



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Mayor Barnhardt

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

1) Regular Meeting Minutes January 10, 2022

B. Departmental Reports (*Reports in Board packet*)

C. Financial Reports (*Reports in Board packet*)

D. Appointment of Laurie Mack and Angie Nee to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

3. Citizen Comments

(All comments are limited to 6 minutes. No sharing of minutes with other citizens.)

4. Town Manager Update (*Report in Board packet*)

Old Business

5. Review

Local Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy

A sample policy has been included in the packet for Board review and feedback.

ACTION REQUESTED: Direction from the Board on how it wishes to proceed.

6. Presentation

NCLM, Harold Owen

- 7. Resolution 2021-14** **Finance Internal Controls Policy**
 At the July 12, 2021 meeting when this item was originally presented, there was Board discussion regarding whether a member of the Board needed to sign each check.

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-14 adopting the new Town Internal Controls Policy.

- 8. Resolution 2021-16** **Check Signatures**
 This item was originally presented at the July 12, 2021 meeting. The Board voted to table it at the time.

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-16 enacting the updated Town Check Signatures.

New Business

- 9. Presentation** **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

ACTION REQUESTED: Staff requests that the Board review the Plan and send questions to the Town Clerk before the Plan is presented for adoption at the March meeting.

- 10. Presentation** **Working Ag Lands Plan**

- 11. Budget Amendment #8** **Fuel**

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion to approve Budget Amendment #8.

- 12. Budget Amendment #9** **Governing Body**

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion to approve Budget Amendment #9.

- 13. Budget Amendment #10** **PW Vehicle Purchase**

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion to approve Budget Amendment #10.

- 14. Discussion** **Moratoriums**

ACTION REQUESTED: Direction from the Board on how it wishes to proceed.

15. Board Comments

16. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Thursday	February 17	7:30 a.m.	Rowan Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
B.	Monday	February 21	5:00 p.m.	Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee
C.	Monday	February 21	5:00 p.m.	Rowan Chamber Business After Hours
D.	Monday	February 21	5:30 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
E.	Wednesday	February 23	5:30 p.m.	Cabarrus-Rowan County MPO TAC
F.	Friday	February 25	9:00 a.m.	Planning Retreat
G.	Friday	March 4	9:00 a.m.	Planning Retreat
H.	Saturday	March 5	6:30 p.m.	Volunteer & Staff Banquet

I. Monday	March 7	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
J. Wednesday	March 9	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board Meeting <i>virtual</i>
K. Thursday	March 10	6:00 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
L. Saturday	March 26	8a.m.-12p.m.	Mulch Giveaway, Mar Rock Drive
M. Thurs-Sat	May 12-14		Dumpsters, Mar Rock Drive

Adjourn

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 1

Summary:

The Board may discuss, add, or delete items from the Regular Meeting agenda.

Action Requested:

Motion to adopt the February 15, 2022 Board of Aldermen Meeting Agenda (as presented / as amended).

Approval of Agenda

Motion Made By:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

Second By:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

For:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

Against:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

For
Against

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 2

Summary:

The Board may discuss, add, or delete items from the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of the Minutes

1) Regular Meeting Minutes January 10, 2022

B. Departmental Reports *(Reports in Board packet)*

C. Financial Reports *(Reports in Board packet)*

D. Appointment of Angela Nee and Laurie Mack to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Action Requested:

Motion to approve the consent agenda (as presented / as amended).

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion Made By:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

Second By:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

For:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

Against:

Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

For
Against



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 10, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem John Linker, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman Kim Cress, Alderman Doug Shelton

Staff: Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Town Attorney Chip Short, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley, Fire Chief / Public Works Director Jason Hord, Police Investigator Todd Taylor

Call to Order: Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence: Mayor Barnhardt led a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Barnhardt.

1. Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve and follow the agenda as presented. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

1) Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021

B. Departmental Reports (*Reports in Board packet*)

C. Financial Reports (*Reports in Board packet*)

D. Appointment of Jeff Cannon to Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Linker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Citizen Comments

- Christopher Ealey, 117 E. Kerns Street – requested a speed limit sign on either end of Kerns Street and that the speed limit be enforced.

4. Town Manager's Update

Manager Smith reviewed highlights from his report in the agenda packet including the budget watchlist. Fuel is being watched carefully. Department heads are taking fuel efficiency measures, but a budget

amendment may be coming. Manager Smith shared that Powell Bill funds being received were roughly \$14,000 over what was estimated. Manager Smith asked if there were any questions on the materials that were sent out regarding retreat facilitation and suggested a motion to authorize staff to engage Centralina Council of Governments for planning retreat facilitation services. Mayor Pro Tem Linker suggested discussion on dates for the retreat at the end of the meeting.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Linker made a motion to approve (*authorizing Manager Smith to engage Centralina Council of Governments for planning retreat facilitation services*). Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Manager Smith referenced the draft agreement included in the packet for planning and code enforcement services. The Board discussed whether the hours included travel. Attorney Short stated that based on paragraph 10, he read that travel was not counted against the 12 weekly hours that would be dedicated to planning.

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to authorize the Manager to move forward with the contract (*with NFocus for planning and code enforcement services*). Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

5. Ordinance 2021-18

Driveway Standards Text Amendment

Manager Smith requested that the item be removed from the agenda until it could be reviewed and presented by a future planner.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to remove Ordinance 2021-18 from the agenda. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

New Business

6. Budget Amendment #7

Granite Fest Performer Contract

The Board discussed the reasons for the budget amendment.

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to approve (*Budget Amendment request #7 in the amount of \$2,000 to cover the down payment for recommended entertainment at Granite Fest 2022*). Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Budget Amendment #6

Whitney Court Street Light

The Board discussed the recommendation to add a street light to Whitney Court. Chief Hord informed the Board that the residents in the cul-de-sac had pursued putting in a light on their own but that was not a possibility because of the bump outs. Chief Hord commented on the process for lighting plans through Duke's engineers and the lack of alternatives. The Board members expressed a desire for mast arms. Chief Hord stated the other street lights in the neighborhood will be upgraded with mast arms and LED lights as supplies are available.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve (*Budget Amendment #6 to increase Fund Balance Appropriated (01-3991-99) and increase Streets – Cap Outlay-Bldg/Infrastructure (01-4511-58) in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 for pole installation and underground boring to add a streetlight to Whitney Court*). Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Alderman Cress opposed.

8. Proclamations

Mayor Barnhardt acknowledged the following proclamations.

- A. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 17, 2022
- B. Black History Month February 2022

9. Board Comments

- Alderman Costantino asked about whether any candidates had been identified for the full-time planner position. Manager Smith stated all avenues are being investigated.
- Alderman Costantino asked about moving the February meeting since it falls on Valentines Day. No Board members were opposed.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to change February’s meeting date from Monday, February 14, 2022 to Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- Mayor Barnhardt stated she recently attended a lunch for veterans that occurs at Christiana Lutheran every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. She invited the other Board members to attend.
- The Board discussed dates for the planning retreat. By consensus February 10, 11, 24, 25, March 3, and 4 were identified as dates that board members were available. Board members were in favor of half-day meetings. Board members stated 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. would work for them.
- Alderman Shelton asked about whether storm drain connections and light poles were covered under Powell Bill funds. Manager Smith stated that light poles were not, but some storm drain connections could qualify depending on the project.
- Alderman Shelton asked if the Board wanted to re-institute the COVID Emergency Paid Sick Leave policy. Staff will bring sample policies to the next meeting for Board review and feedback.

10. Announcements and Date Reminders

A. Weekdays	January		Food Drive – Drop Off in Town Hall Lobby
B. Wednesday	January 12	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board Meeting virtual
C. Thursday	January 13	6:00 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
D. Monday	January 17		Office Closed MLK, Jr. Day
E. Tuesday	January 18	3:30 p.m.	Revitalization Team
F. Tuesday	January 18	5:00 p.m.	Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee
G. Tuesday	January 18	5:30 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
H. Thursday	January 20	7:30 a.m.	Rowan Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
I. Monday	January 24	5:00 p.m.	Rowan Chamber Business After Hours
J. Wednesday	January 26	5:30 p.m.	Cabarrus-Rowan County MPO TAC
K. Thursday	January 27	4:00 p.m.	Rowan Chamber New Member Reception
L. Monday	February 7	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
M. Wednesday	February 9	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Board of Delegates Meeting virtual
N. Thursday	February 10	6:00 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
O. Saturday	March 5		Save the Date – Volunteer & Staff Banquet

11. Closed Session

Legion Building

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Linker made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(5)(i) to instruct staff concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a proposed contract for the Legion Building lease. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Link made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

No action was taken during the closed session. Mayor Barnhardt and Manager Smith will reach out to set up a meeting with Civitan representatives.

Adjournment

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk

DRAFT



January Work 2022 Public Works Report

- Normal Maintenance Duties Daily- (parks, cleaning, mowing, edging, service on equipment, limbs & sweeping)
- PM check on generator
- Sanitized town hall, playgrounds at parks and restrooms
- Nature trail maintenance weekly and keeping leaves off
- Leaf pickup 2nd and 4th weeks
- Installed new street signs – continues
- Sprayed Geese repellent at Lake Park
- Potholes patched
- PM and inspections on all fleet trucks
- Snow plowing during storms
- Repaired sink hole on Wrenwood Ct.
- Took down and stored all Christmas lights and décor
- New flag light installed at lake park
- Gov. Deals Surplus - \$351.00 (old street signs)
- Landscape & Agriculture workshop (Colton and Gabe)

2007 Ford Truck	Mileage – 62,341	+255 miles
1995 Ford Dump Truck	Mileage – 41,913	+813 miles
2009 Ford Truck	Mileage – 88,219	+995 miles
2019 Ford Truck F350	Mileage – 13,927	+731 miles



Granite Quarry-Faith Joint Police Authority

P.O. Box 351 • 143 North Salisbury Ave, Granite Quarry, NC 28072
Office: (704)279-2952 • Fax: (704)279-6648



Police Department Report

February 2022

- Call volume report for the month of January 2022:

- Date of Report: 02/07/2022

- Total calls for service/activities – 466
- Calls for service/activities Granite Quarry: 368
- Calls for service/activities Faith: 88
- Incident Reports- 10
- Arrest Reports- 8
- Crash Reports- 13
- Traffic Citations- 17

- See Attached for Total Calls for Service.

- The following is the ending and average mileage for each vehicle by month:

131 Chevy Impala-	End-	75,560
141 Ford Taurus-	End-	81,176
161 Ford Utility-	End-	69,835
171 Ford Utility -	End-	47,500
172 Ford Utility -	End-	79,709
173 Ford Utility -	End-	39,848
181 Ford F150 -	End-	69,215
191 Dodge Durango -	End-	37,149
201 Ford Utility-	End-	16,998
211 Ford Utility-	End-	8,276
212 Ford Utility-	End-	17,230

- Other Information:

- Average response time for January 2021 CFS is 3.91 minutes.
- Drug Collection Box. January 2022: 26.54 pounds collected.
- Jan. CID Report. 3 Cases assigned; 6 Cases cleared; 12 follow-ups conducted; 87 open assigned cases.
- Officers completed 79 hours of in-service or continuing education training in January.

GQPD

Number of Events by Nature

CFS Jan 2022

Nature	# Events
102B1 PAST ABUSE	1
102O2 ABUSE-INFORMATION	1
103A4 ADMIN (OTHER)	2
103B4 SECURITY ESCORT	1
104B01 ATM ALARM	3
104C2 COMMERCIAL BURG (INTRUSI	15
104C3 RESIDENTAL BURG (INTRUSI	6
109O2 BOMB THREAT-INFORMATION	1
111D1 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1
113D1 DISTURBANCE / PHYSICAL	1
113D2 DISTURBANCE / VERBAL	1
114C1 PHYSICAL DOMESTIC	1
114D1 PHYSICAL DOMESTIC	1
114D2 VERBAL DOMESTIC	1
119B4 SOCIAL MEDIA HARASSMENT	1
119C2 THREAT - JUST OCCURED	1
121O2 MENTAL COMMITMENT	1
122O2 MISC - INFORMATION	1
123D1 MISSING PERSON (AT RISK)	1
125B1 CHECK WELFARE - ROUTINE	3
125B2 LOCKOUT - ROUTINE	6
125C1 KEEP THE PEACE	1
125D1 CHECK WELFARE-URGENT	1
129C1 SUSPICIOUS PERSON	7
129C2 WANTED PERSON	1
129C3 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	6
129C5 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE	2
130B2 VEHICLE LARCENY (PAST)	2
130B3 THEFT FROM VEH (PAST)	1

Nature	# Events
130D1 LARCENY	1
131B1 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - PD	4
131B3 HIT & RUN	1
131D1 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - INJUR	1
132A1 ABANDONED VEHICLE	1
132A2 PAST TRAFFIC VIOLATION	1
132C1 SEVERE TRAFFIC VIOLATION	1
132C3 HAZARDOUS VEHICLE	1
133B1 PAST TRESPASSING	1
133D1 TRESPASSING	3
23D2 OVERDOSE (UNCONSCIOUS)	1
25A2 PSYCHIATRIC (SUICIDAL)	1
69D1 STRUCTURE FIRE	1
77B1 TRAFFIC ACC - INJURY	1
77D3 TRAFFIC ACC - MULTI VEH	1
911 HANG UP	12
9E1 CARDIAC OR RESP ARREST	3
ASSIST EMS	1
ASSIST FIRE DEPT	4
ASSIST MOTORIST	7
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	2
BUSINESS OR HOUSE CHECK	206
CIVIL PROCESS	1
COMMUNITY PROGRAM	3
DELIVER MESSAGE	13
DIRECTED PATROL	2
DOMESTIC PROPERTY PICKUP	3
FOLLOWUP	23
FOOT PATROL	1
GENERAL INFORMATION	10
MISDIAL	5
PARK CHECK	37

Nature	# Events
SCHOOL SECURITY CHECK	4
SEARCH WARRANT	1
SUBPOENA SERVICE	9
TRAFFIC CHECK	7
TRAFFIC STOP	32
VEHICLE ACCIDENT PROP DAMAGE	5
WARRANT SERVICE	1
Total	483



Town of Granite Quarry Fire Department

Established May 15th, 1950

PO Box 351

www.granitequarrync.gov

Granite Quarry, NC

704/279-5596



Board Report February/2022 Chief Hord

Emergency Calls for Service January 2022

69 calls in district

- 59 – EMS (including strokes, falls, diabetic, CPR and other medical needs)
- 2 – Structure fire
- 2 – Fire Alarms
- 4 – Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 2 – Service assignment/ Public service assistance

13 calls to Salisbury

- 5 – Alarm/Structure, EMS calls canceled en-route
- 1 – EMS
- 1 – Structure Fire
- 2 – Motor Vehicle Accidents

9 calls to Rockwell Rural

- 9 – Alarm/Structure, EMS calls canceled en-route
- 2 – Motor Vehicle Accidents

2 calls to Faith

- 2 – canceled en-route

3 calls to South Salisbury

- 1 – Structure Fire
- 1 – canceled en-route
- 1 – Service assignment/ Public service assistance

3 calls to Bostian Heights

- 2 – structure fires

4 calls to Union

- 2 – canceled en-route
- 1 – Structure fire
- 1 – EMS

2 calls to Rockwell City

- 2 – canceled en-route

1 Special Call – Structure Fire – Stanley County

TOTAL – 106

ACTIVITIES

Daily activities include apparatus & equipment checks, training, station maintenance, pre-plan development, hose and hydrant maintenance, water points, emergency response, public education, inspections, and the assistance of other divisions within the Town of GQ.

Rigorous cleaning/decontamination, due to suggested COVID response multiple times daily.

Monthly training included E.M.T continuing education and Joint Training with Faith F.D.

Multiple days of ladder training, water point training, hose evolutions, extrication tool familiarization, and district familiarization. Weekly shift training/ officer's choice.

Car Seat Check Station on Thursday from 1 p.m.to 4 p.m. – 4 seats installed/checked.

Grounds care on Thursdays.

Joint county training at Mar Rock quarry .

Planning Department Monthly Report January 2021

Permits

- 04** Permit Applications
 04 Permits approved
 00 Permits denied

Date	Address	Permit	Status
1/06/22	145 Willow Dr	Accessory structure	Approved
1/06/22	516 A W Bank St	Accessory structure	Approved
1/26/22	800 S Salisbury Ave	CUP – Equipment lease or rental	Approved
1/26/22	800 S Salisbury Ave	Sign	Approved

Planning/Zoning Inquiries

Date	Inquiry	Zoning	Comments
1/4/22	Subdivision & setback requirements	RL	Requirements and UDO link given
1/5/22	Modular home restrictions	RL	Permitted if it meets Res Bldg Code requirements
1/6/22	Drainage/grade and fill in floodplain	RL	Checked w County; met on site; will req DEQ review
1/6/22	Façade const material requirements	LI	Requirements and UDO link given
1/7/22	Subdivision pre-submittal review	RL	Planner followed up 1/11/22
1/7/22	Survey plat / lot reconfiguration	RL	Planner followed up 1/11/22
1/10/22	Subdivision / access easement ?s	RL	Planner followed up 1/11/22
1/11/22	VaG Phase 2 pre-submittal review	PUD	Still missing some req'd details before review
1/18/22	Storage building units in DT/LI	DT/LI	GIS lines not updated; planner following up

Code Enforcement

- 03** Violations ordered abated
 03 Abated by owner / party at interest
 00 Abated by Town
 00 Not yet due / pending disposition

Address	Date Initiated	Date Due	Violation / Notice	Abatement Status
308 Legion St	12/17/21	1/3/22	Yard Litter	Abated by owner
205 S Walnut St	12/21/21	1/3/22	Yard Litter	Abated by owner
205 Yost Farm Rd	12/21/21	1/3/22	Junked vehicle	Abated by owner

Planning Board. Did not meet in January due to lack of pressing business and planner vacancy.

Zoning Board of Adjustment. Met Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

- CUP-2022-01. Approved “Equipment lease or rental” use at 800 S Salisbury Ave with the condition that any outdoor storage of parts, etc. visible from the street be completely behind building.



Finance Department

Breakdown of Departments:
As of January 31, 2022

Department	Budgeted	Encumbered	YTD	
Revenues:	<u>2,699,707</u>		<u>1,855,235</u>	<u>69%</u>
Total Revenues:	\$ 2,699,707		\$ 1,855,235	69%
Expenses:				
Governing Body	54,422	35	35,664	66%
Administration	568,053	2,636	268,380	48%
Public Works	371,377	37,516	208,213	66%
Police	751,991	-	455,999	61%
Fire	544,429	625	337,621	62%
Streets	177,936	-	102,006	57%
Sanitation	152,250	-	84,393	55%
Parks & Recreation	<u>79,250</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>45,081</u>	<u>73%</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,699,707	\$ 53,313	\$ 1,537,357	59%
Expense to Revenue:				83%

Please see the Budget Vs. Actual Report attached for individual line items

Revenues:					
Account	Budget	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-3100-12 Taxes - Budget Year	989,710	885,724	(103,986)	89%	1
01-3100-17 Tax Penalties & Interest	3,000	1,527	(1,473)	51%	
01-3101-12 Taxes - Prior Years	6,000	5,595	(405)	93%	1
01-3102-12 Vehicle Tax	117,034	79,842	(37,192)	68%	
01-3230-31 Local Option Sales Tax	846,600	536,430	(310,170)	63%	
01-3231-31 Solid Waste Disposal Tax	2,370	1,160	(1,210)	49%	
01-3316-32 Powell Pave & Patch Funds	76,722	90,391	13,669	118%	2
01-3322-31 Beer & Wine - State	13,736	-	(13,736)	0%	3
01-3324-31 Utilities Franchise Tax	132,854	66,476	(66,379)	50%	
01-3330-84 County First Responders	4,020	2,345	(1,675)	58%	
01-3411-89 Community Appearance Rev	-	150	150	100%	
01-3413-89 Miscellaneous Revenue	500	1,836	1,336	367%	4
01-3431-41 Police Authority Revenue_Faith	136,000	68,000	(68,000)	50%	
01-3431-45 Police Report Revenue	100	155	55	155%	
01-3431-89 Police Miscellaneous	1,100	794	(307)	72%	
01-3471-51 Environmental Fee Collection	169,632	86,797	(82,835)	51%	
01-3491-41 Subdivision & Zoning Fees	5,500	4,080	(1,420)	74%	
01-3613-41 Parks Miscellaneous	5,050	11,275	6,225	223%	5
01-3713-33 Sal. Water/Sewer Reimbursement	50,000	-	(50,000)	0%	3
01-3831-89 Interest on Investments	10,000	4,093	(5,907)	41%	6
01-3834-41 Park Shelter Rentals (Maint)	2,500	2,355	(145)	94%	
01-3835-80 Police Surplus Items Sold	-	5	5	0%	
01-3835-81 Surplus items Sold	1,000	1,092	92	109%	
01-3837-31 ABC Net Revenue-Co.	11,500	5,113	(6,387)	44%	
01-3991-99 Fund Balance Appropriated	114,779	-	(114,779)	0%	7
	2,699,707	1,855,235	(844,473)	69%	

Notes:

- 1 A majority of Ad Valorem Taxes are received in the first few months of the fiscal year
- 2 Received both allocations, second allocation larger than expected due to session law changes
- 3 Will receive in the last quarter
- 4 Refund from NC Department of Insurance
- 5 Includes Vendor Registration Fees & Sponsorships for Granite Fest
- 6 See Interest on Investments page for breakdown (ARPA Money Market Interest is accounted for in the ARPA GPO Fund)
- 7 Original \$57,795 + BA# 1 (Parks & Rec Master Plan \$17,750), BA# 2 (IDF Close-out \$31,815), BA# 6 (Street Light \$7,419)

Governing Body:						
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-4110-02 Mayor/Aldermen Salary	12,828	-	6,413	6,415	50%	
01-4110-09 FICA Expense	981	-	491	490	50%	
01-4110-14 Insurance - Workers Comp	50	-	41	9	83%	6
01-4110-18 Professional Services	20,000	-	11,000	9,000	55%	
01-4110-26 Office Expense	700	35	273	392	44%	
01-4110-31 Training & Schools	375	-	225	150	60%	
01-4110-40 Dues & Subscriptions	12,600	-	11,885	715	94%	7
01-4110-45 Insurance & Bonds	1,700	-	1,674	26	98%	6
01-4110-61 Grants - Nonprofit Grant Program	350	-	350	-	100%	8
01-4110-63 Elections	3,500	-	3,312	188	95%	9
01-4110-97 Board Contingency	1,338	-	-	1,338	0%	
	54,422	35	35,664	18,723	66%	

Notes:

- 6 Paid once annually at the beginning of the fiscal year
- 7 Includes \$4,135 for NCLM dues and \$5,338 for Rowan EDC dues paid annually
- 8 Includes \$100 for Fiddler's Convention and \$250 for Granite Quarry Fire Dept Auxiliary donations
- 9 Paid once annually in municipal election years

Administration:							
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes	
01-4120-00 Salaries - Regular	291,076	-	148,060	143,016	51%		
01-4120-02 Salaries - Part-Time	14,115	-	14,115	-	100%	10	
01-4120-03 Salaries - Longevity	1,000	-	1,000	-	100%		
01-4120-07 401K Expense	14,558	-	7,393	7,165	51%		
01-4120-09 FICA Expense	23,424	-	12,221	11,203	52%		
01-4120-10 Retirement Expense	33,159	-	16,827	16,332	51%		
01-4120-11 Group Insurance	46,500	-	20,132	26,368	43%		
01-4120-14 Insurance - Workers Comp	750	-	395	355	53%		
01-4120-17 Insurance – HRA/Admin Cost	1,200	-	700	500	58%		
01-4120-18 Professional Services	19,204	1,031	4,796	13,377	30%		
01-4120-22 Banquet Expense	1,700	-	-	1,700	0%		
01-4120-26 Office Expense	10,000	35	2,382	7,583	24%		
01-4120-29 Supplies & Equipment	200	-	-	200	0%		
01-4120-31 Training & Schools	7,000	500	2,408	4,092	42%		
01-4120-32 Telephone/Communications	3,500	-	1,989	1,511	57%		
01-4120-33 Utilities	4,800	-	2,555	2,245	53%		
01-4120-34 Printing	5,000	-	3,055	1,945	61%		
01-4120-35 Maint & Repair - Equipment	500	-	-	500	0%		
01-4120-37 Advertising	3,200	-	1,292	1,908	40%		
01-4120-40 Dues & Subscriptions	3,750	-	1,159	2,591	31%		
01-4120-44 Contracted Services	15,346	1,070	10,017	4,259	72%	11	
01-4120-45 Insurance & Bonds	5,150	-	5,091	59	99%	12	
01-4120-62 Committees - CAC	500	-	399	101	80%	13	
01-4120-68 Tax Collection	9,600	-	10,757	(1,157)	112%	14	
01-4120-71 Water Line - Principal	50,000	-	-	50,000	0%	15	
01-4120-72 Water Line - Interest	2,821	-	1,635	1,186	58%		
	568,053	2,636	268,380	297,037	48%		

Notes:

- 10 PT planning position was budgeted for the first 6 month of the fiscal year
- 11 Annual support for Southern Software paid once at the beginning of the fiscal year, website hosting & ACA reporting encumbered
- 12 Paid once annually at the beginning of the fiscal year
- 13 Promotional magnets for Granite Fest and yard signs for the year
- 14 Cost of Tax Collection proportionate to Ad Valorem Taxes in revenues (higher in first few months of FY)
- 15 Paid once annually in June

Public Works:						
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-4190-00 Salaries - Regular	124,296	-	75,873	48,423	61%	
01-4190-02 Salaries - Part-Time	35,500	-	25,540	9,961	72%	
01-4190-03 Salaries - Longevity	838	-	838	-	100%	
01-4190-07 401K Expense	6,215	-	3,794	2,421	61%	
01-4190-09 FICA Expense	12,282	-	7,822	4,460	64%	
01-4190-10 Retirement Expense	14,193	-	8,634	5,559	61%	
01-4190-11 Group Insurance	24,662	-	13,888	10,774	56%	
01-4190-14 Insurance - Workers Comp	7,600	-	5,440	2,160	72%	16
01-4190-20 Motor Fuel	7,100	-	6,271	829	88%	17
01-4190-21 Uniforms	1,900	-	523	1,377	28%	
01-4190-24 Maint & Repair - Bldgs/Grounds	12,000	-	3,930	8,070	33%	
01-4190-25 Maint & Repair - Vehicles	3,500	125	3,253	122	97%	18
01-4190-29 Supplies & Equipment	10,000	-	3,902	6,098	39%	
01-4190-31 Training & Schools	250	-	100	150	40%	
01-4190-32 Telephone/Communications	850	-	386	464	45%	
01-4190-33 Utilities	3,500	-	1,811	1,689	52%	
01-4190-34 Printing	25	-	6	19	26%	
01-4190-35 Maint & Repairs - Equipment	17,000	-	7,783	9,217	46%	
01-4190-40 Dues & Subscriptions	250	-	128	123	51%	
01-4190-44 Contracted Services	16,000	391	2,063	13,545	15%	
01-4190-45 Insurance & Bonds	4,600	-	4,410	190	96%	16
01-4190-54 Cap Outlay - Vehicles	37,000	37,000	-	-	100%	19
01-4190-96 Interfund Transfer	31,816	-	31,816	-	100%	20
	\$371,377	37,516	208,213	125,648	66%	

Notes:

- 16 Paid once annually at the beginning of the fiscal year
- 17 High fuel prices - recommend Budget Amendment #8
- 18 Includes Dump Truck repairs and 2 sets of tires
- 19 Public Works truck is encumbered, still no ETA available, recommend Budget Amendment #10
- 20 Industrial Development Fund GPO Project closeout, offset by Fund Balance Appropriated (Note 7)

Police:						
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-4310-00 Salaries - Regular	433,768	-	267,237	166,531	62%	
01-4310-02 Salaries - Part-Time	15,000	-	6,135	8,865	41%	
01-4310-03 Salaries - Longevity	2,500	-	2,350	150	94%	
01-4310-07 401K Expense	21,688	-	13,246	8,442	61%	
01-4310-09 FICA Expense	34,522	-	21,002	13,520	61%	
01-4310-10 Retirement Expense	52,788	-	31,895	20,893	60%	
01-4310-11 Group Insurance	86,625	-	46,059	40,566	53%	
01-4310-14 Insurance - Workers Comp	10,700	-	8,069	2,631	75%	21
01-4310-20 Motor Fuel	19,000	-	13,802	5,198	73%	22
01-4310-21 Uniforms	3,000	-	2,144	856	71%	
01-4310-25 Maint & Repair - Vehicles	6,000	-	2,286	3,714	38%	
01-4310-26 Office Expense	1,500	-	516	984	34%	
01-4310-29 Supplies & Equipment	8,000	-	3,278	4,722	41%	
01-4310-31 Training & Schools	4,000	-	2,915	1,085	73%	
01-4310-32 Telephone/Communications	8,000	-	4,408	3,592	55%	
01-4310-33 Utilities	3,000	-	909	2,091	30%	
01-4310-34 Printing	1,000	-	613	387	61%	
01-4310-35 Maint & Repair - Equipment	2,000	-	179	1,821	9%	
01-4310-40 Dues & Subscriptions	3,650	-	2,596	1,054	71%	
01-4310-44 Contracted Services	23,250	-	14,901	8,349	64%	
01-4310-45 Insurance & Bonds	12,000	-	11,459	541	95%	21
	751,991	-	455,999	295,992	61%	

Notes:

- 21 Paid once annually at the beginning of the fiscal year
- 22 High fuel prices - recommend Budget Amendment #8

Fire:							
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes	
01-4340-00 Salaries - Regular	131,849	-	77,255	54,594	59%		
01-4340-02 Salaries - Part-Time	209,994	-	120,173	89,821	57%		
01-4340-03 Salaries - Longevity	1,831	-	1,831	-	100%		
01-4340-07 401K Expense	6,592	-	4,363	2,229	66%		
01-4340-09 FICA Expense	26,291	-	14,936	11,355	57%		
01-4340-10 Retirement Expense	15,172	-	9,931	5,241	65%		
01-4340-11 Group Insurance	30,400	-	14,021	16,380	46%		
01-4340-14 Insurance - Workers Comp	11,500	-	8,357	3,143	73%	23	
01-4340-20 Motor Fuel	5,000	-	2,930	2,070	59%		
01-4340-21 Uniforms	3,000	150	1,465	1,385	54%		
01-4340-25 Maint & Repair - Vehicles	7,500	-	7,042	458	94%	24	
01-4340-26 Office Expense	150	-	38	112	25%		
01-4340-29 Supplies & Equipment	21,000	475	13,726	6,799	68%		
01-4340-31 Training & Schools	2,000	-	1,519	481	76%		
01-4340-32 Telephone/Communications	4,500	-	2,444	2,056	54%		
01-4340-33 Utilities	6,100	-	3,387	2,713	56%		
01-4340-34 Printing	325	-	96	229	30%		
01-4340-35 Maint & Repair - Equipment	2,500	-	973	1,527	39%		
01-4340-40 Dues & Subscriptions	3,300	-	1,981	1,319	60%		
01-4340-44 Contracted Services	10,000	-	5,869	4,131	59%		
01-4340-45 Insurance & Bonds	9,425	-	9,361	64	99%	23	
01-4340-55 Cap Outlay - Equipment	36,000	-	35,923	77	100%	25	
	544,429	625	337,621	206,183	62%		

Notes:

- 23 Paid once annually at the beginning of the fiscal year
- 24 AC Compressor, Valve and Air Chamber Repairs to E572
- 25 E572 Refurbishment is complete

Streets:						
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-4510-18 Professional Services	900	-	900	-	100%	26
01-4510-29 Supplies & Equipment	2,500	-	-	2,500	0%	
01-4510-39 Maint & Repair	7,400	-	2,900	4,500	39%	
01-4510-58 Cap Outlay - Bldg/Infrastructure	65,000	-	41,400	23,600	64%	27
01-4510-71 Debt Service - Principal	50,000	-	25,000	25,000	50%	28
01-4510-72 Debt Services - Interest	8,717	-	4,568	4,149	52%	28
01-4511-33 Utilities - Street Lights	36,000	-	19,819	16,181	55%	
01-4511-58 Cap Outlay - Bldg/Infrastructure	7,419	-	7,419	-	100%	29
	177,936	-	102,006	75,930	57%	

Notes:

- 26 Powell Bill maps paid for once annually
- 27 Includes Brinkley St. storm water improvements and sink hole repair on Wall St.
- 28 Paid once in December and once in June
- 29 Street Light on Whitney Court

Sanitation:						
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-4710-44 Contracted Services	152,250	-	84,393	67,857	55%	
	152,250	-	84,393	67,857	55%	

Parks & Rec:						
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes
01-6130-18 Professional Services	17,750	12,500	5,250	-	100%	30
01-6130-24 Maint & Repair - Bldgs/Grounds	26,000	-	19,233	6,767	74%	
01-6130-29 Supplies & Equipment	7,000	-	2,027	4,973	29%	
01-6130-33 Utilities	16,500	-	8,777	7,723	53%	
01-6130-44 Contracted Services	2,000	-	-	2,000	0%	
01-6130-62 Committees - PERC	10,000	-	9,793	207	98%	31
	79,250	12,500	45,081	21,669	73%	

Notes:

- 30 Parks and Rec Master Plan balance encumbered
- 31 Includes Granite Fest 2021 expenses

FEMA Granite Lake Project							
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes	
<u>Revenues:</u>							
04-3613-26 FEMA Grant	576,286	-	478,291	97,995	83%		
04-3613-36 NC DEM Grant	192,095	-	159,430	32,665	83%		
Total Revenues:	768,381	-	637,722	(130,659)	83%		
<u>Expenses:</u>							
04-6130-18 Professional Services	166,000	11,987	154,013	-	100%	32	
04-6130-69 Cap Outlay - Construction	547,619	-	503,524	44,095	92%	33	
04-6130-97 Contingency	54,762	-	-	54,762	0%		
Total Expenses:	768,381	11,987	657,536	98,857	87%		

Notes:

- 32 Awaiting final engineering invoices, entire engineering services contract encumbered, estimated to come in under budget
- 33 Final amounts for construction

ARPA FUND							
Account	Budget	Encum.	YTD	Variance	%	Notes	
<u>Revenues:</u>							
07-3301-23 ARPA Funds	959,917	-	479,958	479,958	50%		
07-3831-89 Interest on ARPA Funds	-	-	230	-	100%	34	
Total Revenues:	959,917	-	480,189	(479,728)	50%		
<u>Expenses:</u>							
07-4110-61 Grant Related Expenditures	959,917	-	-	959,917	0%	35	
Total Expenses:	959,917	-	-	959,917	0%		

Notes:

- 34 See Interest on Investments page for breakdown of ARPA Money Market interest
- 35 Grant Project Ordinance will be amended once expenditures/project has been determined

Interest on Investments by Month FY 2021-2022

Acct#	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Interest YTD	Invested Balance
Certificates of Deposits:														
XX7779	418.18	432.13	432.13	418.18	432.14	418.18	432.13	-	-	-	-	-	2,983.07	250,431.38
XX7151	357.43	Matured	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	357.43	-
	775.61	432.13	432.13	418.18	432.14	418.18	432.13	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 3,340.50	\$ 250,431.38
Money Market Accounts:														
XX9011	87.42	76.67	99.82	105.42	102.02	118.05	122.43	-	-	-	-	-	711.83	1,241,294.49
XX1186	5.48	5.15	5.14	5.32	5.15	5.31	5.32	-	-	-	-	-	36.87	62,601.88
ARPA	-	28.92	39.46	40.77	39.46	40.78	40.78	-	-	-	-	-	230.17	480,067.50
	92.90	110.74	144.42	151.51	146.63	164.14	168.53	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 978.87	\$ 1,783,963.87
NC Capital Management Trust:														
XX4319	1.20	0.43	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	0.43	-	-	-	-	-	3.76	50,964.83
	1.20	0.43	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	0.43	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 3.76	\$ 50,964.83
Totals													\$ 4,323	\$ 2,085,360

* Includes Interest in ARPA Fund

Total Invested Balance	\$ 2,085,360
Cash Balance (As of 12/31/21)	\$ 448,025
Minus Outstanding Transactions (As of 12/31/21)	\$ (13,267)
Total Reconciled Cash Balance	<u>\$ 434,758</u>
 Total Available Funds (Includes Restricted ARPA Funds)	 \$ 2,520,118

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 2D

Appointment Recommendations

Summary:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment reviewed two applications for their two vacant town resident seats and made the recommendation that the Board of Aldermen appoint Angela Nee and Laurie Mack to the vacant town resident Zoning Board of Adjustment seats with expiration dates of 7/31/2024.

Attachments:

- A. Clerk’s Summary
- B. Applications

Action Requested:

Approval of appointment as part of the consent agenda

OR

Consideration of the Zoning Board of Adjustment’s recommendation and possible action to appoint Angela Nee and Laurie Mack to the vacant town resident Zoning Board of Adjustment seats with expiration dates of 7/31/2024.

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
- Against

SUMMARY

TO: Board of Aldermen
FROM: Town Clerk Aubrey Smith
RE: **Summary of Application Review**
DATE: 11/9/2021



The current Committee Membership Recruiting and Appointment Policy, adopted by the Board of Aldermen 9/8/2020, directs the Clerk or designee to conduct an administrative review of an application, comparing with:

- Any ordinance requirements for qualifications;
- The current compositions of the applicable committee's membership for diversity of backgrounds and residence locations with a goal of fair representation of the town's jurisdiction.

Requirements for Qualification

UDO Sec. 15.5 – Board of Adjustment

15.5.1 *Establishment.*

- A. A zoning Board of Adjustment is hereby established. This board shall consist of 7 members as follows:
1. Four (4) members shall reside within the municipal corporate limits and shall be appointed by the Town Board of Aldermen;
 2. Three (3) members shall reside within the town's one-mile extraterritorial jurisdictional area and shall be appointed by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners.
 3. The members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment already serving on the board prior to the passage of this amended section shall be considered as the four members appointed by the Town Board of Aldermen, and each of these members shall serve the balance of the term to which such member was appointed.

The current Zoning Board of Adjustment membership consists of the following:

- 2 filled Town seats 2 vacant Town seats
- 3 filled ETJ seats 0 vacant ETJ seats

Diversity of Backgrounds

The current Zoning Board of Adjustment members have a wide variety of background experience and/or occupations including:

- Sales, vending, real estate, emergency services
 - Retired with 30 years of experience in management accounting
 - Retired teacher
 - Retired Duke Energy
 - Compliance records manager
- Ms. Mack is retired elementary school teacher and leader.
- Ms. Nee is a senior customer service representative and clerk to the board.

Diversity of Residence Locations

- Ms. Mack is a resident of the town and lives on Veronica Lane.
- Ms. Nee is a resident of the town and lives on Kenton Place.

The residences of the two Zoning Board of Adjustment members currently representing the Town are located on the following streets:

- Meadow Wood Court
- North Main Street



BOARDS AND COMMITTEES APPLICATION

NAME Laurie Mack

PHYSICAL ADDRESS 325 Veronica Lane ZIP 28146

MAILING ADDRESS " " ZIP " "

PHONE ~~980~~ 980-332-9078 PHONE (business or cell) 310-809-2559

EMAIL Macklaurie@yahoo.com

OCCUPATION Elementary Teacher / Leader (Retired)

ARE YOU CURRENTLY SERVING ON A GRANITE QUARRY BOARD OR COMMITTEE Yes No

IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE

I AM INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE FOLLOWING BOARDS OR COMMITTEES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE (please number up to three applicable committees)

<u> </u> Community Appearance Commission	<u> 2 </u> Planning Board
<u> 1 </u> Revitalization Team	<u> 1 </u> Zoning Board of Adjustment
<u> 3 </u> Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee	

WORK EXPERIENCE (List your four most recent employment experiences, listing present or most recent first)

Dates	Company Name/Location	Position	Job Description
2011-2018	Los Angeles Unified Sch. Dist.	3rd Grade Teacher	Taught Gen. subjects
2011-2014	Burlington School Dist. (VT)	4th Grade Teacher/Diversity	" "
1997-2008	Paramount Unified Sch. Dist. (CA)	3rd Grade Teacher (grade level leader)	" "

EDUCATION (List your three most recent educational experiences, listing present or most recent first)

Educational Institution/School	Degree Received	Area(s) of Study
National University (CA)	Yes Educational Admin. Certification	K-12 Educational Leadership
SUNY Plattsburgh	Yes	Education
SUNY Plattsburgh	Yes	Mass Media Communication

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS APPOINTMENT?

I believe my passion to serve my local community and my background in education and leadership will make me an idea candidate to help my community continue to grow.

BOARDS/ COMMITTEES ON WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED (LIST MUNICIPALITIES AND DATES)

N/A

EVER CONVICTED OF A FELONY Yes No If yes, state details: _____

I affirm that I understand this application may be considered a public record and as such, portions may be subject to release under North Carolina General Statute Chapter 132, Public Records. I certify that the facts contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree that by my submission of this application form, I shall be deemed to have affixed my signature hereto.

Signature Laura M. [Signature] Date 10-4-2021

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Received: 10/4/2021 ACS Interview Date & Time: Mtng.
 Confirmation Date: _____ Term Ending: _____



P.O. Box 351
 Granite Quarry, NC 28072-0351
 704-279-5596
www.granitequarrync.gov

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES APPLICATION

NAME Angela Nee

PHYSICAL ADDRESS 1002 Kenton Pl, Salisbury, NC ZIP 28146

MAILING ADDRESS PO Box 902, Granite Quarry, NC ZIP 29072

PHONE 336-470-4634 (cell) PHONE (business or cell) _____

EMAIL Angie.nee@aol.com

OCCUPATION Sr. Customer service Rep / Clerk to the Board

ARE YOU CURRENTLY SERVING ON A GRANITE QUARRY BOARD OR COMMITTEE Yes No

IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE

I AM INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE FOLLOWING BOARDS OR COMMITTEES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE (please number up to three applicable committees)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Appearance Commission | <u>1</u> Planning Board |
| <u>3</u> Revitalization Team | <u>2</u> Zoning Board of Adjustment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee | |

WORK EXPERIENCE (List your four most recent employment experiences, listing present or most recent first)

Dates	Company Name/Location	Position	Job Description
3/2005-Present	Handy Sanitary Dist/Denton	Sr. CSR / Clerk to the Board	clerical / admin

EDUCATION (List your three most recent educational experiences, listing present or most recent first)

Educational Institution/School	Degree Received	Area(s) of Study
UMGC	in pursuit	English / Art

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS APPOINTMENT?

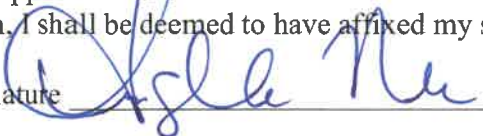
As a new resident, I feel I could bring some fresh ideas to the table. Most recently I've lived in Mint Hill, NC & grew up in Lexington, NC.

BOARDS/ COMMITTEES ON WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED (LIST MUNICIPALITIES AND DATES)

N/A

EVER CONVICTED OF A FELONY Yes No If yes, state details: _____

I affirm that I understand this application may be considered a public record and as such, portions may be subject to release under North Carolina General Statute Chapter 132, Public Records. I certify that the facts contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree that by my submission of this application form, I shall be deemed to have affixed my signature hereto.

Signature 

Date 7/9/2021

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Received: _____

Interview Date & Time: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

Term Ending: _____

Town of Granite Quarry
Town Manager's Report
February 2022



1. **Rowan Municipal Association.** I explained when we were informed the other month that GQ's 2-year term to host the RMA would begin this year. I've now gotten the materials from Faith. There were no meetings held this past term. With the most recent spike in covid along with staffing vacancies, many facilities – including Trinity Oaks, where it has been being held – are currently closed for gatherings. If the Board wishes to start thinking about hosting a meeting in the near future, staff would recommend:
 - 1) Begin discussing what speaker(s) or program you think would be most applicable with our fellow local governments within the county.
 - 2) *Tentatively* looking at the 2nd quarter (April-June), but review the current virus level, availability of facilities, speaker, caterer, etc. until we get closer (maybe the March meeting).

2. **Meetings and training.** Lots of necessary & required meetings this past month given all the things going on. Staff continues the constant updates & training to stay as up to speed as possible to keep us in regulatory compliance and properly advise in our areas of expertise.
 - A. **Legislature.** This legislative session is now officially the longest session (and *only* session to carry over a calendar year, if I understood NCLM correctly) in history. NCLM continues to update and advise on the laws being passed, and any follow up guidance they are working on.
 - B. **City-County Managers Association conference.** Strong theme throughout the sessions this time on the need for manager resilience, and on attracting and retaining employees. "Burnout" has now officially become the #1 reason local government employees are leaving their profession or current organization. We studied strategies and best practice trends of how to combat that, as well as recruiting/retention strategies in this unprecedented competitive local gov't climate.
 - C. **ARPA.** The School of Government continues to host ~weekly office hours to update staffs on clarifications, sample policies and guidance, etc. they continue to receive and work on as they evaluate the practical applications of the recent Final Rule.
 - D. **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).** NCLM briefed managers at the conference about a comprehensive report and resource tools they are finalizing to help guide us through all the different programs and grant opportunities associated with the \$1.2 trillion Act's passage (\$550 billion in new funding dedicated to infrastructure projects nationwide). Jason, Shelly, and I will be delving into them to see what long-standing / otherwise cost-prohibitive projects the Town has had in queue that might be eligible.

3. **Daily operations.** There has been a dramatic increase in sheer daily inquiries and follow up items lately across virtually all departments. Other managers and towns I've spoken with have been experiencing the same, and with it being across the spectrum of fire, police, admin, public works – there's not a very clear rhyme or reason behind why. We of course will continue just prioritizing calls and issues as they come.

4. **Planning.** Our new PT Planner Bill Bailey has been getting acclimated to our ordinances and plans the past few weeks since joining us, and catching up on items Steve had underway when he left. Just from application inquiries alone he has already come across a number of ordinance provisions that we'll need to revisit moving forward, which we'll simply prioritize and address as time allows.

FT position. Some good feedback on our ad and some additional recruiting tips & resources at the NCCMA conference. I also drummed up a few potential leads on which I'm following up now. As our contract PT Planner continues settling in (i.e., into a normal workload efficiency) I will continue monitoring the workload in both planning and code enforcement to refine anything needed, and/or make any additional or alternate recommendations moving forward.

5. **Committee Reports.**

A. **Community Appearance Commission.** Met January 13th.

- Debriefed their Christmas decorating contest. Members felt group visits to award prizes to the winning homes went well; discussed possibility of adding more flare with PD or FD escort.
- Members discussed adding additional projects and goals such as taking on a memorial rose garden, succulents at the Square's planters, more focus on the town gateways, and partnering with an area garden club.*
- Discussed promoting Public Works' mulch giveaway to town residents, asking staff to develop a brochure to hand or mail to residents and discussed an email strictly for CAC to communicate with the community (separate from the ideas the Board has been discussing developing*).

B. **Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee.** Met January 18th.

- Granite Fest 2022. Members were updated that Tim Clark Band has been booked and BOA approved a \$2,000 budget amendment to cover the additional cost.
- Staff & Volunteer Banquet. Discussed suggestions for banquet décor, assigned responsibilities for confirming venue and catering.
- 2022 Calendar of Events. Reviewed calendar of events already scheduled and confirmed times. A Fish for Fun will be scheduled once Lake Park is stocked and fish matured. Discussed adding another Arts in the Park event April 30th.

** Note: Aubrey and I continue working with the CAC and PERC staff liaison on ways to help committees align their efforts and work-generation to annually adopted Town Board goals & budgeted priorities first.*

C. **MPO Technical Coordinating Committee.** Met January 19th.

- Elected Franklin Gover, Assistant Mgr in China Grove, as Chair; and Erin Burris, Planning and Economic Development Director in Mt Pleasant, as vice-chair.
- Recommended a performance safety list to TAC for approval.
- 2045-2050 Conformity Plan is underway. Hwy 52 widening at the county line is on the 2035 horizon list; Phil updated me after that the GQ Hwy 52 bypass is on the 2045 horizon list.
- A CMAQ project in Cabarrus County was recommended to TAC for approval.
- NCDOT Division 9 updated about their ADA ramps campaign throughout the districts.
- Briefly discussed the MPO administrative services staffing contract and how to move forward. TCC asked City of Concord to get TAC input first as it involves policy and budget amendments.

D. **Centralina COG Regional Managers Meeting.** Had to miss January's meeting due to another meeting.

E. **Revitalization Team.** With no pressing team business and so many other things going on, January meeting was cancelled.

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 5

Local EPSL Policy

Summary:

Local Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) policies are varied. Most municipalities have chosen to offer one of the following:

- 1) Provide up to 80 hours of paid leave for all employees meeting criteria.
- 2) Provide up to 80 hours of paid leave for vaccinated employees only.
- 3) Require employees to use available accrued leave time.

The CDC is no longer requiring vaccinated individuals or individuals who had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days who have been exposed but are not showing symptoms to isolate or quarantine. If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms, the CDC recommends a 5-day isolation.

Granite Quarry’s previous policy was based on the federal EPSL that expired 12/31/2020. The 80 hours of pay for full-time employees was based on the CDC recommendations at the time for quarantine and isolation.

Since a large number of the Town’s part-time employees have another full-time employer, the recommendation is that - if reinstated - the policy only affect full-time employees.

Attachments:

- A. Sample GQ Policy
- B. CDC Recommendations

Action Requested:

Direction from the Board on how it wishes to proceed.

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
- Against

MEMORANDUM



TO: All Town Employees
FROM: Town Manager Larry Smith
RE: **Granite Quarry Emergency Paid Sick Leave**
DATE: 2/15/2022

It is the Town's goal to continue to operate effectively and ensure that all essential services are continuously provided and that employees are safe within the workplace. We are committed to providing accurate information about the nature and spread of infectious diseases, including symptoms and signs to watch for, as well as required steps to be taken, in the event of an illness or outbreak.

The Town will provide eligible employees with temporary emergency paid sick leave under certain conditions. This policy will become null and void should Congress extend or adopt an Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act prior to the expiration date of this Town policy.

Town of Granite Quarry Emergency Paid Sick Leave

Town of Granite Quarry Emergency Paid Sick Leave (GQEPSL), as adopted herein, is separate from and independent of Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) and is independent of any existing sick leave policies that the Town grants employees in the normal course of business.

GQEPSL allows an eligible employee to qualify for emergency paid sick leave as follows:

1. The employee is subject to a federal, state or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
2. Employee has been advised by his/her healthcare provider to self-quarantine because he/she is infected with or has been exposed to COVID-19 or because he/she is at high risk of complications from COVID-19.
3. Employee is showing symptoms of COVID-19 and is actively seeking but not yet received a medical diagnosis;
4. Employee is caring for someone subject to a federal, state, or local COVID-19 related quarantine or isolation order or who has been advised by his/her healthcare provider to self-quarantine for COVID-19 related reasons; or
5. Employee is caring for their child because the child's school or childcare facility has been closed or the childcare provider is no longer available because of COVID-19 related reasons.

All full-time employees who have been employed with the Town for at least 30 days are eligible for GQEPSL in the event the employee is unable to work or telecommute because the employee meets one or more of the conditions stated above.

Duration/Compensation

Employees are eligible for the following on a one-time basis:

- **Full-Time employees:** 40 hours of pay at the regular hourly rate of pay. However, when eligible under reasons 4 and 5 above, GQEPSL is paid at 2/3 the regular hourly rate of pay.

Paid leave under this policy is limited to \$511 per day (or \$2,555 in total) when leave is taken for reasons 1,2, and 3 above (generally, an employee’s own illness or quarantine); and \$200 per day (or \$1,000 in total) when leave is taken for reasons 4 and 5 above (generally care for others or school closures).

General GQEPSL Rules

- Employee may elect to use GQEPSL prior to utilizing any accrued paid sick leave under the Town’s sick leave policy.
- No leave provided by the Town prior to adoption of this policy may be credited against the GQEPSL eligibility.
- Employee is responsible for immediately notifying Human Resources of intent to utilize this policy so that the appropriate application paperwork may be given to the employee in a timely manner.
- Employee must successfully complete the necessary application paperwork and return it to Human Resources in a timely manner in order to receive compensation under this policy. Failure to return application paperwork and required supporting documentation in a timely manner may result in a delay in or disqualification from receiving compensation under this policy.
- Any employee seeking compensation under this policy found to be taking this leave to defraud the Town is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.
- The Town will not retaliate against any employee who requests to take GQEPSL in accordance with this policy.
- This policy becomes effective upon adoption by the Board of Aldermen and expires June 30, 2022.

Definitions

Child Care Provider Defined for the Purposes of GQEPSL

For the purpose of this policy, the term “child care provider” is defined as one who provides child care services on a regular basis and receives compensation for those services, including an ‘eligible child care provider’ as defined in § 658P of the Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 USC 9858n).

School Defined for Purposes of GQEPSL

The term “school” means an ‘elementary school’ or ‘secondary school’ as such terms are defined in § 8101 of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 USC 7801).

Quarantine and Isolation

Updated Jan. 20, 2022

Quarantine

If you were exposed

[Quarantine](#) and stay away from others when you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Isolate

If you are sick or test positive

[Isolate](#) when you are sick or when you have COVID-19, even if you don't have symptoms.

When to Stay Home

Calculating Quarantine

The date of your exposure is considered day 0. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.** Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days. [Learn why CDC updated guidance for the general public.](#)

IF YOU

Were exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT [up-to-date](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations

Quarantine for at least 5 days

Stay home

Stay home and [quarantine](#) for at least 5 full days.

Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.

Get tested

Even if you don't develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

After quarantine

Watch for symptoms

Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

[Isolate](#) immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

Take precautions until day 10

Wear a mask

Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

Avoid travel**Avoid being around people who are at high risk****IF YOU****Were exposed to COVID-19 and are [up-to-date](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations****No quarantine**

You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms.

Get tested

Even if you don't develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Watch for symptoms

Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

[Isolate](#) immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

Take precautions until day 10**Wear a mask**

Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

Avoid travel**Avoid being around people who are at high risk****IF YOU****were exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test)****No quarantine**

You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms.

Watch for symptoms

Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

[Isolate](#) immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

Take precautions until day 10**Wear a mask**

Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

Avoid travel

Town of Granite Quarry

Avoid being around people who are at high risk**Calculating Isolation**

Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. **Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.** If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days.

IF YOU**Tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status****Stay home for at least 5 days**

Stay home for 5 days and [isolate](#) from others in your home.

Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.

Ending isolation if you had symptoms

[End isolation after 5 full days](#) if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.

Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms

[End isolation after at least 5 full days](#) after your positive test.

If you were severely ill with COVID-19

You should isolate for at least 10 days. [Consult your doctor before ending isolation.](#)

Take precautions until day 10**Wear a mask**

Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

Avoid travel**Avoid being around people who are at high risk****DEFINITIONS****Exposure**

Contact with someone infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in a way that increases the likelihood of getting infected with the virus.

Close Contact

Close contacts are someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes.

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 7

Summary: Continued from July & August 2021 discussion

Over the past few years as our finance software and technology have improved, some of the procedures and guidelines set forth in current policies have become inaccurate and no longer practical. Strong internal controls aid in the prevention of fraud and the detection of accidental errors and oversight in the accounting process. The procedures and guidelines in this policy outline cash handling procedures, segregation of duties, and adequate safeguards to ensure proper internal controls of the Town's assets.

Attachments:

- *Resolution 2021-14*
- *Internal Controls Policy 2021-14*

Action Requested:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-14 adopting the new Town Internal Controls Policy.

Internal Controls Policy

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
- Against



RESOLUTION 2021-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO ADOPT AN INTERNAL CONTROLS POLICY

WHEREAS, The Town of Granite Quarry has a responsibility to provide taxpayers with reasonable assurance that government finances are adequately controlled; and

WHEREAS, an environment with strong internal controls reflects the reliability of the accounting records and financial statements; and

WHEREAS, strong internal controls aid in the prevention of fraud and the detection of accidental errors and oversight in the accounting process; and

WHEREAS, cash handling procedures are necessary to ensure proper internal controls, segregation of duties, and adequate safeguard of the Town's assets; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Granite Quarry feels it is necessary to have firm guidelines in place to detail the Town's handling of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Granite Quarry that the attached Internal Controls Policy is hereby adopted.

RESOLVED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE UPON ADOPTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY, NORTH CAROLINA, ON THIS THE ____ DAY OF _____ 2022.

Brittany H. Barnhardt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aubrey Smith, Town Clerk



2021-14

INTERNAL CONTROLS POLICY

Table of Contents

I.	PURPOSE.....	2
II.	CASH MANAGEMENT.....	3
2.1	Bonding	3
2.2	Bank Accounts	3
2.3	Deposits.....	3
2.4	Collateralization	4
2.5	Petty Cash.....	4
III.	CASH DISBURSEMENT	5
3.1	Pre-Audit Certificate.....	5
3.2	Checks.....	5
3.3	Insufficient Funds.....	5
3.4	Absence	5
IV.	INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	6
4.1	Interest	6
4.2	Authorized Investments	6
V.	RECORDING & RECOGNIZING	6

I. PURPOSE

Elected Officials and Town employees have a responsibility to provide taxpayers with reasonable assurance that government finances are adequately controlled. An environment with strong internal controls reflects the reliability of the accounting records and financial statements. Strong internal controls aid in the prevention of fraud and the detection of accidental errors and oversight in the accounting process.

Cash handling procedures are necessary to ensure proper internal controls, segregation of duties and adequate safeguard of the Town's assets. No one person should have complete control over a transaction, and in a perfect situation, a separation of duties between at least three people is preferred in any cash handling transaction. The Town's limited office staff does not permit three people to be involved in all cash handling situations, but safeguards have been put in place and the Town assumes responsibility for the limited controls. Alternative controls should be used to compensate in instances where there is a lack of separation. The Governing Board members as well as the Town Manager must be called upon to provide some of these controls.

Staff are responsible for complying with the procedures set out in this policy to ensure funds are accepted following the same process each time, deposited in a timely manner, and easily tracked while keeping both the funds and the staff handling the funds secure. Any staff handling funds must adhere to the Conflict of Interest sections of the Town's Personnel Policy and Purchasing Policy. These policies set out the integrity and ethical values and communicate the code of conduct that town employees are expected to follow.

Units of government have various accounting functions, which include:

- Cash Management
- Cash Disbursements
- Investment Management
- Recording & Recognizing

Each of these areas are addressed below.

II. CASH MANAGEMENT

2.1 Bonding

All employees who handle funds must be bonded either individually or under a blanket bond according to G.S. 159-29. The Finance Officer must be individually bonded for at least \$50,000. All others may be included in a blanket bond.

2.2 Bank Accounts

No official or employee shall have the authority to open a bank account in the name of the Town or any of its departments using public funds without authorization by the governing body (G.S. 159-31(a)). The Governing Board shall designate an official depository within the state of North Carolina. It is unlawful for any public funds to be deposited in a depository other than a bank, savings and loan association, or trust company within North Carolina.

Bank accounts for checking, money market, and certificates of deposit must be reconciled within the accounting system by finance at the end of each month. Any accrued interest on the accounts will be recorded in the accounting system. The bank reconciliations will be reviewed and approved by the Town Manager. The Finance Officer shall have online access to Town bank accounts in order to perform direct deposits, transfers, and to review and reconcile accounts.

2.3 Deposits

All public funds shall follow the deposit guidelines below. No official or employee of the Town shall have the authority to cash a check payable to the Town, except to replenish petty cash. Payments shall be made in the form of cash or checks made payable to the Town of Granite Quarry.

Funds received must be deposited either on a daily basis or when funds amount to \$250.00 or greater. Until deposited, all funds must be maintained in a secure location. Deposits shall be immediately reported to finance by means of a duplicate deposit ticket (G.S. 159-32).

Deposit Guidelines:

- When funds are received by front office staff a three-part pre-numbered receipt will be issued. Part one of the receipt will be received by the payee, part two will remain with the funds until deposited, and part three will be kept in the receipt book for reference.
- Prior to deposit, funds will be kept in the safe within the vault.
- Front office staff will prepare the funds for deposit and record on a two-part deposit slip. Funds to be deposited will be matched with pre-numbered receipt book and receipts.
- Front office staff provides deposit and two-part deposit slip to the Town Clerk for review and approval. In the absence of the Town Clerk, the Town Manager or Finance Officer can review and approve. Deposit slip must be initialed indicating who reviewed and approved the deposit.
- Front office staff takes deposit and two-part deposit slip to the bank and returns with one part of deposit slip and bank receipt.
- A report detailing what funds were deposited, along with the deposit slip, bank receipt, check stubs, part two of receipt, and any other backup information is provided to finance.

- Finance verifies that two parties agreed to the funds prior to deposit and reconciles the bank receipt and deposit slip to the report sent by front office staff.
- Finance enters the deposit into the accounting system and approves the transaction.

2.4 Collateralization

Bank accounts should be properly collateralized in accordance with G.S. 159-31(b) and [20 NCAC 7](#).

The Finance Officer shall:

- Annually complete COLL-91 Notification of Public Deposit and submit to Financial Institution and State Treasurer. Form will be reviewed by the Town's independent auditor prior to submission.
- Review all releases or substitutions of collateral securities resulting in a decrease of the market value of pledged securities.
- Complete Form LGC-203 on a semiannual basis to report status of deposits and investments (G.S. 159-33). Form LGC-203 will be reviewed and approved by Town Manager prior to submission to Local Government Commission (LGC).

2.5 Petty Cash

Petty cash will be reconciled by the Finance Officer on a random basis, at least quarterly. These reconciliations will be completed by the Finance Officer and a member of the front office staff, each independently completing a reconciliation form. The reconciliation forms will be compared for accuracy.

Total expenditures and cash on hand should always equal the total authorized Petty Cash Fund amount. Petty cash will be kept secure in the vault and locked at the end of each workday. The combination to the vault will be known only to the Finance Officer, Town Clerk, and Office Assistant.

For specific petty cash procedures see the Petty Cash Policy.

III. CASH DISBURSEMENT

When a bill, invoice, or other claim against the Town is presented, the Finance Officer shall either approve or disapprove the necessary disbursement. The Finance Officer may approve the claim only if 1) the amount is determined to be payable; and 2) the budget ordinance or a project ordinance includes an appropriation authorizing the expenditure; and either (i) an encumbrance has been previously created for the transaction; or (ii) an unencumbered balance remains in the appropriation sufficient to pay the amount to be disbursed (G.S. 159-28(b)).

3.1 Pre-Audit Certificate

All purchase orders, invoices, and checks should have a properly signed pre-audit certificate as directed by G.S. 159-28 and the Town's Purchasing Policy. Prior to signing the pre-audit certificate on purchase orders or invoices, the Finance Officer shall confirm that sufficient funds are budgeted for the appropriation. Prior to printing and satisfying the pre-audit certificate requirement on any check, the Finance Officer shall confirm that there are sufficient funds in the checking account to cover the payment. The Governing Board may approve a bill, invoice, or other claim against the local government that has been disapproved by the Finance Officer (G.S. 159-28(c)). This must be done by formal resolution.

3.2 Checks

Pre-numbered checks will be used for all disbursements. The Finance Officer will account for all check numbers at the end of each month, including voided checks. Unused and voided checks will be made available for inspection by the Town Manager or Town's independent auditor. Any missing checks will be investigated. The unused check stock will be maintained in the Finance Officer's locked office. Voided checks should be so indicated on the check register. Voided checks should be sufficiently defaced to avoid use.

Checks will only be signed after thorough review of documentation supporting the disbursement. Thorough review will be documented by the signing of the check and by the initialing of the check register. Checks will be signed by two designated check signers (G.S. 159-25(b)).

It is the Town's policy to have four designated check signers to allow for absences. After thorough review, checks will be signed by the Finance Officer and the Town Manager. In the event that either is unavailable to sign, one of the other two designated check signers will be permitted to sign. Current signature cards will be maintained on file with the financial institution at all times, indicating those authorized to sign checks. In no case will any check be signed by anyone whose signature card is not on file.

3.3 Insufficient Funds

Any insufficient funds notices will be brought immediately to the attention of the Town Manager and the Governing Board.

3.4 Absence

In the event of the Finance Officer's extended absence, cash disbursements will be processed by the designated Deputy Finance Officer using the procedures outlined above.

IV. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Funds of the Town will be invested in accordance with G.S. 159-30. The Finance Officer shall have the responsibility for the investment of any idle funds and the safe keeping of all investments purchased on behalf of the Town (G.S. 159-25 (a)(6)). The following must be considered, in order of priority, when managing and investing public funds:

- Safety – To minimize credit risk, the risk of loss due to failure of the investment issuer or backer,
- Liquidity – To invest in a manner that can be easily converted into cash, and
- Yield – Attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, considering the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs.

4.1 Interest

Interest accrued on investments shall be recorded monthly in the accounting system by the Finance Officer. The investment program shall be managed so that investments and deposits can be converted to cash when needed. To ensure cash is available when needed, investments made in certificates of deposits must have maturities of at least once per fiscal year.

4.2 Authorized Investments

Funds may be deposited in any bank, savings and loan association, or trust company in this state in the form of certificates of deposits or such other forms of time deposits (G.S. 159-30). There are no statutory guidelines limiting the amount of idle funds in any one type of investment. However, to avoid unreasonable risk, it is the Town's policy that the investments will be re-evaluated at least annually.

V. RECORDING & RECOGNIZING

The Finance Officer shall keep the accounts of the Town in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) of governmental accounting and the rules and regulations of the Local Government Commission (LGC) (G.S. 159-25) by:

- Maintaining an accounting system containing (at a minimum) a General Fund and any other funds (G.S. 159-26).
- Maintaining administrative rights to the accounting system and designating other users as needed, providing each individual user with his/her own confidential password.
- Preparing and providing monthly reports to the Governing Board showing financial condition and budget versus actual.
- Ensure that a backup of the accounting system is being stored at least daily and being kept on the server.

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 8

Summary:

Part of the continuous process associated with bringing policies up to date are the behind-the-scenes details that turn these policies into practice. The Town’s ordinances and internal control policies required updating in order to more accurately reflect the Town’s council-manager form of government, best practices following segregation of duties, and ultimately to more efficiently and accountably rely on the professionally trained experience of its staff. With the adequate internal controls and checks and balances set forth in the Internal Controls Policy, this change is one step closer to completing the process to ensure efficiency.

Attachment:

- *Resolution 2021-16*

Action Requested:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-16 enacting the updated Town Check Signatures.

Check Signatures

Motion Made By:	
Jim Costantino	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kim Cress	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Linker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Shelton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second By:	
Jim Costantino	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kim Cress	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Linker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Shelton	<input type="checkbox"/>
For:	
Jim Costantino	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kim Cress	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Linker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Shelton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Against:	
Jim Costantino	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kim Cress	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Linker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Shelton	<input type="checkbox"/>
In case of tie:	
Mayor Brittany Barnhardt	
For	<input type="checkbox"/>
Against	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOLUTION 2021-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY, NORTH CAROLINA, ENACTING UPDATED TOWN CHECK SIGNATURES

WHEREAS, the Town of Granite Quarry has established a bank account and investment accounts authorized by G.S. 159-31 and 20 NCAC 7; and

WHEREAS, the Town's ordinances and internal control policies required updating in order to more accurately reflect the Town's council-manager form of government, best practices following segregation of duties, and ultimately to more efficiently and accountably rely on the professionally trained experience of its staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen feels this will be achieved by updating the parties responsible for signing of the checks; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 159-25(b) requires that all checks for disbursement shall have two signatures; and

WHEREAS, all checks for disbursement of Town funds shall bear the signature of the Finance Officer and Town Manager, or one of the below listed persons in either's absence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Granite Quarry the following named persons, whose signatures are shown below, are approved for the signing of checks from the General Fund account, Grant Project Funds, and Capital Project Funds, as well as making changes to investment accounts held at F & M Bank for the Town of Granite Quarry effective immediately:

Shelly Shockley, Finance Officer
Larry Smith, Town Manager
Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor
Aubrey Smith, Town Clerk

RESOLVED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE UPON ADOPTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY, NORTH CAROLINA, ON THIS THE ____ DAY OF ____ 2022.

Brittany H. Barnhardt Mayor

ATTEST:

Aubrey Smith, Town Clerk

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 9

Parks and Recreation Plan

Summary:

The final Master Plan draft is attached. Jon Wood, PLA (Professional Landscape Architect) and Senior Project Manager for the Town’s consulting firm on the plan, Benesch, will be present to go over the plan and answer any questions the Board may have.

If you have any specific questions beforehand, please email them to the Clerk or Manager and they will relay them on to Mr. Wood so he can prepare anything additional that might be needed.

Attachments:

- Granite Quarry Parks Master Plan

Action Requested:

Staff requests that the Board review the Plan and send questions to the Town Clerk before the Plan is presented for adoption at the March meeting.

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
- Against

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022

Town of Granite Quarry, North Carolina



February 2022

DRAFT



DRAFT

Alfred Benesch & Company

704.521.9880



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Benesch would like to acknowledge those individuals that have provided input to assist in the data collection and development of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Granite Quarry.

Board of Aldermen

Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor
John Linker, Mayor Pro-Tem
Jim Costantino, Alderman
Kim Cress, Alderman
Doug Shelton, Alderman

Town Staff

Larry Smith, Town Manager
Jason Hord, Public Works Director/Fire Chief

Citizens of Granite Quarry

Planning Consultant

Alfred Benesch & Company
2359 Perimeter Pointe Parkway, Suite 350
Charlotte, NC 28208

ETC Institute
(Community Survey/Recreation Needs Assessment)
725 W. Frontier Circle
Olathe KS 66061

DRAFT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... EX-1

SECTION ONE 1
Department Overview/Inventory

SECTION TWO..... 12
The History and the People of Granite Quarry

SECTION THREE 24
Recreation Standards and Needs Assessment

SECTION FOUR..... 36
Proposals and Recommendations

SECTION FIVE 48
Action Plan Implementation

Appendices

Appendix A: Community Workshop Summary

Appendix B: Community Survey Results

Appendix C: Park Classifications

Appendix D: PRAC Example Work Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community leaders in Granite Quarry continue to recognize the importance of parks and recreation facilities in the quality of life in the community and have historically invested in parks.

Currently, there are just over 18.34 acres of municipal park land serving Granite Quarry residents. Based on a service population of around 3,300 people, there is a general need for additional parkland to expand recreation offerings and facilities throughout the community. In addition, there are deficiencies in some recreational facilities; the town's existing park(s) need updating and/or expansion. Finally, there is a need, and community desire, to expand walking trails and greenway connectivity throughout the community beyond the designation of 0.7 miles of Carolina Thread Trail.

At the present time, the Town maintains and manages three (3) parks: Centennial Park, Granite Civic Park and Granite Lake Park.

The purpose of this master plan is to establish a vision for the Town's parks and recreation offerings, work with citizens to assess recreational needs for the town and provide recommendations on park and recreation facility needs based on the assessment.

The most important aspect of this planning study is identifying the public's desire for park and recreational facilities. The public was offered the opportunity to participate in the planning effort through:

- A community workshop to discuss recreational needs and satisfaction
- Discussions with town staff
- Participation in a community-wide interest and opinion survey on parks and recreation

From the community survey, we learned the following from (131) residents of Granite Quarry: Top takeaways from the survey include:

- Granite Lake Park was used most by a significant percentage of residents during the past year.
- Two-Thirds of residents would be willing to pay an additional amount to fund the development of new parks, facilities, and programming.
- Developing additional trails that provide connectivity between parks in the community, improving existing playgrounds, and developing a splash pad are most important to residents.
- Residents are most supportive of the Town using American Rescue Plan funds to fund improved maintenance and surfacing of main trails and provide more sidewalks and bicycle lanes throughout the town.

Based on residents' needs, unmet needs, and feeling of importance the list below show the facilities and amenities with Priority Investment Ratings that are considered "High Priority" for investment.

Parks and Recreation Facility/Amenity	Rating
Walking, Biking & Nature Trails	200.0
Park Restrooms	153.2
Picnic Shelters	114.8
Fitness/Cross Fit Equipment	114.0
Playgrounds & Equipment	105.1

GRANITE QUARRY PARKS & RECREATION

Based on input from the community through the community interest and opinion survey, and discussions with Citizens of Granite Quarry at the community open house, and Town staff, the following goals and objectives have been created that formulate the foundations of this Parks and Recreation Master plan for the town of Granite Quarry:

Facilities & Programming

- A. Seek new park & recreation facility opportunities within the Town of Granite Quarry
 - Expand/extend Centennial Park southeast across Bank & E. Lyerly Streets to US 52
 - Seek location for development of a community splash pad
 - Provide outdoor fitness opportunities in the parks or along greenways
 - Master plan quarry property for a passive/nature-based recreation destination
 - Expand picnic shelter offerings in all parks to provide more family & social gathering spaces
 - Upgrade existing playgrounds to provide more inclusivity through equipment and surfacing
- B. Trail connectivity - destinations / regional greenways & trail systems
 - In partnership with Rowan County and the City of Salisbury, seek land/corridors to develop greenway connectivity
 - Provide better connectivity between Town parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, and downtown businesses
 - Seek land for development of additional trailheads with parking for the Carolina Thread Trail
 - Improve greenway/trail surfacing throughout the Town
 - Add more sidewalks & bicycle lanes
- C. Make sure all parks & facilities are accessible
 - Conduct ADA assessment at each park/facility
 - All facilities within each park shall be accessible to each other & parking
 - All facilities shall be accessible
 - All facilities should be connected to adjacent neighborhoods, schools, downtown businesses, sidewalk systems, where possible
- D. Create programming for each town of Granite Quarry park & recreation facility
 - Provide educational, healthy & active programs & opportunities for all ages & abilities, especially fitness and exercise facilities
 - Offer excellent opportunities throughout the town of Granite Quarry for all to use.
 - Seek new opportunities such as a splash pad, fitness stations/clusters or other new recreation trends
 - Expand programming beyond adult and small children to include teen youth
 - Provide venues for Senior Olympics events
 - Consider more programming for special events/outdoor concerts/family festivals

Operations

- A. Strive to provide funding to maintain or exceed minimum level of service standards & create a sustainable economic base for Parks & Recreation in the Town of Granite Quarry
 - Maintain quality park management, operations & maintenance throughout; make the parks “crown jewels” for the Town
 - Each town resident should live within a 10-minute walk or drive to a greenspace, trail, park, amenity; create a sense of place

- Create vision, goals, and responsibilities for establishment of a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board/ Friends of the Parks organization
- B. Seek & develop partnerships with other recreation providers
- Hold quarterly meetings, at a minimum with other municipal park & recreation departments (Salisbury, Spencer, Kannapolis, Rowan County, etc.) and public schools
 - Seek funding/programming partnerships with area stakeholders
- C. Increase community outreach / parks & recreation marketing
- Provide better wayfinding between all park and recreation facilities
 - Offer a facility and programming guide for residents
 - Display QR codes in the parks and along the greenways to direct users to Town’s website for park information, greenway maps, upcoming events, etc.
 - Ensure the park & recreation master plan is coordinated with other municipal plans, ordinances & policies, especially bicycle & pedestrian plan
 - Hold regular community conversations to check in with Town residents on the level of service provided by the Town of Granite Quarry

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

A park system is typically comprised of eight park types. These park types include:

Mini Parks

Civic Parks

Neighborhood Parks

Community Parks

District Parks

Regional Parks

Greenways

Unique/Special Use Facilities

Each of these park types provide recreation opportunities that are needed by residents. A variety of public and private agencies often play a role in providing a well-rounded compliment of park and recreation facilities.

The Town of Granite Quarry holds responsibility for providing approximately half of these park types that make up this system.

The Rowan County Parks and Recreation Department is also a provider of parks and recreation programs to Granite Quarry residents. Wherever possible, the Town and County should work collaboratively to improve park and recreation opportunities. Additionally, the Town could partner with the City of Salisbury on park facilities and programming.

Regional Parks

Regional Parks are typically large, passive oriented parks that highlight, utilize, and protect a unique feature. These parks, as the name implies, serve people from across a region; therefore, most people have to travel to enjoy these park types. Regional Parks are typically offered by national, state, or county agencies. Occasionally, municipalities with populations of 100,000 or more may provide a Regional Park.

Granite Quarry is very fortunate to be proximate to one State Park located to the southeast of Granite Quarry. This outstanding park (Morrow Mountain State Park) provides a wide variety of nature based recreational activities. The facilities at Morrow Mountain provide valuable recreation opportunities for Granite Quarry and Rowan County residents and attracts visitors from across the region.

This excellent State Park meets the needs of a Regional Park for the citizens of Granite Quarry and allows the Town to focus on the development of other park types.

District Parks

District Parks are another large park type often provided by county agencies or larger municipalities. These parks are typically in the 100 – 200-acre range and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

The closest District Park to Granite Quarry is the Dan Nicholas Park, a Rowan County park, just east of the town. The park's close proximity to Granite Quarry meets the needs for a District Park for the Town.

Community Parks

Community Parks are an important component in most municipal park systems. These parks are usually large enough (25-75 acres) to provide both valuable active recreation opportunities and preservation of undeveloped open space and passive recreation areas.

Granite Civic Park and Centennial Park. The sizes for all three parks fit the size of Neighborhood Parks, but their offerings and the population it serves places them as Community Parks. Park master planning should occur for each park to address expansion opportunities, accessible circulation, and opportunities for new and updated facilities, at a minimum.

The Town has a great opportunity to further expand on community recreation offerings with the recent acquisition and annexation of the former quarry properties off Balfour Quarry Road. The character of the quarry lake and surrounding land lend them to passive recreation activities.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks play an important role in providing both active and passive recreation in most municipal park systems. These parks, usually in the 7-15 acre range, are large enough to include both active and passive recreation opportunities. Most Community Parks also serve as Neighborhood Parks to those citizens living within a mile radius such as do the three Granite Quarry Parks.

Currently, Granite Quarry does not have a smaller neighborhood park. Since Neighborhood Parks typically serve as the primary building block of most municipal park systems, there is a need for at least two (2) Neighborhood Parks in the northern and southern part of the Town.

In the future, the Town should seek land and develop a site-specific master plan for a new Neighborhood Park.

Mini Parks

Mini Parks are the smallest park type and typically include a playground, shelter and possibly a play court. The small pocket park located in Village at Granite meets the criteria for a mini park but is not operated by the Town. There are currently no parks that could fit into the Mini Park classification.

In the future, the Town may encourage private developers to construct small amenity areas (playgrounds, shelters, etc.) when building single family residential and/or mixed-use developments.

Civic Parks

Civic Parks are community spaces that often provide a sense of place for a town or city. The size and form of Civic Parks may vary considerably. Likewise, how the spaces are used and programmed varies. Civic Parks may include urban plazas, community green spaces and lawns, memorials, etc.

Granite Lake Park is the closest type of facility that could also be classified as a Civic Park given its passive environment and open greenspace. There may be other opportunities for the development of civic parks as part of downtown or streetscape improvements.

Greenways

The most popular form of outdoor recreation in the nation is walking. This popularity was reflected in the survey that was conducted as part of this planning study and in comments made during the public workshops. Greenways are typically off-road trails that meander through neighborhoods and natural areas providing transportation corridors and recreational opportunities for walkers, joggers, roller bladders, and cyclists. The trail surface can either be natural or paved. Paved trails are normally eight to ten feet in width. Natural surface trail widths can vary based on conditions. In addition to providing environmental protection and recreation opportunities, greenways and bike trails can produce economic development.

The Town was included in the 2014 Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Rowan County Communities which recommended the development of a multi-use path extending south from Salisbury along S. Salisbury Avenue (US 52) through Granite Lake and Centennial Parks, along Bank Street to Granite Civic Park, extending west along Peeler Street/Byrd Road, the south along Faith Road. As noted in the Inventory section, there are now designated Carolina Thread Trail segments at all three parks and sidewalk has been extended along Peeler Street from Civic Park to just west of Garland Drive.

Further extension of this greenway system should be a focus not only in procurement of land and/or easements, but design and implementation of trail to connect to more neighborhoods and destinations. Most residents, who took the survey, desire for more natural surface trails and off-road greenways.

A Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is currently underway for the Town with completion scheduled for early 2022 which will identify a series of pedestrian/bicycle connectivity types around the community including intersection improvements, sidewalks, shared use paths, pedestrian lanes, advisory shoulders, paved shoulders, festival streets and shared lane markings. Through these various applications, the plan will recommend facilities to connect both sides of US 52 to Downtown and the Town's Parks.

Recommendations from these valuable studies should be used to guide implementation of a community-wide greenway system. Greenways should be developed in conjunction with other park and recreation providers in the area to ensure they are coordinated with other planning efforts and that there is continuity between plans.

SITE SPECIFIC PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

There is a need to improve and expand at all the Town's existing parks and facilities. Recommended projects which should be considered include:

Centennial Park

- A. Master plan Centennial Park for facility expansion, improvements, and better accessibility and connectivity
- Consider transitioning pathways to paved surfacing for easier maintenance, less erosion of trail.
 - Replace bridge crossings with engineering structures and abutments; add at least one additional crossing
 - Replace gazebo with larger shelter and tables
 - Provide paved picnic pads along pathways with a table and trash receptacle at each pad
 - Extend an access point to the northeast corner of the park connecting to E. Bank St

Granite Civic Park

- B. Master plan Civic Park for facility expansion, drainage improvements, and better accessibility and connectivity
- Resurface tennis courts; restripe two courts for tennis and one on the southwest end for pickleball, add pickleball height netting
 - Upgrade tennis court and ballfield lighting, transition to LED w/cutoffs
 - Consider removal of volleyball court; convert space to an outdoor fitness cluster
 - Consider removal of basketball courts; replace with two half-court basketball and expansion of one additional pickleball court
 - Provide better accessible routes and connectivity within park and to American Legion Building and parking; all pathways should be paved
 - Consider widening the CTT designated route to 8 feet
 - Upgrade play equipment and play areas; provide inclusive equipment, surfacing as one amenity
 - Consider adding a third shelter in support of the facilities at the south end of the park
 - When it becomes available, Town should pursue acquisition of 214 W. Peeler Street for expansion of court activities and better visibility into the park
 - Consider adding 1-2 smaller shelters, especially near the playground

Granite Lake Park

- C. Master plan Lake Park for facility expansion, improvements
- Upgrade play equipment and expand play area; provide inclusive equipment and surfacing with a paved accessible route from the walkways
 - Study north end of park for expansion opportunities such as a splash pad, dog park, additional shelters
 - Add walking path connection at south end to US 52 sidewalk
 - Consider using sewer easement from Brown St as an additional trail/park access point from Downtown

General

- Consider replacing all metal pedestrian light poles with concrete for better long-term maintenance

- Consider standardizing all park furnishings to match those at Granite Lake Park
- Coordinate bicycle/pedestrian planning efforts with this plan especially for opportunities to create more greenway, bicycle, and pedestrian connectivity between the parks

PLANNING & LAND ACQUISITION FOR FUTURE PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

There are opportunities to expand the Town’s existing parks and recreation offerings. Recommended opportunities which should be considered include:

Faith Road Property

- Master plan property for consideration as a Neighborhood Park

Balfour Quarry Road Properties

- Master plan Mar Rock Road property (6 AC) for consideration as a passive park and or special use water-based recreation facility; include the 3 AC property across Balfour Quarry Road
- Consider acquiring the abandoned quarry property (approx. 25 AC) at 510 Balfour Quarry Road for consideration as a passive park and or special use water-based recreation facility
- Consider a partnership with City of Salisbury or easements/acquisition of portions of the Hill St. properties north of the Mar Rock Road property for additional expansion and connection to Town property at 235 Hill St.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A Capital Improvement Plan for the acquisition, renovation, and development of parks and greenways for the 10-year period of this master plan was prepared with input from Town staff and public involvement. All the proposed costs are shown in current dollar values. The capital improvement costs include funds for land acquisition, site preparation, site utilities, and facility development as well as estimated planning and design fees.

The Capital Improvement Plan can be summarized into the following components:

Existing Parks Renovations/Improvements	\$1,344,000
Land Acquisition	\$ 600,000
New Park Facility Development	\$ 896,000
Greenway Development	\$ 974,400
Special Use Facilities	\$ 459,200
Site Specific Park Master Planning	\$ 95,000
Total Capital Improvement Budget	\$4,368,600

RECOMMENDED TEN-YEAR PRIORITY PROJECTS

Recognizing that this is a vision plan for a community-wide park system, Town staff and elected officials must prioritize the recommendations in this document based on the public's input and staff review. The following park development initiatives should be considered as a focus over the next ten years:

- Master plan Granite Lake Park with a focus on park upgrades and expansion
- Master plan Granite Civic Park with a focus on park upgrades and expansion
- Master plan Centennial Park with a focus on park upgrades and expansion
- Master plan the Quarry property(ies) with a focus on passive recreation
- Master plan Faith Road property for multi-use recreation opportunities, neighborhood park
- Construction of two miles of greenway; seek grant opportunities, partnership(s) with Rowan County and adjacent municipalities
- Seek locations for at least two neighborhood parks in the northern and southern ends of the Town
- Seek a location for a splash pad
- Seek a location for a dog park
- Establish a Parks Recreation Advisory Committee/Friends of the Parks; develop a work plan
- Seek partnerships with area businesses that focus on health and wellness to expand programming within the parks

MASTER PLAN FUNDING STRATEGY

This Master Plan identifies a Vision Plan for park and recreation development and services in Granite Quarry. It is understood that not all the recommendations will be acted upon over the next decade. The Town and elected officials will ultimately have to prioritize the steps they will take to meet some of these park and recreation needs.

To assist with the prioritization, the following items should be considered by both Town Staff and the elected officials:

- Clearly delineate capital expenses vs. operational expenses
- Identify any additional staff requirements as a result of proposed projects
- Identify and evaluate areas of future development
- Prepare potential risk assessments associated with all elements
- Prepare proforma and cost benefit analysis demonstrating each project's value to Granite Quarry
- Revenue sources must be identified and verified - Projected tax base growth, Land sales, User fees, Partnerships, Sponsors, Grants, General Funds, Bond Referenda, etc.
- Project timelines for each project and tasks involved
- Identify the degree of difficulty involved for each project
- Indicate the apparent "ripeness" of each project
- Demonstrate the Public's interest (as expressed in our surveys) for each project/element

It will require a combination of revenue sources to accomplish the recommendations of the Master Plan.

Recognizing the significance of this capital improvements plan to the Department's budget, Section Five reviews key funding/revenue sources that can be used to assist in financing some of the capital improvements.

The following comprehensive master plan document identifies current and future park and recreation facility needs and offers recommendations for meeting those needs. Like any planning document, this report is intended as a general guide to elected officials and department staff. It is anticipated that this document will be tweaked and changed to meet community needs/circumstances. Likewise, acceptance of this document by elected officials does not imply an approval of funding for any improvements. Instead, acceptance of this plan simply acknowledges the report and the hope that recommendations from this report will be used in incremental decisions regarding parks and recreation in the future.

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SECTION ONE

PARKS & RECREATION OVERVIEW/INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The first step in the master planning process is to inventory and assess the existing parks and recreation facilities currently serving Town of Granite Quarry residents. With the current demand on Town resources, it is extremely important to identify and utilize existing facilities to their fullest potential. This section identifies all existing parks and recreation facilities found within the town of Granite Quarry.

The Town of Granite Quarry (through the Public Works Department) operates three Community Parks: Centennial Park, Granite Civic Park, and Granite Lake Park. In addition, the Town has two Carolina Thread Trail designated segments including the Granite Civic Park Trail (0.3 miles) that encircles the park and Granite Lake Trail (0.4 miles) that connects Granite Lake Park to Centennial Park

Area parks include Dan Nicholas Park, a Rowan County facility, located about 10 minutes east of Downtown Granite Quarry, Dunn’s Mountain Park, another Rowan County facility, also located to the east of Downtown about 5 minutes away, Rockwell Park about 10 minutes to the southeast, and a small neighborhood park in the Village at Granite located just west of Downtown Granite Quarry. The City of Salisbury to the northwest offers several community and neighborhood parks and greenways.

This section identifies the existing parks and recreation facilities currently serving the citizens of Granite Quarry including a list of recommended issues and opportunities for each park.



TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY PARKS & RECREATION OFFERINGS

Parks and Recreation Facilities

At the present time, the Town of Granite Quarry does not have a Parks & Recreation Department. The Town’s Public Works Department maintains and manages the three (3) parks noted above: Centennial Park, Granite Civic Park and Granite Lake Park.



Events/Programs

The Town of Granite Quarry provides a variety of community events throughout the year. The following community events have been held in the past or are scheduled:

Community Events

Granite Civic Park:

Easter Egg Hunt – March/April

Granite Fest - October

Granite Lake Park:

Fish for Fun - April

Arts in the Park - May

Santa in the Park – December

Halloween Celebration – October 31st

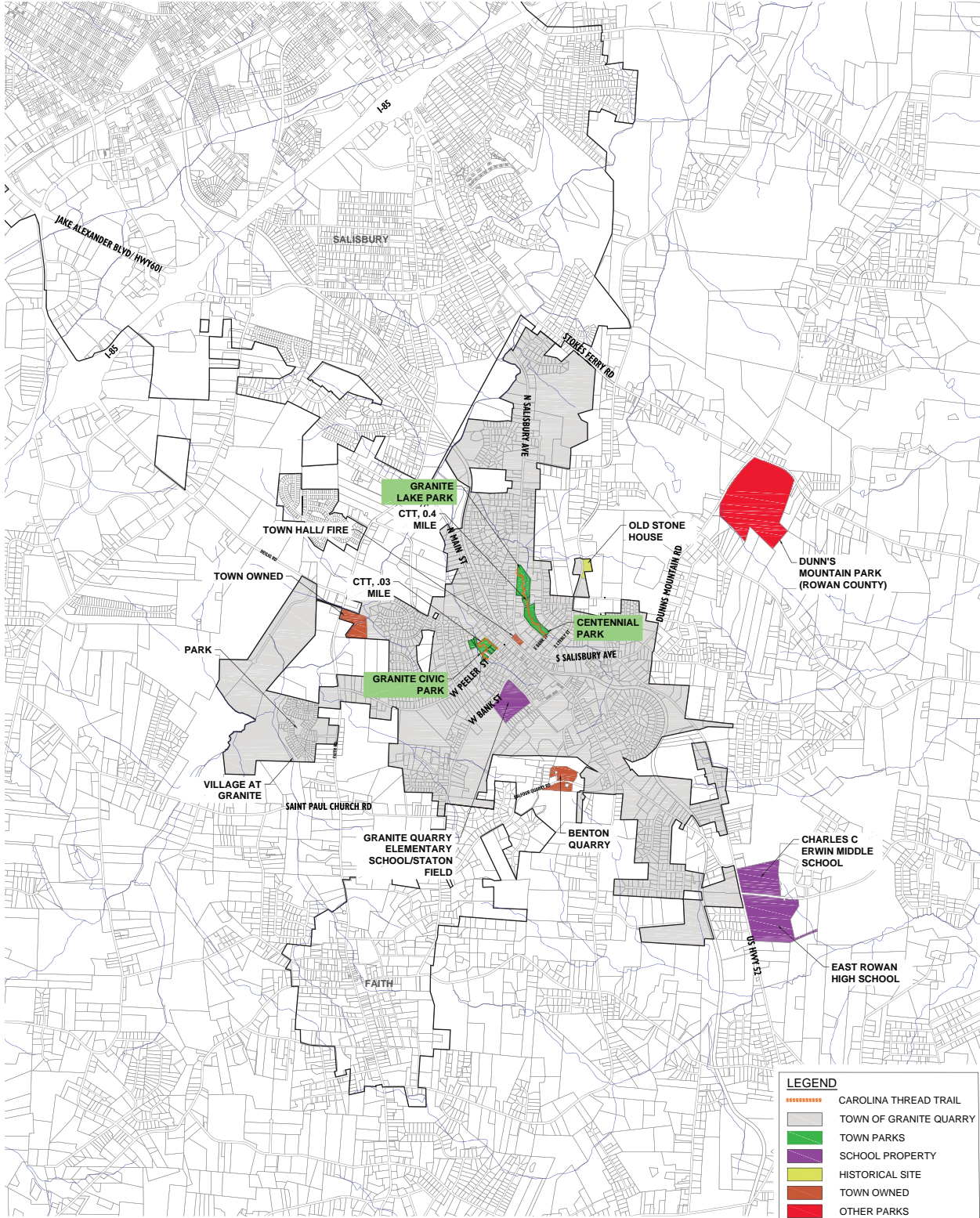
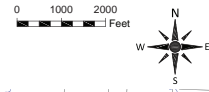
Christmas Tree Lighting – First week of December



Town of Granite Quarry Inventory of Existing Facilities

Type	Name	Acreage	Adult Baseball Fields	Youth Baseball Fields	Men's Softball Fields	Women's Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Multi-purpose Fields	Basketball Courts (Outdoors)	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts (Sand)	Shuffleboard Courts	Horseshoe Pits	Swing Areas	Playgrounds	Picnic Shelters	Gazebo	Trail/Greenway (Miles)	Mountain Bike Trail (Miles)	Picnic Areas (No Shelter)	Picnic Tables	Gills	Dog Park	Skate Park	Grass Area/Open Space	Gardens/Passive Areas	Amphitheater	Fitness Equipment	Fishing Piers	Pickle Ball	Parking Spaces	Restrooms	
Mini-Parks																																		
	Neighborhood Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Community Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Centennial Park	6.84																1	3	2	1	3	2									11		
	Granite Civic Park	4.79		1						2	3	1			2	1	2		0.3	1	1	11	5							2	36	1		
	Granite Lake Park	6.71													1	1	1	1	0.4	1	8	2	2						2	55	1			
	District Parks	18.34	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	2	3	2	0.7	0	3	22	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	102	2	
	Greenways	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Carolina Thread Trail*																																	
	Special Use Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Undeveloped Park Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	18.34	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	2	3	2	0.7	0	3	22	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	102	2	

*The two trail segments noted in the chart are designated as Carolina Thread Trail





DESCRIPTION

Centennial Park is a 6.84-acre Community Park which almost serves as an extension of Granite Lake Park. It is currently home to walking trails, educational kiosks, and some picnicking.

Centennial Park is a heavily used park and is also used as an access to Granite Lake Park with the walking trails on both sides of the stream bed with minimal crossing points.

Current challenges and issues:

- Lack of ADA surfacing, gradient & access throughout park
- Parking is limited with ADA accessibility that is not proximate.
- Erosion is a continuing issue with the soft surface trails being located within a stream bed.

Current amenities located within the park:

- Walking trails (unpaved)
- Picnic areas (tables only)
- Educational signage
- Benches along trails
- Gazebo
- Connection to Granite Lake Park

Opportunities:

- More stream crossings
- Pedestrian Connectivity to the Neighborhood
- Consider extension of park and trails across Bank & Lyerly Streets to US 52
- Add picnic shelter(s)
- Pave trails





DESCRIPTION

Granite Civic Park is a 4.79-acre Community Park which serves as a local active recreation destination for the town. A segment of Carolina Thread Trail runs along North Oak Street and through the park and connects back around to W Peeler St.

Granite Civic Park is a well-used active community park with a variety of amenities including a large playground area.

Current challenges and issues:

- Baseball/softball field drainage issues
- Pedestrian circulation restrictions
- Lack of ADA accessible sidewalk to shelter
- Inclusive play components

Current amenities located within the park:

- 3 Tennis courts (lighted) w/pickle ball striping on 2 courts
- 2 Basketball courts (goals removed on one court)
- Baseball/Softball field (lighted) with bleachers
- Playground equipment
- Sand volleyball court
- Large shelter with restrooms, concessions, picnic tables, beverage machine, and grill
- Small shelter w/tables
- American Legion building

Opportunities:

- Drainage improvements and ADA accessibility within park
- Opportunities for playground improvements (Inclusive Play), etc.
- Replace volleyball court with new recreation amenity
- Better Connection w/American Legion building
- Update courts & field lighting to LED





DESCRIPTION

Granite Lake Park is a 6.71-acre Community Park which serves as a favorite destination for the Town and County. It is the most visited park in the Town. The park’s main draw is the lake that is centrally located. The Park is home to a large shelter with 6 picnic tables, restrooms, and grill.

A segment of Carolina Thread Trail connects Granite Lake Park to Centennial Park (0.4 miles). The Town has recently re-stabilized & repaired the banks of the lake as well as site retaining walls as a result of recent hurricane/flooding damage.

Current challenges and issues for Granite Lake Park:

- Light pole bases rusting away
- Both piers in need of repair

Current amenities located within the park:

- Large shelter w/ 6 picnic tables & restrooms
- Playground
- Gazebo (Blanche & Hubert Ritchie Foundation)
- Lake with 2 observation piers
- Walking Loop (paved) around fenced lake
- Picnic grove areas
- Trailhead for Carolina Thread Trail

Opportunities for improvements:

- ADA accessibility improvements
- Opportunities for playground improvements (Inclusive Play), etc.
- Pedestrian Connectivity to the Neighborhoods
- Replace wooden piers w/ recycled decking
- Consider composite material light poles around lake; install timers/sensors
- Redevelop north end of park where old picnic grills exist with new recreation amenity





DESCRIPTION

This tract of land is 10.1-acres with about 50% woodland. Most recently, this property was leased for use as a mountain bike facility.

Crane Creek runs through the rear of the property and flooding is a common occurrence. Approximately 70% of the site is in floodplain.

Current challenges and issues:

- Creek flooding
- Safe traversal over Crane Creek (Rear of property)
- Need to study soils

Opportunities:

- Potential for development as a neighborhood park
- Faith Rd end of site relatively flat, suitable for parking, playground, shelter, sport court, walking loop
- Eastern end suitable for trail development with need for boardwalks
- Potential for development of a disc golf course





DESCRIPTION

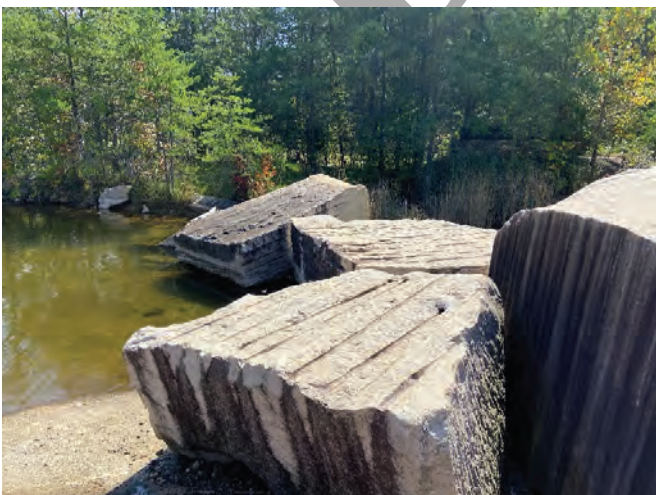
This tract of land is 5.92-acres and the site of a former quarry. The Town is currently using the site as a storage area for storm debris and mulch. The primary site feature is the water filled quarry surrounded to the north and west by remnants of the quarry stone. The western end is relatively flat and open

Current challenges and issues:

- Steep topography on the north and east sides of the quarry
- Safe re-use of the water-filled quarry as a recreation component/amenity
- Need to study soils, depth to rock for any proposed development
- Need to study safe egress/ingress from Mar Rock to Balfour Quarry Rd

Opportunities:

- Potential for water-based passive recreation development as a special use facility
- Western end of the site flat, suitable for parking, playground, shelters, walking loop
- Opportunities for trail and picnicking development
- Could be combined with 3 acres of Town owned land across Balfour Quarry Rd; need to determine connectivity across Balfour Quarry Rd
- Potential partnership with City of Salisbury for land use north of property, connectivity to Hill St and other Town owned property (water tower)
- Re-use of existing storage building for restrooms, enclosed rentable structure, equipment storage



OTHER AREA FACILITIES

Rowan County Parks and Recreation

Dan Nicholas Park – 6800 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury

Size: 200 AC+ (including 10 AC Lake)

Offerings: Barnyard
Camping – 6 cabins/78 campsites
Carousel
Fishing Piers
Horseshoes
Gem Mine
Mini Golf (2) 18-hole courses
Nature Center
Paddle Boats
Pickleball Courts (6)
Restrooms
Scout Areas
Shelters (18)
Splash Pad
Sports Fields (Multi-Purpose)
Tennis Courts (2)
Trails
Train Station
Volleyball (4)
Wildlife Adventures

Comments: Park is open Daily. Times vary depending on month and staff availability.

Dunn's Mountain Park – 1740 Dunn's Mountain Road, Salisbury

Size: 82 AC

Offerings: Picnic Areas/Shelters
Trails
Blacksmith Shed
Restrooms

Comments: Park is open most weekends during the year. Park is closed last two weekends in December and first weekend in January.

Town of Rockwell

Rockwell Park – 150 Rockwell Park Drive, Rockwell NC

Size: 13.25 AC

Offerings: Picnic Shelters (5)
Open Picnic Shelters/Grills
Horseshoe Pits

Walking/Jogging Trail
Playground
Basketball Court
Volleyball Court
Softball Field
Fitness Equipment

Comments: Park is open daily

Village at Granite

Neighborhood Park – Waterstone Drive, Granite Quarry, NC

Size: less than 1 AC

Offerings: Play Equipment, Swings
Picnic Shelter

DRAFT

SECTION TWO - THE HISTORY AND PEOPLE OF GRANITE QUARRY

An important step in understanding the park and recreational needs for the Town of Granite Quarry is to develop an understanding of the context and the people that make up the community. This section includes an overview of the Town's history, population and demographics and looks at changes that are occurring throughout the community.

In addition to reviewing the Town's current and projected growth and demographic changes, the Needs Assessment included community engagement initiatives to gather information on public demand/expectations for current and future parks and recreation facilities. These initiatives included:

- Community-Wide Survey
- Community Workshop
- Staff Input

Through these efforts, considerable insight was gained regarding the public's desire for parks and recreation programs and facilities. This section discusses the information gathered in preparation of this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Granite Quarry.

Town History and Context

Centrally located in Rowan County, Granite Quarry is located between the City of Salisbury and the Town of Rockwell along US 52. The Town currently has an estimated population of 3,044 (2021). Granite Quarry has started to see some additional residential growth coming from Salisbury.

A brief history of Granite Quarry is summarized at the front of the Towns' Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted in January 2020:

“The recorded history of the Granite Quarry area dates back over two centuries. In 1766 the German family of Michael Braun migrated from Pennsylvania into North Carolina and constructed what is now known as the Old Stone House. This house is the oldest German dwelling in North Carolina and the oldest house in the western part of the state. It was built of local granite and laid in cement. The old house has been remodeled into a museum and is a well-known attraction to Rowan County residents.

Many Pennsylvania people, with German background, migrated into eastern Rowan during the 19th century. Most of the local people were able to speak both German and English. In fact, until the latter 19th century, German was the language most frequently spoken in conversation among these people.

The growth of a community began during the 1890's. In 1891 the county postmaster, who was a resident in the area, named the community Woodsides, the name of the first family to live there. During August of 1891 a merchant, W. S. Brown, bought a piece of land opposite the county postmaster. Mr. Brown saw a bright future in the local quarrying business, so he opened a general store on his property. A few years later, a second merchant built a store next to Brown's general store. The hopes for developing the community into a town were becoming a reality.

Woodsides officially became a town when it was incorporated by an act of the state legislature in July of 1901. It was soon discovered, however, that there was another North Carolina town with the name of Woodsides, so the

town aldermen petitioned the state legislature to change the name to Granite Quarry. Though the legislature did not act until 1905, the local post office became known as Granite Quarry as early as 1902.

The population of the town began increasing in 1906 with the rise of quarrying operations. A construction company began work on a dam spanning the Yadkin River in Stanley County, close to what is now Badin. The dam was being built of granite and loads of granite had to be transported all the way from Granite Quarry. For the tremendous problems of extracting the granite from the quarries, transporting it, and constructing the dam, hundreds of Italian laborers were brought into the area. These people evoked the disapproval of the town's citizens by speaking only Italian, keeping all their homeland customs, and creating local disturbances. All efforts to build the dam ended in failure. The Italian migrants left, and Granite Quarry was once again without much activity.

The construction of the state public roads during the 1920's made that decade one of the most prosperous in Granite Quarry's history.

The demand for crushed stone was such that the granite output amounted to three trainloads daily. A bank had set up operations in the town in 1909, but it was not until the prosperous years of the 1920's that business and industry began moving here. The depression of the early 1930's hit hard in Granite Quarry, and many businesses were forced to close down. The recovery during the latter 1930's made the 1940's another "boom" decade for Granite Quarry. The civic pride of local residents stimulated Granite Quarry's rapid growth during the 1950's and 1960's, and prospects are for continued growth with greater prosperity during the decades of the future."

The People of Granite Quarry

An important aspect of this planning process is understanding the people who make up the Department's Service Population. To better understand the park and recreational needs of the town of Granite Quarry, a review of demographic and income data prepared by the US Census Bureau, NC Office of Budget & Management, Data USA, and World Population Review (WPR) provides valuable information on the demographic makeup of the Town.

WPR's estimated 2021 population of 3,044 for Granite Quarry, based on projections from the 2020 US Census estimates reflects 3.89% growth from the 2010 US census that showed 2,930. Current annual growth rate is around 0.53%. Granite Quarry's population reflects an estimated age distribution as follows:

Under 5	0.05%
5-17	25.0%
18-24	0.09%
25-34	12.7%
35-54	23.3%
55-64	13.3%
Over 65	10.7%

10.7% of Granite Quarry population is 65 years or older while the State's senior population represents 16.7% of the total population. The Town's youth (persons under 17 years of age) represents around 25% of the overall population a bit lower than the State's youth population (27.7%). While the State's average household contains 2.53 persons, the average household in Rowan County is comprised of 2.57 persons and an average family size of 3.21. Currently, the rate of home ownership in Granite Quarry is around 65.5%.

Information from Data USA reflects the following demographics for the Town of Granite Quarry in comparison with Rowan County and the State of North Carolina.

2019 Population Information (Data USA)

Demographics	% - Granite Quarry	% - Rowan County	% - North Carolina
Black/African-American (Non-Hispanic)	7.49%	15.70%	21.10%
White (Non-Hispanic)	88.00%	72.00%	62.50%
White (Hispanic)	3.21%	4.65%	5.65%
Other Hispanic	N/A	3.31%	3.14%
Other (Non-Hispanic)	20.00%	N/A	N/A
Two+ (Non-Hispanic)	0.97%	2.12%	2.92%
Asian (Non-Hispanic)	N/A	N/A	2.93%
Some Other Race	0.20%	N/A	N/A
US Citizenship	99.70%	96.60%	95.10%
Home Ownership	65.50%	69.30%	65.30%
Median Age	30.4	40.2	39.1
Median Household Income	\$50,396	\$49,842	\$57,341
Median Property Value	\$167,400	\$136,400	\$193,200
Poverty Rate	12.0%	15.9%	14.7%

These demographic statistics on Granite Quarry’s population provide some valuable information to consider in determining park and recreational needs for the community. Several characteristics that could affect park and recreation facility needs include:

- It is obvious from the age demographics, that while the Town doesn’t have a very high percentage of residents that are seniors (65 and older), they were represented at the community workshop and/or participated in the community survey and expressed their passion for recreation. The Town should provide facilities and programs that meet the desires and interest of this senior population as well as the 50+ population. Likewise, facilities and programs should be aimed at aiding the senior population in living active and healthier lifestyles.
- While the senior segment of the population is important, the Department should also be sensitive to the needs of its younger citizens, recognizing that almost 25% of the population are youth (persons under 17 years of age).
- The Community’s location provides opportunities for partnerships with Rowan County and City of Salisbury agencies, other municipalities within the County and other organizations on providing parks and recreation facilities and programming.

Service Population

An important aspect of developing a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation facilities is determining the service population of the study. Ultimately, it is impossible to determine the acres of park land or the number of facility types a community needs unless you know the number of people you are planning to serve.

The Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) ParkServe database shows that 33.3% (or 1,048) of Granite Quarry residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park which is well below the national average of 55%. Based on the population TPL used in their study of 3,150, 2,102 people live outside the 10-minute walk designation. However, only 1% of Granite Quarry’s town land is used for parks and recreation, well below the national

average of 15%. TPL has assumed that the Town has two parks but has combined Granite Lake and Centennial Parks as one park.

Rowan County's Fire Districts' population estimations list Granite Quarry at 3,405 residents, however, the methodology behind these estimations is different than for the US Census. Either way, the above population variations show the population of Granite Quarry continues to grow.

This increase in population should be noted as the Town is striving to be a vibrant community and provide a wonderful quality of life indicating a future with continued positive economic activity and a reasonable expectation of future growth. Using the current annual growth rate of 0.53% yields a projected 2030 population of around 3,192 residents. However, the Town currently has at least 360 residential units in the plan approval process or under construction. With the average household number at 2.57, Granite Quarry will be adding at least 925 new residents in the near future reflecting a trend that Granite Quarry is becoming a destination for new families seeking smaller communities.

Based on the above data this plan will use an estimated 2021 population of 3,300 as the service population for this study.

As a ten-year plan, recommendations in this plan will be designed to meet the need of the Town's population in 2030. For planning purposes, it is assumed the Town will increase annually in population at a slightly faster pace than the projected population of the Town's according to the US Census. Considering the data presented above, the projected population for the Town (the projected service population) for 2030 will be established at 4,300 residents .

Community Input - Public Workshops

A community workshop was held to receive input on June 16, 2021 at Granite Lake Park (5:00 – 6:30 pm)

The workshop was held as an informal drop-in session that allowed for social distancing. Fifteen (15) citizens signed in, but it was apparent others participated in the event.

The workshop was held to gather citizen input on parks and recreation needs within Granite Quarry. After signing in, attendees were invited to review several display boards that:

- showed a current map of the Town of Granite Quarry town limits and ETJ that identified existing parks and recreation facilities, Town owned property, and schools
- offered images of recreation facilities/activities typically found in a municipal park system.
- provided information on existing recreation opportunities found in each of the town parks
- representative images of facilities/activities for which the Town could pursue funding

Following the information sharing displays, attendees were invited to share their opinions on existing parks, facilities & programs, recreational needs, and ideas for improving parks and recreation facilities in Granite Quarry.

It should be noted that while 15 people signed in as attending these public workshops, not every attendee signed in, and not every attendee answered every question. Many of those in attendance were focused on voicing opinions on one or two specific issues or facilities and did not take the time and effort to respond

to all questions. The following is a summary of the participant's responses. A full tally and listing of the responses can be found in the Appendix.

Attendees reviewed images of the park amenities that can be found in Centennial Park and asked to identify the activities which they currently use while at Centennial Park.

Walking/Biking/Nature Trails – 48%
Environmental Education – 17%
Picnic Shelters/Picnic Areas – 35%

Attendees reviewed images of the park amenities that can be found in Granite Civic Park and asked to identify the activities which they currently use while at Granite Civic Park.

Walking Trails – 18%
Outdoor Basketball – 12%
Outdoor Sand Volleyball – 0%
Playgrounds – 21%
Outdoor Fitness/Cross Fit Equipment – 12%
Picnic Shelters/Picnic Areas – 15%
Baseball/Softball Field – 9%
Outdoor Tennis Courts – 0%
Pickleball – 0%
Little Free Library Kiosk – 6%
Classroom Style Space (Legion Building) – 6%

Attendees reviewed images of the park amenities that can be found in Granite Lake Park and asked to identify the activities which they currently use while at Granite Lake Park

Walking/Biking/Nature Trails – 40%
Playgrounds – 32%
Picnic Shelters/Picnic Areas – 28%

Attendees were then asked to identify Facilities & Amenities they would like to see offered within Granite Quarry Parks.

Participants were invited to vote for up to 4. The activities most often listed as “most important” included*:

Other: Fishing Events – 40%*
Walking, Biking & Nature Trails – 30%
Splash Pad – 20%
Outdoor Basketball Courts – 10%
Baseball/Softball Fields – 10%

The activities most often listed as “important” included*:

Splash Pad – 19.4%

Park Restrooms – 12.9%
Playgrounds & Equipment – 9.7%
Amphitheater/Stage – 9.7%
Multi-purpose Fields – 9.7%
Outdoor Fitness/Cross Fit Equipment – 6.5%
Outdoor Basketball Courts – 6.5%
Picnic Shelters – 6.5%
Outdoor Games – 6.5%

*These percentages could be somewhat skewed given that the workshop was held at Granite Lake Park and may have had a different outcome had a workshop been held at Granite Civic Park.

Attendees were also asked about their support on four potential improvements/actions that the Town has been asked to provide in the past.

- Construct an outdoor amphitheater – 21% supportive
- Develop additional trails that provide connectivity between parks throughout the community – 37% supportive
- Develop a splashpad – 42% supportive
- Develop additional tennis/pickleball courts – 0% supportive

Before leaving the workshop, attendees were invited to leave comments on their park and recreational needs or anything they wanted to share as the plan is developed. These following issues/comments were shared:

- More activities for children
- More activities for older children. Many of the current facilities are geared toward younger ages
- In the summertime – day or half day camps for kids
- Crosswalk for walkers / golf carts accessing Granite Lake Park coming across Hwy 52.
- Golf cart parking!
- Connectivity of existing parks via walkways
- Food and drink stations
- Fix the basketball courts we have
- More grills and covering areas for more than one party at a time
- More space for more trails
- More activities for older kids. Such as fishing, soccer field, putting green, obstacle course (ninja warrior) and more grilling / picnic areas (covered). More community events
- Somewhere to fish, sports fields (soccer football), putting green, mtn bike trail, grilling area, connect parks, fix basketball courts and baseball fields
- Programs, activities, camps – for kids and adults. Small music events – 1-2 day events versus national acts or large concerts. I would love to see the town develop a P&R department to offer programs for children and possibly coordinate small events for the community.

Community Input - Community Survey

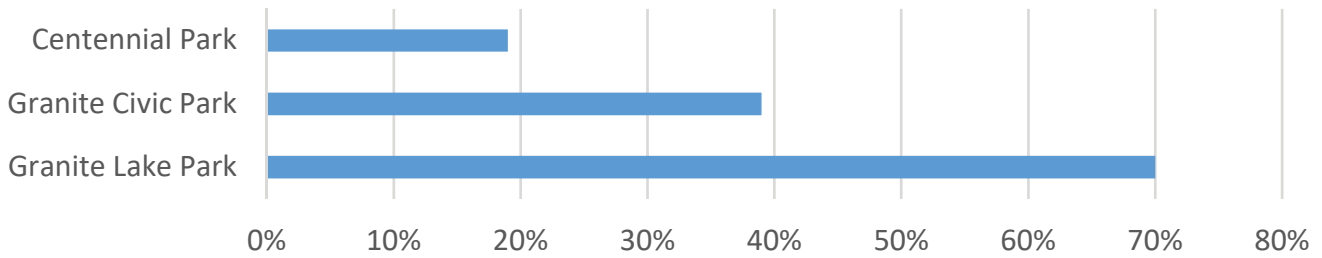
To better understand the community's perception of existing parks and recreation facilities, and to gather input of recreational needs, a three-page community survey was conducted. The survey was prepared and distributed by mail and online to a randomly selected sample of Town households. The survey took approximately 8-10 minutes to complete. The sample size goal for completed surveys was 100 which was exceeded with 131 completed surveys being returned. The full Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey can be found in the Appendix.

Top takeaways from the survey include:

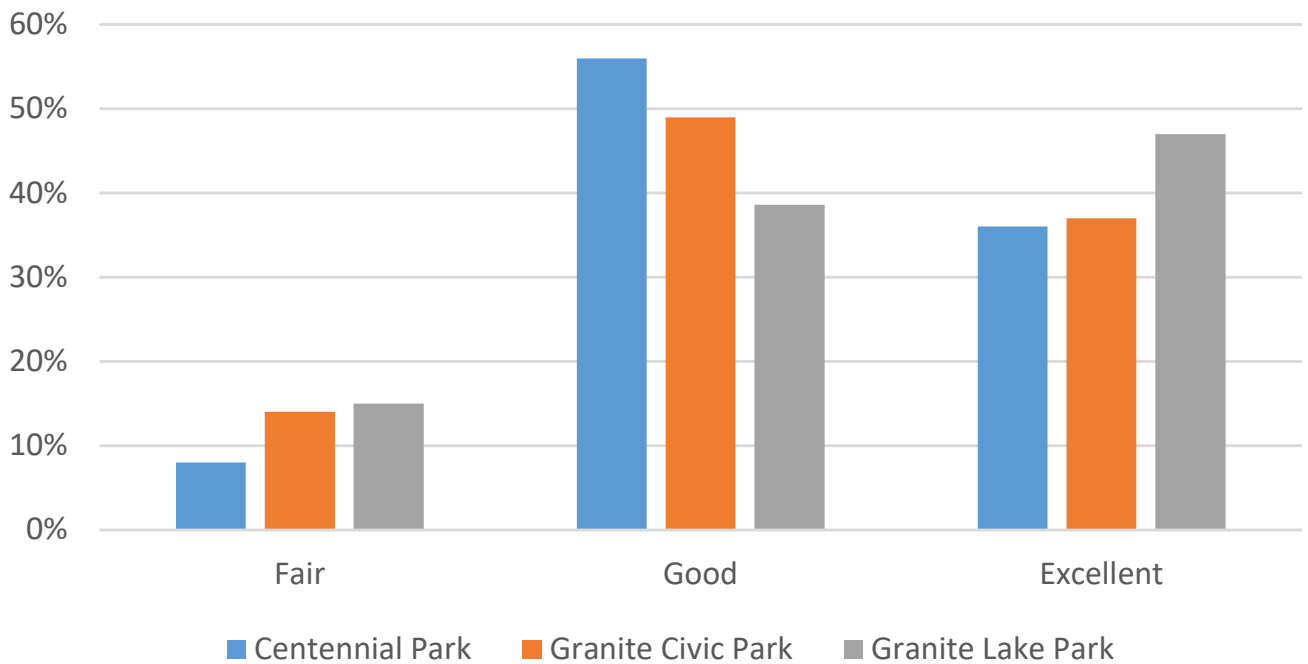
- Granite Lake Park was used most by a significant percentage of residents during the past year.
- Two-Thirds of residents would be willing to pay an additional amount to fund the development of new parks, facilities, and programming.
- Developing additional trails that provide connectivity between parks in the community, improving existing playgrounds, and developing a splash pad are most important to residents.
- Residents are most supportive of the Town using American Rescue Plan funds to fund improved maintenance and surfacing of main trails and provide more sidewalks and bicycle lanes throughout the town.
- Based on residents' needs, unmet needs, and feeling of importance the list below show the facilities and amenities with Priority Investment Ratings that are considered "High Priority" for investment.

<u>Parks and Recreation Facility/Amenity</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Walking, Biking & Nature Trails	200.0
Park Restrooms	153.2
Picnic Shelters	114.8
Fitness/Cross Fit Equipment	114.0
Playgrounds & Equipment	105.1

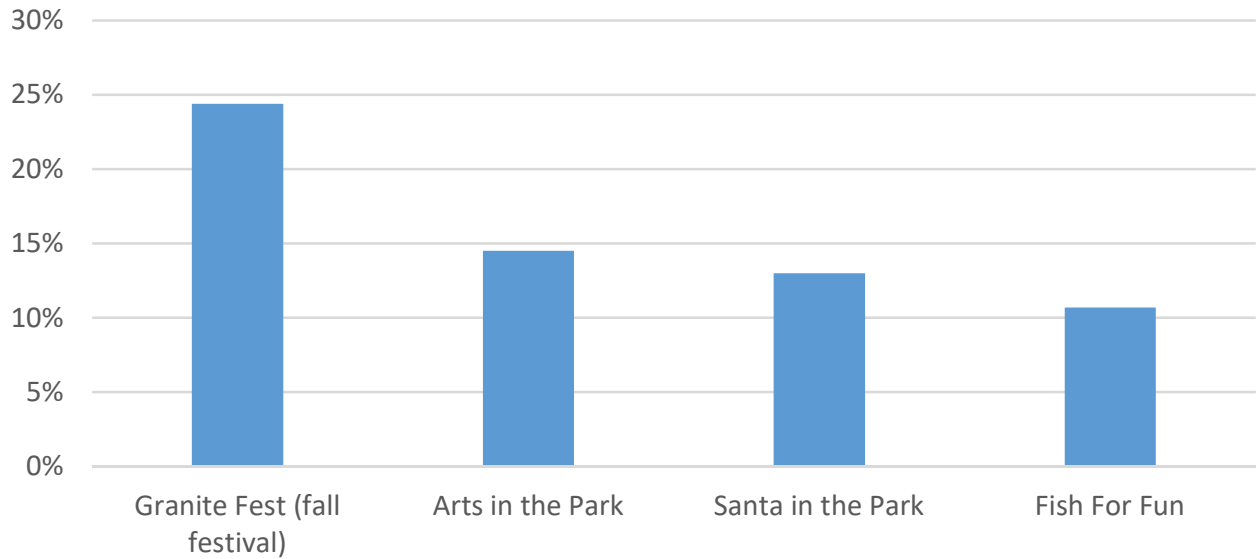
Q1. Parks/Facilities Households Have Visited During the Past 12 Months



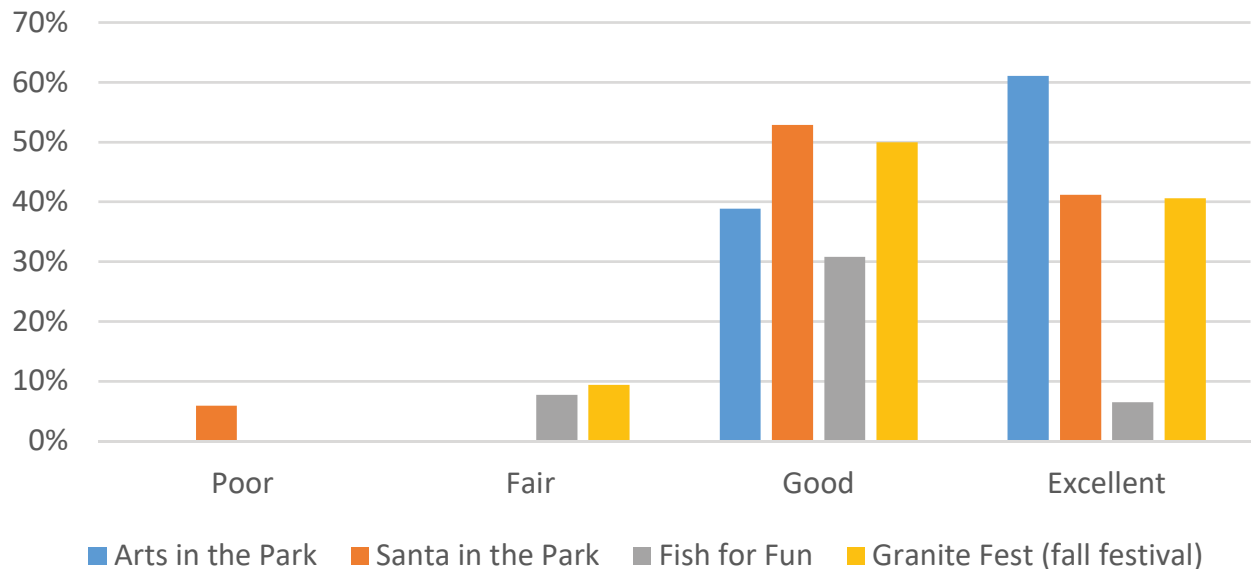
Q1. Residents' Ratings of Town Parks Visited



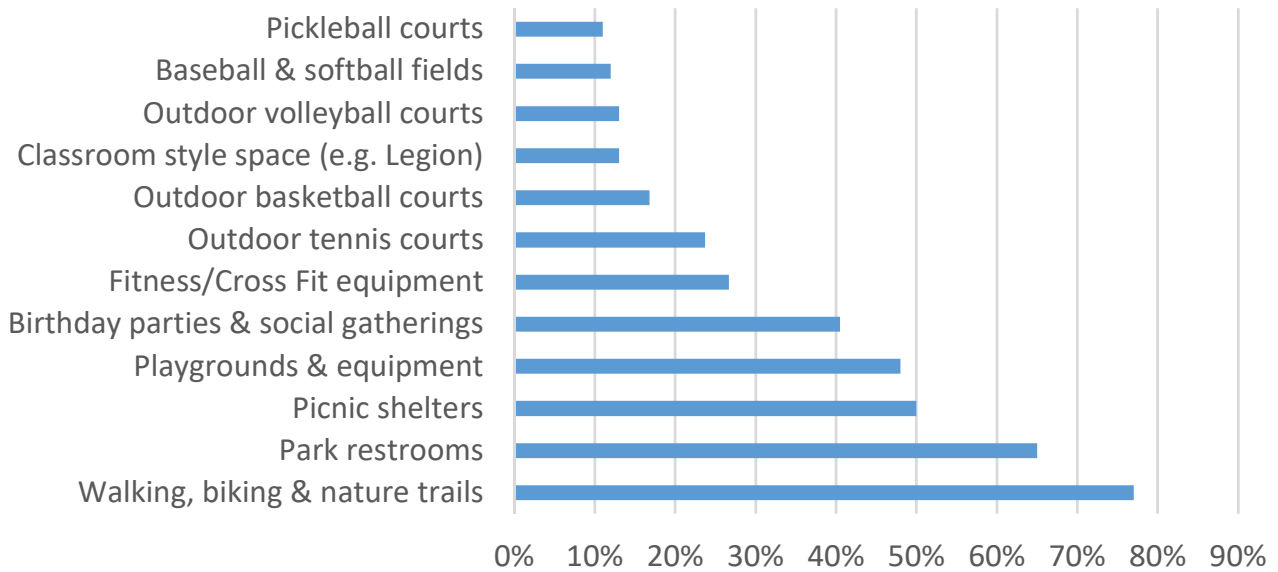
Q3. In the past 24 months, have you or any member of your household attended any of these Granite Quarry events?



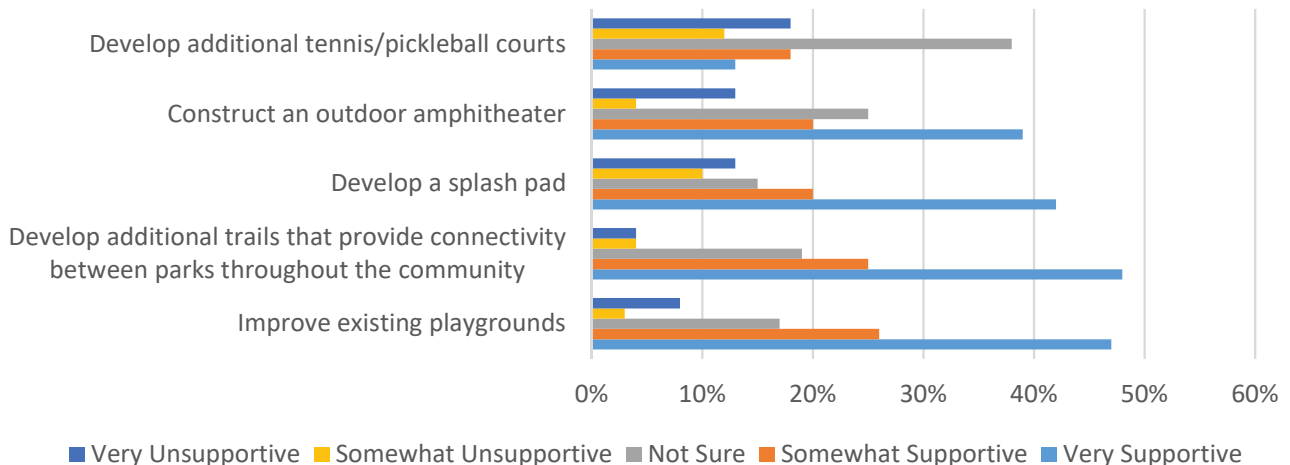
Q3. Residents' ratings of the overall quality of the event attended



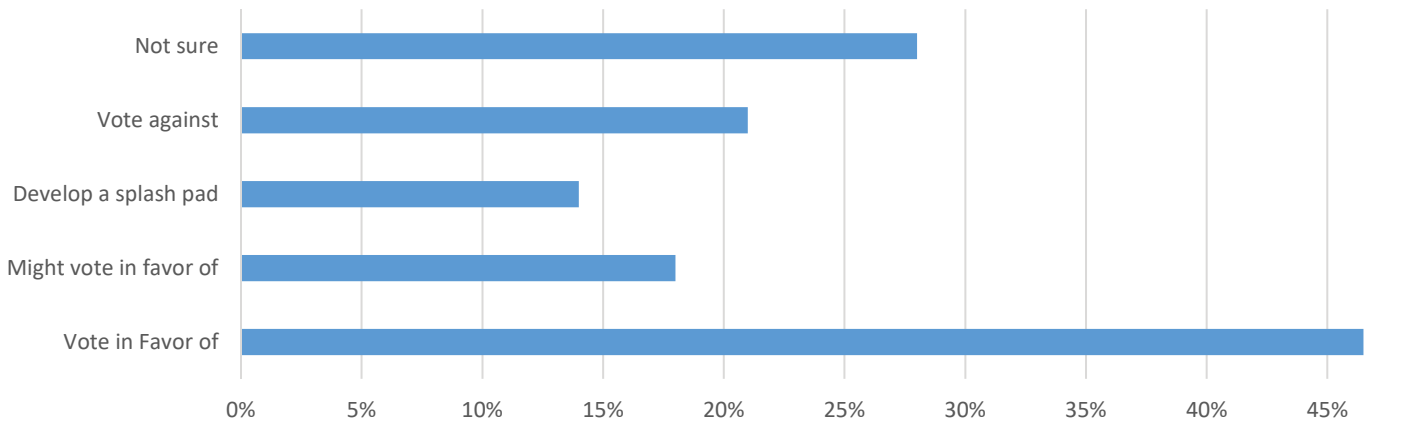
Q4. Households That Have a Need for Recreation Facilities and Amenities



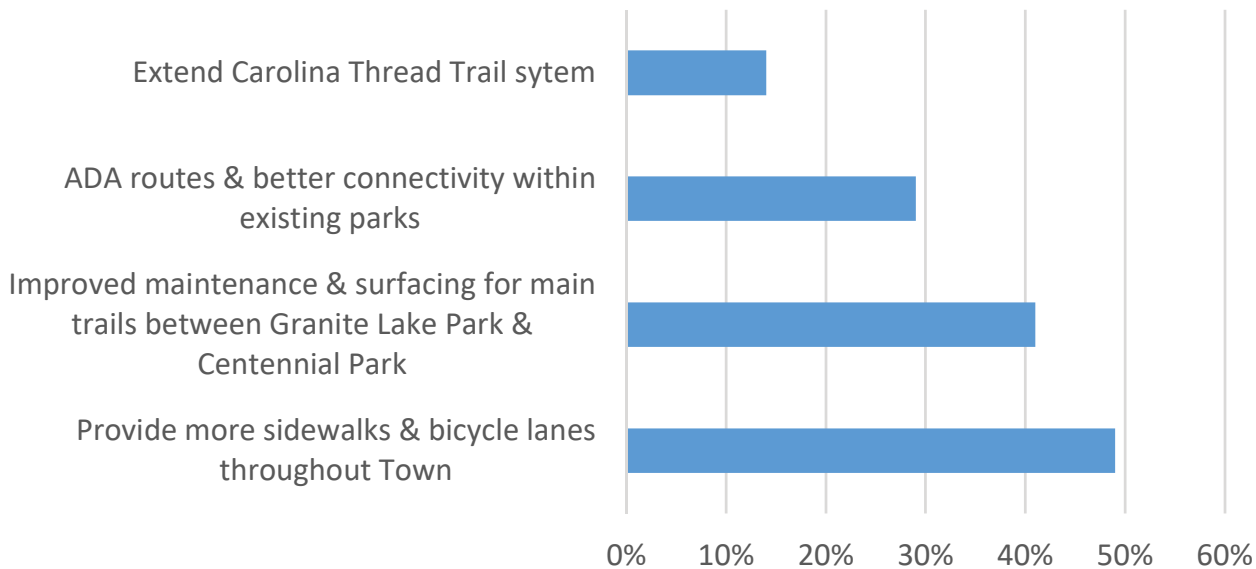
Q6. Residents' Level of Support for Actions the Town Could Take to Improve the Parks and Recreation System



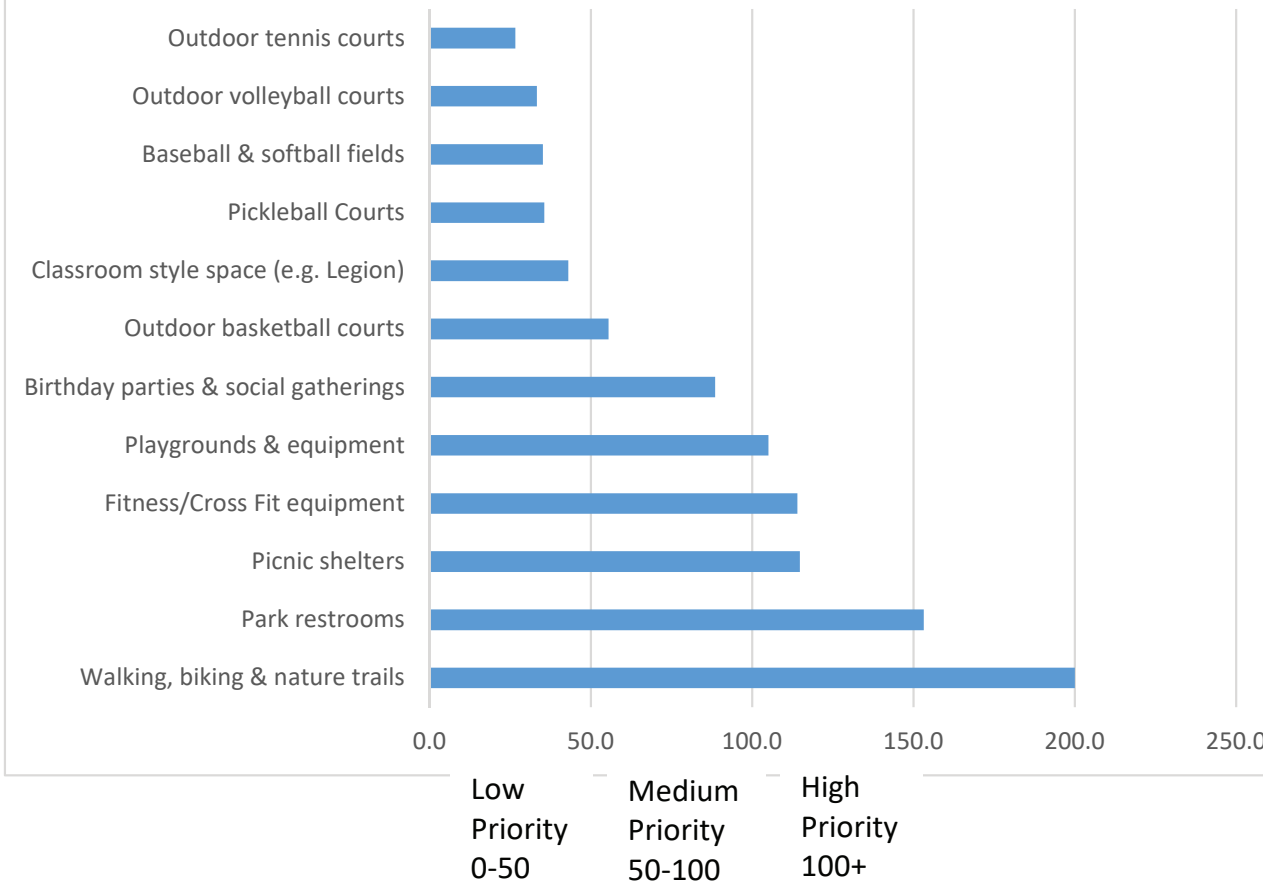
Q9. How Residents Would Likely Vote If a Tax Referendum was Held to Fund the Types of Parks and Recreation Improvements Important to Them.



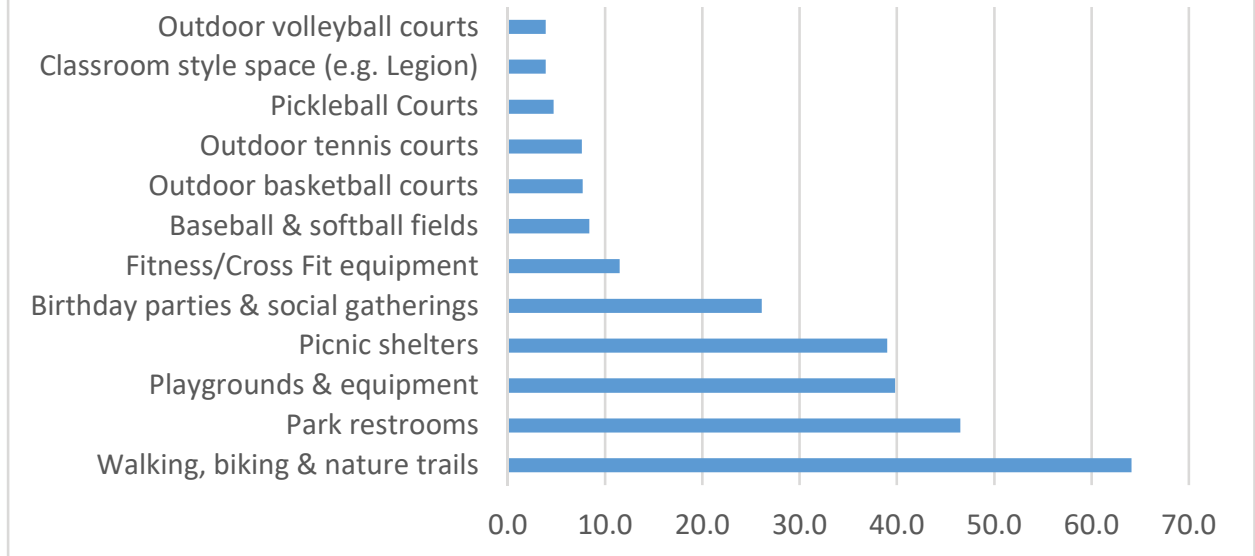
Q11. Which two improvements do you feel are the most important to fund?



Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Facilities & Amenities



Importance Rating for Recreation Facilities & Amenities



SECTION THREE - RECREATION STANDARDS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY WIDE LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Introduction

This section contains the analysis and assessment on which the recommendations of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is based. This section begins with a review of previous plans that have been developed that are relevant to the recommendations for this planning study. The planning process also includes a review of other North Carolina municipalities and the Level of Service (LOS) they use to provide park and recreation facilities to their constituents. As part of this review, national and state trends in park and recreation preferences are considered. This review of service levels is based on a description of the park classifications that typically make up a park system (See Appendix). Using these park classifications as a backdrop, we establish a desired LOS for park and recreation facilities specifically for the Town of Granite Quarry. This LOS is then used as a basis for establishing a park and recreation facility needs assessment for the Town.

It should be noted that the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has determined there are no “national standards” for park development. The latest NRPA study recommends that each community is unique, and that standards reflecting the local “uniqueness” should be established, with an eye toward other communities of similar size. This section utilizes input from the community workshop and the community-wide survey, as well as a comprehensive review of other North Carolina municipalities as well as the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan (2020-2025) to develop LOS specifically for Granite Quarry.

This study looks at several types of service levels. First, we evaluate total acreage of park land within the service area and how this acreage is broken into park types. From this analysis it is possible to compare the parks in Granite Quarry with other municipalities, both in overall park acreage and park types within this overall acreage.

The second analysis in this section looks at recreation activities and the facilities required to program these activities. By establishing a population-based LOS for various recreation activities, this study establishes the type and quantity of facilities the Town should develop in the future.

A third analysis of service in this section is an assessment of special use facility needs. The level of information on these special use facilities is somewhat more limited than the other park and recreation facilities, and more complicated because of the cost of construction and operation. This section includes a discussion of town-wide needs for special use facilities.

The town of Granite Quarry strives to meet the park and recreation needs of residents by providing three Community Parks (Granite Lake Park/Granite Civic Park/Centennial Park) that offer active and passive recreation venues. The Town has also recently annexed 5.82 AC of old quarry property off Mar Rock Road which could provide additional passive and water-based recreation opportunities. The Town also owns another 3.3 AC across from the old quarry on the south side of Balfour Quarry Road.

Granite Quarry is undertaking its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan is designed to consider and work in conjunction with other regional planning efforts including,

- Granite Quarry Downtown Master Plan – January 2016
- Town of Granite Quarry Comprehensive Land Use Plan – January 2020
- Town of Granite Quarry Unified Development Ordinance
- Rowan County Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan – August 2016
- North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025 (SCORP)
- Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Rowan County Communities – October 2014
- Granite Quarry Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan (underway, scheduled for completion Feb. 2022)

It is important to recognize that while the plan utilizes a dual approach in assessing the park and recreational needs of the community; ultimately this plan must develop recommendations that will improve the recreational opportunities for all citizens of Granite Quarry.

It should also be noted that the LOS for development established for Granite Quarry are consistent with other municipalities in North Carolina. The needs that are identified in this plan are based on a conservative approach. Even taking this conservative approach, the recommendations in this document should lead the Town to develop parks and facilities comparable to most other communities of similar size.

PREVIOUS PLANNING STUDIES

There have not been many long range/system-wide plans developed for the Town in the past that are directly related to developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Granite Quarry. Below is a brief listing/summary of plans that were considered in the development of the recommendations found in this plan.

Granite Quarry Downtown Master Plan

In January 2016, the Town of Granite Quarry adopted a Downtown Master Plan for the future vision of the Town's core. The plan focuses on the following design and planning goals:

- Build a unique character and strong sense of place;
- Improve the physical environment of the town's core;
- Focus on improvements to specific properties and buildings; and
- Create a connected community by growing the existing pedestrian and trail amenities in town.

Recreation was considered within the plan through recommendations like:

Short-Term Recommendations: 2016

- Kick-start improvements to Centennial Park. In the coming years, an expanded Centennial Park has the potential to become a showpiece for the town. In the short term, the town and its partners should explore ways to improve the trail conditions, visibility, safety, and attractiveness of the park. To this end, the town should reach out to potential partners—such as Boy Scouts, civic groups, high school service clubs, and regional trail associations—to pursue such projects. In this way, park improvements can be implemented in an affordable, cost-effective way that also drives community pride and buy-in to the larger plan.

Medium-Term Recommendations: 2017-2019

- Expand Centennial Park to US 52. Centennial Park should be expanded southeastward across Bank Street and East Lyerly Street to US 52. This park would be an easement to otherwise undevelopable property that would complement future commercial or residential development. This relatively low-cost,

natural environment would be an affordable amenity for the community to enjoy as part of the town's expanding parks network. Volunteers could be used to clear pathways to keep the town's investment and maintenance to a minimal level.

- Transform the F&M Bank ATM site into a public plaza. This plaza would connect Centennial Park to US 52 and serve as a public gathering space as part of the transformation of US 52 from a high-speed corridor to a place where people are welcomed and able to safely enjoy downtown Granite Quarry.

Long-Term Recommendations: 2020 and Beyond

- Connect and link expanded parks to other existing assets. As the parks and green space infrastructure for Granite Quarry develops, the town and its partners should explore ways to tie in existing or new residential developments, including nearby subdivisions, established residential streets, and outlying community assets, such as schools and community centers.
- Consider a Peeler Street extension between US 52 and Civic Park. This project, which is illustrated in Figure 32, would establish a stronger physical connection between a revitalized downtown Granite Quarry and nearby Civic Park. This connection would provide for two lanes of automobile traffic as well as pedestrian infrastructure. When negotiating with Norfolk Southern and DOT, this project should be linked to the idea of closing the existing Church Street crossing in exchange for the proposed Peeler Street crossing.
- Consider a rail-with-trail opportunity along the existing Norfolk Southern rail line that runs parallel to Main Street. This is considered a long-term project because railroad companies are typically wary to enter into discussions, much less negotiations, for such projects. Ultimately, this project, if implemented, could become a showpiece for downtown Granite Quarry and could tie together community assets from Granite Industrial Park to East Rowan High School

Town of Granite Quarry Comprehensive Land Use Plan

In January 2020, the Town of Granite Quarry adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan among which some of the critical issues identified included recreation:

- 2400 Faith Rd- A Town-owned property that could become a critical link for the town's trail systems, an important recreational feature, and the missing link for a future high-end residential subdivision.
- N Salisbury Ave Viewshed Property- Located on the west side of N Salisbury Ave at Crane Creek, with minimum landscaping, this undevelopable property offers a beautiful passive park setting as an entrance into the Town.
- Trails and sidewalks- In addition to good physical activity and alternative transportation options for all, a walkable and bikeable environment is important for the Town's economic and community development efforts.

Recreational Development

A greater use of existing recreational facilities and public parks is the national trend today. Greater coordination between recreation and school officials makes it possible for recreational-type school facilities to be used in the non-school and school months. Expansion of school grounds for recreational purposes is another possibility. The Town has three public schools in its planning area and should take advantage of this approach to shared use of facilities.

A prime source of child and adult recreation in Granite Quarry for many years was Granite Lake which closed in 1999. This property was redeveloped as a mixed-use recreational facility with the lake, streams, creeks, natural areas, fishing, hiking paths, and bicycle trails. Granite Lake Park was opened in June of 2007.

Two other sites are used for recreation. The first site is the Granite Civic Park which contains a baseball/softball field, tennis courts, and other active play areas that is actively used by both Granite Quarry citizens and other surrounding towns. It provides picnic tables and grassy play areas. The park is set up to accommodate family recreational needs. The second site is located along Bank and Brown Streets. This naturally attractive area is utilized as a nature trail and contains picnic areas as well.

The Old Stone House is a valuable tourist attraction and educational asset located east of downtown. Dunn's Mountain Park at the intersection of Stokes Ferry Road and Dunn's Mountain Road was established by Rowan County with help from the Land Trust of Central NC in November of 2006. It has walking trails and an educational facility/observation post at the top of Dunn's Mountain.

Recreation noted under the Goals and Objectives:

Goals:

8. Walkable communities and outdoor recreation areas are in demand by today's health-conscious citizens and thus the Town should work to expand and improve its current sidewalk and trail systems (including the Carolina Thread Trail) and maintain, expand, and add to its parks.

Policies:

Policy (16)

- Future park development and open space preservation should be carefully planned to provide for the rational and equitable distribution of recreation and open space opportunities within the Planning Area.

Policy (17)

- Provisions of open space and recreation facilities in private development should be encouraged to complement the demand for publicly financed facilities.

Policy (18)

- The identification and appropriate recreational development of a system of open space greenways within the Planning Area should be encouraged. The use of natural corridors, such as stream floodplains, and secondarily, man-made corridors, such as utility and transportation rights of way and easements should be emphasized.

Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Rowan County Communities

The Town was included in the 2014 Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Rowan County Communities which recommended the development of a multi-use path extending south from Salisbury along S. Salisbury Avenue (US 52) through Granite Lake and Centennial Parks, along Bank Street to Granite Civic Park, extending west along Peeler Street/Byrd Road, the south along Faith Road. As noted in the Inventory section, there are now designated Carolina Thread Trail segments at all three parks and sidewalk has been extended along Peeler Street from Civic Park to just west of Garland Drive.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

The first step in developing a Community-wide Park Master Plan is to establish a Level of Service (LOS) analysis for both park land and recreation facilities. Typically, this process begins with a review of any previously used LOS and the LOS other municipalities are using as they provide park and recreation facilities (benchmarking). We have included a review of other municipal standards as part of this planning process.

The LOS for both park acreage and recreation facilities is expressed in a population-based format. For example, a community may decide to provide Neighborhood Parks to its residents at a LOS of 2.5 acres of Neighborhood Park land for every 1,000 people that live in the municipality. If the community has a population of 10,000 there will be a demand for 25 acres of park land dedicated to Neighborhood Parks (2.5 acres x 10 = 25 acres). If that same community currently has a Neighborhood Park with 10 acres, there is a community wide need for 15 acres of additional park land dedicated to Neighborhood Park(s) [demand (25 acres) – supply (10 acres) = need (15 acres)].

The same process is used to determine recreational facility needs. If the same community determines that soccer/multi-purpose fields should be available to its residents at a LOS of 1 field for every 5,000 people, there is a demand for 2 soccer/multi-purpose fields in the community (10,000 population ÷ 5,000 LOS = 2 fields). If the community has 1 existing soccer/multi-purpose field serving the recreational needs of community residents, there is a need for 1 additional soccer/multi-purpose field [demand (2 fields) – supply (1 field) = need (1 field)].

PARK NEEDS

Table 3A-Park Acreage provides a summary of acreage standards used by other communities. The final column on Table 3A-Park Acreage (in yellow) provides the recommended acreage standard to be used by Granite Quarry for each park type. Table 3B-Park Acreage Needs Assessment uses the new standards to identify community wide park needs. The following descriptions provide insight on how the standards were chosen, what needs are identified and the responsible agency for each park type.

A general description of the different park classifications typically serving a community is provided in the Appendix. In reviewing these park needs, it is important to remember that the classification and description of the park types are fluid and often reflect the specific needs/use of the community and the particular park. Park classification may be based on size, facilities offered, community demand, or lack of other viable options in the service area.

The acreage listed in the Classifications for Parks, Open Space and Greenways provide a general range for desired size of facilities. The recommended acreage for each of the parks is not intended as hard and fast rule of size. The acreages included in the guidelines are not sequential. A 50-acre park could serve as a Community Park or a District Park; depending on the facilities offered, the programming provided and the availability of other parks in the system.

The following is a community wide assessment of the park needs for the next ten years.

Mini Parks

Mini Parks are the smallest park type and typically include a playground, shelter and possibly a play court. There is currently one park, the amenity area within Village at Granite, that would fit into the Mini Park classification (1-2 acres). For the purposes of the parks inventory, the Village at Granite Park has not been listed as it was developed privately and primarily serves residents within the residential development. Typically, Mini Parks are operated and maintained by local municipal agencies, however, there is a trend occurring where mini-parks are constructed by a developer to serve their neighborhoods with management through a homeowners association.

An LOS of mini-park development for Granite Quarry has been set at 0.25 acres per 1,000 people. It reflects a trend in park development away from Mini Parks because their small size limits their recreational use and makes them expensive to maintain and operate. Based on this service level, there is still not a need for development of a Mini Park by the town.

Neighborhood Parks

Like Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks are typically developed by local municipal agencies. Based on the size of Granite Quarry and function and offerings of the three existing parks their sizes fall within the Neighborhood Park category, but the size of Granite Quarry they function as Community Parks.

The service level set for Neighborhood Parks established by this Master Plan is 7-15 acres at 2 acres per 1,000 people. Utilizing this level of development there is a need for 7-10 acres of Neighborhood Park land within the town.

Community Parks

Currently, Granite Quarry provides three (3) Community Parks on 18.3 acres of park land. Based on a park land/population ratio of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population, the need for Community Parks in Granite Quarry has been met. The development of future Community Parks could still occur if the opportunity presents itself in the next ten years.

District Parks

District Parks are large parks (usually greater than 100 acres) that provide both active and passive recreation. Typically, county agencies are the primary source for funding, developing, and operating these large parks. There is one District Park in the Granite Quarry area. Dan Nicolas Park, managed by Rowan County, provides 200+ acres of District Park land. Therefore, the District Park needs have been met by Rowan County Parks and Recreation.

Regional Parks

While there are currently no State parks physically located within Rowan County, one Regional Park is within easy driving distance of Granite Quarry. Morrow Mountain State Park, managed by NC Division of Parks & Recreation, is within a 45-minute drive at 30 miles away. This large Regional Park meets the passive recreation needs of the town and the area. Development of a Regional Park should not be a priority for Granite Quarry.

FUTURE LAND/OPEN SPACE NEEDS

As Granite Quarry continues to experience a growth spurt, the Town should remain open to opportunities for preserving land for open space and recreation. As noted in previous sections on specific park needs, there is a community-wide need for additional park land. As Granite Quarry's population grows, finding undeveloped property for parks will become more difficult.

FACILITY NEEDS

The level of service for recreational facilities (i.e. ballfields, courts, picnic shelters, etc.) proposed in this plan was developed from a review of LOS used by other municipalities similar to Granite Quarry, and from input gathered during the public input process. The LOS, identified in Table 3A-Facilities, and discussed in greater detail in Section Four: Proposals and Recommendations, are used in the development of the recreational facility needs assessment.

Based on these LOS, the number of public facilities needed in the park system through the planning period (2021 to 2030), are identified in Table 3B-Facilities, "Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment" and summarized on the following table.

In the following table, the "Existing Facilities" column indicates the number of existing recreation facilities currently available in Granite Quarry. The "Current Need" column identifies the total number of additional facilities currently needed. The "2030 Need" column reflects the total number of additional facilities that will be needed by 2030.

As an example of how the Needs Assessment is presented, consider dog parks. Currently, there are no existing dog parks within the Town. Based on the Standards for Facility Development that have been recommended for Granite Quarry (one dog park for every 5,000 people in the service population), there is a current demand for 1 dog park ($3,100 \div 5,000 = 0.62$, rounded up = 1). Since there are no dog parks currently serving town residents, there is a current need to develop 1 dog park (demand of 1 - 0 existing dog parks) to meet the demand.

	Existing Facilities	Current Need	2030 Need
Baseball/Softball Fields	1	1	1
Soccer/Multi-Use Fields	0	1	1
Basketball Courts	2	1	1
Tennis Courts	3	1	1
Volleyball Courts	1	0	0
Pickleball	0	1	2
Shuffleboard Courts	0	0	0
Horseshoes	0	0	0
Picnic Shelters	3	2	4
Playgrounds/Equipment	3	2	3
Walking/Jogging Trails (miles)	±1.26	1.2	1.32
Bicycling Trails (miles)	±1.26	1.2	1.32
Community Center	0	0	1
Gymnasium	0	0	1
Swimming Pool	0	0	0
Sprayground	0	1	1
Amphitheater	0	0	0
Disc Golf	0	0	1
Skate Park	0	0	0
Outdoor Fitness	0	1	0
Dog Park	0	1	0

Current and future needs listed above are community wide needs. Granite Quarry is not responsible for meeting all needs. Some of these facility needs could be met by Rowan County or NC Division of Parks and Recreation. Meeting the needs of all town residents will require a collaborative effort. See Section Four for specific recommendations on facility needs to be met by the Town of Granite Quarry.

**Table 3-A Park Acreage
Town of Granite Quarry
Standards for Park Acreage
By Park Classification**

NRPA Guidelines & Communities of Similar Size

Park Types	NRPA Guidelines	Waxhaw	Marshville	Mount Holly	Waynesville	Belmont	Granite Quarry
Mini Parks	1-3 acres .25 acres/1,000	1-2 acres .25 acres/1,000	1-2 acres .25 acres/1,000	1-3 acres .25 acres/1,000	1-2 acres .25 acres/1,000	1-2 acres 0.5 acres/1,000	1-2 acres .25 acres/1,000
Neighborhood Parks	7-15 acres 2 acres/1,000	7-15 acres 2 acres/1,000	7-15 acres 3 acres/1,000	7-15 acres 2 acres/1,000	7-15 acres 2 acres/1,000	10-15 acres 2 acres/1,000	7-15 acres 2 acres/1,000
Community Parks	40-100 acres 5 acres/1,000	20-30 acres 5 acres/1,000	25-75 acres 6 acres/1,000	30-50 acres 4 acres/1,000	20-30 acres 5.0 acres/1,000	20-30 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	20-30 acres 2.5 acres/1,000
District Parks*		200+ acres 2.5 acres/1,000	± 200 acres 5 acres/1,000	200-400 acres 10 acres/1,000	200 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	200 acres 5 acres/1,000	NA
Regional Parks**	100-250 acres 10 acres/1,000	+1,000 acres 10 acres/1,000	1,000 acres 10 acres/1,000	+1,000 acres 10 acres/1,000	100-250 acres 10 acres/1,000	1,000 acres 10 acres/1,000	NA

Park Type/Typical Acreage (Acres per 1,000 Population)

Table 3A – Facility Standards
Town of Granite Quarry
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Recreation Facility Standards for Development

Recreation Facilities	National Recreation and Park Association	N.C. Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources	Waxhaw	Marshville	Mount Holly	Waynesville	Belmont	Granite Quarry
Fields								
Adult Baseball	1/12,000	1/5,000	1/20,000	1/15,000	1/15,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/20,000
Youth Baseball	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/2,000	1/5,000
Softball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Football	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/5,000	1/20,000
Soccer/Multi-Use	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/7,500	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Courts								
Basketball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Tennis	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/5,000	1/4,000	1/2,500	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/5,000
Pickleball	-	-	-	1/10,000	-	-	-	1/5,000
Volleyball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Shuffleboard	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/10,000
Horseshoe	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/10,000	1/5,000	1/10,000
Outdoor Areas								
Picnic Shelter	N/A	1/3,000	1/3,000	1/3,000	1/2,500	1/2,000	1/3,000	1/2,000
Playground Activities	N/A	1/1,000	1/2,000	1/1,000	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/1,000	1/2,000
Trails								
Walking Fitness/Jogging	1/region	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000	0.8 mile/1,000	0.6 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000
Bicycling	N/A	1 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000	1 mile/1,000	1 mile/1,000	N/A	1 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000
Specialized								
Community Center	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/10,000	1/15,000	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Gymnasium	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/10,000		1/10,000		1/10,000
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Sprayground	-	-	-	1/10,000	-	-	-	1/10,000
Amphitheater	1/20,000-	-	-	1/25,000	-	-	-	1/20,000
Disc Golf	-	-	-	1/25,000	-	-	-	1/25,000
Skate Park	-	-	-	1/20,000	-	-	-	1/20,000
Outdoor Fitness	-	-	-	1/10,000	-	-	-	1/10,000
Dog Park	-	-	-	1/5,000	-	-	-	1/5,000

**Table 3B – Park Needs
Town of Granite Quarry
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Park Needs Assessment**

Park Types	Granite Quarry Standards	Existing Parks	2021 Demand 3,300 Population	2021 Need	2030 Demand 4,300 Population	2030 Need
Mini Parks	1-2 acres .25 acres/1,000	0 Mini-Parks	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neighborhood Parks	7-15 acres 2 acres/1,000	0 Neighborhood Parks	1 park 6 acres	1 park 6 acres	Needs Met if Park Built	Needs Met if Park Built
Community Parks	25-75 acres 2.5 acres/1,000	3 Parks 18 acres	Needs Met	Needs Met	Needs Met	Needs Met
District Park*	N/A	N/A		Responsibility of County		Responsibility of County
Regional Parks**	N/A	N/A		Needs met by State Parks		Needs met by State Parks

*District Park needs are typically met by county agencies. Small municipal agencies rarely provide District Parks.

**Regional Park needs are typically met by state parks. Small municipal agencies rarely provide Regional Park facilities.

**Table 3B - Facility Needs
Town of Granite Quarry
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Recreation Facility Needs Assessment**

Based on a Benchmarking Analysis of national, state, and other similar agencies standards, and with input from the community, the following table reflects the recreational facility needs of Granite Quarry.

Recreation Facilities	Existing Facilities	2021 Standards	2021 Demand Population 3,300	2021 Need	2030 Demand Population 4,300	2030 Need
Fields						
Adult Baseball	0	1/20,000	0	0	0	0
Youth Baseball	1	1/5,000	1	1	1	0
Softball	1	1/5,000	1	1	1	0
Football	0	1/20,000	0	0	0	0
Soccer/Multi-Use	0	1/5,000	1	1	1	0
Courts						
Basketball	2	1/5,000	1	1	1	0
Tennis	3	1/5,000	1	1	1	0
Pickleball	0	1/5,000	1	1	2	1
Volleyball	1	1/5,000	0	0	0	0
Shuffleboard	0	1/10,000	0	0	0	0
Horseshoes	0	1/10,000	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Areas						
Picnic Shelter	3	1/2,000	2	0	4	2
Playground	3	1/2,000	2	0	3	1
Trails						
Walking/Biking	1.26	0.4 mile/1,000	1.2	1	1.32	1
Bicycling	0	0.4 mile/1,000	1.2	1	1.32	1
Specialized						
Community Center	0	1/10,000	0	0	1	1
Gymnasium	0	1/10,000	0	0	1	1
Swimming Pool	0	1/20,000	0	0	0	0
Sprayground	0	1/10,000	1	1	1	0
Amphitheater	0	1/25,000	0	0	1	1
Disc Golf	0	1/25,000	1	1	1	1
Skate Park	0	1/20,000	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Fitness	0	1/10,000	1	1	1	0
Dog Park	1	1/5,000	1	1	1	0

SECTION FOUR - PROPOSALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Community leaders in Granite Quarry have long recognized the importance of parks and recreation facilities in the quality of life in the community and have historically invested in parks.

Currently, there are three primary town owned park facilities: Granite Lake Park, Granite Civic Park and Centennial Park serve as the locations for the Town's recreation programs and activities. There is still a need and community desire to plan and develop additional park facilities within the Town and there is a heavy community desire, to develop walking trails and greenway connectivity throughout the community.

Identification of these recreational needs/opportunities comes at a time when Granite Quarry (like most communities in North Carolina) strive to grow out of a global pandemic and continued uncertainty on many fronts. Parks have become the top destination for people to go during the pandemic. It is very important for the Town to invest the resources allocated for park improvements wisely while planning for future growth and demand.

Granite Quarry is not alone in its mission to provide parks and recreational facilities to its citizens. There are a number of public and private agencies and organizations in the region that could share in that role.

The Rowan County Recreation and Parks Department is also a provider of parks and recreation programs to Granite Quarry residents. While the County Department does a good job providing facilities and programs on a limited budget, the facilities and parks they offer provide additional recreation opportunities and experiences. Wherever possible, the Town and County should work collaboratively to improve park and recreation opportunities.

To determine specific park and recreation recommendations for Granite Quarry, it is essential to clearly understand how the Town will partner with the other recreational providers in the community and region. This cooperative effort will eliminate duplication of facilities and services. The proposals in this Master Plan are based on what each recreational provider is anticipated to offer through the ten-year planning period (2021-2030).

State of North Carolina

While the State of North Carolina does not have any state parks within the County, the State of North Carolina does have one State Park (Morrow Mountain) within reasonable driving distance of Granite Quarry. This large regional park helps to meet the passive recreation needs of the town. The State should be the provider of regional parks that include opportunities for camping, fishing, biking, and special facilities of regional and statewide interest.

Rowan County Parks & Recreation Department

As noted throughout this report, Rowan County Parks & Recreation Department is the provider of parks and recreation facilities to all citizens of the county. Since its inception, Rowan County has been responsible for maintaining its parks and providing recreation programs to all County residents; including those living in Granite Quarry.

Rowan County offers two County facilities within a short distance of Granite Quarry through Dunn's Mountain Park to the northeast and Dan Nicholas Park to the east.

As the Town moves to expand its parks and improve its existing parks and greenways these improvements will enhance Granite Quarry residents and will also benefit County residents as well. It is important that the Town and the County communicate (and work together) as they both strive to provide parks and recreation services to their citizens.

Granite Quarry Parks & Recreation

The Town of Granite Quarry proudly notes on its website under parks and recreation The Importance of Parks and Recreation:

“God made us walking animals - pedestrians. Just as a fish needs to swim, a bird to fly, a deer to run, we need to walk, not in order to survive, but to be happy. Although we could survive inside an apartment all our life, we can be much happier if we can walk and run about, as freely as possible.”

The importance of pedestrian public spaces cannot be measured. We cannot prove mathematically that wider sidewalks, pedestrian streets, more or better parks make people happier, much less measure how much happier. However, if we reflect, most things that are important in life cannot be measured either. Parks and other pedestrian places are essential to a town’s happiness.

Parks are about many things and important to a democratic society. In a town, parks are essential to the physical and emotional health of its citizens and visitors. For the poor, the only alternative to television for their leisure time is the public space. For this reason, high-quality public pedestrian space, and parks in particular, are evidence of a true democracy at work. Parks are a place to meet not only with nature but with other people as well.”

Based on input from the community through the Community Survey, and discussions with Citizens of Granite Quarry and Town staff, the following goals and objectives have been created that formulate the foundations of this Parks and Recreation Master plan for the town of Granite Quarry:

Facilities & Programming

- A. Seek new park & recreation facility opportunities within the Town of Granite Quarry
 - Expand/extend Centennial Park southeast across Bank & E. Lyrly Streets to US 52
 - Seek location for development of a community splash pad
 - Provide outdoor fitness opportunities in the parks or along greenways
 - Master plan quarry property for a passive/nature-based recreation destination
 - Expand picnic shelter offerings in all parks to provide more family & social gathering spaces
 - Upgrade existing playgrounds to provide more inclusivity through equipment and surfacing

- B. Trail connectivity - destinations / regional greenways & trail systems
 - In partnership with Rowan County and the City of Salisbury, seek land/corridors to develop greenway connectivity
 - Provide better connectivity between Town parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, and downtown businesses
 - Seek land for development of additional trailheads with parking for the Carolina Thread Trail
 - Improve greenway/trail surfacing throughout the Town
 - Add more sidewalks & bicycle lanes

- C. Make sure all parks & facilities are accessible
 - Conduct ADA assessment at each park/facility
 - All facilities within each park shall be accessible to each other & parking
 - All facilities shall be accessible
 - All facilities should be connected to adjacent neighborhoods, schools, downtown businesses, sidewalk systems, where possible

- D. Create programming for each town of Granite Quarry park & recreation facility
 - Provide educational, healthy & active programs & opportunities for all ages & abilities, especially fitness and exercise facilities
 - Offer excellent opportunities throughout the town of Granite Quarry for all to use.
 - Seek new opportunities such as a splash pad, fitness stations/clusters or other new recreation trends
 - Expand programming beyond adult and small children to include teen youth
 - Provide venues for Senior Olympics events
 - Consider more programming for special events/outdoor concerts/family festivals

Operations

- A. Strive to provide funding to maintain or exceed minimum level of service standards & create a sustainable economic base for Parks & Recreation in the Town of Granite Quarry
 - Maintain quality park management, operations & maintenance throughout; make the parks “crown jewels” for the Town
 - Each town resident should live within a 10-minute walk or drive to a greenspace, trail, park, amenity; create a sense of place
 - Create vision, goals, and responsibilities for establishment of a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board/ Friends of the Parks organization

- B. Seek & develop partnerships with other recreation providers
 - Hold quarterly meetings, at a minimum with other municipal park & recreation departments (Salisbury, Spencer, Kannapolis, Rowan County, etc.) and public schools
 - Seek funding/programming partnerships with area stakeholders

- C. Increase community outreach / parks & recreation marketing
 - Provide better wayfinding between all park and recreation facilities
 - Offer a facility and programming guide for residents
 - Display QR codes in the parks and along the greenways to direct users to Town’s website for park information, greenway maps, upcoming events, etc.
 - Ensure the park & recreation master plan is coordinated with other municipal plans, ordinances & policies, especially bicycle & pedestrian plan
 - Hold regular community conversations to check in with Town residents on the level of service provided by the Town of Granite Quarry

PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As previously discussed, the Town of Granite Quarry is the primary provider of parks and recreation programs to town residents. The Town has continuously worked to provide quality facilities and programs to local residents.

Existing parks in the town are primarily oriented toward larger parks (Community Parks). While the existing municipal parks provide a foundation of recreational facilities and green space, there are still recreational needs that are not adequately being met, and the existing parks need some improvements, updates and expansions.

While the Town is the primary provider of parks and recreation to Granite Quarry residents, it should work with other agencies in the region to provide the park land and facilities whenever possible. This collaborative effort should include working with the County's Recreation and Parks Department.

Through the planning and public involvement process, standards for park acreage and recreation facilities have been developed. These standards were defined in Section Three: Standards and Needs Assessment and identified in Table 3A-Park Acreage and Table 3A-Facility Standards.

Utilizing the standards for development and applying them to the Town's current and projected population, a needs assessment for both parks and recreation facilities was developed. The summary of this needs assessment is found in the tables at the end of Section Three.

While the tables provide "the numbers" of the needs assessment, this section will define the reasoning behind the numbers and a description of how the numbers are used to provide recommendations that will ultimately guide the Town in the coming decade.

We begin with an overview of the different park types and how these parks will be developed in the future.

Regional Parks

Regional Parks are typically large, passive oriented parks that highlight, utilize and protect a unique feature. These parks, as the name implies, serve people from across a region; therefore, most people have to travel to enjoy these park types. As noted in Section Three, Regional Parks are typically offered by national, state, or county agencies. Occasionally, municipalities with populations of 100,000 or more may provide a Regional Park.

As previously noted, Granite Quarry is very fortunate to be proximate to one State Park located to the southeast of Granite Quarry. This outstanding park (Morrow Mountain State Park) provides a wide variety of nature based recreational activities. The facilities at Morrow Mountain provide valuable recreation opportunities for Granite Quarry and Rowan County residents and attracts visitors from across the region.

This excellent State Park meets the needs of a Regional Park for the citizens of Granite Quarry and allows the Town to focus on the development of other park types.

District Parks

District Parks are another large park type often provided by county agencies or larger municipalities. These parks are typically in the 100-200 acre range and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

The closest District Park to Granite Quarry is the Dan Nicholas Park, a Rowan County park, just east of the town. The park's close proximity to Granite Quarry meets the needs for a District Park for the Town.

Community Parks

Community Parks are an important component in most municipal park systems. These parks are usually large enough (25-75 acres) to provide both valuable active recreation opportunities and preservation of undeveloped open space and passive recreation areas.

There are three parks in Granite Quarry that are currently serving as Community Parks: Granite Lake Park, Granite Civic Park and Centennial Park. The sizes for all three parks fit the size of Neighborhood Parks, but their offerings and the population it serves places them as Community Parks. Park master planning should occur for each park to address expansion opportunities, accessible circulation, and opportunities for new and updated facilities, at a minimum.

The Town has a great opportunity to further expand on community recreation offerings with the recent acquisition and annexation of the former quarry properties off Balfour Quarry Road. The character of the quarry lake and surrounding land lend them to passive recreation activities.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks play an important role in providing both active and passive recreation in most municipal park systems. These parks, usually in the 7-15 acre range, are large enough to include both active and passive recreation opportunities. Most Community Parks also serve as Neighborhood Parks to those citizens living within a mile radius such as do the three Granite Quarry parks.

Currently, Granite Quarry does not have a smaller neighborhood park. Since Neighborhood Parks typically serve as the primary building block of most municipal park systems, there is a need for at least two (2) Neighborhood Parks in the northern and southern part of the Town.

In the future, the Town should seek land and develop a site-specific master plan for a new Neighborhood Park(s).

Mini Parks

Mini Parks are the smallest park type and typically include a playground, shelter and possibly a play court. The small pocket park located in Village at Granite meets the criteria for a mini park but is not operated by the Town. There are currently no municipal parks that could fit into the Mini Park classification.

In the future, the Town may continue to encourage private developers to construct small amenity areas (playgrounds, shelters, etc.) when building single family residential and/or mixed-use developments.

Civic Parks

Civic Parks are community spaces that often provide a sense of place for a town or city. The size and form of Civic Parks may vary considerably. Likewise, how the spaces are used and programmed varies. Civic Parks may include urban plazas, community green spaces and lawns, memorials, etc.

Granite Lake Park is the closest type of facility that could also be classified as a Civic Park given its passive environment and open greenspace. There may be other opportunities for the development of civic parks as part of downtown or streetscape improvements.

Greenways

The most popular form of outdoor recreation in the nation is walking. This popularity was reflected in the survey that was conducted as part of this planning study and in comments made during the public workshops. Greenways are typically off-road trails that meander through neighborhoods and natural areas providing transportation corridors and recreational opportunities for walkers, joggers, rollerbladers, and cyclists. The trail surface can either be natural or paved. Paved trails are normally eight to ten feet in width. Natural surface trail widths can vary based on conditions. In addition to providing environmental protection and recreation opportunities, greenways and bike trails can produce economic development. The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation conducted a study on a bicycle trail constructed along the northern Outer Banks region. This study determined that a \$6.7 million investment in off-road bike paths and shoulder improvements produced an estimated \$60 million annually in economic benefit.

In addition, the study found that Greenways also offer a valuable alternative to automotive transportation. A greenway often provides a linkage between communities, schools, churches, businesses, and parks.

The Town was included in the 2014 Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Rowan County Communities which recommended the development of a multi-use path extending south from Salisbury along S. Salisbury Avenue (US 52) through Granite Lake and Centennial Parks, along Bank Street to Granite Civic Park, extending west along Peeler Street/Byrd Road, the south along Faith Road. As noted in the Inventory section, there are now designated Carolina Thread Trail segments at all three parks and sidewalk has been extended along Peeler Street from Civic Park to just west of Garland Drive.

Further extension of this greenway system should be a focus not only in procurement of land and/or easements, but design and implementation of trail to connect to more neighborhoods and destinations. Most residents, who took the survey, desire for more natural surface trails and off-road greenways.

A Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is currently underway for the Town with completion scheduled for early 2022 which will identify a series of pedestrian/bicycle connectivity types around the community including intersection improvements, sidewalks, shared use paths, pedestrian lanes, advisory shoulders, paved shoulders, festival streets and shared lane markings. Through these various applications, the plan will recommend facilities to connect both sides of US 52 to Downtown and the Town's Parks.

Recommendations from these valuable studies should be used to guide implementation of a community-wide greenway system. Greenways should be developed in conjunction with other park and recreation providers in the area to ensure they are coordinated with other planning efforts and that there is continuity between plans.

Off Road Bikeways

The need for bikeable roads and the development of greenways for biking was mentioned in the public meeting. The Town should encourage the State to include bike lanes whenever roadway improvements occur, or new roads constructed. The Town should also address their development process to ensure developers provide bicycle (and pedestrian) routes in the roadway improvements they construct as part of a new development.

The Town should consider applying for federal SAFETEA-Lu and Safe Routes to School program non-vehicular transportation funds that encourage alternative means of transportation. These funds have been used to construct bike lanes and trails in communities throughout North Carolina.

Bicycle facilities in the area could serve as an important attraction to tourists visiting the region. Investments in bicycle facilities could improve the safety of the area's transportation system. Bicycle activities provide benefits of health, fitness, quality of life, and the environment.

FACILITY PROPOSALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This report also recommends the Town acquire additional park land, construct some new community and neighborhood parks, expand greenways, and make improvements to existing parks and facilities by the year 2030. The improvements that will be made as part of these renovations and expansions will add new facilities and offerings to the Granite Quarry parks inventory. The Town should consider the list of facility needs established in Section Three and described in greater detail in this section as it makes park and recreation improvements:

Baseball/Softball

The Town currently provides one ballfield at Civic Park. There are also the two ballfields at Granite Quarry Elementary School that provide facilities for local sports organizations. As the Town does not program baseball or softball and these activities scored as low priorities in the needs assessment, there is not a current or future need to add more ballfields with any of the Town parks.

Football

Football's popularity as a community-based youth sport has been reduced by the emergence of soccer and (more recently) lacrosse. The standard for development of football fields is one field for every 20,000 people within the service community (a standard used by many municipal agencies). This standard indicates there is not a need for a designated football field in Granite Quarry.

Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-use

Soccer continues to be a fast-growing sport in America. This master plan reflects this demand by establishing a standard of one field for every 5,000 people within the service population. Utilizing this standard for development, the Town needs at least one (1) soccer field or multi-use field, sized for soccer.

The demand for multi-purpose or multi-use fields will be made more intense by the new interest in lacrosse. Played on a field very similar to a soccer field (they are slightly larger than soccer fields), lacrosse will likely increase in popularity and should be considered as the Town reviews its field needs. This new sport should be taken into consideration since play for both sports can be programmed on similar fields. One method to accommodate the variety of field games (soccer, lacrosse, rugby, football) is to develop larger multi-use fields that can be used for a variety of field games.

Basketball

Basketball remains an extremely popular sport in the United States. Played by a variety of ages, and increasingly by females, this sport can be played either indoors or out. Currently, the Town provides two basketball courts at Civic Park. Both courts are in need of upgrade. Based on national and state standards of development of one outdoor basketball court per 5,000 people, there is a need for at least one basketball court. Basketball scored as a medium priority in the needs assessment. There is not a need to add anymore basketball courts, but should neighborhood park be constructed in the future, the placement of a half court basketball facility could be located in these parks. Likewise, the two existing courts at Civic Park could be replaced by half courts.

Tennis

Based on input received in the public workshops, tennis is not a very popular sport in Granite Quarry and there does not appear to be demand for additional tennis courts. Tennis came in at the bottom of the needs assessment. Currently, the Town has three lighted tennis courts at Granite Civic Park, which should suffice for the current and future needs.

Pickleball

Pickleball received some support in the survey, and nationally and regionally, the popularity of the sport continues to grow. While the Town has striped two of the tennis courts for pickleball, this plan recommends the construction of one standalone pickleball court now and one more pickleball court by 2030. Depending on the frequency of continued use of the tennis courts for tennis, one end court could be converted to a standalone pickleball court.

Volleyball

There is one outdoor sand volleyball court at Civic Park, but it is rarely used. And the demand for volleyball in the community survey was very low. There does not seem to be a need right now for outdoor volleyball for the town, so this plan recommends that the volleyball court be removed, and the space be dedicated to another use.

Shuffleboard

There has been no expressed demand for outdoor shuffleboard courts from citizens. This activity does provide a recreational outlet and opportunities for social interaction, particularly for seniors. However, until there is demand, shuffleboard courts should not be a priority.

Horseshoes

There has been no expressed demand for horseshoe pits in the community. This activity does provide a recreation outlet for social interaction, particularly for seniors. However, until there is demand, horseshoe pits should not be a priority.

Picnicking/Picnic Shelters

Picnicking was one of the more popular recreational activities listed by respondents in the survey (scored 3rd as a high priority) and from responses at the community workshop. There is currently one large and one small shelter at Granite Civic Park and one medium-sized shelter at Granite Lake Park. There are the two small gazebos at Granite Lake and Centennial Parks that also get used for picnicking. Based on a standard of one shelter per 2,000 people and the feedback from the survey, there is a need for at least one to two additional shelters by 2030.

Playgrounds/Play Equipment

There are two playgrounds at Granite Civic Park and one playground at Granite Lake Park. As parks are improved, these existing playgrounds should be improved, but the Town should also look for locations for additional playgrounds. Larger parks may warrant more than one playground and all Neighborhood Parks should have a playground. Safety inspections and ADA accessibility audits should be conducted at all existing playgrounds. An all-inclusive playground should be considered which can also serve as a regional destination for special populations. Playgrounds and equipment scored within the high priority segment of the needs assessment.

A popular trend in playground development is natural play areas. These relatively new play areas are designed on the concept of providing opportunities for children to interact with the natural environment when

playing. Instead of relying on plastic and steel play structures, these play areas use natural features (creeks, rocks, trees, dirt, etc.) to provide play opportunities. Inspired by the book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children*, this new trend in playground development seeks to re-introduce our youth to the natural environment.

As new playgrounds are completed and existing playgrounds renovated, the Town should replace wood fiber and sand surfaces with poured-in-place (PIP) safety surfacing. PIP surfaces provide wheelchair accessibility and reduces maintenance and lifecycle costs of the playgrounds.

Pedestrian/Biking Trails

Walking is still the number one outdoor recreational activity in the United States. Walking or biking trail use scored at the top in the needs assessment and at the community workshop. During the pandemic, trails became the go to activity for individuals and families in getting out of the house.

With this level of public demand, the development of walking trails should still be a focus for future park development. A priority should be placed on walking trail development in all existing and future parks. A paved walking trail is an important component of all park types and should be provided in all Neighborhood and Community Parks. There recently conversion to paved trails in Granite Lake Park expanded accessibility in the park.

Biking is a rapidly growing outdoor recreational activity. The Town should expand opportunities for biking through the development of a greenway trail system, including paths suitable for biking in existing and future parks, and through encouraging NCDOT to develop roads with bike lanes or wider shoulders to accommodate bikers. The Town should work with other stakeholders to help promote and facilitate new bikeways throughout the community.

Biking Trails

Biking is a rapidly growing outdoor recreational activity. The Town should expand opportunities for biking through the development of a greenway trail system, including paths suitable for biking in existing and future parks, and through encouraging NCDOT to develop roads with bike lanes or wider shoulders to accommodate bikers. The Town should work with other stakeholders to help promote and facilitate new bikeways throughout the community.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Community Centers and Gymnasiums

The Town does not have a community center or gymnasium of the size to offer quality recreation programming.

Multi-use indoor space, fitness and wellness programs, teen programs and activities scored in the middle in the community survey and during the community workshop. Based on the Town's estimated future population of 3,300, there is a need to find a location that could support an indoor community center to allow flexible recreation space and classrooms to serve the Town's residents.

The construction and operation of a multi-use recreation center is a significant undertaking, but it is a recommendation of this master plan to seek a partnership and/or plan for construction of a center. The Town

should seek a partnership with the County, or private entity towards developing an indoor facility that would benefit Town residents.

Swimming Pools and Spraygrounds

In the past, NRPA and NCDENR provided a standard for pool development of one pool for every 20,000 people. This standard was based on the concept of multi-neighborhood or community pools. Today, with the high cost of operation and construction of swimming pools, very few agencies develop neighborhood/community pools to that old standard. Instead, municipalities typically provide more centralized facilities where one pool may serve a greater population.

Spraygrounds are growing in popularity across the country. In addition to offering a water-based play experience, the play structures, sprays, etc. afford children of all ages and abilities a total play environment and are much more economical to operate than a standard swimming pool. A properly designed sprayground can serve as a regional draw, provide revenue, and provide a beneficial economic impact to the surrounding areas. Development of a sprayground scored well in the survey and in the community workshop. The Town should seek a location, plan, and develop a sprayground facility in a central location.

Amphitheaters and Performance Areas

Currently, there are no amphitheater/outdoor performance areas currently serving residents. The gazebos at Granite Lake Park and Centennial Park serve as places to sit more so than an events shelter. With community events scoring high with most survey and community workshop participants, and as continued structure for the Town there is a need to expand opportunities for an amphitheater and performance area for the Town.

TRENDS IN PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

The list of recreational activities developed for this Comprehensive Plan is based on national and state standards that have been used in park planning for decades. As noted earlier in this section, these standards are used as a point of reference, with the understanding that every community should develop standards that are unique to their specific needs.

One of the downsides of the national and state guidelines is that they are not updated often and fail to incorporate newer trends and activities. In the past decade, several new activities have been growing in popularity and should be considered in future park development. These activities include:

Disc Golf

Disc golf received support in the survey, and nationally and regionally, the popularity of the sport continues to grow. Though interest in the sport did not surface during the community engagement, the Town may desire to design and install at a least a 9-basket course as an introduction to the sport.

Skateboard Parks

Skateboarding has been popular for several decades. In the past decade, many communities have recognized its popularity and have tried to provide a safe and vandal resistant setting for this creative sport. Many municipal agencies have developed skateboard parks to provide a recreational outlet for preteens and teens. The Town should reach out to and survey those users to see if their needs are being met.

Outdoor Fitness

Outdoor fitness has regained popularity especially when installed as equipment clusters rather than being spread out along a trail or walkway system. This is amenity that should be considered by the Town perhaps as a replacement for the volleyball court area at Granite Civic Park.

Off-leash Dog Areas

Off-leash dog areas are one of the more recent trends in park development. The popularity of these facilities (also known as dog parks), is a response to the nation's love of pets. Communities throughout North Carolina are now constructing dog parks.

Dog parks take many forms but are primarily a place within a park where park users can bring their dogs to run, walk, and recreate. They usually include a fenced open area where dogs, accompanied by their owner, are allowed to run free. Often the off-leash dog area is divided into sections for large and small dogs.

Based on comments made at the community workshop, a dog park would be a welcome amenity.

SITE SPECIFIC PARK RECOMMENDATIONS RENOVATION & EXPANSION OF EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

There is a need to improve and expand at all the Town's existing parks and facilities. Recommended projects which should be considered include:

Centennial Park

- Master plan Centennial Park for facility expansion, improvements, and better accessibility and connectivity
- Consider transitioning pathways to paved surfacing for easier maintenance, less erosion of trail.
- Replace bridge crossings with engineering structures and abutments; add at least one additional crossing
- Replace gazebo with larger shelter and tables
- Provide paved picnic pads along pathways with a table and trash receptacle at each pad
- Extend an access point to the northeast corner of the park connecting to E. Bank St.

Granite Civic Park

- Master plan Civic Park for facility expansion, drainage improvements, and better accessibility and connectivity
- Resurface tennis courts; restripe two courts for tennis and one on the southwest end for pickleball, add pickleball height netting
- Upgrade tennis court and ballfield lighting, transition to LED w/cutoffs
- Consider removal of volleyball court; convert space to an outdoor fitness cluster
- Consider removal of basketball courts; replace with two half-court basketball and expansion of one additional pickleball court
- Provide better accessible routes and connectivity within park and to American Legion Building and parking; all pathways should be paved
- Consider widening the CTT designated route to 8 feet
- Upgrade play equipment and play areas; provide inclusive equipment, surfacing as one amenity
- Consider adding a third shelter in support of the facilities at the south end of the park
- When it becomes available, Town should pursue acquisition of 214 W. Peeler Street for expansion of court

- activities and better visibility into the park
- Consider adding 1-2 smaller shelters, especially near the playground

Granite Lake Park

- Master plan Lake Park for facility expansion, improvements
- Upgrade play equipment and expand play area; provide inclusive equipment and surfacing with a paved accessible route from the walkways
- Study north end of park for expansion opportunities such as a splash pad, dog park, additional shelters
- Add walking path connection at south end to US 52 sidewalk
- Consider using sewer easement from Brown St as an additional trail/park access point from Downtown

General

- Consider replacing all metal pedestrian light poles with concrete for better long-term maintenance
- Consider standardizing all park furnishings to match those at Granite Lake Park
- Coordinate bicycle/pedestrian planning efforts with this plan especially for opportunities to create more greenway, bicycle, and pedestrian connectivity between the parks

PLANNING & LAND ACQUISITION FOR FUTURE PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

There are opportunities to expand the Town's existing parks and recreation offerings. Recommended opportunities which should be considered include:

Faith Road Property

- Master plan property for consideration as a Neighborhood Park

Balfour Quarry Road Properties

- Master plan Mar Rock Road property (6 AC) for consideration as a passive park and or special use water-based recreation facility; include the 3 AC property across Balfour Quarry Road
- Consider acquiring the abandoned quarry property (approx. 25 AC) at 510 Balfour Quarry Road for consideration as a passive park and or special use water-based recreation facility
- Consider a partnership with City of Salisbury or easements/acquisition of portions of the Hill St. properties north of the Mar Rock Road property for additional expansion and connection to Town property at 235 Hill St.

Strategies for implementing these recommendations are part of the Action Plan in Section Five.

SECTION FIVE - ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

In the previous sections, the Town's needs for parks and recreational facilities have been identified. Careful planning and strategic thinking will be required if these needs are to be met. This section will identify funding sources for implementing some of the recommendations of this plan and identify possible strategies for funding the proposed recommendations.

Instrumental to the implementation of this Master Plan is the identification of adequate funding for facility development and improvements. Finding adequate funding for parks and recreation is often difficult with the many financial demands most municipalities face. Limited budgets place even greater importance on careful planning to meet projected needs.

While the primary focus of previous sections has been on park and facility improvements, physical improvements are only part of the issue as Granite Quarry strives to offer its citizens quality parks and recreation services. As Town leaders plan for the future they should also consider a number of operational and management issues that will position them to meet community wide needs. This section reviews some of those issues.

This section will look at a Capital Improvements Plan for addressing recommendations found in Section Four and provide a strategy for raising funds to construct the proposed improvements and new facilities. Implementing the recommendations made in this Master Plan will result in meeting the future needs for parks, recreation services, and facilities. If the needs identified in this report are to be met, the Town must establish adequate budgets for projected staffing, operations, and maintenance costs, and for capital improvements for parks and recreation facilities. This Action Plan is designed to give Town staff viable options to help finance the proposals and recommendations of this Master Plan.

REVENUE PLAN

Upon adoption of the Master Plan, Town staff should consider the establishment of a Revenue Plan for Parks and Recreation. A Revenue Plan incorporates all available funding resources, prioritizes them, and puts each option into a funding strategy. In a Revenue Plan, the following funding alternatives are evaluated for their appropriate use in funding capital improvements and programs:

KEY FUNDING/REVENUE SOURCES

There seems to be strong public support for the Town to improve parks, expand recreation facilities and programs, but innovative measures will be required to meet the needs identified in this plan. The proposed new facilities and expanded operations will require dollars from a variety of sources. The following funding sources are provided to help the Town evaluate funding options:

General Tax Revenues (operational & capital)

General tax revenues traditionally provide the principal source of funds for general operations and maintenance of municipal parks and recreation facilities. Recreation, as a public service, is scheduled along

with health, public safety, schools, etc. in annual budgets established by the governing authority. Assessed valuation of real and personal property provides the framework for this major portion of the tax base. This tax base is then used to fund a majority of municipal services. Currently, funding for parks and recreation services is a relatively small portion of the Town's overall budget. If the Town wishes to enhance the quality of life and healthy lifestyle opportunities for its residents, the current level of funding for parks and recreation should be increased.

General Foundations (operational & capital)

Another source of revenue is the direct contribution of money from State and National General Foundations. Foundation funds should be sought for both development and construction of facilities as well as providing programs. Funding sources should include general-purpose foundations that have relatively few restrictions, special program foundations for specific activities, and corporate foundations with local connections.

Foundations with Emphasis on Conservation, Healthy Lifestyles & Parks

Granite Quarry is in a position to receive grant funding from a wide variety of public and private foundations and trusts. Below is a list of funding sources that are particularly applicable and available for the community:

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has been instrumental in funding projects in North Carolina. Their focus is to improve the quality of life and health.

The **Trust for Public Land and NC Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** have been instrumental in providing financial and technical assistance for open space conservation and development of greenways in North Carolina.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is the nation's largest philanthropic organization devoted specifically to the public's health. RWJF promotes change through partnerships and collaboration, with the goal of building a culture of health for all Americans. RWJF generally supports public agencies, universities, and public charities that are tax-exempt.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation places optimal development of children at the center of all their grants. They concentrate on early childhood development within the context of families and communities. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's areas of focus: educated kids, healthy kids, secure families, community and civic engagement, and racial equity.

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit dedicated to providing play opportunities for America's children. They envision a place to play within walking distance of every child. KaBOOM! works with communities, volunteers, and funding partners to build playgrounds throughout the country.

BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation has invested millions of dollars in communities across the state. They support opportunities that impact the health of our state. Their areas of focus include health of vulnerable populations, healthy active communities, and community impact through non-profit excellence. Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) through their regional trail implementation help communities within the Carolina Thread Trail network plan and implement trail projects with a focus on planning and constructing trails in key corridors. The Town of Granite Quarry has dedicated CTT segments already with assistance from CTT for signage.

Playworks Grants Database is a good resource for grants. Examples found within this database are: The philanthropic arm of Safeway Groceries which established the Safeway Foundation to support non-profits whose mission is aligned with the company's priority areas; hunger relief, education, health and human services and assisting people with disabilities.

The Safeway Foundation offers grants up to \$25,000.

Cigna Health through its Cigna Foundation supports organizations that enhance health in individuals, families and communities. They offer grants up to \$5,000.

Home Depot, through its Community Impact Grants Program, and **Lowe's** through its Lowe's Foundation offer grants to improve community health.

People For Bikes provides a community grant program that provides grants up to \$10,000 to improve infrastructure and programs that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to bike. The Blanche & Julian Robertson Family Foundation, Inc. provides grant towards projects and programs that benefit the people of Salisbury and Rowan County. The focus is on projects that encourage constructive change and have a significant public service component.

Another source of local assistance may be large corporations with foundations established to provide grants for public projects. Companies such as Bank of America, REI, Pilgrim's Pride, and Duke Energy have available funding through existing grant programs, or they may be interested in creating a program or partnership for specific projects.

The Town should actively pursue grants from foundation and trust sources on a regional and national level. Information on trusts and foundations can be found through the Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003-3076 (<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/>).

General Obligation Bonds (capital)

General tax revenue for parks and recreation are usually devoted to current operations and maintenance of existing facilities. General obligation bonds are often used to finance capital improvements in parks. The State of North Carolina gives municipal governments the authority to accomplish this borrowing of funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds not to exceed the total cost of improvements (including land acquisition). For purposes of paying the debt service on the sale of these bonds, government bodies are often required to increase property taxes. Total bonding capacities for these government agencies are limited to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

Granite Quarry has not used this method of financing park improvements in the past. In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, borrowing of funds to acquire new land and develop facilities may be a consideration. Response from the community wide survey indicated there may be support for additional spending to develop parks and greenways.

An added value of a governing agency's bonding authority and capacity is its ability to use those funds to leverage other funding opportunities. Bonding enables government agencies to utilize funds to match federal grant-in-aid monies or state funds. General obligation bonds are still the greatest source utilized to fund park projects in North Carolina. Through a well thought out and publicly presented bond campaign, voters would be given the opportunity to choose to support park and recreation improvements through the selling of bonds.

Revenue Bonds (capital)

Revenue bonds are used for financing high use specialty facilities like multi-use community centers, aquatic centers, tennis centers, and athletics complexes. The users, and other revenue sources, pay for operations and sometimes repay the bonds. This revenue source would only be of use to the Town if they choose to change their tax subsidy policy for using this type of funding. The Town most likely would not seek out this option.

The legal requirements for utilizing these funding mechanisms are extremely complicated and can require approval from the state legislature. Use of revenue bonds seem to be unlikely at this time.

Limited Option or Special Use Tax (capital)

Limited option or special use taxes can be established in various ways. A municipality or county can establish the tax by determining the source, such as property valuation, real estate transfer taxes, or sales tax. This option requires legislative approval. Typically, special use taxes are structured on sales tax or transfer taxes and are earmarked for a specific project. A governing body can approve a tax that is identified or earmarked on property valuation; however, other sources may require state approval. The idea behind a special option or limited option tax is that the tax is identified or limited for a special purpose or projects and the duration can also be limited to accomplishing the projects.

Federal and State Assistance (capital)

Federal funding sources are available to assist financing capital improvement recommendations found in this plan. One of the oldest park funding sources has been available from the U.S. Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Funding through this program has been sporadic over the past few years, but through recent legislation action has infused new stream of continual funding into the program. The Town of Granite Quarry received an LWCF grant in 1985 for Granite Civic Park.

Other potential federal funding sources are the National Foundation of Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The North Carolina General Assembly passed a bill in 1994 creating a consistent source of funds for parks and recreation in the state. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides money for capital improvements, repairs, renovations, and land acquisition of state and local parks. Originally, revenues from the state's portion of the real estate deed transfer tax support the fund. Revenues vary from year to year. The structure of this funding source has recently gone through changes based on legislative action. While the funding structure for this fund has changed, PARTF will continue to fund park and recreation facilities in North Carolina.

Of the funds allocated, 65% go to the state parks system, 30% provide matching grants to local governments, and the remaining 5% go to the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program. The maximum matching grant is limited to \$500,000 for a single project. The PARTF system allows an agency to apply for a 50/50 cost-sharing grant to develop or acquire park land and facilities.

The Town of Granite Quarry has received one PARTF grant in 2004 for Granite Lake Park. In the future, the Town should consider applying for funds through this program on a regular basis.

Additionally, the State can fund projects such as bikeways and pedestrian walks through the federally funded SAFTEA-LU [formerly known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)]. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) administers the funds, and the local government agency

can use these funds for developing portions of any proposed Greenway system. Local communities can also apply for assistance with pedestrian, bikeway, and greenway projects by applying for “NCDOT Enhancement Funds.”

Another source of state administered funding is through the North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) (formerly Clean Water Management Trust Fund). These funds are set aside for the acquisition of riparian properties, financing of innovative wastewater management initiatives, stormwater mitigation and stream bank restoration projects, support for greenways, and some planning programs. The acquired or purchased property can be used for recreation while protecting valuable water resources from the effects of urban encroachment. Money from this grant is particularly applicable to the preservation of open space, greenway development, and water access.

Another excellent source to find government grants is on the website (www.grants.gov). This website clearing house provides information for all federal grants. Grant opportunities exist in the following categories:

Community Development
Environment
Health
Natural Resources
Transportation

Any of these categories could have grants that could be used to develop programs and facilities for parks.

User Fees (operational)

User fees are often charged by departments or municipalities to offset operational costs, and (occasionally) provide funding for the construction of facilities. Every agency must establish its philosophy with regard to cost recovery through the use of fees. The Town has historically charged fees for some facilities and programs, but these fees have typically not been set to cover the total operational cost of the program and have never been used to finance construction of facilities.

Currently, the Town charges rental fees for the following facilities:

- Centennial Park Gazebo
- Civic Park Shelter
- Civic Park Kitchen
- Legion Building @ Civic Park
- Lake Park Shelter
- Lake Park Gazebo

The rental fees vary based on hours needed for use, Town resident vs. non-resident with a discount for civic/ church groups.

Ultimately, the Town may consider a change in user fees that will help offset more of the cost of some activities. Based on elected officials’ direction, the revenue generated by increased fees could then be used to offset impacts on the general fund and possibly be used for capital improvement funding to help make park improvements.

Many of the proposed facilities in this Master Plan are outdoors (playgrounds, trails, greenway, new recreation facilities, etc.) and offer only limited opportunity for cost recovery. There may be some areas where greater cost recovery could be achieved. Examples may include rental fees for additional shelters, fields, etc. or for requiring permits for dog parks, disc golf, etc.

Revenue Opportunities

User fees are not the only means of generating revenue. The Town may consider using some other revenue generating opportunities which could include:

Sponsorships from local private businesses. Sponsorships typically come in the form of products, events, programs, cause-related, and in-kind. Sponsorships can also take the form of naming rights for a facility or program. Sponsorship or naming agreements should include very specific details related to sponsorship cost, duration, use of promotional materials, etc.

Grant applications from local foundations, state and federal agencies, or individuals. Most grants take time to prepare and require coordination effort with other agencies or departments from within the community to create a quality submittal. Grants also require extensive tracking of expenditures and outcomes for attaining future funding.

Partnerships are a relatively new method of sharing funding resources to provide services. These partnerships can be formed with a wide variety of other public or private agencies. Often partnerships are two or more government agencies. Through these partnerships, a municipality receives direct benefit in either facility use, programming assistance, or volunteer man-hours. These benefits add value and help offset cost thus creating earned income. This earned income requires both agencies to have common visions, values, and goals for the partnership to be successful. Some examples of partnerships include:

- Church facilities for recreation services. Some churches or religious organizations in the region are providing recreation facilities.
- Youth sports associations are an important partner in organizing and programming many youth sports in the region.
- Trail sponsors that adopt sections of trails for maintenance and cleanup.
- Adopt-a-park or adopt-a-greenway partners that help maintain park lands and greenway corridors. These sponsors are typically in the form of scout units, neighborhood associations and businesses that are in proximity to parks.
- School partnerships where both partners invest in the development of facilities and programs based on shared use of facilities and staff. This investment may be financial or may include other means of support.
- Municipal partnerships with Rowan County to share in land acquisition, development funding for park and recreation development as well as staffing.
- Special event partners that assist with the development of community-wide events.
- Program partners who assist in providing services to the community.
- Advertising and licensing in programs, facilities, and events sponsored by the Town. The Town could leverage highly exposed advertising space to businesses willing to pay a fee for the right to advertise.
- Volunteer development programs can reduce staff costs. Volunteers can create advocacy and bring down the cost of programs and services.
- Privatizing the development of facilities or services is an opportunity that is used by some departments when they are unable to control the cost of labor and are unable to find the needed capital to develop a recreational facility or a concession operation. This gives the government agency a management tool to

create an asset or improve a service without tapping into their own resources. Facilities that are typically considered for privatization include community centers, golf courses, marinas, camping and RV facilities, boat rentals, bike rentals, equipment rentals, and other forms of concessions.

- Marketing strategies are an important component in developing untapped revenue opportunities. Promotional activities improve awareness of the activities provided by the Town and assist in bringing more revenue to the system by filling programs and facilities.

METHODS FOR LAND ACQUISITION & DEDICATION

In order to meet the needs identified in this report, the Town should consider expanding its park and recreational lands which would lead to a need for future land acquisition. Methods available for acquiring the land include the following:

Fee Simple Purchase

Outright purchase is perhaps the most widely used method of obtaining land. Fee simple purchase has the advantage of being relatively simple to administer, and to explain to the general public to justify a particular public expenditure. Unfortunately, fee simple purchase often is the most expensive means of obtaining and utilizing a property.

Fee Simple Purchase with Lease-Back or Resale

This technique of land acquisition enables the Town to purchase land to lease or sell to a prospective user with deed restrictions that would protect the land from abuse or development. This method is used by governments who impose development restrictions severe enough that the owner considers himself/herself to have lost the major portion of the property's value and it is more economical for him/her to sell with a lease-back option.

Long-term option

A long-term option is frequently used when a property is considered to have potential future value though it is not desired or affordable at the time. Under the terms of a long-term option, the Town agrees with the landowner on a selling price for the property, along with a period of time, for which the Town has the right to exercise its option. The first benefit of this protective method is that the option may stabilize escalating land cost and establishes land use for the property. Secondly, the Town does not have to expend large sums of money until the land is purchased. Thirdly, the purchase price of the land is established. The disadvantage of this method is that a price must be paid for every right given by the property owner. In this case, the cost of land use stabilization and a price commitment comes in the form of the cost of securing the option.

First Right of Purchase

This approach to acquiring land eliminates the need for fixing the selling price of a parcel of land yet alerts the Town of any impending purchase which might disrupt the land acquisition goals. The Town would be notified that a purchase is pending and would have the right to purchase the property before it is sold to the party requesting the purchase.

Land Trust

The role and responsibility of a Land Trust is to acquire park land and open space while maintaining a well-balanced system of park resources representing outstanding ecological, scenic, recreational, and historical features. A Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation made up of key knowledgeable leaders in the

area who represent a cross section of interest and experience in recreation, historic properties, conservation, preservation, land development, and environmental issues. Their goals and responsibilities are to work with landowners to acquire park land for current and future generations. The individuals appointed to the Land Trust must have knowledge of land acquisition methods and tools used to entice landowners to sell, donate, provide easements, life estates, irrevocable trusts, or a combination of all. This includes seeking out a knowledgeable land acquisition attorney who is trained in these areas to provide the most efficient and effective processes to achieve the balance of types of land to meet the goals of this Master Plan.

The Town does not have to go through the time and expense of setting up a land trust to utilize this vehicle for land donation or conservation. Three Rivers Land Trust is the established land trust in Rowan County. The Town could partner with them to provide protection of valuable open space without creating a new entity.

Donations

A significant, and yet often untapped, source for funding for acquisition and development of public park projects is through a well-organized local gifts program. Donations of land, money, or labor can have a meaningful impact on the development of Parks and Recreation facilities.

The most frequently used type of gift involves the giving of land to be used for a park or a greenway. The timing of such a donation can correspond with a PARTE grant application, thereby providing all or a significant portion of the local matching requirement associated with this fund. A similar use of gifts involves donated labor or materials, which become part of an improvement project and help to reduce project costs. The value of the services or materials can, in some cases, also be used to match non-local grant funds.

Some agencies have developed a gift catalog as a tool for promoting a gifts program. Such a publication should explain the role and importance of the gifts program, describe its advantages, define the tax advantages that may occur to the donor, and identify various gifts (land, labor, play equipment, materials, trees, etc.) that are needed to meet program needs. The gifts catalog should be prepared in a format that can be distributed effectively and inexpensively and should provide a clear statement of needs, typical costs associated with various gifts, and be made readily available to the public.

To aid this type of gift program, a strategy for contacting potential donors (individuals, businesses, foundations, service clubs, etc.) should be developed. An important part of this strategy should include contacting the local Bar Association, trust departments of lending institutions, and the Probate Court. Communicating with these groups regularly will make them aware of the potential for individuals to include a gift to the Town as part of their tax and estate planning.

Life Estate

A life estate is a deferred gift. Under this plan, a donor retains use of their land during their lifetime and relinquishes title to such land upon their death. In return for this gift, the owner is usually relieved of the property tax burden on the donated land.

Easement

The most common type of less-than-fee interest in land is an easement. Property ownership may be viewed as a combination of rights. With this understanding, it is possible to purchase any one or several of these rights. An easement seeks either to compensate the landholder for the right to use their land in some manner or to

compensate them for the loss of one of their privileges to use the land. One advantage of this less-than-fee interest in the land is the private citizen continues to use the land while the land remains on the tax records continuing as a source of revenue for the Town. Perhaps the greatest benefit lies in the fact that the Town purchases only those rights that it specifically needs to execute its park land objectives. By purchasing only rights that are needed, the Town is making more selective and efficient use of its limited financial resources.

Zoning/Subdivision Regulations

Many communities in North Carolina have unified development ordinance, zoning ordinances or subdivision regulations that require a developer to donate a portion of the property they are developing to the government agency to be used for public park land. Through these regulations (zoning ordinances, subdivision regulation, and mandatory dedications) developers may be required to provide new usable park land at no cost to a municipality. Regulations can require land to be dedicated and/or compensation made to the municipality for the development of park land.

PARK FACILITIES AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

Historically, there have been four economic development benefits that a community may derive from park and recreation services. These benefits include:

Attracting Tourists: The features and programs that attract tourism to a community include parks, beaches, historic sites, museums, special events and festivals, and athletic tournaments. The majority of features are provided by public agencies (national, state, local park agencies, etc.).

Enhancing Real Estate Values: Research shows people will pay more to live close to natural park areas. These higher property values result in owners paying higher property taxes, which in turn offsets some of the cost for the development of parks and preservation of open space.

Attracting Business: Quality of life issues influence where businesses locate. Parks, recreation, open space, and senior services are an important component of the quality of life equation. Good parks help cities and counties attract and retain businesses.

Attracting Retirees: A new growth industry for American communities is the retirement population. The decision to relocate by this segment of our population is primarily governed by climate and recreation opportunities. This segment of the population is extremely attractive to local governments because retirees are unlikely to have children enrolled in the local school system and therefore are less of a burden on the community's tax base.

Through investing in parks and recreation facilities, Town officials can ensure that Granite Quarry provides the quality of life that helps attract new businesses, enhances real estate values, and provides an attractive option to the retirement community.

OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Town leadership must also address some of the operational issues that will face the Department in the coming decade. These issues relate to the manpower and organizational changes that will be required as the

Town expands and adds new parks/facilities. These recommendations address some of the critical operational issues the Department needs to identify as it expands the facilities and services it provides.

An important aspect of these planning recommendations is to develop a vision for the Department to improve park and recreation facilities for Town residents. Ultimately, the provision of better parks and recreational programs includes both facility improvements and establishing a method of delivery of services. Currently, the Town is limited in the resources it directs to this mission. If the Town is to improve the quality of parks and recreation facilities offered, it will be required to add staff to manage/operate facilities and provide services.

Staff Needs

Action on the recommendations found in this Master Plan will expand the Town's parks and facilities. The development of new parks, the construction of new recreation facilities, and the expansion of trails will require additional staff to maintain, operate and program these new facilities. Currently, the parks maintenance is overseen through Maintenance/Public Works. While the development of a true operation and maintenance program for these future facilities is beyond the scope of this Master Plan, it is important that the Town plan and budget for adequate staff positions for any new facilities that are constructed.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee/Friends of the Parks

Without a dedicated Parks and Recreation Department, Granite Quarry should at least have a committee with a focus on the park and recreation offerings of the town. This plan recommends that the Town establish a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) or a Friends of the Parks (FOTP) organization that can provide more focus on the mission, goals and objectives listed at the beginning of Section Four. The purpose of a Board is typically to promote, advise and assist a Parks and Recreation Department. For Granite Quarry, an established PRAC or FOTP would work with the Town Manager and Public Works Department to assist with making sure these ideals are met. Advisory Board assistance can include, but not be limited to:

- Assisting with development of new funding sources for the Town relating to parks, recreation, and greenways
- Assisting with review and making recommendations towards proposed park, recreation, and greenway projects
- Assisting with review and making recommendations on potential land acquisition related to parks, recreation, and greenway projects.
- Assisting in the development of long-range plans
- Assisting in the promotion and facilitation of community or special events
- Assisting with promotion of community awareness on needs for parks, recreation, and greenways towards making Granite Quarry a healthier place to live.

It is recommended that the PRAC or FOTP prepare an annual work plan from which the PRAC/FOTP can work with staff to meet future and recreational development and services. An example work plan is provided in the Appendix. Recreation Resources Service, a partnership of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management, and North Carolina State University, works with many municipalities in providing services and can provide guidance towards an operational PARC or FOTP for Granite Quarry.

Operational Costs

As noted above, the development of expanded and new recreation facilities will require additional staff. These new staff positions will add to the annual operational budget in both staff and equipment costs. The expansion of recreational facilities could also add to the energy and utility cost of parks and recreation facilities. The recommended facility improvements included in this Plan will increase the Town's facilities. Expansion of parks and greenways will have implications to the operational budget. The Town's management staff along with elected officials must carefully consider the financial impact of each major capital improvement project as projects are considered. No capital improvement project should be undertaken without the commitment of support for adequate ongoing operational funding. Likewise, consideration should be given to the positive economic impacts that some facilities may have on Granite Quarry's economy, and if applicable, their potential for revenue generation.

Greener Operation

As the world's population expands and environmental concerns over climate change, conservation of resources, and preservation of our fragile natural systems become more apparent, greater environmental responsibility by public and private agencies has become critical. As a government agency, particularly one that is involved with the management of public open space and the improvement of the public's health, the Department's operation should make a concerted effort to minimize its environmental impact.

With this understanding, the Town should evaluate its maintenance and operational procedures with an intent to minimize waste and environmental impact. Where economically feasible, the Town should look to implement operational procedures that emphasize conservation, recycling, and sustainability. Likewise, as the Town looks to build new facilities, it should consider constructing facilities that minimize environmental impacts, conserve energy, and reuse building materials where possible.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Capital Improvement Plan for the acquisition, renovation, and development of parks and greenways for the planning period was prepared with input from Town staff and public involvement. All of the proposed costs are shown in current dollar values. The capital improvement costs include funds for land acquisition, site preparation, site utilities, and facility development as well as estimated planning and design fees.

The 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan can be summarized into the following components:

Existing Parks Renovations/Improvements	\$1,344,000
Land Acquisition	\$ 600,000
New Park Facility Development	\$ 896,000
Greenway Development	\$ 974,400
Special Use Facilities	\$ 459,200
Site Specific Park Master Planning	<u>\$ 95,000</u>
Total Capital Improvement Budget	\$4,368,600

Table 5-1 "Capital Improvement Plan" shows the costs associated with the capital improvement program. The table reflects the proposals and recommendations as outlined in Section Four of this Master Plan.

RECOMMENDED TEN-YEAR PRIORITY PROJECTS

Recognizing that this is a vision plan for a community-wide park system, Town staff and elected officials must prioritize the recommendations in this document based on the public's input and staff review. The following park development initiatives should be considered as a focus over the next ten years:

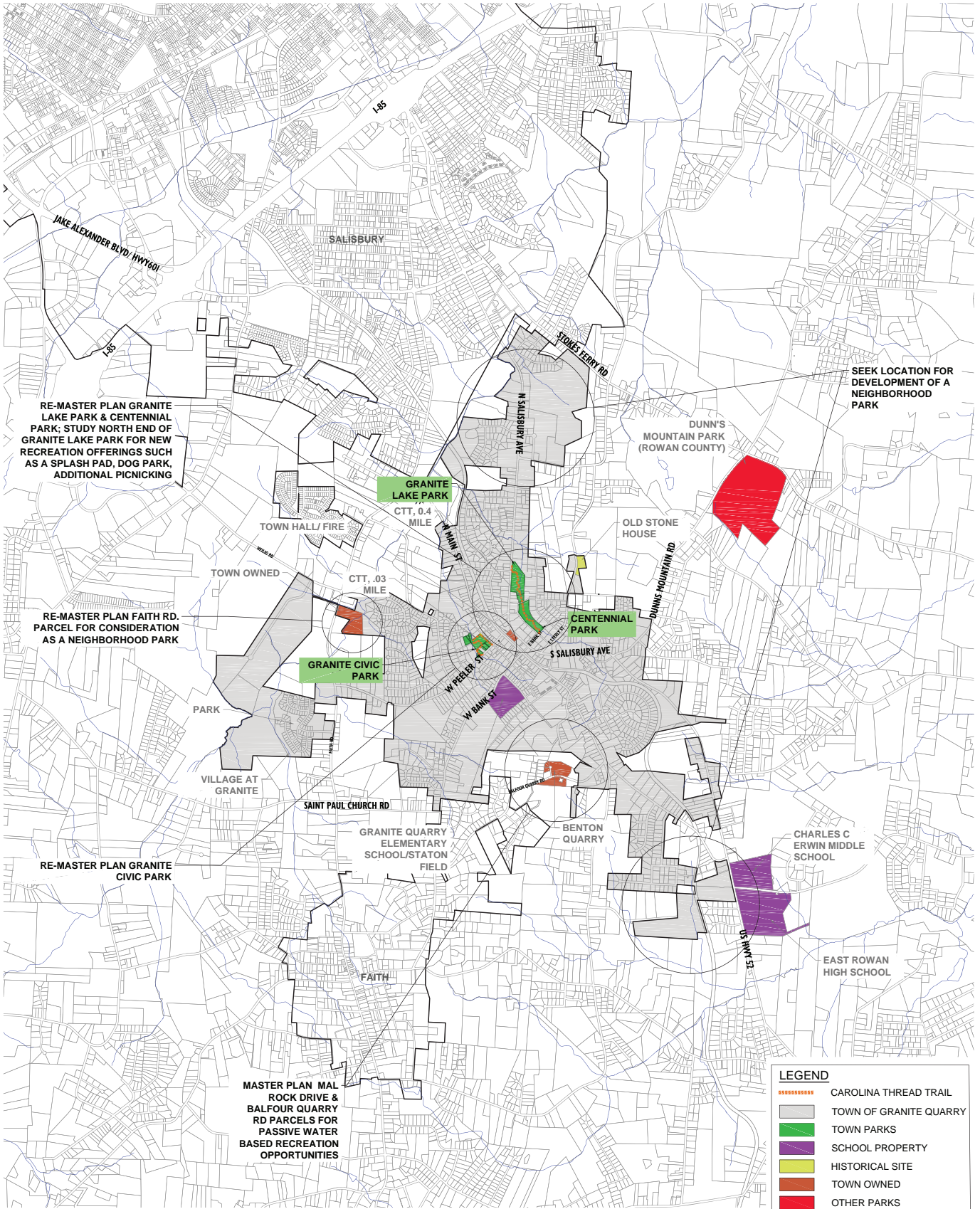
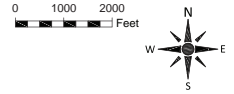
- Master plan Granite Lake Park with a focus on park upgrades and expansion
- Master plan Granite Civic Park with a focus on park upgrades and expansion
- Master plan Centennial Park with a focus on park upgrades and expansion
- Master plan the Quarry property(ies) with a focus on passive recreation
- Master plan Faith Road property for multi-use recreation opportunities, neighborhood park
- Construction of two miles of greenway; seek grant opportunities, partnership(s) with Rowan County and adjacent municipalities
- Seek locations for at least two neighborhood parks in the northern and southern ends of the Town
- Seek a location for a splash pad
- Seek a location for a dog park
- Establish a Parks Recreation Advisory Committee/Friends of the Parks; develop a work plan
- Seek partnerships with area businesses that focus on health and wellness to expand programming within the parks

MASTER PLAN FUNDING STRATEGY

This Master Plan identifies a Vision Plan for park and recreation development and services in Granite Quarry. It is understood that not all the recommendations will be acted upon over the next decade. The Town and elected officials will ultimately have to prioritize the steps they will take to meet some of these park and recreation needs.

To assist with the prioritization, the following items should be considered by both Town Staff and the elected officials:

- Clearly delineate capital expenses vs. operational expenses.
- Identify any additional staff requirements as a result of proposed projects.
- Identify and evaluate areas of future development
- Prepare potential risk assessments associated with all elements.
- Prepare proforma and cost benefit analysis demonstrating each project's value to Granite Quarry.
- Revenue sources must be identified and verified - Projected tax base growth, Land sales, User fees, Partnerships, Sponsors, Grants, General Fund, Bond Referenda, etc.
- Project timelines for each project and tasks involved.
- Identify the degree of difficulty involved for each project.
- Indicate the apparent "ripeness" of each project.
- Demonstrate the Public's interest (as expressed in our surveys) for each project / element.



**Table 5-1
Town of Granite Quarry
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) (10 Years)**

Capital Improvement & Land Acquisition	10-Year Total	2022-2025	2026-2030
Existing Parks Renovations/Improvements			
Centennial Park	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Granite Civic Park	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Granite Lake Park Park	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Planning & Design (12%)	<u>\$144,000</u>	<u>\$72,000</u>	<u>\$72,000</u>
Renovations/Improvements Total	\$1,344,000	\$672,000	\$672,000
Land Acquisition			
Neighborhood Parks (2 @ 5-7 AC)	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Greenway Easements	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
Land Acquisition Total	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
New Park/Facility Development			
Mar-Rock Quarry Property	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Planning & Design (12%)	<u>\$96,000</u>	<u>\$48,000</u>	<u>\$48,000</u>
Park/Facility Development Total	\$896,000	\$448,000	\$448,000
Greenway Development			
Greenway Development (2+ miles)	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Natural Trail Development	\$70,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Planning & Design (12%)	<u>\$104,400</u>	<u>\$52,200</u>	<u>\$52,200</u>
Greenway Development Total	\$974,400	\$487,200	\$487,200
Special Use Facilities			
Splash Pad	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$100,000
Dog Park	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Planning & Design (12%)	<u>\$49,200</u>	<u>\$37,200</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>
Special Use Facilities Total	\$459,200	\$347,200	\$112,000
Site Specific Park Master Planning			
Lake/Civic/Centennial Parks	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Faith Rd/Mar Rock Rd Properties	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Neighborhood Parks (2)	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>
Site Specific Park Master Planning Total	\$95,000	\$70,000	\$25,000
Total Capital Improvement Budget Cost	\$4,368,600	\$2,324,400	\$2,044,200

DRAFT



APPENDICES

DRAFT

DRAFT

Alfred Benesch & Company

704.521.9880



Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 11

Summary:

During budget preparation staff tries to allow for fuel price increases. The increase that we've all experienced was much greater than staff anticipated, and fuel prices continue to climb. Although department heads are taking fuel efficiency measures, there is simply not enough to cover Town services with the remaining fuel budgets in Police, Fire, and Public Works. Staff will monitor these lines and use existing department budgets prior to using funds allowed by the attached budget amendment when allowable and practical.

Attachments:

- Budget Amendment #8
- Fleet Fuel Totals

Action Requested:

Motion to approve Budget Amendment #8.

Budget Amendment #8

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
- Against

**FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #8**

February 15, 2022

PURPOSE: To increase Fund Balance Appropriated (01-3991-99) and increase Police – Fuel (01-4310-20), Fire – Fuel (01-4340-20), and Public Works – Fuel (01-4190-20) in amounts not to exceed \$4,500, \$500, and \$4,500 respectively for inflated and continuously rising fuel costs. Staff will make every effort to use existing department budgets when allowable and practical.

General Fund – Fund 01

Revenues:

<u>GL Acct #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease):</u>
01-3991-99	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 9,500
Total Increase/Decrease:		\$ 9,500

Expenses:

<u>GL Acct #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease):</u>
01-4310-20	Police – Fuel	\$ 4,500
01-4340-20	Fire – Fuel	\$ 500
01-4190-20	Public Works – Fuel	\$ 4,500
Total Increase/Decrease:		\$ 9,500

The above Budget Amendment was approved / denied by the Manager or Board on _____.

Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor

Shelly Shockley, Finance Officer

**VOYAGER VEHICLE FUEL CHARGES
FY 2021-2022**

Invoice Date		Actual	Estimated	Estimated Total	Budget	Over Budget
P O L I C E	July	\$ 1,729.35				
	August	\$ 2,068.25				
	September	\$ 2,143.24				
	October	\$ 1,861.85				
	November	\$ 2,344.80				
	December	\$ 1,729.14				
	January	\$ 1,831.34				
	February	\$ -	\$ 1,750.00			
	March	\$ -	\$ 1,958.28			
	April	\$ -	\$ 1,958.28			
	May	\$ -	\$ 1,958.28			
	June	\$ -	\$ 1,979.44			
	Misc. Fuel Charges	\$ 94.52				
	TOTAL		\$ 13,802.49	\$ 9,604.28	\$ 23,406.77	\$ 19,000.00
F I R E	July	\$ 383.69				
	August	\$ 323.36				
	September	\$ 465.61				
	October	\$ 248.89				
	November	\$ 600.72				
	December	\$ 514.46				
	January	\$ 376.83				
	February	\$ -	\$ 400.00			
	March	\$ -	\$ 497.34			
	April	\$ -	\$ 497.34			
	May	\$ -	\$ 497.34			
	June	\$ -	\$ 497.34			
	Misc. Fuel Charges	\$ 16.65				
	TOTAL		\$ 2,930.21	\$ 2,389.35	\$ 5,319.56	\$ 5,000.00
M A I N T	July	\$ 668.33				
	August	\$ 668.56				
	September	\$ 846.02				
	October	\$ 446.33				
	November	\$ 927.69				
	December	\$ 1,004.27				
	January	\$ 800.63				
	February	\$ -	\$ 800.00			
	March	\$ -	\$ 910.86			
	April	\$ -	\$ 910.86			
	May	\$ -	\$ 765.98			
	June	\$ -	\$ 765.98			
	Misc. Fuel Charges	\$ 909.34	\$ 900.00			
	TOTAL		\$ 6,271.17	\$ 5,053.68	\$ 11,324.85	\$ 7,100.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 23,003.87	\$ 17,047.31	\$ 40,051.18	\$ 31,100.00	\$ (8,951.18)

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 12

Summary:

The past few years the governing body budget did not incur much in training costs or members’ attendance to events such as Chamber meetings, based on which the current budget was adopted.

Mayor Barnhardt has requested some training materials for which we would need to transfer funds to cover. She is also attending and representing the Town at more networking functions where we are members, such as the Chamber.

We also just found out several months ago that GQ would become host for the Rowan Municipal Association as of January 2022. We did not know beforehand and therefore did not budget for hosting any meetings (each municipality pays the host back based on their representative attendance).

Instead of having to wait and bring each such request back to the Board before we can order or register for these things, and to avoid the multiple budget amendments associated with doing so, staff proposes to distribute the remaining Contingency balance (which is only \$1,338) among these respective line items per the attached budget amendment.

Attachments:

- Budget Amendment #9

Action Requested:

Motion to approve Budget Amendment #9.

Budget Amendment #9

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
- Kim Cress
- John Linker
- Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
- Against

**FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #9**

February 15, 2022

PURPOSE: To decrease Governing Body – Board Contingency (01-4110-97) and increase Governing Body - Training (01-4110-31), Governing Body – Dues and Subscriptions (01-4110-40) and Governing Body – Special Projects (01-4110-60) by \$1,338.00 for additional Board member training, Power in Partnership attendance, and Rowan Municipal Association expenses.

General Fund – Fund 01

Expenses:

<u>GL Acct #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease):</u>
01-4110-31	Governing Body – Training	\$ 250.00
01-4110-40	Governing Body – Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 250.00
01-4110-60	Governing Body – Special Projects	\$ 838.00
01-4110-97	Governing Body – Board Contingency	(\$1,338.00)
Total Increase/Decrease:		\$ 0.00

The above Budget Amendment was approved / denied by the Manager or Board on _____.

Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor

Shelly Shockley, Finance Officer



Summary: Public Works Vehicle Purchase

In budget year 2021/22 the public works department asked the Board of Aldermen to consider the proposal to add another vehicle to the public works department and this was graciously approved in the budget. The vehicle that was quoted was a 2021 Ford F150, crew cab in the amount of \$37,000 which would include the truck, tax, tag and title. Since that time, due to Covid-19 and shortages on semiconductor chips, Ford has changed those orders to 2022 models and still no ETA in sight for when fleet vehicles will be built or delivered.

The need for the vehicle is still there and after speaking with our contract Ford dealer and seeing no definite timeframe on the delivery of the truck, I have looked at other manufacturers. The neighboring Town of Faith purchased a Chevrolet and had no issues with supply chain on delivery. Upon investigation, I was able to locate a 2022 Chevy Silverado 1500 that is in the process of build from the State Contract Chevrolet dealer. The truck is very close to the same spec as the Ford and will work great for its intent. As you may know, available vehicles are being sold above MSRP at the current demand level. This vehicle is still offered at State Contract price, which is \$42,000 before taxes, tag and title.

Action requested is that the board would allocate an additional \$7,000 to the capital outlay line, for a total “not to exceed” amount of \$44,000 for the purchase of the Chevrolet 1500. Upon your approval the truck has a delivery date of mid-March 2022.

**FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #10**

February 15, 2022

PURPOSE: To increase Fund Balance Appropriated (01-3991-99) and increase Public Works – Cap Outlay - Vehicles (01-4190-54) in an amount not to exceed \$7,000. If approved, the total Public Works – Cap Outlay – Vehicles budget will not exceed \$44,000.

General Fund – Fund 01

Revenues:

<u>GL Acct #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease):</u>
01-3991-99	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 7,000
Total Increase/Decrease:		\$ 7,000

Expenses:

<u>GL Acct #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease):</u>
01-4190-54	Public Works – Cap Outlay - Vehicles	\$ 7,000
Total Increase/Decrease:		\$ 7,000

The above Budget Amendment was approved / denied by the Manager or Board on _____.

Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor

Shelly Shockley, Finance Officer

Agenda Item Summary

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2022
Agenda Item 14

Moratoriums

Summary:

The Mayor asked that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Attachments:

- § 160D-107. Moratoria.
- Moratoria blog

Action Requested:

Direction from the Board on how it wishes to proceed.

Motion Made By:

- Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

Second By:

- Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

For:

- Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

Against:

- Jim Costantino
Kim Cress
John Linker
Doug Shelton

In case of tie:

Mayor Brittany Barnhardt

- For
Against

§ 160D-107. Moratoria.

(a) Authority. - As provided in this section, local governments may adopt temporary moratoria on any development approval required by law, except for the purpose of developing and adopting new or amended plans or development regulations governing residential uses. The duration of any moratorium shall be reasonable in light of the specific conditions that warrant imposition of the moratorium and may not exceed the period of time necessary to correct, modify, or resolve such conditions.

(b) Hearing Required. - Except in cases of imminent and substantial threat to public health or safety, before adopting a development regulation imposing a development moratorium with a duration of 60 days or any shorter period, the governing board shall hold a legislative hearing and shall publish a notice of the hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in the area not less than seven days before the date set for the hearing. A development moratorium with a duration of 61 days or longer, and any extension of a moratorium so that the total duration is 61 days or longer, is subject to the notice and hearing requirements of G.S. 160D-601.

(c) Exempt Projects. - Absent an imminent threat to public health or safety, a development moratorium adopted pursuant to this section does not apply to any project for which a valid building permit issued pursuant to G.S. 160D-1108 is outstanding, to any project for which a special use permit application has been accepted as complete, to development set forth in a site-specific vesting plan approved pursuant to G.S. 160D-108.1, to development for which substantial expenditures have already been made in good-faith reliance on a prior valid development approval, or to preliminary or final subdivision plats that have been accepted for review by the local government prior to the call for a hearing to adopt the moratorium. Any preliminary subdivision plat accepted for review by the local government prior to the call for a hearing, if subsequently approved, shall be allowed to proceed to final plat approval without being subject to the moratorium. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a complete application for a development approval has been submitted prior to the effective date of a moratorium, G.S. 160D-108(b) applies when permit processing resumes.

(d) Required Statements. - Any development regulation establishing a development moratorium must include, at the time of adoption, each of the following:

(1) A statement of the problems or conditions necessitating the moratorium and what courses of action, alternative to a moratorium, were considered by the local government and why those alternative courses of action were not deemed adequate.

(2) A statement of the development approvals subject to the moratorium and how a moratorium on those approvals will address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium.

(3) A date for termination of the moratorium and a statement setting forth why that duration is reasonably necessary to address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium.

(4) A statement of the actions, and the schedule for those actions, proposed to be taken by the local government during the duration of the moratorium to address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium.

(e) Limit on Renewal or Extension. - No moratorium may be subsequently renewed or extended for any additional period unless the local government has taken all reasonable and feasible steps proposed

to be taken in its ordinance establishing the moratorium to address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium and unless new facts and conditions warrant an extension. Any ordinance renewing or extending a development moratorium must include, at the time of adoption, the findings set forth in subdivisions (1) through (4) of subsection (d) of this section, including what new facts or conditions warrant the extension.

(f) Expedited Judicial Review. - Any person aggrieved by the imposition of a moratorium on development approvals required by law may apply to the General Court of Justice for an order enjoining the enforcement of the moratorium. Actions brought pursuant to this section shall be scheduled for expedited hearing, and subsequent proceedings in those actions shall be accorded priority by the trial and appellate courts. In such actions, the local government has the burden of showing compliance with the procedural requirements of this subsection. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 4, 51(a), (b), (d).)

Moratoria

David W. Owens

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Legislative summary(ies)

Given the time needed to complete the procedures required for adoption or amendment of development regulations or to even rezone property, local governments sometimes adopt moratoria on development to preserve the status quo while plans are made, management strategies are devised and debated, ordinances are revised, or other development management concerns are addressed. Moratoria are also sometimes used when there are insufficient public services necessary to support development, such as inadequate water supply or wastewater treatment capacity.

Summary:

Use of temporary development moratoria is not uncommon in North Carolina. Nearly 20% of the state's cities and counties responding to a 2008 School of Government survey reported adoption of a moratorium in the previous three-year period. The moratoria are most often of short duration (typically six months) and are normally focused on particular types of development. The most common reason cited for moratoria was the need to develop regulations for a particular land use, followed by needs to update plans and the lack of infrastructure to support development.^[1]

Local governments and the courts have long recognized the planning value of temporary moratoria in certain circumstances. The U.S. Supreme Court noted, "[M]oratoria . . . are used widely among land-use planners to preserve the status quo while formulating a more permanent development strategy. In fact, the consensus of the planning community appears to be that moratoria . . . are an essential tool of successful development."^[2] Even so, the impact of a moratorium on individual landowners can be significant for at least the duration of the moratorium. Thus it is not surprising that controversy and sometimes litigation follow a decision to apply a development moratorium.

Statutory Authority

In 2005 the General Assembly amended the zoning enabling statutes to explicitly authorize use of development moratoria and set a number of rules regarding their use.^[3]

G.S. 153A-340(h) and 160A-381(e) allow temporary development moratoria to be placed on any city or county development approval. While these statutes are located within the zoning enabling statute, they authorize moratoria on "any development approval required by law." This includes all zoning permits, land subdivision plats, building permits, sign permits, and any other approvals required prior to development.

Any confusion in the case law regarding which process is to be followed in adoption is clarified by these statutes, which provide that if there is an imminent threat to public health and safety, the moratorium may be adopted without notice and hearing. Otherwise, a moratorium with a duration of sixty days or

less requires a single public hearing with a notice published not less than seven days in advance of the hearing; a moratorium with a duration of more than sixty days (and any extension of a moratorium so that the total duration is more than sixty days) requires a public hearing with the same two published notices required for other land use regulations. The initial notice of the hearing must be published at least ten but not more than twenty-five days prior to the day of the hearing, and the second notice must be published in a separate calendar week.

The moratorium must be adopted as an ordinance by the city or county. The ordinance establishing it must expressly include the following four items:

1. A clear statement of the problems or conditions necessitating the moratorium, what courses of action other than a moratorium were considered by the city or county, and why those alternatives were not deemed adequate.
2. A clear statement of the development approvals subject to the moratorium and how a moratorium on those approvals will address the problems that led to its imposition.
3. An express date for termination of the moratorium and a statement setting forth why that duration is reasonably necessary to address the problems that led to its imposition.^[4]
4. A clear statement of the actions, and the schedule for those actions, proposed to be taken by the city or county during the moratorium to address the problems that led to its imposition.

The statutes contain several exemptions from the coverage of moratoria. Absent an imminent threat to public health and safety, moratoria may not be applied to projects with legally established vested rights—those with a valid outstanding building permit, an outstanding approved site specific or phased development plan, or where substantial expenditures have been made in good faith reliance on a prior valid administrative or quasi-judicial permit or approval. The statutes also provide that moratoria do not apply to certain projects for which complete applications have been accepted by the city or county prior to the call for a public hearing^[5] to adopt the moratorium. These include special or conditional use permits and preliminary or final plats. If a preliminary plat application is subsequently approved while a moratorium is in effect, that project can also proceed to final plat approval. In 2011 the statutes were amended to provide that moratoria may not be applied for the purpose of developing or adopting plans or ordinances as to residential uses.^[6]

Renewal or extensions of moratoria are also limited by these statutes. Extensions are prohibited unless the city or county has taken all reasonable and feasible steps to address the problems or conditions that led to imposition of the moratorium. An ordinance extending a moratorium must explicitly address this point, in addition to the four points noted above, and set forth any new facts or conditions warranting the extension.

Finally, these statutes provide for expedited judicial review of moratoria. Any person aggrieved by the imposition of a moratorium may petition the court for an order enjoining its enforcement. These actions are to be set for immediate hearing and are to be given priority scheduling by both trial and appellate courts. The burden is on the city or county in these challenges to show compliance with the procedural requirements of the statute regarding moratoria adoption.

North Carolina Case Law

Prior to 2005 there was no general statutory authority in North Carolina to adopt development moratoria.^[7] Courts in most other states that addressed the scope of implied statutory authority for development moratoria had held that local governments have implied authority to adopt reasonable moratoria. The North Carolina cases prior to 2005 likewise generally found that local governments had

the implied power to adopt reasonably limited moratoria under both their general police power and their zoning authority. In *PNE AOA Media, LLC v. Jackson County*,^[8] the court held that the county had the authority to adopt a moratorium on new billboards under the general police power. In *Tri-County Paving, Inc. v. Ashe County*,^[9] the court upheld the county's adoption of a one-year moratorium on asphalt plants and other "polluting industries." In *Robins v. Town of Hillsborough*,^[10] while the decision largely addressed issues related to processing a pending complete application, the court assumed the town had authority to impose a moratorium on the location of asphalt plants within the city and its extraterritorial area the moratorium.

Apart from the authority to adopt moratoria, the key legal question in North Carolina prior to 2005 was determining which process a local government was required to follow in adopting a moratorium—the process used for general ordinances or the more involved process mandated for land development regulations. In *Vulcan Materials Co. v. Iredell County*,^[11] the county had adopted a sixty-day moratorium on building permits while it took steps to extend zoning to this unzoned portion of the county. The moratorium limited permits to those that would be consistent with the county's land use plan. The moratorium adoption did not follow the public notice and hearing requirements of the zoning statute. The court held that because the building permit system, the county's land use plan, and zoning authorities were essential to this regulatory scheme, it must be adopted in accordance with the notice and hearing requirements for zoning. A similar analysis was applied in *Sandy Mush Properties, Inc. v. Rutherford County*^[12] and *Thrash Limited Partnership v. County of Buncombe*.^[13] Adoption of specific hearing requirements for moratoria in 2005 clarified this issue.

Constitutional Limitations on Moratoria

Opponents of development moratoria have argued that a regulation that even temporarily precludes the possibility of development approvals constitutes an unconstitutional taking of private property without compensation.

The United States Supreme Court has held that a temporary moratorium on development approvals is not in and of itself an unconstitutional taking. *Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, Inc. v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*^[14] involved development moratoria imposed on sensitive lands adjacent to Lake Tahoe while studies, planning, and development regulations were being prepared. There were two moratoria challenged in this suit, which together prevented development in the most sensitive portions of the Lake Tahoe watershed for thirty-two months (other moratoria not involved in this litigation effectively extended the moratoria to six years). The plaintiff urged the Court to hold that all moratoria, no matter how short or long, violated the constitutional prohibition on taking private property without just compensation on the rationale that no economically productive use of their property could be made during the moratorium. The Court refused to accept this reasoning.

The Court held that the balancing test enumerated in *Penn Central Transportation Co. v. New York*^[15] should be applied in virtually all cases contending that a regulation is a taking. The Court ruled that the examination of the economic impact of the moratorium cannot be applied to the period of the moratorium alone, further limiting the attempt of property owners to segment property interests when making a taking analysis.^[16] Consideration of "fairness and justice" is critical, and in *Tahoe-Sierra* a careful analysis of all the factors involved led to a conclusion that there was no taking. The Court noted that temporary moratoria allow time for necessary studies, public participation, and deliberation and that the complexity of the management issues involved with developing a complex bi-state management plan justified the moratorium at issue. While noting that moratoria lasting longer than a year may well warrant special skepticism, the Court concluded that the longer period was justified in this situation.

It is legally possible, though unusual, that a moratorium can constitute an unconstitutional taking.⁶ An indefinite moratorium can constitute a taking if it deprives the landowners of all economically beneficial use of the property,^[17] though it is only the extraordinary moratorium that will fall into this category. For example, in *Monks v. City of Rancho Palos Verdes*,^[18] the city imposed a moratorium on construction of new homes in the vicinity of previous landslides in 1978. Plaintiffs owned lots that had been subject to the moratorium for thirty years. The court found that the moratorium removed all economically beneficial use of the property and that the facts did not support that these uses would be precluded by the state's common law of public nuisance, thus the moratorium constituted an unconstitutional taking. A moratorium imposed in order to depress or freeze property values pending potential public acquisition has been held to be an unconstitutional taking by a Florida court.^[19]

While rare, other constitutional issues may arise with regard to moratoria. For example, First Amendment and parallel state constitutional rights might be implicated. In *City of Woodinville v. Northside United Church of Christ*,^[20] the city had adopted a moratorium on all temporary use permits within its R-1 residential district. The defendant church had two years earlier sponsored a tent encampment in a city park for homeless persons (the program involved encampments which moved around the county, staying in individual locations for 90-day periods). During this twelve-month moratorium, the church applied for a temporary use permit to host the encampment on its property. The town denied the permit due to the moratorium. The court held that the moratorium placed a substantial burden on the church's religious freedom and thus violated the state constitutional provision on free exercise of religion. The court in *Bronco's Entertainment, Ltd. v. Charter Township of Van Buren*^[21] rejected a due process and First Amendment free speech challenge to a six-month moratorium as applied to an adult business.

Also see these blog posts in Coates Canons:

David Owens, *Can We Hit the Pause Button on Development Approvals?* (March 2010)

For additional legal analysis, see:

David W. Owens, *Land Use Law in North Carolina* (2ed. 2011)

^[1] David Owens, *Development Moratoria: The Law and Practice in North Carolina* 8-12 (School of Government Special Series No. 26, 2009).

^[2] *Tahoe-Sierra Pres. Council, Inc. v. Tahoe Reg'l Planning Agency*, 535 U.S. 302, 337-38 (2002).

^[3] S.L. 2005-426, secs. 5(a) and 5(b).

^[4] This general requirement is consistent with national case law that the permissible length of a moratorium must be reasonable and is generally considered on a case-by-case basis.

^[5] The statutes do not define what constitutes a “call for public hearing.” It is likely the time at which the governing board authorizes staff to precede with advertisement for the hearing or when the formal notice of hearing is otherwise initiated.

^[6] S.L. 2011-286.

^[7] When the General Assembly amended the statutes in 1998 to clarify city and county authority to adopt regulations on siting and operation of adult establishments, the statute included explicit authority to adopt moratoria on the opening or expansion of adult businesses while the issue is studied and appropriate regulations deliberated. G.S. § 160A-181.1(d).

^[8] 146 N.C. App. 470, 554 S.E.2d 657 (2001). The county was considering adoption of a sign regulation under its general ordinance-making authority.

^[9] 281 F.3d 430 (4th Cir. 2002).

^[10] 361 N.C. 193, 639 S.E.2d 421 (2007).

^[11] 103 N.C. App. 779, 407 S.E.2d 283 (1991). Although prevailing in the litigation, the plaintiff allowed its option on the land to expire and a quarry was not built on the site. The county subsequently adopted countywide zoning.

^[12] 164 N.C. App. 162, 595 S.E.2d 233 (2004).

^[13] 195 N.C. App. 727, 673 S.E.2d 689 (2009).

^[14] 535 U.S. 302 (2002).

^[15] 438 U.S. 104, 123–24 (1978). With this test, the courts examine a challenged regulation on a case-by-case basis to consider the character of the governmental action and the economic impact on the landowner (with a particular focus on the distinct investment-backed expectations of the owner).

^[16] When undertaking a taking analysis, the property as a whole, not just the regulated portion or the time period of the regulation, must be considered. *Concrete Pipe & Prods. v. Constr. Laborers Pension Trust*, 508 U.S. 602 (1993); *Machipongo Land & Coal Co. v. Commonwealth*, 799 A.2d 751 (Pa. 2002).

^[17] This categorical “total taking” test for a regulatory taking is set forth in *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council*, 505 U.S. 1003, 1027 (1992).

^[18] 84 Cal. Rptr. 3d 75 (Cal. App. 2008).

^[19] *Joint Ventures, Inc. v. Dep’t of Transp. (DOT)*, 563 So. 2d 622 (Fla. 1990). The state imposed a five-year moratorium (which could be extended an additional five years) on any development permits on a 6.5-acre tract that the DOT needed for stormwater drainage for a future highway widening project. The court concluded this was essentially the same as deliberately attempting to depress land values in anticipation of condemnation of the property.

^[20] 211 P.3d 406 (Wash. 2009) (noting that the Washington constitution’s protections are broader than the Free Exercise Clause of the U.S. Constitution).

^[21] 421 F.3d 440 (6th Cir. 2005).

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February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Planning Board 6pm		Centralina Board of Delegates Mtg. 5pm <i>Virtual</i>	CAC 6pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Revitalization 3:30pm BoA Mtg. 6pm		Power in Partnership Breakfast 7:30am		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Business After Hours 5pm P.E.R.C. 5pm ZBA 5:30pm		MPO TAC 5:30pm		9-1 BOA Retreat	
27	28					

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					9-1 BOA Retreat	Volunteer & Staff Banquet 6:30
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Planning Board 6pm		Centralina Executive Board Mtg. 5pm <i>Virtual</i>	CAC 6pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Business After Hours 5pm BoA Mtg. 6pm	Revitalization 3:30pm		Power in Partnership Breakfast 7:30am		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	P.E.R.C. 5pm ZBA 5:30pm		MPO TAC 5:30pm			
27	28					

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FRIDAY, MAY 13, 9AM-3PM

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 8AM-12PM

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