

# Memo

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners  
From: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
Via: Paul Horne  
Date: May 10, 2012  
Re: PARTF Funding Integrity



## Background:

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) monies have provided the bulk of development costs for both Mary Holmes Park and Rock Ridge Park as well as over 700 grants of similar scope to 370 local governments and 99 counties across the state. PARTF was established with bi-partisan support in 1994 to increase citizen's access to parks and recreational opportunities.

PARTF has enjoyed a dedicated funding source (through a portion of the deed stamp tax) for the Fund. The latest budget from the Governor proposes ending the dedicated funding source for the Fund.

The North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association is encouraging local governments to pass the following resolution urging the state legislature to retain the dedicated funding source for this important program.

## Discussion:

- PARTF has enabled the conservation of iconic places, such as Grandfather Mountain, Chimney Rock, Lake James, Carvers Creek and major additions to the Mountains-to-Sea trail
- Construction and Jobs: PARTF funds capital improvement projects in the parks system, such as visitor centers, exhibit halls, campgrounds, picnic areas, boating facilities, trails and swimming beaches, as well as recreation facilities in local parks. In fact, approximately 71% of the trust fund is spent on construction projects.
- Economic Impact: Each tourist to a state park spends an average of \$23.56 per day. In a 2008 NC State University study, the annual economic impact to local economies for all tourists visiting the state parks system was estimated at more than \$400 million in sales and income, as well as nearly 5000 jobs.
- Local Impact: PARTF has provided 722 grants to local governments for parks and recreation projects since 1995. 99 out of 100 counties have received PARTF grants, with local governments matching at nearly a 2:1 ratio.
- Demand for Local Grants: Local Governments have proposed 1350 projects requesting \$285 million. PARTF has only been able to fund about half of these projects. Many communities are growing; the state's population has increased 30% since 1995.
- Health Benefits: PARTF provides opportunities for public recreation at state and local parks throughout North Carolina. Public parks have an important role in community health by promoting increased exercise as a cost-effective way to address obesity, heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

## Recommendation:

Staff is not making a recommendation in this matter.

Pittsboro's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has endorsed the resolution and recommends the resolution for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.