



## **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Program Overview and Annual Report 2006-07**

### **Environmental Review Commission**

Hammocks Beach State Park & Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium

April 7 – 8, 2008

Lewis R. Ledford, Director  
Division of Parks and Recreation



# Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Legislation

Established in 1994 to provide funding for:

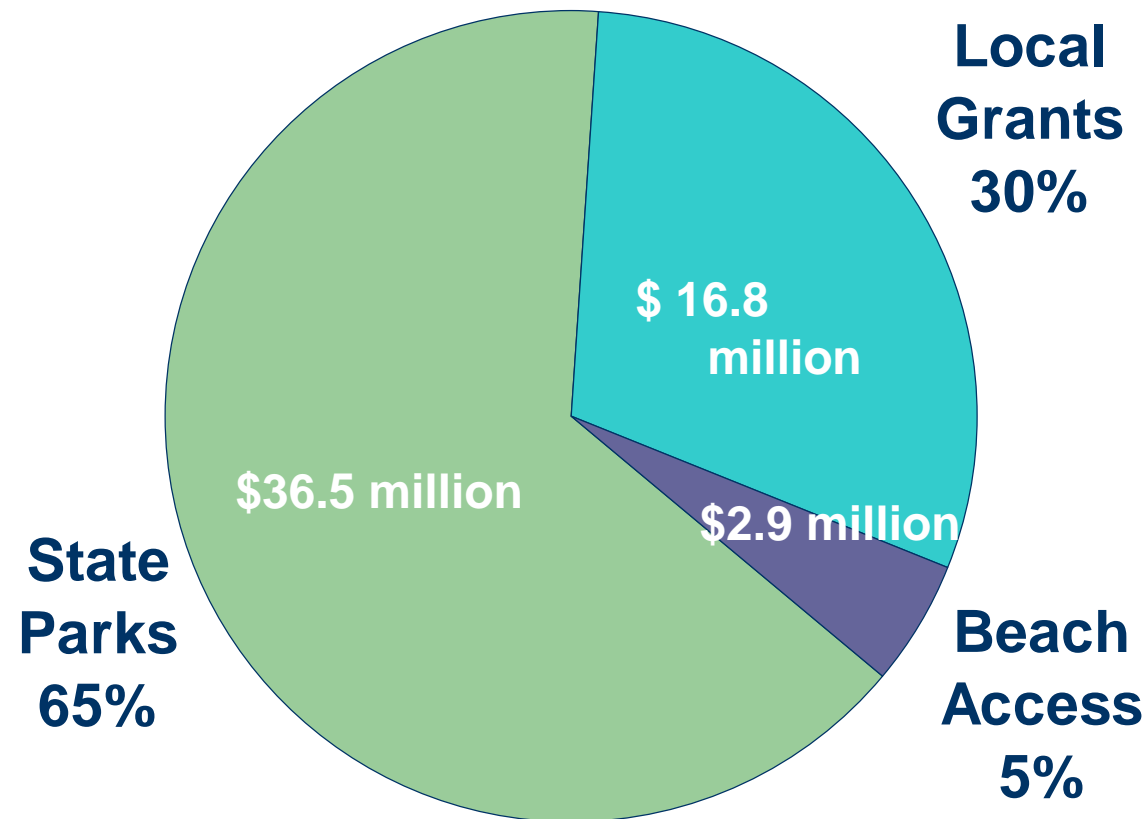
1. State park land acquisition and capital improvement projects
2. Grants to local governments for local park and recreation purposes
3. Coastal and Estuarine Beach Access Program



