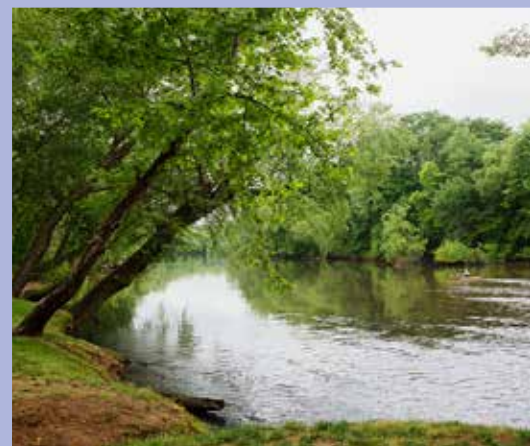




North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Dwayne Patterson, Director

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
Roy Cooper, Governor | Susi H. Hamilton, Secretary

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PARTF has greatly enhanced recreation opportunities in Watauga County. The Rocky Knob Bike Park has become a popular tourist destination.



Forsyth County's Triad Park is one of the best, most used parks in the region today, thanks to PARTF funding.

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) was established in July 1994 to provide a dedicated funding source for improvements in state parks, matching grants for local parks and public access to the state's beaches and estuaries. PARTF is funded by an annual appropriation as well as revenue from personalized license plates. The Parks and Recreation Authority, a citizen board, was created to allocate PARTF revenue for projects in state parks and for grants to local governments to buy park land and build facilities for public recreation.

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-135.56, the money from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is to be allocated as follows:

- Sixty-five percent for the State Parks System or a State Recreational Forest for capital projects, repairs and renovations of facilities and to acquire land. (Note: Four percent of the total is allocated to DuPont State Recreational Forest.)
- Thirty percent to provide grants to local governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis to create or improve parks and recreational projects.
- Five percent for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program.
- A maximum of three percent may be used by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) for the operating expenses associated with managing capital improvements projects, acquiring land, and administering the grants program for local governments.

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is housed within the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DPR transfers five percent of PARTF revenue to the Division of Coastal Management for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program. The Division of Coastal Management administers these funds and offers matching grants to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties.

2018-19 Parks and Recreation Authority Members



Neal Lewis, Chairman
Wilmington



Lydia Boesch
Pinehurst



Chad Brown
Stanley



Vinnie Goel
Morrisville



Mavis Gragg
Durham



Lewis Ledford
Raleigh



Cynthia Tart
Oak Island



Lisa Wolff
Burlington



Edward Wood
Edenton

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority, a nine-member board, oversees the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. A rewrite to G.S. 143B-135.202 in 2019 changed the appointment make up of the Authority; as such the Governor now appoints five members, including the chairperson. The General Assembly appoints four members, two by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two by the Speaker of the House. New appointments have been made for FY 2019-2020.

The Authority is charged with six powers and duties:

- to receive public and private donations and funds for deposit into the trust fund;
- to allocate funds for land acquisition;
- to allocate funds for capital projects;
- to solicit financial and material support;
- to develop effective support for parks and recreation;
- and to advise the Secretary of DNCR on any matter referred to the body.

The Parks and Recreation Authority held five meetings during fiscal year 2018-19.



Gateway Gardens, Greensboro, N.C.

3.0 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Revenue Summary

Total PARTF revenue available for state and local parks as well as coastal access projects was \$21,761,516 from appropriations and personalized license plate fees. Of the \$21.8 million, the state park share (65 percent) was \$13,720,636, the local government matching grant program received \$6,332,601 (30 percent) and the Coastal Access grant program (five percent) received \$1,088,076. Administrative expenses (three percent) was allocated \$620,203 (Table 3-1). Unused administrative funds are reallocated to grants in the next fiscal year.

Table 3-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Deposits and Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2018-19

Revenue	Amount
PARTF Recurring Appropriation	16,242,884
PARTF Non-Recurring Appropriation	4,000,000
Personalized Registration Plates Revenue and Interest	1,518,632
PARTF Revenue Available for Distribution	\$ 21,761,516

Distribution	Amount
State Parks System and Dupont Recreational State Forest	\$ 13,760,636
Local Governments Matching Grants Program	\$ 6,332,601
Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	\$ 1,088,076
Administrative Expenses Reserve	\$ 620,203
Total PARTF Allocation	\$ 21,761,516



Festival Park is used daily by the community and hosts festivals, weddings and movie nights. Thanks to PARTF, friends and families can always be found enjoying the park and the views of the Pamlico River waterfront.

