



TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND
RECREATION PLAN 2020-2030



DISCOVER OUR POSITIVE ALTITUDE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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COME. RELAX. ENJOY. STAY...

for a weekend, a season, or a lifetime!



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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

BACKGROUND

The Town of Seven Devils became a Town on June 30, 1979 and is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Seven Devils and surrounding Towns and communities are rich with recreational opportunities. The Town of Seven Devils aspires to provide recreational experiences to its residents, visitors, and surrounding community.

Seven Devils has a total of 1188.12 acres of land and 15.48 miles of Town roads, which can be viewed on the Powell Bill Map of the Town of Seven Devils. During the most populous time of the year, usually the week of the 4th of July, there are 1700 seasonal residents and visitors on the mountain. Throughout the year there are 220 full time residents.

In July of 2008, a Recreational Needs Assessment was completed and presented to the Town Council by Appalachian State University. In response to this survey and the presented recommendations, the Town of Seven Devils Town Council passed a resolution in May 2009 to create The Recreation Commission. In 2016 the Recreation Commission created the original Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In October 2018 the Recreation Commission moved to change their title to the Parks and Recreation Committee. In accordance with the resolution that was passed in 2009, the Parks and Recreation Committee is to consist of a minimum of five voting members and is to meet on a monthly basis. The Town Council has also included a line item for the funding of the Parks and Recreation Committee in its annual budget. Disbursements must be approved by the Town Manager, and administered by the Finance Officer, ensuring compliance with the Local Government Fiscal Control Act.

The Parks and Recreation Committee's mission is to encourage and support a variety of recreational facilities, both public and private. Some exist now; others will be created in accordance with interest and support of the residents. In order to ensure that these new recreational facilities are created in accordance with the interest of the residents, surveys must be conducted. All will be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, specifically the excerpt below:

"In recognition of the integral role natural beauty plays in the Town of Seven Devils being a desirable place to live, vacation and invest, the Town recognizes its obligation to conserve scenic resources and protect their aesthetic appearance; to protect and, where appropriate, designate areas of significant environmental concern; and to protect natural areas from incompatible development and specifically limit those uses that would cause irreparable damage." Town of Seven Devils Comprehensive Land Use Plan Pp.11

In 2019 the Town of Seven Devils established its Parks and Recreation Department by creating a Parks and Recreation Program Tech position.

PURPOSE

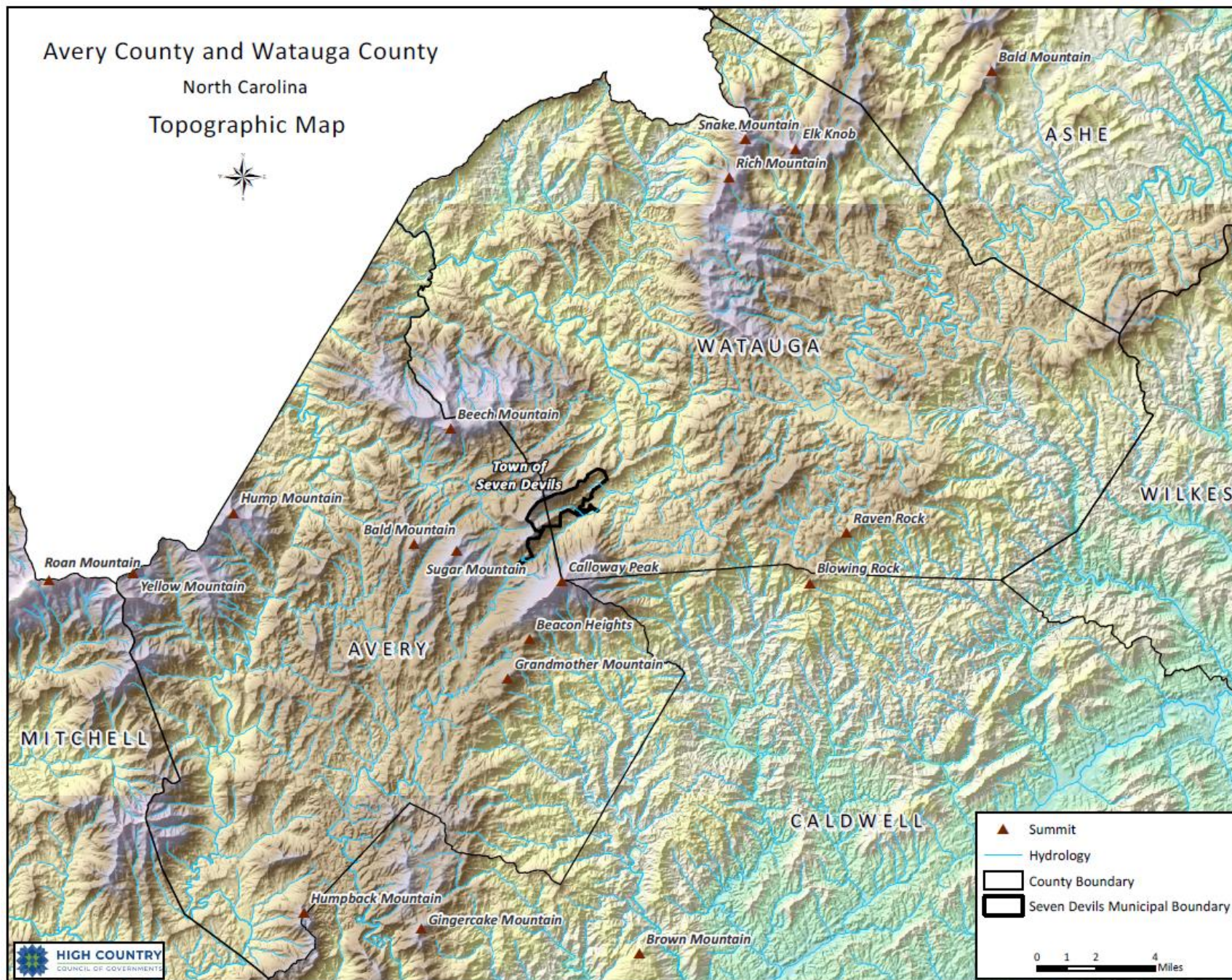
The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan is to guide the Town of Seven Devils in making informed decisions relating to the development of recreation facilities and assets, seeking out new opportunities, and meeting the needs of citizens throughout the next decade. This is to be done by the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Parks and Recreation Staff consulting with this plan, maintaining open communication with citizens, and conducting surveys to ensure the support of the Town. Most recent examples of these surveys would be the 2018 Needs Assessment.

