



City of Stonecrest

PARKS & RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

April 20, 2017

Committee Vision

The Governor's Commission seated the Parks & Recreation Committee in January 2017 to gather information and deliver recommendations to the first elected city council & mayor of the City of Stonecrest. It is the committee's intent to inform and engage the council so that they can begin to create a Parks and Recreation department and transition management of park facilities from DeKalb County.

The committee goals for the transition period were to:

- Research and evaluate current facilities
- Recommend options for a timely and smooth transition
- Establish standards for facilities, and
- Identify opportunities for the City of Stonecrest parks system

The committee was made up of a group of citizens and stakeholders meeting regularly, to reach their recommendations. All meetings were advertised and open to the public. Members of the committee included:

Mera Cardenas, Chair
Karyl Clayton, Vice-Chair
Lori Brown
LaTasha Lewis
Dr. Nancy J. Williams-Oharume

Gloria Leslie
Lenise Bostic
Olivia McDonald-McKenzie
Jacqueline Swain
Sheldon Flemming



Photo Credit: Chad Belinfanti

Why assume parks:

A successful, dynamic parks operation will benefit the City of Stonecrest in a myriad of ways.

Parks provide social benefits by connecting people with their neighbors and provide opportunity for regular outdoors activity and creative play. Parks are a competitive advantage in economic development in improving quality of life and community amenities. Parks enhance the mental, physical and spiritual health resulting from physical activity and natural relaxation. Parks provide environmental benefits of green infrastructure and result in improved air & water quality, soil conservation, and habitat preservation.



The committee determined there are four reasons that the City of Stonecrest would assume parks:

1. To maintain or improved quality of life for the community, the family and the individual
2. To create a cohesive community identity and brand
3. To foster economic development potential by drawing residents, drawing tourists or visitors, and generating revenue
4. To foster education growth and development through adult enrichment and interactions with schools, churches, and youth groups

Key Recommendations:

The committee has compiled 12 key recommendations the new City of Stonecrest government can implement to begin the formation of a parks department and transition from county management. These recommendations are a guideline and may be adjusted based on city capacity and dedicated resources.

Recommendation #1: Create a department heading that reflects the scope and needs of city services.

Many municipalities find that “Parks and Recreation” does not adequately reflect the range of services offered by the city department. Alternative titles could incorporate cultural affairs, historic sites or natural resources. For example, the department could be titled “Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs” as in DeKalb County or “Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources” as in Pasco County, FL or “Recreation, Parks, Historic & Cultural Affairs” as in the City of Roswell.

Recommendation #2: Hire a parks director within the first 90 days who will be responsible for spearheading and implementing committee recommendations.

A dedicated parks director reporting to the city council & mayor will be essential to smooth and accountable operations. The parks director should be an employee of the City of Stonecrest rather than a contractor to ensure he/she is working in the best interests of the city and that any outsourced services have adequate oversight.

Recommendation #3: Tour all park facilities.

Within the first 90 days of city operations, elected officials & administrators should organize and participate in a tour of all parks facilities to evaluate conditions, assets and needs of the sites.

Recommendation #4: Begin the due diligence process for park acquisitions.

The process to acquire parks from DeKalb County will need to pass through a process to transfer assets and ensure each property has clean title and meets environmental standards. To ensure a smooth and timely transfer, the due diligence should begin as soon as a parks director is in place to facilitate the process. Georgia law that codifies the acquisition of parkland for \$100 is found in the 2010 Georgia Code 36-31-11.1

Recommendation #5: Establish a public process for determining how the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve should be managed and what partners should be involved.

The committee felt that the full extent of a recommendation on the acquisition and management of the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve and associated greenspace was beyond the scope of the committee’s charge. We believe the newly elected officials as well as a broader public base should be involved in a transparent process. The many considerations which could not be fully vetted include: what properties should be acquired, the true cost of proper management of the park, who should have responsibility for management, maintenance & programming of the

nature preserve, what services should be offered at the nature preserve, and what partners should be involved & what role should those partners assume.

One suggestion is to appoint a committee to look specifically at this matter. The interests of the City of Stonecrest, DeKalb County Natural Resources, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, South River Watershed Alliance, Georgia State Parks, and the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area should be represented. Recommendations should be sought that address the appropriate fiscal management in the best interests of the city and for the continued environmental stewardship of the Nature Preserve & associated greenspace.

Recommendation #6: Initiate a full-scale parks inventory and analysis.

The committee began the process for an inventory but lacked the authority and resources to provide a comprehensive analysis. A copy of the document request to DeKalb County is included in the Addendum and a separate binder of documents received has been submitted. The committee's findings from visual surveys are provided later in this document. The City of Tucker recently initiated a comprehensive portfolio of all park assets that can be used as an example for this inventory. The RPF for that process is also included in the Addendum.

Recommendation #7: Conduct a community survey.

The committee believes a comprehensive survey and accompanying public forums would give city leaders a better idea of community wants and desires from their parks system in order to provide adequate services. This community survey is the first step in developing a master plan for the parks system and can aid prioritization of needs. Sample survey questions can be found in the Addendum. The committee recommends that an independent facilitator skilled in public forums and community input conduct the public input meetings and charrettes.

This is an ideal opportunity for the city to begin to establish a relationship with Park Pride, a non-profit parks advocacy group active in the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. Park Pride can offer facilitation and training services as well as best practices and planning frameworks.

Recommendation #8: Establish a community advisory board for park issues.

Immediately upon establishing the parks department, the city council and mayor should establish a community advisory board that will advise and assist the parks director and elected officials, and can appoint a representative to sit on a larger community advisory committee. .

The scope of the committee's purview should include but not be limited to: assessing the recreational services and facilities of the community, recommending initiation and implementation of the Parks Master Plan, evaluating parks facilities and usage, funding and sponsorship solicitation, recreational programming, special events, and cooperative partnerships with other agencies, businesses and organizations to leverage resources. The board should be able to advise city council and the parks director on budgetary matters and best practices.

The committee should be comprised of seven members: one member should be appointed from each city council district, one appointed by the mayor and one should be appointed at-large by the council to represent special interests such as greenspace or natural resources.

Recommendation #9: Commission a Master Plan for the Stonecrest Parks system.

As soon as feasible, the City should commission an independent master plan with community input. In the interim, the city can use the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010-20 as a guideline for recommendations, best practices, and park structure. A copy of the Executive Summary can be found in the Addendum.

Recommendation #10: Integrate a culture of parks into all city operations.

In order to fully maximize the benefits of a parks department, the concept of parks should not be siloed but should reach across all city departments to ensure consistency and improve overall quality of life. For example, the planning & zoning department should work with parks for land use recommendations and, conversely, any changes to parks (trails, new fields, etc) should be presented to community councils for review and comments. Additional examples of how parks can be an asset in a comprehensive approach to city operations can be found later in this document.

Recommendation #11: Develop a sustainable revenue model for the parks system.

Support for parks should be diversified across city operations. First, all fees collected as part of recreation programs, user and rental fees, and film rights should not be diverted to the general fund but should be retained by the department to benefit the whole parks system. Second, the city should implement additional impact and special use fees that can support park operations. More examples of fee can be found later in this document.

Recommendation #12: Ensure any public safety measures include parks.

Security of visitors and prompt response in incidents in parks is a fundamental to a successful department. The city should dedicate no less than 2 FTE officers to park facilities to handle issues such as wildlife poaching, illegal settlements, public nuisance activities, vandalism, and petty crimes such as car break-ins. Adequate financial resources should be dedicated to allow for technological solutions such as wifi camera feeds and automatic gates to restrict off-hours park access. Public safety measures will protect the economic benefits of Stonecrest parks as a source of economic development.

Comprehensive City Parks

A vibrant parks system relies on parks being fully integrated into city operations. Below are a few ways that a park ethic can be broadened across all functions. The committee advocates the incorporation of parks as vital and necessary to the city's success and the quality of life of its citizens. The department should not be viewed as an *independent* function but rather as an *interdependent* function.

Zoning	Code Enforcement & Beautification	Education	Economic Development	City Ops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for recreational uses that would enhance economic development i.e bike rentals & overnight accommodations. • Require new or re-development of subdivisions to incorporate greenspace into final plans. • Support land use planning that supports conservation of natural resources and provides opportunity for outdoor recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City plantings should be "green" in that plantings are native to GA and drought tolerant. This ensures lower maintenance costs. • Adopt city-wide signage designs. • Create attractive, landscaped entrances to all parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support field trips to Arabia Mountain to build community pride. • Encourage schools already connected to the PATH to use it for recreation and as an outdoor classroom. • Encourage schools to partner with local parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to develop eco-tourism products. • Provide business opportunities related to outdoor recreation. • Ensure hotel/motel development funds benefit parks that are tourism draws. • Energize and encourage development for areas of the PATH in the business district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an easily accessible reservation system for rentals and recreational fields. • Create a city ID for parks use. • Ensure a work order system that reflects current conditions and monitors backlogs.

Parks Inventory & Classifications

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a national, non-profit service organization dedicated to advancing parks, recreation and environmental efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. NRPA works closely with national, state, and local recreation and parks agencies, corporations, and citizens groups in carrying out its objectives. As part of its activities, NRPA has created a hierarchy of park types. The committee utilized these guidelines and others from NRPA in our evaluations and recommendations.

The committee has identified and classified potential park facilities within the City of Stonecrest footprint. At times, the committee's identification conflicted or contradicted information provided by DeKalb County. That contradiction is noted in the subsequent charts and inventory. Windshield surveys were conducted the week of 1/23. Among the inventory:

- Three (3) neighborhood parks: Gregory Mosley, Fairington, and Salem
- Two (2) Community Parks: The Browns Mill Recreation Center & Southeast Athletic Fields
- Active recreation such as: 15 miles of paved walking/biking trails in the Arabia Mountain PATH, hiking trails at the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve and associated passive and active greenspace.
- A nationally-important, regional greenspace at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve (DAMNP)

The following classifications were used when assessing current parks facilities and future park needs.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS: As expected, these parks serve as an extension of a surrounding neighborhood providing open space and some outdoor facilities, such as walking trails, outdoor courts, picnic areas or playgrounds. These parks range in size from 5-25 acres and are considered the foundation of a parks system. Using the industry standard of 1 acre per 1,000 residents, the City of Stonecrest should have 50 acres of neighborhood parks. Currently, there are 43 acres of neighborhood parks however, the current location of those parks is concentrated on the west side of the city and not easily accessible to those on the east or north side of the city.

COMMUNITY PARKS: These are large parks that are easily accessible and are used by people throughout the county. They range in size from 25 to 100 acres and are intended for intense active, organized recreation. Community parks may include indoor and outdoor recreation centers, lighted athletic fields, concessions or gardens. The City of Stonecrest has two community facilities: a recreation center at Browns Mill and athletic fields at Southeast. The city should have 5 acres of community parks per 1000 residents, or 250 acres. The city has 157 acres of community parks, a deficit of 100 acres.

OPEN / MAJOR PUBLIC SPACE: Open parks, greenspace or nature preserves are intended to protect natural resources such as wetlands, forests, endangered plant or animal habitat, and geologic features. The City of Stonecrest includes a greenspace of national significance at the

Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. Approximately 15 miles of the Arabia Mountain PATH, which can be considered a greenway, are also within the city and connect to sites in Rockdale County and Henry County. Recommended standards for open space is 4 acres per 1,000 residents, or 200 within the City of Stonecrest. With 2705 acres at the nature preserve, the city more than meets that standard.