Rowan County – Dunn's Mountain



## **PARTF Revenue Allocated by Purpose 2006-07**



# Total Revenue 2006-07

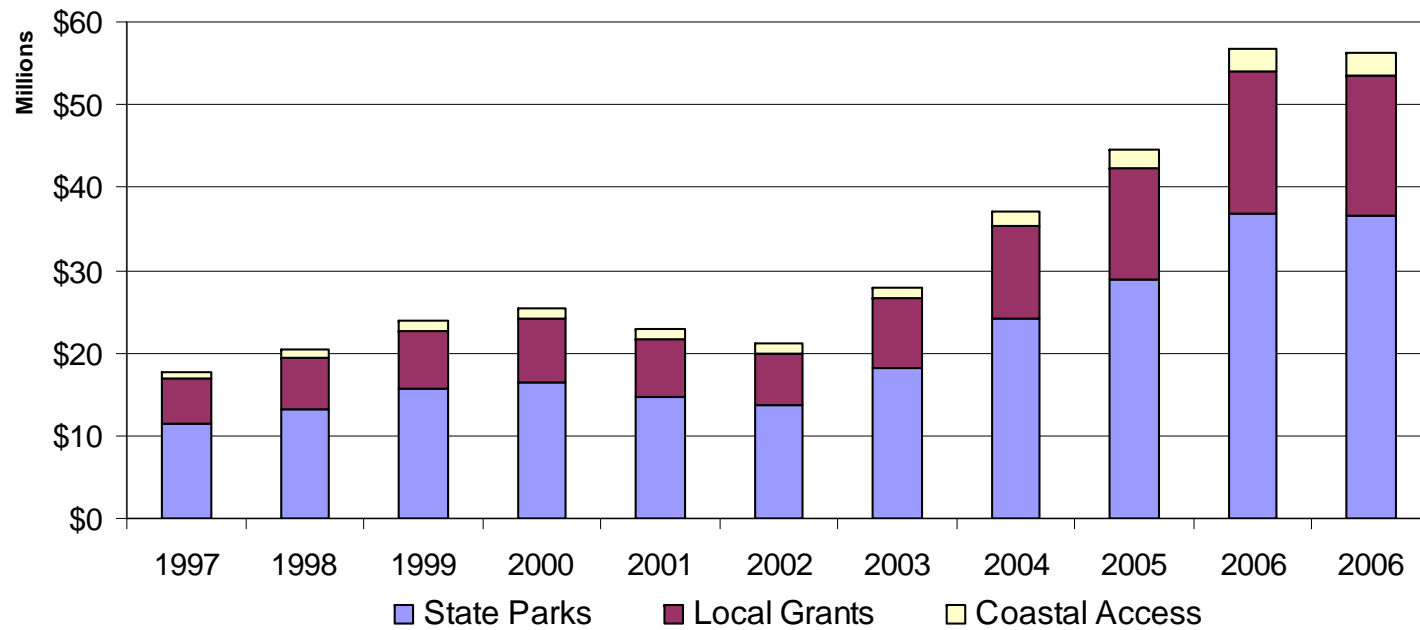
- Primary revenue source: \$1.00 tax per \$500 in real estate value
- PARTF receives 75% of the state's portion of the revenue (FY 06-07 = \$55.6 million)
- PARTF receives \$5.00 for each personalized license plate (FY 06-07 = \$1.4 million)
- **Total Revenue** in 2006-07: \$57 million



**New River State Park Visitor Center**



## PARTF Revenue Distribution Since 1997



# North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority

- The authority allocates all funds to state park projects and local grants
- Appointments to the authority are five each by the Governor, Speaker and the President Pro Tem
- The 11-member board established in 1996
  - Increased to 15 members in 2007





# North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority



**Jonthan Howes, Chair**  
Orange Co.



**Tim Aydlett**  
Pasquotank Co.



**Wendell Begley**  
Buncombe Co.



**Thomas Blue**  
Moore Co.



**Daryle Bost**  
Forsyth Co.



**Bob Epting**  
Orange Co.



**Cody Grasty**  
Haywood Co.



**Eddie Holbrook**  
Cleveland Co.



**Ron Kincaid**  
Montgomery Co.



**Boyd Lee**  
Pitt Co.



**Phil McKnelly**  
Wake Co.



**Cynthia Tart**  
Brunswick Co.



**Lisa Weston**  
Gaston Co.



**Hollis Wild**  
Ashe Co.



**Edward Wood**  
New Hanover Co.





# **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



Louisburg – Walking Trail



# **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.



**Tarboro - Softball Complex**



# **PARTF Grants for Local Governments**

## **Important Dates**

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



Spruce Pine – Tot Lot





# Evaluating PARTF Applications - Scoring System Criteria

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



Roanoke Rapids – Picnic Shelter  
on Lake Gaston



# Selecting Grant Recipients: Other Factors

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



Chowan County – Community Center



# **PARTF Grant Requests and Awards**

## **2007**

### **Applications**

- 80 applications received, proposing \$60 million in land acquisition and recreational facilities
- \$25.5 million in grant requests
- \$38.8 million in local matching funds committed

