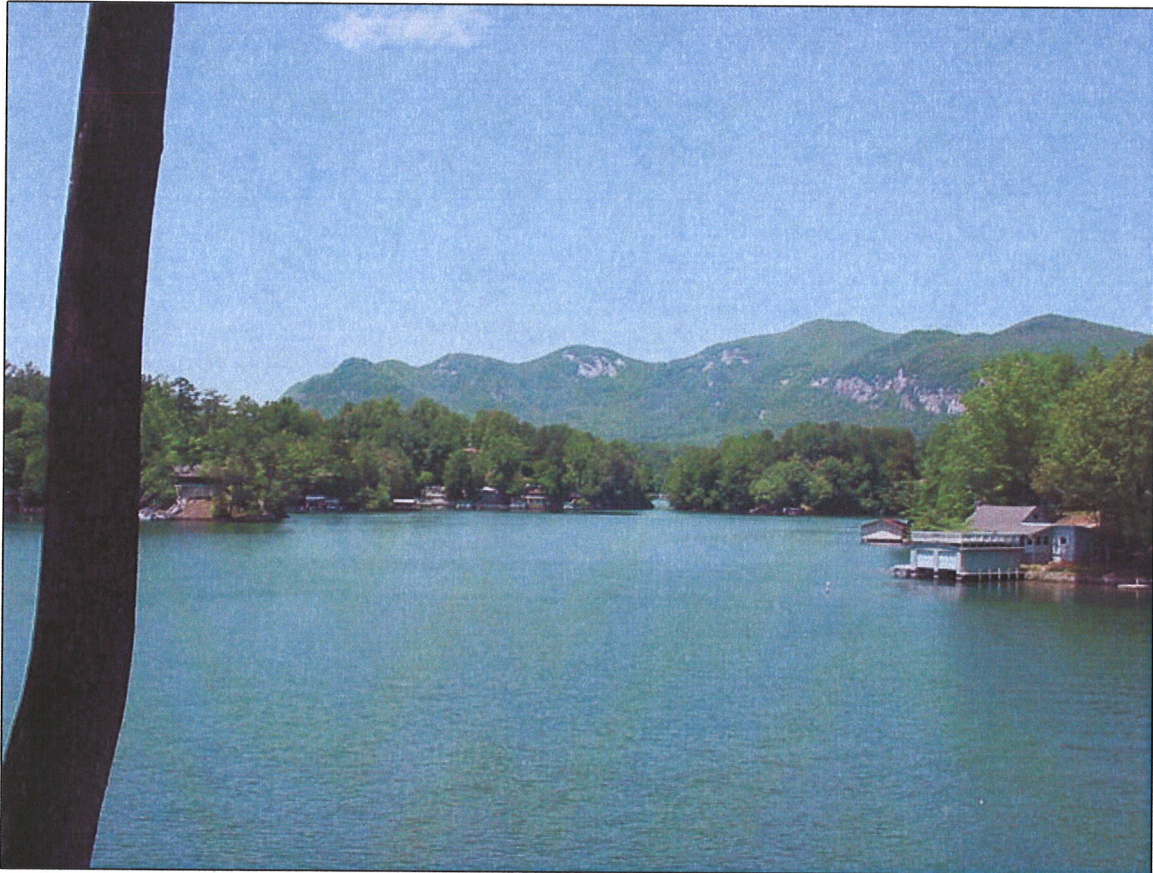


Town of Lake Lure

Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan



Adopted on December 11, 2007 by the Lake Lure Town Council

Amended on July 14, 2009 by the Lake Lure Town Council

**Town of Lake Lure
Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan**

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Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan

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Plan Introduction

Contained herein, is the Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan. This is the first plan developed exclusively for the Town of Lake Lure specifically targeting the topics of parks and recreation. This plan involved approximately one year of documenting and analyzing data, interviewing town personnel, documenting and analyzing facilities, conducting a survey of citizens, and the work of a volunteer Parks and Recreation Board that is committed to providing quality parks and recreation facilities and activities to the citizens of Lake Lure and Rutherford County.

