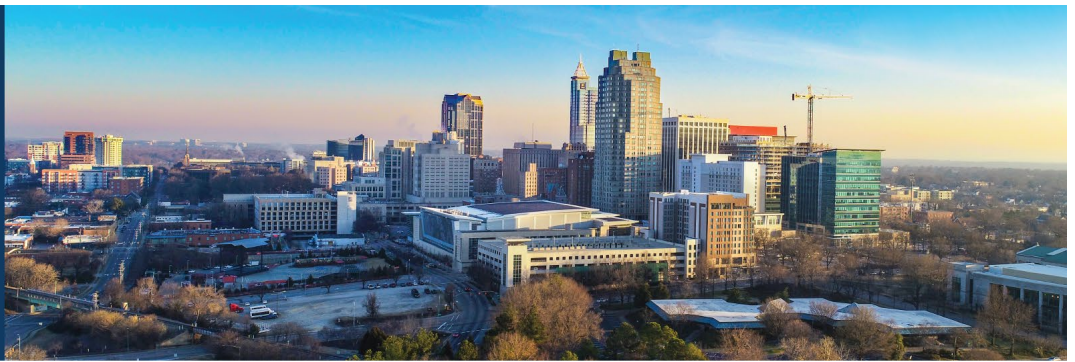


Manager's Update

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Issue 2021-06

February 19, 2021

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First Budget Work Session Monday, February 22

Reminder that Council will meet via remote electronic format in a scheduled budget work session **Monday** at **4:00 P.M.** The agenda for the work session was published Thursday:

<http://boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/board.nsf>

As a reminder, listed below are the remaining budget sessions scheduled in advance of the City Manager's Proposed Budget which will be presented in May:

- Monday, March 15..... 4:00 P.M.
- Monday, April 5 4:00 P.M.

INFORMATION:

Capital Boulevard North Corridor Study - Final Report Delivery

Staff Resource: *John Anagnost, Planning and Development, 996-2638, john.anagnost@raleighnc.gov*

Staff are preparing the final study report for Capital Boulevard North corridor study. The title of the report is "The Capital North Corridor Plan: A Future of Choice". The document is projected to be ready for publication the week of March 1. At that time, staff will place the report and associated Comprehensive Plan amendments on the City Council agenda with a request for referral to the Planning Commission.

Staff are also presenting the report to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, the Raleigh Transit Authority, and the Alianza Pro-Educación en Salud in February, March, and April respectively. Two *Ask-A-Planner* sessions will be scheduled for the week of April 5; these sessions will be advertised with a postcard, GovDelivery emails, and social media posts. Comprehensive Plan amendments included with the report require mailed notice for both the Planning Commission and the City Council hearing. Based on this timeline, the Planning Commission could be expected to begin discussion of the report in a Committee of the Whole meeting in late April 22.

(No attachment)

Wake Transit Plan Engagement Update

Staff Resource: David Eatman, Transportation-Transit, 996-4040, david.eatman@raleighnc.gov

Three important aspects of the Wake Transit Plan (WTP) are ready for public review and input. These items include the updated 10-year WTP, the draft FY2022 Wake Transit Work Plan and the WTP Community Engagement Policy. All three items help guide the WTP process. Below is a brief outline of each item:

Wake Transit Plan Update

The 10-year WTP is being updated through 2030. The plan outlines the long-term vision for public transportation investment in Wake County. Investments funded in 2021-2030 will build upon the growth and improvements already realized in the first three years of plan implementation. The 40-day public review and comment period for the WTP update is February 19 through March 31.

Fiscal Year 2022 Wake Transit Work Plan

To accomplish the goals of the WTP, each year transit partners put together and approve a work plan that outlines the service improvements and infrastructure investments that will be funded the next fiscal year (July-June). The draft FY22 Work Plan is available for a 30-day public review and comment period February 19 through March 21. Comments received on the draft plan will be collected and considered by the Transit Planning Advisory Committee prior to approving the draft plan. The final recommended plan will be made available for additional community input in April, prior to its adoption in June.

Wake Transit Community Engagement Policy

One of the priorities of the Wake Transit program is that all Wake County community members have meaningful opportunities to participate in the decision-making process for investments through continuous, cooperative and comprehensive engagement. As part of our regular program performance review process, staff saw opportunities to update the policy to reflect current best practices, to offer clearer guidance to partners and to establish a set of standards that align well with the many activities of the WTP. The draft policy update is available for a 45-day public review period February 19 through April 5.

