

## **E. Recreation, Parks and Open Space**

### Recreation and Parks

The Orange County Recreation and Parks Master Plan (also known as the Recreation Element of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan) was adopted in July 1988. The Plan does not call for recreational facilities to be located within the Focus Area. However, a community park in the vicinity of University Station (west of the Focus area) is proposed in the Plan. A community park provides recreational opportunities for the entire family and contains areas suited for intense recreational purposes such as athletic fields, tennis courts, and paths for walking/jogging. In addition, community parks usually contain outdoor areas for passive recreation such as picnicking, nature viewing, and sitting.

The Focus Area is located immediately south of a portion of Eno River State Park. The park currently contains over 3900 acres of land adjacent to the Eno River within Orange and Durham Counties and efforts continue to acquire more lands and trail easements to connect discontinuous parklands. A looped hiking trail with a parking area is located immediately north of Howe Street within the park.

The Focus Area also lies immediately north of a large section of Duke Forest. Duke Forest is private land owned and managed by Duke University as an outdoor laboratory. Limited public recreation is permitted in the Duke Forest as long as it does not conflict with teaching and research projects. Permissible activities include hiking, biking, and horseback riding on the established roads, as well as fishing and picnicking (source: Duke Forest website).

### Open Space

Private Open Space has been required as part of the development approval process of subdivisions platted in recent years. As is shown on the Future Land Use Map (Map 42), the planning area contains Resource Protection Areas which are located predominantly adjacent to streams. As the planning area develops, maintaining sensitive areas in open space will be an issue to be addressed during the development approval process.