







Annual Report 2017-2018

Alamance Parks

For more than 40 years, Alamance Parks has worked 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 Cedarock Park, Great Bend Park, Shallow Ford Natural Area, Saxapahaw Island Park, and trails associated with the Haw River Trail. Cedarock 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 open gym, fitness centers, group walks, fitness and yoga classes, senior and family bingo, arts and crafts, 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 534,199 visitors, and our athletics programs enrolled over 1,220 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 129,501 members of the community last year. Alamance Parks strives each year to expand and improve upon the opportunities and services it provides to the community.

From the Director

The close of the 2017-18 fiscal year marks another successful chapter for Alamance Parks. The past year continued the recent pattern of increased attendance for our department and brought new opportunities that will allow us to expand our impact on the community in the future. We continue to focus on our goals of supporting community health and wellness, conserving unique natural places and providing equal access to all members of the community.

An improving economy often means decreased attendance for local recreation and parks departments. However, interest in our traditional offerings remains strong. We saw steady attendance at Cedarock Park and at our rural community centers. Attendance at Alamance Parks' Haw River Trail parks and accesses continued to increase, reaching over 244,000 for the year. Overall, we have experienced an increase in visitation of 75% percent over the past 7 years and serve more than 500,000 visitors per year.

We also made important changes this year that will increase our ability to serve the public in the future. In particular, we began a long-term partnership with the Glencoe Textile Heritage Museum. This partnership will ensure the long-term growth of the museum, a valuable economic asset to County's tourism industry. The museum is a natural fit for Alamance Parks, complementing the Cedarock Park Historical Farm and expanding the ability of Alamance Parks to tell the story of people and places of Alamance County to residents and visitors alike.

We continue to strive towards meeting the demand for new parks and facilities. In the past year, we opened phase one of the Cedarock Park Equestrian Center, a new section of the Haw River Trail and a new park on Saxapahaw Island. We also continued to acquire property for the future Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area, which we now plan to be a 600+ acre nature park featuring the highest peak in North Carolina east of Greensboro.

We are tremendously thankful to the citizens of Alamance County for allowing us to serve this community. Your continued support of our parks and programs is helping us make Alamance County a better place to live and work. We look forward to seeing you at our parks in the coming year.

-Brian Baker, Director

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Our Mission:

To improve the quality of life of Alamance County residents. Through our parks and programs, we encourage healthy lifestyles for children and adults, provide inclusive activities for all of our citizens, and provide access to the natural world.

Cedarock Park

Overview

Cedarock Park is a 500-acre park located in southern Alamance County that enjoys more than 140,000 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 Equestrian Center Park Complex opened in late April 2018 and includes trailer parking, campsites, running water and a riding ring. The equestrian entrance provides easy access to 6 miles of dedicated equestrian trail. This is a beautiful wooded trail that offers hills,



Entrance to Cedarock Park

creek crossings, flat areas, and scenic views of the whole park. Future plans for the property include construction of equestrian stables, restroom facilities, and a riding ring to house horses and offer trail rides and lessons.

The pond was again stocked with a variety of sport fish including trout. The fishing pass program continued to be successful, generating \$4,028 in revenue.

The pollinator plot, which is sponsored by the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District, was a favorite attraction for visitors in the early summer. The project is a part of a statewide conservation restoration initiative known as Butterfly Highway. The goal of the program is to restore native flowering plant networks in order to support pollinators.

Improvement Projects

- Installed new entrance signs Cedarock Park and Cedarock Equestrian Complex
- Installed new roof at Cedarock Main Office
- Purchased new boiler for Cedarock Main Office
- Construction of Equestrian Center Campsites
- Addition of the Pollinator Plot (spearheaded by the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District)
- Began restoration of the Garrett Log Cabin.
- New fencing added around the mule pasture.
- Restocked the main pond for fishing, including trout in the fall.



The pollinator plot, initiated by the Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District, drew a lot of attention from visitors and was very popular with photographers in the area.





The Alamance Parks administrative offices received a new roof and boiler in 2018.

Events/Programs

- Farm to Table Program (9/19-20/2017): Students from all over Alamance County came to Cedarock 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. (more than 800 fourth-graders)
- Take a Child Outside Week: Fishing Fun (9/25/17), Nature Walk (9/27/2017): These events focus on involving children in fun, outdoor activities. Fishing Fun was held at Cedarock Park and Nature Walk was held at Shallow Ford Natural Area. (15 attendees)



- **Bird Watching** (9/30/17): This event was cohosted by the Burlington Bird Club Participants hiked along the Curtis Mill and Rock Trail Trails and were guided in species identification. (15 attendees)
- Cedarock Campout (Fall Campout: 10/21/17), (Spring Campout 5/5/2018): A fun, family-friendly campout event which captured the wonder of the outdoors and excitement of group camping. These campouts were open to campers of all skill levels and ages and included activities such as stargazing, s'more making, and entertainment. Held in the fall and spring, the Cedarock Campout is one of our most popular events with over 50 participants to each event. (small fee)
- Cedarock Fall Festival (10/7/2017): This annual festival celebrates the rich history and traditions of Alamance County. The festival included a variety of old-time children's games, antique automobiles and farm equipment, live music, historic Garrett House tours, traditional crafts and trades such as canning, weaving, and beekeeping, and food and drink for purchase. (more than 600 attendees)