### **Grants Awarded**

- 54 grants awarded to projects totaling \$44 million
- \$17 million in PARTF funds awarded
- \$24.7 million in local matching funds leveraged





# **PARTF Grants for Local Governments**

## **1997-2007**

### Applications Received

- 955 applications received
- \$175 million in grant requests
- \$318 million in local funds pledged to match PARTF grant funds

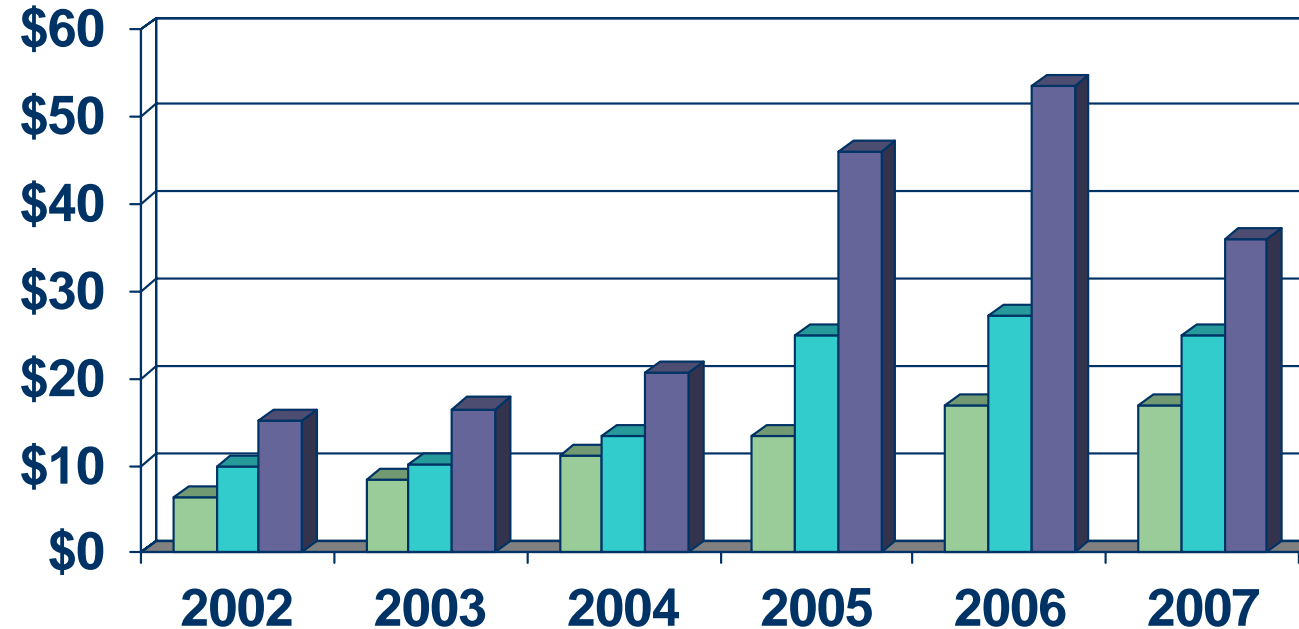
### Grants Awarded

- 541 grants awarded
- \$109 million in grant awards
- \$180 million in local matching funds leveraged by grants  
(\$1.65 in local funds are spent to match each \$1.00 in grant funds)



