

GRAHAM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
May 14, 2025 6:30 PM
Graham Historical Museum

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2025
- III. Chairperson's Report
- IV. WithersRavenel Update
- V. Director's Report
 - 1. Staffing
- VI. Old Business
 - 1. PARTF Grant for Teer Property reimbursement
 - 2. Land Acquisition - Cooke Park - Teer Property
 - i. Utility updates
 - ii. Renovations to 1076 Town Branch Rd.
 - 3. Land Acquisition - Graham Regional Park - Stewart Property - appraisal expected this week
 - 4. Accessible Parks Grant – Restroom project began in April
 - 5. Graham-Mebane Lake projects
 - i. Ramp Project - set for mid to late October
 - ii. Slip Dock Project - Ordered
 - iii. Trespass Issue & Monitoring
- VII. New Business
 - 1. Graham Regional Park Master Plan Calendar
 - i. Rec. Commission mtgs. – Sept. 10th & November 12th
 - ii. City Council presentations – October 14th & December 9th
 - iii. Community input mtgs.
 - 1. Arts Around the Square – May 17th
 - 2. Ideas for meeting - July ??
 - iv. Stakeholder mtgs.
 - 1. Hiking Trail / Mountain Biking Trails
 - 2. Multi-purpose Fields / Athletics / Tournaments
 - 3. Inclusion
 - 4. Fire Station
 - 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

March 12, 2025

GRAHAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM

MINUTES

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

STAFF: Brian Faucette

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 6:30 with a welcome.

MINUTES

-Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pickard and unanimously approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

-Chair Cook reported the Hall of Fame committee will meet on May 5th.

WITHERS-RAVENEL UPDATE

-Michael Alderman and Kristen Herndon with WithersRavenel presented an overview for the scope of the Graham Regional Park Master Plan and a timeline for the completion of the plan. Recreation Commission members asked questions and relayed their visions for the development of the park. Mr. Alderman also asked for clarification of the role of the Recreation Commission in the Master Plan approval process. Mr. Faucette relayed the Commission has historically reviewed plans and policies followed by a recommendation to Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission that the Parks Division is currently advertising a full-time position.

OLD BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission the relocation and/or removal of utilities is underway and cosmetic renovations continue on the interior of the brick house.

-Mr. Faucette reported he met with Mr. Stewart in early March. Mr. Stewart is actively pursuing a second appraisal and is still interested in working with the City to expand Graham Regional Park. Mr. Faucette received permission from Mr. Stewart to include his property in the Graham Regional Park Master Plan process.

-Mr. Faucette reminded the Commission that the Accessible Parks Grant Projects at the Rec. Center are still expected to begin in March once permitting is complete.

-Mr. Faucette reported the Graham-Mebane Lake ramp replacement is still scheduled for late September – early October. The slip dock design has been finalized and production has begun. Installation is expected for late summer. City Council approved an increased penalty to \$500 for violations at Graham-Mebane Lake.

NEW BUSINESS

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission an application for a PARTF Grant for reimbursement of the purchase of the Teer Property will be submitted by May 1st.

-Mr. Faucette reviewed the calendar of meetings for the Master Plan. Meetings with the Commission are scheduled for Sept. 10th and November 12th with meetings at City Council scheduled for October 14th and December 9th. Community input sessions are scheduled for April 14th and May 17th (@ Arts Around the Square) with an Open House for an initial plan review set for late July. Commission members recommended hosting the July event at First Presbyterian Church's new Community Life Center.

-Mr. Faucette informed the Commission that stakeholder meetings to focus on multi-purpose fields, hiking trails, and mountain biking trails are planned. Commission members suggested considering an additional stakeholder meeting centered around the fire station being considered to be built at Graham Regional Park.

-Commission members also held a discussion centered around outlets to use to gather input for the Master Plan. Suggestions included local churches, sports/active living stores, educational institutions with a focus on afterschool programs and ABSS's exceptional children classes.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Marketing: N/A Sports Hall of Fame: N/A Lake: N/A Friends Group: N/A Parks: N/A

Programs: N/A Athletics: N/A Centers: N/A

OTHER BUSINESS – Mrs. Pickard asked to schedule a future Commission meeting at Graham-Mebane Lake in order to tour the lake on the pontoon boat. Chair Cook asked Mr. Faucette to schedule the June meeting for Graham-Mebane Lake.

With all business concluded, Mrs. Pickard made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm, seconded by Mrs. Smith and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Faucette

Graham Recreation and Parks Commission
Director's Report for April '25

I. Present Projects

1. Cooke Park Expansion - Teer Property

1. City staff continues to complete minor cosmetic renovations to the brick house that will be used as office space and possible future classroom space
2. Septic systems have been located and serviced in advance of further utility maintenance or removal.
3. The PARTF grant application was submitted on April 30th.

II. Future Projects

- a. **Land Acquisition - GRP** - A new appraisal from the property owner is expected in early May.
- b. **Accessible Parks Grant** - Renovations to the restrooms have begun. The project is expected to be completed by late May.
- c. **Cabin @ Cooke Park** - No update.

III. Policies/Manuals/Plans

- a. **GRP Site Master Plan** - The first community input session was held on April 14th at 10:00-12:00 at GRP. The next in-person input session will be held at Arts Around the Square on May 17th.
- 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** - The Parks Division continues to update and review the GIS database of park assets.
- d. **GRPD Personnel/Orientation Manuals** - Work on a Personnel Manual and an Orientation Manual continues.

IV. Historical Museum Attendance - 41 – April includes a group from Graham Presbyterian Church; In addition, a bus tour group of 39 people from Virginia visited the Museum.

V. Outside Committees

- a. **Wellness Collaborative** - No updates.
- b. **Friends of GRPD** - The group reinvested current funds.

VI. Staffing

- a. GRPD supervisors are currently advertising the following positions:
 1. FT Athletic Facilities Technician – Parks Div.
 2. PT Lake Attendant – Lake Div.
 3. PT Summer Camp Counselor – Rec. Div.

VII. Financial Summary - Convenience fees - \$440.09-April

Recreation Division

Open Gym/Weight Room/Pickleball	\$24.00
Maple St. Center rentals	\$105.00
Civic Center rentals	\$670.00
Rec. Center rentals	\$140.00
Staff Fee	\$610.00
Park Shelters	\$1,400.00
Field/Passive Area Rental	\$0.00
Table/Chair rentals	\$0.00
Youth Soccer	\$22.50
Youth Softball	\$40.00
Youth Lacrosse	(\$275.00)
Summer Camp	\$11,817.00
Thursday at Seven Concert Sponsor	\$3,800.00
Donations/Misc. Sponsorships	\$2.00
ARTS vendor	\$2,550.00
ARTS concession vendor	\$200.00
Total	\$21,105.50

Lake Division

Fishing Boat launches	\$1,930.00
Non-Motor Boat launches (Kayak/Canoe)	\$370.00
Ski Boat launches	\$0.00
Jon Boat rentals	\$535.00
Kayak/Canoe rentals	\$625.00
Bank Fishing	\$1,793.00
Bait/Supplies	\$1,407.75
Annual Permit (motorized boats)	\$620.00
Annual Permit (non-motorized boats)	\$75.00
Annual Permit (bank fishing)	\$80.00
Shelter Rentals	\$125.00
Passive Area Rental	\$0.00
Big Bass Tournament	\$270.00
Legacy Bass Tournament	\$40.00
Pontoon Boat Cruises	N/A
Paddle Tours	N/A
Total	\$7,870.75

Athletics Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

April 2025 Report



Joshua Cutlip

Athletic Supervisor

(336) 570-4023

jcutlip@CityofGraham.com

Spring Programs

Soccer

Soccer is starting to wind down as we've battled the weather and turning our attention to the end of season tournaments. We had a stretch of three straight Mondays that got rained out which was frustrating but overall, we only pushed the season back one day. We played most make-ups on Saturdays and even had one team play twice one Saturday to stay on schedule.

