

RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
Revised 4/2016, 2/2018

INTRODUCTION - In July of 2008, a Recreational Needs Assessment was completed and presented to The Town Council by Appalachian State University. As a result of their recommendations, The Town Council passed a Resolution in May 2009, establishing a Recreation Commission consisting of a minimum of five (5) voting members to meet on a monthly basis. The Town Council has also included a line item for funding the Recreation Commission in its annual budget; disbursements must be approved by the Town Manager, and administered by the Finance Officer, insuring compliance with the Local Government Fiscal Control Act.

MISSION - The Recreation Commission of the Town of Seven Devils will encourage and support a variety of recreational facilities, both public and private. Some facilities exist now; others will be created in accord with interest and support of residents. All will be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The purposes of this plan are:

- To encourage and support the development of recreational facilities, activities, and opportunities for the citizens, visitors, and members of the surrounding communities of Seven Devils.
- To use the Recreation Plan developed as a result of the 2008 Recreation Needs Assessment and updated on a regular basis, as a guide to the development of recreational options and to seek out new opportunities as well as to meet the needs of our citizens.
- To maintain open communication with citizens to establish priorities and coordinate recreational activities.

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- In order to provide open communication with residents and visitors, the Town of Seven Devils has an active website that includes a calendar of town meetings, town information, forms, and recreation activities and events. The Town also publishes a quarterly newsletter, The ECHO, that includes news and events of the Town. This newsletter is available online and printed copies can be obtained at Town Hall. Recreation opportunities and events are included in this publication. The Recreation Commission has an email list and sends timely emails regarding upcoming Recreational events and activities that are available for residents and their visitors and guests. The Recreation Commission continues to solicit members for the email list.

- In 2013, the Town acquired a 9.8-acre tract of land including a waterfall through a matching North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant, a matching grant from The Conservation Fund and generous donations from businesses, residents and visitors. A parking lot, trails and a trailhead sign were developed with these funds. The property is known as Otter Falls and the trails lead to the waterfall. Several benches donated by citizens are available on the trail for visitors as well as an observation deck.
- There are two tracts in the Town of Seven Devils that are zoned Recreational Business. The smaller, about 5 privately owned acres, at one time housed a riding stable and offered horseback rides. It is no longer in operation. The larger tract, about 135 privately owned acres house a snow tubing and Zipline operation that is currently opened to the public. In addition, the property includes a lodge and parking area. This area is known as Hawksnest Snow Tubing and Zipline.
- There are 15.48 miles of town roads and 3 miles of state road that are used by residents and visitors for walking and biking. There are several signs advising motorists to respect these uses. The Recreation Commission has designated seven walking trails utilizing town roads. Maps of these trails are available in a brochure at Town Hall and on the Town website. The trails are color-coded and rated by difficulty. Parking areas are also designated on the maps.
- Two large tracts of land located in and adjacent to Seven Devils have been designated as natural preserve areas that will never be developed other than to provide possible hiking trails. One is the Bear Paw State Preserve, an 80-acre property that is located partially in Seven Devils and borders a portion of the Town to the north. The second area is a 250-acre tract that is owned by The Blue Ridge Conservancy. This area is partially located within the Town limits.
- The Recreation Commission organizes and sponsors group hiking and/or walking activities to various popular hiking destinations in the surrounding area during the summer season; moonlight canoe trips are sponsored in conjunction with the State Parks system.
- There are two tennis courts and pickle ball courts maintained by the Tourism Development Authority available for resident and visitor use. Organized pickle ball games are offered weekly during the summer season. There is a basketball goal at the same location. Parking is available at this location.
- There is a children's playground and shaded picnic pavilion maintained by the Tourism Development Authority available for resident and visitor use. Parking is shared by the tennis/pickle ball/basketball courts.
- A park located in Woodwinds Estates is for the use of Woodwinds residents only and their guests.

- The private Seven Devils Resort Club provides a social setting for its members including social activities and a lake for fishing and boating. This property is located within the Town of Seven Devils but is only available to Resort Club members.
- There is a book exchange of approximately 3000 donated volumes located in the Town Hall and staffed by volunteers. There is also a Children's section to the library furnished with books, games, puzzles and a desk for the use of residents and visitors.
- Fishing is available at two different locations. One location at the Seven Devils Resort Club is private to its members. The second location is within The Lakes Community and is open to Seven Devils Residents. Fishing is also available in native waters in the surrounding areas.
- SafetyFest is a major fundraising, social event held each 4th of July weekend. There are craft booths, children's games, baked goods, barbecue, prize drawings, a silent auction, and live music. Proceeds provide additional safety equipment for the Town Police, Fire Department, and Public Works. In addition to Seven Devils residents, it attracts regional visitors and residents from neighboring communities.
- The Hawk, our annual 7K @ 7D running race and 3K fun run is held every September on a route through Town streets.
- The Town has established an active relationship with the neighboring Grandfather Mountain State Park participating in their annual Family Fun Days and GO G.R.E.E.N activities. The Rangers have been providing workshops and activities for our residents and visitors at the Town Hall, Seven Devils Resort Club, and at the Otter Falls trails
- A Garden Club has been established with funding from the Tourism Development Authority. The Club will work towards beautification of the property located at and around Town Hall.
- An Art Guild has been established and will be organizing two Art Festivals/Celebrations during the summer season to showcase the work of the many talented artists and craftsmen from Seven Devils. All mediums of artwork will be included such as watercolor, oil painting, potters, jewelry makers, woodworkers and more. Guest artists from the surrounding area may also be invited to attend the event. Hands-on activities will be offered to those attending the function along with door prizes and refreshments. These events will be funded by the Tourism Development Authority.
- The Town works in cooperation with the Seven Devils Tourism Development Authority to promote joint activities, such as the 'Music on the Lawn' concert series, that promote enhanced tourism in the Town.

## RECREATION IN THE FUTURE

- 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. These plans include the following:
  - Greenway Trail and PARS course from Town Hall to Otter Falls
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  - Greenway Loop from Otter Falls to Seven Devils Road
  - Peak Mountain Trail extending from Otter Falls Park through-the Blue Ridge Conservancy property, terminating at the west end of Town above Hawksnest.
  - Parking Area and access to future trails in the Bear Paws State Preserve.
  - Additional playground equipment at the existing location.
  - A new playground possibly located in The Lakes Community.
  - A Dog Park
  - Welcome “mini-park” on property located on Seven Devils Road leading to the Town
  - Additional workshops and activities for residents and citizens including but not limited to Painting Classes, Yoga and/or Pilates, Tennis Clinics, Pickle ball Clinics
  - Enhanced gardening activities to possibly include Yard of the Month campaigns to beautify the Town
  - Horseshoe pits and bocce ball courts for hosting community tournaments and activities
  - Outdoor Movie Nights
  - Biking Trails
  - Public youth sledding hill
  - Recreation facility to house indoor gym, fitness equipment and meeting rooms for town activities such as Book Club, Bridge Club, Game/Card nights and classes such as cooking, dancing, etc.