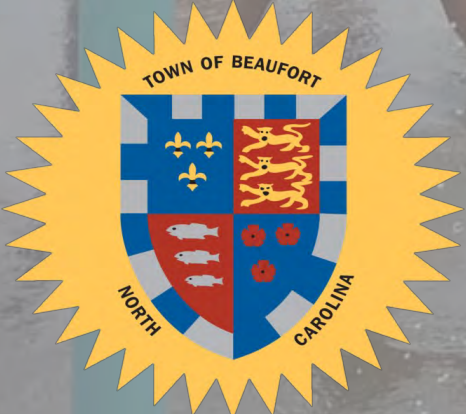


Town of Beaufort, NC

Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan



2024

Adopted: April 8, 2024

Acknowledgments

The Town of Beaufort would like to acknowledge those individuals who have participated and generously given their time and talents to assist in the data collection and development of this plan.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Members

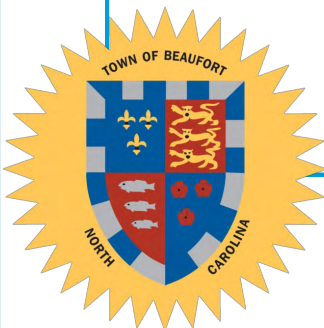
Michael Rave-Chair
Johnna Davis-Vice Chair
Peter Crumley
Sheresa Elliott
Barbara Francis-Heckman
Brian O'Haver
Doug Williams
Ronald Dupuis

Town Staff

Town Manager Todd Clark
Planning Director Kyle Garner
Town Planner Michelle Eitner
Town Clerk Elizabeth Lewis
Finance Director Christi Wood
Human Resources Manager Barbara Cooper
Public Works Director Mark Eakes
PIO/Parks & Events Coordinator/Deputy Clerk Rachel Johnson

Mayor & Board of Commissioners

Mayor Sharon Harker
Melvin Cooper
Paula Gillikin
John LoPiccolo
Bucky Oliver
Sarah Spiegler



Executive Summary

Winner of numerous national accolades over the past decade, Beaufort, NC continues its stellar reputation as “America’s Favorite, Coolest and Best Small Town for Adventure and Yachting.”

Recognizing the importance of maintaining quality recreational facilities and open spaces for safe leisure-time activities, our Board of Commissioners created the Beaufort Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (BPRAB) in 2011 to assist them in planning, promoting, improving, marketing and prioritizing people friendly parks and other venues.

A major accomplishment over the past decade was the renovation of Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park, largely fulfilling major goals of the original BPRAB charter. Ongoing services with BPRAB oversight include the annual kayak lottery program, Art in the Park, public art projects, festivals and community conservation programs.

Future projects will continue to focus on efforts to fulfill as many of our community’s needs and desires as possible. Being able to safely walk or bike among all the myriad of beautiful spaces in our town remains a tremendous background concern in all future projects. Accomplishing long range goals depends on expanding recreational space, funding, staffing and budgeting.

This comprehensive plan begins with an overview of our town followed by an introduction to the history and mission of the BPRAB. It then reviews the documents, surveys and guidelines considered by the advisory board for conducting business. The BPRAB developed its own set of guiding principles and town park rules and recommended adoption of to the Town Commissioners.

The next section is a detailed inventory of town parks and a brief overview of other nearby recreational venues available to our residents. Major recent accomplishments of the BPRAB are listed followed by in depth assessments of some of the ongoing projects being considered. The plan concludes with future recommendations to continue the ongoing work in support of our home town.

Currently the town has eight parks, as well as, basketball and tennis courts. Since its inception, the BPRAB has conducted two comprehensive community assessments, 2010 and 2017, helping to reassure town leaders resource allocation is in accordance with the desires of our citizens.

The Beaufort Parks and Recreation Advisory Board remains a vital and active group of engaged citizens dedicated to making our vibrant community filled with abundant recreational activities while preserving our natural resources and maximizing health and economic opportunities.



Executive Summary written by BPRAB Chair Dr. Michael Rave.

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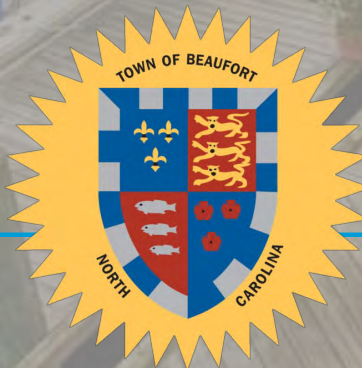
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Town of Beaufort General Information



Town of Beaufort's Mission & Strategic Priorities

Mission: The Town of Beaufort aims to foster a scenic and welcoming coastal community that enhances the well-being and prosperity of our citizens, celebrates our diverse culture and heritage, and preserves our natural and historic resources.

Strategic Priorities

Infrastructure

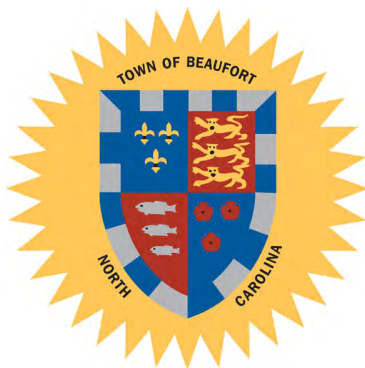
- Provide for the essential service needs of our community by funding and maintaining resilient water, sewer, waste disposal, streets and stormwater systems.
- Continuously evaluate and plan for future infrastructure needs.

Public Safety & Welfare

- Maximize the responsiveness capabilities of our police and fire departments by insuring they have the necessary personnel, training and equipment to fulfill their missions.
- Enhance the safety of our neighborhoods through consistent community outreach focusing on education and prevention.
- Monitor our roads, pedestrian areas, and public lands and assume a proactive approach to improving public safety.

Citizen Engagement

- Through a citizen-centered approach to communications and recruitment, we aim to empower our diverse citizenry to participate in local government activities and decision making.
- Foster a productive and civil discourse between citizens and the Town.
- Maximize the functionality of committees, advisory boards, and other citizen-comprised groups through focused capacity building and dedicated staff support.



Town of Beaufort's Mission & Strategic Priorities Continued

Parks, Recreation & Outdoors

- Continue to champion outdoor recreation and scenic beauty as essential components of Beaufort's healthy lifestyle and tourism economy by preserving and increasing people's ability to connect with and enjoy our natural environment.
- Encourage and promote environmental stewardship and preservation.
- Increase the amount of recreational offerings and opportunities in our public spaces.

Economic Development

- Increase our tax revenue base and improve citizen employment opportunities by encouraging private enterprise through retention, support of expansion, and recruitment.
- Continue to embrace tourism as our primary economic driver and work to increase visitation by promoting Beaufort as a destination and working to maximize the visitor experience.

Sense of Place

- Cultivate and protect our "Beaufort-ness," the central element of Beaufort's lifestyle and visitor appeal.
- Uphold and improve Beaufort's appearance and character through careful land-use planning and streetscaping that honors our historic and natural surroundings and preserves our small-town ambiance.
- Foster community stewardship and pride by supporting continued and new neighborhood development, preservation and revitalization efforts.
- Nurture our community's cultural fabric by advancing the appreciation of our diverse histories, new and old traditions, and the arts.



Surveys & Plans

This Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan was built on Parks & Recreation Advisory Board recommendations and minutes as well as by utilizing numerous studies and surveys conducted by professionals across the State, in Carteret County as well as in the Town of Beaufort.

Town of Beaufort Surveys & Plans

2000 Water Access Plan

2009 Final Bike Plan

2010 Parks & Recreation Survey

2011 Beaufort Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

2011 Town of Beaufort Comprehensive Plan Update

2014 Beaufort Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update

2017 Community Preference Survey

2017 Watershed Restoration Plan

2018 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

2018 Small Area Master Plan

2018 Randolph Johnson/Water Tower Park Master Plan

2023 Town of Beaufort ADA Transition Plan

Town of Beaufort's FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget

2023 Beaufort Comprehensive & CAMA Land Use Plan

2022 Resilient Beaufort Plan

State & County Plans

North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025

North Carolina Parks & Recreation Services Study 2019

North Carolina Parks & Recreation Services Study 2020

North Carolina Parks & Recreation Services Study 2021-2022

Parks & Recreation Master Plan & Shoreline Access Plan Update for Carteret County, NC 2006



TOWN OF BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA



Beaufort's History



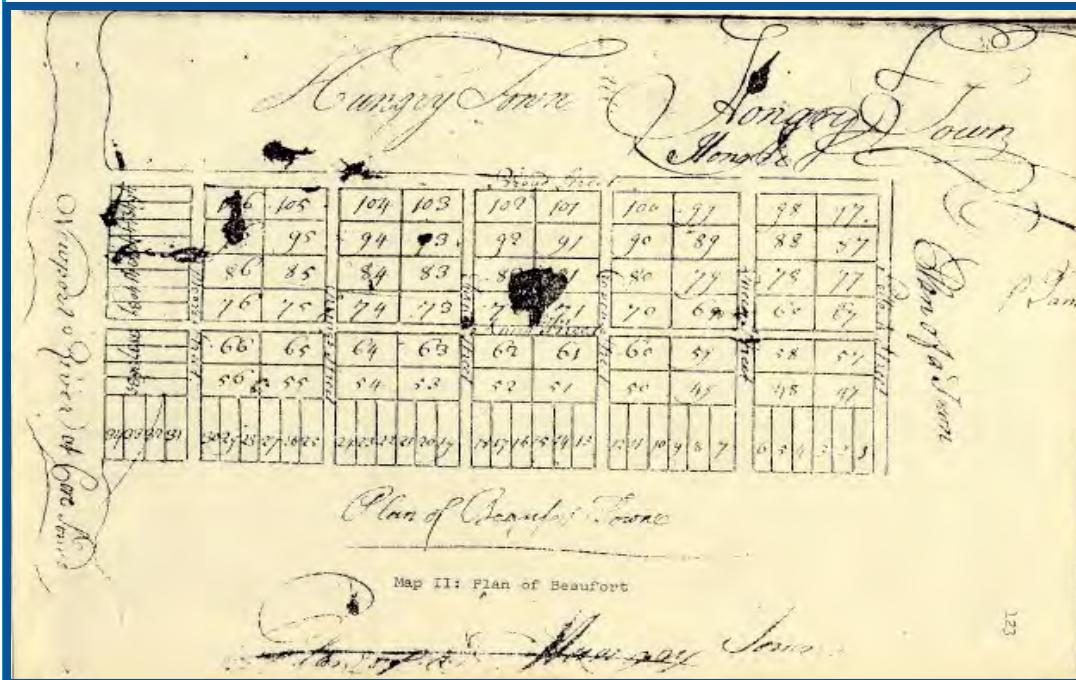
Established in 1709, Beaufort, N.C. is a quaint coastal town located on Beaufort Inlet, a channel leading south to the Atlantic Ocean. The third oldest town in the state and seat of Carteret County, Beaufort has a residential population of about 4,500 with a high influx of visitor traffic during the warmer months.

Beaufort was first known as Fishtown because the fishing industry was and has been an important part of the county's history. Beaufort was later named for Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort.

Originally a fishing village and port of safety dating from the late 1600s, Beaufort has been visited by patriots, privateers, merchants, and skilled craftsmen who built Bahamian and West Indian-style homes and public buildings. Approximately 150 of the restored historic homes

bear plaques noting names of the Town's earliest known owners and dates of original construction.

The early economy of Beaufort was based on the use of natural resources in the area. Hence, fishing, whaling, the production of lumber and naval stores, shipbuilding, and farming were the chief economic activities. Though Beaufort had the safest and most navigable harbor of any of the ports of North Carolina, extensive commercial activities failed to develop, owing to the fact that the town was almost completely isolated from the interior. Now, Beaufort's economy depends heavily on tourism, supplemented by a regional boat-building industry. Marine science research also figures prominently. The Plan of Beaufort Towne, laid out in 1713, survives in a 12-block area, which today is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Demographic & Sociological Factors – 2023 Statistics



Town of Beaufort Digital Budget Book



Adopted Version - 6/12/2023

Demographics may be found in the Town of Beaufort's annual Digital Budget Book.

The budget is updated annually and available online at www.beaufortnc.org.

Population Overview



TOTAL POPULATION

4,464



* Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year Data and the 2020, 2010, 2000, and 1990 Decennial Censuses



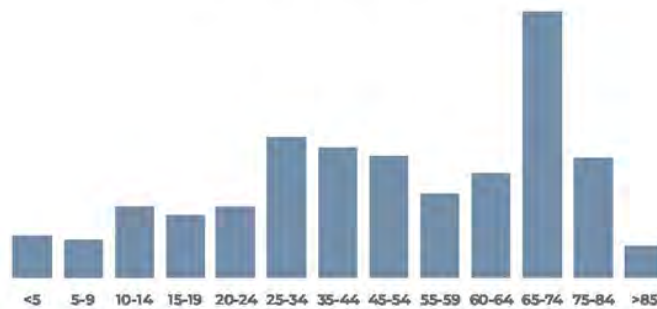
DAYTIME POPULATION

5,856

Daytime population represents the effect of persons coming into or leaving a community for work, entertainment, shopping, etc. during the typical workday. An increased daytime population puts greater demand on host community services which directly impacts operational costs.

* Data Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP



Aging affects the needs and lifestyle choices of residents, Municipalities must adjust and plan services accordingly.

* Data Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Household Analysis

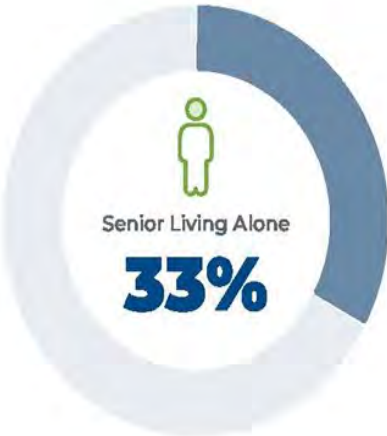
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS

2,270

Municipalities must consider the dynamics of household types to plan for and provide services effectively. Household type also has a general correlation to income levels which affect the municipal tax base.



▼ **33%**
lower than state average



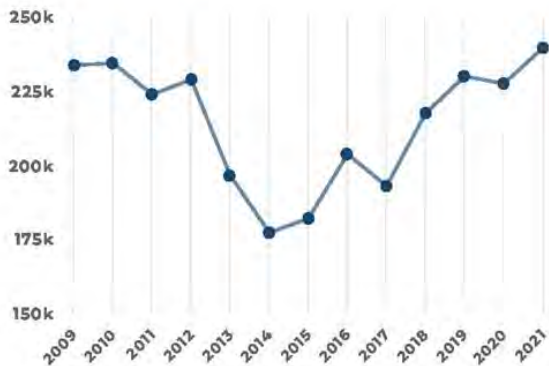
▲ **56%**
higher than state average

* Data Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Housing Overview



2021 MEDIAN HOME VALUE
\$239,400



* Data Source: 2021 US Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/data/developers/datasets.html>), American Community Survey. Home value data includes all types of owner-occupied housing.

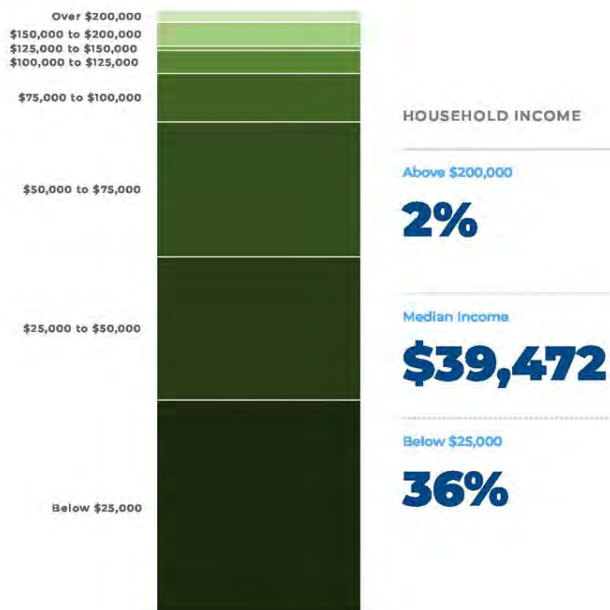
HOME OWNERS VS RENTERS

Beaufort State Avg.



Economic Analysis

Household income is a key data point in evaluating a community's wealth and spending power. Pay levels and earnings typically vary by geographic regions and should be looked at in context of the overall cost of living.



* Data Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Tourism



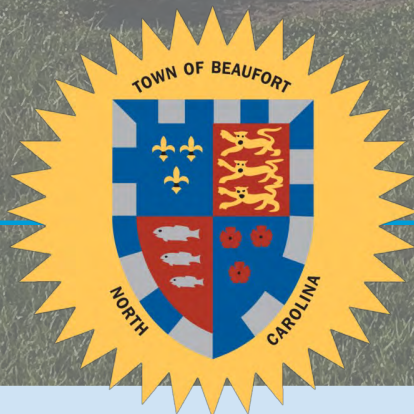
The Town of Beaufort is a nationally recognized tourist destination. With tourism being a driving force in the Town's economy, outdoor recreation and the protection of natural resources are a critical part of the Town's health and economic stability for now and the future.

As the weather warms, Beaufort's population swells in size to double and at times triple its annual population. This trend will continue as more and more people become aware of the wealth of outdoor recreation and natural resources the town offers both residents and visitors.

<p>Best Small Town for Adventure</p>	<p>The South's Best Small Town</p>	<p>America's Favorite Town</p>	<p>Best Small Town for Shopping</p>
<p>Best Yachting Town in America</p>	<p>Coolest Small Town in America</p>	<p>20 Best Places to Live on the Coast in 2018</p>	<p>The Best Places for a Bachelorette Party</p>
<p>Top 20 America's Quirkiest Towns</p>	<p>Charming Small Towns of the South</p>	<p>America's Most Romantic Towns</p>	<p>The 40 Most Romantic Fall Getaways</p>
<p>7 Top Rated Romantic Getaways in North Carolina</p>	<p>America's 10 Most Beautiful Hidden Gems</p>	<p>America's 10 Best Beach Towns for Christmas</p>	<p>25 Most Festive Small Towns in the South for a Charming Christmas Getaway</p>
<p>The Best Small Towns for Christmas in the South</p>	<p>10 Great Coastal Boardwalks</p>	<p>50 Epic Girls' Getaway Destinations in Every State across America: Crystal Coast™</p>	<p>5 Beach Towns You Can Actually Afford</p>

List of accolades courtesy of www.visitbeaufortnc.com operated by the Beaufort Business Association.

Beaufort Parks & Recreation 2011-2024



2011 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Beaufort, NC Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

April 2011

Prepared by:



In 2010, the Town of Beaufort issued a request for proposals to create the Town's first Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This was the beginning of a formal Parks & Recreation focus in Beaufort and led to the formation of the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

The Town hired the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) to create the plan at a cost of \$10,750. In the absence of a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the ECC formed an Advisory Committee consisting of staff and citizen volunteers to assist in advising the comprehensive plan.

It was designed to serve as a 10 year guide for the Town of Beaufort in addressing the recreational needs

of the community.

A citizen survey was conducted and existing plans were used to guide and inform the plan. The plan developed goals, suggested policies and recommended financing options.

Developed over the course of 8 months from September 2010 until April 2011, the final plan was presented to the Board of Commissioners for adoption in 2011.

One of the first recommendations the Board of Commissioners acted upon in 2011 was to create the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Excerpt from the 2011 Executive Summary:

This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for the Town of Beaufort is intended to provide a road map for needed improvements in parks and recreation facilities and program to meet the current and future needs of the citizens of Beaufort.

As a result of the review, the following were findings:

- 1. The total amount of park land available for recreation needs in Beaufort is limited to small waterside parks and one neighborhood park.*
- 2. The Town's current park facilities have few amenities.*
- 3. There is no master plan for the Town's parks, which have largely been developed incrementally without a clear plan concept.*
- 4. There is no town staff assigned to Parks and Recreational activities/programs.*
- 5. There is no town appointed Parks and Recreation Committee.*
- 6. Public input regarding recreation needs in Beaufort indicated there is significant interest in the community in major recreation facilities—such as a swimming pool, a multi-purpose recreation center/community building, bike and walking trails, dog parks and water related amenities—that would require major funding for construction and staffing.*

Throughout the 2024 Comprehensive Plan available land, park amenities, staff and public desire for major recreational facilities that require major funding for construction and staffing remain priorities.

www.beaufortnc.org/bc-prab

Town Parks Comp Plan 2011

Recommendations Summary Update

Beaufort, NC
Parks & Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

April 2011

Prepared by:

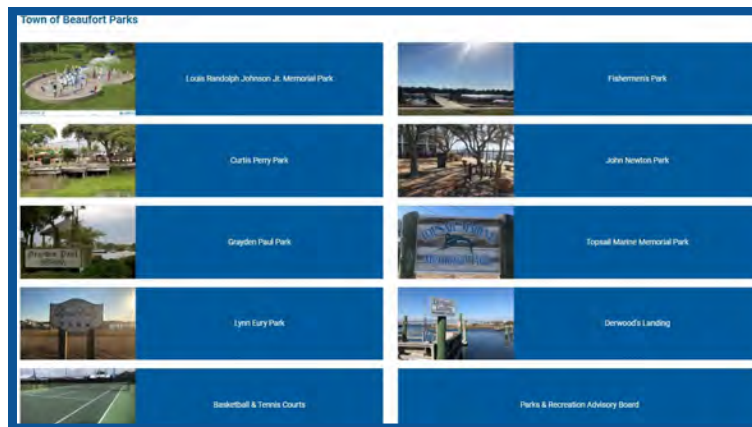
Eastern Carolina Council

- Cooperative Ventures—Topsail Park—**Complete 2021**
- Open Spaces & Greenways—**Ongoing**
- Parks section added to the Town website—**Complete 2017**
- Graffiti & Vandalism—**Ongoing Issue**
- Senior gathering location—**Incomplete**

Below is a summary of progress from items mentioned in the 2011 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Section 8: Special Issues

- Creation and adoption of uniform rules for park facilities—**Complete 2018**
- Uniform Park signage—**Complete 2023**
- Restrooms at Randolph Johnson Park—**Complete 2020**
- Access to drinking water—**Complete 2020**



Section 9: Maintenance & Security

- Certified playground inspector on staff—**Complete 2018**
- Suggested mulch be placed under playground equipment—**Complete 2020**—pour in place rubber
- Implement youth projects in an effort to increase a sense of ownership of the park and to decrease vandalism—**Ongoing**

Section 10: Examples from other communities

- Update trash cans in all of downtown and at park facilities.—**Complete 2021**
- Add Pet waste stations—**Complete 2020**
- Install uniform benches in downtown and in park spaces.—**Complete 2020**
- Incorporate Public Art throughout town.—**Ongoing**
- Created a new passive waterfront viewing area at the end of Front Street to include benches.
- Install benches, signage, trash cans, pet waste stations on Town property where nothing previously existed.—**Complete 2023**

www.beaufortnc.org/bc-prab

2011 Recommendations Update Continued

2011 Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Recommendations (pages 52-53)

1. Bring Randolph Johnson Memorial Park up to a level of quality consistent with modern design, safety and accessibility standards.—**Accomplished 2020**
2. Relocate tennis and basketball courts per PARTF requirement.—**Accomplished**
3. Replace outdated equipment, renovate or replace deteriorated facilities and add essential park amenities.—**Ongoing and up to date as of January 2024**
4. Adopt uniform parks and recreation regulations, in the form of Town ordinances.— **Accomplished via Town Ordinance Chapter 96 Parks & Recreation in 2018**
5. Seek an additional location for a neighborhood park to serve the area of town that is growing the fastest.—**Incomplete**
6. Seek a location to develop a community center to serve all ages.—**Incomplete**
7. Develop one or more dog park areas.—**Incomplete**
8. Begin immediately setting aside funds for the purchase and development of park land.—**Incomplete**
9. Develop a study of future park service zones to guide the location of future parks.—**Incomplete**
10. Begin aggressively identifying potential, appropriate sites for park land acquisition.—**Ongoing**
11. Begin investigating park facilities grants to help meet future needs.—**Ongoing**
12. Provide a location where recreation programming for all ages may occur.—**Incomplete**
13. Begin funding part-time, seasonal recreation staff or contract positions to begin offering recreation programming for all ages.—**Partially complete** with the hiring of a Parks Coordinator in 2017—this position is not dedicated solely to Parks.
14. Attempt to fund, by 2014, a parks and recreation director position.—**Incomplete**

Beaufort, NC
Parks & Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

April 2011

Prepared by:


Eastern Carolina Council

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was created by a resolution issued by the Beaufort Board of Commissioners in 2011 as a subcommittee of the Board of Commissioner's Community and Commerce committee and was charged with assisting in writing a PARTF grant to develop a park at the Public Works site on Hedrick Street referred to as Water Tower Park. The Town did not qualify for a PARTF grant at that time.

The 2011-12 Committee recommended the below ideas to the for the Water Tower Park project:

- Walking trail around the perimeter—Completed 2020
- Splash Pad—Completed 2020
- Picnic Area with tables and grills—Completed 2020—Grills were excluded due to Fire Code
- Multi-purpose open space
- Horseshoe/Cornhole area
- Table games
- Volleyball nets with a sand area
- Closure of Pine Street near Randolph Johnson Park—Completed in 2018



A Master Plan for Water Tower Park was created in 2018 and included the renovation of Randolph Johnson Memorial Park.*

The Master Plan and renovation were funded through a private donation.

Water Tower Park is not a viable project until the Town's Public Works facility is moved to a new location. In 2023, the Town acquired property to develop a Municipal Campus. The preliminary concept plans for the campus include the moving of Public Works.



Access the Master Plan at <https://www.beaufortnc.org/parks/page/louis-randolph-johnson-jr-memorial-park>

**Randolph Johnson Memorial Park's name was updated in 2023 to Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park per the request of the family.*

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board



Appointment

The Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is comprised of seven members of the Beaufort community who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve 4-year terms.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Goal

The goal of The Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is to serve as liaison between the citizens, town staff and town Board of Commissioners. Its vision is to represent the community with the promotion of people-friendly parks and facilities, while anticipating future needs and trends.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Mission Statement

The Board's mission statement is to provide quality recreational facilities and open spaces which are safe for leisure time activities.

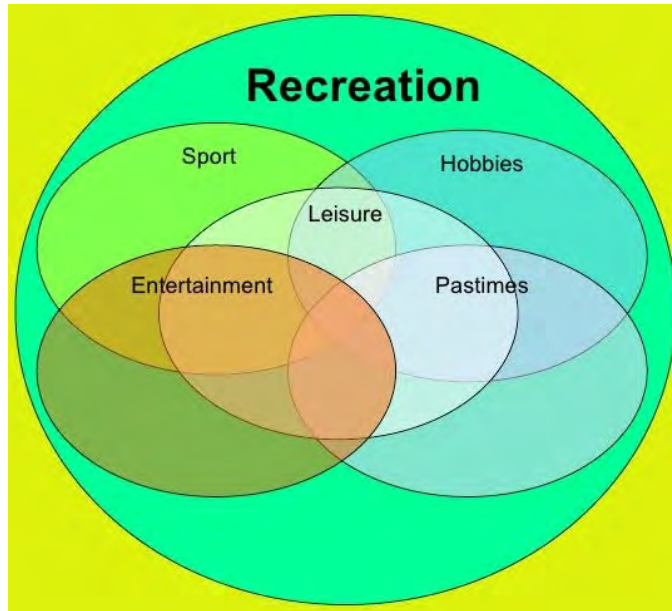
Purpose of the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board shall consult with and serve as an advisory body for the Town Staff and Town Board of Commissioners in matters affecting recreation. This includes the planning, promotion and marketing of the same; its own membership and other activities related to its programs.

The board will provide input for the long-range planning of resources towards park projects and other indoor/outdoor recreational activities.

The board will review, participate and monitor park planning documents in regard to proposals for park sites and greenway construction in Beaufort. The committee will review existing park sites within Beaufort and provide recommendations for future development, considering such factors as park usage, safety and equipment.

These recommendations submitted by the Advisory Board require final approval by town staff and the town Board of Commissioners.



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board



Values Statement

The Town of Beaufort's parks and recreation infrastructure will meet the **Outdoor Recreation** needs of a growing population, will help to protect Beaufort's **natural resources** for current and future citizens, and will help achieve related **Health and Economic Benefits**.

Beaufort's population continues to grow. While this growth is in many ways positive, it also brings with it a growing demand on natural resources. Planning for outdoor recreation and conservation are vital in ensuring that Beaufort grows and provides for its citizens and visitors alike, while at the same time protecting these resources. Failure to do so harms the very resources that Beaufortians and visitors have come to love.

All recommendations of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board are made through the lens of obtaining the three goals of:



Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles of recommendations made by the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Adopted September 2020 by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Disapproval of any transfer of public property to private entities. However, we recognize that there may be future circumstances, in the public interest, that would create conditions where the benefits of such transfers outweigh the risks of said transfers.

In those circumstances we recommend:

1. Any transfer of public property that is considered must be thoroughly vetted in a fully transparent manner and consider the long-term benefits and value added to all citizens of Beaufort.
2. Any transfer of public property that is considered by the Board must not set a precedent that would facilitate the ease of approval of future transfers of public property.
3. Any transfer of public property must consider, as the preferred option, a public-private development, project, or other option where ultimate property ownership is retained by the town.
4. Any deed of public property to private ownership in the public interest must exclude all other options prior to agreeing to permanent transfer of ownership.
5. Any transfer, or passive allowance, of ownership of real property to a private entity must consider the long-term economic impacts and quality of, or potential for adverse, future public property use to the entire town, especially on the quality of the Parks and Recreation experience.



Accomplishments



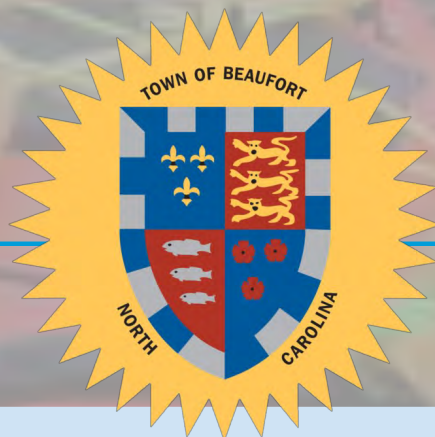
Completed Items	Year
Created Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)	2011
Hired a Parks Coordinator (Position is also the PIO and Deputy Clerk)	2017
Implemented bylaws for the PRAB	2018
Created uniform park rules	2018
Ordinance 96 Creating Parks & Recreation	June 2018
Addition of kayak rack at Curtis Perry Park	2018
Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Park Renovation	2017-2020
Watch 4 Me NC Program participant	2019-2024
Topsail Marine Memorial Park Renovation	2019-2022
Master Plan for Water Tower Park	2017-2019
Fishermen's Park—Addition of bench & bike rack	2019
Upgraded bike racks in downtown	2019-2022
Grayden Paul Park—New benches	2020-2022
Compass Mural repainted at Grayden Paul Park	2021
Public Art Project at Topsail Marine Memorial Park	2021
Public Art Project on the boardwalk	2023
Public Art/Stormwater awareness art project	2023
Kayak Lottery procedural changes	2020
Art in the Park Program	2022, 2023
Arbor Day Celebration	2019-2023
Tree City USA designation	2023
Community Events	2021-2023
Trash Pickup Events	2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Grant	2020, 2023
Bicycle Fixation Station Grant (3)	2020
White Cane Awareness Events	2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
Boys & Girls Club Harvest Festival Participant	2022, 2023

Accomplishments Continued

Completed Items	Year
National Night Out participant	2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023
Walk With Ease Grant program	2023-2024
Cedar Street Park Planning	2017-2022
Resurface Tennis/Basketball Courts	2023
Pickleball lines added to tennis courts	2023
Dedication of Topsail Marine Memorial Park as a Middle Passage Heritage Site	2022
Collaboration with the Beaufort Garden Club	Ongoing
Partnerships with National Park Service, NC Maritime Museum, Duke Marine Lab Community Science Program, UNC's Institute of Marine Sciences	Ongoing
Uniform signage at all park locations	2023
Signage designating Town water access locations	2023-2024
Upgrades to crosswalks near park on Carteret and Lennoxville Roads	2022-2023
Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan	2023-2024
Created a Parks webpage	2017
Meeting minutes and agendas posted online	2017



Types of Parks & Recreation



Park Types & Descriptions

The Town of Beaufort is situated uniquely to contain a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities both natural and man-made. Beaufort is home to County, State and Federal park facilities and includes within the Town limits a Neighborhood Park, a Community Park, and Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area along with a number of pocket parks, water access locations and land/water trails.



Neighborhood Park: Area for active recreation such as field and court games or using a playground or splash pad. Can also be smaller informal parks for open space activities. Two to eight acres is a typical size. Examples include mini parks serving residential areas, playgrounds, sports fields and combination playgrounds/ sports fields/ passive natural areas.

Community Park: Area providing a wide array of active recreational opportunities such as a recreation center with a gymnasium, athletic fields, swimming pool, hard surface courts, and picnicking areas. Natural or landscaped areas are provided for passive recreation. 10-20 acres is a typical size. Examples include large park/school complexes; recreation center/ pool/sports field and court complexes; and community center/ park complexes.

Regional/State Parks: Area of natural quality for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. Generally, 80 percent of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20 percent developed for recreation. Typical size is 3,000-5,000 acres. Examples include state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, educational state forests and large natural resource-based county parks. Activities include nature study, picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and various trail uses.

Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area: Area for protection and management of the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Multiple-use management approaches produce natural resource outputs such as timber, agricultural produce and minerals. Examples include state game lands, multiple use areas of national and state forests, reservoir shoreline buffer lands, and Blue Ridge Parkway acreage. These sites are generally large enough to manage the primary natural resource while providing secondary recreational uses.

As much as any trait, North Carolina's outdoor recreation resources can be characterized by their diversity. One common characteristic these recreation resources share is their dependence on land and water resources. Any land or water resource that is used to produce satisfying leisure experience is a recreation resource.

Pocket Park—A pocket park is a small outdoor space, usually no more than 1/4 of an acre, usually only a few house lots in size or smaller, most often located in an urban area surrounded by commercial buildings or houses on small lots with few places for people to gather, relax, or to enjoy the outdoors.

National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) definition

Source:

*National Recreation and Park Association
Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*

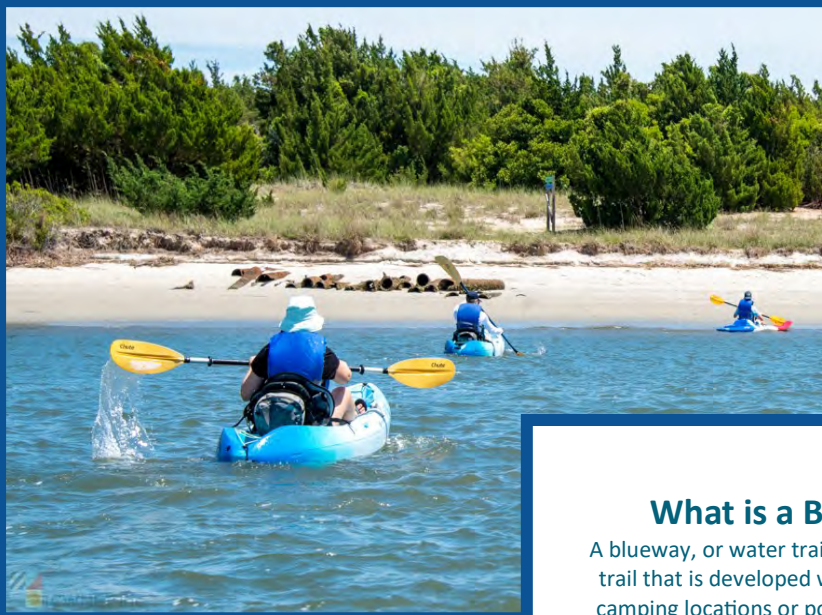
Trails, Greenways & Blueways

Trail vs. Greenway

Many people use the terms trail and greenway interchangeably.

Greenway: Linear open spaces connecting parks or other public areas that are 1/4 mile or longer and usually contain a multi-purpose trail. A paved surface trail that can be used for recreation, transportation and conservation purposes.

Trail: A more generic term for walking, biking, equestrian, paddling or ORV path that provides recreational, aesthetic, alternate transportation or educational opportunities to both motorized and non-motorized users.



What is a Blueway?

A blueway, or water trail, is a water path or trail that is developed with launch points, camping locations or points of interest for canoeists, paddle boarders and kayakers.

Trails

Walking for pleasure or exercise is in strong demand by residents of North Carolina. Regional planning efforts to provide seamless networks of trails across North Carolina have been ongoing for years. Local governments have partnered to completing sections of regional networks within their jurisdiction as well as build or manage sections of statewide trails.

Trails on land and water throughout the state contribute to the overall quality of life and health of users by offering people attractive, safe and accessible places to exercise, be outdoors and be a part of a community. Trails provide multiple benefits for individuals and communities that can positively affect the sustainability of local, regional and state economic, environmental and social health.

Benefits of Trails Include:

- **Alternative modes of transportation**
 - Reduce road congestion
 - Less expensive to construct
 - Allow residents to travel by bicycle or foot and save money on gas, vehicle maintenance and parking fees.
 - Reduce the emission of greenhouse gases
 - Reduce the number of vehicle-bicyclist and vehicle-pedestrian related accidents
- **Economic Impacts**
 - Job creation in construction and repair
 - Job creation in recreation business opportunities through rentals and sales (kayaks, canoes, bicycles, etc.)
 - Increase proximate property values and local tax revenues
 - Attract tourists and tourist spending in the local economy
- **Improving Health & Fitness**
 - Help reduce physical and mental health risks by providing pleasant places to exercise
 - Help control weight, blood pressure and cholesterol levels
 - Help build strength and endurance
 - Help prevent depression
- **Environmental Protection**
 - Protect important habitats
 - Provide green corridors for people and wildlife
 - Help improve air and water quality
 - Serve as natural floodplains
- **Connecting Communities**
 - Serve as walking and bicycling routes to work, school, local businesses, restaurants, parks and recreation areas.
 - Provide a sense of place and community pride for an area or region.
 - Connect to other municipal/county trails and parks and with regional and/or statewide trails.
- **Environment Education**
 - Offer close to home environmental education opportunities to learn about native plants and animals, while rediscovering ecosystems and ecological processes.
 - Provide places for hands-on school field trips.

“Trails and greenways have the potential to be this country’s most important land-based initiative for conservation and recreation in the next several decades,” notes the President’s Commission of American Outdoors.

Source: North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025

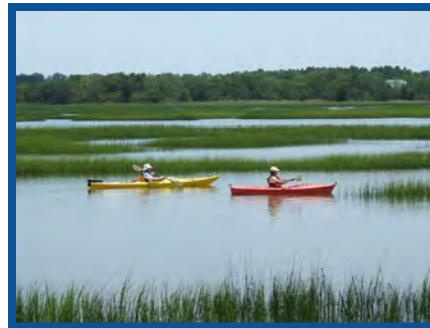
Outdoor Recreation



North Carolinians enjoy recreational activities of all types throughout the State. Recreational activities are provided statewide for both residents and visitors alike that range from visiting historic sites, to spending a day on the beach to walking trails.

As a part of the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025, a public input survey was conducted across the state. The results found that the most popular outdoor recreation activities, in order are:

- visiting a beach or lake,
- walking for pleasure or exercise,
- visiting parks or historical sites,
- hiking & trails,
- fishing from a bank or pier,
- viewing scenery,
- fishing by boat,
- nature viewing,
- swimming

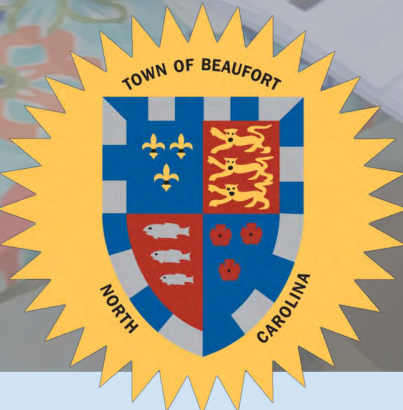


Of these top nine, the Town of Beaufort is geographically positioned to offer all nine making Beaufort a top location for outdoor recreation. Beaufort's history and geography offer residents and visitors a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities suited to all age and skill ranges.

Outdoor recreation encompasses a great variety of activities because people look for many different types of experiences. The desire for different experiences causes people to choose between solitude or crowds, natural surroundings or man-made facilities, and physically challenging or relaxing activities. Natural resources and man-made facilities provide the settings needed for outdoor recreation. Natural resources vary from settings like ocean beaches and scenic mountain vistas to urban open space.



Town Surveys & Plans



2010 Parks & Recreation Survey

In 2010, the Town of Beaufort working with the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments conducted a community survey regarding parks and recreation for inclusion in the 2011 Beaufort, NC Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The survey was available online and advertised in the monthly utility bill.

The survey format included approximately 100 different programming and facility options. Respondents were asked to designate the options they prioritize for Beaufort's future. The survey received 290 responses.

The following seven options received more than 50% interest from survey respondents:

1. Outdoor Concerts (67%)
2. Walking Trails (65%)
3. Boat Ramps (57%)
4. Bike Trail (56%)
5. Fishing Pier (56%)
6. Canoe/Kayak Launch (55%)
7. Fishing Areas (55%)



Beaufort, NC Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

April 2011

Prepared by:

Eastern Carolina Council

BEAUFORT 2010 PARKS & RECREATION SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY (> 25% RESPONSE)

Outdoor Concerts	66.8%	Bowling Alley	33.9%
Walking Trails	65.0%	Outdoor Swimming Pool	33.3%
Boat Ramps	56.6%	Playground	31.7%
Bike Trails	55.8%	Tennis Courts	31.3%
Fishing Pier	56.0%	Teen Programs	31.0%
Canoe/Kayak Launch	55.3%	Botanical Garden	30.1%
Fishing Area	55.3%	Movies in the Park	30.1%
Hiking Trails	45.4%	Fitness	29.4%
Boat/Canoe/Kayak Rentals	42.1%	Open Green Space	28.9%
Dog Park	41.1%	Greenways	28.5%
Wildlife Viewing Area	40.7%	Exercise Equipment Room	28.4%
Festivals	37.1%	Summer Activity Programs	28.4%
Senior Programs	37.1%	Teen Center	28.0%
Indoor Swimming Pool	36.7%	Hobby / Specialty Classes	27.1%
Community Building	35.8%	Arts & Crafts Room	25.7%
Fitness/Health Programs	35.4%	Bird Watching Areas	25.6%
Recreation Center	35.3%		

2017 Community Preference Survey

Outdoor Recreation

Natural Resources

Health & Economic Benefits

Splash Pad / Sprayground - 67%

Playground - 63%

2017 COMMUNITY PREFERENCE SURVEY OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING DESIRED

Outdoor Concerts	70.3%
Movies in the Park	68.5%
Festivals	53.1%
Food Trucks	49.6%
Farmers Market	41.1%
Community Garden	33.2%
Arts & Crafts Fair	33.2%
Senior Programs	27.1%
Environmental Education	27.0%
Other	5.3%

Outdoor Concerts - 70%

Movies in the Park - 69%

2017 COMMUNITY PREFERENCE SURVEY RECREATION AMENITIES DESIRED

Splash Pad / Spray Ground	66.6%
Playground	62.6%
Picnic / Grill Area	46.2%
Walking Trail	46.0%
Performance Stage / Event Lawn	42.5%
Open Lawn Space	26.3%
Other	22.2%
Volleyball Court	21.4%
Game Tables	19.1%
2nd Basketball Court	15.3%
Sculpture Garden	15.1%
Tennis Backboard	14.3%
Shuffleboard Court	8.2%

Recreation / Teen Center - 53%

Exercise / Fitness Room - 51%

2017 COMMUNITY PREFERENCE SURVEY INDOOR ACTIVITIES DESIRED

Recreation Center	52.5%
Teen Center	52.5%
Exercise / Fitness Room	51.4%
Senior Programming	42.1%
Farmers Market	40.3%
Arts & Crafts Room	32.9%
Arts & Crafts Fair	30.7%
Meeting Rooms / Groups	28.4%
Banquet Rooms / Kitchen	23.8%
Other	8.8%



The 2017 Community Preference Survey was conducted in conjunction with the master planning process for the renovation of Louis Randolph Johnson Jr Memorial Park and subsequent phases of potential expansion. The survey was designed to identify desired amenities, facilities and programming as well as park usage habits specific to the existing park space and future potential expansion at the current Public Works site on Hedrick Street as well as extending east to the tennis and basketball courts all the way to the Town's property across from Ocean View Cemetery adjacent to Ann Street.

A broader effort to obtain survey respondents was applied by Town Staff and included website, social media, newsletter, business cards, weekly meet-ups in the park and at events such as National Night Out. This effort resulted in 650 respondents representing approximately 6.3% of the estimated 2017 population of 4,100.

2017 Community Preference Survey Continued



Top 5 Responses for Recreational Amenities & Programming

Amenities

1. Sprayground
2. Playground
3. Picnic/Grill Area
4. Walking Trail
5. Stage/Event Lawn

Indoor Programming

1. Recreation Center
2. Teen Center
3. Exercise/Fitness Room
4. Senior Programs
5. Market Space

Outdoor Programming

1. Outdoor Concerts
2. Movies in the Park
3. Festivals
4. Food Trucks
5. Market Space



Renovations of the existing park at Randolph Johnson Memorial Park were completed in 2021. Renovations included the addition of the top four desired amenities.

Indoor Programming Space is dependent upon moving Public Works and the transformation of the Town's land around the water tower into park space.



www.beaufortnc.org/bc-prab

Randolph Johnson/Water Tower Park Master Plan 2018

In 2017, the Town hired Rivers and Associates to put together the Randolph Johnson/Water Tower Park Master Plan. The year long process included numerous public charettes and the 2017 Community Preference Survey.

The Comprehensive Master Plan addresses the vision of re-developing the existing adjacent Public Works Facility into what is referred to as Water Tower Park. The intention was to provide a conceptual master site plan integrating the existing park parcel and the public works site along with existing adjoining tennis and basketball courts into a comprehensive passive park providing community space as well as multiple recreational and cultural opportunities. The 2018 Preliminary Opinion of Probable cost for the entire project was \$4,995,600.

The Master Plan took into account that the Public Works Department must be relocated in order for the water tower park concept to come to fruition. The plan includes 6 different phases the Town can take in order to reach the final goal. Phase 1 was the renovation of the existing park space at Randolph Johnson Park which was completed in 2020.

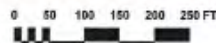
Future phases of the Master Plan are on hold until the Public Works facility is relocated. Future phases include recommendations for indoor recreation/event space, a community garden, outdoor covered flex space, a performance stage, an art wall, open green space, continued park trail system, exercise stations, a sand volleyball court and more. The full plan is available at

www.beaufortnc.org.



LEGEND

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A) RENOVATED OFFICE BUILDING | N) COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS |
| B) PERGOLAS | O) ROUNDABOUT |
| C) NEW COVERED ENTRY | P) FUTURE DRIVE OPPORTUNITY |
| D) NEW OUTDOOR COVERED FLEX SPACE | Q) PARKING W/ PERVIOUS SURFACE |
| E) RENOVATED INDOOR FLEX SPACE | R) SPEED TABLE |
| F) NEW INDOOR UTILITY SPACE | S) RELOCATED BASKETBALL COURTS |
| G) NEW BACK PORCH EVENT STAGE | T) 40x86 SHELTER W/RESTROOMS |
| H) SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT | U) WATER PLAY |
| I) EVENT LAWN | V) PROMENADE/SERVICE DRIVE |
| J) WATER TOWER | W) SHADE STRUCTURE |
| K) OPEN PLAY/GREENSPACE W/ SM. HILLS | X) SAND PLAY |
| L) GAZEBO | Y) PLAYGROUND |
| M) PARKING | ● EXERCISE STATIONS |



RANDOLPH JOHNSON /
WATER TOWER PARK MASTER PLAN
TOWN OF BEAUFORT, NC
JANUARY 2018

Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan 2018

WALK+BIKE

Beaufort, NC | bicycle and pedestrian master plan



FINAL
August 2018

A plan to enhance the safety and mobility of Beaufort's citizens, visitors, businesses that celebrates the unique cultural identity and heritage of Beaufort, North Carolina.



- Conducted two surveys in 2017-18 for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Received 67 survey responses to the Polling & Visual Preference Survey
- Survey results showed the two main locations cyclists want to reach in Beaufort are park spaces and downtown.
- Multiple public engagement sessions were conducted.
- The plan identified that the #1 issue facing transportation needs in Beaufort is that infrastructure isn't keeping pace with new development and residents stated it is difficult to get around Town on foot or by bicycle.

Vision Statement:

Beaufort is a Town where everyone can walk or bike to popular destinations like parks, schools, waterfront and retail places. This goal is accomplished by making spot improvements to address barriers, as well as, to generally level the playing field with automotive travel, improve intersections and increase the quality of active mode environments through better maintenance and enhancing the appearance of the streetscape.

www.beaufortnc.org/planninginspections/page/bicyclepedestrian-plan

Small Area Master Plan 2018



- Conducted a survey in 2017 and received 70 plus responses.
- Key takeaways address future mobility opportunities and future development opportunities.
- Parks ranked in the top three transportation improvement projects for future development opportunities.
- Greenways and Trails ranked as the #1 type of public space/park that is missing from Beaufort with 25% of respondents identifying it as

such.

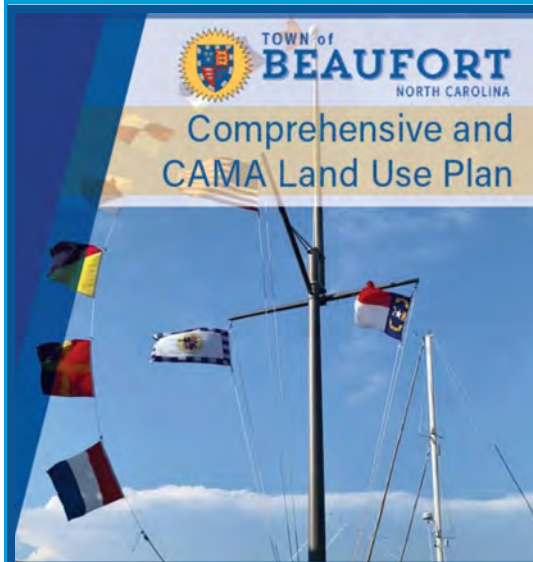
- Recommended, as a top 10 priority, the construction of a multi-use path along Lennoxville Road from Live Oak to Chadwick Street and reconstruction of the rail trestle as a pedestrian bridge.
- With over 700 new units being built near the eastern end of Lennoxville Road, a strong demand for safe bicycle and pedestrian connections into the core will become more and more essential.
- Providing a multi-use path enhances the ability for those units to sell and promotes the connection of new residents back into the walkablecore. The Town may want to consider this pathway suitable for golf carts as well, but as with every other decision, pedestrian safety should be the first priority.
- The dilapidated train trestle that crosses Town Creek behind the historic Mulberry Street School property presents a chance to create a unique pedestrian and cycling experience for



the Town of Beaufort. Access to water is the number one requested amenity in public spaces, and the new structure would offer both recreational and educational programming opportunities for the community.

www.beaufortnc.org/planninginspections/page/small-area-master-plan

Comprehensive & CAMA Land Use Plan 2024



This plan sets forth the community vision and goals for the Town of Beaufort, North Carolina. This historic, coastal community came together over a nearly two-year period to consider where they are and where they would like to be—identifying assets, threats, successes, shortcomings, and opportunities for the future. The result is the Comprehensive and Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan which was adopted in 2023. The plan was approved by the Board of Commissioners and certified by CAMA in early January 2024. The plan is intended to be a guidebook for Beaufort’s future.

Part of creating a comprehensive and CAMA land use plan involves understanding the community and environment as they currently are, how it has changed through time, and using that information to extrapolate potential future conditions.

The public was involved at multiple points and in multiple ways in order to ensure community values and input were the foundation of the plan. Public input was received in interviews, survey responses, small group discussions, large group public meetings, steering committee guidance. This public input helped define the document and the values, goals and vision for the future. The Beaufort community has many values. Beaufort residents value the Town’s character while focusing on improvement of existing infrastructure, preservation of the natural and built environment, managing growth, and housing affordability. Beaufort residents also feel that economic growth, more recreational opportunities, equity and inclusion, tourism, public health, and controlling short term rentals are important. The plan discusses the need to protect, preserve and restore our shorelines, sensitive habitats and waterways and highlights the need for education around smart recreation.

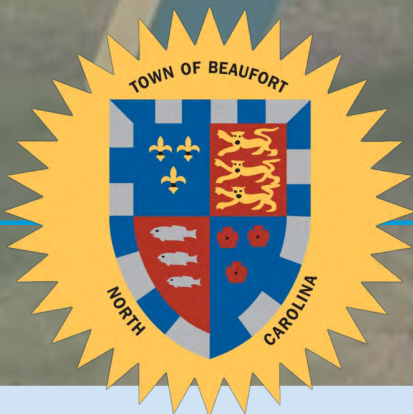
Throughout the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan many goals and recommendations directly align with the Comprehensive and CAMA Land Use Plan.

These will be noted by the following:



www.beaufortnc.org/future

Park Inventory



Town of Beaufort Park Inventory

The Town of Beaufort’s park system is comprised of nine parks. The majority of these park spaces are small pocket parks with water access. Water access includes visual access, fishing access, physical access and equipment access like boat launches.

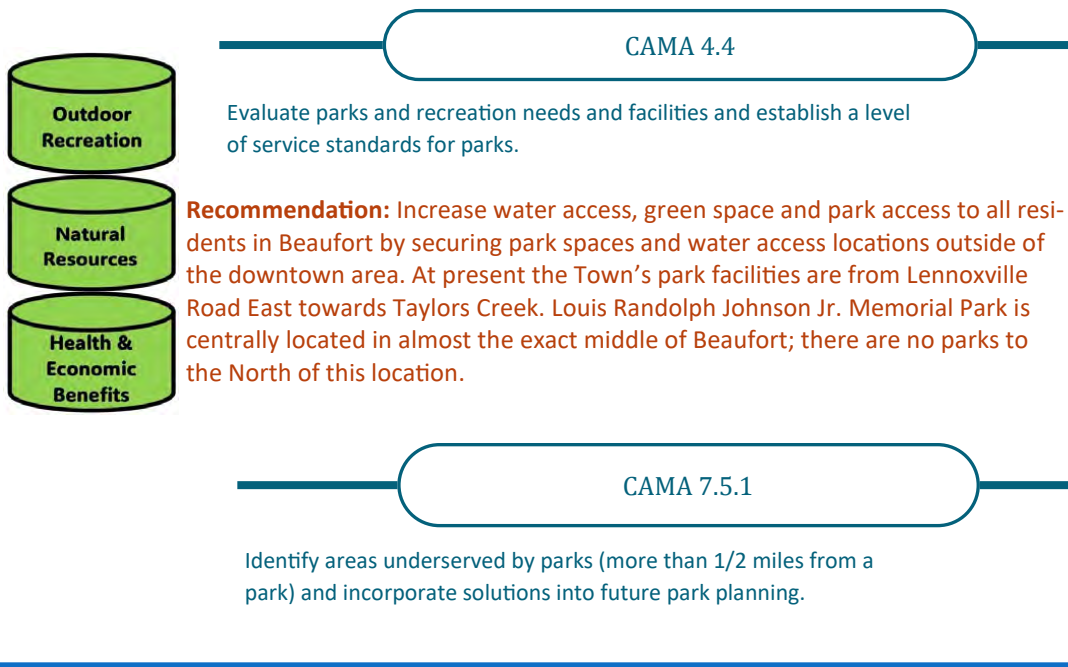
The Town’s 2023 Comprehensive & CAMA Land Use Plan found that the Town of Beaufort in 2021-22 was comprised of about 17% total acreage or 493.65 acres of Parks, Open Space, and Conservation land usage. This includes cemeteries, marshlands, islands in and surrounding the Reserve, local parks and recreational sites open to the public, and government owned parcels with conservation descriptions.

The Town’s designated parks include mainly water access destinations along Front Street with one Neighborhood Park located in the center of town with adjacent tennis/basketball courts.

Town operated parks/event spaces include:

- Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Park
- Basketball/Tennis Courts
- Curtis Perry Park
- Fishermen’s Park
- Lynn Eury Park
- Grayden Paul Park
- John Newton Park
- Topsail Marine Memorial Park
- Derwood’s Landing
- Train Depot

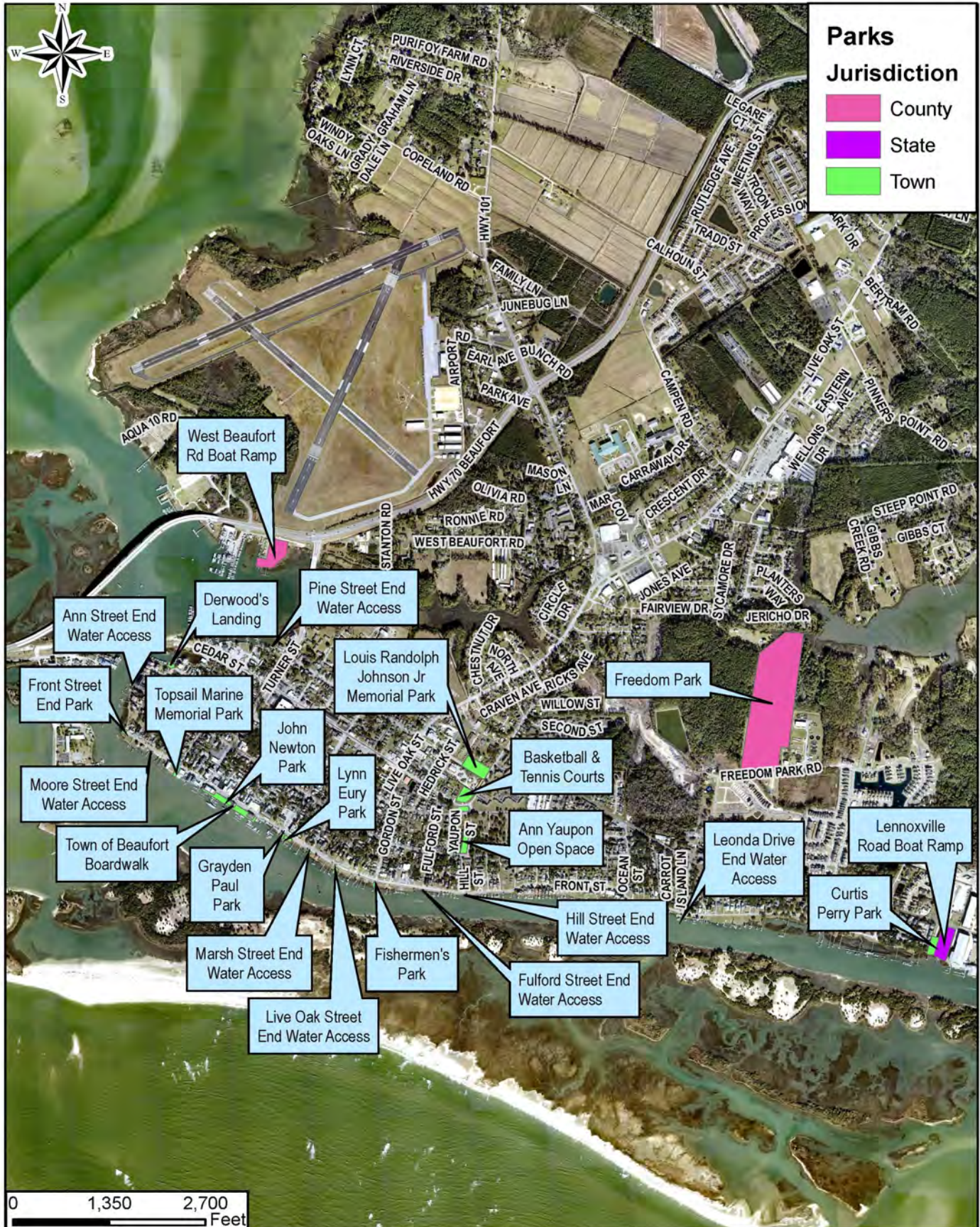
The Boardwalk offers year round recreational opportunities and is included in this section.



www.beaufortnc.org/parks



TOWN OF BEAUFORT NORTH CAROLINA



Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Address: 1016 Pine Street

- Funded by a private donation. \$1.5 million renovation
- The renovation is Phase 1 of the Water Tower Park Master Plan.
- Renovation included a picnic shelter, splashpad and playground.



The Water Tower Park Master Plan connects the Randolph Johnson Memorial Park area to the existing basketball and tennis courts to create a cohesive neighborhood park that is located in the center of Beaufort.

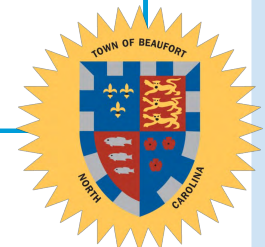
- The area included in the Master Plan would expand the park space to adjoin six parcels for a total of approximately seven acres.
- The Master Plan calls for the relocation of the Town’s Public Works facilities. The Master Plan is on hold until this relocation can occur.
- Project began in spring 2017.
- Rivers & Associates completed the Master Plan and it was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 9, 2018.

- Phase 1 construction began in late 2018 and was complete in 2020.
- Splashpad opened for its first season in summer 2020.
- A Bicycle Fixation Station was added in 2021 via a grant from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.



Park Amenities:

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Splashpad | Walking Trail | Playground | Green Space | Parking Lot |
| Benches | Restrooms | Water Fountain | Picnic Tables | Picnic Shelter |
| Shade Structures | | Bicycle Fixation Station | | Bike Racks |



Basketball/Tennis Courts

Park Type: Potential to be a part of a Neighborhood Park by adjoining it to Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park.

Address: Intersection of Yaupon, Carteret and Cedar Streets

- Originally funded with a Part F Grant and located at the present day Curtis Perry Park/State Wildlife Boat Ramp on Front Street.
- Relocated to its current location at the intersection of Yaupon, Carteret and Cedar Streets after 2010.

Amenities

- Basketball Court
- Two Tennis Courts
- Pickleball lines
- Lighted
- Remain open until 10 p.m.
- Parking
- Bench

Improvements

Basketball Court resurfaced—2023

Tennis Courts resurfaced-2023

Tennis Court lines repainted-2023

Pickle Ball lines added to the tennis courts-2023

Basketball goal replacement—2024



Future programming opportunities:

Basketball skills clinic

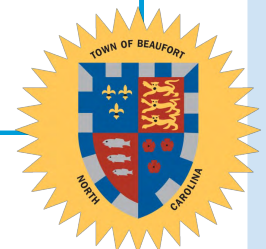
Tennis clinic

Pickleball meet-ups

Pick-up basketball tournament

Recommendation: The backboards on the Basketball courts continuously need replacement. Staff recommends installing a more substantial goal in the future, as well as, looking into building an expanded court to bring it to regulation size.

Recommendation: Install cameras at the courts with a sign that states the area is under 24 hour surveillance to help decrease the incidences of vandalism.



Curtis Perry Park



Park Type: Pocket Park/Water Access

Address: 2370 Lennoxville Road

- Park is adjacent to a State Wildlife Boat Ramp.
- A Bicycle Fixation Station was added in 2021 via a grant from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- The kayak rack was added in 2019 to increase the number available in the Town's Small Vessel lottery.

Amenities

Shaded natural area
Parking lot with trailer parking
Bike fixation station
Bike rack
Restrooms
Pier
Picnic tables
Grills
Kayak Lottery Storage Rack
Adjacent to the State Boat Ramp
Water views



Fishermen's Park



Park Type: Pocket Park/Water Access
Address: 920 Front Street, Beaufort

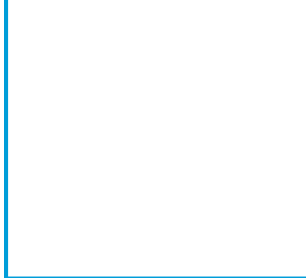
This location is popular for fishing, bird watching and launching small vessels. It provides scenic views of Taylors Creek and the Rachel Carson Reserve.

There are multiple ways to launch a non-motorized vessel at this location making it a popular destination for kayakers and canoes. The park is home to the Town's largest small vessel storage rack.

The park does not have designated parking or a loading/unloading area.

Amenities

- Kayak/canoe launch
- Non-motorized vessel launch
- Fishing pier
- Bike rack
- Bench
- Menhaden Fishing Public Art Monument
- Kayak lottery storage rack
- Funded by a CAMA grant



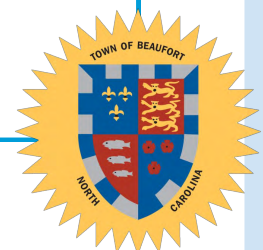
Grayden Paul Park

Park Type: Pocket Park/Water Access

- Funded in part by a CAMA grant.
- Maintained by the Town and the Beaufort Garden Club.
- Park is located in the project area for potential connection to the Beaufort boardwalk under the Waterfront Improvement Plan.
- A Bicycle Fixation Station was added in 2021 via a grant from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- New benches were funded by private donations in 2021-2022.

Amenities

Bicycle Fixation Station
Kayak Storage Rack by permit
Beach launch access
Gazebo
Dock
Benches
Day non-motorized vessel storage
Fishing pier
Dinghy dock
Small beach area
Kayak launch
Electricity
Water supply
On-street parking
Adjacent to public restrooms



John Newton Park



Park Type: Water Access/Pocket Park

Address: 508 Front Street

Situated adjacent to the boardwalk, Town Docks and Harbormasters office in the heart of the downtown area, John Newton Park is a popular gathering spot.

The shade from the trees and scenic views of Taylors Creek and the Rachel Carson Reserve make this a popular resting spot in the downtown area to take in the water

views and enjoy the scenery.

John Newton Park is frequently utilized for events to include 5K runs, Music in the Park and more. It is the hub of annual Christmas activities in downtown Beaufort.

Amenities

Bike Rack

Benches

Two Picnic Tables

Water views

Adjacent to the Town docks and boardwalk

Shaded natural areas

Monument honoring John Newton

Adjacent to public restrooms

Electrical Access

Adjacent to the East parking lot



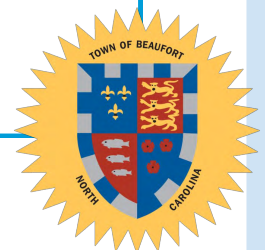
Lynn Eury Park

Park Type: Water Access/Pocket Park

Address: 702 Front Street

Amenities

Two picnic benches
Bicycle rack
Passive green space area
Town Public Safety docks
Signage for the National Park Service
& Cape Lookout National Seashore
Water Views of Taylor's Creek & Rachel Carson Reserve
On-street parking
Adjacent to Grayden Paul Park



Topsail Marine Memorial Park



Park Type: Water Access/Pocket Park

Address: 230 Front Street

Renovated: 2019-2021

Total Renovation Cost: \$56,309

Town Funded: \$45,354

Grant Funding: \$14,289 Division of Water Resources North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Private Donations: Four benches

The retrofit improved the aesthetics of the park and incorporated stormwater management techniques to capture runoff from adjacent impervious surfaces in compliance with the Town's 2017 Watershed Restoration Plan guidelines. The improvements to the park included a pervious walkway with bench seating, new bike rack with parking pad, and several rain gardens to capture and infiltrate stormwater.

In 2021 the Beaufort Garden Club made a donation of \$3,000 for irrigation. The irrigation project was implemented in 2022 at a total of \$10,955.

The Beaufort Garden Club also donated the Menhaden Melody Art Sculpture in 2021.

In 2022, Topsail Marine Memorial Park was identified as a Middle Passage historic site and a historic informational marker was placed on the site by the Beaufort, North Carolina's Middle Passage Project Committee, a division of Eastern Carolina Foundation for Equity & Equality.



Amenities

- Dock
- Fishing Pier
- Rain Garden
- Public Art
- Historical Marker
- Bike Rack
- Benches
- On-street parking



Derwood's Landing

Park Type: Water Access / Pocket Park

Address: Western end of Broad Street

Amenities

Water access

Dock

Water Views



This pocket park/water access faces Town Creek and is currently the Town's only town-owned water access with amenities that also has views of the Gallants Channel high-rise bridge and Town Creek.



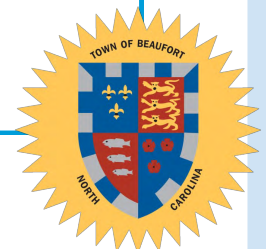
This park is located off of Front Street in a residential area. There is not a designated parking area.

In 2020-21, the homeowners association adjacent to Derwood's Landing offered to pay to move the existing location of the pocket park. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was strongly against this proposal. The suggested new location was located in what would have been the Cedar Street Park Project area.



Residents have historically utilized this area as a swimming hole and have at times installed their own ladder on the Town's dock. The Town does not encourage swimming and does not maintain a ladder at this location.

Recommendation: Find a way to make this park more accessible to the general public. Consider creating a designated parking area nearby. Consider water facing signage to notify boaters that it is a public dock.



Boardwalk

Park Type: Water Access/ Trail
Address: Front Street—Downtown

Amenities

Multi-use trail
Public Art Mural
Parking
Access to restaurants and shopping
Scenic views
Benches
Adjacent to the Town Docks



The Beaufort boardwalk is a staple of downtown. Spanning several blocks, it connects the business district while offering a scenic walking path to residents and visitors. Overlooking Taylor’s Creek and the Rachel Carson Reserve, the views are breathtaking.



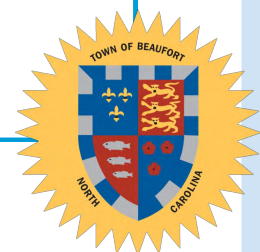
Summer strolls and morning exercise routes have many people utilizing this amenity for recreational use. The boardwalk is adjacent to the Town Docks. The west end of the boardwalk ends with a beautiful mural.

The Beaufort boardwalk is currently designated as a part of the East Coast Greenway.



Renovations Scheduled

The Boardwalk is scheduled to undergo renovations in the next 1-5 years. Renovations could include an extension of the existing boardwalk to connect to Grayden Paul Park on the East end. Information on renovations will be available at www.beaufortnc.org as the project comes to fruition.



Kayak/Small Vessel Racks

68 Total Spaces

Fishermen's Park (Gordon/Front St): 3 dinghy, 4 canoe and 37 kayak spaces

Grayden Paul Park (Pollock/Front): 12 kayak spaces

Curtis Perry Park (Front St near boat ramp): 12 kayak spaces

The Town of Beaufort operates three kayak/small vessel racks which are leased to residents through an annual lottery program.

The spaces at Fishermen's Park have the highest request rate and fill the quickest. The spaces at



Grayden Paul Park are also in high demand although these spaces are only suitable for smaller vessels. The rack at Curtis Perry Park is assigned every year but has historically not been well utilized. Participants in the lottery often give their space back when they are assigned to Curtis Perry Park.

Spaces are assigned based on preference and availability in the order in which they are drawn during the lottery.

The rate is \$100 per space per year to lease a space. The lease is one calendar year. Lessees are

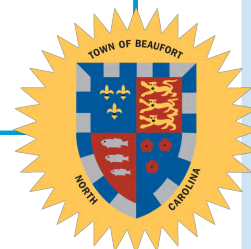
responsible to remove their vessel during inclement weather. Spaces are only leased to homeowners inside the Town limits.

Each year nearly 200 applications are received for the 68 spaces. Staff selects a waiting list of 20 during the lottery. Residents have notoriously found ways to better their chances during the lottery. Staff has found the online lottery system to be the most equitable to all residents.

CAMA 6.6.4

Expand convenient kayak storage areas.

Recommendation: At this time, additional racks are not recommended. If additional water access locations are developed with kayak launches, the Town should consider including racks at the new locations.



Beaufort Train Depot

Park Type: Rental Facility
Address: 614 Broad Street

Amenities

Indoor meeting space
Kitchen
Restrooms
Microwave
Refrigerator
Oven
Tables
Chairs
48 person capacity
Bike rack
On-street parking
Historic Train Depot



The Beaufort Train Depot is available for use by the public at a minimal rate. The Depot is frequently rented for baby showers, children's birthday parties, wedding showers, community meetings, athletic organizations, non-profits and family gatherings.

The Train Depot is the Town's only indoor rental facility.

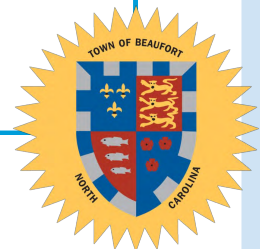
2024 Beaufort Train Depot Fee Schedule

(Deposits are refundable with a written request)

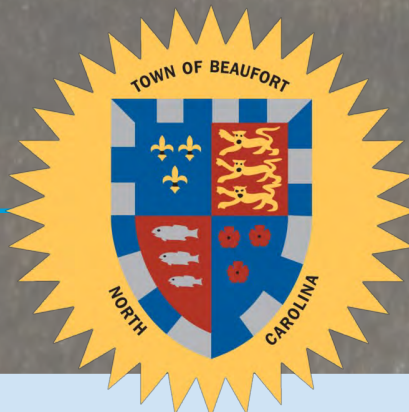
Full day: Resident: \$50 plus \$50 deposit Non-Resident: \$150 plus \$50 deposit

Half day (4 hours or less): Resident: \$25 plus \$50 deposit Non-Resident: \$75 plus \$50 deposit

Recurring Monthly Meetings: \$15 plus \$50 deposit



Other Recreational Resources



Other Recreational Resources List



The Town of Beaufort is home to recreational resources that are operated by other organizations to include Carteret County, the State of North Carolina and is adjacent to a National Park. These recreational resources are huge draws for residents and visitors.

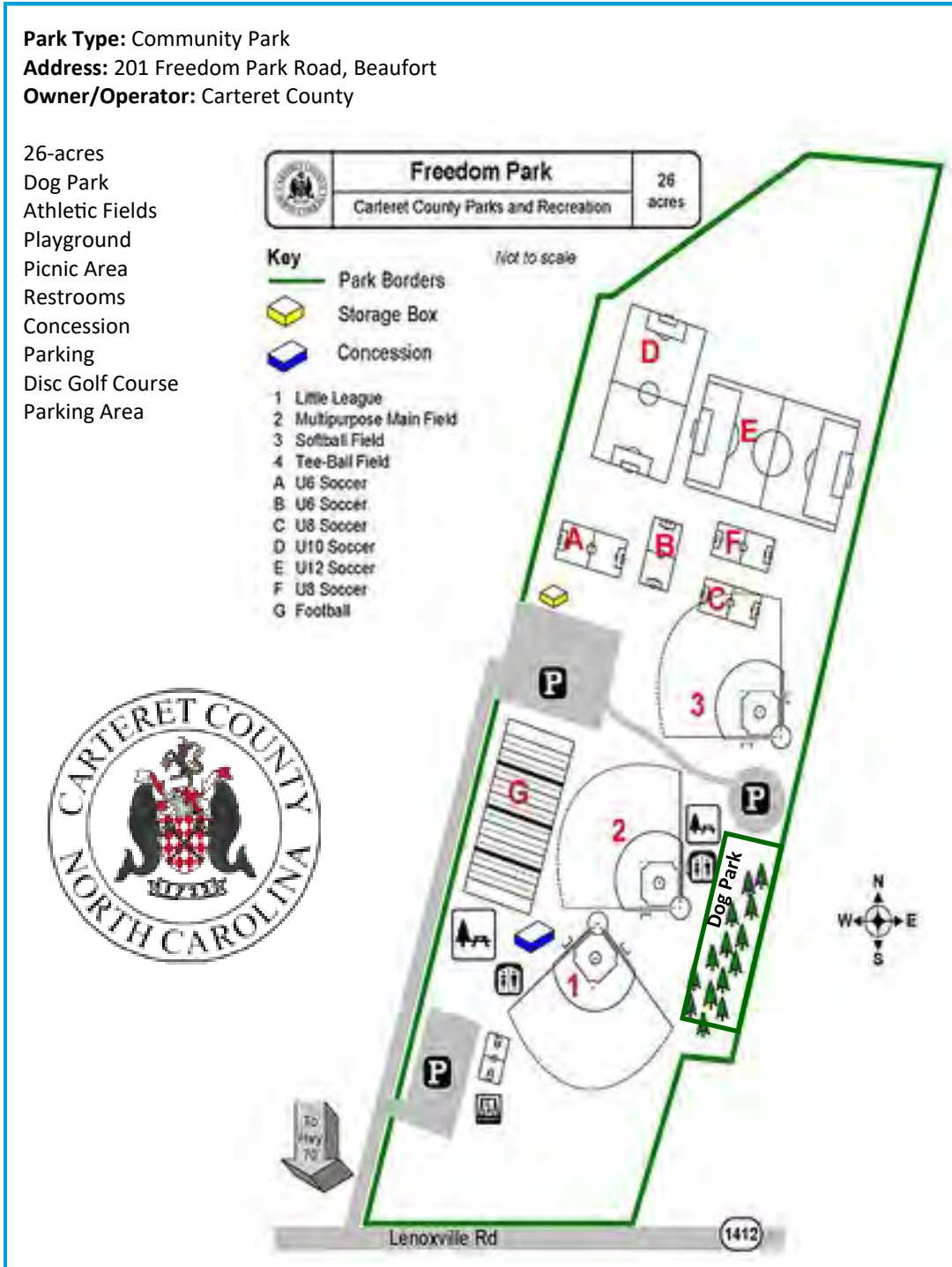
Freedom Park
Maritime Museum's Harborside Park
Gallant's Channel Nature Trail
Boat Ramps
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Rachel Carson Reserve
Down East Paddle Trails
East Coast Greenway
The Great Trails State NC
Mountains-to-Sea Trail



Freedom Park

Park Type: Community Park
Address: 201 Freedom Park Road, Beaufort
Owner/Operator: Carteret County

- 26-acres
- Dog Park
- Athletic Fields
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Concession
- Parking
- Disc Golf Course
- Parking Area



www.carteretcountync.gov/235/Parks-Recreation

Harborside Park

Address: Front Street, Beaufort
Park Type: Pocket Park/Water Access
Owner/Operator: NC Maritime Museum



NORTH CAROLINA
**MARITIME
MUSEUMS**
BEAUFORT

Harborside Park is a privately financed project to preserve a piece of Beaufort waterfront property for public use, an over-the-water park where the community can gather, enjoy and call its own.

The total project cost in 2017-18 was more than \$300,000. The Town of Beaufort assisted with the restroom portion of the project. Town staff secured a CAMA grant in the amount of \$48,600 and the Town funded \$16,200 to complete the \$64,800 restroom project at Harborside Park.

Amenities:

- Restrooms
- Water Access
- Picnic Tables
- Water Views
- On-street parking



<https://ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com/harborside>

Boat Ramps

State Wildlife Boat Ramp at Lennoxville & Front Street



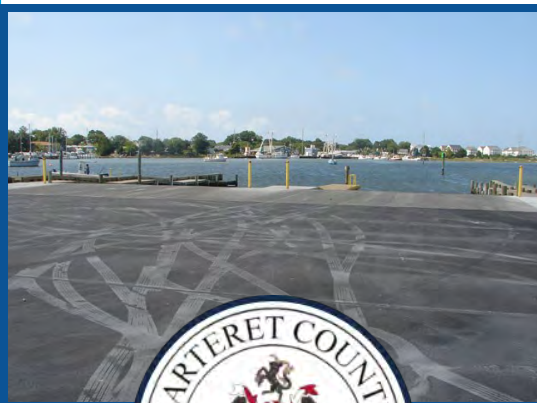
Address: 2370 Lennoxville Road

Operator: NC Wildlife Resources Commission

- Motorized boat launch
- Boat and trailer parking
- Adjacent to Curtis Perry Park
- Adjacent to Town restrooms
- Operated by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission in agreement with the Town of Beaufort



County Boat Ramp at Town Creek (West Beaufort Access)



Address: 138 Town Creek Drive, Beaufort

Owner/Operator: Carteret County

- Kayak/canoe launching area
- Motorized boat launch
- Boat and trailer parking
- Restrooms



www.ncwildlife.org

www.carteretcountync.gov

Cape Lookout National Park

Park Type: National Park

Owner/Operator: National Park Service

A boat ride three miles off-shore brings you to the barrier islands of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Horse watching,



shelling, fishing, birding, camping, lighthouse climbing,



and touring historic villages--there's something for everyone at Cape Lookout. The dark skies of Cape Lookout National Seashore are some of the darkest along the east coast. It is one of the few places where you can see the Milky Way with your natural eye,

making it an ideal location for stargazing. In 2021, Cape Lookout was certified as an International Dark Sky Park.

Unlike neighboring beaches, no bridges cross from the mainland to the islands. A boat ride is a must for reaching the area - either your own boat or a ferry. There are also no paved roads, concession stands, bathhouses, camp stores or trash cans in the seashore. Except for the ferry landing areas, the islands are undeveloped and wild.

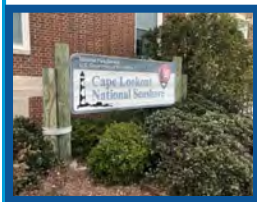
Shackleford Banks

Shackleford Banks is located outside of Beaufort's jurisdiction but serves as a barrier island which helps protect the coastal community from extreme weather. The Shackleford Banks is an eight mile long barrier island system located south of Beaufort and Harkers Island, having lost length with the widening of Beaufort Inlet. The Banks are part of three components of the 56 mile long Cape Lookout National Seashore.



The island is undeveloped and serves as a popular tourist attraction. A number of ferry services depart from Downtown Beaufort to Shackleford Banks.

Barrier islands like this are beneficial because they absorb wave energy before hitting the mainland. This generally means smaller storm surge and less flooding. Barrier islands are disappearing at an alarming rate, these barrier islands not only provide beneficial habitat for the ecosystem but help protect the mainland. They serve as ecosystems for fish, plants, animals, help improve water quality, and improve local economies, all while protecting communities (NC DEQ & NOAA).



Ferry service to Cape Lookout National Seashore departs Beaufort daily during the peak season from the Beaufort Docks via the National Park Service's concessionaire. The Park Service has operated a visitor's center inside the Town Hall building in Beaufort for 10 years. The future of the visitor's center is unknown as of 2024.

www.nps.com

Rachel Carson Reserve



Park Type: Dispersed Use/Conservancy Area

Owner/Operator: North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

The Rachel Carson Estuarine Research Reserve is part of the North Carolina National Estuarine Reserve system, which is a collection of coastal regions that have been preserved and protected to safeguard the wide variety of wildlife that these regions support. It is the most significant natural heritage area within Beaufort. The Rachel Carson Reserve includes a collection of islands, salt marshes, and surrounding water, and encompasses a total area of 2,315 acres. The complex of islands includes Carrot Island, Town Marsh, Middle Marsh, Bird Shoal, and Horse Island, and the entire site was completely acquired by the North Carolina

National Estuarine Research Reserve system in 1989.

The reserve is situated close to Downtown Beaufort directly across Taylors Creek, and is in between the mouths of the Newport and North Rivers, with the Back Sound serving as its southern watery border. As a result of this geography, the estuaries and islands that comprise the reserve are heavily affected by river, tide, and inlet dynamics, with some areas becoming water-logged and soggy with every incoming or outgoing tide.

The result of this unique system of water flowing to and surrounding the Rachel Carson Reserve is a mix of fresh and salt waters that in turn allows a wide variety of marine life to thrive. Juvenile fish tidal flats, salt marshes, ocean beach, sand dunes, shrub thickets, submerged aquatic vegetation, and maritime forest. As a result, countless birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish species carve out a home on the desolate islands and can be admired by virtually any visitor who can make the trek to the isolated series of islands (Town of Beaufort).

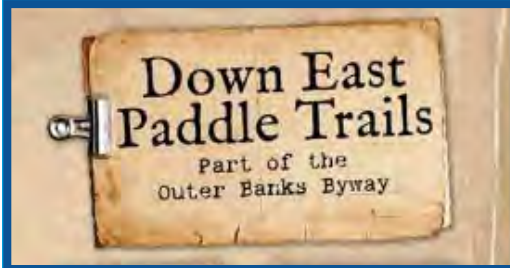
and invertebrates can be found in the marshes and just offshore, while the local mammals can include everything from gray foxes and otters to the famed wild horses.



The Rachel Carson Reserve Paddle Trail, a saltwater trail, is a part of the Down East Paddle Trail.

www.deq.nc.gov

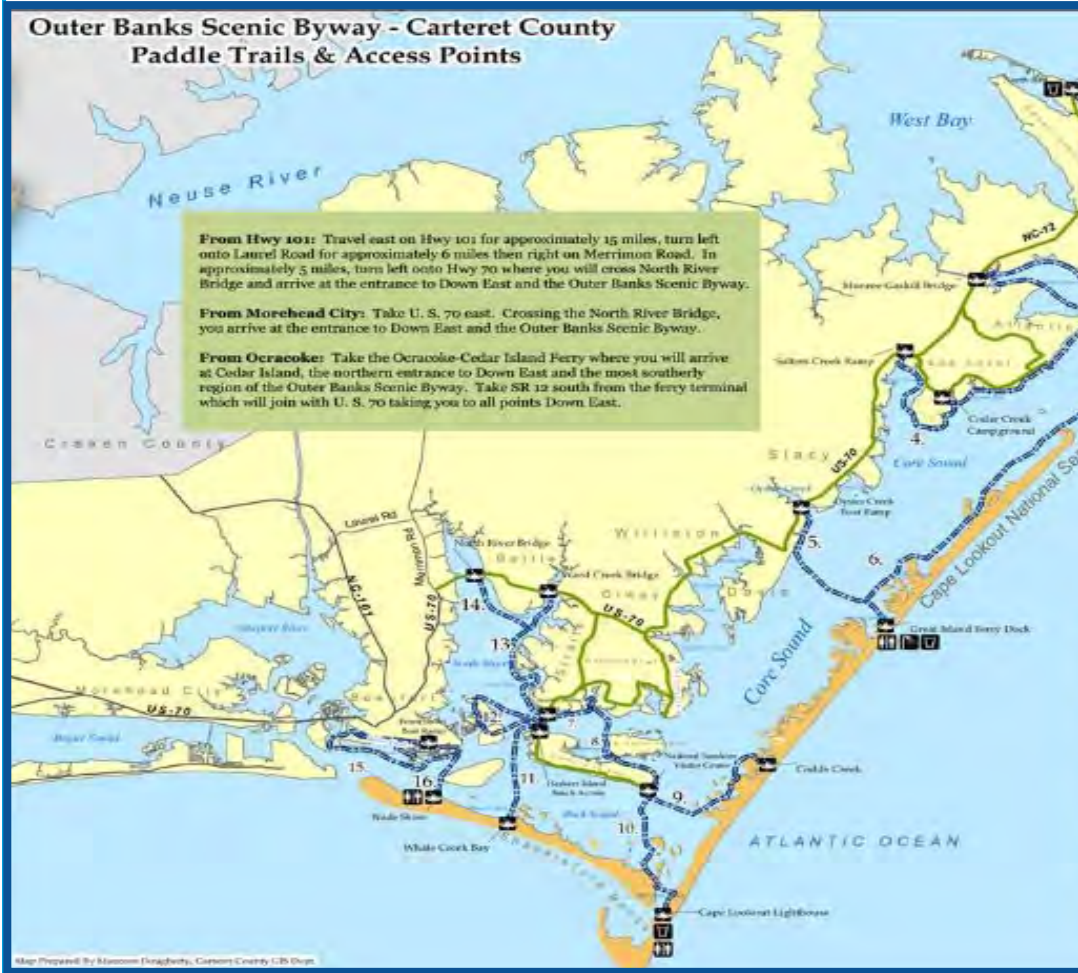
Down East Paddle Trails



Type: Saltwater Trail, blueway

The Down East Paddle Trail Map is the first to highlight trails in the Down East area of Carteret County, The southern arm of the Outer Banks National Scenic Byway.

The 16 trails, ranging in length from 2.3 miles to 13.7 miles are designated as easy, moderate or difficult. The trails meander through saltwater marshes, channels and sloughs that will offer the paddler an experience that fits their ability level, from short day trips to multi-day campouts. Two of the 16 trails include starting destinations from Beaufort including the Rachel Carson Reserve Paddle and the Beaufort to Shackleford Banks Paddle. Paddlers are encouraged to start from the Beaufort Boat Ramp/Curtis Perry Park and/or from Fishermen's Park.



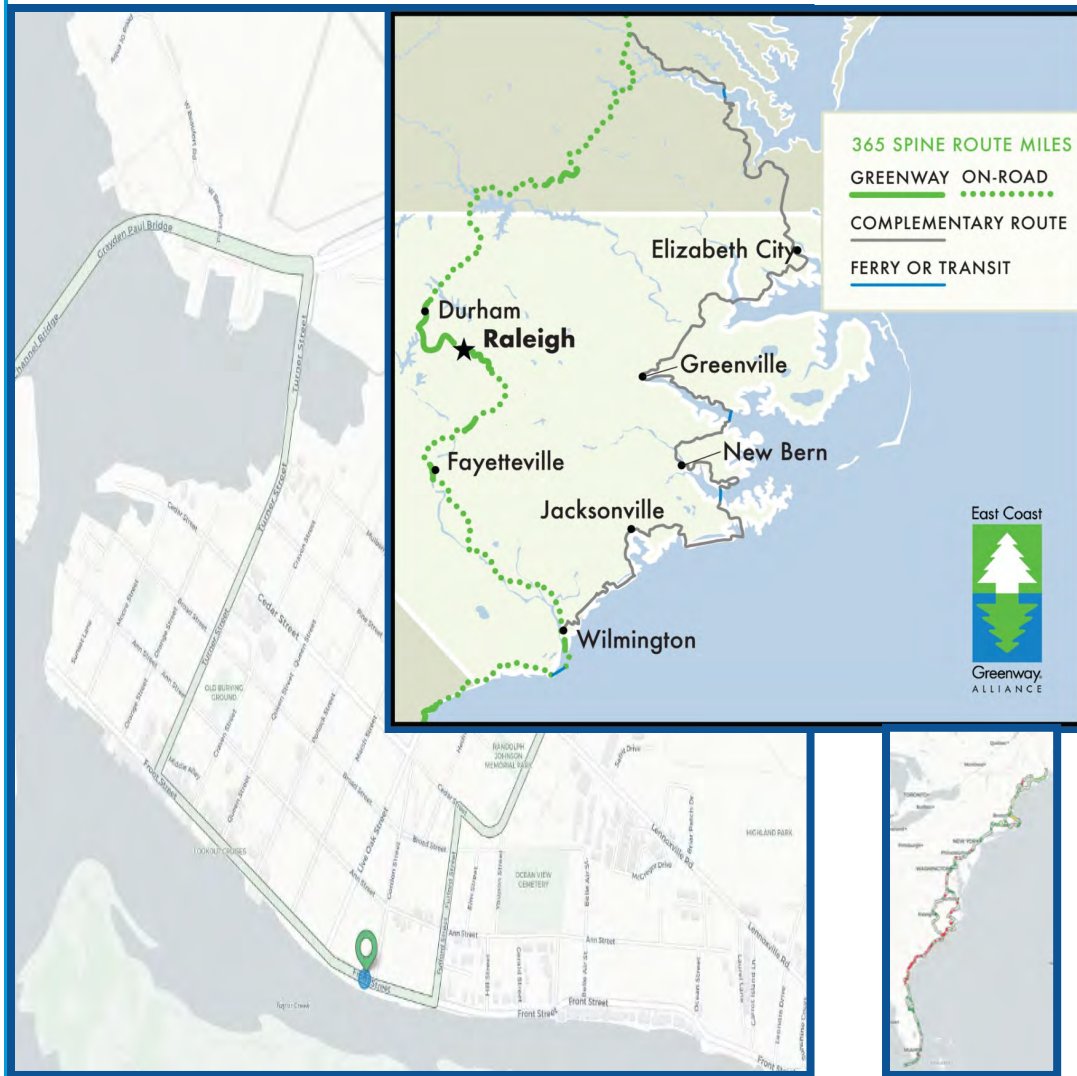
www.outerbankstrails.com

East Coast Greenway

The East Coast Greenway is a shared-use trail system that will provide a continuous route along the eastern coast from Canada to Florida. In North Carolina, the current route runs through the Triangle, Sandhills region, Fayetteville, and the Cape Fear River. Currently, about twenty-five percent of the trail is on traffic-free greenways in NC, offering safe and accessible corridors for users of all abilities and ages.

In Beaufort, the East Coast Greenway traverses Beaufort along NC 101, 3rd Street, Carteret Avenue, Cedar Street, Fulford Street, Front Street, Turner Street, and exits Beaufort on Arendell Street.

Recommendation: Highlight these connections on the Town's website, park materials etc.



www.greenway.org

The Great Trails State NC



Two major trail systems currently travel through Carteret County: Mountains-to-Sea Trail and the East Coast Greenway. Both of these trails have been incorporated into NCDOT's new initiative: The Great Trails State.

The Great Trails State Plan draws upon existing plans and new recommendations to identify a network of shared-use paths and trails that connect every county in North Carolina, with a focus on connections between population centers and North Carolina State Parks.

The primary outcome of this planning process was to develop a statewide trail map coupled with an action-oriented network plan and five-year implementation strategy.

The Great Trails State Plan was created by the N.C. Department of Transportation's Integrated Mobility Division, in coordination with the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division and North Carolina State Parks.

CAMA 6.1.1.2

Connect Town greenways to nearby networks and implement state greenway network recommendations.

Recommendation: Seek additional information and updates to the NC Great Trails Plan. As of February 2024, the plan refers to the Town's 2018 Bike and Pedestrian plan; however, the route shown in the NC Great Trails Plan is shown crossing the old Grayden Paul drawbridge.

Recommendation: Explore additional opportunities to connect Beaufort to existing trail networks.

Recommendation: Improve existing trail connections.

Recommendation: Explore trail specific grant resources for constructing a trail in Beaufort that connects to the larger State trail networks. (Recreational Trails Program Grant, NCDOT)

CAMA 6.1.1.1

Create new connections and opportunities for future connections.

www.greattrailsnc.com

Mountains-to-Sea Trail

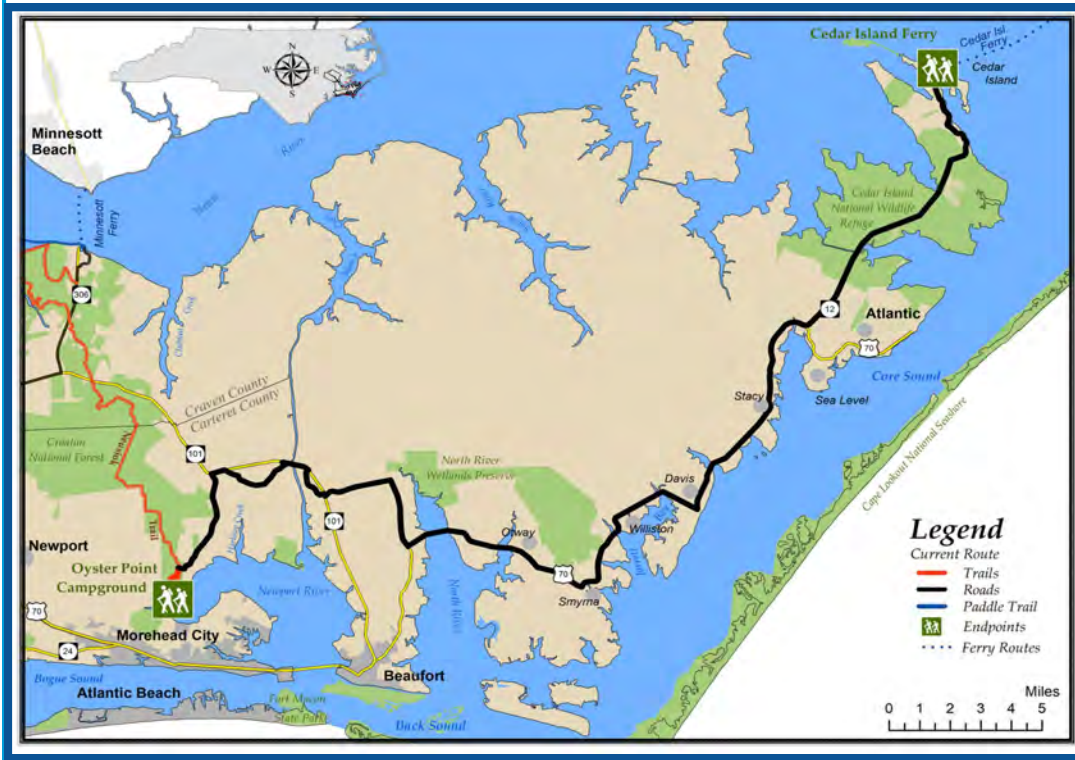
The Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) is a simple footpath stretching almost 1,200 miles across North Carolina from Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge on the Outer Banks. Almost 725 miles of footpath are now completed. With temporary routes on backroads and bicycle paths, hikers can now follow the trail on an adventure across North Carolina.

The MST routes through Craven & Carteret counties. This 48-mile segment of the MST takes hikers "Down East" to see the North River, small fishing towns that face the Core Sound, and the 14,500 acres of the Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Heading east from Oyster Point Campground, the southern terminus of the Neusiok Trail, hikers experience a short roadside glimpse of the beauty and variety of the Croatan National Forest before crossing the North River to enter a part of Carteret County that its residents have traditionally referred to as "Down East."

The trail route continues through a string of Down East communities fronting Core Sound. Hikers are rarely out of sight of bays, estuaries, and wetlands as they walk through Otway, Smyrna, Williston, Davis, and Stacy.

