



**GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BOARD ACTION**

County Admin Building  
128 W. Main Avenue.  
Gastonia, NC 28052

**Board of Commissioners**

**File #: 16-032**

Commissioner Brown - To Approve the Riverbend Township Grant Recommendation (**\$500,000 Fund Balance Appropriation**)

**STAFF CONTACT**

Earl Mathers, County Manager (704) 866-3101

**BUDGET IMPACT**

Reduces Fund Balance by \$500,000.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT**

Authorizes County Manager to make necessary budget amendments to move funds into the appropriate project accounts/sub-accounts.

**BACKGROUND**

During its 10/27/2015 Regular Meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 2015-292, to approve a Township Improvement Grant Program to be funded from the proceeds of the CaroMont Lease and authorized \$3,500,000 from the proceeds to be distributed within each township. Each Township is eligible for \$500,000 in grant proceeds (with the exception of Gastonia Township, which is eligible for \$1,000,000). At the direction of the Board, the County Manager facilitated an application process and grant requests were accepted until December 31, 2015.

***The following project(s) were recommended for the Riverbend Township (See the Attached Project Recommendations Packet for more detail)***

- ***Gravity Sewer Line Extension to Lucia Riverbend Hwy - \$156k***
- ***North Fire Station Construction Assistance - \$14k***

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

| NO.      | DATE       | M1 | M2 | Brown | Carpenter | Fraley | Keigher | Philbeck | Price | Williams | Vote  |
|----------|------------|----|----|-------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| 2016-038 | 01/26/2016 | JW | MP | A     | A         | A      | N       | A        | A     | A        | 6 - 1 |

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Laserfiche Users

Commissioner Brown - To Approve the Riverbend Township Grant Recommendation (***\$500,000 Fund Balance Appropriation***)

Page 2

- ***Catawba Riverfront Greenway - \$80k***
- ***Harper Park Gymnasium Project - \$250k***

Approval of this request authorizes the County Attorney to draft the necessary contracts and authorizes the County Manager to execute said contracts on behalf of Gaston County.

Approval of this request also authorizes the County Manager to prepare the necessary budget changes to commit funds for these projects. These budget changes will be submitted to the BOC at the 2/9/2016 Regular Meeting for informational purposes only.

**POLICY IMPACT**

N/A

**Gaston County  
Township Investment Grant Applications**

**Riverbend Township**

| <b>Project</b>                                      | <b>Requested<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Recommended<br/>Approval</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Gravity Sewer Line Extension to Lucia Riverbend Hwy | \$ 156,000                  | \$ 156,000                      |
| North Fire Station Construction Assistance          | \$ 250,000                  | \$ 14,000                       |
| Catawba Riverfront Greenway                         | \$ 80,000                   | \$ 80,000                       |
| Harper Park Gymnasium Project                       | \$ 250,000                  | \$ 250,000                      |
| <b>Total:</b>                                       | <b>\$ 736,000</b>           | <b>\$ 500,000</b>               |



|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Project Name:                  | Gravity Sewer Line Extension to Lucia Riverbend Highway  |
| Sponsoring Commissioner:       | Chad Brown   |
| Applicant:                     | The City of Mount Holly<br>Danny Jackson, City Manager   |
| Township:                      | Riverbend Township   |
| Amount Requested:              | \$156,000  |
| Project Description:           | Project includes extending a gravity sewer line along Rt 273 to Lucia Riverbend Highway. This sewer line will promote sustainable growth within the County and provide service to the Mount Holly's new fire station located on Lucia Riverbend Highway. |
| Estimated Duration of Project: | 8 – 12 months  |

Proposed Grant Application - Riverbend Township  
**The City of Mount Holly**  
Gravity Sewer Line Extension to Lucia Riverbend Highway

Budget Estimate:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Engineering Design and permitting         | \$ 42,000 |
| Construction of 2,000 lf of Gravity Sewer | \$270,000 |
| Total                                     | \$312,000 |

Grant Request \$156,000

Mount Holly Contribution \$156,000

1. **Impact** –The sewer line extension allows the Fire Department facility to be built on Lucia Riverbend Hwy and it will provide fire service to a significant segment of the City's population and County citizens.

2. **Sustainability** – once the sewer line has been installed and is put into operation, the line will be included in the operation and maintenance budget of the utilities Department. Additional financial support from the County would not be needed.

3. **Match/Leverage** – The City is requesting \$156,000 from the grant program and the City will match with \$156,000 to fund the project.

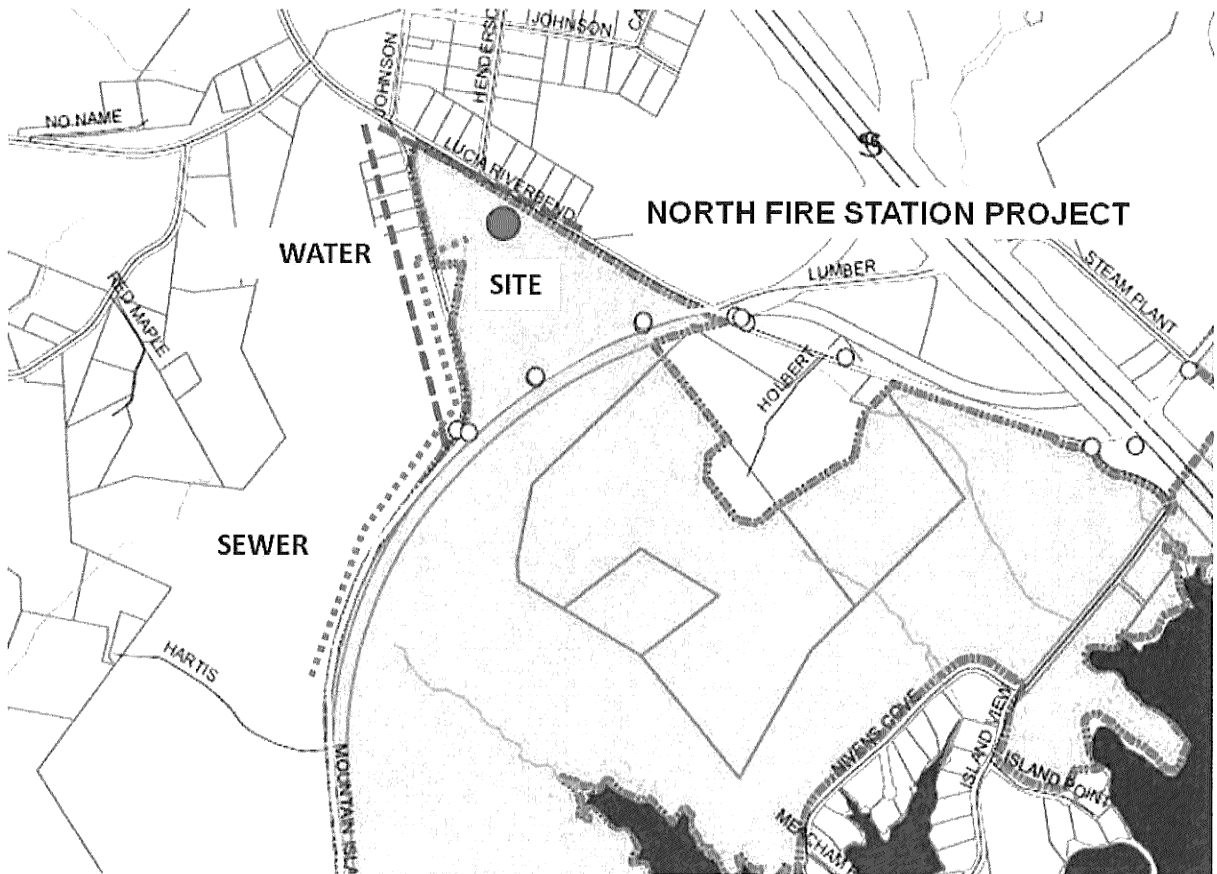
4. **Job Creation / Economic Development** – this project will generate development activity by the fact a sewer line becomes available along a major transportation corridor. The job creation potential can be significant due to the land area yet to be developed along 273 to Lucia Riverbend Highway.

