



Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

Program Overview and Annual Report 2008-09

Environmental Review Commission

April 15, 2010

Lewis Ledford, Director
NC State Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Legislation

Established in 1994 to provide funding for:

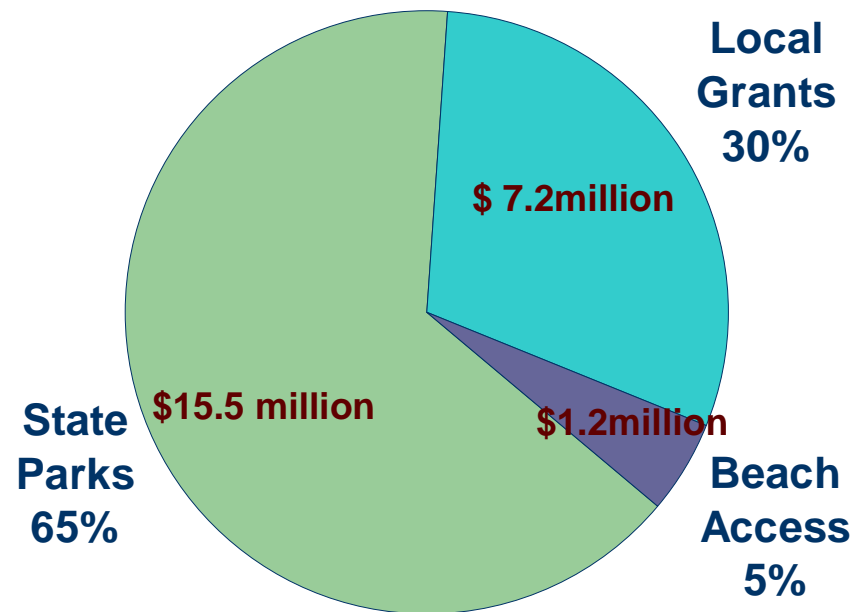
1. State park land acquisition and capital improvement projects
2. Grants to local governments for local park and recreation purposes
3. Coastal and Estuarine Beach Access Program



