



North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023



DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Brian Strong, Director

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
Roy Cooper, Governor | D. Reid Wilson, Secretary

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## 1.0 Introduction



*Harrisburg Park, City of Harrisburg*

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 annual appropriations as well as revenue from personalized license plates and is administered by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Parks and Recreation Authority, a citizen board, allocates PARTF funds for projects in state parks and for grants to local governments to purchase parkland and build facilities for public recreation.

PARTF is allocated as follows:

- 65% for the state parks system or a state recreational forest for capital projects, repairs, and renovations of facilities and to acquire land;
- 30% to provide grants to local governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis to acquire land for public parks and to build or renovate recreational facilities;
- 5% is transferred to the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) for the Public Beach and Waterfront Access program. DCM administers these funds and offers matching grants to local governments in 20 coastal counties;
- A maximum of 3% 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.

## 2022-23 Parks and Recreation Authority Members



**Mavis Gragg**  
Chairperson  
Durham



**Doug Auer**  
Catawba



**Amber Brown**  
Cleveland



**Chad Brown**  
Gaston



**Beth Heile**  
Burke



**Lewis Ledford**  
Forsyth



**Margaret Newbold**  
Watauga



**Barnes Sutton**  
New Hanover



**Cynthia Tart**  
Pender

The NC Parks and Recreation Authority, a nine-member board, oversees the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Governor appoints five members, including the chair. The General Assembly appoints four members: two by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two by the Speaker of the House. Members are appointed for 3-year terms.

The Authority is charged with six powers and duties:

- to allocate funds for land acquisition,
- to allocate funds for capital projects,
- to solicit financial and material support,
- to receive public and private donations and funds for deposit into the Trust Fund,
- 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 six meetings during fiscal year 2022-2023.



## 3.0 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Revenue Summary



Maple Leaf Sports Complex, McDowell County



Town of Sunset Beach

Total PARTF revenue available for state and local parks as well as coastal access projects was \$63,407,512 from appropriations, nonrecurring revenue, and personalized license plate fees. The state parks system received \$39,978,436, the local government matching grant program \$18,451,586, and the Coastal Access grant program \$3,170,376. Reserved for administrative expenses was \$2,107,114 (\$1,807,114 for PARTF and \$300,000 for AFP). (Table 3-1).

**Table 3-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Deposits and Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Revenue	Amount
Recurring Appropriations	\$24,242,884
Nonrecurring Revenue	\$37,500,000
License Plate Fees	\$1,664,628
<b>Total PARTF Revenue</b>	<b>\$63,407,512</b>
Accessibility for Parks (AFP) Grant Program	\$10,000,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$73,407,512</b>

Distribution	Amount
State Share Fund Available (65%) State Parks System: \$38,379,299 (61%) Dupont Recreational State Forest: \$1,599,137 (4%)	\$39,978,436
Local Share Fund Available PARTF: \$18,451,586 (50% matching grant) AFP: \$9,700,000 (\$1 for every \$5 matching grant)	\$28,151,586
Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	\$3,170,376
Administrative Expenses Reserve	\$2,107,114
<b>Total PARTF Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 73,407,512</b>

## 4.0 Grant Program for Local Governments

### 4.1 Program Description

#### **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)**

The PARTF program provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments to acquire land for public parks and to build or renovate recreational facilities. NC counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for PARTF grants. Public authorities, as defined by NC General Statute §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 the availability of PARTF matching grants and the schedule for applying to local government officials. A local government can request a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 in PARTF assistance with each grant application.

The Division supports local governments in several ways. The PARTF staff posts a PARTF Application Video Guide online where local governments can learn about the program and how to complete an application. The video is available on demand. The Division also contracts with North Carolina State University to provide technical assistance to local governments through Recreation Resources Service (RRS). RRS provides advice to local governments on preparing grant applications with five consultants in regional offices.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority vote to 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 community, the geographic distribution of projects across the state, the grant funds requested in comparison to the funds available, and compliance with prior grant agreements. Applications were due May 2, 2022. The Parks and Recreation Authority met August 26, 2022, to award the matching grants.

