

# PARKS, RECREATION, & THE GREENWAY NETWORK

## Overview

The City of North Augusta’s Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department works to provide a quality system of parks and recreation facilities and positive leisure opportunities that are available to all persons in the community. The City’s distribution of parks enables them to be shared by everyone, creating a strong sense of community throughout the City. The Greenway serves as a recreation opportunity that connects different parts of the City and serves as an alternate transportation route for those choosing to walk or bike.

As North Augusta continues to grow, the City will ensure that these amenities are expanded and maintained. New facilities will also be implemented as new development occurs throughout the City. This method of planning strives to develop a network of parks and recreation spaces, that are within walking or cycling distance to all citizens. The citizens of North Augusta value public open space, and our City will continue to prioritize investment in parks, the Greenway, and community activities throughout the City.



*Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park*



- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park | 10. Wade Hampton Veterans Park |
| 2. Colonel Leroy Hammond Park    | 11. Maude Edenfield Park       |
| 3. Curtis Drive Park             | 12. John C. Calhoun Park       |
| 4. Greenway                      | 13. Living History Park        |
| 5. Riverview Park                | 14. Creighton Park             |
| 6. Boat Ramp & Fishing Piers     | 15. Summerfield Park           |
| 7. Lions Memorial Field          | 16. Davenport Park             |
| 8. Boeckh Park                   | 17. Bunting Park               |
| 9. Brick Pond Park               | 18. Waterworks Park            |

## NORTH AUGUSTA PARKS

The City of North Augusta's Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department maintains 18 parks along with the City's Community Center and Riverview Park Activities Center. The City consists of 5 classes of parks, which are defined using the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) parks and open space classifications. These park classifications include mini parks, neighborhood parks, natural resource areas, sports complexes, and special use parks.

### MINI PARKS

According to the NRPA, mini parks are the used to address unique recreational opportunities for limited populations in isolated development areas. These parks are typically between 2,500 square feet and 1 acre. However, parks that are less than 5 acres are considered mini parks. Below is a list of the City's mini parks and their amenities.

#### Boeckh Park

Boeckh Park is located at 501 Front Street near the Hammonds Ferry subdivision. This park is next to the Savannah River. The Greenway runs through Boeckh park and provides residents with walking and biking opportunities. A covered open-air pavilion is also located along the riverfront extension of the Greenway trail, which contains an open fire pit with seating.

#### Bunting Park

This park is located on Bunting Drive. Bunting Park was renovated in 2004 and features amenities such as green space, a pavilion, picnic tables, and a playground.

### Colonel Leroy Hammond Park

This park is located at the corner of Knobcone Avenue and Curtis Avenue and is one block from North Augusta High School. Colonel Leroy Hammond Park features green space, a playground, and a winding stream that runs through the center of the park.



▲ Boeckh Park

### Creighton Park

Creighton Park is located on Lake Avenue. This park features green space, playground equipment, and picnic amenities.

### Curtis Drive Park

Curtis Drive Park is one of the City's smallest parks. It is located at 1812 Curtis Drive and features green space, playground equipment, and a sitting area.

### Davenport Park

Davenport Park is a small park located at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Summer Hill Drive. This park features green space and a sitting area.



▲ Col. Leroy Hammond Park

### John C. Calhoun Park

John C. Calhoun Park is located in downtown North Augusta between Georgia Avenue and Carolina Avenue. The center of the park features a fountain, which was provided by the North Augusta Council of Garden Clubs. The park also features an obelisk monument in honor of McKie Merriwether and a statue of James U. Jackson, the founder and developer of North Augusta. The park is also the site of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols in the Park.



▲ Brick Pond Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks serve as the recreational focus of a neighborhood and are developed for active and passive recreation activities. These parks typically range between 5 to 10 acres and are typically uninterrupted by non-residential roads. The City of North Augusta has 3 neighborhood parks. Below is a list of the City's neighborhood parks and their amenities.

### **Maude Edenfield Park**

Maude Edenfield Park is located at 400 E Buena Vista Avenue and features green space, 4 lighted tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, picnic area, and the Edenfield Park Pavilion. This park is the site of the Music in the Park summer concert series presented by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council. The North Augusta Community Center is located just outside of the park along Brookside Avenue.

### **Summerfield Park**

Summerfield Park is located on Old Edgefield Road and features many amenities including a basketball court, green space, a pavilion, a picnic and grilling area, playground equipment, a splash pad, and a water station.

