

Item Title: Award Construction Contract for the Blue Jay Point County Park Renovation Project

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Awards a construction contract in the amount of \$6,131,602 to BAR Construction Company Inc. of Greensboro, North Carolina, and**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute the contract for the Blue Jay Point County Park Renovation Project subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: NC State Statutes require the Board of Commissioners to approve all public bid construction projects greater than \$500,000.

Background: Blue Jay Park is a County owned and operated park in Northern Wake County, adjacent to Falls Lake. The 2017 Wake County Parks Facility Master Plan Updates identified improvements for Blue Jay and improvements were funded as part of the successful 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation and Open Space (PGROS) bond.

This Board action approves a contract to renovate existing facilities at Blue Jay Park. These include the parking lot, education facilities, trails, and playground. Staff expect the renovations to be completed by Fall 2026.

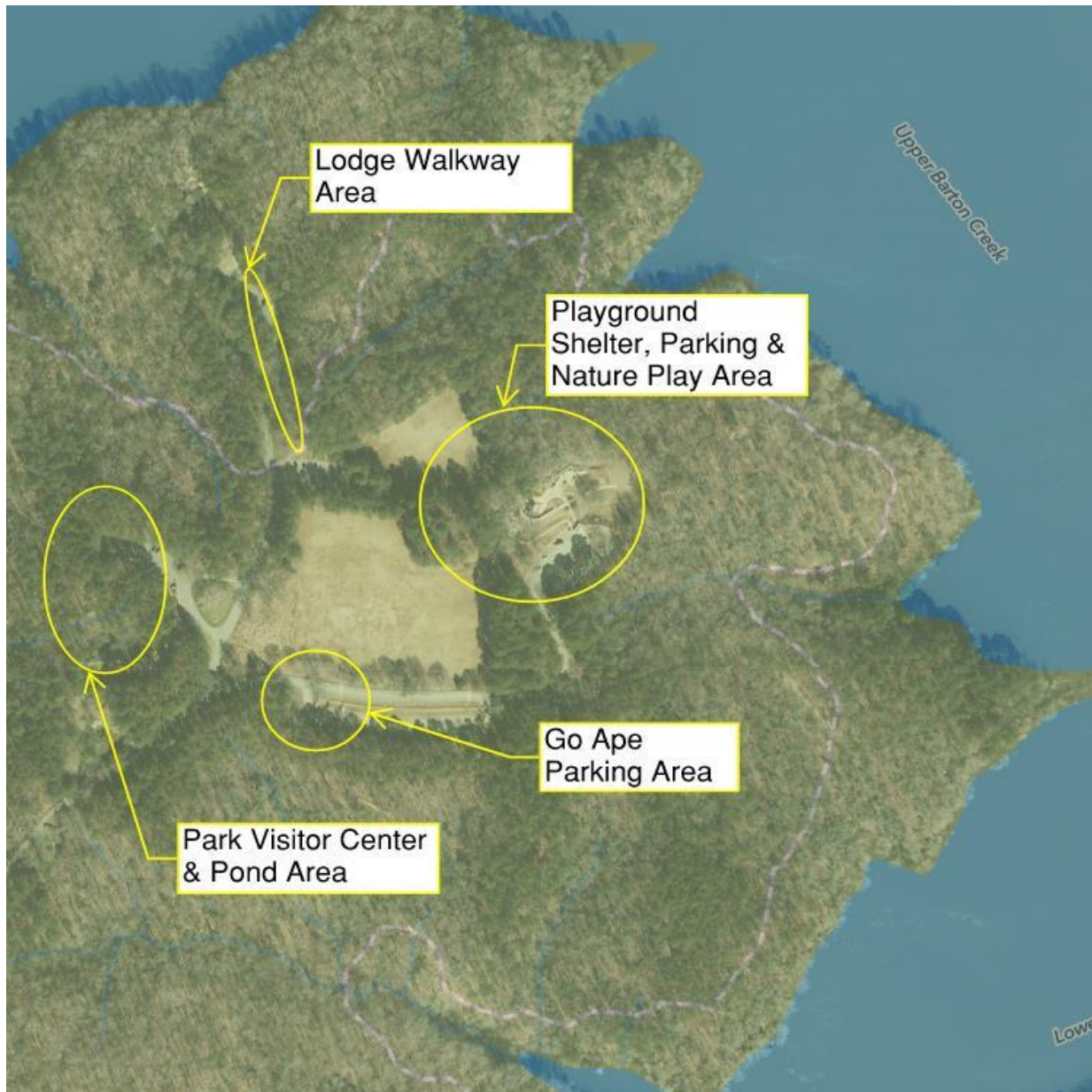
Strategic Plan: This action supports Inclusive Prosperity Goal 3: By 2029, nine out of ten residents asked will share that they can find and enjoy enriching experiences that support our community's high quality of life; and Foundations for Service Goal 3: By 2029, 10% more residents will agree that Wake County provides high-quality, fair, and equitable services.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for the construction of this project was previously appropriated in the Parks, Greenways, Recreation and Open Space element of the County Capital Improvement Fund.

Additional Information:

The Blue Jay Point County Park Renovation Project represents a significant investment in revitalizing one of Wake County's most popular and well visited parks. Located at 3200 Pleasant Union Church Road in Raleigh, the 236-acre park has served as a key hub for

environmental education and outdoor recreation since it opened in 1992. The Blue Jay Point County Park Renovation Project will significantly enhance the park's infrastructure, accessibility, and recreational offerings to better serve the growing population in northern Wake County. The planned improvements span approximately 5.3 acres and include a range of site and facility upgrades. Improvements were identified in the 2017 Wake County Facility Master Plan Updates.



This project aims to modernize key amenities across the site to significantly enhance accessibility, functionality, and the overall visitor experience. Core improvements include the renovation of the habitat education pond, trail upgrades to meet current ADA standards, and the expansion and enhancement of parking areas near both the playground and Go Ape Zipline Park. The playground will be enhanced with new shade sail structures, while the nature play area will be expanded to incorporate additional

interactive features. To better serve visitors, a new shelter will be constructed at the playground area, providing an improved and flexible gathering space.

Furthermore, the Visitor Center will undergo architectural updates designed to improve functionality and elevate the visitor experience, including an expansion of approximately 200 square feet. A direct and accessible walkway connection from the classroom to the habitat education pond will allow programming classes to access the pond via a new nature experience. Public Art is included in the project.

The bid opening was initially scheduled for May 8, 2025. However, only one bid was received, which could not be opened as it did not meet the minimum requirement of three bids. The project was therefore readvertised, and on May 29, 2025, bid proposals were received from (2) licensed contractors in accordance with NC General Statutes. A tabulation of bids received is attached for review.

BAR Construction Company, Inc. of Greensboro, North Carolina, was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The lowest bid exceeded the budget for construction. Therefore, County staff together with the design team, evaluated a series of value engineering options with the low bidder. After careful consideration, County staff selected items resulting in additional savings of \$1,039,398.

Staff therefore recommends that a construction contract be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Bar Construction Company of Greensboro, North Carolina, in the amount of \$6,131,602. It is anticipated that a Notice To Proceed for construction will be issued in August 2025, and that construction will be substantially complete in Fall 2026.

Attachments:

1. Project Cost Summary
2. Bids Summary