Below is a synopsis of the park land within the city.

Park Site	Type	Location	Acreage	Recommendation
Browns Mill	Community / Rec Center	4929 Browns Mill Road	62.2	Acquire
Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve	Open/ Regional	3787 Klondike Road	2705.7	Special Consideration
Everett	Special use	5106 Klondike Road	84.6	Special Consideration
Fairington	Neighborhood	2831 Klondike Road	14.5	Acquire
Gregory Moseley	Neighborhood	5600 Miller Grove Road	17.8	Acquire
Lyons	Special	4530 Lyon Road	48	Not Available for Acquisition
Miners Creek	Special	Panola Road	80.8	Special Consideration
Salem	Neighborhood	5290 Salem Road	11	Acquire
SE Athletic	Community/ Active Recreation	5845 Hilldale Road	95	Acquire
PATH Trails	Open/Public	7 Trailheads	18 Miles	Special Consideration
Chestnut Lakes	TBD	6772 Mahonia Pl	27.6	Unknown / Possible Data Error from DeKalb

Recommendation definitions:

Acquire: Immediate procedures should begin to acquire the asset. (200.5 acres)

Not Available: The site appears in the parks inventory but is not actually owned by the parks system. In the case of the Lyon Farm, the property is owned by DeKalb County Watershed Management. (48 acres)

Special Consideration: The city should engage in a public evaluation process before deciding to acquire and/or manage the property. (2871 acres)

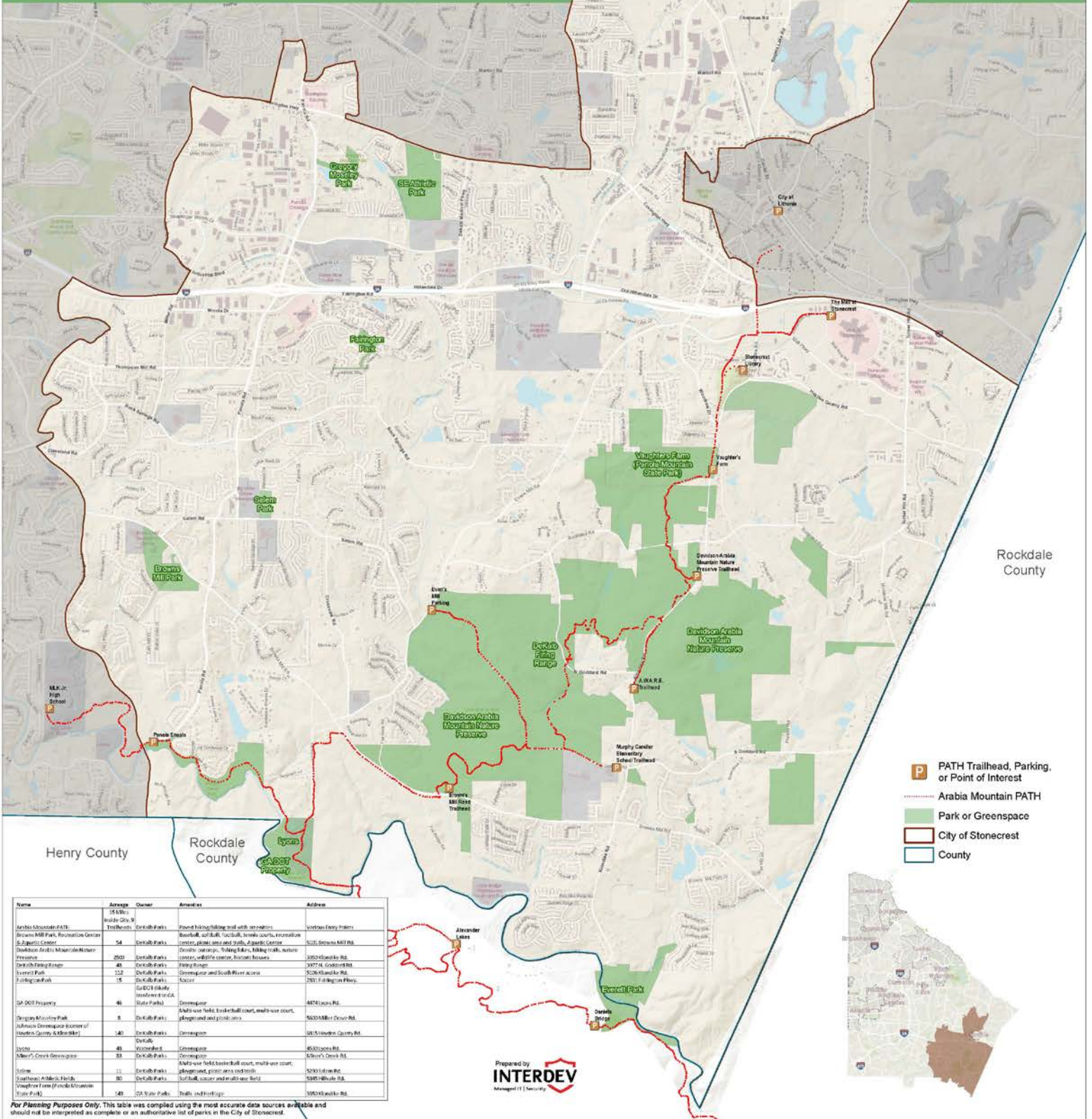
Unknown: This site appeared on a parks inventory but was previously unknown to the committee and adequate analysis was not completed. (27.6 acres)

City of Stonecrest DeKalb County, Georgia

Parks and Recreation *DRAFT*



Data Source:
DeKalb County GIS
Base Map
City Boundary
Parks
PATH Foundation
PATH Trail
Trailhead



Rockdale County

Henry County

Rockdale County

- P PATH Trailhead, Parking, or Point of Interest
- Arabia Mountain PATH
- Park or Greenspace
- ▭ City of Stonecrest
- ▭ County

Name	Average	Owner	Amenities	Address	
Arabia Mountain PATH	15.0 Miles	Trailheads	DeKalb Parks	Found hiking/biking trail with amenities	Victorian Entry Center
Beams Mill Park, Recreation Center	54	DeKalb Parks	Baseball, soft ball, football, tennis courts, recreational center, picnic area and trails, aquatic center	5201 Stevens Mill Rd.	
Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve	2500	DeKalb Parks	Trails, picnic area, fishing lake, hiking trails, nature center, wildlife center, historic houses	3350 Kennesaw Rd.	
DeKalb Fling Range	48	DeKalb Parks	Fling Range	1907 W. Goddard Rd.	
Everett Park	112	DeKalb Parks	Stromberg and South River access	5206 Kennesaw Rd.	
Fishhook Park	15	DeKalb Parks	Source	2781 Fillingim Pkwy.	
GA DOT Property	46	State Parks	Competition	8874 Lyons Rd.	
Gregory Mountain Park	8	DeKalb Parks	Multi-use field, basketball court, multi-use court, playground and picnic area	5000 Alford Drive Rd.	
Johnson Overpass (corner of Hayden County, & Mable Rd)	140	DeKalb Parks	Competition	5015 Hayden County Rd.	
Lyons	49	Watershed	Competition	4032 Lyons Rd.	
Miller's Creek (Georgia)	33	DeKalb Parks	Competition	4200's Davis Rd.	
Lyons	11	DeKalb Parks	Multi-use field, basketball court, multi-use court, playground, picnic area and trails	5000 Lyons Rd.	
Southwest Atlanta Field	30	DeKalb Parks	Soccer, soccer and multi-use field	5045 Atlanta Rd.	
Vaughan Farm (Ponce Mountain State Park)	140	GA State Parks	Trails and history	1093 Kennesaw Rd.	

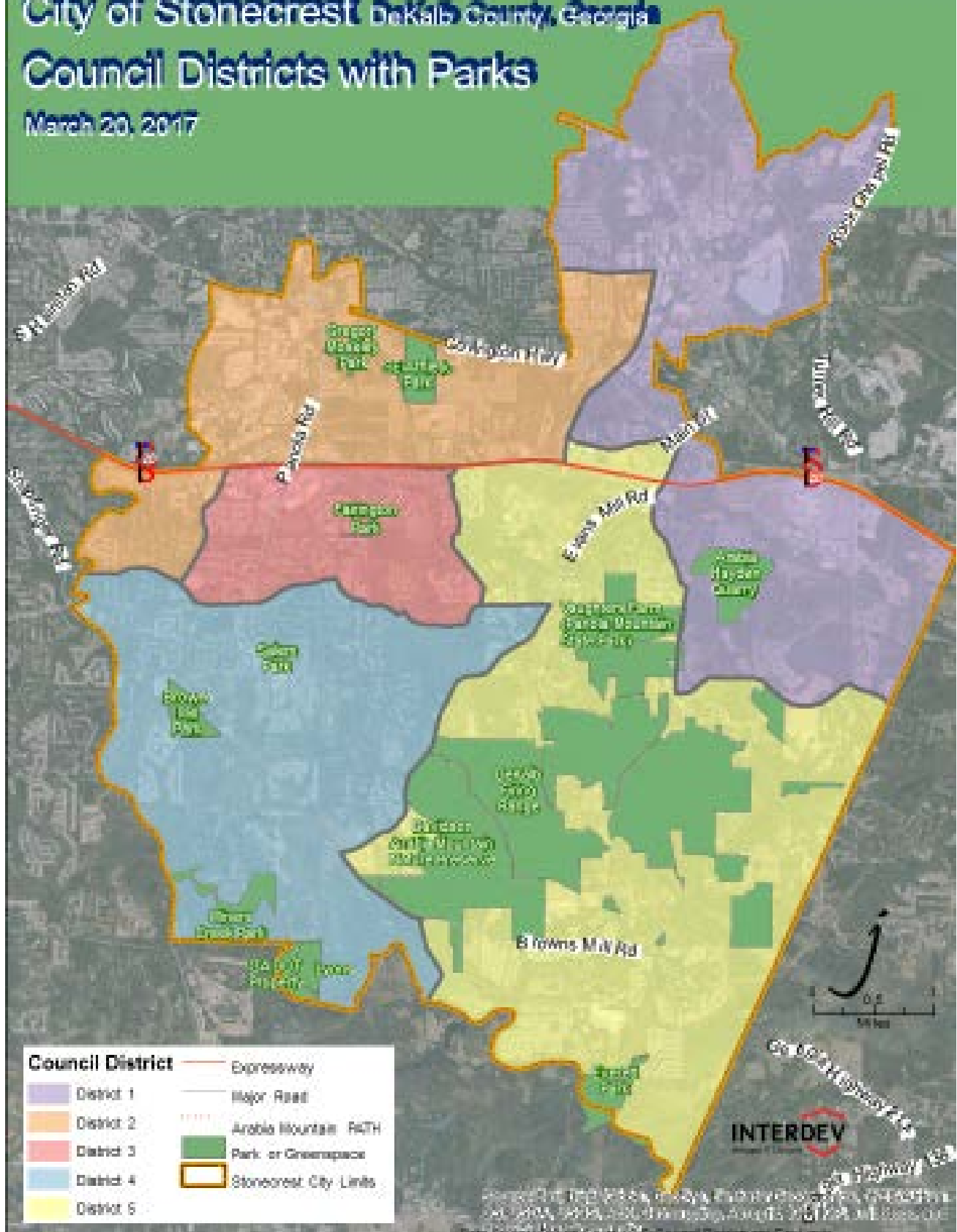
For Planning Purposes Only. This table was compiled using the most accurate data sources available and should not be interpreted as complete or an authoritative list of parks in the City of Stonecrest.