#### **Accessibility for Parks – 2021 State Budget Senate Bill 105; page 328, section 14.8.(a,b,c)**

“Funds allocated in this act from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund to PARTF to provide matching grants to local parks facilities for children and veterans living with disabilities shall be used exclusively for grants to local government units or public authorities, as defined in G.S. 159-7, for construction of special facilities or adaptation of existing facilities that meet the unique needs of children and veterans living with disabilities or that enable them to participate in recreational and sporting activities, regardless of their abilities.”

AFP provides matching funds in the amount of \$1 of local funds for every \$5 of state funds.

A local government can request a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 in AFP assistance with each grant application.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority voted to select grant recipients. The factors considered by the Authority included, but not limited to: the criteria contained in the PARTF scoring system, the population of the applicant community, the geographic distribution of projects across the state, the grant funds requested in comparison to the funds available, and compliance with prior grant agreements. Applications were due November 1, 2022. The Parks and Recreation Authority met March 3, 2023, to award the matching grants.

### 4.2 Description of Applications and Grants

The PARTF revenue allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2022-23 was \$18,451,586. Forty-nine local governments submitted PARTF applications, requesting \$20,924,303 in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded 41 grants totaling \$17,887,966 (Table 4-1).

**Table 4-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
Matching Grants Awarded to Local Governments Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Applicant	County	Project	Funds Awarded
Ashe County	Ashe	Ashe County Park Expansion	\$500,000
Aulander	Bertie	Aulander Municipal Park Phase 2	\$142,650
Badin	Stanly	Badin Waterfront Park	\$500,000
Belville	Brunswick	Brunswick Riverwalk Extension	\$500,000
Burgaw	Pender	Osgood Canal Greenway - West Side Development	\$443,408
Cabarrus County	Cabarrus	Mt. Pleasant Park Athletic Complex	\$500,000
Calabash	Brunswick	Calabash Waterfront Park	\$500,000
Camden County	Camden	Treasure Point Environmental and Agriculture Education Center	\$452,000
Craven County	Craven	Craven County Nature Park	\$500,000
Davidson County	Davidson	Yadkin River Playground	\$500,000
Dunn	Harnett	Clarence Lee Tart Park Improvements	\$200,000
Franklin County	Franklin	Epsom Park	\$434,625
Fuquay-Varina	Wake	Community Center North	\$500,000
Garner	Wake	Yeargan Park Phase 1	\$400,000
Gastonia	Gaston	Linwood Springs Redevelopment	\$500,000
Greenville	Pitt	Wildwood Park Development	\$361,600
Haywood County	Haywood	Francis Farm Bike Park	\$500,000
Henderson County	Henderson	Redefining Etowah Park	\$286,125
Holden Beach	Brunswick	Holden Beach Pier	\$500,000
Jackson County	Jackson	Whittier / Qualla Community Park	\$500,000
Jamestown	Guilford	Jamestown Park Rejuvenation and Refresh	\$215,205
Kinston	Lenior	Emma Webb Park	\$500,000
Lenoir	Caldwell	Aquatic and Fitness Center/Soccer Complex	\$500,000
Lewisville	Forsyth	Jack Warren Park Improvements	\$230,940
Marshville	Union	Stegall Lake Phase 1	\$500,000
Mitchell County	Mitchell	Mitchell County Recreation Complex	\$500,000
Morganton	Burke	Bethel Park Phase I	\$500,000
Nash County	Nash	Miracle Park at Coopers Phase 2	\$425,000
Onslow County	Onslow	Hines Farm Park	\$393,875
Pasquotank County	Pasquotank	Northern (Newland) Park Development	\$500,000
Pender County	Pender	Central Pender Park Development	\$500,000
Pender County	Pender	Hampstead Kiwanis Park Phase 4	\$500,000
Rutherfordton	Rutherfordton	Norris Recreation Complex	\$450,000
Snow Hill	Greene	Splash Pad Recreation Facility	\$300,000
Spindale	Rutherford	Spindale Skatepark and Pump Track	\$425,000
Sunset Beach	Brunswick	Majestic Oaks Land Acquisition	\$500,000
Swain County	Swain	Swain County Recreation Park Aquatics Center	\$500,000
Tobaccoville	Forsyth	Village Park Expansion	\$480,000
Watauga County	Watauga	Boone Gorge Park, Middle Fork Greenway	\$500,000
Wrightsville Beach	New Hanover	Wrightsville Beach Park Facility Improvements	\$397,538
Yancey County	Yancey	Ray Cort Park Renovation	\$350,000
<b>41 Projects</b>			<b>\$17,887,966</b>

The AFP revenue allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2022-23 was \$9,700,000. Forty-five local governments submitted AFP applications, requesting \$18,786,391 in AFP assistance. The Authority awarded 23 grants totaling \$9,699,997 (Table 4-2).

