

7 RECREATION FACILITY FEES, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE LAND

7.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

It is the intent of this Ordinance to require that each new development contribute to the necessary range of parks and opens space critical to the quality of life for each resident and visitor. It is expected that all new residential development provide centrally-located, unencumbered land as neighborhood park space for human use and/or unimproved open space in addition to contributing to the construction and expansion of community facilities. The required neighborhood park or open space is intended to compliment the community facilities that are supported by the required Recreation Facility Fees.

7.2 APPLICABILITY

Any person developing and/or subdividing property for residential purposes subject to this Ordinance shall be subject to the dedication standards and Recreation Facility Fee levied by the town.

7.3 RECREATION FACILITY FEE

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Town by the State of North Carolina in Chapter 502, Senate Bill 576 (1989), the Town shall impose a Recreation Facility Fee for each new single-family or multi-family dwelling unit including, but not limited to, condominiums, town homes, apartments, and duplexes built in the Town or the Town's extraterritorial planning area. [Section Z-VI.5]

7.3.1 APPLICABILITY

- A. All residential subdivisions, multi-family developments, planned unit developments and manufactured home parks for which Town approval or permitting is required, or real property improvement which results in the creation of residential dwelling units shall be subject to payment of the Recreation Facility Fee.
- B. No building permit shall be issued for any new residential dwelling unit until the Recreation Facility Fee has been paid to the Town in full.

7.3.2 EXCEPTIONS

- A. The Recreation Facility Fee shall not apply to fences, billboards, poles, pipelines, transmission lines, advertising signs or similar structures and improvements, renovations and repairs which do not generate the need for additional or expanded recreational facilities.
- B. The Recreation Facility Fee shall not apply to residential subdivisions, multi-family developments, planned unit developments and manufactured home parks, which have received master plan approval and are still valid and active or an established zoning vested right prior to November 17, 1998.

7.3.3 CREDITS

The required Recreation Facility Fee may be credited, subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners, by an equivalent amount of land dedication and/or construction of greenway trails noted on an adopted plan.

7.3.4 FEE AMOUNTS

The Recreation Facility Fee shall be paid to the Town in the amounts as determined by the Board of Commissioners.

7.3.5 APPEALS

Any person who feels aggrieved by any action of the Town in imposing the facilities fee on a development or the Town’s classification for the purpose of establishing the rate, must first pay the amount of the facilities fee so charged to him/her, with such amount clearly marked as paid under protest, and thereafter give notice of appeal within a period of thirty (30) days after such payment. Such notice should be delivered by personal service (as defined in Section 1A-1, Rule 4 of the N. C. General Statutes) or registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, directed to the Town Manager. A public hearing shall be held by the Board of Commissioners to review said matter within a period of thirty-five (35) days following receipt of notice of appeal; the decision upon said appeal shall then be subject to review by the Superior Court by proceedings in the nature of certiorari; any petition for review by the Superior Court shall be filed with the clerk of Superior Court of Wake County within a period of thirty (30) days following the date the decision of the Board of Commissioners is delivered in writing to the appealing party, said delivery to be either by personal service or by registered mail or certified mail, return receipt requested.

7.4 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the required Recreation Facility Fees note in 7.3, all new development shall dedicate neighborhood parks and undisturbed open space (as applicable). The intent is to ensure that each new home has a range of parks and open spaces within a typical walking or biking distance of ¼ to ½ mile.

7.4.1 REQUIRED OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION/RECREATION SPACE DEDICATION TABLE

The amount of open space and recreation space required for dedication (measured as a percentage of the gross area of development) shall be as follows:

Context	Category	Required Park Space (Improved) – 7.4	Required Open Space (Unimproved) – 7.5	Total Dedicated Space
Rural	OS	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
	RD	2.5%	10%	12.5%
Suburban	GR3, GR5, GR10	2.5%	10%	12.5%
	NB/HB	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
	ICD	Exempt	25%	25%
	LI/HI	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
Urban	UR, RMX	2%	5%	7%
	RA-HC/ NMX/UMX	2% for projects 5 acres or greater	Exempt	2% for projects 5 acres or greater

7.4.2 CREDIT FOR PROXIMITY TO EXISTING PARK SPACE

Developments that are proximate to an existing Town-owned, publicly-accessible park space may count all such lands in their park space dedication requirement up to 25% of the required total, subject to the provisions below.

