



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

October 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
The Honorable Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources
The Honorable Tom Murry, Co-Chairman
The Honorable Roger West, Co-Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources
The Honorable Andrew C. Brock, Co-Chairman
The Honorable Brent Jackson, Co-Chairman
Fiscal Research Division
Jennifer Hoffman
Environmental Review Commission
The Honorable Brent Jackson, Chair
The Honorable Ruth Samuelson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Mike Hager, Co-Chair

FROM: Neal Robbins, Director of Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: 2013 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Annual Report

DATE: October 1, 2013

Pursuant to G.S. 113-44.15(c), the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Environmental Review Commission on allocations from the Trust Fund from the prior fiscal year. Please consider the attached as the formal submission of this report. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at (919) 707-8618 or via e-mail at neal.robbsins@ncdenr.gov.

cc: A. Bradley Ives, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources, NCDENR
Lewis Ledford, Director North Carolina State Parks

**North Carolina
Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
2012-13
ANNUAL REPORT**



Division of Parks and Recreation

Lewis R. Ledford, Director



Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla III, Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
Annual Report 2012-13

Table of Contents

	<i><u>Page</u></i>
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority.....	2
3.0 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Revenue Summary	3
4.0 Grants Program for Local Governments	4
4.1 Program Description.....	4
4.2 Description of Applications and Grants.....	5
4.3 Geographic Distribution of Grants	5
5.0 State Parks Program.....	10
5.1 Land Acquisition	10
5.2 Construction and Renovation.	12
5.3 Operating Expenses Associated with State Park Projects.....	14
5.4 Repayment of COPs Indebtedness.....	15
6.0 Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	16
6.1 Program Description.....	16
6.2 Types of Projects Funded.....	17
6.3 PARTF Revenues and Grants Awarded.....	18

List of Tables

<i>Table</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
	Parks and Recreation Trust Fund	
3-1	Distribution of Revenues for Fiscal Year 2012-13	3
	Grants Program for Local Governments	
4-1	Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2012-13.....	7
	State Parks System	
5-1	Land Acquisition Projects for Fiscal Year 2012-13	10
5-2	Land Acquisition Projects to Receive Reallocated Funds Fiscal Year 2012-13	12
5-3	Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2012-13.....	13
5-4	Capital Improvement Projects to Receive Reallocated Funds Fiscal Year 2012-13.....	14
	Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	
6-1	Communities Prioritized for FY 2012-13 Funding Based on FY 2012-13 Deposits and Other Available Funds	18

List of Figures

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
	Grants Program for Local Governments	
4-1	Distribution of PARTF Grants by County 1995 -2013	6
4-2	Distribution of PARTF Grants by County from 2013 Funding Cycle	6

1.0 Introduction

The North Carolina General Assembly established the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) on July 16, 1994. The General Assembly made an initial appropriation of \$1 million to the PARTF to fund improvements in state parks, to fund grants for local governments and to increase public access to the state's beaches. In 1995, the General Assembly dedicated funds from the excise stamp tax to the trust fund starting in FY 1996-97. Additional revenue is allocated from a portion of the fees from personalized license plates as well as investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund. The Parks and Recreation Authority, a citizen board, was also created to allocate funds from the PARTF to projects in state parks and to grants for local governments.

Pursuant to G.S. 113-44.15, the money from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is to be allocated as follows:

- (1) Sixty-five percent (65 percent) for the State Parks System for capital projects, repairs and renovations of facilities and to acquire land.
- (2) Thirty percent (30 percent) to provide grants to local governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis to create or improve parks and recreational projects.
- (3) Five percent (5 percent) for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program.
- (4) No more than three percent may be used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the operating expenses associated with managing capital improvements projects, acquiring land, and administering the grants program for local governments.

2.0 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority, a 15-member board, oversees the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Governor appoints five members, including the chairperson. The General Assembly appoints 10 members, five upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and five upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House.

The Authority is charged with six powers and duties: 1) to receive public and private donations and funds for deposit into the trust fund; 2) to allocate funds for land acquisition; 3) to allocate funds for capital projects; 4) to solicit financial and material support; 5) to develop effective support for parks and recreation; 6) and to advise the Secretary of DENR on any matter he may refer to the body.

Members are appointed for three-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. After serving two consecutive three-year terms, a member is not eligible for appointment to the Authority for at least one year after the expiration of the member's last term. The Parks and Recreation Authority held four meetings during fiscal year 2012-13.

