 - e. Maintain Beach and Marsh as Public Trust Areas

- f. Maintain ICWW access via the NC 133 Bridge and the EF Middleton Boulevard Bridge
- 3) Town was built for automobiles and not for walkability
- 4) Retaining Oak Island's tree canopy is extremely important to the residents of the Town
- 5) Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel
 - a. Town residents have expressed a desire to increase the availability of non-motorized facilities with the Town
 - b. Pedestrian Crosswalks are needed:
 - i. Potential Crossover SS 5th or SW 6th Street
 - ii. Greenway Proposed for South Side of Oak Island Drive
 - iii. Sidewalks Proposed for North Side of Oak Island Drive
 - iv. NE 58th Street and Oak Island Drive: High Visibility Crosswalks/Pedestrian Countdown Signal
 - v. Sidewalks Proposed for North Side of Oak Island Drive
 - vi. Greenway Proposed for South Side of Oak Island Drive

***TOWN OF OAK
ISLAND
COMPREHENSIVE
LAND USE PLAN—
JANUARY 10,
2017***

2021 NC 211 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study, August 2021

A review of the **2021 NC 211 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study, August 2021** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

[NC-211-East Coast Greenway Feasibility Report.pdf](#)

+ PURPOSE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

- The purpose of this report is to assess the feasibility of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the NC 211 corridor (Southport-Supply Road) and to develop an implementation plan that fits the overall vision of incorporating alternative modes of transportation in eastern North Carolina. Brunswick County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and is experiencing intense development challenges. The 17-mile NC 211 corridor proposed for this study is currently a two to three lane Minor Arterial that stretches from Fort Fisher Ferry, in Southport, to Stone Chimney Road. Proposed plans for this road include widening to a four-lane facility funded by the NC Department of Transportation

+ PROJECT VISION

- To evaluate the corridor’s ability to accommodate dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities and to maximize its potential as an integral segment of the East Coast Greenway and the state bike route system

+ PROJECT SEGMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTING THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND

➤ SEGMENT 3

- ◆ Segment 3 Begins at Southport-Supply Road (NC-211) with a crossing at the intersection and then continues down the west side of East Middleton Boulevard. Segments 2A, 2B, and 2C intersect this alignment. The roadway would be modified just before, on the bridge over and just after the Intracoastal Waterway to eliminate a southbound vehicular lane and replace it with the trail and a barrier to protect users. Both north bound lanes will be preserved for emergency evacuation. Segment 3 stays within the Right of way for the most part and minimal easements are required

❖ PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- Project Location: E Middleton Boulevard
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 4.11 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2031

➤ **SEGMENT 4**

- ◆ This segment follows Oak Island Drive on the north side of the road between East Middleton Boulevard and County Club Drive. There is an existing sidewalk on the south side of the road, and this segment would serve the north side. The Right-of-Way becomes narrow towards the eastern end where there is more commercial activity, and coordination will need to take place with all the property owners to navigate the parking lots and driveways of business. Segment 7A is an alternative that may be considered once the trail reaches 79th Street to avoid many of the conflicts approaching County Club Drive

❖ **PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- Project Location: E Oak Island Drive
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 5.28 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2025

➤ **SEGMENT 5**

- ◆ Segment 5 continues the Multi-Use Path along Southport-Supply Road (NC-211) from East Middleton Boulevard to Doshier Cutoff, running on the north side of the road. Unfortunately, the NCDOT R-5021 project is already underway and was grandfathered in without any complete street accommodations. R-5021 is a widening project on NC-211 from Midway Road to River Road (NC-87). The recommendation is to pursue this segment after segments 3, 4, and 6 as one of the last pieces of this project to complete the network. Portions of this segment may need to be built to connect Long Beach Road and Doshier Cutoff as part of other segments

❖ **PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- Project Location: Southport-Supply Road
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 6.15 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2025

➤ **SEGMENT 6**

- ◆ Segment 6 connects back up to Southport-Supply Road (NC-211) from Oak Island along NC-133. It begins on the east side of Country Club, within the Right-of-Way, and follows the road to the bridge. Part of this segment will be shifting lanes on the bridge and eliminating the center

painted median lane. This would allow for the trail to hug the east side of the bridge. Additional evaluation will need to take place to determine the structural capacity for a raised trail surface and permanent barrier to protect trail users from vehicular traffic. Once on the north side of the Intracoastal Waterway, the trail would follow Long Beach Road within the Right-of-Way all the way to NC-211. There are a lot of challenges along Long Beach, and this is another good project to tackle with a future road widening/improvement project and leveraging the complete streets policy. There is limited Right-of-Way and a lot of driveways to cross

❖ PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- Project Location: Long Beach Road SE
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 4.03 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2025

➤ SEGMENT 7A

- ◆ This segment was designed as an alternative to Segment 4 and help to avoid the congestion along the east end of Oak Island Drive. Live Oak Drive is a low volume, low speed road through a residential neighborhood and would provide an easier through trail that would connect to Country Club and the trail heading north

❖ PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- Project Location: Live Oak Drive
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 1.15 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2025

➤ SEGMENT 7B

- ◆ This segment serves the residents of Caswell Beach and provide an opportunity to have a Multi-Use Path along Caswell Beach Road where there currently are no sidewalks. The segment starts at Live Oak Drive and follows the east and south side of the road all the way to the end of the State maintained portion at the gate to Fort Caswell

❖ PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- Project Location: Caswell Beach Road
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 3.32 miles

- Estimated Construction Year: 2036

➤ **SEGMENT 8A**

- ◆ Segment 8A connects into Segment 6 on the north side of the Intracoastal Waterway bridge at the intersection of Vanessa Drive. This segment was developed as an alternative to the north of Segment 6 along Long Beach Road and avoid many of the conflicts and provide a more scenic route. A Multi-Use Path follows the Right of Way on the south side of Vanessa Drive through the Oak Island Golf Course and then crosses Fish Factory Road to connect with Dutchman’s Creek boat ramp and park. The trail then follows the water north and connects to William S. Smith County park. A boardwalk then crosses the marsh and Calf Gully Creek and follows along the waterway on Duke Energy property and eventually connecting to Southport-Supply Road (NC-211) just west of the road bridge over the waterway. The waterway is maintained for the Brunswick County Nuclear Plant and there are existing maintenance roads that may lend themselves to reducing the project footprint. Coordination with Duke Energy and the Power Plant will need to continue to determine the extents of what will be allowable. Segment 8A is the preferred first segment for implementation in making this project a reality and should be made the priority in funding, designing, and construction

❖ **PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- Project Location: Easement
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 3.32 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2025

➤ **SEGMENT 8B**

- ◆ Segment 8B provides an alternative to connect to Southport-Supply Road (NC-211) at the intersection with Swain Boulevard. This would eliminate some costly structures to cross Dutchman Creek and also reduce some clearing and environmental impacts

❖ **PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- Project Location: Easement
- Project Type: Sidepath/MUP
- Length of Project: 0.86 miles
- Estimated Construction Year: 2025

The highlights of the recommendations and needs as identified by the 2021 NC 211 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study, August 2021 in a non-priority order are:

- 1) Improvements to the full length of N.C. 211
- 2) Connection between N.C. 211 and E Middleton Road
- 3) Improvements to E Middleton Road
- 4) Improvements to E Oak Island Drive from E Middleton Road to Long Beach Road SE
- 5) Improvements to Country Club Drive and Long Beach Road SE
- 6) Improvements to Live Oak Drive
- 7) Improvements to Caswell Beach Road

2021 NC 211 EAST COAST GREENWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Town of Oak Island 2023 Community Survey: Findings Report

A review of the **Town of Oak Island 2023 Community Survey: Findings Report** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1999/638400436052830000>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Purpose**—The Town of Oak Island administered a survey to residents, seasonal residents, property owners, business owners and visitors to Oak Island in November 2023. The purpose of the survey is to help the Town gather input from the community on a wide range of issues impacting overall quality of life
- **Recreation**—The recreation resources that received the highest ratings, based upon the combined percentage of “excellent” or “good” responses among respondents who had an opinion, were: the cost of recreational programs in the town (91%), the quality of Town parks (90%), the availability of recreation programs (88%), and the quality of recreational programs (88%). **Respondents were least satisfied with the availability of information about recreational programs and events (84%)**
- **Transportation**—The aspects of transportation that received the highest ratings, based upon the combined percentage of “excellent” or “good” responses among residents who had an opinion, were: ability to predict travel time to places in the Town (75%), ease of walking places in Town (62%), overall traffic flow in the Town (58%), availability of parking (53%), overall condition of Town sidewalks (48%). **Respondents were least satisfied with the availability of bicycle lanes (18%), availability of electric vehicle charging (22%), overall maintenance of Town streets (40%), and availability of sidewalks (43%)**
- **Top Priorities**—Respondents were asked to identify what the Town’s top priority should be in the next year. Key findings included, in order of number of mentions: Growth/Development, Infrastructure/Roads, **Beach Preservation and Nourishment, Recreation Center, Pedestrian Safety/Crosswalks/Sidewalks**, Environmental Protection, **Parking**, Taxes, Water and Sewer Issues, **Traffic/Speed Limits**, Affordable Housing, Public Safety, Enforcement of Rules/Ordinances, Communication, Business District Improvements

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- When asked “What are your three preferred sources for receiving information about the Town of Oak Island?,” the top responses were:
 - ◆ **Town website; Town social media; The Current; Local Newspaper; and OKInformation**
- When asked to rate the quality of the following, the responses were:
 - ◆ **Availability of recreational programs in the Town**
 - ❖ Excellent—23.68%
 - ❖ Good—64.37%
 - ❖ Below Average—8.94%
 - ❖ Poor—3.02%
 - ◆ **Cost of recreational programs in the Town**
 - ❖ Excellent—27.71%
 - ❖ Good—62.74%
 - ❖ Below Average—5.03%
 - ❖ Poor—4.52%
 - ◆ **Quality of recreational programs in the Town**
 - ❖ Excellent—22.24%
 - ❖ Good—65.24%
 - ❖ Below Average—8.98%
 - ❖ Poor—3.55%
 - ◆ **Quality of Town Parks**
 - ❖ Excellent—24.31%
 - ❖ Good—65.98%
 - ❖ Below Average—7.15%
 - ❖ Poor—2.57%
 - ◆ **Availability of information about recreational programs and events**
 - ❖ Excellent—18.65%
 - ❖ Good—65.75%
 - ❖ Below Average—10.93%
 - ❖ Poor—4.68%
- **When asked to rate the quality of the following, the responses were:**
 - ◆ **Overall condition of sidewalks**
 - ❖ Excellent—6.48%
 - ❖ Good—57.52%
 - ❖ Below Average—30.09%
 - ❖ Poor—16.46%

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- ◆ **Availability of sidewalks**
 - ❖ Excellent—5.24%
 - ❖ Good—37.60%
 - ❖ Below Average—30.09%
 - ❖ Poor—27.08%
- ◆ **Availability of bicycle lanes**
 - ❖ Excellent—2.30%
 - ❖ Good—15.26%
 - ❖ Below Average—34.79%
 - ❖ Poor—47.64%
- ◆ **Ease of walking places in the Town**
 - ❖ Excellent—27.01%
 - ❖ Good—11.77%
 - ❖ Below Average—24.79%
 - ❖ Poor—36.34%
- ◆ **Ease of biking places in the Town**
 - ❖ Excellent—10.76%
 - ❖ Good—49.11%
 - ❖ Below Average—20.49%
 - ❖ Poor—19.63%

➤ **When analysis of the various themes mentioned by respondents is conducted, the following are the most frequent themes:**

- ◆ Growth/Development—536 Mentions
- ◆ Infrastructure/Roads—306 Mentions
- ◆ Beach Preservation—259 Mentions
- ◆ **Recreation Center—173 Mentions**
- ◆ **Pedestrian Safety/Crosswalks/Sidewalks—169 Mentions**



These images were downloaded from the Creative Commons Online picture site

- ◆ Environmental Protection—148 Mentions
- ◆ Parking—136 Mentions

The highlights of the recommendations and needs as identified by the Town of Oak Island Community Survey 2023 in a non-priority order are:

- 1) Respondents were not satisfied with the availability of information about recreational programs and events
- 2) Respondents were not satisfied with the availability of bike lanes
- 3) Respondents were not satisfied with the availability of sidewalks
- 4) Respondents believed Beach Preservation/Nourishment, the Recreation Center, Pedestrian Safety/Crosswalks/Sidewalks, Parking, and Traffic Speed/Limits should be included in the Town's top priorities
- 5) Respondents stated their preferred sources for receiving information about the Town of Oak Island were the Town website, Town social media, The Current, Local Newspaper, and OKInformation
 - ◆ This is in contrast with the Master Plan Survey results which show the preferred sources were the Town Website (OKInformation), Email, Social Media, Electronic Newsletter, and Text Message
- 6) Respondents believe the quality of the availability of recreational programs is high—88.05%
- 7) Respondents believe the quality of the cost of recreational programs is high—90.45%
- 8) Respondents believe the quality of the quality of recreational programs is high—87.48%
- 9) Respondents believe the quality of Town Parks is high—90.29%
- 10) Respondents believe the overall condition of sidewalks is low—46.55%
- 11) Respondents believe the availability of sidewalks is low—57.17%
- 12) Respondents believe the availability of bicycle lanes is low—82.43%
- 13) Respondents believe the ease of walking places in Town is low—61.13%
- 14) Respondents believe the ease of biking places in Town is low—40.12%

***TOWN OF OAK ISLAND
2023 COMMUNITY
SURVEY: FINDINGS REPORT***

Town of Oak Island, NC 2020 – 2025

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

A review of the Town of Oak Island, NC 2020 – 2025 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan yielded the following information pertinent to the Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan:

<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/682/637937403154361623>

+ Recommendations—Land Acquisition—2020 – 2025

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Acquisition of land appropriate and suitable for a comprehensive, safe and functional non-vehicular pedestrian, walking, hiking and bicycle transportation network and system**

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No land acquisitions occurred.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Acquisition of land appropriate and suitable for a Neighborhood Park at the west end of the island**

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTYED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No land acquisition occurred.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Acquisition of land appropriate and suitable for public access and amenities to the oceanfront beach, creeks, sounds, estuarine waters, canals, and marshes in and surrounding the Town of Oak Island**

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No land acquisitions occurred.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

LAND ACQUISITION

✚ **Recommendations—Facility, Area, and Park Development—2020 – 2025**

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The planning, implementation, and development of a safe, practical and comprehensive network and system of non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation between and connecting public facilities, areas, parks, residential areas, commercial areas and service areas within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction and connecting the Town of Oak Island to St. James Plantation, Southport and Boiling Spring Lakes. This system and network would include sidewalks, marked pedestrian crossings, pedestrian crosswalks, user education and enlightenment, biking paths, walking trails, hiking trails, greenways and other pedestrian and non-vehicular corridors

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is currently following the Brunswick County plan but has done little on its own.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The construction, operation and maintenance of a Neighborhood Park at the west end of the island

✓ **STATUS:NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No progress has been made.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The inspection of all pedestrian crossovers spanning the Davis Canal, and the repair or replacement of those crossovers determined to be unsafe or damaged

✓ **STATUS:IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

All of the recommendations were completed: the inspections occurred, and the repairs and/or replacements completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The inspection of all oceanfront beach dune crossovers and accesses and the repair or replacement of those dune crossovers and accesses determined to be unsafe, damaged or not meeting American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Universal Design (UD) standards

✓ **STATUS:IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

All of the recommendations were completed: the inspections occurred, and the repairs and/or replacements completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The construction of two (2) sand volleyball courts on the oceanfront beach within the town limits of the Town of Oak Island

✓ **STATUS:NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No progress has been made.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The provision of additional and improved public restroom facilities, outdoor shower facilities and outdoor foot washing facilities that comply with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Universal Design (UD) standards and regulations

✓ **STATUS:IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

All of the recommendations were complete: a foot wash and showers were installed at Middleton Park that are accessible; a shower was added to the Cabana which is accessible from the parking lot; and a bathroom trailer was installed in the lot at Middleton Park.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



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- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—The need and recommendation to continue the upgrading and modernization of existing parks, areas and facilities such as:

- **Middleton Park and Middleton Park Extension**

- ◆ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of one (1) tennis practice backboard at each of the four (4) existing tennis courts; Installation of Shade Sails over the existing splash pad; Installation of Shade Sails or some other shading device over the existing outdoor amphitheater; Placement of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in strategic locations throughout the parks; Construction of a permanent restroom facility with outdoor showers and outdoor foot washing facilities in the area utilized for the outdoor amphitheater; Placement of water fountains in strategic locations within the parks; Marking a second protected pedestrian crossing from the beach access parking lot to the beach access and the Cabana; Installation of Wi-Fi capability within the parks; and, Installation of several cell phone charging stations in strategic locations within the parks

- ✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No permanent trash receptacles were installed; no additional bathrooms were installed; no additional protected path from the beach was constructed; no cell phone charging stations were installed; installation of the bottle filling stations is in progress; and none of the other recommendations were completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **William S. Bill” Smith Park**

- ◆ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of a permanent restroom facility near the kayak launch; Repair of the Salty Dog Park fencing; Installation of dog water fountains in the Salty Dog Park; Construction of a sand volleyball court in the open field near the kayak launch which currently has volleyball posts but no net and no designated volleyball court; Construction of an outdoor amphitheater in the open field near the kayak launch; Installation of two (2)

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covered playground structures—one (1) for youth ages 2 – 5 years old and one (1) for youth ages 5 – 12 years old; Installation of permanent trash receptacles in strategic locations throughout the park; Installation of Wi-Fi capability within the park; Installation of several cell phone charging stations in strategic locations within the park; and Renovation and enhancement of the existing disc golf course

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No permanent trash receptacles were installed; no additional bathrooms were installed; unable to add a dog water fountain due to the spraying out at the park; some of the fencing was repaired; volleyball poles were removed; there are no plans to construct a new volleyball court at the park; there are no plans for playgrounds at the park; Wi-Fi was not installed nor were cell phone charging stations; the disc golf course was renovated; and the tees were enhanced.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

○ **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch**

◆ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of permanent trash receptacles in strategic locations

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No permanent trash receptacles were installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

○ **Heron Lookout**

◆ **RECOMMENDATION**—Construction of a shade cover over the existing swing bench; and Installation of two (2) additional shade covered swing benches

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

No shade cover was installed, and no swing benches were installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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- [57th Place West Access Park](#)

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Construction of permanent public restroom facility with outdoor shower facility and foot washing facility; Installation of permanent trash receptacles in strategic locations; and Installation of bike racks

✓ ***STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED***

The permanent public restroom facility with outdoor shower facility and foot washing facility was not installed; permanent trash receptacles were not installed; and bike racks were not installed

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [May Moore Park](#)

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Construction of a picnic shelter on the existing concrete slab; Installation of an actual kayak launch amenity off the existing floating dock; and Installation of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in strategic locations throughout the park

✓ ***STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED***

The picnic shelter was not constructed; the kayak launch was not installed; and no permanent trash receptacles were installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [Yaupon Park](#)

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Construction of a permanent public restroom facility with outdoor shower facility and foot washing facility; Installation of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in strategic locations; Installation of bike racks; and Construction of shade covers over the existing bench swings and picnic table

✓ ***STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED***

The bike racks were installed but none of the other recommendations were completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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- The Point

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Investigation of methods for increasing public parking at the site; and Construction of a permanent public restroom facility with outdoor shower facility and foot washing facility

- ✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

All of the recommendations were completed: the Public Works Department conducted a parking study and designated several new parking spaces; a permanent facility for the porta johns with a shower was constructed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Commissioner’s Observatory Park

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in strategic locations

- ✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The trash and recycling receptacles were not installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Hannah A. Templeton Park

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Removal of the existing concrete slab and inclusion of that area in a newly created Dog Park; Construction of an actual fenced Dog Park with all the appropriate amenities; and Installation of drinking fountains for people and for dogs

- ✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY/IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The concrete slab is still there but it is being used as a platform for a port a john structure; fountains were not installed; and the fencing is chain link.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Veterans Park

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of a kayak launch amenity; Construction of a picnic shelter with picnic tables and barbeque grills; Installation of drinking fountains in strategic locations; Installation of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

strategic locations; Installation of a demonstration Rain Garden; and Installation of Wi-Fi capability within the park

✓ STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

The kayak launch was not installed; a picnic shelter was constructed but without barbeque grills; a drinking fountain has been ordered and will be installed when it arrives; no permanent trash receptacles were installed; no Rain Garden was installed; and Wi-Fi was not installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

○ Register Park Fishing Pier

❖ RECOMMENDATION—Replacement of the slate rock walkway and wooden walkways with an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Universal Design (UD) approved surfacing; Replacement of the existing benches with views of the marsh and estuarine waters with swings with shade covers; and Installation of a kayak launch amenity off the floating dock

✓ STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

The walkways were not replaced with ADA and UD approved surfacing; the benches were not replaced; and the kayak launch was not installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

○ Crossover Trail

❖ RECOMMENDATION—Replacement of the south first 75' or so of the existing wooden walkway with a new walkway that is elevated over the estuarine water channel to allow watercraft to pass under the walkway; Installation of kayak launch amenities off the existing floating docks at each end of the walkway; and Renovation of the existing bollards at each end of the walkway to include removal of the rust and repainting

✓ STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

All of the recommendations were completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [30th Place West Park](#)
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Repair of the entranceway onto the walkway and floating dock; and Installation of a kayak launch amenity off the existing floating dock
 - ✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

All of the recommendations were completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [78th Street Crab Dock Park](#)
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of a kayak launch amenity; Installation of two (2) additional shade covered swing benches; and Installation of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in strategic locations
 - ✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The kayak launch was not installed; the shade benches were not installed; and permanent trash and recycling receptacles were not installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [Town of Oak Island Fishing “T” Pier](#)
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of a shade cover over a portion of the “T;” and Installation of permanent trash and recycling receptacles in strategic locations
 - ✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The shade cover was not installed, and the permanent trash and recycling receptacles were not installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- [Oak Island Recreation Center](#)
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Renovation of the existing indoor restroom facilities; Renovation of the existing indoor shower and locker facilities; Upgrading of the existing weight room and cardio room equipment; Resurfacing of the existing outdoor basketball court surface; Installation of lights for the outdoor basketball court; Installation of a water fountain near the outdoor basketball

court; Remarketing of the existing shuffleboard court; Installation of a Bocce Ball court next to the shuffleboard court; Placement of signage identifying the entrance to the nature trail; Installation of Wi-Fi capability; Installation of several cell phone charging stations in strategic locations inside the facility; and Installation of a 24-hour a day, 7-day a week electronic card system for unrestricted entry into the facility and its exercise room and cardio room

✓ **STATUS: MINIMALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The only recommendation completed was the installation of a water fountain near the outside basketball court. None of the other recommendations were completed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Oak Island Splash Pad—Middleton Park Extension**
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of Shade Sails over as much of the Splash Pad as possible
 - ✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

Shade Sails were installed near the Splash Pad but not directly over the Splash Pad.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Oak Island Amphitheater—Middleton Park Extension**
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Installation of Shade Sails or some other shading device over the actual amphitheater structure
 - ✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

A wooded structure providing shade was constructed over the Amphitheater.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Oak Island Cabana**
 - ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Demolition of the existing Cabana and construction of a new Cabana structure with indoor changing and restroom amenities and outdoor showers and foot washing amenities; and Installation of a shading device over the existing observation deck

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✓ STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

The Outdoor Shower and foot washing amenity was installed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

○ Oak Island Par Three Golf Course at South Harbour

❖ RECOMMENDATION—Formation of a management committee to determine what policies and procedures need to be implemented to make the facility self-sustaining

✓ STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

The management committee was formed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

○ Kevin Bell Skate Park

❖ RECOMMENDATION—Demolition of the existing skate park and construction of a new bowl-shaped concrete skate park meeting all ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials) standards and guidelines; and Demolition of the existing metal picnic shelter and construction of a new non-metal picnic shelter

✓ STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

The existing skate park was demolished and a new skate park constructed but nothing has been done regarding the existing metal picnic shelter

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Recommendations—Program, Service, Event and Activity Development—2020 – 2025

❖ RECOMMENDATION—Provide walking, running and biking opportunities, experiences, programs, services, events, activities, camps, and special collaborations within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction and in collaboration with the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, St. James Plantation, the City of Southport and the City of Boiling Spring Lakes

✓ STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED

No walking, running and biking programs occurred and there were no collaborations.

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REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide kayaking, canoeing, standup paddleboard, sailing, scuba diving, water sports and fishing opportunities, experiences, programs, services, events, activities, camps, classes and special collaborations

✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

Kayak tours, fishing derby, fishing class, crabbing class, Ride the Tide, sailing camps, surfing camps, and Adventure Camp were provided.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide nature and environment related programs, services, events, activities, camps, classes and special collaborations

✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department collaborated with the Environmental Advisory Committee for Arbor Day and Earth Day events; the Nature Center and the Ocean Education Center provided programming during the summer; Nature Camp was provided; and the Department collaborated with local art classes for Earth Day Art Competition.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Initiate a program of providing trained and paid lifeguards and a flag warning system at strategic locations along the oceanfront beach between the Oak Island Fishing Pier and the Ocean Crest Fishing Pier

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town has enacted a boisterous flag program and life-saving flotation devices at certain beach accesses during the season.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Offer arts related programs, services, events, activities, camps, classes, instruction and special collaborations in areas such as graphic arts, digital technology, musical instruments, etc.

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✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED, COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department offered piano and guitar lessons; Jam n Java event; Art Show with graphic art and digital art categories; Art Camp; floral arrangements and craft classes, holiday craft classes; and a watercolor program.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide community-wide programs, services, events, activities, special events and special collaborations such as Beach Music Festivals, Movies in the Park, Halloween Truck or Trick, Food Truck Rodeos, Dance Programs, etc.

✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department offered Sunset on Summer Music Festival (with Coastal Race Productions); Skateboard Competition; Spooktacular; Trunk or Treat (both in cooperation with local businesses); Food Truck Food Court at all concert series events; Mardi Gras Festival and Parade; Spring Fling Festival; and Seafood Festival.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide a Pre-School Program and an After-School Program

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department did not provide a Pre-School Program per se, but it did offer pre-school art programs; reading program for toddlers by the ocean; and a teen after-school program.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide early morning (before 8 am), evening (after 6 pm) and weekend exercise and fitness classes at the Recreation Center to accommodate working residents and participants

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department offered fitness classes at 7 am, 6 pm and Saturday mornings with mixed results.

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- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide a Tennis Camp for youth, a Pickleball Camp for adults, a Sailing Camp for youth, a Sailing Camp for adults, a Golf Camp for youth, a Golf Camp for Adults and an Inclusive Camp for youth with disabilities and other special needs

✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department offered inclusive experiences for youth camps; have sailing, pickleball, tennis and golf camps for youth; offered tennis and pickleball camps for adults; and have Thursday golf events for adults.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide cooking programs, services, events, activities and classes

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department offered cooking demonstrations at the Seafood Festival, and the Community Center offered a monthly cooking class.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Provide specialized programs, services, events, activities, camps and special events for persons with disabilities and other special needs, youth, teens and senior citizens as deemed appropriate

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department offered inclusive programming and adjustments to the typical experiences that were offered to include those with varying ability levels.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Recommendations—Policy and Procedure Considerations—2020 – 2025

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Establishment of a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division within the Parks and Recreation Department

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of establishing a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division within the Parks and Recreation Department.

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REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Updating and Revision of the “Oak Island Bicycle Transportation Plan (2006)”**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of developing an updated and revised “Oak Island Bicycle Transportation Plan.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Pedestrian, Bicycle and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Network and System**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of developing a Pedestrian, Bicycle and Non-Motorized Vehicular Transportation Network and System.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Partnerships**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department has established a partnership with the Beautification Club to maintain several Oak Island Town Park.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of assessing its compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards**

✓ **STATUS:**

The Department is in the process of certifying that all Town Park and Facilities comply with Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Parks, Recreation and Open Space Gifts and Donations Catalogue**

✓ **STATUS: IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department had developed a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Gifts and Donations Catalogue.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Department is in the process of revising the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board ex-officio membership.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Publicity, Communication and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Camps, Facilities, Areas and Parks**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Social Media and Communications Committee have and are working on this recommendation.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

❖ **RECOMMENDATION—Adopt-A-Park Program**

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

This recommendation has not been addressed.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—**Revisions and Additions to Town of Oak Island and Parks and Recreation Department Policies, Rules, Regulations and Ordinances**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of revising appropriate Town and Department policies, rules, regulations and ordinances.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

✚ Recommendations—Personnel Considerations—2020 – 2025

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—**Creation of a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division within the Parks and Recreation Department with a Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor—full-time position; a Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader (2)—full-time positions; a Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Specialist (4)—full-time positions; and a Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Technician (2)—part-time and seasonal positions**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of creating a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division in the Parks and Recreation Department.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—**Development and operation of a network and system of non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation with a Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Specialist—full-time position**

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of developing a network and system of non-vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031 TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—**Establishment of the Ocean Beach Rescue and Lifeguard Program with an Ocean Beach Rescue and Lifeguard Supervisor—part-time seasonal position and Ocean Beach Rescue Lifeguards (20 – 25)—part-time seasonal positions**

✓ **STATUS: NOT IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town has not addressed this recommendation.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ **RECOMMENDATION**—Completion of the improvements and additions to the Town’s facilities, areas, and parks with an additional Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Specialist—full-time

✓ **STATUS: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED/COMPLETED/INITIATED**

The Town is in the process of completing the improvements and additions to the Town’s facilities, areas, and parks.

REVISED 2020 – 2025 RECOMMENDATION IS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 – 2031
TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

***TOWN OF OAK
ISLAND, NC 2020
– 2025 PARKS,
RECREATION
AND OPEN
SPACE MASTER
PLAN***

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Brunswick County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan—2022—2032

A review of the **Brunswick County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan—2022 – 2032** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/174/Appendix-E--Parks-and-Recreation-Master-Plan-PDF?bidId=>

- ✚ **OBJECTIVE—Ensure the parks and recreation department is incorporating measures across the County that will meet the health, safety, and well-being standards of citizens and visitors**
- ✚ **OBJECTIVE—Provide additional recreational land in the form of district, community, and neighborhood parks which are convenient and accessible to all residents**
- ✚ **OBJECTIVE—Strengthen and build partnerships that will aid in providing recreational facilities and programs for the community**
- ✚ **RECOMMENDATION—WALKABLE COMMUNITIES—Brunswick County should promote land uses and site designs that make walking and bicycling convenient and enjoyable. They should also encourage the inclusion of public greenways or trails in private developments and the establishment of connectivity to and / or between both current and future public schools, parks, and other public destinations**
- ✚ **RECOMMENDATION—10-MINUTE WALK MOVEMENT—NRPA, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) have partnered together to promote safe, equitable park access for United States citizens. The goal is to provide 100% of people access to a quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk of their homes by 2050. Brunswick County should encourage municipalities within the County to pledge their support to the 10-Minute Walk Mission. For more information, visit 10minutewalk.org**
- ✚ **RECOMMENDATION—GREENWAYS/MULTI-USE TRAILS—Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities, which are increasing by leaps and bounds. North Carolina’s 2020–2025 North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan SCORP found that 67% of survey participants reported that linear parks are the most needed facility within their park systems. SCORP also found that 61% of respondents viewed walking for pleasure to be a common outdoor recreational activity. Brunswick County should encourage the coordination and planning for future utility easements with greenway facilities. The easements should be**

established to allow for the inclusion of recreation facilities, where possible. Where new development occurs, the County should collaborate with the developer to provide rights-of-way or easements for proposed and future greenway facilities

✚ RECOMMENDATION—BICYCLE FACILITIES—Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concerns, and the need to increase the health and fitness of the population, a planned network of bike trails, bike lanes, and shared roadways should be developed to support alternative transportation to recreation facilities and travel within Brunswick County. Future roadway construction within the County should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing parks as well as future park facilities and greenways. In addition, bike racks (sheltered at schools and other potential high-use areas) should be installed at all publicly owned facilities within the County. The County should work with NCDOT to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian facilities are provided as much as possible to promote alternative modes of transportation. In addition, the County should refer to the Cape Fear Regional Bike Plan for recommended bicycle projects

✚ RECOMMENDATION—INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION—Brunswick County should seek to coordinate planning efforts with the Brunswick County Public Schools, local municipalities, County planning department, and state land managers to provide greenway and park facilities. Representatives of the County and these agencies should meet periodically to discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the area. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space, and recreation master plan updates for local municipalities and adjacent counties. This will also ensure that redundancy in services is prevented and that all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being utilized



***Brunswick County Comprehensive
Parks and Recreation Master
Plan—2022 - 2032***

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

2024 Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

A review of the **2024 Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/TPBCTP/Brunswick%20County/Brunswick%20County%20CTP%20Document.pdf>

+ PURPOSE

- To identify transportation needs throughout the county
- To prepare recommendations for implementation over the next 28 years

+ STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **CREATE** a more efficient transportation system through improved connectivity, capacity, and operations
- **SUPPORT** growth through a transportation network that serves local, inter- and intra- regional accessibility and mobility needs for both people and goods
- **PRESERVE** the social and environmentally sensitive character of the county through an integrated transportation and land use strategy that addresses transportation solutions
- **PROVIDE** an integrated transportation network that encourages use of all modes by offering travel choices that are accessible to all segments of the region’s population
- **PROMOTE** a safer and more secure transportation network through crash reduction, enhanced reliability and predictability, and improved emergency coordination
- **EXTEND** the life of the transportation system by fostering a sustainable and maintainable system that addresses the long-term needs of the region.

+ RELEVANCE TO THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND, NC

- The CTP contains five (5) specific recommendations that impact the Town of Oak Island specifically:
 - ◆ **N.C. 211: From U.S. 17 to SR 1112 (Sunset Harbor Road)/5.55 miles**
 - ❖ The project proposal is to widen NC 211 from US 17 to SR 1112 (Sunset Harbor Rd) from 2 lanes to 4 lanes. NC 211 is on the East Coast Greenway Plan, and a multi-use path is being recommended along this route
 - ◆ **N.C. 133 (Long Beach Road): From SR 1969 (Old Long Beach Road SE) to SR 1210 (Vanessa Drive)/1.85 miles**
 - ❖ The project proposal is to modify access management by limiting turning movements, widening lanes, and adding paved shoulders to

improve safety. A bike lane is also recommended. This route is a proposed regional bikeway network and is included in the Cape Fear Bicycle plan

- ◆ **N.C. 211, R-021: From Midway Road (SR1500) to N.C. 87/7.14 miles**
 - ❖ The proposal is to widen NC 211 from Midway Rd to NC 87 to 4 lanes with 12-foot lanes. The current roadway is a 2-lane facility. NC 211 is on the East Coast Greenway Plan, and a multi-use path is being recommended along this route
- ◆ **SR 1190 (E. Oak Island Drive: From N.C. 906 (N Middleton Avenue) to N.C. 133 (Long Beach Road)/5.26 miles**
 - ❖ Upgrade road to 12 ft lanes with a bike lane and sidewalks. Currently the road is 2 lanes with a center turn lane and no shoulders. A bike lane is recommended from Country Club Dr to 58th St. Refer to Oak Island Bicycle Plan
 - The intent of these enhancements is to utilize the route’s 100-foot right-of-way to diversify transportation options. Various other bicycle and pedestrian recommendations are provided along the corridor and throughout the Town core, including a multi-use path that extends along W. Yacht Drive (60’ right-of-way)
- ◆ The plan also recommends that a “Park-and-Ride” lot be established at 209 SE 77th Street. This would expand transit opportunity throughout the County.

The highlights of the recommendations and needs as identified by the 2024 Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in a non-priority order are:

- 1) Modifications to N.C. 211 from U.S. 17 to SR 1112
- 2) Modifications to N.C. 133 (Long Beach Road) from SR 1969 to SR 1210
- 3) Modifications to N.C. 211 from SR 1500 to N.C. 87
- 4) Modifications to SR 1190 from N.C. 906 to N.C. 133

2024 BRUNSWICK COUNTY **COMPREHENSIVE** **TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CTP)**

Town of Oak Island, NC Comprehensive CAMA Land Use Plan Update 2025

A review of the **Town of Oak Island, NC CAMA Land Use Plan Update 2025** yielded the following information pertinent to the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:7ce57b7c-8721-4c8c-9609-21a6080f3bac?viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover>

✚ **GUIDING COMMUNITY VISION**—“Oak Island is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its residents, property owners, business owners, and visitors. We are committed to excellent Town services, including maintaining welcoming beaches and attractions, preserving natural resources, improving community appearance and function, and providing comprehensive recreational opportunities. Ensuring long term fiscal viability by balancing thoughtful residential and commercial growth will provide a sustainable and vibrant future that reflects the shared values and aspirations of our residents, property owners, business owners, and visitors.”

✚ **GUIDING COMMUNITY GOALS**

- **Enhance Quality of Life**
 - ◆ Oak Island will enhance resident quality of life through informed policy decisions
- **Improve Transportation Efficiency**
 - ◆ Oak Island will proactively manage transportation needs to ensure smooth and efficient connectivity throughout the Town and region
- **Preserve & Enhance Natural Resources**
 - ◆ Oak Island will preserve its natural resources, including beaches, water bodies, and tree canopy. Preservation will be furthered through policies, investments, and education
- **Expand Recreation Options**
 - ◆ Oak Island will identify and develop fiscally responsible recreation facilities to improve resident and visitor experience
- **Enhance Community Appearance**
 - ◆ Oak Island will continue to improve community appearance through policies, code enforcement, and strategic funding opportunities as they arise
- **Strategic Economic Development**
 - ◆ Oak Island will strategically pursue economic expansion to support the fiscal health of the community

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CAMA MANAGEMENT GOALS/TOPICS

➤ **PUBLIC ACCESS**

- ◆ Purpose—Maximize public access to the beaches and the public trust waters of the coastal region

➤ **LAND USE COMPATIBILITY**

- ◆ Purpose—Ensure that development and use of resources or preservation of land balance protection of natural resources and fragile areas with economic development, and avoids risks to public health, safety, and welfare

➤ **WATER QUALITY**

- ◆ Purpose—Maintain, protect, and where possible enhance water quality in all coastal wetlands, rivers, streams, and estuaries

➤ **INFRASTRUCTURE CARRYING CAPACITY**

- ◆ Purpose—Ensure that public infrastructure systems are sized, located, and managed so the quality and productivity of AECs and other fragile areas are protected or restored

➤ **NATURAL HAZARD AREAS**

- ◆ Purpose—Conserve and maintain barrier dunes, beaches, floodplains, and other coastal features for their natural storm protection functions and their natural resources giving recognition to public health, safety, and welfare issues

MATCHING GUIDING COMMUNITY GOALS WITH CAMA MANAGEMENT GOALS

➤ **ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE**

◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 1, 3, 4**

❖ **Objective 1.1: Strategically Update the Town’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to Enhance Community Health and Function**

- Action Item 1.1.1: Implement regulatory requirements for new residential and commercial development to install sidewalks on either side of all streets that connect to existing infrastructure when feasible or are otherwise consistent with the Town’s bicycle and pedestrian plans

❖ **Objective 1.2: Promote Actions and Development that Forward the Vision and Character of Oak Island**

- Action Item 1.2.2: Establish minimum public facility design requirements for Oak Island’s beach access points to create a welcoming and consistent experience for all residents and tourists throughout the Town
- **IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY**
 - ◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 2, 3**
 - ❖ **Objective 2.1: Strategically Improve Town Streets**
 - Action Item 2.1.1: Regularly monitor the Pavement Condition Survey and work orders to continue improving and preserving pavement health
 - Action Item 2.1.4: Create and adopt a Complete Streets Policy to establish standards for the community’s automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian network focused on transportation efficiency and community aesthetics
 - ❖ **Objective 2.2: Expand Multi-Modal Opportunities Where Possible**
 - Action Item 2.2.1: Produce infographics and other educational resources that advise users of the appropriate facilities for walking, biking, and low-speed vehicles in Oak Island based on transportation method
 - Action Item 2.2.2: Remediate bike lane barriers associated with the environmental surroundings typical of coastal areas such as displaced sand town-wide
 - Action Item 2.2.3: Explore use of app-based citizen reporting methods that will allow pedestrians and cyclists to identify barriers in Oak Island’s multimodal network in real time
 - Action Item 2.2.4: Explore creation of Oak Island Greenway Design Standards, to include design criteria for trailhead features, size and spatial needs, materials, and other necessary considerations
 - Action Item 2.2.5: Adopt the Bike Plan & pursue a Pedestrian Plan
 - Action Item 2.2.6: Develop an approximate 7.5-mile greenway along Yacht Drive, taking into account the existing right-of-way and greenway design standards of the Town
 - ◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 4, 5**
- **PRESERVE & ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCES**
 - ◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 4, 5**

❖ **Objective 3.2: Enhance and Protect Tree Canopy, Open Space, and Natural Features of the Town**

- Action Item 3.2.1: Maintain Tree City USA status and promote the Town’s achievements with signage to encourage public support and instill pride in the community

➤ **EXPAND RECREATION OPTIONS**

◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 4, 5**

❖ **Objective 4.1: Identify New Recreation and Gathering Space Needs, Assess Department Operations, and Implement Parks Projects**

- Action Item 4.1.1: Adopt the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan upon completion to maintain the Town’s eligibility for state and federal grants
- Action Item 4.1.2: Conduct a GIS audit of Town-owned and vacant parcels to identify potential locations for future recreation development and beach access improvements
- Action Item 4.1.3: Utilizing the Parks Level of Service Map provided in this Comprehensive Plan, strategically determine both the locations of future parks, trails, and facilities within existing parks to adequately serve the Oak Island community and to address any service gaps

➤ **ENHANCE COMMUNITY APPEARANCE**

◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 1, 4**

❖ **Objective 5.1: Require Enhanced Design Standards for Commercial Developments**

- Action Item 5.1.3: In new commercial development and redevelopment, require pedestrian considerations such as walkability and access from all building entrances to parking areas, and prioritize vehicle interconnectivity to limit driveways along Oak Island Drive

➤ **STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

◆ **Addresses CAMA Management Goals 4, 5**

❖ **Objective 6.1: Explore Mixes of Land Uses That Support an Optimal Revenue Stream**

- Action Item 6.1.3: Harness the improved aesthetics and walkability of Oak Island Drive following the implementation of the Streetscape Master Plan by capitalizing on its revenue

producing opportunities by engaging in community building events such as street fairs and festivals

- Action Item 6.2.3: Develop social districts in Oak Island’s commercial areas, inspired by Washington, NC, by integrating pedestrian-friendly spaces, outdoor seating, and tree planting to promote community engagement, enhance public gathering spaces, and improve aesthetics

FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM)

➤ CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (CR)

◆ **Focus—Preserve Areas of Environmental Concern (AECs), wetlands, primary nursery areas, hydric soils, and flood-prone zones**

- ❖ Desired Uses—Encourage passive recreation such as trails and boardwalks, support wildlife habitats, and promote educational opportunities

➤ MIXED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY (MRC)

◆ **Focus—Encourage a mix of single-family homes, townhouses, and multifamily units to provide a range of housing options, fostering a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere and supporting population growth**

- ❖ Desired Uses—Single-family residences, townhouses, multifamily apartments, community amenities (e.g., parks, trails), and small-scale neighborhood services (e.g., convenience stores, childcare facilities). habitats, and educational resources
- ❖ Compatible Zoning Districts—PUD, Planned unit Development, R-6MF, Higher Density Residential District, CB, Community Business District, CR, **Community Recreation District**, C-LD, Commercial Low Density District

➤ ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS (ERN)

◆ **Focus—Protect community character, ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses, and limit encroachment from higher-intensity uses**

- ❖ Desired Uses—Single-family homes, some accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and **small-scale parks**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The highlights of the recommendations and needs as identified by the Town of Oak Island, NC Comprehensive CAMA Land Use Plan Update 2025 in a non-priority order are:

- 1) There are six (6) Guiding Community Goals
 - a. Enhance Quality of Life
 - b. Improve Transportation Efficiency
 - c. Preserve & Enhance Natural Resources
 - d. Expand Recreation Options
 - e. Enhance Community Appearance
 - f. Strategic Economic Development
- 2) Pertinent Document Action Items
 - a. **Action Item 1.1.1**—Implement regulatory requirements for new residential and commercial development to install sidewalks on either side of all streets that connect to existing infrastructure when feasible or are otherwise consistent with the Town’s bicycle and pedestrian plans
 - b. **Action Item 1.2.2**—Establish minimum public facility design requirements for Oak Island’s beach access points to create a welcoming and consistent experience for all residents and tourists throughout the Town
 - c. **Action Item 2.1.4**—Create and adopt a Complete Streets Policy to establish standards for the community’s automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian network focused on transportation efficiency and community aesthetics
 - d. **Action Item 2.2.1**—Produce infographics and other educational resources that advise users of the appropriate facilities for walking, biking, and low-speed vehicles in Oak Island based on transportation method
 - e. **Action Item 2.2.2**—Remediate bike lane barriers associated with the environmental surroundings typical of coastal areas such as displaced sand town-wide
 - f. **Action Item 2.2.5**—Adopt the Bike Plan & pursue a Pedestrian Plan
 - g. **Action Item 2.2.6**—Develop an approximate 7.5-mile greenway along Yacht Drive, taking into account the existing right-of-way and greenway design standards of the Town

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND, NC COMPREHENSIVE CAMA LAND USE PLAN UPDATE 2025



CHAPTER SEVEN:
PARKS, RECREATION &
OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

Parks, recreation and open space standards are more likely to serve the needs and interests of a community if those standards meet certain specific criteria. In truth, the real measure of a good and practical standard is the level of citizen satisfaction with the standards. In developing parks, recreation and open space standards for the Town of Oak Island, the following criteria were considered:

- ✚ **Relevance**—the standards should reflect the needs, interests and lifestyles of the community’s residents.
- ✚ **People Orientation**—the standards should reflect the unique needs and preferences of specific people in the area being served.

- ✚ **Performance Standards**—the standards should provide a basis for measuring achievement of community objectives. They should measure the quality of parks, recreation and open space services rather than simply the quantity.
- ✚ **Feasibility**—the standards should be attainable within a reasonable timeframe and with available funding sources.
- ✚ **Practicality**—the standards should be simple to understand and apply. They should be based on sound planning principles, information and a credible development process. They should also be flexible enough to manage unanticipated situations and rapidly changing needs.

STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

The United States has experienced rapid and, in some locals, extreme socioeconomic and demographic shifts over the last decade. Accompanying these shifts has been the realization that every community has its own unique blend of social, environmental and economic characteristics that define it. Therefore, considering each community on an individual basis to tailor the most appropriate range, quantity and quality of parks, recreation and open space programs, services, areas and facilities within fiscal limits is important.

The national and state parks and recreation standards presented in this section of the Master Plan were utilized strictly as guidelines and benchmarks for comparison in the preparation of the comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2025 – 2030 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. These national and state standards and benchmarks were not judged to be requirements. They were considered to be subjective recommendations that necessitated modification in order to meet the specific and particular demands and requirements of the Town of Oak Island. The standards and benchmarks served only as tenets for what national and state professional agencies and organizations in the field of parks and recreation consider adequate and acceptable types and numbers of parks and recreation programs, services, areas and facilities. They were compiled by and proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Parks and Recreation.



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The typical park and recreation agency offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. BUT park and recreation agencies are as diverse as the communities they serve, and what works well for one agency may not be best for another agency. Therefore, parks, recreation and open space standards and benchmarks must be tailored to each local park and recreation agency. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) stopped updating and using Areas and Facilities Standards over two decades ago and will never update or use them again.

These national and state standards provided a starting point for establishing unique and specific local standards for parks, recreation and open space development for the Town of Oak Island. It is appropriate to state that the NRPA, in a 1995 report entitled “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines” and in the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review, reached the conclusion that there are no “national standards” for parks, recreation and open space development. In fact, the reports reaffirm the notion that each local community is unique, and that standards reflecting the local community’s “uniqueness” should be established. The direct quote from the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review is—“THERE IS NOT A SINGLE SET OF STANDARDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION BECAUSE DIFFERENT AGENCIES SERVE DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE UNIQUE NEEDS, DESIRES, AND CHALLENGES.” This is the approach that was utilized and implemented in constructing standards and benchmarks for the Town of Oak Island.



The comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2025 – 2030 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* analysis considered and evaluated two types of parks and recreation standards: 1) the total acreage of parkland and open space recommended for inclusion within a park, recreation and open space system; and 2) the programs, services, events, camps, areas and facilities necessary to adequately meet the parks, recreation and open space needs of the citizens of the Town of Oak Island. The comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2025 – 2030 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* incorporates these park standards in its recommendations for evaluating the current parks, recreation and open space system and for establishing a plan of action to meet future growth patterns.

Parks, Open Space and Greenways Classifications

A comprehensive parks, recreation and open space system is made up of a variety of park types. These park types range from exceptionally large Nature Preserves or Regional Parks, often encompassing hundreds of acres, to the exceedingly small neighborhood and mini-parks, sometimes less than one acre. Some of these park types are the responsibility of governmental entities other than municipalities, such as federal, state or county government. To fully appreciate and understand the Town of Oak Island's role in the provision of parks and recreation services to its citizens, one needs to comprehend the context that makes up a total parks, recreation and open space system.

Nature Preserves—the acquisition and development of Nature Preserves are typically undertaken by federal and state governments

Nature Preserves are typically exceptionally large sites, encompassing unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found in the region, the diverse land formations, and the variety of vegetation and wildlife. Examples of the types of facilities provided in a Nature Preserve are environmental centers, camping, nature trails, observation decks, and picnic areas. Open fields for non-structured activities, such as Frisbee throwing or kite flying, are also generally found.

Land chosen for future preserves, or the expansion of existing sites, should contain the previously mentioned characteristics accompanied with natural water features such as lakes, rivers, and creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage utilized for active recreation.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Nature Preserves are as follows:

Service Area:	County/Region Wide	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	2.5 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	150 – 1,000 acres with adequate area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed	
Typical Facilities:	Environmental Center	Picnic Tables/Grills
	Equestrian Center	Restrooms
	Vending	Primitive Camping
	Beach	Group Camping
	Swimming	Boating
	Nature Trails	Fishing Pier
	Boat Docks	Observation Decks
	Parking	Picnic Shelters/Grills
	RV Camping	Caretaker's House

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on regional/community needs or special site characteristics.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Regional Parks—the acquisition and development of Regional Parks typically fall within the responsibility of county government

Regional Parks are typically large sites that provide a wide and varied range of both active and passive recreational opportunities. These parks are intended to serve a substantial number of people who are willing to spend travel time to visit the sites. Examples of the types of areas and facilities provided in a Regional Park are sports complexes, swimming pools, nature trails, fitness trails, restrooms, parking, concessions, picnic shelters, playgrounds, amphitheaters, recreation centers, picnic areas, boating facilities and open play areas.

Land selected for Regional Parks should be located on major transportation corridors and easily accessible by a large number of citizens. The majority of the site should be reserved and utilized for active recreation with adequate provision for passive recreation.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Regional Parks are as follows:

Service Area:	8-mile radius—typically serves a population base of approximately 60,000	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	2.5 acres per 1,000	
Desirable Range:	125 – 500 acres	
Desirable Size:	±250 acres	
Minimum Size:	125 acres	
Typical Features:	Picnic Shelters/Grills	Picnic Tables/Grills
	Nature Trails	Tennis Complex
	Tournament Baseball Fields	Playground
	Tournament Softball Fields	Fitness Trails
Specialty Features:	Swimming Pool	Recreation Center

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on regional/community needs or special site characteristics.



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Community Parks—the acquisition and development of Community Parks typically fall within the responsibility of county and municipal governments

Community Parks provide a full range of facilities to support tournament competition for athletic and league sports. These parks also present opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation. Activities that generate large crowds, such as special events and tournament competitions, are well suited for Community Parks, where adequate space and parking are provided. Approximately fifty percent (50%) of a Community Park should be developed for only passive recreation. These relatively undisturbed areas may serve as buffers around the park or function as buffers between active areas and facilities.

Community Parks should have varying topography and vegetative communities. Forested areas should have a variety of tree species. Cleared areas should be present for placing active recreation areas and facilities. One or more natural water features, such as a lake, river, or creek should be included in a Community Park. Parkland should also be contiguous and strategically located in order to be accessible to all users within the service area.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Community Parks are as follows:

Service Area:	.5 – 3 mile radius—typically serves several neighborhoods	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	5 – 8 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	15 – 100 acres	
Desirable Size:	±25 acres	
Typical Facilities:	Recreation Center	Playground
	Picnic Shelters/Grills	Basketball Court
	Picnic Tables/Grills	Tennis Courts
	Nature Trails	Restrooms
	Tournament Baseball Fields	Parking
	Tournament Softball Fields	Volleyball Courts
	Concessions	Soccer Fields
Special Facilities:	Golf Course	Swimming
	Beaches	Environmental Center
	Boating	Equestrian Center
	Amphitheater	Fishing Pier
	Boat Docks	Observation Decks
	Marina Operations	Swimming Pool
	Fitness Course	Paddle Boats

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Sports Complex—the acquisition and development of a Sports Complex typically falls within the responsibility of county or municipal governments

A Sports Complex functions as the major source of active recreation in the local community. Programs, services and activities found at a Sports Complex are similar to those in a Community Park but are developed to support tournament competition. Passive recreation experiences and opportunities are generally limited, but may be found in undisturbed areas, preferably within the surrounding buffers.

Sites for Sports Complexes should be relatively flat to alleviate excessive grading and land preparation for active areas and facilities. Sites without significant vegetation or natural features are preferable since most of the land will be developed for active recreation such as athletic fields. Sites should be easily accessible from major thoroughfares. Direct access to residential areas should be limited and buffers provided adjacent to residential areas.

Specific standards and criteria for developing a Sports Complex are as follows:

Service Area:	3 – 5 mile radius	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	2.5 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	80 – 100 acres	
Desirable Size:	+100 acres	
Typical Features:	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelter/Grills
	Basketball Courts	Nature Trail
	Tennis Courts	Baseball Fields
	Softball Fields	Benches
	Parking	Multi-Purpose Fields
	Service Yard	Volleyball Courts
	Restrooms/Concessions	
	Tournament Level Soccer Fields	
	Tournament Level Baseball/Softball Fields	
	Tournament Level Tennis Complex	
Alternate Facilities:	Recreation Center	Running Track
	Amphitheater	Observation Decks

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

District Parks—the acquisition and development of District Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

District Parks function as the major source of active recreation in the neighborhoods they serve. Activities are similar to those found in Community Parks but are not developed to support tournament competition. Their smaller size often requires District Parks to be more intensely developed than the Community Parks. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers.

Sites for District Parks should be relatively flat to alleviate excessive grading of active areas and facilities. Where possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily with passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should also be a consideration when choosing a site for a District Park.

Specific standards and criteria for developing a District Park are as follows:

Service Area:	1 – 2 ½ mile radius		
Acreage/Population Ratio:	5 acres per 1,000 persons		
Desirable Range:	20 – 100 acres		
Desirable Size:	±50 acres		
Typical Features:	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelter/Grills	
	Basketball Courts	Nature Trail	
	Tennis Courts	Baseball Fields	
	Softball Fields	Benches	
	Parking	Multi-Purpose Fields	
	Service Yard	Volleyball	
	Soccer Fields		
	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped		
	Alternate Facilities:	Recreation Center	Tennis Center
		Football Fields	Running Trail
Boating		Amphitheater	
Observation Decks		Fishing Piers	
Swimming Pool		Fitness Course	

Specialty areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Neighborhood Parks—the acquisition and development of Neighborhood Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

Neighborhood Parks offer the local citizens a convenient source of accessible recreation and serve as the basic unit of the parks and recreation system. These parks are located in residential areas and usually within walking distance of the areas served and provide a variety of activities to interest all age groups. While their small size requires intense development, fifty percent (50%) of each site should remain undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent land owners and users.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Neighborhood Parks are as follows:

Service Area:	¼ - ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding neighborhood population	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	1 acre per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Range:	5 – 25 acres	
Desirable Size:	± 15 acres	
Typical Facilities:	Playground	Basketball Courts
	Softball Field	Baseball Field
	Multi-Purpose Field	Picnic Shelters/Grills
	Picnic Tables/Grills	Benches
	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped	
Alternate Facilities:	Tennis Courts	Nature Trail
	Fitness Course	

These areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Mini-Parks—the acquisition and development of Mini-Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal government

Mini-Park is the smallest park classification. Mini-Parks are often exceedingly small in size and are only easily accessible by the citizens immediately surrounding the park. These small parks are usually located within walking distance of the area serviced and provide a limited variety of activities to targeted interest groups.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Mini-Parks are as follows:

Service Area:	¼ - ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding population	
Acreage/Population Ratio:	.25 acres per 1,000 persons	
Desirable Size:	±½ acre	
Typical Facilities:	Benches	Picnic Tables/Grills
	Playground	
Specialty Features:	Water Fountain	½ Basketball Courts
	Open Play Area	
	Landscaped Public Use Areas	

These areas and facilities may be added to or substituted for other areas and facilities, depending on community needs or special site characteristics.

School-Parks—the acquisition and development of School-Parks typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

The joint use of public areas and facilities is a national growing trend. Through joint use both local government and the school system benefit from shared use of areas and facilities and valuable land resources. The School-Park concept takes full advantage of the joint use objective and provides a planned area and/or facility that also maximizes public funding. Historically, elementary and small middle schools provide the ideal setting for a neighborhood park while large middle schools and high schools are suitable for a community park or a sports complex.

Specific standards and criteria for developing School-Parks are as follows:

Service Area:	Varies depending upon the type of school and park
Desirable Size:	Varies depending upon the type of school and park
Typical Facilities:	Varies depending upon the type of school and park

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Greenways—the acquisition and development of Greenways typically fall within the responsibility of municipal and county governments

Greenways provide an important component of most municipal and county park systems. A greenway is a corridor of protected open space managed for conservation, recreation and non-motorized transportation. Greenways often follow natural geographic features such as ridge lines, wetlands, streams and rivers, but may also be built along canals, utility corridors, or abandoned rail lines. Widths may vary from thirty (30) to a thousand (1,000) feet. Most greenways include a trail or bike path, but others may be designed strictly for environmental or scenic protection.

Greenways, as vegetated linear parks, provide tree cover, wildlife habitat, and riparian buffers to protect streams. The environmental benefits include reduced storm-water runoff, flood reduction, water quality protection, and preservation of biological diversity. The trails within the greenways provide access between neighborhoods and destination points, opportunity to travel without an automobile, outdoor education classrooms, and close-to-home paths for walking, jogging, bicycling, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. Tree cover and the use of bicycles instead of cars provide for better air quality, fewer hard-surfaced parking lots, and reduced energy costs.

Specific standards and criteria for developing Greenways are as follows:

Desirable Size:	Varies considerably—A thirty (30) feet width is generally considered a minimum
Typical Facilities:	Paved and non-paved paths, benches and lighting



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Boat Access Sites—the acquisition and development of Boat Access Sites typically fall within the responsibility of municipal, county and state governments

Most public boat access sites in North Carolina are designed, constructed and maintained by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. However, there are standard construction and design guidelines for boat ramps.

Specific standards and criteria for developing boat access sites are as follows:

Standard Dimensions for Concrete Launch Ramp:

- ✚ Length—varies by site characteristics. Ensure that the bottom of the ramp at Mean Low Water (MLW) will be in at least 3' of water. The top of the ramp should be at least 1' above Mean High Water (MHW)
- ✚ Width—single launch ramp should be at least 14' wide
- ✚ Thickness—concrete should be at least 6".

Launch Ramp Slope:

- ✚ Approximately 14%, but can vary from 15% to 12.5%

Construction and Materials:

- ✚ Sub-Grade Preparation—the concrete ramp should be placed on compacted aggregate which is placed on geo-textile fabric to prevent washout.
- ✚ Push Slab—use a push slab for the launch ramp below the MLW level. The steel reinforced concrete slab should be cast on upland and allowed to cure for a minimum of 21 days before it is pushed into place. Typically, a 32'L x 14'W x 6" T push slab can be properly placed when the water level is at MLW
- ✚ Cast in Place Section—once the push slab is cast in place, there should be at least 2 – 3 feet of ramp left above the water line. The remaining ramp should be cast in place



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North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025
Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities

<https://www.ncparks.gov/planning-files/north-carolina-statewide-comprehensive-outdoor-recreation-plan/open>

To understand trends and popularity among outdoor recreation activities, respondents were asked to identify the activities they or household members participate in or have participated in over the past five years. The most popular activity was visiting a beach or lake, with 69 percent participating. Walking for pleasure or exercise and visiting parks or historic sites are activities for 61 and 60 percent of respondents, respectively. Over half of all respondents participated in hiking on trails (59 percent) and freshwater fishing (58 percent). Other activities that have at least half of respondents participating are viewing scenery, fishing from a boat, nature viewing and swimming.

MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activity	Percentage of Respondents Participating
Visiting a Beach or Lake	69%
Walking for Pleasure or Exercise	61%
Visiting Parks or Historical Sites	60%
Hiking, Trails	59%
Fishing—Freshwater, Bank or Pier	58%
Viewing Scenery	52%
Fishing—Freshwater, Boat	50%
Nature Viewing	50%
Swimming, All Types	50%



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North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025

Why North Carolinians Recreate Doors

Respondents were asked to describe their motivations for participating in outdoor recreation activities. The most popular answers were being outdoors (93 %), followed by having fun (87 %) and relaxing (78 %). Respondents also wanted to be closer to nature and spend time with family and friends.

Why North Carolinians Recreate Outdoors

Why People Recreate Outdoors	Percentage of Respondents
Be Outdoors	93%
Have Fun	87%
Relaxation	78%
To Be Closer to Nature	64%
To Be With Family and Friends	63%
It is Free and/or Affordable	60%
Exercise or Physical Fitness	59%
Visit/See New Places and Things	57%



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025

Types of Areas Currently Needed

Public recreation providers were asked to identify which types of areas are currently needed in their park system. For each type of area, the respondents had four choices: important, somewhat important, not important and not applicable. Two types of areas received the highest rating: linear parks, such as greenways and parks along rivers or streams, and nature / conservation parks. In each case, 67 percent of respondents chose either “important or “somewhat important”. Other types of areas seen as either important or somewhat important by at least half of the public recreation providers are trail linkages to other jurisdictions (57 percent), cultural / historic parks (57 percent), community parks (55 percent), and specialty parks such as water parks, skate parks and dog parks (54 percent).

Types of Areas Currently Needed

Types of Areas Currently Needed	Percentage of Respondents Reporting Important or Somewhat Important
Linear Parks	67%
Nature Parks	67%
Trail Linkages	57%
Cultural Parks	57%
Community Parks	55%
Specialty Parks	54%
Camping Areas	47%
Sports Complexes	47%
Neighborhood Parks	44%
District Parks	44%
State Parks	43%
Waterfront Parks	37%
Equestrian Parks	31%



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025

Types of Facilities Currently Needed

Public recreation providers were asked to identify which types of facilities are urgently needed in their park system. For each type of facility, the respondents had four choices: urgent, somewhat urgent, not urgent and not applicable. Types of facilities seen as either urgent or somewhat urgent by at least half of the public recreation providers are unpaved trail (62 percent), picnic shelters (59 percent), wildlife / nature observation sites (54 percent), and paved trails (53 percent).

Types of Facilities Currently Needed


Types of Facilities Needed	Percentage of Respondents
Unpaved Trails	62%
Picnic Shelters	59%
Wildlife Observation Sites	54%
Paved Trails	53%
Multi-Use Fields	48%
Canoe, Kayak Launches	47%
Mountain Bike Trails	47%
Nature Centers	47%
Playgrounds	46%





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North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025

Trending and Niche Recreation

-  **Disc Golf**—The supply of disc golf courses across the state has been steady and increasing over the past ten years. These amenities have strong demand, are typically provided by local governments and are often suitable amenities in areas of parks that are not physiographically well suited for other recreation types. Recreation professionals continue to explore ways to make this sport more accessible.

-  **Dog Parks**—A massive surge in interest in dog parks has been apparent for over 10 years now. These facilities are exclusively provided by local governments. Dog parks can range in development from quite simple designs which limit dogs to sections of parks, to elaborately developed facilities that can assist with training. Demand for dog parks is not likely to decrease, however long-term management issues can present themselves with these facilities in the form of increased pet illnesses, intensive site maintenance demands and liability management strategies by local governments.

-  **Court Games**—In North Carolina, the broad categorization of court games has been applied to social based, low physical effort outdoor recreation amenities such as shuffleboard, cornhole, bocce, and horseshoes. Most of these facilities are provided by local governments. Trends indicate that interest for types of court-games are very locally driven, often changing from municipality to municipality and the demand can change very quickly based on what is socially in vogue.

-  **Golf**—Long-term demand for golf is very geographically variable. Areas of the state such as the South Central, coastal Northeast and coastal Southeast regions of the state have extraordinarily strong demand for golf. In other regions of the state, publicly managed golf courses are experiencing mixed demand. Some local governments that have publicly developed golf courses are seeing reduced demand. Local governments in this case may look at repurposing these recreation amenities into facilities that meet a public need that is not already met by private enterprise in the area.

North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 – 2025
Park and Recreation Area Class Names and Descriptions

Neighborhood Park—Area for active recreation such as field and court games or using a playground or splash pad. Can also be smaller informal parks for open space activities. Two to eight acres is a typical size. Examples include mini parks serving residential areas, playgrounds, sports fields and combination playgrounds/sports fields/passive natural areas.

Community Park—Area providing a wide array of active recreational opportunities including a recreation center with a gymnasium, athletic fields, swimming pool, hard surface courts, and picnicking areas. Natural or landscaped areas are provided for passive recreation. 10 – 20 acres is a typical size. Examples include large park/school complexes; recreation center/pool/sports fields and court complexes; and community center/park complexes.

District/Metro Area Park—Area serving one or more suburban or rural communities. Similar to the Community Park, these areas offer intensive recreation activities and natural environment areas. Typical size is 20 – 100 acres. Examples include intensively developed county-wide or regional parks and developed public recreation sites at large reservoirs.

Local Parks—Combines Neighborhood, Community and District/Metro Area parks classes described above.

Regional/State Parks—Area of natural quality for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% developed for recreation. Typical size is 3,000 – 5,000 acres. Examples include state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, educational state forests and large natural resource-based county parks. Activities include nature study, picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, swimming and various trail uses.

Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area—Area for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Certain multiple use management approaches produce natural resource outputs such as timber, agricultural produce and minerals. Examples include state game lands, multiple use areas of national and state forests, reservoir shoreline buffer lands, and Blue Ridge Parkway acreage. These sites are generally large enough to manage the primary resource while providing secondary recreational use.

Wilderness Area—Area characterized by unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Low interaction between users, and evidence of others is minimal. Motorized use is not permitted. Typical size is 5,000 – 15,000 acres. Examples are congressionally designated National Wilderness Areas.

NORTH CAROLINA
OUTDOOR RECREATION
PLAN
2020 - 2025



2016 NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) FIELD REPORT PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

The 2016 NRPA Field Report is the only resource that provides park and recreation agencies, professionals and other key stakeholders such a wealth of valuable benchmarks and insights that informs on the state of the industry. These insights help:

1. Show the prevalence of expanded activities and offerings of agencies throughout the nation.
2. Provide guidance to park and recreation professionals to evaluate the performance of their agencies. Do their agencies provide as much open space, recreation opportunities and programming as their peers? Is the agency properly staffed? Sufficiently funded?
3. Make informed decisions on the optimal set of services and facility offerings based on the demographics and, therefore, the needs of a specific community while also providing comparative agency data from other communities and agencies.

However, the report clearly states that the information in the 2016 NRPA Field Report is not the definitive answer in terms of decision making for local park and recreation agencies. Instead, park and recreation leaders should use the findings from this report to start a conversation with internal colleagues, external consultants and partners, and policymakers. Data is only a tool — albeit an unbelievably valuable tool — to help determine the best decisions for an agency.

Consider that no two park and recreation agencies are the same. They serve different residents with different needs, desires and challenges and have different access to funding. For example, just because an agency may have more workers per 1,000 residents relative to “typical” park and recreation agencies does not mean that agency should shed staff. It is possible that the agency with more staff offers more hands-on programming because of the unique needs of the population it serves.

A successful agency is one that tailors its services to meet the demands of its community. Knowing who uses your agency’s resources and who may use them in the future (including age, race, income trends) are also factors in shaping the optimal mix of facilities and services to be offered. Every park and recreation agency and the public it serves are unique. Communities look different and so should their park and recreation agency too. It is this reason NRPA no longer publishes “National Standards.”

NRPA FIELD REPORT AT A GLANCE

The Typical Park and Recreation Agency....

- + Has 9.5 acres of park land *per 1,000 residents*
- + Has operating expenditures per capita of \$76.44
- + Has 7.4 staff members per 10,000 residents
- + Recovers 29% of operating expenditures through revenue generation
- + Has 1 park for every 2,277 residents
- + 80% of agencies offer summer camps
- + 50% of agencies offer After School programs

PARK FACILITIES	TOP-LINE FINDING IN REPORT
Residents per Park	Typically, one Park for every 2,277 Residents
Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	Typically, 9.5 Acres of Park Land for every 1,000 Residents
Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities—Population per Facility	Overwhelming Majority have Playgrounds (91%) and Basketball Courts (85%) in their Portfolio of Outdoor Assets
Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities—Population per Facility	Majority offer Recreation Centers and Gyms, while at least 2 in 5 Agencies offer Community Centers, Senior Centers and Fitness Centers

PROGRAMMING	TOP-LINE FINDING IN REPORT
Programs offered	Team Sports, Fitness Enhancement Classes, and Health and Wellness Education
Targeted Programs for Children, Seniors and People with Disabilities	4 in 5 Agencies offer Summer Camps to Residents

Source: https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Field-Report.pdf

NRPA FIELD REPORT AT A GLANCE

The Typical Park and Recreation Agency....

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NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE PER 1,000 POPULATION STANDARDS

TOTAL PARKLAND	10 ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS
COMMUNITY PARKS	8 ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS 2-Mile Service Radius
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	2 ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS 0.5-Mile Service Radius

NRPA AND NCDEQ STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

The National Recreation and Park Association published the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 2012 to provide national guidelines that could serve as an expression of reasonableness and adequacy with respect to quality leisure service delivery. These guidelines are:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>NRPA Standard</u>	<u>NCDEQ Standard</u>
<u>Fields</u>		
Adult Baseball	1/10,000 persons	1/5,000 persons
Adult Softball	1/3,000 persons	N/A
Youth Baseball	1/6,000 persons	N/A
Youth Softball	1/5,000 persons	N/A
Football	1/10,000 persons	1/20,000 persons
Soccer	1/4,000 persons	1/10,000 persons
<u>Courts/Pits</u>		
Basketball—Outdoor	1/5,000 persons	1/5,000 persons
Basketball—Indoor	1/5,000 persons	1/5,000 persons
Tennis	1/2,000 persons	1/2,000 persons
Volleyball	1/3,000 persons	1/5,000 persons
Shuffleboard	1/5,000 persons	1/5,000 persons
Horseshoe	1/2,000 persons	1/5,000 persons
Multi-Use	1/3,000 persons	N/A
<u>Outdoor Areas</u>		
Picnic Shelters	1/2,000 persons	1/3,000 persons
Playgrounds	1/2,000 persons	1/1,000 persons
Camping	N/A	2.5 sites/1,000 persons
Archery/Skeet Shooting Area	1/50,000 persons	1/50,000 persons
Theater	1/20,000 persons	N/A
<u>Specialized Areas</u>		
Community Center	1/50,000 persons	1/20,000 persons
Swimming Pool—25m	1/10,000 persons	N/A
Swimming Pool—50m	1/20,000 persons	1/20,000 persons
Wading Pool	1/5,000 persons	N/A
Golf Course	1/25,000 persons	1/25,000 persons
Trails—Bicycle	1 mile/2,000 persons	1 mile/1,000 persons
Trails—Exercise	1 mile/7,500 persons	N/A
Trails—Hiking	1 mile/4,000 persons	.4 mile/1,000 persons
Trails—Jogging	1 mile/2,000 persons	N/A
Trails—Nature	1 mile/2,500 persons	.2 mile/1,000 persons
Canoeing—Stream Mileage	N/A	.2 mile/1,000 persons

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND: FACILITY, AREA AND PARK STANDARDS

Minimum standards for public recreational facilities, areas, and parks (i.e., Recreation Centers/Multi-purpose facilities, ball fields, pools, courts, trails, playground areas, etc.) proposed for the Town of Oak Island were developed in accordance with industry guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ); an identification and understanding of the unique and specific socioeconomic, environmental and demographic information related specifically to the Town of Oak Island; and, input from staff and community citizens generated during the needs assessment component of the master plan process. These standards, identified in **Table 6.1 “Standards for Public Recreational Facilities, Areas and Parks,”** are the minimum recreation facility, area, and park standards that should be used in establishing the public recreation facility, area, and park needs for the Town of Oak Island.

Table 6.1 “Town Standards for Public Recreational Facilities, Areas, and Parks”*

Facility/Area/Park	Town of Oak Island Proposed Standard
Baseball/Softball Field	1/3,000
Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose Field	1/7,000
Basketball Court—Indoor	1/15,000
Basketball Court—Outdoor	1/15,000
Dedicated Tennis Court	1/7,000
Dedicated Pickleball Court	1/1,000
Volleyball Court—Indoor	1/15,000
Volleyball Court—Sand/Beach	1/7,000
Indoor Recreation Center	1/15,000
Swimming Pool	1/15,000
Teen Center/Teen Room/Multi-Purpose Room	1/20,000
Senior Center/Community Center	1/15,000
Environmental Education Center	1/6,000
Outdoor Amphitheater	1/7,000
Disc Golf Course—18-Hole	1/7,000
Skatepark	1/15,000
Splash Pad	1/15,000
Dog Park	1/7,000
Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	1/3,000
Playground	1/3,000
CAMA Public Access Sites	1/175
Kayak/Canoe Launch	1/1,000
Boat Launch	1/3,000
Miles Multi-Purpose Trails	1/3,000
Fishing Pier/Tee	1/3,000
Public Restroom	1/1,000
Outdoor Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station	1/2,000
Neighborhood Park Acreage	1/2,00
Community Park Acreage	1/175

*National, state and local standards for public recreational facility, area and park development were used as a guide in developing standards for the Town of Oak Island. The actual standards developed and established for the Town of Oak Island are based on input generated during the public input process and reflect both staff and citizen comments. These standards were also developed with the understanding that the 2035 population projection for the Town of Oak Island will be 13,000.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND

AMENITY PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 6.2 “Town of Oak Island amenity proposals and recommendations of Public Recreational Facilities, Areas and Parks” depicts the Facility/Area/Park, the Proposed Town Standard, the Existing Amenity, the 2031 Recommended per Population, and the Number Needed in 2031.

Table 6.2 “Town of Oak Island Amenity Proposals and Recommendations”

Facility/Area/Park	Proposed Town Standard	Recommendation Per Population Of 13,000	Existing Amenity	Needed for 2031
Baseball/Softball Field	1/3,000	5	5	0
Football/Soccer/Multi-Purpose	1/7,000	2	2	0
Basketball Court—Indoor	1/15,000	1	1	0
Basketball Court—Outdoor	1/15,000	1	1	0
Dedicated Tennis Court	1/7,000	2	2	0
Dedicated Pickleball Court	1/1,000	13	12	1
Volleyball Court—Indoor	1/15,000	1	0	1
Sand/Beach Volleyball Court	1/7,000	2	0	2
Indoor Recreation Center	1/15,000	1	1	0
Swimming Pool	1/15,000	1	0	1
Teen Center	1/20,000	0	0	0
Senior Center/Community Center	1/15,000	1	1	0
Environmental Education Center	1/6,000	2	2	0
Event Center	1/15,000	1	1	0
Outdoor Amphitheater	1/7,000	2	1	1
Disc Golf Course—18-Hole	1/7000	2	1	1
Skate Park	1/15,000	1	1	0
Splash Pad	1/15,000	1	1	0
Dog Park	1/7,000	2	2	0
Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	1/3,000	4	4	0
Playgrounds	1/3,000	4	2	2
CAMA Public Access	1/175	74	67	7
Kayak/Canoe Launch	1/1,000	13	9	4
Boat Launch	1/3,000	4	4	0
Miles of Multi-Purpose Trails	1/3,000	4 Miles	2.6 Miles	1.4 Miles
Fishing Pier/Tee	1/3,000	5	9	0
Public Restroom	1/1,000	13	7	6
Outdoor Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station	1/2,000	7	5	2
Neighborhood Park Acreage	1/200	65 Acres	54 Acres	11 Acres
Community Park Acreage	1/175	74 Acres	57 Acres	17 Acres
Total Parkland/Open Space Acreage		139 Acres	111 Acres	28 Acres

EVALUATION OF TOWN OF OAK ISLAND FACILITY, AREA AND PARK NEEDS IN 2026

The assessment of public recreational facility, area, and park Town standards against existing public recreational facilities, areas, and parks maintained and/or operated by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department displayed in **Table 6.2** reveals several current areas of deficiencies in many of the established public recreational facility, area and park categories. Utilizing the public recreational area and facility standards that were established specifically for the Town of Oak Island, there is a need for the following additional public recreational facilities, areas, and parks:

- ✚ **One (1) Dedicated Pickleball Court**
- ✚ **One (1) Indoor Volleyball Court**
- ✚ **Two (2) Outdoor Sand/Beach Volleyball Courts**



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- ✚ **One (1) Swimming Pool**
- ✚ **One (1) Outdoor Amphitheater**
- ✚ **One (1) Disc Golf Course—18 Hole**



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- ✚ **Two (2) Playgrounds**
- ✚ **Seven (7) CAMA Public Accesses**
- ✚ **Four (4) Kayak/Canoe Launches**
- ✚ **Six (6) Public Restrooms**
- ✚ **Two (2) Outdoor Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Stations**
- ✚ **Eleven (11) Acres of Neighborhood Park Acreage**
- ✚ **Seventeen (17) Acres of Community Park Acreage**



CHAPTER EIGHT:
MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS
& RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town of Oak Island has traditionally, historically, and accurately seen its role as one of providing basic public parks, recreation and open space opportunities and experiences for the community and citizens of the Town of Oak Island. This accepted role is certainly one that the Town should continue, expand, and enhance over the next five (5) years. Community input and a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the Town’s current programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas and parks reveal several deficiencies or “needs” in the Town of Oak Island’s existing parks and recreation delivery system and resources. These deficiencies or “needs” can be partially satisfied through the long-range strategic planning process and the careful allocation and management of the Town of Oak Island’s resources over the next five (5) years.

The overall **Needs Assessment and Public Input** portion of the master plan process revealed several consistent and interesting pieces of information concerning the parks,

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

recreation and open space needs and issues facing the Town of Oak Island over the next five (5) years.

For example, the need in varying degrees for each of the following land acquisition, facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, activities, policy considerations, and personnel considerations was mentioned during all components of the Needs Assessment and Public Input process:

- ✚ Acquire any and all available land contiguous to existing parks and recreation facilities, areas, and parks
- ✚ Acquire any and all available land on the mainland suitable for parks and recreation facilities, areas, and parks
- ✚ Acquire land on the west end of the island for a neighborhood park
- ✚ Provide a comprehensive, safe, practical, functional, and comprehensive Non-Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Transportation Network and System of sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks, and greenways



- ✚ Construct a new, enhanced, and expanded comprehensive Town of Oak Island Recreation Center
- ✚ Make better use of the Town street ends, particularly those off Yacht Drive, for parks and recreation facilities, areas, and parks



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ✚ **Provide Additional Water Access Facilities for Kayaks, Canoes, Small Boats, and Pedestrians**



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- ✚ **Provide Appropriate Signage for all Parks and Recreation Department Facilities, Areas, and Parks**
- ✚ **Provide new programs, services, events, and activities for all ages, especially those associated with biking, hiking, kayaking, athletic tournaments, athletic clinics, and self-improvement**
- ✚ **Establish a comprehensive Marketing, Advertising, and Publicity Program for all programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town**



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- ✚ **Keep the Department a Parks and Recreation Department and did not split the Department into a Recreation Department with the maintenance responsibility falling on the Public Works Department**
- ✚ **Ensure all Town facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, and activities are ADA Compliant and meet Universal Design guidelines and standards**
- ✚ **The Parks and Recreation needs additional full-time and part-time professional staff in order to operate effectively and efficiently**

Although there were several hundred specific and diverse comments and suggestions regarding parks, recreation and open space programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, parks, policy considerations and personnel considerations generated during the public input and needs assessment process, it is impractical to suppose or believe that all of these suggestions and recommendations can or should be targeted for acceptance and completion in this current 5-year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. It is, however, wise, feasible, and practical to identify the most significant of those suggestions and recommendations and to develop a plan of action for their incorporation and completion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to facilitate and simplify this process, the needs and recommendations have been categorized into five distinct (5) areas: **Land Acquisition; Facility, Area, and Park Development; Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development; Policy and Procedure Considerations;** and **Personnel Considerations**. The recommendations for the comprehensive **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan** are:

Land Acquisition—2026 – 2031

This document recognizes and acknowledges the fact that it would be extremely advantageous and fortuitous for the Town of Oak Island to acquire additional suitable land for parks, recreation and open space purposes. Therefore, the acquisition of land should be a high priority for the Town of Oak Island.

The Town of Oak Island should pursue the acquisition of:

- 1) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of the **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System** as identified in the *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”*
- 2) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive, **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** as identified in the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture
- 3) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe and functional **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System** as identified in the proposed *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”*
- 4) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Neighborhood Park** at the west end of the island
- 5) Land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Community Park** on the mainland
- 6) Land adjacent and contiguous to the **Middleton Park Complex**
- 7) Land adjacent and contiguous to **Bill Smith Park**
- 8) Land adjacent and contiguous to the **Oak Island Recreation Center**
- 9) Land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Facilities, Areas, and Parks**
- 10) Land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Oceanfront Beach and Estuarine and Soundside Public Access Sites**

These are the land acquisition recommendations for the 2026 – 2031 Fiscal Year period of this document. This land acquisition program could be implemented either

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

through direct purchase of land or through an aggressive agenda of grants, land donation, eminent domain acquisition, leases, and the development of conservation easements. It might also be possible to enter into cooperative agreements with existing public entities such as the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department, and the City of Boiling Spring Lakes Parks and Recreation Department.

Land Acquisition—Beyond 2031

Beyond the 2026 – 2031 period of this document, the Town of Oak Island should prepare for the additional acquisition of land:

- 1) appropriate and suitable for the continued construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe, practical, functional, and comprehensive [Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System](#) as defined in the *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”***
- 2) appropriate and suitable for the construction of a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive, [Town of Oak Island Recreation Center](#) as identified in the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture, if not acquired by 2031**
- 3) appropriate and suitable for the continued construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe, practical, functional, and comprehensive [Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System](#)**
- 4) offering the possibility of public access and related amenities to the oceanfront beach, sounds, estuarine waters, and marshes in and surrounding the Town of Oak Island**
- 5) offering specific advantages for general parks, recreation, and open space purposes for the Town of Oak Island**
- 6) suitable for greenways and blueways in and around the Town of Oak Island**
- 7) adjacent to and contiguous to any and all existing Town of Oak Island facilities, areas, and parks**

This land acquisition program could be implemented and financed either through direct purchase of land with funds generated by existing General Funds, State Grants, Federal Grants, Transfers of Land from Land Trusts and State Agencies, a Bond Referendum (General Obligation Bonds) or through an aggressive agenda of private ownership Land Donations and the development of Conservation and other types of Protective Easements.

Facility, Area, and Park Development—2026 – 2031

In conjunction with the Land Acquisition process, there is a need to upgrade and enhance the existing town facilities, areas, and parks and to develop some new parks and recreation facilities, areas, and parks.

Numerous suggestions and recommendations for further facility, area, and park upgrades and development were received during the public information gathering process. These included, but were not limited to, general and specific requests such as the development of a safe, usable, and comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle transportation network and system throughout the Town of Oak Island; the construction of a new and improved comprehensive Town Recreation Center; the construction of an additional pickleball courts; improving and upgrading the amenities at all Town facilities, areas, and parks; ensuring that all Town facilities, areas, and parks are ADA compliant; and, the provision of additional pedestrian, kayak, canoe, and small boat water access sites. When asked the open ended question in the Needs Assessment Survey ***“In your opinion, what are the most important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks the Town of Oak Island needs to provide in the future?”*** the top responses in priority order are:

- ❖ **Crosswalks for Pedestrians**
- ❖ **Public Restrooms**
- ❖ **On-Street Bike Lanes**
- ❖ **Sidewalks/Pedestrian Lanes**
- ❖ **Hiking Trails/Paths**
- ❖ **Indoor Swimming Pool**
- ❖ **Greenways**
- ❖ **Indoor Recreation Facility**
- ❖ **Open and Natural Space**
- ❖ **Outdoor Swimming Pool**
- ❖ **Kayal Launch Sites/Facilities**
- ❖ **Senior Center**
- ❖ **Picnic Shelters**
- ❖ **Outdoor Fitness Course**
- ❖ **Playground Equipment**
- ❖ **Small Boat Launch Sites/Facilities**
- ❖ **Sand Volleyball Courts**
- ❖ **Teen Center**

With this and all public input information in mind, multiple facility, area, and park development needs and recommendations are specifically identified in this 5-year Master Plan for 2026 – 2031 that are deemed to be the most urgent and the most practical to implement during the period of this document. All of these needs and recommendations relate to existing Town of Oak Island public facilities, areas, parks, and land. These needs and recommendations are not presented in any particular or priority order:

- 1) Adopt the *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”* upon its completion and implement the document’s recommendations regarding the expansion, improvement, construction, and installation of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System** that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Oak Island, connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the Town particularly along NC 211, Long Beach Road, Fish Factory Road, Oak Island Drive, Yacht Drive, Holly Drive, Oak Drive, Pelican Drive, Dolphin Drive, Middleton Avenue, Ocean Drive, and Beach Drive and connects the Town of Oak Island to its neighboring municipalities such as St. James Plantation, the City of Southport, and the City of Boiling Spring Lakes

“TOWN OF OAK ISLAND BICYCLE PLAN (2025)”

- 2) Adopt the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture upon its completion and implement the document’s recommendations regarding a new or renovated comprehensive **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center and Town of Oak Island Community Center**

**“RECREATION CENTER NEEDS
ASSESSMENT AND FACILITY FEASIBILITY
AND EVALUATION STUDY (2025)”**

- 3) Hire a consulting firm to development a *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement Plan”* to determine the optimal pedestrian movement system of sidewalks, foot paths, and crosswalks to be implemented within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction; adopt the *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement Plan”* upon its completion; and begin implementing the *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement Plan”* recommendations up adoption

“TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PEDESTRIAN PLAN”

- 4) Replace all rolling trash and recycling receptacles with permanent trash and recycling receptacles at all Town facilities, areas, and parks

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5) Upgrade, Expand, Improve, and Modernize existing facilities, areas, and parks:

+ 10th Place West Gazebo

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **10th Place West Gazebo**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**10th Place West Gazebo**” at the entrance to the facility on W Beach Drive
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach



- ❖ Install a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station



- ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across W Beach Drive at 10th Place W to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility



[30th Place West Dock](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **30th Place West Dock**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **“30th Place West Dock”** at the entrance to the facility on W Pelican Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of 30th Place West and W Beach Drive directing users to **“30th Place West Dock”**
 - ❖ Apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge under the Floating Dock—currently the Dock is unusable during low tide



- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock
- ❖ Repair/Replace the Access Ramp leading from the Pier to the Floating Dock—the Ramp is in extremely poor condition



- ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
- ❖ Remove the Monofilament String on the Pier



- ❖ Install a Monofilament Recycling Bin at the end of the Pier
- ❖ Remove the Rotting Netting at the water end of the parking area and as one enters the Pier—THIS IS A DANGEROUS TRIPPING HAZARD



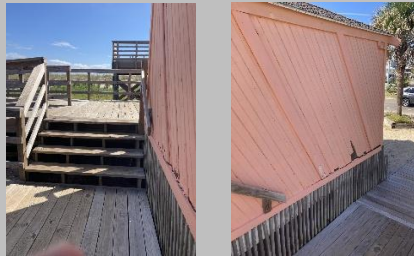
46th Street Cabana

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **46th Street Cabana**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “46th Street Cabana” at the entrance to the facility on E Beach Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of 46th Street and E Oak Island Drive directing users to the “46th Street Cabana”
 - ❖ Repair, update, and renovate the public restroom facility and keep the public restroom facility open 24/7, year-round



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- ❖ Update, repair, and renovate the Cabana itself—some of the wood is in bad shape and in need of repair or replacement. May require demolition and rebuild



- ❖ Install a Shading Device over the existing Observation Deck
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the **46th Street Cabana** Linked to the Town’s Website



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57th Place West Boat Ramps

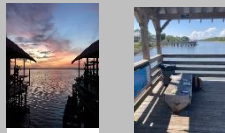
- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **57th Place West Boat Ramps**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **“57th Place West Boat Ramps”** at the entrance to the facility off W Dolphin Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of 57th Place West and W Beach Drive directing users to the **“57th Place West Boat Ramps”**
 - ❖ Inspect the Boat Ramps at low tide to make certain there is enough water to launch a boat at low tide. If there is not enough water to launch a boat a low tide, apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge the bottom around the Boat Ramps



- ❖ Inspect the Boat Ramps for wear and tear and repair or replace as necessary
- ❖ Because of limited parking at the facility, the Boat Ramps are difficult and dangerous to use—the Town should consider selling the Boat Ramps to a private enterprise or acquiring land need the Boat Ramps for additional public parking

78th Street Crab Dock

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **78th Street Crab Dock**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **“78th Street Crab Dock”** at the entrance to the facility off E Yacht Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of NE 78th Street and E Oak Island Drive directing users to the **“78th Street Crab Dock”**
 - ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Dock



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- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Pier



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[801 Ocean Event Center](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **801 Ocean Event Center**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**801 Ocean Event Center**” at the entrance to the facility off Ocean Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of Womble Street and E Oak Island Drive directing users to the “**801 Ocean Event Center**”
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across Ocean Drive at Womble Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility



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- ❖ Install a QR Code at the [Park](#) Linked to the Town’s Website

[Barbee Walking Trail](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Barbee Walking Trail**:
 - ❖ Extend the Barbee Walking Trail from E Oak Island Drive all the way to Ocean Drive and Yaupon Park
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Barbee Walking Trail**” at the north entrance at May Moore Park
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Barbee Walking Trail**” where the current Trail connects with Shipwreck Park
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Barbee Walking Trail**” where the current Trail intersects with E Oak Island Drive
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Barbee Walking Trail**” where extended Trail intersects with Ocean Drive
 - ❖ Install a Swing Bench in Shipwreck Park where the north end of the Park intersects with the south end of the Trail



- ❖ Install several benches in strategic locations along the Trail from May Moore Park to Yaupon Park
- ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at Barbee Boulevard to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across Ocean Drive at Barbee Boulevard to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Bill Smith Park

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Bill Smith Park**:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage reading “**Bill Smith Park**” on Long Beach Road directing users to the facility
 - ❖ Expand the 9-Hole Disc Golf Course to an 18-Hole Disc Golf Course
 - ❖ Install a proper source of Fresh Water/Water Spigot at the Salty Dog Park



- ❖ Install a Handicap Accessible Mat at the entrance into Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Construct a Handicap Accessible Walkway from the entrance into Salty Dog Park to a seating area within Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Install several Activity Structures in both the Large Dog Park and the Small Dog Park



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- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged sections of the Fence around Salty Dog Park



- ❖ Mark one (1) of the Parking Spaces into Salty Dog Park as Handicapped Parking

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Construct an Outdoor Amphitheater in the open space/green space between the Salty Dog Park and the parking lot for the Pier/Floating Dock/Picnic Shelter



- ❖ Install two (2) Handicap Accessible Playgrounds in the open space/green space south of the pond—one for 2-5 year-olds and one for 5-12 year olds



- ❖ Install permanent Trash and Recycling Receptacles in strategic locations throughout the Park—eliminate the rolling receptacles
- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged Scoreboards



- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged/missing Bench Swing along the walking path through the Disc Golf section next to Fish Factory Road



- ❖ Install a Monofilament Recycling Bin on the Pier
- ❖ Place a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Pier
- ❖ Install additional Swing Benches overlooking the water near the Pier



- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

Commissioner's Observatory Park

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Commissioner's Observatory Park**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **"Commissioner's Observatory Park"** at the entrance to the facility off McGlamery Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of McGlamery Street and E Oak Island Drive directing users to the **"Commissioner's Observatory Park"**
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach



- ❖ Install Raised Seating under the Covered Shade Structure/Gazebo to allow users to see over the dunes
- ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, as needed
- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at McGlamery Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **"Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street"** at the entrance to the facility off SE 9th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of SE 9th Street and E Oak Island Drive directing users to the **"Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street"**
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and replace rotten and moldy/algae covered wood, as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 9th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility



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[Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street](#)

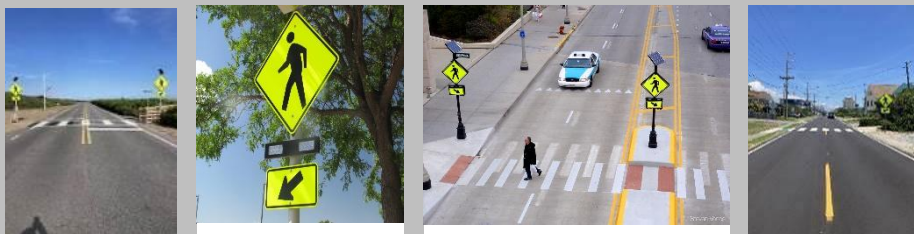
- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street**” at the entrance to the facility off SE 20th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of 20th Street SE and E Oak Island Drive directing users to the “**Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street**”
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, as needed



- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 20th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

[Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street**” at the entrance to the facility off SW 5th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of W Oak Island Drive and SW 5th Street directing users to the “**Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street**”
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 5th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 9th Street**” at the entrance to the facility off SE 9th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 9th Street directing users to the “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 9th Street**”
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—9th Place E**” at the entrance to the facility off 9th Place E
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Beach Drive and 9th Place E directing users to the “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—9th Place E**”
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed



SE 9th Street Crossover



9th Place E Crossover

- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 9th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 20th Street**” at the entrance to the facility off SE 20th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 20th Street directing users to the “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 20th Street**”
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—19th Place E**” at the entrance to the facility off 19th Place E
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Beach Drive and 19th Place E directing users to the “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—19th Place E**”
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed



SE 20th Street



19th Place E

- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 20th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility entrance

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 31st Street**” at the entrance to the facility off SE 31st Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 31st Street directing users to the “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—SE 31st Street**”
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—29th Place E**” at the entrance to the facility off 29th Place E
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of 29th Place E and E Beach Drive directing users to the “**Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover—29th Place E**”
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 31st Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, and Remove Sand as needed
 - ❖ Install a Water Proof Plastic Boardwalk over the sections of the Pedestrian Crossover that currently go over the bare ground



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Hannon A. Templeton Park

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Hannon A. Templeton Park**:

- ❖ Improve the two (2) Pedestrian Entrances into the Park off E Oak Island Drive



- ❖ Repair and repaint the damaged Park Sign



- ❖ Inspect the swings in the Park and repair and replace as necessary



- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at NE 41st Street and NE 42nd Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park

- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park

- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[Heron Lookout Park](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Heron Lookout Park**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **“Heron Lookout Park”** at the entrance to the Park off SE 40th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 40th Street directing users to the **Heron Lookout Park**
 - ❖ Place a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the two (2) Swings



- ❖ Install a Bike Rack in a strategic location within the Park



- ❖ Install a Floating Dock with a Kayak Launch Amenity off the bulkhead



- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website



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[Kevin Bell Skatepark](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Kevin Bell Skatepark**:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersections of E Oak Island Drive and SE 49th Street and E Beach Drive and SE 49th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 49th Street directing users to the **Kevin Bell Skatepark**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Beach Drive with SE 49th Street directing users to the **Kevin Bell Skatepark**
 - ❖ Install a Picnic Shelter where the existing Picnic Table is located and place the Picnic Table under the Picnic Shelter
 - ❖ Replace the existing Porta-Johns with a permanent Public Restroom Facility



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[“Little Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **“Little Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage reading **“Little Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E”** at the entrance to the facility off E Pelican Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Beach Drive and 9th Place E directing users to the **“Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E”**
 - ❖ Apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge under the Floating Dock—currently the Dock is unusable during low tide



- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock



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May Moore Park

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **May Moore Park**:
 - ❖ Install a Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and Barbee Boulevard directing users to **May Moore Park**
 - ❖ Install a Bike Rack in a strategic location near the entrance to the Park



- ❖ Install two (2) additional Bench Swings along the waterside edge of the Park



- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock



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- ❖ Install a Picnic Shelter on the existing concrete slab that includes the existing Handicap Accessible Picnic Table



- ❖ Install a Public Restroom Facility to accommodate bikers on Yacht Drive and Elizabeth Drive
- ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, and Remove Sand as needed
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Middleton Park Complex

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Middleton Park Complex**:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 49th Street directing users to the **Middleton Park Complex**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 47th Street directing users to the **Middleton Park Complex**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Beach Drive and SE 49th Street directing users to the **Middleton Park Complex**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Beach Drive and SE 46th Street directing users to the **Middleton Park Complex**
 - ❖ Install a “Senior Playground” in the area of the Park Complex presently occupied by the concrete Cornhole Boards. Senior Playgrounds are carefully crafted outdoor areas where elderly citizens can play, stretch, and socialize in a safe and engaging environment. These senior playgrounds feature equipment tailored to older bodies: balance beams to prevent falls, low-impact elliptical machines, rotating hand wheels for joint mobility, and leg presses to maintain strength. Some even include tactile surfaces, memory games, and shaded benches for rest and conversation. Surfaces are soft, signage is clear, and layouts prioritize accessibility for canes, walkers, or wheelchairs.



