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DURHAM DPR Parks & Recreation

Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies
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RAC 2014 Accomplishments

Durham Parks and Recreation provides opportunities for our community to Play More.

RAC
2014 Mission Statement

The mission of the Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) is to advocate for the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Durham Community.

Recreation Advisory Commission Facts

Board Membership

- The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) consists of nine members appointed by the Durham City Council.

Meeting Time

- The RAC meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at Durham Parks & Recreation's main office.

2014: Master Plan Execution

Making Connections

- Strong community engagement & outreach
- Strong participation in programs
- Participation in public meetings
- Partnerships with non-profit groups
  - T.A. Grady Recreation Center
  - W.I. Patterson Recreation Center
  - East Durham Recreation Center

Optimizing Current Facilities & Programs

- Dedicated Maintenance Funding: Half-penny tax for parks and trails
- Ideas for renewing facilities

2014: Making Connections

RAC members serve as ambassadors for DPR by fostering and enhancing the relationship between the department and the community. As advocates, the RAC…

- Communicates with neighborhoods and forwards input to DPR.
- Participates in the community through athletic leagues and leadership roles in recreation organizations.
- Approves support for partnerships with local organizations. The partnerships can include allowing access to recreational activities for individuals with limited resources (fee waivers).

2014: Making Connections

Red Maple Park:
Community Meeting August 13, 2014

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2014 : Making Connections

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American Tobacco Trail bridge

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2014: Making Connections

2014 NCRPA Distinguished Legislator Award: 10/6/2014 at City Council meeting. Award presentation for Councilmember Schewel.

2014: Making Connections

RAC Involvement

- Red Maple Park event
- BPAC
- Coffees with Council
- Hillandale Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Duke Park Neighborhood Association meetings
- Senior Holiday Party
- Outdoor festivals
- PAC meetings
- Mt. Merrill Playground dedication
- Playful Cities USA Leaders Summit, Chicago
- DOST Liaison
- Durham Community Trail Watch Group
- Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities

2014:
Optimizing Current Facilities & Programs

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NEWS

LONG MEADOW PARK POOL CLOSED FOR SUMMER

City leaders say the pump room under the pool at Long Meadow Park is below grade, and the solution won't be quick or cheap.

Share 8+1 Tweet EMBED

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

DURHAM (WTVD) -- A popular water park in Durham is shut down for the summer because of safety concerns.

2014: Optimizing Current Facilities & Programs

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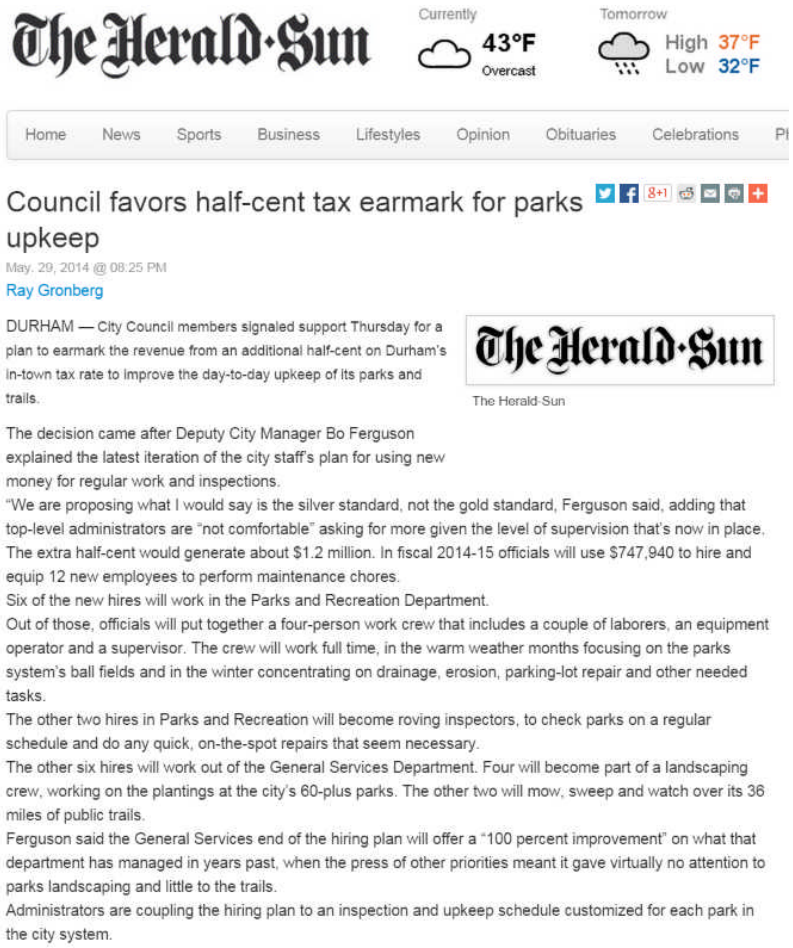

