

Item Title: Approval of the Community Use of Schools Joint Use Master Agreement

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves the attached agreement with the Wake County Board of Education for Continuation of the Community Use of Schools Program.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve operating agreements with the Wake County Board of Education.

Background: In the 1980's, Wake County developed a school parks program which allowed school campuses to be improved above normal program elements to accommodate other public use. These school parks were governed by individual joint use agreement between the County and the Wake County Public School System, often involving participation from a local municipality.

This agreement continues the Community Use of Schools program, superseding all prior agreements with one master agreement and establishing new guidelines for managing the school parks.

Board Goal: Meets the Board of Commissioners Education goals by collaborating with education stakeholders.

Fiscal Impact: This action has no financial impact on the existing capital plan.

Additional Information:

Since 1981, Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) has worked with the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) to create school campuses that provide expanded recreational amenities that go beyond the requirements of the schools' regular program. Examples of these improvements include picnic shelters, trails, athletic fields, and playgrounds. These additional amenities provide the community with valuable recreational opportunities that would not be otherwise available. Under the original School/Parks program (1981 – early 2000), Wake County assisted with funding, design, construction and maintenance of the School/Park facilities.

The current Community Use in Schools program is an evolution of the School/Parks concept. PROS and WCPSS now work together to actively seek partnerships with municipalities to oversee and maintain the park related improvements on these school campuses. In addition to providing more recreational opportunities for Wake citizens, this

program benefits municipalities and local communities by encouraging them to become more engaged with public schools. Over the years, these combined programs have allowed 37 school campuses to be improved to help accommodate the recreational needs of Wake County citizens.

Going forward, this agreement will spell out uniform guidelines for the school and county staff to follow in operating and maintaining our shared school parks. Over the years, individual agreements at different locations often lead to inconsistencies and confusion regarding the duties required from the different partners. Current School/Parks transitioning to the new master agreement include:

Current School/Park Location	Included in the New Master Agreement	Participating Agencies
Carver Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC, Wendell
Fox Road Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC
Fuquay-Varina Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC
Penny Road Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC
Swift Creek Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC
Vance Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC
Wildwood Forest Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC
Willow Springs Elementary	Yes	BOE, WC

Those School/Parks not transitioning include:

Current School/Park Location	Included in the New Master Agreement	Reason Agreements are No Longer Needed for this School/Park	Participating Agencies
East Wake Middle	No	Major Renovation – former park replaced by new school building	BOE
East Wake High	No	Existing Facilities are now all School Programed Areas	BOE
Knightdale Elementary	No	Town Assuming Responsibility	Knightdale
Knightdale High	No	Covered Under a Separate Agreement*	BOE, WC, Knightdale
Lake Myra Elementary	No	Covered Under a Separate Agreement*	BOE
Rolesville Elementary	No	Town Assuming Responsibility	Rolesville
Wake Forest Middle	No	Town Assuming Responsibility	Wake Forest
West Millbrook Elementary	No	Major Renovation – former park replaced by new school building	BOE

(*) Two existing locations, Knightdale High and Lake Myra Elementary, are not included in the new master agreement as they have another agreement that cover their unique situation.

Wake County Staff Comments:

County and Schools staffs have worked diligently to create the attached agreement to fully address the many details required to effectively manage the building and maintenance of the Community Use of School Parks. While no school parks are

constructed and operated exactly alike, the proposed document allows flexibility in addition to the uniformity needed to efficiently manage the parks.

Attachments:

1. Community Use of Schools/Parks Agreement