



2022-23

MCPRSS EXECUTIVE REPORT

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nam hendrerit rutrum mi, sit amet placerat eros tristique eget. Nullam aliquet ipsum nulla, eget vulputate augue viverra sit amet.



Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
METHODS	3
RESULTS: SURVEY OF DEPARTMENTS	4
Representation	4
Facilities	7
Trails	13
Cemeteries	16
PERSONNEL	17
RESULTS: STATE BUDGET DATA	19
APPENDICES	28
Appendix A: Questionnaire	29
Appendix B: Recognized Departments	37
Appendix C: Statistical Method	47

2022-2023 Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study:

Facility Spotlight

Study conducted by [Recreation Resources Service](#) (RRS)

RRS is a technical assistance program for North Carolina (NC) parks and recreation providers offered through a cooperative partnership between NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Division of Parks and Recreation) and NC State University (Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management)

INTRODUCTION

The Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study (MCPRSS) annually assesses the status of local government parks and recreation departments in NC based on a number of rotating metrics. The goal of the MCPRSS is to provide data to parks and recreation agencies as well as local governments in NC as they evaluate current services to assist in budget planning, preparation, and justification for leisure services.

The MCPRSS for fiscal year 2022-23 marks the 73rd year of assessment for municipal leisure service providers and the 53rd year for county leisure service agencies. This year's survey was a facility inventory designed to maximize utility and minimize survey burden by corresponding with Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) data needs. North Carolina's 2020-2025 SCORP and other state parks and recreation plans are available here: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/about-parks-recreation/park-planning>. The new plan is in development and receiving input at the time of this report.

In addition to the facilities information, the MCPRSS offers local-level leisure providers an important tool for analysis and comparison of tax-supported funding and facility levels across the state. RRS hopes this study will assist managers and administrators in making informed decisions on the operation of their agencies and the delivery of leisure services to their communities.

RRS staff are available to provide more detailed reports from the raw data based on your agency's specific needs. For more information about this or previous studies please contact RRS or visit the RRS Library: <https://rrs.cnr.ncsu.edu/resource-library/>

Acknowledgment

The goal of this initiative is to provide a resource for enhancing leisure services delivery across our great state. The report's strength originates with the determined effort, detailed information, and meticulous reporting of the participating departments. RRS greatly appreciates the time and effort each department contributed to completing this survey. Thanks are also due to NC Division of Parks and Recreation Grants and Outreach Program team for their support.

METHODS

The 2023 MCPRSS survey was designed to collect information about park facilities managed by public park and recreation departments. First, all respondents identified their department by name, type and provided the number of full-time employees. The department name and location allow us to summarize results by the type of department, population served, and the NC Economic Prosperity Zone (prosperity zone) for that agency. Next, an inventory of facility types (presence / absence) was divided into categories to include both indoor and outdoor facilities, trail use and type, support facilities and the use of universal design. Additionally, total park acreage and total trail miles were requested. An agency could report a given facility's presence by simply checking a box and had the option to provide an estimate of the number of those facilities under their control. Information was also collected on management of cemeteries. The full questionnaire follows this report (Appendix A).

In September 2023, a request to complete the questionnaire was emailed to 253 local government parks and recreation departments in NC via Qualtrics online survey software. Reminders were sent via Qualtrics and through RRS's regional consultants. Response collection was closed on October 25, 2023. After removing largely incomplete and duplicate responses, a total of 133 usable responses were retained for analysis, which translates to a response rate of approximately 53 percent. Descriptive statistics were generated in Excel and are reported here.

In addition to the facility inventory data gathered in this survey, local government budget information from the NC Department of State Treasurer's Annual Financial Information Report (AFIR) is also reported here. The data was downloaded on September 27, 2023 and apply for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2022. Although all units of local governments are required to submit a statement of financial information by October 31 of each year, only 81 (81%) of 100 counties and 305 (55.5%) of 550 municipalities have reported to this AFIR. This year's and past reports may be generated here: <https://www.nctreasurer.com/state-and-local-government-finance-division/local-government-commission/financial-analysis-tools-and-reports>

RESULTS: SURVEY OF DEPARTMENTS

Representation

To contextualize the data, statewide summary statistics on department type (county, municipal, or combination of jurisdictions), population class, and prosperity zone are provided alongside respondent statistics. Appendix B shows each recognized department in the state, whether that department responded to this survey, and if a department provided details (i.e. number of a facility in addition to marking whether it was present or not) for each of these three categories. The below table shows a summary of respondents by department type (Table 1). The response rate across all three department types is above 50 percent.

Table 1. Department type across NC and in M CPRSS.

Department Type	Statewide	Respondents	Response (%)
All types	253	133	53
Combination	6	4	67
County	77	41	53
Municipal	170	89	52

Population classes are derived from categories used by the U.S. Census Bureau and regional planning agencies. A department’s population class is determined by the size of the population served and divided into categories (Table 2). All categories, except for the smallest communities (Class F) are well represented with between 55-66 percent response rates. Population class F had a response rate of 35 percent. The assumption for this lower response rate is due to lack of staff availability.

Table 2. Departments by population class across NC and in M CPRSS.

Population Class	Population Served	Departments Statewide	Respondents	Response (%)
A	100,000 and up	33	18	55
B	50,000 to 99,999	29	19	66
C	25,000 to 49,999	37	24	65
D	10,000 to 24,999	56	31	55
E	5,000 to 9,999	33	19	58
F	4,999 and under	66	23	35

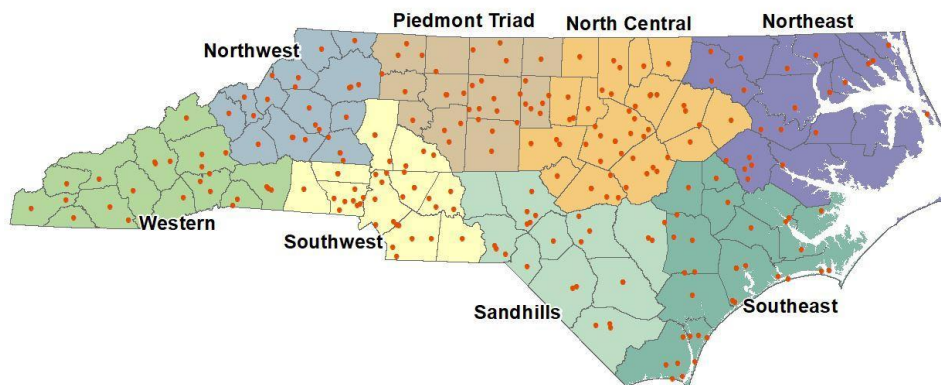
Prosperity Zones are delineated by the NC Department of Commerce. These eight Economic Prosperity Zones are administrative regions established to offer better collaboration between state and local agencies in an effort to enhance communication and interaction for constituents. Areas of specialty range from transportation and environmental topics to workforce development and community planning. Additional information may be found at nccommerce.com/about-us/nc-prosperity-zones.

These zones are used to represent geographic regions by many funding agencies, including a measure of geographic distribution for the NC Parks and Recreation Authority when awarding Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grants. We applied these regional boundaries to make geographic comparisons of M CPRSS data. While there are exceptions where departments offer services across prosperity zone boundaries, we have assigned every department to one zone (Table 3). The distribution of departments across the state and the prosperity zones is represented visually below (Figure 1). The West zone had the highest response rate while the Sandhills and Northwest had the lowest.

Table 3. Departments by prosperity zone across NC and in M CPRSS.