Rowan County – Dunn's Mountain



PARTF Revenue Allocated by Purpose 2008-09

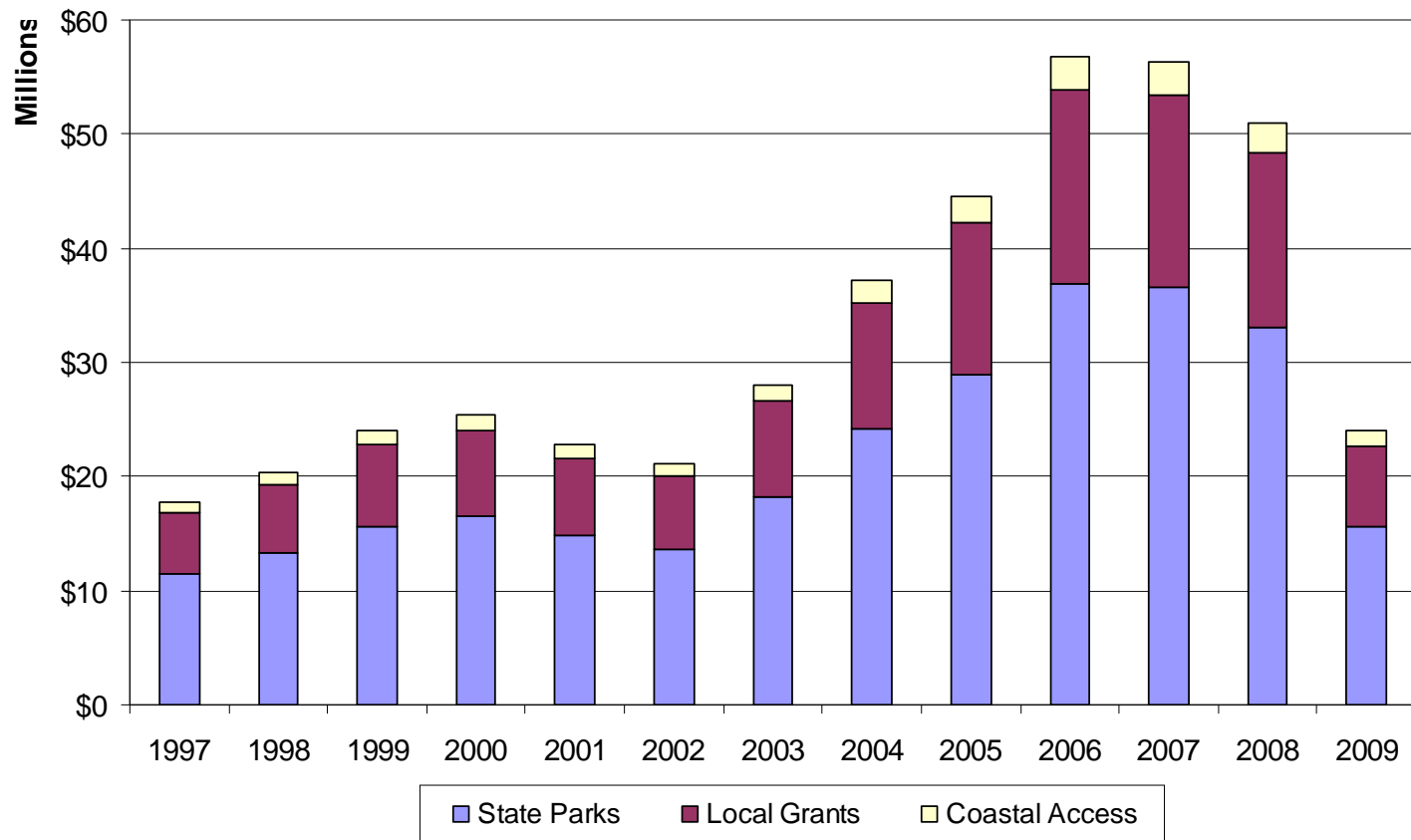


Total Revenue 2008-09

- Primary revenue source: \$1.00 tax per \$500 value for real estate transfers
- PARTF receives 75 percent of the state's portion of the revenue (FY 08-09 = \$30.8 million)
- \$6 million transferred to the General Fund to address budget shortfall
- Total PARTF Revenue in 2008-09: \$24.8 million
- **53% decrease from previous year**
(FY 07-08: \$52.4 million)



PARTF Revenue by Purpose Since 1997



North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority



Bill Ross, Chairman
Orange County



C. Michael Allen
Montgomery County



Jennifer Andrews
Chatham County



Timothy Aydtlett
Pasquotank County



Daryle L. Bost
Mecklenburg County



Robert Epting
Orange County



Ashley Futrell Jr.
Beaufort County



Cody Grasty
Haywood County



H. Body Lee
Pitt County



Walt Israel
Gaston County



Philip K. McKnelly
Wake County



John S. Stevens
Buncombe County



Cynthia Tart
Brunswick County



Hollis H. Wild
Ashe County



Edward W. Wood
New Hanover County





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 – Brad Ragan Park



Evaluating Applications - PARTF Scoring System Criteria

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



*Roanoke Rapids – Picnic Shelter
on Lake Gaston*



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



Chowan County – Community Center



PARTF Local Grant Requests and Awards 2009

Applications

- 85 applications received proposing \$85.7 million in land acquisition and recreational facilities
- \$27.0 million in grant requests
 - * (\$3 requested for every \$1 available)
- \$58.7 million in local matching funds committed

