

GRAHAM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
June 12, 2024 6:30 PM
Graham Historical Museum

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2024
- III. Chairperson's Report
- IV. Director's Report
 - 1. Recreation Center – Gym #2 HVAC replacement – Council approved budget amendment and work has been completed
 - 2. Cabin @ Cooke Park – no updates from the contractor assessing the cabin – staff is still expecting options with costs for repairs, removal, relocation, etc. to present
 - 3. Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan
 - 4. ABSS/GRPD Joint-Use Agreements – to be consider by ABSS Board of Education in July
- V. Old Business
 - 1. Land Acquisition - Graham Regional Park – Stewart Property – no updates on the private appraisal
 - 2. Master Plan for Graham Regional Park – A Request for Proposal for firms to complete the Master Plan is expected to be released in late June.
- VI. New Business
 - 1. Adopted Budget
 - 2. Land Acquisition Cooke Park – Teer Property – staff and Council will discuss options; possible grants are being explored
- 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

April 10, 2024

GRAHAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Jay Cook, Brian Cutlip, Casey Johnson, Laurie Pickard

STAFF: Brian Faucette

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 6:35 with a welcome.

MINUTES

-Mr. Cutlip made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pickard and unanimously approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

-Chair Cook reminded the Commission of the Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on April 13, 2024 and encouraged everyone to attend if able.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

-Mr. Faucette did not give a Director's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette reported that work on the HVAC servicing Gym #1 is complete and quotes are still being solicited to replace the HVAC unit servicing Gym #2.

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission the playground equipment at Graham Regional Park funded by Impact Alamance is fully operational.

-Mr. Faucette reported there are no updates on the Stewart Property (Graham Regional Park) but the City has been contacted by the Teer Family concerning property adjacent to Cooke Park. Staff will seek an appraisal.

-Mr. Faucette reported that he is still waiting on options from Broadleaf Timber & Masonry Reclaiming, LLC to renovate, relocate, or remove the cabin. Options will be presented to Council at a future meeting.

-Mr. Faucette reported the Graham branch of Bank of America has closed. A clock owned by the Rhyne family originally intended for the Museum but instead was displayed in the bank has been returned to the Museum.

-Mr. Faucette reported that Council has directed City staff to explore a new plan for Graham Regional Park. GRPD staff met with Withers-Ravenel and is now awaiting a proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette asked the Commission to review the Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan prior to the meeting to provide feedback. With no changes, the Commission asked the plan to be presented to Council for adoption.

-Commission members reviewed and discussed the proposed Joint -Use Agreement with ABSS for the football field and softball field/track at Graham Middle School. The Commission asked GRPD staff to review the agreement and ask City Attorneys to review before being returned to ABSS.

-Mr. Faucette presented the latest plans for projects being considered for the Accessible Parks Grant. Commission members suggested adding a push button exit for the foyer area and solidifying exit plans.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Marketing: N/A **Athletics:** N/A **Friends Group:** N/A **Parks:** N/A **Centers:** N/A **Programs:** N/A

Sports Hall of Fame: Committee is finalizing details for the ceremony, currently working on plaques.

Lake: Mr. Faucette reviewed a potential trespassing violation recently discovered on the Quaker Creek branch of the lake. City staff will continue to explore the potential trespass and staff will keep the Commission updated.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

With all business concluded, Mr. Cutlip made a motion to adjourn at 7:36pm, seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Faucette

Jay Cook, Chair

Date

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission
Director's Report for May '24

I. Present Projects

- a. **Elon Engineering Project** - The final project was presented on May 10th. GRPD staff will work with Stormwater Smart to explore possible grant resources to fund the project.
- b. **Rec. Center HVAC** - City Council approved the budget amendment to replace the Gym #2 HVAC unit. Work was completed in late May.

II. Future Projects

a. Land Acquisition

- i. **GRP** - Mr. Stewart is still waiting on an appraisal from his new firm.
- ii. **Cooke** - City staff continues to work with the Teer family and will present the possible purchase to Council at the June meeting.

- b. **Accessible Parks Grant** - The application was submitted on May 1st. Awards will be announced on Aug. 23rd.
- c. **Cabin @ Cooke Park** - GRPD staff is still exploring options for the cabin at Cooke Park.
- d. **GRP Site Master Plan** - The Request for Proposal for a Master Site Plan for Graham Regional Park is expected to be released in late June.

III. Policies/Manuals/Plans

- a. **Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan** - The Site Master Plan will be presented to Council at their June meeting.
- b. **GRPD Personnel/Orientation Manuals** - Work on a Personnel Manual and an Orientation Manual continues.
- c. **ABSS/GRPD contracts** - GRPD staff, City Attorneys, and ABSS staff have reviewed and approved the Joint Use Agreements. The ABSS Board of Education is expected to consider the Agreements in July.

IV. Historical Museum Attendance - 31 – May; 13 attended the May Lunch and Learn program

V. Outside Committees

- a. **Graham Pedestrian Plan** - The final plan should be released in the next couple of months.
- b. **Great Alamance Creek Steering Committee** - The plan should be finalized by late fall.
- c. **Wellness Collaborative** - No updates
- d. **Friends of GRPD** - The group voted to invest funds into a CD. It also agreed to increase focus on supporting GRPD programming in addition to supporting GRPD development projects.

VI. Staffing - GRPD supervisors are currently advertising the following positions:

- i. PT Lake Attendant – Lake Div.
- ii. PT General Maintenance Worker – Parks Div.

VII. Financial Summary - Convenience fees - \$569.22-May

Recreation Division

Open Gym/Weight Room/Pickleball	\$17.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$0.00
Civic Center rentals	\$479.00
Rec. Center rentals	\$300.00
Staff Fee	\$380.00
Park Shelters	\$1,335.00
Field/Passive Area Rental	\$205.00
Table/Chair rentals	\$0.00
Youth Soccer	\$0.00
Youth Baseball	\$98.75
Youth Basketball Camp	\$550.00
Youth Flag Football Camp	\$525.00
Youth Lacrosse Camp	\$150.00
Summer Day Camp	\$16,015.92
Slice of Summer Food Vendor	\$400.00
Graham Walks Sponsors	\$150.00
Thursday At Seven Concert Sponsors	\$250.00
Donations/Misc. Sponsorships	\$105.00
Total	\$20,960.67

Lake Division

Fishing Boat launches	\$1,412.00
Non-Motor Boat launches (Kayak/Canoe)	\$297.00
Ski Boat launches	\$54.00
Jon Boat rentals	\$578.00
Kayak/Canoe rentals	\$824.00
Bank Fishing	\$1,790.00
Bait/Supplies	\$1,415.25
Annual Permit (motorized boats)	\$1,100.00
Annual Permit (non-motorized boats)	\$135.00
Annual Permit (bank fishing)	\$46.00
Shelter Rentals	\$200.00
Big Bass Tournament	\$25.00
Single Day Tournament	N/A
Catfish Tournament	\$625.00
Pontoon Boat Cruises	N/A
Paddle Tours	\$130.00
Introduction to Kayaking program	\$70.00
Total	\$8,701.25



Graham-Mebane Lake Report, May 2024

Graham Recreation and Parks Department

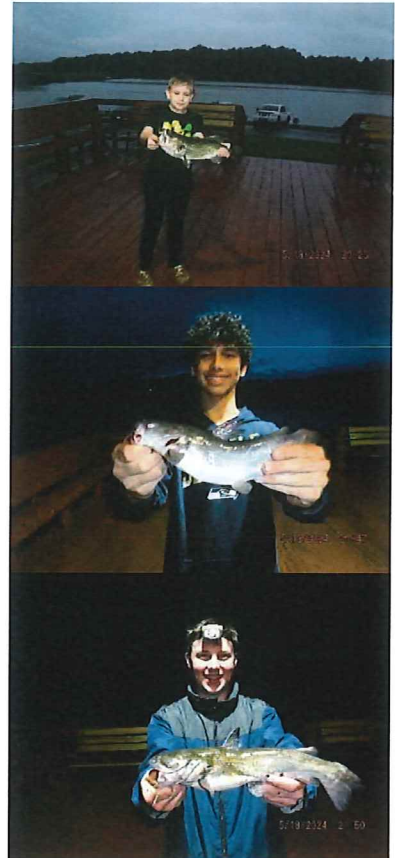


We had a fairly average May, with the exception of boat launches being down about 25% from the five-year average (about 160 launches). Covid-19 punched up that average, but this May had the third fewest launches in 17 years of record keeping. The reasons for it are unclear; there was some rain and muddy water, there were periods of zip-lipped bass, and there were expectations that the parking lot would be full on the weekends. But these are true for every May, so we are bemused and befuddled.