City of Stonecrest DeKalb County, Georgia

Council Districts with Parks

March 29, 2017



Prepared by INTERDEV, Inc. for the City of Stonecrest, Georgia. All rights reserved. 2017. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Neighborhood Parks

An extension of a surrounding neighborhood
Providing open space and some outdoor facilities, such as walking trails,
outdoor courts, picnic areas or playgrounds.

Range in size from 5-25 acres and are considered the foundation of a parks
system.

Industry standard = 1 acre per 1,000 residents

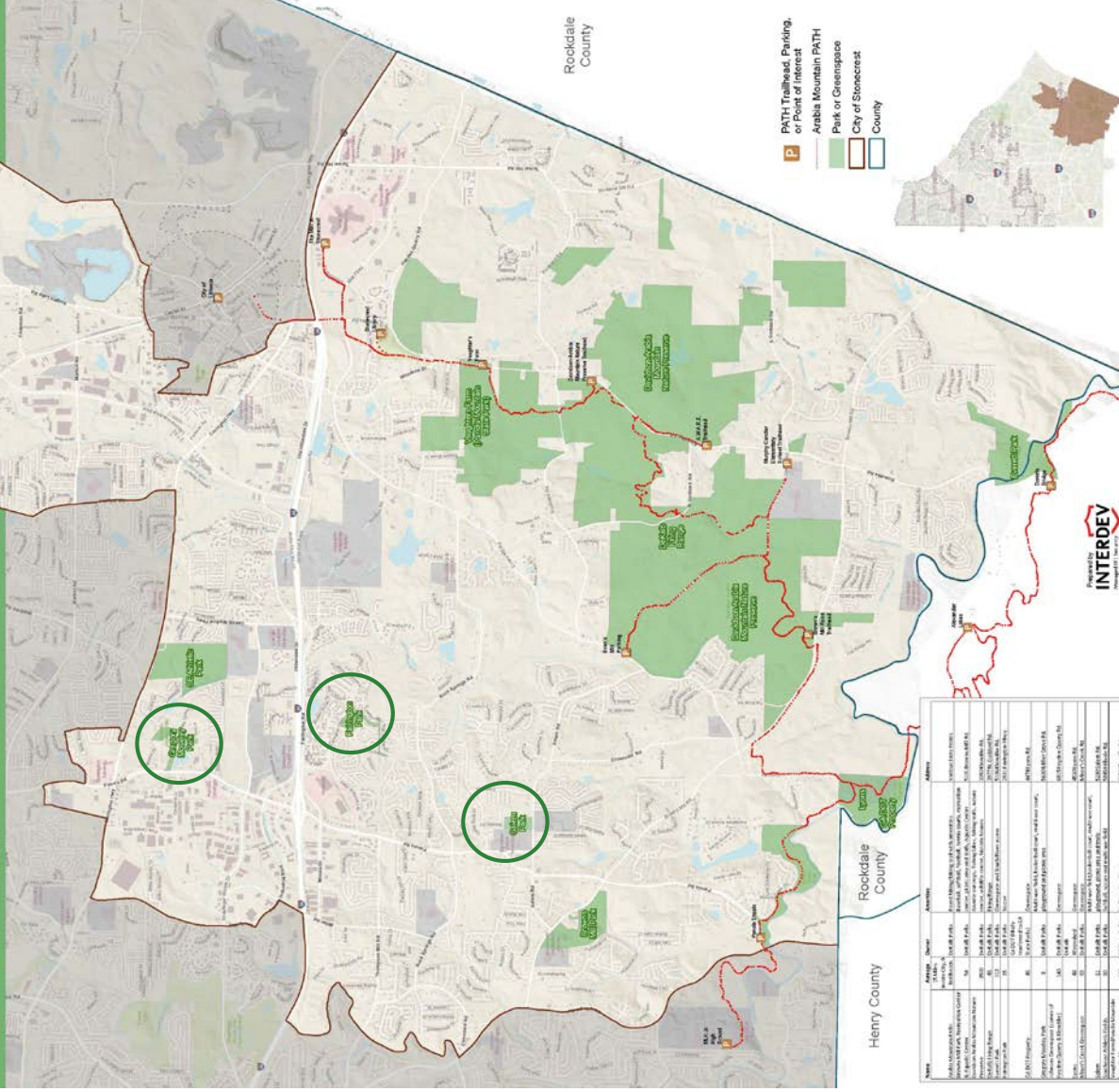
City of Stonecrest should have 50 acres of neighborhood parks.

Currently, there are 43 acres of neighborhood parks concentrated on the
west side of the city and not easily accessible to those on the east or north
side of the city.

City of Stonecrest DeKalb County, Georgia Parks and Recreation **DRAFT**



Data Source:
DeKalb County GIS
Base Map
City Boundary
Parks
Path Installation
Trailhead



Henry County

Rockdale County

- PATH Trailhead, Parking, or Point of Interest
- Arabia Mountain PATH
- Park or Greenspace
- City of Stonecrest
- County



Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Notes
1. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
2. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
3. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
4. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
5. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
6. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
7. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
8. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
9. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
10. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
11. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
12. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
13. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
14. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
15. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
16. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
17. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
18. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
19. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area
20. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	GA	30086	Trailhead and parking area



Gregory Moseley Park



- ▶ Council District 2
- ▶ 8 Acres
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Multi purpose & Basketball Courts
 - ▶ Open Fields
 - ▶ Pavilion, Fountain & Grills
 - ▶ Play Ground
- ▶ No Parking, no lights
- ▶ Difficult to find

GREGORY MOSELEY PARK 812

L&WCF

8 Acres

5600 Miller Grove Road

Date Drawn: 2/95 PLO

Revised: 12/96 DJD

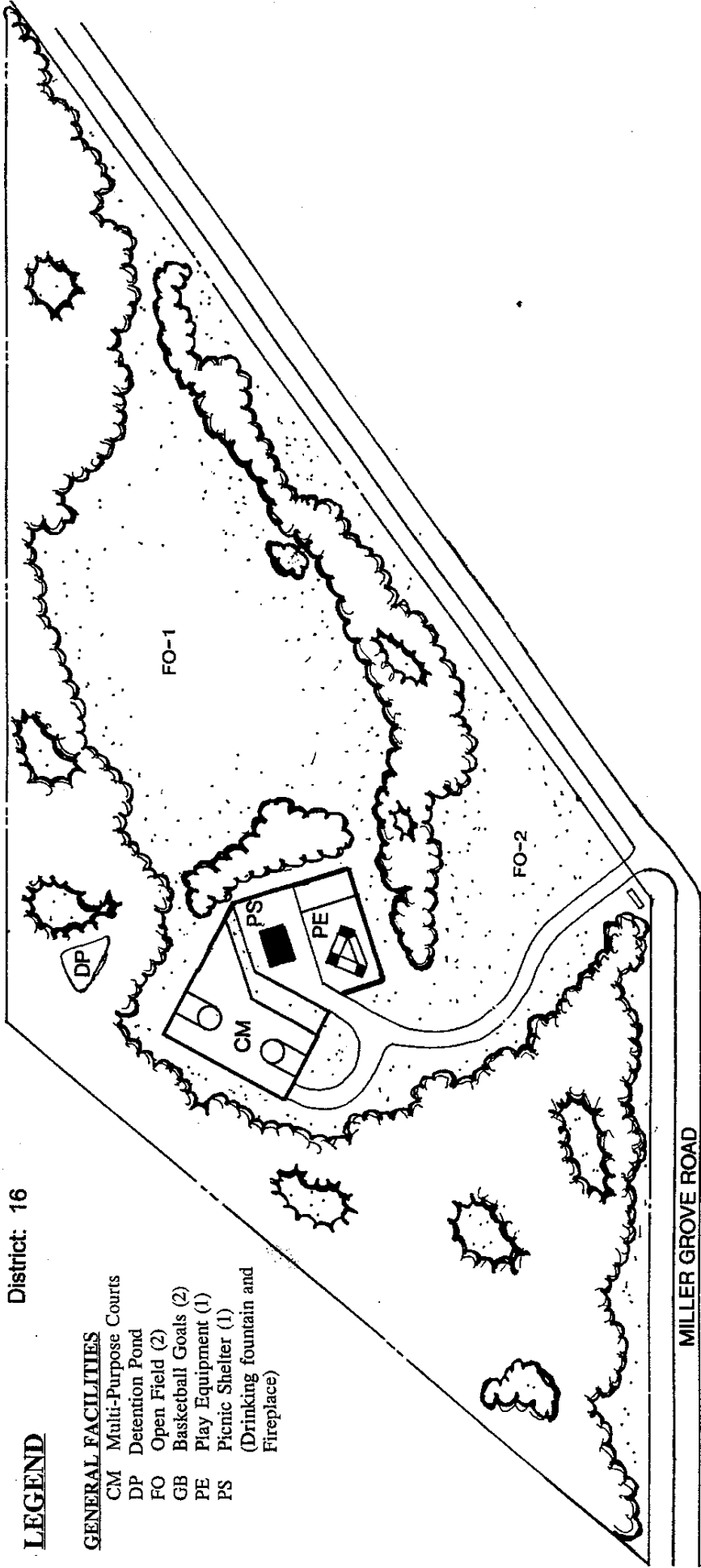
Land Lot: 57

District: 16

LEGEND

GENERAL FACILITIES

- CM Multi-Purpose Courts
- DP Detention Pond
- FO Open Field (2)
- GB Basketball Goals (2)
- PE Play Equipment (1)
- PS Picnic Shelter (1)
(Drinking fountain and
Fireplace)



MILLER GROVE ROAD

City of Stonecrest – Initial Park Survey

Park Name: Gregory Moseley Date of Survey: _____ Surveyed By: Dr Nancy

City Council District: _____

<i>Park Feature</i>	<i>How Many (general)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Any Directional Park Signage at main street	No	
Park Rules Sign On Site	1 Yes	<i>Bad condition needs replacing</i>
Park Entrance Signage	1	No with shrubs
Accessibility to Park (Entrances/Roundabout)		No signage on Panola or Directional signage off Miller Road
Type of Park Gate (Rolling, open)	1 Rolling gate in park	
Condition of Gates		Needs work
Shade Trees		Park Full of trees
Flowers Shrubs		Signage only
Accessible Curbs Sidewalks/Walking Path	Nonr	None.
Handicap Parking Spaces	No	No designated parking at this site.
Parking lot		
#Restrooms on site	No	
Security Lighting in Park	No	Park closes at dusk
# Field with Lights	No	
Types of Fields	1	Large multi-purpose field
Field Condition		Good grassy area
Condition of fencing		Needs TLC at front entrance
Water Fountain in park	Yes	? Operable
Pavilion	Yes -1	Large accommodates 50-75/ Needs touch up
Seating/Bleachers	Yes	Seating wall near playground
Tables		Yes
Grill	1	Yes
Trash Cans	None	
Playground Equipment	Yes	Large Good Condition
Basketball Court	Yes 1	
Goal Condition		Good Condition
Court Condition		Concrete Good Condition
#Free Standing Grill	Yes	Bad