*Triad Amphitheater, Kernersville, NC*

4.1 Program Description

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund program provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments to acquire land for public parks and to build recreational facilities. Funds can also be used to protect natural and scenic resources or renovate park facilities. North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for PARTF grants. Public authorities, as defined by N.C. General Statute §159-7, are also eligible if they are authorized to acquire parkland or develop facilities for public recreation.

Each year, the Parks and Recreation Authority announces to the local governmental officials the availability of matching PARTF matching grants and the schedule for applying. A local government can request a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 in PARTF assistance with each grant application.

The Division of Parks and Recreation assists local governments in several ways. The PARTF staff conducts a workshop where local governments can learn about the program and how to complete an application. The workshop is presented at video conference sites across the state and via internet streaming. The Division contracts with North Carolina State University to provide technical assistance to local governments through the Recreation Resources Service (RRS). RRS provides advice to local governments in preparing grant applications with four consultants in regional offices.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority select grant recipients. The factors considered by the Authority include, but are not limited to, the criteria contained in the PARTF scoring system, the population of the applicant's community, 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 May 1, 2018. The Parks and Recreation Authority met in August 2018 to award the matching grants.

4.2 Description of Applications and Grants

The PARTF revenue allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2018-19 was \$6,332,601. Fifty local governments submitted PARTF applications, requesting \$12.6 million in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded 28 grants for \$6,847,071 (Table 4-1). The difference between the fiscal year distribution and the amount awarded or carried forward is \$514,470. This additional revenue is from administrative funds from previous years, cancelled projects, reductions in the scope of work, and projects completed under budget.

4.O Grant Programs for Local Governments

Table 4-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Matching Grants Awarded to Local Governments, Fiscal Year 2018-19

Applicant	County	Project	Fund Awarded
Aulander	Bertie	Aulander Municipal Park	\$129,300
Benson	Johnston	Community Park Improvements	\$366,850
Black Mountain	Buncombe	Veterans Park	\$211,024
Bladenboro	Bladen	McLean Park Phase 2	\$200,595
Boiling Spring Lakes	Brunswick	Robert Muse Memorial Park Redevelopment	\$208,000
Brevard	Transylvania	Estatoe Greenway Property Acquisition	\$90,000
Bunn	Franklin	Bunn Community Park	\$31,000
Cajah's Mountain	Caldwell	Cajah's Mountain Town Park	\$43,575
Calabash	Brunswick	Calabash Waterfront Park	\$147,332
Concord	Cabarrus	Hector H. Henry II Greenway, Riverwalk Phase	\$350,000
Creedmoor	Granville	Creedmoor Community Center	\$500,000
Crossnore	Avery	Crossnore Town Park Improvements	\$5,000
Davidson	Davidson	Hughes Park Expansion	\$168,222
Elizabeth City	Pasquotank	Coast Guard Park Improvements	\$146,000
Elizabethtown	Bladen	Greene's Lake & Conservation Park	\$500,000
Granville	Granville	Growth, Access and Play: Phase III at the GAP	\$300,000
Lake Lure	Rutherford	Rocky Broad River Park Acquisition	\$223,125
Morganton	Burke	Catawba River Soccer Complex, Phase 3	\$385,000
New Bern	Craven	Martin Marietta Park - Phase I	\$475,000
Ocean Isle Beach	Brunswick	Ocean Isle Beach Town Park	\$498,900
Pleasant Garden	Guilford	Pleasant Garden Community Center	\$352,000
Roanoke Rapids	Halifax	Chaloner Park Improvements	\$200,000
Salisbury	Rowan	Bell Tower Green	\$350,000
Tobaccoville	Forsyth	Village Park Land Acquisition	\$41,998
Watauga	Watauga	Middle Fork Greenway, Section 4	\$430,000
Wilkesboro	Wilkes	Accessible Recreation Facilities	\$153,920
Yancey	Yancey	Ray-Cort Park Improvement	\$250,000
Zebulon	Wake	Beaverdam Creek Greenway, Phase 1	\$90,230
28 awards \$6,847,071			



