TOWN OF WAXHAW
PARKS, CULTURAL & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
2026 Work Plan

The Town of Waxhaw Parks, Cultural & Recreation Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as "the Board," works in conjunction with the Town of Waxhaw Parks and Recreation Department, hereinafter referred to as "Parks and Rec," staff to assist with Waxhaw's most visible quality of life initiatives. Board members are leader volunteers, public officials appointed by the Town of Waxhaw Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as "the BOC," charged with advising Parks and Rec and the BOC on Waxhaw-centric cultural, environmental conservation, and recreation needs and ensuring the equitable distribution of amenities for all residents.

The purpose of the Board is to promote, advise, and assist Parks and Rec, the BOC, and other departments on matters related to parks, culture, environmental conservation, and recreation initiatives. This includes but is not limited to:

- Identifying and pursuing new opportunities for funding sources;
- Volunteering at events and programs;
- Reviewing policies and rules regarding Parks and Rec facilities;
- Development of long-term planning for events, programs, and facilities;
- Promoting the need for parks, culture, environmental conservation, and recreation as part of a well-rounded community;
- Reviewing and recommending proposed projects, designs, and acquisitions related to parks, trails/greenways, and other recreation and cultural amenities, and;
- Assisting other advisory boards and committees of the Town;

To that end, the Board has developed the following work plan for the 2026 work year to position Parks and Rec, the BOC, and the Town to meet future park and trail/greenway development, cultural, environmental conservation, and recreation needs.

As the Town has experienced much growth in recent years, the completion of several Parks and Rec projects has languished as other projects have risen in priority. In addition, several policies that impact Parks and Rec amenities and programming require updating to make them consistent with current needs. Finally, collaboration among the various advisory boards and committees has also arisen as the BOC and the Town seek to create greater efficiencies and opportunities for greater public outreach. The 2026 work plan will address these issues, focusing on the following criteria.

Public Outreach and Engagement

The Board will disseminate information to the public concerning the progress of plans and projects through their interactions with the public by any means to achieve this end. The Board will develop consistent messaging and direction for its members so they may serve the community as ambassadors, share information with the public, and be a conduit for feedback concerning the various plans and projects.

To ensure the Board secures as much public input as possible on current and future plans and projects, Board members will volunteer for at least fifty percent (50%) of the Town's events and programs during the year including at least one parade and one large event (Kaleidoscope Fest or Autumn Treasures). Board members are encouraged to volunteer at other events as well. Board members will promote volunteer opportunities through their interactions with the public by any means to achieve this end. The Board will work closely with Parks and Rec to develop a volunteer database for its events and programs.

Budgetary Support

The Board will work closely with Parks and Rec to research, apply for grants, and develop other funding sources for operational and capital projects and improvements. Board members will provide feedback and suggestions concerning grant applications and update the BOC concerning the progress of funding opportunities and the status of grant applications.

The Board will work with 'Friends of" non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to support the plans, projects, initiatives, and efforts of Parks and Rec.
Two members from the Parks, Cultural and Recreation will maintain presence on the board of the "friends of" non-profit.
The "Friends of" organization's purpose is to create a direct partnership with the Town, Parks and Rec,

and the general public to provide financial support and resources for capital projects, support the plans, projects, initiatives, and efforts toward preserving and growing our network of community parks and trail/greenway system. As outlined in the 2019-2028 Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan, a park foundation can assist Parks and Rec in acquiring land, developing facilities, sponsoring programs, and buying equipment for park and recreation needs.

Committee Relations

The Board will work closely with other advisory boards and committees, especially the Historic Preservation Commission, Public Art Committee, and Downtown Waxhaw Association and their respective committees. The Board wishes to ensure that proposed plans and projects are consistent with other plans and projects and, where possible, to maximize funding opportunities. Board members are encouraged to attend the meetings of these advisory boards and committees and report back on the business of these bodies, especially when there may be opportunities for collaboration. The Board will work to ensure that the Community Corner remains an open public space and will seek to collaborate with the Downtown Waxhaw Association to achieve this. The Board will also seek to collaborate with the Downtown Waxhaw Association on any placemaking initiatives in Downtown.

Complete Active Park and Trail Projects

Parks and Rec have developed an outline for future plans and projects for the phasing of improvements of parks and trails/greenways. The Board will assist Parks and Rec with developing strategies and projects for the phased improvements of parks and trails/greenways, especially related to the completion of the Downtown Park, the expansion of Twelve Mile Creek Greenway, and the implementation of the Pedestrian Plan. Continued support for projects, plans, initiatives involving the Learning Center, Sk8 park, Barnes park, and The Meeting place through research, applied grants, and provided feedback. The Board will review and update park rules and policies. The Board will continue working toward the future development of green space, including parks, trails/greenways through recommendations and feedback.

Environmental Conservation

The Board will work to bring environmental conservation initiatives throughout the Town under the purview of the Board and develop the scope of initiatives and projects the Board could undertake in this effort. The Board will maintain continued support for the replanting of Twelve Mile Creek and stabilization efforts. The Board will continue to research and implement ways to promote conservation efforts, such as “Adopt a Stream” programs, periodic trash clean ups, etc. to encourage community involvement.

Conclusion

The preceding work plan and its strategic goals help advance the Town and Parks and Rec's mission, vision, and values. The Board considers the potential to overlap with the plans and projects of other advisory boards and committees to maximize town resources and ensure that outcomes are consistent for the greater good of the Town.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of January 2026.

Beth Ferri, Parks, Cultural & Recreation Advisory Board Chair
Andrew Abbuhl, Deputy Director of Parks and Facilities
Justine Haynes, Programs Manager
Dena Sabinske, Parks and Recreation Department Director