Bass fishing picked up the last week of the month and catfishing got hotter as the temperature rose.

May Lake Highlights

- We had 65 kids out for Youth Fishing Day. Danica Heflin of StormWater Smart was out educating kids on the importance of water quality, using her friendly turtles to illustrate.
- Rain kept our May Catfish Tournament numbers down, but the 38 that braved the weather at the start ended with a really nice evening. The largest catfish caught was 4.19 pounds.
- An algaecide spraying near the Water Plant's intake was performed on the 30th.
- NC Wildlife was out to check the aquatic plant survival in the enclosures and begin planting water willow. Last Fall's low water levels did not kill off as much as we feared.
- Charles Foust, of Graham, caught a 6.64 lb. bass to win May in the Big Bass Tournament.



Happy Catfish Tournament anglers.

By the Numbers (2023 in parentheses)

Boat Launches	483 (565)	Customers	2,380 (2,494)
Motorized Boats:	398 (488)	All Boaters:	754 (929)
Ski Area Launches:	6 (6)	Motorized:	665 (846)
Non-motorized Boats:	79 (71)	Ski Area:	8 (10)
Seniors/Disability:	59 (61)	Non-Motor. Boater	81 (73)
Using Annual Permit:	224 (250)	Bank Anglers:	780 (730)
Vessels Rented:	115 (134)	Vessel Renters	175 (173)
		Passive Visitors:	534 (592)

Steve Hadden, CPRP

Lake Warden, Graham-Mebane Lake;

Marina: (919) 563-6544, shadden@cityofgraham.com



Graham-Mebane Lake Monthly Financial Report

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



May 2024

Days Open: 27

Daily Activity (POS) from Staff Reports:

Date	Boats	Visitors	Daily User Fees:				Bait	Fishing Supplies	Vessel Rental	Fishing Tourn.	Lake Cruise	Over		Total \$
			Motor.	Ski Area	Non-Motor.	Bank						Other	Under	
1	19	61	102.00		45.00	43.00	42.25	10.00	32.00					\$274.25
2	11	52	31.00			39.00	8.50		58.00					\$136.50
3	20	75	175.00		6.00	44.00	39.25	12.00	66.00					\$342.25
4	6	57	92.00			42.00	25.50	8.00	10.00					\$177.50
5	11	74	31.00		45.00	85.00	35.75	14.50	32.00					\$243.25
6	6	41	74.00			49.00	21.25							\$144.25
7														
8	14	64	83.00			24.00	38.25	1.75	30.00					\$177.00
9	11	49	18.00		21.00	53.00	21.25	4.50	10.00					\$127.75
10	17	77	47.00			45.00	27.00	20.75	87.00			0.25		\$227.00
11	27	217	207.00		36.00	64.00	48.50	18.00	48.00			0.75		\$422.25
12	21	115	194.00		42.00	93.00	29.75	13.00	110.00					\$481.75
13	23	83	47.00		6.00	62.00	43.75	8.50	22.00					\$189.25
14														
15	8	54	36.00			20.00	6.25	4.75	20.00					\$87.00
16	11	69	35.00			42.00	34.75	14.50	28.00					\$154.25
17	16	66	71.00		6.00	54.00	37.00	11.00	10.00					\$189.00
18	14	110	72.00		3.00	199.00	77.50	22.00	70.00	570.00		55.00		\$1,068.50
19	25	98	132.00	9.00	12.00	90.00	61.50	12.50	72.00					\$389.00
20	14	60	105.00		12.00	39.00	21.25	6.00	42.00			0.25		\$225.50
21														
22	14	48	31.00		45.00	35.00		4.00	12.00					\$127.00
23	19	53	173.00		15.00	45.00			20.00					\$253.00
24	19	100	133.00		6.00	72.00	29.25	10.75	36.00			-0.25		\$286.75
25	32	190	290.00			145.00	72.75	39.50	144.00			0.25		\$691.50
26	24	154	111.00	27.00	12.00	98.00	94.50	17.25	180.00					\$539.75
27	38	170	154.00	9.00	84.00	127.00	78.50	23.50	181.00	25.00		0.25		\$682.25
28														
29	21	81	39.00	9.00	15.00	62.00	91.25	18.25	20.00					\$254.50
30	18	64	17.00		9.00	54.00	52.25	5.50	10.00					\$147.75
31	24	98	58.00		12.00	63.00	55.50	21.50	52.00					\$262.00
Totals:	483	2380	\$2,558.00	\$54.00	\$432.00	\$1,788.00	\$1,093.25	\$322.00	\$1,402.00	\$595.00		\$55.00	\$1.50	\$8,300.75
Total Daily User Fees: \$4,832.00														

Deposit Receipts:

	Total \$
Lake Deposits: Cash/Checks	\$4,756.75
Community Pass: Credit Cards	\$3,544.00
Community Pass: Shelter Rental	\$200.00
Community Pass: Paddle Programs	\$130.00
Other	
RECEIPT TOTAL:	\$8,630.75



2024 Year-to-Date Report for Graham-Mebane Lake

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



ACTIVITY:	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	TOTALS
# Days Open	12	27	25	27							91
# Boats	137	591	578	483							1,789
# Visitors	306	1,607	1,953	2,380							6,246
ALL REVENUE:											
User Fees Total:	2,055.00	5,721.00	5,075.00	4,832.00							\$17,683.00
Motorized Boat	1,829.00	4,572.00	3,276.00	2,558.00							\$12,235.00
Ski Area Users	0.00	18.00	27.00	54.00							\$99.00
Non-Motorized Boat	60.00	198.00	390.00	432.00							\$1,080.00
Bank Fishing	166.00	933.00	1,382.00	1,788.00							\$4,269.00
Bait	33.00	567.00	716.25	1,093.25							\$2,409.50
Fishing Supplies	5.00	125.75	178.00	322.00							\$630.75
Vessel Rentals	102.00	339.00	1,049.00	1,402.00							\$2,892.00
Fishing Tourns.	355.00	3,935.00	25.00	595.00							\$4,910.00
Shelter Rentals	50.00	50.00	50.00	200.00							\$350.00
Paddle Programs				130.00							\$130.00
Lake Cruises											\$0.00
Other	0.00	-13.00	0.75	56.50							\$44.25
Total Revenue	\$2,600.00	\$10,724.75	\$7,094.00	\$8,630.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,049.50
DAILY AVERAGES:											
Boats	11	21	23	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Visitors	25	59	78	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
Revenue	\$216	\$397	\$283	\$319	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$319

Programs & Events Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
May 2024 Report

Emma Griffin
Program Manager
(336) 513-5510
egriffin@CityofGraham.com



Upcoming Programs

- Slice of Summer
 - Saturday, June 8: 3:00 – 7:00 pm
 - NEW Location!
 - 100 & 200 Blocks of West Elm Street
 - 100 Blocks of North and South Maple Street
 - Attractions:
 - 4 Inflatable water slides
 - Climb n Challenge
 - Super Soaker Zone with GFD
 - Park n Play
 - Interactive craft tables with Alamance Arts
 - Sprinkler Street
 - Food Trucks:
 - Bruster's Ice Cream
 - Quench 305
 - Pelican's SnoBalls
 - Snack Wagon
 - Burrito Bistro
 - The Graham Fire Explorers will be selling watermelon slices for \$1
- 9/11 Commemorative 5K Event
 - Saturday, September 7, 2024: 7:00 – 11:00 am
 - Sponsors:
 - 2023 Sponsors have been contacted and have until May 31 to confirm before offering to others
 - Timing Company: Booked
- Esperanza: Hispanic Heritage Festival
 - Sunday, September 22
 - Graham Recreation and Parks will partner with the Esperanza committee to provide a festival honoring Hispanic Heritage during Hispanic Heritage Month. The festival includes stage performances, info tables, craft vendors, food vendors, and kids activities.