McDowell County Sports Complex

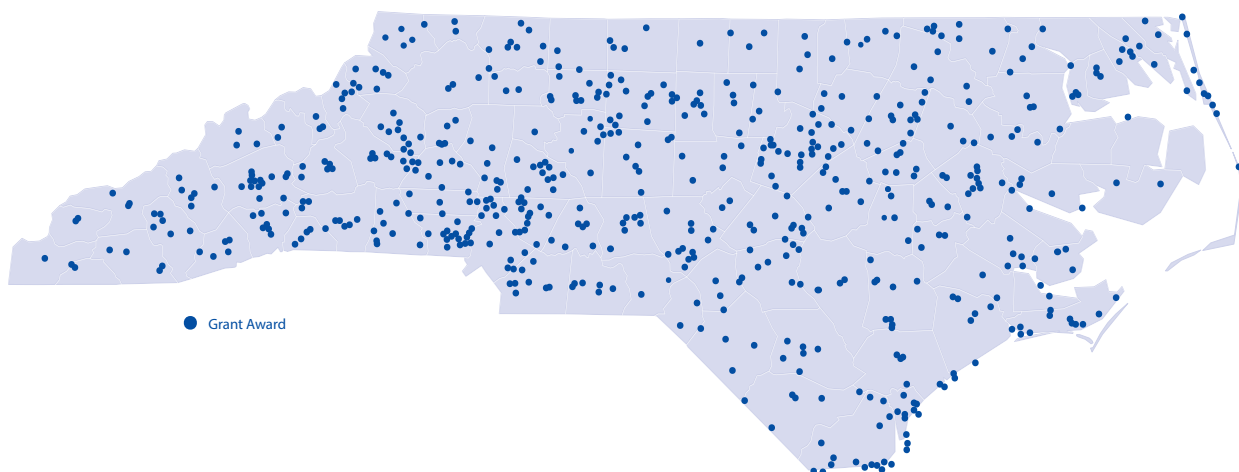


Tory Hole Park, Bladen County, N.C.

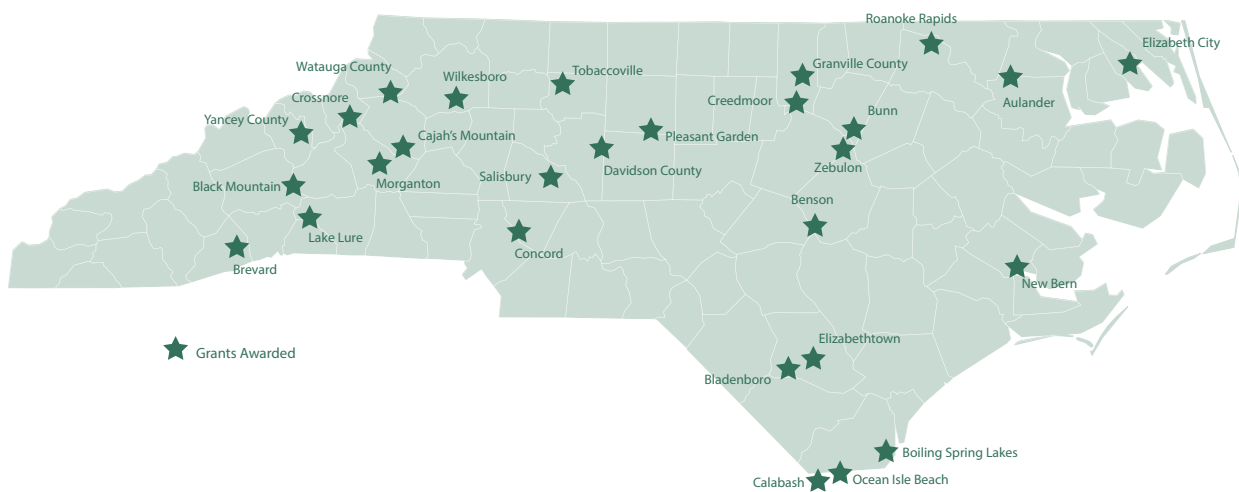
4.3 Geographic Distribution of Grants

Since 1995, the Authority has selected 900 grant recipients in all 100 counties across North Carolina, for grant awards totaling \$205 million.

**Distribution of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants
by County 1995-2019**



**Distribution of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants
by County from 2018-19 Grant Cycle**



5.0 State Parks

The Parks and Recreation Authority allocates PARTF revenue to capital improvement and land acquisition projects for the state parks system. DPR develops priorities for the state parks system and recommends projects for the board's approval. The PARTF revenue awarded to state park projects for fiscal year 2018-19 was \$13,519,936. The Parks and Recreation Authority allocated \$563,331 to Dupont Recreational State Forest (§ 143B-135.56 (b)(1); bringing the total for all state projects to \$14,083,266. The difference between the fiscal year distribution and the total amount awarded is \$362,630. This additional revenue is from administrative funds from previous years.

5.1 Land Acquisition

The Parks and Recreation Authority approved projects to acquire 2,267 acres totaling \$4,461,250 at 13 state parks and natural areas as well as related expenses (Table 5-1).