Complete details for each planning document are available at www.goforwardnc.org/wakeinput.

(No attachment)

Highwoods Sidewalk Cost Sharing Update

Staff Resource: Tansy Hayward, City Manager's Office, 996-3070, tansy.hayward@raleighnc.gov

When the City Council adopted the allocation of funding for public private cost-sharing in the 2017 Transportation Bond, the Council identified the installation of sidewalks on Highwoods Boulevard as a high priority.

Since that time, there have been numerous discussions about the scope of a project and potential terms between the City and the Highwoods Property Owner's Association (POA). Included with the *Update* materials is a presentation that was shared with the members of the POA last February. A successful vote of 2/3 of the property owners of the POA was held in February 2020 to authorize an assessment to property owners and negotiation of an agreement based on the terms and scope presented.

Staff will work to coordinate next steps with the POA and a future item will be brought to the City Council for consideration.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

General Follow Up Item

Status Update - Proposed Falls Whitewater Park (Council Member Cox)

Staff Resource: : Thomas McCourt, Parks, 996-6079, thomas.mccourt@raleighnc.gov

The concept for constructing whitewater features in the Neuse River below the Falls Dam has been in consideration at various times since the dam was constructed in 1978. The proposed project area, located just downstream of the Old Falls of Neuse Rd Bridge, is on Federal property managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and leased by the City of Raleigh.

Following completion of a feasibility study and concept plan in 2011, the staff began the process of environmental and regulatory permitting prerequisite to final design and construction of the proposed Falls Whitewater Park. Due to insufficient funding necessary to complete the full scope of required regulatory permitting, as well as additional uncertainty raised by the 2017 designation of the Neuse River as critical habitat for the endangered Atlantic sturgeon and constructability, work on the Falls Whitewater Park project was suspended. At that time the City Council directed staff to divert existing resources toward other means of expanding public recreational access to the Neuse River. Since then, staff has completed the draft Neuse River Blueway Plan, which will be presented during the March 2 City Council meeting.

The Blueway Plan provides a long-term vision for the creation of a cohesive paddling trail that will connect over 2,000 acres of parks, greenway land, and open space along the 25 miles of the Neuse River that flow through the City of Raleigh and Wake County. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum provides further details on the project history.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from the January 19 City Council Meeting

2014 Parks Bond – Status Update (Council Member Buffkin)

Staff Resource: Oscar Carmona, Parks, 996-4815, oscar.carmona@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting staff provided a presentation regarding potential projects that could be included should a bond referendum be scheduled in 2021. Council requested information on the 2014 Parks Bond balance. In November 2014, voters approved a parks and recreation bond referendum in the amount of \$91,775,000. Projects within the bond referendum range from new parks, facility and greenway development, renovations of existing assets and funding to the acquisition for future parks and greenways. Included with the Update materials is a staff memorandum which contains additional information.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from the February 2 City Council Meeting

Potential Street Name Changes – The Village District (Mayor Baldwin)

Staff Resource: Michael Moore, Transportation, 996-3030, michael.moore@raleighnc.gov

Last month Regency Centers, the owners of the Cameron Village shopping center, announced they were changing the name of the shopping center and re-branding as “The Village District.” The re-branding effort was part of Regency’s broader initiative to disassociate its properties and identities from past racial inequalities and injustices. Subsequently, at the February 2 City Council meeting, Council requested a report on the streets and potential street name changes in and around the area of the shopping center and adjacent development.

Background

The original Cameron Village shopping center was developed and built in 1949 by James “Willie” York, purportedly after reading about the “shopping center” concept. York and his business partner, R. A. Bryan, purchased a 158-acre property from Annie Cameron Graham Smallwood, great-granddaughter of Duncan Cameron, who had acquired the land in the 1830s and 1840s. The property was the remaining tract of what was once a vast antebellum assemblage of property. When Cameron died in 1853, his estate included over 1000 enslaved people and 30,000 acres of land in Wake, Orange, and Durham Counties.

Purportedly modeled on J.C. Nichols’ Country Club Plaza development in Kansas City, York’s vision for his project included a mixed-use development of the shopping center with stores and offices, and adjacent residential development of over 560 apartments and 110 single-family homes. York Properties sold the shopping center in 1964.

Cameron Village/Village District Street Names

The streets in this area are predominantly public streets and include Oberlin Road, Clark Avenue, Cameron Street, Smallwood Drive, Daniels Street, Graham Street, Woodburn Road, Sutton Drive, Nichols Drive, Smedes Place, James Place, Bryan Street, and Bellwood Drive. A section of Daniels Street between Clark Avenue and Smallwood Drive is privately maintained but operates as a public street to the casual user.



Although the provenance of street names in and around the center is not entirely clear and could be further researched, Raleigh Historic Development Commission staff did provide a brief overview of their knowledge of street name origins. Several street names within and bordering the shopping center itself (Cameron Street, Smallwood Drive) likely reference back to the original property owners (Annie Cameron Graham Smallwood, Duncan Cameron). Daniels Street may reference Josephus Daniels, who's role in white supremacy in North Carolina is well documented. Oberlin Road reflects its connection to historic Oberlin Village.

Other streets located within the residential portion of the development (Bryan Street, James Place) likely reflect the principals (R.A. Bryan - York's development partner, James Poyner- York's brother-in-law and the project's attorney) involved in the original project. Nichols Drive may reference J.C. Nichols of the Country Club Plaza, the model for the Cameron Village development, and Graham Street may again refer back to Annie Cameron Graham Smallwood. Smedes Place may be named for Albert Smedes, founder and original rector of St. Mary's School (now College), or a reference to Smedes York, whose father worked on the shopping center (although Smedes would have been a small child at the time of construction).

Staff would have to further research the history of Woodburn Road, Bellwood Drive, and Clark Avenue to determine the origins of those names.

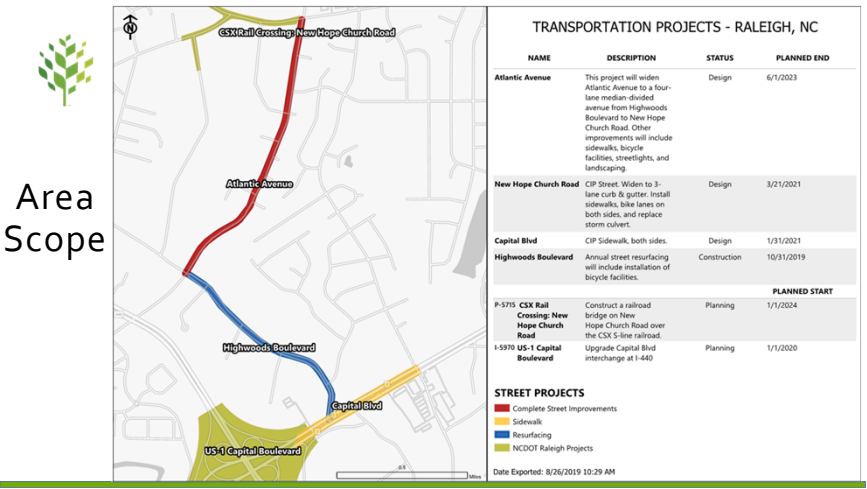
Street Name Changes

Staff contacted local Regency Centers leadership and shared information on both the existing street re-naming process and the proposed process streamlining scheduled before City Council on March 2. Regency indicated that they have no immediate plans to pursue any street name changes as they are focused on the center's re-branding and on the continued success of their tenants during the on-going pandemic.

The City may initiate a street name change itself, most often to address technical matters. Most recently, City Council approved 2 city-initiated name changes in April 2020. The change was staff-initiated and was made to avoid a duplication of street names after the re-alignment of Tryon Road. This change had very modest impacts on adjacent property owners since the renamed streets had no development or bordered the rear yards of existing homes and businesses.

To initiate street name changes in the Village District area, City Council could direct staff to begin the process with an analysis of technical impacts (does a change affect naming continuity, addressing, etc.) and development of alternate names for consideration. Once complete, an item would be brought to Council to set and hold a public hearing on the name change. Following the public hearing, Council can approve or reject the change.

(No attachment)





Proposed Scope

- 6-foot sidewalks on both sides of Highwoods Blvd.
- 6-foot sidewalks on west side of Poplarwood Ct and Smoketree Ct.
- Pedestrian crossings, signal, and signs
- Infrastructure to support future transit service along Highwoods Blvd.
- ADA compliant curb ramps, lane markings
- Utility Relocations







Project Costs

Overall Project Estimate \$3,050,000

- Sidewalks Construction
- Pedestrian crossings, signal, and signs
- Infrastructure to support future transit service along Highwoods Blvd.
- ADA compliant curb ramps, lane markings
- Utility Relocations



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Project Costs

Cost Share Estimate \$2,450,000

- Construction of Sidewalks
- Utility Relocation
- 30-Percent Contingency

Highwoods Property Owners Association cost share obligation 50% of actual costs (not to exceed \$1,225,000).



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Project Costs

City Only Costs

- Surveys
- Project Designs
- Engineering
- Community Engagement
- Contract bidding
- Contract Management
- Pedestrian Crossings, Signals, and Signs



Payment Schedule

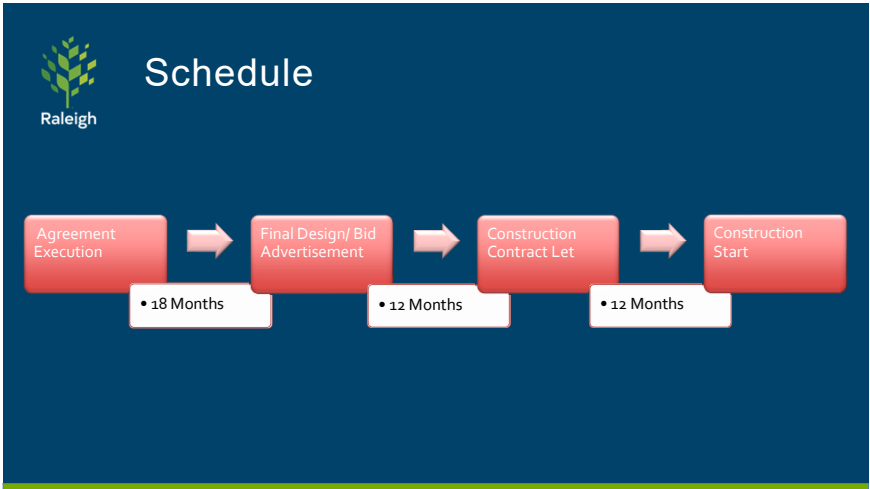
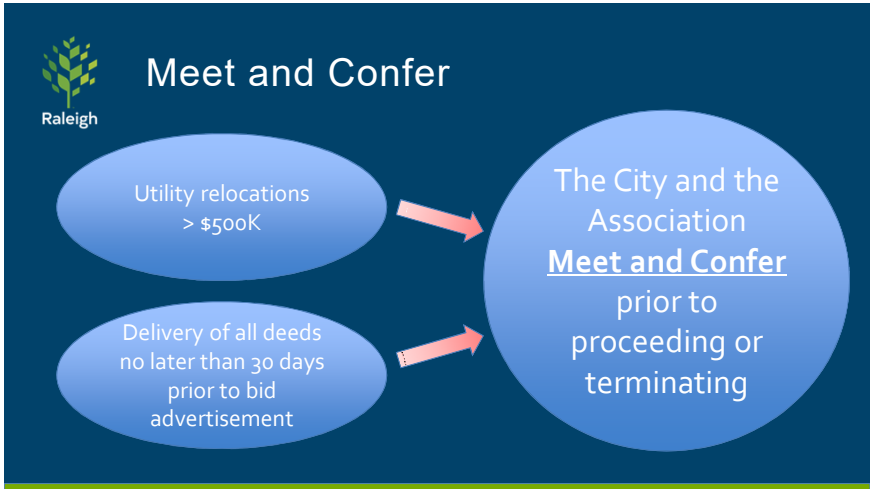
Installment	Amount	Payment Time
1	\$245,000	18 months from Letter of Acceptance
2	\$245,000	24 months from Letter of Acceptance
3	\$245,000	36 months from Letter of Acceptance
4	\$245,000	48 months from Letter of Acceptance
5	\$245,000	60 months from Letter of Acceptance



Property Interests

Right of Way and Easements

Highwoods Property Owners Association to secure from itself and members 100-percent of all property interests that the City will need to accommodate the project.



Questions?



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Roadway Design and Construction Manager
(919) 996-4112
kenneth.ritchie@raleighnc.gov



Council Member Follow Up



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Marchell Adams-David, City Manager

FROM: Oscar Carmona, Director

DEPT: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR)

DATE: February 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Status Update on 2014 Parks Bond Projects

Following the staff presentation regarding the potential 2021 PRCR Bond at the January 19 City Council meeting, Council Member Buffkin requested information on the 2014 Parks Bond balance.

In November of 2014, voters approved a parks and recreation bond referendum in the amount of \$91,775,000. Projects within this bond referendum range from new parks, facility and greenway development, renovations of existing assets and funding to the acquisition for future parks and greenways.

Funding for the rollout of the bond referendum was programmed over a five-year period in the City of Raleigh capital improvement plan. The first allocation of funds for this bond referendum was approved by the City Council in July 2015 and the final appropriations were in July 2019.

Below is the current fund balance summary for the 2014 Parks Bond. Most of the available funds have been allocated to projects that are currently in design or permitting stage.

2014 BOND FUNDING SUMMARY

	Total Funding	Spent	Under Contract	Committed
Fund Amt:	\$91,775,000	\$55,279,679	\$12,779,114	\$23,716,206
% of Total:		60%	14%	26%
	Total # Projects	Completed	Under Construction	Design & Permitting
Projects:	71	38	14	19

Municipal Building
222 West Hargett Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

One Exchange Plaza
1 Exchange Plaza, Suite 1020
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

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2014 BOND PROJECTS SUMMARY

2014 Bond Projects	Status	Estimated Completion
Apollo Heights (Ralph Campbell)	Complete	
Eastgate Park	Complete	
Kiwanis Park	Complete	
Laurel Hills Playground	Complete	
Lake Lynn Community Center	Complete	
Mary Belle Pate Park	Complete	
Moore Square 2014 2/3 Bond	Complete	
River Bend Park Development	Complete	
Shelley Lake Comfort Station	Complete	
Walnut Creek Athletic Complex Improvements	Complete	
John Chavis Memorial Park Improvements	Construction	Spring 2021
Pullen Art Center Renovation and Expansion	Construction	Spring 2021
Brentwood Park	Construction	Fall 2021
Lighting	Construction	Fall 2021
Walnut Creek Wetland Park Improvements	Permitting	Spring 2022
Baileywick Park Improvements	Permitting	Fall 2022
Greenway - Crabtree Creek Connection to Umstead	Permitting	Summer 2023
Greenway - Lassiter Mill / Allegheny Trail Improvements	Design	Summer 2022
Greenway - Trenton Road	Design	Summer 2022
Laurel Hills Community Center	Design	Construction Funding Future Bond
Devereux Meadows	Planning & Environ. Analysis	Construction Funding Future Bond
Building Systems	90% complete	Fall 2022
Historic Cemetery Restoration	90% completion	Fall 2021
ADA Improvements	85% complete	Fall 2022
Aquatic Facility Improvements	85% complete	Fall 2021
Historic Site Improvements	75% complete	Fall 2022
Playgrounds	60% complete	Fall 2021
Greenway Improvements	50% complete	Spring 2022
Neighborhood & Community Connections	50% complete	Spring 2022
Land Acquisition	50% complete	Ongoing



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Marchell Adams-David, City Manager

FROM: TJ McCourt, Planning Supervisor, PRCR

CC: Oscar Carmona, Director, PRCR

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources

DATE: February 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Falls Whitewater Park Project Update

Introduction

The concept for constructing whitewater features in the Neuse River below Falls Dam has been in consideration at various times since the dam was constructed in 1978. The proposed project area, located just downstream of the Old Falls of Neuse Rd Bridge, is on Federal property managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and leased by the City of Raleigh.

Following completion of a feasibility study and concept plan in 2011, the City of Raleigh began the process of environmental and regulatory permitting prerequisite to final design and construction of the proposed Falls Whitewater Park. Due to insufficient funding necessary to complete the full scope of required regulatory permitting, as well as additional uncertainty raised by the 2017 designation of the Neuse River as critical habitat for the endangered Atlantic sturgeon, work on the Falls Whitewater Park project was suspended. City Council directed staff to divert existing resources toward other means of expanding public recreational access to the Neuse River.

