

# Chapter Two

## Section 2.2 | City-wide Integration

### 2.2.1 Guiding Documents

In an effort to build upon the work of previous planning studies and to ensure the coordination with other official documents that could influence the development of the City of Raleigh's Parks and Recreation System Plan, the Project Team has researched multiple sources of information. The documents reviewed can be classified into two broad categories; guiding regional documents; and area or facility specific studies and plans. Significant influencing plans or documents include:

- 2030 Comprehensive Plan (2009)
- Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Final Draft form 2012
- Wake County Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2003)
- Thoroughfare Plan (2011)
- Bicycle Transportation Plan (2009)
- CAT and Wake County Transit Plans
- Draft Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan
- Capital Area Greenway Master Plan Update (1989)
- Capital City Greenway 1976 Master Plan (1976)
- Streetscape Program
- Corridor Plans (Capital Blvd., Blount/Person, New Bern, Blue Ridge)
- Senior Center Feasibility Study
- Aquatics Facilities Study
- Strategic Plan for Historic Cemeteries

### 2.2.2 City & Regional Plans and Ordinances

Several regional and city-wide plans and studies have been reviewed to ensure a comprehensive approach to the System Plan. Some plans reviewed include; Wake County Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan; Thoroughfare Plan; Bicycle Transportation Plan; and the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan. Two of the most influential regional guiding documents are the 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance (currently in draft form).

The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for the City of Raleigh, in its current draft form, is intended to preserve, protect, and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of residents and businesses in the City. More specifically, the UDO is intended to achieve the following objectives which have significant influence in future development and operation of the City's parks and recreation system:

1. Implement the policies and goals contained within officially adopted plans, including the Comp Plan;
2. Improve the built environment and human habitat;
3. Conserve and protect the City's natural beauty and setting, including trees, scenic vistas, and cultural and historic resources;



Sample of guiding documents researched

# Existing System Overview

4. Ensure that new development conserves energy, land, and natural resources;
5. Protect water quality within watershed critical areas, the general watershed areas of designated water supply watersheds and other watershed districts;
6. Encourage environmentally responsible development practices;
7. Promote development patterns that support safe, effective, and multi-modal transportation options, including auto, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit, and therefore minimize vehicle traffic by providing for a mixture of land uses, walkability, and compact community form;
8. Provide neighborhoods with a variety of housing types to serve the needs of a diverse population;
9. Promote the greater health benefits of a pedestrian-oriented environment;
10. Reinforce the character and quality of neighborhoods;
11. Remove barriers and provide incentives for walkable projects;
12. Protect and promote appropriately located commercial and industrial activities in order to preserve and strengthen the City's economic base;
13. Encourage compact development;
14. Ensure that adequate facilities are constructed to serve new development;
15. Provide for orderly growth and development of suitable neighborhoods with adequate transportation networks, drainage and utilities and appropriate building sites;
16. Save unnecessary expenditures of funds by requiring the proper initial construction of transportation networks, sidewalks, drainage facilities and utilities; and
17. Provide land records for the convenience of the public and for better identification and permanent location of real estate boundaries.

This system plan and its findings, recommendations and priorities are to be consistent with the UDO in its current draft form, and once adopted, in its final form. Several of the above objectives of the UDO will be implementable through integration of this System Plan's priorities and recommendations.

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2009 and is a long range policy document which establishes a vision for the City of Raleigh. The document provides policy guidance for growth and development and contains action items directed at the City to implement the vision. The Plan contains six strategic visions themes:

- Economic Property and Equity
- Expanding Housing Choices
- Managing Our Growth
- Coordinating Land Use and Transportation
- Greenprint Raleigh
- Growing Successful Neighborhoods and Communities

Specific to the development of this System Plan, the 2030 Comp Plan outlines eight major issues which the Comp Plan strives to address in order to guide decision-makers to work towards providing parks and recreation facilities that create a balanced system which responds to the varied needs of the City's residents. These eight major issues are:

- Maintaining existing passive and active parks and recreation facilities;
- Addressing the need for walkable, neighborhood parks in existing and newer parts of the City;
- Acquiring adequate land for future park development;
- Developing recreational facilities in close proximity to all residents, equitably distributed throughout the City;
- Enhancing access to and awareness of Raleigh's recreation and natural resource opportunities;
- Providing better interconnectivity between the parks, greenways, and open space system locally and regionally;
- Providing best practice management and stewardship of Raleigh's natural resources;
- Integrating the parks and recreation system into a broader context of green infrastructure to maximize ecosystem conservation

## 2.2.3 Area Studies and Plans

Area or facility specific studies and plans pertinent to the development of the System Plan have been reviewed and will be incorporated into the formation of the City-wide vision for parks and recreation in the City of Raleigh.

Two primary categories of area and facility studies and plans have been reviewed; corridor plans; and Park and Recreation Department feasibility and facilities plans, in addition to strategic plans. Many of the objectives of these plans and studies will be considered during the visioning and implementation phases of this System Plan in order to harness a collaborative and comprehensive approach to planning.