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- ❖ Install a Tennis Practice Backboard at each of the two (2) existing Tennis Courts
- ❖ Install additional Fitness Stations in strategic locations along the Fitness Path



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- ❖ Install Shade Sails directly over the existing Splash Pad



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- ❖ Install Shade Sails directly over the Pirate Ship Playground



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- ❖ Plant Shade Trees in strategic locations along the Fitness Path
- ❖ Repair the Backstop at the Baseball/Softball Field or eliminate the am completely



- ❖ Install Dog Waste Bag Dispensers at strategic locations within the Park Complex



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- ❖ Construct a permanent Public Restroom Facility with a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station in the area presently occupied by the Porta-Johns near the Amphitheater



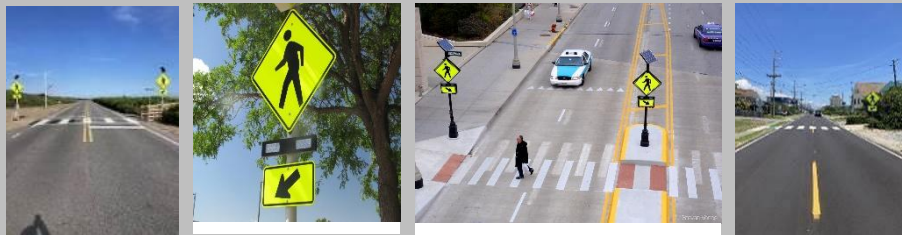
- ❖ Install Watering Stations in strategic locations throughout the **Middleton Park Complex**



- ❖ Increase the size of the Dance Floor in front of the Amphitheater



- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park Complex
- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Beach Drive at SE 49th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park Complex



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- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park Complex
- ❖ Install a live Web-Cam over the Pickleball Courts linked to the Town's Website
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Complex Linked to the Town's Website

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

NE 55th Street Boat Ramps

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **NE 55th Street Boat Ramps**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the facility at NE 55th Street and E Yacht Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and NE 55th Street directing users to the **NE 55th Street Boat Ramps**
 - ❖ The facility is showing signs of age and wear and tear and needs to be inspected to determine its viability—it is possible that the Boat Ramps and the Floating Dock need repairs or replacement (Floating Dock is missing many of the docking cleats and the Boat Ramps have cracked and potholed concrete)



- ❖ Post a sign at the parking lot stating **“PARKING FOR TRAILERED VEHICLES ONLY”**



NW 3rd Street Steps/Stairs

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **NW 3rd Street Steps**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the facility at NW 3rd Street and W Yacht Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of W Oak Island Drive and NW 3rd Street directing users to the **NW 3rd Street Steps/Stairs**
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary

[Oak Island Community Center](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the [Oak Island Community Center](#):
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the facility at E Oak Island Drive and SE 48th Street
 - ❖ Install a Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 48th Street directing users to the [Oak Island Community Center](#)
 - ❖ The Oak Island Community Center is a wonderful facility, but it needs to be enlarged—possibly by moving the facility into the current Public Services Maintenance Building or into the current Oak Island Recreation Center if a new Oak Island Recreation Center and constructed
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Oak Island Community Center](#)
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the [Oak Island Community Center](#) Linked to the Town’s Website



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[Oak Island Fishing Pier](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the [Oak Island Fishing Pier](#):
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the facility at Ocean Drive and Womble Street
 - ❖ Install a Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and Womble Street directing users to the [Oak Island Fishing Pier](#)
 - ❖ Repair the storm damage to the Pier
 - ❖ Hire an architect to determine the feasibility of revamping and remodeling the entire [Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex](#)
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex](#)



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- ❖ Install a QR Code at the [Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex](#) Linked to the Town’s Website

Oak Island Nature Center—Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Oak Island Nature Center—Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the **Oak Island Nature Center** on NE 52nd Street which reads “**Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**”
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and NE 52nd Street directing users to the **Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**
 - ❖ The facility presently includes the Oak Island Nature Center, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park amenities—for clarification purposes, the entire Complex should be renamed the “**Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**” which would include the Oak Island Nature Center Building, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden with its Walkway/Trail System, the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park
 - ❖ All current signage should be removed and replaced with “**Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**”
 - ❖ Special individual signage should be assigned to the Oak Island Nature Center, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the **Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER BUILDING

- ❖ The handicap accessible ramp leading into the Oak Island Nature Center building is in disrepair and sections of it need to be repaired or replaced



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ The entrance to the handicap accessible ramp is blocked by a 3 inch lip which would keep a wheelchair from entering the ramp—this lip must be removed



- ❖ The Displays in the Oak Island Nature Center Building need to be updated and revised on a regular basis—this could be accomplished with the assistance of the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Board

DOT KELLY BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND WALKWAY/TRAIL SYSTEM

- ❖ Immediately replace the existing natural and slate rock walkways/trails with an American with Disabilities (ADA) and Universal Design (UD) approved surfacing



OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER PIER AND FLOATING DOCK

- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock are starting to show their age and wear and tear—the wooden structure should be inspected and any and all damaged wood repaired or replaced
- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock should be inspected on a regular basis and any damaged wood repaired/replaced as necessary
- ❖ The ramp leading from the Oak Island Nature Center Pier to the Floating Dock has some damage and some of the wood on the ramp is in need of repairs/replacement



- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Floating Dock is in need of repairs



- ❖ Inspect the Floating Dock at low tide to make certain there is enough water under the Dock at low tide. If there is not enough water, apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge the bottom around the Floating Dock
- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock

MALCOLM REGISTER MINI-PARK

- ❖ Inspect the Fishing Pier and make any repairs and replacement as needed
- ❖ Replace the existing benches with views of the marsh and estuarine waters with Bench Swings with shade covers
- ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Fishing Pier



[Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#):
 - ❖ Relocate the [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#) to a Town-owned and operated facility
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#) on NE 47th Street until the new location is secured
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and NE 47th Street until the new location is secured
 - ❖ The Displays in the [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#) need to be updated and revised on a regular basis—this could be accomplished with the assistance of the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Board

[Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#):
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#) on Vanessa Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of Long Beach Road SE and Vanessa Drive directing users to the [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#)
 - ❖ Replace and/or Repair all of the Course Greens



- ❖ Install Bottles of Sand at each of the Course Tee Boxes
- ❖ Inspect and repair the existing Irrigation System
- ❖ Replace and/or Repair the Putting Green
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#)



[Oak Island Recreation Center](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Oak Island Recreation Center**:
 - ❖ Adopt the *“Recreation Center Needs Assessment and Facility Feasibility and Evaluation Study (2025)”* and follow the document’s recommendations regarding a new or renovated comprehensive Town of Oak Island Recreation Center

[SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the **SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee** on SW 6th Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of W Oak Island Drive and SW 6th Street directing users to the **SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee**
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Install a Floating Dock with a Kayak Launch Facility off the Pier and Fishing Tee

[Shipwreck Park](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Shipwreck Park**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to **Shipwreck Park** on Barbee Boulevard
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and Barbee Boulevard directing users to **Shipwreck Park**
 - ❖ Install a Swing Bench facing south at the north end of **Shipwreck Park**



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[Shuster Fishing Pier](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Shuster Fishing Pier**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the **Shuster Fishing Pier** at the intersection of W Yacht Drive and W Oak Island Drive
 - ❖ Install a set of Steps/Stairs off the bulkhead to the sand/beach area along the bulkhead



- ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
- ❖ Add Off-Road Parking to the site in the sandy area leading up to the Fishing Pier



- ❖ Remove the Chain Link Fencing



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

[The Point](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **The Point**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to **The Point** on W Beach Drive
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to **The Point** on Kings Lynn Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of W Beach Drive and 69th Place West directing users to **The Point**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of Kings Lynn Drive and 69th Place West directing users to **The Point**
 - ❖ Install a Permanent Public Restroom Facility that is handicapped accessible



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- ❖ Investigate methods for Increasing Public Parking at the site



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[Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to the **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to the **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch** on SE 31st Street
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and SE 31st Street directing users to the **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch**
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch**

[Veterans Memorial Park](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Veterans Memorial Park**:
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and NE 15th Street directing users to **Veterans Memorial Park**
 - ❖ Install a Kayak/Canoe Launch Amenity off the Bulkhead
 - ❖ Install a Permanent Public Restroom Facility that is handicapped accessible
 - ❖ Extend the Shade Roof over the entire length of the Pier but make it 2-3 feet higher to allow overhead line casting
 - ❖ Install a Doggie Waste Bag Dispenser in a strategic location
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park

[Yaupon Park](#)

- ◆ Recommended additions, improvements, and enhancements to **Yaupon**:
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage at the entrance to **Yaupon Park** on Ocean Drive
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage at the intersection of E Oak Island Drive and Barbee Boulevard directing users to **Yaupon Park**
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach



- ❖ Install a Small Permanent Public Restroom Facility
- ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Cover over the Picnic Table
- ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Cover over the Swing Bench

Facility, Area and Park Development—Beyond 2031

There are three (3) Facility, Area, and Park Development identified needs and recommendations “Beyond 2031”:

- 1) **The continued expansion, improvement, construction, and installation of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable [Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System](#) that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Oak Island, connects the various residential, commercial and service areas of the Town particularly along NC 211, Long Beach Road, Fish Factory Road, Oak Island Drive, Yacht Drive, Holly Drive, Oak Drive, Pelican Drive, Dolphin Drive, Middleton Avenue, Ocean Drive, and Beach Drive and connects the Town of Oak Island to its neighboring municipalities such as St. James Plantation, the City of Southport, and the City of Boiling Spring Lakes, based upon the *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”*, if not completed before 2031**

“TOWN OF OAK ISLAND BICYCLE PLAN (2025)”

- 2) **The continued planning, design, and construction of a new or renovated comprehensive [Town of Oak Island Recreation Center](#), based upon the *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture, if not completed before 2031**

“RECREATION CENTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

AND FACILITY FEASIBILITY AND EVALUATION STUDY (2025)”

- 3) **The continued planning, design, and construction of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable [Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System](#) of sidewalks, foot paths, and crosswalks to be implemented within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction, especially along NC 211, Oak Island Drive, Yacht Drive, Long Beach Road, Fish Factory Road, Beach Drive, Elizabeth Drive, Oak Drive, Pelican Drive, Dolphin Drive, Holly Drive, Vanessa Drive, Kings Lynn Drive, and Middleton Avenue, based upon the *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”*, if not completed before 2031**

“TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PEDESTRIAN PLAN”

- 4) **The continued upgrading, expansion, improvement, and modernization of existing Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks, if not completed before 2031**

Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031

The Town of Oak Island is doing an acceptable job of providing basic recreation and leisure programs, services, events, and activities for residents. The Needs Assessment Survey confirms this to be true as eighty-eight percent (88%) of the respondents expressed some level of agreement with the statement ***“The VARIETY of programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island is appropriate”***; eighty-eight percent (88%) of the respondents expressed some level of agreement with the statement ***“The QUALITY of programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island is appropriate”***; and, seventy-six percent (76%) of the respondents expressed some level of agreement with the statement ***“I believe the existing programs, services, events, and activities provided by the Town of Oak Island meet the needs of the members of my household”***.

However, there is always room for improvement, and this is certainly applicable to the Town of Oak Island. A tally of the responses to the survey question ***“In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities the Town of Oak Island needs to provide in the future? (MARK ONLY UP TO FIVE).”*** reveals the top responses are: **Biking Opportunities** (330 respondents), **Gardening Programs** (312 respondents), **Pickleball Clinics** (268 respondents), **Cooking Classes** (238 respondents), **Adult Pickleball League** (237 respondents), **Hiking Opportunities** (226 respondents), **Birding Clinics/Classes** (206 respondents), **Line Dancing** (160 respondents), **Fitness Programs for Kids** (82 respondents), **Tennis Clinics** (79 respondents), **Youth Pickleball League** (74 respondents), **Youth Soccer League** (71 respondents), **Adult Tennis League** (59 respondents), **Youth Volleyball League** (59 respondents), **Preschool Programs** (56 respondents), **Youth Tennis League** (54 respondents), and **Adult Volleyball League** (52 respondents). These responses indicate Town of Oak Island residents are most interested in basic recreation programs, services, events, and activities that are outdoor oriented, self-improvement related, and sports and fitness related.



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Based upon the information obtained during the needs’ assessment process and after a comprehensive evaluation of the capabilities of the Town of Oak Island to provide various innovative recreation programs, services, events, and activities the

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

following new recreation programs, services, events, and activities are recommended to be addressed over the next 5 years:

- 1) Provide appropriate **Biking, Walking, Running, and Hiking opportunities, experiences, programs, services, events, activities, and special collaborations within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction and in collaboration with the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Southport, and the Town of St. James**



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- 2) Provide appropriate **Gardening programs, services, events, activities, special events, and special collaborations**



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- 3) Provide appropriate **Pickleball Clinics and Pickleball Leagues for Youth and Adults**



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- 4) Provide appropriate **Cooking classes, programs, services, events, activities, special events and special collaborations**

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5) Provide appropriate **Birding** classes, clinics, programs, services, events, activities, special events, and special collaborations



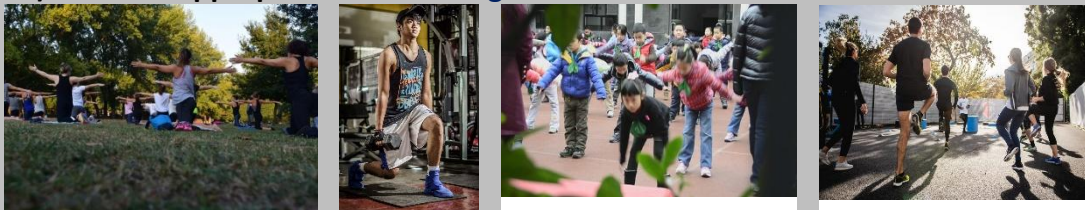
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6) Provide appropriate **Line Dancing** classes, programs, services, events, activities, special events, and special collaborations



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7) Provide appropriate **Fitness Programs for Kids**



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8) Provide appropriate **Tennis Clinics and Tennis Leagues** for Youth and Adults



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Program and Service Development—Beyond 2031

There are two (2) identified program, service, event, and activity needs and recommendations “Beyond 2031”:

- 1) Once the new and improved comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable sidewalk, crosswalk, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and **Pedestrian and Bicycle Movement Systems** that allows for safe and efficient movement in and around all areas of the Town of Oak Island is developed and open for operation based upon the “*Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)*”, the Town of Oak Island will need to continue to program the network and system appropriately



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- 3) Once the **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** is completed based on the “*Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)*” by HH Architecture, the Town of Oak Island will need to program it and operate it appropriately



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Policy and Procedure Considerations—2026 – 2031

There are several areas of policy and procedure that need to be examined and evaluated in light of the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Some of these policies and procedures are currently strategic parts of the standard operating procedures of the Town of Oak Island. However, several of the policy and procedure recommendations delve into areas not presently an active part of the Town’s operating procedures. Highlights of these policy and procedure considerations are summarized as follows:

- ◆ ***Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department Structure***—It is recommended and imperative that the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department remain as a Parks and Recreation Department in perpetuity!
- ◆ ***Bicycle Transportation Network and System***—The Town of Oak Island needs to adopt the ***“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”*** and immediately begin implementing the recommendations in the Plan.



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- ◆ ***Recreation Center Needs Assessment and Facility Feasibility and Evaluation Study***—The Town of Oak Island needs to adopt the ***“Recreation Center Needs Assessment and Facility Feasibility and Evaluation Study”*** and immediately being implementing the recommendations in the Study.
- ◆ ***Establish a Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force***—The Town of Oak Island should take the lead in establishing a ***Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force*** comprised of parks and recreation leaders from the Town of Oak Island, the City of Southport, the Town of Caswell Beach, the City of Boiling Spring Lakes, and Brunswick County. The Task Force should meet on a quarterly basis to coordinate governmental efforts related to parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. The quarterly meetings should be used to understand future facility, area, and park development, existing and developing programs, services, events, and activities, and other regional parks and recreation considerations to limit redundancy by the participants in general offerings and to identify niche opportunities for the Town of Oak Island residents and visitors.



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ **Expanded and Enhanced Partnerships**—The number and type of cooperative partnerships should be expanded and enhanced. Although the Town of Oak Island is already involved in several significant partnership commitments that have provided valuable services to the citizens of Town of Oak Island, there are still numerous groups, agencies, and organizations within the Town’s planning area and jurisdiction available and willing to enter into additional or expanded partnerships with the Town of Oak Island in the provision and administration of parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. These partnerships would significantly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Town resources and expand the scope of available parks and recreation programs, services, events, and activities. Available partners include, but are not limited to, “Oak Island Friends of Parks Foundation”, the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the Brunswick County School System and Board of Education, the Brunswick County Community College, the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), the Nature Conservancy, the Coastal Land Trust, the City of Boiling Spring Lakes Parks and Recreation Department, Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc., and other public, non-profit, private, commercial, service, and civic organizations and individuals in and around the Town of Oak Island.



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- ◆ **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance**—A major issue confronting all parks, recreation and open space providers is the ability to enhance access for disabled patrons and persons with special needs. Public Towns are not exempt from this requirement and legislation dictates that parks, recreation and open space amenities be barrier-free. The 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it imperative that the Town of Oak Island make a strong and comprehensive commitment to providing ADA accessibility to all citizens Town of Oak Island. The Town should continue to make ADA compliance and recreational inclusion a top administrative priority in the development and implementation of all programs, services, events, activities, access sites, facilities, areas, and parks. The ADA requirements and regulations governing design standards leave some room for interpretation for some parks,

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recreation and open space facilities; however, they are extremely specific regarding the design of restrooms, pathways, and other amenities. Before renovating old areas and facilities, or constructing new ones, the Town of Oak Island should consult with the Town's legal department or ADA compliance staff to review and interpret the ADA legislation and develop a standard by which they begin to develop a system sensitive to the needs of all visitors and users. If this assistance is not available, the Town staff should contract with a professional certified and trained in ADA requirements and regulations to conduct an ADA Accessibility Study of all current Town parks, recreation and open space facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, and activities including the public access sites.



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- ◆ ***Town Street End Assessments***—A Committee comprised of Parks and Recreation Department Staff and Town Planning Staff should be formed for the purpose of assessing all undeveloped Town street ends to determine their capability and suitability of being converted into oceanfront beach access sites; estuarine water or beach access sites; kayak, canoe and standup paddleboard launches; fishing piers; nature and wildlife viewing area; public parking amenities; or some other public amenity.
- ◆ ***Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Composition***—A representative from the Brunswick County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and a representative from the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should be added to the membership of the Town of Oak Island Parks & Recreation Advisory Board as ex-officio members. These ex-officio members would provide valuable connections between the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, packets including the agenda and specific memoranda related to all action items to be discussed at the regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should be sent out to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members at least one week in advance of the regularly scheduled Advisory Board meetings.

- ◆ ***Facilities, Areas, and Parks Identification and Clarification Committee***—A five-member Committee comprised of Parks and Recreation Department Staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members should be formed to correctly identify and describe the existing Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks. The Needs Assessment portion of the comprehensive Master Plan process revealed that very few of the existing Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks are actually “named and have signage” and many of the amenities of the Department facilities, areas, and parks are incorrectly “described” in Parks and Recreation Department communications and publications. For example, none of the Crossovers, Floating Docks, and Piers are named or have signage indicating their locations and many of the amenities at Bill Smith Park, Commissioner’s Observatory Park, Hannon A. Templeton Park, Kevin Bell Skatepark, Middleton Park Complex, E 55th Street Boat Ramps, Oak Island Nature Center, Register Park, The Point, Veterans Memorial Park, Yaupon Park, 10th Place West Gazebo, and the 78th Street Crab Dock are incorrectly described in official Department communications and publications. Every facility, area, and park should be named, signage posted at the facility, area, and park identifying the amenity, and the amenities at each facility, area, and park correctly identified in Parks and Recreation Department communications and publications.
- ◆ ***Publicity, Communication, and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas and Parks***—Increased and enhanced awareness, publicity, communication, and marketing of programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks offered by the Town of Oak Island would be beneficial. It might be possible to work with the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), East Carolina University (ECU), North Carolina State University (NCU), Duke University (DU), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), Fayetteville State University (FSU), Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) or another entity, to have a Publicity, Communication, and Marketing Strategic Plan prepared for the Town of Oak Island.



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- ◆ ***Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards (CPSI)***—The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department must be aware of possible non-compliance of playground equipment and park areas to safety standards adopted by organizations such as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the International Play Equipment Manufacturers’ Association (IPEMA). The Town of Oak Island should contract with an outside Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) or a Town staff member certified as a CPSI on a regular basis to inspect all parks and playground equipment and areas under the maintenance and operation of the Town. This action will ensure that the Town’s parks and playground equipment are in compliance with existing park and playground standards and serve as an additional protection against loss, damage, injury and negligence lawsuits.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

Personnel Considerations—2026 – 2031

The Needs Assessment component of the *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* process indicates that the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is in a state of personnel flux and change at this moment. This flux and change primarily relates to the following factors:

- 1) The Recreation Department is in the process of being converted from a Recreation Department back to a Parks and Recreation Department
- 2) The Town is in the process of hiring a Director of Parks and Recreation to lead the newly formed and created Parks and Recreation Department
- 3) The Town is in the process of adopting a *“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”*
- 4) The Town is in the process of adopting a *“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”* by HH Architecture
- 5) The Town will be in the process of adopting a *“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Plan”*

Unfortunately, all of this uncertainty makes it more difficult to establish present and future Personnel Considerations. However, there are some specific recommendations and guidelines that can be submitted and followed as this period of transition completes itself:

- 1) The Department currently needs full-time **Parks Maintenance Specialists**
 - ❖ Hire these individuals during the 2025—2026 or during the 2026—2027 Fiscal Year
2025—2026 and 2026—2027 Fiscal Year
- 2) The Department currently needs full-time **Building Maintenance Specialists**
 - ❖ Hire these individuals during the 2025—2026 or during the 2026—2027 Fiscal Year
2025—2026 and 2026-2027 Fiscal Year
- 3) The Department currently needs a full-time **Education Director**
 - ❖ Hire this individual during the 2026—2027 Fiscal Year
2026—2027 Fiscal Year
- 4) The Department currently needs a full-time **Rentals, Events, and Special Programs Coordinator**
 - ❖ Hire this individual during the 2027—2028 Fiscal Year
2026—2027 Fiscal Year
- 5) The Department needs additional **Splash Pad Supervisors**
 - ❖ Hire these individuals during the 2026—2027 Fiscal Year
2026—2027 Fiscal Year

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- 6) The Department currently needs a full-time **Administrative Assistant/Office Manager**
 - ❖ **Hire this individual during the 2027—2028 Fiscal Year**
2027—2028 Fiscal Year
- 7) The Department currently needs a full-time **Oak Island Par 3 Golf Supervisor**
 - ❖ **Hire this individual during the 2028—2029 Fiscal Year**
2028—2029 Fiscal Year
- 8) The Department will need additional **Programming and Maintenance staff** once the **Pedestrian and Bike Transportation Network and System** is established
 - ❖ **Hire these individuals as necessary during the 2026 – 2027 through 2030—2031 Fiscal Years**
2026-2027 through 2030—2031 Fiscal Years
- 9) The Department will need additional **Programming and Maintenance staff** once the new **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center** is established
 - ❖ **Hire these individuals as necessary during the 2026—2027 through 2030—2031 Fiscal Years**
2026—2027 through 2020-2031 Fiscal Years
- 10) When deciding upon the new staff positions and the composition of the Department Organizational Chart, there are a couple of guidelines that must be understood and followed:
 - a. **Organizational Chart**—An Organizational Chart, also called Organigram, Organogram, or Organizational Breakdown Structure (OBS), is a diagram that shows the structure of an organization and the relationships and relative ranks of its parts and positions/jobs. The Organizational Chart shows graphically the relation of one official to another, or others, of a company and typically illustrates relations between people within an organization. The most common type of Organizational Chart is a Hierarchical Organizational Chart. A hierarchical organization is an organizational structure where every entity in the organization, except one, is subordinate to a single other entity. Members of hierarchical organizational structures mainly communicate with their immediate supervisor and their immediate subordinates. Structuring organizations in this way is useful, partly because it reduces the communication overhead cost by limiting information flows.

- b. **Chain of Command**—is an organizational structure that documents how each member of a company reports to one another. A chain of command exists to distribute power and responsibilities, keep employees aware of company news, and create a system for sharing knowledge. It also ensures each employee is responsible for their own work but also has a more senior leader to offer support, encouragement, and motivation.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

- c. **Unity of Command**—is the principle that subordinate members of an organizational structure should all be responsible to a single supervisor. Unity of Command means that an employee should receive orders from one supervisor only. In other words, it means that no employee should be subjected to the order of more than one supervisor.

UNITY OF COMMAND

- d. **Span of Control**—refers to the number of employees a manager can oversee effectively. Simply put, a span of control refers to the number of subordinates under the manager's direct control. The span of control refers to the number of subordinates that can be managed effectively and efficiently by supervisors or managers in an organization. There is no ideal number to define span of control. Span of control will be dictated by the abilities and capabilities of each manager and each subordinate of that manager. The more capable the manager and the subordinates, the larger the span of control can be.

SPAN OF CONTROL

- e. **Job Descriptions**—a document that defines a person's duties and responsibilities within an organization. A job description is a written narrative that describes the general tasks, or other related duties, and responsibilities of a position. A job description outlines the roles and responsibilities of a position by specifying the outcomes a person is accountable for and defining the role they are expected to take on, showing how their contributions support team and organizational goals. A job description is essential to ensure clarity of why the role exists. A job description describes the activities to be performed, and a

job specification lists the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform the job. A job description contains several sections including an identification section, a general summary, essential functions and duties, job specifications, and disclaimers and approvals.

- f. A job description can be used:
 - i. To provide the employee with the expectations that are required of them in the role
 - ii. To provide enough detail to help the employee assess if they are suitable for the position
 - iii. To help formulate questions for the interview process
 - iv. To allow the prospective employee to determine their role or standing within the structure of the organization
 - v. To assist in forming a legally binding contract of employment
 - vi. To help set goals and target for the employee upon joining
 - vii. To communicate potential career progression by pointing toward possible promotion routes and the conditions required to achieve them
 - viii. To aid in the evaluation of the employee's job performance
 - ix. To help formulate training and development plans

JOB DESCRIPTION

Personnel Considerations—Beyond 2031

There is no practical way to predict the personnel requirements for parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks Beyond 2031 at this time. The future need for parks and recreation full-time staff, part-time staff, seasonal employees, contract instructors, and student interns will be dependent upon how much the Town of Oak Island expands its current parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks in the future.



CHAPTER NINE:

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is grounded in an analysis and synthesis of current parks, recreation and open space background information for the Town of Oak Island, an inventory and evaluation of the existing parks, recreation and open space delivery system, an understanding of appropriate and applicable parks, recreation and open space standards and guidelines, and, the identification of citizen and participant needs, wants, desires and interests.

The recommendations of the comprehensive *Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* are designed to be planned and implemented over the next 5-year period and beyond utilizing revenues and funds from current appropriations, the annual Town operating budget, grants, private sources, tax revenues, gifts, donations, possibly a municipal *Bond Referendum*, and/or user fees and charges. The implementation of the comprehensive **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan** is also contingent upon the Town’s ability to enter into cooperative ventures with various complimentary agencies and organizations currently operating in and around the Town of Oak Island and Brunswick County.

PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department leisure service delivery system should continue to grow and respond to changes in the Town’s demographics. Future planned land acquisition, facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, activities, policy considerations, and personnel considerations should be implemented incrementally to provide for these changes. Several factors guided the prioritization of individual segments of the ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Master Plan*** and were derived from input, desires, wants, and expressed needs of the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department staff and residents of the Town of Oak Island.

- ✚ The current condition and state of affairs of the Town’s existing **Bicycle Movement System**
- ✚ The current condition and state of affairs of the Town’s existing **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center and Town of Oak Island Community Center**
- ✚ The current condition and state of affairs of the Town’s existing **Pedestrian Movement System**
- ✚ The current condition and state of affairs of the Town’s Parks and Recreation land, facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, activities, policies and personnel

The first step in the implementation of the ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** is adoption of the plan by the Town of Oak Island Town Council. By adopting the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**, the Town is able to make better decisions regarding all aspects of the community and coordinate the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan** with the Town’s other adopted planning documents such as the ***CAMA Land-Use Plan***, the ***Town Bike Plan***, and **Recreation Center Needs Assessment and Facility Feasibility and Evaluation Study**.

ACTION STEPS

Upon adoption of this plan, implementation of specific recommendations can begin. Many of the specific recommendations will occur immediately and simultaneously. Others will not occur for several years. The key steps are:

- 1) Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address the five-year and beyond anticipated future recreational project list and address the Goals of the Master Plan

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- 2) Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of the Master Plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, and policy considerations that are proposed
- 3) Develop public awareness and educational programs, such as public forums; public information sessions; facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, and activities promotions; meeting with civic advocacy groups; and town website announcements
- 4) Initiate work on the actual recommendations that are listed in the five-year and beyond Master Plan

LAND ACQUISITION IMPLEMENTATION—2026 – 2031 AND BEYOND 2031

The land acquisition recommendations identified within the ***Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*** are significant and expensive. Any land acquisition could be funded through a Bond Referendum, the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), the North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program, Clean Water Trust Fund grants and other available grant funding through the state of North Carolina, private foundations/sources and the federal government. In addition, the Town of Oak Island should begin immediately to budget \$25,000 - \$50,000 per year in a 5-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget for these land acquisition purposes. The accumulated funds in the CIP budget would then be available for land acquisition purposes as the need arises in the future.

Land Acquisition Implementation 2026 – 2031

1 July 2026 – 30 June 2031

❖ 2026 – 2031 Fiscal Years

- **Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of the **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System*****

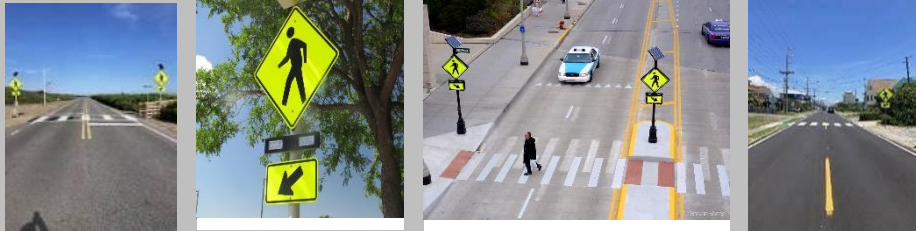


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- **Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive, **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center*****

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Acquire available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe and functional **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System***



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- Prepare for the *Bond Referendum* to be placed on the November 2028 general election ballot
- Budget \$25,000 – \$50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition



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1 July 2030 – 30 June 2031

❖ **2030 – 2031 Fiscal Year**

- Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Neighborhood Park** at the west end of the island
- Acquire any and all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Community Park** on the mainland
- Acquire all available and necessary land adjacent and contiguous to the **Middleton Park Complex**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to **Bill Smith Park**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to the **Oak Island Recreation Center**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Facilities, Areas, and Parks**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Oceanfront Beach and Estuarine and Soundside Public Access Sites**
- Budget \$25,000 – \$50,000 in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for future land acquisition

LAND

ACQUISITION

2026 – 2031

Land Acquisition Implementation Beyond 2031

Beyond 2030 – 2031 Fiscal Year

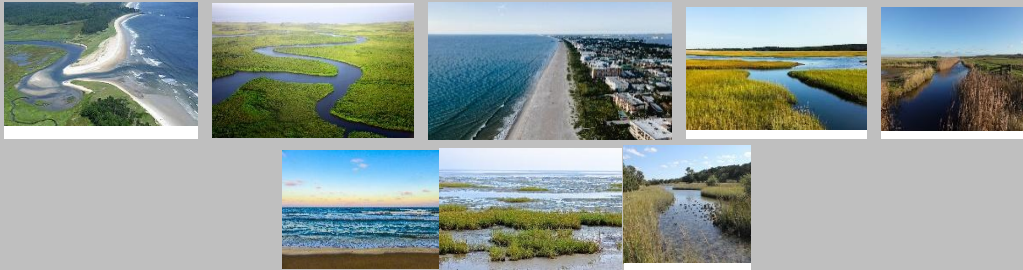
- Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of the **Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System***



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- Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a multi-functional, multi-purpose, comprehensive, **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center***
- Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction, expansion, improvement, and operation of a safe and functional **Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System***
- Acquire all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Neighborhood Park** at the west end of the island
- Acquire any and all available and necessary land appropriate and suitable for the construction of a **Community Park** on the mainland
- Acquire all available and necessary land adjacent and contiguous to the **Middleton Park Complex**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to **Bill Smith Park**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to the **Oak Island Recreation Center**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Facilities, Areas, and Parks**
- Acquire any available land adjacent and contiguous to any and all Town-owned, operated, and maintained **Oceanfront Beach and Estuarine and Soundside Public Access Sites**

- Acquire any available land offering the possibility of public access and related amenities to the oceanfront beach, sounds, estuarine waters, and marshes in and surrounding the Town of Oak Island



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- Acquire any available land offering specific advantages for general parks, recreation, and open space purposes for the Town of Oak Island
- Acquire any available land suitable for greenways and blueways in and around the Town of Oak Island



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- Acquire any available land adjacent to and contiguous to any and all existing Town of Oak Island facilities, areas, and parks

LAND ACQUISITION BEYOND 2031

*The actual land acquisition costs, the amount of acreage to be acquired and the location of the acquisitions should be calculated in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget to be developed in concert with the 2026 - 2027 Town of Oak Island operating budget and then updated annually during the operating budget planning process.

FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION
2026—2031 AND BEYOND 2031

The specific details for the implementation of the facility, area, and park development recommendations for the 2026 – 2031 Fiscal Years should be worked out in a **5-Year Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget** for the Town of Oak Island. In addition to the use of general fund operating revenues to pay for these specific facility, area, and park recommendations, the Town should aggressively apply for state, federal, and non-profit **grants**, seek **private funding sources**, and place a **General Obligation Bond Referendum** before the Town residents. The recommendations to be implemented are:

- 1) Adopt the **“Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)”** upon its completion and implement the document’s recommendations regarding the expansion, improvement, construction, and installation of a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable **Bicycle Movement System**
- 2) Adopt the **“Recreation & Community Centers Study (2025)”** by HH Architecture upon its completion and implement the document’s recommendations for the **Town of Oak Island Recreation Center and the Town of Oak Island Community Center**
- 3) Hire a consulting Firm to develop a **“Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement Plan”** to determine the optimal pedestrian movement system of sidewalks, foot paths, traffic lights, and crosswalks to be implemented within the Town of Oak Island planning jurisdiction to establish a comprehensive, safe, functional, and usable **Pedestrian Movement System**
- 4) Ensure ADA and UD compliance for all Town programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks
- 5) Replace all rolling trash and recycling receptacles with permanent trash and recycling receptacles at all Town facilities, areas, and parking
- 6) Install proper identification and directional signage for all Town facilities, areas, and parks
- 7) Install Wi-Fi capability in appropriate Town facilities, areas, and parks
- 8) The upgrading, expansion and modernization of existing facilities, areas, and parks:
 - ✚ **10th Place West Gazebo**
 - ✚ **30th Place West Dock**
 - ✚ **46th Street Cabana**
 - ✚ **57th Place West Boat Ramps**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- + 78th Street Crab Dock
- + 801 Ocean Event Center
- + Barbee Walking Trail
- + Bill Smith Park
- + Commissioner’s Observatory Park
- + Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street
- + Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street
- + Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street
- + Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E
- + Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E
- + Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E
- + Hannon A. Templeton Park
- + Heron Lookout Park
- + Kevin Bell Skatepark
- + “Little Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E
- + May Moore Park
- + Middleton Park Complex
- + NE 55th Street Boat Ramps
- + NW 5th Street Steps/Stairs
- + Oak Island Community Center
- + Oak Island Fishing Pier
- + Oak Island Nature Center—Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex
- + Oak Island Ocean Education Center
- + Oak Island Par 3 Golf
- + Oak Island Recreation Center
- + SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee
- + Shipwreck Park
- + Shuster Fishing Pier
- + The Point
- + Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch
- + Veterans Memorial Park
- + Yaupon Park

This document anticipates the Town of Oak Island will aggressively pursue potential state, federal, and non-profit **grants** as well as **private sources** to pay for new parks, recreation and open space facilities, areas, and parks. However, the master plan implementation strategy also anticipates the Town of Oak Island will place a **General Bond Referendum** on the ballot during the November 2028 general election.

Facility, Area and Park Development

Implementation 2026 – 2031

2026 – 2031 Fiscal Years (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031)

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

(July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031)

- ✚ Dedicate appropriate maintenance staff and equipment for all facilities, areas, and parks (Begin 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year—On-Going Project)
- ✚ Ensure all Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, and activities are ADA compliant and meet Universal Design standards and guidelines as outlined in the Master Plan (Begin 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year—On-Going Project)
- ✚ Replace all rolling trash and recycling receptacles with permanent trash and recycling receptacles at all Town facilities, areas, and parks as outlined in the Master Plan (2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year—On-Going Project)
- ✚ Install facility, area, and park identification signage and directional signage for all Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks as outlined in the Master Plan (2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year—On-Going Project)
- ✚ Install public Wi-Fi at all Town-owned facilities, areas, and parks as outlined in the Master Plan (Begin 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year—On-Going Project)
- ✚ Implement a Marketing, Publicity, and Communication Plan to improve public awareness of Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, parks, programs, services, events, and activities (2026 – 2028 Fiscal Years)
- ✚ Assess and Investigate the Town street ends to determine their feasibility to be converted into public amenities (2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year)

SPECIFIC PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2026 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

(July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031)

✚ **BICYCLE MOVEMENT SYSTEM, RECREATION CENTER, COMMUNITY CENTER, and PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT SYSTEM PROJECTS**

- *Bond Referendum* Preparation
- *Bond Referendum* Placement on November 2028 ballot
- Seek and Apply for Planning Grants
- Seek and Apply for Design Grants
- Seek and Apply for Construction Grants
- Hire Consultant to Oversee Construction of the four (4) Projects
- Begin Construction of the four (4) Projects
- Continue Construction of the four (4) Projects until completion

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

SPECIFIC FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE 2028 – 2031 FISCAL YEARS

(July 1, 2028 – June 30, 2031)

EXISTING FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- **10th Place West Gazebo**
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach
 - ❖ Install a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across W Beach Drive at 10th Place W to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- **30th Place West Dock**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge under the Floating Dock—currently the Dock is unusable during low tide
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock
 - ❖ Repair/Replace the Access Ramp leading from the Pier to the Floating Dock—the Ramp is in extremely poor condition
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Remove the Monofilament String on the Pier
 - ❖ Install a Monofilament Recycling Bin at the end of the Pier
 - ❖ Remove the Rotting Netting at the water end of the parking area and as one enters the Pier—THIS IS A DANGEROUS TRIPPING HAZARD
- **46th Street Cabana**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Repair, update, and renovate the public restroom facility and keep the public restroom facility open 24/7, year-round
 - ❖ Update, repair, and renovate the Cabana itself—some of the wood is in bad shape and in need of repair or replacement. May require demolition and rebuild
 - ❖ Install a Shading Device over the existing Observation Deck
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Cabana Linked to the Town’s Website



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- **57th Place West Boat Ramps**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Boat Ramps at low tide to make certain there is enough water to launch a boat at low tide. If there is not enough water to launch a boat a low tide, apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge the bottom around the Boat Ramps
 - ❖ Inspect the Boat Ramps for wear and tear and repair or replace as necessary
 - ❖ Because of limited parking at the facility, the Boat Ramps are difficult and dangerous to use—the Town should consider selling the Boat Ramps to a private enterprise or acquiring land need the Boat Ramps for additional public parking
- **78th Street Crab Dock**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Dock
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Pier
- **801 Ocean Event Center**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across Ocean Drive at Womble Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website
- **Barbee Walking Trail**
 - ❖ Extend Barbee Walking Trail from E Oak Island Drive all the way to Ocean Drive and Yaupon Park
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Swing Bench in Shipwreck Park where the north end of the Park intersects with the south end of the Trail
 - ❖ Install several benches in strategic locations along the Trail from May Moore Park to Yaupon Park
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at Barbee Boulevard to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Install a Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk across Ocean Drive at Barbee Boulevard to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility



➤ **Bill Smith Park**

- ❖ Install Directional Signage
- ❖ Expand the 9-Hole Disc Golf Course to an 18-Hole Disc Golf Course
- ❖ Install a proper source of Fresh Water/Water Spigot at the Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Install a Handicap Accessible Mat at the entrance into Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Construct a Handicap Accessible Walkway from the entrance into Salty Dog Park to a seating area within Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Install several Activity Structures in both the Large Dog Park and the Small Dog Park
- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged sections of the Fence around Salty Dog Park
- ❖ Mark one (1) of the Parking Spaces into Salty Dog Park as Handicapped Parking
- ❖ Construct an Outdoor Amphitheater in the open space/green space between the Salty Dog Park and the parking lot for the Pier/Floating Dock/Picnic Shelter
- ❖ Install two (2) Handicap Accessible Playgrounds in the open space/green space south of the pond—one for 2-5 year-olds and one for 5-12 year olds
- ❖ Install permanent Trash and Recycling Receptacles in strategic locations throughout the Park—eliminate the rolling receptacles
- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged Scoreboards
- ❖ Repair/Replace the damaged/missing Bench Swing along the walking path through the Disc Golf section next to Fish Factory Road
- ❖ Install a Monofilament Recycling Bin on the Pier
- ❖ Place a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Pier
- ❖ Install additional Swing Benches overlooking the water near the Pier
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

➤ **Commissioner's Observatory Park**

- ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
- ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach
- ❖ Install Raised Seating under the Covered Shade Structure/Gazebo to allow users to see over the dunes
- ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, as needed

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at McGlamery Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website
- **Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9th Street**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and replace rotten and moldy/algae covered wood, as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 9th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- **Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20th Street**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 20th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- **Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5th Street**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 5th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- **Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 9th Street and 9th Place E**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 9th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
- **Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 20th Street and 19th Place E**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood as needed
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 20th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility entrance



- **Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossovers—SE 31st Street and 29th Place E**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 31st Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the facility
 - ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, and Remove Sand as needed
 - ❖ Install a Water Proof Plastic Boardwalk over the sections of the Pedestrian Crossover that currently go over the bare ground
- **Hannon A. Templeton Park**
 - ❖ Improve the two (2) Pedestrian Entrances into the Park off E Oak Island Drive
 - ❖ Repair and repaint the damaged Park Sign
 - ❖ Inspect the swings in the Park and repair and replace as necessary
 - ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at NE 41st Street and NE 42nd Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website
- **Heron Lookout Park**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Place a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the two (2) Swings
 - ❖ Install a Bike Rack in a strategic location within the Park
 - ❖ Install a Floating Dock with a Kayak Launch Amenity off the bulkhead
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town’s Website
- **Kevin Bell Skatepark**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Picnic Shelter where the existing Picnic Table is located and place the Picnic Table under the Picnic Shelter
 - ❖ Replace the existing Porta-Johns with a permanent Public Restroom Facility
- **“Little Davis Canal Floating Dock—9th Place E**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Apply for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge under the Floating Dock—currently the Dock is unusable during low tide
 - ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock

➤ **May Moore Park**

- ❖ Install Directional Signage
- ❖ Install a Bike Rack in a strategic location near the entrance to the Park
- ❖ Install two (2) additional Bench Swings along the waterside edge of the Park
- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Floating Dock
- ❖ Install a Picnic Shelter on the existing concrete slab that includes the existing Handicap Accessible Picnic Table
- ❖ Install a Public Restroom Facility to accommodate bikers on Yacht Drive and Elizabeth Drive
- ❖ Inspect the Wooden Structure on a Regular Basis and Replace Rotten and Moldy/Algae Covered Wood, and Remove Sand as needed
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Linked to the Town's Website

➤ **Middleton Park Complex**

- ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
- ❖ Install a "Senior Playground" in the area of the **Middleton Park Complex** presently occupied by the concrete Cornhole Boards
- ❖ Install a Tennis Practice Backboard at each of the two (2) existing Tennis Courts
- ❖ Install additional Fitness Stations in strategic locations along the Fitness Path
- ❖ Install Shade Sails directly over the existing Splash Pad
- ❖ Install Shade Sails directly over the Pirate Ship Playground
- ❖ Plant Shade Trees in strategic locations along the Fitness Path
- ❖ Repair the Backstop at the Baseball/Softball Field or eliminate the Baseball/Softball Field completely
- ❖ Install Dog Waste Bag Dispensers at strategic locations within the **Middleton Park Complex**
- ❖ Construct a permanent Public Restroom Facility with a Wash-Off/Rinse-Off Station in the area presently occupied by the Porta-Johns near the Amphitheater
- ❖ Install Watering Stations in strategic locations throughout the **Middleton Park Complex**
- ❖ Increase the size of the Dance Floor in front of the Amphitheater
- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park Complex
- ❖ Install a Lighted Pedestrian Crosswalk across E Beach Drive at SE 49th Street to provide safe pedestrian access to the Park Complex

- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Middleton Park Complex](#)
- ❖ Install a live Web-Cam over the Pickleball Courts linked to the Town’s Website
- ❖ Install a QR Code at the Park Complex Linked to the Town’s Website
- [NE 55th Street Boat Ramps](#)
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ The facility is showing signs of age and wear and tear and needs to be inspected to determine its viability—it is possible that the Boat Ramps and the Floating Dock need repairs or replacement (Floating Dock is missing many of the docking cleats and the Boat Ramps have cracked and potholed concrete)
 - ❖ Post a sign at the parking lot stating **“PARKING FOR TRAILERED VEHICLES ONLY”**
- [NW 5th Street Steps/Stairs](#)
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
- [Oak Island Community Center](#)
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ The Oak Island Community Center is a wonderful facility, but it needs to be enlarged
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Oak Island Community Center](#)
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the [Oak Island Community Center](#) Linked to the Town’s Website
- [Oak Island Fishing Pier](#)
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Repair the storm damage to the Pier
 - ❖ Hire an architect to determine the feasibility of revamping and remodeling the entire [Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex](#)
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex](#)
 - ❖ Install a QR Code at the [Oak Island Fishing Pier Complex](#) Linked to the Town’s Website
- [Oak Island Nature Center—Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex](#)
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ The facility presently includes the Oak Island Nature Center, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park amenities—for

clarification purposes, the entire Complex should be renamed the “Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex”

- ❖ All current signage should be removed and replaced with “Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex”
- ❖ Special individual identification signage should be assigned to the Oak Island Nature Center, the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock, and the Malcolm Register Mini-Park
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the **Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex**

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER BUILDING

- ❖ The handicap accessible ramp leading into the Oak Island Nature Center building is in disrepair and sections of it need to be repaired or replaced
- ❖ The entrance to the handicap accessible ramp is blocked by a 3 inch lip which would keep a wheelchair from entering the ramp—this lip must be removed
- ❖ The Displays in the Oak Island Nature Center Building need to be updated and revised on a regular basis—this could be accomplished with the assistance of the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Board

DOT KELLY BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND WALKWAY/TRAIL SYSTEM

- ❖ Immediately replace the existing natural and slate rock walkways/trails with an American with Disabilities (ADA) and Universal Design (UD) approved surfacing

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER PIER AND FLOATING DOCK

- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock are starting to show their age and wear and tear—the wooden structure should be inspected and any and all damaged wood repaired or replaced
- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock should be inspected on a regular basis and any damaged wood repaired/replaced as necessary
- ❖ The ramp leading from the Oak Island Nature Center Pier to the Floating Dock has some damage and some of the wood on the ramp is in need of repairs/replacement
- ❖ The Oak Island Nature Center Floating Dock is in need of repairs
- ❖ Inspect the Floating Dock at low tide to make certain there is enough water under the Dock at low tide. If there is not enough water, apply

for a permit from the NC Division of Coastal Management to dredge the bottom around the Floating Dock

- ❖ Install a Kayak Launch Amenity off the Oak Island Nature Center Pier and Floating Dock

[MALCOLM REGISTER MINI-PARK](#)

- ❖ Inspect the Fishing Pier and make any repairs and replacement as needed
- ❖ Replace the existing benches with views of the marsh and estuarine waters with Bench Swings with shade covers
- ❖ Install a Shade Sail or Shade Roof over the Fishing Pier

➤ [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#)

- ❖ Relocate the [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#) to a Town-owned and operated facility
- ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage at the current location until the new location is secured
- ❖ The Displays in the [Oak Island Ocean Education Center](#) need to be updated and revised on a regular basis—this could be accomplished with the assistance of the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Board

➤ [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#)

- ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
- ❖ Replace and/or Repair all of the Course Greens
- ❖ Install Bottles of Sand at each of the Course Tee Boxes
- ❖ Inspect and repair the existing Irrigation System
- ❖ Replace and/or Repair the Putting Green
- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#)

➤ [Oak Island Recreation Center](#)

- ❖ Adopt the *“Recreation Center Needs Assessment and Facility Feasibility and Evaluation Study (2025)”* and follow the document’s recommendations regarding a new or renovated comprehensive Town of Oak Island Recreation Center

➤ [SW 6th Street Pier and Fishing Tee](#)

- ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
- ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
- ❖ Install a Floating Dock with a Kayak Launch Facility off the Pier and Fishing Tee

➤ [Shipwreck Park](#)

- ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
- ❖ Install a Swing Bench facing south at the north end of [Shipwreck Park](#)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Shuster Fishing Pier**
 - ❖ Install Identification Signage
 - ❖ Install a set of Steps/Stairs off the bulkhead to the sand/beach area along the bulkhead
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Add Off-Road Parking to the site in the sandy area leading up to the Fishing Pier
 - ❖ Remove the Chain Link Fencing
- **The Point**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Permanent Public Restroom Facility that is handicapped accessible
 - ❖ Investigate methods for Increasing Public Parking at the site
- **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Inspect all of the Wooden Structure on a regular basis and Repair/Replace damaged wood as necessary
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the **Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch**
- **Veterans Memorial Park**
 - ❖ Install Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Kayak/Canoe Launch Amenity off the Bulkhead
 - ❖ Install a Permanent Public Restroom Facility that is handicapped accessible
 - ❖ Extend the Shade Roof over the entire length of the Pier but make it 2-3 feet higher to allow overhead line casting
 - ❖ Install a Doggie Waste Bag Dispenser in a strategic location
 - ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability within the Park
- **Yaupon Park**
 - ❖ Install Identification and Directional Signage
 - ❖ Install a Mobi-Mat at the beach access to the oceanfront beach
 - ❖ Install a Small Permanent Public Restroom Facility
 - ❖ Install a Shade Cover over the Picnic Table and Swing Bench

*The actual development costs, schedule and timeline should be calculated in a 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget to be developed in concert with the 2026 - 2027 Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department operating budget and then updated annually during the operating budget planning process.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Facility, Area, and Park Development Implementation 2026 – 2031 Fiscal Years

PROJECT	BEGIN	COMPLETE
Town of Oak Island Bicycle Movement System	2026 – 2027 FY	On-Going Project
Town of Oak Island Recreation Center	2026 – 2027 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Town of Oak Island Community Center	2026 – 2027 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Movement System	2026 – 2027 FY	On-Going Project
ADA and UD Compliance	2026 – 2027 FY	On-Going Project
Trash and Recycling Receptacles	2026 – 2027 FY	2026 – 2027 FY
Identification and Directional Signage	2026 – 2027 FY	On-Going Project
Wi-Fi Installation	2026 – 2027 FY	On-Going Project
Marketing Plan	2026 – 2028 FY	On-Going Project
Street End Assessment	2026 – 2027 FY	2026 – 2027 FY
10 th Place West Gazebo Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
30 th Place West Dock Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
46 th Street Cabana Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
57 th Place West Boat Ramps Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
78 th Street Crab Dock Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
801 Ocean Education Center Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Barbee Walking Trail Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Bill Smith Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Commissioner’s Observatory Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 9 th Street Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Davis Canal Floating Dock—SE 20 th Street Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Davis Canal Floating Dock—SW 5 th Street Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Davis Canal Ped Crossover—SE 9 th St & 9 th Place E Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Davis Canal Ped Crossover—SE 20 th St & 19 th Place E Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Davis Canal Ped Crossover—SE 31 st St & 29 th Place E Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Hannon A. Templeton Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Heron Lookout Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Kevin Bell Skatepark Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
“Little” Davis Floating Dock—9 th Place E Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
May Moore Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Middleton Park Complex Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
NE 55 th Street Boat Ramps Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
NW 5 th Street Steps/Stairs Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Oak Island Community Center Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Oak Island Fishing Pier Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Oak Island Nature Center Park Complex Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Oak Island Ocean Education Center Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Oak Island Par 3 Golf Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Oak Island Recreation Center Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
SW 6 th Street Pier and Fishing Tee Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Shipwreck Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Shuster Fishing Pier Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
The Point Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Veterans Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY
Yaupon Park Improvements	2028 – 2029 FY	2030 – 2031 FY

PROGRAM, SERVICE, EVENT, AND ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION 2026 – 2031

Based upon the needs’ assessment conducted as a part of the Master Plan development process, there are additional programs, services, events, and activities that should be offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department. These additional programs, services, events, and activities should only be offered as a part of the normal operating budget and as staff, areas, facilities, and financial resources allow. The recommended programs, services, events, and activities are not particularly human resource intensive and should therefore be able to be accomplished with the existing staff, resources, and facilities or contracted out to professional outfitters and contractors at minimal cost to the Town of Oak Island. These programs, services, events, and activities will also be revenue generating activities which will help to decrease the net cost. The provision of these programs, services, events, and activities might also be facilitated via cooperative arrangements with other agencies and organizations. Eventually additional staff will need to be employed by the Parks and Recreation Department to accommodate all the future program, service, event, and activity development needs.

The following opportunities, experiences, programs, services, events, activities, and special collaborations can and should be implemented and provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department:

- ✚ **Walking, Running, Biking, and Hiking opportunities, experiences, programs, services, events, activities, and special collaborations**—the walking, running, biking, and hiking programs, services, events and activities identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**



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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ✦ **Gardening programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations**—the gardening programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**



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- ✦ **Pickleball Clinics and Pickleball Leagues for Youth and Adults**—the pickleball clinics and leagues for youth and adults identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**
- ✦ **Cooking programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations**—the cooking programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**
- ✦ **Birding programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, special collaborations**—the birding programs, services, events, activities and classes identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**

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- ✚ **Line Dancing programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations**—the Line Dancing programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**



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- ✚ **Fitness Programs for Kids**—the Fitness programs, services, events, activities, classes, special events, and special collaborations identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**



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- ✚ **Tennis Clinics and Tennis Leagues for Youth and Adults**—the tennis clinics and leagues for youth and adults identified and outlined in **Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Program, Service, Event, and Activity Development—2026 – 2031** should be implemented and budgeted on an annual basis as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s normal Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning with the **2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget**

PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION BEYOND 2031

The provision of additional programs, services, events, activities, and special collaborations beyond those identified above is contingent upon the complete construction and operation of the Town of Oak Island Bike Path System, the Town of Oak Island Recreation Center, and the Town of Oak Island Pedestrian Path System. Each of these proposed facilities, areas, and parks will have its own unique program, service, event, and activities requirements and opportunities. For example:

+ Pedestrian and Bicycle Movement System

- ✓ **Bike Races**
- ✓ **5k and 10k Races**
- ✓ **Triathlons**
- ✓ **Bike Safety Classes**
- ✓ **Bike Maintenance Classes**
- ✓ **Instructional Classes**
- ✓ **Walks**



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+ Comprehensive, Multi-Purpose Recreation Center

- ✓ **Swimming Classes**
- ✓ **Swim Team**
- ✓ **Basketball Leagues**
- ✓ **Volleyball Leagues**
- ✓ **Indoor Pickleball**
- ✓ **Exercise Classes**
- ✓ **Fitness Classes**
- ✓ **Aerobics Classes**
- ✓ **Sports Camps**
- ✓ **Community-Wide Events**



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POLICY AND PROCEDURE CONSIDERATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION—2026 – 2031

✚ ***Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department Structure***—the Town should make no adjustments to the current structure of the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department.

✚ ***Bicycle Transportation Network and System***—The Town of Oak Island should act immediately to adopt the “**Town of Oak Island Bicycle Plan (2025)**” and begin immediately to implement it recommendations.



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✚ ***Recreation & Community Centers Study by HH Architecture***—The Town of Oak Island should act immediately to adopt the “**Recreation & Community Centers Study**” by HH Architecture and begin immediately to implement it recommendations.

✚ ***Establish a Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force***—The Town of Oak Island Director of Parks and Recreation should take the lead in establishing a **Brunswick County Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force** comprised of parks and recreation leaders from the Town of Oak Island, the City of Southport, the Town of Caswell Beach, the City of Boiling Spring Lakes, and Brunswick County. The Director should contact the appropriate representative of each of the identified organizations in the spring 2027 and determine their interest in the Task Force. If there is interest, the Task Force should meet quarterly starting with the spring of 2027. The Task Force should meet on a quarterly basis to coordinate governmental efforts related to parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks.

✚ ***Enhanced, Expanded, and Improved Partnerships***—The number and type of cooperative partnerships should be enhanced, expanded, and improved. Although the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is already involved in several significant partnership commitments that have provided valuable services to the citizens of Town of Oak Island, there are still numerous groups, agencies and organizations within the Town’s planning area and jurisdiction available and willing to enter into additional or expanded partnerships with the Town of Oak Island Parks and

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Recreation Department in the provision and administration of parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. These partnerships would significantly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Town resources and expand the scope of available parks and recreation programs and services. Available partners include, but are not limited to,

“Oak Island Friends of Parks Foundation”, the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the Brunswick County School System and Board of Education, the Brunswick County Community College, the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), the Nature Conservancy, the Coastal Land Trust, the City of Boiling Spring Lakes Parks and Recreation Department, Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc., and other public, non-profit, private, commercial, service, and civic organizations and individuals in and around the Town of Oak Island. The Town of Oak Island Director of Parks and Recreation should take the immediate lead in this initiative.

- ✚ ***Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Compliance***—The Town of Oak Island should hire or contract with a competent certified professional to conduct a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of all existing programs, services, events, facilities, areas, and parks in order to determine current ADA, Universal Design, and recreational universal inclusion compliance. This inventory and evaluation should be completed during the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. All future programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks should be designed, constructed, and implemented according to recommended and acceptable ADA, Universal Design, and recreational universal inclusion guidelines and standards.



- ✚ ***Town Street End Assessment*** —The Town of Oak Island Director of Parks and Recreation should immediately form a working committee comprised off Parks and Recreation Department staff and Town Planning Department staff for the purpose of assessing all undeveloped Town streets ends as outlined in the Chapter of the Master Plan regarding Recommendations (Chapter Eight). This Committee should be formed during the early part of the 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year.
- ✚ ***Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Composition***—The membership of the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Board should be increased to include ex-officio members the Brunswick County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Town of Oak Island Parks

and Recreation Advisory Board should discuss the recommendation to increase the membership of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the September 2026 regular monthly meeting. If the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is in favor of the recommendation to increase the membership, the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Director should contact the appropriate spokespersons for the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board between October – December 2026 to determine whether these organizations are interested and willing to place ex-officio members on the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. If at least one of the above mentioned organizations is interested and willing to place an ex-officio member on the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should adopt a motion at the January 2027 regular meeting recommending the change to the Town of Oak Island Town Council. If the motion is adopted by the Town Council, the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board working in concert with the Parks and Recreation Director, the Town Manager and the Town Attorney should determine the best method for implementing this membership increase. The recommendation regarding the distribution of a packet to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at least one week in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting should be implemented with the July 2026 regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regular meeting.



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Town of Oak Island

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Facilities, Areas, and Parks Identification and Clarification Committee —

The Town of Oak Island Director of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should form a 5-person working committee comprised off Parks and Recreation Department staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members to correctly identify and describe the existing

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Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks as described in the Chapter of the Master Plan regarding Recommendations (Chapter Eight). This committee should be formed during the 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year.

- ✚ ***Publicity, Communication, and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas and Parks***—The need for this recommendation to be implemented quickly is substantial and the potential to have this developed as a class project by students at any of the local colleges and universities is extraordinarily strong. The Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Director should contact professors at any of the colleges or universities identified in the **Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, Chapter Eight—Master Plan Proposals & Recommendations: Policy and Procedure Considerations—2026 – 2027: Publicity, Communication and Marketing of Programs, Services, Events, Activities, Facilities, Areas and Parks** in July 2026 to discuss this opportunity as a potential spring 2027 or fall 2028 class project.



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- ✚ ***Certification of Parks and Playground Equipment/Playground Safety Standards (CPSI)***—The Town of Oak Island should contract with a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to perform complete and detailed assessments of all parks, recreation and open space facilities, areas and parks, particularly the playground equipment at these facilities, areas, and parks on a regular basis. A town employee could even obtain the certification and complete the process. CPSI assessments should be scheduled for every 2 years beginning with the 2027 – 2028 fiscal year. This recommendation should not eliminate the need for town staff to conduct daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and assessments of its own at Town of Oak Island parks, playgrounds, areas and facilities.



Funding Sources and Opportunities

Most, if not all, capital investments such as land acquisition and facility, area, and park development involve the expenditure of substantial amounts of money. Local governments, like the Town of Oak Island, have several options available to them when making these large capital investments. These options include, but are not limited to, the following:

- + **Federal Government Assistance and Grant Programs**
- + **State Government Assistance and Grant Programs**
- + **Dedicated Sources of Local Funding**
 - **Current Revenues—capital improvement costs from current revenues such as general taxation, fees, services charges and special assessments**
 - **Reserve Funds—financing capital improvement costs through the accumulation of local funds over time**
- + **Innovative/Non-Traditional Methods**
 - **Donations, Gifts and Contributions**
 - **Easements**
 - **Eminent Domain**
 - **Fee Simple Purchase**
 - **Fee Simple Purchase with Lease-Back or Resale**
 - **General Obligation Bonds**
 - **Life Estate**
 - **Park Foundations**
 - **Partnerships**
 - **Property and Sales Tax Revenues**
 - **Room Occupancy Tax (ROT)**
 - **Subdivision Ordinance with Public Dedication of Land and Fees-in-Lieu for Parks and Recreation**
- + **Specifically for Handicapped Accessible Playgrounds**
 - **Accessible Playgrounds**
 - **Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation**
 - **Cummingham Recreation**
 - **Duke Energy Foundation Grant**
 - **Landscape Structures**
 - **North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund**
 - **North Carolina State Employees' Credit Union Foundation**
 - **Playworld**
 - **Trillium Health Resources Play Together Accessible Playground Grants**

External Grant Funding Sources and Opportunities

It is a well-accepted fact of doing business that public parks and recreation agencies and organizations cannot survive under the current economic conditions without external grant funding. These grants may come from the state or federal government, quasi-governmental agencies, non-profit entities or from private foundations and organizations. The competition for these grants is enormous and formidable. Regardless of the source of the grant funding, the ability of a local government agency or organization to successfully secure these monies is vital and hangs on the local government's capability to present its case for securing the funding in the best light.

Grant-writing is both an art and a science. It requires creative ability to present the local government's needs and requests in the most advantageous manner and knowledge of specific grant writing requirements, policies and procedures. For this reason, successful grant-writing skills and abilities have become a requirement and a necessity for all local government operations. With this in mind, it is recommended the Town of Oak Island address this need. The recommendation is that the Town designate an employee to be the grant-writing authority for all Town requests for external grant funding and train that individual for this purpose. Or the Town hires an outside consultant already trained in grant-writing to work with the Town when preparing a grant request for external funding.

In response to shrinking federal assistance during the 1980s and 1990s, North Carolina established dedicated funding sources for recreation from sources such as bonds, real-estate transfer taxes, user fees, state sales taxes, income tax write-offs, and mineral severance taxes. North Carolina has taken major steps to provide on-going sources of park and conservation funds with the establishment of the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. In addition, grant money is also available through the federally funded Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA) [formerly known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)], National Highway System Funds, Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds, Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEAs). The North Carolina Department of Transportation administers the funds, and the local government agency can use these funds for developing portions of any proposed greenway system. Local governments can also apply for assistance with pedestrian, bikeway and greenway projects by applying for North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds. The following is an incomplete but representative listing of available federal, state, and non-traditional funding sources:

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

✚ **Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program**—Established in 1998, the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) provides funding to States and Territories to provide greater access to the recreational, cultural, historic, scenic, and natural resources within the United States for boats 26 feet or more in length (large cruising boats). There are over 675,000 large cruising boats in the United States which have a significant economic impact on waterfront communities. The BIG program funds projects designed to improve docking and comfort facilities to better accommodate these boats. Projects funded through the BIG program have many benefits, including:

- ✓ Strengthening local community ties to transient boaters and marine manufacturers
- ✓ Raising awareness of the economic benefits of recreational boating
- ✓ Promoting public/private partnerships and entrepreneurial opportunities
- ✓ Providing continuity of access to coastal communities
- ✓ Promoting awareness of transient boating opportunities
- ✓ Providing areas of safe harbor for transient boaters

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/program/boating-infrastructure>



✚ **Federal Aid Construction Funds**—The Federal Aid Construction Funds are included in the National Highway System (NHS), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). The funds provide for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities. The primary source of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is STBG Enhancement Funding

✚ **Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**—The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established in 1964 and is administered by the Department of Environmental Quality. The LWCF has historically been a primary funding source of the U.S. Department of Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. The

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LWCF provides grants for planning and acquiring outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including trails. Funds can be used for right-of-way acquisition and construction. All LWCF assisted areas and facilities must be maintained and opened, in perpetuity, as public outdoor recreation areas. The state can mitigate issues of non-compliance only with approval from the National Park Service. This fund is best used for large land protection efforts that will offer outdoor recreation only. It is problematic for small parcels and parks sites that plan to offer indoor recreation. Development of new recreation amenities with this fund are also potentially problematic as facilities developed with this fund must remain in perpetuity. This runs counter to national recreation planning trends that present that recreation amenities should aim to meet shifting demands expressed by the citizen base. Maximum annual grant awards for incorporated municipalities is \$250,000. LWCF assistance is provided on a matching basis up to a maximum of fifty (50) percent of the total project's allowable cost. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.doi.gov/lwcf> and <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm>



- Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA): A Legacy for Users**—This program provides funding for transportation related bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There is a Surface Transportation Program (STP) category, which allows cities and counties the option of using bridge and road funds for providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Enhancements can include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, rail corridor preservation, scenic and environmental transportation opportunities and improvements to historical transportation sites. Funds from this program could be used to establish corridor linkages between neighborhoods and park and recreational areas.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/summary.htm>



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- ✚ ***Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)***—This program provides flexible funding that may be used by states and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals. Modification of sidewalks to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is also an eligible activity. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/specialfunding/stp/>



- ✚ ***The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program***—The Safe Routes to Schools Program is a federal aid program of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The program is a sub-program of the Transportation Alternatives Program, falling under the Surface Transportation Program. Under TAP, the SRTS Program is combined with RTP to provide financial assistance to projects that fall under alternative transportation. Communities must contribute 20% of the project cost while the remaining 80% is funded through grant competitions. All TAP projects are administered by state departments of transportation. The federal program provides funds to the states to improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely. The purposes of the SRTS Program are outlined below:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age
- To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity (approximately 2 miles) of primary and middle schools (grades K– 8)

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/pages/safe-routes-to-school.aspx>



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United States Department of Transportation's Federal-Aid Highway Program—

This program was established by Title 23 United States Code, as revised by the Surface Transportation Assistance Acts and various other amendments. The program provides annual discretionary grants to qualifying governments for use in the acquisition of rights-of-way and the planning, construction, improvement and rehabilitation of interstate, primary, secondary and urban roads and highways. Funds may be used for capital improvements such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities within highway rights-of-way. This program is the largest source of federal funding for pedestrian and bicycle projects. Monies from this program are administered through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Federal funding is intended for capital improvements and safety and education programs, and projects must relate to the surface transportation system. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/summaryinfo.cfm>



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

United States Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Programs—

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling to school. SRTS initiatives improve safety and levels of physical activity for students. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Safe-Routes-to-School-Programs> and

[Improving Safety for Walking, Biking, and Rolling | US Department of Transportation](#) and

[Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)



STATE PROGRAMS

- ✚ **North Carolina Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants**—The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch created an annual matching grant program—the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative—to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. This program was initiated in January 2004 and is administered through the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Additional information can be found at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Statewide-Pedestrian-Bicycle-Plan.aspx>



- ✚ **North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Program—Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund**—The Federal Transportation Enhancement funding is administered by the Enhancement Unit and serves to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation’s intermodal transportation system. Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities, awarded through the North Carolina Call for Projects process, must benefit the travelling public and help communities increase transportation choices and access, enhance the built or natural environment and create a sense of place. Transportation Enhancement projects must have a relationship to surface transportation and encompass one of the following qualifying activities: bicycle and pedestrian facilities; bicycle and pedestrian safety; acquisition of scenic easements, scenic or historic sites; scenic or historic highway programs; landscaping and other scenic beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; preservation of abandoned rail corridors; control or outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; environmental mitigation; or transportation museums.

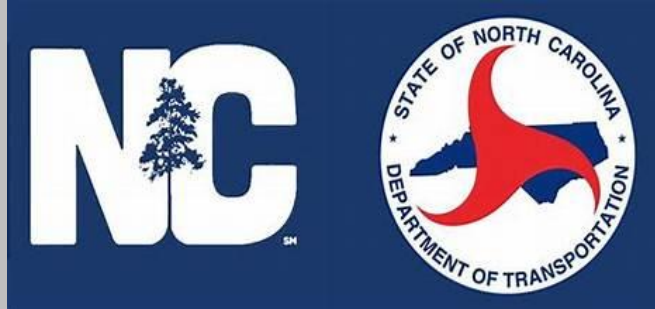


- ✚ **North Carolina Department of Transportation Powell Bill Program**—The North Carolina Department of Transportation administers the Powell Bill program providing state street aid to qualified incorporated municipalities within North

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Carolina. The Powell Bill funds are used primarily to resurface municipal streets but also may be used to maintain, repair, construct, or widen streets, bridges, and drainage areas. Municipalities can also use Powell Bill funds to plan, construct, and maintain bike paths, greenways, or sidewalks. Additional information may be found at:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/highways/Pages/powell-bill-street-aid.aspx#:~:text=The%20N.C.%20Department%20of%20Transportation%20administers%20the%20Powell,build%20or%20widen%20streets%2C%20bridges%20and%20drainage%20areas>



- North Carolina Department of Transportation SPOT Safety Program (SPOT)**—The Spot Safety Program is a state-funded public safety investment and improvement program that provides highly effective low-cost safety improvements for intersections and sections of North Carolina’s 79,000 miles of state-maintained roads in all 100 counties of North Carolina. The mission of the SPOT Safety Program is to administer the allocation of limited SPOT SAFETY funds systematically and objectively to those candidate safety projects across the State that provide the most benefit to the traveling public in terms of reducing injuries, fatalities, and motor vehicle crashes. Program project criteria include new and upgraded traffic signals, turn lanes, curve improvement, warning devices, roadway appurtenances, and positive guidance improvements. The Spot Safety Program is used to develop smaller improvement projects to address safety, potential safety, and operational issues. The program is funded with state funds and currently receives approximately \$9 million per state fiscal year. The maximum allocation per project is \$400,000.00. Additional information can be found at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/NC-Highway-Safety-Program-and-Projects.aspx#:~:text=Spot%20Safety%3A%20The%20Spot%20Safety%20Program%20is%20used,receives%20approximately%20%249%20million%20per%20state%20fiscal%20year>



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- ✚ ***North Carolina Department of Transportation: State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)***—This program is an ongoing program at NCDOT which includes a process asking localities to present their transportation needs to state government. Pedestrian facility and safety needs are an important part of this process. Every other year, a series of TIP meetings are scheduled around the state. Following the conclusion of these meetings, all requests are evaluated. Pedestrian improvement requests, which meet project selection criteria, are then scheduled into a four-year program as part of the state’s long-term transportation program. There are two types of projects in the TIP: incidental and independent. Incidental projects are those that can be incorporated into a scheduled roadway improvement project. Independent are those that can stand alone such as a trail project, not related to a particular roadway. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/stip/Pages/default.aspx>



- ✚ ***North Carolina Division of Coastal Management Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Grants***—The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management awards more than \$1 million a year in matching grants to local governments for projects to improve pedestrian access to the state’s beaches and waterways. Local governments may use access grants to construct low-cost public access facilities, including parking areas, restrooms, picnic shelters, dune crossovers and piers. Cities and counties may also use the grants to replace aging access facilities. In addition, local governments can use the funds to help acquire land for access sites or to revitalize urban waterfronts. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/public-beach-coastal-waterfront-access-program> and [Beach & Waterfront Access Grants | NC DEQ](#)



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- ✚ **North Carolina of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina State Parks – North Carolina Trails Program (RTP)**—The North Carolina Trails Program originated in 1973 with the North Carolina Trails System Act and is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations, agencies plan, develop, and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding to paddle trails and off-road vehicle trails. The Recreational Trails Program is a 41.5 million federal grant program designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. The program is administered by the United States Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration. RTP is a reimbursement grant program. Projects may include construction of a new trail, maintenance and repair of existing trails, land acquisition, purchase of trail tools and planning, legal, environmental and permitting costs (up to 10% of grant amount). Additional information can be found at:

<https://trails.nc.gov/trail-grants>



- ✚ **North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF)**—This is a program of the Division of Land and Water Stewardship within the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The North Carolina Land and Water Fund, previously known as the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, was originally established in 1966 to protect the state’s drinking water sources. The North Carolina General Assembly expanded the Fund’s mission to include conserving and protecting the state’s natural resources, cultural heritage, and military installations. The NCLWF will fund projects that contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits. The North Carolina Land and Water Fund has conserved over 500,000 acres and protected or restored 3,000 miles of streams and rivers. Additional information can be found at:

<https://nclwf.nc.gov/>



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- ✚ **North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF)**—The Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) was established in North Carolina in 1987. The fund provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state’s ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.ncnhp.org/conservation/natural-areas>



- ✚ **North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)**—The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) was established in 1994 and provides state parks and local governments with a reliable funding source for projects. The North Carolina General Assembly established the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in July 1994 to fund improvements in the state’s park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public’s access to the state’s beaches and coastal waters. The PARTF program provides dollar-for-dollar grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the general public. Counties, incorporated municipalities, and public authorities, as defined by G.S. 159-7, are eligible applicants. A local government can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application. An applicant must match the grant dollar-for-dollar, 50 percent of the total cost of the project, and may contribute more than 50 percent. The appraised value of land to be donated to the applicant can be used as part of the match. The value of in-kind services, such as volunteer work, cannot be used as part of the match. Property acquired with PARTF funds must be dedicated for public recreational use. Recipients use the grants to acquire land and/or to develop parks and recreational projects that serve the general public. A portion of the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is the primary funding source for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access (PBCWA) Program. The PBCWA

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Program, administered by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grants to local governments throughout North Carolina's 20 coastal counties. The fund is fueled by money from property sold in North Carolina and is allocated in 3 ways: 65% to the state parks through the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation; 30% as dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for park and recreation purposes; and 5% for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Access Program. More information can be found at:

<https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund> and [PARTF: For Applicants | NC State Parks \(ncparks.gov\)](#)



- ✚ **North Carolina Trails Program: Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**—The Recreational Trails Program was established in 1991 and is a grant program funded by Congress with money from the federal gas taxes paid on fuel used by off-highway vehicles. This program's intent is to meet the trail and trail-related recreational needs identified by the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Grant applicants must be able to contribute 25% of the project cost with cash or in-kind contributions. The 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. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation including hiking, bicycling, inline skating, equestrian use, all-terrain vehicle riding, or other off-road motorized vehicles. In NC, RTP is administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation as a grant program for government and nonprofit trail providers. More information can be found at:

<https://trails.nc.gov/>



State trails program

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North Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program—

The primary objective of the North Carolina Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program is to assist municipalities with reaching a level of sustainable U&CF management that matches their goals and capacity. In addition, through this process and the completion of urban and community forestry practices and activities, the program will enhance the quality of living in North Carolina communities. Additional information can be found at:

https://www.ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_program.htm

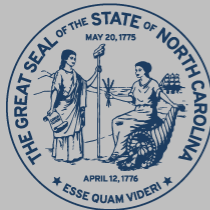


Water Resources Development Project Grant—

The Water Resources Development Project Grant Program is designed to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments throughout the State. Applications for grants are accepted for seven (7) purposes: General Navigation, Recreational Navigation, Water Management, Stream Restoration, Beach Protection, Land Acquisition, and Facility Development for Water-Based Recreation, and Aquatic Weed Control. Additional information can be found at:

[https://files.nc.gov/nc treasurer/documents/files/SLGFD/LGC/LocalGovFiscalMngmt/AnnualAudit/2021ComplianceSupp/deq-](https://files.nc.gov/nc treasurer/documents/files/SLGFD/LGC/LocalGovFiscalMngmt/AnnualAudit/2021ComplianceSupp/deq-19.pdf#:~:text=The%20primary%20objective%20of%20the%20Water%20Resources%20Development,sponsors%20of%20federal%20and%20non-federal%20water%20resources%20projects)

[19.pdf#:~:text=The%20primary%20objective%20of%20the%20Water%20Resources%20Development,sponsors%20of%20federal%20and%20non-federal%20water%20resources%20projects](https://files.nc.gov/nc treasurer/documents/files/SLGFD/LGC/LocalGovFiscalMngmt/AnnualAudit/2021ComplianceSupp/deq-19.pdf#:~:text=The%20primary%20objective%20of%20the%20Water%20Resources%20Development,sponsors%20of%20federal%20and%20non-federal%20water%20resources%20projects)



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

INNOVATIVE/NON-TRADITIONAL METHODS

- ✚ **Dedicated Source of Local Funding**—In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the funding programs listed, the Town of Oak Island should evaluate the existing town budget and funding for capital improvements and establish a program of setting aside a minimum certain amount of funds each year for capital improvement programs (\$15,00 - \$25,000 each year).
- ✚ **Donations, Gifts and Contributions**—The solicitation of contributions through donations and gifts is an acceptable method of fundraising for parks and recreation programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks. Donations and gifts, typically in the form of land, cash, labor, and materials, could be solicited to assist the Town of Oak Island with its parks and recreation experiences and opportunities. Corporations, civic organizations, individuals, and other groups generally donate to a specific program, service, event, activity, facility, area, or park project; however, donations and gifts may also be solicited for multiple project improvements or additions. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends the use of private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt foundations as a means of accepting and administering private gifts to a public park system. It is worth noting that the creation of a 501©(3) non-profit foundation is a recommendation of this Master Plan.



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- ✚ **Easements**—An easement is a nonpossessory right to use and/or enter onto the real property of another without possessing it. It is “best typified in the right of way which one landowner, “A,” may enjoy over the land of another landowner, “B.” An easement is a property right and type of incorporeal property in itself at common law in most jurisdictions. An easement is similar to real covenants and equitable servitudes. Easements are created when property owners are approached for permission to use their land. If an agreement is reached, it will be set in stone with a legal document such as a deed. While the homeowner who originally grants the easement may be compensated, subsequent homeowners typically are not, although the length of an easement may vary.



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- ✚ **Eminent Domain**—Eminent domain is the power of the government to take private property and put it to public use, following the payment of just compensation. This is a practice that occurs in the United States, and in many different countries under different names. Eminent domain is a right granted under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Private property is taken through condemnation proceedings, in which owners can challenge the legality of the seizure and settle the matter of fair market value sued for compensation. The most straightforward examples of eminent domain involve land and buildings seized to make way for a public project. It may include airspace, water, dirt, timber, and rock appropriated from private land for the construction of roads.



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- ✚ **Fee Simple Purchase**—Fee simple purchase is the most common method used to acquire municipal property for parks and recreation facilities, areas, and parks. Although it has the advantage of simplifying justification to the general public, fee simple purchase is an exceedingly difficult method to pursue due to limited monetary resources.
- ✚ **Fee Simple Purchase with Lease-Back or Resale**—This method allows local governments to acquire land by fee simple purchase yet allows them to either sell or lease the property to prospective users with restrictions that will preserve the land from future development. The fee simple with lease-back or resale method of development commonly results from situations in which landowners, who have lost considerable monetary amounts in property value, determine that it is more economical to sell the land to the local government (with a lease-back option) than to keep it.
- ✚ **General Obligation Bonds**—A General Obligation Bond is a municipal bond backed solely by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction rather than the revenue from a given project. General Obligation Bonds are issued with the belief that a municipality will be able to repay its debt obligation through taxation or revenue from projects. No assets are used as collateral. Many communities issue

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bonds, that are typically approved by the shareholders, to finance site development and land acquisition costs. The State of North Carolina grants local governments the authority to borrow funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds. The amount is not to exceed the cost of acquisition or improvement of park and recreation facilities. Total bond capacities for local governments are limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation. Since the issuance of bonds relies on the support of the voting population, the implementation of awareness programs is absolutely essential prior to a referendum vote.

- ✚ **Life Estate**—A life estate is a gift whereby a donor retains the land during his/her lifetime and relinquishes title of the property after his/her death. In return, the owner (or family) is relieved of property tax for the given land.
- ✚ **Park Foundations**—Foundations are another source of financing by making direct contributions within communities, states, or the nation. These types of funds are usually described as special program foundations, general purpose foundations, or corporate foundations. Foundations can provide the needed resources to support park projects. Foundations generally have very few restrictions and / or limitations and are typically received from local entities. A list of appropriate foundations can be found at <http://foundationcenter.org>
- ✚ **Partnerships**—To implement the recommendations contained in the Town of Oak Island 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the Town of Oak Island should expand their partnership agreements with other public agencies and private sector organizations. There are many different types of partnerships that can be formed to achieve the goals established by the town. Many local governments throughout the nation are utilizing partnerships with public and private sector interests to accomplish community goals. Listed below are the various types of partnerships that the Town should consider in its efforts for the improvement and addition of parks and recreational facilities:
 - Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are municipally owned
 - Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities
 - Development partnerships to purchase land and/or build facilities, area, and parks
 - Management partnerships to maintain properties and/or facilities, areas, and parks

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- ✚ **Property and Sales Tax Revenues**—General tax revenues traditionally provide sources for general operations and maintenance of park systems for local governments. Traditionally, ad valorem tax revenue has been the primary source of funding for the park and recreation enhancement of properties/facilities owned by local governments. Recreational opportunities are considered a public service and often are a standard line item on general fund budgets. Creative financial opportunities are possible; however, ad valorem taxes will continue to be the major revenue source to support the system. As such, communities often vote to raise their local tax rate temporarily in support of their park and recreation systems.



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- ✚ **Room Occupancy Tax (ROT)**—Occupancy taxes also commonly known as lodging tax, room tax, hotel tax, or tourist tax, are taxes that hosts, and property managers are required to collect from guests then pay to state and/or local tax authorities when operating a short-term rental. The typical room occupancy exercise tax applies to room rentals of 90 days or less in hotels, motels, bed and breakfast establishments, and lodging houses.



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- ✚ **Subdivision Ordinance with Public Dedication of Land and Fees-in-Lieu for Parks and Recreation**—North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A-372(a) states that “A subdivision control ordinance may provide for the orderly growth and development of the city; for the coordination of transportation networks and utilities within proposed subdivisions with existing or planned street and highways and with other public facilities; *for the dedication or reservation of recreation areas serving residents of the immediate neighborhood within the subdivision or, alternatively, for provision of funds to be used to acquire recreation areas*

servicing residents of the development or subdivision or more than one subdivision or development with the immediate area, and rights-of-way or easements for street and utility purposes including the dedication of rights-of-way pursuant to G. S 136-66.10 or G.S. 136-66.11; and for the distribution of population and traffic in a manner that will avoid congestion and overcrowding and will create conditions that substantially promote health, safety, and the general welfare.” North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A-372(e) states that “The ordinance may provide that a developer may provide funds to the city whereby the city may acquire recreational land or areas to serve the development or subdivision, including the purchase of land that may be used to serve more than one subdivision or development within the immediate area. All funds received by the city pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the acquisition or development of recreation, park, or open space sites. Any formula enacted to determine the amount of funds that are to be provided under this subsection shall be based on the value of the development or subdivision for property tax purposes. The ordinance may allow a combination or partial payment of funds and partial dedication of land when the governing body of the city determines that this combination is in the best interests of the citizens of the area to be served.” In general, a park land dedication ordinance is a requirement by a local government mandating that dwelling unit developers either:

- ✓ Dedicate land for a park
- ✓ Pay a fee-in-lieu of dedication to acquire park land
- ✓ Pay a fee to develop park facilities
 - Generally, impacts new residential subdivisions, multi-family and office conversions to multi-family
 - This is typically accomplished and enforced through the platting/subdivision process and in some cases the building permitting process

Additional information may be found at:

<https://law.justia.com/codes/north-carolina/2019/chapter-160a/article-19/section-160a-372/>

Dedication of Land and Fees-in-Lieu for Parks and Recreation

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFICALLY FOR
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS**

- ✚ **Accessible Playgrounds—Let Kids Play!**—This website lists grant sources for schools, playgrounds, and outdoor classrooms. Additional information can be found at:

https://www.accessibleplayground.net/playground-resources/playground-grants-and-fundraising/?doing_wp_cron=1714494845.3105180263519287109375



- ✚ **Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation**—Their Mission: We are dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by advancing innovative research and improving the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. The Christopher & Dana Reeve **Quality of Life** grants program offers a tiered grants strategy awarding **Direct Effect** (Tier 1) grants from 45,000 up to \$24,999 to support a wide array of programs and activities. In addition, they have created **Priority Impact** grants (Tier 2, 3 & 4) with higher maximum award amounts that focus on targeted high priority issues for people living with paralysis and their families. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/application-process/>

- ✚ **Cunningham Recreation**—Cunningham Recreation is a leading park, recreation, and playground equipment supplier in many areas across the United States, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, DC, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. They are experts in designing and building commercial playgrounds and have been a highly trusted resource for park amenities and equipment for over 50 years. Cunningham Recreation is a full-service supplier for a variety of equipment including but not limited to dog parks, outdoor play, park benches and bleacher, water play, custom design, inclusive playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, shade structures and shelter and safety surfacing. Additional information may be found at:

<https://www.cunninghamrec.com/>

- ✚ **Duke Energy Foundation Grant**—The Duke Energy Foundation receives grant applications through its various state initiatives, and each state has unique processes for receiving grant applications. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.duke-energy.com/community/duke-energy-foundation/funding-guidelines> and
<https://www.duke-energy.com/-/media/pdfs/community/foundation-grant-process-nc.pdf?la=en&rev=7b83df5054e349f39cbe1aa315c73fe8>

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- ✚ **Landscape Structures**—In 1998, Landscape Structures became the first commercial playground equipment manufacturer in North Carolina to be ISO 14001 certified for environmental stewardship. Today the Landscape Structures mission of enhancing the lives of children through play while honoring the environment is more critical than ever as they address issues of environmental protection and childhood obesity that affect nearly every single community. Landscape Structures specializes in “Continuous Play” and “Inclusive and accessible Play” opportunities and experiences. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.playlsi.com/>



- ✚ **North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)**—Since 1994, the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund awards matching grants to local governments for parks, public beach access, and improvements to state parks. The statewide program helps local governments reach their park and public access goals to improve the quality of life in their communities, including Handicapped Accessible Playgrounds. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund>



NC Division
of Parks &
Recreation

- ✚ **North Carolina State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation**—The North Carolina State Employees' Credit Union Foundation grants are directed toward non-profits and governmental organizations that demonstrate the Credit Union philosophy of people helping people. The SECU Foundation promotes local and community development by primarily funding high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, health care, and human services. The SECU Foundation offers Capital Grants which fund projects that are tangible, permanent, and visible and Programmatic Grants which fund pilot programs or large-scale program

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expansions that provide regional and statewide services. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.ncsecufoundation.org/Grants/Grants.html>

- ✚ **Playworld**—For decades, Playworld has recognized the power of play and the value of diversity. Inclusive playground equipment creates an accessible world, inspiring children of all abilities and ages to play both on their own, and with their peers. Playworld believes everyone—children with disabilities and typically developing children, and adults—should have access to inclusive playgrounds. Additional information can be found at: <https://playworld.com/>



- ✚ **Trillium Health Resources Play Together Accessible Playground Grants**—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. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.trilliumhealthresources.org/health-related-resources-needs/inclusive-playgrounds> and [Trillium Funding Opportunities | Trillium Health Resources](#)



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

APPENDIX—A

POPULATION COMPARISONS

BASED ON 2000, 2010, 2020 US DECENNIAL CENSUS

and 2019 – 2023 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

YEAR	TOWN OF OAK ISLAND	CITY OF BOILING SPRING LAKES	TOWN OF CASWELL BEACH	CITY OF SOUTHPORT	BRUNSWICK COUNTY	NORTH CAROLINA
2000	6,529	2,972	367	2,351	73,141	9,574,586
2010	6,783	5,372	396	2,833	107,431	9,535,483
2015	7,368	5,610	414	3,999	122,211	9,940,828
2020	8,396	5,943	395	3,971	136,693	10,439,388
2023	9,712					

Sources:

[Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

<https://data/cemsis.gov/all?q=Brunswick%20County,%20NC>

https://data.census.gov/profile/Southport_city,_North_Carolina?g=160XX00US3763400

https://data.census.gov/profile/Caswell_Beach_town,_North_Carolina?g=160XX00US3710960

https://data.census.gov/profile/Brunswick_County,_North_Carolina?g=050XX00US37019

[North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#) and https://data.census.gov/profile/North_Carolina?g=040XX00US37

[United States - Census Bureau Profile](#)

APPENDIX—B

PERMANENT AND SEASONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS

BASED ON THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND, NC

COMPREHENSIVE CAMA LAND USE PLAN UPDATE 2025

YEAR	PERMANENT POPULATION PROJECTIONS (2025 – 2055)	SEASONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS (2025 – 2055)
2025	9,974	46,624
2030	11,746	54,907
2035	12,833	59,989
2040	13,920	65,070
2045	14,956	69,913
2050	15,993	74,760
2055	17,880	83,582

Source: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:scVA6C2:7ce57b7c-8721-4c8c-9609-21a6080f3bac?viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover>



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APPENDIX—C

PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND

BASED ON 2022 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

Age Group	Number	Percentage
<i>Under 5 Years Old</i>	98	01.1%
<i>5 to 9 Years Old</i>	132	01.5%
<i>10 to 14 Years Old</i>	317	03.7%
<i>15 to 19 Years Old</i>	209	02.4%
<i>20 to 24 Years Old</i>	225	02.6%
<i>25 to 29 Years Old</i>	209	02.4%
<i>30 to 34 Years Old</i>	185	02.2%
<i>35 to 39 Years Old</i>	157	01.8%
<i>40 to 44 Years Old</i>	218	02.5%
<i>45 to 49 Years Old</i>	545	06.4%
<i>50 to 54 Years Old</i>	668	07.8%
<i>55 to 59 Years Old</i>	1,120	13.1%
<i>60 to 64 Years Old</i>	1,272	14.9%
<i>65 to 69 Years Old</i>	1,248	14.6%
<i>70 to 74 Years Old</i>	891	10.4%
<i>75 to 79 Years Old</i>	649	07.9%
<i>80 to 84 Years Old</i>	276	03.2%
<i>85 Years & Over</i>	145	01.7%

Age Group	Number	Percentage
<i>Under 15 Years Old</i>	547	06.4%
<i>15 to 24 Years Old</i>	434	05.1%
<i>25 to 39 Years Old</i>	551	06.4%
<i>40 to 54 Years Old</i>	1,431	16.7%
<i>55 to 59 Years Old</i>	1,120	13.1%
<i>60 to 64 Years Old</i>	1,272	14.9%
<i>65 to 74 Years Old</i>	2,139	25.0%
<i>75 to 84 Years Old</i>	925	10.8%
<i>85 Years & Over</i>	145	01.7%

Source: [Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

APPENDIX—D

MEDIAN AGE COMPARISONS

**BASED ON 2020 US DECENNIAL CENSUS,
2022 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES and 2023 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES**

Location	Median Age
Town of Oak Island	60.7
City of Boiling Spring Lakes	47.5
Town of Caswell Beach	58.5
City of Southport	61.4
Brunswick County	57.6
North Carolina	39.4
United States	39.2

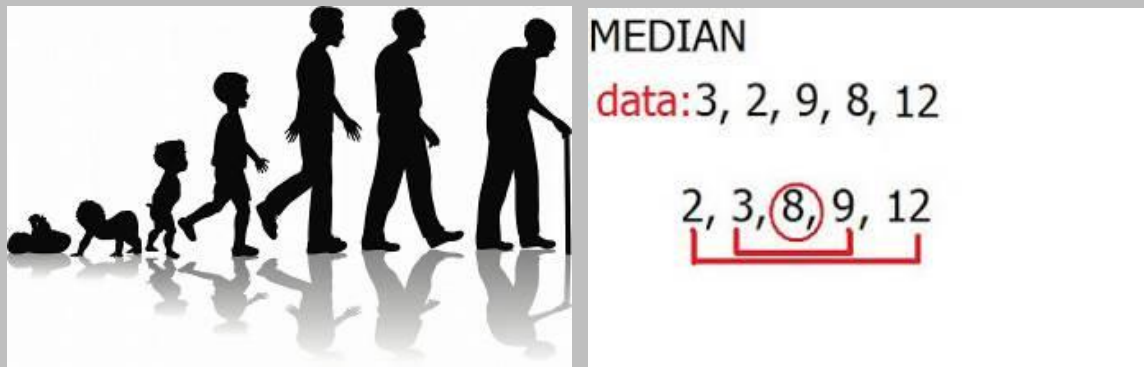
Sources:

[Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

https://data.census.gov/profile/Brunswick_County,_North_Carolina?g=050XX00US37019

https://data.census.gov/profile/Southport_city,_North_Carolina?g160XX00US3763400

https://data.census.gov/profile/Caswell_Beach_town,_North_Carolina?g160XX00US3710960
[North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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APPENDIX—E ETHNICITY/RACIAL COMPOSITION TOWN OF OAK ISLAND BASED ON 2020 US DECENNIAL CENSUS

Race	Number of Town of Oak Island Population	Percentage of Town of Oak Island Population
White	7,816	93%
Two or More Races	357	4%
Hispanic or Latino	146	2%
Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)	77	1%
Some Other Race	57	1%
Asian	47	1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	37	.4%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	5	.06%

Source: [Oak Island town, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)



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APPENDIX—F MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME COMPARISONS BASED ON 2020 US DECENNIAL CENSUS AND 2022 AND 2023 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

Location	Median Household Income
Town of Oak Island	\$85,513
City of Boiling Spring Lakes	\$57,969
Town of Cashwell Beach	\$121,125
City of Southport	\$78,287
Brunswick County	\$76,221
North Carolina	\$70,804
United States	\$74,755

Sources:

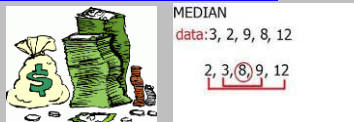
https://data.census.gov/profile/Boiling_Spring_Lakes_city,_North_Carolina?g=160XX00US3706760

<https://data.census.gov/all?q=Median%20Household%20Income%20NC>

https://data.census.gov/profile/Caswell_Beach_town,_North_Carolina?g160XX00US3710960

https://data.census.gov/profile/Southport_city,_North_Carolina?g160XX00US3763400

<https://data.census.gov/all?q=Brunswick%20County,%20NC>



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APPENDIX—G

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ATTAINMENT COMPARISONS

POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OLDER

BASED ON 2022 AND 2023 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

Education Completed	Town of Oak Island	City of Boiling Spring Lakes	Town of Caswell Beach	City of Southport	Brunswick County	North Carolina	United States
High School or Equivalent Degree	22.0%	27.7%	9.9%	22.6%	27.1%	24.4%	26.1%
Some College No Degree	22.0%	32.6%	23.5%	28.3%	18.9%	19.2%	19.1%
Associate's Degree	11.6%	21.7%	10.2%	9.1%	12.5%	10.1%	8.8%
Bachelor's Degree	24.8%	10.4%	26.9%	21.9%	22.8%	23.0%	21.6%
Graduate/Professional Degree	16.0%	3.3%	28.9%	11.4%	12.2%	13.8%	14.0%

Sources:

https://data.census.gov/profile/Boiling_Spring_Lakes_city,_North_Carolina?g=160XX00US3706760

https://data.census.gov/profile/Southport_city,_North_Carolina?g160XX00US3763400

[Brunswick County, North Carolina - Census Bureau Profile](#)

https://data.census.gov/profile/North_Carolina?g=040XX00US37

https://data.census.gov/profile/Caswell_Beach_town,_North_Carolina?g160XX00US3710960



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APPENDIX—J

29 MAY 2025 PUBLIC FORUM MEETING SESSION SIGN-IN SHEET

PUBLIC MEETING—PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

May 29, 2025

SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	ORGANIZATION/INTEREST	EMAIL/MAILING ADDRESS
Ray McBride	resident	RmcBride121@gmail
Jennifer Haugle	resident	
Jim Hunt	resident	jsh47@ctc.net
Sue Dudley	resident	suedudley77@gmail.com
Josh Benson	resident	
Derek Williams	resident	DWilliams.PUBLIC@mail.cc
Helen Hunt	resident	hnh722@ctc.net

APPENDIX—K

FOCUS GROUP SESSION DISCUSSION GUIDE

I. Introduction

A. Welcome

- My name is Dr. Jim Herstine. I am a Professor Emeritus of Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management at UNC Wilmington, and I have been contracted by the Town of Oak Island to facilitate a focus group discussion session regarding the parks, recreation, and open space needs of the Town for the future.
- Thank you for joining me today.