The Herald-Sun

Currently 43°F Overcast

Tomorrow High 37°F Low 32°F

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Council favors half-cent tax earmark for parks upkeep

May. 29, 2014 @ 08:25 PM

Ray Gronberg

DURHAM — City Council members signaled support Thursday for a plan to earmark the revenue from an additional half-cent on Durham's in-town tax rate to improve the day-to-day upkeep of its parks and trails.

The Herald-Sun

The decision came after Deputy City Manager Bo Ferguson explained the latest iteration of the city staff's plan for using new money for regular work and inspections.

"We are proposing what I would say is the silver standard, not the gold standard, Ferguson said, adding that top-level administrators are "not comfortable" asking for more given the level of supervision that's now in place.

The extra half-cent would generate about $1.2 million. In fiscal 2014-15 officials will use $747,940 to hire and equip 12 new employees to perform maintenance chores.

Six of the new hires will work in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Out of those, officials will put together a four-person work crew that includes a couple of laborers, an equipment operator and a supervisor. The crew will work full time, in the warm weather months focusing on the parks system's ball fields and in the winter concentrating on drainage, erosion, parking-lot repair and other needed tasks.

The other two hires in Parks and Recreation will become roving inspectors, to check parks on a regular schedule and do any quick, on-the-spot repairs that seem necessary.

The other six hires will work out of the General Services Department. Four will become part of a landscaping crew, working on the plantings at the city's 60-plus parks. The other two will mow, sweep and watch over its 36 miles of public trails.

Ferguson said the General Services end of the hiring plan will offer a "100 percent improvement" on what that department has managed in years past, when the press of other priorities meant it gave virtually no attention to parks landscaping and little to the trails.

Administrators are coupling the hiring plan to an inspection and upkeep schedule customized for each park in the city system.

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2014 Highlights

Month	Activity
January	• 2013 Highlights • Community outreach – NC Juvenile Institute • 2014 Looking forward – goals and objectives
February	• Park Restroom study • DCVB Sports meeting • CIP allocation
March	• Penny Tax for Parks, Open Space, and Trails • ATT I-40 bridge • Maintenance and Operations Plan • PAC meetings • Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and NCCU relationships
April	• Penny Tax - City Council parks tour • Fee waiver process refinement • Pool assessment and Long Meadow closure situation

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2014 Highlights

Month	Activity
May	• Long Meadow Pool closure and implications • PAC meetings discussion (from City Council suggestion during annual report presentation) • JCPC funding concerns • Sports commission
June	• DPR Operations Building and transition from Duke Park • Red Maple Park planning • Dedicated Tax funding initial overview
August	• Red Maple Park event – extremely successful community engagement event • Dedicated Tax Funding review
September	• ATT updates • Pool assessment • Half-Penny projects • Guest Speaker: Triangle Flying Disc Association (Jason Parker)

2014 Highlights

Month	Activity
October	• Councilman Schewel NCRPA Distinguished legislator award • Half-penny tax report • Red Maple Park follow up

November	• Vandalism report discussion
	• Playful City USA Summit report
	• Pre-CIP list
	• Community engagement and PAC representation
	• Guest Speakers:
	  • Central Park proposed improvements (Ann Alexander)
	  • Kidznotes (Katie Wyatt)

December	• Pre-CIP list and priorities • Future funding priorities • Fee waiver process

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RAC Meetings

2014-2015
DPR Challenges & Opportunities

- Priorities & processes for fund allocations and fee waivers
- Vandalism of parks and recreation facilities
- Next steps for community engagement events
- Growth and looking forward
- Commission transitions (expired terms and new members)

2014 RAC Commission Statement & Members

The RAC is pleased to serve the City of Durham, Mayor and City Council as advisors on Parks and Recreation.

Cheryl LeMay (Chair)
Omar Beasley (Mayor's Appointee and Vice Chair)
Steve Schewel (City Council Liaison)
Cathy Brennan
Gene Carleton
Marge Clemons
Ronnie Ferrell
David Green
Loren Darden
Susan Taylor