Since then, staff has completed the draft Neuse River Blueway Plan, which will be presented at the March 2nd meeting of City Council. The Blueway Plan provides a long-term vision for the creation of a cohesive paddling trail that will connect over 2,000 acres of parks, greenway land, and open space along the 25 miles of the Neuse River that flow through the City of Raleigh and Wake County.

The Falls Park project was considered for funding in the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board's 2020 PRCR Bond Project Recommendations delivered to City Council in April 2020.

Project History

In 2011, Raleigh City Council approved the Falls Whitewater Park Concept Plan and Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study, which was developed in

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consultation with Stewart Engineering and McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group, established an initial total project budget estimate of \$3.6 million.

In 2012, the City of Raleigh executed a memorandum of understanding with the Falls Whitewater Park Committee (FWPC), a registered nonprofit organization, which designated the FWPC as the “fiscal agent for the project, meaning that the FWPC has agreed to be responsible for fundraising and solicitation of other resources including grants, in-kind contributions, and corporate donations necessary for construction of the Park.”

The 2014 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources (PRCR) System Plan identified the Falls Whitewater Park as a medium-term project consideration with a goal of potential implementation within a 10-year timeframe subject to available resources and City Council approval.

In January 2016, the City of Raleigh issued an RFQ for consulting services to complete a NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) and other preliminary regulatory permitting prerequisite to design and construction of the whitewater park. \$115,000 had been allocated in the FY15 CIP budget to fund this process, based on initial cost estimates developed during the feasibility study. Through due diligence and more detailed scoping discussions with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the City Attorney’s Office, and the EA project consultant, it was determined that the regulatory permitting process would exceed the available budget. The updated cost for completing all permitting and regulatory prerequisites to final design and construction was estimated at \$450,000 - \$500,000.

In 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service formally designated the Neuse River as Critical Habitat for the endangered Atlantic sturgeon. This designation requires Federal agencies (such as the United States Army Corps of Engineers) to ensure that any proposed activities authorized or permitted by that agency do not adversely modify the critical habitat area. The United States Army Corps of Engineers has declined to provide a definitive statement on how the Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat designation would affect plans for the Falls Whitewater Park, outside of a formal Environmental Assessment process.

At a City Council Work Session in October 2016, Council reviewed several alternatives for how to proceed with work related to the Falls Whitewater Park Project. Staff was directed to pursue other opportunities for improving public recreational access to the Neuse River, including the development of a Neuse River Blueway concept—a designated water trail with improved boat launches and river access points designed for canoeists, kayakers, and other paddlers. The \$115,000 budgeted for the EA process was reallocated to support the Neuse River Blueway project.

In 2019, the Neuse River Blueway Project was initiated in partnership with the National Park Service, and was supported through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance grant program. The Blueway Plan provides a long-term vision for the creation of a cohesive paddling trail that will connect over 2,000 acres of parks, greenway land, and open space along the 25 miles of the Neuse River that flow through the City of Raleigh and Wake County. The Blueway Plan was completed in partnership with representatives from Wake County and Johnston County, multiple municipalities along the Neuse River, nonprofit landowners such as Triangle Land Conservancy, interested local businesses such as Frog Hollow and Paddle Creek, and advocacy organizations such as the Carolina Canoe Club and Falls Whitewater Park Committee.

In April 2020, the Parks Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) delivered its proposed PRCR Bond Project Recommendations to City Council. This recommendation included \$12,000,000 to be allocated toward the Falls Park project, which would include “Planning, design, and construction of enhanced public access to the Neuse River, whitewater features, and support facilities such as expanded parking and comfort stations.” In its recommendation to City Council, the PRGAB acknowledged potential permitting challenges and uncertainty associated with this project’s final cost and feasibility related to the proposed whitewater features.

In February 2021, the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board reviewed and endorsed the Neuse River Blueway Plan, and will be bringing their recommendation for adoption to the March 2nd, 2021 City Council meeting. The Neuse River Blueway Plan was completed using in-house staff resources and did not incur any costs for outside consulting services. Approximately \$115,000 is currently available to fund initial implementation of the Blueway Plan recommendations. The Neuse River Blueway Plan recommends improvements to existing boat launches as well as the development of several new river access points and associated amenities such as expanded parking and restroom facilities at multiple locations distributed along the 25 miles of the Neuse River between the City of Raleigh canoe launch at Falls Dam and the Wake County-Johnston County line.