

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

PARKS, RECREATION AND GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD

FY 2025

PARKS, RECREATION AND GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD (PRGAB) FY 25 WORK PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

PRGAB Mission (Ord. No. 1985-595, §4, 6-18-85)

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.

ISSUES AND GOALS FOR FY 2025

Goal 1. *Bond Implementation.* Monitor the status and implementation of the Projects funded by the 2014 and 2022 Parks Bonds.

- A. Review and provide community input regarding the following projects. Where appropriate volunteer to be a project liaison and/or join a community advisory group (CAG).
- B. Review and monitor criteria and priorities for Neighborhood Connections Greenway Bond funding.
 - 1. Review and provide input on project lists.
 - 2. Assure that projects provide points of access where they currently don't exist.
 - 3. Ensure that neighborhoods meeting a definition of high vulnerability receive priority implementation.

Goal 2. *Parks.* Support and advise on park assets, programs, and capital projects.

- A. Review Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) list of priority capital upfits/improvements for community centers and other facilities, including those in high vulnerability areas and those lacking 'basic' amenities (A/C, bathrooms).
- B. Review gaps in facilities regarding ADA compliance, parenting needs, energy efficiency, and other best practices and current regulations that impact public access and enjoyment of PRCR assets.
- C. Request presentation from staff on future projects such as capital projects, community centers, and facilities or assets not covered by the 2014 and 2022 Parks Bonds.

- D. Invite Engineering Services and Sustainability Office staff to present to the whole board on PRCR facility energy and water usage, efficiency initiatives, and potential for green infrastructure and sustainable practices in parks capital projects.
- E. Support recreation and program offerings in Raleigh PRCR system.
 - a. Support the goal of reducing fee barriers to all programs and camps in Raleigh PRCR, including through cooperation with the City of Oaks Foundation.
 - b. Learn about new or expanded PRCR services and activities. Advise on outreach strategies to reach participants and better serve the needs of all community members.
 - c. Assist PRCR staff in the goal of identifying and recruiting volunteers and paid staff to support seasonal athletics, recreational activities, and special events.
- F. Assist PRCR staff in identifying partnership opportunities to help maximize recreational offerings for city and regional residents, including public/private partnerships, non-profits, and outdoor groups.

Goal 3. Greenways. Monitor the status and implementation of the Greenway Master Plan.

- A. Collaborate with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) to provide input regarding ways to identify and remedy gaps in the greenways.
- B. Review Greenway etiquette program with staff to improve pedestrian and bicycle interactions to better the overall experience of all users.
- C. Provide community input and review of proposed new greenway signage and placement.
- D. Provide community input for an updated greenway map and development of a Greenway App.
- E. Receive information and provide community input into mapping exercise, the purpose of which is to identify weak points of connectivity between greenways and other modes of transportation.
- F. Obtain community input regarding changes to the “Adopt a Park and Greenway” programs to improve areas such as litter, safety, maintenance needs, community engagement, and other benefits to the system.
 - 1. Share information with the public regarding trash removal opportunities and effects.
 - 2. Work with staff to communicate clean-up efforts to the public by social media and website.
- G. Monitor construction progress on all ongoing greenway projects.
- H. Provide community input for effective construction and notifications of detours on greenway closures.
- I. Recruit leadership volunteers and non-profit partners, particularly Oaks and Spokes and BPAC, to create a family friendly Community Celebration tied to the opening of the Crabtree West extension and implement greenway improvement project(s) using the funds raised from the event.
- J. Finalize selection of visual markers to aid in clarity of connectivity of greenway system were interrupted by use of City sidewalk or otherwise interrupted and evaluate effectiveness of markers once installed.
- K. Review with Parks and Transportation staff those streets that also serve as Greenway connections, in order to evaluate marking those streets with bike lanes and green paint to increase user safety.
- L. Review and provide input on Rocky Branch Creek and Trail realignment design through Dix Park.

- M. Celebrate the greenway system as Raleigh’s largest park.

Goal 4. *Sustainability, Wildlife and Urban Trees.* Monitor the status and implementation of PRCR activities related to sustainability, wildlife and urban trees.

- A. Assist the City in efforts to protect and expand the urban forest, including in City Parks and rights of way, through environmental education of residents.
- B. Help PRCR find ways to enhance wildlife habitat by lights out programs, amber lighting, a leave the leaves program, invasive removal and native species plantings.
- C. Seek ways to inform citizens about the value and importance of being part of the Biophilic Cities Network.
- D. Assist and advise city staff on whether there are other city networks Raleigh can pursue membership in that would aid and provide resources for achieving city-wide sustainability goals (e.g. the Edible Cities Network, in keeping with the goal of installing edible forests in city parks)
- E. Promote adoption of technology that aligns with Raleigh’s Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) aims to reduce City-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2050.
- F. Promote and improve citizen awareness of the value and beauty of trees through the Tree of the Year or similar program.
- G. Seek ways to learn from and collaborate with the Sustainability, Planning and Stormwater Departments and the Environmental Advisory Board.
- H. Work with staff and local experts including but not limited to “Oak Folks” on work plan for urban forestry projects and broader tree strategies through the Sustainability, Wildlife, and Urban Trees committee of the Board:
 - 1. Canopy
 - 2. Plantings
 - 3. Protections
 - 4. Maintenance
 - 5. Reuse, Reclaimed, or Disposal
- I. Learn about best practices regarding aesthetics and beautification of Park and Greenway-adjacent properties.