B. Purpose

- Your input in today’s discussion is especially important.
- The Town of Oak Island would like to find out your opinions regarding the parks, recreation, and open space needs of the Town for the future, specifically for the next 5 years (2026 – 2031 Fiscal Years).
- As community stakeholders and leaders, what you tell me today will help the Town understand the parks, recreation, and open space needs in your community from your perspective.
- You will be here for about 2 hours.

C Self-Introduction

- Ask each participant to introduce him/herself and tell the other participants about his/her association and experience with the Town of Oak Island

D. Procedures/Ground Rules

- I will incorporate your thoughts and suggestions into a final report that will be submitted to the Town of Oak Island in draft form in August or September 2025.
- The Town of Oak Island is interested in all your ideas, comments and suggestions and there are no correct or wrong answers. All comments, both positive and negative are welcome.
- Feel free to disagree agreeably with one another, as this is an open dialogue and discussion.
- I would prefer that only one person spoke at a time since I am interested in what everyone has to say.
- We will try to keep this discussion under 2 hours, so we will move through the questions in a timely fashion. I may have to end the discussion and move on to another topic so please do not be offended.
- Please remember that I am a neutral party.

E. Explain about the note taking and the Flip Chart.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

II. Focus Group Session Discussion: Questions

Define programs, services, events, camps, and activities

Define facilities, areas, and parks

Identify the five (5) main areas of focus:

1. Land Acquisition
 2. Facility, Area, and Park Development
 3. Program, Service, Event, Camp, and Activity Development
 4. Policy and Procedure Considerations
 5. Personnel Considerations
-
- A. What do you think are the **best/most successful programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks** currently offered by the Town of Oak Island?
 - B. What **new programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks** would you like to see the Town of Oak Island offer in the future (think within the next 5 years)?
 - C. How should the Town of Oak Island **pay for these new programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks**?
 - D. What do you think are the **major obstacles confronting the Town of Oak Island in the future**?
 - E. What do you think are the **10 most important issues in terms of programs, services, events, camps, activities, facilities, areas, and parks** the Town of Oak Island must address in the future?

III. Closing

- A. Are there any more thoughts on the discussion?
- B. Thank you!!!!



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APPENDIX—L

**TOWN OF OAK ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION
AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY INSTRUMENT**



Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

NOTICE: The Survey has been **EXTENDED** and will now **CLOSE** on **June 30, 2025** at **5:00 PM**

The Oak Island Town Council, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and Recreation Department staff are committed to sustaining and enhancing the overall quality of life for the residents and visitors of The Town of Oak Island.

The provision and operation of public parks, recreation, and open space programs, services, events, activities, and facilities are important components of the Town's immediate and long-range planning efforts. We need your input and assistance to complete this needs assessment survey!

Information gathered through this survey will be used to create the Town's ***Comprehensive 2026 – 2031 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan***. Please take a few minutes to answer ALL of the following questions.

RESIDENT STATUS

***1. Which of the following best describes your Town of Oak Island residence status?**

- Full-Time / Permanent Resident; property owner; and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes
- Full-Time / Permanent Resident; rent/lease my place of residence
- Part-Time Resident; property owner; and pay Town of Oak Island property taxes
- Part-Time Resident; rent / lease my place of residence
- Local Tourist; live within 2-hour drive
- Tourist; live outside a 2-hour drive
- Other

***2. How long have you been a full or part-time resident in the Town of Oak Island?**

- I am not a full or part time resident
- less than 2 years
- at least 2 years but less than 5 years
- at least 5 years but less than 10 years

10 years or longer

DEMOGRAPHICS

PLEASE NOTE: The demographic information you provide below is completely **confidential!**

***3. What is your gender?**

Male

Female

I Prefer Not to Answer

***4. What is your ethnicity?**

Alaska Native

American Indian

Black / African American

Caucasian / White

Hispanic / Latino

Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander

Two or More Races

Other

***5. Which of the following best describes your household?**

Single with no children/grandchildren at home

Single with children/grandchildren at home

Couple with no children/grandchildren at home

Couple with children/grandchildren at home

Retired with no children/grandchildren at home

Retired with children/grandchildren at home

Other

***6. What is your highest education level attainment?**

High school or equivalent degree

Some college/no degree

Associate's degree

Bachelor's degree

Graduate/Professional degree

Other

PROGRAMS / SERVICES / EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

***7. Which of the following recreational programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department have you or any members of your household participated in during the last 12 months? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**

I have NOT participated in any programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department during the last 12 months (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

Art History Classes

Athletic Clubs

Beach Day

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Book Club
Breakfast with Santa
Christmas Bingo
Christmas Crafts
Christmas Sweater Contest
Christmas Tree Lighting
Concert Series
Crochet Classes
Drawing Classes
Egg Hunts
Fishing Classes
Holiday Market
Introduction to Art Classes
Kayak Rentals
Kayak Trips
Kids Craft Classes
Kite Fest
Knitting Classes
Mardi Gras Special Event
Mature Aerobics
Monday Markets
Movie Night
Oak Island Fishing Derby
Off Island Excursions
Rec Center Summer Camps
Sailing Summer Camp
Seafood Festival
Silver Sneakers Fitness Classes
Snow Ball Dance
Spooktackular
Sports Summer Camps
Spring Fling Special Event
Total Body Blast
Walking Club
Yoga Classes
Other

***8. How frequently have you or any members of your household participated in the programs, services, events, and activities identified in the previous question during the last 12 months?**

I have NEVER participated in any programs

Rarely (1 – 4 Participations)

Sometimes (5 – 10 Participations)

Frequently (11 – 15 Participations)

Often (More than 15 Participations)

9. If you have never, rarely, or sometimes participated in programs, please explain why (leave blank if you participated "frequently" or "often"):

***10. In your opinion, what are the most important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department needs to provide in the future (PLEASE SELECT UP TO 10 CHOICES)?**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

It is my opinion the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department does not need to provide any NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

Adult Pickleball League
Adult Soccer League
Adult Tennis League
Adult Volleyball League
Biking Opportunities
Birding Clinics/Classes
Cooking Classes
Fitness Programs for Kids
Gardening Programs
Hiking Opportunities
Line Dancing
Pickleball Clinics
Preschool Programs
Skateboarding Lessons
Tennis Clinics
Youth Lacrosse League
Youth Pickleball League
Youth Soccer League
Youth Tennis League
Youth Volleyball League
Other

***11. Would you support funding these NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational programs, services, events, and activities identified in the previous question, if they were funded through reasonable and consistent user fees?**

Yes
No

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES / AREAS / PARKS

***12. Which of the following Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department recreational facilities, areas, and parks have you or any members of your household visited or used during the last 12 months? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**

Have not visited/used any of these recreation facilities, areas, & parks during the last 12 months (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

Barbee Walking Trail
Bill Smith Park
Commissioner's Observation Park
Davis Canal Floating Docks
Davis Canal Pedestrian Crossover
Heron Lookout Park
Kevin Bell Skate Park (SE 49th Street)
"Little" Davis Canal Floating Dock
May Moore Park
Middleton Park Complex
NE 55th Street Boat Ramps

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Oak Island Community Center
Oak Island Fishing Pier
Oak Island Nature Center
Oak Island Ocean Education Center
Oak Island Par 3 Golf
Oak Island Recreation Center
Register Park Fishing Pier
SW 5th Street Floating Docks
Shuster Fishing Tee
Templeton Park (4106 E Oak Island Drive)
The Point (West end of Beach Drive)
Tidalwaves Kayak & Canoe Launch
Veterans Memorial Park
Yaupon Park
10th Place West Gazebo
30th Place West Dock
46th Street Cabana Observation Deck
57th Place West Access Boat Ramps
78th Street Crab Dock
801 Ocean Event Center
Other

13. If you or any members of your household visited or used any of the facilities, areas, and parks listed in the previous question, please provide feedback on the SPECIFIC facility and DETAILED features that you would like to see improved. Skip question if no improvements are needed

500 characters

***14. In your opinion, select up to ten (10) important NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks the Town needs to provide in the future? (NOTE: These will require a capital investment)**

The Town DOES NOT need to add any new parks or features (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

Crosswalks for Pedestrians
Greenways
Hiking Trails/Paths
Indoor Recreation Facility
Indoor Swimming Pool
Kayak Launch Sites
On-Street Bike Lanes
Open and Natural Spaces
Outdoor Basketball Courts
Outdoor Fitness Course
Outdoor Swimming Pool
Picnic Shelters
Playground Equipment
Public Indoor Meeting Room
Public Restrooms
Racquetball Courts
Sand Volleyball Courts
Senior Center
Sidewalks/Pedestrian Lanes
Skate Park

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Small Boat Launch Sites

Teen Center

Other

***15. Which of these funding sources would you support to pay for these NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL recreational facilities, areas, and parks? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**

None of these Funding Sources (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

General Obligation Bond Referendum

Grants

Private Sources

Property Tax Increase

Other

***16. Regarding transforming the Town of Oak Island into a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly Town, what do you think would be the most important accomplishments? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**

Nothing Needed / Things are Fine as-is (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

Bicycle Lanes

More Crosswalks & Signage

Multi-Use Paths

New Sidewalks

Other

***17. Have you experienced any recurring issues within the Town of Oak Island regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety that need to be addressed? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**

I have not experienced any recurring issues regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety that need to be addressed (PLEASE NOTE: If selecting this answer, DO NOT mark any additional options - proceed to next question)

Driving at Night is Dangerous due to People Walking Along the Side of the Road

Lack of Sidewalks and Pedestrian Lanes Makes it Difficult to Walk

Lack of Bike Lanes Makes it Difficult to Bike

Lack of Signage for Bicyclist is a Concern

Lack of Signage for Pedestrians is a Concern

Seasonal Traffic Backing Up Behind Bicycles is a Recurring Issue

Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Beach Drive

Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Dolphin Drive

Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Pelican Drive

Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Holly Drive

Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Oak Island Drive

Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Yacht Drive

Those on Bicycles Need Lights or Bells to Better Alert Motorists and Pedestrians

Other

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Using the following **scale from 1 - 8**, with "1" indicating "Totally Disagree" and "8" indicating "Totally Agree" please rate the following:

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

18. The VARIETY of the programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is appropriate.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

19. The QUALITY of the programs, services, events, and activities offered by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is appropriate.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

20. I am satisfied with the QUALITY of the facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

21. I believe the Town of Oak Island is bike friendly/a safe place to bike.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

22. I believe the Town of Oak Island is pedestrian friendly/a safe place to walk.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

23. I believe the Town of Oak Island is an accessible place for persons with disabilities and other special needs.

- 1

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

2
3
4
5
6
7
8

24. I believe the existing facilities, areas, and parks provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet the needs of the members of my household.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

25. I believe the existing programs, services, events, and activities provided by the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department meet the needs of the members of my household.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

26. I believe it is important the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department provides new and/or improved recreational facilities, areas, and parks in the future.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

***27. Using the scale below, please give the Town an overall grade as to whether the programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks provided meet the needs of you and your household.**

- Poor
- Fair
- Average
- Good
- Excellent

28. If you answered the previous question with a grade below that of "Good" - what would it take to raise your rating to at least "Good?"

500 characters

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

***29. The best method/methods for informing me and the members of my household about upcoming and planned Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department programs, services, events, and activities is/are: (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)**

Brochures/Flyers

Calendar

Direct Mail

Electronic Newsletter

Email

Newspaper

Outdoor Digital Sign

Phone

Social Media

Text Message

Town Website / OKInformation

Other

30. If you responded to the previous question with "Direct Mail", "Email", "Phone", or "Text Message", please complete the appropriate response/responses below:

Street Number and Name; City; State/Province/Region; Postal/ZIP Code; Country

31. Email

32. Phone

Phone ext.

33. If you could tell the Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department ONE thing they need to do better recreationally, or ONE recreational facility, area, or park they need to add, it would be

500 characters

34. Please state any additional improvements/enhancements to current Town of Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department recreational programs, services, events, activities, facilities, areas, and parks that would improve/enhance your overall parks and recreation experience

500 characters

APPENDIX—M

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO RESIDENT STATUS (Q1)

(18 RESPONSES)

- Southport Resident
- Southport Resident
- Southport Resident
- Live 7 miles from Oak Island in Bolivia
- Southport Cambridge Crossings
- Live in neighboring town; self-employed with business clients on Oak Island
- Own a house lot. Travel/Stay on our boat 5 months out of the year. We pay property taxes
- Full-time Southport resident
- Brunswick County resident
- Live in St James
- Southport resident
- Use pickleball courts and attend concerts
- Local Southport resident working on island and using island
- Resident of Southport
- Brunswick County resident/nearby town
- Resident of Brunswick County who attends a weekly gathering of friends that sew/quilt for community!
- Local Southport resident
- St James resident

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO RESIDENCY

APPENDIX—N

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO DESCRIPTION OF HOUSEHOLD (Q5)

(7 RESPONSES)

- Home with grandparents, one adult mother, and child/baby
- Couple with elderly parent and adult child
- Retired couple with elderly mother at home
- Couple, no kids or grand kids at home, not retired
- NYOB
- Widowed and retired
- Couple with children and grandchildren but not at home

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO HOUSEHOLD DESCRIPTION

APPENDIX—O

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO PARTICIPATION IN RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES (Q7)

(107 RESPONSES)

- I use the cardio room weight room regularly
- I am disabled, but I walk with Trekking poles and have walked to the beach. I can hear the music from my house and LOVE IT!
- Qi gong
- Quilting
- Meet the Authors events at the Barbee Library. Also took aerobics at the Senior Center
- Oak Island Golf Club
- Pickleball tournament
- Walking the beach and the community and shelling daily when on the island. Relaxing on beach daily as weather permits when on the island
- Activities at Bill Smith Park
- Jimmy Buffet event; holiday events
- Lantern Fest (January 1)
- Table tennis
- Bird watching events
- Witch ride
- Pilates, ballroom dancing and crab to cuisine
- Gym
- Reading with kids at the Cabana
- Biking
- Crab class
- Witches Ride
- Line Dancing
- Line Dancing
- Gym
- Line Dancing
- Line Dance
- Line Dancing Club
- Line Dancing and Seafood Festival
- Pickleball
- Nature Walking
- Pickleball
- Dog Park
- Pickleball and pickleball tournaments
- Weight room
- Christmas parade
- Concerts at Middleton Park
- Pickleball
- Pickleball, basketball and parades

- Pickleball courts and tournament
- Pickleball
- Various classes; line dancing; crab prep, etc.
- Line dance
- The fitness center to lift weights
- Witches Ride
- Oak Island Beach Quilters
- Guilt Guild
- Pickleball
- Quilting and Art activities at Recreation Center. Use of showers after hurricane and no water
- Par 3 Golf, Summer Concert Series
- Oak Island Quilters
- Oak Island Beach Quilting Guild
- OKI Beach Quilters
- Weight Room
- Oak Island Beach Quilters
- Oak Island Beach Quilters

***“OTHER”
RESPONSES TO
PARTICIPATION
IN PROGRAMS,
SERVICES,
EVENTS, AND
ACTIVITIES***

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

APPENDIX—P

RESPONSES TO WHY RESPONDENTS INDICATED “HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN ANY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS” IN Q8 OR INDICATED “RARELY OR SOMETIMES PARTICIPATED IN RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND” IN Q8 (Q9)

(304 RESPONSES)

- No interest currently
- We work full-time and do not have a lot of free time to participate. We pay for membership at CrossFit SPT and Cape Fear Fitness Yoga Center and exercise at those facilities
- Not always in OKI. Travel often
- Time constraints. But we are certainly happy the Town offers these programs!
- Not interested
- We tend to come for relatively short visits (week to 10 days) about one a month. We often miss the special events. We enjoy a lot of activities on the island but just have not had much interest in more of the organized events. It is also just a matter of being organized enough to go
- There is not a clear place that describes classes like knitting or crochet classes. I participate in both but did not know there were classes
- My husband has Parkinson’s disease
- Events are always exactly the same time. Quit going years ago because of this
- Do live down here full-time
- Busy doing other things but our house is rented when fun things are happening
- I am only interested in a pool. We should not be spending millions of dollars on a recreation center without a pool. (Think aqua aerobics for seniors) Classes are also expensive. Many on the island are on a fixed income.
- A fun way to meet people, socialize, and maybe learn something
- Live in historical Southport. Do not usually drive out of our bubble except for pickleball
- No particular reason but hope to attend more concerts this year
- Pretty happy chilling at home. Love pickleball and riding my bicycle
- Few of interest and not aware of many of them
- Unaware of activities – new town
- Not interested in those activities or not applicable to our household
- We have a lot of commitments in Greensboro (our primary residence); so, when we come to the beach, we are typically there to just relax and walk and ride our bikes and enjoy being out in nature and on the beach
- We are only there part-time. Timing has to line up
- Since I am a part-time resident, I only participate in programs and services when I am in OKI, which is limited. If I were there more often; I sure would participate in a lot more activities the Recreation Center sponsors
- Lazy
- We participate when we are in town and events are happening. It is all about timing

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- I am not on the island enough
- Unaware of many of these
- We are still relatively new to the area and have not heard of a lot of the opportunities listed but would be extremely interested in participating in several if we had the information
- Too crowded
- I did not know until now about a lot of the things that Oak Island had to offer, or we would have been coming to more things
- Some are kid related, and we have no kids. Also, we have limited evening time. Day time hours work best for us
- Work/Travel
- I go to Cape Fear Fitness for UHC Senior Program exercise classes since the Recreation Center on Oak Island does not honor Renew Active, only Silver Sneakers. Otherwise, I would go to classes on the island
- Scheduling conflicts
- Working a job
- I would like Zumba or Kick Boxing. I need a card class. I would rather pay the recreation center than a business. I like the money I spend staying local. I live in Boiling Spring Lakes, which is 20 minutes away, but 2 family members live on the island, so we like to do things together. We love the concerts, food & crafts
- I did not know about them
- Have other activities I participate in
- Time restraints/interests
- Many of the special activities are in the summer when we are not here. We live here from October – May
- I happened to be out of town during the time of programs I normally participate in
- Do not like to have to drive and try to find parking for these events, so generally do not bother
- My schedule working
- We are in our 80's and most activities do not apply to us
- I regularly participate in volunteer activities. Otherwise, I can entertain myself as far as recreation is concerned
- Cannot walk to most programs and parking is limited. Wish programs were held in more locations throughout the town
- Health issues
- Unfortunately, I cannot spend enough time on OKI to do any of these things! But I am trying to change that!
- On a tight budget
- I was not aware of some of the above listed activities. I may participate in more of them now that I am aware of them
- Parking issues with the beach and markets. Have a Southport address and becomes difficult with space with all the visitors
- Timing of when we are down on the island at our house

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- We often travel to visit our grandchildren and children, so we are not in town for all events. We enjoy the events we attend
- We are usually at the beach, doing maintenance on our OKI home, shopping, driving around the local area to see what is going on, visiting friends that live on and off the island, eating out, riding my bicycle around the island, and visiting local attractions/sightseeing
- Usually, it is during work. I used to do the aerobics class after work, which I like, but I am looking for something more challenging. I do not have young children anymore so parades and such I just do not go. Love the markets and sometimes will walk down to the concerts
- Part-time resident
- It mainly depends on when we are in town. There are times when we plan on being in town when events are happening, such as spring fling, and sundown on summer
- Just enjoy beach life
- While I enjoy the summer concert series, it gets too hot with the complete absence of shade at Middleton Park. Also, the island has gotten so crowded, and I do not feel like hunting for parking with cars all jammed by that one lot. Same goes for the events like craft fairs. Also, stage is too low; you cannot see the bands. Better bicycling lanes and places to lock bicycles would be appreciated.
- Was working in Wilmington full-time and needed TKR – so it was hard to walk
- Most are not of interest to us. Extremely limited free time in last 12 months
- It is a 20 minute drive to the Recreation Center from where I live, and I do not want to fight the summer traffic during season
- Not on the island enough
- Time
- Time constraints of my schedule
- Timing and sometimes classes are cancelled. Seems like more classes this year.
- Some
- I participate when I am able to be here
- Have not wanted to
- Moved here, had knee replacement surgery; husband had neck surgery. We are ready to participate this spring/summer
- Only in a few days a year
- Time of year and timing. Our grandkids are incredibly young. Parking is an issue at some events
- Travel
- Live here part-time
- Timing of the events did not match with timing of our presence on the island this past year
- Many are on Saturdays when we are unable to attend. Plus, we are pretty busy volunteering elsewhere
- Most are geared toward younger kids or the older crowd. Need more teen activities
- Have not been interested or a priority to participate
- Not interested in what offered. Too hot and buggy to sit through concerts—no shade

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Do not see a need for the programs
- The exercise classes are too early in the morning. I have taken Zumba classes in the past; no longer offered
- Was not interested
- Our Recreation Center is not genuinely nice. It is old, outdated, small, and lacks real locker rooms. We drive 15 miles to the gym at the Community College. We need that type of facility on Oak Island. Please understand, the staff does a great job. We simply need updated facilities
- We have only just retired and are now able to participate in other activities
- We participate whenever we are in town and available. Always enjoyable!
- Been a busy year of travelling so out of town for most events
- In town for too short time periods each visit; focused on beach time
- I did use the fitness center on a regular basis until approximately 2 years ago. There was only one elliptical I was able to use, and it was popular, so it became uncomfortable to frequent the fitness center not knowing if the elliptical would be available. The news or sports channels were frequently on as well, which contributed to agitation while exercising..
- Recreation Center workout equipment so out dated
- My husband is retired, but I still work. A lot of the programs are during the day
- We find ourselves outside walking and we exercise at home. I have been doing line dancing lessons on Tuesdays
- Did not retire until March 2024
- A lot of the programs are during the day, and I work full-time days. Also, parking is an issue; need more resident parking
- I visit my home of Oak Island at different times of the year and cannot always participate in programs that are offered
- Would like to participate more often. Have not due to time restraints due to caring for a terminally ill relative
- I go when I am at Oak Island
- Many activities timing is not for working people. Would love to go to Monday market but unless I take off work I cannot go
- No reason. Just forget to go
- Nothing of interest or timing
- Sometimes our schedule does not always jive with events and activities
- Schedule conflict
- I only use the fitness center
- Usually, classes are cancelled. Poor times for classes
- The island has become so crowded with unchecked growth that it makes navigating events difficult
- We just do not get down there as much right now; only in spring in summer. I will participate more in a couple of years when I am there more
- Time
- Does not fit my schedule
- Not for me

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Our time there has been limited by work, and I have unfortunately missed many of the activities I would have been interested in attending. We are retired now and looking forward to spending more time in Oak Island
- Sometime only due to being a part-time home owner
- Not anything I am really interested in doing
- Just purchased second home in OKI
- I work full-time 8:30 – 5 pm and wish I could participate in more classes and activities. Most classes and the market are during the weekday and evening classes often start before I get home. Maybe when I am retired I can participate more
- Not interested in many. Do not like crowds, especially when not interested. Own and use my kayak
- Administrative staff off putting
- Would be interested in Silver Sneakers exercise program but costs too much for both me and husband to attend
- Illness
- Not full-time residents
- Not interested
- Did not know about them. Too many tourists during the summer activities
- New to Oak Island
- Was not here when programs of interest were scheduled
- Disable, inherited Ataxia, but I LOVE to Listen to the Musicians! And my family members have been to several of the events, and had a wonderful time
- Extremely limited offerings and times – need more advanced levels and also frequently cancelled
- Recreation Building needs remodeling or replacement. Was going to sign up for Christmas shopping trip; ridiculous amount of information required. Finally gave up!
- Do not have enough information
- I did not know about the fishing classes and stuff!
- Times are not appropriate for when I am there
- Probably because lack of interest in programs offered
- Only in town on holidays/weekends
- We will be participating more frequently once we live in NC full-time
- Schedule. Waiting to live on the island full-time
- We are part-time so time is limited to doing other projects, visiting friends, and relaxing on the beach
- Time constraints
- Weather is too hot, or it does not coincide with when we are on the island.***I would participate more in yoga and other classes, but it seems they get cancelled or the schedule is inconsistent, and I cannot plan around it
- Was not aware of several on the list
- Annoys me that as a resident I have to pay to use the services, even though I have already paid for them through taxes. Non-residents should pay to play. Even on the pickleball courts!

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Usually participate when here in general population events. Love, love concert series and end of summer event. Would love to participate more frequently in classes but are not informed about them. Facebook posts are often after the event/classes
- Part-time resident who attends only when in the area
- Programs are too expensive and not fair. As an example, it cost \$30 per month for weights and cardio whereas pickleball and tennis is free even with night lights. Every activity offered by the Recreation Department should be equal cost
- Due to not living at OKI full-time
- Timing
- We just enjoy ourselves and family visiting and going to the beach to enjoy time there
- Timing of many events are during “Standard” working hours. Lack of interest in the events
- Just nothing new. It is the same vendors at the Madi gras festival and other type of events. Not enough food trucks to entice me to eat. Also, I work so I cannot do most fitness classes because they are during the work day
- We are remarkably busy even though retired. Husband is renovating our house, and I volunteer with the Brunswick Civil War Roundtable and at Southport elementary. Also, I do not want to spend money on classes. I am interested in day trips and signed up to be notified and I have not heard about any day trips.
- Not interested
- Out age, walking is not easy and the crowds
- Most programs seem focused on older, retired residents and do not hold much interest
- It is difficult to make it to certain programs and classes outside of normal working hours (9-6)
- I am more interested in other activities that Oak Island Recreation does not offer
- Because we are not year-round residents
- Weather and availability
- Schedule conflicts
- Have travelled frequently in last year
- Primarily because of the limited times we stay in our home on OKI during the year
- Do not seem to find the time
- Not enough things I am interested in
- Just busy
- Time limits
- We would participate more and plan to in the future but have kids in high school in the Charlotte area for a few more years
- Time of events
- It is a vacation home so we just do not get down as much as we would like. That will change as kids get a little older
- Have kids in school still so busy
- Just bought our house this week. Looking forward to participating
- Volunteer for other things
- I simple forget to check the calendar and by the time I do, I see the event I am interested in has already occurred

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- Do not always see info about programs on a timely basis – was told there is an app to see info, but we do not have cell phones so do not know how to access; many programs seem oriented to families and kids
- Busy or not aware of them
- Surgeries
- Life happens
- Opportunities are often full
- Travelling due to work
- No interest in most. Schedule conflicts in some cases
- Most activities that we go to are only offered once a year
- Did not live here year-round but now do
- Most only happen once a year (tree lighting, beach day, and ride the tide) but we have enjoyed a few of the concerts and parades
- Was unaware of all these events except the Monday market, which we found by googling because we wanted to buy fresh peaches
- I go when my schedule allows but they seem geared towards retired people which I am not
- Too hard to park with a disability. Too crowded
- Some programs do not appeal to me, but I am just becoming aware of others
- Not a full-time resident
- Traffic
- Schedule conflicts and interest levels on some events
- Part-time resident, owner, use my place when I get down, mostly summer months and sporadic during the year
- No real interest in them
- Did not know about it or not able to participate due to different reasons
- This is our first visit to Oak Island, and we have been going to the beach
- Fit my schedule
- Enjoy the Friday summer concerts
- Weight-lifting does not appeal to me. Classes offered are too expensive, not included in my necessary budget
- Timing is off
- Often babysitting in Wilmington! Enjoy listening to the concert music on our deck. Prefer outdoor activities, such as gardening (OIBC) or sea turtle watch
- Did not know of availability of programs. Also, here on a seasonal basis
- Time
- Some events are not enjoyable for children. We skip concerts at times because we get tired of hearing beach music. The Recreation Center itself does not offer things that we like for our ages 45-50, 10. The egg hunts, Santa Breakfast and all the usual kid activities have now become mundane for our child
- Work and personal commitments resulting in scheduling conflicts
- We are not there often enough yet
- Have other activities
- Do not find out about them until after they happen

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- Parking is a pain especially for the summer concerts
- Health limitations. Out of state family needs
- Still using Southport gym for fitness, plus Middleton pickleball. Attend local library Great Courses, membership in local groups so right now overlooked! In the future as I age may attend more senior and recreation classes
- Out family only visits Oak Island once a year, and the timing of our visit does not always match up with events/activities of interest. One year we were there for the 4th of July fireworks which we enjoyed. Most of our time is spent on the beach, although our boys also enjoyed the Middleton Park playground and kayaking in years past
- Medical reason
- We are only in town five months out of the year
- I am a procrastinator
- I work full-time and am out of town some weekends
- Honestly, I did not know about most of them
- No interest
- Part-time
- Frequently conflict with other activities we are doing
- Limited parking
- Times do not often coincide with my work schedule
- Not interested in what is being offered
- Dependent on schedule and parking
- Just moved here, but looking forward to take advantage of all these great events
- Art classes, book club? How are they advertised? How do I find out?
- Friday concerts are hard to make with work schedule
- I participate mostly in the senior activities at the Community Building. Walking at the ark, and walking at the Recreation Center
- Work
- Working and most programs are during the day time hours while working
- I work out nights at Home Depot in Wilmington, and I do not have money to join things
- I use gym pretty often, but really like Tai Chi
- As part-time residents, we cannot travel down for all of the events
- Topics were not of my interest
- We do not live there full-time
- I travel for work
- Too busy personally right now but look forward to participating in more in the future
- Schedule conflicts
- Work a full-time job
- I participate in everything available with my family every time we are in town. As part-time residents, that limits our time to participate. We do arrange visits around certain activities like the end of season concert and the Oak Island Witches Ride
- Work full-time
- Should be!
- I frequent the pickleball courts and the local parades and festivals
- Not here when most things are going on

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- Did not live here full-time until July 2024
- We are not here more than 2 weeks at a time and normally have a house full of family or friends
- Not a lot of additional information on IG. Additionally, a lot of activities take place during the work day
- Programs of interest usually happen when I cannot be on the island
- Transitioning to more time in Oak Island
- Facility not genuinely nice. I go there to vote. I ride my bike a lot...clean bike lanes with no vegetation or gravel from side streets and driveways important to me
- I come in most on weekends, and I am not aware of the programs that you offer
- We are quiet people
- Travelling out of town
- I am still working
- Do not see them advertised in time
- We are not on Oak Island during the events
- I did exercises at the Senior Center but plan to check out what you offer
- Not sure, really
- Half of them I did not know they had them
- I live on the island part-time. Opportunity and advertising events is our limitation
- I travel frequently so the dates for lots of class offerings do not coincide with the dates I am at home. That and some of the classes like the crabbing class at \$50 is just out of budget for me
- The kayak trips and fishing classes were already full early on and could not get a spot
- The times usually interfere with beach time
- Many of the activities occur when we are not able to be in town
- Just not a good time when I am on the island. I spend my time with family, or fishing and biking
- Out of town
- Time
- Time constraints
- Due to work conflicts
- When we first moved here we did the markets and some concerts but just got away from it
- No excuses...I have loved being a part of the Recreation Center over the years, just so not so much in the past 12 months. I have done group exercises, craft classes, book club, and lunches at the Oak Island Senior Center more recently
- I work full-time, and most events are during my work hours
- Have not been here when some events take place
- Just not at all that interested
- Often
- Just busy with other things
- I prefer to fish, and the boat ramp needs work to repair the ramp. It is a big tourist draw
- I did not realize that some of the classes are available. I am definitely interested in becoming more active. I have been line dancing at the Recreation Center

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- Work during the week; still figuring out what events are available
- Exercise based classes are not offered after 5. Not interested in art, craft or history. Outdoor recreation I participate on my own
- I did not know about all of them. I also work full-time, which limits my availability
- Most of the activities offered seem to be during regular workday hours, making it difficult to attend unless it is after work
- Adult classes are not scheduled outside of work hours, and teen classes are extremely limited in offering
- Health issues
- We have just been here a year and have been finishing a house and have grandchildren in Virginia
- Most programs outside of our interest
- We recently sold our primary residence and have made Oak Island our permanent residence, while we have been park-time residents here for several year, this has been our first opportunity to really dig into some of the programs offered by the Town of Oak Island
- Programs do not meet my interest
- Most classes and other activities are during the day when I am working
- I want to participate in classes and group activities, but they are offered only M-F during working hours
- Cost is higher than surrounding programs
- Schedule conflicts
- We are often busy with our daughter's sporting events
- I have found the weight room gym to be crowded, old, and small. I work out at home for these reasons
- Running a business
- It seems events are for the retired crowd or young kids not teenager or working age adults
- Much is not applicable to my situation (i.e., no kids). Also, I am using a walker which makes getting around difficult. Lack of interest in many of the activities, often because of my physical limitations
- Not in town when services are offered. Few offered on weekends that I would participate in
- Just getting settled. Would love to be able to walk using sidewalks, proper pedestrian lighting for safety
- Largely timing of when I am able to be on the island
- I still work 8-5 Monday – Friday but would love additional opportunities to participate in activities that were not scheduled during this time
- Activities that we are interested in fill up fast
- Classes are not offered at times that working professionals can participate. Events are not geared towards teenagers
- Times were not convenient
- I play live music here, and love to swim in the ocean, walk on beach, and ride my bike. Love Oak Island's many natural areas and little Parks!

- Because I work in Wilmington and do not get back to the island until 6 pm or later. Most of the activities I would like to participate in are during the day or start at 5 pm
- Personal challenges and interests have limited the time my husband and I have had to enjoy the programs offered on the island. This summer will be different!
- Sometimes it is just the timing. I would like to see more yoga classes, etc. that are not just for seniors
- We are very elderly and cannot participate in many physically demanding activities
- Have a center closer to my home
- Please publicize your offerings. I could have participated in such things as knitting and crochet classes, walking, etc. – but I did not know about them. Aside from the Quilters Guild (I was invited by a friend), and exercise classes at the Recreation Center, I have no idea what the Recreation Department offers
- During the summer, my kids have participated
- Most events are overcrowded and centered around kids and tourists
- Paid parking severely limits coming to Oak Island now
- Lack of interest

***RARELY,
SOMETIMES,
HAVE NOT
PARTICIPATED***

APPENDIX—Q

***“OTHER” RESPONSES TO NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL
PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES (Q10)
(216 RESPONSES)***

- Wildlife Tours
- Aquatics—need a recreation pool
- Zumba
- Cardio dance
- Kayak launch site at west end
- Indoor swimming pool for lap swimming and warm water walking
- Aqua aerobics
- Shag lessons before beach music concerts
- Golf clinics
- Golf tournaments
- Fun golf events
- Table tennis opportunities
- Another cardio machine
- Battle of the bands
- Kids activities
- Youth sports clinics over the summer—many part-time residents are looking for camps for their kids to attend over the summer
- Kayaking
- Adult beginner classes for yoga, Zumba and crafting like knitting
- Activities for seniors
- Public/Membership indoor pool
- More activities for moms with noticeably young kids
- Aquatic center
- Swimming pool
- Need to facilitate improvements to neighborhood streets so more walk/bike can occur
- Traffic calming needed
- Should not have to drive somewhere to recreate
- More crossings Oak Island Drive to get to the beach
- Should be able to walk in own neighborhood for recreation and to get to businesses
- Need traffic calming/lower speed limits to make it safe for all
- Slow E Oak Island Drive traffic and add crosswalks
- Bring back adult kickball with organized teams
- Advanced baking would be fun, but I love fitness so hiking would be awesome
- Swimming classes
- Activities including dogs
- Swimming program
- Santa paws
- Master naturalist classes
- Activity for children during vacation season

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- Surf camp for kids
- Larger and better equipped fitness center
- 18 hole disc golf course
- Mom and me classes or hangouts
- Weight room fitness instructor
- Memory bridge built for pet lovers
- More consistent workout classes that are similar to body blast
- Pool or YMCA in Oak Island/Southport area
- Water aerobics
- Evening classes
- Pool for water aerobics
- Pool
- Basketball, baseball and football
- Youth swimming classes
- Adult and youth baseball/softball
- Swimming classes for infants, toddlers and kids
- Services for disabled people like ADA compliant beach accesses—Putting a mobi mat on a hill with a drop off onto sand is not ADA compliant and not safe for a lot of residents
- Pool
- Golf for kids' camp
- Expand weight room with updated machines
- Outdoor fitness trail with equipment at Bill Smith Park
- Adult kickball
- Classes outside of work hours for non-retirees
- Shooting classes, target, skeet, etc.
- A community swimming pool that is handicapped accessible
- Sewing group
- Youth golf
- Adult and young painting classes
- Cardio dance, Zumba
- Youth softball
- More access points on Intracoastal side
- Swimming pool
- Would really love a public swimming pool closer that Brunswick County Community College
- Swimming pool
- Walking paths along roads for safety
- Pool for lap swimming, water aerobics, swim lessons
- Sailing for adults; Art History Classes; Regional History/Excursions
- Kayaking
- Would love to have a couple of community pools
- Pool
- Arts and Crafts related
- Crafting classes

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- I notice there are no activities for older seniors
- Adult softball league
- Yoga and fishing lessons
- More kayak launches are seriously needed
- Bocce ball or croquet
- We need an indoor pool for water aerobics, swim lessons, and swim team
- Indoor lap pool, Tai Chi
- Events for dogs
- Swimming
- Kayak trips, club, etc.
- Kayak club
- Disc golf
- Indoor pool
- Educational classes on the ocean, marine life, etc.
- Never any mention of Dog Parks. The town acts as if they are a nuisance at best. Does not matter who you talk to in the town. We at the Salty Dog Park get no answers. We are still trying though
- Sewing classes; please advertise more! I have not heard of so many of these activities
- More activities including dogs and the Salty Dog Park; skateboarding lessons
- Beach sailing
- Extra boat ramp
- Options for our elderly population
- Teen recreation. Something to keep them off streets and provide sun alternatives
- Additional pickleball courts for recreational play (not a league)
- Day or overnight trips by bus. Mattamuskeet bear trip; night of 1K candles at Brook Green Gardens; Vanderbilt House; State Parks, etc. NDELS trip
- Upgrade Recreation Center fitness equipment
- Update the fitness center
- Travel related topics/destinations and related cultural backgrounds histories
- Continue to support our group and maintain youth programs
- Community service use of building in large rooms
- Volunteering opportunities
- Swim pool aerobics
- Restaurant Tours!
- Programs/classes for those not physically able to play pickleball or other physical activity
- Ocean and wildlife education, and respect for our beaches
- Oak Island needs a public pool
- I do not know what is offered and cannot suggest additional things, but this is a required response
- Educational classes, additional exercise classes like Pilates, cardio and strength classes

***“OTHER” FUTURE NEW AND/OR
ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL
PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES***

APPENDIX—R

***“OTHER” RESPONSES TO TOWN OF OAK ISLAND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AREAS,
AND PARKS VISITED OR USED DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS (Q12)***

(17 RESPONSES)

- 31st Street Walkover
- Dog Park
- Salty Dog Park
- Salty Dog Park
- West end fishing pier needs to be rebuilt
- SW 6th Street Fishing Pier
- Oak Island Par 3 Disc Golf
- Salty dog park
- Bike riding
- 57th West beach access: I wish you would make this access ADA compliant
- The little fishing pier toward the end of W Yacht Drive that the storm took out. I miss it!
- Dog Parks
- Middleton Park
- Pickleball courts
- 57th West beach access: I wish you would make this access ADA compliant
- The little fishing pier toward the end of W Yacht Drive that the storm took out. I miss it!
- Pickleball courts

***“OTHER” TOWN
RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES, AREAS,
AND PARKS VISITED
OR USED***

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APPENDIX—S

RESPONSES PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON WHAT RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED AT EACH FACILITY, AREA, AND PARK LISTED IN Q12 (Q13)

(277 RESPONSES)

- Better signage on walkovers to prevent bike from riding on it. Better sound acoustics for Middleton Park
- The Par 3 Golf Course is in horrible condition. Taking a golf cart is like 4-wheeling—half of the greens and most of the tee boxes look like sand traps. The golf course should require golfers to use tees on the tee boxes and there should be sand, and seed provided so that golfers can repair their divots
- The Ocean Education Center is old and outdated; the building's doors are swollen and have to kick to open them and then slam to close them. The toilet in the restroom is horrible, stained and obviously incredibly old. This could be a really nice place if it were updated. The Nature Center is the same situation, needs updating. These 2 facilities could garner income, but not in the current condition
- I would like to see more benches or places to sit down in the shade along Davis Canal
- Get broken equipment in Recreation Center fixed in a timelier manner. I.E., only exercise bike of certain type not functional the whole month of my membership...and was the one I wanted to use and could not
- Better condition and larger fishing docks. More parking
- Modernize and cleaner bathroom facilities
- Expand disc golf course at Bill Smith Park to 18 holes and/or add disc golf course option to Par 3 course
- Clean up dog park and install water spicket
- More access to The Point and the Intracoastal Waterway
- Natural vegetation buffers; solar street lights or at least shaded for minimal wildlife disturbance. More recycling and waste disposal bins to discourage littering
- We would have stayed longer at the Monday Market had there been more shade
- Weight room expansion at the Recreation Center
- I greatly enjoy each of the places I checked. Well maintained and great places for my family. I especially love the two playgrounds at Middleton Park and the Veterans Memorial Park
- I enjoy fishing
- The swings at Templeton Park are broken and need repaired. Middleton Park—the green Pirate Park needs bathrooms close to the splash pad area. The splash pad should be open until 7 or 8 and until the end of September. There should also be more tables and permanent shade. The black entry way is slick and needs attention. The 46th Street Cabana bathrooms need updated. The Point needs more parking
- Recreation Center needs cleaner bathrooms
- Repair the fishing T and dredge/deepen the boat ramp
- Love Wind Phone

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- Would like to see the mobi mats or crushed gravel at Bill Smith Park leading from the parking lot to Loggerhead Field to assist with rolling wheel chairs and strollers at the games. Exceedingly difficult to traverse parking lot sod
- Middleton Park needs grass and shade trees. Get rid of the concrete corn hole boards—those are ridiculous. Make better use of the ballfield at the park. Provide better vehicle and trailer parking at the boat ramp (currently single vehicles use spaces for trailers forcing trailers to park on the street side. All parks need to be better identified with signage. You cannot use the Davis Canal stairs at the end of W Oak Island Drive because there is nothing else there. Need kayaking launch and take out
- Kayak launch points need to be trailer friendly. The only way I can transport our kayaks is on a small trailer
- Veterans Park is beautifully maintained and really enjoyable to sit and watch the boats and fish. A canoe launch area would be really nice. Oak Island Recreation Center is really nice but needs to be updated. It is well used and loved and should be updated
- Would LOVE more kayak launches
- Would love to see the fitness equipment updated, and the availability of age and gender appropriate coaching
- Thank you for the repairs to the docks after the storms
- Permanent boat cleats on the ramp dock. They keep being vandalized
- Recreation Center needs an upgrade
- Designated spot for dogs waste at all locations
- Where is Yaupon Park? Is that another name for May Moore's Park?
- 30th Place Boat Ramp cannot be used at low tide. If you try to launch or take out, you will sink to your knees/thighs in mud. This really restricts the use of this location. At the 57th Place West Boat Ramps, parking has become extremely limited. The Lone Rider Restaurant has marked parking spaces adjacent to the roadway as "Restaurant Parking Only" when GIS maps show the property does not belong to their parcel. Why does the Town of Oak Island allow them to continue doing this???
- Salty Dog Park is in need of an access ramp mat upon entry, once inside the gates along the sandy area
- We need longer walk ramps at the handicap beach access points for people and not on an access that has a hill to negotiate on. Hills are not good handicap individuals
- Take my grandkids fishing at Veterans Memorial Park
- More resident parking spots
- We need to upgrade the Recreation Center
- The bathroom facilities at the Cabanas and more handicap Beach Accesses
- More kayak launches are needed
- Please keep working on the washed out areas along the Intracoastal. Especially, the fishing pier at the west end
- Oak Island needs to be more ADA compliant, period! It is hard for disabled people to navigate the parks and especially the beach accesses. I know 2 ADA compliant beach accesses have been added to the east end of the island and that is a start. However, the west end of the island needs ADA compliant beach accesses too. 57th West is where I

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go, and it would be easy to make it ADA compliant. I have been trying to get this done for almost 4 years! Please do this now! I might not be alive next year!

