



Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

Program Overview and Annual Report 2005-06

Environmental Review Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina
January, 2007

Lewis Ledford, Director,
Division of Parks and Recreation

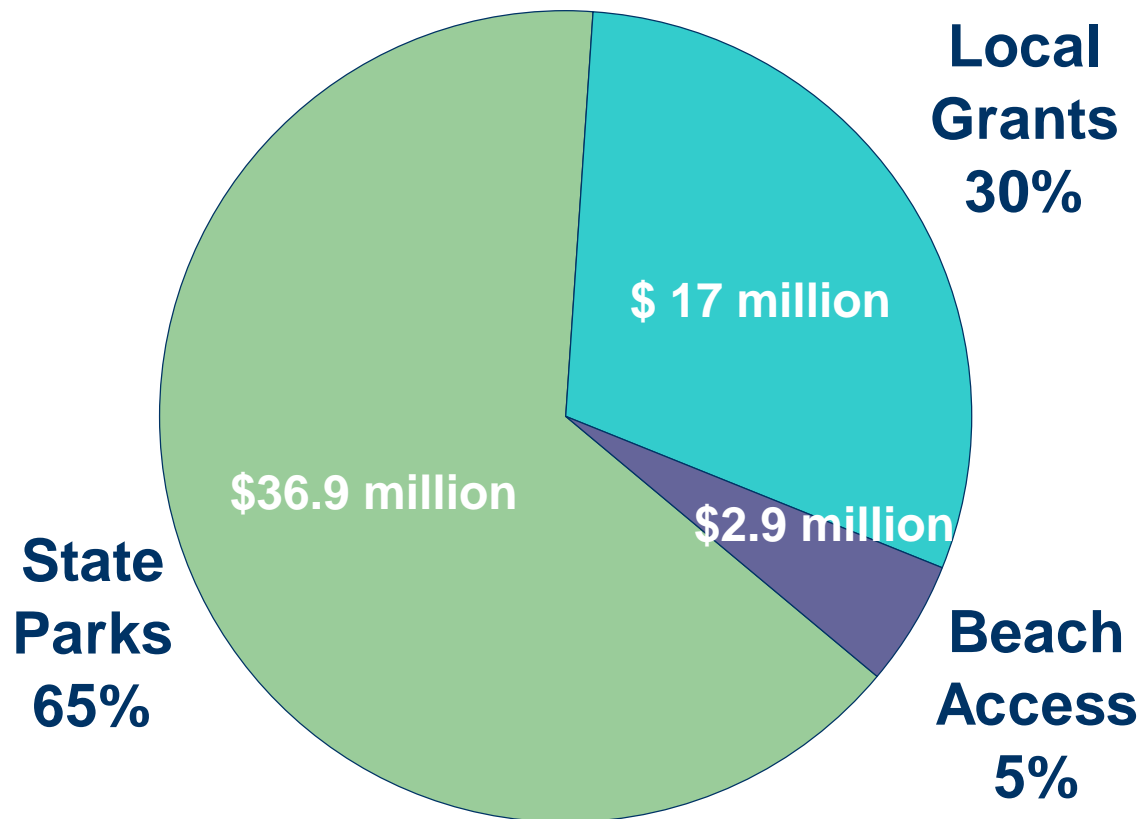
Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Legislation

Established in 1994 to provide funding for:

1. State park land acquisition and capital improvement projects
2. Grants to local governments for local park and recreation purposes
3. Coastal and Estuarine Beach Access Program