# Local Governments Grant Requests Exceed Funds Available

Millions



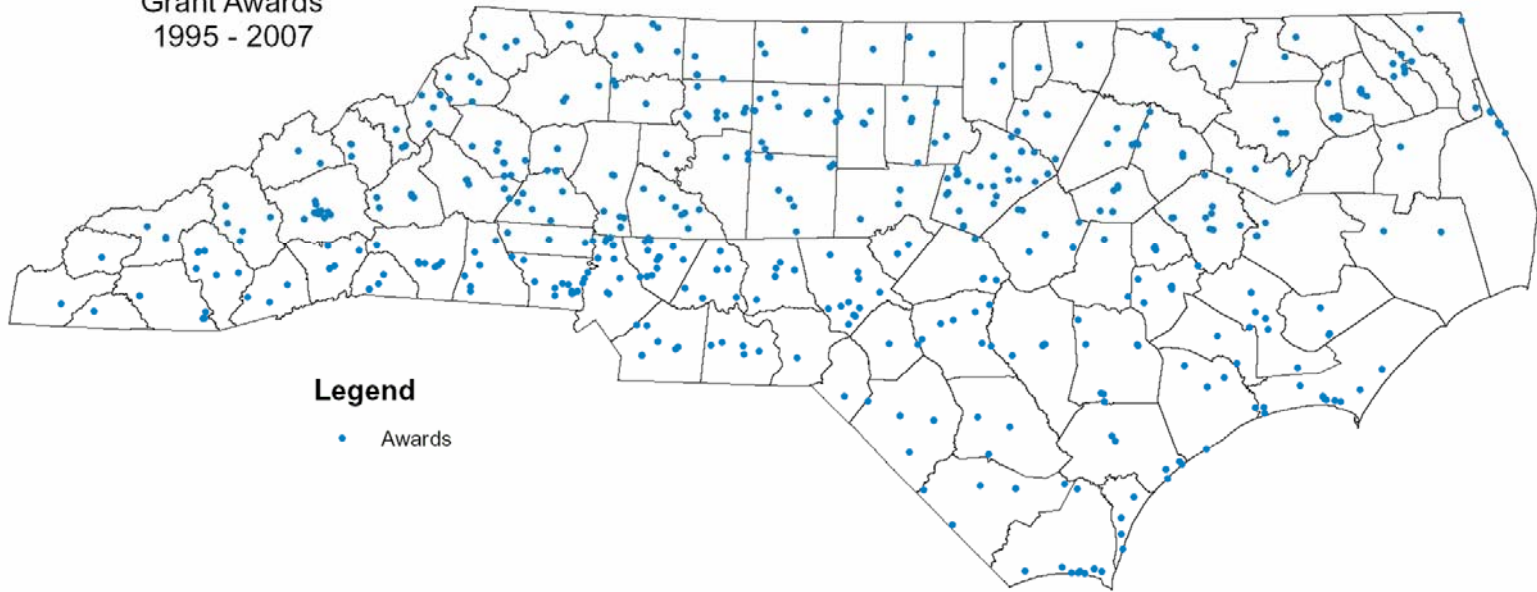
■ PARTF Funds Available   ■ PARTF Funds Requested   ■ Local Matching Funds