### **Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park**

This park is located between the Walnut Grove and Andrews Branch neighborhoods on St. Julian Place. Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park features playground equipment, a picnic and grilling area, and a walking trail that features an abundance of green space.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS**

Natural resource areas focus on the preservation of significant natural resources and open space within a community. These areas are primarily defined by the locations features and typically do not have a defined size criterion. These areas often include locations which maintain biodiversity and contribute to maintaining a functioning ecosystem, watersheds, areas to protect rare, threatened, or endangered species, forests or woodlands, and wildlife habitats. Although other parks in the City may display some of these features, Brick Pond Park is the only City park that fits into this classification. Below is a description of the park and its amenities.

### **Brick Pond Park**

During the 1960's, Brick Pond Park was an industrial site. However, flooding forced industries to move to higher grounds. The area became inundated with water overtime to form a nascent wetland system. However, hypoxic water conditions made it difficult for aquatic life to thrive, and in the late 1990's, the City developed a plan to revitalize the area. Today, Brick Pond Park functions as a stormwater treatment system and provides a diverse ecosystem. The park features trails, a pavilion, and an opportunity to see the diverse wildlife that lives in Brick Pond Park.

## **SPORTS COMPLEXES**

Sports complexes primarily consist of programmed athletic fields and associated facilities. These recreation areas are developed to accommodate the needs of groups and athletic associations. Sports Complexes are primarily located in more accessible parts of the community, which allows for greater use. This also reduces the negative impact that these types of recreation sites can have on neighborhoods, such as traffic congestion, parking issues,

and excessive noise. Riverview Park is the City’s only sports complex and a description of the park and its amenities is provided below.

### **Riverview Park**

Riverview Park located on Riverview Drive is an approximately 150-acre sports complex. The site features multiple baseball and softball fields of various sizes, biking opportunities along the Greenway, an 18-hole disc golf course, playground equipment, 7 tennis courts, and 5 regulation sized soccer/multi-purpose fields. Riverview Park is also the site of the Riverview Park Activities Center which is hosts the annual EYBL Nike Peach Jam Basketball Tournament. Besides having 4 basketball courts, the Riverview Park Activities Center also features gym equipment, racquetball, and space that can be rented for special events.

### **SPECIAL USE PARKS**

Special use parks can cover a wide range of parks, which focus on single-purpose use. These parks can focus on uses such as cultural and historical sites, which offer educational and cultural opportunities. Other uses include single-purpose facilities such as community theaters, sports arenas, and golf courses among others. The City currently manages 5 special use parks, which are outlined below.

### **Lions Memorial Field**

In the early 1950’s, the North Augusta Lions Club leased land from the City and created a football and baseball field. After 25 years of use, the Lions Club stopped leasing the parcel and the City took over its management. In 1999, the park received a \$1.4 million dollar renovation, which included new playground equipment, practice fields, restroom facilities, a pavilion, and new grandstands.

### **Living History Park**

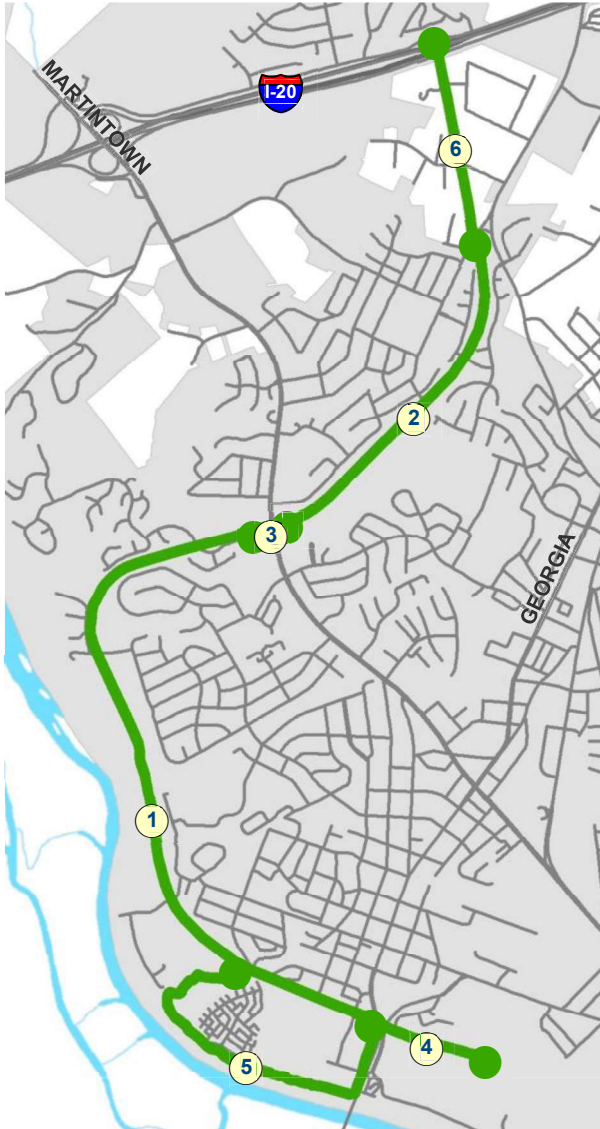
This park is managed by the Olde Towne Preservation Association, and is used for concerts, general recreation, community events, and historical demonstrations among other things. The park was created in the early 1990’s in an effort to preserve the heritage and character of North Augusta and the surrounding areas.

