



North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund

September 30, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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TO: The Honorable Beverly Perdue, Governor, State of North Carolina
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore, NC Senate
The Honorable Thom Tillis, Speaker, NC House of Representatives
The Honorable David Rouzer, Chair, Environmental Review Commission
The Honorable Ruth Samuelson, Co-Chair, Environmental Review Commission
The Honorable Mitchell Gillespie, Co-Chair, Environmental Review Commission
The Honorable Don East, Co-Chair, Senate Appropriations NER Subcommittee
The Honorable Carolyn Justice, Co-Chair, House Appropriations NER Subcommittee
The Honorable Roger West, Co-Chair, House Appropriations NER Subcommittee
Secretary Dee Freeman, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Jennifer McGinnis, Senior Commission Counsel, Environmental Review Commission
Mariah Matheson, Committee Assistant, Environmental Review Commission
Lanier McRee, Fiscal Research Division

FROM: William G. Ross Jr., Chairman
North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Trust Fund 2010-11 Annual Report

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) continues to be the most important funding source for parks and recreation opportunities for the citizens of North Carolina. As chair of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority, I am pleased to submit the 2010-2011 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Annual Report.

The program has accomplished much for the citizens of our state in the past year. Eighty local governments requested over \$23 million in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded over \$8.7 million in matching grants to 30 local governments for the acquisition, development and renovation of local parks and recreation facilities.

In addition, PARTF has allowed the state to take some additional steps to address the tremendous demands and needs that a growing population is placing on North Carolina's state parks system. This year, the Authority approved \$7.9 million for land acquisitions, emergency repairs, renovations and capital improvement projects.

All told, these improved and new local and state parks and recreation facilities are laying a foundation for the healthy families, healthy communities, healthy environment, and healthy economy that North Carolina values and needs. Even in these difficult times, this has been an outstanding year for parks and recreation in our state. It is a legacy of which all North Carolinians can be proud.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Director Lewis Ledford, Division of Parks and Recreation, (919)-733-5588 or email lewis.ledford@ncdenr.gov; or me at Brooks Pierce, 150 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, 919-839-0300, or email bross@brookspierce.com.

Enclosure

Cc: Kari Barsness, DENR, Intergovernmental Liaison
Lewis Ledford, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation

**North Carolina
Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
2010–11
ANNUAL REPORT**



**Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

***Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor***

***Lewis R. Ledford, Director
Division of Parks and Recreation***

***Dee A. Freeman, Secretary
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources***

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
Annual Report 2010–11

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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. The Parks and Recreation Authority, a 15-member board, was also created to allocate funds from the PARTF to projects in state parks and to grants for local governments.

An excise tax on real estate transfers is the primary funding source for the PARTF. The tax is levied on each "deed, instrument, or writing by which interest in real property is conveyed to another person." The tax is levied at the rate of one dollar on each \$500 of the interest or property conveyed. Each county remits one-half of the proceeds, less the county's allowance for administrative expenses, to the state. Effective July 1996, the General Assembly (G.S. 105-228.30) stipulated that part of the state's share would be allocated to the PARTF. The Department of Revenue credits 75 percent of the funds remitted to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and 25 percent to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. 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.

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 which oversees the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, was created by the General Assembly with the Authority's powers and duties becoming effective July 1, 1996. 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 2010-11.

The 2010-11 Parks and Recreation Authority members are:

Bill Ross, Jr. Chairman
Chapel Hill

Boyd Lee
Greenville

C. Michael Allen
Mount Gilead

Philip McKnelly
Raleigh

Mayor Loretta Clawson
Boone

Jennifer Scott
Pittsboro

Daryle Bost
Charlotte

John S. Stevens
Asheville

Robert Epting
Chapel Hill

Cynthia Tart
Oak Island

Ashley B. Futrell, Jr.
Washington

Hollis Wild
West Jefferson

Cody Grasty
Maggie Valley

Edward Wood
Wilmington

Walt Israel
Belmont

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 Jim Gregson, administers these funds and offers matching grants to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. Table 3-1 shows the allocation of revenues of the trust fund by program for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

Table 3-1. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Deposits and Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2010-11	
Deposits	Amount
Total PARTF Revenues	\$ 25,796,385
Personalized Registration Plates	\$ 1,435,489
Investment Income	\$ 372,544
Excise Tax	\$ 23,988,352
Distribution	Amount
Total PARTF Allocation	\$ 25,796,385
Transfer to Address Budget Shortfall	\$ 1,692,544
Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	\$ 1,205,192
Local Governments Matching Grants Program	\$ 6,999,745
<u>State Parks System</u>	
Land Acquisition	\$ 2,960,191
Capital Improvements	\$ 4,981,210
COPs Repayment	\$ 7,224,714
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	
Division of Parks & Recreation support staff, Authority members' travel and contract with NCSU-Recreational Resources Services	\$ 732,789

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, 2011. The Parks and Recreation Authority met in May 2011 and in August 2011 to select grant recipients.

4.2 *Description of Applications and Grants*

The PARTF revenues allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2010-11 were \$6,999,745. Eighty (80) local units of government submitted PARTF applications, requesting \$23.4 million in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded 30 grants for \$8,734,569. The difference between the amount awarded and the fiscal year revenues is \$1,734,824 from various cancelled projects, reductions in the scope of work or projects completed under budget.

Table 4-1 shows a list of the projects approved for fiscal year 2010-11. 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 \$150 million in PARTF grants to 676 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 2010-11**

Applicant	County	Project	Grant Amount
Alamance County	Alamance	Mountains-to-Sea Trail - Southern Alamance Section	\$375,000
Ayden	Pitt	Ayden District Park	\$499,888
Banner Elk	Avery	Tate-Evans Park	\$213,500
Bath	Beaufort	Lawson's Walk	\$18,000
Beaufort County	Beaufort	Crisp Landing Acquisition	\$67,000
Buncombe County	Buncombe	Collier Property Acquisition	\$285,500
Clayton	Johnston	North Clayton Park - Mountains-to-Sea Trail Trailhead Acquisition	\$300,000
Concord	Cabarrus	Rocky River Greenway, Northwest Phase I	\$425,000
Conover	Catawba	Conover Station Park	\$333,744
Enfield	Halifax	Enfield Community Park Phase II	\$58,000
Farmville	Pitt	Municipal Athletic Park Improvements	\$176,250
Goldsboro	Wayne	Stoney Creek Park	\$132,750
Graham	Alamance	Jim Minor Road Land Acquisition	\$500,000
Harnett County	Harnett	Anderson Creek Park, Phase I	\$500,000
Iredell County	Iredell	Scotts Rosenwald Park	\$183,650
Lenoir	Caldwell	Aquatic and Fitness Center Renovation	\$156,750
Lenoir County	Lenoir	Woodmen Water Park	\$500,000
Lincoln County	Lincoln	Rock Springs Nature Preserve Park	\$415,000
North Wilkesboro	Wilkes	Smoot Park Improvements	\$238,665
Saratoga	Wilson	Saratoga Town Park	\$41,138
Spindale	Rutherford	Deviney Park Improvements	\$44,600
Spring Hope	Nash	Spring Hope Park Renovation	\$55,000
Stanley	Gaston	Harper Park	\$500,000
Stantonsburg	Wilson	Statonsburg Town Park	\$100,000
Sunset Beach	Brunswick	Sunset Beach Town Park	\$400,000
Trinity	Randolph	Center City Park	\$500,000
Troutman	Iredell	Troutman-ESC Park	\$500,000
Wake County	Wake	Turnipseed Preserve Property	\$242,161
Walkertown	Forsyth	Walkertown Town Center Park	\$472,973
Wesley Chapel	Union	Dogwood Park	\$500,000
TOTAL			\$8,734,569

