

# NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Ann Wall, City Manager

DATE: February 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:

1. A memo from Kevin Mulligan, Director of Public Works, regarding Arbor Day 2023
2. A memo from Don Octigan, Director of Recreation and Parks, regarding pickleball court expansion project
3. A memo from Don Octigan, Director of Recreation and Parks, regarding the Greenway wayfinding project
4. A memo from Don Octigan, Director of Recreation and Parks, regarding the off-leash dog area project update


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Attachments.



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## Memorandum

**To:** Ann E. Wall, City Manager  
**From:** Kevin Mulligan, PE, Director of Public Works   
**Date:** February 13, 2023  
**Subject:** Arbor Day 2023

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The City of Greenville, RELEAF, and C.M. Eppes Middle School are proud sponsors of this year's Arbor Day event on Friday, **March 10<sup>th</sup>** at C. M. Eppes Middle School at 1100 S Elm Street from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the City of Greenville being recognized as a Tree City USA recipient by the North Carolina Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation.

A total of six (6) Maple trees will be planted by students on the south side of the main school building near the mobile classroom trailers.

Should you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

**cc:** Kevin Heifferon, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Devin Thompson, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent



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**To:** Ann Wall, City Manager  
**From:** Don Octigan, Director of Recreation and Parks *DO*  
**Date:** February 15, 2023  
**Re:** Pickleball Court Expansion Project

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Recreation and Parks continue to see an increase in pickleball play across many City facilities, including The Sports Connection, H. Boyd Lee Park, South Greenville Recreation Center and the Greenville Aquatics & Fitness Center. Each facility hosts pickleball as a drop-in program and offers various clinics for those who want to improve their game.

Staff are receiving positive feedback on the programming efforts for pickleball, which is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Greenville is experiencing the same increase. From 2021 to 2022, the Pickleball Clinic registration increased 51% and Open Play participation skyrocketed 61%. The number of pickleball drop-in players have also increased since 2021.

With pickleball growing in popularity Recreation and Parks staff have researched ways to provide the program in an outdoor setting to meet the needs of the community. Currently, the City only has one public court dedicated to pickleball, which is located at Peppermint Park (attachment 1).

Staff have developed a plan (attachment 2) to convert three tennis courts at Elm Street Park into eight pickleball courts. This project will decrease the number of tennis courts within the City to 15, three still being at Elm Street Park and the remaining 12 located at River Birch Tennis Center. The 15 courts will still allow the city to meet the needs of the local tennis players and allows for the expansion of tennis programs in the future.

Adding eight outdoor pickleball courts will allow staff to offer additional programming such as clinics, leagues, open play, private lessons and increase the potential to host pickleball tournaments. These initiatives could generate an additional \$20,000 in revenue annually, without having any negative impact to the City's tennis programming efforts.

The conversion project is set to begin in late March and is scheduled to take approximately 8 weeks. There will be a public engagement meeting held on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to share the news with the community and also gain feedback on specific program offerings residents would like to see. The meeting will be held at Drew Steele Center and begins at 6:00pm. Once the project is complete, staff will provide an overview of the programming plan which will consists of a variety of recreational opportunities.

