



Recreation Advisory Committee Annual Summary Report – FY23

Chatham County Parks &
Recreation

Recreation Advisory Committee

Committee Members

- Joy Hewett
- Anne Geer
- James Fogleman: Chairperson
- Andrew George
- Kent Barlow: Vice Chair
- Megan Lynch
- Tammy Phillips
- Keith Shea
- William Sparrow
- Guadalupe Perez

Recreation Advisory Committee Mission & Goals

Mission

- The mission of the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is to advise and support staff with creation of policies, programs, and facilities.

Goals

- To protect Chatham's recreational access to natural resources through acquisition, improvement, and sustainable management.
- To ensure that current/future development is sensitive to the environment and enhances parks/recreation opportunities for everyone.

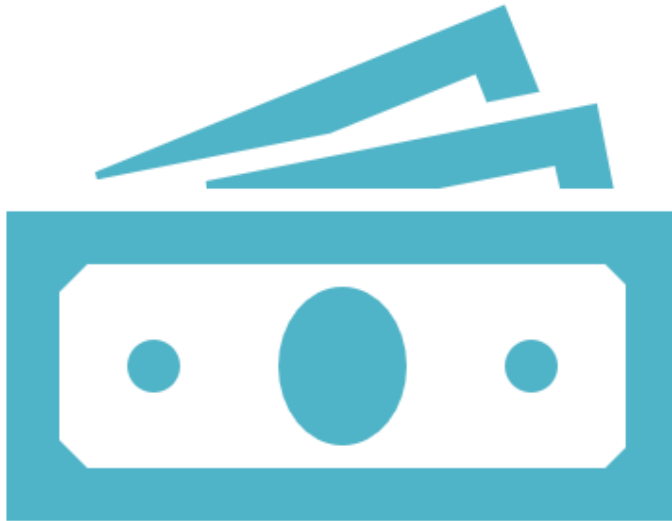
Objective

- To fund the protection of Chatham's natural resources and implementation of the Master Plan recommendations.

Recreation Advisory Committee Members Accomplishments & Activities

- ✓ Haw River Corridor Feasibility Study input 95% completion
- ✓ Parker's Ridge Steering Committee involvement
- ✓ Haw River Trail State Designation advocacy
- ✓ Parker's Ridge updated conceptual plan input
- ✓ Holiday and special event participation
- ✓ Recommended funds to organizations
- ✓ Great Trails State Coalition member

Committee Members Recommended Funds for the Grants to Organizations



Bonlee
Recreation
\$7,500

- Shaded shelter at lower ball field

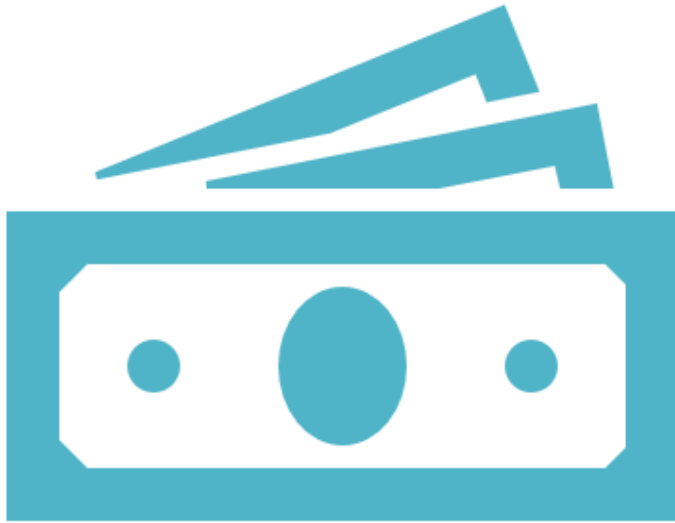
Sprott Youth
Center \$6,300

- Open Gym attendant, gym HVAC, and ceiling tile repairs

Deep River Park
Association
\$6,500

- Replace boards and patch asphalt on Camelback Bridge

Funds to Towns Projects



Town of Siler
City \$38,495

- Remaining Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Town of
Pittsboro
\$23,135

- Replacing equipment at Kiwanis Park

Town of
Goldston \$1,300

- Scout Hut roof and landscaping

Special Events/Programs

- **1st Pollinator Week Celebration event at Northeast District Park:** Activities included fishing, potting plants, and seed bombs. Agencies involved were Grand Trees of Chatham, Friends of Lower Haw, Watershed Protection, Chatham Beekeepers, Haw River Assembly. 53 participants.
- **1st Community Pool Day at Northwest District Park:** This was a 3-hour swim for free day. 38 participants.
- **Enséñame a Pescar (Teach me to Fish) at Northwest District Park:** Hosted by NC Wildlife Resources Commissions. Aimed at connecting Hispanic NC families to fishing. Bus transportation was provided from Siler City. The participants learned rigging/knot tying, casting with backyard bass, and cleaning and cooking. 95 participants.
- **Footgolf Tournament at Southwest Park:** Pop-up tournament with 9-hole footgolf course. 20 participants.
- Hosted and offered 169 programs and special events, serving 4,460 community members.



Youth Programs

- 800 plus basketball participants, the largest number of participation in our county Youth Basketball League
- 608 Summer Campers
- 31 Spring Break Campers
- 23 participants for the Kids Culinary classes held at Chatham Grove Community Center



Adult Programs

- Zumba classes held at Community Center: 118 participants
- Open Gym Pickleball & Basketball: 428 participants
- Inaugural Campfire Cooking for adults at Northwest District Park



Collaborations

- Partnered with Chatham County Aging Services to co-coordinate the Senior Games and Silver Arts, with 316 Senior Game participants.
- Began building the county's second Peaceful Pathway at Southwest District Park, in partnership with Chatham County Aging Services and Chatham County Cooperative Extension. This respite area features an accessible pathway and a pollinator area that is dedicated to Chatham County caregivers serving individuals with dementia.
- Goldston Library Collaboration: While kids were participating in a library program, we brought the Chatham Moves Mobile Activity Trailer with yard games and hosted an outdoor scavenger hunt.
- Two Eagle Scout Projects: Caleb Collison built the stage platform at Northwest District Park. Matthew Mitchell built the Mason bee houses at the Southwest District Park Peaceful Pathway.
- In collaboration with Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, we hosted/promoted the Year of the Trail events.