- The Sneaky Pete Disc Golf Tournament (10/28/17-10/29/17): Cedarock Park hosted the 32nd annual 2-day, A-Tier PDGA Disc Golf Tournament presented by Spike Hyzer. Cedarock Park served as tournament central, with 3 of the 4 courses, player check-in, and post-tournament awards held at the park.
- Run at the Rock (12/2/2017): A popular annual trail race, which offers 7 and 14 mile options through Cedarock 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. (approximately 212 entrants)
- **S'more Santa** (12/15/2017): Participants visited Cedarock Historical Farm for hot chocolate, s'mores and photo ops with Santa. (over 100 attendees)
- NC Envirothon (4/27/18-4/28/18): Cedarock Park hosts 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. Approximately 1,000 students and adults attended the event.
- **Historic Talk and Walk** (6/6/2018): A guided hike through Shallow Ford Natural Area featuring local historian Bob Ellis. (2 attendees)





Facility Use

- 175 Group Shelter Reservations: Cedarock Park's shelters and gazebos are available for rent for parties, gatherings, and special events.
- 388 Day and 57 Annual Fishing Passes: Once again, Alamance Parks provided fishing passes (day passes at \$5.00; annual passes at \$25.00). Revenue covers the cost of stocking the pond with a wider variety of fish.
- 73 Campsite Rentals: Campsites are available for rental at Cedarock Park (7), Cedarock Equestrian Center (4), and Shallow Ford (3).

Attendance

Month	# Visitors at Cedarock Park
July 2017	15,252
August 2017	14,170
September 2017	15,000
October 2017	14,479
November 2017	10,697
December 2017	8,345
January 2018	6,157
February 2018	7,187
March 2018	10,750
April 2018	13,893
May 2018	12,755
June 2018	10,505
TOTAL	139,190

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.

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

- Extension of walking track area. The extension provides nearly a mile of surfaced walking trail winding through the property with new landscaping showcasing native wildflowers and trees.
- Installation of new picnic tables and park benches.
- New landscaping around Community Center building and walking track area featuring native plants and flowers.







Pleasant Grove Community Center walking track and picnic tables.

Eli Whitney Community Center

- Extensive restroom and lobby flooring renovations.
- Upgraded air systems in Fitness and Athletic Supply rooms.
- Continued landscaping improvements





Eli Whitney Lobby before (left) and after (right) featuring new flooring and fresh paint.





New tile was installed in both bathrooms at Eli Whitney.

Events/Programs

Pleasant Grove Community Center

- Fitness Center, Open Gym, Craft Class, Chair Yoga, Movie Days, Card Games, Senior & Family Bingo, Bingo Potluck Lunch, Cornhole/Bocce, Walking Wednesdays, Stretch & Tone Exercise: These programs are offered routinely.
- Homeschool Hikes: PG staff led six Homeschool Hike activities free for K-6th grade students. Each hike combined a Project Learning Tree activity and a short hike at various Alamance Parks including Cedarock Park, the Haw River Trail, and more.
- **PG Field Trips**: Field trips included the ACC culinary lunch, the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center and Center City Park, the NC State Fair, a movie, and the Festival of Lights.
- **PG Farmer's Market Trips**: Trips were provided from PG to both the local North Park Farmer's Market and the Raleigh Farmer's market to promote healthy and fresh food choices.
- Pleasant Grove Summer Camp (June-August): This annual summer camp was offered for children ages 5-12. Weekly activities included arts & crafts, structured gym activities, swimming, bowling, volunteer activities, field trips, a talent show, and more. The 2018 camp had 26 campers at an average of 21 per week.





Summer Campers enjoy a hike followed by playground time at Saxapahaw Island Park.

- **Pumpkin Painting Workshop** (10/7/2017): PG hosted a free pumpkin painting party for 15 children ages 4-12. Children were able to paint pumpkins and participate in other nature crafts.
- Santa's Workshop (12/16/2017): PG hosted Santa's Workshop, established in 2003 to bring together volunteers to help spread Christmas Cheer. Participants and volunteers made gifts to be delivered to senior residents and their caretakers at assisted living facilities in the area.
- **Kids Path** (12/2017): PG partnered with Kids Path to provide Christmas gifts to terminally ill children.
- Summer Camp Expo (3/17/2018): 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 (camps, athletics, and more), as well as vendors, door prizes, face painting, demonstrations, and a Kids Zone with games, crafts, and more.





Eli Whitney Community Center

- 87th Annual Uncle Eli's Quilting Party Exhibition (4/5/2018): This historic event begun by educator E.P. Dixon has been hosted annually at EW since 1931. This year marked the 87th anniversary of this unique exhibition. During the event, area residents and visitors from across the state bring quilts to display and projects to work on together. This year featured a "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.



"Grandmother's Flower Garden" is displayed at Uncle Eli's Quilting Party Exhibition.

- **Fitness Room**: The fitness room is open to the public year-round for free use at specific times, several days per week.
- Youth Basketball 2017-2018 Season: Eli Whitney hosted games in 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

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

Attendance

Month	# Visitors Pleasant Grove	# Visitors Eli Whitney
July 2017	6,572	2,834
August 2017	5,221	2,890
September 2017	9,821	2,950
October 2017	8,340	3,003
November 2017	6,420	2,647
December 2017	9,723	2,418
January 2018	10,858	3,284
February 2018	5,529	5,754
March 2018	5,685	5,754
April 2018	5,230	4,044
May 2018	6,135	3,947
June 2018	6,696	3,746
SUBTOTALS	86,230	43,271
TOTAL	129,501	

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 the 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. Within Alamance County, five partnership agencies operate and manage the trail system including Alamance 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, 19 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.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year was a productive one for the trail. Development of the new Longmeadow section of land trail was completed in early October and features nearly two miles of new trail along the river in Graham. Saxapahaw Island Park and Trailhead opened in April and sits in the heart of Saxapahaw. The park spans 30 acres and features walking trails, a playground, and a meadow in addition to nearby river access. Additionally 1 mile of trail was added at Swepsonville River Park and 1.5 miles of trail were added behind Saxapahaw Mill.

