

Date: April 3, 2023
To: Town of Chapel Hill Council
From: Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission

Subject: Priority Projects for Funding using the Town Budget

On behalf of the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission, I am writing to submit the new list of priority projects for funding using the Town budget. The Commission has carefully reviewed the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Program needs and has utilized specific criteria to identify the priority projects. By unanimous vote at our March 2023 meeting, projects were selected using criteria including: demand and utilization, health and safety-related urgent repairs, outreach to reach underserved members of the community, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)-focused initiatives. These projects are in addition to currently unfunded projects originally slated for funding through the ARPA program including funds for critical renovations to the skatepark.

We are pleased to present the following priority projects in alphabetical order:

- **Cedar Fall Park Tennis Court Shortfall** - Due to increased construction costs, the Parks department needs additional funds to complete renovations to Cedar Falls Park Tennis courts. The tennis community needs usable courts that can be used for drop-in play, tournaments, USTA sponsored events, and the project is accessible. The Town has eight other courts, all needing to be repaired or reconstructed. The courts at Hargraves will be under construction this summer for 150 days.
- **Funding a Parks Comprehensive Master Plan** - A new Parks Comprehensive Master Plan is needed to have a clear direction for future parks, recreation, open space, and greenway needs. We also need this to compete for grants that require updated plans. Ours is currently ten years old and is considered outdated.
- **Greenway planning** - The Town needs to continue investing in greenway infrastructure. The Parks department needs money to continue development.
- **Pay-go funding** - The commission would like to advocate for increased Pay-Go funding for continued departmental repair needs. As our list of capital improvement projects continues to grow, pay-go funding helps stem increases to that list.
- **Splashpad** - With the climate continuing to get warmer, the Town needs to invest in infrastructure to offer families and children a place to cool off during hot summer days. This project is also accessible to individuals with disabilities in ways that pools are not. There is great community interest in this, and it is in line with Town goals surrounding climate.

We request that all noted projects be given every possible consideration for funding and execution. We believe that these projects will greatly benefit the community and enhance the quality of life in Chapel Hill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Steelman, Chair
Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission