

GRAHAM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
January 11, 2023 6:30 PM
Graham Historical Museum

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Chairperson's Report
- IV. Director's Report
 - 1. Rec. Center staffing
 - 2. Rec. Center operating hours
- V. Old Business
 - 1. Graham-Mebane Lake - Ramp project
 - 2. Graham Recreation Center projects
 - 3. Graham Civic Center projects
 - 4. Maple Street Center Floor project
 - 5. Shelter #1 project
- VI. New Business
 - 1. Potential grant projects
 - i. Adjacent property
 - ii. Multipurpose fields
 - iii. Trails
- VII. Activity Reports
 - 1. Recreation Center
 - 2. Athletics
 - 3. Programs
 - 4. Parks
 - 5. Graham-Mebane Lake
 - 6. Marketing
 - 7. Hall of Fame
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Adjournment

GRAHAM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
APOLLO FIELD

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Jay Cook, Brian Cutlip, Laurie Pickard, Nicki Smith, Tim Beshel
STAFF: Brian Faucette

Prior to the meeting, the Recreation Commission visited the Graham Civic Center to view the roof/ceiling damage, the samples for the new flooring and the newly renovated sand volleyball court.

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 6:55 with a welcome.

MINUTES

-Mr. Cutlip made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith and unanimously approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

-Chair Cook reported the Friends Group agreed to accept the donation of \$1,000 given for the renovation of the interior of the pontoon boat at Graham-Mebane Lake used for lake cruises.

-Chair Cook asked Mr. Faucette to thank Tel Fehlhafer and his staff for their hard work on making the athletic fields look great.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

-Mr. Faucette did not offer a Director's Report at this meeting in order to allow for a timely meeting after the Civic Center visit.

OLD BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette reported City Administration recently completed a similar tour of the lake as the Commission did in Aug. Staff's concerns of trespassing and removal of vegetation by adjacent land owners was relayed during the tour. To address these concerns, Mr. Faucette asked the Commission for direction on action to be taken in the future. The Commission asked GRPD staff to consider the following:

- 1) send a letter to all adjacent land owners surrounding Graham-Mebane Lake with state regulations attached
- 2) encourage a phone call between the City Managers of Graham and Mebane to directly discuss the issues
- 3) educate the County Planning Department on the regulations governing the lake and encourage the Dept. to educate developers, real estate agents and land owners
- 4) invite adjacent land owners on a pontoon boat cruise around the lake to see firsthand the effects of vegetation removal

NEW BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette updated the Commission on the anticipated timeline for the Rec. Center Gym Floor Replacement (mid-October) and the Rec. Center Gym Repainting (Oct. 3rd). A new sound system was recently installed in both gyms at the Rec. Center. The new system is Bluetooth capable and can be used for various functions and activities.

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission the City Council approved the use of ARPA funds to complete the roof repairs and installation of a new floor at the Civic Center. The roof work should begin the week of Sept. 26th. The floor replacement is scheduled to begin the week of Oct. 17th.

-Mr. Faucette has requested a referral for an HVAC company that holds the appropriate license to install a new HVAC unit at the Rec. Center.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Marketing: N/A **Athletics:** N/A **Centers:** N/A **Programs:** N/A **Sports Hall of Fame:** N/A

Friends Group: N/A

Parks: City Council approved the installation of cameras to monitor the entrances of parks across the City. IT will work to complete this project.

OTHER BUSINESS

-Discussion around the shared use of athletic facilities by the Alamance-Burlington School System and the GRPD centered on responsibilities for maintenance, schedules and existing contracts. Commission members were informed the GRPD maintains and prepares the facilities for ABSS and GRPD practices and games. In general, ABSS uses the facilities afterschool with GRPD using the facilities beginning at 6:00pm and on weekends. If an exception needs to be made, both parties are expected to communicate and agree to the adjusted timeline. Contracts formalizing the relationship are set to expire in 2024. Commission members encouraged Mr. Faucette to begin reviewing the contracts now ahead of the 2024 expiration.

With all business concluded, Chair Cook made a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm, seconded by Mr. Cutlip and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Faucette

Jay Cook, Chair

Date

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission
Director's Report for November '22

I. Present Projects

- a. **Civic Center roof** - Work on the roof is complete. We will fully re-open the Center in February.
- b. **Shelter #1 @ Cooke Park** - The shelter remains closed. Options for repair or replacement are being explored.
- c. **Shelter #2 @ Cooke Park** - I have set a second meeting with a contractor for early January.

II. Future Projects

- a. **200 North pocket park** - Site amenities will be explored in the spring.
- b. **Trail to Graham Regional Park** - GRPD Parks Div. continues to work on a connecting trail from the Inclusive Playground to the new development across Jim Minor Rd.
- c. **Maple St. floor** - Alternative options including installation of a synthetic floor are still being explored.
- d. **Historical Museum** - Staff continues to work to schedule the repairs for early in the new year.

III. Policies/Manuals

- a. **Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan** - No updates.
- b. **Sponsorship** - Work on the development of a departmental sponsorship policy is progressing.
- c. **G/M Lake Ops Manual** - Warden Hadden is reviewing the final draft for use in training employees next spring.
- d. **GRPD Personnel/Orientation Manuals** - Work on the development of a Personnel Manual and an Orientation Manual will begin in 2023.

IV. Historical Museum Attendance - 25-December

V. Outside Committees

- a. **Friends of GRPD** - No updates.
- b. **Wellness Collaborative** - No updates.

VI. Staffing

- a. **Medical Leave** - Vicky Braniff remains on medical leave. All staff continue to cover her responsibilities.
- b. **New Hires** - Four new part-time staff members began working at the Rec. Center in Dec. With these new staff members and completed renovations at the Civic Center and Rec. Center, we will begin renting centers to the general public in 2023.
- c. **Training** - Fulltime staff are scheduled to complete online training including "Emergency Response in the Workplace" and "Bloodborne Pathogens".

VII. Financial Summary

Recreation Division

Open Gym/Weight Room	\$8.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$40.00
Park Shelter	(\$25.00)
Baseball	\$50.00
Softball	\$25.00
Lacrosse	\$25.00
Fall Soccer	\$15.00
Spring Soccer	\$541.25
Ice Rink – Character Nights	\$525.00
Ice Rink - Concessions	\$757.00
Donations	\$12.00
Total	\$1,973.25

Lake Division

Total for 2022

User Fees	\$33,376.50
Fishing Tournaments	\$8,172.50
Vessel Rentals	\$7,589.00
Bait	\$6,594.50
Fishing Supplies & Ice	\$1,954.25
Lake Cruises	\$1,890.00
Event Rentals	\$630.00
Shelter Rentals	\$450.00
Misc.	\$171.09
Total	\$60,827.84

Programs & Events Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
December 2022 Report

Emma Griffin
Program Supervisor
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Completed Programs

Current Programs

- First Responder Friday
 - General Information
 - Collaborative program with the Fire and Police Department
 - Goal: to connect and engage with the community to foster good relationships and market programs
 - Next Event:
 - No event in December. Stay tuned for 2023 dates and locations!

Upcoming Programs

- Cottontail Crawl
 - Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023
 - I will be reaching out to downtown businesses to be a stop along the "Crawl."
 - Stops will utilize QR codes and code words as we did last year.
 - Music and Games in the parking lot?
- Graham Walks – Spring 2023
 - Program Dates: April 12 – May 17
 - Registration will begin in March
- Summer Day Camp
 - Tentative Program Dates: May 30 – August 25
 - End date will be set once the ABSS school calendar is finalized
 - Registration:
 - February 6 (previously registered families)
 - March 6 (general public)

"The question should be, is it worth trying to do, not can it be done."

-Allard Lowenstein

- Staffing
 - Aiderling (Director), Madison (Assistant Director), and Connor (Assistant Director) have plans to return to camp. We will be meeting in the coming weeks to go over staff handbook and parent handbooks, and planning trips.
 - Several counselors have stated they plan to return to work next summer. I will get a final count in January
 - Plan to list openings early February.
- Slice of Summer
 - Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 (4:00pm – 8:00pm)
 - Inflatables, music, arts and crafts vendors, and food trucks

Professional Development

- NRPA
 - Cancelled due to COVID-19: NRPA Event Management School January 16-21, 2022
 - Planning to attend Supervisor's Management School in 2023
- Leadership Alamance
 - Selected as part of the Class of 2023 for Leadership Alamance. Leadership Alamance, a nine-month program, educates current and emerging leaders about Alamance County – its infrastructure, resources and challenges. During monthly field days, students become familiar with local history, government, educational institutions, criminal justice and public safety systems, health & human services, recreation and cultural arts programs, and our economic base.
 - December 15: Economic Development
 - We visited Impact Alamance and listened to a panel of city managers and economic development coordinators discuss challenges and goals in building the economy in their respective cities, visited the Burlington Regional Airport, Glenn Raven, Sandvik, and Alamance Community College.
 - Most notable takeaways:
 - The panel discussion was very interesting and I feel like we could've listened for even longer as the panelists answered questions.
 - The hands on activities at ACC with welding, HVAC, mechanic, electric, etc.
 - Upcoming Date:
 - January 19: Government

Committees

- Safe Kids

"The question should be, is it worth trying to do, not can it be done."

- Meeting on December 20:
 - Discussed goals for upcoming year
 - Budget restrictions
 - County wide Safe Kids event
- Next Meeting: January 17
- Executive Safety Committee
 - Next Meeting: January 4
 - I have completed 8/9 safety modules on NeoGov

Miscellaneous

- Downtown Ice Skating Rink
 - Worked various shifts for Ice Rink
- 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
 - Pick up from North Graham Elementary, South Graham Elementary, and River Mill Academy
 - Provides Snack and Supper as supported by the YMCA
 - Began August 29
- Potential Programming
 - Street Events on West Elm, concerts, etc.
 - Downtown Music/Arts Festival
 - Beginning a program plan to develop a budget request for an event of this type
 - Fall Festival Style Event
 - Outreach programs in our communities
 - Lunch time "Rec Hour" at the Rec Center

"The question should be, is it worth trying to do, not can it be done."

-Allard Lowenstein

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."
- Maya Angelou

"Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others"
- Danny Thomas

Athletics Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
December 2022 Report

Marquis Graves
Athletics Supervisor
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Programming:

- Winter Youth Athletics Programs:
 - Winter 2022-23 Youth Basketball:
 - Games will start on December 12th.
 - We will have a weeks worth of games prior to taking a break for the holidays on December 19th.
 - Games will take place on Mondays – Thursdays for age groups 6U – 13U. 5U and 14U leagues will play games on Fridays & Saturdays.
 - Practices will now occur on a request basis for coaches are limited to gym availability.
 - We will work with an outside officials assignor to secure referees for games. All age groups excluding 5U, will utilize officials.
 - 6U, 8U Girls, 10U Girls, 12U Boys, 13U Girls & 14U Boys will all partner with other municipalities to play games during the season.
 - This season's basketball program will host 286 players. A breakdown of the age groups and teams is below:
 - 5U Coed (4 teams; 53 players)
 - 6U Coed (2 teams; 29 players)
 - 8U Boys (5 teams; 60 players)
 - 8U Girls (1 team; 14 players)
 - 10U Boys (5 teams; 57 players)
 - 10U Girls (2 teams; 21 players)
 - 12U Boys (2 teams; 28 players)
 - 13U Girls (1 team, 11 players)

- 14U Boys (1 team, 13 players)
- Games will take place on Mondays – Thursdays beginning in December.

✚ Upcoming Programs:

➤ Spring Youth Athletic Programs:

- Youth Soccer & Youth Instructional Lacrosse registration have now opened.
- Soccer and Lacrosse programs will both take place at Bill Cooke Park.

Safety Measures:

- 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 coaches have been asked to complete a background check before being able to coach in any sport with the City of Graham.

PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

December 2022



Bill Cooke Park

Athletic Fields – Spot sprayed weeds in outfields and around fence lines on infields

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

Removed old railroad ties and built a new retaining wall by field 3.

Discovered an issue with the furnace in the lower bathrooms that resulted in frozen pipes and a water leak. All of that has been fixed.

South Graham Park

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

Removed old park sign and turned it into a bench near the basketball court.

Removed old railroad ties in front of shot and built a new retaining wall. Removed old holly bushes along foundation of shop building.

Replaced a broken soap dispenser in the men's bathroom.

Graham Regional Park

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

Discovered that the power had been tripped to the parking lot lights and the shelter. Reset the timer.

It was discovered that the heater breaker was tripped which caused pipes to freeze and break in the right bathroom. Bathroom will have to be remodeled in the coming weeks.

Apollo/Goley

Apollo – No Report.

Goley – Removed and repaired the dugout covers.

Changed storywalk book.

Johnson Ave

General Maintenance – No Report.

Lake

General Maintenance – No Report.

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

Greenway – No Report.

Harmon Park – No Report.

Civic Center – No Report.

Marshall St – No Report.

Recreation Center – No Report.

Oakley St. – No Report.

Maple St. – No Report.

Hwy 54 Access – No Report.

200 N. Main – No Report

Miscellaneous

Assisted with the removal of the ice rink and moved skate hut back to Maple St.

The team attended the City Christmas Luncheon.

Took part in the firework debris cleanup.

Continued Education & Community Involvement

Evan started training videos on NeoGov.

Marketing Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
December 2022 Report



Contact: Brandy McCandless
Title: Marketing Supervisor
Phone: (336) 513-5510
Email: bmccandless@CityofGraham.com

"Your soul needs exploration and growth, and the only way you'll get it is by forcing yourself to be uncomfortable." — Mel Robbins, an author and motivational speaker

Projects Completed

- Downtown Graham's Ice Skating Rink was underway from November 25 - December 18
- City of Graham's Christmas Tree Celebration was held Sunday, December 4 with great attendance, approximately 400+ (12/04)
- Attended the Alamance-Burlington Schools Career & Technical Education Program Partnership Meeting (12/06)
- Attended the Impact Alamance and The Harwood Institute Arts Discussion Meeting (The Report: <https://theharwoodinstitute.org/report-catalog/alamance-choosing-hope>) (12/08)
- Listened in on the 2023 NC Year of the Trail Webinar (12/08)
- The monthly Hikes with Hounds program explored Graham Regional Park with three shelter dogs (Mela, Clarice, and Prince) and 7 volunteers (12/09)
- Special thanks to the GRPD Team for their help with covering shifts at the Ice Rink this season and breaking down the rink (12/19)



Projects Currently Underway

- Programs & events being promoted during December: Graham Historical Museum & Programs, posting Museum Photos for more information, Hiring, Center Updates, Hikes with Hounds,

ecoEXPLORE HotSpots, Parks, Downtown Graham's Ice Skating Rink, City of Graham's Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration, Holiday Happenings in Graham (Telf the Elf), and more!

- Working with the Graham Historical Museum Advisory Board to create 2023 Collector Cards
- Talking with WBAG about opportunities to promote GRPD & Museum happenings on the air
- Beginning the conversation for a new promotional video for athletics
- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech
 - Bill Cooke Park rules/hours, wayfinding signage, trail distance, tennis court rules
 - South Graham Park entryway and park signage: rules & nature trail
- 200 North Main Street Pocket Park Project with the former 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.
- Attending the NRPA Event Management School for the Certified Festival & Event Associate (CFEA) Certification on January 15-20, 2023

Current & Upcoming Programming

- **Sunflower/Crimson Clover Project at Graham Regional Park**
 - Summer & Fall 2022
 - Special thanks to the GRPD Parks & Athletic Team, City of Graham Public Works, and the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District...year 2 of the Sunflower Project!
 - Partnering again with Alamance Soil & Water Conservation by planting a Crimson Clover Field at Graham Regional Park...flowers coming in Spring 2023!
 - Benefits: Cover crops improve soil quality and weed suppression alongside other uses. Crimson clover (nitrogen fixer) gives your garden a green boost. This will also create a beautiful field of red crimson field of flowers to view.
- **Graham Historical Museum**
 - Artists & Writers of Graham Exhibit
 - Dates: October 1 – December 31, 2022
 - Museum Collector Cards for October - December: Fire Truck, Elmhurst, Jeanne Swanner, Lacy Holt Jugs
- **Hikes with Hounds**
 - Year-Round, one Friday each month
 - Partnership with the City of Burlington Animal Services and Recreation & Parks
 - December 9 – Graham Regional Park (1-2 miles)
 - Upcoming Hike: January 6 – Burlington City Park (2 miles)
- **Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series in Graham**
 - 2023 Band Lineup – Exploring Bands (tentative dates)
 - May 5 – TBD

- June 2 – TBD
 - June 30 – (Alamance Parks will join the series on the 5th Friday of each month)
 - July 7 – TBD
 - August 4 – TBD
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253
- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series**
 - 2023 Band Lineup – Planning Underway (tentative dates)
 - May 25 – TBD
 - June 22 – TBD
 - July 27 – TBD
 - August 24 – TBD
 - September 14 – TBD
 - September 28 – TBD
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Downtown Graham • West Elm Street, Graham, NC 27253
 - **Movies in the Park**
 - Every Saturday in September (Returning 2023)
 - Time: the movie begins around 7:30pm (pending sunset time)
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253
 - **Downtown Graham's Ice Skating Rink on Synthetic Ice**
 - 2022 Dates: November 25 - December 18 (3 weeks)
 - Location: Downtown at Alamance Arts
 - 2022 Attendance: approx. 1,304 skaters
 - The 2022 event featured Reserve a Session for Your Group (Mondays), Skate with the Characters (Thursdays), Theme Nights (Fridays)
 - Campfire Nights (Fridays & Saturdays) were only offered a few times due to a shortage in staffing. This area must be staffed at all times for safety.
 - Staffing was our biggest challenge this year due to only 3 applications received (3 new hires), staff availability was limited, and sickness
 - 4 staff were 15 years of age and NC Labor Laws limited hours (great group and still very helpful...but left holes in evening shifts)
 - 7 staff were sick at some point during the 3-week event, some for several days
 - **City of Graham's Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration**
 - 2022 Date: Sunday, December 4
 - Location: Front Lawn of the City of Graham Municipal Building (City Hall)
 - Comments from Vendors & Ceremony Presenters:
 - Alamance Arts: "Alamance Arts is happy to share that 80 children received free cookie decorating kits and several youths made them while standing on our

porch! Also, we had a head count of 260 people come through our gift shop in the two-hour period. Some sales were made but we are especially happy that we had time to connect with "new" community members, many locals who had not previously visited us. Thanks for the collaboration!"

- Graham High School Advanced Choral Ensemble: "On behalf of the Graham High School Advanced Ensemble, we would like to say thank you for allowing us to be a part of the historic tree lighting in Graham, NC."
 - Salvation Coffee Company: "We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the celebration. You can count us in for next year too."
 - SOS Productions: "Glad everyone had a good time and we here at SOS Productions were very happy again this year to work with Brandy and Brian to help pull this event off!"
- 2022 Attendance: approx. 400+

Volunteering

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

Social Media


Facebook Followers: 8,375 (increased 80)

Instagram Followers: 2,164 (increased 16)

Twitter Followers: 233 (increased 5)

Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for December 4, 2022 – January 2, 2023:

Top Posts/Pages	
1. City of Graham, NC	3,495
2. Trash and Recycling – City of Graham, NC	1,747
3. GRPD Special Ice Skating Rink – City of Graham, NC	1,454
4. Water & Sewer Billing – City of Graham, NC	1,313
5. Recreation & Parks – City of Graham, NC	818
6. Police – City of Graham, NC	486
7. Public Works – City of Graham, NC	447
8. Tax Division – City of Graham, NC	446
9. Downtown Graham's Ice Skating Rink – City of Graham, NC	432
10. Water & Sewer – City of Graham, NC	362

Graham-Mebane Lake End-of-Year Report

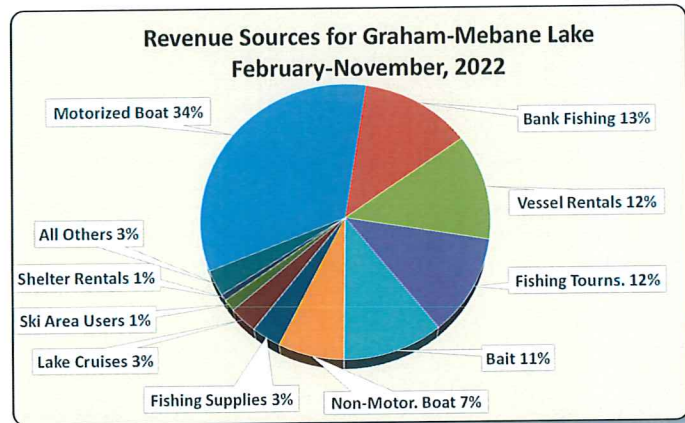
Graham Recreation and Parks Department

Warden's Summary of 2022

The lake had a good year. Public use, measured by visitation and boat launches, continued to drop from the Covid highs of 2020, but remained above the “normal” (pre-Covid) levels. Fishing was above average for the main sought-after species and we continue to see an increase in non-traditional lake users. Increasingly, people are discovering the lake and find that there is something for them here.

The lake was 10% less “busy” than last year; though with a new program and changes to our fee structure our revenue remained the same. Our top revenue sources are Motorized Boat Launches, Bank Fishing, Vessel Rentals, and our Fishing Tournaments.

Revenue remained way above average (up 30% or \$14,000). The User Fee changes resulted in an increase of \$3,300 and almost no pushback from customers. A concern is that bank angling took a 25% drop. With no complaints from bank anglers it is difficult to determine the cause.



By the Numbers (last year in parentheses)

Boat Launches	4,117	(4,535)
Motorized Boats:	3,278	(3,575)
Ski Area Launches:	99	(193)
Non-motorized Boats:	740	(767)
Seniors/Disability:	561	(548)
Using Annual Permit:	1,850	(1,626)
Vessels Rented:	604	(495)

Customers	15,332	(17,163)
All Boaters:	6,749	(7,722)
Motorized:	5,695	(6,348)
Ski Area:	274	(547)
Non-Motorized:	780	(714)
Bank Anglers:	3,472	(4,450)
Vessel Renters	725	(743)
Passive Visitors:	4,131	(3,921)

A few points on fishing and fish habitat:

- We weighed-in 19 Trophy Bass (over seven pounds); that's half of 2020 but still a respectable number for a lake our size. Few anglers bring up crappie and catfish for weighing.
- Fishing pressure (by number of boat launches) reduced to just above normal.
- The bass fishery remains healthy and robust. The bass remain “fat” and we have not seen stress sores or unhealthy bass. A healthy and numerous shad population (bass food) is one reason why.

- Through our partnership with NC Wildlife and our Regional Fisheries Biologist we received an assortment of fish habitat structures, had a dozen trees cut and dropped into the lake to provide fish habitat, and began planning a habitat revegetation project.
- We did experience low water levels in the fall, which affected fishing success.

In addition to the Lake Warden's 2,080 full-time hours worked, the Assistant Lake Wardens logged 1,450 hours, and Lake Attendants 2,850 hours, for a total of 6,400 hours worked. This falls right in the middle of range for the last three years. The Lake was open about 2,700 hours (230 days) this year.

Steve Hadden, CPRP
Lake Warden, Graham-Mebane Lake
Graham Recreation and Parks Department
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"When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat. Instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future."

- Elizabeth II, queen of the UK and 14 other Commonwealth realms, 1926-2022

2022 Programs and Events at Graham-Mebane Lake

We re-worked our **Big Bass Tournament (BBT)** a bit this year to increase interest and help bring it to revenue neutral or into the black. We lowered the monthly winners to seven and added the Second Chance Tournament, a sort of tournament within a tournament (more on that below). Our entrants rose to 70 and our administration percentage to \$437, but the \$650 in prizes (Annual Permits and fishing swag) kept us in the red. We'd need 90 entrants to cover the Annual Permits. Interest though, remains high. A common question we receive is 'what's on the board?' i.e. what's the weight of the leading bass? We'll keep tweaking this event, though this year's changes have helped.

In the **Second Chance Tournament**, a part of the BBT, we keep track of entrant's heaviest bass caught throughout the year. The Top 8 leaders (who do not win a month) get their own tournament in early October. This tournament winner then gets the chance to compete in the BBT Fish-Off for the prize money. The goals of this tournament are to provide a second path into the BBT Fish-Off for those who are never quite able win a month (which hopefully raises interest in the BBT) and to generate revenue to help cover BBT costs.



Two-thirds of the BBT entrants entered Second Chance. Interest waned over the heat of the summer, but really began to pickup the last six weeks of the tournament with entrants

vying for that number 8 spot. We think that the late interest and seeing how Second Chance operated will increase entrants next year. We sourced some donated fishing tackle to give to the Top 8 as door prizes – enough to cover their entry fee.

Second Chance brought in \$470. When combined with entry fees from the BBT and G-M Lake Bass Tournament (below), the BBT finally moved in to the black, plus we were able to provide another tournament for our customers.

Our **Graham-Mebane Lake Bass Tournament** (still haven't found a shorter, catchier name) was held in late March. Its objective is to provide a tournament experience for anglers who are not bass fishing club members and to bring in revenue to cover the BBT losses. We had 19 boats this year and a prize total of \$1,425. The Lake's Admin fee was \$475. The tournament ran very well – no ties this year!



The Lake held four evening **Catfish Tournaments** this summer. We averaged 58 entrants per tournament (wet weather knocked one way down) which is a bit lower than the last two seasons, but still a good turnout. These tournaments remain quite popular for families as well as the more hard-core anglers. Labor costs were \$240/tournament, while our revenue was \$310; keeping the program profitable for the third year in a row. We've shortened the sign-up process about as much as we can and don't expect many changes for the upcoming year.

The **Youth Fishing Day** is a free fishing event for kids ages 4 to 15. Attendance was about 60 this year, down a bit from previous years. The assistance of the Programs Division on this program is much appreciated.

This year, we may have made a mistake by moving **Family Day at the Lake** to a week later in June. Attendance was half of the previous year (weather was not a factor). We still had a great time and the 50 or so attendees spent more time on the water, playing games, and enjoying a SnoBall than previously. We'll move back to the first Saturday in June this coming year. A big thank you goes out to Brandy and Emma for making this a great event.

We tried something different for **Alamance Creek Week** this year. Instead of hosting a Family Fishing Clinic, we put our heads together with Stormwater Smart (the Creek Week sponsors) and decided to hold a Kayak Lake Clean-Up event. Participants could bring their own kayaks or use some of ours and spend a few hours on the water picking up trash and debris. We had fewer participants than desired, but Fox News 2 came out and did a segment on it.

Our **Vessel Rental Program** continues to grow. This year the 7-year program moved completely into the black. Jonboats are becoming quite

Year	Vessel Rentals			
	Rentals	Income	Expenses	Profit/Loss
2016-21	967	\$12,733.00	\$14,413.87	-\$1,680.87
2022	604	\$7,589.00	4,822.55	\$2,766.45
Totals:	1571	\$20,322.00	\$19,236.42	\$1,085.58

popular, accounting for nearly 40% of all rentals this year. To accommodate this increase, we are researching ways to re-configure our dock space and make the launching of jonboats easier.



Kayaking is one boating activity that has not slumped after Covid or been reduced by fuel costs. Our numbers - we launched 780 customers on **Non-motorized Boats** this year, bringing in \$4,371 – have stayed steady since 2020. The kayak launch ramp is holding up well and we expect it will have paid for itself by the end of next year.

The changes to our **Annual User Fee Permit** this year (removing the Out-of-County permit, adding Non-Motorized Boat and Bank Fishing options, and changing to a full 365-day term versus the remainder of the fishing season) have been well received by our customers. We sold 50% more permits than last year - a whopping 195 permits (148 motorized, 30 non-motorized, and 17 bank fishing). They were used over 2,000 times. Seventy purchasers used their permit enough times to pay for itself. Five purchasers used theirs over 50 times (the most used was 101 times), and the average use was 7 times.

Lake Cruises are the newest addition to the lake offerings. Using the pontoon boat gifted to us by the City of Mebane, we offered two seasons of lake tours: a Summer season in July and a Fall season from mid-October through early November. We ran 27 cruises, taking 215 customers out for a 45-minute cruise of the lake. The program has been well received and we have plans to expand it in 2023.

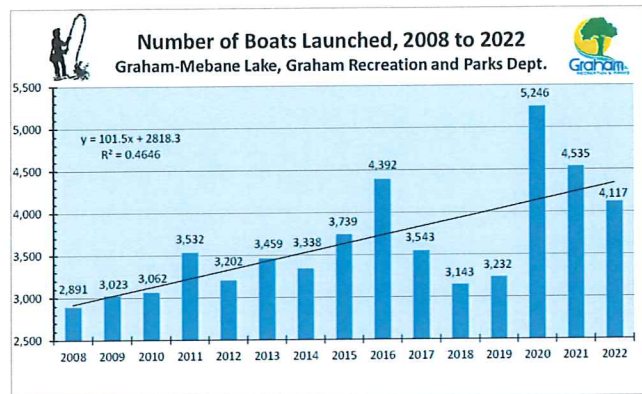
We had to purchase some personal flotation devices and a few other supplies costing \$1,200, but revenue was almost \$1,900, so we ended the year \$700 to the good. Additionally, the Lake received a \$1,000 donation to help fix up the boat. We have already begun the 'fixing up' process by removing dilapidated equipment and sourcing new flooring and seating.

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. 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.

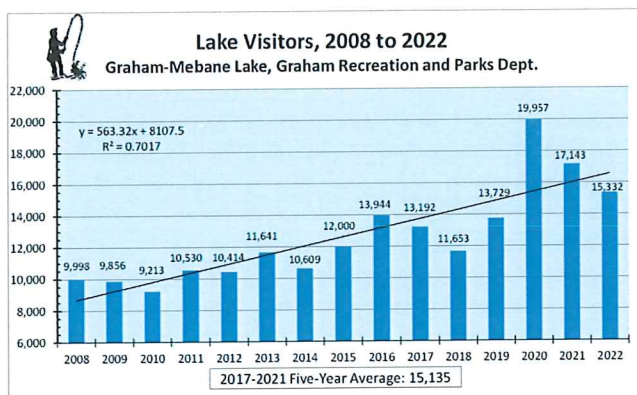
Fishing clubs hold day tournaments at the Lake in spring and fall. We had seven tournaments in 2022, totaling 75 boats. Due to parking issues, we restrict the number of tournament boats to 20 per day. Clubs must schedule their tournaments and pay our normal user fees. Tournaments are not held in June, July, and August to prevent fish loss in live wells.

Charts and Graphs

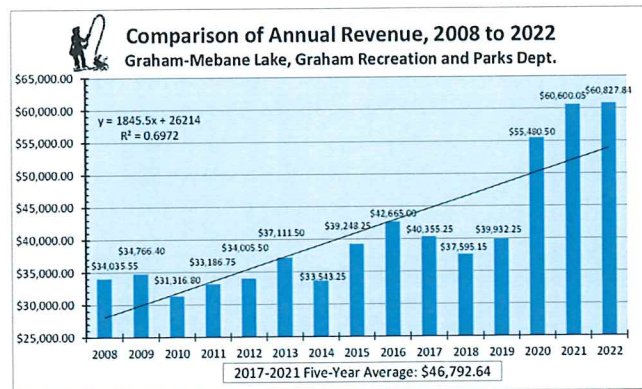
Boat launches are returning to pre-Covid levels. A reduction in big bass catching and increased fuel costs are factors, though the overall lake trend is still an increase of about 100 boat launches per year.



Lake visits continue their slow drop from Covid levels. Increases in vessel rental and program/event attendance mask the boater and bank angler reduction. Our trend line indicates an increase of 550 visitors a year.



Despite a reduction in numbers of boat launches and bank fishing visits, our revenue stayed the same as last year. The new user fee plan, an increase in vessel rentals, and new lake cruise program are the main drivers. We have seen a 75% increase over ten years ago.



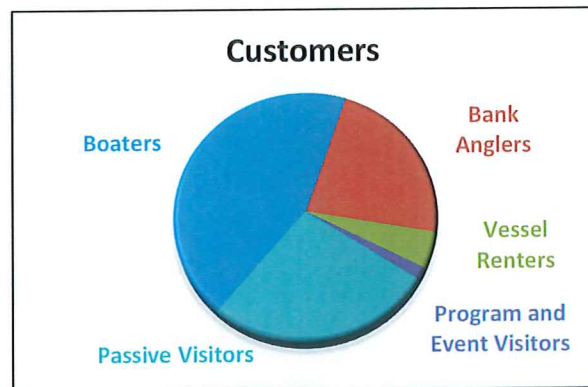
Customers responded positively to the Annual Permit changes. We sold 141 Motorized Boat, 30 Non-motorized Boat, 17 Bank Fishing, and gave eight Permits as BBT prizes. Forty-eight permits were for Senior Citizens or Person with a Disabilities.



Crunching our POS numbers gives us insight to who our customers are and possible trends, e.g. annual permit launches made up half of all motorized boat launches.

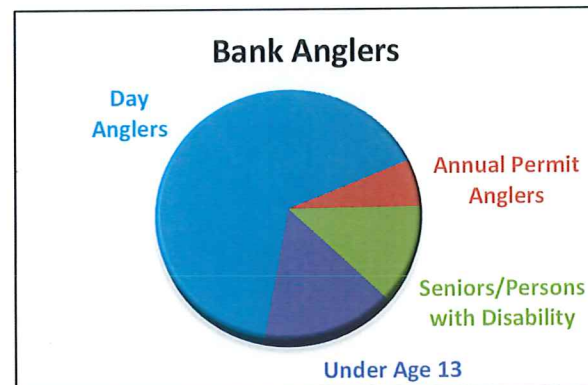
Customers

Boaters	6,749	44%
Bank Anglers	3,472	23%
Vessel Renters	725	5%
Program and Event Visitors	255	2%
Passive Visitors	4,131	27%
	15,332	



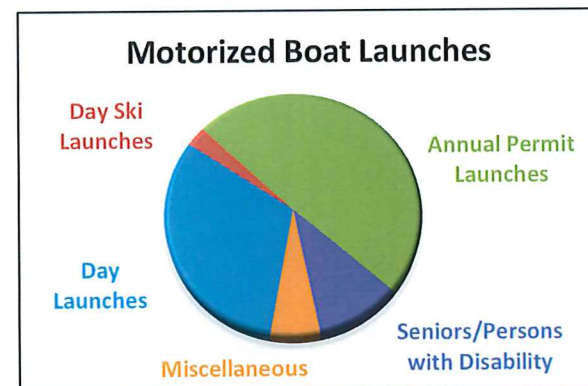
Bank Anglers

Day Anglers	2,285	66%
Annual Permit Anglers	214	6%
Seniors/Persons with Disability	437	13%
Under Age 13	536	15%
	3,472	



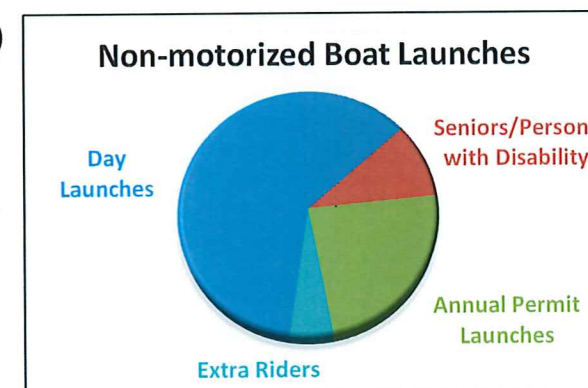
Motorized Boat Launches

Day Launches	1,069	32%
Day Ski Launches	91	3%
Annual Permit Launches	1,665	49%
Seniors/Persons with Disability	353	10%
Miscellaneous	199	6%
	3,377	



Non-Motorized Boat Launches (plus Customers)

Day Launches	477	61%
Seniors/Persons with Disability	78	10%
Annual Permit Launches	185	24%
Extra Riders	40	5%
	780	



2022 Revenue and Expenditures Table

Revenue and Expenditures
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022
 Graham-Mebane Lake, Graham Recreation and Parks Department

Revenue	
User Fees	\$33,376.50
Fishing Tournaments	\$8,172.50
Vessel Rentals	\$7,589.00
Bait	\$6,594.50
Fishing Supplies & Ice	\$1,954.25
Lake Cruises	\$1,890.00
Event Rental	\$630.00
Shelter Rentals	\$450.00
Miscellaneous/Other	\$171.09
	\$60,827.84
Expenditures	
Building Maintenance and Repair	\$7,129.47
Fishing Tournament Payouts and Prizes	\$6,067.50
Utilities, Telephone and Postage*	\$6,039.69
Bait	\$4,941.25
Supplies and Materials not Listed*	\$5,424.19
Programs	\$2,355.73
Fish Feeder Food Pellets	\$1,879.20
Vehicle & Equipment Fuel*	\$1,645.28
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	\$1,580.59
Fishing Supplies and Ice	\$1,174.84
Contracted Services	\$620.26
Equipment Maintenance and Repair	\$535.83
Vessel Rental Program Equipment	\$4,814.81
Miscellaneous**	\$1,016.93
	\$45,225.57

Personnel, insurance, and capital outlay costs are not included.

* Estimated, not finalized as of this writing.

** Miscellaneous includes travel, uniforms, dues, and other misc. charges.