

GRAHAM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
March 12, 2025 6:30 PM  
Graham Historical Museum

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2025
- III. Chairperson's Report
- IV. WithersRavenel Update – ZOOM presentation
- V. Director's Report
  1. Staffing
- VI. Old Business
  1. Land Acquisition - Cooke Park – Teer Property
    - i. Utility updates
    - ii. Renovations to 1076 Town Branch Rd.
  2. Land Acquisition - Graham Regional Park – Stewart Property update – property will be considered as part of the park during Master Plan process
  3. Accessible Parks Grant - Projects set to begin in March.
  4. Graham-Mebane Lake projects
    - i. Ramp Project
    - ii. Slip Dock Project – Design
    - iii. Trespass Issue & Monitoring - Council action
- VII. New Business
  1. PARTF Grant for Teer Property reimbursement
  2. Graham Regional Park Master Plan Calendar:
    - i. Rec. Commission mtgs. – Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, & November 12<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. City Council presentations – October 14<sup>th</sup> & December 9<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. Community input mtgs.
      1. Pop-up @ GRP - April 14<sup>th</sup>
      2. Ideas for meeting - July ??
    - iv. Stakeholder mtgs. – April – June
      1. Hiking Trail
      2. Mountain Biking Trails
      3. Multi-purpose Fields / Athletics / Tournaments
    - v. Final Master Plan expected to be presented by Dec. '25
- VIII. Activity Reports
  1. Recreation Center
  2. Athletics
  3. Programs
  4. Parks
  5. Graham-Mebane Lake
  6. Marketing
  7. Hall of Fame
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

# GRAHAM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

January 8, 2025

## GRAHAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Chair Jay Cook, Laurie Pickard, Patrick Burnette, Nicki Smith

**STAFF:** Brian Faucette

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 6:31 with a welcome.

### MINUTES

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

### CHAIR'S REPORT

-Chair Cook asked the current Commission if the traditional 6:30pm meeting time still fit well with everyone's schedule. After a brief discussion, it was decided to maintain the 6:30pm meeting time.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

-Mr. Faucette did not present a separate report.

### OLD BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission the closing for the Teer Property adjacent to Cooke Park occurred on Dec. 18, 2024. Immediate plans for the Teer Property include assessing the houses, salvaging small trailers, lumber, cabinets, etc. for use by the Parks Division, and removing trash that has been dumped on the property. Over the next several months, Duke Energy will remove the electrical service to the houses, the pond will be assessed, and the Fire Dept. will assess the houses for a possible training burn.

-Mr. Faucette reported there have been no efforts to contact Mr. Stewart concerning his property adjacent to Graham Regional Park. The property will be addressed during the Graham Regional Park Master Plan process.

-Mr. Faucette reminded the Commission that the Accessible Parks Grant Projects at the Rec. Center are expected to begin in March after the basketball season ends.

-Mr. Faucette reported the Graham-Mebane Lake ramp replacement and slip dock installation are still progressing and a new system has been developed to monitor activity on property adjacent to the lake.

### NEW BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission an initial organizational meeting was held with WithersRavenel (WR) to set a tentative timeline for the Master Plan. If the contract is finalized and signed within the next couple of weeks, the first planning meeting will be held in late January with the final proposal presented to Council for consideration in December '25. WR has asked for Chair Cook to attend planning meetings and for him to serve as the representative for the Commission.

### ACTIVITY REPORTS

**Marketing:** Alternative programming for the Ice Rink are being explored. Commission members offered ideas including summer use in the parks. **Sports Hall of Fame:** Chair Cook reported the Committee will meet in April to begin planning for the April 2026 Induction Ceremony. **Lake:** N/A **Friends Group:** N/A **Parks:** N/A **Programs:** N/A **Athletics:** N/A **Centers:** N/A

### OTHER BUSINESS – N/A

With all business concluded, Mr. Burnette made a motion to adjourn at 7:01pm, seconded by Mrs. Pickard and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Faucette



Graham Recreation and Parks Commission  
Director's Report for January & February '25

**I. Present Projects**

**II. Future Projects**

**a. Land Acquisition**

i. **GRP** - Mr. Stewart is expecting a new appraisal from a new firm. Negotiations are expected to increase throughout the summer.

ii. **Cooke** - Teer Property

1. City staff is assessing the houses and grounds and is working with utility companies to update and/or remove existing utilities.