PARTF Revenue Allocated by Purpose 2005-06

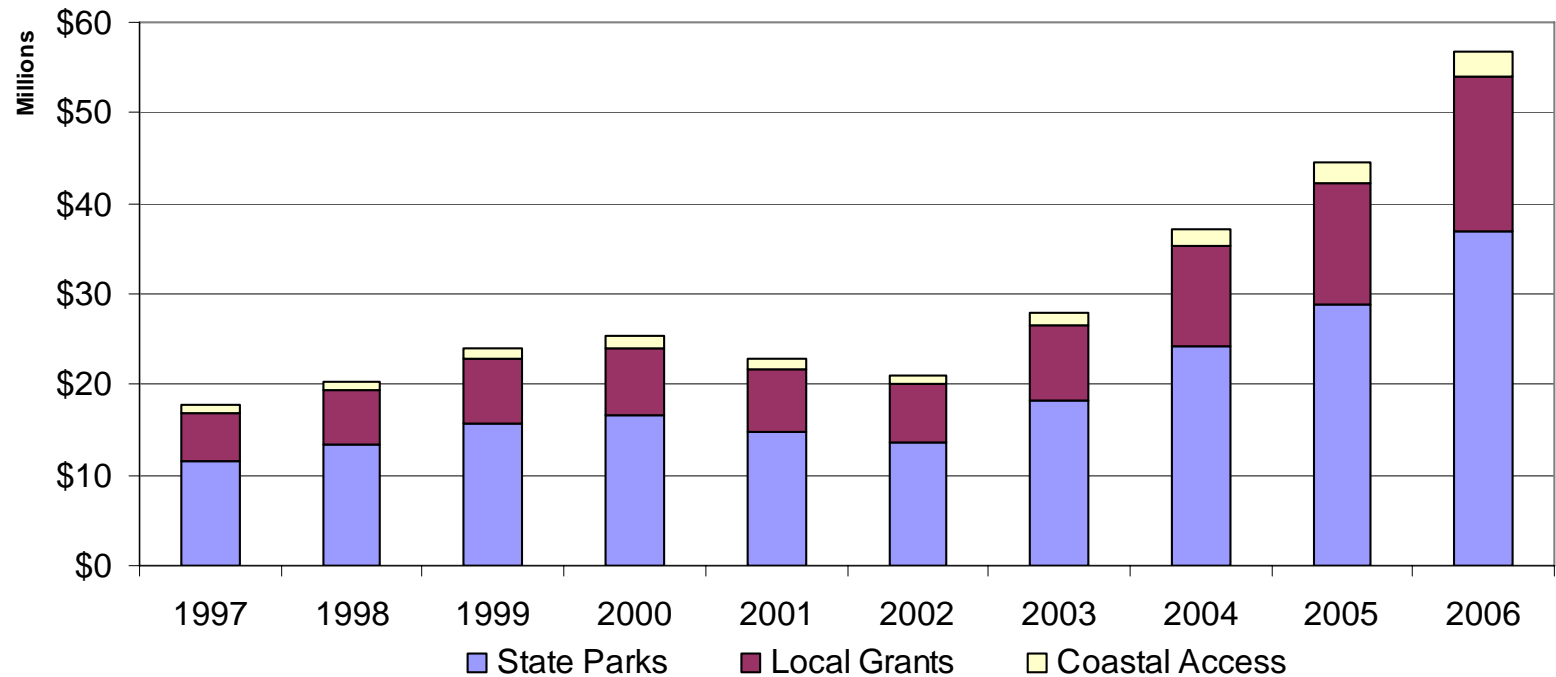


Total Revenue 2005-06

- Primary revenue source: \$1.00 tax per \$500 in real estate value
- PARTF receives 75 percent of the state's portion of the revenue (FY 05-06 = \$56.2 million)
- PARTF receives \$5.00 for each personalized license plate (FY 05-06 = \$1.3 million)
- Total Revenue in 2005-06: \$57.5 million



PARTF Revenue by Purpose Since 1997



Parks and Recreation Authority

- 11 member board established in 1996
- The Authority allocates all funds to state park projects and local grants
- Appointments to the Authority are by the Governor, Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate





PARTF Grant Program for Local Governments



PARTF Grants for Local Governments

Basic Facts

- Applicants – Local governments and public authorities authorized to provide recreation
- Eligible Projects – Buy park land and build recreational facilities



PARTF Grants for Local Governments

Basic Facts

- Maximum Grant Amount - \$500,000
- Local governments match the PARTF grant dollar-for-dollar.
- The value of donated property can be used as the local match.