The route veers off US 70 onto NC 12 as it nears the Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge sits where the Pamlico and Neuse Rivers empty into the Pamlico Sound.



www.mountaintoseatrail.org

Gallants Channel Nature Trail



The Gallants Channel Nature Trail runs $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile around the perimeter of the North Carolina Maritime Museum's Gallants Channel property. The trail was funded by the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum and opened to the public in January 2021.



The trail passes through woods, wetlands, coastal habitat and the improved waterfront area of the Gallants Channel site. The development of the Nature Trail will continue and expand the Friends' and the Museum's mission to preserve and interpret the maritime history, culture and environment of coastal North Carolina.

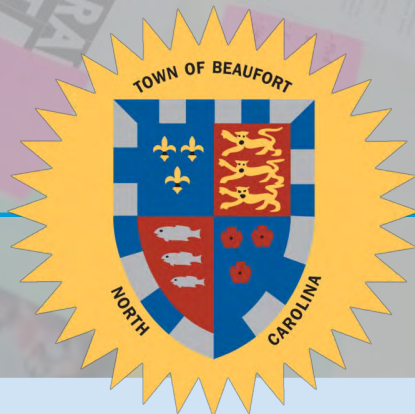
The hope is for the Gallants Channel Nature Trail to become

a go-to destination for locals and visitors of the Crystal Coast, it only takes a few minutes to walk round-trip and is a great way to get some fresh air and enjoy the views of the Newport River. It offers a great way to educate and expose locals and visitors to the coastal, natural habitat.



www.maritimefriends.org/gallants-channel-nature-trail/

Priorities



Project Priorities

During 2022-23, the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and staff identified top projects to make priorities in the upcoming years.

These priorities include:

Preservation of Water Access & Public Spaces
Additional Water Access Parks
Beaufort Walking Route
Trestle Walk Trail/Beaufort Greenway
Dog Park
Community Garden
Conservation Awareness
Family Events at the Park
Senior Programming
Youth Programming
Updated Bike Route Signage & Map
Public Art
ADA Compliance
Parks & Recreation Budget
Park Land Acquisition Fund



Water Tower Park—Project is on hold until Public Works is relocated.
Master Plan is complete.

Cedar Street Park—Project on hold due to ongoing litigation.

Other projects to explore: community center, virtual parks, skate park, pump track, senior recreation, swimming pool

Recommendation: Board of Commissioners prioritize projects based on data supplied in this Comprehensive Parks Plan and task the Parks & Recreation Board with working on potential projects.



The “Ready to Go” tag will appear on the bottom left corner of project pages that the PRAB has designated as projects that can move forward with relative ease once approved and funded by the Board of Commissioners.



Public Water Access

Public Water Access has been a topic of conversation for many years in the Beaufort Parks & Recreation arena as well as for other boards. Water access is one of the most valuable assets the Town can provide to citizens and visitors.

“The public has access to public trust waters in several different capacities (visual access, fishing access, physical access, and equipment access like boat launches). As in most coastal towns, there are limited opportunities for residents and visitors that are not coastal property owners to access public trust waters.

“Most direct, physical access to the coast and water, through docks, shoreline access, and private boat launches, are exclusive to private residences, rental properties, and select neighborhoods, although several light and heavy craft public access points do exist.

“For those unfamiliar with the Town, public access points can be difficult to locate. In addition, development, tourism, and population growth have all increased the need for more public access points. While these issues present challenges, the community recognizes the value of public trust water access, and many support increased options. Possibly the best example of a public private partnership in providing public access to public waters is the town docks where a combination of physical, vessel, and visual access is shared with adjacent commercial uses where the water view can be enjoyed while dining, walking, or shopping. The boardwalk and docks are a signature Beaufort experience. “

- 2023 Beaufort Comprehensive & CAMA Land Use Plan—Section 7



2000 Water Access Plan Conclusions

- ◇ Protect open vistas to preserve the visual window of the Beaufort waterfront
- ◇ Connection of the individual water access sites to a comprehensive greenway system that allows universal access for local residents and visitors to the various historic, cultural and retail opportunities in Beaufort.
- ◇ Encourage non-intensive recreation use of street ends to alleviate the potential parking congestion and misuse of the existing on street public parking.
- ◇ Provide passive waterfront access sites where

Public Water Access Recommendations

Many of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board’s recommendations regarding water access directly align with the 2023 Town’s Beaufort Comprehensive & CAMA Land Use Plan.

Recommendation: Seek to increase public water access locations outside of the downtown district.

CAMA 7.6

Increase public water and natural resources access while balancing the need for preservation.

Recommendation: Build a dock with a kayak launch at Moore Street.

Recommendation: Create a small sandy beach launch area for kayaks and small sailboats.

Recommendation: Floating dock with a kayak launch on West Beaufort Road.

Recommendation: Explore options at the West end of Ann Street and West Beaufort Road. Continue to look into options at the West end of Cedar Street.

CAMA 6.6.3

Increase launch locations for non-motorized boats.

Recommendation: Preserve Town street ends by placing benches, signage and other amenities for the public in these locations. Survey and mark the corners of the street ends with a decorative item to delineate the property.



Above: West end of Front Street



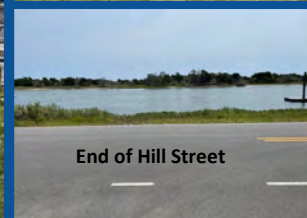
End of Marsh Street



End of Leonda Drive



End of Moore Street



End of Hill Street

CAMA 7.6.3

Where possible, reclaim street ends that have been encroached upon.

CAMA 7.6.2

Secure street terminations with signage, maintenance, parking areas, simple amenities (ex—benches) and clear demarcation of boundaries.

Public Water Access Recommendations Continued

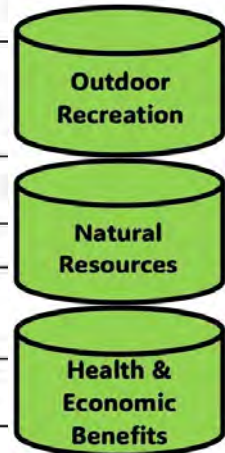
The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board compiled this recommendation for water access points in 2020 and presented it to the Beaufort Board of Commissioners in 2021.

Recommendation for water access points for the Town of Beaufort

Water access in Beaufort is one of the most valuable amenities for the residents, and the current water access points (parks, public fishing docks, public kayak launch, picnic tables, benches, and kayak storage) are in high demand. The Parks and Recreation Commission for the Town of Beaufort recommends increasing the number of public access points to the water. By increasing these amenities, we believe that the town will be even more attractive to resident families, retirees, and tourists alike.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has identified six town-owned parcels that we recommend should be preserved as public access -- for ease in identification, we have included a map of Beaufort with all the sites numbered, as well as GIS maps of each location with the parcel identified. In addition, for each site, we offer a series of potential options (sites are numbered with street names). Our hope is that the best amenity in Beaufort, our water, will be available to all residents.

Site and Location	Possible Water Access Options
Site one: South End of Moore Street	- floating dock - kayak storage - kayak launch
Site two: South End of Marsh Street	- picnic table - bench
Site three: South End of Live Oak Street	- bench - picnic table - potential for small kayak storage/launch - fishing dock
Site four: South End of Fulford Street	- bench - picnic table
Site five: South End of Hill Street	- floating fishing dock
Site six: West End of Pine Street	- floating fishing dock - kayak launch - kayak storage
Site seven: South end of Leonda Street	- Existing bench - picnic table



Additional Water Access/Education Recommendations:

Recommendation: Update the 2011 Water Access brochure to include present day water access locations. Brochures should be available both as a rack card and digitally. 2011 Brochure is on page 72 of this document.

Recommendation: Work with the Rachel Carson Reserve to create educational materials about protecting our waterways, wild horses and other natural resources.

CAMA 4.4.1

Identify priority acquisition and/or facilities development based on current and future needs and pursue those projects.

2011 Water Access Brochure

Below is the list of water access and overlook locations with a brief description of each.

① Turner Street Landing

- Water overlook only
- Located on the north end of Turner Street
- This overlook is subject to be removed with the construction of the US 70 bridge by-pass project

② Derwood's Landing

- Day dock
 - Small boats, kayaks, and canoes up to thirteen feet (13')
- Located at the west end of Broad Street
- No public parking

③ Topsail Marine Park

- Day dock
 - Small boats, kayaks, and canoes up to thirteen feet (13')
- Located at the south end of Orange Street on Front Street
- Public garden area
- Public parking along Front Street
- Recycling

④ Grayden Paul Park

- Day dock
 - Allows small/medium size motor boats, kayaks, and canoes
- Boat storage
 - Kayaks and canoes
- Located at the south end of Pollock Street on Front Street
- Large park area with gazebo
- Public parking along Front Street
- Recycling

⑤ Fisherman's Park

- Day dock
 - Small boats, kayaks, and canoes up to thirteen feet (13')
- Boat Storage
 - Kayaks, canoes (Only allowed with annual Town permit)
- Located at the south end of Gordon Street on Front Street
- Public parking along Front Street

⑥ Curtis Perry Park

- Water overlook
 - Trailer storage only
- Located at the east end of Front Street
- Public parking at site
- Adjacent to public boat ramp/access
- Public restrooms
- Recycling

⑦ West Beaufort Road

- County operated water access area
- Located at the west end of West Beaufort Road
- Public restrooms
- Recycling
- Large gazebo with picnic tables
- 3 boat slips; one for kayaks/canoes only
- Public parking at site

TOWN OF BEAUFORT WATER ACCESS AND OVERLOOK LOCATIONS

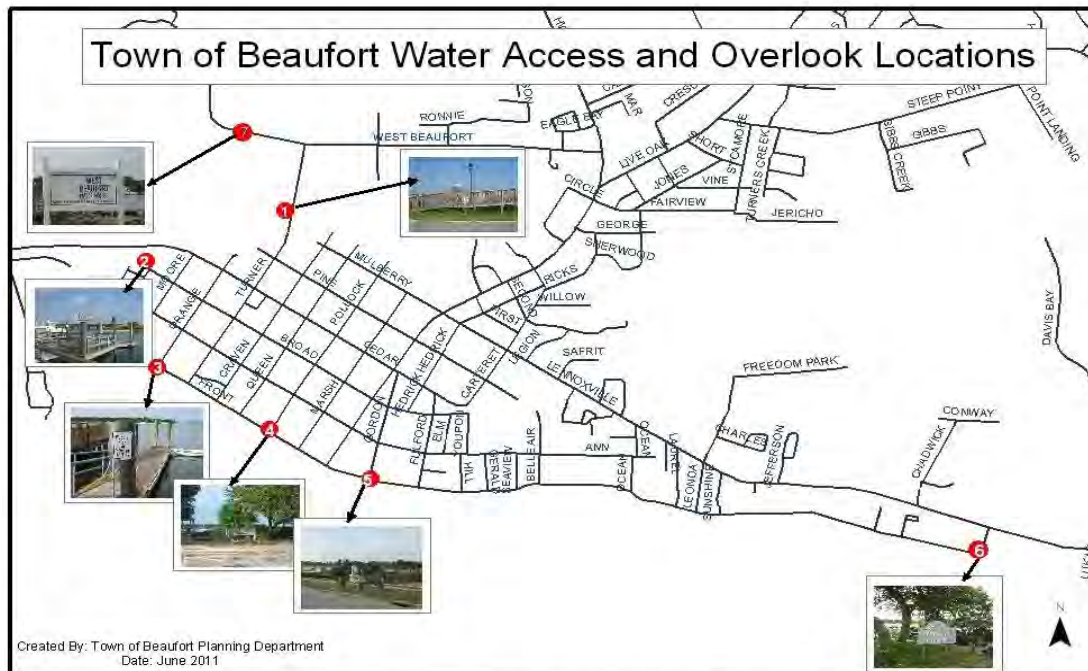


The Town of Beaufort being rich in maritime history has always encouraged citizens and visitors alike to take advantage of the beautiful waterways. The Town has prepared this brochure, which includes a map, photos, and a table of amenities located along Beaufort's waterways that are open for public use. We hope that you enjoy these areas and take advantage of their natural beauty.



Web address: www.beaufortnc.org

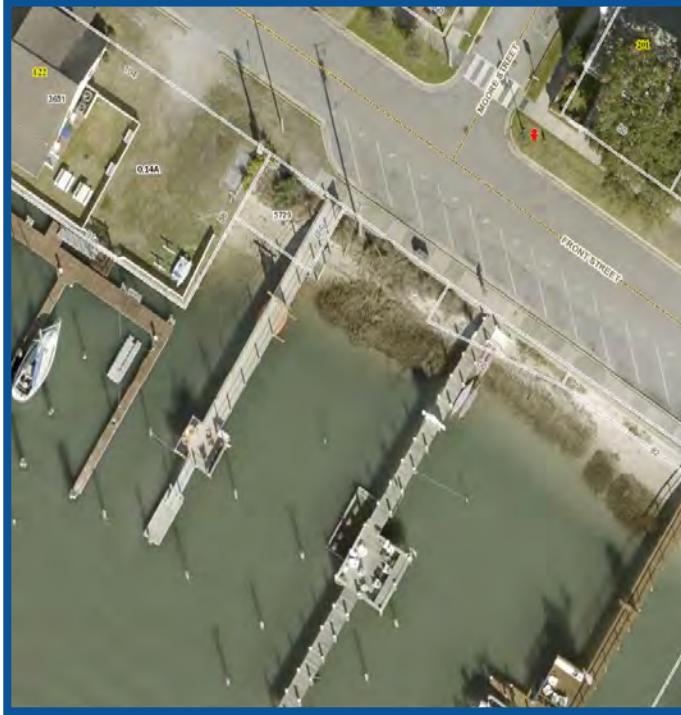
For more information regarding water access and overlook locations, please contact Town Hall at 252/728-2141 or email k.garner@beaufortnc.org



Created By: Town of Beaufort Planning Department
Date: June 2011

Number	Name	Location	Activity	Signage	Boat Dock	Boat Storage	Bike Rack	Picnic Table	Mutt Mitts	Trash Cans	Benches	Recycling
1	Turner Street Landing	N. Turner Street	Overlook	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
2	Derwood's Landing	W. Broad Street	Water Access	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
3	Topsail Marine Park	S. Orange Street	Water Access	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Grayden Paul Park	S. Pollock Street	Water Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Fisherman's Park	S. Gordon Street	Water Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Curtis Perry Park	E. Front Street	Water Access & Overlook	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	West Beaufort	W. W. Beaufort Rd.	Water Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Moore Street Water Access



This location was identified by staff in early 2017 as a potential location for public water access to include a dock and kayak launch. The 2019 estimate for an ADA compliant kayak launch was \$45,300.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has a significant interest in preserving this location for public access as encroachment has been a repeated topic of conversation at this location.

In June of 2017, the Town Board of Commissioners voted to approve a citizen request for encroachment at the end of Moore Street. The encroachment agreement is for pilings.

The encroachment's legal agreement states, "it is stipulated and agreed the encroachments may continue until such time as the

town determines that the encroachments interfere with use of the Town's property. Upon such determination the Town shall provide..30 days' notice of its intent to terminate this agreement and require removal of the encroachments."

Upon the approval of the first encroachment, the Town was approached for a second encroachment agreement at the Moore Street location as an adjacent property owner found they were also encroaching on Town property. The same agreement was made between the Town and the second property owner in the fall of 2017.

Recommendation: Put emphasis on a project to build a public water/kayak access dock/launch at Moore Street and to protect public water access.

Below is a rendering of a potential handicap accessible kayak launch.



✓ READY TO GO

Ann Street Water Access

West End of Ann Street

Historically this property has not been available for public water access as it was a part of a long term lease with a local Inn. In the fall of 2023, the Inn ceased operations and the lease came to an end.

With views of Gallant's Channel and Town Creek, this property is a prime location for a future public water access location operated by the Town.

Recommendation: Plan and construct a Town public water access at the West End of Ann Street. Consider possible amenities to include a kayak launch, fishing pier, benches, bike racks and more.



Beaufort Walking Route

Vision Statement for the Proposed Beaufort Walking Route

To achieve connectivity and transform Beaufort into a walkable community for all, to establish a fully accessible, all-inclusive and safe walking route system. The routes identified when collectively combined will create a system linking all neighborhoods and parks across the whole of Beaufort.

Identified Routes: (In no particular order)

1. Live Oak Street Route
2. Mulberry Street / Lennoxville Road Route
3. Turner Street Route
4. Cedar Street Route
5. Highland Park Route
6. Carraway / Professional Drive Route
7. Campen Road Route
8. Hwy 101 Route
9. Pineview / George / Center Street Route
10. Front Street Route
11. Leonda Avenue Route
12. Ocean Boulevard Route
13. West Beaufort Road Route
14. Ann Street Route
15. Shearwater Avenue Route
16. Chadwick Road Route
17. Gallant's Channel Route
18. Trestle Area/Nature Trail

CAMA 4.1.3

Improve sidewalks, connectivity, accessibility and condition.



The proposed Walking Routes encompass a complete sidewalk walking system across the whole of Beaufort, this effort is designed to allow the Town to formulate a prioritized list that the Town can complete in segments over time.

Prioritization of this list, is suggested to be based upon a combination of the following factors:

1. What might be accomplished in the short term with limited available funds?
2. Which routes pose the most danger to the walking public and thus need to be addressed sooner?
3. Which routes are the most important to mitigate based on perceived usage?
4. Which routes are most likely to receive grant funding?
5. Ensuring all areas within Beaufort are weighted equally.



PROPOSED BEAUFORT WALKING ROUTE



Beaufort Walking Route

1. **Live Oak Street Route**—Live Oak Street from Front Street waterfront to Eastern Town limits past Tiller School. Route incorporates sidewalk on both sides of Live Oak Street, full length of route.

2. **Mulberry Street/Lennoxville Road Route**—North side of Lennoxville Road and Mulberry Street from Chadwick Road to Turner street, via a trail connector from Mulberry sidewalk to Turner Street.



3. **Turner Street Route**—Both sides of Turner Street from Front Street waterfront to Hwy 70 Bypass. Possible connection to the Beaufort Greenway with access to Galant's Channel.

4. **Cedar Street Route** - Route is located on both sides of Cedar Street from NCDOT's old drawbridge property to Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park on the north side eastern end of the route, and to Gordon Street on the south side of Cedar Street, terminating at the Highland Park route.

5. **Highland Park Route** - Route connects from Live Oak Street through Highland Park to Front Street ending at the waterfront at Fishermen's Park. Route starts at Live Oak Street and follows along south side of George Street, then continues along the South side of Sherwood Avenue before turning south, continuing along the west side of Ricks Avenue to Third Street. Route crosses Ricks Avenue near 3rd Street and continues along the east side of Carteret Avenue to Lennoxville Road. Route crosses Lennoxville and continues along the east transitioning to the south side of Carteret Avenue to Gordon Street. Route continues from Carteret Avenue along the west side of Gordon Street to Front Street waterfront, terminating at Fishermen's Park.

CAMA 6.1

Increase multi-modal connections between destinations and neighborhoods.

6. **Carraway/Professional Park Drive Route** - Route is along both sides of Professional Park Drive from Live Oak Street to Campen Road. On north side of Professional Park Drive, the route continues to the West along the north side of Carraway Drive in front of Schools to connect to Hwy 101 Route. Additionally, the route connects Campen Road to Hwy 101 along the south side of Carraway Drive.

7. **Campen Road Route** - Route is on the eastern side of Campen Road from Professional Park Drive, across Live Oak Street, continuing south to Turner Creek Plantation and adjoining developments.

8. **Hwy 101 Route** - Route is on the west side of Hwy 101 from Hwy 70 Bypass to Live Oak Street, and on east side of Hwy 101 from Carraway Drive to Live Oak Street.

CAMA 6.1.1.1

Create and improve connections to parking facilities, hotels, commercial areas, employment centers, parks, the waterfront and water transport destinations.

Beaufort Walking Route Continued

9. Pine View Boulevard/George Street and/or Fairview Drive/Center Street Route - Route is located on south side of Pine View Boulevard, starting at Ricks Avenue, to Fairview Street. Route crosses Fairview Drive and turns north on the east side of Fairview Drive to Jones Avenue. Route crosses Jones Avenue and continues along the west side of Center Street to Live Oak Street Route. This is based on connection of Pine View Boulevard to Fairview Drive, if this connection to Fairview is not made, then Route would run along east side of George to Sherwood Boulevard. Route continues east to Fairview along the south side of Sherwood Boulevard. Route crosses Fairview Drive to connect to Jones Road.

CAMA 6.6.2

Connect multi-modal transportation network to marinas and ferry dock.

10. Front Street Route - Route is located on both sides of Front Street from the roundabout on the western end past Gordon Street to the eastern end of Front Street at Curtis Perry Park/State Wildlife Boat Ramp/Boathouse marine.

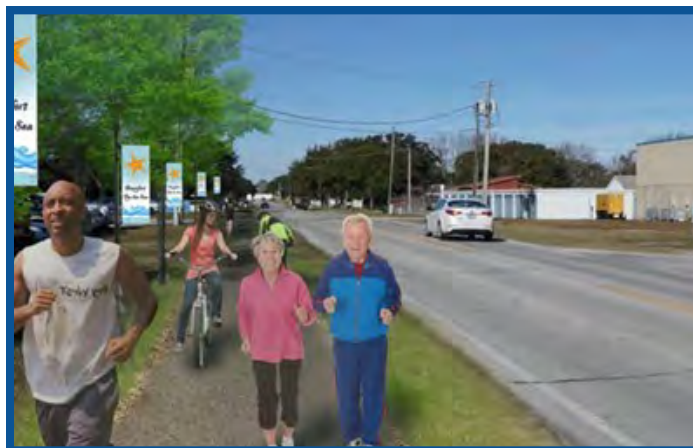
CAMA 6.1.1.3

Ensure safe pedestrian facilities along all of Front Street.

11. Leonda Drive Route - Route is on the east side of Leonda Drive from Freedom Park, across Lennoxville Road to Front Street ending at the waterfront.

12. Ocean Street Route - Route is on the eastern side of Ocean Street from Lennoxville Road to Front Street. Route crosses Lennoxville Road to connect to the Lennoxville road route.

13. West Beaufort Road Route - Route is on the south side of West Beaufort Road from Hwy 101 to the east to west end terminus at walkway trail rising up to Turner Street.



Beaufort Walking Route Continued

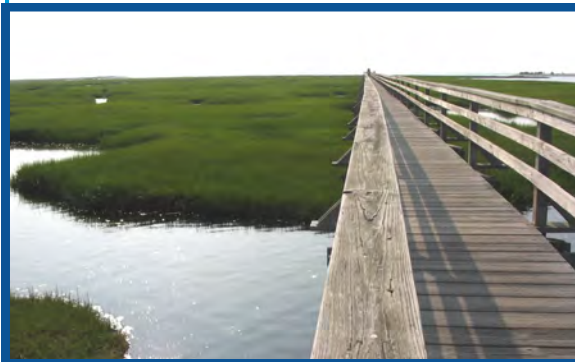
14. **Ann Street Route** - Route is on both sides of Ann Street from Gallants Channel westerly to Gordon Street and continuing east to Ocean Street on the north side of Ann Street.

15. **Shearwater Lane Route** - Route is on the east side of Shearwater Lane from the Beau Coast Clubhouse to the north to the waterfront Beau Coast Community Property to the south.

16. **Chadwick Road Route** - Route is along the east side of Chadwick Road from the northern intersecting road to Front Street. Route crosses Front Street and turns west along Lennoxville Road to Front Street connector, then turn South terminating at the State Wildlife Boat Ramp adjacent to Curtis Perry Park.

CAMA 6.1.1

Create new connections and opportunities for future connections.



17. **Gallant's Channel Museum Property Route** - Route is envisioned to start at Turner Street, proceeding westward along the south side of Hwy 70 Bypass, continuing north under the high rise bridge to arrive at the Gallants Channel Property site.

18. **Trestle Area/Nature Trail Route** - Route would connect from Live Oak Street to Turner Street via a Trestle Walk connecting to West Beaufort Road Route. (See page 80 for additional information)

CAMA 6.2

Enhance cycle and pedestrian facilities to meet current design standards.

CAMA 6.2.2

Install pedestrian crosswalks and signals at major intersections.

CAMA 6.1

Increase multi-modal connections between destinations and neighborhoods.

Completed Sidewalk Segment or Crosswalk

The Town underwent a townwide project in Fiscal Year 2020 to address streets and sidewalks. Approximately 1,350 linear feet of new concrete sidewalk has been constructed at various locations throughout Beaufort. Additionally, pedestrian crosswalks and signals have been installed at major intersections. For more on the FY20 Street Rehabilitation & Construct project visit “Project Updates” at www.beaufortnc.org.

The following segments have been completed as of January 2024 and incorporate segments from the proposed Beaufort Walking Route and ADA Standards:

- Cedar Street:** Live Oak Street to sidewalk 155 feet southeast of Gordon Street
- Cedar Street:** Fulford Street to Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park – Extended to basketball court then cross over Cedar at Yaupon Street so as to front tennis courts
- Live Oak Crossing:** Tiller School
- Pine Street:** 688 LF of 5’ sidewalk from Live Oak Street to Randolph Johnson Park
- Carteret Avenue:** 588 LF of 5’ sidewalk from Randolph Johnson Park to Lennoxville Road including 2 ADA street crossings with ramps and crosswalks
- Carteret Avenue:** 1046 LF of 5’ sidewalk from Lennoxville Road to Ricks Avenue including 3 ADA street crossings with ramps and crosswalks
- Live Oak St:** 185 LF of 5’ sidewalk along former Gaskill's Site
- 3rd Street:** Craven Street to Carteret Avenue
- Ricks Avenue:** 734 LF of 5’ sidewalk from 3rd Street to Sherwood Boulevard
- Live Oak Crossing:** Campen Road
- Turner St Crosswalk:** Mid 100 Block
- Campen Road:** Live Oak Street to 350 ft. east, near library
- Front St Raised Crosswalk:** Maritime Museum to Watercraft Center
- Live Oak Street:** 711 LF of 5’ sidewalk Campen Road to sidewalk at Dunkin Donuts including one ADA street crossing with ramps and crosswalk
- Live Oak Street:** 265 LF of 5’ sidewalk from Dunkin Donuts to sidewalk at Taco Bell
- Carteret Ave Raised Crosswalk:** To Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park from Carteret Court Apartments
- 3rd St Raised Crosswalks:** Across Craven and Carteret Avenues
- Marsh St:** Added ramps and warning plates from Cedar Street to Mulberry Street
- Town Hall:** Added ADA ramp entrance
- Live Oak St:** Retrofitted ADA Ramps at Broad Intersection
- Pollock St:** Retrofitted Ramps at Ann and Broad Streets
- Live Oak St:** 2,300 LF of 5’ sidewalk from property line of old elementary school to northern intersection of Circle Dr. including 4 ADA street crossings with ramps and crosswalks
- Turner-Broad Intersection:** Added traffic calming bump-outs and four ADA street crossings with ramps and crosswalks
- Live Oak St:** 1,700 LF of 5’ sidewalk from Burger King to Campen Road including crosswalks and detectable warning plates at Crescent and Campen Road

CAMA 6.4.1

Upgrade existing sidewalks, crosswalks, town parking lots, and town indoor facilities to meet ADA standards.

CAMA 6.2.2

Install pedestrian crosswalks and signals at major intersections.

CAMA 4.1.3

Improve sidewalks connectivity, accessibility and condition.

Trestle Walk/Beaufort Greenway



Above: photo of a Railroad Trestle Boardwalk featured in the 2018 Small Area Master Plan.

A much talked about project is the Trestle Walk; however, this project would expand farther than the old train trestle tracks and could potentially provide a connection from Live Oak Street to the Maritime Museum's Gallants Channel property.

There are several different pathways a greenway trail could take to achieve the proposed connections.

A proposed route that is also included as a recommended connecting route in the Beau-

fort Walking Route Plan in this document would eliminate a pedestrian crossing at Turner Street and Highway 70 and provide a safeguard to the public.

There are many factors at play in finalizing a feasible route to include easements, legal agreements and potential property acquisition. Some of these options drastically increase the overall price of this project.

The Town will need to hire a professional consultant to assist in the planning of this project.

The 2018 Small Area Plan identifies the Trestle Walk project as a top 10 project to be implemented five years. The plan recommends the Town, "provide a public greenway system along the waterfront north of Cedar Street. The 2018 cost estimate for the pedestrian bridge portion only was \$1.2 million.

This plan states on page 100 that the Town should seek "additional public amenities for the neighborhood include a public greenway along the waterway. This amenity will likely be a combination of natural surface trail and elevated boardwalk due to environmental constraints. This system will also be greatly enhanced by the conversion of the abandoned rail and trestle to a pedestrian trail and bridge. Trail heads within the neighborhood along with connections to existing sidewalks will be key design components of the greenway in this area. The natural drainage pattern of the property has been respected and preserved along with any delineated wetlands."

The 2018 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan also references this project and provides a cost estimate breaking the greenway into three sections. Section 1: Multi-Use Path, the southern connector from Trestle Walk to Live Oak is estimated at \$194,800. Section 2: Trestle Walk pedestrian bridge is estimated at \$998,451. Section 3: Multi-Use Path, the northern connector from Trestle Walk to Stanton Road is estimated at \$114,925.

Recommendation: Hire a consultant to assist in the planning of a trestle walk/greenway project.

Recommendation: Seek updated cost analysis of the project.

Recommendation: Work to acquire property and/or easements to make this a possibility.

CAMA 6.2.1

Implement Bike/ Pedestrian Plan improvements where possible.

Dog Parks



Photo taken at Carteret County Parks & Recreation's dog park inside Freedom Park in Beaufort, NC. The dog park opened in 2023.

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025, "many recreational needs surveys rank dog parks among the most desired park facilities across towns and counties, whether urban, suburban, or rural. Dog parks are in high demand in NC, and agencies across the state have responded accordingly by installing them in various forms. In this survey, just under half of responding departments had at least one. Most dog parks are reported to be attached to other park facilities, although there are some stand-alone.

CAMA 7.5.3

Balance active and passive recreation opportunities, including areas for pet recreations (dog parks).

In the Beaufort 2010 Parks & Recreation Survey, a dog park ranked number 10 with 41.1% of respondents selecting a dog park as a desired amenity. As Beaufort is committed to including more green space for children, families and adults; the greater the variety of parks we offer, the stronger and healthier our community becomes. Off leash dog areas are a vital aspect to building strong communities.

Recommendation: Establish a fenced in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife.

Recommendation: Consider the Town owned property on Yaupon Street as a potential location.



Dog Parks Continued



Dog Parks provide a safe environment for dogs to run and play freely. They are the perfect venue for socializing dogs - a place where dogs can learn how to get along with other dogs of all breeds, sizes, ages, and temperaments. They're necessary to enable highly energetic dogs to become relaxed and calm, thus better behaved.

They offer opportunities for community members to socialize, make new friends, and get a bit of exercise. They are a source for building strong commu-

nities. There is little worry about offending non-dog-lovers.

Key features Include:

- One or more acre of space for dogs to run and play.
- Five- to six-foot fencing around the park.
- Double gate system to keep pets safe as they go in and out of the park off-leash.
- Separate large and small dog areas.
- Hydration station(s) for dogs.
- A suitable surface for running dogs.
- Exercise equipment and obstacles for dogs to climb.
- Water feature for dogs to play in.
- Shade for both dogs and owners.

The construction of a new dog park typically begins around \$35,000 dependent on the size, complexity, and amenities offered within the park. Cost typically includes construction procurement, permits and administrative work. Ongoing costs for the maintenance and operation of the dog park needs consideration.



Next steps:

- Decide on a location.
- Design the park to suit the area selected.
- Research cost based on design.
- Secure funding and approval.
- Make modifications to design based on allocated budget.
- Begin construction process.

Community Garden



Community food gardens have relatively low start-up costs and modest annual maintenance budgets compared to many other types of community development projects. In the 2017 Town of Beaufort Community Preference Survey, a community garden ranked #6 in the top 10 most desired outdoor programming behind outdoor concerts, movies in the park, festivals, food trucks and a farmers market.

Budgeting

A start-up budget for a basic community food garden on a quarter-acre lot in North Carolina ranges from roughly \$1,000 to \$5,000, not counting the salary of paid staff. Fencing and water hookup tend to be the largest costs. Donations and sweat equity labor by gardeners and volunteers can reduce the budget.

The regular maintenance budget for an average community food garden is typically a fraction of the start-up budget. Annual maintenance budgets are often well under \$1,000, excluding salaries.



Above: A community garden at Mulberry Park in Shallotte, NC.

Annual costs include water, compost, mulch, soil preparation, new and replacement tools, and maintenance costs and rent payments. Ambitious one-time projects, such as building a shed or expanding the garden, can temporarily—but substantially—increase an annual budget. Assessing modest dues of between \$5 and \$50 per plot annually is common practice for community food gardens. Giving gardeners a chance to buy into the garden is beneficial even if the amount of cash generated is very modest.

To make sure no one is excluded because they can't afford dues, set up a scholarship program that gives gardeners a chance to work off their dues by contributing in other ways, such as volunteering in the garden or the community.

Source: NC State Cooperative Extension



Community Garden Continued



Community gardening involves cultivating people and relationships, as well as the soil. It brings people of all generations together. There are four main steps in creating a community garden with the first one being critical.

Step 1: Make sure you are not alone—It's imperative to pull the people together first, get a commitment, and then begin the garden. It doesn't matter if you've

found the perfect spot, provided infrastructure, and prepared the soil. If people aren't interested, the garden will fail. You need a core group of 3-5 people in a planning committee to start a community garden.

Step 2: Make a plan—Hold a meeting of your planning committee and discuss key topics such as what is the purpose of the garden, what are the long- and short-term objectives, who will the garden serve, etc. Many gardens are very informally organized and operate successfully for years. New groups may benefit from several planning meetings. Once the planning committee has met and roughed out a plan, hold public meetings, and advertise them enthusiastically. If no one shows up to the public meetings, either you didn't advertise well enough or there's not enough interest. You will need committed gardeners to start a community garden.

Step 3: Choose a site—Picking the right site will take time.

There are three requirements. The site must have: sunlight, water and an identified owner. The garden should be close to gardeners; preferably within walking distance or, at most, a short drive away. A site with a secure fence is a plus. Locked storage buildings for tools, water hoses, and other supplies used by gardeners are also desirable.

Step 4: Agree on garden rules—All community gardens, and especially new ones, need rules.

Recommendation: Investigate the current desire for a community garden.

Recommendation: Consider potential locations at existing parks or look into the possibility of acquiring a new location to create a Community Garden.



Conservation Awareness

Beaufort Parks & Recreation has been instrumental in helping to implement a variety of conservation awareness programs in Beaufort to include the Mayor's Conservation Program. The Mayor's Conservation Program aims to educate and collaborate with residents and stakeholders to preserve our resources for the benefit of future generations. Several programs have been introduced to preserve our natural resources on land and water.

Additionally Parks & Recreation has been key in organizing and/or participating in community wide trash pickups, celebrating the Town's status as a Tree City USA location with an annual Arbor Day celebration, and partnering with UNC's Institute of Marine Sciences and Duke University's Marine Lab Community Science outreach programs for Adopt a Storm Drain and Storm Drain Art. These programs are vital in the protection of Beaufort's natural resources and natural park spaces.



Recommendation: Consider implementing a Litter Awareness/Marine Debris Campaign.
Recommendation: Identify additional ways to integrate Parks and education into the Mayor's Conservation Program.



Events/Programming



The Goal for 2023 set by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was to host two large Community Events including food, music,



activities.

2023 Events included:

- Arbor Day Celebration—April 2023
- Back to School Bash— Sept. 2023
- Art in the Park—Sept.-Dec. 2023

Art in the Park—2022 –2023

Art in the Park is a monthly after school arts and craft activity program that is free for all participants and is open to all ages. The Town along with its partners (Maritime Museum, National Park Service) and monthly sponsors provide art projects and snacks. This program is operated by Town Staff.

The 2023 goal was to host the program in the spring & summer; however, due to staffing complexities, Art in the Park was only conducted in September, October, November and December 2023.

Recommendation: Expand the Art in the Park program to operate 12 months per year.

Recommendation: Consider a weeklong summer camp program.

Recommendation: Consider hiring a part-time Parks programming position.

Events/Programming to Consider:

- Block Party
- Dance Party
- Zumba
- Line Dancing
- Yoga Classes
- Game Nights
- Basketball Open Runs
- Basketball Clinics
- Tennis Clinics
- Pickleball Tournament
- Movie Nights
- Fall or Spring Festival
- Trash Clean-ups
- Senior Activities

CAMA 7.5.6

Maintain and expand recreational facilities and programming.

CAMA 7.5.6.2

Expand programming for senior and the under 18 demographic.



Bike Route & Map

The below “Bicycling in Beaufort” map is the last known bicycle route map. The map and signage was a part of a NCDOT bike route project in Beaufort. The map and few remaining bike route signs were a part of a 1988 Transportation Improvement Plan and predate the construction of the high-rise bridge and the realignment of Cedar Street and Highway 70 that took place in 2018.

Recommendation: The Beaufort Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends updating the map and signage as soon as possible to create a safe and defined bicycle route.

Recommendation: Explore how to expand upon the existing connections to the East Coast Greenway which is designed for both bicyclists and pedestrians.



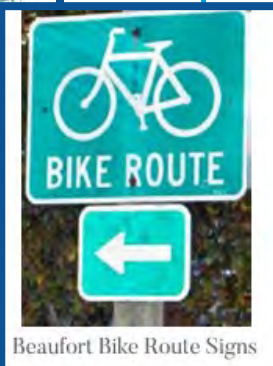
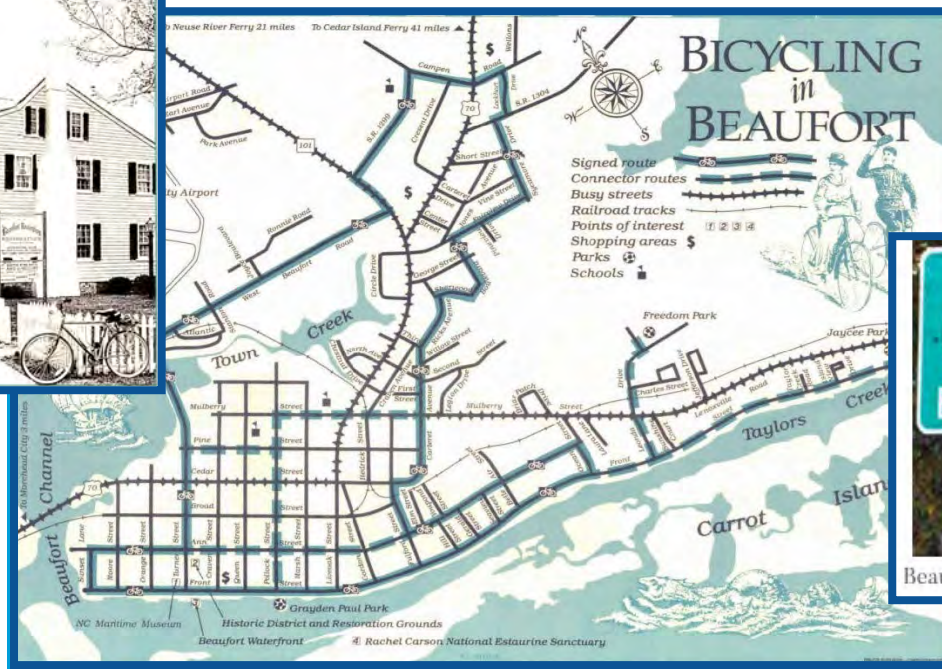
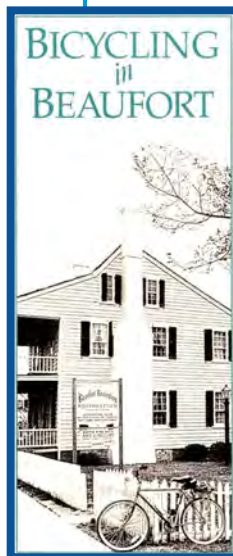
CAMA 6.3

Increase safe cycling facilities and designate primary routes throughout Town.