5. **Education** - the Fire Department Station will include a community center available to local organizations to promote educational opportunities, job fairs, and industry expo's.

6. **Quality of Life / health / Safety** – a sewer line extension would allow County residents to connect to a public sewer and be able to abandon septic systems. Eliminating private septic systems is good for the citizens and the environment.

Proposed Grant Application - Riverbend Township  
**The City of Mount Holly**  
Gravity Sewer Line Extension to Lucia Riverbend Highway

**PROJECT LOCATION**





# **Mt. Holly Fire Department**



P.O. Box 406, 433 Killian Ave, Mount Holly, N.C. 28120  
Office: 704-822-2927 - Fax: 704-822-1234

## **City of Mount Holly North Fire Station**

**City of Mount Holly  
Danny Jackson, City Manager  
P.O. Box 406  
Mount Holly, N.C. 28120  
704-827-3931**

**Riverbend Township Commissioner Chad Brown is the sponsoring commissioner for the North Fire Station project.**

**Reference the Riverbend Township**

**Requested amount: \$250,000**

**Project: North Fire Station construction assistance**

**The estimated project duration is one year.**

## Mount Holly North Fire Station – Grant Application Riverbend Township

Requested funding assistance for the City of Mount Holly North Fire Station.

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Construction of North Fire Station | \$2,500,000 |
| Grant Request                      | \$250,000   |
| Mount Holly Contribution           | \$2,250,000 |

1. **Impact** – This project is in the design stage; however the City of Mount Holly has already purchased the property off of Lucia Riverbend Highway for the station to be built. This is located across from the Mountain Island Charter School. In addition to the City of Mount Holly building the station, we will be staffing the station with fulltime personnel. This will not only increase the service level for the approximate 14,000 citizens of Mount Holly but it will also increase the service level to the surrounding Riverbend Township Citizens. With the projected growth of this area this project will affect the present and future populations of the Riverbend Township.

2. **Sustainability** – This building will be owned by the City. It will be maintained and staffed with city funds placed into the operational budget of the City of Mount Holly.

3. **Match/Leverage** – The City of Mount Holly is requesting \$250,000 from the Township Grant Program. The City of Mount Holly will be contributing the remaining funds to build the station. Because there has only been estimates for this project the actual cost has not been set.

4. **Job Creation / Economic Development** – The fire station being built could help encourage economic development. Many businesses and developers take into account location of fire stations when deciding on areas to build.

5. **Education** - The North Fire Station will include a community room component available to local populations for access. There will be CPR and other classes that will be held in the station throughout the year. In addition this will increase the availability for the Mount Holly to expand an already aggressive Fire Prevention Program that is one of the best in area. This program reached over 1200 kids in 2015 alone.

6. **Quality of Life / health / Safety** – The health and safety of the citizens in this area will be greatly increased by placing a 24 hour staffed fire station in the Riverbend Township. By building the North Fire Station there will be a staffed fire truck on the road within one minute from the time of dispatch. Currently there is a distance delay due to the apparatus traveling from the Killian Avenue location. Once the station is built the northern part of the City and surrounding county areas level of service will increase. Minutes are very important when someone is experiencing a medical or fire related emergency.



## City of Mount Holly

### Township Grant Application

1. Project Name- Catawba Riverfront Greenway
2. Sponsoring Commissioner- Chad Brown
3. Applicant Organization- City of Mount Holly Parks & Recreation Department, Mark Jusko, Recreation Superintendent, 704-951-3006, mark.jusko@mtholly.us
4. Township- Riverbend
5. Amount Requested- \$80,000
6. Project Description- The City of Mount Holly is in the process of building a 1.2 mile greenway, which will extend from Tuckasee Park, along the scenic Catawba River to the Mount Holly Municipal Complex, which currently houses the Administration and Police Department offices for the City. We are applying to receive a Township Grant in the amount of \$80,000 to supplement an \$800,000 NCDOT grant that we officially accepted in June 2013 for the construction of the greenway.
7. Estimated Duration- The greenway should be completed by fall 2016.