The 2012-13 Parks and Recreation Authority members are:

Mr. Bill Ross, Jr. Chairman
Chapel Hill

Ms. Lydia Boesch
Pinehurst

Mr. Walter (Westin) Bordeaux
Wilmington

Mr. Daryle Bost
Charlotte

Mayor Loretta Clawson
Boone

Mr. Robert Epting
Chapel Hill

Mr. Ashley B. Futrell, Jr.
Washington

Mayor Woody Gurley
La Grange

Mr. Paul A. Herbert

Davidson

Mr. Philip McNelly
Raleigh

Mr. Monroe Pannell
Conover

Mr. John S. Stevens
Asheville

Ms. Cynthia Tart
Oak Island

Ms. Lisa Wolf
Burlington

Mr. Edward Wood
Edenton

3.0 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Summary

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) is housed within the Division of Parks and Recreation. The Parks and Recreation Authority allocates PARTF revenue to the state parks capital improvement and land acquisition projects. This board also selects the recipients of the grants to local governments to create or improve parks and recreational projects. The Division of Parks and Recreation, under Lewis Ledford, Division Director, develops priorities for the state parks system and recommends projects for the board's approval. Once the board has allocated the PARTF funds, the Division manages the projects for state parks and for the grant program for local governments.

The Division of Parks and Recreation transfers 5 percent of PARTF revenue to the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program. The Division of Coastal Management, under Division Director Braxton Davis, administers these funds and offers matching grants to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. The FY 2012-13 budget bill, SL 2011-0145, directed an allocation of funds different than G.S. 113-44.15 (Table 3-1).

Table 3-1. North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Deposits and Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2012-13	
Deposits	Amount
Total PARTF Revenues	\$ 33,859,034
Personalized Registration Plates	\$ 1,429,367
Investment Income	\$ 129,102
Excise Tax	\$ 32,300,565
Distribution	Amount
Total PARTF Allocation	\$ 33,859,034
Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	\$ 1,692,952
Local Governments Matching Grants Program	\$ 8,262,973
<u>State Parks System</u>	
Land Acquisition	\$ 1,393,355
Capital Improvements	\$ 9,324,758
COPs Repayment	\$ 7,184,996
State Park Operating Expenses: one-time redirect of trust funds to cover the biennial reduction of appropriations for state parks operations (i.e. keep parks open). Also includes administrative costs for trust fund, Authority members travel and support staff.	\$ 6,000,000

Note: The allocations in this report include revenue from June 2012. Total revenue, including that month is \$ 36,037,150. This change facilitates the switch from reporting monthly revenue to fiscal year totals.

4.0 Grants Program for Local Governments

4.1 *Program Description*

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) program provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments. All counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible applicants. Public authorities, as defined in N.C.G.S. 159-7, that have a mandate to provide public recreation, are also eligible. Two or more local governments may apply jointly. Recipients can acquire land to be used for public recreation or to protect the natural or scenic resources of the property. Recipients can also use a grant to build or renovate recreational and support facilities. All facilities must serve the general public.

In August, the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) mails a description of the PARTF program and the schedule for submitting an application to local governmental officials and parks and recreation directors. A local government can request a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 in PARTF assistance with each grant application. The appraised value of land that is donated to a local governmental unit may be applied to the dollar-for-dollar matching requirement.

The DPR provides assistance to local governments in several ways. In September, the PARTF staff conducts a workshop where local governments can learn about the program and how to complete an application. The workshop is presented simultaneously at University of North Carolina System video conference sites. The DPR has a contract with the North Carolina State University to provide technical assistance to local governments through the Recreation Resources Service (RRS). RRS assists local governments in planning PARTF projects and preparing grant applications with four consultants in regional offices across the state.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority select which applicants will receive a grant. The factors considered by the Authority as it selects recipients include, but are not limited to, the criteria contained in the PARTF scoring system, the population of the applicant, the geographic distribution of projects across the state, the presence or absence of other funding sources and compliance with prior grant agreements.

Applications were due January 31, 2013. The Parks and Recreation Authority met in May 2013 and in June 2013 to select grant recipients.