Currently, the Town of Lake Lure provides passive recreation opportunities for citizens and visitors to Lake Lure and Rutherford County as well as Polk County which is located less than a quarter mile from the Town's Boundaries. Passive recreation means that local government provides parks and recreation facilities and areas, for individual usage, but does not have full time staff, or offer programming.

Statistics indicate that during the last census period (1990-2000) Lake Lure has experienced a very high growth rate in comparison to other municipalities in Rutherford County. In addition Lake Lure experiences a very high seasonal population from the months of May through October. How will this affect Lake Lure's parks and recreation? As the population of Lake Lure and Rutherford County continues to grow, additional burdens will be placed upon the Town of Lake Lure's ability to provide recreational services, not only for it's own citizens and vacationers, but also for those in outlying areas of Rutherford and Polk Counties that utilize Lake Lure's park and recreation areas and facilities. Through this planning process, it is envisioned that Lake Lure will be able to meet current and future needs for parks and recreation. It is also envisioned that Rutherford County will take more of an active role in recreation, to take some of the resource load off of the municipalities. Hopefully, all of the local government entities within Rutherford County will work together to assist and complement each other, to offer more diverse types of recreation, and to help each other meet future needs.

Purpose and Scope

This planning process began from a recommendation in the Rutherford County Land Use Plan update completed in 2001. Issue #5 within the Land Use Plan is "The need for recreational opportunities in Rutherford County". The goal to be addressed from this issue is "to inventory all facilities, programs and participants throughout the County to determine what needs exist, and determine how those needs are to be addressed". The final recommendation from the Land Use Plan is that "Rutherford County should form a recreation advisory committee consisting of members from various age groups, and recreational backgrounds". This committee would inventory all public and private facilities, programs and participants to determine what needs exist and how Rutherford County can best address these needs. From this recommendation the Rutherford County Arts , Parks and Recreation Committee was formed. The RCAPRC felt that the inventory of programs and facilities, in conjunction with a Comprehensive Plan would provide the necessary framework for Rutherford County to address current and future recreational

needs. It was also at this time that the larger municipalities (Lake Lure, Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Forest City) were offered the opportunity to become actively involved by creating their own mini-plans based upon the data that the County was accumulating. Lake Lure, Rutherfordton and Forest City accepted this offer. Lake Lure formed a Parks and Recreation Board, and they became actively involved in the planning process by starting development of Lake Lure's Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan. This plan will act as Lake Lure's Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan, and will be placed as an appendix within the Rutherford County Arts, Parks and Recreation Plan.

The main purpose of this document is to provide the Town of Lake Lure with an accurate usable plan to guide its actions and decisions regarding:

- Future parks and recreation programs and facilities
- Renovation of existing parks and/or facilities
- Cooperative efforts in meeting recreation needs
- Possible land acquisitions
- Provide assistance in obtaining grants

The Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan is organized into four sections:

- Review of physical, demographic and historical characteristics
- Inventory and analysis of existing recreation facilities
- Community survey and needs assessment
- Recommendations and implementation

Methodology

From commencement until completion, the work on this plan, and also the other recreation plans, spanned from the fall of 2004, until the early fall of 2007. The information utilized for this plan was gathered from a number of sources including the Lake Lure Comprehensive Plan, Town of Lake Lure Recreation Survey, Census Bureau, North Carolina State Data Center, North Carolina Division of Community Assistance, Rutherford County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Rutherford County Economic Development Department, North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Survey, and town staff.

An inventory of existing parks and recreation areas and facilities was carried out over the course of the planning process.

A random scientific survey for Lake Lure citizens was developed and performed during the planning process.

The Lake Lure Parks and Recreation Board, representing a cross section of interest and expertise assisted the planner in the preparation of the Plan. The Board's duties and responsibilities included the following:

- Assisting with the creation and review of the community survey

- Analyzing existing programming and facilities
- Identifying the issues, strengths and weaknesses of lake Lure Parks and Recreation
- Assisting the planner in formulating recommendations
- Reviewing the draft plan and recommendations

This plan is designed to be implemented over a number of years, and should be serviceable through the year 2018.