We've had two major issues this year on the soccer field. The first was about an official and the other between two parents who are also coaches. The official we had an issue with continually showed up late to the games; if they showed up at all. There were two rounds of games the staff had to officiate ourselves and two others they had to start due to the official's tardiness. Eventually the official was removed from our games and we haven't had any problems since. The other issue we had was between two of our 14U coaches and parents of 10U athletes. The problem stems from previous seasons and a dislike when one of the kids played on the other coach's team. To combat this, we'll modify the 14U tournament bracket so that the two teams won't face each other if I can control it.

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 changes 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: 33 players (1 player waitlisted)
- 6U: 45 players (8 waitlisted)
- 8U: 50 players (15 waitlisted)
- 10U: 58 players (2 waitlisted)
- 14U: 78 players (3 waitlisted)
- Total: 267 players (9 more than 2024 spring)



Pickleball

Pickleball kicked off on March 31st with our championship division. We've grown to three divisions this season (Championship, League 1, League 2); one more than the inaugural fall season. Thus far the first two nights have gone smoothly; the first night was moved indoors due to the weather. With us having the flexibility to play indoors we should stay on schedule and never have make-up days.

The pickleball season has gone wonderfully for the involved teams. We have had one team drop out due to personal reasons which leaves us with 7 teams in League 2. Far as the competition goes it's been great with no issues. Our defending champions; Dink Lobbers; took their first loss of the program when they were

“upset” by LAPballez 2-1 on 4/28. This season for League winners we got each player a pickleball candle as a unique “award” for the season.

- 24 Teams (2 teams waitlisted)



Baseball/Softball/T-Ball

This final of our spring programs has gotten underway as we began our baseball season on April Fool's Day. The registration numbers held steady with where we were last season. This season we'll be playing with Gibsonville in each age division for baseball and softball. We have enough coaches across all the baseball programs that I won't be required to coach any teams. For 10U softball we only had 7 players register so we offered those players the below three options.

1. Move up to the 13U age division
2. Move to the 10U baseball age division
3. Receive a full refund for registration fees

Everyone I heard from opted to move up to 13U softball. We were able to get all but one of the players we heard from into 13U softball.

This season we'll be starting games on May 6th and should conclude around June 19th. The season will go longer than anticipated but the latest we won't extend the season past June at all.

Spring Baseball Registration Numbers:

- T-Ball: 41 players (7 players waitlisted)
- 6U Baseball: 34 players (1 player waitlisted)
- 8U Baseball: 26 players (6 players waitlisted)
- 8U Softball: 9 players (1 player waitlisted)
- 10U Baseball: 35 Players (4 players waitlisted)
- 13U Baseball: 14 players (7 players waitlisted)
- 13U Softball: 13 players (2 players waitlisted)
- Total: 172

Upcoming Summer Programs

Lacrosse Camp

- June 30th-July 3rd at Bill Cooke Park

Basketball Camp

- July 21st-24th at the Graham Recreation Center

Flag Football Camp

- July 28th-31st at Bill Cooke Park



Graham-Mebane Lake Report, April 2025

Graham Recreation and Parks Department



We had a steady, busy April, another cookie cutter of the previous three or four years. Good weather weekends were extremely busy, having two Saturdays with over 50 boats launched. Bank fishing was also popular as we had over 200 more anglers than usual.

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

- We received the results of last year's largemouth bass and crappie surveys (Bass=very good, crappie=stunted).
- We had four club bass tournaments this month.
- Keith Patterson won April in the Big Bass Tournament with a 8.43 lb. largemouth bass.
- We were unable to fill our fish feeders because our supplier could not get anymore because the mill in Georgia stopped making it.
- An anti-algae operation targeting the algae near the water intake was performed on the 1st.
- The lake remained at full pool.