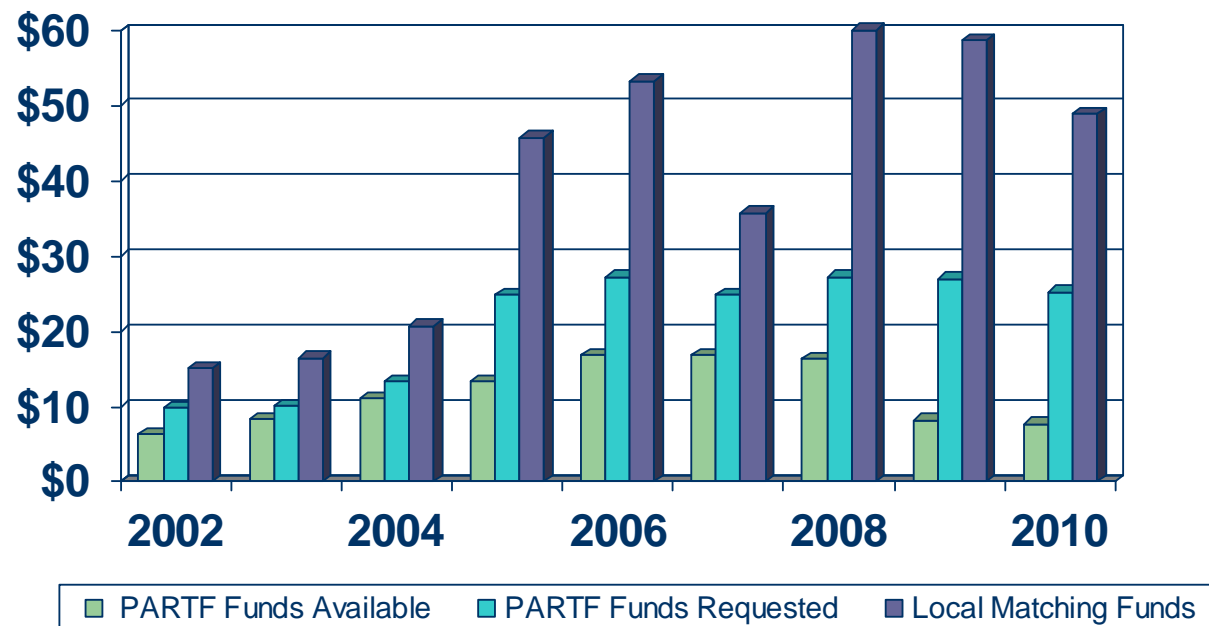
Grants Awarded

- 22 grants awarded to projects totaling \$24.2 million
- \$8.2 million in PARTF funds awarded
- \$16.0 million in local matching funds leveraged