Where is this park located? In Neighborhood Stand Alone Near Athletic Complex

What schools are near this park/recreation center? _____ No schools _____

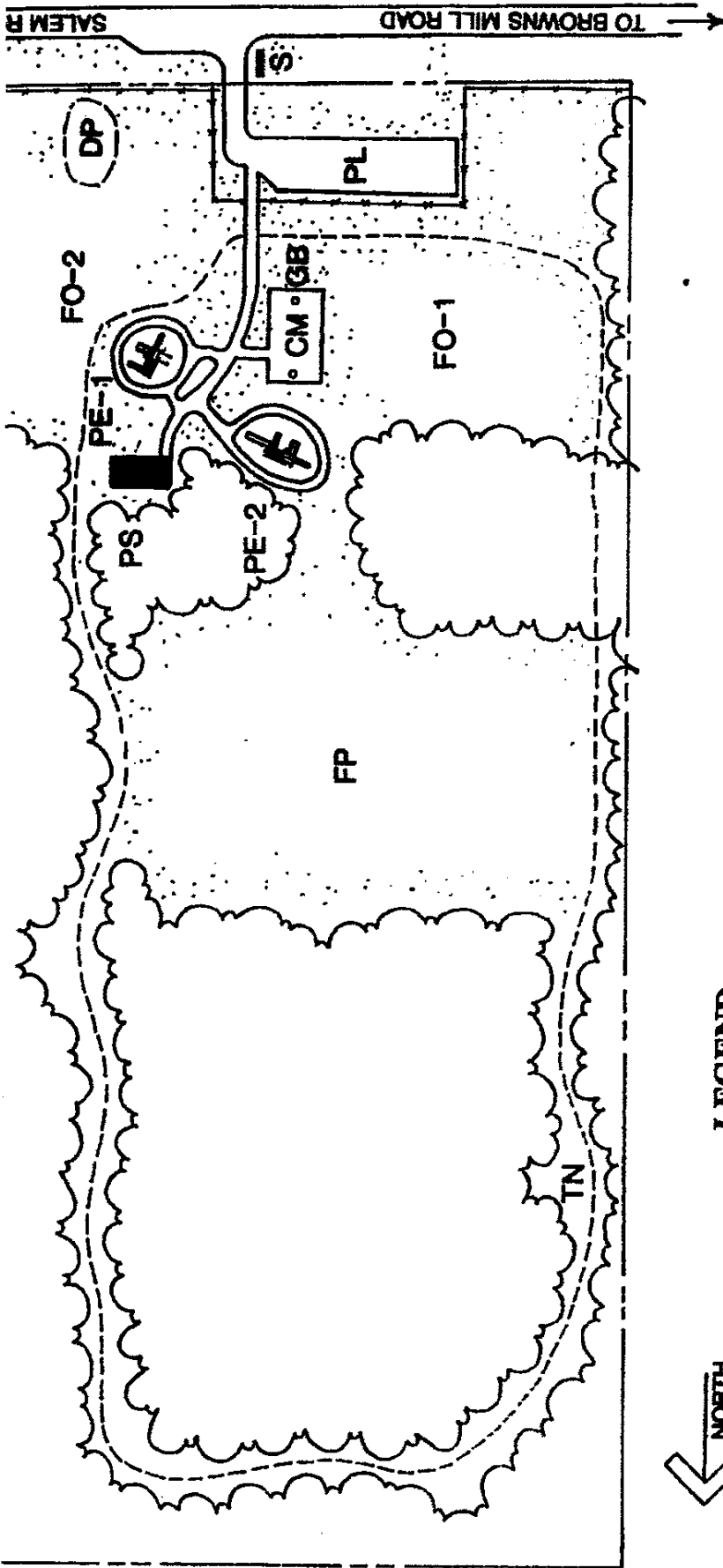
Tell us what you likes about site and any concerns about this facility on back.

Salem Park



- ▶ Council District 4
- ▶ 11 Acres
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Multi purpose & Basketball Courts
 - ▶ Open Fields
 - ▶ Pavilion, Fountain & Grills
 - ▶ Play Ground
 - ▶ Natural Surface Trail
- ▶ No Parking, no lights





LEGEND

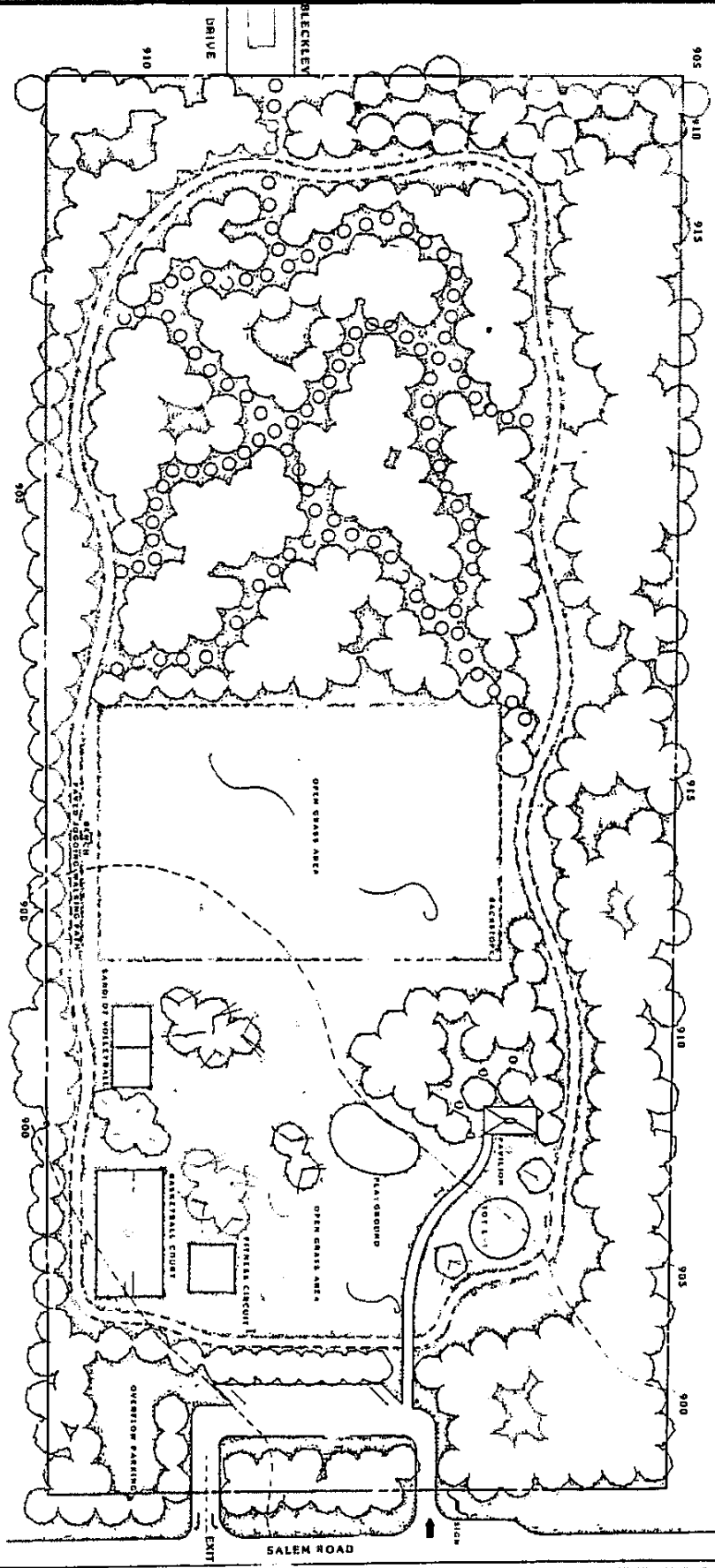
GENERAL FACILITIES

- CM Multipurpose Court
- DP Detention Pond
- FO Open Fields (2)
- FP Play Field
- GB Basketball Goals (2)
- PE Play Equipment (2)
- PL Parking Lot (7 standard & 1 handicapped)
- PS Picnic Shelter
- S Entrance Sign
- TN Natural Surface Trail

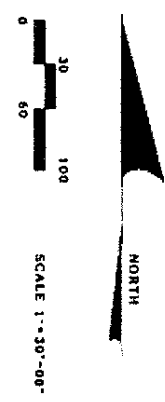
SALEM PARK 825

11 Acres
 5290 Salem Road, Lithonia
 Date Drawn: 2/95 SP
 Land Lot: 44
 District: 16

- 5' CONTOUR INTERVAL
- ENTRANCE
- NATURE TRAILS
- PAVED JOGGING/WALKING PATH
- PICNIC TABLES



MASTER PLAN
SALEM PARK



DEKALB COUNTY	
Parks Division	
371 2348	
Designed by _____ Drawn by _____ Checked by _____ Approved for construction <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions: _____ Date: _____	PROJECT TITLE 3178000 COMMITTEE APPROVED ON _____ PUBLIC MEETING APPROVED ON _____ PICA ADVISORY BOARD APPROVED ON _____
NATIONAL CONSULTING DEKALB COUNTY COUNTY OF COMMISSIONERS ADMITTED ON _____ MARCOE WALKER CEO	SHEET TITLE Scale: _____ Project no. _____ Date _____ Sheet _____ of _____