Keith Patterson with his month winning catch.

By the Numbers (2023 in parentheses)

Boat Launches:	567 (578)
Motorized Boats:	483 (512)
Ski Area Launches:	0 (3)
Non-motorized Boats:	84 (63)
Seniors/Disability:	59 (56)
Using Annual Permit:	224 (237)
Vessels Rented:	92 (90)

Customers	2,482 (1,953)
All Boaters:	930 (910)
Motorized:	844 (832)
Ski Area:	0 (5)
Non-Motor. Boater	86 (73)
Bank Anglers:	839 (536)
Vessel Renters	138 (115)
Programs & Events	9 (0)
Passive Visitors:	566 (390)

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 2025

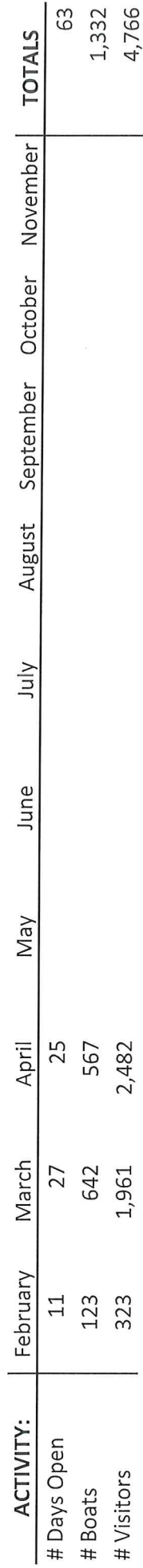
Days Open: 25

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														
2	19	42	174.00			18.00	21.25	7.50		35.00				\$255.75
3	22	77	102.00			45.00	34.00	2.00	26.00			0.50		\$209.50
4	15	74	73.00		6.00	32.00	29.00	15.00	56.00	25.00				\$236.00
5	50	239	310.00		48.00	142.00	60.75	7.75	180.00					\$748.50
6	21	145	216.00			125.00	61.25	9.75	66.00	70.00				\$548.00
7	1	13				15.00	8.50		10.00				1.00	\$34.50
8														
9	6	32	9.00		4.00	25.00	4.25		10.00					\$52.25
10	17	46	35.00			23.00	21.25		10.00	75.00				\$164.25
11	1	15	4.00			4.00	12.00							\$20.00
12	16	93	135.00		6.00	88.00	49.75	6.50	80.00					\$365.25
13	34	176	180.00		24.00	146.00	107.75	27.00	54.00	70.00				\$608.75
14	33	110	92.00		60.00	62.00	14.75	4.50	24.00					\$257.25
15														
16	15	75	22.00		6.00	62.00		7.75	22.00					\$119.75
17	23	102	44.00		3.00	75.00	44.50	9.00	20.00					\$195.50
18	46	190	216.00		30.00	125.00	87.50	25.25	64.00					\$547.75
19	59	222	210.00		30.00	212.00	153.50	37.75	202.00					\$845.25
20	14	84	66.00		6.00	66.00	87.75	19.25	110.00					\$355.00
21	24	101	101.00		24.00	95.00	34.00	2.00	30.00					\$286.00
22														
23	13	87	31.00		36.00	56.00	25.50	2.00	34.00	35.00			-6.00	\$213.50
24	18	77	34.00		6.00	45.00	25.50	7.75						\$118.25
25	15	66	66.00			45.00	52.25	1.25						\$164.50
26	31	120	103.00		36.00	89.00	80.75	14.75	78.00					\$401.50
27	39	144	121.00		78.00	172.00	59.50	18.50	58.00					\$507.00
28	16	68	135.00		24.00	41.00	34.00	13.50	26.00					\$273.50
29														
30	19	84	62.00		18.00	65.00	42.50	11.50						\$199.00
Totals:	567	2482	\$2,541.00		\$445.00	\$1,873.00	\$1,151.75	\$250.25	\$1,160.00	\$310.00			-\$4.50	\$7,726.50
Total Daily User Fees: \$4,859.00														