#### Narrative:

##### Impact:

In 2003, Mount Holly residents went through a visioning process on what they would like to see their city become. Along with streetscape improvements through downtown, greenways were a top choice to help improve our community. In 2007, the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation contracted with Greenways Incorporated to develop a Catawba River Corridor Plan (Greenway Master Plan). In the Greenway Master Plan, the connection from Tuckasee Park to the Municipal Complex is listed as an integral part of the whole greenway system. In 2010, the City of Mount Holly contracted with Site Solutions to produce a Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan. In that plan, greenways were listed as the #1 recreational facility that residents would like to see in Mount Holly. In that same plan, walking, jogging, and bicycling were all listed as the top activity that our residents enjoyed. The City of Mount Holly currently has segments of the greenway already in place, but this will connect our heavily utilized Tuckasee Park to the Mount Holly Municipal Complex and Linear Park. As you can see by the plans listed here, the support and enthusiasm will lead to a positive impact for residents of Riverbend Township, City of Mount Holly, and Gaston County. With Mount Holly's population around 14,000 (2014), this greenway will become a popular destination for not only our citizens, but also citizens from other areas of Gaston County, and surrounding counties.

##### Sustainability:

Once completed the Catawba Riverfront Greenway will become part of the City of Mount Holly's parks system. Currently the Mount Holly Parks & Recreation Department programs and maintains six other parks in the city, and the plans are for the greenway to be maintained and sustained under the same format.

#### Match/Leverage:

The City of Mount Holly officially accepted a grant in the amount of \$800,000 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation in June 2013. The City of Mount Holly is requesting to receive a Township grant in the amount of \$80,000 or 10% of the existing match, to help supplement this project.

#### Job Creation/Economic Development:

According to an American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials study in 2012, for every million dollars spent on greenway projects, 17 full-time jobs have been created. Therefore; with our project close to a million dollars we can expect job creation to occur.

As far as economic development, when companies are looking to relocate to an area, one of the main reasons they choose one area over another is recreational opportunities for their employees. With this greenway in place, we may see new businesses relocate, which can lead to new job creation for our local workforce. Another benefit is for existing businesses to see increase in customers that were brought into town to visit our greenway.

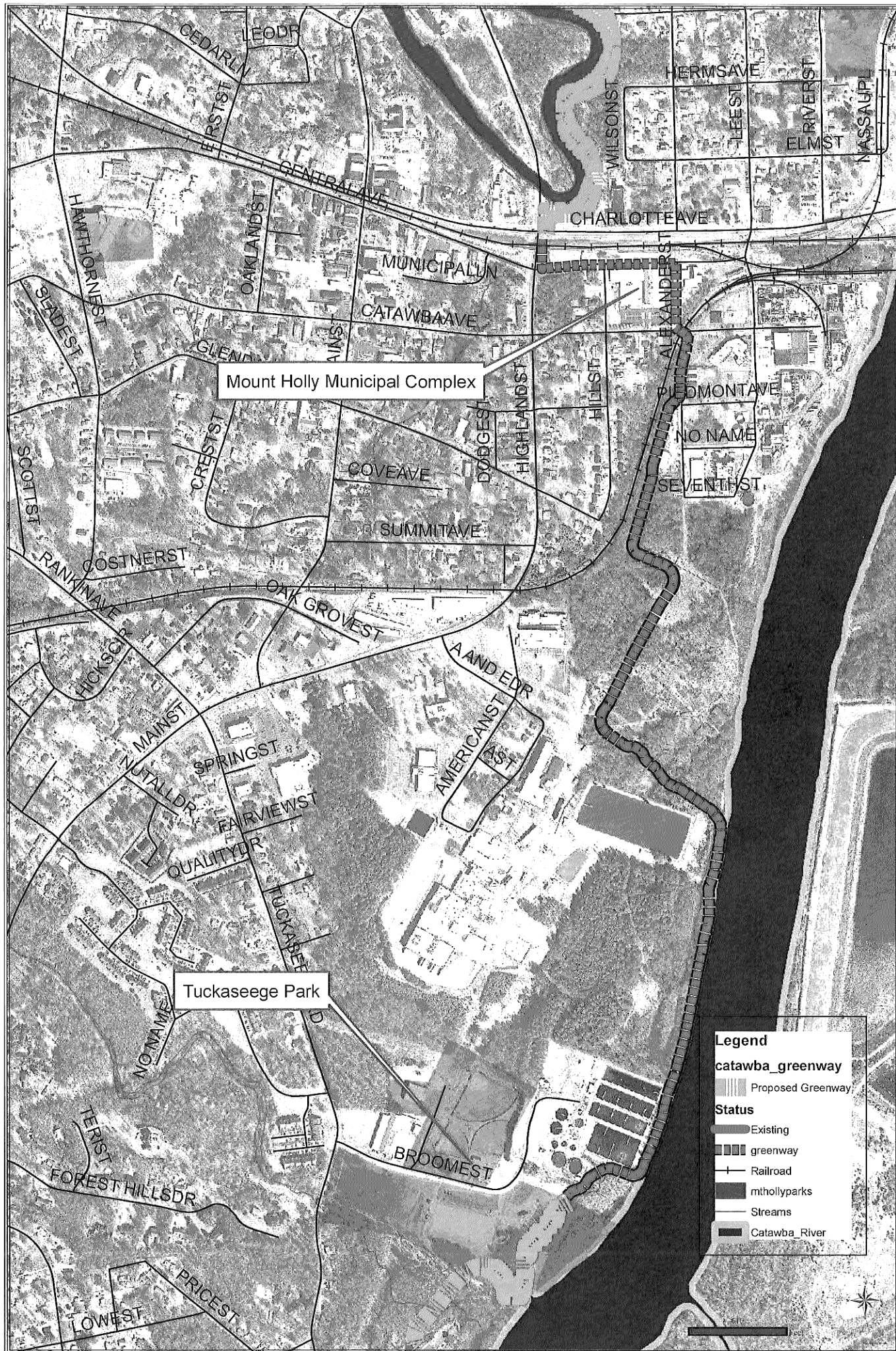
#### Education:

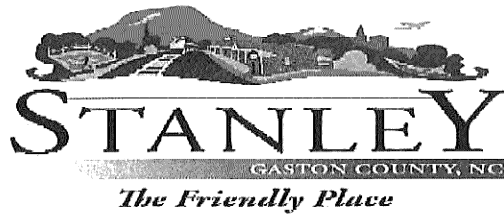
The Catawba Riverfront Greenway could potentially become a destination point for school children in local schools to come and learn about natural habitats, native trees and plants. It may also become an outdoor learning center for students from local colleges such as Belmont Abbey, Gaston College, and Charlotte.

#### Quality of Life/Health/Safety:

According to the website [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org), Gaston County is ranked 77<sup>th</sup> out of all 100 counties in North Carolina in health factors. One of the solutions to this problem is for people to exercise more. Greenways provide an avenue for people to exercise no matter what their socioeconomic status is. Exercise not only leads to reduced levels of heart disease, it also leads to lower incidences of types of diabetes. Exercise not only leads to better physical health, it also leads to a better social health, and a better sense of community. In a 2004 study from the journal of Health Promotion Practice, it states that for every dollar spent on trails, nearly three dollars of public health benefits are produced.

In closing quality of life can be defined as *"the standard of health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual or group"*. The City of Mount Holly believes that the citizens, of Riverbend Township, Mount Holly, and Gaston County will experience that feeling of health, comfort, and happiness as they venture out on the Catawba Riverfront Greenway.





Office of Town Manager

Heath R. Jenkins

December 28, 2015

Eric Johnson, Assistant to the County Manager  
Office of the County Manager  
128 West Main Avenue  
PO Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28053-1578  
Submitted Via Email: [Eric.Johnson@gastongov.com](mailto:Eric.Johnson@gastongov.com)

**REF: Township Grants**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Attached you will find our application for the Township Grants for the Town of Stanley.  
Below you will find the essential information as requested in your application guidelines sheet:

**Project Name:** Harper Park Gymnasium Project  
**Sponsoring Commissioner:** Commissioner Chad Brown  
**Application Organization:** Town of Stanley, Tug Deason, 704-263-4779  
**Township Name:** Riverbend  
**Project Description:** Construction of New Gymnasium  
**Estimated Duration of Project:** 1 year

We would like to thank Commissioner Brown and the entire Gaston County Board of Commissioners for this opportunity to apply for the Township Grants.

