

Cobb County has 2 main greenspace / parks goals

1. Saving 10.5% up to 20% of county land as greenspace / parks

2. Having 10 acres of parks per 1,000 residents

1. Saving 10.5% up to 20% county land as greenspace / parks

Cobb's land acquisition goals in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan:

- **Why Cobb set 10.5% Goal:** Cobb uses the national standard National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) goal to save at least 10.5% of all county land as greenspace / parks
- **Why Cobb set 20% Goal:** Cobb adopted the Georgia goal for fast-growing counties to save 20% of land as greenspace / parks

Cobb County has 220,824 total acres of land, and Cobb currently has 13,831 acres saved as greenspace / parks, which is equal to 6.26% of county land.

- **13,831 acres** = 6.26% of Cobb land currently saved as greenspace / parks
- **23,187 acres** = 10.5% Cobb land goal
That means 9,356 acres of greenspace needed to reach the 10.5% goal
- **44,165 acres** = 20% of Cobb land goal
That means 30,334 acres of greenspace needed to reach the 20% goal

► Goal for greenspace / park acquisition:

- ✓ Between **9,356 acres to 30,334 acres** are needed to reach the 10.5% to 20% of Cobb land preserved.
- ✓ Over a 10-year land acquisition program, **each year between 935 acres to 3,033 acres should be purchased as greenspace / parks.**

Note on how 13,831 acres of greenspace / parks number was determined: This number is generated from the January 2016 document, with the schools and trails acreage subtracted. Schools don't count as 'greenspace' in any available metric. Also, the trails are excluded because they appear to be double-counted within parks, or in other cases, the trails appear to be paved sidewalks next to highways, without signage, safety rails, or mapped destination points. References are listed at the end of this document.

2. Parks-per-people ratio based on the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) metric. NPRA minimum standard is 6.25 – 10.5 acres per 1,000 people

Note that a *parks-to-people ratio* is determined only with *developed parks* (not greenspace, floodplain, or even land saved for a potential park), according to the Parks Master Plan. The numbers below include current parks + county-owned potential parks based on available data. References are listed at the end of this document.

✓ Acreage of County parks, according to the January 2016 document:
5,169 acres of parks + potential parks across all 4 Districts

The 5,169 acres of county parks listed in the January 2016 document includes parks & land owned as potential parks, but the acreage for each is not listed separately.

✓ Acreage of County parks, according to the 2030 Plan + 2006 Park Bond:
3,700 acres of park + potential park across all 4 Districts

The 3,700 acres of county parks listed in the 2030 Plan numbers + 2006 Park Bond acquisition numbers: **1,288** acres of developed parks + **1,977** acres of potential parks + **400 acres** of land acquisition with Park Bond 2006. Some Park Bond 2006 acquisitions are now parks and some are still potential parks.

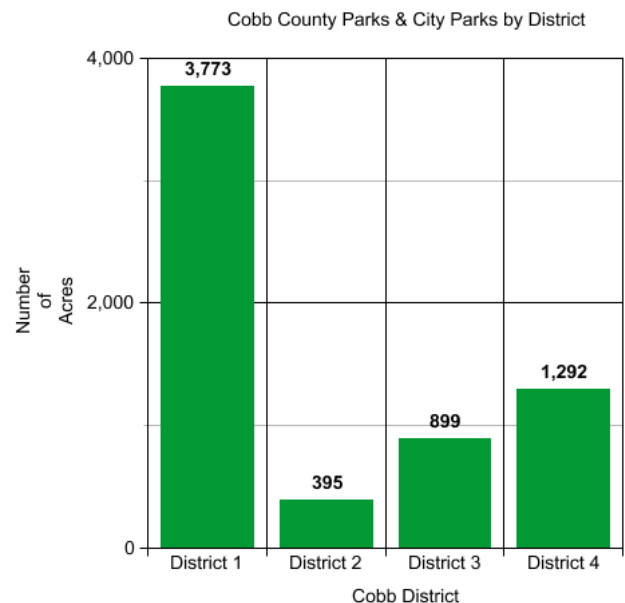
- It's unclear what accounts for the 1,500 acre difference in parks between these 2 documents.
- Moreover, the real parks-to-people ratio may be lower, because the acreage for just *developed parks* is not listed in total or by District.
- Potential parkland owned by the county counts as greenspace, but not as part of the parks-per-people ratio.
- There is quite a large disparity in county park acreage across Districts:

District 1
city parks 535 acres + county parks 3238 acres = **3773 acres**

District 2
city parks 82 acres + county parks 313 acres = **395 acres**

District 3
city parks 390 acres + county parks 509 acres = **899 acres**

District 4
city parks 183 acres + county parks 1109 acres = **1,292 acres**



Q&A to determine how many acres of parks needed:

How many acres of parks does Cobb need for a population of 750,000?