"When you have a passion for something then you tend not only to be better at it, but you work harder at it too."
– Vera Wang

- Alamance Adventure Race
 - Saturday, September 28: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
 - An app-based scavenger hunt with different challenges hidden all over the county planned by the Alamance County Programming Collaborative.
 - The Kick-off event will take place at 7:00 am at Bill Cooke Park.
- Pumpkin Bash
 - Friday, October 25: 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Current Programs

- First Responder Friday
 - Join members from the City of Graham Fire, Police, and Recreation & Parks Departments the third Friday each month (April – September) to connect, ask questions, and learn more about those serving you. This opportunity is open to all ages and free of charge. Southern Alamance Family Empowerment (S.A.F.E.) Food Ministry will also join us with information about their opportunities and programs for the community.
 - This year we will be partnering with Graham Housing Authority throughout the season to meet the community directly where they are at. We will still plan to visit a park at least one month.
 - May 17: Creekside Court (GHA)
- Graham Walks – Spring 2024
 - Registration Dates: April 10 – May 8
 - Program Dates: May 1 – May 29 (5 Weeks)
 - Weekly Group Hikes: 10:00 am
 - May 8: Bill Cooke Park
 - May 15: Cane Creek Mountain Natural Area (rescheduled to June 3 due to rain)
 - May 22: Longmeadow Trailhead
 - May 29: Saxapahaw Island Park

Completed Programs

- Spokes & Safety Bike Rodeo (“A Wheelie Good Time”)
 - Friday, May 31: 3:00 – 6:00 pm
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park
 - The City of Graham Planning Department was the recipient of the Bicycle Helmet Initiative Grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The Safe Kids Alamance, Graham Recreation & Parks, Graham Fire, and Graham Police Departments partnered to host a bicycle rodeo and distribute FREE bicycle helmets.
 - Total helmets distributed: 19

Professional Development

- NRPA
 - Supervisors’ Management School: “The premiere resource for parks and recreation professionals who want to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to lead their staff effectively. The courses cover various topics, including leadership principles and team management, as well as the most up-to-date techniques and information on leading, staffing, organizing, directing, and managing employees. With the tools and insights gained from this program, professionals will be able to oversee the day-to-day operation of their staff as they deliver programs and services to their community.”
 - Registration for Year 2 of SMS begins mid-May and the course will be from October 26 – October 30
- Harwood Institute
 - “The Harwood Institute equips people, organizations, communities, and networks with the tools to bridge divides, build capacity, and tackle shared challenges. By Turning Outward, we enable communities to become a collective force for change.” Alamance County is bringing key leaders together to impact and unite the community through conversations.

“When you have a passion for something then you tend not only to be better at it, but you work harder at it too.”

– Vera Wang

Committees

- Safe Kids Coalition
 - Meeting: May 21 at 9:00 am
 - Evaluated the Science and Safety Expo
 - Discussed the Bike Rodeo
 - Agency updates and Summer events.
 - The coalition is still seeking a solution to gaining access to the Safe Kids funds by creating a 501I3
- Alamance County Programming Collaborative
 - Programming colleagues across the county meet monthly to discuss special events and programming. Topics include dates of events and selection, policies and procedures, difficulties and solutions, and collaborative events for the group.
 - Meeting: May 7
 - Discussed Alamance Creek Week and what each agency was doing during or leading up to that week. Danica Heflin from Stormwater SMART attended
 - Agency updates on spring events
 - Alamance Adventure Race: Saturday, September 28
 - Next Meeting: June 4
- Executive Safety Committee
 - Next Meeting: Safety Awards Luncheon on June 14
- City of Graham Wellness Committee
 - Meeting: Thursday, May 9
 - Discussed monthly events/programs to cover the various aspects of wellness as directed in our committee guidelines
 - May: In addition to the public offering of Graham Walks, we will also offer a lunchtime meet-up to walk for COG employees. Employees will be encouraged to sign up for this free program to help create better activity habits.
 - Next Meeting: June 13
- Alamance County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board
 - The purpose of the advisory board is to focus on advocacy, education, and finding ways to get out to the public more.
 - Meeting: Tuesday, May 21 at 12:00 pm
 - Discussed staffing changes
 - Discussed potential partnerships with agencies in the community
 - Discussed industrial businesses encroaching on farmland and how to prioritize and incentivize farmers
 - Next Meeting: August 20

Miscellaneous

- May 3: Assisted Brandy with the Musical Chairs Concert at Bill Cooke Park
- May 6: Assisted with Alamance Burlington Senior Games in Horseshoes
- May 6: Hall of Fame Committee Meeting
 - Evaluated the Induction Ceremony
 - Discussed outgoing members (John Harrington, Pat Moser, Doug Rowe)
 - New members Nikki Wilborn, Chip Turner, Joey Hall
- May 6: Assisted with Alamance Burlington Senior Games in Bocce Ball
- May 8: SafeKids Hot Car Display at Walmart with Burlington Fire and Police and Graham Police Departments
- May 11: Assisted with Youth Fishing Day at Graham Mebane Lake

“When you have a passion for something then you tend not only to be better at it, but you work harder at it too.”

– Vera Wang

- May 16: Drove the bus for Leadership Alamance
- May 16: Helped with the City Spring Picnic for Employees
- May 17: Senior Games Awards Lunch
- May 20: Attended training for the Summer Lunch Program for Summer Day Camp
- May 20: Met with Anderson at the Burlington Sock Puppets Stadium to discuss the possibility of hosting a "Battle of the Badges" Charity event county-wide. We have tentatively set a date for September 21.
- May 29: Met with Kenny Hill to discuss layout for Slice of Summer

"When you have a passion for something then you tend not only to be better at it, but you work harder at it too."

– Vera Wang

Athletics Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

May 2024 Report



Joshua Cutlip

Athletic Supervisor

(336) 570-4023

jcutlip@CityofGraham.com

Spring Programs

- **Baseball/Softball/T-Ball**
 - Program Dates: 4/15-6/20

T-Ball and 6U are co-ed. Each age group above that will be split into boys and girls.

Baseball/Softball/T-Ball got off to a rocky start due to the weather. We had around 8 game days that had to be postponed due to the amount of rain; along with most of the weekend practices before Memorial Day. With the postponements we had to push our season end date to June 20th. June 20th is the latest that we'll play to; if we have any further games postponed due to weather, it's unlikely we'd make them up.

Other than the rain the season has gone well. The Graham teams are all on an equal level competitively; except the 13U softball teams. For the end of season tournament, we're doing a best 2-out-of-3 series

between the two Graham teams. We'll do this in the 8U, 10U, and 13U baseball age divisions. In 8U softball we're going to play a 3-team tournament where the 2-3 seeds will play at 6pm then the championship will be played after it at 7pm. Since the teams have such a big talent difference in 13U softball we're going to play one normal game between the two teams followed by a split-squad game. For the split-squad game we'll randomly split the girls into two teams and play a full game.

T-Ball: 49 (5 teams)

6U Baseball: 24 (2 teams)

8U Baseball: 23 (2 teams)

8U Softball: 10 (1 team)

10U Baseball: 24 (2 teams)

10U Softball: 1

13U Baseball: 21 (2 teams)

13U Softball: 20 (2 teams)

Total: 172



Elon University Partnership

We partnered with Elon University this baseball season to offer discounted tickets for select games.

- May 17th against College of Charleston @ 6pm
 - \$5 tickets

Burlington Sock Puppets Partnership

We'll be partnering with the Burlington Sock Pups this baseball season to offer discounted tickets for a select game.

- May 25th against the Wilkes County Moonshiners
 - \$5 tickets

Upcoming Summer Programs

- Summer Lacrosse Camp: July 8th-11th
 - 6 currently registered
 - We're working to partner with the Alamance Rams, new lacrosse travel program, to provide instruction.
 - We've gotten two volunteers confirmed
 - One plays goalie for Southern Alamance and the other used to coach for the Chatham Cardinals.
 - Currently 1 participant registered.
- Summer Basketball Camp: July 15th-18th
 - Registration is full with 21 kids.
- Summer Flag Football Camp: July 22nd-25th
 - We're working to partner with Graham High School to provide instruction and possible use their football field for one night of camp.
 - Registration is full with 20 kids.

Upcoming Fall Programs

Registration opened on June 1st with a good number of participants already registered.

- Fall Soccer (ages 4-14)
 - 64 currently registered.
- Flag Football (ages 6-12)
 - 17 currently registered.

Future Program Ideas

Below are ideas I've had for potential programs that the department could offer. I'd like to get one or two implemented and offered for the next year.

