

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission
Director's Report for March '23

I. Present Projects

- a. **Shelter #1 @ Cooke Park** - Structural repairs are complete, painting will be completed in April.
- b. **Shelter #2 @ Cooke Park** - Staff continues to work with the contractor and supplier to finalize details.

II. Future Projects

- a. **200 North pocket park** - Quotes for site amenities were sent to potential sponsors.
- b. **Trail to Graham Regional Park** - GRPD staff installed mulch to complete 90% of the trail. The trail is usable, additional mulch will be added as it becomes available.
- c. **Historical Museum** - Staff and volunteers will repaint the doors and trim later in the spring.

III. Policies/Manuals/Plans

- a. **Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan** - The plan should be completed by June.
- b. **Sponsorship Policy**- Work on the development of a departmental sponsorship policy is progressing.
- c. **GRPD Personnel/Orientation Manuals** - Work on a Personnel Manual and an Orientation Manual continues.

IV. Historical Museum Attendance - 30 - March

V. Outside Committees

- a. **Wellness Collaborative**
 - i. **DreamCenter** - During a meeting at the DreamCenter (DC), GRPD staff made new connections with DC staff and plan to work together on future programs.
 - ii. **Farmers Markets** - Impact Alamance is leading a series of meetings with various municipalities who operate or are interested in learning about operating Farmers Markets. The hope is to increase communication and collaboration between municipalities and to explore a countywide Farmers Market Coordinator.
- b. **Friends of GRPD** - No updates

VI. Staffing

- a. **Hiring Process** - 22 candidates applied for the Athletic Supervisor position. Those applicants were reviewed by a committee and narrowed to seven who were asked to complete a written assignment. That written assignment will be reviewed by another committee with 3-4 expected to be interviewed in early April.
- b. **Training** - Online training for PT and fulltime staff continues.

VII. Financial Summary

Recreation Division

Open Gym/Weight Room	\$6.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$400.00
Civic Center rentals	\$210.00
Rec. Center rentals	\$0.00
Park Shelter	\$1,362.50
Passive Area Facility Rental	\$50.00
Table rentals	\$9.00
Basketball	\$25.00
Baseball	\$595.00
Softball	\$76.25
Spring Soccer – refunds	(\$6.25)
Lacrosse – refunds	(\$115.00)
T-Ball	\$517.50
Summer Day Camp	\$14,291.00
Cottontail Crawl	\$175.00
Graham Walks sponsor	\$600.00
Thursdays at Seven Concerts Series	\$3,000.00
Donations	\$2.00
Total	\$21,198.00

Lake Division

Fishing Boat launches	\$1,500.00
Non-Motor Boat launches (Kayak/Canoe)	\$120.00
Ski Boat launches	\$0.00
Jon Boat rentals	\$156.00
Kayak/Canoe rentals	N/A
Bank Fishing	\$553.00
Bait/Supplies	\$462.50
Shelter Rentals	\$100.00
Big Bass Tournament	\$905.00
Single Day Bass Tournament	\$1,880.00
Annual Permit (motorized boats)	\$2,190.00
Annual Permit (non-motorized boats)	\$210.00
Annual Permit (bank fishing)	\$50.00
Event Rentals	\$0.00
Lake Cruises	N/A
Misc. - Annual Permit Upgrade	\$25.00
Total	\$8,151.50

Marketing Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
March 2023 Report



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

"Passion is everything. In fact, you've got to be borderline fanatical about what you do." — Chris Gardner, an American businessman, motivational speaker, and Author of the 'Pursuit of Happiness.'

Project Updates

- Cleaned out the flower beds at 200 North Main Alley Park and the Graham Historical Museum courtyard (03/01)
- Brian, Marquis, and I sat in on the Alamance Community College Graphic Design 4 (GRD-242) class Client Presentations for the Graham Recreation Center Vinyl Door Wraps (03/02)
- Met with Steve and Emma to discuss planning for the Youth Fishing Day and Family Day at the Lake events (03/02)
- Since the weather was a little iffy for the monthly Hikes with Hounds program, we spent our time helping at Burlington Animal Services. Volunteer hikers assisted the shelter staff with setting up sweet and tasty enrichment items for the dogs and prepped flea prevention for the kittens. (03/03)
- Attended the South Graham Park site visit for Stormwater Engineering Partners (03/06)
- Attended the City of Graham Appearance Commission / Tree Board Meeting to finalize Arbor Day in Graham planning (03/06)
- Attended the "Teams" online Regional Municipal Special Event Teams Meeting (03/09)
- Assisted the Area 3 Envirothon at Elon University as a Middle School Group Guide (03/14)
- Met with Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream and the Park Team to discuss the Mobile Parklet destination for Spring/Summer 2023 (03/16)
- Attended the Zoom Workshop presented by International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA): "Stalking the Elusive Sponsor" (03/16)
- Completed the City of Graham's Human Resources' NeoGov Online Training: "Improving Diversity and Inclusion (DEI) in Your Workplace" (03/16)
- Met at Elon University in Innovation Hall to scope the Capstone Project for South Graham Municipal Park Stormwater Control (03/23)
- Attended the Alamance Creek Week 2023 Partner Planning Zoom Meeting (03/23)
- Attended the Juneteenth Planning Discussion with community partners (03/23)
- Monitored Bluebird Nest Boxes, 18 total across Graham's parks (03/23)
- Updated coroplast signage in parks to feature Year of the Trail, Graham Walks, and Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony event information (03/23)
- Attended the Elon University Campus-Community Networking Event (03/28)

- Assisted with the GRPD Staff Workday connecting the Riley's Meadow community on Jim Minor Road to Graham Regional Park with a nature trail (03/30)
- The bright red Crimson Clover flowers are starting to peek out across the field at Graham Regional Park...we hope you enjoy the show in the weeks to come before we begin the sunflower field this May.



Ongoing Projects

- Programs & events being promoted during March: Youth Athletics Registration, Hiring & Volunteer Recruitment, Graham Historical Museum & Exhibits, Center Updates & Programs, Hikes with Hounds & Paw Across Alamance, ecoEXPLORE HotSpots, Parks & Shelter Reservations, Graham Walks, Afterschool Activities, Alamance/Burlington Senior Games, Pickleball Courts, First Responder Fridays, Cottontail Crawl – A Downtown Graham Scavenger Hunt, Year of the Trail, Arbor Day in Graham programs, Lake Hours & Tournaments, Thursdays at Seven Concert Series, and more!
- Talking with WBAG about opportunities to promote GRPD & Museum happenings on the air
- Athletics Promotional Video footage is now underway with Titania Productions and will be ongoing throughout 2023 to capture all sports (completed: basketball)
- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech for Bill Cooke Park & South Graham Park: rules/hours, wayfinding signage, trail distance, tennis/pickleball court rules
- 200 North Main Street Pocket Park Project - exploring seating & lighting options to purchase with possible community partners/sponsors
- Updating Sponsorship Opportunities & Information
- 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 & IFEA Event Management School at Oglebay for the Certified Festival & Event Associate (CFEA) Certification on January 14-19, 2024 for Year 2

Current & Upcoming Programming

- **Sunflower/Crimson Clover Project**
 - Crimson Clover will flower in April 2023, Sunflowers will be planted in May 2023
 - A GRPD Parks & Athletic Facilities Team, City of Graham Public Works, and the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District Project
 - Location: Graham Regional Park