Deposit Receipts:

Lake Deposits: Cash/Checks	\$4,718.75
Community Pass: Credit Cards	\$3,007.75
Community Pass: Shelter Rental	\$50.00
RECEIPT TOTAL:	\$7,776.50



DAILY AVERAGES:										
Boats	11	23	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Visitors	29	72	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
Revenue	\$204	\$406	\$311	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$333

Marketing Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
April 2025 Report



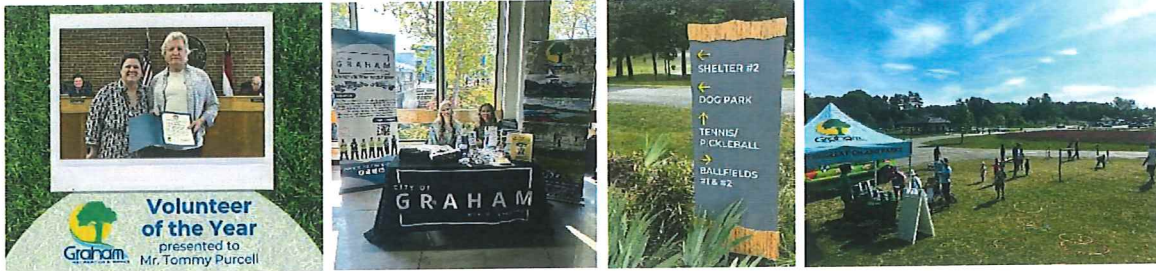
Contact: Brandy McCandless
Title: Marketing Supervisor
Phone: (336) 513-5510
Email: bmccandless@CityofGraham.com

"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Project & Program Updates

- April 2025 marks 10 years of Hikes with Hounds! The very first hike took place on April 10, 2015, at Guilford Mackintosh Park & Marina! What began as an innovative idea has grown into a decade-long partnership with Burlington Animal Services and dedicated volunteers who take adoptable dogs on monthly group hikes along Alamance County's beautiful trails. Hikes with Hounds has become a meaningful and rewarding experience for both the volunteers and the pups, fostering community connections while promoting health, happiness, and the well-being of both people and pets.
- Continued planning for the Thursdays at Seven Concert Series in Downtown Graham and the Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park.
- Attended the virtual NCRPA Women in Park & Recreation meeting about "navigating the political landscape and collaborating with elected officials" (04/01)
- Attended the Alamance County Programming Collaborative meeting to discuss countywide 2025 spring events (04/01)
- Met with Steve and Emma to plan this year's Youth Fishing Day event (04/03)
- Attended the NCEE - NC CATCH Educator Workshop at Lake Higgins (04/04)
- With the help of the City of Burlington (GIS) and Graham Planning Departments, the "city limits" for residency were updated in CommunityPass (04/07)
- Attended the City of Graham Appearance Commission / Tree Board Meeting to continue Arbor Day in Graham planning (04/07)
- Stopped by the City Council meeting for a photo opportunity as Tommy Purcell, was recognized as the Graham Recreation & Parks 2024 Volunteer of the Year (04/08)
- Represented Graham Recreation & Parks at the Alamance Community College Career Fair, sharing information and answering questions about career opportunities with the City. (04/09)
- Attended the Monthly Meeting with GRPD Supervisors and WithersRavenel to discuss the Graham Regional Park Master Plan community engagement (04/10)
- The monthly Hikes with Hounds program moved indoors due to rain with 4 volunteers. Instead of hitting the trails, our amazing volunteers lent a helping hand at Burlington Animal Services. Together, we prepped tasty enrichment treats for the pups, organized the pet pantry, and enjoyed some snuggles with the adoption center's feline residents. When the rain let up, we headed outside to spend some quality time in the play yard with Iggy and Cookies! (04/11)