- Bill Smith Park looks much improved but could use more professional attention especially as the new baseball team starts
- Tai Chi at the Recreation Center
- Middleton Park Complex is great for families
- We need more boat ramps. LOTS of boaters on Oak Island. 57th Street launch is dangerous with boats coming from all directions and little parking. Cars without trailers should not be allowed to park where trailers can fit
- Town should make a bar/restaurant and catering hall at the 801 Ocean Event Center. More parking at The Point
- Pickleball courts
- Doggie bag station at Veterans Park
- More kayak launches
- Middleton Park is the facility we frequent the most. We love it! However, the parking situation for events needs to be addressed. Our yard backs up to the park and people pull up in our yard and think parking there is acceptable. They ruin our grass. The no parking between signs are not effective to keep people out of our yard
- Recreation Center needs enlarging and updating, or a new facility
- I would love more public kayak launches!
- Restrooms
- Love the golf course, although the carts are sometimes low on gas or unavailable. The free water access decks and docks are wonderful, frequently bike there and sit for sunsets. Upkeep on those and kayak launches would be amazing
- 57th boat ramp needs improvement
- 57th street ramp needs upgrading
- Where feasible, it would be nice to have a restroom facility at as many locations as possible. I know there are some at a few locations, and some seating areas if possible if not already in certain locations
- Par 3 golf greens
- Dog Park on island could use periodic leaf-blowing/cleanups. Salty Dog Park needs water spigot. Also, could use regular pine cones/needles cleanups. Both parks would benefit from raking and smoothing to even the ground on a regular basis. My dog and I are very appreciative of both parks!
- Larger exercise facility
- Nature Center needs more information, education for kids and adults and needs more exhibits
- The Recreation Center could definitely use facelift; more space and more options-updated equipment
- Par 3 Golf Course Ladies Day is great. Enjoyed short lesson but the greens are terrible. They are laughable. There is no grass
- Bill Smith Park – People with disabilities accessibility
- The Salty Dog Park in Bill Smith Park is in need of a consistent, maintenance plan and schedule. Improvements for accessibility for citizens with special needs. And a clean

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water source within each side of the dog park for our pets. For the past many years, the park maintenance has been left up to volunteer efforts. We pay taxes to Oak Island and there has been 2 years of paid parking revenue. When will the town own up to keeping the park maintained?

- Would like to see the gym upgraded
- 57th boat ramps need to be redone
- Recreation Center table tennis, weight lifting for seniors, more workout equipment and classes, indoor pool, indoor Pickleball, Par 3 better fairway maintenance and The Point more parking
- Play pickleball often
- We love all of the park areas that we have visited. Water access at the dog park would be nice
- The parking area at The Point can be incredibly challenging when it is at capacity or near capacity and that is just because cars nowadays are larger and sometimes when you go in you do not know if all the parking places are taken or not so when you have to back out it is very cumbersome and dangerous in my opinion
- Public pool
- New benches for pickleball courts
- More crosswalks
- Boat ramps are good. Adding more would be good since the ones we have are crowded. Any docks and facilities that provide water access are wonderful. Add more of these. Willing to pay tax dollars to make this happen
- Salty Dog Park and the town overall needs to catch up on ADA accessibility and stop turning a blind eye. Regular maintenance of the Salty Dog Park
- Please advertise more! I have not heard of many of these. The Recreation Center needs a complete overhaul. It is depressing
- The playground equipment at Middleton Park (next to Town Hall) is in serious need of an upgrade. Equipment is very rusty with metal broken off
- They can all do with some TLC and walkway maintenance
- Improvement to beach entrance decks, especially Mercer Street, so all can enjoy the beach!
- More hand cab accessible/ADA services
- I have visited many of the parks of Oak Island and note that there is no ADA upgrades to any of the parks. I find it very upsetting that the town has ignored this group of people. I would even think that it may be breaking the law at many of the locations
- Middleton Park Complex should have water stations at the courts
- I would like to have access to a webcam on the pickleball courts to check the status (wet/dry; busy/not busy) etc.
- Have really loved the lights at the Pickleball courts. Is there a way we can get a sports bottle refill station?
- I think the city does a great job of managing and maintaining all parks and facilities!
- Pickleball courts need to be updated especially fences, rusted lights, shadows at night, seating, and shade tents installed
- Walking crosswalks

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- The pickleball courts could use some additional work. Lower fences between, pave area. Benches, shade. Bring the two sets together
- Additional parking at The Point; walkway lighting at Veteran's Park; children's playground similar to Ocean Isle
- The boat ramp has massive holes in the ramps on both sides. The rubber bumpers around side are coming off. The ramps need to be repaired worse than anything on the island
- We just found out about the Par 3 Golf Course and plan to use it this summer
- Accessibility for persons to see the beach with trying to get over a dune with the mobi mat; access to the deck at the Cabana via ramp not steps; a view of the ocean from 10th West accessible sitting area; improved parking at the Community Center for seniors; and a working electronic sign at the Recreation Department
- West end park is in serious need of repair. I wish like more access to the Community Center than the meals
- Sidewalks along Fish Factory Road
- The Recreation Center needs to be improved with outdoor spaces updates on basketball and adding a teen zone
- I would like to see the playgrounds have the same base as the park on Ocean Isle, instead of mulch
- The Recreation Center needs to be updated. We need more big rooms for group exercise & bathrooms need major overhaul. The dance floor at Middleton needs expanding as well as more parking for events. There are never enough spaces
- SE 9th Street Walkway—trash pick-up in the marsh. I understand there was a chemical spill/dump into the marsh by the walkway—it has been years, and it appears that it has not be mitigated. Perhaps we can get a grant to clean it up?
- Maintenance needed at boat ramp. Add parking
- More golf cart parking at Middleton Park
- 30th Place West dock is not usable
- The Oak Island Recreation Center could use updating and more rooms for exercise classes. When quilters use the exercise room, we have to be in a room that is too small
- I would like to see the Barbee Walking Trail extended all the way to the beach. There is such beautiful live oak trees that people could enjoy, and it would provide a safer, shady path for pedestrians all the way to the beach
- Pickleball cover for waiting area
- Place shade trees at Middleton Park. Need indoor pool for seniors. Better access to The Point
- Would love to see our island sponsor/build a Rainbow Bridge to memorialize pets that have passed. We have so many pet lovers on this island. Would be a great addition
- Fix or get rid of the baseball field—it is an eyesore at Middleton Park. Fix or sell the Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course. My family and I love the Oak Island Golf Course, but it needs cart paths and general equipment at the tee boxes
- More handicapped parking spaces at the Pier and Middleton Park that can be reasonably navigated by someone in wheelchair, walker or someone who has problems with uneven ground

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- Would love more kayak launches
- The launch at 55th Street is in much need of repairs to allow for users to safely launch and pickup. LAUNCHES AND DOCKS ARE A SERIOUS RISK FOR INJURY AND LAW SUITS. As busy as Yacht Drive is during peak season, I cannot believe that boaters have to back across a 4-way stop to put in and pick up. This while launch access needs to be redone
- Middleton Park Complex – needs bathrooms on the splash pad side and more permanent shade near the park. More tables in both places. The edging entering the ramp (where the ramp meets the plastic siding) needs to be removed. And the ramps need to be roughed up as they are currently too slick. Both my spouse and my children have slipped on this area
- We live 5 blocks from the Recreation Center, and my children play basketball there. One of our frustrations is the lack of access to the facilities for teenagers. They actually do not feel invited or welcome to use them
- Update of the Cabana and Recreation Center would be greatly appreciated!
- The last few years have been GREATLY improved with consistent hours for the Nature Center
- Maybe a few more resident parking spots, and those great blue mat covered paths from lot to beach
- Consistent maintenance of all locations
- Would like to see easier access to launch kayaks on walkovers
- The boat ramp at 55th Street is in disrepair. There are huge potholes, and the cement drops off drastically – these issues have been progressed from minor to major over the winter
- More parking for all locations
- The Point is no longer there—just a bit of shifting sand, sadly
- I am a member of the Oak Island Beach Quilters and attend weekly. New regulations about storing our equipment has been difficult for this elderly group. This is predominantly an elderly, retirement city and you must not forget the importance of social activities for this age group. We do support youth activities and enjoy watching kids play in the splash pad and using the skateboard park among the many physical activities you sponsor. But the quilters donate many \$\$ to charity also
- Please continue to allow outside groups (such as the Quilters Guild) to use Oak Island space. Also, please continue to set up tables and chairs because most members of the Quilters Guild are elderly and cannot maneuver such heavy items
- I come to the Oak Island Recreation Center every Wednesday to create charity quilts for the needy of Brunswick County. We could use more support from the center, allowing us to store our supplies on site. We donate more than 400 quilts and other items per year
- Bathrooms in the Recreation Center
- I think that the 801 Ocean Event Center is underutilized, and the town should consider selling it. At Recreation Center—ADA compliant bathrooms and doors, updated electricity, indoor walking/jogging track. Park should have trash cans that are more eye pleasing than the big plastic bins
- Recreation Center needs a lot of interior work. Full upgrade and refurbishment

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- Recreation Center yoga room could use some sprucing up
- Would like a few resident parking slots available nearer the 46th Street mobi mats. I am a resident, with a parking permit. I drive myself to access points with mobi mats as I am unable to walk distances or easily uphill and down the sand dune to lung and ankle problems and appreciate having a bathroom nearby. I see the completely empty handicapped lot in off season and hope 1 or 2 spaces near the Cabana may be dedicated for residents with limited ability
- Offer more trails, walking, and biking paths; offer beginner pickleball clinics and league play. Swimming pool – would be a great addition
- Ocean Education and Nature Centers need updating and NEW displays. The majority of these displays are over 20 years old. These are golden opportunities for the Town. The visitors love to bring their kids to learn and do crafts. Perhaps a \$1 fee could be charged per child to help with craft expenses. Would love to see a walkover at SW 5th Street. The west residential has no walkover. This would allow residents to walk or die a bike to the beach and to enjoy the wetlands
- All dog parks need improvement—more individual dog areas
- I love to golf and have extensively used the Davis Canal walkways and fishing decks. We have a “Veterans Brick” at the Memorial Park and enjoy visiting The Point. I would like to see a kayak launch at the 19th/20th Street walkway
- The Point parking, shower & port-a-potties are nice. Thank you
- 57th West boat ramps really could use more parking. It would also be nice if there were another kayak launch facility at 9th Street E Davis Canal floating dock
- Repair of west dock damaged during storm
- Recreation Center complete overhaul
- Recreation Center needs new equipment and larger space
- The South end of Barbee Boulevard would look amazing and be more utilized if it had a sidewalk or walking trail down the middle, like the north end does. There used to be one there many years ago. Landscaping in that area would be such an enhancement. Park benches would be a great addition, also
- Would like to see more floating kayak launches for ease of access
- Deep clean of Oak Island Recreation Center bathrooms. Higher quality of Ping Pong tables
- Drinking water station at courts
- STOP WITH THE SURVEYS AND ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING!!!!!! I have lost count on the # of surveys that have been put out on what needs to be done! DO SOMETHING, please! The Cardio and Weight Rooms both need DRASTIC improvement! The ONE new arc trainer-closest to the back door-is ALWAYS in use. It has a smooth, shorter stride and is easier on joints, etc. the \$\$ spent on stupid blow up and other decorations could be put to much better use by more machines like this one!
- Parks are in need of maintenance. Most of grounds need to be taking care. Plants and trees should be pruned and in some cases, replaced. Replace benches boards and/or paint/repair
- Nice facilities, all of them

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- The Recreation Center needs to be revamped. The weight and cardio areas are rather depressing to go to
- We need a modern Recreation Center with an indoor pool for pool aerobics in the winter. And indoor gym with walking track
- The Recreation Center needs expansion and/or modernization. It is not large enough to support the growing full-time population, and needs a renovation or new building to provide more offerings and equipment for working out
- Clean the Recreation Center more frequently
- Would love to see more events at 801 Ocean Event Center...and is it possible to make a small walkway onto the beach from the center of the building...that would showcase the beautiful building a little more...and perhaps entice folks to dream about hosting weddings there, etc.
- Great facilities—would love to see additional shaded areas with seating at playgrounds. Another suggestion – please open the splash pad prior to 10. Our kids love to start the day at the splash pad, but we are typically on the beach by 10!
- Remove the SW 5th Street dock. It is a nuisance, and the 6th Street has a larger dock for shared use
- I am happy with the facilities
- Would love to see the Nature Center used for kids and youth activities throughout the year, not just during summer
- Need more attractions for children or youth
- Recreation Center needs more space for equipment. More floor space for mats
- Expanded seating for adults and playground equipment for kids. More historical or information signage for those of us that like knowing interesting facts
- Public restrooms
- Would like more fitness classes
- The Recreation Center needs to be larger
- Would just like to see more things to play on at the parks.....and most importantly shade covers over the parks to help prevent children and babies from being burned while playing
- We use the Recreation Center gym 3-4 times a week. Both the weight machine and dumbbell rooms are crowded when 5 or more people are in the room working out. Need more space for equipment and benches. Equipment upgrades have been nice. Bathrooms are like in an old school house and need upgrading
- Trash can at Heron Park Overlook park; dog waste stations at Middleton Park and Davis Canal Crossovers
- Thank you for taking this survey. Generally, would like to see current facilities, areas, and parks maintained and aesthetically improved versus adding more
- Perhaps better promotion of these spaces. Some I have never heard of before
- Recreation Center—update/renovate, enlarge, more rooms for events/classes, more outdoor spaces
- Better information on where these facilities are located
- Adequate parking at 57th Place West access boat ramps. Repair storm damaged Shuster fishing tee as well as ICW access points on W Yacht Drive (NW 3rd Street, NE 11th Street)

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- The Recreation Center building and equipment are outdated, and it is just depressing
- May Moore Park needs park-like trash cans – with a small opening for trash rather than the nasty roll cart that you have to touch to use. Barbee Walking Trail needs more trees – trees keep getting cut but nothing is ever replaced. The shipwreck has probably reached its end
- Handicap access at Salty Dog Park
- Smaller pocket parks are great. Increase natural habitat in all parks, where wildlife can have a place
- Continue allowing quilters to use the Recreation Center including storage of equipment
- Would like to see ongoing trash cleanup of bridge shoulders and debris removal from canal along E Pelican Drive. Discarded trash in these areas is not a welcoming site for homeowners and visitors
- Dog water stations and more sitting benches
- Need more trees at Barbee Trail. Several trees removed but no new ones planted. Need pedestrian friendly trash receptacle at May Moore Park. Roll cart sits by road 24/7, causing a nuisance (obstacle, odor, blowing trash). When mulch added around trees (Barbee Walking Trail) it is up on trunks causing harm to trees. Crepe myrtles are often cut incorrectly – hurting growth pattern. Would be nice to have a community flower garden along Barbee Trail. Maybe a Friends of the Parks initiative?
- Please try to keep litter (and other items that should not be there, i.e., discarded lumber) cleaned up in and around Davis Canal and “Little” Davis Canal
- Operation north state peer fishing event
- Salty Dog Park in Bill Smith Park desperately needs fresh water access inside the fenced area. All other dog parks have that
- Use the dog park on frequent basis
- Everything has been fine for what I have needed
- I just walk there and sit for a while before resuming. If I had someone to fish or grab with, I would do that. I do not have a boat but if I did, I would do that too
- Dock repairs on a consistent basis
- The gym/weight rooms could use more space, in particular the room with the free weights. There is truly little room to put a mat down and stretch. Set up is not ideal with having to go from one side of the Recreation Center to the other to get to all weight lifting equipment. There is plenty of aerobic equipment and it is rarely all in use. I do appreciate what there is, both aerobic and weights and I use them several times a week
- Middleton Park: more public restrooms, expand splash pad and playground equipment. Recreation Center: a new or updated building has been proposed in several forms. Please pick a plan and move forward. Community Center: expand or replace this facility. Bill Smith Park: build it up to its potential. Add pickleball courts to take stress off of the Middleton Park courts. This has the benefit of less parking congestion at Town Hall and Public Utilities. Add basketball courts. Add playground
- Salty Dog Park: we have handicap, disabled people who come to park regularly. Put a safe pathway/walkway along fence line for walkers, wheelchairs, and canes. Also, add handicapped parking spots there. Thanks!

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- Recreation Center needs a better flow with their weight room and updated equipment. Cabana needs a total makeover of bathroom and changing rooms. More modern and easier to keep clean
- Bill Smith Park: the Salty Dog Park area seems to get neglected. There are protruding tree roots that are dangerous, excessive pine needles, and pinecones that are never picked up. There is no running water other than the tap by the picnic shelter, etc. A safe concrete walkway for seniors would be a helpful addition as well
- Better maintenance of the Salty Dog Park including dog waste collection stations, updated benches, disability access, restroom access
- Poop stations at Middleton Park
- I would like to know when the pier at the end of the west end will be worked on.
- No improvements needed
- Extended fishing pier at Veterans Park
- Upgrades to the gym equipment to provide more variety across different fitness levels
- Need more portable toilets for bicycle riders on Yacht Drive. May Moore Park specifically!
- Dog walking
- Larger facility for the Recreation Center
- Need a pool
- I would love to see more proper kayak launch equipment at the floating docks and at Veterans Park
- Bill Smith Park: would love to see a playground added, bug control added. Veterans Park: would love a kayak launch. Par 3 Golf Course: more golf lessons. More kids activities that get kids involved at different parks, nature center, fishing, watersports, etc.
- Town Operations should be moved off-island and a master plan developed for the best use of the entire park
- Middleton Park needs restrooms within 40 ft of the park. It is unacceptable how far one has to travel with a child to use the restrooms. Middleton Park also needs a non-skid material added to the playground ramps. People fall daily, yes daily on this park because of the slippery black slopes. It has been brought to Mrs. O'Briens attention repeatedly for years, yet nothing done. The light needs to be repaired over the park also. The 46th Street bathrooms need total repair. They are embarrassing
- We do not enjoy seeing that the natural landscaping has been trimmed out of Bill Smith and May Moore Parks. It seems pretty severe and does not add anything. I found the weight machine side of the Recreation Center gym is pretty basic/worn so I do not really go
- Beach bathroom Cabana at 46th – the toilets need help
- Need nice restrooms at Middleton Park
- Not enough walking trails, need a multi-use path either on the island or Fish Factory road. Why is there no bike path or walking path from Oak Island Mainland to Southport? Fish Factory Road is dangerous to walk or bike. Was run off the road by belligerent boater in the late afternoon. This is a major safety issue and has been brought before

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the council members numerous times. It has the potential to be a liability for the town. Bicyclist and pedestrians are not encouraged in this town

- West end fishing pier needs to be fixed and reopened ASAP, please
- The Cabana could benefit from a kiosk of sort with brochures about local resources and retail options. There needs to be more public toilets on the island and more helpful information at local retail stores about this. Signs saying no public toilets available are not very tourist friendly
- Veterans Parks needs a station that dispenses doggie bags
- An ADA accessibility audit of all facilities needs to be completed. This audit should not just focus on the legality of access. It should look closely at how someone with mobility issues can actually get to the various facilities. If you, or your loved one was in a wheelchair could you actually get from your car to the facility. Once there, could you get to an ADA accessible restroom or water fountain???
- The Nature Center and the Ocean Education Center do not seem to have any cohesive organization. Display could be better maintained. Par 3 needs consistent maintenance. Greens improvement
- Keep doing a great job of keeping the walkovers and Middleton Park Complex maintained
- Update all of the Recreation Center
- Stop development at The Point and more green spaces
- Restrooms need to be available on a 24/7 basis. More resident parking
- The last time I played on the Par 3 golf course, it was not in particularly good condition. The greens were especially in bad shape
- Recreation Center needs a major overhaul. Even needs maintenance right now. Air filters are filthy. Floors need to be mopped. Davis Walkover needs work. Nails stick out and can be tripped over
- The boat launches at 57th Place West and NE 55th need the launch ramps fixed and better parking. Many of the existing piers and docks need maintenance i.e., Register Park fishing pier. Nature Center floating dock and May Moore dock at low tide are sitting on the mud. Shuster Park needs more parking
- The Par 3 Golf Course needs significant improvements to the fairways, greens and sand traps. The 4th hole fairway, in particular, is embarrassing. It is a great course, but more attention needs to be paid to the fairways and by all means, put sand in the sand traps. Fundraising efforts can significantly help. Poor planning has resulted in cancellation of previous fundraising events
- Expand Disc Golf Course to 18 holes at Bill Smith Park or add disc golf as permanent option on Par 3 course. Low impact, low cost addition
- The Point and Veterans Park need restrooms, not disgusting port-o-lets
- Fix 30 West Dock, please. It has been almost a year
- Permanent restrooms at Middleton Park would be nice
- Recreation Center needs overhaul – new center
- These facilities are well maintained. My only minor criticism is if there could be better grass or something that is less dirty in front of the Amphitheater for concerts

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- More kayak put-ins and take-outs. Specifically, need kayak launch or exit at SW Yacht Street. It is exceedingly difficult to get in or out at that location if you want to paddle the Davis Canal. Parking at the NE 55th Street boat ramps needs better parking control. Single vehicles without trailers use the trailer lot and then trailers are forced to park in the R-O-W
- Improve boat launch on W 55th
- We visit the dog park on Oak Island Drive 5-7 times a week. We have brought our own chairs because seating is limited. The park desperately needs new pine needles and/or mulch in the fenced areas. Fenced areas need to be expanded. The bridges over the canal by the Recreation Center are in need of repair. Outdoor areas at the Recreation Center need sprucing up
- The Recreation Center could use a refresh. Some of the crossovers looking rough
- Need a larger Recreation Center with a larger workout area. 31st Street walkover needs repair. Trail on Davis Canal needs to be established. It is a hidden gem used by many with no town help
- I believe that the boat ramp floating docks need to be maintained. Ramps have pot holes, missing or broken cleats
- The 5th Place West boat ramp needs repair so people can use it
- Crossover at water tower needs replacing
- The three restrooms in the Community Center need to be cleaned more often. They also need sprucing up
- Doing a great job!
- Recreational facility needs a pool
- Great job with the May Morre Park bank brush trimming!
- Would love to see the fitness areas of the Recreation Center have more room and some select upgraded equipment
- The canal kayak launches are great. BUT we need a “takeout” so that we do not need to loop back against the current. The end of Yacht Drive would be great. The ICW is TOO busy with boats being operated by crazies!!
- Honestly, I did not know at least half of these existed
- Add a toilet at 10th W Beach Drive gazebo and a toilet at 25th E Beach Drive beach access locations. (Old men walking on the beach need a planned place to pee). Note: there is no place on this survey for me to emphasize that indoor recreation facilities including a possible swimming pool should be for adult Oak Island resident citizens only and should NOT be available to grandchildren, guests, or visitors to use. This is particularly important to me
- Additional kayak launch points at floating docks and canal/intercoastal accesses
- Fix the lights at the pickleball court closest to ocean!
- Need rope lights on poles around the dance floor in Middleton Park for the fall Saturday night concerts since it gets dark before the concerts are over
- New to Oak Island
- Recreation Center needs serious updating/rehab
- I love Veterans Park (would like to buy a brick in memory of my father, but do not know how) watching Boats, Birds, Butterflies and Fishermen

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- The Fitness Center needs improvement and more space! There is not enough room in the weight room or the free weight area
- Restrooms need remodeling at 801 Center
- Recreation Center needs to be larger, and the air conditioning/heat needs to function correctly. Mature Aerobics is in the large room, and it is ALWAYS too hot in the room, winter or summer
- 801 Center is nice
- I would love to see stairs on the NE 4th Intracoastal access
- More resident parking
- Update the signage at the Oak Island Nature Center and Veterans Park
- Maintenance and upkeep
- Year-round restrooms at 46th Street Cabana and a nice restroom at Veterans Memorial Park
- Free to residents
- The above facilities need to be safe for people with disabilities as well as the retirees that live here
- Expand the weight room machine offerings
- Parking is confusing never sure about guests having to pay if you park in open area lot to hike to the center or playground
- Swings at May Moore Park fixed
- Recreation Center – the floors are rarely vacuumed – they are littered with dirt. I have made more than one request to address and am consistently told they are cleaned. They are not!
- Weight room needs updating
- The only real issue on the island is NO CROSSWALKS so you could SAFELY cross OAK ISLAND AND BEACH. We need a crosswalk on Oak Island Drive at the marsh crossings on the east side badly so extremely dangerous to cross on both roads and another on at approximately 40th Street E. this should be a MAIN priority and should have been here “yesterday”
- A water fountain near tennis/pickleball would be nice. Consistent restroom availability near courts as well. Should not have to use a porta-let when a restroom is right there
- We LOVE the Cabana Observation Deck. It is perfect place to eat take out and watch the water or sit in the mornings and drink coffee and chat with friends. Nice and easy going to the beach without having to take beach chairs or get sandy
- Please, please, please improve the equipment and facilities at the Recreation Center. Everything is dated and the restrooms are gross
- I would like to see space provided for storage to the Oak Island Beach Quilters who are a LONG standing group of 35+ years and who do much good in the surrounding area and are who are excellent ambassadors of our island
- Lifeguards in beach sections
- Bigger workout area with more machines
- 39th Place West launch is unusable at low tide due to thick mud. Extend concrete pad
- The ramp at Veterans Park is really nice. Would like to see the same thing done with the boat ramp. Middleton park is great for walking/running – would love to see

something added for adult fitness like an ADULT OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION – lastly, the island needs a bigger Recreation Center. A good temporary improvement would be 24/7 keycard access or extended hours for the weight and cardio equipment. Working 9-6 it is impossible to get in and use the facility if you are not a retiree. Lap pool!!!!

- More handicapped mobi mats down to the beach area
- 57th West boat ramps have become basically non-functional due to the town not acquiring any land for parking. Now that private docks have been built only usage is for them or someone that lives close and can take their trailer/vehicle back to their house
- The dock on West Yacht and Oak Island Drive needs to be repaired. It is not accessible with the sink hole, and the dock is completely destroyed
- Need new swings at May Moore Park
- It would be nice if the dock at 30th Place West was repaired and opened again! I used to love to put in my kayak or SUP from there

RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS AT EXISTING FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

APPENDIX—T

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS (Q14)

(34 RESPONSES)

- Connecting bike, EV, skate, and pedestrian corridor behind the Pirates Deck, arcade Eagles strip mall lanes behind food lion to 58th street
- Add cooking classes
- More pickleball courts
- More cardio machines/closest to back door Arc-Trainer
- Maintain and improve existing natural spaces
- 32nd Street nature trail
- A designated bike trail that is safe for all ages
- Please do not build something that then has inadequate parking – like a new recreation center by Town Hall
- We need to be able to use our residential street system for walking, biking, skateboarding safely—lower speeds (20 MPH or less) with traffic calming is essential for this goal. Safety 1st not last
- West end crossover to beach
- Repairs needed at end of streets on west end of Yacht Drive
- Agility dog park
- SIDEWALKS ON BEACH DRIVE!!!
- Add swings to Middleton Complex near splashpad and playground similar to those at the end of Howe Street in Southport
- Walkover on SW 6th Street, bike land so they do not have to use sidewalks, rainbow bridge for dogs
- Memory Bridge Pet Memorial
- Indoor walking track
- Memory bridge for pet lovers
- Sidewalks on the NORTH side of OKI Drive
- Evening classes/events: the island is getting younger, and more people work during the day but would like to participate in classes normally scheduled during the day
- Additional kids’ playgrounds and parks
- Public drinking fountains/water bottle refill stations
- Since a large number of permanent residents are Seniors with physical limitations, how about something for us? Perhaps Bocce Ball and Croquet?
- The dog park on the island between NE 41st Street and 42nd Street. Thank you for portable restrooms, however, the area for dogs could be extended since we have the landscape
- NO MORE GOLF CARTS ON OAK ISLAND DRIVE
- A new Recreation Center
- Purchase land behind Pirates Deck and Eagles to create backdoor lane for skateboard, bike and EV

- Dog Park. Agility Park for dogs. Being pet friendly is a huge draw to the town. And probably the most neglected area of parks and recreation. Also, updating ADA accessibility especially being an aging community
- ADA upgrades to all parks of Oak Island
- Pickleball courts
- Additional golf cart beach parking
- Would love to see a sidewalk on the “North” side of East Oak Island Drive
- Grass volleyball courts to facilitate multiple agility capabilities. A Community Center (not Senior Center) for social/mindful events, e.g., games, hand crafts, talks. Multi-use launch sites
- Bike trails, not bike lanes in the street

***“OTHER” NEW
AND/OR
ADDITIONAL
RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES,
AREAS, AND
PARKS***

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

APPENDIX—U

“OTHER” RESPONSES FOR FUNDING SOURCES FOR NEW AND/OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS (Q15) (60 RESPONSES)

- Business/Town partnerships
- Public/Private partnerships
- Small fees for use
- DOT
- Tax is high enough. Find other options
- Use the surplus
- Paying for membership fees to things like inside and outside pools
- Budget for continual yearly improvements and use funds on improvements versus continual assessments
- Would have to have more information about these options to respond
- Use beach parking money, duh
- Paid passes for swimming areas
- \$5 fee on each water bill to fund new recreation center parking
- Parking money and state/non-profit grants
- Money raised by neighborhoods
- Paid parking revenue
- Usage fees for pickleball courts my non-residents
- Fundraising efforts
- Money from paid parking
- Poop Station
- Money from paid parking
- Community sponsorships
- Paid parking should fund these
- No property tax or bonds to pay for these
- Paid parking funds
- Cannot vote on any of these
- Parking
- Monthly fee added to property owners' utility bill that will drop off or reduce after construction is complete
- Pay per use
- Money brought in from paid parking
- Parking fees
- Parking income
- Donated with having naming rights offered
- Paid parking income
- Fees
- A ONE TIME assessment to create the repairs or additions. Do not just raise the taxes and keep them there. We pay enough. Also take it from the parking money. Those who want to attend classes can pay

- Usage fees versus taxing everyone who may not use it. If you use it, you pay for it
- Pay when used
- Eliminate current underused programs and transfer funds
- Fund through cutting current wasteful spending
- Pay as you use or specific fundraisers
- User fees for out of town users
- Utilize Corporate connections by soliciting annual Corporate Sponsorships for events!! Stop preying on the local mom/pop businesses for your main source of Sponsorship and funding! Corporatedeer
- Use parking fee revenue and percentage of holiday rental home fees
- Membership for pools
- Let the users of the facility pay. God, whatever you do, do not raise taxes!
- Small or no increase in property taxes
- Have a concert or car classic show with entry fees that go towards these projects
- Fund-raiser activities; private sources
- Fundraising for specific project
- Parking fees
- Parking fees we are collecting
- Fundraising
- Paid parking funds and current tax income; no new taxes. This town has a large tax base. Most town administrators are either barely or not formally educated in their field and are paid dearly
- Paid parking revenue
- Other State and County funding
- Public Fund Raisers or sponsorships
- My taxes have increased greatly, and I am not getting a single new service or reduction of my water bill. Yes, we have noticed!
- We pay taxes to Brunswick County AND Oak Island – either all new residents moving in, that should greatly increase revenue for Oak Island. Right?
- Monies paid from parking
- Where is all the money going? This should be used for capital improvements
- Temporary property tax increase with “free” membership to gym until improvements have been paid off

“OTHER” FUNDING SOURCES FOR NEW AND/OR ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AREAS, AND PARKS

APPENDIX—V

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO METHODS FOR TRANSFORMING THE TOWN INTO A MORE BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY TOWN (Q16)

(47 RESPONSES)

- Connecting bike corridors off of main Oak Island Drive
- Buttons at stop lights for pedestrians use to cross streets
- More parking for golf carts for residents/property owners at the beach
- Social spaces for gathering
- Edge grass growing on sidewalks and repair in business area
- Bike path connecting Oak Island, Southport, St James, Boiling Spring Lakes and Bolivia
- Additional walkovers across the waterway from the main island to the beach; additional sidewalks on the “beach side” streets especially Dolphin and beach; lower speed limit on Beach Drive
- At 58th Street and 51st Street crossings widen and improve for bikes and pedestrians; improve paving on back pathway from Food Lion to 51st Street crosswalk to improve safety, bike, and walkability along
- Probably a combination of what is listed in this question
- Make it easier to recreate on our neighborhood streets—slow down or eliminate cars and trucks from certain streets; implement traffic calming; reduce neighborhood speed limits to 20 or even 15 mph
- Lower speed limits and allow traffic calming; update policy to work for pedestrians not against them; lower speed limits in business areas of East Oak Island Drive so can add crosswalks and walk to beach
- Crosswalk lighting imbedded in the pavement so that traversing pedestrians CAN BE SEEN BY VEHICULAR DRIVERS during the daylight hours, twilight hours, and nighttime hours!
- Making walkable is not possible. How to walk from wooded area to the commercial area
- We must produce a better plan for golf carts; they do not follow the rules of driving and are a hazard for walkers and those on bikes
- We fell in love with Oak Island BECAUSE it did not have the sidewalks, bike paths, and multi-use paths. What makes Oak Island special is that it feels like a by gone era. Can we please keep it that way!
- Fewer cars! Checked growth!
- Slower speed on East and West Beach Drive and Dolphin
- Ways to bring in more stores
- Greenways donated off the island by developers on the other side of the bridge away from beach area and congestion
- Signaled crossing on Oak Island Drive at marsh crossings
- Sidewalks and bike lane on Oak Island Drive would be a huge improvement. Crosswalks are desperately needed. Stop signs being blown leading to near collisions on Holly and Oak Island Drive

- Bicycle lanes do not count if they are on the street; we need separated bike lanes down Oak Island Drive; a child needs to be safe riding a bike in the bike lane
- Sidewalk on Yacht Drive
- Get rid of golf carts
- I would not like Oak Island to encourage visitors to use bicycles. It is extremely dangerous. The rise in rental bicycles and golf carts is concerning. Golf carts should not be allowed on Oak Island
- Crossing of Oak Island Drive – did not mark above because signage may not be needed
- Designated side routes
- Safe crosswalk at 58th Street with crossings on both sides of 58th
- Crosswalk across E Oak Island Drive to get to Middleton Park events
- Restrooms at the beach. Requirements for golf carts enforced! More dangerous than bikes
- Speed bumps on Yacht Drive
- Limiting golf cart use in certain areas and reducing speed on both Yacht Drive and Oak Island Drive
- Please reduce the speed limit on Yacht Drive. This would make it safer for both cyclists and pedestrians
- Some nature paths
- Golf cart lane
- Keep what you have clear
- Law enforcement presence
- No bicycle lane on Oak Island Drive but on Yacht Drive
- Bike and pedestrians to use Yacht Drive and Pelican along with golf carts to stay off Oak Island Drive and Beach Drive
- 4-Way pedestrian crosswalk on Middleton and Oak Island Drive, and on Oak Island Drive to every crossover over the Davis Canal, 9th, 20th, 30th, 40th
- More stop signs on Yacht Drive to slow traffic down for pedestrian safety
- Oak Island Drive at 20th Street NE pedestrian crosswalk. VERY DANGEROUS crossing! Speed limit should be 35 on the curve of Oak Island Drive all the way to 19th Street NE!
- Sidewalk, especially all down East Oak Island Drive in the “north” side AND street lights on the north side too
- Slow down speed limit on E and West Beach Drive!
- Traffic Calming Initiatives and better speed limit enforcement or lowering speed limits on East Oak Island Drive
- Lower the speed limit to 35 on the entirety of Oak Island Drive
- Make sure dog rules for beach are clear and enforced. Too many dog owners ignore!

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO TRANSFORMING THE TOWN INTO A MORE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY TOWN

APPENDIX—W

“OTHER” RESPONSES TO RECURRING ISSUES WITHIN THE TOWN REGARDING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY (Q17) (80 RESPONSES)

- Several accidents in season with kids bikes EV peds, crossing congestion at Food Lion. Difficult vision around curve. Make bikeway behind the strip mall to 58th crosswalk or bike lane
- Too much right-of-way parking on Dolphin Drive in the summer
- LACK OF CROSSWALKS!!!
- Tourist or house renters driving golf carts in wrong areas
- Inadequate marked LSV routes and LSV reg enforcement
- No place to launch a kayak other than the canal; I would love to see street ends on the ICW made into kayak launches from a sandy street end; there does not need to be a launch itself
- Motorists do not stop for cross traffic on Live Oak in Yaupon area; intersections from Barbee to McGlamery should be 4 way stops. The traffic does not stop on Barbee at the Live Oak intersection
- Speed not enforced on cross streets going to beach (Sherill, McGlamery)
- When biking, example SE 78th Street, cars pull up to Oak Island Drive passing stop sign before stopping, looking left for traffic, extremely dangerous to be walking/biking on sidewalk from the drivers' right
- Crossing from the east side to the west side to go to the beach is dangerous, especially with children, with no crosswalks
- I have not experienced an issue, but do bike after dark and can see the potential hazard if bikers do not use lighting
- Bike and pedestrians on Yacht Drive riding in the middle of the lane and not on the side of the road; year-round issue
- Drivers speeding down NE 64th Street going to the ice cream shop at the end; would like to see speed bumps or speed limit enforced more; especially during the busy summer months
- Contractors/Workers and others regularly exceed the speed limit on Yacht Drive - very heavy pedestrian foot and bicycle traffic - lack of any speed enforcement on Yacht and North Middleton Avenue
- Restrict the non-recreational bikers to the NC highways; they disobey traffic laws often
- Walking and crossing Oak Island Drive especially during the season
- Bicyclists using sidewalks instead of bike lanes where available
- More portable toilets for elderly cyclists
- Golf carts in summer time need to be better managed by police with age of drivers and driving on main roads
- People on Yacht Drive do not follow the rules of the road; they use Yacht Drive as a multi-use path
- LSVs on E Oak Island Drive often travel the road for many blocks causing traffic congestion and dangerous/illegal passing by cars on the turn lane

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- Bikes on sidewalks make it difficult for pedestrians and dog walkers
- Speed limits are not enforced and there are no bike paths on Fish Factory Road
- Side streets need enforcement especially NE 1st and 2nd, which are heavily used to get to Yacht Drive; there are children and many walkers who use these streets
- Too many golf carts on Oak Island Drive and E. Beach
- Bikes nor golf carts should be allowed on Oak Island Drive at all
- Crosswalks are needed especially at the crossovers; better lighting or new street signs for the side streets on Oak Island Drive
- No bikes should be allowed on Oak Island Drive
- Golf cart hazards
- Need crosswalks for pedestrian safety
- People walk dogs or walk in the road at night and 95% carry zero lighting and are invisible to drivers; visitors come here and act like drivers are responsible for not hitting them in the dark- WRONG
- Difficult to get across Oak Island Drive during in-season months
- Golf carts back up traffic; people crossing causing near accidents
- Island wide speed limit of 35 or less for major streets (Beach, Oak Island, Yacht)
- Speed limit not enforced on 58th Street from Oak Island Drive to the beach access
- Too many people driving UNDER the speed limit for no good reason
- Bikes and skateboards on pedestrian sidewalks
- Bicyclists need to obey traffic laws
- Golf carts should not be allowed to use Oak Island Drive
- There would be less traffic if more people felt safe walking/biking; a car is currently required for safety; Speed Limits are not Properly Enforced on Dolphin Drive; Those on Bicycles Need Lights or Bells to Better Alert Motorists and Pedestrians
- Sidewalks and bike lane on Oak Island Drive would be a huge improvement. Crosswalks are desperately needed. Stop signs being blown leading to near collisions on Holly and Oak Island Drive
- What about golf carts? They are dangerous
- All bikes need to use sidewalks OR secondary roads
- Speed limits are not properly enforced on Fish Factory Road
- Yacht Drive speed limit 25 mph during the summer. Used as by folks in a hurry to get around Oak Island Drive
- Crossing roads and not having bicycle lanes or multi-use paths
- Speed limits are too high, unsafe for bikes and walking
- Keep e-bikes off sidewalks
- Bicyclists and pedestrians refusing to move to the side or use available sidewalks to prevent vehicle traffic backups! They do not own the road!
- Bicyclists often have zero respect for motorists and will ride side by side making it impossible to pass. I get stuck behind them on Yacht Drive all the time
- Need back pathway for pedestrians and bikes behind Food Lion and behind arcades thru parking area to 58th Street
- Improve ROW with mulch and sidewalk landscape widening to allow EV, skateboards, bikes, and pedestrians to walk safely

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Due to pedestrian traffic, bikes, walkers, and LSVs, speed limit on Yacht Drive needs to be reduced or sidewalks and bike lanes installed
- Keep bikes off Oak Island Drive! Golf carts are bad enough and bikes make the congestion really bad. Let them ride on Yacht Drive
- Enforce 25 mph speed limit in residential areas
- Yacht Drive dangerous with bicycles, walkers, and golf carts
- Need registration and rules for golf cart owners and rental companies to have golf carts inspected to make sure they meet the required guidelines. Golf carts are more of an issue than bikes
- Golf carts should not be on main road period; not just at 45 zones for safety
- Bicyclists need to know that they must yield to pedestrians, as well as STOP at the intersections with traffic lights. Especially Ebikes
- Speed limits along Yacht Drive need to be reduced and enforced
- There should be safety from the bicyclists also, but the main concern is cars not watching out for pedestrians and bicycles. A lot of times cars feel like bicycles and pedestrians are holding them up
- Pedestrians do not know about street safety and walk right into traffic on Yacht. If pedestrians always have the right of way, then the speed limit should be 25. They do not step off the road for cars
- Need crosswalks
- Bike lanes on Beach Drive need to be kept cleaned off!
- Golf carts!!!
- Pedestrians not walking on correct side of road, facing traffic...educate them, signage
- Speed limit on Beach and Dolphin are too high in season. Dangerous when walking or biking
- Decrease speed limits on Yacht and Holly to 25 mph and focus on golf cart, dog walking, and bikes
- Maybe signs for motorists to be patient with pedestrians on Oak Island Drive as well as Ocean Drive
- LED lighting needs to be installed on each street
- Golf cart lanes where they are allowed on Oak Island Drive.....
- There is no speed limit enforcement on any streets that are not listed! Stop hanging out only on the main streets
- There are too many side roads for there to be a bike lane on Oak Island Drive
- Golf carts are a more significant impediment to traffic than walkers, runners or bikers
- Most drivers go around 15 miles under the speed limit – difficult if you have an appointment
- Bike lanes along Beach Drive are so full of rocks and debris that they are not safe to use
- The parking spaces at the end of Barbee Boulevard make the road unsafe for pedestrians as the back ends of vehicles stick out into the road leaving little room for pedestrians to walk safely
- Better pedestrian crosswalks on Oak Island Drive particularly near restaurants and businesses for pedestrians' safety

- Dark from lack of street lights. Poorly maintained bike lanes on Beach Drive. Change to 25 mph on all streets except Oak Island Drive and Beach Road
- Seasonal traffic is a concern for people and bikes crossing Oak Island Drive

***“OTHER”
RESPONSES
TO
RECURRING
ISSUES
REGARDING
BICYCLE AND
PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY***

APPENDIX—X

RESPONSES TO METHOD/METHODS FOR RAISING ALL RATINGS OF THE TOWN (Q27) TO AT LEAST “GOOD” (Q28) (270 RESPONSES)

- Bike lanes
- Get serious about fixing and maintaining the beach
- Offer more activities, trails and walking and biking paths; offer pickleball beginner clinics and league play; same for golf; and a swimming pool would be great
- Always room for improvement event; need more bathrooms at beach access areas down near west end
- Indoor swimming pool
- Talked about that recreation center since at least 2015 and nothing is done; costs more and more every year we wait; that said, do not want to pay any increased tax monies for upgrades
- Better sidewalks and places to walk dogs
- Recreation Center that was envisioned at the Town Council Meeting was for a lot younger demographic that Oak Island; we do not need a gymnasium or basketball courts; the average age on Oak Island is sixty something
- Indoor facilities are inadequate and in disrepair
- The Recreation Department can do a better job with planning events and parades; the concerts are great, and we really enjoy those
- Get seniors together more frequently; more sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive
- More kids’ activities
- Barbee Blvd needs to have a sidewalk or walking train down the middle, on the South side, like the North end does; there needs to be one in that median and was taken out; landscaping and benches would really enhance the beauty
- Cleaning Recreation Center
- Improved bike and pedestrian safety; importance of green space/preserving tree canopy
- There is always room for improvement
- STOP WITH THE SURVEYS AND ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING! I have lost count of the # of surveys that have been put out on what needs to be done! DO SOMETHING please! The Cardio and Weight Rooms both need DRASTIC improvement! The ONE new arc trainer-closest to the back door is ALWAYS in use. It has a smooth, shorter stride and is easier on joints, etc. The \$\$\$ spent on stupid blow up and other decorations could be put to much better use by more machines like this one!
- Maintenance
- Newer facilities at the Recreation Center
- Middleton Park grass for concerts series and baseball field should be high quality turf grass. Need new Recreation Center and I would put with everything else as close to 46th as possible
- New facilities-sidewalks-less bike traffic on main roads
- Not walking/biking friendly; dangerous on Yacht Drive
- Focus on youth; a lot of kids here now
- You are doing a great job; just keep adding to the quality and availability 😊
- Sidewalks/bike lanes needed on Yacht Drive and on main side streets to the beach; 2nd, etc.

