



Frequently Asked Questions: Soccer Complex

Why did the Board of Commissioners consider a Soccer Complex project?

The Cherokee County Parks & Recreation Master Plan developed with citizen involvement in 2003-04 identified parks and recreational needs over a ten year period – from 2005 to 2014, including greenspace, playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, recreation center/aquatic center, and soccer fields, to mention a few. In August 2004, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to ask voters to consider a 6-year extension of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for capital projects, which included \$16.8 million for parks and recreation projects – \$1.4 million of which was earmarked for a “soccer complex”. In November, 2004 the citizens of Cherokee County approved the referendum by a vote of 55.96% to 44.04%.

In 2008, the Board of Commissioners discussed the demand for parks and recreation and a Recreation Summit was conducted to solicit public input regarding the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Following public input, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to ask voters to consider a \$90 million park bond. While the Master Plan and Summit identified and prioritized various park and recreation project needs, an independent citizens group was formed to educate the public and solicit support for the park bond, including developing a Parks for Cherokee web site (<http://parkbond.cherokeega.com/>) that included a description of projects and the impact on property taxes. In November, 2008 the citizens of Cherokee County approved the referendum by a vote of 61.74% to 38.26%.

What guidelines were used to determine the need for parks?

Recommendations for parks were made based on public input, national trends and park staff response, as well as National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines. In 1995, the NRPA laid out a template of typical park classifications, number of acres a park system should have, and recommended service levels based on population. Based on an evaluation of NRPA standards, deficiencies are seen in every recreation amenity with the greatest found in baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, aquatic facilities, trail systems, and additional land. The County also lacks a large multi-purpose recreation

center that provides indoor recreation activities, such as indoor and outdoor pools, gymnasiums and program space primarily in north Cherokee. Residents from the north end of the county must drive 20 – 30 minutes to get to recreation and activities centers in Woodstock.

The popularity of certain sports and activities often dictates the need for additional facilities. This can be seen in the changing standard developed for soccer fields. The original standard developed for soccer fields in the early 1980s recommended 1/10,000 people, but growth of the sport over the last two decades has seen a need for additional fields. The new standard developed by the planning team is 1 per 4,000 people.

Community surveys distributed as part of the public input process asked participants to prioritize implementation of capital improvement planning, the top 5 priorities were:

1. Community Center 63.5%
2. Bike/Pedestrian Trail Network 61.0%
3. Regional Park with Multiple Activities 46.5%
4. Large Playgrounds 42.0%
5. Indoor Aquatic Leisure Pool 41.4%

NRPA Standards for Park Facilities	NRPA Recommendations	Existing Number of Cherokee County Park Facilities	Existing Number of City of Canton Park Facilities	Existing Number of City of Holly Springs Park Facilities	Existing Number of City of Woodstock Park Facilities	TOTAL Existing Number of Park Facilities	Current Facility Need based on Cherokee County estimated 2004 population of 175,398	Current Facility Deficit/ Surplus (Using Desired Level of Service)	Facility Need based on Cherokee County estimated 2014 population of 227,401	2014 Facility Deficit/ Surplus (Using Desired Level of Service)	Desired Level of Service
Acreage	10.5/1000	1356.0	114.1	18	66	1554.1	1841.7	-287.6	2387.7	-833.6	10.5/1000 local
Outdoor Basketball	1/5,000	4	2	1	2	9	17.5	-8.5	22.7	-13.7	1/10,000
Tennis	1/2,000	22	4	0	4	30	43.8	-13.8	56.9	-26.9	1/4,000
Volleyball	1/5,000	3	1	0	0	4	17.5	-13.5	22.7	-18.7	1/10,000
Baseball/Softball	1/2,500	32	5	1	2	40	70.2	-30.2	91.0	-51.0	1/2,500
Football	1/20,000	0	0	0	0	0	8.8	-8.8	11.4	-11.4	1/20,000
Soccer	1/10,000	0	4	0	0	4	70.2	-66.2	91.0	-87.0	1/2,500
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	0	0	0	0	8.8	-8.7	11.4	-13.2	1/20,000
Aquatic centers		0	0	0	0	0					
Outdoor pools		0	0	0	0	0					
Running Track	1/20,000	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	-1.7	2.3	-2.6	1/100,000
Indoor Roller Hockey	1/100,000	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	-1.7	2.3	-2.6	1/100,000
Golf Course (18 Hole)	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	-1.7	2.3	-2.6	1/100,000
Golf Driving Range	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	-1.7	2.3	-2.6	1/100,000
Multiple Recreation Field		4	0	0	0	4					
Multiple Recreation Court	1/10,000	5	0	0	0	5	8.8	-3.8	11.4	-6.4	1/20,000
Developed Standards for Park Facilities	Developed Standard	Existing Number of Cherokee County Park Facilities	Existing Number of City of Canton Park Facilities	Existing Number of City of Holly Springs Park Facilities	Existing Number of City of Woodstock Park Facilities	TOTAL Existing Number of Park Facilities	Current Facility Need based on Cherokee County estimated 2004 population of 175,398	Current Facility Deficit/ Surplus (Using Desired Level of Service)	Facility Need based on Cherokee County estimated 2014 population of 227,401	2014 Facility Deficit/ Surplus (Using Desired Level of Service)	Desired Level of Service
Trail System	1mile/3,000	11.25	13	1	0	25.25	116.9	-91.7	151.6	-126.4	1/1,500
Indoor Courts	1/20,000	2	0	0	0	2	17.5	-15.5	22.7	-20.7	1/10,000
Playground	1/1,000	13	3	3	1	20	35.1	-15.1	45.5	-25.5	1/5,000
Cultural Center	1/100,000	0	1	0	0	1	1.8	-0.8	2.3	-1.3	1/100,000
Community Center	1/50,000	3**	0	1	0	4	3.6	-0.5	4.5	-0.5	1/50,000
Picnic Pavillon	1/2,000	21	1	1	1	24	35.1	-11.1	45.5	-21.5	1/5,000
Soccer	1/4,000**	0	3	0	0	3	70.2	-67.2	91.0	-88.0	1/2,500
Outdoor Roller Hockey	1/25,000*	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	-3.5	4.5	-4.5	1/50,000
Inline Skating Court	1/25,000*	1	0	0	0	1	7.0	-6.0	9.1	-8.1	1/25,000
Skate Park	1/100,000*	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	-1.8	2.3	-2.3	1/100,000