PARTF Grants for Local Governments

Important Dates

- Applications are due January 31
- The Parks and Recreation Authority selects grant recipients in May and July



Evaluating Applications - PARTF Scoring System Criteria

- Planning the project
- Involving the public
- Acquiring land
- Applicant's ability to operate and maintain the project
- Quality of the park site
- Number of recreational facilities provided



Selecting Grant Recipients: Other Factors Considered

- Distributing grant awards across the state
- Population of the applicant
- Administration of previous grants
- The applicant's justification for the project



PARTF Grant Requests and Awards 2006

Applications

- 86 applications received proposing \$80 million in land acquisition and recreational facilities
- \$27 million in grant requests
- \$53 million in local matching funds committed

Grants Awarded

- 55 grants awarded to projects totaling \$44 million
- \$17.7 million in PARTF funds awarded
- \$26.7 million in local matching funds leveraged



PARTF Grants for Local Governments 1997-2006

Applications Received

- 874 applications received
- \$150 million in grant requests
- \$270 million in local funds pledged to match PARTF grant funds

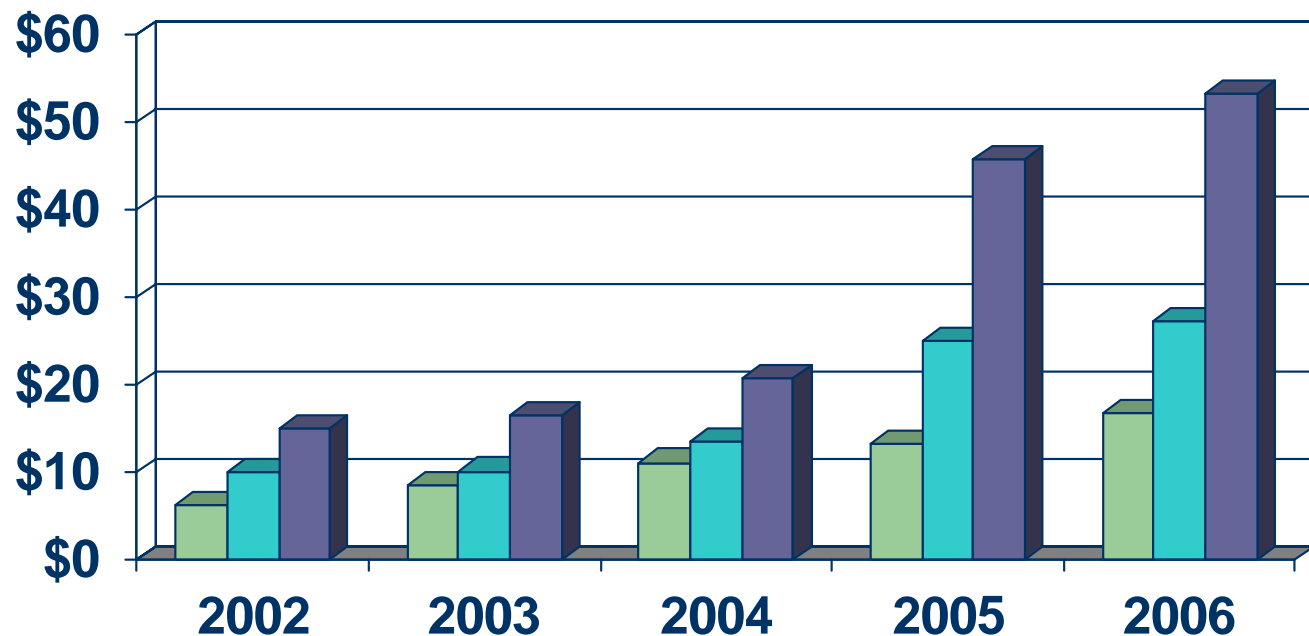
Grants Awarded

- 487 grants awarded
- \$92 million in grant awards
- \$156 million in local matching funds leveraged by grants (\$1.70 in local funds are spent to match each \$1.00 in grant funds)



