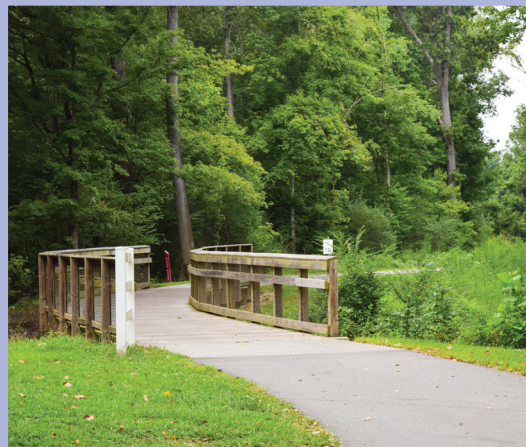




North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017-2018



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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*Clayton Riverwalk Greenway – portion of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, 2011*



*Forsyth Triad Park, 1996, 2001, 2013*



*Lansing Park, 2014*

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 parkland and build facilities for public recreation.

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-135.56, the money from PARTF is to be allocated as follows:

- 65 percent for the state parks system or a state recreational forest for capital projects, repairs and renovations of facilities and to acquire land. Four percent of these go directly to DuPont Recreational State Forest.
- 30 percent to provide grants to local governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis to create or improve parks and recreational projects.
- 5 percent for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program.
- No more than 3 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.

PARTF is housed within the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DPR transfers 5 percent of PARTF revenue to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program. The Division of Coastal Management administers these funds and offers matching grants to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties.

This annual report of the allocations from PARTF covers fiscal year 2017-18.

## 2018 Parks and Recreation Authority Members



**Neal Lewis, Chairman**  
Wilmington



**Ann Babcock**  
Asheville



**Lydia Boesch**  
Pinehurst



**Chad Brown**  
Stanley



**Vinnie Goel**  
Morrisville



**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.

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 2017-18.



*Neuse River Greenway portion of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, 2011*

## 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 \$20,346,417 from appropriations and personalized license plate fees. This amount is slightly higher than the average annual revenue from the previous five years, \$18.6 million. Of the \$20.3 million, the state parks share was \$12,862,541, the local government matching grant program received \$5,936,557 and the coastal access grant program received \$1,017,321.

A summary of the FY 2017-18 revenue sources and distribution are presented in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Deposits and Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2017-18**

Revenue	Amount
PARTF Recurring Appropriation	\$17,286,802
PARTF Non-Recurring Appropriation	\$3,437,126
Personalized Registration Plates Revenue and Interest	\$1,666,407
<b>TOTAL PARTF Revenues</b>	<b>\$22,390,335</b>
Special allocation per S.L. 2017-57	\$-1,000,000
Project Management Staff	\$-1,043,918
<b>PARTF Revenue Available for Distribution</b>	<b>\$20,346,417</b>

Distribution	Amount
State Parks System/Dupont Recreational State Forest	\$12,862,541
Local Governments Matching Grant Program	\$5,936,557
Coastal Management Beach and Waterfront Access Program	\$1,017,321
Administrative Expenses Reserve	\$529,998
<b>TOTAL PARTF Allocation</b>	<b>\$20,346,417</b>



Church Street Park in Morrisville, 2014



Lake Tomahawk Park in Black Mountain, 2008

## 4.0 Grant Program for Local Governments



Joyner Park in Wake Forest, 2005

### 4.1 Program Description

The PARTF program provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments to acquire land for public parks and build recreational facilities. Funds can also be used to protect the natural and scenic resources or renovate park facilities. North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for PARTF grants. Public authorities, as defined by G.S. 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.

DPR 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, 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, 2017. The Authority met in August 2017 to award the matching grants.

### 4.2 Description of Applications and Grants

The PARTF revenue allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2017-18 was \$5,936,557. Sixty local governments submitted PARTF applications, requesting \$18.2 million in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded 25 grants for \$7,044,864 (Table 4-1). The difference between the fiscal year distribution and the amount awarded or carried forward is \$1,108,307. 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 2017-18**

Applicant	County	Project	Fund Awarded
Alamance	Alamance	Haw River Trail/ MST Northern Alamance Section	\$300,000
Archdale	Randolph	Creekside Park Enhancements	\$329,217
Burke	Burke	Fonta Flora State Trail – East Lake James Corridor	\$300,000
Burlington	Alamance	Willowbrook Park	\$296,692
Catawba	Catawba	Riverbend Park Expansion	\$414,109
Chatham	Chatham	Enhancement of Briar Chapel Park	\$150,000
Davidson	Davidson	Wil-Cox Bridge Recreation Area	\$298,475
Dunn	Harnett	Clarence Lee Tart Park Improvements	\$350,000
Forest City	Rutherford	Thermal Belt Trail – Phase 1	\$350,000
Greene	Greene	Greene County Wellness Center	\$500,000
Halifax	Halifax	Halifax County Recreation Improvements	\$180,000
Lake Waccamaw	Columbus	Elizabeth Brinkley Park Improvements	\$189,721
Mooresville	Iredell	Selma Burke Community Center Renovation and Park Development	\$500,000
Nash	Nash	Nash County Play Together Regional Park	\$500,000
New London	Stanly	New London Park Project	\$275,000
N. Topsail Beach	Onslow	Town Park Renovation	\$33,075
Oak Island	Brunswick	Middleton Park Redevelopment	\$200,000
Oakboro	Stanly	Long Street Veteran’s Park Project	\$86,400
Polk	Polk	Little White Oak Mountain	\$375,000
Sanford	Lee	Kiwanis Family Park Renovations	\$350,000
Tarboro	Edgecombe	Braswell Playground Renovations	\$80,000
Valdese	Burke	Lake Rhodhiss Park Acquisition	\$300,000
Wilmington	New Hanover	Empie Park	\$63,000
Wilson	Wilson	Cavalier Terrace	\$374,175
Yadkin	Yadkin	Yadkin Memorial Park Recreation Area – Phase 2	\$250,000
<b>Totals: 25 projects</b>			<b>\$7,044,864</b>