- Drove the bus for Leadership Alamance participants for their Recreation, Arts, & Tourism Day (04/17)
- New Park Signage was installed by Syntech for Bill Cooke Park: wayfinding (04/17)
- Emma and I offered the Chill & Thrill: Park Pop-Up program with the Park & Play Mobile Recreation Van at Graham Regional Park with 75+ visitors! (04/21)
- Joined Brian for the Bill Cooke Park Public Meeting on Field #3 (5:30pm – 8:30pm) to gather community input for the park's future development of the recently purchased 12 acres (04/21)
- 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 (04/25)



Ongoing Projects

- Coordinating new Park Signage with Syntech for Bill Cooke Park and South Graham Park
 - Installed 04/17: directional/wayfinding
 - Up Next: walking track/trail length
 - Future Goal: entryway sign for Graham Regional Park
- 200 North Main Street Pocket Park Project - lighting options to purchase with possible community partners/sponsors (TBD)
- 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 - This April, we're celebrating 10 incredible years of 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* - Baseball in Alamance County Exhibit at the Graham Historical Museum
- 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

- **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 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)
 - Arbor Day Art Contest - Entries Accepted: March 17 – April 6, 2025

- Arbor Day Kindness Rock Hunt in Downtown Graham - Dates: April 1 – 30, 2025, or while prizes last
 - 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: [Acer saccharum \(Sugar Maple\)](#)
 - Collaboration with the City of Graham Appearance Commission & Tree Board
- **Library in the Park: Earth Day Celebration at South Graham Park (CANCELED DUE TO CHANCE OF RAIN)**
 - 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)
 - Collaborating with Graham-Mebane Lake and StormwaterSMART for activities
- **Musical Chairs Countywide Outdoor Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park**
 - Band Lineup
 - May 2 – Otis Kings Band (blues)
 - June 6 – The Rusty Dusty String Band (bluegrass)
 - July 4 – *No Concert in Graham*
 - August 1 – The Megan Doss Band (country & variety)
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Bill Cooke Park • 1010 Townbranch Road, Graham, NC 27253
- **Thursdays at Seven Concert Series**
 - Band Lineup
 - May 22 - The Holiday Band
 - June 26 - Phatt City
 - July 24 - The Main Event Band
 - August 28 - North Tower Band
 - September 11 - The Castaways Band
 - September 25 - Mason Lovette Band
 - Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Downtown Graham • West Elm Street, Graham, NC 27253

- **National Night Out**
 - Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025
 - Collaboration with the Graham Police Department
 - GRPD will bring out activities/games and help promote the event

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: 10,618 (increased 140)

Instagram Followers: 2,594 (increased 9)

Twitter Followers: 258 (increased 1)

Website

Top 10 Most Viewed City of Graham Website Pages for April 5 – May 4, 2025:

Top Posts/Pages 	
1. (not set)	9,930
2. HOME - City of Graham, NC	4,395
3. Water & Sewer Billing - City of Graham, NC	2,206
4. Recreation & Parks - City of Graham, NC	1,549
5. GRPD Lake - City of Graham, NC	1,317
6. Trash and Recycling - City of Graham, NC	1,185
7. GRPD Parks & Facilities - City of Graham, NC	838
8. GRPD Lake Hours & Fees - City of Graham, NC	811
9. Police - City of Graham, NC	690
10. GRPD Special Arts Around the Square - City of Graham, NC	617

Programs & Events Report

GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

April 2025 Report

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"Energy and persistence conquer all things." - Benjamin Franklin

