

## Section 2

# Population Trends and Projections

### 2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information for the City of Shelby has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community and to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning age and gender are important factors in determining the needs for recreation in the community. The Planning Department of the City of Shelby estimates that there will be a 5.4% increase in population by the year 2020. The table (below) contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Shelby as a whole as ascertained by the Federal Census 2000.

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>SEX</b>		
Male	8,847	45.4
Female	10,630	54.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>19,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>AGE</b>		
Under 5 years	1,265	6.5
5 to 15 years	2,885	14.8
16 to 24 years	2,214	11.4
25 to 44 years	5,028	25.8
45 to 64 years	4,249	21.8
65 years and over	3,836	19.7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>19,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>RACE</b>		
White	11,079	56.9
Black or African American	7,980	41.0
American Indian/Alaskan	17	0.1
Asian	109	0.6
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	Trace
Some other race	141	0.7
<b>Subtotal (one race):</b>	<b>19,329</b>	<b>99.2</b>
Two or more races	148	0.8
<b>Total:</b>	<b>19,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census; ePodunk





The 2000 Federal Census population results revealed a significant characteristic of the City of Shelby’s population: 19.7% are over the age of 65, compared to the state average of 12.0%. This fact will impact the demand and desire for recreation facilities and the influence the type of facilities and programming. Another important age demographic for the City of Shelby Parks and Recreation programming, is that 25% of the population is under the age of 18. The majority of inhabitants of Shelby are between the ages of 25 and 64. The median age in the City of Shelby is 37.2.

Another important characteristic of the City of Shelby is its racial makeup. Shelby was 56.9% white in 2000 as compared with the higher state average of 72.1%; yet Cleveland County as a whole has a higher white percentage of 76.8.

## 2.2 CITY OF SHELBY POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Region “C” (Isothermal Planning & Development Commission) is an entity of the North Carolina Council of Governments, which gathers statistics from Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford Counties and all of their municipalities. Statistics from this government council indicate that there was a 9.7% increase in the population of the City of Shelby from April of 2000 to July of 2006. The City of Shelby Planning Department projects a 5.4% increase in population from the year 2005 to the year 2020.

Town/County	April, 2000	July, 2006	Increase	% Growth
City of Shelby	19,477	21,378	1,901	9.7
Cleveland County	96,287	95,778	-509	-0.5

Source: Isothermal Planning & Development Commission

Year	Shelby population	Increase	% Growth
2005	20,876		
2010	21,075	199	0.9
2015	21,400	325	1.5
2020	22,000	600	2.7

Source: City of Shelby Planning Department



## 2.3 POPULATION TRENDS

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 1995-2000, children and senior citizens comprise two of the fastest growing age groups. The senior population is expected to have significant impacts throughout society because of income levels, population and unique needs. Since the senior population of Shelby is significantly higher than either the state or national averages, the Parks and Recreation Department will have to have a strategy for dealing with the needs of this growing population.



Growing senior populations require special recreation strategies.

In addition, the *Outdoor Recreation Plan* mentioned that the number of children between the ages of 5 and 14 will continue to increase. This phenomenon is known as the 'eco-boom'; the parents of these children have delayed childbirth until a later age in order to concentrate on their careers. The youth population of Shelby falls into line with both the national and state populations of children/youth. This growing segment of our society is a heavy user of recreational programming and facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department will have to

increase the number and type of activities and facilities to effectively serve this population.

Developing trends are impacting the need for additional recreation services for City residents. To attract and meet the needs of residents and visitors, the City's Parks and Recreation System will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities, as well as offer more types of recreational programs.

**- END OF SECTION -**



Children are the most numerous users of recreation facilities and programs.