Prosperity Zone	Departments Statewide	Respondents	Response Rate (%)
North Central	48	25	52
Northeast	20	10	50
Northwest	26	12	46
Piedmont-Triad	35	19	54
Sandhills	23	11	48
Southeast	37	21	57
Southwest	40	21	53
West	24	15	63

Figure 1. Distribution of departments and prosperity zones.



Facilities

Respondents were asked about facilities under their “dedicated control,” which was explained as those “facilities that your department is primarily responsible for maintaining and operating.” Respondents could select a box indicating that a given facility was under their dedicated control. If a facility’s box was selected, then respondents had the option to estimate the number of those facilities. The survey results are summarized in tables below. The column labeled “Present” indicates the number of respondents who selected the box indicating presence of that facility type in their park system. The column labeled “Detail” represents the number of respondents who provided an estimate for the given facility, while the other columns are descriptive statistics derived from the numerical data provided in the estimates. For example, 34 respondents indicated their park system includes at least one *Active Adult Center*, with 29 respondents reporting an estimate of the number of those facilities in the park system. Those 29 reported a minimum of one facility and maximum of three, resulting in the average of 1.45.

Table 4. Indoor recreation facilities presence and details.

Indoor Facility	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Active Adult Center	34	29	1.45	1	3	1
Aquatics Center	25	21	1.86	1	7	1
Auditorium	21	18	1.28	1	2	1
Convention / Conference Center	10	6	1	1	1	1
Computer Lab	17	14	2.5	1	8	1
Community / Recreation Center	89	77	2.82	2	18	1
Cultural Center	14	14	1.14	1	3	1
Demonstration Kitchen	17	16	1.31	1	3	1
Environmental Education / Nature Center	18	18	1.83	1	5	1
E-sports Facility	4	3	1.33	1	2	1
Fitness Center	51	43	1.63	1	8	1
Basketball Court	80	65	3.92	2	74	1
Bouldering	1	0	0	0	0	0

Indoor Facility	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Climbing Wall	2	2	1	1	1	1
Gymnasium	69	57	2.98	1	26	1
Ice Rink	0	-	-	-	-	-
Pickleball Court	54	46	3.74	3	10	1
Swimming Pool / Waterpark	17	17	1.53	1	5	1
Tennis Court	3	2	6.5	6.5	12	1
Track	10	10	1.1	1	2	1
Library	22	17	2.29	1	22	1
Museum	12	9	1.33	1	3	1
Racquetball Court	10	7	2.14	2	5	1
Rentable Spaces / Rooms	91	69	14.41	4	461	1
Studios (e.g., aerobic, dance)	30	26	2.73	1	22	1
Teen Center	8	8	2.38	1	9	1
Trampoline Park	0	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the Indoor Facility categories offered for selection, respondents had the opportunity to write in facilities not listed. There were an additional eight categories entered. These included volleyball courts, a soccer arena, art rooms, a Gatekeepers House (historic site), a senior art center, an overnight lodge, an indoor skate park, and (20) fitness rooms which were not included under the “Studio” or “Fitness Center” categories.

The most prevalent and frequently occurring indoor facility across all departments is rental spaces. Of the 91 respondents that marked rental spaces as an indoor facility, the average is 14.41 units per department with the max being 461 located in a municipality in the Northcentral part of the state. Over 68 percent of respondents marked that their department includes some type of indoor rental space.

Over half of respondents indicated the presence of indoor facilities that include community/recreation centers, basketball courts, and gymnasiums within their departments. Less than five percent of respondents indicated the presence of an indoor climbing wall, tennis courts, a bouldering area, and an e-sports facility. No respondents indicated the presence of an indoor ice rink or trampoline park.

In 2018-19, the last time an M CPRSS facility inventory survey was done, indoor pickleball courts weren't counted or voluntarily entered as an optional category. This year, over 40 percent (54) of respondents indicated that their department included an indoor pickleball court, reporting an average of 3.74 courts per department.

Table 5. Outdoor active recreation facilities presence and details.

Outdoor Active	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Batting Cage	75	66	3.82	3	21	1
Bocce Court	36	29	2.17	2	8	1
Cornhole Court (permanent)	23	21	1.62	1	4	1
Cricket Field	4	3	1.67	1	3	1
Diamond Field (baseball/softball)	110	100	9.98	5	105	1
Disc Golf Course	80	71	1.58	1	14	1
Dog Park	74	66	1.64	1	8	1
Equestrian Center/ Arena	7	7	1.14	1	2	1
Futsal Court	4	4	1.75	1	4	1
Golf Course	17	15	1.47	1	5	1
Golf Driving Range	15	13	1.54	1	6	1
Horseshoe Pits	49	42	4.19	2	16	1
Jumping Pillow	0	-	-	-	-	-
Miniature Golf Course	5	4	1.25	1	2	1
Multi-Purpose Court	23	19	4	2	25	1
Off-road Vehicle Area	1	1	1	1	1	1
Basketball Court	109	90	4.99	2	108	1
Bouldering	4	3	1	1	1	1
Climbing Wall	3	3	1	1	1	1
Fitness Area	38	35	2.6	1	30	1
Ice Rink	0	-	-	-	-	-
Swimming Pool/Water Park	39	35	1.94	1	11	1

Outdoor Active	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Track	27	26	1.81	1	8	1
Pickleball Court	78	66	6.21	5	20	1
Playgrounds (5-12 yr old)	123	106	9.14	3	200	1
Playgrounds (2-5 yr old)	107	94	5.52	2	178	1
Pump track	16	14	1.36	1	4	1
Rectangular field non-regulation size (multipurpose field)	80	64	3.97	2	50	1
Rectangular field regulation (e.g., soccer/football/lacrosse)	88	74	8.5	3	200	1
Rope/Challenge Course	9	8	1.13	1	2	1
Shuffleboard Court	18	16	2.19	2	6	1
Skate Park	32	27	1.22	1	4	1
Skeet & Trap Range	3	2	1	1	1	1
Splash Pad / Sprayground	47	42	2.05	1	15	1
Stadium	12	12	1.17	1	2	1
Table Tennis (permanent)	7	7	1.43	1	2	1
Tennis Court	90	80	11.36	4.5	153	1
Volleyball Hard Court	10	8	2.5	2	8	1
Volleyball Sand Court	57	49	3.76	2	50	1

In addition to the Outdoor Active categories offered for selection, respondents had the opportunity to write in facilities not listed. Seven additional categories were listed. These included playgrounds not delineated by age, a gaga pit, a farmer’s market venue, shooting sport facilities, inline hockey rinks, a disc golf driving range, and a cross country course.

Over 59 percent of respondents indicated that their department included disc golf courses, tennis courts, and pickleball courts. Over 80 percent of respondents indicated that their department included playgrounds, diamond fields (baseball/softball), rectangular fields (both regulation and non-regulation), and basketball courts.

Less than five percent of respondents indicated the presence of a cricket field, a futsal court, climbing walls, a bouldering area, a miniature golf course, an off-road vehicle area, and a skeet & trap range. No respondents indicated the presence of an outdoor ice rink or a jumping pillow.

Table 6. Outdoor passive facilities presence and details.