- Cross-Country/Running program
 - Something that is health based and introduces running as a fun activity.
 - Would have a kid portion and adult portion.
- Adult Pickleball
 - Way to get into adult athletics
 - The program would consist of 16 teams of doubles split into two different divisions.

Marketing Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
May 2024 Report



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

"If you want to be average, do what others do. If you want to be awesome, do what no one does."
– Alexander Den Heijer, inspirational speaker, trainer, and consultant

Project & Program Updates

- Attended the City of Graham's CPR/AED/First Aid Training for recertification (05/01)
- Attended the NCEE – Flying WILD Workshop at Kathleen Clay Edwards Library (05/02)
- The 2024 Musical Chairs Outdoor Concert Series presented Mel Melton & The Wicked Mojos (zydeco/blues) at Bill Cooke Park. At around 7:30pm, a pop-up downpour washed out the evening event. Approximately 50 attendees. (05/03)
- Met with the New Leaf Society and Tel at Bill Cooke Park to discuss possible locations and types of trees to add to the park in Fall 2024 (05/06)
- Met with Steve and Emma to finalize event details for Youth Fishing Day (05/06)
- Attended the City of Graham Appearance Commission / Tree Board Meeting to confirm Arbor Day Poem Contest winners and to evaluate and wrap up Arbor Day in Graham (05/06)
- Attended the Alamance County Programming Collaborative meeting to discuss countywide 2024 summer events (05/07)
- Attended the NCEE – WILD About Bears Workshop at the Eno River State Park (05/09)
- Finished updating annual flowers for the summer months ahead in the Museum Courtyard and at the Mobile Parklet (05/09)
- Attended Elon University's Department of Engineering for their Senior Engineering Design presentation: "Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) for Park Flooding" for South Graham Park (05/10)
- Assisted with the Youth Fishing Day event at Graham-Mebane Lake (05/11)
- Lunch-and-Learn at the Graham Historical Museum presented James Shields, Manager & Curator of the African-American Cultural Arts & History Center with approx. 12 visitors attending (05/15)
- We continued a great partnership with Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District...year 4 of the Sunflower Project at Graham Regional Park! The large field was planted with a seed mix consisting of soybeans, iron clay peas, buckwheat, sorghum, and black oil sunflowers. Special thanks as well to the Parks Team for prepping the field for the season and to the City of Graham's Public Works Department for helping us plant the field. (05/21)
- The Thursdays at Seven Concert Series kicked off the season with The Holiday Band! A storm rolled in right at set-up time with a downpour relocating the event to the Graham Recreation Center. We still had a good attendance for moving indoors with approx. 250. (05/23)

- The monthly Hikes with Hounds (HwH) program changed locations from the Haw River Trail's NEW! Pet Adoption Center Trail to Burlington's Fairchild Park due to muddy trail conditions with 3 shelter dogs (Vic, Duce, Dixie) and 6 volunteers. The dogs and volunteers had a special surprise on their Hikes with Hounds adventure, everyone's favorite sock monster...SOCKSQUATCH...and the Burlington Sock Pups! Check out our social media for a special reel highlight of the hike! (05/24)
- Connected with WXII News 12 with Paddle Programs Instructor, Jackie Adams, for a Zoom interview on The Local Vibe news segment to highlight the Graham-Mebane Lake Paddle Programs. She did a great job highlighting the programs and the lake overall! [Watch Online](#)



Ongoing Projects

- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech for Bill Cooke Park and South Graham Park
 - Up Next: wayfinding, walking track/trail length, additional rules/hours
 - Future Goal: entryway sign for Graham Regional Park
- 200 North Main Street Pocket Park Project - exploring lighting options to purchase with possible community partners/sponsors
- 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.

Current & Upcoming Programming

- **Hikes with Hounds**
 - Year-round, one Friday each month
 - Partnership with the City of Burlington Animal Services and Recreation & Parks
 - 2024 Locations (weather & trail conditions permitting)

▪ January	Burlington - Burlington City Park (2 miles)
▪ February	Graham - Bill Cooke Park (2 miles)
▪ March	Alamance Parks - Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area (2 miles)
▪ April	Haw River Trail - Shallow Ford Natural Area (2-3 miles)
▪ May	Haw River Trail - Burlington Animal Services Trail (2 miles)
▪ June	Haw River Trail - Longmeadow Trailhead (3 miles)
▪ July	Haw River Trail - Glencoe Paddle Access (2 miles)
▪ August	Haw River Trail - SAX Island (2 miles)
▪ September	Alamance Parks - Cedarock Park (2-3 miles)
▪ October	Burlington - Guilford Mackintosh Park & Marina (2 miles)
▪ November	Burlington - Willowbrook Park (2 miles)
▪ December	Graham - Graham Regional Park (1-2 miles)

- **Graham Historical Museum**

- Exhibits
 - March - June: "Notable Women of Graham" (March: Women's History Month)
 - July - December: Funeral Homes & Furniture Stores
- Programs
 - Lunch-and-Learn at the Graham Historical Museum
 - May 15 • Speaker: James Shields, Manager & Curator of the African-American Cultural Arts & History Center • Topic: History of the African-American Cultural Arts & History Center and What the Center is Accomplishing
 - June 19 • Speaker: Tim Allen • Topic: The Quakers of Alamance County and the Underground Railroad

- **Sunflower/Crimson Clover Project at Graham Regional Park**

- Sunflower Field planted in May 2024
- A GRPD Parks & Athletic Facilities Team, City of Graham Public Works, and the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District Project

- **Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park**

- 2024 Band Lineup
 - May 3 – Mel Melton & The Wicked Mojos (zydeco/blues)
 - June 7 – Sahara Reggae Band (reggae)
 - July 5 – The Phoebe Band (rock/blues/pop/country)
 - August 2 – Dani Kerr & the Skeleton Krew (southern rock/country/Americana)
- Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253

- **Alamance Creek Week**

- 2024 Dates: May 11 – 18
 - Youth Fishing Day (05/11) & Bank Fishing Catfish Tournament (05/18)
- Collaborated with Graham-Mebane Lake and StormwaterSMART for activities

- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series in Downtown Graham**

- 2024 Band Lineup
 - May 23 – The Holiday Band
 - June 27 – Cat5
 - July 25 – Blackwater
 - August 22 – Part Time Party Time Band
 - September 12 – The Mighty Saints of Soul
 - September 26 – The Mason Lovette Band
- Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Location: Downtown Graham • West Elm Street, Graham, NC 27253

Volunteering

- NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer – help with workdays, outreach, and managing the social media account “Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Alamance County”

Social Media

Facebook Followers: 9,850 (increased 96)

Instagram Followers: 2,445 (increased 14)

Twitter Followers: 259 (increased 0)

Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for May 5 – June 3, 2024:

Top Posts/Pages



1. HOME - City of Graham, NC	4,479
2. (not set)	2,520
3. Water & Sewer Billing - City of Graham, NC	2,078
4. Recreation & Parks - City of Graham, NC	1,496
5. GRPD Lake - City of Graham, NC	1,268
6. GRPD Parks & Facilities - City of Graham, NC	832
7. GRPD Lake Hours & Fees - City of Graham, NC	720
8. Trash and Recycling - City of Graham, NC	720
9. Events - City of Graham, NC	643
10. Water & Sewer - City of Graham, NC	603

GRPD Reviews & Comments

Graham Regional Park



VT

26 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 6 days ago

NEW

Some secrets are worth sharing and this is one of them. Plenty of space and things to entertain the kids, pretty creative ones too.

PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

May 2024



“101% rule: Find the 1% you agree on, and give it 100% of your effort” – John C. Maxwell

Bill Cooke Park

Athletic Fields – Sprigged bare areas from soccer.

Outfields were fertilized.

Spot sprayed outfields for nutsedge.

Fence lines were sprayed for broadleaf weeds.

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

Fixed a button issue on the water fountains at the lower bathroom.

Dog park water fountains were turned on for the season.

Walking track was sprayed for weeds.

Tennis court was sprayed for weeds.

Removed a clump of trees near shop.

Fixed the back gate leading into fields 1&2.

Turf area at entry sign was treated for broadleaf weeds.

Replaced the drag tines on the infield groomer.

Weeds were sprayed in both sides of the dog park.

Sprayed turf areas within the park for broadleaf weeds.

South Graham Park

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

Sprayed turf for broadleaf weeds.

Replaced basketball net on the basketball court.

Walking track was sprayed for weeds.

Graham Regional Park

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

Bermuda grass turf areas were sprayed for weeds.

