

Subject: Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Management Plan

Policy No.: 900-0009

Effective Date: 05/14/2012



NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Department Mission/Vision Statements.....	2
Goals and Objectives.....	3
Parks Inventory.....	4
N.R. analysis from the Greenprints Project.....	6
Additional Guidelines.....	7

Executive Summary

Why a Natural Resource Management Plan?

Population increases and land development have great impacts on the natural environment. It is important for the Parks and Recreation Department to do their best to manage these impacts in the most efficient manner possible in order to protect these resources for future generations. The Department may not be able to control population increases, but it can have input on land development rules and management. In an attempt to foster more environmentally sound policies the Department has made an inventory of the lands and facilities it is responsible for and the management policies it will follow in order to protect and manage the natural resources within their jurisdiction. In addition, this plan seeks to provide information to both the Parks and Recreation staff and the residents of the City of Woodstock on how they can be beneficial stewards of the natural environment in their day to day lives.



Department Mission Statement

"The Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to being the leader in providing exceptional leisure opportunities through the usage of Parks, Greenways, Trails and other Recreational facilities that will enhance our quality of life while promoting a healthy lifestyle for all participants and citizens within our community."

Department Vision Statement

"The Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department is a leader in providing quality facilities, programs and services to our residents. Excellent customer service is provided through well maintained facilities and highly trained and motivated staff. The programs and services offered by this department reflect the needs and wants of our residents."

Goals and Objectives

- Minimize impacts of land development;
- Develop guidelines and standards for resource management;
- Manage invasive plants and animals;
- Use maintenance practices that maintain healthy water/air quality levels;
- Be prepared for drought conditions by constantly utilizing water saving techniques year-round;
- Educate residents about natural resource management practices.



Parks Inventory

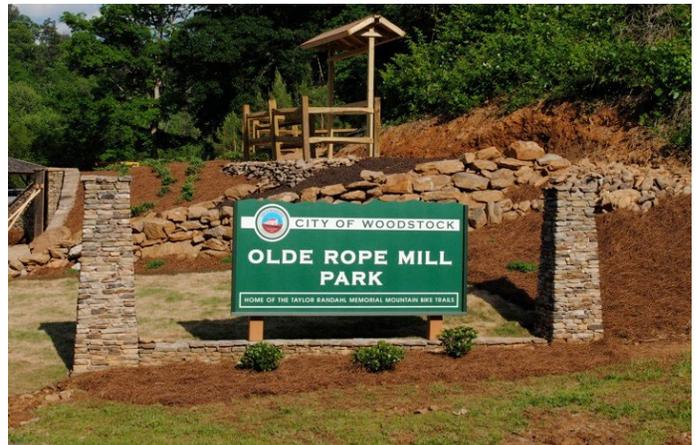
Dupree Park

Two Adult Softball Fields
Playground
Four Tennis Courts
Two Basketball Courts
Two Picnic Pavilions
Walking Trail
Fishing Pond
Picnic Areas
Horseshoe Pit



Rope Mill Park

Rock Pavilion
Deck overlooking Little
River
Picnic Areas
Fishing
Canoeing /Kayaking
Paved Walking Trail
Pedestrian Bridge
Taylor Randahl Memorial
Bike Trails



Parks Inventory

Springfield Park

Picnic Areas
Playground
Future Trail Head



The Park at City Center

Gazebo
Fountain
Beautiful Landscaping
Special Event Location
Future Amphitheater
2012/13



***** See Greenprints Project pages 11-14 for detailed park inventory and resource analysis*****

N.R. analysis from the Greenprints Project

Thirty miles north of Atlanta, the City of Woodstock encompasses approximately 7,170 acres adjacent to Lake Allatoona in Cherokee County. The city is embraced by extensive Corp of Engineer protected land along the Little River and Noonday Creek. The City is strategically located between two regional recreational assets: to the north of the City, the Blankets Creek mountain biking trail system receives over 200,000 visitors annually and twenty miles to the south, the Silver Comet multi-use trail system has over 2 million visitors annually. Other community assets include 18 miles of riparian corridors- mainly Little River, Noonday Creek, and Rubes Creek; Sweat Mountain and its enormous viewshed throughout the city; and historic downtown with buildings dating back to 1879, as well as, newly developed living and dining opportunities. Yet, with population expected to at least triple by 2030 there is a need to connect these community assets via a green infrastructure network, expanding currently deficient open space/ recreational opportunities to encompass sensitive conservation areas and provide connectivity for City residents and visitors.

Parks, greenways, trails, open lands, preserves, and rural landscapes are powerful amenities that improve the quality of life for residents and businesses. Collectively these amenities improve the livability of a community and facilitate economic progress. Current research finds that defined greenspaces are an enticement for communities nationwide, attracting major employment groups, residential growth, and eco-tourism within a sustainable framework. Additional motivation for development of a sustainable greenspace approach is found in the emerging awareness of the negative impacts of sprawl, including the degradation of air quality, watershed concerns (especially stormwater runoff), loss of scenic views and over-dependence on the automobile. Left unaddressed the City of Woodstock is at risk for becoming undesirable for future residents and businesses.

An initiative of the Woodstock City Council and the Planning and Economic Development Department, The Greenprints Project is a comprehensive park, trail and open space initiative that establishes a foundation and framework for the creation of a citywide green infrastructure system. The project unites land use planning with land conservation practices to outline necessary strategies for ensuring the preservation, improvement, implementation and maintenance of Woodstock's unique natural and recreational resources in the future. A conversation has been initiated with residents, businesses, and landowners regarding the benefits of a network of greenspaces, trails, and parks. Guided by the Greenprint Committee comprised of representatives of the City Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Board, Cherokee County and interested citizens and business owners this nine month community based and resource based planning process involved the community through a series of meetings, surveys, and project website. The Greenprint Plan vision for the City of Woodstock is "A sustainable greenspace and trail network that defines and enhances the City of Woodstock's community, natural and economic resources for all generations." In meeting this vision, The Greeprints Plan first illustrates land conservation priorities based upon goals and criteria, and then provides recommendations for two key elements- Greenspaces and Connectivity.

Additional Guidelines

In addition to the Greenprints Master Plan the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department follows the guidelines set forth by the City of Woodstock Land Development Code as well as those established by other city departments including: Community Development/Planning and Public Works/Stormwater Management.

Specific Land Development Code sections to take into special consideration include:

- Chapter III – Land Development Standards
- Chapter IV – Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Standards
- Chapter VII – Performance Zoning Standards
- Chapter IX – Tree Preservation Standards
- Chapter XIII – Flood Damage Prevention Standards
- Chapter XIV – Stormwater Standards