Requests from Local Governments Continue to Increase

Millions



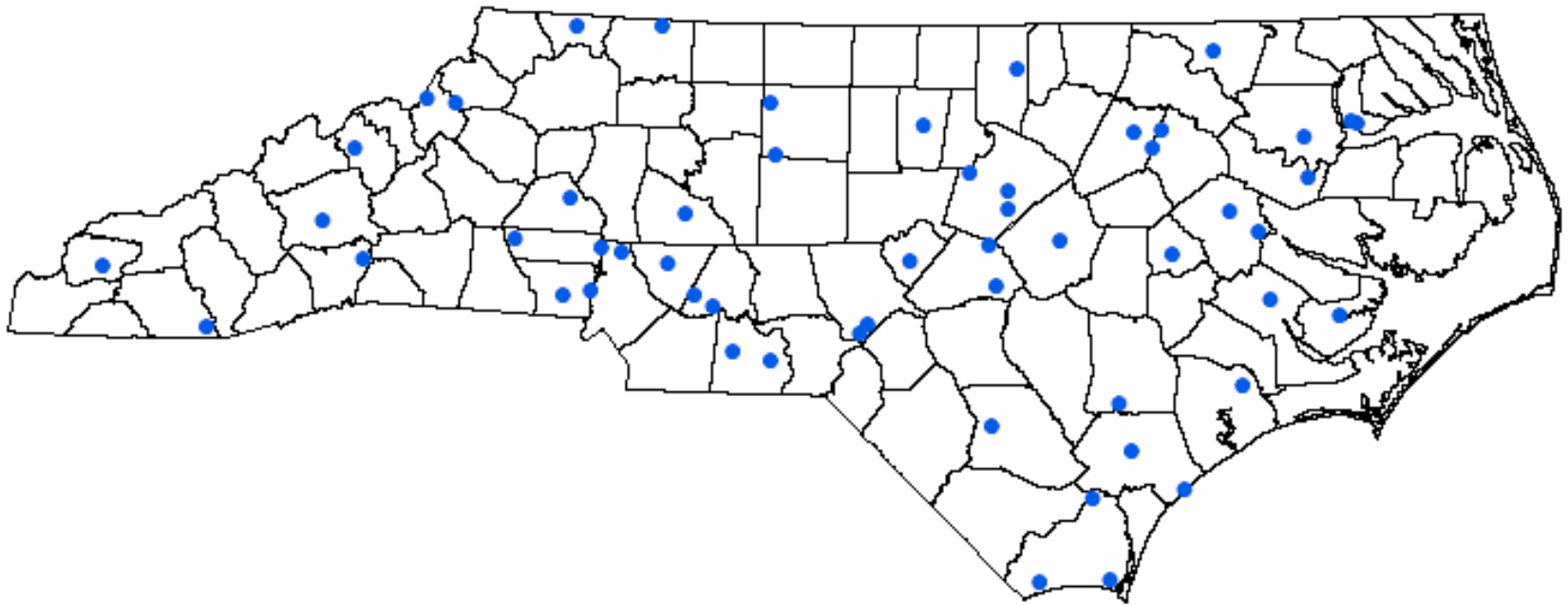
■ PARTF Funds Available

■ PARTF Funds Requested

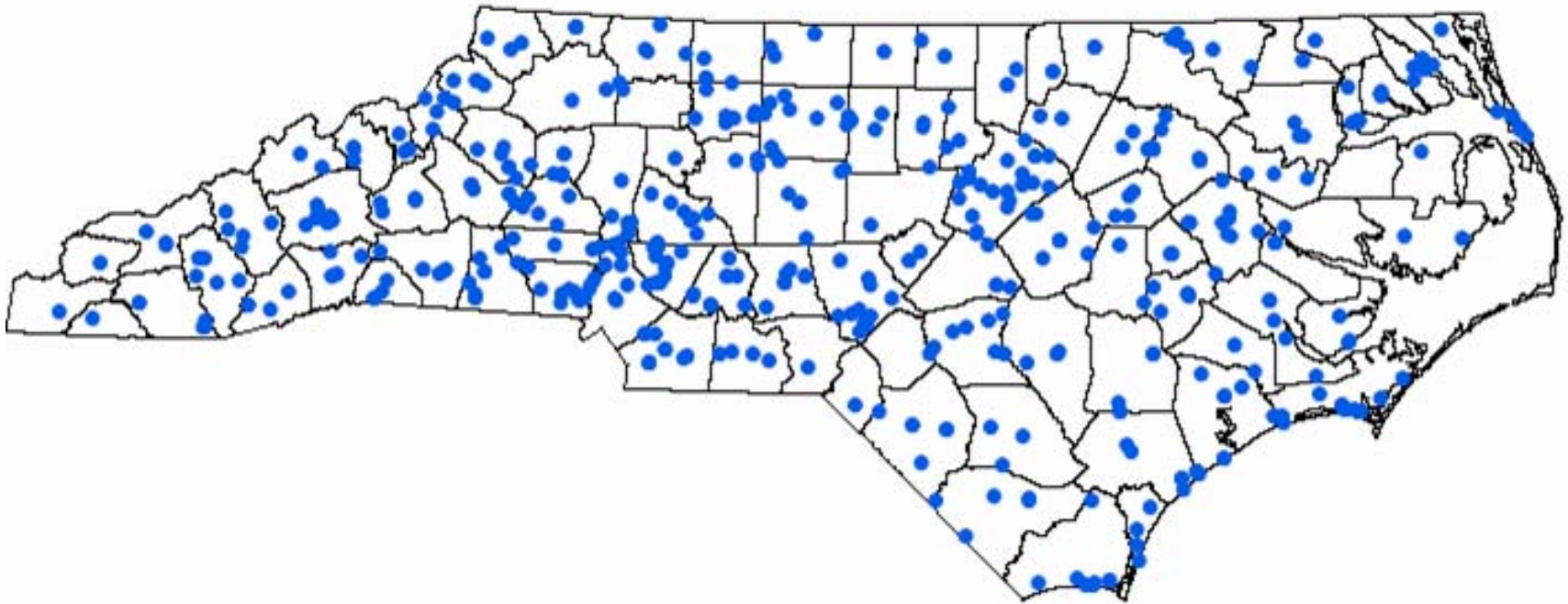
■ Local Matching Funds



Geographic Distribution of Grants 2006



Geographic Distribution of Grants 1995 - 2006



Examples of PARTF Grant Awards 2006

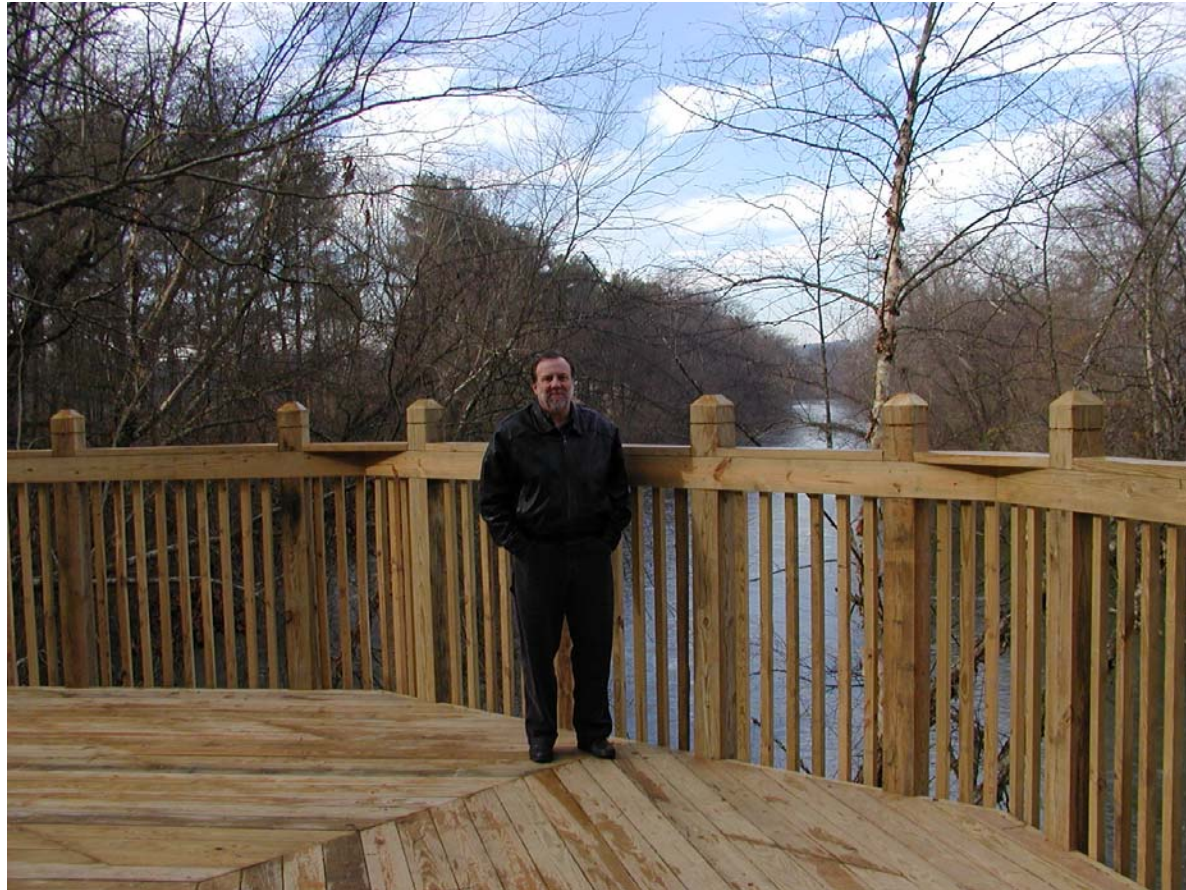
- Coastal region– Chowan County is building a park facility with athletic fields, a picnic shelter, and trails.
- Triangle region– Morrisville is purchasing 25 acres of open space in a rapidly developing area.
- Mountain region – Asheville is renovating an elementary school into an arts center with a theater, art space, and music room



Examples of PARTF Grant Program Accomplishments since 1996

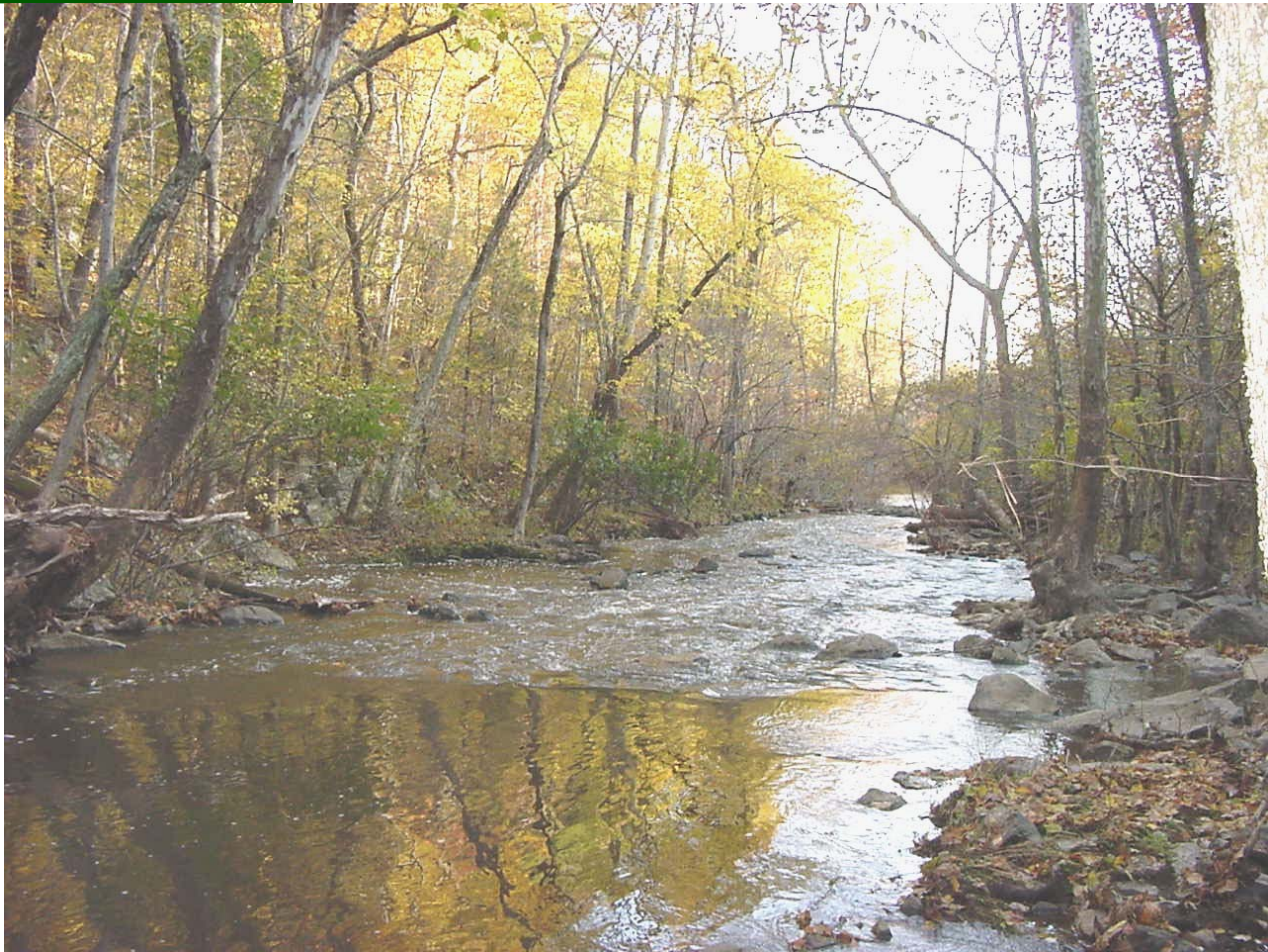
- 2,800 acres acquired
- picnic shelters
- playgrounds
- ball fields
- soccer fields
- tennis courts
- walking trails
- recreation centers





