



2013 Calendar Year Progress Report

Parks and Recreation Department

Photo of Mary Holmes Park Picnic Shelter by David Blevins

- Creating Place
- Enhancing Quality of Life
- Demonstrating Financial & Environmental Stewardship
- Supporting Economic Development
- Fostering Common Ground

Town of Pittsboro North Carolina



Pittsboro Parks 2013 – Progress Report

2013 marks another exciting and productive year for Pittsboro Parks! We've completed a new destination facility, made impactful improvements throughout the system, coordinated several special events and managed beautifications to our historic downtown via management of the Small Town Main Street Program. Thank you for your continued support of our small but high quality public parks system.

Rock Ridge Park Disc Golf Course

After much hard work throughout the year, Rock Ridge Disc Golf Course is now officially open for play! This project was designed to be a destination course which would attract players from around the state, the southeast and beyond. This par 65 course was designed by John Houck, widely acknowledged as one of the best designers in the field. It sports a total distance of 6,938 feet from the long tees and emphasizes subtly and sophistication of design within a beautiful rolling hardwood terrain.

Judging by initial feedback this course looks well poised to live up to its high expectations. We fully expect it to be one of the most highly ranked courses in the state, a state with around 180 disc golf courses.

This project was initially envisioned as much as an economic development project as a parks project. Part of fulfilling this goal will include the future installation of ad signs from some of Pittsboro's finest restaurants and bars that will guide out of town visitors into the establishments that we locals already know and love.

Demand for this disc golf course was evidenced by the fact that it was built with well over \$12,000 worth of documented volunteer labor from as far away as Raleigh and Burlington. A handful of incredibly inspiring local disc golfers devoted a tremendous amount of their time and resources to this project, providing a true gift to their community. Follow progress at the Rock Ridge Disc Golf Course Facebook Page:

<http://goo.gl/3XplwN> or scan the following QR Code:



Luc Horne has a go at putting



Local disc golfers Noah Becker and Jeff Baldwin clearing brush at Rock



Parks Planner on excavator



John Houck and Noah Becker discussing design philosophy



Mary Holmes Park

- Beauty and function merged in a successful stormwater project at the pedestrian entryway. Ashlar stone diversion swales, vegetation and an artificial stream channel now effectively manage stormwater while greatly reducing maintenance. Grants partially funded this project.
- There were enough left-over pavers to provide a floor for the living roof gazebo.



Town Lake Park

- Over half a mile of trail was added along with a new bridge and section of boardwalk. This new trail completes the loop around the lake with the exception of the stone weirs which are only passable during dry conditions. This project was largely funded via grants.
- The playground underwent a minor renovation to add better safety surfacing, replace old swings and add a natural playground element.
- This Kiosk was refurbished and a trashcan added.
- The lake was stocked with Bluegill, Large Mouth Bass and Red Ear Sunfish thanks to the NC Fish and Wildlife Service.



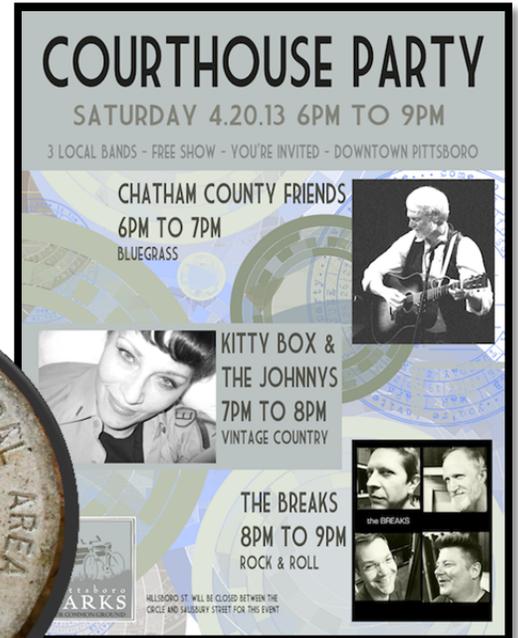
Kiwanis Park

- A winding slate path was installed linking the fig tree path to the boulder play area.
- Whimsical critters and cars from French Connections were installed



The Community House

- Refinished floors gave the Community House a drastic makeover.



Special Events

Courthouse Party

- Pittsboro Parks threw a community street party in honor of the grand re-opening of our beloved historic Chatham County Courthouse.

Fall Street Fair

- This is the first year that the Parks Department managed the fair directly in lieu of outsourcing a coordinator; the event was seamless with over a hundred vendors and around six thousand visitors.

Christmas Parade

- This event was also directly managed by Pittsboro Parks for the first time. Spectators and participants had fun despite the cold rain.
- *Managing special events in-house provided a cost-savings and allowed for the development of many behind the scenes efficiencies which will make future events run more easily and effectively.*



Planning & Other

- The Parks, Planning and Engineering Departments moved out of Town Hall and into a **satellite office** early this year. The Parks Planner coordinated the IT and telephone logistics for the move.
- The Parks Planner reviewed and provided comments for the proposed Chatham Park Development.

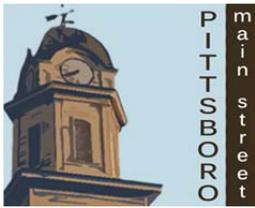
Athletic Programming

- Adult and Youth Fall Tennis Clinics were a great success. *This was Pittsboro Parks' first foray into athletic programming. More clinics are expected next spring and fall via our partner RDU Tennis.*

PARAB

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) annual outing was a hike along the Haw River State Natural Area (formerly Haw Slopes Natural Area) from the US 64 Bridge to the proposed Bluffs Park area of the proposed Chatham Park development. We were joined by the Haw River Riverkeeper along with members from our sister organization the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. We try to do at least one outing together a year to bond as a group and to appreciate the wonderful natural resources in our area.





Pittsboro Parks

Our Common Ground

SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Parks Planner serves as the Town’s Main Street Manager overseeing the Main Street Program, and has administered a number of transformative Façade Grants in our historic downtown. In addition, benches have been installed and new trash cans will be in place within the coming weeks. A new Bike Rack and a Bike Fixit Station will make our downtown more inviting to cyclists. For more information visit: <http://goo.gl/5Bd4ff> or scan the QR Code above.



Façade Grant recipients



Bike Fixit Station



2014 promises to be another banner year for Pittsboro Parks. To keep up with park progress between annual reports, *join the community of park friends who receive new Pittsboro Parks Blog posts via email subscribe via the QR Code below.*