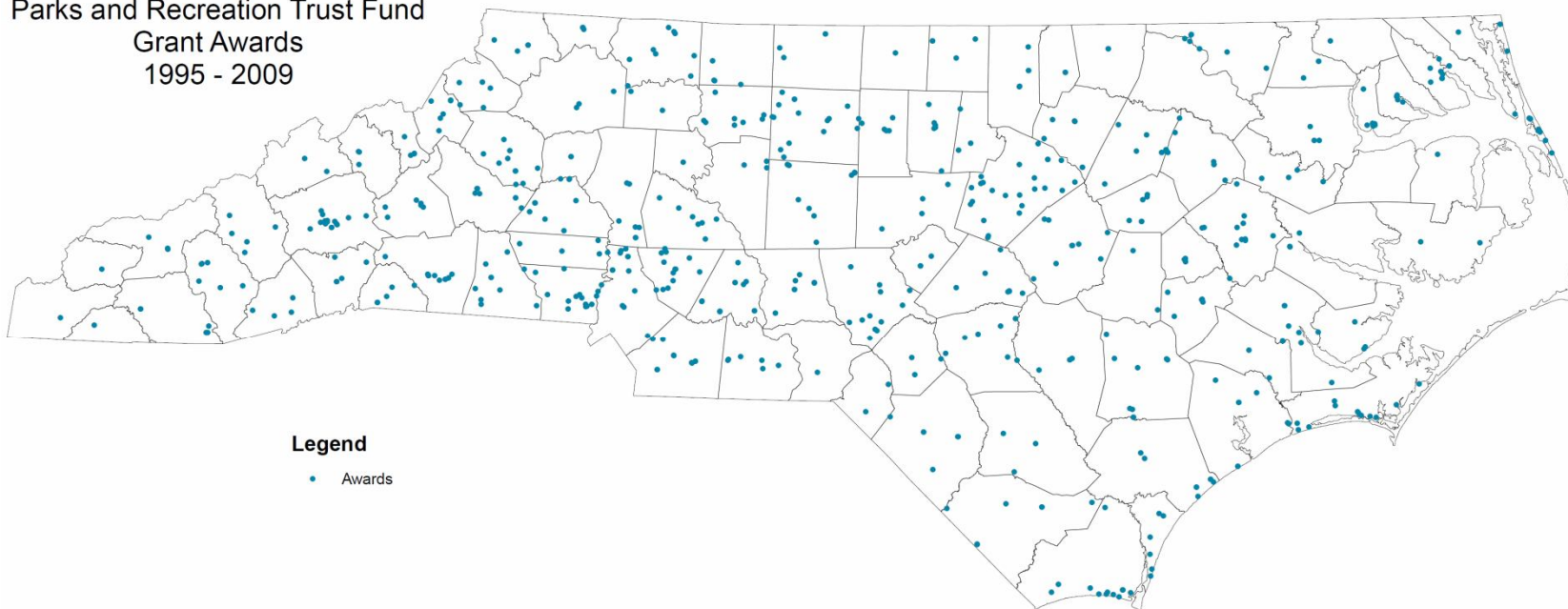
Grant Requests from Local Governments Exceed Funds Available

Millions



Geographic Distribution of Grants 1995 – 2009

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
Grant Awards
1995 - 2009



Legend

• Awards



Examples of PARTF Grant Awards

2009

- **Coastal region—Town of Emerald Isle**
A 16-acre tract of land that will be the location of the largest public boat launching facility on the NC coast.
- **Piedmont region— Town of Matthews**
Improvements to the town's largest park, Squirrel Lake, using green roof technology and pervious pavements. The park provides a natural area in a rapidly growing residential areas.
- **Mountain region—City of Asheville**
Acquisition of Beaucatcher Overlook Park (30-acres) in downtown Asheville. The park will become an oasis of passive recreation offering opportunities for walking, bicycling and picnicking.



