ANNUAL WORK PLAN
PARKS, RECREATION AND GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD

FY 2027

MISSION STATEMENT

PRGAB -Purposes (Ord. No. 1985-595, §4, 6-18-85 - - Sec. 9-1014. - PURPOSES.)
This board shall serve as the citizen advisory board to the City Council, on issues related to parks and recreation policy matters (including greenway matters). This area of responsibility shall include advising on matters related to the funding of the parks and recreation capital program, parks and recreation program policies, facility planning, and the acquisition of lands related to the parks and recreation program.

The responsibility of this board in considering parks and recreation policy matters are to include all programs of the department. Within the scope of its responsibilities, the board responsibility is to continue the development of the greenway system and the urban tree program. This board shall serve as a liaison between the City and the citizens of the community and shall also work to promote all parks and recreation programs.

Focus Area 1: *Recreation, Health, and Wellness.*
Advise on the 2024 Raleigh Recreation Assessment framework development and other policies that meet the Individual Wellbeing and Community Cohesion lenses of the Park Plan, ensuring service accessibility to Raleigh's communities.

A. **Support Mental Health**. Understand programs and policies that focus on improving community health, especially awareness related to mental health and substance abuse.
B. **Water Safety and Access**. Learn about PRCR policies for fair and safe access to water-based activities in both natural settings and at aquatic centers.
C. **Infrastructure for Wellness**. Understand how PRCR facilities and land can improve health and wellness through community use and access to natural habitats, gardens, and nature-based play.
D. **Wheeled Resources**. Support Park's expanded offerings of wheeled resources for all ages, including advising on the upcoming Skate and Wheeled Resources Master Plan. Consider public input and peer-city approaches to advise and support city efforts to address safe and respectful electric wheeled vehicle use on city property, including parks and greenways.
E. **Athletics**. Support physical wellness through continued availability and expansion of leagues, drop-in activities, and classes at parks and greenways.

Focus Area 2: *Parks.*
Advise on access, volunteer, and use policies, recognizing the unique needs and benefits of

neighborhood parks, sports complexes, community centers, and regional destination parks.

A. **Continuous Investment and Upkeep**. Support new park development and understand PRCR prioritization policies for improvements, maintenance, and decommissioning of facilities and infrastructure. Understand what goals and metrics for energy and resource use and management are factored in.
B. **Community In Parks**. Understand how PRCR supports community use and drop-in play at their facilities. Learn about scheduling, policies, and metrics related to private rentals, special event ticketing, leagues, and tournaments.
C. **Support Bond Implementation**. Support the 2022 Parks Bond projects. Liaison assignments will be revisited annually, and Board members will continue to attend Community Advisory Group and public engagement efforts to receive community input.

Focus Area 3: *Greenways.*
Support the Greenway Master Plan and Active Mobility Plan. Advise on connectivity and the evolving role of greenways as shared public space within Raleigh's system.

A. **Connectivity.** Support greenway network expansion, neighborhood connectors, and adjacent infrastructure to improve community access and system continuity. Receive update on Transportation department projects and broader City initiatives, including the Active Mobility Plan, to support expanded access to parks and public spaces.
B. **Safety, Comfort, and Accessibility.** Understand how the City addresses safety priorities identified in the Greenway Master Plan and offer input on how greenways can better serve diverse users of all ages and abilities across different times of day and seasons. Learn about best practices for shared-used environments including design, visibility, user experience, and street crossing safety in alignment with broader City safety initiatives.
C. **Greenway Activation and Innovation.** Support pilot programs and innovation initiatives on greenway corridors, including programming, partnerships, and design strategies that enhance user experience, increase activation, expand community benefit, and reinforce the ecological value, natural beauty, and biophilic character of the greenway system.

Focus Area 4: *Sustainability, Wildlife and Urban Trees*.
Promote Environmental Resilience and advise on policies that support the community and ecological benefits available through holistic ecosystem management from sky to soil.

A. **Champion Leaf Out**. Support expansion of the urban forest and native tree and plant species on public and private land, with a focus on the city-wide tree planting initiative.
B. **Environmental Initiatives**. Support PRCR programs and initiatives related to invasive plant species removal, bioblitzes, and conservation. Learn how PRCR's partnership with Stormwater supports the vitality of creeks, rivers, wetlands, ponds, and lakes throughout the parks system.
C. **Protected Natural Areas**. Support efforts to define Protected Natural Area criteria and recommendations for sensitive species and habitats in the planning and design of future projects.

D. **Raleigh as a Biophilic City**. Learn about and promote best practices and biophilic design standards for biodiversity buffer zones on city land borders, and to increase awareness of environmental programs among private property owners. Understand and support the process of expanding natural areas and wildlife corridors through investments in current and future PRCR properties.

Focus Area 5: ***Fred Fletcher (Volunteerism).***
Support and celebrate Raleigh PRCR commitment to volunteerism.

A. **Annual Fred Fletcher Outstanding Volunteer Awards**. Host the annual awards event to celebrate Raleigh Volunteerism. The Board shall review nominees and select awardees, engage with and thank awardees for their service, and present awards at the celebration.

Focus Area 6: ***Organizational Excellence.***
Promote and advise on policies that touch all aspects of the PRCR system.

A. **Community and Advocacy Organizations.** Support park and greenway focused non-profit organizations by providing a platform for the public and non-profits to connect with each other and PRCR leadership. Support the Raleigh Parks Foundation and its philanthropic mission.
B. **Strategic Planning and Policy Alignment**. Advise on PRCR's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation policies, the City's current Strategic Plan, Next Comprehensive Plan, 2020 Greenway Master Plan, and 2024 Parks Plan Update.
C. **Access and Inclusion**. Advise on policies related to fair distribution and access to PRCR services and facilities. Understand what metrics PRCR uses to determine affordability and accessibility. Pilot a community volunteer observation program that engages park, community center, and greenway users in structured, place-based feedback to improve experiences for all users.
D. **Strategic Community Engagement**. Pilot the PRGAB Project Advisory Guide at Board and Committee meetings for transparent feedback loops on projects and initiatives. Improve proactive outreach to impacted stakeholders prior to committee presentations and votes, with intentional engagement of underrepresented communities. Continue to hear from Raleigh Youth Council liaisons about youth-focused activities.
E. **Capital Development**. Learn about and support PRCR priorities for land acquisition, park, community center, and greenway development in the near-term.
F. **Community Safety**. Support holistic approach to safety to improve community security and trust, with a focus on design safety and park and greenway monitoring. Receive information from Raleigh Police and city staff regarding crime prevention initiatives.
G. **Volunteer Support**. Support community volunteer opportunities across all PRCR facilities and services by highlighting upcoming events at all Board and Committee meetings. Learn about successful volunteer policies and engagement strategies, as well as participation gaps.

Summary

A. 15 Members
B. 4 Standing Committees
    1. Fred Fletcher (Volunteerism)
    2. Parks
    3. Greenways
    4. Sustainability, Wildlife, and Urban Trees
C. Liaisons
    1. Arts Commission
    2. Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board
    3. Dix Park Commission
    4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
    5. Community Advisory Groups (as applicable)

Events

A. Fred Fletcher Volunteer Awards (2027)
B. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair
C. Adopt Work Plan (2027)
D. Spring Retreat – State of the Department, Refresher Training on Roles and Responsibilities
E. Bond Project Groundbreakings Expected in FY2027
    1. Lake Lynn West Trail Loop Groundbreaking
    2. John Chavis Groundbreaking
    3. John P Top Greene Groundbreaking
    4. River Cane Groundbreaking
    5. Erinsbrook Park
    6. Method Road Park
    7. Neighborhood Community Connections Groundbreaking
    8. Tarboro Road Groundbreaking
    9. Smoky Hollow Groundbreaking
    10. Walnut Green Greenway Groundbreaking
    11. Mine Creek Greenway Groundbreaking
F. Bond Project Openings Expected in FY2027
    1. Green Road Opening