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 and I coordinated with a local graphic designer to develop an event logo to use as a branding image.
 - Brandy has worked with another local graphic designer to develop the flyer for this year's event. Our plan is to have a different "themed" flyer based around the logo for the event each year.
 - Billboard advertisement on Main Street in Graham beginning May 1.
 - Vendors:
 - Artisan & Craft Vendors (\$50 fee):
 - Applications closed March 14. There were about 103 applicants in total.
 - Vendor Selection Process: Renee Russel and Cary Worthy are serving on the Vendor Selection Committee for Artisan and craft vendors. Applicants may either be accepted, waitlisted, or denied. The committee is looking for product variety and quality.
 - Selections were emailed by March 31.
 - Accepted vendors: 67
 - The waitlist application is still open and we are seeking additional vendors to add to the event.
 - Non-Profit organizations & Community Partners (\$25)
 - 6 Applications
 - Food Vendors (\$100 fee)
 - Pelican's SnoBalls
 - Wright's Italian Ice
 - Bruster's Real Ice Cream
 - Snack Wagon
 - Cash's Smoking BBQ
 - Stage Schedules

- North Main Street Stage:
 - 10:00 am: Elder Wolf
 - 12:00 pm: Envision
 - 2:00 pm: The Magnificents Bands
 - West Elm Street Stage:
 - 10:00 am: Late Night Special
 - 12:00 pm: Lisa Kyle and the Lost Souls
 - 2:00 pm: 8-Track Minds
 - Graham Amphitheatre Stage:
 - 10:00 am: NC Honky Tonk Association
 - 12:00 pm: BigTime Shine
 - 2:00 pm: Sweet T and the Biscuits
 - Community Stage:
 - 10:00 am: Miss Kim's Dance
 - 12:00 pm: Skillz 4 Kids
 - 1:30 pm: Alamance Jazz Band
 - 3:00 pm: Huepa Culture and Arts
- Kid's Zone
 - Bounce Houses
 - Face painting
 - Video Game Truck
- Interactive Art
 - Contracted David Nance to create an interactive art piece on the pavement using stencils and chalk in Court Square. I have spoken with Officer Maldonado to hopefully be able to use their drone to capture an image every 20 – 30 minutes to create a time lapse of the work.
- Other:
 - Upside Aerial: Performers on silks all day, jugglers, and stilt walkers roaming
 - Many Downtown Businesses are participating by setting up outside of their store on the sidewalks and offering activities inside.
- 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 released 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.
- Dates:

- April 18: Valleyfield
 - 4:00 – 6:00 pm: We had a good turn out this day with several residents coming to talk with us. It was a good indicator that partnering with neighborhoods will help us connect with people in the community that we may not see as often.
- May 23: Forks of Alamance
- June 20: TBD
- July 18:
- August 15: Graham Housing Authority (Sarah Williams Ave.)
- September 19: Watercourse Apartments

Professional Development

- NRPA
- NCRPA
 - Submitted the presentation proposal that Brandy and I did in Greenville for the NCRPA/SCRPA Annual Conference for December titled “Play Well With Others.” This presentation focuses on how collaboration with other departments within your own agency can enhance your current programs and events and help add new ones.

Committees

- Safe Kids Coalition
 - Meeting: April 22 at 9:00 am (Graham Civic Center)
 - Recap of Safer Together event. Overall, the activities and format of the event worked well. We can improve on advertising moving forward
 - Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Information:
 - 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.
 - We would like to host a Lunch and Learn in September to promote car seat safety and the importance of enforcement to police officers.
 - 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. Mebane is currently waiting for the MOU from SafeKids Worldwide as directed by their lawyers.
 - 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 (too cool/cloudy)
 - First Responder Agencies
 - Kids Activities (Park & Play, Recreation Tent)
 - Burlington Pediatrics
 - Alamance Citizens For a Drug Free Community
- Next Meeting: May 20
- 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: April 1 (Elon)
 - Discussed spring events and festivals
 - Next Meeting: May 6 (Cedarock Park)
- Executive Safety Committee
 - Meeting: No March Meeting
- City of Graham Wellness Committee
 - Meeting: April 10: 10:00 am
 - April Events and Programs
 - April 24: Intro to Pickleball (12:00 pm: Graham Recreation Center) – 12 participants
 - Upcoming Programs
 - May: Open Enrollment sessions and spring picnic
 - June: Dog Day Out (social meet-up for employees and their pets)
 - Next Meeting: No May Meeting
- Alamance County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board
 - The purpose of the advisory board is to focus on advocacy, education, and partnership.

