

Section III Recreational Needs

Section Overview

This section of the study looks at the overall recreation facilities in the county and the Rocky Face area. It also examines the type of facilities that could be created at Rocky Face Mountain that are unavailable at other parks in the county. This section is broken down into the following:

Background

Existing Facilities

Rocky Face Park Committee

III. Recreational Needs

Background

In 1999, Alexander County contracted with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to conduct a county-wide recreation study. The study examined existing parks and facilities and made recommendations. The twelve parks that were examined in the study were active parks with ballfields and programs such as baseball and soccer. At that time, there were no designated nature trails in the county.

The study also looked at potential parks and facilities in the county and under other general recommendations for parks and facilities in the study it was recommended:

There is a need for more passive parks and facilities throughout the county to provide nature trails, picnic areas and open space for self-directed activities.

Matheson Park is a passive park located in the Town of Taylorsville. The 7 acre park is owned and maintained by the Town of Taylorsville. The park was constructed with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) in 1998. It is located near downtown Taylorsville and offers an unpaved walking trail, playground equipment, picnic shelters and restrooms.

In 2000, the County began developing Dusty Ridge Park in the southern end of the county. This park is located in the southern end of the county where the greatest increase in population has occurred over the last 10 years. Even though there are numerous ballfields and other active recreation activities at the park, a 1 mile nature trail was created in 2001. The Barry Holler trail loops around the perimeter of the park and is a natural surface trail.



Matheson Park Walking Trail

There are other walking tracks in the county, most these are around park perimeters but there are no 1+ mile trails and no hiking trails located in the Brushy Mountains section of the county that would provide park visitors a glimpse of flora and fauna not seen at other parks in the county.

Existing Facilities

There are no existing facilities at Rocky Face Mountain. There is an unmarked trail that starts along Rocky Face Church Road and follows the ridgeline to the top of the mountain. This trail has been used for years and needs renovation. Other activities that have occurred on the mountain are 4-wheeling and people camping along the trail. In the past, rock climbing has been a popular activity along the rock wall of the old quarry. Currently, individuals hiking the mountain are parking at the church.