Ribbon cutting at Royal Lane Park in Clinton, 2016

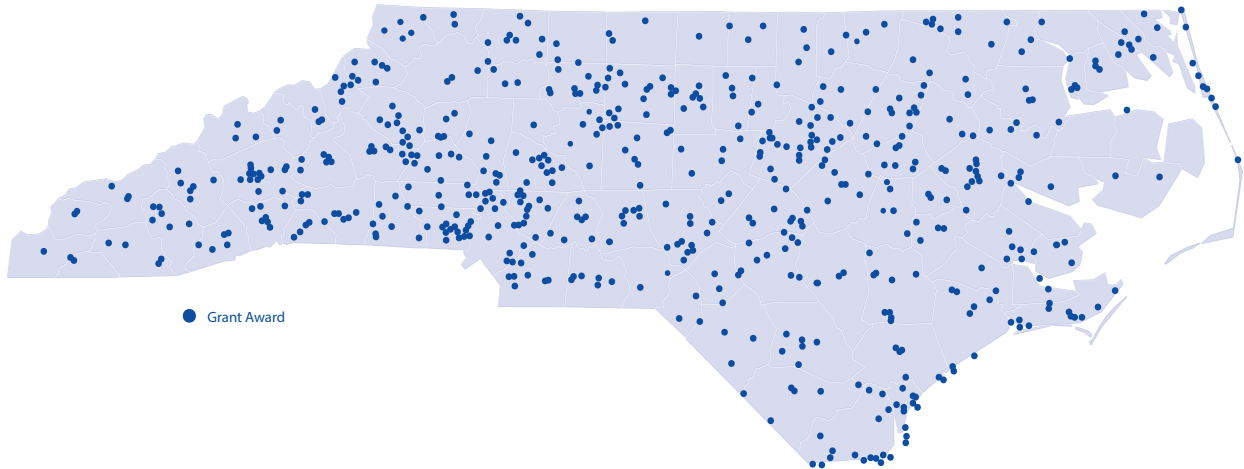


Splash Pad at Valdese Downtown Park in Valdese, 2015

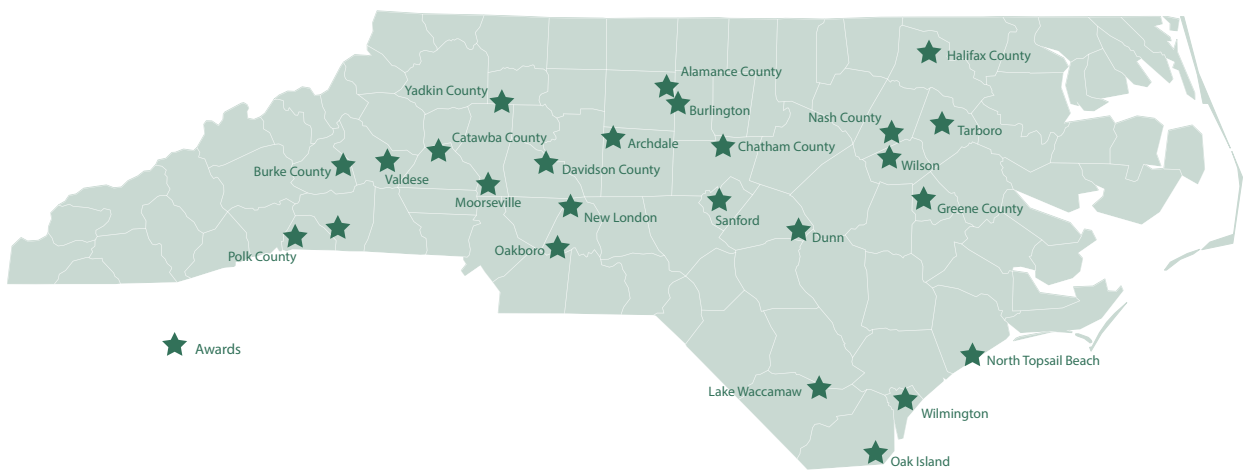
## 4.3 Geographic Distribution of Grants

Since 1995, the Authority has selected 872 grant recipients in all 100 counties across North Carolina, for grant awards totaling \$191 million.

### Distribution of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants by County 1995-2018



### Distribution of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants by County from 2017-18 Grant Cycle





## 5.0 State Parks

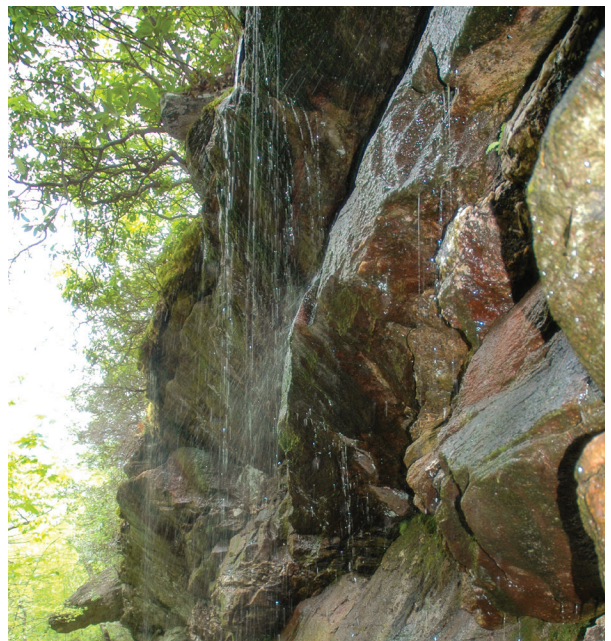
The Parks and Recreation Authority allocates PARTF revenue to capital improvement and land acquisition projects for the state parks system. DPR develops priorities for the state parks system and recommends projects for the board's approval. The PARTF revenue awarded to state parks projects for fiscal year 2017-18 was \$12,754,407. The Authority allocated \$531,434 to Dupont Recreational State Forest (§ 143B-135.56 (b)(1)); bringing the total for all state projects to \$13,285,841. The difference between the fiscal year distribution and the total amount awarded is \$423,301. This additional revenue is from administrative funds from previous years.