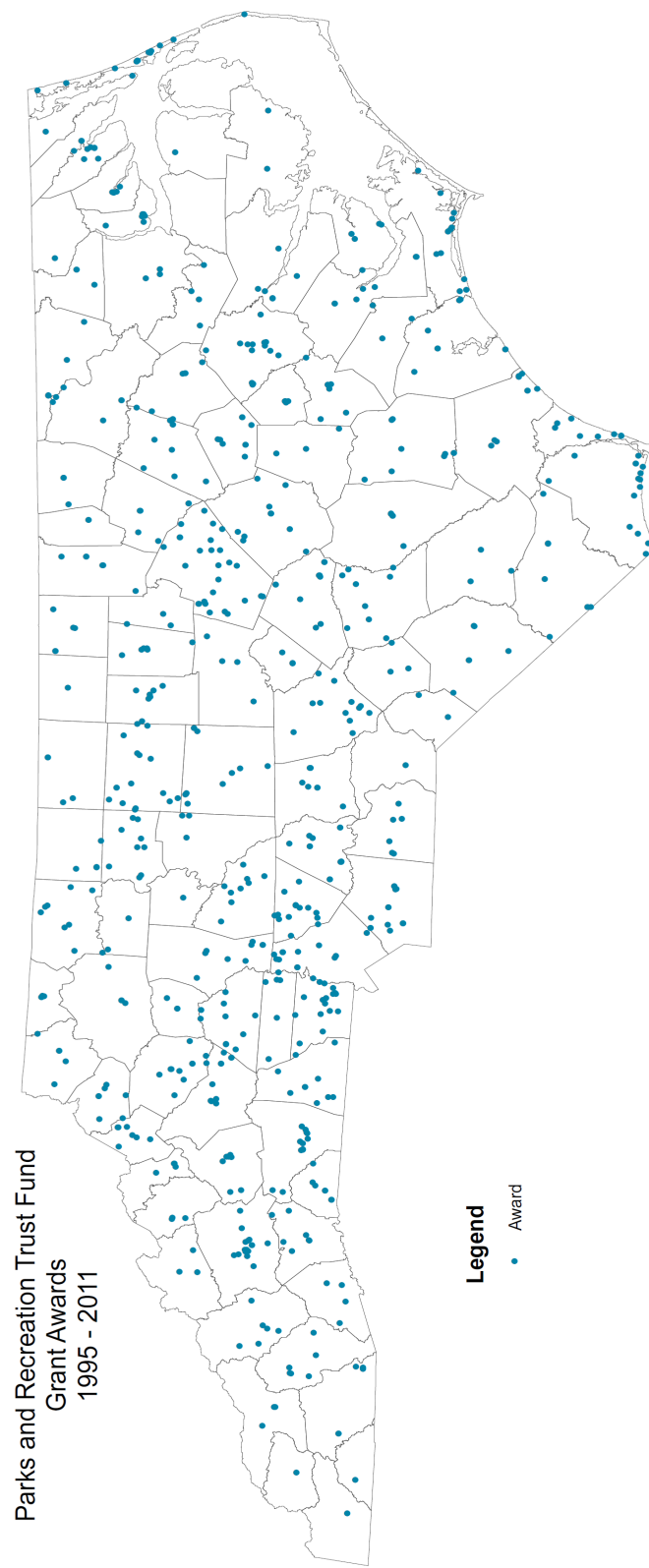


Figure 4-1. Distribution of PARTF Grants by County 1995-2011

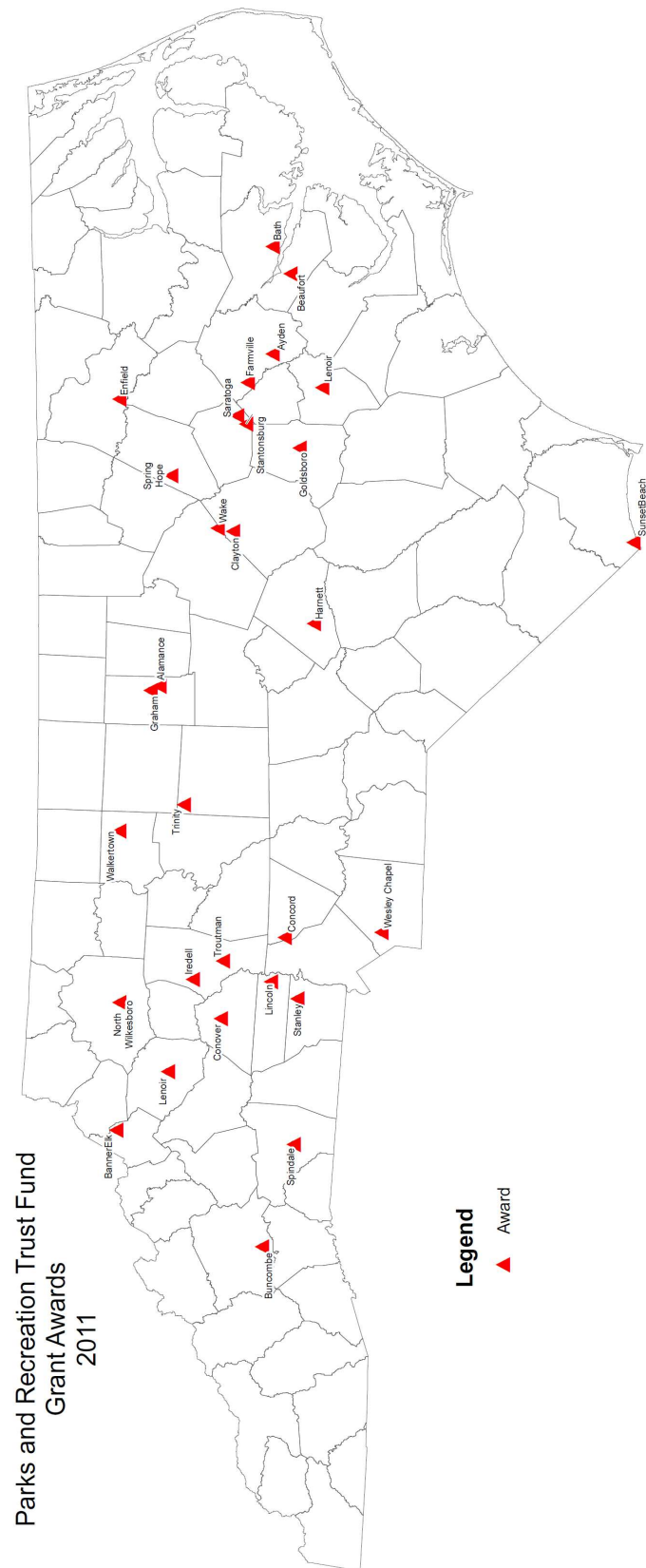


Figure 4-2. Distribution of PARTF Grants by County from 2011 Grant Cycle

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

Lenoir County

Woodman Water Park—This 3.1 acre water park will be the largest in eastern North Carolina and is a cooperative effort between Lenoir County and the Woodmen of the World. The water park will feature a 500 foot lazy river, zero entry pool with water play features, giant tube slide with plunge pool, picnic pavilion, teen island, shade canopy, picnic shelter, and food and beverage kiosk. The park is adjacent to the Woodmen Community Center.

Johnston County—Town of Clayton

Mountains-to-Sea Trail Trailhead Acquisition-- The 79.3 acre site contains 3,000 linear feet of forested Neuse River riverfront where the Mountains-to-Sea Trail will be located. The site has sufficient upland acreage to support the major Mountain-to-Sea Trail trailhead proposed for the Clayton area as well as traditional recreational activities to serve the rapidly growing population of northern section of the county. This section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail is particularly significant because it is the eastern terminus of nearly 125-miles of trail corridor in public ownership between Hillsborough and Clayton. The corridor includes trails on the Neuse River, Falls Lake and Eno River. With ongoing and planned construction, hikers will be able to walk this trail in approximately five years.

Gaston County—Town of Stanley

Harper Park—Efforts have been underway for a decade to raise matching funds to build Harper Park. The development of Harper Park will be the Town of Stanley's first public recreation park. Harper Park will consist of 17.4 acres, which will include a paved walking trail, hiking trail, picnic shelter, playground, two baseball fields, lighting, basketball court, parking area and restrooms.

5.0 State Parks Program

5.1 Land Acquisition