The Department is continuing work to develop the trail system and acquire land access in the southern part of the county, in the Cane Creek Mountain Natural Area. Efforts are also focused on acquiring trail easements in Northern Alamance County.

Improvement Projects

- Development of the new Longmeadow section of land trail which added 1.5 miles of trail in Graham.
- Completion of Saxapahaw Island Park and Trailhead which added walking trail and a playground.
- Addition of 1 mile of trail at Swepsonville River Park
- Addition of 1.5 miles of trail behind Saxapahaw Mill before the Alamance County Landfill.

Events/Programs

• Trailathlon (11/4/2017): The 4th annual Trailathlon was held in collaboration with the community of Saxapahaw. The event is a fundraiser for the Haw River Trail and brings together people of all skill levels to enjoy the river. Trailathlon is a multi-sport adventure race that combines a paddle, bike ride, and trail run. (approximately 55 participants)





• Yee-Haw! River Paddle (6/30/2018): The 11th annual Yee Haw! River Paddle was held in collaboration with Burlington Recreation and Parks and Graham Recreation and Parks. The event featured the Yee Haw! River Paddle beginning at Shallow Ford Natural Area and ending at Indian Valley Golf Course. A family and beginners' paddle as held in the flat water section between the Indian Valley and Glencoe dams. (approximately 40 participants)

Meetings, Presentations & Outreach

Staff made presentations and/or provided consulting services to the following organizations:

- Altamahaw Community
- Alamance Community College
- Orange County
- Alamance County Wellness Fair
- Swepsonville Town Council
- Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (FMST)
- Elon University
- Glencoe Community
- Chatham County
- Belong in Burlington
- Impact Alamance Wellness Collaborative (3/21/2017)
- Piedmont Trails Summit
- Appalachian State University
- Impact Alamance Wellness Summit
- FMST Communities Conference
- Piedmont Legacy Trails Steering Committee

Haw River Trail Attendance

HRT Sites - Green

Month	Altamahaw PA	Shallow Ford NA	Great Bend Park	Glencoe PA	Great Alam. Creek PA	Longmeadow	Sweps. Upper
July 2017	2,120	2,511	2,241	1,845	741	N/A	3,944
August 2017	1,773	3,033	2,079	2,231	1,039	N/A	3,698
September 2017	1,751	3,133	1,794	1,836	854	N/A	3,344
	1,101	2,122	.,	.,		.,,	5,011
October 2017	1,474	2,678	2,024	1,546	684	660	2,295
November 2017	996	2,244	1,791	1,152	572	378	2,344
December 2017	957	1,621	1,475	912	452	396	2,145
		,	,				,
January 2018	1,510	1,662	1,026	848	409	301	1,795
Febraury 2018	1,231	2,604	2,397	2,231	746	252	2,154
March 2018	Temp. Closed	3,705	2,516	2,111	740	302	2,889
April 2018	Temp. Closed	3,889	3,163	2,005	639	389	3,020
May 2018	Temp. Closed	3,450	2,273	2,510	787	495	4,528
June 2018	Temp. Closed	3,498	2,278	2,109	797	338	4,668
SUBTOTAL	11,812	34,028	25,057	21,336	8,460	3,511	36,824
TOTAL	295,412						

HRT Partner Sites - Blue

Sweps. Lower	Sax. Mill Race PA	Sax. Lake PA	Sax. Island	Union Bridge PA	Graham-Hwy 54 PA	Red Slide Park	Town & Country
2,271	4,196	2,939	NA	597	2,249	3,203	996
2,794	3,921	3,453	NA	573	2,101	2,723	797
2,467	3,238	2,788	NA	397	2,190	2,555	784
2,285	2,909	2,520	NA	337	1,766	2,500	410
1,704	1,046	1,681	NA	219	1,257	1,532	N/A
1,405	1,190	1,239	NA	199	1,122	1,496	N/A
1,333	691	1,146	NA	132	732	1,127	N/A
1,720	881	1,461	NA	245	1,527	1,534	N/A
1,720	1,289	1,573	NA	154	1,635	2,017	N/A
2,118	1,981	2,324	3,744	231	1,680	2,576	N/A
2,763	4,199	3,285	5,928	732	2,183	2,950	N/A
2,671	4,052	3,726	6,345	783	2,301	2,846	N/A
25,251	29,593	28,135	16,017	4,599	20,743	27,059	2,987

Total HRT Visitation 2017-2018: 295,412

Key

Alam.= Alamance PA= Paddle Access Hwy= Highway Sax.= Saxapahaw NA= Natural Area Sweps.=Swepsonville

Athletics

Overview

Alamance Parks offers baseball, softball, basketball and football for youth ages 5 to 14. The department manages four athletic complexes located at A.O. Elementary School, 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.



Improvement Projects

A.O. Athletic Park

- Designed, ordered, and installed new signage for dugouts and park regulations
- Purchased and installed new restroom fixtures
- Purchased new trash and recycling receptacles
- Installed new safety netting for Field #1
- Replaced player benches
- Contracted lawn care maintenance

E.M Holt Athletic Park

- Designed, ordered, and installed new Clyde Pike sign.
- Replaced picnic table tops
- Purchased new trash and recycling receptacles
- Installed new park benches

B. Everett Jordan Athletic Park

- Installed new picnic tables for the concession pavilion
- Contracted lawn care maintenance

Sylvan Athletic Park

Replaced picnic table

Programs

Sport	Teams	Players	Games
Little League Baseball	8	91	32
Little League Softball	3	28	12
Little League Tee Ball	8	98	28
Club Baseball	36	N/A	163
Club Softball	22	N/A	88
Alamance Parks (AP)	21	518	88
Football			
AP Girls Basketball	15	132	60
AP Boys Basketball	38	360	175
TOTALS	151	1,228	646