For example, a 1,500-acre acquisition is the initial phase of a three-phase project at the recently established Bob's Creek Natural Area. This site consists of rugged mountainous terrain with steep slopes, ridges, coves, and several waterfalls.

In addition, an acquisition of 116 acres at Chimney Rock State Park added critical inholdings to the southern section of the park. The conservation of this land will protect natural resources and the viewshed of Rich Mountain. The property may also provide a corridor for future trails planned for the western side of the park.



Bob's Creek Natural Area

5.O State Parks

**Table 5-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
State Parks System Land Acquisition Projects, Fiscal Year 2018-19**

Unit	Acres	PARTF Funds	Description
Bobs Creek State Natural Area	1,500	\$1,000,000	Initial acquisitions for the recently established Bobs Creek Natural Area that contains rugged mountainous terrain, coves, and several waterfalls.
Chimney Rock State Park	116.5	\$836,500	Four tracts that are critical inholdings will protect natural resources and the viewshed of Rich Mountain when incorporated into the park.
Crowders Mountain State Park	5	\$31,000	Kakassy Tract — will help prevent unauthorized ATV access into The Pinnacle section of the park.
Elk Knob State Park	50	\$565,000	Smith Tract and Mary Honey Coan Tract — buffers the Peak on the west and provides road access and connectivity between the Elk Knob and Peak sections.
Hanging Rock State Park	265	\$585,000	Hedgecock Tract — Connects Mill River tracts to Flat Shoals mountain, providing resource protection and future day use access.
Jockey's Ridge State Park	.3	\$455,750	Acquisition of approximately 0.3 acres and 2 structures adjacent to the park. The Jockeys Ridge dune system has encroached to within 20 feet of the structures over the years.
Lake James State Park	22	\$103,500	Property bordered by the park on three sides. Acquisition will protect natural resources and buffer part of the trail system.
Lake Norman State Park	4	\$240,000	A critical tract to provide a ranger residence and incorporate an inholding into the park.
Merchants Millpond State Park	1	\$20,000	Acquisition of about one acre located on Millpond Road, north of the visitor center entrance, that will help move the park boundary to Millpond Road.
Morrow Mountain State Park	25	\$87,500	Will provide water quality protection and preserve the Stony Hill Church Hardwoods designated natural area containing rare species, including timber rattlesnake, Carolina Creekshell Mussel and Ringed Witchgrass.
Mount Mitchell State Park	2	\$35,000	Salerno Tract — will incorporate a critical inholding in the middle of the new Laurel Branch section of the park.
New River State Park	5	\$40,000	Acquisition incorporates an inholding into the park and allows the completion of a planned trail along the river.
South Mountains State Park	271	\$112,000	Property protecting the headwaters of Ivy Creek, a tributary of the Henry Fork River, which is an Outstanding Resource Water.
Systemwide	N/A	\$350,000	Funds for land acquisition-related costs such as surveys, appraisals, property taxes, legal fees, and title insurance.
Totals	2,267	\$4,461,250	

5.2 Construction and Renovation

During fiscal year 2018-19, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved state park construction and renovation projects totaling \$9,058,686 (Table 5.2). Highlights include supplemental funds for Connect NC bond projects as well as the relocation of sand at Jockey's Ridge State Park to prevent it from encroaching on private property adjacent to the park.

**Table 5-2: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
State Parks System Capital Improvement Projects, Fiscal Year 2018-19**

Park	Project	Cost
Crowders Mountain State Park	Expanded Parking and Improved Access	\$350,000
Goose Creek State Park	New Campground	\$866,000
Gorges State Park	Grassy Ridge Campground	\$812,500
Hanging Rock State Park	Visitor Center Repairs	\$650,000
Jockeys Ridge State Park	Sand Relocation	\$800,000
Lake James State Park	Visitor Center and Cove Bridge	\$2,200,000
Mayo River State Park	Master Plan	\$100,000
Mount Mitchell State Park	Summit Improvements	\$165,000
Systemwide	Demolitions	\$250,000
Systemwide	Exhibits Maintenance	\$50,000
Systemwide	Facility Demand Study	\$100,000
Systemwide	Major Maintenance	\$2,215,186
Systemwide	Trails Maintenance	\$500,000
		Total \$9,058,686

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. 143B-135.56 I). 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.

State Park	Expense	Minimal Level	Optimal Level
Gorges State Park*	Park Ranger II Maintenance III	\$156,719	\$211,323
Lake James State Park*	Park Ranger I Maintenance III Admin Specialist Optimal Education Specialist	\$233,676	\$381,346

*Costs associated with Connect NC Bond Projects, which PARTF funds are supplementing.