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- I think we should have better pricing for the “classes.” The “teachers” should be hired through the Recreation Department and not just individuals that cancel classes all the time. Also, cater to wider age range and not just seniors
- We in our 50’s and in decent health but struggle to find active options that accommodate limited mobility; there is not a YMCA type facility here or nearby where we could take modified exercise classes or swim indoors for exercise; our only real options for exercise seem to be walking or pickleball. We would really enjoy and use a community center with exercise classes and an indoor pool and hobby groups like knitting/cards/book club, etc.
- Need more programs in the summer for kids; more classes needed for seniors; fitness classes; crosswalks for pedestrians a must
- The facilities need an upgrade
- More things for moms with younger kids and community pool
- Improve Recreation Facilities with new aquatic center; partner with developer of new residential development being permitted to provide this public amenity to be maintained as a Town Park and Recreation Facility within the development; a 76 degree lap pool and 82 degree heated exercise pool; build up not out. Provide a parking deck above it, shaded by solar panels
- Renovated and expanded Recreation Center; more beach concerts
- I would like to see more sidewalks, crosswalks, pools, and an updated Recreation Center
- Cleaning up the overall appearance of the island
- Better walking/biking options that are safe to travel in the form of sidewalks and/or designated biking lanes; better traffic control using traffic lights on East Oak Island Drive in peak traffic seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall); Aquatic Center is badly needed in this area; many travel to Bolivia many times a week when we would much rather our fees to use a facility stay on the island.
- Updated facilities; addition of non-exercise classes; safe crossovers to beach; biking lanes or widening of sidewalks for bikers
- I have a hard time finding out what services and when they are; I read the Current, but a visitor may have difficulty finding these events
- More fitness classes for over 40 years; muscle strengthening conditioning classes; nutrition classes for all ages
- Adult tennis leagues and clinics
- Better information informing people of facilities and events
- Bike lanes and an outdoor pool; pickleball clinics/leagues would be EXCELLENT
- Citizen input accepted and implemented; indoor pool; new larger Recreation Center
- Read comments above
- Indoor event facility that could hold a large group of 350+ people would be a great addition to the Town of Oak Island
- New improved recreation/health facility with improved exercise areas and equipment
- More pedestrian and biking friendly streets and walkways; town needs crosswalks across Oak Island Drive; town needs to address safety with golf carts; it is either unsafe or illegal to drive golf carts on the roads right now; the Recreation Center needs a major upgrade; equipment is old and not exceptionally clean. Recreation Center should have space for multiple ping pong tables, and they should be available for use all of the time. As of now, there is one ping pong table and available one day. Space is limited.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Need to be able to walk to things safely! That includes in our neighborhoods and crossing busy roads like E Oak Island Drive; the reckless driving has to stop; we need lower speed limits, traffic calming, and safe crosswalks like many towns have; we should not have to drive to something a half mile away but that is what is happening due to unsafe streets and no safe crossings. Please look up "20 is Plenty". Even towns with sidewalks are establishing 20 is Plenty in neighborhoods.
Safety 1st
- We need sidewalks that go the entire length of the town; currently there are no continuous sidewalks in the Yaupon area of Oak Island Drive; that are desperately NEEDS SIDEWALKS! Also, Yacht Drive should have bike lanes and/or sidewalks as so many people use it for biking and walking; I would like to see a new recreation facility and classes that are geared to strength/toning training. Currently I have to go all the way to BCC to take the classes I want. It would be great to have classes on the island
- More outdoor friendly and safe as far as cars for walkers and bikers, exercising; I have almost gotten run over many times by vehicles on Yacht, so I do not walk there too much but stick either to the cross streets or Holly Drive
- I have 2 members of my family who are handicapped; it would be great if there were multiple very accessible beach accesses (such as 49th) where it is allowed to take your family member onto the beach in a golf cart; get them set up and remove the cart and park in the appropriate lot/space; I would also suggest doing this without the "special permit" to access the beach. I have no problem with the special permit if it could be used with an NCDOT licensed golf cart, but not either or. Stupid rule.
- More programs for preschool age kids
- Wide, well-groomed bicycle lanes along the ocean and Oak Island Drive; well-placed and marked pedestrian crossings on Oak Island Drive; more places to lock bicycles at all parks, facilities, and beach entrances
- A public pool; seniors need water classes; kids need swimming
- Safe bike lanes throughout town
- People who use equipment such as walkers and wheelchairs need pathways that work with equipment; not just on the beach; Middleton Park; going over rocks is not an easy task; Oak Island Pier; again, going over rocks is not easy; going through sand in Salty Dog Park with any equipment is impossible. Please make more ADA friendly for the aging and people with disabilities
- There needs to be better at addressing a fit community and younger family coming
- I live in Boiling Spring Lakes and frequent Oak Island for its programs and beaches; it has such a busy tourist season that there is enough of a need for bike lanes, or better pedestrian paths for safety; the island should try to preserve some green space for parks, greenways, and nature programs for locals, and tourists alike. I think if some further child/family friendly areas are made, there will be good places to generate income that will be readily used by both locals and tourists
- Safety protocols in place
- Updates, regular maintenance, more attention to safety and cleanliness
- Pedestrian Crosswalks
- More adult classes in afternoon and night
- More portable toilets on Yacht Drive for older cyclists like me!

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Poop station for people that walk dogs at Middleton Park
- Extremely dangerous to cross the street during peak months
- Sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.; what the town appears to miss is that if we get more people walking and biking safely they will not drive because the town is pedestrian and bike friendly; on a side note, a widening on the main Oak Island Drive to accommodate all forms of non-car traffic would be immensely helpful as well. Right now, a bike and a pedestrian cannot pass each other on the current sidewalks because they are too small — one, or the other has to step of the sidewalk to allow the other to pass.
- New facilities
- Better bands would be nice; the first End of Summer Concert was great; the last one.....not so good especially if you wanted people to dance
- New Recreation Center for exercise; more trees along streets, parks, sidewalks and ballfields; I saw 12 pickleball players try to stand under the shade of one sickly Bradford Pear and did not know whether to laugh or cry
- Accessible restrooms! Even the ones we do have are locked often; safer playgrounds; special needs programs and playground; more than 12 spots for summer camp programs; bike paths; programs/fitness for adults (non-senior); nicer landscaping or ground covering at dog park
- People want to be outside; more trails for bikers and walkers/hikers; more for teens; more for adults who are not yet retired
- Permanent restrooms at Middleton Park; ADA beach accessibility; need more bike paths and hiking trails
- Improved pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure
- No need to spend limited funds for people's dream items; if they want it, they can pay for it themselves
- More senior resources
- We need more street lights and better reflective street signs
- Not sure
- A new Recreation Center with gym, indoor pool, indoor walking track, quality weight training facilities, and locker rooms; more sidewalks and bike lanes that will connect people with parks and commercial areas; sidewalk improvements are not the responsibility of the Recreation Department but should be a high priority for the Town. Develop a Master Plan for the Town Hall/Middleton Park. Relocate Public Works, expand recreation facilities. Staff does a good job. We need better facilities
- One of the main reasons I moved to Oak Island 14 years ago was the simplicity of the town and the amazing tree canopy on the majority of the island; those things, along with the high volume of traffic are negatively changing the character of Oak Island
- The Recreation Center needs to be demolished and a new Recreation Center of about 4x the size of the old one needs to be built in its place; it should have or be an organizing area for all the activities I describe above; it should have a weight room too
- Improved pedestrian and biking areas; more hiking/walking trails
- Community pool
- Multi-Use paths and a better use of the parks other than Middleton which is wonderful
- Bike paths that are large enough to be safe and kept free of sand and debris

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- Better upkeep of park and recreation areas and at least more ramps for boats; getting after new construction companies that do not help keep their debris from getting into the creeks along Pelican and other areas
- Greenway areas, walking and biking trails and safety
- Update Recreation Center; more sidewalks and bike lanes
- Having areas that we can safely cross Oak Island Drive without having to wait forever so you do not get hit; areas that have crossovers to the Davis Canal should at least be areas that people can cross safely
- Bike and pedestrian lanes are too narrow and unsafe; need to create lanes large enough for all non-auto traffic including golf carts
- Head of Recreation needs to take responsibility and not pass the buck; too many non-residents crowding the pickleball courts during open play when signage clearly states Oak Island residents and their guests only!!!! Anytime someone says anything some smart A says they are all my guests! We need new representation for Pickleball as too many are barking orders to everyone else when they are not even on a committee.
- Need bathroom facilities
- There needs to be restrooms available on a 24/7 basis; a lot of things are geared toward kids; need more adult programs
- Slower speed on Oak Island Drive in order to cross; almost impossible during the season
- Basic maintenance of the facilities is a big issue
- The Recreation Center needs a major upgrade with new equipment and more outdoor space for activities; this is our town, and we need better activities for the local residents
- Parking is not available near facilities and extremely limited
- More modern facilities and better maintained facilities
- Sidewalks on both side of Oak Island Drive; more fitness programs through the Recreation Department (seems like they are always cancelling a class); and a Memory Bridge built somewhere on the island for the MANY pet lovers here
- Recreation Center is outdated; need larger YMCA like facility
- Better programs at better hours for exercise classes; not everyone likes to get up early for an exercise class; good programs for 85 year olds—interesting ones!
- More of a variety of program and sports for adults
- Spruced up facilities, both indoor and outdoor; more diverse programming opportunities
- Facilities are outdated; not esthetically pleasing and inviting
- It seems some areas like Middleton Park get all the attention and other areas get none
- Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Need pool or YMCA
- 24-hour workout facilities; updated equipment and a pool for water aerobics
- Evening classes
- Improved pedestrian crossings; bike lanes; no golf carts on main roads; larger Recreational Center with indoor/outdoor pool with classes for all; classes for aging population to stay independent; improved street lighting
- Indoor swimming with swim aerobics; sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive; sidewalks on Yacht Drive; crosswalks where over-walks are located
- Indoor pool

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- See answers given
- The little things; keep an eye on things that need fixed; actually, reply to emails
- Better walking trails and bathrooms
- Lack of crosswalks and sidewalks is completely unacceptable
- Bike lanes! Sidewalks! Crosswalks!
- Sidewalks on Yacht Drive
- Recreation Center needs to be larger!
- Often events happen and I learn about it the next week
- We need to prioritize the tax paying citizens of the town and protect them from rising costs and taxes; we should be lowering taxes or keeping them stable NOT looking for ways to raise them
- Improve restroom and docs on west end
- The physical fitness facilities and equipment are subpar and the outdoor accommodation for biking and walking could be improved
- There needs to be significant improvements to bike and pedestrian safety—more sidewalks and bike lanes; also, more pedestrian crosswalks along Oak Island Drive to ensure safer passage
- I believe more needs to be done to make Oak Island accessible to people with disabilities; there are not enough mobi mats or parking for accessible vehicles
- Start using pay to play for non-residents
- The town needs to be more ADA compliant for the residents; there are a lot of older people living here that would enjoy going to the beach, restaurants, parks, etc. and because of the lack of ADA compliance, they cannot go; people moved here because of the beach and now after life changes they are not able to enjoy the beach. I have been trying for 3 years to get ADA compliant beach accesses and as you can see a band aide has been put on the beach accesses. Please help us!!
- The classes/activities at the Recreation Department seem to be cancelled often; I am not aware of any classes being held at outdoors or in other places
- Equipment and facilities are old and rundown; need an upgrade; some safety issues with outdoor metal equipment due to corrosion
- Money to enhance or add to
- Cleanliness, the Recreation Center has inches of dust on the equipment, and the floor is never sanitized; rubber matting breeds fungus and should be sanitized regularly; also, the website for Recreation is often not easily navigated
- Walkways and definitely CROSSINGS THAT WILL STOP TRAFFIC AT MARSH CROSSING AND 40, 72 east and maybe more
- This is one of the few beach towns that has so many off season events for residents, parades, park festival, etc.; good job
- Nothing that entices me, but I feel they probably entice others
- Bike lanes on beach and new Recreation Center
- You need more crossovers the Davis Canal (especially on west end); more kayak launches, bike lanes, sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive; and more public restrooms
- More senior accessibility to park, beach, etc.
- More opportunities and growth to attract a younger middle-aged crowd; promote getting outside and outdoor activities; put better use to the big fields and opportunity Middleton Park provides; maybe a place where public could organize pickup sports (pickup soccer, flag football, etc.); a permanent bathroom facility rather than porta-potties there would be nice

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Bike lanes; sidewalks; crosswalks; hiking paths
- Cut some of the programs that are not used and concentrate on programs that are
- More mobi mats on the beach; a community swimming pool with handicapped entry access
- Better gym and pool; notification of pickleball court availability; online reservations
- The Recreation Center could definitely use an upgrade to offer more fitness and other programs to our community; more ADA accessible parks
- More pedestrian/bicycle paths and kayaking launches
- The Recreation Center needs more room and updating of equipment
- I would like to see more crosswalks with lights to get driver's attention
- Proper maintenance/repair of outdoor facilities (docks, boat launches, beach access); focus on making beach drive more pedestrian friendly with crosswalks and speed enforcement
- Crosswalks
- We need walking/biking paths from the Island to Fish Factory Road which should then be routed around onto Fish Factory Road that is so dangerous to try to walk and/or bike ride – especially now with the Loggerheads bringing more traffic
- I put Good; however, please do not put bikes on the road. It is going to be like the LSV crazies!!!
- A park or playground for toddlers
- Recreation Center is extremely outdated, and the town is not walk or bike accessible
- Safe biking paths and walking paths
- A new Recreation Center with adequate space for an aerobics/dance room, cardio equipment, weight room. The center is 45 years old, falling apart and the population has grown by 7,000 people since 1981. I see that the parks are not ADA compliant, how does a person with disabilities access Middleton Park for a concert?
- Just wanted to suggest along with bike survey input that improving the current facilities, parks, etc. with a higher standard of appearance and quality before spending more money on additions and adding any more areas for the town to maintain
- Make it safe for biking and walking; public restrooms throughout town; attractive paths with tree canopy for shade that are appropriate for dog walking
- Need more variety in fitness programs and times offered. Need improved exercise facility. Need bike paths
- Can always focus on constant improvement with fresh, new ideas. Survey analysis should help. Thanks for allowing input
- Safer walking & bike lanes
- Just facilitating this conversation is a great start. I would assign a grade of "Good" if any of the ideas are followed through on and it continues to be a conversation
- More wildlife and vegetation integration and protection to public spaces. Indoor Recreational Sports Facilities for extreme heat, or tree coverage for outdoor courts
- Biking and walking is sometimes dangerous because walkers, bikers, e-bikes are all trying to use the same narrow sidewalk
- Need sidewalks on Fish Factory
- We need more cutting edge ADA activities, events, and facilities
- Cater to property owners and not seasonal renters. Property owners pay the taxes
- Trips for seniors
- See choices in previous question about what is needed

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- Adding sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive
- We need public restrooms near the beach and pedestrian walkways especially during vacation season. Golf carts are also still an issue even with the new signs. You see kids driving, people actually drive on sidewalks, kids on laps...
- I think you should take a look at Sanibel Island in Florida. It is similar to Oak Island with tourism being the top industry. They bicycle/multi-use paths ALL over the island. Tourists love to use the tandem/kids/bicycle carriages
- Stop charging for exercise programs, which are frequently 'canceled' for one reason or another. THE MOST FREQUENT EMAILS I RECEIVE FROM THE TOWN REGARDING THE RECREATION CENTER ARE CANCELLATIONS FOR CLASSES. If staff cannot be hired to offer classes to residents (for free) then do away with them
- You have to be able to cross the main road safely, especially near Middleton Park, where many of the events are held, in order to enjoy them!
- If this is about parks and activities, excellent. Many of these questions refer to sidewalks, CROSSWALKS, and bike lanes. I feel we have so much work to be done in this department
- Better facilities, increase the number of attendees for camps, more bathrooms, and listen to the community
- Vendors at fairs are all the same each time
- Would like to see town purchase land next to current employee parking lot to increase open space and parking around Town Hall and Middleton Park
- Bike/Pedestrian trail from Oak Island to Parks along Fish Factory Road.....Oak Island Drive...and in any new development
- Completely research and think about actions before implementing them
- Parks and Recreation needs to be one department with a visionary leader
- More kayak launch points that are trailer friendly
- I think that there needs to be programs for all ages and there needs to be updates done to the facilities. I also would love for there to be designated biking areas and walking areas to increase access to all areas of the island without having to get in your car or golf cart. Focus and make the Island a bike friendly island
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety is an issue, as well as activities for working adults. Most Recreation Center type activities are during the day. Also, the Recreation Center should be expanded. We need larger rooms for larger exercise classes and more evening class options for both exercise and art type activities
- Look at Durham, NC Parks and Recreation offerings for pickleball classes, clinics, ladders, and designated round robin ratings/times managed by DPR – all are reasonably priced and staffed by DPR knowledgeable and fun people. It is my understanding that Oak Island Parks and Recreation do not sponsor/manage pickleball clinics, ladders, or round robin play. There is room for improvements in Oak Island
- Love the events, but need more sidewalks and safer crossings for pedestrians on Oak Island Drive
- Bike lanes, access on west end over to beach, pier walk
- I am a Senior Kayak Fisherman. I have to back my vehicle to the water to launch/take out my Kayak. 57th Street Boat Ramp is excellent. 57th Place West boat ramp is excellent (except for the extremely limited parking). 39th Place ramp is limited because of the low tide situation that prohibits launch/take out at low tide. 1. There is no place for me to launch my Kayak into the

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Intracoastal Waterway west of NE 57th Street. I would love to be able to fish the west end of the Waterway

- There is a desperate need for crosswalks on Oak Island Drive. Residents and visitors (on foot or bike) take their lives in their hands attempting to cross Oak Island Drive. To me this and sidewalks are more important than anything else covered in this survey. To see what I mean, try driving up and Oak Island Drive anytime (but especially during the summer season) and watch people (many with children) try to safely cross the road. Extremely dangerous
- Not that interested in classes, etc. Drivers need to be more careful. They speed, pull out without regard for pedestrians, do not even look both ways if turning right. Overall lack of respect from drivers. I have been nearly hit several times
- More along-the-street, non-resident parking spaces between McGlamery and Barbee. I do not mind paying to park, but not when I have to park a mile away from the beaches I would like to go to
- Golf cart enforcement. Require all owners to have carts inspected and charge them a fee to do so. Verify the cart meets minimum speed requirements. Need more crosswalks especially since we have the most beach access points. Need more restrooms at the beach!
- Slow speeders' Down, add speed bumps on Yacht, pave the secondary roads, add bike trails but in wooded areas for safety. I live on the NE side but ride my bike on Pelican because I can go straight for exercise and bike lanes on the road, handicap walking mats further on the beach, really need to look at the typography of where the mats are located and are they really helping the handicap or rubber stamping it
- More programs for seniors
- Sidewalks in the north side of Oak Island Drive and on Beach. Some sort of formal caution related to bikes, be it Type 1 or 2 bike lanes or just signs warning drivers to be cautious and make sure cyclists are aware of what the rules are and adhere to the rules as well. And that is coming from an avid cyclist who rides very often on Oak Island
- Eliminate some programs to reduce tax payers' funding
- Need sidewalks and bike paths and more street lights!!!!
- Reducing and enforcing the speed limit along Yacht Drive would increase safety for walkers and cyclists. There is currently too much speeding – especially by contractors/work vehicles
- Activities/Classes geared toward older (70 and up) healthy permanent adults. Bocce, croquet, nature walks with an arborist/master gardener. Benches placed at a few street endings along the Intracoastal Waterway side of the island to rest while walking and to enjoy the scene
- Better facilities inside and out. Our town is growing, and the facilities have not kept up
- Oak Island needs to be more handicapped accessible
- Pedestrian crossings!!!! Bathroom facilities and water to wash off at beach access. No parking at beach access except drop off and handicapped. Pave side roads and create proper parking spaces. Take care of stormwater drainage. Better regulate traffic on E Oak Island Drive with roundabouts and proper crosswalks. Create a nice easy to visit downtown area for beach goers and foot traffic
- Indoor pool; bike lanes
- Cycling lanes for all riders. Better, stricter management of golf carts (i.e., babies on laps, no seat belts, lights, signage with golf cart "rules/laws"
- Safe walking and bike paths, not lines painted on streets

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- No golf cart on Oak Island Drive. Bathroom at Park Pool
- Please keep bike lanes cleaned off of gravel and sand – extremely dangerous
- There should be sidewalks on both sides of the road the full length of East Oak Island Drive, at least
- A resident fee for access to all Town recreation facilities and charge by the hour for non-residents for all activities
- Indoor Lap Pool ins my #1 request
- New, bigger Recreation Center!
- Improving facilities (Recreation Center)
- The lack of resolution on Yacht Drive. It needs to be more pedestrian, biking, stroller, and golf cart friendly. Too many people use it as a way to get out of traffic so they can quickly get to their destination. Also, the number of construction vehicles on that road that are in a hurry creates a hazardous condition
- Need traffic lights on Oak Island Drive for pedestrians to cross safely
- We think the island does a good job with events throughout the year
- New Recreation Center, Senior Center, Bathrooms (nice like Southport)
- Bike lanes/sidewalks on Fish Factory Road along with a few crosswalks near Dutchman Creek Park would be helpful. Especially with baseball coming to Bill Smith Park, sidewalks and crosswalks enable South Harbor Village residents to bike or walk to the park to watch ball games
- Updated Recreation Center
- The population on the island continues to grow. Expanded programs for children would be nice
- Nothing. It is appropriate for a small town
- It is a little difficult to answer. I have been living here for 4 years full-time, and I cannot think of a single occasion where my guests or family members had something that you offered that we could participate in or sign up for. It has always been some other place or business that would have trivia night or the senior center that has an event or the Elks that has bingo etc.
- More classes and better announcements
- More things for kids to do from 7-12
- Improved sidewalks and activities for children of all ages year-round not just younger children
- Pay attention and perhaps little pride in the dog parks. More ADA accessibility to other areas besides the beach
- The Recreation Center is in dire need of an overhaul. The building and equipment is outdated, and the interior is depressing
- New facilities, new equipment, new programs, new gathering place, and space for all. Indoor and outdoor activities
- We have many beach accesses that need to be improved and are a vital part of community spaces
- The Recreation Building needs to be completely renovated. It is very outdated and not appealing to work out at
- Pedestrian crosswalks. Cannot get across Oak Island Drive safely or easily
- More crosswalks!!!!
- To listen to those that use the facilities to help make the decisions because we have the best ideas instead of being all political and telling us what we want to hear!!!
- I have expressed that in my answers

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- Finish pickleball courts. Make it safer for bikes, pedestrians, and golf carts
- The town does an excellent job with different events throughout the year. More than most small towns I am familiar with
- Sidewalk at PO and repair parking lot to eliminate holes. This is a safety issue
- Fix the boat ramp and add more trailer parking or another ramp
- The town relies a lot on volunteers for services. Town needs to enhance services for our seniors and school aged population. They also need to consider the needs of residents who work an 8-5 day and provide evening exercise programs
- Many activities slip by. Somehow the information does not get to the public
- Recreational Center for residents is needed, with swimming pool inside and out. Pedestrian crosswalks are desperately needed for the safety of those crossing Oak Island Drive
- Offer activities after work hours
- Geared toward retired folks, feels like the working families get left out a lot
- A new Recreation Center is a must
- Improved Recreation Center, sidewalks, bike/golf cart paths
- More pedestrian and bike friendly signage and paths. Regulate or limit motorized bikes on pedestrian sidewalks and crossover. Or enforce existing regulation for motorized bikes. Enforcement of regulations regarding pet poop! DNA registration/tracking? Trash pickup along the bridges, canal walkways and crossovers. I realize some of this may not be Parks and Recreation, however, it could be coordinated with Town Maintenance
- Do fewer programs and do not spend so much of our tax payer money!
- Safe passage for pedestrians and bikes on Yacht Drive needs improvement. Too many work trucks speeding
- More sports options for teenagers such as tennis, lacrosse, and volleyball. Additionally, pedestrians and bicyclists use Yacht Drive as their exercise space, which is fine, but makes it incredibly challenging to drive an automobile down Yacht to my house. A sidewalk or greenway on Yacht would be wonderful
- More activities, new Recreation Center, and better access for bikes and walkers
- We need either a new/bigger Recreation Center. I feel the outdoor parks and courts are good
- Our daughter has several genetic conditions and has autism. Being outdoors is essential to our family. Increasing walk ability of the island for her as she ages is especially important to us. An example is allowing her to access the library safely by adding a crosswalk at that intersection. Making Barbee Boulevard safer for pedestrians would also be a priority
- More festivals and free events for adults only
- The town is sorely missing an indoor pool and basketball/volleyball gymnasium. The Recreation Center is outdated and the 12,000 plus residents of Oak Island deserve better facilities
- Sidewalks, bike lanes, and street lights in the north side of E Oak Island Drive. More variety of exercise classes at the Recreation Center
- Definitely need a new Recreation Center!
- Bike lanes, safe travelling of E and West Beach. More beach access with the rubber paths for easier access with kids. More family events. Fire Department sponsored bon fires in summer
- More appropriate handicapped accessible programs and parking
- Proper pedestrian crossing from ICW side to beach side. Crossing main roads are horrific if on foot

- Additional spaces – for example camp spaces fill up quickly. More variety for middle aged people
- For a richer than average, growing beach town, the services and facilities should be top notch. New residents are moving here monthly, and tourist season is expanding beyond May to September, and the facilities and services need to accurately reflect a higher level
- More than one “Ride the Tide” etc. If you miss it, you are done for an exceedingly long time
- More evening classes. Indoor/Outdoor pool. More public restrooms at beach accesses. Pedestrian crosswalks with flashing lights
- Bike lanes, indoor pool, more hiking, crosswalks with lights for pedestrians
- More bike lanes for sure
- It is extremely hard to walk places. It is super busy. And I am in walking distance for many things, but I do not feel safe walking, so I drive
- Recreation facility is old and needs updating
- The Recreation Center has come a long way in 10 years. Carrie came and brought her skills and now there is Emily – she is amazing, and the center is rising beautifully from the ashes
- Middleton Park is nice. The Recreation Center is dated. When exercise classes are held adjacent to the Quilt Guild meeting room, the music is so loud that nothing can be heard in the Quilt Guild meeting room
- West Oak Island Drive needs to be 35 mph
- More events for seniors. Lots of free events for kids and dogs. Nothing for seniors
- Parks and Recreation are certainly improving the quality/quantity of programs, perhaps a bit more focus on the non-physical aspects of recreation (social/mindful). The facilities need to be updated to ADA compliance with attention to infrastructure
- Modernize the building with better natural light from larger windows, improve interior lighting, restrooms are horrible – tear out and replace, parking is not sufficient, exterior of building dated, landscaping need improvement
- Local people cannot afford to pay for parking or tickets issued due to parking and they avoid Oak Island like the plague now
- More biking and hiking opportunities

***RAISING ALL
RATINGS TO AT
LEAST “GOOD”***

APPENDIX—Y

***“OTHER” RESPONSES TO BEST METHOD/METHODS FOR INFORMING PARTICIPANTS ABOUT PROGRAMS, SERVICES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES (Q29)
(9 RESPONSES)***

- More banners
- Already get things
- Social Media really needs to be condensed into one place for events
- Improved outdoor digital sign—current, day by day
- Billboard
- Current
- It would be nice to have signage about an event taking place at the Recreation Center even though it may not be sponsored by the Recreation Center. Ex. Oak Island Bee Preservation Society events that would interest the public
- FB is great BUT, the town and Recreation Department post irregularly at best. They also have too many pages. By the time I see things on FB it is usually after the event
- TV News Channels for upcoming events



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***“OTHER” RESPONSES
TO BEST
METHOD/METHODS
FOR INFORMING
PARTICIPANTS***

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APPENDIX—Z

RESPONSES TO ONE THING TO DO BETTER OR ONE FACILITY, AREA, OR PARK TO BE ADDED (Q24) (512 RESPONSES)

- **Bike lanes**
- **Bike lanes like Hilton Head Island has; not a tiny lane on the side of the road**
- **Improved Recreation Center with roof top EV parking**
- **Walking/Biking lane on Yacht Drive**
- **Aquatic Center—swimming pool**
- **New Recreation Center with larger spaces for all fitness activities; clean with proper AC and ventilation; ergonomically designed to prevent injuries; proper aerobic flooring, gym machines that are working properly and maintained**
- **Tennis courts and lessons**
- **Pedestrian crosswalks for Oak Island Drive at the Davis Canal crossings (9, 19, 30, 40 East)**
- **Expansion/replacement of the Recreation Center would allow expansion of events and programs that you could accommodate**
- **More picnic tables around splash pad**
- **Indoor swimming pool**
- **Improved fitness area**
- **Repair West End dock**
- **Covers over the playgrounds where the kids play so they do not get sun burnt or too hot**
- **Multipurpose facility with moveable walls and adequate power and lighting to facilitate varied clubs and lessons**
- **Recreation Center improvement or new**
- **Add a pool**
- **More street lights**
- **Integrate the golf course with the other parks and recreation programs**
- **Pool**
- **As it pertains to parades, get rid of the candy throwing. I have seen so many kids almost taken out by a vehicle going after candy. And we need a Halloween Parade instead of a Mardi Gras Parade**
- **More small parks and the Oak Island “dark park” at Templeton Park need major improvement**
- **Add more green space, more parks**
- **I would really like to see a sidewalk or walking trail down the middle of the median on the south side of Barbee Blvd—like the one on the north end of the street. There used to be one down the middle, but it disappeared some years ago. Landscaping and benches would be a nice touch. A lot of people use that street and kids like to play in that area**
- **I think the Recreation Center building could use a sprucing up**
- **Maybe a larger Recreation Center with rooms for more social activities**
- **Improvements to the existing Recreation Center**
- **Indoor pool**
- **STOP WITH THE SURVEYS AND ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING! I have lost count on the # of surveys that have been put out on what needs to be done! DO SOMETHING please! The Cardio and**

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Weight Rooms both need DRASTIC improvement! The ONE new arc trainer-closest to the back door is ALWAYS in use. It has a smooth, shorter stride and is easier on joints, etc. The \$\$\$ spent on stupid blow up and other decorations could be put to much better use by more machines like this one!

- Have more parking spots for non-residents around town
- More beach parking. It was a shame parking was reduced by paid parking. Also, it is weird that there is no motorcycle or scooter parking! What gives that a motorcycle has to occupy a full space, unfathomable
- A brand new Recreation Center
- I think what is provided is great. Thank you for all you do
- Racquetball
- Indoor/Outdoor pool
- Update the Recreation Center. We have a first class community with a 3rd class Recreation Center Building
- New and bigger Recreation Center. Larger exercise facility; more meeting rooms for local club type activities
- Bike lanes
- Minor league baseball team
- Larger Recreation Center with multi-purpose rooms and gym equipment with instruction (can be digital) or posted—not necessarily a live person
- I think the Recreation Department does a great job because there is so much to do for everyone on Oak Island, but it is good for new interests to be added. I wish one day we can have a new and improved Recreation Center with a swimming pool
- To offer additional “Earth Day” type events with live oak tree give aways and information on how to find landscaping services, etc. Hold these at the various parks throughout the year in order to entice folks to visit all the wonderful parks/amenities the town already has and to help folks that wish to improve their yards
- Biking/Walking on Yacht Drive
- Youth. All kids go to sport for recreation and fun. It is a shame
- Lower speed limit on Beach Drive-with everyone crossing to get to the beach, the current speed limit is too fast. Would also love to see sidewalks on Dolphin and Beach to allow for safer walking
- Bigger indoor gym/recreation center
- Would love to see more kayak launch sites on the Intercoastal. Example, NE 55th street can be challenging with so many large boats loading. Maybe on street ends like NE 46th Street without a large boat launch
- The number of new people (including tourists) that live, work and/or play in Oak Island has exponentially increased over the past 25 year since my husband and I purchased a second home, and even though the Town and Recreation Department have changed to accommodate with their services, it can be a better and broader, if facilities and staff are provided. The Town and the Rec Dept. have done very well with what they have had to work with.
- All is good
- An outdoor swimming pool

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Love the wheelchair ramps to the beach, but some of them are placed in a way that it is almost impossible to get the wheelchair back on the ramp...if they were a bit longer, it would be best! (Especially at 46th Street)
- Biking trails
- Youth and children's activities; rides, pool, water park, arcades; putt-putt, that are currently maintained and operated
- Safety for bikes and pedestrians
- Update the Recreation Center, please
- I would really invest in walking areas that are visually appealing and safe for everyone. I just go back from travelling, and I am shocked at how little growth and quality planning has gone into our community. I would rather spend more on something amazing that is not going to improve the island
- Bike lanes
- A community center with exercise and hobby classes for people of all ages that included a pool, gym, and common area for the community to enjoy
- Fitness equipment and classes; smaller class sizes for yoga, exercise classes
- Indoor or outdoor pools but most importantly covers shade covers over the parts for babies and children to not get burned by the Sun and so the actual play equipment is not scorching hot on their skin
- Add more early morning exercise classes for younger people. Ex: Zumba ages 20-50
- Not necessarily add any but use the 801 facility and Nature Center for more clubs and activities and utilize the Rec Center Space for gym purposes. 801 seems to sit empty vs being utilized for its space
- Full size aquatic center on mainland near Middleton bridge
- We are perfect the way it is so I would like to say we continue our present pathway. Thank you all for what you do!!
- Renovate Recreation Center
- Pool
- Indoor swim lane pool
- Bike lanes
- Aquatic Center
- New or improved Recreation Center
- Information outside of the regular channels
- Outdoor pool
- Adult tennis clinics and leagues
- More canal/marsh overlooks or walkways
- Clean up Butterfly Park/tree/nature park area...tranquil harbor type atmosphere
- Outdoor pool
- Add new center at Bill Smith Park or in that area and another NEW center on the island
- Make it safer/easier to recreate right around where you live - do not want to drive to everything. This would require lowering speed limits, crossings for Oak Island Dr, traffic calming on neighborhood streets
- Reclaim street ends and create passive pocket parks
- New Recreation Center

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- The new Recreation Center needs to be state of the art similar to local colleges
- Would love to see a brand new workout facility
- Where possible, direct activities toward the kids. Get out of the golf course business. The course could be leased out for \$1 per year. Stay away from high cost facilities (Indoor Pool)
- Slow down traffic so we can walk safely all over the island! Try the "20 is Plenty" programslow down residential speed limits to 20 (or less on curves). Slow down traffic on E Oak Island Drive in business areas (near central/grocery stores area and in Yaupon section) to 25 or 30 mph max. DOT has to approve but they will if asked (have done it in other beach towns). Create crosswalks every couple blocks and pedestrian refuge medians, if necessary. Do this now for recreation & safety!
- Fix the bike lane on Beach Drive. It is so bumpy you have to ride in the traffic lane
- Crossover on west end
- Adult volleyball
- New or updated Recreation Center
- We need a Recreation Center with more and better gym equipment
- We desperately need a new and modern recreation building and more sidewalks/bike lanes
- Pool
- Improve the upkeep of the dog park. Has gotten a little better but needs work on some tree removal and root system
- Rinse stations at the beach accesses. Initially put in by the town but perhaps the local civic groups (Elks, VFW, etc..) could be leveraged to put take them out of service during the colder months of the year
- Crosswalks for pedestrians. Enforcement of speed limits on side streets. Both would make accessibility of Recreation Department facilities much safer, perhaps increasing our comfort level in walking to and attending events
- Safe walking areas like Greenways and crossing for Oak Island Drive
- Greenways to Midway and Southport shopping centers (Both Lowe's Food anchored centers) would be beneficial
- Swain Cut Bridge with parking and water access on Yacht Drive
- Bicycle lanes, wide, well-groomed, and maintained
- Indoor pool
- Renovate or replace the Recreation Center
- Get a new Recreation Center that is modern and meets the needs of our growing demographic
- Town has made serious tennis program nearly impossible - as far as I know there has been no organized play for at least past 5 years, and now there are not enough courts to support a program; I have to leave the island to play
- Maybe not considered recreational, but the rights-of-way need to be mowed, trash picked up, etc. more often. It is difficult to enjoy walking and biking when the area is not clean and trimmed especially the alley ways
- Walkway for Salty Dog Park
- Recreation Center needs to be updated to accommodate youth, adults, team sports and opportunity to have larger space available for activities of the community. You build better space you will get the client that pays to go elsewhere for these services and put the money back to the community

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Be more proactive with Salty Dog Park and its appearance and safety
- Public restrooms with running water instead of porta potties at Middleton Park
- Finish the pickleball courts. Fences are not lowered in between. Wind screens in bad shape
- A family friendly center that is child, teen, etc. friendly. I so often see tourist teens left to their own devices while adults dine out, etc. Having a center, club, age friendly coffee, book, board game/table game, bowling, movie, etc. place would be ideal. Just something alternative to offer to those not going out to dinner, or out to a bar. Bars and restaurants are plentiful
- Even more programs for active seniors
- As the Town continues to grow, a larger Recreation Center and fitness facility will likely be necessary
- I would like to see a Rainbow bridge. Our community loves their fur babies and to honor them when we lose them would be so good for so many hearts
- Leave everything as it is. Taxes have become outrageously high. Property owners cannot afford any new facilities and/or programs. Plus, there are so many recreational facilities and programs now that no one could possibly use them all
- I do not think the town needs to add any facilities, but the Recreation Center needs to be updated and made more welcoming and appealing to residents/visitors
- More green space
- Indoor swimming pool for senior water aerobics. It is greater than 15 miles to Brunswick County Community College
- Expand programs that fill up quickly
- Return calls on questions
- Put poop station at Middleton Park
- More parking
- More public restrooms
- PEDESTRIAN/BIKE PATHS EVERYWHERE TO CONNECT ALL WE SHOULD NOT NEED A CAR ONCE ON THE ISLAND
- Dance classes
- Pool
- I just joined the gym. I have no idea how to use the equipment and Noone offered to show me. Maybe a hire to help out at the gym?
- More Kayak launches! Y'all do a great job!
- More for young kids
- Please add more kid-friendly recreational facilities and activities! More family-friendly stuff to do! Also, additional fitness classes that are not silver sneakers. Sincerely mom of 3 kids who is not elderly Ha! Ha! ha!
- Plant shade trees everywhere that people walk, bike, play ball or gather
- The calendar appears to be packed full of events. Perhaps consider reducing the number of events
- Swimming pool
- Year-round programs for youth, not just summer. There are enough children living on the island to fill up programs
- Build more sidewalks along the entire stretch of Oak Island Drive!
- Limit removal of natural landscaping (trees, bushes) at parks

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Public restrooms. We need more of them and maybe longer hours. Last year the new trailer restrooms were locked every single time we needed them**
- **Additional open space or parks would be helpful**
- **New Recreation Center**
- **Bicyclist infrastructure and safety**
- **Recreation Center is old. The exercise equipment rooms are extremely small. Not particularly clean. Need new rec center with rooms for various types of exercise and activities. There is no pool even though aqua exercise is extremely important for older residents. We need a center that can accommodate a warm water separate pool like at college. However, the pool must be constantly monitored and chemical balance maintained. Plus need funds for lifeguards**
- **None**
- **Additional kayak/small boat launches**
- **A pet memorial/bridge**
- **More public restrooms**
- **New Recreation Center with gym, indoor pool, quality workout areas, indoor walking track**
- **Stop allowing clear cutting down the Live Oaks and other trees!!!!**
- **Demolish the current Recreation Center and rebuild in its place and about 4xs the size of the old one**
- **Crossover on SW 6th Street**
- **Safe (no vehicles-no golf carts) pedestrian greenway**
- **Better exercise facility**
- **Memory bridge pet memorial similar to the popular one in Lake Lure lost to Hurricane Helene**
- **Multi-use paths**
- **More bike trails and keep them clean so they can be ridden in**
- **Update some of the Fitness Center equipment (leg press, leg extension/curl machine seem incredibly old), and add more Life Fitness elliptical machines**
- **Bigger Recreation Center**
- **Memorial Bridge for lost pets**
- **Broaden pedestrian and bike lanes on Beach Drive**
- **Provide clearer answers and guidance when problems are brought to them**
- **Better bathroom facilities**
- **Restrooms**
- **More pickleball courts!**
- **Larger Recreation Center to allow indoor exercise and fitness. Maybe with walking track and pool**
- **New multi-use Recreation Center**
- **Addition of several bark parks to accommodate the dog friendly community**
- **Oak Island Par 3 improvements**
- **The Recreation Center upgrade. A swimming pool would be a great addition**
- **Have programs/fitness classes available after 5 for working people**
- **Bike lanes are desperately needed for safety**
- **Swimming pool**
- **Mommy and me workout type classes**
- **Getting the message out more broadly**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Racquetball court
- Bike trail
- Memory Bridge for pet lovers
- Update Recreation Center
- Better exercise classes that are not so early in the morning. Not everyone gets up early. Movies—the library offers free movies
- Purchase land off Island for future parks
- The staff is amazing, and I think the offerings are exceptional. Crosswalks are lacking and I believe that is a state issue. Bathrooms - even portable one at more beach accesses are needed
- Recreation Center is old and outdated, need better equipment. Activities should be programmed for the parks - they look desolate and unused
- More fitness classes for middle age not just seniors
- Sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive
- Be better at posting on social media
- The weight rooms at the Recreation Center would benefit from a larger space
- The Recreation Center needs to be rebuilt and expanded
- Swimming pool
- Better workout equipment
- POOL OR YMCA
- Kayak launch with parking
- More mats to walk on as you cross the dunes to get to the beach
- Splash pad for the kids is great - grandchildren love it. The offerings and events in general are genuinely nice, and I am looking forward to attending more of them
- Doing a great job! Love the little parks. Keep it preserved
- Evening classes/book club
- Evening and/or weekend classes and events for people who work full time
- Larger, more adequate recreational facility
- Crosswalks along "all" of OKI Drive. Not just current business district as planned. Focus should be on residential areas of OKI drive such as 64th through 78th streets
- Great job Emery and staff with The Current!
- Limit building to provide green spaces for wildlife!
- Bikeability
- Recreation Center with indoor pool – better facility
- More toilet locations spread out along the beach access parking lots for walkers and beach goers who are not getting in the water
- Public pool 😊
- Indoor pool
- Walking trails
- Bathroom facilities off season
- Indoor and outdoor pools are needed
- Pool
- A new Recreation Center needs to be built
- The services provided should encompass all age groups
- Public swimming pool

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Upgrade fishing places
- I know there are food trucks at events, but maybe an event that centers around the food trucks? Maybe a "battle of the food trucks" day/night
- Need more recreational opportunities for younger grandchildren
- Either sidewalks or a greenway on Yacht Drive. Way too dangerous with all the contractors speeding up and down the street
- Crosswalks are definitely needed
- Bike lane
- More music!
- Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Bike lanes!
- The fitness center needs expansion or update
- Update the Recreation Center
- Unlock the beach bathrooms!
- Indoor/Outdoor pool
- The Recreation Center needs updated equipment and a new building
- Fishing dock and kayak launch on NW end
- Bike lanes
- Update the Recreation Center. To get what I need from a Recreation Center I have to go to Brunswick Community Center. Besides the pool, I should be able to find a place to work out on the island. Lectures on different topics or field trips would be nice
- More public fishing and crabbing docks on the west end
- I heard that a bike path was going to be completed on Fish Factory Road from 133 to the marina. That would be wonderful!
- Have more classes in the evenings for those who work during the day
- Sidewalks – this island should be completely walkable
- Better parking and addition of restrooms at the soundside end of Kings Lynn Drive
- Update the Recreation Center
- A public pool
- None
- Make all facilities and activities ADA compliant
- Indoor pool and new Recreation Center
- A new gym with indoor walking track and indoor pool for laps and exercise classes
- I think having the recreation facility closer to town center (i.e., near the courts and splash pad) would make it easier to incorporate classes, clinics, and events. The current recreation center is small and dated
- Better cleaning of weight/barbell/cardio rooms
- Bike lanes
- None! I think you do a great job!
- Install sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive throughout the Town limits
- A Town Recreation Center with indoor pool, gym equipment, meeting rooms for games
- Enforce no speeding and running red lights
- Hiking
- Outdoor public restrooms

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- I would like to see a fitness trail/equipment at Bill Smith Park...or somewhere
- Again, please clean, vacuum and sanitize the Recreation Center workout areas and machines
- AGAIN, CROSSWALKS WITH LIGHTS TO STOP TRAFFIC
- Improving boat ramp with better parking
- Bike lanes – particularly Beach Drive
- Fitness classes available offered off work hours for people who still work. More cardio classes like step or boot camp
- Recreation Center
- Repair (was demolished after the unnamed storm last year) and improve the park at the end of Oak Island Drive on the west end. It used to have a pavilion, grills, swings etc. it like all others on the island would close at dusk. That park benefited the entire community. The person who purchased the home next to it and subsequently had the park essentially closed, KNEW they were buying a home next to a PUBLIC park and should NOT have been allowed to have it changed to suit their wants
- The large digital sign outside the Recreation Center needs to be easier to read
- Lifeguards
- My only complaint is that some of the events and facilities I would like to use are not available outside of traditional working hours. I would love to rather have to pay for a gym membership, be able to buy a community center or rec center membership where I have access to not only weight and cardio equipment, but other recreation opportunities like a gymnasium for futsal/basketball/volleyball, a lap pool, maybe an indoor track, teen center for kids, computers for public etc..
- Bike lanes
- Add Ant Hill Shooting Range as a recreational facility
- Community indoor swimming pool with handicapped accessible entrance
- Email of events, better Gym, Pool
- New Recreation Center
- More kayaking launches
- Ensure you have adequate parts for the splash pad to reduce the outage times. Consider keeping it open later in the summer months to maybe 7:30
- A new or remodeled Recreation Center
- Improvements to the Recreation Center are appropriate
- Larger water park for older kids
- Fix the dock at 30th Place West
- I do not have small child, but I think the Splash Pad is a great addition to Middleton Park and continue to add new things
- I think the Recreation Department does a great job and the facilities are genuinely nice
- Make it more bicycle and walking friendly
- Lower price for residents who want to participate in programs offered
- Provide more services for the area children and teens. Our kids/grandkids need things to do around here. Bowling alley, skating rink, teen Recreation Center
- An outdoor pool would be great! No bikes on the street!
- Recreation Center is very dated, consider updating the Center and adding a public swimming pool