4.2 *Description of Applications and Grants*

The PARTF revenues allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2012-13 were \$ 8,262,973. Seventy-three (73) local units of government submitted PARTF applications, requesting \$20.6 million in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded 47 grants for \$10,980,511. This includes 15 applications submitted in 2012. The difference between the amount awarded and the fiscal year revenues is \$2,717,537. This additional revenue is from cancelled projects, reductions in the scope of work, projects completed under budget, and unspent revenue from previous years.

Table 4-1 shows a list of the projects approved for fiscal year 2012-13. The table is organized alphabetically by recipient.

4.3 *Geographic Distribution of Grants*

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority consider the geographic distribution of funds across the state as one of the factors used in selecting grant recipients. Since 1995, the Authority has awarded more than \$169 million in PARTF grants to 754 projects in 99 counties across North Carolina (Figure 4-1). Figure 4.2 presents the distribution of PARTF grants by county for the current fiscal year.

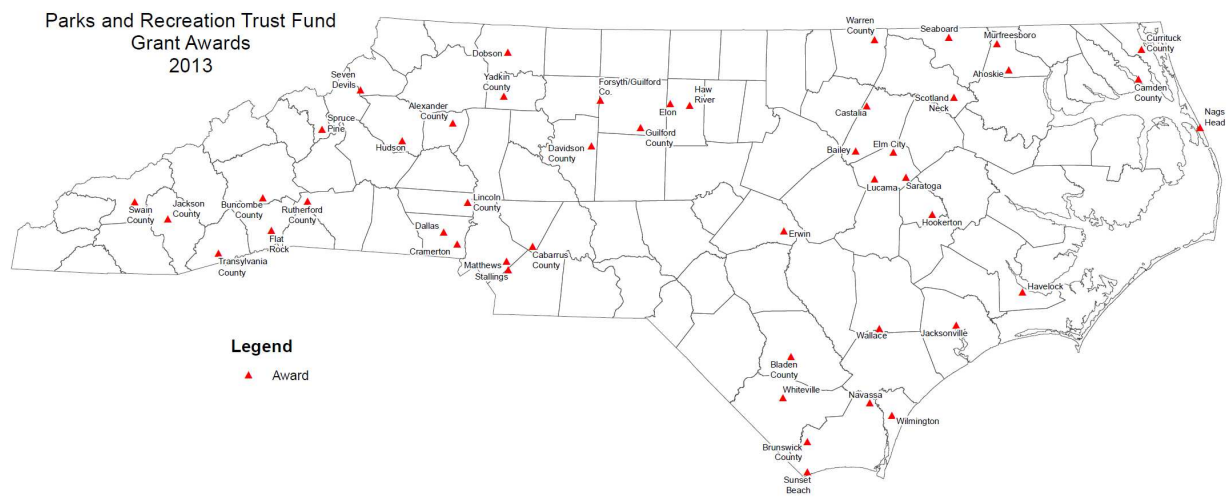
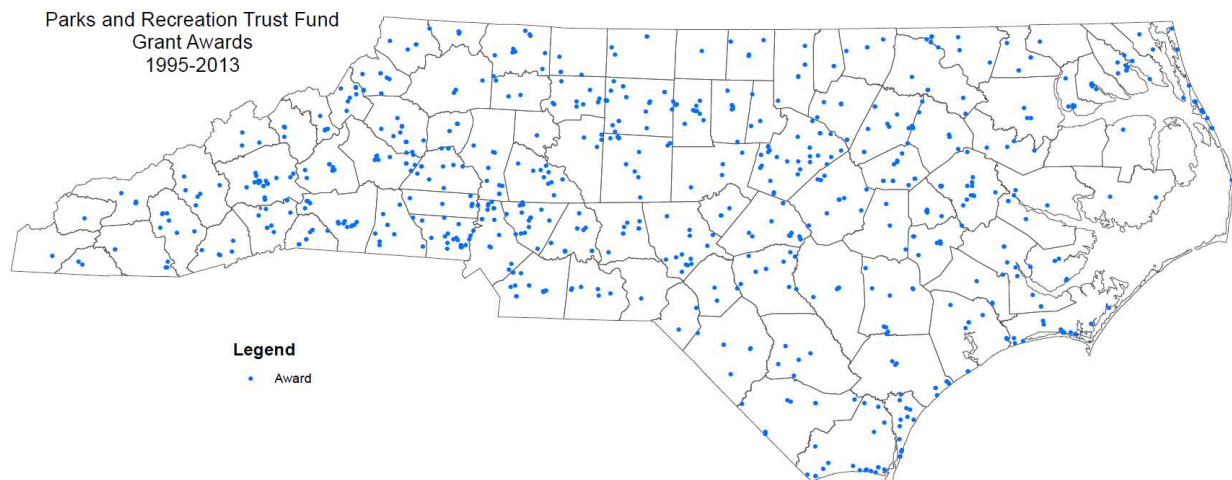


