

# Master Parks Plan for the Town of Strasburg Recommendations Summary DRAFT - *for discussion only*



REVISED DRAFT February 2020







## Introduction

The Town of Strasburg is updating its 2002 Master Parks Plan. The plan is to provide guidance for both short- and long-range planning for the Town park system by integrating community input and planning standards. Strasburg, a town of approximately 6,600 residents is growing, and its population is aging. With over 100 acres of park land; riverfront trail; new event space with a stage and market pavilion; 17 acres of leased open space and trail access; and a building that serves as a Visitor Center, the Town has a wide array of recreational and open space opportunities. Per the project requirements, this plan addresses the following items:

- Review the past and related planning efforts and community demographics as they relate to the park system
- Update an inventory of existing parks and provide a conditions report for each park and their facilities, including drainage issues at the ‘river park’
- Develop and implement a public participation and engagement strategy for the process
- Identify unmet current and future needs in the parks system, including location, scope and budget for each of the assets listed below:
  - Skate park (location identification should be prioritized)
  - Playground (include recommendations for accessibility)
  - Pool
  - Athletic fields
  - Restrooms
  - Parking
  - Multimodal connectivity
- Prioritize and value additional park improvements, development and potential future park acquisitions, with attention on reducing long term maintenance costs
- Identify staffing and funding needs and strategies

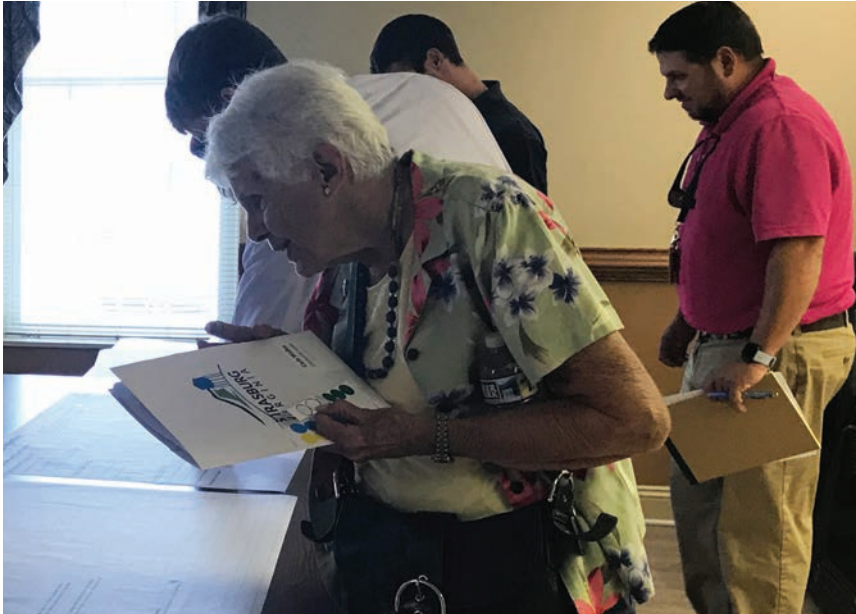
To date, each of these tasks have been addressed in detail and are included in an appendix to this summary document. This summary is focused on confirming priorities for inclusion in the Master Parks Plan, a document which covers the next fifteen-year period. While there is no limitation on good ideas, there are limits on what can be implemented due to funding sources and other considerations. This document evaluates the key findings from each of the tasks outlined above.

Priorities for park improvements, additional park acquisitions, and their associated development are drawn from multiple sources, including:

- Discussions with the Town of Strasburg’s Recreation, Parks and Trails Committee (SRPT)
- Discussions with the Master Parks Plan’s Project Management Team (PMT)
- Discussions with the Master parks Plan’s Engagement Team (PET)



*Town Park entrance sign and posted “Home of Our Future Skate Park” sign*



Attendees at PMT meeting participating in the park improvement priority ranking exercise

- Discussions with members of the Town of Strasburg staff
- Results from the public online survey
- Other framework plans such as the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and the Virginia Outdoors Plan.

Field work and a review of comparable communities also shaped and identified the priorities recommended here. Priorities were assessed with an understanding of the community's current and future needs and desires, with an effort towards reducing long-term maintenance and operations costs. Future funding opportunities through the Town's capital improvement budget, potential public/private partnerships, and grant funding are incorporated in the priority identification.

## Master Parks Plan 2020-2035 Primary Priorities

The Master Parks Plan has four primary priorities that direct actions within the next fifteen years for parks improvement, renovation, extension, and acquisition. These primary priorities recognize the extensive investment the Town has made in its current recreation and open space offerings and the limited resources available to successfully steward existing resources and acquire additional ones.

### 1. Refresh Town Park

Town Park is the core of the Town of Strasburg's current park system. As the primary provider of active recreation and a location directly on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, it is the center of many community activities. Acquired in 1990 from Recreation, Inc., the Town of Strasburg agreed to continue to use the acreage for recreation and to undertake at least one major project per year, such as the installation of tennis and basketball courts, a playground, a public boat landing, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball, or picnic shelters, etc. Most, if not all, of the facilities noted in the 1989<sup>1</sup> agreement have been installed.

Thirty years later, it is an appropriate time to make plans for the next fifteen years of growth and renewal in Town Park. **A clear message, delivered during the PMT and PET Kick-off tour and discussion, is that reinvestment in the existing facilities in Town Park is of the highest priority.**

Online survey responses are also very supportive of refreshing Town Park. Comments included requests for improved soccer, lacrosse, and baseball fields; refreshed tennis courts; an upgraded dog park; a refreshed and more family friendly pool; accessible

<sup>1</sup> Fauber, Kevin M., Town Manager. Letter from Town of Strasburg, VA, dated November 27, 1989 to Stockholders of Recreation, Inc

## Priorities for the Master Parks Plan

1. Refresh Town Park
2. Polish Strasburg Square and Hometown Park
3. Distribute Resources throughout the Town
4. Expand Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity



and updated playground equipment; and new restrooms, including the replacement of the portable restrooms with more permanent facilities throughout Town Park. The physical layout of Town Park was also critiqued, particularly its pedestrian circulation, and lack of easily accessible paths and trails between park features. The existing split rail fencing, while useful in preventing vehicles from accessing the lawn areas, also presents a barrier to pedestrian passages. Reference was made in the public online survey to the physical remoteness of the baseball and softball fields from the main area of the park. There is no easy pedestrian path connecting the diamond fields to the permanent restrooms and the parking lots. As with most of the activities within the park other than the pool, parking is located on the far side of the road from the activity. There are no crosswalks within the park. Any improvements made to Town Park should conform with the 2010 ADA Standards, and in particular the sections related to accessible routes.

## 2. Polish Strasburg Square and Hometown Park

Strasburg Square was opened in 2018. It has been a great success and positive addition to downtown. Located at 216 East King Street adjacent to Town Hall, the .44 acre park serves as an entertainment anchor with programming such as Front Porch Fridays Music Series drawing visitors to downtown for events outside of the normal work week hours.

The facility includes a 360-square-foot shade sail-covered stage and an 800-square-foot market pavilion with roll up glass doors and an outdoor brick patio and public restrooms. A mural and interactive Virginia LOVEworks sculpture provide public art, and a beautiful lawn provides free play and picnic areas. Minimal improvements are needed to this new facility, including the implementation of best practices for lawn maintenance, lighting, the addition of shade trees along the east side of Town Run (avoiding the sewer line), and improved stepping stones and riparian plantings.

Hometown Park was developed from a plan generated by assistance from Virginia Tech’s Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) in conjunction with a Main Street program in 2008. A small (0.7 acre) pocket park, located at 163 King Street, results from a shared agreement with the Town and the Volunteer Fire Department. Although unlikely to occur in the near future, the Fire Department does have the right to use the space for its expansion.

The park is a respite, somewhat hidden from the street, with vegetation that has matured. The two tiered structure of the park includes a grassy lawn flanking a small gazebo on the upper level and a plaza with an inset life-size

Town Park Improvement Priorities Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Path improvements	8		
Riverwalk Improvements - Expand east and west of town, mile markers, wayfinding, Town Run connection, benches	5		
Playground improvements	4		1
Stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, riparian plantings	4	1	
Parking improvements	3		1
Public boat landing improvements - Boardwalk	2		2
Restroom improvements	1	2	2
Skate park	1	1	
Pool improvements - Improve existing pool	1	1	
Public boat landing improvements - Fishing pier	1		2
Landscape Improvements - Tree and shrub planting	1	1	5

*Above, Results from a priorities ‘dot exercise’. Entries highlighted corresponded with priorities expressed by members of the SRPT Committee; Below, excerpts from the public online survey.*

***‘Just add the skate park already’***

***‘I think our walking trails could be longer’; ‘I would like the river trail to expand’***

***‘Better public bathroom facilities near playground’***

***‘lights at ballfields’***

***‘I love the town park and would love to see play equipment updated’***

***‘accessible play equipment’***

***‘better soccer fields for both young age divisions and older’***

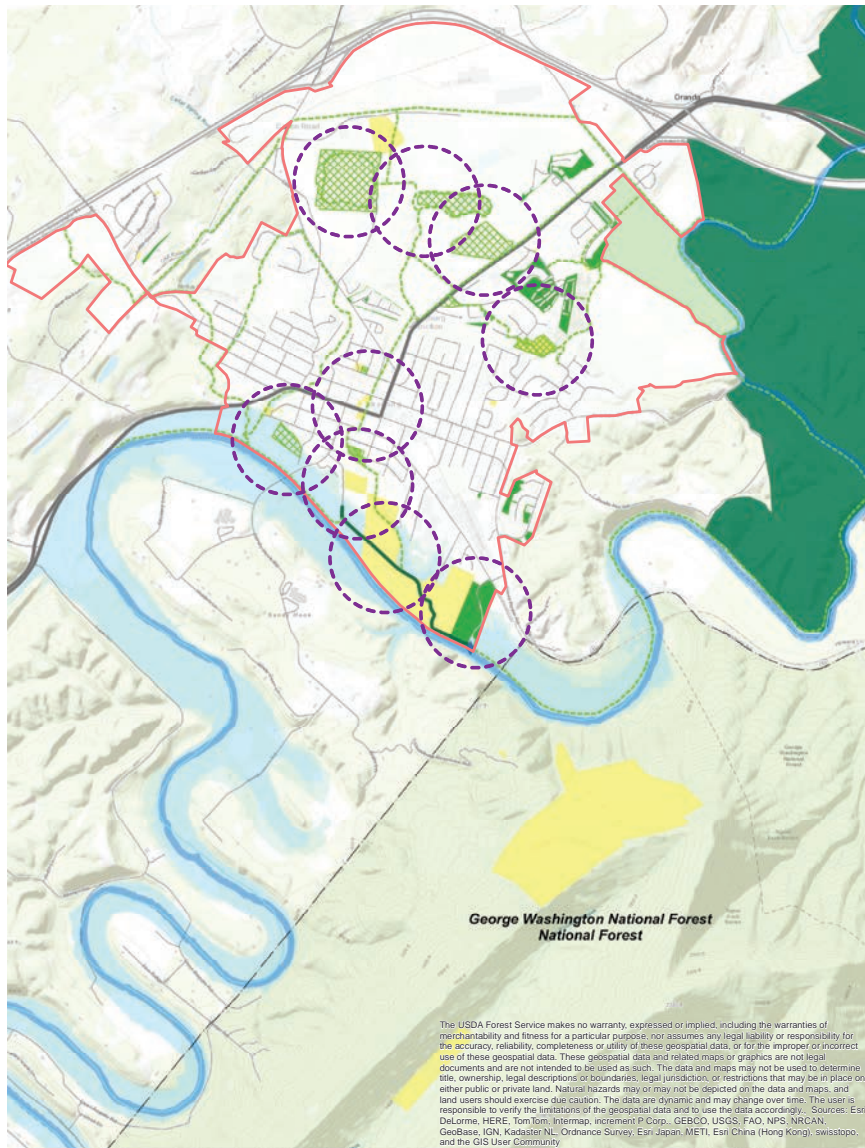
***‘the dog park could use some improvements...such as a water supply for the pups and maybe some obstacles’***

***‘the shelters need to be updated and cleaned properly.’***

***‘the Strasburg pool needs a larger baby pool and walking to large pool like Woodstock pool’; ‘the pool area needs lots of help’***

***‘boat landing can be congested-small children unaware of boats being launched’***

Excerpts from the public online survey, Fall 2019



The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, nor assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, completeness or utility of these geospatial data, or for the improper or incorrect use of these geospatial data. These geospatial data and related maps or graphics are not legal documents and are not intended to be used as such. The data and maps may not be used to determine title, ownership, legal descriptions or boundaries, legal jurisdiction, or restrictions that may be in place on either public or private land. Natural hazards may or may not be depicted on the data and maps, and land users should exercise due caution. The data are dynamic and may change over time. The user is responsible to verify the limitations of the geospatial data and to use the data accordingly. Sources: Esri, DeLorme, HERE, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community.

**Strasburg's Parks**

**Legend**

- ▭ Town of Strasburg Limits
- ▭ NFS Land Units
- ◆ Public Water Access (VA DCR)
- ▭ Proposed Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)
- ▭ Existing Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)
- ▭ Park/Open Space - Future (2018 Comp. Plan)
- ▭ Parks/Open Space - Existing (2018 Comp. Plan)
- ▭ Potomac Conservancy (Protected)
- ▭ Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP (NPS)
- ▭ Town-owned parcel
- ▭ FEMA 0.2 Pct. Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- ▭ FEMA 100-year flood plain - AE
- ▭ Water Trail (VA DCR)
- ▭ Shenandoah River (VA DCR)
- 1/4-mile radius

*Fifteen minute walk radius around Strasburg's existing and proposed parks and open space indicated by purple circle*

checker board. Priorities for improvement include better visibility into the park, additional public art, a memorial fountain, picnic tables and a defined pedestrian gateway connection between the adjoining parking lot and park.

**3. Distribute Park Resources Throughout the Town**

Several different assessments recently completed have recognized that park and open space is not equitably distributed throughout the town. The Town's Comprehensive Plan suggests several potential sites for future park and open space acquisition or development.

Current guidance from the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018 (VOP) and the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore® encourages the provision of open space and recreation opportunities to residents within a ten to fifteen minute walking distance. The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) ParkScore® awards points for access based on the percentage of the population living within a ten minute (half-mile) walk of a public park. In their calculation of the ten minute walking distance, TPL's analysis identifies physical barriers such as highways, train tracks, and rivers without bridges and chooses routes without barriers. According to the TPL review of Strasburg, VA, 45% of the residents are within a ten minute walk of a park. Therefore, there are large swaths of Strasburg where TPL argues that additional parks are needed most and their analysis has suggested two priority locations for future parks in the Town of Strasburg.

The Town currently leases the 17-acre Visitor and Information Center at the northern end of Town. Drawing about 7,000 visitors annually, the property includes walking trails, picnic tables, Hupp's Hill Museum curated by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation, public restrooms, and a gift shop. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week from 9 AM to 5 PM. Should this property become available, through a long-term lease, donation, or purchase, it would provide a needed recreation and open space in the northern part of Town.

The Town of Strasburg must look for opportunities to acquire property or public access easements to create and expand open space and recreation resources in areas of the Town currently poorly served by the existing parks system. In addition to the areas currently slated for parks and opens space in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, the town should look for acquisition opportunities in the following general areas:

- North of East Queen Street, east of Route 11/Massanutten Street, and south of the transmission line easement
- Northeast of the Visitor Center and west of Route 11/Massanutten Street
- West of Capon Street and northwest of Route 11/Massanutten Street
- Southern point of the Golden Triangle area (2018 Comp. Plan), generally northeast of John Marshall Highway and northwest of Route 11/Massanutten Street



#### 4. Expand Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity

Circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non vehicular users received many responses in the Master Parks Plan online survey, with the highest number of survey respondents saying the Riverwalk was the park they most visited. Many respondents suggested extending the Riverwalk towards the Holliday Bridge and adding pedestrian crossing(s) over the North Fork to connect to other trail systems in the area. When the Project Management Team was asked to note priorities on a dot sheet exercise, linking a multi-use trail that connected the North Fork of the Shenandoah with the downtown/stream restoration efforts received support from all respondents.

### Funding

Although the list of desired updates and improvements to the Town’s parks is long and comprehensive, financial resources are limited. There are five potential funding and implementation sources:

- Town of Strasburg General Fund
- Town of Strasburg General Obligation Bonds
- Public/Private Partnership (includes private development, Town provided land, proffers, and other joint efforts)
- Agency Partner (VDOT/Soil and Water Conservation District/Virginia Department of Forestry for example)
- Grant Funding

Each of these financing sources have limitations. For purposes of this planning document, the following financial assumptions are made.

#### Town of Strasburg General Fund

The plan requests that the Town Council consider continuing an annual contribution of \$10,000 towards capital park improvements and renovation, with the potential that the amount be increased to \$20,000-\$30,000 annually. In total, over the next fifteen years, the potential available amount for capital improvements could range between \$150,000 and \$450,000.

In addition to capital funding, there is ongoing maintenance and operation funding through the Town of Strasburg. A number of the desired improvements could be worked into a long-term maintenance and operations plan. This plan requests that the Town Council consider continuing to provide \$40,000 annually for parks and maintenance operations with additional funding for horticulture practices.

Town of Strasburg General Fund - Proposed Capital Spending for Parks and Open Space 2020-2035

Period	Available Funds
2020-2025	\$50,000-\$150,000
2026-2030	\$50,000-\$150,000
2031-2035	\$50,000-\$150,000
<b>Total for 15 year period</b>	\$150,000 - \$450,000

Town of Strasburg General Fund - Proposed Operating Spending for Parks and Open Space 2020-2035

Period	Available Funds
2020-2025	\$200,000+hort funds
2026-2030	\$200,000+hort funds
2031-2035	\$200,000+hort funds
<b>Total for 15 year period</b>	\$600,000+ horticultural funds

Town of Strasburg Proposed Bond Allocation for Parks and Open Space 2020-2035

Period	Available Funds
2020-2025	\$0.00
2026-2030	\$1,000,000
2031-2035	\$0.00
<b>Total for 15 year period</b>	\$1,000,000

### Town of Strasburg Bonds

Given the current debt obligation, this plan suggests the Town Council consider the allocation of approximately \$1,000,000 in bond funds for park improvements and renovations over the next fifteen year period.

### Public/Private Partnership

Several of the identified needs for the Strasburg community, such as an athletic complex, may be good candidates for a public/private venture, perhaps with the Town supplying the land, or contributing towards some of the development costs.

### Agency Partner

A number of projects, particularly related to trail development or green infrastructure may be candidates for grant applications or direct teaming with state agencies such as the Department of Forestry or VDOT. Such agencies often have grant funding available. See the included chart in the Master Parks Plan Appendix.

### Grant Funding

In addition to funding provided as grants through state agencies, there are private or commercial funders who offer grants for recreational activities. Examples include a focus on skate parks or adult exercise equipment installation. (See “Funding Sources” in the Appendix.)

## Recommendations and Implementation

Piecing together the priorities with funding capacity yields recommendations and an implementation strategy, subject to community discussion and adjustments. The tables included here are a first cut, identifying actions, potential funding for such an action, and a timetable for completing the action. Tables are broken out by one of the three following categories and five-year increments.

- Maintenance
- Installation
- Feasibility Studies (potential acquisitions) and RFP's

These recommended priority actions address long-term maintenance concerns; the interest in refreshing existing facilities and adding new; the need to be sensitive to budget constraints; and a recognition that alternative means beyond direct Town funding are needed to achieve these recommendations.



## Recommendations for 2020-2025 - Maintenance

Maintenance Actions	General Fund*	Bond	Public/Private	Agency Grants	Private Grants
Strasburg Square/Town Park/Visitor Center - develop new turf management system/level of care hierarchy: aerate, thatch, overseed, add compost to highly used and/or high quality turf (Strasburg Square; Town Park dog park and athletic fields)	✓				
Hometown Park - improve visibility into park with targeted pruning	✓				
Town Park/Visitor Center - reduce frequency (and areas) of mowing (Town Park - particularly upstream of developed portion of park) and (Visitor's Center - develop a meadow/riparian planting strategy to long-term remove areas from turf)	✓				
Town Park - reconfigure split rail fencing barrier to allow additional pedestrian passage between park facilities; create breaks in existing fencing to allow pedestrian passage while still preventing vehicle access	✓				
Town Park - perform annual audit on playground, train and have staff member qualified as NRPA Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI)	✓				
Town Park - formalize overflow parking at Town Park and add appropriate signage for overflow and at boat landing	✓				
Town-wide - rethink dog waste/mutt mitts locations/system	✓				

\*Estimated funding is approximately \$40,000 annually for parks and maintenance operations, with additional funding for horticultural practices

Note: Figures are not readily available for these actions and will need to be generated in the initial phases of this plan.

## Recommendations for 2020-2025 - Installation

Installation Actions	General Fund	Bond	Public/Private	Agency Grants	Private Grants
Town Park/Strasburg Square/Town Run - plant riparian buffer strip plantings along North Fork (intent is to create or maintain a 100-foot buffer), Town Park drainage ditches, Town Run between Strasburg Square and Town Park where utilities allow; add shade trees and conservation planting to Town Park	\$10K/acre (mix 2" caliper and seedlings); \$3K/acres (seedlings)			\$2.00 - \$5.00 SF for riparian planting (shrubs) \$350 - \$500/tree	
Town Park - install skate plaza			\$50,000 - \$150,000		
Town Park - install disc golf west of rectangular fields	\$15,000 - \$25,000				
Town Park - upgrade playground surface and replace swings	\$30,000 - \$50,000				
Town Park - add secondary trail loop to Riverwalk, route along river front as natural trail surface	\$27-\$30 LF - 6' natural surface trail			✓	✓
Town Park - paint and stripe/update/provide required ADA accessible parking with signage; paint two crosswalks on Park Road	Allowance: \$7,500				
Town Park - add picnic tables and benches near Riverwalk and upstream of boat landing	Allowance: \$15,000 - \$20,000				
Town Park/Pool - paint mural on pool house and strategically plant trees for shade within fence line of pool	Trees +/- \$375/ea. Mural - \$0			✓	✓
Town Park/Pool - ensure pool water is dechlorinated before releasing to drainage ditch	\$300-\$750				
Town Park/Pool - add new deck furniture, including Adirondack styled lounge chairs for grassy area	Allowance: \$15,000				
Town Park - add stripe for both tennis and pickle ball when courts are repainted	\$550-\$1500/court for dual stripes				
Town Park - provide an accessible (ADA) route between playground and parking lot (ADA parking space) and between parking and pool	\$40 SY asphalt trail				
Town Park - relocate volleyball courts	Allowance: \$5,000				
Town Park - plant trees near playground for shade and at pool	Assume match of \$1,500			✓	✓
Town Park - finalize dog park design and install signage; fix gate hardware and add obstacles/play structures at dog park (Look to Friends group for funding)	Allowance: \$1,500		\$2,000-\$7,500		
Town Park - regrade athletic fields - smooth/reseed soccer fields; extend diamond fields to regulation size and regrade to remove standing water spots	Allowance: \$25,000				
Town Park - work with school system to locate AED in accessible yet protected place	\$3,500-\$5,000				
Strasburg Square/Town Run - install and maintain pedestrian lights for Strasburg Square and Town Run Greenway	\$4,500 - \$8,500 per pedestrian light, installed				
Visitor Center - provide accessible (ADA) route between the Visitor Center and parking lot (ADA parking space)	\$40 SY asphalt trail				
Hometown Park - "Volunteer" memorial/recirculating fountain w/ connection to existing water line			\$10,000-\$25,000		



## Recommendations for 2020-2025 - Feasibility Studies and RFPs

<b>RFPs, Grant Applications, and Acquisition or Agreement (Town Staff)</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Bond</b>	<b>Public/Private</b>	<b>Agency Grants</b>	<b>Private Grants</b>
<b>General</b> - issue a trail development/system RFP to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to existing parks and local neighborhoods (consider tying to Safe Routes to School program);</li> <li>potential connections to Fisher's Hill; Keister Tract;</li> <li>pedestrian crossing of North Fork at Holliday Bridge (connect to VDOT work plan for bridge repair/replacement) or independent pedestrian bridge;</li> <li>feasibility study for connection and access permission to use Lions' Club facility</li> </ul>	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Town Park</b> - issue a design contract for playground renovation - upgrade or replacement	✓				
<b>Visitor Center</b> - pursue long-term agreement for property/facility	✓		✓		
<b>General</b> - apply for grant for Fitness Station	will need match		✓		✓
<b>General</b> - apply for grant for riparian/tree plantings	will need match			✓	✓
<b>General</b> - apply for water access/fishing pier grants	will need match			✓	✓
<b>Studies (Town Staff)</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Bond</b>	<b>Public/Private</b>	<b>Agency Grants</b>	<b>Private Grants</b>
<b>Town Park</b> - initiate feasibility study to determine best way to achieve interim upgrade of pool (consider renovation of baby pool area to incorporate splash pad/sprayground, beach access to main pool, upgrade of deck area, pool filters, and other features)	✓				
<b>Town Park</b> - initiate feasibility study on whether renovation or replacement of restrooms is more fiscally responsible; explore outsourcing Town Park restroom maintenance; include assessment of temporary facilities - should such be converted to vault or compost or removed	✓				
<b>Hometown Park</b> - initiate charrette with CDAC (or similar) for refreshed concept ideas for the park	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Monitor and Continue to Track (Town Staff)</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Bond</b>	<b>Public/Private</b>	<b>Agency Grants</b>	<b>Private Grants</b>
<b>New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action</b> - monitor discussions in larger community related to potential Athletic Complex; pursue partnership or P3 for future Athletic Complex			✓		
<b>Town Park</b> - engage in conversation regarding expansion in discrete locations	✓		✓		
<b>New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action</b> - continue to discuss/pursue Crystal Caverns and quarry site conversation			✓		

### Recommendations for 2026-2030 - Maintenance

Maintenance Actions	General Fund	Bond	Public/Private	Agency Grants	Private Grants
Town Park/Visitor's Center - continue to reduce mowed areas	✓				
Visitor's Center - clear vegetation from trails; maintain firm and stable surface for trails; clear understory to open viewshed at picnic area	✓				
Town Park - pipe section of drainage ditch between treatment plant and baseball fields to protect adjacent big utility lines from further erosion; cover with turf (may require Federal/State permit)	✓				

Recommendations for 2026-2030 - Installation

Installation Actions	General Fund	Bond	Public/Private	Agency Grants	Private Grants
Town Park/Town Pool - upgrade baby pool with splash pad/sprayground, or add beach access, or other improvement to attract new users		\$70,000 - \$100,000 for splash pad; other pool improvements			
Town Park/Town Pool - resurface pool and fix tiles (last resurfaced around 2007); upgrade filters and deck area	+/- \$14,000				
Town Park - renovate, upgrade or replace playground and playground surfacing		\$500,000-\$750,000			
Town Park - renovate or replace permanent restrooms; consider replacing temporary facilities with vault or compost facilities	\$145,000-\$400,000 (size dependent, cost assumes full replacement)				
Town Park - If diamond fields are to remain in place (Athletic Complex study); expand practice field to meet standards for adult softball and baseball; new fencing, additional bleachers, and other improvements	Grading - .50 SY - 2.50 SY (disposal) Allowance for fencing, bleachers, etc.: \$45,000				
Town Park - provide potable water to Community Garden and Dog Park in Town Park	Water line \$72 - \$80 LF + connection				
Town Park - install new fencing at dog park (est 930 LF, metal fencing)	\$6,500-\$10,000				
Visitor Center - add new picnic tables (ADA accessible)	Allowance: \$25,000				
General - develop additional river access points with successful grant applications and improve parking at boat landing				Soft Landing - \$20,000 - \$30,000	
General - add Fitness Station (courts) (potential vendor offers grants with a required match for more costly system, lower cost systems are also available)		\$15,000 - \$50,000 (vary with system and potential match required)			



### Recommendations for 2026-2030 - Feasibility Studies and RFPs

Studies and Feasibility Actions	General Fund	Bond	Public/Private	Agency Grants	Private Grants
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - initiate study for potential Aquatic Center; if recommended, identify potential site(s)			✓		
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - pursue partnership to operate Crystal Caverns and former Quarry Site			✓		

Recommendations for 2031-2035 - Installation

Installation Actions	General Fund	Bond	Public/Private	Agency Grants	Private Grants
<p><b>Town Park</b> - relocate three facilities simultaneously/connected: First Bank Park Shelter, parking lot adjacent to Community Garden, and basketball court</p> <p>Replace parking lot with basketball court; move shelter to new location (several suggestions on plan); move parking to former location of shelter adjacent to playground</p>	<p>\$40 SY new asphalt parking lot;                      \$5 SY demo existing lot;                      \$45 SY new bball court                      AA new shelter - \$25,000 - \$75,000</p>				
<p><b>Town Park</b> - realign entry road</p>	<p>Amount TBD</p>				
<p><b>Town Park/Riverfront</b> - develop accessible/overlook/fishing pier and additional river access points for hand carried boat launch</p>	<p>Amount TBD</p>			<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p><b>Town Park/Town Run</b> - develop multimodal path with pedestrian lights and planting between downtown and Town Park; install skate dots along system</p>	<p>\$40 SY asphalt trail                      \$4,500 - \$8,500 per pedestrian light, installed                      Skate dots - \$2,500-\$10,000 each</p>			<p>\$2.00 - \$5.00 SF for riparian planting (shrubs)                      \$350 - \$500/shade tree</p>	
<p><b>Crystal Caverns and Former Quarry Site</b> - continue to explore options for highest and best use of these properties</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p><b>General/Riverfront</b> - construct pedestrian/multi-modal river crossing at Holliday Bridge or separate structure</p>	<p>Amount TBD</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>

## **What Town Park Could Look Like in 15 Years**

The diagram that follows proposes how Town Park could be arranged, should the recommendations as noted in this draft document receive support from the community. Based on conversations informing this document, the final diagram will be modified and incorporated in the Master Parks Plan.



- 1 Realignment of Park Road
- 2 Multi-use trail
- 3 Skate plaza
- 4 New location of basketball courts (parking relocated)
- 5 Community garden
- 6 Possible location for new picnic shelter
- 7 Existing vegetated drainage swale
- 8 Dog park (large dogs)
- 9 Dog park (small dogs)
- 10 Existing tennis courts
- 11 Existing basketball courts
- 12 Existing volleyball court
- 13 Parking if court sports relocate
- 14 Existing parking
- 15 Existing Town Pool
- 16 Existing parking/picnic area if relocated
- 17 Picnic area with new shelter
- 18 New location of volleyball court
- 19 Existing picnic area
- 20 Possible location for new picnic shelter
- 21 New restroom building
- 22 Renovated playground
- 23 Possible location for new picnic shelter
- 24 New location of parking lot
- 25 Existing ballfields (possible location for future aquatic center)
- 26 Existing rectangular fields
- 27 Event grounds (if/when rectangular fields relocate)
- 28 Picnic area (s)
- 29 Existing boat launch
- 30 New, separate soft landing/water access
- 31 Riverwalk
- 32 Existing rectangular fields (event grounds if/when fields relocate)
- 33 Existing vegetated drainage swale (closed drainage north of existing picnic shelters)
- 34 Skate dot and/or fitness court
- 35 Skate dot and/or fitness court
- 36 River overlook
- 37 Riverwalk extension along the river
- 38 Reforestation and disc golf



Potential reconfiguration of Town Park between 2020-2035

## How Can Town Park's Features be Extended?

The diagram that follows proposes how the features of Town Park could be extended should the recommendations as noted in this draft document receive support from the community. Based on conversations informing this document, the final diagram will be modified and incorporated in the Master Parks Plan.





**Legend**

- Multi-use trail connection
- Water access or overlook
- Skate dot and/or fitness court
- ① Realignment of Park Road entrance
- ② Existing boat landing
- ③ Existing Riverwalk
- ④ Reforestation & disc golf
- ⑤ Meadow
- ⑥ Riverwalk extension west along the river
- ⑦ Town Run multi-use trail connection to downtown Strasburg
- ⑧ North-south Riverwalk connection
- ⑨ Second vehicular connection to park
- ⑩ Playground, skate dot, and/or fitness court
- ⑪ Proposed multi-use trail to destinations south and connection to George Washington and Jefferson National Forest trail system and Signal Knob

*Potential extension of features enhancing riverfront access and connections to downtown and Town Park, should recommended improvements be implemented between 2020-2035*





## **Appendix**

**1- Inventory of Parks  
and Existing Conditions  
(Task 2)**

**2- Unmet Current Needs  
and Future Needs  
(Task 4)**

**3- Priorities (Task 5)**

**4- Staffing and Funding  
Needs and Strategies  
(Task 6)**

**5- Funding Sources**

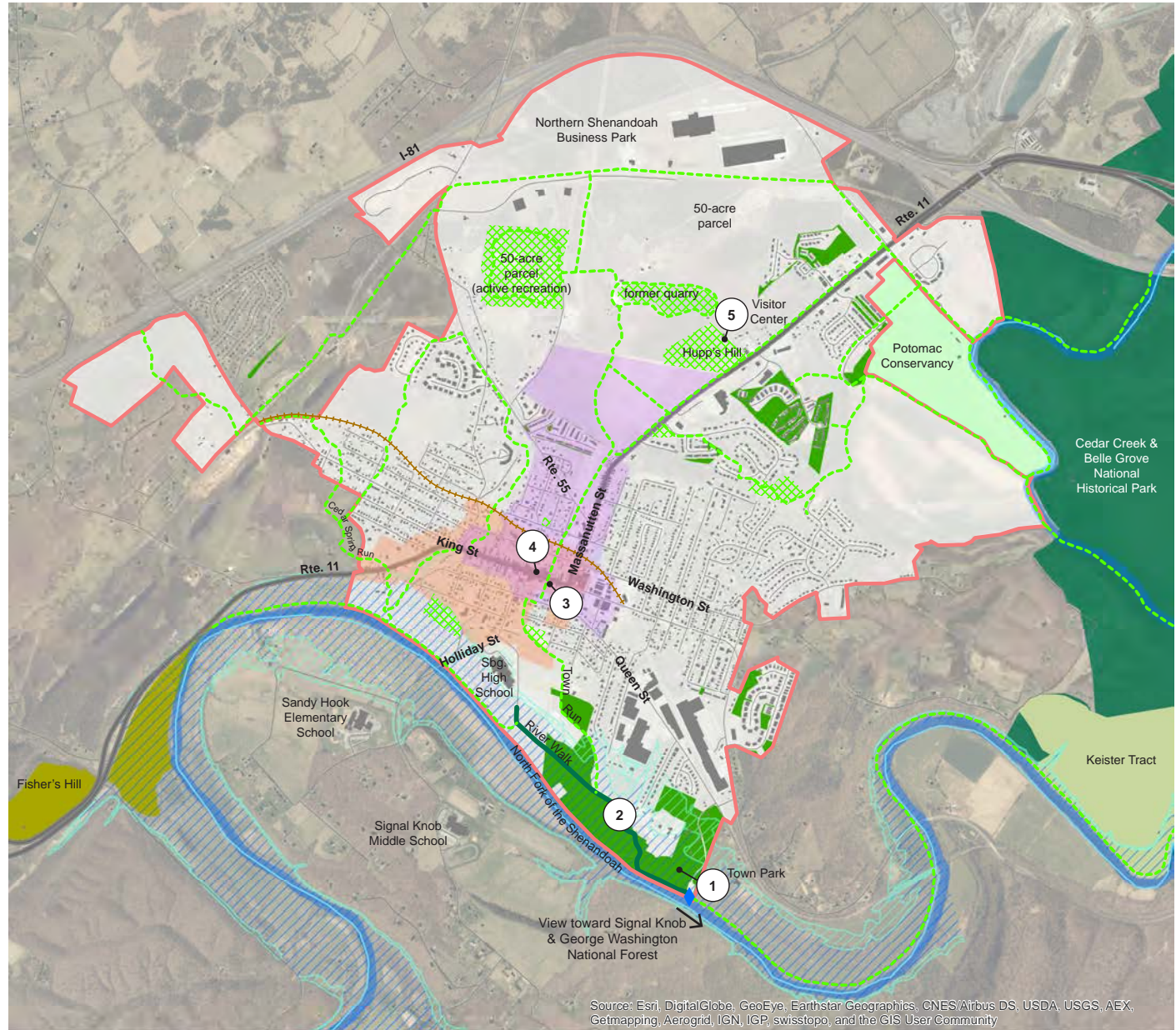
# **1- Inventory of Parks and Existing Conditions (Task 2)**

### Context

Strasburg's town-owned parks were the focus of this inventory and assessment. While there are locations slated for planned parks, trails, and open spaces, as identified in the Strasburg Virginia 2018 Comprehensive Plan—and this comprehensive view is critical to the master planning effort—the inventory and assessment primarily examines the largest park in the system with the most recreational resources—Town Park. The Riverwalk, Strasburg Square, Hometown Park, and recreational resources at the Visitor Center are included in the inventory.