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- We need a toddler park by the splash pad. The Pirate ship is too big for toddlers
- Have more stop lights on Oak Island Drive so it is easier to cross the street
- Build a new Recreation Center
- Community pool
- A new Recreation Center
- I know it would be difficult to accomplish, but we NEED a crossover to the beach at the west end of the island
- None
- It feels dangerous to walk and bike, especially on the West end of Beach Road where I live
- Recognize that most of the year the population is mainly adults (many of us re retired “senior citizens”) with leisure time available to them; focus now seems heavily shewed toward kids
- Sidewalks especially along at least on side of Beach Drive
- Bike paths
- Indoor pickleball courts
- Focus on Oak Island Par 3. Jewel of offerings but greens and fairways continue in bad shape. Over 3 years waiting for improvements
- Bike lanes
- Safer walking/biking on Beach Road
- Larger room and more exercise equipment
- Do not try to do everything
- Sidewalks and biking paths
- Portable water fountains! The addition of the beach access shower/foot washes was awesome, but it would be fantastic to have drinking water fountains in the parks and at the beach accesses, too! The five top places I would love to see them: Veteran’s Park, the Nature Center, the Point, Middleton Park and at the intersection of W Oak Island Drive and W Yacht Drive (at the public fishing pier)
- More access to point on intracoastal side
- Do better at discouraging litter and recreationally add multi-use indoor courts
- Communicate. We have been coming here for over a decade and had no idea 90% of the facilities and programs existed until taking this survey
- Cover over the kids’ playground
- Please consider requesting Fish Factory, Vanessa Drive and Areas near Bill Smith Park to a priority
- We need better transfer system from the ADA mats to the sand. The tide often cuts deep trenches where the mat and sand meet and makes it incredibly challenging to navigate often requiring the user to need additional people to assist. This greatly reduces their independence to access our beautiful slice of paradise alone
- More playgrounds and better pedestrian access
- Add sidewalks where needed. Maintain maximum green space!!!
- Sidewalks or Greenways for walking on Yacht Drive, Beach Road, and Holly and Oak. Crosswalks on Oak Island Drive
- Indoor pool for year-round lap swimming and water aerobics
- Bicycle/walking lanes on Vanessa Drive and Fish Factory Road
- Bike trails especially off island

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- Not sure at this time
- Update and improvement of Recreation Center. Better layout and equipment
- Limit golf carts on main roads. And crosswalks!!!!
- STOP, STOP, STOP TRYING TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT RECREATION CENTER. THIS FACILITY IS IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA. IF YOU ARE ABLE, IMAGINE HOW YOU WOULD FEEL HAVING A NOISY, CONGESTED ADDITION TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. GONE WOULD BE THE DAYS OF ENJOYING THE SOUNDS OF NATURE, THE BREEZES RUSTLING THROUGH YOUR 'HOOD'N AT THE END OR BEGINNING OF YOUR EVERY DAY...We do not need the previous activities that disrupted our peace and quiet that we should be afforded living in a single family residential area
- More swings for kids. It seems it is a county issue for swings. Never enough
- Swimming pool
- Crosswalks
- Improved Senior Center
- Community swimming pool
- A good cleaning of bathrooms in the Recreation Center
- Bike and pedestrian sidewalks, lanes, paths
- Add a public pool
- Build a new Recreation Center with indoor pool
- A pool. Even if it is a membership pool instead of a public pool
- Purchase more open space around wetlands to preserve nature for future
- The wildlife boat launch area off Fish Factory road. I think this is Brunswick County, but this area gets a lot of use, and the parking and boat launch are too small. People park their trucks and trailers on both sides of the road and makes it dangerous for drivers on Fish Factory Road. Something needs to be done for safety reasons
- Indoor public pool facility with exercise room/equipment and running/walking track
- Add outdoor pool with classes for adults and kids
- Better spaces, better equipment, visionary programming
- Lap pool/bicycle lanes
- More kayak launch points that are trailer friendly
- A pool!! And nice designated walking and biking areas!!!
- Kayak launches 😊
- New Recreation Center
- Update the Recreation Center's equipment and options
- Right now, I do not utilize but that will change in next year or two. Especially with increased traffic on 211 and possibly Southport paid parking, will focus more on Oak Island events and venues
- More bicycle friendly lanes
- Police need to prevent pedophiles, Klan, and vandalism so good people can enjoy their lives
- Swimming pool
- Something for teens
- Bike lanes and signage
- Separate bike and sidewalk – lanes
- Build a state of the art Recreation Center with expanded exercise classes and workout facilities and indoor pool

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- Manage pickleball clinics, ladders, and round robin tournaments. Add a swimming pool
- If possible, sidewalks on Yacht Drive
- Please, please, please consider putting in a large pool
- Pool
- Bike lanes
- Dog park
- More bathrooms and more handicap parking at 10th West. Exceedingly difficult to find handicap parking
- Bike lanes
- This afternoon, 5 June, Bill Smith Park was inaccessible for parking to walk my dog around the loop. Will the home baseball games make the park closed for afternoon usage other than the ball game?
- Something that is physically limited (Not handicapped, limited) senior citizens could participate in. I believe us older retirees are a large part of the permanent population here. We cannot run around to play tennis or pickleball anymore
- Slow down traffic on Yacht and Holly
- Restrooms near beach
- Safer streets for bikers and pedestrians
- Add more along-the-street, non-resident parking spaces between McGlamery and Barbee
- Bigger Recreational Building. Stoplights at Middleton Park so pedestrians can walk over safely on Oak Island Drive
- Walking and biking trails on Yacht and on Holly
- Bike lanes
- Multi-use lanes for walkers and bikers
- I would like to see an indoor swimming pool and updated Recreation Center
- The Recreation Center and the fitness area needs to be updated
- Cheaper chair yoga classes
- We need pedestrian crosswalks for Oak Island Drive
- We need bike lanes and bike paths
- I joined the gym in March. I had to ask for someone to show me around. I had no clue how to use most of the equipment. I did not go back
- No need for new facility. Do not need to spend money on things not needed but wanted. If people want new things, they should finance it and provide on-going funding not to burden the town. Par 3
- Need more parking at the Point
- I love the variety of offerings at the Recreation Center!! Maybe some more adult education about beach/marine life at the Ocean Education Center and the Nature Center? Lots of stuff for the kids, but hoping to find adult education there, too – possible year-round?
- Consider your older permanent healthy population in your recreation plans! For instance, more kayak launches, benches, etc.
- Need a couple nice parks for kids with some shade
- The pickleball courts need to be increased and parking for them as well. Indoor ping pong room with better tables and the workout center needs to be much larger

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- New Recreation Center with an indoor pool. The pool could have water aerobics, swim lessons, and swim teams. This would be used by people of all ages, and it is especially important for people at beach towns to know how to swim
- Bike lanes, reduce speed limits on the entire island
- Offer more special interest classes
- Enhance Bill Smith Park
- Salty Dog Park
- Indoor lap pool
- Oak Island needs a public Recreation Center with a pool
- More tables at events with food. Lines exceedingly long at Seafood Fest and then after finally getting food, no seating available
- Bathroom at park Golf cart of Oak Island Drive
- I would like to see more open posting about sea turtle hatching. And some night beach star gazing/astronomy telescope teaching like they do on Bald Head Island
- Pools
- Kayak launch (ideally at 9th Street)
- The Recreation Center is too small especially with the summer crowds. It needs an indoor pool for year-round swimmers and summer time children to teach them how to swim, and for summer kids' camps and recreation
- More public kayak launches. I love Oak Island, and we chose it because of its beauty and uniqueness!
- If the Recreation Center could offer a pay per month all-inclusive fee that would be awesome
- Nothing overly pressing. Crosswalks on Main Street, but traffic there is tough as is
- Replace or add onto the Recreation Center
- CROSSWALKS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BIKES – NO ONE STOPS and ITS IMPOSSIBLE TO CROSS THE STREET to go to local businesses!!!! It is a death wish when it is busy
- Please, please build a new Recreation Center. It is long overdue and very much needed
- I use Middleton Park for pickleball, splash pad and playground and that is all I use. It is fine
- Perhaps programs available AFTER work hours
- Please do not spend a ton of money on improvements – the island is perfect as it is
- A resident fee for access to ALL Town recreation facilities and charge by the hour for non-residents for all activities
- Golf carts
- Upgrade current Recreation Center
- Improved or new Recreation/Fitness Center!
- Gravel out of bike lane in front of Pepperoni Grill
- Fix the greens on Par 3 and add an indoor/outdoor pool
- Indoor pool for programs similar to those offered at Brunswick County Community College
- Indoor lap pool would be great year-round asset!
- Facility renovation
- Keep the existing restrooms at the courts/concert area open for the public
- Outdoor pool
- Indoor pool would be great
- Pedestrian crosswalks/caution lights, especially at Canal Street crossovers

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- Biking lanes
- Need to return calls. Need staff to pass on request. Need to be friendly and look up when someone comes in. Put the phone down and treat everyone the same
- An indoor Recreation area would be welcome in the community
- Traffic lights
- None
- Public bathrooms
- Show me that the town can maintain the current parks, specifically the Salty Dog Park. After that, I will think about additions
- Updated and larger fitness center
- Due to the increased number of dancers at the concerts, the dance floor needs to be enlarged for safety. Also, a small margin around the dance floor so that people sitting near the dance floor do not have their feet resting on it
- More workout classes and classes that include light weights for toning
- I wish there were a more updated and usable gym/workout room
- Please expand the dog park and add a water source. Sidewalks!
- Make crossings pedestrian friendly
- Bike lanes
- We need additional beach accesses with showers and or ports potty bathrooms. This is needed badly particularly the bathrooms. Honestly, we are all peeing in the ocean, and I think it is gross. I have a health issue that requires a bathroom by nearby and when I am in the beach and there is nothing around I have to plan for it medically beforehand
- Indoor pool with adult swim times
- Recreation Center
- Add more things for middle school aged kids to do – a pool would be nice
- Park or dock on the Intercoastal over the marsh reaching out to the ICW
- Pool facility
- Pay attention to the Salty Dog Park. Easily 50 regular “mostly daily” users of the park. Untold numbers of visitors at the park daily....almost year-round. These people say they picked Oak Island because it is written up as dog friendly. The Salty Dog Park could use upgrades
- Better equipment at Middleton Park. Not waste money on personnel to look into what is needed
- Public changing/bathrooms and pool
- A NEW RECREATION FACILITY!!!!
- Pedestrian crosswalks!!!! And indoor pool
- Extend sidewalk in Yaupon area. Add crosswalks at some streets with flashing pedestrian sign when people are in walk
- Shuffleboard courts
- It seems like a lot of the fitness programs get cancelled
- Indoor pool
- Handicap accessibility to get into and within the parks
- Build a new Recreation Center with an indoor swimming pool and modern workout rooms
- Indoor pool area
- Lifeguards
- More pickleball courts and water at court facilities

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- More things for kids and adult bowling
- Still need more pickleball courts and water stations
- More restrooms
- Keep up the good work. Improve the parking around the pickleball courts
- Add pedestrian crosswalks
- Incredibly pleased with all services offered. Would love to see Oak Island have an indoor/outdoor pool facility for residents and an improved Recreation Center
- More crosswalks overall. Especially on the streets that are beach accessible
- Volleyball courts and clubs and yoga in the park (for a cheaper fee than pier)
- New, brighter lights at tennis courts and painted crosswalks with crossing signals at busy intersections
- Larger indoor fitness center
- To listen to the citizens and the fastest growing sport in the country is pickleball. Let us make this outdoor facility safe and put in sun shades and promised water station!!!
- Better and safer for people to walk into “town” via crosswalks, bike lanes, etc., especially in the mail drag
- We do not need a seven million dollar recreational facility! I do not support my tax money on this!
- If we could have access to more walking trails or tracks, it would be much appreciated
- The Recreation Center is in dire need of an upgrade. Although the equipment is sufficient, the space is too small when more than a handful of people are there. I am referring to the cardio room and adjacent weight room
- Children’s playground
- Another boat ramp
- Heavily market ALL programs that are offered. Add a legitimate senior center with parking and space for activities
- Indoor walking facility. Yes, we have the beach, but the age of many of our residents decreases agility and safety
- Advertise more Par 3 Golf Course
- A safer way to cross Oak Island Drive on foot or bicycle
- Add crosswalks! Especially over Beach Drive
- Expand/Modernize the Recreation Center and weight room and add treadmills
- A new Recreation and Senior Center
- Renovate Recreation Center
- More sidewalks. More crosswalk areas for pedestrians trying to cross streets where there is a high level of pedestrian use
- More funds for Par 3 golf
- Indoor pool. Upgrade, gradually recreation equipment with newer models. Swim pool would be great
- Bike trails
- Save the Williamson Tract! Turn it into a park with commercial space along route 211 and Middleton Road
- Update the exercise rooms and bathrooms in the fitness center
- Volleyball – indoor or outdoor

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- Provide more services and opportunities for full-time residents to do things in the off-season
- Safety
- Crosswalks on Oak Island Drive
- No new programs are needed. Thank you
- One price for all access to Recreation programs and courts. Daily pay for non-residents for all recreation programs, courts, skate park
- I would not use it personally, but some sort of public pool is needed desperately
- New Recreation Center!
- Pickleball lessons and better weight room and more classroom space
- Recreation Center needs more room
- A walking path to enjoy the trees and increase safety on Barbee Boulevard heading toward the beach
- Resident pool access at Recreation Center facility
- Indoor track and pool for adults only
- New Recreation Facility!
- Better clearance of vegetation at dog park. More Dog Parks
- Need to stop putting off building a new Recreation Center!
- Please keep in mind that the permanent residents call Oak Island their home and their wants and needs must be prioritized before the transient/tourist population
- The trail behind the Recreation Center that was proposed a few years ago by the Recreation Board members
- I think there needs to be more summer-specific program events for families that people can drop into without significant planning for the 14-50 age demographic. Events need to be focused on Saturdays and Saturday nights
- Consider the differently-abled
- Water aerobics with classes
- Fix 55th Street launch/dock/concrete to the launch
- Teen Center
- More teen access to facilities
- Dedicated exercise areas (not shared with meeting areas)
- Updated Recreation Center Weight Room!
- More repeat opportunities. I would love an indoor pool for winter swimming
- Keep up the good work updating old public parks and Canal walkovers. Love the blue beach access ramps, too. Thank you!
- An indoor pool
- I was so impressed when we moved here that there are so many little pocket parks and beach accesses. Please keep fishing piers and beach access available and up to date for all! It is a beautiful small town!
- More parking
- Fix fishing dock at end of west Oak Island Drive
- Swimming pool
- You are doing it! Please keep up the good work and keep supporting your teachers, staff, and residents – thank you for listening, hearing, and implementing xoxoxo
- Recreational Center Facility...larger rooms with most access to the room during the day

- Regarding Question 16 – I am in favor of pedestrian and bicycle friendly efforts. However, automobile drivers, especially tourists, are a BIG problem. Regarding Questions 18-28, I cannot adequately answer because I do not participate in many activities/programs or use many facilities/services because I do not know what is offered, when, or where
- Indoor swimming pool
- A pool for only residents would be nice
- Better meeting facilities
- Recreation Center needs to be bigger and needs to be designed for all users such as fitness classes and organizational meetings and events
- More focus on the non-physical aspects of recreation (social/mindful)
- Indoor walking track
- Update building
- Bike paths

***ONE THING TO
DO BETTER
OR ONE
FACILITY,
AREA, OR PARK
TO BE ADDED***



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APPENDIX—AA

RESPONSES TO ANY ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS/ENHANCEMENTS (Q34)

(424 RESPONSES)

- Bike lanes
- Bike trails along like Hilton Head Island has, not a tiny lane on the side of the road
- More public fishing docks
- Improved Recreation Center with rooftop EV parking
- Walking/Bike lane on Yacht Drive
- Golf lessons and league, pickleball lessons and leagues
- Must improve the Nature Center and Ocean Ed Center. Need modern updates and displays
- Tennis courts and lessons
- Expand Oak Island Drive sidewalk to be multipurpose for bikes and pedestrians, Add stop signs every 10 blocks on Yacht Drive to slow down traffic. Widen bike lanes on Beach Drive Create a bike path that connects 58 SE to 74 SE Beach Drives
- I think the Recreation Department does a fabulous job and communication about events through The Current has been great!
- Crosswalks
- Indoor swimming pool
- More pedestrian crosswalks
- Repair west end dock
- Playground equipment at Middleton Park needs to be covered properly
- Add a pool
- Fix the bathrooms at the Cabana. More movable outside bathrooms
- Educate public about the importance of maintaining and protecting our natural resources by integrating education into recreation offerings. Preservation efforts are isolated instances as opposed to being integrated in all the Town does
- Pool
- I really would love to see the street ends on the ICW graded so that people can launch kayaks from them. There are few places to kayak here and as an avid kayaker, I would not kayak in the canal (snakes and gators)
- More small parks and the Oak Island Dark Park at Templeton Park needs major improvement
- Add green space, more parks
- I would really like to see a sidewalk or walking trail down the middle of the median on the south side of Barbee Boulevard. Like the one that is on the north end of the street. There used to be one down the middle, but it disappeared some years ago. Landscaping and benches would be a nice touch. A lot of people us that street and kids like to play in that area
- I think the Recreation Center building could use a sprucing up
- Maybe larger Recreation Center, with rooms for more social activities
- Improvements to the existing Recreation Center
- Indoor pool
- STOP WITH THE SURVEYS AND ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING! I have lost count on the # of surveys that have been put out on what needs to be done! DO SOMETHING please! The Cardio and Weight Rooms both need DRASTIC improvement! The ONE new arc trainer-closest to the back

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door-is ALWAYS in use. It has a smooth, shorter stride and is easier on joints, etc. The \$\$\$ spent on stupid blow up and other decorations could be put to much better use by more machines like this one!

- AED in areas where large crowds gather
- Motorcycle parking (free)
- A brand new Recreation Center
- I think what is provided is great! Thank you for all you do
- AEDS
- Improve sidewalks in commercial area so you can easily walk business to business. Improve the park at end of Barbee Blvd. It is an eyesore as is
- Collaborate with other communities for an area bike path. NC roads are definitely not biker friendly
- Public restrooms near beach access areas
- New bigger Recreation Center. Large exercise facility; more meeting rooms for Local Club type activities
- Bike lanes
- A larger park with trails for bikes and walkers
- Hard for residents to attend concerts because of popularity for free parking/show. Should you charge for parking for non-residents?
- I think the Recreation Department does a great job because there is so much to do for everyone on Oak Island, but it is good for new interests to be added. I wish one day we can have a new and improved Recreation Center with a swimming pool
- New regulation-size ping pong tables and good (3 star) table tennis balls for the Friday morning table tennis sessions that have become quite popular in a grassroots kind of way
- Bike/Walking on Yacht Drive
- All kids go to sports for recreation and fun. It is a shame
- Lower speed limit on Beach Drive – with everyone crossing to go to the beach, the current speed limit is too fast. Would also love to see sidewalks on Dolphin and Beach to allow for safer walking
- Doing a rather good job
- Crosswalks on Oak Island Drive
- A public pool, ether indoors or outside, more variety of exercise actives, with more emphasis on "non senior" skill levels
- All is good
- An outdoor swimming pool
- Would love a crosswalk near Middleton Park to make it safer to cross over the main road with children, especially during the summer with visitor traffic!
- Adding sidewalks around these areas and expanding them out. I am well aware of the expense but if you do not start now the cost will only increase in the future
- Biking trails
- More gym equipment in Recreation Center and larger space; yoga classes
- Safety for bikes and pedestrians
- Update the Recreation Center please
- I would like more modern music at the music series. I would like our community to appeal to more than just seniors

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- Bike lanes
- A community center with exercise and hobby classes for people of all ages that included a pool, gym, and common area for the community to enjoy
- Fitness equipment and classes. Smaller class sizes for yoga, exercise classes
- More things for younger kids to do like events
- Add more early morning exercise classes for younger people. Ex. : Zumba ages 20-50
- Bathroom facilities at Middleton Park would be a nice enhancement over Johnny Blues. And in meantime add a hand washing station outside the Johnny Blue toilets
- We have excellent staff and programming, can always improve; and I appreciate your efforts to do so by giving us the opportunity to give our input. Thank you
- Gingerbread houses at Christmas could be on display longer as they used to be. Our services and facilities are maintained the best they can be, and I thank you all
- More sidewalks, open space, parks
- Updated Recreation Center weights/machines
- Indoor swim lane pool
- Bike lanes
- Safe walking/biking lanes
- Safe pedestrian, biking experiences
- Information outside of the regular channels
- Outdoor pool
- Adult tennis clinics and leagues
- Better advertising on what is available
- Clean up Butterly Park/tree/nature park area....tranquil harbor type atmosphere
- Outdoor pool
- Add new center at Bill Smith Park or in that area and another NEW center on the island
- Do not have events that draw a lot of people but require most drive and then have inadequate parking
- The Oak Island Recreation Department has an excellent staff that does a great job. Additional events and activities will increase the need for additional staff, which will increase taxes, which is not desirable. We need an event center that will create revenues by renting it out to different groups and organizations -creating revenues
- New Recreation Center
- Dog walking safety signs on hot asphalt and dangers of walking dogs in extreme heat/summer days
- Would love to see a brand new work out facility
- We need more cross walks. Lower speed limit on Oak Island Drive. More public rest rooms
- Please add back the " Parks" component to this department and assign a staff member to proactively monitor the parks and answer to citizen concerns/suggestions
- Add a bike lane on Yacht Drive
- Crossover on west end
- Bike lanes
- I live on NE 76th and it really would be nice to have a sidewalk to use to walk to the restaurants on that end of the island! Otherwise, you all do great work in my opinion. Better programs than Durham for sure! Hope I can retire and take more advantage of them

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- New or updated Recreation Center
- We need a Recreation Center with more and better gym equipment
- We desperately need a new and modern recreation building and more sidewalks/bike lanes
- Pool
- Improve the upkeep of the dog park. Has gotten a little better but needs work on some tree removal and root system
- Rinse stations at the beach accesses. Initially put in by the town but perhaps the local civic groups (Elks, VFW, etc.) could be leveraged to put them out of service during the colder months of the year
- This is a great place to live. People should be more appreciative of what the Recreation Department and the town does
- I have a vision of a downtown if you will of OKI. Like a bunch of eateries where you can walk and shop. Holly Springs NC created this overtime. I know it is the beach, but this is like a country beach so a small country downtown would be really neat
- Maintenance along current bike lanes. Beach drive especially at current construction sites, clog the bike lanes with sediment and require bike and pedestrian traffic to travel into the lane. Very unsafe practice
- Overall, I think Oak Island does a great job. Sadly, our island is not a secret anymore. I do not know how many more new builds we can manage. I do not know how many more people we can hold during peak season. I am thrilled for the amount of commerce and tourism for our businesses. But, that comes at a price of calm, not very crowded escape like we fell in love with about this area many years ago
- Provide repairs and improve water access on Yacht Drive Street ends
- Expand gym area at Recreation Center with a designated place for stretching and more machines
- Farmers markets when people are not at work like late afternoons or Sunday mornings
- During the concerts, markets and other activities at Middleton Park the town staff does have a place to provide a presence for vendor check ins or for customer service. The metal building at Middleton has a room that was once a concession stand. This could be easier up fitted to provide, in my opinion, the services above
- Get a new Recreation Center that is modern and meets the needs of our growing demographic
- Bike lanes with enough space and markings. I have almost been hit by cars several times; sharing pedestrian sidewalks is not a safe approach
- Walkway for Salty Dog Park. More ADA friendly. Thanks, great job folks!
- Add more to Middleton Park; picnic areas, outdoor fitness. Better "stage" area so sports games can be watched in the fall and movies for kids
- None
- Public bathrooms with running water instead of porta potties at Middleton Park
- Safety for bikers and walkers
- Parking improvements would be helpful
- Bigger room inside Recreation Department for aerobics. Also, lower the temperature in said room
- As the town continues to grow, a larger Recreational Center and fitness facility will likely be necessary

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- I would like to see a Rainbow Bridge. Our community loves their fur babies and to honor them when we lose them would be so good for so many hearts
- No improvements needed
- I do not think the town needs to add any facilities, but the Recreation Center needs to be updated and made more welcoming and appealing to residents/visitors
- Expanded Recreation Center
- A smaller warm water pool for senior exercises and rehab
- Expand programs that fill up quickly
- Return calls on questions
- Renovation of the Recreational Building
- More parking
- More parking. Pay to stay and no place to stay (park)
- PEDESTRIAN/BIKE PATHS EVERYWHERE TO CONNECT ALL WE SHOULD NOT NEED A CAR ONCE ON THE ISLAND
- Dance classes
- Pool
- I just joined the gym. I have no idea how to use the equipment and no one to show me. Maybe a hire to help out at the gym?
- Add waste bins to Yacht Drive. I see dog bags littered along the road, and I like to think it would be better if there was a place to put them
- More for young kids
- More kid stuff!! Kid stuff that is geared toward island living. Fishing tournaments, crab catching, kid kayaking. Surfing, eco-tours like ghost crab hunting at night, exploring marshes
- Parks and Recreation need to be combined again
- More shade needed in the kids' area at the Pirate Ship playground
- More parks and green spaces
- Doggie day at the splash pad
- Bike paths, too!
- Limit removal of natural landscaping (trees, bushes) at parks
- More events or leagues for younger to "middle aged" folks
- Additional open space or parks would be helpful
- More nature trails; make Oak Island more bike friendly
- None
- Recreation Center is old. The exercise equipment rooms are extremely small. Not particularly clean. Need new Recreation Center with rooms for various types of exercise, activities. There is no pool even though aqua exercise is extremely important for older residents. We need a center that can accommodate a warm water separate pool like at college. However, the pool must be constantly monitored and chemical balance maintained. Plus need funds for lifeguards
- No need to spend limited funds for dreams. Pay off sewer system and sand before dreaming of how to spend money that you do not have
- Again, the fishing pier on the West End of Oak Island Drive needs to be repaired. As far as I can see nothing has been done to get it back in service. Additional fishing piers on Davis Canal would certainly be a plus. Also fishing should be allowed on the cross overs after a certain time in the evening and at night under certain limits

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- A pet memorial/bridge
- A Rainbow Bridge for our deceased pets
- Repave the streets from sewer installation years ago not just patch over ditches
- The Town (not the Recreation Department) needs to build sidewalks along Yacht Drive and on all side streets that have parks, public docks, cross over walks, etc. People should be able to get to public parks and commercial areas without having to walk in the street
- The past plan to install a Town swimming pool should be activated
- Demolish the current Recreation Center and rebuild in its place a new Recreation Center about 4x the size of the old one
- Crossover on SW 6th Street
- None
- More small parks spread out over the island
- Memory bridge pet memorial similar to the popular one in Lake Lure lost to Hurricane Helene
- Bill Smith Park needs to have multi-use paths/bike lanes connecting it to other areas along Fish Factory Road
- More bike trails and keep them clean so they can be ridden in
- Update some of the Fitness Center equipment (leg press, leg extension/curl machine seem incredibly old), and add more Life Fitness elliptical machines
- Bathrooms
- Bigger Recreation Center
- Memorial Bridge for lost pets
- Broaden pedestrian and bike lanes on Beach Drive
- Provide clearer answers and guidance when problems are brought to them
- Bathroom facilities
- Memory Bridge for lost pets
- More resident parking
- More pickleball courts!
- Larger Recreation Center to allow indoor exercise and fitness. Maybe with walking track and pool
- Better communication of the programs available
- Install an indoor walking/jogging track in the new Recreation Center
- Oak Island Par 3 improvements
- The staff at Bill Smith Park have done an awesome job cleaning up and maintaining the park. Please add 9 more holes around the park for disc golf. Would love to stay close to home and not have to drive to BSL or further. Could also host some tournaments
- The Recreation Center upgrade. A swimming pool would be a great addition
- Have programs/fitness classes available after 5 for working people
- Bike lanes are desperately needed for safety
- Swimming pool
- Mommy and me workout type classes
- Getting the message out more broadly
- Love the concerts! Would like to see movies return to the park
- Racquetball court
- Bike trail

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- **Memory Bridge for pet lovers**
- **Schedule some cooking and craft classes in the evening**
- **Thank you for all you do**
- **More green spaces, less concrete. Stop parking public works vehicles at Middleton Park. Improve appearance of all Parks**
- **Recreation Center is old and outdated; need better equipment. Activities should be programmed for the parks – they look desolate and unused**
- **Pedestrian crosswalks on Oak Island Drive**
- **Be better at posting social events**
- **Need a few more public restrooms at the beach**
- **The weight rooms at the Recreation Center would benefit from a larger space**
- **Walkovers need to be added**
- **Swimming pool**
- **Better workout equipment**
- **Pool for community or YMCA**
- **Preserve small town feel**
- **Walking safety on Beach Drive; lower speed limit further to 25 or 30 mph**
- **Clean the exercise rooms at the Community Center**
- **Speed limit of 35 is too high on Beach Drive and Dolphin Drive and crosswalks are needed. That would be my absolute priority**
- **Sidewalks/Bike Path/Crosswalk for safety (61st Street and Oak Island extremely dangerous)**
- **Non-senior fitness classes**
- **Evening classes/book club**
- **Evening and/or weekend classes and events for people who work full-time**
- **More benches and garbage cans along sidewalks, around all parks. A water bottle refills station at parks. More police presence interacting in parks. Especially skate park. To many drugs happening in the woods by teens**
- **Traffic enforcement, traffic delay tactics, speed reduction, signage, focus on pedestrian safety infrastructure on Oak Island Drive**
- **Great job Emory and staff with The Current**
- **More wildlife areas!**
- **I think the Recreation Department does a great job with what they do with activities and parks. In fact, they offer way more than I choose to utilize. I rated number 24 low, due to the lack of bike lanes or paths and the need for additional access for kayakers. The island is flat, perfect for biking and the canals are a gift to kayakers**
- **Much needed greenways and paths for walking-safely**
- **We share the beach and Middleton Park with visitors, but keep a separate focus on most of the other department facilities and programs for the tax payers who are year round permanent residents with different priorities and different needs from your department**
- **Larger Recreation Center is needed with growing population**
- **Better workout facilities**
- **Walking trails**
- **Bathroom facilities off season**
- **Indoor and outdoor pools are needed**

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Additional/Improved water access points for a variety of recreation uses
- Pool
- A new Recreation Center needs to be built
- For sports like baseball, football (flag or otherwise), basketball, the kids must leave the island to participate
- Public swimming pool
- More parades, more pickleball courts
- I know there are food trucks at events, but maybe an event that centers around food trucks? Maybe a “battle of the food trucks” day/night?
- Add rope lights on poles around the dance floor in Middleton Park for the fall Saturday night concerts since it gets dark before the concerts are over. Perhaps even expand the dance floor. It can get crowded at times
- Either sidewalks or a greenway on Yacht Drive. Way too dangerous with all the contractors speeding up and down the street
- Crosswalks are definitely needed
- A crosswalk at 46th and Oak Island Drive and signage with reflective yellow paint to inform motorists of families crossing from 46th (I sit in my glass porch and watch so many families going to the beach with small children. I know from personal experience that it is scary crossing, when traffic does not slow down) Reflective yellow paint on a sign is cheaper than a light and better for the turtles
- Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Sidewalks/crosswalks!
- The fitness center needs expansion or update
- Unlock the beach bathrooms!
- Larger Recreation Center
- The Town has a genuinely nice offering of things to do here already
- The Recreation Center needs updated equipment and a new building
- Fishing dock and kayak launch on NW end
- Bike lanes
- Foster clubs
- More public fishing and crabbing docks on the west end
- Be sure parking is sufficient to support all events
- I heard that a bike path was going to be completed on Fish Factory Road from 133 to the marina. That would be wonderful!
- Would love to see sidewalks for pedestrians on Yacht Drive. It is dangerous to walk along the road. Most motorist will move to the side, but some do not. I have had to walk off the road to avoid being hit by speeding cars or those not paying attention.
- More focus on nature center improvements, programs for children, trails and safety for bikers and pedestrians. An Oak Island Museum would also be a great way for residents, children and visitors to learn about the history of the island
- Better parking and addition of restrooms at the soundside end of Kings Lynn Drive
- More outdoor showers or ability to wash feet; evening classes
- Update the Recreation Center
- A public pool

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- None
- A new Recreation Building would be wonderful. An indoor pool for water aerobics would be great! ADA compliance!
- Additional kayak launches. Better bike lanes
- A new gym with indoor walking track and indoor pool for laps and exercise classes
- I think having the recreation facility closer to town center (i.e., near the courts and splash pad) would make it easier to incorporate classes, clinics, and events. The current Recreation Center is small and dated
- Better cleaning of weight/barbell/cardio room
- Crosswalks
- None! I think you do a great job!
- Establish bike lanes to the most visited places, i.e., parks, restaurants, stores
- A Town Recreation Center with indoor pool, gym equipment, meeting rooms for games
- Marked crosswalks at all beach access points and enforce fines
- Hiking
- Updated Recreation Facility – every recreational service should cost the same for each sport or an annual resident pay for use of all facilities
- Keep parade moving without gaps
- More classes after 5 for the people who still work
- AGAIN, CROSSWALKS WITH LIGHTS TO STOP TRAFFIC SAFETY SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST WAY TO PROVIDE SAFETY , at some other beach communities people have died
- Improving boat ramp with better parking
- Bike lanes – particularly Beach Drive
- Would love another Disc Golf Course. Longer holes than what is currently at Bill Smith Park
- It would be great if all the lights worked at pickleball courts
- Just more bike lanes and sidewalks
- More public docks and fix the one at west end. We will retire here BECAUSE of the amazing care given to Oak Island facilities for year-round residents
- Repair (was demolished after the unnamed storm last year) and improve the park at the end of Oak Island Drive on the west end. It used to have a pavilion, grills, swings, etc.; it like all others on the island would close at dusk. That park benefited the entire community. The person who purchased the home next to it and subsequently had the park essentially closed, KNEW they were buying a home next to a PUBLIC park and should NOT have been allowed to have it changed to suit their wants
- The large, digital sign outside the Recreation Center needs to be easier to read
- Place lifeguards in designated areas
- A bigger community/rec center with extended hours and access is my biggest dream as a young person living on this island. I think it would both benefit the older but also younger population. A gymnasium where indoor opportunities like Futsal, Basketball, Volleyball could be played during the hot summer months or cold of winter would be huge. A lap pool would be great rather than having to drive out to the community college in Bolivia. This would be a great improvement!
THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO
- Tennis lessons
- Sidewalks

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- Add Ant Hill Shooting Range as a recreational facility
- Community indoor swimming pool with handicapped accessible entrance
- New Recreation Center
- More kayaking launches
- Ensure you have adequate parts for the splash pad to reduce the outage times. Consider keeping it open later in the summer months to maybe 7:30
- More crosswalks and sidewalks in the center/east parts of Town to make pedestrian traffic safer in the most congested areas
- A new or remodeled Recreation Center
- Improvements to the Recreation Center are appropriate
- Larger water park for older kids
- Fix the dock at 30th Place West!
- I would love to participate in your kayak trip one day and if you ever had some kind of group paddleboarding that would be awesome. Overall, your programs and services are wonderful. Thank you!
- Plant trees and create shade areas at Middleton Park
- Better sound system for Middleton Park. Relying on bands system often means you cannot hear the announcement
- More public restrooms at the beach
- More crosswalks
- Bike lanes and sidewalks
- The current Recreation Center is not clean, not vacuumed, dusted, or mopped. Not disinfected at all. I would think this would be a Health Department issue. Tourists pack into the center, it is neither clean nor sanitary for the number of people that use the facility
- More trees or shade sails at Middleton Park
- Landscaping, bike racks, additional restrooms at beach access and overall appearance improvements
- Town has some lovely areas that could be focus for relatively affordable improvement – for example, SAFE bike path along Yacht Drive, better bike path/sidewalks along Oak Island Drive, signage warning drivers of the multi-use paths (cars pull too far forward in order to turn onto Oak Island Drive – I have almost been hit several times while biking on the sidewalk between business area and Town Hall)
- Safe place for bicycles to ride
- Focus on walking and biking paths for as many areas as possible, especially Fish Factory corridor
- Upgrade disc golf course at Bill Smith Park to 18 holes. Low cost project that has a lot of users
- Tree canopy coverage
- There are three Instagrams for the town - @visitoki, @loveoakisland, and @oakisland_town, and none have any info on facilities or events. We are happy to follow any of them, but they are not informative
- Lower speed limits
- Walkable areas
- I would love to see a stage built closer to the beach so we could enjoy live music and the beach at the same time!
- Keep the town quaint

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Please consider bike lanes and sidewalks for Fish Factory Road, Vanessa Road, and the area around Bill Smith Park
- Better communication regarding the programs and events listed above that I was not aware of and have been a part-time owner resident for 15 years
- Crosswalks and sidewalks
- I HAVE LIVED HERE ON SE 29TH STREET FOR 31 YEARS. I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD THE RECREATION CENTER DOUBLE IN SIZE IN THAT SAME TIME-FRAME. CONTRARY TO ONE OF THE “EXPERTS” WHO AT ONE POINT REPORTED THAT “NOTHING” HAD BEEN DONE IN THAT SAME TIME FRAME. HOW MUCH DID WE WASTE ON HIS EXPERTISE,,,IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, THIS WHOLE SHEBANG (THIS TIME) WAS BEGUN WITH 500 RESPONDENTS TO THE SURVEY AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO “GROW” THE RECREATION CENTER. 500 OUT OF 10,000 RESIDENTS???? GET REAL...SURVEY IF NECESSARY – DO
- Does anyone use May Moore Park?
- Safe crossings on E Oak Island Drive, especially near Middleton Park (includes skate park, playgrounds, splash pad, markets, police, Oak Island administration, etc.) and BEACH
- Crosswalks!!! Sidewalks on Yacht Drive
- It would be nice to have the Parents Night Out again. More detailed descriptions of camps being offered, “water week” is not acceptable description. Parents trusting their children to others need to know details of what to expect
- Need outdoor cement ping pong tables
- Having a heater indoor pool for senior therapy and exercise would be amazing
- Bike/Walking paths by major roads
- Need more kayak put-ins and take-outs, league sports play, leagues and programming for kids. A state of the art Recreation Center
- I think the Recreation Center needs a refresh. Oak Island is great, and the residents are great, and people use it! It needs to be updated and not feel like an outdated Community Center
- My 94 year old mother LOVES the Community Center program. She especially likes the chair yoga, speakers and Friday Field Trips. What a great program for our eldest residents!!!!
- The programs and service are almost all excellent
- Recreation Center could use an update refurbish
- Repeat and exclaim answer to 33
- Keep the bridges clear of debris
- More recreational and workout type classes, including some for working adults
- See about comments
- If you could take yard waste to the convenience center for free, even with a max to prevent overuse. I think it would help me to walk on Yacht Drive. There are no sidewalks and there is such a variety of walkers, bikers, cars, and golf carts that sometimes as a walker I try to walk in the easement to allow traffic by, but the piles of debris waiting to be picked up hinders me from doing this. Also, maybe it would give the homeowners an option when the debris trucks are delayed or broken down
- Pool
- Larger yoga area
- Walking trails/sidewalks
- More handicap parking. Hard to get over tall sloped mobi mats

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- I can only repeat what I just said in question 33
- Restrooms near beach entrances
- Parking will always be a problem. Need good signage
- Better markings for streets, crosswalks, speed limit signs...
- Add more along-the-street, non-resident parking spaces between McGlamery and Barbee
- Maybe utilize the town-own easements off of Yacht Drive
- I know we are a retirement community, but I would like to see some classes offered before work.
A lot of the classes are nice, but are when I am already at work
- Fix the roads!
- I would love to learn more about fishing and other activities
- More parking
- I love the lay of the land here! The more protected space to hike/explore, the better! I am mostly concerned, overall, about the speed limits and bikers on the sidewalks not yielding to pedestrians. While the lifestyle down here is overall relaxed and carefree, there does need to be enforcement of certain laws/rules just to keep everyone safe
- Perhaps a newcomers guide to flora and fauna of Oak Island – pamphlet, tour, class. People seem surprised to see a fox, alligator, turtle, etc. in their yard – snake identification, etc. (We have had turtles, raccoons, possums, skinks at various times in our yard)
- Flea markets
- We are very thankful for all that you are presently doing. We do see improvements since coming here three years ago
- Additional play areas and open spaces
- Thank you. there is so much to do in Oak Island that I really cannot ask for more. Preserving the friendly and respectful attitude toward people, animals and nature is most important. Keep asking for feedback as needs change with time
- Tai Chi classes
- “Rules of the Beach Road?” Rules in general need to be broadcast. If a rental property has a Golf Cart, then Oak Island provided Golf Cart rules should be posted
- Lower the speed limit on Beach Road in the busy season
- Recreation Center is old and is not motivating to go to. Work out equipment room is just sad
- Turn all the street ends into public sitting/picnic areas to watch the boating activity of the ICW
- Please keep the trees. Maritime forests are wonderful
- I think that overall, the staff does an excellent job with the facilities that currently exist. They have done and continue to do a great job with the events and activities that I have attended. I do not think they get the support from City Hall they deserve...as the equipment at the Recreation Center takes too long to get fixed. Last year it took @ 10weeks to replace a broken \$10 remote for the TV in the Cardio room at the Recreation Center
- Swimming pool! Seniors like me need that. Dog Park upgrades would be great
- CROSSWALKS – especially on East Oak Island Drive
- Please improve the beach accesses. Blue mats at all accesses. More parking spaces in some accesses because space is wasted. Golf carts should not be allowed at all accesses. One golf cart wastes a car parking space. Large SUVs or trucks should park across the street from the beach access. They block the accesses from others to be able to back out safely

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- I think the Recreation Department does an outstanding job with all the events and activities provided for residents and visitors. I think having a few youth sports leagues would be a good addition. I love all the camps and clinics they are providing for youth! I would say if some of the activities like kayaking, etc. could be on weekends or early evening so those who are working could participate
- Need modern Recreation Center...and I would put it at Middleton Park complex, so everything is together
- Could enlarge (again) dog park on island. Park it is in is underutilized. Beach Road bicycle lanes need regular clearing/sweeping
- Expand the existing restrooms at the courts/concert area. If vandalism is a problem or concern, put cameras up on the exterior showing access and egress
- Crosswalks would promote safety, better police presence on cross streets would make it safer
- Upgrade the Recreation Center. Biking and hiking lanes/trails
- Improved public restrooms that are well marked
- Crosswalks for Oak Island Drive....for pedestrians and cyclists
- Make more of the parks accessible to people with disabilities
- See comments above
- More tree planting and green space
- More restrooms that are not outhouses in the beach and park areas
- Middleton Park is wonderful!
- Soccer fields
- Perhaps more beach accesses with Mobility mats. I have arthritis and have significant challenges trying to get onto the beach so I always jockey for a parking place at a beach access that has a mobi-mat on it. I think there should be more of those honestly
- New benches for pickleball courts
- Sailing classes
- More preschool activities
- More blue beach access ramps. Some of us can walk but going over the dunes is extremely difficult. (Breathing and/or walking). A few rope rails could also help. Thank you
- Offer a variety of music at the summer concerts. More current mix with the same old same old. How about the NC Symphony doing a 4th of July tribute? How about a jazz orchestra? Just not the same beach music...
- Beach entrance decking replaced on Mercer Street and all handicap accessible ramps on Oak Island. Thank you for asking! We love Oak Island!!!
- Better advertising
- Activities on Saturdays for those that work
- Lifeguards
- Blacktop our streets and pick up grass etc. more often
- Sidewalks on Yacht Drive plus a bike lane
- Have more activities for those that have to work and 8-5 job. I also believe that permanent residents should not have to pay the same for pier yoga as non-residents. Some activities that you hold at the Recreation Center parking lot should be held at Middleton Park so the instructor can stand on stage and be more seen and heard. Make use of that area more. It is a great place!

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- The walking situation has gotten scary and out of hand, better crosswalks, sidewalks, and safety should be in place. Yacht Drive needs a sidewalk as well
- Enforce people picking up their dogs' feces
- More chances to join in on team sports
- There should be plenty of money available with the enormous growth of new homes i.e., property tax revenues
- Finish pickleball courts
- Sidewalks along Long Beach Road if possible. It is extremely dangerous for walkers
- Walkway over Davis Canal on the west side. Perhaps SW 6th would be a good option
- Repair boat ramp
- I think the Oak Island Recreation Department does a good job
- An aquatic facility that includes indoor/outdoor space for year-round access and water safety
- More free parking
- More mobius mats at beach access
- Summer programs for children are wonderful but seem to be too limited that is they fill up quickly leaving a large number of children left out. Advertisement of kick off sign up could be better
- Improve Par 3 golf course
- They really do a nice job
- Create more parks. Conserve the Williamson Tract
- The Recreation Center should include space with a small stage. This would be particularly useful for social events (bands can perform on stage), lectures (speakers stand on the stage), awards presentations, and fitness classes
- Get the logging in system working correctly
- More DEI!
- Public transit
- Bike lanes and completed sidewalks on both sides of Oak Island Drive. Public education on biker/walker safety
- More sports programs for teens
- Sidewalks
- Walking and crossing the roads is extremely dangerous. We have no crosswalks
- More sports lessons or programs for elementary age kids. More natural areas to walk with more trees and overall landscaping with native plants. Improved playground equipment next to Town Hall
- More opportunities for the blind
- Oak Island demographics have changed significantly and permanently. People have more money, are younger and with kids. Think like a beach person aged 16-60, not a retired person. There is a bike called a beach cruiser for a reason. We love the beach and being outside. Not everyone wants to play pickleball. We are a beach town, not a pickleball town or a normal city. Let us not get distracted from that fact. I do not want to be Wrightsville Beach, but I want to live in a clean, more modern Oak Island
- Gymnasium for sports, i.e., basketball, volleyball, badminton, swimming....
- None
- Again, build a new Recreation Center facility!!!!

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- Crosswalks located on E Oak Island Drive
- Additional activities for people with disabilities
- Line dancing class
- Pedestrian crosswalks with flashing lights like they have at most cities with high pedestrian traffic
- Bathrooms. We are very displeased with there not being bathrooms near the park side/splash pad at Middleton Park
- Events/Programs on nights and weekends
- More sidewalks or “bike” lanes to make it safer for us runners and walkers
- I am paying more tax then 10 years ago. Yes, my value has gone up, but I am not getting more for my increased taxes, and my water bill is still ridiculous. The Recreation Department is greatly improved the last few years, and I am grateful for that. As a part-time resident, it is hard to take advantage of the fishing and kayaking
- More indoor rooms for classes!!!
- My daughter is an urban planner for the City of Portland. She suggested a multi-use path on Yacht Drive and encouraging bike and pedestrian traffic to use it
- Dock at end of West Oak Island Drive
- Support the Oak Island Quilting Guild’s weekly gathering. More parking is needed!! More handicapped parking would be most appreciated. Having access to our supplies on location that was taken away is such a burden and challenge for all the ladies that attend. Most of our sewing days are for charity projects that benefit the Oak Island/Southport area!
- Upgrade Recreation Center, including bathrooms, and storage. Our Quilt Guild brings between 30 and 60 people to the Center every week with a mission of helping people in our community
- Only residents would be nice
- Indoor walking/jogging track to allow folks with allergies and walking issues to stretch their legs in good or bad weather
- Modernize the Recreation Center inside and out
- Beach viewing platforms for handicapped

ANY ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS/ ENHANCEMENTS



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