



Agenda Abstract

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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| Meeting Date: | April 13, 2026 |
| Department: | Public Space and Sustainability |
| Agenda Section: | Consent |
| Public hearing: | No |
| Date of public hearing: | N/A |

PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Stephanie Trueblood, Public Space and Sustainability Manager

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

Subject: Resolution adopting the Principles of Universal Design for Public Spaces

Attachments:

Resolution

Summary:

On March 17, 2026, the Parks and Recreation Board received a presentation about the benefits of Universal Design from Girl Scouts Magnolia Brown and Sophia Myers, who are studying the topic for their Silver Award project. Universal Design is defined by NC State University, College of Design, Center for Universal Design as “the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.”

The 7 principles of Universal Design are:

1. Equitable Use: Useful for people with diverse abilities
2. Flexibility in Use: Accommodates a wide range of preferences and abilities
3. Simple and Intuitive Use: Easy to understand regardless of user experience
4. Perceptible Information: Communicates information effectively regardless of sensory abilities
5. Tolerance for Error: Minimizes hazards and adverse consequences
6. Low Physical Effort: Can be used comfortably with minimum fatigue
7. Size and Space: Appropriate size/space for access, regardless of user's body size or mobility

After receiving and discussing the presentation, the Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the approval of a resolution adopting the principles of Universal Design as a standard for all future planning, and construction of public spaces. The adoption of Universal Design principles is a recommendation in the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan.

Financial impacts:

Retrofitting public spaces to incorporate Universal Design would carry significant costs but the principles can be integrated, without adding a lot of cost, to future public space plans.

Staff recommendation and comments:

None

Action requested:

Approve resolution.