

Annual Report 2015-2016



**ALAMANCE
PARKS**

Alamance Parks

For more than 40 years, Alamance Parks has been working to improve the quality of life of Alamance County residents. Through our parks and programs we encourage healthy lifestyles for children and adults, offer inclusive activities for all of our citizens, and provide access to the natural world. The department, founded in the early 1970s, offers a variety of outdoor activity and program options to the Alamance community.

Alamance Parks offers access to the outdoors through Cedarrock Park, Great Bend Park, Shallow Ford Natural Area, and trails associated with the Haw River Trail. Cedarrock Park offers a Historical Farm restored to the 1800s time period, more than six miles each of hiking and equestrian trails, two disc golf courses, fishing ponds, picnic shelters, a playground, and open play spaces. Special events and programs take place at the parks throughout the year.

Alamance Parks offers year-round youth athletics programs including Little League, softball, baseball, Tee-ball, basketball, and football. The department has a Special Olympics chapter that provides a variety of activities for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities in Alamance County, as well as a Visually Impaired Program offering monthly activities for the visually impaired. Special Olympics programs include aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, Spring Games, and more.

Alamance Parks also has two rural community centers, Pleasant Grove Community Center and Eli Whitney Community Center. Currently, programming through the centers includes senior bingo, family bingo, arts and crafts, a breakfast club, open gym, fitness centers, potluck lunches, group walks, games, movie days, and more. Both centers have walking tracks and athletic fields. A summer camp program is operated from Pleasant Grove. Various special events are offered throughout the year.

Through our outdoor spaces, trails, athletic programs, community centers, and special events we provide Alamance County with access to healthy and fun activities that encourage healthy lifestyles. Last year, our parks and community centers enjoyed 488,940 visitors, and our athletics programs enrolled approximately 1,500 children. Special Olympics continues to serve 400 special needs children and adults in the Alamance community and engage thousands of volunteers each year. Our community centers are deeply rooted in the rural communities they serve, with a dedicated following. They were utilized by 171,799 members of the community last year. Alamance Parks strives each year to expand and improve upon the opportunities and services provided to the community.

From the Director

The 2015-2016 Fiscal Year has been an exciting time for Alamance Parks marked with important milestones for the Department. Over the past five years, Alamance Parks has seen a 60% increase in visitation. Along with more visitors, we also face broader demand from the public for an increasingly diverse set of facilities and services. Each year brings new challenges and demands on our resources as we strive to meet the desires of our residents. We are working to meet those demands by modernizing facilities, building new parks and constantly shifting our program offerings. We adopted a new logo and branding scheme this year, which we hope will reflect our role as a community leader in learning, conservation, wellness, and play in our communities.

This year brought the rewarding culmination of over ten years of effort with the completion of the Haw River Paddle Trail through Alamance County. Union Bridge Paddle Access on the Alamance-Orange County line marked the last of 14 paddle accesses constructed to make the river completely and safely accessible to the public. Progress continues on the Haw River Land Trail as well with the completion of the Sellers Falls section this year. This new 4 mile section of trail connects with the Glencoe section to create the longest stretch of Haw River Land Trail, with 8 miles of continuous trail open to the public. Another grant from the Alamance Wellness Collaborative will allow an additional expansion of the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail near I-40/85 in the coming year. This project is a partnership with the City of Graham and will allow us to build a new trailhead and 1.5 miles of additional trail in Graham.

One of our most ambitious projects to date, Saxapahaw Island Park, continues to move forward with the help of two grants totaling more than \$150,000 and a generous donation from the Clore Family. The new park will enhance the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail with additional hiking trails and will feature the first nature play area in Southern Alamance County. This innovative park is slated to open in 2017 and is expected to be one of our most visited parks upon completion.

Plans are also moving ahead for Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area, which has the potential to be a 460 acre park. With grant funding, the County was able to purchase 100 acres of land in the Cane Creek Mountain Range in 2016 and is currently applying for funding to purchase another 360 acres. The park will permanently conserve the County's largest State Natural Heritage Area and will provide public access to this stunning Piedmont Monadnock.

Our rural community centers have also seen physical improvement and attendance increases. A combination of grant and County funds were used to help replace the outdated playground at Eli Whitney Community Center and both Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove received updates to their fitness centers. These facilities serve as touchstones for our important rural communities and their continued growth forecasts positive changes in those communities.

Thank you for all the support you have given to Alamance Parks in the past year, and we look forward to the changes and progress of the next.

-Brian Baker, Director

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Cedarrock Park

Overview

Cedarrock Park is a 500-acre park located in southern Alamance County that enjoys more than 150,000 visitors annually. This expansive nature park was established in 1972 on the historic farm of John and Polly Garrett, and continues to serve the citizens of Alamance County and visitors with a wide variety of outdoor facilities. The park offers six miles of hiking trails, six miles of equestrian trails, two disc golf courses with a total of 36 holes for play, a historical farm restored to the late 1800s time period, two fishing ponds, a picturesque waterfall over an old mill dam, picnic shelters and gazebos, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a playground, canoe and kayak rentals, and ample field space for open play.



The property at the entrance to the park is part of a phased enhancement plan. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, a mile of new equestrian trail was added overlooking Rock Creek, a pond was repaired for public fishing, and a bird watching platform was constructed. The park's existing equestrian trail network was redesigned and rebuilt to better serve our equestrian visitors. The 2015-2016 fiscal year has seen continued improvements to this property, with the completion of the fence around the new field and plans to construct a dedicated equestrian entrance with horse trailer turn-around, camping pads, and restroom facilities. Construction on the new entrance will begin in winter 2016. Future plans for the property include construction of equestrian stables and a riding ring to house horses and offer trail rides and lessons.



The new entrance sign at Cedarrock Park

The new pond has now been stocked with a variety of sport fish, which are currently in growth stage and will be available for fishing to the public in mid to late 2017. The main fishing pond was stocked with trout for cooler weather fishing, implemented

concurrently with a new fishing pass program to generate revenue that will allow for the annual stocking of a wider variety of sport fish. The 2015-2016 park visitor surveys revealed that 99% of visitors rated their overall park experience as excellent/good.

Improvement Projects

- A new fishing pass program was introduced with daily and annual pass options. Revenue from passes will allow stocking of the pond with trout, which were introduced in 2015 with great success.
- The repaired fishing pond on the new property was stocked with fish for the first time. They are in the growth stage and the pond is projected to be fishable in 2017.
- The fence around the new property for the Equestrian Center was completed.
- A new security system was installed in the maintenance shop.
- The main entrance signs for Cedarrock Park and the Historical Garrett Farm were redesigned with the new department logo and replaced.
- New directional and informational signage was installed.
- Gates and roadway markings were repainted.
- Preservation and restoration of the historic Curtis House continued with painting of the exterior.
- The interior of the antique Farm Tool Museum was remodeled and updated.
- Two new footbridges and fencing were built in the Wellspring Disc Golf Course.
- A new bridge was constructed on the equestrian trail by a prospective Eagle Scout.



Stocking the main Cedarrock Park fishing pond with trout

Events/Programs

- **Cedarrock Park Photo Scavenger Hunt** (7/18/2015): Alamance Parks celebrated the 30th anniversary of National Park and Recreation Month with a social media-based photo scavenger hunt at Cedarrock Park with prizes provided by local sponsors.
- **Foxfire in Cedarrock Park: Canning the Foxfire Way & Now** (7/18/2015), **Pottery the Foxfire Way & Now** (9/19/2015), **Ghosts in the Park Storytelling** (10/17/2015): The Foxfire in Cedarrock Park program, a partnership between Alamance Parks and Alamance County Public Libraries, continued to celebrate Appalachian culture and tradition. The canning program included a demonstration by presenters Wendy Burgess and Jeannie Dunn of canning tomatoes from start to finish, information about historical food preservation methods, and herb lore (20 participants). The pottery program featured demonstrations, show and tell, and hands-on activities by local potter Susan Kern of the Alamance Artisans Guild (15 participants). Ghosts in the Park Storytelling returned with spooky tales under the stars around the campfire, with storyteller Brian Sturm of the UNC Story Squad (100+ attendees).



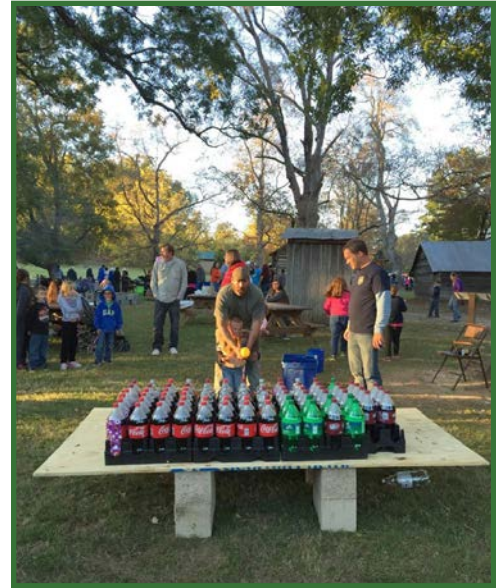
Corn shucking at the 2015 Preserving Our Heritage Festival

- **Preserving Our Heritage Festival** (8/22/2015): Since 1998, the Cedarrock Historical Farm has hosted this annual festival celebrating the rich early history and traditions of Alamance County. The 2015 festival included living history demonstrations and tours of the Historic Garrett House; living history demonstrations from the Civil War era; displays of antique automobiles and farm equipment; live bluegrass music by Buttermilk Creek; demonstrations of traditional crafts and trades such as blacksmithing, weaving, and beekeeping; and food and drink for purchase from a local vendor. The 2015 festival enjoyed 1,630 visitors.

- **Farm to Table Program** (9/22-23/2015): Students from all over Alamance County came to Cedarrock Park for two days to learn about how food is grown and produced on a farm, and ultimately brought to the family dining table. Students saw farm animals and equipment, as well as exhibits by U.S. Forestry, beekeepers, and more. Approximately 800 fourth-grade students attended.
- **Burlington Christian Academy Trail Run** (9/17/2015 & 9/24/2015): An annual trail run meet for students sponsored by River Mill Academy and Alamance Parks.

- **The Sneaky Pete Disc Golf Tournament** (9/26-27/2015): Cedarrock Park hosted the 30th annual 2-day, C-Tier PDGA Disc Golf Tournament presented by Spike Hyzer. Cedarrock Park served as tournament central, with player check-in and post-tournament awards presented at the park.

- **Cane Pole Fishing Hole Derby** (10/3/2015): A half-day fishing event for families- cane poles and worms only. Prizes are awarded to children in two age groups for the largest and the most fish caught. Four local businesses sponsored the prizes for this event (25 attendees).



A family playing the ring toss game at the 2015 Celebrate Cedarrock! Festival

- **Celebrate Cedarrock! 40th Anniversary Festival** (10/17/2015): This special festival was held to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Cedarrock Park. It included a variety of old-time children's game stations, Halloween candy for participants, games for adults, living history and tours of the Garrett house, food and drink for purchase, and seasonal face painting. The event was followed by the Ghosts in the Park Storytelling program. The festival drew hundreds of attendees and will be held again in fall 2016.
- **Run at the Rock** (12/5/2015): Alamance Parks hosted this popular annual trail race, which offers 7 and 14 mile options through Cedarrock Park. The course begins on asphalt and open field, then runs through the trails of the park, complete with rocks, mud, hills, and more. Hot food is provided after the race. The 2015 race registered 202 runners.
- **Alamance Community College Animal Husbandry Class** (12/11/2015): Cedarrock Park serves as the host for Alamance Community College's sheep handling and care program for students.
- **NC Wildlife Fish Feeder Program** (4/2015, 7/2015, 9/2015): NC Wildlife staff visited Cedarrock Park once again to fill the fish feeders in conjunction with demonstrating the process to 4-H high school students of Alamance County.
- **Cane Pole Fishing Hole Derby** (4/2/2016): A half-day family fishing event. Only cane poles and worms are allowed. Prizes are awarded to children in two age groups for the largest and the most fish caught (25 attendees).
- **NC Envirothon** (4/24-25/2016): Cedarrock Park hosted this annual competition for middle and high school students to compete in a quiz-bowl style event based on knowledge

of the environment and natural resources. Students, parents, and educators camped out all over Cedarock Park for two nights during the weekend event. This year, 1,657 students and adults attended the event.

- **National Trails Day- Walk in the Park at Cedarock & Nature Journal Workshop** (6/4/2016): Park technician TJ Mumford led a 2 mile guided hike on the Cedarock Park Rock Creek Trail. Park technician Kim Brown hosted a Nature Journal Workshop at Shallow Ford Natural Area to teach participants about nature journaling. Both events were registered National Trails Day events.
- **Foxfire in Cedarock Park: Canning the Foxfire Way & Now** (6/18/2016): The Foxfire in Cedarock Park program returned with a new workshop series that runs from 6/2016 through 10/2016. In June, the canning program by Wendy Burgess and Jeannie Dunn returned. They presented a demonstration of canning zucchini relish from start to finish, information about historical food preservation methods, and discussed modern methods for collecting and using plants and herbs (25 attendees).

Facility Use

- **178 Group Shelter Reservations:** Cedarock Park's shelters and gazebos are available for rent for parties, gatherings, and special events.
- **15 Historical Farm Open Farm Days (Living History):** The Friends of Cedarock Historical Farm host Open Farm days at the historic Garrett House and Farm each year. This living history event provides visitors with a chance to witness the daily life of the mid-late 19th century. A special Christmas-themed Open Farm was held in early December.
- **341 Day and 43 Annual Fishing Passes:** This year Alamance Parks began providing fishing passes (day passes at \$5.00 and annual passes at \$25.00). Revenue will cover the cost of stocking the pond with a wider variety of fish.
- **19 Organized Farm Tours:** Farm Tours are offered by reservation and are a wonderful way for visitors to learn more about the Garrett Farm.



Canning: The Foxfire Way & Now, 2015

Attendance

Month	# Visitors at Cedarrock Park
July 2015	18,374
August 2015	26,326
September 2015	20,190
October 2015	18,346
November 2015	11,484
December 2015	13,036
January 2016	6,954
February 2016	5,799
March 2016	6,493
April 2016	8,617
May 2016	8,981
June 2016	6,979
TOTAL	151,579



Rural Community Centers

Overview

Alamance Parks manages two rural community centers through a lease program with ABSS for youth and adult programs, as well as athletic games. Both community centers provide open gym, fitness rooms, and playgrounds. Facilities may also be reserved for special events and gatherings.



New playground facility at Eli Whitney Community Center

Pleasant Grove Community Center (PG) stands on the site of Pleasant Grove High School, built in 1922. Located in northern Alamance County, this revitalized property serves the citizens of Pleasant Grove township as a recreational and community gathering place. Eli Whitney Community Center (EW), site of the former Eli Whitney High School built in 1923, serves citizens in the southern part of Alamance County in the Eli Whitney community. These two community centers provide an important venue for the citizens of Alamance County to gather and participate in activities for community, fitness, and fun.

Improvement Projects

Pleasant Grove Community Center

- Constructed new bocce court and added sand to the outdoor volleyball court
- Installed new exercise equipment in the fitness room
- Restored swing set from Eli Whitney and installed on the playground
- Acquired two new park benches to add around the walking track
- Replaced septic tank pump and repaired septic tank line

Eli Whitney Community Center

- Replaced outdated playground with new custom playground structure, shade, picnic tables and benches
- Updated landscaping on the property and resurfaced the walking track

- Painted interior of gymnasium and renovated restrooms (new windows, ceiling fans, and soap and paper towel dispensers)
- Renovated fitness center including replacement of equipment (cleaning, repainting, equipment updates)



Pleasant Grove Summer Camp participants on a field trip to Cedarrock Park

Events/Programs

Pleasant Grove Community Center

- **Open Art Class, Chair Yoga Class, Senior Movie Days, Family Movie Nights, Game Days**
- **Breakfast Club:** PG hosts an occasional breakfast club with breakfast served at 9:00am, followed by card games, movies, trips, & more.
- **Senior & Family Bingo:** Senior and family bingo are both offered bi-weekly. It is free to play, with prizes and snacks provided.
- **Potluck Lunch:** Once a month, senior bingo is followed by a potluck lunch.
- **PG Field Trips:** Field trips included the Fruitcake Factory, Holiday Market, Farmer's Market, bowling, the Festival of Lights, and the Greensboro Historical Museum.



Seniors playing bocce and corn hole at PG

- **Pleasant Grove Summer Camp** (June-August 2015): This annual summer camp is offered for children aged pre-K through 6th grade, along with an associated camp (Learning for Life) for older children. Weekly activities included arts & crafts, structured gym activities, swimming, speakers, field trips, a talent show, and more. The 2015 camp had 21 campers at an average of 18 per week.

- **Pumpkin Painting Workshop** (10/17/2015): PG hosted a free pumpkin painting party for 12 children ages 5-12. Children were able to paint a pumpkin at Shallow Ford Natural Area's Observation Deck and take it home for display during the fall season (12 participants).
- **Santa's Workshop** (12/12/2015): PG hosted Santa's Workshop, which was established in 2003 to bring together children, families, and volunteers to help spread Christmas Cheer. This year, 134 children registered. With parents and volunteers, over 275 participants made crafts and goody bags, with 775 gifts delivered to senior residents at assisted living facilities and 518 goody bags to their caretakers.
- **Kids Path** (12/2015): PG partnered with Kids Path to provide Christmas gifts to terminally ill children.
- **Summer Camp Expo** (4/9/2016): Alamance Parks staff planned a Summer Camp and Safe Kids Expo held at Holly Hill Mall. The expo featured information about local summer activity options (including full summer, weekly, half day, sports, arts & tutoring, specialty programs, & children's' health), as well as vendors, door prizes, and a Kids Zone with games, crafts, and more. The Safe Kids Alamance County Coalition partnered to provide information related to fire safety, poison prevention, emergency preparedness, and to host a bike rodeo. Over 400 children and their families attended.
- **Stargazing** (3/9/2016): Alamance Parks staff planned and hosted an evening of stargazing at Shallow Ford Natural Area's Observation Deck in the Wildflower Meadow. Participants learned about stargazing tools and equipment, basics of navigating the night sky, and observed a number of constellations and the Orion Nebula through high-powered binoculars. This program will resume in fall 2016 (40 attendees).



The Orion Nebula is a bright nebula in the constellation Orion that is visible through binoculars. Participants in the Stargazing event at Shallow Ford Natural Area were able to observe the nebula through high powered binoculars. Photos are courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, taken by high- powered telescopes.

Eli Whitney Community Center

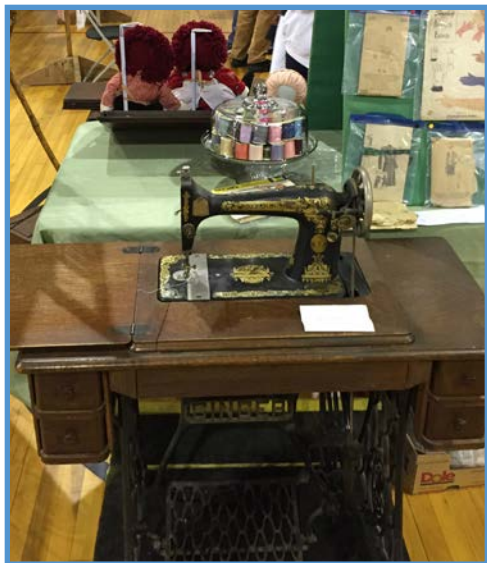
- **85th Annual Uncle Eli's Quilting Party Exhibition** (4/7/2016): This historic event begun by educator E.P. Dixon has been hosted annually at EW since 1931. This year marked the 85th anniversary of this unique exhibition, which showcased more than 50 quilts. During the event, residents of the area and visitors from across the state bring quilts to display and projects to work on together.



The 2016 Uncle Eli's Quilting Party

This year featured a special exhibition of antique sewing machines and vintage sewing patterns. There was also a return of the Sharing Table, a resource operating on the “bring one, take one” policy for quilting books, magazines, and fabric. The event concludes each year with a covered dish luncheon for participants and guests.

- **Open Gym:** The gymnasium is open to the public year-round for free play at specific times, several days per week.
- **Fitness Room:** The fitness room is open to the public year-round for free use at specific times, several days per week.



Antique sewing machine and vintage patterns

- **Youth Basketball 2015-2016 Season:** EW hosts games inside the gymnasium.
- **Senior Bingo** (held at the Old Eli Whitney Fire Department): Senior bingo is offered weekly; the program is free and includes prizes for winners.
- **Potluck Luncheons** (held at the Old Eli Whitney Fire Department): Potluck luncheon is provided every other month following bingo.

Facility Use

- **50 PG Gym Rentals:** The PG gymnasium is available for rentals and is used for athletics, birthday parties, family reunions, baby showers, and occasionally weddings.
- **9 PG Shelter Rentals:** The shelters at PG are available for rental by groups for parties, gatherings, and special events.
- **17 PG Classroom Reservations:** The classroom at PG is available by reservation for special events. Uses have included baby showers, birthday parties, and meeting space.
- **13 PG Athletic Field Reservations:** The athletic fields at PG are available by reservation. These are generally used by athletic teams needing practice space.
- **15 EW Athletic Field Reservations:** The athletic fields at EW are also available by reservation. These are generally used by athletic teams needing practice space.

Attendance

Month	# Visitors Pleasant Grove	# Visitors Eli Whitney
July 2015	11,731	2,030
August 2015	18,177	2,957
September 2015	7,561	3,020
October 2015	9,477	1,101
November 2015	7,408	1,064
December 2015	9,246	889
January 2016	9,919	1,085
February 2016	14,122	726
March 2016	12,712	4,202
April 2016	11,308	6,137
May 2016	13,587	3,883
June 2016	15,122	4,335
SUBTOTALS	140,370	31,429
TOTAL	171,799	

Haw River Trail

Overview

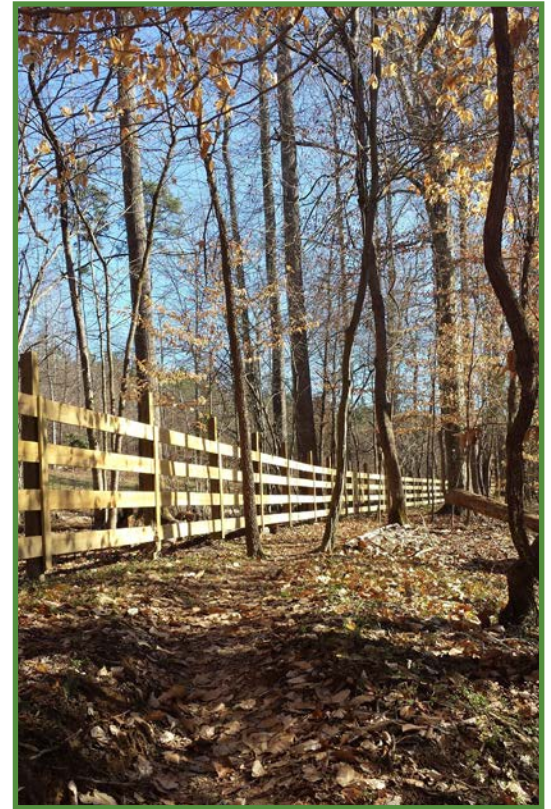
The Haw River Trail provides public access to Alamance County's most important natural feature. The land and paddle trails allow the community to explore and appreciate its river while helping to conserve and protect it. The planned HRT corridor extends approximately 80 miles along the Haw River from Haw River State Park on the Rockingham-Guilford County line through Alamance County to Jordan Lake State Recreational Area in Chatham County. The HRT is part of the state-wide Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) which allows hikers to travel across the state from Clingman's Dome to Jockey's Ridge.



The HRT is the result of an inter-agency partnership founded in 2006 and based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed by 12 governmental agencies agreeing to support and collaborate in the development of a multi-use recreational trail system along the Haw River. Five partnership agencies operate and manage the trail system including Alamance County, Guilford County, the City of Burlington, the City of Graham, the Town of Haw River, and the Town of Swepsonville. Each agency is responsible for operation and management of parks, paddle accesses, and trails on the land it owns.

Included in the HRT system and open to the public are four recreational parks, 17.5 miles of hiking trails, approximately 40 miles of paddle trail, and 14 paddle accesses extending through Alamance County from Guilford County to the Alamance County-Orange County line.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Haw River Paddle Trail through Alamance County was completed with the opening of Union Bridge Paddle Access, the 14th Paddle Access in Alamance County. This is the culmination of over ten years of dedicated effort and opens 40 miles of river to safe public access. Additionally, four miles of Haw River Trail are now complete which connect Stoney Creek Marina to Red Slide Park, resulting in the longest continuous stretch of Haw River Land Trail currently open- a total of eight miles connecting Indian Valley Paddle Access to Red Slide Park. Plans are in progress for the development of Saxapahaw Island Park with initial trails cut. A new trail easement was acquired on the Island that will allow the HRT/MST trail loop to fully encircle the Island. Plans are also underway for a new HRT Land Trail access point and 1.5 miles of new trail in Graham.



Map of the new Sellers Falls Section of the Haw River Trail (left). This four mile section completes eight miles of continuous HRT, the longest continuous section of land trail currently open. A photo on the trail at Sellers Falls (above).



A footbridge on the new Sellers Falls Trail section and the trail crossing at Boyd's Creek (left). The new Union Bridge Paddle Access welcome sign and the view downriver from the Access (right).

- Completed Union Bridge Paddle Access, the 14th HRT paddle access in Alamance County. The access offers parking, signage, maps, and a staircase for access to the river. The Haw River through Alamance County is now completely accessible to the public.
- Completed the Sellers Falls Section, a four mile stretch of land trail connecting Stoney Creek Marina to Red Slide Park. The HRT collaborated with Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (FMST) in construction of this section, which includes eight bridges. FMST volunteers contributed a total of 1,524 hours. This section completes eight continuous miles of trail from Indian Valley to Red Slide Park, the longest continuous section of HRT Land Trail currently open.
- Saxapahaw Island Park is slated to open in 2017. Trail has been rough cut for the perimeter of the Island. Underbrush and invasives were cleared by goat grazing for the planned open areas of the park. Community meetings were held to gather the input of area residents and a working group was formed to help plan the Island Park. Two grants were received towards development of the park (please refer to Grants section). A bridge was donated by Buckner Companies to allow the HRT to cross a ravine in the southern section of trail.
- The HRT received a grant from Impact Alamance to partner with the City of Graham in the construction of a new trailhead and 1.5 miles of new land trail near Valley Road in Graham. Plans are underway to begin construction in winter 2016.
- New land acquisitions include a trail easement on Saxapahaw Island from the Clore Family (which will allow the Island Loop Trail to extend around the full perimeter of the Island) and donation of the Byrd Limited Partnership Property parcel.
- All Alamance Parks properties have been marked with new boundary markers.
- Emergency codes have now been added to trail blazes in Cedarrock Park and all sections of the HRT. These codes can be used by hikers in the event of an emergency to help responders locate them on the trail.
- A 220-foot wooden footbridge was installed over a muddy section of the Shallow Ford Loop Trail at Shallow Ford Natural Area. The wildflower meadow was seeded with additional flowers for the 2016 growing season.



New footpath on the Shallow Ford Loop Trail at Shallow Ford Natural Area

Events/Programs

- **Haw River Hustle** (11/8/2015): Collaborated with Burlington Recreation & Parks in the 2nd annual Haw River Hustle, a 5K benefit run held on the Haw River Trail at the historic mill town of Glencoe.
- **Trailathlon** (3/19/2016): Collaborated with the community of Saxapahaw to present the 2nd annual Trailathlon, a multi-sport adventure race that combines a paddle, bike ride, and trail run. Approximately 50 people participated in the event. The event was rescheduled from November 2015 due to weather.
- **Yee-Haw! River Paddle** (5/14/2016): Coordinated the 9th annual Yee-Haw! River Paddle in collaboration with Burlington Recreation and Parks, and Graham Recreation and Parks. The event featured an afternoon paddle beginning at Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access and ending at Union Bridge Paddle Access five miles downriver. A total of 75 people participated in the paddle.
- **Guided Nature Hikes:** Regular guided nature hikes were offered at various HRT locations, led by park technicians.



Paddlers receive safety instructions before tackling the lake at the 2nd Annual Trailathlon

Meetings, Presentations & Outreach

- Represented HRT at a meeting hosted by Chatham County Recreation and Parks about Future Trails in Chatham County
- Represented HRT at the Trails and Blueways Meeting, hosted by the Danville River Basin Association at Haw River State Park. The meeting was held to discuss development of paddle accesses along the Haw River in Rockingham County

- Represented HRT at the Carolina Thread Trail Forum in Mooresville, NC
- Represented the HRT at the Triad Trails Council meeting
- Represented the HRT at the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail's trail marketing meeting at the Piedmont Land Conservancy
- Represented the HRT at the annual Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail meeting at Elon University
- Represented the HRT at the Convention & Visitors' Bureau's spring Partners Meeting
- Presented about the HRT to Alamance County teachers per request from Impact Alamance, including leading a guided hike on the HRT in Saxapahaw
- Presented about the HRT to the Wayside Garden Club at Alamance Community College
- Represented the HRT at the Impact Alamance Wellness Summit at Alamance Community College
- Supervised students in the Elon Environmental Studies program on projects related to folklore about the Haw River and invasive species along the Haw River

The plans for the new Saxapahaw Island Park, to open in 2017. The park will include a nature play area, waterfront area, informal gathering area, loop trail, formal gathering area, lookout point, and trailhead with parking and information.



Attendance

HRT Sites Operated by Alamance Parks

Month	Altamahaw PA	Glencoe PA	Great Alam. Creek PA	Great Bend Park	Shallow Ford NA	Sax. Lake PA	Sax. Mill Race PA
July 2015	1,871	1,485	1,409	1,662	2,622	4,961	3,546
August 2015	1,888	1,444	1,751	1,132	2,301	5,427	5,158
September 2015	1,650	1,149	969	1,146	2,690	3,630	3,917
October 2015	1,308	1,301	1,053	1,216	2,742	3,243	3,307
November 2015	1,121	1,041	633	859	1,998	2,399	1,723
December 2015	1,498	797	341	857	2,377	1,347	1,404
January 2016	1,001	660	377	823	1,753	597	1,052
February 2016	1,450	834	412	949	2,528	472	561
March 2016	1,821	1,016	942	1,293	2,995	1,195	1,950
April 2016	2,634	1,143	1,157	1,684	3,905	3,880	3,675
May 2016	2,313	1,700	1,233	1,416	3,093	4,452	6,574
June 2016	2,144	1,400	1,191	1,345	2,004	3,800	4,435
SUBTOTAL	20,699	13,970	11,468	14,382	31,008	35,403	37,302
TOTAL	165,562						

HRT Sites Operated by HRT Partners

Month	Graham/ Hwy 54 PA	Red Slide Park	Sweeps. Upper	Sweeps. Lower
July 2015	1,893	2,390	5,886	4,361
August 2015	1,903	2,117	6,003	4,370
September 2015	1,523	2,016	4,062	2,136
October 2015	2,137	1,743	4,610	3,330
November 2015	1,217	1,171	3,018	2,118
December 2015	1,074	1,144	2,489	1,544
January 2016	1,218	1,048	1,925	1,394
February 2016	916	1,618	1,258	769
March 2016	1,180	1,857	2,418	1,087
April 2016	1,381	2,443	5,410	3,790
May 2016	2,128	3,079	6,389	5,421
June 2016	1,414	2,818	6,259	4,074
SUBTOTAL	17,984	23,444	49,727	34,394
TOTAL	126,599			

Total HRT Visitation 2015-2016: 292,161

Key

Alam.= Alamance

Hwy= Highway

NA= Natural Area

PA= Paddle Access

Sax.= Saxapahaw

Sweeps.= Sweepsonville

Athletics

Overview

Alamance Parks offers baseball, softball, basketball and football for youth ages 5 to 14. The department manages three athletic complexes located at B. Everett Jordan Elementary School, Sylvan Elementary School, and E.M. Holt Elementary School. The Athletic Division also supervises the Eli Whitney Community Center sports programs. Games are played throughout the county at over 15 local sports fields and eight gymnasiums.



Programs

Sport	Teams	Players	Games
Little League Baseball	7	87	32
Little League Softball	3	36	12
Little League Tee Ball	7	86	28
Club Baseball	37	N/A	198
Club Softball	27	N/A	128
Alamance Parks (AP) Football	25	640	100
AP Girls Basketball	19	163	89
AP Boys Basketball	54	486	247
TOTALS	179	1476	834

Little League Baseball

This is the sixth year for Little League baseball in Alamance County. Little League differs from club ball in that players are drafted onto teams, making for better competition. The County provides Major League uniforms and all the equipment necessary for play. 209 athletes and 17 teams were involved in the 2015-2016 season.

Club Affiliation

Alamance Parks continues to work closely with local clubs to provide baseball, softball, basketball and football to the community. This past year Alamance County sponsored 37 club baseball teams, 27 club softball teams, 54 boys basketball teams, 19 girls basketball teams, and 25 football teams. Teams were sponsored for the following organizations:

- Alamance Civitan Club
- Mt. Hermon Youth Association
- Eli Whitney Youth Association
- Northern Alamance Youth Association
- Hawfields Civitan Club
- Lakeview Civitan Club
- Sylvan Athletic Association
- Salvation Army Boy's and Girl's Club
- Positive Attitude Youth Center
- Air Cavs Youth Organization
- Pleasant Grove/Haw River
- Christian Adventures
- Eli Whitney/Saxapahaw
- Haw River Recreation
- Mebane Recreation
- Town of Green Level
- Graham Recreation
- Gibsonville Recreation



Little League players are provided with Major League uniform shirts and hats.

Special Populations

Overview

Alamance Parks offers a diverse Special Olympics program providing children and adults who have intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in Olympic-type sports. Alamance Parks also has a monthly program specifically designed for residents with visual challenges.



Events/Programs

Special Olympics

Special Olympics Alamance County (SOAC) has four local events per year and eight statewide competitions. Spring Games is always the largest event and this year included over 350 athletes and over 1,200 volunteers (one of the largest volunteer opportunities in Alamance County). SOAC participation numbers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year were:

Sport	Tournament	Date	# Athletes	# Volunteers
Basketball	Local	February 2016	225	80
Spring Games	Local	April 2016	352	1,200
Aquatics	State	Summer Games 2016	21	10
Golf	State	Fall 2015	6	10
Bocce	Local	October 2015	170	48
	State	November 2015	3	2
Bowling	Local	December 2015	379	75
	State	June 2016	2	2
Equestrian	State	October 2015	6	18

- **Unity in Community** (9/19/2015): A special event held to bring special needs folks together with the community for a day of sports, food, and fun.
- **Spring Games** (4/15/2016): Elon University partnership for Special Olympics Spring Games, through which the University provides facilities, volunteers, and support for the event. The Games include races, softball throws, games, and more.

- **Lifespan Junior Olympics** (5/25/2016): LIFESPAN Circle Schools are inclusive programs supporting children with developmental delays and typically developing children from six weeks through age six. In an inclusive environment, children with and without disabilities participate in the same routines and play experiences and learn to value and appreciate individual differences. This year we partnered with them for a day of Olympic events including kickball, Frisbee toss, and an obstacle course!



Photos from the 2016 Spring Games, held April 15, 2016. Athletes competed in races and softball throws but also had the opportunity for free play with the parachute, balls, corn hole, tug of war, soccer goals, and more.

Project Unify

Special Olympics Project UNIFY® pairs traditional students with Special Olympics Athletes. They not only compete together, but spend time at school developing community and participating in a variety of activities together. 100% of the county high schools are involved. Alamance County was number 2 in the state in number of schools participating! Official Project Unify schools include:

- Eastern Alamance High School
- Williams High School
- Southern Alamance High School
- Cummings High School
- Graham High School
- Western Alamance High School
- Graham Middle School
- Western Middle School
- Turrentine Middle School
- Broadview Middle School
- Southern Middle School
- Hawfields Middle School
- Woodlawn Middle School
- Hillcrest Elementary School
- EM Holt Elementary School
- Sylvan Elementary School
- Garrett Elementary School
- Highland Elementary School

Visually Impaired Program (VIP)

Alamance Parks provides a monthly outing for over 40 visually impaired County residents. The 2015-2016 outings included the annual NC State Fair, Elon basketball and baseball games, a pottery class at Elmira Recreation Center, a Putt-Putt golf tournament in Salisbury, pot luck bingo, nature tour at Jordan Lake, bowling, and a tethered ride in a hot air balloon!

Members of the VIP program at a Greensboro Grasshoppers game (top). VIP program members enjoyed a nature tour at Jordan lake (bottom left) and a tethered hot air balloon ride (bottom right).



Meetings, Presentations, Outreach

- SOAC made several presentations to various civic and community groups, increasing public awareness of the extent of the SOAC program. These groups included the Hawfields Civitan Club, Burlington Civitan Club, Alamance Civitan Club, and Pro Feet Inc.

Fundraising Efforts

- Shag Club Golf Tournament (8/2015)
- Brewballs Golf Tournament (11/2015)
- Annual Special Olympics Letter Campaign (5/2016)
- Various Law Enforcement Torch Run events with the Graham, Burlington, Elon University, and Mebane Police Departments including Cop on Top and Polar Plunge



SOAC athletes at an Elon football game (left; photo courtesy of the Burlington Times News). Athletes celebrate a donation by Sheetz (top middle). Volunteers and athletes had great fun at the basketball tournament and received medals (top right, bottom middle). A group from a Law Enforcement Torch Run fundraiser (bottom right).

Public Relations & Communications

Overview

Alamance Parks attends various community and local business events and wellness fairs as part of its public outreach efforts and its staff members participate in various community coalitions. The department and the Haw River Trail also communicate with the public through a variety of media outlets: monthly e-newsletters, the department and HRT websites, Facebook Pages, locally distributed print fliers, press releases, and more.

Public Relations

- **Community Council:** An Alamance Parks staff representative served on the Community Council, which involved monthly meetings with other non-profit agencies in Alamance County.
- **Community Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking:** An Alamance Parks staff representative attended monthly meetings and completed Student Use of Alcohol & Drug Use school surveys at area middle & high schools and attended multiple events representing the committee.
- **Wellness Committee:** An Alamance Parks staff member representative attended bi-monthly meetings, assisted with Lunch & Learn programs, Spring into Fitness donations & celebration, Wellness Fair Planning, & coordination of Summer Camp & Safe Kids Expo.
- **Senior Games:** An Alamance Parks staff member participated in coordinating Senior Games, assisting with scoring multiple local events, the local awards celebrations, and Fall Games transportation for seniors to the State Finals.
- **Senior Hikes** (various dates): Alamance Parks staff collaborated with Burlington Recreation & Parks in leading hikes for seniors.



New Alamance Parks and Haw River Trail T-Shirts.

Communications

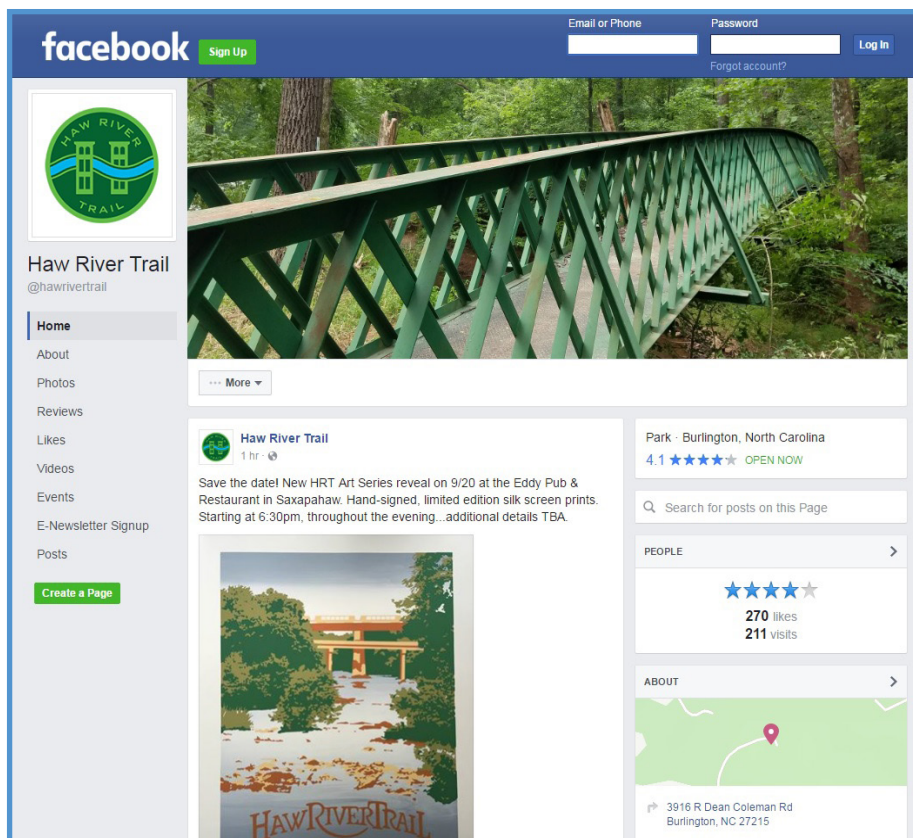
- Alamance Parks successfully developed and implemented a re-branding scheme with new logos. Two master logos were created to represent the department as a whole. Sub-logos representing the major divisions of the department were also created: one each for Outdoors, Community, and Athletics. The logos were designed and chosen to reflect unique aspects of our parks and community with a clean, modern graphic style.
- The Alamance Parks newsletter was redesigned to reflect the rebranding of the department. It is distributed on a monthly basis via Mail Chimp.
- The Special Events section of the department website was updated to improve user-friendliness and the timeliness of information about upcoming events. Other sections of the website are routinely maintained with current information.
- Alamance Parks has expanded its online advertising of events and programs to additional calendars and platforms including explorealamance.com, boosted Facebook posts, use of Facebook event pages, and more.
- The Haw River Trail Facebook page was created in October 2015 and is being routinely managed with event and program announcements, as well as photos from the Trail.
- Additional Cedarrock Park rack cards were purchased for distribution to the Alamance Convention and Visitors' Bureau, multiple N.C. Welcome Centers, the Alamance County Libraries, and other local venues.
- New corrugated H-stake signs were purchased to advertise Youth Basketball and Little League programs. These signs will be used around the community in the upcoming athletic seasons.
- New advertising materials were purchased for sale and distribution in the County including bumper stickers featuring the new Alamance Parks badge logo, new T-shirts featuring the Alamance Parks logos, and new Haw River Trail T-shirts. These items serve the dual purpose of fundraising and raising awareness of the department and its offerings.
- The Cedarrock Park Facebook Page is routinely managed with event and program announcements, as well as photos from the parks.
- Fliers are designed and distributed for all department events and press releases are provided to local news outlets and the Alamance Convention and Visitors' Bureau for events and programs.

Online Engagement

Online Communications Platform	Engagement Status
Alamance Parks e-Newsletter	2,471 subscribers
Haw River Trail e-Newsletter	955 subscribers
Cedarrock Park Facebook Page	5,858 likes and a 4.8 of 5 star rating
Haw River Trail Facebook Page	286 likes and a 4.1 of 5 star rating
Alamance Parks Website	194,645 page views
Haw River Trail Website	102,501 page views

Looking Ahead

Over the coming year, we hope to improve online engagement with a comprehensive redesign of the Haw River Trail website (currently in progress); the first steps of large-scale improvements to the Alamance Parks departmental website; and a concerted effort to grow the new Haw River Trail Facebook page with improved content and greater frequency of posts. These efforts will be combined with other objectives over the next three years with the goal to increase overall online engagement by 18%.



A recent screenshot of the Haw River Trail Facebook Page, started in October 2015. This bridge was donated by Buckner Companies to allow the Haw River Trail to pass a ravine in Saxapahaw.

Funds

Overview

Alamance Parks collects revenue through facility fees and program fees. Other sources of additional incoming funds include donations/sponsorships and grant awards. The department routinely applies for grants to support the development of its parks, trails, rural community centers, and other facilities and programs.



Revenue

Facility & Program Fees

Facility Fees	Revenue 2015-2016
Shelters	\$4,763.95
Gyms	\$2,618.00
Concessions	\$277.00
Other	\$6,352.20
SUBTOTAL	\$14,011.65
Program Fees	Revenue 2015-2016
Summer Camp	\$6,962.00
Athletics	\$11,098.20
Other	\$306.10
SUBTOTAL	\$18,366.30
TOTAL	\$32,377.95

Donations/Sponsorships

Division	Donations/Sponsorships 2014-2015
Cedarock Park	\$3,336.50
Haw River Trail	\$5,876.83
Special Olympics	\$18,000.00
TOTAL	\$27,213.33

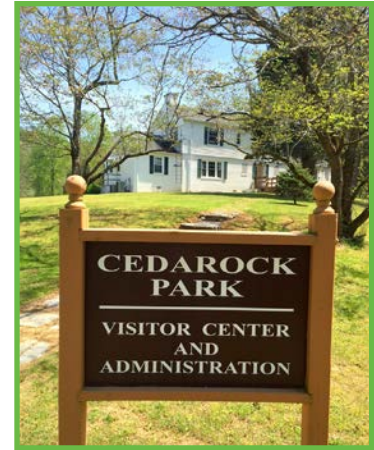
Grant Awards

- \$84,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program for the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail- Saxapahaw Section. Funds will allow renovation of the trailhead on Saxapahaw Island, installation of informational kiosks and directional signage, and construction of approximately four miles of additional Haw River Trail (including the Loop Trail on the Island and trail mileage both north and south of the Island).
- \$35,000 grant from Impact Alamance for the Eli Whitney Community Center Playground Improvement project. Funds were used to help replace the outdated playground structure at Eli Whitney with a new playground reflecting the history and culture of the Eli Whitney community.
- \$25,000 grant from the Impact Alamance Wellness Collaborative for the Haw River Trail-Valley Road Extension. This grant is in partnership with the City of Graham to acquire a trail easement near Valley Road in Graham, construct a trailhead with informational kiosks and directional signage, and construct 1.5 miles of new Haw River Trail.
- \$100,000 grant from Impact Alamance for the Saxapahaw Island Nature Play Area. Funds will be used to develop Alamance Park's first nature play area in the new Saxapahaw Island Park. The Nature Play Area will feature a central play node shaped like a Bowfin fish with climbing and slide elements, a water play feature, an outdoor music node, a spiderweb climber, a wooden climbing wall, a swing, a shelter/fort-building feature, and balance beams connecting the play nodes. Each node will have informational signage with play ideas and related educational information.

Staff & Facility Information

Overview

Alamance Parks staff participated in a variety of training and continuing education experiences. Victor Lynch joined the staff in November 2015 as the newest Park Technician I. Parks Superintendent John Guss and Trail and Open Space Coordinator Guil Johnson attended the annual, week-long Park Ranger Institute at the Law Enforcement Academy. Park Technician Kim Brown completed the NC Environmental Education Certification. Other staff members participated in a variety of webinars, workshops, and conferences.



Staff Training & Continuing Education

- Park Ranger Institute
- Chainsaw Safety Use
- Playground Safety Certification
- CPR Recertification
- Landscape Pruning
- Special Olympics North Carolina
- Google Analytics
- RRS Unique Facilities Workshop
- Impact Alamance Wellness Summit
- FAST Grant Webinar
- Trail Towns Webinar
- Caterpillars Count: Citizen Science Workshop
- The HERP Project: Herpetology Curriculum Workshop
- Completion of NC Environmental Education Certification
- Clean Water Management Trust Fund/Natural Heritage Program Workshop
- NCRPA Supervisor's Workshop
- Ladder Safety Use
- Park Maintenance
- Pesticide Certification
- RecDesk Webinar
- A Walk in Your Park Webinar
- Secret to Community Engagement Webinar
- Promoting Parks with Social Media Webinar
- Background Screening Webinar
- Wellness Programming Webinar
- Youth Summer Programs Webinar

Full Time Staff & Facility Contact Info

Position	Name	Phone	Location
Director	Brian Baker	336-229-2229	CRP I
Parks Superintendent	John Guss	336-229-2379	CRP I
Office Manager	Dianne Neese	336-229-2410	CRP I
Grants and Communications Coordinator	Catharine Gensel	336-229-2230	CRP I
Trail and Open Space Coordinator	Guil Johnson	336-229-2380	CRP I
Athletic Director	Dan Moravec	336-570-6761	CRP I
Special Populations Coordinator	Steve Glahn	336-570-6760	CRP I
Southern Parks Manager	Terry Isley	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician II	Joe Teague	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician II	Thomas Mumford	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician II-Farm Manager	Dusty Cantley	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician I	Robert Shropshire	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician I	Victor Lynch	336-570-6759	CRP II
Recreation Program Specialist	Jennifer Kamenides	336-270-5124	PG
Northern Parks Manager	Jason Witherspoon	336-270-5124	PG
Park Technician II	Kim Brown	336-270-5124	PG
Park Technician I	Ernie Hayes	336-270-5124	PG

Email Format for Staff

first.last@alamance-nc.com

Department Email Address

recinfo@alamance-nc.com

Main Facility Addresses

CRP I (Administrative Offices/Visitor Center)

Cedarock Park
3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd.
Burlington, NC 27215
Ph: 336-229-2410
Fax: 336-229-2411 (fax)

CRP II (Park Office/Gift Shop)

Cedarock Park
4242 R. Dean Coleman Rd.
Burlington, NC 27215
Ph: 336-570-6759

Pleasant Grove Community Center (PG)

Pleasant Grove Community Center
3958 N. NC Hwy 49
Burlington, NC 27217
Ph: 336-270-5124

Eli Whitney Community Center (EW)

Eli Whitney Community Center
4110 E. Greensboro-Chapel Hill Rd.
Graham, NC 27253
Ph: 336-376-6376

Shallow Ford Natural Area

1955 Gerringer Mill Rd.
Elon, NC 27244
Ph: 336-270-5124

Great Bend Park

350 Greenwood Dr.
Burlington, NC 27217
Ph: 336-270-5124

Altamahaw Paddle Access

2996 N. NC Hwy 87
Elon, NC 27244
Ph: 336-270-5124

Glencoe Paddle Access

2348 Glencoe St.
Burlington, NC 27217
Ph: 336-270-5124

Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access

2229 S. Main St.
Graham, NC 27253
Ph: 336-229-2410

Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access

6096 Jordan Dr.
Graham, NC 27253
Ph: 336-229-2410

Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access

6079 Swepsonville-Saxapahaw Rd.
Graham, NC 27253
Ph: 336-229-2410

Union Bridge Paddle Access

7525 Old Greensboro Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Ph: 336-229-2410

A.O. Athletic Park

2832 N. NC Hwy 87

Elon, NC 27244

Ph: 336-570-6760

B. Everett Jordan Athletic Park

5827 Church Rd.

Graham, NC 27253

Ph: 336-570-6760

E.M. Holt Athletic Park

4751 S. NC Hwy 62

Burlington, NC 27215

Ph: 336-570-6760

Sylvan Athletic Park

7718 Sylvan Rd.

Snow Camp, NC 27349

Ph: 336-570-6760

Facility Hours

Cedarock Park

November-March: 8am-6pm

April: 8am-8pm

May-August: 8am-9pm

September-October: 8am-8pm

Pleasant Grove Recreation Center

Varies based on programming, please refer to website.

Eli Whitney Recreation Center

Varies based on programming, please refer to website.

Haw River Trail Parks & Paddle Accesses (including Shallow Ford Natural Area & Great Bend Park)

November-February: 8am-5pm

March: 8am-6pm

April: 8am-7pm

May-August: 8am-8pm

September-October: 8am-7pm

Recreation and Parks Commission

Overview

The Recreation and Parks Commission serves as the advisory body for Alamance Parks. The Commission advises the department and serves the department and citizens of Alamance County. It is composed of seven citizen volunteers and one representative from both the Alamance-Burlington Board of Education and the Alamance County Board of Commissioners.

Current Members

- Mr. Eddie Boswell, County Commissioner
- Mr. Earl Jaggers, Chair
- Mr. Lee Isley, Vice Chair
- Mr. Mark Payne, Board of Education
- Mr. John Paisley
- Ms. Kelly Ronnow
- Mrs. Kelly May
- Mrs. Ann Meletzke
- Vacant



The Recreation and Parks Commission at a meeting on-site at the Haw River Trail Glencoe Paddle Access

Appendix: Visitation

Overview

Alamance Parks collects visitation statistics for all of its major facilities on a monthly basis. Visitation numbers are determined using vehicle rollover counters and a formula that translates these numbers into an approximation of total visitors. The following section takes a look at visitation patterns over the past five years for Alamance Parks as a whole, Cedarrock Park, the Haw River Trail (including both those portions maintained by Alamance Parks and those maintained by partner organizations, as well as combined totals), and the community centers (including both Pleasant Grove and Eli Whitney, as well as combined totals). Please refer to the following abbreviations key:

Key

AP= Alamance Parks

CRP= Cedarrock Park

HRT AP= Haw River Trail, managed by Alamance Parks

HRT Partner= Haw River Trail, managed by partner municipalities

HRT All= combined Alamance Parks and partner-managed Haw River Trail facilities

PG= Pleasant Grove Community Center

EW= Eli Whitney Community Center

Community Center All= combined Pleasant Grove and Eli Whitney facilities

FY= fiscal year

Percent (%) Increase= the percent increase is calculated by finding the difference between the data points of interest over time and dividing that difference by the first data point

Alamance Parks

The following data summarizes visitation to Alamance Parks facilities as a whole, including Cedarrock Park, the Haw River Trail, and the Community Centers.

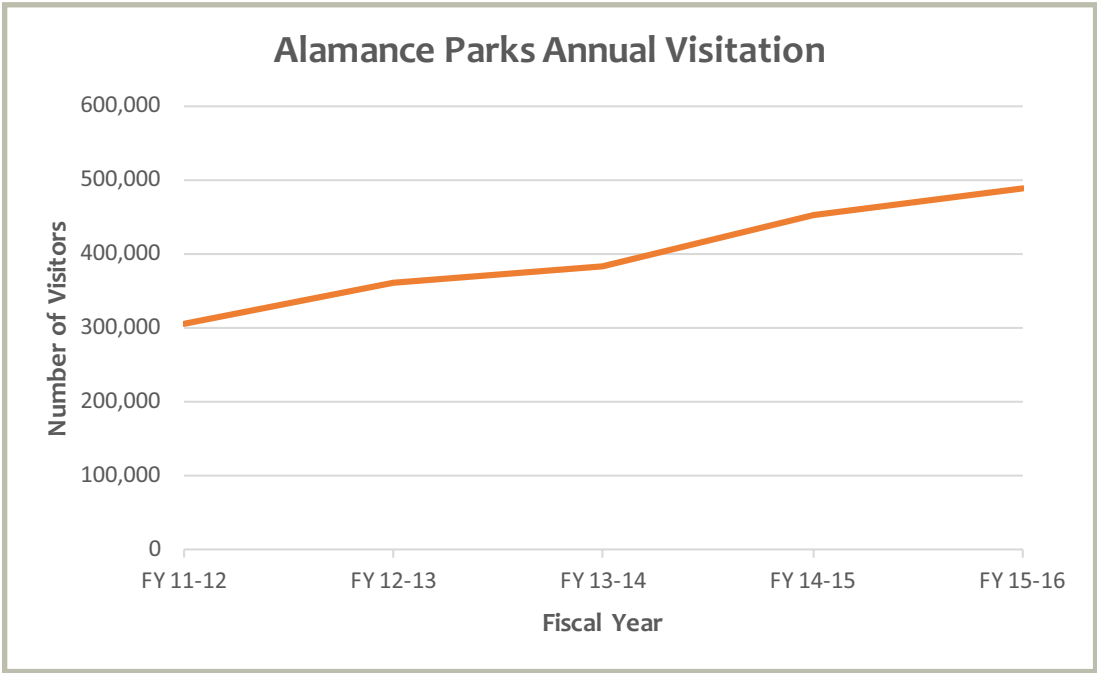


Figure 1. Total annual AP visitation each fiscal year from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2015-2016

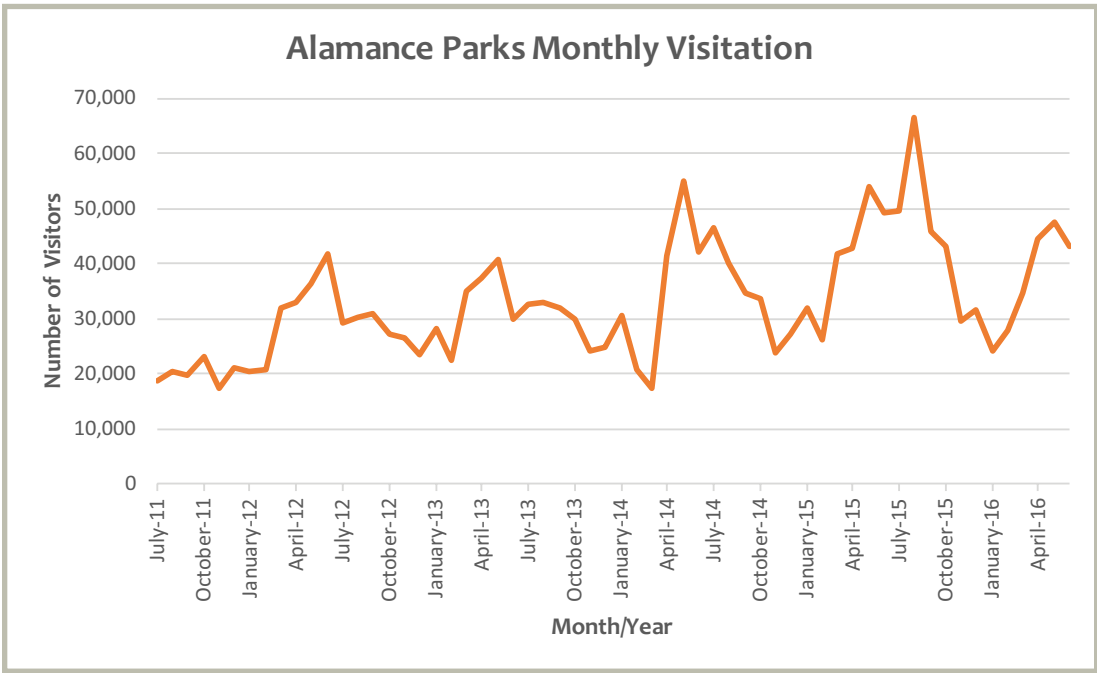


Figure 2. Monthly visitation trends at AP facilities since July 2011

The total number of visitors in FY 2011-2012 was 305,039 and has since risen to 488,940 (Figure 1). This represents a 60% increase in annual visitation over the past five years. Monthly visitation trends also reflect this increased visitation. Overall, the parks and facilities peak in use during the spring and very early summer, with visitors tapering off over the hottest months and into colder weather (Figure 2). All facilities except Cedarock Park show a clear increase in visitation over the past five years.

Cedarock Park

The following data shows the visitation trend for Cedarock Park over the past five years.

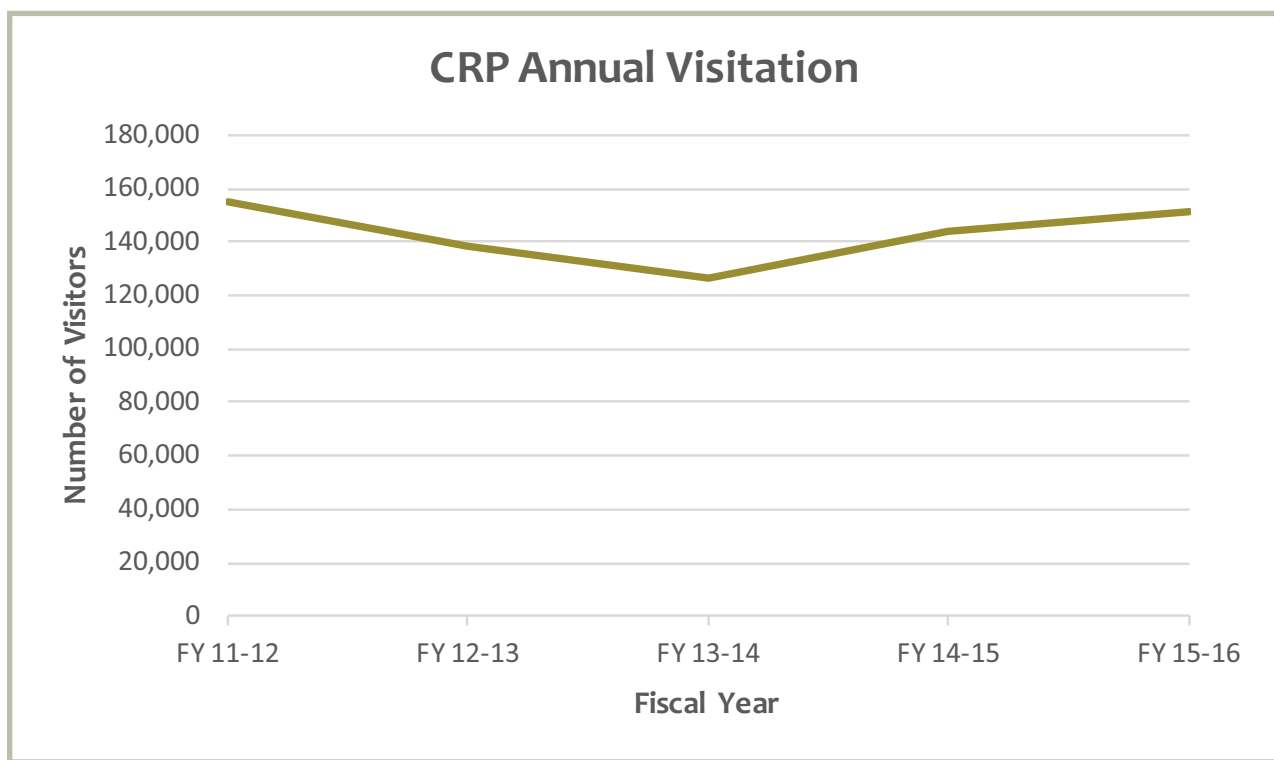


Figure 3. Total annual CRP visitation each fiscal year from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2015-2016

Cedarock Park annual visitation in FY 2011-2012 was 154,946. For FY 2015-2016, it was 151,579 (Figure 3). Figures 3 and 4 show that the visitation to Cedarock Park has remained roughly the same over the past five years with a small decrease in visitation of 2% since FY 2011-2012. However, the graph trend shows a steady increase since FY 2013-2014. Monthly visitation trends are similar to the overall AP trends with a peak in the spring and early summer months. However, FY 2015-2016 shows more visitors in late summer and early fall than seen in previous years (Figure 4).

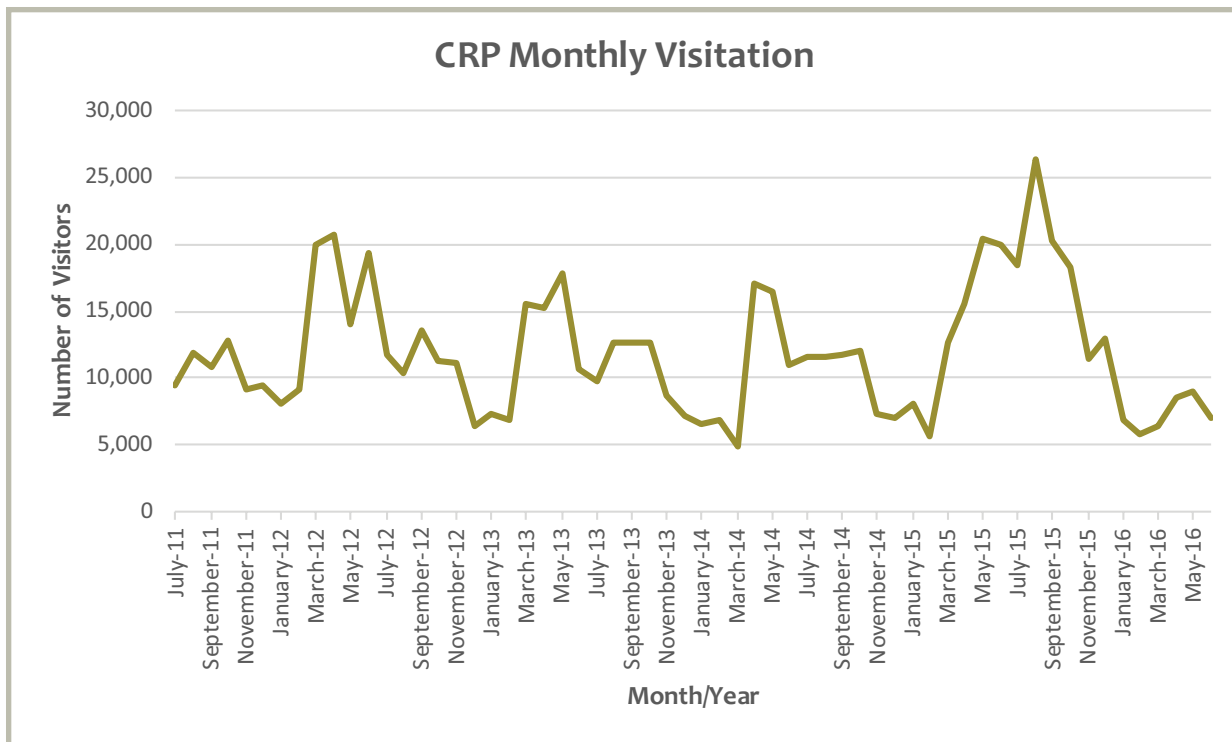


Figure 4. Monthly visitation trends at CRP since July 2011

Haw River Trail

The following graphs show visitation to the Haw River Trail since FY 2011-2012. HRT land and paddle access points and parks are maintained by both Alamance Parks and other HRT partners. The data is presented both as a total for all HRT sites in Alamance County, and broken down by sites managed by AP and those managed by partner organizations.

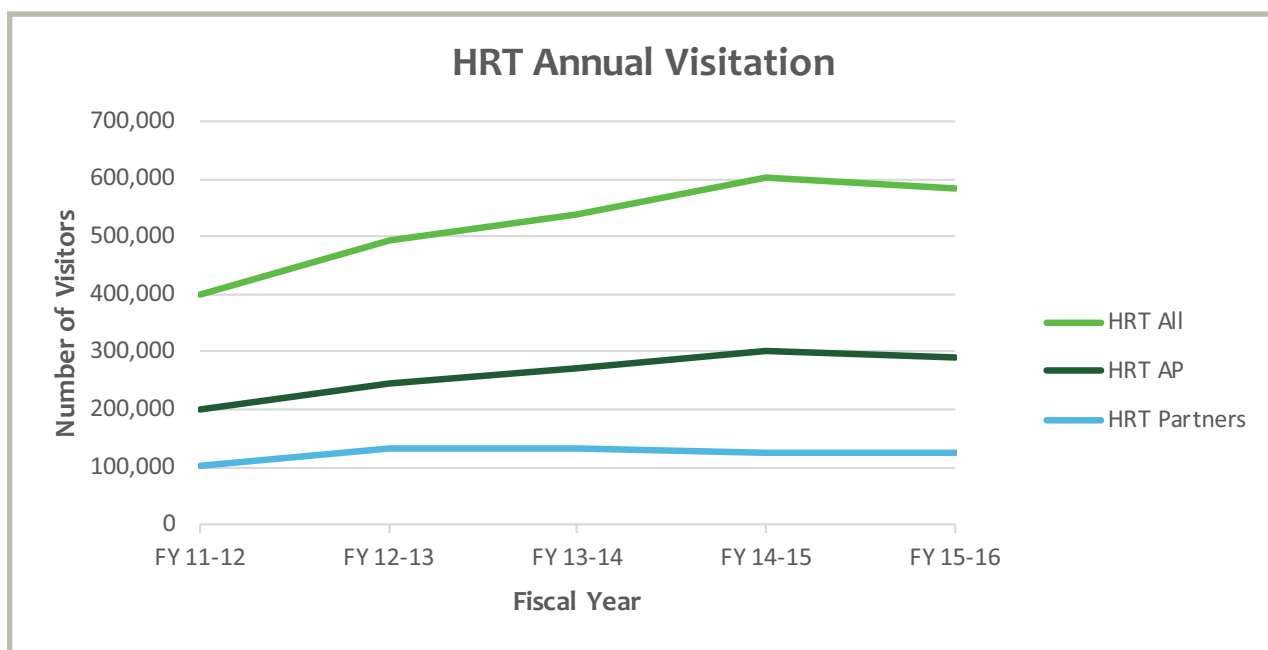


Figure 5. Total annual HRT visitation each fiscal year from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2015-2016

The Haw River Trail combined annual visitation in FY 2011-2012 was 200,104. It has risen to 292,161 for FY 2015-2016 (Figure 5). This represents a 46% increase in visitation over the past five years, with an average 10% increase in visitors per year. Haw River Trail sites managed by Alamance Parks have shown a 68% increase in visitation since FY 2011-2012, while sites managed by HRT partners have shown a 25% increase in visitation.

In FY 2015-2016, a new paddle access was installed which should result in an increase in the number of visitors to the HRT as paddlers begin to use the new site. Monthly visitation trends are similar to the overall AP trends with the peak visitation months occurring in the spring. However, the HRT trends show a peak that extends further into the summer months than the overall AP trend (Figure 6).

