

# THE STANLY NEWS AND PRESS

## **Parks & Recreation community survey, workshops ongoing**

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Thursday, October 22, 2009 — Stanly County and its 10 municipal partners recently launched an effort to develop a countywide park, recreation and trails master plan. The Stanly County Board of Commissioners, along with the municipalities of Albemarle, Badin, Locust, Misenheimer, New London, Norwood, Oakboro, Richfield, Red Cross and Stanfield, passed resolutions in 2008 to support the update of the 1999 Stanly County Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan to provide a planning tool for the period 2010-2020.

This plan will update and replace the 1999 plan, and will be formatted into two sections. The purpose of the first section of the plan will be to evaluate, assess and make recommendations regarding parks and recreation needs in Stanly County for the 2010-2020 period. The second section(s) of the plan is to be a stand-alone Carolina Thread Trail Greenway Master Plan.

The goal of the overall plan is to put in place a clear, logical and precise guideline that can be used for future development and growth of parks and facilities, recreation programs and activities, greenways and trails throughout the county.

The planned effort will solicit input and data from all municipalities within the county, as well as from citizens and organizations within rural areas and unincorporated communities. Citizen participation will be critical in formulating the plan, utilizing public meetings, written and online surveys, interviews, advisory boards and focus groups.

Updated information on the project will be available at the following web pages:

- Albemarle Parks and Recreation: [http://www.ci.albemarle.nc.us/pr\\_index.htm](http://www.ci.albemarle.nc.us/pr_index.htm)
- Stanly County: <http://www.co.stanly.nc.us>

A public survey is on the weblinks above and will be mailed to a random sample of households in the county. Public meetings will be held in various locations throughout the County to get preliminary public input for the plan. Meetings include:

- 7 p.m. Oct. 28, Badin Town Hall, 36 Falls Road, Badin;
- 7 p.m. Oct. 29, Crutchfield Campus, Stanly Community College, 102 Stanly Parkway, Locust; and
- 6:30 p.m. Nov. 3, City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 157 N. Second St., Albemarle.

If you can't attend the meeting in your area, please feel free to come to one of the others. Children are welcome to attend.

The Stanly County Park, Recreation and Trails Plan is coordinated by the City of Albemarle Parks & Recreation Department and a countywide steering committee composed of members of each community, with assistance provided by Alta Planning + Design, a firm specializing in recreation, park, and trail planning, design and implementation projects and a team of other North Carolina-based subconsultants including The Lawrence Group for park and recreation planning and design; Management Learning Laboratories for survey design; and the URS Corporation for assistance in trail planning.

For more info, contact Toby Thorpe, director of Albemarle Parks & Recreation, at (704) 984-9564 or [tthorpe@ci.albemarle.nc.us](mailto:tthorpe@ci.albemarle.nc.us).

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