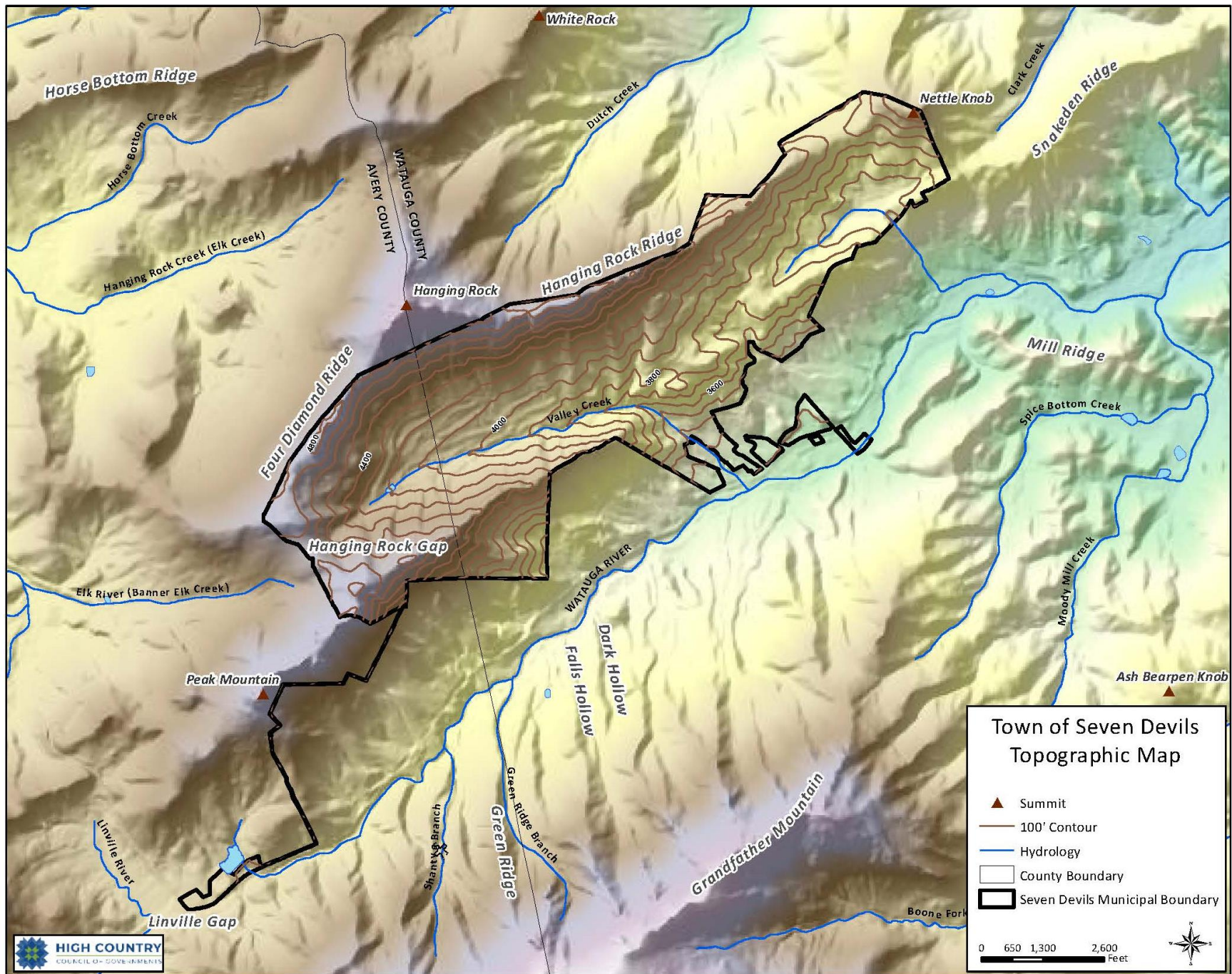
LIMITATIONS AND REVISIONS

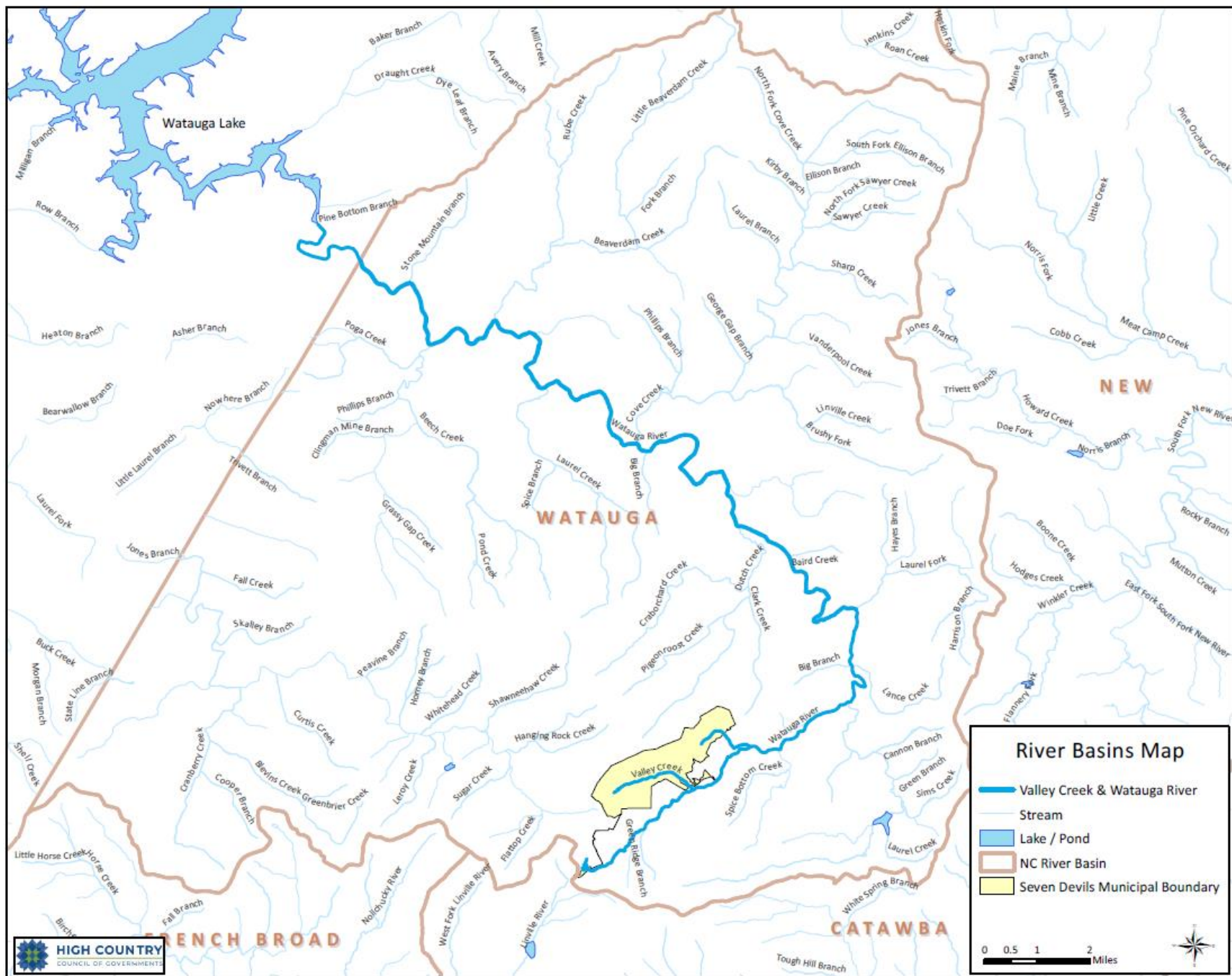
Since it is impossible to foresee future cultural trends, fluctuating costs, and population trends there are limitations to this document. Recreational priorities of the Town can change, as well as, many unforeseen factors. The Town of Seven Devils has made various efforts to forecast the recreation needs and wants of the Town through surveys and citizen input and plans to implement such plans. This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan reflects the current situations and outlooks of Seven Devils and may be amended as necessary to remain current and relevant.



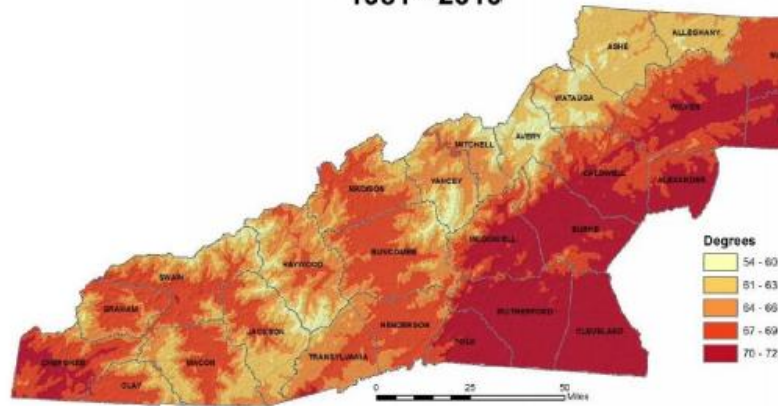
Picture taken at Old Town Hall



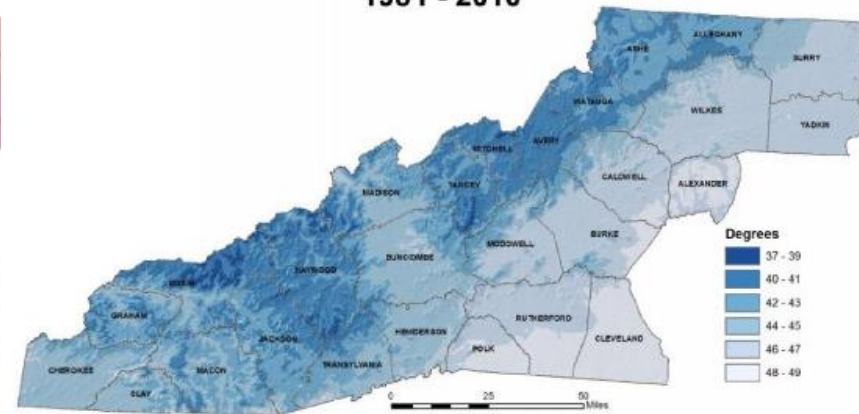




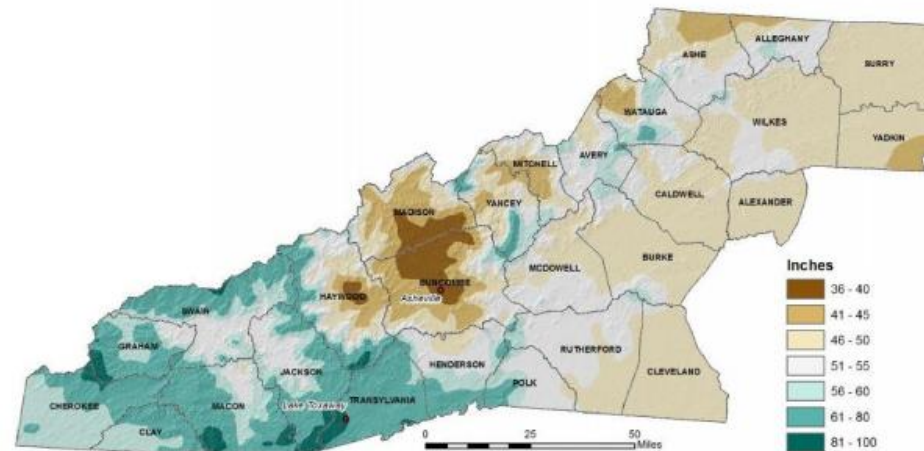
**Average Annual Maximum Temperature
1981 - 2010**



**Average Annual Minimum Temperature
1981 - 2010**



Average Annual Precipitation (1981 - 2010)



Maps Courtesy of Western North Carolina Vitality Index
<http://www.wncvitalityindex.org/weather-and-climate/temperature-variability>

Reference: Oregon State University, PRISM Group. Accessed from: <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>.

RECREATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Recreation is a basic human need and governments have the ability to provide parks and natural areas for everyone regardless of income. The Town of Seven Devils is enabled to acquire land, build facilities, and provide recreational outlets for the general public through the State of North Carolina's Recreation Enabling Law (G.S. Chapter 160A, Article 18). The complete law can be found in the Appendix. Recreation must be provided for the good of all citizens, benefitting them in a variety of ways, as defined in the following two sections of the Recreation Enabling Law:

§ 160A-351. Declaration of State policy.

The lack of adequate recreational programs and facilities is a menace to the morals, happiness, and welfare of the people of this State. Making available recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages is a subject of general interest and concern, and a function requiring appropriate action by both State and local government. The General Assembly therefore declares that the public good and the general welfare of the citizens of this State require adequate recreation programs, that the creation, establishment, and operation of parks and recreation programs is a proper governmental function, and that it is the policy of North Carolina to forever encourage, foster, and provide these facilities and programs for all its citizens. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

§ 160A-352. Recreation defined.

"Recreation" means activities that are diversionary in character and aid in promoting entertainment, pleasure, relaxation, instruction, and other physical, mental, and cultural development and leisure time experiences. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

The authority that the Town of Seven Devils is granted through the Recreation Enabling Law are defined by Section 160A-353 found below:

§ 160A-353. Powers.