# Geographic Distribution of Grants

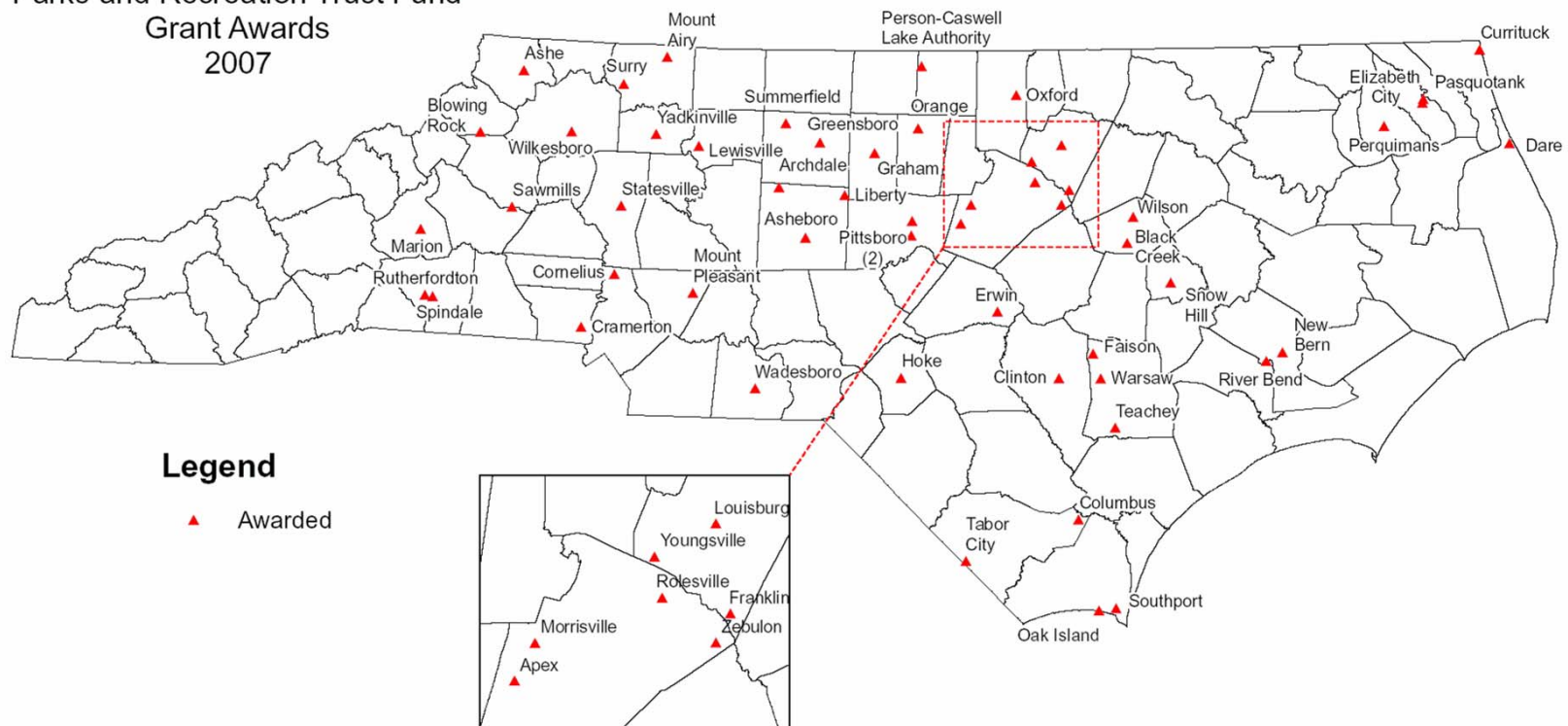
## 1995 - 2007

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
Grant Awards  
1995 - 2007



# Geographic Distribution of Grants 2007

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
Grant Awards  
2007



# Examples of PARTF Grant Awards

## 2007

- **Coastal Region**– Dare County has acquired over 11 acres to provide park land in rapidly developing Kitty Hawk.
- **Sandhills Region**– Hoke County teamed with The Conservation Fund to acquire 532 acres to protect land around Ft. Bragg.
- **Triangle Region**– Zebulon has purchased a former armory building to convert into the town's first community center adjacent to an existing 40-acre park.
- **Piedmont Region** – Statesville has committed \$4.3 million to build a 30,000 sq. ft. recreation center which connects to the city's soccer center via a greenway.



# **PARTF Grant Program**

## **Accomplishments Since 1996**

- 3,558 acres acquired
- 205 picnic shelters
- 186 playgrounds
- 297 athletic fields
- 78 tennis courts
- 224 trail projects
- 41 recreation centers
- 10 swimming pools