Fixed a broken waterline to the shelter water fountains.

Pressure washed the bathroom and the big shelter.

Installed new sod to finish repair of area that playground equipment was removed.

Treated fire ant mounds around the challenge course area.

Inclusive playground area was sprayed for weeds.

Apollo/Goley

Apollo – Field was spot sprayed for the weed nutsedge.

Goley – Walking track was sprayed for weeds.

Johnson Ave

General Maintenance – Field was spot sprayed for weeds.

Lake

General Maintenance – No Report.

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

Greenway – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Harmon Park – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Civic Center – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Marshall St – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Recreation Center – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Replaced ladder anchor leading to roof.

Fixed the water fountains inside the center.

Weeds were sprayed in landscape beds and turf areas.

Oakley St. – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Walking track was sprayed for weeds.

Maple St. – Sprayed landscape beds for weeds.

Hwy 54 Access – Access ramp was cleared of debris.

200 N. Main – Turf was sprayed for the weed nutsedge.

Museum – Sprayed weeds in the courtyard.

Miscellaneous

George Rogers retired with us on 5.30. George had worked with the department since April 2012.

Hung banners for the Thursday concert and the Slice of Summer event.

Continued Education & Community Involvement

No report.

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission
Director's Report for April '24

I. Present Projects

- a. **Elon Engineering Project** - The final project is scheduled to be presented on May 10th @ Elon University.
- b. **Interior Signage @ Cooke & S. Graham Parks** - New rules signage has been installed. Final changes and installation details are being worked out with the sign company.
- c. **Rec. Center HVAC** - City Council will consider a budget amendment to replace the Gym #2 HVAC unit.

II. Future Projects

- a. **Land Acquisition**
 - i. **GRP** - Mr. Stewart is still waiting on an appraisal from his new firm.
 - ii. **Cooke** - The city was contacted by the Teer family and is currently waiting on a survey of the property.
- b. **Accessible Parks Grant** - Staff is finalizing the grant application and will submit it on May 1st.
- c. **Cabin @ Cooke Park** - GRPD staff is still exploring options for the cabin at Cooke Park.
- d. **GRP Site Master Plan** - After review of the proposal from Withers-Ravenel, GRPD staff will create a Request For Proposal for a Master Site Plan for Graham Regional Park to insure the best service and value.

III. Policies/Manuals/Plans

- a. **Graham-Mebane Lake Master Plan** - The Site Master Plan will be presented to Council at their May meeting.
- b. **GRPD Personnel/Orientation Manuals** - Work on a Personnel Manual and an Orientation Manual continues.
- c. **ABSS/GRPD contracts** - GRPD staff continues to review the agreements.

IV. Historical Museum Attendance - 25 - April

V. Outside Committees

- a. **Graham Pedestrian Plan** - No updates
- b. **Great Alamance Creek Steering Committee** - No updates
- c. **Wellness Collaborative** - No meeting in April
- d. **Friends of GRPD** - No updates

VI. Staffing

- a. **Fulltime** - Derrick Evans, the new Athletic Facilities Technician began on April 22nd.
- b. **Part-time** - GRPD supervisors are currently advertising the following positions:
 - i. Center Facility Attendant – Centers Div.
 - ii. Lake Attendant – Lake Div.
 - iii. General Maintenance Worker – Parks Div.

VII. Financial Summary - Convenience fees - \$449.57-April

Recreation Division

Open Gym/Weight Room/Pickleball	\$31.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$220.00
Civic Center rentals	\$420.00
Rec. Center rentals	\$170.00
Staff Fee	\$290.00
Park Shelters	\$2,175.00
Field/Passive Area Rental	\$325.00
Table/Chair rentals	\$0.00
Youth Soccer	\$12.50
Youth Softball	\$8.75
Youth Baseball	\$170.00
Youth T-Ball	\$25.00
Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony	\$2,615.01
Summer Day Camp	\$11,330.06
Thursday At Seven Concert Sponsors	\$3,500.00
Donations	\$10.00
Total	\$21,302.32

Lake Division

Fishing Boat launches	\$2,206.00
Non-Motor Boat launches (Kayak/Canoe)	\$285.00
Ski Boat launches	\$27.00
Jon Boat rentals	\$434.00
Kayak/Canoe rentals	\$615.00
Bank Fishing	\$1,138.00
Bait/Supplies	\$984.25
Annual Permit (motorized boats)	\$1,070.00
Annual Permit (non-motorized boats)	\$45.00
Annual Permit (bank fishing)	\$250.00
Shelter Rentals	\$35.00
Big Bass Tournament	\$25.00
Single Day Tournament	N/A
Catfish Tournament	N/A
Pontoon Boat Cruises	N/A
Paddle Tours	\$140.00
Introduction to Kayaking program	N/A
Total	\$7,254.25



Graham-Mebane Lake Report, April 2024

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



We had a solid, steady April, a cookie-cutter of the last three or four years. Good weather weekends were extremely busy, having to occasionally turn boats away due to lack of parking.

Bass fishing was steady throughout the month, with more five pounders than sevens. Spawning was an on-and-off affair due to cool fronts. Crappie anglers remained closed-mouthed, but crappie fishing seemed fair. Catfishing started to pick up, and will continue to do so as the water continues to warm.

April Lake Highlights

- The NC Wildlife fisheries biologist performed largemouth bass electro-shocking surveys in the first two weeks of April.
- We had seven club tournaments this month.
- Brad Cook won April in the Big Bass Tournament with a 7.57 lb. largemouth bass.
- Steve and Brian discussed with Bev Paddock from Get:Outdoors about an adaptive paddling event at the lake.
- Jackie Adams represented the Lake at a Safe Kids event.
- We filled our fish feeders in the bank area to get ready for the start of bank fishing season.
- Steve represented the Lake Division at Graham High School Career Day.
- The lake remained at full pool.



A multifaceted angler with a nice catch.

By the Numbers (2023 in parentheses)

Boat Launches:	578 (539)
Motorized Boats:	512 (469)
Ski Area Launches:	3 (3)
Non-motorized Boats:	63 (67)
Seniors/Disability:	56 (71)
Using Annual Permit:	237 (235)
Vessels Rented:	90 (57)

Customers	1,953 (1,980)
All Boaters:	910 (853)
Motorized:	832 (774)
Ski Area:	5 (5)
Non-Motor. Boater	73 (74)
Bank Anglers:	536 (635)
Vessel Renters	115 (82)
Programs & Events	0 (-)
Passive Visitors:	390 (410)

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



Graham-Mebane Lake Monthly Financial Report

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



April 2024

Days Open: 25

Daily Activity (POS) from Staff Reports:

Date	Boats	Visitors	Daily User Fees:				Fishing		Vessel Rental	Fishing Tourn.	Lake Cruise	Over		Total \$
			Motor.	Ski Area	Non-Motor.	Bank	Bait	Supplies				Other	Under	
1	38	92	119.00		48.00	72.00	32.25		47.00					\$318.25
2														
3	9	40	31.00			21.00	4.25	1.75	10.00					\$68.00
4	7	32	9.00			9.00	8.50	6.25	20.00					\$52.75
5	8	50	27.00			14.00	17.00		10.00					\$68.00
6	24	82	157.00		3.00	107.00	56.50	21.00	62.00					\$406.50
7	45	125	314.00		6.00	61.00	21.25	8.75	112.00					\$523.00
8	27	76	202.00		42.00	56.00	21.25		24.00					\$345.25
9														
10	11	26	27.00			12.00	4.25							\$43.25
11	5	35	22.00			34.00			12.00					\$68.00
12	5	21	9.00			21.00	12.50							\$42.50
13	33	126	196.00	9.00	30.00	106.00	69.50	23.00	68.00					\$501.50
14	69	238	424.00		72.00	179.00	79.75	30.00	128.00					\$912.75
15	31	61	200.00		6.00	18.00	25.25	6.00	42.00					\$297.25
16														
17	15	37	21.00		9.00	20.00	12.75	18.75	12.00					\$93.50
18	18	48	182.00		3.00	22.00	29.75	2.00	20.00					\$258.75
19	19	81	196.00		6.00	30.00	28.25	16.75	70.00	25.00				\$372.00
20	32	91	161.00		18.00	47.00	21.00	6.00	24.00					\$277.00
21	11	26	45.00			6.00	4.25							\$55.25
22	3	32				30.00	21.00		26.00					\$77.00
23														
24	18	61	187.00		12.00	27.00	30.00		10.00					\$266.00
25	19	57	144.00			58.00	25.25	8.25	32.00					\$267.50
26	13	56	80.00			38.00	16.75							\$134.75
27	42	169	134.00		39.00	104.00	53.00	13.25	86.00					\$429.25
28	57	219	346.00	18.00	42.00	237.00	84.00	12.25	198.00					\$937.25
29	19	72	43.00		54.00	53.00	38.00	4.00	36.00			0.75		\$228.75
30														
Totals:	578	1953	\$3,276.00	\$27.00	\$390.00	\$1,382.00	\$716.25	\$178.00	\$1,049.00	\$25.00		\$0.75		\$7,044.00
Total Daily User Fees: \$5,075.00														