* Standard developed by Lose & Associates, Inc. to respond to recreation trends and growth in certain sports since 1983.

**Activities Center is leased, it is not County owned.

Are there any road improvements planned near the Soccer Complex?

An intersection improvement project located at East Cherokee Drive and S. Holly Springs Road/Thornwood Drive is planned. The project involves improving the intersection of East Cherokee Drive and S. Holly Springs Road/Thornwood Drive. Improvements include construction of left and right-turn lanes on both East Cherokee Drive approaches to the intersection. Also included is construction of a left-turn lane and shared thru and right-turn lane on the S. Holly Springs Road approach to East Cherokee Drive. Improvements to East Cherokee Drive will also include bringing the sag vertical curve on the northbound approach to the intersection up to current design standards.

The project is designed as a stop sign controlled intersection for both S. Holly Springs Road and Thornwood Drive. If warranted in the future, the plans will accommodate a traffic signal installation without additional roadway construction work.

The project has been designed by URS Corporation; design plans are 95% complete. Project funding is included in SPLOST VI, which begins collections in September 2012. The project involves right-of-way acquisition from 15 parcels at an estimated cost of \$150,000. Right-of-way acquisition is anticipated in fall 2012 and winter 2013. Bids for construction are anticipated to be received in spring 2013 with construction taking place in summer 2013. Estimated construction cost is \$1,500,000.

A copy of the overall project limits as well as a copy of the final intersection layout is included for review (see attached).

Will there be outdoor lighting at the Soccer Complex, and what are the planned hours of operation?

To accommodate evening practice and play during the fall and early spring, field lighting is necessary. The Cherokee Soccer Association (CSA) has requested lighting to allow use of the complex for practice and play during the evening period - estimated from 5:30 pm to 9 pm. CSA has committed to the use of shields on all the lights to control the "light wash".

Lights are planned for 5 of the 17 fields, including fields 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (refer to attached layout of complex). The park hours will not extend beyond 9 pm.

Who is Cherokee Soccer Association (CSA), and why has the County partnered with CSA?

Founded in 1971, Cherokee Soccer Association – a non-profit 501(c)(3) youth sports organization, has experienced phenomenal growth over the years as the population of Cherokee County and the surrounding areas has grown and currently serves nearly 2,000 youth. The goal of CSA is to provide the player a rewarding soccer experience for every age and every playing level. Cherokee Impact offers players the following opportunities to get out and play the game of soccer include: Little Kickers 3-4 year olds; Recreational U6-U19; Academy U8-U12; Select U13 to U19; *and*, TOPSoccer.

As the premier soccer association in Cherokee County currently serving nearly 2,000 youth, the County entered into a partnership agreement with CSA rather than trying to take over soccer programming directly. A summary of the terms of the partnership agreement include:

1. The Soccer Fields shall be used and occupied by CSA only for the purpose of sanctioned soccer and soccer-related activities and for children between the ages of four (4) and eighteen (18) years of age. CSA shall not use or permit the Soccer Fields to be used for any other purpose without the prior written approval of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

2. Use of the Soccer Fields as home fields is limited to players within the CSA service area of Cherokee County. The parties shall not allow the Soccer Fields to be used as home fields by any teams that are not a part of CSA or that are outside CSA's service area of Cherokee County without the written approval of the County Recreation & Parks Agency Director (Director) and County Manager.

3. The County shall retain the right to allow and approve Soccer Fields use by others during those times when CSA is not scheduled to use the Soccer Fields as noted above, provided the Soccer Fields are returned to CSA in good, playable condition. Scheduling of such usage shall be coordinated through CSA and pro rata adjustments shall be made to the maintenance obligations of CSA.

4. CSA shall allow other youth sports serving groups from Cherokee County to use the soccer fields when not in use by CSA. CSA shall be allowed to charge a reasonable fee to recover any costs CSA may incur, and shall pay the County 50% of said fees charged.

5. In January of each year, CSA will provide both the number of teams and participants in its league to the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency Director. The Director retains the right to make adjustments in field use based upon those numbers. Any such adjustment shall be made with no less than 90 days advance notice. In the event that an adjustment is made in field use by the Director, pro rata adjustments shall also be made in the maintenance obligations of CSA.

6. CSA is responsible for maintenance of the complex, including mowing, irrigation, fertilizing, aerating, and servicing the toilet facilities.

What buildings and landscaping are planned for the soccer complex?

The Soccer Complex will include a concession/restroom facility, and two (2) additional restroom facilities. The plan provides for over 200 trees to be planted throughout the complex – meeting the Cherokee County Tree Preservation Regulations. In addition, the complex includes fencing around the perimeter and a gate exists to prevent vehicles from entering the complex when closed. An additional gate will be installed at the main entrance along Blalock Road and a black board rail fence will be installed along the roadway fronting the soccer complex.