Sincerely,

Heath R. Jenkins, Town Manager  
Town of Stanley

**Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
Township Grant Program  
Riverbend Township – Town of Stanley  
Sponsoring Commissioner - Chad Brown**

**Harper Park Gymnasium Project**

**Sponsored by County Commissioner Chad Brown**

**Applicant Name: Town of Stanley – Stanley Parks and Recreation**

**Tug Deason, Director**

**Amount Requested: \$250,000.00**

**Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
Township Grant Program  
Riverbend Township – Town of Stanley  
Sponsoring Commissioner - Chad Brown**

**Impact**

The estimated population of the Town of Stanley is approximately 4,000. The Stanley Parks and Recreation Program services 100% of the Town limits and encompasses much of the Riverbend Township area. This program is one of the largest youth sports programs in Gaston County. The impact of the proposed funding would allow the Town of Stanley to construct a new gymnasium on the site of Harper Park and continue the basketball youth sports program. The current gymnasium was constructed in the late 1930's. It is in disrepair, has a long list of safety concerns, and can no longer serve the needs of the Community.

**Sustainability**

Over the past six years the Town of Stanley has raised over one-million dollars in capital funding from private and private-public partnerships. This resulted in the construction of Stanley's first full-service park that included the following amenities: two baseball fields, press box, scoreboards, paved walking track around entire park, basketball court, splash-pad, picnic shelter, nature trail, lighting for fields, memorial for former players in program as well as local Senator and former County Commissioner, Senator James Forrester, MD. The construction of this park required no funds from the Town of Stanley's capital reserves. It required no increase in property taxes and no bonds were issued to finance the construction of the park. The park services the baseball sports youth program with over 600 children from the Stanley area.

**Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
Township Grant Program  
Riverbend Township – Town of Stanley  
Sponsoring Commissioner - Chad Brown**

With the construction of a new gymnasium this would provide most of the capital needs for the Stanley Parks and Recreation Program for the next 20 years. This proposed project would not require any additional funding from Gaston County and all operating expenses related to the project would be sustained by the Town of Stanley through normal budgeting of the Parks and Recreation Program.

**Match /Leverage**

The proposed request from Gaston County includes a fifty percent match from the Town of Stanley. The proposal is for direct construction cost for the new gymnasium.

**Job Creation / Economic Development**

The proposed project would foster economic development by improving the quality of life infrastructure for the Town of Stanley and Gaston County as a whole. Much emphasis has been placed on quality of life infrastructure and programs over the past fifteen to twenty years. Local municipalities across Gaston County have invested more in the public's demand for a higher quality of life as it pertains to youth sports programs, parks, public events and festivals. Companies looking to locate new or expand existing industries and businesses place strong importance on high quality schools and recreational infrastructure. This type of construction project would also create and sustain construction and related type jobs in the area during the construction of the project. Future jobs could also be realized due to the expansion of the recreation programs related to the gym.

**Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
Township Grant Program  
Riverbend Township – Town of Stanley  
Sponsoring Commissioner - Chad Brown**

**Education**

Youth sports programs are vital to a Community as it relates to juvenile justice and delinquency. Now, more than ever with the breakdown of the family unit, youth sports programs play a significant part in the reduction of juvenile delinquency. It has been proven that team sports help build self-confidence and promote mental and physical well-being. It also promotes a team attitude that can help the child excel in all levels of education, now and in the future. It can help them learn problem-solving and team building skills.

**Quality of Life/Health/Safety**

As mentioned under the economic development section above, this proposed gym project would yield significant benefits in the area of quality of life. Much emphasis has also been placed on the importance of health and safety in Gaston County. Our historical data in this area has been lacking and needs improvement. Caromont has invested significantly in this area, citing the direct cost of health care cost due to childhood obesity, diabetes and other health related issues. Youth sports programs are critical to teaching children the importance of exercise and a proper diet. This capital project has additional potential to implement other programs to address not only childhood related health issues but adult and senior programs as well.