City of Stonecrest – Initial Park Survey

Park Name: Salem 11 Acres Date of Survey: _____ Surveyed By: _____

City Council District: _____

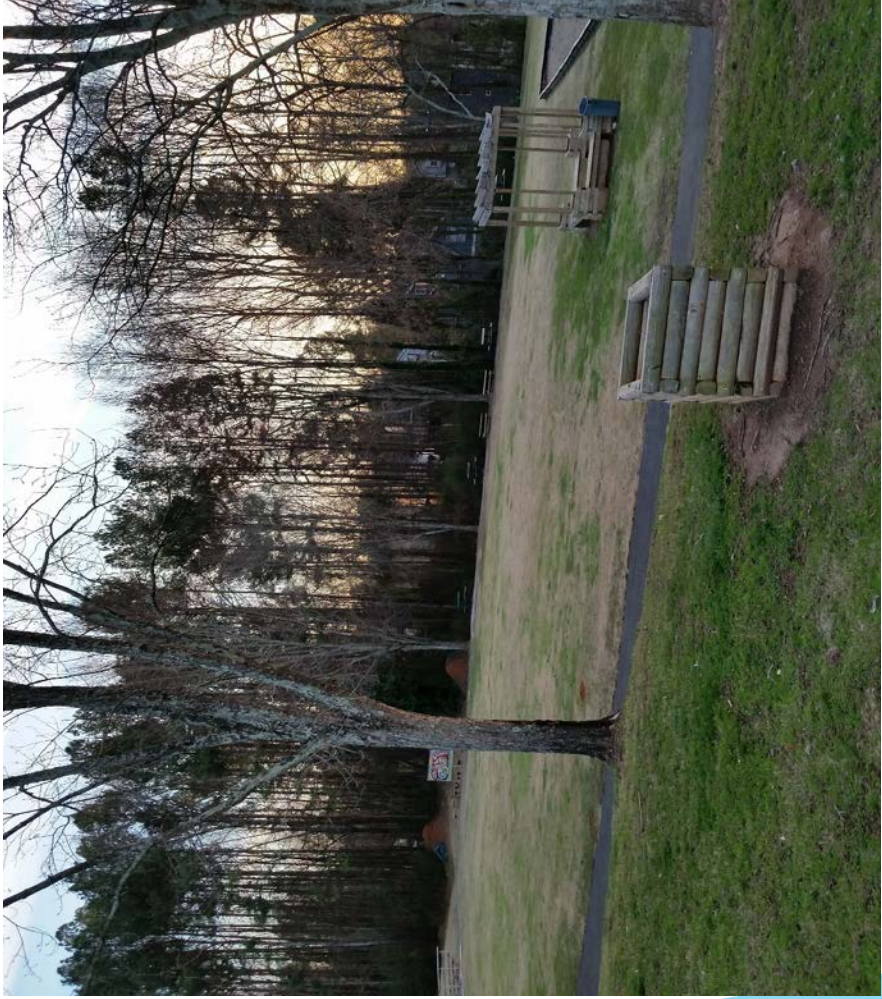
Park Feature	How Many (general)	Comments
Any Directional Park Signage at main street	No	
Park Rules Sign On Site	1 Yes	Good
Park Entrance Signage	1	Good with shrubs
Accessibility to Park (Entrances/Roundabout)		Small entrance off Salem Road
Type of Park Gate (Rolling, open)	1 Rolling gate in park	
Condition of Gates		Needs work
Shade Trees		No open sunny park
Flowers Shrubs		Signage only
Accessible Curbs		None.
Sidewalks/Walking Path		
Handicap Parking Spaces	Yes (1 space)	In main small lot
Parking lot	1- Small	Holds about 8-10 cars
#Restrooms on site	Yes	7 spaces
Security Lighting in Park	No	Park closes at dusk
# Field with Lights	No	
Types of Fields (soccer/football/soccer)		Large multi-purpose field
Field Condition		Good grassy area
Condition of fencing		Needs TLC not bad
Water Fountain in park	Yes (2)	
Pavilion	1- Large	Large accommodates 50-75////County rents this pavilion
Tables		Yes
Grill	1- Stand alone	Bad Condition need pad
Water Fountain		
Trash Cans		
Playground Equipment	1	Good Condition
Basketball Court	1	Good Condition
Goal Condition		Good Condition
Court Condition		Concrete Good Condition
		i
Type Pavilion (Large or Small)		
Condition of Pavilion		
#Free Standing Grill		
Condition of Grill		

Where is this park located? In Neighborhood Stand Alone Near Athletic Complex

What schools are near this park/recreation center? _____

Tell us what you likes about site and any concerns about this facility on back.

Fairington Park



- ▶ Council District 3
- ▶ 14.5 Acres
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Soccer Fields (2) & Basketball
 - ▶ Gazebo, Fountain, Grills
 - ▶ Dedicated parking
 - ▶ Play Ground
 - ▶ Natural Surface Trail
- ▶ No lights
- ▶ Possible revenue source / fields



City of Stonecrest – Initial Park Survey

Park Name: Fairington Park Date of Survey: Surveyed By: Olivia

City Council District:

<i>Park Feature</i>	<i>How Many (general)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Any Directional Park Signage at main street	No	
Park Rules Sign On Site	1 Yes	Good Condition
Park Entrance Signage	1	No with shrubs
Accessibility to Park (Entrances/Roundabout)		No signage on Panola or Directional signage
Type of Park Gate (Rolling, open)	Open	Gate opening at fields and playground area
Condition of Gates	No	
Shade Trees		Park Full of trees
Flowers Shrubs	Yes	At playground area; good condition
Accessible Curbs Sidewalks/Walking Path	None	Walking Path at playground area
Handicap Parking Spaces	No	No designated parking at this site.
Parking lot		Bad Condition
#Restrooms on site	No	
Fencing		Needs work entire park (rusted)
Security Lighting in Park	No	Park closes at dusk
# Field with Lights	No	
Types of Fields	4	4 Soccer and Large multi-purpose field
Field Condition		Good grassy area
Equipment		Soccer goals on field broken
Condition of fencing		Needs TLC at front entrance
Water Fountain in park	Yes	? Operable
Pavilion	Yes -1	Small gazebo
Seating/Bleachers	3	2 benches/seat in gazebo
Tables		Yes
Grill	1	Yes
Trash Cans	None	
Playground Equipment	Yes	Large Good Condition/Rock Wall, Monkey CLimb
Ground Covering		Playground mulch area
Basketball Court	NO	
Goal Condition		
Court Condition		
#Free Standing Grill	Yes	Bad

Where is this park located? In Neighborhood Stand Alone Near Athletic Complex

What schools are near this park/recreation center? No schools

Tell us what you likes about site and any concerns about this facility on back.

Community Parks

Large parks, easily accessible throughout an area.

Range in size from 25 to 100 acres.

Intended for intense, active, & organized recreation.

May include indoor and outdoor recreation centers, lighted athletic fields, concessions or gardens.

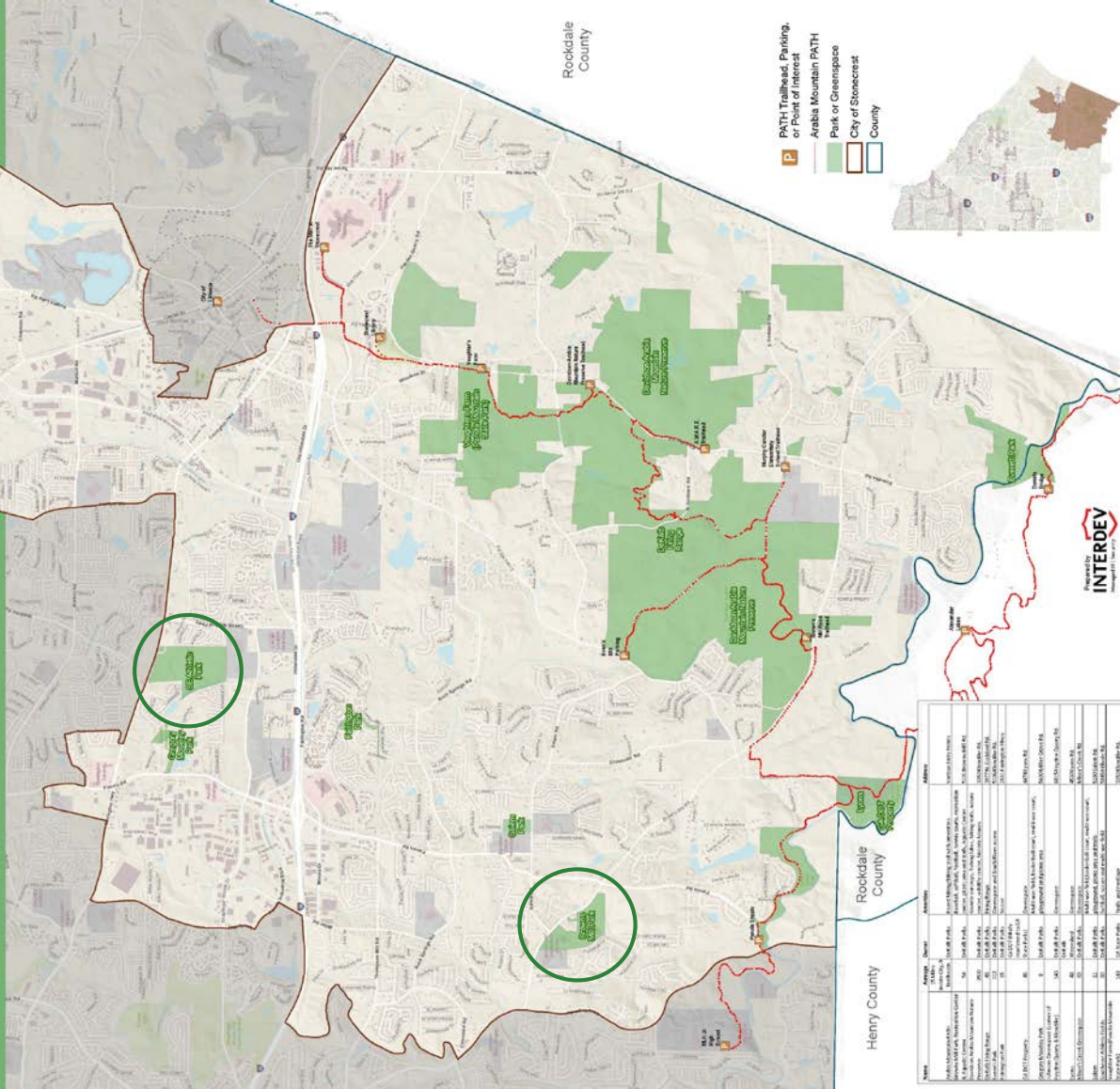
Industry standard = 5 acres per 1000 residents, or 250 acres.

The city has 157 acres of community parks, a deficit of 100 acres.

City of Stonecrest DeKalb County, Georgia Parks and Recreation **DRAFT**



Data Source:
DeKalb County GIS
Base Map
City Boundary
Parks
Path Installation
Trailhead

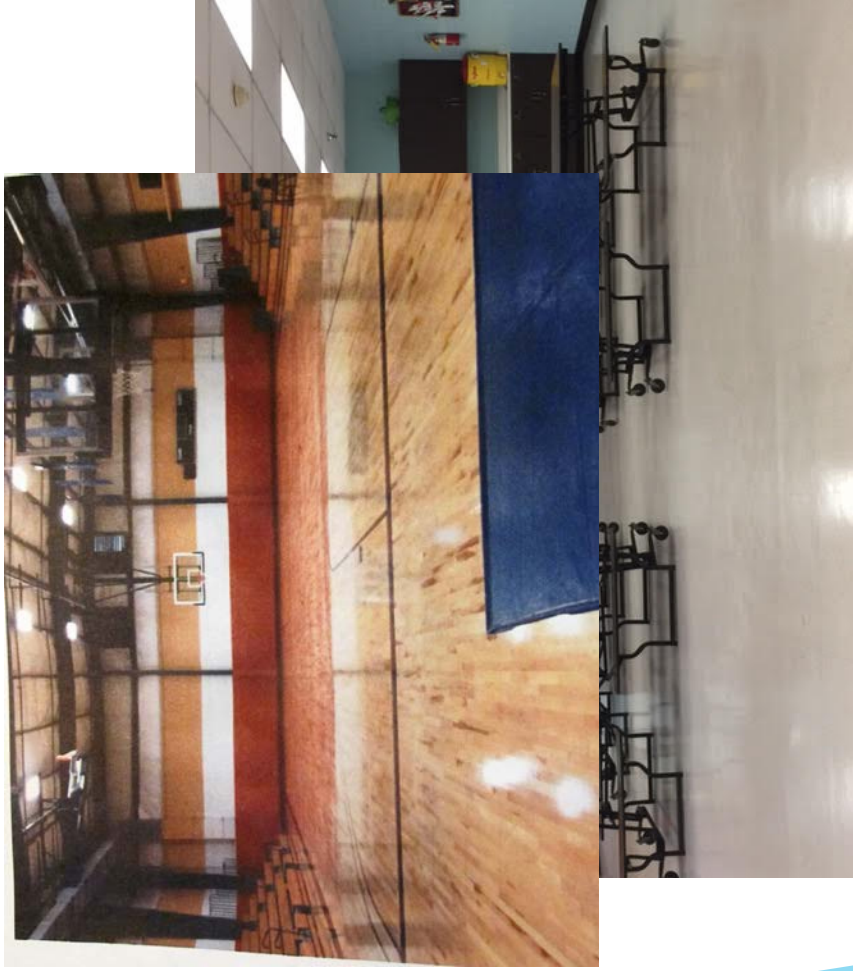


- P PATH Trailhead, Parking, or Point of Interest
- Arabia Mountain PATH
- Park or Greenspace
- City of Stonecrest
- County