Outdoor Passive	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Amphitheater	57	49	1.35	1	11	1
Boat Ramp	46	38	2.03	1	7	1
Boat/Canoe/Kayak Rental	29	26	2.77	1	15	1
Cabin	8	7	3.57	5	6	1
Campground, Tent	9	7	10	1	40	1
Campground, Primitive	11	8	3.38	1	10	1
Campground, RV	9	6	17	1	70	1
Carousel	5	4	1.25	1	2	1
Community Garden	39	33	1.5	1	5	1
Fishing Pier	57	45	2.76	2	17	1
Lake	41	31	1.94	2	5	5
Miniature Train	5	4	1	1	1	1

In addition to the Outdoor Passive categories offered for selection, respondents had the opportunity to write in facilities not listed. Nine additional categories were entered. These included a gazebo, a civic green, other outdoor rental spaces, small fishing pond, a wildlife observation deck, a radio-controlled aircraft flying field, millponds, a story walk, and dinghy docks.

Water access is a commonly provided facility, whether it is a boat launch, river paddle access, or fishing piers. Twenty-nine agencies offer some type of boat rental opportunities. The highest marked Outdoor Passive categories were amphitheaters and fishing piers with almost 43% of respondents indicating the presence of these facilities. A range of camping options are often provided by park agencies. Thirty-nine agencies reported offering community gardens to their citizens and five agencies host a carousel or miniature train.

Table 7. Universal design facility presence and detail.

Universal Design Facilities	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Miracle Field	6	6	1	1	1	1
Inclusive Playground	54	45	1.27	1	3	1
Inclusive Fishing Pier	21	16	1.44	1	3	1
Inclusive Paddle Access (canoe/kayak)	19	17	1.24	1	2	1

Respondents were asked about Universal Design facilities under their dedicated control. Over 50 respondents indicated the presence of an inclusive playground. Data was not counted if respondent included additional information regarding the presence of only one accessible piece of equipment within an existing playground. The least reported Universal Design facility was a Miracle Field with only six departments indicating the presence of one within their control.

Table 8. Support facilities presence and details.

Support Facilities	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Bike Repair Station	39	33	2.42	2	12	1
Camp Store	2	2	1	1	1	1
Charging Stations (EV)	24	19	2.95	2	8	1
Concession Stand	90	80	3.2	2	33	1
Food Truck Infrastructure	21	16	3.44	2	10	1
Marina	12	9	2	1	5	1
Restroom	122	102	11.55	6	377	1

In addition to the Support Facilities categories offered for selection, respondents had the opportunity to write in facilities not listed. Two additional categories were entered, including a bathhouse and Port-a-lets at trailheads.

Concession stand and restroom numbers align with a high representation of athletic fields. New additions for this facility inventory are bike repair stations, electric vehicle charging stations, and infrastructure to host food truck events. The least reported support facility was a camp store, with only

two respondents indicating their presence. Out of the reported details provided for support facilities, over 39 percent were restrooms, which made up the highest percent of reported detail, while the camp store came in a 0.8 percent and the marina was at 3.4 percent, which aligns with the least reported presence of an existing facility.

Trails

Table 9. Trail use types: presence and details. Average, median, maximum, and minimum are in miles.

Trail Use Type Option	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Blueway / Paddle Trail	19	16	19.32	4	90	1
Boardwalk (may be portion or length of entire trail)	44	33	2.38	1	20	0.06
Equestrian Trail (designated trail)	8	8	8.81	7.25	20	1
Mountain Bike Trails (designated trails)	38	32	9.58	5	70	1

In addition to documenting trail use types (Table 9), respondents were surveyed for a simple breakdown of total miles of trail based on trail surface (Table 10). One hundred nine respondents, or 82 percent, reported the presence of a Blueway/Paddle Trail, a Boardwalk, an Equestrian trail, or a Mountain Bike Trail. The most reported Trail Use Surface was a Boardwalk, while the least reported was an Equestrian Trail.

Respondents also had the option to report the presences of trail miles and give detail to what trail surface type were present. A total of 1,474.11 miles were reported with Paved or Hard Surface Type being the most prevalent.

Table 10. Trail miles by surface type.

Trail Surface Type	Present	Detail	Total	Average	Median	Max	Min
Natural Surface Type	86	78	672.35	82	3	71.95	.07
Paved or Hard Surface Type	97	91	801.76	94	3	109.65	.25
Total	183	169	1474.11	176	6	181.6	.32

Respondents were also asked to report the total number of park acreage under dedicated control (Table 11). One hundred and seventeen agencies reported just under 85,000 acres. The park systems reported by these 117 agencies ranged between 3 and 22,000 acres.

Table 11. Total park acres reported. (*Acres are rounded*)

Park Acres	Detail	Total Park Acres Reported	Average	Median	Max	Min
	117	84,874	725	167	22,000	3

Trail miles were broken down by Prosperity Zone to give another comparison (Table 12). FTE and trail miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had natural and/or hard/paved trails, but gave no detail regarding length. FTE Operations and Maintenance staff ranged from .36 to 2.66 employees per mile of trail. From the reported data, Northcentral had the highest natural surface miles and the most reported miles overall. The Southwest had the highest reported Hard or Paved Surface trails, and the Northeast had the least reported trail miles for both categories.

Table 12. Trail miles reported by prosperity zone.

Prosperity Zone	FTE OP/M reported	Natural Surface Trail	Hard/Paved Surface Trail	Total Trail Miles	FTE OP/M per Mile
Northcentral	434.5	190.28	254.51	444.79	1.02
Northeast	75.5	11.25	16.2	27.45	.36
Northwest	35	57	36	93	2.66
Piedmont-Triad	277	184.75	83.8	268.55	.97
Sandhills	139	32.45	21.75	54.2	.39
Southeast	130	48	72.7	120.7	.93
Southwest	305	111.52	287.05	398.57	1.31
West	102.25	37.1	29.75	66.85	.65

The study also looked at Trail Use Type by Prosperity Zone (Table 13). Trail use type miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had Blueway/Paddle, Boardwalk, Equestrian, and Mountain bike trails, but gave no detail regarding length, thus they were not considered in the reflection of the data. It was found that Piedmont-Triad reported the most trail use miles overall and the highest presence of Blueway/Paddle and Equestrian Trails. The Southwest reported the most Boardwalk and Mountain bike Trails, while the West reported the least number of trails overall.

Table 13. Trail use type miles reported by prosperity zone.

Prosperity Zone	Blueway/Paddle	Boardwalk	Equestrian	Mountain Bike	Total Trail Use Type Miles
North Central	64.15	17.41	6.5	41.35	129.41
Northeast	5	1.25	1	6	13.25
Northwest	-	6	-	42.5	48.5
Piedmont-Triad	150	3.5	34	87	274.5
Sandhills	-	.25	6	23	29.25
Southeast	3	6.65	-	1.5	11.15
Southwest	84	43.3	23	101	250.3
West	3	.11	-	4.2	7.31

Population class was also used to look at Trail Miles (Table 14). FTE and trail miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had natural and/or hard/paved trails, but gave no detail regarding length. Population Class A (populations of 100,000 or over) had the highest number of reported trail miles across the board. Population Class E had the lowest number of reported trail miles.

Table 14. Trail miles reported by Population class.

Population Class	FTE OP/M reported	Natural Surface Trail	Hard/Paved Surface Trail	Total Trail Miles	FTE OP/M per Mile
A	794	412.78	466.29	879.07	1.11
B	275.75	93.3	103.95	197.25	.72
C	171.5	41.95	113.5	155.45	.91
D	149	59.82	51.75	111.57	.75
E	61	20.5	26.3	46.8	.77
F	47	44	39.97	83.97	1.79

Trail use type miles data comes from reported data (Table 15). Some respondents marked they had blueway/paddle, boardwalk, equestrian, and mountain bike trails, but gave no detail regarding length. Similar to the number of reported trail miles by surface type, Population Class A includes the most reported Trail Use Miles overall and Class E had the least. Class B ranked one number in Blueway/Paddle trails.

