

City of Locust Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

September 14th, 2026 – 6:00 pm
Joel Huneycutt Community Room

Meeting Called to Order
Adopt Agenda

Consideration of minutes of the previous meeting

- Minutes from June 1, 2026 meeting

Director's Reports

Sub-Committee Reports

Special Reports

- Public Forum

Unfinished Business

- Accessibility in Parks Grant Update

New Business

- Upcoming Special Events
- Stanly County Arts Council: North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Arts Program, opportunity for new programming
- Upcoming Athletics

Next Meeting

- Monday, December 7th, 2026, 6:00pm, Joel Huneycutt Community Room



Locust Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Joel Huneycutt Community Room

6:00 PM

June 1, 2026

Board Chair
Board Members

Kara Finch
Blair Dover, Kerry Sanford, and Felix Salzedo

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM. All board members were in attendance - Kara Finch, Blair Dover, Kerry Sanford, Felix Salzedo.

2. Adopt Agenda

M/S/A Board Members Kerry Sanford and Kara Finch (4-0)
Motion To Adopt Agenda as presented

3. Minutes - adopt March 2, 2026

March 2, 2026

M/S/A Board Members Kerry Sanford and Felix Salzedo (4-0)
Motion To adopt minutes from 3/2/26

4. Director's Report

5. Sub-Committee Reports

6. Special Reports

7. Unfinished Business

Review of Fee Schedule

Due to the overall rate of return on the cost of athletics being positive, the decision was made not to change any fees we currently have in the upcoming fiscal year. The tiered system below, that was discussed at the last meeting, would be used for prioritizing access to registration in this order:

- Tier 1: Locust residents (suggestion to clarify that this is tax-paying residents and "non-residents" below may live in Locust, but not be a tax-paying resident)
- Tier 2: Non-residents who attend Locust Elementary School or who live in communities where that sport is not offered (e.g., soccer is not offered for residents of Stanfield or Endy)

- Tier 3: Non-residents who have the option to participate in athletics within their own community but choose to play in Locust instead.

Vacant Park Advisory Board Position

Four Park Advisory Board applications were reviewed and were sent out to all board members ahead of time.

- Caleb McCrary - previous applicant
- Chris Phillips - has older, adult-aged children and would bring a different perspective and represent a different demographic on the board
- Clint Thomas - parent of current athletic participants that currently serves as coach for many sports his children play; similar perspective to the board we currently have
- Tammi Remsburg - previous applicant and has now applied a second time; has older, adult-aged children, but did not get recommendation during previous application period

M/S/A Board Members Blair Dover and Kerry Sanford (4-0)

Motion To recommend Chris Phillips as new Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member

8. New Business

Upcoming Special Events

Upcoming Athletics

Emily reviewed athletics in lieu of Hunter, who is out on paternity leave.

- Registration numbers were addressed and question was asked about why we don't make more teams to be able to get all off the waiting list. Emily explained that we have limited field space, limited coaches and already have a lot of wear and tear on the fields and increasing teams would increase the wear on the fields.
- Improvements noted: communication (more emails sent out), new jersey style with names on back and different hat style, offered free hats to all baseball and soccer coaches (will not get a new hat every season)
- Coach incentives: free registration for one child for resident coaches, resident rate and timing registration for one child for non-resident coaches
- End-of-season survey results reviewed briefly, but results still coming in
- Fall sports registration opens 7/1 and games will begin after Labor Day, which will give us approximately four weeks to get teams formed, uniforms ordered and schedules to parents.
- Summer camps - Perfect10 basketball camp and volleyball camp
- Facilities: several water repairs at the athletic complex, light repairs quoted and should begin in new fiscal year
- Grant: contracted with Benesch for stream renovation, walkways and parking. Bathroom upgrades and playground upgrades will be managed by City of Locust.
- Site plan being managed by Benesch for the land acquired where the YMCA is supposed to go (off Hwy 200). Ideas are pickleball and tennis complex, pump track for bikes, pavilion for Farmers' Market, etc.
- Discussed the potential to move the Locust Museum to the current Locust Community Building and renovate the current museum space to be utilized as a new Community Center, once the new Senior Center is complete and Stanly County Senior Nutrition Services moves there.

- NC Sports Betting Grant (\$10,000): Turf Grass for Batting Cages, Rubber Mats for Batting Cages, Batting Tees, Catcher's Equipment Sets, Basketballs, Softballs, Baseballs, Soccer Balls, Bat Racks, Soccer Cones, Equipment Bags, Volleyballs

Accessibility in Parks Grant Update - Playground Planning and Design

Emily worked with planner on accessibility of paths, a topographical map has been made of the area, and a stream study was done and it was determined that the water in the park is a stream and therefore there are some restrictions and regulations on how that water must be handled.

Emily requesting input from the board on the playground elements, materials, and manufacturing company (prefer to work with Miracle, Burke, Landscape Structures, Playworld, Game-Time). Emily asked that the board look through the information sent and provide feedback in the next two weeks.

9. Board Closing Comments

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/14/26

10. Adjourn

M/S/A Board Members Kara Finch and Blair Dover (4-0)

Motion To adjourn at 7:28 PM

City of Locust Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

September 2026

Athletics

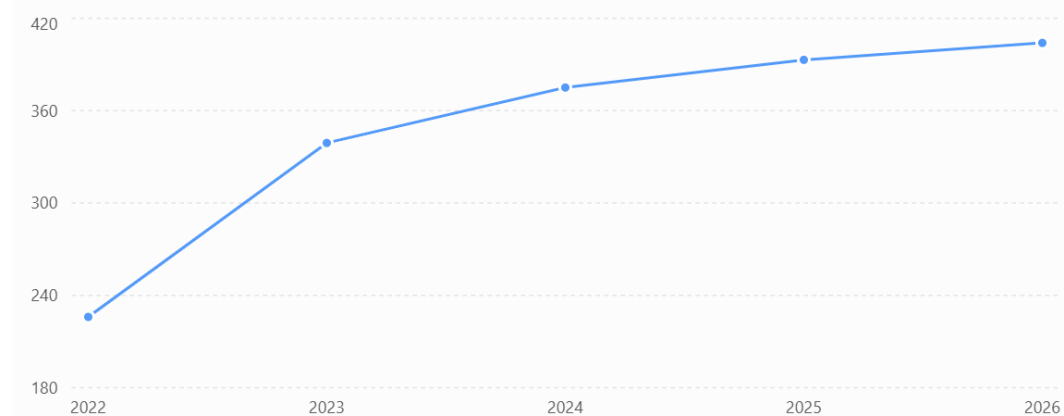
Fall 2026 Registration Review:

Sport	Division	# Registered	CAP	Waiting List
Baseball	Teeball	33	30	-
	Coach Pitch	34	36	-
	Minors	23	24	-
	Ozone	19	24	-
Soccer	Peewee	39	30	1
	U6	50	40	12
	U8	50	40	12
	U10	43	40	-
	U12	32	30	-
	U15	31	20	1
Volleyball	5-8 th Grade Girls	44	40	19
TOTALS		398	335	35

- Volleyball has 4 confirmed head coaches. Last year we had 6 teams. We hope to secure 2 more volunteer coaches by Friday Sept 11, so we can accept girls from the waiting list.

Fall Athletic Participation Growth

Locust Parks & Recreation fall athletic participation, 2022–2026.



Participation increased from 226 in 2022 to 404 in 2026.

*404 in 2026 because we expect to make at least one more team in volleyball, increasing to at least 50 participants.

Upcoming Athletics

- Tennis Bloc continues tennis lessons and pickleball with fall sessions starting this week and winter session scheduled to begin the week of December 8.
- Basketball registration will open on October 1.

Programs and Special Events

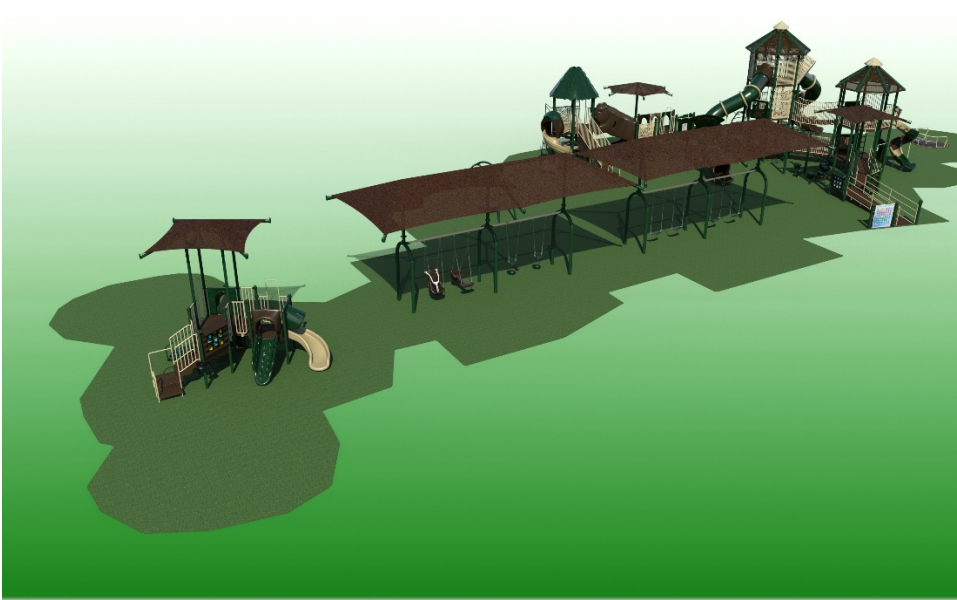
Upcoming Events (September, October, November, December):

- For all event info: <https://locustnc.com/park-news-events/>
- Saturday, September 12th: Movie Night featuring The Super Mario Galaxy Movie
- Saturday, September 27th: End of Summer Concert Finale, 7-10pm, featuring Michael Christopher Band and Fireworks
- Saturday, October 3rd: Movie Night featuring Toy Story 5
- Saturday, October 31st: Fall Festival
- November 1-29th: Gratitude Graffiti Project
- Thursday, November 19th: Christmas Tree Lighting
- Saturday, December 5th: Christmas Parade 1:00PM
- Saturday, December 12th: Breakfast with Santa

Facilities

- Athletic Complex Lighting
 - Received quotes for necessary light repairs.
 - Repairs have prompted a broader discussion about timing the work in relation to planned athletic complex renovations over the next 3–5 years.
 - Staff will evaluate whether the larger renovation may require underground or utility work that could be coordinated with the lighting repairs to avoid duplicating work and costs.
- E. Market Street & Art Lane Property Master Plan
 - Contracted with Benesch to develop a master plan for the City-owned property on E. Market Street and Art Lane.
 - The planning process will take approximately three months and will incorporate feedback gathered through the public forum associated with this meeting.
 - Areas of the property not designated for YMCA use could potentially be developed for City recreational purposes.
 - Development would be approached as a multi-phase project, with potential opportunities to pursue multiple grants for property acquisition and future development.

Churchich Design – Miracle Playground \$584,026
(budgeted 576k)



Barrs Recreation: Burke Playground \$778,074

(budgeted 576k)



Below (red) is an example of what we would need to scale back to, to be within budget.



Below shows two angles of some playscape.