CAMA 6.3.1

Follow latest NCDOT standards in bike facility design (WalkBikeNC Plan, see Design Toolbox).



Public Art

Public Art is a powerful way to bring people together and connect spaces while creating a sense of place. It is recommended the Town of Beaufort continue to seek ways to implement public art into park spaces. The Beaufort Parks and Recreation Advisory Board assisted in the implementation of the following art projects:



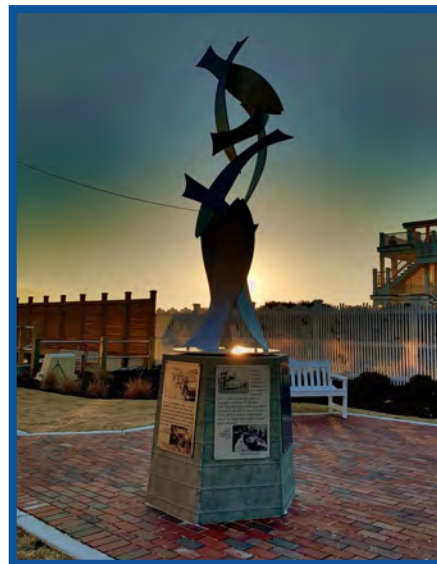
Menhaden Melody-2021
Topsail Park
Donated by the Beaufort Garden Club



Beaufort Mural-2023
Beaufort Boardwalk
Donated by Arts in Beaufort



Storm Drain Art-2023
Carteret Avenue
Donated by Duke Marine Lab Community Science Program/Painted by the ECHS Art Club



Beaufort Sign-2020

Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park
Donated by the Carteret Community College Welding Program.

CAMA 7.3.2

Expand public art opportunities downtown.

Recommendation: Implement a fence style mural at Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Park.

Recommendation: Consider adding a music garden at Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Park.

Recommendation: Consider ways to incorporate public art as a part of conservation awareness.



ADA Compliancy in Parks



As part of the self-evaluation process required for the 2022 ADA Transition Plan, the Town of Beaufort conducted an inventory of Parks and Recreation facilities.

The findings are as follows:

Curtis Perry Park referred to in the ADA Transition Plan as Beaufort Boat Ramp (NC Wildlife)

- Boating facilities action items are to be addressed by NC Wildlife. Refer to the ADA Transition Plan for details.
- Restrooms were the primary concern. Items to be addressed include but are not limited to installing accessible signage, reconfiguring the approach to the toilet room, door hardware, door thresholds, door closing speed, pipe insulation and cover panels, relocating grab bars and flush controls.

Derwood's Landing

- Regrade cross slope to accessible route no greater than 1:48
- Provide accessible route/gangway to boat slip/dock
- Ensure level landing with slope of transition plate

CAMA 6.4.3

Use the ADA transition plan as guidance.

Topsail Marine Memorial Park

- Create accessible boat slips
- Create accessible route to boat slips by ensuring proper grading
- Provide accessible route/gangway to boat slip/dock by creating a gangway with slope no greater than 1:12 or create a route that is at least 80' long.
- Ensure level landing with slope of transition plate
- Reconfigure railings so that at least 25% of total railings are no greater than 34 inches above ground, including the approximate 11' existing concrete base
- Ensure sufficient clear floor space of 30" wide and 48" long for approach to fishing area, especially with existing bench locations

Fishermen's Park

- Regrade curb ramp, if feasible, to ensure slope does not exceed 8.3%.
- Provide level landing with slope of transition plate no greater than 1:20 (5%)

John Newton Park

- Add accessible space for a total of two accessible spaces; ensure at least one of those is van accessible measuring 8' space and 8' access aisle or 11' space and 5' access aisle
- Regrade accessible spaces to be no greater than 2% in all directions of accessible space and access aisle
- Ensure access aisles adjoin accessible route
- Reconstruct curb ramp adjacent to accessible space and ensure accessible route from accessible parking to park entrance
- Resurface the cracked concrete within park and along accessible route as necessary

ADA Compliancy Continued

Tennis/Basketball Courts (Sports Courts)

- Determine total capacity of parking lot (suggest adding curb stops at each parking space), then pave required amount of accessible parking spaces based on checklist question 1.2; at least one van accessible space will be required (see checklist question 1.3)
- Create paved adjoining access aisles to the accessible spaces that leads directly to the entrance of the sports courts (1.4 – 1.9)
- Ensure grade of newly paved accessible route is at grade with entrance to sports courts to eliminate trip hazard
- Install accessible signage with international symbol of accessibility to be at least 60" above ground (1.10)
- Install accessible signage at entrance of sports courts to signify that entrance is accessible

Grayden Paul & Lynn Eury Parks

- Widen accessible route between parks to account for passing space at least 60 x 60 inches if route is over 200 ft. long.
- Regrade accessible route running slope is no greater than 8.3% and cross slope is no greater than 2.08%.
- Install accessible signage that includes international symbol of accessibility as well as van accessible signage (either as a separate attachment to the sign post or a van accessible sign with the international symbol of accessibility)
- Lengthen and regrade ramp to gazebo to not exceed running slope of 8.3%, or add compliant ADA handrails to be treated as an access ramp
- Create accessible boat slips
- Create accessible route to boat slips by ensuring proper grading; need to ensure level landing and sufficient running slopes
- Provide accessible route/gangway to boat slip/dock by creating gangway with slope no greater than 1:12 (8.3%), or create route that is at least 80' long. Slope may be greater than 1:12 (8.3%) if gangway is at least 30' long, since there are fewer than 25 boat slips present at this facility
- Ensure level landing with slope of transition plate no greater than 1:20 (5%)
- Reconfigure railings so that at least 25% are no greater than 34 inches above ground

Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park

- Create accessible route to toilet rooms that is at least 36 inches wide
- Lower mirror to 40 inches above floor
- Move flush control to open side of toilet
- Change flush control to require no more than five pounds of force to flush
- Relocate toilet dispenser so it is not located behind grab bars
- Adjust or replace stall door(s) to be self-closing
- Create accessible route within play area that is stable, firm, & slip-resistant and connects both ground level and elevated play components.
- Modify elevated play components to connect with ramps, if feasible.

CAMA 6.4.2

Require new facilities to meet or exceed ADA standards and apply Universal Design when able.

Water Tower Park

The Master Plan for Water Tower Park includes many of the projects and amenities highlighted in this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Several of the elements from the 2018 Water Tower Park Master Plan were implemented in the renovation of Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park to include a playground, a splashpad, a picnic area, restrooms, parking and walking trails with the long-term goal of a larger cohesive park.

The Water Tower Park Master Plan also includes the following elements that have not been implemented:

- Indoor & Outdoor Covered Flex Space
- Event Stage
- Community Building
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Event Lawn
- Open Play/Greenspace
- Gazebo/Shade Structures
- Community Garden Plots
- Exercise Stations
- Expanded Walking Trails
- Outdoor Movie Space
- Art Wall
- Regulation Size Basketball Courts
- Gaming Table
- Meeting Space
- Office Space with Classrooms and Storage



Multi-Purpose Play Space
Warren County Community Park, Warrenton, NC



Event Lawn & Performance Stage
Winterville Community Park, Winterville, NC
Image Borrowed from www.wintervillenc.com



Civic Art Wall
Live United Pocket Park, Greenville, NC



Outdoor Market Space
Image Borrowed From Internet

www.beaufortnc.org/bc-prab

Water Tower Park Continued

During the Water Tower Park Master Plan process, the community's top five indoor activities desired in the Community Preference Survey were a teen center, an exercise/fitness room, recreation center and senior programs. The indoor flex space in the Water Tower Park Master Plan incorporates all of these preferences.

Project Description

Indoor / Outdoor Flex Space / Event Stage

Virtually every indoor/outdoor programming activity ranked in the top eight as desired by the community preference survey respondents can be provided through thoughtful renovation of the existing public works garage facility in conjunction with conversion of the adjoining public works storage yard into an event lawn/green open space. The existing public works garage facility contains approximately 5,500 SF of open space area with concrete floor and exposed superstructure beams / framing. Several external wood frame additions on concrete slabs have been made through the years.

With removal of the additions and replacement of existing facades and roof decking, the facility will serve as an excellent multi-use programming space accommodating a variety of uses such as market/expo space, community meetings/gatherings or even a maker's space. This large space is envisioned as ventilated, but not as conditioned space.

A proposed addition on the north side of approximately 1,000 SF is envisioned to house restrooms, storage and be conditioned space.

On the west end of the building, a new covered entry is envisioned and the east end would host a new "covered back porch" of approximately 1,200 SF via extension of the roofline. This "back porch" would be multi-functional, serving as an event stage for music, movies and other presentations and alternately serving as a sheltered area hosting picnic tables, outdoor shade area, etc.

Across the southern exposure, a new sheltered space will serve as an outdoor extension of indoor programming space. This space can serve as an outdoor patio, sheltered from the summer sun as well as prevalent northern winds in the cooler seasons of the year.

As envisioned, the building's superstructure framing would be highlighted in the renovation, used to tell the story of the building's lore as a maritime boat repair shop prior to its use as a public works garage for the Town. New building façade "skin" and roof material would be reflective of Beaufort's coastal setting and maritime history.



Inspirational Concept Sketch
"Back Porch" Event Stage



Inspirational Concept Sketch
Renovated Public Works Facility

Water Tower Park Continued

The 2018 Preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost for the Water Tower Park project was estimated at \$4,995,600. In 2024, this estimate would be much higher and staff anticipates the cost of potential projects to continue to increase.

There are two versions of potential site plans included in the Master Plan. One involves considerable street realignment and the incorporation of a roundabout. An alternate site plan does not include a roundabout.

Major elements of the Water Tower Park Master Plan that could be accomplished prior to the moving of the Town's Public Works facility have been completed.

This project is on hold until Public Works is moved to a new location.

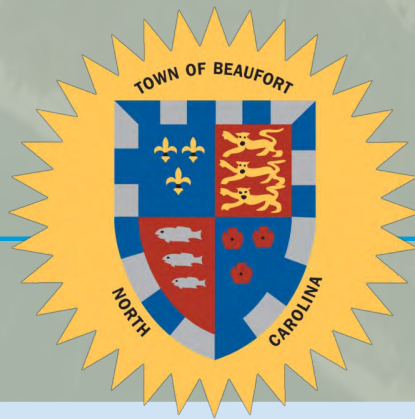


Recommendation: Prioritize moving the Town's Public Works facility.

Recommendation: Consider inclusion in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.

Recommendation: Continue to identify elements of the Master Plan that can be incorporated into existing park area at the Basketball/Tennis Courts and Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park.

Where? How?



Potential Future Park Space

The Beaufort Parks & Recreation Board unanimously voted to recommend to the Town to pursue the acquisition of five parcels of land along West Beaufort Road from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The Parks & Recreation Board made recommendations about potential usage of this land if acquired by the Town.

Feb. 4, 2021 Minutes: *The BOC asked the Parks Board to discuss potential uses of NCDOT property that may be acquired by the Town and to make a recommendation as to whether or not the property would be of interest for parks. Ideas were discussed ranging from a potential dog park area to walking trails and a picnic space. Liz DeMattia made a motion, seconded by Michael Rave and passing unanimously to recommend to the BOC that they pursue the acquisition of the five parcels on Old Beaufort Road for future park projects.*

There were initial talks with Town Management and NCDOT; however, additional information concerning the status of these properties was not available to Parks & Recreation as of January 2024.

Staff is also aware of a sixth lot in the same area and recommends the Town look into the potential of a partnership with NCDOT to use this land as a water access park with the possibility to connect into the future Beaufort Greenway.



CAMA 4.4.1

Identify priority acquisition and/or facilities development based on current and future needs and pursue those projects.

CAMA 7.5

Increase parks and recreation access to increase the level of service for all residents

Potential Future Park Connections

The highlighted sections are all properties currently owned by the Town of Beaufort which could easily be connected with recreational amenities and thereby expanding the current neighborhood park. Properties highlighted include three parcels at the corner of Hedrick and Lennoxville, the Public Works buildings and yard on Hedrick Street (future Water Tower Park site), Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park on Pine Street, the town's tennis and basketball courts, an open area of land on Yaupon Street and Oceanview Cemetery.

Note: Many cemeteries are incorporated into park systems as memorial parks by connecting walking trails from traditional park spaces to cemetery paths.



Parks & Recreation Department

Staffing

While the Town of Beaufort enjoys natural recreational resources, it has not historically placed an emphasis on parks and recreation facilities or staffing. At the beginning of 2024, there is not an annual budget for parks and recreation, nor is there a full-time dedicated director.

In 2017, the Town hired a Parks & Events Coordinator who also serves as the Town's Public Information Officer and Deputy Clerk.

Park maintenance falls to the Town's Public Works Department. There has been discussion about adding a full-time parks maintenance person to the Public Works staff but as of January 2024, that position has not been funded.

Each year the Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study (MCPRSS) seeks to assess the status of local government parks and recreation departments in NC based on several rotating metrics. The goal of the MCPRSS is to provide data to parks and recreation agencies as well as local governments in NC as they evaluate current services to assist in budget planning, preparation, and justification for leisure services.

In the 2020-21 MCPRSS study which focused on salaries, the median number of full-time employees for a municipal recreation department serving a population of 4,999 and under in North Carolina was three with an additional 5.5 part-time staff members, 7.5 seasonal part-time staff members and five contracted service instructors.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities reported average salary ranges for Parks & Recreation staff in 2022 for municipalities ranging in population between 2,500-4,999:

Parks & Recreation Director: \$55,855-\$82,068

Park Superintendent: \$41,792-\$61,037



CAMA 7.5.6.1

Consider creating a dedicated parks position at the Town.

2011 Recommendation: Eventually hire a full-time Parks & Recreation Director to help the Parks & Recreation Board carry out the planned improvements and to design and implement programs. Staff can also work on seeking funds for facilities, improvements and programs, as well as, helping to plan, promote and execute events. This decision will require the Town Council to make a commitment to recreation.

2024 Recommendations

Recommendation: Hire a full-time Parks & Recreation Director position.

Recommendation: Hire a Parks Maintenance position dedicated to Parks.

Recommendation: Hire seasonal/part-time staff to assist in expanding programming.

Funding

It is recommended the Town create an annual Parks Budget as a part of its General Budget. Currently, there is a separate fund called the Park Improvements Project Fund consisting of private donations that have been earmarked specifically for parks and recreation and/or for a specific piece of equipment.



Additionally, recreation fees assessed to new development have been added to this account since 2017. This fund does not operate the same as other Town budgets and is not funded by the General Fund on an annual basis.

There are restrictions on expenditures from the Park Improvements Project fund in order to preserve the funds for capital projects. Between 2017 and 2023, expenditures attributed to this fund were in conjunction with the redesign of Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Park and to fund design plans for a potential park project at Cedar Street Park.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board recommends the Town create a Parks & Recreation operating budget within the General Fund.

State Guidance on Recreation Budgets

2021-2022 North Carolina Parks & Recreation Services Study: Focus on Finances: Statewide Recreation Budgets

<https://rrs.cnr.ncsu.edu/files/2022/01/Services-Study-Final-Report-Finances-2021-2022.pdf>

The majority of Parks & Recreation Departments participating in the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Services Study begin with an annual operating budget funded from the General Fund.

These departments primarily recover operating expenses through a variety of options to include:

Program Fees	Concessions	Facility Use Charges/Rentals
Federal Grants	State Grants	Festivals Memberships

Alternative funding sources include:

Sponsorships	Naming Rights
Donated funds to build facilities	Mandatory Land Dedication
Donations from a 'Friends' group	Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax

Funding Continued

2011 Funding Recommendations

All are incomplete as of January 2024 and remain as potential funding sources for parks and recreation in Beaufort.

- A. More adequately recognize the importance of parks and recreation in the Town's annual budget appropriations, including the importance of parks and recreation to the citizens of the community, to the community's attractiveness for new residents and businesses and to the development of tourism in Beaufort.
- B. Establish a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan line item for parks and recreation facilities improvements, land acquisition, future facilities and grant matching funds.
- C. Consider levying a dedicated ad valorem tax for parks and recreation capital needs.
- D. Aggressively seek grants to help meet recreation needs in Beaufort.
- E. Create a specific means and opportunity for public donations to park needs.
- F. Seek civic and business sponsors for specific facility improvements.
- G. Utilize community events and other communication opportunities to keep Beaufort citizens well-informed regarding plans for parks and recreation needs and improvement projects.

Above recommendations found on page 53 of the 2011 Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Grants

Grant funding is ever changing with some being cyclic. Grant sources need to be updated and reviewed on an annual basis.

Recommendation: *Parks & Recreation Director maintain and monitor a Parks & Recreation grant source file for the Town. This file should be updated annually.*

Funding

The most common method for funding recreational projects is to combine local, public sector and private sector funds with funds from state and federal sources. It is essential that a wide variety of funding sources be sought to ensure that the project's success does not depend on one source of funding. The most important issue is to have strong local support both in terms of finances and volunteerism.

Parks & Recreation Budget

Proposed Park Operating Cost Revenues

Potential Revenue Streams to fund a Parks operating budget in the General Fund include:

- Small Vessel/Kayak rental fees
- Special Event Fees (Non-personnel fees)
- Train Depot Rental fees
- Recreation Fees ****



Possible revenue streams to be added:

- Establish park shelter rental fees
- Park reservation fees for usage of park spaces for exclusive events
- Establish a festival/event that produces revenue (Ex. Annual 5K Race, Festival)



Annual Operating Expenses:

- Park maintenance
- Staff
- Event budget

******Recreation Fees:** State law governs the use of payment in lieu of park land dedication; the expenditure of these fund can be used for property acquisition for parks and for park infrastructure but can not be used for programming or by the Town for other general fund projects.

Recreation Fees collected as of January 2024:

\$14, 499.23 paid to the Town for Recreation by developers

G.S. 160D-804-D Recreation Areas & Open Space

(d) Recreation Areas and Open Space. – *The regulation may provide for the dedication or reservation of recreation areas serving residents of the immediate neighborhood within the subdivision or, alternatively, for payment of funds to be used to acquire or develop recreation areas serving residents of the development or subdivision or more than one subdivision or development within the immediate area. All funds received by cities pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the acquisition or development of recreation, park, or open space sites. All funds received by counties pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the acquisition of G.S. 160D-804 Page 2 recreation, park, or open space sites. Any formula enacted to determine the amount of funds that are to be provided under this subsection shall be based on the value of the development or subdivision for property tax purposes. The regulation may allow a combination or partial payment of funds and partial dedication of land when the governing board determines that this combination is in the best interests of the citizens of the area to be served.*



Adopted April 8, 2024 by the Town of Beaufort Board of Commissioners.

Prepared by Town of Beaufort
Public Information Officer/Parks & Events
Coordinator/Deputy Clerk
Rachel Johnson