### **Sharon Jones Amphitheater**

The amphitheater, located on off Center Street, opened in 2020. The amphitheater is named after the late Sharon Jones, a Grammy nominated soul and funk singer, who is from the area. The Sharon Jones Amphitheater is a park where residents and members of the surrounding community can visit to enjoy live concerts and performances.

## Wade Hampton Veterans Park

This park was built in 1993 and is named after Wade Hampton III, the 77<sup>th</sup> Governor of South Carolina and former United States Senator. Wade Hampton Veterans Park is a memorial to veterans of every war since the American Revolution.



### Phases of the Greenway

1. Georgia Avenue to Martintown Road
2. Martintown Road to Pisgah Road
3. Bridge across Martintown Road
4. Georgia Avenue to River Club Golf Course
5. Brick Pond Park to Hammond's Ferry
6. Pisgah Road to Bergen Road

## Waterworks Park

Waterworks Park is located off Riverside Boulevard and is the location of Billie's Butterfly Garden and the Bark Park. The Bark Park features two large fenced areas suitable for small and large dogs.

## THE GREENWAY SYSTEM

The North Augusta Greenway is recreational trail, which was established in 1995. It is named after Mayor Thomas W. Greene and was created on an abandoned Norfolk Southern railroad right of way. The first phase of the Greenway extends approximately 3.3 miles from the Georgia Avenue Bridge to Martintown Road. In 1999, phase II was completed, which extended the trail 1.5 miles northeast from Martintown Road to Pisgah Road. Phase III was completed later that year, which consisted of a 180-foot arch-truss pedestrian bridge over Martintown Road, connecting phases I and II. In 2000, phase IV was completed, which extends the trail approximately 0.5 miles from the Georgia Avenue Bridge to the River Club Golf Course clubhouse.

Phase V of the Greenway branches off from the original trail, near the Hammond's Ferry subdivision. This section is approximately 1.5 miles, and cuts through Boeckh Park, continues past SRP Park, and reconnects to the original trail near Brick Pond Park. The final phase was completed in 2011.



This is a 1.1-mile extension, which travels north from Pisgah Road, past I-20, to Bergen Road. The next proposed phase will connect the Greenway to Downtown along Bluff Avenue. Other proposed projects are identified in the North Augusta Greenway, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Master Plan.