Table 4-1 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2012-13			
Applicant	County	Project	Grant Amount
Ahoskie	Hertford	Ahoskie Recreation Complex Phase 1B	177,476
Alexander County	Alexander	Rock Face Park Phase 2	225,106
Bailey	Nash	Bailey - Middlesex Community Park Phase II	250,000
Bladen County	Bladen	Bladen County Recreation Park	196,975
Brunswick County	Brunswick	Waccamaw Park	500,000
Buncombe County	Buncombe	Collier Property Phase I	40,057
Cabarrus County	Cabarrus	Rob Wallace Park	350,000
Camden County	Camden	One Mill Park	290,240
Castalia	Nash	Castalia Neighborhood Park	200,000
Cramerton	Gaston	Goat Island Phase 2	500,000
Currituck County	Currituck	Community Park	265,000
Dallas	Gaston	Jaggers Park Improvement	63,858
Davidson County	Davidson	East Davidson Hughes Community Park	94,725
Dobson	Surry	Dobson Square Park	497,100
Elm City	Wilson	Elm City Park	30,000
Elon	Alamance	Lawrence Slade Park	162,500
Erwin	Harnett	W. N. Porter Park Improvements	123,635
Flat Rock	Henderson	Flat Rock Park	475,000
Forsyth County	Forsyth	Triad Park Amphitheater Area Improvements	500,000
Guilford County	Guilford	Hagan-Stone Park Improvements	266,525
Havelock	Craven	Lewis Farm Road Park	500,000
Haw River	Alamance	Red Slide Park	13,511
Hookerton	Greene	Caswell's Landing Nature Park	19,000
Hudson	Caldwell	Redwood Park Renovation & Development	280,750
Jackson County	Jackson	Tuckasegee River Greenway	435,000
Jacksonville	Onslow	Phillips Park	490,000

Lincoln County	Lincoln	East Lincoln Rescue Park	352,432
Lucama	Wilson	Lucama Community Park	24,700
Matthews	Mecklenburg	Rice Road Land Acquisition	184,250
Murfreesboro	Hertford	River Street Park Improvement	30,875
Nags Head	Dare	Whalebone Park Recreational Components	75,000
Navassa	Brunswick	Phoenix Park	96,000
Rutherford County	Rutherford	Youngs Mountain Trail Park	300,000
Saratoga	Wilson	Saratoga Town Park - Phase III	21,765
Scotland Neck	Halifax	Scotland Neck Athletic Complex	10,000
Seaboard	Northampton	Seaboard Park & Recreation Center	177,000
Seven Devils	Watauga	Otter Falls Property Acquisition	135,800
Spruce Pine	Mitchell	Ragan Park Indoor Recreation Facility	223,827
Stallings	Union	Nature Trail & Activity Area Phase III	68,199
Sunset Beach	Brunswick	Sunset Beach Town Park	418,500
Swain County	Swain	Swain Courthouse Square Riverfront Park	150,000
Transylvania County	Transylvania	Rosman Community Park	181,350
Wallace	Duplin	Boney Mill Park and Greenway	470,000
Warren County	Warren	Buck Spring Park	49,828
Whiteville	Columbus	Nolan Fitness & Recreation Park Complex	412,927
Wilmington	New Hanover	Park Avenue Greenway	151,600
Yadkin County	Yadkin	5D Reservoir Recreation Area	500,000
			\$ 10,980,511

***Examples of Local Government Projects Funded by
North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund***

Town of Elon, Alamance County

Lawrence Slade Park sits in the heart of Elon. This 3.1 acre park was developed by the county in early 1980's and deeded to the town in 2008. The town plans to update existing facilities such as basketball courts and establish new elements such as bocce ball courts, amphitheater, picnic shelters and playgrounds. The town has seen an increase in attendance since the town took over ownership of the park and is committed to the renovation, long-term operation and maintenance of the park.