Table 15. Trail use type miles reported by population class.

Population Class	Blueway/Paddle	Boardwalk	Equestrian	Mountain Bike	Total Trail Use Type Miles
A	99.15	49.95	63.5	198.85	411.45
B	146	8.8	-	52.7	207.5
C	15	6.41	-	17.5	38.91
D	49	6.5	7	29.5	92
E	-	5.16	-	2	7.16
F	-	1.68	-	6	7.68

Cemeteries

Respondents were asked if their agency had cemeteries under their dedicated control. Twenty-eight agencies reported oversight for cemeteries, ranging between one and eight facilities. Information was not gathered as to the number of cemeteries active (requiring the department to manage burials), or the number of historic cemeteries that may require additional management care.

PERSONNEL

This M CPRSS also solicited the number of staff each department employs with relation to full-time to full-time equivalent (FTE) status (Table 12). The average number of operations and programming staff across all respondents ranged from 11-13. Understandably the number of administration level staff is much smaller. Using responses for operations and maintenance staff, we calculated FTE's per acre of park property (Table 17), and per mile of trail (Table 18). Data tables were calculated by taking the number of FTE Operations/Maintenance Staff and dividing that by reported trail miles or park acres.

Table 16. Summary of personnel data.

FTE Position Type	Number of Departments Reporting	Average Number of Staff	Median Number of Staff
Operations/Maintenance	120	13.03	5
Programming	122	10.59	4
Administration	132	4.53	2

Table. 17. Number of FTE staff per park acre.

Department	Detail Reported	Total FTE OP Staff	Total Park Acres	Average FTE OP/M per Acre	Average Acre
County	41	433.50	44,184.50	10.57	1194.18
Municipal	77	940.72	38,949.35	12.89	499.35
Combination	2	124	1,740.50	62	870.25
Total	120	1,498.22	84,874.50	28.49	854.59

Table. 18. Total reported trail miles (natural, paved) per FTE operations/maintenance staff. It is assumed that mountain bike and equestrian trail miles were reported under one of the three listed trail types.

Department	Average FTE OP Staff per mile	Total FTE OP Staff	Boardwalk	Natural Surface	Paved/Hard Surface	Total Miles
County	1.61	433.5	46.48	340.5	308.85	695.83
Municipal	.89	940.75	31.99	326.85	477.91	836.75
Combination	.016	124	0	5	15	20
Total	.97	1,498.25	78.47	672.35	801.76	1552.58

RESULTS: STATE BUDGET DATA

Budget data is derived from the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer’s Annual Financial Information Report (AFIR). Anyone interested may generate a report of North Carolina county and municipal financial information through the state treasurer’s website (www.nctreasurer.com/divisions/state-and-local-government-finance/lgc/financial-analysis-tools-and-reports). For this report, line items “Parks and Recreation-Operating,” “Parks and Recreation-Capital Outlay Construction,” and “Parks and Recreation-Capital Outlay Purchase” were taken from the AFIR for all reporting government units statewide. These data are valid for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2022. These data are reported by government units (i.e., municipalities and counties), not parks and recreation departments. Thus, these data do not represent the same population or places as those represented in the previous results. Appendix B shows each government unit in the state, whether that unit responded to the AFIR, and each unit’s government type (municipality or county), population class, and prosperity zone. Populations of reporting municipalities that fall within reporting counties were not counted in total population estimates or per capita spending estimates.¹

Populations of reporting municipalities that fall within reporting counties were not included when calculating population estimates statewide or total per capita spending estimates statewide to avoid double-counting individuals. In essence, some individuals are captured within both a municipality and a county population estimate. Thus, when calculating total populations and total per capita estimates, it would be inaccurate to include these double-counted individuals as population represented. Consider, for instance, that the total population represented by both counties and municipalities including double-counted individuals is approximately 14 million, which is about four million over the total population of North Carolina. However, these individuals were included when calculating the per capita estimates of municipalities or counties separately, where this problem did not arise.

To contextualize the data, summary statistics of respondents have been provided based on government unit type, population class (as defined above) and prosperity zone. These data represent 81% (n=81) of counties and 54% (n=299) of municipalities across the state, and approximately 9.98 million residents, which is roughly 95% of the statewide population. Overall, 68 percent of those units provided Parks and Recreation budget information in the AFIR.

Table 19. Response to AFIR and population representation by government unit type.

Government Unit Type	Units Statewide	Respondents	Response Rate (%)	Population Represented
County	100	81	81	9,425,780
Municipality	550	299	54	4,428,353
Total	650	380	68	9,861,300¹

¹The total does not equal the sum of county and municipality populations because the majority of NC residents within municipalities were already accounted for in county populations

Expenditures were calculated by Parks and Recreation reported Capital Outlay Construction and Purchase fields in addition to operating costs and payments to North Carolina and other governments. Eighty-one county units reported budget data to AFIR and 299 municipal respondents did. A total of \$83.49 per capita was reported and a total of \$11 per capita revenue was reported.

Table 20. Statewide expenditures by government unit type. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Government Unit Type	Capital (\$M)	Operating (\$M)	Total (\$M)	Capital Dollars per Capita	Operating Dollars Per Capita	Total Dollars Per Capita
County (n=81)	88	162	250	9.31	17.17	26.48
Municipality (n=299)	169	405	574	38.20	91.36	129.56
Total (n=380)	257	566	823	26.06	57.44	83.49

¹The total population of those within municipalities (4,428,353), including those also captured by a county unit, was used to calculate this number

Table 21. Total and per capita statewide sales and service revenue by government unit type. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Government Unit Type	Sales and Service Revenue (\$M)	Revenue Dollars Per Capita
County (n=81)	34	3.62
Municipality (n=299)	74	16.81
Total	109	11.00

¹The total population of those within municipalities (4,428,353), including those also captured by a county unit, was used to calculate this number

All of the government units included in this AFIR were divided into population classes (Table 22) and based on the unit population provided in AFIR. Similar to the response rate by recreation departments in the facility inventory, those representing smaller populations have a much lower response rate. We can assume that respondents representing higher populated jurisdictions have a greater number and specialized staff to complete AFIR data entry. Population Class F had the lowest response rate at 46 percent, while Population Class A had the highest at 92 percent response rate.

Table 22. Response to AFIR and population representation by population class.

Population Class	Units Statewide (N)	Respondents (n)	Response Rate (%)	Population Represented
A	39	35	92	7,580,938
B	33	28	85	1,201,307
C	45	38	84	646,416
D	68	51	75	310,182
E	52	37	71	48,015
F	413	191	46	74,442
Total	650	380	58	9,861,300¹

¹Note that the total population represented does not equal the sum of each population class population represented because, when considering total population represented, some individuals are captured within both a county and a municipality. These individuals are not counted twice in the final population calculation. Thus, this value represents a unique population represented.

Total expenditure dollars per capita by Population Class is \$60.24. Populations Class A had the highest expenditures reported, while Population Class E had the lowest.

Table 23. Statewide expenditures by population class. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Population Class	Capital (\$M)	Operating (\$M)	Total (\$M)	Dollars Per Capita
A (n=35)	146	305	450	50.37
B (n=28)	47	87	134	68.80
C (n=38)	31	79	110	80.96
D (n=51)	12	49	61	76.49
E (n=37)	10	21	31	115.10
F (n=191)	11	27	38	103.40
Total (n=380)	257	567	824	60.24

The average revenue total was \$7.93 per capita. Population Class A had the lowest reported revenue dollars per capita at \$5.89, while Population Class E had the highest.