For fiscal year 2010-11, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved \$2,960,191 for land acquisition projects in the state parks system (Table 5-1). These projects will help address the need for additional acreage at 6 state park units. 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 State Park Land Acquisition Projects FY 2010-11			
Unit	Acres	Description	Cost (\$)
Carvers Creek State Park	245	Two tracts for the Sandhills section to provide land for facilities and public access	1,009,376
Chimney Rock State Park	37	Partial funding for a tract on Rumbling Bald, within a nationally significant natural heritage area	236,500
Chimney Rock State Park	74	Two critical tracts for resource protection and future public access. One tract on the top of Round Top Mountain, the other eastern half of Bottomless Pools	962,500
Elk Knob State Park	55	Multiple small tracts, including inholdings, for resource protection and access control	202,554
Mount Mitchell State Park	4	Small tract adjacent to existing state ownership in nationally significant high elevation natural communities in the Black Mountains	140,000
Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve	15	Small tract in the Paint Hill section. Fee simple ownership is needed for management of rare species on this tract	35,000
Associated Costs		The state covers associated costs such as title opinion, appraisals, surveys and phase one environmental assessments of acquisition projects along with land trust overhead and interest payments.	374,261
TOTAL	430		\$ 2,960,191

5.2 Construction and Renovation

During fiscal year 2010-11, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved state park construction and renovation projects totaling \$8,494,889 which consists of \$4,981,210 from FY2010-11 and \$3,513,679 from projects from previous years that were completed under budget (Table 5-2). 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 5-2 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
State Park Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2010-11**