Deposit Receipts:

	Total \$
Lake Deposits: Cash/Checks	\$4,309.25
Community Pass: Credit Cards	\$2,734.75
Community Pass: Shelter Rental	\$50.00
RECEIPT TOTAL:	\$7,094.00



2024 Year-to-Date Report for Graham-Mebane Lake

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



ACTIVITY:	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	TOTALS
# Days Open	12	27	25								64
# Boats	137	591	578								1,306
# Visitors	306	1,607	1,953								3,866
ALL REVENUE:											
User Fees Total:	2,055.00	5,721.00	5,075.00								\$12,851.00
Motorized Boat	1,829.00	4,572.00	3,276.00								\$9,677.00
Ski Area Users	0.00	18.00	27.00								\$45.00
Non-Motorized Boat	60.00	198.00	390.00								\$648.00
Bank Fishing	166.00	933.00	1,382.00								\$2,481.00
Bait	33.00	567.00	716.25								\$1,316.25
Fishing Supplies	5.00	125.75	178.00								\$308.75
Vessel Rentals	102.00	339.00	1,049.00								\$1,490.00
Fishing Tourns.	355.00	3,935.00	25.00								\$4,315.00
Shelter Rentals	50.00	50.00	50.00								\$150.00
Paddle Programs											\$0.00
Lake Cruises											\$0.00
Other	0.00	-13.00	0.75								(\$12.25)
Total Revenue	\$2,600.00	\$10,724.75	\$7,094.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,418.75
DAILY AVERAGES:											
Boats	11	21	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Visitors	25	59	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Revenue	\$216	\$397	\$283	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$319

Athletics Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

April 2024 Report



Joshua Cutlip

Athletic Supervisor

(336) 570-4023

jcutlip@CityofGraham.com

Spring Programs

- Soccer
 - Program Dates: 2/19-4/20

We concluded the Spring Soccer season on April 20th with our 10U Championship game. The season lasted two weeks longer than expected due to weather, but after the beginning of April we didn't have any weather issues.

Each of the tournaments was very competitive; we even had a 4 seed (Hot Shots) upset the 1 seed (Titans) in the 14U age division. In that particular game the Hot Shots defeated the undefeated Titans in penalty kicks after the game ended 1-1. In the 14U age division the Dragons ended up defeating the Hot Shots in the championship game. In the 10U age division the Cheetahs defeated the Eagles 2-1 in a very tense championship game. In the 8U semifinals we almost had another 4 (Morros FC) over 1 (Titans) upset. Morros FC tied the game with 2 goals in the last 5 minutes to send the game to extra time at 2-2. In the

first minute of extra time the Titans scored to win and advance to the 8U Championship Game. In 8U Championship Game the Titans defeated the Tigers 2-1.

5U: 40 (4 teams)
6U: 49 (5 teams)
8U: 50 (4 teams)
10U: 58 (4 teams)
14U: 60 (4 teams)
Total: 257



- **Baseball/Softball/T-Ball**
 - Program Dates: 4/15-6/20

T-Ball and 6U are co-ed. Each age group above that will be split into boys and girls.

Registration closed on March 1st with numbers rising in comparison to last season. We extended registration for softball past March 1st and that helped to raise our numbers and allowed us to have 3 softball teams this season. For baseball we're partnering with Gibsonville this season. For softball we'll be partnering with both Gibsonville and Mebane.

Practices officially began on April 15th. Softball games started April 30th and baseball/TBall will begin May 6th; the season will run through June 20th.

T-Ball: 49 (5 teams)
6U Baseball: 24 (2 teams)
8U Baseball: 23 (2 teams)
8U Softball: 10 (1 team)
10U Baseball: 24 (2 teams)
10U Softball: 1
13U Baseball: 21 (2 teams)
13U Softball: 20 (2 teams)
Total: 172

Elon University Partnership

We'll be partnering with Elon University this baseball season to offer discounted tickets for select games.

- April 23rd against Wake Forest @ 6pm
 - \$10 tickets

Elon pulled off the upset and defeated the #8 Wake Forest Demon Deacons 3-0!

- May 17th against College of Charleston @ 6pm
 - \$5 tickets

Burlington Sock Puppets Partnership

We'll be partnering with the Burlington Sock Puppets this baseball season to offer discounted tickets for a select game.

- May 25th
 - \$5 tickets

Upcoming Summer Programs

- Summer Lacrosse Camp: July 8th-11th
 - We're working to partner with the Alamance Rams, new lacrosse travel program, to provide instruction.
 - Currently 1 participant registered.
- Summer Basketball Camp: July 15th-18th
 - Currently 11 participants registered.
- Summer Flag Football Camp: July 22nd-25th
 - We're working to partner with Graham High School to provide instruction and possible use their football field for one night of camp.
 - Currently 13 participants registered.

Future Program Ideas

Below are ideas I've had for potential programs that the department could offer. I'd like to get one or two implemented and offered for the next year.

- Cross-Country/Running program
 - Something that is health based and introduces running as a fun activity.
 - Would have a kid portion and adult portion.
- Adult Pickleball
 - Way to get into adult athletics
 - Looking for way to strike while the iron is hot with the sport's popularity and growth.

"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

Facilities Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

April 2024 Report

Marquis Graves

Facilities Supervisor

p. (336)570-6718

e. mgraves@cityofgraham.com



Facility Updates:

Recreation Center:

Summer Camp registration is still underway but many weeks have been filled. Pickleball & Open Gym will now include evening hours until 6pm – 8pm each night. The Recreation Center will be opened on Saturdays 10am – 2pm. The Congregate Nutrition Program for Seniors meet daily within room 1 of the rec center from 9am – 12pm. Alamance Burlington School System speech therapy classes take place at the Rec Center within the back classrooms from 12:00pm – 3:00pm Mondays – Fridays. Rentals are also taking place at the center and calendar for April is attached. Two AAU teams have rented the Gymnasium for practices during the month of April. This teams and rentals are reflected on the attached calendar.

Civic Center:

An Emergency Response Meeting involving various essential personnel in terms of needs of a mock disaster (winter storm) will be held on April 3rd. Private rentals are also underway at the Civic Center. Calendar for April is attached.

Maple St. Center:

The following reoccurring classes and groups utilize the center during the month of April. Repairs were made to the toilet in the men's restroom at Maple St. Center. A calendar for rentals and classes is also attached.

- Maple St. Line Dancers: Mon. & Tue. 9:00am – 11:00am Instructors: Carolyn Gantt and Frances Woodlief
- Xtreme Hip Hop : Mon. & Wed. 6:00pm – 7:00pm Instructor: Delicia White
- Mah-Jongg: Tue. 12:00pm – 3:00pm
- TOPS: Tue. 5:15pm – 6:15pm Instructor: Belinda Smith

- Troxler Ballroom Dance: Wed. 9:30am – 10:30am
- Liz and Lou Dance Practice: Wed. & Thur. 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- Beginners Yoga Class: Thur. 6:00pm – 7:00pm Instructor: Tava
- Alamance arts has begun utilizing the Maple St. center for art classes beginning in October. Classes occur every 3rd Sunday.
- *A new reoccurring meeting will take place on the 1st Saturday of each month beginning in January. This meeting will be held by the Concerned Bikers of Alamance County, with their contact being Elizabeth Brocafuerte.

Programs/Events/Additional Info:

- The 30+ pick up basketball program occurs every 3rd Sunday of the month.