Table 24. Statewide revenues by population class. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Population Class	Sales and Service (\$M)	Revenue Dollars Per Capita
A (n=35)	53	\$5.89
B (n=28)	23	\$11.61
C (n=38)	13	\$9.71
D (n=51)	11	\$13.23
E (n=37)	4	\$16.18
F (n=191)	5	\$14.08
Total (n=380)	109	\$7.93

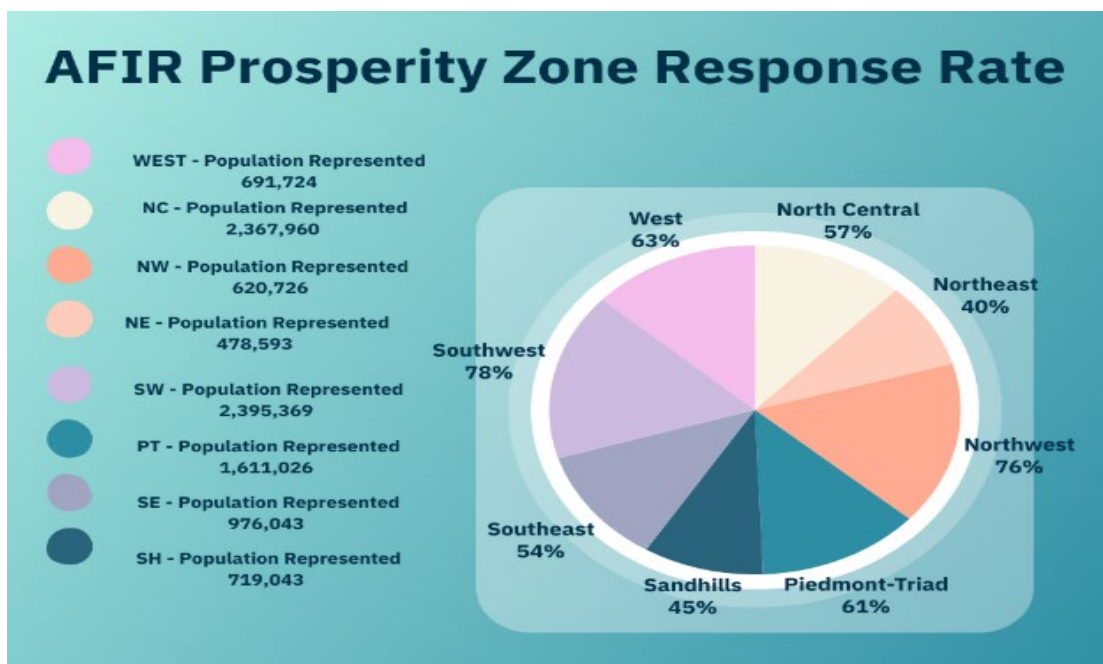
All of the government units included in this AFIR were matched to their prosperity zone based on county provided with each unit. Budget data was also evaluated by listed Prosperity Zone. The response rate for all Prosperity Zones range from 40-78 percent. The Southwest had the highest response rate and the Northeast had the lowest. Figure 2 shows percentages of responses by prosperity zone.

Table 25. Response to AFIR and population representation by prosperity zone.

Prosperity Zone	Units Statewide (N)	Respondents (n)	Response Rate (%)	Population Represented
North Central	93	53	57	2,367,960
Northeast	88	35	40	478,593
Northwest	58	45	76	620,726
Piedmont-Triad	74	45	61	1,611,026
Sandhills	86	39	45	719,043
Southeast	99	53	54	976,043
Southwest	95	74	78	2,395,369
West	57	36	63	691,724
Total	650	380	58	9,861,300¹

¹Note that the total population represented does not equal the sum of each population zone population represented because, when considering total population represented, some individuals are captured within both a county and a municipality. These individuals are not counted twice in the final population calculation. Thus, this value represents unique population represented.

Fig. 2. Percentage of AFIR respondents broken down by prosperity zone.



The study looked at expenditures by Prosperity Zone. A total expenditure of \$82.58 per capita was reported. North Central had the highest reported expenditure per capita at \$104.85 per capita, while Sandhills had the lowest at \$33.83 per capita.

Table 26. Statewide expenditures by prosperity zone. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Prosperity Zone	Capital (\$M)	Operating (\$M)	Total (\$M)	Dollars Per Capita
North Central (n=53)	63	185	248	\$104.85
Northeast (n=35)	9	9	19	\$39.05
Northwest (n=45)	13	18	31	\$49.31
Piedmont-Triad (n=45)	52	101	153	\$95.19
Sandhills (n=39)	2	22	24	\$33.83
Southeast (n=53)	18	49	66	\$68.06
Southwest (n=74)	82	138	220	\$92.22
West (n=36)	18	34	52	\$74.76
Total (n=380)	257	566	823	\$82.58

Total revenue by Prosperity Zone was reported at \$11 per capita. Again, North Central had the highest reported revenue and Sandhills had the lowest at \$14.48 and \$2.51 respectively.

Table 27. Total revenue and per capita estimates by prosperity zone. Dollar amounts rounded to the nearest million.

Prosperity Zone	Sales and Service (\$M)	Revenue Dollars Per Capita
North Central (n=53)	34	\$14.48
Northeast (n=35)	2	\$5.09
Northwest (n=45)	6	\$9.58
Piedmont-Triad (n=45)	20	\$12.11
Sandhills (n=39)	2	\$2.51
Southeast (n=53)	11	\$10.92
Southwest (n=74)	30	\$12.52
West (n=36)	4	\$5.61
Total (n=380)	109	\$11.00



The M CPRSS historically has compared statewide parks and recreation spending per capita from year to year, and this year’s spending has been added for comparison (Figure 3). This is calculated by dividing total reported statewide spending by the populations of the reporting agencies for that category. While the reliability of the data is tied to sample size, the population numbers used to calculate per capita spending are only pulled from agencies that report expenditures to offer comparable metrics from year to year. This year’s budget data indicate an increase in local government spending on parks and recreation.

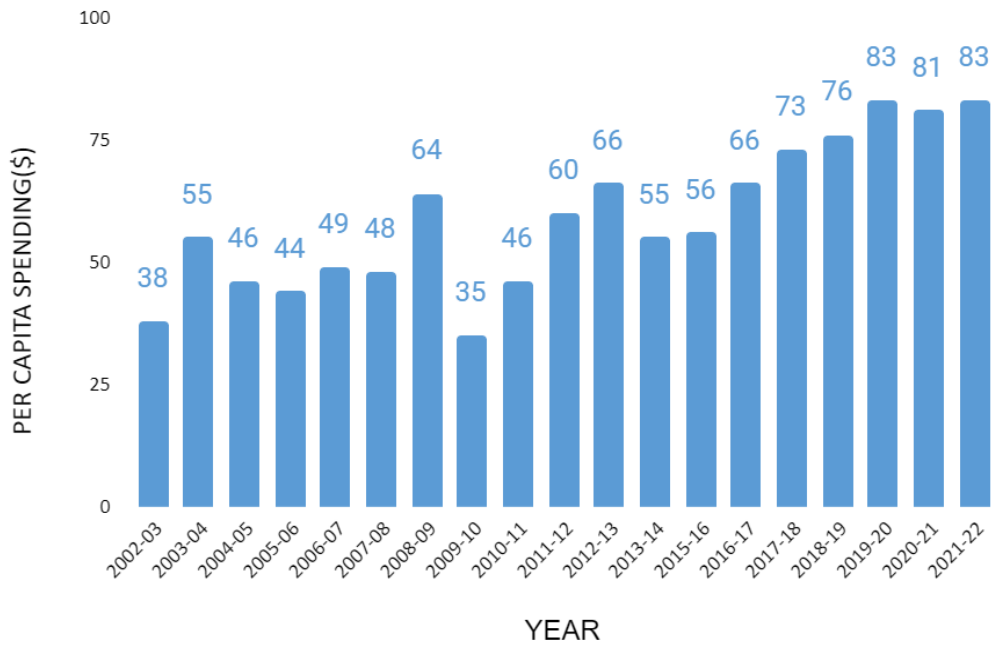


Figure 3. Statewide parks and recreation spending per capita since 2002-03.
 (Note: 2014-15 year is blank due to lack of data)