Name	Address	City	County	Notes
1. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
2. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
3. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
4. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
5. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
6. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
7. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
8. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
9. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
10. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
11. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
12. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
13. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
14. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
15. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
16. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
17. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
18. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
19. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area
20. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area



Browns Mill Recreation Center



- ▶ Council District 4
- ▶ 18,000 Sq Feet
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Gym, Game Room, Classroom
 - ▶ Offices
 - ▶ Concession Stand
 - ▶ Tennis Courts (2)
 - ▶ Pavilion & Playground
- ▶ Full time staff required
- ▶ Possible revenue source
- ▶ Heavy programming e.g. summer camp, after school



Browns Mill Family Aquatic Center



- ▶ Council District 4
- ▶ 34,000 Sq feet
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Facility Rental
 - ▶ Concessions
 - ▶ Parking, Lockers, Lighting
- ▶ Seasonal Operations May-September
- ▶ Revenue source



Browns Mill Athletic Fields



- ▶ Council District 4
- ▶ 54 Acres
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Softball (2), Football (2), Baseball
 - ▶ Concessions & Restrooms
 - ▶ Picnic Area
 - ▶ Lighting
- ▶ Programming Staff needed
- ▶ Possible revenue source / fields



BROWNS MILL PARK 702

54 Acres

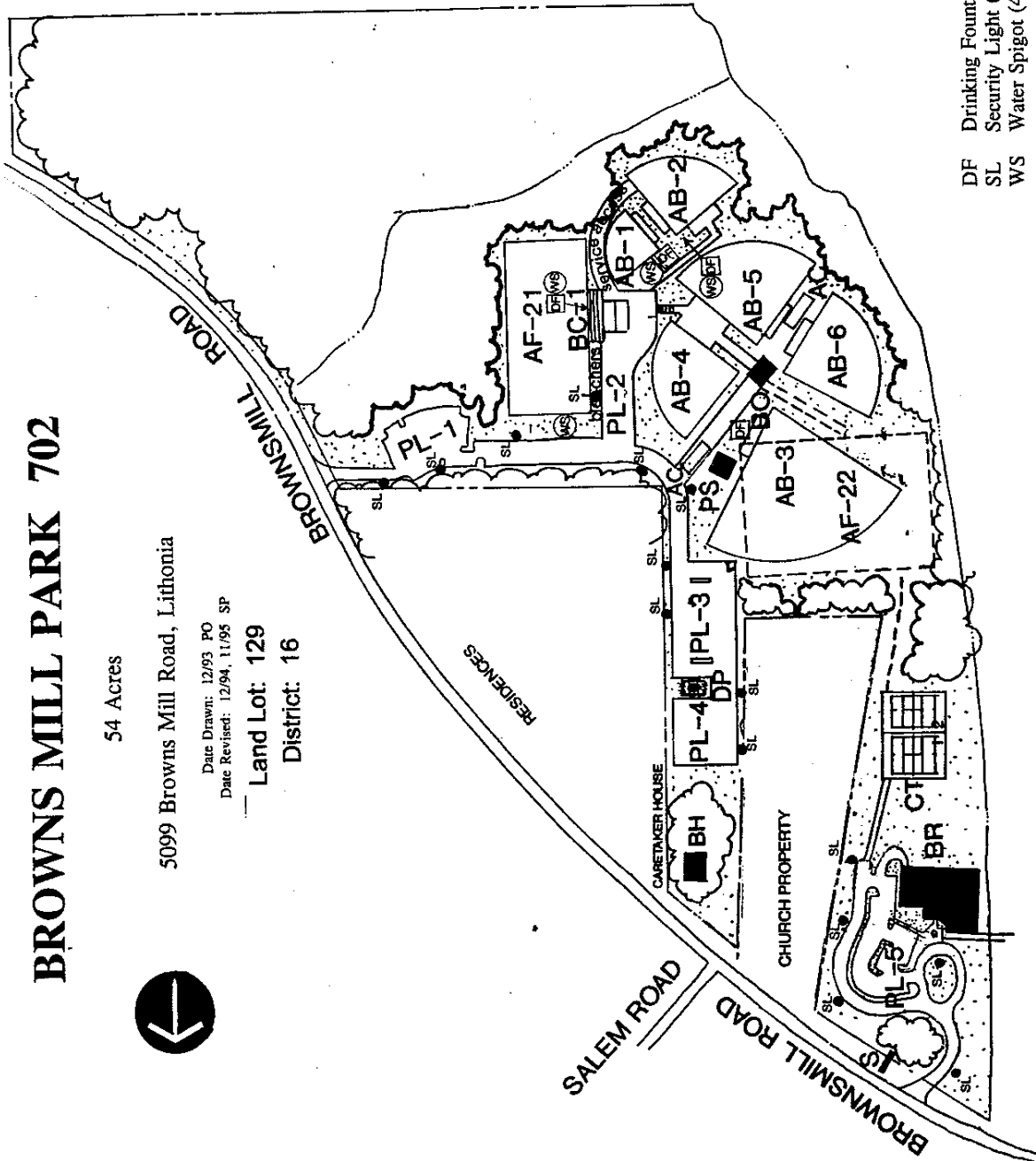
5099 Browns Mill Road, Lithonia

Date Drawn: 12/93 PO

Date Revised: 12/94, 11/95 SP

Land Lot: 129

District: 16



LEGEND

ATHLETIC FACILITIES:

- AB Ballfields (6)
- AF Football Fields (2)
- AC Batting Cage (3)

BUILDINGS:

- BC Concession Building
- BH Caretaker's House
- BO Concession/Maintenance Building
- BR Recreation Center

GENERAL FACILITIES:

- CT Tennis Court (2)
- DP Detention Pond
- PL Parking Lot (5)
- PL-1 (45' standard)
- PL-2 (60' standard & 4 handicapped)
- PL-3 (97' standard & 1 handicapped)
- PL-4 (53' standard)
- PL-5 (58' standard & 2 handicapped)
- PS Picnic Shelter
- S Sign

- DF Drinking Fountain (4)
- SL Security Light (15)
- WS Water Spigot (4)

SCHOOL

City of Stonecrest – Initial Park Survey

Park Name: ___ Browns Mill Athletic Complex _____ Date of Survey: _____

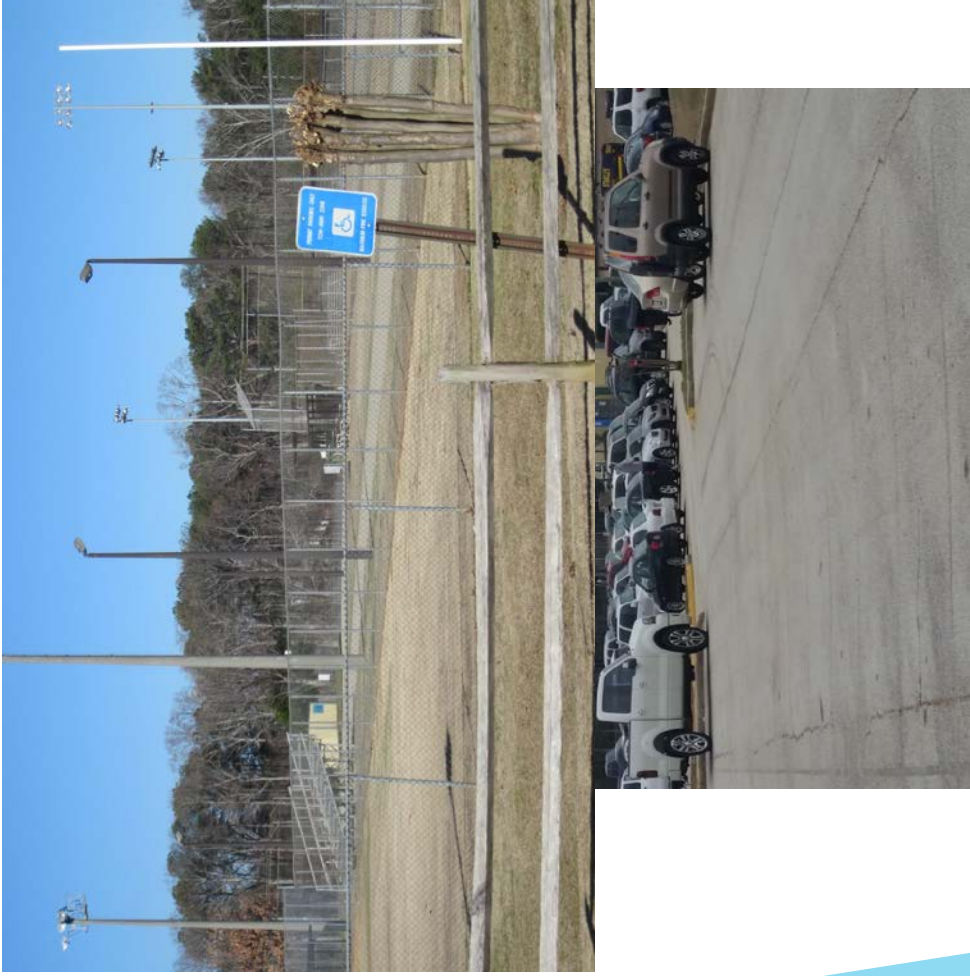
Surveyed By: _____ Gloria Leslie/Jackie Swain _____ City Council District: _____

<i>Park Feature</i>	<i>How Many (general)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Park Entrance Signage	1	Standard sign at entrance
Accessibility to Park (Entrances)	1	Browns mill Road main entrance and through aquatic center parking lot
Shade Trees		Trees in park
Flowers Shrubs	None	
Accessible Curbs Sidewalks		Walking path in complex only from field to field
Kitchen/Concession Building	2	Bad Condition (Volunteer ran operation)
Office/ Classrooms	1	Upstairs in Football Concession building
#Restrooms on site	2	1 Building on Football side/1 Building on softball side
#Restrooms inside		
Handicap Ramp	1	Softball side
Water Fountain	4	Throughout park
#Athletic Fields	8	6 Ballfields/ 2 Football (1 multipurpose
# Field with Lights		All fields
#Fields with seating		All Fields
Seating Bleachers	Yes	Throughout needs work
Batting Cages	3	Bad Condition
Condition of fencing		Needs Work
#Parking Lots	5 Lots	
Parking Spaces		350 parking spaces
Lighting in Parking Lot	Yes	
Handicap Parking	Yes	6 spaces
Storage Building	Yes	Youth Association equipment building (2)
Maintenance Building	Yes	County Equipment
#Soccer Fields		
Soccer Field with Lights		
Trash Cans		Several Dumpsters on site
Pavilion	Yes -1	Large
# Programs		L
Type Programs		Football, Baseball, Softball
Storage Rooms	Yes	Equipment Storage building (2)
Maintenance Room	Yes	Parks and recreation

What did you like about this Facility: Complex in fairly good condition.

Concerns about this Facility; Park is in controlled by Non Profit Youth Association(s). Association has full control of registration (including collecting of all fees. (YA) responsible for paying utility bills. No compliance when it comes to the operation of the concession stand.

Southeast Athletic Complex



- ▶ Council District 2
- ▶ 97.5 Acres
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Soccer (8) & Softball (5) Fields
 - ▶ Concession Stand, Restrooms
 - ▶ Drinking fountains
 - ▶ Athletic Field Lighting
 - ▶ Maintenance Building
- ▶ Needs full-time staff
- ▶ Possible revenue source / fields



Open Parks & Greenspace

Intended to protect natural resources such as wetlands, forests, endangered plant or animal habitat, and geologic features.

Nationally significant greenspace - Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve.

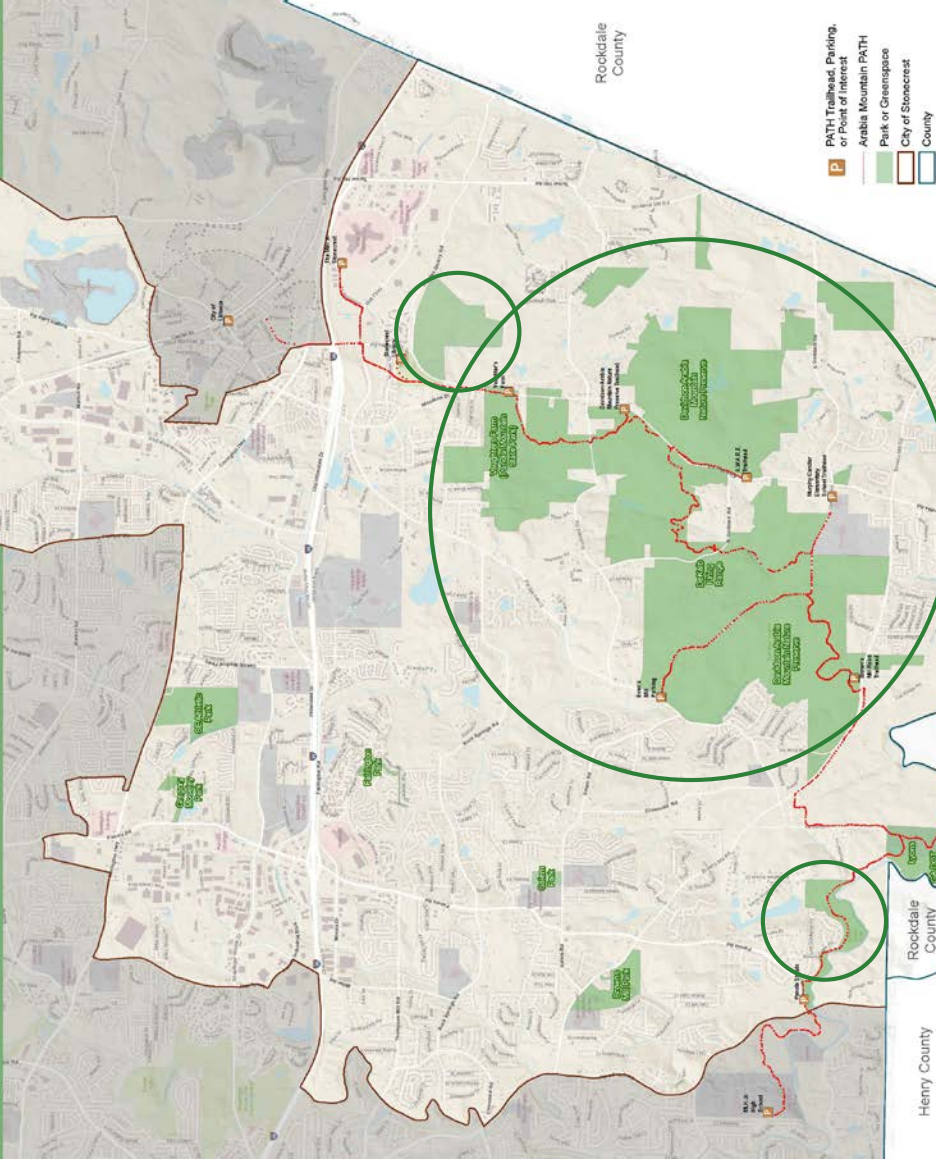
Approximately 15 miles of the Arabia Mountain PATH, which can be considered a greenway, are also within the city and connect to sites in Rockdale County and Henry County.

Recommended standards = 4 acres per 1,000 residents, or 200. 2705 acres at the nature preserve, the city more than meets that standard.

City of Stonecrest DeKalb County, Georgia Parks and Recreation **DRAFT**



Data Source:
DeKalb County GIS
Base Map
City Boundary
Parks
PATH Installation
Trailhead
Trailhead



Henry County

Rockdale County

Rockdale County

P PATH Trailhead, Parking, or Point of Interest

— Arabia Mountain PATH

— Park or Greenspace

— City of Stonecrest

— County

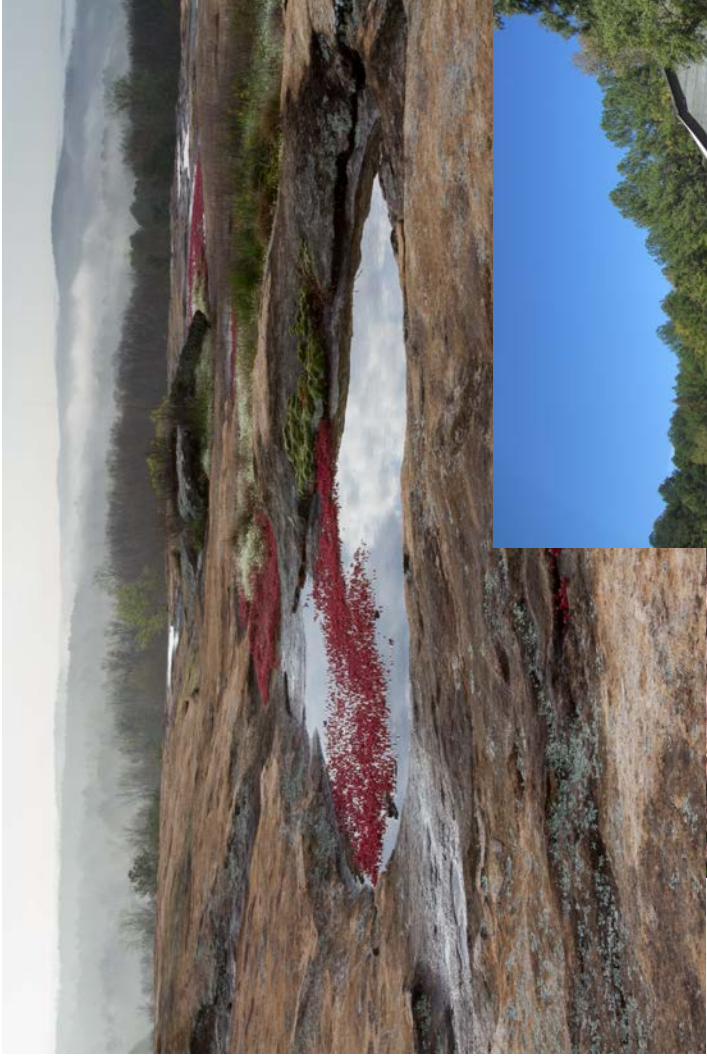
Name	Address	City	County	Notes
1. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
2. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
3. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
4. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
5. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
6. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
7. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
8. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
9. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
10. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
11. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
12. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
13. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
14. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
15. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
16. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
17. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
18. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
19. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.
20. Arabia Mountain PATH	1000 Arabia Mountain Parkway	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	Trailhead and parking area for Arabia Mountain PATH.

Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve & Greenspace



- ▶ Council Districts 1, 4 & 5
- ▶ 2705 acres
- ▶ Amenities:
 - ▶ Dynamic ecosystems: granite outcrops, wetlands, forests
 - ▶ Tourism generator
 - ▶ Outdoor recreation: Fishing, hiking, biking
 - ▶ Nature Trails & PATH trails (7 Trailheads)
 - ▶ Offices, limited water fountains & restrooms
 - ▶ Year-round operations
- ▶ Full-time staff needed
- ▶ Possible revenue source / programming

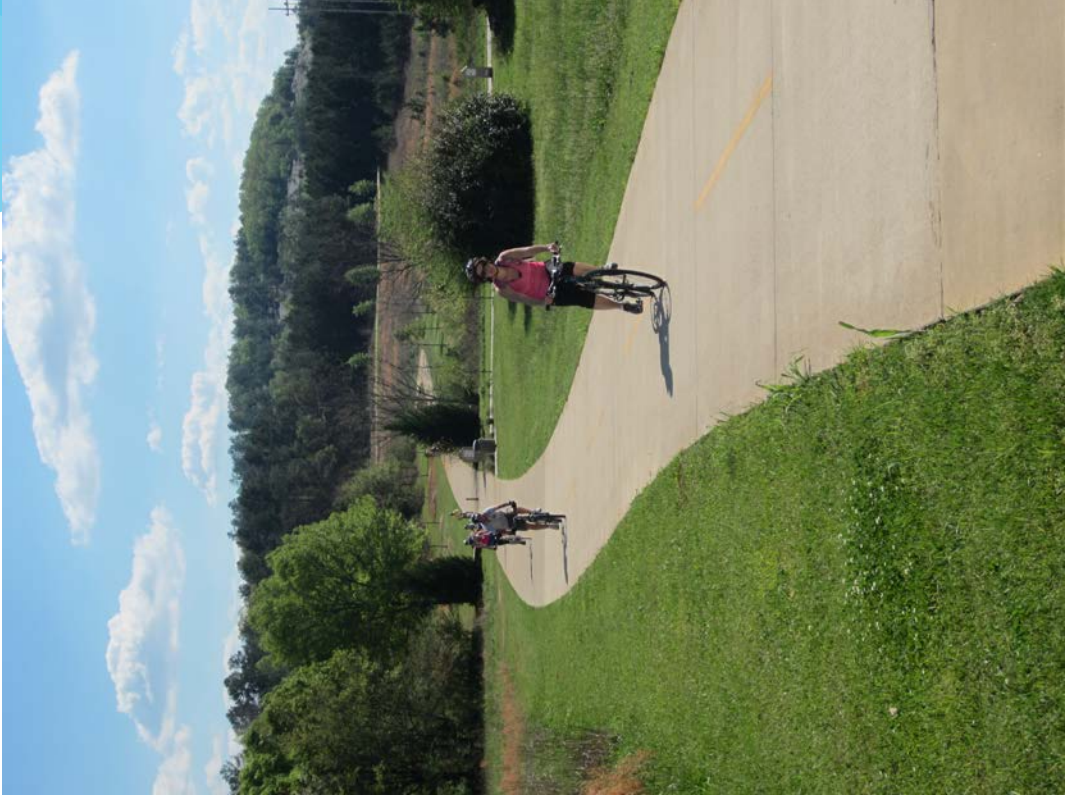
Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve & Greenspace



Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve & Greenspace



Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve & Greenspace



AMP

ARABIA MOUNTAIN PATH

SELF-GUIDED PATH TOUR

Explore a land 400 million years in the making! The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) is a breathtaking landscape just east of Atlanta along I-20. Dominated by two massive granite outcrops, it offers visitors unparalleled views, compelling history and heart-pumping adventures.

The AMP is designed to link cultural, scenic, natural and historic sites and we've highlighted some of our favorite landmarks for you here. More than 30 miles of dedicated, paved trails are open to bikers and hikers. If you would like to explore soft trails, the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve offers bike racks at several trailheads.