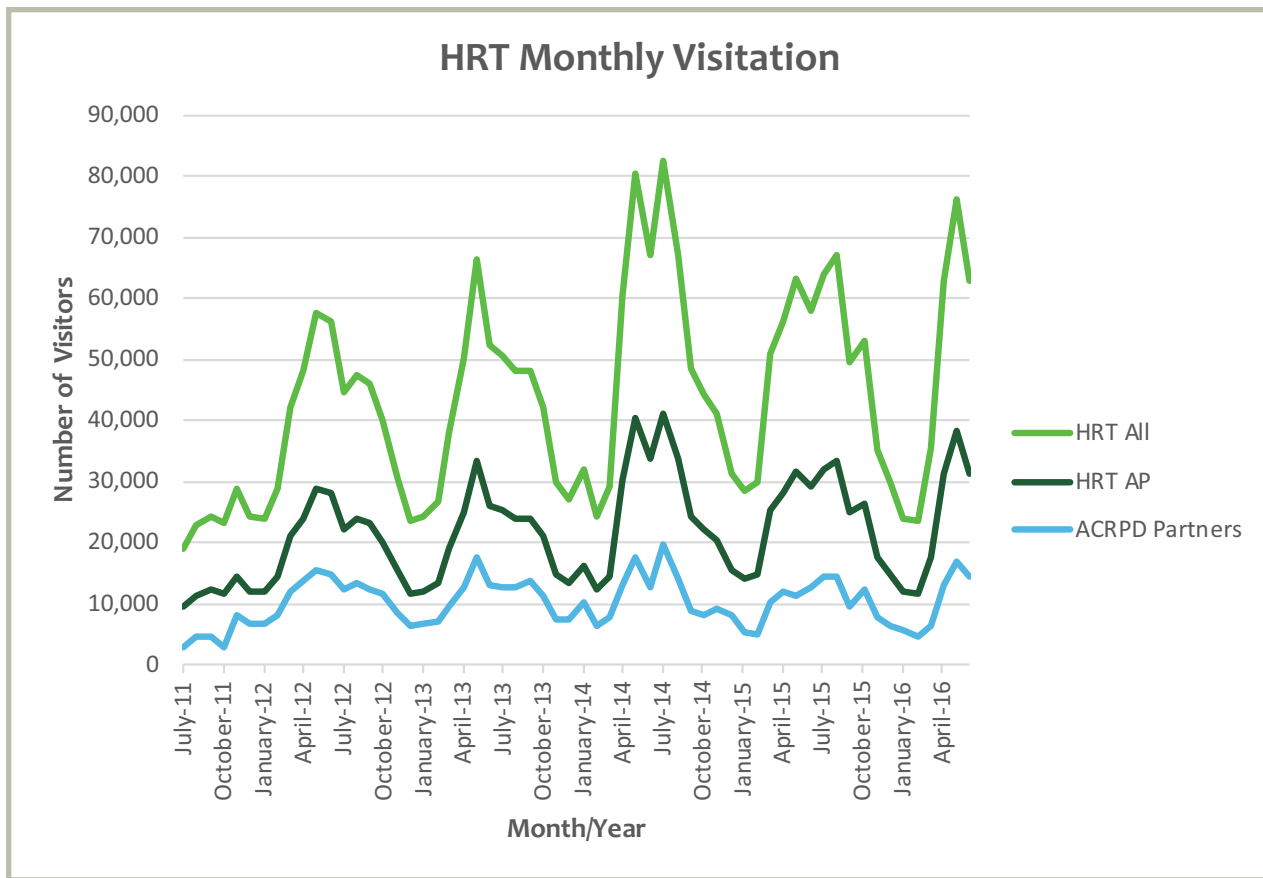


Figure 6. Monthly visitation trends for the HRT since July 2011

Community Centers

The following data explores visitation to the rural Community Centers operated by Alamance Parks, including combined totals for both Community Centers and data specific to Pleasant Grove Community Center and Eli Whitney Community Center. Visitation counting methods were improved at the Community Centers in FY 2012-2013; data prior to those years is not included.

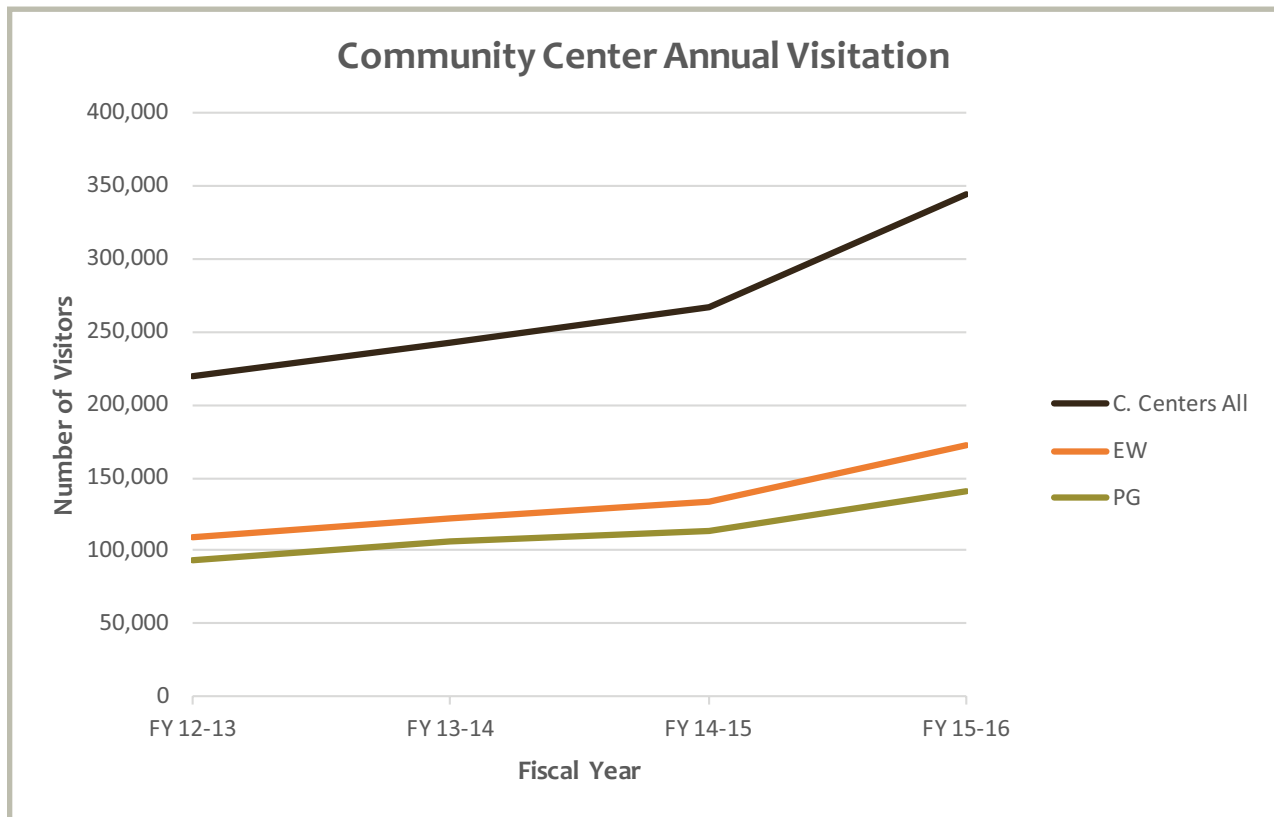


Figure 7. Total annual Community Center visitation each fiscal year from FY 2012-2013 to FY 2015-2016

The Community Center combined annual visitation in FY 2012-2013 was 109,924. It has risen to 171,799 for FY 2015-2016 (Figure 7). This represents a 56% increase in visitation over the past five years, with an average 16% increase in visitors per year. Pleasant Grove Community Center has shown a 49% increase in visitation since FY 2012-2013, while Eli Whitney has experienced a 97% increase in visitation.

In FY 2015-2016, Alamance Parks began a number of improvements to Eli Whitney. It is expected that visitation will increase as facility improvements continue. Monthly visitation for the Community Centers shows trends less dependent on the weather, with steady visitation from spring through fall, a peak in the fall, and a dip in the winter (Figure 8).

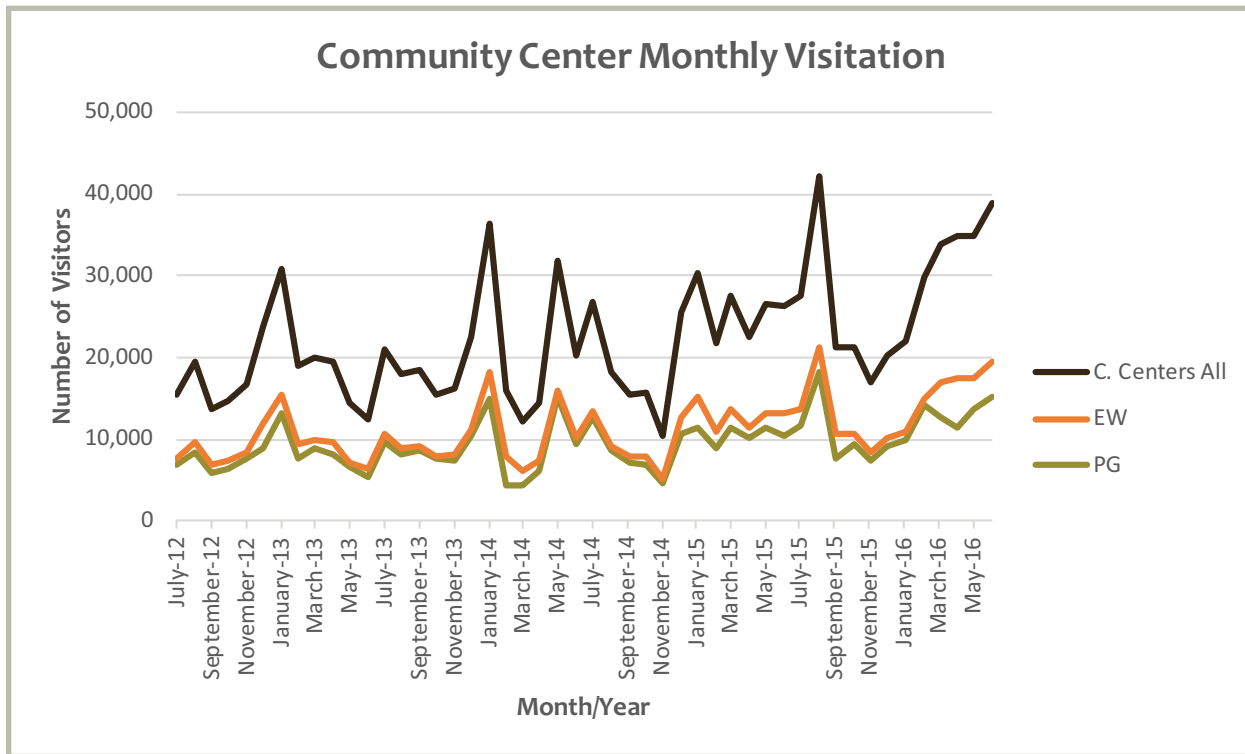


Figure 8. Monthly visitation trends for the Community Centers since July 2012