2. The PARTF grant application has opened, the grant application is due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

b. **Accessible Parks Grant** - Projects at the Rec. Center will begin in March.

c. **Cabin @ Cooke Park** - Communication has been reestablished with the firm to determine options for the future of the cabin. Updates should be presented in the spring.

**III. Policies/Manuals/Plans**

a. **GRP Site Master Plan** - The first Steering Committee meeting was held in February. Background information, maps, and contacts will be presented to the firm. A site visit will occur in early March with a calendar of future meetings to be presented at the March Rec. Commission mtg.

b. **Maintenance/Replacement Policy** - GRPD staff continue to record purchase and maintenance information concerning major systems and assets in order to create a maintenance and replacement policy and schedule to lead future budget requests.

c. **GIS database** - No additional work has begun on this project.

d. **GRPD Personnel/Orientation Manuals** - Work on a Personnel Manual and an Orientation Manual continues.

**IV. Historical Museum Attendance** - 6 – January; 8 – February

**V. Outside Committees**

a. **Wellness Collaborative** - No updates.

b. **Friends of GRPD** - The group is reinvesting current funds.

**VI. Staffing**

a. GRPD supervisors are currently advertising the following positions:

i. PT Lake Attendant – Lake Div.

ii. PT Athletic Facility Attendant – Rec. Div.

**VII. Financial Summary** - Convenience fees - \$200.79-January; \$636.34-February

**Recreation Division**

**Lake Division**

	Jan.	Feb.		Jan.	Feb.
Open Gym/Weight Room/Pickleball	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fishing Boat launches	CLOSED	\$348.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$0.00	\$60.00	Non-Motor Boat launches (Kayak/Canoe)	CLOSED	\$51.00
Civic Center rentals	\$255.00	\$390.00	Ski Boat launches	CLOSED	\$0.00
Rec. Center rentals	\$10.00	\$40.00	Jon Boat rentals	CLOSED	\$78.00
Staff Fee	\$380.00	\$335.00	Kayak/Canoe rentals	CLOSED	\$20.00
Park Shelters	\$475.00	\$850.00	Bank Fishing	CLOSED	\$201.00
Field/Passive Area Rental (Sand V-Ball Ct.)	\$80.00	\$0.00	Bait/Supplies	CLOSED	\$56.25
Table/Chair rentals	\$0.00	\$0.00			
			Annual Permit (motorized boats)	CLOSED	\$1,070.00
Youth Soccer	\$5,300.00	\$977.50	Annual Permit (non-motorized boats)	CLOSED	\$0.00
Youth Baseball	\$1,166.25	\$1,815.00	Annual Permit (bank fishing)	CLOSED	\$35.00
Youth Softball	\$380.00	\$407.50			
Youth T-Ball	\$535.00	\$707.50	Shelter Rentals	CLOSED	\$0.00
Youth Basketball	\$90.00	\$0.00	Passive Area Rental	CLOSED	\$0.00
Youth Lacrosse	\$105.00	\$65.00			
Adult Pickleball	\$700.00	\$493.75	Big Bass Tournament	CLOSED	\$380.00
			Catfish Tournament	CLOSED	\$0.00
Summer Camp	\$35.00	\$22,263.00	Pontoon Boat Cruises	CLOSED	\$0.00
			Paddle Tours	CLOSED	\$0.00
Graham Walks Sponsor	\$300.00	\$0.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,239.25</b>
Donations/Misc. Sponsorships	\$85.00	\$25.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,896.25</b>	<b>\$28,429.25</b>			



# Graham-Mebane Lake Report, February 2025

## Graham Recreation and Parks Department



Graham-Mebane Lake opened our 2025 season on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. It will return to its six days a week schedule in March. The weather wasn't particularly kind to us this month, with only a handful of sunny, warm days. The lake started the season off at full pool.

### February Lake Highlights

- The expected work on the launch ramps did not occur over the past winter due to the NC Wildlife construction crews working on the Hurricane Helene aftermath. We expect them here sometime in the August to October window.
- Due to the launch ramps being closed for up to two months sometime this year, we have reduced the Annual Permit Fee and made adjustments to the Big Bass Tournament.
- Tel and his crew installed the kayak launch ramp and removed the baseboard heaters from the marina building.
- We worked to finalize the design and purchase of a slip dock to replace our middle dock. We'll know our installation date sometime in March.

### By the Numbers (2024 in parentheses)

Boat Launches:	123 (137)	Customers:	323 (316)
Motorized Boats:	109 (126)	All Boaters:	168 (182)
Ski Area Launches:	0 (0)	Motorized:	154 (171)
Non-motorized Boats:	14 (11)	Ski Area Users:	0 (5)
Seniors/Disability:	5 (8)	Non-Motor. Boaters:	14 (11)
Using Annual Permit:	66 (74)	Bank Anglers:	85 (77)
Vessels Rented:	7 (8)	Vessel Renters:	8 (11)
		Programs & Events:	0 (0)
		Passive Visitors:	62 (46)

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

*"If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it. That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you."*

Bear Bryant





# Graham-Mebane Lake Monthly Financial Report

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



Month 2025

# Days Open: 11

Daily Activity (POS) from Staff Reports:

Date	Boats	Visitors	Daily User Fees:				Fishing Bait	Fishing Supplies	Vessel Rental	Fishing Tourn.	Lake Cruise	Other	Over Under	Total \$
			Motor.	Ski Area	Non-Motor.	Bank								
1	21	42	233.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	20.00	120.00				\$381.00
2	8	32	79.00		6.00	31.00				35.00				\$151.00
3														
4														
5														
6														
7	15	29	161.00		6.00	12.00			10.00	70.00				\$259.00
8	15	34	236.00			33.00				35.00				\$304.00
9	27	58	191.00		18.00	74.00		2.00	20.00					\$305.00
10														
11														
12														
13														
14	3	12	34.00							35.00				\$69.00
15	1	2				3.00	4.25							\$7.25
16	4	8	54.00		18.00									\$72.00
17														
18														
19														
20														
21	Closed: Weather													
22	3	10	109.00			12.00	12.75			35.00		5.00		\$173.75
23	10	46	57.00			42.00	22.50		48.00					\$169.50
24														
25														
26														
27														
28	16	50	264.00			26.00	12.75			50.00				\$352.75
Totals:	123	323	\$1,418.00		\$51.00	\$236.00	\$52.25	\$4.00	\$98.00	\$380.00		\$5.00		\$2,244.25
Total Daily User Fees: \$1,705.00														

## Deposit Receipts:

	Total \$
Lake Deposits: Cash/Checks	\$1,402.25
Community Pass: Credit Cards	\$842.00
<b>RECEIPT TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,244.25</b>

# Programs & Events Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION  
February 2025 Report

Emma Griffin  
Program Manager  
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egriffin@CityofGraham.com



"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."  
— James Baldwin

## Current & Upcoming Programs

- Arts Around the Square
  - Saturday, May 17: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
  - Event Details:
    - Downtown Graham around Court Square
    - Featuring artisan and craft vendors, live art demonstrations, four stages for music and performing arts, kids' activities, and community partners.
  - Marketing:
    - Brandy has used the logo and branding to announce the event and call for vendors on Facebook.
    - The flyer and other materials are set to launch in April
  - Vendors:
    - Artisan & Craft Vendors (\$50 fee): Application open
    - Non-Profit organizations & Community Partners (\$25)
    - Food Vendors (\$100 fee)
- Senior Games
  - March 24 – May 9, 2025
  - Registration Deadline: February 21, 2025
  - Serving as an Event Director this year to assist in Brittany Bradsher's (Burlington R&P) absence during her maternity leave.
- First Responder Friday
  - Join members from the City of Graham Fire, Police, and Recreation & Parks Departments on the third Friday of 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 by providing information about their opportunities and programs for the community.
  - This year we plan to release a Google Form to allow neighborhoods and communities to sign up and request FRF to be in their neighborhood. This will allow us to connect with citizens we have not yet met. If there are months that no one signs up, we will continue our partnership with Graham Housing Authority and its locations.
    - Google Form is open and set to be announced on social media on March 11.