**Table 4-2: Accessibility for Parks Grants Awarded**

Applicant	County	Project	Funds Awarded
Alamance County	Alamance	Cedarock Park Playground	\$462,109
Arapahoe	Pamlico	Arapahoe Community Park	\$274,960
Bertie County	Bertie	TGOW Outdoor Ed & Events	\$500,000
Davidson	Mecklenburg	Roosevelt Wilson Park Renovations	\$171,313
Davidson County	Davidson	West Campus Community Park	\$500,000
Davie County	Davie	CanoPLAY Treescape	\$500,000
Durham	Durham	C.R. Wood Park	\$500,000
Elkin	Surry	Crater Park	\$500,000
Fallston	Cleveland	Fallston Town Park	\$500,000
Garner	Wake	GRC Outdoor Accessible Play	\$335,629
Holly Springs	Wake	Sugg Farm Accessible Recreation	\$500,000
Huntersville	Mecklenburg	Abernathy Park	\$224,109
Iredell County	Iredell	Jennings Park Inclusive Play	\$500,000
Jacksonville	Onslow	Inspiration Field	\$500,000
Jamestown	Guilford	Universal Play at Jamestown Park	\$500,000
Lee County	Lee	OT Sloan Accessibility Project	\$412,109
McDowell County	McDowell	Maple Leaf Inclusive Recreation	\$500,000
Mills River	Henderson	Mills River Universal Play Space	\$263,397
North Wilkesboro	Wilkes	Smoot Park Improvements	\$500,000
Raleigh	Wake	Caraleigh Park Improvements	\$300,000
Watauga County	Watauga	Howard Knob Park Phase 1	\$362,109
Wilmington	New Hanover	Maides Park Inclusive Playground	\$482,153
Wilson	Wilson	All Children's Splash Pad	\$412,109
<b>23 Projects</b>			<b>\$9,699,997</b>