*Big Sandy Creek at Stone Mountain State Park*



*Bushy Lake State Natural Area*



*Sheep Rock Ridge at Hanging Rock State Park*

## 5.1 Land Acquisition

The Parks and Recreation Authority approved projects to acquire 2,955 acres totaling \$5,719,407 at 13 state parks and natural areas, plus \$210,000 for planning at three state park units (Table 5-1).

For example, a 1,000-acre initial acquisition will establish the Salmon Creek State Natural Area. This ecologically significant tract has high quality cypress-gum swamp, tidal swamps and tidal freshwater marshes, as well as 18 identified archaeological sites. One of the sites is the 18th-century plantation house occupied by colonial governor Thomas Pollock who helped shape colonial North Carolina. The property also has archeological sites that are helping researchers better understand the famed “Lost Colony.”

In addition, a 976-acre initial acquisition will establish the Warwick Mill Bay State Natural Area. Located in Robeson County, this site is one of the state’s largest inland heronries. This is a breeding ground for the little blue heron, green heron, white ibis and wood stork, the latter of which is listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Table 5-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
State Parks System Land Acquisition Projects Fiscal Year 2017-18**

Unit	Acres	PARTF Funds	Description
Bushy Lake State Natural Area	53	\$115,000	Critical acquisition along the Bushy Lake to provide access
Elk Knob SP, Lumber River SP and Falls Lake SRA		\$210,000	Planning funds
Elk Knob State Park	85	\$276,000	Acquire properties within the park boundaries
Eno River State Park	151	\$316,800	Properties for the Mountains-To-Sea Trail corridor as well as adjacent to Eno River
Grandfather Mountain State Park	212	\$740,220	Tracts to protect the park viewshed and a headwater tributary to the Watauga River
Hanging Rock State Park	236	\$885,000	Protect portions of Sheep Rock Ridge and provide land for potential visitor facilities and trails
Jockey’s Ridge State Park	0.2	\$170,000	Small lot with a structure along Soundside Road vital to the park boundary
Lake James State Park	150	\$765,950	Two acquisitions in critical locations: one tract adjacent to Paddy’s Creek that will protect water quality and public access; the second acquisition is adjacent to the Linville area park access
Morrow Mountain State Park	50	\$158,000	Property to enable greater natural resource and water quality protection, as well as land-based trails
Pettigrew State Park	6	\$58,000	Provide permanent public access to General Pettigrew’s grave site
Salmon Creek State Natural Area	1,000	\$875,000	Initial acquisition at ecologically and archeologically rich Salmon Creek
South Mountains State Park	8	\$17,000	Inholding near Roper Knob to protect viewshed
Stone Mountain State Park	28	\$342,000	Inholding acquisition to aid in protecting Big Sandy Creek
Warwick Mill Bay State Natural Area	976.5	\$250,437	Initial acquisition at Warwick Mill Bay in Robeson County.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,955</b>	<b>\$5,179,407</b>	

## 5.2 Construction and Renovation

During fiscal year 2017-18, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved state parks construction and renovation projects totaling \$7,575,000 (Table 5-2). Highlights include the replacement of boat docks at Hammocks Beach State Park, completion of projects partially funded with the Connect NC Bond and design work for a renovation of the restaurant at Mount Mitchell State Park.