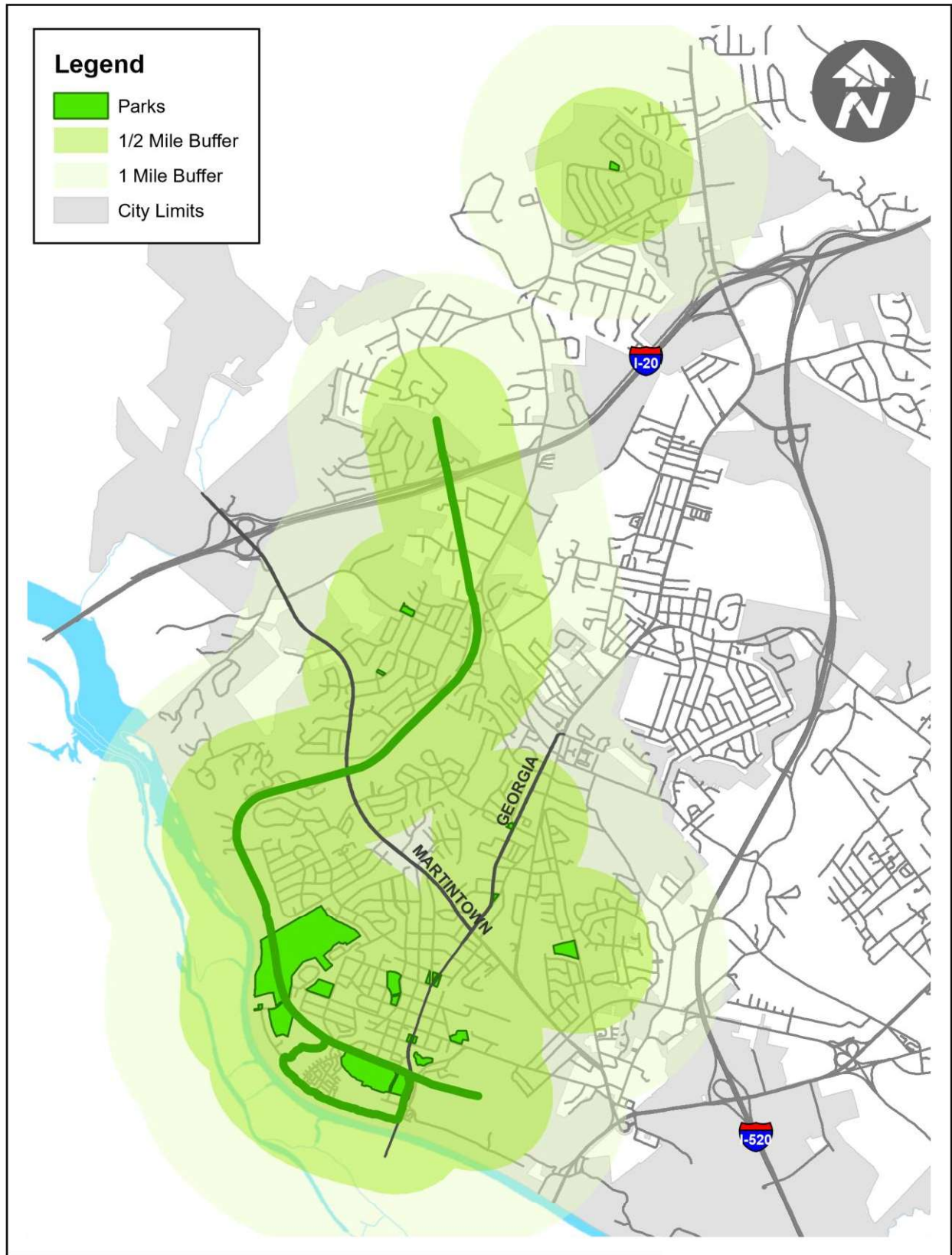
The Greenway provides residents of North Augusta and the surrounding area with multiple recreation opportunities. The trail allows for activities such as walking the dog, going for a walk or run, or going for a bike ride. The trail also serves as an alternative mode of transportation and connects many neighborhoods throughout North Augusta to each other, to the downtown area, and to many amenities throughout the City. The Greenway also features multiple access points with public parking, making the trail more accessible. These areas are listed below.

- I-20 and Bergen Road
- Pisgah Road near Five Notch Road
- Martintown Road near the Greenway Bridge
- Activities Center in Riverview Park
- Hammond's Ferry Road
- Municipal Center
- Riverside Boulevard near Georgia Avenue

Other access points are available through adjacent neighborhoods, streets, and parks. Funding for the Greenway has come from multiple sources including the City's Capital Projects funds, the Aiken County Capital Project Sales Tax funds, grants from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, South Carolina Department of Transportation, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Another recreation trail located in the City is the Palmetto Parkway Trail, which runs north to south in tandem with I-520. This trail is approximately 5 miles and runs from Ascauga Lake Road to Atomic Road. Parking for this trail is located at Carolina Springs Spur and Atomic Road as well as off Ascauga Lake Road near I-520. The trail is owned by the South Carolina Department of Transportation, but is maintained by the City of North Augusta.