## 4.3 Examples of Completed Local Government Projects



Davie County Community Park, Davie County



Harrisburg Park, City of Harrisburg



Kiwanis Park, Town of Rutherfordton

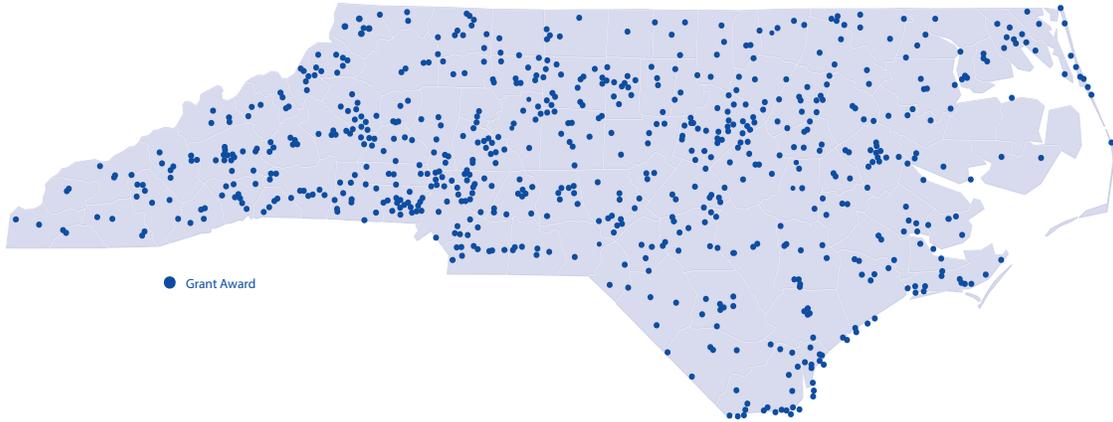


Rutherford College Greenway Park, Town of Rutherford College

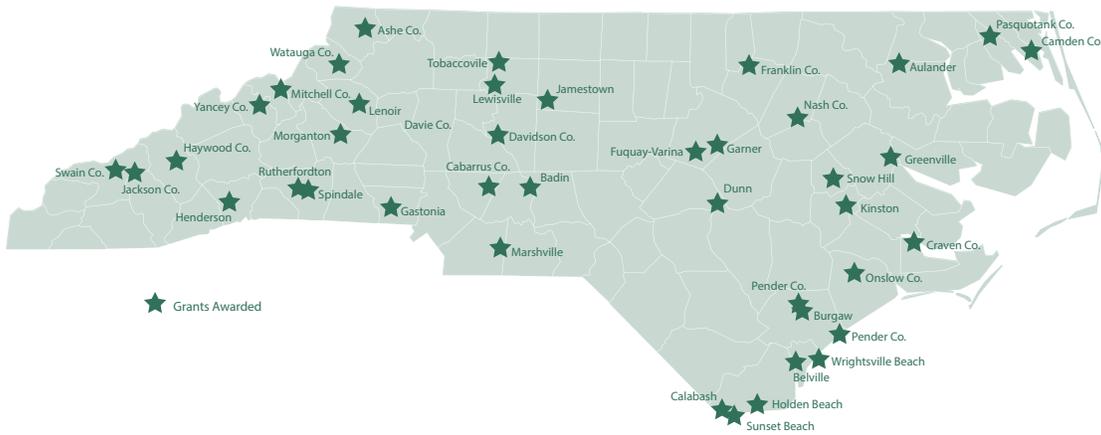
## 4.4 Geographic Distribution of Grants

Since 1995, the Parks and Recreation Authority has awarded 1,034 matching grants in all 100 counties across North Carolina.

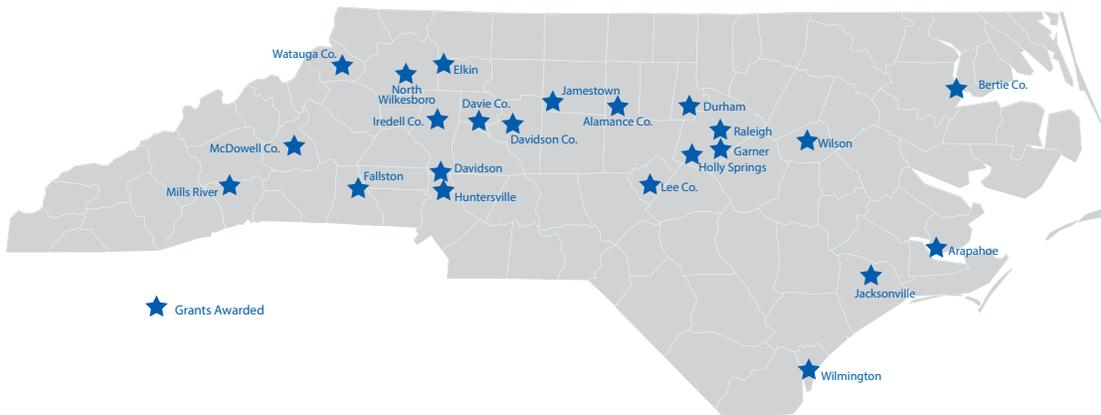
### Distribution of PARTF Grants by County 1995-2023



### Distribution of PARTF Grants from Fiscal Year 2022-23



### Distribution of AFP Grants from Fiscal Year 2022-23



## 5.0 State Parks

The Parks and Recreation Authority allocates PARTF revenue to capital improvement and land acquisition projects for state parks. The Division develops priorities for the state parks system and recommends projects for the board approval. The PARTF revenue for state park projects for fiscal year 2022-23 was \$38,379,299.

The total amount awarded to state park projects in FY 22-23 was \$38,886,214, which includes funds from projects from previous years completed under budget or postponed (Tables 5-1 and 5-2).

The Parks and Recreation Authority allocated \$1,599,137 for projects at DuPont State Recreational Forest (\$143B-135.56 (b)(1)). Section 7.0 provides additional information about these projects.

### 5.1 Land Acquisition

**Table 5-1: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
State Parks System Land Acquisition Projects Fiscal Year 2022-23**

State Park	Acres	Project	Funding
Chimney Rock	2	Tract on the western border and inholding acres in the state park	\$118,800
Elk Knob	58	Multiple tracts for trail connectivity to Peak Mountain	\$1,058,500
Eno River	15	Park buffer and additional expansion of the high-quality natural communities	\$355,000
Hanging Rock	4	Inholding near Hooker Farm Road	\$350,000
Lake James	1	Inholding within the state park	\$22,000
Mount Mitchell	215	Tract connecting two sections of the state park	\$250,000
Pisgah View	1.7	Inholding at the park containing a house, also protects stream frontage	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,454,300</b>



*Kiwanis Park, Town of Rutherfordton*

## 5.2 Construction and Renovation

**Table 5-2: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
State Parks System Capital Improvement Projects Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Park	Project	Funding
Carolina Beach	Maintenance facility improvements	\$2,200,000
Cavers Creek	Renovation of the Rockefeller house, parking addition, restroom, trails and residences at Sandhills	\$1,782,060
Chimney Rock	Renovation of the existing sewer system at the top of the mountain and connecting to city sewer system	\$249,005
Crowders Mountain	Overlook and trail improvements	\$2,000,000
Elk Knob	Development of trailhead and construction of trail along the Northern Peaks State Trail	\$3,400,000
Falls Lake	Disc golf course	\$71,265
Fort Fisher	Repairs to beach access and boardwalk	\$500,000
Grandfather Mountain	Development of a new maintenance area at the state park	\$693,448
Hammock Beach	Teachers Building and new campground	\$4,618,055
Hanging Rock	Renovation of hotel, roads, parking; demolition of existing facilities; utility services; site work; EV chargers; and family campground	\$5,900,000
Jordan Lake	Renovation of shower houses	\$1,500,000
Mayo River	Residence renovations	\$300,000
Morrow Mountain	Multiple facility renovations	\$1,784,413
Mount Jefferson	Restroom replacement	\$1,000,000
Mount Mitchell	Maintenance facility renovations	\$900,000
Pettigrew	Includes renovation of the existing campground and renovation of the existing contact station	\$1,949,619
Pisgah View	Master Plan supplement	\$50,000
William B. Umstead	Campground improvements and renovations	\$2,834,049
Multiple parks	Development of multiple planning documents including: the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; small area plans at several parks (Bob's Creek, Pisgah View, Rendezvous Mountain, and Salmon Creek); and the Pisgah View Master Plan	\$350,000
Trails	Funding for trail maintenance through the state parks system; also allows for cost share for various recreational trails program projects	\$1,100,000
Major maintenance	Statewide repairs and renovation to existing facilities throughout the park system	\$3,250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$36,431,914</b>



Harrisburg Park, Town of Harrisburg



Rutherford College Greenway Park, Town of Rutherford College

## 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 (\$143B-135.56 (e)). The Division 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.

**Table 5-3: North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
Operating Expenses Associated with State Park Projects**

State Park	Project	Estimated Operating Expenses	
		Recurring	Nonrecurring
Carvers Creek	Historic farm seat improvements	\$246,911	\$94,810
Elk Knob	Northern Peaks State Trail	\$329,270	\$212,000
Grandfather Mountain	Maintenance facility	\$180,159	\$333,100
Hammocks Beach	New campground	\$251,090	\$104,810
Hanging Rock	Vade Mecum improvements	\$2,002,864	\$998,300
Morrow Mountain	Parkwide improvements	\$164,239	\$77,650
Pettigrew	Campground and park office improvements	\$130,457	\$77,650
William B. Umstead	Campground improvements	\$174,353	\$81,650

## 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 5% of the revenues from PARTF during the 1996-97 fiscal year. The program's enabling legislation (§ 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, offers matching grant funds primarily to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. Since 1981, over 484 public access sites have been acquired or improved through over \$51 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.

The 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 for unforeseen events and delays, such as hurricanes, with a 3-year-maximum life of a contract.

Local governments are required to match from 10-25% of the project costs based on the type of project being funded and the community's economic status per the NC Department of Commerce's Tier designations, as outlined by § 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.



