



PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
AGENDA  
Tuesday, November 21, 2023  
Chapel Hill, NC

- Planning Commission TBD
- Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Renuka Soll
- Youth Council TBD
- Racquet Sports (Tennis & Pickleball) Stakeholders Committee Renuka Soll
- Inclusive Playground Work Group Marcela Twamley

9:00 p.m. 7. Adjourn

**AGENDA NOTES**

3. Communications and Petitions:

**Year of the Trail:** North Carolina is the Great Trail State, and the NC General Assembly NC designated 2023 as NC Year of the Trail, an effort led by the Great Trails State Coalition. **This year-long campaign** celebrates North Carolina’s vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways.

Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department North Carolina Year of the Trail events are included on our Year of the Trail webpage

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/parks-and-recreation/recreation-events/year-of-the-trail-in-chapel-hill>.

For more information about the NC Year of the Trail, check out the Year of the Trail website: <https://greattrailsnc.com/>.

**Sports Café:** Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation's Athletics Team held a Sports Café meeting on Thursday, October 19, from noon to 1:00 pm at the Hargraves Park Picnic Shelter. The meeting recaps are shared on the Athletics page at [www.chapelhillparks.org](http://www.chapelhillparks.org).

Next Sports Café will be held at Chapel Hill Community Center on Thursday, February 8, 2023, 6 to 7p.m. To join online, please click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88348742154>

Other Events:

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- The annual Turkey Drive will be held at Hargraves Park on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- The Department's Youth Basketball Season has begun with practices beginning on November 27, 2023
- The annual Climb with Santa will be held at the Community Center Park on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

**Teen Center:** Recreation team members continue to assess the current set up of the facility and are moving to make improvements. New furniture has been ordered and floor and lighting contractors are ready to begin work within the next couple of weeks.

Greenways, Sidepaths, and Parks Projects Progress: Following are brief updates. Commission members should contact the staff if they have questions or comments.

*Bolin Creek Greenway Umstead to Estes Drive Extension Planning, Community Engagement and Design Project:* \$500,000 American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place. The Transportation Planning Division manages this project, which will be planned in conjunction with the Estes Drive Extension Project. A planning and engineered firm has been selected and staff is reviewing their fee proposal.

*Fordham Boulevard Sidepath Project:* Bids have been received for the renovation and extension of the Fordham Boulevard Sidepath Project. The bids have been rejected since they were over what is allocated for this project. The project team is working with our Business Management Department and Senior Management to review options for additional funding.

This project will provide a multi-modal path along Fordham Boulevard between Cleland Drive and Willow Drive. It is divided into two segments. The southern portion between Cleland Drive and Ridgefield Road involves upgrading the existing asphalt section to concrete. The northern part consists of constructing a new path between Ridgefield Road and Willow Drive along the eastern side of Fordham Boulevard.

*Hargraves Park: Construction* is occurring to resurface the three existing tennis courts at Hargraves Park. Work is scheduled for 150 days which results in a completion date of Friday, April 5, 2024, for this project.

*Comprehensive Systemwide Master Plan:* \$300,000 from the Penny for Parks funding is in place for this project. A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) has been drafted to find an architecture, engineering and landscape architect firm to update the 2013 Master Plans for Parks and Greenways. The RFQ will be advertised in December and posted on the Town's webpage for 30 days. The award is expected to occur early next year.

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*Homestead Skate Park:* \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for the skate park upgrades. 5th Pocket Skateparks, Inc. is under contract to provide design services for the skate park the upgrade project. Their work will include design, construction documents, and specifications for a concrete skatepark. The design work phase will consist of obtaining community feedback. 5th Pocket Skateparks has recently worked with a neighboring jurisdiction on their skatepark project. We anticipate community engagement starting in late December 2023 and extending through the beginning of 2024.

*Inclusive Playground Equipment @ Community Center Place:* \$500,000 and System-wide Playground Accessibility (\$285,000) in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for this project. A meeting was held in September with the playground manufacturer who will be providing the inclusive playground to share input from the Community Engagement work that occurred when the playground was to be built at the Cedar Falls Park. The company representative has sent 4 renderings and the playground working group will be meeting to discuss the different options.

*Teen Center Study:* \$65,000 American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place. Staff is in contact with other parks and recreation agencies regionally and nationally about this project to learn about methods they have utilized for initiating a study and their lessons learned. Staff created a teen center study team that generated a survey to receive input from teens in the community. This information has been shared with high schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools for distribution and feedback.

*Morgan Creek Trail Project*

**East Section:** The community Engagement Phase for the planning and design phase of the East Section of Morgan Creek Greenway begins this month and will continue through December. The team will share the three options for the trail alignment with the Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Commission on Tuesday, November 21, and will post an online survey in Burmese, English, Karen, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. There will be an Open House (Public Meeting) at the Chapel Hill Library on December 9, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Staff will also host a December 14 site meeting and have virtual office hours during the week of December 18 to meet individually with public members.

**West Section:** We have completed the selection process for hiring planning, landscape architecture, and engineering firms to finish the planning design, community engagement, permitting, and construction documents for the West Section of Morgan Creek Greenway. A fee proposal is requested from the selected firm, and a contract should be awarded in December.

*Tanyard Branch Trail:* \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for creating a trail connector to the Tanyard Branch Affordable Housing Project. Transportation Planning Division is managing this project.

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4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance

5. Morgan Creek East Greenway Extension Project – Feasibility Analysis Status Presentation, Marcia Purvis, Project Manager and Nia Rodgers, McAdams Project Manager

6. Liaison Reports– Receive reports from Commission members who liaise with Advisory Boards.

**FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

- Town of Carrboro Capital Improvement Program Projects - Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
- Orange County Capital Improvement Program Projects - Orange County Parks and Recreation Division
- Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) Rewrite Project Update - To include discussion about Payment-in-lieu Program Modifications
- Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department joint meeting with Parks, Recreation and Greenway boards and commissions from Carrboro, Orange County and Hillsborough in Chapel Hill later this year (date to be determined).
- Parks and Recreation Department Overview - Grants applications and receipt
- American Legion Update
- Sidewalk Maintenance
- Affordable Housing
- Sponsorships and Parks Donation Program
- Park Fees and Cost Recovery Overview