6.1 Program Description

North Carolina's Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program was established by the General Assembly in 1981. The program began receiving five percent of the revenues from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund during the 1996-97 fiscal year. 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 and other related public uses of waterfront areas.

The program, administered by the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grant funds primarily to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. Since 1981, over 300 public access sites have been acquired or improved at a cost of over \$37 million in grant funds. Local governments are responsible for construction, operation and long-term maintenance of the facilities. While most of the early projects were located along the oceanfront, more projects are now designed to improve access to estuarine shorelines, coastal rivers, and urban waterfronts.

The Division of Coastal Management sends pre-application requests for proposals (RFPs) to local governments in the 20 coastal counties annually. Criteria developed by the Coastal Resources Commission are used to select grant recipients. Local governments are given eighteen (18) months to complete projects. Extensions may be granted with a three year maximum life of a contract for unforeseen events and delays, such as hurricanes.

Local governments are required to match from 10 percent to 25 percent of the project costs based on the type of project being funded and the communities' economic status per the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Tier designations, as outlined by (G.S. 143B-437.08). The required cash match may include Federal and other State funds provided these funds are not already being used as match funds for any other state or federal program.



View from Havens Garden Pier, City of Washington, funded by PARTF in 2016-17.

6.2 Types of Projects Funded

Communities can apply for funds 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 are the primary users. 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 public 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 low impact purposes.
- Multi-regional access sites are generally larger than regional access ways 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 are working waterfront projects that improve public access. Such projects include the establishment or rehabilitation of boardwalk areas, shoreline stabilization measures such as the living shorelines or installation or rehabilitation of bulkheads, and the placement or removal of pilings for public safety and/or increased access for 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 Awards Based on FY 2018-19 Deposits and Other Unencumbered Funds

The program's funding mechanism was changed in fiscal year 2013. State appropriations are now allocated to DCM through PARTF. The amount budgeted for grants and transferred from the PARTF to DCM during fiscal year 2018-19 was \$1,088,076. The additional \$157,422 in funds were from unused funds from previous fiscal years and returned funds from previous grants. Table 6-1 provides the list of local governments that have been awarded grant funding or have been invited to submit a final application for funding.

6.O Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program

Table 6-1: Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Program Communities Awarded or Prioritized for FY 2018-19 Funding Based on Earlier Deposits and State Appropriations

Local Government	Project Description	Total Project Costs	Grant Amount
Atlantic Beach	Double Tree West	\$95,705	\$47,852.50
Bald Head Island	Land Acquisition	\$49,320	\$19,160
Cape Carteret	Pettiford Creek Land Acquisition	\$135,000	\$114,750
Cape Carteret	Pettiford Creek Public Access Facility	\$90,000	\$67,499
Edenton [†]	Queen Anne Creek Bulkhead Replacement	\$136,000	\$111,000
Elizabeth City [†]	Coast Guard Park	\$445,200	\$138,000
Gatesville [†]	Bennett's Creek Park Renovation Project	\$41,000	\$36,800
Holden Beach	Dune Crossover/Walkway	\$21,780	\$16,335
Manteo	Boardwalk Repairs	\$127,407	\$95,376
Nags Head	Jacobs Street Public Access	\$182,651	\$122,226
New Bern	Martin Marietta Regional Park	\$130,000	\$97,500
Pasquotank County [†]	Pasquotank River Public Access Ph. II	\$93,335	\$84,000
Plymouth [†]	Waterfront Park Renovation Project	\$119,444	\$107,500
Wrightsville Beach	East Salisbury St Ocean Access Park	\$250,000	\$187,500
Totals		\$1,916,842	\$1,245,498

[†] Denotes communities that are Tier 1 jurisdictions. \$834,979 or about 44% of the grant awards are proposed for Tier 1 counties.

The above project list does not include any direct partnerships with other state agencies. The only non-award use of the funds is providing access site signs made by the State Division of Corrections. Signs are provided to local governments for new sites and for replacement of weathered signs.

7.O DuPont State Recreational Forest

In FY 2018-19 the Parks and Recreation Authority, in keeping with N.C. G.S. 143B-135.56, resolved to approve that four percent (4%) of the 65% annual appropriation for State Parks should go to capital projects, repairs, renovations and land acquisitions at DuPont State Recreational Forest.

The amount allotted and transferred to DuPont Recreation Forest during fiscal year 2018-19 was \$563,311. DuPont had a carryover balance of \$531,434 from the previous fiscal year.

Location	Expense
Continental Divide Property	\$450,000
Associated Expenses	\$4,444
Total	\$454,444