Remember to always be prepared for your ride, take plenty of water, a cell phone, a trail buddy, and sunscreen. The terrain is hilly and cyclists should be aware that some climbs are particularly strenuous.

- 1 Historic District of Lithonia
- 2 Railroad Cut
- 3 Vaughters' Farm
- 4 Arabia Mountain & Quarry Remnants
- 5 Quarry Office Ruins
- 6 Farming Terraces
- 7 Horace King Commemorative Covered Bridge
- 8 Evans Mill Ruins
- 9 Historic District of Klondike
- 10 Pole Bridge Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 11 Flat Rock Community
- 12 Lyon Farm
- 13 South River Crossing
- 14 Alexander Barn
- 15 The Parker House
- 16 Panola Mountain
- 17 Serpentine Bridge
- 18 DeCastro Retreat
- 19 Lorraine Trailhead
- 20 Keystone Bridge
- 21 Monastery of the Holy Spirit

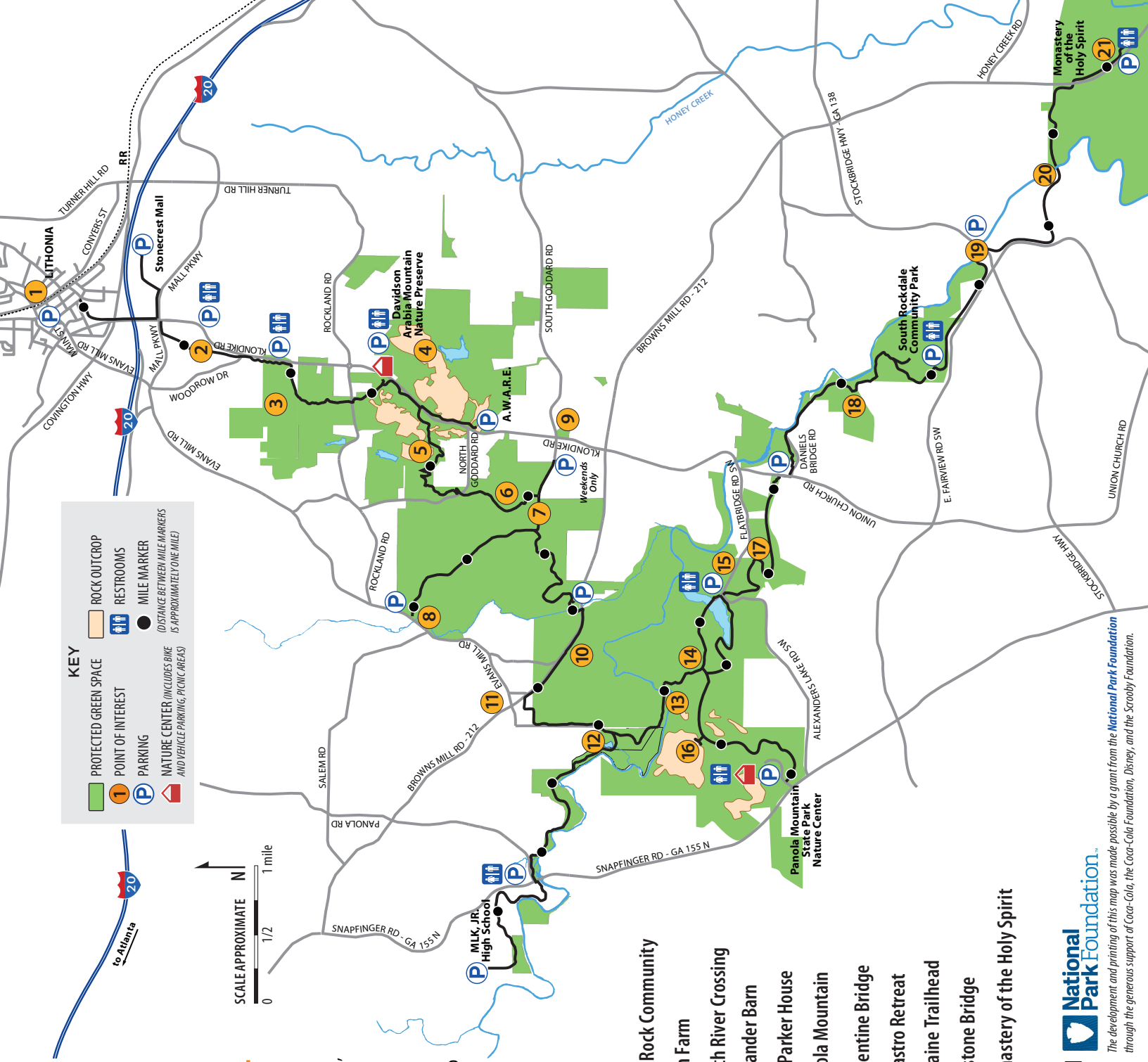
KEY

- PROTECTED GREEN SPACE
- ROCK OUTCROP
- PARKING
- RESTROOMS
- MILE MARKER
- NATURE CENTER (INCLUDES BIKE AND VEHICLE PARKING, PICNIC AREAS)
- POINT OF INTEREST
- DISTANCE BETWEEN MILE MARKERS IS APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE

SCALE APPROXIMATE

0 1/2 1 mile

to Atlanta



The AMP was designed and built by the PATH Foundation in cooperation with the partners of the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance.



The development and printing of this map was made possible by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of Coca-Cola, the Coca-Cola Foundation, Disney, and the Scrooby Foundation.

The inventory of the city is missing many elements of parks that the committee assessed were attractive to new residents, especially millennials. Examples of the types of parks, or innovative amenities of parks, not found were lap pools (indoor or outdoor), off-leash dog parks, mountain bike areas, specialty gardens such as community gardens or botanical gardens, and skate parks.

Specialty gardens is one the ways to diversity park elements. The history of most park systems is to cater to active recreation (baseball, soccer, frisbee, etc.) so the staff is primarily focused on keeping it cut and parking lots clear of debris. As a result, beautification is not a priority. The inventory showed that there are no annuals, perennials, native plants nor are there any fruit trees in Stonecrest parks. By calling on trained gardeners to design, plant and maintain gardens that invite visitors to spend time enjoying a botanical-like garden space the parks can be enhances and diversified. The photos below are an example of a typical plantings that can be added to any of the parks.

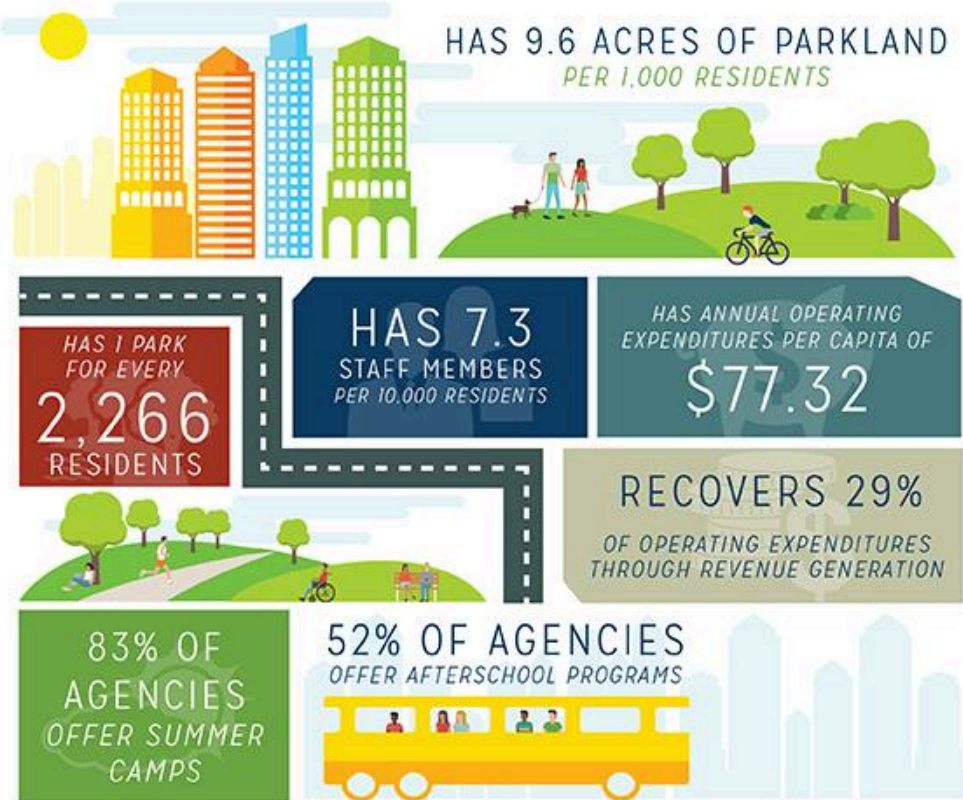


Missing from Stonecrest Parks



NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW AT A GLANCE

THE TYPICAL PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY...



www.nrpa.org/APR

© 2017 National Recreation and Park Association

<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>NRPA Rec'd</i>	<i>Stonecrest System</i>	<i>Brookhaven</i>
<i>Acres per Resident</i>	480	3071 (366)	256
<i>Site per 2266 residents</i>	22	9	12
<i>Staff needs</i>	36.5	tbd	12
<i>Per Capita Operating Expense</i>	3.8M	tbd	2.2M (\$44/per)
<i>Cost Recovery</i>	1.12M	tbd	Not available

Revenue Sources to Support Parks

While parks can recover some operational costs, they should not be expected to generate positive revenue for the city. Fees, grants, and other revenue acquired by the park should also not be diverted into the general fund but should be added to (not supplement) the department's operational costs to preserve and enhance the parks system. Revenue sources can fall into three general categories: cost recovery for basic operations; sustainable support from a dedicated revenue stream and funds acquired for capital or special projects.

Cost recovery resources:

- ▶ Non-resident fees for use of facilities
- ▶ Membership or user fees for specialty facilities or prime-time access, e.g. recreation center or aquatic center
- ▶ Rental fees for special event use of the recreation center, athletic complex or fields, aquatic center
- ▶ Revenue from film permits
- ▶ Contracted services for park concessions

Sustainable support:

- ▶ Dedicated sales tax, eg 1% of collected taxes are directed to parks
- ▶ Impact development fees requiring new developments to set aside private greenspace or support the development of new parks to offset density

Special Fees:

- ▶ SPLOST fund collected for Capital Projects (signage, infrastructure, new facilities)
- ▶ Hotel / Motel fees to support tourism product development for regional parks
- ▶ Partnership Grants i.e. Park Pride , Community Block, DNR, NPS

Closing Thoughts



- ▶ Parks are **DYNAMIC**, there is not one solution for every community
- ▶ Parks are **COMMUNITY** based and should be responsive to community needs
- ▶ Parks are not **REVENUE** centers
- ▶ Parks can greatly enhance **QUALITY OF LIFE** and draw new residents, businesses, and visitors - they are an **ATTRACTOR**
- ▶ Find **YOUR** park today!

Resources / References:

<http://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/the-economic-impact-of-local-parks/>

SCORP, Georgia's master plan for outdoor recreation:

<http://gastateparks.org/parks/virtual/redirect.aspx?404;https://gastateparks.org:443/SCORP>

DeKalb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan:

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sites/default/files/user18/ParksMasterPlan.pdf>

Addendums

DeKalb Document Request

City of Tucker inventory RFP

DeKalb County Parks Master Plan, Executive Summary