In addition to any other powers it may possess to provide for the general welfare of its citizens, each county and city in this State shall have authority to:

- (1) Establish and conduct a system of supervised recreation;
- (2) Set apart lands and buildings for parks, playgrounds, recreational centers, and other recreational programs and facilities;
- (3) Acquire real property, either within or without the corporate limits of the city or the boundaries of the county, including water and air rights, for parks and recreation programs and facilities by gift, grant, purchase, lease, exercise of the power of eminent domain, or any other lawful method.
- (4) Provide, acquire, construct, equip, operate, and maintain parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, and recreation facilities, including all buildings, structures, and equipment necessary or useful in connection therewith;
- (5) Appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of this Article;
- (6) Accept any gift, grant, lease, loan, or devise of real or personal property for parks and recreation programs. Devises and gifts may be accepted and held subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the grantor or trustor, except that no county or city may accept or administer any terms that require it to discriminate among its citizens on the basis of race, sex, or religion. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1; 1973, c. 426, s. 55; 2011-284, s. 115.)

The North Carolina Recreation Enabling Law enables municipalities like the Town of Seven Devils to create administration for Parks and Recreation such as the Parks and Recreation Committee. Specifically referencing the section below.

§ 160A-354. Administration of parks and recreation programs.

A city or county may operate a parks and recreation system as a line department, or it may create a parks and recreation commission and vest in it authority to operate the parks and recreation system. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)



Picture Taken at Old Town Hall

PLANNING PROCESS & STRUCTURE OF PLAN

LAND USE

The Planning Process for Parks and Recreation in the Town of Seven Devils concerning land use is two part and both parts can be found in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). The first part being obtaining land in order to preserve its ecological and recreational significance (CLUP pp.12). This specific section of the CLUP can be found in the excerpt below:

B. LAND USE TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATURAL BEAUTY

In recognition of the integral role natural beauty plays in the Town of Seven Devils being a desirable place to live, vacation and invest, the Town recognizes its obligation to conserve scenic resources and protect their aesthetic appearance; to protect and, where appropriate, designate areas of significant environmental concern; and to protect natural areas from incompatible development and specifically limit those uses that would cause irreparable damage. The Town also recognizes its obligation to collaborate with other entities within and beyond the Town, to educate those who live and invest in the Town, and to participate in efforts to protect the Watauga River Basin watershed.

Objective: *The Town of Seven Devils conserves, protects, restores and enhances the natural beauty of its setting and minimizes disturbances to the natural environment.*

Action Plan:

- 1. The Town Manager and Parks & Recreation Committee should identify areas of ecological and recreational significance and pursue their preservation.*
- 2. The Planning Board should assure ordinances that provide for the following:*
 - a. Restricting the installation of commercial- and government-use communication towers and energy-generating devices to the commercial / business and government areas. Require appropriate landscaping and the latest in concealment strategies for all commercial, government, and non-commercial communication tower installations, and for all energy-generating devices.*
 - b. Controlling erosion and sedimentation from any land-disturbing activity. Study the feasibility of a process for (1) evaluation of current conditions, (2) engineering to prevent run-off, and (3) enforcement.*
 - c. Requiring a minimum 50-foot-wide vegetative buffer along all perennial streams that are within the Town of Seven Devils.*
 - d. Protection and preservation of trees.*
- 3. The Town Council should regularly review and implement plans for hazard mitigation, especially to include control of storm water runoff to minimize damage to public and private property.*

The second part being obtaining/ repurposing land or facilities into community facilities. In order to keep the Town informed this section focuses on community involvement (CLUP pp.13). This specific section of the CLUP can be found in the following excerpt:

D. LAND USE FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Because the Town values an informed citizenry, it promotes opportunities for citizen input and participation while expanding methods and opportunities to keep citizens informed. The Town values continuing interface with surrounding communities in recognition of mutual interdependence.

Objective: *The Town of Seven Devils fosters and encourages the continued growth of a sense of community within the Town and surrounding area.*

Action Plan:

- 1. In preparation for adoption by Town Council, the Planning Board should prepare or revise ordinances that assure that subdivisions and multi-family properties include open space as appropriate.*
- 2. The Town of Seven Devils' representatives to the High-Country Municipal Association should encourage collaboration on transportation, communication, aesthetics, and shared recreational opportunities.*
- 3. The Town Council, Planning Board, Parks & Recreation Committee, Town management, and interested citizens should create vehicles for public input and should enhance the effectiveness of citizen input through committees, advisory panels, educational forums, public workshops, and Town meetings.*
- 4. The Town Council, Planning Board, Parks & Recreation Committee, Town management, and interested citizens should establish an ongoing program of community events that create citizen dialog and involvement in land-use issues, including the philosophy of citizens as the land's stewards and trustees rather than merely as the land's owners.*
- 5. The Town Council should encourage communication and cooperation among departments within Town government, between Town management and entities within the Town (e.g., the Seven Devils Resort Club, businesses, and homeowners' associations) and with other communities and towns (e.g., Foscoe, Grandfather Village, Watauga County municipalities, and participants in the High Country Municipal Association).*

Once the Land is obtained for either preservation or community use and the community is involved in the process plans can be made as to how to move forward. Funds can then be secured in a variety of ways, as described in the section of this document named "Implementation" on page 11.

PROGRAM PLANNING

The planning of programs and events in Seven Devils falls on the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Parks and Recreation Staff. This is true of most events except: Arbor Day (planned by the Tree Committee) and historically SafetyFest (planned by the Public Safety Committee). The process by which annual events and summer programs are planned is this: the Parks and Recreation Committee must collaborate to determine the programs to be held for the summer, once the programs are chosen they must go to TDA for approval for funding, upon approval it is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Parks and Recreation Staff to see it to completion. All dates for events must be approved by the Town in order to ensure availability.

IMPLEMENTATION

The main fund source for Parks and Recreation is through the Town of Seven Devils Tourism Development Authority (TDA). Funds from the TDA are used to promote tourism by providing recreation opportunities for visitors and residents through the maintenance of properties and facilities, as well as, for the purchase of amenities. Use of these funds must be approved by the Town Manager and TDA.

In order for the Town of Seven Devils to fully see this plan come to fruition, it is important for the Town to apply for and win grants. There are numerous agencies, both federal and state that support local recreation projects, including Recreation Trails Program (RTP), Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), NC Department of Transportation, NC Adopt-a-Trail, and Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

In order to use matching grants to the fullest the Town will continue to put money into the Capital Reserve Fund to finance the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be used for expansion of parks and recreation in the Town of Seven Devils. All use of Town funds must follow the Annual Operating Budget Ordinance. The Budget Ordinance defines how funds in the General Fund are to be used within the fiscal year. The Town Manager serves as the Budget Officer, as such they administer the Annual Operating Budget. The Finance Officer establishes and maintains all records.

Setting up bonds and fundraising may be other vehicles by which funds are procured for future projects and maintenance.

MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT

For facilities such as Old Town Hall (OTH), Otter Falls, and Black Bear Family Park, the Parks and Recreation Program Tech will visit the facility or walk the trails in order to pinpoint areas that need maintenance or replacement. These facilities are checked weekly. Upon finding an aspect of the facility or trail that needs maintenance or replacement the Parks and Recreation Program Tech brings it to the attention of the Public Works Department via a work order. The Public Works Department then works to fulfill the work order. Public Works regularly maintains the parking areas for all town facilities and trails, as well as, Old Town Hall (OTH).

The Town of Seven Devils TDA provides part of the funds to promote tourism for the maintenance and replacement of facilities and amenities, while the remainder is sourced in the General Fund. Details of the General Fund can be found in the Annual Operating Budget Ordinance. The Town Manager serves as the Budget Officer, as such they administer the Annual Operating Budget. The Finance Officer establishes and maintains all records.

Town of Seven Devils: Capital Improvement Plan FY 20

DEPT	COST \$	PRIOR YRS	FY19-20	FY19-20	FY20-21	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	BAL
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	\$ 160,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 160,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -

EXISTING TOWN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSETS

Included here are descriptions of the existing parks and recreation facilities and trails in the Town of Seven Devils. These assets and trails can be located on the **Connect 7D: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Map**, which can be found in the **Appendix**.

Otter Falls Trail: Located off of Skyland Drive the Town owns a 10-acre tract of land that includes a waterfall acquired in 2013. Funds to complete this trail system came from matching grants, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Conservation Fund, as well as generous donations from businesses, residents, and visitors. These 1.2 miles of trails are open Dawn to Dusk.



- 5 Benches
- 1 Picnic Table
- 2 Parking Lot: Upper and Lower
- 1 Pet Waste Disposal Station
- 4 Trails

Old Town Hall (OTH): Formally used as the Town of Seven Devils Town Hall this 3-acre property now serves as a community center as of 2019. This space is in the process of being repurposed and will be updated in 2020. This facility is open Monday through Friday 8:30am-5pm. As of now it includes:



- A Community Kitchen
- A Book Exchange
- 2 Restrooms
- Basketball Goal

Black Bear Family Park: This Town .6-acre park is located on Grandfather Circle and is open to residents and visitor use. The courts, pavilion, and playground are maintained by the Tourism Development Authority.



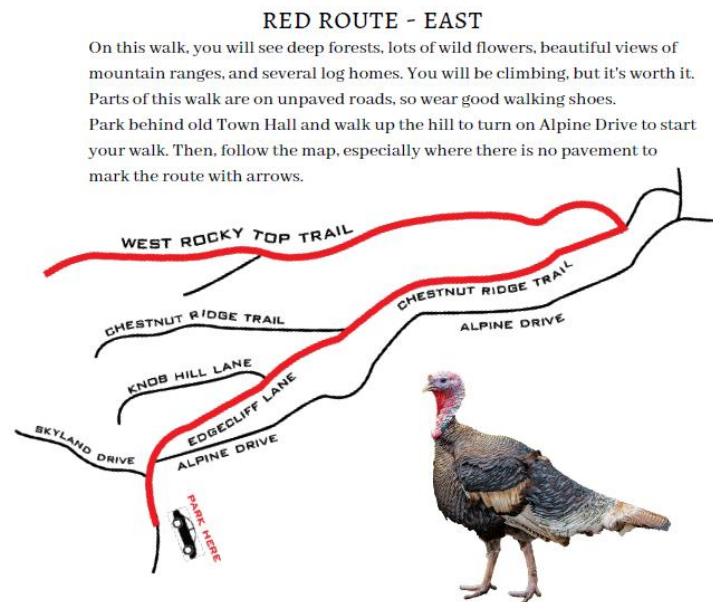
- 2 Picnic Tables
- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 1 Playground
- 2 tennis courts/ pickleball courts
- 1 bench
- Basketball Goal
- Parking Lot

Caruso Easement: Adjacent to the Old Town Hall there is a 1.2-acre section of land that Town has access to through an easement. This plot of land is used for overflow parking for events and meetings held at Old Town Hall.