Hertford County – Fishing Pier on the Perquimanns River







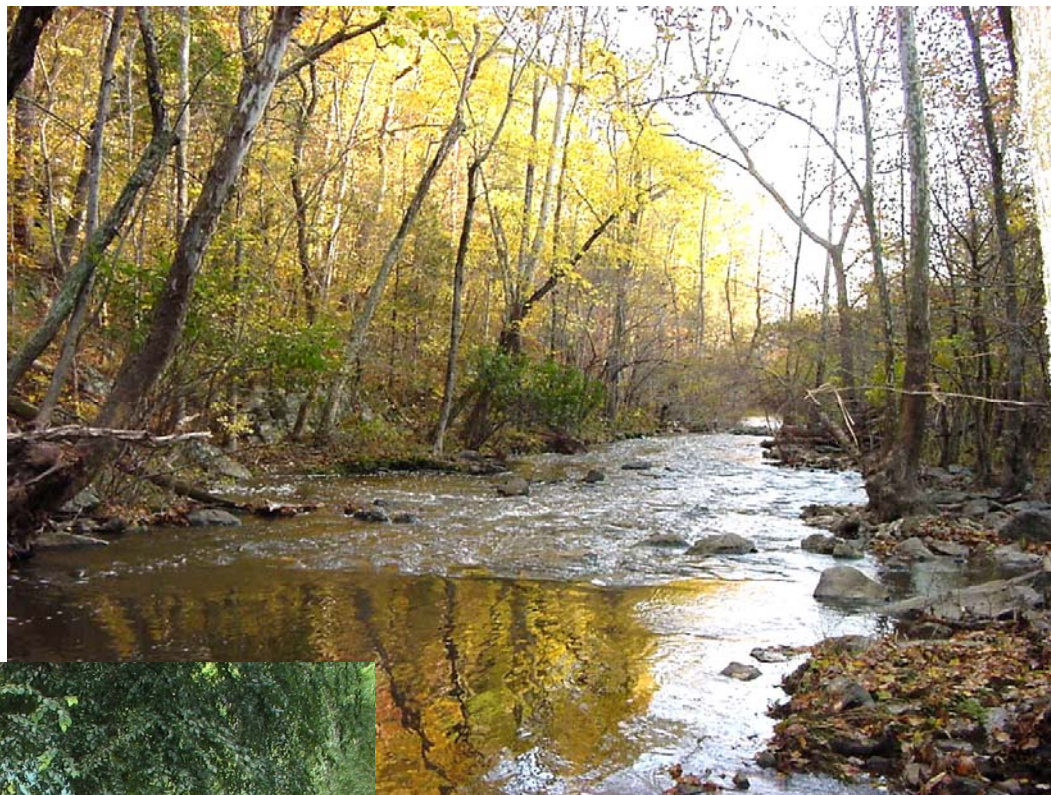
Rocky Mount - Skateboard Park



Morganton -  
Catawba River Greenway



Durham/Orange Counties -  
Little River Regional Park



Tryon-Harmon Park







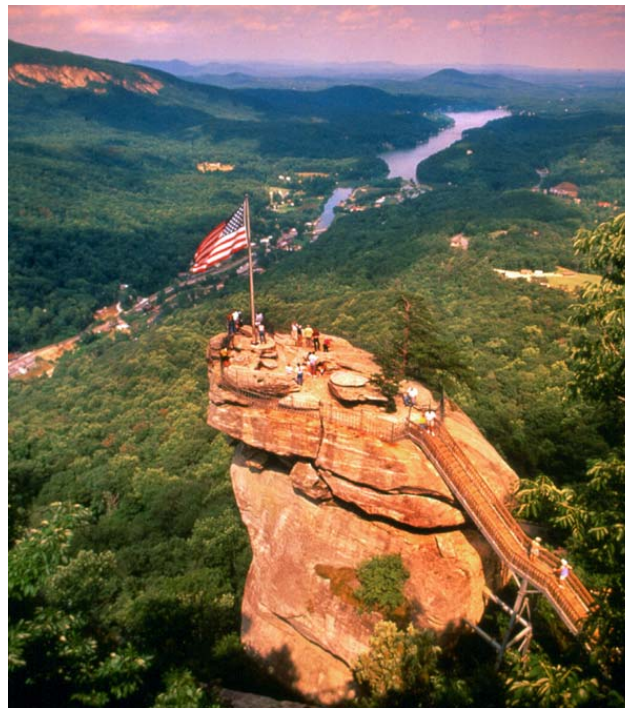
Forsyth/Guilford Counties - Triad Park Community Center





# **PARTF Funding**

## **State Parks System**



**Chimney Rock  
State Park**



# PARTF Capital Improvement Projects in the State Parks System 2007

*12 Capital Improvement Projects totaling \$17.6 million*

Examples:

**Fort Macon State Park** – Funding for exhibits and LEED certification for 1<sup>st</sup> visitor center to serve a park averaging over a million visitors per year.





**Haw River State Park** - Renovations to the first overnight environmental education center in the state parks system.



**Lake James State Park** - Initial visitor facilities on 2,915 acres purchased from Crescent Resources.





**Gorges State Park - Road system and infrastructure for a new visitor center, picnic grounds and campground.**



# **PARTF Capital Improvement Projects in the State Parks System 1997-2007**

***188 Capital Improvement Projects totaling  
\$121 million***

- Sample Projects
  - Visitor Centers / Exhibits
  - Campgrounds
  - Picnic Shelters
  - Roads and Utilities
  - Historical Renovation



**South Mountains State Park Visitor Center**





## **Hammocks Beach State Park**

### **Visitor Center**



## **Stone Mountain State Park**

### **Campground Expansion**

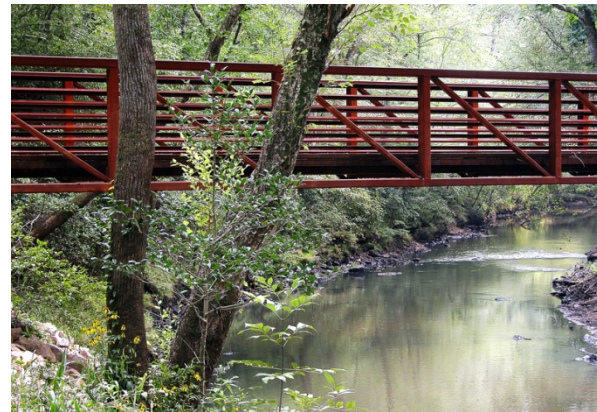




**South Mountains State Park**  
Equestrian Center



**Jones Lake State Park**  
Visitor Center



**Medoc Mountain State Park**  
Trail Bridge



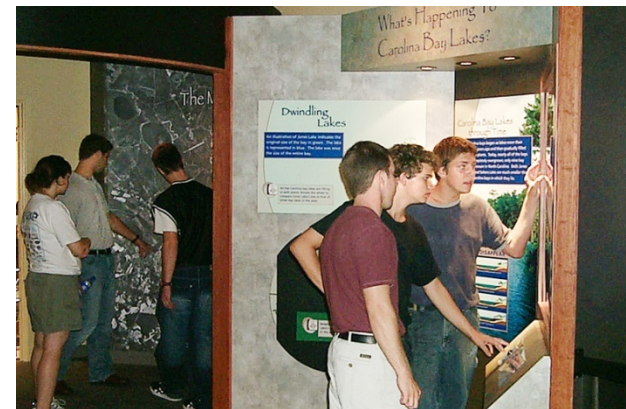




**Pilot Mountain State Park**  
Trail Improvements



**Stone Mountain State Park** Picnic Shelter



**Jones Lake State Park**  
Exhibit Hall



# PARTF Land Acquisition Projects in the State Parks System

## 2007

*Acquired over 2,500 acres at 15 state parks for \$17.9 million*

Examples:

- Acquisition of Chimney Rock Park (partial funding), World's Edge tract and tracts on Rumbling Bald Mountain to form **Chimney Rock State Park**.



Chimney Rock  
Chimney Rock State Park







Rumbling Bald  
**Chimney Rock State Park**

World's Edge  
**Chimney Rock State Park**



**Elk Knob State Park** 800 acres to provide resource and view protection.





**Medoc Mountain State Park** 900 acres along Little Fishing Creek,  
previously owned by International Paper Corp.



**Pettigrew State Park** 2,000 acres along the Scuppernong River for resource protection and recreation.





# **PARTF Land Acquisition Projects in the State Parks System 1997-2007**

- Over 32,000 acres acquired totaling \$111 million
- Sample Projects:
  - Eno River 'Wilderness'
  - Chimney Rock
  - Elk Knob
  - Gorges
  - Mayo River
  - Haw River



Lake James State Park – 2,915 acres





**Elk Knob State Park**



**Gorges State Park**



**Mayo River State Park**



## 2007 Legislative Notes

- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund interest income to be retained in the fund
- Expansion of PARTF Authority to 15 members
- Certificates of Participation (COPs)
  - \$50 million for PARTF
  - \$50 million for Natural Heritage Trust Fund
  - \$20 million for Waterfront Access  
& Marine Industry Fund



# State Parks Visitation at Record Levels



2000.....	11.8 million
2001.....	12.6 million
2002.....	13.2 million
2003.....	11.2 million
2004.....	11.7 million
2005.....	12.3 million
2006.....	12.6 million
<b>2007.....</b>	<b>13.4 million (Record High)</b>