- To achieve the minimum level of **6.25 acres of parks per 1,000 residents**, Cobb would need **4,687 acres of developed parks**
- To achieve the goal of **10 acres of parks per 1,000 residents**, Cobb would need **7,500 acres of developed parks**

How many acres of park + potential park does Cobb own?

- According to the 2030 plan, Cobb has just **1,288 acres of developed parks + 1,977 acres of potential parks = 3,265 acres of park + potential parkland**
- If adding the 400 acres purchased with Park Bond 2006, that gets the county to approx **3,700 acres of park + potential park**

How many acres of Federal parks does Cobb have access to?

- According to the January 2016 Greenspace document, Cobb has **5,919 acres of federal parks**.

How many acres of parkland does Cobb need to add to get to 6.25 - 10 acres of parks per 1,000 residents? (without counting Federal Parks -- the standard used in 2030 Plan & 2001 Lose Master Park plan)

- 6.25 acres per 1,000 residents = **4,687 acres of developed parkland**. If Cobb owns 3,700 acres of park + potential park, then about **1,013 more acres of developed parkland** are needed
- 10 acres per 1,000 residents = **7,500 acres of developed parkland**. If Cobb owns 3,700 acres of park + potential park, then about **3,800 more acres of developed parkland** are needed

How many acres of parkland does Cobb need to add to get to 6.25 - 10 acres of parks per 1,000 residents? (counting Federal Parks -- the standard used in January 2016 Greenspace numbers but not in the 2030 Plan)

- If Cobb owns 1,700 acres of park (from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan + 2006 Park Bond land acquisition) + 5,919 acres of Federal parks, then Cobb has 7,619 acres of parks = **10.1 acres of parks per 1,000 people**

3 goals to improve the parks-per-people ratio (without counting Federal parks as done in the 2001 Lose Master Plan and the 2030 Plan):

1. Acquisition of land to develop into future county parks

▶ **Goal for land acquisition for county parks: 1,000 to 3,800 acres of developed parkland** are needed. Over a 10-year park development plan, that would mean the acquisition of **100 to 380 acres specifically for county parks each year.**

2. Development of currently owned county land into county parks

▶ **Goal for county park development from currently owned county land: 3,500 to 6,300 acres of land to be developed as parks.** Over a 10-year park development plan, that would mean **developing 350 to 630 acres of county owned land as parks each year.**

- ✓ *Consider passive use / neighborhood designed parks*
- ✓ *Consider state & federal programs matching programs*
- ✓ *Consider private / public partnerships and sponsorships*

3. Trails & connectivity between parks and other tourist locations

▶ **Goal for trails:** Creating & developing trails between parks, nature centers and other tourist locations is a worthy goal. Mapping trails between parks to know best places to acquire land for county-wide trails connecting to other county trail systems. Add signage & safety features to trails.

References

2030 Comprehensive Plan:

<https://www.dca.ga.gov/largefiles/OPQG/2007/CobbCo.CAss.pdf>

Summary of key tables from 2030 Comprehensive Plan:

<http://www.cobbparkscoalition.org/parks-to-people-ratio.html>

Original numbers from the 23 January 2016 presentation BoC Work Session:

<http://www.cobbparkscoalition.org/uploads/1/1/9/7/11970946/parkgreenspaceinventoryper1000-final-012616.pdf>

Revised numbers from the 23 January 2016 presentation BoC Work Session found on Chairman Lee's homepage:

<https://cobbcounty.org/images/documents/boc/ChairmansPage/ParksGreenspaceInventoryWtables2-2.pdf>

or available here

<http://www.cobbparkscoalition.org/uploads/1/1/9/7/11970946/parkgreenspaceinventorywtables2-2-tim-lee-version.pdf>

Lose & Associates Park Plan:

[2001 Parks Master Plan \(sections 1-3\)](#)

[2001 Parks Master Plan \(sections 4-6\)](#)

[2001 Parks Master Plan \(sections 7-9\)](#)

Trails: <http://cobbcountyga.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=55470d12c0814f1f8c68e96724610e87>