Little League Baseball

Now in its eighth year, Little League baseball in Alamance County 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. 217 athletes and 19 teams were involved in the 2017-2018 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 36 club baseball teams, 22 club softball teams, 38 boys basketball teams, 15 girls basketball teams, and 21 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
- Gibsonville Recreation

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 three statewide competitions. Spring Games is always the largest event and this year included over 400 athletes and over 1,500 volunteers (one of the largest volunteer opportunities in Alamance County). SOAC participation numbers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year were:

Sport	Program	Tournament	Date	# Athletes	# Volunteers
Basketball	35	Local	1/13/2018-3/24/2018	350	100
Spring	NA	Local	4/20/2018	400	1,500
Games					
Aquatics	30	State	6/1/2018-6/3/2018	2	2
Golf	8	State	11/3/2018-11/6/2017	4	4
Bocce	3	Local	10/20/2017	175	25
		State	11/3/2017-11/5/2017	3	2
Bowling	45	Local	10/1/2017-10/20/2017	300	100
			& 10/27/2017		
		State	6/1/2018-6/3/2018	13	6
Equestrian	NA	State	9/29/2017-10/1/2017	11	10

- Fall Tournament (11/3/2017-11/5/2017: Seven SOAC athletes attended fall tournament to compete in Bocce and Golf.
- **Spring Games** (4/20/2018): Elon University is our partner for Special Olympics Spring Games, through which the University provides facilities, volunteers, and support for the event. The Games include track events, Olympic town games, music & dancing, softball throws, games, and more. There were 400 participants and over 1,500 volunteers from Elon University, local schools, civic groups, local companies, and athlete friends and families.
- Lifespan Junior Olympics (5/19/2018): 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 Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Junior Olympic Games, and a visit from the Burlington Fire Department to check out the Fire Truck!
- Summer Games (6/1/2018-6/3/2018): Fifteen SOAC athletes attended the Special Olympics North Carolina Summer Games to compete in swimming and bowling. They brought home two gold, one silver, and six bronze medals in addition to several placement metals.







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. Almost 100% of the county high schools are involved. Alamance County was number 2 in the state in the 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
- Garrett Elementary School
- Highland Elementary School

Visually Impaired Program (VIP)

Alamance Parks provides a monthly outing for over 40 visually impaired County residents. The 2017-2018 outings included the annual Greensboro Grasshoppers game, the NC State Fair, a UNCG basketball game, a pottery class at Elmira Recreation Center, pot luck bingo, bowling, the annual Christmas Party, a Putt-Putt golf tournament, a visit to Lazy 5 Ranch, the Cedarock Cookout and attendance at the Carousel Festival.







Left and Middle: Members of the VIP program enjoyed a cookout at Cedarock Park. Right: VIP Pottery Class.

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 and Alamance County Mayors Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

Fundraising Efforts

- Letter Campaign (7/2017)
- Annual Shag Club Golf Tournament (9/2017)
- 7th Annual Brewballs Golf Tournament (10/2017)
- Haw River Police Department's Haw River Trail Run (10/2017)









Photo highlights from the 2018 Summer Games, held in Raleigh. Our athletes brought home two gold, one silver, and six bronze medals in addition to several other placement metals.

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 Alamance Parks and Haw River Trail websites, Facebook Pages, locally distributed print flyers, press releases, and more.

Public Relations Events

- 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 bimonthly meetings, assisted with Lunch & Learn programs, Spring into Fitness donations & celebration, Wellness Fair Planning, & coordination of Summer Camp & Safe Kids Expo.
- Alamance Wellness Collaborative: Alamance Parks collaborated with other jurisdictions to improve health and wellness in the greater Alamance community.
- 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.

Communications

- The Alamance Parks and Haw River Trail websites are continually updated to reflect current information and improve usability. Programs and community events are routinely updated and reflected on website calendars.
- RecDesk, our website for facility rentals and program registrations, is routinely updated and utilized for event and athletic sign-ups.
- Alamance Parks continues to advertise events and programs through additional calendars and platforms including explorealamance.com, boosted Facebook posts, use of Facebook event pages, and more.
- The Alamance Parks newsletter was distributed on a monthly basis via Mail Chimp, print, and hosted online through the website.
- The Haw River Trail newsletter is distributed seasonally via Mail Chimp, print, and hosted online through the website.
- The Cedarock Park and Haw River Trail Facebook pages are routinely managed with event and program announcements, as well as photos from the parks and trails and relevant information and articles.
- Flyers are designed and distributed for all department events and displayed in the Cedarock Visitor's Center as well as around other Alamance Park facilities. 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	2,520 subscribers
Haw River Trail e-Newsletter	1,145 subscribers
Cedarock Park Facebook Page	6,782 likes and a 4.8 of 5 star rating
Haw River Trail Facebook Page	705 likes and a 4 of 5 star rating
Alamance Parks Website	190,960 page views (72,876 unique)
Haw River Trail Website	47,230 page views
Cedarock Park TripAdvisor	4.5 star rating
Haw River Trail TripAdvisor	4.5 star rating

Looking Ahead

Over the coming year, continued enhancements will be made to the Alamance Parks and Haw River Trail websites. Our goal is to increase post frequency and user engagement with both facebook pages and explore the possibility of utilizing Instagram as an additional social media tool. Printed materials, including flyers, brochures and newsletters will be routinely created, updated and made accessible to the public. Alamance Parks and Haw River Trail facility signage will be updated and replaced as necessary.



Website Banners, like the one above, advertise upcoming programs and events on the home page.



Events are promoted and boosted via Facebook in order to increase visibility and drive traffic to events.

Alamance County Visitors Bureau

Overview

The Tourism and Development Authority contracted with the county to have the Alamance County Visitors Bureau be part of the Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department. Under this structure, the bureau will continue to receive input and direction from the Tourism and Development Authority.

Alamance County Tourism

The primary objective of the Visitors Bureau is to increase the economic impact of tourism in Alamance County. A key facet of this goal is to increase Alamance County's visitor engagement and overnight accommodations through continued marketing efforts, including cooperative marketing, advertising, social media, and earned media. Towards this objective, the bureau conducted a market segment survey that provided reporting on hotel customers' purposes for visiting the County (e.g. business, sports, etc.). The bureau also collects data on occupancy and sales tax revenue. Please refer to the following charts for a snapshot of the 2017-2018 progress towards these goals.



BURLINGTON · MEBANE · ELON
GRAHAM · SAXAPAHAW

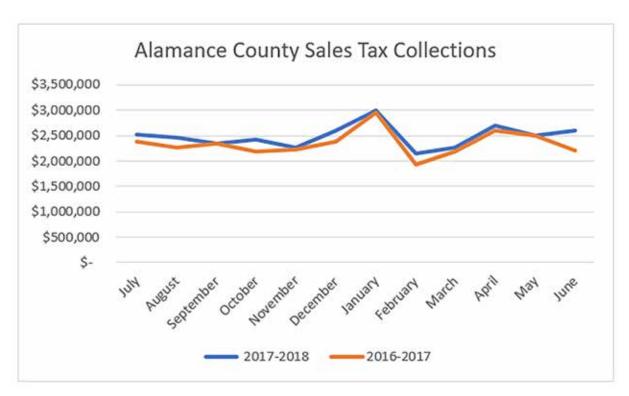


Figure 1. Alamance County Sales Tax Collections for FY 2017-2018 vs. FY 2016-2017

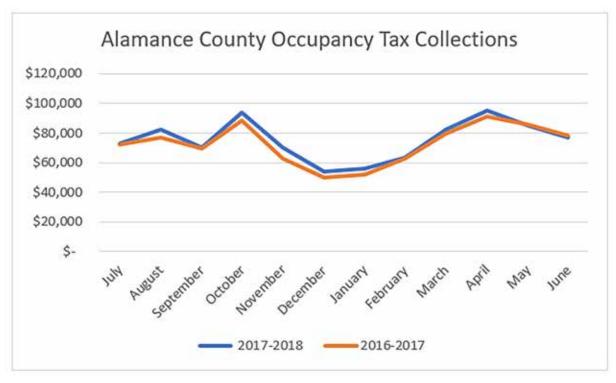


Figure 2. Alamance County Occupancy Tax Collections for FY 2017-2018 vs. FY 2016-2017. Year End Totals: \$903,641 vs. \$869,595

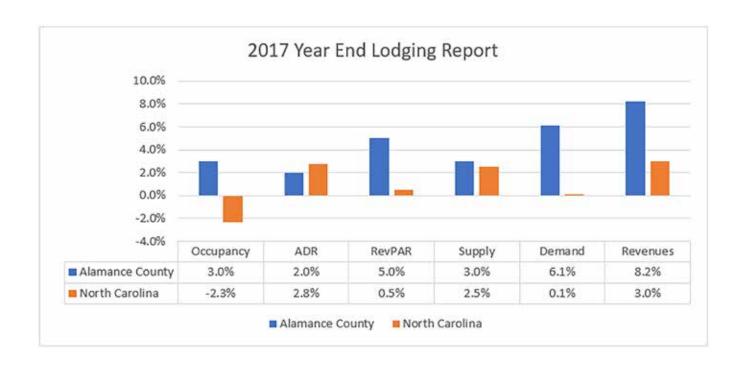


Figure 3. Lodging Report, January – December 2017. Source: STR, Inc. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited. Figures for North Carolina are funded, contracted and released by Visit North Carolina.

As reported by Visit NC, visitor spending has experienced continued growth across the state. North Carolina is the 6th most visited state in the nation with more than 46 million visitors in 2017. Of counties experiencing the largest percentage increase in visitor spending, Alamance County ranked 8th in the state, with a 6% increase over last year. Domestic travelers' expenditures came in at \$190.73 million. An increase in tourism employment (4th highest increase among counties), sales tax and local tax receipts were also experienced.

Marketing/Website

The Visitors Bureau's new, branded website is in final development and will launch in September. In addition, a new Guidebook has been in development and should be finalized and in production by November.

Our office continues to work to enhance partner relationships to assist in increasing attendance at events and programs, as well as the overarching visitor awareness of the county. This is an ongoing effort and has included developing and enhancing relationships with key county partners including organizations and attractions such as municipalities and downtown businesses.

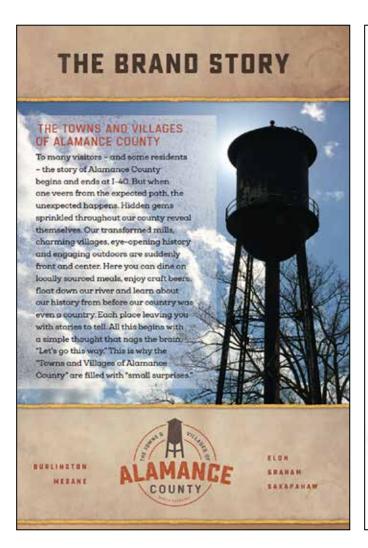
Over the past year, we have hosted familiarization tours for our front-line tourism employees, attended numerous trade shows covering leisure and group markets, participated in media missions with the state and have cooperatively worked with VisitNC on additional marketing. Our marketing plan also includes advertising in local and regional publications, sponsorships and digital platforms. We had one new promotional brochure created for our local museums.

The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) offered a grant earlier in the year, of which (3) partners were awarded upwards of \$5,000 for promotion and marketing purposes. These included the Carousel Festival through Btown Events, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation Pow Wow and the Conservators Center.

The Visitors Bureau is a partner of the Piedmont Triad Destination Marketing Organization, which is made up of 11 counties in the Piedmont. The group has recently completed their own strategic plan and brand. The members are collaboratively working together to further market and enhance the area and our many complimentary attractions and events, with a brand and campaign of "We Make North Carolina". This also allows us to better leverage our marketing dollars. The group works closely with UNC-G, PTI, and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Re-branding

The Visitors Bureau completed their re-branding along with a strategic plan. The re-branding resulted in the following messaging which will allow us to embark on a campaign to engage with our audience and our community. The brand was rolled out in July.



BEHIND THE LOGO...

The most compelling part of the logo is the water tower. This was inspired by the Glencoe Mill Village Water Tower No. 1. The stories of the mills and the towns they created are found throughout Alamance County. While our communities have evolved their history and stories start with the mills. The transformation of our county is part of the great texture of history, commerce and culture found in our county today. Some may see this as just a water tower. The important point to remember is that it is an icon because it grabs attention, creates texture and begins the story.

The other notable visual elements are the treatment of the word Alamance County and the encircled packaging of the entire mark. Research shows visitors go to events in Burlington or Elon. They dine and shop in neighboring communities. No one community inside of the county is the driver. It's the collection of all of them that makes it so interesting. For this reason, we chose to use the name Alamance County.

We also chose to add something that tells the story - The Towns and Villages of Alamance County. It's the collection, not one place. Our strategy is to connect everyone through a multi-visit experience. Visitors do not care about the geopolitical lines that define a town versus a village vensus a city, We use these words, towns and villages, to create a feeling of charm and intimacy. These things are part of what makes Alamance County a pleasant and memorable experience. It is also intended to use specific names of communication and marketing direction allows.



BRANDING ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA IS MORE THAN JUST A LOGO. IT'S A STORY WE ALL SHARE!

Everyone in Alarmance County delivers small surprises. It may be a signature dish at a local restaurant or by sharing the charming villages and beautiful outdoors of Alamance County, it may be simply the warm hospitality given to guests. Whatever your local connection, we encourage you to be a part of Alamance's small surprises. Find your own unique expressions of 'Small Surprises' and be a part of branding the Towns and Villages of Alamance County, North Carolinal

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 2017-2018	
Shelters	\$5,101.22	
Gyms	\$4,099.67	
Fishing Passes	\$4,028.00	
Other	\$2,259.87	
SUBTOTAL	\$15,488.76	
Program Fees	Revenue 2017-2018	
Summer Camp	\$13,040.00	
Athletics	\$10,595.55	
SUBTOTAL	\$23,635.55	
TOTAL	\$39,124.31	

Donations/Sponsorships

Division	Donations/Sponsorships 2017-2018	
Cedarock Park	\$6,040.25	
Haw River Trail	\$3,175.15	
Special Olympics	\$13,101.98	
TOTAL	\$22,317.38	

Grant Awards & Department Planning

- \$295,000 grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) for the acquisition of the Henderson-Dixon land track, approximately 152.2 acres situated in the Cane Creek Mountains range. This parcel will combine with two previously acquired parcels to create the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area, a planned passive use nature park with the potential to reach as much as 1,000 acres in size.
- \$65,000 grant from Impact Alamance for the Boyd's Creek Bridge. These funds will be used to construct a pedestrian foot bridge over Boyd's Creek in Haw River. This bridge will provide increased access to the hiking trail for nearby residents.
- \$300,000 grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for acquisition of land in Northern Alamance for development of the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail.







Staff & Facility Information

Overview

Alamance Parks staff restructuring in 2017-2018 included the hire Kyle Walker as a Park Technician, Nolan Carter as the Pleasant Grove Community Center Supervisor and Anna Bowland as the Grants and Communications Coordinator. All Alamance Parks staff continued to participate in a variety of training and continuing education experiences including classes, webinars, workshops, and conferences.

Staff Training & Continuing Education

Classes & Workshops

- Personal Protective Equipment Secrets to Crafting a Stellar Presentation Fire Extinguisher Safety
- How to Be a Good Supervisor Safety Data Sheet Guidelines Grant Writing
- Place Making Design Beyond the Catalogue Alamance County Management Course
- Care and Maintenance of Farm Animals Leaders in Training Youth Leaders Workshop
- Invasive Plants Workshop NC Wildlife Seminar Impact Alamance Fundraiser Bootcamp
- Special Olympics NC Leadership Conference & New Coordinator Training

Webinars

- Wacom Drawing Training How To Find Your Ideal Client Special Olympics NC Fall Tournament
- Stop Child Abuse in Youth Sports Player Development: Why Kids Quit Youth Sports

Conferences

- Impact Alamance Wellness Summit Piedmont Trails Summit Parks & Recreation State Conference
- Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Summit

