



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Office of the Health Director

Town of Pittsboro
480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400
Pittsboro, NC 27312

To Whom It May Concern,

The Chatham County Public Health Department supports the Town of Pittsboro's efforts to develop a Parks Master Plan and recognizes its potential benefit to the health of Pittsboro's growing population. The Health Department values its partnership with the Town of Pittsboro, which has included recent projects such as a branding initiative to promote town parks and health-focused components in the town's Unified Development Ordinance.

Research shows that living close to locations with access healthy foods and places to walk, bike and play greatly affects the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of residents. Likewise, these resources can improve health outcomes, prevent chronic disease, and help reduce health disparities. The Chatham County Public Health Department offers its support in the development of the Pittsboro Parks Master Plan and its potential to promote positive health outcomes for Pittsboro residents.

Specifically, the Health Department is willing to contribute up to \$12,000 in Healthy Communities Program grant funding to forward public health through the Parks Master Plan. This funding can be utilized for the following deliverables:

- A statistically valid survey with a representative sample of Pittsboro residents that includes questions and analysis specific to equity in access to parks and recreation facilities, with a focus on minority, elderly and disabled populations;
- A summary of research on the health benefits of parks and recreation facilities;
- A component of the plan that promotes health equity as a consideration in decision making;
- Provision of an "access level of service analysis" to explore equitable access to parks for all community members;
- Data permitting, a spatial analysis of health outcomes and their relationship to proximity to parks or recreation facilities, with assistance from Health Department staff.

The Chatham County Public Health Department will also designate one staff member to serve on the plan's steering committee and provide technical assistance as needed.

We look forward to furthering this partnership and working together to promote health and health equity, specifically in community planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Layton Long".

L. Layton Long, Health Director
Chatham County Public Health Department

Leading the Charge to a Healthier Chatham