**Table 5-2: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
State Parks System Capital Improvement Projects Fiscal Year 2017-18**

Park	Project	Cost (\$)
Eno River State Park	Pedestrian Bridge (Design)	\$75,000
Fort Macon State Park	Fort HVAC Replacement	\$100,000
Hammocks Beach State Park	Replacement Docks	\$850,000
Jockey's Ridge State Park	Sand Relocation (Design)	\$100,000
Mount Mitchell State Park	Restaurant Renovations (Design)	\$150,000
Parks System	Trail Maintenance Funds	\$500,000
Parks System	Major Maintenance Funds	\$2,000,000
Parks System	Exhibit Maintenance Funds	\$50,000
Parks System	Demolition Funds	\$250,000
Supplemental Funding for Connect NC Bond Projects		\$3,500,000
		<b>Total \$7,575,000</b>

## 5.3 Operating Expenses Associated with State Park Projects

PARTF does not fund operating costs, but 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 l). DPR 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.

Location	Expense	Minimal Level	Optimal Level
Goose Creek State Park New Campground	-Park Ranger (Journey Level) -Maintenance Mechanic (IV)	\$198,366	\$260,116
Hanging Rock State Park Land Acquisition	-Environmental Specialist	\$74,715	\$146,285
Lake James State Park New Visitor Center	-Park Ranger (Journey Level) -Maintenance Mechanic (III) -Office Assistant (IV) -I&E Specialist	\$341,600	\$454,905
Raven Rock State Park New Campground	-Park Ranger (Journey Level) -Maintenance Mechanic (IV)	\$211,866	\$273,616
Salmon Creek State Natural Area Land Acquisition	-Park Ranger (Journey Level)	\$56,336	\$130,011
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$882,883</b>	<b>\$1,264,933</b>

## 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 PARTF during the 1996-97 fiscal year. The program's enabling legislation (G.S. 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, 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.

DCM 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 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.



*Tom Doe Memorial Beach Access in Atlantic Beach,*

## 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 10 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, half an 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 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 and working waterfront projects improve public access. 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 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 that pedestrian access is also part of the project.

## 6.3 PARTF Awards Based on FY 2017-18 Deposits and Other Unencumbered Funds

The amount budgeted for grants and transferred from the PARTF to DCM during fiscal year 2017-18 was \$1,017,321. The additional \$603,976 in funds were unused from previous fiscal years and returned funds from previous grants provided. 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: Communities Awarded FY 2017-18  
Funding Based on Earlier Deposits and State Appropriations**

Local Government	Project Description	Total Project Costs	Grant Amount
Atlantic Beach	Tom Doe Memorial Beach Access Pedestrian Walkway	\$56,500	\$28,250
Brunswick County	Holden Beach Park Phase II	\$266,666	\$200,000
Caswell Beach	Oak Island Lighthouse Beach Access	\$138,006	\$103,505
Havelock	Historic Slocum Creek Waterfront Park Phase V	\$143,000	\$107,250
Kill Devil Hills	Ferris Avenue Beach Access	\$50,100	\$37,575
Kill Devil Hills	Glenmere Avenue Beach Access	\$61,900	\$46,425
Morehead City	South 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Water Access	\$51,200	\$12,800
Oak Island	Yaupon Pier Replacement	\$400,000	\$300,000
Ocean Isle Beach	OIB Community Center Beach Access	\$57,225	\$42,919
Pasquotank County <sup>†</sup>	Pasquotank River Public Access Improvement	\$89,000	\$80,000
Plymouth <sup>†</sup>	Conaby Creek Public Access Park	\$160,889	\$144,800
Shallotte	Shallotte Riverwalk	\$1,068,000	\$250,000
Windsor <sup>†</sup>	Cashie Riverfront Walkway	\$114,192	\$102,773
Wrightsville Beach	Wynn Plaza Restroom facility	\$220,000	\$165,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$2,876,678</b>	<b>\$1,621,297</b>

<sup>†</sup> Denotes communities that are Tier 1 jurisdictions. \$327,573 or about 20% of the grant awards are proposed for Tier 1 communities.

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's Correction Enterprises. Signs are provided to local governments for new sites and for replacement of weathered signs.

## 7.O DuPont State Recreational Forest

In FY 2017-18 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 or land acquisitions at DuPont State Recreational Forest.

This year's four percent (4%) allotment in the amount of \$531,434 was unspent and will carry over to the next fiscal year as the planning for the use of these resources is currently underway.