State Park Unit	Description	Costs (\$)
Chimney Rock State Park	Elevator and Sky Lounge Improvements	1,414,900
Chimney Rock State Park	Trail and Egress Improvements	900,000
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park	Dam Repair	134,000
Crowders Mountain State Park	Family and Group Camp Improvements	664,000
Crowders Mountain State Park	Visitor's Center and Campground Parking Lot Expansion	172,000
Deep River State Trail	Justice Tract-Paddle Access	50,000
Haw River State Park	Church Street Section Interim Development	141,648
Lake James State Park	Mountain Bike Trails	225,000
Jordan Lake Recreation Area	Repair and Upgrade to Water System	608,341
Mayo River State Park	Dam Repair	370,000
Medoc Mountain State Park	Mountain bike Trails	225,000
Morrow Mountain State Park	Group Camp Improvements	40,000
Morrow Mountain State Park	Mountain Overlook Toilet Building	450,000
Park System	Major Maintenance Funds	1,500,000
Park System	Demolition Funds	200,000
Park System	Trail Maintenance	500,000
Park System	Exhibit Maintenance Repair Funds	50,000
Pilot Mountain State Park	Water System Improvements	200,000
South Mountains State Park	Renovate Primitive Campground at the Jacob Fork Section	650,000
TOTAL		\$ 8,494,889

***Examples of Capital Improvement Projects for the State Parks System
Funded by NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund***

Rutherford County – Chimney Rock State Park

The Elevator and Sky Lounge Improvements project includes repairs to existing facilities as recommended by the 2007 Facilities Condition Assessment Plan (FCAP) provided by the Office of State Construction and the Department of Insurance. The scope of work includes the complete modernization of the elevator, structural improvements to the building, replacement of the elevator emergency exit stairway, code compliant egress through and out of the building, and ADA modifications to the restrooms and all portions of the building.

The Sky Lounge Improvements continue the repair/replacement efforts along the secondary means of egress to meet current building code. These require that Sky Lounge have two means of egress to the parking lot. One egress is via the existing outside trail and stairs. This route does not meet current building code. Headroom is restricted by overhanging rocks, portions of the route exceed maximum vertical rise, and the handrails do not comply with code. This project has been broken into three phases that will complete the renovation over three winter seasons to minimize visitor disturbance during peak visitation. The new code-compliant stairs will be a series of steel structures with wooden decks. The new stairs will closely follow the existing alignment with minor deviations to meet code requirements. The total vertical elevation change is approximately 250 feet which includes 880 feet of trail structures and paths.

Wayne County – Cliffs of the Neuse State park

In March 2009, a sink hole formed on the dam embankment at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park. The sink hole was at the valve and associated manhole for the reservoir drain spillway located on the downstream side of the dam embankment. Due to the emergency nature of the pipe failure, a temporary coffer dam was installed at the upstream end of the pipe that completely blocked water from entering the drain spillway. The NC Dam Safety Law requires this dam to have a functioning reservoir drain system. The scope of work includes the final design and construction of approximately 400 linear feet of a reservoir drain spillway system and abandonment of the existing aging reservoir drain system. All attempts will be made to execute construction work during the off-season to minimize interruption of services to visitors, particularly at the revenue-producing swim beach at Cliffs of the Neuse.

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 seven capital improvement projects approved. No additional operating costs are anticipated for the state park projects that were approved during the year, but are not included in the section.

Crowders Mountain State Park - Family and Group Camp Improvements - The project includes vault toilet facilities and up to four new group camp sites.

Associated Operating Expenses:

- Minimum - One-time equipment needs of \$1,100 and a part-time general utility worker for the primitive and group campsites; approximately \$23,000 annually.
- Optimum - one-time equipment needs of \$30,000 and an additional park ranger; approximately \$87,000 annually.

Deep River State Trail - Justice Tract - Paddle Access / Interim Development – The project includes a day use area with gravel access road (approximately one mile), a gravel parking area, a vault toilet, and paddle access to the Deep River.

Associated Operating Expenses:

- Minimum - One-time equipment needs of \$1,100 and a part-time general utility worker for the access area; approximately \$23,000 annually.
- Optimum - one-time equipment needs of \$37,000 and an additional park ranger; approximately \$87,000 annually.

Haw River State Park - Church Street Section Interim Development - The project includes approximately 3/4 of a mile of a new paved entrance road from Church Street, a trail head, toilet facilities, and approximately three miles of natural surface trails.