# 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.

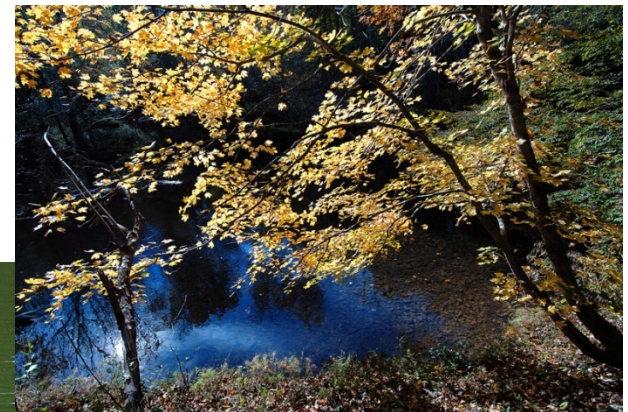


# ***PARTF/CWMTF/NHTF Partnerships***

The conservation of land through the state parks system

Serves multiple goals including:

- Preservation of significant natural resources
- Providing recreation in a natural setting, and
- Protection of water quality



# ***PARTF/CWMTF/NHTF Partnerships***

Examples:

Chimney Rock State Park

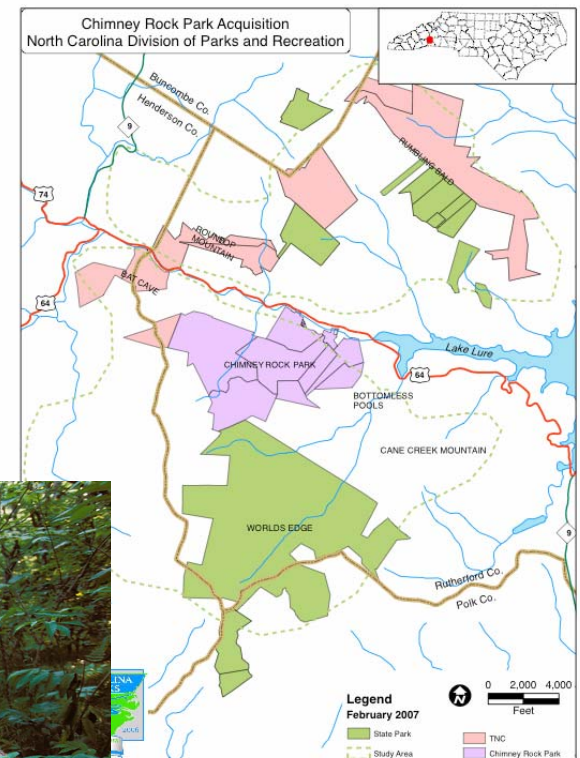
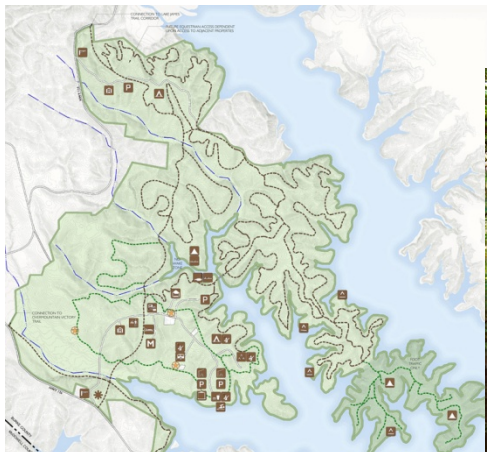
(2,500 ac)

Lake James State Park/White Creek

(4,300 ac)

Elk Knob State Park/Long Hope Valley

(1,200 ac)





# ***State Parks System - Future Needs***

- The system is experiencing record attendance
- Important natural resources need protection
- Visitor centers and exhibit space are needed for environmental education





# *State Parks System - Future Needs*

- Additional Land and facilities are needed at most state parks.
- More than 40 potential park units have been identified by the *New Parks for a New Century* initiative.
- Ongoing repairs and renovations are needed to ensure high-quality experiences for park visitors.



# ***State Parks System - Future Needs***

- Land acquisition - 43,700 acres at **existing** state parks for \$176 million
- Land acquisition - 113,000 acres for **new** state parks for \$454 million





- Capital Improvement - \$334 million at existing state parks- not including estimates for facilities at new parks (to 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.*