- Dates:
  - April 18
  - May 23
  - June 20
  - July 18
  - August 15
  - September 19

## Professional Development

- NRPA
- NCRPA

## Committees

- Safe Kids Coalition
  - Meeting: February 18 at 9:00 am (Mebane Fire Department)
    - Membership Drive: Other community partners were invited to attend this meeting to encourage our membership numbers to rise, which will then give us a better opportunity to serve the community.
  - Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Information:
    - CPST Continuing Education Class: February 11 at Trailhead Church
    - Now that most FT employees with GFP are CPSTs, I would like to add car seat checks as a service during First Responder Fridays. This will be beneficial to do while in neighborhoods as many people aren't aware of this necessary service that we offer.
  - Non-Profit Status
    - SafeKids Worldwide requires each local coalition to be affiliated with an agency that will assume the lead agency status and cover the coalition under its 501(c)3. This has been an ongoing process for our coalition that has inhibited our ability to spend money received through outreach programming grants. The Mebane Fire Department will take status as the lead agency. The last update indicated that Mebane is waiting on their contract from SafeKids Worldwide.
    - Once we have obtained our nonprofit status, we will look to update the Coalition bylaws with guidance from the state agency and other coalitions of comparable size. This will also include appointments and elections of officers (Coordinator, assistant coordinator, secretary, treasurer).
  - 2025 Goals and Opportunities:
    - Many members of our coalition have felt that the Alamance County SafeKids Coalition needs to be more present at events around the county and also to offer more education to the public. We plan to develop a signup sheet of various events around the county for members to set up and represent SafeKids.
    - Safer Together: A Safe Kids Alamance Event
      - Date: April 12
      - Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm
      - Location: Graham City Hall (201 S. Main St.)
      - Activities:
        - Car Seat Check
        - Hot Car Display
        - First Responder Agencies
        - Kids Activities (Park & Play, Recreation Tent)
  - Next Meeting: March 18 at 9:00 am (Thataways)



- Alamance County Programming Collaborative
  - Programming colleagues across Alamance County meet monthly to discuss special events and programs. Topics include dates of events and selection, policies and procedures, difficulties and solutions, and collaborative events for the group.
  - Meeting: No February Meeting
  - Next Meeting: March 4 (Burlington Recreation & Parks)
- Executive Safety Committee
  - Meeting: February 5
    - Discussed In-person safety training schedules
    - All employees must complete online NeoGov Safety Trainings
  - No March meeting
- City of Graham Wellness Committee
  - Meeting: February 13
    - Reviewed events completed in 2024
    - Upcoming events/initiatives:
      - March 13: Lunch & Learn (“Conflict Resolution: Getting Beyond Right and Wrong)
      - March 21: City Blood Drive
      - April: Pickleball Pick-up at Graham Recreation Center
        - Finalizing details with Joshua
      - May: Open Enrollment sessions and spring picnic
      - June: Dog Day Out (social meet-up for employees and their pets)
    - Next Meeting: No March meeting
- Alamance County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board
  - The purpose of the advisory board is to focus on advocacy, education, and partnership.

## Miscellaneous

- February 3: Met with Ben at Forgotten Road Ales to discuss their events for 2025 to coordinate and not overlap dates
- February 11: Attended the Child Passenger Seat class at First Baptist Church in Graham to obtain CEUs for renewal.
- February 11: Attended the City Council meeting to present street closure options for Slice of Summer. City Council approved Slice of Summer for Saturday, June 28 (3:00 – 7:00 pm) in the same location as last year (100 and 200 blocks of West Elm St. and 100 blocks of North and South Maple St.).
- February 13: Met with the Esperanza planning committee to begin discussing this year’s event (approved by City Council for Sunday, September 28).
- February 18: Participated in the kick-off meeting for the Graham Regional Park Master Plan with the GRPD Team and Withers Ravenel representatives.

“Go out into the world and do good until there is too much good in the world..”

– Larry H. Miller

“At the end of the day, it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished... it’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.”