*Stroud Tract on Bogue Shore, Carteret County*

## 6.2 Types of Projects Funded

Communities can apply for the following types of projects:

### Land Acquisition/Easement

- Purchase of land for future public access facilities
- Purchase of easements for public access

### Construction Projects

- Facilities such as dune crossovers, boardwalks, and piers that provide access to the water
- Support facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, and other facilities
- Boat launch facilities: Boat launch and ramp facilities, whether motorized or not, provided pedestrian access is still a major component of the project
- Nature-based features, provided pedestrian access is still a major component of the project, with nature-based features being used to support, protect and enhance access improvements

### Rehabilitation

- Existing facilities encouraged to submit proposals designed to meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements
- Urban waterfront access sites: Improved public access to deteriorating or underutilized urban waterfronts through reconstruction or rehabilitation
- Reconstruction or relocation of existing damaged public access facilities: Primarily for sites not originally funded by this program or for improvements to any sites at least 15 years old

### Maintenance

- In Tier 1 communities: Routine maintenance at previously funded sites

## 6.3 PARTF Awards Based on FY 2022-23 Deposits and Other Unencumbered Funds

State appropriations are allocated to the DCM through PARTF. The amount transferred from PARTF to DCM during fiscal year 2022-23 was \$3,170,376. The amount budgeted for grants in addition to this allocation include funds unused from previous fiscal years and returned funds from previous grants. Table 6-1 provides the list of local governments that have been awarded grant funding.

## 6.O Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program



**Table 6-1: Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Program Communities Awarded or Prioritized for FY 2022-23**  
Funding Based on Earlier Deposits and Other Available Funds

Local Government	Project Description	Grant Amount	Total Project Cost
Atlantic Beach	Circle Boardwalk Property Acquisition	\$300,000	\$500,000
Beaufort County	Wright's Creek Regional Park Phase III	\$405,000	\$712,582
Calabash	Calabash Waterfront Park	\$250,000	\$1,300,000
Carolina Beach	Starfish Lane Canoe/Kayak Launch	\$131,250	\$175,000
Caswell Beach	Regional Access Site ADA Improvements	\$84,620	\$112,826
Holden Beach	Holden Beach Pier Area Beach Access	\$50,239	\$66,985
Southport	Southport Canoe/Kayak Launch	\$141,000	\$188,000
Sunset Beach	Majestic Oak Property Acquisition	\$250,000	\$2,000,000
Wilmington	Bradley Creek Water Access	\$155,625	\$207,500
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$1,767,734</b>	<b>\$5,262,893</b>

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 NC Department of Adult Correction. Signs are provided to local governments for new sites and for replacement of weathered signs.

## 7.0

# DuPont State Recreational Forest

Since 2017, in keeping with § 143B-135.56, the Parks and Recreation Authority allocated 4% of the annual appropriation for State Parks for capital projects, repairs, renovations, and land acquisitions at DuPont State Recreational Forest (DSRF). The amount transferred this fiscal year was \$1,599,137. State forest staff made progress on capital projects supported by PARTF funds, expending a total of \$651,676.

**Table 7-1: DuPont State Recreational Forest PARTF expenditures for FY 2022-23**

Capital Project	Expenditures
Grassy Creek Falls Trail repairs and renovations	\$29,970
Hooker Falls and Triple Falls Trails repairs and renovations	\$29,839
Issac Heath, Jim Branch, Ridgeline and Ruffed Grouse Trails repairs and renovations	\$109,410
Lake Julia office repair and renovation	\$14,309
Law enforcement office renovation (lower-level enclosure)	\$29,500
Maintenance facility renovation design	\$16,910
Overflow parking lot construction and gravel	\$129,038
Replacement dock at Lake Dense	\$15,749
Roadside wooden bollard and hangar fencing construction	\$276,951
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$651,676</b>

## Lake Julia Office Repair and Renovation



*The conference table at the Lake Julia office*

During fiscal year 2022-2023, backordered furniture and appliances arrived for the Lake Julia office. These items were included in the contract for the repair and renovation of the facility. The conference table offers the DSRF staff an area for departmental and committee meetings, and the appliances are used for washing and drying items such as special event banners, tablecloths, flags, soiled uniforms, and other washable materials and supplies.

## Maintenance Facility Renovation Design

During fiscal year 2022-2023, plans for major health and safety improvements at the hangar were completed by a designer. The hangar houses the DSRF mechanics shop, maintenance department office space, and a variety of supplies and equipment. The plans for the hangar include a permanent restroom for employees, enhanced ventilation, emergency exits, and improved interior lighting for the facility.