Brownlow Park: This welcome park is .63-acres and is located on Seven Devils Road. It is home to the Town Bears that are used during the annual Town Bear Decorating Competition. In addition to the bears this mini park is decorated seasonally.

Alpine Meadows Mini Park: This park is .1-acre and is located in the Alpine Meadows Community. Alpine Meadows Mini Park includes a bench and landscaping in an effort to beautify this section of Seven Devils.

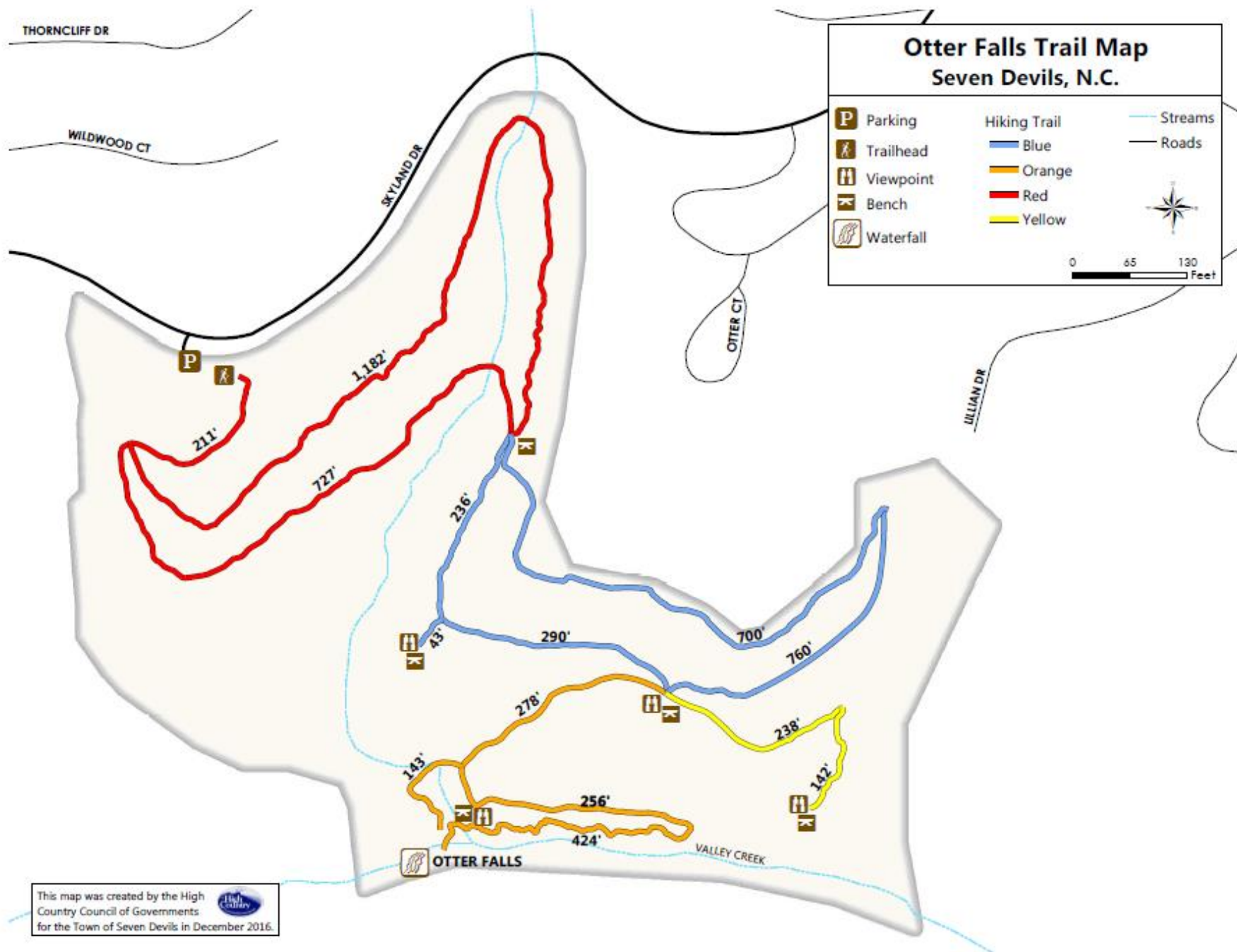
Walking Trails: There are 15.48 miles of Town roads and 3 miles of State roads that are used by residents and visitors for walking and biking. There are 7 designated walking trails, each color coded and rated by difficulty. There are several signs advising motorists to respect these uses and parking areas are designated on the maps. Maps for these walking trails for the public can be found at Town Hall or on Seven Devils website.



Excerpt from Walking Trail Guide

New Town Hall: In 2019 the Town of Seven Devils purchased the New Town Hall and the 6.5 acres that it sits on. The land will be developed into a park, but the New Town Hall will only be used for administrative purposes.

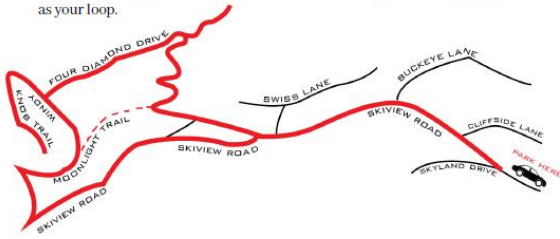






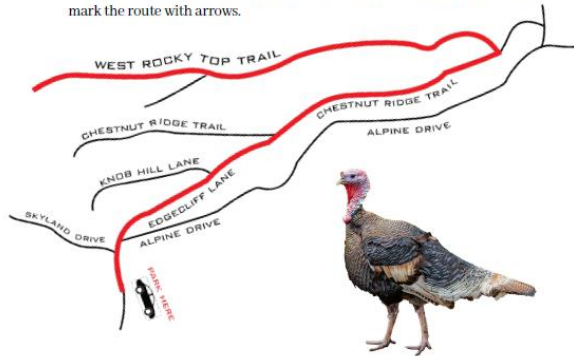
RED ROUTE - WEST

By the time you finish this walk, you will have seen beautiful views of mountain ranges at 360 degrees - It is worth the climb! The beginning altitude is 4257' and the highest point on Windy Knob is 4755'. Park on the wide gravel shoulder on Skyland Drive where Skiview begins. This walk can be taken clockwise or counterclockwise. For a less strenuous walk, use Moonlight Trail as your loop.



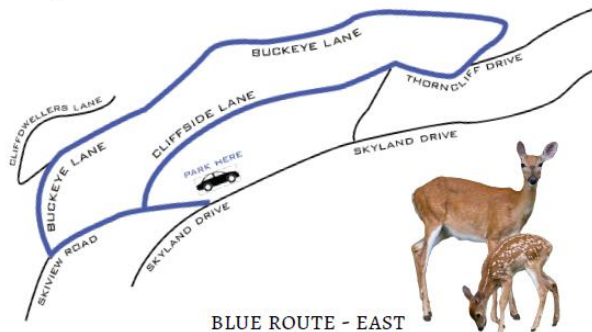
RED ROUTE - EAST

On this walk, you will see deep forests, lots of wild flowers, beautiful views of mountain ranges, and several log homes. You will be climbing, but it's worth it. Parts of this walk are on unpaved roads, so wear good walking shoes. Park behind old Town Hall and walk up the hill to turn on Alpine Drive to start your walk. Then, follow the map, especially where there is no pavement to mark the route with arrows.



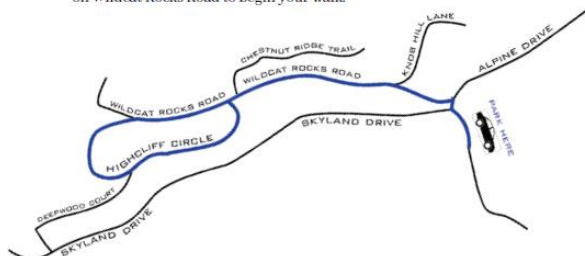
BLUE ROUTE - WEST

This walk will take you through a beautiful, deep forest and you will see many different wild flowers in the spring, summer, and fall - you may see or hear wild turkeys. Park on the wide gravel shoulder on Skyland Drive where Skiview Road begins. To walk the most strenuous climb first, go clockwise. For a gentler ascent, walk counterclockwise.



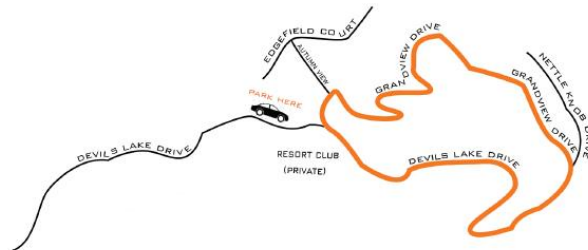
BLUE ROUTE - EAST

This walk will take you past attractive mountain homes and beautifully landscaped yards. You will also see wooded valleys and views of distant mountains. There is a short, fairly steep climb at the beginning of the walk, but after you reach the intersection of Wildcat Rocks Road and Knob Hill Lane, the remainder of the walk is composed of more moderate ups and downs. The loop of Wildcat Rocks Road and Highcliff Circle may be walked either clockwise or counterclockwise. Park behind old Town Hall and walk up the hill to turn left on Wildcat Rocks Road to begin your walk.



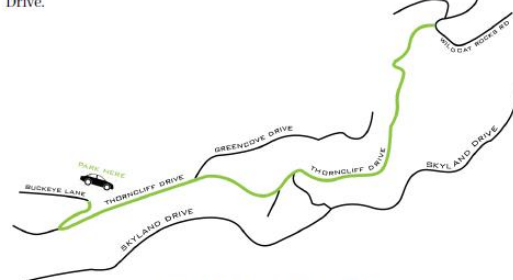
ORANGE ROUTE - EAST

This walking route is a loop that can be taken either clockwise or counterclockwise. It leads through forests, beds of ferns, and rhododendrons (especially beautiful in July). To start your walk, park on the wide grassy shoulder on Devils Lake Drive near the intersection of Devils Lake Drive and Autumn View Road.



GREEN ROUTE - WEST

This walking trail will take you through beautiful deep woods, and beautiful views of Grandfather Mountain. It is a great walk to take on a sunny day because most of this walk is in the shade. This is a 'roller coaster' walking route - it starts at a higher altitude and descends and ascends rapidly over a short distance. You will actually be climbing more than 300' between the high and low points. To begin your walk, there's a good parking place on Buckeye Lane just off Thorncliff Drive. If you want to walk half of this route, there is an alternate parking place on Thorncliff Drive near its intersection with Chalet Drive.



GREEN ROUTE - EAST

This walk is very popular, and you are likely to meet other walkers or joggers. It is the least strenuous walking route in town, and it leads past attractive mountain homes interspersed among deep woods. Park behind old Town Hall and walk up the hill to turn right on Alpine Drive. Walk until you reach a cul-de-sac, turn around, and return to old Town Hall.



EXISTING TOWN EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Arbor Day: This Town wide lunch is held each April to celebrate Arbor Day. The celebration includes lunch provided by the Town and planting of trees.



Outdoor Music Concert Series: The Town works in cooperation with the Seven Devils Tourism Development Authority to plan, promote, and execute a summer concert series. These series generally consist of 3 concerts during the summer months with local musicians. This event was formerly called "Music on the Lawn".



Ranger Workshops: The workshops are facilitated by Rangers from neighboring Grandfather Mountain State Park. These workshops occur once a month during June, July, and August and can be attended by residents and visitors. Workshops take place at Seven Devils Old Town Hall and at Otter Falls.



A Garden Club: This club works towards beautification of the property located around Old Town Hall. The Garden Club has been established with funding from the Tourism Development Authority.

Pickleball Games: Organized pickleball games are offered weekly during the summer at the two tennis courts/ pickleball courts on Grandfather Circle.



Book Exchange: Located at Old Town Hall the Book Exchange is made up of approximately 3,000 volumes and is staffed by volunteers. There is a Children's Section with children's books, games, puzzles, and a desk for the use of residents and visitors.

Group Hikes/ Group Activities: Organized and sponsored by the Town of Seven Devils Parks and Recreation Committee, a variety of group hikes/ group activities are offered during the summer season. These group hikes take place at various popular hiking destinations in the surrounding area. Group activities may include moonlight canoe trips, which are sponsored in conjunction with the State Parks System.



"Lite the Nite": The Town of Seven Devils holiday community gathering is held each December at Old Town Hall. This event is a town wide potluck where attendees are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert and enjoy a meal with their neighbors and visitors. There is a food drive in conjunction with this dinner and attendees are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food. The Town Christmas decorations are lit, carols are sung, and there are raffle prizes to top off the celebration.



EXISTING NATURE PRESERVES IN SEVEN DEVILS

There are two tracts of land within Town Limits that are designated as a natural preserve area, which means that they will never be developed other than to provide possible hiking trails. These Nature Preserves can be viewed on the Connect 7D: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is located in the Appendix.

The Blue Ridge Conservancy owns a 224-acre tract of land within Seven Devils Town Limits. The Blue Ridge Conservancy in conjunction with the Town of Seven Devils is planning to build a trail(s) on this land in the future.

The State of North Carolina owns Bear Paw State Natural Area, which is partially within Seven Devils Town Limits. The remainder of the preserve borders Seven Devils to the North. In total this natural preserve is a 385-acre tract, 148 of which are in Seven Devils.

EXISTING PRIVATE RECREATION IN SEVEN DEVILS

Hawksnest Ziplining and Snow Tubing: Hawksnest is a commercial recreation provider that specializes in ziplining and snow tubing. Located at 2058 Skyland Dr. Hawksnest's 135 acres are zoned Recreational Business and includes a lodge and parking area. Below is a picture of part of the Hawksnest Property.

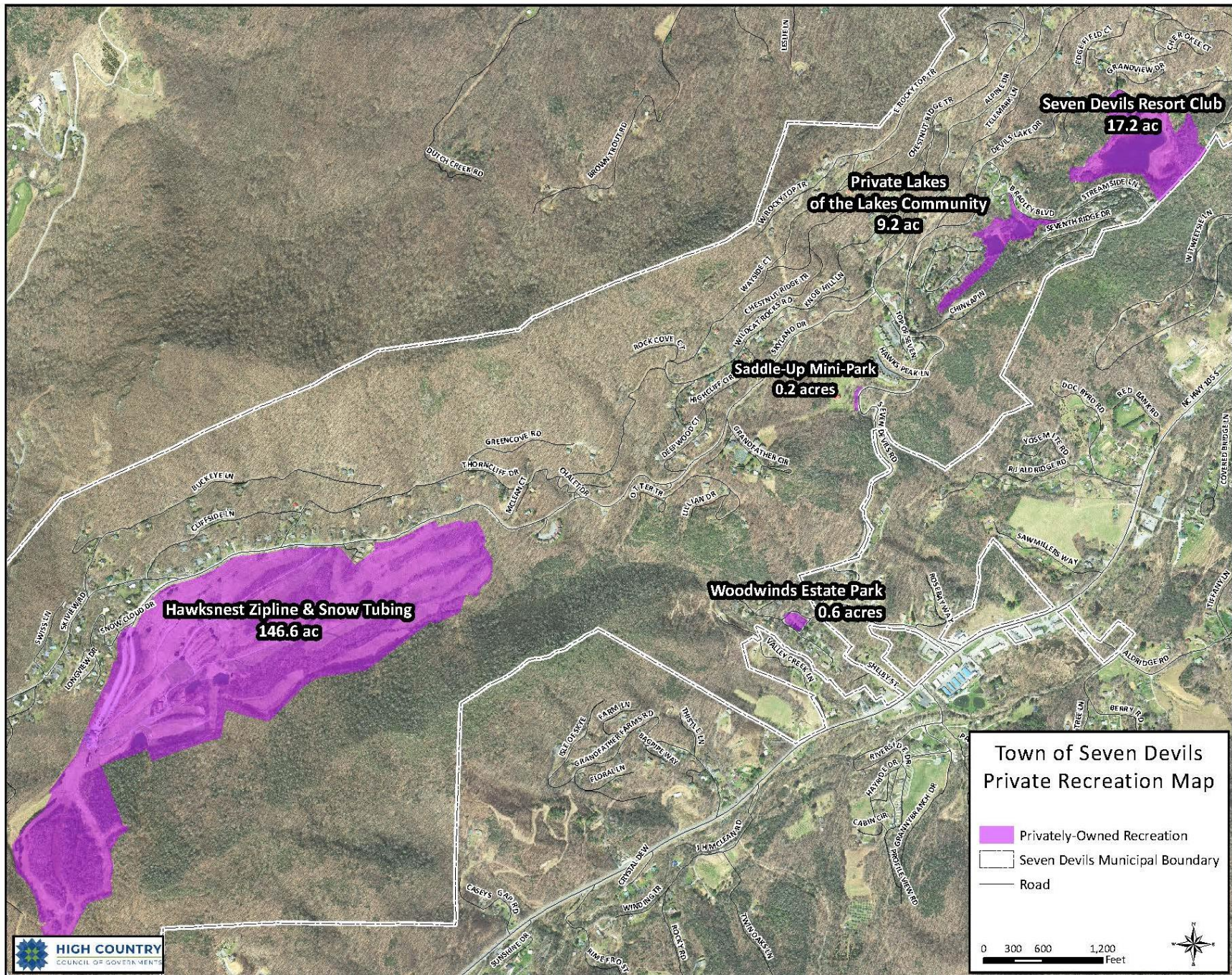


Park in Woodwinds Estate: A park is located in Woodwind Estates and is for use of Woodwinds residents only and their guests.

Seven Devils Resort Club: This private resort club provides a social setting for its members including social activities and a lake for fishing and boating. This property is located at 870 Devils Lake Dr and is only available to Seven Devils Resort Club members.

Lakes in Lakes Community: There are two lakes in the Lakes Community for fishing. These lakes are for the use of Lakes POA owners and their guest.

Additionally, there is a tract of land of 0.2 privately owned acres that is zoned Recreational Business. This property once housed a riding stable that offered horseback rides called Saddle Up Ranch. It is no longer in operation. A map of private recreation in Seven Devils can be found on pp.21.



PARKS AND RECREATION FUTURE PLANS

The Town has plans for future recreational opportunities as funding and support become available to promote and foster community development and cohesion. The Town will continue to attempt to procure properties and right of ways within the Town that could facilitate future recreation plans. A portion of the facilities are on the Connect 7D: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Map located in the Appendix. These future plans include the following:

FACILITIES:

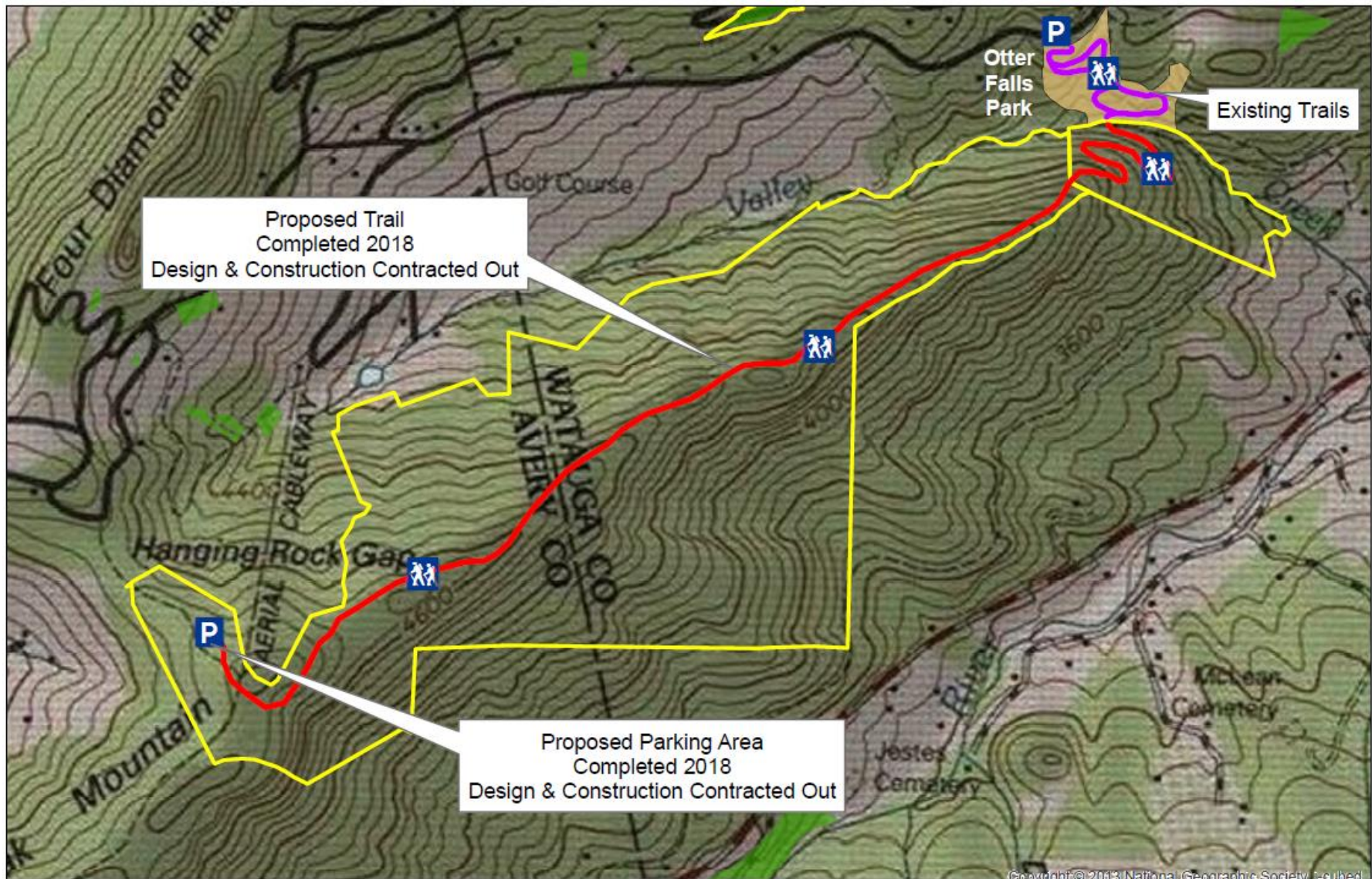
- Access to Bear Paw State Preserve:
 - o Partner with the North Carolina State Parks System to develop a trail system that connects this Nature Preserve to the Town of Seven Devils.
 - o Construct a parking area and trail access to future trails in Bear Paw State Preserve.
- Build trails and greenways starting at Peak Mountain Trail Trailhead to Devils Lake Dr to connect Seven Devils from end to end. Residents and visitors could hike and walk from one end of Seven Devils to the other or just enjoy sections of the trails. This plan would include trails already established and known as Otter Fall Trails. The following list are the planned sections:
 - o Peak Mountain Trail: Beginning at the west end of Town above Hawksnest Snow Tubing and Ziplining on Peak Mountain. This trail will cross through property owned by the Blue Ridge Conservancy to connect with the Otter Falls Trails that are already established. The Town of Seven Devils has acquired 4.85 acres through a trail easement from the Blue Ridge Conservancy. A proposed map of this project is included on page 24.
 - o Greenway from Otter Falls Parking Lot to Seven Devil's Old Town Hall: This greenway would run parallel to Skyland Dr to Old Town Hall to connect with the next leg of the greenway. Additionally, this section may include a PARS Course. Parking for this section is already established at Old Town Hall and the Otter Falls parking lot.
 - o Greenway from Old Town Hall to terminate across from the Seven Devils Resort Club on Devils Lake Dr. Construct parking for users. This section may include a Parcourse.
- Expand existing playground located on Grandfather Circle, specifically add additional playground equipment to the site.
- Enhance Brownlow Park located on Seven Devils Rd.
- A Town Dog Park
- Update and repurpose the Old Town Hall Property to serve as a community center. To house amenities including, but not limited to an indoor gym, fitness equipment, and meeting rooms. Activities that may be housed here could include Book Club, Bridge Club, game/ card nights, workshops, and classes.
- Establish a Town youth sledding hill.
- Biking Trails
- Greenway Loop: Build Greenway from the Otter Falls Trail System to Seven Devils Road.
- Expand Otter Falls Trails parking lot into the 5-acres of land neighboring the current parking area.
- Eventually brand all Town trails and facilities to have the same style signage.

- In 2019 the Town of Seven Devils purchased a New Town Hall located at the corner of Seven Devils Road and NC HWY 105. The New Town Hall is situated on 6.5-acres of land, which could house amenities including, but not limited to an outdoor facility to host summer concerts, a walking trail, a dog park, parking, and picnic area. A survey will be conducted to determine uses and amenities.





EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

- Add Outdoor Games like Horseshoe Pits and Bocce Ball Courts for hosting community tournaments and activities.
- Develop and implement additional workshops, classes, and activities for residents including, but not limited to Arts Classes, Exercise Classes, Tennis Clinics and Pickleball Clinics.
- Indoor/ Outdoor Movie Nights
- To encourage Town beautification, implement Yard of the Month, as well as, other Town garden activities.



Project Specific Map

Peak Mountain Trail

-  Otter Falls Park
-  Subject Property



0 1,000 2,000 Feet



Blue Ridge Conservancy
PO Box 568
Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-2511
www.blueridgeconservancy.org

Prepared by Blue Ridge Conservancy 2017 Source: USGS & Avery & Watauga County Tax Mapping

SURROUNDING EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND LAND

Listed here are recreational parks and recreation facilities and land that are in the surrounding area around the Town of Seven Devils that are generally open to the public. These facilities and lands are managed by the federal government, state government, Avery County, Watauga County, or surrounding towns. All of these facilities are within 10 miles of the Town of Seven Devils and can be found on the Recreational Opportunities Distance Map on page 28. There are numerous facilities that are located in the surrounding area but are only accessible to the organization's constituents. These facilities may include; colleges, universities, churches, and camps.

FEDERAL LANDS



US Forest Service: The US Forest Service has four areas in the vicinity of the Town of Seven Devils; Cherokee National Forest, Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, Pisgah National Forest, and Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River Area. These areas are open to a variety of recreational activities including mountain biking, dispersed camping, rock climbing, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and horse riding. Pisgah National Forest spans over 500,000 acres and only a section is in the area.



National Parks Service: The National Parks Service manages the Blue Ridge Parkway, which spans 469 miles through Virginia and North Carolina. This scenic drive passes through both Avery and Watauga Counties and has numerous attractions and hiking trails along the way. Seven Devils is closest to two name worthy sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway; Julian Price Memorial Park and Moses Cone Memorial Park.

STATE PARKS/LAND



NC State Parks: North Carolina State Parks has two state parks in the area; Grandfather Mountain State Park and Elk Knob State Park. Both State Parks offer hiking, backpacking, and camping recreational opportunities. There are two State Natural Areas in proximity to Seven Devils; Bear Paw State Natural Area and Beech Creek Bog State Natural Area. Bear Paw State Natural Area is partially located within the Town of Seven Devils. This State Natural Area, as well as, the others managed by North Carolina are to be preserved and protected. Recreational and public use facilities are not provided in these natural areas. Backbone Ridge State Forest is also owned and managed by the State of North Carolina.

COUNTY



Watauga County Parks and Recreation: Watauga County provides athletics for youth and adults, aquatic programs for all ages, and Special Olympics for the County. Watauga County Parks and Recreation owns and manages the following facilities; Brookshire Park, Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex, Old Cove Creek School Park and Gym, Rocky Knob, Howards Knob Park, Watauga County Recreation Complex (includes: Complex 1 Field, Tennis Courts, Outdoor Basketball Court, Pickleball Courts, and Tot Lot), and Watauga County Community Recreation Center. The County leases the following facilities; Anne Marie Fields, Industrial Field, Mountaineer Ruritan Field, and Optimist Park.



Avery County Parks and Recreation: Avery County provides athletics for youth, adult, and senior participants. Facilities managed by Avery County include Green Valley Community Center, Rock Gym and Field, Hodges-Turbyfill Complex, Heritage Park, athletic facilities, public parks, and a swimming pool complex.

TOWN PARKS & FACILITIES



Town of Banner Elk: Located in Avery County, the Town of Banner Elk owns and manages the following facilities: Tate-Evans Park houses 2 playground areas, wading pools, a volleyball court, picnic areas, and an amphitheater. Banner Elk's Greenway Trail System consisting of 1.1 miles of trails.



Town of Beech Mountain Parks and Recreation: Located in Avery County, the Town of Beech Mountain offer a variety of recreation opportunities including, fitness and wellness in the Buckeye Recreation Center, a dog park called "Bark Park", Buckeye Lake Area, Buckeye Playground, Fireman's Park, Hayden's Park, Lake Coffey, Overlook, Perry Park, and Sunset Park. In the Town of Beech Mountain there are 28 miles of trails for hiking and/ or biking. Outdoor Programming, Fishing, Canoeing, Sledding, and Summer Camp is also offered. The Town of Beech Mountain is also home to Beech Mountain Resort, a commercial recreation provider.



Town of Blowing Rock: Located in Watauga County the Town of Blowing Rock owns and manages the following facilities: Annie Cannon Gardens, Glen Burney Trail, Memorial Park, Davant Field, and Robbin's Pool at Broyhill Park. The Town of Blowing Rock provides the following programs: Summer Day Camp, Swim Lessons, Kinder Sports, and fitness classes (i.e. Tennis).



Town of Boone: The Town of Boone owns and manages the following facilities; Junaluska Park: Bear Trail, Boone Jaycee Park, North Street Park, Clawson-Burnley Park, Jimmy Smith Park, and the Town of Boone Greenway Trail. The Town of Boone is located in Watauga County.



Town of Elk Park: Located in Avery County the Town of Elk Park has a Town Park that holds the following amenities; the John Boone Memorial Entertainment Pavilion, walking trail, basketball court, and a playground.

Town of Newland: Located in Avery County the Town of Newland manages Waterfalls Park, also known as Bobby McLean Memorial Park.



Village at Sugar Mountain: All recreation in the Village at Sugar Mountain is commercial recreation, Sugar Mountain Resort. The Village at Sugar Mountain is located in Avery County.

COMMUNITY PARKS



Valle Crucis Community Park: Located in Valle Crucis this community park's amenities include; playgrounds, shelters, outdoor stage area, and a walking path. This park is funded through donations and hosts a summer music series called Music in the Valle.

Foscoe Grandfather Community Center and Park: Foscoe Community center is a multi-use facility that is for rent in the community. This community center and park are located in Banner Elk, NC and include the following; walking trail, fishing, volleyball and basketball court, a ball field, a picnic area and outdoor stage.

J Douglass Williams Park: Located in Avery County on Sugar Mountain this park houses a 0.4-mile hiking trail, a picnic pavilion, and restrooms.

YMCA



The Williams YMCA of Avery County: Located in Avery County the Williams YMCA operates the following facilities; the Wayne Densch Aquatics Center, the Hugh Chapman Center, the Blackburn Indoor Athletic Facility, the O'Connell Fieldhouse and the Main YMCA building. The Wellness Center is housed in the Main YMCA Building. Programs that the Williams YMCA provides include; wellness programs, youth programs, aquatics programs, child development, community outreach, athletic development, and chronic disease prevention and management.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

The North Carolina Community Schools Act (G.S. 115C Art 13) allows for "greater community use of public school facilities". The use of these facilities for recreation is generally managed by County Parks and Recreation.

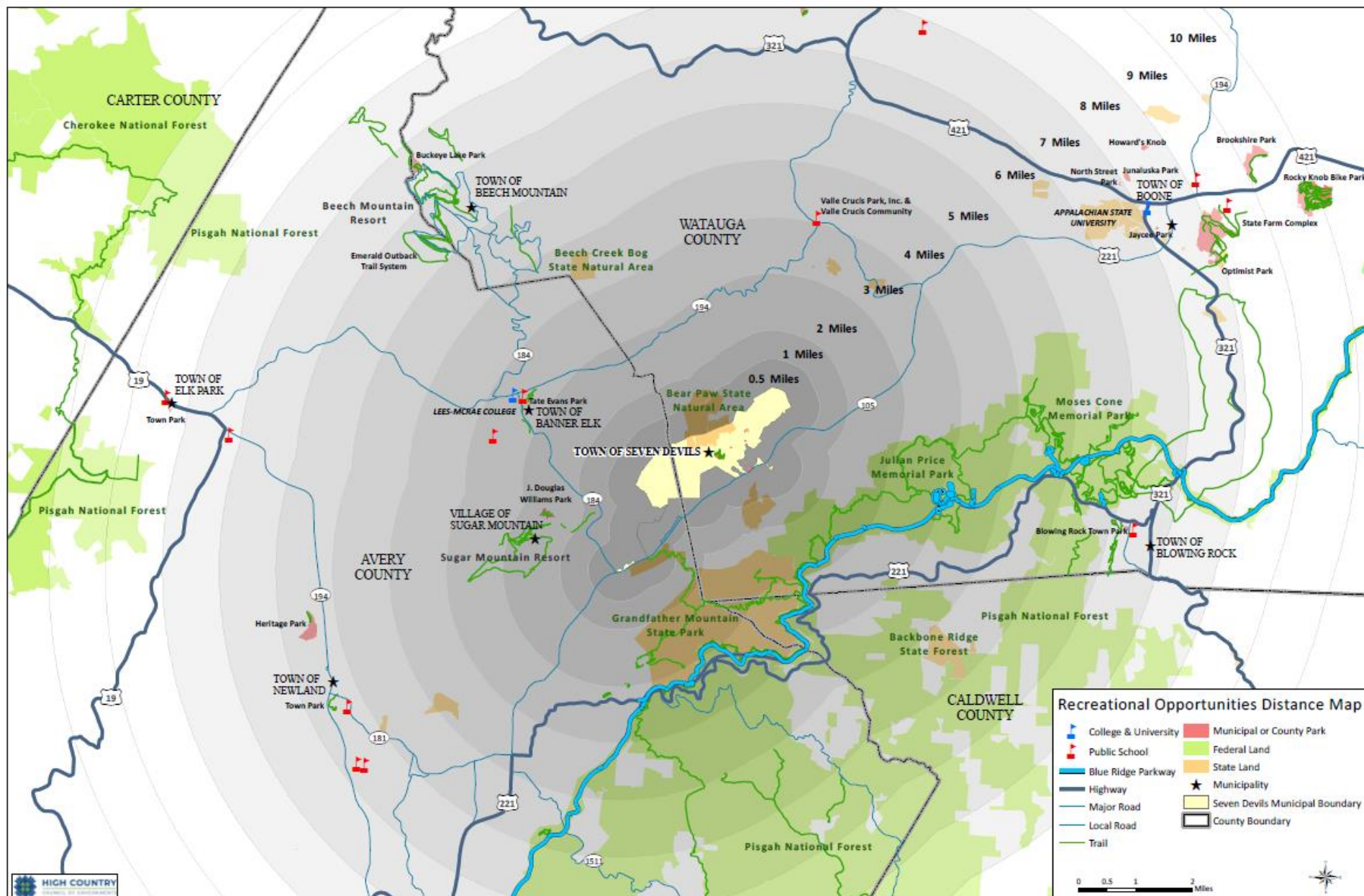
Watauga Country Public Schools: In Watauga County there are eight public elementary schools and 1 public high school all of which generally have the following recreation facilities: gym, ballfield, and playground.

Avery County Public Schools: In Avery County there are five public elementary schools, 2 public middle schools, and 1 public high school all of which have the following recreation facilities: gym, ballfield, and playground.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Appalachian State University: As a State University they provide recreation for Appalachian State students and staff exclusively. This is achieved through on campus recreation facilities, wellness programs, and outdoor programs.

Lees McRae College: As a private university, Lees McRae provides recreation for its students, faculty, and staff through on campus recreation facilities, wellness programs, and outdoor programs.



MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

To provide and maintain open communication with residents and visitors, the Town of Seven Devils uses a variety of methods.

Town Website: The Town of Seven Devils has an active website, www.sevendevils.net that includes information about recreational events and activities.

The ECHO: The Town also publishes a quarterly newsletter, The ECHO, that includes news, Town events, and recreation opportunities. This newsletter is available online and printed copies can be obtained at Town Hall.

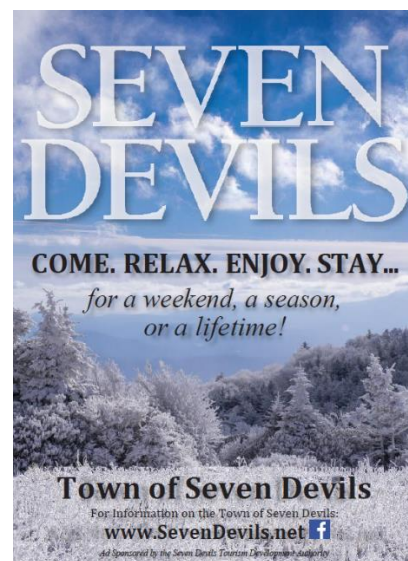
Events Email List: Residents and visitors may choose to join the Events Email List, which receives an email with monthly updates on upcoming events and recreational opportunities. In addition to monthly emails, reminders for events are sent to this list.

Town LED Sign: Residents will also be informed of upcoming events on the LED Sign that is located at Old Town Hall, where information about events are displayed in a timely manner.

Facebook Page: The Town of Seven Devils Facebook Page is used to share information about Town events and recreational activities. The Page can be liked or followed by anyone, including but not limited to residents, guests, visitors, and the general public.

Water Bill Inserts: To ensure that information is spread to all residents, inserts are periodically created and included in the monthly water bill. This is often used to share information about upcoming events or ongoing surveys.

To encourage more people to visit the Town of Seven Devils, ads are placed in magazines and visitor guides in the surrounding areas. Seven Devils rack cards are also distributed to local Chamber of Commerce, including Avery Chamber of Commerce, Banner Elk Chamber of Commerce, Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, Boone Chamber of Commerce, and High Country Host. All ads and rack cards are sponsored by the Town of Seven Devils Tourism Development Authority.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The Blue Ridge Conservancy has partnered with the Town of Seven Devils to see the Peak Mountain Trail actualized. The Conservancy has been instrumental in the planning of this trail and the writing of grants for this project.

The North Carolina State Parks, specifically Grandfather Mountain State Park has partnered with the Town of Seven Devils throughout the years to provide educational programs for the community during the summer months.



North Carolina Wildlife has taken inventories of bear, deer, and coyote for the Town of Seven Devils. They have made several presentations to the Town regarding maintenance, laws, and general education concerning those species. Additionally, NC Wildlife was instrumental in the Town of Seven Devils becoming a Tree City USA in 2019.

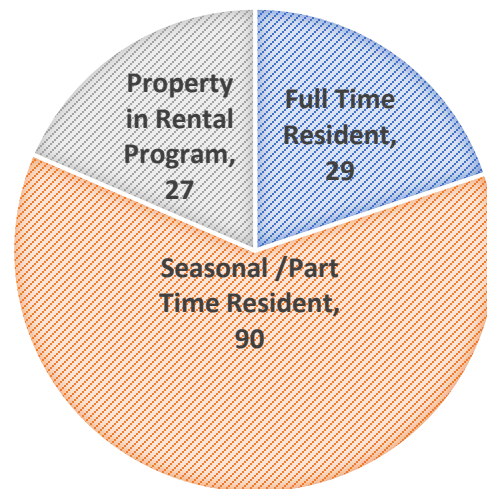
COMMUNITY INPUT

In accordance with the Town of Seven Devils Comprehensive Land Use Plan the citizens of Seven Devils are to be informed, have input, and participate in efforts to use land for community facilities, recreational and administrative alike. The most recent example of Community Involvement in the Town Parks and Recreation Department is the 2018 Recreational Needs Assessment. This survey was conducted by Appalachian State University. The results are as follows:

2018 RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The first Recreational Needs Survey for the Town of Seven Devils was conducted in 2008. The 2018 Recreational Needs Survey was conducted to ensure that the Town continues to move in the direction that the public desires. The survey was distributed to all residents with a monthly water bill and publicized on the Town website. Residents were asked a series of questions in the form of multiple choice, ranking, and short answer. There was also space designated for additional ideas and comments. The survey that was distributed to residents can be found in the Appendix. 135 responses were recorded, within those responses there were 3 types of property owners, which is seen in the graph to the right.

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS 135 TOTAL RESPONSES



Participants were asked to mark which recreational activities and amenities they thought Seven Devils "should have" and if someone "would participate". The top 10 results for each of those categories are as follows.



TOP 10 RECREATIONAL "WOULD PARTICIPATE" WISHES



Participants were then asked to list their top five recreational activities or facilities that they would like to see in Seven Devils. The results for top ten choices within that section are as follows.



In an effort to analyze already existing activities in Seven Devils participants were asked to confirm participation in the activity or choose as reason not for participating. The results for this section are as follows.

Available Activities	Participated	Didn't know about it	Wasn't interested	Too strenuous	Time conflict	Too busy	Not appropriate	Other
Group hikes	19	33	10	2	17	1		5
Group walks	19	33	10	1	18	1		5
Junior tennis clinics	1	26	27		7		13	2
Lite the Nite	18	41	2		4			3
Otter Falls hikes	85	9		2	3	1		2
Outdoor movies	13	47	6		13	1		3
Outdoor music concerts	15	39			15	1		2
Painting classes	10	35	25		6	1		4
Pickleball	13	29	24		8			5
Picnicking on picnic tables	23	25	18			1		8
Playing on playground	36	15	21				8	4
SafetyFest	58	5	8		10			3
State park ranger workshops and programs	31	39	8		10		1	2
Tennis	25	10	36	2	3	1	1	5
The Hawk 7K@7D (runner, volunteer, or observer)	21	8	25	8	20		2	4
Town walking trails	63	29	2	3	3			2
Tubing	44	11	16	2	4	3	1	6
Walking/activity challenge	30	23	13	3	4	2	1	6
Ziplining	41	1	26	1	5	2	1	12

APPENDIX

Article 18.

Parks and Recreation.

§ 160A-350. Short title.

This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Recreation Enabling Law." (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

§ 160A-351. Declaration of State policy.

The lack of adequate recreational programs and facilities is a menace to the morals, happiness, and welfare of the people of this State. Making available recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages is a subject of general interest and concern, and a function requiring appropriate action by both State and local government. The General Assembly therefore declares that the public good and the general welfare of the citizens of this State require adequate recreation programs, that the creation, establishment, and operation of parks and recreation programs is a proper governmental function, and that it is the policy of North Carolina to forever encourage, foster, and provide these facilities and programs for all its citizens. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

§ 160A-352. Recreation defined.

"Recreation" means activities that are diversionary in character and aid in promoting entertainment, pleasure, relaxation, instruction, and other physical, mental, and cultural development and leisure time experiences. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

§ 160A-353. Powers.

In addition to any other powers it may possess to provide for the general welfare of its citizens, each county and city in this State shall have authority to:

- (1) Establish and conduct a system of supervised recreation;
- (2) Set apart lands and buildings for parks, playgrounds, recreational centers, and other recreational programs and facilities;
- (3) Acquire real property, either within or without the corporate limits of the city or the boundaries of the county, including water and air rights, for parks and recreation programs and facilities by gift, grant, purchase, lease, exercise of the power of eminent domain, or any other lawful method.
- (4) Provide, acquire, construct, equip, operate, and maintain parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, and recreation facilities, including all buildings, structures, and equipment necessary or useful in connection therewith;
- (5) Appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of this Article;
- (6) Accept any gift, grant, lease, loan, or devise of real or personal property for parks and recreation programs. Devises and gifts may be accepted and held subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the grantor or trustor, except that no county or city may

accept or administer any terms that require it to discriminate among its citizens on the basis of race, sex, or religion. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1; 1973, c. 426, s. 55; 2011-284, s. 115.)

§ 160A-354. Administration of parks and recreation programs.

A city or county may operate a parks and recreation system as a line department, or it may create a parks and recreation commission and vest in it authority to operate the parks and recreation system. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

§ 160A-355. Joint parks and recreation systems.

Any two or more units of local government may cooperate in establishing parks and recreation systems as authorized in Article 20, Part 1, of this Chapter. (1945, c. 1052; 1967, c. 1228; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

§ 160A-356. Financing parks and recreation.

Each county and city is authorized to expend for its parks and recreation system any of its revenues not otherwise limited as to use by law. (1945, c. 1052; 1971, c. 698, s. 1; 1975, c. 664, s. 12.)

§ 160A-357. Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 664, s. 13.

§ 160A-358. Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 160A-359. Reserved for future codification purposes.

CONNECT 7D

Town of Seven Devils, N.C.

Avery & Watauga Counties

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

2020

Hanging Rock
5,200'

Bear Paw Natural Area

Blue Ridge Conservancy Area

To Tynecastle
Annex Area

This map was produced by the High Country Council of Governments in October 2018 for the Town of Seven Devils. This map displays features described in the Town of Seven Devils Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This map is composed based on the Plan's original map document by Mayor ProTem, Brad Lambert. It is intended for display, reference and planning purposes only by the Town of Seven Devils. Last Map Update: 1/14/2020

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



Existing Facilities

- Managed Lands
- Existing Parks
- Otter Falls Hiking Trail

Existing Facility Labels

- A Blue Ridge Conservancy Area (224 acres in town limits)
- B Bear Paw State Natural Area (148/385 acres in town limits)
- C Otter Falls Park (Hiking Trail 1.2 mi)
- D Black Bear Family Park (0.6 ac)
- E Alpine Meadows Mini-Park (0.1 ac)
- F Brownlow Park (0.63 ac)
- G Caruso Easement (1.4 ac)
- H New Town Hall (6.5 ac)
- I Old Town Hall (3 ac)

Road Walking Trails

- Blue East
- Blue West
- Green East
- Green West
- Orange East
- Red East
- Red West

Potential Facilities

- Potential Greenways
- Potential Parks

Potential Facility Labels

- 1 Peak Mountain Trail (2.5 mi)
- 2 Otter Falls Expansion (5 ac)
- 3 Greenway Loop (0.5 mi R/T)
- 4 Woodwinds Park (0.6 ac)
- 5 Saddle-Up Mini-Park (0.2 ac)
- 6 Otter Falls Greenway / Parcourse (0.75 mi)
- 7 Lakes Greenway / Parcourse (0.75 mi)
- 8 Lake Recreation (22 ac)

Town Limits



0 300 600 1,200
Feet

2018 RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY

Please fill out one survey per household. These are things that are not available in Seven Devils. Please check those that you wish could be in Seven Devils whether or not anyone in your household would participate. Then check those that someone in your household would probably participate in.

Recreation Wishes	Seven Devils should have	Someone in this household would participate
Additional hiking trails		
Archery		
Arts, such as painting and sketching		
Bocce ball		
Book club		
Canoeing		
Cell phone classes		
Computer classes		
Cooking classes or programs		
Craft classes, such as pottery, jewelry making, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking		
Croquet		
Dancing		
Disc golf		
Dog park		
Drama and theater		
Driving range		
Exercise classes, such as fitness, yoga, dancercise		
Exercise facility with machines and free weights		
Fishing		
Foreign language classes		
General park		
Golf		
Greenway trail		
Horseback riding		
Ice Skating		
Kayaking		
Mountain biking		
Natural areas, park, greenspace		
Playing fields		
Pool and ping-pong		
Putting green		
Rock climbing		
Shooting range		
Shuffleboard		
Skateboarding		
Sledding		

Snow Skiing		
Snowboarding		
Softball		
Spray ground—water play area		
Swimming		
Table game classes, such as bridge, chess, and mahjong		

Please list the top five recreational activities or facilities that you would like to see in Seven Devils.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please list any activities or facilities not included in the list on the first page that you would like to see in Seven Devils.

The following is a list of activities available now in Seven Devils. Please check those that a household member has participated in. If not, please indicate what kept you from participating.

Activity	Didn't know about it	Wasn't interested	Too strenuous	Time conflict	Too busy	Not appropriate	Other
Group hikes							
Group walks							
Junior tennis clinics							
Lite the Nite							
Outdoor movies							
Otter Falls hikes							
Outdoor movies							
Outdoor music concerts							
Painting classes							
Pickleball							
Picnicking on picnic tables							
Playing on playground							
SafetyFest							
State park ranger workshops and programs							
Tennis							

The Hawk (runner, volunteer, or observer)							
Town walking trails							
Tubing							
Walking/activity challenge							
Ziplining							

Name(s) _____

Seven Devils Address: _____

Please check one:

_____ Full time resident

_____ Seasonal resident

_____ Property on rental program

Thank you for helping with the Seven Devils Recreation Needs Survey. Please use this space to make additional comments.



RESOLUTION #2020-01

TO ADOPT THE 2020-2030 COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the need to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which is to be renamed the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan. This Plan will provide goals, needs, assessments, standards, recommendations, and strategies for implementation over a 10-year period, in an effort to provide for, and continually improve park and recreational facilities, provide trail opportunities, preserve open spaces, and rehabilitate existing Town park(s); and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan is to serve as a guide for the Town to make informed decisions relating to the development of recreation facilities & assets, seeking out new opportunities and meeting the needs of citizens throughout the next decade; and

WHEREAS, in order to address recreational needs in the future, Seven Devils has sought citizen input through committee meetings, public meetings, surveys and Town staff, and that input has been incorporated into the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils is enabled to acquire land, build facilities, and provide recreational outlets for the general public through the State of North Carolina's Recreation Enabling Law N.C. G.S. 160A, Article 18; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seven Devils 2020-2030 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan is reasonable and in compliance with the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Town of Seven Devils Town Council firmly resolves to accept and support the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan.

ADOPTED, this 11th day of February, 2020.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk