

Town of Woodfin – Riverside Park & Taylor’s Wave
Buncombe County Passive Recreation Subcommittee Site Visit
July 17, 2024

Fundraising Efforts to Date

The Woodfin team has spent significant energy and resources to pursue all grant funding opportunities we could identify including:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Federal Highway Administration (NCDOT) | \$13M |
| • Buncombe County TDA TPDF Grant | \$8.1M |
| • Land & Water Conservation Grant | \$500K (unofficial award) |
| • NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund | \$400K |
| • Water Resources Development Grant | \$200K |
| • Pigeon River Fund | \$35K |
| • Cannon Foundation | \$25K |
| • Golden Leaf | Not Awarded |
| • Dogwood Health | Discouraged from applying |
| • RAISE | Discouraged from applying |
| • Buncombe County Passive Recreation | Pending |
| • NC State Parks – Great Trails | In process |

In addition to these grants, the Woodfin taxpayers supported a \$4.5M GO Bond + an additional \$1M from fund balance. We also have worked with RiverLink on private fundraising and in developing an ask of our state legislature (surplus budget \$), which fell through due to halted state budget discussions. A materials donation (cost + transport) from Hedrick quarries is also estimated at \$400K value. Quite simply, we have run out of other funding options to pursue.

Equity

The Town of Woodfin is more economically disadvantaged and ethnically diverse than the county as a whole – and our local Hispanic community is one of the largest users of our existing Riverside Park (which is the Improvement park area). Given Woodfin’s relatively small operating budget, just \$7.5M, funding even a small \$500K gap would require that we raise town taxes by a full 4.5 cents – making us the highest municipal tax in our county. In recognition of town adopted goals to support affordable living, town leadership did not raise taxes for the FY2025 budget and is proposing a revenue neutral tax adjustment after the revaluation currently underway in Buncombe County.

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Three of the four options are critical to the Improvement park project – the fourth option has already been removed, allowing a reduction in the original Passive Rec ask from \$3.37M to \$3.01M.

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