### Legend

- Town of Strasburg Limits
- Urban Development Area (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Modified Historic District (Strasburg Planning & Zoning)
- Existing Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Proposed Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Rails to Trails (Future)
- Parks/Open Space - Existing (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Parks/Open Space - Future (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Potomac Conservancy (Protected)
- Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP (NPS)
- Keister Tract
- FishersHill (USGS, 2018 Protected Land)
- Water Trail (VA DCR)
- Shenandoah River (VA DCR)
- FEMA 0.2 Pct. Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- FEMA 100-year flood plain - AE
- ◆ Public Water Access (VA DCR)
- 1 Town Park
- 2 Riverwalk
- 3 Strasburg Square
- 4 Hometown Park
- 5 Visitor Center



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

**Existing and Planned Parks + Trails**





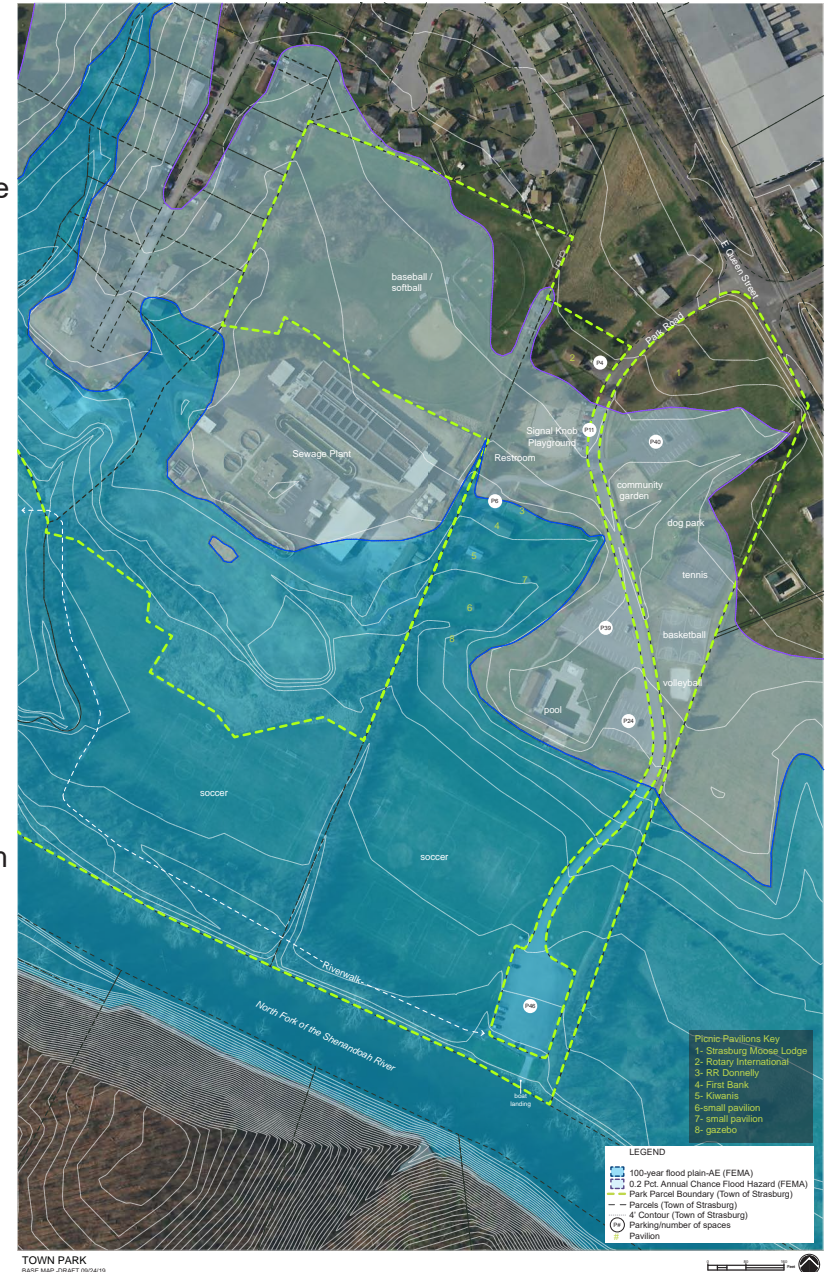
### Town Park

Town Park is located .8 miles south east of Downtown Strasburg at 295 Park Road, at the east end of Queen Street. The North Fork of the Shenandoah River flows along the southern park boundary. The park extends across three adjacent, town-owned parcels: the eastern parcel is used entirely as park land (approx. 21 acres); the middle parcel (approx. 25.7 acres) includes the sewage treatment plant with baseball fields in the 6-acre area to the north and soccer fields in the 8.4-acre area to the south; the western-most parcel (approx. 53.2 acres) includes the water plant and pump station. These three parcels combined total 100 acres. Park land accounts for approximately 80.4 acres. The Riverwalk extends to the west from Town Park, across several additional Shenandoah County-owned parcels.

Town Park is home to the Town Pool, Signal Knob Playground, a community garden, dog park, picnic pavilions, basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball fields, softball fields, and soccer fields. A public boat landing with parking is located at the river bank. Town Park is also slated to be the home of a future skate park.

#### General Site Conditions

- Bordered by Rural Residential/Agricultural and Public Institutional land uses
- Approximately 70% (56 acres) of Town Park is located within the 100-year floodplain
- **Soils** (NRCS Soil Survey of Shenandoah County, 1991)-
  1. 1B-Alonzville loam- 2-7% slopes; rarely flooded; located on terraces along the major streams in the Shenandoah Valley; medium erosion potential; low shrink-swell potential; mostly used for cultivated or pasture land or woodland
  2. 14B- Coursey loam- 2-7% slopes; moderately well drained with seasonal high water table; located on terraces along the major streams in the Shenandoah Valley; medium erosion potential; low shrink-swell potential; mostly used for pasture
  3. 46A-Nomberville loam- 0-2% slopes; rarely flooded; located on broad flood plains along the major streams in the Shenandoah Valley; low erosion potential; low shrink-swell potential; used for cultivated crops or pasture
  4. 55A- Toms silt loam- 0-2% slopes; somewhat poorly drained with seasonal high water table; located on stream terraces and in slack-water areas along streams and intermittent drainageways; low erosion potential; mostly used for pasture
- Slopes are generally less than 15% (aside from the road embankment at Queen St.- approx. 40% slope), with a bluff occurring south of the pool (approx. 13% slope). There is a 50' topographic change in elevation from the park entrance at the north to the boat landing at the south, at the North Fork of the Shenandoah. The overall average slope of the land from the entrance to the boat landing is 4.5%.



Aerial photo of Town Park (east portion) and flood plain



### Town Park

#### Vehicle and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

##### Scope

- Park Road speed limit is 15 mph; road bisects northern section of park, splitting parking from playground and park shelter area
- Sewer plant access road separates park shelter area and playground
- No pedestrian path connects park amenities within the park
- Split rail fencing interrupts pedestrian circulation within park
- No pedestrian path along Park Road - pedestrians must walk on road or travel by car from parking lot to parking lot
- No crosswalks included on Park Road
- Pedestrian bridges do not connect with ADA accessible routes
- Provisions for ADA accessibility are limited
- Split rail fences direct vehicular circulation and parking (barriers to steep topography, designated uses, and stream crossings)
- Entrance to park at E. Queen Street and pool maintenance road are gated
- Park entry sign is difficult to see - sign is lower than the road

##### Opportunities

- Improve pedestrian circulation - provide multi-modal, barrier-free, accessible paths that connect features throughout park
- Road system isolates playground, restroom and park shelter from remainder of park - relocate or provide additional parking adjacent to playground



No sidewalk or trail for pedestrians; car-centric



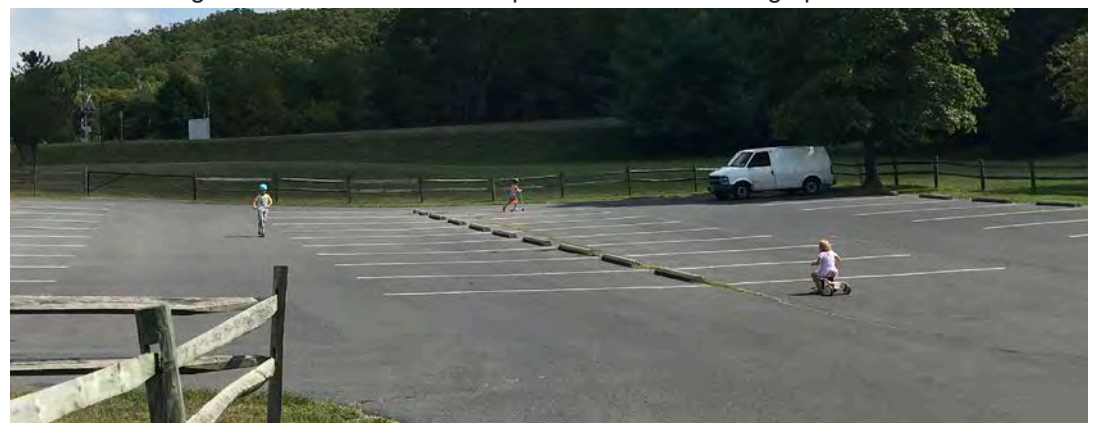
Park Road gated entrance



Pedestrian bridges not ADA accessible



Split rail fences challenge pedestrian circulation



Kids use parking for bike & scooter riding; no sidewalks or trails for pedestrians and bikes



### Town Park

#### Parking

##### Findings

- 170 +/- existing parking spaces
- ADA signed and striped spaces located in lot adjacent to Community Garden - 1 (check width and aisle needs) and in lot north of pool - 1; all other lots do not have designated ADA signed and striped spaces
- ADA Access Route connecting parking space to park feature may not be compliant - transition issue between materials)
- Gravel parking lot at Riverwalk/Boat Landing is not striped or spaces delineated - results in fewer overall parking spaces
- Parking is not allowed on/adjacent to Park Road
- Parking lots do not have landscaping (shade trees in particular)



Accessible parking spaces at pool lot



Accessible parking not clearly marked



No accessible parking at playground



Lack of shade trees at parking lot with 40 spaces



Expansive gravel parking lot at Riverwalk/Public boat landing

Parking Spaces available at Town Park	No of Spaces	Signed ADA
Formal lot adjacent to playground	11*	
Formal lot adjacent to community garden	40	1
Formal lot north of pool	39	1
Formal lot east of pool	24*	
Informal lot near Rotary International Park Shelter (1876 SF; 28 x 67 feet; divide by 400 SF)	4*	
Informal lot near RR Donnelly Park Shelter (2593 SF; 75 x 34; divide by 400 SF)	6*	
Informal lot at boat landing (25,710 SF; 135 x 194; divide by 400 SF = 64 spaces; include trailer parking for 6 trailers; gravel spaces are larger than painted)	46*	
<b>Total parking spaces available</b>	<b>170 +/-</b>	
* no spaces currently signed for ADA use		



### Town Park

**Parking, continued** - Although it does not make sense to “park the park,” the table below illustrates the needed numbered parking spaces if all features are in full use (for evaluation purposes only, not to suggest provisions of this total number of spaces.)

Spaces Required/Recommended for Park Activities	No of Spaces Needed	Number Required if fully in use	Notes
3 Rectangular Fields	80/field x 3	240	20/team x 4 teams to account for overlap between games
3 Triangle Fields	80/field x 3	240	20/team x 4 teams to account for overlap between games
Park Shelter #1 - Strasburg Moose Lodge; 7 tables	7 x 6 = 42/3 = 14	14	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Park Shelter #2 - Rotary International; 6 tables	6 x 6 = 36/3 = 12	12	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Park Shelter #3 - RR Donnelly; 17 tables	17 x 6 = 102/3 = 34	34	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Park Shelter #4 - First Bank; 13 tables	13 x 6 = 78/3 =	26	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Park Shelter #5 - Kiwanis; 4 tables	4 x 6 = 24/3 = 8	8	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Small Park Shelter #6; 1 table	1 x 6 = 6/3 = 2	2	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Small Park Shelter #7; 1 table	1 x 6 = 6/3 = 2	2	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Gazebo #8; 1 table	1 x 6 = 6/3 = 2	2	Assume 6 people per table/3 people per car
Community Garden	assume 2	2	
Playground	assume 11	11	
2 Tennis Courts	assume 2/court	4	
2 Basketball Courts	assume 3/court	6	
Volleyball Court	assume 2/team	4	
Swimming Pool	assume 65	65	
Boat Landing	assume 46 + trailer parking/ navigation	46	
Walkers/Hikers on trail	assume 15	15	
Dog Park	assume 10	10	
<b>Total parking spaces needed for existing uses when all in full use</b>		<b>743</b>	

#### Opportunities

- Improve provision and sizing/signing for accessible parking spaces
- Delineate gravel parking with concrete curb stops or inset pressure treated wood to maximize number of spaces
- Add landscape to parking lots for heat reduction and shade
- Upgrade existing paving and for new paving use pervious materials



## Town Park

### Park Shelters

#### Findings

- Park shelters require additional maintenance to meet ADA standards (primarily to return adjacent finish grade to be flush with top of slab)
- Picnic tables - standard wooden construction; Standard wood picnic tables in fair condition<sup>1</sup>; some secured with cord
- Grills - fair to poor condition (grill at Park Shelter #1 has rusted out)
- Park shelters are in fair to poor condition, some wood posts are rotting where they meet grade at the slab; slabs are not flush with surrounding grade (ADA compliance issue); some slabs are cracked, some have ground/gravel base washing out
- Park shelter summary chart on following page

#### Opportunities

- Enhance maintenance and regrade surrounding grade to make flush with slab of park shelter; at a minimum make flush at accessible route connection
- Add accessible routes to connect park shelters with accessible parking spaces
- Add accessible picnic facilities - provide at least 20% of the tables in accessible format or at least two if less than 20 total
- Assess size and determine if large shelters still are appropriate given use patterns, or should at time of replacement the large shelter be replaced with two smaller shelters
- Review shelter rental patterns and determine if current mix and sizes is appropriate



Large park shelters available for reservation



Single table shelter



Grill rusting out



Moose Lodge Park Shelter with rainwater harvesting



Shelter does not meet ADA standards; water pump and electric available at Kiwanis Shelter

<sup>1</sup> Ratings of "Excellent," "Good," "Fair," and "Poor" are based on Industry Standards. See last page of this inventory for full definitions.

### Town Park

#### Park Shelters, continued

##### Individual Park Shelter Inventory

Park Shelter	Table(s)	Grill(s)	Waste(s)	Other
Park Shelter #1 Strasburg Moose Lodge	7 (non ADA compliant)	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood roof</li> <li>2 rainwater harvesting features (rain collected from roof gutters)</li> </ul>
Park Shelter #2 Rotary International	6	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood roof</li> <li>1 electric meter but no outlets visible</li> <li>1 small storage closet, presumably locked</li> <li>Access opening in roof exposed to elements/critters</li> </ul>
Park Shelter #3 RR Donnelly Park Shelter	17	2 (shared with First Bank Park Shelter)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood roof</li> <li>2 electric outlets</li> </ul>
Park Shelter #4 First Bank Park Shelter	13	2 (shared with RR Donnelly Park Shelter)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood roof</li> <li>2 electric outlets (at least)</li> </ul>
Park Shelter #5 Kiwanis	4		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metal roof (only one)</li> <li>Light bulb fixtures on ceiling; no bulbs in place</li> <li>Water hand pump (may or may not be functioning)</li> </ul>
Small Park Shelter #6	1	1 (rusty and in poor condition)	1	
Small Park Shelter #7	1		1	
Gazebo #8, northwest of pool	1			1 bench



### Town Park

#### Pool

##### Findings

- Large pool - 25 meters with 5 lap lanes and low diving board area approx. 35'x35'/maximum depth 12'
- Small shallow/baby pool - approx. 24'x15', with a water feature (umbrella)
- Two large canvas/sail shade structures: small one over the baby pool & large one covering a grassy area outside of the pool deck
- Main pool building is made of concrete masonry block; open pavilion structure on the south side
- Pump house is located down slope, south of the pool with a separate access road to the pump house; dumpster at end of access road
- Chain-link fence surrounding the pool grounds is in fair condition; some repairs needed
- Parking appears to be ADA compliant at pool
- Access route between accessible parking space and building may not be compliant (issue is transition from asphalt to concrete path/slope)
- Two pole lights to the northwest and southwest of the small parking lot (24 spaces)
- Three lifeguard stands.
- Concession stand; 1 propane grill outside of the pool main entrance
- Events - Comprehensive evaluation of events and scheduling needed. Events include Senior Swim, Kiwanis free pool parties, private pool parties, swim lessons, 4th of July fireworks celebration
- Pool operations need review

##### Opportunities

- Is pool in right location? - interest in new pool/aquatic center in the future
- Grassy hillside between pool entrance and gazebo is outside of floodplain and has a great view
- Shared concession/restroom facility with athletic fields



View west toward the pool house



Pump house and maintenance area



Entrance to pool house



Small shade-sail structure over baby pool



View southeast from the gazebo



### Town Park

#### Utilities: Lighting; Electricity; Water; Sewer

- Post-style park lights along Park Road (approximately 9 total)
- Two parking-lot style pole lights to the northwest and southwest of the pool small parking lot (24 spaces)
- Kiwanis Park Shelter has light bulb fixtures in the roof, no bulbs
- Pole and box near park entrance sign
- Electric meter at Rotary International Park Shelter
- Outlets at RR Donnelly Park Shelter
- Pole with outlets located east of the gazebo (Park Shelter #8)
- Electricity at the pool (utility pole and meter by the pump house)
- Water meter located between Rotary Park Shelter and playground
- Water meter at restroom
- Fire hydrant at Park Road intersection with East Queen Street and at intersection with the pool maintenance road
- Water connections at bathrooms (faucets and toilets)
- Hand pump at Kiwanis Park Shelter (may or may not be functional)
- Water hookups at pool for restrooms and pool connections
- Rainwater harvesting at the Moose Lodge Park Shelter and Community Garden
- No water connection at the Dog Park or Community Garden
- No drinking fountains
- Sewage main line pipe runs from the neighboring sewage treatment plant to the restroom and toward the basketball courts, to the eastern property line
- Sanitary sewer manhole is located west of Park Road (east of the first Park Road bridge crossing); pipe links the manhole to the pool facilities

#### Opportunities

- Additional lighting - consider use of pedestrian path bollards



Water connection at the Kiwanis Park Shelter



Electric at the First Bank Park Shelter



Sanitary sewer near drainage swale



Rainwater harvesting at the Community Garden



Post lights along Park Road

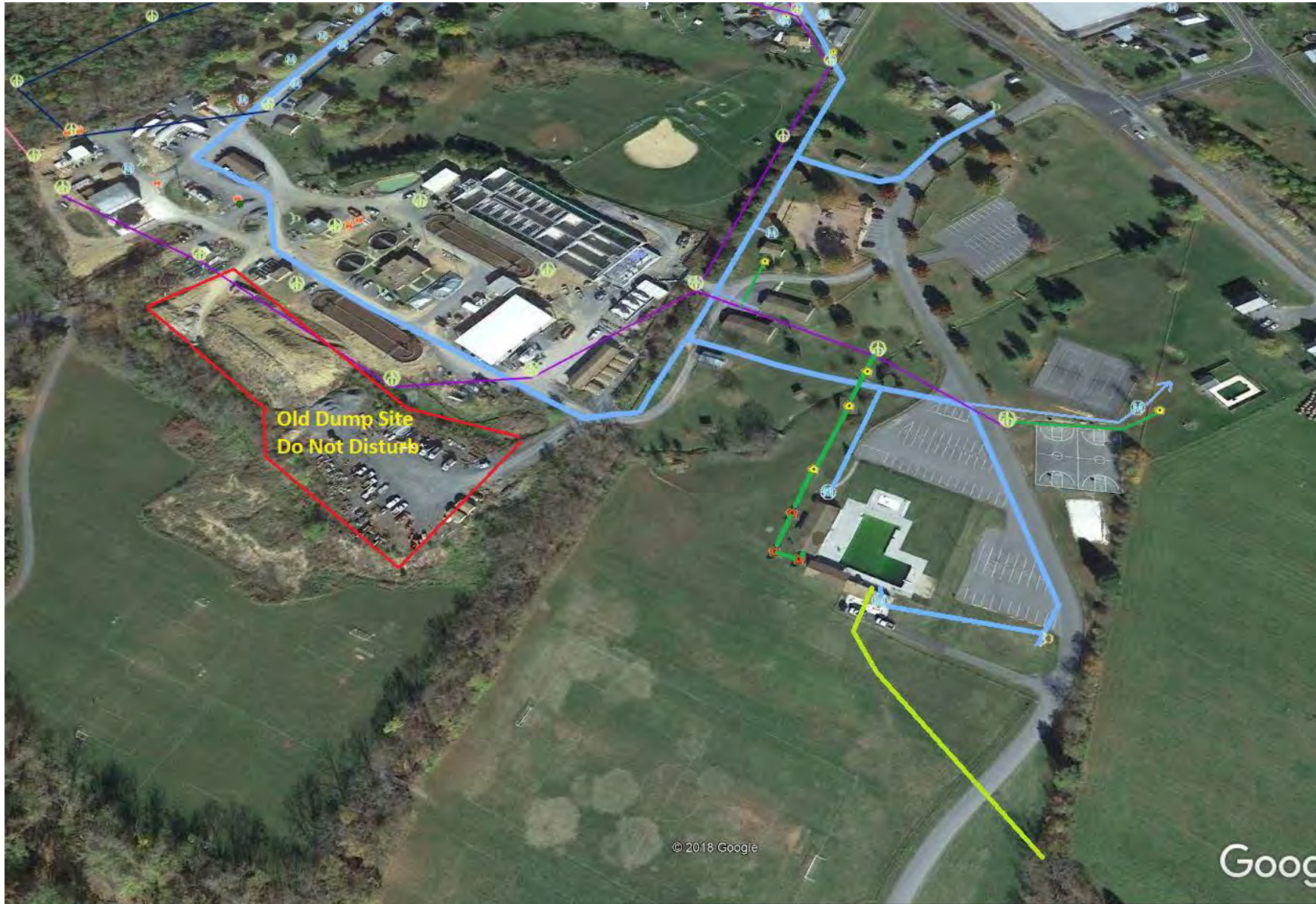


### Town Park

Utilities: Lighting; Electricity; Water; Sewer

#### Map Key

- Primary sewer line 6"-8"
- Lateral sewer line 4"
- Water line 4"
- Drain line (Pool)



Source: M. Bixler, Town of Strasburg



## Town Park

### Playground

#### Findings

- Overall facility approximately 13,000 square feet
- Gametime for ages 2-5 years elevated composite structure;
- Gametime for ages 5-12 years elevated composite structures
- Three swing bays - 8 belt swings, one tire swing; single bay (for ages 2-5 years) with 4 bucket seats
- Equipment for ages 2-5 years does not have a visible sign indicating age appropriateness
- Outdated and safety/compliance issues - worn equipment, safety surfacing not adequate (compacted EWF, fall zones dimensions not adequate, objects protruding from EWF, ADA compliance)
- No "playground rules" sign
- Entrance path incorporates engraved names in bricks (assume honoring donors or as memorial)
- 2 picnic tables
- 4 benches
- 3 waste containers
- No ADA compliant parking spaces

#### Opportunities

- Replacement or new equipment can be directed towards unserved age group (adults, tweens, seniors, parents, etc.)
- Replacement or new equipment style and appearance may differ from current equipment (discussion at Kick-off meeting regarding former wooden ship climbing structure)



Composite play component for 2-5 age group



Picnic tables (not ADA accessible)



Safety surfacing not in compliance



3-bay swings- eight belt and one tire swing



Playground entrance



## Town Park

### Streams, Drainage Swales, and Vegetation

#### Findings

- A shallow stream defines the western boundary of Town Park
- An intermittent stream/drainage swale bisects the park property, running from the northeast corner to the southwest, separating the picnic area and features north from the pool and court sports to the south
- Drainage swales are generally located along the sides of Park Road
- Drainage swales are grass covered, typically mowed
- Some drainage swale drain pipes appear to be clogged, limiting flow
- Standing water is present at least one bridge culvert, flow/grading issue
- There are erosion issues at drainage corridors/streams, at bridge crossings
- Shade trees are primarily located along Park Road and scattered throughout the picnic shelter area, playground, and in the dog park
- The park is almost entirely covered by turf grass, requiring extensive mowing

#### Opportunities

- Addition of pollinator patches, meadow, grasslands, other native vegetation can be introduced to work with wet areas and portions of the park not used for turf based recreation activities; reduce mowing requirements and enhance environmental values
- Add additional large canopy trees for shade
- Add trees and other riparian plantings as buffer along stream corridors
- Use drainage and stream channels as a living laboratory



Drainage swale along Park Road



Clogged drain pipe under Park Road



Intermittent stream/drainage swale



Standing water at pipe under Park Road crossing



Stream banks eroding at pedestrian bridge location



### Town Park

#### Restrooms

##### Findings

- Permanent (closed in the winter), indoor toilet facilities with running water and public sewer access located south of playground; access doors located on facade facing away from park users - configuration has been raised as a safety concern; 4 stall in women’s side; 2 stalls/ 2 urinals in men’s side
- Two portable toilets located near playground
- Two portable toilets located near boat landing
- ADA compliance - permanent facility itself maybe compliant (not confirmed) but is not served by an accessible route; portable facilities are not ADA compliant
- Permanent facility is concrete block (building assessment not made for this report); reports of maintenance challenges with insects, vandalism, sanitation

##### Opportunities

- Reconfigure or relocate permanent restrooms in long-term plan
- Address duplicative need with portable toilets and permanent restrooms - do temporary facilities serve the park better, or should permanent facility be expanded?
- Site has existing public water and sewer to tap
- Ensure accessibility and visibility concerns addressed in any renovation or relocation within the park
- Consider using the restroom for storage. A new restroom could be attached on the east side of the structure.



Portable toilets near the playground



Entrance to restroom obscured



Water meter at restroom facilities



No accessible route to restroom facilities



Portable toilets at parking lot for public boat landing/Riverwalk



## Town Park

### Court Sports

#### Findings

- 2 regulation-sized tennis courts in fair condition; asphalt court; patching at net support footers; 1 bench; courts used frequently
- 2 full-sized basketball courts in fair condition; some pavement cracking, areas of patched asphalt; 1 bench; 1 trash container; park rules sign to prohibit other uses on court
- 1 volleyball court, approximately 60' x 40'; grass is taking over the sandy court area; park rules sign to prohibit other uses on court
- None of the courts are linked to a larger pedestrian path network or to accessible parking spaces by an accessible route; courts are not in a highly visible; though used fairly often (per City observation)

#### Opportunities

- Create an accessible pedestrian path network that connects the court sports to the parking areas
- Stripe crosswalk on Park Road
- Consider dual use for existing tennis courts when resurfacing/ restriping - current trends support dual striping for tennis and pickle ball



Asphalt tennis court



Asphalt basketball courts



Courts are not served by accessible routes that connect feature with accessible parking space



Volleyball court

## Town Park

### Athletic Fields

#### Findings

##### Rectangular Fields

- 2 full-sized soccer or lacrosse fields, each full-sized field can be reconfigured to accommodate multiple smaller fields for 7 on 7 or similar
- Area adjacent between eastern full-sized field and Riverwalk can be configured to accommodate 2 small youth fields
- Shenandoah County Soccer League is a field user
- Fields are located within the 100-year floodplain and are subject to occasional (and unpredictable) flooding
- Closest parking at Riverwalk/boat landing
- Balls end up in drainage ditches and river edge

##### Triangular Fields

- 3 triangle fields located west of the playground and outside of the Town Park parcel
- 1 field lined for Tee-ball depth to fence is 150'; never properly graded; often flooded
- 1 field lined for softball and youth baseball; depth to fence is 220'
- 1 field currently serves as general practice field, potentially could be reconfigured and the fence line extended to 220' - 300' to accommodate various users; never properly graded
- All 3 fields located outside of the 100 year floodplain
- Fields are used by Little League; they also use the elementary school fields
- Closest parking is adjacent to the Community Garden
- Baseball is very popular in Strasburg

#### Opportunities

- Long-term use - relocate rectangular/triangle fields off site to create an athletic complex (outside of the 100 year floodplain) which will allow for significant field investment (no turf field within the floodplain); concession complex; lights, score board, press



Soccer/lacrosse field

- box, tournament quality play and marketing opportunity
- Interim use - continue use of rectangular fields without significant infrastructure investment
- Long term use of these areas (TBD)



## Town Park

### Community Garden

#### Findings

- Community garden approximately 75' x 70'/5,250 square feet
- Contains planter boxes with annuals, perennials, and vegetables
- Fenced with split rail with chicken wire; no issues with deer
- Hand painted signage
- Garden is not ADA compliant (raised beds, path network, connection to accessible parking)
- Storage shed provided by the Rotary; shed equipped with solar panel
- Current water source for the garden relies upon rainwater harvesting
- Master Gardeners involved with garden (recycle used pots)
- Swale between Park Road and Community Garden is planted with perennials

#### Opportunities

- Provide public potable water source
- Improve and make path network and garden beds accessible



Workshops held at the community garden



Harvest Festival event



Raised planters and vegetable beds



## Town Park

### Dog Park

#### Findings

- Fenced dog park, approximately 30,400 square feet, with separate areas for small and large dogs (small dogs are 30 lbs or less; large dogs are 31 lbs or more)
- Dog park is not reachable by an accessible path connecting it to an accessible parking space
- Current fence is made of wood with metal mesh cover; fair condition
- 5 benches in small dog area; 3 benches in large dog area
- Rules of Conduct posted on fence
- Mutt Mitts stations
- Waste container located outside of large dog entrance
- Approximately 5 shade trees total in dog park
- No potable water available within or adjacent to dog park
- Dog park surface is turf and bare soil

#### Opportunities

- Extend water line to dog park to provide source of potable water
- Create obstacles, play structures within dog park such as hill with tunnel for small and large slide
- Consider alternative location



Large dog area



Fenced and separated large and small dog areas

### Town Park

#### Public Water Access/Boat Launch (VA DCR)

##### Findings

- Concrete surface of the boat launch is in good condition
- Large gravel parking lot does not have parking spaces delineated; no identified ADA accessible parking spaces, lot itself is not ADA accessible
- Monofilament recycling bin at the landing
- 3 waste containers
- 1 kayak rack
- River banks at either side of the landing are mowed grass cover; rip rap at the water's edge
- Wood bollards and benches act as vehicular barriers
- River is relatively shallow at the launch (only a few feet deep max on 9/10/19)
- High level of algae growth in the river (September 2019)

##### Opportunities

- Improve parking area to better accommodate boat trailers, provide signed accessible parking, and more efficient parking for vehicles
- Add accessible boardwalk or fishing pier



Concrete boat launch



Rip-rap along banks at the boat launch



Monofilament recycling bin



View toward the other side of the river



View toward the public water access/boat launch at left; Riverwalk trailhead at right



### Town Park

#### Town Park Open Space Potential Additions

##### Skate Park

##### Findings on form and potential site location

- Long-desired addition to Town Park
- Potential location for facility is at park entrance in area of park entrance sign (east of Park Road); site is prominent location and fully visible; outside of 100 year floodplain; adjacent to parking area near Moose Lodge Park Shelter
- Electric lines (pole and box) in vicinity
- Steeply sloped landform to the north east
- Stream at the southern end

##### Opportunities

- Consider concept of 'skate dots'; tie to multi-modal trail or path



Potential location in area of park sign



Space defined by embankment at east



Stream/drainage swale to the south



Parking to the south west



Relatively level area outside of the floodplain



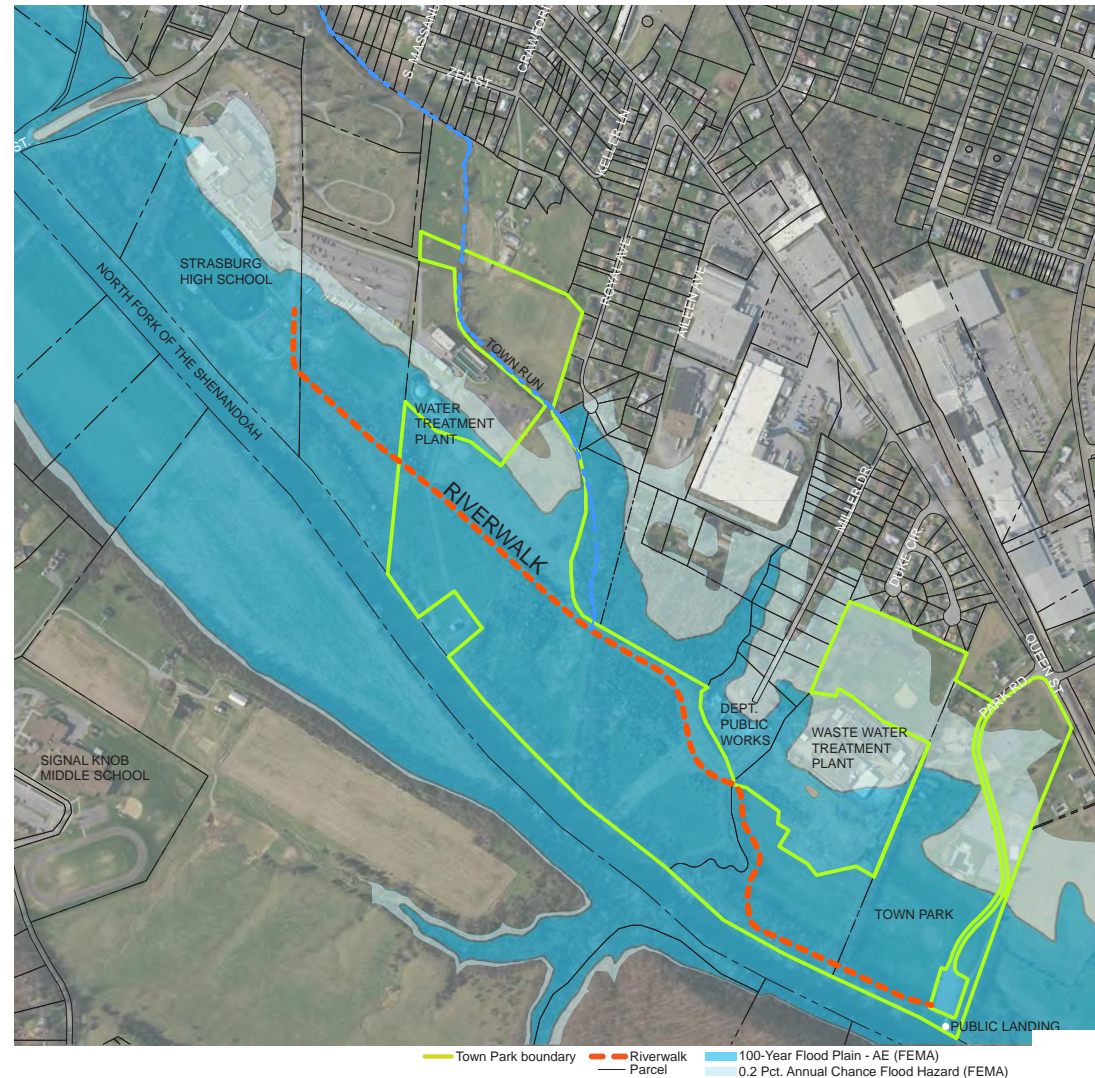
### Riverwalk

Completed in 2009, the Riverwalk is a .9-mile gravel walkway (8-10' wide) along the Shenandoah River, linking Town Park at the east end and Strasburg High School at the west end. It spans both town-owned and Shenandoah County-owned parcels (approximately 53 acres), as the western most parcel at Strasburg High School is owned by the Shenandoah County School Board. While it is less than a half mile from Downtown Strasburg, there are no direct routes to access the Riverwalk.

The Riverwalk offers scenic views to Signal Knob and the Massanutten Mountain range. River views are only captured while in the Town Park area. The western portion of the Riverwalk is characterized by views toward fields, mountains, and neighboring industrial facilities.

#### Findings

- Gravel path (.9 miles), not ADA compliant
- Used by bicycles and pedestrians
- Signed "RIVER WALK OPEN WALK AT YOUR OWN RISK," "No Horses Allowed on Walking Path at Any time," "YOUR GOV Report issues directly to your town. Download the FREE app today.
- Trailheads gated (at boat landing and at high school/western terminus)
- Drainage issues at stream crossings; culvert at trailhead is almost closed with sediment and vegetation; culvert is cracked at Town Run culvert/bridge crossing; ADOPT A STREAM sign at Town Run crossing
- Stream banks are eroding with severe erosion in some places
- 3 benches in fair condition (the base material washing out beneath one bench); benches are not accessible
- Doggie clean-up stations (Mutt Mitt) – strong, unpleasant odor at one station (on 9/10/19)
- Waste container at the trailhead by boat launch
- White arrows painted on mown paths - high school cross country
- Signs with message - Call 911 signs, no independent call boxes
- Impressive views to Signal Knob/Massanutten Mountain Range





### Riverwalk

- Mown shoulders along the trail with some expansive meadows
- Large trees along the river (riparian zone) are dying, understory vegetation is almost non-existent (bare dirt ground)

#### Opportunities

- Consider the addition of mile markers on pavement or as posts
- Wayfinding and interpretive signs in conjunction with stream side plantings and restoration actions
- Improved and formalized water access points and overlooks
- Pedestrian crossing to Sandy Hook Elementary or other destination
- Installation of park furniture and exercise equipment along the trail
- Maintenance of vegetation to help with erosion; add trees; open up visibility of trail for safety purposes
- Reduce turf fertilizer use to assist in algae management
- Initiate a stream assessment report and begin to restore stream corridors in town, add more benches along the walk.
- Consider other opportunities to activate this area, including disc golf, public art, reforestation and conservation landscaping, playground equipment (as appropriate in a floodplain), soft paths along the river



Riverwalk section with river views



Bridge culvert over Town Run



Eroded river bank lacking ground cover



Deeply eroded/channelized stream at Riverwalk



Views toward the mountains, looking toward Town Park



## Strasburg Square

Strasburg Square is located downtown at 216 East King Street, next to Strasburg’s Town Hall in a commercial and residential neighborhood. This .44-acre park is a gathering space for community events and weekly farmers markets, which first opened to the public in fall of 2018.

### Findings

- 800-square-foot Market Pavilion and brick patio; public restroom (unisex/ADA)
- 18x20’ shade sail-covered stage; platform not ADA accessible
- Lawn for picnicking, performances, and passive play (approximately 10,000 square feet)
- Parking at Town Hall; two ADA spaces with access aisle and access route to the park
- Rusted/Corten Steel pedestrian bridge over Town Run
- Natural play features (lawn, stream, rock scramble)
- Interactive Virginia LOVEworks sculpture
- Stream (Town Run) – steep banks; mowed grass on banks; rock “amphitheater” sections along banks
- 1 Mutt Mitt station
- One post light between parking and Town Run
- Seating – 4 benches that fold into tables (on paver patio)
- 2 Waste/Recycling containers outside of Market Pavilion
- Horizontal board fence around perimeter
- Accessibility/ease of access
- New tree and shrub plantings along the border fence
- Events – Front Porch Fridays, Strasburg Film Festival, Farmers Market, others



View of Strasburg Square, looking north east



View of Strasburg Square, looking south west





### Strasburg Square

#### Opportunities

- Restore Town Run
- Plant riparian buffer
- Plant trees along Town Run for shade on the east side and to buffer parking located at Town Hall (sewer line on the west side, so planting on this side could occur if/when sewer line is relocated)
- Reduce fertilizer use
- Consider addition of 'edge' along Town Run adjacent to Town Hall Parking lot
- Consider additional lighting for evening activities
- Consider adding wheel stops, if parking spaces are dimensioned adequately, and landscape islands for trees



Events and Market Pavilion



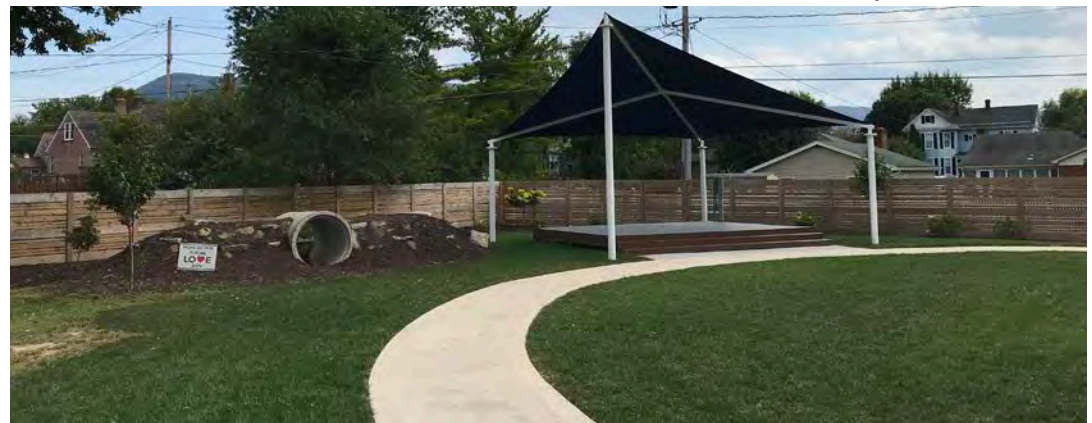
ADA accessible parking



Market Pavilion paver patio



Town Run on west side boundary



Shade sail-covered stage and future location of "LOVE" sculpture

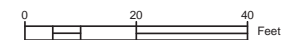


### Hometown Park

The .07-acre Hometown Park is a downtown pocket park located at 163 King Street, between the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department and McCarthy and Akers, PLC. It is a passive park with gardens, seating, and a gazebo.



HOMETOWN PARK



### Hometown Park

#### Findings

- Connects to parking lot north of King Street
- Landscaped garden with stamped concrete path
- Retaining wall separates upper and lower portions
- Gazebo with 3 small benches in upper portion
- 1 memorial bench (Mill Wallen, Jr.), 3 regular park benches
- Well-maintained plantings/garden includes mulch beds with ornamental trees, shrubs, and groundcovers; some pots without plants
- Memorial ornamental tree (Mike Morehead)
- Concrete, painted checker board feature surrounded by three benches
- 1 waste container
- Little Free Library at street side
- Water access connection available for

#### Opportunities

- Improve visibility into park
- Add picnic tables to grassy area
- Add public art
- Entryway to parking lot
- small water feature or drinking fountain



Hometown Park sign and garden beds



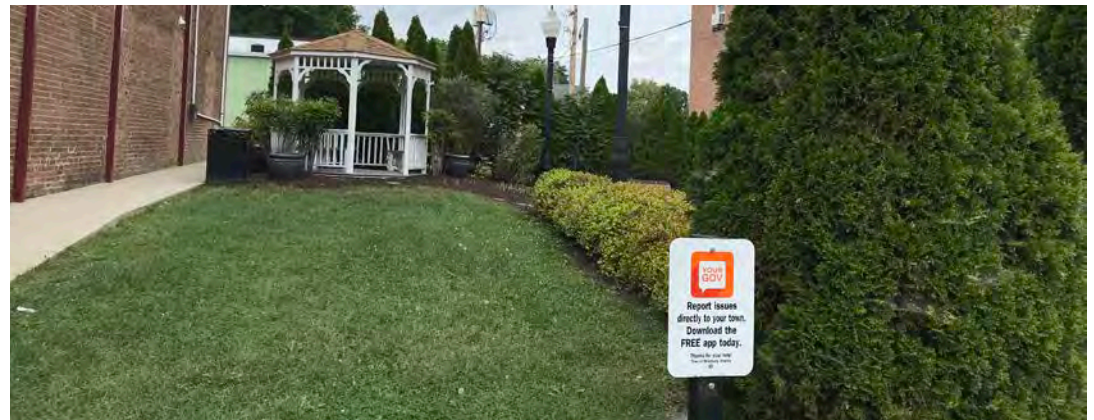
Stamped concrete path and steps



Checkerboard-painted surface



Gazebo and view to the building wall on the west

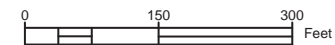
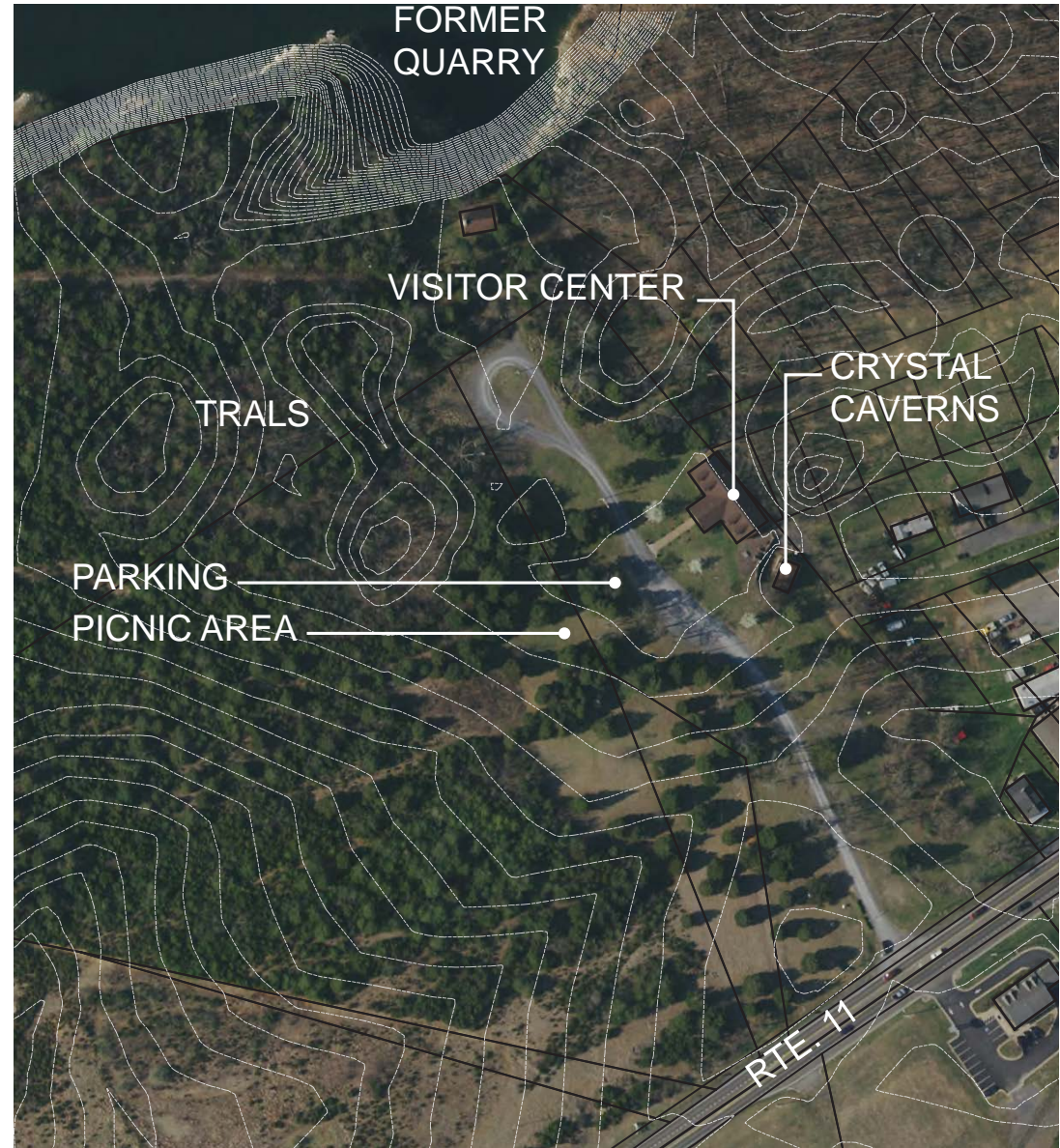


Views toward the gazebo from King Street



### Strasburg Visitor Center

Located approximately one mile from Downtown Strasburg at 33229 Old Valley Pike, the Visitor Center is operated through a partnership between the Town and Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation. While the main building functions as a welcome center and museum, the grounds include wooded walking trails with Civil War and Cave & Karst interpretive signs and glimpses into small caverns. A picnic area with benches and interpretive signage are located in front of the Visitor Center. A connecting brick patio, brick amphitheater, and a structure housing Crystal Caverns, are located to the north. Crystal Caverns is currently not open to the public.





### Strasburg Visitor Center

#### Findings

- Virginia State Tourism and Information Center/ Hupp's Hill Museum, curated by Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation
- Brick and wood building restored to suggest historical appearance
- Gravel parking; ADA parking space, but no clear accessible route
- Gift shop and restrooms available
- Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; gated entrance daily
- Walking trails through thick woods with glimpses into small caverns along the quarter-mile path
- Picnic area with tree identification signs; picnic tables and benches; cedar tree groves
- Brick patio with 1 picnic table and 4 benches
- Crystal Caverns not open to public; brick amphitheater in disrepair; might have been ADA accessible at one time (ramp to lower area)
- Cave & Karst Trail; interpretive signage for cave and Civil War history

#### Opportunities

- Make building accessible
- Provide accessible trail through picnic area
- Selectively clear understory brush to open view from promontory at picnic area
- Relocate Visitor Center to downtown Strasburg



Visitor Center



Picnic area and cedar grove



Amphitheater next to Crystal Caverns



Crystal Caverns currently not open to the public



Walking trail in the woods



## Notes

---

Some park elements were reviewed using a four level rating system. Each of the four categories were adopted from industry standards and are as follows:

- **Excellent**—new or recently constructed feature with no visible signs of deterioration. Perform routine maintenance to maintain condition.
- **Good**—average to above average condition for the feature or materials assessed, with consideration of its age and design. Generally, other than normal maintenance, no remedial work is recommended or required.
- **Fair**—average condition for the feature or materials evaluated. There are signs of wear or deterioration though the feature is generally performing its intended purpose. Some rehabilitation is required or recommended to return the feature to a good condition.
- **Poor**—below average condition for the feature evaluated. The feature or element shows advanced work (major repair or replacement) should be anticipated to restore the feature or material to an acceptable condition.

## **2- Unmet Current Needs and Future Needs (Task 4)**



## Introduction

This task focuses on a needs assessment for current and future unmet needs for the system as a whole, with a more intensive review of seven facilities currently provided or proposed. The seven facilities are:

- Skate park (location identification should be prioritized)
- Playground (include recommendations for accessibility)
- Pool
- Athletic fields
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Multimodal connectivity

National research is reviewed and referenced to compare the current offerings in the Town of Strasburg with other similarly sized communities in the U.S. and Canada. Information is self-reported by member agencies to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and is compiled to illustrate the number of people served by a single facility in a range of communities. This data is useful in evaluating the quantity and number of facilities provided, as assessed on a per capita basis and as compared with other communities.

State research is incorporated in the Virginia Outdoors Plan, a state report developed every five years by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This document presents survey results at a state-wide level and for the Northern Shenandoah region. The most recent report was published in 2018 and speaks to the top 10 outdoor recreation activities and most-needed facilities. The 2007 copy of the report has an extensive Appendix, referenced in the 2018 document, that defines park typologies, and provides the spatial dimensions and area guidelines for various activities.

Local information on unmet needs is derived from the online survey that ran from late August through October 31, 2019. In it, respondents were asked which parks they visited, what activities did they participate in, and most key for this task, what is missing from Strasburg's parks. Discussions with the Management and Engagement Teams for this project also provided insights on priorities, needs, and challenges.



*The Riverwalk, with a view of Signal Knob*



## Framework

### National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The NRPA collects self-reported metrics from member agencies across the US and Canada. Compiled in a database, information on communities with populations between 1,000 and 20,000 can be accessed for comparison with the Town of Strasburg and Shenandoah County. Data includes the population served per facility of park feature at various population densities. Three different ratios of population per acre were explored:

- Less than 500 people/square mile (density if Shenandoah County is reviewed in conjunction with the Town of Strasburg)
- 1,501 - 2, 500 people/square mile (population density per the 2010 census for the Town of Strasburg - 1,707)
- 2,500+ people/square mile (projected population density for the Town of Strasburg in 2035 - may change following the 2020 census results)

This is a general metric, measuring the ratio of the overall population within a square mile to a facility. It does not evaluate geographic proximity or if there are physical barriers reducing access to a facility. It is strictly a measure of the number of people per square mile/facility. As such, it does provide guidance and offers a baseline service comparison to similar-sized agencies from around the country. Other measures, such as the online survey or public meetings provide insight into specifically local interests that may not track consistently with the national metrics.

National Recreation and Park Association 'Park Metrics' – Ratio of Park Facilities per Population/Square Mile				
	National Range <sup>1</sup>			
Existing Facility	Less than 500 people/square mile (Combination of Shenandoah County and Strasburg)	Between 1,501 – 2,500 people/square mile (Town of Strasburg)	2,500+ people/square mile (Town of Strasburg)	How does Strasburg compare, per square mile <sup>2</sup> ? 2010 Population – 1,707 2035 Proj. Population – 2,610
<b>Park Shelter</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Swimming pools (outdoor only)</b>	43,500	34,035	41,495	1 outdoor pool
<b>Tot lot</b>	20,563	14,000	10,542	1 Tot lot (ages 2-5)
<b>Playground</b>	7,334	3,163	3,586	1 playground
<b>Restrooms</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Outdoor tennis courts</b>	5,462	4,296	4,858	2 outdoor tennis courts
<b>Basketball courts</b>	10,048	5,971	7,400	2 outdoor basketball courts
<b>Multi-use courts – basketball, volleyball</b>	27,482	17,167	16,250	1 outdoor volleyball court
<b>Rectangular fields: soccer - adult</b>	12,767	13,173	15,000	1 full size soccer/lacrosse field
<b>Rectangular fields: lacrosse</b>	15,250	23,500	31,965	1 full size soccer/lacrosse field
<b>Rectangular fields: soccer - youth</b>	7,656	7,000	8,784	2 small soccer/lacrosse youth fields
<b>Diamond field: baseball - youth</b>	6,890	6,597	7,369	1 diamond youth baseball
<b>Diamond: softball - youth</b>	12,000	11,917	13,773	1 diamond youth softball
<b>Diamond: softball - adult</b>	16,298	12,527	15,000	1 unfinished practice field
<b>Community garden</b>	20,502	34,170	29,548	1 community garden
<b>Dog park</b>	45,751	47,000	55,675	1 dog park
<b>Boat Launch</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Green – facility serves far fewer people than the national metric  
Yellow – facility serves (or will by 2035) about the same number of people per the national metric

<sup>1</sup> NRPA 2019

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census data: Town of Strasburg 3.75 square miles





# Master Parks Plan



Reviewing the Town’s current facilities against this baseline identifies the playground as a facility that is pushing towards meeting the nationally reported baseline of population per facility. It will not exceed that amount by 2035 based on the projected population figures. All of the other Town provided facilities are far below the threshold of reported population per square mile/facility. From this metric, assuming that the Town’s population projections for 2035 are on track, the Town’s provision of facilities is comparable or better than its peers from around the country.

### Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) provides recommendations in support of outdoor recreation and land conservation across the Commonwealth. Updated every five years, the plan builds on past volumes, an outdoor recreation survey, and recreation trends.

Tables in the 2018 document display the top 10 outdoor recreation activities by participation for the state as a whole and for the Northern Shenandoah region, where the Town of Strasburg is located. The top 10 outdoor recreation activities by participation are noted state-wide and for the Northern Shenandoah Recreational Planning Region. Within each, the top five activities are the same, although ranked somewhat differently as shown in the tables to the right. Each ranks natural areas as the top activity followed by walking for pleasure and driving for pleasure (flipped order between the state-wide and region), followed by visiting parks and swimming/outdoor pool. Differences in recreation priorities rise in activities 6 through 10. Residents of the Northern Shenandoah region rank gardening, followed by freshwater fishing, sunbathing/relaxing on a beach, visiting working farms, and visiting gardens/arboretums. State-wide residents ranked sunbathing/relaxing on a beach followed by viewing the water, then swimming/beach/lake/river (open water) and then visiting historic areas, with freshwater fishing ranked 10th.

When residents of the Northern Shenandoah region were asked what the most-needed outdoor recreation activities were, the response was first—natural areas; followed by trails, then parks, then water access, then historic area, then scenic drives (driving for pleasure, and lastly with the support of 13% of the households - playing fields, sports and golf facilities.

**Table 7.1 Most-Needed Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**

Northern Shenandoah Recreational Planning Region

activity	% of households in	
	region	state
Natural areas	61	54
Trails	47	43
Parks	43	49
Water access	34	43
Historic areas	31	39
Scenic drives (driving for pleasure)	29	29
Playing fields, sports and golf facilities	13	22

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.

**Table 7.2 Top 10 Outdoor Recreation Activities By Participation**

Northern Shenandoah Recreational Planning Region

activity	% household
Visiting natural areas	71
Walking for pleasure	68
Driving for pleasure	65
Visiting parks (local, state & national)	61
Swimming/outdoor pool	50
Gardening	41
Freshwater fishing	38
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	34
Visiting working farms, petting zoos, corn mazes, etc.	34
Visiting gardens/arboretums	33

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey. Visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/vop](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/vop) to view regional participation rates for more than 100 activities.

**Figure 2.1 Top 10 Outdoor Recreation Activities by Participation**

statewide activity	% households
Visiting natural areas	71
Driving for pleasure	67
Walking for pleasure	67
Visiting parks (local, state & national)	56
Swimming/outdoor pool	48
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	47
Viewing the water	38
Swimming/beach/lake/river (open water)	37
Visiting historic areas	35
Freshwater fishing	34

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey

*Three table excerpts from the Virginia Outdoors Plan, 2018 displaying survey results from the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey Reports*



# Master Parks Plan



The 2018 report also notes that boat registrations are continuing their downward trend according to data from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). All boats with motors, electric included, and any sailboats over 18 feet in length must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles, providing a database to track registrations. Canoes, kayaks and other hand carried boats without motors do not require registration so tracking their popularity, increasing or decreasing, is more difficult.

Building on past reports, the 2018 report references the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan's extensive Appendix C that is focused on guidelines for outdoor recreation planning. Comparisons between the Town's offerings and the suggested guidelines can illuminate weak areas or unrecognized unmet needs. As with the metrics provided by NRPA, these must be viewed as advisory rather than as standards. Location, population and demographics, recreation trends and participation rates—all can impact demand and needs in any activity.

Current recreation planning thinking has moved past a focus solely on the provision of facilities per capita or geographic distance and instead recognize that access to facilities is also important. If a facility is close to a user geographically, but the user is separated from that facility by a barrier such as an interstate highway or railroad track, access to that facility is adversely impacted. Access is as important as the per capita metric when addressing park needs.

This approach is reinforced with a query included in the survey for the 2018 plan development. As a part of the 2018 plan update, survey questions solicited definitions for a close to home park. Among the responses, more than half of the respondents (63%) to the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey (VODS) indicated that parks should be within a

2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan Appendix C, excerpted from pages 664-667					
Type	Acre/ 1,000 people	Size	Service area	Potential facilities	
<b>Neighborhood Playground or Playlot (page 664)</b>	no min.	1/4 acre and larger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx. five minutes walking time</li> <li>Urban/suburban service area 2 miles</li> <li>Rural - no minimum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>playgrounds</li> <li>horseshoe courts</li> <li>shuffleboard courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>basketball courts</li> <li>volleyball courts</li> <li>badminton courts</li> </ul>
<b>Neighborhood Park (page 665)</b>	3	5-20 acres Plan at 3 acres/ 1,000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx. 5-15 minutes walking distance or under one mile driving distance</li> <li>Urban/suburban service area 2 miles</li> <li>Rural - 1-1.5 miles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>playground</li> <li>picnic facilities</li> <li>tennis courts</li> <li>ball diamond</li> <li>horseshoe courts</li> <li>shuffleboard courts</li> <li>basketball courts</li> <li>football/soccer fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>volleyball courts</li> <li>badminton courts</li> <li>walking trails</li> <li>fishing pond</li> <li>swimming pool</li> <li>bikeway</li> <li>recreation center</li> </ul>
<b>Community Park (page 666)</b>	3	20-50 acres Plan at 3-acres/ 1,000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx 15 minutes driving time</li> <li>Urban/suburban service area 1 mile</li> <li>Rural - 3-7 miles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>playgrounds</li> <li>picnic facilities</li> <li>tennis courts</li> <li>ball diamonds</li> <li>horseshoe courts</li> <li>shuffleboard courts</li> <li>basketball courts</li> <li>volleyball courts</li> <li>football/soccer fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trails: walking, hiking, biking, fitness</li> <li>natural area</li> <li>fishing lake or stream access</li> <li>beach and swimming area</li> <li>swimming pool</li> <li>parking area</li> <li>recreation area</li> </ul>
<b>District Park (page 667)</b>	4	50-150 acres Plan at 4-acres/ 1,000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15-25 minutes driving time</li> <li>5-15 mile service radius</li> <li>Urban/suburban service area 5-7 miles</li> <li>Rural 10-15 miles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>playgrounds</li> <li>picnic facilities</li> <li>tennis courts</li> <li>ball diamonds</li> <li>horseshoe courts</li> <li>volleyball courts</li> <li>basketball courts</li> <li>recreation centers</li> <li>golf</li> <li>trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>natural area</li> <li>lake or stream</li> <li>fishing/boating</li> <li>swimming pool and/or beach with a swimming area</li> <li>football/soccer fields</li> <li>parking areas</li> <li>shuffleboard courts</li> </ul>



# Master Parks Plan



15-minute walk or 15-minute bike ride. Similarly, over half of the respondents said that a close-to-home park should be within a 20-minute drive.

### Area Guidelines

The VOP 2007 Appendix C provides useful definitions for park types, a recommended acreage amount for each type per 1,000 people, and a suggested service area for both urban/suburban and rural areas.

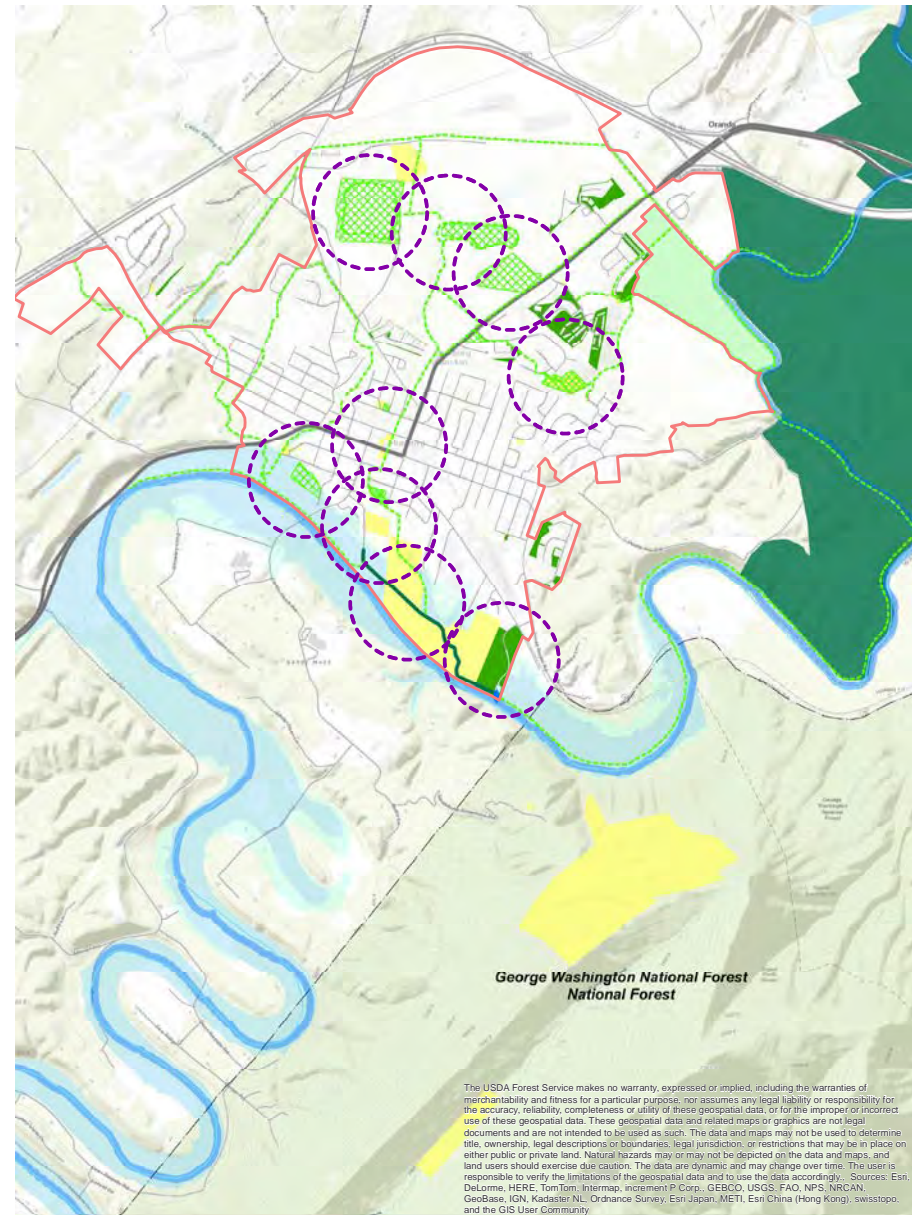
Overall, the VOP recommends a minimum of 10 acres of local recreation and park sites per 1,000 people, with the recommendation that communities exceed that amount when possible. This figure is also referenced in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Resources in three major local park classifications—the neighborhood park, the community park, and the district park should all be made when working towards or exceeding the 10 acres/1,000 people metric.

Service areas are also important to monitor. The Town of Strasburg's current parklands are concentrated at the far northern side of Town—Visitor and Information Center and south of downtown—Town Park. Access to parks, walking or driving, is greatly improved if the park lands are equally distributed across the community. Suggested service areas are included in the table on page 4, drawn from the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018's reference to Appendix C in the 2007 version of the report.

### Space Guidelines

The 2007 Appendix also provided dimensional standards for a number of park facilities. Representative examples are included in the table on page 6, also drawn from the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018's reference to Appendix C in the 2007 version of the report.



### Strasburg's Parks

#### Legend

- Town of Strasburg Limits
- NFS Land Units
- ♦ Public Water Access (VA DCR)
- Proposed Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Existing Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Park/Open Space - Future (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Parks/Open Space - Existing (2018 Comp. Plan)
- Potomac Conservancy (Protected)
- Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP (NPS)
- Town-owned parcel
- FEMA 0.2 Pct. Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- FEMA 100-year flood plain - AE
- Water Trail (VA DCR)
- Shenandoah River (VA DCR)
- 1/4-mile radius

Map illustrating 1/4 mile radius, or fifteen minute walk, from Strasburg's parks



Capacity and Space Guidelines from VOP 2007 Appendix C pages 672-674					
	Dimensions	Net acres required	Instant capacity	Units/Pop.	Remarks
<b>Swimming pools (outdoor)</b>	Jr. Olympic: 45' x 75'	0.5	225	1/10,000	15 sq. ft. of water per person, based on 3% of population, 100 sq. ft. deck per 35 sq. ft. of water.
<b>Outdoor tennis courts</b>	60' x 120'	0.2	4	1/2,000	Provided at neighborhood, community, district, or regional sites — develop in pairs where possible — lighting desirable.
<b>Basketball courts</b>	60' x 100'	0.15	10	1/5,000	Lighting desirable; can also serve as multipurpose court.
<b>Multi-use courts - basketball, volleyball</b>	Volleyball 50' x 80'	0.1	12	1/1,000	Provide at neighborhood, community, district, or regional facilities. Consider using basketball courts for multipurpose use.
<b>Rectangular fields: soccer - adult</b>	250' x 400'	2.25	22	1/5,000	Provide at community, district, or regional park — football or lacrosse fields often used. Spring and fall seasons may require additional fields if football or baseball fields also used for soccer program.
<b>Rectangular fields: lacrosse</b>	260' x 500'	3.0	20	1/25,000	Football or soccer fields often used — provided at community park.
<b>Rectangular fields: soccer - youth</b>					
<b>Diamond field: baseball youth</b>	Little League			1/6,000	Check Little League Guidelines.
<b>Diamond: softball - adult</b>	300' x 300'	2.10	20	1/3,000	Provide in complex area neighborhood, community, district, or regional park. Lighting desirable — more than one field per site desirable.
<b>Community garden</b>					
<b>Dog park</b>					
<b>Bank Fishing</b>	8' x 50'	400 SF	100 mile	1 mile/shore	1
<b>Skateboard Park</b>	Variable	0.25 min.	100	1/25,000	Smooth, level surface required – free from gravels – Concrete preferred; ramp/component materials can vary – steel requires least maintenance; park should be designed to accommodate a variety of vehicles (skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, etc.).
<b>Boat launch</b>	16' x length to meet 3" depth at low water	2 acres	8 boats/hr		Provide one ramp for each 40 boats anticipated to sue the facility on a design day (12-14% slope)





# Master Parks Plan

## Trust for Public Land's ParkScore®

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) ParkScore® awards points for park access based on the percentage of the population living within a ten minute (half-mile) walk of a public park. In their calculation of the ten minute walking distance, their analysis identifies physical barriers such as highways, train tracks, and rivers without bridges and chooses routes without barriers. According to the TPL review of Strasburg, VA, 45% of the residents are within a ten minute walk of a park. However, there are large swaths of Strasburg where TPL argues that additional parks are needed most, as shown in the diagram generated by TPL on the right.

TPL's analysis has suggested two priority locations for future parks in the Town of Strasburg, based on the location's ability to best increase the number of residents served within a 10-minute walk of a park. The circle shown on the accompanying graphic illustrates a 1/4 mile radius.



Three screen shots from the Trust for Public Lands' website illustrating their ParkScore® results for the Town of Strasburg: upper right - graphic indicating current proximity to parks; middle image - current park locations; lower image - proposed location for two new park sites

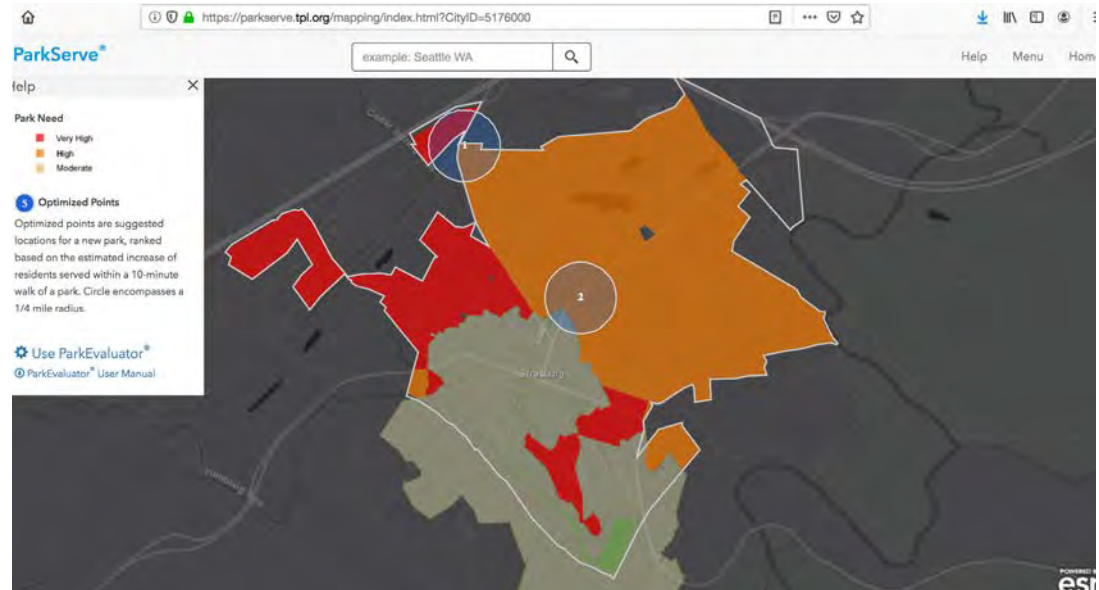


## Where in Strasburg are parks needed most?

### Strasburg has 3 parks

We've mapped park access in 14,000 cities and towns across the country. Our free mapping platform helps you pinpoint where to focus park investments in your city.