Miscellaneous

- April 3: Met with Steve and Brandy to confirm plans for Youth Fishing Day (May 10)
- April 8: Assisted with Senior Games Pickleball
- April 8: Attended the Graham City Council Meeting in regards to Forgotten Roads Ales request to allow alcohol vendors at Arts Around the Square. City Council approved his request for up to 4 vendors in the event space with the exception of South Main Street (kid's zone).
- April 9: Assisted with Senior Games Pickleball
- April 10: Monthly Check in with Withers Ravenal for the Graham Regional Park Master Plan
- April 10: Assisted with Senior Games Pickleball
- April 11: Participated in the Career Fair at B. Everette Jordan Elementary School
- April 14: Chill & Thrill Park Pop Up and Community Engagement Event for the GRP Master Plan
- April 21: Chill & Thrill Park Pop Up
- April 25: Attended the City of Graham annual Tree Planting Ceremony in remembrance of Vicky Braniff.
- April 25: Helped conduct an interview with Tel for his open position.

PARKS & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

April 2025



"If hard work is the key to success, most people would rather pick the lock." – Claude McDonald

Bill Cooke Park

Athletic Fields

- *Started spot leveling low areas in the outfield with sand.*
- *Outfields were fertilized with 34-0-0.*

General Maintenance

- *Monthly playground inspections were completed with no issues found.*
- *Batting cage hung.*
- *Fix issues with two toilets that were leaking in the bathrooms.*
- *Sprayed screened track for weeds.*
- *Installed a baby changing station in the women's bathroom at the concession stand.*
- *Added sand to the playground sandbox.*
- *Addressed an issue with the door lock timer on the concession stand bathrooms.*
- *Sprayed weeds in the dog park.*
- *Replaced the water valve in the water fountain on the lower bathroom.*
- *Lower bathrooms were pressure washed.*
- *Sprayed weeds along the tennis court fence and crack weeds on playing surface.*
- *Turned dog park water fountains on for the season.*

South Graham Park

- *Monthly playground inspections were completed with no issues found.*
- *Walking track was sprayed for weeds.*
- *Reattached fencing cl*

Graham Regional Park

- *Monthly playground inspections were completed with no issues found.*
- *Water fountains were turned back on for the season.*
- *Bathroom at both shelters were pressure washed.*

Apollo/Goley

"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with EXCELLENCE."

Apollo

- *Field was sprayed for the weed nutsedge*
- *Spectator area sprayed for weeds.*

Goley

- *Walking track was sprayed for weeds.*

Johnson Ave

- *Sprayed weeds.*

Lake

- *No report.*

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

Greenway

- *Sprayed weeds in the playground.*

Harmon Park

- *Sprayed weeds in the playground.*

Civic Center

- *. No report.*

Marshall St

- *Sprayed weeds in the playground.*

Recreation Center

- *Turf was fertilized.*
- *Sprayed weeds.*
- *Mulch was added to all the landscape beds.*
- *New sand added to the horseshoe pits.*
- *Dogwood tree behind center was pruned.*

Oakley St.

- *Walking track sprayed for weeds.*
- *Sprayed weeds in the playground.*
-

Maple St.

- *No report.*

Hwy 54 Access

- *Bathroom facility opened for the season.*

200 N. Main

- *Landscape beds sprayed for weeds.*

Museum

- *Courtyard area was sprayed for weeds.*

Miscellaneous

- *Tel attended the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at the Rec Center.*
- *We have held multiple interviews for the open Athletic Facilities Technician position.*

Continued Education & Community Involvement

James has started doing the self-paced classes for the CDL class.