PARTF Grant Program

Benefits to Local Governments

- Encouraging healthy, more active lifestyles
- Addressing childhood obesity



Skateboard Park – City of Rocky Mount

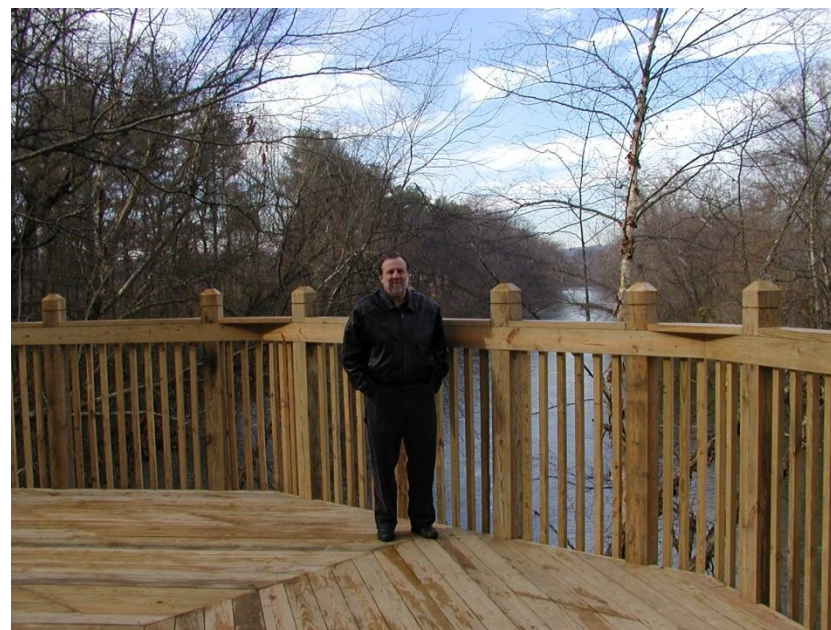


PARTF Grant Program

Benefits to Local Governments

Greenways

- Buffer streams and improve water quality
- Increase property values and tax revenue
- Provide opportunities for exercise



Overlook on Catawba River Greenway – City of Morganton



PARTF Grant Program

Benefits to Local Governments

Helping local economies

- Building park facilities
- Creating jobs
- Supplementing local budgets



*Community Center in Triad Park –
Forsyth and Guilford counties*





PARTF Capital Funding for the State Parks System

PARTF Capital Improvement Projects Bring Jobs to NC Communities

Nine projects for the State Parks System totaling \$7.7 million including:

- **Dare County - Jockey's Ridge State Park**
 - Wind turbine - Jockey's Ridge provides an ideal location to capture the power of the wind and develop it into a training tool to advance the knowledge of wind turbine energy.
- **Rockingham County – Haw River State Park**
 - Repair needs and improvements to the Summit Center identified by the Office of State Construction.
- **Transylvania County - Gorges State Park**
 - Gorges State Park opened to the public in 2000. Construction of the first major public facilities – a visitor center, picnic area and maintenance area.



State Park Construction Projects

Assist Local Economies

- PARTF construction projects create jobs
- State Parks contribute \$419 million to local communities across the state – *NC State University study*
- Each tourist spends an average of \$23.50 each day of a visit
- In FY 2009-10, PARTF funds to state parks have emphasized construction projects that assist local economies



Fort Macon State Park

Coastal Education and Visitor Center



Fort Macon State Park

Coastal Education and Visitor Center

- First non-university state building with LEED Gold Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)



PARTF Land Acquisition Projects in the State Parks System 2009

- **Lake Waccamaw State Park** – 221 acres
 - Cove Swamp tract for water quality and rare species habitat protection
- **Yellow Mountain State Natural Area** – 1000 acres
 - A new state natural area is focused on Little Yellow Mountain and Ravens Cliffs Mountain.
- **Dismal Swamp State Park** –90 acres
 - The park contains expansive wetlands providing habitat to many species.
 - The current state ownership has limited areas for buildings and needs road access.
 - Part of this new property is uplands, which would be suitable for building. The remainder of the property is forested wetlands.



Grandfather Mountain State Park



- *Diversity of habitats - 16 ecological communities.*
- *Rare species - 73 identified; 32 federally or state listed.*



Leveraging Land Acquisition Funds

- To supplement reduced PARTF revenues over the last two fiscal years, the Division of Parks and Recreation has used \$8.8 million of private and federal funding for land acquisition projects.



Yellow Mountain State Natural Area



PARTF Land Acquisition Projects in the State Parks System FY 2009-10

- \$7.2 million in payments for COPS (Certificates of Participation)
 - Includes \$1.7 million in payments for Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) projects
- For the current fiscal year, most of the state park trust fund \$ have been allocated to capital construction



Future Needs of the State Parks System

- The state parks system is experiencing record levels of attendance.
- Important natural resources need to be protected.
- Visitor centers and exhibit space are needed for environmental education.



State Park 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
2007.....	13.4 million
2008.....	12.4 million
2009.....	14.2 million (new record)



Future Needs of the State Parks System

- Additional land and facilities are needed at most state parks.
- Potential new park units around the state 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.



Future Needs of the State Parks System

Land Acquisition:

- 43,700 potential acres at existing state parks
- 113,000 potential acres at new state parks



