# Passive Recreation Lands

*Presented by*

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# Agenda

1) Meet the Team

2) Overview of Open Space Bond & Project Selection Process

3) Defining Passive Recreation Lands

4) Examples of Passive Recreation Lands

5) Vision Setting – Desired Characteristics of PRL Projects

# MEET THE TEAM

Open Space Bond: Passive Recreation Lands

**Allison Dains**

*Parks & Recreation Director*

**Jennifer Harrison**

*Agriculture & Land Resources Director*

**Thomas Gull**

*Principal Park Planner*

**Ariel Zijp**

*Farmland Preservation Program Manager*

**Avni Naik**

*Farmland Preservation Program Coordinator*

**Jill Carter**

*Open Space Bond Project Manager*

# Open Space Bond Project

$30M

Passive Recreation Lands

Greenways

Conservation Easements

1. Selection Criteria Development & Approval
2. RFP Development & Launch
3. Application Support
4. Internal Review Process
5. Project Selection & Announcement
6. Ongoing: Project Support & Oversight
7. Ongoing: Community Outreach

# Project Review & Selection

## Board of Commissioners

Final project funding decisions and approval

| Parks Greenways & Recreation Advisory Board | Passive Recreation Lands Subcommittee | Agricultural Advisory Board | Land Conservation Advisory Board | Bond Oversight Subcommittee |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oversees Greenway Project Proposals | Oversees Passive Recreation Land Proposals | Oversees Farmland Conservation Proposals | Oversees Land Conservation Project Proposals | Oversees all Bond investments. Non-voting. |

# Passive Recreation Lands

## Tentative Timeline

**May / June 2023:** Public engagement process for Vision Setting and Criteria Development

**Summer 2023:** Present criteria to Advisory Board and Board of Commissioners for approval

**Fall 2023:** Open application window for Passive Recreation Projects

**Spring 2024:** Review and selection of project proposals

# Defining Passive Recreation Lands

Land, outdoor space, waterbodies, and corridors where passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources in a designated area.

As a result, these lands can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection and recreational activities that require minimally prepared facilities.

**Types of Activities:** Hiking, non-motorized biking, birding, natural playgrounds, fishing, photography, exploration, other low-impact recreation

# Defining Passive Recreation Lands, ctd.

**What Passive Recreation Is Not:** A structured activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment.

Passive Recreation does not require infrastructure or facilities that are maintenance intensive, and cannot have significant impact on the site's resources.

**Types of Activities that are NOT Passive Recreation:** Baseball, football, soccer, golf, skateboarding, etc.

# Understanding the Difference

| | Active Use | Passive Use |
|---|---|---|
| **Example** | Baseball Field | Hiking Trail System |
| **Infrastructure** | Requires specialized infrastructure (e.g., ball field) | Does not require specialized infrastructure |
| **Maintenance** | Requires specific maintenance activities (e.g., mowing, watering) for facilities; often uses heavy equipment | Requires some maintenance for ecological preservation and land conservation; mainly uses hand tools and manual labor |
| **Use** | Often reserved to a specific, organized activity | Multiple passive uses can use the area at the same time |
| **Environmental Impact** | Often involves removing natural vegetation, heavy grading, and removal of wildlife habitat | Selective grading and removal of vegetation for infrastructure to preserve wildlife habitat |
| **Material Impact** | Often adds non-native species or materials | Uses only native and natural species and materials |
| **Wildlife Impact** | Displaces wildlife | Minimizes displacement |

# Examples of Passive Recreation Projects

## Collier Cove

- **Location:** Arden, NC
- **Size:** 29 acres
- **Activities:** Hiking, picnic areas, nature viewing
- **Natural Features:** Meadows, trails, scenic views

# Examples of Passive Recreation Projects

## Bold Moon Preserve

- **Location:** Guilford County, NC
- **Size:** 20 acres
- **Activities:** hiking, wildlife viewing, geocaching, fishing, educational opportunities
- **Natural Features:** Woodlands, creeks, rock-outcroppings

# Examples of Passive Recreation Projects

## Turnip Seed Nature Preserve

- **Location:** Wendell, NC
- **Size:** 265 acres
- **Activities:** Gardens, Open Play, Interpretive Exhibits, Walking
- **Natural Features:** Creeks, rock outcrops, wetlands, forests

# Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the difference between Passive Recreation Lands and Conservation Easements?
- Will the Bond fund the purchase of land for conservation and future park development?
- Is there a minimum size for projects to be eligible for the Bond funds?

# Discussion

# Vision Setting Activity

## What are the characteristics of a great Passive Recreation Project?

### The Boundaries

- Avoids/minimizes destruction of wildlife and natural resources
- Provides opportunities for recreational activities that have minimal impact on environment and are non-consumptive
    - Examples: hiking, non-motorized biking
- Involves minimal improvements (e.g., trails, restrooms, etc.) to the land
- Allows the public to access the land

# Proposed Characteristics

## What are the characteristics of a great Passive Recreation Project?

**Staff Proposed, Value-Driven Characteristics of Passive Recreation Lands**

- Minimizes Negative/Maximizes Positive **Conservation and Environmental Impact**
- Promotes **Equity** in Recreation in BC
- Is **Accessible** to all in BC
- Can be **feasibly developed** within Bond timeline
- Minimizes **costs** efficiently & **leverages funding** sources
- Aligns with **County Plans/Needs**
- Includes a plan for long-term **maintenance/management**
- **What's missing?**