

**Item Title:** Appropriate \$44,866,949.59 in Bonds Authorized Under the 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation & Open Space (PGROS) Referendum

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$44,866,949.59 in bond funds authorized under the 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation & Open Space (PGROS) referendum.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners appropriates funding for all County projects.

**Background:** Wake County provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities while promoting environmental and cultural stewardship through a managed system of parks and open spaces. On November 6, 2018, voters approved a \$120 million, six-year Parks, Greenways, Recreation & Open Space (PGROS) bond referendum, with proceeds to be used for open space preservation, greenway development, new park and nature preserve construction, and existing park renovations.

In 2019, the County sold the first set of bonds authorized under the 2018 PGROS referendum, covering projects planned for FY 2020 through mid-FY 2022. In 2022, the County sold the second set of bonds authorized under the 2018 PGROS referendum, covering identified projects for the last two quarters of FY 2022, all of FY 2023, and all of FY 2024.

In March 2025, the County sold the third and final set of bonds authorized under the 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation & Open Space (PGROS) referendum, covering projects planned for FY 2025 through FY 2027. Appropriation of \$44,866,949.59 is needed to continue and complete work on the projects identified in the 2018 PGROS bond.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports Growth, Land Use and Environment Goal 3: Protect 1,000 acres of green space, including open space, parks, greenways, farmland, and forests by 2029.

**Fiscal Impact:** The \$44,866,949.59 of bond funding is anticipated in the County's Debt and Capital Financial Model and associated future debt service has been incorporated into the adopted Debt Service Fund Budget. This item appropriates \$44,866,949.59 into the Parks, Recreation, Greenways, and Open Space element of the County Capital Fund.

### **Additional Information:**

Since 1976, Wake County has provided outdoor recreation and education opportunities while promoting environmental and cultural stewardship through a managed system of parks and open spaces. Since 2000, the County has protected over 9,900 acres of open space and assisted local municipalities with development of almost 45 miles of greenway trails. In FY 2024, more than 1.7 million people visited Wake County's eight parks and three nature preserves.

Throughout its history, the County has relied on general obligation bond referenda to fund CIP projects aimed at furthering its mission. On November 6, 2018, the County asked voters to decide on a \$120 million, six-year Parks, Greenways, Recreation & Open Space (PGROS) bond referendum with proceeds being utilized for open space preservation, greenway development, new park and nature preserve construction, and existing park renovations. The bond passed with 68 percent of the vote.

In 2019, the County sold the first set of bonds authorized under the 2018 PGROS referendum, covering projects planned for FY 2020 through mid-FY 2022. This appropriation has funded open space acquisitions, greenway partnership development with municipalities, and the design of new park facilities. In 2022, the County sold the second set of bonds authorized under the 2018 PGROS referendum covering identified projects for the last two quarters of FY22, all of FY23, and all of FY24.

In March of this year, the County sold the third and final set of bonds authorized under the 2018 PGROS referendum, totaling \$44,866,949.59. Projects planned for this funding are outlined below and include open space land acquisitions, the development of new park facilities, and renovations to existing park facilities.

<b><i>Project</i></b>	<b><i>Spring 2025 Bond Sale Appropriation</i></b>
Gehrke (Land Acquisition)	\$100,146
Future Acquisitions (Land Acquisition)	\$1,551,634
Kellam-Wyatt County Park (New Facility)	\$2,610,000
Lake Myra County Park (New Facility)	\$12,718,735
Buffalo Creek Nature Preserve (New Facility)	\$2,500,000
Blue Jay Point County Park (Renovations)	\$500,000
Harris Lake County Park (Renovations)	\$500,000
Historic Oak View County Park (Renovations)	\$4,600,000
Crowder County Park (Renovations & Expansion)	\$6,167,997
Historic Yates Mill County Park (Renovations)	\$4,700,000
Green Hills County Park (Renovations)	\$2,418,438
Lake Crabtree County Park (Renovations)	\$6,500,000
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$44,866,950</i></b>

### **Attachments:**

1. CIP Budget Memo – FY 2025 County Capital PGROS
2. OS Bond and NCDOT Funding Tracker