Goal 5. *Organizational.* PRCR Department activities vis a vis the PRGAB.

- A. Improve and define communications and requirements related to zoning cases that are adjacent to or in close proximity to greenways and parks so that the Board (and Committees) have more awareness for their potential community engagement and to provide input to Council. This includes, but is not limited to, areas related to connection, gaps, impacts, plantings, signage, and other related items.
- B. Review proposed changes and initiatives to the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan, City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Plan, or Bond funded projects and make recommendations on these changes to the City Council.
- C. Receive updates on the department’s Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) internal and external programs.
- D. Gain a deeper understanding of encampments on City PRCR property, PRCR role in working with encampments and the collaboration with other City departments and other regional partners.
- E. The Board will support removal of barriers to access for the community.

- F. Receive updates from staff on the department’s accreditation process through National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).
- G. Review fee and charges schedules for Department activities as presented to the City Council.
- H. Meet as a Board for a full day retreat (outside of traditional monthly meeting times or in lieu of) as a check-in on work plan status, preparations for the upcoming year, and team building.
- I. Work with Committee Chair and staff to confirm or update committee meeting times and platforms annually in order to meet Board members needs and schedules.
- J. Ad hoc committees
 - a. Nominating: The Chair will appoint an ad hoc committee to support City Council in identifying new members for Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board. This committee will review the City’s applicant pool and recommend a potential slate of 3-5 members for each open slot. In reviewing applicants, they will consider DEI considerations as well as subject matter expertise and lived experience that will complement and enhance missing skill sets on the board.
 - i. Committee will provide gap analysis for skills, interests, and demographics of current Board.
 - ii. The Committee will encourage and advise on increased geographic, racial, demographic diversity, and experiential expertise on the PRGAB to better reflect the city.
 - b. Work Plan: Review and update work plan on annual basis for presentation to Raleigh City Council for approval. Committee and PRCR leadership to reach consensus prior to Board presentation.
 - c. Liaison: Identify COR Boards and Commissions that are relevant to PRGAB’s mission and would benefit from a PRGAB liaison. Also identify if an existing liaison position no longer has relevance to PRGAB mission and can be dropped. Should meet annually.

Goal 6. Fred Fletcher (Volunteerism). Support Raleigh PRCR commitment to volunteerism.

- A. Host the annual Fred Fletcher Outstanding Volunteer Awards event.
 - a. Review and select nominees and awardees for Fred Fletcher Awards.
 - b. Engage with and thank the awardees for their service.
 - c. Attend the Awards event celebration.
 - d. Invite previous winners with focus on 2020 and 2021 winners who did not have ceremony.
- B. Support overall volunteerism in Raleigh PRCR system as referenced under each Committee’s goals, including exploration of the need to pursue Council support for amending PRGAB by-laws to include a Volunteerism Committee.
 - a. Review and provide guidance on ad hoc volunteer or project opportunities related to the Raleigh PRCR system, including invasive removal, planting, scout projects, art installations, and cleanups.
 - b. Provide a forum for volunteers and PRCR staff to exchange ideas, coordinate activities, and provide feedback regarding Raleigh PRCR volunteerism mission.



Front Row – Left to Right: Iain Burnett, Carol Ashcraft, Kara Strang, Beverley Clark, Kate Dixon, April Love
Back Row – Left to Right: Douglas Johnston, Bob Edgerton, Chris Pereira, Hugh Fuller, Gregory Etheridge
Not Pictured: Jeff Havener, Rashawn King, Shangwen Liu, Marsha Presnell-Jenette

Summary

Annual Action Items

- 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. Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board
 - 4. Dix Leadership Committee
 - 5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
 - 6. Raleigh Youth Council (RYC) – New Ex-Officio Member for PRGAB seated 2024-2025

Events

Annual Action Items

- A. Fred Fletcher Volunteer Awards (2025)
- B. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair
- C. Adopt Work Plan (2025)
- D. Dedications Expected in 2024-2025
 - i. Barwell Community Garden
 - ii. Crabtree Creek Greenway West – Fall 2024
 - iii. SWING
 - iv. Baileywick Park Improvements
 - v. Laurel Hills Community Center

PARKS, RECREATION AND GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Beverley Clark, Chair



Carol Ashcraft, Member



Iain Burnett, Member



Kate Dixon, Member



Bob Edgerton, Member



Gregory Etheridge, Member



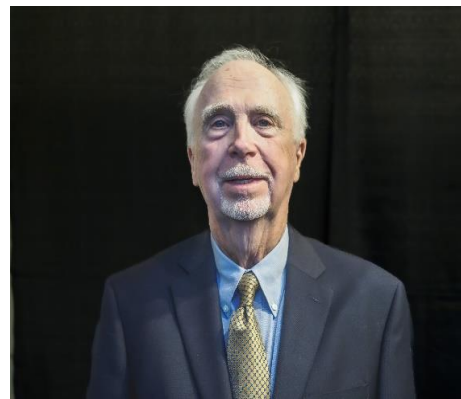
Hugh Fuller, Member



Jeff Havener, Member



Marsha Presnell-Jenette, Member



Douglas Johnston, Member



Rashawn King, Member



Shangwen Liu, Member



April Love, Member



Chris Pereira, Vice Chair



Kara Strang, Member



Stephen Bentley, Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Resources Director



Giavonia M. Harris, Staff Liaison