- A.** The existing park or parks must be within ½ mile of the development, as measured along a road or pedestrian path, to be considered proximate.
- B.** Adequate pedestrian access from the development to the existing park space must be provided as determined by the Administrator.

7.4.3 CREDIT FOR CONSTRUCTED NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITIES

Developments that provide neighborhood amenity facilities will receive a credit of 25% of the required total, subject to the provisions below.

- A. The facilities are open to all residents of the neighborhood and are not subject to a private membership separate from any related HOA dues.
- B. Such facilities shall, at a minimum, include a clubhouse a minimum of 1,000 square feet and either tennis courts (minimum of 3 courts) or a pool/waterpark/sprayground (a minimum of 2,500 square feet in water surface area)

7.4.4 EXEMPTIONS

- A. Very Low Density Developments: Neighborhood parks are not required in any residential development with an overall density of 1 unit/acre or less.
- B. Small Developments: Developments with 25 units or less in all phases shall not be subject to the requirements of this Chapter.
- C. Non-residential & Mixed-Use Development: Neighborhood parks are required only for those areas that are exclusively residential. Commercial and vertically mixed-use buildings and associated areas are exempt from these standards.

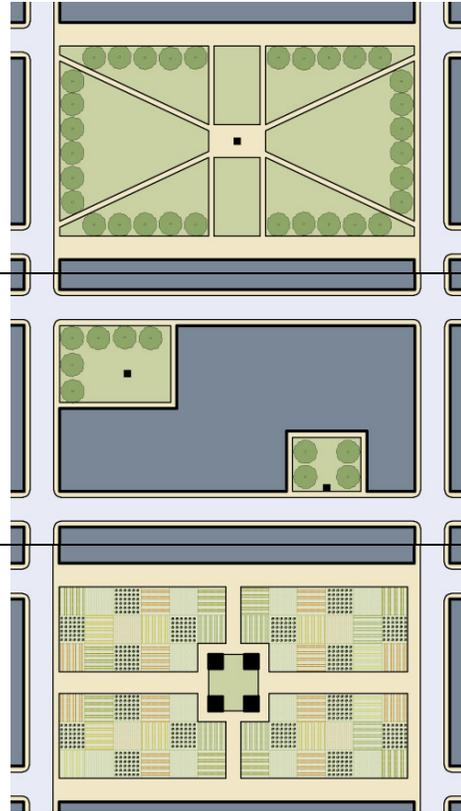
7.5 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DESIGN STANDARDS

7.5.1 REQUIRED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TYPES

Neighborhood parks, as required by the district provisions, shall conform to one or more of the typologies defined below.

<p>A. Park/Greenway: A natural preserve available for unstructured recreation. Its landscape shall consist of paths and trails, meadows, waterbodies, woodland and open shelters, all naturalistically disposed. Parks may be linear, following the trajectories of natural corridors (greenways). The minimum size shall be 2 acres (except Greenways where there is no minimum).</p>	
<p>B. Green: An open space available for unstructured recreation. A Green may be spatially defined by landscaping rather than building frontages. Its landscape shall consist of lawn and trees, naturalistically disposed. For the purposes of this section, standalone dog parks shall be considered a variation of the Green park type. The minimum size shall be 1/2 acre.</p>	

- C. **Square:** An open space available for unstructured recreation and civic purposes. A Square is spatially defined by building frontages. Its landscape shall consist of paths, lawns and trees, formally disposed. Squares shall be located at intersections. The minimum size shall be 1/4 acre and the maximum shall be 2 acres.
- D. **Playground:** An open space designed and equipped for the recreation of children. A playground may include an open shelter. Playgrounds shall be interspersed within Residential areas and may be placed within a block. Playgrounds may be included within parks and greens. There shall be no minimum or maximum size.
- E. **Community Garden:** A grouping of garden plots available for small-scale cultivation, generally to residents of apartments and other dwelling types without private gardens. Community gardens should accommodate individual storage sheds.



7.5.2 LOCATION

- A. Land for neighborhood park spaces shall be centrally and internally located so as to serve the needs of the residents of the neighborhood.
- B. Required neighborhood parks shall provide focal points for developments.
- C. Areas described in the Wake Forest Community Plan, Open Space & Greenway Plan or any other adopted plan as park, recreation, and open space land or greenways shall be preserved and dedicated where practical and feasible. All such dedication and improvement shall also be in conformance with all applicable federal and state rules and/or interlocal agreements. For developments that abut or include areas designated as future greenways on an adopted plan, the Administrator shall require a dedicated 20-foot minimum width public pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle easement be dedicated along all such areas.