[EXPLORE THE MAP](#)





### Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan, 2018

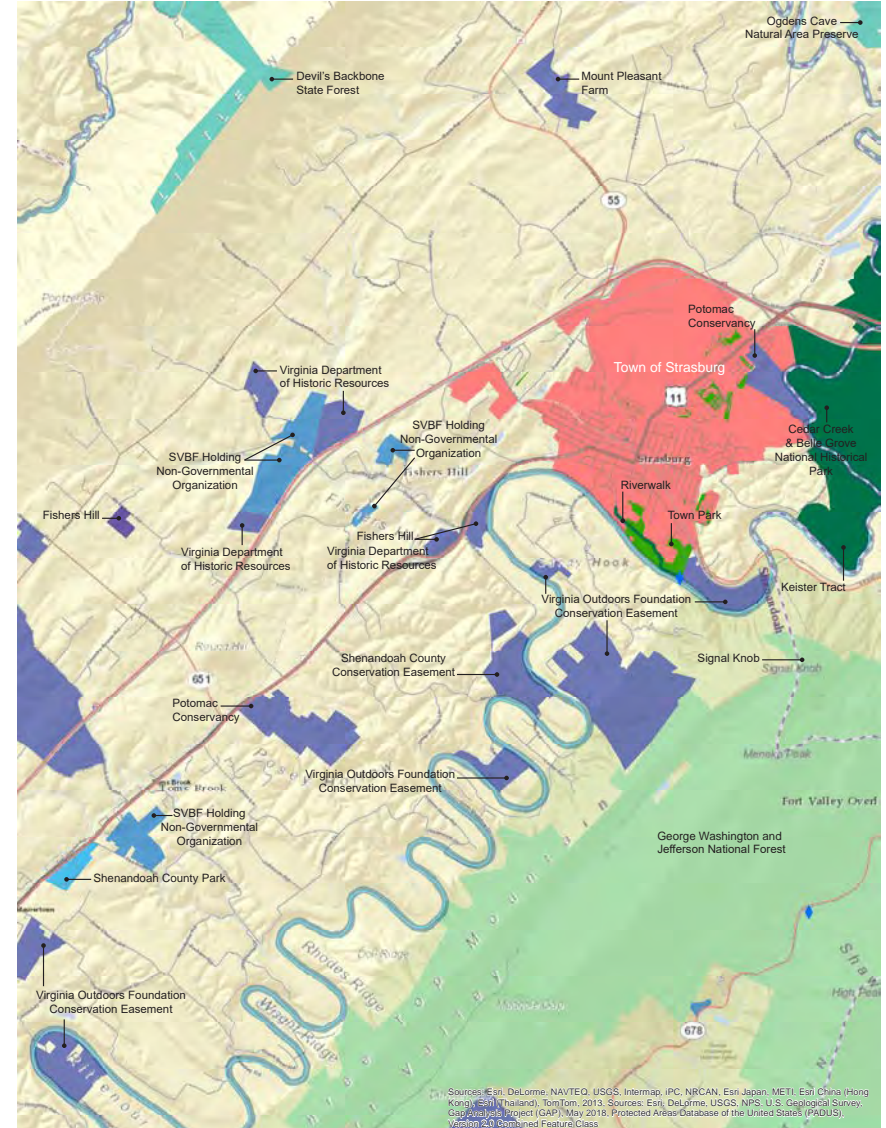
Direction related to the provision of recreation facilities and open space is included in the Town's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Approximately 160 acres, or 2.7% of the study area (the Comprehensive Plan includes area outside of the current Town boundary in its planning document) is currently used for parks and open space. This figure includes the Town Park, private open space within several housing developments, and Strasburg Square, immediately east of Town Hall<sup>1</sup>.

Using the guideline of 10 acres of park per 1,000 people, the Town should have 64 acres of park land based on the 2010 census (6,398) and a projected population in 2035 of 9,786 based on the 2010 census. Using this information, it is anticipated that the Town will require 98 acres of park land in 2035<sup>2</sup>.

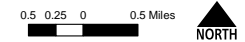
The Comprehensive Plan recommends that the Town provide recreation facilities and opportunities to citizens of all ages and abilities, a reminder that equipment and facilities should be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as they are updated and replaced.

The plan suggests that small parks are incorporated within each new development and that the Town look for opportunities to provide park space in existing residential areas. This recommendation will help to alleviate the distance between some residents and open space and recreation areas and also address the concern that barriers may present in reducing access to public open space.

The Town of Strasburg should work with the surrounding Shenandoah County to expand joint recreation opportunities as recommended by the plan. The County's park features a pavilion, sports courts and fields, walking trails and open meadows and is located approximately 6.7 miles southwest of the Town of Strasburg. Other sites within the County are proposed for future recreation activities. In alignment with the Comprehensive Plan's recommendation, the North Fork provides a tremendous incentive for the Town to work with the County to extend the Town's highly successful Riverwalk upriver.



**Strasburg Local and Regional Parks & Protected Open Spaces**



<span style="color: red;">■</span> Town of Strasburg Limits	<span style="color: green;">■</span> Protected Lands 2018 (USGS, 2018)
<span style="color: blue;">◆</span> Public Water Access (VA DCR)	<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Federal
<span style="color: green;">—</span> Existing Trail (2018 Comp. Plan)	<span style="color: teal;">■</span> State
<span style="color: lightblue;">—</span> Water Trail (VA DCR)	<span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Local
<span style="color: lightblue;">—</span> Shenandoah River (VA DCR)	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Non-Governmental Organization
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Parks/Open Space - Existing (2018 Comp. Plan)	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Private
<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span> Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP (NPS)	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Other

1 Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan, 2018. Page 20.  
 2 Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan, 2018. Page 38.





# Master Parks Plan



### Town of Strasburg Master Parks Plan Online Survey

An online survey was completed in late summer and fall of 2019. A total of 280 respondents participated in the survey between August 23, 2019 and October 31, 2019. Although not statistically valid, the responses to both single answer and open ended questions provide useful guidance on the existing facilities and desired facilities for Strasburg's parks. Survey questions focused on both the system overall and four individual parks: Town Park; Strasburg Square; Visitor and Information Center; and Hometown Park.

### Key Findings

Approximately 26% of the respondents report they visit Strasburg's parks, trails, and open spaces at least once a week, 19% of these respondents report visiting twice a week. An additional 16% visit every two weeks. Twenty-five percent visit once a month. Most visitors arrive by vehicle - 91%, followed by walkers at 43%, 13% by bicycle, and boats at 8%.

Over 100 respondents on the open-ended question of *Which park, trail, or open space do you visit most in Strasburg?* Indicated the Riverwalk. Approximately 70 respondents said Town Park. Respondents separately noted specific spots in Town Park that they visited most—the playground, pool, and dog park received 10-15 individual citations and the community garden, boat landing, tennis courts, pavilions, soccer fields and ballfields received approximately five specific mentions. Strasburg Square had about fifteen mentions. Many respondents mentioned 'all'. These response patterns are similarly reflected in another open-ended query in the survey: *Which Strasburg parks, trails, or open spaces do you visit?*

Enlightening responses were received to the open-ended question: *What do you think is missing from Strasburg's parks? What can be improved upon?* Many of the responses urged that the Town reinvest in its existing facilities: better or new soccer fields; better tennis/pickle ball courts; an expanded and upgraded accessible playground; better baseball fields; more and improved restrooms (not porta-potties); grills at park shelters; improved gates and a potable water source for the dog park; and refreshment and investment in the town pool, particularly its aesthetics and amenities.

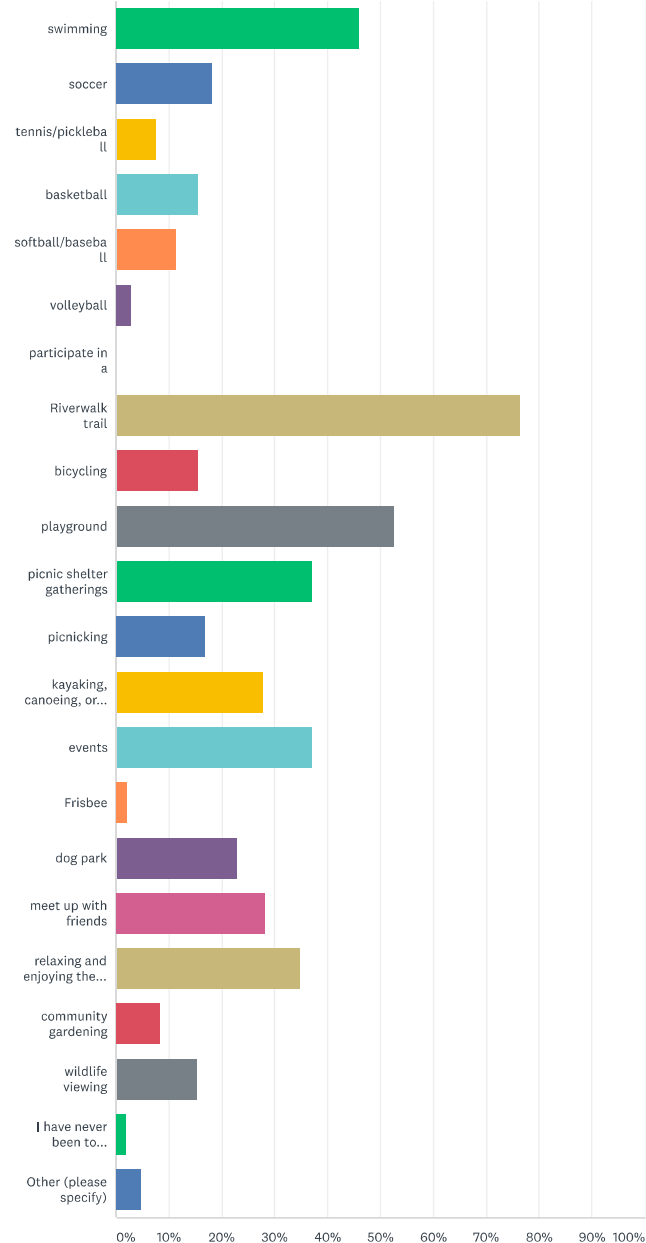
Separate from the discussion on trails and circulation, missing or desired items included the skate park, adult exercise equipment, park and trail lighting, a drinking water fountain in Town Park, a splash pad somewhere

Q6



What do you and/or your family do at Strasburg Town Park and Pool? Select all that apply.

Answered: 276 Skipped: 4



Excerpt from online survey results



# Master Parks Plan



in the park system, additional public boat access to the Shenandoah River, disc or putt putt golf, a zip line, tree hammocks, a wall ball court, and additional park furniture such as benches, trash cans, fire pits, and more grilling stations.

Many respondents desire additional trails for walking and biking along the river and throughout the Town. Comments included desires for paved trails to a longer, looped trail system, to inter-connectivity with multi-modal trails. Others specifically mentioned interest in clearer pedestrian circulation and paths within Town Park.

Similar responses were posted in answer to the question *Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?* There was strong support for the Friday night programming at Strasburg Square. Several comments related to trails and encouraged the Town to extend the river trail to wilderness camping at the Keister Tract, to providing a pedestrian connection to the Signal Knob recreation area.

When asked what other places respondents visited for recreation opportunities, more than 28 mentioned Woodstock, more than 17 mentioned Shenandoah County Park in Maurertown, Sherando Park and/or Stephens City more than 15 times, and 13 mentioned Front Royal. Other places mentioned multiple times include Elizabeth Furnace, Fishers Hill, Blandy Farm, Buzzard Rock, George Washington National Forest, Sherando Park in Stephens City, Skyline Drive and Signal Knob in Shenandoah National Park, Toms Brook, Winchester, and Woodbine Market.

### Seven Specific Park Facilities

Seven specific facilities, existing and proposed, are addressed independently in Task 4. Most are or are planned to be located at Town Park, although restrooms, parking, and multimodal connectivity are also located at other parks within Strasburg. Each of the seven facilities are addressed on the following pages in terms of current and future unmet needs, scope, siting, and budget. The seven facilities are:

- Skate Park
- Playground
- Pool
- Athletic Fields
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Multimodal Connectivity

*'Build the Skate Park'*

*'Just add the skate park already'*

*'I think our walking trails could be longer'*

*'I would like the river trail to expand'*

*'Better public bathroom facilities near playground'*

*'lights at ballfields'*

*'I love the town park and would love to see play equipment updated'*

*'accessible play equipment'*

*'better soccer fields for both young age divisions and older'*

*'better soccer fields'*

*'the dog park could use some improvements...such as a water supply for the pups and maybe some obstacles'*

*'the shelters need to be updated and cleaned properly.'*

*'the Strasburg pool needs a larger baby pool and walking to large pool like Woodstock pool'*

*'the pool area needs lots of help'*

*'boat landing can be congested-small children unaware of boats being launched'*

Excerpts from the online survey, Fall 2019



## Skate Park

### Current and Future Unmet Needs

Residents of Strasburg have been advocating and fundraising for a skate park for years. In memory of Trent Williams, the skate park is proposed to be located within Town Park, site to be determined as a part of the Master Parks Plan planning process. To date, \$40,000 has been raised. Recently, the fundraising goal was expanded to \$150,000.

### Scope

Multi-use of the skate facility is key, given the limited amount of space within Town Park that is outside of the 100-year floodplain. Any skate park should be designed to encourage people propelled wheeled equipment, including scooters and bikes as well as skateboarders. Teaching and mentoring, sharing the courteous skater protocols of looking before riding, taking turns, and being aware of other riders will have to be taught and incorporated in planned activities at the new facility. The end result is positive, with a larger group served and new riders and supporters developed.

Given the recreation and space demands for the portions of Town Park located outside of the 100 year floodplain, determining how to create a skate park that serves multiple purposes and users is critical. A skate park can do more than singularly serve skaters, while also providing a great place for boarders to fly. Beyond serving the skating community, a new skate park can be designed to incorporate public art, include other wheeled vehicles, and to serve as a gathering and sitting area for admiring the view of Signal Knob.

### Siting

Town Park offers a number of potential locations for the skate park. Part of the site selection is dependent upon the size and the form of the future facility. Vendors have offered several different configurations as examples, ranging from individual elements, or skate spots, connected by a multi-use trail, to a shared pump track/skate track that has both preformed concrete components and potential extensions beyond, to a skate plaza/gateway entry to the park, or to a more traditional single use skate park.

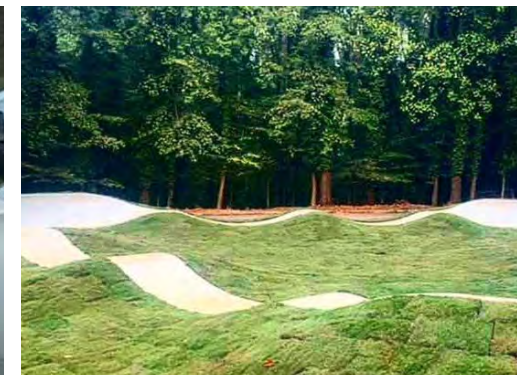
Selecting a site for a skate park is affected by a number of different considerations, including visibility and accessibility. A site visible to law enforcement from vehicles can help to ensure the safety for the user and



Examples of 'skate spots', Spohn Ranch copyright



Another type of wheel user at Town Park



Example of concrete pumptrack at a bike park with trails by American Ramp



# Master Parks Plan



other park attendees. If the skate park is located in an active area of Town Park and not tucked away, it can both have 'eyes on the park' as well as attract new users to the sport.

Other physical siting considerations include ensuring that adequate space is available to accommodate the desired square footage and there is room immediately adjacent for future expansion. Configuration of the space is also important if a central skate park is the selected option. Does the space accommodate a shape that is conducive to skating patterns and does the topography present some interesting skating opportunities or challenges?

The following list has limited potential sites to areas outside of the 100-year floodplain and near other activities where the skaters will be highly visible to other park users and police patrols.

### Potential Sites within Town Park

- Directly west of the community garden, approximately 5,000 sf: advantages include visibility, near restrooms and shelters
- Begin string of 'skate spots' at site directly west of community gardens and link to multi-use trail that follows the stream corridor towards the southwest, connecting to the Riverwalk between the two large rectangular fields
- Immediately at park entry (accommodate for future realignment of entry road) where the skate park could also serve as an entry plaza and public art welcome site
- Tennis courts at Strasburg High School (requires agreement with Town for school use of Town Park courts)
- Current site of volleyball court, placing it adjacent to the basket ball court and east of the pool

### Skate park Sizing Calculator (Source: Spohn Ranch Skate Parks)

Below is a step by step methodology developed by Spohn Ranch Skate Parks to appropriately size a skate park facility based on the projected user population.

#### Step 1: Define the target area

- Projected population in 2035 is 9,786 based on the 2010 census

#### Step 2: Apply the skateboarder percentage using recent statistics from the National Sporting Goods Association and American Sports Data that estimate 2% of the U.S. population are skateboarders.

- $9,786 \times 2\% = 196$  skateboarders in Strasburg (2035)

#### Step 3: Define the number of active skateboarders by planning for the population of skateboarders who ride on a regular basis and will frequent the skate park at least a few times per year.

- $196 \times 25\% = 49$  active skateboarders in Strasburg

#### Step 4: Apply the skate session percentage - for the average skateboarder, there are roughly 10 skateable hours during the day (10am-8pm); with the average skate lasting about 2 hours, there are 5 session during the day. While these sessions will obviously overlap, this model gives a snapshot of how skateboarders will ride at different times.

- $49/5 = 10$  - at a given time, there will be 10 skateboarders riding in Strasburg

#### Step 5: Define the ideal square footage of skateable terrain: based upon research by Spohn Ranch, the following metrics provide the tipping point when a park feels crowded and skating quality is affected

- 5,000 square feet reaches crowding at 15 skaters
- 10,000 square feet reaches crowding at 30 skaters
- 20,000 square feet reaches crowding at 60 skaters
- 1 skater needs 333 square feet of skate park (roughly an 18' x 18' square)
- $10 \text{ skaters} \times 333 = 3,330$  square feet

#### Step 6: Distribute the terrain

- One central facility of roughly 3,000 - 5,000 square feet which is generally the minimum size for skate park
- Series of 'skate spots' ranging in size from 2,000 square feet to 3,000 square feet

Source: Skateboarding population analysis Leesburg, VA 4.1.16 Spohn Ranch Skate parks, Los Angeles, CA); Vince Onel, VP of Skatepark Development @ Spohn Ranch Skateparks. [www.SpohnRanch.com](http://www.SpohnRanch.com)



### Budget

Individual elements such as used for a skate spot range in cost from \$2,000 to \$10,000 each with the material being concrete with a steel edge protection.

A central facility can range in price dramatically, dependent upon size and features. Costs to design and build a skate park depend upon the complexity of the space and its design. The examples shown on page 12 range in costs from \$150,000 to \$175,000 for a 3,000 - 4,000 square foot facility, with the understanding that specific site conditions may affect this estimate. Estimated costs include general earthwork, drainage, concrete, and steel. Costs do not include landscaping, lighting, shade structures or other site amenities.



*Washington, D.C. area skate spots by American Ramp copyright*



*Examples of three different skate park configurations @ 3,000 - 4,000 square feet in size, Spohn Ranch copyright*



## Playground

### Current and Future Unmet Needs

The existing 13,000 square foot playground, located on the western side of Town Park near the park shelters and the permanent restrooms, is the one park facility that will, with the projected population growth in 2035, come close to meeting a typical national ratio of people per facility for communities with a similar population density per square mile. There is adequate space available for expansion of the playground at this site. However, it may be, in years to come, and dependent on the demographics and new census data from 2020, more appropriate to invest in a second public playground somewhere north of downtown rather than expanding the large playground in Town Park.

### Scope

The 13,000 square foot playground was constructed in 1991 and renovated in 2008. A large facility, it provides separate equipment geared to 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds. A separate swing bay sits on its western edge.

Posted survey comments expressed interest in an upgrade and refreshment of Town Park’s playground equipment. Requests include the provision of more play options, accessible equipment, and better ground surfacing materials. As the equipment reaches its lifespan, usually a period of 15 - 20 years, it should be replaced (and potentially reconfigured) to provide universal access with ADA accessible elements and appeal to a multi-age group of users.

Accessibility must be addressed in the playground surfacing, the access paths connecting parking areas and pedestrian paths to the playground and in the equipment itself.

Surfacing, and the drainage infrastructure and support required for its installation is likely the most costly improvement for the playground. Although engineered wood fiber is less expensive to install, it requires more operating funds to keep it at the appropriate level and thickness to meet playground surface safety standards. The Virginia Risk Sharing Association (VRSA) inspected the playground in conjunction with Town Staff in September 2019 and recommended that the Town conduct periodic maintenance inspections and maintain the surfacing material at the appropriate depth. An alternative surface materials—rubber—is more



*Entrance to Town Park playground above, playground surface under swings, right*



expensive to install but generally requires less annual maintenance. Some facilities use multiple surface types, dependent upon the equipment layout, that approach could be employed at Town Park.

Equipment replacement itself will vary widely in cost and be dependent upon the type of equipment and its complexity. Lower cost, natural wood equipment referred to as Parkour (made from Robinia wood) is one option. More complex built tower structures are more costly.

The equipment and the playground itself must be accessible from the parking lot by an ADA compliant accessible path. Accessible paths linking the playground to the parking lot should not be challenging to develop, given the relatively level topography of the current playground's location on the site.

### Siting

The current playground site is adequate and has room for future expansion. Other sites in the northern areas of the Town of Strasburg may provide appropriate locations for a second public playground in the future.

### Budget

A general budget to replace all of the equipment and surfacing while maintaining a similarly-sized facility would range from \$700,000-\$1,000,000 with approximately 20-30 percent of that cost dedicated to the surface. Engineered wood fiber is less expensive to install but more expensive than poured rubber to maintain. Alternatively, the playground could be refurbished in phases given the large size for the facility. A 5,000 square foot facility with 3-bay swings, composite structure, berm with tunnel, climbing rock, embankment slide, log steppers, and engineered wood fiber surfacing would run approximately \$275,000-\$325,000. A similarly sized, 5,000 square foot facility, with a 2-5 year old composite structure, a separate 5-12 year old composite structure, and 3 bay-swings, and with an engineered wood fiber surface could range from \$450,000-\$525,000. The size of the playground is not always the costly component, particularly if the entire surface area does not need to meet safety standards. Another playground example at 11,000 square feet with half engineered wood fiber and half poured rubber where safety surface is required ran approximately \$700,000. Playground equipment included swings, one slide, a Parkour course, and natural play elements.



*Images from playgrounds, examples of possible equipment, earth sculpture, public art, and surface treatments—turf, pervious pavers, poured rubber, engineered wood fiber*



## Pool

### Current and Future Unmet Needs

The pool dates from the late 1950s or early 1960s. Originally a private facility, the pool has been operated by the Town since 1990 and was refurbished by the Town in 1991. It is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Located in the heart of Town Park, its setting is unique in the midst of a large open landscape with views towards the river and Signal Knob. The pool is used by families for recreational swims, by community members for lap swimming and by the local swim team for summer swim practice and competition.

For this Master Parks Plan, the challenge is how to refresh the existing pool, take advantage of its superb location just above the North Fork and the stunning pool deck view towards Signal Knob. The looming decision within the next fifteen to twenty years is whether to replace the outdoor pool facility in kind at its current location or to build a larger indoor/outdoor aquatic facility elsewhere in town.

### Scope

The main pool, five lanes wide and 25 meters long with an “L” shaped diving well, is adequate for swimming but not large enough to easily add new features such as multiple slides or a beach entry ramp. Slides or similar equipment will most likely have to be pulled for any swim competition, unless all five lanes do not get used. A beach entry that provides a gradual slope for easy pool entry, is particularly useful for families with small children or for users who need something other than stairs to enter or exit the pool. While appealing, the sloped ramp does require a significant area of the pool and pool deck and eliminates that area of the pool for use in competitive or lap swimming.

Survey participants and others have said that facility feels tired and is less attractive than nearby pools. Concerns regarding the Town Pool focused on the improving the ease of use for families with small children, addressing the limited size of the baby pool, and adjusting the pool deck and main pool configurations to support the use of the facility by families with multi-aged children requiring differing amounts of supervision.

Respondents to the survey hoped that the pool deck area could be made more appealing, with additional shade from trees or canopies, more



*The Town Pool, perched on a terrace above the North Fork with a stunning view of Signal Knob*





# Master Parks Plan



attractive and comfortable seating and a spruced up pool house facility. Suggestions for refreshing the pool house include painting a mural on the building, adding trees or other shade structures, and creating a beach pool or adding a splash pad feature.

Other potential ways to increase the attractiveness of the facility is the addition of a splash pad or spray ground adjacent to the baby and main pools. Temporary equipment can be added to the main pool to make itself more attractive to families and tweens. Inflatable obstacle courses or climbing walls, or other equipment and programming.

### Siting

Barring any unforeseen equipment failure, Town Staff believes the pool can be maintained for another 15-20 years. Before that time arrives, the Town will need to determine whether to eliminate, renovate, or replace the current facility with a year-round facility at the Town Park location or elsewhere.

### Budget

The pool's mechanical operating system has been well maintained. However, the pool's equipment is aging and is coming to the end of its life, with parts becoming more difficult to source. Several mechanical equipment pieces are located under the pool and should they fail, the pool bottom will need to be excavated (meaning the pool itself will need to be dug up).

Over the years, operating expenses have consistently exceeded revenues. The Town has had discussions on whether to close the pool permanently, to close it for a season and undertake a significant renovation, to cover the pool with a bubble to extend its seasonal use, or to continue operating with the current facility. To date, the continue operating with the current facility has been the choice.

The pool's fee structure is competitive with nearby jurisdictions. Although the Town does not charge an nonresident fee while some neighboring jurisdictions do, the difference between the resident and nonresident is negligible in other communities. A significant number of nonresident visitors would be required to positively

Comparative Rates for Outdoor Seasonal Pools					
	In-town Rate	Out of Town Rate	2019 Season	Hours	Features
<b>Strasburg Town Pool</b>	\$175 (11th visit free - how does this work with a pass?)	None	5/23 - 9/2	Mon-Sat 11-7 Sunday noon-7 Mon-Fri Senior Swim 10-11 AM	Baby pool w/mall mushroom; 25 meter - 5 lanes
	Daily Adult \$4				
<b>Woodstock W.O. Riley Park</b>	Family (2 adults/3 children) pass \$150	Family pass \$165	5/23 - 9/2	Mon-Sat 11-7 Sunday 11-7	Baby pool; beach access; covered shelter; concessions; 6 lanes; large mushroom
	Daily Adult \$5				
<b>Front Royal (Warren County) Claude A. Stokes Community Swimming Pool</b>	Family (2 adults/2 children) pass \$265		Weekends: 5/25-5/27; 6/1-6/2; 8/17-8/18; 8/24-8/25; 8/30-9/2 Daily 6/7-8/11	Mon-Friday 12 noon - 5:30 Sat/Sun 12 noon - 6	
	Daily Adult \$5; 1/2 price after 4 pm				
<b>Winchester Jim Barnett Outdoor Pool, City of Winchester</b>	Family punch pass (up to 4) for 20 visits \$162 for resident (web); Winchester Star article 6/8/19 3-month membership \$99	Family punch pass (up to 4) for 20 visits \$198 for nonresident (web); Winchester Star article 6/8/19 3-month membership \$117	Weekends 5.23 - 5/31; 8/10-9/7 Daily 6/1-8/9	General swim: noon to 5:45 pm Lap swim 5:30 - 8 am; 10 am -noon	Olympic-size pool; large tube slide; wading pool; mushroom fountain
	Daily Adult \$5 (web); \$7 (Winchester Star article 6/8/19)				
<b>Frederick County (Sherando and Clearbrook Parks)</b>	Family N/A				
	Daily \$2	None			

affect revenues. And to successfully woo nonresidents, the Town Pool will need to update its facility and amenities, which incurs additional costs. Alternatively, the Town can continue to subsidize the pool operations as a community service.

Refreshing the current facility can range in costs from several cans of paint to add a mural to the building, to \$5,000-\$10,000 for new pool deck furniture (perhaps nontraditional in form and materials), to a \$65,000-\$250,000 or more for a splash pad depending upon its features.



*Splash pads with recirculating systems (Renderings courtesy of RainDeck)*



## Athletic Fields

### Current and Future Unmet Needs

All of the Town of Strasburg's public park provided athletic fields are currently located within Town Park. As compared to other communities of similar size within the U.S. and Canada, the number of fields is satisfactory, although that metric can be heavily influenced by local use patterns. Online survey responses spoke more to the condition of the athletic fields rather than the shortage of fields.

Assuming the number of fields is adequate to serve the Town's population through 2035, the issue is the amount of risk the Town is willing to take when investing in the existing locations of the athletic fields, particularly the rectangular fields as they are located within the 100 year flood plain and also immediately adjacent to the 17 foot flood stage, considered to be less than a major flood.

The diamond fields are not affected by the floodplain but are not well served by infrastructure—parking, pedestrian paths, lighting. Neither of the field clusters—rectangular or diamond—offer enough fields in one location to be attractive as tournament facilities.

### Scope

The Parks Master Plan must wrestle with where to advise additional investment in park facilities. Clearly, the athletic fields would benefit from additional infrastructure such as field lighting, seating, permanent restroom access, turf fields to extend the season and provide for additional playing time, press boxes, concessions, and potentially irrigation. But, investing in infrastructure in a flood prone area does not make financial sense over the long term. The Parks Master Plan assumes that the Town will continue to look for a new site to locate athletic fields outside of the floodplain, where appropriate and supportive infrastructure may be added. Until then, additional maintenance for field management—turf, surface, grading—should be employed.

### Siting

The location of the rectangular fields within the 100 year floodplain affects the investment decisions in field upgrades, lighting, permanent restrooms, turf field surfaces, and other amenities. Frequency of flood events, the



*Existing rectangular fields at Town Park*



*Existing diamond fields at Town Park*



# Master Parks Plan



changing patterns of flooding events, and the severity of flood events must all be carefully evaluated. Successful sport field development can be done, as demonstrated by the Strasburg High School track and field and tennis courts to the west, located within the floodplain, but such may not be a good resource investment for the Town. The track at the high school is at considerably higher elevation than the Riverwalk's elevation which is more closely aligned with the location of the rectangular fields.

Any permanent improvements would need to be lifted above the level of expected flood events. Based on data from the National Weather Service and NOAA, the recent top five highest crests at the river gauge on SR 55 range from just shy of 16 feet to over 19 feet. According the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, flood stage is at 17 feet, major flood stage is at 25 feet. At 17 feet, significant flooding of fields is occurring and the Strasburg Riverwalk is flooded. At 25 feet, floodwaters reach the track and tennis courts at Strasburg High School.

Looking at the existing topography of Town Park, the two large rectangular fields may partially be impacted when flood stage is 17 feet. The flood stage of 17 feet has been exceeded twice in the past two years and five times since 2010. A risk analysis, based on the recent flooding history, would suggest that any permanent physical infrastructure improvements to fields would need to be located above a flood crest of 19 feet, although such improvements would still remain below the 100-year flood line and the historic crests that have ranged from 27 feet to over 32 feet in the past 30 plus years.

Long-term, consideration should be given to finding and acquiring another site outside of the floodplain and outside of Town Park that could provide adequate space for both rectangular and diamond fields to support tournaments and provide the necessary infrastructure to include restrooms, a concession stand, lighting, press box, score board, parking. Following the development of fields at an alternative site, the are of Town Park dedicated to rectangular fields could remain as terraced open space, useful for practice fields, events, and casual free-play.

Short-term, the current rectangular fields can be regraded to smooth the surface as online survey respondents commented that the current surface has numerous holes. Regrading could also reshape the field form to encourage better surface drainage for both rain events and any flooding that might occur.

### North Fork of the Shenandoah River Gauge @ State Route 55 crossing between Front Royal Road and Strasburg Road

Crest and date of occurrence	Measured in feet
November 5 2019 (as reference)	2.25
<b>Historic Crests</b>	
09/07/1996	32.27
10/16/1942	31.20
03/18/1936	30.21
01/20/1996	27.96
11/05/1985	27.37
<b>Recent Crests</b>	
06/23/2018	17.77
06/04/2018	18.13
05/18/2011	19.13
04/17/2011	18.33
01/26/2010	15.72
<b>Flood Categories (in feet)</b>	
Major Flood Stage	25
Flood Stage	17
Action Stage	10
Low Stage (in feet)	0
<b>Examples in the field</b>	
Floodwaters reach the track and tennis courts at Strasburg High School	25
Several roads are flooded near the river, especially south of Strasburg	20
Significant flooding of fields is occurring. The Strasburg River Walk is flooded	17
Agricultural flooding occurs near the river. Several low spots of Deer Rapids Road are flooded.	13
Livestock fields east of Strasburg begin to flood.	10
Several low water bridges over the North Fork of the Shenandoah River are covered by water	7

Source: [https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=lxw&prob\\_type=stage&gage=stgv2](https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=lxw&prob_type=stage&gage=stgv2)





The third diamond field, currently a practice area, could be enhanced by extending the fence line to 300 feet which can accommodate both youth and adult softball and baseball activities.

### Budget

Managing the existing fields and extending the diamond field are relatively low cost options, with periodic grading and field repair, new seed, aeration, compost overlay, and topseeding to enhance turf growth.

Moving the field complex off-site is far more costly, and dependent upon the number of fields and their amenities, parking, and location.



*View of soccer fields in Town Park with Town Pool in background*



## Restrooms

### Current and Future Unmet Needs

The Town of Strasburg operates public restrooms at three of its four public parks, each with specific hours of operation.

### Visitor and Information Center

The Visitor and Information Center's trails and outdoors facilities are served by the public restrooms within the Visitor and Information Center when open. Operating hours are 7 days of the week between 9 AM and 5 PM.

### Hometown Square

Hometown Square does not have restroom facilities at this time, nor is there space within the park to accommodate any.

### Strasburg Square

Strasburg Square, located immediately adjacent to both the Town Hall and the Market Square pavilion has access to two facilities. Town Hall's ADA accessible facilities are open to the public during the hours Town Hall is open. Market Square pavilion has two unisex ADA accessible public restrooms that are available 7 days of the week between 6 AM and 10 PM.

### Town Park

Town Park has one permanent restroom facility and several porta-potties. The permanent restrooms require renovation or replacement to address ADA accessibility issues and make their access more visible. During the warm weather season, the restroom is open from dawn to dusk. Doors lock automatically at dusk. The restrooms are closed for the season during the winter. The distribution pattern of porta-potties throughout Town Park indicate a seasonal need, along with facilities available when the permanent restroom is closed for the winter season. No comments were received from the online survey to indicate that the current supply of facilities is inadequate for the park's use.

### Scope

The focus of the plan is on the provision of restrooms at Town Park, ensuring that they are located in the best place and that the decision to provide or not seasonal facilities is considered in the discussion on the replacement of the permanent facility.



*Porta-potties in Town Park*



*Town Park permanent restrooms*



*View of permanent restrooms in Town Park, with 'back' turned to playground - entrance is on opposite side from playground*



The Parks Master Plan will address whether replacing the Town Park facility in kind is the best option, or to replace it with a pre-fab structure or self-cleaning facility.

Geographical distribution of facilities in Town Park is another topic for exploration. Comprised of multiple parcels, the park is extensive and covers approximately 100 acres along the North Fork riverfront. As the Riverwalk is expanded, as the river access is improved, and athletic fields remain in the park—short term as formal fields and in the future as unrestricted open space, additional permanent restroom facilities may be required to fully serve Town Park.

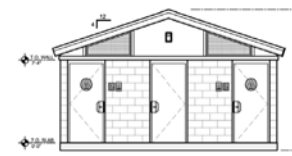
A separate exploration will address how to address the temporary facilities. Town Park is served by several clusters of porta-potties. The master planning process will explore whether that is the best strategy or if smaller, permanent units should be employed in other areas of Town Park. Operational costs are to be considered. Some jurisdictions contract with providers who service temporary facilities to service permanent facilities as well in lieu of employed staff performing that task.

The current permanent restroom facility is not accessible and is worn, subject to vandalism and in need of replacement or major renovation. Given the structure is made from stacked CMU, it is likely less expensive to tear the existing facility down and build new instead of renovating it.

There are building options other than stick or CMU built available, ranging from self-contained self cleaning units to prefabricated units that can be placed on the site by a crane. Their configuration is wide-ranging, from single units to grouped individual family units to separate women's/mens/family configurations. Additionally, there are units that can be placed within the floodplain if certain precautions are taken should the Town wish to replace the porta-potties with more permanent facilities.

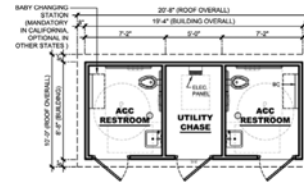
### Siting

Replacing the permanent restroom in the same location reduces the cost for sewer and water tie ins. Turning it around so that the entries are more visible to park users is very important. The current facility has a covered entry on the building face that is not visible from the other areas of the park. Its lack of visibility and protected cover makes it an attractive hang out spot for some park users which then deters other park users from using the facility.



ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8"=1'0"



FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'0"

NOTE: STAINLESS FIXTURES

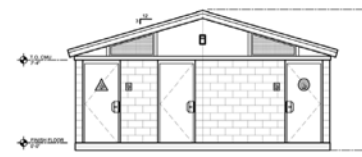


PERSPECTIVE

(FINISHES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

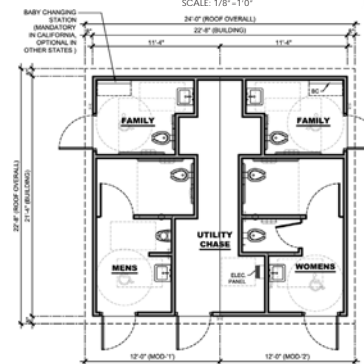
NOTE: DOOR PICTOGRAM (MANDATORY IN CALIFORNIA) OPTIONAL IN OTHER STATES

Typical costs range from \$135,000-\$160,000, example provided by Public Restroom Company for floor plan comparisons only, not as product endorsement; building cladding may differ



ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8"=1'0"



FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'0"

NOTE: STAINLESS FIXTURES



PERSPECTIVE

(FINISHES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

NOTE: DOOR PICTOGRAM (MANDATORY IN CALIFORNIA) OPTIONAL IN OTHER STATES

Typical costs range from \$315,000-\$355,000, example provided by Public Restroom Company for floor plan comparisons only, not as product endorsement; building cladding may differ

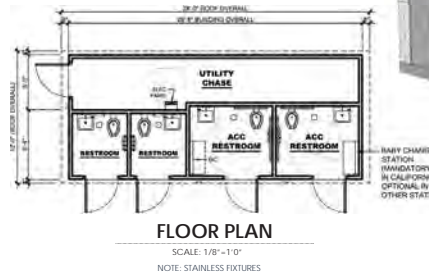
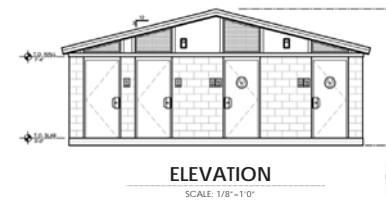
Vault systems could be used if more permanent facilities are used to replace the seasonal porta-potties where they are currently located within the 100 year floodplain. The potential depth of floodwaters cannot exceed the top of the vents, which may limit where these units can be placed in Town Park. Other communities have placed flush toilets within the floodplain with additional floodproofing mechanisms included during construction.

Some communities raise their facility above the floodline, but doing so can make compliance with ADA accessibility standards more challenging and also adversely impact the floodplain and displace flood storage.

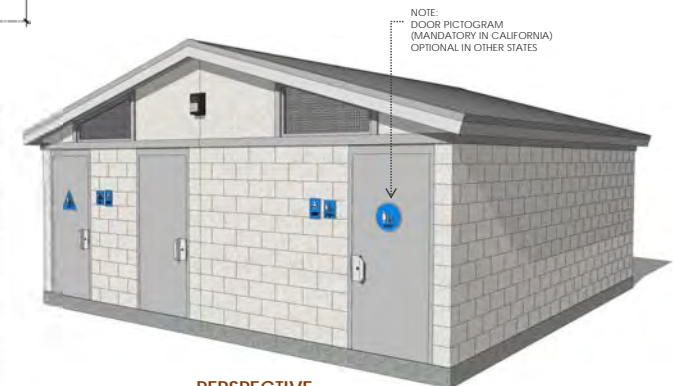
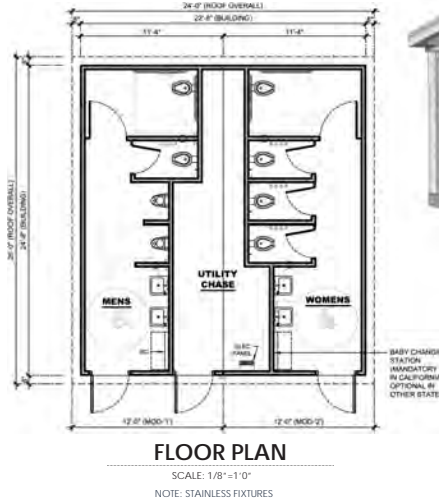
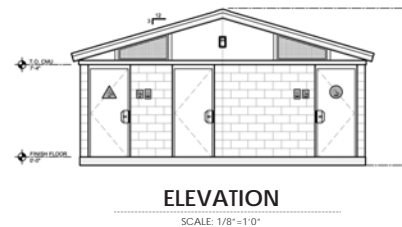
### Budget

For planning purposes, and until a decision is made on the type of unit, the number of stalls, and whether additional smaller facilities are needed to replace porta-potties, a range of costs should be used to estimate the degree of investment required to replace the park's restrooms with fully accessible facilities, potentially with all facilities being gender neutral and family friendly. Budget estimates assume a similarly scaled replacement to the current facility—4 stalls for the women's portion and 2 stalls and 2 urinals for the men's.

Pricing provided by a prefab unit contractor ranges from \$135,000-\$160,000 for a two unit ADA accessible gender neutral structure, delivered and installed. A larger prefab structure, with two family units and two stalls in the women's side and one stall and one urinal in the men's side can range between \$315,000-\$355,000, delivered and installed. Other configurations and other vendors fall within this range or may exceed it, dependent on size, finishes desired and any special features required.



Typical costs range from \$210,000-\$250,000, example provided by Public Restroom Company for floor plan comparisons only, not as product endorsement; building cladding may differ



Typical costs range from \$360,000-\$400,000, example provided by Public Restroom Company for floor plan comparisons only, not as product endorsement; building cladding may differ



## Parking

### Current and Future Unmet Needs

Parks in Strasburg are served by both on- and off-street parking. The downtown parks—Hometown Park and Strasburg Square—are served by on-street parking, with additional off-street parking at Town Hall sometimes available for Strasburg Square. Town Park and the Visitor and Information Center have parking lots within their park.

### Visitor and Information Center

Parking at the Visitor and Information Center is adequate for current activities. Should the Town become more involved with the management of its grounds and program development, consideration of parking demand will need to be incorporated.

### Strasburg Square

Dependent on time of day, additional parking is available at the Town Hall parking lot adjacent to the park. Although not a parking consideration, an evaluation of whether the parking lot could be re striped to provide room for tree plantings between the sidewalk and the parking space should be done. Current design allows for significant encroachment on the sidewalk by the parked cars, limiting the use of the sidewalk for events at the park.

### Town Park

Four separate asphalt paved lots and other informal graveled parking areas provide more than 170 parking spaces. Outside of special events, or when many or all of the park facilities are being used at full capacity, this amount of parking is more than adequate to serve the park.

Peak use conflict times occur on summer weekends, when the athletic fields are in use, the pool is open, the playground is busy, and the park shelters are rented. During these peak use times, park users may have to park farther away and walk into the park. However, the parking demand is not so severe as to justify the construction of additional permanent parking facilities. Overflow parking is occasionally provided for special events or peak use times on level grass areas of the park. Special events are served by a shuttle running between the park and offsite parking lots.

The current distribution of permanent parking lots at Town Park is somewhat problematic, particularly in the area near the diamond ballfields and the



*ADA Accessible parking at Town Park in one of the asphalt paved parking lots, an accessible route is needed to tie parking spaces to park features*



*Gravel paved lot at the boat launch at Town Park*



playground. If the ballfields are in use, the parking lot near the playground is likely to be consumed by that use, leaving little or no parking available for the playground or park shelter users. When that happens, parking spills over to the pool lots, which dependent on the time of year and day of the week may also be experiencing a high demand.

Online survey respondents did raise specific comments regarding parking and the use of the boat launch at Town Park, less as a question of inadequate parking and more of a conflict of users—such as non boaters who use the boat ramp as a ‘beach’ area on the river bank and swimming access point.

Specific comments on parking shortages were not received in response to the online survey. As shown in the table in the Existing Conditions report, should all facilities in the park be fully in use—back to back scheduling for all the athletic fields, the pool in session on a hot weekend afternoon, all the park shelters in use, the boat launch fully parked, and casual users at the playground, Riverwalk, and picnic areas parking demand could exceed 740 parking spaces, or close to 7 acres of the park dedicated solely to parking.

Providing enough parking to fully park all park uses simultaneously is similar to designing a shopping mall’s parking area for Black Friday. The park becomes a parking lot, rather than a place filled with open space and recreational activities. Some of the demand for additional parking can be managed operationally through scheduling and with a designated area for overflow parking. Rather than expanding the paved parking areas, the Town should continue its practice of allowing overflow parking areas in established locations within the park and the provision of shuttle and off-site parking areas for special events.

### Scope

The Master Parks Plan includes an evaluation of the adequacy of existing parking provided for the parks within the Town’s park system. Assessment of parking for all of the parks within the system was completed at a high level. As part of Task 2, Inventory of Parks and Existing Conditions, existing parking at Town Park was documented. Parking demands, using industry standards for each use, was calculated.



*Strasburg Square on the left, the Town Hall parking lot and sidewalk on the right*



*Town Park park shelter with gravel parking and access drive*





## Siting

Parking for all but Town Park appears to be adequate for the current and projected uses. Two of the Town's parks are located in the downtown area, where on-street parking and shared parking with the Town Hall provide parking options for users.

Town Park, although not needing additional parking for normal use of the existing facilities within the park, can benefit from better organization of its existing parking, the potential relocation of the parking lot north of the Community Garden to better serve the playground, the reconfiguration of the boat launch parking area with a future extension of parking to accommodate Riverwalk and riverfront users, and defined overflow parking locations.

## Budget

Surface material selections for new or renovated parking areas will affect the budget, life-cycle, and permeability of the surface.

Unit costs for various paving surfaces vary widely, depending on materials, ground preparation, and labor to install. Gravel or loose stone is generally the least expensive material and pervious pavers the most expensive treatment due to the required drainage standards and undersurface materials, the cost of the pavers themselves, and the time and labor needed to install such by hand. Asphalt and concrete, whether traditional or pervious, fall in the mid-range of costs and generally have a longer life-cycle than most other paving materials. Any pervious surfacing will require at least annual maintenance to ensure that their pores that provide the pervious quality to the material remain unclogged from sand or silt.

### Multimodal Connectivity

#### Current and Future Unmet Needs

The Riverwalk and requests to add to the Town’s trail inventory and connectivity with the surrounding areas topped the responses on several questions in the online survey. This meshes with the responses received in the 2017 survey for the *2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan* in support of hiking and walking trails and the Town of Strasburg’s *Council Goals and Strategies, Discover 2025* document, and the *Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan, 2018*.

The Riverwalk received the highest number of responses, over 140, to the question *Which Strasburg parks, trails, or open spaces do you visit?* and again the highest number of responses to the question *Which park, trail, or open space do you visit the most in Strasburg?* by more than twice that received by the second most popular site—Town Park. Additional survey responses focused on the desire for additional trails, extensions to the Riverwalk, pedestrian bridge crossings of the North Fork, bike trails, hiking trails, and sidewalks.

These responses track with both national surveys and the VOF 2018 report where 47% of the households in the Northern Shenandoah Recreational Planning Region ranked trails as the most needed outdoor recreation opportunities, following only natural areas ranked as the first priority by 61% of households in the region. Similar results were found at the state level, where 43% of the households thought that trails were the most-needed outdoor recreation opportunity, second to natural areas, ranked by 54% of respondents. Sixty-seven percent of respondents at the state level said they walked for pleasure, while 68% of the Northern Shenandoah region said that they did.

Demand for expanded pedestrian paths and trail systems is also indicated by the high school cross country trail system, mowed by Town staff, and the worn down river bank upstream of the boat launch. A clear pedestrian system, that provides an accessible route between park features and ADA accessible parking is needed in Town Park. Survey respondents commented on the challenge of navigating Town Park by foot with the series of split rail fencing used as barriers to keep vehicles off of the grass. The barriers also present challenges to foot traffic.



*High school cross country trail markings for Town Park and areas upstream*



*Town Park riverbank is worn from informal access*





# Master Parks Plan



All of this supports future investment in enhancing the existing trail network and extending the system throughout the Town, with provisions for multimodal accommodations. The interest is there, the resources need to follow.

### Scope

The Master Parks Plan is not a trails or multimodal plan, but it can support and make references to useful connections to and between the Town's parks. Within its parks, in particular the Visitor and Information Center grounds and the Town Park, the Master Parks Plan can address appropriate surfacing and design to ensure that where possible multimodal trails are ADA compliant and accessible to many different users.

What kinds of future connections should be made to the parks within the Strasburg park system, what types of surfacing should be used, and what users should be accommodated are all general guidance for future multimodal connectivity that will be addressed the Master Parks Plan.

### Siting

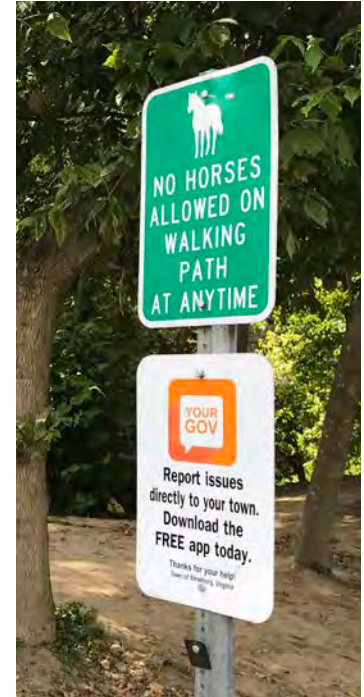
Town Park is home to a portion of the Riverwalk. The Master Parks Plan can speak to potential extensions of the Riverwalk, along additional loops and overlooks along the river. The plan can identify opportunities to provide pedestrian river crossings to connect the Riverwalk with a larger trail network. Survey respondents raised concerns regarding the gravel surface of the Riverwalk, wishing that a more stable surface suitable for strollers and other wheeled vehicles could be employed.

There are opportunities to tie Town Park to downtown Strasburg along Town Run with a multimodal trail. Expansion of and enhancement of the existing trail system at the Visitor and Information Center is another opportunity should the Town continue to have a partnership agreement or other form of land control.

### Budget

Surface material selections for new or renovated parking areas will affect the budget, life-cycle, and permeability of the surface.

Unit costs for various paving surfaces vary widely, depending on materials, ground preparation, and labor to install. Gravel or loose stone is generally the least expensive material and pervious pavers the most expensive



*Worn trail at the Visitor and Information Center on left; who are the allowed multimodal users in image on right - should horses be accommodated on new trails?*



*Consider future expansion to widen concrete sidewalk to better accommodate bicycles and other multimodal users*



The Town of Strasburg

# Master Parks Plan

**IDENTIFY UNMET CURRENT NEEDS and FUTURE NEEDS**

FINAL DRAFT December 2019



treatment due to the required drainage standards and undersurface materials, the cost of the pavers themselves, and the time and labor needed to install such by hand. Asphalt and concrete, whether traditional or pervious, fall in the mid-range of costs and generally have a longer life-cycle than most other paving materials. Any pervious surfacing will require at least annual maintenance to ensure that their pores that provide the pervious quality to the material remain unclogged from sand or silt.



## **3- Priorities (Task 5)**

## Introduction

This task focuses on the identification of and priorities for park improvements and future park acquisitions and their associated development. Additionally, suggestions for ways to reduce long term maintenance costs were requested, as well as other funding sources through grant funding or partnership opportunities. With the identification of priorities, operation expenses must be considered.

## Priorities

Priorities are drawn from multiple sources, including Task 4 Unmet Current and Future Needs, Project Management Team discussions, and the online survey. All are considered in concert with the larger planning framework: The Strasburg, Virginia 2018 Comprehensive Plan and the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018.

### 1. Refresh Town Park

A clear message was delivered during the Kick-off tour and discussion that reinvestment in the existing facilities in Town Park is of the highest priority. Acquired by the Town of Strasburg in 1990 from Recreation, Inc., the Town's long-term goals at the time of acquisition were two-fold:

- The acreage to remain for recreational purposes
- At least one major project per year to be undertaken by the Town; major projects include, but are not limited to: tennis and basketball courts, playground, public boat landing, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball, picnic shelters, etc.

Amazingly, most all of the facilities noted in the 1989<sup>1</sup> long-term goal have been installed, suggesting that other than the pool which predates the agreement, all of the other park facilities are no older than thirty years in Town Park. At the thirty-year mark, it is an appropriate time in the life-cycle of Town Park to look forward and set priorities for facility enhancements and additions.

Online survey responses for the Master Parks Plan support the focus on refreshing Town Park, with requests noted for improved soccer, lacrosse, and baseball fields; refreshed tennis courts; an upgraded dog park; a refreshed and more family friendly pool; accessible and updated playground



*Town Park entry, with sign promoting Skate Park addition*

<sup>1</sup> Fauber, Kevin M., Town Manager. Letter from Town of Strasburg, VA, dated November 27, 1989 to Stockholders of Recreation, Inc.



equipment; and new restrooms, including the replacement of the portable restrooms with more permanent facilities throughout Town Park.

Circulation within the park is very informal, with wooden bridges connecting various areas of the park. This works for some users, but others are unable to access some areas of the park. Reference was made in the online survey to the physical remoteness of the baseball and softball fields from the main area of the park. There is no easy pedestrian path connecting the diamond fields to the permanent restrooms and the parking lots. As with most of the active uses within the park other than the pool, parking is located on the far side of the road from the activity. There are no crosswalks within the park. Any improvements made to Town Park should conform with the 2010 ADA Standards, and in particular the sections related to accessible routes.

## 2. Polish Strasburg Square and Hometown Park

### **Strasburg Square**

Strasburg Square was opened in 2018. It has been a great success and positive addition to downtown. Located at 216 East King Street adjacent to Town Hall, the .44 acre park serves as an entertainment anchor with programming such as Front Porch Fridays Music Series drawing visitors to downtown for events outside of the normal work week hours.

The facility includes a 360-square-foot shade sail-covered stage and an 800-square-foot market pavilion, with roll up glass doors and an outdoor brick patio. The facility offers permanent public restrooms. A mural and interactive Virginia LOVEworks sculpture provide public art, and a beautiful lawn provides free play and picnic areas. Minimal improvements are needed to this new facility, other than implementation of best practices for lawn maintenance, the addition of lighting, shade trees along the east side of Town Run (avoiding the sewer line), and improved stepping stones and riparian plantings within Town Run itself.

### **Hometown Park**

Hometown Park was developed from a plan generated by assistance from Virginia Tech's Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) in conjunction with a Main Street program in 2008. The 0.7 acre pocket park located at 163 King Street in downtown Strasburg, is on a site controlled by the Volunteer Fire Department. The Town has an agreement with the Fire Department for its use. Although unlikely to occur in the near future, the Fire Department does have the right to use the space for its expansion.



*Edge of Strasburg Square along Town Hall parking and Town Run*



The park is a respite, somewhat hidden from the street with mature vegetation. The two tiered structure of the park includes a grassy lawn flanking a small gazebo on the upper level and a plaza with an inset life-sized checker board. Priorities for improvement include better visibility into the park, additional public art, a “volunteer” memorial fountain, picnic tables, and a defined pedestrian connection between the adjoining parking lot and park.

### 3. Distribute Park Resources Throughout the Town

Several different assessments recently completed have recognized that park and open space is not equitably distributed throughout the town. The Town’s Comprehensive Plan suggests several potential sites for future park and open space acquisition or development.

Current guidance from the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018 (VOP) and the Trust for Public Land’s ParkScore® encourages the provision of open space and recreation opportunities to residents within a ten to fifteen minute walking distance. The Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) ParkScore® awards points for access based on the percentage of the population living within a ten minute (half-mile) walk of a public park. In their calculation of the ten minute walking distance, their analysis identifies physical barriers such as highways, train tracks, and rivers without bridges, and chooses routes without barriers. According to the TPL review of Strasburg, VA, 45% of the residents are within a ten-minute walk of a park. Therefore, there are large swaths of Strasburg where TPL argues that additional parks are needed most, as shown in the diagram generated by TPL on the right.

TPL’s analysis has suggested two priority locations for future parks in the Town of Strasburg, based on the location’s ability to best increase the number of residents served within a ten-minute walk of a park. The circle shown on the graphic to the right that illustrates a 1/4 mile radius.

The Town currently leases the 17-acre Visitor’s and Information Center at the northern end of Town. Drawing about 7,000 visitors annually, the property includes walking trails, picnic tables, Hupp’s Hill Museum curated by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation, public restrooms, and a gift shop. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week from 9 AM to 5 PM. Should this property become available, through a long-term lease, donation, or purchase, it would provide a needed recreation and open space in the northern part of Town.

*These three screen shots, from the Trust for Public Lands’ website, illustrate their ParkScore® results for the Town of Strasburg: top right - graphic indicating current proximity to parks; middle - current park locations; bottom - proposed location for two new park sites*

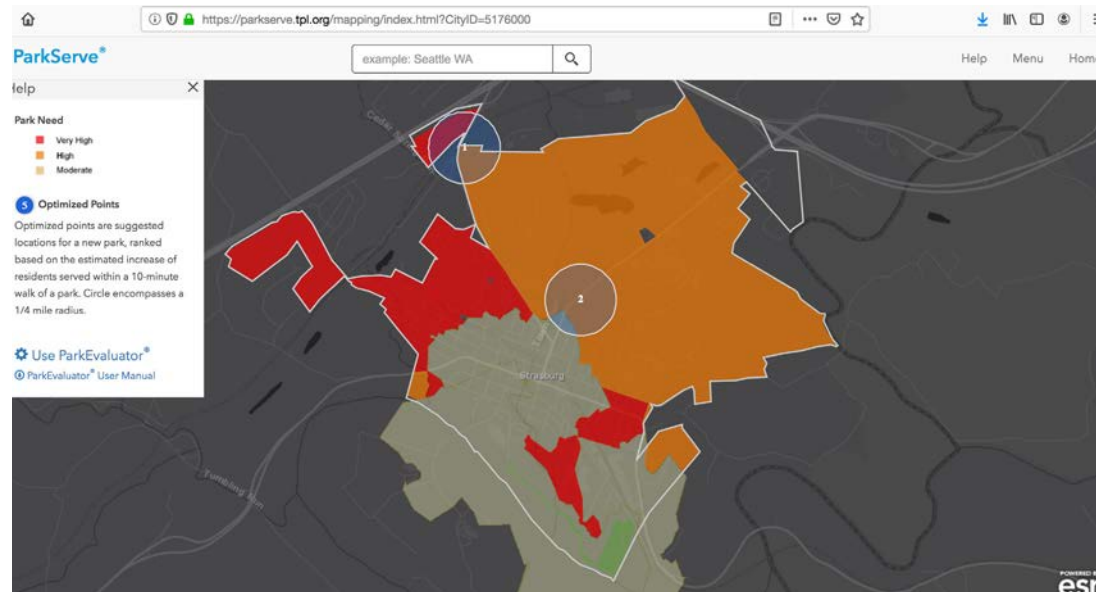


## Where in Strasburg are parks needed most?

### Strasburg has 3 parks

We’ve mapped park access in 14,000 cities and towns across the country. Our free mapping platform helps you pinpoint where to focus park investments in your city.

[EXPLORE THE MAP](#)





The Town of Strasburg must look for opportunities to acquire property or public access easements to create and expand open space and recreation resources in areas of the Town that are currently poorly served by the existing parks system. In addition to the areas currently slated for parks and opens space in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, the town should look for acquisition opportunities in the following general areas:

- north of East Queen Street, east of Route 11/Massanutten Street, and south of the transmission line easment
- northeast of the Visitor Center and west of Route 11/Massanutten Street
- west of Capon Street and northwest of Route 11/Massanutten Street
- southern point of the Golden Triangle area (2018 Comp. Plan), generally northeast of John Marshall Highway and northwest of Route 11/Massanutten Street

#### 4. Expand Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity

Circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non vehicular users received many responses in the Master Parks Plan online survey, with the highest number of survey respondents saying the Riverwalk was the park they most visited. Many respondents suggested extending the Riverwalk towards the Holliday Bridge and adding pedestrian crossing(s) over the North Fork to connect to other trail systems in the area. When the Project Management Team was asked to note priorities on a dot sheet exercise, linking a multi-use trail that connected the North Fork of the Shenandoah with the downtown/stream restoration efforts received support from all respondents.

#### Implementation of Priorities

The Master Parks Plan inventories the Town of Strasburg's existing park facilities and reviews proposed additions and trail network connections. Further exploration through the public online survey, discussions with the Project Management and Project Engagement Teams, Town staff, and research on national and statewide metrics helped to identify and then rank priorities for each of the Town's parks and potential future expansions.

#### Compilation of Recommended Actions

The individual park priority actions were combined into an overall action list, broken into three categories:

- Maintenance
- Installation
- Feasibility Studies (covers potential acquisition) and RFP's



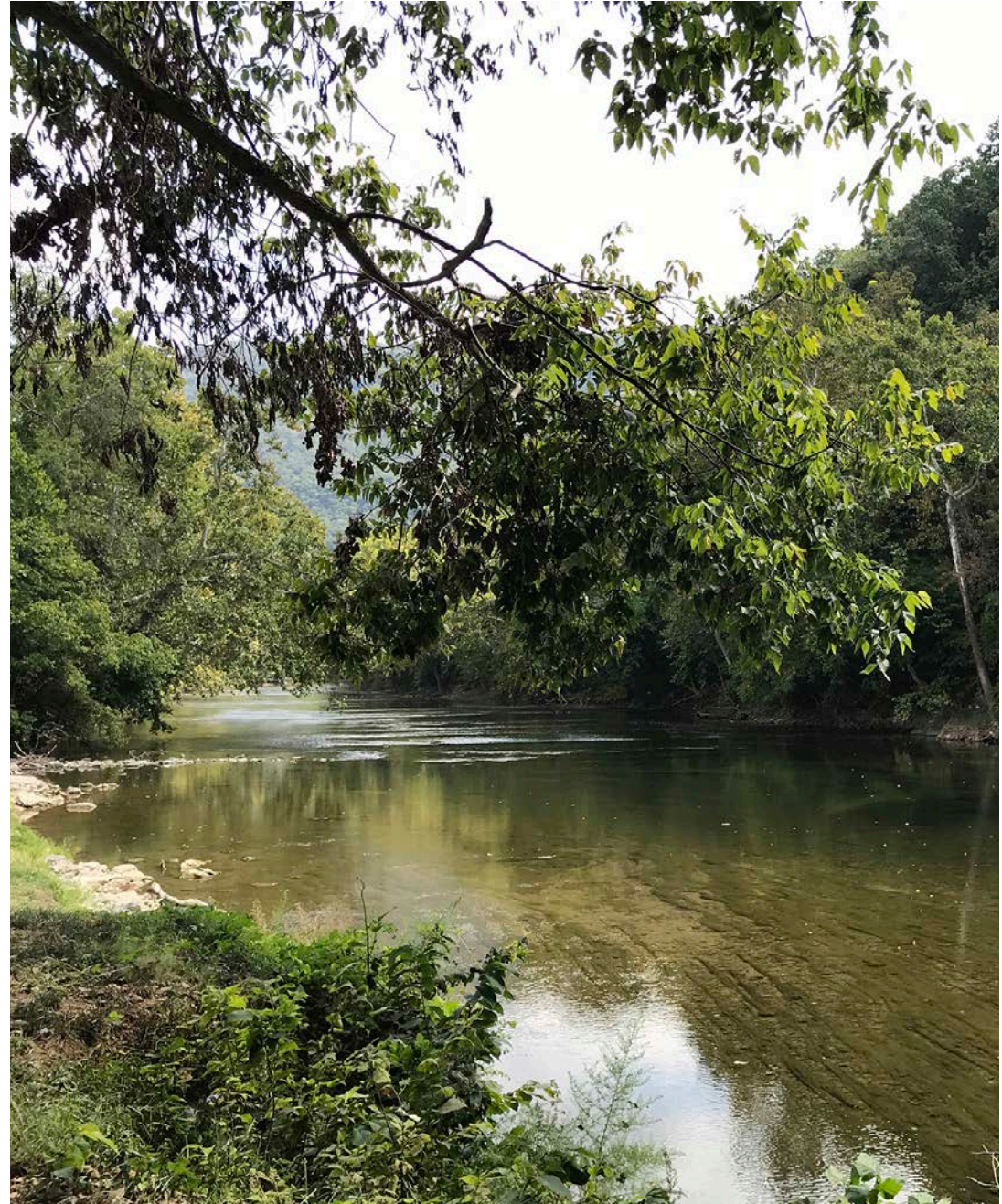
*Town residents expressed strong desire to extend Riverwalk and increase connectivity*



These recommended actions address long-term maintenance concerns; the interest in refreshing existing facilities and adding new; the need to be sensitive to budget constraints; and a recognition that alternative means beyond direct Town funding are needed to achieve these recommendations.

### **Recommendations by Location**

Recommendations are included for each of the Town's parks, based upon the assessment and supporting research. Each recommended action is placed within a proposed implementation phasing program, covering a fifteen-year period and broken into three five-year increments. While helpful in understanding the overall needs and desires for each park, the actions likely exceed the Town's funding capacity, even when supplemented with grant applications and potential public/private partnerships.



*North Fork of the Shenandoah River at Town Park*





# Master Parks Plan



## Refresh Town Park

Town Park is a superb resource for the community, located on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, with a view of Signal Knob in the distance. Located on three adjacent town-owned parcels, the area totals approximately 100 acres in size. Removing the water and wastewater treatment plants' locations yields approximately 80 acres for active recreation and open space use. Most of the current Town Park improvements, other than the Riverwalk and a rectangular soccer/lacrosse field, are located on the eastern parcel, approximately 21 acres in size. This area of the park is home to the Town Pool; Signal Knob playground; community garden; dog park; park shelters; basketball courts, tennis courts and a sand volleyball court; rectangular and diamond athletic fields; and a public boat launch. A skate park has been proposed as an addition to Town Park for a number of years. The Riverwalk, a popular walking trail along the North Fork begins at the boat launch in Town Park.

The park is somewhat limited in what it can offer due to the extensive area located within the 100-year floodplain. Although the location within the floodplain can limit intense infrastructure investment due to regulations, policy, and additional costs required, there are many recreational uses that can take advantage of the space and the riverfront access.

More intensive infrastructure investments to date have been made outside of the 100-year floodplain—the Town Pool, playground, restrooms and court sports. All but two of the park shelters are located within the 500-year floodplain (0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard FEMA).

Unlike other nearby community park settings, there is the potential to extend and enhance the park through trail connections to downtown and along and across the river.

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by High Priority</b>			
Path improvements	8		
Riverwalk Improvements - Expand east and west of town, mile markers, wayfinding, Town Run connection, benches	5		
Playground improvements	4		1
Stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, riparian plantings	4	1	
Parking improvements	3		1
Public boat landing improvements - Boardwalk	2		2
Restroom improvements	1	2	2
Skate park	1	1	
Pool improvements - Improve existing pool	1	1	
Public boat landing improvements - Fishing pier	1		2
Landscape Improvements - Tree and shrub planting	1	1	5

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by High Priority</b>			
Pool improvements - Improve existing pool	2	1	
Parking improvements	2		
Dog Park Improvements - Fence, ADA accessibility, new signs, water connection, hill with tunnel for small slide and large slide	2		1
Path improvements	1	1	
Riverwalk Improvements - Expand east and west of town, mile markers, wayfinding, Town Run connection, benches	1		1
Playground improvements	1	1	1
Stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, riparian plantings	1		1
Restroom improvements	1		
Skate park	1	1	
Athletic Fields Improvements - ADA accessibility	1		2
Athletic Fields Improvements - Concessions, seating	1		
Park Shelter Improvements - ADA accessibility, ADA picnic tables	1	1	

*Results of a priority exercise using three colored dots to indicate highest priority actions for Town Park, upper table with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019, lower table with SRPT; blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups*



# Master Parks Plan



Priorities for refreshing and enhancing Town Park are derived from the Town of Strasburg’s online survey results, discussions with the Project Management Team and Project Engagement Teams for the Master Parks Plan, staff, and state and national metrics comparing the provision and type of services with similarly sized communities.

The highest priority, across all query techniques and state and national metrics, is to improve and expand multimodal (walking, biking) paths in Town Park and throughout the community, including the Riverwalk. This finding ties to the 2017 survey results from the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018 update. In that document, under the category of most-needed outdoor recreation opportunities for the Northern Shenandoah Recreational Planning Region, trails were noted as the second highest ranking priority, second to natural areas. Statewide, trails ranked third. Sixty-eight percent of the household respondents in the Northern Shenandoah Recreational Planning Region indicated that walking for pleasure ranked second, only behind visiting natural areas. Statewide, walking ranked third, behind visiting natural areas and driving for pleasure. Clearly, improving circulation within Town Park and connectivity within the Town’s park system is the number one priority.

The Town Park playground was mentioned by many online survey respondents in the Master Parks Plan survey completed from late August to October 31, 2019. It also ranked as a high priority among the Project Management Team’s priority setting. Concerns ranged from needing to update equipment, make the facility accessible, maintenance or replacement of safety surface materials, conformance with current safety standards for equipment, and a desire for shade within the playground.

Similar support was shown for enhancing the natural attributes of Town Park, particularly its location on the North Fork and the Runs that cut through the park. Much support was indicated in the priority exercise conducted with the Project Management Team on October 2, 2019 for stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, and riparian plantings. Parking improvements

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by Mid Priority</b>			
Pool improvements - New aquatic center		5	1
Dog Park improvements - New location		3	1
Restroom improvements	1	2	2
Concessions, seating		2	
Skate park	1	1	
Utilities/Amenities improvements		1	
Baseball		1	1
Softball		1	1
Pool improvements - Improve existing pool	1	1	
Stormwater Management improvements - Stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, riparian plantings	4	1	
Landscape Improvements -Tree and shrub planting	1	1	5

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by Mid Priority</b>			
Pool improvements - Improve existing pool	2	1	
Path improvements	1	1	
Playground improvements	1	1	1
Skate park	1	1	
Park Shelter Improvements - ADA accessibility, ADA picnic tables	1	1	
Landscape Improvements - Tree and shrub planting		1	1
Utilities/Amenities Improvements		1	
Court Sports Improvements - ADA accessibility		1	
Court Sports Improvements - Volleyball		1	
New Aquatic Center		1	
Public Boat Landing Improvements - ADA accessibility		1	
New park shelter(s)		1	

*Results of a priority exercise using three colored dots to indicate mid priority actions for Town Park, upper table with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019, lower table with SRPT; blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups*





# Master Parks Plan



were also noted as being of high priority, although by half as many dot responders as those who ranked path improvements as a high priority.

Shifting to what was ranked as a mid priority by the Project Management Team, a different cluster of focus appears. A new aquatic center was ranked as the highest dot cluster under mid priorities. Others indicated relocating the dog park to a new location was a mid priority (location suggestions were not provided).

The tables expressing low priorities or no priority as ranked by the Project Management Team perhaps can be interpreted as indicating areas that can be assumed to be part and parcel of other improvements such as the inclusion of ADA accessibility in athletic facilities, courts, dog park, boat landing, and park shelter. It in and of itself is not the priority, but is assumed that such will be addressed whenever that facility is enhanced or improved.

## Implementation Priorities and Phasing for Town Park Existing Facilities

- **Upgrade Riverwalk** within Town Park by replacing gravel with ADA accessible asphalt paving surface and **extend pedestrian circulation throughout Town Park**
- Reconfigure split rail safety fencing within Town Park to better coordinate with **pedestrian access**; consider alternatives to fencing such as shrubs or boulders
- **Upgrade and improve playground**
- **Add riparian planting and conservation landscaping** throughout Town Park
- **Reduce overall maintenance** by reducing mowing areas
- Allow areas along **river front to return to riparian vegetation** with support from grant funding and expertise from Virginia Department of Forestry and others
- **Upgrade Town Pool** site amenities and baby pool
- **Improve ADA accessible parking**, parking locations, and overflow parking options
- **Replace or renovate existing permanent restroom** with ADA accessible features and a publicly visible, reoriented entry
- Maintain **current inventory of park shelters**

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by Low Priority</b>			
Landscape Improvements - Tree and shrub planting	1	1	5
Public boat landing improvements - Boardwalk	2		2
Public boat landing improvements - Fishing pier	1		2
Public boat landing improvements - Improve parking area			2
Restroom improvements	1	2	2
Athletic improvements - Soccer			1
Athletic improvements - Baseball		1	1
Athletic improvements - Softball		1	1
Court Sport improvements - Volleyball			1
Dog Park improvements - New location		3	1
Pool improvements - New aquatic center		5	1
Riverwalk improvements - Exercise stations			1

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by Low Priority</b>			
Dog Park Improvements - Fence, ADA accessibility, new signs, water connection, hill with tunnel for small slide and large slide	2		1
Riverwalk Improvements - Expand east and west of town, mile markers, wayfinding, Town Run connection, benches	1		1
Playground improvements	1	1	1
Stormwater Management Improvements - stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, riparian plantings	1		1
Athletic Fields Improvements - ADA accessibility	1		2
Landscape Improvements - Tree and shrub planting		1	1
Community Garden Improvements - Add accessible route, add water connection			2
Improve parking area (better design for efficiency, delineate spaces, ADA accessibility, proximity to features, pervious paving, shade trees)			2

Results of a priority exercise using three colored dots to indicate low priority actions for Town Park, upper table with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019, lower table with SRPT; blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups



# Master Parks Plan



- Add a **second boat launch ramp or soft landing, slightly upstream of existing ramp** to reduce conflict and pressure at existing ramp
- Make **minor improvements to the rectangular fields and improve the diamond fields** while looking for a more suitable site to deeply invest in the supporting infrastructure necessary for tournament play quality athletic fields
- **Retain court sports and add lighting where possible**
- Consider **possible relocation of some or all courts within Town Park**
- **Retain fenced dog park in current location short-term**, evaluate if alternative site will better serve needs in long-term such as location north of water treatment plant
- **Showcase the bountiful community garden** and provide garden plots and education for interested residents
- **Preserve open lawn areas** throughout Town Park for multiple uses

## New Facilities

- Add **skate plaza** for and other wheeled activities for all ages
- Add **exercise and fitness equipment** suitable for use by all ages, potential locations include along the Riverwalk or playground or skate park
- Add additional **family and individual picnic areas** along the river and within the park
- Retain open undefined **space for events and special uses** (precludes installation of bleachers, tables, etc. that could block such use)
- Add a **disc golf course** along the Riverwalk and river frontage to add semi-structured recreation opportunities for tweens to adults in conjunction and coordinated with a reforestation effort of that area
- Add small water feature to Town Park near the playground if such is not feasible to add to baby pool area within current Town Pool fence line

How can all of these priorities be accomplished given staffing and funding limitations? The tables that follow outline a choreography of potential improvements to Town Park over the next fifteen years. The phasing is broken into three time periods, each in five-year increments. Those shaded in green are existing facilities and those shaded in blue are new features to be added to Town Park.

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team - non ranked priority items from master list of options	Non-Ranked Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
Action			
Athletic improvements - ADA accessibility			
Court Sport improvements - ADA accessibility			
Court Sport improvements - Tennis courts (resurface/pickle ball)			
Court Sport improvements - Basketball (resurface)			
Community Garden improvements - Add accessible route/water			
Dog Park improvements - Fence, ADA, signs, water, hill			
Public boat landing improvements - ADA accessibility			
Riverwalk improvements - Accessibility			
Riverwalk improvements - Emergency call stations			
Park Shelter Improvements - ADA accessibility, furniture			
Park Shelter Improvements - New park shelters			

Town Park Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT) - non ranked priority items from master list of options	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions - ranked by Mid Priority</b>			
Accessibility			
Athletic Fields Improvements - Soccer			
Athletic Fields Improvements - Baseball			
Athletic Fields Improvements - Softball			
Court Sports Improvements - Tennis courts			
Court Sports Improvements - Basketball courts			
Dog Park - new location			
Exercise stations			
Emergency call boxes			
Public boat landing improvements - Fishing pier			

*Results of a priority exercise using three colored dots to indicate no priority actions for Town Park, upper table with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019, lower table with SRPT; blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups*





# Master Parks Plan



## Riverwalk and Paths within Town Park

- **Upgrade Riverwalk** within Town Park by replacing gravel with ADA accessible asphalt paving surface and **extend pedestrian circulation throughout Town Park**
- Reconfigure split rail safety fencing within Town Park to better coordinate with **pedestrian access**; consider alternatives to fencing such as shrubs or boulders

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Improve and expand the Riverwalk and pedestrian/ bicycle/multimodal trail circulation within Town Park</b></p> <p><i>Begin your walk along the Strasburg Riverwalk at the Strasburg Town Park. The gravel walkway, located along the Shenandoah River, offers beautiful views of the river and the face of the Massanutten Mountain Range called Signal Knob. The .9 mile walk ends at Strasburg High School (Ram Drive) and three benches and three doggie clean-up stations are located along the walk. [from Town website]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new paths shall ensure that each feature is accessible by an ADA accessible and barrier free route</li> <li>• Add crosswalks to Park Road near playground and near pool</li> <li>• Create a natural trail surface trail along the river, creating a looped trail in conjunction with the current Riverwalk alignment</li> <li>• Reconfigure fencing and other barriers to allow 'straight paths and clear pedestrian connections' between park features</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop segment(s) to use Town Run alignment to connect multi-modal path linking downtown to Riverwalk (use Town-owned parcels and public R.O.W. for path alignment) and in conjunction with skate dots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct paved sidewalks on west side of Park Road, linking ADA paths to features, parking, and the Riverwalk</li> <li>• Consider phasing sidewalk improvements with Park Road lighting</li> <li>• Install mile markers along paved Riverwalk</li> <li>• Create loop path system connecting park features with path segment starting at the parking lot north of the playground and following the stream along the west side of the parcel</li> <li>• When loop path system constructed, connect to existing parking lot (boat launch lot); surface could initially be gravel with surface material changed in years to come</li> <li>• If the loop path system is to be used in conjunction with skate dots, it will need to be paved at that time</li> <li>• Consider paving all or segments of current Riverwalk within Town Park with asphalt to improve access for wheeled vehicles such as strollers, wheelchairs, skate boards, bikes</li> </ul>



# Master Parks Plan



## Playground

- Upgrade and improve playground

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Upgrade and refresh the playground last updated in 2008 with accessible equipment and features, new or refreshed safety surfacing, and accessible paths connecting it to the restrooms and parking areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain playground at current location</li> <li>• Sign accessible parking and provide accessible route at playground parking lot (<i>ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Chapter 4: Accessible Routes</i>)</li> <li>• Assess facility with NRPA Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and maintain playground equipment to meet current standards (<i>ASTM F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use and ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Chapter 10: Recreation Facilities, section 1008 Play Areas</i>)</li> <li>• Replace existing swing bays (5-12- year-olds) with system that accommodates inclusive swing(s)</li> <li>• Plant shade trees on south side of playground</li> <li>• Add picnic tables (including an ADA accessible table)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign and replace existing playground equipment with inclusive, nature-inspired play equipment (Robinia or similar wood structures); include equipment for 2-5-year-olds, 5-12-year-olds, and adults (install in full if funding is available, if not install over ten years)</li> <li>• Incorporate public art</li> <li>• Refresh existing surfacing or install new playground surfacing to meet current safety and accessibility standards (<i>ASTM F1951 Specification for Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment, and ASTM F2223 Standards on Playground Surfacing</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install an accessible route and a barrier between the new parking lot to the north (where First Bank shelter was) and the playground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If population growth warrants, add additional playground: potential locations include area at Visitor's Center; new neighborhood in northern area of town; parcel northeast of water treatment plant and south of Massanutten Street</li> </ul>





# Master Parks Plan



Stormwater Management Best Practices: stream restoration, conservation landscaping rain gardens, riparian plantings

- Add riparian planting and conservation landscaping throughout Town Park
- Reduce overall maintenance by reducing mowing areas
- Allow areas along river front to return to riparian vegetation with support from grant funding and expertise from Virginia Department of Forestry and others

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Reduce long-term maintenance costs by replacing some mowed areas with riparian vegetation and better manage existing ditch lines with conservation landscaping techniques</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain open drainage from Kiwanis park shelter south, toward the North Fork outfall</li> <li>• Revegetate ditches, runs, and river bank with riparian and other appropriate plantings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underground a short segment of the existing drainage ditch between the park plant entrance near the sewer plant to protect immediately adjacent utility pipes</li> </ul>		

Town Pool/new Aquatic Center

- Upgrade Town Pool site amenities and baby pool

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Continued operation of the Town Pool in its current location for the upcoming fifteen years, with refreshed amenities and expanded baby pool/splash pad feature, while simultaneously completing a feasibility study as to whether the pool (around 2035) should be rebuilt in place or moved and expanded in a new location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that ADA accessible route to pool is in compliance (<i>ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Chapter 4: Accessible Routes (smooth transition from parking asphalt to concrete path)</i>)</li> <li>• Dechlorinate pool water before allowing water to enter drainage ditch</li> <li>• Paint mural on west facade of pool house, similar to those on King Street</li> <li>• Add new deck furniture in the surrounding grassy areas within fence (Adirondack chairs, picnic tables with umbrellas, etc.)</li> <li>• Add shade within fenced area - plant trees or add shade umbrellas - do not obstruct scenic views to Signal Knob with tree plantings</li> <li>• Initiate feasibility/RFP for renovation of baby pool area to incorporate splash pad/sprayground, or beach access to main pool, upgrade deck area, pool filters, and other features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign and install new baby pool in general location of current baby pool; ensure that pool filtration and aeration system is up to current standards; consider “beach entry,” where the slope from deck to the water is a gently sloping transition and/or splash pad incorporated within redesign</li> <li>• Repair/replace furnishings, as needed</li> <li>• Initiate feasibility study for Aquatic Center</li> <li>• Resurface pool deck if needed</li> <li>• Resurface pool and fix tiles (last resurfaced 2007)</li> <li>• Install new fencing around pool perimeter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate condition of shade structures and pool furniture; replace if needed</li> <li>• If Aquatic Center is found to be feasible, initiate design phase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Aquatic Center developed elsewhere, and outdoor pool not retained, existing pool site should be reevaluated for use based on demographics and needs (new uses could range from park plaza with formal food truck parking or concession stand, public art, gathering space, new park shelter, etc.) that take advantage the amazing views and site characteristics of this location</li> </ul>



## Parking and Vehicular Circulation

- Improve ADA accessible parking, parking locations, and overflow parking options

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Improve ADA accessible parking, parking distribution within the park, and formalize overflow parking locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all parking lots accommodate ADA parking, access aisles, and accessible routes (<i>If the lot has 1-25 spaces, at least one ADA space is required at minimum; at least one space is required to be van accessible; if 26-50 spaces, at least two ADA spaces are required at a minimum; at least one space is required to be van accessible</i>)</li> <li>• Formalize overflow parking areas</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate 40-space parking lot north of the community garden, to location of First Bank shelter; include landscape islands, rain gardens (bioretention), and consider pervious paving options</li> <li>• If basketball, volleyball and tennis courts are relocated, opportunities for permanent or overflow parking in this area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install parking lot south of water treatment plant, parallel with Riverwalk (north of Riverwalk) - <b>WHAT IS THE SENSE OF LONG TERM PARKING ADDITION - access is the issue</b></li> </ul>
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Realign the offset park entrance intersection</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If additional park land is acquired west of existing entry, relocate current entry drive to align with north side of the Queen Street intersection (railroad crossing)</li> <li>• Install street lights along the stretch of Park Road without lighting (currently +/- 9 lights from the park entrance to the pool); lighting to cover the entire road to the boat launch parking lot; consider phasing with sidewalk installation along Park Road</li> </ul>	

## Restrooms and Portable Restrooms

- Replace or renovate existing permanent restroom with ADA accessible features and a publicly visible, reoriented entry

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Provide ADA accessible permanent restrooms in Town Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double check that current distribution of portable restrooms is appropriate, and that each facility is in good repair</li> <li>• Determine whether it is more fiscally responsible to renovate or replace the existing restrooms to develop a facility that is ADA accessible and open year-round with visible entrance for safety purposes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install ADA accessible drinking fountain with pet fountain at the base</li> <li>• Provide lighting at restroom entrance and along ADA path to restroom</li> <li>• Renovate or replace permanent restrooms</li> <li>• Consider replacing some or all of the portable restrooms with vault or compost toilet facilities that do not require provision of sewer/water/or septic services</li> </ul>		





## Park Shelters

- Maintain current inventory of park shelters

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Maintain current number of park shelters for groups and single table use</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Town Park park shelters are ADA accessible, meeting accessible route requirements (<i>ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Chapter 4: Accessible Routes</i>) and picnic table requirements (provide at least 20% of the tables in accessible format or at least two, if less than 20 total)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When single table shelters require repair or replacement, pull Shelter #6 back from center of picnic area and located along perimeter, leaving central area open for free play on open grassy lawn; avoid areas that experience frequent flooding from stream or drainageways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If and when Park Shelters #3 and #4 require replacement, assess rental use records to determine if replacement should be a similarly-sized shelter or two smaller shelters</li> <li>Relocate First Bank Park Shelter, #2 in a designated picnic area or in conjunction with volleyball court on either side of Town Pool</li> </ul>	

## Public Boat Launch and Landing

- Add a second boat launch ramp or soft landing, slightly upstream of existing ramp to reduce conflict and pressure at existing ramp

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Reduce conflict between casual users and boaters by adding second launch ramp or soft landing and picnic area slightly upstream of existing ramp</b></p> <p><i>The North Fork of the Shenandoah River is easily accessed at the Strasburg Town Park. A boat landing and gravel parking lot are available for people wanting to float the river on kayaks, tubes, or canoes, and very shallow drafting aluminum boats. This is a great area to float to from the Deer Rapids access point, approximately five miles upstream. If floating downstream, please be cautious of a dangerous dam about five miles from the Strasburg Town Park. For your convenience, port-a-potties are available at the parking lot. [Town of Strasburg website]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide signed ADA parking</li> <li>Add signage explaining (graphically) boat landing protocols and use for trailers only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add second ramp, or soft landing, slightly upstream from existing ramp for hand carried watercraft</li> <li>Separate the boaters from the swimmers - improve parking area to better identify vehicle only areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop accessible overlook/ fishing pier with successful grant application and partnership with VDGIF; North Fork; VDOF</li> <li>Create additional river access points for hand carried boats and individuals upstream of current launch (separate swimmers and hand carries from vehicles and trailers)</li> </ul>	



# Master Parks Plan



## Athletic Fields

- Make minor improvements to the rectangular fields and improve the diamond fields while looking for a more suitable site to deeply invest in the supporting infrastructure necessary for tournament play quality athletic fields

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>In the short-term, invest in maintenance of existing rectangular fields located within the 100-year floodplain</b></p> <p><i>Rectangular fields are located within the 100-year floodplain at an elevation that is not supportive of significant infrastructure investment (turf, lights, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>Diamond fields, although outside of the 100-year floodplain, are not well served by parking or other park facilities and have limited room to expand</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain both rectangular and diamond fields at their current location at Town Park</li> <li>• Regrade and reshape two full size rectangular fields to enhance playing surface</li> <li>• Regrade and reshape practice diamond field to extend 300 feet to fence line (versatile use with moveable outfield fences)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add more metal bleachers/benches to diamond fields; consider adding lights and other support equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish full athletic field complex elsewhere, where space is adequate to provide field quantity for tournament play for diamond and rectangular fields, shared concession facilities, park shelters, restrooms, press box, seating, parking</li> <li>• Rectangular field space at Town Park can revert to open play, informal pick up game space, and event grounds</li> <li>• Diamond field space could be site for new Aquatic Facility or other use, evaluate usage and consider retention for youth sport activities (not tournament play)</li> </ul>	





# Master Parks Plan



## Court Sports: Tennis, Basketball, Sand Volleyball

- Retain court sports and add lighting where possible
- Consider possible relocation of some or all courts within Town Park

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Retain and upgrade existing tennis courts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain courts at current location in Town Park</li> <li>• Resurface and reline courts for tennis and pickle ball</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should additional land adjacent to Town Park be acquired near park entry, relocate tennis/pickle ball courts to this parcel and include court lighting</li> </ul>	
	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Relocate basketball courts to area adjacent to new skate plaza</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain courts at current location</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move basketball courts to former parking lot adjacent to Moose Lodge Park Shelter #1; add lights and place in conjunction with skate plaza</li> </ul>	
	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Relocate or remove sand volleyball court from Town Park</b>  Volleyball courts located in hidden area of Town Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove court from Town Park due to lack of use; use vacated area for overflow parking</li> <li>• Relocate court to knoll adjacent to Town Pool in conjunction with relocated shelter (mid-term)</li> </ul>			

## Dog Park

- Retain fenced dog park in current location short-term, evaluate if alternative site will better serve needs in long-term

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Confirm that current location of dog park is most appropriate and that it can be provided needed services such as fencing and potable water can be provided; if not, consider other locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize design and install signage</li> <li>• Fix gate hardware</li> <li>• Retain current location in Town Park</li> <li>• Aerate, dethatch, and seed grass surface to prevent compaction (continuing maintenance)</li> <li>• Review alternative sites that could more easily provide support services necessary (parking, water)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new, durable metal fencing</li> <li>• Install water line if move is not determined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If move is determined to be best - look to additional land, if acquired, near park entry, relocate dog park to this parcel; or reconfigure dog park following movement of courts and parking lot</li> </ul>	



### Community Garden

- Showcase the bountiful community garden and provide garden plots and education for interested residents

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  Confirm that current location of community garden is most appropriate and that services such as fencing and potable water can be provided; if not, consider other locations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide potable water source to gardens OR relocate the community garden on the opposite, west side of Park Road for closer access to water and for enjoyment by those using the picnic facilities; Include ADA accessible path and raised planters; incorporate native, riparian plant garden along the stream east/south of the picnic area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install garden fence with ornamental, painted aluminum posts (non-chain link) or public art fence</li> </ul>

### Open Lawn Area

- Preserve open lawn areas throughout Town Park for multiple uses

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  Open, undefined space is to be cherished and protected for free unstructured play, ephemeral events, a healthy park, and overflow parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use open lawn areas for unstructured play, temporary events, and overflow parking</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use open space area southeast of public works facilities as event space (Phase in after construction of new park road and parking lot installation)</li> </ul>	





## New Additions to Town Park

Through online survey responses and discussions with the Project Management Team and Project Engagement Team for the Parks Master Plan and Town Staff, several facilities have been proposed for installation or for consideration within Town Park.

### Skate Plaza

- Add skate plaza and other wheeled activities for all ages

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>A long promised addition to Town Park, private fundraising is underway to support its development with current plans to locate it in Town Park</b></p> <p><i>In November of 2014, the Strasburg Town Council voted to allow that skatepark to be in a specific location in the town's "river" park, but it has since been suggested that precise location may not be optimal. [source?]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and construct sculptural skate plaza at park entry, incorporate skatable features, benches, landscaping, and public art for enjoyment by all park users and human powered wheeled vehicles (scooters, bikes, wheelchairs, etc.)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the skate dots idea extends the skate plaza concept, install dots in conjunction with paved multimodal route (new path, or resurfaced existing path)</li> </ul>	

### Fitness Station (for all ages, including adults)

- Add exercise and fitness equipment suitable for use by all ages

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<p><b>Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Provide a fitness court or station with equipment and activities that appeal to all ages</b></p> <p><i>One example of a fitness court is a 32- by 35-square-foot court is made of 30 pieces of weather-resistant equipment divided into seven stations</i></p> <p><i>At each station, users can focus on one area — core, squatting, pushing, lunging, pulling, agility and bending — by performing such body-weight exercises as box jumps, lunges or sit-ups. (A full circuit takes about seven minutes.)</i></p> <p><a href="https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/">https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for grant to install Fitness Station(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install Fitness Station in Town Park near parking lot at Community Garden (recognizing later stage installation of basketball court and skate plaza)</li> </ul>		



# Master Parks Plan



## Individual Picnic Areas

- Add additional family and individual picnic areas along the river and within the park

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Addition of individual picnic tables throughout Town Park for impromptu use (not shelters)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install picnic tables and grills (with footers able to withstand flooding) in <b>designated picnic areas along the river bank, Riverwalk, and near the boat launch</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install picnic tables at Visitor Center</li> </ul>		

## Event Space

- Retain open undefined space for events and special uses (precludes installation of bleachers, tables, etc. that could block such use)

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Continue with informal use of rectangular field area for special events</b>  <b>Long-term, replace fields and pool use with formal support infrastructure for special events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to use the area between the river and the pool for special events</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If and when an athletic complex is created off site, elsewhere in Town, and/or the Aquatic Center is relocated, add infrastructure such as large pavilion with outdoor kitchen and power, restrooms, and other support facilities in support of a large event space at former location of rectangular fields</li> </ul>

## Disc Golf

- Add a disc golf course along the Riverwalk and river frontage to add semi-structured recreation opportunities for tweens to adults

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2025-2030	Long term - 2030-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Addition of recreational activities at Town Park that appeal to tweens to adults</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add disc golf course to area along the Riverwalk west and upstream of the rectangular fields in coordination with new riparian plantings and field management in the same area</li> </ul>			

## Splash Pad/Spray Park

- Add small water feature to Town Park near the playground if such is not feasible to add to baby pool area within Town Pool fence line

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
<b>Strategy</b>  <b>Locate a splash pad or spray park in Town Park if the location at Town Pool is not feasible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If assessment to locate this feature at the Town Pool proves non viable; consider location at existing playground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install splash pad/spray park</li> </ul>		





# Master Parks Plan



## Polish Strasburg Square and Hometown Park

Strasburg Square and Hometown Park are both relatively small downtown urban parks. Minor enhancements are advised for the newly opened Strasburg Square. More robust renovations are recommended for Hometown Park.

Each serves an important role in attracting visitors and residents to Strasburg’s historic downtown core, and offer programming opportunities and respite space to encourage all to extend their stay in the Town’s downtown. For this reason, these parks serve important visitor service and economic development purposes as much as providing park and open space.

Responses from the Project Management Team for ranked priorities at Strasburg Square, illustrated in the table on this page, indicate a high priority for adding pedestrian lighting along the Town Run pedestrian walkway. Stream restoration for Town Run received support as a mid-level priority, similar to the support for shade trees along Town Run.

Responses from the Project Management Team for ranked priorities at Hometown Park, illustrated in the table on this page, indicate no interest in immediate changes at the park, and some support for the addition of public art. However, given the age of Hometown Park, and that this Master Parks Plan takes a 15-year long view, this document proposes some enhancement and recommendations for the park.

Strasburg Square Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Pedestrian lighting along Town Run pedestrian walkway	4		
Shade trees along Town Run		2	2
Stream restoration at Town Run (including riparian buffer plantings)	1	4	1

Strasburg Square Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Pedestrian Lighting		1	
Shade trees along Town Run			
Stream restoration at Town Run			

Hometown Park Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Improve visibility into the park			
Enhanced entryway to the parking lot			
Add picnic tables to grassy area			
Public art		1	1

Hometown Park Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Improve visibility into the park			
Enhanced entryway to the parking lot			
Add picnic tables to grassy area			2
Public art			2

*Results of a priority exercise using three colored dots to indicate high, mid, and low priority for Strasburg Square and Hometown Square with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019 and SRPT - upper table indicates priority rankings for Strasburg Square; lower table indicates priority rankings for Hometown Park; blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups*



# Master Parks Plan



## Implementation Priorities and Phasing for Strasburg Square and Hometown Park

### Strasburg Square

- Complete improvements for this showcase downtown park

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
Town Run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate stream assessment and restoration plan</li> <li>• Plant trees along Town Run edge along parking lot at Town Hall – strategically place trees so as not to obstruct key views into Strasburg Square</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin stream restoration at Strasburg Square, including restoration of embankments (hard solution is to use local stone lining stream walls; a soft solution is to use riparian plantings; combination of both hard and soft restoration is another option</li> </ul>		
Lawn Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop turf maintenance regimen to include annual or semi-annual aeration, over-seeding, de thatching, and occasional organic fertilizer</li> </ul>			
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install pedestrian lighting along the walkway between Town Hall parking and Strasburg Square, and extend pedestrian lighting along Town Run</li> </ul>			

### Hometown Park

- Refresh and continue to polish this cherished pocket park in downtown Strasburg

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve visibility into the park by strategically pruning trees and shrubs</li> </ul>			
Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install a new memorial fountain with connection to existing water line</li> </ul>			
Redesign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate charrette with CDAC or similar for concept refresh ideas for Hometown Park</li> </ul>			





# Master Parks Plan



## Distribute Park Resources Throughout the Town

### Existing Park Locations

#### Owned

The Town of Strasburg owns and operates three parks: Hometown Park, Strasburg Square, and Town Park, all located in downtown Strasburg or south of downtown.

#### Leased

The Town leases the 17-acre Visitor's Center property at the northern end of town. Numerous studies and reports have identified a need for additional publicly accessible parks or open space in the other areas of town.

The first priority under this section should be to obtain a long-term and partnership agreement for the town's use of the Visitor's Center property or to acquire it in whole by donation or purchase.

Priorities ranked by members of the Project Management Team include renovating and reopening the Crystal Caverns, to some support for selective clearing to open up views of downtown, mountains, and the former quarry.

### Proposed Future Acquisitions or Open Space Generation

#### Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan

The Town's Comprehensive Plan makes several suggestions on where new open space and park lands should be targeted—as a part of new residential and commercial development (requiring some form of public access agreement for any open space or parks that evolve) or as acquisition or donation.

#### Trust for Public Land ParkScore® (TPL)

TPL has identified two priority areas for future park and open space acquisition and development that would most significantly address the equal distribution of public open space within the Town, meeting the goal of providing open space or park lands within a 1/4 mile of each resident. One location is immediately west of the Northern Shenandoah Business Park and east of I-81, and the other location is along Massanutten Street several blocks north of its intersection with Route 55.

Visitor's Center Improvement Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Improve ADA accessibility			
Selective clearing of understory brush to open up view toward downtown and mountains		1	3
Renovate and reopen Crystal Caverns	3	1	1
Relocate Visitor Center to downtown			
Overlook to quarry		1	
More trails			
Play equipment			
Local events			
Add a complimentary site downtown			

Visitor Center Improvement Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Improve ADA accessibility - accessible route to the Visitor Center, accessible trail at picnic area	2		
Selective clearing of understory brush to open up view toward downtown and mountains	1		
Renovate and open Crystal Caverns	1	1	
Relocate Visitor Center to downtown	1		

*Results of a priority exercise for the Visitor's Center using three colored dots to indicate high, mid, and low priority with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019 (above) and SRPT (below); blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups*



# Master Parks Plan



## Additional Needs Identified Through the Master Parks Plan Process

### Athletic Complex

A public/private athletic complex, at a scale that accommodates multiple diamond and rectangular fields in numbers to support tournament play, adequate parking, and support infrastructure is a highly desired future development for the Town.

### Aquatic Center

Many expressed a desire for a full aquatic center, with indoor and perhaps outdoor pool facilities that are operable year-round. No site has been identified.

### Town Park and Expansion

There are several potential opportunities to expand Town Park, where such acquisition or long-term lease or easement agreements could provide additional space to better organize some site feature and expand others, primarily outside of the 100-year floodplain. Other expansion potentials would add space for large event grounds, and open play and recreation. Additional lands could provide opportunities to increase tree cover and riparian plantings along the drainageways and riverfront

## Implementation Priorities and Phasing for Park Distribution

The tables on the following page outline a series of choreographed phasing steps for the next fifteen year period, in five-year increments.

Athletic Complex Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Athletic complex with concessions, lights, score boards, press box, tournament quality fields, marketing	1	2	2
Soccer			1
Baseball/Softball			1
Lacrosse		1	2

Athletic Complex Priorities - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Athletic complex with concessions, lights, score board(s), press box, tournament quality play and marketing opportunity	1	1	
Soccer			
Baseball/Softball			
Lacrosse			

*Results of a priority exercise for the Athletic Complex using three colored dots to indicate high, mid, and low priority with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019 (above) and SRPT (below); blue indicates shared ranking between the two groups*

New Parks and Open Spaces - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
<b>Former Quarry Recreation Area</b>			
Open this area to recreational activities			2
<b>Gathering Place for Large Events</b>			
Multi-use open space for music festivals or similar events		1	1
<b>Place Making</b>			
Cultural features, art in the park (signage, markers, bicycle racks, etc.) expressing the voices and stories of Strasburg			2

*Results of a priority exercise for new parks and open spaces using three colored dots to indicate high, mid, and low priority with SRPT*





# Master Parks Plan



## Visitor's Center

- This leased site offers many recreational and open space benefits to the Town of Strasburg; if the Town was to obtain a long-term lease or permanent control over the property, there are a number of improvements to consider

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
ADA Accessibility Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate path connection between parking and Visitor Center to ensure compliance with ADA Standards (ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Chapter 4: Accessible Routes)</li> </ul>			
Picnic Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add new picnic tables; ensuring appropriate quantities to meet ADA accessible Standards</li> <li>Selectively clear understory brush to open viewshed from promontory at picnic area</li> </ul>		
Forest Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear vegetation growing into trail corridor; maintain firm and stable surface to meet ADA Standards</li> </ul>			
Crystal Caverns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate feasibility study to reopen caverns (could include partnership/lease agreement/P3 agreement)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on results of feasibility study, potentially proceed to reopening caverns</li> </ul>	
Former Quarry Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate feasibility study to renovate and reopen former quarry for recreational uses (could include partnership/lease agreement/P3 agreement)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on results of feasibility study, potentially proceed to reopening quarry site</li> </ul>	

## Athletic Complex

- Explore potential for partnerships or acquisitions of sites large enough to accommodate an athletic complex serving field sports such as softball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and football

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin exploratory investigation of potential Athletic Center (could include partnership/lease agreement/P3 agreement)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If feasibility study points to developing/replacing Athletic Complex as public/private partnership or other form, move forward into design/construction</li> </ul>		

## Aquatic Center

- Explore potential for partnerships or acquisitions of sites and development of Aquatic Center

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin exploratory investigation of potential Aquatic Center (could include partnership/lease agreement/P3 agreement)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If feasibility study points to developing/replacing Town Pool with Aquatic Center, move forward into design/construction</li> </ul>



# Master Parks Plan



Comprehensive Plan Guidance

- Implement the Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan's for acquisition and development of open space and park land in conjunction with future development

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
	Implement Comprehensive Plan recommendations and continue to look for land acquisition and easement opportunities			

Expansion of Town Park

- Explore potential for partnerships or acquisitions of additional lands adjacent to Town Park through long-term leases, easements or purchase

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2025-2030	Long term - 2030-2035	2036 +
	Look for opportunities to extend Town Park through land acquisition, open space access easements, shared use agreements to increase access along and to the North Fork, space for activities outside of the 100-year floodplain and to extend public open space			





## Expand Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity

### Extend Existing Network to Better Link Parks and Open Space

Although the Master Parks Plan is not a trails plan, reference is made here to potential extensions of the current trail system that will improve connectivity and multimodal accommodations.

#### Riverwalk

The Riverwalk is the most heavily used park space within the Town per the Master Parks Plan online survey. Its extension east and west of town is also a high priority by members of the Project Management Team.

#### Town Run Greenway

Opportunities abound to improve connectivity between downtown Strasburg and Town Park along Town Run. Providing a paved multimodal path, lined with appropriate landscape and riparian plantings, pedestrian lighting and interpretive signs in key locations will create a place while providing a needed connector for non vehicular users. The Project Management Team indicated support for the Greenway in their priority rankings. The Greenway is also a key recommendation in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Plan.

#### River Access Points

The North Fork of the Shenandoah River is an untapped resource for the Town. Making it further accessible to users is a mixed priority to members of the Project Management Team. Support for an additional boat landing or a clarified use of the existing landing exists in the online survey responses and from the Project Management Team's priority setting.

Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity Priorities - Project Management Team	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
Riverwalk Improvements			
Expand east and west of town, mile markers, wayfinding, Town Run connection, benches	5		
Exercise stations			1
Town Run Greenway			
Multi-use trail linking North Fork of Shenandoah to downtown/stream restoration efforts	7		
River Access Points			
Boat landing (hard or soft)	2	1	
Overlook(s) along the river		2	4
Pedestrian bridge crossing the North Fork	5	1	
Trails			
Rails to Trails (rail line)	5	1	
Transmission corridors			2
Neighborhood trail connections		4	

Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity - Strasburg Recreation, Parks and Trail Committee (SRPT)	Priority Ranking		
	High	Mid	Low
<b>Actions</b>			
<b>Town Run Greenway</b>			
Multi-use trail connection linking the North Fork of the Shenandoah to downtown; include stream restoration efforts		1	
<b>River Access Points</b>			
Boat landing (hard or soft)		2	
Overlook(s) along the river			
Pedestrian bridge crossing the North Fork	1	1	1
<b>Trails</b>			
Rails-to-Trails (rail line)			
Transmission corridors			
Neighborhood trail connections			

*Results of a priority exercise for multimodal connections using three colored dots to indicate high, mid, and low priority with Project Management Team members on October 2, 2019 (above) and SRPT (below)*



## **Trails**

A pedestrian bridge crossing of the North Fork is of high priority to members of the Project Management Team and respondents to the online survey. Such a crossing would open pedestrian access to public lands and trails.

Support for the proposed Rails to Trails extension that will cut through the Town of Strasburg near the former pottery plant/railroad station is very strong and ranked as a high priority by members of the Project Management Team.

Neighborhood trail connections were ranked as a mid priority.

## **Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan**

The Comprehensive Plan calls for several future trail connections, linking both existing and future park and open space lands throughout the Town.





## Implementation Priorities and Phasing for Expanded Connectivity

The table that follows outlines a choreography of potential improvements over the next fifteen years. The phasing is broken into three time periods, each in five-year increments.

### Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity

- Increase connectivity within the Town and the surrounding community via multimodal trails

	Short term - 2020 - 2025	Mid term - 2026-2030	Long term - 2031-2035	2036 +
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish safe pedestrian and bicycle connections from neighborhoods to established parks (consider tying to Safe Routes to School program)</li> <li>• Initiate plan to extend Riverwalk toward Fisher’s Hill; Keister Tract</li> <li>• Initiate feasibility study to link Riverwalk extension to South Holliday Street bridge (investigate restriping to add sidewalk on one side of bridge/ work with VDOT to understand bridge construction schedule)</li> <li>• Work with property owner(s) to develop partnership or shared agreement for public river trail and river access at Lion’s Club upstream of South Holliday Street bridge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide pedestrian river crossing at or near South Holliday Street bridge in conjunction with new river access point for hand carried boats/fishing access spot</li> <li>• Initiate feasibility study to link trail from South Holliday Street pedestrian bridge to Sandy Hook Road, extending on the right-of-way along Strasburg Reservoir Road or Buds Lane, to conservation easement land and the town-owned parcel abutting George Washington and Jefferson National Forest land trails system; ultimately this connection will link downtown to Signal Knob Lookout</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct trail from South Holliday Street pedestrian bridge to Sandy Hook Road, through easements and town-owned parcel to George Washington and Jefferson National Forest trails system</li> </ul>

## Desired Actions by Location

The following pages provide more detailed information on the four primary goals for this Master Parks Plan:

- Refresh Town Park
- Polish Strasburg Square and Hometown Park
- Distribute Park Resources Throughout the Town
- Expand Multimodal Accommodations and Connectivity

Each of the four goals are discussed in length, and are supported by a more detailed identification of actions that could be taken within each area.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Realignment of Park Road   | 28 Picnic area   |
| 2 Multi-use trail  | 29 Existing boat launch  |
| 3 Skate plaza  | 30 New, separate soft landing/water access   |
| 4 New location of basketball courts (parking relocated)              | 31 Riverwalk   |
| 5 Community garden   | 32 Existing rectangular fields (event grounds if/when fields relocate)                   |
| 6 Possible location for new picnic shelter                           | 33 Existing vegetated drainage swale (closed drainage north of existing picnic shelters) |
| 7 Existing vegetated drainage swale                                  | 34 Skate dot and/or fitness court  |
| 8 Dog park (large dogs)  | 35 Skate dot and/or fitness court  |
| 9 Dog park (small dogs)  | 36 River overlook  |
| 10 Existing tennis courts  | 37 Riverwalk extension along the river   |
| 11 Existing basketball courts  | 38 Reforestation and disc golf   |
| 12 Existing volleyball court   |  |
| 13 Parking if court sports relocate                                  |  |
| 14 Existing parking  |  |
| 15 Existing Town Pool  |  |
| 16 Existing parking/picnic area if relocated                         |  |
| 17 Picnic area with new shelter                                      |  |
| 18 New location of volleyball court                                  |  |
| 19 Existing picnic area  |  |
| 20 Possible location for new picnic shelter                          |  |
| 21 New restroom building   |  |
| 22 Renovated playground  |  |
| 23 Possible location for new picnic shelter                          |  |
| 24 New location of parking lot                                       |  |
| 25 Existing ballfields (possible location for future aquatic center) |  |
| 26 Existing rectangular fields                                       |  |
| 27 Event grounds (if/when rectangular fields relocate)               |  |



Town Park diagram of potential changes between 2020-2035







## 15-year Compilation of Recommended Maintenance Actions with Potential Cost Range

Maintenance Actions					
2020-2035	Cost Range	2026-2030	Cost Range	2031-2035	Cost Range
Strasburg Square/Town Park/Visitor Center - develop new turf management system/level of care hierarchy: aerate, thatch, overseed, add compost to highly used and/or high quality turf (Strasburg Square; Town Park dog park and athletic fields)	Additional staffing and labor for increased maintenance	Continue practice		Continue practice	
Hometown Park - improve visibility into park with targeted pruning		Continue practice		Continue practice	
Town Park/Visitor Center - reduce frequency (and areas) of mowing (Town Park - particularly upstream of developed portion of park) and (Visitor's Center - develop a meadow/riparian planting strategy to long-term remove areas from turf)					
Town Park - reconfigure split rail fencing barrier to allow additional pedestrian passage between park facilities; create breaks in existing fencing to allow pedestrian passage while still preventing vehicle access	Minimal costs - additional fence posts/reduced rail lengths	Continue practice		Continue practice	
Town Park - perform annual audit on playground, train and have staff member qualified as NRPA Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI)		Continue practice		Continue practice	
Town Park - formalize overflow parking at Town Park and add appropriate signage					
Town-wide - rethink dog waste/mutt mitts locations/system					
		Town Park/Visitor's Center - continue to reduce mowed areas		Continue practice	
		Visitor's Center - clear vegetation from trails; maintain firm and stable surface for trails; clear understory to open viewshed at picnic area		Continue practice	
		Town Park - pipe section of drainage ditch between treatment plant and baseball fields to protect adjacent big utility lines from further erosion; cover with turf (may require Federal/ State permit)			





# Master Parks Plan



## 15-year Compilation of Recommended Installation Actions with Potential Cost Range

Installation Actions	Cost Range
2020-2025	Cost Range
Town Park/Strasburg Square/Town Run - plant riparian buffer strip plantings along North Fork (intent is to create or maintain a 100-foot buffer), Town Park drainage ditches, Town Run between Strasburg Square and Town Park where utilities allow; add shade trees and conservation planting to Town Park	\$10K/acre (mix 2" cal. & seedlings) \$3K/acre for seedlings; \$2.00 - \$5.00 SF for riparian planting (shrubs) \$350 - \$500/tree
Town Park - install skate plaza; overtime add skate dot system, continue to replace gravel surface on Riverwalk; add skate dots, continue to add additional path loops throughout Town Park (surfaces can vary - grass, natural, mulch, paved, or gravel)	Skate dots: \$2,000-\$10,000 each dot; \$50,000 - \$150,000 skate plaza  \$40 SY for asphalt trail
Town Park - install disc golf west of rectangular fields	\$15,000 - \$25,000
Town Park - upgrade playground surface and replace swings	\$30,000 - \$50,000
Town Park - add secondary trail loop to Riverwalk, route along river front as natural trail surface	\$27-\$30 LF - 6' natural surface trail
Town Park - paint and stripe/update/provide required ADA accessible parking with signage; paint two crosswalks on Park Road	Allowance: assume \$7,500
Town Park - add picnic tables and benches near Riverwalk and upstream of boat landing	Allowance: \$15,000 - \$20,000
Town Park/Pool - paint mural on pool house and strategically plant trees for shade within fence line of pool	\$375/tree; \$0 mural
Town Park/Pool - ensure pool water is dechlorinated before releasing to drainage ditch	\$300 in addition to chemicals
Town Park/Pool - add new deck furniture, including Adirondack styled lounge chairs for grassy area	Allowance: \$15,000
Town Park - add stripe for both tennis and pickle ball when courts are repainted	\$550-\$1500/court for dual stripes
Town Park - provide an accessible (ADA) route between playground and parking lot (ADA parking space) and accessible path to pool	Need to generate figure
Town Park - relocate volleyball courts	Allowance: \$5,000
Town Park - plant trees near playground and at pool for shade	need match; assume \$1,500
Town Park - finalize dog park design and install signage; fix gate hardware and add obstacles/play structures at dog park (Look to Friends group for funding)	Allowance: \$1,500 - \$7,500
Town Park - regrade athletic fields - smooth/reseed soccer fields; extend diamond fields to regulation size and regrade to remove standing water spots	Allowance: \$25,000?
Strasburg Square/Town Run - install and maintain pedestrian lights for Strasburg Square and Town Run Greenway	\$4,500-\$8,500 per pedestrian light, installed
Visitor Center - provide accessible (ADA) route between the Visitor Center and parking lot (ADA parking space)	Need to generate figure
Town Park/Town Pool - upgrade baby pool with splash pad/sprayground, or add beach access, or other improvement to attract new users	\$70,000 - \$100,000 for splash pad; other pool improvements?



# Master Parks Plan



Installation Actions, continued	
2026-2030	Cost Range
Town Park/Town Pool - resurface pool and fix tiles (last resurfaced in 2007); upgrade filters and deck area	+/- \$14,000
Town Park - renovate, upgrade or replace playground and playground surfacing	\$500,000-\$750,000 (subject to equipment and surfacing selection)
Town Park - renovate or replace permanent restrooms; replace temporary restrooms with vault or composting toilets	\$145,000-\$400,000 (size dependent, cost assumes full replacement)
Town Park - If diamond fields are to remain in place (Athletic Complex study); expand practice field to meet standards for adult softball and baseball; new fencing, additional bleachers, and other improvements	Grading - .50 SY - 2.50 SY (disposal) <b>Fencing - \$XXX</b>
Town Park - <b>relocate or provide potable water to Community Garden and Dog Park in Town Park (which is less costly?)</b>	Water line \$72 - \$80 LF + connection; <b>need length to determine cost</b>
Town Park - install new fencing at dog park	\$6,500-\$10,000
Visitor Center - add new picnic tables (ADA accessible)	Allowance: \$25,000
Hometown Park - install "Volunteer" memorial fountain (recirculating) and connect to existing water line	\$2,300-\$6,000 (commercial fountain)
General - develop additional river access points with successful grant applications, improve parking at boat landing	Soft Landing - \$20,000 - \$30,000
General - add Fitness Station (courts) if grant app is successful (there are several proprietary businesses offering installation grants)	<b>\$50,000-\$150,000 match/grant potential</b>
2031-2035	
Town Park - relocate three facilities simultaneously/connected: First Bank Park Shelter, parking lot adjacent to Community Garden, and basketball court  Replace parking lot with basketball court; move shelter to new location (several suggestions on plan); move parking to former location of shelter adjacent to playground	\$40 SY new asphalt parking lot; \$5 SY demo existing lot; \$45 SY new bball court AA new shelter - \$25,000 - \$75,000
Town Park - realign entry road	<b>Amount TBD</b>
Town Park/Riverfront - develop accessible/overlook/fishing pier and additional river access points	<b>Amount TBD</b>
Town Park/Town Run - develop multimodal path with ped lights (separate cost) and planting between downtown and Town Park; install skate dots	\$40 SY asphalt trail
Crystal Caverns and Former Quarry Site - continue to explore options for highest and best use of these properties	
General/Riverfront - construct pedestrian/multi-modal river crossing at Holliday Bridge or separate structure	<b>Amount TBD</b>





## 15-year Compilation of Recommended Studies and Feasibility Explorations

Studies and Feasibility Explorations issued by Town; Design Time if needed
<b>2020-2025</b>
Town Park - initiate feasibility/RFP for renovation of baby pool area to incorporate splash pad/sprayground, or beach access to main pool, upgrade deck area, pool filters, and other features
Town Park - initiate feasibility study on whether renovation or replacement of restrooms is more fiscally responsible; explore outsourcing Town Park restroom maintenance
Town Park - design renovation, upgrade, replacement of playground
Town Park - engage in conversation regarding expansion in discrete locations
General - apply for grant for Fitness Station
General - apply for grant for riparian/tree plantings
General - apply for water access/fishing pier grants
General - issue a trail development/system RFP to address establishing safe pedestrian and bicycle connections from neighborhoods to established parks (consider tying to Safe Routes to School program); potential connections to Fisher's Hill; Keister Tract; pedestrian crossing of North Fork at Holliday Bridge (connect to VDOT work plan for bridge repair/replacement) or independent pedestrian bridge; initiate feasibility for connection and access permission to use Lions' Club facility
Visitor Center - pursue long-term agreement for property/facility
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - initiate study for potential Athletic Complex; pursue partnership or P3 for future Athletic Complex
Explore potential to outsource restroom maintenance (portable facility servicers) at Town Park
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - initiate study for potential Aquatic Center; if recommended, identify potential site(s)
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - pursue partnership to operate Crystal Caverns and former Quarry Site
Hometown Park- Initiate charrette with CDAC or similar for concept refresh ideas
<b>2026-2030</b>
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - If not pursued in 2020-2025, initiate study for potential Aquatic Center; if recommended, identify potential site(s)
New Site/Acquisition/Public/Private action - If not pursued in 2020-2025, pursue partnership to operate Crystal Caverns and former Quarry Site

# **4- Staffing and Funding Needs and Strategies (Task 6)**





## Introduction

This task focuses on the identification of staffing and funding needs and strategies for the parks and recreation components addressed in the Master Parks Plan. The Town of Strasburg currently owns or leases four park properties: Town Park; Strasburg Square; Hometown Park; the Visitor and Information Center grounds. In addition to the park properties, the Town is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of 0.9 miles of trails.

The Town's Comprehensive Plan, 2018 proposes additional park locations and trail segments and that small parks be incorporated within each new development.

## Staffing and Funding

### Town of Strasburg

With fewer than 7,000 residents, the Town of Strasburg does not have an independent Parks and Recreation Department. Instead, the Town manages its park and trail resources with staffing support from its six departments—primarily from the Department of Public Works and the Community Development Department. Physical maintenance is supplied by the Department of Public Works and programming and event support is supplied by the Community Development Department.

Data that documents the number of park visitors or for specific users of activities such as the boat launch and playground at Town Park or the trails at the Visitor and Information Center is not captured at this time and is not available.

### Town of Strasburg FY 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Budget

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation budget expenses is projected to be \$141,420 which covers:

- Insurance premiums
- Chemicals
- Contractual Services
- Telephone
- Electricity
- Purchase for resale; pool concessions
- Material & supplies
- Park maintenance
- Miscellaneous
- Building maintenance
- Repairs equipment
- Event expenses



# Master Parks Plan



Salaries for the Town Pool’s seasonal operations are budgeted for FY 2019-2020 at \$54,000.

The FY 2019-2020 budget allocates \$10,000 for capital expenditures for parks and recreation facilities.

### Fee Revenue Receipts and Rental Patterns

Two activities at Town Park charge fees for their use—five of the park shelters are reservable in advance for a fee and the outdoor pool charges a fee for its use. More detailed information was provided by Town staff for these activities in Town Park—shelter rentals in 2018 and 2019 and Town Pool operations in 2019. **DOUBLE CHECK - The town does/does not??? charge leagues for athletic field or court use. IS THERE A CHARGE FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS? Other use charges not noted here? (revenue?); any other revenue generators?**

### Park Shelters

The Town has eight park shelters at Town Park, five of which are offered for rental. Public Works staff is responsible for their maintenance and cleaning. Rentals most frequently take place on weekends, with the current rental policy allowing for up to six or more rentals within one day for a single shelter. Each rental period requires staffing to ensure that one rental party has departed, the shelter is cleaned up, trash is emptied, and the next rental party is successfully accommodated. Some shelters turn over as many as six times within one day.

Town staff provided information on park shelters. It is limited to the frequency of the rentals, number of people per rental, and the length of each rental period. No fee collection information was provided. The Town charges \$5 per hour or \$50 per day for each rental. A \$25.00 clean-up deposit is required. This is a refundable deposit if the shelter used is found in good condition.

The tables on pages 3-6 of this document indicate rental traffic for the two most recent years—2018 and 2019. All rentals occurred on weekends with







# Master Parks Plan



2018 Park Shelter Usage; information provided by M.Bixler 11/15/19, Town of Strasburg, VA																		
	Strasburg Moose Lodge - #1			Rotary International - #2			RR Donnelly - #3			First Bank - #4			#3 and #4 joint rental			Kiwanis - #5		
	7 tables			6 tables			17 tables			13 tables						4 tables		
	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L
April	1	30	3	4	15	4	1	25*	4	0	0		0			0		
					20	3												
					20	2												
					20-35	5												
May	2	40	6	4	25	4	2	20	2	1	20-30	6	4	60	12	0		
		25	3		20	3		35	2					200	6			
					30	3								50-60	5			
					25-30	4								200	3			
June	4	50	3	5	30*	3	6	25-30	5	1	40-60	12	2	100	12	0		
		50	3		30*	5		25	4					200	3			
		20	6		10-13	2		80	4									
		25-30	2		20	2		110	4									
					60-70	12		70-75	4									
								75	9									
July	5	30*	2	5	30	3.5	11	40	9	4	50*	2				0		
		25-50	3		20-25	2		40	9		25-30	3						
		15	3		30	5		40	9		100	5						
		15	12		40	3		40	3		500	12						
		30-40	4		30	5		20	5									
								50	4									
								50-75	4									
								30	12									
								60	12									
								25	12									
								50	4									
Aug	1	40	4	3	25	12	4	60	12	1	50*	12				0		
					30	2		50	2									
					20	2		20	5									
								100	5									

Key: T = Total rentals per month P = number of people per rental period L = length of individual rental period



# Master Parks Plan



2018 Park Shelter Usage; information provided by M.Bixler 11/15/19, Town of Strasburg, VA																		
	Strasburg Moose Lodge - #1			Rotary International - #2			RR Donnelly - #3			First Bank - #4			#3 and #4 joint rental			Kiwanis - #5		
	7 tables			6 tables			17 tables			13 tables						4 tables		
	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L
Sept	4	20	12	7	20	4	7	25-30	4	4	20	2	2	200	5	1	20	5
		100	6		25	5		40	5		20	5		150	3			
		50	5		20	3		25-30	5		30	2						
		18	5		25-30	2		25-30	4		110	4						
					25	4		50	5									
					35	6		30	3									
					16	3		30-40	4									
Oct	3	25-30	4	3	15	4	3	60	3	2	11	3				0		
		25-30	2		25	1		35	5		150	5.5						
		30	4		50			40	8									
2018 Totals	20			31			34			13			8			1		

Key: **T** = Total rentals per month **P** = number of people per rental period **L** = length of individual rental period

2018 Park Shelter Usage Number of Shelter Rental Periods by Hours						
Shelter	Strasburg Moose Lodge - #1	Rotary International - #2	RR Donnelly - #3	First Bank - #4	#3 and #4 joint rental	Kiwanis - #5
Hours						
1	0	1	0	0	0	
2	3	7	3	0	0	
3	6	7	3	3	2	
4	4	7	11	1	3	
5	2	5	8	2	2	1
6	3	1	0	2	1	
7	0	0	0	0	0	
8	0	0	1	0	0	
9	0	0	4	0	0	
10	0	0	0	0	0	
11	0	0	0	0	0	
12	2	2	4	3	2	





# Master Parks Plan



2019 Park Shelter Usage; information provided by M.Bixler 11/15/19, Town of Strasburg, VA																		
2019	Strasburg Moose Lodge - #1			Rotary International - #2			RR Donnelly - #3			First Bank - #4			#3 and #4 joint rental			Kiwanis - #5		
#	7 tables			6 tables			17 tables			13 tables						4 tables		
	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L
April	0	0	0	5	20	2	5	20	2	0			0			0		
					30	2		30	11									
					8	4		100	2									
					25	12		50	4									
					27	5		40	5									
May	3	20	5	4	33	5	5	28	12	2	60	12	3	200	3	1	30	4
		100	4		35	2		42	2		30	12		200	3			
		60	12		20	3		50	3					60	12			
					20	4		25	2									
								50	4									
June	8	100	3	13	40	4	8	60	4	3	35	4	2	100	12	3	20	5
		40	5		40	4		40	12		30	3		250	12		27	12
		50	12		30	3		75	6		35	2.5					20	12
		30	4		30	2		100	3									
		40	3		22	3		20	4									
		40	3		35	5		25	3									
		30	4		30	2		50	12									
		25	2		35	5		100	12									
					30	4												
					50	12												
					5	5												
					40	3												
					30	3												
July	2	15	3	3	30	5	6	50	12	2	30	9				0		
		20	4		20	12		50	2		63	12						
					25	4		25	12									
								30	2									
								50*	12									
								30	4									

Key: T = Total rentals per month P = number of people per rental period L = length of individual rental period



# Master Parks Plan



2019 Park Shelter Usage; information provided by M.Bixler 11/15/19, Town of Strasburg, VA																		
2019	Strasburg Moose Lodge - #1			Rotary International - #2			RR Donnelly - #3			First Bank - #4			#3 and #4 joint rental			Kiwanis - #5		
	7 tables			6 tables			17 tables			13 tables						4 tables		
	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L	T	P	L
Aug	2	12	12	4	30	2	4	50	4	4	50	12				1	20	5
		50	4		20	2		20	6		35	5						
					25	2		100	5		50	12						
					30	3		80	12		20	6						
Sept	7	50	6	6	40	3	5	30	3	2	30	6	3	50	12	2	25	4
		30	4		25	3		35	4		67	4		100	4		25	4
		50	12		15	4		30	4					150	7			
		30	4		20	4		50	4									
		15	12		20	4		75	4									
		30	3		25	3												
		20	12															
Oct	0	0		2	15	12	2	35	4	0								
					30			50	8									
2019 TOTALS	22			37						8			13			7		

Key: T = Total rentals per month P = number of people per rental period L = length of individual rental period

2019 Park Shelter Usage Number of Shelter Rental Periods by Hours						
Shelter	Strasburg Moose Lodge - #1	Rotary International - #2	RR Donnelly - #3	First Bank - #4	#3 and #4 joint rental	Kiwanis - #5
Hours						
1	0	0	0	0	0	
2	1	8	6	1 @ 2.5	0	
3	5	9	4	1	2	
4	7	9	11	2	1	4
5	2	6	2	1	0	2
6	1	0	2	2	0	
7	0	0	0	0	1	
8	0	0	0	0	0	
9	0	0	0	1	0	
10	0	0	0	0	0	
11	0	0	1	0	0	
12	6	4	8	5	4	2





# Master Parks Plan



the exception of some school-related events. Rental length varied from one hour to 12 hours.

Given the amount of staff time required to turnover the shelter rental, and the minimal charge of \$5 per hour for shelter use, consideration should be given to limiting rental periods to a minimum of three hours, whether the associated fee is increased or not. By limiting the number of rentals per shelter per day and expanding the minimum time period for a single rental period, the overall net between operating costs and rental income should improve as staff costs likely exceed \$5 per hour.

### Town Pool

Revenue reports for the 2019 season at the Town Pool show a gross revenue of \$38,663, of which \$20,803 was from admission fees and \$12,894 was from concession sales. Pool expenses were budgeted at \$54,000 for the FY 2019-2020 year, covering a portion of the pool season. Making the assumption that figures were similar for the FY 2018-2019 year, expenses exceeded pool revenue by approximately \$15,000, a continuing shortfall, but much improved over recent years.

The pool expense budget/report does not account for major maintenance expenses such as a new white coat. Currently there is no schedule or articulated budget plan for long-term maintenance for more complex maintenance and repairs; repairs of all extent are funded from the line item 'repairs equipment' budgeted at \$6,500 in the FY 2019-2020 budget. Reported pool expenses include seasonal everyday cleaning expenses such as changing rooms, deck, etc.

Comparative Rates for Outdoor Seasonal Pools					
	In-town Rate	Out of Town Rate	2019 Season	Hours	Features
<b>Strasburg Town Pool</b>	\$175 (11th visit free - how does this work with a pass?)	None	5/23 - 9/2	Mon-Sat 11-7 Sunday noon-7 Mon-Fri Senior Swim 10-11 AM	Baby pool w/mall mushroom; 25 meter - 5 lanes
	Daily Adult \$4				
<b>Woodstock W.O. Riley Park</b>	Family (2 adults/3 children) pass \$150	Family pass \$165	5/23 - 9/2	Mon-Sat 11-7 Sunday 11-7	Baby pool; beach access; covered shelter; concessions; 6 lanes; large mushroom
	Daily Adult \$5				
<b>Front Royal (Warren County) Claude A. Stokes Community Swimming Pool</b>	Family (2 adults/2 children) pass \$265		Weekends: 5/25-5/27; 6/1-6/2; 8/17-8/18; 8/24-8/25; 8/30-9/2 Daily 6/7-8/11	Mon-Friday 12 noon - 5:30 Sat/Sun 12 noon - 6	
	Daily Adult \$5; 1/2 price after 4 pm				
<b>Winchester Jim Barnett Outdoor Pool, City of Winchester</b>	Family punch pass (up to 4) for 20 visits \$162 for resident (web); Winchester Star article 6/8/19 3-month membership \$99	Family punch pass (up to 4) for 20 visits \$198 for nonresident (web); Winchester Star article 6/8/19 3-month membership \$117	Weekends 5.23 - 5/31; 8/10-9/7 Daily 6/1-8/9	General swim: noon to 5:45 pm Lap swim 5:30 - 8 am; 10 am -noon	Olympic-size pool; large tube slide; wading pool; mushroom fountain
	Daily Adult \$5 (web); \$7 (Winchester Star article 6/8/19)				
<b>Frederick County (Sherando and Clearbrook Parks)</b>	Family N/A				
	Daily \$2	None			

Pool expenses continue to outstrip pool revenues. Raising the fee to use the facility is an option, but when comparing the town's pricing for pool use with surrounding jurisdictions the Town's fees for pool use are competitive with surrounding outdoor pool facilities. Without additional infrastructure investment to attract new users, a fee increase for pool use is not likely to increase revenues, but may instead push current users to other nearby pools.

Public Works staff (water plant) are responsible for pump maintenance of the Town Pool. Staff, due to their familiarity with the mechanical equipment, have been charged with pool maintenance since the Town acquired it in 1990 and refurbished it in 1991, twenty-eight years ago.

Efficiencies that could be gained in staffing adjustments and related funding are difficult to gauge as the pool is old, with equipment that no longer has parts readily available. Refurbished shortly after it was acquired, additional improvements and repair have occurred in the last three decades. Public Works staff estimates, that barring an unanticipated breakdown, the current pool and its equipment will last for another ten to fifteen years with ordinary maintenance such as adding a new white coat to the pool surface. However, should the pipes under the pool break and need replacing, the pool itself would have to be breached to reach and fix or replace the pipes underneath it. That or another similar breakdown could radically affect the lifespan of the current facility.

A long-term maintenance and replacement schedule should be generated for the Town Pool.





# Master Parks Plan



Parks and Recreation Maintenance Expenditures - Three-year Look back - Staffing Hours and Labor Costs; Source Town of Strasburg 10.28.19						
Location	11.1.2016-10.31.2017	Labor Costs	11.1.2017-10.31.2018	Labor Costs	11.1.2018 - 10.31.2019	Labor Costs
Dog Park (hours assigned by location)	27.75 hours		69.75 hours		54 hours	
Hometown Park	4.5 hours		114.5 hours		142.17 hours	
Riverwalk	210.5 hours		633 hours		673.33 hours	
Town Park (mending fences, shelter cleaning, etc.)	1207.5 hours		835.75 hours		708.75 hours	
Town Park mowing/weed-eating	155.5 hours		788.5 hours		806.13 hours	
Town Pool (these hours are separate from those reported by pool numbers and cover shade sail installation, hanging signs, etc.)	36 hours		123.25 hours		238 hours	
Visitor Center (building and grounds)	240.5 hours		280 hours		189.28 hours	
Newman St - Shen. Valley Battlefields (assume this is area around water tower, and time is assigned for mowing, etc.)	104 hours		49 hours		51.5 hours	
<b>TOTALS 11.1.2016 - 10.31.2017</b>	1,986.25 hours = .95 FTE	<b>\$30,687.17</b>				
Flower Bed - Capon St @ King St			108 hours		119 hours	
Flower Bed @ Massanutten St			3 hours		40 hours	
Water Flower Baskets & Trees			164 hours		259.75 hours	
Welcome Sign - Front Royal Rd			2 hours		26 hours	
<b>TOTALS 11.1.2017 - 10.31.2018</b>			3,170.75 hours = 1.52 FTE	<b>\$51,620.48</b>		
Flower Bed - Stover Ave @ King St					60 hours	
Flower Bed @ Town Hall					34.5 hours	
Market Pavilion Maintenance					296.5 hours	
Market Pavilion Event					2 hours	
Strasburg Square Event					10.5 hours	
Strasburg Square Park Maintenance					171.5 hours	
Town Park Event					4 hours	
Town Run Maintenance					136.5 hours	
Water & Feed Hanging Baskets and Trees - How differ from water flower baskets and trees above?					47 hours	
Welcome Sign - Old Valley Pike					14 hours	
Welcome Sign - Stover Ave					1 hours	
<b>TOTALS 11.1.2018 - 10.31.2019</b>					4,085.41 hours = 1.96 FTE	<b>\$73,830.09</b>





### Cost Recovery

Without additional data on revenues and operation costs, it is not possible to perform a cost recovery assessment for any of the park facilities. The value of performing a cost recovery study is to understand what level of funding for activities is coming from the public vs. what level is coming from the Town of Strasburg.

Ideally, a master plan should support a healthy fiscal position for park facilities offerings, with realistic cost recovery assessments. However, park and recreation facilities contribute to the community's livability attractiveness and to its residents health and wellness. As indicated in the Town of Strasburg's Comprehensive Plan, 2018 in Goal 8: Provide Various Quality Community Facilities and Services to Meet the Needs of the Town, the Town may find that subsidizing some or all of their recreation and open space offerings is appropriate.

### Parks and Recreation Maintenance Expenditures - Three-year Look back

Operations for the Town's park system are run from several different departments in the town, making it more challenging to clearly account for staff hours and funding needs. Information provided by staff indicates where maintenance staff spend their hours. The table 'Parks and Recreation Maintenance Expenditures - Three-year Look back' on pages 9-10 documents both the hours and the labor costs for park and recreation maintenance activities over the past three years. It is telling. Staff responsibilities have more than doubled in the past three years, with the addition of three new areas of responsibility: multiple flower beds; the 2018 opening of Strasburg Square and Market Pavilion; and watering and maintenance responsibilities for street trees and ornamental hanging baskets. When the hours noted are converted to a full-time equivalent (FTE), the labor increase required to service the increase in maintenance activities has almost tripled from 1 full-time employee to 3.

The table does not present much detailed activities for each of the individual sites. Town Park, with three separate entries, begins to provide such information, but each of the three line items cover significant resources. More information is needed to make comprehensive recommendations for improved staffing efficiencies and funding strategies.

Reviewing the allocated hours year by year is also telling. While some line items remain consistent year to year, others spike significantly. In particular, the change in required maintenance labor at Hometown Park, mowing at Town Park, the Riverwalk, and the Town Pool in the 2016-2017 year are each significantly less than in the following two years. It is unclear if the difference is in the recordation of task hours, or if less maintenance activity was completed in the first year noted. However, the line item for Town Park maintenance is significantly higher in the first year, which may account for the lower figure assigned to mowing at Town Park in that year. Regardless, the trends are clear. The Town of Strasburg has increased the maintenance demands for its parks and recreation facilities and properties, doubling the staffing needs in three years.

While each community has specific priorities and interests, this table's data can be plugged into the next section's discussion of national benchmarks to provide a comparison of resource investment, staff efficiency, and funding commitments with similarly sized communities across the U.S.



# Master Parks Plan



### Digging More Deeply into Specific Facilities Maintenance Needs

Discussions with Town of Strasburg staff members and members of the Project Management Team brought more detailed issues related to staffing and funding to the attention of the master planning team.

### Restrooms and Porta-potties

The responsibility for cleaning the restrooms at Strasburg Square falls to the Town Hall building maintenance staff next door to the park. Restroom maintenance at the Visitor and Information Center falls to the Visitor Center building staff. The restroom at the Market Square Pavilion, which also serves Strasburg Square, is the responsibility of the Town Hall building maintenance staff. The permanent restrooms at Town Park are maintained by the Department of Public Works, and the porta potties by an outside vendor.

It is outside the scope of this Master Parks Plan to assess the effectiveness of building maintenance and operations—restroom cleaning by building staff. However, the Town Park restrooms are currently maintained by Public Works staff, staff who often do not normally perform such tasks in other jurisdictions. It may be more efficient in the long-term to reassign restroom cleaning to an outside vendor, perhaps who also services the porta potties at Town Park, the pool, or staff who care for other public restrooms in the town. This reassignment could free up Public Works staff time for other park maintenance and operation activities.

### Mowing and Turf Maintenance

Current turf maintenance consists of mowing, with no aeration or reseeding as a normal practice at Town Park, the Visitor and Information Center grounds, and Strasburg Square. Additional mowing is done seasonally to keep the cross-country trail open on Shenandoah County’s land between the high school and Town Park. With the addition of Strasburg Square and its irrigated, intensively used turf, the Town should consider employing a simple operational guideline that classifies turf





areas into levels of care needed, with adjusted mowing frequencies, fertilizing, irrigation, pruning, litter control, disease and insect control, snow removal, etc. for the designated levels. Large parks such as Town Park and the Visitor and Information Center may have several levels incorporated within their boundaries. A useful guide in the development of this approach is *Operational Guidelines for Education Facilities, Grounds, Second Edition* by the APPA, published in 2011, ISBN 1-890956-67-8.

Along with Strasburg Square, there are areas of Town Park that are more intensively used and will benefit from annual or more frequent aeration, reseeding, and the addition of compost. Other areas in Town Park and at the Visitor and Information Center can be mowed less frequently, and do not require intensive turf management.

Current mowing costs can be potentially reduced if some areas of the parks are not mowed as frequently, or are removed from mowing altogether. These areas could be designated for meadow cultivation and improved wildlife habitat, planted with specific native plant attractive to birds, insects, and butterflies. Dependent upon the distance from buildings, meadow management could be accomplished by periodic mowing, controlled burns, or chemical applications. Cost savings from reduced mowing frequencies can be applied to increased maintenance effort on the more intensively used turf areas such as the sports fields at Town Park and the event area at Strasburg Square.

### Vegetation

Enhanced riparian plantings have been requested by members of the Project Management Team, both along the drainage ditches and Town Run in Town Park and along the North Branch riverbank. Once established, these plantings should reduce maintenance due to reduced mowing. However, until the plantings are established, additional maintenance is required. If undertaking these plantings, partnering with a local knowledgeable horticultural organization to help weed and encourage





thick establishment of the desired plants should be considered. Any reforestation efforts will also require professional direction or horticultural expertise.

### Dog Park/Waste Removal

According to Town staff, staff members currently spend 8 hours per week attending to and monitoring eight dog waste stations (Mutt Mitts) scattered around town. It is not clear where these hours are located in the table illustrating three years of maintenance activities, but does suggest that rethinking how dog waste stations are monitored and maintained may be beneficial.

The dog park at Town Park is relatively new, although the fence that surrounds it and its gate is not in good condition. Staff spends just over a week per year in maintenance activities at the park. **IS THIS FOR FENCE REPAIR? IS MOWING AT THE DOG PARK INCLUDED IN THE LARGER TOWN PARK MOWING NUMBER?** There may be opportunities for partnering with a nonprofit Friends group in the management of the dog park.

### Playground Inspection and Repair

The playground at Town Park required consistent monitoring to ensure that the facility meets safety standards and is in compliance with the necessary ASTM Standards for safety surfaces. A member of the Town staff should at a minimum attend a session provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to be trained on what to look for during a playground inspection and if possible receive certification as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). Once trained, that staff member should make periodic (some jurisdictions do weekly or monthly) maintenance inspections of the equipment and the surfacing.

### Fence Maintenance at Town Park

Town Park employs a split rail fence along much of Park Road and other vehicular areas to keep vehicles off the lawn areas. The fence is



a challenge to maintain and forms a barrier to pedestrian movement through the park. Staff must visit the park several times per month to fix the fence line. Where possible, sections of the fence should be removed and replaced with less maintenance intensive materials such as large boulders, surface grading, or bollards.

### **Future Acquisitions and Improvements**

The Town of Strasburg Comprehensive Plan, 2018 and the discussions during the Master Parks Plan have mentioned interest and potential sites for future acquisition of additional park and open space. As the amount of park and open space acreage is increased, the Town must also provide additional resources for staffing and maintenance of these new properties. Expanded trails, long-term agreements or partnerships for new athletic fields, permanent or a long-term lease for the site of the Visitor and Information Center and its grounds all will require new resources to staff, program, and to maintain along with additional equipment and supplies. Any acquisition proposal should be presented with a maintenance strategy that details staffing, equipment, and other needs.

### **Strategies to Minimize Future Maintenance Activities**





### National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

Given the minimal funding, operations revenue, and staffing data available to assess needs, the benchmarks for similarly populated communities collected by NRPA provide a useful comparison metric.

The NRPA collects self-reported metrics from member agencies across the US and Canada. Compiled into a searchable database, the information serves as a gauge to compare the Town of Strasburg's investment in its parks and recreation with communities of similar size from across the country. The database was searched twice, one for communities with a population between 1,000 - 7,500, similar in size to the Town of Strasburg (2010 census population reported at 6,401).and a second run for communities with a population between 7,550-10,000, the anticipated population of Strasburg in 2035.

Information for each population run is presented in separate, independent tables in this document. The population run of 1,000-7,500 is useful for current comparison purposes, and the population run of 7,500-10,000 is useful to use as projected goal comparison for 2035.

Data is reported as a median and also as an lower and upper quartile, providing a range from which to compare the Town of Strasburg with other similarly-sized communities. The median is not presented as a standard to meet, but as a benchmark. Its applicability will vary with each community's unique features and needs. This data is presented here as a point of reference and not as a standard or required target to achieve.

Population, Size, and Expenditure Summary for Park and Recreation Activities: Communities with populations between 1,000-7,500					
	Town of Strasburg 2018 data (not NRPA data)	Reporting Agencies Summary			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (15 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Population of jurisdiction	6,401 (2010 census) 6,658 (2019 estimate)	15	4,500	5,430	6,938.5
Square miles of incorporated jurisdiction	3.75	15	3.3	5	8.1
Operating expenditures per capita	\$23.43	10	\$67	\$118	\$478
Revenue per capita	???	8	\$19	\$64	\$128
Total revenue to total operating expenditures	???	8	12.3%	26.6%	62.4%
Total tax expenditures per capita	???	8	\$41	\$96	\$169
Park operating expenditures per acre of parkland <b>NEED TO Confirm total park acreage</b>	\$195,420 (2019-2020 budget)/	5	\$1,333	\$4,166	\$6,200
Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	???	6	3,889	8,123	20,197
Operating expenditures per FTE	???	9	\$89,286	\$109,148	\$117,894
FTEs per 10,000 population	???	9	6.4	8.2	34
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	???	6	10.1	13.7	21.8
Ratio of fee programs to all programs	???	5	57.1%	80%	90%





### 2019 Comparative Population Figures

Communities and their locations included in the 1,000-7,500 population run are:

- Ayden Arts and Recreation, NC
- City of King Parks and Recreation, NC
- City of Lancaster, WI
- City of Marshfield, MO
- Colombine Knolls Grove Metropolitan Recreation District, CO
- Grafton Parks and Recreation, ND
- Mount Shasta Recreation & Parks District, CA
- Nappanee Parks & Recreation, IN
- Ocean City Recreation & Parks, MD
- Osage Beach (City of), MO
- Seward Parks & Recreation, AK
- Town of Sunnyvale, TX
- Village of Cottage Grove, WI
- Village of Wappingers Falls, NY
- Willard Parks and Recreation, MO

### Capital Budget for Park and Recreation Activity Benchmarks: Communities with populations between 1,000-7,500

	Town of Strasburg 2018 data (not NRPA data)	Jurisdiction Information, Capital Budget			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (15 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Jurisdiction annual capital budget	???	12	\$592,132	\$931,388	\$1,914,948
Agency's* total annual capital budget for the next five years	???	4	\$140,813	\$183,875	\$775,000
Agency's* total annual capital budget for the fiscal year	\$10,000 (FY 2019-2020 Budget)	7	\$88,750	\$190,000	\$828,155
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for renovation**	0%	6	5%	98%	100%
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for new development	100%	6	30.5%	55%	76.8%
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for acquisition	0%	6	6.3%	12.5%	18.8%
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for other	0%	6	0%	0%	30%
Value of general obligation bonds authorized	???	3	\$420,000	\$725,000	\$1,512,500
Value of revenue bonds authorized	???	0			

Note: \*'Agency' in this context refers to the component of a jurisdiction's overall budget dedicated to parks and recreation related activities



Operations Budget for Park and Recreation Activity Benchmarks: Communities with populations between 1,000-7,500					
Note: Numbers do not include Visitor and Information Center or events EXCEPT 4th of July	Town of Strasburg 2018 data (not NRPA data)	Jurisdiction Information, Agency Operations Source: NRPA 2019 Park Metrics, 12.10.19 (15 communities with population between 1,000 - 7,500 across the US)			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (15 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Jurisdiction total annual operating budget	3,192,873	15	\$2,168,533	\$8,331,625	\$13,356,048
Agency's* total annual operating expenditures	\$207,623 [\$141,420 for Parks & Rec \$54,000 for Pool Salaries (FY 2019-2020 Budget)]	10	\$423,788	\$634,917	\$1,475,115
Percentage of agency's* total operating expenditures for parks	N/A**	6	32.8%	49.5%	70.8%
Percentage of agency's* total operating expenditures for recreation	N/A**	6	25.3%	26.5%	33%
Percentage of agency's* total operating expenditures for other	N/A**	6	12%	20%	29.3%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for personnel services	26% (double check calcs, usually salaries are higher proportion)	10	47%	49.5%	58%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for operating services	N/A**	10	37.5%	39.5%	44%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for capital expense not in CIP	N/A**	10	5.5%	10%	11.5%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for other	N/A**	10	1.5%	3%	9%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from general fund tax support	79%	9	27.8%	85%	99%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from dedicated levies	0%	9	0%	0%	0.1%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from earned/generated revenue	21%	9	2.3%	9.5%	28%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from other dedicated taxes	0%	9	0%	0%	19%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from sponsorships	0%	9	0%	0%	1%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from grants	0%	9	1%	5%	10%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from other	0%	9	0%	0%	33.5%
Agency's* total annual non-tax revenues	\$43,483	8	\$88,250	\$337,500	\$593,693

Notes: \*\*Agency' in this context refers to the component of a jurisdiction's overall budget dedicated to parks and recreation related activities  
 \*\* Unable to calculate at this time



<b>Personnel and Workloads: Communities with populations between 1,000-7,500</b>					
	Town of Strasburg 2018 data <i>(not NRPA data)</i>	<b>Personnel</b>			
		Source: NRPA 2019 Park Metrics, 12.10.19 (15 communities with population between 1,000 - 7,500 across the US)			
		<b># of Communities Reporting to NRPA (15 total)</b>	<b>Lower Quartile</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Upper Quartile</b>
Number of full-time-employees at your agency*	1.9	9	3	3	8
Number of non-full-time employees	N/A**	8	9	17	40.3
Total annual hours worked by non-full-time employees	N/A**	8	1,060	2,250	9,161.3
Total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) (FTE + non-full-time hours/2080 hours) = FTEs equivalent	N/A**	9	3.1	4.5	18.1
Percent of FTEs involved in Administration	N/A**	4	7.5%	12.5%	17.5%
Percent of FTEs involved in Operations/Maintenance	1.9	4	31%	45%	64%
Percent of FTEs involved in Programmers	N/A**	4	9.8%	20%	37.8%
Percent of FTEs involved in Capital development	N/A**	4	0%	5%	10%
Percent of FTEs involved in other	N/A**	4	5%	10%	15%
Total number of parks	4 (includes Visitor Center w/lease agreement)	7	2.5	4	8
Total park acres	Town Park: 80.4 acres Strasburg Square: .44 acres Hometown Park: .07 acres = 80.91 acres  does not include the Visitor Center acreage because it is not currently owned by the Town	6	34.7	80.5	116.3
Total number of non-park sites	0	3	3	5	5
Number of acres of developed open space	N/A**	5	60	75	105
Number of acres of undeveloped open space	N/A**	4	26.3	30	38.8
Total number of trail miles managed or maintained by agency*	.9***	5	2	2.9	3

Notes: \*\*Agency' in this context refers to the component of a jurisdiction's overall budget dedicated to parks and recreation related activities  
 \*\* Unable to calculate at this time  
 \*\*\* This does include trails at the Visitor and Information Center - trail length is only for the Riverwalk - how many miles of trail are at the VC?





### 2035 Comparative Population Figures

The communities included in the 7,500-10,000 population run are:

- Clear Lake Metropolitan Recreation Special District, CO
- Coffeyville Recreation Commission, KS
- Des Peres Parks and Recreation, MO
- Hartford Parks and Recreation Department, VT
- Highland Parks & Recreation, IL
- Montague Parks & Recreation, MA
- Perryville Parks & Recreation, MO
- Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department, NC

The tables using the population figures of 7,500-10,000 use 2019 data. They are included as a gauge for future benchmarking as Strasburg's population grows. The estimated population in 2035 of 9,788 for Strasburg is a soft figure, as it is based on the 2010 census data and must be reevaluated upon receipt of 2020 census data. These figures are included solely as a guide to future expansion and growth in personnel and funding that may be required if the Town is to continue to provide its current or enhanced level of service in parks and recreation services in 2035.

Population, Size, and Expenditure Summary for Park and Recreation Activities: Communities with populations between 7,500-10,000					
	Town of Strasburg projected 2035 population - peer group comparison ( <i>not NRPA data</i> )	Reporting Agencies Summary Source: NRPA 2019 Park Metrics, 12.11.19 (8 communities with population between 7,500-10,000, across the US) REPORTED IN 2019 Dollars, no escalation included			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (8 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Population of jurisdiction	9,788 estimated for 2035 (interpolated from Comprehensive Plan 2018, page 48; confirm with 2020 census report)	8	8,554.8	9,668.5	10,000
Square miles of incorporated jurisdiction	3.75	7	7.2	7.6	22.4
Operating expenditures per capita		8	\$120	\$187	\$307
Revenue per capita		6	\$52	\$86	\$125
Total revenue to total operating expenditures		6	29.4%	36.5%	57.8%
Total tax expenditures per capita		6	\$73	\$118	\$163
Park operating expenditures per acre of parkland		5	\$6,960	\$8,104	\$13,500
Operating expenditures per acre of parkland		5	27,840	50,647	69,438
Operating expenditures per FTE		5	\$57,616	\$81,294	\$197,445
FTEs per 10,000 population		5	12.9	23.5	30.3
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents		5	2.7	3.6	11.8
Ratio of fee programs to all programs		4	70.1%	86%	93.3%



### Background on the NRPA Agency Performance Survey Definitions

Information is self-reported by individual communities, which may account for some entries that don't seem to fit. NRPA provides a guide with definitions for different entries. However, there may be some apples to oranges comparisons as a result.

#### NRPA Definitions

**Jurisdiction** - legally defined form of government such as a town or city; entries for Jurisdiction capital and operating budgets should be for all departments in the Jurisdiction government.

**Agency** - term referring to entity responsible for parks and recreation operations and maintenance.

**Personnel services** - expenditures for all salaries, wages and benefits for full and non-full time personnel and contracted individuals. Employees who are 'force accounted', paid for by bond or grant funds, should be included.

**Operations** - includes all expenditures for all functions of the 'agency'.

**Operating capital** - expenditures for capital equipment (computers, vehicles, large area mowers, tractors, etc.), some periodic cyclical maintenance (push mowers, etc.) and debt services paid from the operating funds.

Jurisdictional general fund - general fund revenues collected by jurisdiction and allocated in the budget process.

**Tax levy** (specific to parks, recreation and open space) - ballots or otherwise approved amounts of taxes specified for expenditure of operating dollars specific to parks, recreation and open space, usually multi-year.

### Capital Budget for Park and Recreation Activity Benchmarks: Communities with populations between 7,500-10,000

	Town of Strasburg projected 2035 population - peer group comparison (not NRPA data)	Jurisdiction Information, Capital Budget			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (8 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Source: NRPA 2019 Park Metrics, 12.11.19 (8 communities with population between 7,500-10,000, across the US) REPORTED IN 2019 Dollars, no escalation included					
Jurisdiction annual capital budget		8	\$95,250	\$501,135	\$1,105,250
Agency's* total capital budget for the next five years		5	\$400,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,200,000
Agency's* total annual capital budget for the fiscal year		6	\$99,250	\$453,500	\$876,750
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for renovation		5	60%	75%	85%
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for new development		5	32.5%	40%	40%
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for acquisition		5	15%	15%	15%
Percent of agency's* current fiscal year capital budget designated for other		5	0%	0%	30%
Value of general obligation bonds authorized		1	\$430,000	\$430,000	\$430,000
Value of revenue bonds authorized		0			

*Note: \*'Agency' in this context refers to the component of a jurisdiction's overall budget dedicated to parks and recreation related activities*



# Master Parks Plan



**Background on the NRPA Agency Performance Survey Definitions, continued**

**Earned/generated revenue** - annual fees and charges recovered from classes, programs, events, rentals, and leases.

**Other dedicated taxes** - examples include school district taxes or other special taxes.

**Sponsorships** - only dollar amounts of donations, does not include in-kind services values.

**Grants** - includes State, Federal, and/or Foundation Grants.

**Non-tax revenue** - Derived from fees and charges for classes, programs, events, leagues, permits, leases, rentals and sales of concessions and property.

**Operations Budget for Park and Recreation Activity Benchmarks: Communities with populations between 7,500-10,000**

	Town of Strasburg projected 2035 population - peer group comparison (not NRPA data)	Jurisdiction Information, Agency Operations Source: NRPA 2019 Park Metrics, 12.11.19 (8 communities with population between 7,500-10,000, across the US) REPORTED IN 2019 Dollars, no escalation included			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (8 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Jurisdiction total annual operating budget		8	\$1,462,500	\$1,790,000	\$2,355,916
Agency's* total annual operating expenditures		8	\$1,186,500	\$1,872,694	\$2,849,831
Percentage of agency's* total operating expenditures for parks		7	20.5%	35%	47.5%
Percentage of agency's* total operating expenditures for recreation		7	40%	65%	79.5%
Percentage of agency's* total operating expenditures for other		7	8.8%	12.5%	16.3%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for personnel services		7	51.5%	55%	60%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for operating services		7	27.5%	30%	44.5%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for capital expense not in CIP		7	4%	7.5%	13%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures for other		7	10%	10%	10%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from general fund tax support		6	55%	55%	62%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from dedicated levies		6	0%	9.5%	26.3%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from earned/generated revenue		6	30%	40%	45%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from other dedicated taxes		6	8%	8%	8%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from sponsorships		6	2%	2%	2.8%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from grants		6	3.5%	5%	5%
Percent of agency's* total operating expenditures from other		6	0%	0%	0%
Agency's* total annual non-tax revenue		6	\$518,197	\$858,893	\$1,250,000

Note: \*'Agency' in this context refers to the component of a jurisdiction's overall budget dedicated to parks and recreation related activities





**Background on the NRPA Agency Performance Survey Definitions, continued**

**Full-time employees** - include funded only.

**Non-full-time employees** - may include instructors and other event or hourly employees (class instructors, sports officials, league managers, etc.), include maintenance staff.

<b>Personnel and Workloads: Communities with populations between 7,500-10,000</b>					
	Town of Strasburg projected 2035 population - peer group comparison (not NRPA data)	Personnel			
		# of Communities Reporting to NRPA (8 total)	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Source: NRPA 2019 Park Metrics, 12.11.19 (8 communities with population between 7,500-10,000, across the US) REPORTED IN 2019 Dollars, no escalation included					
Number of full-time-employees at your agency*		5	6	6	17
Number of non-full-time employees		5	35	55	100
Total annual hours worked by non-full-time employees		4	9,510.5	20,627	30,550
Total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) (FTE + non-full-time hours/2080 hours) = FTEs equivalent		5	12.1	23.5	26
Percent of FTEs involved in Administration		4	17.8%	25%	31.3%
Percent of FTEs involved in Operations/Maintenance		4	32.3%	39%	42.5%
Percent of FTEs involved in Programmers		4	23.8%	38%	53.3%
Percent of FTEs involved in Capital development		4	5%	5%	5%
Percent of FTEs involved in other		4	0%	0%	0%
Total number of parks		5	3	6	6
Total park acres		5	25	36	101.4
Total number of non-park sites		3	2.5	3	3.5
Number of acres of developed open space		4	33.3	57.2	91.9
Number of acres of undeveloped open space		4	7.5	25.1	177.5
Total number of trail miles managed or maintained by agency*		4	2.4	4.2	7.1

*Note: \*Agency' in this context refers to the component of a jurisdiction's overall budget dedicated to parks and recreation related activities*

# 5- Funding Sources



01/07/20 Strasburg Parks Master Plan – potential funding sources - DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION AND UPDATING PURPOSES ONLY – work in progress

Source	Program Name	Program	Deadlines	Eligibility	Direction/Project Parameters	Sample Criteria (VDCR)	Issues
www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/grants	<b>The Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program</b>	<p>This 1965 act established a federal reimbursement program for the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas. Since the LWCF began, Virginia has received more than \$76 million in assistance that has made more than 400 projects possible. The LWCF is a 50-50 percent matching reimbursement program. <a href="#">Learn more about the Land and Water Conservation Fund.</a></p> <p>The LWCF is a 50-50 percent matching reimbursement program. The grant recipient must be able to fund 100 percent of the project while seeking periodic reimbursements.</p>	<b>PAST/new date not yet posted/June 28, 2019, 5 p.m.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counties, cities and towns</li> <li>Park and recreation authorities</li> <li>Tribal governments</li> <li>State agencies</li> </ul>	<p>LWCF assistance is available to political jurisdictions for land acquisitions and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas. For the 2019 grant cycle, DCR will only be accepting proposals for acquisition.</p> <p>The minimum grant award request amount is \$250,000 (minimum total project cost \$500,000). There is not maximum award request amount for the 2019 grant cycle</p> <p>Properties acquired, improved or developed with LWCF assistance must be open, maintained and operated in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation. Other commitments include proper maintenance and operation, nondiscrimination, posting of a Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund Acknowledgement, and maintaining the integrity of the 6(f)(3) protected area boundary. More information associated with grantee compliance and commitments is available online under “Program Requirements”.</p>	<p>Project provides trails for hiking or walking, OR access to state waters for fishing, swimming, or beach use OR both trails and recreational water access= 20 points (highest ranking)</p> <p>Project is specifically referenced by name and location in a regional/local plan =5 (highest ranking)</p>	Recent Federal review has made projects more challenging financially (issue in area of investigation and reimbursement)
www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/grants	<b>Recreational Trails Program</b>	<p>The Recreational Trails Program is a matching reimbursement program for building and rehabilitating trails and trail facilities and land acquisition for trail projects. The Federal Highway Administration provides the program's funding.</p> <p>The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal matching reimbursement program for building and rehabilitating trails and trail related facilities. Funds may also be used to acquire land that is part of a trail development project. Federal Highway Administration and Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act funds make the program possible and mandate allocations to non-motorized, diversified and motorized trail categories.</p>	<b>PAST/new date not yet posted/Aug. 2, 2019, 5 p.m.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City, county, town or other government entities</li> <li>Registered nonprofit groups partnered with a government body also are eligible</li> </ul>	<p>Funding obligation will occur in a two-step process: an RTP grant for preliminary engineering (PE) followed by a construction grant. PE grants help cover costs associated with studies, analysis, evaluations and associated activities necessary to develop an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other related regulatory requirements, costs for development of construction drawings, and costs for permitting. PE grants have an 18-month life for completion. Construction grants will have an 18-month life for completion. Proposed acquisitions must take place during the project's PE phase.</p>		



Source	Program Name	Program	Deadlines	Eligibility	Direction/Project Parameters	Sample Criteria (VDCR)	Issues
www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/grants	<b>Virginia Land Conservation Foundation</b>	fund permanent conservation easements and to purchase open spaces and parklands, lands of historic or cultural significance, farmlands and forests, and natural areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State agencies, local governments, public bodies and registered (tax-exempt) nonprofit groups are eligible to receive matching grants from the foundation.</li> </ul>	purpose of the foundation is to provide state funding used to conserve certain categories of special land. Those categories are open spaces and parks, natural areas, historic areas, and farmland and forest preservation		
www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/access/	<b>Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Public Boating Access Grants</b>	<b>Program provides up to 75% of the approved project costs to construct or renovate boating access facilities for trailer or non-trailer hand launch boats.</b>					
https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/shopdgif/virginia-wildlife-grant-program	<b>DGIF - The Virginia Wildlife Grant Program</b>	<p>Launched in 2014, provides a funding source to non-profits, schools, and government agencies with a focus to connect youth to the outdoors and is a partnership effort between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia. Support of the Grant Program is generated through the sale of gear and other merchandise from <a href="http://ShopDGIF.com">ShopDGIF.com</a>, the <a href="#">One Shot Turkey Hunt Fundraiser</a>, and private donations.</p> <p>Your program recruits or retains youth in one or more of the following eligible activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archery</li> <li>Boating</li> <li>Hunting</li> <li>Fishing</li> <li>Recreational Shooting</li> <li>Trapping</li> <li>Wildlife Viewing – includes observing animals or signs of animals <i>in their natural habitats</i>. This category can also include observing and better understanding the natural habitat itself and how it supports the animals that live there. Priority will be placed on programs/activities with the potential to build a lifelong interest and skill set in wildlife viewing (e.g. bird watching, creating pollinator gardens with native plants and identifying pollinators, identifying frog calls or building a frog pond and observing</li> </ul>	<p>Application Submission Deadline: August 31, 2019</p> <p><b>Grant period Nov 1 – Oct 1</b></p> <p>Department contact is Tom Wilcox, VDGIF, (804) 367-6892, <a href="mailto:Tom.Wilcox@dgif.virginia.gov">Tom.Wilcox@dgif.virginia.gov</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>501(c) (3) Non-Profits, Government Organizations, and Schools</li> </ul>	<p>2018 year was the highest grant award amount of nearly <b>\$80,000</b> supporting 34 projects and impacting 5,500 youth. Almost 40% of our projects focus upon at-risk youth through supporting mental and physical, and financial needs. We are also engaging more female, Hispanic, and urban populations.</p> <p>Through this grant, DGIF and WFV are connecting youth to the outdoors through the recruitment and retention into outdoor activities. “Recruitment” is creating awareness and interest in an outdoor activity and most importantly, providing a first-time or trial experience of that activity. “Retention” is defined as efforts or programs that will support and encourage youth to continue participating in an outdoor activity in which they are currently engaged.</p> <p><b>Priority Demographics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Females</li> <li>Hispanic</li> <li>Urban</li> <li>Special need – physical, cognitive, and financial</li> </ul>	<p>EXCERPT FROM VOP 2018: DGIF launched the Virginia Wildlife Grant Program in 2014, which provides a funding source to nonprofits, schools and government agencies with a focus to connect youth to the outdoors. It is a partnership between DGIF and the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia. In 2017, the Virginia Wildlife Grant Program awarded funding for 27 projects totaling just over \$55,000 that will impact almost 10,000 youth. Eleven projects will benefit at-risk youth. Projects spanned the entire Commonwealth and integrated activities including fishing, archery, wildlife viewing, boating, shooting sports, hunting and trapping. Support of the program is generated through the sale of gear and other merchandise from ShopDGIF.com, the One Shot Turkey Hunt Fundraiser and private contributions. Source: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries</p>	

		<p>frog life cycles, fresh water snorkeling and learning to identify fish and other aquatic species, identifying animal tracks and other signs of wildlife, going on nature walks to observe and learn the habitat values of natural areas, nature journaling, etc.)</p> <p>Preference will be given to programs that provide youth with the opportunity to continue the activity at a higher level or beyond the current program. For example, programs that provide continuing support and engagement like a hunting skills workshop that leads to an actual hunting experience.</p> <p>Youth ages (5–21)</p> <p><b>Estimated 2019 Total Funding Available</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$60,000</b> – we are anticipating the funding of 20–30 projects.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Minimum – \$1,000</b></li> <li>○ <b>Maximum – \$3,000</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			<p><b>Allowable Expenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All grant purchases will include outdoor gear and equipment related to the eligible tasks (rods and reels, firearms, ammunition, binoculars, field guides, etc.).</li> <li>• Transportation needs</li> <li>• Instructor support to provide expertise related to the outdoor activity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-Allowable Expenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trout for stocking, t-shirts, refreshments, prizes, raffles, or other items not directly related to the activity.</li> </ul>		
<p>www.dgif.virginia.gov/support-to-partners/</p>	<p><b>Support to Partners – Shenandoah River Watershed</b></p>	<p>To improve or create public access along the South River, South Fork Shenandoah River, North Fork Shenandoah River, Mainstem Shenandoah River, or tributaries to these rivers for the purposes described in the <a href="#">DuPont Waynesboro – South River/South Fork Shenandoah River/Shenandoah River Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (RP/EA)</a>, which was developed with public input to restore natural resources and the services they provide that were injured by releases of mercury from the DuPont-Waynesboro Site.</p> <p>The RP/EA identified “recreational fishing access creation/improvement” as a preferred project category that will provide compensation for the injuries to recreational fishing. Possible projects may involve: boating, bank fishing, and/or wading activities, and also swimming and wildlife viewing. Projects may include addition of new locations and/or improvements to existing facilities. Improving boating public access may also include dam removal projects that open stretches of a river to boating and fishing.</p>	<p>October 1 of any given year</p>	<p>Local governments including Augusta, Rockingham, Page, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, and Frederick Counties, and cities and towns within these aforementioned counties are eligible and encouraged to apply. Also eligible are state and federal agencies and, non-governmental not-for-profit organizations.</p>	<p>Land acquisition, planning, design, historic and environmental review, and construction costs can be covered by the program and must be clearly documented in the application. A new survey of the site must be included along with well-marked property boundaries. Land acquisition must follow the Commonwealth’s Department of General Services guidelines. A signed Memorandum of Understanding between parties must be executed before work begins.</p> <p>Projects proposals will not be considered by the Commonwealth if any of the following situations are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is otherwise required by federal, state, or local laws, regulations, permits, or licenses.</li> <li>• Significant adverse environmental impacts</li> </ul>		

Source	Program Name	Program	Deadlines	Eligibility	Direction/Project Parameters	Sample Criteria (VDCR)	Issues
		Additional goals are outlined in the RP/EA ( <a href="#">Section 5.3.7</a> ).			would result from the project, and such impacts are not adequately mitigated.		
<a href="https://aftco.com/pages/bass-conservation-grant">https://aftco.com/pages/bass-conservation-grant</a>	<b>AFTCO x B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation Grant</b>	<p>The AFTCO x B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation Grant Program was created to help provide \$10,000 of funds to approved projects with no single project receiving more than \$5,000. Through current grass roots B.A.S.S. Nation organizations our goal is to encourage youth oriented conservation projects that benefit local fisheries.</p> <p>Qualified projects must directly involve youth in such a way as to teach the importance of resource stewardship and the leadership role that anglers play as conservationists. Each project must have an endorsement of the local fisheries management agency and work to accomplish goals of mutual benefit. The project must have an evaluation component to determine success. A project may be part of a larger project, and working with partners is strongly encouraged. Having already obtained matching funds and/or donations of materials and/or in-kind services increase a project's value. The project must demonstrate a good investment for AFTCO and B.A.S.S. (e.g., in terms of feasibility, accountability and financial leverage.)</p> <p>Proposals will be judged by a panel that includes representatives from B.A.S.S. and AFTCO. Awards will be announced at the 2019 ICAST show in Orlando, Florida. Please direct any questions to the B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation Director Gene Gilliland at <a href="mailto:ggilliland@bassmaster.com">ggilliland@bassmaster.com</a></p>	<b>All submissions need to be submitted by May15, 2019.</b>		<p>The project focus should include 1 or more of the categories below:</p> <p>Make a significant contribution to protect or enhance natural or artificial fish <b>habitat</b>; or...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent, manage or eliminate <b>aquatic invasive species</b> via action or education/outreach; or...</li> <li>Demonstrate best-practices in <b>tournament fish care</b> to maximize survival of released fish; or....</li> <li>Protect or enhance angler or boater <b>access to public waters</b>; or...</li> <li>Address an acute or chronic aquatic resource <b>pollution</b> issue; or....</li> <li>Demonstrate a new or innovative approach to <b>conservation education</b></li> </ul>		
<a href="https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/BoatAccess/BA.htm">https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/BoatAccess/BA.htm</a>	<b>U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service, Wildlife &amp; Sport Fish Restoration Program</b>	The Boating Access (BA) Program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects that provide access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities or renovation and/or improvement of existing facilities.		Grant funds are disbursed to states for approved grants up to 75% of the project costs and insular areas up to 100% of the project costs.	Related grant programs are the <a href="#">Boating Infrastructure Grant Program</a> and the <a href="#">Clean Vessel Act Grant Program</a> .		
<a href="http://www.dof.virginia.gov/financing/grants.htm">http://www.dof.virginia.gov/financing/grants.htm</a>	<b>Virginia Trees for Clean Water Request for Proposal</b>	Through funds from the USFS Chesapeake Watershed Forestry Program, VDOF has developed the Virginia Trees for Clean Water program which is designed to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay through on-the-	This cycle of grant funds will be used for planting projects occurring	local units of government, approved non-profit organizations, community civic	The specific objectives of the program are to:•To plant trees that restore and improve the waters of the Chesapeake Bay for the benefit of current and future citizens of the		



		<p>ground efforts to plant trees where they are needed most. Projects include tree planting activities of all types: riparian buffer tree planting, community and neighborhood tree plantings etc. Winning proposals will demonstrate the merit of the project and how the trees will be maintained in perpetuity. The objective is to use on-the-ground accomplishments to obtain clean water in Virginia. Grant funds will be reimbursed at the conclusion of the project and funding is available on a 50/50 match basis. In-kind match including volunteer time is permissible.</p> <p>Grants are awarded through this program to encourage local government and citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustained canopy cover.</p>	<p>in the spring and fall of 2018.</p> <p>Please submit your applications by Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.</p> <p><a href="#">Lara Johnson</a>          Urban &amp; Community Forestry Program Manager          900 Natural Resources Dr., Suite 800          Charlottesville, VA 22903          W 434-220-9185          C 804-239-0813  <a href="mailto:lara.johnson@dof.virginia.gov">lara.johnson@dof.virginia.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.dof.virginia.gov">www.dof.virginia.gov</a></p>	<p>organizations, educational institutions or private citizens</p>	<p>Commonwealth•Achieve long-term improvements in water quality through long-lived tree cover and increased public involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To raise public awareness about the benefits of planting trees for the health of our streams and rivers</li> </ul> <p>There will be approximately \$50,000 available to fund projects during the current grant cycle. The recommended funding range for most proposals is \$1,000 to \$10,000. The typical proposal is in the \$3,000 to \$10,000 range. Total project cost (including recipient matching funds or in-kind match) should be at least twice the amount of grant funds requested.</p> <p>Proposal Categories          The following project work areas are examples; projects are not limited to these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣Riparian tree planting in non-Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) areas, including urban areas and private lands. These plantings should be an average of 35 feet wide or greater which is usually 3-4 rows of seedlings. Seedlings are generally planted at 10-15 ft. centers or 195 to 435 per acre. A maximum of 435 seedlings per acre will be paid for by the grant. Riparian plantings generally need tree protectors as well, because of the deer browse and destruction. The accepted rate per seedling for a full turnkey planting project including; providing the seedling, planting labor, using a tree protector, mulch, all together is \$9.00/seedling total. This may not be your cost as project needs and requirements differ. When budgeting please use your anticipated real cost.</li> <li>♣Community tree planting projects include tree plantings on any public</li> </ul>		
--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

					<p>lands. A long term maintenance plan must be included with the grant application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣Street Tree planting projects including planting strips and cutouts should be as large as possible to provide ample growing space for the tree. Cutouts must be at least 4'x10' or equivalent to be considered for funding under the program. Also, proposed projects with planting strips or cutouts less than 3' wide will not be considered.</li> <li>♣Neighborhood Tree plantings may be organized by the local civic association or home owner's association or by the community government. Projects should be located on common ground or within 35 feet of the road way on private land.</li> <li>♣Neighbor Woods tree plantings, where citizens in a neighborhood organize themselves for a volunteer focused community tree planting.</li> <li>♣Turf to Trees projects include conversion of regularly mowed lawns greater than 0.5 acres to trees, usually using tree seedlings or small saplings. Annual mowing between the seedlings is allowed during establishment.</li> </ul> <p>It is expected that all projects will be maintained for a minimum of 15 years, up to forever.</p>		
	<p><b>Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Grants</b></p>	<p>The Virginia Department of Forestry, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, announce the Urban &amp; Community Forestry (U&amp;CF) Grant Assistance Program. These funds are provided by the USDA Forest Service and are administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program is designed to encourage projects that promote tree planting, the care of trees, the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems, and education on tree issues in</p>	<p><b>Grants on hold per web site since 2017</b></p>				

		cities, towns and communities across the nation. Grants are awarded through this program to encourage local government and citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustained urban and community forestry projects and programs at the local level.					
<a href="https://lfsxcd.org/virginia-conservation-assistance-program-vcap/">https://lfsxcd.org/virginia-conservation-assistance-program-vcap/</a>	<b>Lord Fairfax Soil &amp; Water Conservation District Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)</b>	purpose of this program is to provide cost-share and technical assistance to address natural resource and stormwater concerns by assisting in the voluntary installation of certain stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) on land for which there is no other cost-share program assistance available. VCAP also aims to assist localities with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) implementation and the challenges meeting the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals.	<b>Conservation Specialist</b>  Alison Sloop alison.sloop@lfsxcd.org 540-465-2424 ext. 111	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Municipalities, schools, homeowners, businesses</b></li> </ul> <p>VCAP participation may be eligible to public, private, non-profits, and commercial landowners within a participating SWCD. State-and federally-owned land does not qualify.</p>	<b>Cost share typically reimburse up to 75% of the cost to install a practice</b>  <b>11 practices are eligible</b>  Assigned cost-share rates and caps will apply to all applications received from a participating District during a given grant cycle. Rates for each practice are described in further detail in the District Reference Guide. All applicants will be limited to \$50,000.00 in total cost-share received per calendar year, based on the date of application approval. One contiguous BMP cannot have more than one application from the same property owner(s) regardless of property boundaries nor will the VCAP program accept multiple applications from adjacent property owners for the same contiguous project	<b>As of July 2018:</b> New cost share caps - "Constructed Wetlands" \$3,500 and "Living Shorelines" \$15,000	
	<b>CREP program through Farm Service Agency</b>  <b>EQIP through the Natural Resources Conservation Service</b>  <b>Mountains to Bay, <a href="http://www.m2balliance.org/">http://www.m2balliance.org/</a></b>	All of these are typically for agriculture lands, so I don't think the Town of Strasburg would qualify, but worth mentioning.					
	<b>Reforestation of Timberlands</b>	solely for planting pine, and not a lot of money, but the cost of planting is typically very affordable ~\$100/acre for seedlings and labor					



Source	Program Name	Program	Deadlines	Eligibility	Direction/Project Parameters	Sample Criteria (VDCR)	Issues
<a href="http://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/cities">nationalfitnesscampaign.com/cities</a>	<b>Fitness Court Program</b>	<b>National Fitness Campaign Healthy City Grant</b> - \$30,000 (single site) up to \$300K (10 sites)	2020 Summer – Application submission by February 1, 2020 (program launch per award period)	Municipalities	Demonstration that wellness is a priority to the municipality and the campaign aligns with goals and local initiatives/support from appropriate stakeholders (mayor, city council, parks director, leadership, etc.)	Qualified cities will receive \$30,000 in grant funding from NFC for each Fitness Court. With variable funding models and opportunities for partnership development within local and regional networks.	
<a href="http://Gfoutdoorfitness.com/nrpa2019-functional-fitness/">Gfoutdoorfitness.com/nrpa2019-functional-fitness/</a>	<b>Greenfields Outdoor Fitness</b>	<b>Functional Fitness Special Offer</b>	Deadline for 2020 was 12/31/19	Organizations, community groups		Greenfields Outdoor Fitness is offering matching funds up to 50% toward purchases of Build-Your-Own Functional Fitness Rigs and all other Functional Fitness products, with the assistance of a Greenfields specialist	
<a href="http://tonyhawkfoundation.org/">tonyhawkfoundation.org/</a>	<b>Tony Hawk Foundation</b>	Pro skater Tony Hawk’s foundation supporting municipalities and low-income communities to build skate parks through special events, grants, and technical assistance.	THF grants are offered twice a year.	Municipalities, community groups, non-profits	To be eligible for a skatepark grant, Strasburg’s MHI should be lower than the state’s MHI. Items to accompany the application: 1- IRS Determination Letter 2- Evidence of Community Support 3- Skatepark Design 4- Financial Statements  Eligibility requirements can be found <a href="#">here</a> .		
<a href="https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/us-communities-an-omnia-partner">https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/us-communities-an-omnia-partner</a>	<b>OMNI Partners</b> (Formerly U.S. Communities)	Through OMNIA Partners, government agencies can utilize competitively solicited contracts to help save time and resources while still meeting purchasing requirements. Cooperative purchasing contracts from OMNIA Partners have been competitively solicited by a lead public agency and meet rigorous cooperative standards and supplier commitments.	No time limitations.	Public procurement teams and buyers for: States and state agencies; cities, counties, municipalities/townships; public and private higher education institutions and systems; public and private primary education schools, districts and systems; nonprofit agencies	Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreements- State statutes and, if applicable, local ordinances generally allow one government agency to purchase from contracts competitively solicited by another government agency (“Lead Public Agency”). This, of course, would require the consent of all parties including the supplier, the Lead Public Agency and government agency purchasing from the Lead Public Agency contract. OMNIA Partners contracts are established to meet both the competitive solicitation		

				and charitable organizations; special districts such as fire, water, sewer, etc.	and consent requirements. Public agencies accessing OMNIA Partners consent to a Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (MICPA) with the various lead public agencies that have competitively solicited and awarded available contracts.  More on compliance: <a href="https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/what-we-do/compliance">https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/what-we-do/compliance</a>		
<a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding_opportunities.cfm">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding_opportunities.cfm</a>	<b>U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program</b>	Federal funding programs supporting bicycle and pedestrian projects, including but not limited to, shared-use paths; recreation trails; bridges for pedestrians and bicycles; crosswalks; trailside and trailhead facilities (including restrooms and water); stormwater impacts related to pedestrian and bicycle projects; sidewalks; signs; and lighting (as related to pedestrian and bicycle projects).	Refer to FHWA table for limitations. <a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm</a>				
<a href="https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/about-dhr/grants-incentives/">https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/about-dhr/grants-incentives/</a>	<b>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</b>	State funding for preservation of historic and archaeological resources.					
<a href="https://caveconservancyofvirginia.org/grant-proposal-guidelines/">https://caveconservancyofvirginia.org/grant-proposal-guidelines/</a>	<b>Cave Conservancy of Virginia</b>	The Cave Conservancy of the Virginias (CCV) funds a variety of projects, including education and outreach endeavors, cave and sinkhole cleanups, purchase of significant properties for protection, original research on the archaeology, biology, geology, hydrology and sociology of cave and karst systems, among others. The amount of funding has ranged from a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars. A list of previously funded projects is available on our website.	Submission deadlines are 12:00 noon (US Eastern Time) on March 1 to be considered at the spring meeting and on October 1 to be considered at the fall meeting.	Qualifying organizations include various Grottos and Sections of the National Speleological Society as well as national, regional and local cave and karst conservation groups, public and private non-profit universities and colleges, and local	Projects must involve sites located in Virginia or West Virginia and the immediate vicinity, although the project leader and co-leaders need not be based within this area. Contact the CCV Grants & Awards (G&A) Committee Chair if you are unsure whether your project site lies within this limit. The G&A Committee Chair for 2019 is Maria Perez (maria.perez@mail.wvu.edu).		

				and state governmental agencies, among others.		
<a href="https://caves.org/grants/index.shtml">https://caves.org/grants/index.shtml</a>	<b>National Speleological Society</b>	Cave conservation grant	Awarded throughout the year	Internal Organizations, Conservation Task Forces, Conservancies, or to individual NSS members for specific projects that involve cave or karst conservation, restoration, or cleanup	Grants from 1K to 5K for efforts related to -scientific investigation of cave or karst conservation problems; - speleological research that will directly contribute to cave or karst conservation; - the remediation of ecological problems in cave, karst, or pseudokarst areas; - hands-on, in-cave efforts to restore cave passages to a former ecological state; - equipment and supplies for conservation or restoration projects that include hands-on participation from cavers; - or public outreach to inform and raise awareness of cave and karst values.	
<a href="https://fconline.foundationcenter.org/?qclid=EAlaIqobChMI2amgv_n75QIVCniGCh0q5wIzEAAYASAAEgLt1_D_BwE">https://fconline.foundationcenter.org/?qclid=EAlaIqobChMI2amgv_n75QIVCniGCh0q5wIzEAAYASAAEgLt1_D_BwE</a>	<b>Foundation Directory Online</b> (Database)				Large database of grant opportunities available through a subscription, sometimes available at local libraries	
	<b>Association of Fundraising Professionals</b>				Grants database	
Grantwatch.com	<b>Grant Watch</b>				Grants database	
Grants.gov					Federal Grants database	



	<b>National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)</b>				Occasional grant opportunities available		
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--