



CHAPEL HILL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Parks & Recreation Commission
 Pam Hemminger, Chair *PH (KWS)*

SUBJECT: Recommendations Concerning the 2004-19 Capital Improvements Program

DATE: January 13, 2004

The Commission met on December 17, 2003 and voted unanimously (9-0) to recommend that the Council:

- Increase the Small Parks Improvements funding to \$150,000 for FY-04-05
- Maintain its commitment to extraordinary maintenance of the Community Center

The Council's commitment to the Small Parks Improvement fund had historically been \$50,000 annually for this vital maintenance account. The Small Parks Improvements funding was eliminated in FY01-02 and FY02-03 due to state budget changes. In addition, funding for Small Parks Improvements was reduced to \$20,000 in the current fiscal year. The list of deficiencies has only continued to grow during the last 3 years. Priority projects for funding through this mechanism include:

- Beginning playground renovation/replacement at several parks, including Cedar Falls, Hargraves, and Jones Parks
- Beginning turf renovation to common areas at Homestead Park
- Beginning signage replacement at Parks facilities
- Securing A&E/consultation for major renovation/maintenance at Cedar Falls and Jones Parks

In addition, fall surface replacement is required at several playgrounds, including Hargraves, Oakwood, and Umstead Parks. We have significant erosion, fence, and lighting problem areas at several parks, including Cedar Falls, Hargraves, and Umstead Parks and the athletic playing fields at Culbreth Middle School.

Without question, the single largest complaint received by the Parks and Recreation Department concerns the lack of winterized restroom facilities in any Town park. Despite often mild winter temperatures, residents are unable to make use of the play areas facilities in parks, including Homestead, North Forest Hills, and Umstead Parks from November through March due to lack of access to restroom facilities.

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The staff has identified projects which we believe total over \$500,000. We urge the Council appropriate adequate funding to the Small Parks Improvement account.

While we are heartened with the Town's on-going parks and recreation capital projects, including development of Southern Community Park and the Homestead Park aquatic facility, as well as the recent Hargraves/A.D. Clark pool extraordinary maintenance and tennis/basketball court renovation projects, we believe it is essential to protect other existing resources. The Community Center is in dire need of significant work. Currently, funding for design work on this extraordinary maintenance project is scheduled for FY2005-06, with actual work beginning in FY2007-08. We strongly recommend that the Council to maintain this schedule.