Programs & Events Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
April 2024 Report

Emma Griffin
Program Manager
(336) 513-5510
egriffin@CityofGraham.com



Upcoming Programs

- Slice of Summer
 - Saturday, June 8: 3:00 – 7:00 pm
 - NEW Location!
 - 100 & 200 Blocks of West Elm Street
 - 100 Blocks of North and South Main Street
 - I am currently working on a map for the new location to incorporate attractions.
 - The Graham Fire Department has confirmed that they will be there to provide the Super Soak Zone and spray from the fire truck.
 - I am also coordinating with the Fire Explorers to provide watermelon slices for sale (\$1/piece) during the event
 - Food Trucks:
 - Bruster's Ice Cream
 - Quench 305
 - Currently searching for 1-2 savory vendors and confirming a shaved ice vendor
- 9/11 Commemorative 5K Event
 - Saturday, September 7, 2024: 7:00 – 11:00 am
 - Sponsors:
 - Currently updating the sponsor letter
 - Timing Company: Booked
- Esperanza: Hispanic Heritage Festival
 - Sunday, September 22 (pending Council Approval)
 - Graham Recreation and Parks will partner with the Esperanza committee to provide a festival honoring Hispanic Heritage during Hispanic Heritage Month. The festival includes stage performances, info tables, craft vendors, food vendors, and kids activities.
- Pumpkin Bash
 - Friday, October 25: 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Current Programs

- First Responder Friday
 - Join members from the City of Graham Fire, Police, and Recreation & Parks Departments the third Friday each month (April – September) to connect, ask questions, and learn more about those serving you. This opportunity

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." – Henry Ford

is open to all ages and free of charge. Southern Alamance Family Empowerment (S.A.F.E.) Food Ministry will also join us with information about their opportunities and programs for the community.

- This year we will be partnering with Graham Housing Authority throughout the season to meet the community directly where they are at. We will still plan to visit a park at least one month.
- April 19: Sarah Williams Avenue (GHA)
- Graham Walks – Spring 2024
 - Registration Dates: April 10 – May 8
 - Program Dates: May 1 – May 29 (5 Weeks)
 - Weekly Group Hikes: 10:00 am
 - May 8: Bill Cooke Park
 - May 15: Cane Creek Mountain Natural Area
 - May 22: Longmeadow Trailhead
 - May 29: Saxapahaw Island Park

Completed Programs

- Graham Sports Hall of Fame
 - Induction Ceremony: Saturday, April 13, 2024
 - Inductees
 - Hall of Fame: 1998 Men's Golf Team, Shelby Hall, Nikki Wilborn, Burton Cates
 - Hall of Honor: Jim Perry, Buster Goodman
 - Sold: 172 tickets (not including complimentary tickets for inductees)
 - Marketing: The weekly social media posts that highlighted each inductee seemed to perform well and was appreciated by the committee and inductees.
 - Set up:
 - It worked well setting up the Thursday and Friday prior to the event. This made decorating the tables with the committee on Friday evening more seamless and the preparations on Saturday much easier.
 - Staffing
 - The Rec Center staff did an amazing job deep cleaning the center prior to the event as well as assisting the caterer with trash and keeping the facility clean throughout the evening.
 - A huge thank you Parks Maintenance staff who covered the skylights for having the space ready for the event!
 - Follow-up Meeting: Monday, May 6
 - Evaluate Event
 - Discuss outgoing members and potential replacements
- Science and Safety Expo
 - Saturday, April 20: 1:00 – 4:00 pm
 - Location: North Park (Burlington, NC)
 - The Alamance County Safe Kids Coalition and Alamance County Public Libraries hosted this event. It featured various stations related to childhood safety and STEM activities.
 - Graham Recreation and Parks was represented by Graham Mebane Lake staff by hosting a station to teach kayak and canoe safety.

Professional Development

- NRPA
 - Supervisors' Management School: "The premiere resource for parks and recreation professionals who want to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to lead their staff effectively. The courses cover various topics, including leadership principles and team management, as well as the most up-to-date techniques and information on

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leading, staffing, organizing, directing, and managing employees. With the tools and insights gained from this program, professionals will be able to oversee the day-to-day operation of their staff as they deliver programs and services to their community.”

- Registration for Year 2 of SMS begins mid-May and the course will be from October 26 – October 30

- Harwood Institute

- “The Harwood Institute equips people, organizations, communities, and networks with the tools to bridge divides, build capacity, and tackle shared challenges. By Turning Outward, we enable communities to become a collective force for change.” Alamance County is bringing key leaders together to impact and unite the community through conversations.

Committees

- Safe Kids Coalition

- Meeting: April 16 at 9:00 am
 - Discussed the Science and Safety Expo and finalized plans for the event.
 - Agency updates and Spring events.
 - The coalition is still seeking a solution to gaining access to the Safe Kids funds by creating a 5013
 - National SafeKids Month: The Alamance County SafeKids Coalition will set up a “Hot Car” display on Wednesday, May 8 (11:00 am – 3:00 pm) at Walmart on Graham Hopedale Rd.

- Alamance County Programming Collaborative

- Programming colleagues across the county meet monthly to discuss special events and programming. Topics include dates of events and selection, policies and procedures, difficulties and solutions, and collaborative events for the group.
- Meeting: April 2
 - Discussed Alamance Creek Week and what each agency was doing during or leading up to that week. Danica Heflin from Stormwater SMART attended
 - Agency updates on spring events
 - Alamance Adventure Race: Saturday, September 28
 - Kick-off at Bill Cooke Park: 7:00 am
 - Headquarters at the Mebane Arts and Community Center
 - Sponsorship letter needs to be updated
 - Need to start adding challenges
- Next Meeting: May 7

- Executive Safety Committee

- A CPR/First Aid training class will be held on Wednesday, May 1.

- City of Graham Wellness Committee

- Meeting: Thursday, April 11
 - Discussed monthly events/programs to cover the various aspects of wellness as directed in our committee guidelines
 - April 25: Coordinated a partnership with the Alamance County Cooperative Service to offer a Gardening 101 Lunch and Learn. This session focused on planning and vegetable garden and having better access to fresh produce.
 - May: In addition to the public offering of Graham Walks, we will also offer a lunchtime meet-up to walk for COG employees. Employees will be encouraged to sign up for this free program to help create better activity habits.
- Next Meeting: May 9

- Alamance County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board

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- The purpose of the advisory board is to focus on advocacy, education, and finding ways to get out to the public more.
- I am interested in pursuing more partnerships with the Extension office to offer classes and educational opportunities in Graham.
- Meeting: Tuesday, February 20 at 12:00 pm
 - Discussed staffing changes
 - Discussed potential partnerships with agencies in the community
- Next Meeting: May 21

Miscellaneous

- April 2: Assisted with Track events for Senior Games
- April 3: Assisted with Track events for Senior Games
- April 3: Met with Sam Karlson (Burlington Aquatics) and Alex Vivian (Alamance County Public Libraries) to finalize the map for the SafeKids event.
- April 4: Assisted with Track events for Senior Games
- April 9 & 10: Attended the NCRPA Marketing and Events Workshop
 - This workshop is designed for recreation professionals who work with events and/or marketing. Learn about trends, tools, and lessons learned from other professionals. Build your network of colleagues to support your work in marketing and events.
- April 16: Presented the Graham Walks T-shirt design project to ACC Graphic Design students with Brandy.
- April 18: Recreation Day for Leadership Alamance
- April 30: Participated in the Career Fair at Graham High School

Marketing Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
April 2024 Report



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

"Go find your team. Get to work. Whatever that work is that you find worth doing. Do it, and find some people to love who'll do it with you." - Leslie Barbara Knope, Deputy Director of the fictional City of Pawnee, Indiana Parks & Recreation Department

Project Updates

- Attended the City of Graham Appearance Commission / Tree Board Meeting to continue Arbor Day in Graham planning (04/01)
- The City of Graham Mobile Parklet application has been renewed and is located at Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream in downtown Graham, providing outdoor seating for this local business (04/01)
- Going Bonkers for Botany Program with Stormwater Smart was held at South Graham Park for Arbor Day in Graham with 9 participants (04/02)
- The monthly Hikes with Hounds program explored the Haw River Trail's Shallow Ford Natural Area with four shelter dogs (Buck, Beatrice, Daisy, and Tigger). I was unable to attend in April, but BAS and BRPD recruited a couple of their part-time team members to fill in for me for the day. (04/05)
- Joined the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) at Graham-Mebane Lake as they conducted the electrofishing sampling of the lake's largemouth bass population. You can view a reel of the day on the GRPD social media platforms. (04/08)
- Attended the two-day NCRPA Marketing & Events Workshop in Cary, NC (04/09 & 04/10)
- Emma and I presented the Graham Walks program to the Graphic Design 2 class at Alamance Community College's Advertising and Graphic Design department. Their task...create the 2024 Graham Walks t-shirt designs and a photo opportunity for participants! (04/16)
- Joined the City of Graham Human Resources attending the Alamance Community College Career Fair to answer questions about joining our team and promote upcoming programs and events (04/17)
- Attended the Elon University Campus-Community Networking Hour with the Kernodle Center for Civic Life (04/18)
- Assisted Tel with relocating current plantings to more ideal places within GRPD parks and facilities (04/19)
- Mel Melton & The Wicked Mojos performed on the WGHP FOX8 Morning News' Live Music "Wednesday" to promote the upcoming Musical Chairs Concert on May 3 (04/24)
- New Park Signage was installed by Syntech for Bill Cooke Park and South Graham Park: rules/hours, wayfinding signage for the SGP nature trail, tennis/pickleball court rules (some signs will need minor updates). The Parks Team has begun removing the old signage within the parks. (04/24)

- The City of Graham Appearance Commission & Tree Board, in collaboration with Graham Recreation & Parks and the City of Graham Public Works departments, presented the Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony (04/26)
- Bud Catoe will return to teach Beginner Shag Lessons at Maple Street Center during the month of May and possibly continue if there is enough interest (04/30)



Ongoing Projects

- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech for Bill Cooke Park and South Graham Park
 - Up Next: wayfinding, walking track/trail length, additional rules/hours
 - Future Goal: entryway sign for Graham Regional Park
- 200 North Main Street Pocket Park Project - exploring lighting options to purchase with possible community partners/sponsors
- 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.

Current & Upcoming Programming

- **Hikes with Hounds**
 - Year-round, one Friday each month
 - Partnership with the City of Burlington Animal Services and Recreation & Parks
 - 2024 Locations

▪ January	Burlington - Burlington City Park (2 miles)
▪ February	Graham - Bill Cooke Park (2 miles)
▪ March	Alamance Parks - Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area (2 miles)
▪ April	Haw River Trail - Shallow Ford Natural Area (2-3 miles)
▪ May	Haw River Trail - Burlington Animal Services Trail (2 miles)
▪ June	Haw River Trail - Longmeadow Trailhead (3 miles)
▪ July	Haw River Trail - Glencoe Paddle Access (2 miles)
▪ August	Haw River Trail - SAX Island (2 miles)
▪ September	Alamance Parks - Cedarock Park (2-3 miles)
▪ October	Burlington - Guilford Mackintosh Park & Marina (2 miles)
▪ November	Burlington - Willowbrook Park (2 miles)
▪ December	Graham - Graham Regional Park (1-2 miles)

- **Graham Historical Museum**

- Exhibits
 - February - April: "Homelife in Graham (200 years)" – displaying cookware, dinnerware, cleaning practices, garden tools, etc.
 - March - June: "Notable Women of Graham" (March: Women's History Month)
 - July - December: Funeral Homes & Furniture Stores
- Programs
 - Lunch-and-Learn at the Graham Historical Museum
 - May 15 • Speaker: James Shields, Manager & Curator of the African-American Cultural Arts & History Center • Topic: History of the African-American Cultural Arts & History Center and What the Center is Accomplishing
 - June 19 • Speaker: Tim Allen • Topic: The Quakers of Alamance County and the Underground Railroad

- **Sunflower/Crimson Clover Project at Graham Regional Park**

- Crimson Clover was planned to flower in late March/early April, but little success in 2024, possibly due to the lack of rain at the time it was planted in the fall
- Sunflower Field to be planted in May 2024
- A GRPD Parks & Athletic Facilities Team, City of Graham Public Works, and the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District Project

- **Arbor Day in Graham Activities**

- During the month of April (programs and social media tree education)
 - Going Bonkers for Botany (spring break educational program for kids)
 - Arbor Day Poem Contest
 - Arbor Day Kindness Rock Hunt in Downtown Graham
 - Arbor Day in Graham's Tree Planting Ceremony
 - "Donate A Tree to A Graham Park" opportunity
 - Ongoing social media posts about trees throughout the month of April
- Collaboration with the City of Graham Appearance Commission and Tree Board

- **Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park**

- 2024 Band Lineup
 - May 3 – Mel Melton & The Wicked Mojos (zydeco/blues)
 - June 7 – Sahara Reggae Band (reggae)
 - July 5 – The Phobes Band (rock/blues/pop/country)
 - August 2 – Dani Kerr & the Skeleton Krew (southern rock/country/Americana)
- Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253

- **Alamance Creek Week**

- 2024 Dates: May 11 – 18
 - Youth Fishing Day (05/11)

- Bank Fishing Catfish Tournament (05/18)
 - Collaborating with Graham-Mebane Lake and StormwaterSMART for activities
- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series in Downtown Graham**
 - 2024 Band Lineup
 - May 23 – The Holiday Band
 - June 27 – Cat5
 - July 25 – Blackwater
 - August 22 – Part Time Party Time Band
 - September 12 – The Mighty Saints of Soul
 - September 26 – The Mason Lovette Band
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Downtown Graham • West Elm Street, Graham, NC 27253

Volunteering

- NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer – help with workdays, outreach, and managing the social media account “Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Alamance County”

Social Media

Facebook Followers: 9,754 (increased 85)

Instagram Followers: 2,431 (increased 19)

Twitter Followers: 259 (increased 3)

Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for April 7 – May 6, 2024:

Top Posts/Pages

	
1. HOME - City of Graham, NC	4,632
2. Water & Sewer Billing - City of Graham, NC	2,192
3. Recreation & Parks - City of Graham, NC	1,552
4. GRPD Parks & Facilities - City of Graham, NC	1,005
5. GRPD Lake - City of Graham, NC	992
6. Water & Sewer - City of Graham, NC	732
7. GRPD Lake Hours & Fees - City of Graham, NC	639
8. Trash and Recycling - City of Graham, NC	621
9. GRPD Athletics - City of Graham, NC	616
10. Police - City of Graham, NC	595

PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

April 2024



Bill Cooke Park

Athletic Fields – Outfields were sprayed for weeds.

Field 3 outfield was fertilized to promote growth.

Removed all soccer goals and benches at the conclusion of soccer season.

Sprayed weeds along the fence line of the tennis court and hit back wall.

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

Fixed a sink hole in the turf area leading up to shelter 2.

Sprayed weeds in the landscape bed near shelter 2.

Pruned the yellow bell bushes near the front of the park.

Fixed holes in lower bathroom posts.

Had Associated Plumbing come fix a broken toilet in the lower bathrooms.

South Graham Park

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

Mulched tree rings.

Painted back wall of the bathroom facility of cover graffiti.

Graham Regional Park

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

Water fountains turned on for the season.

Replaced a broken button on the water fountain at the inclusive playground.

Removed the gate of the inclusive playground due to damage.

Sprayed the clover field to start the transition into sunflowers.

Replaced a missing bolt on the challenge course balance beam.

Pressure washed the shelter and bathrooms at the inclusive playground.

Apollo/Goley

Apollo – Field was spot sprayed for the weed nutsedge.

Goley – Field was sprayed for broadleaf weeds.

Dugout covers were put up for the season.

Changed the storywalk panels.

Johnson Ave

General Maintenance – Field was spot sprayed for weeds.

Painted T-ball fields at facility for practices.

Lake

General Maintenance – No Report.

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

Greenway – No Report

Harmon Park – No Report.

Civic Center – Fixed a broken swing seat on the playground.

Sprayed sand volleyball court for weeds.

Marshall St – No Report.

Recreation Center – Turf was sprayed for weeds.

Planted daylilies on the corner of the facility.

Assisted with covering and uncovering the skylights for the HOF event.

Oakley St. – Playground inspection completed with no issues found.

Maple St. – Tuft was sprayed for weeds.

Added plants and mulch to the landscape.

Hwy 54 Access – No Report.

200 N. Main – Issues with the landscape were addressed. Plants were removed, mulch added, and turf sprayed for weeds.

Museum – Sprayed weeds in the courtyard.

Miscellaneous

Derrick Evans was hired as our new Athletic Facilities Technician. If you see him at the park, please say hello.

All baseball/softball for River Mill Academy has ended for the season.

Continued Education & Community Involvement

No report.