Jackson County

Tuckasegee River Greenway, phase 1 will consist of approximately 1.2 miles of ADA compliant paved greenway adjacent to the Tuckasegee River between Sylva and Cullowhee. The need for a pedestrian/ bike connection between Sylva and Cullowhee to serve Western Carolina University campus as well as the general population of the County has long been realized. The need for an alternative transportation corridor between these two activity centers, combined with the increased popularity of walking, running and biking as forms of recreation and exercise, has increased the importance of a greenway along the Tuckasegee River. Highlights of the project include a 200-foot long pedestrian bridge spanning across the river, two trail heads with parking areas, picnic areas and benches placed along the greenway route.

Brunswick County

Waccamaw Park, built in 1982, has been well used by Brunswick County's population. The county as continued to acquire land around the park which was originally ten acres now is 36+/- acres. The redevelopment of Waccamaw Park focuses on expansion of recreational offerings, both active and passive recreational elements. The project will include new facilities such as 9-hole disc golf course, 4 individual picnic site areas along the nature walk area, and horse shoe courts and a bocce court. Existing facilities like the playground, ball fields and concession/restroom building will be renovated.

5.0 State Parks Program

5.1 Land Acquisition

The PARTF revenue allocated to land acquisition in the state parks system for fiscal year 2013-14 was \$1,393,335. The Parks and Recreation Authority approved projects totaling \$4,771,274 at 13 state parks (Table 5-1). Additional funding was available from project completed under budget or cancelled as well as unspent revenue from previous years. However, it will cost an estimated \$176 million to purchase the 43,752 acres needed to complete all current state park units.

**Table 5-1. North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
FY 12-13 State Parks System Land Acquisition Projects**

Unit	Acres	Cost	Description
Bear Paw State Natural Area	28	\$60,100	Property within the significant natural heritage area and with access to a secondary road. Some private funds pledged to this project through a land trust. This is a key tract for future public access to the site.
Chimney Rock State Park	83	\$490,000	Match to existing Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. Property on the south side of Chimney Rock Park tract with existing park ownership on three sides.
Chimney Rock State Park	2	\$50,000	Funds for a sewer easement to connect Chimney Rock Park waste water system to the Town of Lake Lure's system.
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park	23	\$44,000	Property adjacent to existing park ownership for resource protection and potential trail connection to Seven Springs.
Crowders Mountain State Park	175	\$520,000	Property adjacent to existing park ownership for future overnight facilities. One tract is a closed Girl Scout Camp and the other tract is property by the existing primitive campground that is very suitable for tent and trailer facility development.
Deep River State Trail	30	\$260,000	Property for public access along the Deep River in the vicinity of the US 15/501 river crossing.
Eno River State Park	4	\$122,000	Last undeveloped river front tract in the Durham County portion of the master plan.
Gorges State Park	2	\$20,000	Six undeveloped lots in a subdivision adjacent to the state park and a tributary to the Toxaway River. These are from two owners.

Grandfather Mountain State Park	32	\$1,120,000	Property on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain near the Profile Trail. This property has good access from a public road and suitable topography for future public access and trail head parking.
Hanging Rock State Park	70	\$172,000	Property on Flat Shoals Mountain, which is visible from multiple locations within the state park. Property is within a significant natural heritage area.
New River State Park	40	\$555,000	Property on the Peak and within the significant natural heritage area. This property is between existing park ownership and recently listed for sale.
Pettigrew State Park	54	\$75,000	Wetland tract along the Scuppernong River adjacent to existing park ownership for resource and water quality protection.
Pettigrew State Park	1	\$10,000	Upland tract across from park office in the protection plan. Landowner wants to sell at this time.
Pilot Mountain State Park	350	\$493,174	Matching funds for the Land and Water Conservation grant for the Martin tract on the south side of the Yadkin River Section. A small tract on the north side of the Yadkin River Section for trail head parking. A scenic resource protection tract on Stoney Ridge.
Stone Mountain State Park	11	\$80,000	Property along Lyons Road that connects existing park ownership for resource protection.
Yellow Mountain State Natural Area	245	\$500,000	Critical tract connecting existing state natural area property on Little Yellow Mountain with the Pisgah National Forest. These funds along with a CWMTF grant awarded to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and some Land and Water Conservation Fund monies will bring at least 245 acres of this 600 acre tract into the state natural area.
Park System		\$200,000	Associated expenses such as appraisals, surveys, title work and phase one environmental assessments for all projects including projects with other funding sources and funded in prior years.
Total	1150	\$4,771,274	

5.2 ***Construction and Renovation***

During fiscal year 2012-13, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved state park construction and renovation projects totaling \$11,718,148 (Table 5-4). The PARTF revenue allocated to capital improvements in the state parks system for fiscal year 2013-14 was \$8,262,973. Additional funding was available from project completed under budget or cancelled as well as unspent revenue from previous years. With PARTF funds, the Division continues to address a lengthy backlog of construction and renovation projects in the state parks system. However, approximately \$417.6 million is required to meet all of the needs for new construction and renovation for the state parks system.

