

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission
Director's Report for November & December '21

- I. COVID-19** - The department continues to monitor changing conditions and is preparing various program and facility plans to best serve our community.
- II. Present Projects**
- a. Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan** - We received the first two site plans for Graham-Mebane Lake. One is for the marina area and one for a potential trail system on land we would need to purchase in the future. These plans are being reviewed by staff with notes to be sent to the agency for potential changes.
 - b. 200 North pocket park** - A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) was submitted to the City's Historic Resources Commission (HRC). Staff will present the COA at the January HRC meeting. For this project, we must assure them the addition of an HVAC screen in the alley will not detract from the historic nature of downtown.
- III. Future Projects**
- a. Cabin at Cooke Park** - Plans to reimagine/renovate the cabin remain paused.
 - b. Multi-purpose Complex @ GRP** - AWCK will be surveying the site later in the fall to begin finalizing new plans.
 - c. Graham Regional Park - Adult Challenge Course** - no new information has been received.
- IV. Policies/Manuals**
- a. Inclusion Policy** - The Inclusion Policy was approved by the council with the elimination of the glossary.
 - b. Sponsorship** - Work on the development of a departmental sponsorship policy is progressing.
 - c. Tree Maintenance Manual** - The Parks Division is now testing a draft manual as they review the condition of trees within Cooke Park. A final manual will be approved in early 2022.
- V. Historical Museum Attendance** - 22 signed the guest book in November, 37 signed in December.
- VI. Outside Committees**
- a. Friends of GRPD** - no meeting in October.
 - b. Wellness Collaborative** - The Collaborative met in person in November. Ideas to form comprehensive Active Transportation plans (bike, walk, hike, paddle) across the County were again discussed by representatives from Graham and Mebane.
- VII. Staffing** - In addition to many PT staff, all FT staff worked to assemble, operate and/or clear the ice rink. Thanks also to a few Commission members stepping in to help at the Rink!

VIII. Financial Summary

Recreation Division

	Nov.	Dec.
Weight Room/Open Play	\$22.00	\$11.00
Civic Center rentals	\$100.00	\$175.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$285.00	\$490.00
Chair/Table rental	\$7.00	\$0.00
Summer Day Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00
Soccer	\$15.00	\$75.00
Flag Football	\$0.00	\$0.00
Basketball	\$477.50	\$25.00
Baseball (T-ball)	\$0.00	\$40.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$25.00
Vendor Fee @ Tree Lighting	\$0.00	\$50.00
Ice Rink tickets/reservation	\$645.00	\$400.00
Concessions @ Ice Rink	\$201.00	\$644.50
Total	\$1,752.50	\$1,935.50

Lake Division (closed in Dec.)

	Nov.
Fishing Boat launches	\$143.00
Non-Motor Boat launches (Kayak/Canoe)	\$54.00
Ski Boat launches	\$0.00
Jon Boat rentals	\$52.00
Kayak/Canoe rentals	\$0.00
Bank Fishing	\$40.00
Bait/Supplies	\$49.50
Shelter rental	\$0.00
Tournaments (Catfish)	\$0.00
Annual Permit	\$0.00
Other (Misc.)	\$0.00
Total	\$338.50

MARKETING REPORT

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
December 2021 Report



Contact: Brandy McCandless
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"If you expect it of others, you must model it yourself." – Alan Stein, Jr., a speaker, coach, and author with an expertise in improving organizational performance, cohesion, and accountability

"Enjoy life. Accentuate the positive, not the negative. It sounds so trite, but a lot of people will pick out something to complain about, rather than say, 'Hey, that was great!' It's not hard to find great stuff if you look." – Betty White, beloved actress and comedian

Marketing Projects Completed

- Planned and executed Downtown Graham's 3-week Ice Skating Rink on Synthetic Ice and City of Graham's Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration events
- Worked with Telf the Elf to highlight the City of Graham's holiday happenings on social media
- Met up with Burlington's Senior Outdoor Adventure Recreation (SOAR) group to give a tour of the features at Graham's Bill Cooke Park
- Collaborated with the IT Department at the Recreation Center and Lake facility for a digital software slideshow of City information. Slideshow is now operating.



Marketing Projects Currently Underway

- Programs and events being planned/promoted during December: Youth Athletics, Graham Historical Museum, Ice Rink, Tree Lighting Celebration, City of Graham's holiday happenings
- Working with the Museum Board to create Collector Cards for 2022
- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech
 - Bill Cooke Park rules/hours, wayfinding signage, trail distance, tennis court rules

- 200 North Main Street Pocket Park Project with the City of Graham's Downtown Development Coordinator
 - Exploring seating & lighting options to purchase/lease
- Updating Sponsorship Policy Packet
 - Currently consolidating information and exploring tiers/costs
- Pursuing the NC Environmental Education (NCEE) Certification. The goals of the NCEE Certification Program are to increase environmental literacy, provide practice in environmental education teaching methods, and foster community leadership.
- Currently participating each month in Leadership Alamance through the Alamance Chamber through June 2022
- Attending the NRPA Event Management School for the Certified Festival & Event Associate (CFEA) Certification in January 16-21, 2022

Current & Upcoming Programming

- **Hikes with Hounds**
 - Year-Round, one Friday each month
 - Partnership with the City of Burlington Animal Services and Recreation & Parks
 - Friday, December 3, 2021 • Burlington – Springwood Park
 - Upcoming Hike: January 14, 2022 • Burlington – Burlington City Park
- **Downtown Graham's Ice Skating Rink on Synthetic Ice - COMPLETED**
 - 2021 Dates: November 26 - December 19 (3 weeks)
 - Location: Downtown at Alamance Arts
 - BIG THANKS to our GRPD Team for setting up the rink, preparing for the 3-week event, and staffing the shifts (another BIG THANKS to our volunteers as well!)
 - Due to the 2020 success of "Reserve the Rink", we continued and changed to Monday evenings for groups of 15-40
 - Brought back "Skate with the Characters", partnering with Princess Parties of NC and Alamance Children's Theatre
 - 2021 Attendance: 1,318 skaters (due to inclement weather: closed early on Sat. 12/11, closed all day Sat. 12/18, and opened late Sun. 12/19)
 - 2019 Attendance: 1,428 skaters
 - 2020 Attendance: 1,299 skaters
- **City of Graham's Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration - COMPLETED**
 - 2021 Date: Sunday, December 5
 - Time: 5:00pm – 7:30pm
 - Tree Lighting Ceremony Begins: 6:30pm (Due to the burning ban being in place across the entire state, the fireworks were canceled for the 2021 event.)
 - Location: City Hall
 - Special guests included: Alamance Arts, Graham Fire, Santa Michael Ellington, Duck Donuts, Harper Belles Coffee Truck, Alamance County Public Libraries, Graham Area Business Association, and Back Porch Orchestra

- Worked with Graham Fire & Police to coordinate additional safety precautions for the event, including a message board, additional barriers at the corner with fire vehicles, and crossing guards
- 2021 Attendance: approx. 300
 - 2019 Attendance: approx. 300
 - 2020 Attendance: 80 tuned in LIVE (virtual), as of 01/04/2022 - 493 views on City of Graham's YouTube
- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series**
 - 2022 Dates: May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 8, September 22
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Downtown Graham • West Elm Street, Graham, NC 27253
 - Submitted street closure request to Brian (12/22/2021) for January/February City Council Agenda for approval
 - Currently working on locking in bands for 2022 concerts
 - Once street closures and bands are confirmed, I will begin recruiting sponsors for the concert season and marketing
- **Musical Chairs with Alamance Arts**
 - 2022 Dates: 5th Friday on July 29, Band: TBD
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park
 - Planning meeting with local agencies will take place early 2022
 - Presented by Graham Recreation & Parks and Alamance Arts for the City of Graham

Committees

- NCRPA Marketing Committee – no meeting
- NCRPA Ambassadors – no meeting
- ABSS Career & Technical Education Partnership – no meeting

Volunteering

- NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer
- Content Curator Volunteer for Environmental Educators of North Carolina

Social Media

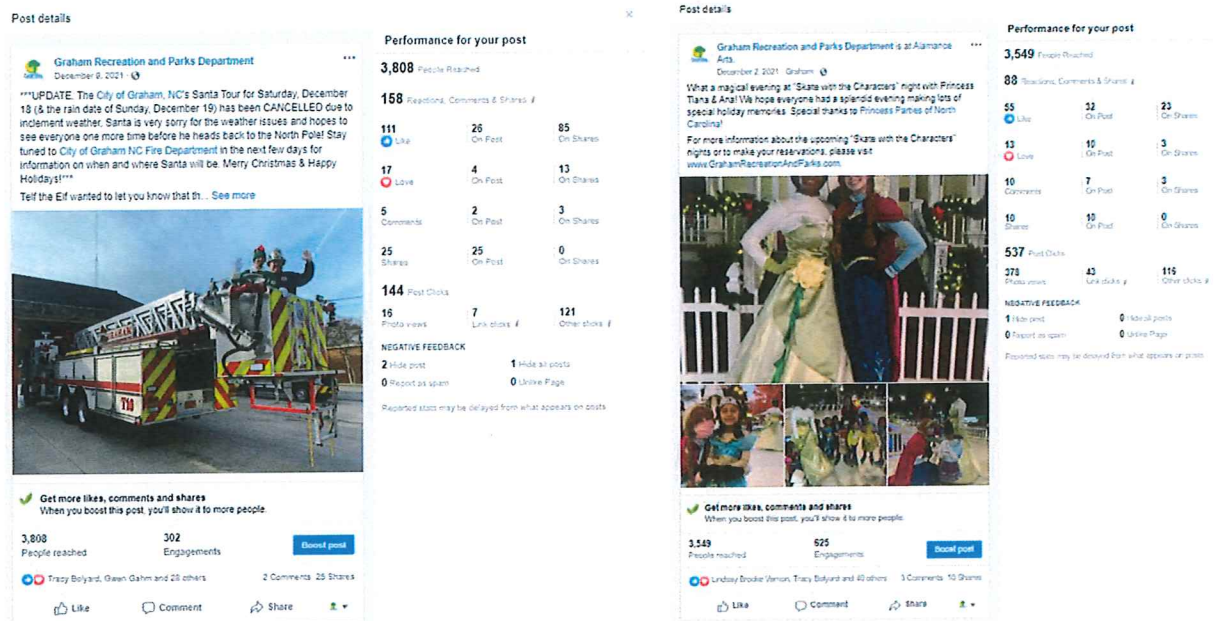
Instagram Followers: 1,945 (increased 24)

Twitter Followers: 203 (increased 3)

Facebook Likes: 6,687 (increased 60)

Facebook Followers: 7,191 (increased 68)

Top Facebook Posts for December based on Reach & Engagement:



Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for December 5, 2021 – January 3, 2022:

Top Posts/Pages

1. City of Graham, NC	4,094
2. Trash and Recycling – City of Graham, NC	1,377
3. Recreation & Parks – City of Graham, NC	1,119
4. GRPD Special Ice Skating Rink – City of Graham, NC	1,037
5. Water & Sewer Billing – City of Graham, NC	996
6. Police – City of Graham, NC	672
7. Tax Division – City of Graham, NC	508
8. Downtown Graham's Ice Skating Rink – City of Graham, NC	483
9. GRPD Parks & Facilities – City of Graham, NC	447
10. DONATIONS – Embers Motel Fire victims – City of Graham, NC	388

PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

December 2021



Bill Cooke Park

Athletic Fields – We continued the fight against leaves on the fields.

General Maintenance – Monthly playground inspection was completed with no issues found.

An access road was build and mulch was added to the dog park.

Pruned trees in the park.

Removed old sidewalk inside the playground.

South Graham Park

General Maintenance – Monthly playground inspections was completed with no issues found.

Checked and removed all bamboo poles there were left on trees from planting.

Graham Regional Park

General Maintenance – Monthly playground inspections was completed with no issues found.

New sidewalks were installed.

Apollo/Goley

Apollo – No Report.

Goley – New storywalk book was installed.

Johnson Ave

General Maintenance - No Report

Lake

General Maintenance – Mulched leaves and blew the rest into piles for the leaf truck.

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

Greenway – No Report.

Harmon Park – New playground mulch was added. Trees were pruned.

Civic Center – New playground mulch was added.

Marshall St – No Report.

Recreation Center – Trees were pruned and weeds sprayed.

Oakley St. – New playground mulch was added.

Maple St. – Sprayed weeds around facility.

Hwy 54 Access – No Report.

200 N. Main – Spot sprayed weeds.

Miscellaneous

Our team assisted with the removal of the downtown ice rink.

Tel went around town with Brandy and took pictures as Telf.

Continued Education & Community Involvement

Evan Workman started the Crew Leader Training course through ACC.

Programs & Events Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
December 2021 Report

Emma Griffin
Program Supervisor
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Completed Programs

- Graham Walks
 - T-shirts arrived and are available to be picked up at the Recreation Center. All participants have been notified

Upcoming Programs

- Graham Hall of Fame
 - General Information
 - Saturday, April 9, 2022
 - Graham Recreation Center
 - The committee is currently gathering information on the inductees for the ceremony.
 - All photos and videos for the ceremony are due by the next meeting
 - Next meeting: January 11
- Cottontail Crawl
 - General Information
 - April 2
 - More information to come
- Summer Camp
 - General Information
 - Tentative dates: May 31 – August 19
 - There are 4 counselors confirmed returning this summer and 2 substitute counselors. I will need to hire at least 3 more counselors, two assistant directors, and one director. The job will be posted by early February
- Slice of Summer
 - General Information

"We are not on Earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others."

-Gordon B. Hincley

- June 18
- More information to come

Professional Development

- NRPA
 - Attending the NRPA Event Management School January 16-21, 2022

Committees

- Safe Kids
 - Next Meeting: Monday, December 10, 2021 at 10:00am
 - Still meeting via Zoom

Miscellaneous

- Met with a local non-profit, The Ultimate Sacrifice on December 7 at the Museum with Brian and Brandy.
- Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club After School Program
 - We are partnering with SABGC to host an After School program at the Graham Recreation Center
 - Began September 7
 - Pick up from North Graham Elementary, South Graham Elementary, and River Mill Academy
- Downtown Graham Ice Rink
 - Worked at the Ice Rink on December 6 and helped with Tree Lighting
 - Assisted with breakdown of Ice Rink on December 20.
- Potential Programming
 - "School Day Off" Trips (on ABSS Teacher Workdays – "Student Playday"?)
 - Winter and Spring Break Day Camps
 - Street Events on West Elm, concerts, etc.
 - New concert series in the park when Thursdays at Seven moves back Downtown?
 - New Year's Eve Event for 2022 (big goal!)

"We are not on Earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others."

-Gordon B. Hincley

"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time"
- Marian Wright Edelman

"Young players need the freedom of expression to develop as creative players. They should be encouraged to try skills without the fear of failure."
- Arsene Wenger

Athletics Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
December 2021 Report

Marquis Graves
Athletics Supervisor
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Programming:

- Winter 2021 - 2022 Athletic Programs:

- Youth Basketball – The Youth Basketball season started on November 11th with practices. Teams had 2 practices a week for a month before the start of games. There are 24 teams with a total of 225 players. The breakdown of age groups and teams is below:
 - 5U – 4 teams, 31 players
 - 6U – 3 teams, 31 players
 - 8U Boys – 5 teams, 53 players
 - 8U Girls – 2 teams, 17 players
 - 10U Boys – 4 teams, 33 players
 - 10U Girls – 2 teams, 22 players
 - 12U Boys – 2 teams, 23 players
 - 13U Girls – 1 team, 8 players
- Some age groups partner with other municipalities such as Burlington, Gibsonville, Mebane & Alamance County. The breakdown of what age groups partner with what agencies is below:
 - 5U – This age group is handled in house only. Staff or coaches act as the officials for this age group. Games consist of four 6 - minute quarters.
 - 6U – Partners with Gibsonville Parks and Recreation. Staff or coaches act as officials for this age group. Games consist of four 8 – minute quarters.
 - 8U Boys – This age group is handled in house only. Paid officials are used for this age group. Games consist of four 8 - minute quarters. This age group will consist of an end of the season tournament to crown an 8U Boys champion.
 - 8U Girls – Partners with Alamance County teams. Paid officials are used for this age group. Games consist of four 8 – minute quarters.
 - 10U Boys – This age group is handled in house only. Paid officials are used for this age group. Games consist of four 8 - minute quarters. This age group will consist of an end of the season tournament to crown an 8U Boys champion.

- 10U Girls - Partners with Alamance County teams. Paid officials are used for this age group. Games consist of four 8 – minute quarters.
- 12U Boys – Partners with Burlington and Gibsonville Parks and Recreation. Paid officials are used for this age group. Games consist of four 8 – minute quarters.
- 13U Girls – Partners with Alamance County, Burlington, Gibsonville and Mebane Parks and Recreation. Paid officials are used for this age group. Games consist of four 8 – minute quarters.
- Other Information:
 - Games began the first week of December.
 - There will be a running clock for all age groups.
 - Teams will not shoot free throws on shooting fouls until the final minute of the game. This was done to maximize the time players have actually playing as in the past teams took too long to line up correctly for free throws. Shooting fouls before the last minute of the game will result in 1 shot and the ball for the shooting team.
 - Games held in Graham will be at the Graham Recreation Center only. Do to staffing issues we will not utilize Ray Street gym for games.

Safety Measures:

- For COVID safety measures, guidelines from NCDHHS will be given to parents of participants.
- Parents must also read and sign off on the Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19 upon registering their child for any athletic program. The waiver can be found here
https://register.capturepoint.com/reg_adm/view_policy.cfm?s=le9MCvvRzcw%3D&t=21227281&policy_version_id=4227
- All individuals entering the Graham Recreation Center and/or Ray Street Academy will be required to wear a mask. Active participants, such as coaches and players, will not be required to wear masks when on the court.
- During games, players on the bench will be required to wear a mask but may remove them when they are subbed into the game.
- All coaches have been asked to complete a background check before being able to coach in any sport with the City of Graham.

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission

Centers Report – December 2021

Vicky Braniff, CPRP



Facility Updates:

Recreation Center:

December ushered in the start of Basketball Games in the Center. Two new hand sanitizers stations were mounted in the hallway. Two defective outside LED Flood Lights were replaced by Lime Electrical Services. Last Call-HVAC managed to get all HVAC units working and producing heat. Repairs were to the following units:

- ✓ Gym #1 unit- limit switch
- ✓ Gym #2 unit-hot surface ignitor kit
- ✓ Restrooms and Hallway unit-gas valve
- ✓ Weight and Fitness Room unit-inducer draft assembly

The Weight and Fitness Room unit repair was so good that the heat would not shut off and Last Call returned and replaced a wire in the controls. C and C Painting made a few adjustments to the door in between the Gyms and now the door will close and lock. Sawyer Exterminating conducted the quarterly spray for insects. Mastercraft returned and installed backboard height adjuster motors on all four goals in Gym #1. They are scheduled to return and install a height adjuster motor on one of the goals in Gym #2. Replacement of the backboard and height adjuster on the second goal should optimistically be in February. Brooks Network Services replaced the uninterruptable power supply to keep the switches online and protect the city's investment from power surges.

The Recreation Center was opened as an Emergency Shelter to provide safety and services for the residents of the Embers Motor Lodge that had a damaging fire in Graham.

Civic Center:

Current Groups using the Civic Center:

- ✚ Alamance County Veterans (ALCO) - 1st Wed per month 6:00pm-7:00pm
- ✚ Alamance/Burlington Newcomers Club-2nd Tues per month 9:00am-12:00pm
- ✚ Graham Rotary Club-1st & 3rd Thurs per month 11:30am-1:30pm
- ✚ Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)-3rd Tues per month 12:00pm-2:00pm
- ✚ Alamance County Blood Drive-3rd Fri every other month 8:30am-3:30pm
- ✚ Graham Police Department-various meetings and trainings
- ✚ Graham Fire Department-various meetings and trainings

Maple Street Center:

The Alamance County War Memorial Committee will start meeting the 2nd Monday each month at Maple St.

Current groups using Maple Street Center include:

- Maple Street Line Dancers: Mon and Tue 9am-11am Instructors: Carolyn Gantt and Frances Woodlief
- The Troxlers-Ballroom Dance Practice: Wed 9:30am-10:30am
- The Popowskys-Ballroom Dance Practice: Wed & Fri 7:30pm-8:30pm
- Alamance Arts-Barn Quilt Painting Class: 2nd Saturday per month 8:30am-12:30pm
- Alamance Arts-Liquid Art Class: 4th Saturday per month 8:30am-12:30pm
- TOPS: 1st and 3rd Tuesday per month 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Lifepoint Church: Sundays 10:30am-12:00pm
- Alamance County War Memorial Committee: 2nd Monday per month 7:30pm-8:30pm

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Park Shelters:

All shelters are on a first-come, first serve basis for use.

Facility	Revenue	SAGBC After School	Visitors	Refunds
Recreation Ctr	\$11.00	402	201	0
Civic Ctr	\$175.00	0	244	0
Maple St Ctr	\$490.00	0	204	0
Basketball	\$0	0	1297	0
Totals	\$676.00	406	1946	0

Committees/Boards:

Alamance/Burlington Senior Games: attended Senior Games Advisory Committee Meeting. Local games will be March 28-May 13, 2022.

North Carolina Senior Games: The Local Coordinators Conference and Ambassadors Conference held in January has shifted to virtual this year due to the recent large increase in the Covid-19 cases statewide. The Sports Management Clinic will be held in person on February 2, 2022.

Alamance County Emergency Management Shelter Workgroup: no updates

Animal Resource Friends (ARF): no meeting

Safety and Wellness Executive Committee: The Recreation Department had safety inspections conducted by Steve Naylor of Enviro Safe in all divisions of the Department.

TR Community Training: no meeting

Misc:

Worked shifts at Ice Skating Rink

Working basketball practices and games

Watched City Council Meeting via YouTube

"THE SMALLEST ACT OF KINDNESS IS WORTH MORE THAN THE GREATEST INTENTION"

- Kahlil Gibran

Graham-Mebane Lake End-of-Year Report

Graham Recreation and Parks Department

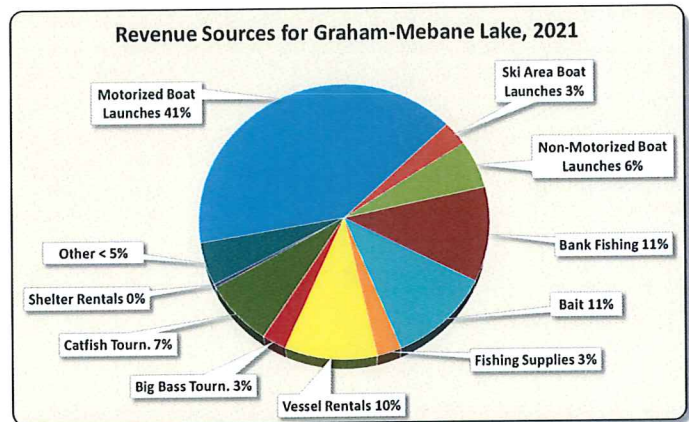
Warden's Summary of 2021

The lake had another good year in 2021. We kept most of the visitation and boat launching increases from Covid-19 last year. Fishing remained good for bass and average for crappie and catfish. We weighed-in 25 bass over seven pounds (the threshold for "Trophy" bass by NC Wildlife), one bass over 10 pounds, and a handful of crappie over two pounds. Few catfish were brought in for weigh-in. The number of trophy bass, while less than last year, were still above the average amount. We had no issues with low water levels during the season.

By most measurements, the lake was 15% less "busy" than last year; though it was 15% busier than the 5-year average, and 25-50% busier than the all-years average. We had 30-40% more boat launches and visitors than the all-year's average. This was the second-best year on record.

Revenue was 40% (\$17,000) above the 5-year average and almost \$5,000 above last year. This increase is from high visitation, the return of the Vessel Rental Program and Catfish Tournaments, and a new Bass Tournament. Motorized boat launches, bank fishing, bait, and vessel rentals were the top sources of revenue.

This is the second year of our using a Point of Sale (POS) system. Lake Staff have gotten a good handle on it and are beginning to explore other modules of the Community Pass package. The POS gives us the opportunity to characterize our customer usage and compare with previous years.



By the Numbers (2020 in parentheses)

Boat Launches	4,535	(5,246)	Customers	17,163	(19,957)
Motorized Boats:	3,575	(4,258)	All Boaters:	7,722	(9,223)
Ski Area Launches:	193	(191)	Ski Area Users:	547	(504)
Non-motorized Boats:	767	(797)	Non-Motor. Boaters:	714	(846)
Out-of-County:	467	(491)	Bank Anglers:	4,450	(6,245)
Seniors/Disabled:	535	(548)	Vessel Renters	743	(19)
Using Annual Permit:	1,556	(1,626)	Passive Visitors:	3,921	(4,478)

Additionally, we served 1,556 senior citizens/persons with a disability, and 1,311 children under 13.

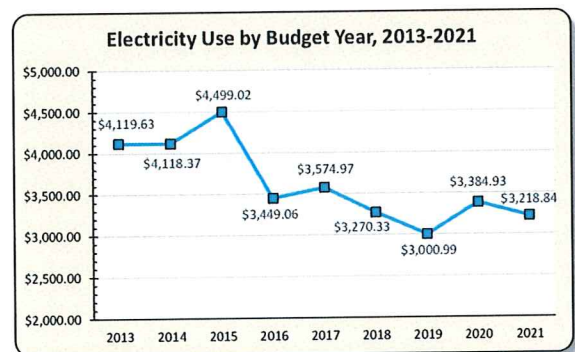
With the increase in fishing pressure over the last two years, we've kept an eye on the health of the bass fishery. This year saw fewer trophy-sized bass, but we still had a high total

weight from the Big Bass Tournament monthly winners. Largemouth bass (of all sizes) that were brought in for weighing or pictures exhibited robust health and body shape. Customers continue to comment on how “fat” the bass are at the Lake, are generally happy with their catch rate, and have not reported seeing stress sores or unhealthy bass. It appears that although bass fishing was down slightly from last year, no negative effects from fishing pressure have yet occurred. We will continue to monitor this fishery over next several years.

We continued our habitat enhancement project by constructing more Georgia Cubes, this time putting some of our own twists into the design. The main goal of the program is to return lost production to the lake by providing a non-eroding location for phytoplankton growth, followed by zooplankton, small/young fish, and progressively larger fish predators. These cube structures mimic fish habitat (stumps, humps, bumps, and trees) lost from years of decomposition, erosion, and lake fill-in. Production costs rose about \$50 each reflecting the increase in material cost. We hope to host a volunteer construction event if Covid restrictions allow.



Our drive to reduce energy costs is continuing to show results. We started five years ago by sealing leaky windows and drafty doors; moved to installing new windows and replacing our baseboard heat and window air conditioner with a HVAC unit; and have now changed out incandescent lights with efficient LED lights. Our BY2021 energy cost is 30% less than BY2015 – even though visitation (and door openings) is 40% higher.



In addition to the Lake Warden’s 2,080 full-time hours worked, the Assistant Lake Wardens logged 1,300 hours, and Lake Attendants 2,850 hours, for a total of 6,230 hours worked. This was 600 hours less than last year and equal to the 2019 hours worked (6,222). The Lake was open 2,692 hours this year.

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 Lake Warden, Graham-Mebane Lake
 Graham Recreation and Parks Department
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“Happiness is a gift and the trick is not to expect it, but to delight in it when it comes.”
 - Charles Dickens, writer

2021 Programs and Events at Graham-Mebane Lake

This was the 21st year the lake has been putting on its **Big Bass Tournament** (BBT). It draws the most interest of all our events and is our premier event. A one-time entry fee of \$25 allows entrants to weigh-in their largemouth bass, hoping to have the heaviest bass caught – thereby winning that month. There are eight monthly winners (March through October). Each one receives recognition by having their name and fish weight displayed on the bulletin board for the remainder of the year, an Annual User's Fee Permit for the next



Not the prize-winning fish.

year (a \$50 to \$70 value), and a spot in the end-of-tournament Fish-Off.

The monetary prizes in the Fish-Off are 75% of the year's entry fees split among the top three finishers. This year we had 64 entrants, paying \$1,600; our 25% administration fee was \$400. The Annual Permits and prizes cost the lake \$660, leaving the tournament in the red by \$260.00.



2021 Monthly BBT winners.

The **Graham-Mebane Lake One-Day Bass Tournament** (we're looking for a shorter, catchier name if you have any ideas) was held in late March. Its purpose is to provide a tournament experience for anglers who are not bass fishing club members and bring in revenue to cover the BBT losses. It was limited to 20 boats, with one or two anglers each. Payouts were as in the BBT, though there was a \$100/boat entry fee. The tournament ran very well - with the exception of a tie for first place! Two teams, each weighing in five bass to the hundredth of a pound, coming to a tie (15.22 lbs.) is unusual enough that we had to construct a Tie Rule on the spot. The Lake's Admin fee was \$500.

Catfish Tournaments returned in 2021 and our customers were ready for them. We had record turnouts, beautiful weather, and loads of fun on four Saturday evenings over the summer. These tournaments have become increasingly popular and are challenging the BBT as most popular fishing event at the lake.

This year we averaged 75 entrants per tournament with June's Tournament reaching 100 (and some entrants coming from as far away as South Carolina). Prizes are awarded for the three heaviest catfish (we have white catfish, channel catfish, and bullheads in the lake) caught during the four-hour tournament, usually from 8pm to midnight. The payout structure is the same as the BBT.



Labor costs were \$220/tournament, while our Admin fees were \$1,700; giving us a balance of \$800. Three of the last four tournament seasons have made a profit (and the only three that appear to have done so). Our customers were appreciative of the changes we made

to speed up the waiver-signing portion of check-in, though with the increased attendance we'll keep looking for ways to make it shorter and quicker.

The **Youth Fishing Day** is a free fishing event for kids ages 4 to 15. Fishing takes place in the lake's bank fishing area from 9am to 11pm. The lake provides the bait and has fishing rods for loaners. Prizes are given out by random drawing. This is a well-attended event with about 70 kids and 40 adults each year. The assistance of the Programs Division has been instrumental in moving this program forward.

With loads of help from Marketing, Programs, and Rec Dept. part-time staff, we held our **Family Day at the Lake** event in June. Attendees at this free event had the options of bank fishing, Park & Play outdoor games, kayaking, canoeing, free SnoBalls, and just relaxing in the shade. The hot, sunshine-y day brought out over 125 people to play at the lake.

Alamance Creek Week, hosted by Stormwater Smart, is a learning program for children and adults about the creeks, streams, and rivers that connect our communities in Alamance County. It's a weeklong series of activities like creek cleanups, Trivia Night, citizen science groups, family fishing clinics, geocaching, seed planting, and more. The Lake hosted a Family Fishing Clinic and the Lake Warden took part in the Trivia Night, learning many new and interesting things about our waterways.

We rented out more kayaks and jonboats in our **Vessel Rental Program** this year than we did in the previous five years combined. We have 22 kayaks, in sizes for kids to adults, solo and tandem; three canoes; and two johnboats available for four or eight-hour rental. We're making improvements to procedures as this program continues to grow in popularity.

Vessel Rental Program				
Year	Vessel Rentals	Income	Expenses	Profit/Loss
2016	38	575.00	986.10	-\$411.10
2017	143	1,972.00	2,008.24	-\$36.24
2018	120	1,721.00	2,568.80	-\$847.80
2019	148	2,153.00	2,180.39	-\$27.39
2020	23	203.00	6,239.76	-\$6,036.76
2021	495	6,109.00	430.58	\$5,678.42
Totals:	967	\$12,733.00	\$14,413.87	-\$1,680.87

The kayak launch ramp continues to draw area kayakers – they love how easy it is to use. We launched 827 customers on 767 **Non-motorized Boats** this year, bringing in \$3,798. Besides the launch ramp, paddlers tell us they love the lake because it's unspoiled compared to other lakes, motorboats generally give them space, and it's quiet.

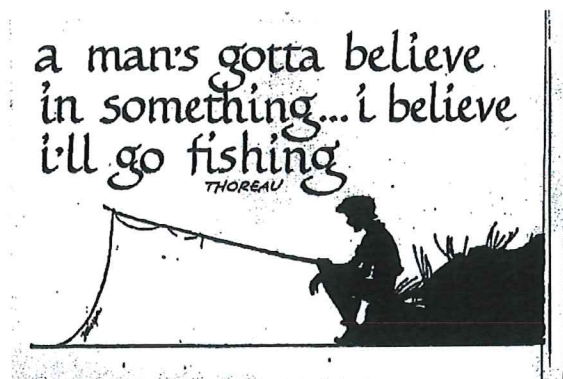
The Lake sells an **Annual User Fee Permit** (much like a yearly pass) for customers that plan to visit the Lake frequently. We issued 127 Annual Permits in 2021; they were used 1,556 times to launch a boat, 88 times to go on the lake in someone else's boat, and 119 times to bank fish. Several purchasers used their permit only once, four purchasers used theirs over 50

times (the most used was 106 times), and the average use was 16 times. Fifty-one purchasers used their permit 9 or more times in 2021 - enough for it to pay for itself.

Graham-Mebane Lake participates in the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's **Community Fishing Program**. The Commission provides four solar-powered fish feeders to attract fish to the bank fishing area. The Lake purchases the fish food and maintains the feeders. We have acquired two handicap-accessible fishing piers through this program and fish attractors have been installed near one of these piers.

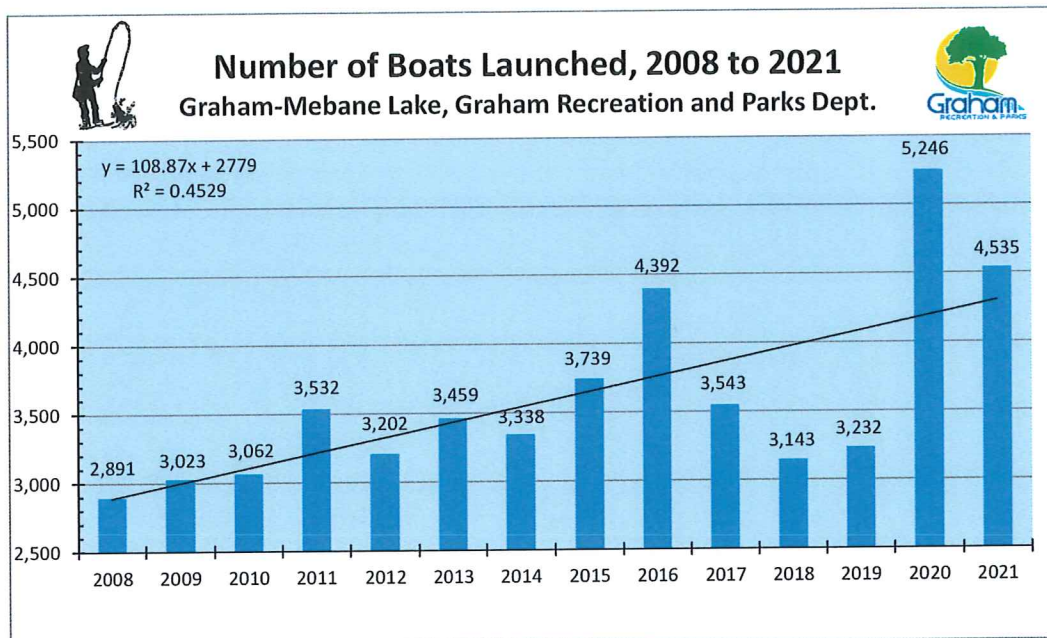
The lake also participates in the Commission's **Tackle Loaner Program**. Children ages 6 to 12 may borrow a rod and reel while they fish at the lake.

Fishing clubs hold day tournaments at the Lake in spring and fall. There are usually five to ten a year, and normally include 5 to 15 boats with two anglers per boat. We had nine tournaments in 2021, totaling 82 boats. Due to parking issues, we restrict the number of tournament boats to 20 per day. Clubs must schedule their tournaments and pay our normal user fees. Tournaments are not held in June, July, and August to prevent fish loss in live wells.

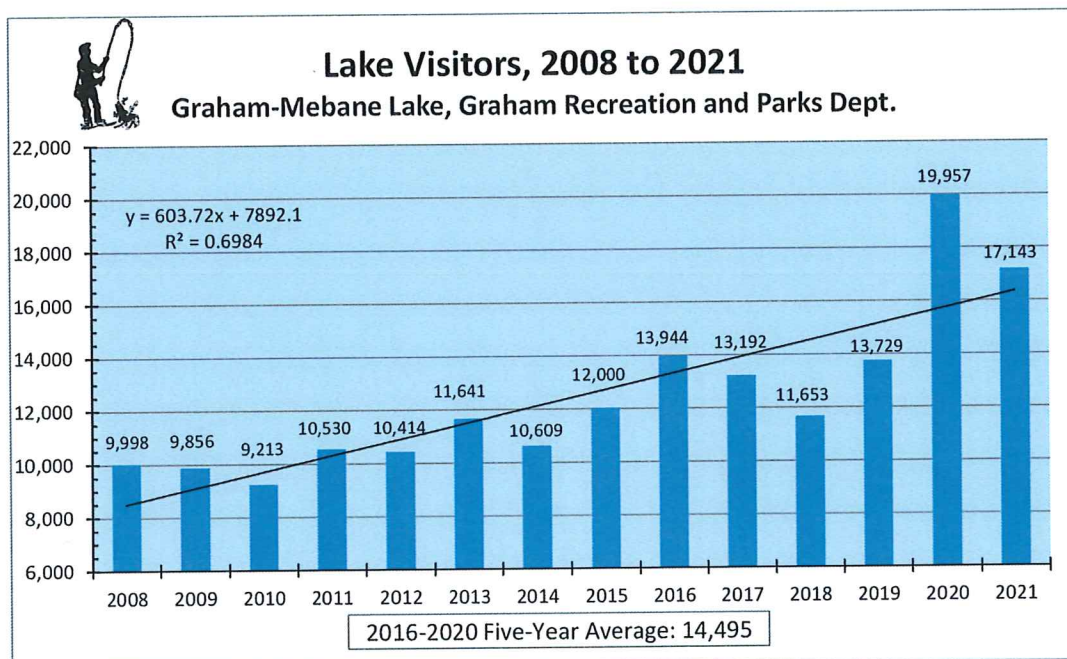


Charts and Graphs

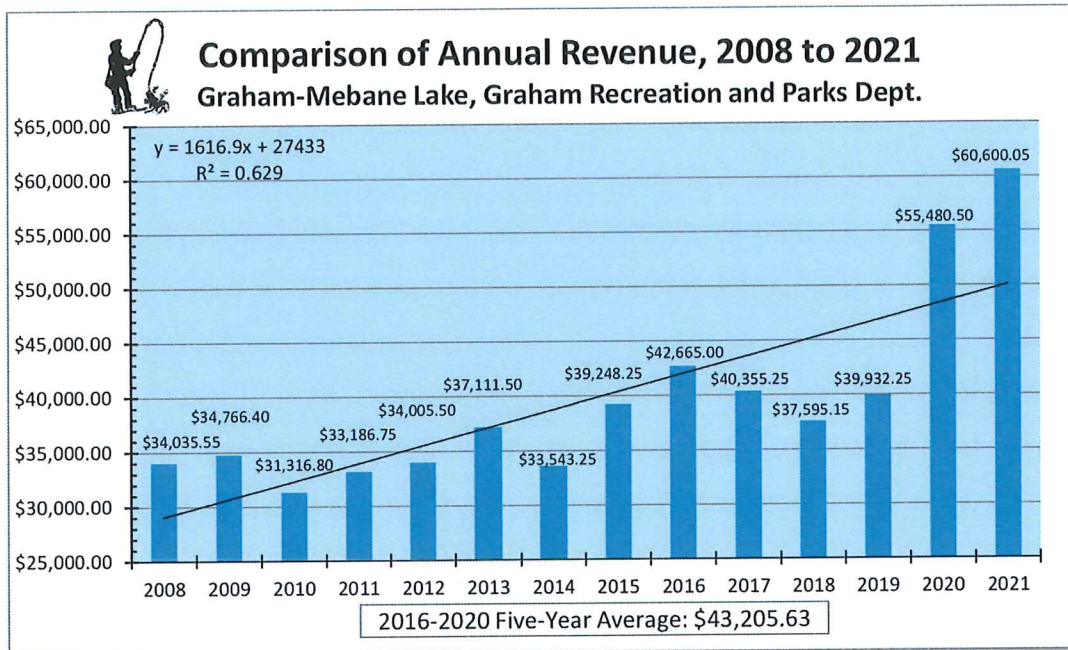
It's looking like our boat launch slump might be over. Many factors go into the recovery, but good fishing is what keeps anglers coming back. It will be interesting to see what next year brings. The 13-year trend is an increase of about 105 boat launches per year.



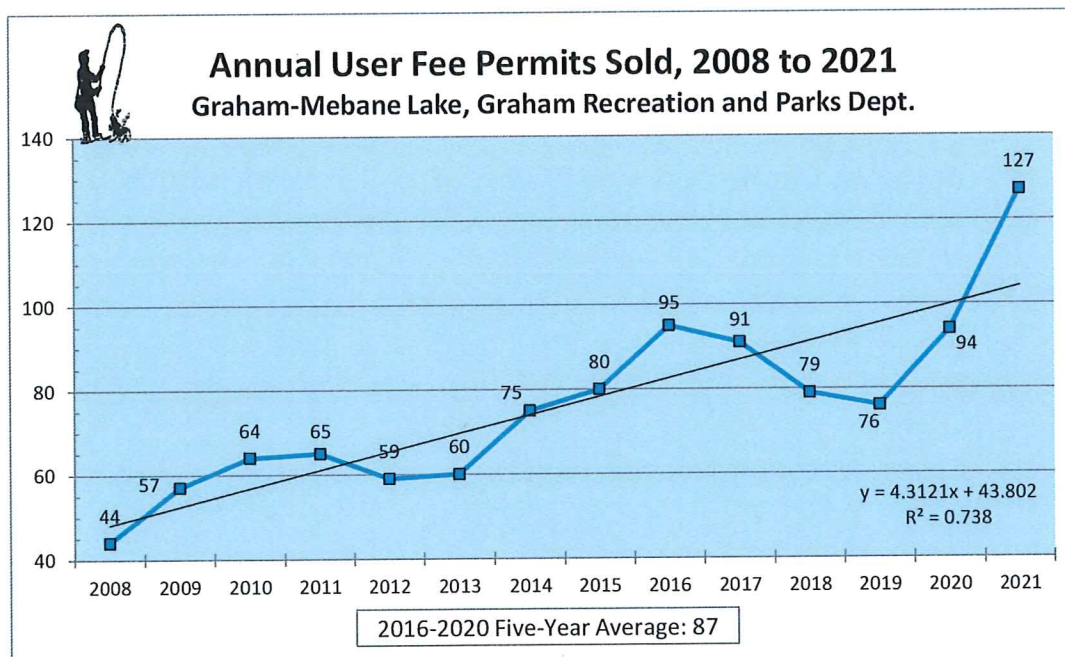
Lake visitation continued to increase this year. Fishing success, marketing, COVID-19, and nice weather have large impacts. Over the last three years, the trend has changed from an increase of 370 visitors a year to 600 visitors.



Revenue continued rocketing skyward this year. It was \$5,000 more than last year and a 50% increase over 2019 (\$20,000). Fishing success, more free time to fish, COVID-19, marketing, and a growing reputation as a big bass lake helped bring anglers to Graham-Mebane Lake. Over the last three years, the revenue growth trend has increased from \$750, to \$1,200, to \$1,600 per year.



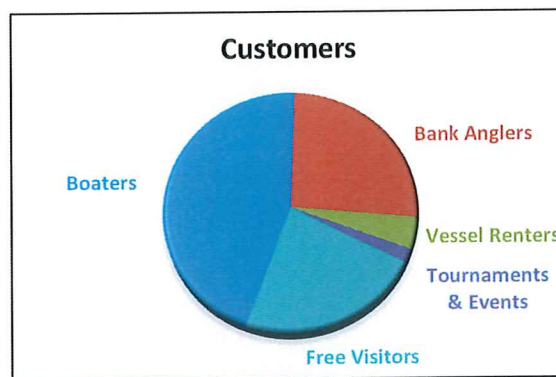
Annual User Fee Permit sales continued to rebound from their recent decline. We sold 114 In-County permits, six Out-of-County permits, 19 Senior Citizen or Person with a Disability permits, and gave eight permits as BBT prizes. The trend is an increase of 4 permits per year.



The following charts use data from our POS to help us identify who our customers are.

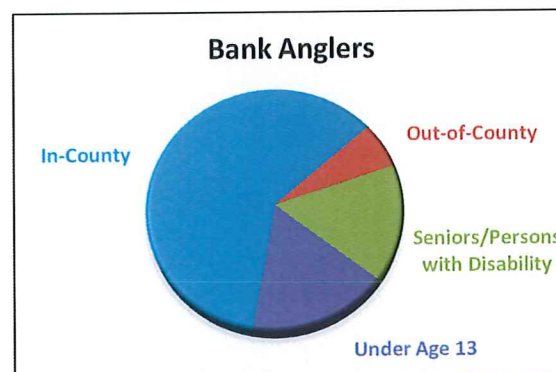
Customers

Boaters	7,722	45%
Bank Anglers	4,450	26%
Vessel Renters	743	4%
Tournaments & Events	327	2%
Free Visitors	3,921	23%
	17,163	



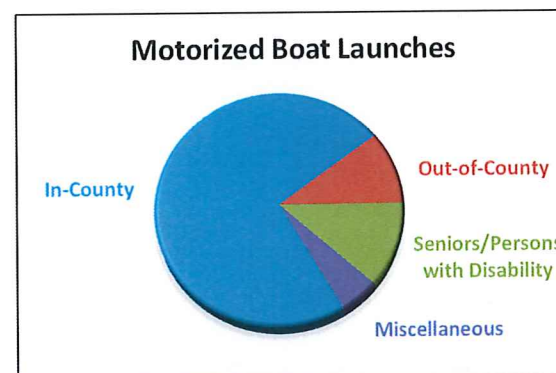
Bank Anglers

In-County	2,633	61%
Out-of-County	268	6%
Seniors/Persons with Disability	682	16%
Under Age 13	748	17%
	4,331	



Motorized Boat Launches

In-County	2,739	58%
Out-of-County	383	15%
Seniors/Persons with Disability	441	19%
Miscellaneous	190	8%
	3,753	



Non-Motorized Boat Launches

In-County	444	68%
Out-of-County	117	18%
Seniors/Persons with Disability	94	14%
	655	

