



RALEIGH PARKS, RECREATION and CULTURAL RESOURCES
 2013-2014 Annual Report



Letter from the Director

It is with great pleasure we present the 2013-2014 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) Annual Report highlighting our many significant accomplishments over the past year. The first accomplishment of the year was to change our name to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department in recognition of our expanded scope and the importance of Raleigh's cultural resources. Over the past several years, the department has broadened its role in fostering, and promoting Raleigh's creative community. We continue to support and protect identified historical and museum resource facilities, programs and assets within the City of Raleigh. Our greatest accomplishment this past year is the completion of our newly adopted PRCR System Plan which defines the direction, development and delivery of the city's parks and recreation services, facilities, and programs over the next 20 years. The city's vision for its parks, recreation and cultural resources system is "bringing people to parks and parks to people". This vision will carry the city forward by providing a park, recreation and cultural resource system that address the needs of all citizens, visitors and workers in Raleigh. We are extremely proud of our department's new mission statement which is "Together we connect and enrich our community through exceptional experiences." We recognize PRCR plays a leading role in determining the quality of life and character of the Capital City. Our



department provides a wide range of creative programming opportunities that promote the social, cultural, mental and physical well-being of citizens. Whether it be your visit to one of our community centers, a run on our greenways or a walk in one of our parks we will make sure your experience is one that is meaningful. The department's recent organizational realignment was a significant shift and provides a progressive approach to strategic decision making with a focus on community outreach and engagement. With these changes, the department is better positioned to respond to City Council's strategic areas of emphasis.

- Safe, Vibrant and Healthy Community
- Growth and Natural Resources
- Transportation and Transit
- Economic Development and Innovation
- Arts and Cultural Resources
- Organizational Excellence

We will continue to work hard to provide a model parks system for all citizens of Raleigh to enjoy. We are committed to maintaining our parks and facilities in a clean and safe manner, to preserve and protect our natural environment and to provide the highest quality recreation opportunities for citizens of all ages and abilities. In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the Raleigh City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board for their continued and unwavering support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane B. Sauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane B. Sauer, Director

Safe, Vibrant and Healthy Community

Community Oriented Government

Government alone cannot resolve community issues. The mission of Community Oriented Government is to create strong partnerships in government, neighborhood organizations, business associations, local schools, public service agencies and other community partners to address issues that impact the quality of life in the Capital City. Our overall mission is to establish a team of city department representatives who promote ownership and solutions to complex community issues, to create sustainable solutions for community concerns and to establish proactive measures to prevent community problems.

Community Oriented Government rests on the philosophy that the people within their jurisdiction and their public servants must work together as partners toward the goal of enhancing the overall quality of life in the community. The philosophy requires a management style and organizational culture that promotes mutual trust and interaction among departments and with the community. It must also be structured to provide decentralized, personalized and equitable service to all areas of the jurisdiction.

The City is divided into two COG areas with three districts in each area. There are two COG teams, one for the Southern districts and one for the Northern districts. The COG districts align with the Raleigh Police Department districts. The COG team is comprised of representatives from various city departments who are charged with the mission of tailoring city services to meet the unique needs of Raleigh neighborhoods.

Some of the concerns that have been addressed over the past year are public safety, youth programs, graffiti removal, community events, public street concerns, zoning, public sewer issues, neighborhood clean ups, housing that was condemned and needing removal, inspection issues for housing to improve the quality of neighborhoods, transit concerns in downtown area and overall improvements for the quality of life for Raleigh residents. By working together the City of Raleigh has been able to accomplish many goals and objectives and respond more quickly to public concerns.



Healthy Community

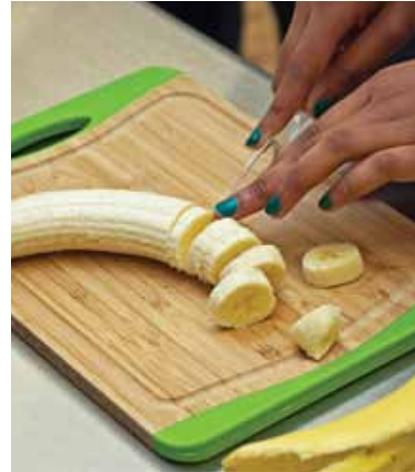
Vending

With continued commitment to providing healthy living choices, all PRCR drink vending machines will limit traditional soft-drink selections to no more than 25% of the total drink product choices. Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated has been selected to provide drink products at PRCR locations utilizing guidelines from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Product selections will include bottled water, 100% juice beverages with no added sweeteners, no calorie or low calorie sport drinks or beverages, as well as traditional soft-drink beverages. Conversion to the new product line will occur in the summer of 2014.

Healthy Programming

PRCR continue to offer low calorie, healthy snacks in afterschool and track out programs. Guidelines meet the USDA and Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Youth Program curriculum emphasizes nutrition and exercise and follows Move More NC afterschool guidelines stating that in general programs 20% of the time, participants must be engaged in physical activity and 50% of the camp activity must incorporate physical activity.

The Teen Program began a partnership with Wake County 4H offering a healthy living program at the beginning of 2014. The 1 hour program runs for 6 weeks and offers a high energy activity and educational component on healthy living. Healthy snacks are also provided. The program was offered at the Saint Monica Teen Center, East Millbrook Middle School COG After School and Chavis Community Center Teen Outreach Program (TOP) Program.



Greenway Volunteer Program

The Capital Area Greenway Volunteer Program was initiated in August 2012 to provide additional support to the Raleigh Police and PRCR Departments.

The volunteers report problems with the greenways, such as trees across paths, flooded areas, graffiti, or suspicious activity to the coordinator or to the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center.

Members of the Capital Area Greenway Volunteer program donate at least 8 hours of time per month to the project.

The Capital Area Greenway Volunteer Program currently has 78 members who are an integral part of our City of Raleigh departments. Since its inception, the Greenway Volunteers have put in 5,774 hours either walking, running or biking the Greenways of Raleigh. Using the national Value of a Volunteer, the Greenway Volunteers donated \$127,000 value of their time to the City of Raleigh.

Growth and Natural Resources



City of Oaks Foundation

The City of Oaks Foundation strives to be an avenue for conservation-minded landowners in Raleigh who want to donate their forests, farms and fields with the assurance that their land will remain natural forever. In 2013 three landowners did exactly that, donating to the City of Oaks Foundation 140 acres valued at \$5.3 million. Conservation of these parcels will help protect water quality and scarce wildlife habitat as well as foster local sustainable agriculture, and one of them eventually will be the site of a new neighborhood park.

Natural Resources

As the Raleigh metropolitan area continues to grow, PRCR seeks to balance this prosperity by emphasizing the conservation of and access to the regions natural and scenic resources. As outlined in the City's Mission Statement, and confirmed in the 2014 Park System Plan we are committed to the best organizational and management practices, and increased stewardship of the park and greenway lands entrusted to our care. In 2013 PRCR

realigned the management teams from natural resource-oriented park lands (designated Nature Preserves, Lakes Johnson and Wheeler, and the Walnut Creek Wetland Center) and combined them with the existing Nature and Adventure Programs to better address the common outdoor recreation and environmental interpretation interests. Together, along with the



Land Stewardship Coordinator position, the Natural Resource Section of the new Resources Division represents a paradigm shift in the City's approach and recognition of our commitment to environmental infrastructure and active living pursuits.

Sustainability Efforts

Through project management within the PRCR Capital Improvement Program and the City's General Public Improvement Program, the Facilities and Operations Division of the Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Department takes an active role in planning and managing projects to improve City facilities. With the oldest facility constructed in 1785, facilities range in age from 228 years old to newly constructed facilities. In 2013, several life cycle equipment upgrades and replacements occurred. Efforts to improve the building efficiency and performance are made while also enhancing the experience of our customers.

- Two energy efficient mechanical systems with the addition of gymnasium cooling were added at Roberts and Optimist Community Centers

- Six existing lighting systems were converted to light emitting diode (LED) systems that have reduced energy by as much as 50% in costs while simultaneously enhancing lighting levels.
- Lake Johnson pool filtration conversion reduced water consumption by minimizing the backwash procedure and conserving water.
- Several interior and exterior upgrades were completed at Pullen Community Center while addressing ADA compliance items.
- Replacing Kalwall around gymnasium at Millbrook Exchange for improved natural day lighting and renovating entrance and exterior canopy.

The City's growth has facilitated strategic multi-departmental collaboration with the addition of the North East Remote Operations campus. Located adjacent to Durant Nature Park, the campus is occupied in part by the PRCR Department. The site will serve as a deployment location for operation and field staff as well as Recreation staff in order to effectively provide



service to Raleigh citizens. The campus was designed to LEED standards and will utilize innovative technology to minimize maintenance expenses while reducing energy consumption. A robust building automation and control system is installed along with the City's energy dashboard, lighting controls and exterior LED lighting that will contribute to a significant energy savings.

We have embraced open data with staff and Citizens and utilized Periscope, the City's energy dashboard to monitor consumption at over 80 locations Citywide. Using the Smart City approach, we monitor real time data down to the device level to include electric, water, natural gas, electric vehicle charging stations, solar arrays, building automation and lighting

controls. Detailed electric account information is available since implementing Raleigh's first electronic data interchange for electric bills which expend over \$20 million annually. The City's electric bills are now received and paid electronically allowing for improved data analytics and historical trending. By displaying real time information, in April 2014, we created awareness for City employees and along with their actions and a mechanical upgrade we reduced consumption by 36.06% when compared to April 2013.

Transportation and Transit

Walnut Creek Greenway Trail Extension

With the completion of the Walnut Creek Greenway Trail Extension in Spring 2014, trail users can now connect to various locations and trails. The Walnut Creek Trail follows Walnut Creek across southern Raleigh, extending over 15 miles from Lake Johnson to the Neuse River Trail. The trail provides connections with the Centennial Bikeway Connector, Rocky Branch Trail, Little Rock Trail and the Neuse River Trail. The eastern section of the Walnut Creek Trail is designated as part of the East Coast Greenway Trail (ECG). The ECG is a long distance nationwide trail that winds its way between Canada and Key West, linking all of the major cities on the eastern seaboard.

Greenway Guidelines

To ensure the Capital Area Greenway System (CAG) continues to serve as a highly functional multi-user trail network for transportation and recreation, while still protecting the area's natural resources, a set of guidelines is being developed by city staff and consultants. The City of Raleigh Capital Area Greenway Planning and Design Guide will assist City staff with the planning and design of greenway corridors, trails, ancillary facilities and amenities. These guidelines are derived from the standards and best practices of public agencies and municipalities nationwide and are applied to the local context. Safety, efficiency, comfort, transportation and recreation interests will guide the new standards and implementation strategies. This document will be another step in creating an interconnected network of trails that provide continuous routes and convenient connections between people and destinations. Additionally, it will drive connectivity to the network of pedestrian and on-street bicycling facilities to complete recreational and commuter routes throughout the city. The draft of the



document was presented to the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board on May 15, 2014. A series of work sessions will occur throughout the summer with the Greenways and Urban Trees committee and Bike Pedestrian Advocacy Commissions' Joint Bike and Pedestrian Committee. After the review process, the document would come back to the full PRGAB in the fall, with the ultimate goal of approval by City Council before the end of 2014.

Economic Development and Innovation

Park Locator App

Park Locator is an online mapping application developed to improve navigation through our park system using citizen defined criteria. This application allows users to easily search for parks based upon proximity and desired park amenities. Once a park is selected, users can quickly link to the park address, driving directions, phone numbers, website, and site-specific program opportunities. Park Locator provides instant, customized information that encourages residents and visitors to easily explore our park system from any computer or mobile device.

Access Park Locator:

<http://maps.raleighnc.gov/parklocator>

or through the City of Raleigh website: parks.raleighnc.gov.

Economic Impact

North Carolina High School Athletic Association

Since 1992, the City of Raleigh (COR) and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) have had several long term agreements to host State Championships in Raleigh/Wake County. Over the past 22 years, we have incrementally increased championship events in Raleigh and are now referred to as the “City of NCHSAA Championships” since we host more high school state championships than any other city in North Carolina. In partnership with North Carolina State University and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, thousands of athletes, families and coaches annually compete and enjoy Raleigh. The annual impact is estimated at \$4.5 million annually.





Walnut Creek Softball Complex

The softball complex hosted 26 tournaments for the year. Among the tournaments, nine were co-hosted events in partnership with sanctioned tournament organizations. The direct economic impact of the Walnut Creek Softball Complex based on expenditures among athletes and their spectators traveling to Raleigh, NC for tournaments is estimated at \$2.7 million annually. The softball complex hosted 932 teams, 11,130 players, and 32,062 spectators visited Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Arts and Cultural Resources

Raleigh Arts

To ensure that all residents have opportunities to experience creativity, participate in and enjoy the arts, during FY13-14 the Office of Raleigh Arts, members of the Raleigh Arts Commission, the Public Art and Design Board and city staff collaborated on six core Raleigh Arts programs:

Grants

Through the Commission's Arts Grant Program, the City invested \$1,693,683 in 32 non-profit organizations. The funding provided support for arts education programs such as Arts Together, which integrates the arts and academic subjects through its summer camps and multi-arts preschool; support for performances such as North Carolina Opera's *La Bohème*; *Civil Rights Through Song*, a collaboration between Burning Coal Theatre Company and the Raleigh Boychoir; visual art exhibits and artist development education at Artspace and the Visual Art Exchange; and support for festivals such as Artsposure, SPARKcon and the International Festival. The Arts Grant Program continued its capacity building and educational programming this year with a public presentation and workshop by national expert Alan Brown of WolfBrown on arts participation trends.

Public Art/Municipal Art Collection

The public art program continues to grow. The public art project with the Wilders Grove Solid Waste Services Facility was completed with the help of more than 200 volunteers who worked with artists Matt McConnell, Lee Cherry and Marc Russo to create artwork celebrating sustainability. An additional seven public art projects are in various stages of completion. Artist Chris Fennell is putting the finishing touches on artwork that will be installed at the Halifax Park Community Center, and artist Pete Beeman installed four large-scale sculptures at the Northeast Remote Operations Facility in April 2014. The Municipal Art Collection also continues to grow with acquisitions of new works of art by local artists Carol Joy Shannon, Amy Friend, Ginny Runge and Mary Storms, among others.



Block Gallery Exhibitions

The Block Gallery celebrates 30 years in 2014. The Gallery hosted five exhibitions in the Raleigh Municipal Building, including an exhibition of 25 highlights of the Municipal Art Collection. Participation in the annual employee and family show doubled, with 106 artist submissions from Wake County and City of Raleigh employees. Following a large response to a call for artists, a selection panel of arts professionals and members of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission selected 12 local and regional artists for the 2014/2015 exhibition cycle.

Awards and Recognitions

Local writer of short fiction Carrie Knowles was designated the sixth Piedmont Laureate, with the mission of promoting literature in the region. As part of National Youth Art Month in Raleigh, the 21st Gifts of Gold Visual Art celebration was held at Memorial Auditorium, honoring more than 100 schoolchildren for artistic excellence.

Arts Centers

The Pullen Arts Center delivered eight weeks of Art4Fun Summer Camps serving 280 children; hosted an open house and salon sale showcasing Pullen's diverse arts experience offerings; presented an Innovating the Chain jewelry workshop and artist talk by visiting artist Amy Tavern; delivered pottery classes for children, teens and adults with disabilities in conjunction with Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Specialized Recreation Services Program and Wake Enterprises; presented a Utilitarian Pottery: Synthesizing Form and Surface workshop with visiting artist Marty Fielding; presented gallery shows throughout the year featuring the work of Pullen participants and instructors and visiting artists including Michael Ehlbeck and Sue Luddeke; and delivered specialty classes in fibers, pottery, glass and bookmaking to teen participants in PRCR TOPS programs. The Sertoma Arts Center presented the Fall Arts Fair; hosted gallery shows including a multi-generational exhibit of works by the Mackintosh family; installed a memorial garden for local artist Julia Mackintosh; presented a musical theater performance of *The Little Mermaid Junior*; and gave numerous classes.

Community Outreach and Education

As part of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department's Park System Plan, the Office of Raleigh Arts gathered stakeholders in the arts to begin research on conducting a master plan for the arts in Raleigh. Commissioner Bob Rankin lent his artistic expertise to Wake County teachers in support of arts education in local schools. 2013 Piedmont Laureate for Children's Literature John Claude Bemis appeared at many local events to promote the importance of reading to area young people. The Office of Raleigh Arts collaborated with the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau to create an online arts calendar listing arts events throughout Raleigh.

Historic Resources and Museums

Fiscal Year 2014 was a year of tremendous growth and change. The Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program manages and protects identified museum and historic resource facilities, programs, and assets within the City of Raleigh including the Borden Building and Fred Fletcher Amphitheater at Fletcher Park, Chavis Park Attractions, the City of Raleigh (COR) Museum, Latta House and University Site Park, Mordecai Historic Park, the Pope House Museum, Pullen Park Attractions, the Raleigh Trolley Program, and the Tucker House. The HRM Program manages well over 18,000 objects of material culture or artifacts.

Raleigh City Museum

The COR Museum opened its first major exhibit titled *Raleigh Then, Raleigh Now, Raleigh Next*. This exhibit replaced the old timeline in the museum and was made possible through a major fundraising campaign spearheaded by the COR Museum Friends. Similarly the Pope House Museum created a new tour and program working with Shaw University and the African American Cultural Festival.

The COR Museum and Pope House Museum also launched a series of exciting education programs for both adults and children. The COR Museums' Raleigh Reads program introduces young readers to history through books and the new Junior Interpreters program turns young volunteers into young educators and ambassadors for the HRM Program and the City of Raleigh.



Raleigh Historic Sites

2014 was a year of growth and excitement for Historic Sites. Of particular note, after nearly two years of construction, the Mordecai Historic Park Visitor Center opened in June. The Visitor Center will contribute to our educational mission by providing exhibit and programming space, as well as areas for staff offices, artifact storage and retail.

Raleigh Historic Attractions – Chavis and Pullen Park Amusements

Chavis and Pullen Park Amusements included an administrative change to the HRM Program. Since July, there have been wonderful events like the Summer Concert Series, the John Chavis 75th Anniversary event, the Fox 50 Family Fest and Holiday Express. In May 2014 Pullen Park hosted a new event, Letter Land, which was co-sponsored with the Wake County Public School System. The purpose of the event is to teach phonetics, science and nature to elementary students in a creative, fun way.

Organizational Excellence

Professional Staff

Commitment to staff development and reinvestment results in professional, knowledgeable and inventive staff. PRCR provides more than 37,000 contact hours of training for 2,600 full time and part time staff including 10,000 hours of online learning and development opportunities. This comprehensive training program far exceeds compliance requirements and focuses on skill development and professional growth.

Automated Program Evaluations

In April 2013, Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources transitioned to an automated program evaluation process. Traditionally, participants would be mailed a paper survey and reply envelope at the completion of a registered course or program. In an effort to reduce paper waste, mailing costs and improve data collection efficiency, participants now receive program evaluation surveys by email within a few days of the completion of a course or program. In addition, the system provides real-time reporting for staff who can easily keep a pulse on participant satisfaction rates and trends. This direct access to customer feedback promotes continuous improvement in program delivery.

Give Play

The City of Oaks Foundation presented in 2013 a \$25,000 award to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The award is to be used to sponsor need-based scholarships for children to participate in City-sponsored summer camps and nature programs. "We want to remove cost as a barrier for children's participation in Raleigh's wide array of nature programs and summer camps," said Kevin Brice, Executive Director, City of Oaks Foundation. By underwriting a need-based scholarship program for Raleigh's outdoor



nature-focused programs, the Foundation seeks to boost participation and help children develop healthy habits while learning to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan

On May 6, 2014, the Raleigh City Council voted unanimously to approve the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan. The creation of a new System Plan began in the fall of 2012 and was an 18 month, city-wide process to develop a comprehensive report to shape the direction, development and delivery of facilities and services over the next 20 years. The System Plan is based on the community's values and reflects extensive public input of over 5,300 citizen participants and who contributed over 8,400 hours of time. Community engagement included a City Council-appointed citizen Planning Committee, the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB), focus groups, surveys, community visioning sessions, community meetings, interactive websites, social media and outreach to Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC) and boards.

Mission Vision Values

An outcome of our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan is a new 20 year “Vision” for the City. The Vision derived from over a year of public input and sets a direction for the Department to follow. The shared beliefs and qualities most valued by our residents came together to form a set of “*Guiding Principles*” which will be used to move the community’s Vision forward.



The new community Vision for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System is...

The city's vision for its parks, recreation and cultural resources system is 'bringing people to parks and parks to people.' It is a system that addresses the needs of all and fosters a community of creativity, engagement, healthy lifestyles, and welcoming neighborhoods. In addition to providing traditional, high-quality parks, recreation and cultural facilities and programs, the City uses innovative initiatives to reach all residents, workers and visitors.

The Guiding Principles that will be used to move the new Vision forward are...

- Connectivity and Accessibility
- Equitable Distribution
- Continuous Reinvestment
- Collaboration and Coordination
- Balanced Experience
- Innovation
- Communication and Engagement

To ensure the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department was in a good position as an organization to move the community's Vision forward. A new "*Mission Statement*" was created.

The Department's new Mission Statement is...

Together we enrich and connect our community through exceptional experiences

In addition to a new Mission Statement, a set of Organizational Values were also created. These Values represent how staff within the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department will work together and with the community

The Department's Organizational Values are...

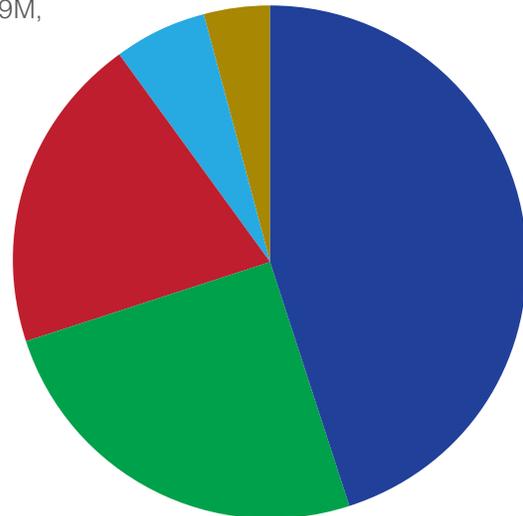
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Honesty
- Team-Oriented
- Fun
- Leadership

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Funding

Fiscal Year 13-14 Adopted Budget

The PRCR Department's 2014 operating budget is \$55.5M.

The Department's Capital Improvement Budget for FY14 is \$9.9M, which includes \$2.38M in transportation bonds earmarked for greenway projects.



Where It Goes

Recreation, Natural and Cultural Resources	\$25,280,980	45%
Parks/Grounds Maintenance	\$13,672,182	25%
Facility Maintenance	\$11,004,380	20%
Business Services	\$3,626,921	6%
Design and Development	\$1,983,144	4%
Total	\$55,567,608	100%

Grants

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department actively seeks grant opportunities with partners that will further our mission and assist in provision of services. Grant funds help the department to enhance and expand existing services, start new programs, be responsive to community need, build new facilities, acquire and protect natural resources, and maximize use of tax payer dollars. Grants also facilitate relationship building and collaboration with outside agencies to better serve our citizens.

In FY14 the Department managed 15 grants with awards totaling \$17,646,465. Ten of these awards were for grants with life cycles covering several fiscal years. Two of these awards are program grants which are awarded on a fiscal year basis. To date \$15,508,344 has been received in revenues or 88% of the awards. Currently we have four pending grant applications totaling \$324,425.

Did you know Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department has:

9845	Acres of Parkland
104	Miles of Greenway
850	Acres of Nature Preserve
112	Tennis Courts
9	Aquatic Facilities
59	Ball Fields
69	Playground Locations
40	Staffed Facilities
12	Historic Sites
9214	Volunteers
2.29M	Square Feet of Facilities

* at time of printing

Dedications and Groundbreakings



August 18, 2013	WRAL Soccer Center Artificial Fields
April 8, 2014	Walnut Creek Greenway Trail Extension
May 17, 2014	Northeast Outreach Center
June 18, 2014	Mordecai Visitor Center
June 25, 2014	Halifax Community Center

August 18, 2013 – WRAL Soccer Center Artificial Fields

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously in April to approve a \$1.16 million contract to install two synthetic multipurpose fields at the WRAL Soccer Center. The improvements were made to accommodate more play, provide a state-of-the-art soccer center and offer opportunities for a destination location for city league, inter-scholastic, intercollegiate match and tournament play in addition to drop-in play and instructional class space for the residents of the community. Synthetic fields offer extended play and minimal maintenance versus playing on natural grass. Both new fields have lights to accommodate nighttime activities. Capital Area Soccer League owns the facility and has an agreement which allows for City use of the fields.

April 8, 2014 – Walnut Creek Greenway Trail Extension

On April 8, 2014, the Walnut Creek Trail – East Extension was officially dedicated. Nearly one mile of boardwalk extends through the wetlands and floodplains of Walnut Creek, with a bridge over Walnut Creek just upstream from where it meets the Neuse River. The trail connects users to Worthdale Park, Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Walnut Creek Amphitheater, and finally the

Neuse River Trail. Additionally, a pedestrian underpass below I-440, New Hope Road and Barwell Road provides users with a trail experience that minimizes vehicle conflict. With the completion of this almost four mile section of trail, the Walnut Creek Trail now extends over 15 miles across the southern portion of Raleigh, from Lake Johnson in the west to the Neuse River Trail in the east.



May 17, 2014 – Northeast Outreach Center

An area of northeast Raleigh off of Capital Boulevard has, in recent years, seen an increase in the number of teenagers and young adults. The Northeast Outreach Center, located in Mini City shopping center, offers a safe place for youth, teenagers and young adults including positive community events, activities and programs such as basic computer training. Officers from the City of Raleigh Police Department will be available at the facility to maintain a stronger presence in the surrounding neighborhoods and to serve as mentors to youth and young adults visiting the outreach center. The Northeast Outreach Center is a project of the City of Raleigh's Community Oriented Government (COG) initiative.



June 18, 2014 – Mordecai Visitor Center

The property at 1101 Wake Forest Road was dedicated on June 18, 2014 with an official ribbon cutting ceremony followed by an open house for guests to tour and take in the new visitor center. The 4,700 square foot Mordecai Visitor Center will serve a variety of purposes including interpretive displays, offices, and educational programs. The upper level will contain staff offices and storage, including a climate controlled collections room. The first floor will include retail space, as well as a state-of-the-art meeting and programming area which seats up to fifty-five. Much of the lower level will be dedicated to a permanent exhibit that will highlight the evolution of the Mordecai landscape and its relation to Raleigh over the past 230 years. A temporary exhibit area will allow staff to highlight relevant topics on a rotating basis.

June 25, 2014 – Halifax Community Center

The Halifax Park Community Center, located at 1015 Halifax Street, Raleigh, NC, was originally built in 1972. Budget funding of \$3,150,000 for the three year renovation and expansion of the existing center was approved in the 2007 Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum. Improvements include construction of a new 17,000 square foot community center with an improved gymnasium, large dividable meeting/classroom, weight room, warming kitchen, office/reception area and restrooms with a shower facilities. Site improvements include a new playground and parking areas.

Council Members and Citizen Volunteer Boards

Raleigh City Council*

Mayor: Nancy McFarlane
Russ Stephenson
Mary Ann Baldwin
Wayne Maiorano
John Odom
Eugene Weeks
Thomas Crowder
Bonner Gaylord

Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Members*

Chair: Kimberly Siran
Rodger Koopman
Mark Turner
Richard Bostic
Patrick Buffkin
Jay Chaudhuri
Steve Hepler
Jennifer Hoverstad
Lorenzo Jackson
Scott Reston
Thomas Moore
Robert Putze
Amy Simes
Johnny Tillett
Mike Surasky

Arts Commission Members*

Clyde Lundy
Joanne Casey
Joe Cebina
Jason Craighead
Linda Dallas
Gene Davis
Laurent de Comarmond
Nancy Novell
Sarah Powers
Stan Williams
Andy Martin

Historical Resources and Museum Advisory Board Members*

Chair: Nick Fountain
Al Brothers
Dwight Coleman
Barbara Freedman
Melissa Hockaday
Treva Jones
Joe Mobley
Ed Morris
Greg Paul
Edna Rich-Ballentine
Cyrus Stacey
Tom Ward

Public Art and Design Board

Clymer Clease
Rory Parnell
Linda Noble
Bob Rankin
Thomas Sayre
Brian Starkey
Carter Worthy

Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board

Jimmy Thiem
David Brown
Jane Thurman
Terry Harper
Danny Morgan
Wayne Schindler
Jenny Harper
Danny Coleman
Jose Fraser

**at time of printing*