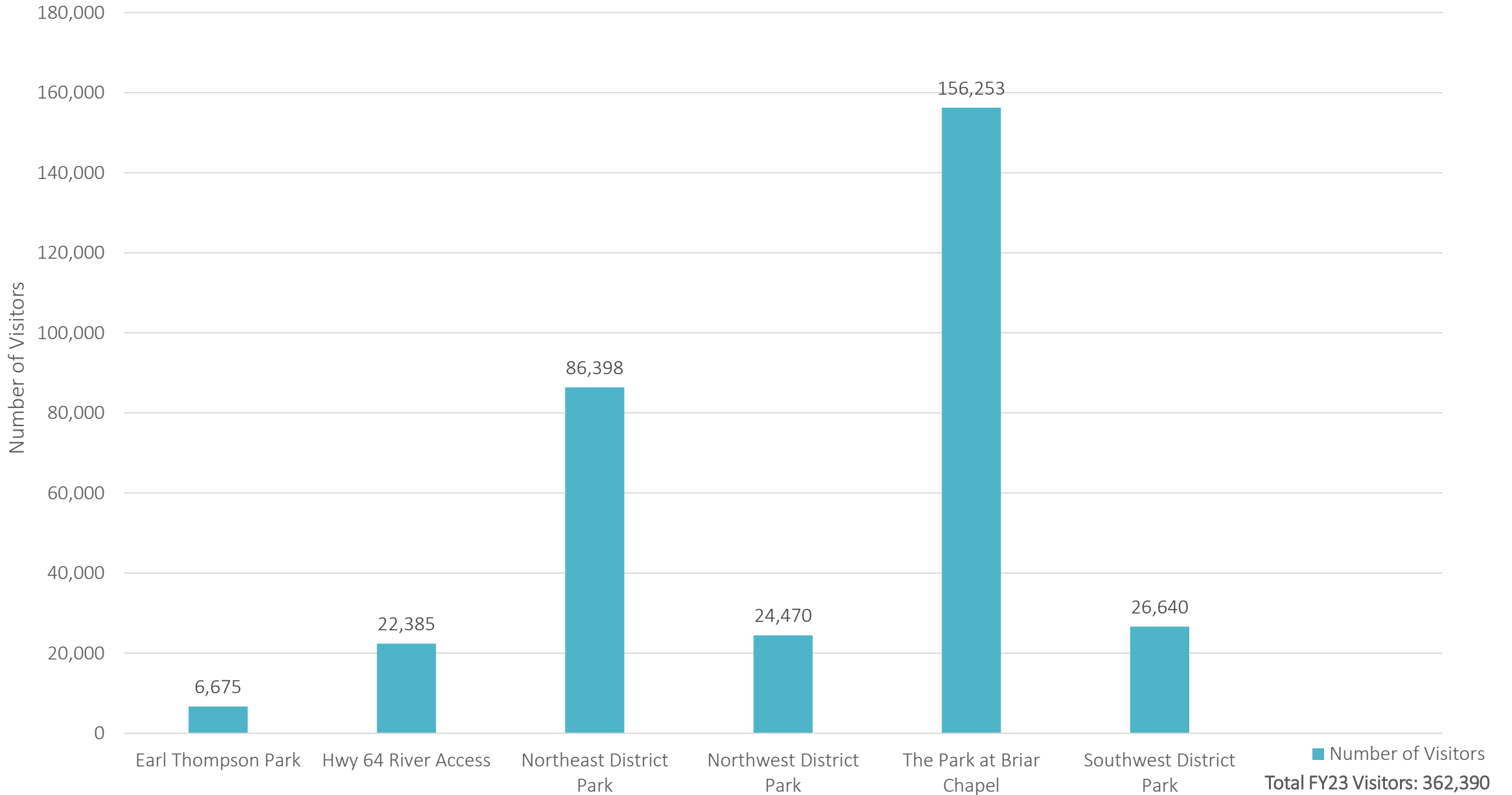


Parks & Facilities



- Installed ball field lights at Northeast District Park.
- Installed shade structures at The Park at Briar Chapel.
- Planted 6 apple trees at Southwest District Park. Once they are big enough, the public will be able to pick fruit.
- Fruit Tree Planting Class: 28 native fruit trees and shrubs planted at Northeast District Park. Includes Pawpaw, American Hazelnut, Persimmon, Red Mulberry, and Elderberry.
- Trail alignment laid out with pollinator area for Northeast District Park.
- Trail alignment laid out for a natural surface trail at The Park at Briar Chapel.
- Staff worked on improvements to 15-501 access path.
- Daisy Girl Scout Troop 707 planted native perennial flowers at Northeast District Park.
- Parker's Ridge Park: New surveys and updated concept plan.
- Awarded EDA Grant for the Haw River Feasibility Study.

Park Visitor Numbers (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)



Chatham County Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee members Barriers/Challenges & Recommended Changes

Barriers/Challenges that make it difficult for the committee to achieve goals or objective

- The pressure of growth
- Lack of adequate funding for land acquisitions, farmland preservations, and conservation
- Lack of measurable metrics for conservation of natural resources
- Lack of adequate facilities to serve county residents equally

Recommended Changes

- Incorporate policy to require trail easements with developers for trail corridors