- **Graham Historical Museum**
 - 2023 Exhibits
 - January – March: Graham Architectural Artifacts: One Hundred Years of Homes in Graham – The exhibit features homes from Graham from each decade 1850-1950, with owners listed, structural descriptions, and architectural pieces connected to each home.
 - April – June: Vintage Quilts Exhibit - Quilts Handcrafted Over 50 Years Ago
 - July – September: Jeannie Robertson Swanner in honor of her 80th birthday which would have been in September 2023
 - October – December: 100 years of the Graham Courthouse (cornerstone laid in November 1923)
 - Lunch-and-Learn at the Museum (Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm)
 - Wednesday, May 17 - Speaker: Jeanette Beaudry, Graham Historical Museum Board Member • Topic: Quilts
 - Wednesday, June 21 - Speaker: Brian Baker, Assistant Alamance County Manager • Topic: TBD (2023 is the Year of the Trail)
 - Wednesday, September 20 - Speaker: John Guss, Alamance Parks Historic Properties Superintendent • Topic: TBD
 - Wednesday, October 18 - Speaker: Russell Compton, Graham Historical Museum Board Member & Local Historian • Topic: Alamance County Historical Courthouse
 - Downtown Graham Architectural Tours - July/August Dates: TBD
 - Cemetery Tour - October Date: TBD

- **Hikes with Hounds**
 - Year-Round, one Friday each month
 - Partnership with the City of Burlington Animal Services and Recreation & Parks
 - January Burlington - Burlington City Park (2 miles)
 - February Graham - Bill Cooke Park (2 miles)
 - March Burlington – Springwood Park (2 miles)
 - April Haw River Trail - Shallow Ford Natural Area (2-3 miles)
 - May Haw River Trail - SAX Island (2-3 miles)
 - June Haw River Trail - Longmeadow Trailhead (3 miles)
 - July Haw River Trail – Glencoe Paddle Access (2 miles)
 - August Haw River Trail – Swepsonville River Park (2 miles)
 - September Alamance Parks - Cedarrock Park (2-3 miles)
 - October Burlington - Guilford Mack Park & Marina (2 miles)
 - November Burlington – Willowbrook Park (2 miles)
 - December Graham – Graham Regional Park (1-2 miles)

- **Arbor Day in Graham Activities**
 - During the month of April (programs & social media tree education)
 - Collaboration with the City of Graham Appearance Commission & Tree Board
 - Arbor Day in Graham Opportunities:

- Arbor Day Poem Contest (closed on 03/31)
 - Arbor Day Kindness Rock Hunt in Downtown Graham (April)
 - Going Bonkers for Botany at South Graham Park (04/11)
 - Arbor Day in Graham's Tree Planting Ceremony at South Graham Park (04/28)
- **Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park**
 - 2023 Band Lineup
 - May 5 – Kimber & Kompany – R&B/Pop
 - June 2 – Oscar's Latin Band – Latin
 - July 7 – Jukebox Rehab – Country/Pop
 - August 4 – Grizzly Goat – Americana Folk Rock
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253
- **Alamance Creek Week**
 - 2023 Dates: May 13 – 21
 - Collaborating with Graham-Mebane Lake and StormwaterSMART for activities
- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series in Downtown Graham**
 - 2023 Band Lineup
 - May 25 – The Holiday Band
 - June 22 – The Main Event Band
 - July 27 – Special Occasion Band
 - August 24 – The Sand Band
 - September 14 – The Magnificents Band
 - September 28 – The Mason Lovette Band
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Downtown Graham • West Elm Street, Graham, NC 27253
- **Movies in the Park**
 - Every Saturday in September
 - September 2 – Soul
 - September 9 – TBD
 - September 16 – TBD
 - September 23 – TBD
 - September 30 – TBD
 - Time: the movie begins around 7:30pm (pending sunset time)
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253
- **Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz**
 - September 2023
 - The Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz is an online event where community members work with park staff to create a snapshot of the variety of wildlife that can be found in Alamance County.

- **Downtown Graham’s Ice Skating Rink on Synthetic Ice**
 - 2023 Dates: November 24 - December 17 (3 weeks) *(tentative dates)*
 - Times: (see website for details)
 - Location: Downtown at Alamance Arts

- **City of Graham’s Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration**
 - 2023 Date: Sunday, December 3 (rain date: December 10)
 - Time: 5:00pm – 7:30pm
 - Tree Lighting Ceremony: 6:30pm, fireworks will follow the lighting of the tree
 - Location: Front Lawn of the City of Graham Municipal Building (City Hall)

Volunteering

- NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

Social Media

Facebook Followers: 8,494 (increased 77)

Instagram Followers: 2,216 (increased 26)

Twitter Followers: 239 (increased 0)

Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for March 4 – April 2, 2023

Top Posts/Pages	
1. City of Graham, NC	3,403
2. Recreation & Parks – City of Graham, NC	1,395
3. Water & Sewer Billing – City of Graham, NC	1,248
4. GRPD Lake – City of Graham, NC	853
5. GRPD Parks & Facilities – City of Graham, NC	849
6. Police – City of Graham, NC	664
7. Trash and Recycling – City of Graham, NC	659
8. Crime Data – City of Graham, NC	578
9. GRPD Lake Hours & Fees – City of Graham, NC	540
10. GRPD Athletics – City of Graham, NC	461



Graham-Mebane Lake Report, March 2023

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



The Lake returned to its six-days-a-week schedule on March 1st. We had a good month, averaging over 17 boats and 45 customers per day. Bass fishing was very good, with many anglers reporting they had a “good day”; though one angler (approx. age 5) had the “best day of his career”. Eight trophy-sized bass (over 7 pounds) were weighed-in. Crappie fishing has yet to turn on, though bank fishing is beginning to pick up.

March Lake Highlights

- Brian and Steve met with NC Wildlife engineers on the 7th about the renovation of our boat launch ramps.
- Thirty anglers in 17 boats came out for our Bass Tournament on the 25th. The three winning teams caught over 20 pounds of bass each, with the Big Fish of the day coming in at 7.97 pounds. A 5-fish bag of 25.55 pounds took first place.
- Charles Foust, of Graham, won the month in our Big Bass Tournament with a 9.27-pound bass. We added 29 anglers to the Tournament, raising the total to 42. Eighteen of those 29 entrants also chose to enter our Second Chance Tournament (year total to 30).
- We sold 41 Annual Permits, bringing this year’s total to 70.
- A Barred Owl is nesting near the marina building for the third year in a row.
- The lake remained at full pool for the month.

By the Numbers (2022 data in parentheses)

Boat Launches:	477 (389)	Customers	1,290 (1,191)
Motorized Boats:	433 (360)	All Boaters:	687 (628)
Ski Area Launches:	0 (0)	Motorized:	642 (595)
Non-motorized Boats:	44 (29)	Non-Motor. Boater	45 (33)
Seniors/Disability:	42 (26)	Bank Anglers:	260 (230)
Using Annual Permit:	238 (213)	Vessel Renters	23 (19)
Vessels Rented:	15 (13)	Passive Visitors:	320 (288)

Steve Hadden, Lake Warden
 Graham-Mebane Lake
 Marina: (919) 563-6544
shadden@cityofgraham.com



Graham-Mebane Lake Monthly Financial Report

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



March 2023

Days Open: 27

Daily Activity from Staff Reports:

Date	Boats	Visitors	Daily User Fees:				Fishing Bait	Fishing Supplies	Vessel Rental	Fishing Tourn.	Lake Cruise	Over		Total \$
			Motor.	Ski Area	Non-Motor.	Bank						Misc.	Under	
1	22	41	308.00			7.00	8.50			160.00				\$483.50
2	5	23	79.00			9.00	8.50	4.00		35.00				\$135.50
3	5	14	9.00							105.00				\$114.00
4	27	69	303.00		24.00	48.00	21.25	7.50		100.00				\$503.75
5	45	112	340.00		36.00	73.00	55.25	7.75	20.00	130.00				\$662.00
6	22	59	102.00			19.00	17.00	2.50	20.00	35.00				\$195.50
7														
8	19	44	116.00		30.00	15.00	4.25		10.00	70.00				\$245.25
9	20	42	52.00		6.00	8.00	4.25							\$70.25
10	5	20	77.00			3.00						-5.00		\$75.00
11	21	56	150.00		6.00	30.00	8.50	7.00		365.00				\$566.50
12		5								330.00				\$330.00
13	6	21	88.00			6.00	4.25	3.75		145.00				\$247.00
14														
15	4	18	70.00		45.00					110.00				\$225.00
16	21	41	57.00		12.00	9.00		5.00		110.00				\$193.00
17	20	51	193.00		135.00	15.00	4.25							\$347.25
18	16	64	216.00		6.00	93.00	42.50	6.75	20.00	35.00				\$419.25
19	9	39	54.00			21.00	42.50			230.00				\$347.50
20	6	11	83.00											\$83.00
21														
22	11	24	53.00			13.00				330.00				\$396.00
23	34	83	274.00		3.00	40.00	12.75	2.00		35.00				\$366.75
24	25	90	233.00		12.00	19.00	17.00	2.00	16.00	220.00				\$519.00
25	19	83	88.00		6.00	69.00	55.25		30.00	120.00				\$368.25
26	34	74	270.00		6.00	39.00	46.75		10.00	50.00				\$421.75
27	17	47	134.00			17.00	8.50	4.00		35.00				\$198.50
28														
29	13	44	22.00			6.00	8.50		20.00					\$56.50
30	22	54	163.00		3.00	21.00	12.75	6.50	10.00					\$216.25
31	29	61	181.00			23.00	21.25			35.00				\$260.25
Totals:	477	1290	\$3,715.00		\$330.00	\$603.00	\$403.75	\$58.75	\$156.00	\$2,785.00			-\$5.00	\$8,046.50
Total Daily User Fees: \$4,648.00														

Deposit Receipts:

	Total \$
Lake Deposits: Cash/Checks	\$4,969.00
Community Pass: Credit Cards	\$3,077.50
Community Pass: Shelter Rental	\$100.00
RECEIPT TOTAL:	\$8,146.50

PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

March 2023



Bill Cooke Park

Athletic Fields – All fields have been treated with crabgrass pre-emergent.

Painted all soccer fields for the rec soccer season.

Fixed an issue with the water valves that are in the outfields.

Outfields 1 & 2 were sprayed for weeds.

We continue to prep fields for practices/games for River Mill.

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

South Graham Park

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

Installed new garage door on SGP shop.

Fixed some surfacing issues on the tennis courts.

Removed several trees on the nature trail.

All of the trees in quadrant 1 of the park have been inspected and if needed branched were trimmed or tree was removed.

Repaired one soccer goal and added a new net.

Graham Regional Park

General Maintenance – Monthly playground inspections were completed.

Removed the sand from the sandbox within the inclusive playground.

Merry-go-all was removed temporarily for repairs and then reinstalled.

Fixed an issue with a leaking sink in one of the bathrooms.

Replaced a broken toilet paper dispenser.

Over seeded an area that was brought to our attention for final sign off on project.

Removed a tree that fell onto a neighboring park property.

Completed the connector trail to the new subdivision across from park.

Apollo/Goley

***Apollo** – Maintenance continues from the middle school soccer season.*

***Goley** – Maintenance has start for recreation softball.*

Johnson Ave

***General Maintenance** – No Report*

Lake

***General Maintenance** – Installed door lock bar on new storage building.*

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

***Greenway** – Playground inspection was completed with no issues found.*

***Harmon Park** – Playground inspection was completed with no issues found.*

Weeds were sprayed in the wooded area.

***Civic Center** – Playground inspection was completed with no issues found.*

***Marshall St** – Playground inspection was completed with no issues found.*

***Recreation Center** – Playground inspection was completed with no issues found.*

Weeds around building and in landscape beds were sprayed.

***Oakley St.** – Removed a tree that had fallen across the walking track.*

Playground inspection was completed with no issues found.

Removed a soccer goal from the property that did not belong to the city.

***Maple St.** – No Report.*

***Hwy 54 Access** – No Report.*

***200 N. Main** – No Report.*

Miscellaneous

Continued Education & Community Involvement