Associated Operating Expenses:

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

Lake James State Park - Mountain Bike Trails - The project includes up to ten miles of single track mountain bike trails, bridges, and a parking area.

Associated Operating Expenses:

- Minimum - One-time equipment needs of \$26,000, a maintenance mechanic; approximately \$59,000 annually.
- Optimum - one-time equipment needs of \$27,000 and an additional part-time general utility worker approximately \$67,000 annually.

Medoc Mountain State Park - Mountain Bike Trails - The project includes to ten miles of single track mountain bike trails, bridges, and a parking area.

Associated Operating Expenses:

- Minimum - One-time equipment needs of \$26,000, a maintenance mechanic; approximately \$59,000 annually.
- Optimum - one-time equipment needs of \$27,000 and an additional part-time general utility worker approximately \$67,000 annually.

Morrow Mountain State Park - Group Camp Improvements – The project includes up to six new group camp sites, a vault toilet, and some minor road improvements.

Associated Operating Expenses:

- Minimum - One-time equipment needs of \$1,100 and a part-time general utility worker for the primitive and group campsites; approximately \$23,000 annually.
- Optimum - one-time equipment needs of \$30,000 and an additional park ranger; approximately \$87,000 annually.

South Mountains State Park - Renovate Primitive Campground at the Jacob Fork Section – The project includes eight new camp sites, a shower house, water and electrical service improvements, minor road improvements, and a septic system.

Associated Operating Expenses:

- Minimum - One-time equipment needs of \$2,800 and a part-time general utility worker for the new campsites and shower house; approximately \$25,000 annually.
- Optimum - one-time equipment needs of \$35,000 and an additional park ranger; approximately \$89,000 annually.

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 \$7,224,714, including \$5.6 million for state park projects.

Pursuant to Session Law 2007-323, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved the repayment of up to \$20 million for projects approved under the Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund from the state parks portion of PARTF. Repayment of the WAMI project funds during the past year totaled \$1.6 million.

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 \$36 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. While most of the early projects were located along the oceanfront, more and 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 usually in the fall of every year. Unfortunately due to delays in deposits and the carryover of projects prioritized for funding from the last cycle (2009/2010), pre-application requests for the 2010/2011 cycle were delayed. Grant recipients have eighteen months to complete their projects. However, extensions are granted for un-foreseen 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 projects improve public access to urban waterfronts. 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 2010-11 Fiscal Year Deposits**

The amount transferred from the PARTF fund to DCM during fiscal year 2010-11 was \$1,205,192. Table 6-1 provides the list of local governments that have received Governor's award letters that are prioritized to receive funding using funds available through the four quarter deposit of 2010-11 funds.

Table 6-1 Communities Prioritized for 2011-2012 Funding Based on 2010-11 Deposits and Other Available Funds			
Local Government	Project Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount
Town of Belhaven	Pantego Waterfront Park: Acquisition portion of 8.96 ac. Between W. Main St. and Pungo Creek.	\$3,600,000	\$200,000
Carteret County	Scenic Byway Acquisition : 13 acre- HWY 70 at North River	\$135,000	\$111,784
Pine Knoll Shores	Dogwood Circle easement Acquisition of ¼ acre for parking for existing access site.	\$162,552	\$138,169
River Bend	Gull PT-Trent River: Canoe/Kayak Launch with restrooms & parking	\$84,446	\$55,092
City of Washington	Waterfront Promenade Restroom 35' from Pamlico River edge near W. Main and Gladden Streets	\$268,488	\$200,000
Town of Duck	Sound side Boardwalk Extension total about 1,800 ft. both north and south of the existing along Currituck Sound.	\$617,402	\$179,760
Town of Leland	Mill Creek Environmental Education Park Improvement - Parking & docks to existing water access park.	\$106,666	\$79,999
Carolina Beach	Dingy/kayak/canoe Launch at the Town's Marina on Myrtle Grove Sound.	\$30,000	\$22,500
Totals		\$5,004,554	\$987,304

Totals may be adjusted during the final contract process.

The above-prioritize for grant contracts will begin either the fall of 2011 or January 2012.

The current project list does not include any partnerships directly with other state agencies. The grant awards for two of the projects involving land acquisition are also being used for credit towards meeting the state's match required for the receipt of federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

No PARTF funds are used for administrative costs associated with the grant program. The only non-award costs are funds used towards access site signs made by the State Division of Corrections. Signs are provided for new sites as well as existing which regularly require replacement due to weathering and storm events. Left over funds will be rolled over for the next years (2011-2012) cycle.