7.5.3 ACCESSIBILITY/VISIBILITY

- A. All recreation spaces shall be conveniently accessible to all residents of the development, and shall have at least 20 feet of frontage on at least one public street within the development.
- B. No residential unit within a development shall be further than ¼ mile (1320 feet), as measured along a road or pedestrian path, from a recreation space as defined above or other publicly-accessible park facility.
- C. All recreation spaces shall be visible from dwelling units that are adjacent to the neighborhood park. This includes dwelling units on properties that share a property boundary with the neighborhood park or front the neighborhood park from directly across a street.

7.5.4 USABILITY

- A. At least one-quarter (1/4) of the total land dedicated shall be located outside special flood hazard areas, watercourses, and watershed buffers. All land dedicated shall be outside of wetlands and waters subject to State or Federal regulatory jurisdiction. Within the area proposed for dedication, sufficient engineering data and/or detail shall be indicated to ensure compliance with this section.
- B. Areas including ponds, lakes, wetlands, or easements for public utility transmission lines shall not exceed more than 50% of the required neighborhood park space.

7.5.5 MINIMUM AMENITIES

Required recreation space shall be planned, improved, and usable by persons living nearby. Improved shall mean cleared of underbrush and debris and shall contain two or more of the following amenities: landscaping, walls or pathways, fences, walks, lighting and electricity, fountains, ball fields, and/or playground equipment.

A. Minimum Amenities (All Neighborhood Park Types):

1. Public Seating: Provide seating areas appropriate to the intended use of the space (e.g., park benches and durable theft/vandalism-resistant chairs in formal/active spaces and garden wall seats in informal/passive spaces).
2. Supplement Tree Planting/Significant Species Preservation: A minimum of 1 tree (2 inch caliper minimum measured 6" above the ground at installation) to be planted in at least 350 square feet of soil or 1 preserved existing canopy tree a minimum of 12" caliper for every 2,500 square feet of required park space.
3. Trash Receptacle: Garbage receptacles and recycling receptacles shall be required for each park space.
4. Bicycle Parking: At least 4 Class III bicycle parking spaces shall be required for every 1/4 acre of neighborhood park space and every 1/2 mile of greenway. Bicycle parking shall be designed according to the bicycle parking standards in Section 9.6.

B. Minimum Amenities (Parks): At least 25% of the park space land shall be dedicated to active recreation purposes such as playgrounds, tennis courts, ball fields, volleyball courts, etc. The remainder of the park may be designed for passive recreation purposes such as walking, jogging, cycling, disc golf, relaxation, etc. Preservation of natural or cultural resources such as steep slopes, rock outcroppings, mature woodlands or water resources may also be counted towards passive recreation provided there is some method for public enjoyment and appreciation of such resources.

C. Minimum Amenities (Playground): Playground equipment shall be equivalent to the standards established by the Consumer Products Safety Commission and ASTM for playgrounds.

D. Minimum Amenities (Greenway): A greenway path is credited toward the minimum park space dedication requirement at a rate equal to the length of the path times 20 feet in width. The minimum width of the paved path shall be 10 feet.

7.6 UNIMPROVED OPEN SPACE DESIGN STANDARDS

Pursuant to Section 4.4.1, development in certain districts may only require simple open space. Public accessibility is not required or expected but is permitted. Where practical, the following priority list shall be used for the conservation of such areas:

- Primary Conservation Areas (riparian corridors, special flood hazard areas, unique geological formations, rock outcroppings, rare plants, rare plant communities, rare habitats, wetlands, & prime agricultural areas/farmland)
- Unbuildable Areas (areas that have highly erodible soils or slopes in excess of 60%)

7.7 OWNERSHIP & MAINTENANCE

Dedicated park or open space land shall be separately deeded to either a homeowner's association, a non-profit land trust or conservancy, Wake County, the Town of Wake Forest (upon approval by the Board of Commissioners), or may be held in private ownership with conservation easements recorded in the Wake County Register of Deeds in a form approved by the Town. A metes and bounds description of the space to be preserved and limits on its use shall be recorded on the development plan, in homeowner covenants, and on individual deeds when open space lands are not held entirely in common. Alternative means of permanent open space preservation may include acceptance by a land conservation trust or a unit of government. Private management alternatives will also be permitted. Non-public ownership strategies must be accompanied by a long-term maintenance plan.