Full Time Staff & Facility Contact Info

Position	Name	Phone	Location
Director	Brian Baker	336-229-2229	CRPI
Parks Superintendent	Vacant	336-229-2379	CRP I
Office Manager	Dianne Neese	336-229-2410	CRP I
Athletic Director	Dan Moravec	336-570-6761	CRP I
Trails and Open Space Coordinator	Guil Johnson	336-229-2380	CRP I
Programs Superintendent	Jason Witherspoon	336-570-6288	CRP I
Special Populations Coordinator	Emily Vermeer	336-570-6760	CRP I
Grants and Communications Coordinator	Anna Bowland	336-229-2230	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 I	Robert Shropshire	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician I	Kyle Decker	336-570-6759	CRP II
Park Technician I	Kyle Walker	336-570-6759	CRP II
Pleasant Grove Community Center Supervisor	Nolan Carter	336-270-5124	PG
Historic Properties Superintendent	John Guss	336-270-5124	Glencoe
Park Technician II	Kim Brown	336-270-5124	Glencoe
Park Technician II	Dusty Cantley	336-270-5124	Glencoe
Park Technician I	Ernie Hayes	336-270-5124	Glencoe
CVB Director	Grace VandeVisser	336-570-1444	CVB
Visitors Services Representative	Amy Love	336-570-1444	CVB

Email Format for Staff

Department Email Address

first.last@alamance-nc.com

recinfo@alamance-nc.com

Main Facility Addresses

Alamance County Visitors Bureau (CVB)

200 S. Main St. (*Mailing address: PO Drawer 519)

Burlington, NC 27216

Ph: 1-800-637-3804 or 336-570-1444

Fax: 336-524-6528

CRP I (Administrative Offices/Visitor Center)

Cedarock Park 3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd. Burlington, NC 27215

Ph: 336-229-2410 Fax: 336-229-2411

CRP II (Park Office/Gift Shop)

Cedarock Park 4242 R. Dean Coleman Rd. Burlington, NC 27215

Ph: 336-570-6759

Glencoe Office

2320 Glencoe St. Burlington, NC 27217

Ph: 336-229-2410

Eli Whitney Community Center (EW)

4110 E. Greensboro-Chapel Hill Rd.

Graham, NC 27253

Ph: 336-376-6376

Pleasant Grove Community Center (PG)

3958 N. NC Hwy 49

Burlington, NC 27217

Ph: 336-270-5124

Great Bend Park

350 Greenwood Dr. Burlington, NC 27217

Ph: 336-270-5124

Shallow Ford Natural Area

1955 Gerringer Mill Rd. Elon, NC 27244

Ph: 336-270-5124

Saxapahaw Island Park

5550 Church Road Graham, NC 27253

Ph: 336-229-2410

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 & Saxapahaw Island Park)

November-February: 8am-5pm

March: 8am-6pm April: 8am-7pm

May-August: 8am-8pm

September-October: 8am-7pm

Burlington/Alamance Convention & Visitors Bureau

January-December, Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5:pm

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. Lee Isley, Chair
- Ms. Kelly May, Vice Chair
- Mr. Bill Lashley, County Commissioner
- Mr. Mark Payne, Board of Education
- Mr. Earl Jaggers
- Mr. John Paisley
- Ms. Ann Meletzke
- Ms. Barbara Massey
- Mr. Kirk Puckett



Appendix A: 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 seven years for Alamance Parks as a whole, Cedarock Park, the Haw River Trail (including both those portions maintained by Alamance Parks and the combined total of those managed by both Alamance Parks and partner organizations), 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= Cedarock 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 Cedarock Park, the Haw River Trail, and the Community Centers.

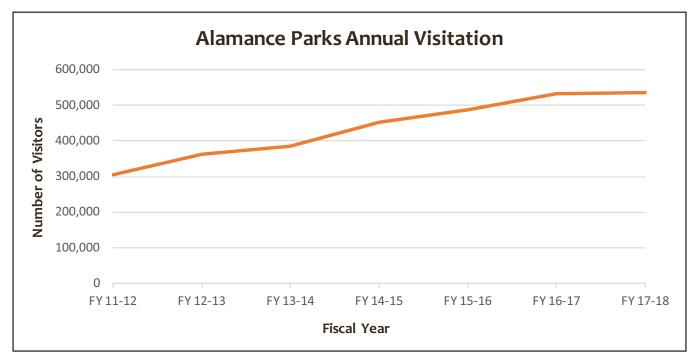


Figure 1. Total annual AP visitation each fiscal year from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2017-2018

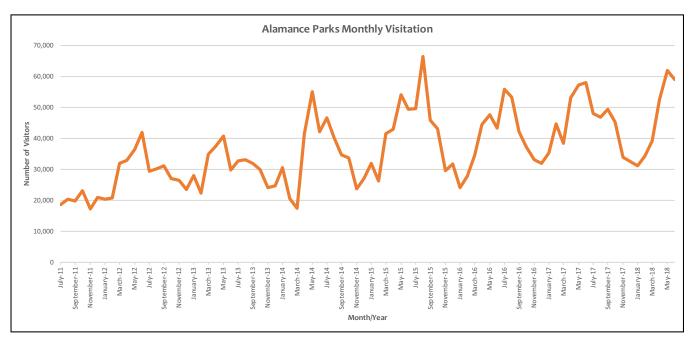


Figure 2. Monthly visitation trends at AP facilities since July 2011

The total number of visitors in FY 2011-2012 was 305,039 and has since risen to 534,199 (Figure 1). This represents a 75% increase in annual visitation over the past seven 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).

Cedarock Park

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

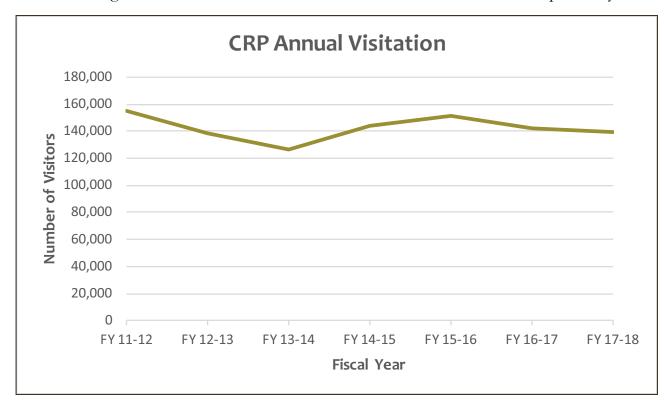


Figure 3. Total annual CRP visitation each fiscal year from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2017-2018

Cedarock Park annual visitation in FY 2011-2012 was 154,946. For FY 2017-2018, it was 139,190 (Figure 3). Figures 3 and 4 show that the visitation to Cedarock Park has remained roughly the same over the past five years. Monthly visitation trends are similar to the overall AP trends with a peak in the spring and early summer months.

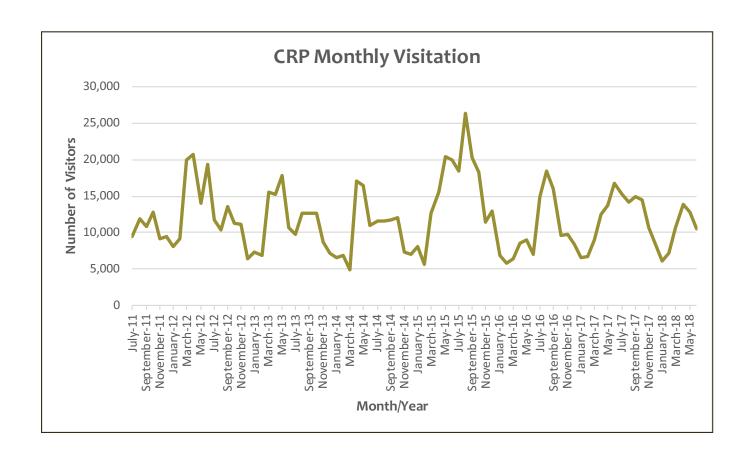


Figure 4. Monthly visitation trends at CRP since July 2011

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.

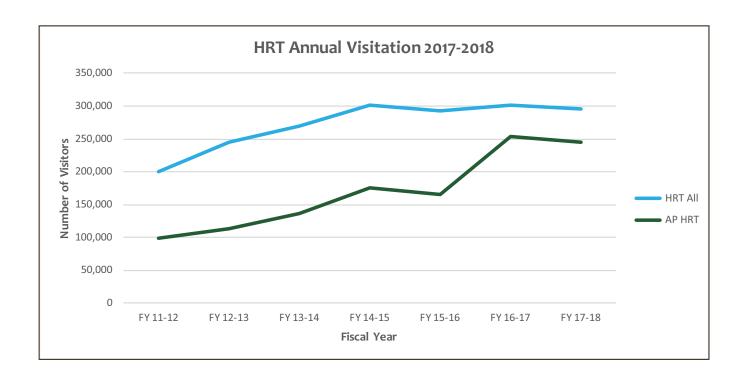


Figure 5. Total annual HRT visitation each fiscal year from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2017-2018

The Haw River Trail combined annual visitation in FY 2011-2012 was 200,104. It has risen to 295,412 for FY 2017-2018 (Figure 5). This represents a 48% increase in visitation over the past five years.

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).

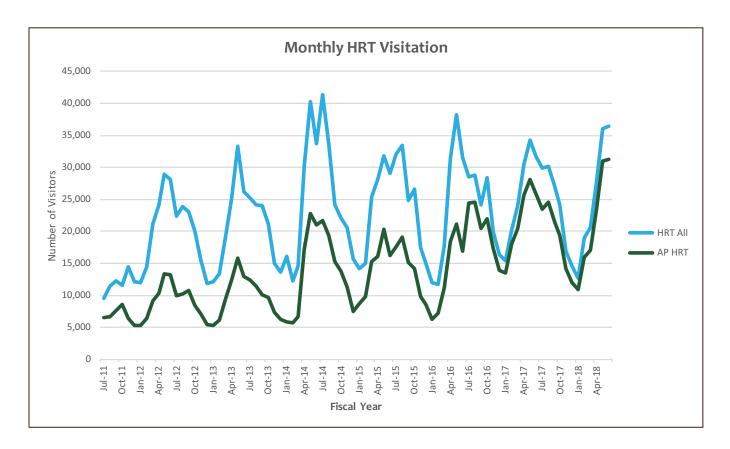


Figure 6. Monthly visitation trends for the HRT since July 2011

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 2017-18 to more accurately reflect true visitors.

The Community Center combined annual visitation in FY 2012-2013 was 109,924. It has risen to 129,501 for FY 2017-2018. This represents a 18% increase in visitation over the past six years.

In FY 2017-18, Alamance Parks completed a number of improvements to both community centers. A trend of steady, year-long visitation has occurred since these improvements. (Figure 7).

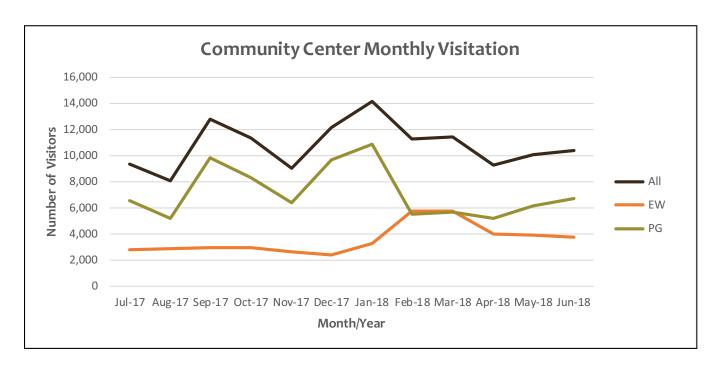


Figure 7. Monthly visitation trends for the Community Centers since July 2017