City of North Augusta Park Buffer Zones





## ACCESS TO OPEN SPACES

Research has shown that parks and green spaces can have significantly positive impacts on individual health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is important to ensure that every citizen is within walking and cycling distance of natural, passive, and active open spaces. The majority of the City's residents are within a 1-mile radius of a City park. However, there are areas within the City that fall out of this buffer zone. These areas include the southeastern part of the City, east of Jefferson Davis Highway. Another notable region outside of this area includes the Oak Creek and Gregory Landing subdivisions. In 2019, the City acquired the former North Augusta Country Club property in Edgefield County. The development of a park at this location would place residents of Oak Creek and Gregory Landing within walking or cycling distance to a City park. The map on the previous page outlines the half-mile and one-mile buffer zones from the City's parks. This information can be used when considering future parks within the City.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

North Augusta has many athletic and recreational programs, which operate throughout the year. Athletic programs operate on a seasonal basis, which includes a Spring season includes youth baseball, softball, and soccer. The Fall Season includes several youth programs, such as flag football, football, cheerleading, soccer, and volleyball, while the Winter season includes youth basketball.

North Augusta also has several camps throughout the Spring and Summer, including the Adventure Camp, a youth baseball camp, a cheer camp, and a football camp. Other youth athletic events include the Nike Peach Jam, a basketball tournament featuring the best high school basketball players from across the country and Canada. The City also offers a variety of recreational classes for adults, which includes jazzercise classes, senior stretching and balance classes, as well as yoga classes.

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism is also involved in other events and programs in the City. The Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee is an annual event held in late October on Georgia Avenue, which features arts and crafts, live music, food and beverage, and a costume contest for kids. The City also has an annual Christmas Tree Lighting in John C. Calhoun Park, Kid's Earth Day, which is held at Brick Pond Park, and an annual Christmas Parade located in Downtown, among other events.

## GOALS & STRATEGIES

### 3.1

#### ENHANCE EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES AND CREATE ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Ensure that every citizen is within walking and cycling distance of natural, passive, and active open spaces

##### **3.1.1. Update the Park Master Plan that determines the location of future open spaces based on the planned future growth of North Augusta.**

The Park Master Plan should identify parks and recreation facilities that are in need of improvement as well as determine potential park locations by taking into consideration the current population and its projected growth. A goal for the City is to ensure that parks are located close to all communities and every citizen has the opportunity to walk and/or cycle to an open space in their community.

##### **3.1.2. Provide indoor facilities for social programs and activities, recreation, and special events.**

Our goal is to continue to connect the Riverview Park Activities Center to surrounding neighborhoods through wider sidewalks and trails. We also want to consider providing new indoor facilities to serve other parts of the City as it continues to develop and expand.

##### **3.1.3. Plan, develop, and operate diverse recreation activities for citizens of all ages that are geographically distributed throughout North Augusta.**

The City of North Augusta will continue to plan, develop, and operate diverse programs to create recreation opportunities for citizens of all ages.

##### **3.1.4. Support community gardens whenever possible.**

Community gardens can provide many benefits to the citizens of North Augusta. The City will work with neighborhood leaders and organizations to develop programs, which create and maintain community gardens throughout the City.

##### **3.1.5. Work with Aiken County public schools to share playground and recreation space when not being used by the school system.**

The City has the opportunity to create a partnership with local public schools to allow citizens to use their recreation facilities when they are not being used by the school.

This would allow for more public access to recreation facilities without the need for capital funds to construct new facilities.

**3.1.6. Develop regulations requiring the provision of public open space in all new development.**

For every development over 10 acres, require that 5-10% of the site be set aside for open space that is accessible to the public. The developer should work with the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services to determine the most appropriate use of the open space, whether it's active or passive. The developer should program and pay for the design and construction of the open space, which will be accessible to the public by project completion for the entire development.

**3.1.7. Increase public access to the Savannah River.**

This Savannah River is a significant natural resource to the City of North Augusta and is important for the economic success of the City. As the City grows and develops, it is important to protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources, while encouraging access to the river.

## 3.2

### EXPAND THE GREENEWAY SYSTEM:

Expand and connect the Greenway so that it can become the necklace around the community.

**3.2.1. Expand the Greenway system as identified in the City of North Augusta Greenway, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Master Plan.**

Future planning and development projects should consider and incorporate sidewalk and trail connections to the Greenway when appropriate.