LIMITATIONS

Survey data have been reported as disclosed by the departments and state budget data have been reported as received from the state treasurer's office. Bear in mind that response rate impacts the reliability of the analyses. While descriptive statistics have been used to highlight the general picture provided by the data, these should be interpreted with caution as small sample sizes may not generalize accurately to the larger group they are intended to represent, and uneven distribution of resources likely biases which local governments respond to requests for data.

APPENDICES

2023 MCPRSS - Facilities

Welcome

Dear Parks and Recreation Agency Director,

Recreation Resources Service (RRS), in collaboration with the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation invites you to complete the yearly Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study (MCPRSS) survey. Information collected from this study provides data to NC parks and recreation agencies as they evaluate current services to assist in budget planning, preparation, and justification for leisure services, and informs the North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

This year's study intent is to create an inventory of facilities within parks and recreation departments across the state.

Instructions

Please complete the online questionnaire by Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023.

Click the next button below to begin the questionnaire. If you need to revisit a question or section, you can utilize the previous and next buttons to navigate throughout the online questionnaire. The survey allows you to save and return later for completion. To return to the survey at any time, you can access it through the link in the original email. **Be aware that once you submit the survey, you will NOT be able to return to the survey to update/edit your information.**

Department Info

Section I. - Department Contact Information

Please select your department from the following drop-down menu. If your department is not listed, please select the option 'department not listed'.

Government Type: What type of local government do you represent?

- Municipality
 - County
 - Combination (multi-jurisdiction)
-

Employee Information: What is the total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) for your Department?

- **Operations** - (Includes the agency's employees in the operations or maintenance of parks and/or recreation facilities. The primary priority for these employees is to provide sustainable grounds maintenance and upkeep of the park and recreation facilities such as rec centers, sports fields, outdoor rinks, and courts; grassed, forested and landscaped areas of parks; as well as in-park trails/paths, roads, picnic grounds and shelters.)
- **Programming** - (Includes the agency's employees whose primary responsibility covers the programming for the parks and/or recreation facilities.)
- **Administration** - (Includes the agency's leadership and functions such as purchasing, finance, human resources, risk management, marketing, business analysis, public relations, budgeting, information technology and staff development and training.)

● Operations / Maintenance _____

● Programming _____

● Administration _____

Zip Code: What is the zip code of your main office's physical location?

Name **Survey Taker's Name**

Phone **Survey Taker's Phone Number**

Email **Survey Taker's Email**

Section II: Facility Inventory

The remainder of the survey asks about facility types in your community. These are organized under six categories: indoor recreation, outdoor active recreation, outdoor passive recreation, support facilities, universal design facilities, and trails.

This survey asks about facilities over which your local government has *dedicated control*. In other words, please only count facilities that your government is primarily responsible for maintaining and operating.

From the list below, please mark facilities and provide an estimate of the number of each type of facility that your local government has control over. If unsure of total number of facilities, provide your best guess.

Again, you can return to this form to fill in more information at a later time by clicking the same link in the original email.

Total Park Acreage: What are the total number of park acres that your local government has dedicated control?

Indoor Facilities

Indoor recreation facility types for which your local government has dedicated control (*check all that apply*)

Optional: provide the **estimated** number of this type of facility

- Active adult center
- Aquatics center
- Auditorium
- Convention / conference center
- Computer lab
- Community / recreation center
- Cultural center
- Demonstration kitchen
- Environmental education / nature center
- E-sports facility

- Fitness center
- Indoor basketball court
- Indoor bouldering
- Indoor climbing wall
- Indoor gymnasium
- Indoor ice rink
- Indoor pickleball court
- Indoor swimming pool / water park
- Indoor tennis court
- Indoor track
- Library
- Museum
- Racquetball court
- Rentable space / rooms
- Studio (e.g. aerobic, dance)
- Teen center
- Trampoline park
- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Outdoor (active)

Outdoor active recreation facility types for which your local government has dedicated control (*check all that apply*)

Optional: provide the **estimated** number of this type of facility

- Batting cage
- Bocce court
- Cornhole court (permanent)

- Cricket field
- Diamond field (baseball/softball)
- Disc golf course
- Dog park
- Equestrian center / area
- Futsal court
- Golf course
- Golf driving range
- Horseshoe pits
- Jumping pillow
- Miniature golf course
- Multi-purpose court
- Off-road vehicle area
- Outdoor basketball court
- Outdoor bouldering
- Outdoor climbing wall
- Outdoor fitness area
- Outdoor ice rink
- Outdoor swimming pool / water park
- Outdoor track
- Pickleball Court
- Playground (5-12 yr old)
- Playground (2-5 yr old)
- Pump track
- Rectangular field non-regulation size (multipurpose field)
- Rectangular field regulation (e.g., soccer / football / lacrosse)
- Ropes/challenge course
- Shuffleboard court
- Skate park
- Skeet & trap range
- Splash pad / sprayground
- Stadium
- Table tennis (permanent)
- Tennis court
- Volleyball hard court
- Volleyball sand court
- Other (please specify)

- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Outdoor (passive)

Outdoor passive recreation facility types for which your local government has dedicated control (*check all that apply*)

Optional: provide **estimated** number of this type of facility

- Amphitheater
- Boat ramp
- Boat / canoe / kayak rental
- Cabin
- Campground, tent
- Campground, primitive
- Campground, RV
- Carousel
- Community garden
- Fishing pier
- Lake
- Miniature train
- Outdoor table games (e.g. chess, checkers, etc.)
- Paddle access (canoe/kayak)
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelter
- Public garden / arboretum
- Swim beach
- Zoological area
- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Universal Design

Universally designed and inclusive play facility types for which your local government has dedicated control (*check all that apply*)

Optional: provide **estimated** number of this type of facility

- Miracle Field
- Inclusive playground
- Inclusive fishing pier

- Inclusive paddle access (canoe/kayak)
- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Support Facilities

Support facilities for which your local government has dedicated control (*check all that apply*)

Optional: provide **estimated** number of this type of facility

- Bike repair station
- Camp store
- Charging stations (EV)
- Concession stand
- Food truck infrastructure
- Marina
- Restroom
- Other (please specify)
- Other (please specify) _____
- Other (please specify)

Trail Use

Trail types for which your local government has dedicated control (*check all that apply*)

Optional: provide the **approximate** number of total **miles**

- Blueway / paddle trail
- Boardwalk (may be portion or length of entire trail)
- Equestrian trail (designated trails)
- Mountain bike trails (designated trails)

Trail Surface for your entire trail system, please estimate the total miles based on surface type

- Natural surface trail
 - Paved or hard surface trail
-

Cemeteries Do you manage or maintain any cemeteries? If so, please list how many.

- Yes
 - No
-

GIS Contact RRS and the Division of Parks & Recreation plans to develop a statewide GIS inventory of public park locations in the future. Please provide contact information for the person in your jurisdiction that provides (or can provide) GIS data assistance for your parks.

- GIS Contact Name & Title
- Email Address

Thank you **End of Survey Notice**

Once you click the next button arrow, your response will be recorded and YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN. If you would like to return to this later, simply exit the survey (don't hit next!). All of your responses up to this point have been saved. The same link from the original email will take you back to this survey. Once you are all finished, click the next arrow to record your response.

Appendix B: Recognized Departments

List of all recognized departments in the state including department type, population class, and population zone. **Bolded departments** are those that responded to this year's M CPRSS.

DEPARTMENT	TYPE	POP. CLASS	PROSPERITY ZONE
Aberdeen Parks & Recreation	County	E	Sandhills
Alamance County Recreation & Parks	Municipal	A	Piedmont-Triad
Albemarle Parks & Recreation	County	D	Southwest
Alexander County Recreation	County	C	Northwest
Alleghany County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northwest
Andrews Recreation	Municipal	F	West
Angier Parks & Recreation	County	E	Southwest
Anson County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Apex Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources	Municipal	B	North Central
Archdale Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Piedmont-Triad
Archer Lodge Parks & Recreation	County	E	North Central
Ashe County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Northwest
Asheboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Piedmont-Triad
Asheville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	West
Atlantic Beach Recreation & Special Events	County	F	Southeast
Avery County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northwest
Ayden Recreation & Parks	Municipal	F	Northeast
Beaufort Parks & Events	Municipal	F	Southeast
Beech Mountain Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Northwest
Belmont Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Benson Parks & Recreation	County	F	North Central
Bertie County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northeast
Bessemer City Recreation	Municipal	E	Southwest

Black Mountain Recreation & Parks	County	E	West
Bladen County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Sandhills
Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North west
Boiling Spring Lakes Parks And Recreation	County	E	Southeast
Brunswick County Parks & Recreation	County	A	Sandhills
Buncombe County Parks & Recreation Services	Municipal	A	West
Burgaw Parks & Recreation	County	F	Southeast
Burke County Recreation & Parks	Municipal	B	North West
Burlington Recreation & Parks	Municipal	B	Piedmont-Triad
Butner Parks & Recreation	County	E	North Central
Cabarrus County Parks & Recreation	County	A	Southwest
Camden County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northeast
Canton Recreation & Parks	Municipal	F	West
Carolina Beach Recreation & Parks	Municipal	E	Southeast
Carrboro Recreation & Parks	County	D	North Central
Carteret County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Southeast
Cary Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources	County	A	North Central
Caswell County Parks & Recreation	County	D	Piedmont-Triad
Catawba County Parks	Municipal	A	North west
Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation	County	B	North Central
Chatham County Recreation	County	B	North Central
Cherokee County Recreation	Municipal	C	West
Claremont Parks & Recreation & Events	County	F	North west
Clay County Recreation Department	Municipal	D	West
Clayton Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	North Central
Clinton Recreation & Parks	County	E	Sandhills
Columbus County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Sandhills

Concord Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Southwest
Cornelius Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Southwest
Cramerton Parks & Recreation	County	E	Southwest
Craven County Recreation & Parks	Municipal	A	Southeast
Creedmoor Parks	County	F	North Central
Currituck Co Parks & Recreation	County	C	Northeast
Dare County Parks & Recreation	County	C	Northeast
Davidson County Recreation	Municipal	A	Piedmont-Triad
Davidson Parks & Recreation	County	D	Southwest
Davie County Recreation & Parks	Municipal	C	Piedmont-Triad
Dunn Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	North Central
Durham Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	North Central
Eden Parks & Recreation	County	D	Piedmont-Triad
Edenton-Chowan Parks & Recreation	Combination	D	Northeast
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Northeast
Elkin Recreation & Parks	Municipal	F	Piedmont-Triad
Elon Recreation & Parks	Municipal	D	Piedmont-Triad
Emerald Isle Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southeast
Enfield Recreation & Parks	Municipal	F	Northeast
Erwin Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North Central
Faison Recreation Department	Municipal	F	Southeast
Farmville Parks	Combination	F	Northeast
Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Sandhills
Fletcher Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	West
Forest City Parks & Recreation	County	E	West
Forsyth County Parks & Recreation	County	A	Piedmont-Triad
Franklin County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	North Central

Fuquay-Varina Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources	Municipal	C	North Central
Garner Parks & Recreation	County	C	North Central
Gaston County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Gastonia Parks & Recreation	County	B	Southwest
Gates County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northeast
Gibsonville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	Piedmont-Triad
Goldsboro Parks & Recreation	County	C	Southeast
Graham County Recreation & Parks	Municipal	E	West
Graham Recreation & Parks	Municipal	D	Piedmont-Triad
Granite Falls Recreation	County	E	Northwest
Granville County Parks & Grounds	County	B	North Central
Greene County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southeast
Greensboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Piedmont-Triad
Greenville Recreation & Parks	County	B	Northeast
Guilford County Parks	Municipal	A	Piedmont-Triad
Hamlet Recreation	County	E	Sandhills
Harnett County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	North Central
Harrisburg Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Havelock Recreation	Municipal	D	Southeast
Haw River Recreation	County	F	Piedmont-Triad
Haywood County Recreation and Parks	County	B	West
Henderson County Parks & Recreation	Combination	A	West
Henderson-Vance Recreation & Parks	Municipal	C	North Central
Hickory Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Northwest
High Point Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Piedmont-Triad
Highlands Parks & Recreation	County	F	West

Hoke County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Sandhills
Holden Beach Parks and Recreation	Municipal	F	Southeast
Holly Ridge Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southeast
Holly Springs Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Southeast
Hope Mills Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Sandhills
Hudson Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North West
Huntersville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Southwest
Indian Trail Parks & Recreation	County	C	Southwest
Iredell County Parks & Recreation	County	A	Southwest
Jackson County Recreation & Parks	Municipal	C	West
Jacksonville Recreation & Parks	Municipal	B	Southeast
Jamestown Parks & Recreation	County	F	Piedmont-Triad
Johnston County Parks, Trails & Open Space	County	A	North Central
Jones County Recreation	Municipal	E	Southeast
Kannapolis Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Southwest
Kenansville Recreation	Municipal	F	Southeast
Kenly Recreation	Municipal	F	North Central
Kernersville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Piedmont-Triad
King Parks and Recreation	Combination	E	Piedmont-Triad
Kinston-Lenoir Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Southeast
Knightdale Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	North Central
Kure Beach	Municipal	F	Southeast
Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, and Lake	Municipal	F	West
Landis Parks & Recreation	County	F	Southwest
Lee County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	North Central
Leland Parks, Recreation & Environmental Programs	Municipal	C	Southeast

Lenoir Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northwest
Lexington Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Piedmont-Triad
Liberty Recreation	Municipal	F	Piedmont-Triad
Lillington Parks & Recreation	County	F	North Central
Lincoln County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Southwest
Lincolnton Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Locust Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Louisburg Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North Central
Lowell Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Lumberton Recreation & Parks	County	D	Sandhills
Macon County Recreation	County	C	North Central
Madison County Parks & Recreation	Combination	D	West
Madison-Mayodan Recreation Commission	Municipal	F	Piedmont-Triad
Maiden Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North West
Marshville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Matthews Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources	County	C	Southwest
McDowell County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	North west
Mebane Recreation & Parks	County	D	Piedmont-Triad
Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation	Municipal	A	Southwest
Mills River Parks & Recreation	County	E	West
Mitchell County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	North West
Monroe Parks & Recreation	County	C	Southwest
Moore County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Sandhills
Mooresville Recreation	Municipal	B	North Central
Morehead City Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	Southeast
Morganton Recreation & Parks	Municipal	D	Northwest

Morrisville Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources	Municipal	C	Southwest
Mount Airy Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Piedmont-Triad
Mount Holly Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Mount Olive Parks & Recreation	County	F	Southeast
Nash County Recreation & Senior Services	Municipal	B	North Central
Nashville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	North Central
New Bern Recreation & Parks	County	C	Southeast
New Hanover County Parks	Municipal	A	Southeast
Newton Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northwest
North Wilkesboro Parks & Recreation	County	F	Northwest
Northampton County Recreation	Municipal	D	Northeast
Norwood Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Oak Island Recreation	Municipal	E	Southeast
Oak Ridge Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	Piedmont-Triad
Oakboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Ocean Isle Beach Recreation	County	F	Southeast
Onslow County Parks & Recreation	County	A	Southeast
Orange County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	North Central
Oxford Parks & Recreation	County	E	North Central
Pamlico County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southeast
Pembroke Parks and Recreation	County	F	Sandhills
Pender County Parks & Recreation	County	B	Southeast
Perquimans County Recreation	County	D	Northeast
Person County Recreation, Arts & Parks	Municipal	C	North Central
Pilot Mountain	Municipal	F	Piedmont-Triad
Pine Level Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North Central

Pinebluff Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Sandhills
Pinehurst Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Sandhills
Pineville Parks & Recreation	County	D	Southwest
Pitt County Community Schools & Recreation	Municipal	A	Northeast
Pittsboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North Central
Pleasant Garden Parks & Recreation	County	F	Piedmont-Triad
Polk County Recreation	Municipal	D	West
Raleigh Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources	Municipal	A	North Central
Randleman Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Piedmont-Triad
Reidsville Recreation	County	D	Piedmont-Triad
Richmond County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Sandhills
Roanoke Rapids Parks, Recreation & Library	County	D	Northeast
Robeson County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Sandhills
Rockingham Recreation	Municipal	E	Sandhills
Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	North Central
Rolesville Parks & Recreation	County	E	North Central
Rowan County Parks & Recreation	County	A	Southwest
Rutherford County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	West
Salisbury Parks & Recreation	County	C	Southwest
Sampson County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Sandhills
Saw Mills Parks and Recreation	County	E	Northwest
Scotland County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	Sandhills
Scotland Neck Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Northeast
Selma Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	North Central
Shelby Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Siler City Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	North Central
Smithfield Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	North Central

Southern Pines Parks and Recreation	Municipal	D	Sandhills
Southport Recreation	Municipal	F	Southeast
Spindale Recreation	Municipal	F	West
Spring Lake Recreation & Parks	Municipal	D	Sandhills
Spruce Pine Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Northwest
Stallings Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Stanley Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Statesville Rec & Parks	Municipal	C	Southwest
Summerfield Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Piedmont-Triad
Surf City Parks & Recreation	County	F	Southeast
Surry County Parks & Recreation	Combination	B	Piedmont-Triad
Swain County- Bryson City Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	West
Swansboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southeast
Tarboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	North Central
Thomasville Parks & Recreation	County	C	Piedmont-Triad
Transylvania County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	West
Troutman Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Southwest
Tryon Parks & Recreation Department	County	F	West
Union County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	A	Southwest
Valdese Recreation	Municipal	F	Northwest
Vass	County	F	Sandhills
Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space	Municipal	A	North Central
Wake Forest Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	North Central
Wallace Parks & Recreation	County	F	Southeast
Warren County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	North Central
Warsaw Parks & Recreation	County	F	Southeast
Washington County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northeast

Washington Parks & Recreation	County	E	Northeast
Watauga County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Northwest
Waxhaw Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Southwest
Waynesville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	West
Wendell Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	North Central
Whiteville Parks & Recreation	County	F	Sandhills
Wilkes County Parks & Recreation	Municipal	B	Northwest
Wilkesboro Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	Northwest
Williamston Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	Northeast
Wilmington Parks Recreation & Downtown	Municipal	A	Southeast
Wilson Parks & Recreation	Municipal	C	North Central
Winston Salem Recreation & Parks	Municipal	A	Piedmont-Triad
Winterville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	D	Northeast
Wrightsville Beach Planning & Parks	County	F	Southeast
Yadkin County Parks & Recreation	County	C	Piedmont-Triad
Yancey County Recreation	Municipal	D	Northwest
Youngsville Parks & Recreation	Municipal	F	North Central
Zebulon Parks & Recreation	Municipal	E	North Central

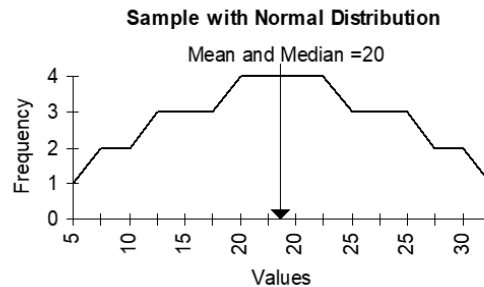
Appendix C: Statistical Method

The mean or average provides a measure of central tendency for a sample of values or observations with a normal (bell shape) frequency distribution. For a sample of values with a nonsymmetric or skewed distribution, the mean is sensitive or influenced by the skewness of the distribution. Another measure of central tendency is the median. While the mean reflects the calculated midpoint of a set of values, the median measures the exact midpoint of a set of values when the values are ordered in magnitude, lowest to highest. The median is robust, therefore, it provides a better description of the midpoint for a sample with a nonsymmetric distribution.

Mean Example

For a sample of values (5,10,15,20,25,30,10,15,20,25,30,15,20,25,35,20) with a normal frequency distribution, the mean equals 20. The mean and the midpoint of the distribution curve are the same (see Example 1).

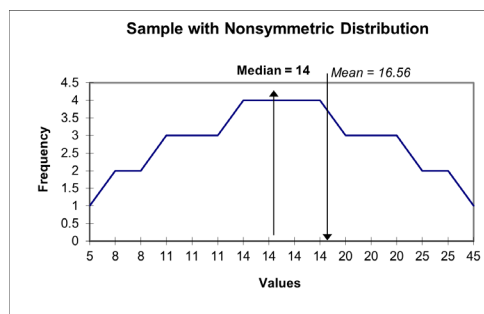
Example 1



Median Example

For the following sample of values (5,8,11,14,20,25,8,11,14,20,25,11,14,45,20,14) the mean equals 16.56. This sample has a nonsymmetric frequency distribution. The presence of an abnormally large value, 45, skews the sample distribution to the right. Therefore, the mean is influenced by the outlying value. When the sample values are ordered in magnitude, the median for the sample equals 14. The median is not influenced by the outlier; therefore it provides a better measure of central tendency for the sample (see Example 2).

Example 2



Mean and median results from the Municipal and County Services Study, Fiscal Year 2022-23, provide significant information to local government park and recreation agencies if interpreted correctly. If the mean and median values are very close, the sample has a normal frequency distribution, and the mean offers a good measure of the midpoint. If significant difference exists between the mean and median, lean towards using the median as the measure of central tendency. This sample possesses a nonsymmetric distribution and suffers skewness. When the mean is significantly higher than the median, abnormally high values skew the sample. When the median is significantly larger than the mean, abnormally low values skew the sample.