Table 5-3 NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund FY 12-13 Capital Improvement Projects for the State Parks System		
State Park	Project	Cost (\$)
Chimney Rock State Park	Sewer Improvements (Design Only)	80,000
Chimney Rock State Park	Rock Slide Mitigation/Hickory Nut Fall Trail Repair	200,000
Chimney Rock State Park	Emergency Road Repair	100,000
Fort Macon State Park	Exhibit Pavilion	95,000
Grandfather Mountain State Park	Wilmore Access Area/ Maintenance Area (Design Only)	225,000
Haw River State Park	Church Street Section Interim Development (Construction Funds)	1,510,352
Haw River State Park	Renovation of Youth Cabins (Design Funds)	50,000
Lake James State Park	Tent and Boat Camping (Design and Partial Construction Funds)	775,000
Lake Norman State Park	Visitor Center and West District Office (Construction Funds)	3,950,876
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail	Master Plan	150,000
Pilot Mountain State Park	Water System Improvements (Construction Funds)	500,000
Pilot Mountain State Park	Sewer Improvements (Design Only)	50,000
William B. Umstead State Park	Tree Canopy Walk (Design and Partial Construction Funds)	100,000

Park System	Major Maintenance Funds	4,045,252
Park System	Demolition Funds	100,000
Park System	Trail Maintenance Funds	500,000
Park System	Exhibit Maintenance Repair Funds	50,000
System Wide	Project Evaluation Program Software Update/Improvements	100,000
<u>TOTAL</u>		\$12,581,480

5.3 Operating Expenses Associated with State Park Projects

In allocating PARTF funds to the state parks system, the Parks and Recreation Authority considered the operating expenses that may be associated with the projects (G.S. 113-44.15(b3)). The Division of Parks and Recreation estimated these costs and presented them for the board's consideration when the projects were proposed for funding. The estimated costs are based on conceptual plans for each project. Detailed operating expenses associated with each project will be determined with the final design plans are available.

The following section presents the anticipated minimum and optimum operating expenses associated with nine land acquisition projects approved. No additional operating costs are anticipated for projects that are not included in this section.

Haw River State Park--- Church Street Section Interim Development (Construction Funds)

- *The minimum* - One-time equipment needs of \$43,000, a part-time general utility worker, and a park ranger; approximately \$79,000 annually.
- *The optimum* - one-time equipment needs of \$134,000 and an additional maintenance mechanic; approximately \$127,000 annually.

Haw River State Park---Renovation of Youth Cabins (Design Funds)

Additional staffing and operating expenses will be reported with construction funding request.

Lake James State Park Tent and Boat Camping (Design and Partial Construction Funds)

Additional staffing and operating expenses will be reported with the remaining construction funding request.

Lake Norman State Park Visitor Center and West District Office (Construction Funds)

- *The minimal* staffing level would include a full-time Park Ranger, Maintenance Mechanic and Office Assistant and a part-time General Utility Worker and Office Assistant. The ranger would be responsible for the daily operations of the visitor center, including: serving as the lead interpretation and education ranger, providing educational programs, maintaining educational exhibits, operating the boat rentals and patrols.
- *The optimal* staffing level would include a Museum Exhibit Designer and a Volunteer Coordinator to work in the West District Office, with district-wide or system-wide responsibility.
- At the *minimal level*, there would be one-time equipment needs totaling \$154,000 with annual operating expenses of approximately \$180,000.
- At the *optimal level*, there would be one-time equipment needs totaling \$185,000 with annual operating expenses of approximately \$376,000.

William B. Umstead State Park--- Tree Canopy Walk (Design and Partial Construction Funds)

Additional staffing and operating expenses will be reported with construction funding request.

Park System--- Major Maintenance Funds

- The cumulative increase in major maintenance, construction and renovation needs across the state parks system will require a *minimal staffing level* of one facility maintenance manager with system-wide responsibilities.
- At an *optimal level*, additional seasonal wages for part-time workers will be needed.
- At the *minimal level*, there may be one-time equipment needs totaling \$84,500 with annual operating expenses of approximately \$83,500.
- At the *optimal level*, there would be one-time equipment needs totaling \$84,500 with annual operating expenses of approximately \$145,000.

Park System---Trail Maintenance Funds

- The cumulative increase in trail construction and renovation needs across the state parks system will require a *minimal staffing level* of one facility maintenance manager with system-wide responsibilities.
- At an *optimal level*, additional seasonal wages for part-time workers will be needed.
- At the *minimal level*, there may be one-time equipment needs totaling \$29,600 with annual operating expenses of approximately \$82,000.
- At the *optimal level*, there would be one-time equipment needs totaling \$29,600 with annual operating expenses of approximately \$109,000.

5.4 *Repayment of COPs Indebtedness*

Beginning in 2005, legislation approved by the General Assembly and Governor authorized the issuance of special indebtedness using certificates of participation (COPs) for land acquisition and capital improvements in the state parks system. The Parks and Recreation Authority may allocate up to 50 percent of the portion of the PARTF revenue dedicated for projects in state parks to repay the debt. This year's principal plus interest payment for COPs indebtedness was \$7,184,996.

6.0 Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Program

6.1 Program Description

North Carolina's Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program was established by the General Assembly in 1981. In fiscal year 1996-97, the program began receiving 5 percent of the revenues from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The program's enabling legislation (GS 113A-134.1) states that public interest would be served by providing increased access to coastal waters, public parking facilities, or other related public uses.

The program provides matching grants to local governments for low-cost capital projects designed to improve pedestrian access to the state's beaches and waterways. The program, administered by the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grant funds to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. Since 1981, over 300 public access sites have been acquired, constructed or improved at a cost of over \$37 million in grant funds. The majority of the projects are managed by local governments who are responsible for construction, operation and long-term maintenance of the facilities. Beginning in 2009, after program rule changes, the program also began making some awards to other state agencies in a partnering effort to enhance public access needs.

The Division of Coastal Management sends pre-application requests for proposals (RFPs) to local governments in the 20 coastal counties usually in the fall of every year. Grant recipients have eighteen months to complete their projects and extensions may be granted, especially for unforeseen events and delays such as hurricanes. The maximum life of a contract with extensions is three (3) years.

The division uses criteria developed by the Coastal Resources Commission to select grant recipients. Local governments are required to match from 10 percent to 25 percent of the project costs depending on whether the request is for acquisition of land or improvements, as well as the communities' economic status.

The required match may include Federal and other State funds to be used as the local government cash contribution provided such funds are not already being used as matching funds for other state and federal programs. Minimum match requirements are based on the economic status of the local government per the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Tier designations, as outlined by the Lee Act (G.S. 105-129.3). Counties designated as Tier 1 and the municipalities located within them are considered economically distressed.

6.2 *Types of Projects Funded*

Communities can apply for five different types of water access sites: local, neighborhood, regional, multi-regional and urban waterfront redevelopment projects.

- Local access sites include public access points, offering minimal, or no facilities. Pedestrians who reside within a few hundred yards of the site primarily use them. Generally, these access ways are a minimum of ten feet in width providing only a dune crossover or pier. Vehicle parking is generally not available at these access sites. Bicycle racks may be provided as well as litter receptacles and access signs.
- Neighborhood access sites are public access areas offering parking, usually for five to 25 vehicles, a dune crossover or pier, litter receptacles and public access signs. Such accesses are typically 40 to 60 feet in width and are primarily used by individuals within the immediate subdivision or vicinity of the site. Restroom facilities may be installed.
- Regional access sites serve the public throughout an island or community including day visitors. These sites normally provide parking for 25 to 80 vehicles, restrooms, a dune crossover, pier, foot showers, litter receptacles, and public access signs. Where possible, one-half acre of open space in addition to all required setback areas should be provided for buffering, day use, nature study or similar purposes.
- Multi-regional access sites are generally larger than regional accessways but smaller than state parks. Multi-regional facilities provide parking for 80 to 200 cars, restrooms with indoor showers and changing rooms, and concession.
- Urban waterfront redevelopment and working waterfront projects that improve public access. Such projects include the establishment or rehabilitation of boardwalk areas, shoreline stabilization measures such as the installation or rehabilitation of bulkheads, and the placement or removal of pilings for the purpose of public safety and/or increased access and use of the urban waterfront.

