

SEPTEMBER 2014



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Master Plan envisions future of County parks and facilities

A guide to future investment and allocation of resources for parks and recreation facilities will be the subject of a public input session 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 14, at Scotland Place.

The Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an update to the already existing 2006 Master Plan.

The plan includes an emphasis on public health since one of the most effective ways to improve health outcomes is through increased physical activity. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will seek input on four goals in the Master Plan.

Goal 1: Reduce the number and acreage of parks maintained by the Scotland County Parks and Recreation System. This may be accomplished through a reduction in maintained acreage or by repurposing specific parks.

Goal 2: Provide a connected network of multi-use paths (greenways) for bicyclists and pedestrians. Such a network should traverse much of the county, connect parks and provide an alternative (active) transportation option for residents.

Goal 3: Increase recreation opportunities for Scotland County residents. While many high intensity sports activities currently exist, more passive opportunities are desired. This may be accomplished through the construction of new facilities, shared use of school property, repurposing of facilities as outlined in Goal 1, or by developing or strengthening partnerships.

Goal 4: Conduct a Program Life Cycle Analysis for county recreation programs. Just as trends change, so should programming over time. To identify those programs reaching the end of their life, an assessment of program conditions should take place.

The public is encouraged to attend the October 14 meeting and share their thoughts on the plan and comment on the goals. The full plan is available for review at this shared link <https://www.filesanywhere.com/fs/v.aspx?v=8b6e628959666d75ad6c>.

Solid waste fee options studied

The Policy Committee will spend the next several months working on a fee schedule for solid waste operations that the County has been subsidizing for years.

Surrounding counties already have fees for solid waste in addition to County property taxes.

Committee Chair Carol McCall said, "It's not a new fee. The County has been supplementing solid waste operations and losing money on it in the amount of \$400,000 a year. It's irresponsible fiscally for the County to continue doing this."

Education report given

Current accomplishments and anticipated challenges were discussion points at a recent State of Education forum. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, attendees received reports from Scotland County Schools Superintendent Ron Hargrave, RCC President Dale McInnis, UNCP Dean Mark Canada and St. Andrews University President Paul Baldasare.

Hargrave, on the job a little more than three months, said the state of public school education in Scotland County is measured through individual achievements the children make and the methods used by educators to help children succeed.

"No two students are alike. I want every single child in our school system to experience success. And success looks different for every child," Hargrave said.

He added, "It's about meeting the developmental needs of the child, helping the child to grow and putting the child in the position where they will learn," Hargrave added. "There's not one issue that we're going to deal with this year that we can't overcome."

Hargrave said the graduation rate is at the highest in the history of the school system, but there is always room for improvement. "Until that number gets to 100 percent, we cannot be satisfied because every child deserves an opportunity to walk off that stage and receive their diploma."

McInnis said RCC served 10,167 people last year throughout Richmond and Scotland counties. "That's an all-time high."

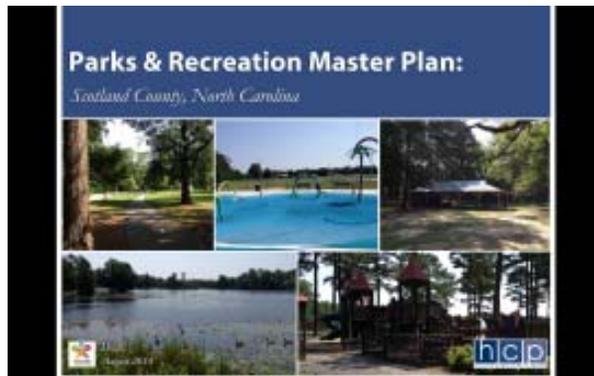
McInnis added that 824 Scotland County residents are registered in college credit classes, which also is at an all-time high and accounts for more than one-third of the college credit population.

He credited progress made by RCC with partnerships in the County. The Scotland Early High School Program at St. Andrews, for instance, is a unique, one-of-a-kind program found nowhere else in the State that partners a private university with the public schools and RCC and is supported by the County. It provides a unique setting for children to gain a free high school education and free college credit.

Since the program opened in 2009 it saved Scotland County families \$319,000 in tuition and fees alone and allows students to realize a four-year degree is within reach.

"Today's jobs require credentials and skills that go beyond high school," said McInnis, who described RCC as a junior college and a technical school.

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The Master Plan also can be accessed from the Scotland County facebook page.

4-Her attends annual Youth Summit

by Angela Galloway, 4-H Agent

Matthew Bourne II of Scotland County attended the fifth annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Youth Summit August 15 to 16 in Asheville. 4-H and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service partnered for the fifth year with the NCACC to promote a multi-year initiative to increase youth involvement in county government.

The initiative aims to overcome the mindset that many youth are disengaged and lack trust in government. More than 100 youth and adults from 85 counties in North Carolina attended the event sponsored and supported by the NCACC.



Attending the Youth Summit were, left to right, Commissioners Bob Davis and Carol McCall, Matthew Bourne, 4-H Agent Angela Galloway and Commissioner Whit Gibson.

Matthew participated in the 2013 and 2014 4-H Youth Voice In Action's summer fun workshops, resulting in his being chosen to participate in the conference. Matthew wrote an essay on his observations of a Scotland County Commissioners meeting and interviewed Commissioner Whit Gibson. During the summit, youth toured municipal buildings, participated in county budgeting workshops and enjoyed breakfast with local county council attended by Commissioners Gibson, Carol McCall and Bob Davis.

To be eligible to attend the conference, youth ages 13 to 18 were asked to either interview one of their county commissioners or visit with their county manager and tour the county administrative building; and attend a board of commissioners meeting.

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Gibson cross street cleaned up



A joint effort to clean up a cross street in the County just outside of Gibson resulted in the collection of 23,280 pounds of material, mostly mixed recyclables, pictured top left.

Project Green Build Director Stephanie Speece from the Lumber River Council of Governments Workforce Development Division recruited nine people for the effort, bottom left, while Gibson Mayor Ronnie Hudson provided a loader and the County delivered a roll back container.



"The landowner and I would like to thank all parties who helped on this project," said Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne. "Several people in the community came out while we were cleaning up and thanked us for what we were doing. They wanted to help out."

the Birthday list for October

1 Jeremy Peele (Public Buildings); 2 Beth Hobbs (Administration); 3 Shannon Newton (Parks and Recreation); 4 Tim Haggans (Public Works); 5 Priscilla Bryant (Health); 7 Michael Sanders (EMS); 8 William Grant (Sheriff) and Bobby Lowery (DSS); 11 Roy Chavis (EMS), Linda Gibson (Health) and Jerome Alford (Jail); 12 Liston Watts (Public Buildings) and Kendria Pate (DSS); 13 Jamie Hunt (Parks and Recreation), Anne Griffin (Sheriff) and Kim Brayboy (Tax); 18 Steven Wilburn (EMS); 20 Michelle Locklear (DSS); 21 Adam Long (EMS), William McIlwain (Sheriff) and Frances McLean (DSS); 22 Rachel Beach (Tax); 25 Debra Maske (Health); 28 Vicky Locklear (Tax); 29 Thomas Milligan (Inspections); 31 Antonia Rainer (DSS).

Our condolences to ...

Jeff Wood, DSS, on the August 28 passing of his grandmother, Betty Clark; Erica Hall, Health, on the September 2 passing of her grandmother, Katie Sligh; Clarence McPhatter, Commissioner, on the September 7 passing of his father, Clarence McPhatter, Sr.

Schools give reports

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McInnis said of workforce training that RCC receives calls from businesses and industries regionally looking for qualified, competent, trained and prepared people. "But you have to have the skills, preparation and credentials for these jobs. You cannot expect to walk in off the street and expect to be successful."

Through its academic and certification programs, "RCC is the pipeline to bring companies and employees together."

One fact must be acknowledged McInnis asserted. "There are still far too many folks in Scotland County who lack the basic skills needed to be successful in today's job market."

According to recent data, 23 percent of adults age 25 and older do not have a high school diploma or the equivalent. "That's 5,465 individuals who are trapped in low wage or no wages. It's up to us to affect that change. We can't move ahead if we leave those people behind."

Canada said UNCP experienced budget challenges. "This year State funding was reduced by \$800,000. No matter how you look at it, that's a lot of money. But we've rolled with it. We've been very strategic about how we make our decisions, and our students have not suffered at all. We're still operating a lot of programs and educating a lot of students."

Canada said UNCP welcomed a sizeable freshman class, the third largest to date. Transfers are up 18 percent, attracting students in particular from RCC and other regional community colleges.

Baldasare said last year SAU had the largest entering class in 20 years and a total enrollment increase of five percent.

Well over 90 percent of SAU students are employed or furthering their education within six months of graduation, according to Baldasare. He said the post graduation report is one metric SAU has always been able to achieve. "We prepare students well for continuing their education or for getting that initial job."

Baldasare described SAU as a link to the outside world with 45 percent of students coming from North Carolina and the remaining 55 percent coming from 36 other states and 26 foreign countries.