Overlook – Catawba River Greenway – City of Morganton





Little River Regional Park – Durham & Orange Counties





Playground at Harmon Park – Town of Tryon





“Boulder gardens” at Dunn’s Mountain Park in Rowan County protects unique plant communities on the granite outcrops.



PARTF Funding for the State Parks System



PARTF Land Acquisition Projects in the State Parks System 2006

- Acquiring over 2,700 acres at 16 state parks for \$20.6 million

Examples

- **Elk Knob State Natural Area** –235 acres to provide resource protection and public access.
- **Hickory Nut Gorge** –over 600 acres to protect the World's Edge area and Round Top Mountain
- **New River State Park** –over 200 acres along the river corridor that continues to be developed with second homes.
- **Lumber River State Park** – 200 acres of river front property near the Town of Fair Bluff.



PARTF Land Acquisition Projects in the State Parks System 1997-2006

Land Acquisition Projects

- Over 28,000 acres acquired totaling \$73 million
- Sample Projects:
 - **Lake James State Park**
 - New State Parks:
 - **Gorges**
 - **Mayo River**
 - **Haw River**
 - **Hickory Nut Gorge**





Lake James State Park – 2,915 acres acquired





Hickory Nut Gorge State Park (new park established)





Crowders Mountain State Park -1,200 acres added





Mayo River State Park – new park established





Hanging Rock State Park —mountain top views
as well as important natural communities protected.

PARTF Capital Improvement Projects in the State Parks System 2006

- 20 Capital Improvement Projects totaling \$16.1 million

Examples

- **Fort Macon State Park** – 1st visitor center to serve a park averaging over a million visitors per year.
- **Kerr Lake State Park** – a boat ramp area with sufficient parking and community building to host popular fishing tournaments.
- **Mayo River State Park** – Initial visitor facilities to open this new state park to the public.
- **Raven Rock State Park** – Provide the 1st visitor center for a state park that has been open since the early 1970's



PARTF Capital Improvement Projects in the State Parks System 1997-2006

- 188 Capital Improvement Projects totaling \$121 million
- Sample Projects
 - Visitor centers / Exhibits
 - Campgrounds
 - Picnic Shelters
 - Roads and Utilities
 - Historical Renovation





Hammocks Beach State Park Visitor Center



Trail Improvements at Pilot Mountain State Park





Equestrian Campground at South Mountains State Park





Picnic Shelter at Stone Mountain State Park



South Mountains Visitor Center

December 2006



Cooperation Between PARTF, CWMTF and NHTF

- North Carolina's three conservation trust funds:
 - Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
 - Clean Water Management Trust Fund
 - Natural Heritage Trust Fund
- Have shared in the conservation of many significant areas. Conservation of land within state parks serves multiple goals including:
 - preserving significant natural resources
 - providing recreation in a natural setting, and
 - protecting of water quality.



Cooperation Between PARTF, CWMTF and NHTF

Examples

- Hickory Nut Gorge State Park / World's Edge – about 2,500 acres.
- Lake James State Park / White Creek – about 4,300 acres.
- Elk Knob State Park / Long Hope Valley – about 1,200 acres



Growth of the State Parks System

- The state parks system is experiencing record levels of attendance.
- Additional land and facilities are needed at most state parks; protecting important natural resources.
- Over 40 potential park units have been identified by the New Parks for a New Century initiative.
- On-going repairs and renovations are needed to insure high quality experiences for park visitors.



Size of the State Parks System

- Land Acquisition Opportunities:
 - 43,700 acres at existing state parks for \$176 million
 - 113,000 acres at new state parks for \$454 million



Capital Needs of the State Parks System

- Capital Improvement Needs:
 - \$334 million at existing state parks
 - Estimates for facilities at new parks will be based on park master plans





- ... to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;*
- ... to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina; and*
- ... to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources for all citizens and visitors.*