*The DSRF maintenance facility is scheduled for renovation.*

## Isaac Heath, Jim Branch, Ridgeline, and Ruffed Grouse Trail Repairs and Renovations



*Contractors working on Jim Branch Trail*



*Hooker Creek Trail repairs completed*

One of the largest trail projects during fiscal year 2022-2023 involved extensive repairs to more than 7 miles of extremely popular single and double track trails. This included the Hooker Creek, Hickory Mountain, Isaac Heath, Locust, Jim Branch, Ridgeline and Ruffed Grouse trails. The trail contractors closed off a severely eroded fall line section of the Isaac Heath Trail and inserted a short, parallel trail along Hooker Creek Trail with recommended directional use. Rock armoring was installed in several severely degraded sections of trail, and rolling grade dips and rainwater outflows were restored to reduce erosion and drain the water from the trail. The work also merged the Locust Trail into the Isaac Heath Trail and consolidated sections of White Pine Trail into Ruffed Grouse Trail and Hooker Creek Trail. The repairs and consolidations will improve visitor safety, increase trail sustainability and enhance visitor experience with trail use.

## Hooker Falls and Triple Falls Trail Repairs and Renovations

DSRF estimates more than 700,000 visitors walked Hooker Falls or Triple Falls trails during fiscal year 2022-2023. This high volume of use on two trails, which are each less than half a mile long, creates significant wear and tear to both the trail and the adjacent trailside. DSRF hired a trail contractor to restore proper drainage, reestablish drainage structures, reduce silt runoff into the Little River, smooth and re-gravel the walking surface, and repair general trailside degradation. These efforts will improve the visitor experience and protect the trails and surrounding forest.



*A trail contractor makes improvements to Hooker Falls Trail.*



*Triple Falls Trail added an improved walking surface and erosion control measures.*

## Replacement Dock at Lake Dense



*The new Lake Dense dock provides visitors with a wide variety of recreational opportunities.*

After many years of use, the old dock at Lake Dense was determined to be unsafe and replaced. The new dock arrived in sections that DSRF staff floated onto the lake and secured together. The assembled floating dock was then attached to a small concrete apron along the lakeshore. The new dock offers visitors a safe and versatile platform for fishing, swimming, boating, and generally enjoying the beauty of Lake Dense.

## Overflow Parking Lot Construction and Gravel



*DSRF staff grading for the overflow parking area*



*Roadside signage directing visitors to the overflow parking area*

During fiscal year 2022-2023, DSRF established an overflow parking area to provide additional parking for visitors. Four thousand tons of gravel were brought in for the overflow and other parking areas and on visitor trails and roads. The overflow parking area was formed by leveling land on each side of a small spur road and covering the raw dirt with gravel. DSRF installed signage to direct traffic within the new parking area and to ensure access for emergency vehicles. DSRF also installed fencing to help direct traffic and limit visitor access to areas closed to the public. The overflow parking area accommodates passenger cars and oversized vehicles such as buses and RVs, and will help reduce parking pressure at the High Falls Access Area.

## Law Enforcement Office Renovation Lower-level Enclosure

Persistent rodent activity and nesting underneath the law enforcement cabin required enclosing the entire lower level of the facility. The enclosure includes a door for accessing the area under the cabin and a wooden barrier spanning from below ground to the underside of the cabin's floor. The enclosure, along with ongoing pest control measures, will help protect the insulation, wiring, and ductwork that was completed in the previous fiscal year.



*Contractors enclosing the lower level of the law enforcement cabin*

## Grassy Creek Falls Trail Repairs and Renovations



*Trail contractor installing steps along Grassy Creek Falls Trail*



*Finished steps on Grassy Creek Falls Trail*

During fiscal year 2022-2023, DSRF hired a trail contractor to make significant repairs to Grassy Creek Falls Trail. The contractor installed a series of stone slab steps and landings to allow visitors to navigate the steep path to the Grassy Creek Falls viewing area. The stonework and grading that accompanied the work eliminated a severely eroded section of trail, greatly reduced erosion and significantly enhanced visitor safety along this pedestrian-only path. This project along Grassy Creek Falls Trail will increase the trail's sustainability, protect trailside habitat, and improve the visitor experience.