– Denzel Washington

## Facilities Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION REPORT  
February 2025 Report

Marquis Graves  
Facilities Supervisor  
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### Facility Updates:

#### Recreation Center:

Youth Basketball games are scheduled to end the last week of February. Open Gym will operate 12:00pm – 5:00pm Monday – Friday in both the small and large gym. After the youth basketball season ends, Open Gym will move to 1:00pm – 8:00pm Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays. Gym Walkers are able to use the small gym and large gym from 9:00am – 12:00pm daily. The Congregate Nutrition Program for Seniors meet daily within room 1 of the rec center from 9am – 12pm. Pickleball at the Rec Center will return the second week of March in the Small Gym. Rental calendar for February has also been attached.

#### Civic Center:

Duke Energy will come out to access the frayed wires and damaged meter neutral the second week of February. Squirrels have been chewing the power lines leading to the Civic Center. During this time, this hasn’t caused any significant issues to power inside the Civic Center. Rental calendar for February has also been attached.

#### Maple St. Center

Maple St. Center may be adding another yoga class on Monday evenings. Classes are still in the preliminary planning stages.

The following reoccurring classes and groups utilize the center during the month of February:

- 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

Calendar for Maple Street Center rentals for February is also attached.

- 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 Classes occur every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

**Programs/Events/Additional Info:**

- Summer Day Camp registration for previous camp families is currently underway
- Registration for Summer Day Camp will open to camp families from 2024 on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration for the General Public will open on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



# Athletics Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

February 2025 Report



Joshua Cutlip

Athletic Supervisor

(336) 570-4023

[jcutlip@CityofGraham.com](mailto:jcutlip@CityofGraham.com)

## Winter Programs

Basketball came to a conclusion on February 27<sup>th</sup> with 8U girls being the last age division to finish! Overall, the season went good with only the one incident to report on.

This season we partnered with Gibsonville and Green Level in some age divisions. With the increase in numbers our goal is to play everything in-house but some age divisions we still combine with other departments to help form a full league. Originally, we planned to do our 8U Boy tournament in-house but due to outside pressure we decided to include Green Level in the tournament. For the other age divisions, we'll be with Green Level and/or Gibsonville for tournaments if we played with them in the "regular season".

- 8U Boys Champions: Green Level Trojans (1 seed)
- 8U Girls Champions: Graham Lady Tigers (4 seed)
- 10U Boys Champions: Graham Grizzlies (1 seed)
- 10U Girls Champions: Graham Shining Stars (2 seed)
- 12U Boys Champions: Graham Next Level Ballers (1 seed)
- 13U Girls Champions: Green Level Trojans (2 seed)
- 14U: Graham Next Level Ballers (3 seed)

We've only had one big incident this season. We had an official ask a spectator to not curse during a game and that lead to another parent stand up and ask to be kicked out of the game. As the parent was leaving the court the official made a comment for them to walk faster at which point, they turned around and went to get into the officials face. Once their husband got her out of the gym the official ended the game in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. For disciplinary action we notified our official assignor who suspended the official involved. In regards to the parent we suspended them for the remainder of the season. At the end of the report, you can view the suspension notice that was sent to them.

#### Winter Basketball (ages 4-14)

- 5U: 51 participants (5 teams) (7 on wait-list)
- 6U: 61 participants (5 teams) (20 on wait-list)
- 8U Boys: 70 participants (7 teams) (24 on wait-list)
- 8U Girls: 18 participants (2 teams)
- 10U Boys: 70 participants (7 teams) (28 on wait-list)
- 10U Girls: 22 participants (2 teams) (2 on wait-list)
- 12U Boys: 50 participants (5 teams) (11 on wait-list)
- 13U Girls: 10 participants (1 team) (6 on wait-list)
- 14U: 21 participants (2 teams) (1 on wait-list)

#### Spring Programs

Registration for soccer is now done and most age divisions are filled up. Registration for baseball, softball, and t-ball closed on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Adult Pickleball will return for the Spring with us expanding from 2 divisions to 3! Registration is fully open to the public with 10 of 16 teams returning from the fall.

The biggest change for the soccer season is that we'll be playing at Apollo Field for the 14U age division. This will allow us to have more kids participating and have a real difference between the 10U and 14U age divisions. Previously these two age divisions played on the same field size and goal size. Now 14U will be played on a full 100x60ish yard field with 11 players on the field for each team. The other rule change we're implementing for soccer is to substitute every 5 minutes. This requires every player to play nearly half the game.

