

B. Promote Preservation and Utilization of Open Space Corridors on Newton Creek and Little Timber Creek

1. Newton Creek Recreational Complex

The major concentration of recreational facilities being maintained by Gloucester City is in the area bounded by the south bank of Newton Creek and Johnson Boulevard/Klemm Avenue. The recreational uses in this area are focused on high activity, high impact sports (e.g. baseball, softball, soccer, and football) with little emphasis on passive or low impact activities (e.g. picnicing, walking, hiking, and biking).

Figure CP-3 is the Conceptual Plan of proposed modifications to the eastern end of the Newton Creek Recreational Complex (jogging track area) and the expansion of facilities to the opposite shore of the creek to be undertaken by the City to promote the preservation and utilization of this open space corridor.

As indicated in this Figure, the jogging track would be reconfigured and exercise equipment added for use as a vita course. The "infield area" of the jogging track would be developed as a community fairgrounds/picnic grove area and would include such facilities as community event pavilions, tot lots, picnic facilities, and horseshoe pits, with landscaping to enhance use of picnic grove areas. In conjunction with this, floating fishing piers would be extended into Newton Creek and a portion of the land area excavated to develop a water feature.

The expanded area on the north side of the creek would be primarily preserved as a natural area with a small interpretive center/picnic shelter constructed near Nicholson Road. A system of footpaths would be created to provide access through this site. The two portions of the Recreational Complex would be linked by a foot bridge over Newton Creek.

2. Little Timber Creek

Aerial photographs of the City indicate that in the portion of Little Timber Creek lying between Kings Highway (to the east) to Broadway, the water's edge area is relatively undeveloped. The exception are small nodes immediately adjacent to the Route 130 crossing and between Broadway and the railroad crossing. According to the tax assessor's records, approximately 69% of the water's edge along Little Timber Creek is controlled by either Gloucester City or the Gloucester City Board of Education.² Thus, the implementation of measures to protect the water's edge, while promoting its utilization, can be undertaken with minimal impact on private land holdings.

²Gloucester City owns Lot 16 of Block 277, which occupies approximately 50% (850 l.f.) of the frontage between Kings Highway and Route 130. The parcel occupied by the Gloucester City High School (Lot 6, Block 222) has 1,970 linear feet of frontage or approximately 82% of the water's edge between Route 130 and the railroad.