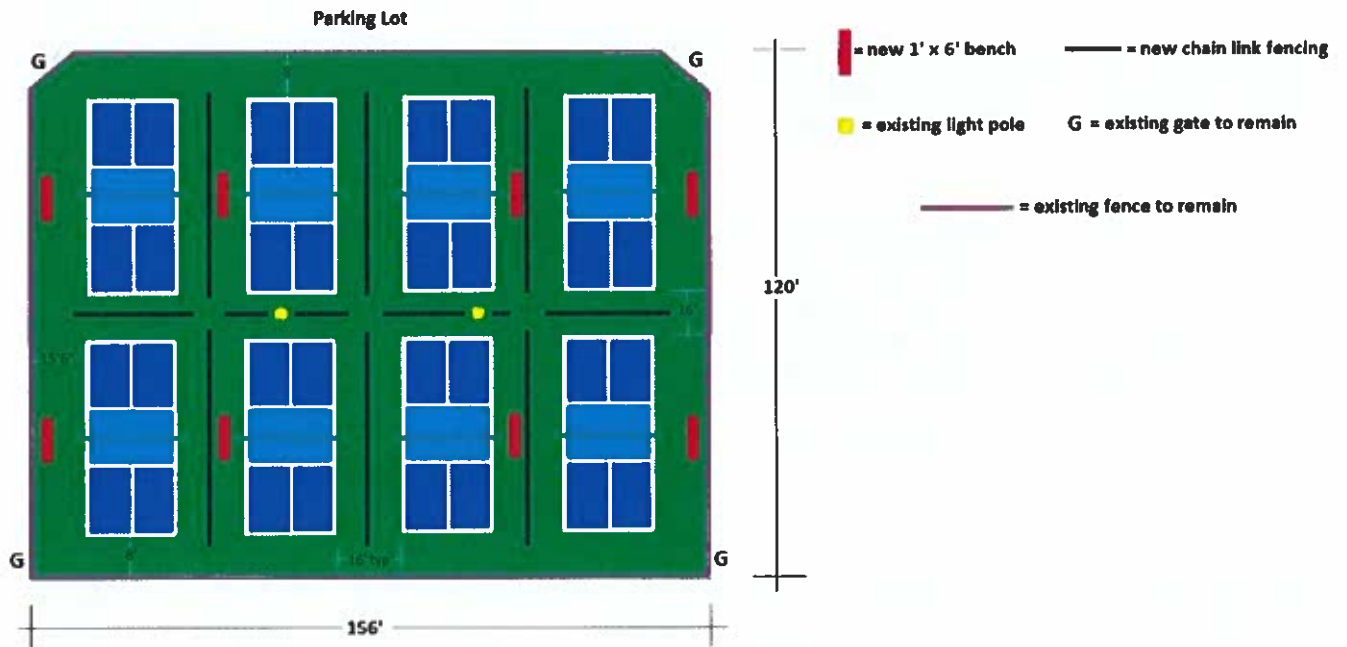
Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

cc: Michael Cowin, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner

**Attachment 1:**



**Attachment 2:**





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**To:** Ann Wall, City Manager  
**From:** Don Octigan, Director of Recreation and Parks *DO*  
**Date:** February 15, 2023  
**Re:** Greenway Wayfinding Project

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The Friends of Greenville Greenways (FROGGS) continue to work with City staff to enhance Greenville's comprehensive greenway system. FROGGS, founded in 2004, has supported the city's greenway system by providing funding for various amenities such as benches and trash receptacles and assists in the organization of several clean-up events annually.

The most recent joint project proposed by FROGGS is the addition of wayfinding stencils along the greenway system. The addition of wayfinding symbols will help achieve the goals of the project, which include:

- Improving greenway continuity/wayfinding for users
- Improve access and awareness of lesser-used portions of the greenway and/or new sections
- Beautifying the greenway system
- Increasing awareness of FROGGS as a community organization

The project will begin on the Green Mill Run Greenway located between Evans Street and Charles Boulevard and then progress to the South Tar River Greenway near Greensprings Park. The symbol proposed for this project is included as attachment 1. The first phase will only include city owned sections of the greenway and the sidewalks along Avery and Baker Streets near the Town Common pedestrian bridge connection. Phase II of the project may include other city sidewalks, such as Elm Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street to help users identify those greenway connections.

The project will begin in March and will be led by FROGGS Board Members with the assistance of Recreation & Parks staff. The cost of the project is being funded by a private donation and there is no cost to the City other than labor to assist FROGGS volunteers who will be painting the stencils.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

cc: Michael Cowin, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner

**Attachment 1:**





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**To:** Ann E. Wall, City Manager  
**From:** Don Octigan, Director of Recreation and Parks *DO*  
**Date:** February 15, 2023  
**Re:** Off Leash Dog Area Project Update

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Recreation and Parks staff have been working on plans to improve the Off Leash Dog Area located on Ash Street adjacent to the South Tar Greenway. The improvements being considered include re-grading the surface, fence replacement and repair, new signage with updated rules and regulations, a shade canopy and new play amenities for dogs. In addition, a second entrance to the large dog area will be created near the greenway to help minimize the wear of turf within the park.

These improvements were decided based on community feedback as well as working with a local engineering firm. The goal of the project is to improve the experience of users as well as their pets, while also helping long term maintenance needs at the park. As this is the only public dog park within the City limits, it is a goal of our staff to improve this dedicated recreational site for our citizens and guests who own dogs.

Due to the improvements, the park will close March 6<sup>th</sup> in order for staff to begin work. Work is anticipated to take 2-3 months with a planned re-opening in May. The completion date for the project will be dependent on weather as well as the availability of materials that will address the maintenance needs. Signs will be posted, and staff will communicate updates to the community via social media. Park users can contact 252-329-4567 for additional details on this project.

Please let me know if there any questions.

**CC:** Michael Cowin, Deputy City Manager  
Dennis Vestal, Recreation & Parks Superintendent