



## Section 1: Intro and Community Profile

### Introduction

The City of Warner Robins Recreation Department currently has seventeen park locations on approximately **315.3 acres**. The mission of the Warner Robins Recreation Department is: “Unlocking economic growth within our community by providing recreational and educational opportunities for citizens of all ages.” Its role is to serve the citizens with leisure activities for the purposes of learning and enhancing physical and social skills through equal participation opportunities, friendly competition and fair play. With this mission in mind, the Department chose to embark on a facility design process, which will guide the facilities and services into the future. The purpose of this plan is to evaluate the current system and develop recommendations in order to achieve a shared vision for meeting the recreation needs of Warner Robins.

The City of Warner Robins selected Lose & Associates, Inc. to conduct the Strategic Recreation Facility Improvement Plan. Lose & Associates is a multi-disciplinary design firm specializing in park and recreation planning, with offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and Lawrenceville, Georgia. Using existing studies of demographics, assessments of current facilities, national standards and public input, Lose & Associates has developed a new template that serves as both a strategic plan and an action plan, providing the City of Warner Robins with guidelines for capital improvement projects.

Warner Robins, Georgia, is located in Houston County, Georgia, and is an area of approximately 35.4 square miles. Warner Robins has a population of approximately **72,531 residents**, according to the latest projections (7/1/2013) by the United States Census Bureau. Even during the recent recession, Warner Robins has experienced growth (over 5% since the 2010 census) and it is expected that growth will continue. Incorporated in 1942, Warner Robins’s growth has been tied to the growth of Robins Air Force Base.

Warner Robins's topography could be described as gently rolling hills created by the Fall Line in Georgia. Slopes are typically not too steep, leading to ease of physical development. Land develop pattern is predominately along major corridors such as Watson Blvd, N. Houston Rd., Russell Pkwy., and Oak Ave. The community boundary to the North, West and South is not well defined, as growth continues in those areas into Houston County. City borders along those edges are modified as new residential development is



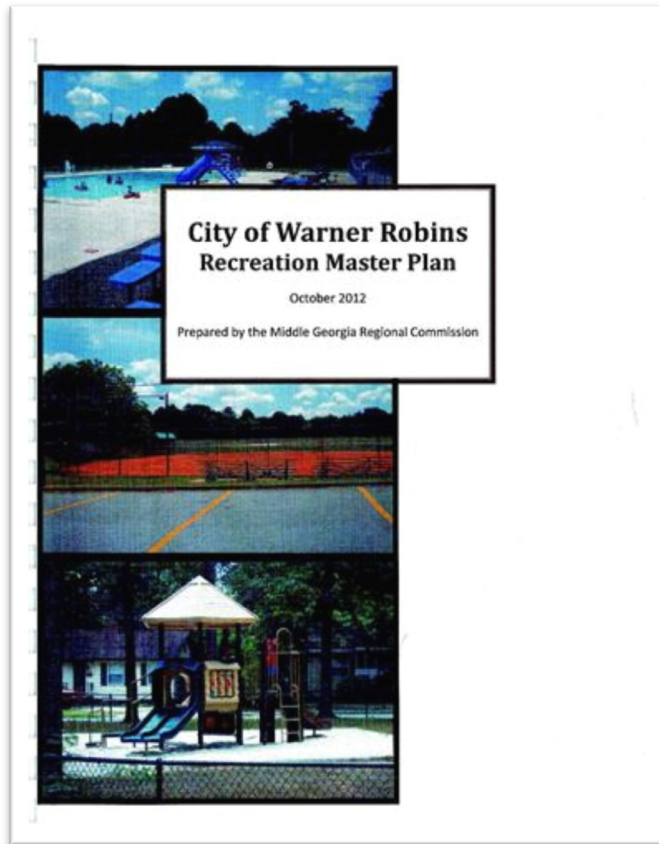
incorporated into the city. Along the Eastern edge, the community is well defined by the boundaries of Robins Air Force Base.

## Previous Studies

Recent studies conducted by Warner Robins were reviewed as part of the planning team's research. A summary of the document is provided below.

### ***Recreation Master Plan-October 2012***

This document, prepared by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, analyzed demographic trends, prepared an inventory of facilities, performed a survey of public desires, and made recommendations for new types of facilities. The plan recommended further detailed planning, leading to the development of the Strategic Recreation Facility Improvement Plan.



## Community Profile

As noted previously, the 2012 Recreation Master Plan performed an in-depth analysis of Warner Robins's demographic and population trends. Notable facts from this report, which will affect the Strategic Recreation Facility Improvement Plan, are outlined below. Additional detail is provided in the 2012 Recreation Master Plan.

- Between 2000 and 2010, the population of Warner Robins grew by 36.4 percent.
- During this time, the population became more diverse with gains in minority population by percentage, but all ethnicities saw considerable growth.
- The majority of the parks are located in areas with moderate to low income, and many are located in areas with over 25% poverty rates.
- Higher income and low poverty areas do not have as much access to parks as do the lower income and higher poverty areas.
- Household income increased with time, but did not see a considerable jump at any one point, pointing that employment in many areas is steady and wages grow with the cost of living, not with the influx of new industries.