Additionally, as part of rule changes that took effect in 2007, boat ramps and motorized boating facilities may be included as part of any of the above types of access provided the pedestrian access is also part of the project.

6.3 PARTF Revenues and Awards Based on 2012-13 Fiscal Year Deposits and Other Unencumbered Funds

The amount transferred from the PARTF fund to DCM during fiscal year 2012-13 was \$1,692,952. Table 6-1 provides the list of local governments that have been invited to submit a final application for funding using funds available through the fourth quarter deposit of 2012-13 funds and left over funds from older projects and \$800,000 originally prioritized for Carolina Beach-Aquarium project.

Table 6-1 Communities Prioritized for 2012-13 Funding Based on Earlier Deposits and Other Available Funds			
Local Government	Project Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount
Ahoskie *	Ahoskie Creek Recreational Complex Restrooms	\$ 62,500	\$ 50,000
Atlantic Beach	West Money Island Beach Access	\$ 30,630	\$ 22,973
Bald Head Island	Creek Access Canoe/Kayak Launch	\$219,555	\$108,360
Beaufort County	Wrights Creek (3.12 ac) Land Acquisition	\$406,000	\$345,100
Camden County *	One Mill Landing Pier, Kayak Launch, Restrooms and Parking	\$155,190	\$139,671
Carteret County	Outer Banks National Scenic Byway Parking	\$ 78,455	\$ 58,841
Carolina Beach	Boardwalk, Beach Access Ramps and Showers	\$1,014,450	\$ 602,890
Chowan County *	Pembroke Creek Park Improvements- Fishing Piers, Kayak Launch and Parking	\$170,720	\$ 149,720
Currituck County	Corolla Village Bath House and Parking	\$648,576	\$130,000
Dare County	Rodanthe Beach Access- Parking, Restrooms, Showers, and Picnic Pavilion	\$530,000	\$130,000
Elizabeth City	Riverside Ave Acquisition (.66 ac) at Charles Creek and Pasquotank River	\$283,156	\$226,525
Emerald Isle	Emerald Isle Woods Kayak Launch	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,250
Havelock	Slocum Creek Park Improvements- Kayak Launch and Parking	\$ 81,000	\$ 60,700
Town of Hertford	Boat w/Transient Slips	\$116,869	\$ 30,578
Jacksonville	Northeast Creek Kayak Launch, Boardwalk and Floating Dock	\$ 76,500	\$ 57,375
Murfreesboro *	River Street Boardwalk	\$ 43,680	\$ 39,312
Nags Head	Causeway Estuarine Access	\$ 17,500	\$ 13,125
New Bern	Riverwalk Extension- Boardwalk, Restrooms, Canoe/Kayak Launch and Gazebo	\$342,000	\$230,000
New Hanover Co.	River Road Park Access Pier Renovation	\$ 29,565	\$ 22,173
N. Topsail Beach	Onslow Co. Beach Access #3 Expansion Acquisition at New River Inlet	\$324,980	\$274,860
Plymouth *	Plymouth Waterfront Phase III Dock	\$ 38,450	\$ 32,950

Swansboro	Waterfront Land Acquisition (.62 ac)	\$362,591	\$306,450
Topsail Beach	Drum Avenue Canoe/Kayak Launch	\$ 51,100	\$ 22,925
Vandemere	Construction/Replacement of Piers, Kayak Launch and Parking	\$142,290	\$106,717
Totals <i>(Totals may be adjusted during the final contract process.)</i>		\$5,234,757	\$3,167,495

** Denotes the five (5) communities that are Tier 1 jurisdictions. \$411,653 or about 13% of the grant awards are proposed for Tier 1 communities. .*

The above project list does not include any partnerships directly with other State agencies. No PARTF funds are used for administrative costs associated with the Division of Coastal Managements access grant program. However, for this cycle, \$150,000 in awards will be claimed as State match credit for DCM's NOAA Program Grant.

The only non-award use of the funds will be towards providing access site signs made by the State Division of Corrections to local governments. Signs are provided for new sites as well as existing which that require replacement due to weathering and storm events.