#### Spring Soccer Registration Numbers:

- 5U: 34 players (1 coach needed)
- 6U: 44 players (9 waitlisted)
- 8U: 50 players (15 waitlisted)

- 10U: 59 players (2 waitlisted)
- 14U: 79 players (2 waitlisted)
- Total: 266 players (8 more than 2024 spring)

Spring Pickleball Registration Numbers:

- 22 Teams (2 spots remaining)

Spring Baseball Registration Numbers:

- T-Ball: 40 players (3 coaches needed)
- 6U Baseball: 34 players (1 coach needed)
- 8U Baseball: 31 players (1 coach needed)
- 8U Softball: 9 players
- 10U Baseball: 34 Players
- 10U Softball: 6 players
- 13U Baseball: 14 players
- 13U Softball: 8 players
- Total: 176 (3 more than 2024)





## Graham Recreation and Parks

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Due to the violation of the Graham Recreation and Parks Department (GRPD) Parent's Code of Conduct, **Madison Parks**, has been suspended for the remainder of game(s) in the 8U basketball age division. This includes game(s) on Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup>, and any tournament games the Warriors are involved in. If **Madison Parks** is present at the above-mentioned basketball games they will not be played and automatically forfeited; further punishment can be taken against the parent. A return to spectating will be allowed at the conclusion of the suspension. In the first game back, the spectator's behavior will be monitored. Any further violations of the Parent's Code of Conduct will result in further punishment and possible expulsion for the GRPD basketball program.

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Parent Acknowledgment

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GRPD Athletic Supervisor

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GRPD Recreation Director

# Marketing Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION  
February 2025 Report



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

*"Enough courage to get started + enough sense to focus on something you're naturally suited for + enough persistence to stay in the game long enough to catch a few lucky breaks + a lot of hard work. There's your recipe."* - James Clear, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller Atomic Habits

## Project & Program Updates

- Continued reaching out to bands and planning for the Thursdays at Seven Concert Series in Downtown Graham and the Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park. Currently waiting on completed contracts to be returned from the nine scheduled bands.
- Reached out to 2024 Thursdays at Seven Concert Series sponsors about sponsoring the upcoming season's concerts
- Attended the City of Graham Appearance Commission / Tree Board Meeting to begin Arbor Day in Graham planning (02/03)
- Attended the virtual NCRPA - Women in Park & Recreation (WiPAR) Meeting (02/04)
- The monthly Hikes with Hounds program explored Bill Cooke Park with four shelter dogs (Piper, Pluto, Bailey, & Winona) and 7 volunteers (02/07)
- Attended the City of Graham Council Meeting for Road Closure Approval for Slice of Summer (02/11)
- Special thanks to Bryn Lottig, author of "No Child Left Inside: Transforming the Next Generation through Experiential Learning", for her inspiring presentation at the NEW quarterly Coffee and Conversation program. A leader in adventure-based education, Bryn shared how the natural world can foster connection, community, and social-emotional learning. The Burlington Recreation & Parks and Graham Recreation & Parks Departments and Elon University presented the program. (02/13)
- A Kick-Off Meeting with GRPD Supervisors and WithersRavenel was held to discuss the Graham Regional Park Master Plan process and the upcoming Community Open House Meeting (02/18)
- Attended the virtual NCEE "Green Reads: Black Earth Wisdom" with the Kathleen Clay Library. "Discover insights from this book discussion of *Black Earth Wisdom: Conversations with Black Environmentalists*. This title by Leah Penniman, which is a collection of essays and interviews, shares insights into scientific and spiritual connections to the natural world." (02/21)



## Ongoing Projects

- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech for Bill Cooke Park and South Graham Park
  - Currently in Production: directional/wayfinding
  - Up Next: walking track/trail length
  - Future Goal: entryway sign for Graham Regional Park
- Graham Recreation Center Display: option to host a mini-exhibit in a glass case at the Graham Recreation Center to promote the museum/nature topics
  - available time options: January-April (Topic: Trees) / May-August (reserved for nature display for campers – Topic: ecoEXPLORE) / September-December (Topic: TBD)
- 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

- **Sunflower/Crimson Clover Project at Graham Regional Park**
  - Crimson Clover Field was planted at the end of September, with flowers in April 2025
  - Sunflower Field to be planted in May 2025, flowers to peak in mid-July
  - A GRPD Parks & Athletic Facilities Team, City of Graham Public Works, and the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District Project
- **Hikes with Hounds**
  - Year-round, one Friday each month
  - Partnership with the City of Burlington Animal Services and Recreation & Parks
  - 2025 Dates & Locations (weather & trail conditions permitting)
 

▪ January 10	Burlington - Springwood Park (2 miles)
▪ February 7	Graham - Bill Cooke Park (2 miles)
▪ March 7	Burlington - Lake Cammack Park & Marina (2 miles)
▪ April 11	Haw River Trail - Shallow Ford Natural Area (2-3 miles)
▪ May 9	Haw River Trail - Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area (2 miles)
▪ June 13	Haw River Trail - Longmeadow Trailhead (3 miles)



- July 11 Haw River Trail - Glencoe Paddle Access (2 miles)
- August 8 Haw River Trail - SAX Island (2 miles)
- September 19 Alamance Parks - Cedarrock Park (2-3 miles)
- October 10 Burlington - Guilford Mackintosh Park & Marina (2 miles)
- November 14 Burlington - Willowbrook Park (2 miles)
- December 5 Graham - Graham Regional Park (1-2 miles)

- **Graham Historical Museum**

- Current Exhibit
  - TBD
  - *Tentative - (Spring 2025) Baseball in Alamance County Exhibit at the Graham Historical Museum (needs board approval)*
- Programs
  - Lunch-and-Learn
    - *Tentative - Topic: Textile Leagues and Minor League Baseball in Alamance County • Speaker: Dr. Mark Cryan, Elon University Professor of Sport Management (May-Spring 2025)(needs board approval)*

- **Coffee and Conversation (C&C)** (quarterly program at Graham & Burlington locations)

- Enjoy coffee/tea and light refreshments, community, and conversation with the special guest speaker. Guests will also have the chance to connect with representatives from local recreation and parks departments to explore park and trail destinations and learn about outdoor program opportunities in the community.
  - C&C with Bryn Lottig, co-founder of the Kikori app and author of No Child Left Inside: Transforming the Next Generation through Experiential Learning
    - Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025
    - Location: Burlington City Park – Carousel Meeting Room
  - C&C with Seth Mycko, NC Wildlife Resources Commission Fisheries Biologist
    - Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025
    - Location: Graham-Mebane Lake – Park Shelter

- **Chill & Thrill: Park Pop-Ups**

- Dates: Mondays, April 14 & 21, June 9, July 14, August 18, 2025
- Time: 10:00am – 12:00noon
- Location: Graham Regional Park • 1575 North Jim Minor Road, Haw River, NC 27258
- Graham Recreation & Parks is popping up at Graham Regional Park during school breaks (spring & summer) with our Park & Play Mobile Recreation Van! Join us for sweet treats, lively tunes, and loads of fun activities for everyone! What to expect: yard games, music, and summer-themed fun for all ages!
  - Graham Regional Park Master Plan – **Community Open House Meeting (04/14)**
    - Be a part of the future of Graham Regional Park & share your ideas

- **Arbor Day in Graham Activities**

- During April (programs & social media tree education)
  - Going Bonkers for Botany at South Graham Park – Date: Monday, April 21, 2025, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm
  - Arbor Day in Graham’s Tree Planting Ceremony at the Graham Recreation Center – Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10:00am
    - In Memory/Honor of: Former GRPD Centers Supervisor, Vicky Braniff •
  - Type of Tree: TBD
- Collaboration with the City of Graham Appearance Commission & Tree Board (planning begins in February)

- **Earth Day Celebration at South Graham Park**

- Date: Saturday, April 26, 2025
- Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Location: South Graham Park • 1609 Rogers Road, Graham, NC 27253
- Collaboration with the Alamance County Public Libraries

- **Alamance Creek Week**

- May 10 – 17, 2025
  - Youth Fishing Day (05/10)
  - Coffee & Conversations: Seth Mycko, NC Wildlife Fisheries Biologist (05/15)
  - Catfish Tournament (05/17 - *tentative*)
- Collaborating with Graham-Mebane Lake and StormwaterSMART for activities

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

- Band Lineup
  - May 2 – TBD
  - June 6 – TBD
  - August 1 – TBD
- Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253

- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series**

- Band Lineup
  - May 22 – TBD
  - June 26 – TBD
  - July 24 – TBD
  - August 28 – TBD
  - September 11 – TBD
  - September 25 – TBD
- 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: 10,404 (increased 31)

Instagram Followers: 2,579 (increased 11)

Twitter Followers: 257 (no change)

## Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for February 1 – March 2, 2025:

### Top Posts/Pages



1.	HOME - City of Graham, NC	4,293
2.	Water & Sewer Billing - City of Graham, NC	2,210
3.	Recreation & Parks - City of Graham, NC	1,616
4.	GRPD Athletics - City of Graham, NC	899
5.	Trash and Recycling - City of Graham, NC	811
6.	Police - City of Graham, NC	644
7.	GRPD Lake - City of Graham, NC	564
8.	Tax Division - City of Graham, NC	564
9.	Water & Sewer - City of Graham, NC	559
10.	GRPD Summer Day Camps - City of Graham, NC	471



# **PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES**

## **February 2025**



### **Bill Cooke Park**

***Athletic Fields*** – All soccer fields were painted for the upcoming recreation season.

*All soccer goals and benches were moved to the fields.*

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

*Fixed the broken cable on the batting cage.*

*Sticks and branches were picked up around the park.*

*Cut back the grasses at the entry sign.*

*Sprayed weeds along the tennis court fence.*

*Removed dead bushes at the end of the tennis court parking lot.*

*Removed leaves from the fence lines at the dog park, basketball court, and tennis court.*

*Fertilizer and crabgrass pre-emergent were applied to turf areas.*

*Removed concrete pad at the new BCP property.*

*Worked inside the brick house of the new property.*

*Lower bathrooms at the park were opened for the season.*

### **South Graham Park**

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

*Salted and removed snow from areas that needed it during weather events.*

*Applied granular weed killer around shelters.*

*Fertilizer and crabgrass pre-emergent application was made to turf areas.*

*Sprayed weeds in landscape beds.*

## **Graham Regional Park**

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

Seeded and strawed islands in the parking lot by the inclusive playground.

Salted and removed snow from areas that needed it during weather events.

Fertilizer and crabgrass pre-emergent application was applied to turf areas.

Pruned trees within the park.

## **Apollo/Goley**

**Apollo** – Crabgrass pre-emergent application was applied to facility.

Facility was sprayed for weeds.

Leaves were removed from the field and spectator areas.

Spectator areas were sprayed for weeds.

Soccer field was painted for the start of the GMS and recreation season.

**Goley** – Crabgrass pre-emergent application was applied to facility.

Facility was sprayed for weeds.

Removed weeds from the infield.

Sprayed fence lines for weeds.

Installed dugout covers for the upcoming season.

## **Johnson Ave**

**General Maintenance** – Crabgrass pre-emergent application was applied to facility.

Facility was sprayed for weeds.

Soccer field was painted and all goals were moved to the field.

## **Lake**

**General Maintenance** – Removed base board heaters inside the marina building.

Pruned bushes at the entry way and back near the dock.

Installed kayak launch for the season.

## **Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds**

**Greenway** – No report.

**Harmon Park** – No report.

**Civic Center** – No report.

**Marshall St** – No report.

**Recreation Center** – Fertilized application was applied to the turf.

**Oakley St.** – No report.

**Maple St.** – Salted and removed snow from areas that needed it during weather events.

Fertilizer and crabgrass pre-emergent application was applied to turf.

**Hwy 54 Access** – No report.

**200 N. Main** – Pre-emergent application was applied to turf.

Weeds in turf were sprayed.

**Museum** – Salted and removed snow from areas that needed it during weather events.

## **Miscellaneous**

Tel attended the GRP Master Plan meeting held at the museum.

Assisted IT with camera issues at GRP.

## **Continued Education & Community Involvement**

No report.