



PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
AGENDA  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
Chapel Hill, NC

- Planning Commission Holly Burnham
- 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. 8. Adjourn

### AGENDA NOTES

#### 3. Communications and Petitions:

**Sports Cafe:** Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation's Athletics Team held a Sports Café meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Community Center on Thursday, Meeting recaps are shared on the Athletics page at [www.chapelhillparks.org](http://www.chapelhillparks.org).

### EVENTS

Parks and Recreation staff are conducting a series of community engagement meetings with sports and recreation program participants and user groups to highlight recent program accomplishments and share 2024 plans. Meetings will take place throughout the month of February through early April. Full meeting schedule to be released soon at [www.chapelhillparks.org](http://www.chapelhillparks.org) and posted at recreation facilities. Meeting summaries are also being posted to this webpage [Athletics | Town of Chapel Hill, NC](#).

### PROJECTS

**Teen Center:** Recreation team members continue to assess the current set up of the facility and have started making improvements in anticipation of the facility reopening in early 2024. New furniture has been delivered and contracted work will enhance the rooms, floors, and lighting within the facility.

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.

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The Transportation Planning Division manages this project, which will be planned in conjunction with the Estes Drive Extension Project. A planning and engineering firm has been selected and staff is reviewing their fee proposal. Award is expected Spring 2024.

*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 in February 2024 since funding is not available at this time from NCDOT or Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

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 Tennis Courts:* Construction is in progress to resurface the three existing tennis courts. Staff is working with the construction contractor, the project engineers and landscape architect to see if additional work can be done to prolong the pavement cracking that occurs due to existing soil conditions. Work is scheduled to be complete Spring 2024.

*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 is posted on the Town's website, [www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org). The award is expected to occur Spring 2024.

*Homestead Skate Park:* \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for the skate park upgrades. 5th Pocket Skateparks, Inc. The project is in the design phase after receiving input from the public as part of the Community Engagement Phase. 5th Pocket Skateparks has recently worked with a neighboring jurisdiction on their skatepark project.

*Inclusive Playground Equipment at Chapel Hill Community Center Park:* \$500,000 and System-wide Playground Accessibility (\$285,000) in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for this project. Community Engagement meetings were held on:

- February 11, 2024, Noon – 2:00 p.m. Chapel Hill Library Room B
- February 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Chapel Hill Community Center

*Teen Center Study:* \$65,000 American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place. Staff anticipates proceeding with the project shortly after the Comprehensive Systemwide Master Plan firm is selected.

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*Morgan Creek Trail Project*

**East Section:** The community engagement phase for the planning and design phase of the East Section of Morgan Creek Greenway started in November. An online survey in Burmese, English, Karen, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish was open through December 20. 1,514 people participated in the survey. Public Meetings were also held on:

- December 9, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library with approximately 20 people in attendance.
- December 14, from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the Morgan Creek Greenway parking lot approximately 16 people were on site to find out more about the project, some of which participated in a walk to review the connection from the existing trail to the new extension.
- December 14, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. virtual meeting five people participated
- December 15, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. virtual meeting one person participated
- January 9, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. – noon was held with North Carolina Botanical Garden staff to review this phase of the project and receive input.

A January 23, 2024, meeting from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. was held to review the potential alignments using neighborhood streets and Fordham Boulevard. Staff and the design professionals will be sharing the results of the Community Engagement work and the next steps for the project at the March 19, 2024, Commission meeting.

For more information, please visit the project webpage:

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/parks-and-recreation/planning-and-development/morgan-creek-trail-phase-3>

**West Section:** We have completed the selection process for hiring planning, landscape architecture, and engineering firm to finish the planning design, community engagement, permitting, and construction documents for the West Section of Morgan Creek Greenway. A fee proposal has been received from the selected firm, and a contract should be awarded this month. The Community Engagement Phase will commence Summer 2024.

*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.

4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance

6. Recommended Commission Priorities (2020 – 2023) – Atuya Cornwell, Director, Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner and Kevin Robinson, Senior Manager

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

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**FUTURE MEETING ITEMS**

1. Town of Carrboro Capital Improvement Program Projects - Carrboro Recreation and Parks & Planning Departments
  - ✓ Parks & Greenways – TBD possibly February 20, 2024
2. Parks and Recreation Department Programs and Camps 2024 - Introduction
  - ✓ March 19, 2024
3. Morgan Creek Greenway East Extension Project – Feasibility Report Update
  - ✓ March 19, 2024
4. Sponsorships and Parks Donation Program – Review and Update
  - ✓ April 16, 2024
5. Volunteer Program
  - ✓ April 16, 2024
6. Orange County Capital Improvement Program Projects - Orange County Parks and Recreation Division
  - ✓ May 21, 2024
7. Commission Interviews
  - ✓ May 21, 2024
8. Inclusive Playground Design Options – Review
  - ✓ May 21, 2024
9. Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Content Review
  - ✓ May 21, 2024
10. Parks and Recreation Project Expenditures – Review and Update
  - ✓ June 18, 2024 (in-person meeting)